

Željka Bantić, Maja Fabulić Ruszkowski, Milorad Đukić, Zdenko Čulig

ISSN 0350-350X

GOMABN 43, 3, 183 -193

Stručni rad / Professional Paper

UDK 665.644.26.097.38-503.56 : 544.473-039.61 : 544.478.1

## PRAĆENJE SVOJSTAVA FCC KATALIZATORA U RADU FCC JEDINICE

### Sažetak

Održavanje visoke razine konverzije u procesu fluid katalitičkog kreiranja (FCC) bitno doprinosi ukupnom profitu rafinerije. Pri tome ključnu ulogu ima količina katalizatora koja se dnevno dozira u FCC proces.

Laboratorijsko ispitivanje uzoraka ravnotežnih FCC katalizatora iz procesa spada u redovitu kontrolu rada FCC jedinice i za proizvođače i za korisnike. Podaci laboratorijskih ispitivanja o fizikalnim i katalitičkim svojstvima ravnotežnih katalizatora daju uvid u rad FCC jedinice te omogućuju optimalno vođenje procesa. Ovaj rad je prezentacija redovitih ispitivanja ravnotežnih uzoraka FCC katalizatora iz RN Sisak koja se kontinuirano provode u laboratoriju Službe tehnološkog razvoja u Sektoru istraživanja i razvoja.

U radu su prikazani rezultati laboratorijskih ispitivanja koja su provedena na pet uzoraka ravnotežnih katalizatora uzimanih kod različitih procesnih uvjeta iz FCC jedinice u vremenskom razdoblju od jednog mjeseca.

Tijekom ispitivanja praćen je utjecaj procesnih parametara na promjene specifične površine i MAT konverzije. Uzorcima ravnotežnih katalizatora određena je specifična površina po BET-metodi, dok je ispitivanje katalitičke aktivnosti provedeno testom mikroaktivnosti (eng. microactivity test, MAT). Rezultati ispitivanja pokazuju da MAT konverzija prati trend porasta i smanjenja specifične površine katalizatora. Povećanjem temperature i tlaka u regeneratoru povećava se i količina svježeg katalizatora koji se dodaje u proces kako bi se zadržala postojeća aktivnost i specifična površina katalizatora.

Svrha rada je ukazati na važnost ovih ispitivanja koja su dio neophodne prateće kontrole FCC procesa kako bi se što bolje optimirao rad FCC jedinice uz što manje troškove.

## 1. UVOD

Najvažnija svojstva zeolitnih katalizatora u FCC procesu su aktivnost, selektivnost i stabilnost. FCC proces odvija se u izmjeničnim ciklusima kreiranja sirovine i regeneracije katalizatora pri čemu kod regeneracije dolazi do izgaranja koksa na katalizatoru pri temperaturama koje su znatno više od onih u reaktoru <sup>1)</sup>. Zbog izlaganja katalizatora oštrim procesnim uvjetima u reakcijskim i regeneracijskim ciklusima dolazi do promjene njegovih fizikalno-kemijskih i katalitičkih svojstava. Ove promjene dovode do pojave deaktivacije koja uzrokuje gubitak poroznosti, smanjenje specifične površine i veličine pora katalizatora. Specifična površina koristi se kao važan parametar za praćenje stupnja deaktivacije i za kontrolu aktivnosti i stabilnosti katalizatora tijekom FCC procesa <sup>2), 3)</sup>. Smanjenje specifične površine dovodi do smanjenja katalitičke aktivnosti <sup>4)</sup>.

Specifična površina FCC katalizatora predstavlja ukupnu površinu svih pora katalizatora, uključujući površinu zeolita i matrice, a izražava se u  $m^2/g$  <sup>5)</sup>. Aktivnost ravnotežnog katalizatora izražava se kao MAT-konverzija uzorka katalizatora u standardnom testu mikroaktivnosti sa standardnom sirovinom. Aktivnost katalizatora također se smanjuje s porastom temperature regeneracije. Specifična površina u korelaciji je s aktivnosti katalizatora, a taj odnos ovisi o tipu katalizatora. Gubitak specifične površine od  $10 m^2/g$  može smanjiti MAT konverziju i do 5 jedinica <sup>6)</sup>. Osim o procesnim parametrima, razina aktivnosti katalizatora u procesu kao i specifična površina ravnotežnog katalizatora ovise o količini metala na površini katalizatora <sup>7)</sup>.

Na promjene konverzije u FCC jedinici utječu procesni parametri, kvaliteta sirovine te svojstva katalizatora. Za razliku od konverzije u FCC jedinici, na promjene MAT konverzije utječu samo promjene svojstava katalizatora. Stoga MAT podaci omogućuju da se isključi katalitički efekt u procesu kad se želi ustanoviti uzrok promjene konverzije. Podaci dobiveni testom mikroaktivnosti pružaju mogućnost optimiranja katalitičkog kreiranja i postizanja još veće profitabilnosti ovog značajnog konverzijskog procesa <sup>8)</sup>.

Količina svježeg katalizatora koja se dnevno dodaje u FCC proces kako bi se zadržala određena aktivnost ravnotežnog katalizatora i njegova specifična površina naziva se make up i predstavlja jedan od važnih troškova procesa. Dvostruko povećanje brzine katalitičkog kreiranja i postizanja još veće profitabilnosti ovog značajnog konverzijskog procesa <sup>9)</sup>.

## 2. EKSPERIMENTALNI DIO

### 2.1. Katalizatori i sirovine

Eksperimentalna ispitivanja provedena su na uzorcima ravnotežnih komercijalnih katalizatora iz FCC jedinice RN Sisak koji su uzimani kod različitih procesnih uvjeta tijekom jednog mjeseca. Fizikalno-kemijska svojstva svježeg uzorka FCC katalizatora prikazana su u tablici 1.

Tablica 1: Fizikalno-kemijska svojstva svježeg korištenog katalizatora  
 Table 1: Physical and chemical properties of fresh used catalyst

Al <sub>2</sub> O <sub>3</sub> , mas. %	38,9
Na <sub>2</sub> O <sub>3</sub> , mas. %	0,29
Re <sub>2</sub> O <sub>3</sub> , mas. %	1,6
Specifična površina, m <sup>2</sup> g <sup>-1</sup> Specific area, m <sup>2</sup> g <sup>-1</sup>	298
Volumen pora, ml g <sup>-1</sup> Pore volume, ml g <sup>-1</sup>	0,40
Nasipna gustoća, g ml <sup>-1</sup> Apparent bulk density, g ml <sup>-1</sup>	0,74
Raspodjela veličina čestica, mas. % Particle size distribution, wt. %	
0-20 μm	1
0-40 μm	12
0-80 μm	53
0-105 μm	77
0-149 μm	95
prosječna veličina čestice, μm Average particle size, μm	76

Kao sirovina za određivanje MAT aktivnosti uzoraka katalizatora koristila se standardna sirovina (smjesa plinskih ulja) koja se koristi kod testa mikroaktivnosti.

## 2.2 Metode

Procesni parametri rada FCC procesa prikazani su u tablici 2. Promjene porozne strukture katalizatora praćene su određivanjem specifične površine po modificiranoj BET metodi ASTM D 3663-99. Određivanje specifične površine po BET metodi temelji se na određivanju volumena adsorbiranog dušika na površini poroznog materijala kod temperature tekućeg dušika u stanju adsorpcijske ravnoteže. Adsorpcija dušika na uzorcima katalizatora izvedena je na instrumentu Sorptometar. Mjerenja adsorpcije dušika na uzorcima katalizatora napravljena su kod nekoliko različitih tlakova dušika, pri radnoj temperaturi okoline i atmosferskog tlaka. Kod svake vrijednosti tlaka izmjerena je površina adsorbiranog volumena dušika za ispitivani uzorak te površina kalibracijskog volumena. Dobiveni podaci korišteni su za izračunavanje volumena adsorbiranog dušika za svaku vrijednost tlaka.

Ispitivanje katalitičke aktivnosti ravnotežnih uzoraka katalizatora provedena su na laboratorijskom uređaju za katalitičko kreiranje pomoću testa mikroaktivnosti (eng. micro activity test, MAT) po standardnoj ASTM D 3907 metodi.

Tablica 2: Procesni parametri FCC jedinice  
Table 2: The process parameters of FCC unit

Uzorak Sample	1	2	3	4	5
Procesni parametri Process parameters					
Protok sirovine, t/h Feed flow, t/h	53,57	51,34	49,49	48,95	48,60
Temperatura reaktora, °C Reactor temperature, °C	525	525	525	525	525
Temperatura sirovine, °C Feed temperature, °C	186	184	195	200	186
Temperatura regeneratora, °C Regeneration temperature, °C	729	736	735	717	729
Tlak regeneratora, bar Regeneration pressure, bar	2,53	2,48	2,56	2,32	2,42
Tlak reaktora, bar Reactor pressure, bar	2,43	2,38	2,46	2,22	2,21
Doziranje svježeg katalizatora, kg/t sirovine Fresh catalyst adding, kg/t feed	0,55	0,70	0,72	0,32	0,61
Cirkulacija katalizatora, t/h Catalyst circulation, t/h	393,9 7	406,5 7	458,2 2	408,0 8	427,0 4

Ispitivanje se provodi u cijevnom reaktoru s nepokretnim slojem katalizatora (4000 g) koji se čisti dušikom. Kada se dostigne radna temperatura od 482°C, započinje kreiranje uvođenjem plinskog ulja u vremenu od 75 sekundi. Nastali plinski i tekući produkti sakupljaju se i analiziraju metodom plinske kromatografije. Na taj način dobivaju se podaci o kvaliteti i kvantiteti svih dobivenih produkata. Nakon stripiranja dušikom slijedi regeneriranje katalizatora zrakom pri temperaturi od 650°C. Količina nataloženog koksa na katalizatoru određuje se u katalitičkom konverteru i izražava se kao mas. % CO<sub>2</sub>.

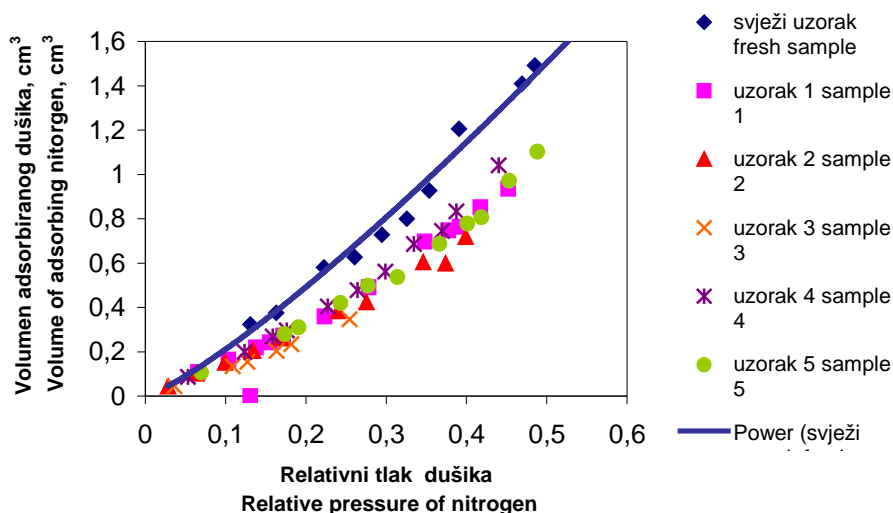
### 3. REZULTATI I DISKUSIJA

Ovisnost volumena adsorbiranog dušika na katalizatoru o relativnom tlaku dušika prikazuje se adsorpcijskom izotermom <sup>10)</sup>. Na slici 1 prikazane su adsorpcijske izoterme za uzorke svježeg i ravnotežnih FCC katalizatora. Iz slike je vidljivo da svježi katalizator adsorbira veće količine dušika od ravnotežnih uzoraka kod istih tlakova dušika. To ukazuje na činjenicu da svježi katalizator ima znatno veću specifičnu površinu i aktivnost od ravnotežnih uzoraka koji su deaktivirani visokom temperaturom i parom u regeneratoru te prisutnošću metala <sup>7)</sup>. Adsorpcijske izoterme za ravnotežne uzorke katalizatora pokazuju vrlo sličan trend adsorpcije, što znači da su katalizatori iz procesa zadržali približno istu vrijednost specifične površine tijekom rada FCC procesa.

Prema BET jednadžbi iz volumena adsorbiranog dušika na uzorcima katalizatora izračunate su njihove specifične površine koje su dane u tablici 3.

Slika 2 prikazuje usku korelaciju između specifične površine i MAT aktivnosti. Smanjenjem specifične površine dolazi do pada aktivnosti katalizatora u skladu s literaturnim referencijama <sup>6)</sup>.

Slika 1: Adsorpcijska izoterma dušika za ravnotežne i svježi FCC katalizator  
Figure 1: Nitrogen adsorption isotherms for equilibrium and fresh FCC catalysts

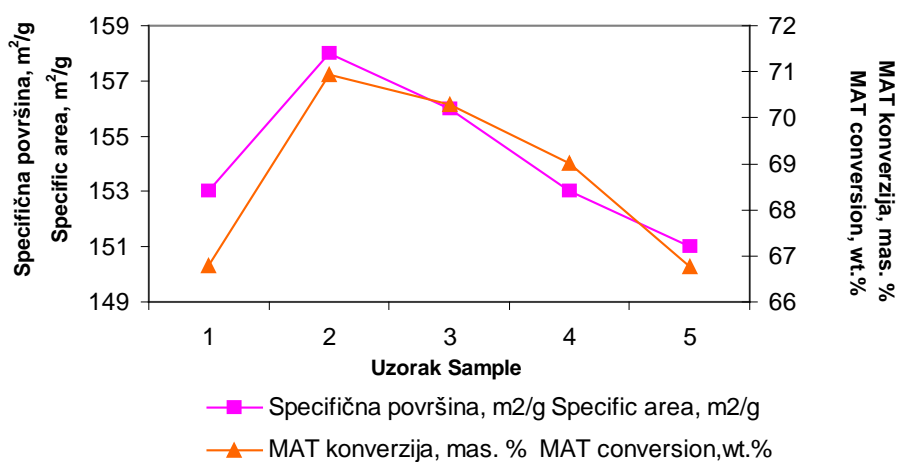


Tablica 3: Rezultati određivanja specifičnih površina iz volumena adsorbiranog dušika na ravnotežnim katalizatorima

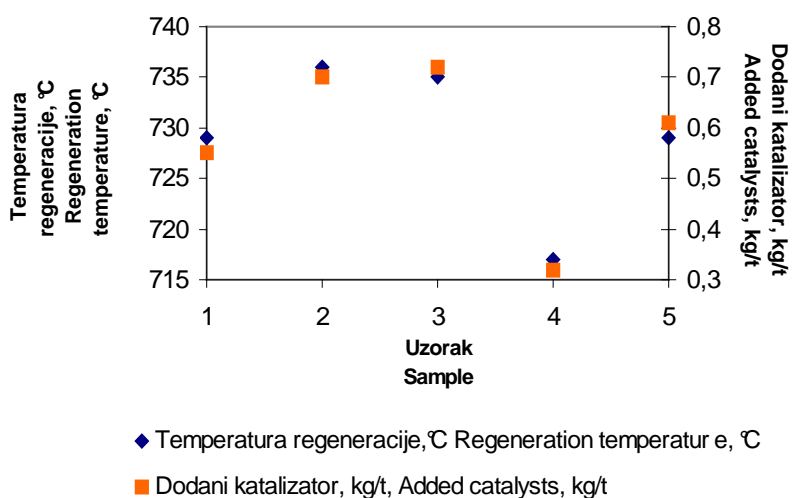
Table 3: Results of determination of surface area from adsorbed nitrogen volume on the equilibrium catalysts

Broj uzorka Number of sample	Svježi katalizator Fresh catalyst	Ravnotežni katalizator / Equilibrium catalyst				
		1	2	3	4	5
Masa uzorka, g Mass of sample, g	0.0121	0.0179	0.0182	0.0214	0.0169	0.0177
Volumen adsorbiranog dušika na uzorku, ml Volume of adsorbing nitrogen on sample, ml	1.15	0.6379	0.6576	0.7774	0.5852	0.662
Specifična površina m <sup>2</sup> /g Specific area, m <sup>2</sup> /g	280	153	158	156	153	151

Slika 2. Odnos specifične površine i MAT konverzija kod ispitanih uzoraka  
 Figure 2. Relation of specific area and MAT conversion with testing samples

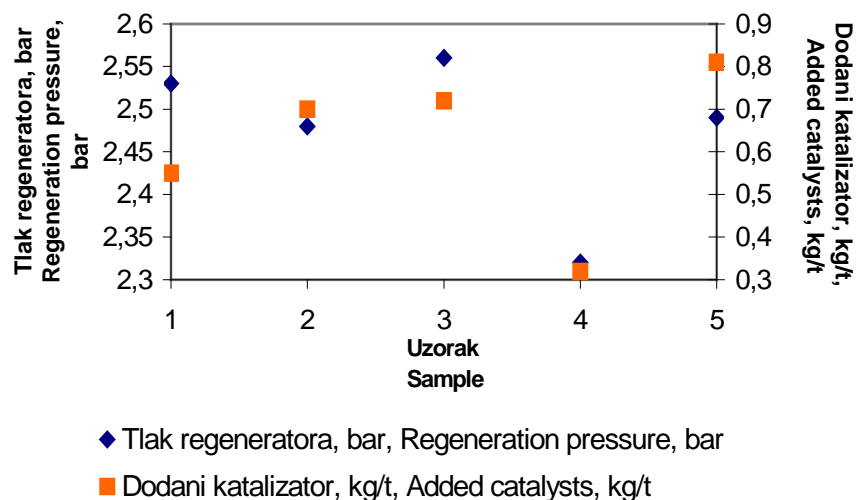


Slika 3: Odnos temeprature regeneracije i dodanog katalizatora kod ispitanih uzoraka  
 Figure 3: Relation of regeneration temperature and the amount of fresh catalysts addition with testing samples



Kako bi se održala određena specifična površina katalizatora, tj. njegova aktivnost te određeni željeni prinos produkata, u FCC jedinicu se svakodnevno dodaje određena količina svježeg katalizatora. Utjecaj temperature regeneracije na količinu dodanog svježeg katalizatora u procesu dan je na slici 3, dok je utjecaj tlaka regeneracije na količinu dodanog katalizatora dan na slici 4. Porast temperature i tlaka u regeneratoru prati dodatak svježeg katalizatora u procesu. Na taj se način održava zadovoljavajuća razina specifične površine i MAT konverzije.

Slika 4: Odnos tlaka regeneracije i dodanog katalizatora kod ispitanih uzoraka  
Figure 4: Relation of regeneration pressure and added catalysts with test. samples



#### 4. ZAKLJUČAK

Rad FCC procesa u praćenom razdoblju vođen je na optimalan način te nisu zabilježena velika odstupanja fizikalnih i katalitičkih svojstava testiranih uzoraka katalizatora. Ostvarena je prosječna vrijednost specifične površine od 155 m<sup>2</sup>/g te prosječna konverzija od 69 mas.%.

Dobiveni rezultati potvrđuju usku korelaciju između BET specifične površine i MAT aktivnosti ispitanih uzoraka katalizatora.

Pri povišenoj temperaturi i tlaku u regeneratoru potrebno je dodavati veću količinu svježeg katalizatora kako ne bi došlo do značajnog smanjenja specifične površine katalizatora, a time i aktivnosti.

Praćenjem specifične površine i MAT aktivnosti dobivaju se relevantni podaci o stanju katalizatora u FCC jedinici.

## MONITORING THE PROPERTIES OF FCC CATALYSTS IN THE OPERATION OF FCC UNIT

### *Abstract*

*Maintaining high conversion level in the fluid catalytic cracking (FCC) process contributes considerably to total refinery profit. The key role in this is that of the catalyst volume, being dosaged daily into the FCC process.*

*Laboratory tests of the samples of equilibrium FCC catalysts from the process are a part of the regular control of the FCC unit operation both for manufacturers and for users. The data of laboratory tests of physical and catalytic properties of equilibrium catalysts provide an insight into the operation of the FCC unit, and enable optimal process control. The present paper is a presentation of regular testing of equilibrium samples of FCC catalysts from OR Sisak, performed continuously in the lab of the Technological Development Service within the R&D Sector.*

*The paper presents the results of laboratory tests performed on five samples of equilibrium catalysts taken under different process conditions from the FCC unit within the period of one month.*

*During the tests the impact of process parameters was monitored on the changes of specific area and MAT conversion. The samples of equilibrium catalysts were determined their specific area according to BET-method, while the testing of catalytic activity was performed using microactivity test (MAT). Test results show that MAT conversion follows the catalyst specific area increase and decrease trend. The increase of temperature and pressure in the regeneration increases also the volume of fresh catalyst added into the process in order to maintain the existing activity and specific area of the catalyst.*

*The aim of the paper is to point to the importance of these tests which are a part of the necessary accompanying control of the FCC process, in order to optimize the operation of the FCC unit as much as possible at the lowest possible cost.*

## 1. INTRODUCTION

The most significant properties of zeolite catalysts in the FCC process are activity, selectivity and stability. FCC process proceeds in exchanging cycles of feed cracking and catalyst regeneration, with regeneration involving coke combustion on the catalyst at temperatures much higher than those in the reactor<sup>1</sup>. The exposure of



the catalyst to severe process conditions in reaction and regeneration cycles causes a change of its physico-chemical and catalytic properties. These changes lead to the appearance of deactivation causing the loss of porosity, reduction of specific area and pore size of the catalyst. Specific area is used as an important parameter for monitoring the degree of deactivation and for controlling the catalyst activity and stability during the FCC process<sup>2, 3</sup>. Reduction of specific area leads to reduced catalytic activity<sup>4</sup>.

Specific area of FCC catalyst constitutes total surface of all catalyst pores, including the surface of zeolite and matrix, while it is expressed in  $\text{m}^2/\text{g}$ <sup>5</sup>. Activity of the equilibrium catalyst is expressed as MAT-conversion of catalyst sample in standard microactivity test with standard feed. Catalyst activity also decreases with increased regeneration temperature. Specific area is correlated with the catalyst activity, while this relation is dependent on catalyst type. The loss of specific area of  $10\text{m}^2/\text{g}$  may reduce MAT conversion up to 5 units<sup>6</sup>. Apart from the process parameters, the catalyst activity level in the process, as well as specific area of equilibrium catalyst are also dependent on the metal volume on catalyst surface<sup>7</sup>.

Conversion changes in the FCC unit are under the impact of process parameters, quality of feed and catalyst properties. Unlike conversion in the FCC unit, MAT conversion changes are influenced only by the changes of catalyst properties. That is why MAT data make it possible to shut off the catalytic effect in the process when one wishes to determine the conversion change cause. Data obtained by microactivity test offer the possibility of optimizing catalytic cracking and achieving an even greater profitability of this significant conversion process<sup>8</sup>.

The volume of fresh catalyst added daily into the FCC process in order to maintain certain activity of the equilibrium catalyst and its specific area is called make-up and constitutes one among significant process costs. Double increase of the speed of catalytic make up in the process increases the values of MAT activities for 4-6 un.<sup>9</sup>.

## 2. THE EXPERIMENTAL PART

### 2.1. Catalysts and Feeds

Experimental tests performed on samples of commercial equilibrium catalysts from the FCC unit of OR Sisak were taken under various process conditions during one month. The physico-chemical properties of fresh FCC catalyst sample are shown in As feed for determining MAT activity of catalyst samples we used standard feed (compound of gas oils) used at microactivity tests.

### 2.2 The Methods

Process parameters of FCC process operation are shown in Table 2. Changes of the catalyst porous structure were monitored by determining specific area according to modified BET method ASTM D 3663-99. Determination of specific area according to BET method is based on determining the volume of adsorbed nitrogen on the surface of porous material at the temperature of liquid nitrogen in the condition of

adsorption equilibrium. Nitrogen adsorption on catalyst samples was performed on a Sorptometer.

Measuring of nitrogen adsorption on catalyst samples was performed under several various nitrogen pressures, at the operating temperature of surroundings and atmospheric pressure. For each pressure value, measured was the area of adsorbed nitrogen volume for the tested sample and area of calibration volume. The data obtained were used for calculating the volume of adsorbed nitrogen for every pressure value.

Tests of catalytic activity of equilibrium catalyst samples were performed on a laboratory device for catalytic cracking using microactivity test (MAT), according to the standard ASTM D 3907 method.

Tests are performed in pipe reactors with immovable catalyst layer (4,000 g) cleaned by nitrogen. When the operating temperature of 482°C is reached, commences cracking by introducing gas oil within 75 seconds. The gas and liquid products obtained are collected and analyzed through gas chromatography method. That is how data on the quality and quantity of all yielded products are obtained. After stripping with nitrogen follows the regeneration of catalyst using air at the temperature of 650 °C. The volume of deposited coke on the catalyst is determined in catalytic converter and expressed as mas. % CO<sub>2</sub>.

### 3. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The dependence of volume of adsorbed nitrogen on the catalyst on relative nitrogen pressure is presented by adsorption isotherm<sup>10</sup>. Figure 1 shows adsorption isotherms for samples of fresh and equilibrium FCC catalysts. The Figure shows that fresh catalyst adsorbes higher nitrogen volumes than equilibrium samples at the same nitrogen pressure. This points to the fact that fresh catalyst has a considerably larger specific area and activity than equilibrium samples which are deactivated by high temperature and vapour in regeneration, as well as by the presence of metal<sup>7</sup>. Adsorption isotherms for equilibrium catalyst samples show a very similar adsorption trend, which means that catalysts from the process have kept approximately the same specific area surface value during the FCC process operation.

According to BET equation, from the volume of adsorbed nitrogen on catalyst samples calculated were their specific areas presented in Table 3.

Figure 2 shows a close correlation between specific area and MAT activities. Decrease of specific are causes the lowering of catalyst activity in keeping with data from the references<sup>6</sup>.

In order to maintain a given specific catalyst area, i.e. its activity and a given wanted product yield, FCC unit is daily added a certain volume of fresh catalyst. The impact of regeneration temperature on the volume of added fresh catalyst in the process is given in Figure 3, while the impact of regeneration pressure on the volume of added catalyst is given in Figure 4. Increase of temperature and pressure in the

regeneration is accompanied by the adding of fresh catalyst in the process. That is how a satisfactory level of specific area and MAT conversion is being maintained.

#### 4. CONCLUSION

The operation of FCC process during monitored period was conducted in an optimal way and no major discrepancies of the physical and catalytic properties of tested catalyst samples were recorded. The average specific area value of 155 m<sup>2</sup>/g and average conversion of 69 mas. % were achieved.

The obtained results confirm a close correlation between BET specific area and MAT activities of tested catalyst samples.

At increased temperature and pressure in the regeneration, one must add a higher volume of fresh catalyst so as not to cause a considerable reduction of specific area of the catalyst, and hence its activity.

Monitoring specific area and MAT activity provide relevant data on catalyst condition in the FCC unit.

#### Literatura / References:

1. Halasz I., Horvath J., Manday T., Schmidt L., Tasnadi E., Zeolites: Synthesis, Structure, Technology and Application, vol. 24, Elsevir Science Publishers, Amsterdam , 393 (1985)
2. Hughes R., Deactivation of Catalysts, Academic Press, London,1984
3. Thomas J.M., Introduction to the principles heterogeneous Catalysis, London,1967
4. Delmon B.,Yates J.T., Catalyst Deactivation, International Symposium, Belgium,1994
5. Francis A.K., Industrial and Engineering Chemistry, **62** (1970)10 ,25
6. Interpretacion of Equilibrium Catalyst Data Sheers, Engelhard, www.engelhard.com
7. John B.R., Hydrocarbon Processing, **60** (1981) 9,113
8. Guid to FCC, Part Two, W.R. Grace@Co., 1996, 147
9. Upson L.L ., Hydrocarbon Processing , **60** (1981) 11, 253
10. Baiker A., International Chemical Engineering , **25** (1985) 1,

ključne riječi:	key words:
665.644.26 fluid katalitički kreking	fluid catalytic cracking (FCC)
66.097.38 nadopunjavanje i regeneracija katalizatora	catalyst replenishment and regeneration
66-503.56 optimalno vođenje i regulacija procesa	optimal process control and regulation
544.473-039.61 Brunauer-Emett-Taylor (BET) test specifične površine katalizatora	catalyst specific surface BET test
544.478.1 test mikroaktivnosti katalizatora MAT	catalyst MAT microactivity test

#### Autori / Authors:

Željka Bantić<sup>1</sup>, Maja Fabulić Ruszkowski<sup>1</sup>, Milorad Đukić<sup>2</sup>, Zdenko Čulig<sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup> INA, SSRII Zagreb, <sup>2</sup> INA, Rafinerija nafte Sisak

#### Primljeno / Received:

14.4.2004.