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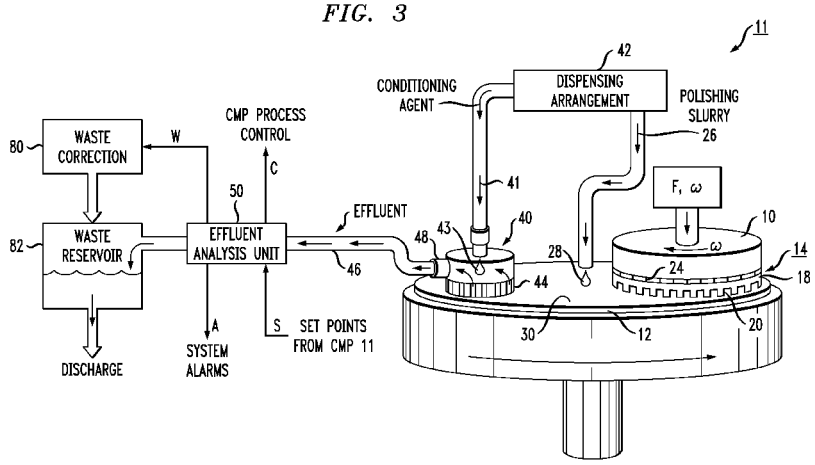
FIG. 3



(57) Abstract: An apparatus and method for collecting and analyzing the effluent stream created by a chemical mechanical planarization (CMP) process performs a continuous measurement of at least one effluent characteristic and integrates the results over time to create a volumetric analysis of the planarization process. The volumetric analysis can be used as feedback/feedforward signals to control the planarization process itself (e.g., endpoint detection based upon an known initial thickness of film material), create alarm signals for out-of-range measurements, and/or waste stream indicators useful in treating the effluent prior to discharge (e.g., determining a pH correction).

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