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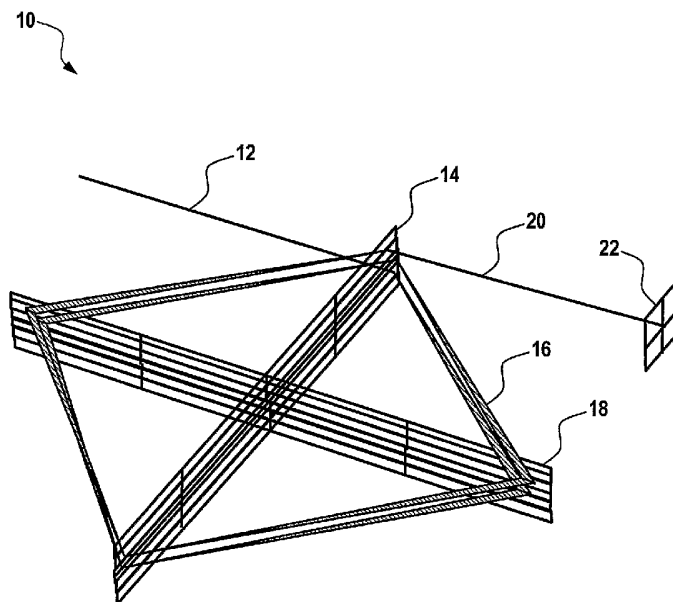
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(54) Title: PUMPING OF OPTICALLY-PUMPED AMPLIFIERS



(57) Abstract: The present invention provides a method of operating an optical amplifier by generating light within a first wavelength band with at least one pump diode by passing electrical current through the at least one diode, wherein diode temperature is allowed to vary over at least a 25-degree C temperature range, conveying the diode generated light of a first wavelength band to the optical amplifier, and using the diode-generated light to optically pump the optical amplifier. The diode temperature is allowed to vary over at least a 50-degree C (or a 75-degree C) temperature range. This allows the optical amplifier and pump diode(s) to be efficiently operated and air-cooled thus avoiding the use of powered diode cooling devices such as thermoelectric coolers. The diode can be either air-cooled or broadband.



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C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT		
Category *	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
A	US 5,572,358 A (GABL et al) 5 November 1996 (05.11.1996), abstract.	1-15
A	US 5,572,335 A (COTTON et al) 5 November 1996 (05.11.1996), abstract.	1-15
A	US 5,329,398 (LAI et al) 12 June 1994 (12.06.1994), abstract.	1-15
☐ Further documents are listed in the continuation of Box C. ☐ See patent family annex.		
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