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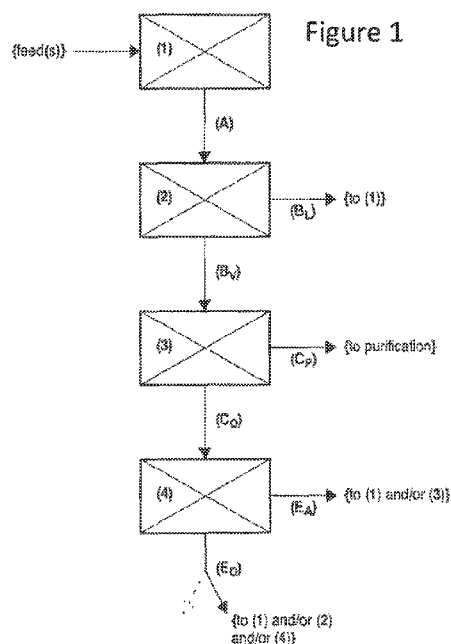
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(54) Title: PROCESS FOR THE MANUFACTURE OF ACETIC ACID



(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 improved by forming a liquid mixture (D) which has a water content of at most 20% by weight, based on the weight of the liquid mixture, and a weight ratio of acetic acid to water of at least 1 : 1, and partitioning the liquid mixture by providing for an alkane(s) content of D of from 0.1 to 15% by weight, based on the weight of D, to obtain a light, aqueous phase and a heavy, organic phase.

**Declarations under Rule 4.17:**

- as to the applicant's entitlement to claim the priority of the earlier application (Rule 4.17(iii))
- before the expiration of the time limit for amending the claims and to be republished in the event of receipt of amendments (Rule 48.2(h))

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