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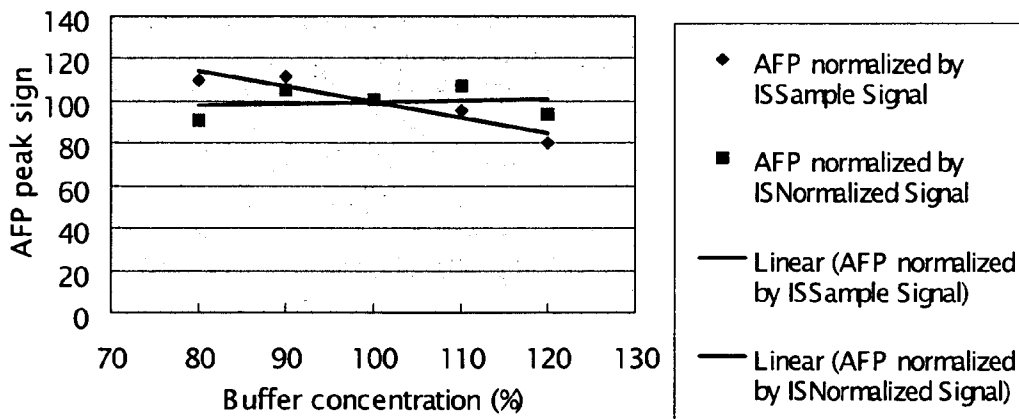
Declaration under Rule 4.17:

— as to applicant's entitlement to apply for and be granted a patent (Rule 4.17(ii))

[Continued on next page]

(54) Title: METHOD AND SYSTEM FOR INTERNAL STANDARDIZATION OF ASSAYS

Effect of HO-LB current normalization



(57) Abstract: Internal standard concentration is normalized as an independent parameter through measuring a buffer conductance in a system with characterized reagents and in a defined assay device. The conductivity of a fresh internal standard solution is measured whether in isolation or as part of a system that is subject to a uniform variation such as evaporation or condensation. Collected conductance measurements may be used to normalize assay signals that are dependent upon fluidic channel dimensions, such as fluorescence assay signal measurement.

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- *before the expiration of the time limit for amending the claims and to be republished in the event of receipt of amendments*

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**INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT**

International application No.

PCT/US07/26523

**A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER**  
 IPC: G01N 31/00( 2006.01);G01N 1/00( 2006.01);G01N 27/00( 2006.01)  
 G01N 21/64( 2006.01);G01T 1/10( 2006.01);G01N 21/76( 2006.01)  
 USPC: 436/8,18,19,172,174;422/82.01,82.02,82.08;250/361C  
 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)  
 U.S. : 436/8,18,19,172,174;422/82.01,82.02,82.08;250/361C

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)

**C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT**

Category *	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
A	US 6,372,503 B1 (SAMSOONDAR) 16 April 2002 (16.04.2002), full document	1-16 and 23-25
A	US 5,948,684 (WEIGL et al) 7 Sep. 1999 (07.09.1999), full document	1-16 and 23-25
A	US 5,605,662 (HELLER et al) 25 Feb. 1997 (25.02.1997), full document	1-16 and 23-25
A	US 4,753,888 (CHIANG) 28 June 1988 (28.06.1988), full document	1-16 and 23-25
A	US 6,756,230 (NODA et al) 29 June 2004 (29.06.2004), full document	1-16 and 23-25
A	US 6,632,676 B1 (CREWS et al) 14 Oct. 2003 (14.10.2003), full document	1-16 and 23-25

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
"E" earlier application or patent published on or after the international filing date	"Y"	document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is combined with one or more other such documents, such combination being obvious to a person skilled in the art
"L" document which may throw doubts on priority claim(s) or which is cited to establish the publication date of another citation or other special reason (as specified)	"&"	document member of the same patent family
"O" document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or other means		
"P" document published prior to the international filing date but later than the priority date claimed		

Date of the actual completion of the international search: 21 August 2008 (21.08.2008)  
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Name and mailing address of the ISA/US: Mail Stop PCT, Attn: ISA/US, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450, Facsimile No. (571) 273-3201  
 Authorized officer: NEIL TOKI (with signature), Telephone No. 571-272-1700

# INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No.

PCT/US07/26523

## Box No. II Observations where certain claims were found unsearchable (Continuation of item 2 of first sheet)

This international search report has not been established in respect of certain claims under Article 17(2)(a) for the following reasons:

1.  Claims Nos.:  
because they relate to subject matter not required to be searched by this Authority, namely:
  
2.  Claims Nos.:  
because they relate to parts of the international application that do not comply with the prescribed requirements to such an extent that no meaningful international search can be carried out, specifically:
  
3.  Claims Nos.:  
because they are dependent claims and are not drafted in accordance with the second and third sentences of Rule 6.4(a).

## Box No. III Observations where unity of invention is lacking (Continuation of item 3 of first sheet)

This International Searching Authority found multiple inventions in this international application, as follows:  
Please See Continuation Sheet

1.  As all required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant, this international search report covers all searchable claims.
2.  As all searchable claims could be searched without effort justifying additional fees, this Authority did not invite payment of any additional fees.
3.  As only some of the required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant, this international search report covers only those claims for which fees were paid, specifically claims Nos.:

4.  No required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant. Consequently, this international search report is restricted to the invention first mentioned in the claims; it is covered by claims Nos.: 1-16 and 23-25

- Remark on Protest**
- The additional search fees were accompanied by the applicant's protest and, where applicable, the payment of a protest fee.
  - The additional search fees were accompanied by the applicant's protest but the applicable protest fee was not paid within the time limit specified in the invitation.
  - No protest accompanied the payment of additional search fees.

**BOX III. OBSERVATIONS WHERE UNITY OF INVENTION IS LACKING**

This application contains the following inventions or groups of inventions which are not so linked as to form a single general inventive concept under PCT Rule 13.1. In order for all inventions to be examined, the appropriate additional examination fees must be paid.

Group I, claim(s) 1-16 and 23-25, drawn to a normalization method.

Group II, claim(s) 17-22, drawn to an assay system.

The inventions listed as Groups I, II do not relate to a single general inventive concept under PCT Rule 13.1 because, under PCT Rule 13.2, they lack the same or corresponding special technical features for the following reasons: Group II is drawn to an assay system which includes the special technical features of a substrate with wells, a control member, and a memory member that are not found in Group I.