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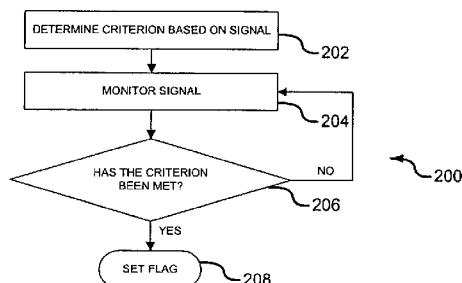
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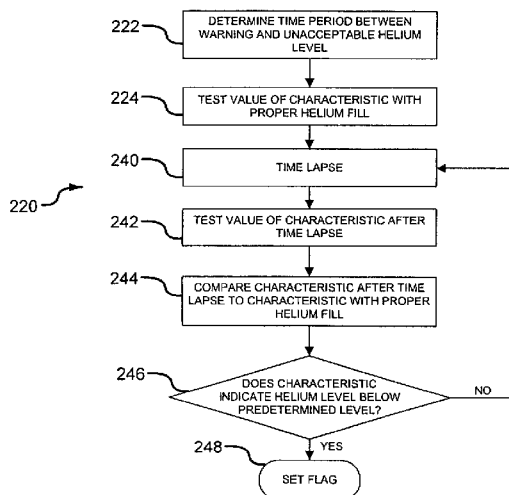
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(54) Title: EARLY LEAK DETECTION SYSTEM FOR A DISC DRIVE CONTAINING A LOW-DENSITY GAS



(57) Abstract: A method of detecting that a concentration of a low-density gas such as helium in a disc drive is in danger of reaching an unacceptable level includes monitoring a signal varying in response to variations in the concentration of the gas in the disc drive. A criterion is determined based on the signal where the criterion indicates that the gas level is about to reach the unacceptable level. Finally, a flag is set once the criterion is met. A disc drive containing a low-density gas such as helium includes a sensor within the drive that produces a signal responsive to variations in the concentration of the low-density gas in the disc drive. The disc drive also includes a processor that monitors the signal and sets a flag if a predetermined criterion is met.



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