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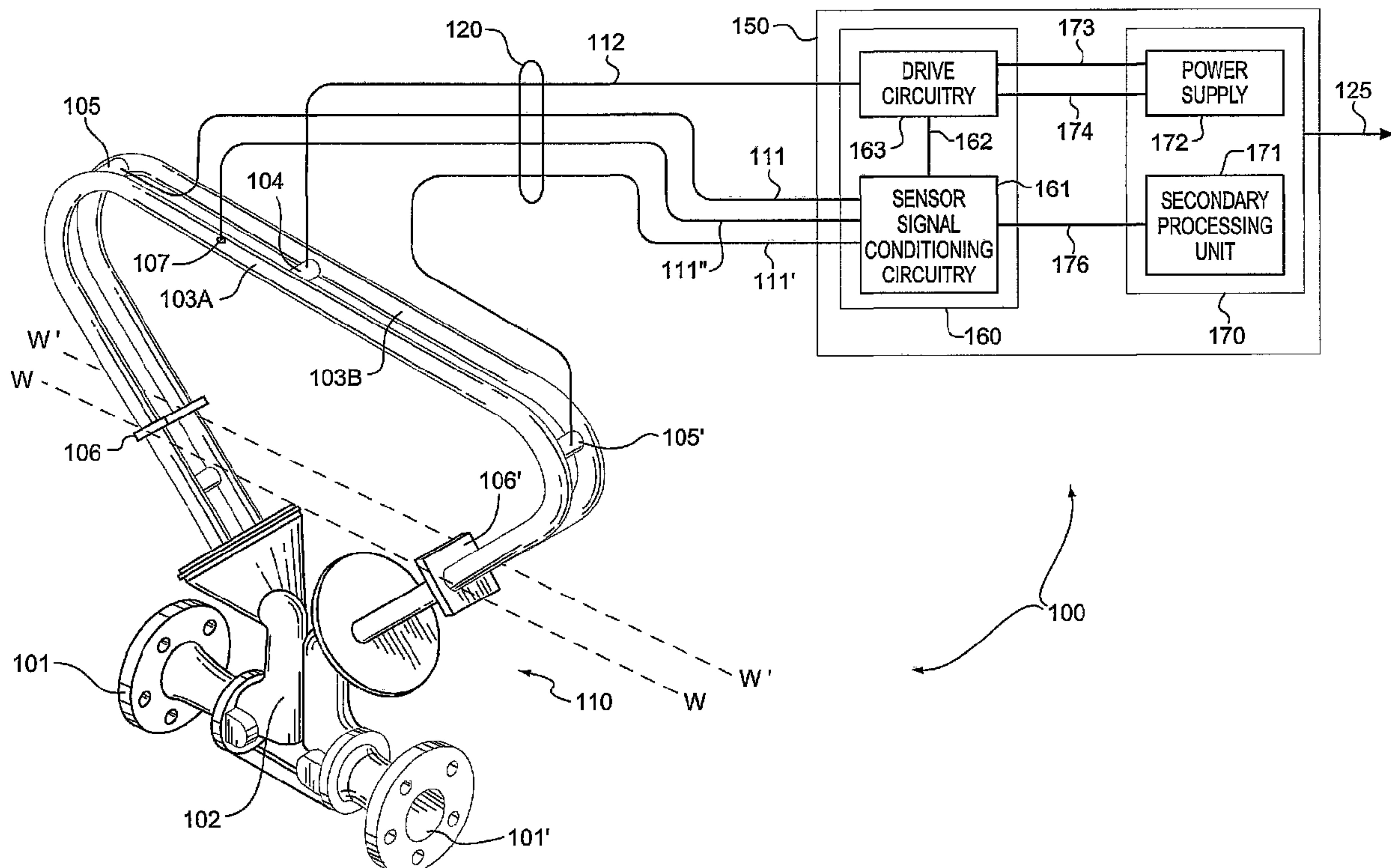
(72) Inventeurs/Inventors:  
HAYS, PAUL J., US;  
PATTEN, ANDREW T., US

(73) Propriétaire/Owner:  
MICRO MOTION, INC., US

(74) Agent: BORDEN LADNER GERVAIS LLP

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DENSITY OF THE MATERIAL CAUSES AN UNACCEPTABLE ERROR IN FLOW RATE



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An apparatus (150) and method (300) for determining a density compensated flow rate of a material flowing through a vibrating conduit. Signals are received from sensors (105, 105') affixed to the vibrating conduit (103A, 103B). An uncompensated flow rate of said material is then calculated from the signals. A density compensation factor is then determined from the uncompensated flow rate and non-linear information relating density to errors in flow rate. The density compensated flow rate is then determined by applying the density compensation factor to the uncompensated flow rate.

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(71) Applicant: MICRO MOTION, INC. [US/US]; 7070 Winchester Circle, Boulder, CO 80301 (US).

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(72) Inventors: HAYS, Paul, J.; 4091 Longhorn Drive, Lafayette, CO 80026 (US). PATTEN, Andrew, T.; 123 Green Meadow Lane, Boulder, CO 80302 (US).

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(74) Agents: BORNSEN, Brett, L. et al.; Faegre &amp; Benson LLP, 1900 Fifteenth Street, Boulder, CO 80302 (US).

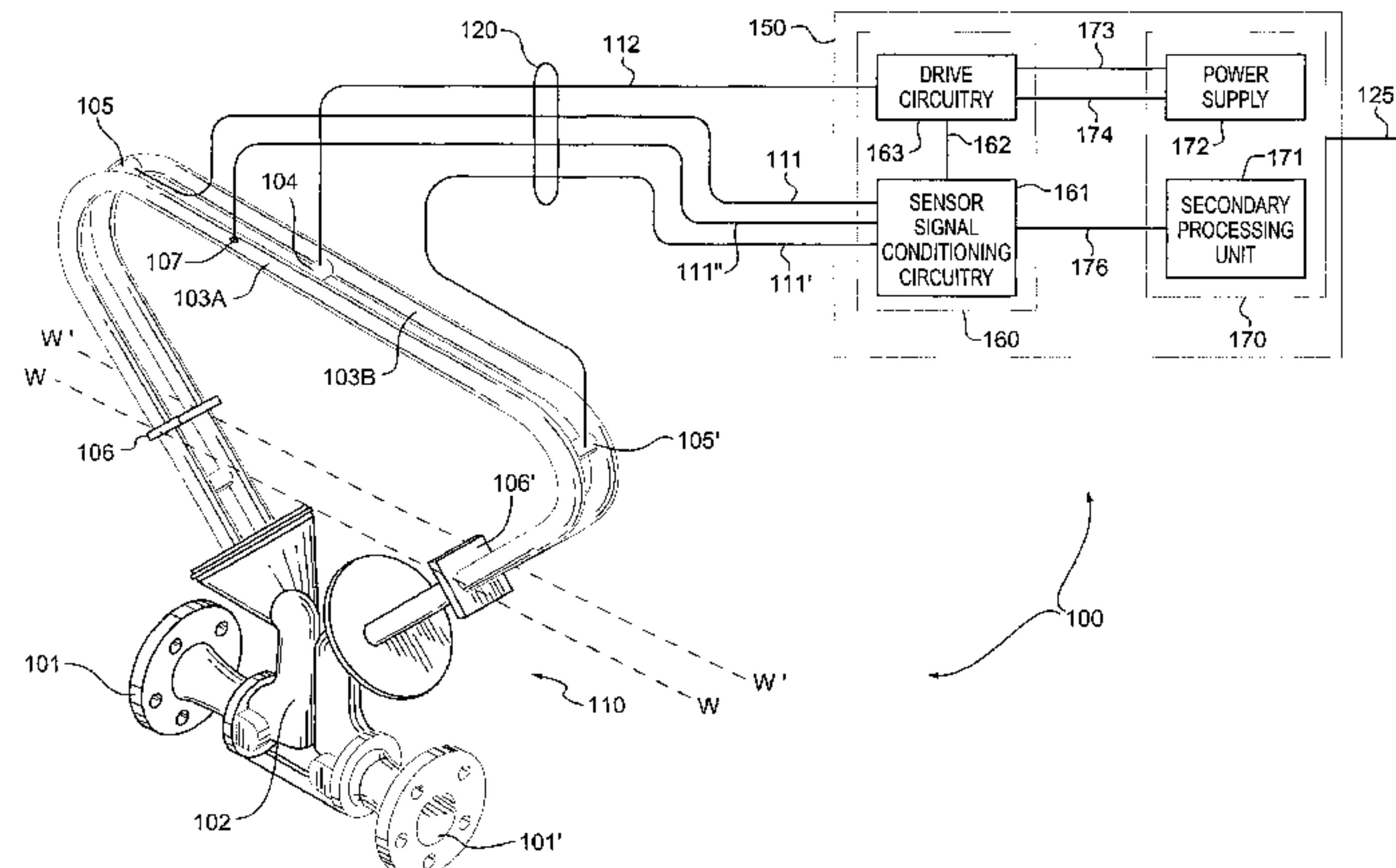
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(54) Title: APPARATUS AND METHOD FOR COMPENSATING MASS FLOW RATE OF A MATERIAL WHEN THE DENSITY OF THE MATERIAL CAUSES AN UNACCEPTABLE ERROR IN FLOW RATE



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(57) Abstract: An apparatus (150) and method (300) for determining a density compensated flow rate of a material flowing through a vibrating conduit. Signals are received from sensors (105, 105') affixed to the vibrating conduit (103A, 103B). An uncompensated flow rate of said material is then calculated from the signals. A density compensation factor is then determined from the uncompensated flow rate and non-linear information relating density to errors in flow rate. The density compensated flow rate is then determined by applying the density compensation factor to the uncompensated flow rate.

**Apparatus and Method for Compensating Mass Flow Rate of A Material When  
the Density of the Material Causes An Unacceptable Error in Flow Rate**

**Field of the Invention**

5 This invention relates to the calculation of a mass flow rate of material flowing through a Coriolis flowmeter. More particularly, this invention relates to compensating a measured flow rate for error in the flow rate caused by the density of the material being measured. Still more particularly, this invention relates to determining when the density of a material is causing an unacceptable error in the mass flow rate and  
10 compensating for the error caused by density in the flow rate.

**Problem**

It is known to use Coriolis effect mass flowmeters to measure mass flow and other information of materials flowing through a pipeline as disclosed in U.S. Patent No. 4,491,025 issued to J.E. Smith, et al. of January 1, 1985 and Re. 31,450 to J.E. 15 Smith of February 11, 1982. These flowmeters have one or more flow tubes of a curved configuration. Each flow tube configuration in a Coriolis mass flowmeter has a set of natural vibration modes, which may be of a simple bending, torsional, radial, or coupled type. Each flow tube is driven to oscillate at resonance in one of these natural modes. The natural vibration modes of the vibrating, material filled systems 20 are defined in part by the combined mass of the flow tubes and the material within the flow tubes. Material flows into the flowmeter from a connected pipeline on the inlet side of the flowmeter. The material is then directed through the flow tube or flow tubes and exits the flowmeter to a pipeline connected on the outlet side.

A driver applies a force to the flow tube. The force causes the flow tube to 25 oscillate. When there is no material flowing through the flowmeter, all points along a flow tube oscillate with an identical phase. As a material begins to flow through the flow tube, Coriolis accelerations cause each point along the flow tube to have a different phase with respect to other points along the flow tube. The phase on the inlet side of the flow tube lags the driver, while the phase on the outlet side leads the 30 driver. Sensors are placed at two different points on the flow tube to produce sinusoidal signals representative of the motion of the flow tube at the two points. A phase difference of the two signals received from the sensors is calculated in units of time.

The phase difference between the two sensor signals is proportional to the mass flow rate of the material flowing through the flow tube or flow tubes. The mass flow rate of the material is determined by multiplying the phase difference by a flow calibration factor. This flow calibration factor is determined by material properties and 5 cross sectional properties of the flow tube.

It is a problem that properties of a material may effect mass flow rates measured by Coriolis flowmeters. Some properties of a material that may effect measured flow rates include density, temperature, pressure, and viscosity. In most cases, a Coriolis flowmeter is designed to be insensitive to the errors caused by these 10 properties. In other cases, meter electronics compensate for errors in the measured mass flow rate caused by these properties. For example, meter electronics commonly compensate for errors caused by the temperature and pressure of a material.

Sometimes the error caused by the properties of a material are insignificant under normal operating conditions and the error in flow rate is not corrected. 15 However, a property of a material may cause unacceptable errors after a certain threshold is surpassed. For example, the density of a material often does not affect the flow rate in most flow meters at most densities. However, in low flow rate Coriolis flowmeters, it has been observed that density of the material effects the measured flow rate of the material after a certain threshold. For purposes of this discussion, low 20 flow rate is 5 lbs./ minute or less. At this time, it is unknown what causes these errors.

Therefore, it is desirable to determine when the density of the measured material surpasses a threshold and to compensate for the error in flow rate caused by the density.

### Solution

25 The above and other problems are solved and an advance in the art is made by the provision of a method and apparatus for compensating for errors in measured mass flow rates caused by density in a Coriolis flowmeter. One advantage of this invention is that errors in a measured flow rate attributable to density are corrected. A second advantage of this invention is that the compensation is more accurate than 30 other systems as non-linear equations that more precisely fit measured data are used to determine a compensation factor. A third advantage of this invention that the compensation may only occur after the density has surpassed a certain threshold

where the error caused by density surpasses an unacceptable level. This reduces the amount of computation needed to provide an accurate flow rate.

A determination of a mass flow rate that is compensated for density in accordance with this invention is performed in the following manner. First a material 5 flows through a vibrating conduit in a Coriolis flowmeter. The conduit is vibrated and sensors affixed to the conduit generate signals representing the motion of the conduit. Signals from sensors affixed to the vibrating conduit are received by the meter electronics. An uncompensated flow rate of the material is then calculated by the meter electronics from the received signals. A density compensation factor is then 10 determined using uncompensated flow rate and non-linear information relating density to errors in flow rate. A density compensated flow rate is then generated by applying the density compensation factor to the uncompensated flow rate.

In accordance with this invention, the meter electronics may also calculate a density of the material from the signals received from the sensors. The calculated 15 density then may be compared to a threshold to determine whether the density surpasses a threshold value. If the density does surpass the threshold value the density compensated flow rate is generated. Otherwise the uncompensated flow rate is output.

In an alternative embodiment, a linear density compensation factor may be 20 calculated using the uncompensated flow rate and linear information relating errors in the mass flow rate to the density of the material if the threshold is not exceeded. The compensated flow rate can be calculated by applying said linear density compensation to said uncompensated mass flow rate.

In accordance with this invention the density compensation factor may be 25 determined by inserting the uncompensated flow rate into a N order polynomial equation relating density to flow rate error data wherein N is greater than 1. The N order polynomial is a curve fit of density to error rate in measured mass flow. The polynomial may be generated by performing an N order curve fit of the density to flow rate error data wherein N is greater than 1.

30 One aspect of the invention is a method for determining a flow rate of a material flowing through a vibrating conduit comprising the steps of receiving signals from sensors affixed to said vibrating conduit, calculating an uncompensated flow rate of said material from said signals, calculating a density of said material from said signals,

and determining whether said density surpasses a threshold value. Responsive to said density surpassing said threshold value, the method further comprises the steps of determining a density compensation factor from said uncompensated flow rate and non-linear information relating density to errors in flow rate, and calculating a density compensated flow rate by applying said density compensation factor to said uncompensated flow rate. Responsive to said density not surpassing said threshold value, the method further comprises the step of outputting a flow rate that is not density compensated by said density compensation factor.

5 Preferably, the threshold value is a density value of 1.030.

10 Alternatively, the method comprises the steps of, responsive to said density not surpassing said threshold value, determining a linear density compensation factor from said uncompensated flow rate and linear information relating errors in flow rate to density, and calculating said density compensated flow rate by applying said linear density compensation factor to said uncompensated flow rate.

15 Preferably, the step of determining said density compensation factor comprises the step of inserting said uncompensated flow rate into a N order polynomial equation relating density to flow rate error data wherein N is greater than 1.

20 Preferably, the method further comprises performing an N order curve fit of said density to flow rate error data wherein N is greater than 1 to determine said N order polynomial equation.

Preferably, the step of performing said N order curve fit comprises the step of performing a least squares curve fit.

Preferably, N equals 4.

25 Alternatively, the step of determining said density compensation factor comprises the step of inserting said uncompensated flow rate and said density into a two dimensional N order polynomial equation relating density to flow rate error data wherein N is greater than 1.

30 Alternatively, the method further comprises the step of performing a two dimensional N order curve fit of said density and said uncompensated flow rate to determine said N order polynomial.

Alternatively, the step of performing said two dimensional N order curve fit comprises the step of performing a least square curve fit of data for said

uncompensated flow rate and said density to determine said two dimensional N order polynomial.

Another aspect is meter electronics for a Coriolis flowmeter having a processing unit that provides a flow rate and comprising instructions for directing said processing unit to receive signals from sensors affixed to a vibrating conduit, calculate an uncompensated flow rate of said material from said signals, calculate a density of said material from said signals, and determine whether said density surpasses a threshold value. Responsive to said density surpassing said threshold value, the instructions direct the processing unit to determine a density compensation factor from said uncompensated flow rate and non-linear information relating density to errors in flow rate, and calculate a density compensated flow rate by applying said density compensation factor to said uncompensated flow rate. Responsive to said density not surpassing said threshold value, the instructions direct the processing unit to output a flow rate that is not density compensated by said density compensation factor. The meter electronics also comprises a media readable by said processing unit that stores said instructions.

Preferably, the threshold value is a density value of 1.030.

Alternatively, responsive to said density not surpassing said threshold value, the instructions direct said processing unit to determine a linear density compensation factor from said uncompensated flow rate and linear information relating errors in flow rate to density of said material, and calculate said density compensated flow rate by applying said linear density compensation to said uncompensated flow rate.

Preferably, the instructions direct said processing unit to insert said uncompensated flow rate into a N order polynomial equation relating density to flow rate error data wherein N is greater than 1.

Preferably, the instructions direct said processing unit to perform an N order curve fit of said density to flow rate error data wherein N is greater than 1 to determine said N order polynomial equation.

Preferably, the instructions direct said processing unit to perform a least squares curve fit of density to error data.

Preferably, N equals 4.

Alternatively, the instructions direct said processing unit to insert said uncompensated flow rate and said density into a two dimensional N order polynomial equation relating density to flow rate error data wherein N is greater than 1.

Alternatively, the instructions direct said processing unit to perform a two dimensional N order curve fit of said density and said uncompensated flow rate to determine said N order polynomial.

Alternatively, the instructions direct said processing unit to perform a least square curve fit of data for said uncompensated flow rate and said density to determine said two dimensional N order polynomial.

10

### Description of the Drawings

The above and other advantages and aspects of this invention are explained in the detailed description and following drawings:

FIG. 1 illustrating a Coriolis flowmeter that incorporates the method and apparatus of this invention;

15

FIG. 2 illustrating a chart showing error rates compared to flow rates for varying densities;

FIG. 3 illustrating a first embodiment of a method for compensating a flow rate for errors caused by density in accordance with this invention;

20

FIG. 4 illustrating a second embodiment of a method for compensating for errors caused by density in accordance with this invention; and

FIG. 5 illustrating a processor.

### Detailed Description

The present invention relates to providing a mass flow rate measurement from a Coriolis flowmeter that compensates for errors in the flow rate caused by the density of a material. FIG. 1 illustrates an exemplary Coriolis flowmeter that may provide a compensated mass flow rate in accordance with this invention. Coriolis flowmeter 100 includes a flowmeter assembly 110 and meter electronics 150. Meter electronics 150 are connected to meter assembly 110 via leads 120 to provide for example, but not limited to, density, mass-flow-rate, volume-flow-rate, and totalized mass-flow rate information over a path 125. A Coriolis flowmeter structure is described although it

should be apparent to those skilled in the art that the present invention could be practiced in conjunction with any apparatus having loads requiring currents of alternating voltage.

A Coriolis flowmeter structure is described although it should be apparent to those skilled in the art that the present invention could be practiced in conjunction with any apparatus having a vibrating conduit to measure properties of material flowing through the conduit. A second example of such an apparatus is a vibrating tube densitometer which does not have the additional measurement capability provided by Coriolis mass flowmeters.

Meter assembly 110 includes a pair of flanges 101 and 101', manifold 102 and conduits 103A and 103B. Driver 104, pick-off sensors 105 and 105', and temperature sensor 107 are connected to conduits 103A and 103B. Brace bars 106 and 106' serve to define the axis W and W' about which each conduit oscillates.

When Coriolis flowmeter 100 is inserted into a pipeline system (not shown) which carries the process material that is being measured, material enters flowmeter assembly 110 through flange 101, passes through manifold 102 where the material is directed to enter conduits 103A and 103B. The material then flows through conduits 103A and 103B and back into manifold 102 from where it exits meter assembly 110 through flange 101'.

Conduits 103A and 103B are selected and appropriately mounted to the manifold 102 so as to have substantially the same mass distribution, moments of inertia and elastic modules about bending axes W-W and W'-W', respectively. The conduits 103A-103B extend outwardly from the manifold in an essentially parallel fashion.

Conduits 103A-103B are driven by driver 104 in opposite directions about their respective bending axes W and W' and at what is termed the first out of phase bending mode of the flowmeter. Driver 104 may comprise any one of many well known arrangements, such as a magnet mounted to conduit 103A and an opposing coil mounted to conduit 103B and through which an alternating current is passed for vibrating both conduits. A suitable drive signal is applied by meter electronics 150 to driver 104 via path 112.

Pick-off sensors 105 and 105' are affixed to at least one of conduits 103A and 103B on opposing ends of the conduit to measure oscillation of the conduits. As the

conduit 103A-103B vibrates, pick-off sensors 105-105' generate a first pick-off signal and a second pick-off signal. The first and second pick-off signals are applied to paths 111 and 111'. The driver velocity signal is applied to path 112.

Temperature sensor 107 is affixed to at least one conduit 103A and/or 103B.

5 Temperature sensor 107 measures the temperature of the conduit in order to modify equations for the temperature of the system. Path 111" carries temperature signals from temperature sensor 107 to meter electronics 150.

Meter electronics 150 receives the first and second pick-off signals appearing on paths 111 and 111', respectively. Meter electronics 150 processes the first and 10 second velocity signals to compute the mass flow rate, the density, or other property of the material passing through flowmeter assembly 110. This computed information is applied by meter electronics 150 over path 125 to a utilization means (not shown). It is known to those skilled in the art that Coriolis flowmeter 100 is quite similar in 15 structure to a vibrating tube densitometer. Vibrating tube densitometers also utilize a vibrating tube through which fluid flows or, in the case of a sample-type densitometer, within which fluid is held. Vibrating tube densitometers also employ a drive system for exciting the conduit to vibrate. Vibrating tube densitometers typically utilize only single feedback signal since a density measurement requires only the measurement of frequency and a phase measurement is not necessary. The descriptions of the 20 present invention herein apply equally to vibrating tube densitometers.

In Coriolis flowmeter 100, the meter electronics 150 are physically divided into 2 components a host system 170 and a signal conditioner 160. In conventional meter electronics, these components are housed in one unit.

Signal conditioner 160 includes drive circuitry 163 and sensor signal 25 conditioning circuitry 161. One skilled in the art will recognize that in actuality drive circuitry 163 and pick-off conditioning circuitry 161 may be separate analog circuits or may be separate functions provided by a digital signal processor or other digital components. Drive circuitry 163 generates a drive signal and applies an alternating drive current to driver 104 via path 112 of path 120. The circuitry of the present 30 invention may be included in drive circuitry 163 to provide an alternating current to driver 104.

In actuality, path 112 is a first and a second lead. Drive circuitry 163 is communicatively connected to sensor signal conditioning circuitry 161 via path 162. Path 162 allows drive circuitry to monitor the incoming pick-off signals to adjust the drive signal. Power to operate drive circuitry 163 and sensor signal conditioning circuitry 161 is supplied from host system 170 via a first wire 173 and a second wire 174. First wire 173 and second wire 174 may be a part of a conventional 2-wire, 4-wire cable, or a portion of a multi-pair cable.

Sensor signal conditioning circuitry 161 receives input signals from first pick-off 105, second pick-off 105', and temperature sensor 107 via paths 111, 111' and 111". Sensor signal conditioning circuitry 161 determines the frequency of the pick-off signals and may also determine properties of a material flowing through conduits 103A-103B. After the frequency of the input signals from pick-off sensors 105-105' and properties of the material are determined, parameter signals carrying this information are generated and transmitted to a secondary processing unit 171 in host system 170 via path 176. In a preferred embodiment, path 176 includes 2 leads. However, one skilled in the art will recognize that path 176 may be carried over first wire 173 and second wire 174 or over any other number of wires.

Host system 170 includes a power supply 172 and secondary processing unit 171. Power supply 172 receives electricity from a source and converts the received electricity to the proper power needed by the system. Secondary processing unit 171 receives the parameter signals from pick-off signal conditioning circuitry 161 and then may perform processes needed to provide properties of the material flowing through conduits 103A-103B needed by a user. Such properties may include but are not limited to density, mass flow rate, and volumetric flow rate.

The following invention is implemented by a processing unit. Either a digital signal processor in signal conditioner 160 or secondary processing unit 171 may implement the present invention. FIG. 5 illustrates a conventional processing unit that is operative to implement this invention.

Processing system 500 includes a Central Processing Unit (CPU) 501. CPU 501 is a processor, microprocessor, or combination of processor and/or microprocessor which execute instructions that are stored in memory. Memory bus 502 connects CPU 501 to memory needed to execute instructions. Non-volatile memory such as Read Only Memory (ROM) 510 is connected to memory bus 502 via

path 511. ROM 510 stores configuration instructions and other instructions needed to properly operate processing system 500. A volatile memory, such Random Access Memory 520, is connected to memory bus 502 via path 521. RAM 520 stores instructions and data needed to perform applications executed by CPU 501.

5        Input/ Output (I/O) bus 503 connects CPU 501 to other devices needed to execute instructions. Analog to Digital (A/D) convertor 530 allow CPU 501 to receive signals from analog circuitry such as pick-off sensors 105-105' of FIG. 1. A/D convertor 530 is connected to I/O bus 503 and receives analog signals from other circuitry (Not Shown) via path 532. Peripheral device 540 is another device that  
10      performs a required function for processing system 500 to provide data to CPU 501. Peripheral device 540 is connected to I/O bus 503 via path 541. Memory 550 is a device that provides extra data storage capability to processing system 500, such as a disk drive and disk. Memory 550 is connected to I/O bus 503 via path 551.

15      It is a problem that the mass flow measurement provided by a Coriolis flowmeter such as Coriolis flowmeter 100 may be affected by properties of the measured material. One such property is density of the material. Small Coriolis flowmeters are particularly susceptible to errors caused by the density of the measured material. For purposes of this discussion a small Coriolis flowmeter is a flowmeter that has flow tubes with a diameter of .130 inches. An example of such a  
20      flowmeter, is the CMF 010 Coriolis Flowmeter produced by Micro Motion INC. of Boulder, Colorado.

25      FIG. 2 is an illustration of a plotting of error in flow rates of materials having varying densities. Line 201 represents error in uncompensated flow rates as the flow rate changes for a material having a density .9957. Line 202 represents the error in uncompensated flow rates as flow rates change for materials having a density of .9489. Line 203 represents the error in uncompensated flow rates for material having a density of .85284. Line 204 represents error rates of uncompensated flow rates for a material having a density of .78922. Line 205 represents the error in uncompensated flow rates for materials having a density of .90452.

30      As can be seen from FIG. 2, material having densities proximate to 1.0 cause less percentage error. While densities that are not proximate 1.0 tend to have a percentage of error that is greater than .1 %.

From the graph of FIG. 2, one skilled in the art can see that densities that are not proximate to 1 cause a small flowmeter to provide inaccurate flow rates. The present invention corrects the flow rate by multiplying the measured flow rate by a density compensation factor.

5 The density compensation factor may be calculated in any of the following manners: a look up for compensation factors based upon uncompensated flow rates, comparing density to a least squared polynomial fit of uncompensated density, or a two dimensional least square curve fit of uncompensated density and mass flow rate. One skilled in the art will recognize that other data fitting methods may be used to  
10 determine the density compensation factor.

The relationship between density and flow rate can then be used to compensate the flow rate for errors caused by density. FIGS. 3 and 4 illustrate alternative processes for providing a flow rate having a density compensation in accordance with the present invention. The process illustrated in FIGS. 3 and 4 are  
15 executed by meter electronics 150 or by a secondary processing unit which receives data from meter electronics 150. Process 300 illustrated in FIG. 3 is a first alternative embodiment in accordance with the present invention. In process 300, every flow rate measurement is compensated for density in the following manner.

Process 300 begins in step 301 with signals indicating mass flow rate being  
20 received from the sensors affixed to the vibrating conduit. One skilled in the art will recognize that these signals may be the analog signals received directly from the pick-off sensors or the signals may be digital signals representing the phase difference between signals from the sensor. This is a design choice and varies depending on the type of circuitry used to perform the process.

25 In step 302, an uncompensated flow rate is calculated. The flow rate is calculated in a conventional manner well known in the art and a description of flow rate calculation is omitted for brevity and clarity.

A density compensation factor is then determined in step 303. The density compensation factor may be determined in many different manners. A first solution  
30 would be to maintain a memory that stores a flow rate and associated compensation factor or compensated flow rate. A simple look-up could then be performed to determine the compensation factor or compensated flow rate.

A prior art method for determining a compensation factor is a linear or first order curve fit of data. The uncompensated flow rate is inserted into the equation and a proper density compensation factor is determined.

However, a first order curve fit does not provide an accurate representation of 5 the data. Therefore, it is preferable to generate an N order polynomial equation that better fits gathered data to represent the compensation factor. The uncompensated flow rate is then inserted into the equation to solve for the density compensation factor. In a preferred embodiment, it is determined that a 4<sup>th</sup> order polynomial best fits the data and therefore the fourth order equation is used. However, one skilled in the 10 art will recognize that other ordered equations may be used based upon the accuracy of the results.

In the preferred embodiment, it is determined that the following 4<sup>th</sup> order equation best fits the data.

$$DCF = a_0 + a_1m + a_2m^2 + a_3m^3 + a_4m^4$$

where:

$$a_0 = +.9983;$$

$$a_1 = +.0052;$$

15  $a_2 = +.0094;$

$$a_3 = +.0051;$$

$$a_4 = -.0008; \text{ and}$$

$m$  = uncompensated flow rate

A second method for determining a compensation factor is accomplished using a two dimension curve fit to a N order polynomial. A two dimensional curve fit is a curve fit for two variables of data. In this case, the curve fit is for mass flow 20 represented by  $m$  and density represented by  $d$ . In a preferred embodiment, a least square fit of density and mass flow rate to the compensation factor. Through experimentation of fitting data to various polynomials, it has been determined that a

fourth order polynomial fit of density and mass flow rate to the compensation factor as shown in the following equation:

$$\text{compensation factor} = a_0 + (a_1 \times m) + (a_2 \times m^2) + (a_3 \times m^3) + (a_4 \times m^4) + (a_5 \times m \times d) + (a_6 \times d) + (a_7 \times d^2) + (a_8 \times d^3) + (a_9 \times d^4)$$

where:

$a_1, a_2, a_3, a_4, a_5, a_6, a_7, a_8, a_9$  = coefficients;

$m$  = mass flow rate; and

$d$  = density

5

After the density compensation factor is determined in step 303, the density compensation factor is applied to the uncompensated mass flow rate to generate a density compensated mass flow rate in step 304 and process 300 ends.

Process 400 illustrated in FIG. 4 illustrates a second alternative embodiment for 10 providing a flow rate compensated for errors caused by density. In this embodiment, a density compensation factor may not be applied to the measured flow rate if the density of the material is within a range of densities that do not add unacceptable error to the measured flow rate.

Process 400 begins in step 401 by receiving signals indicating mass flow rate 15 from sensors affixed to a vibrating conduit. The signals are then used to calculate an uncompensated flow rate in step 402. The flow rate is calculated in a conventional manner well known to those skilled in the art.

In step 403, a density of the material is calculated from the signals from a conventional or well known equation such as:

$$20 \quad p = \frac{p_1 - p_2}{K_2^2 - K_1^2} (\tau^2 - K_1^2) + p_1$$

Where

$p$  = density of material

$p_1$  = density of a first known material such as water;

$p_2$  = density of a second known material such as air;

5         $K_1$  = constant of the first known material such as water;

$K_2$  = constant of the second known material such as air; and

$\tau$  = rate of oscillation of the flow tube.

After the density is calculated, the calculated density is compared to a threshold  
10 density in step 404. The density may surpass the threshold density by being greater  
than or less than the threshold density. The comparison used is left to those skilled in  
the art.

If the calculated density surpasses the threshold density, a density  
compensation factor is determined in step 405. The density compensation factor is  
15 determined in the manner described above in step 303 of FIG.3. The density  
compensation factor is then applied to the uncompensated mass flow rate and a  
compensated mass flow rate is generated in step 406.

If the calculated density does not surpass a threshold density, the  
uncompensated flow rate may be returned in step 420. Alternatively, since it is known  
20 that a linear density compensation may be sufficient, a density compensation may be  
determined using a linear compensation in step 411. A compensated flow rate is then  
generated in step 412 by applying the linear density compensation factor to the  
uncompensated flow rate.

In step 420, the compensated flow rate calculated in step 406 or step 412 is  
25 returned and process 400 ends.

**CLAIMS:**

1. A method for determining a flow rate of a material flowing through a vibrating conduit, the method comprising the steps of:

receiving signals from sensors affixed to said vibrating conduit;

calculating an uncompensated flow rate of said material from said signals;

calculating a density of said material from said signals;

said method characterized by the steps of:

determining whether said density surpasses a threshold value;

responsive to said density surpassing said threshold value,

determining a density compensation factor from said uncompensated flow rate and non-linear information relating density to errors in flow rate, and

calculating a density compensated flow rate by applying said density compensation factor to said uncompensated flow rate; and

responsive to said density not surpassing said threshold value,

outputting a flow rate that is not density compensated by said density compensation factor.

2. The method of claim 1 wherein said threshold value comprises a density value of 1.030.

3. The method of claim 1 further comprising the steps of:

responsive to said density not surpassing said threshold value,

determining a linear density compensation factor from said uncompensated flow rate and linear information relating errors in flow rate to density; and

calculating said density compensated flow rate by applying said linear density compensation factor to said uncompensated flow rate.

4. The method of claim 1 wherein said step of determining said density compensation factor comprises the step of:

inserting said uncompensated flow rate into a N order polynomial equation relating density to flow rate error data wherein N is greater than 1.

5. The method of claim 4 further comprising the step of:  
performing an N order curve fit of said density to flow rate error data wherein N is greater than 1 to determine said N order polynomial equation.
  
6. The method of claim 5 wherein said step of performing said N order curve fit comprises the step of:  
performing a least squares curve fit.
  
7. The method of claim 4 wherein N equals 4.
  
8. The method of claim 1 wherein said step of determining said density compensation factor comprises the step of:  
inserting said uncompensated flow rate and said density into a two dimensional N order polynomial equation relating density to flow rate error data wherein N is greater than 1.
  
9. The method of claim 8 further comprising the step of:  
performing a two dimensional N order curve fit of said density and said uncompensated flow rate to determine said N order polynomial.
  
10. The method of claim 9 wherein said step of performing said two dimensional N order curve fit comprises the step of:  
performing a least square curve fit of data for said uncompensated flow rate and said density to determine said two dimensional N order polynomial.
  
11. Meter electronics for a Coriolis flowmeter having a processing unit that provides a flow rate and comprising:  
instructions for directing said processing unit to:  
receive signals from sensors affixed to a vibrating conduit,  
calculate an uncompensated flow rate of said material from said signals;  
calculate a density of said material from said signals; and

a media readable by said processing unit that stores said instructions; said meter electronics characterized by said instructions directing said processing unit to:

determine whether said density surpasses a threshold value; responsive to said density surpassing said threshold value,

determine a density compensation factor from said uncompensated flow rate and non-linear information relating density to errors in flow rate, and

calculate a density compensated flow rate by applying said density compensation factor to said uncompensated flow rate; and

responsive to said density not surpassing said threshold value,

output a flow rate that is not density compensated by said density compensation factor.

12. The meter electronics of claim 11 wherein said threshold value comprises a density value of 1.030.

13. The meter electronics of claim 11 wherein said instructions further comprise:

instructions for directing said processing unit to:

responsive to said density not surpassing said threshold value,

determine a linear density compensation factor from said uncompensated flow rate and linear information relating errors in flow rate to density, and

calculate said density compensated flow rate by applying said linear density compensation factor to said uncompensated flow rate.

14. The meter electronics of claim 11 wherein said instructions to determine said density compensation factor comprises:

instructions for directing said processing unit to:

insert said uncompensated flow rate into a N order polynomial equation relating density to flow rate error data wherein N is greater than 1.

15. The meter electronics of claim 14 wherein said instructions further comprise:

instructions for directing said processing unit to:

perform an N order curve fit of said density to flow rate error data wherein N is greater than 1 to determine said N order polynomial equation.

16. The meter electronics of claim 15 wherein said instructions to perform said N order curve fit comprises:

instructions for directing said processing unit to:

perform a least squares curve fit.

17. The meter electronics of claim 14 wherein N equals 4.

18. The meter electronics of claim 11 wherein said instructions to determine said density compensation factor comprise:

instructions for directing said processing unit to:

insert said uncompensated flow rate and said density into a two dimensional N order polynomial equation relating density to flow rate error data wherein N is greater than 1.

19. The meter electronics of claim 18 wherein said instructions further comprise:


instructions for directing said processing unit to:

perform a two dimensional N order curve fit of said density and said uncompensated flow rate to determine said N order polynomial.

20. The meter electronics of claim 19 wherein said instructions to perform said two dimensional N order curve fit comprises:

instructions for directing said processing unit to:

perform a least square curve fit of data for said uncompensated flow rate and said density to determine said two dimensional N order polynomial.



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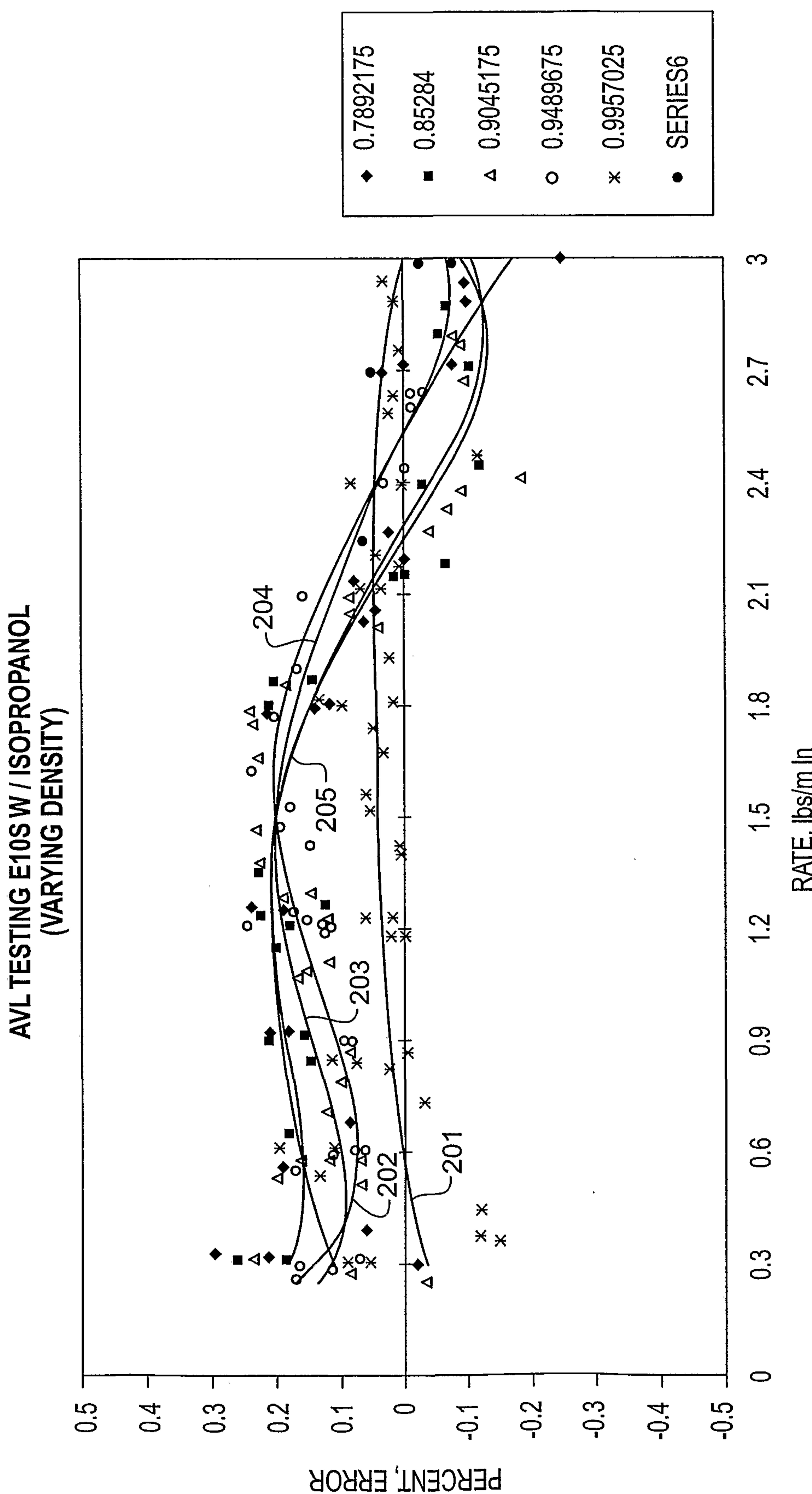
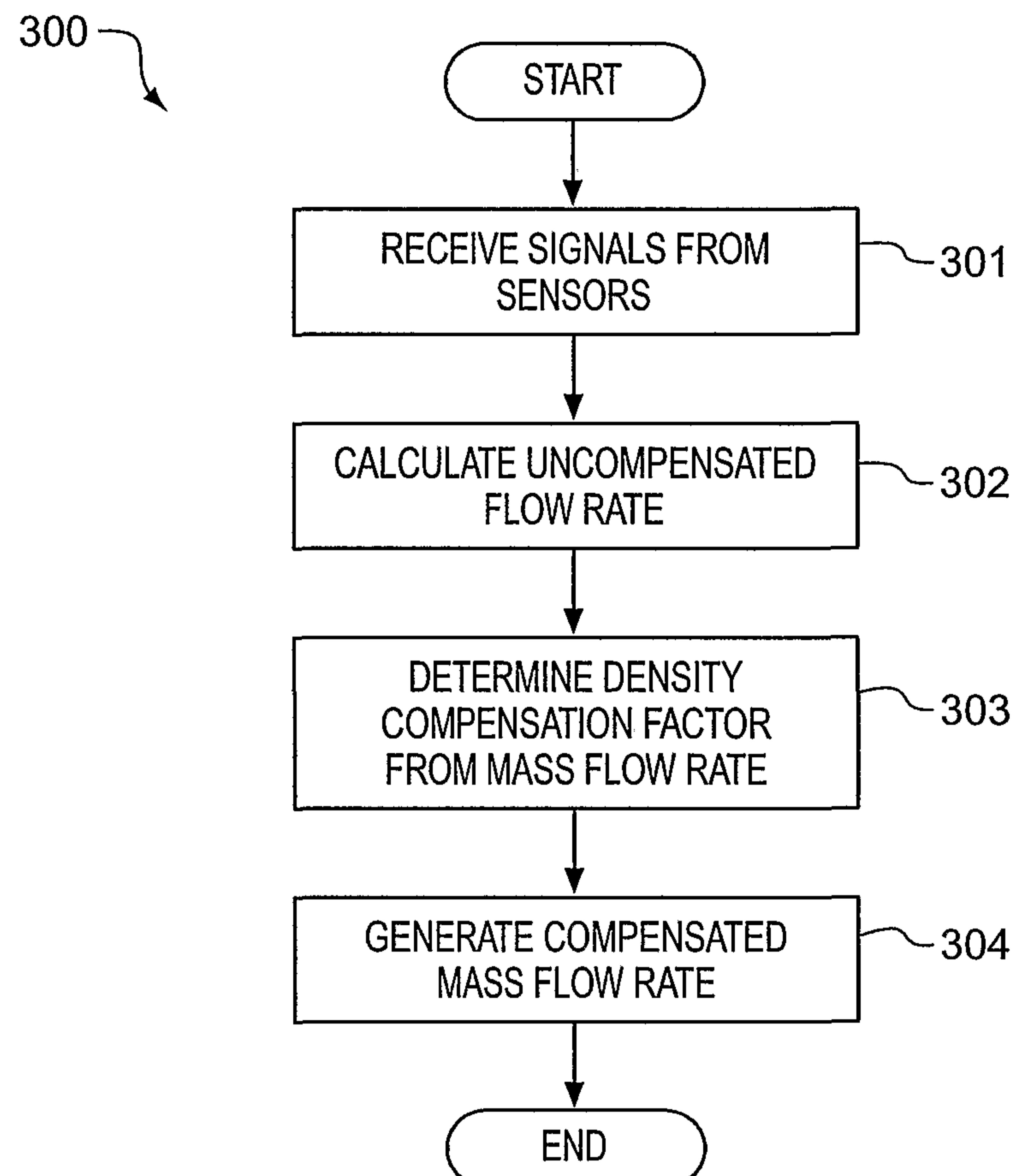


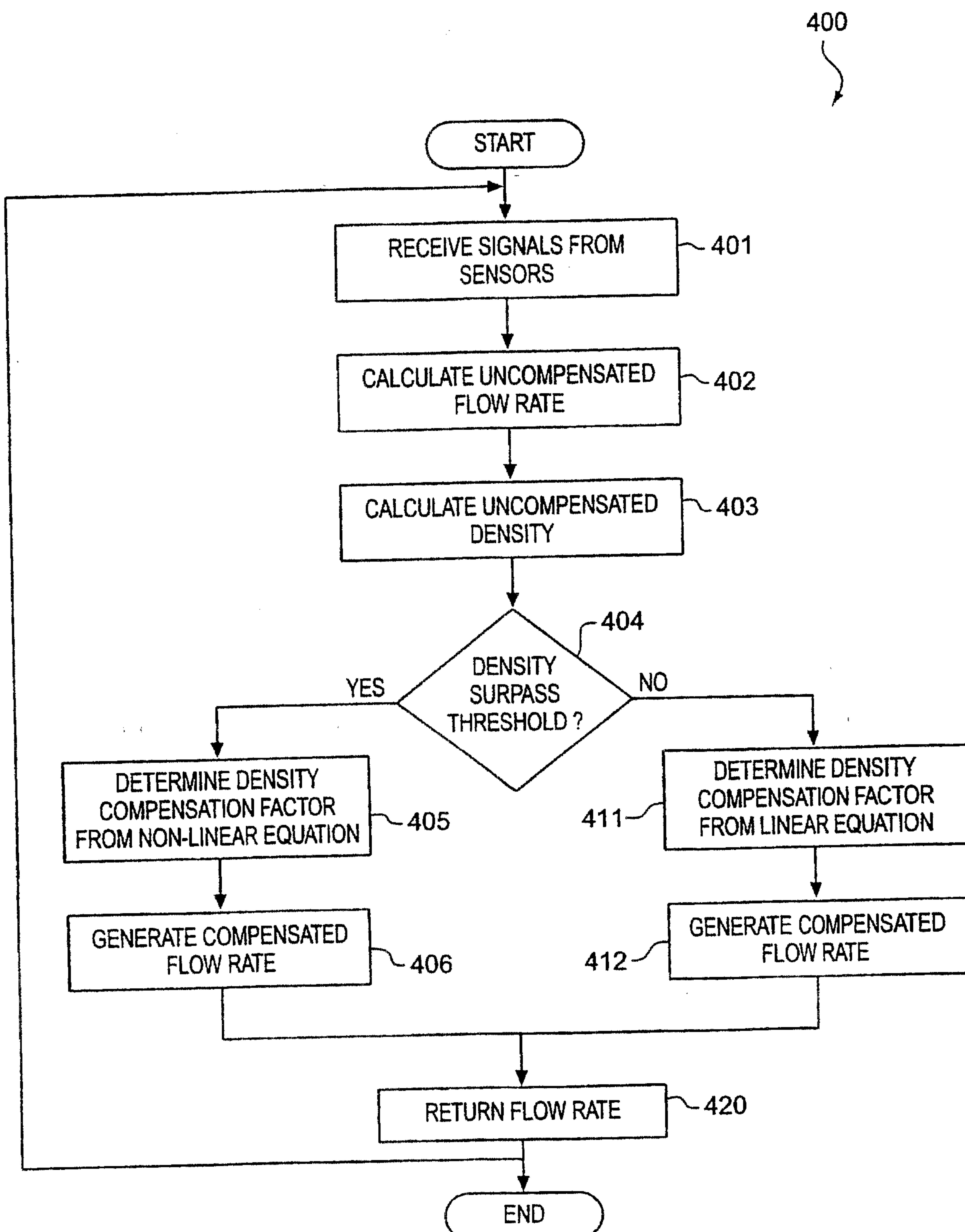
FIG. 2

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**FIG. 3**

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FIG. 4



**FIG. 5**