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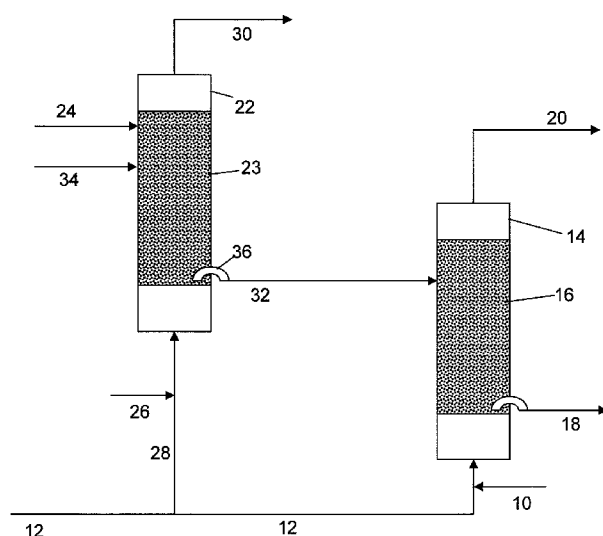
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(54) Title: PRE-SULFIDING AND PRE-CONDITIONING OF RESIDUUM HYDROCONVERSION CATALYSTS FOR EBULLATED-BED HYDROCONVERSION PROCESSES

Figure 1



(57) Abstract: A hydroconversion process is disclosed, including contacting of hydrogen and a residuum hydrocarbon with a pre-conditioned and at least partially sulfided hydroconversion catalyst for converting at least a portion of the residuum hydrocarbon into at least one of a hydrotreated product and a hydrocracked product. Pre-sulfiding and preconditioning of the catalyst may include: intermittently or continuously: feeding a hydroconversion catalyst comprising a metal oxide to a pre-reactor; feeding hydrogen and the residuum hydrocarbon comprising sulfur-containing compounds to the pre-reactor; contacting the hydroconversion catalyst with hydrogen and the sulfur-containing compounds in the pre-reactor at conditions of temperature and pressure to concurrently: i) convert at least a portion of the metal oxide to a metal sulfide; and ii) pre-condition the catalyst; recovering a residuum hydrocarbon having a reduced sulfur content from the pre-reactor; and transporting the preconditioned and at least partially sulfided hydroconversion catalyst from the pre-reactor to the ebullated-bed hydroconversion reactor.