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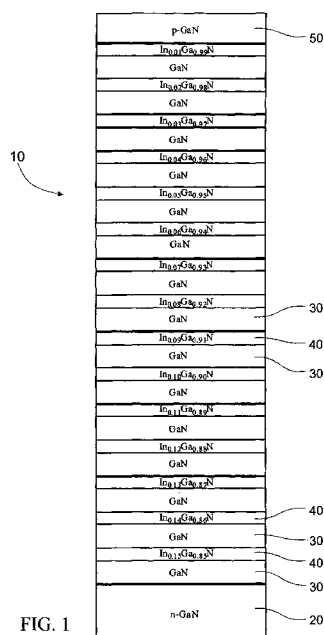


FIG. 1

(57) Abstract: An improved multiple quantum well solar cell can be achieved by ensuring the bandgap of each quantum well thin layer is not uniform compared with other such layers. Gradation of the bandgap by varying the content of at least two group II to VI elements, and/or varying the thickness of consecutive quantum well layers, within consecutively formed quantum wells provides for an increase in absorption across a greater range of the available solar spectrum.