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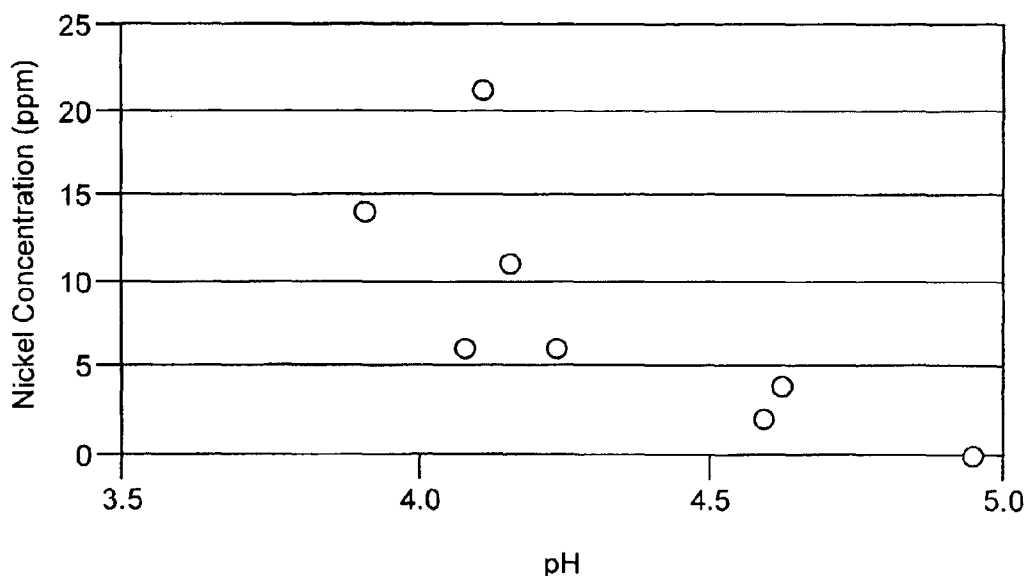
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(54) Title: PRODUCTION OF BUTANEDIOL



(57) Abstract: The catalytic hydrogenation of HBA and/or HMPA is improved by either or both of (1) increasing the temperature in the hydrogenation zone from about 50 to 70°C at the inlet to above 80°C at the outlet and (2) raising the pH of the hydrogenation feed to 4.5 - 6.0 before hydrogenation.

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