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(54) Title: PROCESS FOR THE MANUFACTURE OF ACETIC ACID

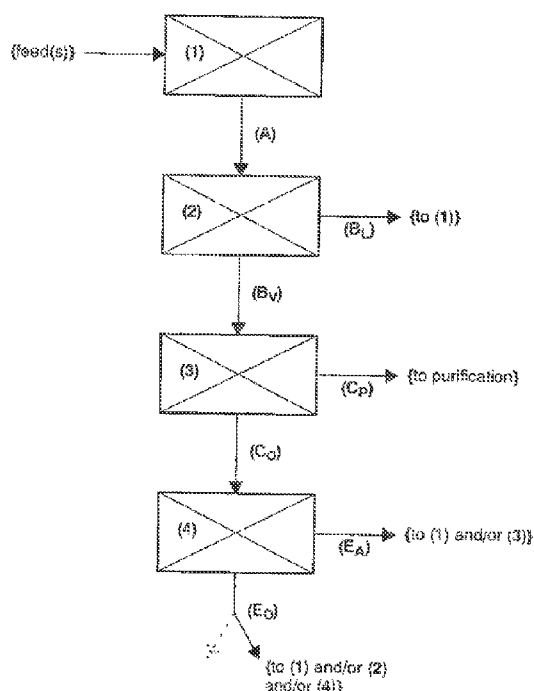


FIG. 1

(57) Abstract: The phase separation in the decanter of a process for producing acetic acid by carbonylating methanol in the presence of a catalyst under low water-high acid conditions is facilitated and expedited by forming a liquid mixture (D) which has a water content of at most 10% by weight, based on the weight of the liquid mixture, an acetic acid content of at least 10% by weight, based on the weight of the liquid mixture, and a weight ratio of methyl iodide to methyl acetate of at least 1.5: 1, and partitioning the liquid mixture at a temperature of from 0 to 35°C.



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