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(71) Applicant (for FR only): **SERVICES PETROLIERS SCHLUMBERGER** [FR/FR]; 42 Rue Saint Dominique, F-75007 Paris (FR).

(71) Applicant (for CA only): **SCHLUMBERGER CANADA LIMITED** [CA/CA]; 525-3RD Avenue S.W., Calgary, Alberta T2P 0G4 (CA).

(71) Applicant (for GB, JP, NL only): **SCHLUMBERGER HOLDINGS LIMITED** [GB/GB]; P.O. Box 71, Craigmuir Chambers, Road Town, Tortola (VG).

(71) Applicant (for AL, AM, AU, AZ, BG, BY, CO, CZ, DE, DK, GR, HU, ID, IE, IL, IT, KG, KP, KR, KZ, LT, MD, MX, MY, NO, NZ, OM, PL, RO, RU, SI, SK, TJ, TM, TN, TR, TT, UA, UZ, ZA only): **SCHLUMBERGER TECHNOLOGY B.V.** [NL/NL]; Parkstraat 83-89, NL-2514JG The Hague (NL).

(71) Applicant (for all designated States except AL, AM, AU, AZ, BG, BY, CA, CO, CZ, DE, DK, FR, GB, GR, HU, ID, IE, IL, IT, JP, KG, KP, KR, KZ, LT, MD, MX, MY, NL, NO, NZ, OM, PL, RO, RU, SI, SK, TJ, TM, TN, TR, TT, UA, US, UZ, ZA): **PRAD RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT LTD** [GB/GB]; P.O. Box 71, Craigmuir Chambers, Road Town, Tortola (VG).

(72) Inventors; and

(75) Inventors/Applicants (for US only): **PABON, Jahir Alfonso** [US/US]; 10 Wildon Road, Wellesley, MA 02482 (US). **SIHLER, Joachim** [DE/GB]; 6 Rutland Court, Douro Road, Cheltenham Gloucestershire GL50 2PE (GB). **PAFITIS, Demosthenis Georgeou** [GB/GB]; 21 Portugal Street, Cambrige Cambridgeshire CB5 8AW (GB). **CHAUR-JIAN, Hsu** [US/US]; 35 East Gate Road, Danbury, Connecticut 06811 (US).

(74) Agent: **LOCCISANO, Vincent**; Schlumberger-Doll Research, Intellectual Property Law Department, One Hampshire Street, Cambridge, Massachusetts 02139 (US).

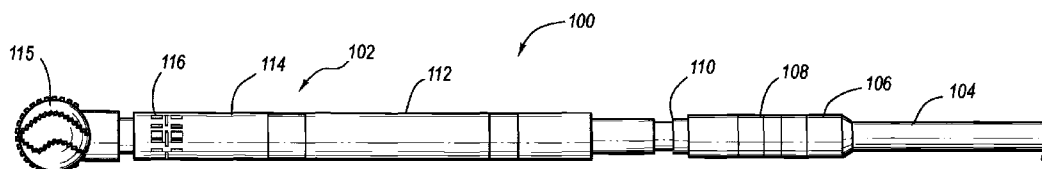
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(54) Title: METHODS AND APPARATUS FOR ATTENUATING DRILLSTRING VIBRATIONS



(57) Abstract: Apparatus and methods are described for highly attenuating vibrations of a drillstring assembly while drilling. In one embodiment, vibrations are attenuated by introducing one or more vibration attenuation modules at appropriate assembly locations. For example, vibration attenuation modules may be inserted at locations where vibration energy is expected to be maximal. In one embodiment the vibration attenuation modules include cavities loosely packed with particles of solid material such as sand or metallic powder. In one embodiment, the cavity walls are rough and/or include geometric features that enhance vibration energy transfer to the loosely packed particles in the cavity(ies). The vibration energy is dissipated via friction and inelastic particle-particle and particle-wall collisions that occur as a result of drillstring motion.

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