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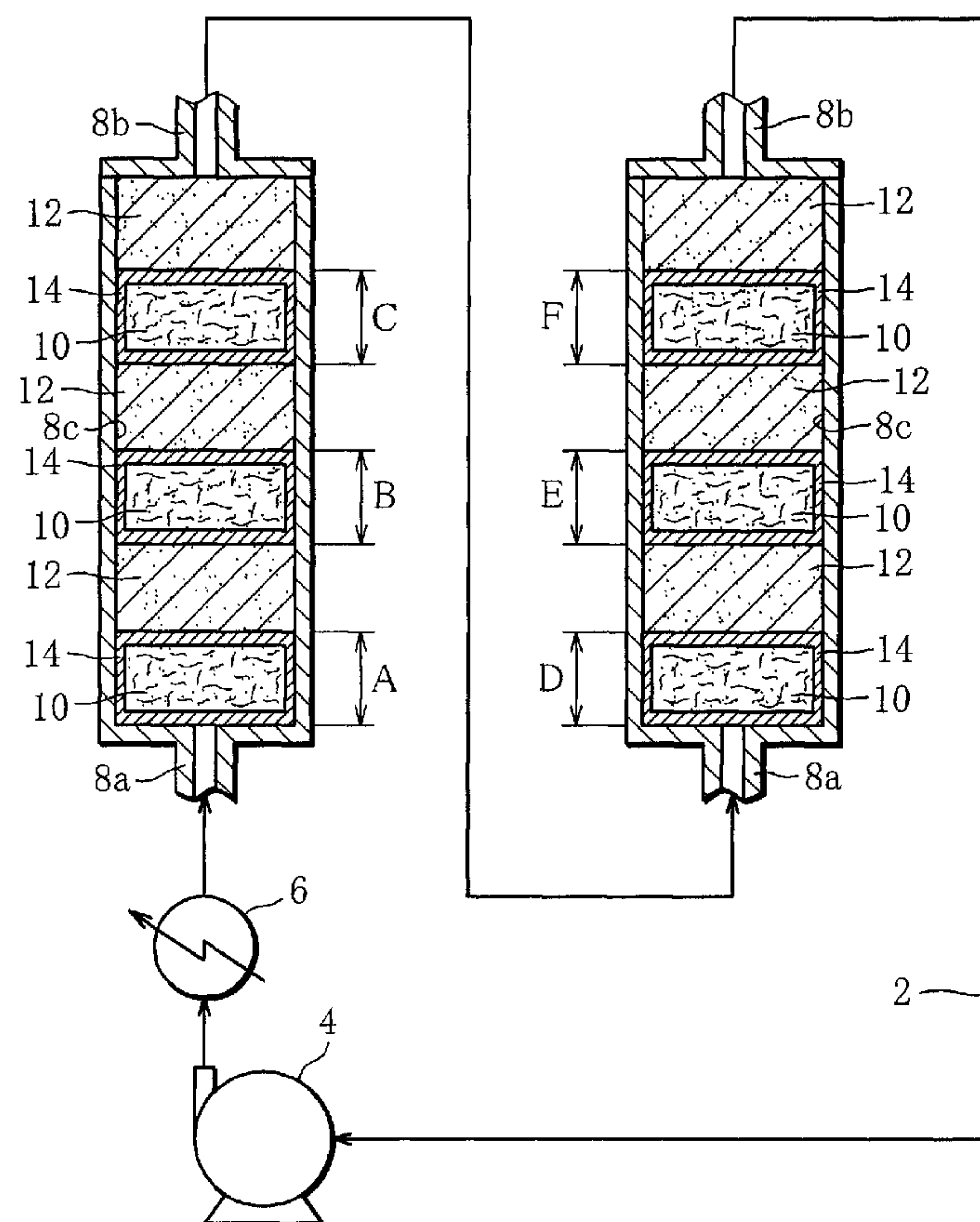
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(54) Titre : METHODE ET DISPOSITIF POUR EXTRAIRE UN COMPOSANT D'UN MATERIAU

(54) Title: METHOD OF EXTRACTING A COMPONENT FROM MATERIAL AND A DEVICE USED FOR THE METHOD



(57) Abrégé/Abstract:

In a method for extracting a component from a material to be processed, a material (10) to be processed and an adsorbent (12) are alternately arranged in layers along an inner flow path (8c) of a container (8), then, the inner flow path (8c) of the container (8) is supplied with a high pressure solvent, a prescribed component is extracted from the material (10) to the solvent, and the prescribed component in the solvent is adsorbed by the adsorbent (12) and removed.

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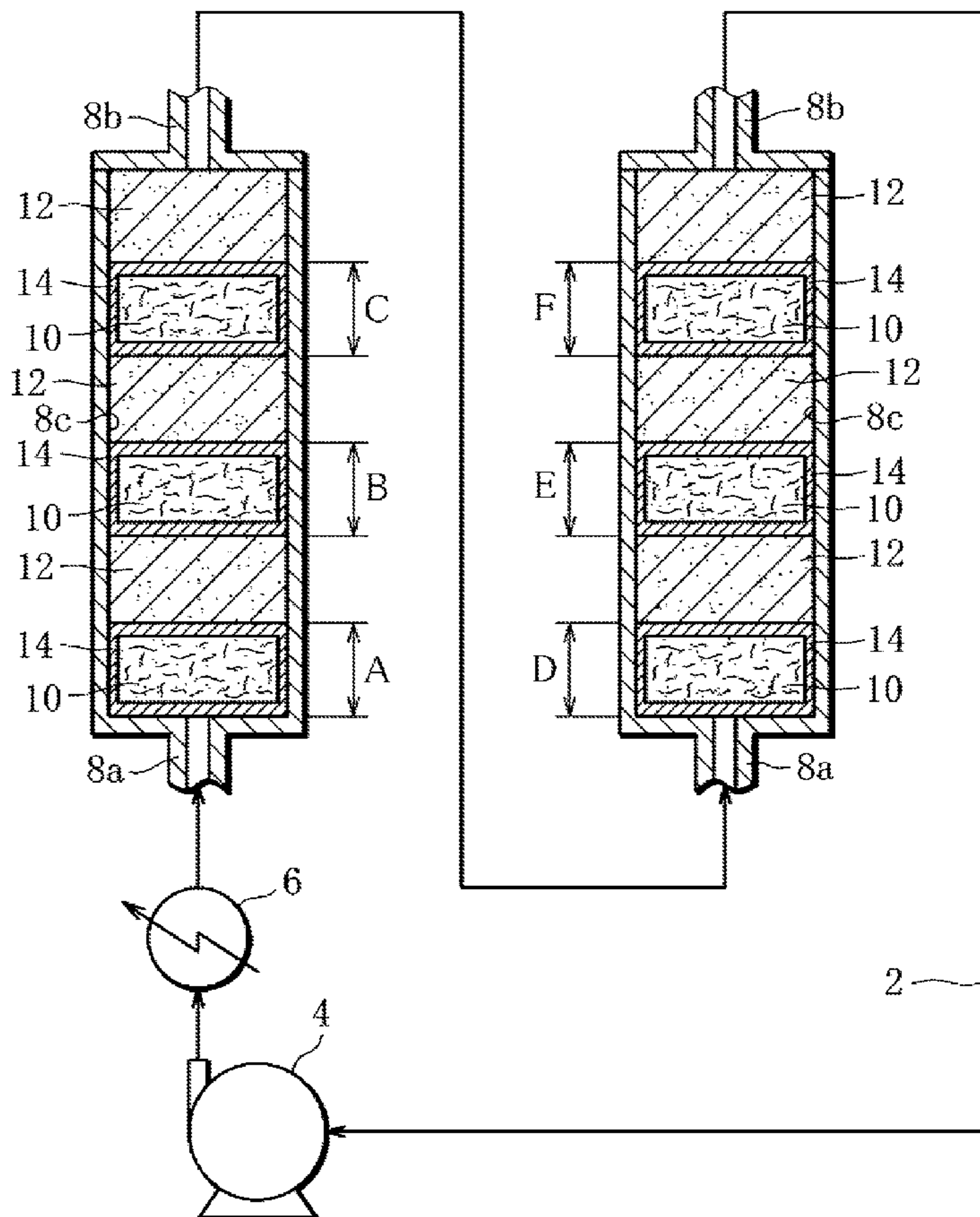
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(54) Title: METHOD FOR EXTRACTING COMPONENT FROM MATERIAL TO BE PROCESSED AND APPARATUS USED IN THE METHOD

(54) 発明の名称: 被処理材料からの成分抽出方法及び該方法に用いる装置



(57) Abstract: In a method for extracting a component from a material to be processed, a material (10) to be processed and an adsorbent (12) are alternately arranged in layers along an inner flow path (8c) of a container (8), then, the inner flow path (8c) of the container (8) is supplied with a high pressure solvent, a prescribed component is extracted from the material (10) to the solvent, and the prescribed component in the solvent is adsorbed by the adsorbent (12) and removed.

(57) 要約: 被処理材料からの成分抽出方法は、容器 (8) の内部流路 (8c) に沿い被処理材料 (10) 及び吸着剤 (12) を層状にして交互に配置した後、容器 (8) の内部流路 (8c) に高圧の溶媒を供給し、被処理材料 (10) から所定成分を溶媒に抽出し、溶媒中の所定成分を吸着剤 (12) に吸着して除去する。

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DESCRIPTION

METHOD OF EXTRACTING A COMPONENT FROM MATERIAL AND A DEVICE
USED FOR THE METHOD

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Technical Field

The present invention relates to an extraction method for extracting and removing a predetermined component from material and a device used for the method.

10 **Background Art**

As an extraction method of this type, for example, US Patent No. 4,153,063 discloses a method of extracting nicotine from tobacco. This extraction method includes the first step of extracting aroma components from tobacco, the
15 second step of extracting nicotine, and the third step of adding back to the tobacco the aroma components extracted in the first step. Through these steps, under the given conditions, a high-pressure solvent is supplied into an extraction container filled with tobacco; the aroma
20 components and the nicotine are removed from the tobacco by the solvent brought into contact with the tobacco; and the aroma components are added back to the tobacco.

Unexamined Japanese Patent Application Publication No. H01-196285 discloses a method and device for extracting
25 nicotine from tobacco semi-continuously. This device has a plurality of extraction containers that are serially arranged in a channel for solvent. Bypass channels for bypassing their respective extraction containers are connected to the channel for solvent. In the extraction
30 method using this device, the solvent that has passed through an upstream extraction container, as viewed in the flowing direction of the solvent, and has extracted nicotine, that is, the solvent that has been increased in

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its nicotine concentration, passes through a downstream extraction container as well. At this point, the solvent can extract nicotine from the tobacco again. According to this extraction method, the solvent is used for extraction
5 until its nicotine concentration is saturated while passing through a series of extraction containers. It seems that this reduces the time required to extract nicotine from the entire tobacco and enables quick extraction.

In these well-known extraction methods, however, the
10 concentration of extracted components in the solvent is gradually increased as the solvent flows through the extraction containers. For this reason, the material, which is located downstream in an extraction container, is hard to be extracted, as compared to that located upstream,
15 even though they are contained in the same extraction container. Therefore, the reduction rate of the extracted components becomes irregular, depending upon the location of the material. This generates fluctuations in quality.

The irregularity of the reduction rate in the same
20 extraction container decreases if extraction time is sufficiently extended. If do so, however, quick extraction is difficult. The irregularity of the reduction rate can be similarly lessened by enhancing the flow velocity of the solvent and increasing the amount of the solvent that is
25 brought into contact with the processing material. However, there is a limit to the dischargeability of a pump, and also to the enhancement of the flow velocity of the solvent.

Japanese Translation of PCT International Application No. 2003-526345 discloses a method of extracting nicotine
30 and TSNA (tobacco-specific nitrosamine) from tobacco. This extraction method is the same as the above-mentioned extraction method in that a high-pressure solvent is supplied into extraction containers. According to the

document, the reduction rate of nitrosamine can be selectively made higher than that of nicotine by adjusting extraction time.

The irregularity of the reduction rate is more noticeable in an early stage of extraction where the amount of extraction from the upstream material is large. Therefore, if the extraction time is shortened as described in the document in order to increase the reduction rate of TSNA to be higher than that of nicotine, the irregularity of the reduction rate of nicotine and TSNA grows bigger. As a consequence, fluctuations in quality are increased.

Disclosure of the Invention

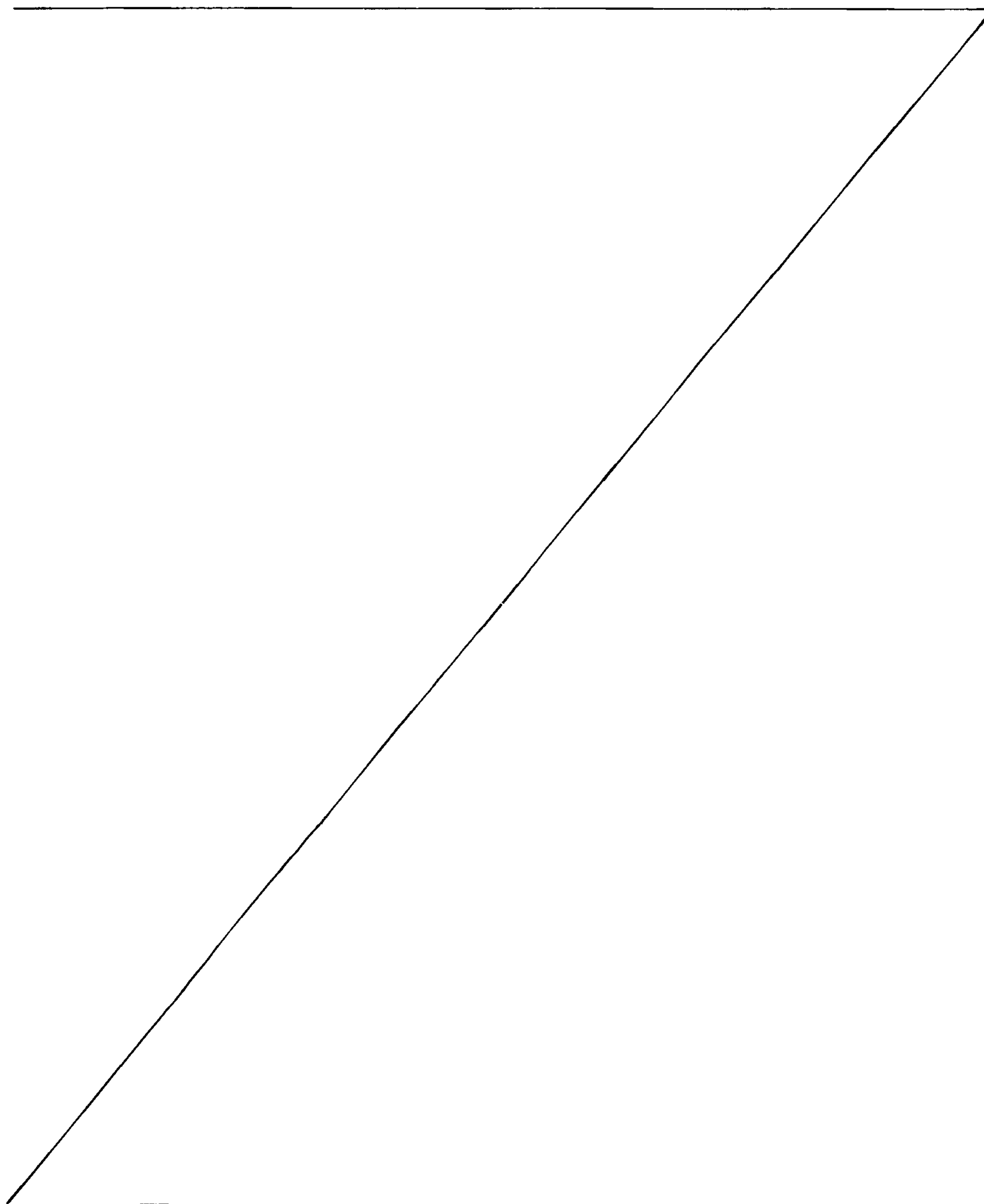
It is an object of the present invention to provide a method of extracting a component from material, the method enabling quick and steady extraction and being suitable for selective extraction of a predetermined component, and a device used for the method.

In order to achieve the object, a method of extracting a component from material according to the present invention includes the steps of alternately arranging the material and absorbent in layers along an inner channel of a container, supplying a high-pressure solvent into the inner channel of the container, extracting a predetermined component from the material into the solvent, absorbing the predetermined component in the solvent into the absorbent to remove the component, and circulating said solvent through said inner channel so that said solvent containing the predetermined component of same concentration is supplied to all the material layers.

More specifically, the material may be tobacco. In this case, nicotine and tobacco-specific nitrosamine are removed each as the predetermined

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component. The absorbent may contain one substance that is selected from the group consisting of activated carbon, a synthetic absorbent, zeolite, ion exchange resin, alumina, and silica gel.



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With the component extraction method according to the present invention, since the material and the absorbent are alternately arranged in layers, the extracted components that are extracted from the material layers are removed
5 from the solvent in the absorbent layers located immediately downstream of the respective material layers. The material layers are then supplied with the solvent containing no extracted components, so that there is no difference occurring in reduction rates of the extracted
10 components between the material layers. On this account, this component extraction method enables quick and steady extraction and makes uniform the quality of the processed material.

In a preferred aspect, carbon dioxide having a
15 temperature of 10 °C to 80 °C and a pressure of 3 MPa to 40 MPa is supplied as the high-pressure solvent. In the present aspect, the material is prevented from being degraded in quality due to the extraction.

In a preferred aspect, the component extraction method
20 further includes a preprocessing step of previously finding relationship between a time period for supplying the solvent and a reduction rate of the predetermined component in the material in each of the layers, and determining a solvent supply time period required for a representative
25 reduction rate of the predetermined component of the entire material to reach a desired value. Upon elapse of the solvent supply time period that is determined in the preprocessing step, the supply of the solvent is stopped. In the present aspect, even if the solvent supply time that
30 is determined in the preprocessing step is short so that the predetermined component may be selectively extracted from the material at a predetermined reduction rate, there generates no difference in the reduction rates of the

extracted components between the material layers regardless of size of the container. To be brief, this component extraction method enables the selective and steady extraction of the predetermined component from a large quantity of the material.

10 In a preferred aspect, the solvent is circulated. In the present aspect, a component that is not removed in the absorbent layers is suppressed from being extracted as the concentration of the component in the solvent reaches partition equilibrium concentration. Depending upon a selected absorbent, a component required in the material is suppressed from being extracted.

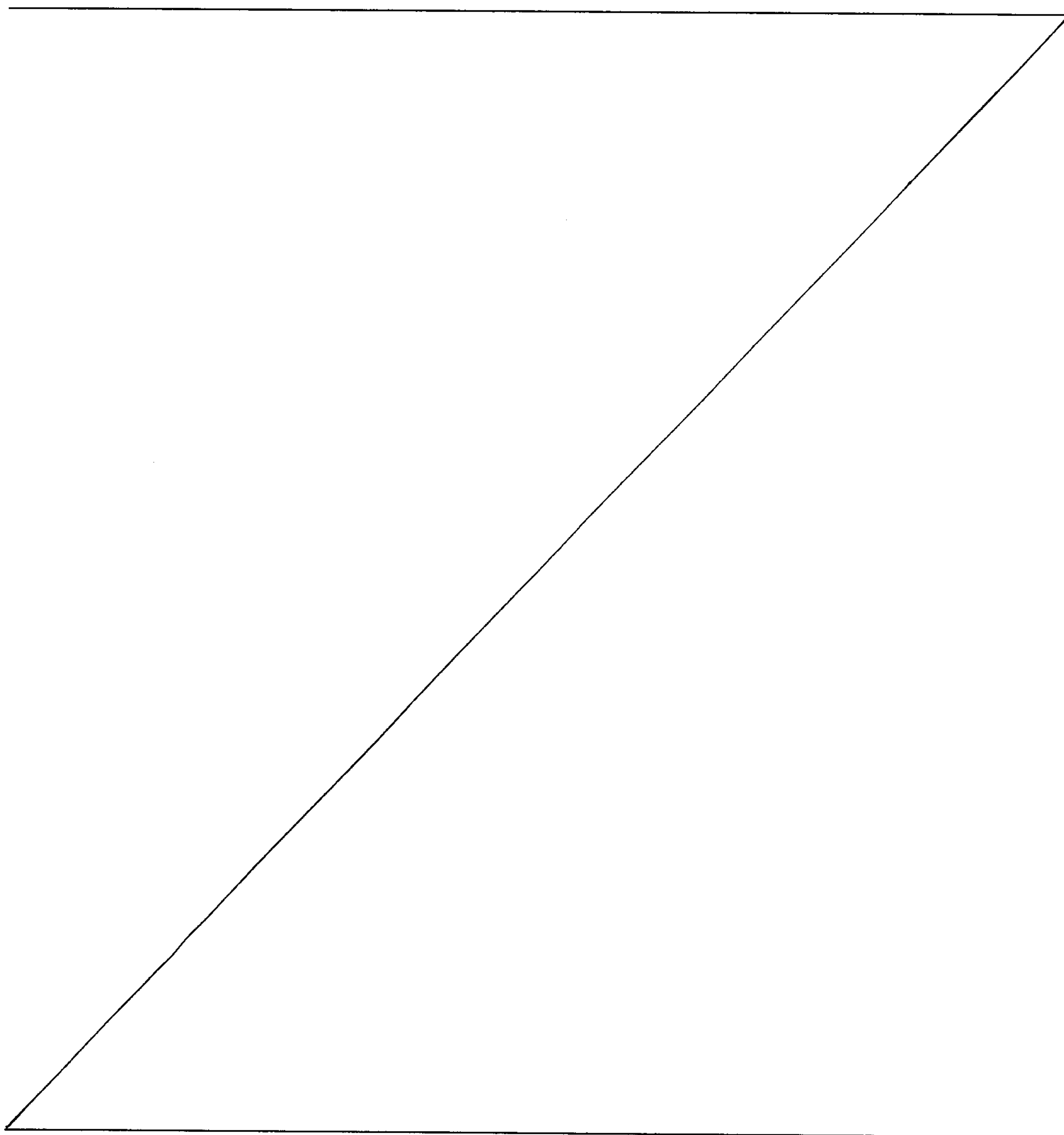
In order to accomplish the above-mentioned object, a device for extracting a component from material according to the present invention has a container including an inner channel, material zones filled with the material and absorbent zones filled with absorbent, which are alternately arranged in layers in the inner channel of the container, a circulation channel for a high-pressure solvent, which is partially formed of the inner channel of the container, wherein in a predetermined component contained in the material is extracted into the solvent and the predetermined component in the solvent is absorbed into the absorbent to be removed when the solvent is supplied into the inner channel of the container; and circulating means for circulating the solvent through said inner channel so that said solvent containing the predetermined component of same concentration is supplied to all the material layers.

20

With the component extraction device of the present invention, since the material and the absorbent are alternately arranged in layers in the material and absorbent zones of the container, the extracted components that are extracted from the material layers are removed

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from the solvent in the absorbent layers located immediately downstream of the respective material layers. Consequently, the material layers are supplied with the solvent containing no extracted components, so that there generates no difference in reduction rates of the extracted



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components between the material layers. Accordingly, this component extraction device enables quick and steady extraction and makes uniform the quality of the processed material.

5 **Brief Description of the Drawings**

FIG. 1 is a schematic configuration view of a device for extracting a component from material according to one embodiment of the present invention;

FIG. 2 is a graph showing a result of extraction using
10 the device of FIG. 1 under the conditions of a solvent temperature of 70 °C, a solvent pressure of 25 MPa, and an extraction time of 35 minutes;

FIG. 3 is a graph showing a result of extraction using the device of FIG. 1 under the conditions of a solvent
15 temperature of 35 °C, a solvent pressure of 10 MPa, and an extraction time of 35 minutes;

FIG. 4 is a graph showing a result of extraction using the device of FIG. 1 under the conditions of a solvent temperature of 70 °C, a solvent pressure of 25 MPa, and an
20 extraction time of 17 minutes;

FIG. 5 is a graph showing a result of extraction using a conventional method of extracting a component under the conditions of a solvent temperature of 70 °C, a solvent pressure of 25 MPa, and an extraction time of 35 minutes;

25 FIG. 6 is a schematic configuration view of a conventional device for extracting a component;

FIG. 7 is a graph showing a result of extraction using a conventional method of extracting a component under the conditions of a solvent temperature of 35 °C, a solvent
30 pressure of 10 MPa, and an extraction time of 105 minutes;

FIG. 8 is a schematic configuration view showing a modification example of the device of FIG. 1; and

FIG. 9 is a schematic configuration view showing an

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extraction container of a modification example which is applied to the device of FIG. 1.

Best Mode of Carrying out the Invention

FIG. 1 shows a device for extracting a component from material according to one embodiment of present invention.

The extraction device has a circulation channel 2 through which a high-pressure liquid or CO₂ (carbon dioxide) that is a supercritical fluid is circulated as solvent. A circulation pump 4 is interposed in the circulation channel 2. The circulation pump 4 produces a flux of the solvent in the circulation channel 2. In so doing, the circulation pump 4 raises the pressure of the solvent sucked in from an inlet of the circulation pump 4, and discharges the solvent that falls within a predetermined pressure range from an outlet thereof. A heat exchanger 6 is set downstream from the circulation pump 4 in the circulation channel 2. The heat exchanger 6 heats the solvent inside, and releases the solvent that falls within a predetermined temperature range.

Two pressure-resistant extraction containers 8, 8 are serially arranged downstream from the heat exchanger 6 in the circulation channel 2. Each of the extraction containers 8 is formed into a shape of a cylinder that is long in an axial direction, and has an inlet port 8a and an outlet port 8b in a lower end wall and an upper end wall, respectively. In between the inlet port 8a and the outlet port 8b, an inner channel 8c, for example, having an internal diameter of 185 mm and a length of 675 mm is partitioned off by the lower end wall, the upper end wall and an inner circumferential wall. Each of the inner channels 8c forms a part of the circulation channel 2 through the corresponding inlet port 8a and outlet port 8b. The upper end wall is removable as an upper lid of the

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extraction container 8.

In the extraction container 8, tobacco shreds 10 weighing 1.8 Kg in total and grained activated carbon 12 weighing 3 Kg in total are alternately arranged in layers along the inner channel 8c as material to be processed and absorbent, respectively. Concretely, the shreds 10 contain 22 percent water in dry base, and are divided into individual 300 g portions wrapped in respective cylindrical baskets 14 made of nonwoven cloth through which the solvent cannot pass. The shreds 10 in each of the baskets 14 form a single material layer. In the inner channel 8c of each of the extraction containers 8, three material layers and three absorbent layers are disposed. One of the material layers is located closest to the inlet port 8a in the inner channel 8c. The activated carbon 12 is divided into individual 500 g portions that are directly disposed on the respective baskets 14, thereby forming the absorbent layers.

According to an extraction method carried out using the above-described extraction device, the shreds 10 are processed by batch operation using a solvent circulation method. To be more specific, after the shreds 10 wrapped in the baskets 14 and the activated carbon 12 are alternately filled in the inner channel 8c of each of the extraction containers 8, the circulation pump 4 and the heat exchanger 6 are activated. The solvent (CO₂), for example, having a temperature of 70 °C and a pressure of 25 MPa then starts to circulate through the circulation channel 2. After passing through the heat exchanger 6, the circulated solvent flows into the upstream extraction container 8 from the inlet port 8a. The solvent then passes through the processing material layers and the absorbent layers alternately, and flows out from the outlet port 8b. The solvent released from the upstream extraction

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container 8 flows into the downstream extraction container 8 from the inlet port 8a. After passing through the material layers and the absorbent layers alternately, the solvent flows out from the outlet port 8b, and is sucked
5 into the circulation pump 4. The circulation pump 4 and the heat exchanger 6 are stopped after elapse of, for example, 35 minutes after activation. Subsequently, the shreds 10 are removed from the extraction containers 8 and sent to cigarette production.

10 According to the extraction method, while flowing through the inner channels 8c of the extraction containers 8, the solvent contacts the shreds 10 when passing through the processing material layers, and extracts nicotine and TSNA (tobacco-specific nitrosamine) from the shreds 10.
15 Therefore, the solvent that has passed through the material layers contains nicotine and TSNA of high concentration. However, when passing through the absorbent layers located immediately downstream of the respective material layers, the solvent contact the activated carbon 12, so that the
20 nicotine and TSNA contained in the solvent are absorbed by the activated carbon 12. Accordingly, the solvent that contains little nicotine and TSNA and is recovered in solvent power with respect to nicotine and TSNA is supplied to the material layers located immediately downstream of
25 the respective absorbent layers. As a result, amounts of the nicotine and the TSNA extracted from the material layers are constantly kept at maximum. Consequently, the extraction method makes it possible to remove the nicotine and the TSNA from the shreds 10 of a predetermined amount
30 in a short time.

TSNA is a generic term for nitrosamine (secondary alkanoid) produced through a process in which nicotine (primary alkanoid) or demethylated nicotine is nitrosated.

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To be more precise, TSNA contains N'-nitrosonornicotine, 4-metylnitrosamino-1-(3-pyridyl)-1-butanone, N'-nitrosoanatabine, N'-nitrosoanabasine, etc. Aside from nicotine and TSNA, a fat-soluble component such as
5 solanesol, PAH (polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbon) such as benzopyrene, and protein are also extracted from tobacco.

According to the extraction method, the solvent containing nicotine and TSNA of the same concentration is supplied to all the material layers, to thereby equalize
10 the amounts of the nicotine and the TSNA extracted from the material layers. This prevents irregularity in reduction rates of the nicotine and TSNA in all the shreds 10, and makes uniform the quality of the shreds 10.

It is preferable that the CO₂ acting as solvent be
15 within a temperature range from 10 to 80 °C and a pressure range from 3 to 40 MPa when being supplied into the extraction containers 8 in order not only to efficiently extract the nicotine and the TSNA from the shreds 10 but also to prevent the shreds 10 from being degraded in
20 quality due to the extraction. It is further preferable that the CO₂ be a supercritical fluid that is at or above a critical point, or at a temperature of 31 °C or more and a pressure of 7.4 MPa or more. In this case, because the supercritical fluid is considerably changed in density and
25 solubility by slight changes of temperature and pressure, the components to be extracted can be efficiently extracted by adjusting the temperature and the pressure.

TABLE 1 and FIG. 2 show as Embodiment 1 the reduction rates of nicotine and TSNA at the time point when the
30 shreds 10 are subjected to the extraction by the above-mentioned extraction method. The reduction rates of nicotine and TSNA here mean proportions of difference between amounts of the nicotine and TSNA contained in the

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shreds 10 before extraction and those immediately after the extraction. The reduction rates are expressed by the following expression.

Reduction rate [%] = {(contained amount before
5 extraction - contained amount after extraction)/contained
amount before extraction} × 100

Positions A to F indicate positions of the material layers, as viewed in a flowing direction of the solvent.

[TABLE 1]
Embodiment 1: Solvent:CO₂, Solvent temperature:70°C, Solvent pressure:25 MPa, Extraction
time:35 minutes

	Position						Average	STD
	A	B	C	D	E	F		
TSNA Reduction Rate (%)	94.2	93.5	93.6	94.1	95.1	94.9	94.2	0.66
Nicotine Reduction Rate (%)	87.7	87.5	89.5	88.7	91.3	87.2	88.6	1.55

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TABLE 2 and FIG. 3 show as Embodiment 2 a result of extraction using the extraction device under the conditions of a solvent temperature of 35 °C, a solvent pressure of 10 MPa, and an extraction time of 35 minutes.

[TABLE 2]
Embodiment 2: Solvent:CO₂, Solvent temperature:35°C, Solvent pressure:10 MPa, Extraction
time:35 minutes

	Position						Average	STD
	A	B	C	D	E	F		
TSNA Reduction Rate (%)	82.5	85.1	83.2	84.6	81.5	79.6	82.8	2.03
Nicotine Reduction Rate (%)	40.8	45.5	39.6	41.8	41.1	34.3	40.5	3.64

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TABLE 3 and FIG. 4 show as Embodiment 3 a result of extraction using the extraction device under the conditions of a solvent temperature of 70 °C, a solvent pressure of 25 MPa, and an extraction time of 17 minutes.

[TABLE 3]
Embodiment 3: Solvent temperature:70°C, Solvent pressure:25 MPa, Extraction time:17 minutes

	Position						Average	STD
	A	B	C	D	E	F		
TSNA Reduction Rate (%)	94.1	93.0	93.5	94.6	96.6	95.9	94.6	1.39
Nicotine Reduction Rate (%)	81.9	80.7	80.5	81.9	81.6	83.3	81.7	1.01

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As Comparative Example 1, TABLE 4 and FIG. 5 show a result of extraction carried out under the conditions of a solvent temperature 70 °C, a solvent pressure of 25 MPa, and an extraction time of 35 minutes in a state where the upstream extraction container 8 is filled only with the shreds 10, and the downstream extraction container 8 only with the activated carbon 12, as illustrated in FIG. 6. Positions a to f indicate positions of the material, as viewed in the flowing direction of the solvent, as illustrated in FIG. 6.

[TABLE 4]
Comparative Example 1: Solvent:CO₂, Solvent temperature:70°C, Solvent pressure:25 MPa,
Extraction time:35 minutes

	Position						Average	STD
	a	b	c	d	e	f		
TSNA Reduction Rate (%)	93.0	92.4	92.7	92.1	91.3	91.1	92.1	0.76
Nicotine Reduction Rate (%)	93.0	91.4	89.5	86.7	85.3	83.2	88.2	3.76

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TABLE 5 and FIG. 7 show as Comparative Example 2 a result of extraction using the device of FIG. 6 under the conditions of a solvent temperature of 35 °C, a solvent pressure 10 MPa, and an extraction time of 105 minutes.

[TABLE 5]
Comparative Example 2: Solvent:CO₂, Solvent temperature:35°C, Solvent pressure:10 MPa,
Extraction time:105 minutes

	Position						Average	STD
	a	b	c	d	e	f		
TSNA Reduction Rate (%)	97.7	97.6	97.6	97.1	97.0	95.3	97.1	0.90
Nicotine Reduction Rate (%)	74.9	68.6	52.4	52.6	47.1	38.3	55.7	13.7

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TABLES 1 to 5 and FIGS. 2 to 5 and 7 show the following matters.

(1) In comparison between Embodiment 1 and Comparative Example 1, Embodiment 1 in which the shreds 10 and the activated carbon 12 are alternately arranged in layers is smaller than Comparative Example 1 in terms of fluctuations (STD) in the reduction rates of nicotine and TSNA. The result shows that the component extraction method and device of Embodiment 1 prevent irregularity of extraction from being generated.

(2) In comparison between Comparative Example 1 and Comparative Example 2, Comparative Example 2 in which the solvent temperature and pressure are low, and extraction conditions are moderate, is larger than Comparative Example 1 in terms of fluctuations in the reduction rate of nicotine in spite that the extraction time of Comparative Example 2 is three times as long as that of Comparative Example 1.

This is considered because solubilities of nicotine and TSNA with respect to solvent are low when extraction conditions are moderate, and the nicotine contained in tobacco more than the TSNA is mainly extracted from the shreds 10 located in the upstream positions a and b, whereas the shreds 10 located in the downstream positions c, d and e is supplied with the solvent whose nicotine concentration is almost saturated.

(3) In comparison between Embodiment 2 and Comparative Example 2 in which the respective extraction conditions are moderate, Embodiment 2 is smaller than Comparative Example 2 in terms of fluctuations in the reduction rate of nicotine in spite that the extraction time of Embodiment 2 is one third of that of Comparative Example 2. This is considered because even if the extraction conditions are

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moderate, and the nicotine has low solubility with respect to the solvent, the solvent from which nicotine is removed in the absorbent layers is supplied to the material layers, and the nicotine is extracted equally from the material
5 layers. This result shows that the component extraction method and device of Embodiment 2 can prevent irregularity of extraction even if the extraction is performed under moderate conditions to avoid degradation in quality of the material. In addition, the reason that Comparative Example
10 2 is smaller than Embodiment 2 in terms of fluctuations in the reduction rate of TSNA is considered because the extraction time of Comparative Example 2 is longer.

(4) In comparison between Embodiments 1 and 3, Embodiment 3 in which the extraction time is short is smaller than
15 Embodiment 1 in terms of the reduction rate of nicotine. The reduction rates of TSNA in Embodiments 1 and 3 are virtually equal to each other. This result shows that, if relationship between the extraction time and the reduction rates of nicotine and TSNA in the material layers is found,
20 and such extraction time that the representative reduction rates of the nicotine and TSNA, for example, average values of the reduction rates in the material layers become a desired value is predetermined, it is possible to selectively increase the reduction rate of TSNA with
25 respect to that of nicotine while the irregularity of extraction is prevented by adjusting the extraction time.

(5) In comparison between Embodiments 1 and 2, Embodiment 2 in which the extraction conditions are moderate is smaller than Embodiment 1 in terms of the reduction rates of
30 nicotine and TSNA. This result shows that it is possible to increase the reduction rates of nicotine and TSNA while preventing the irregularity of extraction by adjusting the solvent temperature and pressure.

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The present invention is not limited to the above-described one embodiment, and may be modified in various ways. For instance, the present invention is applicable to the whole gamut of solid-liquid extraction and solid-gas
5 extraction.

Although the material to be processed is tobacco shreds in the one embodiment, the material to be processed may be natural solid material, such as coffee beans and black tea leaves. In this case, caffeine and the like are
10 extracted. When tobacco is subjected to extraction as material, it is preferable that tobacco shreds processed through dehydration be independently subjected to extraction. However, shreds of undried tobacco laminae or stems, tobacco dust, recycled tobacco or a mixture of these
15 may be extracted together with the dried tobacco shreds.

Although the solvent is CO₂ in the one embodiment, either or both of water and alcohol may be contained as cosolvent. As solvent, it is preferable to use CO₂ that has relatively low temperature and pressure critical points
20 and is nontoxic and safe. However, C₃H₈, N₂O, Ar, SF₆, CHF₃, CF₄, CHClF₂, CHCl₂F, CClF₃, CCl₂F₂, CCl₃F, CBrF₃, CFCl=CF₂, CF₂=CH₂, CF₃-CF₂-CF₃ or the like may be used.

Although the activated carbon is used as absorbent in the one embodiment, a synthetic absorbent, zeolite, ion
25 exchange resin, alumina, and silica gel may be used independently or in combination.

According to the one embodiment, the extraction device is a closed cycle provided with the circulation channel 2, but the device may be an open cycle that constantly
30 supplies new solvent into extraction containers. However, if the device is a closed cycle, among components extracted from the material, a component that is not absorbed by the absorbent, for example, a tobacco aroma component is

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absorbed by the material again while circulating through the circulation channel 2. This makes it possible to maintain the concentration of the aroma component contained in tobacco at predetermined partition equilibrium

5 concentration, which prevents degradation of tobacco flavor.

Although the shreds 10 are wrapped in the baskets 14 made of the nonwoven cloth in the extraction device of the one embodiment, the shreds 10 may be filled in metal net baskets through which the solvent can pass. In the
10 extraction device according to the one embodiment, the material zones filled with the material to be processed and the absorbent zones filled with the absorbent are formed within the extraction containers 8 so as to be separated by the baskets 14. However, metal net shelves for separating
15 the material zones and the absorbent zones may be set within the extraction containers 8 instead of the baskets 14.

In the extraction device according to the one embodiment, each of the extraction containers 8 is filled
20 with three material layers. However, the number or thicknesses of the material and absorbent layers are not particularly limited. The thicknesses of the material layers, however, are determined so that the nicotine and TSNA concentrations in the solvent are not saturated while
25 the solvent passes through each of the layers at the early stage of extraction. At the same time, the thicknesses of the absorbent layers are determined so that most of the nicotine and TSNA is removed from the solvent that has passed through the material layers at the early stage of
30 extraction while the solvent passes through each of the layers. It is also preferable that the material layers and the absorbent layers have the same thicknesses, respectively, for the purpose of surely suppressing

- 25 -

fluctuations of the reduction rates of nicotine and the TSNA.

Although the extraction device of the one embodiment has the two extraction containers 8, the number of the
5 extraction containers 8 is not particularly limited. As illustrated in FIG. 8, the number of the extraction containers 8 may be one.

In the extraction device according to the one embodiment, the material to be processed and the absorbent
10 are alternately arranged in the axial direction. As illustrated in FIG. 9, the material to be processed and the absorbent may be alternately arranged in a radial direction. In this case, each of the material and absorbent layers has a shape like a tube. After flowing into the extraction
15 container 8 from the inlet port 8a, the solvent runs in the radial direction from the material layer located in the most outer circumference toward the absorbent layer located in the most inner circumference. After alternately passing through the material layers and the absorbent layers, the
20 solvent travels upward to flow out from the outlet port 8b. The absorbent layer and the material layer may be located in the most outer circumference and the most inner circumference, respectively, and the solvent may be circulated from the most inner circumference to the most
25 outer circumference. In this case, each of the baskets 16 is also formed into a tube corresponding to the shape of each of the material layers.

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A method of extracting a component from material, comprising the steps of:

alternately arranging the material and absorbent in layers along an inner channel of a container;

supplying a high-pressure solvent into the inner channel of the container;

extracting a predetermined component from the material into the solvent; and

absorbing the predetermined component contained in the solvent into the absorbent to remove the component; and

10 circulating said solvent through said inner channel so that said solvent containing the predetermined component of same concentration is supplied to all the material layers.

2. The method of extracting a component from material according to claim 1, wherein carbon dioxide having a temperature of 10°C to 80°C and a pressure of 3 MPa to 40 MPa is supplied as the high-pressure solvent.

3. The method of extracting a component from material according to claim 2, wherein the material is tobacco.

4. The method of extracting a component from material according to claim 3, wherein nicotine and tobacco-specific nitrosamine are removed each as the
20 predetermined component.

5. The method of extracting a component from material according to claim 4, wherein the absorbent contains one substance that is selected from the group consisting of activated carbon, a synthetic absorbent, zeolite, ion exchange resin, alumina, and silica gel.

6. The method of extracting a component from material according to claim 5, further including a preprocessing step of:

previously finding relationship between a time period for supplying the solvent and a reduction rate of the predetermined component in the material in each of the layers, and determining a solvent supply time period required for a representative reduction rate of the predetermined component of the entire material to reach a desired value, wherein

upon elapse of the solvent supply time period that is determined in the preprocessing step, the supply of the solvent is stopped.

10 7. The method of extracting a component from material as claimed in any one of claims 1 to 6, wherein the layers of the material and of the absorbent are each arranged in such a manner as to be removable from inside the container.

8. A device for extracting a component from material, comprising:

a container including an inner channel;

material zones filled with the material and absorbent zones filled with absorbent, which are alternately arranged in layers in the inner channel of the container;

a circulation channel for a high-pressure solvent, which is partially formed of the inner channel of the container;

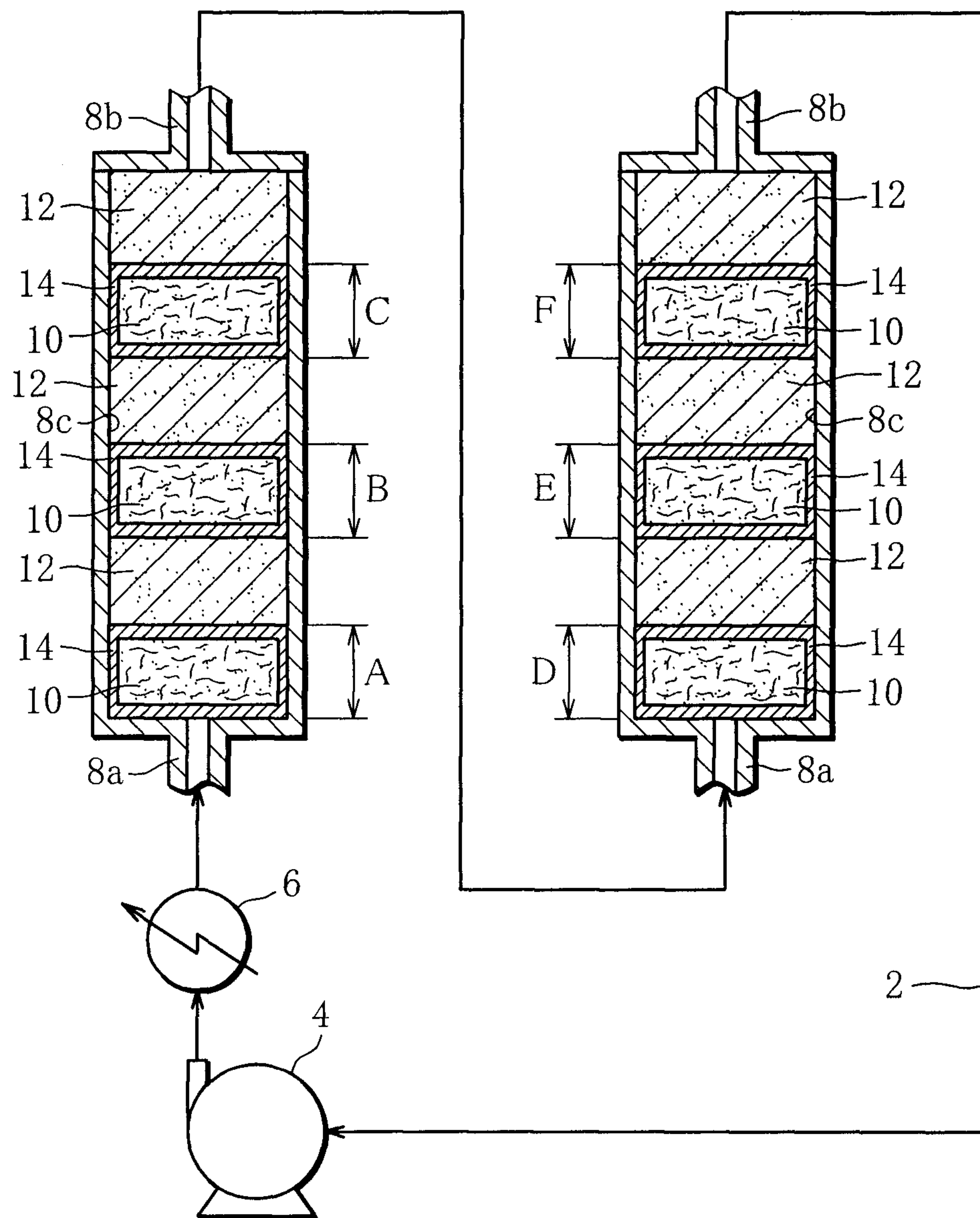
20 wherein a predetermined component contained in the material is extracted into the solvent and the predetermined component in the solvent is absorbed into the absorbent to be removed when the solvent is supplied into the inner channel of the container; and

circulating means for circulating the solvent through said inner channel so that said solvent containing the predetermined component of same concentration is supplied to all the material layers.

9. The device for extracting a component from material as claimed in claim 8, wherein the layers of the material and of the absorbent are each arranged in such a manner as to be removable from inside the container.

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FIG. 1



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FIG. 2

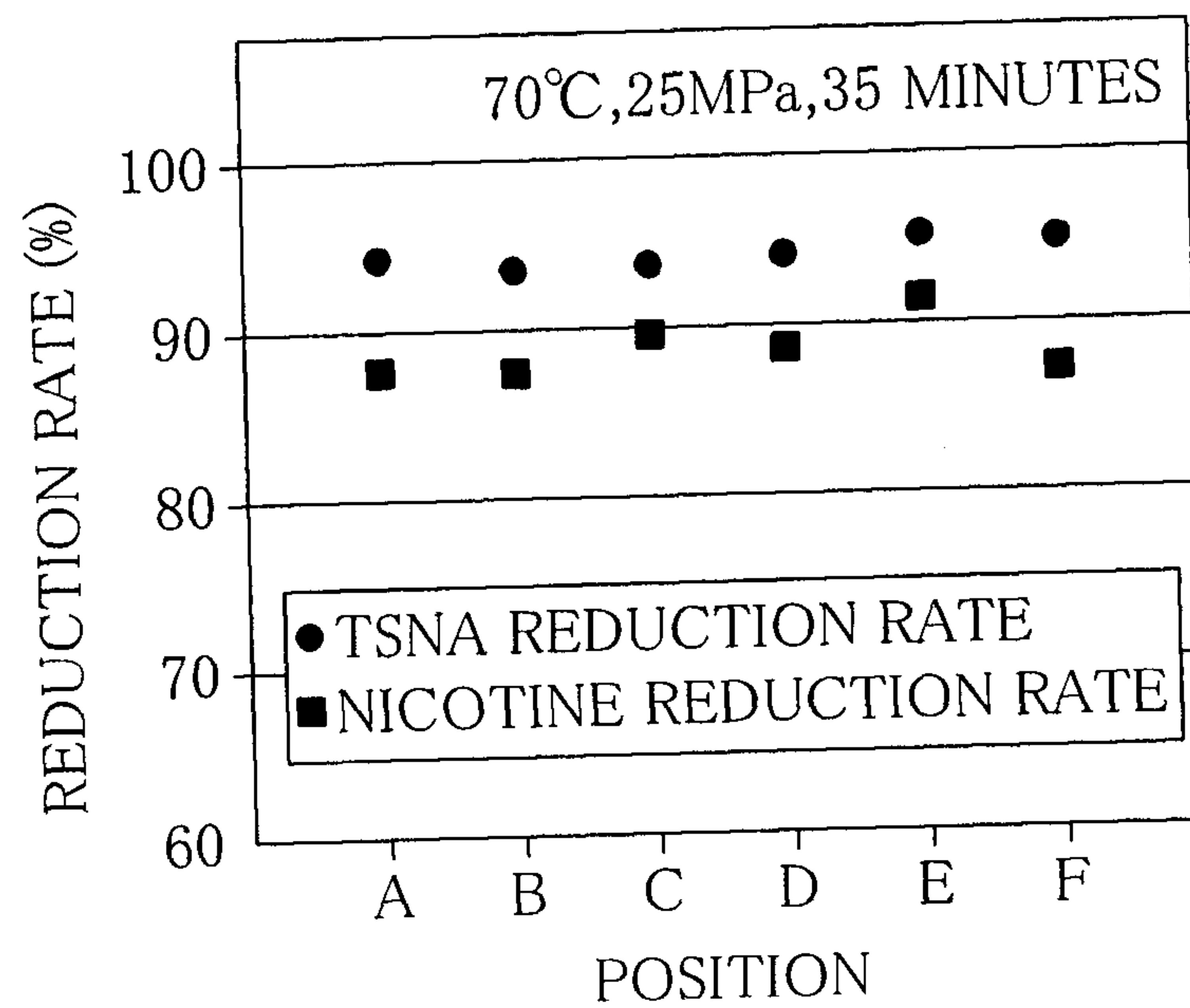
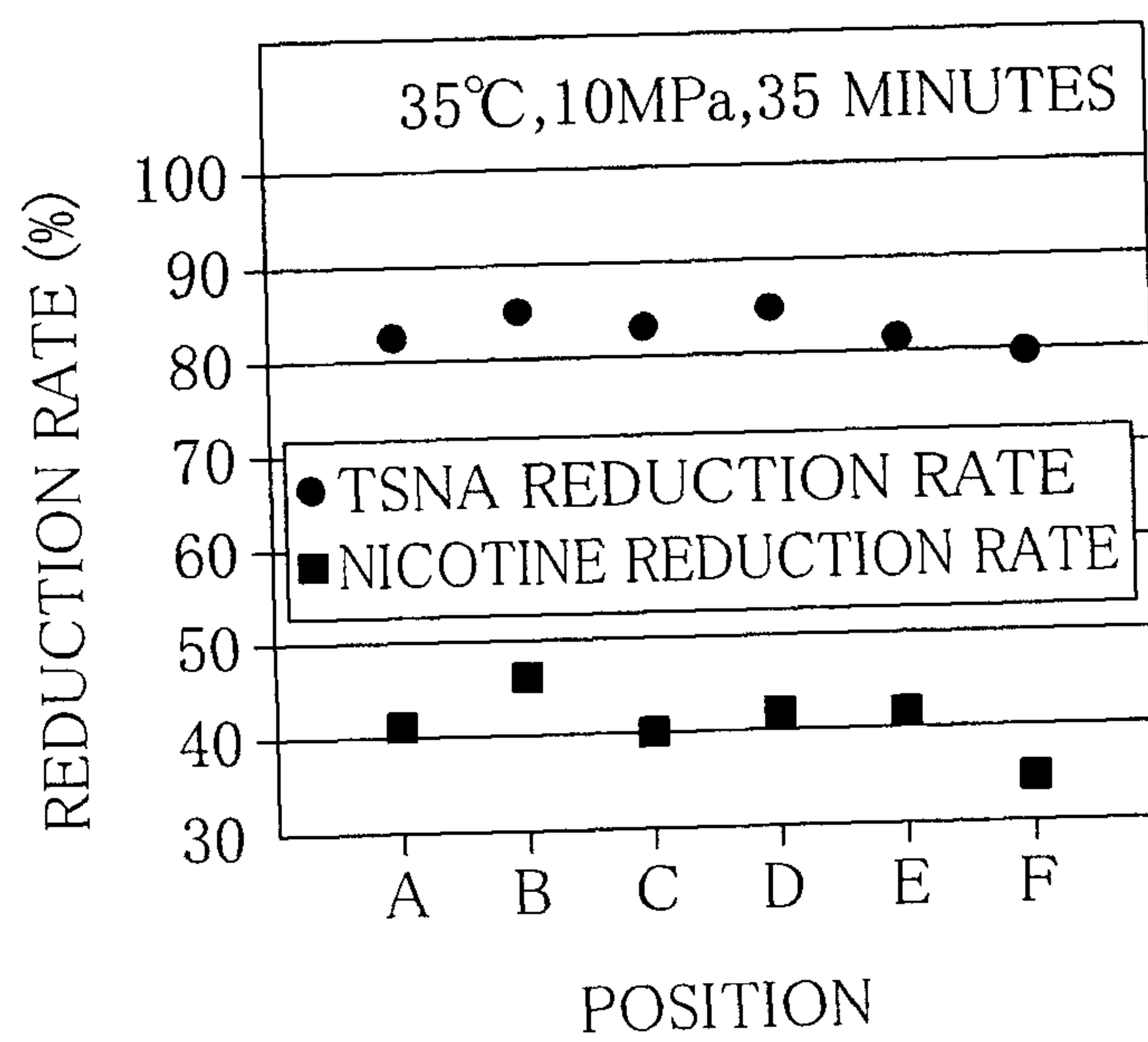


FIG. 3



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FIG. 4

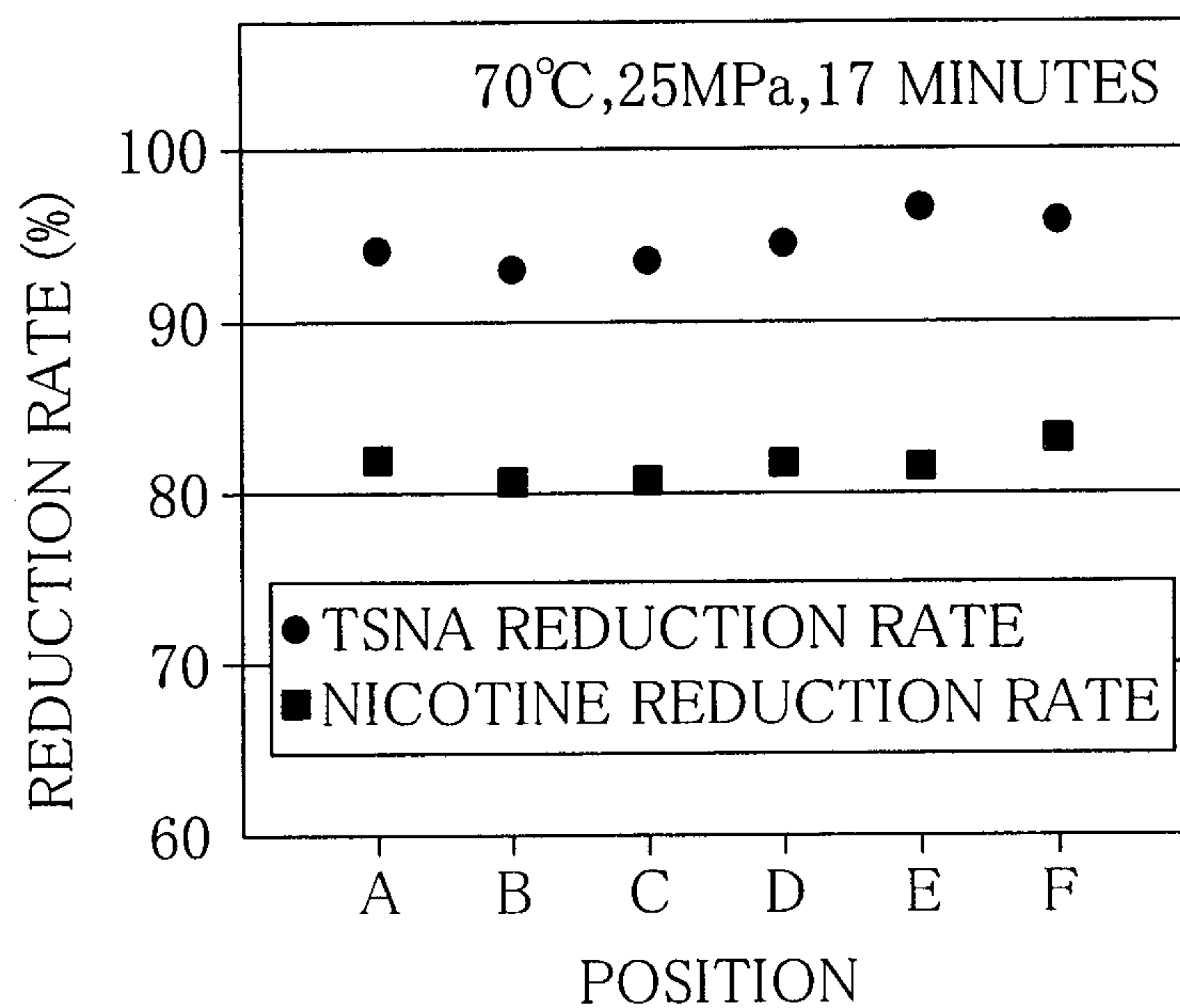
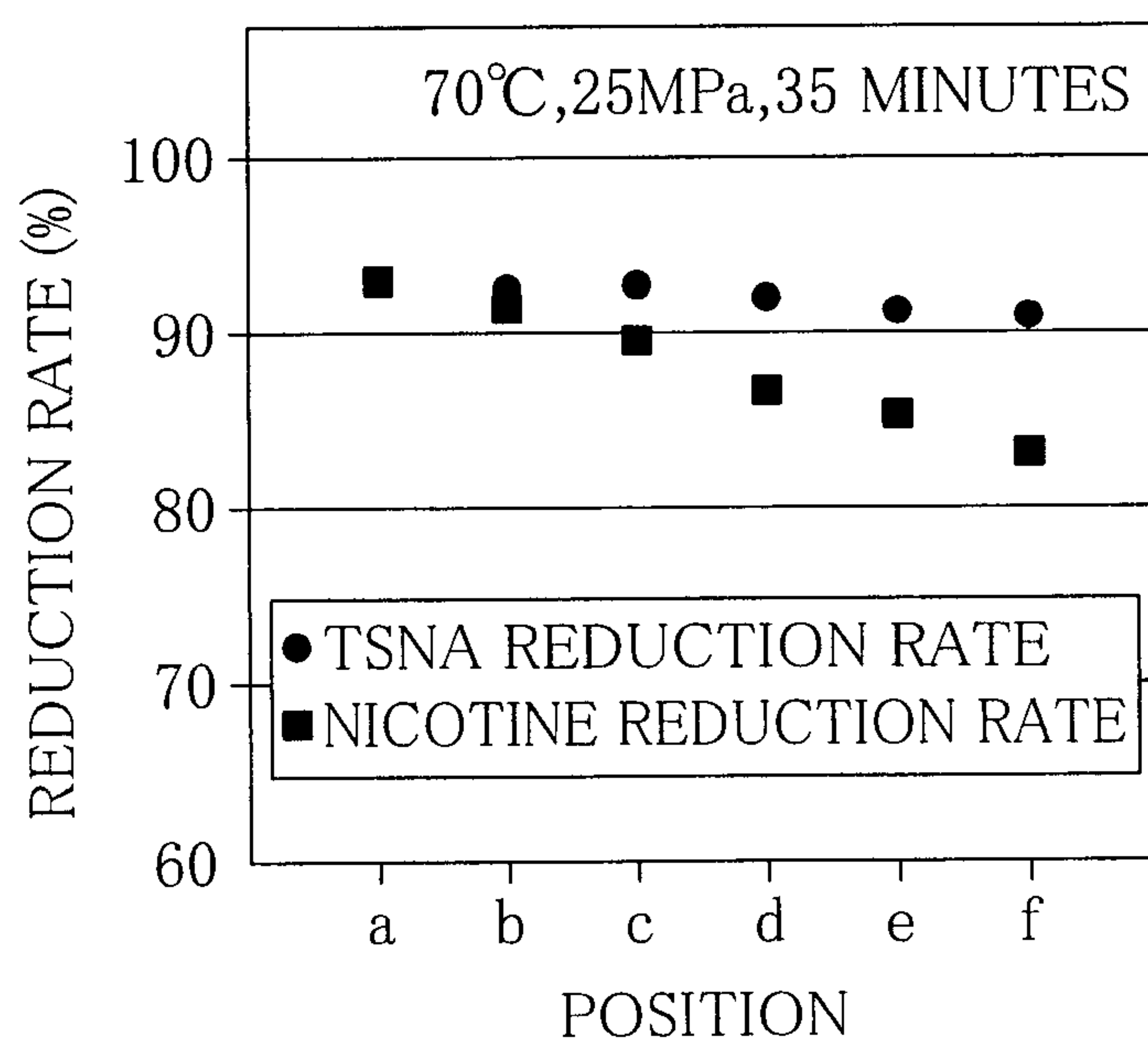
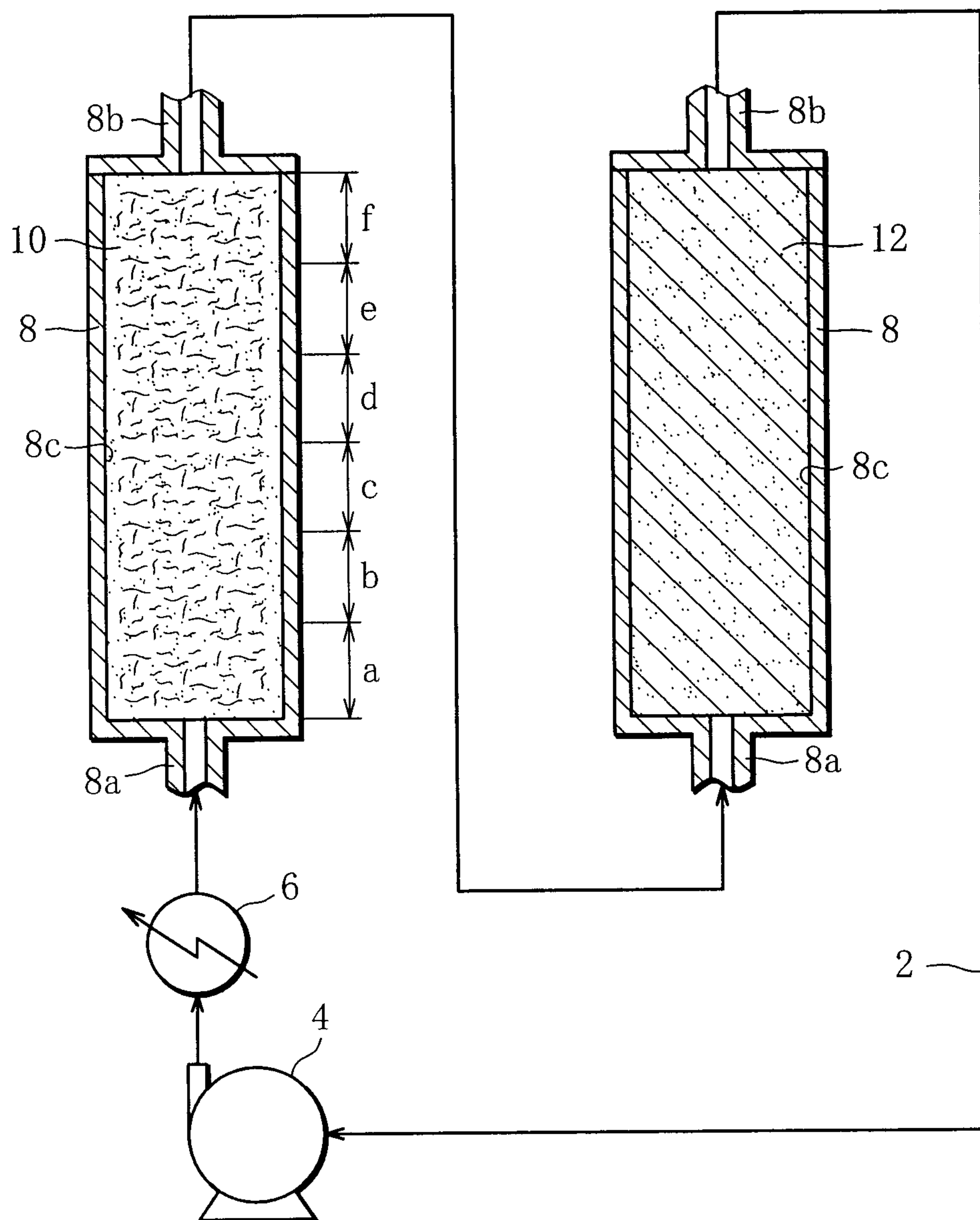


FIG. 5



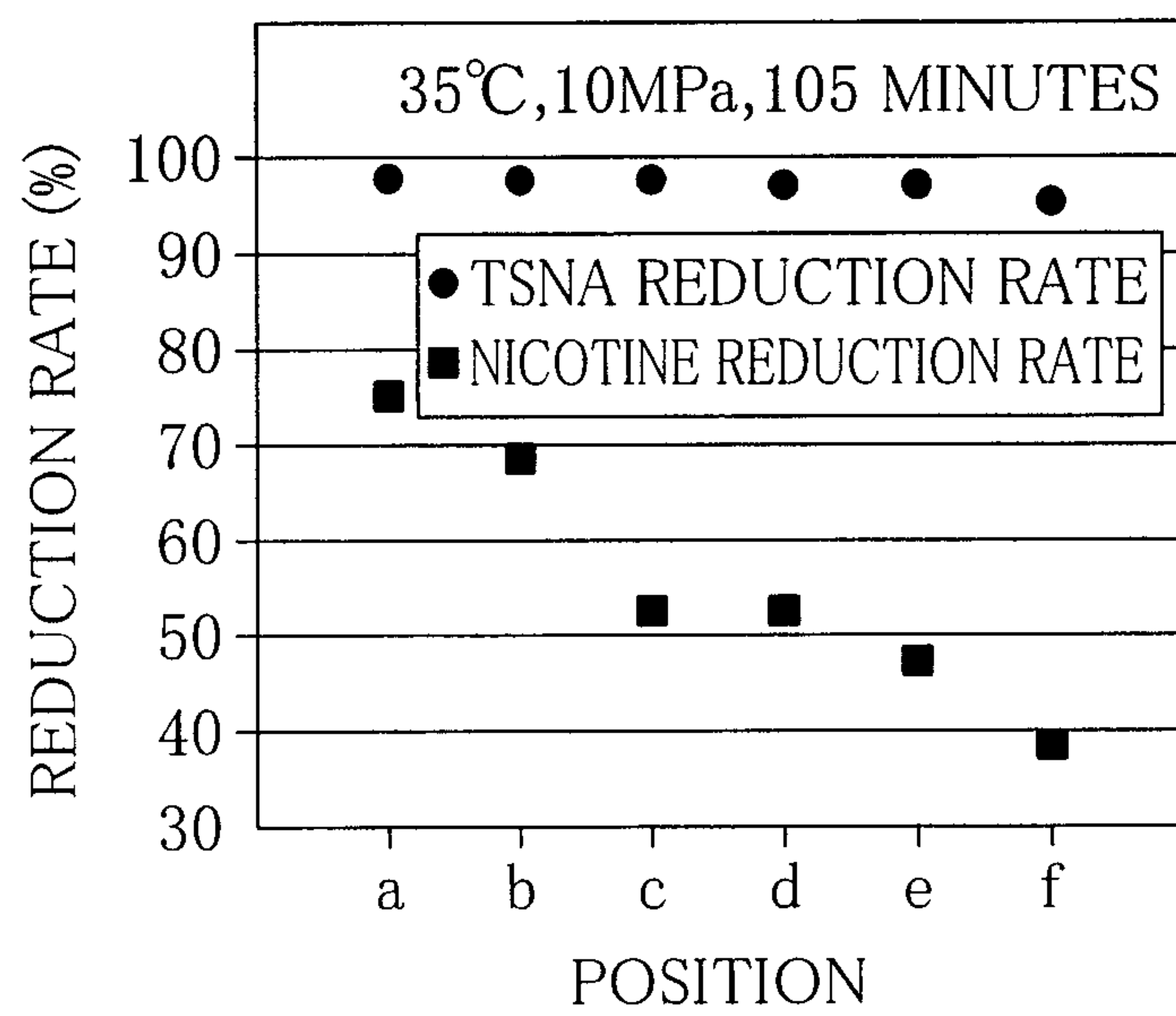
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FIG. 6



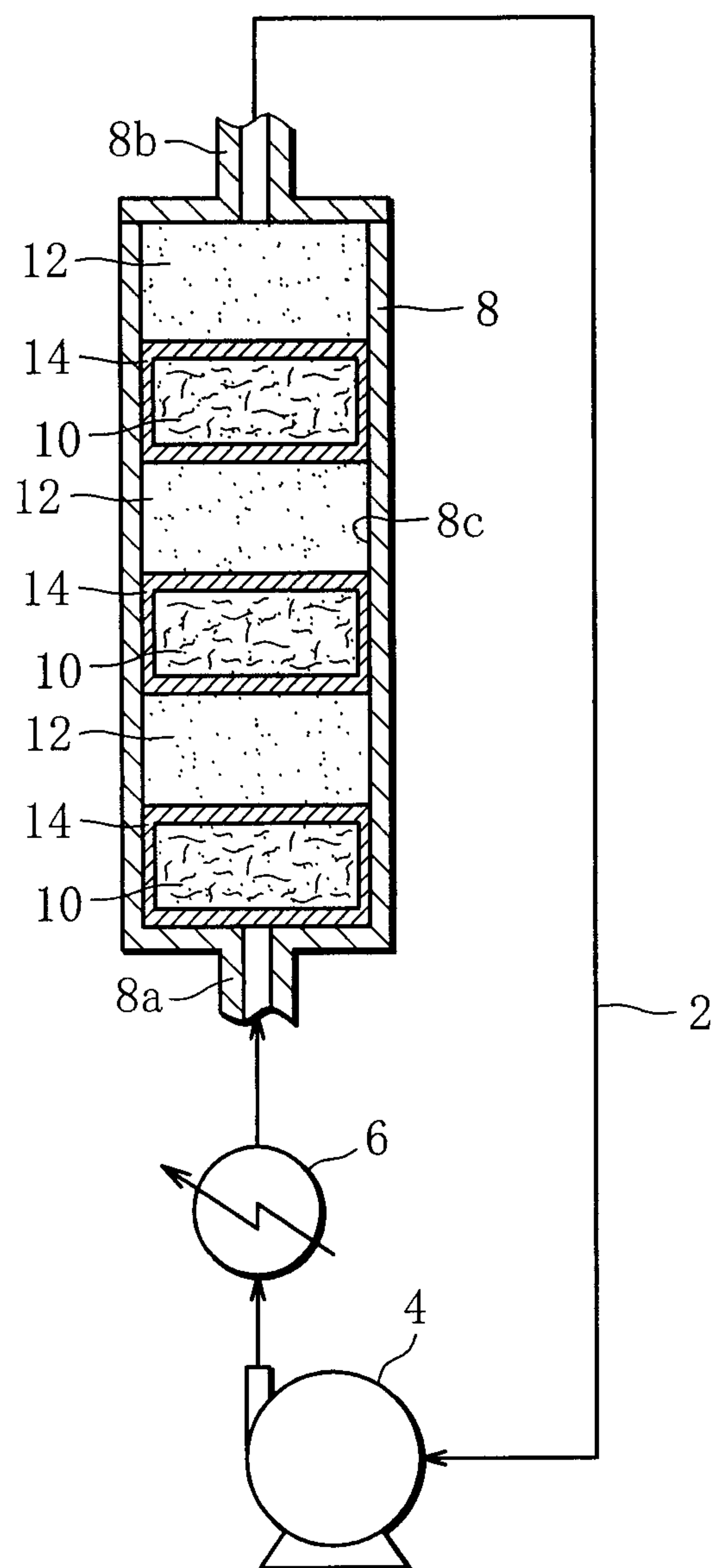
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FIG. 7



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FIG. 8



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FIG. 9

