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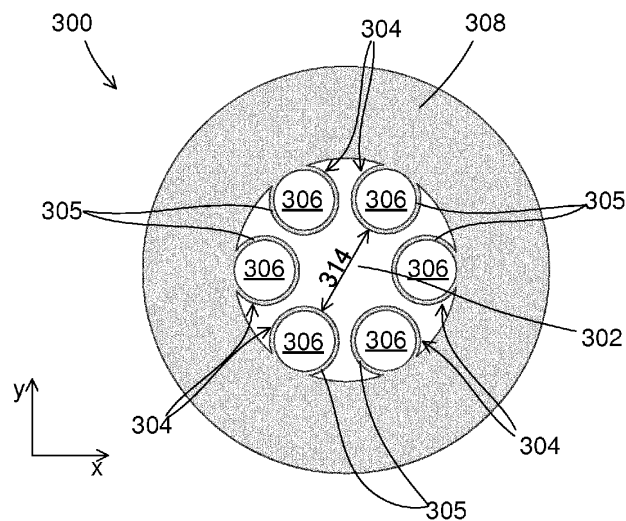


Fig. 12

(57) Abstract: An optical fiber, manufacturing intermediate for forming an optical fiber and a method for forming an optical fiber. The method comprises providing a manufacturing intermediate (300) having an elongate body and comprising an outer tube (308) and a plurality of inner tubes (304), the plurality of inner tubes being arranged in the outer tube, the plurality of inner tubes being arranged in one or more ring structures around, and at least partially defining, an aperture (302) extending through the elongate body along an axial dimension of the elongate body, a boundary of the aperture defining an internal surface of the manufacturing intermediate. The method further comprises etching the internal surface of the manufacturing intermediate using an etching substance, and drawing the manufacturing intermediate along the axial dimension so as to form the optical fiber.

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