

A PERFORMANCE MODEL FOR A FLUID CATALYTIC CRACKING (FCC) UNIT

by

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Submitted

in fulfillment of the requirements of the degree of Doctor of Philosophy

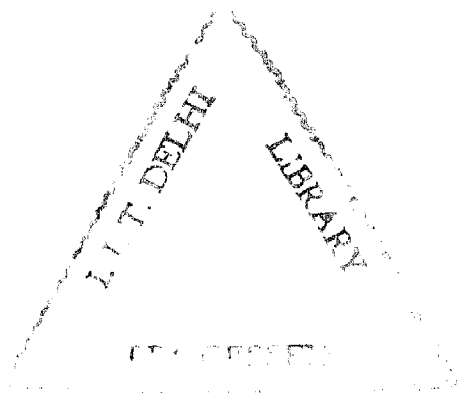
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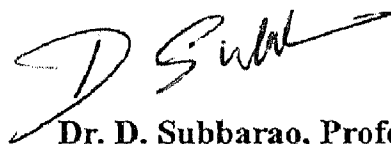
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Certificate

This is to certify that the thesis titled “**A Performance Model For A Fluid Catalytic Cracking (FCC) Unit**”, being submitted by **Ajay Gupta** to the Indian Institute of Technology, Delhi for the award of degree Doctor of Philosophy in Chemical Engineering, is record of bonafide research work carried out by him. Ajay Gupta has worked under my guidance and supervision and has fulfilled the requirement for the submission of this thesis.

The results contained in the thesis have not been submitted in part or in full to any other university or institute for award of any degree or diploma.



Dr. D. Subbarao, Professor,

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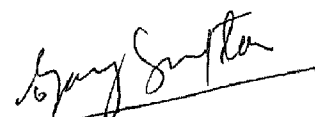
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Abstract

A fluid catalytic cracking unit (FCCU) comprises of a riser reactor and a regenerator. Performance models for riser and regenerator are needed to optimize/improve the performance of FCCU. A performance model to predict overall conversion and product yield profiles in an FCC riser is developed considering the effect of feed atomization (drop size generated by the feed nozzle system), heat transfer, vaporization, fluidization hydrodynamics, mass transfer and catalytic cracking kinetics. The model accounts for axial variation in

- Gas velocity due to feed vaporization and molar expansion.
- Solid and liquid holdup due to acceleration of clusters of catalyst particles/drops and associated slip between gas and clusters/drops.
- Temperature of both catalyst and gas due to feed vaporization and endothermic heat of reaction.
- Catalyst activity due to coke deposition on the catalyst surface during cracking reactions.

The most significant feature of the riser model is its capability to predict effect of initial drop size, generated by the feed nozzle, on conversion and yields. A regenerator model is adopted from literature and is used in combination with the developed riser model to simulate the entire FCCU and predict effect of feed atomization on its performance. It is predicted that overall conversion, gasoline yield and gas yield for an initial drop size (generated by the feed nozzle) of 50 microns are higher by 8.2 wt. %, 6.5 wt. % and 1.7 wt. % respectively as compared to those for an initial drop size of 500 microns.

Contents

	Page No.
Certificate	i
Acknowledgements	ii
Abstract	iii
Contents	iv
List of figures	vii
List of Tables	ix
Nomenclature	xi
Chapter 1 Introduction	1
1.1 Process description	1
1.2 FCCU performance	4
1.3 Concluding remarks	5
Chapter 2 Literature review	7
2.1 FCC performance models	7
2.1.1 FCC riser models	7
2.1.2 FCC regenerator models	13
2.2 Kinetics	16
2.2.1 Cracking kinetics and catalyst deactivation	16
2.2.2 Regeneration kinetics	23
2.3 Hydrodynamics	26
2.3.1 Fluidization regimes	26
2.3.2 Riser hydrodynamics	30

2.3.3	Regenerator hydrodynamics	35
2.4	Heat transfer	37
2.4.1	Gas to particle heat transfer	37
2.4.2	Heating and vaporization of feed droplets in FCC risers	38
2.5	Mass Transfer	40
2.6	Concluding remarks	41
Chapter 3	FCC riser model	42
3.1	Modeling approach and assumptions	42
3.2	Model equations	46
3.2.1	Material balance	46
3.2.2	Heat transfer and vaporization	48
3.2.3	Hydrodynamics	54
3.2.4	Reaction kinetics	58
3.2.5	Mass transfer	60
3.2.6	Composition and yields	60
3.2.7	Gas phase properties	63
3.3	Solution procedure	64
3.4	Concluding remarks	65
Chapter 4	FCC regenerator model	67
4.1	Modeling approach and assumptions	67
4.2	Model equations	71
4.2.1	Material balance	71
4.2.2	Energy balance	72

4.2.3	Kinetics	72
4.2.4	Hydrodynamics	75
4.2.5	Gas phase composition	76
4.3	Solution procedure	77
4.4	Concluding remarks	78
Chapter 5	Simulation, results and discussion	80
5.1	Riser simulations	80
5.2	Regenerator simulations	102
5.3	Simulation of entire FCCU	104
5.4	Concluding remarks	108
Chapter 6	Summary and conclusions	109
References		112
About the author		126