

Linear Prediction For Filtering Of Data During In-Situ Monitoring Of Polishing

TECHNICAL FIELD

[0001] This disclosure relates to using applying a filter to data acquired by an in-situ monitoring system to control polishing.

BACKGROUND

[0002] An integrated circuit is typically formed on a substrate by the sequential deposition of conductive, semiconductive, or insulative layers on a silicon wafer. One fabrication step involves depositing a filler layer over a non-planar surface and planarizing the filler layer. For certain applications, the filler layer is planarized until the top surface of a patterned layer is exposed. A conductive filler layer, for example, can be deposited on a patterned insulative layer to fill the trenches or holes in the insulative layer. After planarization, the portions of the metallic layer remaining between the raised pattern of the insulative layer form vias, plugs, and lines that provide conductive paths between thin film circuits on the substrate. For other applications, such as oxide polishing, the filler layer is planarized until a predetermined thickness is left over the non planar surface. In addition, planarization of the substrate surface is usually required for photolithography.

[0003] Chemical mechanical polishing (CMP) is one accepted method of planarization. This planarization method typically requires that the substrate be mounted on a carrier or polishing head. The exposed surface of the substrate is typically placed against a rotating polishing pad. The carrier head provides a controllable load on the substrate to push it against the polishing pad. An abrasive polishing slurry is typically supplied to the surface of the polishing pad.

[0004] One problem in CMP is determining whether the polishing process is complete, i.e., whether a substrate layer has been planarized to a desired flatness or thickness, or when a desired amount of material has been removed. Variations in the slurry distribution, the polishing pad condition, the relative speed between the polishing pad and the substrate, and the load on the substrate can cause variations in the material removal rate. These variations, as well as variations in the initial thickness of the substrate layer, cause variations in the time needed to reach the

polishing endpoint. Therefore, the polishing endpoint usually cannot be determined merely as a function of polishing time.

[0005] In some systems, the substrate is monitored in-situ during polishing, e.g., by monitoring the torque required by a motor to rotate the platen or carrier head. However, existing monitoring techniques may not satisfy increasing demands of semiconductor device manufacturers.

SUMMARY

[0006] A sensor of an in-situ monitoring system typically generates a time-varying signal. The signal can be analyzed to detect the polishing endpoint. A smoothing filter is often used to remove noise from the “raw” signal, and the filtered signal is analyzed. Since the signal is being analyzed in real time, causal filters have been used. However, some causal filters impart a delay, i.e., the filtered signal lags behind the “raw” signal from the sensor. For some polishing processes and some endpoint detection techniques, e.g., monitoring of motor torque, the filter can introduce an unacceptable delay. For example, by the time that the endpoint criterion has been detected in the filtered signal the wafer is already significantly over-polished. However, a technique to counteract this problem is to use a filter that includes linear prediction based on the data from the signal.

[0007] In one aspect, a method of controlling polishing includes polishing a substrate, during polishing monitoring the substrate with an in-situ monitoring system, the monitoring including generating a signal from a sensor, and filtering the signal to generate a filtered signal. The signal includes a sequence of measured values, and the filtered signal including a sequence of adjusted values. The filtering includes for each adjusted value in the sequence of adjusted values, generating at least one predicted value from the sequence of measured values using linear prediction, and calculating the adjusted value from the sequence of measured values and the predicted value. At least one of a polishing endpoint or an adjustment for a polishing rate is determined from the filtered signal.

[0008] Implementations can include one or more of the following features. The in-situ monitoring system may be a motor current monitoring system or motor torque monitoring system, e.g., a carrier head motor current monitoring system, a carrier head motor torque monitoring system, a platen motor current monitoring system or a platen motor torque monitoring system. Generating at least one predicted value may

include generating a plurality of predicted values. Calculating the adjusted value may include applying a frequency domain filter. The plurality of predicted values may include at least twenty values. Calculating the adjusted value may include applying a modified Kalman filter in which linear prediction is used to calculate the at least one predicted signal value.

[0009] In another aspect, a non-transitory computer-readable medium has stored thereon instructions, which, when executed by a processor, causes the processor to perform operations of the above method.

[0010] Implementations can include one or more of the following potential advantages. Filter delay can be reduced. Polishing can be halted more reliably at a target thickness.

[0011] The details of one or more embodiments are set forth in the accompanying drawings and the description below. Other aspects, features and advantages will be apparent from the description and drawings, and from the claims.

DESCRIPTION OF DRAWINGS

[0012] FIG. 1 illustrates a schematic cross-sectional view of an example of a polishing apparatus.

[0013] FIG. 2 is a graph comparing filtered platen torque signals generated by a customized filter and a standard low pass filter.

[0014] FIG. 3 is a graph comparing filtered platen torque signals generated by a customized filter and a standard low pass filter.

[0015] Like reference symbols in the various drawings indicate like elements.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION

[0016] In some semiconductor chip fabrication processes an overlying layer, e.g., silicon oxide or polysilicon, is polished until an underlying layer, e.g., a dielectric, such as silicon oxide, silicon nitride or a high-K dielectric, is exposed. For some applications, it may be possible to optically detect the exposure of the underlying layer. For some applications, the underlying layer has a different coefficient of friction against the polishing layer than the overlying layer. As a result, when the underlying layer is exposed, the torque required by a motor to cause the platen or carrier head to rotate at a specified rotation rate changes. The polishing endpoint can be determined by detecting this change in motor torque.

[0017] FIG. 1 illustrates an example of a polishing apparatus 100. The polishing apparatus 100 includes a rotatable disk-shaped platen 120 on which a polishing pad 110 is situated. The polishing pad 110 can be a two-layer polishing pad with an outer polishing layer 112 and a softer backing layer 114. The platen is operable to rotate about an axis 125. For example, a motor 121, e.g., a DC induction motor, can turn a drive shaft 124 to rotate the platen 120.

[0018] The polishing apparatus 100 can include a port 130 to dispense polishing liquid 132, such as abrasive slurry, onto the polishing pad 110 to the pad. The polishing apparatus can also include a polishing pad conditioner to abrade the polishing pad 110 to maintain the polishing pad 110 in a consistent abrasive state.

[0019] The polishing apparatus 100 includes at least one carrier head 140. The carrier head 140 is operable to hold a substrate 10 against the polishing pad 110. Each carrier head 140 can have independent control of the polishing parameters, for example pressure, associated with each respective substrate.

[0020] The carrier head 140 can include a retaining ring 142 to retain the substrate 10 below a flexible membrane 144. The carrier head 140 also includes one or more independently controllable pressurizable chambers defined by the membrane, e.g., three chambers 146a-146c, which can apply independently controllable pressurizes to associated zones on the flexible membrane 144 and thus on the substrate 10 (see FIG. 3). Although only three chambers are illustrated in FIGS. 2 and 3 for ease of illustration, there could be one or two chambers, or four or more chambers, e.g., five chambers.

[0021] The carrier head 140 is suspended from a support structure 150, e.g., a carousel, and is connected by a drive shaft 152 to a carrier head rotation motor 154, e.g., a DC induction motor, so that the carrier head can rotate about an axis 155. Optionally each carrier head 140 can oscillate laterally, e.g., on sliders on the carousel 150, or by rotational oscillation of the carousel itself. In typical operation, the platen is rotated about its central axis 125, and each carrier head is rotated about its central axis 155 and translated laterally across the top surface of the polishing pad.

[0022] While only one carrier head 140 is shown, more carrier heads can be provided to hold additional substrates so that the surface area of polishing pad 110 may be used efficiently. Thus, the number of carrier head assemblies adapted to hold substrates for a simultaneous polishing process can be based, at least in part, on the surface area of the polishing pad 110.

[0023] A controller 190, such as a programmable computer, is connected to the motors 121, 154 to control the rotation rate of the platen 120 and carrier head 140. For example, each motor can include an encoder that measures the rotation rate of the associated drive shaft. A feedback control circuit, which could be in the motor itself, part of the controller, or a separate circuit, receives the measured rotation rate from the encoder and adjusts the current supplied to the motor to ensure that the rotation rate of the drive shaft matches at a rotation rate received from the controller.

[0024] The polishing apparatus also includes an in-situ monitoring system 160, e.g., a motor current or motor torque monitoring system, which can be used to determine a polishing endpoint. The in-situ monitoring system 160 includes a sensor to measure a motor torque and/or a current supplied to a motor.

[0025] For example, a torque meter 160 can be placed on the drive shaft 124 and/or a torque meter 162 can be placed on the drive shaft 152. The output signal of the torque meter 160 and/or 162 is directed to the controller 190.

[0026] Alternatively or in addition, a current sensor 170 can monitor the current supplied to the motor 121 and/or a current sensor 172 can monitor the current supplied to the motor 154. The output signal of the current sensor 170 and/or 172 is directed to the controller 190. Although the current sensor is illustrated as part of the motor, the current sensor could be part of the controller (if the controller itself outputs the drive current for the motors) or a separate circuit.

[0027] The output of the sensor can be a digital electronic signal (if the output of the sensor is an analog signal then it can be converted to a digital signal by an ADC in the sensor or the controller). The digital signal is composed of a sequence of signal values, with the time period between signal values depending on the sampling frequency of the sensor. This sequence of signal values can be referred to as a signal-versus-time curve. The sequence of signal values can be expressed as a set of values x_n .

[0028] As noted above, the “raw” digital signal from the sensor can be smoothed using a filter that incorporates linear prediction. Linear prediction is a statistical technique that uses current and past data to predict future data. Linear prediction can be implemented with a set of formulas that keep track of the autocorrelation of current and past data, and linear prediction is capable of predicting data much further into the future than is possible with simple polynomial extrapolation.

[0029] Although linear prediction can be applied to filtering of signals in other in-situ monitoring systems, linear prediction is particularly applicable to filtering of signals in a motor torque or motor current monitoring system. The motor torque and motor current signal-versus-time curves can be corrupted not only by random noise, but also by a large systematic, sinusoidal disturbance due to sweeping of the carrier head 140 across the polishing pad. For motor current signals, linear prediction can predict three or four sweep periods into the future with good accuracy.

[0030] In a first implementation, linear prediction is applied to the current data set (the causal data of the current and past signal values) to generate an extended data set (i.e., the current data set plus the predicted values) and then applies a frequency-domain filter to the resulting extended data set. Linear prediction can be used to predict 40-60 values (which can correspond to 4 or 5 carrier head sweeps). Because frequency domain filters exhibit little or no filter delay, filter delay can be significantly reduced. A frequency domain filter can exhibit edge distortion at both the beginning and end of the data set. By using linear prediction first, the edge distortion is effectively moved away from the actual current data (which is no longer situated at the end of the data set).

[0031] The linear prediction can be expressed as follows:

$$\hat{x}_n = \sum_{i=1}^p a_i x_{n-i}$$

where \hat{x}_n is a predicted signal value, p is the number of data points used in the calculation (which can be equal to $n-1$), x_{n-i} are previous observed signal values, and a_i is the predictor coefficient. To generate additional predicted values, e.g., \hat{x}_{n+1} , the calculation can be iterated by incrementing n and using the previously predicted values in x_{n-i} .

[0032] In order to generate the predictor coefficients a_i , a root mean square criterion, which is also called the autocorrelation criterion, is used. The autocorrelation of the signal of the signal x_n can be expressed as follows:

$$R_i = E\{x_n x_{n-i}\}$$

where R is the autocorrelation of the signal x_n and where E is the expected value function, e.g., the average value. The autocorrelation criterion can be expressed as follows:

$$\sum_i^P a_i R_{i-j} = -R_j$$

for $1 \leq j \leq p$.

[0033] In a second implementation, linear prediction is used in conjunction with a Kalman filter. Conventional Kalman filters are described in “An Introduction to the Kalman Filter” by Welch and Bishop. A standard Kalman filter (specifically, a “discrete Kalman filter (DKF)”) has smoothing capabilities because the noise characteristics of the system being filtered are included in the formulas. A standard Kalman filter also employs a predictive step that estimates a future data value based on current and past data. The predictive step usually only extends into the future by one data step (i.e. near-term prediction). However, this sort of near-term prediction may not sufficiently reduce filter delay for CMP motor torque data to be commercially viable. By using linear prediction instead of the standard Kalman prediction step, the “modified Kalman” filter minimizes filter delay significantly.

[0034] The implementation of the Kalman technique described below includes a modified technique for determining the a priori estimate of the state variable, and a different order of computations downstream of the a priori estimate. It should be understood that other implementations that use linear prediction are possible.

[0035] For a motor current or motor torque monitoring technique, the substrate friction is the variable of interest. However, the measured quantity is the total friction, which as noted above includes a systematic, sinusoidal disturbance due to sweeping of the carrier head 140 across the polishing pad. For the equations below, the state variable, x , is the substrate friction, whereas the measured quantity, z , is the total friction, i.e., the motor current measurements.

[0036] For a particular time step k , an a priori estimate of the state variable, \hat{x}_k^- , is calculated. The a priori estimate \hat{x}_k^- can be calculated as the mean of a plurality of values of the measured quantity, z , measured prior to step k , and a plurality of linearly interpolated values of z . Where a cyclic disturbance is present, the a priori estimate \hat{x}_k^- can be calculated from values over one cycle, with half of the cycle (the “left” or past half) comprised of measured data, and half of the cycle (the “right” or future half) generated using linear prediction. The a priori estimate \hat{x}_k^- can be calculated as the mean of a measured quantity, i.e., $\hat{x}_k^- = \bar{z}$, with the mean conducted over one cycle, centered at time step k . Thus, the a priori estimate \hat{x}_k^- can be calculated as the mean

the of values that include both measured data and linearly predicted data. In the case of motor torque measurements, this is the cycle is the head sweep cycle.

[0037] For example, \hat{x}_k^- can be calculated as follows

$$\hat{x}_k^- = \frac{1}{1 + 2L} \sum_{i=k-L}^{k+L} z_i \quad (\text{eq. TT. 1}),$$

where $2L+1$ is a number of data points used in the calculation, z_i are previous observed measurements of z for $L \geq 0$, and z_{k-L} are predicted values for z for $L < 0$.

The predicted values for z can be generated using liner prediction.

[0038] For the case involving CMP motor current or motor torque measurements, the dominant contribution to the friction is the sweep friction, which exhibits a nearly sinusoidal signal as a function of time. To remove the sweep friction, this approach sums the measured signal over one sweep cycle and divides by the number of data points in the sweep cycle, thus giving the mean signal over one sweep cycle. This mean signal approximates the substrate friction well. This formula filters out the sinusoidal behavior of the sweep friction.

[0039] In a standard Kalman filter, the quantity A is computed before the a priori estimate is made because it is used to compute the a priori estimate. In this modified Kalman method, A is not used in the a priori estimate (eq. TT.1 above), but it is needed for the next time update equation involving P_k^- , the a priori estimate error covariance. In one implementation, the formula for A is as follows:

$$A = \hat{x}_k^- / \hat{x}_{k-1} \quad (\text{TT.2})$$

where \hat{x}_{k-1} is the a posteriori state estimate from the previous step.

[0040] Next, the a priori estimate error covariance, P_k^- , is calculated. P_k^- can be computed using the standard Kalman formula:

$$P_k^- = A^2 P_{k-1} + Q \quad (\text{TT.3})$$

In this implementation, A is a scalar. However, in the more general case, A can be a matrix, and the equation would be modified accordingly.

[0041] Next, the residual, R_s , and the quantity H can be calculated. The residual, R_s , is computed independently of H , and then H is estimated. The residual is computed as follows:

$$R_s = \text{measured value} - \text{fut}[1] \quad (\text{MM.1})$$

where $\text{fut}[1]$ is the predicted value for the measurement, with the predicted value calculated using the linear prediction formula on all previous measured data. The suffix [1] refers to the fact that the prediction takes place one step into the future.

[0042] In some implementations, R_s can be calculated as

$$R_s = z_k - \sum_{i=1}^p a_i z_{k-i}$$

with values for a_i calculated as described above for linear prediction.

[0043] H can be calculated using the following formula:

$$H = \frac{\text{fut}[1]}{\hat{x}_k^-} \quad (\text{MM.2})$$

[0044] Once H , R and P_k^- , have been calculated, the measurement update equations can be performed.

$$K_k = \frac{HP_k^-}{(H^2 P_k^- + R)} \quad (\text{MM.3})$$

$$\hat{x}_k = \hat{x}_k^- + K_k(z_k - H\hat{x}_k^-) \quad (\text{MM.4})$$

$$P_k = (1 - K_k H)P_k^- \quad (\text{MM.5})$$

[0045] Both implementations described above reduce filter delay, with the tradeoff being that the data might not be as smooth as with traditional smoothing filters.

[0046] FIG. 2 illustrates a graph of the “raw” platen torque signal 200, a filtered signal 210 generated by applying the first implementation of the modified filter to the raw platen torque signal, and a filtered signal 220 generated by applying a standard low pass filter to the raw platen torque signal. The modified filter provides significant reduction of delay.

[0047] FIG. 3 illustrates a graph of the “raw” head torque signal 300, a filtered signal 310 generated by applying the first implementation of the modified filter to the raw head torque signal, and a filtered signal 320 generated by applying a standard low pass filter to the raw head torque. The modified filter still provides a reduction of delay, although there is only a small reduction in delay because the change in wafer friction is small.

[0048] Implementations and all of the functional operations described in this specification can be implemented in digital electronic circuitry, or in computer software, firmware, or hardware, including the structural means disclosed in this specification and structural equivalents thereof, or in combinations of them. Implementations described herein can be implemented as one or more non-transitory

computer program products, i.e., one or more computer programs tangibly embodied in a machine readable storage device, for execution by, or to control the operation of, data processing apparatus, e.g., a programmable processor, a computer, or multiple processors or computers.

[0049] A computer program (also known as a program, software, software application, or code) can be written in any form of programming language, including compiled or interpreted languages, and it can be deployed in any form, including as a stand alone program or as a module, component, subroutine, or other unit suitable for use in a computing environment. A computer program does not necessarily correspond to a file. A program can be stored in a portion of a file that holds other programs or data, in a single file dedicated to the program in question, or in multiple coordinated files (e.g., files that store one or more modules, sub programs, or portions of code). A computer program can be deployed to be executed on one computer or on multiple computers at one site or distributed across multiple sites and interconnected by a communication network.

[0050] The processes and logic flows described in this specification can be performed by one or more programmable processors executing one or more computer programs to perform functions by operating on input data and generating output. The processes and logic flows can also be performed by, and apparatus can also be implemented as, special purpose logic circuitry, e.g., an FPGA (field programmable gate array) or an ASIC (application specific integrated circuit).

[0051] The term "data processing apparatus" encompasses all apparatus, devices, and machines for processing data, including by way of example a programmable processor, a computer, or multiple processors or computers. The apparatus can include, in addition to hardware, code that creates an execution environment for the computer program in question, e.g., code that constitutes processor firmware, a protocol stack, a database management system, an operating system, or a combination of one or more of them. Processors suitable for the execution of a computer program include, by way of example, both general and special purpose microprocessors, and any one or more processors of any kind of digital computer.

[0052] Computer readable media suitable for storing computer program instructions and data include all forms of non volatile memory, media and memory devices, including by way of example semiconductor memory devices, e.g., EPROM, EEPROM, and flash memory devices; magnetic disks, e.g., internal hard disks or

removable disks; magneto optical disks; and CD ROM and DVD-ROM disks. The processor and the memory can be supplemented by, or incorporated in, special purpose logic circuitry.

[0053] The above described polishing apparatus and methods can be applied in a variety of polishing systems. Either the polishing pad, or the carrier head, or both can move to provide relative motion between the polishing surface and the wafer. For example, the platen may orbit rather than rotate. The polishing pad can be a circular (or some other shape) pad secured to the platen. Some aspects of the endpoint detection system may be applicable to linear polishing systems (e.g., where the polishing pad is a continuous or a reel-to-reel belt that moves linearly). The polishing layer can be a standard (for example, polyurethane with or without fillers) polishing material, a soft material, or a fixed-abrasive material. Terms of relative positioning are used; it should be understood that the polishing surface and wafer can be held in a vertical orientation or some other orientations.

[0054] While this specification contains many specifics, these should not be construed as limitations on the scope of what may be claimed, but rather as descriptions of features that may be specific to particular embodiments of particular inventions. In some implementations, the method could be applied to other combinations of overlying and underlying materials, and to signals from other sorts of in-situ monitoring systems, e.g., optical monitoring or eddy current monitoring systems.

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A method of controlling polishing, comprising:
polishing a substrate;
during polishing monitoring the substrate with an in-situ monitoring system, the monitoring including generating a signal from a sensor, the signal including a sequence of measured values;
filtering the signal to generate a filtered signal, the filtered signal including a sequence of adjusted values, the filtering including for each adjusted value in the sequence of adjusted values
generating at least one predicted value from the sequence of measured values using linear prediction, and
calculating the adjusted value from the sequence of measured values and the predicted value; and
determining at least one of a polishing endpoint or an adjustment for a polishing rate from the filtered signal.
2. The method of claim 1, wherein the in-situ monitoring system comprises a motor current monitoring system or motor torque monitoring system.
3. The method of claim 2, wherein the in-situ monitoring system comprises a carrier head motor current monitoring system or a carrier head motor torque monitoring system.
4. The method of claim 2, wherein the motor torque monitoring system comprises a platen motor current monitoring system or a platen motor torque monitoring system.
5. The method of claim 1, wherein generating at least one predicted value comprises generating a plurality of predicted values.
6. The method of claim 5, wherein calculating the adjusted value includes applying a frequency domain filter.

7. The method of claim 6, wherein the plurality of predicted values comprise at least twenty values.

8. The method of claim 7, wherein the linear prediction comprises calculating a first predicted signal value

$$\hat{x}_n = \sum_{i=1}^p a_i x_{n-i}$$

where \hat{x}_n is the first predicted signal value, p is a number of signal values used in the calculation (which can be equal to $n-1$), x_{n-i} are previous observed signal values, and a_i is a predictor coefficient, and calculating a second predicted signal value

$$\hat{x}_{n+L} = \sum_{i=1}^p a_i x_{n+L-i}$$

where \hat{x}_{n+L} is the second predicted signal value, L is greater than 0, p is a number of signal values used in the calculation (which can be equal to $n+L-1$), x_{n+L-i} are previous observed signal values for $L-i \geq 0$, and x_{n+L-i} are predicted signal values for $L-i < 0$, and a_i is a predictor coefficient.

9. The method of claim 8, wherein

$$\sum_i^P a_i R_{i-j} = -R_j$$

and

$$R_i = E\{x_n x_{n-i}\}$$

where R is the autocorrelation of the signal x_n and where E is an expected value function.

10. The method of claim 1, wherein calculating the adjusted value includes applying a modified Kalman filter in which linear prediction is used to calculate the at least one predicted signal value.

11. The method of claim 10, wherein the modified Kalman filter uses the following time update equation:

$$\hat{x}_k^- = \frac{1}{1+2L} \sum_{i=k-L}^{k+L} z_i$$

where $2L+1$ is a number of data points used in the calculation, z_i are previous measured signal values for $L \geq 0$, and z_{k-L} are the predicted signal values for z for $L < 0$.

12. The method of claim 11, wherein the modified Kalman filter comprises calculating the a priori estimate error covariance, P_k^- , as

$$P_k^- = A^2 P_{k-1} + Q$$

where

$$A = \hat{x}_k^- / \hat{x}_{k-1}$$

where \hat{x}_{k-1} is the a posteriori state estimate from the previous step predicted signal.

13. The method of claim 12, comprising calculating a residual R_s as

$$R_s = \text{measured value} - \text{fut}[1]$$

where $\text{fut}[1]$ is a predicted value for the measurement, with the predicted value calculated using the linear prediction formula on all previous signal data.

14. The method of claim 13, comprising calculating a value H as

$$H = \frac{\text{fut}[1]}{\hat{x}_k^-}$$

15. The method of claim 11, wherein the modified Kalman filter comprises calculating t

$$K_k = \frac{H P_k^-}{(H^2 P_k^- + R)}$$

$$\hat{x}_k = \hat{x}_k^- + K_k (z_k - H \hat{x}_k^-)$$

$$P_k = (1 - K_k H) P_k^-$$

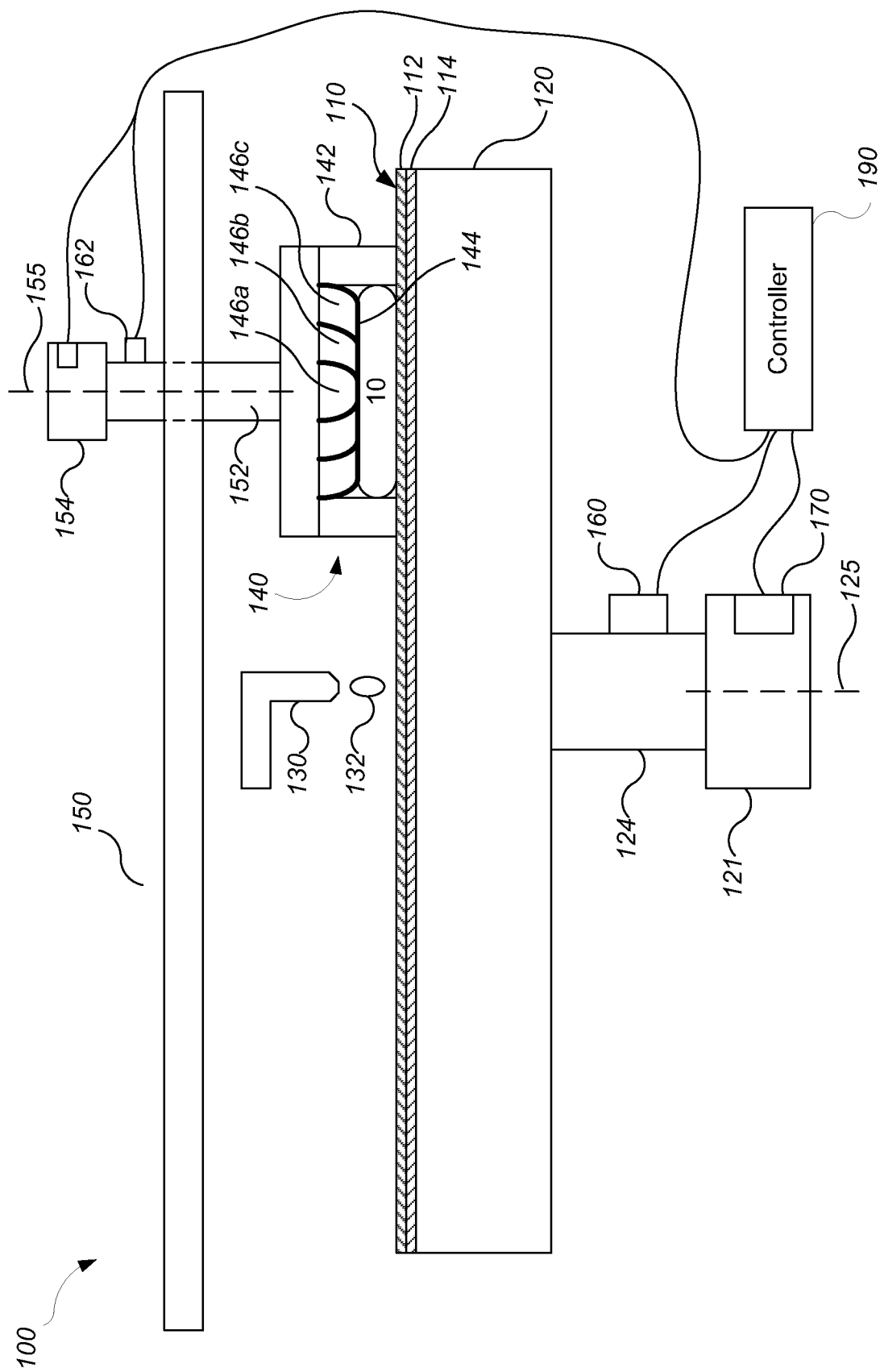


FIG. 1

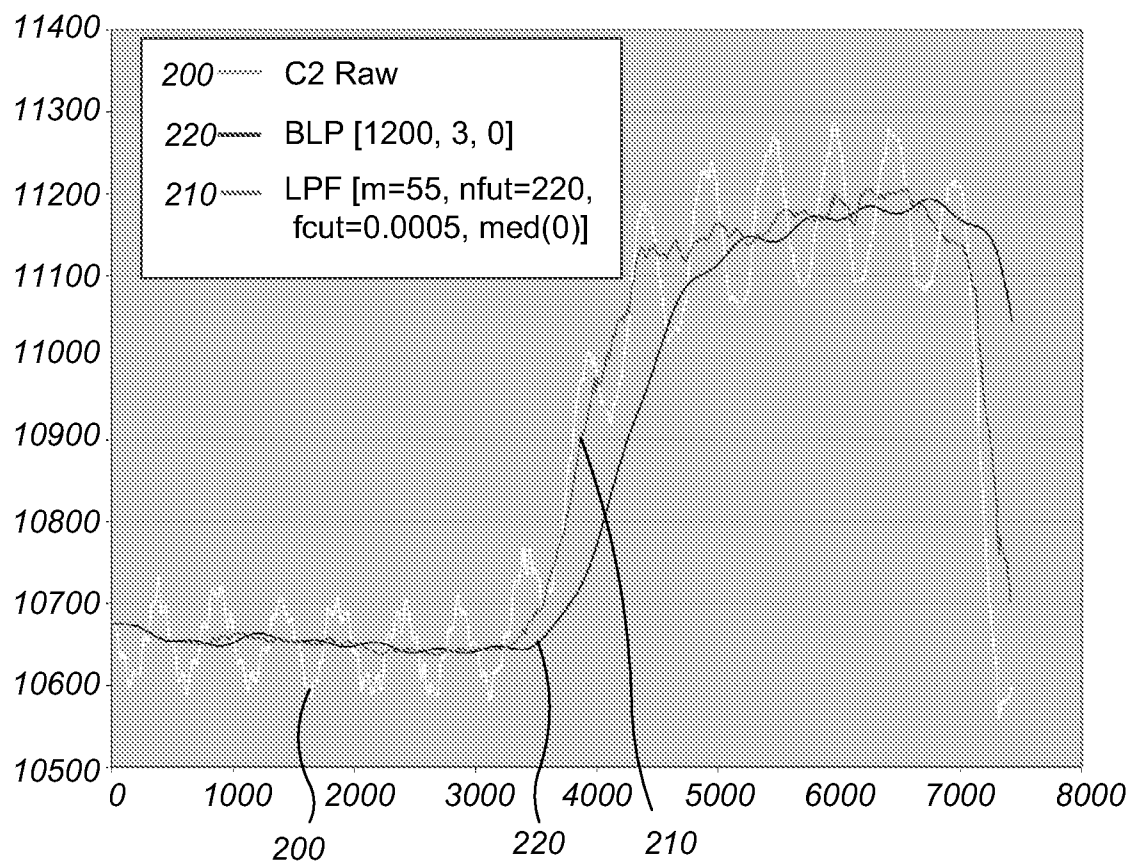


FIG. 2

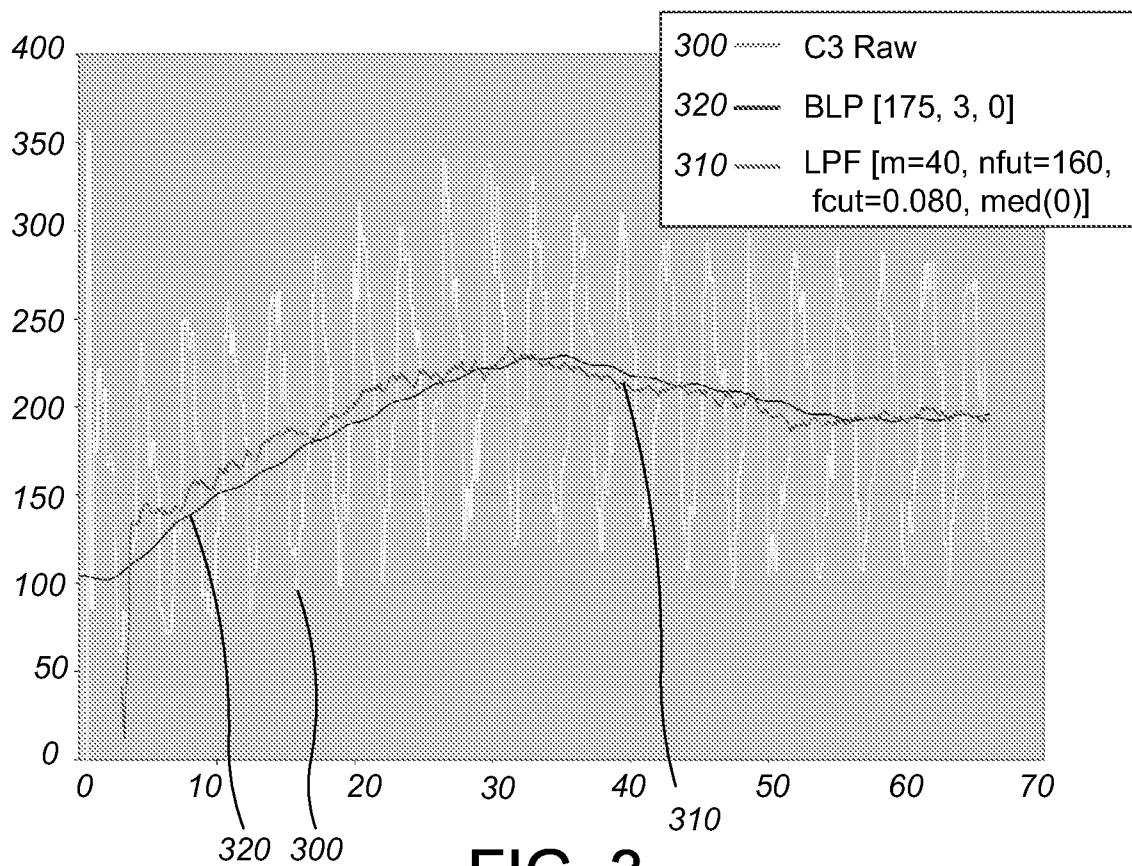


FIG. 3

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No.
PCT/US2013/035514**A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER****H01L 21/304(2006.01)i, H01L 21/66(2006.01)i**

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)

H01L 21/304; G05B 13/02; H01L 31/112; G01N 21/84; B24B 51/00; B24B 37/013; B24B 49/10; B24B 49/00; H01L 21/66

Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched

Korean utility models and applications for utility models

Japanese utility models and applications for utility models

Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practicable, search terms used)

eKOMPASS(KIPO internal) & Keywords: CMP, endpoint, monitoring, linear prediction, Kalman filter

C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category*	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
Y	US 6293845 B1 (ROBERT B. CLARK-PHELPS) 25 September 2001 See column 3, line 59-column 5, line 34, claims 1-2 and figures 1-6.	1-15
Y	US 6747283 B1 (SUNDAR AMARTUR) 08 June 2004 See column 8, lines 31-48, claims 1, 9 and figure 4.	1-15
Y	US 2006-0246820 A1 (JIM HOFMANN) 02 November 2006 See paragraph [0036], claim 3 and figure 2.	10-15
A	US 2004-0117054 A1 (YEHIEL GOTKIS et al.) 17 June 2004 See paragraph [0048], claim 1 and figure 9.	1-15
A	KR 10-2008-0102936 A (TOKYO SEIMITSU CO., LTD.) 26 November 2008 See pages 21-23, claim 1 and figures 3-4.	1-15



Further documents are listed in the continuation of Box C.



See patent family annex.

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"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

"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

"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

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Date of the actual completion of the international search

11 July 2013 (11.07.2013)

Date of mailing of the international search report

12 July 2013 (12.07.2013)

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INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

Information on patent family members

International application No.

PCT/US2013/035514

Patent document cited in search report	Publication date	Patent family member(s)	Publication date
US 6293845 B1	25/09/2001	None	
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