A New Method to Prepare Highly Dispersed Ni₂P/Al₂O₃ Catalyst for Deep HDS

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Nickel phosphide (Ni2P) is a novel hydrotreating catalyst with high intrinsic activity, and has been generally synthesized by high temperature reduction techniques. Further increase of catalytic activity and practical application of Ni2P require even better dispersion of active centers, which can be achieved by lowering final reduction temperature. In this study, nickel phosphide catalysts supported on Al2O3 were successfully prepared by the temperature-programmed-reduction (TPR) technique. In particular, this study adopted a new synthetic technique of "low temperature reduction (LT-TPR)" with use of less oxidic P precursor, hypophosphite, which enabled the Ni2P to be successfully prepared at even lower reduction temperature of 400 oC. A wide range of techniques was used to characterize the catalysts: high resolution transmission electron microscopy (HRTEM), x-ray diffraction (XRD), and extended X-ray absorption fine structure (EXAFS) using synchrotron radiation(3C1 at PAL).