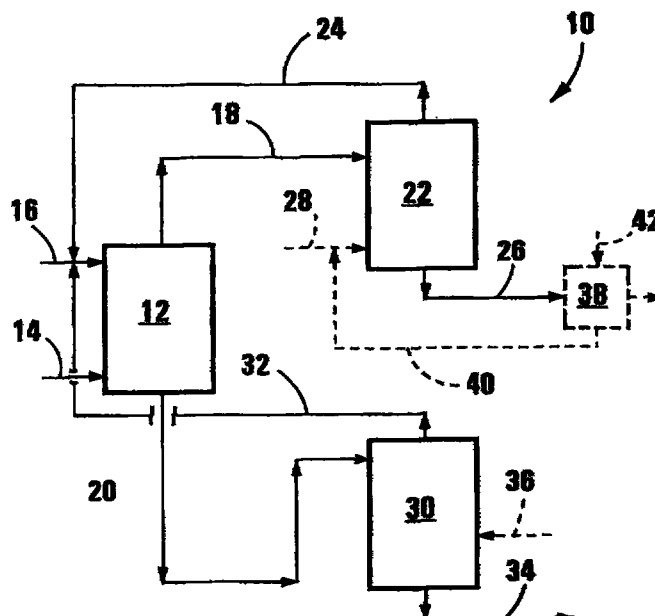




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(21) International Application Number: PCT/IB99/00827 (22) International Filing Date: 7 May 1999 (07.05.99) (30) Priority Data: 98/3915 8 May 1998 (08.05.98) ZA (71) Applicant (for all designated States except US): SASOL TECHNOLOGY (PROPRIETARY) LIMITED [ZA/ZA]; 1 Sturdee Avenue, Rosebank, 2196 Johannesburg (ZA). (72) Inventors; and (75) Inventors/Applicants (for US only): DE VILLIERS, Waldo, Eugene [ZA/US]; 14855 Memorial Drive, Houston, TX 77079 (US). DE WET, Petra [ZA/ZA]; 65 Beethoven Street, 1911 Vanderbijlpark (ZA). HOUGH-LANGANKE, Magdalena, Catharina [ZA/ZA]; Nel-Luce, District Parys, 9585 Parys (ZA). NAUDE, Hubert [ZA/ZA]; 63 Montserrat, 441 Richview Street, Waterkloof Ridge, 0001 Pretoria (ZA). PEMA, Atool, Govan [ZA/ZA]; 93 Sunbird Avenue, Lenasia Extension 1, 1820 Lenasia (ZA). (74) Agent: KOTZE, Gavin; Adams & Adams Pretoria Office, Adams & Adams Place, 1140 Prospect Street, Hatfield, 0001 Pretoria (ZA).		(81) Designated States: AE, AL, AM, AT, AU, AZ, BA, BB, BG, BR, BY, CA, CH, CN, CU, CZ, DE, DK, EE, ES, FI, GB, GD, GE, GH, GM, HR, HU, ID, IL, IN, IS, JP, KE, KG, KP, KR, KZ, LC, LK, LR, LS, LT, LU, LV, MD, MG, MK, MN, MW, MX, NO, NZ, PL, PT, RO, RU, SD, SE, SG, SI, SK, SL, TJ, TM, TR, TT, UA, UG, US, UZ, VN, YU, ZA, ZW, ARIPO patent (GH, GM, KE, LS, MW, SD, SL, SZ, UG, ZW), Eurasian patent (AM, AZ, BY, KG, KZ, MD, RU, TJ, TM), European patent (AT, BE, CH, CY, DE, DK, ES, FI, FR, GB, GR, IE, IT, LU, MC, NL, PT, SE), OAPI patent (BF, BJ, CF, CG, CI, CM, GA, GN, GW, ML, MR, NE, SN, TD, TG). Published <i>With international search report.</i>

(54) Title: REMOVAL OF IMPURITIES FROM A HYDROCARBON COMPONENT OR FRACTION

**(57) Abstract**

A process for removing impurities from a hydrocarbon component or fraction comprises mixing, in a liquid-liquid extraction step, an impurity-containing liquid hydrocarbon component or fraction, as an impure liquid hydrocarbon feedstock, with an acetonitrile-based solvent. Thereby, at least one impurity is extracted from the hydrocarbon component or fraction into the solvent. There is withdrawn from the extraction step, as a raffinate, purified hydrocarbon component or fraction, while there is withdrawn from the extraction step, as an extract, impurity-containing solvent.