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(54) **METHODS OF CONTROLLING THE HYDROPHILICITY OF CELLULOSE**

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(58) **Field of Classification Search**

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See application file for complete search history.

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(57) **ABSTRACT**

In some embodiments, the present invention provides methods including the steps of providing cellulosic material, associating the cellulosic material with an organic acid (e.g., lactic acid) to form a mixture, and heating the mixture to a temperature between 100° C. and 120° C. for at least ten minutes to form a treated cellulosic material, wherein the water retention value of the treated cellulosic material is decreased by at least 10% as compared to untreated cellulosic material.

10 Claims, 10 Drawing Sheets