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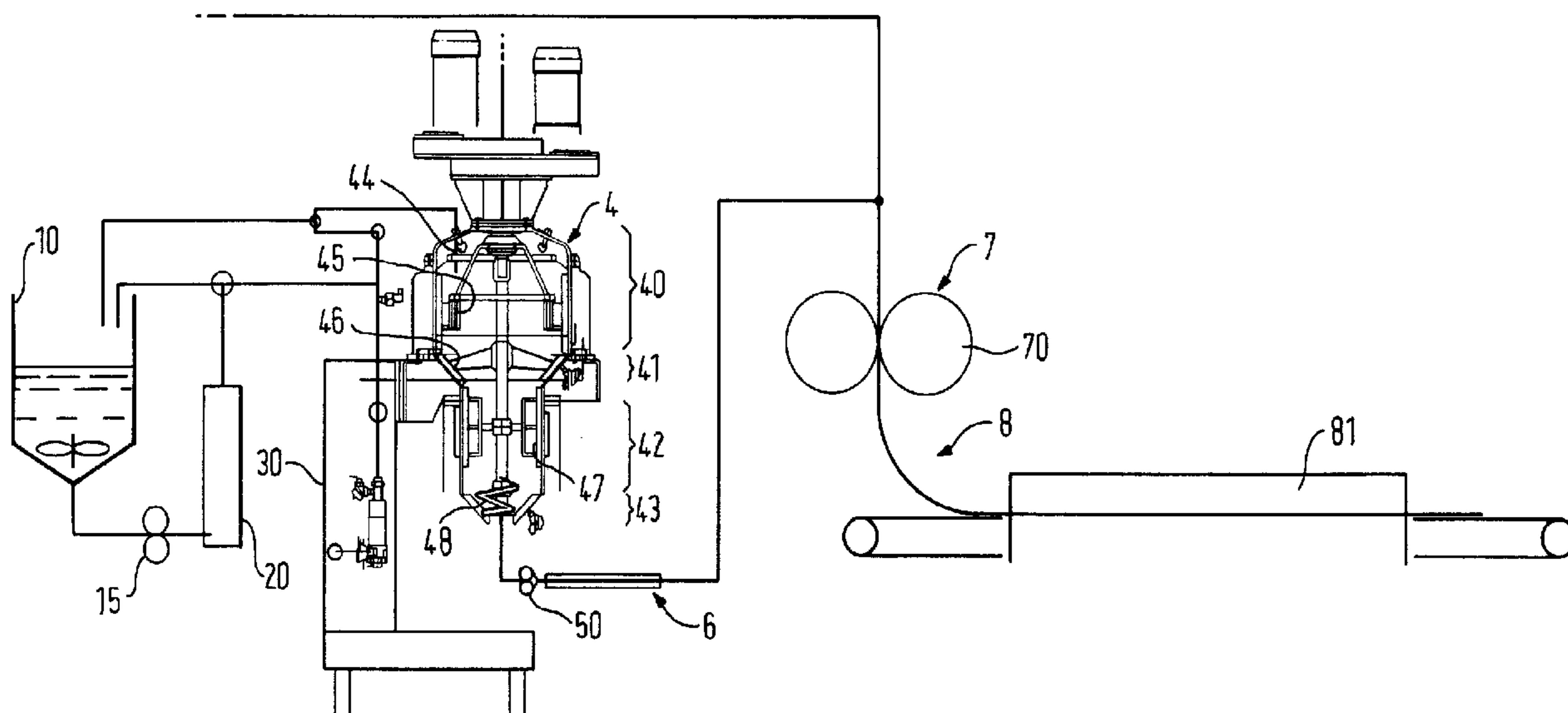
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(54) **METHODE POUR LA PREPARATION DE PRODUITS DE
CONFISERIE MOULES**

(54) **METHOD FOR MAKING MOULDED CONFECTIONERY
PRODUCTS**



(57) The present invention relates to a method for making confections comprising dissolving confectionery-based ingredients to make a confectionery-based slurry, concentrating the slurry by applying the slurry onto a first hot surface having a first temperature and scraping below the final solids required, then moving the slurry onto a second hot surface having a second temperature, preferably higher than the first temperature, and scraping the concentrated mass until the desired solid content level has been achieved. Such a method permits to produce a wide range of confections in more economic and cleaner manner while preventing extreme viscosity problems arising during cooking.

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ABSTRACT

10 The present invention relates to a method for making
confections comprising dissolving confectionery-based
ingredients to make a confectionery-based slurry,
concentrating the slurry by applying the slurry onto a
first hot surface having a first temperature and scraping
below the final solids required, then moving the slurry
onto a second hot surface having a second temperature,
preferably higher than the first temperature, and scraping
15 the concentrated mass until the desired solid content
level has been achieved. Such a method permits to produce
a wide range of confections in more economic and cleaner
manner while preventing extreme viscosity problems arising
during cooking.

20

FIGURE

5 **METHOD FOR MAKING MOULDED CONFECTIONERY PRODUCTS**

The present invention relates to a method for making sugar-based confections. The invention relates, more particularly to a method for making sugar-based confections having a solids content above 75 percent solids. The invention also relates to a device particularly suitable for manufacturing sugar-based confections according to the method of the invention.

Sugar-based confections are, for example, gums, jellies, high boils, low boils, fat and milk-based confectionery such as toffees, fondants, fudges and caramels. Gums and jellies are hydrocolloid-based confectionery. Selection of the hydrocolloid system enables considerable textural modifications. Examples of gums and jellies are: winegums, hard pastilles, soft and foamed gums, fruit leathers, lemon slices, Turkish delights, gummy bears, jelly babies, etc.

Traditionally, sugar-based confections are manufactured by preparing a medium-high-solid fluid mass of 60-80 TS (total solids) from a liquor or slurry of confectionery-based ingredients including sugar, optionally hydrocolloid, fat and milk solids, etc. and, then, depositing the mass into moulds, usually comprising starch powder. The liquor is prepared from a sugar syrup. The sugar syrup is prepared, for example, by metering the ingredients and mixing them to make a cold-mix slurry. The slurry is heated until the ingredients are fully dissolved. The slurry is cooked by open pan boiling, in a jet cooker, coil cooker, plate or tubular heat exchanger or cooker extruder. Depending on the cooking equipment, ingredients formulation, concentration at forming, the operation will vary.

Starch moulding is used to reduce the moisture content of the final product and to shape the product to its final configuration after the slurry has been cooked. The starch moulding technique includes: forming mould impressions in

5 powdered starch, depositing the cooked mass or slurry into the
moulds to form the confectionery products. Subsequently, the
moulds are put aside and, generally, are introduced into a
drying stove to achieve the desired moisture content. The
drying time in the stove is, generally, up to several days
10 depending on the product to be dried. The moisture content of
the cooked mass is substantially higher than the content
obtained for the final product; typically between 20 to 35
percent of moisture content, while the final moisture content
is comprised between 10 to 20 percent. This technique of
15 manufacturing is also commonly known as the Mogul system. This
technique is the production method that has conventionally
been used for the manufacturing of hydrocolloid-based
confections with a high solids content; i.e., above 80 percent
solid.

20 Starch moulding can also be used to form other sugar
confectionery masses of high solids content, for instance,
high boiled sugar masses, typically up to 5% moisture, sugar
fondant masses, typically up to 10% moisture, or low boiled
caramel, fudge and chew masses, typically up to 12% moisture.

25 GB 2 249 934 A relates to a method using the starch
moulding technique.

The traditional starch moulding method, as briefly
described above, is costly, time consuming due to storage
needs, energy and labour consuming.

30 Another technique is known as the starchless moulding.
Starchless moulding is sometimes used for making various types
of confections. For example, hydrocolloid-based confections
can be made with a solid content of less than 85 percent.
High-boiled confections of higher solid content are also
35 achievable. In this method, the cooked mass has the same solid
content as the final shaped product. The confection mass is
deposited into series of teflon-coated moulds or flexible
silicone rubber or metallic moulds sprayed with a releasing
agent. Specific ejecting means are usually necessary, to

5 ensure demoulding of the shaped masses. The moulds are, then, usually passed through a cooling tunnel. A wide range of confections may be produced by this method such as, for example, soft winegums, jelly bears, high-boils, low boils, caramels, fondants, fudges, etc.

10 The starchless moulding method has a scope of applications limited to confections containing a restricted variety of hydrocolloids having quick-setting properties, such as pectin, so as to allow demoulding with the rapid cooling possible in metal moulds. The method is less applicable for a large
15 majority of hydrocolloids, such as gelatine and starch which are slow to set, when used as a single hydrocolloid. It is also difficult to cleanly deposit into the moulds due to the high viscosity of these low moisture hydrocolloid liquors. Demoulding can also be a problem unless sufficient release
20 agent is used. The choice of the type of moulds is also critical. Generally, relatively flexible moulds are necessary as they facilitate the release of the shaped mass.

In addition, the starchless moulding method is suitable for the production of hydrocolloid-based confections having a
25 relatively low solids content.

The object of the present invention is to propose a method of making sugar-based confections that solves the aforementioned drawbacks of the known methods. In particular, one of the objects of the invention is to give the possibility
30 to produce a wide range of sugar-based confections at a suitable solids content which can be more easily moulded. Another object of the present invention is to propose a method of making sugar-based confections from a wide range of hydrocolloids with no particular setting problems. Another
35 object of the invention is to propose a method of making confections in a wide range of solids content. Another object of the invention is to produce sugar-based confections, especially hydrocolloid-sugar confections, in a cleaner and economical manner, at the same time saving energy and labour

5 time. Another object of the invention is to handle the extreme viscosities that can arise during cooking time, which usually leads to flowing and blocking problems.

Additional advantages of the present invention may also be noted such as the opportunity to apply a wide range of
10 recipes. For example, medicated sweet can be produced without the threat of contamination from recycled starch as in the traditional starch moulding method.

For that, the present invention relates to a method for making sugar-based confections comprising

15 (a) dissolving gently confectionery ingredients to make a confectionery-based slurry,

(b) concentrating the confectionery-based slurry by applying the slurry onto a first hot surface having a first temperature and scraping below the final solids required, then
20 moving the slurry onto a second hot surface having a second temperature and scraping the concentrated mass until the desired solid content level has been achieved.

Therefore, instead of applying a single cooking phase to the slurry, the method proposes to split the cooking cycle
25 into separated heating phases which permit to achieve the preparation of confections with the desired solid content and eliminate the problems generally due to extreme viscosity increase that occurs when the starches are cooked to final total solids in a single cooking stage. In particular, the
30 method permits a large choice of moulding and depositing techniques and starch moulding method is no longer required. The elimination of the starch handling equipment reduces capital asset, costly storage capacity and provides cleaner dust free production.

35 In a preferred embodiment, during concentrating, the second temperature of the second hot surface is higher than the first temperature of the first hot surface.

- 5 Phase (a) is a preparing step necessary to dissolve the ingredients, i.e., sugar and gum together. This phase may include a heating step where the sugar and gum are dissolved gently together. In an alternative, the dissolution is made in relatively cold conditions.
- 10 Phase (b) permits to gradually control the solid content of the confectionery mass and activate by hydration the gelling agent, before moulding is applied. Gentle wipe pre-cooking is carried out in a first phase before reaching the final solid content. In this first phase, about at least 65
- 15 percent, preferably 75 percent of completion of the moisture boil-off is achieved. The final concentration is obtained in a second phase that takes the slurry to the cooking temperature to reach the final boil off for the required solid phase content.
- 20 Preferably, phase (b) comprises evacuating the excess of moisture by applying a vacuum pressure. Vacuum helps water be removed, i.e., moisture be vented away and exhausted to atmosphere. It results that residence time can be advantageously shortened, temperature can be more precisely
- 25 controlled and sugar inversion can be reduced. Sugar inversion is generally known as a reaction which causes the breakdown of an ose into two simpler sugars. Inversion may not be desired as it may modify the final features desired for the confectionery. Vacuum also minimises hydrocolloids breakdown.
- 30 The final result is that there is no absolute need to apply starch powder during the subsequent moulding stage, as the confectionery mass is able to set at relatively low temperature at the desired solid content. This also reduces all stoves and storage areas and also simplifies sugar
- 35 sanding. The invention permits to reduce or, even in some cases, to eliminate the use of starch moulding. When starch moulding is still used, a significant reduction of stoving cycle time can be obtained. The problems usually met with single phase cooking are also solved accordingly, such as

5 those linked to the extreme viscosity increase when the
starches are cooked to final total solids.

In a preferred embodiment, (b) comprises applying variable
shearing during scraping and wiping operations. This variation
positively affects the rate of heat exchange and turbulence of
10 the slurry mass and so permits to more rapidly reach the
desired degree of moisture evaporation.

In a preferred embodiment, (b) comprises concentrating the
slurry by evenly distributing the slurry on the first hot
surface at temperatures comprised between 90 to 110°C while
15 applying scraping and wiping, then, moving the slurry on the
second hot surface at temperature comprised between 100 to
120°C so as to reach a final solids content of at least 75
percent by weight, preferably at least 80 percent by weight.
It must be noted that the temperature ranges depend greatly on
20 the recipe, the desired solid content and pressure.

According to the method of the invention, (a) comprises
heating the slurry to a maximum temperature of 105 °C. Gentle
heating is important to obtain a good dissolution of the
hydrocolloids in the liquid medium, while avoiding starch to
25 gelatinise during that operation or avoiding heat-sensitive
agents to degrade.

It is also preferable, in particular for starch-
containing confection, that the method further includes an
operation of hydration and precooking of the slurry under high
30 pressure before concentrating the slurry in (b). For that, the
precooking comprises injecting direct steam in a short time so
as to raise a temperature of at least 120 °C under a pressure
ranging from 2 to 5 bars. Pressure and temperature levels are
so adapted to sufficiently moisten the starch and cause the
35 starch granules to and gelatinise.

In a particular embodiment of the invention, (b) comprises
adding an additional amount of hydrocolloid. For example, the
addition of hydrocolloid can be carried out between two levels

5 of evaporation. In an alternative, the addition of hydrocolloid can be carried out between the pre-cooking and the evaporation operations. Preferably, gelatine is added, as there is no need to have gelatine undergoing a precooking stage when mixed with other hydrocolloids. Addition of
10 gelatine at this later stage also solves some of the degradation problems of gelatine usually encountered in traditional cooking methods.

In a preferred embodiment, (b) consists of concentrating the sugar-hydrocolloid mass to an extent of at least 75
15 percent, preferably between 85 and 90 percent of solids. Indeed, it has been found out according to one aspect of the invention that the method was particularly suitable for making sugar-based products capable of being shaped by any moulding technique (casting, depositing, injection, layering,
20 extrusion,...) that traditionally were only shaped in starch powdered moulds.

In another preferred embodiment the process includes the subsequent step of forming the sugar-based mass into a plurality of individual confections by passing it through a
25 set of chilled forming rollers. It is a major advantage of the method of the invention to allow a quick shaping of the confections as opposed to the lengthy starch powdered moulding technique.

The invention also provides a device for carrying out the
30 method previously described. The device comprises an evaporating apparatus comprising:

an internal evaporation housing;

feeding means which provide the slurry inside the evaporation housing;

35 wherein the internal evaporation housing is divided into at least two evaporation portions, an upper evaporation portion and a lower evaporation portion, each one having

5 their own specific shape and/or heating characteristics
and, each one comprising a set of distinct scraping
elements.

Such a unique arrangement permits to adapt the evaporating
conditions, i.e., particularly the heating and mechanical
10 conditions, to the gradual change in viscosity of the
confectionery mass through the apparatus so as both to prevent
blocking problems and achieve a desired level of concentration
of the final slurry. For that, the evaporating apparatus
provides a sequential evaporating process on the slurry to
15 reach the desired solids content in at least two separated
stages without breaking down the gelling potential of the
recipe.

In a preferred embodiment, the upper evaporation portion
is regulated at a temperature range that is lower than the
20 temperature range of the lower evaporation portion. Therefore,
the slurry can experience a first gentler heating phase which
evacuates the excess of moisture to atmosphere in the first
evaporation portion, then a second stronger heating phase
carried out in the second evaporation portion so as to reach
25 the desired solid content.

Preferably, means for applying a vacuum pressure within
the internal evaporation housing are provided so as to promote
more rapidly the exhaustion of the moisture of the evaporating
apparatus into the atmosphere. Vacuum also permits to reduce
30 the residence times in the evaporating apparatus. It also
prevents sugar inversion and minimises hydrocolloids breakdown
when hydrocolloids are present in the slurry while taking into
account the increase of viscosity.

In a more preferable embodiment, the two evaporation
35 portions are separated by an intermediate portion having a
substantially tapered configuration connecting the upper
evaporation portion to the lower evaporation portion. The
intermediate portion has the function of providing a
transition ramp for moving the slurry to the final evaporation

5 portion. It is also a privileged site for adding new heat-sensitive ingredients and for control temperature measurement.

In a specific arrangement of the invention, the upper evaporation portion and the lower evaporation portion have both substantially cylindrical configurations, the lower
10 evaporation portion having diameter less than the diameter of the upper portion. This reduction of size at the lower part of the evaporation apparatus allows a more continuous and effective scraping in limiting the torque generated on the centre-driven scraping elements by the product as the product
15 becomes progressively thicker.

In another preferred embodiment, the evaporator apparatus further comprises a fourth lowermost portion directly adjacent to the lower evaporation portion, which has a tapered configuration; said lower portion comprising a helicoidal
20 rotary member acting to exit the concentrated mass out of the evaporator. Such an arrangement at the end of the evaporator participates to the continuous transfer of the product toward the moulding device and reduces the problems of blocking of the concentrated mass in the lower part of the evaporator due
25 to a higher viscosity. More preferably, the helicoidal rotary member is a spiral ribbon auger. In addition, a withdrawal pump can advantageously be added at the evaporator's exit.

The device of the invention further comprises:

a plate heat exchanger in which the cold mix slurry is fed
30 to be gently heated to a maximum temperature of 105 °C;

a jet cooker in which the hot slurry is cooked at a pressure up to 5 bars at a temperature up to 150 °C.

In both the plate exchanger and the jet cooker, the slurry, depending upon its boiling point, is usually treated
35 under a pressure higher than atmospheric pressure to be able to reach the desired temperature levels and consequently, minimise the cycle times.

5 The device also comprises preferably a moulding device having a set of moulding rollers in which the hydrocolloid mass is shaped in a plurality of individual confectionery products and cooling means located downstream from the moulding rollers.

10 Preferably, the cooling means have a cooling tunnel under which is sprayed a coolant which can be a liquid such as brine or a liquid gas such as nitrogen.

 The device of the invention can also comprise a mixer for colouring and/or flavouring the hydrocolloid mass located
15 between the evaporating apparatus and the moulding means.

 The advantages and specific features of this invention will become apparent from the following detailed description, which, taken in conjunction with the drawings, discloses preferred embodiments of the present invention.

20 The figure is a schematic illustration of the installation for carrying out the method of the invention.

 Regarding the installation for carrying out the method of the invention illustrated in the figure attached, a quantity of ingredients including, water, carbohydrates (or sugars) and
25 hydrocolloids (or gums) is delivered in a storage hopper 10.

 In the context of the present invention, sugars encompass the following non-exhaustive group of: sucrose, fructose, glucose, dextrose, lactose, and derivative oses, starch hydrolysate syrups and maltodextrins, carbohydrate alcohols
30 such as sorbitol, xylitol, etc. Sugars can be supplied under any appropriate form such as granulates, nibs, caster, icing, liquid, molasses, etc.

 In the present context of the invention, the hydrocolloids encompass the following non exhaustive group of: starch,
35 pectin, agar agar (agarose), gelatine, gum arabic, xanthan gum, gellan gum, carrageenan, derivative and modified starches, etc.

5 Other various ingredients can also be added, if necessary, such as non-hydrocolloid gelling agents, oils, food-acceptable acids such as citric acids, malic acid, tartaric acid etc.

 The ingredients may be added in a cold or alternatively, in a preheated state to favour the dissolution. The storage
10 hopper includes mixing means to provide a substantially liquid medium of mix slurry or syrup.

 In a first operation, the mix slurry is transported to a pre-heating apparatus; e.g., a plate heat exchanger 20 by means of a pump 15. The mix slurry undergoes a gradual heating
15 phase to reach a temperature sufficient to have the soluble ingredients, in particularly sugar, completely dissolved in the slurry. In general, the temperature is about 90 °C during 60 seconds. The temperature must not exceed 105 °C, preferably 100 °C, under slight pressure above atmospheric pressure to
20 prevent gelatinisation to occur at an early step of the process.

 From the pre-heating device, the slurry is delivered through a jet cooker 30 where direct steam is injected to the slurry to undergo a pre-cooking phase under pressure ranging
25 from 2 to 5 bars at temperature of 110 to 150 °C during 5-10 seconds. This operation is important to cause the starch granules to properly gelatinise by hydration.

 A marginal amount of the slurry, at the preheating phase or at the jet-cooking phase, is redistributed into the mixing
30 hopper so as to facilitate the dissolution of the solid ingredients put into the hopper to make the mix slurry.

 Then, the precooked slurry is delivered under pressure to the specific scrape evaporator 4 of the invention, which is arranged to provide a controlled and gradually produced solid
35 concentration of the final mass before moulding. The pressurised slurry jet spray feeds into an internal evaporation housing comprising a first upper cooking portion 40. The slurry is provided through a nozzle arrangement 44

5 properly oriented, to be directly deposited on the inner
surface of the portion 40. For example, the nozzle arrangement
comprises a plurality of nozzles, each one aimed at inner
walls of the upper portion in different directions so as to
form a film of slurry evenly distributed on the surface of the
10 portion. The first upper portion has a substantially
cylindrical shape and a relatively large diameter so as to
afford a large evaporation area. The moisture excess is
evacuated to atmosphere at the top of the dome-shaped upper
end of the evaporator. The inner surfaces of the first upper
15 portion are scraped and wiped by independent wipers 45 whose
dimensions, i.e., length and radius, are properly adapted to
the size of the portion. The wipers in the apparatus are all
mounted and secured to a central shaft arrangement which
extends along the height of the evaporating housing. The
20 central shaft arrangement is driven by motors located at the
top of the evaporating housing.

The slurry continues downwards into an intermediate
portion 41 having a substantially conical configuration which
permits to the slurry film to flow on the surface of the lower
25 stage of the evaporator. The slope of the portion
advantageously permits to slow down the slurry film. The
intermediate portion also has a set of scrapers or wipers
adapted to its geometry and size. There is no need to apply
cooking at this level. Temperature of the passing liquor can
30 simply be monitored. At this point, the majority of the
moisture boil off will have occurred. If needed, additional
amount of temperature-sensitive hydrocolloids, colouring or
flavouring agents or additives can be, advantageously added at
this stage. For example, gelatine can advantageously be added.

35 The slurry passes down to the last stage of cooking in the
lower substantially cylindrical portion 42, which comprises a
properly adapted set of scrapers 47. The diameter of the lower
evaporation portion 42 is substantially lower than the
diameter of the first upper portion 40. During this stage, the
40 more viscous slurry is further heated to a higher temperature

5 and centrifugally scraped in accordance with the correct shearing rate required for higher viscosity without breaking the gel structure, which has been slowly formed during the previous cycle. Boil off of moisture to final solids occurs in this final cooking portion. Pressure conditions can also be
10 applied. In particular, it is preferable that a vacuum is drawn within the evaporator if heat-sensitive hydrocolloids are used. Steam, corresponding to the excess of water to be evaporated, rises upward during the cooking process to be exhausted to atmosphere at the top of the cooker dome.
15 Thermocouplers are preferably provided at regular intervals along the evaporator, in particular, at each distinct portion to permit an accurate control and regulation of temperature. Gelatine can also be added to the slurry at this stage.

The lowermost portion 43 of the evaporator has a tapered
20 configuration in which a helicoidal rotary means 48 is installed to drive and assist the viscous mass down to the exit of the evaporator. Such a helicoidal rotary means is, preferably, a spiral ribbon auger. If needed, further whipping and scraping operations may be necessary by additional
25 scrapers (not illustrated) positioned below the auger to prevent the concentrated slurry to stick at the outlet of the evaporating apparatus.

During the concentration operation within the evaporating apparatus, the shearing rate applied on the confectionery mass
30 can be varied depending upon the recipes. A variable shearing rate can be obtained by varying the speed of rotation of the scraping elements in the evaporating apparatus during the concentration process. In addition, The scraping elements of the different portions can be run at the same speed or,
35 alternatively, at different speeds with respect to each other. In general, the speed is adjusted to obtain shear rates in each portion of the evaporator adapted to give the best conditions for each particular recipe so to enable to handle a wide range of viscosity.

5 Located at the exit of the evaporator is a withdrawal pump
50 that continuously feeds the viscous mass into an inline
mixing device 6. The pump may also provide a vacuum seal
should evaporating under vacuum be desired. The mixing device
6 allows colouring and/or flavouring agents to be added to the
10 viscous mass before moulding operation occurs.

 The next step is the transport of the viscous mass to the
forming device 7. Preferably, the forming device consists of a
set of chilled rollers 70 comprising series of die sections,
which provides the final shape to the confectionery products.
15 Of course, the forming device could differ from rollers
without departing from the scope of the invention. For
example, die plates could replace the rollers. In another
alternative, the moulding device could comprise a combination
of a depositor and a series of moulds. The confections are
20 substantially cooled during forming while passing through the
chilled rollers. The confectionery products can be formed as
individually moulded products. In an alternative, the
confectionery products can be extruded as a continuous rope,
film or sheet of confections.

25 After forming, the confections, as shaped, may be further
cooled by cooling conveyor means. Preferably, the cooling
means 8 includes liquid gas spraying, such as nitrogen,
directly on the conveyor means. Air-cooling can also be
envisioned depending upon the ingredients, setting conditions,
30 flow capacity, etc. Additional cooling means are generally
required such as a passing through a cooling tunnel 81 in
which liquid gas is sprayed, especially, nitrogen. It is very
surprising to see that the gel set occurs at the low
temperature forming device giving the solution, for a majority
35 of hydrocolloids, to the stand up properties as desired. In
particular, the method eliminates all the stoves and storage
areas generally present in mogul plants.

- 5 The invention is not limited to the embodiments and examples hereinbefore described which may vary in both construction and details.

5

CLAIMS:

1. A method for making confections comprising

dissolving the confectionery ingredients to make a confectionery-based slurry,

10 concentrating the confectionery-based slurry by applying the slurry onto a first hot surface having a first temperature and scraping below the final solids required, then moving the slurry onto a second hot surface having a second temperature and scraping the concentrated
15 mass until the desired solids content level has been achieved.

2. A method according to claim 1, wherein the second temperature applied onto the second surface is higher than the first temperature applied onto the first surface.

20 3. Method according to claim 1 or 2, wherein concentrating the confectionery-based slurry comprises applying variable shearing during scraping and wiping operations.

 4. Method according to claims 1, 2 or 3, wherein concentrating the confectionery-based slurry comprises
25 evenly distributing the slurry on a first hot surface at temperatures comprised between 90 to 110°C while applying scraping and wiping, then, moving the slurry on a second hot surface at temperature comprised between 100 to 120°C so as to reach a final solid content of at least 80
30 percent.

5. Method according to any of the preceding claims, wherein concentrating further comprises evacuating the excess of moisture by applying a vacuum pressure.

 6. Method according to any of the preceding claims,
35 wherein the confectionery-based slurry comprises hydrocolloids.

- 5 7. Method according to any of the preceding claims,
 wherein concentrating the slurry comprises adding an
 additional amount of heat-sensitive hydrocolloid.
8. Method according to any of the preceding claims,
 wherein it further comprises an operation of precooking of
10 the slurry under high pressure before concentrating the
 slurry.
9. Method according to claim 8, wherein the operation of
 precooking comprises injecting direct steam in a short
 time.
- 15 10. Method according to claim 9, wherein precooking is
 carried out at a temperature of at least 110 °C under a
 pressure ranging from 2 to 5 bars.
11. Method according to any of the preceding claims,
 wherein concentrating consists of concentrating the sugar-
20 hydrocolloid mass to an extent of at least 75 percent of
 solids.
12. Method according to claim 11, wherein concentrating
 consists of concentrating the sugar-hydrocolloid mass to
 an extent of at least 85 percent of solids.
- 25 13. Method according to any of the preceding claims,
 wherein it further includes the subsequent step of
 moulding the sugar-hydrocolloid mass into a plurality of
 individual confections.
14. Method according to any of claims 1 to 12, wherein it
30 further includes the subsequent step of extruding as a
 continuous rope, film or sheet of confections.
15. Method according to claim 13 or 14, wherein the
 moulding step consists in passing the sugar-hydrocolloid
 mass through a set of rollers rapidly cooled by spraying a
35 coolant.

- 5 16. Method according to claim 15, wherein the coolant is a cooling liquid or a liquid gas.

