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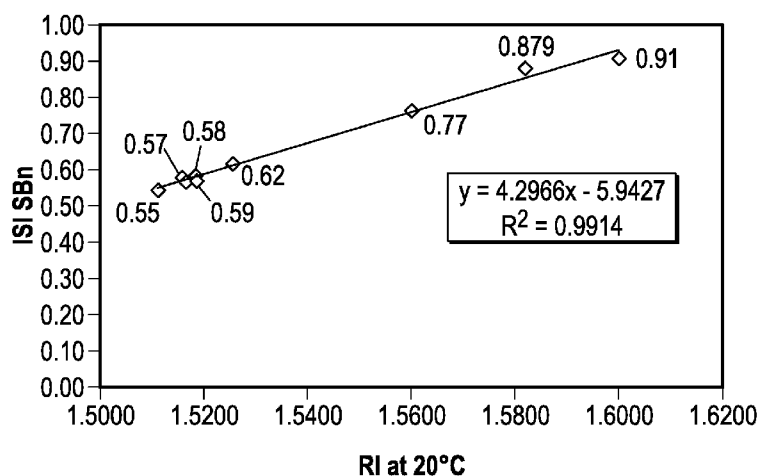
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(54) **Title:** PROCESS FOR PREDICTING THE STABILITY OF CRUDE OIL AND EMPLOYING SAME IN TRANSPORTING AND/OR REFINING THE CRUDE OIL

**FIG. 1**

(57) **Abstract:** A process for refining crude oil can be controlled to mitigate fouling by deploying a refractive index probe at a location suitable for making a crude oil stability determination, wherein the crude oil stability determination is relevant to controlling the refining process; making a measurement of crude oil stability; and then controlling the process for refining crude oil by maintaining the process or implementing a change to the process, based upon the determination of crude oil stability. This concept can also be applied to transporting, blending, and storing crude oil.