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(71) Applicant: ASML NETHERLANDS B.V. [NL/NL]; P.O. Box 324, 5500 AH Veldhoven (NL).

(72) Inventors: OSTERBERG, Mans, Johan, Bertil; P.O. Box 324, 5500 AH Veldhoven (NL). SCHUURBIERS, Koen; P.O. Box 324, 5500 AH Veldhoven (NL).

(74) Agent: ASML NETHERLANDS B.V.; Corporate Intellectual Property, P.O. Box 324, 5500 AH Veldhoven (NL).

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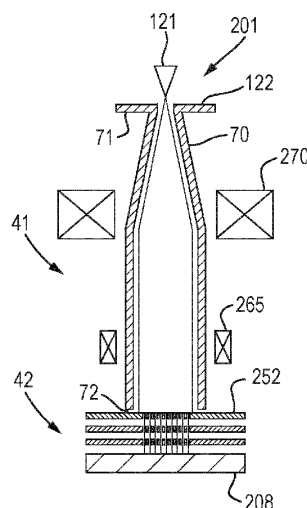
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(54) Title: CHARGED PARTICLE APPARATUS AND METHOD

Fig. 12



(57) Abstract: A charged particle apparatus configured to project a multi-beam of charged particles along a multi-beam path toward a sample, the charged particle apparatus comprising: a charged particle source configured to emit a charged particle beam toward a sample; a charged particle-optical device configured to project sub-beams of a multi-beam of charged particles along the multi-beam path toward the sample, the sub-beams of the multi-beam of charged particles derived from the charged particle beam; a tube surrounding the multi-beam path configured to operate at a first potential difference from a ground potential; and a support configured to support the sample at a second potential difference from the ground potential, the first potential difference and the second potential difference having a difference so as to accelerate the multi-beam of charged particles towards the sample; wherein the first potential difference is greater than the second potential difference.

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