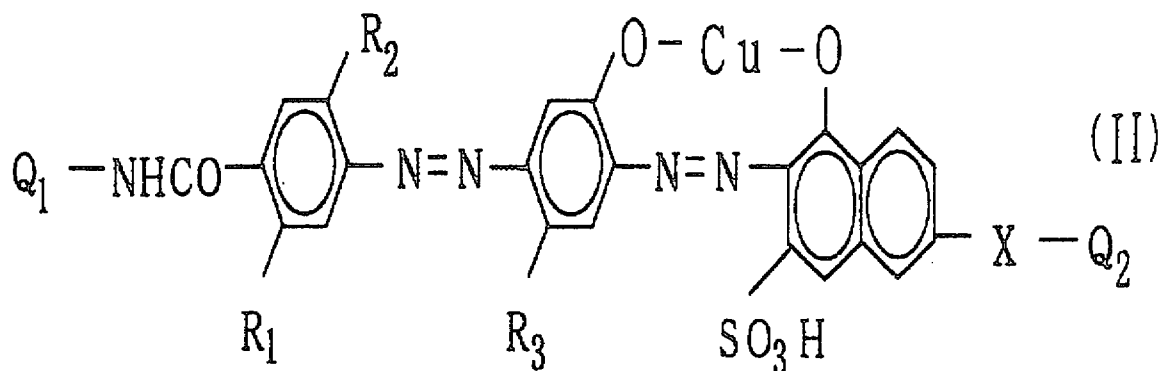
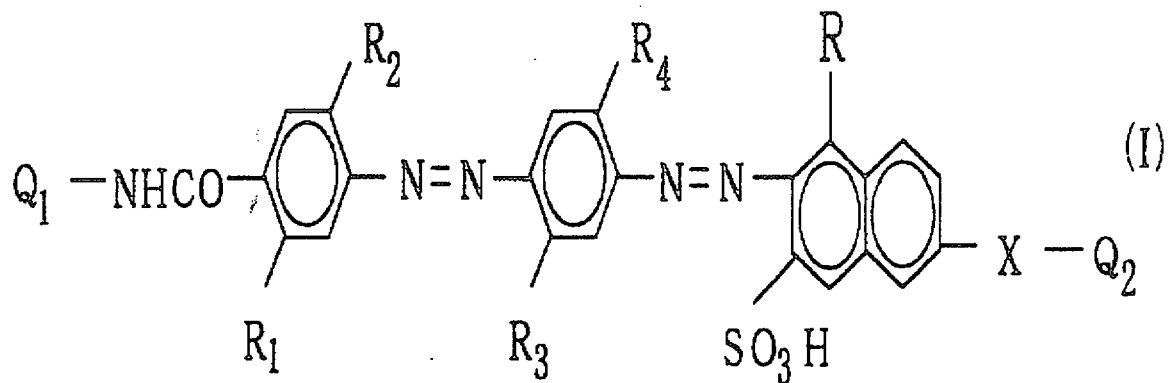


ABSTRACT

An azo compound of the following formulae (I) or (II):



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wherein Q_1 represents a phenyl group or a naphthyl group, Q_2 represents a phenyl group; R represents hydroxy group; R_1 and R_2 each independently represent a hydrogen atom, a hydroxy group, a C_1 - C_4 alkyl group, a C_1 - C_4 alkoxy group or a halogen atom; R_3 and R_4 each independently represent a hydrogen atom, a hydroxy group, a C_1 - C_4 alkyl group, a C_1 - C_4 alkoxy group or a substituted amino group; and X represents $-NH-$, $-NHCO-$ or $-N=N-$; or a salt thereof; and a polarizing film containing the same.