



(51) International Patent Classification:
H01J 49/16 (2006.01) *H01J 49/06* (2006.01)

(21) International Application Number:

PCT/US2010/060146

(22) International Filing Date:

13 December 2010 (13.12.2010)

(25) Filing Language:

English

(26) Publication Language:

English

(30) Priority Data:

12/642,617 18 December 2009 (18.12.2009) US

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(81) Designated States (unless otherwise indicated, for every kind of national protection available): AE, AG, AL, AM, AO, AT, AU, AZ, BA, BB, BG, BH, BR, BW, BY, BZ, CA, CH, CL, CN, CO, CR, CU, CZ, DE, DK, DM, DO, DZ, EC, EE, EG, ES, FI, GB, GD, GE, GH, GM, GT, HN, HR, HU, ID, IL, IN, IS, JP, KE, KG, KM, KN, KP, KR, KZ, LA, LC, LK, LR, LS, LT, LU, LY, MA, MD, ME, MG, MK, MN, MW, MX, MY, MZ, NA, NG, NI, NO, NZ, OM, PE, PG, PH, PL, PT, RO, RS, RU, SC, SD, SE, SG, SK, SL, SM, ST, SV, SY, TH, TJ, TM, TN, TR, TT, TZ, UA, UG, US, UZ, VC, VN, ZA, ZM, ZW.

(84) Designated States (unless otherwise indicated, for every kind of regional protection available): ARIPO (BW, GH, GM, KE, LR, LS, MW, MZ, NA, SD, SL, SZ, TZ, UG, ZM, ZW), Eurasian (AM, AZ, BY, KG, KZ, MD, RU, TJ,

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(54) Title: ELECTROSPRAY EMITTERS FOR MASS SPECTROMETRY

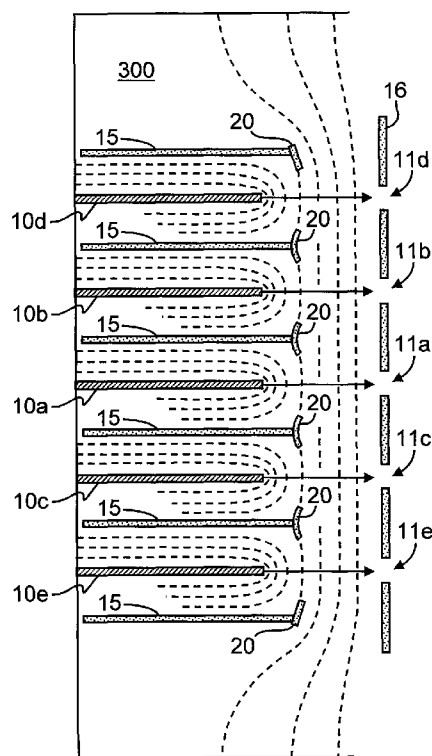


FIG. 4A

(57) Abstract: An electrospray ion source that comprises (a) an emitter capillary having (i) an internal bore for transporting a liquid sample, (ii) an electrode portion for providing a first applied electrical potential and (iii) an emitter tip for emitting charged particles generated from the liquid sample and (b) a counter electrode for providing a second applied electrical potential different from the first applied electrical potential is characterized by (c) a shield electrode disposed at least partially between the counter electrode and the emitter tip of the emitter capillary for providing a third applied electrical potential intermediate to the first and second applied electrical potentials, the shield electrode contoured in the form of a portion of an electrical equipotential surface formed, in the absence of the shield electrode, under application of the first and second applied electrical potentials to the electrode portion of the emitter capillary and to the counter electrode, respectively.



TM), European (AL, AT, BE, BG, CH, CY, CZ, DE, DK, **Published:**

EE, ES, FI, FR, GB, GR, HR, HU, IE, IS, IT, LT, LU,

LV, MC, MK, MT, NL, NO, PL, PT, RO, RS, SE, SI, SK,

SM, TR), OAPI (BF, BJ, CF, CG, CI, CM, GA, GN, GQ,

GW, ML, MR, NE, SN, TD, TG).

— *with international search report (Art. 21(3))*