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2012

Dostupný z <http://www.nusl.cz/ntk/nusl-127031>

Dílo je chráněno podle autorského zákona č. 121/2000 Sb.

Tento dokument byl stažen z Národního úložiště šedé literatury (NUŠL).

Datum stažení: 08.06.2024

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## DEPOSITION OF Mo AND Co SULFIDES ON UNCONVENTIONAL SILICA-ALUMINA SUPPORTS FOR MODEL HYDROTREATING REACTIONS.

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More stringent environmental regulations contributes to maintain a high interest in the development of more effective hydrotreating catalysts. New supports are therefore investigated as an alternative to conventionally used gamma-Al<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub> to achieve more efficient catalysts or catalysts with new function. Among them, the silica-alumina possesses interesting features due to its acidity.

We have investigated amorphous silica-alumina with Al<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub> content equal to 52 wt.% (SA52), which was synthesized by cogelification from aqueous solutions of sodium metasilicate and aluminium nitrate<sup>1</sup>. The SA52 was then modified with nitric acid to decrease the Al<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub> content to 30 and 19 wt.% (MSA30, MSA19). The prepared supports and the pure SiO<sub>2</sub> were allowed to react with aqueous slurry of MoO<sub>3</sub> at 95°C for 8 h. The unreacted slurry was removed from the support and the sample was sulfided in the mixture of hydrogen and hydrogen sulfide at 400°C. Parts of the sulfided catalysts were impregnated from methanolic solution of cobalt acetylacetonate to achieve molar ratio Co/(Co+Mo) = 0.3 and resulfided.

The selected supports and catalysts were characterized by ICP/AAS, XRD, N<sub>2</sub> physisorption and O<sub>2</sub> chemisorption. In fixed-bed flow microreactors, the acidity of the support and the CoMo catalysts were determined by cyclohexene isomerization (240°C, 0.5 MPa of H<sub>2</sub>) and cumene cracking (400°C, 0.5 MPa of H<sub>2</sub>) and the activity of Mo and CoMo catalysts were determined by 1-benzothiophene (BT) HDS at 360°C and 1.6 MPa of H<sub>2</sub>.

It was found that MoO<sub>3</sub> does not adsorb onto pure SiO<sub>2</sub> despite its relatively high surface area (400 m<sup>2</sup>/g). In contrast, SA52, MSA30, and MSA19 with surface areas 430, 580 and 600 m<sup>2</sup>/g adsorbed about 14, 7 and 3 wt.% of MoO<sub>3</sub>, respectively. The content of Al<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub> in the SA based materials thus well correlated with the adsorption loadings of MoO<sub>3</sub> achieved by the saturation experiments. Moreover, it was acquired that the highest dispersion and HDS activities were achieved over catalysts containing dealuminated MSA supports despite of relatively low loadings of Mo.

After Co deposition, the weight normalized activities in BT HDS increased 2.2 and 4.3 times (the samples CoMo/MSA30 and CoMo/MSA19) reflecting on effective MoS<sub>2</sub> promotion by Co on more acidic supports. Furthermore, those catalysts keep the high acidities of the original supports, as it was determined by cyclohexene isomerization and cumene cracking, while industrial reference CoMo catalysts supported onto gamma-Al<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub> was found to exhibit low acidity.

Authors gratefully acknowledge the Czech Science Foundation (grant numbers P106/11/0902 and 104/09/0751) for the financial support.

### References:

- <sup>1</sup> Vít, Z., Šolcová, O. *Micropor. Mesopor. Mater.* **2006**, *96*, 197-204.

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