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ARTICLE





# Steam Methane Reforming (SMR) Combined with Ship Based Carbon Capture (SBCC) for an Efficient Blue Hydrogen Production on Board Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG) Carriers

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#### ABSTRACT

The objective of this study is to propose an optimal plant design for blue hydrogen production aboard a liquefied natural gas (LNG) carrier. This investigation focuses on integrating two distinct processes—steam methane reforming (SMR) and ship-based carbon capture (SBCC). The first refers to the common practice used to obtain hydrogen from methane (often derived from natural gas), where steam reacts with methane to produce hydrogen and carbon dioxide ( $CO_2$ ). The second refers to capturing the  $CO_2$  generated during the SMR process on board ships. By capturing and storing the carbon emissions, the process significantly reduces its environmental impact, making the hydrogen production "blue," as opposed to "grey" (which involves  $CO_2$  emissions without capture). For the SMR process, the analysis reveals that increasing the reformer temperature enhances both the process performance and  $CO_2$  emissions. Conversely, a higher steam-to-carbon (s/c) ratio reduces hydrogen yield, thereby decreasing thermal efficiency. The study also shows that preheating the air and boil-off gas (BOG) before they enter the combustion chamber boosts overall efficiency and curtails  $CO_2$  emissions. In the SBCC process, pure monoethanolamine (MEA) is employed to capture the  $CO_2$  generated by the exhaust gases from the SMR process. The results indicate that with a 90%  $CO_2$  capture rate, the associated heat consumption amounts to 4.6 MJ per kilogram of  $CO_2$  captured. This combined approach offers a viable pathway to produce blue hydrogen on LNG carriers while significantly reducing the carbon footprint.

### **KEYWORDS**

Carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>) emissions; blue hydrogen; boil-off gas (BOG); steam methane reforming (SMR); ship-based carbon capture (SBCC)

#### Nomenclature

- LHV Lower heating value (KJ/kg)
- m Masse flow (kg/s)
- p Pressure (atm)
- T Temperature (K)



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W	Power (W)						
Abbreviati	ion						
BOG	Boil off Gas						
$CO_2$	Carbon dioxide						
CCS	Carbon capture and storage						
CCU	Carbon capture and utilization						
CDR	Carbon dioxide removal						
EES	Engineering equation solver						
EU ETS	European Union Emissions Trading System						
G	Exhaust Gas						
GCU	Gas combustion unit						
GHG	Greenhouse gas						
GGR	Greenhouse gas removal						
HEX	Heat Exchanger						
HTS	High temperature shift						
IMO	International Maritime Organization						
IRA	Inflation Reduction Act						
L	Lean amin						
LNG	Liquefied natural gas						
LTS	Low temperature shift						
MEA	Monoethanolamine						
NETs	Negative emission technologies						
SBCC	Ship-based carbon capture						
(S/C)	Steam to carbon ratio						
SMR	Steam methane reforming						
Ref	Reforming						
WGS	Water gas shift						
e.g.,							
η	Thermal Efficiency (%)						

#### **1** Introduction

Historically, oil-based fuels have met over 99% of the total energy demand for international shipping, making the maritime sector account for 80%–90% of world trade [1]. However, in 2022, international shipping was responsible for approximately 2% of global energy-related CO<sub>2</sub> emissions, stating the necessity for the maritime sector to fully transition to alternative fuels such as bio-fuels, hydrogen, ammonia, and electricity to align with the Net Zero Scenario. While the International Maritime Organization (IMO) aligns with the Paris Agreement [2], the revised greenhouse gases (GHG) strategy still targets net zero emissions by 2050 [3]. Achieving such a milestone requires stringent measures to successfully maintain steady emissions until around 2025 moving towards a significant drop to meet the 2030 limitations demanding nearly 15% emission reduction. To achieve these legally binding outcomes, technological innovations, supportive policies, and cross-sector collaborations are essential. Notably, the European Union has made progress by integrating shipping into the EU Emissions Trading System (ETS) [4] and advancing the Fuel EU Maritime initiative. Similarly, the U.S. Inflation Reduction Act (IRA) supports port emissions reductions and green ammonia supply chains through clean hydrogen tax incentives. At COP27 in 2022 [5], Norway pledged to reduce shipping emissions by 50% by 2030, requiring significant numbers of low- and zero-emission ships.

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At the year 2005, the European Union established the first and largest system to combat climate change by reducing greenhouse gas emissions. In the wake of the recent expansion of the European Union Emissions Trading System (EU ETS) on 05 June 2023, the shipping sector is expected to be included and implemented by 01 January 2024 [6] as an honest response against the excessive increase in carbon emissions rate 50%– 250% [7,8] and around 3% of global greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions [9].

Marine emissions pose a serious threat, as they both jeopardize and negatively impact numerous aspects; where the environment takes the biggest blow as the most damaged part when intense and frequent extreme meteorological events namely: heat waves, droughts, snowstorms and torrential rains are occurred on a regular basis due to the continued rise in the average global temperature. In addition Human health and how in 2019, it was estimated that air pollution was responsible for causing 4.2 million premature deaths on a global scale [10]. Moreover, for the economy sector, the higher price of emissions leads to higher business costs, productivity and output fall, global investment declines with the average marginal efficiency of investment, and consumption follows the fall in real incomes. Therefore, in order to mitigate these disastrous consequences and to achieve long-term climate stability, replacing fossil energy sources with renewable alternatives emerged as an attractive solution [11] to proficiently reducing harmful greenhouse gas emissions from the atmosphere by eliminating  $CO_2$  emissions which are considered a major contributor accounting for around 80% of total greenhouse gas emissions [12]. The concept of greenhouse gas removal (GGR) or carbon dioxide removal (CDR) requires the extraction of the latter from the atmosphere, resulting in negative emissions wherein more  $CO_2$  is removed than emitted. These negative emission technologies (NETs) can be accomplished through various natural approaches or through the utilization of human-engineered technologies tailored to remove CO<sub>2</sub> on a large scale. Three primary methods are considered for capturing CO<sub>2</sub> [13], (1) pre-combustion capture, which involves capturing carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>) from synthesis gas subsequent to converting CO to CO<sub>2</sub>; (2) postcombustion capture, aimed at capturing CO<sub>2</sub> from exhaust gases once combustion with air is completed; and (3) capture in oxy-combustion, which entails combustion in oxygen with the recycling of exhaust gases, predominantly composed of  $CO_2$  and water, followed by the purification of the carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>) stream to remove non-condensable gases. The maritime industry focuses regularly on adopting renewable energy sources to create a more environmentally friendly fleet capable of meeting the demands of a growing global population [14].

The marine industry considers Hydrogen as a promising alternative to fossil fuels [15,16] due to the clean combustion, high energy density and compatible storage capacity. Currently, steam methane reforming (SMR) is the most prevalent method for hydrogen production [17], however, the process is associated with significant  $CO_2$  emissions, ranging from 9 to 12 tons of  $CO_2$  per ton of hydrogen produced [18,19].

To address this issue, clean hydrogen technologies, including power-to-X systems combined with carbon capture and storage (CCS) and carbon capture and utilization (CCU), are critical for achieving net-zero emissions in the marine sector. Previous studies have explored various carbon capture technologies in the context of blue hydrogen production. For instance, Katebah et al. [20] analyzed CO<sub>2</sub> capture integration into the SMR process, demonstrating up to 90% emission reduction with a modest increase in production costs. Pruvost et al. [21] found that advanced thermal systems could reduce production costs by approximately 6%. Feenstra et al. [22] indicated that carbon capture is particularly effective on large LNG ships, while Einbu et al. [23] showed that achieving a 90% capture rate necessitates additional fuel demands. Lee et al. [24] highlighted that ship-based carbon capture technology could significantly improve the Energy Efficiency Existing Ship Index (EEDI), and Jasper et al. [25] noted that ship-based carbon capture technology is a viable solution with a cost ranging from  $\in$ 119 to  $\in$ 133 per ton of CO<sub>2</sub>.

Despite these advancements, the integration of the steam methane reforming (SMR) with ship-based carbon capture (SBCC) technology onboard LNG carriers has not been extensively studied. Therefore, this paper aims to evaluate the feasibility of integrating the SMR process with ship-based carbon capture (SBCC) technology onboard an Algerian LNG carrier. The study focuses on producing blue hydrogen for propulsion, optimizing process conditions, and assessing the impact of various parameters. The thermodynamic simulations for the SMR process were conducted using Engineering Equation Solver (EES) software, utilizing excess boil-off gas (BOG) generated in LNG tanks. For the SBCC process, simulations were performed using the Aspen HYSYS commercial simulator [26].

#### 1.1 Characteristics of the Studied LNG Ship Model

The case study involves a 169,288 m<sup>3</sup> Algerian LNG carrier equipped with four DFDE 4S engines (2 sets of 12V50DF and 2 sets of 8L50DF), providing a propulsion power of  $2 \times 13,890$  kW. During a steady-state load voyage, the boil-off gas (BOG) generation rate ranges from 0.10% to 0.12%, while for a ballast voyage, it varies from 0.6% to 0.10%.

The boil off gas generation rate depends primary on heat ingress. During navigation various parameters are taken into consideration when comes to bog level variation namely: temperature fluctuations, cargo tank content, sea water temperature and sea conditions. The typical range for natural evaporation rates is 0.135% to 0.15% per day of the tanker's liquid capacity [27]. The natural mass flow rate of BOG (kg/s) is consequently calculated using the following equation [28]:

$$m_{BO(nat)} = \frac{BOR \times C_{LNG_{carrier}} \times \rho}{24 \times 3600} \tag{1}$$

#### **2** Process Description

# 2.1 Modeling and Simulation of the Steam Methane Reforming (SMR) Process for the Hydrogen Production

Hydrogen generation plan has proven achievable through different approaches, including renewable sources such as electrolysis, solar energy and hydrocarbons. Currently, the SMR process is considered as the primary method. The process is divided into three main stages, reforming, catalyst, and purification as illustrated in Fig. 1 [29].



Figure 1: Traditional schematic of the hydrogen production process via steam methane reforming

The chemical reaction of natural gas is characterized by an endothermic reaction. In the reforming process, a dedicated heat source is essential and typically provided by external sources such as boilers,

furnaces, or hot waste gas flows. These external heat sources facilitate the conversion of raw materials into hydrogen. As a byproduct, the process generates carbon dioxide, carbon monoxide and non-combustible hydrocarbons. The steam methane reforming (SMR) reaction can be presented as follows:

$$CH_4 + H_2O \leftrightarrow CO + 3H_2$$
 (2)

$$CH_4 + 2H_2O \leftrightarrow CO_2 + 4H_2$$

This reaction involves methane (CH<sub>4</sub>) reacting with water (H<sub>2</sub>O) to produce carbon monoxide (CO) and hydrogen gas (H<sub>2</sub>), which is a key step in the production of hydrogen with the aid of heat and a catalyst. These reactions take place at temperatures between 1073.15 and 1273.15 K and at pressures ranging from 5 to 20 atm. The nickel-based catalysts are widely used for the steam methane reforming (SMR) process due to their high catalytic activity and low cost [30,31].

The conversion of CO to  $CO_2$  and  $H_2$  occurs through the water ( $H_2O$ ) present in the reforming gases facilitated by a catalyst as described in the following reaction:

$$CO + H_2O \leftrightarrow CO_2 + H_2$$
 (4)

The reaction employs two reactors: the high-temperature shift reactor (HTS), operating between 473 and 673 K, and the low-temperature shift reactor (LTS), functioning between 400 and 450 K [32,33]. In the final stage, the reforming stream undergoes purification in the pressure swing absorption (PSA) system, which separates hydrogen from other chemicals by condensing water vapor [34,35]. It's worth noting that the membrane separation of hydrogen proposed in this study can achieve a high end-of-stream H<sub>2</sub> purity, reaching up to 99% [36].

The boil-off gas (BOG) extracted from the tanks is divided into two parts, one for fueling the engines while the other is used for the hydrogen production process, utilizing the complete composition of BOG [37]. Before entering the process, the BOG undergoes heating from 133 to 298 K by the exhaust gases stream (HEX-1). This heated quantity is further split into two portions. The first portion (19) will be directed to the combustion chamber to fulfill the heat requirements for the reforming reaction when needed. The second part undergoes compression (2–3) before entering the reforming process as illustrated in Fig. 2. Before the methane and water are mixed within the reformer, the water is pumped to reach the reforming pressure (4–5) and is heated utilizing the heat generated by the water gas shift reactor (WGS) (5–6). This process involves the employment of the hydrogen produced (HEX-6) (6–7), the reforming gases (HEX-4) (7–8), and the exhaust gases (HEX-3) (8–9).

The reformer gases experience a temperature decrease to 573 K (the temperature for the water gas shift (WGS) reaction). Upon exiting the WGS, they are reheated by the exhaust gases (HEX-4). Subsequently, the reformer gases undergo expansion to atmospheric pressure (15–16) before being directed to the combustion chamber. The hydrogen's temperature is then lowered to 346 K after passing through the heat exchanger (HEX-6). Simultaneously, the exhaust gases pass through (HEX-2) to heat the air before entering the combustion chamber. Afterward, they are routed to the absorber (24) to capture  $CO_2$  emissions. This integrated process showcases the efficient utilization of heat from various stages in order to optimize the overall system performance.

#### 2.2 Modeling and Simulation of Ship-Based Carbon Capture (SBCC) Process

The extraction of  $CO_2$  from exhaust gas streams through aqueous MEA scrubbing stands out as one of the most promising and successful technologies [38]. The MEA solvent boasts favorable characteristics in terms of Health, Safety, and Environment (HSE), including biodegradability, eco-toxicity, and human toxicity. Additionally, the technology is well-established and mature, featuring an easy-to-use solvent with relatively fast kinetics. The solvent's volatility is generally low, posing no significant issues for onshore carbon

(3)

capture. Despite these advantages, the MEA solvent does have drawbacks, including a relatively high energy requirement, a low maximum desorption pressure, and susceptibility to high oxidative solvent degradation. However, the elevated energy demand of MEA is not necessarily a liability for Ship-Based Carbon Capture (SBCC). In vessels with ample waste heat from exhaust gases, high capture rates can be achieved, and using a solvent with lower regeneration energy may not offer substantial additional benefits [39].

When the exhaust gas from the SMR process enters the absorber, it undergoes cooling to approximately 313.15 K, as shown in Fig. 2. Within the absorber, the incoming CO<sub>2</sub>-containing gases interact with a counter-currently flowing amine solvent, initiating a chemical reaction between the absorbent and CO. The amine-rich solvent, now containing absorbed CO<sub>2</sub>, is then heated to around 377.15 K via the lean/rich cross heat exchanger (HEX-7) and directed to the top of the stripper (28). Within the stripper, the amine solvent undergoes regeneration with the heat supplied to the reboiler using steam. Following condensation, the produced CO<sub>2</sub> gas exits the stripper's overhead with a purity of 98% mole, achieving a capture rate of 90% (30). The lean amine solvent from the stripper is cooled and recycled back to the absorber (33).



**Figure 2:** Schematic of the combination of the Steam Methane Reforming (SMR) and the Ship-Based Carbon Capture (SBCC)

The captured  $CO_2$  is subsequently compressed and transported for various uses or injected into deep underground rock formations for permanent storage. To resist movement, the absorber and stripper columns in this study were designed with limitations on height and diameter, opting for a low-pressure drop. Packed columns, particularly those with Mellapak 250X structured packing, were chosen as they are more suitable than tray columns for this study [40,41].

Table 1 serves as an accumulator for the data necessary in the present simulation throughout all stages to provide a better understanding of the process.

SMR						SBCC			
Inlet fuel		Inlet water		Inlet air		Inlet exhaust gas		Inlet lean Amin	
CH <sub>4</sub>	0.88	H <sub>2</sub> O	1	O <sub>2</sub>	0.21	Temperature	313	Temperature	313
$N_2$	0.12	Т	298	$N_2$	0.79	Pressure	1	Pressure	1
Т	298	Р	1	Т	298	CO <sub>2</sub> content	0.31	MEA strength	0.30
Р	1			Р	1	Absorber		Stripper	
Reformer		Shift reactor Pu		Purificat	ion	Number of stages	20	Number of stages	8
Т	973	Т	573	Т	573	Pressure	1	Pressure	2
Р	10	Р	10	p <sub>H2</sub>	1	Amin lean loading	0.18	Amin reach loading	0.50
S/C	4			H <sub>2 Purity</sub>	99				
Others parameters									
η <sub>s</sub> , con	npressor	0.70	Regu	lator	1/10	L/G	3.5	Reboiler temperature	393
η <sub>s</sub> , pur	np	0.80	Exces	ss air	10	CO <sub>2purty</sub>	0.99	Rich amine temperature	377.3

 Table 1: The main data for the process simulation

# **3** Analysis and Modeling

The aforementioned steam methane reforming (SMR) process undergoes modeling through a thermodynamic approach. The program was developed using EES software, permitting various modifications regarding plant parameters such as reforming temperature, air and boil-off gas (BOG) temperature at the combustion chamber inlet, and steam/carbon ratio (S/C). These modifications were made to assess their impact on the plant's overall performance. The primary goal of this study is to minimize regeneration energy consumption while upholding a high  $CO_2$  recovery rate. Several critical design parameters, including  $CO_2$  lean loading (the moles of  $CO_2$  per mole of MEA in the solvent), temperature profile, and the height along the absorption column, are identified as significant contributors for energy regeneration. Therefore, a sensitivity analysis is conducted to evaluate how  $CO_2$  removal and thermal energy consumption are influenced by various key design parameters, encompassing  $CO_2$  lean loading and factors affecting temperatures in the absorber.

The reformer's and the  $CO_2$  removal operating parameters are based on the DOE's demonstration SMR plant in Las Vegas, NV, USA [42,43], along with the previous works [44].

#### 3.1 Validation Results

The thermal efficiency and  $H_2$  generation are acknowledged as the main parameters of the present process. The ratio of power output to heat input representing the thermal efficiency is viewed as a critical metric regarding the performance overall evaluation [30]. Thermal efficiency is calculated as follows:

$$\eta = \frac{\dot{m}_{H_2} \times LHV_{H_2}}{\dot{m}_{CH_4} \times LHV_{CH_4} + W_{Compressor} + W_{pump}}$$
(5)

The hydrogen yield is defined as the hydrogen-produced moles from the reaction for each mole of methane [45]. Mathematically, it can be represented as follows:

$$H_{2yield} = \frac{n_{H_{2,final}}}{n_{CH_{A,initial}}}$$
(6)

A comparison between the present work's result and the work published by Hajjaji et al. [30] is presented in Table 2. The slight deviation between the two results is attributed to the difference in the fluid package properties used by both parties.

		Hajjaji et al. [30]	Present study	Error
SMR1	H <sub>2</sub> production (mol/s)	2.804	2.804	0.00
	Thermal efficiency (%)	70.03	70.05	0.03
	CO <sub>2</sub> Emissions (mol/s)	1.194	1.192	0.16
SMR2	H <sub>2</sub> production (mol/s)	2.804	2.804	0.00
	Thermal efficiency (%)	73.93	74.1	0.23
	CO <sub>2</sub> Emissions (mol/s)	1.130	1.130	0.00

Table 2: Results validation

# 3.2 Results and Discussion

#### 3.2.1 Effect of Reforming Temperature and (S/C) Ratio Variation

Fig. 3 explains the influence of the reforming temperature on the plant and why as per Chatelier's principal [46] boosting the latter would implement radical changes concerning both hydrogen production and thermal efficiency.



**Figure 3:** The influence of the reforming temperature and (S/C) ratio on both hydrogen yield and thermal efficiency ( $T_{Shift} = 573 \text{ K}$ ,  $T_{purification} = 723 \text{ K}$ ,  $p_{ref} = 10 \text{ atm}$ )

After monitoring the reformer's temperature variations from 950 to 1300 K, the first half (before the inflection point) favors the reformer's temperature rise to a certain level, creating a proportional increase in hydrogen production. In addition as an effect of the increased heat demand of the reformer, the s/c ratio elevates from 4 to 6, leaving the hydrogen production chain to experience a notable reduction, hence

a thermal efficiency drop. Moreover, as the second half shows, after the inflection points which mark the optimal temperatures of the process, the curves are displaying a slower hydrogen production rate, indicating that the yield has become less sensitive to temperature changes. This behavior is related to the kinetics of the chemical reactions within the reformer. At lower temperatures, reforming and shift reactions occur more rapidly, boosting hydrogen production. However, at higher temperatures, secondary reactions or thermal losses can limit efficiency, resulting in a reduced sensitivity to temperature increases.

#### 3.2.2 Effect of Air Temperature Variation

Fig. 4 illustrates the behavior of the required BOG for the combustion process and the thermal efficiency as a function of combustion air's temperature. As combustion air temperature increases from 300 to 600 K fuel mass decreases and thermal efficiency increases by around 70%–75%, resulting in lower carbon dioxide emissions since the latter is inversely proportional to the fuel mass flow rate, as suggested by Eq. (5).



**Figure 4:** The influence of the air temperature on fuel consumption and thermal efficiency ( $T_{Shift} = 573$  K,  $T_{purification} = 723$  K, (S/C) ratio = 4,  $p_{ref} = 10$  am)

#### 3.2.3 Effect of BOG Temperature Variation

Fig. 5 reflects the sensitivity of thermal efficiency and BOG performance while varying the fuel temperature from 298 to 600 K. Thermal efficiency curve shows a negligible behavior, ranging between 70% and 70.5%, while the required quantity of BOG decreased steadily when increasing fuel temperature.

#### 3.2.4 Effect of CO<sub>2</sub> Lean Loading

Fig. 6 depicts the progression of heat consumption and  $CO_2$  removal concerning variations in  $CO_2$  lean loading. The data outlines that both  $CO_2$  removal and heat consumption values reach their highest at a  $CO_2$ lean loading of 0.16 (mol  $CO_2$ /mol MEA). The curvature's change in the heat consumption curve reflects variations in the thermal efficiency of the reforming process at different temperatures. Initially, as the reformer temperature increases, heat consumption rises in a near-linear fashion. However, beyond a certain point, the heat consumption increases at an accelerated rate due to the need for additional energy to maintain effective reactions at higher temperatures. This phenomenon is attributed to reactor dynamics, where higher temperatures require more complex heat management to compensate for thermal losses as well as enhance the reaction. Practically, this indicates that excessively high temperatures may not be economically or practically viable due to the increased energy. Moreover, the higher  $CO_2$  lean loading goes, the lower heat consumption and  $CO_2$  removal curves go, emphasizing the importance of selecting a top-notch  $CO_2$  lean loading to aid in maintaining the desirable  $CO_2$  removal efficiency levels while minimizing the heat consumption to help refine the overall performance.



**Figure 5:** The influence of the BOG temperature on fuel consumption and thermal efficiency ( $T_{\text{Shift}} = 573 \text{ K}$ ,  $T_{\text{purification}} = 723 \text{ K}$ , (S/C) ratio = 4,  $p_{\text{ref}} = 10 \text{ am}$ )



**Figure 6:** The influence of the  $CO_2$  loading (mol  $CO_2$ /mol MEA)

#### 3.2.5 Effect of the Absorption Temperature

Fig. 7 offers insights into the impact of absorption temperature variations on heat consumption and  $CO_2$  removal. When increasing the temperature from 300 to 325 K both curves experience a significant change, increasing the heat consumption while decreasing  $CO_2$  removal. The shared interconnection nature between hydrogen production and heat consumption allows the interpretation of the inflection points symmetry in both curves where the trade-offs between hydrogen production and heat consumption allows the interpretation and heat consumption are most significant. Higher temperatures are not highly favored as they lead to major energy consumption and reduction in  $CO_2$  removal efficiency, which prioritizes the need to properly manage and optimize the absorption temperature in order to maintain a well-balanced energy efficiency and effective  $CO_2$  capture relationship.



Figure 7: The influence of the absorber inlet gas temperature (K)

#### 3.2.6 Effect of the Number of Absorption Stages

Fig. 8 illustrates the influence of the number of stages on both heat consumption and  $CO_2$  capture. Increasing the column stage number from 10 to 20 contributes in a 10% rise in  $CO_2$  removal efficiency reaching 90%. In addition, the heat consumption decreases from 9 to 4 MJ/kg  $CO_2$ . This relationship underscores the positive correlation between the number of stages and the enhancement of  $CO_2$  removal efficiency coupled with energy consumption reduction. This process highlights the importance of optimizing the number of stages in order to achieve a desirable balance between  $CO_2$  captures effectiveness and the system energy efficiency.



Figure 8: The influence of the number of stages

#### 4 Conclusion

The present work proposes a thermodynamic model for a hydrogen production plant with the integration of a carbon capture process (SBCC) on board Algerian liquefied natural gas (LNG) carrier. Hydrogen is produced via the methane reforming process (SMR), where the feedstock is provided by the excess flue gas (BOG) generated in the liquefied natural gas tanks, preventing the disposal of the latter in the gas combustion unit (GCU) with no further use. This technology is viewed as an attractive proposition, both technical and economically wise, for the maritime sector to reach zero net emissions and limit global warming at 1.5°C. The key findings from this study can be summarized as follows:

In order to improve the plant performance, variations of the reforming, combustion air and BOG temperature, as well as the steam/carbon ratio (S/C), are assessed for the steam methane reforming (SMR). In addition, for the ship-based carbon capture (SBCC), the absorption column height and temperature and lean  $CO_2$  loading have been studied.

- In the case of the steam methane reforming process, increasing the temperature of the reformer enhances hydrogen productivity, which improves the plant's thermal efficiency. In contrast, increasing the steam-to-carbon (S/C) ratio reduces hydrogen productivity and, consequently, the thermal efficiency. Additionally, preheating air before entering the combustion chamber boosts plant efficiency from 70% to 74%. Furthermore, slightly preheating the BOG increases plant efficiency from 70% to 70.6%.
- For the ship-based carbon capture (SBCC) process, research indicates that achieving a CO<sub>2</sub> capture rate of 90% necessitates maintaining the absorption column at a temperature of 313 K and column height of 20. Under these conditions, the estimated energy consumption is approximately 4.3 MW per kilogram of CO<sub>2</sub> captured.

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**Availability of Data and Materials:** The datasets generated during the current study are not publicly available due to information protection policy denying access to unauthorized parties, but are available from the corresponding author on reasonable request.

Ethics Approval: Not applicable.

Conflicts of Interest: The authors declare no conflicts of interest to report regarding the present study.

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