(12) INTERNATIONAL APPLICATION PUBLISHED UNDER THE PATENT COOPERATION TREATY (PCT)

(19) World Intellectual Property Organization
International Bureau

(43) International Publication Date
13 June 2002 (13.06.2002)

PCT

(10) International Publication Number
WO 02/46723 A1

(51) International Patent Classification[7]: G01N 21/47, G01J 4/04

(21) International Application Number: PCT/EP01/11841

(22) International Filing Date: 12 October 2001 (12.10.2001)

(25) Filing Language: English

(26) Publication Language: English

(30) Priority Data:
00126888.7 7 December 2000 (07.12.2000) EP

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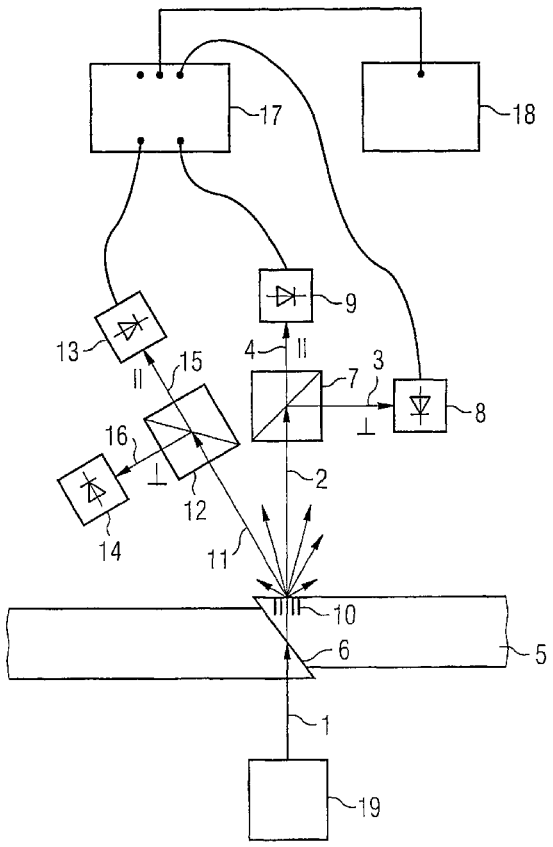
(81) Designated States *(national)*: JP, KR, SG, US.

(84) Designated States *(regional)*: European patent (AT, BE, CH, CY, DE, DK, ES, FI, FR, GB, GR, IE, IT, LU, MC, NL, PT, SE, TR).

Published:
— *with international search report*

For two-letter codes and other abbreviations, refer to the "Guidance Notes on Codes and Abbreviations" appearing at the beginning of each regular issue of the PCT Gazette.

(54) Title: APPARATUS AND METHOD FOR DETECTING AN AMOUNT OF DEPOLARIZATION OF A LINEARLY POLARIZED BEAM



(57) Abstract: The present invention relates to an apparatus and a method for detecting an amount of depolarization of a linearly polarized beam transmitted by a birefringent medium in the direction of the optical axis thereof. The apparatus comprises a first beam splitter (7) for separating an non-axis portion (2) of said linearly polarized beam into the orthogonal components (3, 4), two photodetectors (8, 9) for detecting each components (3, 4), a second beam splitter (12) for separating an off-axis portion (11) of said linearly polarized beam into the orthogonal components (15, 16), wherein said second beam splitter (12) is disposed off-axis of the incident linearly polarized beam (1), a second set of photodetectors for detecting the components (15, 16) separated by said second beam splitter (12), and subtracting device (17) for subtracting the signals received by the second set of photodetectors (13, 14) from the respective signals received by the first tow photodetectors (8, 9).

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