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- (71) **Applicant: KLA-TENCOR CORPORATION** [US/US];
Legal Department, One Technology Drive, Milpitas, California 95035 (US).
- (72) **Inventors: XU, Zhiwei**; 1780 Laurentian Way, Sunnyvale, California 94087 (US). **HUANG, Chunsheng**; 3091 Florence Avenue, San Jose, California 95127 (US). **LI, Qing**; 1469 Lakeshore Circle, San Jose, California 95131 (US).
- (74) **Agent: MCANDREWS, Kevin et al.**; KLA-Tencor Corporation, Legal Department, One Technology Drive, Milpitas, California 95035 (US).
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(54) **Title:** INSPECTION-BEAM SHAPING ON A SAMPLE SURFACE AT AN OBLIQUE ANGLE OF INCIDENCE

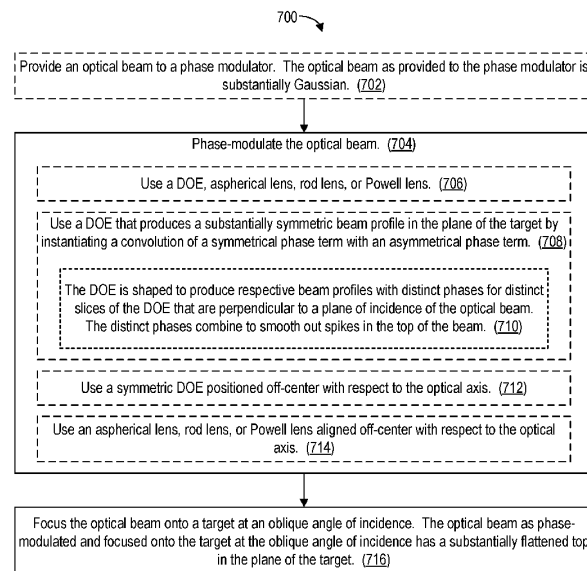


Figure 7

(57) **Abstract:** A beam shaper for an optical inspection tool includes a focal lens to focus an optical beam onto a target at an oblique angle of incidence and a phase modulator to substantially flatten a top of the optical beam in the plane of the target when the optical beam is focused onto the target at the oblique angle of incidence.

[Continued on next page]

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