

Abstract

A contact position measurement method comprising moving
either a wire-shaped tool electrode or a workpiece relative
5 to the other within a plane, and causing the wire to approach
a reference position on the workpiece; applying a voltage
between the wire and the workpiece with the wire oriented
perpendicular to the plane; detecting contact between the
workpiece reference position and the wire; placing the
10 workpiece reference position generally at the center of
vibration of the wire, determined in accordance with the
number of occurrences of detected contact; generating
coordinate data indicating the position of the wire with
respect to the workpiece; and determining the position of
15 contact based on the coordinate data.