



US007043969B2

(12) **United States Patent**
Matsiev et al.

(10) **Patent No.:** **US 7,043,969 B2**

(45) **Date of Patent:** **May 16, 2006**

(54) **MACHINE FLUID SENSOR AND METHOD**

(56) **References Cited**

(75) Inventors: **Leonid Matsiev**, San Jose, CA (US);
James Bennett, Santa Clara, CA (US);
Daniel M. Pinkas, Menlo Park, CA
(US); **Mikhail Spitkovsky**, Sunnyvale,
CA (US); **Oleg Kolosov**, San Jose, CA
(US); **Shenheng Guan**, Palo Alto, CA
(US); **Mark Uhrich**, Redwood City, CA
(US); **G. Cameron Dales**, Saratoga, CA
(US); **John F. Varni**, Los Gatos, CA
(US); **Blake Walker**, Eugene, OR (US);
Vladimir Gammer, San Francisco, CA
(US); **Dave Padowitz**, Mountain View,
CA (US); **Eric Low**, Berkeley, CA (US)

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

3,273,377	A	9/1966	Testerman et al.
3,329,004	A *	7/1967	King, Jr. 73/24.06
3,622,968	A	11/1971	Silverman
3,710,275	A	1/1973	Tanaka et al.
3,718,032	A	2/1973	Gray
3,745,384	A *	7/1973	Blanchard 310/324
3,762,197	A	10/1973	Roof et al.
3,778,757	A	12/1973	Houston

(Continued)

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

DE	4424422	1/1996
----	---------	--------

(Continued)

OTHER PUBLICATIONS

Fisch, M.R., et al., "Improved Acoustic Viscosimeter Tech-
nique", J. Acoust. Soc. Am., Sep. 1976, pp. 623-625, v. 60,
No. 3.

(Continued)

Primary Examiner—Hezron Williams
Assistant Examiner—John Fitzgerald
(74) *Attorney, Agent, or Firm*—Senniger Powers

(73) Assignee: **Symyx Technologies, Inc.**, Santa Clara,
CA (US)

(*) Notice: Subject to any disclaimer, the term of this
patent is extended or adjusted under 35
U.S.C. 154(b) by 0 days.

(21) Appl. No.: **10/452,264**

(22) Filed: **Jun. 2, 2003**

(65) **Prior Publication Data**

US 2004/0099050 A1 May 27, 2004

Related U.S. Application Data

(60) Provisional application No. 60/419,404, filed on Oct.
18, 2002.

(51) **Int. Cl.**
G01N 11/16 (2006.01)

(52) **U.S. Cl.** **73/54.41; 73/53.05; 73/64.42**

(58) **Field of Classification Search** **73/24.06,**
73/31.06, 30.04, 32 A, 54.24, 54.38, 54.41,
73/61.49, 61.75; 422/68.1

See application file for complete search history.

(57) **ABSTRACT**

A method for analyzing a fluid contained within a machine,
comprising the steps of providing a machine including a
passage for containing a fluid; placing a sensor including a
mechanical resonator in the passage; operating the resonator
to have a portion thereof translate through the fluid; and
monitoring the response of the resonator to the fluid in the
passage. A preferred sensor includes a tuning fork resonator.

13 Claims, 5 Drawing Sheets

