Catalysts of Cracking on the Basis of Heteropolyacids

Abstract. Heteropolyacids (HPA) are strong Bronsted acids. The heteropolyacids of the 12 series are the most valuable for catalytic reactions. The purpose of the work was to develop the composition of cracking catalysts based on the natural zeolite of the Shankanay deposit (Kazakhstan). Modification of the catalysts was carried out with mineral acids, organic acids and HPA. The catalysts have been extensively studied by a complex of physicochemical methods. According to IR spectroscopy data, after decationation and dealumination, the natural zeolite does not change its crystal structure. Presumably, the formation of the bond of HPA with the zeolite occurs when the zeolite of the HPA is modified. Electron microscopy data indicate high degrees of dispersion and particle distribution of PW12-HPA on the surface of clinoptilolite. A detailed study of the zeolite surface by the TEM-BP method has shown the formation of stable cluster structures 1-2 nm in size, which are partially embedded in the zeolite volume. These clusters are evenly distributed over the surface of the zeolite and are available for reacting substances.

Keywords: catalytic cracking, heteropolyacids, zeolite of the Shankanay deposit, electron microscopy.

Introduction

Catalysis using heteropolycompounds is one of the important directions in modern catalysis. In acid catalysis, predominantly heteropolyacids are used. The compounds of a proton with a complex anion of inorganic polyoxometallates - molybdenum, tungsten, less frequently vanadium are called heteropolyacids (HPA) [1-3]. HPA are ionic crystals in the solid state, they consist of a large heteropolyanion, a cation, crystallization water, in some cases they also contain additional molecules. The unique physicochemical properties of HPA, providing great potential for the preparation of catalysts with controlled acidity, dispersity of the modifier metal, increased thermal stability, have led to their use as modifiers of heterogeneous catalysts in catalysis [4-11]. The highest value for catalysis is HPA of 12 row. They contain heteropolyanions - the structures of the most common heteropolyanion Keggin XnMo12−nO40−8, or XnW12−nO40−8, where X is a central atom (Si, P, As), n is its oxidation degree, M is metal (molybdenum, tungsten or vanadium) [12-15]. HPA of tungsten row PW12-HPA (H3PW12O40·6H2O) or of molybdenum row PMO12-HPA (H3PMO12O40·6H2O) are well studied [17, 18, 19]. In the Keggin anion H3PW12O40−, for example, the tungsten atom is located in the center of the oxygen octahedron. The phosphorus atom is surrounded by 12WO6 octahedra, forming PO4 tetrahedron. This structure is retained in concentrated solutions of HPA even after the loss of several oxygen atoms. For this reason, HPA has, like zeolites, a high adsorption capacity. For example, polar molecules such as water and alcohols easily penetrate the pores of the HPA and leave the volume of the catalyst, expanding and compressing the distances between the keggin anions, while nonpolar molecules (e.g., hydrocarbons) do not give such an effect. This model allows to successfully explain the characteristic behavior of HPA, for example, high catalytic activity at low temperatures, the Keggin structure has a sufficiently high strength [21]. Acid-catalytic liquid-phase
processes based on HPA catalysts were carried out on an industrial scale, for example, hydration of propylene, isobutylene, butenes, polymerization of tetrahydrofuran. HPA are strong Bronsted acids and surpass the strength of many mineral acids. HPA have stronger acid sites than the zeolites HX, HY and amorphous aluminosilicates. The acidity of the solid acidity of HPA close to acidity of superacids. This determines the prospects of their use as acidic homogeneous and heterogeneous catalysts. HPA can be applied to the surface of such carriers as SiO₂, TiO₂. The main carriers Al₂O₃, MgO, - tend to decompose HPA. The practical use of HPA is mainly due to their use as catalysts for the oxidation of unsaturated hydrocarbons, olefin polymerization, epoxidation. Solid HPA, including applied, are used as catalysts in the alkylation of aromatic compounds, hydration of olefins and in other acid-type reactions. Heteropolycarboxylic compounds of molybdenum find application as flame delayers. An even wider area is their use in reactions where it is necessary to combine acid-base and oxidation-reduction properties of the catalyst. It is known that the acid nature of the catalyst plays a fundamental role in the cracking of hydrocarbon feedstocks. However, the information on the use of HPA in cracking is not numerous, and the cracking properties of HPA-modified natural zeolites have not been practically investigated.

The aim of the work is the synthesis of cracking catalysts based on the natural zeolite of the Shankanay deposit (Kazakhstan), modified with mineral acids, organic acids and HPA and the study of the qualitative and quantitative compositions of the working surface of the catalysts by physical and chemical methods of investigation.

Materials and methods

For preparation of long-chain α-olefins from paraffins, cracking catalysts based on the natural zeolite of the Shankanay deposit (Kazakhstan) were prepared by modifying the natural zeolite with mineral acids, organic acids and HPA. Samples were also synthesized on the basis of industrial γ-Al₂O₃ with bulk density 0.68 g/cm³ modified by HPA. For removal various metals from the cation surface (mainly alkaline and alkaline earth), the zeolite was treated with mineral acids. Natural zeolite (NZ) and previously decactionated with hydrochloric acid solutions of natural zeolite (H-NZ) were processed with complexons. For example, using one-, two- and three-fold modification of the natural zeolite with 1.75 N HCl samples of cracking catalysts: H-NZ-1, H-NZ-2 and H-NZ-3 were synthesized. For the selective removal of Fe³⁺ iron ions, facilitating the carburization process, a chosen zeolite was treated with organic acids. For this aim, chelating agents (for example, sulfosalicylic acid and citric acid with 10% or 20% concentration), ethylenediamine-tetraacetic acid and its disodium salt of EDTA (Trilon B, aqueous 10% strength solution) were used. All these listed compounds with iron ions form stable water-soluble complexonates.

Treatment of zeolites with HPA was carried out for strengthening of force of the acid centers on which cracking reaction proceeds. For this aim the new catalysts for the cracking of decationized natural zeolite and industrial alumina have been synthesized and have been modified by the heteropolyacids of the molybdenum and tungsten series: PMO₁₂·HPA/H-NZ, PMO₁₂·HPA/Al₂O₃, PW₁₂·HPA/H-NZ and PW₁₂·HPA/Al₂O₃. HPA were used in an amount of 1.0% to 10% by impregnation on the surface of a decationized natural zeolite (H-NZ) by a known technique.

Results and discussion

By IR spectroscopy and X-ray diffraction analysis were studied the structure and phase composition of the catalysts synthesized on the basis of the natural zeolite of the Shankanay deposit (NZ-1) and industrial alumina, modified by the HPA of the molybdenum and tungsten series (PW₁₂·HPA/H-NZ-1 and PW₁₂·HPA/Al₂O₃ the content of the HPA was 1%, 3%, 5% and 10%), 10% of PMO₁₂·HPA/H-NZ-1 and 10% of PW₁₂·HPA/Al₂O₃. The IR spectra (fig. 1, 2) of the starting PMO₁₂·HPA and PW₁₂·HPA contain the following main absorption bands: 510; 594; 789; 867; 962; 1,065; 1,400; 1,618; 2,850; 2,925; 3,210; 3,419 cm⁻¹, which are typical for the compound of the composition H₂PMO₁₂·O₄₀·6H₂O and H₂PW₁₂·O₄₀·6H₂O, respectively (fig. 1, a; fig. 2, a). The results of the investigation of the samples of H-NZ-1, PMO₁₂·HPA/H-NZ-1, PW₁₂·HPA/H-NZ-1 by IR spectroscopy and their comparative analysis show that their spectra contain characteristic absorption bands of the clinoptyiolite type zeolite in the region of 465; 615; 780; 1,060; 1,635; 3,460 cm⁻¹. In the IR spectra of the zeolite sample of the Shankanay field activated by acid, these absorption bands are very clearly manifested (fig. 1, b, c; fig. 2b, c); at decationization and dealumination, the natural zeolite retains its crystalline structure. Figures 1, 2 show that the modification of the HPC of an acid-activated sample of zeolite of the Shankanay deposit is unambiguously manifested in the IR spectra of the resulting catalysts. For example, when PMO₁₂·HPA is introduced into the zeolite
composition on the IR spectra of the catalyst, some absorption bands characteristic of zeolites are shifted and new bands appear.

![IR spectra of the catalyst 10% PW₁₂₇HPA/H-NZ-1 and its components](image1)

Figure 1-IR spectra of the catalyst 10% PW₁₂₇HPA/H-NZ-1 and its components:
a) lower green curve - initial tungsten HPA - PW₁₂₇HPA (H₃PW₁₂O₄₀ • 6H₂O),
b) upper green curve - H-NZ-1, c) red curve - the catalyst 10% PW₁₂₇HPA/H-NZ-1

![IR spectra of the catalyst 10% PMo₁₇₅HPA/H-NZ-1 and its components](image2)

Figure 2-IR spectra of the catalyst 10% PMo₁₇₅HPA/H-NZ-1 and its components:
a) red curve - initial molybdenum HPA - PMo₁₇₅HPA (H₃PMO₁₂O₄₀ • 6H₂O),
b) green curve - H-NZ-1, c) blue curve - 10% PMo₁₇₅HPA/H-NZ-1 catalyst

So, a shift of the band in the region of 1,060 cm⁻¹ to 1,097 cm⁻¹ and 1,108 cm⁻¹ is found. The absorption band of 780 cm⁻¹ disappears, and in the 800 cm⁻¹ area a new band appears, which is typical for
valence vibrations of the Si-O bond. This indicates the formation of a bond of HPA with a zeolite. If take into account the appearance of a shift in the band in the range of 1,065 to 1,100 cm⁻¹, it can be concluded that Al-O-Si-bonds are broken in the zeolite structure and Si-O-Si bonds are formed, and aluminum goes into the ion exchange position. Dealumination of the clinoptilolite framework is also indicated by the appearance and growth of the intensity of the shoulder at 1,210 cm⁻¹ on the IR spectra of this sample, referring to the asymmetric valence vibrations of the Si-O end groups. Inspite of it a complete destruction of the crystalline skeleton of the zeolite is not revealed and only its partial amorphization is observed.

The EM-image and the elemental composition of the scanned section of the catalyst PW₁₂-HPA/HNZ-1 (fig. 3) show that the content of its basic elements predominates on the surface of the zeolite, at the same time, the intensities of the spectra of the components of the HPA (tungsten and phosphorus) are clearly manifested. Apparently, this is due to the high degrees of dispersion and distribution of PW₁₂-HPA particles over the surface of clinoptilolite.

Figure 3- Electron microscopic image(a) and elemental composition (b) of the scanned section of the catalyst PW₁₂-HPA/H-NZ-1, obtained by SEM
X-ray patterns of the samples also indicate a change in the structure of the natural zeolite when modifying its by HPA (fig.4). Thus, a decrease in the intensity of one of the main peaks and the disappearance of several peaks characteristic of the mineral clinoptilolite on X-ray patterns of 10% PMO_{12}-HPA/H-NZ-1 and 10% PW_{12}-HPA/H-NZ-1 were clearly detected, which is apparently related to partial amorphization of the structure and a change in the cation composition of the zeolite surface.

![XRD patterns](image)

Figure 4 - The XRD pattern of the catalyst 10% PMO_{12}-HPA/H-NZ-1:

a) X-ray diffraction pattern of the initial HPA: H_3PMO_{12}O_{40} \cdot 6H_2O,

b) X-ray diffraction pattern of the catalyst 10% PMO_{12}-HPA/H-NZ-1

It was found in electron microscopic images of a thin layer of catalyst PW_{12}-HPA/H-NZ-1, obtained by TEM (translucent electronic microscopy), it is possible to see spots of different sizes with different shapes and contrasts. The microanalytical experiments on the EDAX-spectrometer showed that the above-mentioned spots have the similar compositions, identical to the PW_{12}-HPA (fig. 5).

It is considered\(^{11,20,24,25}\) that during the deposition and as a result of calcination of the catalyst, PW_{12}-HPA is converted to a highly dispersed state, in which PW_{12}-HPA particles exhibit special adsorption and catalytic properties. It is obvious that the emergence of nanostructures and the presence of a large number of strong acidic centers lead to an increase in the cracking activity of the catalyst of 10% PW_{12}-HPA/H-NZ during the cracking of paraffins.
A detailed study of the zeolite surface by the TEM-BP method has shown the formation of stable cluster structures 1-2 nm in a size, which are partially embedded in the zeolite volume (fig.5). These clusters are evenly distributed over the surface of the zeolite and are available for reacting substances.

In some places on the surface of clinoptilolite, the fine particles of the HPA are located in layers in the form of associates - they appear in the images as contra-sections, while the particle sizes clearly appear (0.78 - 1.32 nm) (fig. 6). Compositions of nanostructures according to the EDX-spectrometer are also identical with PW$_{12}$-HPA.

![Figure 5 - Electron microscopic image of the catalyst PW$_{12}$-HPA / H-NZ-1, obtained by TEM BP.](image)

*Degree of resolution 1 cm = 20 nm*

![Figure 6 - Electron microscopic image of the catalyst PW$_{12}$-HPA / H-NZ-1, obtained by the TEM-BP method.](image)

*Degree of resolution 1 cm = 20 nm*

**Conclusion**

In the work catalysts for cracking on the basis of natural zeolite of the Shankanay field (Kazakhstan) modified by mineral acids, organic acids and HPA were synthesized. Investigations of the working surface of catalysts by physical and chemical methods of a research were carried out. By IR data during
decatheonization and dealumination the natural zeolite retains its crystalline structure. It is possible to assume formation of a bond of HPA with a zeolite at modifying of the zeolite by HPA. Possibly because of the shift of the band in the region of 1,065 to 1,100 cm⁻¹ the Al-O-Si- bonds are broken in the zeolite structure and Si-O-Si- bonds are formed, and the aluminum goes into the ion exchange position. The complete destruction of the crystalline skeleton of the zeolite is not revealed, only partial amorphization is observed. X-ray patterns of the samples also indicate a change in the structure of the natural zeolite when its is modified by HPA. By EM data there are high degrees of dispersion and particle distribution of PW12-HPA on the surface of clinoptilolite.

REFERENCES


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негізінде крекинг катализаторының құрамын жасау. Катализатордымы модифициреу минералды, органкалық кышны жарықты асқыны ғана. ГПК жұртқаң. Дайындұган катализатор физикалық-химиялық қоғаммен ықтималды. ИК-спектроскопия ензимлеріне әрекет қолдаңыз қолдану мен деполиминизирледен кейін візінің кристалдық құрылыымын өзгертеді. Модифициреу кезінде ГПК мен қолдадың байланыс түзіліні болып. Қолданың микроскопия мәліметі бойынша PW_{12}-ГПК болшектері клиноптилолит әрекеті және құрулға қоңыршаңыз үшін құрылға әрекеттесуінің затарына жатады. Қолданың әрекетінің құрылға әрекеттесуінің ұзындығына қарсы тұрмайды. Бул қалыңдық кластерлер құрылға құрылға әрекеттесуінің затарына жатады.

Тірек сөзі: крекинг, гетерополиксиддар, Шанкайский кенорының қолдады, электронды микроскоп.

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КАТАЛИЗАТОРЫ КРЕКИНГА НА ОСНОВЕ ГЕТЕРОПОЛИКИСЛОТ

Аннотация. Гетерополикислоты (ГПК) являются сильными бренстедовскими кислотами. ГПК 12 ряда имеют наибольшее значение для катализа. Цель работы — разработка состава катализаторов крекинга на основе природного катализатора Шанкайского месторождения (Китай). Модификация катализаторов проводилась минеральными кислотами, органическими кислотами и ГПК. Катализаторы всесторонне исследованы комплексом физико-химических методов. По данным ИК-спектроскопии после деактивирования катализаторов и БМС-мишенинің природный катализатор не изменяет свою кристаллическую структуру. Проведено исследование связи ГПК с катализатором при модификации катализатором ГПК. Данные электронной микроскопии говорят о высоких степенях дисперсности и распределении частиц PW_{12}-ГПК по поверхности клиноптилолита. Детальное изучение поверхности катализатора методом ПЭМ показало образование устойчивых структур кластеров размером 1-2 нм, которые частично внедрены в объем катализатора. Эти кластеры равномерно распределены по поверхности катализатора и доступны для реагирующих веществ.

Ключевые слова: катализитический крекинг, гетерополикислоты, катализатор Шанкайского месторождения, электронная микроскопия.

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