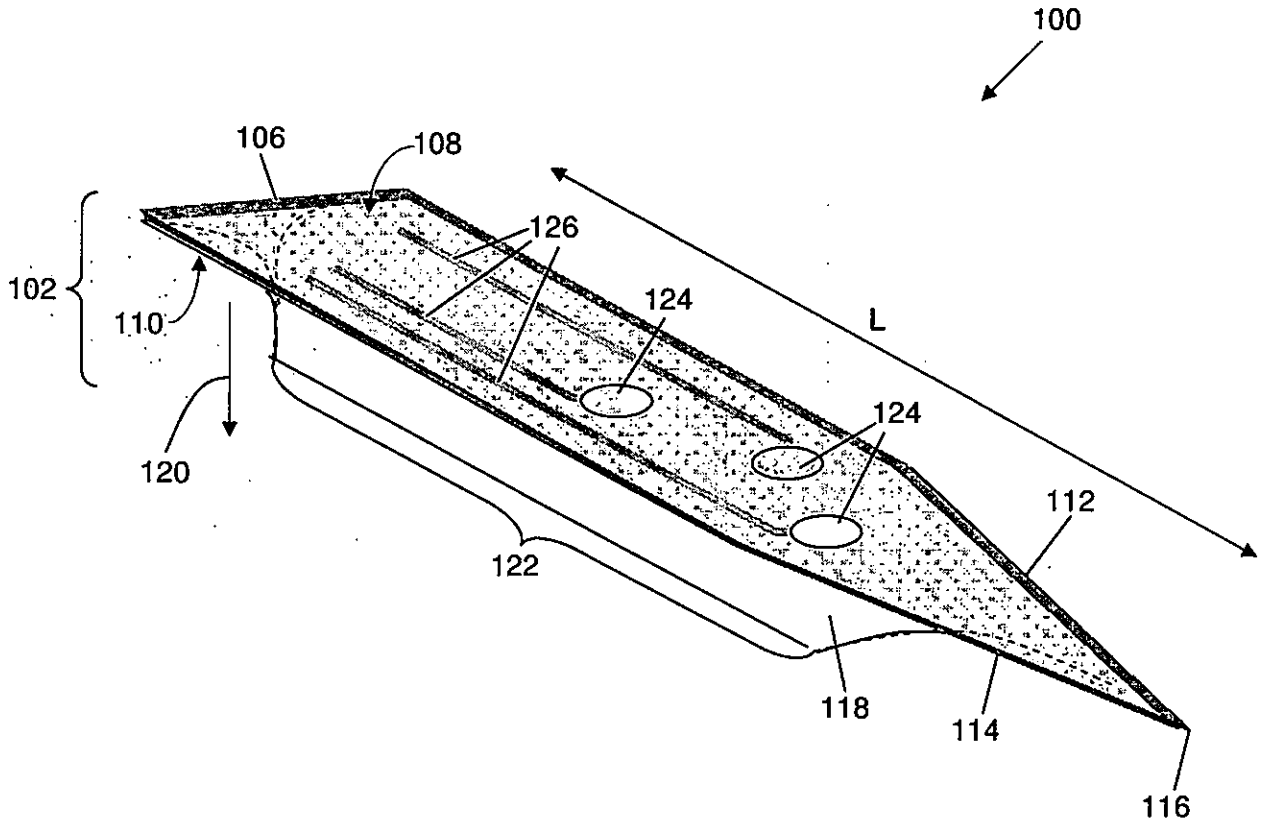


Figure 1a

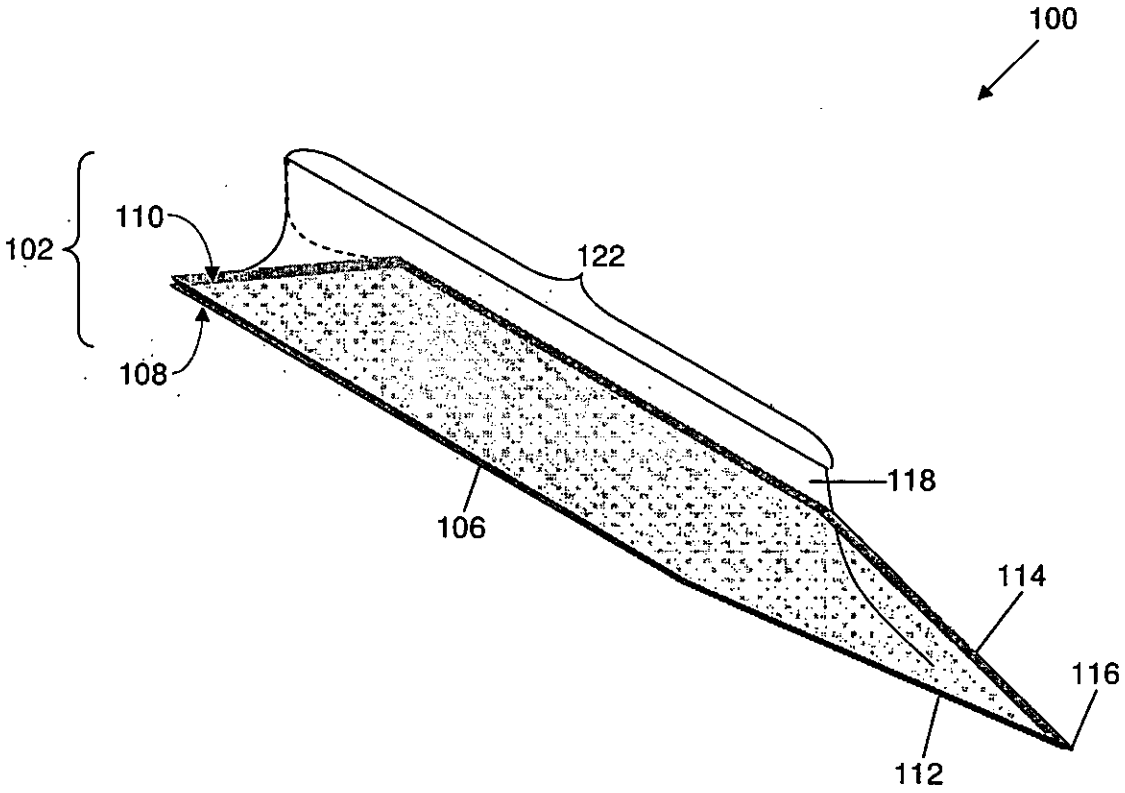


Figure 1b

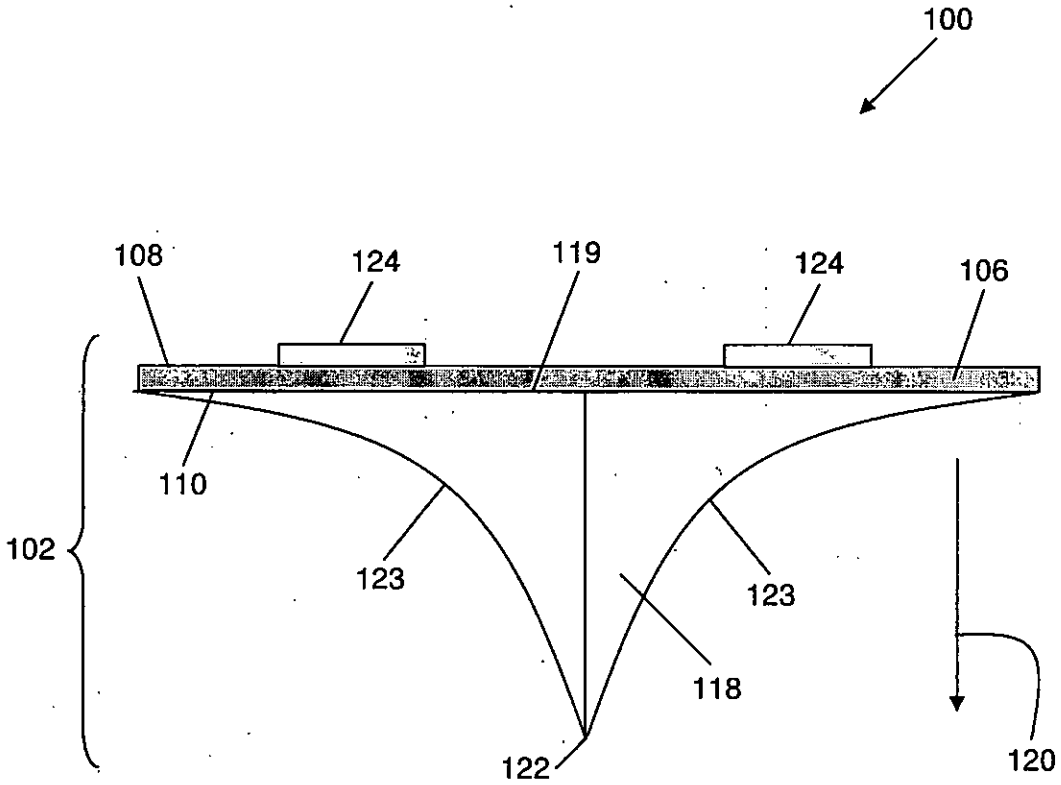


Figure 1c

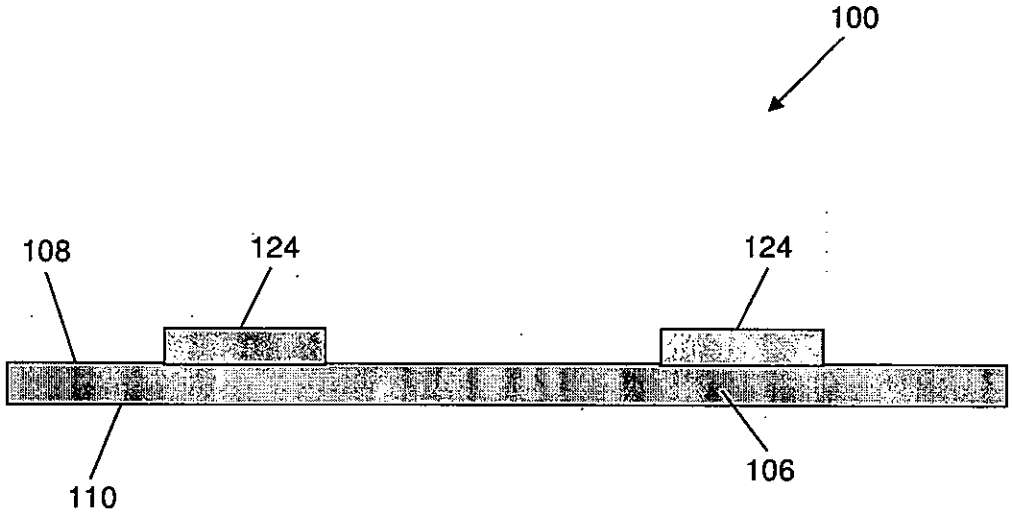


Figure 1d

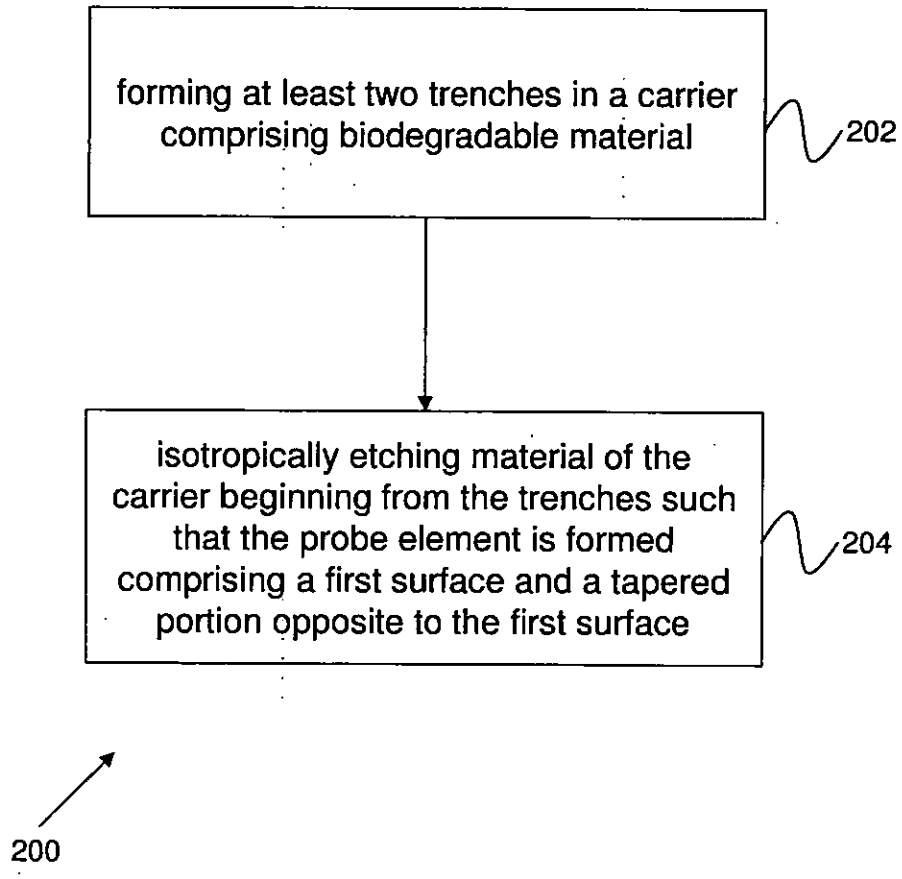

forming at least two trenches in a carrier comprising biodegradable material
202
isotropically etching material of the carrier beginning from the trenches such that the probe element is formed comprising a first surface and a tapered portion opposite to the first surface
204
200

Figure 2

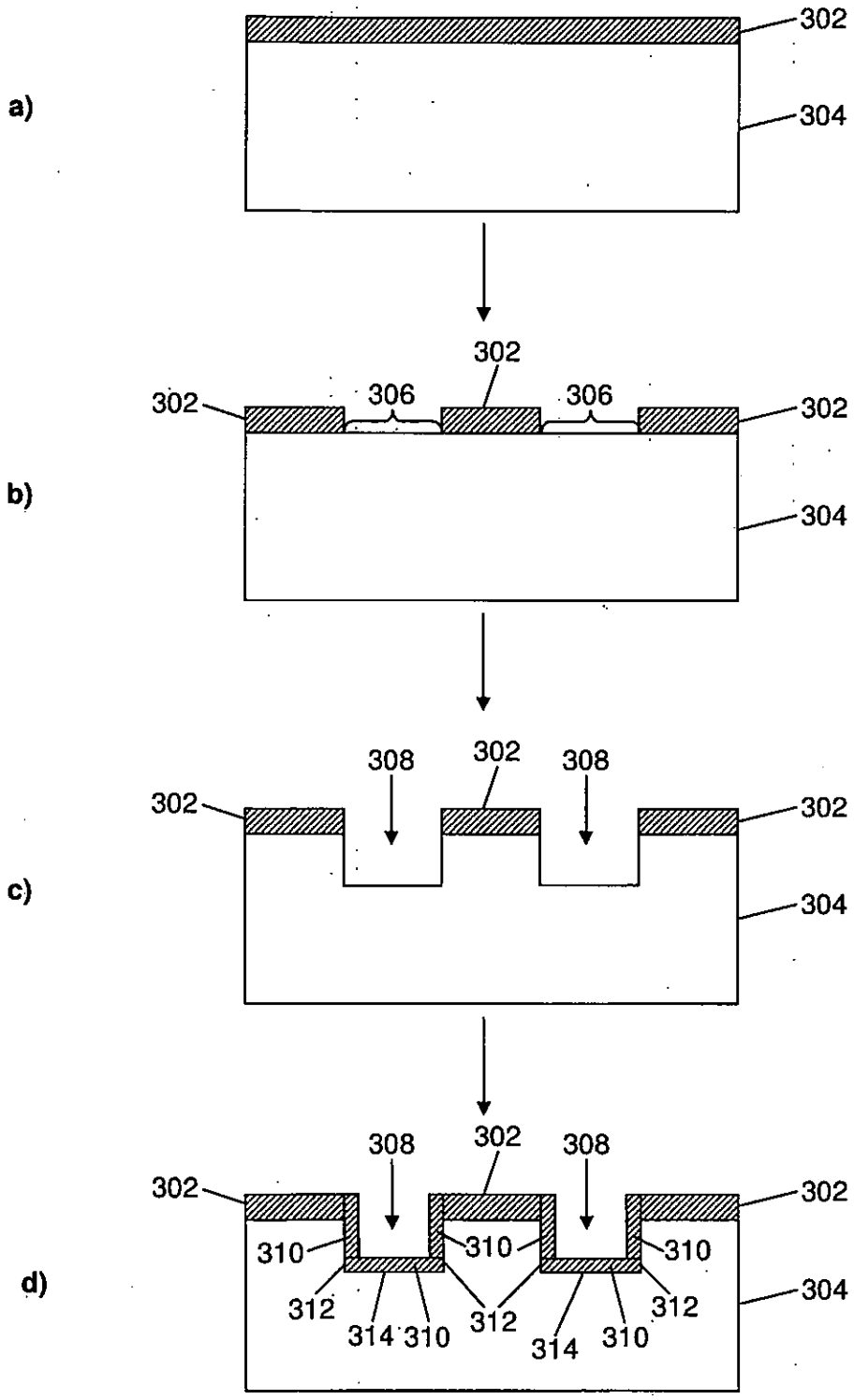

a)
302
304
b)
302
306
306
302
302
304
c)
308
302
308
302
302
304
d)
308
302
308
302
302
310
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310
312
314
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312
312
314
310
304

Figure 3

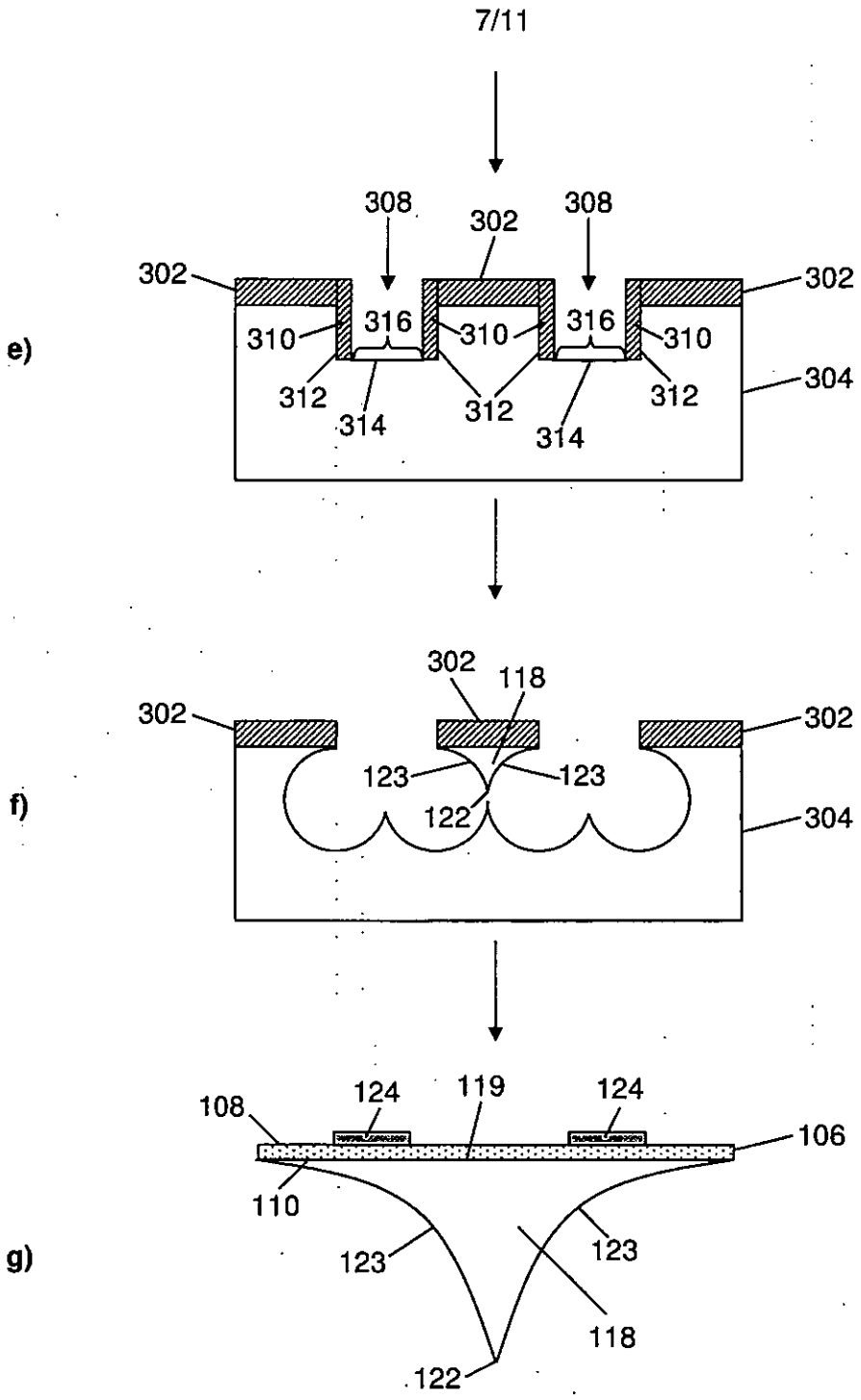

e)
308
302
308
302
302
310
316
310
316
310
304
312
314
312
314
312
f)
302
118
302
302
123
123
122
304
g)
108
124
119
124
106
110
123
123
118
122

Figure 3

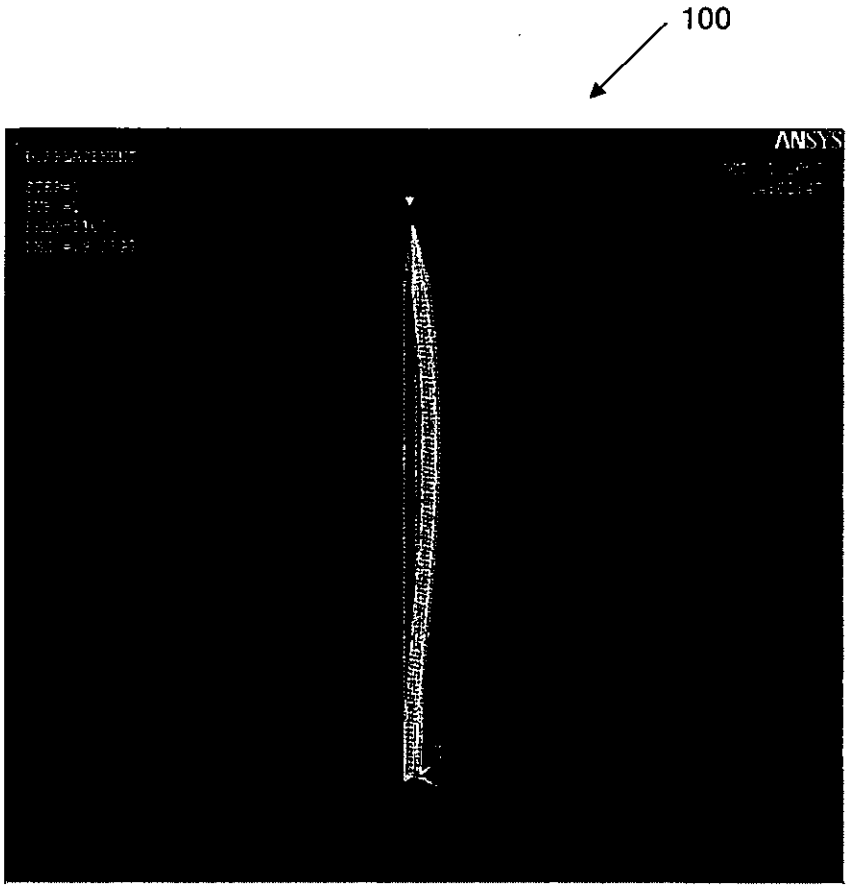


Figure 4a

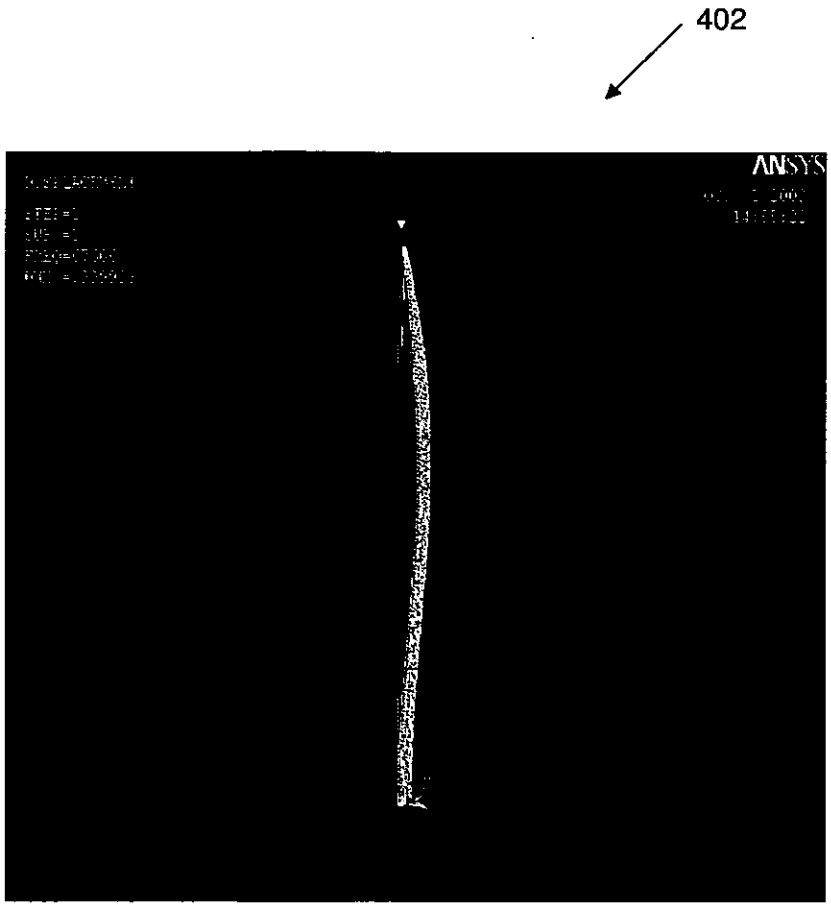


Figure 4b

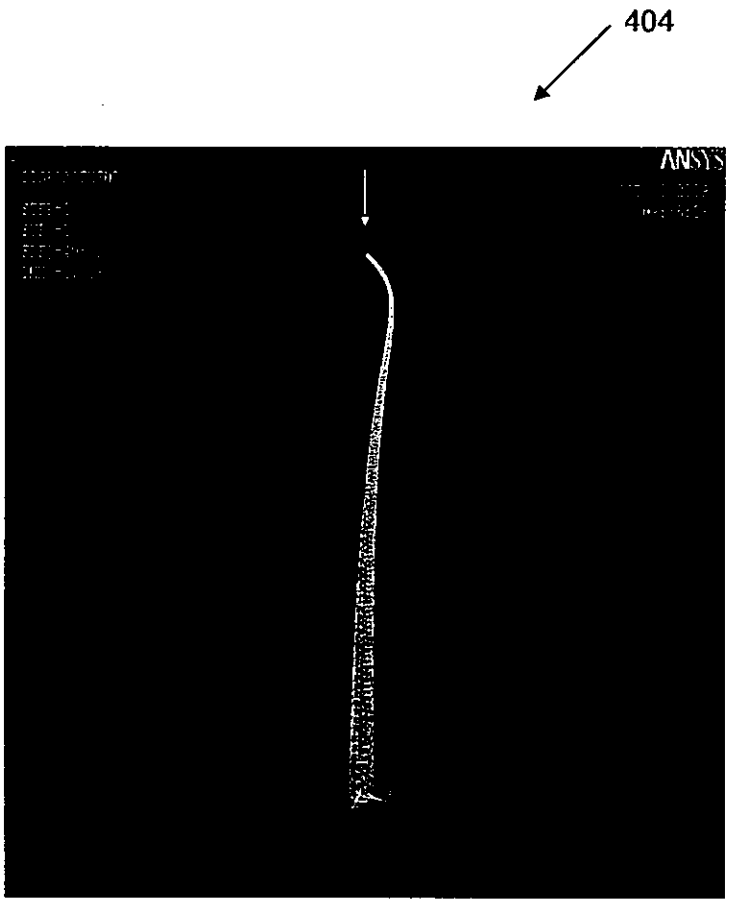


Figure 4c

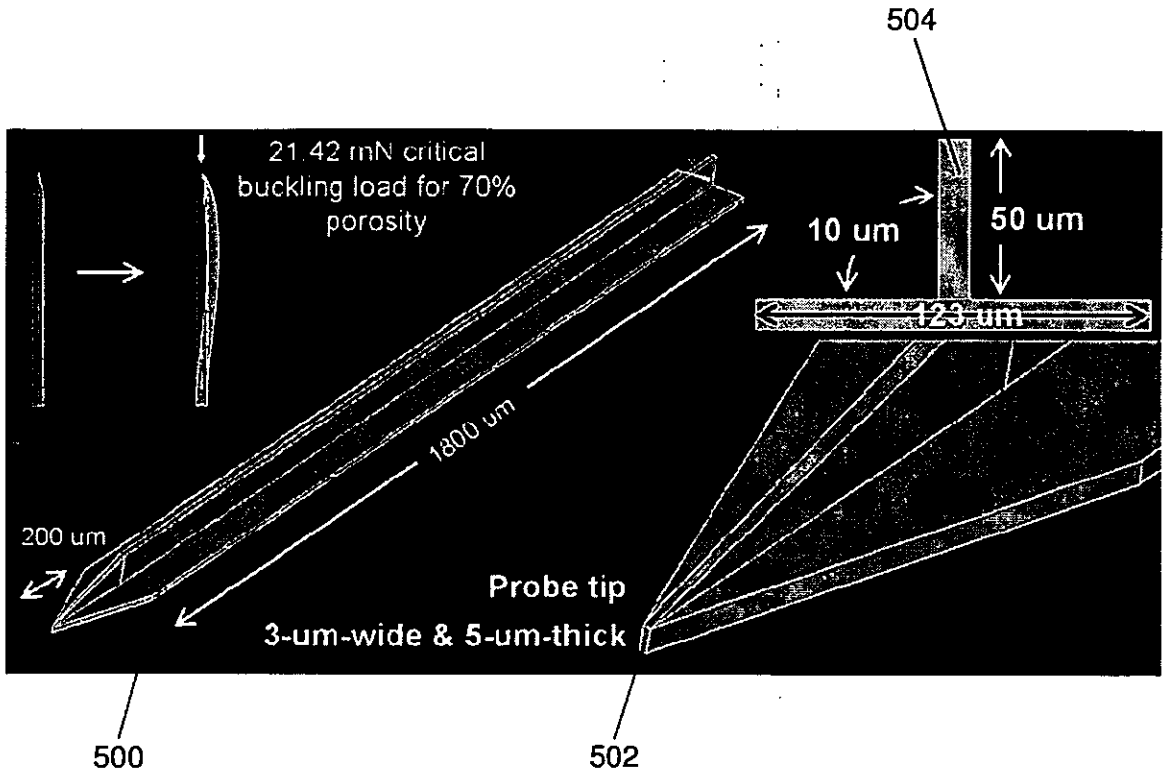

504
21.42 mN critical buckling load for 70% porosity
10 um
50 um
123 um
1800 um
200 um
Probe tip
3-um-wide & 5-um-thick
500
502

Figure 5