Abstract:

The invention concerns a process and an apparatus for controlling the growth of a crystal, which growth is governed by a set of measurable and non-measurable variables. The process comprises the following steps:

- establishing an on-line simulation software working with a reduced number of variables, the reduction of variables being performed by using a projection algorithm;
- speeding up the on-line simulation software by generating data banks in which values of off-line precalculated variables are stored;
- tuning the on-line simulation software by adjusting the results predicted by on-line simulations to the results obtained by off-line simulations and by measurements; and
- establishing a control loop and controlling at least one of the variables in real time, the control loop using the speeded up and tuned on-line simulation software as an on-line observer.

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