

SYSTEM AND METHOD FOR
CONTROLLING GROWTH OF A SILICON CRYSTAL

Abstract of the Disclosure

System and method for determining the diameter
5 of a silicon crystal being pulled from a silicon melt for
controlling a silicon crystal growing apparatus. The
melt has a surface with a meniscus which is visible as a
bright ring adjacent the crystal. A camera generates an
image pattern of a portion of the bright ring adjacent
10 the crystal. Image processing circuitry detects a
characteristic of the image pattern and defines an edge
of the bright ring as a function of the detected
characteristic. The image processing circuitry further
defines a generally circular shape including the defined
15 edge of the bright ring. The diameter of the crystal is
then determined based on the diameter of the defined
shape for use in controlling the crystal growing
apparatus.

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