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## PROMJENA DESTILACIJSKIH GRANICA, SADRŽAJA SUMPORA, AROMATA I OLEFINA U FCC BENZINU

### Sažetak

*Promjena destilacijskih granica FCC benzina jedna je od metoda rješavanja problema sumpora u FCC benzinu koju trenutačno koristi RN Sisak do modernizacije svojih postrojenja. Cilj rada bio je pokazati kako se korištenjem ove metode mijenjaju svojstva FCC benzina te kako se ta promjena odražava na količinu komponenti koje su ograničene primjenom sadašnjih europskih specifikacija za BMB – količinu sumpora te količinu aromatskih i olefinskih ugljikovodika. U svrhu toga uspoređena su fizikalno-kemijska svojstva ukupne frakcije FCC benzina koji nastaju procesom fluid katalitičkog krekiranja u našim rafinerijama iz visoko sumpornih i nisko sumpornih nafti, frakcija od kojih je sastavljen FCC benzin i frakcija s promijenjenim destilacijskim granicama.*

### 1. Uvod

Zadnja tri desetljeća tehnologija FCC jedinica u europskim rafinerijama uspješno je pratila rastuće zahtjeve za kvalitetu benzinskog goriva. Posljednjih godina na tržištu derivata dogodile su se velike promjene. Primjenom sve strožih ekoloških zahtjeva mijenjala se i zakonska regulativa koja je zadnjih 10-ak godina postala iznimno stroga, posebice glede količine sumpora i aromatskih ugljikovodika u motornom benzinu. Značajnija promjena u specifikacijama za motorni benzin i dizelsko gorivo dogodila se ove godine kada se u zemljama Europske unije značajno smanjila količina sumpora u obje vrste goriva te količina aromata u benzinu (tablica 1). Potpuno smanjenje sumpora na 10 mg/kg u motornim benzinima obvezatno će slijediti od 01.01.2009. godine, što predstavlja razinu koju rafinerije teško mogu postići bez značajnih ulaganja.

FCC benzin može sudjelovati s oko 40 % v/v u motornom benzinu i doprinosi ukupnoj količini sumpora s čak 98 % <sup>2</sup>. Da bi se zadovoljila specifikacija za 2005. godinu za motorne benzine koji mogu sadržavati maks. 50 ppm sumpora, količina sumpora u FCC benzinu može biti maksimalno 110 ppm sumpora <sup>1</sup>.

Tablica 1: Specifikacija motornog benzina za Europu  
Table 1: Motor gasoline specification for Europe

Svojstvo, Propertie	2000. godina, year	2005. godina, year
Sumpor, Sulphur, mg/kg	150	50
IOB/MOB, RON/MON	95/98	95/08
Napon para, kPa maks., ljeti	60	60
Destilacija, Distillation, min. % v/v		
100 °C	46	46
150 °C	75	75
Olefini, Olefins, maks. % v/v	18	18
Aromati, Aromatics, maks. % v/v	42	35
Benzen, Benzene, maks. % v/v	1.0	1.0
Kisik, Oxygen, maks. % m/m	2.7	2.7

### 1.1 Raspodjela sumpora i ugljikovodika u FCC benzinu

Kao što je iz literature poznato, glavina sumpornih spojeva koncentrirana je u zadnjem dijelu destilacijske krivulje (zadnjih 15 -20 % v/v od kraja destilacije). Olefinski ugljikovodici pored aromatskih ugljikovodika najviše doprinose vrijednosti oktanskog broja, a koncentrirani su u lakoj frakciji benzina (do 110 °C). Od sumpornih spojeva u najlakšoj frakciji benzina nalazi se nešto sulfida i lakih tiola (merkaptana, RSH), dok se u srednjoj frakciji nalaze tiofeni (prstenasti spojevi sa sumporom), alkil-tiofeni i C<sub>4</sub> do C<sub>8</sub> tioli. Teška frakcija FCC benzina sadrži benzotiofene, alkil-benzotiofene te C<sub>9</sub> i C<sub>10</sub> tiole. Dok se sumporni spojevi u lakoj frakciji FCC benzina lako uklanjaju konverzijom u disulfide i ekstrakcijom, oni u srednjoj i teškoj frakciji vrlo se teško uklanjaju te se teško kreiraju <sup>3,4</sup>. Sadržaj olefina i sumpora po frakcijama prikazan je u tablici 2 <sup>1</sup>.

Aromatskih ugljikovodika u lakom benzinu ima vrlo malo. Glavnina aromatskih ugljikovodika nalazi se u teškoj frakciji benzina.

### 1.2 Faktori koji utječu na sadržaj sumpora u FCC benzinu

Količina sumpora u FCC benzinu određena je količinom sumpora u FCC sirovini, procesnim uvjetima, svojstvima FCC katalizatora i korištenjem aditiva kao što su

npr. ZSM-5<sup>3</sup>. Na slici 2 prikazana je shema mogućih putova nastanka molekula koje sadrže sumpor u sirovini<sup>5</sup>.

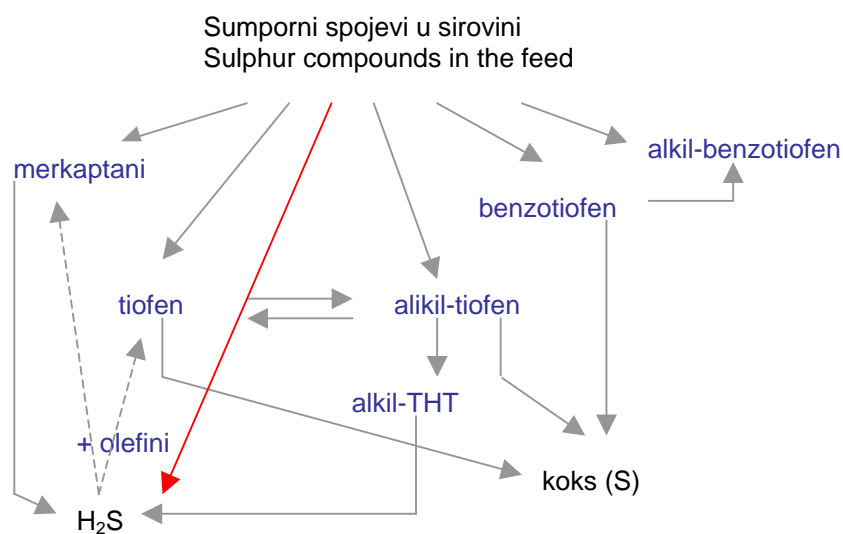
Tablica 2: Sadržaj sumpora i olefinskih ugljikovodika u frakcijama benzina

Table 2: The content of sulphur and olefin hydrocarbons in gasoline fractions

FCC benzinska frakcije FCC gasoline fractions		
laka frakcija light fraction (C <sub>5</sub> -70/110°C)	srednja frakcija middle fraction (70-110 °C)	teška frakcija heavy fraction (110 °C- kraj destilacije, FBP)
sadržaj olefina >45 vol. % olefin content >45 vol. %	sadržaj olefina >25 vol. % olefin content >25 vol. %	sadržaj olefina < 10 vol. % olefin content < 10 vol. %
vrste S spojeva: uglavnom merkaptani Sulphur species: mainly mercaptans	vrste S spojeva : tiofeni, merkaptani, sulfidi Sulphur species: thiophenes, mercaptans, sulphides	vrste S spojeva: sulfidi, tiofeni, merkaptani Sulphur species: sulphides, thiophenes, mercaptans

Slika 1: Putovi reakcija sumpornih molekula iz FCC sirovine

Figure 1: Pathways of sulphur molecules reactions from FCC feeds



Molekule ugljikovodika prisutne u sirovini međusobno reagiraju sa molekulama sumpora omogućavajući odvijanje reakcija kao što su reakcije prijelaza vodika i alkilacije. Karakteristike sumpornih spojeva u sirovini odredit će primarne produkte koji sadrže sumpor. Faktori koji utječu na sastav FCC sirovine su svojstva sirove nafte i rafinerijski uvjeti prije FCC procesa. Pored određivanja svojstava primarnih molekula koje sadrže sumpor, ovi faktori također utječu na okruženje molekula koje utječu na sekundarne reakcije. Dio sumpora iz sirovine direktno odlazi u H<sub>2</sub>S i koks, dok se dio sumpora raspodijeli u ciklička ulja (veći dio) i benzin (manji dio). U skladu s početnim reakcijskim produktima postoje tri primarne reakcije koje utječu na sumpor u benzinu:

- krekiranje molekula bogatih vodikom kao što je tetrahidrotiofen (THT) u H<sub>2</sub>S,
- alikilacija i ciklizacija kojima nastaju molekule koje vriju u području cikličkih ulja i koje se eventualno pretvaraju u koks,
- rekombinacija H<sub>2</sub>S i olefinskih produkata pri čemu nastaju merkaptani i tiofeni.

Količina vodika utječe u primarnim reakcijama na nastajanje sumpornih spojeva koji se mogu krekirati i na molekule siromašne vodikom koje reagiraju u sekundarnim reakcijama.

Da bi se rasvijetlio mehanizam nastajanja sumpornih spojeva u benzinskoj frakciji, neophodno je dobro poznavanje utjecaja karakteristika sirovine, procesnih uvjeta i svojstava katalizatora. Efekt svojstava sirovine u literaturi je dobro poznat<sup>6-8</sup>. Temperatura reaktora u FCC procesu jedini je važni radni parametar koji značajno utječe na količinu sumpora u benzinu. Kako temperatura raste, količina sumpora također raste. Od svojstava katalizatora treba izdvojiti utjecaj kontaminirajućih metala, ZSM-5 aditiva i matrične aktivnosti.

Kontaminirajući metali iz sirovine koji se talože na površini katalizatora, poput vanadija, imaju velik utjecaj na sumpor u benzinu. Vanadij značajno reducira razinu zasićenih sumpornih spojeva u benzinu, dok neznatno povećava sadržaj molekula kao što je benzotiofen. Metal poput vanadija katalizira i reakcije dehidrogenacije. Povećana razina kontaminirajućih metala maskira ili umanjuje druge efekte katalizatora. Uzorak katalizatora s 5000 ppm V pri nastanku benzina uvjetuje redukciju sumpora do 35 %. Ovaj faktor uzima se u obzir u laboratorijima za testiranje različitih tehnologija uklanjanja sumpora<sup>9</sup>. Unatoč postojanju mnogih načina pomoću kojih se zaobilaze negativne posljedice djelovanja vanadija na Y-zeolitne katalizatore, korištenje vanadija je ograničeno radi iznimne toksičnosti i opasnosti od otpadnog sadržaja.

Ograničavajući podaci upućuju da korištenje ZSM-5 zeolita interferira s mehanizmom redukcije sumpora u benzinu. Koncentracijski efekt pouzdano se može očekivati ako se sa ZSM-5 zeolitom selektivno krekiraju olefini koji su bez sumpora.

Matrična aktivnost katalizatora, odnosno sposobnost krekiranja velikih molekula koje ulaze u zeolitnu rešetku također utječu na smanjenje sadržaja sumpora u benzinu.

Matrice koje sadrže jake kisele centre i imaju visok stupanj pristupačnosti efektivnije su od onih sa slabijim kiselim centrima.

Reakcija prijelaza vodika dobro je poznata reakcija koja se odvija prilikom katalitičkog kreiranja gdje vodik iz molekule donora, npr. naftenske molekule prelazi na nezasićenu molekulu, npr. olefinsku. Ovaj tip reakcije također ima utjecaja na količinu sumpora u benzinu. FCC katalizator s većom gustoćom kiselih centara promovira ovaj tip reakcije. Izmjenom elemenata rijetkih zemalja u zeolitu obično se postiže viša gustoća kiselih centara. Porast udjela reakcija prijelaza vodika uzrokuje manju količinu sumpora u benzinu. Prijelaz vodika prema tiofenskim molekulama uzrokuje njihovo lakše kreiranje.

### 1.3 Uklanjanje sumpora u FCC benzinu

Postoji više opcija za smanjenje sumpora u FCC benzinu. Mnoge rafinerije još su danas u dvojbi koju opciju pri rješavanju sumpora odabrati. Tako npr. u SAD trećina rafinerija još nije finalizirala odluku koju će strategiju odabrati pri rješavanju ovog problema. Faktori koji se razmatraju pri izboru najpraktičnijeg rješenja su mnogobrojni i često međusobno isprepleteni. To su: stanje i kapaciteti postojećih postrojenja, raspoloživost količine vodika, vrsta sirovina koje se prerađuju, raspoloživost sredstava za investicije, raspodjela produkata po vrelištu (npr. laki, srednji, teški benzini ili benzin s cijelim rasponom vrelišta (tzv. «full-range»)), efekt FCC aditiva, raširenost uporabe benzina ili dizelskog goriva, oktanski/cetanski suvišak, rok poštivanja specifikacija<sup>3</sup>.

Prerada nafte koja sadrži male količine sumpora opcija je dostupna vrlo malom broju rafinerija. Rafinerije najčešće biraju između opcije hidroobrade FCC sirovine (predobrada) ili hidroobrade FCC benzina (naknadna obrada ili postobrada). Postobrada FCC benzina je jednostavnija i jeftinija tehnologija kod koje se sumpor uklanja direktno iz FCC benzina, obično hidroprocesom ili kombinacijom ekstrakcije merkaptana i hidroprocesom. Ovaj način obrade FCC benzina nema utjecaja na emisiju SO<sub>x</sub> u dimnim plinovima te ne mijenja omjer nastajanja dizela i benzina u rafinerijskoj preradi. Ako se proces hidroobrade koristi za uklanjanje sumpora, dolazi do pada vrijednosti oktanskog broja zbog hidrogenacije olefinskih ugljikovodika, što je ekonomski nepovoljno. Međutim, razvojem različitih tehnologija ovaj problem je eliminiran.

Postoji čitav niz tehnologija naknadne obrade FCC benzina pomoću kojih se uspješno rješava problem sumpora u FCC benzinu<sup>10</sup>. Tako su poznate sljedeće tehnologije u kojima ne dolazi do pada vrijednosti oktanskog broja ili je taj gubitak vrlo malen: ExxonMobil's OCTGAIN proces, UOP/Intevep's ISAL proces koji reducira sumpor, dušik i olefine, CDTECH (Catalytic distillation technologies) proces u kojem se razina sumpora u FCC benzinu uklanja za 99 %, ExxonMobil' SCAN fining proces, IFP' Prime G proces, Phillips Petroleum Company's SZorb proces i Black @Veatch Prichard's IRVAD proces.

Kod gotovo svih navedenih tehnologija FCC benzin se razdijeli u dvije ili tri frakcije. Svaka frakcija se posebno obrađuje s ciljem što manjeg gubitka oktanskog broja. Jedan od načina zadovoljenja specifikacije od 50 ppm sumpora u motornom benzinu za laku i srednju frakciju (obično C<sub>5</sub>, frakcija do 110 °C) je uklanjanje merkaptanskog sumpora iz ove frakcije pomoću Merox procesa. To rezultira smanjenjem sumpora od 50-70 % od ukupnog sumpora koja se nalazi u toj frakciji<sup>1</sup>. Prilikom Merox procesa u lakoj i srednjoj frakciji FCC benzina ne dolazi do smanjenja oktanske vrijednosti.

Teška frakcija FCC benzina (obično 110 °C - kraj destilacija) može se obrađivati na ISAL procesu koji reducira sadržaj sumpora ove frakcije na manje od 2 ppm. ISAL proces koristi bifunkcionalni katalizator koji omogućava dubinsku desulfurizaciju te istodobno zadržava i čak povećava vrijednost oktanskog broja pomoću reakcija izomerizacije, ciklizacije, dealkilacije i redukcije molekulske mase<sup>1</sup>. Lako cikličko ulje također se obrađuje procesom hidroobrade prije nego što se namiješa u dizelsko gorivo.

Drugi način uklanjanja sumpora iz FCC benzina je hidroobrada FCC sirovine. FCC sirovine sadrže policikličke aromatske spojeve koji sadrže sumpor, dušik i metale koji se vrlo teško cijepaju u procesu katalitičkog krekiranja. Pomoću procesa hidroobrade u FCC sirovinama smanjuje se udio sumpora, dušika i metala, dok se u poliaromatske molekule uvodi vodik. Na taj način dolazi do lakšeg krekiranja ovako obrađene sirovine. Iako najskuplja, ova opcija rješavanja sumpora je najučinkovitija i u produktima krekiranja i u dimnim plinovima<sup>2</sup>. Prednost ove tehnologije je u tome da se poveća konverzija i prinos FCC benzina, dok se količina sumpora smanjuje u svim produktima katalitičkog krekiranja. Povećanje konverzije u FCC procesu dovodi do povećanja rafinerijske dobiti te istodobnog smanjenja prinosa lakog cikličkog ulja, teškog cikličkog ulja i koksa<sup>10</sup>.

Cijena investicije naknadne obrade FCC benzina iznosi jednu trećinu cijene hidroobrade sirovine. Usprkos dobrim rezultatima koji su dobiveni korištenjem modernih FCC katalizatora i aditiva, mnoge rafinerije neće moći izbjeći značajne investicijske troškove da bi se uspjelo zadovoljiti predstojeće specifikacije. Po nekim predviđanjima do 2010. godine za rješavanje problema sumpora u SAD-u će se potrošiti 20 milijardi dolara<sup>3</sup>.

Benzin dobiven iz sirovine koja nije hidroobrađena obično sadrži oko 10 % sumpora prisutnog u sirovini, dok benzin dobiven iz sirovine koja je hidroobrađena sadrži oko 5-7 % ukupne količine sumpora<sup>11</sup>.

#### 1.4 Promjena destilacijske granice FCC benzina

Naše rafinerije još uvijek nemaju dovoljni kapacitet za pokrivanje cjelokupnog tržišta gorivima koja su se prodavala u Europskoj uniji, BMB s maks. 150 ppm sumpora (Eurosuper 95, po normi EU 228:1999) i dizelsko gorivo s 350 ppm sumpora (Eurodizel, po normi EU 590:1999). Tako se u RN Sisak koristi metoda promjene destilacijske granice FCC benzina dobivenog iz domaće nafte kako bi se zadovoljila

EU 228:1999 norma. Navedena metoda će se koristiti do realizacije Projekta modernizacije rafinerije.

Promjenom destilacijske granice FCC benzina, tj. uklanjanjem dijela najteže frakcije FCC benzina značajno se može smanjiti količina sumpora u FCC benzinu, ali i količina aromata koja po specifikaciji EN 228.2004 iznosi maks. 35 vol. %. Metodom promjene destilacijske granice FCC benzina smanjuje se količina prinosa benzina, povećava prinos LCU te se problem sumpora rješava samo u FCC benzinu. U literaturi se navodi da se smanjenjem završne točke destilacije benzina s 221 °C na 204 °C (približno 8-10 vol. %) sadržaj sumpora redukuje za 35-40 %<sup>12</sup>.

Završna točka frakcioniranja FCC benzina dobivenog iz domaće nafte skraćuje se na 165 °C te se tako dolazi do značajno manje količine sumpora od ~ 400 mas. ppm. Ta količina sumpora predstavlja maksimalnu količinu sumpora u FCC benzinu koja je dostatna da se u benzinskom poolu zadovolji EU 228:1999 specifikacija od 150 ppm sumpora.

### 1.5 Uloga aditiva pri uklanjanju sumpora

FCC aditivi znatno su pridonijeli uklanjanju sumpora iz FCC benzina. Analize komercijalnih FCC benzina dobivenih iz sirovina koje nisu hidroobrađene potvrđuju ukupnu redukciju sumpora u benzinu od 25-45 %. Posebno veliko smanjenje sumpora od 50-75 % može se postići ovisno o promjeni završne točke destilacije benzina. Sposobnost aditiva očituje se u uklanjanju tiofena i benzotiofena - dva najteža spoja koji sadrže molekulu sumpora za uklanjanje<sup>3</sup>.

Specijalno dizajnirani aditivi za uklanjanje sumpora dizajnirani su na potpunom razumijevanju kemizma svih sumpornih spojeva sadržanih u FCC benzinu. Molekule bogate vodikom u lakoj frakciji u kojoj se nalaze jednostavni sulfidi i merkaptani uklanjaju se adsorpcijom i direktnim krekiranjem u H<sub>2</sub>S pomoću aditiva. Visok udio reakcija prijelaza vodika također se koristi za minimiziranje nastajanja merkaptana iz rekombinacije lakih olefina i H<sub>2</sub>S.

Molekule sumpora koje se nalaze u srednjoj frakciji benzina, poput tiofena ekstremno su stabilne molekule i teško ih je ukloniti. Strategija uklanjanja ovog tipa molekula mnogo je kompleksnija. Kod ovog tipa molekula izvrši se zasićivanje radi poboljšanja krekibilnosti u H<sub>2</sub>S. Neke komponente u ovoj vrsti aditiva imaju poboljšanu selektivnost adsorpcije molekula koje sadrže sumpor omogućavajući duže odvijanje reakcija prijelaza vodika. Druge komponente u aditivima pogodne su za alkilaciju tiofenskih spojeva. Zamijenjeni i zasićeni tiofeni značajno su reaktivniji od normalnih tiofena te omogućavaju višu konverziju u H<sub>2</sub>S.

Sumporni spojevi koji se nalaze u najtežoj frakciji benzina veliki su i vrlo kompleksni, te ih se glavnina nalazi u zadnjih 15 vol. % FCC benzina. Krekiranje ovakvih molekula prije kondenzacije u koks predstavlja pravi izazov. Postoje aditivi s visokim stupnjem pristupačnosti za velike molekule koji imaju brzi pristup visoko aktivnim centrima za razliku od aditiva za direktno krekiranje u H<sub>2</sub>S. Napredna tehnologija matrica glavni je faktor pri dizajniranju aditiva za reduciranje sumpora. Pomoću

ovako dizajniranih aditiva zabilježeno je značajno reduciranje razine sumpora u lakom cikličkom ulju.

## 2. Eksperimentalni dio

### 2.1 Sirovine

U eksperimentalnom dijelu rada korištene su FCC sirovine i FCC benzini dobiveni iz sirovine iz RN Sisak koje se redovito koriste u preradi, a dobivene su iz visoko sumporne REB nafte i nisko sumporne domaće nafte. Također je korištena FCC sirovina i FCC benzin dobiveni iz nafte Syria Light koja se prerađuje u RN Rijeka. U FCC jedinicama u kojima su proizvedeni benzini korišten je komercijalni katalizator za povećanje prinosa benzina te aditiv za redukciju sumpora. Uporabom ovog aditiva zabilježena je redukcija sumpora u cijeloj frakciji benzina za 15-35 %. Fizikalno-kemijska svojstva FCC sirovina iz kojih su nastali FCC benzini prikazani su u tablici 3. Iz podataka je vidljivo da je FCC sirovina dobivena iz nafte REB najbogatija sumporom. Iz n-d-M analize uočava se da sirovina dobivena iz REB-a sadrži najviše naftenskih ugljikovodika u odnosu na ostale dvije korištene sirovine, sirovina dobivena iz nafte Syria Light sadrži najviše aromatskih ugljikovodika, a sirovina dobivena iz domaće nafte najviše parafinskih ugljikovodika.

### 2.2 Metode

FCC benzinima nastalim procesom katalitičkog kreiranja u rafinerijama iz navedenih sirovina određena su fizikalno-kemijska svojstva. Benzini su destilirani i razdijeljeni u više frakcija (do 70 °C, od 70-110 °C i 110 °C do kraja destilacije). U frakcijama je određen sadržaj sumpora i sastav ugljikovodika. Uzorak FCC benzina dobiven iz FCC sirovine iz nafte REB i Syria Light destilirani su i razdijeljeni tako da su mu promijenjene granice destilacije. Završna točka destilacije iznosila je 150, 160, 170, 180 i 190 °C. Frakcijama s promijenjenim krajevima destilacije također je određen sadržaj sumpora, ugljikovodični sastav te IOB.

Ugljikovodični sastav FCC benzina određen je metodom plinske kromatografije visokog razlučivanja. IOB benzina izračunat je na osnovi ugljikovodičnog sastava određenog plinskom kromatografijom pomoću interne metode Laboratorija za plinsku kromatografiju<sup>13</sup>. Ugljikovodični sastav također je određen metodom određivanja raspodjele tipa ugljikovodika i omjera vodik/ugljik pomoću NMR spektrometrije<sup>14</sup>. IOB benzina izračunat je na osnovi ugljikovodičnog sastava dobivenog metodom NMR spektrometrije<sup>15</sup>. Na taj način su se usporedili rezultati ugljikovodičnog sastava i vrijednosti IOB FCC benzina dobiveni pomoću dvije različite analitičke tehnike.

Sadržaj sumpora u tekućim produktima kreiranja određen je po HRN ISO 20884 metodi za određivanje sumpora u naftnim produktima pomoću valne disperzije X-zraka na valno-disperznom spektrofotometru.



Sadržaj poliaromata u uzorcima FCC benzinima i lakog cikličkog ulja određen je metodom tekućinske kromatografije visoke djelotvornosti normalnih faza ((high pressure liquid chromatography-HPLC -NP) EN 12916.

Tablica 3. Fizikalno-kemijska svojstva FCC sirovina iz kojih su proizvedeni benzini  
Table 3. Physical and chemical properties of feedstock

SVOJSTVO PROPERTIES	METODE METHOD	sirovina iz REB-a feed from REB crude	domaća sirovina feed from domestic crude	sirovina iz nafte Syria Light feed from Syria Light crude
Gustoća, 15 °C, kgdm <sup>-3</sup> Density	ASTM D 1298	0,9015	0,8749	0,9037
°API	ASTM D 287	30,92	30,24	25,08
Destilacija/Distillation	ASTM D 2887			
Početak, IBP °C		194,5	139,3	233,5
10 % v/v		324,3	284,4	344,0
50 % v/v		422,3	390,3	443,3
90 % v/v		493,3	453,5	505,8
95 % v/v		505,8	475,0	515,9
kraj, FBP °C		526,1	517,8	528,0
Sumpor/Sulphur % m/m	ASTM D 4294	1,15	0,46	0,99
Viskoznost, mm <sup>2</sup> /s Viscosity 40 °C 100 °C	ASTM D 445	33,90 5,53	13,95 3,18	20,31 (na 70 °C) 8,10
Tecište, °C Pour point	ASTM D 97	+36	+33	+45
Indeks loma, 70 °C Refractive index	ASTM D 1747	1,48397	1,4709	1,4875
Srednja molekulska masa Average molecular mass	ASTM D 2502	405	360	360
Karakteristični faktor K factor	UOP 375	11,98	12,0	12,0
n-d-M analiza n-d-M analysis	ASTM D 3238			
% C <sub>A</sub>		16,70	16,20	28,93
% C <sub>N</sub>		18,24	5,03	8,62
% C <sub>P</sub>		65,24	78,77	62,45
R <sub>A</sub>		0,83	0,83	1,16
R <sub>N</sub>		1,16	0,54	0,72

### 3. Rezultati i rasprava

#### 3.1 Analiza FCC benzina

U tablici 4 dane su karakteristike benzina dobivenih iz FCC sirovine nastalih preradom REB, domaće i Syria Light nafte. Vidljivo je da benzin dobiven iz sirovine iz REB-a sadrži približno istu količinu sumpora kao i benzin dobiven iz nafte Syria Light, dok FCC benzin iz domaće sirovine sadrži znatno manju količinu sumpora. Najviši IOB ostvario je benzin dobiven iz sirovine Syria Light (92,7 -vrijednost dobivena NMR tehnikom), što proizlazi iz veće količine olefinskih struktura u ovom uzorku benzina, a vidi se iz ugljikovodičnog sastava dobivenog plinskom kromatografijom i NMR spektrometrijom. Uočava se dobro slaganje vrijednosti IOB dobivenim za sve uzorke FCC benzina između obje metode (približna razlika je 0,3-0,7 jedinica IOB). Kod tehnike NMR spektrometrije u sastav parafina ulaze i cikličke zasićene strukture, tako da je količina parafinskih ugljikovodika dobivena NMR-om veća od količine parafinskih ugljikovodika dobivenih tehnikom plinske kromatografije. Iz analize dobivene tehnikom tekućinske kromatografije moguće je dobiti detaljni uvid u sastav aromata (mono, di, tri+, tj. ukupnih aromata). Tako se uočava da benzin dobiven iz sirovine REB-a sadrži veće količine mono i di-aromata, odnosno ukupnih aromata, zatim slijedi benzin dobiven iz nafte Syria Light te benzin dobiven iz domaće sirovine s najmanjom količinom aromata i najnižim IOB. Treba napomenuti da je benzinu dobivenom iz domaće nafte promijenjena destilacijska granica te je završetak destilacije 169 °C zbog čega ovaj benzin ima najniži OB jer se uklanjanjem sumpora uklonila i značajna količina aromata. Količina monoaromata jedan je od parametara koji doprinose porastu oktanske vrijednosti FCC benzina<sup>17</sup>. Količine aromatskih ugljikovodika dobivene pomoću tri različite tehnike (NMR, GC, HPLC) pokazuju izvrsno slaganje. Navedeni rezultati upućuju na to da su sve korištene analitičke tehnike kompatibilne i neophodne pri analizi produkata katalitičkog kreiranja, posebice FCC benzina. Prednosti su im mala količina uzorka potrebnog za analizu, brzina i reproducibilnost rezultata.

Vežanom tehnikom plinske kromatografije i masene spektrometrije (GC-MS) analizirani su uzorci FCC benzina. Pronađeni su karakteristični spojevi sumpora: disulfid, 2-metiltiofen, 3-metiltiofen i dimetiltiofen (moguće strukture 1,2-dimetiltiofen, 1,3-dimetiltiofena i 1,4-dimetiltiofena)<sup>18</sup>.

Tablica 4: Karakteristike, grupni sastav ugljikovodika i sastav aromata FCC benzina nastalih iz sirovine iz REB, domaće i nafte Syria light

Table 4: The properties, hydrocarbon compositions and aromatic compositions of gasolines from REB, domestic and Syria Light naphtha

svojstvo properties	metoda methods	FCC benzin iz REB nafte FCC naphtha REB crude	FCC benzin iz domaće sirovine FCC naphtha domestic crude	FCC benzin iz SyriaLight FCCnaphtha from Syria Light crude
Gustoća/Density 15 °C, kgdm <sup>3</sup>	ASTM D 1298	0,7211	0,7154	0,7371
Napon para, hPa, Vapor pressure	ASTM D 287	1015	786	741
Destilacija, Distillation	ASTM D 86			
Početak, IBP, °C		24	30	33
10 % v/v		33	44	53
50 % v/v		85	80	106
90 % v/v		171	-	199
95 % v/v		155	155	-
kraj, FBP, °C		203	169	215
Sumpor/sulphur, % m/m	ASTM D 4294	0,1	0,0325	0,0942
IOB, RON	GC	91,4	90,69	92,2
	NMR	92,1	90,1	92,7
benzen/benzene.% v/v	HRN EN 238	1,00	0,87	0,67
<b>ugljikovični sastav, mas %, hydrocarbon composition, wt. %, (NMR)</b>				
parafin, parafins		47,8	55,3	43,1
aromati, aromatics		25,1	22,7	24,8
olefini, olefins		27,1	22,0	32,1
<b>ugljikovodični sastav, mas. %, hydrocarbon composition, wt. %, (GC)</b>				
izoparafini, iso-parafinsa		28,74	35,92	24,72
n-parafini, n-parafins		5,47	6,42	4,99
ukupni parafini, total parafins		34,21	42,34	29,71
cikloparafini, ciklo-parafins		6,62	7,52	7,34
aromati, aromatics		29,80	26,07	24,04
olefini, olefins		24,01	22,18	32,84
neidentificirani, non-identify		5,36	1,89	6,07
<b>sastav aromata, mas. %, aromatics composition, wt. %, (HPLC)</b>				
monoaromati, mono-aromatics	EN 12916	28,1	21,0	23,9
di-aromati, di-aromatics		0,7	0,2	0,7
tri+aromati, tri+aromatics		0,1	0,1	-
poliaromati, polyaromatics		0,8	0,3	0,7
ukupni aromati, total aromatics		28,9	21,3	24,6

### 3.2 Analiza frakcija FCC benzina

FCC benzini destilirani su i razdijeljeni na sljedeće frakcije: 1) do 70 °C, 2) 70-110 °C i 3) 110-kraj destilacije. U tablici 5, 6 i 7 prikazane su karakteristike frakcija (sadržaj sumpora, IOB, ugljikovodični sastav i sastav aromata).

Tablica 5: Karakteristike frakcija FCC benzina iz nafte REB  
Table 5: The properties of FCC naphtha fractions from REB crude

svojstvo properties	frakcija do 70 °C fraction till 70 °C	frakcija 70-110 °C fraction 70-110 °C	frakcija 110 °C-kraj destilacije fraction 110 °C-FBP
sumpor, ppm m/m, sulphur	170	738	1410
IOB, RON (NMR)	91,6	89,8	93,2
<b>ugljikovidični sastav, mas. %, hydrocarbon composition, wt. %, (NMR)</b>			
parafini, parafins	58,9	65,4	39,8
aromati, aromatics	1,2	14,4	54,7
olefini, olefins	39,9	20,2	5,5
<b>sastav aromata, mas. %, aromatic composition, wt. %, (HPLC)</b>			
mono-aromati, mono-aromatics	1,4	13,3	57,5
di-aromati, di-aromatics	-	0,2	0,2
tri-aromati, tri-aromatics	-	-	-
poliaromati, polyaromatics	-	0,2	0,2
ukupni aromati, total aromatics	1,4	13,5	57,7

Iz tablica 5, 6 i 7 vidljivo je da je količina sumpora u frakciji do 70 °C kod svih uzoraka benzina znatno manja od količine sumpora u drugim frakcijama. U srednjoj frakciji od 70-110 °C nalazi se veća količina sumpora, posebice kod frakcije dobivenih iz REB nafte i Syria Light nafte. U trećoj frakciji nalazi se glavina sumpora. Dobiveni rezultati u skladu su s teoretskom krivuljom raspodjele sumpora pri destilaciji FCC benzina<sup>1</sup>.

Ugljikovodični sastav za sve frakcije sva tri uzorka FCC benzina također dobro prati teoretsku krivulju raspodjele ugljikovodika pri destilaciji FCC benzina. Kod sva tri uzorka FCC benzina količina parafinskih ugljikovodika smanjuje se u zadnjoj frakciji. Količina aromatskih ugljikovodika mala je u prve dvije frakcije kod svih uzoraka FCC benzina, dok se u trećoj frakciji nalazi oko 50 mas. % aromata. Sadržaj olefinskih ugljikovodika kod frakcija benzina iz REB-a i domaće sirovine je u početku veći, da bi se prema kraju destilacije (3. frakcija) smanjio na ~ 5 mas. %, osim kod frakcije FCC benzina dobivene iz Syria Light nafte kod kojeg je sadržaj olefina 10 mas. %.

Vrijednosti IOB kod sva tri uzorka benzina također prate teoretsku krivulju po kojoj je u srednjoj frakciji zabilježen pad IOB, što predstavlja tzv. oktansku depresiju, tj. područje u kojem dolazi do pada IOB zbog smanjenja količine olefina iz početne frakcije, odnosno još uvijek male količine aromata koja se povećava u trećoj frakciji.

Frakcija do 70 °C koja sadrži glavninu olefinskih ugljikovodika i frakcija iznad 110 °C koja sadrži glavninu aromatskih ugljikovodika bilježe veću vrijednost IOB u odnosu na srednju frakciju.

Tablica 6: Karakteristike frakcija FCC benzina iz domaće nafte

Table 6: The properties of FCC naphtha fractions from domestic crude

svojstvo properties	frakcija do 70 °C fraction till 70 °C	frakcija 70-110 °C fraction 70-110 °C	frakcija 110 °C -kraj destilacije fraction 110 °C-FBP
sumpor, ppm m/m, sulphur	55	331	536
IOB, RON (NMR)	90,3	89,8	93,0
<b>ugljikovidični sastav, mas. %, hydrocarbon composition, wt. %, (NMR)</b>			
parafini, paraffins	68,1	62,3	44,4
aromati, aromatics	1,3	19,3	51,2
olefini, olefins	30,6	18,4	4,4
<b>sastav aromata, mas. %, aromatics composition, wt. %, (HPLC)</b>			
monoaromati, mono-aromatics	0,84	11,57	47,56
di-aromati, di-aromatics	-	-	-
tri-aromati, tri-aromatics	-	-	-
poliaromati, polyaromatics	-	-	-
ukupni aromati, total aromatics	0,84	11,57	47,56

Tablica 7: Karakteristike frakcija FCC benzina iz nafte Syria Light

Table 7: The properties of FCC naphtha fractions from Syria Light crude

svojstvo properties	frakcija do 70 °C fraction till 70 °C	frakcija 70-110 °C fraction 70-110 °C	frakcija 110 °C -kraj destilacije fraction 110 °C-FBP
sumpor, ppm m/m, sulphur	89	676	1610
IOB, RON (NMR)	92,5	91,4	94,1
<b>ugljikovidični sastav, mas. %, hydrocarbon composition, wt. %, (NMR)</b>			
parafini, paraffins	49,8	50,4	43,9
aromati, aromatics	1,2	16,8	46,1
olefini, olefins	49,0	32,8	10,0
<b>sastav aromata, mas. %, aromatics composition, wt. %, (HPLC)</b>			
monoaromati, mono-aromatics	1,2	8,9	47,9
di-aromati, di-aromatics	-	-	-
tri-aromati, tri-aromatics	-	-	-
poliaromati, polyaromatics	-	-	-
ukupni aromati, total aromatics	1,2	8,9	47,9

### 3.3 Promjena destilacijskih granica FCC benzina

U tablicama 8 i 9 dani su rezultati promjene destilacijskih granica FCC benzina iz FCC sirovine dobivene preradom nafte REB i Syria Light. Iz podataka u tablicama uočava se da promjenom destilacijskih granica FCC benzina dolazi do značajnog

smanjenja ukupne količine sumpora koja se nalazi u cijeloj frakciji (od 10-40 %). Međutim, smanjenje količine sumpora još je uvijek nedovoljno (sve frakcije imaju više od 400 ppm sumpora) da bi se benzini s promijenjenim destilacijskim granicama koristili za namješavanje u benzinski pool BMB Eurosuper 95 po normi EU 228:1999.

Tablica 8: Promjena destilacijskih granica FCC benzina dobivenog iz nafte REB  
Table 8: The distillation limits change of FCC naphtha from REB crude

svojstvo properties	frakcija do 150 °C fraction till 150 °C	frakcija do 160 °C fraction till 160 °C	frakcija do 170 °C fraction till 170 °C	frakcija do 180 °C fraction till 180 °C	frakcija do 190 °C fraction till 190 °C
Sumpor, ppm m/m Sulphur	607	642	658	713	773
IOB, RON (NMR)	90,9	91,0	91,1	91,2	91,3
<b>ugljkovodični sastav, mas. %, hydrocarbon composition, wt. %, (NMR)</b>					
parafini, parafins	68,7	56,3	54,8	53,8	52,7
aromati, aromatics	15,8	18,9	21,0	23,6	25,5
olefini, olefins	25,5	24,8	24,2	22,6	21,7
<b>sastav aromata, mas. %, aromatics composition, wt. %, (HPLC)</b>					
monoaromati, mono- aromatics	16,3	18,6	22,9	22,9	23,4
di-aromati di-aromatics	-	-	-	0,1	0,4
tri-aromati tri-aromatics	-	-	-	-	<0,1
poliaromati polyaromatics	-	-	-	0,1	0,4
ukupni aromati total aromatics	16,3	18,6	22,9	23,0	23,8

Stoga se FCC benzini iz sirovine dobivene iz nafte REB i Syria Light koriste za namješavanje BMB Super 95 i Super plus 98 kod kojih je maksimalna količina sumpora 1000 ppm. Odvajanjem zadnjih 10 vol. % destilata od ukupne frakcije FCC benzina iz nafte REB dolazi do uklanjanja 34 % ukupnog sumpora, dok odvajanjem zadnjih 20 vol. % kod FCC benzina iz nafte Syria Light dolazi do uklanjanja 20 % ukupnog sumpora.

Iz podataka NMR spektrometrije uočava se da se količina olefinskih ugljikovodika smanjuje s porastom završetka temperature destilacije, dok se količina aromatskih ugljikovodika povećava. Iz podataka dobivenih metodom HPLC također se uočava porast monoaromata, tj. poliaromata s porastom završetka temperature destilacije.

## 4. Zaključci

Dobiveni rezultati količine sumpora u pojedinim frakcijama svih FCC benzina u slaganju su s literaturnim podacima, kao i rezultati raspodjele ugljikovodika i vrijednosti IOB.

Promjenom destilacijskih granica FCC benzina dolazi do značajnog smanjenja količine sumpora (20-40 %), ali još uvijek nedovoljnog da bi se metoda promjene destilacijske granice koristila kod rješavanja problema uklanjanja sumpora u FCC benzinu dobivenom iz visoko sumpornih nafti REB i Syria Light. Kod FCC benzina dobivenog iz sirovine REB i Syria Light preporučljiva je hidrobrada FCC sirovine ili hidrobrada teške frakcije benzina u kojoj se nalazi glavnina sumpornih spojeva. Iz navedenih rezultata pokazano je da je za efikasno uklanjanje sumpora metoda promjene destilacijske granice FCC benzina primjenjiva samo kod domaće nisko sumporne nafte te da takav benzin može zadovoljiti EU 228:1999 specifikaciju za BMB.

Tablica 9: Promjena destilacijskih granica FCC benzina dobivenog iz Syria Light  
Table 9: The distillation limits change of FCC naphtha from Syria Light crude

svojstvo properties	frakcija do 150 °C fraction till 150 °C	frakcija do 160 °C fraction till 160 °C	frakcija do 170 °C fraction till 170 °C	frakcija do 180 °C fraction till 180 °C	frakcija do 190 °C fraction till 190 °C
sumpor, ppm m/m Sulphur	587	643	681	702	739
IOB, MON (NMR)	90,9	91,2	91,3	91,4	91,4
<b>ugljikovidični sastav, mas. %, hydrocarbon composition, wt. %, (NMR)</b>					
parafini, parafins	56,3	55,1	53,2	52,7	51,8
aromati, aromatics	16,1	18,5	21,0	21,2	23,7
olefini, olefins	27,6	26,4	25,8	26,1	24,5
<b>sastav aromata, mas. %, aromatics composition, wt. %, (HPLC)</b>					
monoaromati, mono-aromatics	11,6	13,8	16,1	19,0	20,9
di-aromati, di-aromatics	-	-	-	-	-
tri-aromati tri-aromatics	-	-	-	-	-
poliaromati polyaromatics	-	-	-	-	-
ukupni aromati total aromatics	11,6	13,8	16,1	19,0	20,9

S porastom završetka temperature destilacije FCC benzina količina olefinskih ugljikovodika se smanjuje, a količina aromatskih ugljikovodika raste.

Detaljna analiza sirovina i produkata kreiranja pomoću različitih analitičkih tehnika ključna je u napretku FCC procesa. Korištene metode (NMR, GC i HPLC) pokazale su izvrsno slaganje u analizi sastava ugljikovodika i IOB-a FCC benzina.

# CHANGE OF DISTILLATION LIMITS AND THE CONTENT OF SULPHUR, AROMATICS AND OLEFINES IN FCC GASOLINE

## Abstract

*Change of the FCC gasoline distillation limits is one of the methods for solving the sulphur problem in the FCC gasoline used now at Sisak Oil Refinery until the modernization of its units. Objective of this paper has been to show how the FCC gasoline properties change by using this method, and how this change gets reflected on the quantity of components limited by application of the present European specifications for unleaded petrol – quantities of sulphur, as well as aromatic and olefin hydrocarbons. For this purpose, comparison has been made between physical and chemical properties of the total FCC gasoline fraction created by the fluid catalytic cracking in our refineries from high- and low-level sulphur crudes, fractions from which the FCC gasoline is made, and fractions with changed distillation limits.*

## 1. Introduction

Over the past three decades, the technology of FCC units in European refineries has been successfully keeping pace with growing requirements for the quality of gasoline fuel. Over the past few years, great changes have occurred on petroleum products market. Through the application of increasingly stringent environmental requirements, the legal regulations have also been changing, which has, over the past around a dozen years, become extremely stringent, especially as regards the volume of sulphur and aromatic hydrocarbons in motor gasoline. A more considerable change in specifications of motor gasoline and diesel fuel has happened this year when in the countries of European Union the sulphur content in both fuel types as well as the gasoline aromatic content has changed considerably (Table 1). A complete reduction of sulphur down to 10 mg/kg in motor gasoline shall inevitably follow as of 01/01/2009, constituting a level the refineries will hardly be able to reach without major investments.

FCC gasoline may have around a 40 % v/v share in motor gasoline and contributes to total sulphur content with as much as 98 %<sup>2</sup>. In order to meet the specification for 2005, for motor gasoline which may have a max. 50 ppm of sulphur, sulphur content in FCC gasoline may be 110 ppm at the most<sup>1</sup>.



## 1.1 Distribution of sulphur and hydrocarbons in FCC gasoline

As we know from the references, most sulphur compounds are concentrated in the last part of the distillation curve (the last 15 -20 % v/v from the end of distillation). Olefin hydrocarbons, apart from aromatic hydrocarbons, contribute the most to the octane number value, while they are concentrated in light gasoline fraction (up to 110 °C). Out of sulphur compounds, in the lightest gasoline fraction there are some sulfides and light tioles (mercaptane, RSH), while the medium fraction comprises thiophenes (ring-like compounds with sulphur), alkyl-thiophenes and C<sub>4</sub> to C<sub>8</sub> tioles. Heavy fraction of FCC gasoline contains benzothiophenes, alkyl-benzothiophenes and C<sub>9</sub> and C<sub>10</sub> tioles. While sulphur compounds in light fraction of FCC gasoline are easily removed through conversion into disulphides and extraction, they are very difficult to remove in both medium and heavy fraction, and hard to crack<sup>3,4</sup>. The content of olefin and sulphur per fractions is shown in Table 2<sup>1</sup>.

There are very few aromatic hydrocarbons in light gasoline. Most aromatic hydrocarbons are in the heavy gasoline fraction.

## 1.2 The Factors Impacting Sulphur Content in FCC Gasoline

Sulphur content in FCC gasoline is set by sulphur content in the FCC feed, process conditions, properties of FCC catalyst and use of additives, such as, for instance, ZSM-5<sup>3</sup>. Figure 2 shows the outline of possible generation paths for the molecules containing sulphur in the feed<sup>5</sup>.

Hydrocarbon molecules present in the feed react with sulphur molecules enabling reactions such as hydrogen transfer and alkylation. The properties of sulphur compounds in the feed shall determine primary products containing sulphur. Factors impacting the composition of FCC feed are the properties of crude oil and refinery conditions before the FCC process. Apart from determining the properties of primary molecules containing sulphur, these factors also impact the surrounding of molecules impacting secondary reactions. A part of sulphur from the feed goes directly to H<sub>2</sub>S and coke, while another part of it is distributed into cyclic oils (most part) and gasoline (lesser part). In keeping with initial reaction products, there are three primary reactions impacting gasoline sulphur content:

- cracking of molecules rich in hydrogen, such as tetrahydrothiophene (THT) into H<sub>2</sub>S,
- alkylation and cyclization generating molecules boiling in the area of cyclic oils and possibly turning into coke,
- recombination of H<sub>2</sub>S and olefin products, generating mercaptans and thiophenes.

The amount of hydrogen impacts the generation of crackable sulphur compounds in primary reactions and molecules poor in hydrogen reacting in secondary reactions.

In order to explain the mechanism of sulphur compounds generation in gasoline fraction, one must have a good knowledge of the impact of the properties of feed,

process conditions and the catalyst. The effect of feed properties is well known in the references <sup>6-8</sup>. Reactor temperature in the FCC process is the only significant operating parameter bearing a significant impact on the gasoline sulphur content. As the temperature rises, the sulphur content rises with it. Out of catalyst properties, we should single out the impact of contaminating metals, ZSM-5 additives and matrix activity.

Contaminating metals from the feed deposited on catalyst surface, like vanadium, bear a considerable impact on the gasoline sulphur content. Vanadium considerably reduces the level of saturated sulphur compounds in gasoline, while it only slightly increases the content of molecules such as benzothiophene. A metal like vanadium catalyzes also dehydrogenation reactions. Increased level of contaminating metals masks or lessens other catalyst effects. A catalyst sample with 5000 ppm V at gasoline generation conditions sulphur reduction up to 35 %. This factor is taken into account in laboratories for testing different sulphur removal technologies <sup>9</sup>. In spite of the existence of many ways to avoid the negative consequences of vanadium activity on Y-zeolitic catalysts, the use of vanadium is limited due to its extreme toxicity and hazard of waste contents.

Limiting data point to the fact that the use of ZSM-5 zeolite interferes with the mechanism of sulphur reduction in gasoline. Concentration effect may safely be expected of sulphur free olefins selectively cracked with ZSM-5 zeolite.

Matrix activity of the catalyst, i.e. the capacity of cracking large molecules entering the zeolite grid, also impact a reduction of the gasoline sulphur content. The matrices containing strong acid centres and having a high degree of availability are more effective than those with less strong acid centers.

The reaction of hydrogen transfer is a well known reaction taking place during catalytic cracking where hydrogen from donor molecule, e.g. a naphthene molecule – goes over to the unsaturated molecule, e.g. that olefinic. This type of reaction also bears an impact on the gasoline sulphur content. FCC catalyst with a higher density of acid centers promotes this type of reaction. An exchange of elements from rare earth elements in zeolite usually achieves a higher density of acid centers. Increase in the share of hydrogen transfer reactions causes lower sulphur volume in gasoline. Hydrogen transfer towards thiophenic molecules causes their easier cracking.

### 1.3 Removal of Sulphur in FCC Gasoline

There are several options for reducing sulphur in FCC gasoline. Many refineries are still unsure about which option to choose when it comes to resolving the sulphur issue. Thus, for instance, in the USA, one third of refineries has not yet finalized their decision about which strategy to choose when resolving this issue. The factors considered in the choice of the most practical solution are many and often intertwined. They are: condition and capacities of the existing plants, availability of hydrogen volume, type of feed processed, availability of investment funds, product distribution per boiling point (e.g. light, medium, heavy gasoline or gasoline with the

so called «full-range» of boiling points), the effect of FCC additives, how spread is the use of gasoline or diesel fuel, octane/cetane surplus, deadline of specification honoring<sup>3</sup>.

The processing of oil containing low sulphur volumes is an option available to only a few number of refineries. The refineries mostly choose the option of hydrotreating FCC feed (pre-processing) or hydrotreatment of FCC gasoline (subsequent or post-treatment). Post-treatment of FCC gasoline is a simpler and less costly technology by which sulphur is removed directly from the FCC gasoline, usually through hydroprocess or a combination of mercaptan extraction and hydroprocess. This manner of processing FCC gasoline bears no impact on SO<sub>x</sub> emission in flue gases and does not change the ratio of diesel and gasoline generation in refinery processing. If the process of hydrotreatment is used for sulphur removal, the octane number value decreases due to hydrogenation of olefin hydrocarbons, which is economically unfavourable. However, through the development of various technologies, the problem has been eliminated.

There is a number of technologies as a subsequent processing of FCC gasoline successfully resolving the problem of sulphur in FCC gasoline<sup>10</sup>. Thus, the following technologies are known not recording drop of the octane number at all, or entailing a very small loss: ExxonMobil's OCTGAIN process, UOP/Intevp's ISAL process reducing sulphur, nitrogen and olefins, CDTECH (Catalytic distillation technologies) process in which the level of sulphur in FCC gasoline is removed by 99 %, ExxonMobil' SCAN fining process, IFP' Prime G process, Phillips Petroleum Company's SZorb process and Black @Veatch Prichard's IRVAD process.

In nearly all of the above technologies FCC gasoline is split into two or three fractions. Each fraction is processed separately in order for the loss of the octane number to be as low as possible. One among the ways of meeting the specification of 50 ppm of sulphur in motor gasoline for light and medium fraction (usually C<sub>5</sub>, fraction up to 110 °C) is the removal of mercaptane sulphur from this fraction using the Merox process. This results in sulphur reduction of 50-70 % of total sulphur contained in that fraction<sup>1</sup>. During the Merox process in the light and medium fraction of FCC gasoline there occurs a reduction of the octane value.

Heavy fraction of FCC gasoline (usually 110 °C - end distillation) may be processed on ISAL process reducing the sulphur content of this fraction to less than 2 ppm. ISAL process uses bi-functional catalyst enabling deep desulfurization, at the same time maintaining or even increasing the value of octane number through reactions of isomerization, cyclization, dealkylation and reduction of molecular mass<sup>1</sup>. Light cyclic oil is also processed through hydrotreatment before it is blended into diesel fuel.

Another way of removing sulphur from FCC gasoline is the hydrotreatment of FCC gasoline. FCC feeds contain polycyclic aromatic compounds containing sulphur, nitrogen and metals which are very difficult to crack in the process of catalytic cracking. Through the process of hydrotreatment, sulfur content decreases in FCC feeds, along with that of nitrogen and metals, while hydrogen is introduced into

polyaromatic molecules. In this manner occurs a lighter cracking of thus processed feed. Although being the most expensive, this particular option of sulphur removal is also the most efficient one both in cracking products and in flue gases<sup>2</sup>. It is the advantage of this technology that it increases both conversion and yield of FCC gasoline, while sulphur volume decreases in all catalytic cracking products. Increase of conversion in FCC process leads to increased refinery profit, at the same time reducing the yield of light cyclic oil, heavy cyclic oil and coke<sup>10</sup>.

The cost of the investment of subsequently treating FCC gasoline amounts to one third of the cost of feed hydrotreatment. In spite of good results obtained through the use of modern FCC catalysts and additives, many refineries will not be able to avoid major investments in order to meet the upcoming specifications. According to some estimates, by the year 2010, the USA shall spend \$ 20 billion in order to resolve the sulphur issue<sup>3</sup>.

Gasoline obtained from the feed that has not been hydrotreated usually contains around 10 % of sulphur present in the feed, while gasoline obtained from hydrotreated feed contains around 5-7 % of total sulphur volume<sup>11</sup>.

#### 1.4 Change of FCC Gasoline Distillation Limit

Our refineries still do not have sufficient capacity for supplying the entire market with fuels sold in the European Union, UMG with max. 150 ppm of sulphur ("Eurosuper 95", according to the standard EU 228:1999) and diesel fuel with 350 ppm of sulphur ("Eurodizel", according to the standard EU 590:1999). That is why the INA Rafinerija nafte Sisak uses the method of a changed distillation limit of FCC gasoline obtained from domestic crude, in order to meet the EU 228:1999 standard. The said method shall be used until the Refinery Modernization Project is implemented.

By changing the distillation limit of FCC gasoline, i.e. by removing a part of the heaviest fraction of FCC gasoline, one may considerably reduce the volume of sulphur in FCC gasoline, but also the volume of aromatics, which – according to the specification EN 228.2004 - amounts to max. 35 vol. %. Through the method of changing the distillation limit of FCC gasoline, one reduces the yield volume of gasoline, increases the yield of LCU and so the problem of sulphur is resolved only in FCC gasoline. The references state that by the reduction of gasoline end distillation point from 221 °C to 204 °C (approximately 8-10 vol %), sulphur content is reduced by around 35-40 %<sup>12</sup>.

The end point of fractionating FCC gasoline obtained from domestic oil is shortened to 165 °C and thus considerably lower volumes of sulphur occur in the amount of ~ 400 mas. ppm. This volume of sulphur represents maximum sulphur share in FCC gasoline sufficient for meeting the EU 228:1999 specification of 150 ppm of sulphur in the gasoline pool.

## 1.5 The Role of Additives in Sulphur Removal

FCC additives have contributed considerably to the removal of sulphur from FCC gasoline. The analyses of commercial FCC gasoline obtained from unhydrotreated feeds confirm total gasoline sulphur content reduction in the amount of 25-45 %. An especially considerable reduction of sulphur of 50-75 % may be achieved depending on the gasoline end distillation point change. The capacity of additives is reflected in the removal of thiophene and benzothiophene – the two heaviest compounds containing sulphur molecule to be removed<sup>3</sup>.

Specially designed additives for sulphur removal have been based on a total understanding of the chemistry of all sulphur compounds contained in FCC gasoline. Molecules rich in hydrogen in light fraction in which there are simple sulfides and mercaptans are removed through adsorption and direct cracking into H<sub>2</sub>S using additives. High share of oxygen transfer reactions is also used for minimizing the generation of mercaptane from the recombination of light olefins and H<sub>2</sub>S.

Sulphur molecules from the medium gasoline fraction, such as thiophene, are extremely stable and difficult to remove. The strategy of removing this type of molecules is much more complex. With this type of molecules, saturation is performed in view of improving crackability in H<sub>2</sub>S. Some components in this kind of additives have an improved adsorption selectivity of molecules containing sulphur, thus enabling a longer duration of the hydrogen transfer reactions. Other components in additives are apt for the alkylation of thiophenic compounds. Replaced and saturated thiophenes are considerably more reactive than normal thiophenes, thus enabling a higher conversion to H<sub>2</sub>S.

Sulphur compounds contained in the heaviest gasoline fraction are large and highly complex, most of them found in the last 15 vol. % of FCC gasoline. The cracking of such molecules before condensation into coke is quite a challenge. There are additives with a high degree of accessibility for large molecules with a fast access to the highly active centers, unlike additives for direct cracking into H<sub>2</sub>S. Advanced technology of matrixes is the main factor in designing additives for reducing sulphur. Using thus designed additives, we have recorded a considerable reduction of sulphur level in light cyclic oil.

## 2. Experimental part

### 2.1 Feeds

In the experimental part of the paper, we have used FCC crudes and FCC gasoline obtained from the feeds from the Sisak OR regularly used in processing, obtained from highly sulphur REB crude and the low sulphur domestic one. Also utilized were the FCC crude and FCC gasoline obtained from the Syria Light crude processed at the Rijeka OR. At the FCC plants where the gasoline was produced, a commercial catalyst was used for increasing gasoline yield and the additive for sulphur reduction. Owing to the use of the additive, sulphur reduction in the entire gasoline

fraction by 15-35 % has been recorded. The physico-chemical properties of FCC crudes yielding FCC gasoline are shown in Table 3. It may be seen from the data that the FCC feed obtained from REB crude is the richest in sulphur. The n-d-M analysis reveals that the feed obtained from REB contains also the highest amount of naphthenic hydrocarbons with regard to the other two feeds used; the feed obtained from the Syria Light crude contains the most aromatic hydrocarbons, while the one obtained from domestic crude contains the most paraffinic hydrocarbons.

## 2.2. The Methods

FCC gasoline generated through the process of catalytic cracking in refineries from the above crudes has been determined its physico-chemical properties. Gasoline has been distilled and distributed into several fractions (up to 70 °C, from 70-110 °C and 110 °C to the end of distillation). The fractions have been determined their sulphur and hydrocarbons content. A sample of FCC gasoline obtained from FCC feed from REB and Syria Light crudes has been distilled and separated in such a way that its distillation limits were altered. The final distillation point was 150, 160, 170, 180 and 190 °C respectively. Fractions with altered distillation end were also determined their sulphur content, hydrocarbon composition and RON.

Hydrocarbon composition of FCC gasoline was determined using the method of high resolution gas chromatography. The gasoline RON was calculated based on the hydrocarbon composition determined through gas chromatography using an internal method of the Laboratory for Gas Chromatography<sup>13</sup>. The hydrocarbon composition was also determined using the method of determining the distribution of hydrocarbon types and the hydrogen/carbon ratio using NMR spectrometry<sup>14</sup>. Gasoline RON has been calculated based on the hydrocarbon composition obtained through the method of NMR spectrometry<sup>15</sup>. In this way we have compared the results of hydrocarbon composition and RON value of FCC gasoline obtained by two different analytical techniques.

Sulphur content in liquid cracking products has been determined following the HRN ISO 20884 method for determining sulphur in oil products using wave dispersion of X-rays on a wave-dispersion spectrophotometer.

Polyaromatic content in the samples of FCC gasoline and light cyclic oil has been determined using the method of high pressure liquid chromatography-HPLC-NP) EN 12916.

## 3. Results and discussion

### 3.1 Analysis of FCC Gasoline

Table 4 brings the properties of gasoline obtained from FCC feed generated by processing REB, domestic and Syria Light crudes. It may be seen that gasoline obtained from the feed from REB contains approximately the same volume of sulphur as the one obtained from Syria Light crude, while FCC gasoline from

domestic crude contains a considerably lower sulphur share. The highest RON was achieved by gasoline obtained from Syria Light crude (92.7 -value obtained by NMR technique), resulting from a higher volume of olefinic structures in this gasoline sample, visible from the hydrocarbon composition obtained through gas chromatography and NMR spectrometry. One may observe a good match of the RON values obtained for all samples of FCC gasoline between the two methods (an approximate difference is 0.3-0.7 RON units). With NMR spectrometry technique the composition of paraffins includes also cyclic saturated structures, so that the volume of paraffinic hydrocarbons obtained through NMR is higher than that obtained through the technique of gas chromatography.

From the analysis obtained through the technique of liquid chromatography it is possible to obtain a detailed insight into the composition of aromatics (mono, di, tri+, i.e. total aromatics). It is thus observed that gasoline obtained from the feed from REB contains higher volumes of mono and di aromatics i.e. total aromatics, followed by those obtained from the Syria Light and the domestic crudes respectively, the latter having the lowest aromatic content and RON. One should point out that gasoline obtained from domestic oil has been changed its distillation limit and now has a distillation end of 169 °C which is why it has the lowest ON, because, by removing sulphur, a considerable volume of aromatics has also been removed. The volume of mono-aromatics is one among the parameters contributing to the increase of octane value of FCC gasoline<sup>17</sup>. The volumes of aromatic hydrocarbons obtained by three different techniques (NMR, GC, HPLC) show an excellent match. The above results point to the fact that all the used analytical techniques are compatible and essential for analysing the products of catalytic cracking, especially FCC gasoline. Their advantages are low volume of sample necessary for analysis, speed and reproducibility of results.

Using hyphenated technique of gas chromatography and mass spectrometry (GC-MS), FCC gasoline samples have been analyzed. Characteristic sulphur compounds have been revealed: disulphide, 2-methylthiophene, 3-methylthiophene and dimethylthiophene (possible structures 1,2-dimethylthiophene, 1,3-dimethylthiophene and 1,4-dimethylthiophene)<sup>18</sup>.

### 3.2 Analysis of FCC Gasoline Fractions

FCC gasoline has been distilled and split into the following fractions: 1) up to 70 °C, 2) 70-110 °C and 3) 110-end distillation. Tables 5, 6 and 7 show the characteristics of fractions (sulphur content, RON, hydrocarbon and aromatic composition).

It may be observed from Tables 5, 6 and 7 that sulphur volume in fraction up to 70 °C in all gasoline samples is considerably lower than that in other fractions. In the medium fraction from 70-110 °C there is a higher volume of sulphur, especially in fractions obtained from REB and Syria Light crudes. In the third fraction there is the main part of sulphur. The obtained results are in keeping with the theoretical curve of sulphur distribution in the distillation of FCC gasoline<sup>1</sup>.

Hydrocarbon composition for all three fractions of all three samples of FCC gasoline also follows well the theoretical curve of hydrocarbon distribution at distillation of FCC gasoline. In all three samples of FCC gasoline the amount of paraffinic hydrocarbons reduces in the last fraction. The amount of aromatic hydrocarbons is small in the first two fractions in all FCC gasoline samples, while the third fraction holds around 50 mas. % of aromatics. The content of olefinic hydrocarbons in gasoline fractions from REB and domestic crude is initially higher, while – towards the end of distillation (3<sup>rd</sup> fraction) it goes down to ~ 5 mas. %, apart from the fraction of FCC gasoline obtained from the Syria Light crude with olefin content of 10 mas. %.

RON values for all three gasoline samples also follow the theoretical curve according to which the medium fraction records a decrease of RON, constituting the so called octane depression, i.e. the area in which RON drops due to the reduced amount of olefins from the initial fraction, i.e. a still low volume of aromatics increasing in the third fraction. Fraction up to 70 °C containing most olefinic hydrocarbons and fractions above 110 °C containing most aromatic hydrocarbons have recorded a higher RON value with regard to medium fraction.

### 3.3. Change of FCC Gasoline Distillation Limits

Tables 8 and 9 provide results of the change of distillation limits of FCC gasoline from FCC feed obtained by processing REB and Syria Light crudes. It may be observed from the data in the Tables that the change of distillation limits of FCC gasoline causes a considerable reduction of total sulphur volume in the entire fraction (from 10-40 %). However, a reduced sulphur volume is still insufficient (all fractions have over 400 ppm of sulphur) in order for the gasoline with changed distillation limits to be used for blending in the gasoline pool of UMG Eurosuper 95 according to the EU 228:1999 standard.

That is why FCC gasoline from the feed obtained from REB and Syria Light crudes is used for blending UMG Super 95 and Super plus 98 with the maximum sulphur content of 1000 ppm. By separating the last 10 vol. % of the distillate of total fraction of FCC gasoline from REB crude, 34 % of total sulphur volume is removed, while by the separation of the last 20 vol. % in the case of FCC gasoline from the Syria Light crude, 20 % of total sulphur is removed.

From the data of NMR spectrometry it may be observed that the amount of olefinic hydrocarbons is reduced with the increase of end distillation temperature, while the amount of aromatic hydrocarbons increases. From the data obtained through HPLC method one may also observe an increase in monoaromatics, i.e. polyaromatics accompanying the end distillation temperature increase.



## 4. Conclusions

1. The obtained results of sulphur content in individual fractions of all types of FCC gasoline match data from the references, same as the results of hydrocarbon distribution and RON value.

2. Change of distillation limits of FCC gasoline causes a considerable reduction of sulphur volume (20-40 %), but still insufficient in order for the method of distillation limit change to be used in resolving the problem of sulphur removal in FCC gasoline obtained from highly sulphuric REB and Syria Light crudes. In the case of FCC gasoline obtained from REB and Syria Light crudes, it is recommendable to hydrotreat FCC feed or the heavy gasoline fraction containing the majority of sulphur compounds.

The above results show that for an efficient removal of sulphur, the method of FCC gasoline distillation limit change is applicable only in the case of domestic low sulphur feed and that such gasoline may meet the EU 228:1999 specification for UMG.

3. Increase of the end distillation temperature of FCC gasoline causes the amount of olefinic hydrocarbons to reduce, while that of aromatic hydrocarbons increases.

4. A detailed analysis of feeds and cracking products using different analytical techniques is crucial for the progress of FCC process. The methods used (NMR, GC and HPLC) have shown an excellent match in the analysis of the composition of hydrocarbons and RON of FCC gasoline.

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UDK/UDC	Ključne riječi	Key words
665.644.26	FCC benzin	FCC gasoline fraction
665.666.4.048.95	sniženje sadržaja sumpora rezanjem teške frakcije	sulfur content removal by bottom fraction cut
665.666.25.048.95	sniženje sadržaja aromata rezanjem teške frakcije	aromatics content removal by heavy fraction cut

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