

METHOD FOR PARTIALLY REGENERATING METHANOL TO OLEFIN CATALYST AND METHANOL TO OLEFIN PROCESS

Technical Field

The present application relates to a method for partially regenerating methanol to olefin catalyst and a regenerated catalyst, which belongs to the field of chemical catalysts.

Background

Ethylene and propylene are important basic raw materials for the national economy and occupy an important strategic position in the development of the petrochemical and chemical industries. The raw material for producing ethylene in China is mainly naphtha, and its cost is relatively high. Industrial methanol to olefin technology starts from coal and light olefin with a high selectivity is successfully achieved by a fluidized bed process using a SAPO-based catalyst. However, the deactivation of SAPO-type catalysts will occur after reacting for a certain period of time due to coke deposition and it is necessary to carry out coke-burning for regenerating to restore the activity and selectivity of the catalyst. In the prior art, the regeneration process of the methanol to olefin catalyst uses a mixture of nitrogen and air or water steam and air as the regeneration feed gas. By adjusting the amount of nitrogen or water steam in the regeneration feed gas, the phenomenon of "temperature runaway" or "tail burning" in the regeneration process is avoiding. However, a large amount of greenhouse gas CO₂ is produced in this method, which is not conducive to environmental protection and reduces the utilization of carbon atoms in methanol.

US06/286604 discloses a method for regenerating a catalyst by mixing air and water steam, wherein the volume ratio of air to water steam is 1: 1 and the regeneration temperature is in a range of 450 °C to 480 °C. In this method, the rate of coke-burning is very fast due to the presence of air. The catalytic effect of the catalyst after regeneration is comparable to that of the fresh agent, and the selectivity to the initial light olefin is not increased, and the effect thereof is equivalent to complete regeneration.

Summary of The Invention

According to an aspect of the present invention, a method for partially regenerating a methanol to olefin catalyst is provided, which is capable of gasifying partial coke deposited on the deactivated catalyst with water steam to partially regenerate the deactivated methanol to -olefin catalyst quickly and efficiently. It is more favorable for methanol to olefin reaction than completely regenerating the catalyst.

In the prior art, it is generally recognized by those skilled in the art that the modification and structural modification of the fresh SAPO-34 molecular sieve catalyst, such as metal heteroatom modification, ship-in-a-bottle and cage modification, etc., are performed before the MTO reaction to improve the catalytic performance of the SAPO-34 catalyst. In the method of ship-in-a-bottle and cage modification, a large molecule is formed in the molecular sieve cage based on the

mechanism of the hydrocarbon pool, which not only reduces the number of acid centers in the cage, but also reduces the cage volume, thereby shortening the induction period of MTO reaction and improving the selectivity to light olefin. It is reported in the literature that the molecules that can modify the cage mainly comprise PH_3 , SiH_4 , Si_2H_6 and B_2H_6 . However, from the perspective of partial regeneration of the deactivated catalyst, there are few literature reports and patent applications to modify the cage structure through residual coke deposition. In combination with current industrial production, it is necessary to remove coke deposition as much as possible from deactivated catalysts for complete regeneration, so as to achieve better catalyst performance. However, the inventors of the present application have found through creative research that there is a technical bias in the above recognition. The inventive discovery of the present application is that the catalytic performances of the deactivated methanol to olefin catalyst and the fully regenerated methanol to olefin catalyst are not satisfactory for the methanol to olefin reaction, but the incompletely regenerated catalyst which retains a certain amount of coke deposition has better catalytic activity and can greatly improve the selectivity to the initial light olefins and also ensure the highest selectivity of the catalyst to light olefins, thereby improving the overall selectivity to the light olefins.

The method for partially regenerating methanol to olefin catalyst, characterized in that the method comprises placing a deactivated methanol to olefin catalyst in a regenerator for a partial regeneration reaction to obtain a regenerated catalyst;

At least a portion of the regenerated catalyst has a coke amount of more than 1%.

Further preferably, among the regenerated catalyst obtained by the partial regeneration reaction in the regenerator, at least a portion of the regenerated catalyst has a coke amount in a range of 1.7% to 6%.

Preferably, the lower limit of the coke amount of the regenerated catalyst obtained by the partial regeneration reaction in the regenerator is selected from 1%, 1.5%, 1.7%, 1.76%, 2%, 2.94%, 3%, 3.89% and 4 %, the upper limit is selected from 2%, 2.94%, 3%, 3.89%, 4%, 4.82%, 5.16%, 5.95% and 6%.

Further preferably, the regenerated catalyst obtained by the partial regeneration reaction in the regenerator has a coke amount in a range of 2% to 6%.

In the present application, the formula for calculating the coke amount ω of the catalyst is as shown in the following formula I:

The coke amount $\omega = (m_{250^\circ\text{C}} - m_{900^\circ\text{C}}) / m_{250^\circ\text{C}} \times 100\%$ Formula I

In Formula I, ω is the coke amount of the catalyst in mass percentage, and $m_{250^\circ\text{C}}$ is the mass of the catalyst when the temperature is raised to 250 °C, and $m_{900^\circ\text{C}}$ is the mass of the catalyst when the temperature is raised to 900 °C, and the heating process is performed in air.

Preferably, in the partial regeneration reaction, water steam is introduced into the regenerator.

If air or oxygen is introduced into the regenerator, the regeneration reaction is a reaction between the coke deposited on the deactivated catalyst and O_2 . Since it is equivalent to the combustion reaction of the coke itself, it is difficult to control the degree of combustion and is difficult to obtain an incompletely regenerated catalyst;

and the catalytic activity of the coke deposited on the catalyst which is not completely oxidized to CO_2 after reacting with O_2 is not high, and the selectivity to ethylene and propylene in MTO reaction is also low.

Specifically, when air is used for regenerating catalyst, even if the degree of reaction is controlled and the catalyst is not completely regenerated, partially regenerating the catalyst by coke-burning with air will cause a large change in the residual coke properties of the catalyst. The co-catalysis of the regenerated catalyst will weaken during the MTO reaction and the selectivity to light olefins cannot reach the maximum since oxygen first reacts with hydrogen to gradually convert the residual coke into heavy components, while heavy components has no catalytic activity for the methanol to olefin reaction.

As a preferred embodiment of the present application, water steam is introduced into the regenerator instead of the regeneration gas containing oxygen, and the regeneration reaction in the technical solution of the present application is a reaction between the coke deposited on the deactivated catalyst and H_2O . During the regeneration process, the water steam reacts with the coke selectively, so that the properties of the residual coke can be effectively controlled by the regeneration temperature and time, thereby the selectivity to the light olefin in the reaction may be further ensured. In the technical solution of the present application, the catalyst is in contact with water steam under an inert gas atmosphere so as to avoid the influence of air on the performance of the catalyst.

Further preferably, the contact time between the water steam introduced into the regenerator and the deactivated methanol to olefin catalyst is in a range of 10 min to 40 min.

Further preferably, the water steam is introduced into the regenerator with a space velocity in a range of 4 h^{-1} to 8 h^{-1} .

Preferably, the partial regeneration reaction is carried out at a temperature in a range of 600°C to 750°C ;

Further preferably, the partial regeneration reaction is carried out at a temperature in a range of 710°C to 750°C ;

Preferably, the deactivated methanol to olefin catalyst has a coke amount in a range of 7% to 12%.

Preferably, an inert gas is also introduced into the regenerator.

The inert gas is at least one selected from nitrogen, helium, argon, and neon.

Further preferably, in the partial regeneration reaction, the volume fraction of oxygen in the gas phase of the regenerator is $\leq 1\%$.

Preferably, the methanol to olefin catalyst is subjected to a methanol to olefin reaction in a fluidized bed reactor, and the deactivated methanol to olefin catalyst is transported to a regenerator for a partial regeneration reaction to obtain a regenerated catalyst, which is an incompletely regenerated catalyst. The incompletely regenerated catalyst is recycled back to the fluidized bed reactor.

In the present application, the incompletely regenerated catalyst refers to a regenerated catalyst in which the coke deposition on the catalyst is not completely removed after being regenerated, and a portion of the coke deposition remains on the

catalyst. It may also be referred to as a partially regenerated catalyst.
Preferably, the catalyst is a molecular sieve catalyst.
Preferably, the methanol to olefin catalyst is a fluidized bed catalyst.
Preferably, the catalyst is a silicoaluminophosphate molecular sieve (abbreviated as SAPO molecular sieve) catalyst.
Preferably, the reactor is a fluidized bed reactor.
Preferably, an inert gas is introduced into the reactor for sweeping before the water steam is introduced. Preferably, the inert gas is at least one selected from argon and nitrogen.
According to another aspect of the present invention, a methanol to olefin process is provided, wherein the methanol to olefin reaction is carried out in a fluidized bed with the use of a methanol to olefin catalyst, characterized in that at least a portion of the regenerated catalyst has a coke amount of more than 1%.
Preferably, the regenerated catalyst has a coke amount in a range of 2% to 6%.
Preferably, the regenerated catalyst is obtained by at least one of the above-described methods for partially regenerating methanol to olefin catalyst.

The beneficial effects that can be produced by this application include:

- 1) the catalyst is partially regenerated by gasifying coke deposited on the catalyst with water steam as the regeneration gas and the gasification product are mainly CO and H₂, which can be recycled, and the utilization rate of carbon atoms in methanol can be improved.
- 2) The gasification rate of water steam is slow, which is beneficial to the control of the amount of residual coke in the catalyst, the reaction of gasifying coke with water steam is carried out in the vicinity of the active site of the catalyst, thereby the coke is removed selectively.
- 3) The MTO reaction is carried out with a catalyst partially regenerated by water steam, which can greatly improve the selectivity to the initial light olefin and also ensure the highest selectivity, thereby the overall selectivity to the light olefin is improved. The selectivity to the initial light olefin of the fully regenerated catalyst is 62.57%, and the selectivity to the initial light olefin of the partially regenerated catalyst in the present process can be controlled within a range of 63% to 83%.
- 4) The MTO reaction is carried out with a catalyst partially regenerated by water steam, the reactant of methanol is nearly completely converted, and the methanol conversion is the same as that of the fresh catalyst. The conversion of methanol with the use of the partially regenerated catalyst in the method is close to 100%.

Description of The Figures

Fig. 1 is a schematic view showing the performance test results of a partially regenerated catalyst in an embodiment of the present invention.

Fig. 2 is a schematic view showing the performance test results of a partially regenerated catalyst in an embodiment of the present invention.

Fig. 3 is a schematic view showing the performance test results of a partially regenerated catalyst in an embodiment of the present invention.

Fig. 4 is a schematic view showing the performance test results of a partially regenerated catalyst in an embodiment of the present invention.

Fig. 5 is a schematic view showing the performance test results of a partially regenerated catalyst in an embodiment of the present invention.

Fig. 6 is a schematic view showing the performance test results of a partially regenerated catalyst in an embodiment of the present invention.

Detailed Description of the Embodiment

The present application is described in detail below with reference to the examples, but the application is not limited to the examples.

The methanol to olefin catalyst SAPO-34 used commercially in the present application is purchased from Zhengda Energy Materials (Dalian) Co., Ltd.

The coke amount of the catalyst is measured as follows:

The catalyst is heated to 250 °C in air, and the mass of the catalyst is recorded as $m_{250\text{ }^{\circ}\text{C}}$; the catalyst is further heated to 900 °C in air, and the mass of the catalyst is recorded as $m_{900\text{ }^{\circ}\text{C}}$; the coke amount of the catalyst is determined by the following formula I:

The coke amount $\omega = (m_{250\text{ }^{\circ}\text{C}} - m_{900\text{ }^{\circ}\text{C}}) / m_{250\text{ }^{\circ}\text{C}} \times 100\%$ Formula I

Example 1

4g of commercial methanol to olefin catalyst SAPO-34 is charged into a fixed-fluidized bed reactor to carry out a methanol to olefin reaction. The reaction raw material is a methanol aqueous solution with a concentration of 80 wt%, the reaction temperature is 490 °C, the pressure is 0.1 MPa and the space velocity is 2.1 h⁻¹. After the catalyst is deactivated, the coke amount of the deactivated catalyst is measured to be 9.18%.

After the catalyst is deactivated, a nitrogen gas with a flow rate of 100 mL/min is introduced into the reactor for sweeping, the temperature of the reactor heating furnace is set. When the temperature is raised to 700 °C, the nitrogen gas is continuously swept for 10 minutes, and then water steam is introduced with a mass space velocity of 6 h⁻¹, and the temperature is kept for 15min. When the gasification of the water steam is finished, a small amount of catalyst is taken to measure the coke amount. The coke amount is 5.95%. The regeneration is stopped after the temperature programming is over, the regeneration gas is switched to nitrogen gas. When the temperature of the heating furnace drops to 490°C, keep it for 20 min. A methanol aqueous solution with a concentration of 80wt% is introduced after the temperature is stabilized, the space velocity is 2.1 h⁻¹, the pressure is 0.1 MPa, and an evaluation of methanol to olefin reaction is carried out. The conversion of methanol and the selectivity to olefin with the regenerated catalyst are shown in Figure 1. In the figure, "fresh agent" means a methanol to olefin catalyst which has not been used in the examples, that is, which is used as a methanol to olefin catalyst for the first time.

Example 2

4g of commercial methanol to olefin catalyst SAPO-34 is charged into a fixed-fluidized bed reactor to carry out a methanol to olefin reaction. The reaction raw

material is a methanol aqueous solution with a concentration of 80 wt%, the reaction temperature is 490 °C, the pressure is 0.1 MPa and the space velocity is 2.1 h⁻¹. After the catalyst is deactivated, the coke amount of the deactivated catalyst is measured to be 11.88%.

After the catalyst is deactivated, a nitrogen gas with a flow rate of 100 mL/min is introduced into the reactor for sweeping, the temperature of the reactor heating furnace is set. When the temperature is raised to 700 °C, the nitrogen gas is continuously swept for 10 minutes, and then water steam is introduced with a mass space velocity of 6 h⁻¹, and the temperature is kept for 30 min. When the gasification of the water steam is finished, a small amount of catalyst is taken to measure the coke amount. The coke amount is 4.82%. The regeneration is stopped after the temperature programming is over, the regeneration gas is switched to nitrogen gas. When the temperature of the heating furnace drops to 490 °C, keep it for 20 min. A methanol aqueous solution with a concentration of 80wt% is introduced after the temperature is stabilized, the space velocity is 2.1 h⁻¹, the pressure is 0.1 MPa, and an evaluation of methanol to olefin reaction is carried out. The conversion of methanol and the selectivity to olefin with the regenerated catalyst are shown in Figure 2. In the figure, "fresh agent" means a methanol to olefin catalyst which has not been used in the examples, that is, which is used as a methanol to olefin catalyst for the first time.

Example 3

4g of commercial methanol to olefin catalyst SAPO-34 is charged into a fixed-fluidized bed reactor to carry out a methanol to olefin reaction. The reaction raw material is a methanol aqueous solution with a concentration of 80 wt%, the reaction temperature is 490 °C, the pressure is 0.1 MPa and the space velocity is 2.1 h⁻¹. After the catalyst is deactivated, the coke amount of the deactivated catalyst is measured to be 7.08%.

After the catalyst is deactivated, a nitrogen gas with a flow rate of 100 mL/min is introduced into the reactor for sweeping, the temperature of the reactor heating furnace is set. When the temperature is raised to 750 °C, the nitrogen is continuously swept for 10 minutes, and then water steam is introduced with a mass space velocity of 6h⁻¹, and the temperature is kept for 10 min. When the gasification of the water steam is finished, a small amount of catalyst is taken to measure the coke amount. The coke amount is 5.16%. The regeneration is stopped after the temperature programming is over, the regeneration gas is switched to nitrogen gas. When the temperature of the heating furnace drops to 490 °C, keep it for 20 min. A methanol aqueous solution with a concentration of 80wt% is introduced after the temperature is stabilized, the space velocity is 2.1 h⁻¹, the pressure is 0.1 MPa, and an evaluation of methanol to olefin reaction is carried out. The conversion of methanol and the selectivity to olefin with the regenerated catalyst are shown in Figure 3. In the figure, "fresh agent" means a methanol to olefin catalyst which has not been used in the examples, that is, which is used as a methanol to olefin catalyst for the first time.

Example 4

4g of commercial methanol to olefin catalyst SAPO-34 is charged into a fixed-fluidized bed reactor to carry out a methanol to olefin reaction. The reaction raw

material is a methanol aqueous solution with a concentration of 80 wt%, the reaction temperature is 490 °C, the pressure is 0.1 MPa and the space velocity is 2.1 h⁻¹. After the catalyst is deactivated, the coke amount of the deactivated catalyst is measured to be 9.18%.

After the catalyst is deactivated, a nitrogen gas with a flow rate of 100 mL/min is introduced into the reactor for sweeping, the temperature of the reactor heating furnace is set. When the temperature is raised to 750 °C, the nitrogen gas is continuously swept for 10 minutes, and then water steam is introduced with a mass space velocity of 6h⁻¹, and the temperature is kept for 20 min. When the gasification of the water steam is finished, a small amount of catalyst is taken to measure the coke amount. The coke amount is 3.89%. The regeneration is stopped after the temperature programming is over, the regeneration gas is switched to nitrogen gas. When the temperature of the heating furnace drops to 490 °C, keep it for 20 min. A methanol aqueous solution with a concentration of 80wt% is introduced after the temperature is stabilized, the space velocity is 2.1 h⁻¹, the pressure is 0.1 MPa, and an evaluation of methanol to olefin reaction is carried out. The conversion of methanol and the selectivity to olefin with the regenerated catalyst are shown in Figure 4. In the figure, "fresh agent" means a methanol to olefin catalyst which has not been used in the examples, that is, which is used as a methanol to olefin catalyst for the first time.

Example 5

4g of commercial methanol to olefin catalyst SAPO-34 is charged into a fixed-fluidized bed reactor to carry out a methanol to olefin reaction. The reaction raw material is a methanol aqueous solution with a concentration of 80 wt%, the reaction temperature is 490 °C, the pressure is 0.1 MPa and the space velocity is 2.1 h⁻¹. After the catalyst is deactivated, the coke amount of the deactivated catalyst is measured to be 9.18%.

After the catalyst is deactivated, a nitrogen gas with a flow rate of 100 mL/min is introduced into the reactor for sweeping, the temperature of the reactor heating furnace is set. When the temperature is raised to 750 °C, the nitrogen gas is continuously swept for 10 minutes, and then water steam is introduced with a mass space velocity of 6h⁻¹, and the temperature is kept for 30 min. When the gasification of the water steam is finished, a small amount of catalyst is taken to measure the coke amount. The coke amount is 2.94%. The regeneration is stopped after the temperature programming is over, the regeneration gas is switched to nitrogen gas. When the temperature of the heating furnace drops to 490 °C, keep it for 20 min. A methanol aqueous solution with a concentration of 80wt% is introduced after the temperature is stabilized, the space velocity is 2.1 h⁻¹, the pressure is 0.1 MPa, and an evaluation of methanol to olefin reaction is carried out. The conversion of methanol and the selectivity to olefin with the regenerated catalyst are shown in Figure 5. In the figure, "fresh agent" means a methanol to olefin catalyst which has not been used in the examples, that is, which is used as a methanol to olefin catalyst for the first time.

Example 6

4g of commercial methanol to olefin catalyst SAPO-34 is charged into a fixed-fluidized bed reactor to carry out a methanol to olefin reaction. The reaction raw

material is a methanol aqueous solution with a concentration of 80 wt%, the reaction temperature is 490 °C, the pressure is 0.1 MPa and the space velocity is 2.1 h⁻¹. After the catalyst is deactivated, the coke amount of the deactivated catalyst is measured to be 9.18%.

After the catalyst is deactivated, a nitrogen gas with a flow rate of 100 mL/min is introduced into the reactor for sweeping, the temperature of the reactor heating furnace is set. When the temperature is raised to 750 °C, the nitrogen gas is continuously swept for 10 minutes, and then water steam is introduced with a mass space velocity of 6h⁻¹, and the temperature is kept for 40 min. When the gasification of the water steam is finished, a small amount of catalyst is taken to measure the coke amount. The coke amount is 1.76%. The regeneration is stopped after the temperature programming is over, the regeneration gas is switched to nitrogen gas. When the temperature of the heating furnace drops to 490 °C, keep it for 20 min. A methanol aqueous solution with a concentration of 80wt% is introduced after the temperature is stabilized, the space velocity is 2.1 h⁻¹, the pressure is 0.1 MPa, and an evaluation of methanol to olefin reaction is carried out. The conversion of methanol and the selectivity to olefin with the regenerated catalyst are shown in Figure 6. In the figure, "fresh agent" means a methanol to olefin catalyst which has not been used in the examples, that is, which is used as a methanol to olefin catalyst for the first time.

The above are only a few examples of the present application, and are not intended to limit the present application in any way. Although the present application is disclosed in the above with preferred example, it is not intended to limit the present application. Any one skilled in the art can understand that other changes and modifications by using the above technical content without departing from the scope of the technical solution of the present application are equivalent to equivalent embodiments and belong to the scope of the technical solution.

Claims

1. A methanol to olefin process, comprising:
 - placing a deactivated methanol-to-olefin catalyst in a regenerator;
 - introducing a regeneration gas which consists of water steam into the regenerator to contact with the deactivated-methanol-to-olefin-catalyst so as to gasify partial coke deposited on the deactivated-methanol-to-olefin-catalyst using the water steam, thereby obtaining a partially-regenerated-methanol-to-olefin-catalyst having a coke amount in a range from 3.89wt% to 6wt%;
 - introducing the partially-regenerated-methanol-to-olefin-catalyst into a fluidized bed to carry out the methanol to olefin reaction,
 - wherein the regeneration gas does not contain oxygen.
2. The methanol to olefin process of claim 1, wherein the contact time between the water steam and the deactivated methanol to olefin catalyst is in a range of 10 min to 40 min.
3. The methanol to olefin process of claim 2, wherein the water steam is introduced into the regenerator with a space velocity in a range of 4h^{-1} to 8h^{-1} .
4. The methanol to olefin process of claim 1, wherein the obtaining the partially-regenerated-methanol-to-olefin-catalyst is carried out at a temperature in a range of $600\text{ }^{\circ}\text{C}$ to $750\text{ }^{\circ}\text{C}$.
5. The methanol to olefin process of claim 1, wherein the obtaining the partially-regenerated-methanol-to-olefin-catalyst is carried out at a temperature in a range of $710\text{ }^{\circ}\text{C}$ to $750\text{ }^{\circ}\text{C}$.
6. The methanol to olefin process of claim 1, wherein the deactivated methanol to olefin catalyst has a coke amount in a range of 7wt% to 12wt%.
7. The methanol to olefin process of claim 1, wherein an inert gas is also introduced into the regenerator; the inert gas is at least one selected from nitrogen, helium, argon, and neon.
8. The methanol to olefin process of claim 1, wherein,
 - the partially regenerated methanol to olefin catalyst contains a silicoaluminophosphate molecular sieve; and
 - the partially regenerated methanol to olefin catalyst is a fluidized bed catalyst.