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(54) Title: FLEXIBLE PROCESS OPTIMIZER

(57) Abstract: A flexible process optimizer for recording and analyzing various parameters to improve the efficiency of a production process. The flexible process optimizer acquires and conditions signals from a variety of transducers mounted on a production machine. Through qualitative and quantitative data analysis, specific aspects are of the production process which need improvement are identified. The qualitative evaluation looks at the presence, absence, or duration of certain features of the production cycle as revealed by the sensor data. The quantitative evaluation of data involves the computation of certain data attributes. By providing useful data acquisition and data analysis tools, necessary adjustments are made to the required parameters of the production process to provide improved efficiency. The results of the changes are immediately verifiable using the flexible process optimizer.

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No.

PCT/US05/00345

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER  
 IPC: G01C 19/00( 2006.01)

USPC: 702/86,104,106,179  
 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. : 702/86, 104, 106, 179

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.
Y --- A	US 5,248,248 (Adley) 28 September 1993 (28.09.93), column 8, line 34 to column 10 line 7.	1, 2, 4, 6, 8-16 ----- 3, 5, 7, 17
Y --- A	US 6,362,768 B1 (YOUNIS et al) 26 March 2002 (26.03.02), figure 3.	1-2, 4, 6, 8-16 ----- 3, 5, 7, 17
Y --- A	US 5,470,218 (HILLMAN et al) 28 November 1995 (28.11.95), figure 1.	1-2, 4, 6, 8-16 ----- 3, 5, 7, 17

Further documents are listed in the continuation of Box C.  See patent family annex.

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"O" document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or other means	
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