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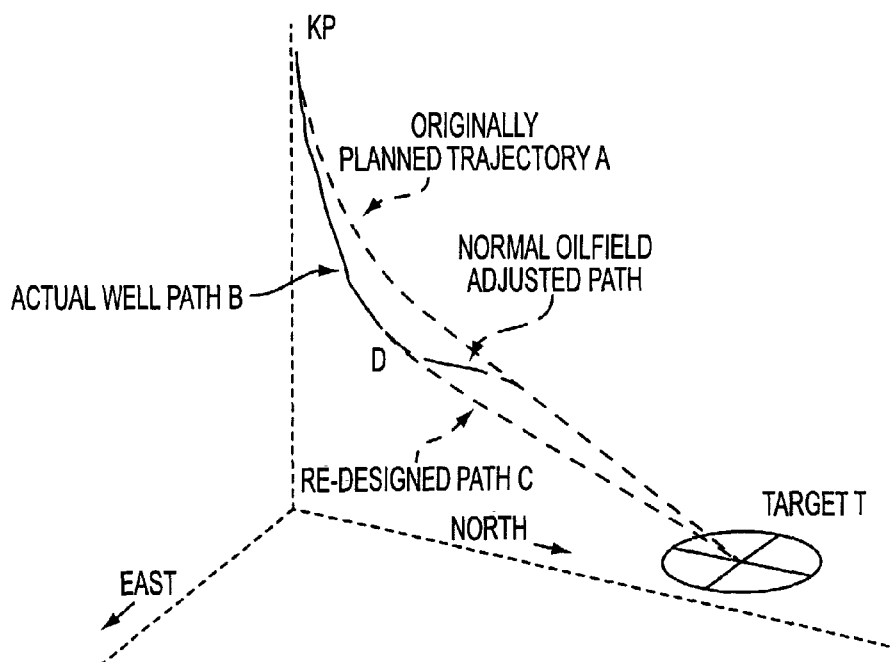
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(54) Title: METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR DETERMINING DRILLING PATHS TO DIRECTIONAL TARGETS



(57) Abstract: A method and apparatus for recomputing an optimum path (C) between a present location of a drill bit (D) and a direction or horizontal target (T) uses linear approximations of circular arc paths. The technique does not attempt to return to a preplanned drilling profile when there actual drilling results deviate from the preplanned profile. By recomputing an optimum path (C), the borehole to the target (T) has a reduced tortuosity.



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