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# Different cases study on the heating surface layout of a new 600 MWe coal-fired power plant coupled with CaO-based carbon capture system based on heat exchanger network

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### **1. Introduction**

Nowadays, the increase of living demand leads to an increasing trend of energy consumption. Excessive utilization of fossil fuels will lead to excessive gas emissions, included  $CO<sub>2</sub>$  and other greenhouse gasses, which will cause a series of environmental problems [\[1,2\]](#page-8-0). Carbon capture technology has always been an important method to reduce carbon dioxide emission and attracted extensive attention from numerous scholars [3–[5\],](#page-8-0) which mainly contains pre-combustion capture, oxy-fuel combustion and post-combustion capture [\[4,5](#page-8-0)].

Calcium-based carbon capture is regarded as a very promising postcombustion carbon capture technology, which was first proposed by Professor Shimizu et al. in 1999 [\[6\]](#page-8-0). The process of this technology contains CO2 capture in carbonator and regeneration of CaO-based adsorbents in calciner. CaO particles reacted with  $CO<sub>2</sub>$  in carbonator at around 650 ℃ to produce CaCO<sub>3</sub> particles. After the carbonation reaction, calcium carbonate particles are calcined in calciner at 900 ◦C to regenerate CaO adsorbents [[7](#page-8-0),[8](#page-8-0)], plenty of fresh calcium carbonate is needed to make up for deactivated CaO-based adsorbent during calcination. High-concentration carbon dioxide at the outlet of calciner is condensed and compressed for industrial application. The process of CaO-based carbon capture technology is shown in [Fig. 1.](#page-1-0)

The flue gas from outlet of carbonator and calciner in the CaO-based carbon capture system are high temperature heat sources. If the flue gas is directly discharged into the atmosphere, which will cause a large amount of energy waste, so it is necessary to make reasonable use of waste heat. The research focuses on the coupling between CaO-based carbon capture system and other energy power systems, including the integration of coal-fired power plant and solar power plant with CaObased carbon capture system [9–[11\]](#page-8-0). Zhang et al. [\[12\]](#page-8-0) proposed two optimization schemes of adding a set of 300 MWe steam configuration and performing parallel distribution of feed water based on the coal-fired power plant coupled calcium-based carbon capture system. Zhou et al.  $[13]$  evaluated the concept of a low-temperature  $CO<sub>2</sub>$  capture device based on a 1000 MWe thermal power plant. Hanak et al. [\[14\]](#page-8-0)  studied a 580 MWe supercritical coal-fired power plant integrated calcium circulation system and showed that the integrated system efficiency decreased by about 8.6%. Duan et al. [\[15\]](#page-8-0) proposed the coupled carbon capture system into coal-fired power plants and analyzed the influence of adding a re-carbonation system on the coupled system. Ortiz et al. [\[16\]](#page-8-0) calculated the energy loss after the coupling of a coal-fired power plant and carbon capture system. Romano [\[17\]](#page-8-0) studied the coupled double-fluidized bed CaO-based carbon capture system, amine carbon capture system and oxy-enriched combustion system in coal-fired power plant. Spinelli et al. [\[18\]](#page-8-0) employed a cement plant with

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<span id="page-1-0"></span>



**Fig. 1.** Process of calcium-based carbon capture system.

a CaO-based carbon capture system and verified the feasibility of the system in practical application. Lee et al. [\[19\]](#page-8-0) explored the efficiency of natural gas industry combined with carbon capture system. Berstad et al. [\[20\]](#page-8-0) simulated six schemes of natural gas combustion (NGCC) combined with calcium-based carbon capture system, and the results showed that the carbon capture efficiency of integrated system reached more than 90%.

Heat exchanger network has been a research hotspot in recent years, which has been used in many research fields based on the relationship between temperature gradient and heat transfer gradient of different cold and hot sources  $[21-23]$  $[21-23]$ . Ziyatdinov et al.  $[24]$  proposed a new iterative sequence algorithm for heat exchanger network optimization and applied the method to several heat integral problems. Kayange et al. [\[25\]](#page-8-0) studied the optimization problem of heat exchanger network based on the diverging unstructured mode. Xia et al. [\[26\]](#page-8-0) analyzed the comprehensive problem of heat exchanger network based on entransy theory and found that the entransy transfer efficiency was 92.29%. Lai et al. [\[27\]](#page-8-0) explored the structure, parameterization process and utility changes of step diagram to existing heat exchanger network, and applied the proposed method to an existing crude oil refinery. It is undoubtedly beneficial to the optimization and practical application of the coupling system if the heat between cold and hot sources of multiple coupling systems can be systematically calculated based on heat exchanger network. Meanwhile, there are few studies on the research of heat exchanger network involving coal-fired power plant coupled with CaO-based carbon capture system, so the detailed discussion of this work is of certain research significance.



In this work, the reasonable matching and utilization of high temperature heat source in the new 600 MWe coal-fired power plant coupled with CaO-based carbon capture system is studied based on the heat exchanger network. Three heating surface layout cases are put forward. The pipeline design and economic analysis of the coupled system are performed.

## **2. Preparation process**

## *2.1. Heat exchanger network of the new 600 MWe coal-fired power plant coupled with CaO-based carbon capture system*

The new 600 MWe coal-fired power plant coupled with CaO-based carbon capture system contains coal-fired boiler, CaO-based carbon capture, steam turbine, air separation and other units. The whole system contains three high-temperature heat sources, which are flue gas from coal-fired boiler, carbonator and calciner. It could be defined the flue gas at the outlet of the carbonator, the calciner, the coal-fired boiler in the new power plant as F-1, F-2, F-3, and defined the feed water and high temperature steam of different temperature ranges as S-1, S-2, S-3 and S-4, respectively. [Table 1](#page-2-0) shows the exchange heat and temperature of different cold and hot sources. The energy distributions of different cold and heat sources are shown in [Fig. 2,](#page-2-0) it can be seen that the span of high and low temperature of heat source covers almost all the temperature gradient of cold flow. [Table 1](#page-2-0) shows that the heat of coal-fired boiler unit is around 800 MW, accounting for 69.7% of the total high-temperature heat. It can be clearly seen in [Fig. 2](#page-2-0) that the straight line of the coal-fired boiler spans almost all temperatures, so the heat source of coal-fired boiler can be selected to heat the high-parameter steam. On the whole, we can see that the heat source of coal-fired boiler in the new power plant is more suitable for heating feed water or steam that needs more heat, and the heat source of carbon capture unit is more suitable for heating the steam that needs less heat.

## *2.2. Calculation procedure of the new 600 MWe coal-fired power plant coupled with CaO-based carbon capture system*

In order to better understand the design results of the new power plant, we explain the calculation process of the new power plant as following:

- (1) Determining the inlet and outlet temperature of feed water or high-temperature steam of different heat exchange equipment in the new power plant.
- (2) Based on the heat exchanger network, the steam or feed water of different heat exchange equipment in the new power plant corresponding to the three heat sources of flue gas are determined.

## <span id="page-2-0"></span>**Table 1**

Specific parameters of different heat sources of new 600 MWe coal-fired power plant.







- (3) Determining the inlet and outlet temperature of the hightemperature flue gas passing through the heat exchange equipment of the new power plant.
- (4) Determining the exchange area of the heat exchange equipment. (5) Comparison of heat exchange area of heat exchange equipment in
- the new power plant under different cases.

The logarithmic mean temperature and heat exchange area can be expressed as follows:

$$
\Delta T = \frac{(T_1 - T_2) - (T_3 - T_4)}{ln\left(\frac{T_1 - T_2}{T_3 - T_4}\right)}
$$
(1)

Where  $\Delta T$  is logarithmic mean temperature,  $T_1$  *and*  $T_2$ ,  $T_3$  *and*  $T_4$  are temperature of hot and cold flow at the outlet of exchanger, temperature of hot and cold flow at the inlet of exchanger.





Where A is heat exchange area, Q is the exchange of heat, F is heat transfer coefficient, Δ*T* is logarithmic mean temperature.

# **3. Cases of heat source utilization in the new 600 MWe coal-fired power plant coupled with CaO-based carbon capture system**

The simulation results of a benchmark 600 MWe coal-fired power plant are shown in Table 2, the design principles are determined by reference [\[12\]](#page-8-0). Fig. 3 shows the heat load ratio of all heat exchange surface in the benchmark 600 MWe coal-fired power plant. The feed water is about 1612 t/h, and the heat exchange area reaches  $27,964 \text{ m}^2$ . The heat transfer coefficient (F) of all heat exchange surfaces is referred from the literature  $[28]$ , which is chosen around 80 W/m<sup>2</sup>K for superheater, reheater, economizer and around 180  $W/m^2K$  for water wall.

The flue gas contains  $13.3\%$  CO<sub>2</sub> out of coal-fired boiler for the new 600 MWe coal-fired power plant passes through the carbonator is



**Fig. 3.** Different heat load ratio of heating surface in the benchmark 600 MWe coal-fired power plant.



1264,192 Nm<sup>3</sup>/h, the carbon capture efficiency in carbonator is set at 90%. Three hot sources are used to heat the feed water of the new power plant to produce supercritical high temperature steam. Main principle is that high-temperature flue gas at the outlet of CaO-based carbon capture and coal-fired boiler units are employed to heat the steam in different heat exchange devices, including water wall, reheater, superheater and economizer, etc.

#### *3.1. Case 1: heating conjointly full feed water with three hot sources*

In case 1, the hot sources of coal-fired boiler and CaO-based carbon capture units in the new 600 MWe coal-fired power plant heat all the feed water. Fig. 4 shows the process of new 600 MWe coal power plant coupled CaO-based carbon capture system. The flue gas of coal-fired boiler heats the feed water through water wall, further heats the steam in the high temperature superheater and medium temperature superheater, and then heats the steam in the high temperature reheater and low temperature reheater. The flue gas at the outlet of carbonator heats the high temperature steam in low temperature superheater, low temperature reheater and economizer. The flue gas of calciner heats high temperature steam in the high temperature and low temperature reheater. The flue gas from three heat sources is employed to heat air by air preheater in the end. It can be seen from [Table 3](#page-4-0) that the feed water is 1626.86 t/h, the heat exchange area reaches 37,333 m<sup>2</sup>. Compared with the benchmark 600 MWe coal-fired power plant, the heat exchange area increases by 9369  $m^2$ , which is about 33.5%. The heat transfer coefficient of all heat exchange surfaces is consistent with benchmark coalfired power plant. [Fig. 5](#page-4-0) shows the heat load ratio of all heat exchange surface. The increase in heat exchange area is mainly concentrated on the heating surface passed by two heat sources of CaO-based carbon capture unit, which in low temperature superheater increases by 2373  $m^2$ , in high temperature and low temperature reheater increases by 1787  $\text{m}^2$  and 4186  $\text{m}^2$ , respectively. The heat exchange area of other device increases slightly in different degrees.

The increase of heat exchange area can be explained as the heat source of the benchmark coal-fired power plant is equivalent to the sum of three hot sources in new 600 MWe coal-fired power plant. Therefore, compared with the 600 MWe benchmark power plant, the temperature

of heat source will decrease faster with anyone of the three hot sources in the new 600 MWe coal-fired power plant when the same heat is heated for feed water. Decreasing temperature quickly will get smaller logarithmic mean temperature  $(\Delta T)$ , which means the heat exchange area will increase ultimately. As shown in [Tables 2](#page-2-0) and [3,](#page-4-0) the logarithmic mean temperature  $(\Delta T)$  in the low-temperature superheater, low-temperature reheater and low-temperature superheater in the new 600 MWe power plant decreases significantly as comparing to the benchmark 600 MWe coal-fired power plant, which results in greatly increase in the heat exchange area. On the whole, the heat exchange area of low temperature superheater, low temperature reheater and high temperature reheater increases by 2373 m<sup>2</sup>, 4186 m<sup>2</sup> and 1787 m<sup>2</sup>, respectively. In addition, the steam in three parts heat exchange equipment is mainly heated by the heat source of the carbon capture unit.

## *3.2. Case 2: heating part of feed water with hot source of coal-fired boiler and part of feed water with hot source of carbon capture unit*

As shown in [Fig. 6](#page-4-0), feed water is distributed in parallel for generating high temperature steam in case 2. The two-part feed water is heated by the high temperature heat source of coal-fired boiler and CaO-based carbon capture unit in the new power plant. After passing through water wall, the flue gas of coal-fired boiler heats the steam of high temperature superheater, medium temperature superheater and low temperature superheater, respectively, and continues to heat the steam in the high-temperature reheater and low-temperature reheater. The flue gas of carbonator heats the steam in the medium-temperature superheater, further heats the steam in the low-temperature superheater and the low-temperature reheater. The flue gas of calciner heats the steam in the high-temperature superheater and high-temperature reheater. At last, three hot sources heat the air together through air preheater. The heat load ratio of all heat exchange surface is shown in [Fig. 7.](#page-4-0) The results in [Table 4](#page-5-0) show that the feed water of coal-fired boiler and carbon capture units are 1162 t/h and 465 t/h, respectively. The heat exchange area of new 600 MWe coal-fired power plant is 41,188 m<sup>2</sup>, which is about 47.3% more than that of benchmark 600 MWe coal power plant.



**Fig. 4.** Process of the new 600 MWe coal-fired power plant. Heating conjointly full feed water with three hot sources in the new 600 MWe coal-fired power plant.

#### <span id="page-4-0"></span>**Table 3**

Design results of the new 600 MWe coal-fired power plant under case 1.

EM	<b>WCW</b>	LS	MS	<b>HS</b>		LR1	LR <sub>2</sub>	LR3	HR1	HR <sub>2</sub>
1627 FW/t/h	1627	1627	1627	1627		1560	1560	1560	1560	1560
WIT/ $^{\circ}$ C 250	290	375	400	500		322.6	400	420	430	515
295 WOT/ C	380	425	525	566		400	420	450	515	566
132 HT/MW	400	64	161	88		61	15	25	71	45
142 LT	951	194	386	472		182	111	96	208	205
AT/m/s -	$\overline{\phantom{0}}$	11	11.1	11.1		10.6	10.8	10.7	11	11
$FG/Nm^3/h$	1109,863	1109,863 1264,192	1264,192		1264,192	1264,192	1109,863	281,803	1262,918	281,803
500 FIT / °C	1533	645	946	1064		609	542	625	753	900
360 FOT/ C	1064	542	753	946		478	500	466	609	629
$HC/$ W/m <sup>2</sup> K 80	180	70	75	80		70	75	75	80	80
HA/m <sup>2</sup> 6165	2335	4749	5577	2324		4208	1687	3294	4267	2727



**Fig. 5.** Case 1: Different heat load ratio of heating surface in the new 600 MWe coal-fired power plant.

Heat exchange area of case 2 increases by about 3855  $m<sup>2</sup>$  as comparing to the case 1, it can be explained that the heat in the carbon capture unit is little as comparing to coal-fired boiler unit, so the logarithmic mean temperature is small in the process of heat transfer. By comparing Tables 3 and [4](#page-5-0), it can be seen that the logarithmic mean temperature (Δ*T*) in the high-temperature superheater, medium-



**Fig. 7.** Case 2: Different heat load ratio of heating surface in new 600 MWe coal-fired power plant.



**Fig. 6.** Process of the new 600 MWe coal-fired power plant. Heating part of feed water with hot source of coal-fired boiler unit and part of feed water with hot source of carbon capture unit in the new 600 MWe coal-fired power plant.

<span id="page-5-0"></span>

**Table 4** 

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temperature superheater and high-temperature reheater in case 2 decreases significantly as comparing to that in case 1. The heat exchange area of the three parts device increases by 1832 m<sup>2</sup>, 901 m<sup>2</sup> and 619 m<sup>2</sup>, respectively. However, case 2 is more convenient for application of the new 600 MWe coal-fired power plant, which can be reasonably arranged on the position where heat exchange device is located.

In terms of heat load ratio of different heat exchangers, the results of two cases are similar to that of the benchmark 600 MWe coal-fired power plant. From the perspective of practical application, the new 600 MWe coal-fired power plant coupled with CaO-based carbon capture system has higher requirement for the complicated layout of heat exchangers, so it has not been widely applied in industrial applications so far [29–[31\]](#page-8-0).

# *3.3. Case 3: heating part of feed water with hot source of coal-fired boiler and part of feed water with hot source of carbon capture unit (the hot source of carbon capture unit is used in different ways)*

As shown in [Fig. 8](#page-6-0), the hot source of the CaO-based carbon capture unit is allocated to heat the steam in different method as comparing to case 2. The flue gas of calciner heats the steam in the high temperature reheater, and then heats the steam in medium temperature superheater and low temperature superheater, respectively. The flue gas of the carbonator heats the steam in high temperature superheater, and then heats the steam in low temperature reheater. Finally, two hot sources of carbon capture unit are employed to heat the air. The heat load ratio of all heat exchange surface of case 3 is consistent with case 2.

[Table 5](#page-7-0) indicates that the heat exchange area of case 3 is around  $42,979$  m<sup>2</sup>, including water wall, superheater, reheater, economizer and other units. Compared with benchmark 600 MWe coal-fired power plant, the heat exchange area increases approximately 15,015  $m^2$ , which increases around 53.7%. The heat exchange area needed in case 3 is 1791  $m<sup>2</sup>$  more than case 2. As shown in Table 4 and [Table 5](#page-7-0), the increasing area of high temperature superheater in case 3 is obvious as comparing to case 2, which increases by about  $5313 \text{ m}^2$ . It could be seen in the high temperature superheater steam is mainly heated by flue gas from carbonator in case 3, and by flue gas from calciner in case 2, which can save the heat exchange area. It is understood that the design concept of case 2 has a slight advantage.

## **4. Pipeline calculations of the new 600 MWe coal-fired power plant coupled with Cao-based carbon capture system**

The pipeline design for the new 600 MWe coal-fired power plant is arranged in case 1. It is not necessary to elaborate on other cases based on the pipeline calculation of different cases are generally the same. In case 1, there is a great difference in area of different heat exchange equipment, so different calculation methods should be adopted to design different heat exchange equipment. A great amount of flue gas will bring about obvious flue gas resistance, the steam velocity is generally selected around 11 m/s  $[32]$ . The flue gas resistance in the pipeline is calculated by the following formula:

$$
h_f = \lambda * \frac{l}{d} * \frac{v^2}{2g} \tag{3}
$$

Where  $h_f$  is the flue gas resistance, L is pipe length, D is pipe diameter, V is the flow rate, *λ* is the drag coefficient along pipeline, g is the acceleration of gravity.

[Table 6](#page-7-0) shows the pipeline design of new 600 MWe coal-fired power plant coupled with CaO-based carbon capture system. All the pipes used in the design process have an outer diameter of 42, 40 and 36 mm, respectively. In addition, the greater steam velocity is, the higher heat transfer rate will be. However, the larger steam velocity will lead to greater resistance. The results show that the flue gas resistance of reheater and superheater reaches 0.67 MPa and 0.07 MPa, respectively.

<span id="page-6-0"></span>

**Fig. 8.** Process of the new 600 MWe coal-fired power plant. Heating part of feed water with hot source of coal-fired boiler unit and part of feed water with hot source of carbon capture unit (the hot source of carbon capture unit is used in different ways).

Therefore, the flue gas resistance is mainly concentrated in the reheater, which mainly because the reheater has longer pipeline. The resistance along all pipelines is about 0.74 MPa.

#### **5. Economic analysis of three cases**

We carry out the economic analysis on three cases. The heat exchange equipment in the new 600 MWe coal-fired power plant constructed from the materials, which are consistent with the materials used in reference [\[33\].](#page-9-0) [Table 7](#page-7-0) shows the types and prices of materials used for different heat exchange equipment, which based on market research in China. [Fig. 9](#page-7-0) shows the price of water wall, superheater, reheater and economizer of three cases. Cases 2 and 3 have a significant increase in the price of superheater and reheater, and a slight increase in the price of economizer as comparing to case 1. It suggests that the three high-temperature heat sources in the new 600 MWe coal-fired power plant are mainly used to heat the steam in superheater and reheater for cases 2 and 3. As shown in [Fig.10,](#page-8-0) the increase of pipe thickness will lead to the increase of equipment price of the new 600 MWe coal-fired power plant. With fixed the heat exchange area, the smaller the thickness is, the smaller the material volume is, and the lower equipment cost will be. When the outer diameter of the pipeline is constant, the smaller pipeline thickness means the less pipeline length required, which could reduce the resistance along the pipeline. However, the larger pipe diameter, the smaller steam flow rate will be, which may not reach the minimum steam flow rate for the new 600 MWe coal-fired power plant.

## **6. Contrastive analysis and thermodynamic analysis of three cases**

As shown in [Table 8](#page-8-0), the heat exchange area of case 1 is less than cases 2 and 3. The heat exchange area of case 2 and case 3 increases by 10.3% and 15.1% as comparing to case 1. The heat exchange area of cases 1, 2 and 3 is 37,333, 41,188, 42,979  $m^2$ , respectively. The heat exchange area of all cases is larger than that of the benchmark coal-fired power plant, which caused by total heat energy is divided into multiple reservoirs. On the while, the case 1 has a slight advantage compared

with other cases.

For the proposed cases in this work, thermodynamic analysis is needed to be performed. The thermodynamic analysis results of the new 600 MWe coal-fired power plant have been revealed in the literature [\[34\]](#page-9-0). It can be seen that compared with the benchmark 600 MWe coal-fired power plant, the system efficiency of the new power plant shows a decreasing trend, which decreases about 8.3%. The main reason for the decrease of system efficiency is the energy consumption of oxygen production in the process of oxygen-rich combustion and carbon dioxide compression. At the same time, the coal consumption and feed water of the new power plants under the three cases are basically the same, so the boiler efficiency and system efficiency of the new power plant under the three cases are consistent. Main difference of the three cases is the heating surface layout of the new power plant, which will further lead to the change of the heat exchange area for the new power plant. Therefore, the research angle of this work is feasible.

## **7. Conclusion**

During the work, heating surface layout in a new 600 MWe coal-fired power plant coupled with CaO-based carbon capture system is explored based on the heat exchanger network. Three different design cases for the new 600 MWe coal power plant coupled with CaO-based carbon capture system is completed. The main results are showed as following:

- (1) In case 1, the high temperature of the new power plant heat sources is used to heat all the feed water. In cases 2 and 3, the feed water is distributed in parallel, and the feed water is heated independently by the high temperature heat sources of coal-fired boiler and CaO-based carbon capture units. The three cases have their own characteristics, which provide reference for the industrial application of new coal-fired power plant coupled CaObased carbon capture system.
- (2) Heat exchange area of the new 600 MWe coal power plant coupled with carbon capture system in the case 1 increases by 33.5% as comparing to that of the benchmark 600 MWe coal

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Material price of different devices in three cases.





**Fig. 9.** Prices of different equipment under different cases for the new 600 MWe power plant.

power plant. While the heat exchange area in the cases 2 and 3 increases by about 47.3% and 53.7%, respectively.

- (3) Pipe designs for the new 600 MWe coal-fired power plants under the three cases are similar. For case 1, the flue gas resistance of new coal-fired power plant is about 0.74 MPa.
- (4) The economic analysis results indicate case 1 has a slight economic advantage compared with other cases, the price difference between the three cases is mainly reflected in the superheater and reheater of the new coal-fired power plant.
- (5) The thermodynamic analysis results of new coal-fired power plant under three cases are consistent, and the system efficiency of new coal-fired power plant decreases as comparing to the benchmark coal-fired power plant.

This work is rarely involved in the current research progress, so this research provides the reference for the subsequent practical industrial application of coal-fired power plant coupled with CaO-based carbon capture system.

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<span id="page-8-0"></span>

**Fig. 10.** Influence of pipe thickness on heating exchange device price of the new coal-fired power plant.

**Table 8**  Main results of three cases.

	Case 1	Case 2	Case 3	Benchmark coal-fired power plant
Heat exchange area/m <sup>2</sup>	37.333	41.188	42,979	27,964
Feed water/t/h Feed water scheme	1626.86 In series	1627 In parallel	1627 In parallel	1612

#### **CRediT authorship contribution statement**

**Zhixin Li:** Conceptualization, Investigation, Software, Data curation, Writing – original draft. **Qinhui Wang:** Conceptualization, Writing – review & editing, Supervision, Funding acquisition. **Mengxiang Fang:**  Supervision, Funding acquisition, Writing – review & editing. **Zhongyang Luo:** Supervision, Writing – review & editing.

#### **Declaration of Competing Interest**

The authors declare that they have no known competing financial interests or personal relationships that could have appeared to influence the work reported in this paper.

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