METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR COOLING A RETICLE DURING LITHOGRAPHIC EXPOSURE

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

Systems and methods eliminate vibrations produced by coolant fluid flowing through a short stroke stage and prevent change in thermally-induced distortion of the short stroke stage by maintaining the temperature and temperature distribution within the short stroke stage constant regardless of actinic heat load incident on a reticle. This is done by: (1) conducting heat through the reticle and short stroke stage components, (2) radiatively transferring heat from the short stroke stage to a long stroke stage, and (3) using convection and a cooling system to dissipate heat from the long stroke stage. The short stroke stage can be magnetically levitated from the long stroke stage. This way there is no physical contact, but the long stroke stage's movements can still control the short stroke stage's movements. By not physically contacting the long stroke stage, the short stroke stage is not affected by vibrations in the long stroke stage caused by the flowing coolant.

Figure 6B.