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Thermal Kinetics-Dynamics in Delayed Cokers

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Delayed Coker History



- Invented by Vladimir Shukhov
- Patented in 1891
- First Delayed Coker-1929 Standard Oil of Indiana at Whiting
- Innovations in equipment design and metallurgy
- Improvements in safety

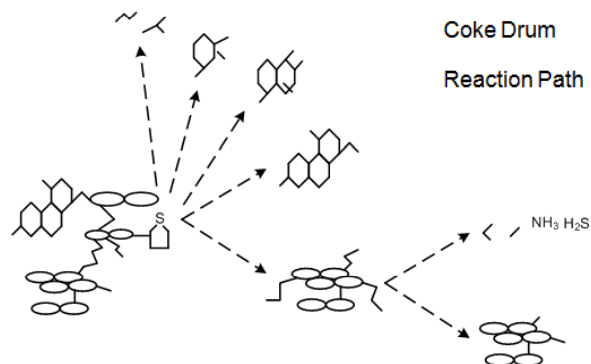


Black art?

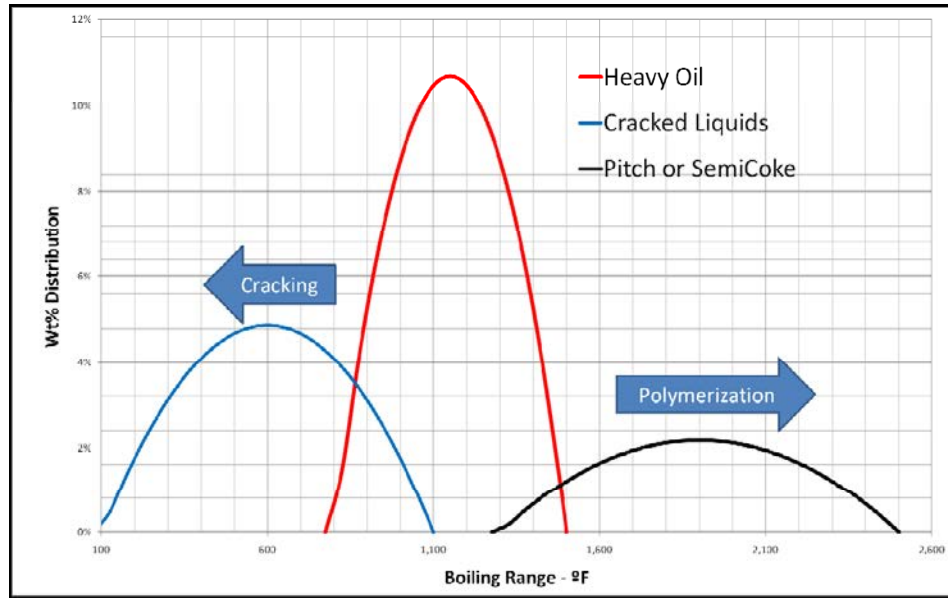
- Refinery's most dynamic process
- Batch process in the coke drums
- Multi-variable constrained process
- Non-linear relationships between variables
- Dynamic changes with time

- Coker Drum Reactions
 - Thermal kinetic-dynamics
 - Semi-batch environment
 - Thermal cracking, polymerization/condensation reactions
 - Direct Impact
 - Unit yields
 - Coke properties
 - Drum reliability
 - Unit operation dynamic adjustments
- Coker Heater Reactions
 - Steady state thermal kinetic process
 - Except during the drum switches-dynamic reactions

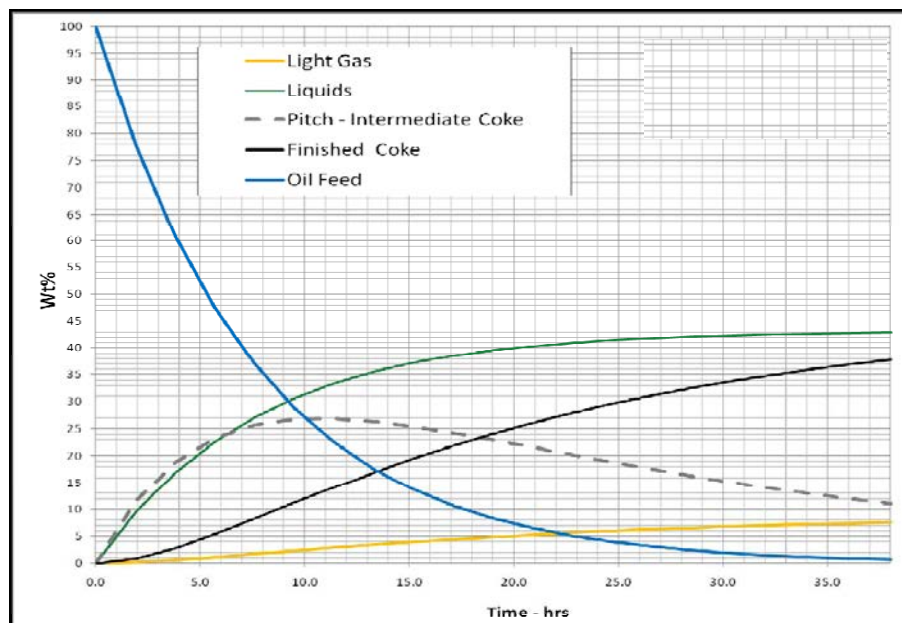
- Thermal Cracking & Polymerization
 - Two competing parallel irreversible reactions
 - Heavy oil cracks to lighter oils
 - Heavy oil polymerize to semi-coke or pitch
 - Semi-coke or pitch polymerizes
 - Smaller aliphatic side chains attached to the semi-coke crack off as lighter gas products



Statistical Distribution of Reaction Products



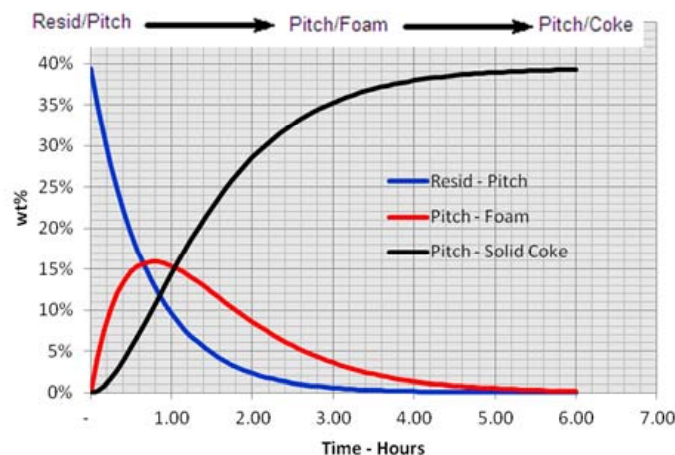
Theoretical Batch Kinetic Model



- Drum at beginning of filling
 - Heat sink
 - Vapors Condense
 - Cool material collected in the drum
 - Low amount of product leaving the drums
 - First coke in drum-longer residence time
- Drum at end of filling
 - Heater temperature ramping philosophy
 - Coke quality and liquid yields
- Coke drum kinetics strongly time dependant

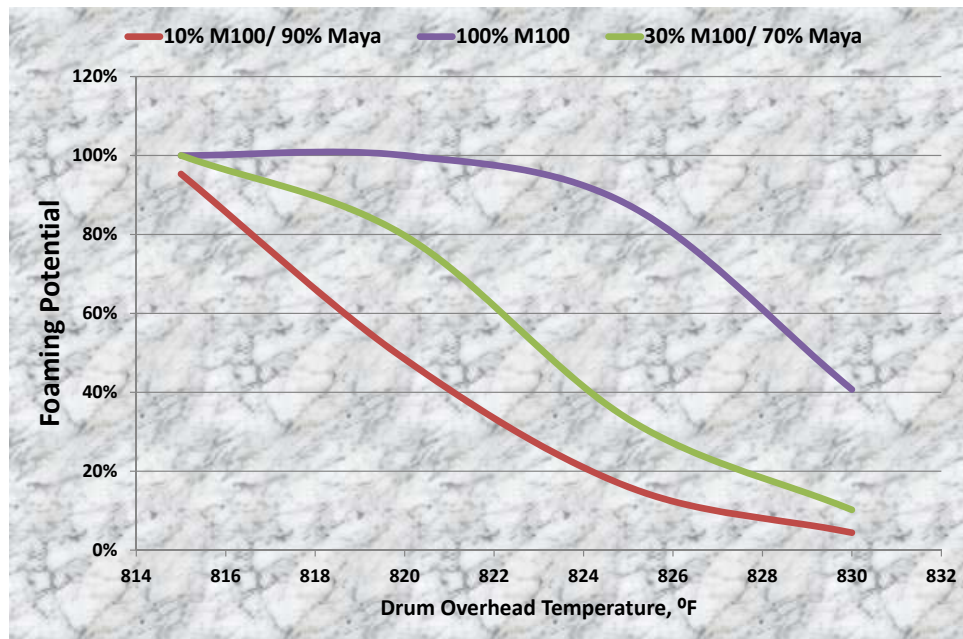
Foaming Kinetics

- Foamover Occuring
 - Drum filling



- Drum switch
- Initial steam stripping (post-switch foaming)

Foam Potential on Different Crude Mixtures



Shot Coke



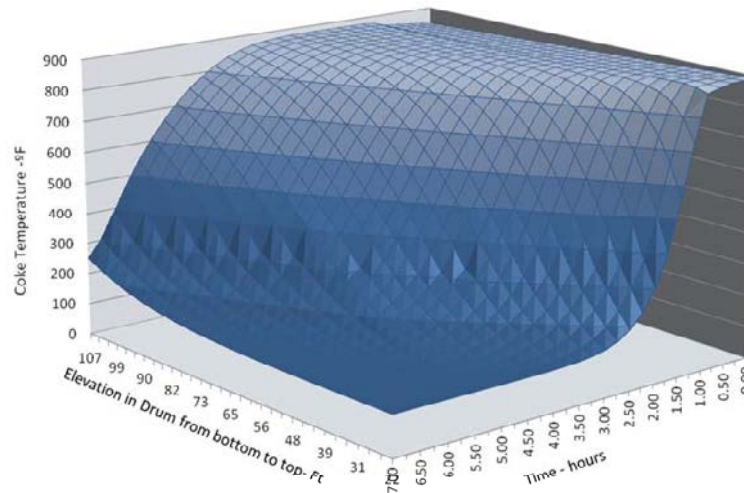
- Feed impact
- Hot Spots
- Challenges for operations
- Mitigation options



Drum Cooling Dynamics



- Effects on overall thermal kinetics
- Temperature rate of change
- Impact on drum lifetime



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DC-SIM KBC Technology

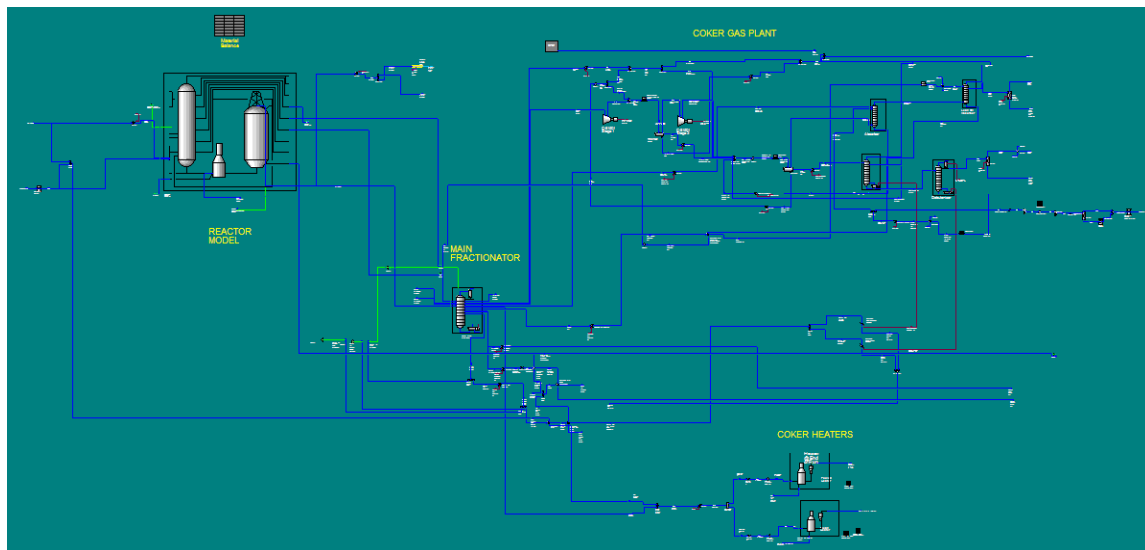


- Kinetic model calibration
 - No calibration required for design studies
 - May be calibrated to match plant data from existing units
- Predict mode calculates unit behavior with changes in operation
 - Key parameters can be modified
 - ◆ Yield predictions
 - ◆ Product qualities
 - ◆ Drum fill time
 - ◆ Quench and wash oil rates
 - ◆ Furnace fouling, etc.
- Great advances in our understanding of the complexities of heavy oil thermal dynamics

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- We are continuously developing technology, improving our skills and evolving our tools. Therefore KBC is also dynamic!
- *“Science and technology multiply around us. To an increasing extent they dictate the languages in which we speak and think. Either we use those languages, or we remain mute.”*

J.G. BALLARD

QUESTIONS?