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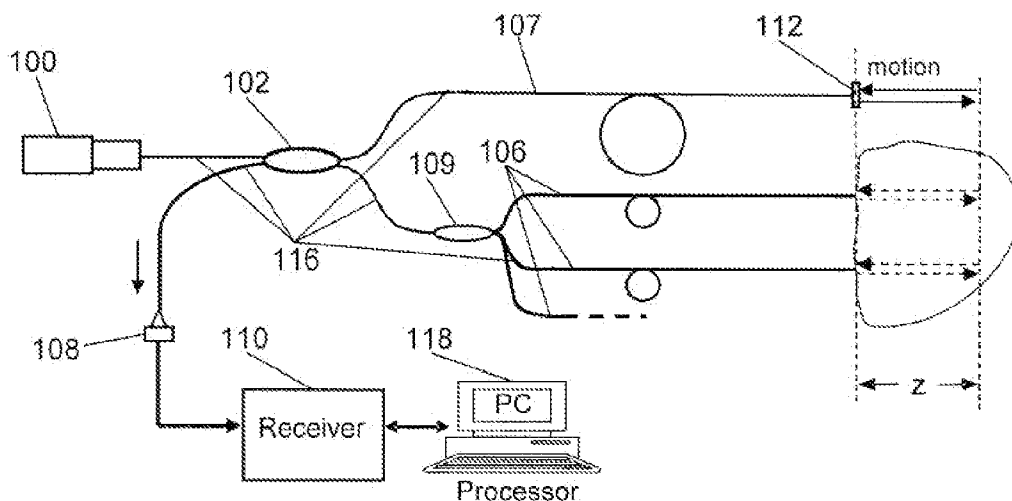
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(54) Title: POLARIZATION INSENSITIVE MULTIPLE PROBE



(57) Abstract: An apparatus for determining a polarization-insensitive interferometric signal and a birefringence for a sample and methods for using such an apparatus to characterize the sample are proved herein. Such apparatuses may generally be designed to eliminate birefringence associated with the apparatus itself, collect data from the sample using light in both orthogonal states, and determine the interference birefringence associated with the collected data.

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INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No.
PCT/US07/69840

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER

IPC(8) - G01B 9/02 (2007.10)

USPC - 356/450

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)

IPC(8) - G01B 9/02; G01J 4/00 (2007.10)

USPC - 356/364, 445,450, 453

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

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

MicroPatent, Google Patent Search

C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category*	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
X		1-19
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Y	US 5,060,312 A (DELAVALUX) 22 October 1991 (22.10.1991) entire document	20-41
Y	US 6,657,727 B1 (IZATT et al) 02 December 2003 (02.12.2003) entire document	20-41
Y	US 6,816,261 B2 (PATEL et al) 09 November 2004 (09.11.2004) entire document	26-28
Y	US 6,943,881 B2 (WANG) 13 September 2005 (13.09.2005) col. 14 lines 47-52, fig. 3	28
Y	US 4,941,744 A (YOKOKURA et al) 17 July 1990 (17.07.1990) Title, col. 6 lines 1-3	31,39
Y	US 6,419,484 B1 (DASILVA et al) 16 July 2002 (16.07.2002) col. 5 lines 14-15	36

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"&" document member of the same patent family

Date of the actual completion of the international search

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