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(54) Title: OPTICAL SPECTROSCOPY PROBE CONFIGURATIONS FOR FOCUSING LIGHT TO A PORTION OF A SAMPLE

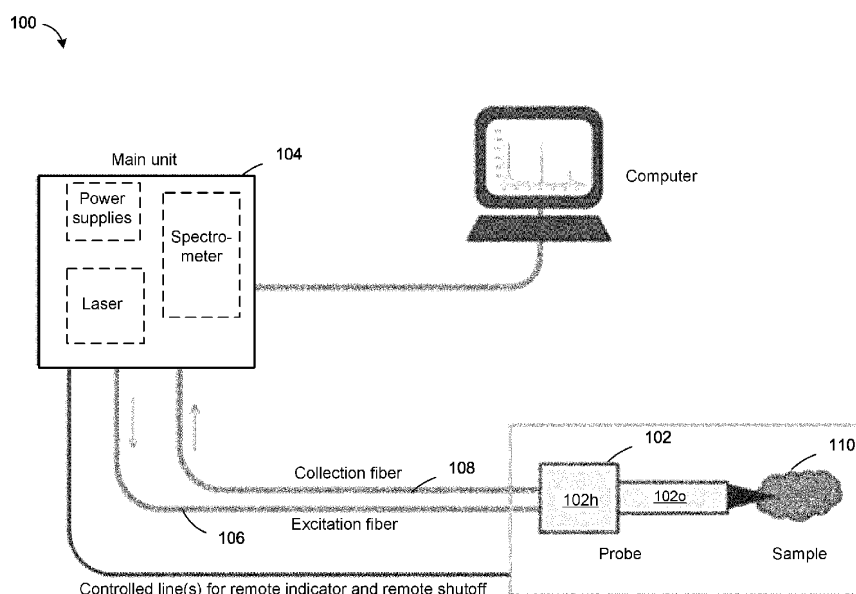


FIG. 1

(57) Abstract: Sample optic assemblies are described that may have at least one optical element that is positioned and has one or more surfaces shaped to focus separate sections of a collimated excitation light beam to: (a) create at least one focal point or at least one focal line at one or more portions of a surface or an interior of a sample while compensating for optical aberrations that are created by an optical window or a transparent container that is adjacent the sample to reduce the size of and/or sharpen the at least one focal spot or the at least one focal line; (b) to create a plurality of focal spots, an array of discrete focal spots, at least one focal line, or at least one focal circle, at one or more portions of a surface or an interior of the sample or (c) to achieve (a) and (b).

[Continued on next page]

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