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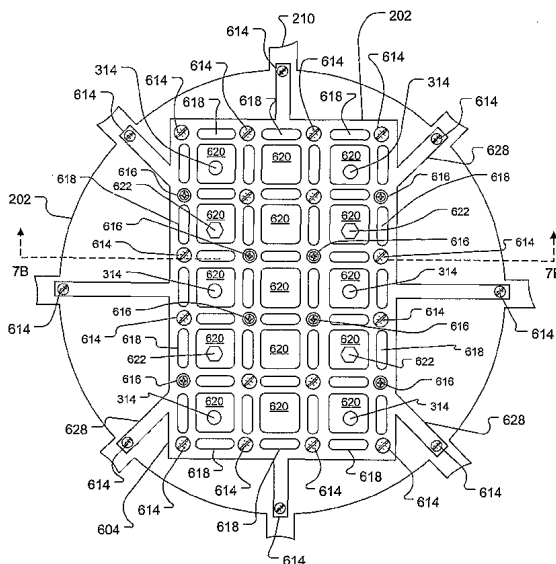
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[Continued on next page]

(54) Title: APPARATUS AND METHOD FOR MANAGING THERMALLY INDUCED MOTION OF A PROBE CARD ASSEMBLY



(57) Abstract: A probe card assembly can include a probe head assembly having probes for contacting an electronic device to be tested. The probe head assembly can be electrically connected to a wiring substrate and mechanically attached to a stiffener plate. The wiring substrate can provide electrical connections to a testing apparatus, and the stiffener plate can provide structure for attaching the probe card assembly to the testing apparatus. The stiffener plate can have a greater mechanical strength than the wiring substrate and can be less susceptible to thermally induced movement than the wiring substrate. The wiring substrate may be attached to the stiffener plate at a central location of the wiring substrate. Space may be provided at other locations where the wiring substrate is attached to the stiffener plate so that the wiring substrate can expand and contract with respect to the stiffener plate.

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USPC: 324/754

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)

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Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched
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Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practicable, search terms used)
USPGPUB, USPAT, USOCR, EPO, JPO. DERWENT, IBM_TDB search notes: probe adj card and stiffener

C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category *	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
X --- Y	US 6,853,205 B1 (CHENG et al.) 08 February 2005 (08.02.2005), see entire document.	1,2,4- 7,17,18,24,25,27-29 ----- 3,11,12,14-16,19- 21,26,30,31
Y	US 5,422,574 A (KISTER) 06 June 199 (06.06.1995), see entire document.	3,26
Y	US 5,124,639 A (CARLIN et al.) 23 June 1992 (23.06.1992), see entire document.	14,16,19-21,30,31
Y --- A	US 6,762,612 B2 (YU et al.) 13 July 2004 (13.07.2004), see entire document.	11,12,15 ----- 8-10,13,22,23

Further documents are listed in the continuation of Box C.

See patent family annex.

* Special categories of cited documents:	"T"	later document published after the international filing date or priority date and not in conflict with the application but cited to understand the principle or theory underlying the invention
"A" document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance	"X"	document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered novel or cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is taken alone
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"O" document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or other means		
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