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(54) Title: BACKGROUND REDUCTION SYSTEM INCLUDING LOUVER

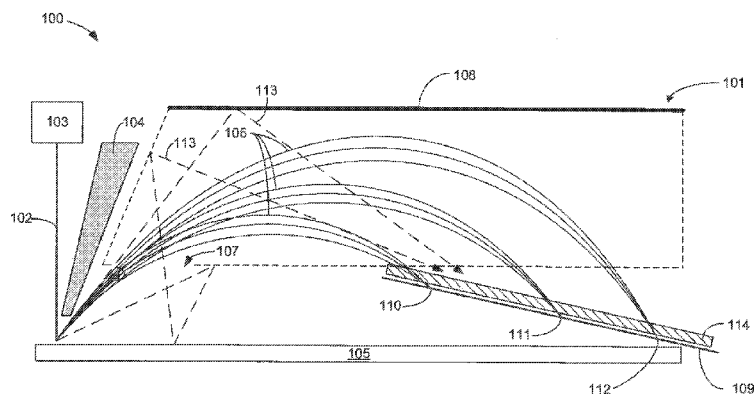


FIG. 1

(57) Abstract: A background reduction system may include, but is not limited to: a charged particle source configured to generate a charged-particle beam; a louvered structure including one or more apertures configured to selectively transmit charged particles according to their angle of incidence; and a charged-particle detector configured to receive charged particles selectively transmitted by the louvered structure.