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- (54) **WRITE-MANY MEMORY DEVICE AND METHOD FOR LIMITING A NUMBER OF WRITES TO THE WRITE-MANY MEMORY DEVICE**
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- (\* ) Notice: Subject to any disclaimer, the term of this patent is extended or adjusted under 35 U.S.C. 154(b) by 342 days.

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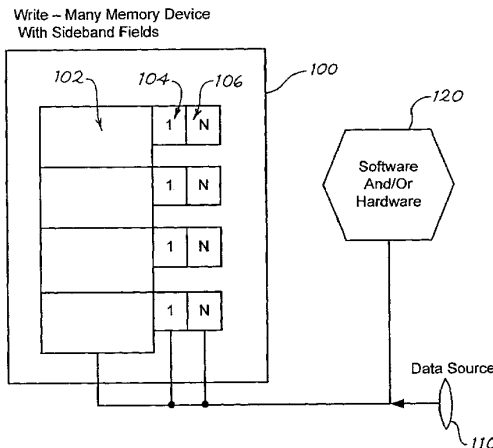
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**G06F 12/14** (2006.01)
- (52) **U.S. Cl.** ..... **711/103**
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See application file for complete search history.

(57) **ABSTRACT**

The preferred embodiments described herein provide a write-many memory device and method for limiting a number of writes to the write-many memory device. In one preferred embodiment, a write-many memory device is provided comprising a plurality of blocks of memory, each block being limited to N number of writes. Data can be stored in a block of memory only if there has been fewer than N number of writes to the block. In another preferred embodiment, a write-many memory device is provided comprising a plurality of blocks of memory, wherein each block comprises a first sideband field storing data indicating whether the block is free and a second sideband field storing data indicating how many times the block has been written into. The first and second sideband fields are used in a method for limiting a number of writes to the write-many memory device. Other preferred embodiments are provided, and each of the preferred embodiments can be used alone or in combination with one another.

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**45 Claims, 3 Drawing Sheets**



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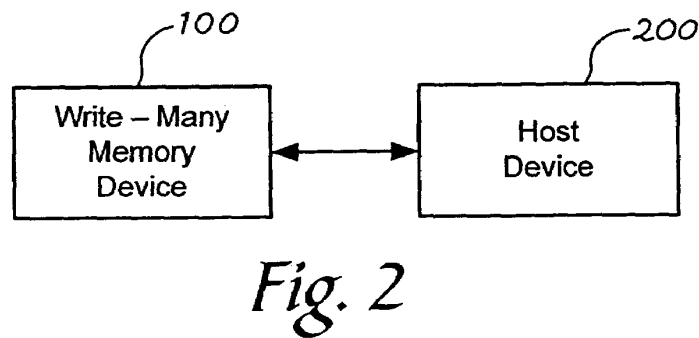
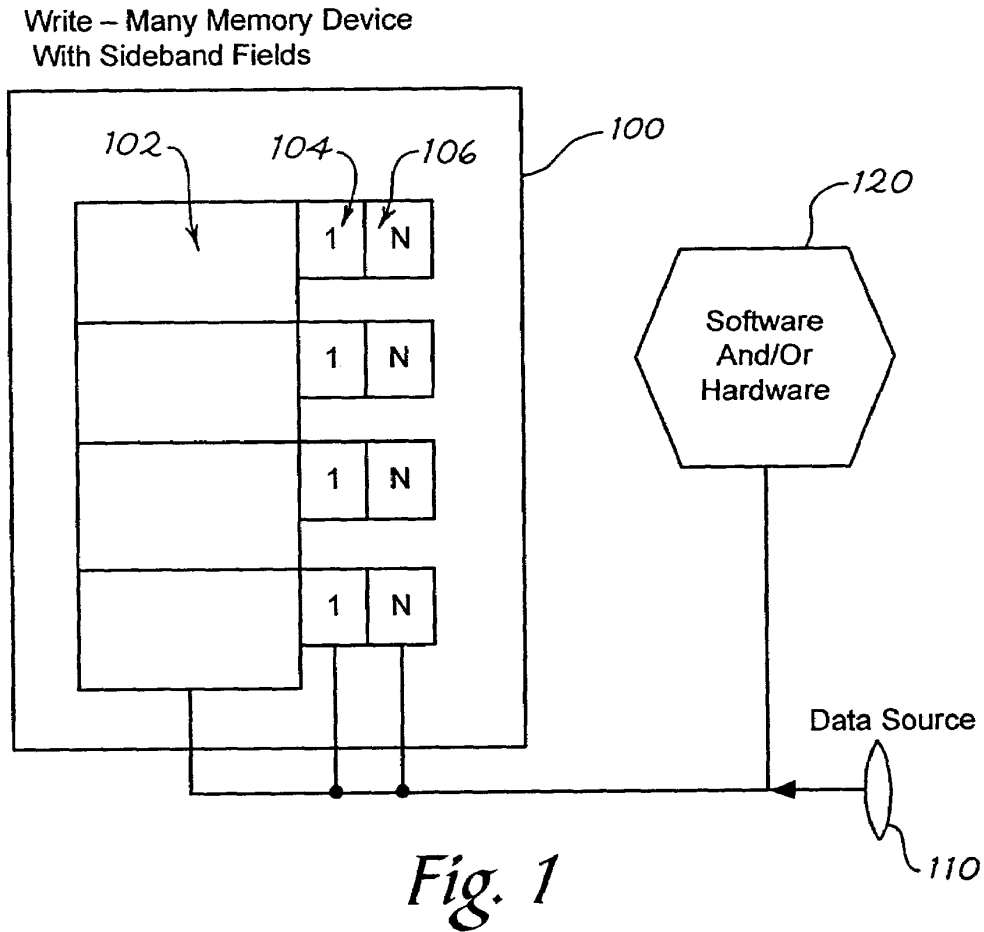
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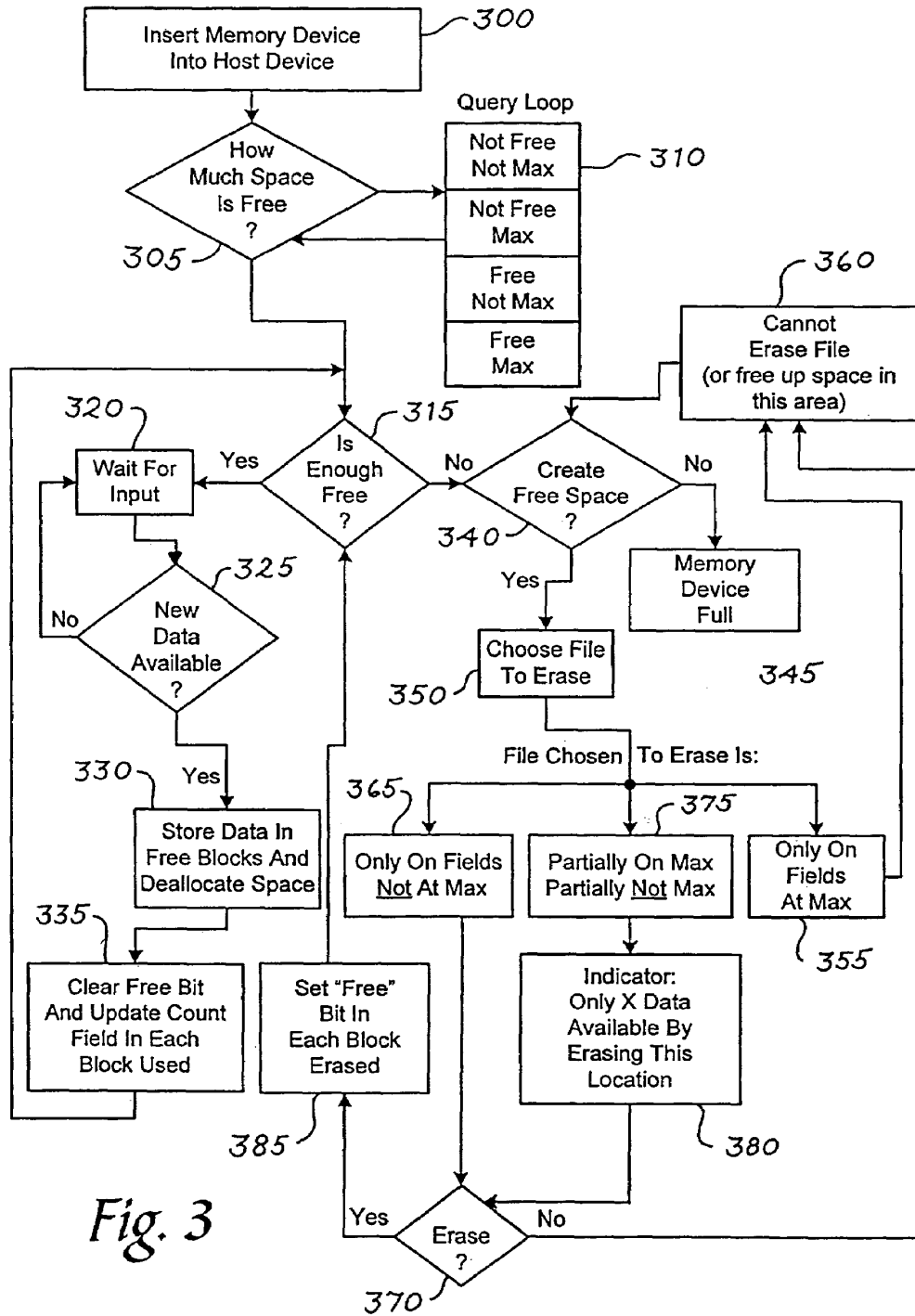


Fig. 3



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