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(54) Title: WATER STRIPPING AND CATALYST/LIQUID PRODUCT SEPARATION SYSTEM

(57) **Abstract:** The present invention relates to a method and system for water removal and optionally liquid product separation in slurry reactors operating at Fischer-Tropsch conditions. More particularly, the present invention includes a water stripping system that allows the reaction water to be stripped in an external vessel, with a relatively high rate of catalyst and wax circulation. In a preferred embodiment of the present invention, a method for removing water from a slurry reactor containing a water-rich slurry includes removing a portion of water-rich slurry from the slurry reactor, stripping water from the water-rich slurry using a dry gas to form a water-reduced slurry and a water-rich gas stream, and returning the water-reduced slurry back to the reactor.



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