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(54) **X-ray diffraction device comprising cooling medium connection provided on the X-ray tube**

Röntgenstrahlen-Beugungsgerät mit Kühlmittel-Verbindung zur Röntgenröhre

Appareil à diffraction de rayons X comportant une connection pour le médium de refroidissement sur le tube à rayons X

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- **REVIEW OF SCIENTIFIC INSTRUMENTS., vol.46, no.4, 1 April 1975, NEW YORK US pages 466 - 469 Y. BAER ET AL. 'MONOCHROMATIZED X-RAY SOURCE FOR HIGH RESOLUTION ELECTRON SPECTROSCOPY'**

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Description

[0001] The invention relates to an X-ray diffraction device, comprising an X-ray tube and a holder for accommodating the X-ray tube which comprises an anode which is cooled by means of a cooling medium and which is situated in the vicinity of a first end of the tube, which X-ray tube is adapted to produce a line-shaped X-ray focus, said device comprising conduit means for supplying and discharging the cooling medium.

[0002] Such X-ray diffraction device is known from SU-A-616 717.

[0003] A device and a tube of the kind set forth are known from a leaflet published by Applicant and entitled "High Power X-ray Diffraction Tubes". The leaflet discloses an X-ray tube in which water is used as the cooling liquid for the anode. The conduit means for the supply and discharging of the cooling water comprise a cooling water inlet, denoted therein as "Water in" and a cooling water outlet which is denoted therein as "Water out", a duct which conducts the cooling water along the anode to be cooled being provided between said inlet and outlet. The inlet and the outlet are both provided in a flange arranged on the tube at the area of an end which is situated in the vicinity of the anode to be cooled. The X-ray tube is secured and positioned in the holder by means of said flange. The cooling water is supplied and discharged *via* openings in an abutment in the holder, which openings correspond to the inlet and the outlet in the flange. In the X-ray tube shown in said publication a line-shaped X-ray focus is formed wherefrom the radiation can be taken off in two mutually perpendicular directions, *i.e.* in the longitudinal direction of the focus and in a direction perpendicular thereto. For each of these directions an exit window is provided in the X-ray tube.

[0004] For some X-ray diffraction applications it is desirable to expose the specimen to be examined from a line-shaped focus, whereas for other applications a point-shaped focus is to be preferred. Therefore, the X-ray tube preferably provides both focus shapes. In the known X-ray tube this is possible by taking off the X-rays in the longitudinal direction of the focus line at a small angle relative to the anode surface; the line focus is then seen as a (virtual) point focus. When the X-rays are taken off in a direction perpendicular to said direction, the X-ray focus is seen to be line-shaped. In practice the direction for the X-rays is prescribed, because this direction defines the location of the specimen, the detectors and the other equipment of the analysis apparatus. The desired switching-over from point focus to line focus and *vice versa* is then realised by rotating the X-ray tube in the holder through one quarter of a turn.

[0005] Rotation of the X-ray tube in its holder, however, has the drawback that after rotation the location of the openings in the abutment in the holder no longer registers with the inlet and the outlet in the flange of the X-ray tube. It would be feasible to solve this problem by

providing an adapter flange between the flange of the tube and the abutment in the holder, *i.e.* one adapter flange for each position of the tube. The holes present in the abutment could then register once more with the holes in the tube flange. It is a drawback of this solution, however, that it requires separate components (the adapter flanges) and that such an exchange can be performed by skilled personnel only. It is a further drawback of this method of supplying water to the tube that a given amount of water is inevitably released near the high-voltage connector when the tube is detached for rotation. The water could cause high-voltage flash-overs which damage the connector and/or the X-ray tube.

[0006] It is an object of the invention to provide an X-ray diffraction device in which the X-ray tube can be rotated through 90° in the holder without requiring special steps and without causing leakage.

[0007] To achieve this, the device in accordance with the invention is characterized in that the conduit means comprise tubular ducts which are connected to the X-ray tube, such that they move along there with when the tube is rotated through 90° in the holder, and which extend from the first end to the other end of the X-ray tube.

[0008] During positioning the first end of the X-ray tube may be slid into the holder so as to be secured therein. Its other end, whereto the supply cable for the high voltage and the filament current is secured, remains accessible to the operator. Because the cooling water connections are readily accessible at this area, the water tubes can be readily connected thereto. When the tube is rotated through 90°, the connection tubes simply move along.

[0009] It is to be noted that from the leaflet "Tubes for X-ray Spectrometry", published by Applicant, it is known *per se* to provide an X-ray tube with cooling water connections at the end facing the anode. However, it concerns an X-ray tube for spectrometry purposes and not for diffraction purposes. Thus, the tube shown therein is not adapted to produce a line focus and is not intended either to provide a point-shaped or a line-shaped X-ray focus in conformity with the required mode of operation.

[0010] In accordance with a particular embodiment of the invention, a device for X-ray diffraction is characterized in that the tubular ducts extend on the outer side of the X-ray tube. This substantially simplifies the construction of the tube. In accordance with a further particular embodiment of the invention, an X-ray diffraction device is characterized in that the parts for high-voltage insulation of the tube are made of a ceramic material. Said parts are customarily made of glass in known tubes. It is a known property of hand-made glass parts that they are liable to exhibit comparatively large dimensional tolerances. When use is made of a ceramic material, these parts can be manufactured with substantially smaller dimensional tolerances, resulting in smaller external dimensions of the tube. Space can then be readily reserved in the holder for the ducts for the cooling liquid.

[0011] When the insulating parts of the tube are made of a ceramic material, a substantially more compact tube can be manufactured in comparison with glass-insulated tubes. This means that the path to be followed by the heat, developed by the filament (typically of the order of magnitude of 40 W), by conduction so as to reach the exterior of the tube is much smaller, whereas the thermal conduction of the ceramic material (for example, aluminium oxide, Al_2O_3) is substantially higher than that of glass. Consequently, it may occur that given tube parts, notably those where the high-voltage connector is provided, reach an inadmissibly high temperature so that they cause damage.

[0012] In order to avoid this situation, a device in accordance with a particular embodiment of the invention is characterized in that the cathode of the X-ray tube is mounted on a base of the X-ray tube via a ceramic intermediate member, and that the tubular cooling medium ducts extending on the outer side of the X-ray tube are mounted so as to be in thermal contact with the base. The high-voltage connector is accommodated in a recess in the base; the base, and hence also the connector, is then cooled by the contacting cooling water ducts.

[0013] The invention will be described in detail hereinafter with reference to the Figures in which corresponding elements are denoted by corresponding reference numerals. Therein:

Fig. 1 shows diagrammatically an X-ray diffraction device in accordance with the invention;

Fig. 2a shows a holder with an X-ray tube in which cooling medium is supplied in known manner;

Fig. 2b shows a holder with an X-ray tube in which cooling medium is supplied in accordance with the invention;

Fig. 3 shows an X-ray tube for use in an X-ray diffraction device as shown in Fig. 1.

[0014] Fig. 1 shows an X-ray diffraction device in which a goniometer 4 is mounted on a frame 2. The goniometer 4 is provided with a graduated scale 6 for measuring the angular rotation of the X-ray source 7 mounted thereon and of the detector device 9 which is also mounted thereon. The goniometer also comprises a specimen carrier 8 on which a specimen 10 is provided. For cases where measurement of the angular rotation of the specimen is important, there is provided a graduated scale 12. The X-ray source 7 comprises a holder 12 for an X-ray tube which is not shown in this Figure and which is secured in the holder by way of a mounting ring 20. The X-ray tube is connected by a high-voltage connector 16 supplying the high-voltage and the filament current for the X-ray tube via a high-voltage cable 18. The inlet and outlet ducts 22 and 24 for the cooling water of the X-ray tube are provided at the same side of the X-ray tube. The tube holder 12 also comprises an X-ray exit window 14 and a unit 16 for collimating the X-

ray beam (a Soller slit). The detector device 9 consists of a holder 26 for a Soller slit, a holder 28 for a monochromator crystal, and a detector 30. If the X-ray source as well as the detector are rotatable about the specimen, as shown in the Figure, it is not necessary to arrange the specimen so as to be rotatable. However, it is also possible to arrange the X-ray source so as to be immobile; this may be necessary in the event of large and heavy X-ray sources. In that case the specimen carrier as well as the detector should be rotatable.

[0015] Figs. 2a and 2b show a holder with an X-ray tube; Fig. 2a shows how the cooling water is supplied in the known situation, whereas Fig. 2b shows how the cooling water is supplied according to the present invention.

[0016] Fig. 2a shows a holder 12 with an X-ray tube 31. The tube is positioned in the holder by way of a mounting flange 38 which cooperates with a rim 44 provided in the holder. The tube is placed in the correct angular position by way of a cam 46. The tube is secured in position by a clamping ring 20 which is clamped or screwed onto the holder 12. The X-ray tube 31 comprises an anode 32 which is to be cooled. The cooling water is conducted along the anode via ducts 34 and 36; these ducts form part of the holder 12. The cooling water is supplied via a connection 22 and is subsequently conducted, via a duct 34, to the flange 38 which is provided with two diametrically oppositely situated passages 40 and 42. In the X-ray tube, between these openings, there is provided a duct 48 via which the cooling water is conducted along the anode. On the anode 32 a line-shaped electron focus is formed so that a line-shaped or point-shaped X-ray focus is formed, depending on the take-off direction. The X-rays formed on the anode emanate from the holder via a window in the holder 12 (not shown in the Figure). The line-shaped focus emits the X-rays via a first window 50; the point-shaped focus is observed by observing the line-shaped focus in a direction perpendicular thereto, via a window (not shown in the Figure) which has been rotated through 90° relative to the window 50. If X-rays are to be obtained from a (virtual) point-shaped source, the relevant window of the tube in the holder must be rotated so as to register with the holder window; in the case of a line-shaped focus, therefore, the tube must be rotated through 90° . Rotation of the tube in the holder is not possible unless special steps are taken, because the water connections in the holder 12 and the flange 40 no longer register after rotation. The invention offers a solution to this problem in the form of the embodiment shown in Fig. 2b.

[0017] In Fig. 2b cooling water is supplied to the anode 32 via two ducts 52 and 54 which extend around and outside the X-ray tube. These ducts are thermally connected to the base 56. The ducts are connected to a cooling water reservoir 58 wherefrom the cooling water is distributed across the rear of the anode 32. If it is necessary to rotate the X-ray tube in the holder through 90° , the water connection problems as described with

reference to Fig. 2a will not occur in this configuration.

[0018] Fig. 3 is a more detailed representation of an X-ray tube for use in an X-ray diffraction device. The tube comprises a filament 60 which is enclosed by a U-shaped cathode structure 62. Electrons emitted by the filament are accelerated by an electric field between the cathode and the anode and strike the anode with a high energy which is mainly converted into heat. A substantial part of the heat is dissipated by the cooling water transported through the ducts 52 and 54. The cathode 62 is mounted on a support 64 which itself is mounted on a ceramic intermediate member 66. This intermediate member is mounted on the base 56 which is traversed by the ducts 52 and 54. The heat produced by the filament 60 is to be discharged by convection or conduction. Because of the use of a ceramic material for the high-voltage insulation, there is a trend towards increasingly more compact X-ray tubes. The heat which must then be dissipated *via* the high-voltage insulation leads to higher temperatures of components on the outer side of the X-ray tube, such as the base 56. This is caused on the one hand by the shorter path between the filament 60 and the relevant component and on the other hand by the higher thermal conduction of the ceramic material in comparison with glass. Because cooling water is conducted along the base 56, this component cannot reach an inadmissibly high temperature.

Claims

1. An X-ray diffraction device, comprising an X-ray tube (7) and a holder (12) for accommodating the X-ray tube,
 - * which X-ray tube comprises an anode (32) which is cooled by means of a cooling medium and which is situated in the vicinity of a first end of the tube,
 - * which X-ray tube is adapted to produce a line-shaped X-ray focus,
 - * said device comprising conduit means (22, 24, 52, 54, 58) for supplying and discharging the cooling medium,

characterized in that

- * the conduit means comprise tubular ducts (52, 54) which are connected to the X-ray tube, such that they move along there with when the tube is rotated through 90° in the holder, and which extend from the first end to the other end of the X-ray tube.
2. A device as claimed in Claim 1, **characterized in that** the tubular ducts (52, 54) extend on the outer side of the X-ray tube.

3. A device as claimed in any one of the Claims 1 or 2, **characterized in that** the parts (66) for high-voltage insulation of the tube are made of a ceramic material.

4. A device as claimed in Claim 3, **characterized in that** the cathode (60, 62) of the X-ray tube is mounted on a base (56) of the X-ray tube *via* a ceramic intermediate member (66), and that the tubular cooling medium ducts (52, 54) extending on the outer side of the X-ray tube are mounted so as to be in thermal contact with the base.

Patentansprüche

1. Röntgenbeugungseinrichtung mit einer Röntgenröhre (7) und einem Halter (12) zum Aufnehmen der Röntgenröhre,

- * welche Röntgenröhre eine Anode (32) umfasst, die mit Hilfe eines Kühlmediums gekühlt wird und die in der Nähe eines ersten Endes der Röhre liegt,
- * welche Röntgenröhre zum Erzeugen eines linienförmigen Röntgenfokus ausgebildet ist,
- * wobei die genannte Einrichtung Leitungsmittel (22, 24, 52, 54, 58) für die Zufuhr und Abfuhr des Kühlmediums umfasst,

dadurch gekennzeichnet, dass

- * die Leitungsmittel röhrenförmige Leitungen (52, 54) umfassen, die so mit der Röntgenröhre verbunden sind, dass sie sich mit ihr mitbewegen, wenn die Röhre in dem Halter um 90° gedreht wird, und die vom ersten Ende bis zum anderen Ende der Röntgenröhre verlaufen.

2. Einrichtung nach Anspruch 1, **dadurch gekennzeichnet, dass** die röhrenförmigen Leitungen (52, 54) auf der Außenseite der Röntgenröhre verlaufen.

3. Einrichtung nach einem der Ansprüche 1 oder 2, **dadurch gekennzeichnet, dass** die Teile (66) zur Hochspannungsisolation der Röhre aus Keramikmaterial hergestellt sind.

4. Einrichtung nach Anspruch 3, **dadurch gekennzeichnet, dass** die Kathode (60, 62) der Röntgenröhre über ein keramisches Zwischenglied (66) auf einem Sockel (56) der Röntgenröhre montiert ist, und dass die an der Außenseite der Röntgenröhre verlaufenden röhrenförmigen Kühlmediumleitungen (52, 54) so montiert sind, dass sie mit dem Sockel in Wärmekontakt stehen.

Revendications

1. Dispositif de diffraction de rayons X comportant un tube à rayons X (7) et une douille (12) pour recevoir le tube à rayons X, 5
 - * ledit tube à rayons X comportant une anode (32) qui est refroidie au moyen d'un milieu de refroidissement et qui se situe à proximité d'une première extrémité du tube, 10
 - * ledit tube à rayons X étant adapté à engendrer un foyer de rayons X linéaire,
 - * ledit dispositif comportant des moyens de conduit (22, 24, 52, 54, 58) pour alimenter et pour décharger le milieu de refroidissement, 15

caractérisé en ce que

- * les moyens de conduit comportent des canaux tubulaires (52, 54) qui sont reliés au tube à rayons X de façon qu'ils se déplacent le long de celui-ci lorsque le tube est tourné de 90° dans la douille et qui s'étendent à partir de la première extrémité vers l'autre extrémité du tube à rayons X. 20 25
2. Dispositif selon la revendication 1, **caractérisé en ce que** les canaux tubulaires (52, 54) sont reliés à et s'étendent du côté extérieur du tube à rayons X. 30
 3. Dispositif selon l'une quelconque des revendications précédentes 1 ou 2, **caractérisé en ce que** les parties (66) pour l'isolation à haute tension du tube sont fabriquées à partir d'un matériau céramique. 35
 4. Dispositif selon la revendication 3, **caractérisé en ce que** la cathode (60, 62) du tube à rayons X est montée sur une base (56) du tube à rayons X par l'intermédiaire d'un organe intermédiaire céramique (66) et **en ce que** les canaux de milieu de refroidissement tubulaires (52, 54) s'étendant du côté extérieur du tube à rayons X sont montés de manière à être en contact thermique avec la base. 40 45

50

55

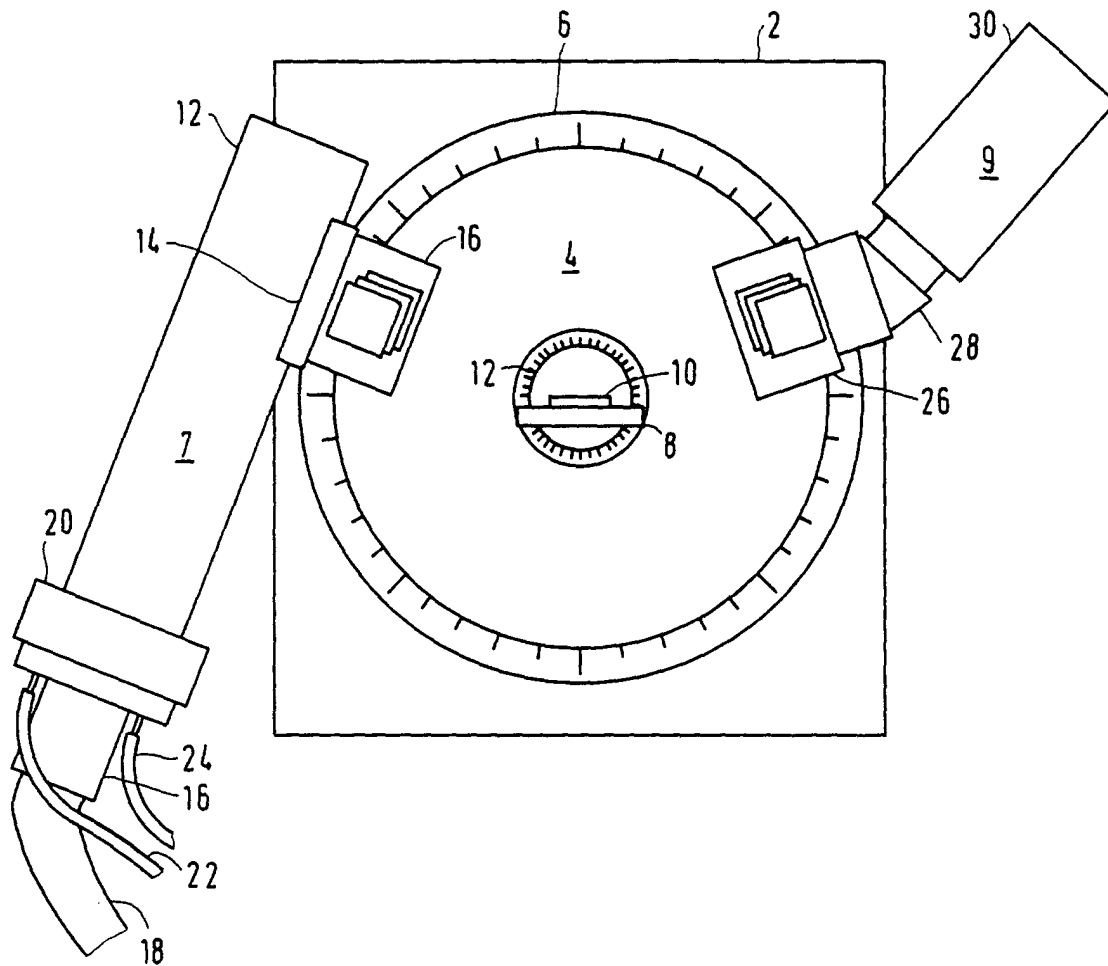


FIG.1

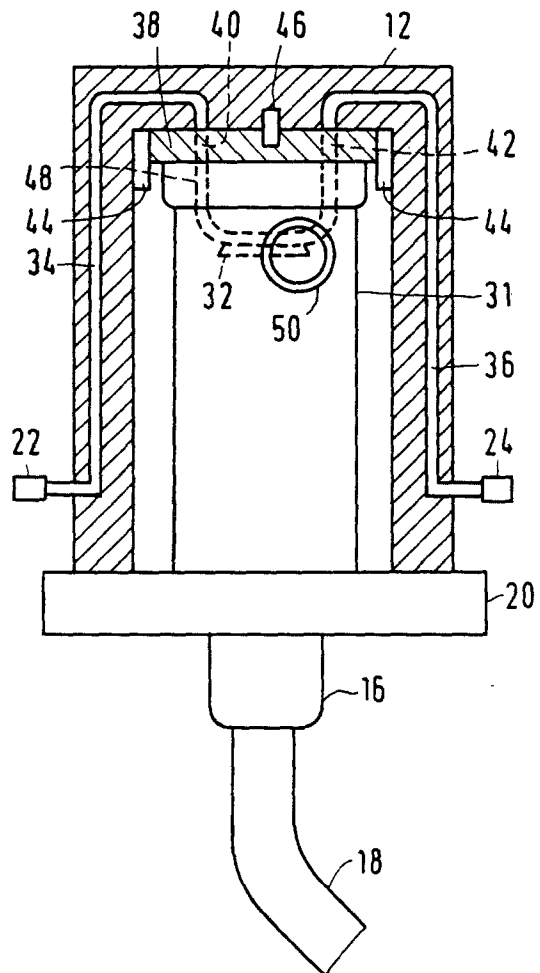


FIG. 2a

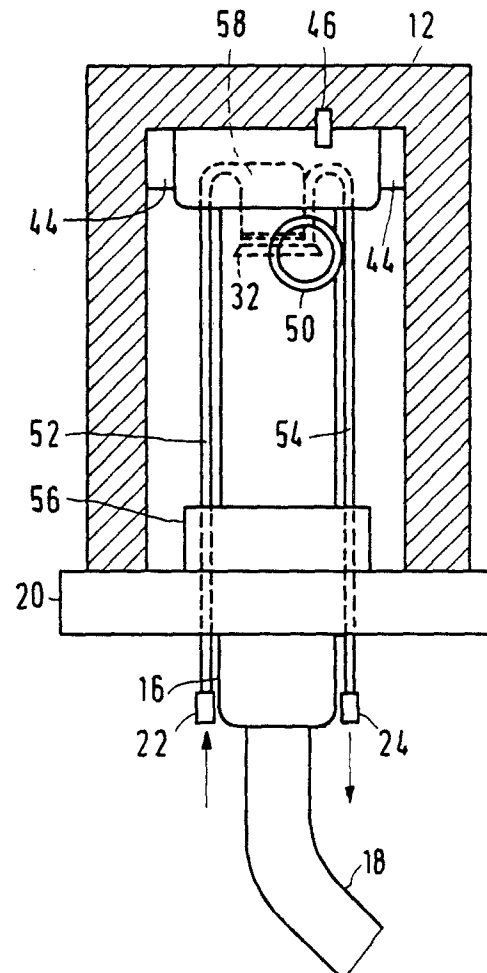


FIG. 2b

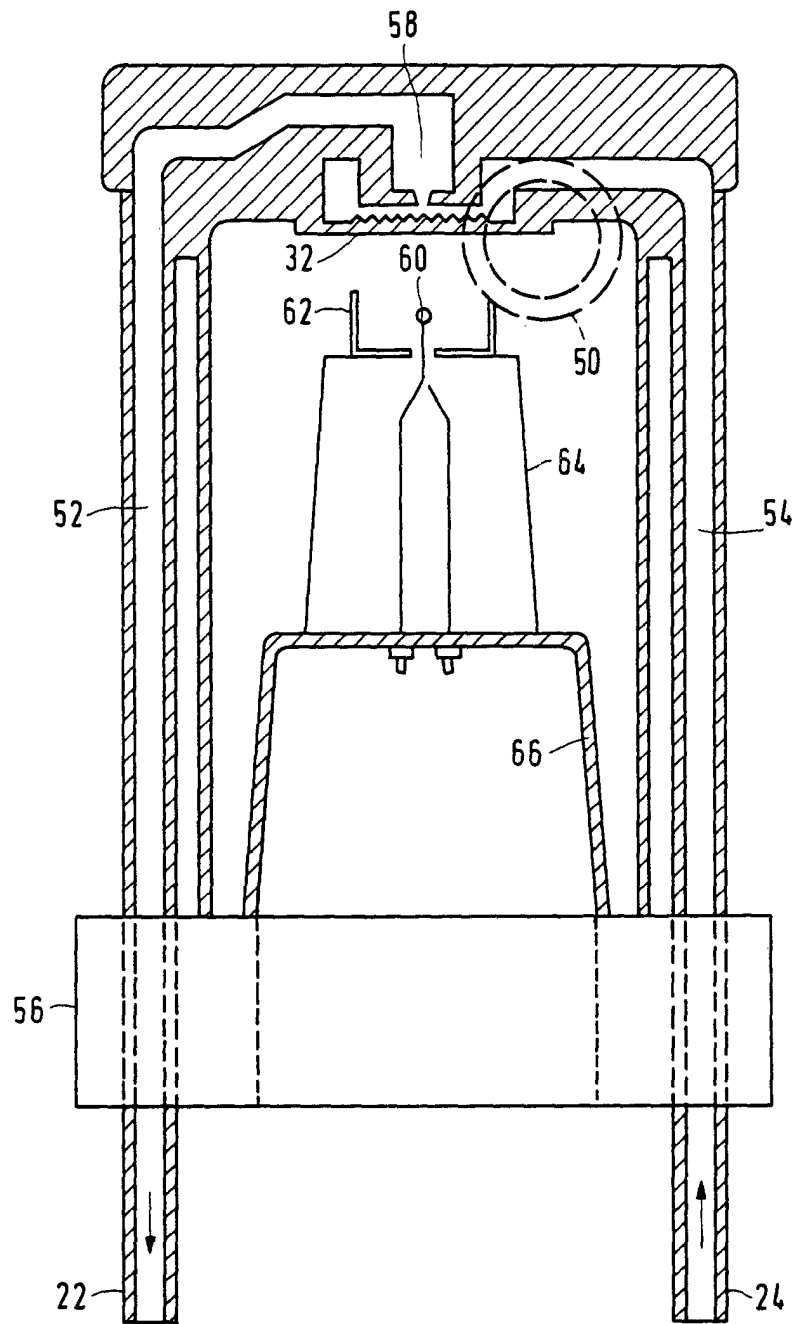


FIG.3