

Description

The invention relates to an apparatus for the separation of solids from a mixture of solids and fluid and to the use of such an apparatus in a process for the separation of solids from a solids-fluid mixture.

A well-known apparatus for the separation of solids from a solids-fluid mixture is a cyclone wherein a solids-fluid mixture is entered horizontally and tangentially into a vertical cylindrical body from which the fluid is discharged at the top whereas solids are discharged from the bottom section of the cyclone. Horizontal cyclones are also known, in which the solids-fluid mixture enter tangentially into a horizontal cylindrical body from which the fluid is discharged via a horizontal pipe usually coaxial to the horizontal body of the cyclone, and the solids are discharged via a pipe at an end of the body opposite to the end at which the solids-fluid mixture is taken in.

From EP-A-0 206 399 an apparatus is known which comprises a housing with at least a domed shaped upper section, with an upwardly directed inlet for the solids-fluid mixture, a downwardly directed solids outlet and fluid outlets which are at a central part of the housing and substantially horizontal.

The apparatus according to EP-A-0 206 399 has the advantage over a cyclone-type of apparatus that the pressure drop in the apparatus is reduced and that the formation of dead spots is avoided. As to the performance of the apparatus, some improvements are possible.

From the example in the above European application it is apparent that the efficiency of the separation is about 98%. It would be advantageous if it were possible to have an apparatus with an even higher efficiency at one's disposal. Further, the apparatus tends to be rather complicated from a constructional point of view, and the accessibility to the apparatus, when it is positioned in e.g. a catalytic cracking reactor, tends to be troublesome.

It has now surprisingly been found that a plurality of separation chambers contained in a housing yields excellent results as to efficiency and that the plurality of separation chambers enables a symmetrical configuration whereby the simplicity of the construction and the accessibility to the housing is increased.

Accordingly, the present invention provides an apparatus for the separation of solids from a mixture of solids and fluid, comprising a housing defining a plurality of separation chambers, each chamber being arranged around a central longitudinal axis and having a curved inner wall such that the intersection of the inner wall and a plane perpendicular to the central longitudinal axis is a concave line, whereby all central longitudinal axes are in one plane, and each chamber having an inlet opening, a solids outlet opening and at least one fluid outlet opening, whereby each fluid outlet opening is in communication with a fluid outlet

conduit and whereby the solids outlet opening of each chamber is in communication with a solids outlet conduit which is in tangential cooperation with the chamber, which apparatus further comprises one supply conduit for the mixture of fluid and solids whereby the supply conduit debouches into a supply opening that is formed by the combined inlet openings of all chambers which openings are communicating with each other, and in which apparatus the supply opening and the solids outlet openings are arranged at the same side of the plane of the central longitudinal axes of the separation chambers.

The number of separation chambers can be varied. In order not to make the construction of the housing too complicated the number of separation chambers is preferably from 2 to 4. The complexity of the construction can be substantially avoided and the symmetry can be relatively easily obtained when the number of separation chambers is two, which number is therefore preferred. To ensure an even distribution of the solids-fluid mixture over the separation chambers these chambers preferably have the same size.

The shape of the intersection of the inner wall of the separation chambers with a plane perpendicular to the central longitudinal axis is a concave line. Hence it is possible to have a concave line of e.g. an elliptical shape, or part of which has the shape of a parabole. It is, however, preferred to use separation chambers in which the intersection of the plane and the inner wall has a circular shape. It is even more preferred that the separation chambers have the shape of a body of revolution generated by a line revolving around the central longitudinal axis.

When the shape of the separation chambers is that of a body of revolution of a line revolving around a central longitudinal axis, the line may have a variety of shapes. One suitable embodiment of the present invention is obtained when the line is curved. The line may run to the central longitudinal axis, thereby creating a ball-type body of revolution. It is preferred to have a curved line which is connected to the central longitudinal axis by means of one or two straight line segments, thereby creating truncated ball-type bodies of revolution. From a construction point of view the curved line is advantageously an arc of a circle thereby creating bodies of revolution having the shape of parts of a sphere. Preferably the line segment(s) is (are) perpendicular to the central longitudinal axis, thereby creating a disc of a sphere. These embodiments have the advantage that due to the curvature of the surface of the separation chambers the risk of dead spots is practically nil. The construction of an apparatus according to the invention becomes very convenient when the line for the generation of the body of revolution is a straight line segment parallel to the central longitudinal axis connected to the said axis by means of two other straight line segments. In this way a cylinder-type body is created.

The two line segments connecting the parallel line segment with the central axis are preferably perpendicular to the said axis, so that a straight circle cylinder is obtained.

The supply conduit of the apparatus according to the present invention protrudes into the combined inlet openings of the separation chambers. It is apparent therefrom that the shape of the separation chambers is interfered with by the combined inlet openings. Opposite to the supply conduit there is an arched surface, created by intersecting separation chambers.

The supply conduit may have a variety of shapes. Its cross-section may be circular, elliptical, square, rectangular or a mixture of any of these forms. Its cross-section advantageously has a longest dimension which is from 0.5 to 1 times the length of the central longitudinal axis of the separation chambers. The solids outlet openings of the separation chambers run preferably 0.6 to 1.0 times the length of the central longitudinal axes of the separation chambers.

The fluid outlet conduits are connected with a separation chamber via fluid outlet openings. These fluid outlet openings may have their centres on the central longitudinal axes. It is also possible for the fluid outlet openings to have their centres slightly off the central longitudinal axes. This promotes a scroll-type movement of the mixture to be separated. Each fluid outlet opening of a separation chamber is advantageously situated such that the opening includes at least one point of the central longitudinal axis of the separation chamber. The number of fluid outlet openings per separation chamber may be greater than 1, and is preferably 1 or 2. When the separation chamber contains 2 fluid outlet openings the latter are preferably situated diametrically opposite to each other. Preferably the fluid outlet conduits stretch until into the separation chambers. It has been found that the separation efficiency is improved by this feature. The fluid is preferably a gas, such as gaseous hydrocarbons. The fluid outlet conduits can have various shapes, such as cylindrical, conical or combinations thereof. The conduits may further have a bend to pass the fluid separated into a desired direction.

The present invention further provides the use of the above described apparatus in a process for the separation of solids from a solids-fluid mixture. Hence, the invention provides a process for the separation of solids from a mixture of solids and fluid comprising passing the mixture via a supply opening into a plurality of separation chambers, each chamber being arranged around a central longitudinal axis and having a curved inner wall such that the intersection of the inner wall and a plane perpendicular to the central longitudinal axis is a concave line, whereby all central longitudinal axes are in one plane, withdrawing fluid from fluid outlet openings, and withdrawing solids from solids outlet openings situated on the

same side of the plane of the central longitudinal axes as the supply opening. The present invention in particular provides the use of this apparatus in a process for separating fluid catalytic cracking catalyst particles from gaseous hydrocarbon conversion products. It is evident that the apparatus can be used in various other processes, such as shale conversion processes, oil gasification and coal gasification.

The apparatus according to the invention can be used as sole separation means. It is, however, also possible to combine the apparatus with another separator of the same or different construction. So it is possible to have a series of subsequent apparatuses according to the present invention. It is also feasible to have a combination of an apparatus according to the invention and one or more cyclones, which may be horizontal or vertical. A suitable combination comprises the set-up in which the apparatus according to the invention is used as a first separating means whereby the fluid discharged from this apparatus is passed to a dome-shaped, preferably substantially spherical separator according to EP-A-0 206 399 in which the fluid is freed from substantially all solids that are entrained by the fluid, if any at all. Another suitable embodiment entails the combination of the apparatus according to the present invention as a first separating means, followed by swirl tubes, which can be similar to those described in EP-A-0 220 768.

Such combinations provide an improvement over the combination, shown in EP-A-0 220 768, of a dome-shaped separator and swirl tubes. The improvement resides in a reduction of the residence time in the combination of apparatuses at a given feed rate of the solids-fluid mixture. Especially when the apparatuses are used in a catalytic cracking process the residence time should be as short as possible to prevent further cracking to take place at the then very hot solid particles.

Accordingly, the present invention provides a process for the separation of solids from a mixture of solids and fluid comprising passing the mixture via a supply opening into a plurality of separation chambers, each chamber being arranged around a central longitudinal axis and having a curved inner wall such that the intersection of the inner wall and a plane perpendicular to the central longitudinal axis is a concave line, whereby all central longitudinal axes are in one plane, withdrawing fluid from fluid outlet openings, and withdrawing solids tangentially from solids outlet openings situated on the same side of the plane of the central longitudinal axes as the supply opening, and passing the withdrawn fluid upwardly and tangentially into a substantially spherical separation zone, wherein the withdrawn fluid is subjected to a rotating movement in a substantially vertical plane, removing solids, entrained by the withdrawn fluid, through an opening in the lower section of the separation zone and removing purified fluid via an outlet

which debouches substantially horizontally into a central part of the spherical separation zone.

The invention further provides a process for the separation of solids from a mixture of solids and fluid by passing the mixture through the apparatus of the present invention as described herein-above, and then passing fluid withdrawn from the apparatus into a space between tubular elements and subsequently downwardly into annular spaces provided with swirl imparting means, which annular spaces are defined between upper sections of the tubular elements and lower sections of tubular fluid outlet means arranged substantially co-axially within said upper sections, imparting a swirling movement to the withdrawn fluid in the tubular elements to separate fluid from solids entrained by the withdrawn fluid, removing solids through lower sections of the tubular elements and removing purified fluid through the upper sections of the tubular outlet means.

The present invention will be elucidated by the following figures.

Figure 1 shows a longitudinal cross-section of an apparatus according to the invention where the line for the generation of the body of revolution is curved and where the number of separation chambers is two, each separation chamber having one fluid outlet opening. Figure 2 is a cross-section of the embodiment of figure 1 according to II-II.

Figure 3 is a longitudinal cross-section of an embodiment of the invention in which the line for the generation of the body of revolution is a straight parallel line segment. Figure 4 is a cross-section of this embodiment according to IV-IV. Figure 5 is a schematic drawing of a catalytic cracking reactor provided with a combination of two separating systems, the first system comprising an apparatus according to the invention and the second system comprising swirl tubes. Figure 6 shows an embodiment of a catalytic cracking reactor comprising an apparatus according to the present invention and a dome-shaped separator as described in EP-A-0 206 399.

Figures 1 and 2 show an apparatus according to the invention comprising a housing 1 which defines two separation chambers 2 and 2'. The chambers have inlet openings 4 and 4', respectively, which in combination give a supply opening 10. Through the supply opening a supply conduit 9 is arranged via which the mixture of solids and fluid can be passed into the chambers. Solids leave the chambers via solids outlet openings 5 and 5' and solids outlet conduits 7 and 7' which are tangentially arranged to the chambers 2 and 2', respectively. It is apparent that the supply opening 10 and the solids outlet openings 5 and 5' are arranged at the same side of the plane through the central longitudinal axes, which plane is indicated by a line 3. The fluid which is substantially freed from solids leaves the separation chambers via fluid outlet openings 6 and 6' and fluid outlet conduits (see con-

duit 8 in fig. 2; the conduit attached to separation chamber 2' is not shown). In the embodiments of the figures 1 and 2 the fluid outlet openings are arranged at one side of the housing. It will be evident that it is also possible to provide the fluid outlet openings at opposite sides of the housing.

In Figures 3 and 4 another embodiment of the apparatus of the invention is shown. This embodiment comprises a housing 31 defining separation chambers 32 and 32', each chamber having an inlet opening (34 and 34'), a solids outlet opening (35 and 35') and a fluid outlet opening (36 and 36'). Through a supply opening 39 a supply conduit 40 debouches into the separation chambers. The supply conduit 40 has a tapered end to stimulate the swirling movement of the solids-fluid mixture in the separation chambers. The fluid that is freed from solids leaves the separation chambers via fluid outlet openings 36 and 36' and fluid outlet conduits 38 and 38'. These conduits may be bent to pass the fluid into the desired direction. Solids that have been separated in this apparatus are discharged via solids outlet openings 35 and 35' and solids outlet conduits 37 and 37'. Part of the housing embraced by the solids outlet conduits may be provided with holes 41 to allow solids that may not have been discharged via the solids outlet leave the separation chambers.

Figure 5 shows an application of the apparatus of the present invention in a catalytic cracking process. In a regenerator 51 containing a catalyst bed 52, catalyst particles are regenerated by burning off coke from coke-containing catalyst particles. This is done by passing an oxidizing gas, e.g. air, to the regenerator via a line 53 and withdrawing combustion gases via an outlet 54. Catalyst particles thus regenerated are passed to a riser reactor 57 via a line 55. In the reactor the catalyst is combined with a hydrocarbon feedstock from line 56 and passed upwards through the riser reactor. In the reactor the hydrocarbon feedstock is cracked to produce light gaseous hydrocarbons. During the cracking reaction some coke will be formed on the catalyst particles. At the top of the reactor the apparatus of the present invention (58) is arranged, and gas coming from this apparatus is passed to swirl tubes 61 which contain swirl vanes 62 and gas outlets 63. Catalyst particles that have been entrained by the gas in the apparatus 58 are separated from the gas in these swirl tubes and the gaseous hydrocarbons are recovered. The catalyst particles that have been separated from the mixture of catalyst and hydrocarbon feedstock are discharged from the apparatus 58 via a solids outlet conduit 64 via diplegs 65 and from the swirl tubes 61 into a catalyst bed 60 comprised in a stripping vessel 59. The vessel is equipped with means to provide stripping gas into the vessel (not shown) which is supplied via a line 66. From the vessel 59 catalyst particles are then returned to the regenerator 51 via a line 67.

Figure 6 shows schematically a catalytic cracking reactor, wherein a dome-shaped separator is provided after the apparatus of the present invention. Corresponding equipment features have the same numbering as shown in Figure 5. A mixture of catalyst particles and hydrocarbons is passed through an apparatus according to the present invention (58). Catalyst particles separated are passed to the catalyst bed 60 via a solids outlet conduit 64. Gaseous hydrocarbons which may entrain some solid matter is passed via an inlet 70 into a globe-type separator 71. Gas is discharged via an outlet 72, and solid matter separated in the separator 71 is discharged via an opening 73 and a dipleg 74 into the catalyst bed 60.

The invention will be further elucidated by means of the following Example:

EXAMPLE

A feed stream of hydrocarbon vapours and cracking catalyst particles in a weight ratio of 0.15 enters supply opening (10) of a separation apparatus as depicted in Figure 1 at a temperature of 500 °C, a pressure of 2 bar and a vapour velocity of 18 m/s. Catalyst particles are removed through solids outlet conduits (7 and 7') with a separation efficiency of more than 99.7% on a weight basis, whereas hydrocarbon vapour streams comprising less than 0.3% by weight of catalyst particles, based on total catalyst weight in the feed stream, leave the apparatus via fluid outlet openings (6 and 6').

Claims

1. Apparatus for the separation of solids from a mixture of solids and fluid, comprising a housing (1) defining a plurality of separation chambers (2), each chamber being arranged around a central longitudinal axis and having a curved inner wall such that the intersection of the inner wall and a plane (3) perpendicular to the central longitudinal axis is a concave line, whereby all central longitudinal axes are in one plane, and each chamber having an inlet opening (4), a solids outlet opening (5) and at least one fluid outlet opening (6), whereby each fluid outlet opening (6) is in communication with a fluid outlet conduit (8), and whereby the solids outlet opening (5) of each chamber (2) is in communication with a solids outlet conduit (7) which is in tangential cooperation with the chamber (2), which apparatus further comprises one supply conduit (9) for the mixture of fluid and solids whereby the supply conduit (9) debouches into a supply opening (10) that is formed by the combined inlet openings (4) of all chambers which openings (4) are communicating with each other, and in which apparatus

the supply opening (10) and the solids outlet openings (5) are arranged at the same side of the plane of the central longitudinal axes of the separation chambers.

2. Apparatus according to claim 1, in which the number of separation chambers (2) is from 2 to 4, in particular 2.
3. Apparatus according to claim 1 or 2, in which the separation chambers (2) have the shape of a body of revolution generated by a line revolving around the central longitudinal axis.
4. Apparatus according to claim 3, in which the line for the generation the body of revolution is a curved line.
5. Apparatus according to claim 3, in which the line for the generation of the body of revolution is a curved line that is connected with the central longitudinal axis by means of one or two straight line segments.
6. Apparatus according to claim 4 or 5, in which the curved line is an arc of a circle.
7. Apparatus according to claim 3, in which the line for the generation of the body of revolution is a straight line segment parallel to the central longitudinal axis connected to the said axis by means of two other straight line segments.
8. Apparatus according to any one of claims 1 to 7, in which the supply conduit (9) has a diameter which is from 0.5 to 1 times the length of the central longitudinal axis of the separation chambers.
9. Apparatus according to any one of claims 1 to 8, in which the solids outlet openings (5) run 0.6 to 1.0 times the length of the central longitudinal axis.
10. Apparatus according to any one of claims 1 to 9, in which the fluid outlet conduits (8) stretch until into the separation chambers.
11. Process for the separation of solids from a mixture of solids and fluid comprising passing the mixture via a supply opening (10) into a plurality of separation chambers (2), each chamber (2) being arranged around a central longitudinal axis and having a curved inner wall such that the intersection of the inner wall and a plane (3) perpendicular to the central longitudinal axis is a concave line, whereby all central longitudinal axes are in one plane, withdrawing fluid from fluid outlet openings (6), and withdrawing solids tan-



Figure 6 shows schematically a catalytic cracking reactor, wherein a dome-shaped separator is provided after the apparatus of the present invention. Corresponding equipment features have the same numbering as shown in Figure 5. A mixture of catalyst particles and hydrocarbons is passed through an apparatus according to the present invention (58). Catalyst particles separated are passed to the catalyst bed 60 via a solids outlet conduit 64. Gaseous hydrocarbons which may entrain some solid matter is passed via an inlet 70 into a globe-type separator 71. Gas is discharged via an outlet 72, and solid matter separated in the separator 71 is discharged via an opening 73 and a dipleg 74 into the catalyst bed 60.

The invention will be further elucidated by means of the following Example:

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A feed stream of hydrocarbon vapours and cracking catalyst particles in a weight ratio of 0.15 enters supply opening (10) of a separation apparatus as depicted in Figure 1 at a temperature of 500 °C, a pressure of 2 bar and a vapour velocity of 18 m/s. Catalyst particles are removed through solids outlet conduits (7 and 7') with a separation efficiency of more than 99.7% on a weight basis, whereas hydrocarbon vapour streams comprising less than 0.3% by weight of catalyst particles, based on total catalyst weight in the feed stream, leave the apparatus via fluid outlet openings (6 and 6').

Claims

1. Apparatus for the separation of solids from a mixture of solids and fluid, comprising a housing (1) defining a plurality of separation chambers (2), each chamber being arranged around a central longitudinal axis and having a curved inner wall such that the intersection of the inner wall and a plane (3) perpendicular to the central longitudinal axis is a concave line, whereby all central longitudinal axes are in one plane, and each chamber having an inlet opening (4), a solids outlet opening (5) and at least one fluid outlet opening (6), whereby each fluid outlet opening (6) is in communication with a fluid outlet conduit (8), and whereby the solids outlet opening (5) of each chamber (2) is in communication with a solids outlet conduit (7) which is in tangential cooperation with the chamber (2), which apparatus further comprises one supply conduit (9) for the mixture of fluid and solids whereby the supply conduit (9) debouches into a supply opening (10) that is formed by the combined inlet openings (4) of all chambers which openings (4) are communicating with each other, and in which apparatus

the supply opening (10) and the solids outlet openings (5) are arranged at the same side of the plane of the central longitudinal axes of the separation chambers.

2. Apparatus according to claim 1, in which the number of separation chambers (2) is from 2 to 4, in particular 2.
3. Apparatus according to claim 1 or 2, in which the separation chambers (2) have the shape of a body of revolution generated by a line revolving around the central longitudinal axis.
4. Apparatus according to claim 3, in which the line for the generation the body of revolution is a curved line.
5. Apparatus according to claim 3, in which the line for the generation of the body of revolution is a curved line that is connected with the central longitudinal axis by means of one or two straight line segments.
6. Apparatus according to claim 4 or 5, in which the curved line is an arc of a circle.
7. Apparatus according to claim 3, in which the line for the generation of the body of revolution is a straight line segment parallel to the central longitudinal axis connected to the said axis by means of two other straight line segments.
8. Apparatus according to any one of claims 1 to 7, in which the supply conduit (9) has a diameter which is from 0.5 to 1 times the length of the central longitudinal axis of the separation chambers.
9. Apparatus according to any one of claims 1 to 8, in which the solids outlet openings (5) run 0.6 to 1.0 times the length of the central longitudinal axis.
10. Apparatus according to any one of claims 1 to 9, in which the fluid outlet conduits (8) stretch until into the separation chambers.
11. Process for the separation of solids from a mixture of solids and fluid comprising passing the mixture via a supply opening (10) into a plurality of separation chambers (2), each chamber (2) being arranged around a central longitudinal axis and having a curved inner wall such that the intersection of the inner wall and a plane (3) perpendicular to the central longitudinal axis is a concave line, whereby all central longitudinal axes are in one plane, withdrawing fluid from fluid outlet openings (6), and withdrawing solids tan-



gentially from solids outlet openings (5) situated on the same side of the plane of the central longitudinal axes as the supply opening.

12. Process according to claim 11 comprising additionally passing the withdrawn fluid upwardly and tangentially into a substantially spherical separation zone (71), wherein the withdrawn fluid is subjected to a rotating movement in a substantially vertical plane, removing solids, entrained by the withdrawn fluid, through an opening (73) in the lower section of the separation zone and removing purified fluid via an outlet (72) which debouches substantially horizontally into a central part of the spherical separation zone (71).

13. Process according to claim 11 comprising additionally passing the withdrawn fluid into a space between tubular elements (61) and subsequently downwardly into annular spaces provided with swirl imparting means (62), which annular spaces are defined between upper sections of the tubular elements and lower sections of tubular fluid outlet means (63) arranged substantially co-axially within said upper sections, imparting a helical movement to the withdrawn fluid in the tubular elements (61) to separate fluid from solids entrained by the withdrawn fluid, removing solids through lower sections (65) of the tubular elements and removing purified fluid through the upper sections (63) of the tubular outlet means.

Patentansprüche

1. Vorrichtung zum Trennen von Feststoffen aus einem Feststoff-Fluidgemisch, mit einem Gehäuse (1), das mehrere Trennkammern (2) bildet, wobei jede Kammer um eine zentrale Längsachse herum angeordnet ist und eine gekrümmte Innenwand aufweist, derart, daß der Schnitt der Innenwand und einer Ebene (3) senkrecht zur zentralen Längsachse eine konkave Linie ist, wobei alle zentralen Längsachse sich in einer Ebene befinden und jede Kammer eine Einlaßöffnung (4), eine Feststoffauslaßöffnung (5) und zumindest eine Fluidauslaßöffnung (6) aufweist, wobei jede Fluidauslaßöffnung (6) mit einer Fluidauslaßleitung (8) in Verbindung steht, und wobei die Feststoffauslaßöffnung (5) jede Kammer (2) mit einer Feststoffauslaßleitung (7) in Verbindung steht, die mit der Kammer (2) tangential zusammenwirkt, wobei die Vorrichtung ferner eine Zufuhrleitung (9) für das Feststoff-Fluidgemisch aufweist, wobei die Zufuhrleitung (9) in eine Zufuhröffnung (10) mündet, die durch die kombinierten Einlaßöffnungen (4) aller Kammern gebildet ist, welche Öffnungen (4) miteinander in Verbindung

stehen, und bei welcher Vorrichtung die Zufuhröffnung (10) und die Feststoffauslaßöffnungen (5) auf der gleichen Seite der Ebene der zentralen Längsachsen der Trennkammern angeordnet sind.

2. Vorrichtung nach Anspruch 1, bei welcher die Anzahl von Trennkammern (2) zwei bis vier, insbesondere zwei beträgt.
3. Vorrichtung nach Anspruch 1 oder 2, bei welcher die Trennkammern (2) die Gestalt eines Drehkörpers haben, der durch eine Linie erzeugt wird, welche um die zentrale Längsachse umläuft.
4. Vorrichtung nach Anspruch 3, bei welcher die Linie zur Erzeugung des Drehkörpers eine gekrümmte Linie ist.
5. Vorrichtung nach Anspruch 3, bei welcher die Linie zur Erzeugung des Drehkörpers eine gekrümmte Linie ist, die mit der zentralen Längsachse über ein oder zwei gerade Liniensegmente verbunden ist.
6. Vorrichtung nach Anspruch 4 oder 5, bei welcher die gekrümmte Linie ein Kreisbogen ist.
7. Vorrichtung nach Anspruch 3, bei welcher die Linie zur Erzeugung des Drehkörpers ein gerades Liniensegment ist, das parallel zur zentralen Längsachse verläuft und mit dieser Achse über zwei andere gerade Liniensegmente verbunden ist.
8. Vorrichtung nach einem der Ansprüche 1 bis 7, bei welcher die Zufuhrleitung (9) einen Durchmesser hat, der das 0,5-bis 1-fache der Länge der zentralen Längsachse der Trennkammern beträgt.
9. Vorrichtung nach einem der Ansprüche 1 bis 8, bei welcher die Feststoffauslaßöffnungen (5) sich über das 0,6-bis 1,0-fache der Länge der zentralen Längsachse erstrecken.
10. Vorrichtung nach einem der Ansprüche 1 bis 9, bei welcher die Fluidauslaßleitungen (8) sich bis in die Trennkammern erstrecken.
11. Verfahren zum Trennen von Feststoffen aus einem Feststoff-Fluidgemisch, bei welchem das Gemisch über eine Zufuhröffnung (10) in eine Vielzahl von Trennkammern (2) eingebracht wird, wobei jede Kammer (2) um eine zentrale Längsachse herum angeordnet ist und eine gekrümmte Innenwand hat, derart, daß der Schnitt der Innenwand und einer Ebene (3) senkrecht zur zentralen



len Längsachse eine konkave Linie ist, wobei alle zentralen Längsachsen sich in einer Ebene befinden, das Fluid aus Fluidauslaßöffnungen (6) abgezogen wird und die Feststoffe tangential von Feststoffauslässen (5) abgezogen werden, die auf der gleichen Seite der Ebene der Zentralen Längsachsen angeordnet sind wie die Zufuhröffnung.

12. Verfahren nach Anspruch 11, bei welchem zusätzlich das abgezogene Fluid nach oben tangential in eine im wesentlichen kugelförmigen Trennzone (71) geleitet wird, wobei das abgezogene Fluid einer Drehbewegung in einer im wesentlichen vertikalen Ebene unterworfen wird, die Feststoffe entfernt werden, indem sie vom abgezogenen Fluid durch eine Öffnung (73) im unteren Abschnitt der Trennzone mitgerissen werden, und gereinigtes Fluid über einen Auslaß (72) entfernt wird, der im wesentlichen horizontal in einen zentralen Teil der kugelförmigen Trennzone (71) mündet.

13. Verfahren nach Anspruch 11, bei welchem zusätzlich das angezogene Fluid in einen Raum zwischen rohrförmigen Elementen (61) und danach nach unten in Ringförmige Räume geleitet wird, die mit Verwirbelungsmitteln (62) versehen sind, welche ringförmigen Räume zwischen oberen Abschnitten der rohrförmigen Elemente und unteren Abschnitten der rohrförmigen Fluidauslaßmittel (63) definiert sind, die im wesentlichen koaxial innerhalb der oberen Abschnitte angeordnet sind, dem abgezogenen Fluid in den rohrförmigen Elementen (61) eine wendelförmige Bewegung erteilt wird, um das Fluid von den mit dem Fluid mitgerissenen Feststoffen zu trennen, die Feststoffe durch die unteren Abschnitte (65) der rohrförmigen Elemente entfernt werden und gereinigtes Fluid über die oberen Abschnitte (63) der rohrförmigen Auslaßmittel abgezogen wird.

Revendications

1. Dispositif pour la séparation de solides d'un mélange constitué par des solides et par un fluide, comprenant un boîtier (1) définissant une pluralité de chambres de séparation (2), chaque chambre étant agencée autour d'un axe longitudinal central et comportant une paroi interne incurvée de telle sorte que l'intersection de la paroi interne et d'un plan (3) perpendiculaire à l'axe longitudinal central soit une ligne concave, dans lequel tous les axes longitudinaux centraux sont dans un plan, et chaque chambre comportant une ouverture d'entrée (4), une ouverture de sortie de solides (5) et au moins une ouverture de sortie de

fluide (6), dans lequel chaque ouverture de sortie de fluide (6) est en communication avec un conduit de sortie de fluide (8) et dans lequel l'ouverture de sortie de solides (5) de chaque chambre (2) est en communication avec un conduit de sortie de solides (7) qui est tangentiel à la chambre (2), lequel dispositif comprend en outre un conduit d'alimentation (9) pour le mélange constitué par un fluide et par des solides dans lequel le conduit d'alimentation (9) débouche dans une ouverture d'alimentation (10) qui est formée par les ouvertures d'entrée combinées (4) de toutes les chambres, lesquelles ouvertures (4) communiquent les unes avec les autres, et dans ce dispositif, l'ouverture d'alimentation (10) et les ouvertures de sortie de solides (5) sont agencées du même côté du plan des axes longitudinaux centraux des chambres de séparation.

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2. Dispositif selon la revendication 1, dans lequel le nombre de chambres de séparation (2) va de 2 à 4, en particulier 2.

3. Dispositif selon la revendication 1 ou 2, dans lequel les chambres de séparation (2) présentent la forme d'un corps de révolution généré par une ligne qui tourne autour de l'axe longitudinal central.

4. Dispositif selon la revendication 3, dans lequel la ligne pour la génération du corps de révolution est une ligne courbe.

5. Dispositif selon la revendication 3, dans lequel la ligne pour la génération du corps de révolution est une ligne courbe qui est connectée à l'axe longitudinal central au moyen d'un ou de deux segments de ligne rectiligne.

6. Dispositif selon la revendication 4 ou 5, dans lequel la ligne courbe est un arc d'un cercle.

7. Dispositif selon la revendication 3, dans lequel la ligne pour la génération du corps de révolution est un segment de ligne rectiligne parallèle à l'axe longitudinal central connecté audit axe au moyen de deux autres segments de ligne rectiligne.

8. Dispositif selon l'une quelconque des revendications 1 à 7, dans lequel le conduit d'alimentation (9) présente un diamètre qui va de 0,5 à 1 fois la longueur de l'axe longitudinal central des chambres de séparation.

9. Dispositif selon l'une quelconque des revendications 1 à 8, dans lequel les ouvertures de sortie de solides (5) s'étendent sur 0,6 à 1,0 fois la longueur de l'axe longitudinal central.



10. Dispositif selon l'une quelconque des revendications 1 à 9, dans lequel les conduits de sortie de fluide (8) se prolongent jusqu' dans les chambres de séparation.
11. Procédé de séparation de solides d'un mélange constitué par des solides et par un fluide comprenant le passage du mélange via une ouverture d'alimentation (10) dans une pluralité de chambres de séparation (2), chaque chambre (2) étant agencée autour d'un axe longitudinal central et comportant une paroi interne incurvée de telle sorte que l'intersection de la paroi interne et d'un plan (3) perpendiculaire à l'axe longitudinal central soit une ligne concave, dans lequel tous les axes longitudinaux centraux sont dans un plan, l'extraction du fluide depuis des ouvertures de sortie de fluide (6) et l'extraction de solides tangentielllement depuis des ouvertures de sortie de solides (5) situées sur le même côté du plan des axes longitudinaux centraux que l'ouverture d'alimentation.
12. Procédé selon la revendication 1, comprenant en outre le passage du fluide extrait vers le haut et tangentielllement dans une zone de séparation sensiblement sphérique (71), dans lequel le fluide extrait est soumis à un mouvement de rotation dans un plan sensiblement vertical, l'enlèvement de solides entraînés par le fluide extrait au travers d'une ouverture (73) ménagée dans la section inférieure de la zone de séparation et l'enlèvement d'un fluide purifié via une sortie (72) qui débouche sensiblement horizontalement dans une partie centrale de la zone de séparation sphérique (71).
13. Procédé selon la revendication 11, comprenant en outre le passage du fluide extrait dans un espace situé entre des éléments tubulaires (61) et ensuite vers le bas à l'intérieur d'espaces annulaires munis d'un moyen d'impression de tourbillon (62), lesquels espaces annulaires sont définis entre des sections supérieures des éléments tubulaires et des sections inférieures d'un moyen de sortie de fluide tubulaire (63) agencé sensiblement coaxialement dans lesdites sections supérieures, l'impression d'un mouvement hélicoïdal au fluide extrait dans les éléments tubulaires (61) afin de séparer le fluide des solides entraînés par le fluide extrait, l'enlèvement des solides au travers de sections inférieures (65) des éléments tubulaires et l'enlèvement du fluide purifié au travers des sections supérieures (63) du moyen de sortie tubulaire.