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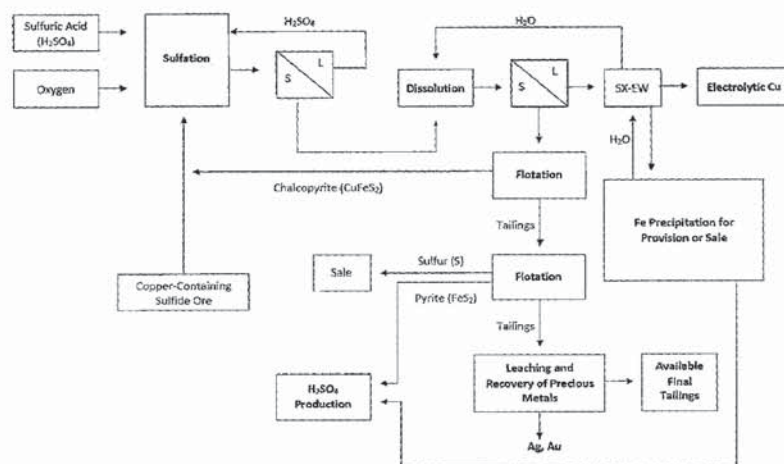


FIG. 1

(57) Abstract: The method of recovering copper from sulfide ores with copper and iron, comprises the steps of reacting, in a reaction vessel, a copper-containing sulfide ore with sulfur dioxide gas to form elemental sulfur, an iron oxide and a copper sulfate, separating the solids comprising the iron oxide and copper sulfate from a liquid phase of the reaction mixture, leaching the dried solids with an aqueous solution comprising water or dilute sulfuric acid and solubilizing the copper sulfate, and recovering copper from the solubilized copper sulfate.

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