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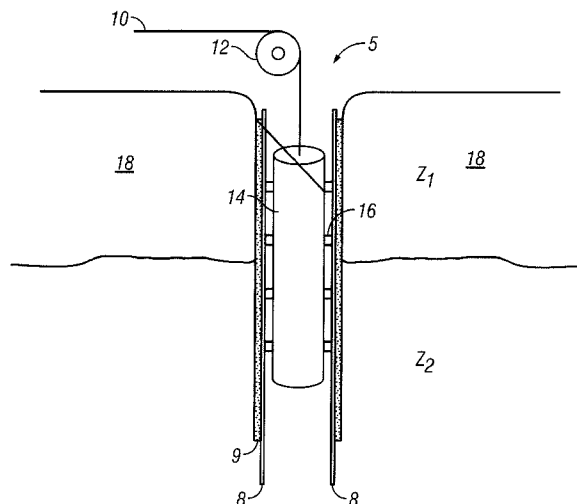


FIG. 1

(57) Abstract: A combined electromagnetic acoustic transducer (EMAT) is disclosed adapted to generate both SH-type acoustic waves and LAMB-type acoustic waves in a conductive casing, surroundings of which are to be analyzed. The transducer comprises one magnet assembly and two RF coils implemented as multi-layer printed circuit board. Each coil is used to generate or receive acoustic signals of one wave type. Compared to using two single-wave-type transducers the combined EMAT significantly reduces total attraction force to the casing and, correspondingly, simplifies mechanics of the measurement tool.

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COMBINED ELECTRO-MAGNETIC ACOUSTIC TRANSDUCER**Arcady Reiderman & Joseph G. Barolak****BACKGROUND OF THE DISCLOSURE**5 **1. Field of the Invention**

[0001] The invention relates generally to the field evaluating the integrity of bonds that adhere wellbore casing to a wellbore. More specifically, the present invention relates to a method and apparatus of producing and detecting acoustic forces within a wellbore casing to evaluate the integrity of the casing.

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2. Description of Related Art

[0002] As illustrated in **FIG. 1** wellbores typically comprise casing **8** set within the wellbore **5**, where the casing **8** is bonded to the wellbore by adding cement **9** within the annulus formed between the outer diameter of the casing **8** and the inner diameter
15 of the wellbore **5**. The cement bond not only adheres to the casing **8** within the wellbore **5**, but also serves to isolate adjacent zones (e.g. **Z₁** and **Z₂**) within an earth formation **18**. Isolating adjacent zones can be important when one of the zones contains oil or gas and the other zone includes a non-hydrocarbon fluid such as water. Should the cement **9** surrounding the casing **8** be defective and fail to provide
20 isolation of the adjacent zones, water or other undesirable fluid can migrate into the hydrocarbon producing zone thus diluting or contaminating the hydrocarbons within the producing zone, and increasing production costs, delaying production or inhibiting resource recovery.

25 [0003] To detect possible defective cement bonds, downhole tools **14** have been developed for analyzing the integrity of the cement **9** bonding the casing **8** to the wellbore **5**. These downhole tools **14** are lowered into the wellbore **5** by wireline **10** in combination with a pulley **12** and typically include transducers **16** disposed on their outer surface formed to be acoustically coupled to the fluid in the borehole. These
30 transducers **16** are generally capable of emitting acoustic waves into the casing **8** and recording the amplitude of the acoustic waves as they travel, or propagate, across the casing **8**. Characteristics of the cement bond, such as its efficacy, integrity and adherence to the casing, can be determined by analyzing characteristics of the

acoustic wave such as attenuation. Typically the transducers 16 are piezoelectric devices having a piezoelectric crystal that converts electrical energy into mechanical vibrations or oscillations transmitting acoustic wave to the casing 8. Piezoelectric devices typically couple to a casing 8 through a coupling medium found in the wellbore. Coupling mediums include liquids that are typically found in wellbores. When coupling mediums are present between the piezoelectric device and the casing 8, they can communicate the mechanical vibrations from the piezoelectric device to the casing 8. However, lower density fluids such as gas or air and high viscosity fluids such as some drilling mud may not provide adequate coupling between a piezoelectric device and the casing 8. Furthermore, the presence of sludge, scale, or other like matter on the inner circumference of the casing 8 can detrimentally affect the efficacy of a bond log acquired with a piezoelectric device. Thus for piezoelectric devices to provide meaningful bond log results, they must cleanly contact the inner surface of the casing 8 or be employed in wellbores, or wellbore zones, having liquid within the casing 8. Another drawback faced when employing piezoelectric devices for use in bond logging operations involves the limitation of variant waveforms produced by these devices. Fluids required to couple the wave from the transducer to the casing only conduct compressional waves, thus limiting the wave types that can be induced in or received from the casing. A great deal of information is derivable from variant acoustical waveforms that could be used in evaluating casing, casing bonds, and possibly even conditions in the formation 18. Therefore, there exists a need to conduct bond logging operations without the presence of a particular couplant. A need exists for a bond logging device capable of emitting and propagating into wellbore casing numerous types of waveforms, and recording the waveforms.

25 [0004] Electromagnetic-acoustic transducers (EMATs) have been used in non-destructive testing. An EMAT acts through the following physical principles. When a wire is placed near the surface of an electrically conducting object and is driven by a current at the desired ultrasonic frequency, eddy currents are induced in a near surface region of the object. If a static magnetic field is also present, these eddy currents experience Lorentz forces. These forces cause an acoustic excitation in the object. In a reciprocal use, an electric signal will be generated in the wire as a result of acoustic excitation in a metal placed close to a permanent magnet. Attenuation and/or reflection of the acoustic waves bear information on the defects and surroundings of

the object. An EMAT is typically designed to producing a single waveform, such as shear horizontal waves (SH) or Lamb waves.

[0005] Various EMAT design configurations have been proposed. U.S. Patent
5 4,296,486 to *Vasile* discloses an EMAT including a source of magnetic flux for establishing a static magnetic field, an electrical conductor for conducting an alternating current in the static magnetic field, and an electrically conductive nonmagnetic shield disposed between the source of magnetic flux and the conductor. U.S. Patent 7,024,935 to *Paige et al.* discloses an EMAT including a magnetic unit
10 arranged to be moved relative to the material under test to magnetize a surface layer of the material, and an electrical winding supplied by an alternating current source, the magnetic unit and the electric winding, in use, being applied in sequence to the material under test whereby the electrical winding is positioned adjacent the material subsequent to magnetization thereof by the magnetic unit, the alternating magnetic
15 flux created by the winding interacting with the remanent magnetization of the material to create ultrasonic vibration of the material.

[0006] If different excitation modes are used to characterize the object, then an array of two or more transducers is generally used. The total attraction force between the
20 object and the array of transducers may dramatically complicate mechanics related to placing and moving the array with respect to the object.

[0007] Therefore, there exists a need for a device and method to perform acoustic testing in a borehole casing that reduces the amount of placing and moving of the
25 transducers with respect to the object being examined.

SUMMARY OF THE DISCLOSURE

[0008] One embodiment disclosed herein is an apparatus configured for use with an electrically conducting material. The apparatus includes a magnet assembly including
30 a plurality of magnets with alternating polarization in a direction substantially orthogonal to a first direction of a body of the electrically conducting material. The apparatus includes a first conductor configured to carry a first current in a direction substantially parallel to the first direction and generate a shear wave in the body upon passage of the first current, a second conductor configured to carry a second current in

a direction substantially orthogonal to the first direction and substantially orthogonal to the direction of polarization of the plurality of magnets and generate a Lamb waves upon passage of the second current. The apparatus also includes a receiving transducer configured to produce signals responsive to the generated shear wave and the generated Lamb wave. The apparatus also includes a processor configured to use the produced signals to estimate a property of the received shear wave and the received Lamb wave, and recorded the estimated property on a suitable medium. The electrically conducting material may be a tubular conveyed in a borehole and the first direction may be an axis of the tubular. The polarity of the magnets may be arranged so that the alternating polarizations formed a checkerboard pattern. The first conductor may be further configured to provide rows of the first current alternately carried in opposing directions along the magnet assembly. The second conductor may include at least one crossover portion configured to maintain the generated Lamb wave in two adjacent regions of opposing magnetic polarization. The crossover portion may be configured to switch positions of a pair of wires. The first and second conductors may be configured to be implemented as a printed circuit board. The property may be selected from velocity and/or attenuation. The receiving transducer may further include a magnet assembly including a plurality of magnets with alternating polarizations in a direction substantially orthogonal to the first direction, a first conductor configured to generate a first current in response to a received shear wave, and a second conductor configured to generate a second current in response to a received Lamb wave.

[0009] Another disclosed embodiment is a method of generating acoustic waves in an electrically conducting material. The method includes providing a magnet assembly including a plurality of magnets alternating polarization in a direction substantially orthogonal to a first direction of a body of the electrically conducting material. The method further includes conveying a first current in a direction substantially parallel to the first direction to generate a shear wave in the electrically conducting material, conveying a second current in a direction substantially orthogonal to the first direction and substantially orthogonal to this direction of polarization of the plurality of magnets to generate a Lamb wave, producing signals responsive to the generated shear wave and the generated Lamb wave at a receiving transducer, estimating a property of the received shear wave and the received Lamb wave from the produced

signals, and recording the estimated property on a suitable medium. The electrically conducting material may be a tubular conveyed in a borehole and the first direction may be an axis of the tubular. Providing a magnet assembly may further include arranging the plurality of magnets so that the alternating polarizations formed a checkerboard pattern. Conveying the first current may further involve conveying the current in opposite directions. Conveying the second current may include using a conductor having a crossover portion. The crossover portion maintains the generated Lamb wave in two adjacent regions of opposing magnetic polarization. The property may be velocity and/or attenuation. Producing the signals may include providing a magnet assembly including a plurality of magnets with alternating polarization in a direction substantially orthogonal to the first direction, generating a first current in a first conductor in response to the received shear wave, and generating a second current in a second conductor in response to the received Lamb wave.

[0010] Another embodiment is a computer-readable medium for use with a tool for evaluating an electrically conducting material. The tool includes a magnet assembly including a plurality of magnets with alternating polarization substantially orthogonal to a first direction of a body of the electrically conducting material, a first conductor configured to carry a first current in a direction substantially parallel to the first direction and generate a shear wave in the body upon passage of the first current, a second conductor configured to carry a second current in a direction substantially orthogonal to the first direction and substantially orthogonal to the direction of polarization of the plurality of magnets and generate Lamb wave upon passage of the second current, and a receiving transducer configured to produce signals responsive to the generated shear wave and the generated Lamb wave. The medium includes instructions which enable a processor to estimate a velocity of the generated shear wave and the generated Lamb wave from the produced signals and record the estimated velocities on a suitable medium. The medium may include a ROM, and EPROM, an EEPROM, a flash memory, and/or an optical disk.

30

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

[0011] The present invention and its advantages will be better understood by referring to the following detailed description and the attached drawings in which:

FIG. 1 depicts a partial cross section of prior art downhole cement bond log tool disposed within a wellbore;

FIGS. 2A – 2B schematically illustrate a magnetic coupling transmitter disposed to couple to a section of casing;

5 **FIG. 3** shows one embodiment of the present invention disposed within a wellbore;

FIGS. 4A - 4D depict alternative embodiments of the present invention;

FIG. 5 illustrates shear waveforms propagating through a section of a medium;

10 **FIG. 6A** illustrates an embodiment of the present invention where the transducers are dynamically positioned at or near the well casing inside surface;

FIG. 6B illustrates a cross-sectional view of an embodiment of the present invention illustrated in **FIG. 6A**;

15 **FIG. 6B** illustrates a cross-sectional view of an embodiment of the present invention;

FIG. 7 is a flow chart illustrating a method provided by the present invention.;

FIGS. 8A-B (Prior Art) show side and bottom views respectively of a standard EMAT used in prior art for generating SH-waves;

20 **FIG. 8C** (Prior Art) shows a bottom view of a portion of a standard EMAT used in prior art for generating a Lamb wave;

FIGS. 9A-B illustrate an exemplary EMAT configuration of the present disclosure combining SH and Lamb wave production into a single EMAT; and

FIGS. 10A-B show an alternate embodiment of the EMAT of the present disclosure.

25

[0012] While the invention will be described in connection with its preferred embodiments, it will be understood that the invention is not limited thereto. It is intended to cover all alternatives, modifications, and equivalents which may be included within the spirit and scope of the invention, as defined by the appended claims.

30

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE INVENTION

[0013] The present disclosure describes a combined electromagnetic acoustic transducer (EMAT) adapted to generate both shear horizontal type (SH-type) acoustic waves and Lamb-type acoustic waves in a conductive casing. The transducer
5 comprises one magnet assembly and two radio frequency (RF) coils implemented as a multi-layer printed circuit board. Each coil is used to generate or receive acoustic signals of one wave type. Compared to using two single-wave-type transducers the combined one significantly reduces the total attraction force between the casing and
10 the EMAT, and correspondingly simplifies the mechanical aspects of the measurement tool.

[0014] Lamb waves are complex vibrational waves that travel through the entire thickness of a material, such as a metal plate. While different modes of waveforms
15 are possible with Lamb waves, two of the most common types of Lamb waves are symmetric and anti-symmetric. In a symmetric Lamb wave, particle movement within the plate undergoes both compression and rarefaction as the wave passes along the plate. The compression and rarefaction particle movement of the symmetric Lamb wave within the plate is primarily in the vertical direction. The anti-symmetric
20 Lamb wave is a longitudinal shear wave that is vertically polarized such that the particle movement is also perpendicular to the plane of the plate. However the particle movement of the anti-symmetric Lamb wave is generally in the same direction and thus does not experience the compression and rarefaction of the symmetric Lamb wave.

25 [0015] Changes in ultrasonic wave propagation speed, along with energy losses from interactions with materials microstructures are often used to nondestructively gain information about properties of the material. An ultrasonic wave, such as a Lamb wave or a shear horizontal (SH) wave, may be created in a material sample, such as a
30 solid beam, by creating an impulse at one region of the sample. As the wave propagates through the sample, residual stresses and other material defects affect the wave. Once the affected wave is recorded, the nature of the stresses of the material can be determined. Measurements of sound velocity and ultrasonic wave attenuation

can be related to the elastic properties that can be used to characterize the texture of polycrystalline metals.

[0016] The amount of attenuation can depend on how an acoustic wave is polarized and the coupling condition between the casing and the cement. Typical downhole tools having acoustic wave transducers generate acoustic waves that are polarized perpendicular to the surface of the casing. Such waves are referred to as compression/shear or P-SV waves since the particle motion direction of either the compressional (P) or the shear (S) component of the acoustic wave is in a vertical (V) plane perpendicular to the casing. The attenuation of the acoustic wave as it propagates along the surface of the casing depends on the condition of the cement bond and is also dependent on the type of cement disposed between the casing and the formation. More specifically, as the acoustic wave propagates along the length of the casing, the wave loses, or leaks, energy into the formation through the cement bond - it is this energy loss that produces the attenuation of the acoustic wave. Conversely, when the casing is not bonded, a condition also referred to as "free pipe," the micro-annulus fluid behind the casing does not provide for any shear coupling between the casing and the formation. Loss of shear coupling significantly reduces the compressional coupling between the casing and the formation. This result occurs since fluid has no shear modulus as well as a much lower bulk modulus in relation to cement. Because of these physical characteristics of fluid, the entire SV component of the P-SV wave and a large portion of the P component of the P-SV wave do not propagate outside of the casing and thus experience a much reduced attenuation.

[0017] The present invention comprises a downhole tool disposable within a wellbore comprising a magnetically coupling transducer, a transmitter and/or receiver comprising a coil and a magnet. The term "magnet" as used in reference to the present invention is used in its commonly-understood manner to mean any device that creates a magnetic field or that produces a magnetic field external to itself. A magnet may be a permanent magnet, a direct current electromagnet, an alternating current electromagnet, or any other device creating a magnetic field. The coil and the magnet are combinable to produce an energy field capable of inducing or measuring waveforms within the wellbore casing. Optionally, the magnetic coupling transducer is an electromagnetic acoustic transducer. The magnetic coupling transmitter and the

receiver can be disposed onto the downhole tool housing and the transmitter disposed onto the wellbore casing. The tool comprises a receiver capable of sensing the waveforms within the wellbore casing. The downhole tool can further comprise a sonde formed to house the magnetic coupling transducer, a transmitter and receiver; 5 the tool can be insertable within the wellbore casing. Optionally included with the tool is an electrical source capable of providing an electrical current to the coil, which may be activated electrically and/or electrically modulated. The downhole tool may traverse substantially the entire cased portion of a wellbore, or only a portion of the cased wellbore, with the transducer in contact and magnetically coupled to the 10 wellbore casing.

[0018] The magnetic coupling transmitter/receiver is capable of forming or receiving a wave within the casing. Such a wave may include compressional waves, shear waves, transversely polarized shear waves, Lamb waves, Rayleigh waves, and 15 combinations thereof. The magnetic coupling transmitter and the receiver can be disposed at substantially the same radial location with respect to the axis of the housing. Alternatively, the magnetic coupling transmitter and the receiver can be disposed at varying radial locations with respect to the axis of the housing. Alternatively the magnetic coupling transmitter and the receiver can be disposed at 20 substantially the same location along the length of the housing. The magnetic coupling transmitter and the receiver can be disposed at different locations along the length of the housing. Two or more rows of acoustic devices can be disposed radially with respect to the axis of the housing, wherein the acoustic devices include at least one magnetic coupling transmitter and at least one receiver. Optionally, these rows 25 can be staggered or can be substantially helically arranged. Alternatively, any magnet/coil pair may serve as both a transmitter and a receiver at different times during the data acquisition or measurement process.

[0019] The present invention provides a method of inspecting the casing bond of a 30 casing disposed within a wellbore. The method can involve combining a magnetic field with an electrical field to induce waveforms within the casing where the waveforms pass through the wellbore casing; sensing the waveforms propagating through the wellbore casing; and analyzing the waveforms propagating through the wellbore casing to determine the integrity of the casing bond. The method of the

present invention can further comprise forming the magnetic field and the electrical field with a magnetically coupled transducer and receiving the reflected waves with a receiver. The method can also include adding an electrical source to the coil.

5 [0020] Additionally, the magnetically coupled transducer of the present method can comprise a magnet and a coil, wherein the magnet is one or more of a permanent magnet, a direct current electro-magnet, and an alternating current electro-magnet. Further, the magnetically coupled transducer can be an electromagnetic acoustic
10 of the magnetic field with the electrical field include compressional waves, shear waves, Lamb waves, Rayleigh waves, and combinations thereof. Additionally, the method of the present invention may comprise the magnetically coupled transducer with a receiver mounted to a sonde disposed within the casing, wherein the sonde is in operative communication with the surface. The magnetic coupling transmitter and the
15 receiver can be disposed at substantially the same radial location with respect to the axis of the casing. Optionally, in the method of the present invention, the magnetic coupling transmitter and the receiver can be disposed at varying radial locations with respect to the axis of the casing. Further, the magnetically coupling transmitter and the receiver can be disposed at substantially the same location along the length of the
20 casing or can be disposed at different locations along the length of the casing. The method can further include disposing two or more rows radially with respect to the axis of the casing, wherein each of the two or more rows includes at least one magnetic coupling transmitter and at least one receiver, each of the two or more rows can be staggered or can be helically arranged. Accordingly, one of the advantages
25 provided by the present invention is the ability to conduct casing bond logging activities in casing irrespective of the type of fluid within the casing and irrespective of the conditions of the inner surface of the casing. An additional advantage of the present invention is the ability to induce and then detect numerous waveforms within the casing, combinations of waveforms within the casing, and simultaneous
30 waveforms within the casing.

[0021] As illustrated in FIG. 2A, a magnetically coupled transducer 20 is positioned at any desired attitude proximate to a section of casing 8. For the purposes of clarity, only a portion of the length and diameter of a section of casing 8 is illustrated and the

magnetically coupled transducer **20** is shown schematically in both **FIG. 2A** and **FIG. 2B**. The magnetically coupled transducer **20** may be positioned within the inner circumference of the tubular casing **8**, but the magnetically coupled transducer **20** can also be positioned in other areas.

5

[0022] For any particular transducer **20**, more than one magnet (of any type for example permanent, electro-magnetic, etc.) may be combined within a unit; such a configuration enables inducing various waveforms and facilitating measurement and acquisition of several waveforms. A transducer **20** capable of transmitting or receiving waveforms in orthogonal directions is schematically illustrated in **FIG. 2B**. While a schematic magnet **22** with orthogonal magnetic fields is illustrated, a single-field relatively large magnet with multiple smaller coils **24** (which coils may be disposed orthogonally) may be employed to form versatile transducers.

15 [0023] In embodiments provided by the present invention that are illustrated schematically in **FIGS. 2A** and **2B**, the magnetically coupled transducer **20** is comprised of a magnet **22** and a coil **24**, where the coil **24** is positioned between the magnet **22** and the inner circumference of the casing **8**. An electrical current source (not shown) is connectable to the coil **24** capable of providing electrical current to the coil **24**. The magnet **22**, may be one or more permanent magnets in various orientations or can also be an electro-magnet, energized by either direct or alternating current. **FIG. 2B** schematically illustrates orthogonal magnetic and coil representations. One or more magnets or coils may be disposed within a downhole tool to affect desired coupling and/or desired wave forms such as the direct inducing of shear waves into casing **8**. While the coil is illustrated as disposed between the magnet and the casing, the coil may be otherwise disposed adjacent to the magnet.

25 [0024] The coil **24** may be energized when the magnetically coupled transducer **20** is proximate to the casing **8** to produce acoustic waves within the material of the casing **8**. For example the coil may be energized with a modulated electrical current. Thus the magnetically coupled transducer **20** operates as an acoustic transmitter.

[0025] The magnetically coupled transducer **20** can also operate as a receiver capable of receiving waves that traversed the casing and cement. The magnetically coupled

transducer **20** may be referred to as an acoustic device. As such, the acoustic devices of the present invention function as acoustic transmitters or as acoustic receivers, or as both.

5 **[0026]** The present invention as illustrated in **FIG. 3** provides a sonde **30** shown having acoustic devices disposed on its outer surface. The acoustic devices comprise a series of acoustic transducers, both transmitters **26** and receivers **28**, where the distance between each adjacent acoustic device on the same row may be substantially the same. With regard to the configuration of acoustic transmitters **26** and acoustic
10 receivers **28** shown in **FIG. 3**, while the rows **34** radially circumscribing the sonde **30** can comprise any number of acoustic devices (i.e. transmitters **26** or receivers **28**), it is preferred that each row **34** comprise five or more of these acoustic devices (the preference for five or more devices is for devices with the transmitters and receivers radially arranged around the circumference e.g., **FIG. 4a**). The acoustic transmitters
15 **26** may be magnetically coupled transducers **20** of the type of **FIGS. 2A** and **2B** comprising a magnet **22** and a coil **24**. Optionally, the acoustic transmitters **26** can comprise electromagnetic acoustic transducers.

[0027] Referring now again to the configuration of the acoustic transmitters **26** and
20 acoustic receivers **28** of **FIG. 3**, the acoustic transducers comprising transmitters **26** and receivers **28** can be arranged in at least two rows where each row comprises primarily acoustic transmitters **26** and a next adjacent row comprises primarily acoustic receivers **28**. Optionally, as shown in **FIG. 3**, the acoustic devices within adjacent rows in this arrangement are aligned in a straight line along the length of the
25 sonde **30**.

[0028] While only two circumferential rows **34** of acoustic devices are shown in **FIG. 3**, variations and placement of transducers and arrangements in rows can be included depending on the capacity and application of the sonde **30**. Another arrangement is to
30 have one row of acoustic transducers **26** followed by two circumferential rows of acoustic receivers **28** followed by another row of acoustic transducers **26**. As is known in the art, advantages of this particular arrangement include the ability to make a self-correcting acoustic measurement. Attenuation measurements are made in two directions using arrangements of two transmitters and two receivers for acquisition of

acoustic waveforms. The attenuation measurements may be combined to derive compensated values that do not depend on receiver sensitivities or transmitter power.

[0029] Additional arrangements of the acoustic transducers **26** and acoustic receivers **28** disposed on a sonde **31** are illustrated in a series of non-limiting examples in **FIGS. 4A** through **4D**. In the embodiment of **FIG. 4A** a row of alternating acoustic transducers, transmitters **26** and receivers **28** are disposed around the sonde **31** at substantially the same elevation. The acoustic devices may be equidistantly disposed around the axis **A** of the sonde section **31**. In an alternative configuration of the present invention shown in **FIG. 4B**, the acoustic devices are disposed in at least two rows around the axis **A** of the sonde section **31**, but unlike the arrangement of the acoustic devices of **FIG. 3**, the acoustic devices of adjacent rows are not aligned along the length of the sonde **30**, but instead are staggered.

[0030] **FIG. 4C** illustrates a configuration where a single acoustic transmitter **26** cooperates with a group or groups of acoustic receivers **28**. Optionally the configuration of **FIG. 4C** can have from **6** to **8** receivers **28** for each transmitter **26**. **FIG. 4D** depicts rows of acoustic transducers where each row comprises a series of alternating acoustic transducers **26** and acoustic receivers **28**. The configuration of **FIG. 4D** is similar to the configuration of **FIG. 4B** in that the acoustic devices of adjacent rows are not aligned but instead are staggered. It should be noted however that the acoustic devices of **FIG. 4D** may be staggered in a way that a substantially helical pattern (**44**) is formed by acoustic devices around the sonde. The present invention is not limited in scope to the configurations displayed in **FIGS. 4A** through **4D**, and other arrangements will occur to practitioners of the art and are contemplated within the scope of the present invention.

[0031] In operation of one embodiment of the present invention, a series of acoustic transmitters **26** and acoustic receivers **28** are included on a sonde **30** (or other downhole tool). The sonde **30** is then secured to a wireline **10** and deployed within a wellbore **5** for evaluation of the casing **8**, casing bond, and/or formation **18**. When the sonde **30** is within the casing **8** and proximate to the region of interest, the electrical current source can be activated thereby energizing the coil **24**. Providing current to the coil **24** via the electrical current source produces eddy currents within the surface

- of the casing **8** as long as the coil **24** is sufficiently proximate to the wall of the casing **8**. It is within the capabilities of those skilled in the art to situate the coil **24** sufficiently close to the casing **8** to provide for the production of eddy currents within the casing **8**. Inducing eddy currents in the presence of a magnetic field imparts
- 5 Lorentz forces onto the particles conducting the eddy currents that in turn causes oscillations within the casing **8** thereby producing waves within the wall of the casing **8**. The coil **24** of the present invention can be of any shape, design, or configuration as long as the coil **24** is capable of producing an eddy current in the casing **8**.
- 10 **[0032]** Accordingly, the magnetically coupled transducer **20** is magnetically "coupled" to the casing **8** by virtue of the magnetic field created by the magnetically coupled transducer **20** in combination with the eddy currents provided by the energized coil **24**. Thus one of the many advantages of the present invention is the ability to provide coupling between an acoustic wave producing transducer without
- 15 the requirement for the presence of liquid medium. Additionally, these magnetically induced acoustic waves are not hindered by the presence of dirt, sludge, scale, or other like foreign material as are traditional acoustic devices, such as piezoelectric devices.
- 20 **[0033]** The waves induced by combining the magnet **22** and energized coil **24** propagate through the casing **8**. These acoustic waves can further travel from within the casing **8** through the cement **9** and into the surrounding formation **18**. At least a portion of these waves can be reflected or refracted upon encountering a discontinuity of material, either within the casing **8** or the area surrounding the casing **8**. Material
- 25 discontinuities include the interface where the cement **9** is bonded to the casing **8** as well as where the cement **9** contacts the earth formation (e.g. Z_1 and Z_2 of FIG. 1). Other discontinuities can be casing seams or defects, or even damaged areas of the casing such as pitting or corrosion.
- 30 **[0034]** As is known, the waves that propagate through the casing **8** and the reflected waves are often attenuated with respect to the wave as originally produced. The acoustic wave characteristic most often analyzed for determining casing and cement adhesion is the attenuation of the transmitted waves that have traversed portions of the casing **8** and/or cement **9**. Analysis of the amount of wave attenuation can provide an

indication of the integrity of a casing bond (i.e. the efficacy of the cement **9**), the casing thickness, and casing integrity. The reflected waves and the waves that propagate through the casing **8** can be recorded by receiving devices disposed within the wellbore **5** and/or on the sonde. The sonde **30** may contain memory for data
5 storage and a processor for data processing. If the sonde **30** is in operative communication with the surface through the wireline **10**, the recorded acoustic waves can be subsequently conveyed from the receivers to the surface for storage, analysis and study.

10 **[0035]** An additional advantage of the present design includes the flexibility of producing and recording more than one type of waveform. The use of variable waveforms can be advantageous since one type of waveform can provide information that another type of waveform does not contain. Thus the capability of producing
15 multiple types of waveforms in a bond log analysis can in turn yield a broader range of bond log data as well as more precise bond log data. With regard to the present invention, not only can the design of the magnet **22** and the coil **24** be adjusted to produce various waveforms, but can also produce numerous wave polarizations.

[0036] FIG. 5 illustrates a vertical shear (S_V) waveform **38** and a horizontal shear
20 (S_H) waveform **36** that are shown propagating in the x -direction within a wave medium **52**. The z -direction has been arbitrarily chosen as up or vertical. The shear waveforms **38** and **36** comprise particle wave motion transverse to the direction of wave propagation. While both waves propagate in the x -direction, they are polarized in different directions. Polarization refers to the direction of particle movement within
25 the medium **52** transverse to the direction of propagation of a wave. A transverse wave is a wave in which the vibrating elements (or particle motion of the medium **32**) moves in a direction perpendicular to the direction of advance of the wave. The compressional polarization arrow **40** depicts the direction of polarization of the compressional waveform **38**. From this it can be seen that polarization of S_V waves **38**
30 is substantially vertical, or in the z -direction. Conversely, with reference to the shear polarization arrow **42** for the (S_H) waveform **36**, the direction of polarization is substantially in the y -direction, or normal (horizontally) to the direction of wave propagation.

[0037] The shapes and configurations of these waves are illustrated in **FIG. 5** as examples of shear waveforms that can be produced by use of a magnetically coupled transducer **20**. Moreover, the magnetically coupled transducers **20** are capable of producing additional waveforms, such as Lamb waves, Rayleigh waves.

5 Additionally, the present invention provides for the production of multiple waveforms with the same acoustic transducer. A single transducer of the present invention may be used to produce compressional waves, shear waves, Rayleigh waves, Lamb waves, as well as combinations of these waveforms, and producing these waveforms directly in the casing **8**. In contrast, prior art piezoelectric transducers are limited to the
10 production of compressional waveforms into wellbore casing because only compressional waveforms will propagate through a fluid medium.

[0038] **FIG. 6A** illustrates a bond log tool **32** provided by the present invention where the transducers **20**, which may be in a housing or pad **29**, are kept in contact with the
15 wellbore casing in substantially all the casing circumference using offset arms **44**. Typically high offset arm forces are required which hinder the tool from moving freely. The present invention provides efficient coupling as an electromagnet comprising a vibrating transmitter is dragged along the casing as the tool moves. By vibrating these electromagnets that are magnetically coupled to the casing, the casing
20 physically oscillates. S-waves may be generated by the casing and traverse the cement-bond, cement **9**, and underlying formation. The s-waves reflections and refractions may be received with conventional sensors.

[0039] **FIG. 6A** illustrates a pad **29** containing four transducers **20**, but the number
25 and positions of pads **29** is not limited to any specific arrangement. The pad **29** with four transducers **20** illustrated in **FIG. 6A** allows for the implementation of the compensated attenuation arrangement of two receivers between two transmitters, but this is not a limitation and other arrangements may be implemented.

30 [0040] **FIG. 6B** illustrates a cross-sectional view of sonde **32** with offset arms **44** allowing for the magnetically coupling transducers, transmitters or receivers, to contact the casing **8** wall. While four pads **29** with transducers are illustrated in **FIG. 6B**, **FIG. 6C** illustrates a sonde providing eight pads that contact the casing **8**. An arrangement of six pads with transducers has been found to provide good quantitative

analysis of cement bond-to-casing in six 60° segments for 360° coverage around the borehole. Additionally, offset arms may be used to implement other transducer disposition arrangements radially and longitudinally, such as those illustrated in **FIGS. 4A – 4B**.

5

[0041] The present invention offers significant operating advantages over prior art tools due to its insensitivity to heavy or gas-cut borehole fluids, fast formations, temperature and pressure variations, and moderate tool eccentricity. The invention is essentially unaffected by various borehole fluids because the offset arms **44** of the tool pads **29** provide for transducers **20** that are coupled magnetically against the casing interior wall where actual measurements are acquired. This enables good results in heavy or gas-cut, mud-filled boreholes. The invention is not affected by "mud" arrivals and can be used effectively in large-diameter pipe and may log a well with a variety of casing sizes on a single pass.

15

[0042] The present invention is effective in environments with fast formations. Using shear waves with short pad spacing does not allow sufficient distance for fast-formation arrivals to overtake casing-borne arrivals.

20

[0043] The present invention further provides for a downhole instrument, which may be sonde **32** of **FIG. 6A**, which is controlled by an electronic cartridge (not shown) that comprises a downhole microprocessor, a telemetry system which may be digital, and the electronic cartridge may have data storage. Downhole data processing and digital telemetry eliminate distortions that can occur in analog signal transmission by the wireline. Any of the waveforms can be digitized downhole, optionally processed downhole and displayed at the surface

25

[0044] **FIG. 7** is a flow chart illustrating a method provided by the present invention. A downhole tool, which may be a sonde, is disposed **71** into a wellbore. A magnetically coupling transducer is coupled **73** to the wellbore casing. The downhole tool may comprise extendable arms with pads holding a plurality of transducers for generating and receiving acoustic energy on the wellbore casing. The coupled transducer generates acoustic waves **75** into the wellbore casing. The generated acoustic waves are detected **77** at a second magnetically coupling transducer and the

30

waves are recorded **79**. The data recorded may be further processed and/or stored in the downhole tool or transmitted by telemetry to the surface for further processing, analysis and display.

5 **[0045] FIGS. 8A and 8B** show side and bottom views respectively of a standard EMAT **100** used in prior art for generating SH-waves. The EMAT of **FIGS. 8A and 8B** comprises magnets **104** and **106** assembled in a magnet array such that the magnetization vectors (as represented by accompanying arrows) have alternating and opposing orientations. The magnet array may be attached to an iron back plate **102** at
10 an attachable face of the magnet array. The iron plate is used to reduce magnetic pole strength on the attachable face of the magnet array. This increases the magnetic field on the operative face of the magnet array opposite to the attachable face. The iron plate may also serve as a supporting device. Wire **108** is placed along an operative face of the magnet array. In one aspect, the EMAT may be operated to produce an
15 SH wave to be transmitted to an examined object (not shown) such as a conductive casing placed against the operative face of the magnet array for examination purposes. Wire **108** may carry an applied current which induces a set of forces by passing the current through the applied magnetic fields of the magnet array. The configuration of the magnet array produces a set of forces which, in combination, produce the SH
20 wave. The wavelength of the SH wave is determined by the separation of the magnets and is generally the distance between the midpoints of magnets **106** adjoining magnet **104**, for example. In another aspect, eddy currents circulating in the examined object may induce a current in the wire **108**. The eddy currents may result from applied forces on the object. The induced current may be used to determine the size of the
25 eddy currents and thus to determine the applied forces.

[0046] FIG. 8B illustrates a bottom view of the EMAT of **FIG. 8A**. As seen in **FIG. 8B**, the magnet array extends in two dimensions to form a checkerboard pattern at the operable face. Wire **108** crosses several rows of the magnet array. The wire **108** is
30 formed so as to carry current along alternating rows of the magnet array. The current in the wire reverses directions with each adjacent row. **FIG. 8B** further shows a return wire **110** for completing an electric circuit.

[0047] FIG. 8C shows a bottom view of a portion of a standard EMAT used in prior art for generating a Lamb wave. The Lamb-wave EMAT comprises a single magnet 112 having a single magnetization direction: perpendicular to face of the drawing. Current is carried along the operative face of the single magnet over a set of wires arranged in parallel rows in the manner shown. The current is carried over wires 114A-C in one direction and over wires 116A-C in the opposite direction. Wires 114A-C and 116A-C are connected by electrical connector 118A-C at their ends. (Wire 114A connects to wire 116A via connector 118A, etc.) At the opposite end (not shown), alternate connections can be made, for example, by connecting wire 114A to wire 116B, etc. In another aspect, the wires 114A-C, 116A-C and connectors 118A-C may be formed as a single wire coil (meander coil). The wavelength of the Lamb wave is generally determinable by the distances between wires carrying current in the same direction, i.e. from wire 116B to wire 116C.

[0048] FIGS. 9A and 9B illustrate an exemplary EMAT configuration 200 of the present invention. The exemplary EMAT combines SH and Lamb production into a single transducer. FIG. 9A shows a side view of the exemplary EMAT. The magnet array comprises magnets 204 and 206 oriented so as to have magnetizations vectors (represented by accompanying arrows) alternately oriented in opposing directions along the y-axis. The magnetic array is attached to an iron back plate 202 at an attachable face. A wire configuration is located along the operable face opposite the attachable face. The wire configuration comprises an SH wire 208 for generating and responding to SH waves and Lamb wires 214A-C and 216A-C for generating and responding to Lamb waves. The current in wires 216A-C flow in the opposite direction of the current in wires 214A-C. Lamb wires are paired (i.e., 214A and 216A, 214B and 216B, 214C and 216C), and each pair is associated with a single row of the magnetic assembly. As seen in FIG. 9A, the ordering of the wires in the wire pairs alternate depending on the polarity of the associated applied magnetic field. The number of wires and the number of magnets shown in the magnetic array is for illustrative purposes only and is not meant as a limitation of the invention.

[0049] FIG. 9B shows a bottom view of the operable face of the EMAT configuration of FIG. 9A. A magnet array comprises magnets 204 and 206 assembled such that the magnetization directions alternate to produce a checkerboard pattern at the operable

face. **FIG. 9B** shows a detailed view of Lamb wires (**214A-C**, **216A-C**), SH wire **208** and SH-return wire **210**. Wires **214A** are electrically connected across magnet interface via connector **218A**, and wires **216A** are connected via connector **220A**. Similarly, wires **214B** are connected via connector **218B**, and wires **216B** are connected via connector **220B**; and similarly wires **214C** are connected via connector **218C**, and wires **216C** are connected via connector **220C**. The current segments 214, 216 may be connected as shown at 222A-G to form a continuous current path. In the illustration of **FIG. 9B**, Lamb wires carry current along a z-axis. As current flows along the z-axis, the magnetization direction encountered by the current alternately changes between, for instance, a north pole to a south pole. In order to maintain a set of equivalent forces both in the north-pole region and the south-pole region, the direction of currents are switched. An examination of the force equation, Eq. (1), shows that to maintain the same sign of the force when the sign of the magnetic field changes from positive to negative (or negative to positive), the sign of the current must also change.

$$\vec{F} = \vec{J} \times \vec{B} \quad (1)$$

Here \vec{F} is the force per unit volume, \vec{J} is the eddy current density induced in the examined object, the eddy current direction is determined by the direction of the current in the eddy current producing wire, and \vec{B} is the static magnetic field produced by the magnet array at the surface of the examined object.

In other words, wire **214A** in the North-pole region produces the same force as wire **216A** in the South-pole region. Thus, the Lamb wires are configured and connected in a manner so as to provide a cross-over portion which alternates the directions of the currents between alternating magnetic regions.

[0050] An SH wire **208** is placed across the operable face of the magnet array in the direction shown to provide SH-wave excitations. The direction of current flow in the SH-wave wire **208** is perpendicular to both the direction of the current in the Lamb wave wires (**214** and **216**) and to the magnetization direction of the static magnetic fields (**204**, **206**).

[0051] The wavelength of the Lamb waves is determined by the distance between the Lamb wave generating wires. The wavelength of the SH waves is determined by the

spatial period of the alternate pole magnet structure in X-direction. The length of the Lamb and the SH waves are shown in FIG 9A at 217A and 217B respectively.

5 [0052] FIGS. 10A and 10B show an alternate embodiment of the EMAT of the present disclosure. A non-conductive soft magnetic material 302 is employed in order to increase the RF field generated by the excitation wires at the object surface per unit current in the wire as well as to simplify the return path of the Lamb-wave generating wire. The configuration of FIGS. 10A and 10B also produces SH and Lamb waves that have the same wavelength.

10 [0053] FIG. 10A shows a first side view of the alternate embodiment 300 of the EMAT using the non-conductive soft magnetic material. At the operable face of the magnetic array, Lamb wires 314 and 316 are oriented to carry current along a z-direction. The soft magnetic plate 302 is placed between wires 314 and 316. In the
15 embodiment of the FIG. 10A, the Lamb wires are located between the SH-wave wire 308 and the magnet array.

20 [0054] FIG. 10B shows a second side view of the alternate embodiment. The wires 314 and 316 are seen to alternate between top and bottom faces of the soft magnetic material 302 using connectors 318 and 320. In such a configuration, the portion of Lamb current that is closest to the object of examination reverses direction between alternating magnetic regions, thereby achieving an effect comparable to that achieved using the exemplary embodiment of FIGS. 9A-B. The alternation of current
25 directions at the face nearest the object of examination generally occurs at the interfaces between alternating magnets.

30 [0055] The invention has been described with reference to a device used with a conductive tubular in a borehole. This is not to be construed as a limitation of the invention; the method and apparatus described above may be used to generate shear waves and Lamb waves in a tubular or plate of any type of electrically conducting material. In such a case, the directions identified above would be referenced to a "first direction" instead of to "an axis of the tubular."

[0056] Implicit in the control and processing of the data is the use of a computer program on a suitable machine readable medium that enables the processor to perform the control and processing. The machine readable medium may include ROMs, EPROMs, EEPROMs, Flash Memories and Optical disks. Such a computer program
5 may output the results of the processing to a suitable tangible medium. This may include a display device and/or a memory device.

[0057] The present invention described herein, therefore, is well adapted to carry out the objects and attain the ends and advantages mentioned, as well as others inherent
10 therein. While a presently preferred embodiment of the invention has been given for purposes of disclosure, numerous changes exist in the details of procedures for accomplishing the desired results. These and other similar modifications will readily suggest themselves to those skilled in the art, and are intended to be encompassed within the spirit of the present invention disclosed herein and the scope of the
15 appended claims.

CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

- 1 1. An apparatus configured for use with an electrically conducting material, the
 2 tool comprising:
 - 3 (a) a magnet assembly including a plurality of magnets with alternating
 4 polarization in a direction substantially orthogonal to a first direction
 5 of a body of the electrically conducting material;
 - 6 (b) a first conductor configured to carry a first current in a direction
 7 substantially parallel to the first direction and generate a shear wave in
 8 the body upon passage of the first current;
 - 9 (c) a second conductor configured to carry a second current in a direction
 10 substantially orthogonal to the first direction and substantially
 11 orthogonal to the direction of polarization of the plurality of magnets
 12 and generate a Lamb wave upon passage of the second current;
 - 13 (d) a receiving transducer configured to produce signals responsive to the
 14 generated shear wave and the generated Lamb wave; and
 - 15 (e) a processor configured to:
 - 16 (I) use the produced signals to estimate a property of the received
 17 shear wave and the received Lamb wave, and
 - 18 (II) record the estimated property on a suitable medium.
- 19
- 1 2. The apparatus of claim 1 wherein the electrically conducting material
 2 comprises a tubular conveyed in a borehole and the first direction comprises
 3 an axis of the tubular.
 4
- 1 3. The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the plurality of magnets in the magnet
 2 assembly are arranged so that the alternating polarizations form a
 3 checkerboard pattern.
 4
- 1 4. The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the first conductor is further configured to
 2 provide rows of the first current alternately carried in opposing directions
 3 along the magnet assembly.
 4

- 1 5. The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the second conductor comprises at least one
2 cross-over portion configured to maintain the generated Lamb wave in two
3 adjacent regions of opposing magnet polarization.
4
- 1 6. The apparatus of claim 4, wherein the cross-over portion is configured to
2 switch positions of a pair of wires which are placed one of i) side by side and
3 equally separated from the magnet assembly, and, ii) on opposing sides of a
4 non-conductive soft magnetic material and differently separated from the
5 magnet assembly.
6
- 1 7. The apparatus of claim 1 wherein the first and second conductors are
2 configured to be implemented as a multi-layer printed circuit board.
3
- 1 8. The apparatus of claim 1 wherein the property is selected from the group
2 consisting of: (i) velocity, and (ii) attenuation.
3
- 1 9. The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the receiving transducer further comprises:
2 (a) a magnet assembly including a plurality of magnets with alternating
3 polarization in a direction substantially orthogonal to the first
4 direction;
5 (b) a first conductor configured to generate a first current in response to a
6 received shear wave; and
7 (c) a second conductor configured to generate a second current in response
8 to a received Lamb wave.
9
- 1 10. A method of generating acoustic waves in an electrically conducting material,
2 the method comprising:
3 (a) providing a magnet assembly including a plurality of magnets with
4 alternating polarization in a direction substantially orthogonal to a first
5 direction of a body of the electrically conducting material;
6 (b) conveying a first current in a direction substantially parallel to the first
7 direction to generate a shear wave in the electrically conducting
8 material;

- 9 (c) conveying a second current in a direction substantially orthogonal to
10 the first direction and substantially orthogonal to the direction of
11 polarization of the plurality of magnets to generate a Lamb wave;
12 (d) producing signals responsive to the generated shear wave and the
13 generated Lamb wave at a receiving transducer;
14 (e) estimating a property of the received shear wave and the received
15 Lamb wave from the produced signals, and
16 (f) recording the estimate property on a suitable medium.

17

- 1 11. The method of claim 10 wherein the electrically conducting material
2 comprises a tubular conveyed in a borehole and wherein the first direction
3 comprises an axis of the tubular.
4
- 1 12. The method of claim 10, wherein providing the magnet assembly further
2 comprises arranging the plurality of magnets so that the alternating
3 polarizations form a checkerboard pattern.
4
- 1 13. The method of claim 10, wherein conveying the first current further comprises
2 conveying the current in opposite directions.
3
- 1 14. The method of claim 10, wherein conveying the second current further
2 comprises using a conductor having a cross-over portion.
3
- 1 15. The method of claim 14 wherein the cross-over portion maintains the
2 generated Lamb wave in two adjacent regions of opposing magnet
3 polarization.
4
- 1 16. The method of claim 14 wherein the cross-over portion switches the positions
2 of a pair of wires which are placed one of i) side-by-side and equally separated
3 from the magnet assembly, and, ii) on opposing sides of a non-conductive soft
4 magnetic material and differently separated from the magnet assembly.
5
- 1 17. The method of claim 10 wherein the property is one of: velocity and
2 attenuation.

3

1 18. The method of claim 10 wherein producing signals responsive to the shear
2 wave and the Lamb wave further comprises:

- 3 (a) providing a magnet assembly including a plurality of magnets with
4 alternating polarization in a direction substantially orthogonal to the
5 first direction;
- 6 (b) generating a first current in a first conductor in response to the received
7 shear wave; and
- 8 (c) generating a second current in a second conductor in response to the
9 received Lamb wave.

10

1 19. A computer-readable medium for use with a tool for evaluating an electrically
2 conducting material, the tool comprising:

- 3 (a) a magnet assembly including a plurality of magnets with alternating
4 polarization in a direction substantially orthogonal to a first direction
5 of a body of the electrically conducting material;
- 6 (b) a first conductor configured to carry a first current in a direction
7 substantially parallel to the first direction and generate a shear wave in
8 the body upon passage of the first current;
- 9 (c) a second conductor configured to carry a second current in a direction
10 substantially orthogonal to the first direction and substantially
11 orthogonal to the direction of polarization of the plurality of magnets
12 and generate a Lamb wave upon passage of the second current; and
- 13 (d) a receiving transducer configured to produce signals responsive to the
14 generated shear wave and the generated Lamb wave;
- 15 the medium comprising instructions which enable a processor to:
- 16 (e) estimate a velocity of the generated shear wave and the generated
17 Lamb wave from the produced signals; and
- 18 (f) record the estimated velocities on a suitable medium.

19

1 20. The medium of claim 19 further comprising at least one of (i) a ROM, (ii) and
2 EPROM, (iii) an EEPROM, (iv) a flash memory, and (v) an optical disk.

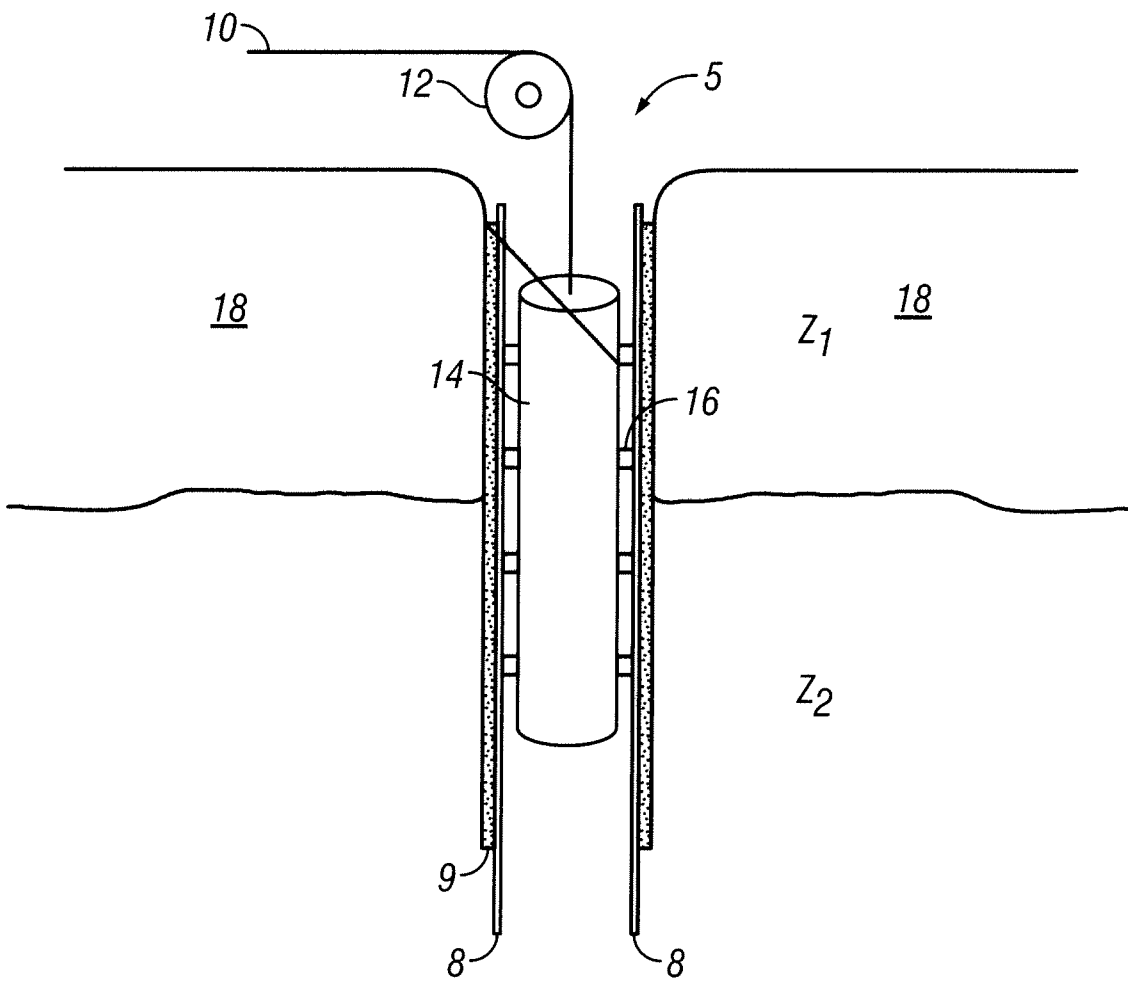


FIG. 1

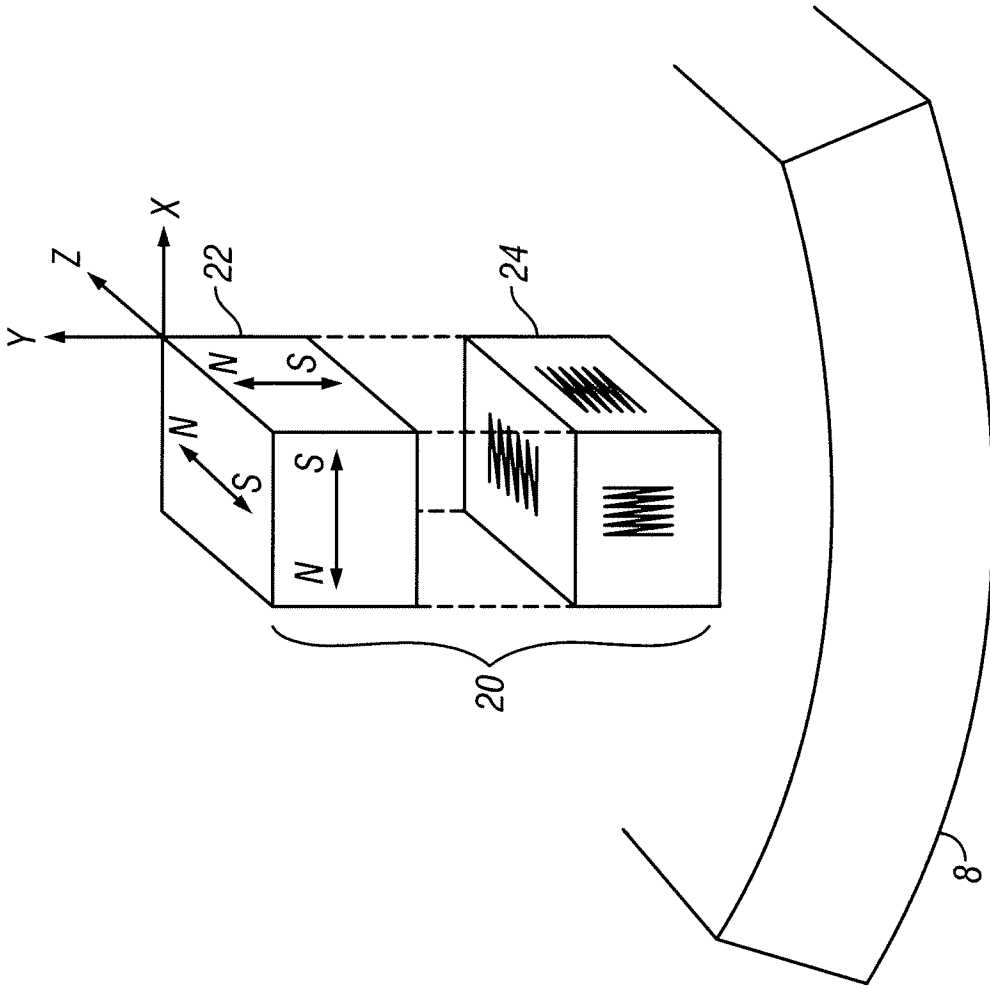


FIG. 2B

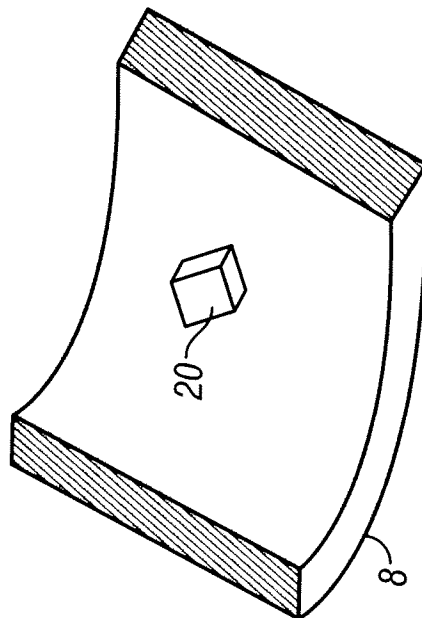


FIG. 2A

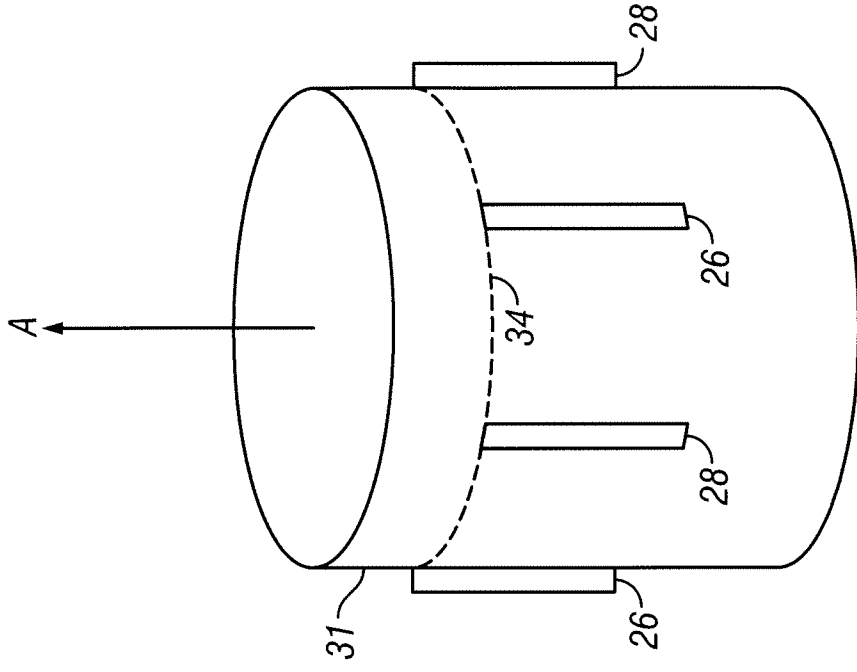


FIG. 4A

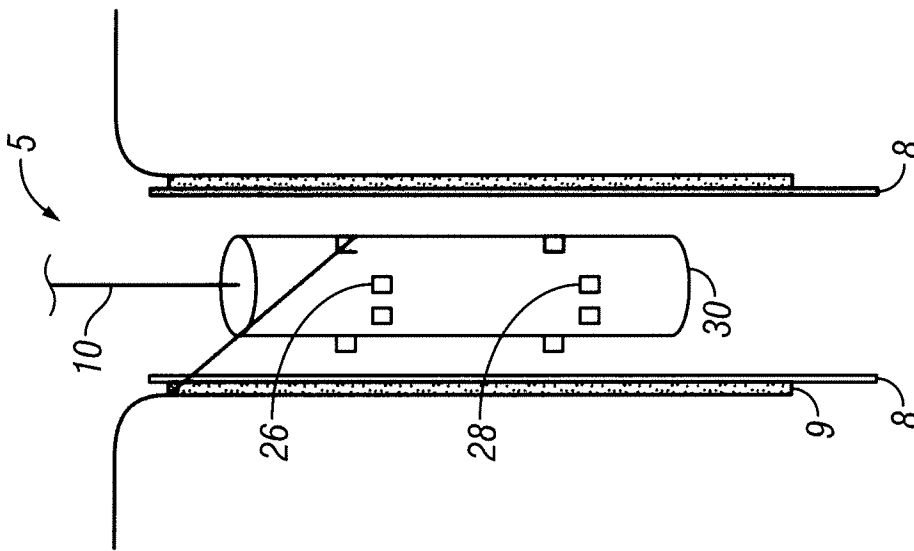


FIG. 3

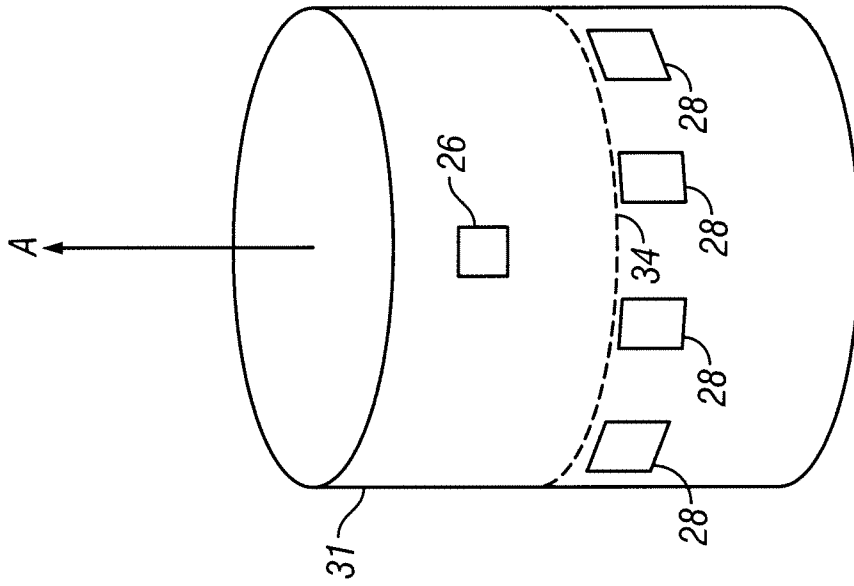


FIG. 4C

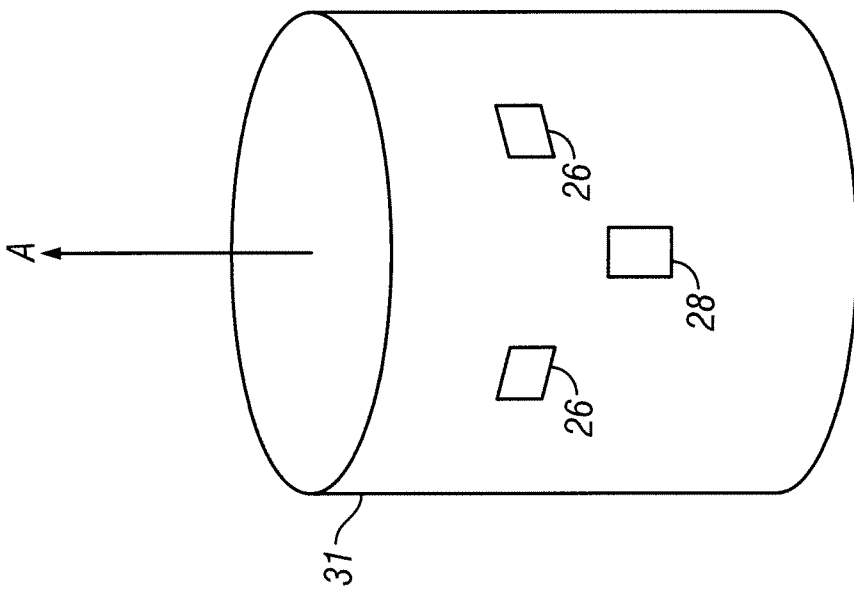


FIG. 4B

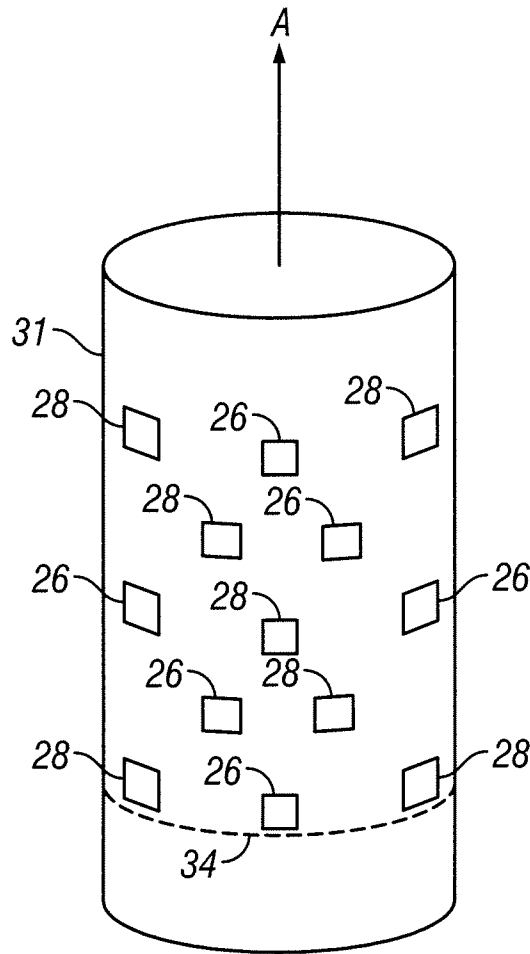


FIG. 4D

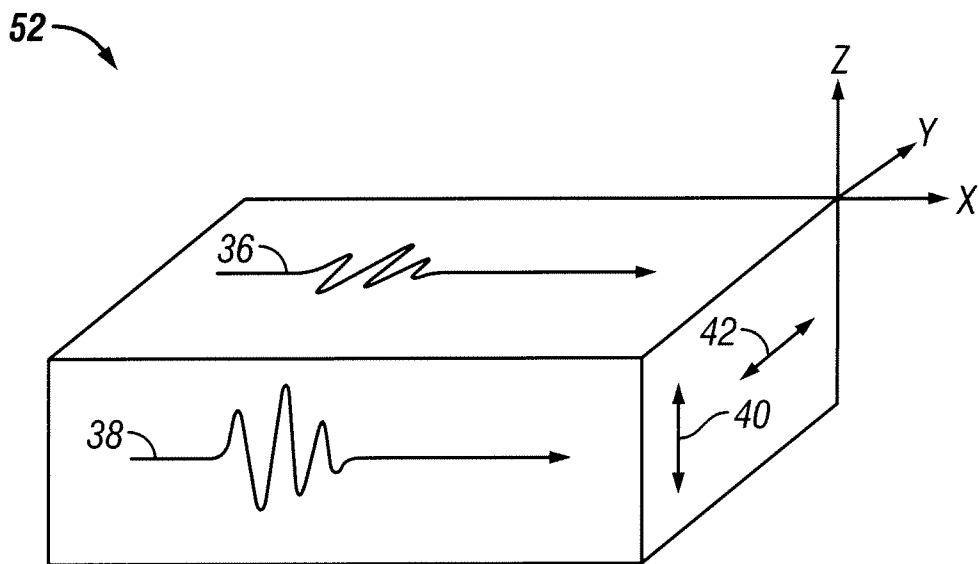


FIG. 5

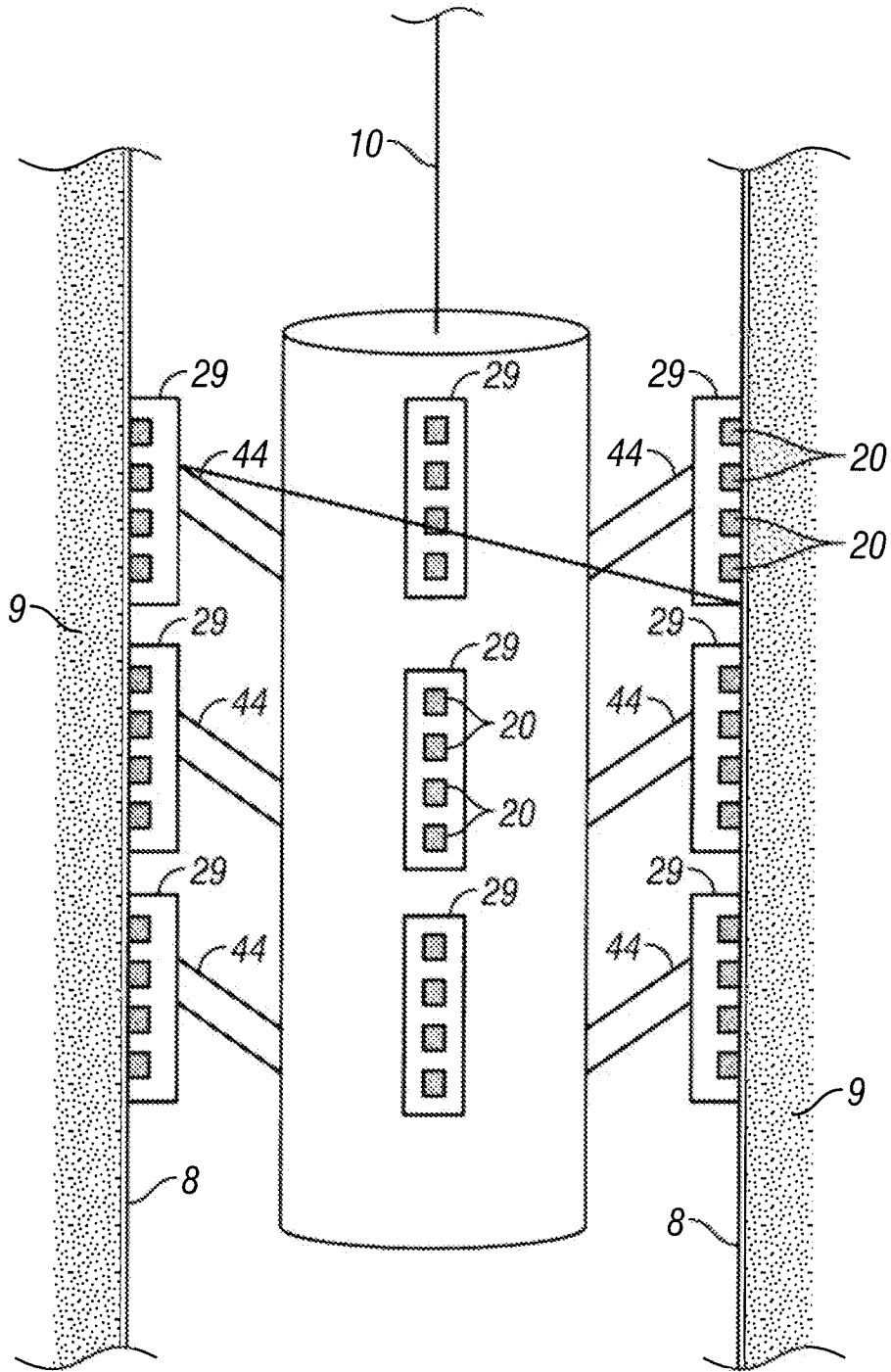


FIG. 6A

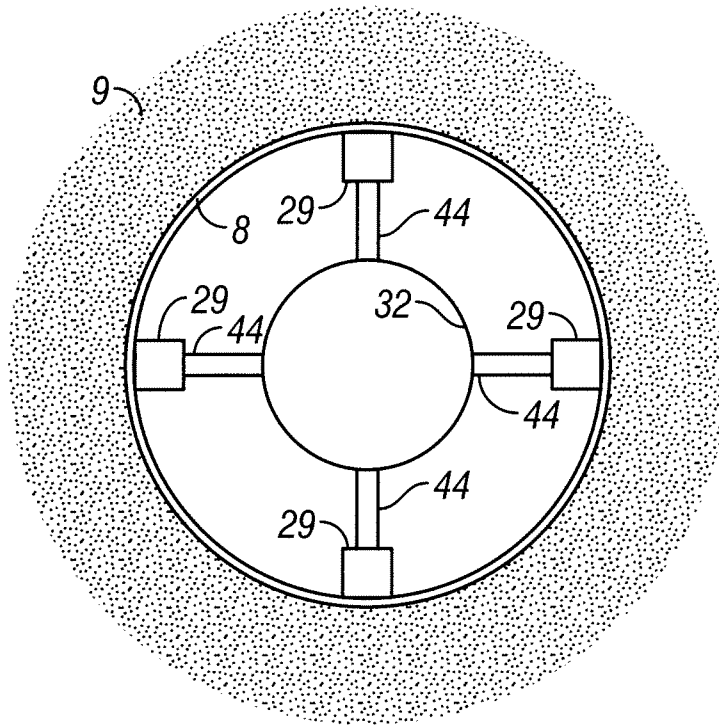


FIG. 6B

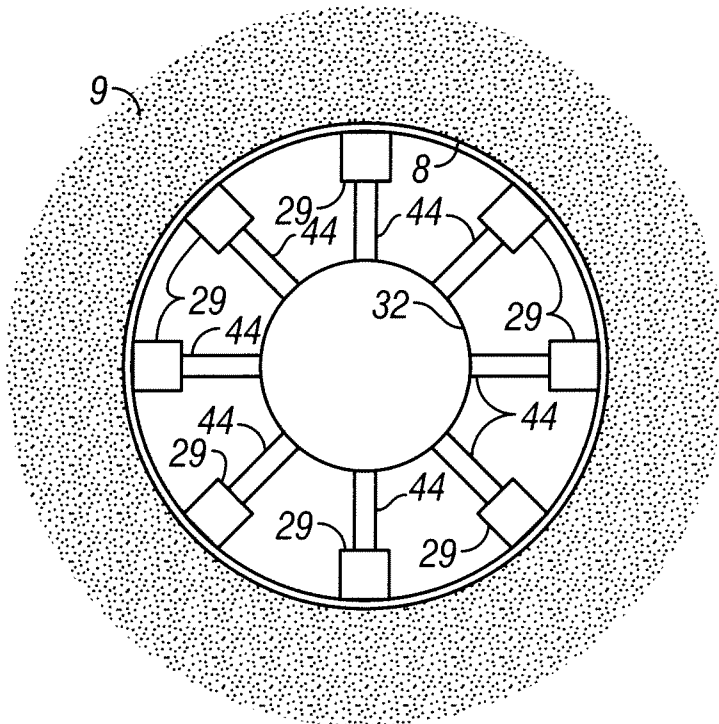


FIG. 6C

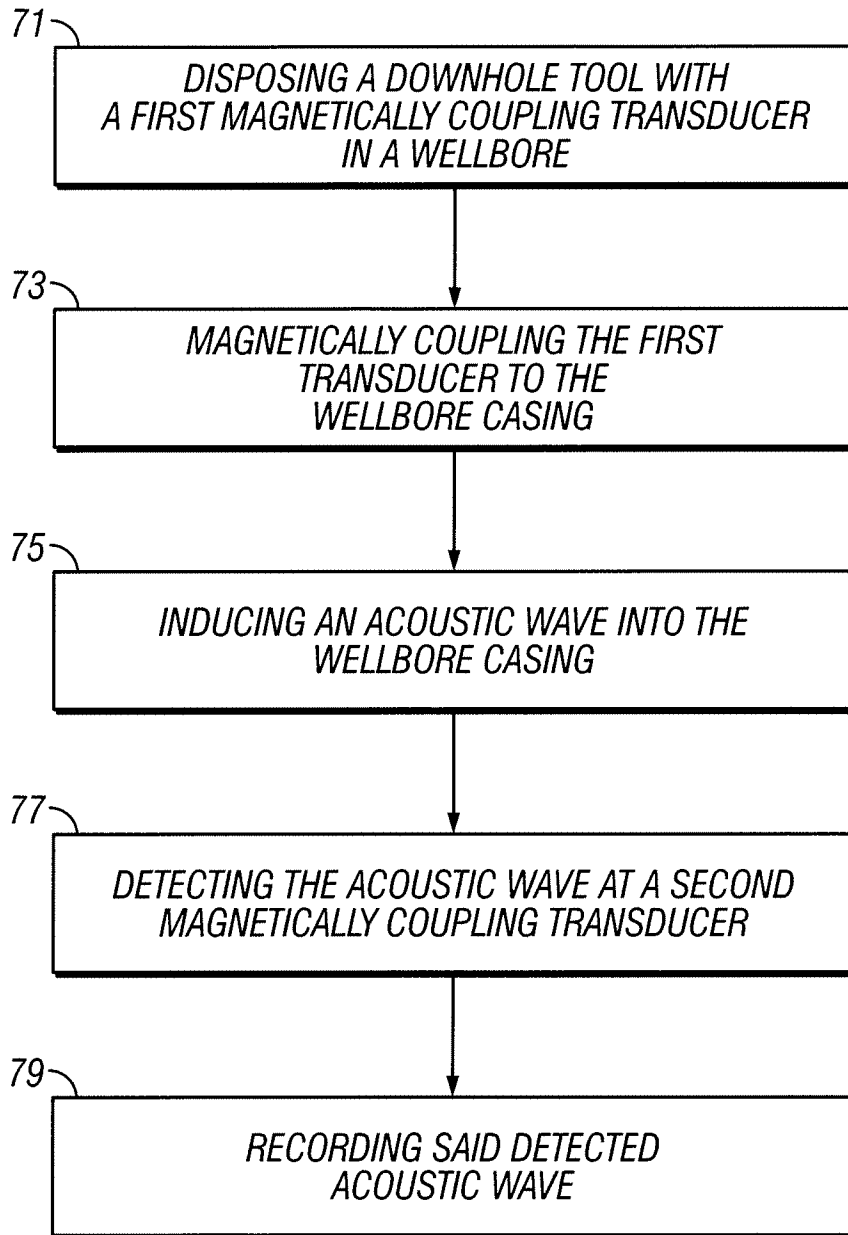


FIG . 7

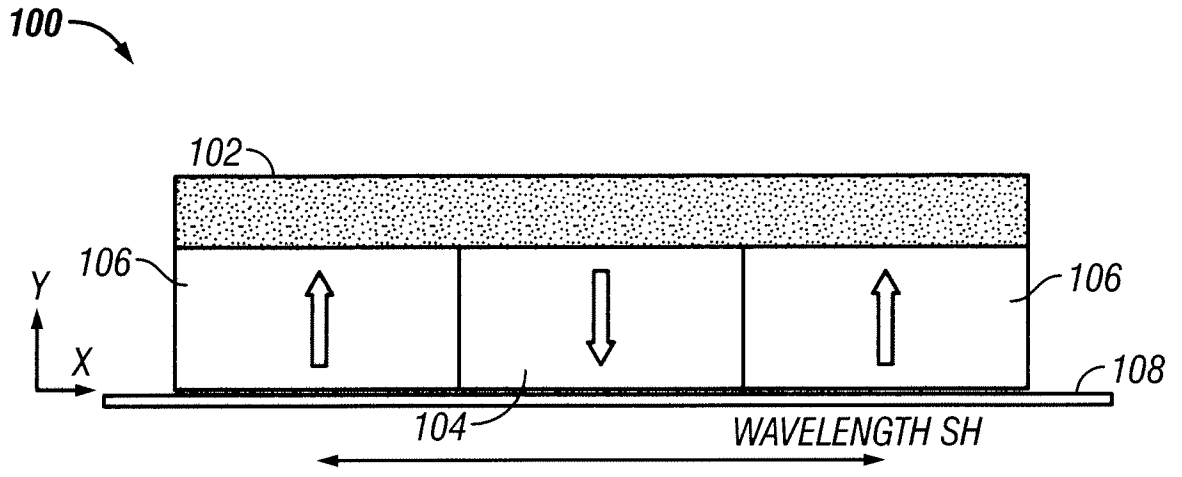


FIG. 8A
(Prior Art)

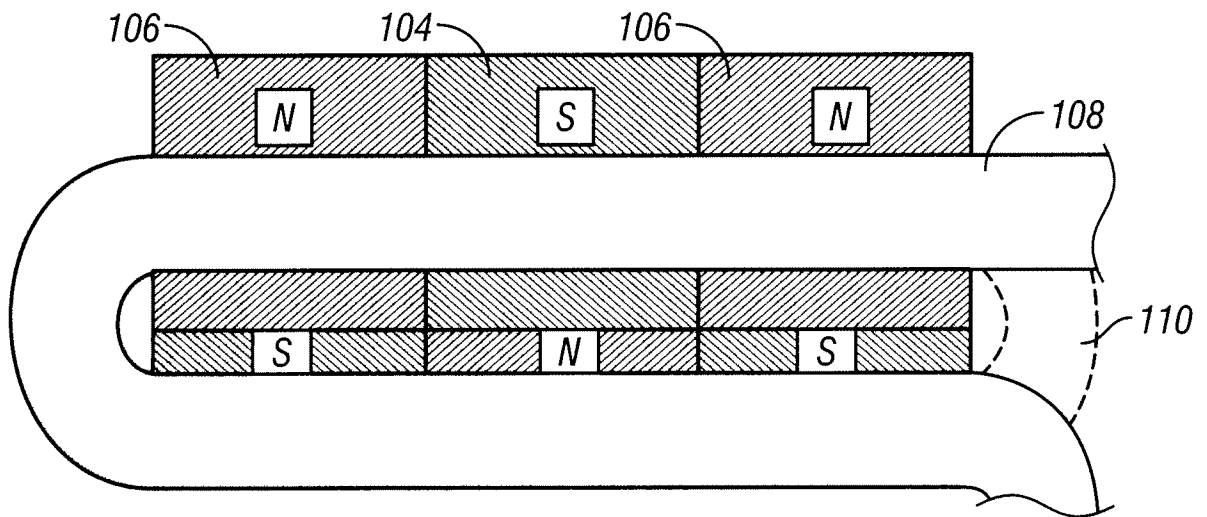


FIG. 8B
(Prior Art)

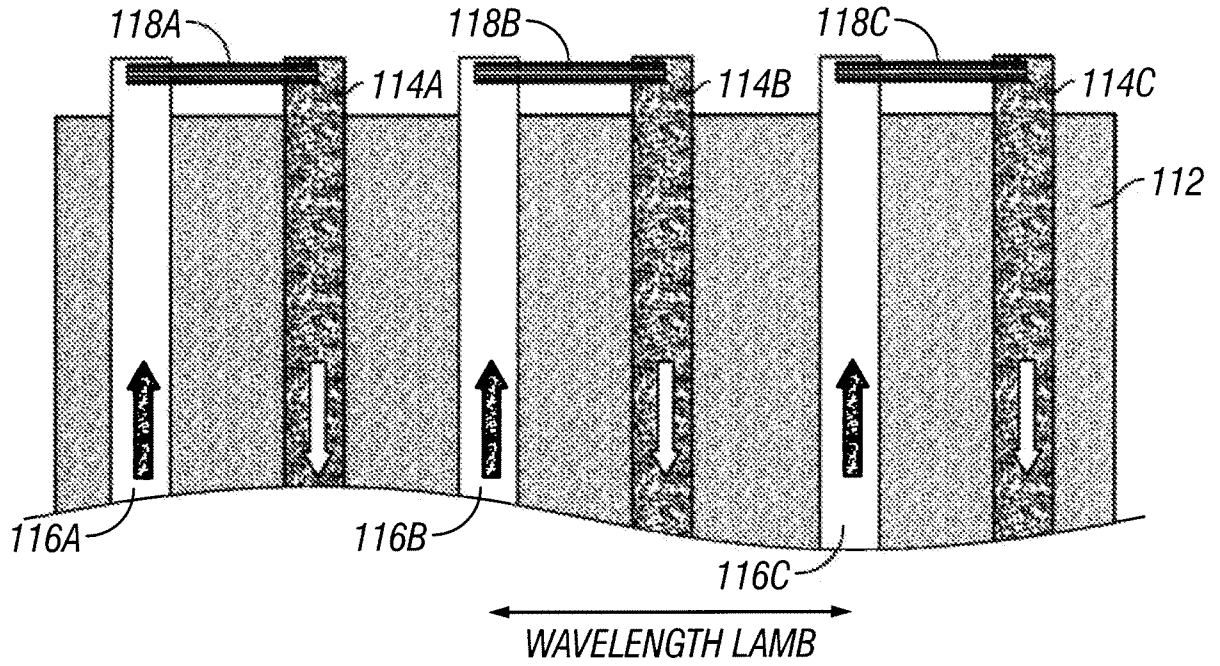


FIG. 8C
(Prior Art)

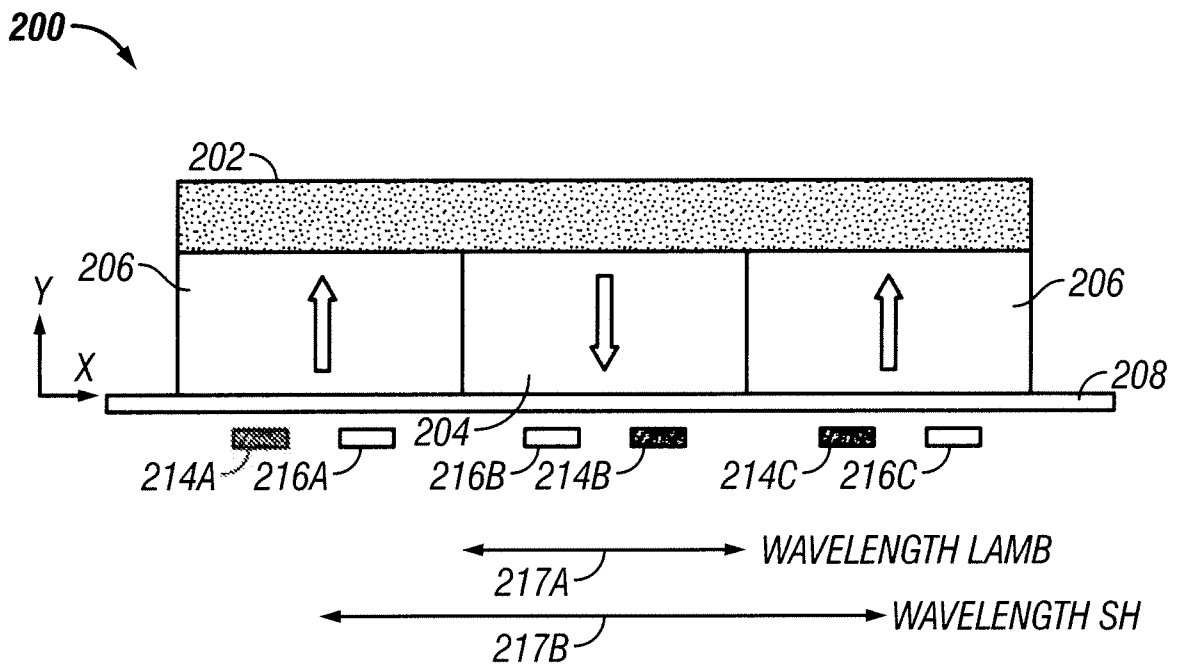


FIG. 9A

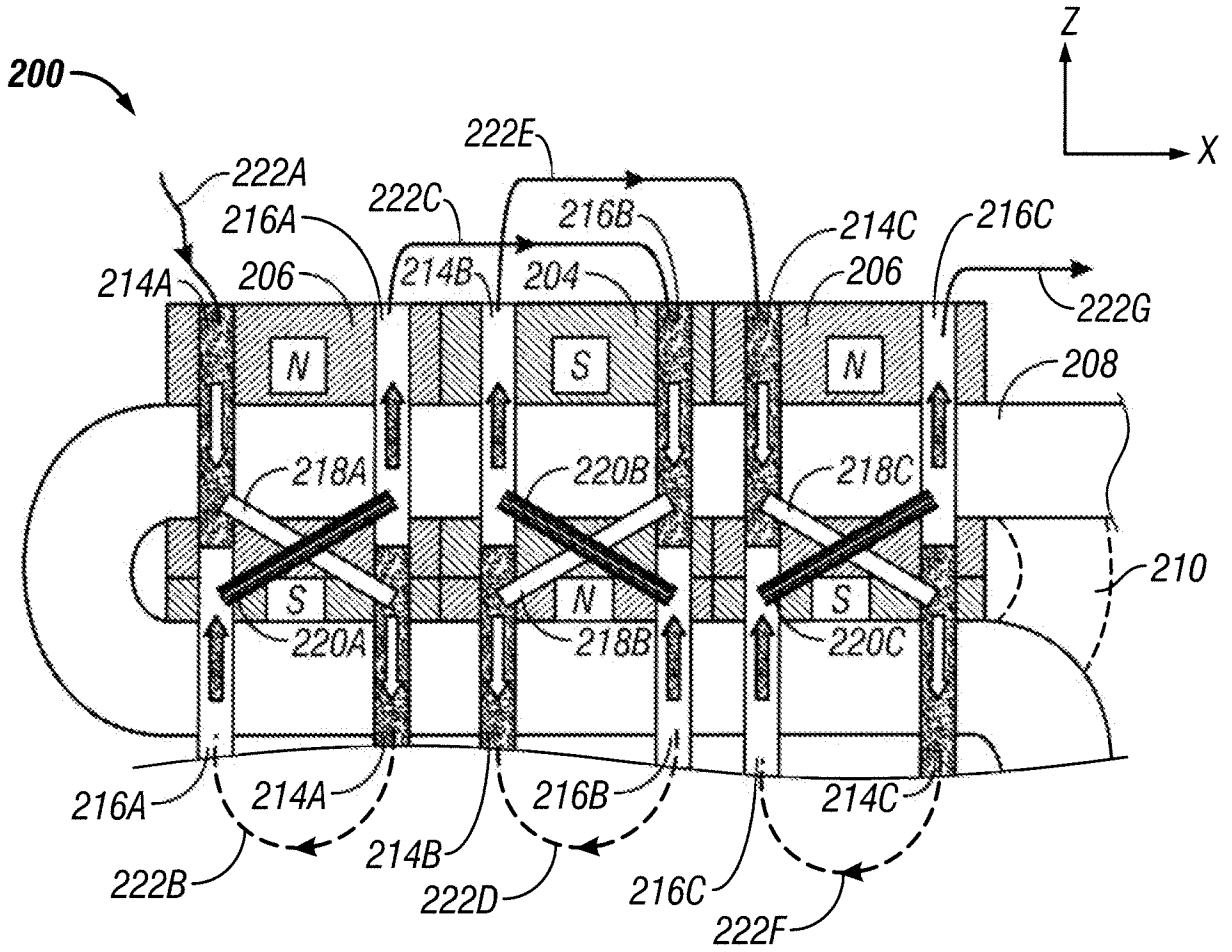


FIG. 9B

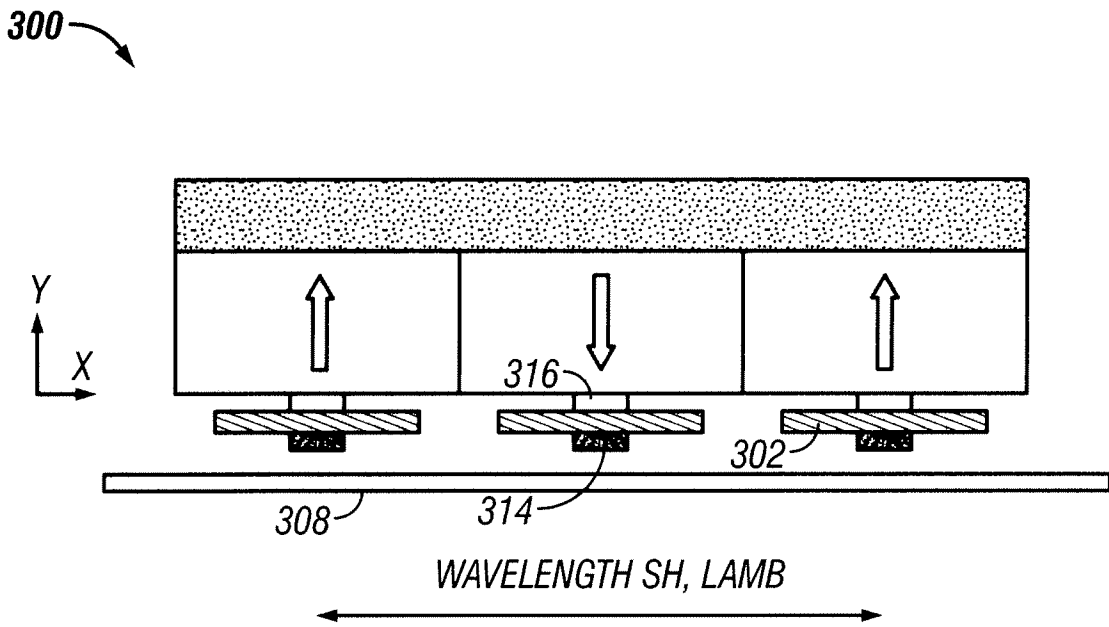


FIG. 10A

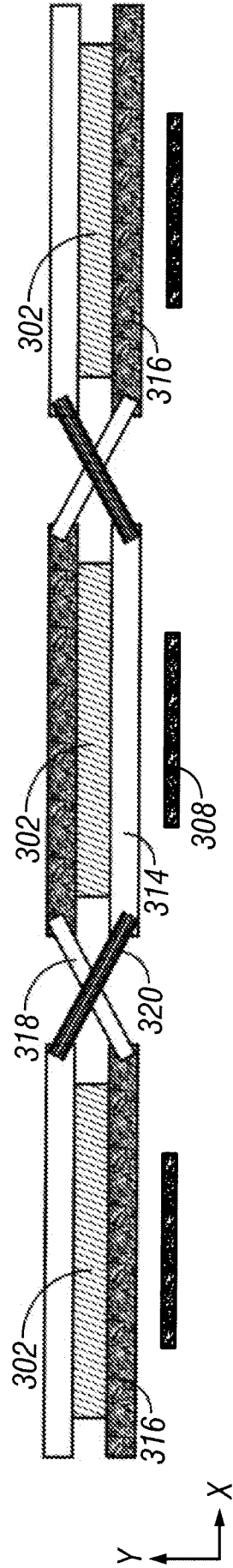


FIG. 10B

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No
PCT/US2008/063606

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER
 INV. G01N29/24 B06B1/04 E21B47/16 G01V1/44

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)

G01N B06B E21B G01V

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, COMPENDEX, INSPEC, WPI Data

C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category*	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
X	US 4 127 035 A (VASILE CARMINE F) 28 November 1978 (1978-11-28)	1-6
Y	abstract; claims 1-14; figures 1-5 column 2, line 41 - column 5, line 24	7
X	POTTER M D G ET AL: "Ultrasonic texture measurement of sheet metals: An integrated system combining Lamb and shear wave techniques" NONDESTR TEST EVAL; NONDESTRUCTIVE TESTING AND EVALUATION DECEMBER 2005, vol. 20, no. 4, December 2005 (2005-12), pages 201-210, XP009104577 the whole document	1, 10, 19
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Further documents are listed in the continuation of Box C.

See patent family annex.

* Special categories of cited documents:

- "A" document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance
- "E" earlier document but published on or after the international filing date
- "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)
- "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

- "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
- "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
- "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.
- "&" document member of the same patent family

Date of the actual completion of the international search

14 August 2008

Date of mailing of the international search report

27/08/2008

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INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No

PCT/US2008/063606

C(Continuation). DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category*	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
X	<p>MURAYAMA R ET AL: "Development of an electromagnetic acoustic transducer that can alternately drive the Lamb wave and shear horizontal plate wave" 23RD SYMPOSIUM ON ULTRASONIC ELECTRONICS (USE2002) 7-9 NOV. 2002 KANAZAWA, JAPAN, vol. 42, no. 5B, May 2003 (2003-05), pages 3180-3183, XP002492242 Japanese Journal of Applied Physics, Part 1 (Regular Papers, Short Notes & Review Papers) Japan Soc. Appl. Phys Japan ISSN: 0021-4922 the whole document</p>	1, 10, 19
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Y	<p>US 4 434 663 A (PETERSON WILLIAM E [US] ET AL) 6 March 1984 (1984-03-06) abstract; figures 1-4 column 2, line 39 - column 6, line 11</p>	7

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