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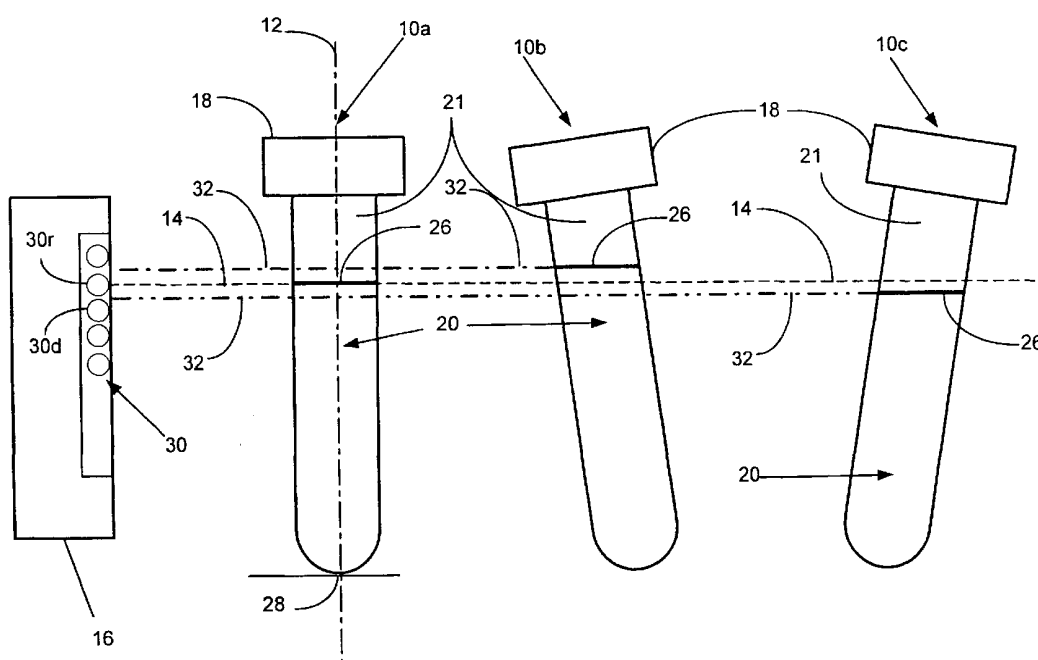
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(54) Title: METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR DETERMINING LIQUID LEVELS IN A LIQUID SAMPLE CONTAINER



(57) Abstract: Monitoring the intensity pattern of a radiation beam reflected from a sample tube before and after the tube is tilted from an original alignment to determine signal areas that correspond to the location of a liquid interface within the tube.



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INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International Application No

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A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER
IPC 7 G01F23/292

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 7 G01F

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 practical, search terms used)

EPO-Internal, PAJ, WPI Data

C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category *	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
A	WO 94 15181 A (TESI AB ;LUNDBERG JANNE (SE); NILSON THORD (SE); SILANDER TJORSTEN) 7 July 1994 (1994-07-07) page 5, line 29 -page 9, line 3; figures 1-4	1,8
A	EP 0 185 285 A (ABBOTT LAB) 25 June 1986 (1986-06-25) page 5, line 18 -page 6, line 3; figure 2	1,8
A	GB 2 293 986 A (IATROS LTD) 17 April 1996 (1996-04-17) page 6, line 5 - line 9; figure 1	8
A	US 3 511 572 A (FORTIER ANDRE ET AL) 12 May 1970 (1970-05-12) column 4, line 27 -column 5, line 7; figures 1-3	1,8

Further documents are listed in the continuation of box C. Patent family members are listed in annex.

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Date of the actual completion of the international search 5 November 2001	Date of mailing of the international search report 13/11/2001
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Name and mailing address of the ISA European Patent Office, P.B. 5818 Patentlaan 2 NL - 2280 HV Rijswijk Tel. (+31-70) 340-2040. Tx. 31 651 epo nl. Fax: (+31-70) 340-3016	Authorized officer Heinsius, R
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INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

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C.(Continuation) DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

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