

(19) World Intellectual Property Organization
International Bureau



(43) International Publication Date
3 September 2009 (03.09.2009)

(10) International Publication Number
WO 2009/108727 A1

- (51) International Patent Classification:
E03D 3/12 (2006.01)
- (21) International Application Number:
PCT/US2009/035186
- (22) International Filing Date:
25 February 2009 (25.02.2009)
- (25) Filing Language: English
- (26) Publication Language: English
- (30) Priority Data:
61/067,032 25 February 2008 (25.02.2008) US
- (71) Applicant (for all designated States except US): **AS IP HOLDCO, L.L.C.** [US/US]; One Centennial Avenue, Piscataway, NJ 08854-3921 (US).
- (72) Inventor; and
- (75) Inventor/Applicant (for US only): **GROVER, David**; 97 Robin Drive, Hamilton, NJ 08619 (US).
- (74) Agents: **CALDERONE, Lynda, L.** et al.; Flaster/Greenberg, P.C., 8 Penn Center, 1628 John F. Kennedy Boulevard, 15th Floor, Philadelphia, PA 19103 (US).

- (81) Designated States (unless otherwise indicated, for every kind of national protection available): AE, AG, AL, AM, AO, AT, AU, AZ, BA, BB, BG, BH, BR, BW, BY, BZ, CA, CH, CN, CO, CR, CU, CZ, DE, DK, DM, DO, DZ, EC, EE, EG, ES, FI, GB, GD, GE, GH, GM, GT, HN, HR, HU, ID, IL, IN, IS, JP, KE, KG, KM, KN, KP, KR, KZ, LA, LC, LK, LR, LS, LT, LU, LY, MA, MD, ME, MG, MK, MN, MW, MX, MY, MZ, NA, NG, NI, NO, NZ, OM, PG, PH, PL, PT, RO, RS, RU, SC, SD, SE, SG, SK, SL, SM, ST, SV, SY, TJ, TM, TN, TR, TT, TZ, UA, UG, US, UZ, VC, VN, ZA, ZM, ZW.
- (84) Designated States (unless otherwise indicated, for every kind of regional protection available): ARIPO (BW, GH, GM, KE, LS, MW, MZ, NA, SD, SL, SZ, TZ, UG, ZM, ZW), Eurasian (AM, AZ, BY, KG, KZ, MD, RU, TJ, TM), European (AT, BE, BG, CH, CY, CZ, DE, DK, EE, ES, FI, FR, GB, GR, HR, HU, IE, IS, IT, LT, LU, LV, MC, MK, MT, NL, NO, PL, PT, RO, SE, SI, SK, TR), OAPI (BF, BJ, CF, CG, CI, CM, GA, GN, GQ, GW, ML, MR, NE, SN, TD, TG).

Published:

— with international search report (Art. 21(3))

(54) Title: HIGH PERFORMANCE TOILET CAPABLE OF OPERATION AT REDUCED FLUSH VOLUMES

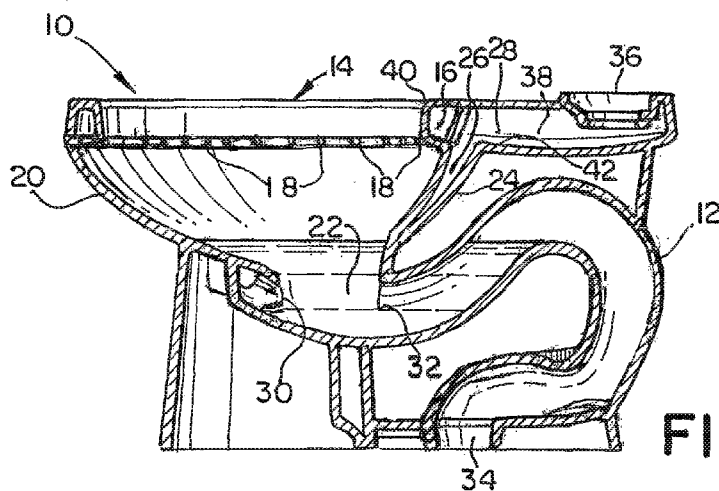


FIG. 1

(57) Abstract: A siphonic, gravity-powered toilet is provided that includes a toilet bowl assembly having a toilet bowl. The toilet bowl has a rim channel provided along an upper periphery thereof and a direct-fed jet channel that allows fluid, such as water, to flow from the inlet of the toilet bowl assembly to the direct-fed jet outlet port into the interior of the toilet bowl, in the sump of the bowl. The rim channel includes at least one rim channel outlet port. In this toilet, the cross-sectional areas of the toilet bowl assembly inlet, the inlet port to the rim channel, and the outlet port to the direct-fed jet channel are configured so as to be optimized to provide greatly improved hydraulic function at low flush volumes (no greater than about 6.0 liters per flush). The hydraulic function is improved in terms of bulk removal of waste and cleansing of the bowl.



WO 2009/108727 A1

TITLE OF THE INVENTION

[0001] High Performance Toilet Capable Of Operation At Reduced Flush Volumes

CROSS-REFERENCE TO RELATED APPLICATIONS

[0002] This application claims the benefit of priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) of U.S. Provisional Patent Application No. 61/067,032 filed February 25, 2008, the entire disclosure of which is incorporated herein by reference.

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

FIELD OF THE INVENTION

[0003] The present invention relates to the field of gravity-powered toilets for removal of human and other waste. The present invention further relates to the field of toilets that can be operated at reduced water volumes.

DESCRIPTION OF RELATED ART

[0004] Toilets for removing waste products, such as human waste, are well known. Gravity powered toilets generally have two main parts: a tank and a bowl. The tank and bowl can be separate pieces which are coupled together to form the toilet system (commonly referred to as a two-piece toilet) or can be combined into one integral unit (typically referred to as a one-piece toilet).

[0005] The tank, which is usually positioned over the back of the bowl, contains water that is used for initiating flushing of waste from the bowl to the sewage line, as well as refilling the bowl with fresh water. When a user desires to flush the toilet, he pushes down on a flush lever on the outside of the tank, which is connected on the inside of the tank to a movable chain or lever. When the flush lever is depressed, it moves a chain or lever on the inside of the tank which acts to lift and open the flush valve, causing water to flow from the tank and into the bowl, thus initiating the toilet flush.

[0006] There are three general purposes that must be served in a flush cycle. The first is the removal of solid and other waste to the drain line. The second is cleansing of the bowl to remove any solid or liquid waste which was deposited or adhered to the surfaces of the bowl, and the third is exchanging the pre-flush water volume in the bowl so that relatively clean water remains in the bowl between uses. The second requirement, cleansing of the bowl, is usually

achieved by way of a hollow rim that extends around the upper perimeter of the toilet bowl. Some or all of the flush water is directed through this rim channel and flows through openings positioned therein to disperse water over the entire surface of the bowl and accomplish the required cleansing.

5 [0007] Gravity powered toilets can be classified in two general categories: wash down and siphonic. In a wash-down toilet, the water level within the bowl of the toilet remains relatively constant at all times. When a flush cycle is initiated, water flows from the tank and spills into the bowl. This causes a rapid rise in water level and the excess water spills over the weir of the trapway, carrying liquid and solid waste along with it. At the conclusion of the flush cycle, the
10 water level in the bowl naturally returns to the equilibrium level determined by the height of the weir.

[0008] In a siphonic toilet, the trapway and other hydraulic channels are designed such that a siphon is initiated in the trapway upon addition of water to the bowl. The siphon tube itself is an upside down U-shaped tube that draws water from the toilet bowl to the wastewater line.
15 When the flush cycle is initiated, water flows into the bowl and spills over the weir in the trapway faster than it can exit the outlet to the sewer line. Sufficient air is eventually removed from the down leg of the trapway to initiate a siphon which in turn pulls the remaining water out of the bowl. The water level in the bowl when the siphon breaks is consequently well below the level of the weir, and a separate mechanism needs to be provided to refill the bowl of
20 the toilet at the end of a siphonic flush cycle to reestablish the original water level and protective "seal" against back flow of sewer gas.

[0009] Siphonic and wash-down toilets have inherent advantages and disadvantages. Siphonic toilets, due to the requirement that most of the air be removed from the down leg of the trapway in order to initiate a siphon, tend to have smaller trapways which can result in
25 clogging. Wash-down toilets can function with large trapways but generally require a smaller amount of pre-flush water in the bowl to achieve the 100:1 dilution level required by plumbing codes in most countries (*i.e.*, 99% of the pre-flush water volume in the bowl must be removed from the bowl and replaced with fresh water during the flush cycle). This small pre-flush volume manifests itself as a small "water spot." The water spot, or surface area of the pre-flush
30 water in the bowl, plays an important role in maintaining the cleanliness of a toilet. A large water spot increases the probability that waste matter will contact water before contacting the ceramic surface of the toilet. This reduces adhesion of waste matter to the ceramic surface

making it easier for the toilet to clean itself via the flush cycle. Wash-down toilets with their small water spots therefore frequently require manual cleaning of the bowl after use.

[0010] Siphonic toilets have the advantage of being able to function with a greater pre-flush water volume in the bowl and greater water spot. This is possible because the siphon action
5 pulls the majority of the pre-flush water volume from the bowl at the end of the flush cycle. As the tank refills, a portion of the refill water is directed into the bowl to return the pre-flush water volume to its original level. In this manner, the 100:1 dilution level required by many plumbing codes is achieved even though the starting volume of water in the bowl is significantly higher relative to the flush water exited from the tank. In the North American
10 markets, siphonic toilets have gained widespread acceptance and are now viewed as the standard, accepted form of toilet. In European markets, wash-down toilets are still more accepted and popular. Whereas both versions are common in the Asian markets.

[0011] Gravity powered siphonic toilets can be further classified into three general categories depending on the design of the hydraulic channels used to achieve the flushing
15 action. These categories are: non-jetted, rim jetted, and direct jetted.

[0012] In non-jetted bowls, all of the flush water exits the tank into a bowl inlet area and flows through a primary manifold into the rim channel. The water is dispersed around the perimeter of the bowl via a series of holes positioned underneath the rim. Some of the holes are designed to be larger in size to allow greater flow of water into the bowl. A relatively high
20 flow rate is needed to spill water over the weir of the trapway rapidly enough to displace sufficient air in the down leg and initiate a siphon. Non-jetted bowls typically have adequate to good performance with respect to cleansing of the bowl and exchange of the pre-flush water, but are relatively poor in performance in terms of bulk removal. The feed of water to the trapway is inefficient and turbulent, which makes it more difficult to sufficiently fill the down
25 leg of the trapway and initiate a strong siphon. Consequently, the trapway of a non-jetted toilet is typically smaller in diameter and contains bends and constrictions designed to impede flow of water. Without the smaller size, bends, and constrictions, a strong siphon would not be achieved. Unfortunately, the smaller size, bends, and constrictions result in poor performance in terms of bulk waste removal and frequent clogging, conditions that are extremely
30 dissatisfying to end users.

[0013] Designers and engineers of toilets have improved the bulk waste removal of siphonic toilets by incorporating "siphon jets." In a rim-jetted toilet bowl, the flush water exits

the tank, flows through the manifold inlet area and through the primary manifold into the rim channel. A portion of the water is dispersed around the perimeter of the bowl via a series of holes positioned underneath the rim. The remaining portion of water flows through a jet channel positioned at the front of the rim. This jet channel connects the rim channel to a jet opening positioned in the sump of the bowl. The jet opening is sized and positioned to send a powerful stream of water directly at the opening of the trapway. When water flows through the jet opening, it serves to fill the trapway more efficiently and rapidly than can be achieved in a non-jetted bowl. This more energetic and rapid flow of water to the trapway enables toilets to be designed with larger trapway diameters and fewer bends and constrictions, which, in turn, improves the performance in bulk waste removal relative to non-jetted bowls. Although a smaller volume of water flows out of the rim of a rim jetted toilet, the bowl cleansing function is generally acceptable as the water that flows through the rim channel is pressurized. This allows the water to exit the rim holes with higher energy and do a more effective job of cleansing the bowl.

15 **[0014]** Although rim-jetted bowls are generally superior to non-jetted, the long pathway that the water must travel through the rim to the jet opening dissipates and wastes much of the available energy. Direct-jetted bowls improve on this concept and can deliver even greater performance in terms of bulk removal of waste. In a direct-jetted bowl, the flush water exits the tank and flows through the bowl inlet and through the primary manifold. At this point, the water is divided into two portions: a portion that flows through a rim inlet port to the rim channel with the primary purpose of achieving the desired bowl cleansing, and a portion that flows through a jet inlet port to a "direct-jet channel" that connects the primary manifold to a jet opening in the sump of the toilet bowl. The direct jet channel can take different forms, sometimes being unidirectional around one side of the toilet, or being "dual fed," wherein symmetrical channels travel down both sides connecting the manifold to the jet opening. As with the rim jetted bowls, the jet opening is sized and positioned to send a powerful stream of water directly at the opening of the trapway. When water flows through the jet opening, it serves to fill the trapway more efficiently and rapidly than can be achieved in a non-jetted or rim jetted bowl. This more energetic and rapid flow of water to the trapway enables toilets to be designed with even larger trapway diameters and minimal bends and constrictions, which, in turn, improves the performance in bulk waste removal relative to non-jetted and rim jetted bowls.

[0015] Several inventions have been aimed at improving the performance of siphonic toilets through optimization of the direct jetted concept. For example, in U.S. Patent No. 5,918,325, performance of a siphonic toilet is improved by improving the shape of the trapway. In U.S. Patent No. 6,715,162, performance is improved by the use of a flush valve with a radius
5 incorporated into the inlet and asymmetrical flow of the water into the bowl.

[0016] Although direct fed jet bowls currently represent the state of the art for bulk removal of waste, there are still major needs for improvement. Government agencies have continually demanded that municipal water users reduce the amount of water they use. Much of the focus in recent years has been to reduce the water demand required by toilet flushing operations. In
10 order to illustrate this point, the amount of water used in a toilet for each flush has gradually been reduced by governmental agencies from 7 gallons/flush (prior to the 1950's), to 5.5 gallons/flush (by the end of the 1960's), to 3.5 gallons/flush (in the 1980's). The National Energy Policy Act of 1995 now mandates that toilets sold in the United States can use water in an amount of only 1.6 gallons/flush (6 liters/flush). Regulations have recently been passed in
15 the State of California which require water usage to be lowered ever further to 1.28 gallons/flush. The 1.6 gallons/flush toilets currently described in the patent literature and available commercially lose the ability to consistently siphon when pushed to these lower levels of water consumption. Thus, manufacturers will be forced to reduce trapway diameters and sacrifice performance unless improved technology and toilet designs are developed.

[0017] A second, related area that needs to be addressed is the development of siphonic toilets capable of operating with dual flush cycles. "Dual flush" toilets are designed to save water through incorporation of mechanisms that enable different water usages to be chosen depending on the waste that needs to be removed. For example, a 1.6 gallon per flush cycle could be used to remove solid waste and a 1.2 gallon or below cycle used for liquid waste.
20 Prior art toilets generally have difficulty siphoning on 1.2 gallons or lower. Thus, designers and engineers reduce the trapway size to overcome this issue, sacrificing performance at the 1.6 gallon cycle needed for solid waste removal.

[0018] A third area that needs to be improved is the bowl cleansing ability of direct jetted toilets. Due to the hydraulic design of direct jetted bowls, the water that enters the rim channel
30 is not pressurized. Rather, it spills into the rim channel only after the jet channel is filled and pressurized. The result is that the water exiting the rim has very low energy and the bowl cleansing function of direct jet toilets is generally inferior to rim jetted and non-jetted.

[0019] Therefore, there is a need in the art for a toilet which overcomes the above noted deficiencies in prior art toilets, which is not only resistant to clogging, but allows for sufficient cleansing during flushing, while allowing for compliance with water conservation standards and government guidelines.

5

BRIEF SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

[0020] The present invention relates to a gravity powered toilet for the removal of human and other waste, that can be operated at reduced water volumes without diminishment in its ability to remove waste and cleanse the toilet bowl.

10 [0021] Advantages of various embodiments of the present invention include, but are not limited to providing a toilet that avoids the aforementioned disadvantages of the prior art, is resistant to clogging, and provides a direct fed jet toilet with a more effective, pressurized rim wash. In doing so, embodiments of the present invention can provide a toilet with a more powerful direct jet that takes full advantage of the potential energy available to it. In
15 embodiments herein, the toilet eliminates the need for the user to initiate multiple flush cycles to achieve a clean bowl.

[0022] The present invention can provide a toilet which is self-cleaning, and also provide all of the above-noted advantages at water usages below 1.6 gallons per flush and as low as 0.75 gallons per flush or lower.

20 [0023] Embodiments of the current invention provide a siphonic toilet suitable for operation in a "dual flush" mode, without significant compromise in trapway size.

[0024] The present invention may also provide a toilet with a hydraulically-tuned, direct jet path for greater performance and/or provide a toilet which reduces hydraulic losses.

[0025] In accordance with an embodiment of the present invention, a new and improved
25 toilet of the siphonic, gravity-powered type is provided which includes a toilet bowl assembly having a toilet bowl in fluid communication with a sewage outlet, such as through a trapway extending from a bottom sump outlet of the toilet bowl to a sewage line. The toilet bowl has a rim along an upper perimeter thereof that accommodates a sustained pressurized flow of flush water through at least one opening in the rim for cleansing the bowl. Flow enters the rim
30 channel and jet channel(s) in a direct-fed jet, while providing sustained pressurized flow out of the rim. The pressure is generally simultaneously maintained in the rim and jet channels by maintaining the relative cross-sectional areas of specific features of the internal hydraulic

pathway within certain defined limits. Bulk waste removal performance and resistance to clogging is maintained at lower water usages because applicants have discovered that pressurization of the rim provides for a stronger and longer jet flow, which enables a larger trapway to be filled without loss of siphoning capability.

5 [0026] In accordance with the foregoing, in one embodiment, the invention includes a siphonic, gravity-powered toilet having a toilet bowl assembly, the toilet bowl assembly comprising a toilet bowl assembly inlet in fluid communication with a source of fluid, a toilet bowl having a rim around an upper perimeter thereof and defining a rim channel, the rim having an inlet port and at least one rim outlet port, wherein the rim channel inlet port is in fluid
10 communication with the toilet bowl assembly inlet, a bowl outlet in fluid communication with a sewage outlet, and a direct-fed jet in fluid communication with the toilet bowl assembly inlet for receiving fluid from the source of fluid and the bowl outlet for discharging fluid, wherein the toilet is capable of operating at a flush volume of no greater than about 6.0 liters and the water exiting the at least one rim outlet port is pressurized such that an integral of a curve
15 representing rim pressure plotted against time during a flush cycle exceeds 3 in. H₂O•s.

[0027] The at least one rim outlet port is preferably pressurized in a sustained manner for a period of time, for example for at least 1 second. The toilet is preferably capable of providing the sustained pressurized flow from the at least one rim outlet port generally simultaneously with flow through the direct-fed jet. Also, it is preferred that an integral of a curve representing
20 rim pressure plotted against time during a flush cycle using a preferred embodiment of the toilet herein exceeds 5 in. H₂O•s. In addition, in preferred embodiments, the toilet is capable of operating at a flush volume of not greater than about 4.8 liters.

[0028] In yet a further embodiment, the toilet bowl assembly further comprises a primary manifold in fluid communication with the toilet bowl assembly inlet capable of receiving fluid
25 from the toilet bowl assembly inlet, the primary manifold also in fluid communication with the rim channel and the direct-fed jet for directing fluid from the toilet bowl assembly inlet to the rim channel and the direct-fed jet, wherein the primary manifold has a cross-sectional area (A_{pm}); wherein the direct-fed jet has an inlet port having a cross-sectional area (A_{jip}) and an outlet port having a cross-sectional area (A_{jop}) and further comprises a jet channel extending
30 between the direct-fed jet inlet port and the direct-fed jet outlet port; and wherein the rim

channel has an inlet port having a cross-sectional area (A_{rip}) and the at least one outlet port has a total cross-sectional area (A_{rop}), wherein:

$$A_{pm} > A_{jip} > A_{jop} \quad (I)$$

$$A_{pm} > A_{rip} > A_{rop} \quad (II)$$

$$5 \quad A_{pm} > 1.5 \cdot (A_{jop} + A_{rop}) \quad (III)$$

$$A_{rip} > 2.5 \cdot A_{rop}. \quad (IV)$$

[0029] In one preferred embodiment, the cross-sectional area of the primary manifold is greater than or equal to about 150% of the sum of the cross-sectional area of the direct-fed jet outlet port and the total cross-sectional area of the at least one rim outlet port, and more preferably the cross-sectional area of the rim inlet port is greater than or equal to about 250% of the total cross-sectional area of the at least one rim outlet port.

[0030] In other embodiments, the toilet may further comprise a mechanism that enables operation of the toilet using at least two different flush volumes.

[0031] The toilet bowl assembly may have a longitudinal axis extending in a direction transverse to a plane defined by the rim of the toilet bowl, wherein the primary manifold extends in a direction generally transverse to the longitudinal axis of the toilet bowl.

[0032] The invention further includes in another embodiment a siphonic, gravity-powered toilet having a toilet bowl assembly, the toilet bowl assembly comprising a toilet bowl assembly inlet in communication with a fluid source, a toilet bowl defining an interior space therein for receiving fluid, a rim extending along an upper periphery of the toilet bowl and defining a rim channel, wherein the rim has a rim channel inlet port and at least one rim channel outlet port, wherein the rim channel inlet port is in fluid communication with the toilet bowl assembly inlet and the at least one rim channel outlet port is configured so as to allow fluid flowing through the rim channel to enter the interior space of the toilet bowl, a bowl outlet in fluid communication with a sewage outlet and a direct-fed jet having an inlet port and an outlet port, wherein the direct-fed jet inlet port is in fluid communication with the toilet bowl assembly inlet for introducing fluid into a lower portion of the interior of the bowl, wherein the toilet bowl assembly is configured so that the rim channel and the direct-fed jet are capable of introducing fluid into the bowl in a sustained pressurized manner.

[0033] In one preferred embodiment, the toilet bowl assembly further comprises a primary manifold in fluid communication with the toilet bowl assembly inlet capable of receiving fluid from the toilet bowl assembly inlet, and the primary manifold also in fluid communication with the inlet port of the rim channel and the inlet port of the direct-fed jet for directing fluid from the toilet bowl assembly inlet to the rim channel and to the direct-fed jet, wherein the primary manifold has a cross-sectional area (A_{pm}); wherein the inlet port of the direct-fed jet has a cross-sectional area (A_{jip}) and the outlet port of the direct-fed jet has a cross-sectional area (A_{jop}); and wherein the inlet port of the rim channel has a cross-sectional area (A_{rip}) and the at least one outlet port has a total cross-sectional area (A_{rop}), wherein:

$$10 \quad A_{pm} > A_{jip} > A_{jop} \quad (I)$$

$$A_{pm} > A_{rip} > A_{rop} \quad (II)$$

$$A_{pm} > 1.5 \cdot (A_{jop} + A_{rop}) \quad (III)$$

$$A_{rip} > 2.5 \cdot A_{rop}. \quad (IV)$$

[0034] Preferably, the cross-sectional area of the primary manifold is greater than or equal to about 150% of the sum of the cross-sectional area of the direct-fed jet outlet port and the total cross-sectional area of the at least one rim outlet port, and more preferably the cross-sectional area of the rim inlet port is greater than or equal to about 250% of the total cross-sectional area of the at least one rim outlet port.

[0035] The toilet may further comprise a mechanism in certain embodiments that enables operation of the toilet using at least two different flush volumes.

[0036] The invention further includes in an embodiment, in a siphonic, gravity-powered toilet having a toilet bowl assembly, the assembly comprising a toilet bowl, a direct-fed jet and a rim defining a rim channel and having at least one rim opening, wherein fluid is introduced into the bowl through the direct-fed jet and through the at least one rim opening, a method for providing a toilet capable of operating at a flush volume of no greater than about 6.0 liters, the method comprising introducing fluid from a fluid source through a toilet bowl assembly inlet and into the direct-fed jet and into the rim channel so that fluid flows into an interior of the toilet bowl from the direct-fed jet under pressure and from the at least one rim opening in a

sustained pressurized manner such that an integral of a curve representing rim pressure plotted against time during a flush cycle exceeds 3 in. H₂O•s

[0037] In preferred embodiments, the integral of a curve representing rim pressure plotted against time during a flush cycle exceeds 5 in. H₂O•s. In preferred embodiments, the toilet is
5 capable of operating at a flush volume of not greater than about 4.8 liters.

[0038] In the method the toilet bowl assembly may further comprise a primary manifold in fluid communication with the toilet bowl assembly inlet, the primary manifold capable of receiving fluid from the toilet bowl assembly inlet, the primary manifold being in fluid communication with the rim channel and the direct-fed jet for directing fluid from the bowl
10 inlet to the rim channel and the direct-fed jet, wherein the primary manifold has a cross-sectional area (A_{pm}); wherein the direct-fed jet has an inlet port having a cross-sectional area (A_{jip}) and an outlet port having a cross-sectional area (A_{jop}); and wherein the rim channel has an inlet port having a cross-sectional area (A_{rip}) and the at least one outlet port has a total cross-sectional area (A_{rop}), wherein the method further comprises configuring the bowl so that:

$$15 \quad A_{pm} > A_{jip} > A_{jop} \quad (I)$$

$$A_{pm} > A_{rip} > A_{rop} \quad (II)$$

$$A_{pm} > 1.5 \cdot (A_{jop} + A_{rop}) \quad (III)$$

$$A_{rip} > 2.5 \cdot A_{rop}. \quad (IV)$$

[0039] In preferred embodiments of the method, the cross-sectional area of the primary
20 manifold is greater than or equal to about 150% of the sum of the cross-sectional area of the direct-fed jet outlet port and the total cross-sectional area of the at least one rim outlet port, and more preferably the cross-sectional area of the rim inlet port is greater than or equal to about 250% of the total cross-sectional area of the at least one rim outlet port.

[0040] Various other advantages, and features of the present invention will become readily
25 apparent from the ensuing detailed description and the novel features will be particularly pointed out in the appended claims.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE SEVERAL VIEWS OF THE DRAWING(S)

[0041] The foregoing summary, as well as the following detailed description of preferred embodiments of the invention, will be better understood when read in conjunction with the appended drawings. For the purpose of illustrating the invention, there is shown in the drawings embodiments which are presently preferred. It should be understood, however, that the invention is not limited to the precise arrangements and instrumentalities shown. In the drawings:

[0042] Fig. 1 is a longitudinal, cross-sectional view of a toilet bowl assembly for a toilet according to an embodiment of the invention;

10 [0043] Fig. 2 is a flow diagram showing the flow of fluid through various aspects of a toilet bowl assembly for a toilet according to an embodiment of the invention;

[0044] Fig. 3 is an perspective view of the internal water chambers of the toilet bowl assembly of Fig. 1;

15 [0045] Fig. 4 is a further exploded perspective view of the internal water chambers of the toilet bowl assembly of Figs. 1 and 3;

[0046] Fig. 5 is graphical representation of the relationship of pressure (measures in inches of water (in. H₂O)) versus time (measured in seconds) for data from Examples 8-12;

[0047] Fig. 6 is side view of a CFD simulation at the center point of the experiments in Examples 8-12, i.e., Example 12, at 1.2 seconds into the flush cycle;

20 [0048] Fig. 7 is a graphical representation of the relationship of the total area of outlet ports (measured in in²) versus cross-sectional area of the primary manifold (measured in in²) for Examples 8-12;

[0049] Fig. 8 is a graphical representation of the relationship of pressure (measured in inches of water (in. H₂O)) versus time (measured in seconds) for data from Examples 13-17;

25 [0050] Fig. 9 is a side view of a CFD simulation for the center point of the experiments in Examples 13-17, Example 17, at 1.08 seconds into the flush cycle

[0051] Fig. 10 is a graphical representation of the relationship of the total area of outlet ports (measured in in²) versus cross-sectional area of the primary manifold (measured in in²) for Examples 13-17;

[0052] Fig. 11 is a graphical representation of the relationship of pressure ((measured in inches of water (in. H₂O)) versus time (measured in seconds) for Comparative Example 1;

[0053] Fig. 12 is a graphical representation of the relationship of pressure ((measured in inches of water (in. H₂O)) versus time (measured in seconds) for Comparative Example 2;

5 [0054] Fig. 13 is a graphical representation of the relationship of pressure ((measured in inches of water (in. H₂O)) versus time (measured in seconds) for Comparative Example 3;

[0055] Fig. 14 is a graphical representation of the relationship of pressure ((measured in inches of water (in. H₂O)) versus time (measured in seconds) for Comparative Example 4;

10 [0056] Fig. 15 is a graphical representation of the relationship of pressure ((measured in inches of water (in. H₂O)) versus time (measured in seconds) for Comparative Example 5;

[0057] Fig. 16 is a graphical representation of the relationship of pressure ((measured in inches of water (in. H₂O)) versus time (measured in seconds) for Comparative Example 6;

[0058] Fig. 17 is a graphical representation of the relationship of pressure ((measured in inches of water (in. H₂O)) versus time (measured in seconds) for Example 7;

15 [0059] Fig. 18 is a graphical representation of the relationship of pressure ((measured in inches of water (in. H₂O)) versus time (measured in seconds) for the prior art toilet referenced in Example 18, both at 1.28 gallons/flush; and

[0060] Fig. 19 is a graphical representation of the relationship of pressure ((measured in inches of water (in. H₂O)) versus time (measured in seconds) for the inventive toilet of
20 Example 18.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE INVENTION

[0061] The toilet system described herein provides the advantageous features of a rim-jetted system as well as those of a direct-jetted system. The inner water channels of the toilet system
25 are designed such that the water exiting the rim of the direct-jetted system is pressurized. The toilet is able to maintain resistance to clogging consistent with today's 1.6 gallons/ flush toilets while still delivering superior bowl cleanliness at reduced water usages.

[0062] Referring now to Fig. 1, an embodiment of a toilet bowl assembly for a gravity-powered, siphonic toilet is shown. The toilet bowl assembly, referred to generally as 10 therein is shown without a tank. It should be understood however, that any toilet having a toilet bowl assembly 10 as shown and described herein would be within the scope of the invention, and that the toilet bowl assembly 10 may be attached to a toilet tank (not shown) or a wall-mounted flush system engaged with a plumbing system (not shown) to form a toilet according to the invention. Thus, any toilet having the toilet bowl assembly herein is within the scope of the invention, and the nature and mechanisms for introducing fluid into the toilet bowl assembly inlet for flushing the toilet, whether a tank or other source, is not important, as any such tank or water source may be used with the toilet bowl assembly in the toilet of the present invention. As will be explained in greater detail below, preferred embodiments of toilets having a toilet bowl assembly according to the invention are capable of delivering exceptional bulk waste removal and bowl cleansing at flush water volumes no greater than about 6.0 liters (1.6 gallons) per flush and more preferably 4.8 liters per flush (1.3 gallons) and more preferably 3.8 liters (1.0 gallons) per flush. It should be understood by those skilled in the art based on this disclosure that by being capable of achieving these criteria at flush volumes of about 6.0 liters or less, that does not mean that the toilet would not function well at higher flush volumes and generally would indeed achieve good flush capabilities at higher flush volumes, however, such capability means that the toilet which can operate at a wide range of flush volumes can still achieve advantageous waste removal and bowl cleansing even at lower flush volumes of 6.0 liters or below to meet tough water conservation requirements.

[0063] As shown in Fig. 1, the toilet bowl assembly 10 includes a trapway 12, a rim 14 configured so as to define a rim channel 16 therein. The rim channel has at least one outlet port 18 therein for introducing fluid, such as flush water, into a bowl 20 from within the rim channel 16. The assembly includes a bottom sump portion 22. A direct-fed jet 24 (as shown best in Figs. 3 and 4) includes a jet channel or passageway 26 extending between a direct-fed jet inlet port 28 to a direct-fed jet outlet port 30. As shown, there are two such channels 26 running so as to curve outward around the bowl 20 within the overall structure. The channels feed into a single direct-fed jet outlet port 30, however, it should be understood based on this disclosure that more than one such direct-fed jet outlet may be provided, each at the end of a channel 26 or at the end of multiple such channels. However, it is preferred to concentrate the jet flow from the dual channels as shown into a single direct-fed jet outlet 30. The toilet assembly has an

outlet 32 which is also the general entrance to the trapway 12. The trapway 12 is curved as shown to provide a siphon upon flushing and empties into a sewage outlet 34.

[0064] The toilet bowl assembly 10 further has a toilet bowl assembly inlet 36 which is in communication with a source of fluid (not shown), such as flush water from a tank (not shown), wall-mounted flusher, etc. each providing fluid such as water from a city or other fluid supply source. If a tank were present, it would be coupled above the back portion of the toilet bowl assembly over the toilet bowl assembly inlet 36. Alternatively, a tank could be integral to the body of the toilet bowl assembly 10 provided it were located above the toilet bowl assembly inlet 36. Such a tank would contain water used for initiating siphoning from the bowl to the sewage line, as well as a valve mechanism for refilling the bowl with fresh water after the flush cycle. Any such valve or flush mechanism is suitable for use with the present invention. The invention also is able to be used with various dual- or multi-flush mechanisms. It should be understood therefore by one skilled in the art based on this disclosure that any tank, flush mechanism, etc. in communication with a water source capable of actuating a flushing siphon and introducing water into the inlet 36, including those mechanisms providing dual- and multi-flush which are known in the art or to be developed at a future date may be used with the toilet bowl assembly herein provided that such mechanism(s) can provide fluid to the bowl assembly and are in fluid communication with the inlet port of the rim channel and the inlet port of the direct-fed jet.

[0065] The inlet 36 allows for fluid communication from the inlet of fluid to the direct-fed jet 24 and the rim channel 16. Preferably, fluid flows from the inlet 36 first through a primary manifold 38 from which the flow separates into a first flow entering the direct-fed jet inlet port 28 and a second flow entering into an inlet port 40 into the rim channel 16. From the direct-fed jet inlet port 28, fluid flows into the jet channel 26 and ultimately through the direct-fed jet outlet port 30. From the inlet port 40 of the rim channel, fluid flows through the rim channel in preferably both directions (or the toilet bowl assembly could also be formed so as to flow in only one direction) and out through at least one, and preferably a plurality of rim outlet ports 18. While the rim outlet ports may be configured in various cross-sectional shapes (round, square, elliptical, triangular, slit-like, etc.), it is preferred for convenience of manufacturing that such ports are preferably generally round, and more preferably generally circular in cross-sectional configuration.

[0066] In a toilet according to the invention including a toilet bowl assembly 10 as described herein, flush water passes from, for example, a water tank (not shown) into the toilet bowl 20 through the toilet bowl assembly inlet 36 and, and preferably into a primary manifold 38. At the end 42 of the primary manifold furthest from the inlet 36, the water is divided. A first flow of the water, as noted above, flows through the inlet port 28 of the direct-fed jet 24 and into the jet channel 26. The second or remaining flow, as noted above, flows through the rim inlet port 40 into the rim channel 16. The water in the direct-fed jet channel 26 flows to the jet outlet port 30 in the sump 22 and directs a strong, pressurized stream of water at the outlet of the bowl which is also the trapway opening 32. This strong pressurized stream of water is capable of rapidly initiating a siphon in the trapway 12 to evacuate the bowl and its contents to the sewer line in communication with sewage outlet 34. The water that flows through the rim channel 16 causes a strong, pressurized stream of water to exit the various rim outlet ports 18 which serves to cleanse the bowl during the flush cycle.

[0067] In Fig. 2, the preferred primary features of the hydraulic pathway of a direct-fed jet toilet herein are explained in a flow chart. Water flows from a tank 44 through an outlet of the flush valve 46 and the bowl inlet 36 and into the primary manifold 38 of the toilet bowl assembly 10. The primary manifold 38 then separates the water into two or more streams: one passes through the direct-fed jet inlet port 28 into the jet channel 24 and the other passes through the rim inlet port 40 into the rim channel 16. The water from the rim channel passes through the rim outlet ports 18 and enters the bowl 20 of the toilet. Water from the jet channel 26 passes through the direct-fed jet outlet port(s) 30 and converges again with water from the rim channel 16 in the bowl 20 of the toilet. The reunified stream exits the bowl through the trapway 12 on its way to the sewage outlet 34 and drain line.

[0068] Fig. 3 shows a perspective view of the internal water channels of a direct-fed jet toilet according to the present invention. The primary manifold 38, jet channel 24, and rim 14 defining the channel are shown as one design with the trapway 12, wherein the parts are shown in a partially disconnected view wherein the parts are disconnected by a distance that would be the length of the sump 22. In Fig. 4, the primary manifold 38, jet channel 24, and rim 14, are separated and shown in exploded perspective view to better show the rim inlet port 40 and the direct-fed jet inlet port 28. In the embodiment of the invention as shown in Figs. 1, 3 and 4, the primary manifold, jet channel, and rim channel are formed as a continuous chamber. In other

embodiments, they may be formed as separate chambers and holes are opened during the manufacturing process to create the rim inlet port and jet inlet port.

[0069] It should also be understood that the actual geometry used in the toilet bowl assembly of the present invention can be varied, but can still maintain the basic flow path outlined in Fig. 2. For example, the direct-jet inlet port can lead into one, single jet channel running asymmetrically around one side of the bowl. Or it could lead into two, dual jet channels which run symmetrically or asymmetrically around both sides of the bowl. The actual pathway that the jet channel, rim channel, primary manifold, etc., travels can vary in three dimensions. All possible permutations of various direct-fed jet toilets may be used within the scope of this invention.

[0070] However, the inventors have discovered that by controlling the cross-sectional areas and/or volumes of the specified chambers and passageways, a toilet having a toilet bowl assembly according to the invention may be provided having exceptional hydraulic performance at low flush volumes, incorporating the bowl cleaning ability of various prior art rim-fed jet designs while also providing the bulk removal capability of various direct-fed jet designs.

[0071] Pressurization of the rim in a direct-jet toilet provides the aforementioned advantages for bowl cleaning, but the inventors have discovered that it also enables high performance to be extended to extremely low flush volumes without requiring major sacrifice in the cross-sectional area of the trapway. The inventors have found that pressurizing the rim has a dual impact on the hydraulic performance. Firstly, the pressurized water exiting the rim holes has greater velocity which, in turn, imparts greater shear forces on waste matter adhered to the toilet bowl. Thus, less water can be partitioned to the rim and more can be partitioned to the jet. Secondly, when the rim pressurizes, it exerts an increased back pressure over the rim inlet port, which in turn, increases the power and duration of the jet water. These two factors in combination provide for a longer and stronger jet flow, allowing the toilet designer the option of using a trapway with larger volume without loss of siphoning capability. Thus, pressurizing the rim not only provides for a more powerful rim wash, but it also provides for a more powerful jet, enables lower water consumption by reducing the water required to wash the rim, and enables a larger trapway to be used at low flush volumes without loss of siphon.

[0072] The ability to achieve the aforementioned advantages and provide exceptional toilet performance at flush volumes no greater than about 6.0 liters per flush (1.6 gallons per flush)

relies on generally simultaneously pressurizing the rim channel 16 and direct jet channel 24 such that powerful streams of pressurized water generally simultaneously flow from the jet outlet port 30 and rim outlet ports 18. As used herein, “generally simultaneous” flow and pressurization means that each of the pressurized flow through the rim and the direct jet channel
 5 flow occur for at least a portion of the time that they occur at the same time, however, the specific initiating and terminating time for flow to the rim and jet channel may vary somewhat. That is, flow through the jet may travel directly down the jet channel and out the jet outlet port and enter the sump area at a time different from the entry of water passing through the rim channel outlets in pressurized flow and one of these flows may stop before the other, but
 10 through at least a portion of the flush cycle, the flows occur simultaneously.

[0073] Pressurization of the rim channel 16 and direct jet channel 24 is preferably achieved by maintaining the relative cross-sectional areas as in relationships (I)-(IV):

$$A_{pm} > A_{jip} > A_{jop} \quad (I)$$

$$A_{pm} > A_{rip} > A_{rop} \quad (II)$$

$$15 \quad A_{pm} > 1.5 \cdot (A_{jop} + A_{rop}) \quad (III)$$

$$A_{rip} > 2.5 \cdot A_{rop} \quad (IV)$$

wherein A_{pm} is the cross-sectional area of the primary manifold, such as primary manifold 38, A_{jip} is the cross-sectional area of the jet inlet port such as direct-fed jet inlet port 28, A_{rip} is the cross-sectional area of the rim inlet port such as rim inlet port 40, A_{jop} is the cross-sectional
 20 area of the jet outlet port such as direct-fed jet outlet port 30, and A_{rop} is the total cross-sectional area of the rim outlet ports such as rim outlet ports 18. Maintaining the geometry of the water channels within these parameters allows for a toilet that maximizes the potential energy available through the gravity head of the water in the tank, which becomes extremely critical when reduced water volumes are used for the flush cycle. In addition, maintaining the
 25 geometry of the water channels within these parameters enables pressurization of the rim and jet channels generally simultaneously in a direct fed jet toilet, maximizing the performance in both bulk removal and bowl cleaning. As measured herein for the purpose of evaluating these relationships, all area parameters are intended to mean the sum of the inlet/outlet areas. For

example, since there are preferably a plurality of rim outlet ports, the area of the rim outlet ports is the sum of all of the individual areas of each outlet port. Similarly, if multiple jet flow channels or outlet/inlet ports are used, then the jet inlet area or jet outlet area would be the sum of the areas of all jet inlet ports and of all jet outlet ports respectively.

5 [0074] With respect to relationships (III) and (IV), while such relationships provide general minimum values with respect to the ratios of the area of the primary manifold to the sum of the areas of the rim outlet port(s) and the direct-fed jet outlet port(s) and the ratio of the area of the rim inlet port to the rim outlet port, it should be understood that such ratios can reach a maximum where benefits such as those described herein may not be readily achievable. Also
 10 there are values for such ratios where performance is most likely to be most beneficial. As a result it is preferred that with respect to relationship (III), the ratio of the area of the primary manifold to the sum of the areas of the rim outlet port(s) and the direct-fed jet outlet port(s) be from about 150% to about 2300%, and more preferably from about 150% to about 1200%. It is also preferred that with respect to relationship (IV), the ratio of the area of the rim inlet port to
 15 the rim outlet port is about 250% to about 5000% and more preferably from about 250% to about 3000%.

[0075] Representative examples of areas which can meet such parameters are shown below in Table 1.

20

TABLE 1

Parameter	Min. Area (sq. in.)	Max. Area (sq. in.)	Preferred Min. Area (sq. in.)	Preferred Max. Area (sq. in.)
A_{pm}	3	20	3.5	15
A_{jip}	2.5	15	4	12
A_{jop}	0.6	5	0.85	3.5
A_{rip}	1.5	15	2	12
A_{rop}	0.3	5	0.4	4
$A_{pm}/(A_{rop} + A_{jop})$	150%	2300%	150%	1200%
A_{rip}/A_{rop}	250%	5000%	250%	3000%

[0076] The cross-sectional area of the jet channel(s), A_{jc} and the cross-sectional area of the rim channel(s), A_{rc} , is also of importance but are not as important as the factors noted in the relationships (I)-(IV) above. In general, the jet channels should be sized such that the range of cross-sectional areas is between A_{jip} and A_{jop} . However, in practice, the jet channels are
5 always at least partially filled with water, which makes the upper boundary on the cross sectional area of the jet channel somewhat less critical. There is, however, clearly a point where the jet channel becomes too constrictive or too expansive. The cross sectional area of the rim channel is also less important, because the rim is not intended to be completely filled during the flush cycle. Computational Fluid Dynamics (CFD) simulations clearly show that water rides
10 along the lower wall of the rim channel, and when all of the rim outlet ports become filled, pressure begins to build in the air above the layer of water. Increasing the size of the rim would thus reduce the rim pressure proportionally. But the effect would likely be minor within the expected range of aesthetically acceptable toilet rims. There is also, of course, a lower limit where the cross sectional area of the rim becomes too constrictive. At minimum, the cross
15 sectional area of the rim channel should exceed the total area of the rim outlet ports.

[0077] In addition to the four relationships above, certain other geometrical details are relevant to achieving the preferred functions of the invention. In general, all of the water channels and ports should be preferably designed to avoid unnecessary constriction in flow. Constriction can be present as a result of excessive narrowing of a passageway or port or
20 through excessive bends, angles, or other changes in direction of flow path. For example, a jet channel could have a cross-sectional area within the desired range, but if it turns sharply, energy will be lost due to turbulence generated by the changes in direction. Or, the average cross-sectional area of the jet might be within the desired range, but if it varies in cross-sectional area such that constrictions or large openings are present, it will detract from the
25 performance. In addition, channels should be designed to minimize the volume required to fill them without unduly constricting the flow of water. Furthermore, the angles at which the ports encounter the flowing water can have an impact on their effective cross sectional area. For example, if the rim inlet port is placed in a position parallel to the flow path of the water, less water will enter the port than if a port of equal cross sectional area is placed perpendicular to
30 the direction of flow. Likewise, the predominant flow of water through the hydraulic channels

of the toilet is downward. Ports that are positioned in a downward direction to the flowing water will have a larger effective area than those that are placed in an upward direction.

[0078] In practice, high performance, low water usage toilets under the present invention can be readily manufactured by standard manufacturing techniques well known to those skilled
5 in the art. The geometry and cross sectional areas of the primary manifold, jet inlet port, rim inlet port, rim channels, jet channels, jet outlet ports, and rim outlet ports can be controlled by the geometry of the molds used for slip casting or accurately cut by hand using a gage or template.

[0079] The invention will now be explained by way of the following non-limiting examples
10 and comparative examples.

EXAMPLES

[0080] Examples are provided herein to demonstrate the utility of the invention but are not intended to limit the scope of the invention. Data from the examples are summarized in Table 2. In all of the subsequent examples, several geometrical aspects of comparative and inventive
15 toilets will be presented and discussed. The geometrical factors are defined and measured as follows:

[0081] “Area of flush valve outlet”: This is calculated by measuring the inner diameter of the bottom-most portion of the flush valve through which the water exits and enters the primary manifold.

20 [0082] “Cross-sectional area of the primary manifold”: This is measured as the cross-sectional area of the primary manifold of the toilet at a distance 2 inches (5.08 cm) downstream from the edge of the bowl inlet. Toilets were sectioned in that area and the cross-sectional geometry was measured by comparison to a grid of 0.10 inch (0.254 cm) squares.

[0083] “Jet inlet port area”: This is defined as the cross-sectional area of the channel
25 immediately before water enters the jet channel(s). In some toilet designs, this port is well defined as a manually cut or punched opening between the jet pathway and rim pathway. In other designs, such as that shown in Figs. 1 and 3, the pathway is more fluid and the transition from primary manifold to jet channel is less abrupt. In this case, the jet inlet port is considered to be the logical transition point between the primary manifold and jet channels, as illustrated in
30 Fig. 4.

[0084] “Rim inlet port area”: This is defined as the cross-sectional area of the flow path at the transition point between the primary manifold and the rim channel(s). In some toilet

designs, this port is well defined as a manually cut or punched opening between the jet pathway and rim pathway. In other designs, such as that shown in Figs. 1 and 3, the pathway is more fluid and the transition from primary manifold to rim channel is less abrupt. In this case, the rim inlet port is considered to be the logical transition point between the primary manifold and rim channels, as illustrated in Fig. 4.

[0085] “Jet outlet port area”: This is measured by making a clay impression of the jet opening and comparing it to a grid with 0.10 inch (0.254 cm) sections.

[0086] “Rim outlet port area”: This is calculated by measuring the diameter of the rim holes and multiplying by the number of holes for each given diameter.

10 [0087] “Sump volume”: This is the maximum amount of water that can be poured into the bowl of the toilet before spilling over the weir. It includes the volume in the bowl itself, as well as the volume of the jet channels and trapway below the equilibrium water level determined by the weir.

[0088] “Trap diameter”: This is measured by passing spheres with diameter increments of 15 1/16 of an inch through the trapway. The largest ball that will pass the entire length of the trapway defines the trapway diameter.

[0089] “Trap volume”: This is the volume of the entire length of the trapway from inlet in the sump to outlet at the sewage drain. It is measured by plugging the outlet of the trapway and filling the entire length of the trapway with water until it backs up to the trapway inlet. It is 20 necessary to change the position of the bowl during filling to ensure that water passes through and fills the entire chamber.

[0090] “Peak flow rate”: This is measured by initiating a flush cycle of the complete toilet system and collecting the water discharged from the outlet of the toilet directly into a vessel placed on a digital balance. The balance is coupled to a computer with data collection system, 25 and mass in the vessel is recorded every 0.05 seconds. The peak flow rate is determined as the maximum of the derivative of mass with respect to time (dm/dt).

[0091] “Peak flow time”: This is calculated along with the peak flow rate measurement as the time between initiation of the flush cycle and occurrence of the peak flow rate

[0092] “Rim pressure”: This is measured by drilling a hole in the top of the toilet rim at the 30 9 o'clock position, considering the location of the rim inlet port as 12:00. An airtight connection was made between this hole and a Pace Scientific® P300-10”D pressure transducer. The transducer was coupled to a data collection system and pressure readings were recorded at

0.005 second intervals during the flush cycle. These data were then smoothed by averaging eight sequential readings, resulting in 0.040 second intervals. CFD simulations were also utilized to calculate rim pressure throughout the flush cycle for various experimental toilet geometries. The interval time of pressure calculations for the CFD simulations was also 0.040 seconds.

[0093] "Bowl Scour": This is measured by applying an even coating of a paste made from 2 parts miso paste mixed with one part water to the interior of the bowl. The material is allowed to dry for a period of three minutes before flushing the toilet to assess its bowl cleaning capability. A semi-quantitative "Bowl Scour Score" is given using the following scale:

5 - All of the test media is completely scoured away from the bowl surface in one flush.

4 - Less than 1 square inch of total area is left unwashed on bowl surface after one flush and is totally removed by a second flush.

3 - Greater than 1 square inch of total area is left unwashed on the bowl surface after one flush and is totally removed by a second flush.

2 - Less than ½ square inch of total area is left unwashed on bowl surface after two flushes.

1 - Greater than ½ square inch area is left unwashed on the bowl surface after two flushes.

0 - Greater than ½ square inch area is left unwashed on the bowl surface after three flushes.

EXAMPLE 1 (Comparative)

[0094] A commercially available, 1.6 gallon per flush toilet with symmetrical, dual direct-fed jets was subjected to geometrical and performance analyses. The toilet is representative of many direct-fed jet toilets commercially available, in that the performance with respect to bulk removal is very good, scoring over 1,000g on the MaP test (Veritec® Consulting Inc., MaP 13th Edition Nov '08, Mississauga, ON, Canada), but the minimal water directed to the rim for bowl cleansing is not pressurized. Fig. 11 shows a plot of the pressure recorded in the rim during the flush cycle. No sustained pressure was observed, only small spikes due to dynamic fluctuations. The integral of pressure-time curve was 0.19 inH₂O•s, indicating a nearly complete lack of pressurization.

[0095] In Table 2, the reason for the lack of rim pressurization is evident. The toilet fails to meet the criteria specified in this invention, most notably in that the rim outlet port area is actually greater than the rim inlet port area, instead of being twice as large or greater as taught herein. The cross-sectional area of the primary manifold is also too small for the combined size
5 of the rim outlet port area and jet outlet port area.

[0096] The toilet scored a 4 on the Bowl Scour Test at 1.6 gallons per flush. To assess the ability to flush on lower volumes of water, the water level in the tank was gradually lowered until the toilet failed to siphon consistently at 1.17 gallons. The Bowl Scour score at 1.17 gallons was reduced to 3.

10 EXAMPLE 2 (Comparative)

[0097] A commercially available, 1.6 gallon per flush toilet with a single direct-fed jet was subjected to geometrical and performance analyses. The toilet is representative of many direct-fed jet toilets commercially available, in that the performance with respect to bulk removal is very good, scoring over 1,000g on the MaP test (Veritec Consulting Inc., MaP 13th Edition
15 Nov '08, Mississauga, ON, Canada), but the minimal water directed to the rim for bowl cleansing is not pressurized. Fig. 12 shows a plot of the pressure recorded in the rim during the flush cycle. No sustained pressure was observed, only a very weak signal above the baseline due to dynamic fluctuations. The integral of pressure-time curve was 0.13 in. H₂O•s, indicating a nearly complete lack of pressurization.

20 [0098] In Table 2, the reason for the lack of rim pressurization is evident. The toilet fails to meet the criteria specified in this invention. The rim inlet port area is less than 2 times the rim outlet port area, and the cross-sectional area of the primary manifold is too small for the combined size of the rim outlet port area and jet outlet port area.

[0099] The toilet scored a 5 on the Bowl Scour Test at 1.6 gallons per flush. To assess the
25 ability to flush on lower volumes of water, the water level in the tank was gradually lowered until the toilet failed to siphon consistently at 1.33 gallons. The Bowl Scour score at 1.33 gallons was reduced to 1.

EXAMPLE 3 (Comparative)

30 [0100] A commercially available, 1.6 gallon per flush toilet with symmetrical, dual direct-fed jets was subjected to geometrical and performance analyses. The toilet is representative of

many direct-fed jet toilets commercially available, in that the performance with respect to bulk removal is very good, scoring over 1,000g on the MaP test (Veritec Consulting Inc., MaP 13th Edition Nov '08, Mississauga, ON, Canada), but the minimal water directed to the rim for bowl cleansing is not well pressurized. Fig. 13 shows a plot of the pressure recorded in the rim
5 during the flush cycle. A weak, erratic signal was detected, but the maximum pressure sustained for at least one second was only 0.2 inches of H₂O. The integral of pressure-time curve was 1.58 in. H₂O•s, indicating minimal and ineffective pressurization.

[0101] In Table 2, the reason for the lack of rim pressurization is evident. The rim inlet port area is less than 2 times the rim outlet port area.

10 [0102] The toilet scored a 5 on the Bowl Scour Test at 1.6 gallons per flush. To assess the ability to flush on lower volumes of water, the water level in the tank was gradually lowered until the toilet failed to siphon consistently at 1.31 gallons. The Bowl Scour score at 1.31 gallons was reduced to 1.

15 EXAMPLE 4 (Comparative)

[0103] A commercially available, 1.6 gallon per flush toilet with symmetrical, dual direct-fed jets was subjected to geometrical and performance analyses. The toilet is representative of many direct-fed jet toilets commercially available, in that the performance with respect to bulk removal is very good, scoring over 1,000g on the MaP test (Veritec Consulting Inc., MaP 13th
20 Edition Nov '08, Mississauga, ON, Canada), but the minimal water directed to the rim for bowl cleansing is not pressurized. Fig. 14 shows a plot of the pressure recorded in the rim during the flush cycle. No sustained pressure was observed, only a very weak signal above the baseline due to dynamic fluctuations. The integral of pressure-time curve was 0.15 in. H₂O•s, indicating a nearly complete lack of pressurization.

25 [0104] In Table 2, the reason for the lack of rim pressurization is evident. The rim inlet port area is less than 2 times the rim outlet port area. In addition, the rim inlet port is positioned nearly parallel to the direction of flow, which greatly reduces its effective cross-sectional area.

[0105] The toilet scored a 5 on the Bowl Scour Test at 1.6 gallons per flush. To assess the ability to flush on lower volumes of water, the water level in the tank was gradually lowered

until the toilet failed to siphon consistently at 1.31 gallons. The Bowl Scour score at 1.31 gallons was reduced to 4.

EXAMPLE 5 (Comparative)

[0106] A commercially available, 1.6 gallon per flush toilet with symmetrical, dual direct-fed jets was subjected to geometrical and performance analyses. The toilet is representative of many direct-fed jet toilets commercially available, in that the performance with respect to bulk removal is very good, scoring over 800g on the MaP test (Veritec Consulting Inc., MaP 13th Edition Nov '08, Mississauga, ON, Canada), but the minimal water directed to the rim for bowl cleansing is not pressurized in a sustained manner. Fig. 15 shows a plot of the pressure recorded in the rim during the flush cycle. A short, erratic signal was detected, but no pressure above the baseline was sustained for at least one second. The integral of pressure-time curve was 1.11 in. H₂O•s, indicating minimal and ineffective pressurization.

[0107] In Table 2, the reason for the lack of rim pressurization is evident. The rim inlet port area is less than 2.5 times the rim outlet port area, which prevents the toilet from achieving a sustained rim pressure and the resultant jump in performance, even though all of the other parameters have been met.

[0108] The toilet scored a 5 on the Bowl Scour Test at 1.6 gallons per flush. To assess the ability to flush on lower volumes of water, the water level in the tank was gradually lowered until the toilet failed to siphon consistently at 1.39 gallons. The Bowl Scour score at 1.39 gallons was reduced to 2.

EXAMPLE 6 (Comparative)

[0109] A commercially available, 1.6 gallon per flush toilet with a single direct-fed jet was subjected to geometrical and performance analyses. The toilet is representative of many direct fed jet toilets commercially available, in that the performance with respect to bulk removal is very good, scoring over 700g on the MaP test (Veritec Consulting Inc., MaP 13th Edition Nov '08, Mississauga, ON, Canada), but the minimal water directed to the rim for bowl cleansing is not pressurized. Fig. 16 shows a plot of the pressure recorded in the rim during the flush cycle. A weak signal was detected, but the maximum pressure sustained for at least one second was only 0.5 in. of H₂O. The integral of pressure-time curve was 2.13 in. H₂O•s, minimal and ineffective pressurization.

[0110] In Table 2, the reason for the minimal rim pressurization is evident. The rim inlet port area is less than 2.5 times the rim outlet port area, which prevents the toilet from achieving a sustained rim pressure and the resultant jump in performance, even though all of the other parameters have been met. It is instructive to observe that the port sizes of the toilet of Example 6 are fairly similar to those of the toilet of Example 4, yet the former has a pressure time integral that is nearly 15 times greater than the latter. The reason for this is the orientation of the ports as discussed above. The primary manifold in the toilet of Example 4 slopes downward towards the jet inlet port, which directs the flow of water away from the rim inlet port, decreasing its effective cross-sectional area. The toilet of Example 6 has a horizontal primary manifold, similar to that shown in Fig.1.

[0111] The toilet scored a 5 on the Bowl Scour Test at 1.6 gallons per flush. To assess the ability to flush on lower volumes of water, the water level in the tank was gradually lowered until the toilet failed to siphon consistently at 1.28 gallons. The Bowl Scour score at 1.28 gallons was reduced to 3.

15

EXAMPLE 7 (Inventive)

[0112] A 1.6 gallon per flush toilet with dual direct-fed jets was fabricated according to a preferred embodiment of the invention. The toilet geometry and design were identical to that represented in Figs. 1 and 3. The toilet's performance in bulk removal is similar to the commercially available examples above, capable of scoring 1000g on the MaP test. As seen in Table 2, the internal geometry of all of the ports and channels in the hydraulic pathway are within the limits specified by this invention. The cross-sectional area of the primary manifold was 6.33 in^2 , the jet inlet port area was 4.91 in^2 , the rim inlet port area was 2.96 in^2 , the jet outlet port area was 1.24 in^2 , and the rim outlet port area was 0.49 in^2 . The critical ratios between the port sizes were also maintained: The ratio of the cross-sectional area of the primary manifold to the sum of the rim and jet outlet ports was 3.66. And the ratio of the rim inlet port area to rim outlet port area was 6.04, well above the Comparative Examples. As seen in Fig. 17, a strong, sustained pressure was measured in the rim during the flush cycle. A pressure of 5 in. H₂O was maintained for at least one second and the integral of the pressure-time curve was 15.3, well exceeding the values seen in the prior art.

30

[0113] The toilet scored a 5 on the Bowl Scour Test at 1.6 gallons per flush. To assess the ability to flush on lower volumes of water, the water level in the tank was gradually lowered until the toilet failed to siphon consistently at 0.81 gallons. The Bowl Scour score at 0.81 gallons was reduced to 4. However, when the flush volume was increased to 1.17 gallons, the minimum flush volume obtained in Examples 1-6, the Bowl Scour Score was maintained at the maximum value of 5. It should also be noted that in dual flush applications, the bowl cleaning ability is less critical, since it is assumed that the low volume cycle will be used for liquid waste only. A consistent siphon achieved as low as 0.81 gallons makes this toilet ideally suited for dual flush applications.

10 EXAMPLES 8 – 12 (Inventive)

[0114] CFD simulations were performed to further demonstrate the scope and utility of the invention. The general design of the toilets studied in CFD is that illustrated in Figs. 1 and 3. However, specific dimensions were varied to show the resultant impact on flush performance and pressure generated and maintained in the rim of the toilet. The first set of simulations used a flush valve with a 2 in. diameter outlet, corresponding to a flush valve outlet area of 3.14 in². While holding the flush valve outlet area constant, the cross-sectional area of the entire hydraulic pathway (that is, the cross-sectional area of the primary manifold, rim inlet port, jet inlet port, rim channel, and jet channel) was varied between a high and low setting. Likewise, the jet port and rim port areas were varied between high and low settings to create a 22 designed experiment. Adding a point close to the center of the space resulted in the five CFD simulations shown as Examples 8 – 12 in Table 2 and in Fig. 5.

[0115] As can be seen in Table 2 and Fig. 5, rim pressurization to above 1 inch of water was sustained for nearly 2 seconds in all cases. The trends observed are more instructive, and support the assertions of this invention. Rim pressure increases as the jet outlet port area and rim outlet port areas are decreased. Fig. 7 shows a contour plot of peak rim pressure as a function of total rim and jet outlet port area and total cross-section of the hydraulic pathway. Reducing the jet outlet port area and rim outlet port areas has a strong positive effect on the maximum rim pressure. Likewise, reducing the cross-sectional area of the entire hydraulic pathway has a positive effect. This is because a larger hydraulic pathway requires more water to fill it, and this water used to fill the chamber is inefficient use of the available energy. The

hydraulic pathway needs to be optimally sized to handle the flow output of the flush valve. Following the guidelines outlined in this invention allow this optimum to be achieved.

[0116] Fig. 6 shows a side view of the computational fluid dynamics simulation for the center point of the experiments, Example 12, at 1.2 seconds into the flush cycle. It can be seen
5 that the lower section of the rim is covered by water. Flow is restricted by the size of the rim outlet ports and pressure builds in the air above the water in the rim. The result is an even, powerful rim wash which can be seen in the bowl portion of the simulation.

[0117] It should be noted that the toilet described in Example 7 falls within the space of this Computational Fluid Dynamics experiment. Based on the CFD-derived contour plot in Fig. 7,
10 the toilet of Example 7 should have a peak rim pressure of 6-7 inches of water, which is somewhat lower than the experimentally measured value of around 9 inches of water. However, the agreement in the general shape of the pressure-time curves is outstanding, and strongly supports the invention's guidelines for superior toilet design.

EXAMPLES 13 – 17 (Inventive)

[0118] Additional CFD simulations were performed to further demonstrate the scope and utility of the invention. The general design of the toilets studied in CFD is that illustrated in Figs. 1 and 3. However, specific dimensions were varied to show the resultant impact on flush performance and pressure generated and maintained in the rim of the toilet. This second set of simulations used a flush valve with a 3 inch diameter outlet, corresponding to a flush valve
20 outlet area of 7.06 in^2 . The trapway size was also increased to take advantage of the higher flow achievable with a 3 inch valve. While holding the flush valve outlet area constant, the cross-sectional area of the entire hydraulic pathway (that is, the cross-sectional area of the primary manifold, rim inlet port, jet inlet port, rim channel, and jet channel) was varied between a high and low setting. Likewise, the jet port and rim port areas were varied between high and
25 low settings to create a 22 designed experiment. Adding a point close to the center of the space resulted in the five CFD simulations shown as Examples 13 – 17 in Table 2 and in Fig. 8.

[0119] To reduce computation time, the simulations were not run to completion. But as can be seen in Table 2 and Figure 8, sustained rim pressurization was achieved in all cases. The trends observed are more instructive, and support the assertions of this invention. Rim pressure
30 increases as the jet outlet port area and rim outlet port areas are decreased. Fig. 10 shows a contour plot of peak rim pressure as a function of total rim and jet outlet port area and total

cross-section of the hydraulic pathway. Reducing the jet outlet port area and rim outlet port areas has a strong positive effect on the maximum rim pressure. However, unlike the simulations for the 2 inch valve, reducing the cross-sectional area of the entire hydraulic pathway has a negative effect on the rim pressure. This is because a larger hydraulic pathway is required to optimally handle the greater flow output of a 3 inch flush valve. The settings chosen for the high and low in the 3 inch flush valve simulations were below the theoretical optimal value for the cross-sectional area of the entire hydraulic pathway, whereas the settings chosen for the 2 inch simulations were slightly above this optimum. However, throughout the range, performance of the resultant toilet designs would outperform those currently available in terms of bulk removal and cleanliness at reduced flush volumes.

[0120] Fig. 9 shows a side view of the computational fluid dynamics simulation for the center point of the experiments, Example 17, at 1.08 seconds into the flush cycle. It can be seen that the lower section of the rim is covered by water. Flow is restricted by the size of the rim outlet ports and pressure builds in the air above the water in the rim. The result is an even, powerful rim wash which can be seen in the bowl portion of the simulation. Taken as a whole, the data from Examples 13-17 show that the invention is scalable through all potential geometries for direct jet toilets that operate at or below 1.6 gallons per flush.

EXAMPLE 18 (Inventive)

[0121] To demonstrate the effectiveness of the invention, pressure in the rim for a toilet made under the present invention (Example 7) and a toilet from the prior art (Example 6) was measured with a reduced flush volume of 1.28 gallons. The toilet of the prior art, which pressurized to 2.13 in. H₂O•s at 1.6 gallons, lost nearly all of its ability to pressurize at the reduced volume, decaying to 0.28 in. H₂O•s (See Fig. 18). In contrast, the toilet under the present invention lost less than 20% of its pressurization, maintaining 12.64 inH₂O•s at 1.28 gallons per flush (See Fig. 19).

TABLE 2

		Area of Flush Valve Outlet (in ²)	Cross-Sectional Area of Primary Manifold (in ²)	Jet Inlet Port Area (in ²)	Rim Inlet Port Area (in ²)	Jet Outlet Port Area (in ²)	Rim Outlet Port Area (in ²)	Apm / (Ajop+ Arop)	Arip / Arop	Sump Volume (mL)
Example 1	Prior Art	7.08	4.26	4.53	1.59	1.59	3.31	0.87	0.48	2700
Example 2	Prior Art	7.08	8.75	5.80	6.91	3.02	4.57	1.15	1.51	3000
Example 3	Prior Art	7.08	10.01	3.67	1.40	1.68	1.06	3.65	1.32	3000
Example 4	Prior Art	8.30	8.80	6.98	1.93	1.45	2.06	2.51	0.94	2900
Example 5	Prior Art	7.08	7.58	2.78	1.53	1.24	0.77	3.77	1.99	2750
Example 6	Prior Art	7.08	8.27	4.30	3.55	1.84	1.99	2.16	1.78	2800
Example 7	Present Invention	3.15	6.33	4.91	2.96	1.24	0.49	3.66	6.04	2400
Example 8	Present Invention	3.15	5.93	5.05	5.81	1.1	0.56	3.57	10.38	2115
Example 9	Present Invention	3.15	5.93	5.05	5.81	1.85	1.05	2.04	5.53	2115
Example 10	Present Invention	3.15	7.28	6.41	6.39	1.1	0.56	4.39	11.41	2115
Example 11	Present Invention	3.15	7.28	6.41	6.39	1.85	1.05	2.51	6.09	2115
Example 12	Present Invention	3.15	6.61	5.72	6.29	1.47	0.81	2.90	7.77	2115
Example 13	Present Invention	7.08	7.31	6.64	6.53	1.38	0.56	3.77	11.66	2115
Example 14	Present Invention	7.08	7.31	6.64	6.53	2.83	1.05	1.88	6.22	2115
Example 15	Present Invention	7.08	12.73	10.85	11.83	1.38	0.56	6.56	21.13	2115
Example 16	Present Invention	7.08	12.73	10.85	11.83	2.83	1.05	3.28	11.27	2115
Example 17	Present Invention	7.08	9.99	8.18	8.37	2.1	0.81	3.43	10.33	2115

TABLE 2 (continued)

	Trap Diameter (in)	Trap Volume (mL)	Maximum Pressure in Rim During Flush Cycle (inches of H ₂ O)	Maximum pressure sustained for > 1 s (inches of water)	Integral of Pressure vs Time Plot (Inches of H ₂ O*s)	Peak Flush Discharge Rate (mL/s)	Tim to Peak Flush Discharge Rate (s)
Example 1	2.06	2100	0.1	0.0	0.19	3248	1.10
Example 2	2.25	2850	0.0	0.0	0.13	3984	0.80
Example 3	1.94	1550	0.8	0.2	1.58	3416	0.80
Example 4	2.00	2200	0.1	0.0	0.15	3710	1.37
Example 5	2.06	2000	2.1	0.0	1.11	3660	1.30
Example 6	2.00	1950	0.1	0.5	2.13	3664	1.35
Example 7	1.94	1700	5.0	5.0	15.30	3120	1.40
Example 8	2.00	1664	6.49	3.7	N/A	N/A	N/A
Example 9	2.00	1664	4.02	2.2	N/A	N/A	N/A
Example 10	2.00	1664	5.89	3.3	N/A	N/A	N/A
Example 11	2.00	1664	3.03	1.6	N/A	N/A	N/A
Example 12	2.00	1664	5.12	2.8	N/A	N/A	N/A
Example 13	2.25	1960	6.48	3.0	N/A	N/A	N/A
Example 14	2.25	1960	3.30	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Example 15	2.25	1960	6.61	3.0	N/A	N/A	N/A
Example 16	2.25	1960	4.54	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Example 17	2.25	1960	5.78	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A

[0122] It will be appreciated by those skilled in the art that changes could be made to the embodiments described above without departing from the broad inventive concept thereof. It is understood, therefore, that this invention is not limited to the particular embodiments disclosed, but it is intended to cover modifications within the spirit and scope of the present invention as
5 defined by the appended claims.

CLAIMS

We claim:

1. A siphonic, gravity-powered toilet having a toilet bowl assembly, the toilet bowl
5 assembly comprising
a toilet bowl assembly inlet in fluid communication with a source of fluid,
a toilet bowl having a rim around an upper perimeter thereof and defining a rim
channel, the rim having an inlet port and at least one rim outlet port, wherein the rim channel
inlet port is in fluid communication with the toilet bowl assembly inlet,
10 a bowl outlet in fluid communication with a sewage outlet, and
a direct-fed jet in fluid communication with the toilet bowl assembly inlet for
receiving fluid from the source of fluid and the bowl outlet for discharging fluid,
wherein the toilet is capable of operating at a flush volume of no greater than about
6.0 liters and the water exiting the at least one rim outlet port is pressurized such that an integral
15 of a curve representing rim pressure plotted against time during a flush cycle exceeds 3 in.
H₂O•s.
2. The siphonic, gravity-powered toilet according to claim 1, wherein the toilet is capable
of providing flow from the at least one rim outlet port which is pressurized in a sustained
manner for a period of time.
20 3. The siphonic, gravity-powered toilet according to claim 2, wherein the period of time is
at least 1 second.
4. The siphonic, gravity-powered toilet according to claim 2, wherein the toilet is capable
of providing the sustained pressurized flow from the at least one rim outlet port generally
simultaneously with flow through the direct-fed jet.
25 5. The siphonic, gravity-powered toilet according to claim 1, wherein an integral of a
curve representing rim pressure plotted against time during a flush cycle exceeds 5 in. H₂O•s.
6. The siphonic, gravity-powered toilet according to claim 1, wherein the toilet is capable
of operating at a flush volume of not greater than about 4.8 liters.
7. The siphonic, gravity-powered toilet according to claim 1, wherein the toilet bowl
30 assembly further comprises

a primary manifold in fluid communication with the toilet bowl assembly inlet capable of receiving fluid from the toilet bowl assembly inlet, the primary manifold also in fluid communication with the rim channel and the direct-fed jet for directing fluid from the toilet bowl assembly inlet to the rim channel and the direct-fed jet, wherein the primary

5 manifold has a cross-sectional area (A_{pm});

wherein the direct-fed jet has an inlet port having a cross-sectional area (A_{jip}) and an outlet port having a cross-sectional area (A_{jop}) and further comprises a jet channel extending between the direct-fed jet inlet port and the direct-fed jet outlet port; and

wherein the rim channel has an inlet port having a cross-sectional area (A_{rip}) and

10 the at least one outlet port has a total cross-sectional area (A_{rop}), wherein:

$$A_{pm} > A_{jip} > A_{jop} \quad (I)$$

$$A_{pm} > A_{rip} > A_{rop} \quad (II)$$

$$A_{pm} > 1.5 \cdot (A_{jop} + A_{rop}) \quad (III)$$

$$A_{rip} > 2.5 \cdot A_{rop}. \quad (IV)$$

15 8. The siphonic, gravity-powered toilet according to claim 7, wherein the cross-sectional area of the primary manifold is greater than or equal to about 150% of the sum of the cross-sectional area of the direct-fed jet outlet port and the total cross-sectional area of the at least one rim outlet port.

20 9. The siphonic, gravity-powered toilet according to claim 7, wherein the cross-sectional area of the rim inlet port is greater than or equal to about 250% of the total cross-sectional area of the at least one rim outlet port.

10. The siphonic, gravity-powered toilet according to claim 1, wherein the toilet further comprises a mechanism that enables operation of the toilet using at least two different flush volumes.

25 11. The toilet according to claim 1, wherein toilet bowl assembly has a longitudinal axis extending in a direction transverse to a plane defined by the rim of the toilet bowl, and the primary manifold extends in a direction generally transverse to the longitudinal axis of the toilet bowl.

12. A siphonic, gravity-powered toilet having a toilet bowl assembly, the toilet bowl assembly comprising

a toilet bowl assembly inlet in communication with a fluid source,

a toilet bowl defining an interior space therein for receiving fluid,

5 a rim extending along an upper periphery of the toilet bowl and defining a rim channel, wherein the rim has a rim channel inlet port and at least one rim channel outlet port, wherein the rim channel inlet port is in fluid communication with the toilet bowl assembly inlet and the at least one rim channel outlet port is configured so as to allow fluid flowing through the rim channel to enter the interior space of the toilet bowl,

10 a bowl outlet in fluid communication with a sewage outlet and

a direct-fed jet having an inlet port and an outlet port, wherein the direct-fed jet inlet port is in fluid communication with the toilet bowl assembly inlet for introducing fluid into a lower portion of the interior of the bowl,

15 wherein the toilet bowl assembly is configured so that the rim channel and the direct-fed jet are capable of introducing fluid into the bowl in a sustained pressurized manner.

13. The siphonic, gravity-powered toilet according to claim 12, wherein the toilet bowl assembly further comprises

20 a primary manifold in fluid communication with the toilet bowl assembly inlet capable of receiving fluid from the toilet bowl assembly inlet, and the primary manifold also in fluid communication with the inlet port of the rim channel and the inlet port of the direct-fed jet for directing fluid from the toilet bowl assembly inlet to the rim channel and to the direct-fed jet, wherein the primary manifold has a cross-sectional area (A_{pm});

wherein the inlet port of the direct-fed jet has a cross-sectional area (A_{jip}) and the outlet port of the direct-fed jet has a cross-sectional area (A_{jop}); and

25 wherein the inlet port of the rim channel has a cross-sectional area (A_{rip}) and the at least one outlet port has a total cross-sectional area (A_{rop}),

wherein:

$$A_{pm} > A_{jip} > A_{jop} \quad (I)$$

$$A_{pm} > A_{rip} > A_{rop} \quad (II)$$

$$A_{pm} > 1.5 \cdot (A_{jop} + A_{rop}) \quad (III)$$

$$A_{rip} > 2.5 \cdot A_{rop}. \quad (IV)$$

14. The siphonic, gravity-powered toilet according to claim 13, wherein the cross-sectional area of the primary manifold is greater than or equal to about 150% of the sum of the cross-sectional area of the direct-fed jet outlet port and the total cross-sectional area of the at least one rim outlet port.

15. The siphonic, gravity-powered toilet according to claim 14, wherein the cross-sectional area of the rim inlet port is greater than or equal to about 250% of the total cross-sectional area of the at least one rim outlet port.

16. The siphonic, gravity-powered toilet according to claim 15, wherein the toilet further comprises a mechanism that enables operation of the toilet using at least two different flush volumes.

17. In a siphonic, gravity-powered toilet having a toilet bowl assembly, the assembly comprising a toilet bowl, a direct-fed jet and a rim defining a rim channel and having at least one rim opening, wherein fluid is introduced into the bowl through the direct-fed jet and through the at least one rim opening, a method for providing a toilet capable of operating at a flush volume of no greater than about 6.0 liters, the method comprising:

introducing fluid from a fluid source through a toilet bowl assembly inlet and into the direct-fed jet and into the rim channel so that fluid flows into an interior of the toilet bowl from the direct-fed jet under pressure and from the at least one rim opening in a sustained pressurized manner such that an integral of a curve representing rim pressure plotted against time during a flush cycle exceeds 3 in. H₂O•s

18. The method according to claim 17, wherein the integral of a curve representing rim pressure plotted against time during a flush cycle exceeds 5 in. H₂O•s.

19. The method according to claim 17, wherein the toilet is capable of operating at a flush volume of not greater than about 4.8 liters.

20. The method according to claim 17, wherein the toilet bowl assembly further comprises a primary manifold in fluid communication with the toilet bowl assembly inlet, the primary manifold capable of receiving fluid from the toilet bowl assembly inlet, the primary manifold being in fluid communication with the rim channel and the direct-fed jet for directing

fluid from the bowl inlet to the rim channel and the direct-fed jet, wherein the primary manifold has a cross-sectional area (A_{pm});

wherein the direct-fed jet has an inlet port having a cross-sectional area (A_{jip}) and an outlet port having a cross-sectional area (A_{jop}); and

5 wherein the rim channel has an inlet port having a cross-sectional area (A_{rip}) and the at least one outlet port has a total cross-sectional area (A_{rop}), wherein the method further comprises configuring the bowl so that:

$$A_{pm} > A_{jip} > A_{jop} \quad (I)$$

$$A_{pm} > A_{rip} > A_{rop} \quad (II)$$

$$10 \quad A_{pm} > 1.5 \cdot (A_{jop} + A_{rop}) \quad (III)$$

$$A_{rip} > 2.5 \cdot A_{rop}. \quad (IV)$$

21. The method according to claim 20, wherein the cross-sectional area of the primary manifold is greater than or equal to about 150% of the sum of the cross-sectional area of the direct-fed jet outlet port and the total cross-sectional area of the at least one rim outlet port.

15 22. The method according to claim 21, wherein the cross-sectional area of the rim inlet port is greater than or equal to about 250% of the total cross-sectional area of the at least one rim outlet port.

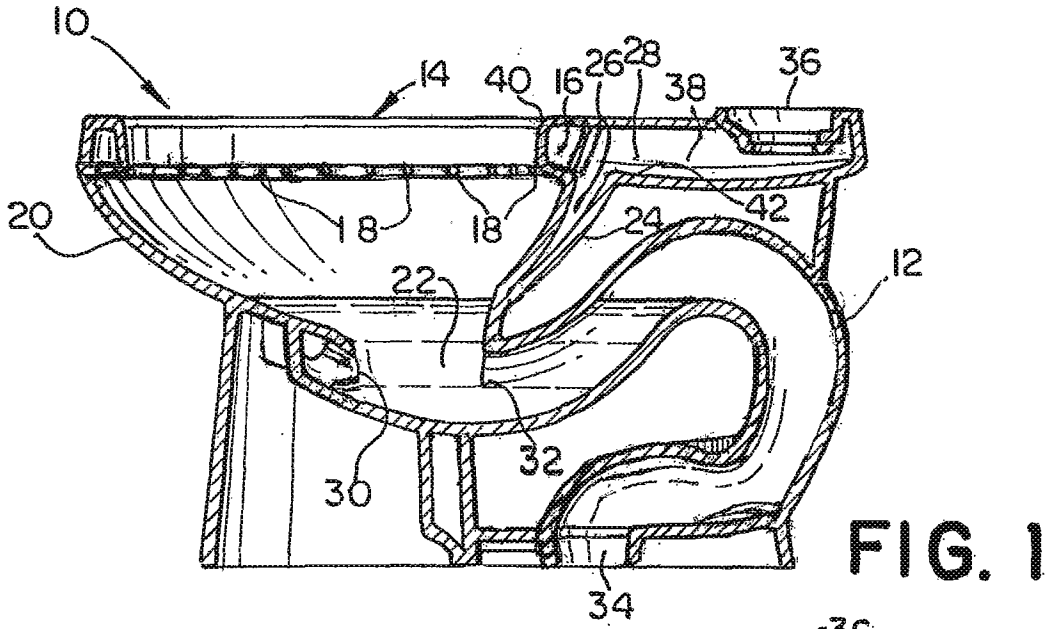


FIG. 1

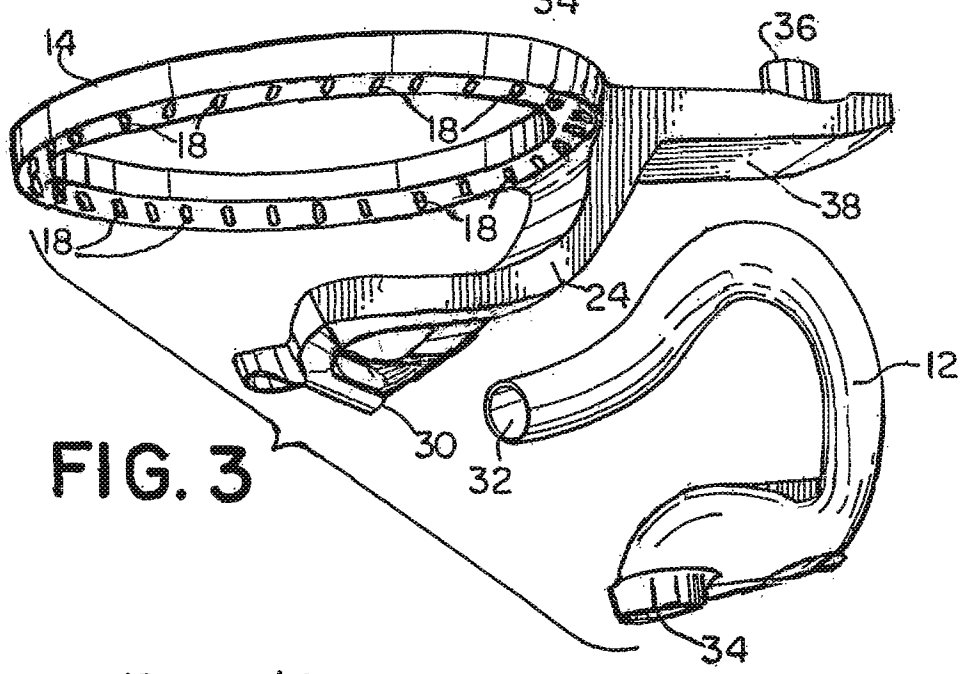


FIG. 3

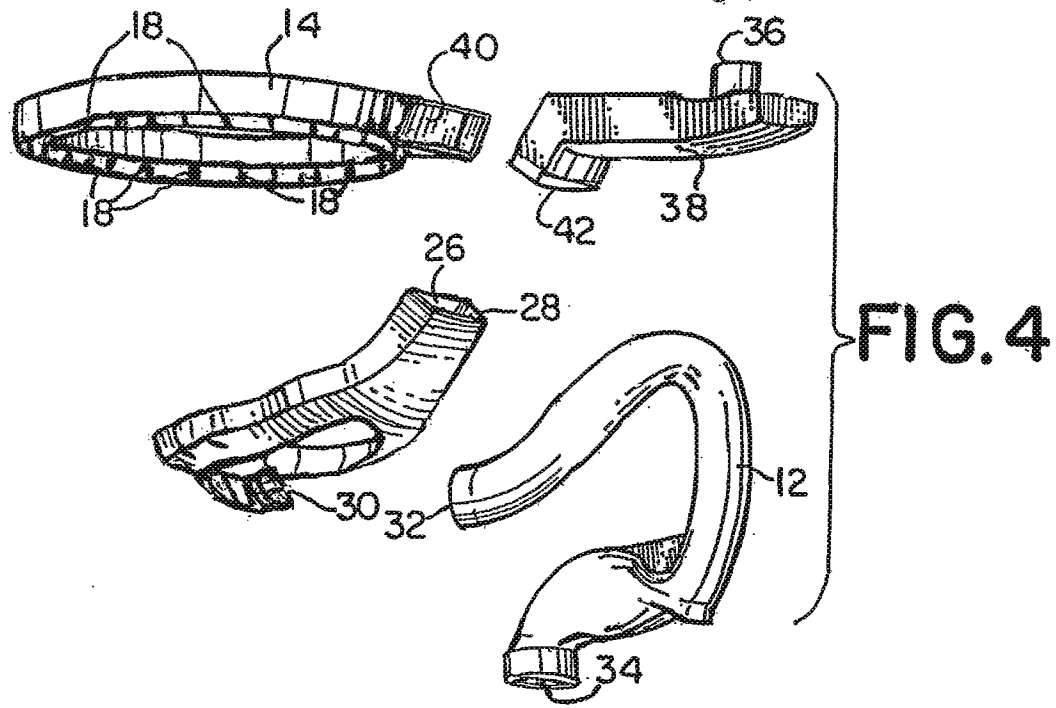


FIG. 4

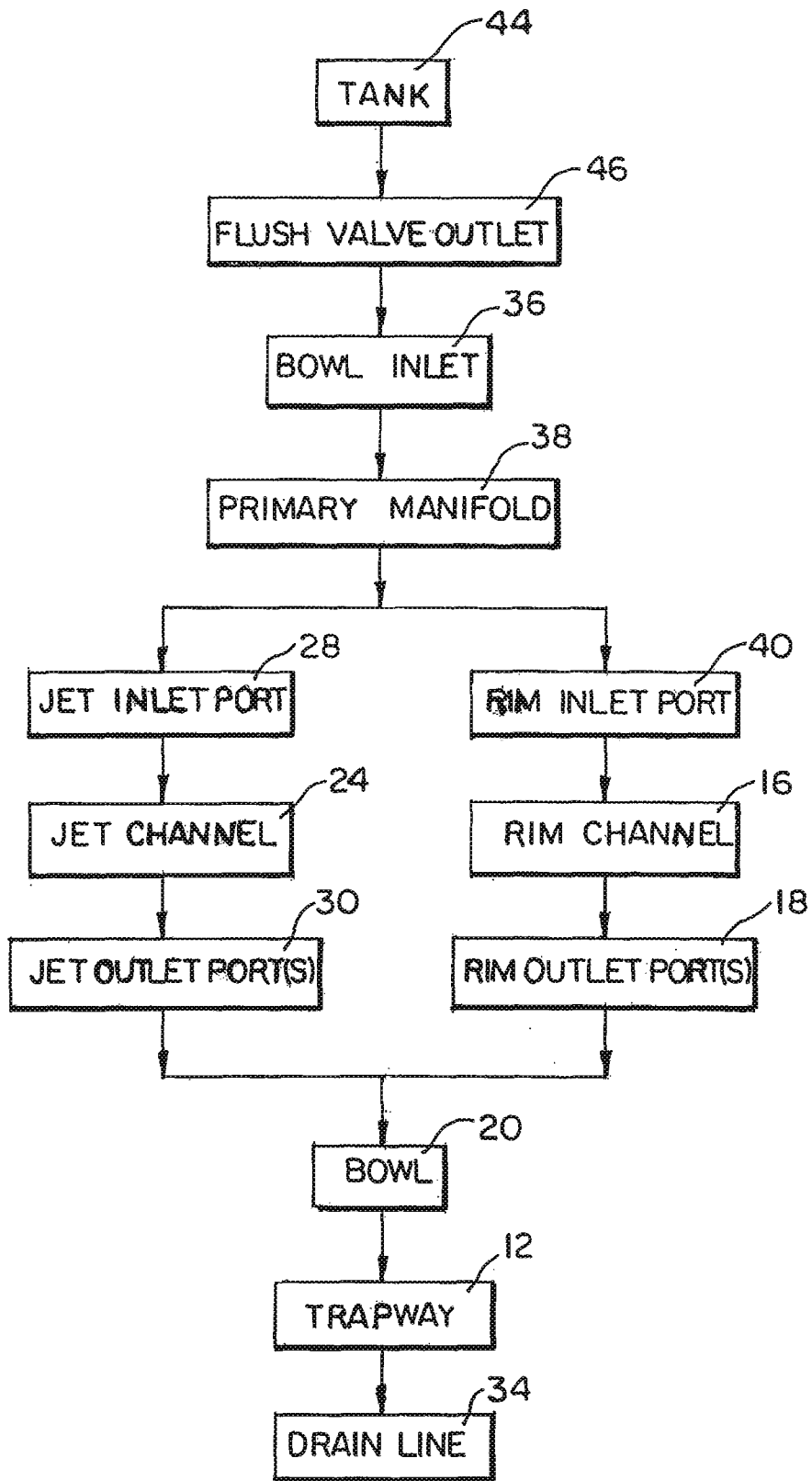


FIG. 2

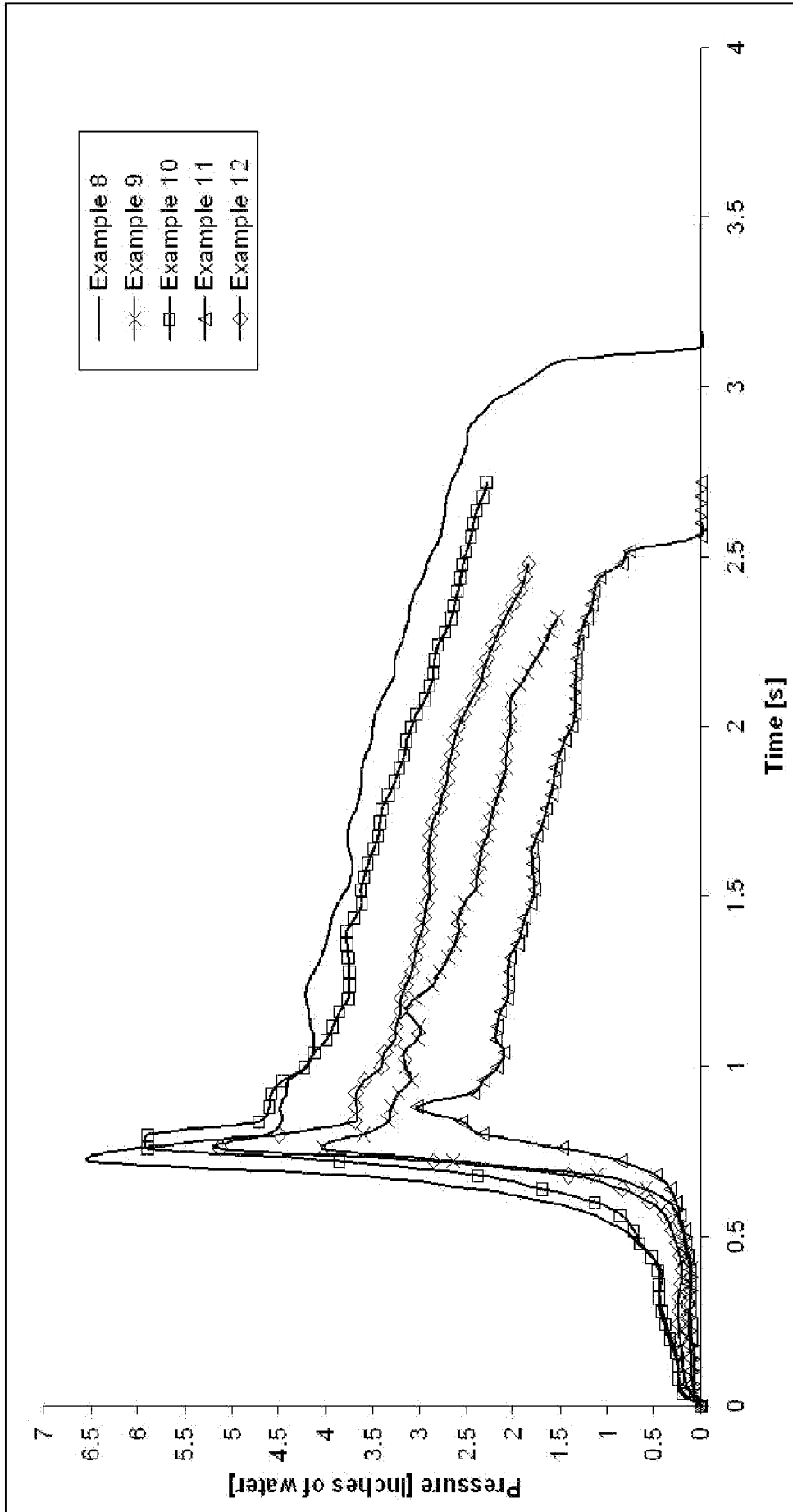


FIG. 5

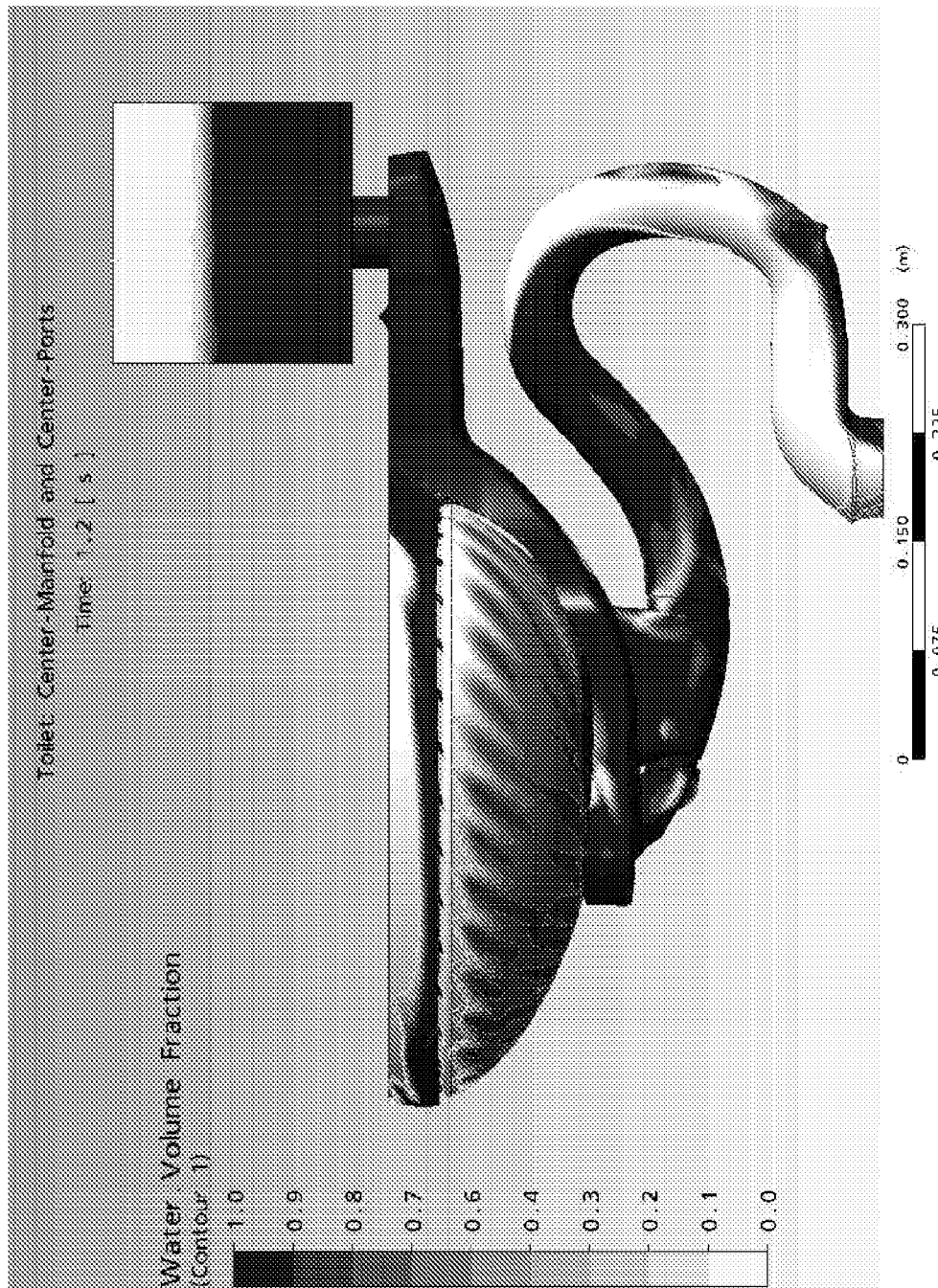
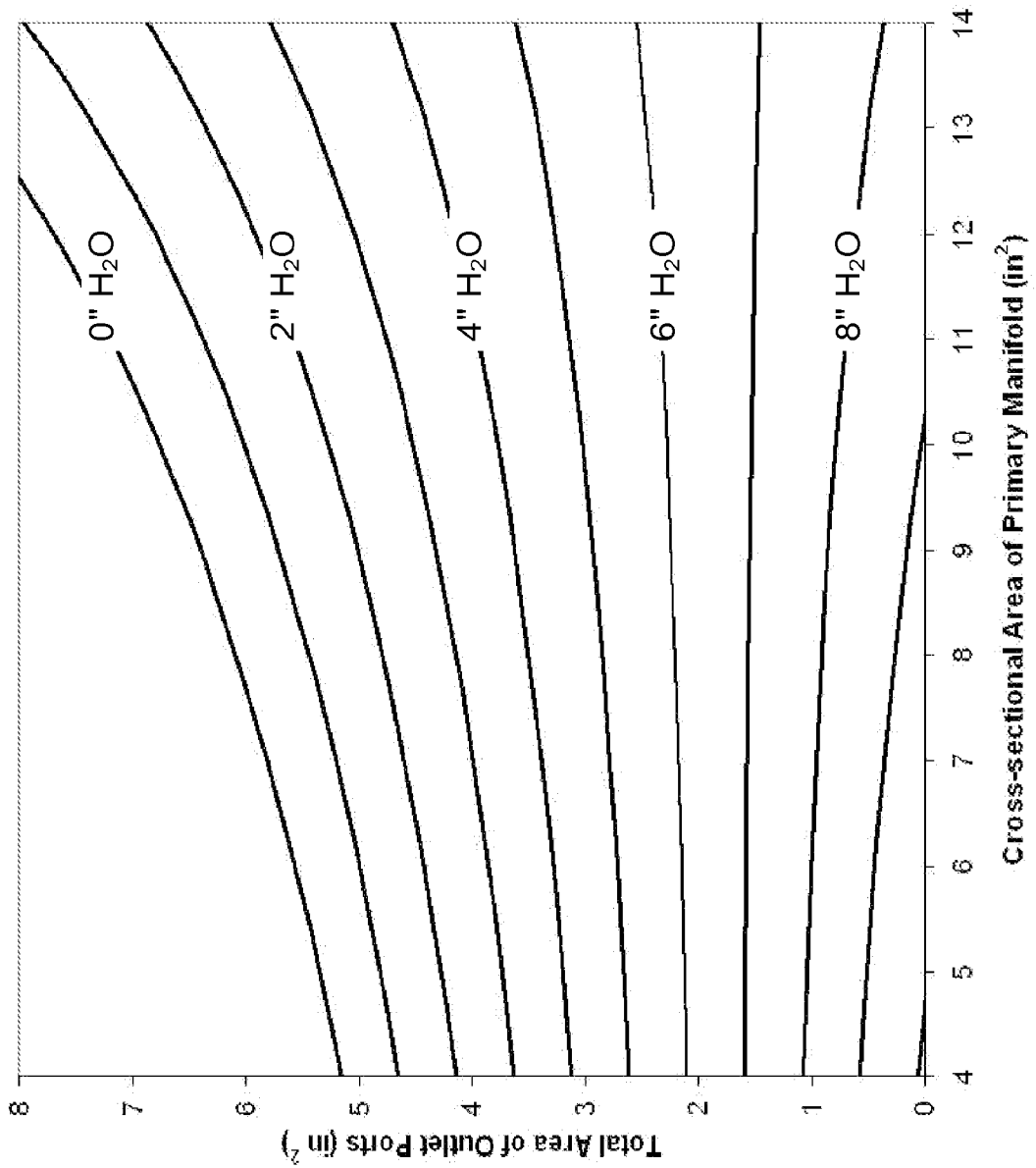


FIG. 6

FIG. 7



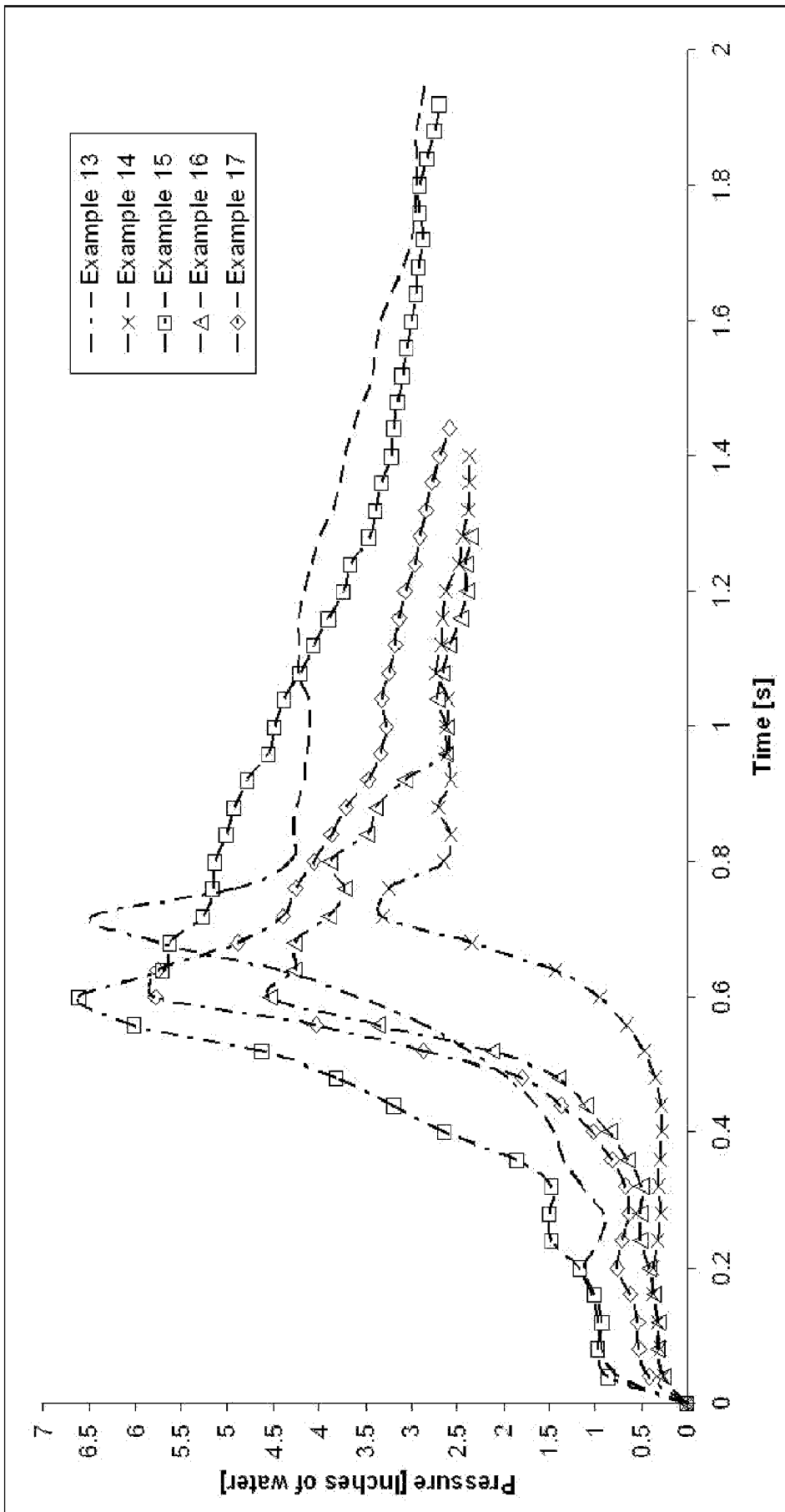


FIG. 8

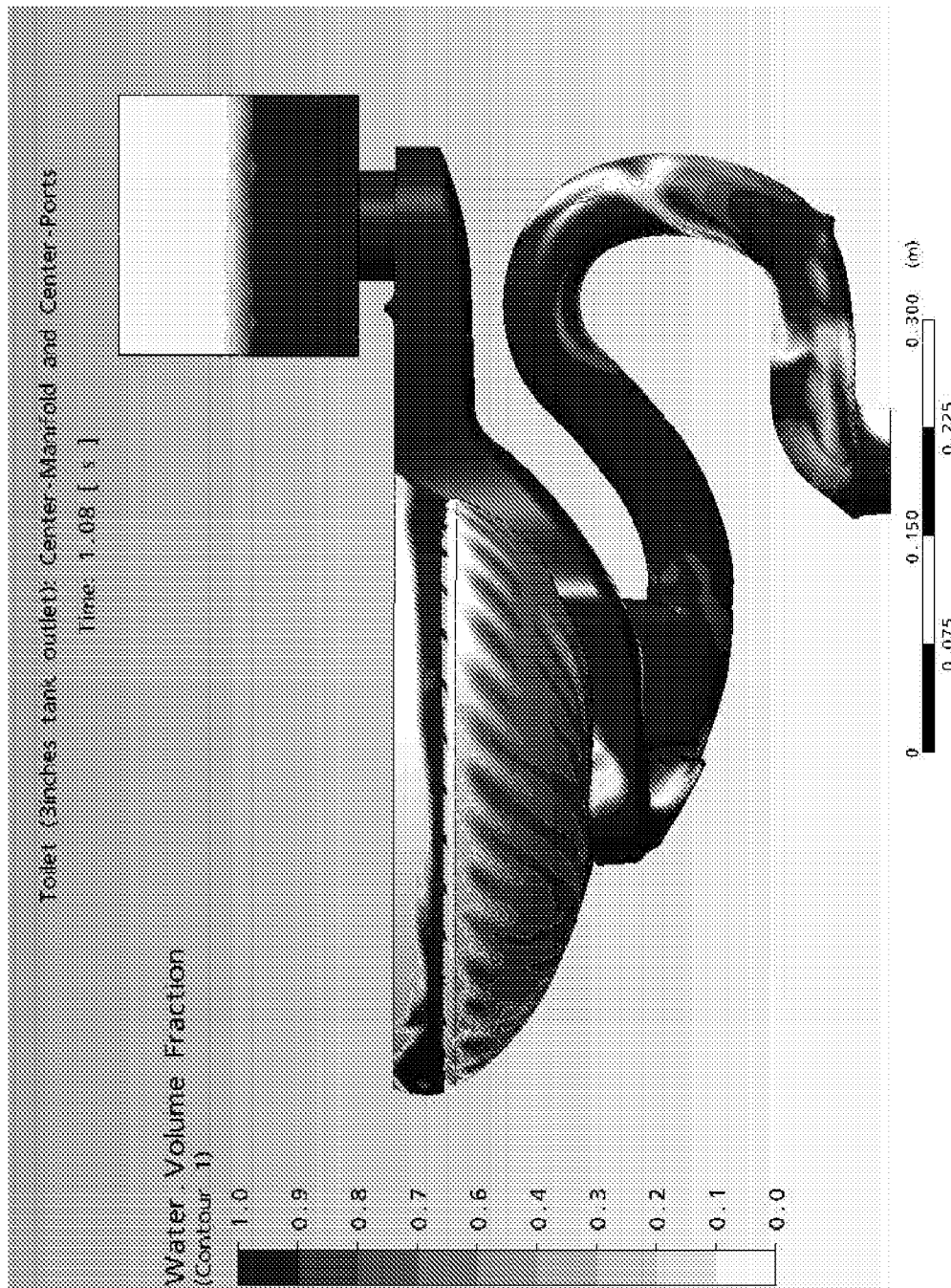
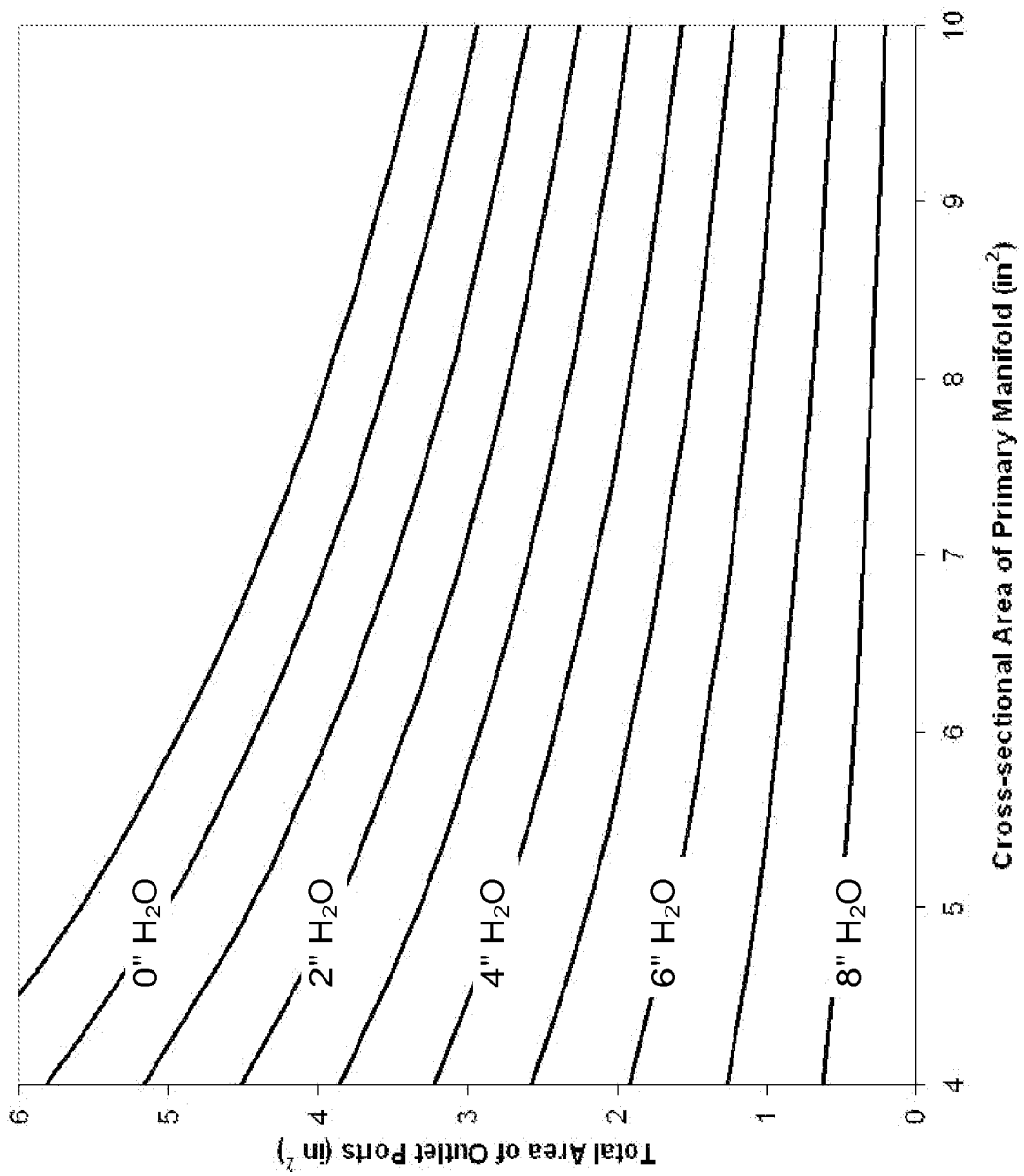


FIG. 9

FIG. 10



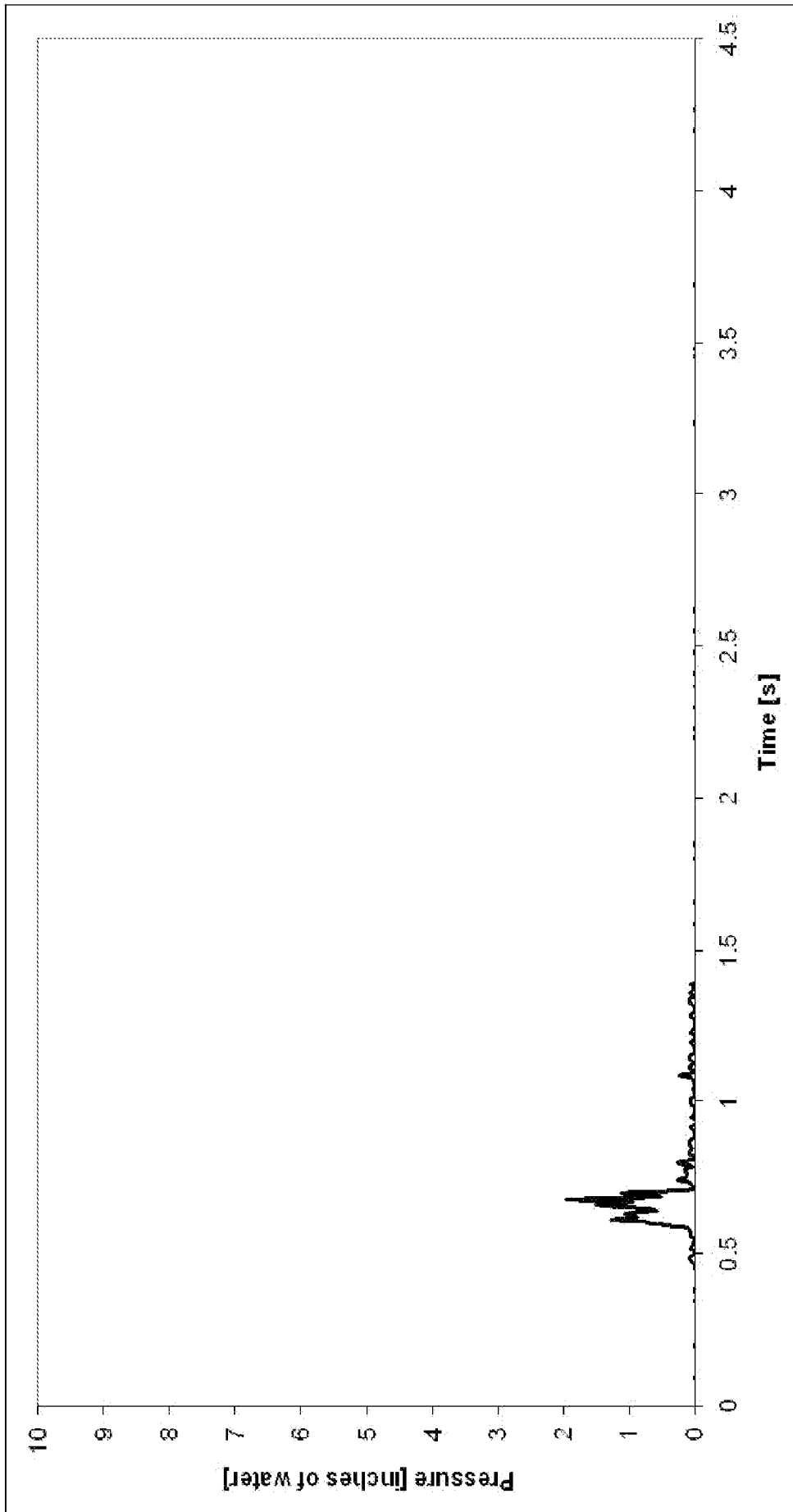


FIG. 11

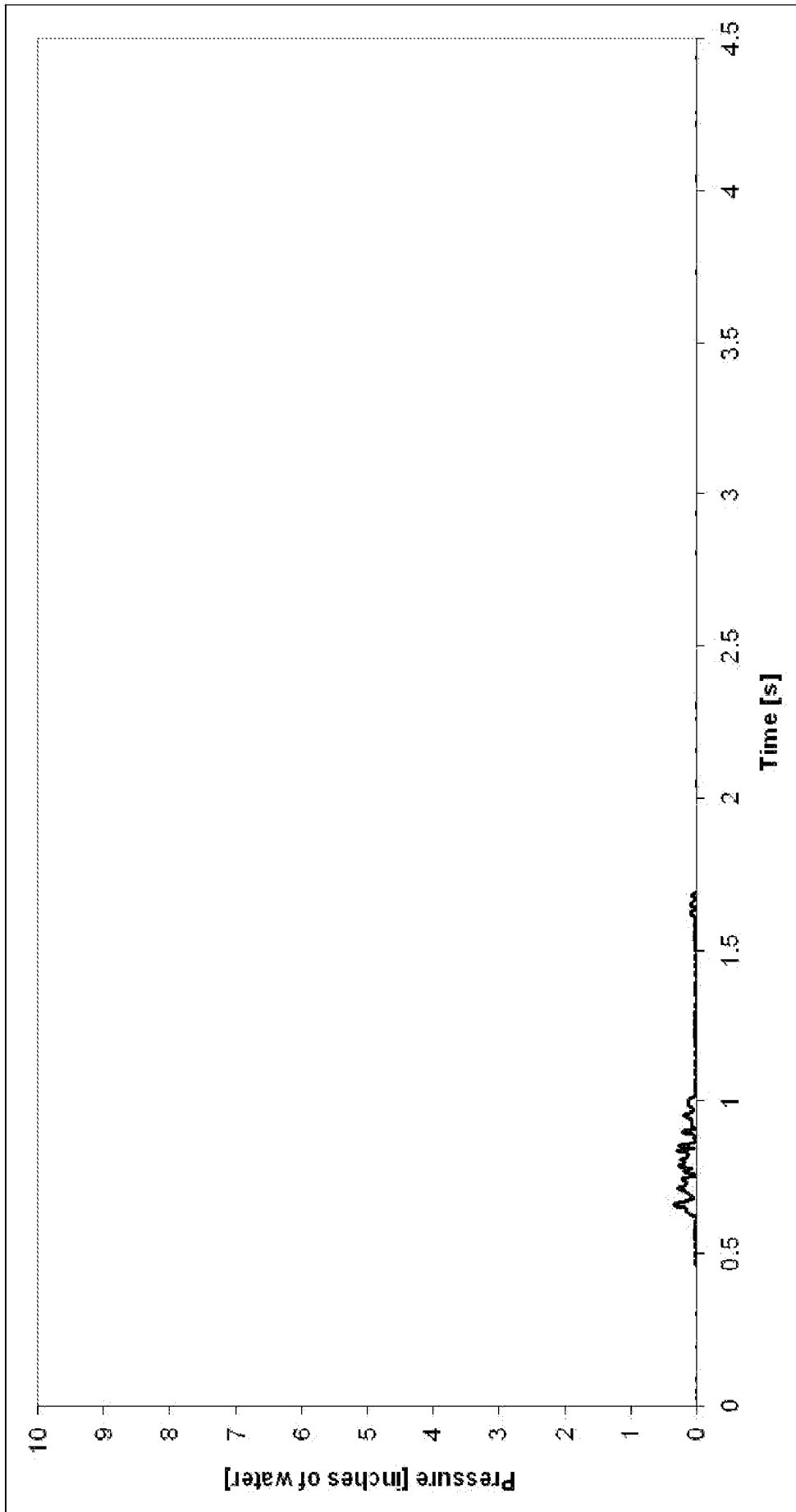


FIG. 12

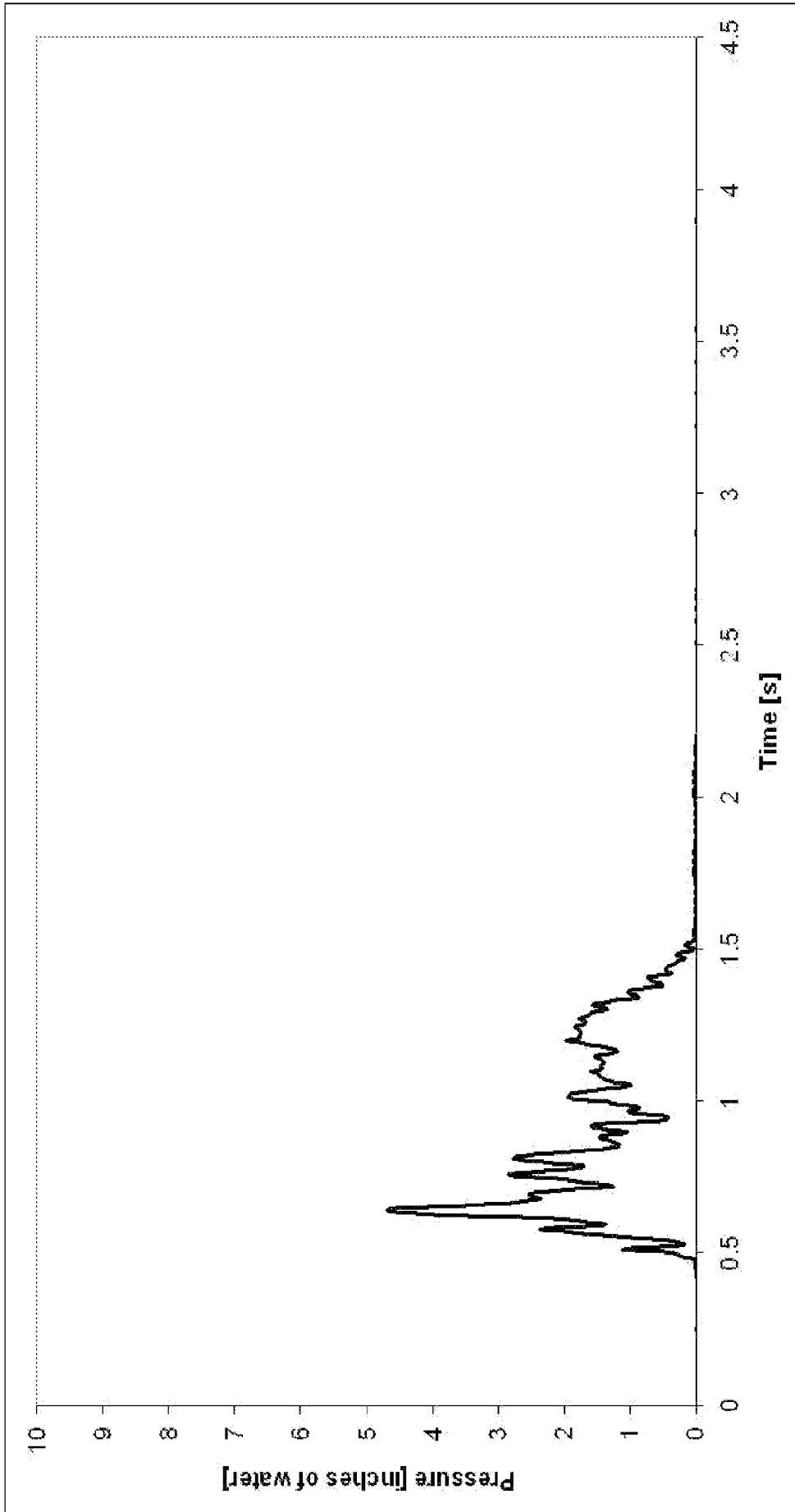


FIG. 13

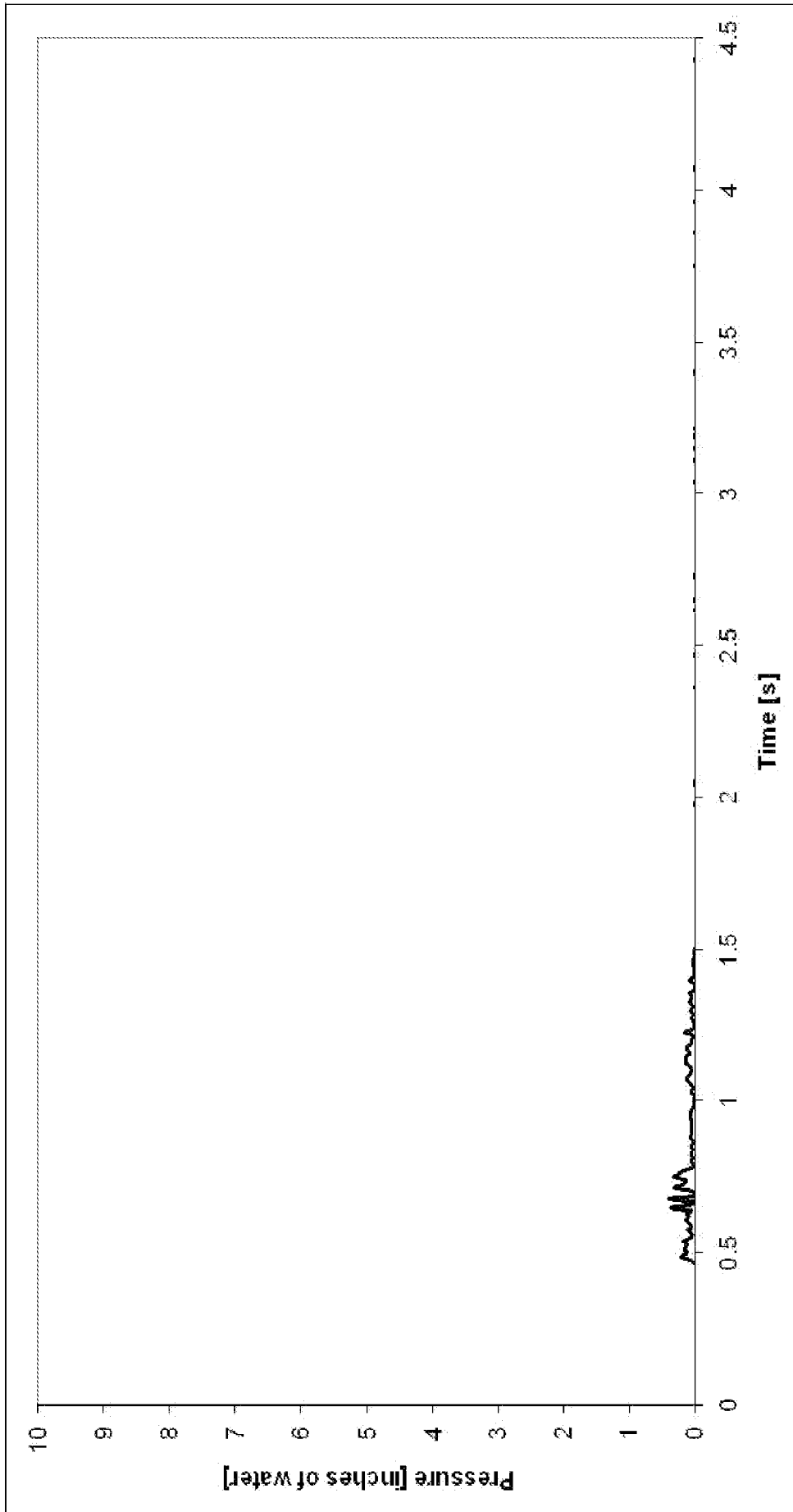


FIG. 14

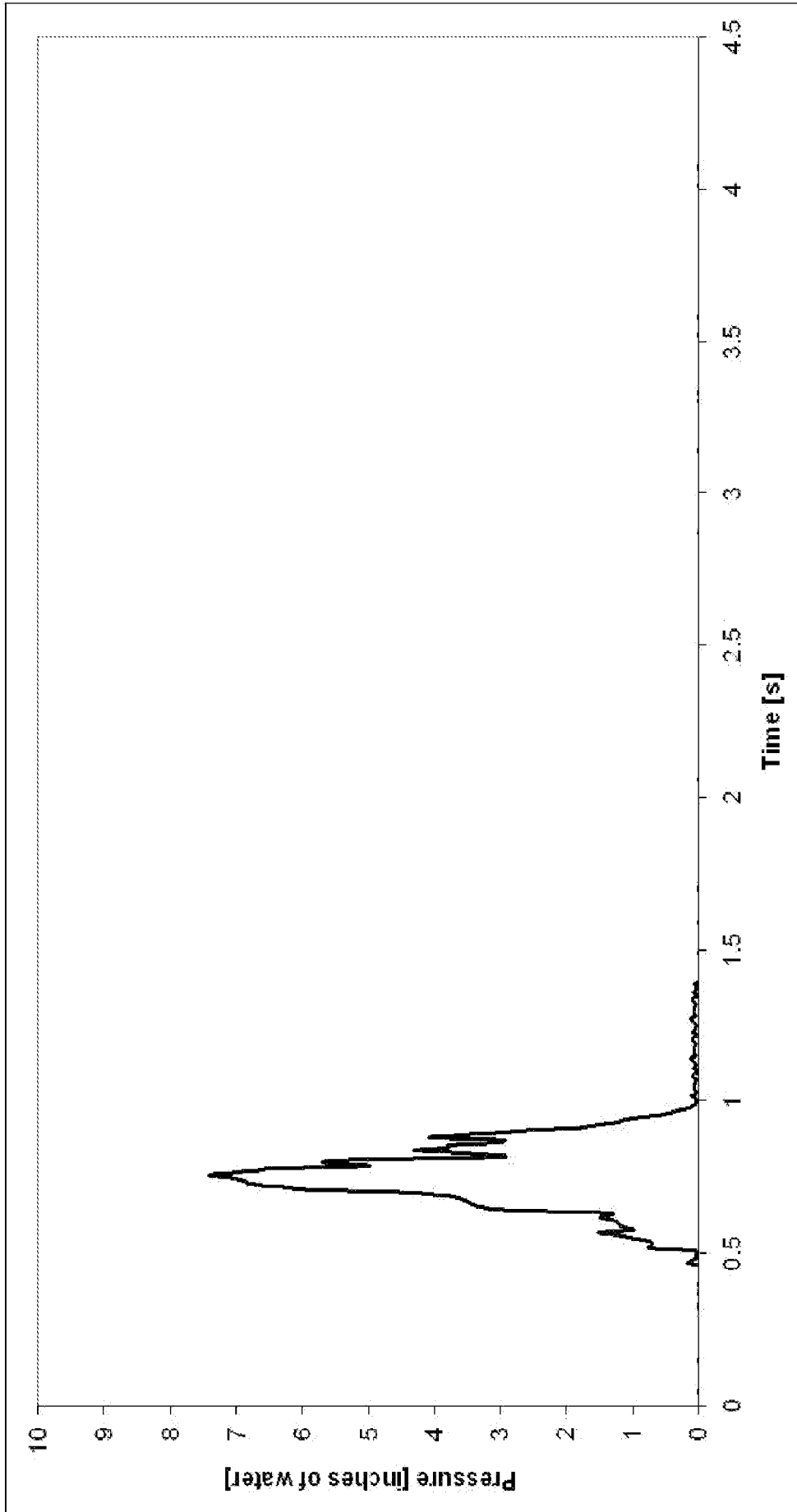


FIG. 15

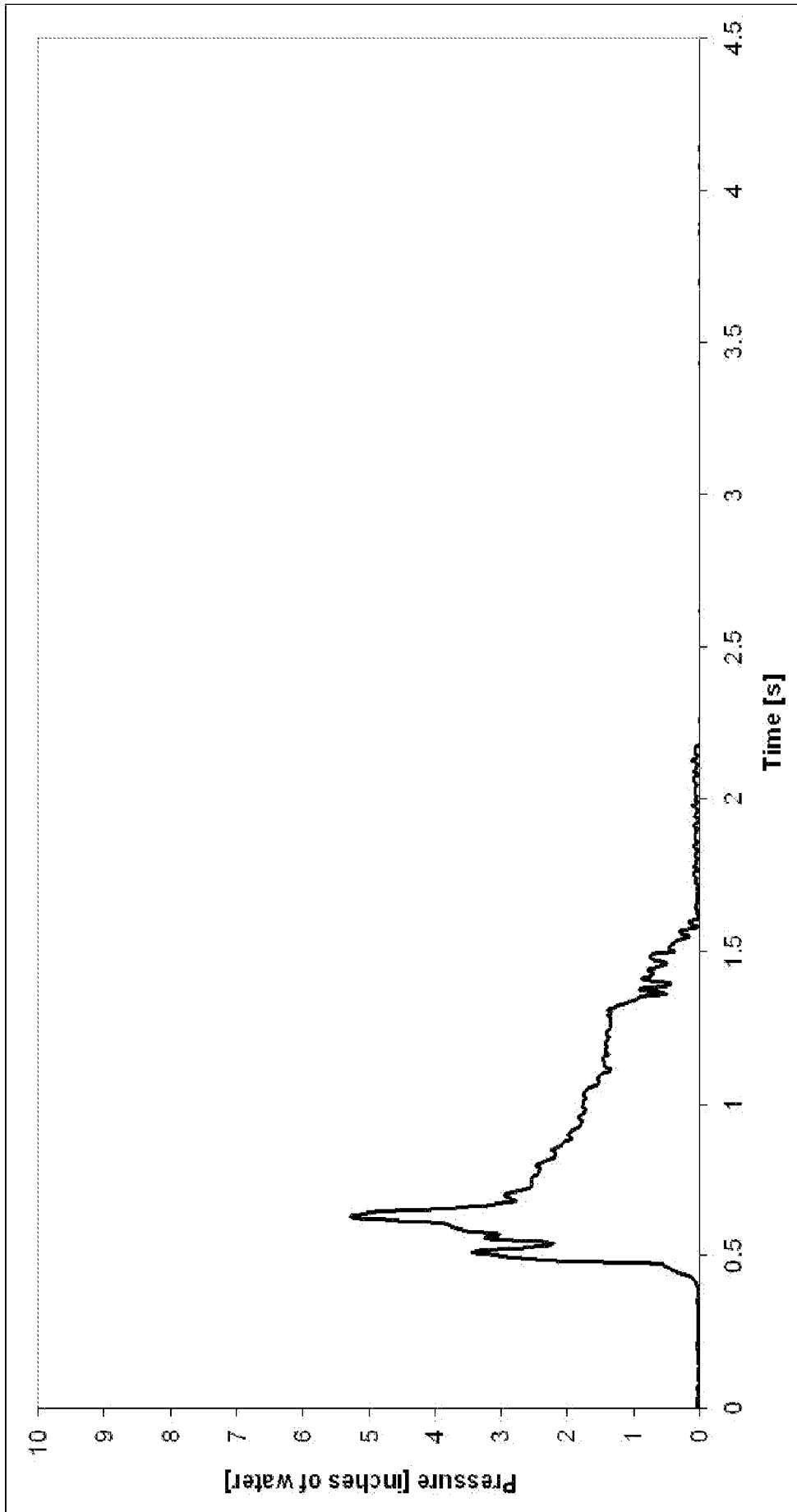


FIG. 16

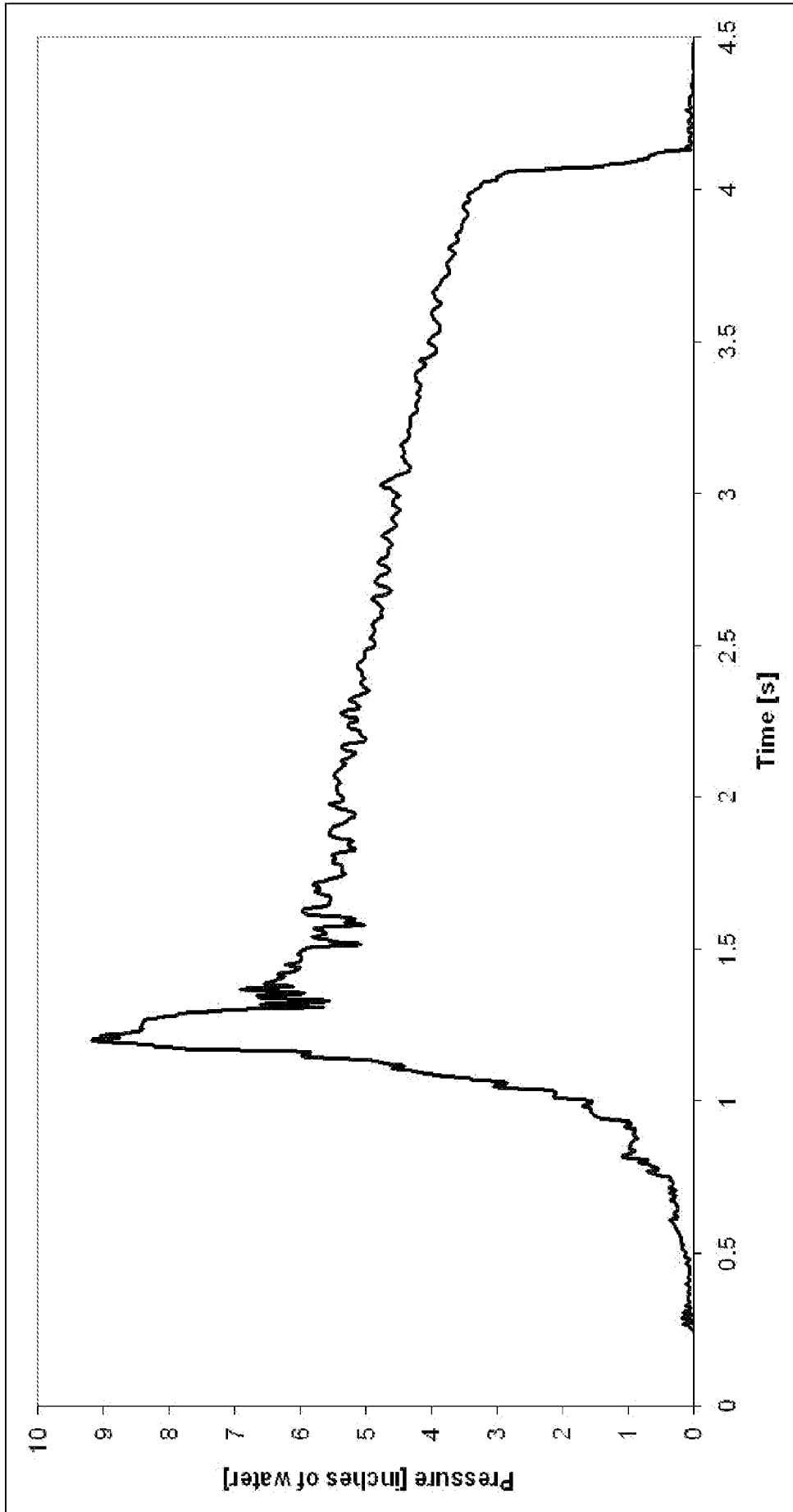


FIG. 17

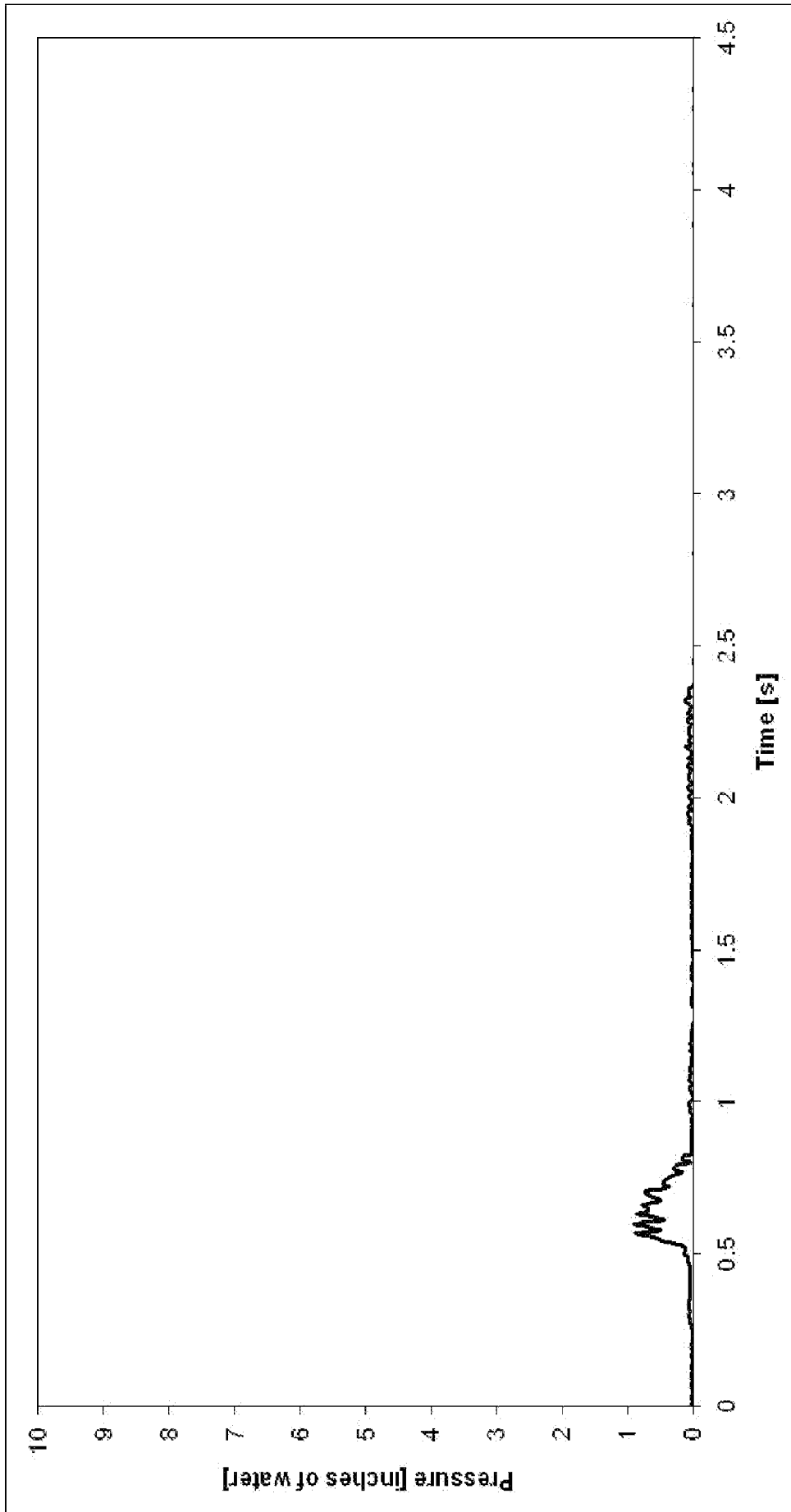


FIG. 18

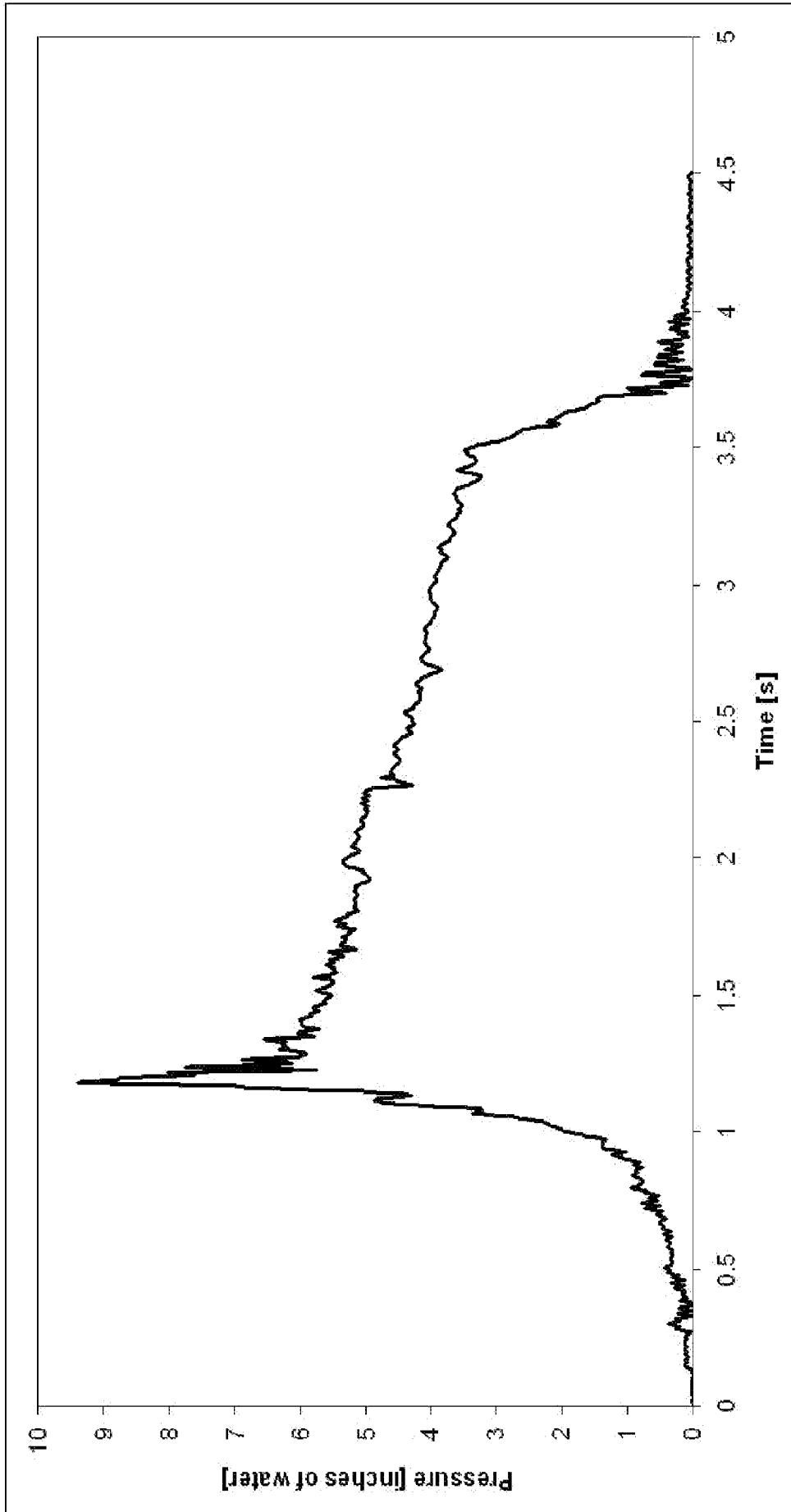


FIG. 19

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No.
PCT/US 09/35186

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER
IPC(8) - E03D 3/12, 3/00 (2009.01)
USPC - 4/425
According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC

B. FIELDS SEARCHED

Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)
IPC(8): E03D 3/12, 3/00 (2009.01)
USPC: 4/425

Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched
IPC(8): E03D 3/12, 3/00 (2009.01) - see search terms below
USPC: 4/420, 421, 425 - see search terms below

Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practicable, search terms used)
PubWEST(USPT,PGPB,EPAB,JPAB); DialogPRO(Engineering); GoogleScholar
Search Terms: Toilet, bidet, cistern, rim, pressure, integral, derivative, time, second, jet, rim, liter, gallon, velocity, area, in H2O, in Hg, psi, flush, mode, direct, water

C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category*	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
X -- Y	US 5,983,413 A (HAYASHI et al.) 16 November 1999 (16.11.1999), entire document especially Fig 1-2, 21-22, col 4, ln 43-51, col 5, ln 58-65 col 11, ln 29-40, col 14, ln 22-35	1-2, 4-5, 7-9, 11-15, 17-18 ----- 3, 6, 10, 16, 19-22
Y	US 2007/0113331 A1 (PROKOPENKO et al.) 24 May 2007 (24.05.2007), Fig 11b, para [0090] 3	3
Y	US 6,782,564 B1 (CHENG) 31 August 2004 (31.08.2004), col 1, ln 45-48, col 3, ln 13-26	6, 10, 16, and 19-22

Further documents are listed in the continuation of Box C.

* Special categories of cited documents:	"T" later document published after the international filing date or priority date and not in conflict with the application but cited to understand the principle or theory underlying the invention
"A" document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance	"X" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered novel or cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is taken alone
"E" earlier application or patent but published on or after the international filing date	"Y" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is combined with one or more other such documents, such combination being obvious to a person skilled in the art
"L" document which may throw doubts on priority claim(s) or which is cited to establish the publication date of another citation or other special reason (as specified)	"&" document member of the same patent family
"O" document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or other means	
"P" document published prior to the international filing date but later than the priority date claimed	

Date of the actual completion of the international search 06 April 2009 (06.04.2009)	Date of mailing of the international search report 16 APR 2009
---	--

Name and mailing address of the ISA/US Mail Stop PCT, Attn: ISA/US, Commissioner for Patents P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450 Facsimile No. 571-273-3201	Authorized officer: Lee W. Young PCT Helpdesk: 571-272-4300 PCT OSP: 571-272-7774
---	---