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(54) **BIREFRINGENT OPTICAL SYSTEM**

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See application file for complete search history.

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(57) **ABSTRACT**

The invention relates to an optical system comprising a fluid chamber **1** and a birefringent part. The fluid chamber comprises first and second fluids **10**, **12** having different indices of refraction, the interface between the fluids forming a meniscus **14**. The birefringent part is capable of varying characteristics of a first radiation beam **3b** and a second radiation beam **3c**, the first and second radiation beams having different polarisations. Variation in the configuration of the meniscus causes variation in the characteristics of the first radiation beam and the second radiation beam. Variation in the configuration of the meniscus may be controlled by electro-wetting.

8 Claims, 10 Drawing Sheets



