

Article

A Comparative Feasibility Study of the Use of Hydrogen Produced from Surplus Wind Power for a Gas Turbine Combined Cycle Power Plant

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Abstract: Because of the increasing challenges raised by climate change, power generation from renewable energy sources is steadily increasing to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, especially CO_2 . However, this has escalated concerns about the instability of the power grid and surplus power generated because of the intermittent power output of renewable energy. To resolve these issues, this study investigates two technical options that integrate a power-to-gas (PtG) process using surplus wind power and the gas turbine combined cycle (GTCC). In the first option, hydrogen produced using a power-to-hydrogen (PtH) process is directly used as fuel for the GTCC. In the second, hydrogen from the PtH process is converted into synthetic natural gas by capturing carbon dioxide from the GTCC exhaust, which is used as fuel for the GTCC. An annual operational analysis of a 420-MWclass GTCC was conducted, which shows that the $CO₂$ emissions of the GTCC-PtH and GTCC-PtM plants could be reduced by 95.5% and 89.7%, respectively, in comparison to a conventional GTCC plant. An economic analysis was performed to evaluate the economic feasibility of the two plants using the projected cost data for the year 2030, which showed that the GTCC-PtH would be a more viable option.

Keywords: hydrogen; gas turbine combined cycle; surplus wind power; power to gas; economics

1. Introduction

Driven by the increased worldwide attention to the challenges raised by climate change, greenhouse gas mitigation has become an important task in all industrial fields. Efforts are being made to reduce the amount of power generated from conventional power generation systems and to increase the power generation ratio of renewable energy to mitigate $CO₂$ emissions [\[1\]](#page-19-0). Unlike conventional methods that use fossil fuels, renewable energy sources such as wind and solar power do not emit $CO₂$, so they can significantly contribute to the resolution of climate change challenges [\[2](#page-19-1)[,3\]](#page-19-2).

By 2023–25, the annual increase in the global offshore wind power generation is forecast to be double the levels in 2020, and the annual growth of solar power generation is projected to reach 130–165 GW [\[4\]](#page-19-3). If this trend is maintained, the ratio of solar power and wind power generation is expected to outweigh those of natural gas (NG) power generation by 2023 and coal thermal power generation by 2024 [\[4\]](#page-19-3). However, while conventional fossil fuel power plants can supply stable power to the electric grid, renewable energy suffers from the disadvantage of being intermittent.

Therefore, solar power and wind power are called variable renewable energy (VRE) sources. The critical issue with the variable nature of renewable energy is that there could be a large gap between the power supply and demand, which would act as a critical source of instability and might cause a catastrophic problem with the electric grid [\[5\]](#page-19-4). Accordingly, there is an urgent need to find a way to use the surplus power generated during times

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when power supplied by renewable sources is greater than the power demand [\[6\]](#page-19-5), which would then be stably supplied when the power demand rapidly increases. The aim of this study is to find such a solution.

The gas turbine combined cycle (GTCC) with NG has become one of the main sources of power generation in the past few decades because of its high thermal efficiency, ecofriendliness, fast mobility, and strong load-following capability. A considerable number of GTCC power plants are contributing to the stable operation of the power grid. This is done through either peak-cut operation or a type of cyclic operation, such as daily start and stop operation (DSS). The advantages include fast mobility and strong load-following capability [\[7\]](#page-19-6). As the share of VRE increases, a flexible power generation source is required to compensate for the variability, and the GTCC is expected to be the best option. However, the GTCC is not free from the problem of emitting $CO₂$ either, because it uses NG as fuel. Therefore, the GTCC's $CO₂$ emissions problem also needs to be resolved to achieve the goal of resolving the challenges of climate change through greenhouse gas mitigation [\[8\]](#page-19-7).

One of the methods to reduce the total $CO₂$ emissions is to use an energy storage system (ESS). An ESS resolves the instability problem of the power grid resulting from the variability of renewable energy and improves the discord between the power demand and supply by storing surplus power generated by renewable energy and releasing it when the power demand is high. This reduces the use of fossil fuels and consequently decreases the overall CO₂ emissions.

Although the simplest and most representative ESS method is electrochemical energy storage using batteries, several other ESS systems are available. Pumped hydro is a conventional large-scale ESS. Compressed air energy storage (CAES) is a method to store energy in the form of high-pressure air, and a modified method stores air in the form of liquid to increase the energy storage density. Another important method that has been gaining attention lately is chemical energy storage, where surplus power is used to generate hydrogen through water electrolysis [\[9\]](#page-19-8).

Chemical energy storage has a higher energy density and less energy loss than electrochemical storage, so it enables long-term storage [\[10\]](#page-19-9). An ESS method of storing and using hydrogen by applying the chemical energy storage technique is called a power-to-gas (PtG) method. PtG methods have been receiving substantial attention lately as a means of next-generation energy storage because they can convert surplus power generated by renewable energy systems into H_2 and store it. Moreover, the conversion efficiency is expected to increase steadily, and the cost is expected to decrease steadily as a result of continuous research and development [\[11\]](#page-19-10).

PtG methods are classified as power-to-hydrogen (PtH) and power-to-methane (PtM) methods based on how the hydrogen produced is used. PtH is a method of directly using the H_2 as fuel for a power generator such as a gas turbine (GT). Hydrogen may be combusted after mixing it with NG or as pure hydrogen depending on the technical readiness of the combustor [\[12\]](#page-19-11). Of course, a full revision of the combustor is required due to the differences in combustion characteristics between burning NG and hydrogen [\[13\]](#page-19-12).

However, using hydrogen has the advantage of addressing the problem of greenhouse gas emissions while using an existing GTCC system. Thus, research on this technique is actively being performed in various countries and by various companies [\[14\]](#page-19-13). General Electric has developed an 82-MW-class GT that can use a maximum H_2 mole ratio of 90% in the case of co-firing with NG [\[15\]](#page-19-14). Siemens has successfully tested a 50-MW-class GT that can operate with an H_2 mole ratio of 50% [\[16\]](#page-19-15).

With PtM, the hydrogen generated from the PtG process is reacted with carbon dioxide to produce synthetic NG (SNG) [\[17\]](#page-19-16). Just as with the PtH process, research is being carried out on the industrialization of the PtM process [\[18\]](#page-19-17). The thermophysical properties of SNG are very similar to those of NG, which allow it to be injected into an NG grid. However, a more practical option for on-site SNG production might be to use it directly for power generation. One option is to combine a GTCC plant with the PtM process, where the $CO₂$

required for SNG production could be captured from the exhaust gas, and the produced SNG can be used as a fuel for the GT [\[19\]](#page-19-18).

Many studies have attempted to combine PtG technology with VRE and GTCC systems. A study was conducted on combining wind power and PtG technology [\[20\]](#page-19-19). Various PtM and GTCC combination models have been studied [\[21\]](#page-19-20), and a combination of wind power, PtM, and gas-fired power plants (GFPPs) was presented [\[22\]](#page-19-21). A combination of wind power, PtG (PtH, PtM), and thermal power plants (coal, gas) was also studied [\[23\]](#page-19-22), but the GTCC was simulated using simple mathematical formulas instead of physical modeling and the hydrogen co-firing ratio was limited.

There have been numerous studies on power plant models that could store surplus power generated from VRE in an ESS and use it for power grid stabilization. However, there are still unverified aspects that require detailed investigations. In particular, a critical comparison of the PtH and PtM processes is required from the viewpoint of using them as a measure to achieve grid stabilization and the minimization of $CO₂$ emissions. For example, large grid-scale power plants combined with PtH and PtM systems should be modeled, and then, their performance should be comparatively investigated to evaluate the feasibility of using these combinations in a practical power grid. In addition, it is critical to conduct a thermo-economic evaluation of the integration of VRE, PtG (PtH or PtM), and GTCC systems in consideration of the annual working conditions of the VRE and GTCC. The aim of this study was to accomplish this task, which has not been attempted before.

The goal of this study was to examine the feasibility of linking a 4-GW-class offshore wind farm and a 400-MW-class GTCC plant using PtG technology. The focus was on the comparison of the thermo-economic performance of the GTCC-PtH and GTCC-PtM technologies. First, a comparative analysis on the thermodynamic performance and $CO₂$ emissions of GTCC-PtH and GTCC-PtM systems was carried out using the design conditions of the GTCC. The hydrogen mixing ratio in the GTCC combustor was the major variable. Second, the annual performance and $CO₂$ emissions were analyzed in consideration of the variations in the wind power generation capability and power demand of the GTCC. Third, the economic feasibility was predicted using a cost scenario for the year 2030.

2. Configuration and Modeling

2.1. Case Definition

This study compared the system efficiencies, NG usages, and $CO₂$ mitigation effects of three cases, which are defined in Table [1.](#page-2-0) Case 1 is a conventional GTCC, Case 2 integrates GTCC and PtH technologies, and Case 3 integrates GTCC and PtM technologies. The PtH process was modeled to produce 20.833 kg of H² per MWh of power based on a literature review [\[24\]](#page-19-23). The GTCC system was based on a 283-MW-class commercial GT [\[25\]](#page-19-24), and a triple-pressure heat recovery system was used for its bottoming steam turbine cycle.

Table 1. Definition of cases.

Model Name	Model Structure	Description
Case 1	GTCC.	NG combustion
Case 2	GTCC-PtH	Mixed combustion $(NG + H2)$
Case 3	GTCC-PtM	Mixed combustion $(NG + SNG)$

Layouts of the three systems are shown in Figures [1–](#page-3-0)[3.](#page-3-1) In Case 2, if the supply of H_2 is sufficient for operation, it operates using only H_2 ; otherwise, it uses a mixture of $H₂$ and NG. In Case 3, carbon dioxide is captured from the exhaust gas exiting the heat recovery steam generator (HRSG) by using the carbon capture process (CCP). This carbon dioxide and the hydrogen from the PtH process are used to generate methane-rich SNG in a methanation process (MP). A portion of the steam discharged from the high-pressure steam turbine (HPST) is used to provide the thermal energy needed for the CCP. Then, the steam enters the MP and absorbs the heat generated by the MP before finally being fed back to the bottom cycle. The produced SNG could be used as fuel for the GTCC.

Figure 1. Configuration of case 1. **Figure 1.** Configuration of case 1. **Figure 1.** Configuration of case 1. **Figure 1.** Configuration of case 1.

Figure 2. Configuration of Case 2. **Figure 2.** Configuration of Case 2. **Figure 2.** Configuration of Case 2. **Figure 2.** Configuration of Case 2.

Figure 3. Configuration of Case 3. **Figure 3.** Configuration of Case 3. **Figure 3.** Configuration of Case 3. **Figure 3.** Configuration of Case 3.

2.2. System Modeling

2.2.1. Design Modeling of the GTCC

The GTCC simulation was performed using GateCycle $[26]$. The set of $[26]$ $\frac{1}{2}$ MJULGAC from Mitsubistii Fravy muustries. Its design specifications are a 89% CH₄, 8.735% C₂H₆, 1.665% C₃H₈, 0.266% C₄H₁₀ *i*, 0.32% C₄H₁₀ *n*, and 0.008% N₂ by the gas turbine were obtained through a simulation process that minimized the difference in the simulated and reference performance data. For example, the efficiencies of the turbine and compressor were determined to satisfy the inlet and outlet temperatures of the furbine and the total power output. The power output and efficiency of the calculated using the following equations: **Model Name Model Structure Description Model Name Model Structure Description** The GTCC simulation was performed using GateCycle [\[26\]](#page-19-25). The target GT was an Incorded and combustion was performed asing dated jets $[25]$. The date of was an
M501GAC from Mitsubishi Heavy Industries. Its design specifications are available in the literature [\[25\]](#page-19-24) and were used to model its design performance. The NG fuel is composed of The GTCCC simulation was performed using GateCycle α in α and α is a set of α in α is an analyzed α is the turbine and the total power output. The power output and efficiency of the GT were
calculated using the following equations: mole ratio, and its low heating value (LHV) is 49,426 kJ/kg. Unknown design parameters of

literature [25] and were used to model its design performance. The NG fuel is composed

$$
\dot{W}_{GT} = \left(\dot{W}_{Turb} - \dot{W}_{Comp}\right) \eta_{mech} \eta_{gen} \tag{1}
$$

$$
\eta_{GT} = \frac{\dot{W}_{GT}}{(m \times LHV)_{Fuel}} \tag{2}
$$

The simulated design performance was compared with reference data, and the results are shown in Table [2.](#page-4-0) All the major performance parameters such as the power, efficiency, and turbine exhaust temperature matched the reference data very well. The bottoming cycle was also modeled using GateCycle, and its design performance was calculated using the temperature, flow rate, and gas composition of the exhaust gas at the GT outlet. The major design values of the bottoming cycle are presented in Table [3.](#page-4-1)

Table 2. Design specifications of the GT [\[25\]](#page-19-24).

Table 3. Bottoming cycle design parameters and GTCC performance.

The isentropic efficiency of each steam turbine was assumed to be 90%. Each pressure level of the HRSG included an economizer, an evaporator, and a superheater. The intermediate pressure level also included a reheater. All the heat exchangers were assumed to be of the counter flow type. The bottoming cycle power output was defined using Equation (3).

$$
\dot{W}_{ST} = \left(\dot{W}_{ST,HP} + \dot{W}_{ST,IP} + \dot{W}_{ST,LP}\right)\eta_{gen} - \left(\dot{W}_{P,HP} + \dot{W}_{P,IP} + \dot{W}_{P,LP}\right) / \left(\eta_{pump}\eta_{motor}\right) \tag{3}
$$

The net power and net efficiency of GTCC were defined using Equations (4) and (5), respectively. . . .

$$
W_{GTCC} = W_{GT} + W_{ST}
$$
 (4)

$$
\eta_{GTCC} = \frac{\dot{W}_{GTCC}}{\left(\dot{m} \times LHV\right)_{Fuel}}\tag{5}
$$

The calculated design-point performance of the GTCC is also shown in Table [3.](#page-4-1) The results showed good agreement with the reference performance data available in the literature, indicating that the overall GTCC modeling was acceptable.

2.2.2. Off-Design Model of the GTCC

An off-design analysis is required to predict the performance changes resulting from the change in fuel, ambient conditions, and load. The efficiency, flow rate, and exhaust gas composition of the GT change with variations in the ambient temperature, electric load, and fuel composition. The changes in the GT operation affect the power output of the steam turbine, leading to changes in the performance of the GTCC.

The off-design models of the turbomachinery parts, especially the compressor, are important for the simulation of the off-design behavior of the GT. For the compressor, the performance map of a compressor with a similar design point [\[26\]](#page-19-25) was selected. The corrected performance map in Figure [4](#page-5-0) was used in the simulation. This map is expressed in terms of the pressure ratio, efficiency, semi-dimensionless mass flow, and speed. The semi-dimensionless parameters are defined in the following equations. All four parameters are expressed in normalized forms relative to the design value. $\frac{1}{2}$ and the control logic of GTs $\frac{2}{3}$ and the relation between the TET and the

Semi – dimensionless mass flow :
$$
\left(\frac{\dot{m}\sqrt{RT}}{P}\right)_{in}
$$
 (6)

Semi – dimensionless speed :
$$
\left(\frac{N}{\sqrt{RT}}\right)_{in}
$$
 (7)

Figure 4. Normalized compressor map. **Figure 4.** Normalized compressor map.

Because the turbine generally operates under near-choking conditions, the following choking equation was applied to the off-design GT model [\[27\]](#page-20-0).

$$
\left(\frac{\dot{m}_{in}\sqrt{T_{in}}}{\kappa A_{in}P_{in}}\right)_T = \text{constant}, \kappa = \sqrt{\frac{\gamma}{R}\left(\frac{2}{\gamma+1}\right)^{\frac{\gamma+1}{\gamma-1}}} \tag{8}
$$

The off-design operating point of the GT was determined by matching the compressor and turbine. There are two main methods of controlling the power output during off-design operation. One is adjusting the angle of the inlet guide vane (IGV) of the compressor and controlling the flow rate of the air injected into the GT, and the other is controlling the flow rate of the fuel. The IGV control improves the GTCC efficiency by keeping the TIT as high as possible during partial load operation [\[28\]](#page-20-1). However, because the TIT is very high, the IGV is usually controlled using the measured TET and a control curve. **Relative** present
 Relative present
 Relative present **Relative** effect
 Relative

0.8

Design

The TET control curve in Figure [5](#page-6-0) was applied to the target GT. It was generated using the principle of the control logic of GTs [\[28\]](#page-20-1) and the relation between the TET and pressure **0.7 0.2 105.3%** ratio obtained from the off-design simulation of the target GT. A higher pressure ratio **94.8% 97.5% 100%** means higher GT power output. The control curve consists of three parts. Firstly, when **92.5%** power is reduced from very high power conditions, the TIT is kept constant by closing the IGV and the TET increases. Once the TET limit is reached, it is maintained as constant. If the power is to be reduced further even after the IGV is fully closed, pure fuel control is adopted.

Figure 5. Control curve of the GT. **Figure 5.** Control curve of the GT.

The effectiveness-NTU method was used for the off-design modeling of each heat exchanger section of the HRSG [\[29\]](#page-20-2). The modified Stodola equation was used for the steam turbine $[26]$. The steam turbine's inlet pressure can be estimated based on the flow rate, steam turbine $[26]$. The steam turbine σ much pressure can be estimated based on the following a continuous outlet pressure, inlet temperature, and flow coefficient using the following equation: The effectiveness-NTU method was used for the off-design modeling of each heat

$$
\dot{m} = C_q \sqrt{\frac{P_b}{v_b}} \sqrt{1 - \left(\frac{r - r^*}{1 - r^*}\right)^2} \tag{9}
$$

where C_q is the flow coefficient determined at the design point; P_b and v_b are the bowl pressure and bowl specific volume, respectively; r is the outlet pressure ratio; and *r** is the pressure and bowl specific volume, respectively; r is the outlet pressure ratio; and *r** is the critical pressure ratio. critical pressure ratio.

2.2.3. Wind Power Data

A 4000-MW-scale offshore wind farm was assumed, and the individual wind power generators were assumed to be of the 5560-kW class. The location of the offshore wind farm is a southern province of Korea that is proposed as a site for wind farm construction. The surplus power of the wind farm was calculated using the annual wind speed data for the corresponding region [\[30\]](#page-20-3). The annual wind speed was measured at an altitude of 4 m and could be calibrated to the wind speed of the desired altitude using Equation (10).

$$
\frac{H(Z)}{H(Z_a)} = \left(\frac{Z}{Z_a}\right)^{0.1} \tag{10}
$$

The power generated by a wind power generator was calculated using Equation (11):

$$
P_0 = \frac{\pi}{2} \times r^2 \times \langle H(Z) \rangle^3 \times \rho \times \eta \tag{11}
$$

where *r* is the radius of the turbine blades, *ρ* is the density, and *η* is the mechanical efficiency, which includes the generator. The exponent 0.1 in Equation (10) is the wind shear exponent determined by the ground conditions (open water).

The height of the hub of the wind power generator was assumed to be 100 m, and the blade length was 68 m. The wind speed (*H*) at 100 m (*Z*) was obtained by applying Equation (10) to the wind speed (H_a) measured at an altitude of 4 m (Z_a) [\[31\]](#page-20-4). Then, H was inserted into Equation (11) to estimate the power output (kW). The design specifications used for the wind power calculation are summarized in Table [4](#page-7-0) [\[32\]](#page-20-5).

Table 4. Design specifications of the wind turbine.

In general, the power demand is high during the day, and surplus power occurs at night [\[33\]](#page-20-6). This tendency clearly appears in another study [\[34\]](#page-20-7) as well. Therefore, it was assumed that the surplus power generated from the offshore wind farm was used for H_2 production rather than supplied to the power grid in the 13 h period (7 p.m. to 8 a.m.) when the power demand was low. The average wind speed for a 4-year period in the target region [\[30\]](#page-20-3) was used for the wind speed of the offshore wind farm between 7 p.m. and 8 a.m. The wind power data are summarized in Table [5.](#page-7-1) The variation in the monthly average wind speed is shown in Figure [6.](#page-7-2)

Table 5. Data for the offshore wind farm.

Figure 6. Annual average wind speed. **Figure 6.** Annual average wind speed.

2.2.4. Electricity Demand and Ambient Temperature Data

The GTCC operating time was assumed to be 11 h during daytime when the electricity demand is high (8 a.m. to 7 p.m.). The actual electricity demand pattern and ambient temperature of the region where the power plant was located were taken into account when determining the daytime operational performance. The GTCC plant was assumed when determining the daytime operational performance. The GTCC plant was assumed to be located in the southern coastal area of South Korea adjacent to an offshore wind to be located in the southern coastal area of South Korea adjacent to an offshore wind farm. The average ambient temperature of the corresponding area was also obtained from farm. The average ambient temperature of the corresponding area was also obtained from meteorological data [30]. meteorological data [\[30\]](#page-20-3).

The annual variation in the power demand was generated based on the pattern of the The annual variation in the power demand was generated based on the pattern of the national power demand of South Korea [35]. Both the ambient temperature and power national power demand of South Korea [\[35](#page-20-8)]. Both the ambient temperature and power demand data were 4-year averages. The variations in the ambient temperature and power demand data were 4-year averages. The variations in the ambient temperature and power
demand that had to be addressed by the GTCC power plant are presented in Figur[e 7](#page-8-0). The power demand of January, when the demand is the highest, was assumed to be 341.6 MW, power demand of January, when the demand is the highest, was assumed to be 341.6 MW, which is 80% of the design load of the GTCC. which is 80% of the design load of the GTCC.

Figure 7. Annual power demand and ambient temperature. **Figure 7.** Annual power demand and ambient temperature.

2.2.5. PtG Process

The amount of hydrogen that can be produced per megawatt at the current level of PtG technology can be found in the literature [\[24\]](#page-19-23). Therefore, rather than performing detailed modeling of the PtG process, H_2 was assumed to be produced by a PtG water electrolysis process with a specific power consumption of 20.833 kg/MWh [\[24\]](#page-19-23). The power available for the electrolysis process (the net surplus power) is the net power output, which is the difference between the total produced power (*Ptot)* and the power consumption used for storing hydrogen (*Pstore*). Hence, the hydrogen production using the surplus power can be calculated using the following equation.

$$
H_2 \text{ production}(\text{kg}) = (P_{tot} - P_{store})(\text{MWh}) \times (20.833 \text{ kg}/\text{MWh}) \tag{12}
$$

The PtG capacity is assumed to be 1900 MW. Although the capacity of the offshore wind farm is 4000 MW, the actual average wind speed is 8.3 m/s, which does not correspond with the rated wind speed of the wind power generator of 10 m/s. Accordingly, it was predicted that the generated monthly average surplus power would not exceed 1900 MW.

2.2.6. CCP

Basically, three methods are available for carbon capture: post-combustion, precombustion, and oxy-combustion capture. Post-combustion capture is the most mature technology and requires the least modification to existing power plants [\[36\]](#page-20-9). Several capture processes are available for post-combustion capture, but the MEA process was adopted because it is the most mature and common.

Post-combustion capture is a relatively mature technology, and performance data such as its specific energy consumption are also relatively well known. At a $CO₂$ capture rate of 90%, the specific thermal energy demand was assumed to be 3.85 MJ/k $\rm g_{CO_2}$ [\[37\]](#page-20-10). Accordingly, the consumed electric power and thermal energy were determined as follows based on the rate of $CO₂$ collected through the CCP (kg/s):

$$
\dot{Q}_{CCP}(\text{MW}_{\text{th}}) = \dot{m}_{CO_2}(\text{kg/s}) \times 3.85 \left(\text{MJ/kg}_{\text{CO}_2}\right) \tag{13}
$$

In CCP, power is consumed by pumps and compressors. In the MEA process, an internal pump is used, but the power consumption of the pump is very small compared to the overall system power. Therefore, the power consumption of the pump was simplified to 2.7% of the power consumption of the CCP compressor. To process $CO₂$ at 1.02 bar collected using the MEA process into high-purity $CO₂$, the compressor compresses it to 30 bar and transfers it to a separator. During this process, the compressor's efficiency was 90%, and the consumed power was calculated using the same performance simulation program that was used for the GTCC [\[26\]](#page-19-25). The design values of this amine-scrubbing technique are presented in Table [6.](#page-9-0) The power consumed in the CCP was calculated using the following equation: . . .

$$
W_{CCP} = W_{Pump} + W_{Comp} \tag{14}
$$

Table 6. Design specifications of the CCP.

2.2.7. Methanation Process

MP is also widely known, so instead of performing a detailed simulation, the literature data for this process were used. The $T\text{REMP}^{TM}$ process was employed, which uses the Sabatier reaction operating at high pressure and high temperature using nickel-based catalysts [\[38\]](#page-20-11). The SNG produced through the MP was composed of 98% CH₄ and 2% N_2 + Ar by mole ratio, and the LHV of the SNG was 48,306 kJ/kg. The Wobbe index of the syngas is in the range of that of the NG, thus confirming that it is interchangeable with NG (i.e., it can be used in an existing GT without revising the combustor).

In the MP, the energy used at the recycling compressor to increase the temperature of the TREMPTM process reactor was calculated as the consumed power. A specific power consumption of 108 kJ/kg was adopted for the recycle compressor based on a previous study [\[21\]](#page-19-20). The thermal energy generated from the MP was determined by the amount of hydrogen used [\[24\]](#page-19-23). As a result, the rates of power consumption and thermal energy generation were calculated by the following expressions:

$$
W_{MP}(\text{kW}_{\text{el}}) = \dot{m}_{SNG}(\text{kg/s}) \times 108 \text{ (kJ/kg)} \tag{15}
$$

$$
Q_{MP} (MW_{th}) = m_{H_2} (kg/s) \times 18 (MJ/kg)
$$
\n(16)

Considering the SNG output and LHV produced during the methanization process, the MP was assumed to be on the scale of 650 MW.

2.3. Operation Strategy

Three GTCC operation strategies were compared. Case 1 is an existing GTCC model that uses NG as a fuel. Case 2 uses an existing GTCC model similar to Case 1, except that H_2 and NG are used as fuels. In Case 3, the CO₂ present in the exhaust gas of the GTCC is captured using the CCP. If the supply of H_2 decreases, the heat generated by the MP also decreases. In this case, it is not possible to obtain the energy required to operate the bottoming cycle. Thus, if the H_2 supply is not sufficient, it reduces the CO_2 capture rate in the CCP, thereby reducing the energy consumption of the CCP.

The GTCC in each case used the DSS method during the 11 h daytime period. During the daytime, the power generated from the offshore wind farm and GTCC is supplied to the power grid. During the 13 h in which the power demand is low and the GTCC does not operate, the power generated from the offshore wind farm is not supplied to the power grid and is instead used to produce H_2 through the PtG process.

The basic equations to calculate the GTCC performance are summarized in Equations (1)–(5) in Section [2.2.1.](#page-3-2) However, some revisions in the calculations were required in Cases 2 and 3 because they used H² and SNG along with NG as fuels. Furthermore, additional power consumption was needed for the SNG production in Case 3. The revised equations are as follows:

$$
\eta_{net} = \frac{\dot{W}_{net}}{(m \times LHV)_{SNG \text{ or } H_2} + (\dot{m} \times LHV)_{LNG}}
$$
(17)

$$
\dot{W}_{net} = W_{GT} + \dot{W}_{ST} - W_{CCP} - \dot{W}_{MP}
$$
\n(18)

In Case 2, H_2 and NG were used as fuel, whereas in Case 3, SNG and NG were used. The energy of the injected fuel was calculated based on the mixing ratio of the two fuels. The ambient temperature, wind speed data, and power demand pattern were reflected in the off-design analysis of the actual operating cycle. The partial load operation of the GTCC used the IGV control method in conjunction with fuel flow control. The amount of available H_2 changed with the wind speed. If hydrogen production was sufficient, Case 2 could operate using only H_2 , whereas in Case 3, the mixing ratio of SNG increased. Otherwise, the use of NG increased in both cases.

2.4. Economic Analysis

The addition of PtG, CCP, and MP equipment naturally increases the installation cost and the operations and maintenance (O&M) cost, while the reduced NG usage and reduced $CO₂$ emissions act as benefits. The purpose of the economic analysis was to estimate the economic benefits of Cases 2 and 3 over Case 1 and to evaluate which one of them is economically superior. Therefore, the economic feasibility of the additional investment (the incremental capital expenditure (CAPEX)) of Cases 2 and 3 over the normal GTCC was evaluated.

In Cases 2 and 3, various additional facilities are required, including the hydrogen production infrastructure, which requires additional investment. According to a preliminary evaluation, the current market prices of the additional facilities such as the PtG process are too high to guarantee a feasible payback of the investment. Therefore, we used predicted future price data in the year 2030, when the green hydrogen production and use is expected to be more technically and commercially mature.

The data used for the economic analysis are shown in Table [7.](#page-11-0) The GT and GTCC prices for the year 2030 were calculated based on the assumption that the rate of price change (3.94%) over the last five years will remain constant [\[25](#page-19-24)[,39\]](#page-20-12). The increase in the GT cost (U_{Re}) due to its revision to accommodate hydrogen combustion was considered for the GT of Case 2. In the case of the O&M cost, existing data were used [\[40,](#page-20-13)[41\]](#page-20-14), and the annual operation time was set to 4015 h/year in accordance with the DSS power generation method.

The reference capital cost of the PtG system in 2020 was set as 650 USD/kW [\[11\]](#page-19-10). The PtG cost is expected to rapidly decrease following technological development. The cost is predicted to decrease to 130 USD/kW by 2050 [\[11\]](#page-19-10). Assuming that this price will change linearly, the PtG price for 2030 was set to be 27% lower than that for 2020. The capital cost of CCP was set to be 70% of the GTCC installation cost after referring to a previous economic analysis [\[42\]](#page-20-15). A value of 75.3 USD/kW was used as the MP equipment cost for 2030 based on a price estimation method [\[43\]](#page-20-16).

The O&M cost of PtG was assumed to be 4% of the installation cost [\[41\]](#page-20-14). Also, the water price for electrolysis was considered [\[44\]](#page-20-17). The O&M cost of the CCP was set to be 12% of the installation cost [\[42\]](#page-20-15), and that of the MP system was assumed to be 10% of the installation cost [\[45\]](#page-20-18). The engineering cost of the PtG, CCP, and MP was assumed to be 28% of the capital cost of each component [\[41\]](#page-20-14). The project period of the three cases was set as 30 years.

Table 7. Parameters for economic analysis.

The NG price in Korea as of 2020 is USD 43.3/MWh. Referring to the latest predicted trend of the NG price increase [\[48\]](#page-20-21), the NG price in 2030 was set as 1.5 times higher than that in 2020. The Korea $CO₂$ tax of 2030 was determined in accordance with the "Tax Policy and Climate Change (2021)" [\[47\]](#page-20-20). In order to achieve the Paris Agreement target's nationally sensitive contributions (NDCs) by 2030, South Korea must raise the $CO₂$ tax by more than USD75/tCO₂ from 2020 prices. Therefore, the CO₂ tax in 2030 was calculated to be 108 USD/tCO₂ (up USD 75 from 33 USD/tCO₂ in 2020).

All the cost data from various sources were standardized to USD using the reference exchange rates of 21 March 2021: 0.00088 USD/KRW and 1.2 USD/EURO. For example, the water price was converted from KRW to USD and the MP and hydrogen prices were converted from EURO to USD. We intended to estimate the incremental benefit of the additional investment in Cases 2 and 3 in comparison to Case 1, so the GTCC's installation, operation, and electricity sales revenues were excluded since they were the same in all three cases.

The CAPEX of Case 2 consists of the PtG equipment and engineering cost and the GT revision cost, while that of Case 3 includes the equipment and engineering costs of the PtG, CCP, and MP. In the following equations, *W* denotes the capacity of each plant or process $(W_{PtG} = 1900 \text{ MW}_{el}, W_{GT} = 283 \text{ MW}_{el}, W_{GTCC} = 427 \text{ MW}_{el}$ and $W_{SNG} = 650 \text{ MW}_{th}$.

$$
CAPEXcase 2 = UPtGWPtG(1 + EPtG) + UReWGT
$$
\n(19)

$$
CAPEX_{case 3} = U_{PtG}W_{PtG}(1 + E_{PtG}) + U_{CCP}W_{GTCC}(1 + E_{CCP}) + U_{MP}W_{SNG}(1 + E_{MP})
$$
\n(20)

The annual O&M costs of Cases 2 and 3 were calculated as constant ratios of the CAPEX of the additional components such as the PtG, CCP, and MP.

$$
O\&M\,\cos t_{\rm case\,2} = O_{PtG}W_{PtG} \tag{21}
$$

$$
O\&M\cos t_{case\,3} = O_{PtG}W_{PtG} + O_{CCP}W_{GTCC} + O_{MP}W_{SNG}
$$
\n(22)

The operational expenditures (OPEXs) of Cases 2 and 3 should be reduced compared to Case 1 to guarantee a payback. In other words, the OPEX savings are the economic benefit of Cases 2 and 3 that can cancel out the investment (i.e., the CAPEX). The source of OPEX savings is cost avoidance due to huge reductions in NG purchases and $CO₂$ tax. The increase in the O&M cost of the added components and increased demand for water have negative effects on OPEX savings. The annual OPEX savings were calculated using the following equation:

$$
OPEX savings_{case 2,3} = [Y_{NG}LHV_{NG} (m_{Case 1,NG} - m_{Case 2,3NG}) + C_{tax} (m_{Case 1,CO_2} - m_{Case 2,3CO_2})] - m_{H_2O}C_{H_2O} - O&M \cos t
$$
\n(23)

Equation (24) was used to calculate the payback period (PB) using the net present value (NPV) method. The NPV is the present value converted from the total profit after a certain period considering the discount rate. The PB is the point in time when the total profit NPV turns from negative to zero. The discount rate was assumed to be 0.05 (5%).

$$
NPV = -CAPEX_{Case\ 2,3} + \sum_{n=1}^{PB} \frac{I}{(1+i)^n} = 0
$$

where $I = OPEX$ saving_{Case 2,3} (24)

The comparison of the PBs of Cases 2 and 3 indicates the relative economic advantages of one over the other.

3. Results and Discussion

3.1. Performance Analysis

3.1.1. Influence of Hydrogen Co-Firing Ratio

As a first step of our analysis, we investigated the fundamental impact of increasing the hydrogen mixing ratio in the fuel on the performance and emissions characteristics of Cases 2 and 3. The performance of the two cases was comparatively analyzed by changing H_2 usage. Performance comparisons were conducted under the design conditions presented in Table [2](#page-4-0) for each case (TIT, PR, and temperature conditions). The changes in the NG usage and CO₂ emissions of Cases 2 and 3 were compared, and the results are shown in Figures [8](#page-12-0) and [9,](#page-13-0) respectively.

Figure 8. Variation in NG consumption according to H₂ usage.

Figure 9. Variation in CO₂ emissions according to H₂ usage.

As the H₂ supply increased, the CO_2 emissions and NG usage linearly decreased. When sufficient H_2 was supplied, 6.08 kg/s of H_2 could completely replace 14.27 kg/s of NG, and the CO₂ emissions decreased from 39.75 kg/s to 0 kg/s. With increasing H₂ usage, the combustion gas contained more H₂O, which had higher specific heat than other components. As a result, the power output and efficiency of the turbine increased compared to Case 1. When the GT was driven by pure H₂, Case 2 showed 4.9% higher power output and 0.9%p higher efficiency than Case 1. These results are shown in Table [8.](#page-13-1) In Case 2, the H₂ supply varied from 0 kg/s to 6.08 kg/s (0 to 100% H₂ mole fraction).

Table 8. Performance analysis results.

Similar to Case 2, the H_2 mixing ratio of Case 3 also affected the CO₂ emissions and NG usage. The maximum H_2 supply that could react with all captured CO_2 was 6.42 kg/s. In these operating conditions, 90% of the $CO₂$ emitted from the GTCC could be captured, and the NG usage could be reduced by 90.7% from 14.27 kg/s in Case 1 to 1.33 kg/s.

The NG usage of Case 2 was always lower than that of Case 3, as shown in Figure [8.](#page-12-0) If enough H_2 was supplied in Case 2, hydrogen could completely replace NG. On the other hand, NG supply was still required in Case 3, even in the maximum H_2 supply conditions, because the $CO₂$ in the exhaust gas could not be completely converted to the SNG due to the limitation of the carbon capture rate of the CCP. The minimum NG supply was predicted to be 1.33 kg/s.

The $CO₂$ emissions of Case 3 were lower than in Case 2 in a wide range of $H₂$ supply ratios, as shown in Figure [9.](#page-13-0) This happened because unlike Case 3, which captured $CO₂$ from the exhaust gas through the CCP, Case 2 did not have a separate $CO₂$ removal measure. Thus, an increase in NG usage led to an increase in $CO₂$ emissions. In the case where H² was not provided, the carbon capture rate was further decreased to 65% at the CCP. However, if the hydrogen supply was sufficient (i.e., the H² supply ratio was very high), H_2 could completely replace the NG in Case 2, and the CO_2 emissions were zero, which was lower than in Case 3.

3.1.2. Performance Comparison for Annual Operation

The annual performance was predicted using the variation in the power demand of the GTCC and ambient temperature in Figure [7](#page-8-0) and the variation in surplus wind power production calculated by the wind speed data in Figure [6.](#page-7-2) A higher wind speed at night made it possible to produce a greater amount of surplus power, resulting in an increase in the amount of H_2 available during the day. Because the monthly average wind speed varied, the amount of H_2 supplied to the GTCC was different in each month. The H_2 usage, NG usage, and $CO₂$ emissions of each case are presented in Figures $10-12$, respectively.

 $H₂$ was produced and stored using the surplus power generated for 13 h in the 4000-MW-scale offshore wind farm and was used during the 11 h of daytime when the power demand was high. The surplus wind power decreased in May, June, and August when the average wind speed at night was relatively low (see Figure 6). This resulted in relatively low production of H_2 in these three months (see Figure [10\)](#page-14-0).

In Case 2, NG had to be supplied to the GTCC in the three months of May, June, and August (see Figure [11\)](#page-14-1) when the power demand could not be satisfied using only the H_2 . The GTCC was operated using only H_2 in the other nine months when sufficient H_2 was supplied. In Case 3, a change in the H_2 supply also led to a change in the SNG production, which affected the NG usage. Therefore, the SNG production decreased in May, June, and August, and the NG supply pattern was similar to that of Case 2. Thus, unlike Case 2, a certain amount of NG was required for the GTCC operation, even if the H_2 supply was sufficient (Figure [11\)](#page-14-1).

Figure 10. Annual hydrogen production and consumption. **Figure 10.** Annual hydrogen production and consumption. **Figure 10.** Annual hydrogen production and consumption.

Figure 11. Annual NG consumption. **Figure 11.** Annual NG consumption. **Figure 11.** Annual NG consumption.

Figure 12. Comparison of annual CO₂ emissions.

The average NG usage of Case 2 in May, June, and August was 81.7% lower than in Case 1 and 59.0% lower than in Case 3. The annual average NG usage of Case 2 was 0.48 km in Case 3. The annual average NG usage of Case 2 was 0.48 kg/s, which was 98.4% lower than in Case 1 and 76.0% lower than in Case 3. The $CO₂$ emissions were proportional to the NG usage in Cases 1 and 2 because the $CO₂$ produced in the neglection of the decomposition of the neglection of the $C₂$ in the combustor was exhausted to the power plant stack (see Figure [12\)](#page-15-0). However, in Case
2, 2000 a the CO draw the CTCC was explored and sph-100 were not been directly expressed 3, 90% of the CO_2 from the GTCC was captured, and only 10% was produced in all seasons.
Therefore, the CO_2 emissions of Gase 2 years almost senstant these relative the season In Gase. Therefore, the $CO₂$ emissions of Case 3 were almost constant throughout the year. In Case 2, the $CO₂$ emissions were zero in the nine months when pure hydrogen was used as fuel, μ , the CO₂ emissions were zero in the nine months when pure hydrogen was used as racit, while it emitted about 50% more CO₂ than in Case 3 in the three months of May, June, and while it emitted about 50% more $CO₂$ than in Case 3 in the three months of May, June, and August when NG had to be used. Nevertheless, the annual average $CO₂$ emissions of Case of May the May the May to be used. Nevertheless, the annual average CO₂ emissions of Case 2 were 54.6% lower than that of Case 3. The average $CO₂$ reduction in Case 2 from Case 1 was 95.5% Case 2 from Case 1 was 95.5%. Therefore, the $CO₂$ emissions of Case 3 were almost constant throughout the year. In Case was 95.5%.

3.2. Economic Analysis

Table [9](#page-16-0) summarizes the results of the economic analysis, and Figure [13](#page-16-1) presents the breakdowns of the CAPEX and OPEX savings for each case. Considerable CAPEX should be invested in Cases 2 and 3 through the installation of various components required for the PtG, CCP, and MP systems in comparison to the conventional power plant of Case 1. In Case 2, the CAPEX due to the initial investment was calculated to be USD 1.18 billion. It mostly comprised the PtG cost (76.5%), while the GT revision cost and engineering cost were 2.1% and 21.4% respectively. In Case 3, the CAPEX was USD 1.51 billion, which was 28% higher than in Case 2 due to the addition of the CCP and MP.

The addition of components in Cases 2 and 3 led to an increase in the O&M costs. The annual O&M cost of Case 2 was USD 36.1 million higher than that of Case 1, and that of Case 3 was USD 68.5 million higher than that of Case 1. Such increases in the CAPEX and O&M costs could be recovered through the OPEX saving.

Because Cases 2 and 3 were supplied with fuel using H_2 generated from surplus power, the savings of NG purchases would be huge. In Case 2, H_2 was directly used, while in Case 3, $CO₂$ was captured through the CCP, and a portion of the used NG was replaced with SNG. Through this operational method, less $CO₂$ was produced in Cases 2 and 3, enabling a reduction in the $CO₂$ tax as well. Such an OPEX reduction contributed to recovering the increased initial investment costs resulting from the CAPEX increase. The annual OPEX savings of Case 2 were calculated to be USD 138.8 million. The OPEX savings of Case 3 was even lower than Case 2 (USD 84.6 million).

normal plant lifetime, which is usually more than 20 years. In particular, the relatively more than 20 years. I

Table 9. Economic analysis results using NG price scenario 1. here is the change of the capear and the price because is

Figure 13. Breakdown of the CAPEX and OPEX saving. **Figure 13.** Breakdown of the CAPEX and OPEX saving.

The payment periods for the 2021 version of the Predicted to be 11.4 and 40.9 years for Cases 2 and 3, respectively. The payback period of Case 2 was almost a quarter that of Case 3.
The shorter necked period of Case 2 was attributed to two features its CAPEY was layers. but its OPEX savings were higher. Therefore, the direct combustion of hydrogen (Case 2) is part to be 2.1 times. Therefore, the direct computation of hydrogen (case 2). The payback periods for the CPAEX were predicted to be 11.4 and 45.9 years for Cases The shorter payback period of Case 2 was attributed to two factors: its CAPEX was lower,

It is also interesting that the payback periods of Case 2 were sufficiently less than the normal plant lifetime, which is usually more than 20 years. In particular, the relatively 15.1 years, and 11.4 and 45.9 years, and 45.9 years, and 45.9 years, and 45.9 years, it should be noted that the current result was drawn from a future cost scenario (2030). When we used the current result was drawn from a future cost scenario (2030). costs based on the year 2020, the CAPEX was more than 25% higher, and the OPEX savings were less than 40% of those in Table [9.](#page-16-0) This leads to a very long payback period of over one hundred years, which means that the investment is not economically feasible. Another point is that the economics also depend heavily on the NG price because the savings of NG consumption are the majority of the OPEX savings. Accordingly, the payback period highly depends on the NG price.

The current analysis was based on the 2021 version of the NG price forecast [\[47\]](#page-20-20), which predicts an increase of 1.5 times from 2020 to 2030. This assumption is NG price scenario 1. However, according to the 2020 version of the same report [\[49\]](#page-20-22), the increase was predicted to be 2.1 times. This indicates that there is a high uncertainty in predicting the NG price. The results for the 2020 price data are summarized in Table [10.](#page-17-0) According to this assumption (NG price scenario 2), the payback periods of Case 2 and 3 are 7.7 and 15.1 years, which are dramatically reduced from the current results of 11.4 and 45.9 years, respectively. This comparison indicates two things: the importance of the NG price and the fact that Case 2 would be more economical regardless of the NG price.

Table 10. Economic analysis results using NG price scenario 2.

The important findings from the current economic analysis are as follows. Firstly, the direct combustion of hydrogen in the GT would be an economically better option if the expected technology development is achieved as projected. Secondly, the CAPEX reduction is crucial, and the two proposed schemes, especially direct combustion, would be economically viable if the current predicted 2030 cost data are realized.

4. Conclusions

This study analyzed the performance and economic feasibility of a GTCC plant combined with hydrogen production using surplus power from an offshore wind farm. The research focus was to identify the potential of $CO₂$ emissions reduction and economic feasibility of the GTCC plant integrated with either a PtH or PtM system in comparison to a conventional NG-fired GTCC model. Annual variations in the operations of the wind farm and GTCC were taken into account, and economic factors expected in 2030 were used. The results and conclusion are summarized as follows.

- 1. It was predicted that the annual $CO₂$ emissions would be 95.5% lower in the GTCC-PtH plant and 89.7% lower in the GTCC-PtM plant in comparison to the conventional NG-fired GTCC plant. In the months when H_2 is sufficiently supplied, the GTCC-PtH plant using hydrogen directly as fuel for the GTCC emits less CO2 than the GTCC-PtM plant that removes $CO₂$ after combustion. Based on the results of the annual CO₂ emissions and fuel usage, the environmental performance of direct hydrogen combustion option (i.e., the GTCC-PtH plant) is expected to be better.
- 2. The GTCC-PtH plant models seem to provide reasonable economics when assuming the cost scenario of 2030, but they would not provide viable economics when using current cost data. The CAPEX is lower and the OPEX savings is higher in the GTCC-PtH plant, which make its payback period much shorter in comparison to the GTCC-PtM plant.
- 3. As the share of renewable energy further increases, the need for technologies that could secure power grid stabilization and resolve the problems of surplus power generation is also rapidly escalating. The significance of this study is that it suggests a possible solution that integrates a GTCC plant with PtG technology and has provided detailed performance and economic analyses for two viable technical options.

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Nomenclature

- *A* Area (m²)
C Cost (USD
- Cost (USD/kg)
- C_P Constant pressure specific heat (kJ/kg·K)
- C_q
E Flow coefficient
- *E* Engineering cost (USD/kW)
- *H* Corrected wind speed (m/s)
- *H_a* Measured wind speed (m/s)
h Enthalpy (kJ/kg)
- Enthalpy (kJ/kg)
Discount rate
-
- *i* Discount rate
m Mass flow rate (kg/s)
- *N* Revolutions per minute
- *P* Pressure (kPa)
- *R* Gas constant (kJ/kg·K)
T Temperature (K)
- *T* Temperature (K)
t Time (hour)
- Time (hour)
- *U* Unit capital cost (USD/kW)
- *W* Plant capacity (MW_{el}, MW_{th}) W Plant capacity
W Power (MW)
-
- *Y* Gas price (USD/MW, USD/kg)
- *Z* Corrected altitude (m)
- *Za* Measured altitude (m)
- *γ* Specific heat ratio
- *η* Efficiency
- *v* Specific volume (m^3/kg)

Abbreviations

Subscripts

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