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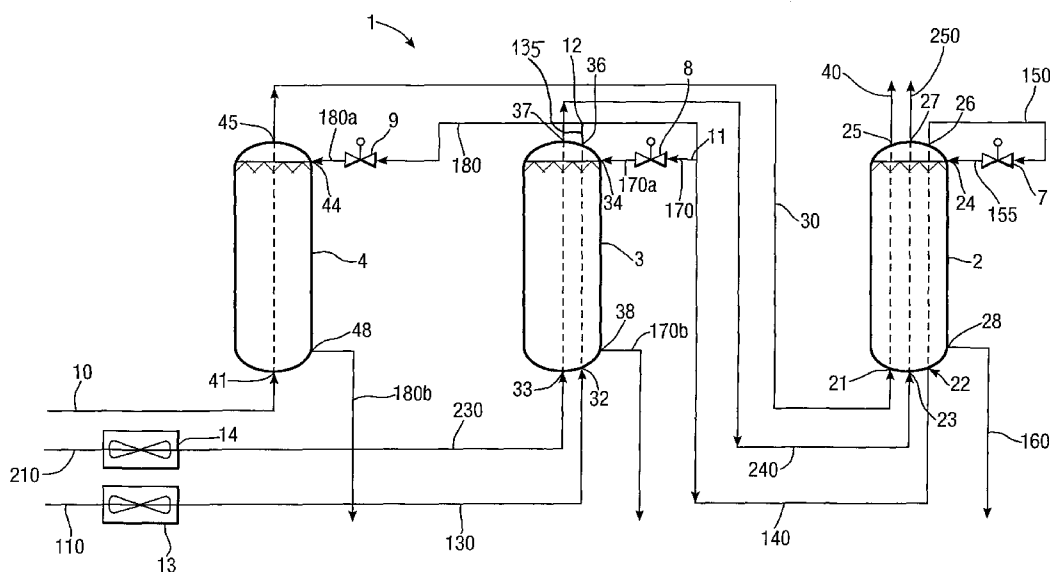
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(54) Title: METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR COOLING A HYDROCARBON STREAM



(57) Abstract: A hydrocarbon stream (30), such as natural gas, is commonly cooled together with a first refrigerant stream (140), against an evaporating refrigerant (24) in a series of one or more consecutively arranged common heat exchangers (2), which comprises a first common heat exchanger, upstream of which first common heat exchanger the hydrocarbon stream (10) and the first refrigerant stream (130) are not commonly cooled (4,3). The hydrocarbon stream to be cooled is fed into the first common heat exchanger at a hydrocarbon feeding temperature, while the first refrigerant stream is fed into the first common heat exchanger at a refrigerant feeding temperature. The temperature difference between the hydrocarbon feeding temperature and the refrigerant feeding temperature is lower than 60 °C.



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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A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER  
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According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC

## B. FIELDS SEARCHED

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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)

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## C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

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☒ Further documents are listed in the continuation of Box C.

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**C(Continuation). DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT**

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Information on patent family members

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