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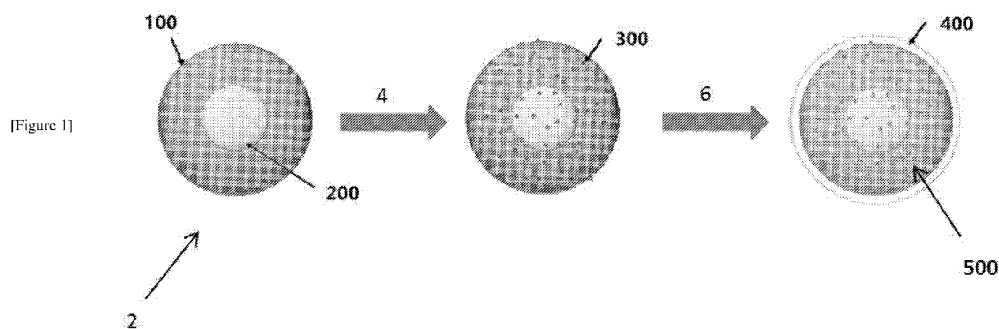
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(54) Title: A COMPOSITE MATERIAL AND A METHOD OF PREPARING THE SAME



(57) Abstract: There is provided a composite material comprising a porous silica particle, a plurality of metal particles disposed within the pores of said silica particle and a polymeric coating that at least partially encapsulates said silica particle. There is also provided a method of preparing a composite material, comprising the step of mixing a solution containing a plurality of activated metal and silica particles with a polymer solution to thereby form said composite material, wherein said composite material comprises a porous silica particle, a plurality of metal particles disposed within the pores of said silica particle and a polymeric coating that at least partially encapsulates said silica particle.