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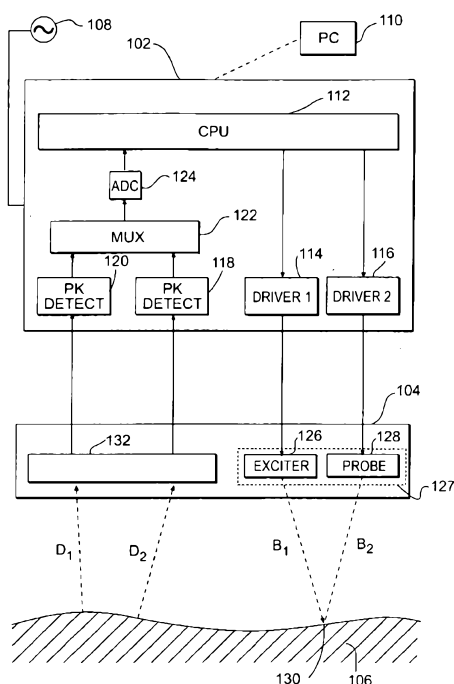


FIG. 1

(57) Abstract: A method and apparatus for non-invasively determin-
ing a concentration of glucose in a subject using optical excitation
and detection is provided. The method includes emitting an exciter
beam (B1) to irradiate a portion (130) of tissue of the subject, causing
physical and chemical changes in the surface, and causing an initial
back scattering (D1) of light. The method further includes periodically
emitting a probe beam (B2) which irradiates the portion of tissue and
causes periodic back scatterings (D2) of light. The initial and period-
ic back scatterings are detected and converted into electrical signals
of at least the amplitude, frequency or decay time of the physical and
chemical changes, the back scatterings being modulated by the physi-
cal and chemical changes. By differentiating over time at least one of
the amplitude, frequency or decay time of the physical and chemical
changes, the concentration of glucose may be determined.



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OPTICAL SENSOR FOR DETERMINING THE CONCENTRATION OF AN ANALYTE**BRIEF DESCRIPTION****Related Application**

[001] This application claims priority to United States Provisional Patent Application No. 61/001,960, filed November 5, 2007, the contents of which is incorporated herein in its entirety.

Technical Field

[002] The present invention relates to optical material analysis, and determining the concentration of an analyte using optical material analysis.

Background

[003] Diabetes mellitus is a serious disease that affects not only a patient's internal organs, circulation system and eyesight, but also a patient's lifestyle. There are reportedly more than 200 million diabetic people in the world at the moment, and this figure is expected to double within the next ten years. The first step in diabetes care is to monitor the patient's blood glucose level 24 hours a day, as knowing the glucose level assists in determining the right diet and medical treatment.

[004] Current methods of measuring blood glucose concentrations typically require the diabetic patient to puncture a finger to collect a drop of blood, whose chemical composition is then analyzed by a glucose meter. As the procedure is not totally painless and harms the skin, diabetic patients are often unwilling to check their glucose

level as frequently as their doctors prescribe, and are thus unable to sufficiently monitor their glucose level.

[005] At present, the majority of portable devices for measuring glucose levels require puncturing the fingertip to obtain a blood sample. The blood sample is then placed on a test strip that indicates the glucose concentration. An example is the OneTouch[®] Ultra[®] glucose meter sold by LifeScan Inc., a Johnson & Johnson company. These devices are very compact and reasonably accurate, but puncturing the fingertip to obtain a blood sample is inconvenient and can be painful. Moreover, improper puncturing and hygiene may pose a risk of fingertip infection.

[006] As an alternative to the traditional fingertip-puncturing methods, Cygnus Inc. has developed the GlucoWatch[®] Biographer monitor. The device, which looks like a wristwatch, pulls interstitial body fluid from the skin using small electric currents to extract glucose into a consumable transdermal pad, which acts as an iontophoretic sensor. The collected glucose triggers an electro-chemical reaction in the sensor, generating electrons. The sensor measures the electrons and equates the level of electron emission to a concentration of glucose in the body fluid. This device checks body fluid glucose levels every 20 minutes for up to 12 hours. Following the twelve hour period of operation, the monitor must be calibrated with a finger-prick reading for comparing with blood glucose levels. The device has a relative measuring error that has been determined to be approximately 10-30% in part because the glucose levels of interstitial fluid lags behind blood. However, in order to be able to even purchase one of these devices, a potential buyer must undergo and pass a physical and biochemical

examination. Moreover, the device also has been known to severely inflame the skin in some patients with sensitive skin where the electrical currents are introduced.

[007] Because of the lack of success of alternative devices such as GlucoWatch[®], other non-invasive measurements have begun to be developed. Many of these alternative non-invasive methods involve using optical methods. Some of these optical methods have shown promise in providing a non-invasive measurement alternative. For example, some optical methods have used non-ionizing radiation to obtain a reading, providing fast responses without the need for consumable reagents. Moreover, as the availability of more sophisticated lasers and optical detectors increase, and the costs associated with using these optical devices decrease, optical methods may become an even more appealing alternative form of non-invasive measurement.

[008] Typical non-invasive optical methods utilize a beam of light to irradiate some selected part of the human body, such as a finger, the forearm, tongue, lip, thigh or abdomen, etc. Light that is transmitted through, reflected, or scattered out of the skin comprises information about the composition of the irradiated tissue. This light is then received by optical detectors and analyzed to determine the concentrations of certain analytes, such as oxygen or hemoglobin. The analysis, however, is inherently complex because the received signal is often very faint and easily interfered with not only by a number of analytes in blood, but also by other factors including the variability and inhomogeneity of the human skin and the constantly changing human physiology, and even the external environment around the skin. Conventional optical methods of material analysis such as absorption and luminescent spectroscopy, Raman spectroscopy, and measuring polarization and reflectance changes are not sufficiently

suitable for a turbid medium such as human tissue due to significant diffuse scattering of the reference light beam.

[009] Other non-invasive methods take advantage of the correlation that exists between glucose content in the interstitial fluid and capillary blood, but suffer from the primary disadvantage of being time consuming. Furthermore, they only provide an indirect measure of glucose concentration, which is, unfortunately, also time-delayed.

[010] The technique of laser photoacoustic spectroscopy has been used in trace detection due to the high sensitivity it offers. In the method of laser photoacoustic spectroscopy, a high-energy laser beam is used to irradiate the matter under study. The beam produces a thermal expansion in the matter, thereby generating an acoustic wave. The characteristics of the wave are determined not only by the optical absorption coefficient of the matter, but also by such thermal physical parameters as thermal expansion, specific heat, and sound velocity. In addition, the acoustic wave may also be affected by optical scattering, which influences the distribution of light in the matter that can be measured by high-sensitivity ultrasonic detectors such as piezo-electric crystals, microphones, optical fiber sensors, laser interferometers or diffraction sensors.

[011] For example, U.S. Patents No. 5,941,821 and 6,049,728 to Chou describe a method and apparatus for noninvasive measurement of blood glucose by photoacoustics. Upon irradiation, acoustic energy is generated in a relatively thin layer of the sample to be measured, characterized by a heat-diffusing length. The acoustic emission is detected with a differential microphone, one end of which is positioned in a measuring cell and the other end of which is positioned in a reference cell. A processor determines the concentration of the substance being measured based upon the

detected acoustic signal. In order to determine the concentration of glucose in the bloodstream, the excitation source is preferably tuned to the absorption bands of glucose in spectral ranges from about 1520-1850 nm and about 2050-2340 nm to induce a strong photoacoustic emission. In these wavelength ranges, water absorption is relatively weak and glucose absorption is relatively strong.

[012] As another example, U.S. Patent No. 6,833,540 to MacKenzie, et al describes a system for measuring a biological parameter, such as blood glucose, the system directing laser pulses from a light guide into a body part consisting of soft tissue, such as the tip of a finger to produce a photoacoustic interaction. The resulting acoustic signal is detected by a transducer and analyzed to provide the desired parameter.

[013] All of the above optical techniques are disadvantageous for at least the reason that they teach the application of energy to a medium without giving consideration to its acoustic oscillation properties, thus requiring relatively high laser power. Consequently, such techniques are energy inefficient, and provide an inadequate level of sensitivity.

[014] Another prior art photoacoustic material analysis system is described in U.S. Patent No. 6,466,806 to Geva, et al, in which the concentration of a component of interest in a medium is determined by resonant photoacoustic spectroscopy with a light pulse-train comprising equidistant short pulses having variable duration, frequency, number, and power. The light wavelength is selected so as to be absorbed by the component of interest. Upon irradiation, acoustic oscillations are generated by the absorbed light in a relatively thin layer of the medium, characterized by a heat-diffusing length. The frequency repetition of the short light pulses in the pulse-train is chosen to be equal to the natural acoustic oscillation frequency of the thin layer of the medium that

can be considered as a thin membrane, such that the acoustic oscillation becomes resonant. Measuring of the amplitude and the frequency of the resonant oscillations determine the concentration of the component of interest, making the system suitable for monitoring of blood components, especially glucose.

[015] Unfortunately, the above system, as well as the majority of prior art photoacoustic material analysis techniques, are disadvantageous. Contrary to the present invention, they teach the application of energy to a medium without giving consideration to the overlapping of absorption bands of different components, and the irregularity of elastic properties of a medium, such as human skin. Consequently, such prior art techniques provide an inadequate level of sensitivity and large errors of measuring.

[015a] The discussion of documents, acts, materials, devices, articles and the like is included in this specification solely for the purpose of providing a context for the present invention. It is not suggested or represented that any or all of these matters formed part of the prior art base or were common general knowledge in the field relevant to the present invention as it existed before the priority date of each claim of this application.

BRIEF SUMMARY

[016] Consistent with the present invention, there is provided an apparatus for determining a concentration of an analyte in tissue, comprising: at least one radiation source operative to emit a first radiation beam to irradiate a testing area of tissue and cause a first scattering of radiation and at least one second radiation beam having a lower intensity than the first radiation beam and periodically irradiating the testing area to cause periodic second scatterings of radiation; at least one detector comprising a first radiation detector and a second radiation detector, the first radiation detector and

second radiation detector configured to detect the first and second scatterings of radiation and converting the detected scatterings into electrical signals, wherein the first radiation detector and the second radiation detector are located at different distances from the testing area; and a processor for determining the concentration of the analyte based on said electrical signals.

[017] A method for determining a concentration of an analyte in tissue, comprising irradiating a testing area of tissue with at least one radiation source emitting a first radiation beam causing an initial back-scattering of radiation and a second radiation beam periodically irradiating the testing area causing a periodic back-scattering of radiation; detecting the initial and periodic back-scatterings with a first radiation detector and a second radiation detector, wherein the first radiation detector and the second radiation detector are located at different distances from the testing area; converting the detected back-scatterings into electrical signals; and determining the concentration of the analyte in response to said electrical signals.

[018] Also described is a method of calibrating an optical apparatus for determining a concentration of an analyte, comprising the steps of obtaining a sample of a fluid containing an analyte; determining a first concentration of the analyte using a fluid-based apparatus; determining a second concentration of the analyte using the optical apparatus; and determining if the second concentration is equivalent to the first concentration, wherein if the second concentration is not equivalent to the first concentration, offsetting the optical apparatus such that the second concentration is equivalent to the first concentration.

[019] In addition, consistent with the present invention, there is also provided a probe head for use in an optical apparatus for determining a glucose concentration of a

subject, the probe head comprising: a plurality of optical fibers coupled with at least one radiation source operative to emit a first radiation beam and at least one second radiation beam, the first radiation beam irradiating a testing area of tissue and causes a first scattering of radiation, and the at least one second radiation beam periodically irradiating the testing area causing periodic second scattering of radiation and at least one detector; at least one detector comprising a first radiation detector and a second radiation detector, the first radiation detector and the second radiation detector being configured to detect the first scattering of radiation and the second scatterings of radiation and the detectors convert the detected scatterings into electrical signals, wherein the first radiation detector and the second radiation detector are located at different distances from the testing area; and an input/output interface for transmitting electrical signals to the at least one radiation source, and for transmitting electrical signals from the at least one detector.

[020] Consistent with the present invention, there is also provided an apparatus for non-invasively determining a concentration of glucose in a subject using optical excitation and detection, comprising: a first radiation source for emitting an exciter beam for irradiating a portion of tissue of the subject, causing at least one of physical and chemical changes to the portion of tissue, and causing an initial back-scattering of radiation; a second radiation source for periodically emitting a probe beam for irradiating the portion of tissue and cause periodic back-scattering of radiation; at least one detector comprising a first radiation detector and a second radiation detector for detecting the initial and periodic back-scatterings, and converting the detected back-scatterings into electrical signals of at least one of the amplitude, frequency or decay time of the physical and chemical changes, the back-scatterings being modulated

by the physical and chemical changes, wherein the first radiation detector and the second radiation detector are located at different distances from the portion of tissue; and a processor for determining the concentration of glucose by differentiating over time at least the amplitude, frequency or decay time of the physical and chemical changes.

[021] Consistent with the present invention, there is further provided a method for non-invasively determining a concentration of glucose in a subject using optical excitation and detection, comprising: emitting an exciter beam for irradiating a portion of tissue of the subject, causing physical and chemical changes in the portion of tissue, and causing an initial back-scattering of light; periodically emitting a probe beam for irradiating the portion of tissue and cause periodic back-scattering of light; detecting the initial and periodic back-scatterings with a first radiation detector and a second radiation detector, wherein the first radiation detector and the second radiation detector are located at different distances from the portion of tissue, and converting the detected back-scatterings into electrical signals of at least the amplitude, frequency or decay time of the physical and chemical changes, the back-scatterings being modulated by the physical and chemical changes; and determining the concentration of glucose by differentiating over time at least one of the amplitude, frequency or decay time of the physical and chemical changes.

[022] Additional features and advantages consistent with the invention will be set forth in part in the description which follows, and in part will be obvious from the description, or may be learned by practice of the invention. The features and advantages consistent with the invention will be realized and attained by means of the elements and combinations particularly pointed out in the appended claims.

[022a] Where the terms "comprise", "comprises", "comprised" or "comprising" are used in this specification (including the claims) they are to be interpreted as specifying the presence of the stated features, integers, steps or components, but not precluding the presence of one or more other features, integers, steps or components, or group thereof.

[023] It is to be understood that both the foregoing general description and the following detailed description are exemplary and explanatory only and are not restrictive of the invention, as claimed.

[024] The accompanying drawings, which are incorporated in and constitute a part of this specification, illustrate several embodiments of the invention and together with the description, serve to explain the principles of the invention.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

[025] The present invention will be understood and appreciated more fully from the following detailed description taken in conjunction with the appended drawings in which:

[026] FIG. 1 is a simplified block diagram illustrating an optical apparatus for determining a concentration of an analyte, consistent with the present invention.

[027] FIG. 2 is a flowchart illustrating a method for determining a concentration of an analyte, consistent with the present invention.

[028] FIG. 3 illustrates an embodiment of the optical components enclosure of FIG. 1.

[029] FIG. 4 is a graph illustrating the intensity and duration of the different types of radiation emitted by an optical apparatus consistent with the present invention as used in Example 1.

[030] FIG. 5 is a graph illustrating the intensity and duration of the different types of radiation emitted by an optical apparatus consistent with the present invention as used in Example 2.

[031] FIG. 6 is a flowchart illustrating a method for calibrating an optical apparatus consistent with the present invention.

[032] FIG. 7 illustrates examples of optical fiber arrangements consistent with the present invention

DETAILED DESCRIPTION

[033] Reference will now be made in detail to the exemplary embodiments of the invention, examples of which are illustrated in the accompanying drawings. Wherever possible, the same reference numbers will be used throughout the drawings to refer to the same or like parts.

[034] FIG. 1 is a simplified block diagram illustrating an optical apparatus for determining a concentration of an analyte, consistent with the present invention. As shown in FIG. 1, the optical apparatus includes an electronics enclosure 102 connected to an optical components enclosure 104. Electronics enclosure 102 may be connected to optical components enclosure 104 through conductors, wires, wirelessly, or electronics enclosure 102 and optical components enclosure 104 may be contained in a single enclosure, with electrical connection therebetween. Consistent with embodiments of the present invention, optical components enclosure 104 may comprise a probe, as further illustrated in FIG. 3.

[035] Optical components in optical components enclosure 104 may be operable to irradiate surface 106 with radiation beams B_1 and B_2 , and detect first and second

scatterings of radiation D_1 and D_2 . Consistent with the present invention, the optical apparatus may be connected to power source 108 for providing power to both electronics enclosure 102 and optical components enclosure 104, and components located therein. Although illustrated as an external AC power source, power source 108 may be included in either of electronics enclosure 102 or optical components enclosure 104, and may be AC or DC. Moreover, if electronics enclosure 102 and optical components enclosure 104 are connected wirelessly, a separate additional power source may be connected to optical components enclosure 104. The optical apparatus may further be connected to an external processing device 110 for displaying, monitoring, tracking results, and calibrating the optical apparatus. External processing device may comprise a personal computer (PC), a personal digital assistant (PDA), a smartphone, or other such device.

[036] Consistent with the present invention, electronics enclosure 102 may house an array of electronic components suitable for facilitating the determination of a concentration of an analyte. For example, electronics enclosure 102 may include a processor or CPU 112, a first radiation driver 114, a second radiation driver 116, a first peak detector 118, a second peak detector 120, a multiplexer (MUX) 122, and an analog to digital converter (ADC) 124. The operation of these components will be discussed further in conjunction with the discussion of FIG. 2.

[037] Similarly, optical components enclosure 104 may house an array of optical components for use in determining the concentration of an analyte. As shown in FIG. 1, optical electronics enclosure 104 may include first radiation source 126 and second radiation source 128 for irradiating a testing area 130 on surface 106 with first and

second radiation beams B_1 and B_2 . Consistent with the present invention, first and second radiation beams B_1 and B_2 may be emitted from a single radiation source 127 capable of generating first and second radiation beams B_1 and B_2 . Optical electronics enclosure 104 may further include a detector for receiving first and second scatterings of radiation D_1 and D_2 . Consistent with the present invention a single detector 132 may be configured to receive first, second, and any other scatterings of radiation. Further consistent with the present invention, detector 132 may include separate scattered radiation detectors, as shown in FIG. 3, to separately receive first and second scatterings of radiation D_1 and D_2 . Consistent with embodiments of the present invention, and may include optical receiving sensors, such as a photodiode, including a P-Intrinsic-N (PIN) photodiode, an avalanche photodiode, a photoelectrical multiplier, or a photoresistor. An optical amplifier (not shown) may further be included in optical electronics enclosure 104, for amplifying the power of the first or second radiation beams. Consistent with the present invention, optical amplifier may be an optical fiber amplifier. Optical electronics enclosure 104 may also further house an optical converter (not shown) for converting wavelengths of first and second radiation beams B_1 and B_2 .

[038] First and second radiation sources used in embodiments consistent with the present invention may be selected depending on such factors as the power or wavelength of radiation needed for accurately determining the concentration of an analyte, the periodicity of the radiation needed, size constraints or cost. For example, first radiation source 126 and second radiation source 128 may be pulsed laser diodes, fiber-coupled diode laser arrays, flash lamps or pulsed fiber optical lasers. First radiation source 126 and second radiation source, or single radiation source 127, may

further include combinations of these types of radiation sources. For example, in one embodiment, first radiation source 126 or second radiation source 128 may include an erbium (Er)-glass rod or slab laser pumped by additional diode lasers. In another embodiment, first radiation source 126 or second radiation source 128 may include a tunable Co:MgF₂ laser. In yet another embodiment, first radiation source 126 or second radiation source 128 may include a Q-switched neodymium containing optical medium laser.

[039] Consistent with the present invention, the characteristics of the emitted radiation source used again will depend on the particular analyte being examined. That is, the power, type of radiation, wavelength, and periodicity, for example, and will affect the properties of first and second radiation beams B₁ and B₂ emitted from first radiation source 126 and second radiation source 128, and these properties will each differently affect particular analytes, and it is thus important to tailor these properties to maximize the ability of the optical apparatus to determine the concentration of the analyte.

Different materials exhibit different reflectance, transmittance, and absorption properties. When performing optical measurements for determining the concentration of an analyte in a particular medium, the properties of both the analyte and the medium must be taken into consideration. The amount of radiation that is absorbed and scattered by the analyte is dependent on the power and wavelength of the radiation beams. Accordingly, it is desirable to emit radiation beams at a particular power and wavelength sufficient to produce a measurable amount of absorption and scatterings attributable to the analyte being examined, and differentiated from any surrounding mediums. For example, first and second radiation beams B₁ and B₂ will be emitted

having predetermined wavelengths and a predetermined power. Consistent with embodiments of the present invention, the predetermined wavelengths and power may be the same or may be different, depending on the analyte being examined.

[040] In a particular embodiment consistent with the present invention, first and second radiation beams B_1 and B_2 are emitted having predetermined wavelengths that are selected from a characteristic absorption band of the analyte being examined in a particular medium. In another embodiment, first and second radiation beams B_1 and B_2 are emitted at a wavelength which corresponds to a peak wavelength of an absorption band of the analyte being examined. In embodiments wherein first and second radiation beams B_1 and B_2 are emitted with different wavelengths, one beam B_1 or B_2 may have a wavelength which is greater than an absorption band peak of the analyte, and the other beam B_1 or B_2 may have a wavelength which is less than the absorption peak of the analyte. In specific embodiments, as will be described in further detail below, consistent with the present invention, a first radiation beam B_1 is emitted at a power of about 1-10 W and a wavelength of about 1550 nm, and a second radiation beam is emitted at a power of 0.1-1 W and a wavelength of about 1550-1690 nm.

[041] As previously noted, first radiation source 126 and second radiation source 128 may comprise a pulsed radiation source. In embodiments using a pulsed radiation source, first and second radiation beams B_1 and B_2 may also be pulsed. For example, when using a pulsed source, first and second radiation beams B_1 and B_2 may be emitted as mono-pulses with a predetermined delay between the pulses. First and second radiation beams B_1 and B_2 may also be emitted as short pulses of quasi-continuous (QCW) light having an equal spacing therebetween, and a variable repetition

rate. Furthermore, first and second radiation beams B_1 and B_2 may be emitted as a train of pulses, and having a variable frequency, a variable pulse power, a variable pulse duration, and a variable number of pulses. In a particular embodiment, noted below, second radiation beam B_2 is emitted as a short pulse having equal spacing, to periodically irradiate testing area 130.

[042] Reference is now made to FIG. 2, which is a flowchart illustrating a method for determining a concentration of an analyte, consistent with the present invention. In an embodiment consistent with the present invention, the method illustrated in FIG. 2 may be performed using the optical apparatus illustrated in FIG. 1. For the purpose of illustrating such an embodiment, the steps of FIG. 2 will be described in conjunction with the operation of FIG. 1.

[043] A probe, which may be optical components enclosure 104, is initially placed in contact with testing area 130 on surface 106 (S201). Consistent with the present invention, the probe may be in contact with testing area 130, or the probe may be near testing area 130. Further consistent with the present invention, testing area 130 may be at a surface 106, or may be below surface 106. Testing area 130 is irradiated with a first radiation beam B_1 emitted from first radiation source 126, which may be an exciter pulse (S202). Testing area 130 is subsequently irradiated with a second radiation beam B_2 emitted from second radiation source 128, which may be a probe pulse (S203).

[044] Consistent with the present invention, second radiation source 128 may emit a plurality of second irradiation beams B_2 , each beam emitted with a predetermined period therebetween. First and second radiation beams B_1 and B_2 will irradiate testing area 130, and a predetermined amount of radiation will be back scattered from the

testing area, depending on the reflectivity of surface 106, illustrated as a first scattering D_1 and a second scattering D_2 . Moreover, first and second radiation beams B_1 and B_2 may further cause periodic or non-periodic transient processes in surface 106 which may at least partially modulate scatterings of radiation D_1 and D_2 .

[045] Scatterings of radiation D_1 and D_2 may then be detected by detector 132 (S204). Detector 132 converts detected scatterings D_1 and D_2 into electrical signals for processing. Consistent with the present invention, the electrical signals may represent at least one of the amplitude, frequency, or decay time of any transient processes that may be produced in surface 106. The electrical signals are then transmitted from first and second peak detectors 118 and 120 to multiplexer 122. Multiplexer 122 combines the electrical signals from first and second peak detectors 118 and 120, and outputs a single combined electrical signal to analog to digital converter 124. Analog to digital converter 124 converts the input analog electrical signal into a digital electrical signal and outputs the digital electrical signal to processor 112.

[046] Processor 112 receives the digital electrical signals and executes instructions, which may be stored in an internal memory (not shown), for performing calculations using the digital electrical signals. For example, processor 112 may calculate changes in the intensity of scatterings of radiation D_1 and D_2 (S205), the changes in the intensity being caused by repeated emission of second radiation beams B_2 , and any subsequent transient processes that may occur in surface 106 as a result of emitted first or second radiation beams B_1 and B_2 . From the calculated changes in intensity, processor 112 will then execute instructions to perform an algorithm for calculating the concentration of an analyte present at testing area 130 (S206). Consistent with the present invention, the

calculations may also be performed by an external processor, for example, a processor contained in PC 110. The calculated concentration may then be displayed for a user to view (S207). Consistent with the present invention, the concentration may be displayed on a display screen attached to electronics enclosure 102, or on computer 110.

Moreover, the concentration may also be tabulated in computer 110 for trending and over-time analysis.

[047] Consistent with the present invention, image analysis techniques may be used in conjunction with the optical apparatus described herein. In particular, image analysis techniques may be used to ensure that first and second radiation beams B_1 and B_2 are consistently incident on testing area 130, with no variation. Image analysis techniques may include video hardware and software, attached to and/or embedded on optical apparatus, which allows a user to accurately position optical apparatus such that radiation beams B_1 and B_2 are consistently incident on testing area. Consistent with the present invention, a portable video camera could be installed such that a real time video feed could show user positioning optical apparatus on surface 106. Markers could be placed at testing area 130 so that user could reliably, using the video feed, align the optical apparatus with testing area 130 to ensure incidence thereon.

[048] FIG. 3 illustrates an embodiment of the optical components enclosure of FIG. 1. In this embodiment, optical components enclosure 104 of FIG. 1 is formed into a probe, or a probe head 304. Probe head 304 includes at least one radiation emitter, which may include first and second radiation emitters 126 and 128, at least one detector 132, which may include first and second scattered radiation detectors 332 and 334 having a different spacing with respect to surface 106 within detector 132. Probe head 304 may

also include a first lens 306 for focusing radiation beams emitted from first and second radiation emitters onto test area 130. Probe head 304 may also include a second lens 308 and a third lens 310, for respectively focusing scattered radiation from surface 106 into second detector 334 and first detector 332. Although not shown in FIG. 3, probe head 304 may further be connected to other electronic processing components, such as those contained in electronics enclosure 102 shown in FIG. 1.

[049] As shown in FIG. 3, in an embodiment consistent with the present invention, detector 132 is provided at a predetermined distance from surface 106. Consistent with the present invention second scattered radiation detector 334 may be provided in probe head 304 at a distance from surface 106 that is greater than the distance between first scattered radiation detector 332 and surface 106. By providing second scattered radiation detector 334 at a greater distance from surface 106 the optical apparatus is able to generate additional data points for performing a differential analysis on, and thus increasing the accuracy of the concentration readings. For example, for a given system excited by a first radiation beam B_1 and a second radiation beam B_2 , the amplitude of detected scatterings at second scattered radiation detector 334 will be smaller than those detected at first scattered radiation detector 332, and can be used to calculate a relative amplitude between the detected scatterings at the two detectors. This relative amplitude can then be used to offset for an errors cause by positioning, pressure, or radiation source instability. Although the amplitude of the detected scatterings has been described as a detected parameter, the parameter may also be related to the frequency or decay time of the scatterings, consistent with the present invention.

[050] In another embodiment of the present invention, probe head 304 may also include a gating sensor 302, which may be a contact, proximity, or pressure sensor. In embodiments using a contact sensor as gating sensor 302, the contact sensor must detect contact between probe head 304 and surface 106 before testing is allowed to begin, thus acting as a gate. In embodiments using a proximity sensor as gating sensor, the proximity sensor must detect that surface 106 is in a reasonable proximity to probe head 304. That is, in embodiments using a proximity sensor, the proximity sensor determines that there is a predetermined distance between surface 106 and probe head 304 before testing is allowed to begin.

[051] In embodiments using a pressure sensor, sensor 302 must detect a predetermined pressure before proceeding with the test. As discussed above with reference to FIGS. 1 and 2, detected changes in the intensity of scattered beams D_1 and D_2 may be influenced by transient processes caused by first and second radiation beams B_1 and B_2 . When placing probe head 304 in contact with surface 106, an additional transient process may be introduced into surface 106, further affecting changes in the intensity of scattered beams D_1 and D_2 , and thus also affecting the calculated concentration of the analyte. A certain pressure imparted on surface 106 by probe, however, may be used as an offset such that when calculating the concentration of the analyte, the known pressure and its effects can be taken into consideration and corrected for. The pressure sensed by pressure sensor 302 between probe head 304 and surface 106 would have to be equal to a predetermined pressure before first radiation emitter 126 would emit a first radiation beam B_1 . Pressure sensor 302 may comprise a fiber optic pressure probe.

[052] Consistent with an embodiment of the present invention, probe head 304 comprises a fiber optic probe. In this embodiment, probe head 304 is made up of many optical fibers which are in optical communication with at least one radiation source and at least one detector. For example, the optical fibers may be in optical communication with first radiation source 126, second radiation source 128, first detector 132, and second detector 334. The fiber optic bundles act as conduits or waveguides for transmitting radiation to and from surface 106. Consistent with such an embodiment, the many optical fibers may be arranged as shown in FIG. 7. The use of optical fibers allows for providing a probe head 304 which is small, lightweight, and easily able to be placed in contact with surface 106.

[053] FIG. 7 illustrates examples of optical fiber arrangements consistent with the present invention. FIG. 7(a) illustrates an optical fiber arrangement which includes three fibers 726 for transmitting radiation from radiation source 126 and/or 128, and a plurality of pick-up fibers 732 for transmitting scattered radiation from surface 106 to a radiation detector, which may include radiation detector 132. FIG. 7(b) illustrates an optical fiber arrangement which includes two fibers 726 for transmitting radiation from radiation source 126 and/or 128, and a plurality of pick-up fibers 732 for transmitting scattered radiation from surface 106 to a radiation detector, which may include radiation detector 132. FIG. 7(c) illustrates an optical fiber arrangement which includes two fibers 726 for transmitting radiation from radiation source 126 and/or 128, and a plurality of near pick-up fibers 732 for transmitting scattered radiation from surface 106 to a radiation detector, which may include radiation detector 132 or 332, and a plurality of

distant pick-up fibers 734 for transmitting scattered radiation to radiation detector 334, as shown in FIG. 3.

[054] The optical apparatus described herein, may be used in certain embodiments to detect the concentration of glucose in human tissue. Consistent with the present invention, an embodiment for detecting glucose in human tissue emits a short, high power radiation beam B_1 as an exciter pulse onto testing area 130 of surface 106, which in this embodiment, is tissue. Part of the radiation is absorbed by surface 106 and generates transient processes in surface 106 which change the optical, mechanical, and other physical and chemical properties of surface 106. The change in these properties subsequently also changes the amplitude, frequency, and decay time of scattered radiation D_1 and D_2 , as well as the photo-acoustic oscillations in surface 106.

[055] After the initial emission of radiation beam B_1 , second radiation source 128 periodically emits second radiation beam B_2 , which acts as a probe pulse. These probe pulses typically are at a lower power than first radiation beam B_1 , such that they only induce minimal transient processes in surface 106. The probe pulses serve to generate additional scatterings of radiation D_1 and D_2 that can be detected by detector 132 as surface 106 relaxes over time. As surface 106 relaxes from the initial high power radiation beam B_1 , detector 132 will be able to obtain readings which can be processed to determine the amplitude of the scattered light from the initial exciter pulse, and the subsequent probe pulses, the change in amplitude of the scattered light over time, the amplitude and frequency of modulation occurring as a result of the introduced transient processes, a decay constant of surface 106, and a phase delay in amplitude modulation of light scattered from the probe pulses, which allows for calculation of the velocity of

acoustical wave propagation in surface 106. From these processed values, the concentration of glucose present in surface 106 may be determined. Specific examples using optical apparatuses consistent with the present invention will be discussed in detail as follows.

EXAMPLE 1

[056] In an embodiment consistent with the present invention, the optical apparatus as described above with respect to FIG. 1, for example, is used to determine the concentration of glucose in a human subject, such that surface 106 of FIG. 1 is human tissue. FIG. 4 is a graph illustrating the intensity and duration of the different types of radiation emitted by an optical apparatus consistent with this embodiment. For this embodiment, first and second radiation sources 126 and 128 are selected to correspond to a glucose absorption band having a peak around 1590 nm. In this embodiment the optical apparatus is provided such that first radiation source 126 is a laser emitting an exciter beam B_1 at a wavelength of 1550 nm, power of 1.0-10.0 W, and a pulse width of 100 ns. Second radiation source 128 is a laser provided to emit a plurality of periodic probe pulses B_2 at a wavelength of 1550 nm, a power of 0.1-1.0 W, and a pulse width of 80 ns.

[057] In operation, exciter beam B_1 , in accordance with opto-acoustical principles, generates mechanical changes and fast-faded oscillations in tissue 106. Exciter beam B_1 also generates an initial scattering of light D_1 or D_2 . After exciter beam B_1 is emitted, probe pulses B_2 are periodically emitted, generating additional scatterings of light D_1 or D_2 . Scatterings of light D_1 and D_2 are detected by detector 132, converted to electrical

signals representative of the intensity of amplitude of scatterings of light D_1 and D_2 , and sent to electronics enclosure 102 for processing.

[058] Due to the mechanical changes and fast-faded oscillations in tissue 106, the amplitude of the additional scatterings of light D_1 or D_2 changes over time. CPU 102 processes the electrical signals representative of the changes in amplitude, and sends the results to PC 110. PC 110, using a proprietary algorithm, stores the electrical signals and calculates the concentration of glucose in tissue 106.

EXAMPLE 2

[059] In another embodiment consistent with the present invention, the optical apparatus as described above with respect to FIG. 3, for example, is used to determine the concentration of glucose in a human subject, such that surface 106 of FIG. 3 is human tissue. FIG. 5 is a graph illustrating the intensity and duration of the different types of radiation emitted by an optical apparatus consistent with this embodiment. For this embodiment, first and second radiation sources 126 and 128 are selected to correspond to a glucose absorption band having a peak around 1590 nm. In this embodiment the optical apparatus is provided such that first radiation source 126 is a laser emitting an exciter beam B_1 at a wavelength of 1550 nm, power of 5 W, and a pulse width of 100 ns. Second radiation source 128 is a laser provided to emit a plurality of periodic probe pulses B_2 at a wavelength of about 1610-1690 nm, a power of 0.25-0.5 W, and a pulse width of 80 ns.

[060] Consistent with the present invention, exciter beam B_1 may be emitted at a wavelength of about 1550 nm and a power of 10 W, and periodic probe pulses B_2 may be emitted from the same radiation source as exciter beam B_1 , at a wavelength of about

1550 nm and a power of about 0.25-0.5 W, with about periodic probe pulses B_2 being emitted such that there is about a 25 microsecond delay between each pulse.

[061] In operation, probe head 304 is placed in contact with tissue 106. Gating sensor 302, which in this example comprises a pressure sensor, measures a pressure between probe head 304 and tissue 106. When pressure sensor 302 determines that the pressure between probe head 304 and tissue 106 is at an acceptable value, first radiation source emits an exciter beam. The exciter beam, in accordance with opto-acoustical principles, generates mechanical changes and fast-faded oscillations in tissue 106, and an initial scattering of light. After the exciter beam is emitted, probe pulses are periodically emitted by second radiation source 128, generating additional scatterings of light. The scatterings of light are detected by first and second detectors 332 and 334, converted to electrical signals representative of the intensity of amplitude of the scatterings of light, and sent to electronics enclosure 102 (shown in FIG. 1) for processing.

[062] Due to the mechanical changes and fast-faded oscillations in tissue 106, the amplitude of the additional scatterings of light modulates over time. CPU 102 (shown in FIG. 1) processes the electrical signals representative of the changes in amplitude, and performs an algorithm for comparing the amplitudes of the scatterings of light with each other over time to look for differential changes in not only amplitude, but also frequency, decay time, and the velocity of acoustical oscillation diffusion. These differential changes are stored in an internal memory (not shown), and then used in an algorithm to calculate the concentration of glucose in tissue 106.

[063] Consistent with the present invention, although not necessarily required, the optical apparatus illustrated in FIGS. 1 or 3 may be calibrated in order to provide optimal determinations of the concentration of an analyte. FIG. 6 is a flowchart illustrating a method for calibrating an optical apparatus consistent with the present invention. If the analyte being tested is glucose, as described above, it is important for the health of the user that the concentrations obtained are accurate, and in conformance with other accepted means of testing glucose concentration. Accordingly, in performing a calibration process, the results of a standard blood test is compared to the results of the optical apparatus, and the optical apparatus is offset to match the blood test. Although this calibration process has been summarized with respect to glucose testing, the calibration process described in detail below may also be used when using the optical apparatus consistent with the present invention to determine the concentration of analytes other than glucose.

[064] First, a fluid sample is obtained (S401), and using a fluid concentration determining means, a first concentration of an analyte is determined (S402). This first concentration is recorded, and then the optical apparatus consistent with the present invention is used to take a concentration measurement (S403). The optical apparatus performs a method, such as illustrated in FIG. 2, and determines a second concentration of the analyte (S404). The first concentration and the second concentration are compared to one another to determine if they match within a predetermined degree of accuracy (S405). If the first concentration and the second concentration match, no further calibration is needed (S406). If, however, the first concentration and the second concentration do not match, the optical apparatus is

offset by a predetermined amount such that the second concentration will match the first concentration (S407). After this step, the calibration is complete (S408). Consistent with embodiments of the present invention, a computer, external to the optical apparatus or on-board the optical apparatus, may perform the recordation of the concentrations, the match determination, and the offset.

[065] While the methods and apparatus disclosed herein may or may not have been described with reference to specific hardware or software, the methods and apparatus have been described in a manner sufficient to enable persons of ordinary skill in the art to readily adapt commercially available hardware and software as may be needed to reduce any of the embodiments of the present invention to practice without undue experimentation and using conventional techniques. In addition, while the present invention has been described with reference to a few specific embodiments, the description is intended to be illustrative of the invention as a whole and is not to be construed as limiting the invention to the embodiments shown. It is appreciated that various modifications may occur to those skilled in the art that, while not specifically shown herein, are nevertheless within the true spirit and scope of the invention.

[066] Other embodiments of the invention will be apparent to those skilled in the art from consideration of the specification and practice of the invention disclosed herein. It is intended that the specification and examples be considered as exemplary only, with a true scope and spirit of the invention being indicated by the following claims.

The claims defining the invention are as follows:

1. An apparatus for determining a concentration of an analyte in tissue, comprising:
at least one radiation source operative to emit a first radiation beam and at least one second radiation beam, the first radiation beam irradiating a testing area of tissue and cause a first scattering of radiation, and the at least one second radiation beam having a lower intensity than the first radiation beam and periodically irradiating the testing area causing periodic second scatterings of radiation;
at least one detector comprising a first radiation detector and a second radiation detector, the first radiation detector and second radiation detector configured to detect the first and second scatterings of radiation and converting the detected scatterings into electrical signals, wherein the first radiation detector and the second radiation detector are located at different distances from the testing area; and
a processor for determining the concentration of the analyte based on said electrical signals.
2. The apparatus according to claim 1, wherein:
the first and second radiation beams have wavelengths, wherein the wavelength of the first radiation beam corresponds to a peak of an absorption band of the analyte in a medium, and wherein the first radiation beam interacts with the tissue causing at least one transient process dependent on the concentration of the analyte.
3. The apparatus according to claim 1, wherein one of the first and second radiation beams has a wavelength that is greater than an absorption band peak of the analyte in a medium, and the other of the first and second radiation beams has a wavelength that is less than the absorption band peak of the analyte in a medium.

4. The apparatus according to any one of the preceding claims, wherein the first radiation beam excites at least one periodic or non-periodic transient process in the tissue, and wherein at least one of the first and second scatterings of radiation are at least partially modulated by the at least one transient process, and wherein the analyte comprises glucose, and wherein the electrical signals represent at least one of the amplitude, frequency, or decay time of the at least one transient process and wherein the first and second radiation beams comprise mono-pulses having a delay between the pulses.
5. The apparatus according to any one of the preceding claims, wherein the second radiation beam comprises substantially equally-spaced short pulses of quasi-continuous wave (QCW) having a variable repetition rate or a train of pulses having a variable frequency, variable pulse power, variable pulse duration, and variable number of pulses.
6. The apparatus according to any one of the preceding claims, wherein the first radiation beam has a power of 1-10 W and the second radiation beam has a power of 0.1-1 W, and wherein the first radiation beam has a wavelength of 1550 nm and the second radiation beam has a wavelength of 1610 nm to 1690 nm.
7. The apparatus according to any one of the preceding claims, wherein the at least one radiation source comprises a component selected from the group consisting of a pulsed laser diode, a fiber-coupled diode laser array, a pulsed optical fiber laser, Er-glass rod, slab laser pumped by diode lasers, a flash lamp, a tunable Co:MgF₂ laser, and a Q-switched neodymium containing an optical medium laser providing quasi-continuous wave generation giving equidistant short pulses having a variable duration, frequency, number and power.

8. The apparatus according to any one of the preceding claims, further comprising an optical enclosure and an electronics enclosure wherein:
 - the at least one radiation source and the at least one detector is enclosed in the optical enclosure, wherein the at least one detector comprises a photodiode;
 - the processor is enclosed in the electronics enclosure; and
 - the optical enclosure is operably connected to the electronics enclosure and the optical enclosure comprises a fiber optic probe, wherein the fiber optic probe comprises a plurality of fiber in a bundle and at least one of the fibers comprise the at least one radiation source, and at least one of the fibers comprises the at least one detector .
9. A method for determining a concentration of an analyte in tissue, comprising:
 - irradiating a testing area of tissue with at least one radiation source emitting a first radiation beam causing an initial back-scattering of radiation and a second radiation beam periodically irradiating the testing area causing a periodic back-scattering of radiation;
 - detecting the initial back-scattering and periodic back-scatterings with a first radiation detector and a second radiation detector, wherein the first radiation detector and the second radiation detector are located at different distances from the testing area;
 - converting the detected back-scatterings into electrical signals; and
 - determining the concentration of the analyte in response to said electrical signals.
10. The method according to claim 9, wherein irradiating the testing area comprises:
 - irradiating the testing area with first and second radiation beams having wavelengths within a range of an absorption band of the analyte in a medium, the absorption of the beam by the analyte causing transient processes.
11. The method according to claim 9, wherein irradiating the testing area comprises:

irradiating the testing area with first and second radiation beams having wavelengths corresponding to a peak of an absorption band of the analyte, the absorption of the beam by components other than the analyte causing transient processes that are dependent on the concentration of the analyte.

12. The method according to any one of claims 9, further comprising:
irradiating the testing area such that one of the first and second radiation beams has a wavelength that is greater than the absorption band peak of the analyte, and the other of the first and second radiation beams has a wavelength that is less than the absorption band peak of the analyte.
13. The method according to any one of claims 9 to 12, wherein irradiating the testing area further comprises:
emitting the first radiation beam to excite at least one periodic or non-periodic transient process in the tissue, wherein at least one of the back-scatterings are at least partially modulated by the at least one transient process, wherein the at least one transient process includes photo-acoustic oscillations and the analyte comprises glucose.
14. The method according to any one of claims 10, 11, or 13, wherein converting the detected back-scatterings into electrical signals comprises converting the detected back-scatterings into electrical signals corresponding to one of an amplitude, a frequency, or a decay time of the transient processes.
15. The method according to any one of claims 9 to 14, wherein emitting the first and second radiation beams comprises emitting short mono-pulses having a variable time delay therebetween, emitting equidistant short pulses of quasi-continuous wave (QCW) light having a variable repetition rate, or emitting a pulse-train of equidistant short pulses, wherein at least one of the frequency, pulse power, pulse duration, and number of pulses is variable.

16. The method according to any one of claims 9 to 15, wherein emitting the first radiation beam comprises emitting the first radiation beam at a power of 1-10 W and emitting the second radiation beam comprises emitting the second radiation beam at a power of 0.1-1W, and wherein emitting the second radiation beam comprises emitting the second radiation beam at a wavelength of 1610 nm to 1690 nm.
17. The method according to any one of claims 9 to 16, wherein the first radiation detector and second radiation detector comprise optical receiving sensors and the analyte comprises glucose.
18. The method according to any one of claims 9 to 17, further comprising:
 - detecting a pressure between a probe for irradiating the area of interest and the area of interest, wherein if the detected pressure is not equal to a reference pressure, the first and second radiation beams are not emitted.
 - calibrating, wherein calibrating comprises:
 - obtaining a sample of a fluid containing an analyte;
 - determining a reference concentration of the analyte using a fluid-based apparatus;
 - determining if the determined concentration is equivalent to the reference concentration, wherein if the determined concentration is not equivalent to the reference concentration, offsetting the detected electrical signals such that the determined concentration is equivalent to the reference concentration; and
 - repeating the steps a plurality of times until the determined concentration is equivalent to the reference concentration.
19. A probe head for use in an optical apparatus for determining a glucose concentration of a subject, the probe head comprising:

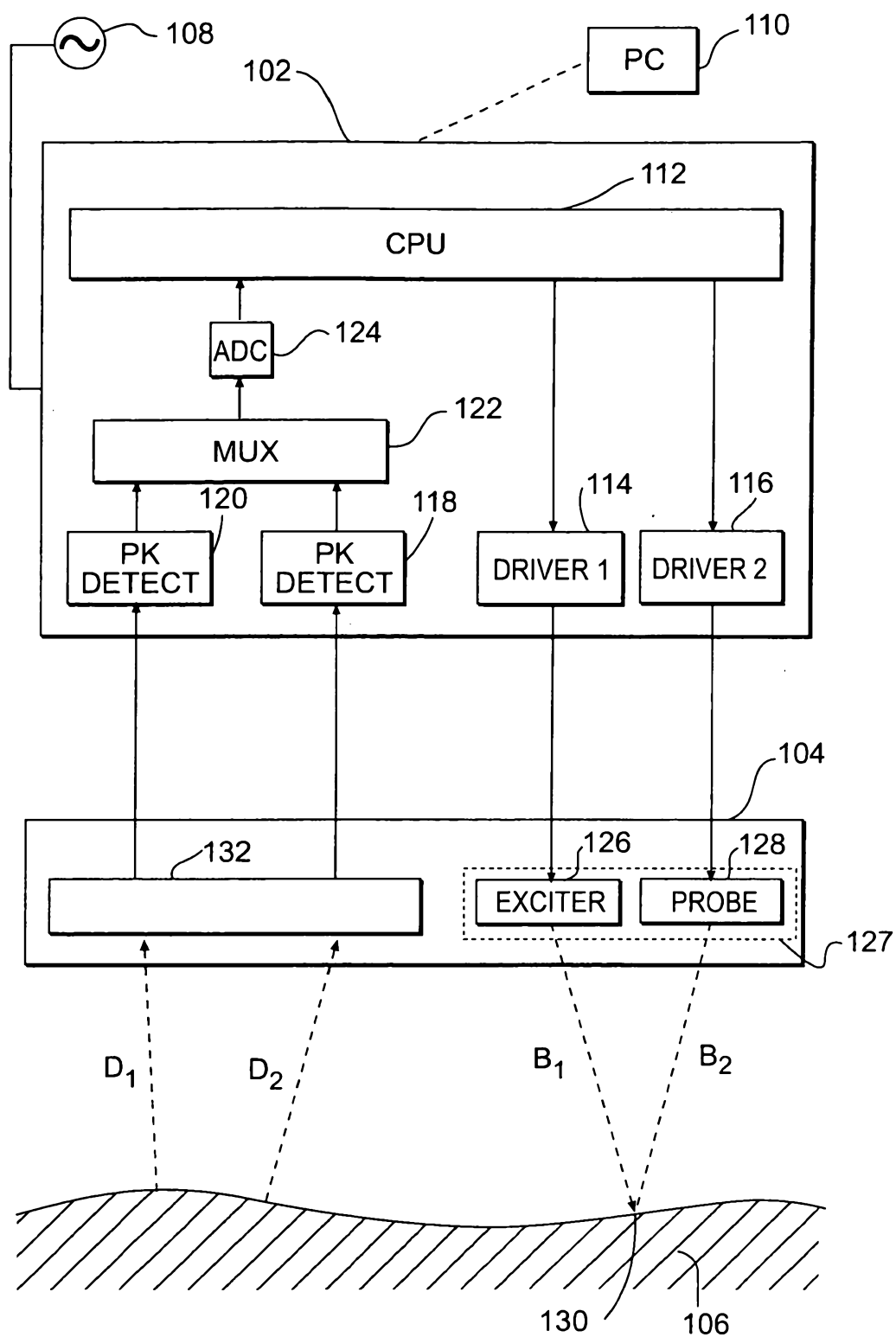
a plurality of optical fibers coupled with at least one radiation source operative to emit a first radiation beam and at least one second radiation beam, the first radiation beam irradiating a testing area of tissue and causes a first scattering of radiation, and the at least one second radiation beam periodically irradiating the testing area causing periodic second scattering of radiation and at least one detector;

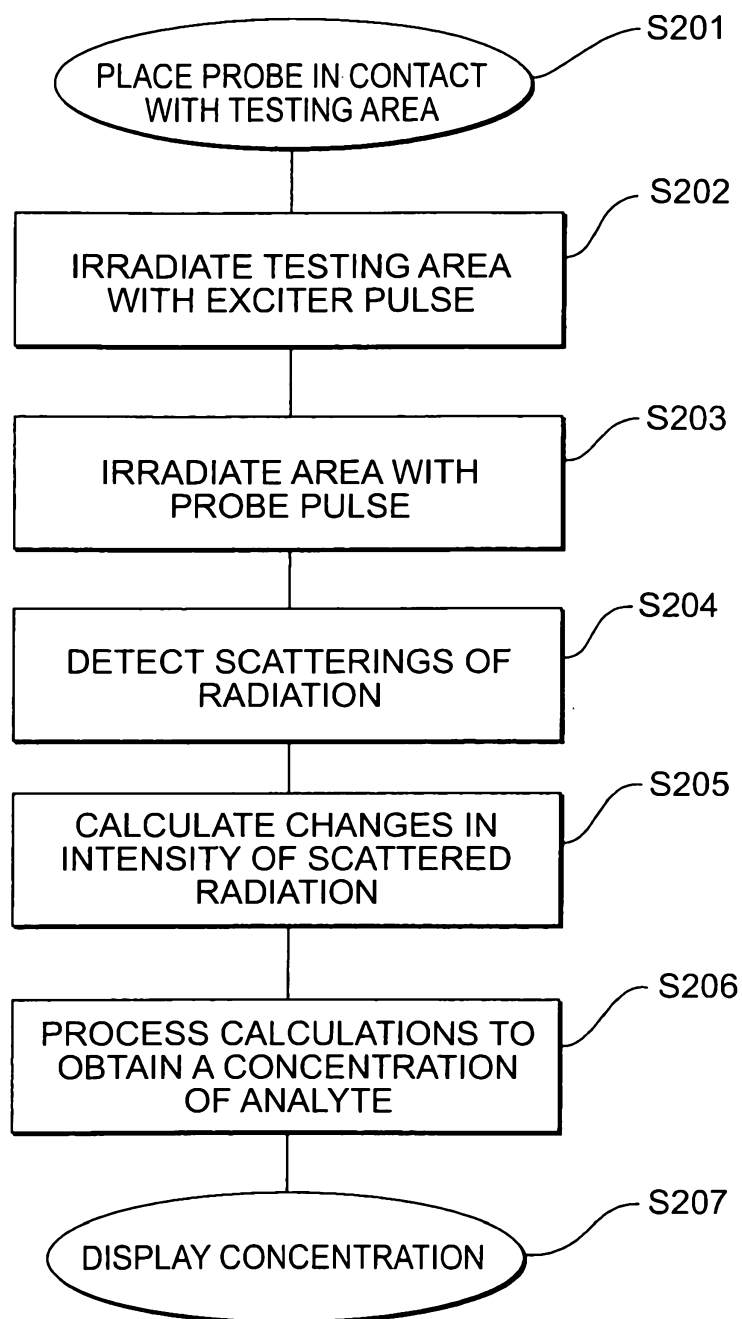
at least one detector comprising a first radiation detector and a second radiation detector, the first radiation detector and the second radiation detector being configured to detect the first scattering of radiation and the second scatterings of radiation and the detectors convert the detected scatterings into electrical signals, wherein the first radiation detector and the second radiation detector are located at different distances from the testing area; and

an input/output interface for transmitting electrical signals to the at least one radiation source, and for transmitting electrical signals from the at least one detector.

20. The probe head according to claim 19, further comprising:

a pressure sensor attached to a portion of the probe head, the pressure sensor detecting a pressure between the probe head and a surface in contact with the probe head, wherein the optical apparatus will not determine the glucose concentration of a subject unless the detected pressure is equal to a reference pressure, and wherein the probe head is portable and handheld, and wherein the plurality of optical fibers are arranged such that fibers coupled to the at least one radiation source are surrounded by fibers coupled to the at least one detector.

**FIG. 1**

**FIG. 2**

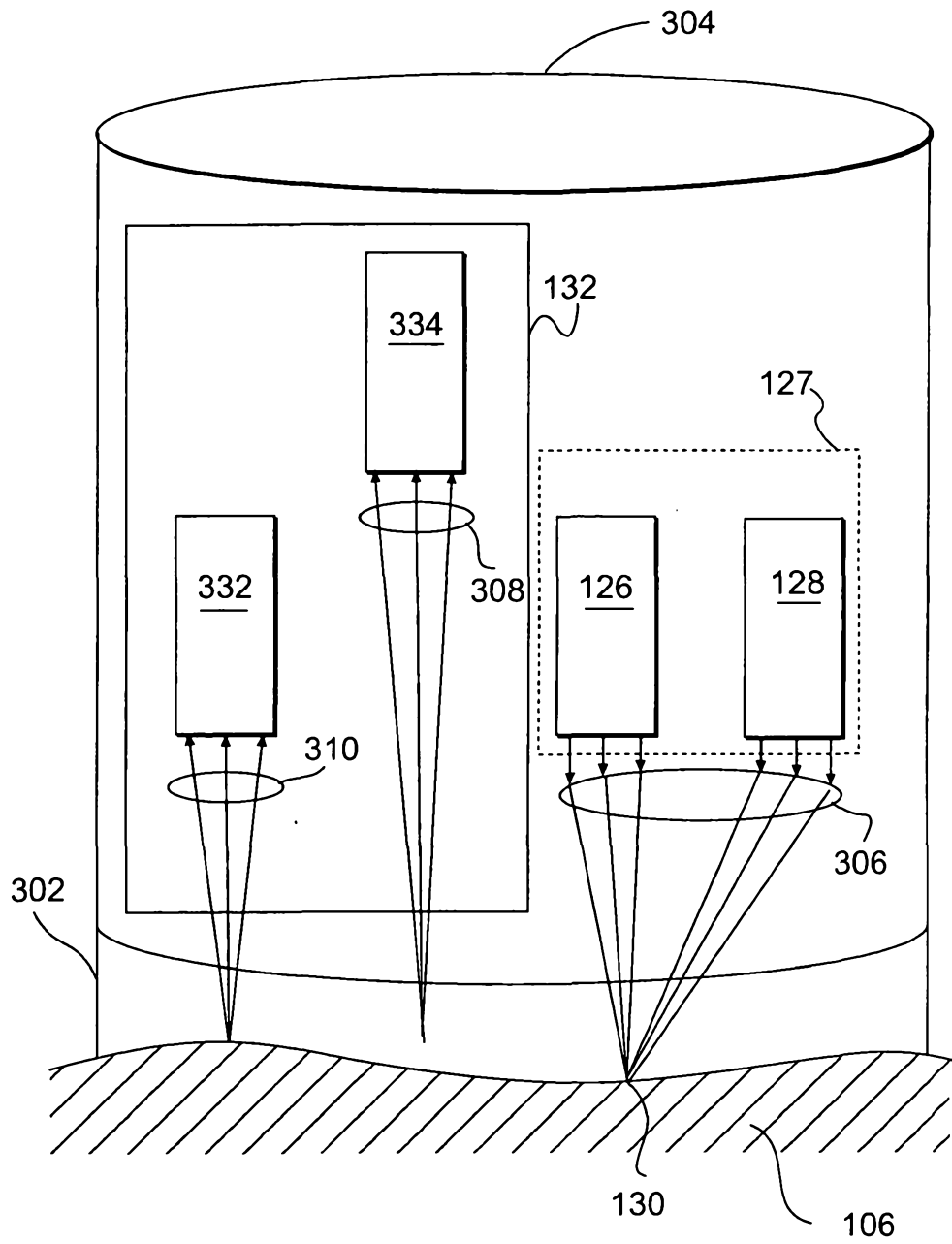


FIG. 3

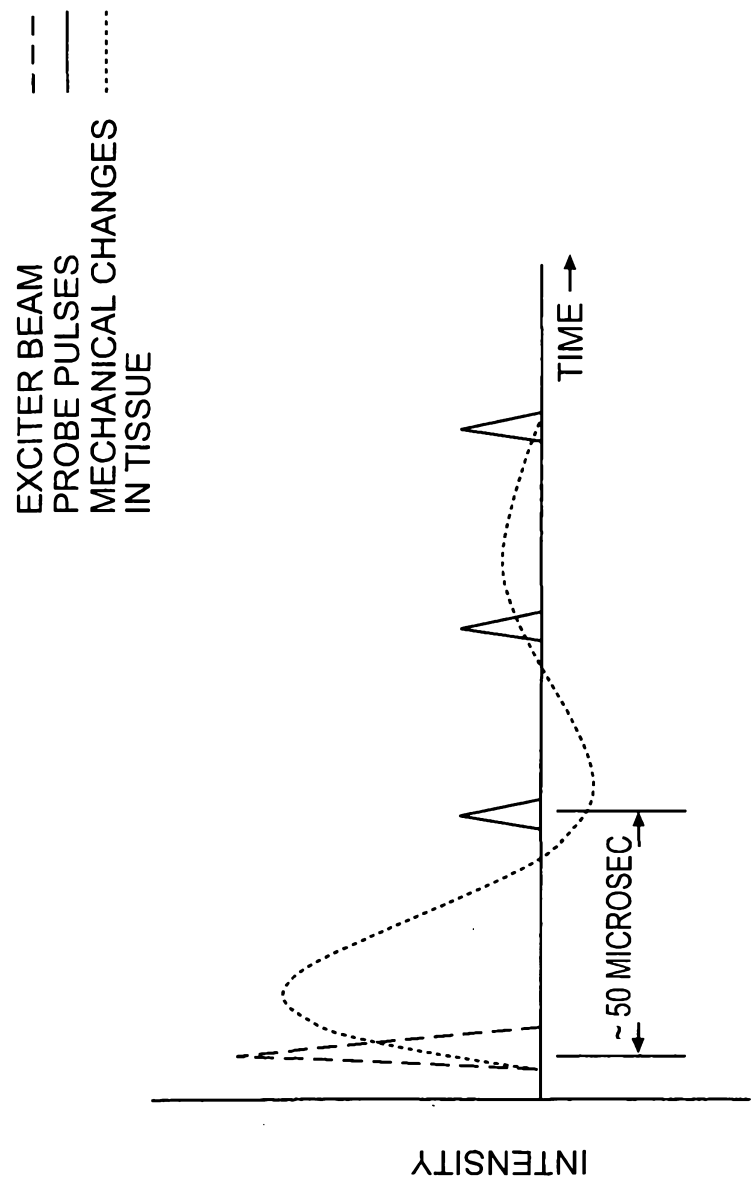


FIG. 4

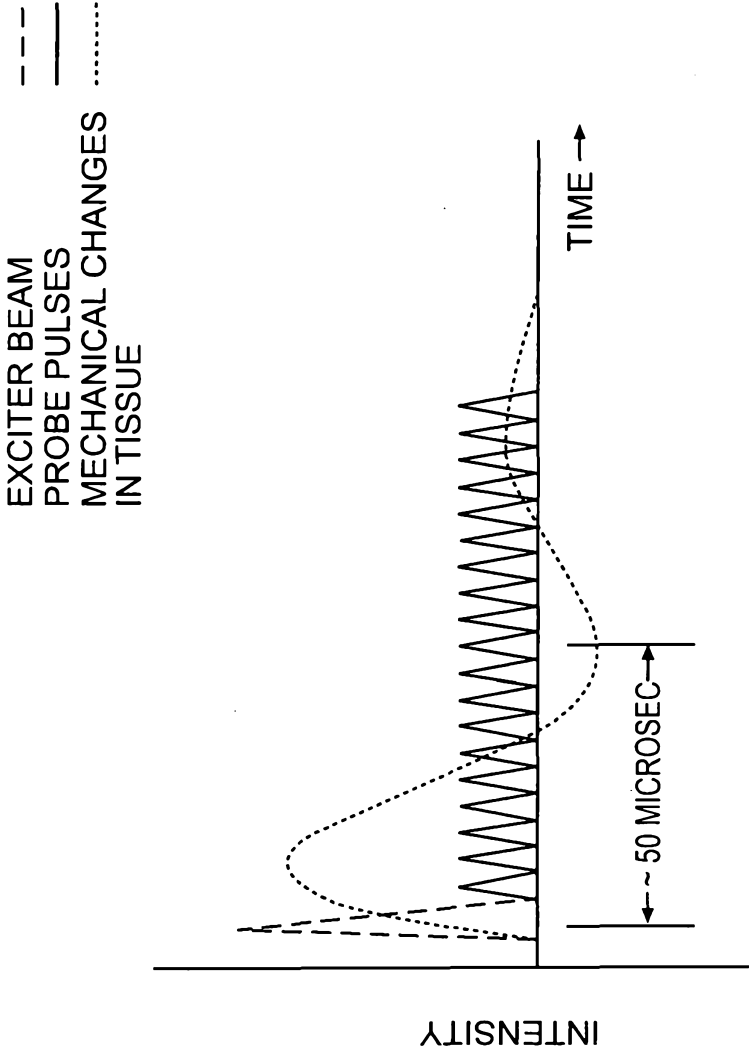
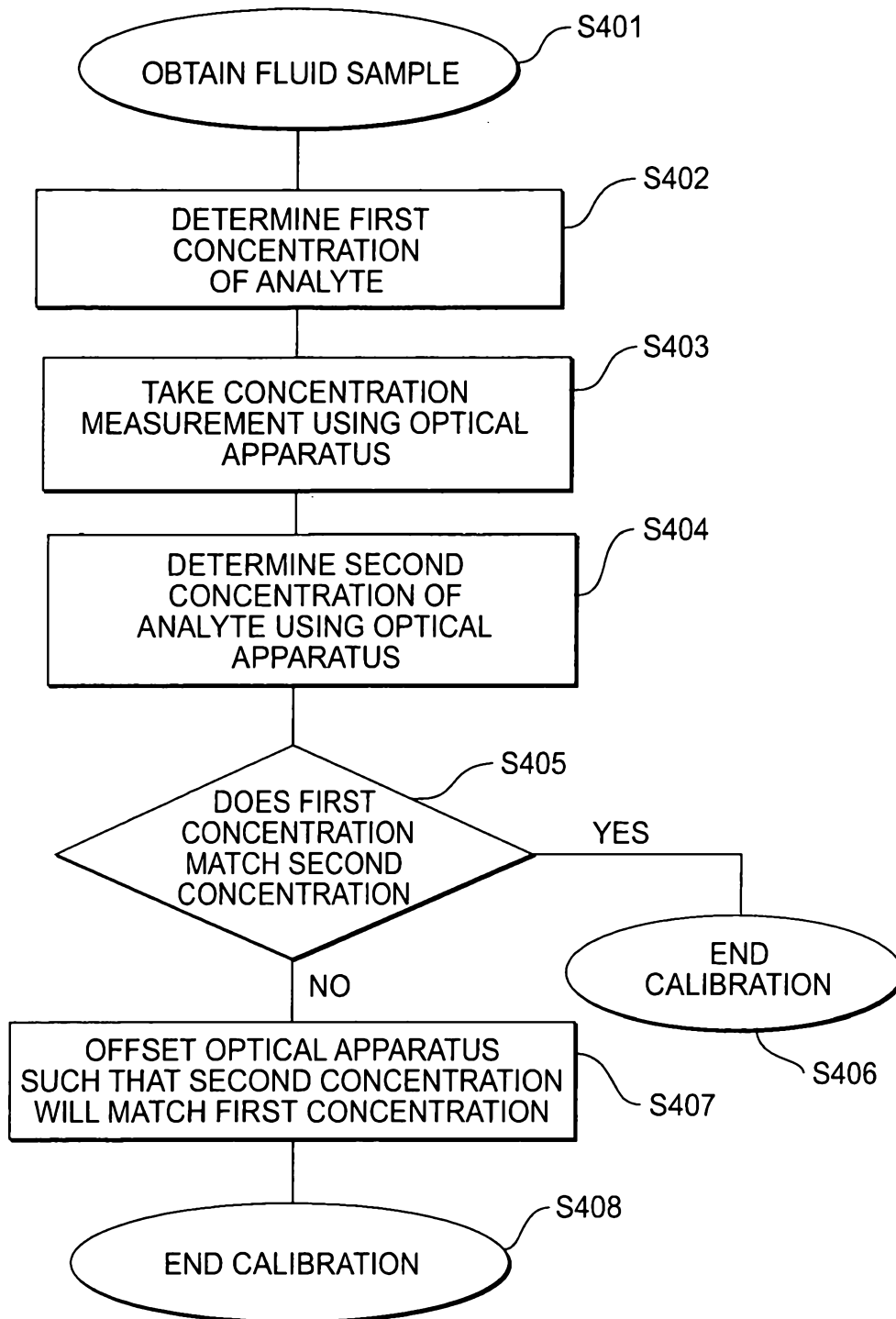


FIG. 5

**FIG. 6**

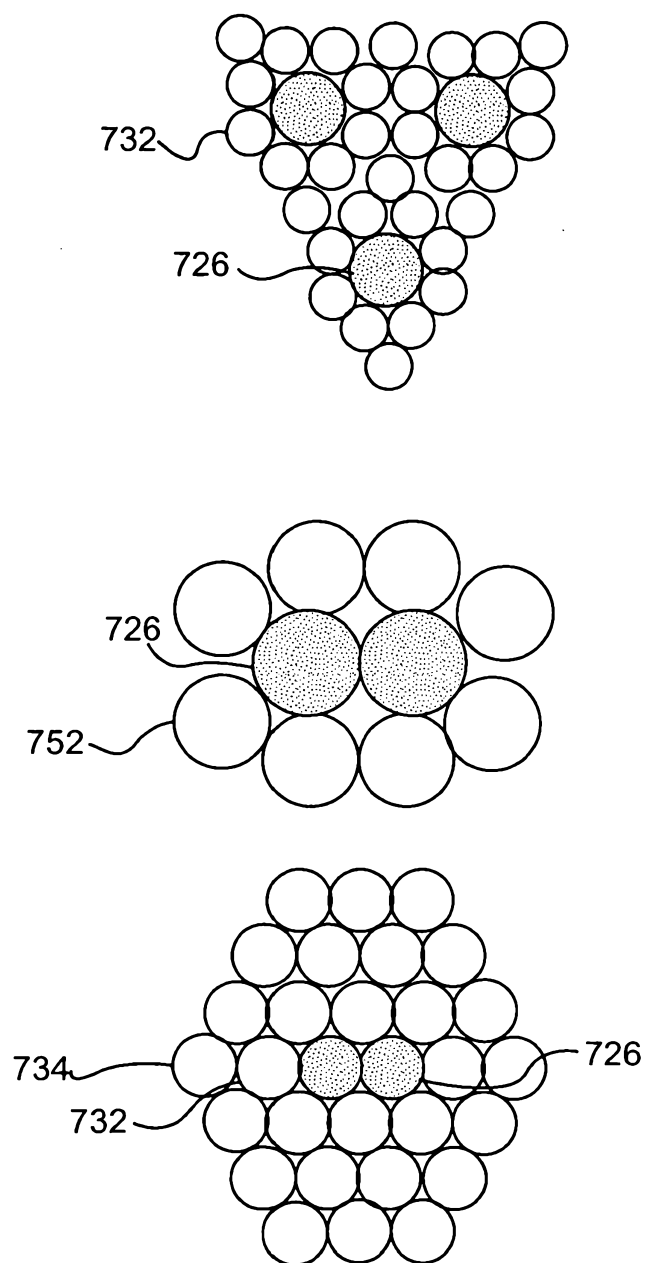


FIG. 7