[Title of the invention] Air separation apparatus

[Document Name] ABSTRACT
[Summary]
[Problem] To provide an air separation apparatus comprising a crude argon rectification column and a pure argon rectification column, which is capable of recovering nitrogen gas from a gas drawn from a condensing portion of a pure argon rectification column.
[Solution] An air separation apparatus 1 comprises: a first rectification column 2, a first condensing portion 3, a second rectification column 4, a third rectification column 5, a second condensing portion 6, a fourth rectification column, a third condensing portion 8, and a recycling pipe L81 for recycling a gas drawn from the third condensing portion 8 to the second rectification column 4. The air separation apparatus 1 furthermore comprises: a branch pipe L811 branching from the recycling pipe L81; and a control unit C8 for controlling opening/closing of a valve so that a gas drawn from the third condensing portion 8 is fed to the branch pipe L811 for a predetermined period from the start of driving of the third condensing portion 8, and for controlling opening/closing of the valve so that the gas drawn from the third condensing portion 8 is fed to the recycling pipe L81 after the predetermined period has elapsed.
[Selected Drawing] Fig. 1