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(54) **Title:** METHODS FOR PRODUCING A PRODUCT INGOT HAVING LOW OXYGEN CONTENT

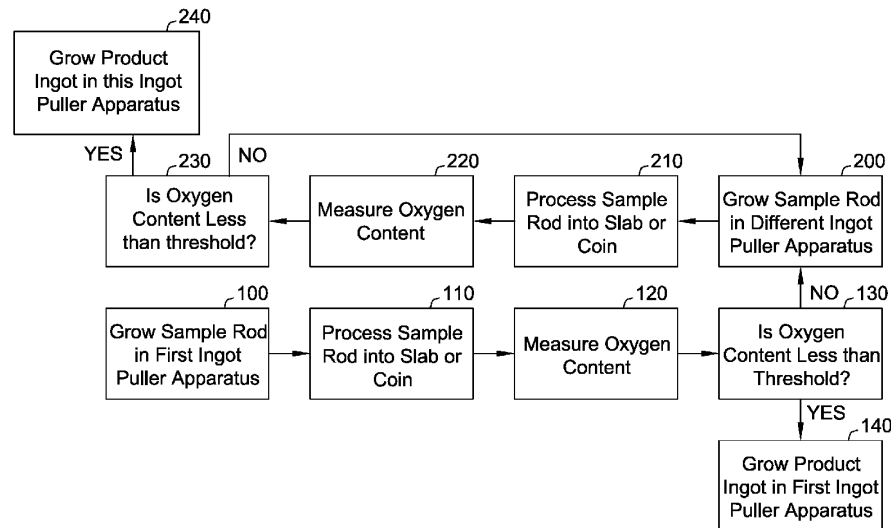


FIG. 6

(57) **Abstract:** Methods for producing a product ingot from a silicon melt held within a crucible are disclosed. The methods involve evaluating one or more ingot puller apparatus to determine if the apparatus is capable of producing low oxygen content silicon product ingots. A sample rod is pulled from the silicon melt and the oxygen content of the sample rod is measured.

[Continued on next page]

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