production method. In such a case, the filtrate obtained by filtration may be used for washing in the upstream stage and fresh washing liquid fed into the washing tank in the final stage.

[0007a] In one aspect of the invention, there is provided a method of producing a polyvinyl alcohol resin, comprising a washing step of washing a polyvinyl alcohol obtained by saponification of a polyvinyl ester with a washing liquid consisting of methyl acetate, methanol and water, wherein the polyvinyl alcohol is washed stepwise in a slurry at a solid matter concentration of 1 to 30 mass %, and the washing step comprises feeding a fresh washing liquid into the final-stage washing tank and using sequentially a filtrate after washing in the previous stage, and the fresh washing liquid contains methyl acetate, methanol and water at a rate of methyl acetate: 1 to 40 parts by mass, methanol: 50 to 98.9 parts by mass and water: 0.1 to 10 parts by mass.

Advantageous Effects of Invention

[0008]

Because a polyvinyl alcohol generated by saponification is washed with a washing liquid containing methanol, water and additionally methyl acetate at a particular rate, as the solid matter concentration in the slurry containing the washing liquid is kept in a particular range, it is possible according to the present invention to reduce the amount of the washing liquid and remove the impurity sodium acetate efficiently with a small amount of washing liquid.

Brief Description of Drawings

[0009]

Fig. 1 is a flowchart showing the method of producing a polyvinyl alcohol resin according to the first embodiment of the present invention.

Fig. 2 is a schematic block diagram showing the washing method used in the method of producing a polyvinyl alcohol resin according to the second embodiment of the present invention.

Description of Embodiments

[0010]

Hereinafter, favorable embodiments of the present invention will be described in detail with reference to attached diagrams. It should be understood that the present

CLAIMS:

1. A method of producing a polyvinyl alcohol resin, comprising a washing step of washing a polyvinyl alcohol obtained by saponification of a polyvinyl ester with a washing liquid consisting of methyl acetate, methanol and water, wherein the polyvinyl alcohol is washed, in the washing step, in a slurry containing methyl acetate, methanol and water at a rate of methyl acetate: 1 to 40 parts by mass, methanol: 50 to 98.9 parts by mass and water: 0.1 to 10 parts by mass at a solid matter concentration of 1 to 30 mass %.

2. The method of producing a polyvinyl alcohol resin according to Claim 1, wherein washing and filtration are repeated multiple times in the washing step.

3. The method of producing a polyvinyl alcohol resin according to Claim 2, wherein the filtrate generated by the filtration is used in washing in the upstream stage and a fresh washing liquid is fed into the final-stage washing tank.

CLAIMS

1. A method of producing a polyvinyl alcohol resin, comprising a washing step of washing a polyvinyl alcohol obtained by saponification of a polyvinyl ester with a washing liquid consisting of methyl acetate, methanol and water, wherein the polyvinyl alcohol is washed stepwise in a slurry at a solid matter concentration of 1 to 30 mass %, and the washing step comprises feeding a fresh washing liquid into the final-stage washing tank and using sequentially a filtrate after washing in the previous stage, and the fresh washing liquid contains methyl acetate, methanol and water at a rate of methyl acetate: 1 to 40 parts by mass, methanol: 50 to 98.9 parts by mass and water: 0.1 to 10 parts by mass.

2. The method of producing a polyvinyl alcohol resin according to Claim 1, wherein washing the polyvinyl alcohol with the washing liquid and separating the washing liquid from the polyvinyl alcohol by filtration are repeated multiple times in the washing step.

3. The method of producing a polyvinyl alcohol resin according to Claim 1 or 2, wherein, in the washing step, the filtration efficiency is higher in more downstream stage.

4. The method of producing a polyvinyl alcohol resin according to any one of Claims 1 to 3, wherein the polyvinyl alcohol and the washing liquid are fed into the washing tank and the polyvinyl alcohol is washed for 1000 seconds or more.

5. The method of producing a polyvinyl alcohol resin according to any one of Claims 1 to 4, wherein the first-stage filtrate is collected and purified.