

Effect of Operating Variables

The effect of changes in operating conditions and physical features of the reactor will be insignificant compared to the effect of the catalyst discussed above. This is true at present low conversion levels but when higher levels are being attained the choice of operating conditions may become quite important. It seems quite reasonable to expect that best results will be obtained with a full bed of well reduced catalyst. There is also a little evidence that fine catalyst is better than coarse. There is also some evidence that both the fresh feed and recycle streams should be preheated

to full reaction temperature. Whether this and an additional reactor, to permit operating at lower space velocity, will be required when a good intermittently reactivated catalyst is used remains to be seen.