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(54) Title: **VARIABLE FOCUS LENS BY SMALL CHANGES OF THE EQUATORIAL LENS DIAMETER**

(57) Abstract

A variable focus lens is constructed by making small changes in the equatorial diameter of an elastically deformable lens (102, 202, 302, 402, 502). The lens (102, 202, 302, 402, 502) may be deformed by radial tension exerted in a plane generally perpendicular to the optical axis. The radial tension may be exerted by radially acting mechanical apparatus (106) or by means of rings (206, 306, 406, 506) embedded or attached at the equator of the lens, whose diameter can be altered by heating, or by imposition of electrical or magnetic fields.

