#### **ORIGINAL ARTICLE**



# **Experimental Study of Oxy‑fuel Combustion and Emission Characteristics Using a 10 kW<sub>th</sub> Pressurized Fluidized Bed Combustor**

**Dong‑Won Kim<sup>1</sup> · Jong‑Min Lee1 · Gyu‑Hwa Lee1 · Kyoungil Park1**

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# **Abstract**

Pressurized oxy-fuel combustion (POFC) is a promising carbon capture and storage technology because of its ability for efficient  $CO<sub>2</sub>$  capture and storage at a relatively low cost. However, the experimental studies conducted on this technology considering pressurized conditions are limited compared with those conducted considering atmospheric conditions. Thus, further investigation on the performance and environmental emissions of oxy-fuel combustion is necessary. In this study, oxy-fuel combustion experiments were conducted using a 10 kW<sub>th</sub> fluidized bed combustion (FBC) test rig at pressures ranging from 3 to 8 bar (g). The efects of combustion pressure, oxygen concentration, and cofring with diferent fuels on combustion temperature, unburned carbon, combustion efficiency, as well as  $SO_x$  and  $NO_x$  emissions were examined. The experimental results showed that the  $CO<sub>2</sub>$  concentration in the flue gas exceeds 90% in all POFC scenarios, thus facilitating the carbon capture process. In addition, by increasing the combustion pressure, the unburned carbon and CO concentrations in the fly ash are reduced, thereby improving combustion efficiency. Furthermore, the variations in NO, NO<sub>2</sub>, N<sub>2</sub>O, and SO<sub>2</sub> emissions were measured to assess their environmental impact. Moreover, cofring tests using biomass under pressurized oxy-fuel conditions (5 bar (g),  $30\%$  O<sub>2</sub>:70% CO<sub>2</sub>) showed that these conditions are more environmentally sustainable and efficient than other combustion methods for producing energy in a fluidized bed by burning a mixture of coal and biomass.

**Keywords** Pressurized oxy-fuel combustion · Carbon capture and storage (CCS) · Fluidized bed combustion (FBC) · Combustion efficiency · Environmental emissions

# **List of Abbreviations**



 $\boxtimes$  Kyoungil Park kyoungil.park@kepco.co.kr

# **Introduction**

Pressurized oxy-fuel combustion (POFC) is a promising  $CO<sub>2</sub>$  capture technology because of its ability for highefficiency  $CO<sub>2</sub>$  capture and storage (CSS) at a relatively low cost [\[1\]](#page-11-0). A major advantage of POFC is its ability to recover the latent heat of water vapor by subjecting the fue gas to a heat recovery process under pressurized conditions [[2,](#page-11-1) [3\]](#page-11-2). In addition, when the flue gas is injected into  $CO<sub>2</sub>$ purifcation units (CPUs) and fue gas recirculation fans, the volume of gas entering the system is  $\sim 80\%$  less than that of air combustion because of the oxy-fuel combustion characteristics. This gas volume reduction decreases the work required for compression, thereby improving the overall combustion efficiency. In addition, operating under pressurized conditions eliminates the risk of air infltration that can occur under atmospheric pressure conditions, resulting in increased  $CO<sub>2</sub>$  purity and reduced compression work in CPUs [[4](#page-11-3), [5](#page-11-4)]. Furthermore, the increased density of the fue gas under pressurized conditions enhances the

Power Generation & Environment Laboratory, KEPCO Research Institute, 105 Munji-ro, Yuseong-gu, Daejeon, Republic of Korea

heat transfer rate and reduces the equipment size, thereby reducing the construction cost [[6](#page-11-5), [7](#page-11-6)].

# Current research efforts on POFC are focusing on experimental investigations to validate theoretical models and simulation results  $[8-11]$  $[8-11]$  $[8-11]$  $[8-11]$ . These studies aim to optimize the operating conditions, such as combustion pressure, oxygen concentration, and coal particle size, to achieve maximum efficiency and minimal emissions. Experiments conducted using lab-scale pressurized fuidized bed combustors have provided critical insights into the efects of pressure and oxygen concentrations on combustion performance and pollutant formation.

The behavior of sulfur and its enrichment in particulate matter during pressurized combustion is a major research area [\[12](#page-11-9)]. Studies have shown that sulfur enrichment in fne particles under certain conditions leads to signifcant environmental and operational implications. Ongoing research has been focused on the investigation of sulfur transformation mechanisms and the development of strategies to mitigate the adverse effects of sulfur [[13,](#page-11-10) [14](#page-11-11)].

The optimization of CCS integrated with POFC is another important research area. Various confgurations and operational strategies have been investigated to minimize the energy losses associated with  $CO<sub>2</sub>$  capture and to enhance the overall plant efficiency. This includes the optimization of air separation units (ASUs) and CPUs to reduce efficiency losses  $[15]$  $[15]$ .

Despite these advances, the experimental investigation of oxy-fuel combustion under pressurized fluidized bed conditions is limited compared with that under atmospheric pressure conditions. In particular, there is a lack of experimental data on the effects caused by pressure ranges, such as 7–8 bar (g), which are advantageous for the latent heat recovery of fue gas. Herein, we examine the effects of pressure  $(3-8 \text{ bar})$  and oxygen concentration  $(21\% - 35\%)$  on the combustion efficiency and emissions of pollutants  $(SO_x, NO_x, and N_2O)$  under air and oxy-fuel combustion conditions using a 10 kW<sub>th</sub> FBC test rig. In addition, we investigate the impact of biomass cofring (0%–20%) under pressurized oxy-fuel conditions on combustion performance and the environmental emissions.

Our study provides essential baseline data for the commercialization of the pressurized oxy-fuel fuidized bed combustion (FBC) technology. Experimental data on the combustion characteristics and pollutant emissions under various pressure conditions are crucial in validating and optimizing theoretical models. Furthermore, cofring experiments using biomass indicate the potential for sustainable fuel utilization, thus contributing to the development of environmentally friendly energy systems. These fndings are expected to enhance the economic and environmental efficiency of POFC technology.

# **Materials and Methods**

#### **Experimental Setup**

The pressurized fuidized bed test rig shown in Fig. [1](#page-2-0) was designed to operate under high temperature and pressure conditions (up to 8 bar (g) and 950 °C, respectively). This test rig was used to study the interaction between fuel (such as coal) and solid particles (such as bed material and fuidizing sand) within the reactor and to analyze the fue gas and reactivity during the combustion process. The system is composed of four main sections: reaction, monitoring and control integration, electrical supply, and structural sections.

The lower part of the reactor is equipped with a perforated distributor plate to ensure uniform air distribution for smooth fluidization. The basic design concept of this test rig is based on air combustion conditions, but its versatility allows it to be used under various gas combustion conditions. Figure [1a](#page-2-0) shows the pressure vessel, combustor, windbox, cyclone separator, fuel hopper, screw feeder, gas preheater, reactor zone heater, fue gas cooler, dust collector flter, tar remover, automatic pressure controller, moisture remover, gas supply units (oxygen, carbon dioxide, air), mass flow controllers (MFCs), and various flters.

In the combustor, which is installed within the pressure vessel, entrained solid particles from pressurized combustion are separated using the cyclone separator. After solid particle separation, the gas is fed through the gas cooler, dust collector flter, and tar remover; then it is depressurized to atmospheric pressure and discharged externally. The combustor is equipped with ports, which are used for temperature and pressure measurements. The height and diameter of the reactor are 1.5 m and 0.037 m, respectively. The pressure vessel is used to ensure safety under high temperature and pressure conditions. Fuel was continuously fed into the combustor via the screw feeder, which is controlled by an inverter to adjust its rotation speed for quick and easy fuel injection.

The gas supply system was configured to quantitatively inject air, oxygen, and carbon dioxide through MFCs. Each controlled gas was preheated before being introduced into the reactor. The fue gas or pyrolysis gas exiting the reactor was fed into the cyclone separator and bag flter to collect fne particles and then forwarded to the gas analyzer. A gas sampling port was installed downstream of the pressure control device and connected to the gas analyzer via a heated sampling line capable of maintaining temperatures above 120 ℃. This setup ensured the transfer of the sampled flue gas to the gas analyzer without condensation. The concentrations of fue gas components were analyzed in real time.



(a) Schematic diagram



(b) Photograph

<span id="page-2-0"></span>

<span id="page-3-0"></span>

*FT-IR(a)* Fourier-transform infrared spectroscopy

In our experiments, we used two gas analyzers: FT-IR gas analyzer (CX4000, Gasmet, Vantaa, Finland) and paramagnetic oxygen analyzer (ZAJ, Fuji Electric, Tokyo, Japan). Detailed specifcations are presented in Table [1.](#page-3-0)

# **Fuels and Bed Material**

In this study, subbituminous coal (obtained from KIDECO Co., Ltd.) and wood pellets were used as fuels. The results of proximate and ultimate analyses as well as heating and initial deformation temperature (IDT) values are presented in Table [2](#page-3-1). The particle sizes of the subbituminous coal and wood pellets used were in the 0.85–2.8 mm and 1.4–2.8 mm ranges, respectively. Silica sand  $(SiO<sub>2</sub>)$  with particle sizes in the 0.85–1 mm range was used as bed material.

#### **Experimental Test Planning**

In the combustion test, the system was initially heated to 600 °C using external heaters. After reaching this temperature, the test coal was inserted into the combustor, and the temperature was increased to 850 °C and stabilized for  $\sim$  1 h. Subsequently, combustion and environmental assessments were conducted using measurements obtained over a 30-min period under steady-state conditions. The experimental plan, including variations in reaction pressure, oxygen and carbon dioxide concentrations, and fuel feed rates, is presented in Table [3](#page-4-0). The fly ash was collected from the bag flter for analysis.

# **Results and Discussion**

# **Efect of Operating Pressure Variation on Combustion Performance and Pollutant Formation**

The temperature (T2) variation in the lower part of the combustor in the pressurized fuidized bed reactor was measured by varying the operating pressure. As shown in Fig. [2](#page-4-1), the temperature in the lower part of the combustor increases with the operating pressure. Table [2](#page-3-1) shows that to maintain the fuidization velocity 2.5 times above its minimum value  $(U_{\text{mf}})$  despite pressure variation, the flow rate of the reaction

#### <span id="page-3-1"></span>**Table 2** Fuel property analysis results



gas must be increased proportionally. In addition, to maintain the same excess oxygen ratio, the fuel feed rate must also be increased proportionally. Consequently, the heat input into the combustion reactor was increased, leading to an increase in the lower combustor temperature.

Furthermore, at the same operating pressure, the combustor temperature under oxy-fuel combustion conditions (hereafter referred to as "oxy 21," representing 21%  $O_2$ :79%  $CO_2$ ) is lower than that under air combustion conditions. This is attributed to the higher specifc heat capacity of  $CO_2$  compared with that of  $N_2$ , which reduces the combustion temperature, and thus alters the thermodynamic characteristics of the combustion system, as reported in previous studies [\[6](#page-11-5), [8](#page-11-7)].

Figure [3](#page-5-0) shows the variations in  $O_2$ ,  $CO_2$ , and CO concentrations under both air combustion conditions and oxy21 by varying the operating pressure. As the operating pressure

<span id="page-4-0"></span>

Table 3 Experimental conditions		Pressure (bar(g))	$O_2$ (vol %)	$CO2$ (vol %)	Coal feeding rate $(kg/h)$	Wood pellet feeding rate (kg/h)	Total gas flow rate $(1/$ min)
		3	Air		0.60		52.5
	$\overline{c}$	3	21	79	0.60		52.5
	3	5	Air		0.90		78.8
	$\overline{4}$	5	21	79	0.90		78.8
	5	5	30	70	0.90		78.8
	6	5	30	70	0.81	0.09	78.8
	7	5	30	70	0.72	0.18	78.8
	8	7	Air		1.17	-	102.4
	9	7	21	79	1.17		102.4
	10	8	Air		1.32		116
	11	8	21	79	1.32		116
	12	8	24	76	1.32		101
	13	8	27	73	1.32		90
	14	8	30	70	1.32		101
	15	8	35	65	1.32		101

<span id="page-4-1"></span>**Fig. 2** Bed temperature variation vs. operating pressure



of the oxy-fuel combustion increases, the CO concentration decreases. This is because, according to Le Chatelier's principle, the forward reaction rate of CO oxidation is accelerated at high pressures, and the increased heat input increases the combustion temperature, thus promoting CO oxidation. In addition, as pressure increases,  $U_{\text{mf}}$  decreases [[16\]](#page-11-13); this, in turn, increases the coal and CO residence times within the reactor, thus providing more time for them to react with oxygen and convert to  $CO<sub>2</sub>$ .

In contrast, for the same pressure, the CO concentration is generally higher under oxy 21 than that under air combustion conditions. This is attributed to the lower oxygen diffusion coefficient of  $CO_2$  (~0.8 times) than that of  $N_2$  and the relatively lower bed temperature under oxy 21 than that under air combustion conditions, as reported in  $[6]$ . Furthermore, the higher  $CO<sub>2</sub>$  concentration under oxy 21 than that under air combustion conditions enhances the Boudouard reaction, which increases

<span id="page-5-0"></span>**Fig. 3**  $O_2$  and  $CO_2$  concentration and CO emission variations vs. operating pressure



(a)  $O_2$  and  $CO_2$  concentrations

![](_page_5_Figure_4.jpeg)

(b) CO emission

the CO concentration. Despite this, for all operating pressures under  $\alpha$ y 21, the  $CO<sub>2</sub>$  concentration remains above 90%, which is advantageous in the carbon capture process.

The combustion efficiency is determined by the heat loss due to incomplete combustion, specifically the production of CO and unburned carbon (UBC). Based on this concept, the combustion efficiency can be calculated using the following equation [[17,](#page-11-14) [18](#page-11-15)]:

As the operating pressure increases, the heat loss attributed to UBC and CO decreases linearly, resulting in an increase in carbon conversion efficiency  $[18]$ . At 8 bar (g), the efficiency reaches  $98.3\%$ , indicating an improvement of  $\sim$  1.5% compared with that at 3 bar (g).

The variations in the emissions of nitrogen oxides  $(NO<sub>x</sub>)$ and sulfur oxides  $(SO<sub>x</sub>)$  by varying the operating pressure are shown in Figs. [5](#page-7-0) and [6](#page-7-1), respectively. The experimental results show that  $NO<sub>x</sub>$  in the flue gas mainly consist of NO,

combination efficiency (
$$
\% = 100 \times \left(1 - \frac{\text{heat loss of unburned carbon and CO}}{\text{heat input}}\right)
$$
 (1)

The heat loss due to UBC (MJ/h) can be calculated using the mass of solid particles exiting the reactor (kg/h), the UBC content (shown in Table [4](#page-6-0)), and the enthalpy of reaction for UBC (MJ/kg). Similarly, the heat loss due to incomplete combustion, which results in CO, can be calculated using the flue gas flow rate  $(Nm^3/h)$ , the CO fraction in the fue gas, and the enthalpy of reaction for CO ( $MJ/Mm<sup>3</sup>$ ). The heat input from the fuel ( $MJ/h$ ) can be calculated using the heating value (MJ/kg) and fuel consumption rate (kg/h). The results are shown in Fig. [4.](#page-6-1)

<span id="page-6-0"></span>**Table 4** Unburned carbon (UBC) in fy ash under oxy 21

Operating pressure $[bar(g)]$			
UBC in fly ash $[\%]$	10.5	9 4	

 $NO<sub>2</sub>$ , and  $N<sub>2</sub>O$ . As the operating pressure increases, NO and  $N<sub>2</sub>O$  concentrations decrease under both air and oxyfuel combustion conditions, whereas the  $NO<sub>2</sub>$  concentration exhibits an increasing trend.

The decrease in the total  $NO<sub>x</sub>$  emission by increasing the operating pressure indicates that NO decreases quicker than  $N<sub>2</sub>$  through its interaction with char or bed material in the reactor because of its increased residence time; some of it was oxidized to  $NO<sub>2</sub>$ . It is known that  $N<sub>2</sub>O$  generally decreases through its interaction with high-temperature radicals, such as O, H, and OH [[19](#page-11-16), [20](#page-11-17)]; in this study, it was assumed that the increase in combustion temperature by increasing the operating pressure leads to a proportional decrease in  $N_2O$  concentration.

For all operating pressures,  $NO<sub>x</sub>$  concentrations were higher under oxy 21 than those under air combustion conditions. Previous studies indicated that NO concentration

![](_page_6_Figure_12.jpeg)

<span id="page-6-1"></span>**Fig. 4** Carbon conversion vs. operating pressure

<span id="page-7-0"></span>![](_page_7_Figure_1.jpeg)

**Fig. 5**  $NO_x$  emissions vs. operating pressure

Operation Pressure [Bar(g)]

slightly decreases when the combustion mode changes from air to oxy-fuel; however, the opposite trend was observed in this study. This can be attributed to the higher oxygen concentration in the fue gas under oxy 21 than that under air combustion conditions, promoting the oxidation of fuelbound  $N_2$ , as shown in Fig. [5](#page-7-0). The relatively higher NO concentration under oxy 21 than that under air combustion conditions probably led to an increase in  $NO<sub>2</sub>$  formation.

 $N<sub>2</sub>O$  concentration increases proportionally at low combustion temperatures under oxy 21, as previously explained. Notably, the proportion of  $NO<sub>2</sub>$  in the total  $NO<sub>x</sub>$ increases from 2 to 25% with the increase in operating pressure (3–8 bar (g)) under oxy 21. Generally, under

<span id="page-7-1"></span>ing pressure

air combustion conditions, NO constitutes the majority of  $NO<sub>x</sub>$ , requiring selective reduction catalysts to reduce NO emissions. However,  $NO<sub>2</sub>$  is water soluble and can be easily removed using the direct contact cooler process. This indicates that pressurized oxy-fuel FBC is highly advantageous in the reduction of  $NO<sub>x</sub>$  emission.

Figure [6](#page-7-1) shows the variation in  $SO_2$  emissions with increasing operating pressure under conditions of oxy 21 and air combustion. The coal used in this experiment had a Ca/S molar ratio of 1.8, indicating strong selfdesulfurization. Under the conditions of air combustion,  $CaCO<sub>3</sub>$  in the coal ash is thermally decomposed to form CaO, which reacted with  $SO_2$  in the flue gas to undergo desulfurization. By contrast, under the oxy 21 conditions, high  $CO<sub>2</sub>$  content inhibited the thermal decomposition of  $CaCO<sub>3</sub>$ , leading to direct desulfurization by its reaction with  $SO_2$  [[13,](#page-11-10) [21\]](#page-11-18). The results indicate that pressurized air combustion conditions feature superior desulfurization efficiency than POFC conditions because indirect desulfurization predominantly occurs under pressurized air combustion conditions, whereas under POFC conditions, a relatively higher  $CO<sub>2</sub>$  partial pressure inhibiting indirect desulfurization and promoting direct desulfurization exists.

Further investigation revealed that under conditions of air combustion,  $SO_2$  emissions increase with the operating pressure, whereas it decrease under oxy21 conditions. The reason for reduced desulfurization efficiency at high operating pressures under air conditions is the limiting influence of higher  $CO<sub>2</sub>$  partial pressures on the thermal decomposition of limestone, which inhibits indirect desulfurization [[22\]](#page-11-19). On the contrary,

enhanced desulfurization efficiency with increasing operating pressure under pressurized oxy-fuel conditions is accelerated direct desulfurization.

# **Efect of Increasing Oxygen Inlet Concentration on Combustion Performance and Pollutant Formation**

In pressurized oxy-fuel FBC, two main methods are used to increase the oxygen inlet concentration while keeping the fuel feed rate constant. In the first method, a fixed excess oxygen ratio is maintained by fxing the oxygen fow rate in the reaction gas and reducing the carbon dioxide fow rate, thus increasing the relative oxygen concentration; in this case, the total amount of reaction gas decreases. In the second method, the total amount of reaction gas is maintained by increasing the oxygen flow rate and decreasing the  $CO<sub>2</sub>$  flow rate, thus increasing the excess oxygen ratio. In this study, both methods were employed.

#### **Fixed Excess Oxygen Ratio**

Figure [7](#page-8-0) shows the  $NO<sub>x</sub>$  concentration and bed temperature variation under excess oxygen ratio conditions (4%) at 8 bar (g) as the oxygen concentration changes. As previously explained, increasing the oxygen inlet concentration reduces the total amount of reaction gas, which, in turn, decreases the internal gas velocity in the reactor. This leads to a decreased expansion of the bubbling fuidized bed, causing combustion to concentrate at the lower bed, thus increasing the lower bed temperature (Fig. [7\)](#page-8-0).

![](_page_8_Figure_9.jpeg)

<span id="page-8-0"></span>**Fig. 7** NO<sub>x</sub> concentration and bed temperature variations vs.  $O<sub>2</sub>$  concentration (8 bar (g), excess oxygen ratio: 4%)

As the oxygen concentration increases, the NO emission increases due to the increased oxygen partial pressure and residence time in the combustor at high temperatures. Conversely, the  $NO<sub>2</sub>$  and  $N<sub>2</sub>O$  emissions decrease due to enhanced reduction reactions facilitated by the increased combustion temperature and residence time [[8\]](#page-11-7).

#### **Fixed Gas Velocity**

Figure  $8$  shows the NO<sub>x</sub> concentration and bed temperature variations at 8 bar (g) by varying the oxygen inlet concentration under fxed gas velocity conditions (0.55 m/s). As previously mentioned, increasing the oxygen inlet concentration increases the excess oxygen ratio while maintaining the same internal gas velocity in the reactor. This results in consistent fuidization characteristics and combustion location, leading to stable combustion temperatures (Fig. [8](#page-9-0)).

The NO concentration increases with the oxygen inlet concentration because of the increase in oxygen partial pressure. However, the  $N_2O$  concentration remains almost unchanged because of the consistent combustion temperature. Notably, the increase in  $NO<sub>2</sub>$  relative to NO is signifcant. When the excess oxygen ratio reached 15%, the proportion of  $NO<sub>2</sub>$  in the total  $NO<sub>x</sub>$  increases to 44%. This is because a high oxygen concentration increases the concentration of  $HO<sub>2</sub>$  radicals, which promote the conversion of NO to  $NO<sub>2</sub>$  [[22\]](#page-11-19).

# **Biomass Cofring**

Figure [9](#page-10-0) shows the variations in combustion performance and environmental emissions as a function of the biomass

cofring ratio (0%–20%) under pressurized oxy 30 conditions (5 bar (g), 30%  $O_2$ :70%  $CO_2$ ) at a fixed gas velocity. As shown in Fig. [9,](#page-10-0) increasing the biomass cofring ratio leads to a decrease in CO emissions, indicating improved combustion efficiency. Similar to reports that conducted oxyfuel combustion under atmospheric conditions  $[23-25]$  $[23-25]$ , NO<sub>x</sub> emissions decrease with an increase in biomass cofring ratio because of relatively low  $N<sub>2</sub>$  content in biomass. In addition, the lower sulfur content in biomass compared with that in coal leads to reduced  $SO_2$  emissions [[25\]](#page-11-21).

Under pressurized conditions, the reaction between CaO and  $SO<sub>2</sub>$  is enhanced, thus increasing desulfurization efficiency. From a  $CO<sub>2</sub>$  capture perspective, biomass cofiring under pressurized conditions increases  $CO<sub>2</sub>$  capture efficiency, thus contributing to carbon neutrality or even negative emissions. These results demonstrate that compared with other combustion methods, pressurized oxy-fuel FBC is more environmentally sustainable and efficient in energy production when cofring coal with biomass.

# **Conclusion**

In this study, the combustion efficiency and emission characteristics of a 10  $kW_{th}$  pressurized fluidized bed combustor were investigated under air and oxy-fuel combustion conditions for various operating pressures (3–8 bar (g)). The following observations can be made by analyzing the experimental results:

1) In all POFC scenarios, the  $CO<sub>2</sub>$  concentration in the flue gas exceeded 90%, which is highly advantageous for the

![](_page_9_Figure_12.jpeg)

![](_page_9_Figure_13.jpeg)

<span id="page-9-0"></span>**Fig. 8** NO<sub>x</sub> concentration and bed temperature variations vs.  $O<sub>2</sub>$  inlet concentration (8 bar (g), fxed gas velocity: 0.55 m/s)

<span id="page-10-0"></span>![](_page_10_Figure_1.jpeg)

![](_page_10_Figure_2.jpeg)

Biomass cofiring ratio [%]

carbon capture process. By increasing the combustion pressure, the UBC and CO concentrations in the fy ash were reduced, thereby improving combustion efficiency. At  $8$  bar (g), the carbon conversion efficiency reached 98.3%, showing an improvement of  $\sim$  1.5% compared to that at  $3 \text{ bar } (g)$ .

- 2) By increasing the operating pressure, the NO and  $N_2O$ concentrations were reduced under both air and oxy-fuel combustion conditions, whereas the  $NO<sub>2</sub>$  concentration exhibited an increasing trend. The total  $NO<sub>x</sub>$  concentration decreased with the operating pressure, indicating that the increased residence time in the combustor and the enhanced interactions with char or bed material led to an increased reduction of NO to  $N_2$ . In addition,  $NO_x$ emissions were higher under oxy-fuel combustion conditions than those under air combustion conditions; this was probably due to the higher oxygen concentrations in the flue gas, promoting the fuel-bound  $N_2$  oxidation.
- 3) By increasing the operating pressure, the  $SO<sub>2</sub>$ emission concentrations were increased under air combustion conditions, whereas they decreased under oxy-fuel combustion conditions. Under oxy-fuel conditions, the high  $CO<sub>2</sub>$  concentration inhibited the thermal decomposition of  $CaCO<sub>3</sub>$ , promoting direct desulfurization where  $CaCO<sub>3</sub>$  directly reacts with  $SO<sub>2</sub>$ .

The impact of the two methods used for increasing the inlet oxygen concentration (i.e., maintaining a fxed excess oxygen ratio or a fxed gas velocity) was investigated. In the frst method, increasing the oxygen inlet concentration led to reduced total reaction gas volume, which increased NO emissions, whereas the  $NO<sub>2</sub>$  and  $N<sub>2</sub>O$  emissions decreased. In the second method, increasing the oxygen inlet concentration resulted in stable combustion temperatures with a notable increase in  $NO<sub>2</sub>$  relative to  $NO$ ; this was probably due to the increased  $HO<sub>2</sub>$  radical concentrations, which promoted the conversion of NO to  $NO<sub>2</sub>$ .

Finally, under pressurized oxy-fuel conditions (5 bar (g), 30%  $O_2$ :70%  $CO_2$ ), biomass cofiring led to reduced CO emissions, indicating improved combustion efficiency. By increasing the biomass cofiring ratio,  $NO<sub>x</sub>$  emissions decreased due to the relatively low  $N_2$  content in biomass. In addition, the low sulfur content in biomass led to reduced  $SO_2$  emissions, and the reaction between CaO and  $SO<sub>2</sub>$  was enhanced under pressurized conditions, increasing desulfurization efficiency.

In conclusion, the results of this study provide essential baseline data for the commercialization of pressurized oxy-fuel FBC technology. The experimental data on combustion characteristics and pollutant emissions under various pressure conditions are crucial in validating and optimizing theoretical models. Furthermore, the biomass cofring experiments indicated the potential for sustainable fuel utilization, contributing to the development of environmentally friendly energy systems. These fndings demonstrate the environmental and economic benefts of pressurized oxy-fuel FBC technology, paving the way for its broad application in the energy sector.

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**Author Contributions** Dong Won Kim: Conceptualization, methodology, formal analysis, investigation, writing—original Draft. Jong Min Lee: Software, funding acquisition, supervision, review and editing.

Gyu Hwa Lee: Validation, Investigation, data curation. Kyoung Il Park: Data curation, resources, visualization, project administration, corresponding author.

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**Data availability** Data will be made available upon reasonable request.

#### **Declarations**

**Conflict of Interest** The authors declare that they have no known competing fnancial interests or personal relationships that could have appeared to infuence the work reported in this paper.

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