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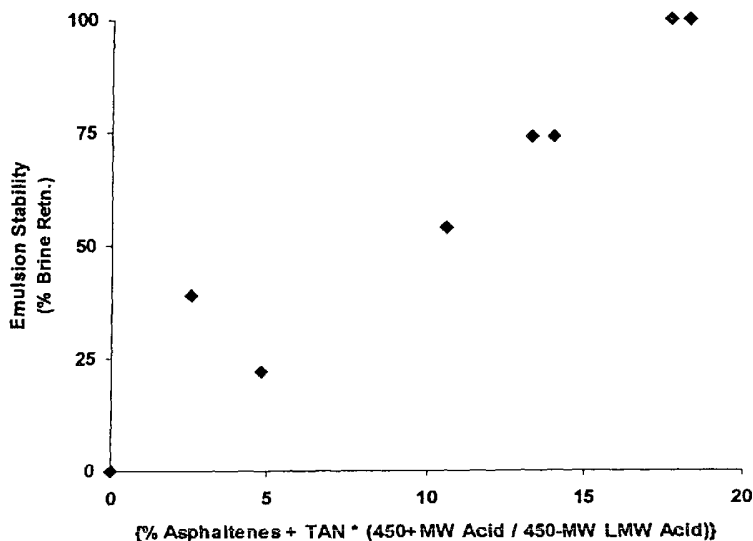
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(54) Title: IMPROVEMENTS IN OIL DESALTING BY FORMING UNSTABLE WATER-IN-OIL EMULSIONS



(57) Abstract: A method for determination for a given oil the relative stability of a water-in-oil emulsion that will be formed by that oil with water comprises measuring for the given oil the weight percent asphaltenes (A), total acid number (TAN), and ratio of the amount of naphthenic acids in the 450+ molecular weight to 450 molecular weight range (R); calculating an emulsion stability parameter, $S = A + TAN * R$; and determining whether the emulsion stability parameter, S, is greater than about 3; with a value above 3 being determinative of an emulsion more stable than one with a value less than 3.

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INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International Application No. PCT/us 03/10438

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER
 IPC 7 C10G53/02 C10G31/08

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)
 IPC 7 C10G

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, PAJ

C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category °	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
X	STARK J L ET AL: "NEW METHOD PREVENTS DESALTER UPSETS FROM BLENDING INCOMPATIBLE CRUDES" OIL AND GAS JOURNAL, PENNWELL PUBLISHING CO. TULSA, US, vol. 100, no. 11, 18 March 2002 (2002-03-18), pages 89-91, XP001101619 ISSN: 0030-1388	5-7,9
A	page 90 -page 91; tables 3,4 ---	1-4
X	US 2 904 485 A (LONG ROBERT B ET AL) 15 September 1959 (1959-09-15) column 1, line 15 -column 2, line 52; claim 1 --- -/--	5,6,9

Further documents are listed in the continuation of box C.

Patent family members are listed in annex.

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- *E* earlier document but published on or after the international filing date
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C.(Continuation) DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT		
Category *	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
X	US 6 168 702 B1 (BRONS CORNELIUS H ET AL) 2 January 2001 (2001-01-02) column 3, line 28 - line 54 column 5, line 48 - line 54; claim 1 ---	5,6,8,9
A	US 3 950 245 A (AKHMEDOV DECEASED MANSUR ILAL ET AL) 13 April 1976 (1976-04-13) column 2, line 26 - line 51; claim 1 ---	5-9
A	US 4 738 795 A (FERNAND J REDMOND) 19 April 1988 (1988-04-19) claim 1 ---	5-9
A	US 1 984 432 A (JACK REBINSON) 18 December 1934 (1934-12-18) page 1, line 1 - line 43; claims 1,7 -----	5-9

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US 6168702	B1	CA 2361740 A1 EP 1157080 A1 JP 2002537477 A WO 0050541 A1	31-08-2000 28-11-2001 05-11-2002 31-08-2000
US 3950245	A	GB 1459687 A	22-12-1976
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