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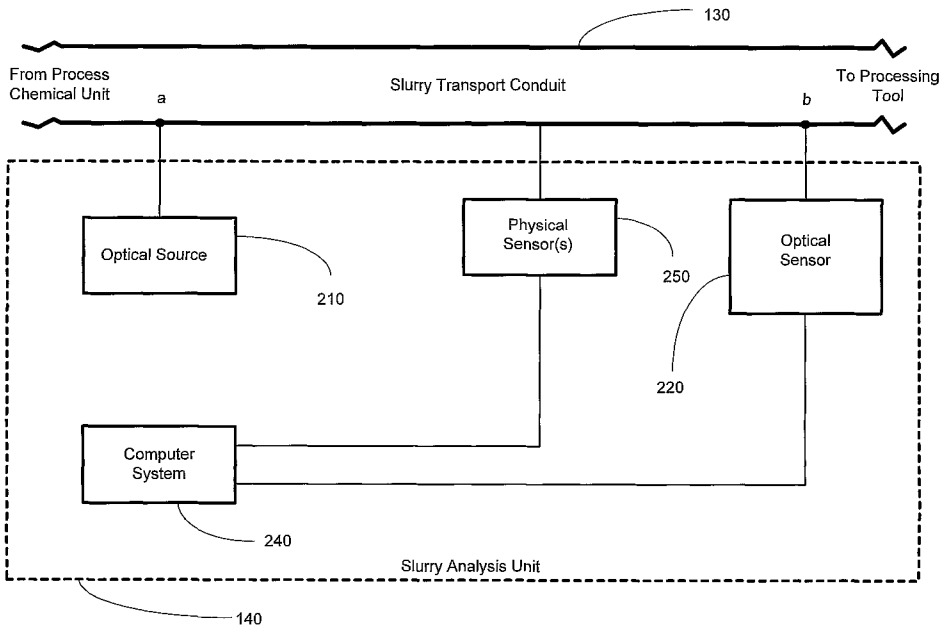
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[Continued on next page]

(54) Title: METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR MONITORING OF SLURRY CONSISTENCY



(57) Abstract: A method and apparatus for performing online monitoring of a physical characteristic of a process material. A request to provide a slurry to a processing tool is received. The slurry is transported through a slurry transport conduit, based upon the request, to the processing tool. An online monitoring of a physical characteristic of the slurry is performed. The online monitoring of the slurry includes analyzing an optical signal sent through the slurry to determine whether the physical characteristic of the slurry is within a predetermined level of tolerance.

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TR), OAPI (BF, BJ, CF, CG, CI, CM, GA, GN, GQ, GW, ML, MR, NE, SN, TD, TG).

Declaration under Rule 4.17:

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