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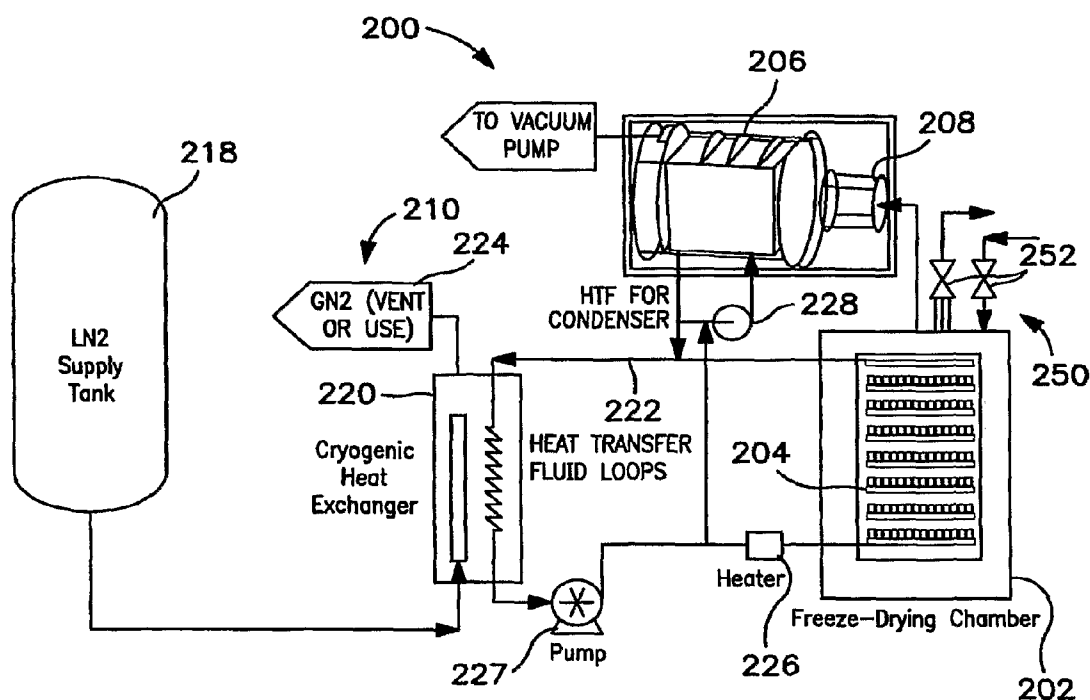
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[Continued on next page]

(54) Title: LYOPHILIZATION SYSTEM AND METHOD



(57) Abstract: System and method for lyophilization or freeze-drying is provided. During the freezing step, the material or solution to be frozen is initially brought to a temperature near or below its freezing temperature after which the pressure in the freeze-dryer chamber is reduced to induce nucleation of the material.

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- *as to the applicant's entitlement to claim the priority of the earlier application (Rule 4.17(iii))*

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