United States Patent [19]

Cromwell

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[54] **COMPUTER-DIRECTED PROCESS CONTROL SYSTEM WITH INTERACTIVE DISPLAY FUNCTIONS**

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Related U.S. Application Data

[63] Continuation of Ser. No. 481,180, June 20, 1974, which is a continuation of Ser. No. 419,444, Nov. 27, 1973, which is a continuation of Ser. No. 229,077, Feb. 24, 1972.

[52] **U.S. Cl.** ..... **340/172.5;** 340/324 A

[51] **Int. Cl.²** **G06F 3/14**

[58] **Field of Search** ..... 340/172.5, 324 A, 324 AD; 445/1

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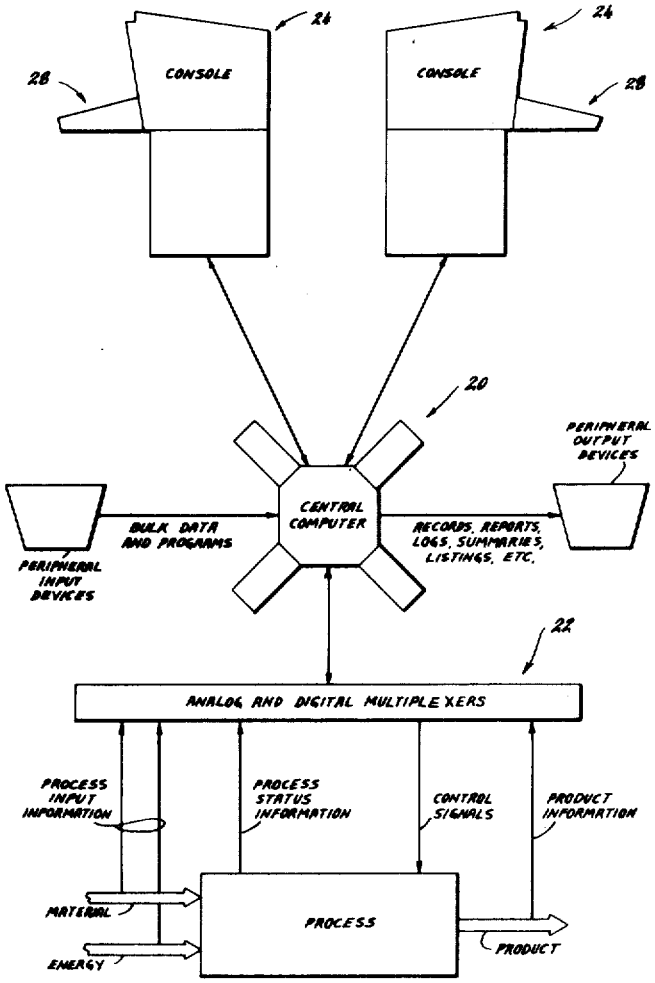
[57] **ABSTRACT**

An industrial process control system including a digital computer arranged in a time-share configuration to perform calculations respecting a plurality of process conditions, and to produce corresponding command signals for respective process operators such as valves and the like. The system includes an operator's console unit having a CRT display controlled by a local memory controllable by a keyboard, and by the computer in response to action from the keyboard. Special process-oriented displays can be presented on the CRT, such as fill-in-the-blanks forms into which the operator can insert new values, or other information. The keyboard includes a number of distinctive function keys which serve, in cooperation with the special CRT displays, to present information to the computer for processing, to aid in controlling the process.

11 Claims, 23 Drawing Figures