



(43) International Publication Date
26 February 2009 (26.02.2009)

(10) International Publication Number
WO 2009/024612 A1

(51) International Patent Classification:

B01D 53/50 (2006.01) **B01D 53/68** (2006.01)
B01D 53/64 (2006.01) **B01D 53/75** (2006.01)

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(21) International Application Number:

PCT/EP2008/061013

(22) International Filing Date: 22 August 2008 (22.08.2008)

(25) Filing Language: English

(26) **Publication Language:** English

(30) Priority Data:

10 2007 039 926.1 23 August 2007 (23.08.2007) DE

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(81) Designated States (*unless otherwise indicated, for every kind of national protection available*): AE, AG, AL, AM,

AO, AT, AU, AZ, BA, BB, BG, BH, BR, BW, BY, BZ, CA, CH, CN, CO, CR, CU, CZ, DK, DM, DO, DZ, EC, EE, EG, ES, FI, GB, GD, GE, GH, GM, GT, HN, HR, HU, ID, IL, IN, IS, JP, KE, KG, KM, KN, KP, KR, KZ, LA, LC, LK, LR, LS, LT, LU, LY, MA, MD, ME, MG, MK, MN, MW, MX, MY, MZ, NA, NG, NI, NO, NZ, OM, PG, PH, PL, PT, RO, RS, RU, SC, SD, SE, SG, SK, SL, SM, ST, SV, SY, TJ, TM, TN, TR, TT, TZ, UA, UG, US, UZ, VC, VN, ZA, ZM, ZW.

(84) Designated States (*unless otherwise indicated, for every kind of regional protection available*): ARIPO (BW, GH,

GM, KE, LS, MW, MZ, NA, SD, SL, SZ, TZ, UG, ZM, ZW), Eurasian (AM, AZ, BY, KG, KZ, MD, RU, TJ, TM), European (AT, BE, BG, CH, CY, CZ, DE, DK, EE, ES, FI, FR, GB, GR, HR, HU, IE, IS, IT, LT, LU, LV, MC, MT, NL, NO, PL, PT, RO, SE, SI, SK, TR), OAPI (BF, BJ, CF, CG, CI, CM, GA, GN, GQ, GW, ML, MR, NE, SN, TD, TG).

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(54) Title: METHOD FOR THE CLEANING OF OFF-GAS

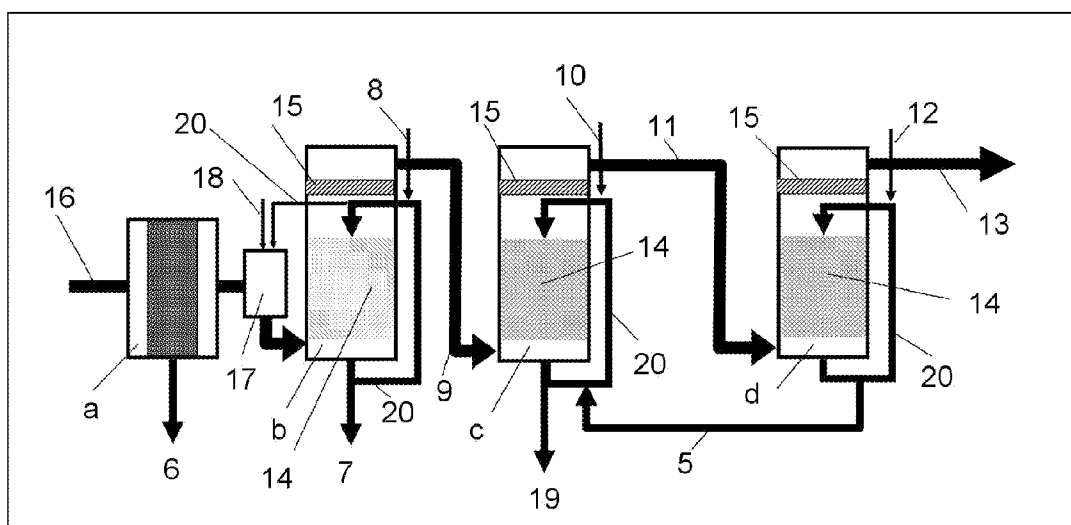


Fig. 1

(57) Abstract: The present invention relates to a method for cleaning off-gas comprising the following steps: 1. sulphur dioxide is separated from the off-gas by way of at least one first scrubber stage (c) by means of ammonia or ammonium compounds, 2. the off-gas is transferred into a second scrubber stage (d) and 3. in the second scrubber stage the sulphur dioxide not separated in the first scrubber stage (c), is oxidised to sulphuric acid and separated in at least one scrubber (d) and simultaneously, the ammonia released in the first scrubber stage (d) is separated by means of the formed sulphuric acid, whereby ammonium sulphate is formed, 4. the separated stream of the second scrubber stage (d) is transferred into the first scrubber stage (c).



Published:

- *with international search report*
- *before the expiration of the time limit for amending the claims and to be republished in the event of receipt of amendments*

Method for the cleaning of off-gas

This application claims priority to DE 10 2007 039 926.1 filed on August 23, 2007. The
5 entire disclosure of the prior application/applications is considered to be part of the
disclosure of the instant application and is hereby incorporated by reference.

The present invention concerns a method and a device for the cleaning of flue gases,
in particular for the separation of sulphur dioxide (SO_2) from flue gas and at the same
10 time prevention of the releasing of ammonia (NH_3) and the formation of aerosols at
ammonium sulphate resulting therefrom.

From the prior art several methods for the cleaning of waste gases are known. For
example a process for the removal of sulphur dioxide from flue gases is described in
15 DE 37 33 319 C2. It concerns a three-stage counter current scrubber process for the
separation of sulphur dioxide, in which after a dust-filter and a quench scrubber step for
the separation of hydrochloric acid and hydrofluoric acid by means of washing with
water the three-stage counter current device is set out. The first two steps of the
sulphur dioxide scrubber process are operated by the addition of ammonia, in the third
20 step sulphuric acid is added in order to separate released ammonia.

From DE 197 31 062 C2 a method for the separation of acidic gases from smoke
gases is known, in particular from off-gases of power stations and off-gases of waste
incinerators. A two-stage counter current scrubber process for the separation of
25 sulphur dioxide is described. A dust filter and a quench/scrubber step are preset to the
separation of sulphur dioxide for the removal of hydrochloric acid and hydrofluoric acid
by washing with water. In the scrubber cycle of the first stage, ammonium sulfite/-
hydrogen sulfite is oxidised to ammonium sulphate with oxygen-containing gas.

30 EP 0 778 067 B1 discloses a device for the cleaning of smoke gases with different
amounts of acidic components and methods for the operation of the device. After a
dust filter and a quench/scrubber step for the separation of hydrochloric acid and
hydrofluoric acid by washing with water a counter current scrubber process for the
separation of sulphur dioxide is arranged.

EP 0 212 523 discloses a one-stage counter current scrubber process with the addition of ammonia and oxidation to sulphate by means of addition of air in the scrubber bottom.

- 5 The determination of SO₂-concentration in off-gases by means of absorption in an aqueous solution of hydrogen peroxide (H₂O₂) is described in the VDI Rule 2462, journal 2.

- 10 DE 40 36 899 C2 and US 3,760,061 disclose a cleaning process of flue gas for the separation of SO₂ by means of hydrogen peroxide whereby sulphuric acid is formed.

With the previously known scrubber methods exclusively by means of ammonia, the separation of sulphur dioxide succeeds only incompletely because low pH-values have to be used in order to prevent the release of ammonia. By means of the addition of sulphuric acid in a third scrubber stage (DE 37 33 319 C2), the ammonia released from the two preset ammonia scrubber stages can be separated. However, in the case of such acid scrubber solutions, nearly no separation of SO₂ takes place. In addition to the costs for the necessary sulphuric acid, in particular the additional costs for cleaning and for disposal of the ammonia charge generated by means of the feeding of sulphuric acid, are disadvantageous. These economical facts are important in particular when using this method in waste incinerators.

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The object of the present invention therefore is to provide a method for the efficient separation of sulphur dioxide from off-gases and at the same time avoiding the release of ammonia and the formation of aerosol of ammonium sulphate resulting therefrom.

- 25 This problem is solved by a process comprising the following steps:

1. Sulphur dioxide is separated from off-gas in a first scrubber stage by means of ammonia or ammonium compounds,
2. the off-gas is transferred into a second scrubber stage,

3. in the second scrubber stage the sulphur dioxide, which has not been separated in the first scrubber stage, is oxidised by addition of an oxidizing agent, for example hydrogen peroxide to sulphuric acid and separated
- 5 4. the ammonia released from the first scrubber stage is separated in the second scrubber stage together with the formed sulphuric acid via formation of ammonium sulphate.
- 10 The method according to the invention therefore consists of a two-stage scrubber combination, a part of the sulphur dioxide being separated by ammonia in the first scrubber stage and in the second stage the sulphur dioxide, which has not been separated in the first scrubber stage, being separated by means of an oxidizing agent, in particular hydrogen peroxide being used as oxidizing agent. The addition of an
- 15 oxidizing agent, preferably hydrogen peroxide, is done at least in an stoichiometric amount in view of the SO₂-charge entering the second scrubber stage. Particularly preferred is a slightly increased amount of oxidizing agent in view of the charge of sulphur dioxide entering the second scrubber-stage. Both scrubber stages may be provided with one or more wet scrubber cycles. The wet scrubber cycles within a
- 20 scrubber stage may each have an own or a common bottom.

The scrubber solutions (washing water discharge) of the respective scrubber stages can be led counter-currently to the off-gas. Preferably the sulphuric acid/ammonium sulphate-solution mixture formed in the second scrubber-stage and the excess of

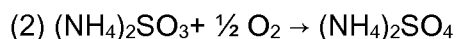
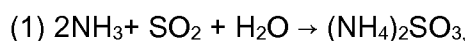
25 hydrogen peroxide present therein is fed back into the preset first scrubber-stage.

In the first scrubber-stage according to the invention ammonia is added, preferably in form of an aqueous ammonia solution. Alternatively to ammonia, also other ammonium compounds such as ammonium carbonate are usable as well. During the separation of SO₂ in the scrubber-solution, the pH-value decreases in the scrubber solution. By

30 means of a controlled addition of ammonia or the aqueous ammonia-solution, the pH-value is kept in a variable manner in a control-range of 4 to 6. Under these conditions, the sulphur dioxide in the off-gas is separated in a high proportion. The typical separation rates for sulphur dioxide in one scrubber stage are at about 30 to 90% at pH-values of about 4 to 6. With lower pH-values, the separation grade of SO₂

decreases and increases with a higher pH-value. Ammonia behaves the other way round. With a dropping of the pH-value the release of NH_3 decreases and with an increase of the pH-value the released amount of ammonia increases.

- 5 In the first step a considerable oxidation of the primarily formed ammonium sulfite takes place by the oxygen being present in the smoke gas. The effect of oxidation with oxygen can be maximised by intensive contact between smoke gas and scrubber fluid (large area of exchange of substances, high ratio of scrubber solution to off-gas). The dispersion of O_2 -containing smoke gas or air in the wet scrubber cycle can contribute to
10 a further increase of the oxidation degree. In detail, the products are formed after the following reactions:



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- The ammonium sulfite or -sulphate solution, formed by the reaction, is characterized by a ammonia partial pressure which is dependant from the pH-value and the temperature of the scrubber solution. The partial pressure of ammonia decreases at lower pH-values. It is disadvantageous that the separation of sulphur dioxide decreases likewise
20 with the decrease of the pH-value. At pH-values in the range of 4 to 6, a sufficiently high separation of sulphur dioxide and a moderate release of ammonia are ensured.

- For the two-stage process a molar concentration ratio of SO_2 to NH_3 in the off-gas after the first scrubber stage of 0.5 is preferable, more preferable in the range of 0.5 to 2, in
25 particular preferable in the range of 0.5 to 1. The molar concentration ratio SO_2/NH_3 can be controlled via the pH-value in the second scrubber stage. I.e., the desired pH-value in the first scrubber stage is controlled via a cascade control based on the pH-value (difference of pH-value from desired value) of the second scrubber stage. A decreasing pH-value in the second scrubber stage means an excess of SO_2 and an
30 increasing pH-value an excess of NH_3 in the off-gas before entering the second scrubber stage. The pH-value in the second scrubber stage is concretely set in the range of 1 to 5, preferably in the range of 2 to 4, the pH-value in the second scrubber stage for example is set at about 3. If the pH-value in the second scrubber stage falls below the specified value (for example $\text{pH} < 3$) the desired -pH-value in the first
35 scrubber stage is automatically increased via a control loop. As a result the separation degree of SO_2 in the first scrubber stage and the release of NH_3 is increased. This

results in the increasing of the pH-value in the second scrubber-stage. With increasing pH-value (for example $\text{pH} > 3$) in the second scrubber-stage, the desired pH-value of the first scrubber-stage is decreased. As a result, the SO_2 separation is decreased and the release of NH_3 in the first scrubber-stage is reduced. As a consequence, the pH-value
5 in the second scrubber-stage decreases. By this relay of the control loops, the two stage scrubber method can be optimally controlled, i.e. the pH-value in the second scrubber-stage is maintained at about 3 and thus the molar concentration ratio of SO_2 to NH_3 in the off-gas after the first scrubber-stage is maintained in the desired range of about for example 0.5-1.

10 The SO_2 concentrations in the off-gas of technical processes, for example waste incinerators, can have considerable fluctuations as a result of the heterogeneous fuel compositions. This means that the optimal pH-value of the first scrubber stage cannot be a fixed value. The optimal desired pH-value of the first scrubber stage therefore can vary within a relatively wide range of from about 4 to 6. The regulation to the variable
15 desired pH-value in the first scrubber-stage is done by means of a NH_3 dosage into the scrubber-cycle of the first scrubber stage. By the relay of both scrubber-stages and the above mentioned controlling of the pH-value-regulation (control loop cascade) the process can always be managed in the optimal range (minimized H_2O_2 -consumption) even at varying SO_2 -concentrations in the off-gas before the first scrubber stage.

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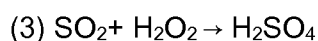
After the first scrubber stage, only low amounts of sulphur dioxide and ammonia are left in the off-gas which should be in a molar stoichiometrical ratio of about 0.5 to 1.

The off-gas is then transferred into the second scrubber stage. Dependant on the
25 sulphur dioxide concentration which is measured in the off-gas before entering the second scrubber stage, an oxidizing agent is now added into the second scrubber stage. The SO_2 separation is by at least stoichiometrical addition of an oxidizing agent into the scrubber solution to a large extent independent from the pH-value. Preferable is the addition of hydrogen peroxide as oxidizing agent. However also other oxidizing
30 agents such as for example ozone, sodium or potassium peroxide may be considered. The required amount of oxidizing agent, preferably hydrogen peroxide, is used at least in the stoichiometrical ratio to the SO_2 -charge in the off-gas before entering the second scrubber stage. Alternatively, also the SO_2 -concentration in the clean gas after the second scrubber stage can be used as controlling parameter for the for the H_2O_2 -
35 dosage.

A further possibility of a controlled addition of oxidizing agent can also take place by a direct or indirect measurement of the concentration of oxidizing agents in the scrubber cycle of the second scrubber stage.

- 5 Preferably the molar ratio of the added amount of hydrogen peroxide in relation to the sulphur dioxide charge in the off-gas before entering the second scrubber stage is in the range of about 1 to 2, preferably about 1 to 1.5, in particular preferably about 1.2 to 1.3. By means of the addition of hydrogen peroxide the sulphur dioxide is practically quantitatively separated under forming of sulphuric acid:

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The ammonia still left in the off-gas after the first scrubber stage is also separated in the second scrubber stage. To this purpose serves the sulphur acid resulting from the
15 oxidation.



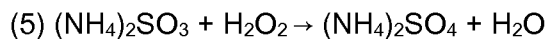
Since the second scrubber stage is carried out acidly ($\text{pH} < 7$) the result is a sulphuric
20 acid ammonium sulphate solution. The preferably slightly overstoichiometrical H_2O_2 dosage in the ratio to SO_2 has the effect that the scrubber solution of the second scrubber stage may still contain low residual amounts of unspent H_2O_2 .

The pH-value of the second scrubber stage is preferably between 1 and 5, more
25 preferably between 2 and 4 and especially optimal at about 3. The pH-value of this second scrubber stage is maintained by an appropriate cascade control of the variable desired pH-value of the first scrubber stage.

The mixture of sulphuric acid, ammonium sulphate and the unused oxidizing agent, for
30 example hydrogen peroxide, can preferably be fed back into the first scrubber stage.

The sulphuric acid present in relatively low amounts then reacts in the first scrubber stage with the added ammonia to ammonium sulphate. The excess of also back fed hydrogen peroxide preferably oxidises still present ammonium sulfite to ammonium

sulphate and thereby supports the oxidation process proceeding with the residual oxygen from the off-gas.



- 5 By means of the procedure according to the invention the sulphur dioxide is separated practically quantitatively. The sulphuric acid formed in the second scrubber stage nearly completely absorbs the ammonia released in the preset stage. By way of the process according to the invention therefore extremely low clean gas concentrations of SO₂ and ammonia can be reached after the second scrubber stage.

10

Scrubber devices can be the described scrubber stages as empty spray absorption columns and/or scrubbers with scrubber water-impinged installations such as tower packings or sieve plates or nozzle plates, however also as bubble columns. The operation of the individual stages can take place in co-, counter- or cross-current principle. The individual scrubber stages are each provided in a preferable manner with droplet separators such as for example fibre packages, wet electro filters or inertia separators (for example cyclone separators).

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The described scrubber stages can be replenished by further cleaning stages. For example crude gas, for example from a waste incinerator, can be cleared from fly ash by use of a respective filter. That means, for example, tissue filters or electro filters can be preset before the two stage SO₂-scrubber process so that the gas to be treated is released from fly ash or other dusts.

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Furthermore it is preferable to remove for example hydrochloric acid or hydrofluoric acid before entering the described two stage NH₃/H₂O₂-scrubber process. So, by nozzling in of water into the hot smoke gas, a cooling down to saturation temperature can be effected. In the case of waste incinerators at the quench process, the typical water vapour saturation temperature is about 60-65°C. In the water quench, for example hydrochloric acid and hydrofluoric acid but also HgCl₂ (important in the case of waste incineration) can simultaneously be absorbed at low pH-values of from -1 to 3, preferably of 0 to 2. Under these conditions sulphur dioxide in the formed aqueous hydrochloric acid solution is regularly not separated.

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The removal of hydrochloric acid and hydrofluoric acid can be reached for example by way of devices as for example with water-impinged tower packings, sieve bottom columns, but also with bubble columns or spray absorption columns which are each equipped with droplet separators. The wet scrubber conduction of the scrubber process
5 can be carried out as a method of direct current, counter current or cross current .

In the following the invention is described by reference to the example described in figure 1 with regard to a device for the cleaning of off-gas.

The crude gas 16 is cleared of fly ash 6 in the filter (a), (for example tissue filter or
10 electro filter). In the quench 17, a cooling down of the off-gas to saturation temperature takes place by nozzling in of water 18. The nozzling in of water 18 for the cooling of smoke gas can also be replaced or supplemented by scrubber water from scrubber stage b. In this case a common scrubber bottom of quench 17 and scrubber stage (b) is preferable. In the quench 17, in addition to the cooling of smoke gas, a partial
15 separation of HCl and hydrofluoric acid and also of HgCl_2 takes place.

In the following step (b) a nearly complete separation of hydrochloric acid and hydrofluoric acid is then carried out at pH-values of below 3, preferably 2 to 0. The pH-value can be adjusted by the ratio of separated scrubber water to the entered HCl-
20 charge and/or by controlled addition of a neutralization agent, for example NaOH or $\text{Ca}(\text{OH})_2$. Both scrubber solutions of quench and stage (b) can have a common scrubber bottom. In the example according to the invention a droplet separator 15 is used. The device is equipped with a tower packing 14. The scrubber water is led counter currently as cycle 20 to the off-gas through the tower packing 14.
25 The separated scrubber water 7 (aqueous hydrochloric acid and hydrofluoric acid solution and HgCl_2 separated therein) and the vaporized water amount are replaced by fresh water 8 and/or 18 so that practically a constant volume of scrubber water in the water cycle is maintained.

30 The off-gas is then led via the pipe 9 into the first scrubber stage (c). By controlled addition of an aqueous ammonia solution 10 into the scrubber cycle 20, the variable desired pH-value is adjusted in the range of from 4 to 6. The start-value of the desired pH-value of the first scrubber stage is achieved via a cascade controlling based on the pH-value (pH-value deviation) of the second scrubber stage (d). By the oxidative effect
35 of the residual oxygen in the off-gas and the addition of ammonia, the sulphur dioxide

is separated mainly in form of ammonium sulphate and only in small amounts in the form of ammonium sulfite and separated as aqueous solution via the pipe 19. By means of the method of the first scrubber stage regulated on the variable desired pH-value, a molar concentration ratio of sulphur dioxide to ammonia of from >0.5 , preferably in the range of 0.5 to 1, is adjusted in the off-gas 11 after the first scrubber stage.

The off-gas is then transferred via the pipe 11 into the second scrubber stage (d). Here an aqueous hydrogen peroxide solution is added via pipe 12 into the water cycle 20. The stoichiometrical ratio of hydrogen peroxide to sulphur dioxide is 1,3 in the example of the invention.

By appropriate control of the desired pH-value in the first scrubber stage (c), the pH-value in the second scrubber stage (d) is maintained at a value of between 2 and 4, preferably at a constant value of about 3. By way of regulation of the start-value of the desired value of the pH-value in the first scrubber stage (c), the separation of sulphur dioxide and the release of NH_3 are indirectly controlled. By a gas analysis (not shown) for the determination of the SO_2 -concentration in the off-gas 11 before entry into the second scrubber stage (d) a controlling of the dosage of the hydrogen peroxide 12 into the second scrubber stage (d) takes place. Hydrogen peroxide is added in an excess (stoichiometry in the range of 1 to 2) preferably 1.3.

The mixture of sulphuric acid and ammonium sulphate generated in the second scrubber stage (d) and unused hydrogen peroxide is fed back via pipe 5 into the first scrubber stage (c). The cleaned off-gas is separated from the second scrubber stage (d) via pipe 13.

Figure 2 shows schematically the principal dependencies of the SO_2 - and NH_3 -concentration in the off-gas from the pH-value after the first scrubber stage (c). The SO_2 concentration courses 1 and 2 in the off-gas after the first scrubber stage (c) depend on the pH-value of the first scrubber stage (c) and of the crude gas concentration. Curve 1 shows by way of example the course of the SO_2 clean gas concentration at low SO_2 -crude gas concentration, and curve 2 at high crude gas concentration. The release of NH_3 depends essentially on the pH-value of the first scrubber stage. This means that in case of variable SO_2 -crude gas concentrations the optimal operation point of the pH-value of the first scrubber stage is within the range of

from about 4 to 6 in order to maintain a defined molar SO_2/NH_3 concentration ratio. Thus follow the qualitatively marked respective optimal operation points A and B. At low SO_2 -crude gas concentrations therefore a lower pH-value is adjusted than at high SO_2 -crude gas concentrations. By way of the cascade control based on the pH-value of the second scrubber stage (d) the desired-pH-value in the first scrubber stage (c) is
5 adjusted in the range of 4-6 so that the result is a molar ratio of SO_2 and NH_3 in the off-gas in the range of 0.5 to 1 after the first scrubber stage (c).

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Claims:

1. A method for cleaning off-gas comprising the following steps:
 - 5 sulphur dioxide is partly separated from the off-gas in a first scrubber stage (c) by means of ammonia or ammonium compounds,
 2. the off-gas is then transferred into a second scrubber stage(d),
 3. the sulphur dioxide not separated in the first scrubber stage (c) is oxidised to sulphuric acid by means of the addition of oxidizing agents
10 into the second scrubber stage (d) and separated whereby the ammonia released from the first scrubber stage (c) is simultaneously separated with the formed sulphuric acid in the second scrubber stage (d), wherein the oxidation in the second scrubber stage (d) is carried out by way of the addition of hydrogen peroxide.
- 15 2. Method according to claim 1 characterized in that in the first scrubber stage (c) a variable desired pH-value is adjusted in the range between 4 to 6 by controlled addition of ammonia
- 20 3. Method according to claim 2 characterized in that the desired pH-value is, adjusted by means of a cascade control based on the pH-value in the second scrubber stage (d), which ranges from 2 to 4.
4. Method according to one of the preceding claims characterized in that
25 the molar concentration ratio of sulphur dioxide to ammonia in the off-gas is between 0.5 to 2 before entering the second scrubber stage (d) .
5. Method according to one of the preceding claims characterized in that the molar mass flux ratio of the addition of oxidizing agent to the sulphur dioxide
30 charge in the off-gas after the first scrubber stage is 1 to 2.
6. Method according to one of the preceding claims characterized in that the molar mass flux ratio of oxidizing agent to the sulphur dioxide charge in the off-gas after the first scrubber stage is of from 1 to 1.5.
- 35 7. Method according to one of the preceding claims characterized in that

the molar mass flux ratio of the oxidizing agent to the sulphur dioxide in the off-gas after the first scrubber stage is 1.2 to 1.3.

8. Method according to one of the preceding claims characterized in that
5 the pH-value in the second scrubber stage (d) is between 1 and 5 .
9. Method according the one of the preceding claims characterized in that the pH-value in the second scrubber stage is between 2 and 4.
- 10 10. Method according to one of the preceding claims characterized in that the pH-value of the second scrubber stage is about 3 .
11. Method according to one of the preceding claims characterized in that
15 a mixture of water, sulphuric acid and ammonium sulphate and excess hydrogen peroxide is separated from the second scrubber stage into the first scrubber stage.
12. Method according to one of the preceding claims characterized in that
20 a separation of dust (a) is preset to both scrubber stages (c, d).
13. Method according to one of the preceding claims characterized in that a tissue- or a electrical-filter (a) is used for the separation of dust.
14. Method according to one of the preceding claims characterized in that
25 after the separation of dust and before the separation of the sulphur dioxide, hydrochloric acid and hydrofluoric acid and HgCl_2 are separated.
15. Method according to one of the preceding claims characterized in that the off-
30 gas is cooled down to saturation temperature during the separation of hydrochloric acid and hydrofluoric acid by water injection.
16. Method according to one of the preceding claims characterized in that during the HCl-separation the pH-value is adjusted to -1 to 3.
- 35 17. Method according to one of the preceding claims characterized in that during the HCl-separation the pH-range is adjusted between 0 to 2.

18. Device for the realization of a method according to one of the preceding claims comprising
- a) a dust separator (a) for the separation of fly ash (6)
 - 5 b) a quenching device 17 and a scrubber device (b) for the separation of hydrochloric acid and hydrofluoric acid with a separation pipe (7)
 - c) a first scrubber stage (c) with a feed pipe for ammonia (10) and a separation pipe (19) for an aqueous ammonium sulphate-/ -sulfite solution and with a pipe (11) for the transfer of the off-gas into a second
10 scrubber stage (d)
 - d) a second scrubber stage (d) for the process of an oxidation with a feed pipe (12) for the supply of an aqueous hydrogen-peroxide solution, a separation pipe for the clean gas (13) and a pipe (5) for feeding back of an aqueous solution of sulphuric acid and ammonium sulphate and
15 excess of hydrogen peroxide into the first scrubber stage (c).

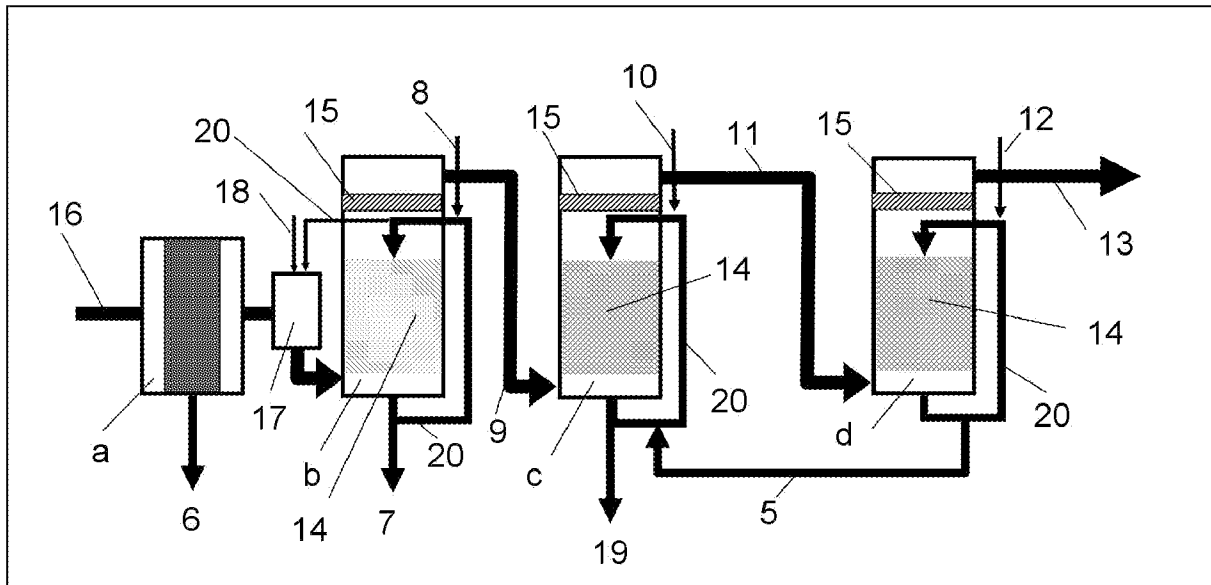


Fig. 1

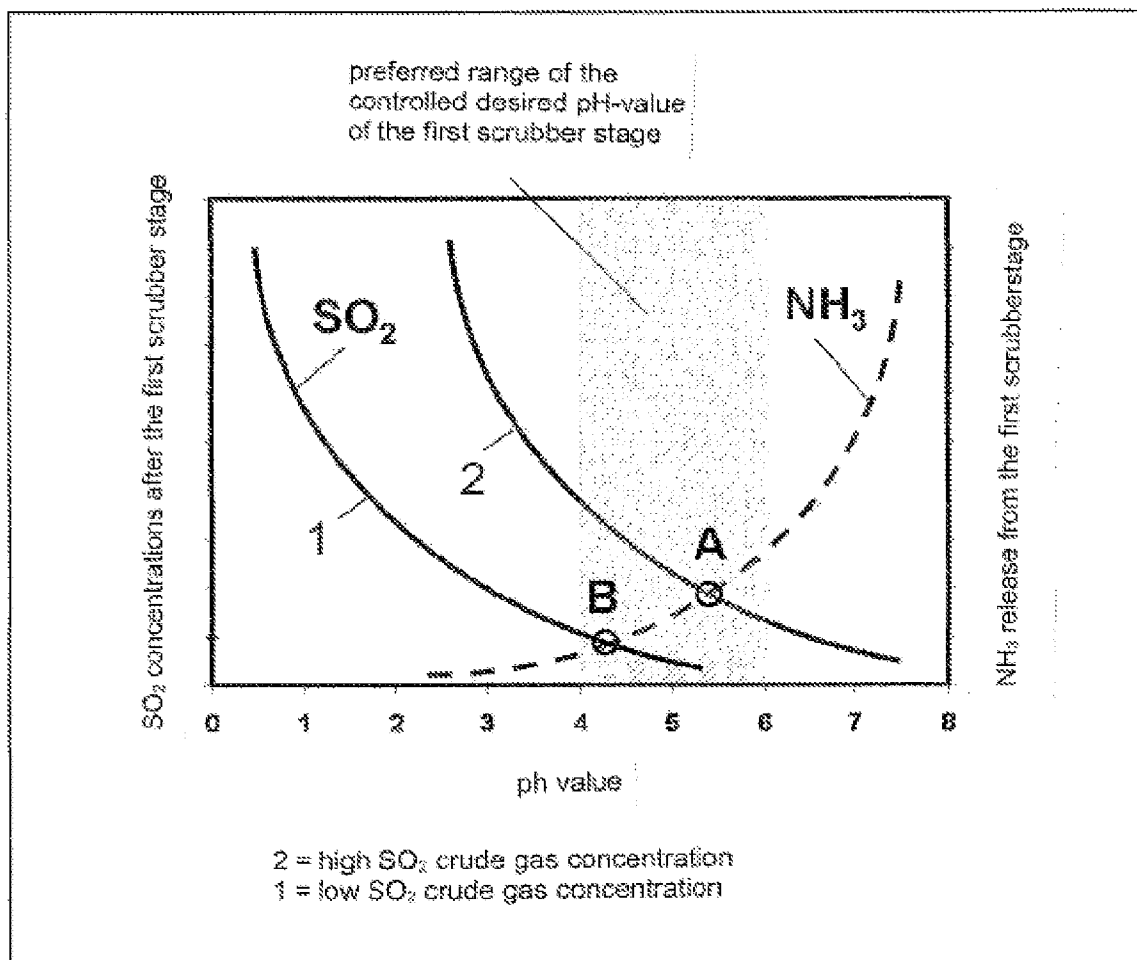


Fig. 2

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No

PCT/EP2008/061013

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER

INV. B01D53/50 B01D53/64 B01D53/68 B01D53/75

According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC

B. FIELDS SEARCHED

Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)

B01D

Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched

Electronic data base consulted during the International search (name of data base and, where practical, search terms used)

EPO-Internal, WPI Data

C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category*	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
Y	EP 0 778 067 A (KRUPP KOPPERS GMBH [DE] LURGI LENTJES BISCHOFF GMBH [DE]) 11 June 1997 (1997-06-11) cited in the application column 1, lines 3-15,57,58 column 2, lines 1-3,8-10 column 4, lines 7-9,32-37 column 5, lines 16-20,25-29 claim 6	1,2, 5-10,12, 13,15-18
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☒ Further documents are listed in the continuation of Box C.

☒ See patent family annex.

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Date of the actual completion of the international search

19 January 2009

Date of mailing of the international search report

30/01/2009

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A	DE 37 33 319 A1 (KRUPP KOPPERS GMBH [DE]) 13 April 1989 (1989-04-13) the whole document -----	1-18
A	DE 10 2005 041794 A1 (BASF AG [DE]) 8 March 2007 (2007-03-08) the whole document -----	1-18
A	WO 00/13770 A (MARSULEX ENVIRONMENTAL TECHNOL [US]) 16 March 2000 (2000-03-16) the whole document -----	1-18

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

Information on patent family members

International application No

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