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- (71) Applicant: **CYTONOME, INC** [US/US]; 84 Rosedale Road, Watertown, MA 02472 (US).
- (72) Inventors: **GILBERT, John, R.**; 69 Naples Road, Brookline, MA 02446 (US). **BÖHM, Sebastian**; 9 Muirfield Court, Inverness IV2 4DP (GB). **DESHPANDE, Manish**; 34 Apple Blossom Way, Canton, MA 02021 (US).
- (74) Agents: **HANLEY, Elizabeth, A.** et al.; Lahive & Cockfield, LLP, 28 State Street, Boston, MA 02109 (US).
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(54) Title: METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR SORTING PARTICLES

(57) **Abstract:** A method and apparatus for sorting particles moving through a closed channel system of capillary size comprises a bubble valve for selectively generating a pressure pulse to separate a particle having a predetermined characteristic from a stream of particles. The particle sorting system may further include a buffer for absorbing the pressure pulse. The particle sorting system may include a plurality of closely coupled sorting modules which are combined to further increase the sorting rate. The particle sorting system may comprise a multi-stage sorting device for serially sorting streams of particles, in order to decrease the error rate.



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