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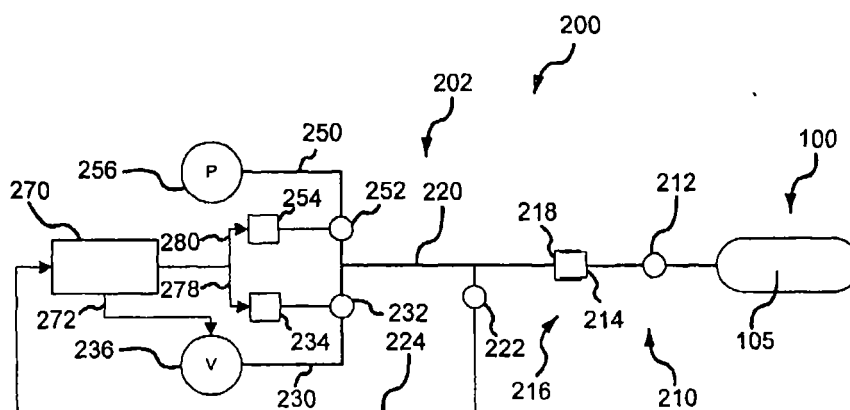
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(54) Title: DISC DRIVE GAS FILLING SYSTEM



(57) Abstract: A system for filling an enclosed environment of a disc drive with a gas other than air includes a filling system connection apparatus that can be connected to a corresponding disc drive connection apparatus (210) that is connected to the enclosed environment of the disc drive. A vacuum source (236) and a source of gas other than air can be connected to the filling system connection apparatus. The filling system also includes a pressure sensor (222) can produce a pressure signal representative of the pressure within the enclosed environment of the disc drive. A control module (270) receives the pressure signal and directs one of the vacuum source and the source of gas other than air through the filling system connection apparatus to the enclosed environment of the disc drive. A method of filling an enclosed environment of a disc drive with a gas other then air includes connecting the enclosed environment to a vacuum source. After the enclosed environment has reached a predetermined low pressure range of from about 5 torr to about 100 torr, it is disconnected from the vacuum source, such as by closing a valve. The enclosed environment is then connected to a source of gas other than air. After the enclosed environment has reached a predetermined high pressure, the vacuum source is disconnected from the enclosed environment.



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