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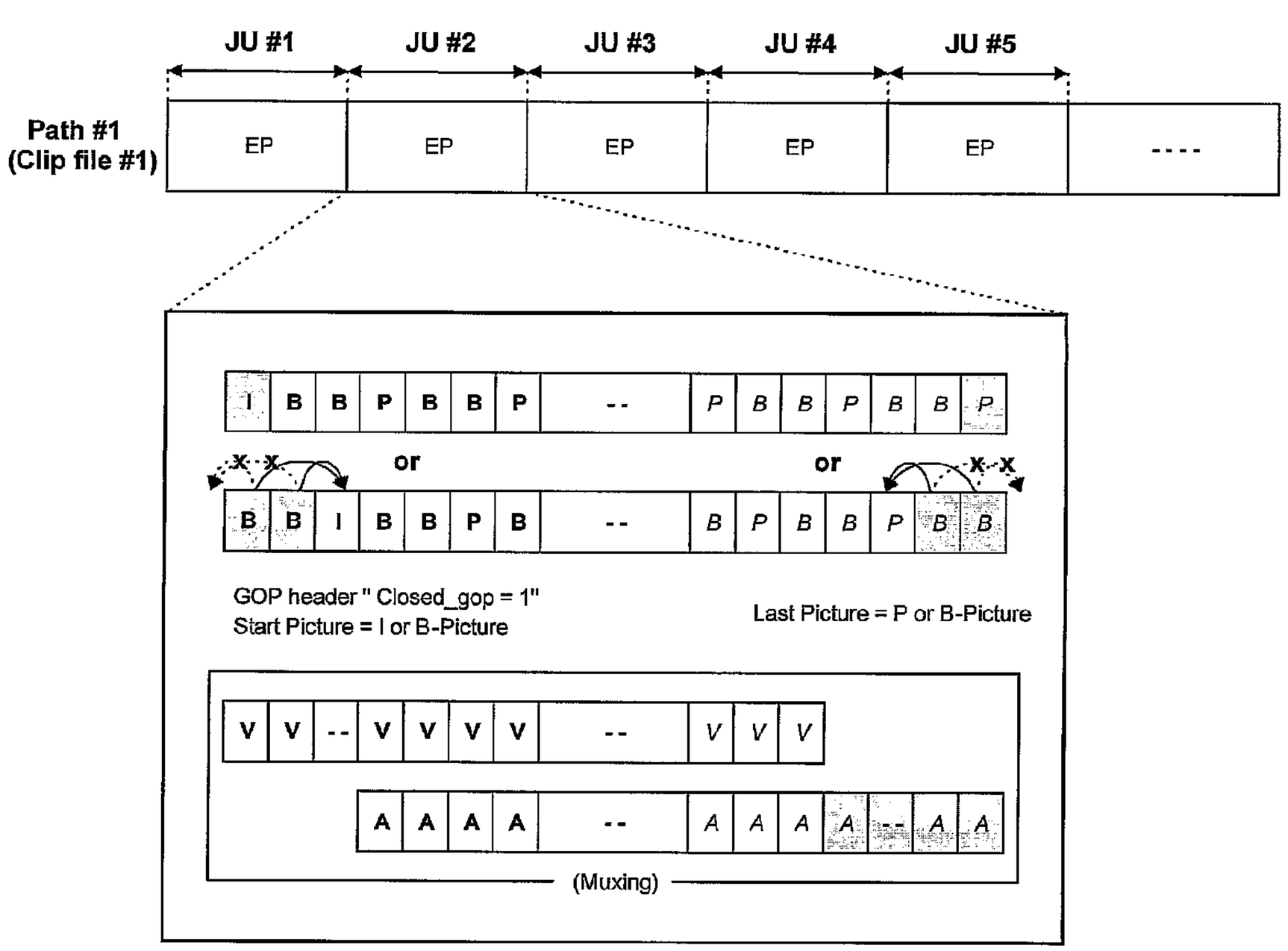
(54) Titre : SUPPORT D'ENREGISTREMENT AYANT UNE STRUCTURE DE DONNEES QUI PERMET DE GERER LA REPRODUCTION DES DONNEES VIDEO A PISTES DE REPRODUCTION MULTIPLES ENREGISTREES SUR CE SUPPORT ET PROCEDES ET APPAREILS DE REPRODUCTION

(54) Title: RECORDING MEDIUM HAVING DATA STRUCTURE FOR MANAGING REPRODUCTION OF MULTIPLE REPRODUCTION PATH VIDEO DATA RECORDED THEREON AND RECORDING AND REPRODUCING METHODS AND APPARATUSES



(57) Abrégé/Abstract:
The recording medium has a data structure for managing reproduction of at least multiple reproduction path video data recorded on the recording medium. A data area of the recording medium has more than one reproduction path of video data recorded

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(57) Abrégé(suite)/Abstract(continued):
therein. Each reproduction path is recorded as at least one file, and each file associated with one reproduction path is separate from each file associated with another reproduction path such that portions of each file are not interleaved with portions of other files.

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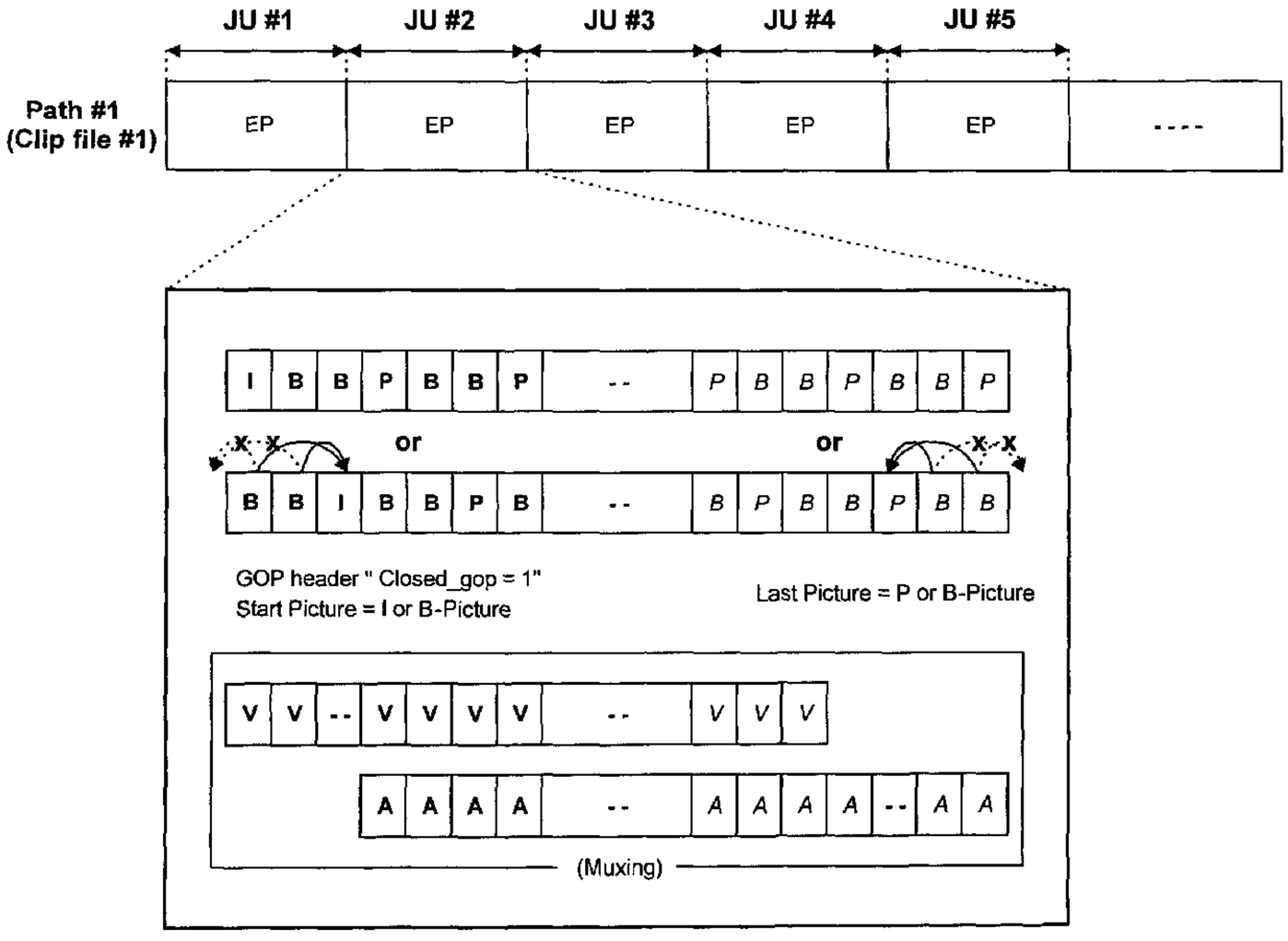
(54) Title: RECORDING MEDIUM HAVING DATA STRUCTURE FOR MANAGING REPRODUCTION OF MULTIPLE REPRODUCTION PATH VIDEO DATA RECORDED THEREON AND RECORDING AND REPRODUCING METHODS AND APPARATUSES



(57) Abstract: The recording medium has a data structure for managing reproduction of at least multiple reproduction path video data recorded on the recording medium. A data area of the recording medium has more than one reproduction path of video data recorded therein. Each reproduction path is recorded as at least one file, and each file associated with one reproduction path is separate from each file associated with another reproduction path such that portions of each file are not interleaved with portions of other files.

WO 2004/044913 A1

For two-letter codes and other abbreviations, refer to the "Guidance Notes on Codes and Abbreviations" appearing at the beginning of each regular issue of the PCT Gazette.

DESCRIPTION

RECORDING MEDIUM HAVING DATA STRUCTURE FOR MANAGING REPRODUCTION OF MULTIPLE REPRODUCTION PATH VIDEO DATA RECORDED THEREON AND RECORDING AND REPRODUCING METHODS AND APPARATUSES

1. TECHNICAL FIELD

The present invention relates to a recording medium having a data structure for managing reproduction of at least multiple reproduction path video data recorded thereon as well as methods and apparatuses for reproduction and recording.

2. BACKGROUND ART

The standardization of new high-density read only and rewritable optical disks capable of recording large amounts of high-quality video and audio data has been progressing rapidly and new optical disk related products are expected to be commercially available on the market in the near future. The Blu-ray Disc Rewritable (BD-RE) is one example of these new optical disks.

Fig. 1 illustrates the file structure of the BD-RE. The file structure or data structure provides for managing the reproduction of the video and audio data recorded on the BD-RE. As shown, the data structure includes a root directory that contains at least one BDAV directory. The BDAV directory includes files such as 'info.bdav', 'menu.tidx', and 'mark.tidx', a PLAYLIST subdirectory in which playlist files (*.rpls and *.vpls) are stored, a CLIPINF subdirectory in which clip information files (*.clpi) are stored, and a STREAM subdirectory in which MPEG2-formatted A/V stream clip files (*.m2ts) corresponding to the clip information files are stored. In addition to illustrating the data structure of the optical disk, Fig. 1 represents the areas of the optical

disk. For example, the general information file info.bdav is stored in a general information area or areas on the optical disk.

Because the BD-RE data structure and disk format as illustrated in Fig. 1 is well-known and readily available, only a brief overview of the file structure will be provided in this disclosure.

As alluded to above, the STREAM directory includes MPEG2-formatted A/V stream files called clips or clip files. The STREAM directory may also include a special type of clip referred to as a bridge-clip A/V stream file. A bridge-clip is used for making seamless connection between two or more presentation intervals selected in the clips, and generally have a small data size compared to the clips. The A/V stream includes source packets of video and audio data. For example, a source packet of video data includes a header and a transport packet. A source packet includes a source packet number, which is generally a sequentially assigned number that serves as an address for accessing the source packet. Transport packets include a packet identifier (PID). The PID identifies the sequence of transport packets to which a transport packet belongs. Each transport packet in the sequence will have the same PID.

The CLIPINF directory includes a clip information file associated with each A/V stream file. The clip information file indicates, among other things, the type of A/V stream associated therewith, sequence information, program information and timing information. The sequence information describes the arrival time basis (ATC) and system time basis (STC) sequences. For example, the sequence information indicates, among other things, the number of sequences, the beginning and ending time information for each sequence, the address of the first source packet in each sequence and the PID of the transport packets in each sequence. A sequence of source packets in which the contents of a program is constant is called a program sequence. The program information indicates,

among other things, the number of program sequences, the starting address for each program sequence, and the PID(s) of transport packets in a program sequence.

The timing information is referred to as characteristic point information (CPI). One form of CPI is the entry point (EP) map. The EP map maps a presentation time stamp (e.g., on an arrival time basis (ATC) and/or a system time basis (STC)) to a source packet address (i.e., source packet number). The presentation time stamp (PTS) and the source packet number (SPN) are related to an entry point in the AV stream; namely, the PTS and its related SPN point to an entry point on the AV stream. The packet pointed to is often referred to as the entry point packet.

The PLAYLIST directory includes one or more playlist files. The concept of a playlist has been introduced to promote ease of editing/assembling clips for playback. A playlist file is a collection of playing intervals in the clips. Each playing interval is referred to as a playitem. The playlist file, among other things, identifies each playitem forming the playlist, and each playitem, among other things, is a pair of IN-point and OUT-point that point to positions on a time axis of the clip (e.g., presentation time stamps on an ATC or STC basis). Expressed another way, the playlist file identifies playitems, each playitem points to a clip or portion thereof and identifies the clip information file associated with the clip. The clip information file is used, among other things, to map the playitems to the clip of source packets.

A playlist directory may include real playlists (*.rpls) and virtual playlists (*.vpls). A real playlist can only use clips and not bridge-clips. Namely, the real playlist is considered as referring to parts of clips, and therefore, conceptually considered equivalent in disk space to the referred to parts of the clips. A virtual playlist can use both clips and bridge-clips, and therefore, the conceptual considerations of a real playlist do not exist with virtual playlists.

The info.bdav file is a general information file that provides general information for managing the reproduction of the A/V stream recorded on the optical disk. More specifically, the info.bdav file includes, among other things, a table of playlists that identifies the file names of the playlist in the PLAYLIST directory of the same BDAV directory.

The menu.tidx, menu.tdt1 and menu.tdt2 files store information related to menu thumbnails. The mark.tidx, mark.tdt1 and mark.tdt2 files store information that relates to mark thumbnails. Because these files are not particularly relevant to the present invention, they will not be discussed further.

The standardization for high-density read-only optical disks such as the Blu-ray ROM (BD-ROM) is still under way. An effective data structure for managing reproduction of video and audio data recorded on the high-density read-only optical disk such as a BD-ROM is not yet available.

3. DISCLOSURE OF INVENTION

The recording medium according to the present invention includes a data structure for managing reproduction of at least multiple reproduction path video data (e.g., different camera angles of video data) recorded on the recording medium.

In one exemplary embodiment, the recording medium includes a data area having more than one reproduction path of video data recorded therein. Each reproduction path is recorded as at least one file, and each file associated with one reproduction path is separate from each file associated with another reproduction path such that portions of each file are not interleaved with portions of other files, the file having at least one entry point.

In one exemplary embodiment, each of the separate files is a clip file. In a further exemplary embodiment, each of the jumping units includes a single entry point where the boundaries between

entry points define where changes between reproduction paths are permitted.

In another exemplary embodiment, one or more management areas of the recording medium store at least one entry point map associated with each reproduction path, and each entry point map identifies entry points in the video data for the associated reproduction path. Here, each jumping unit is defined as data between two consecutive entry points in the entry point map.

In a further embodiment of the present invention, the recording medium includes one or more management areas storing at least one entry point map associated with each reproduction path. Each entry point map identifies entry points in a clip file that at least includes video data. Each clip file is associated with one of the multiple reproduction paths, and each entry point indicates a path change point in the associated reproduction path.

In yet another exemplary embodiment there is provided a method of recording a data structure for managing reproduction of at least multiple reproduction path video data on a recording medium, comprising:

recording more than one reproduction path of video data in a data area of the recording medium, each reproduction path recorded as at least one file, and each file associated with one reproduction path being separate from each file associated with another reproduction path such that portions of each file are not interleaved with portions of other files, and the file having at least one entry point.

Yet another embodiment of the invention concerns a method of reproducing a data structure for managing reproduction of at least multiple reproduction path video data recorded on a recording medium, comprising:

reproducing more than one reproduction path of video data from a data area of the recording medium, each reproduction path recorded as at least one file, and each file associated with one reproduction path being separate from each file associated with another reproduction path such that portions of each

file are not interleaved with portions of other files, and the file having at least one entry point.

Still another embodiment of the invention concerns an apparatus for recording a data structure for managing reproduction of at least multiple reproduction path video data on a recording medium, comprising:

an optical recording unit configured to record data on the recording medium;

an encoder configured to encode at least video data having one or more multiple reproduction path; and

a controller, operably coupled to the optical recording unit, configured to control the optical recording unit to record the video data having one or more multiple reproduction path in a data area of the recording medium, each reproduction path recorded as at least one file, and each file associated with one reproduction path being separate from the file associated with another reproduction path such that portions of the file are not interleaved with portions of other files, and the file having at least one entry point.

Yet another embodiment of the invention concerns an apparatus for reproducing a data structure for managing reproduction of at least multiple reproduction path video data recorded on a recording medium, comprising:

an optical reproducing unit configured to reproduce data recorded on the recording medium;

a controller, operably coupled to the optical recording unit, configured to control the optical reproducing unit to reproduce the video data having one or more reproduction path from a data area of the recording medium, each reproduction path recorded as at least one file, and each file associated with one reproduction path being separate from the file associated with another reproduction path such that portions of the file are not interleaved with portions of other files, and the file having at least one entry point.

4. BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF DRAWINGS

The above features and other advantages of the present invention will be more clearly understood from the following detailed description taken in conjunction with the accompanying drawings, in which:

Fig. 1 illustrates the prior art file or data structure of a rewritable optical disk according to the Blu-ray Disc Rewritable (BD-RE) standard;

Fig. 2 illustrates an exemplary embodiment of a recording medium file or data structure according to the present invention;

Fig. 3 illustrates an example of a recording medium having the data structure of Fig. 2 stored thereon;

Figs. 4 - 6 illustrate embodiments of the data structure associated with reproduction path management for use in the data

structure according to Fig. 2; and

Fig. 7 illustrates a schematic diagram of an embodiment of an optical disk recording and reproduction apparatus of the present invention.

5. MODES FOR CARRYING OUT THE INVENTION

In order that the invention may be fully understood, exemplary embodiments thereof will now be described with reference to the accompanying drawings.

A high-density optical disk, for example, a Blu-Ray ROM (BD-ROM), BD-RE, etc. in accordance with the invention may have a file or data structure for managing reproduction of video and audio data as shown in Fig. 2. Many aspects of the data structure according to the present invention shown in Fig. 2 are similar to that of the BD-RE standard discussed with respect to Fig 1. As such these aspects will not be described in great detail.

As shown in Fig. 2, the root directory contains at least one DVP directory. The DVP directory includes a general information file info.dvp, menu files menu.tidx, menu.tdt1 among others, a PLAYLIST directory in which playlist files (e.g., real (*.rpls) and virtual (*.vpls)) are stored, a CLIPINF directory in which clip information files (*.clpi) are stored, and a STREAM directory in which MPEG2-formatted A/V stream clip files (*.m2ts), corresponding to the clip information files, are stored.

The STREAM directory includes MPEG2-formatted A/V stream files called clips or clip files. The A/V stream includes source packets of video and audio data. For example, a source packet of video data includes a header and a transport packet. A source packet includes a source packet number, which is generally a sequentially assigned number that serves as an address for accessing the source packet. Transport packets include a packet identifier (PID). The PID identifies the sequence of transport packets to which a transport packet belongs. Each transport packet in the sequence

will have the same PID.

The CLIPINF directory includes a clip information file associated with each A/V stream file. The clip information file indicates, among other things, the type of A/V stream associated therewith, sequence information, program information and timing information. The sequence information describes the arrival time basis (ATC) and system time basis (STC) sequences. For example, the sequence information indicates, among other things, the number of sequences, the beginning and ending time information for each sequence, the address of the first source packet in each sequence and the PID of the transport packets in each sequence. A sequence of source packets in which the contents of a program is constant is called a program sequence. The program information indicates, among other things, the number of program sequences, the starting address for each program sequence, and the PID(s) of transport packets in a program sequence.

The timing information is referred to as characteristic point information (CPI). One form of CPI is the entry point (EP) map. The EP map maps a presentation time stamp (e.g., on an arrival time basis (ATC) and/or a system time basis (STC)) to a source packet address (i.e., source packet number). The presentation time stamp (PTS) and the source packet number (SPN) are related to an entry point in the AV stream; namely, the PTS and its related SPN point to an entry point on the AV stream. The packet pointed to is often referred to as the entry point packet.

The PLAYLIST directory includes one or more playlist files. The concept of a playlist has been introduced to promote ease of editing/assembling clips for playback. A playlist file is a collection of playing intervals in the clips. Each playing interval is referred to as a playitem. The playlist file, among other things, identifies each playitem forming the playlist, and each playitem, among other things, is a pair of IN-point and OUT-point that point to positions on a time axis of the clip (e.g., presentation time

stamps on an ATC or STC basis). Expressed another way, the playlist file identifies playitems, each playitem points to a clip or portion thereof and identifies the clip information file associated with the clip. The clip information file is used, among other things, to map the playitems to the clip of source packets.

A playlist directory may include real playlists (*.rpls) and virtual playlists (*.vpls). A real playlist can only use clips and not bridge-clips. Namely, the real playlist is considered as referring to parts of clips, and therefore, conceptually considered equivalent in disk space to the referred to parts of the clips. A virtual playlist can use both clips and bridge-clips, and therefore, the conceptual considerations of a real playlist do not exist with virtual playlists.

The info.dvp file is a general information file that provides general information for managing the reproduction of the A/V streams recorded on the optical disk. More specifically, the info.dvp file includes, among other things, a table of playlists that identifies the file names of the playlists in the PLAYLIST directory. The info.dvp file will be discussed in greater detail below with respect to the embodiments of the present invention.

In addition to illustrating the data structure of the recording medium according to an embodiment of the present invention, Fig. 2 represents the areas of the recording medium. For example, the general information file is recorded in one or more general information areas, the playlist directory is recorded in one or more playlist directory areas, each playlist in a playlist directory is recorded in one or more playlist areas of the recording medium, etc. Fig. 3 illustrates an example of a recording medium having the data structure of Fig. 2 stored thereon. As shown, the recording medium includes a file system information area, a data base area and an A/V stream area. The data base area includes a general information file and playlist information area and a clip information area. The general information file and playlist

information area have the general information file recorded in a general information file area thereof, and the PLAYLIST directory and playlist files recorded in a playlist information area thereof. The clip information area has the CLIPINFO directory and associated clip information files recorded therein. The A/V stream area has the A/V streams for the various titles recorded therein.

Video and audio data are typically organized as individual titles; for example, different movies represented by the video and audio data are organized as different titles. Furthermore, a title may be organized into individual chapters in much the same way a book is often organized into chapters.

Because of the large storage capacity of the newer, high-density recording media such as BD-ROM and BD-RE optical disks, different titles, various versions of a title or portions of a title may be recorded, and therefore, reproduced from the recording media. For example, video data representing different camera angles may be recorded on the recording medium. As another example, versions of title or portions thereof associated with different languages may be recorded on the recording medium. As a still further example, a director's version and a theatrical version of a title may be recorded on the recording medium. Or, an adult version, young adult version and young child version (i.e., different parental control versions) of a title or portions of a title may be recorded on the recording medium. Each version, camera angle, etc. represents a different reproduction path, and the video data in these instances is referred to as multiple reproduction path video data. It will be appreciated that the above examples of multiple reproduction path video data are not limiting, and the present invention is applicable to any type or combination of types of multiple reproduction path video data. As will be described in detail below with respect to embodiments of the present invention, the data structures according to the present invention include path management information and/or navigation information for managing

reproduction of multiple reproduction path video data recorded on the recording medium.

A first embodiment of the reproduction path management information for use in the data structure according to Fig. 2 will now be described with respect to Fig. 4. According to this embodiment, the multiple reproduction path data is recorded in a plurality of clip files such that each clip files is associated with one of the reproduction paths. The clip files in this embodiment are recorded on the recording medium in a non-interleaved fashion. Fig. 4 illustrates an exemplary clip file corresponding to a reproduction path according to this embodiment of the present invention. As shown, the clip file is divided into a plurality of entry points (EPs), which are referenced in an EP map of an associated clip information file. Consecutive entry points define a single clip A/V steam file, and each entry point is a jumping unit, for example, jumping units JU#1, JU#2 and JU#3 shown in Fig. 4. During reproduction, changing between reproduction paths occurs on a jumping unit basis (i.e., on a single entry point basis). Namely, upon receipt of a reproduction path change request from a user, reproduction of the currently reproduced jumping unit is completed, and reproduction then continues at the beginning of a jumping unit in a clip file associated with the newly requested reproduction path. In this manner, the boundaries between entry points define where changes between reproduction paths are permitted.

As further shown in Fig. 4 with respect to the end of the data forming the second jumping unit JU#2, the last picture of video data in the entry point of each jumping unit is restricted to being a P-picture or B-picture. And, if the last picture is a B-picture, the last picture is restricted to refer to a preceding P-picture without referring to a following I-picture included in a subsequent entry point.

Also, auxiliary data, for example, audio data, associated

with the video data corresponding to the entry point, is recorded in a state of being multiplexed with the video data. In this case, the trailing end of the entry point is recorded with only the audio data, which has a low recording bit rate, without being recorded with the video data which has a high recording bit rate. For this reason, bandwidth loss of recording bit rate occurs.

Fig. 4 further shows, with respect to the beginning of the entry point forming the second jumping unit JU#2, that the first picture of video data in the entry point is restricted to being an I-picture or B-picture. And, if the first picture is a B-picture, the first picture is restricted to referring to a following I-picture without referring to a preceding P-picture included in a previous entry point. In this case, a flag "Closed_gop = 1" may be recorded in a GOP (Group Of Pictures) header of the entry point indicating that the entry point begins with a closed GOP. Namely, each jumping unit begins with a closed GOP.

Also, auxiliary data, for example, audio data, associated with the video data corresponding to the start of entry point is recorded in a state of being multiplexed with the video data. In this case, the leading end of the entry point is recorded with only the video data, which has a high recording bit rate, without being recorded with the audio data which has a low recording bit rate. For this reason, a small quantity of bandwidth loss of recording bit rate occurs.

Fig. 5 illustrates an embodiment of the present invention in which reproduction path change is carried out. Fig. 5 illustrates a plurality of clip files having the same format as described above with respect to Fig 4. As with Fig. 4, each clip file is associated with a different reproduction path. As shown in Fig 5, each clip file may be divided into a number of jumping units and each jumping unit JU is formed of a single entry point. Each entry point may have a variable time length. Accordingly, the time length of each jumping unit JU may be variable. However, in an alternative

embodiment, each entry point may have the same fixed time length. Specifically, in Fig. 5, each of first through k-th clip files Clip file # 1 to Clip file #k respectively corresponding to first through k-th paths Path #1 to Path #k and are divided into first through fourth jumping units JU #1 to JU #4. Each jumping unit is shown to have the same fixed length, but the present invention is clearly not limited to this embodiment.

When a path change to a particular path is requested during reproduction of, for example, the second jumping unit JU #2 in the second clip file corresponding to the second path, as shown in Fig. 5, the second jumping unit JU #2 is completely reproduced. After the complete reproduction of the second jumping unit JU #2, the clip file of the particular path requested to be reproduced, for example, the k-th path, is searched for the start of the next entry point. That is, in this example, the third jumping unit JU #3 of the k-th Clip file is located. This clip file corresponding to the k-th path is successively reproduced in a jumped fashion, starting from the entry point forming the third jumping unit JU #3.

Thus, the data stream of the second path and the data stream of the k-th path are successively reproduced. As will be appreciated, particularly, when the entry points have different lengths, changing reproduction paths may result in a non-seamless reproduction.

Fig. 6 illustrates an embodiment of the present invention in which reproduction path change is carried out. As shown in Fig. 6, each clip file, for example, the first clip file Clip file #1 corresponding to the first path Path #1 is managed in a divided fashion by a plurality of jumping units JU #1, JU #2, JU #3, etc. each including one entry point.

In accordance with this embodiment, audio data having an association with the video data corresponding to the trailing end of a jumping unit is recorded in a state of being multiplexed with video data corresponding to the leading end of the next jumping

unit. For example, as shown, the audio data corresponding to the trailing end of the first jumping unit JU#1 is multiplexed with video data corresponding to the leading end of the second jumping unit JU #2.

In this case, it is possible to efficiently avoid bandwidth loss of recording bit rate caused by recording only audio data having a low recording bit rate, without recording video data having a high recording bit rate.

When a path change to a particular path is requested during reproduction of, for example, the first jumping unit JU #1 in the first clip file, video and audio data included in the first jumping unit JU #1 are completely reproduced. Thereafter, only the audio data associated with video data corresponding to the trailing end of the first jumping unit JU #1 and being multiplexed with the video data corresponding to the leading end of the second jumping unit JU #2, is selectively reproduced.

For example, the optical disc apparatus identifies the source packet number audio end information SPN_AE (Source Packet Number Audio End) of the audio data read out along with the video data corresponding to the leading end of the second jumping unit JU #2. The source packet number audio end information SPN_AE may be recorded, for management thereof, in a clip information file corresponding to an associated clip file or a play list file.

The selective reproduction (playback) of only the audio data recorded along with video data in the leading end of the second jumping unit JU#2 is continued until audio end information representing an end of the audio data is identified. After completion of the selective reproduction, a jumping operation for a path change may be carried out.

Also presentation time stamps (PTSs) may be recorded such that the PTS of the audio data recorded with video data in the leading end of the second jumping unit JU#2 corresponds to the PTS of the video data recorded in the trailing end of the first jumping

unit JU#1; thereby enabling the video data and audio data having an association with each other to be successively reproduced.

According to another exemplary embodiment of the present invention, the entry point map in the clip information file associated with each clip file includes a jumping flag J_Flag associated with each entry point. Each jumping flag J_Flag indicates whether a change to another reproduction path is permitted, and if a change is permitted, the jumping flag J_Flag implies the point in the clip file where the jump takes place in relation to the entry point.

More specifically, according to one exemplary embodiment of the present invention, a jumping flag "J_Flag = 1" indicates a change to reproducing a clip file associated with a different reproduction path is permitted (active jumping flag), and a jumping flag "J_Flag = 0" indicates that no change is permitted (inactive jumping flag). Furthermore, according to one exemplary embodiment, when the jumping flag indicates that a change is permitted, the jumping flag implies that the change is permitted after reproduction of the entry point with which the jumping flag is associated. In another embodiment, the jumping flag indicates a change is permitted before reproduction of the entry point with which the jumping flag is associated.

As will be appreciated from the forgoing description of the embodiments of the present invention, each of the jumping flags for the entry points shown in Figs. 4-6 are set to permit jumping.

Fig. 7 illustrates a schematic diagram of an embodiment of an optical disk recording and reproducing apparatus according to the present invention. As shown, an AV encoder 9 receives and encodes audio and video data. The AV encoder 9 outputs the encoded audio and video data along with coding information and stream attribute information. A multiplexer 8 multiplexes the encoded audio and video data based on the coding information and stream attribute information to create, for example, an MPEG-2 transport

stream. A source packetizer 7 packetizes the transport packets from the multiplexer 8 into source packets in accordance with the audio/video format of the optical disk. As shown in Fig. 7, the operations of the AV encoder 9, the multiplexer 8 and the source packetizer 7 are controlled by a controller 10. The controller 10 receives user input on the recording operation, and provides control information to AV encoder 9, multiplexer 8 and the source packetizer 7. For example, the controller 10 instructs the AV encoder 9 on the type of encoding to perform, instructs the multiplexer 8 on the transport stream to create, and instructs the source packetizer 7 on the source packet format. The controller 10 further controls a drive 3 to record the output from the source packetizer 7 on the optical disk.

The controller 10 also creates the navigation and management information for managing reproduction of the audio/video data being recorded on the optical disk. For example, based on information received via the user interface (e.g., instruction set saved on disk, provided over an intranet or internet by a computer system, etc.) the controller 10 controls the drive 3 to record the data structure of Figs. 2 and 4, 5 or 6 on the optical disk.

During reproduction, the controller 10 controls the drive 3 to reproduce this data structure. Based on the information contained therein, as well as user input received over the user interface (e.g., control buttons on the recording and reproducing apparatus or a remote associated with the apparatus), the controller 10 controls the drive 3 to reproduce the audio/video source packets from the optical disk. For example, the user input may specify a path to reproduce. This user input may be specified, for example, via a menu based graphical user interface preprogrammed into the controller 10. Using the user input and the path management or change information reproduced from the optical disk, the controller 10 controls the reproduction of the specified path or changing the reproduction of the specified path as

described in detail above with respect to the embodiments of the present invention.

The reproduced source packets are received by a source depacketizer 4 and converted into a data stream (e.g., an MPEG-2 transport packet stream). A demultiplexer 5 demultiplexes the data stream into encoded video and audio data. An AV decoder 6 decodes the encoded video and audio data to produce the original audio and video data that was feed to the AV encoder 9. During reproduction, the controller 10 controls the operation of the source depacketizer 4, demultiplexer 5 and AV decoder 6. The controller 10 receives user input on the reproducing operation, and provides control information to AV decoder 6, demultiplexer 5 and the source packetizer 4. For example, the controller 10 instructs the AV decoder 9 on the type of decoding to perform, instructs the demultiplexer 5 on the transport stream to demultiplex, and instructs the source depacketizer 4 on the source packet format.

While Fig. 7 has been described as a recording and reproducing apparatus, it will be understood that only a recording or only a reproducing apparatus may be provided using those portions of Fig. 7 providing the recording or reproducing function.

As apparent from the above description, the present invention provides a multiple reproduction path data stream managing method for high-density optical discs which can rapidly and accurately access to the data streams of the path designated by the user in a jumped fashion in order to reproduce the data streams, while being capable of minimizing a reduction in the recording efficiency of multi-path data streams.

As will be appreciated from the forgoing disclosure, the present invention provides a recording medium having a file or data structure that permits managing and/or controlling navigation of the reproduction of video data on a multiple reproduction path basis. Accordingly, the present invention provides a greater level of flexibility in the reproduction of video data than previously

available.

While the invention has been disclosed with respect to a limited number of embodiments, those skilled in the art, having the benefit of this disclosure, will appreciate numerous modifications and variations there from. For example, while described with respect to a Blu-ray ROM optical disk in several instances, the present invention is not limited to this standard of optical disk or to optical disks. It is intended that all such modifications and variations fall within the spirit and scope of the invention.

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A recording medium having a data structure for managing reproduction of at least video data having one or more multiple reproduction path recorded on the recording medium, comprising:

a data area having more than one reproduction path of video data recorded therein, each reproduction path recorded as at least one file, and each file associated with one reproduction path being separate from the file associated with another reproduction path such that portions of the file are not interleaved with portions of other files, and the file having at least one entry point.

2. The recording medium of claim 1, wherein each of the separate files is a clip file.

3. The recording medium of claim 2, further comprising:

one or more management areas storing at least one entry point map associated with each reproduction path, the entry point map identifying entry points in the video data for the associated reproduction path.

4. The recording medium of claim 3, wherein a plurality of the entry point of clip files are set to indicate a change in reproduction path is permitted.

5. The recording medium of claim 3, wherein the entry point map includes a flag associated with each entry point, the flag identifying whether a change in reproduction path is permitted in relation to the entry point.

6. The recording medium of claim 5, wherein the flags of the entry points of the clip files are set to indicate a change in reproduction path is permitted.

7. The recording medium of claim 1, further comprising:

one or more management areas storing at least one entry point map associated with each reproduction path, each entry point map identifying entry

points in the video data for the associated reproduction path.

8. The recording medium of claim 7, wherein a plurality of the entry point of clip files are set to indicate a change in reproduction path is permitted.

9. The recording medium of claim 8, wherein the entry point map includes a flag associated with each entry point, the flag identifying whether a change in reproduction path is permitted in relation to the entry point.

10. The recording medium of claim 9, wherein the flags of the entry points of the clip files are set to indicate a change in reproduction path is permitted.

11. The recording medium of claim 1, wherein boundaries between entry points define where changes between reproduction paths are permitted.

12. The recording medium of claim 1, wherein the reproduction paths of video data are different camera angles of video data.

13. The recording medium of claim 1, wherein each unit of video data starts with an I-picture.

14. The recording medium of claim 13, wherein each unit of video data starts with a closed group of pictures (GOP).

15. A recording medium having a data structure for managing reproduction of at least video data having one or more multiple reproduction path recorded on the recording medium, comprising:

one or more management areas storing at least one entry point map associated with each reproduction path, each entry point map identifying entry points in a clip file that at least includes video data, the clip file being associated with one of the multiple reproduction paths, and each entry point indicating a path change point in the associated reproduction path.

16. The recording medium of claim 15, wherein the entry point map includes

a flag associated with each entry point, the flag identifying whether a change in reproduction path is permitted in relation to the entry point, and the flags of the entry points of the clip files are set to indicate a change in reproduction path is permitted.

17. The recording medium of claim 15, further comprising:

a data area storing at least one clip file associated with each reproduction path, portions of each clip file not being interleaved with portions of other clip files.

18. A method of recording a data structure for managing reproduction of at least video data having one or more multiple reproduction path on a recording medium, comprising:

recording more than one reproduction path of video data in a data area of the recording medium, each reproduction path recorded as at least one file, and each file associated with one reproduction path being separate from the file associated with another reproduction path such that portions of the file are not interleaved with portions of other files, and the file having at least one entry point.

19. The method of claim 18, further comprising:

recording at least one entry point map associated with each reproduction path, each entry point map for identifying the entry points in the video data for the associated reproduction path.

20. The method of claim 18, wherein the entry point map includes entry point information associated with the respective entry point, the entry point information for identifying whether a change in reproduction path is permitted in relation to the entry point.

21. The method of claim 20, wherein the entry point information identifies a position at which jumping to another clip file is permitted.

22. The method of claim 18, wherein boundaries between entry points define where changes between reproduction paths are permitted.

23. The method of claim 18, wherein the reproduction paths of video data are different camera angles of video data.

24. The method of claim 18, wherein each unit of video data starts with an I-picture.

25. A method of reproducing a data structure for managing reproduction of at least video data having one or more multiple reproduction path recorded on a recording medium, comprising:

reproducing one or more reproduction path of video data from a data area of the recording medium according to the entry point map, each the reproduction path recorded as at least one file, and the file associated with one reproduction path being separate from the file associated with another reproduction path such that portions of the file are not interleaved with portions of other files, and the file having at least one entry point.

26. The method of claim 25, further comprising:

reading at least one entry point map associated with each reproduction path, each entry point map for identifying the entry points in the video data for the associated reproduction path.

27. The method of claim 26, wherein the entry point map includes entry point information associated with the respective entry point, the entry point information for identifying whether a change in reproduction path is permitted in relation to the entry point.

28. The method of claim 25, wherein the entry point information identifies a position at which jumping to another clip file is permitted.

29. The method of claim 25, wherein boundaries between entry points define

where changes between reproduction paths are permitted.

30. The method of claim 25, wherein the reproduction paths of video data are different camera angles of video data.

31. The method of claim 25, wherein each unit of video data starts with an I-picture.

32. An apparatus for recording a data structure for managing reproduction of at least video data having one or more multiple reproduction path on a recording medium, comprising:

an optical recording unit configured to record data on the recording medium;

an encoder configured to encode at least video data having one or more multiple reproduction path; and

a controller, operably coupled to the optical recording unit, configured to control the optical recording unit to record the video data having one or more multiple reproduction path in a data area of the recording medium, each reproduction path recorded as at least one file, and each file associated with one reproduction path being separate from the file associated with another reproduction path such that portions of the file are not interleaved with portions of other files, and the file having at least one entry point.

33. The apparatus of claim 32, wherein the controller configured to control the optical recording unit to record at least one entry point map includes entry point information associated with the respective entry point, the entry point information for identifying whether a change in reproduction path is permitted in relation to the entry point.

34. The apparatus of claim 32, further comprising:

a multiplexer configured to multiplex at least video data to create a transport stream according to control information of the controller.

35. The apparatus of claim 34, further comprising a packetizer configured to packetize the transport stream from the multiplexer into source packets in accordance with a format of optical disk, said packetizer is controlled by the controller.

36. The apparatus of claim 33, wherein the controller is configured to control the optical recording unit to record the entry point map including entry point information associated with the entry point, the entry point information for identifying a position at which jumping to another file is permitted.

37. The apparatus of claim 32, wherein the controller is configured to control the optical recording unit to record a plurality of the entry points of clip files set to indicate a change in reproduction path is permitted.

38. The apparatus of claim 32, wherein each unit of video data starts with an I-picture.

39. An apparatus for reproducing a data structure for managing reproduction of at least video data having one or more multiple reproduction path recorded on a recording medium, comprising:

an optical reproducing unit configured to reproduce data recorded on the recording medium;

a controller, operably coupled to the optical recording unit, configured to control the optical reproducing unit to reproduce the video data having one or more reproduction path from a data area of the recording medium, each reproduction path recorded as at least one file, and each file associated with one reproduction path being separate from the file associated with another reproduction path such that portions of the file are not interleaved with portions of other files, and the file having at least one entry point.

40. The apparatus of claim 39, wherein the controller configured to control the optical reproducing unit to reproduce at least one entry point map includes entry point information associated with the respective entry point, the entry point

information for identifying whether a change in reproduction path is permitted in relation to the entry point.

41. The apparatus of claim 40, further comprising:

one or more management areas storing at least one entry point map associated with each reproduction path, the entry point map identifying entry points in the video data for the associated reproduction path.

42. The apparatus of claim 40, wherein the controller is configured to control the optical reproducing unit to reproduce the video data having multiple reproduction path based on the reproduced entry point map.

43. The apparatus of claim 39, wherein boundaries between entry points define where changes between reproduction paths are permitted.

44. The apparatus of claim 39, wherein the reproduction paths of video data are different camera angles of video data.

45. The apparatus of claim 39, wherein each unit of video data starts with an I-picture.

FIG. 1
(PRIOR ART)

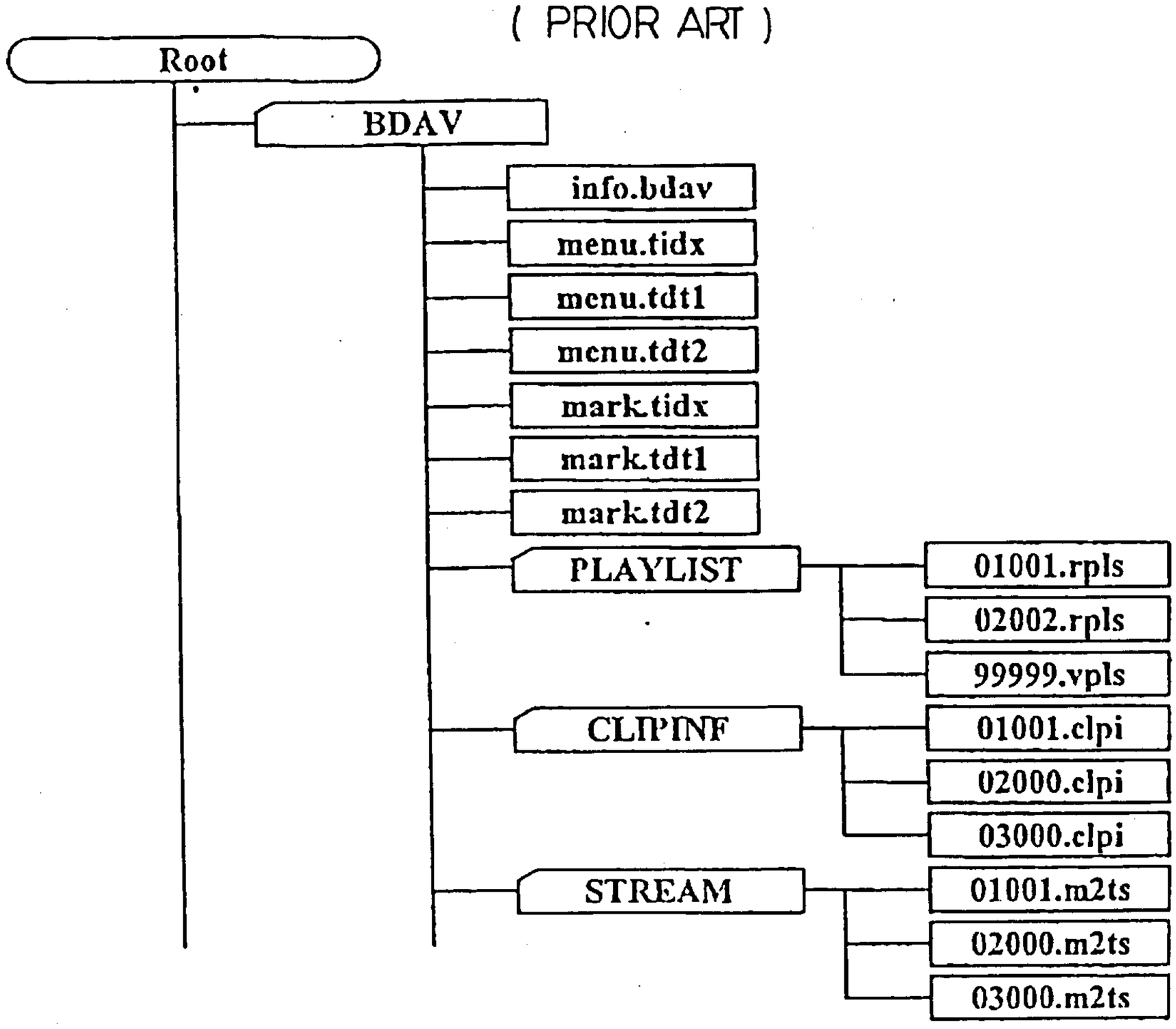


FIG. 2

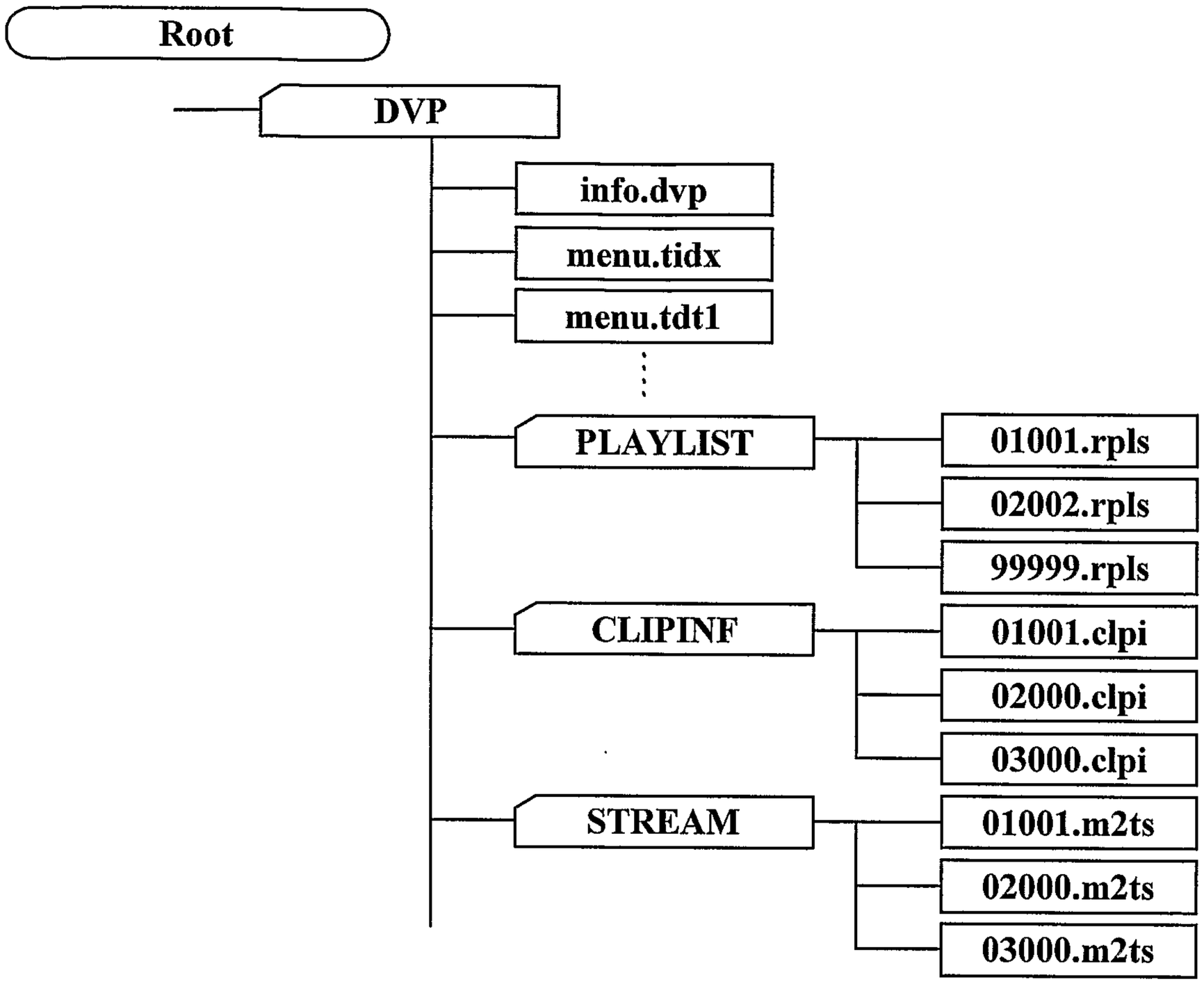
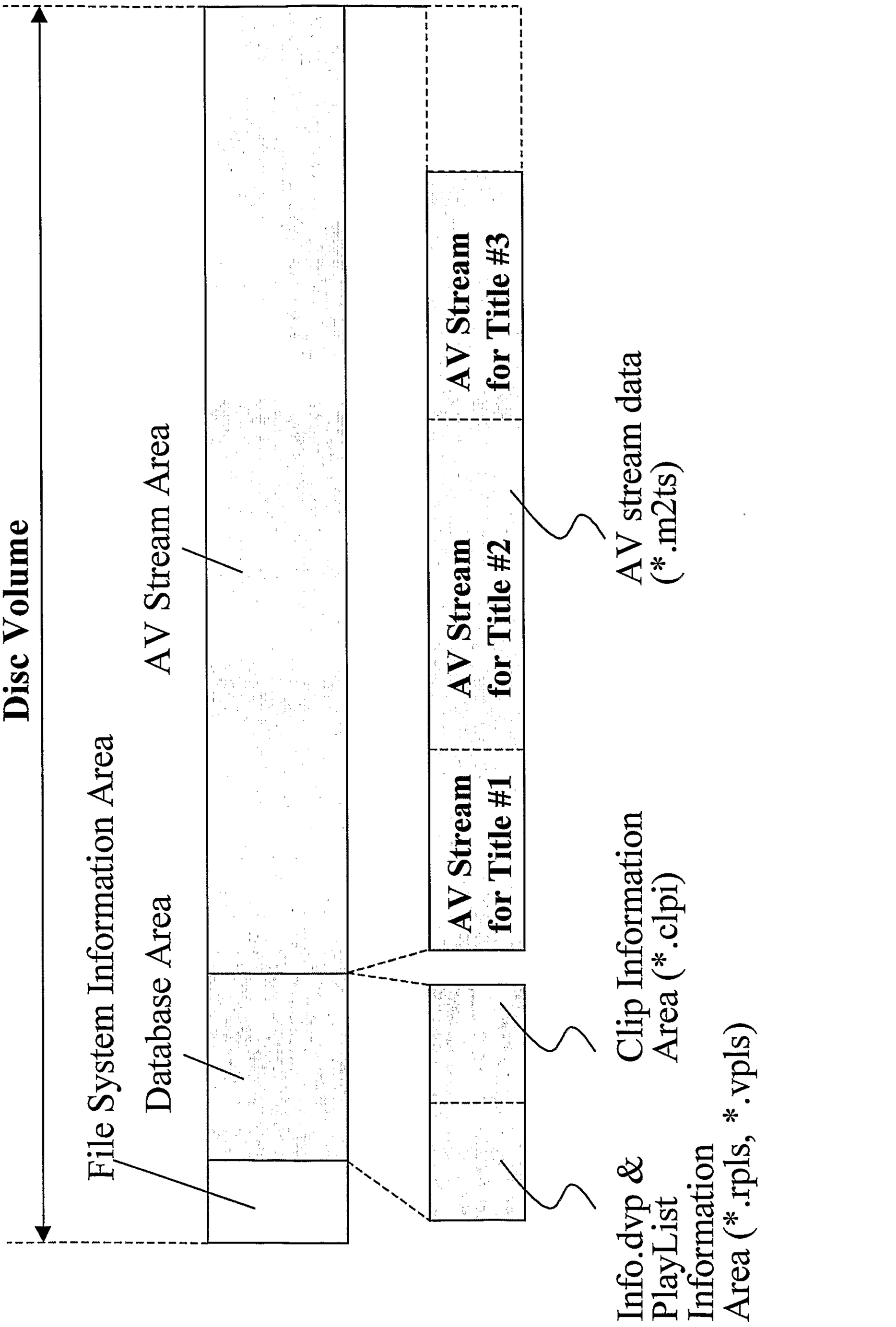

Root
DVP
info.dvp
menu.tidx
menu.tdt1
PLAYLIST
01001.rpls
02002.rpls
99999.rpls
CLIPINF
01001.clpi
02000.clpi
03000.clpi
STREAM
01001.m2ts
02000.m2ts
03000.m2ts

FIG. 3


Disc Volume
File System Information Area
Database Area
AV Stream Area
AV Stream for Title #1
AV Stream for Title #2
AV Stream for Title #3
AV stream data (*.m2ts)
Clip Information Area (*.clpi)
Info.dvp & PlayList Information Area (*.rpls, *.vpls)

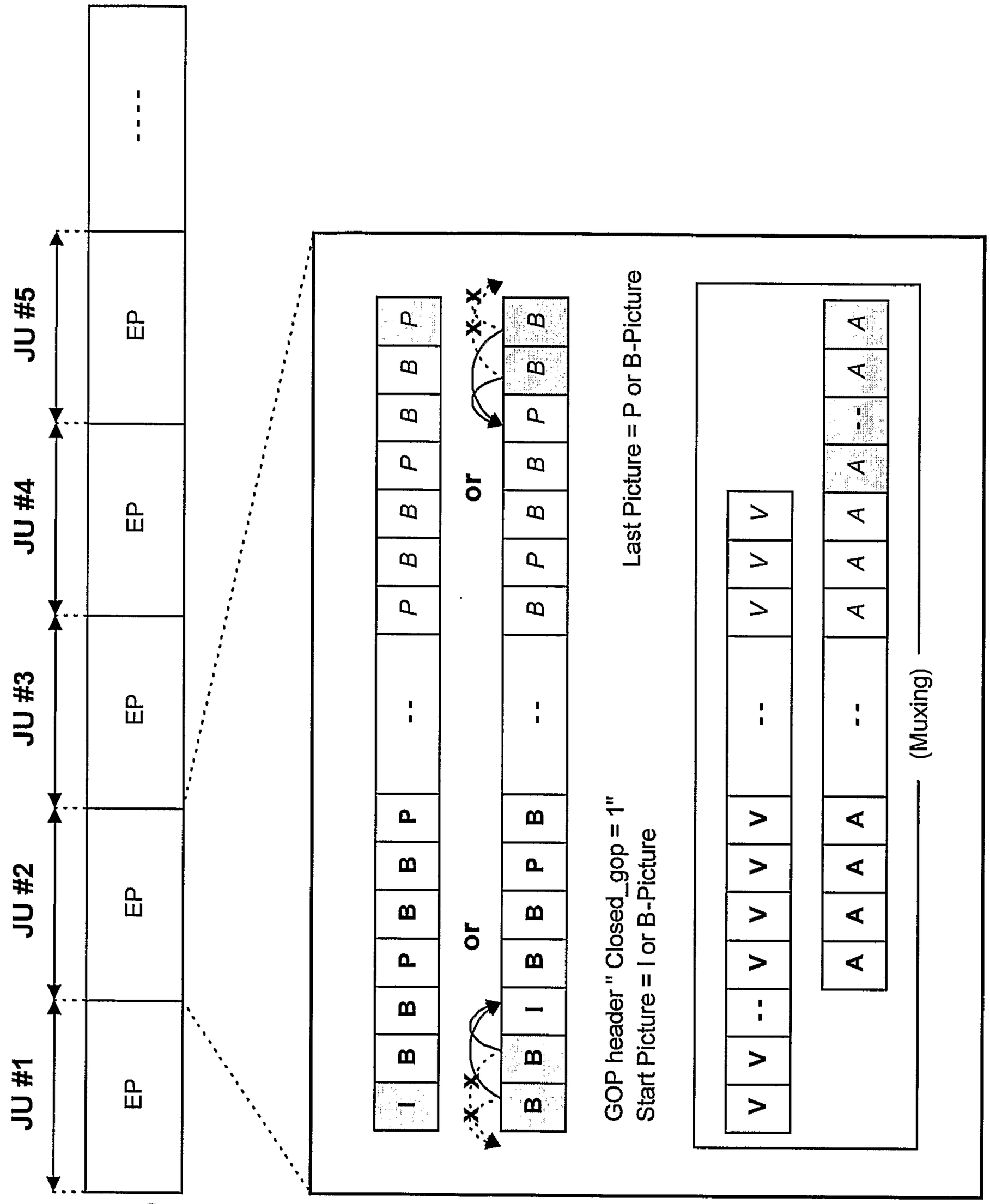

Path #1
(Clip file #1)
JU #1
JU #2
JU #3
JU #4
JU #5
EP
EP
EP
EP
EP
(Muxing)
Last Picture = P or B-Picture
GOP header " Closed_gop = 1"
Start Picture = I or B-Picture
or
or
or
V
A
--

FIG. 4

FIG. 5

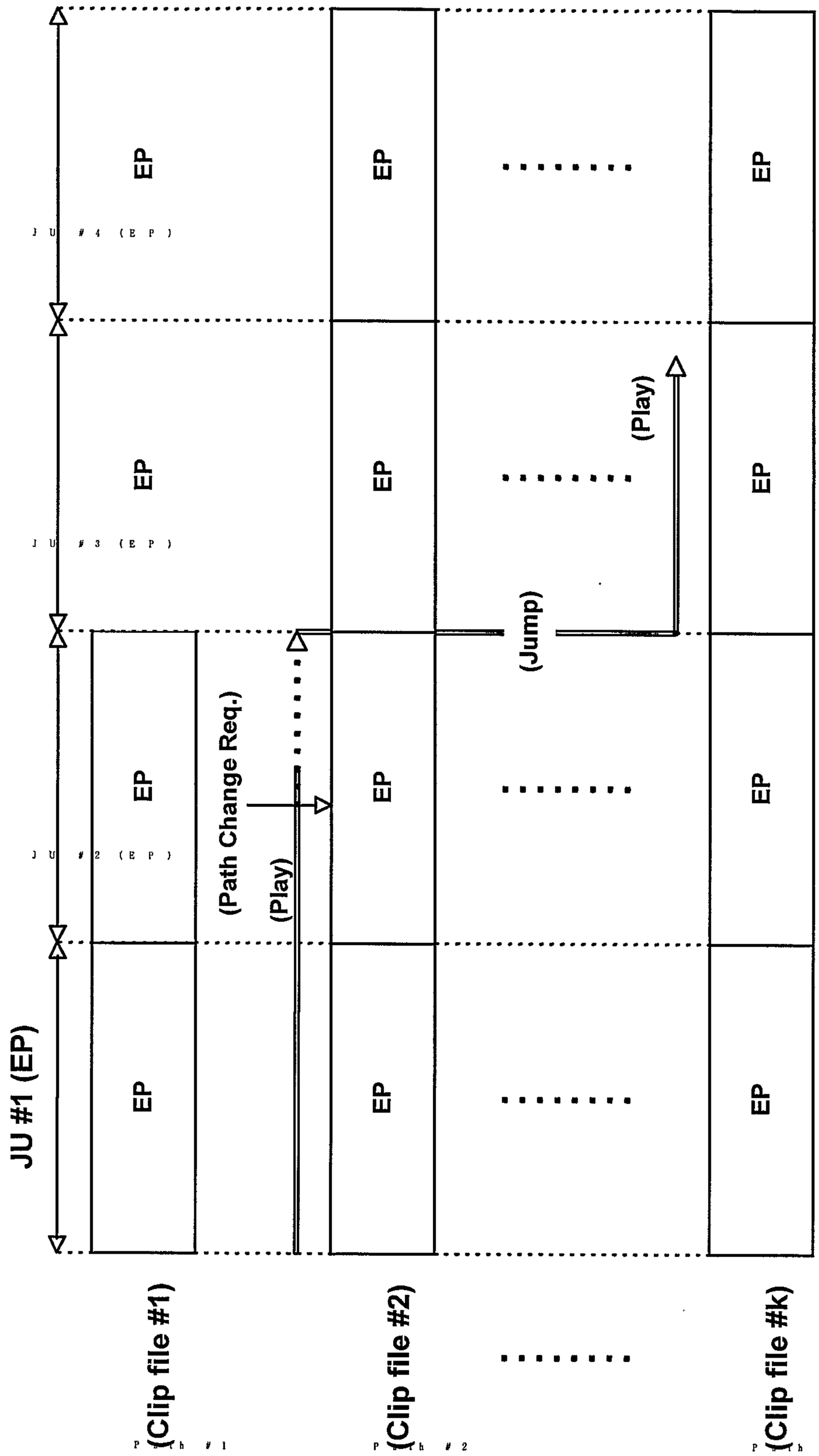

JU #4 (EP)
JU #3 (EP)
JU #2 (EP)
JU #1 (EP)
EP
(Jump)
(Play)
(Path Change Req.)
(Play)
(Clip file #1)
(Clip file #2)
(Clip file #k)
Path #1
Path #2
Path

FIG. 6

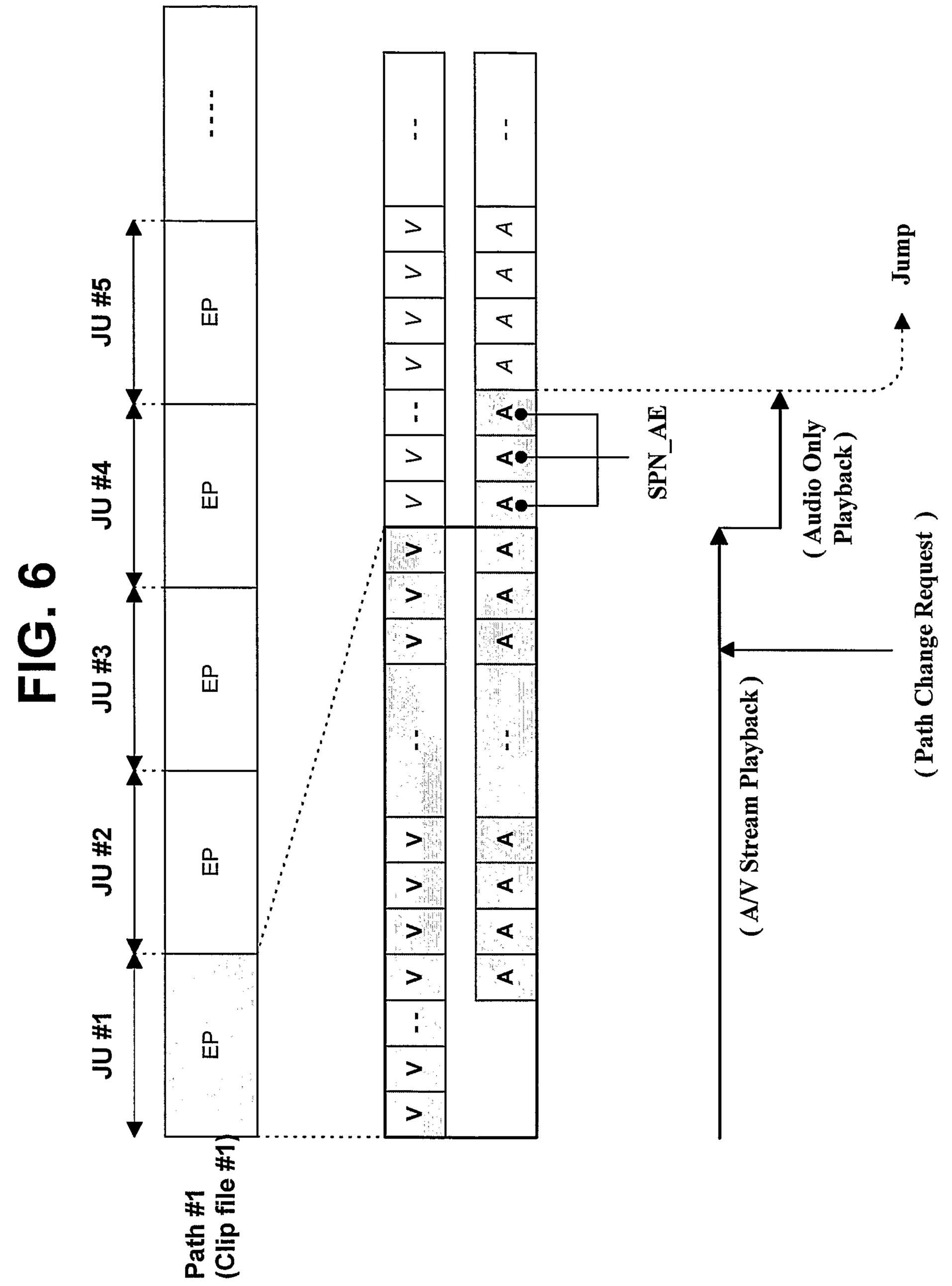
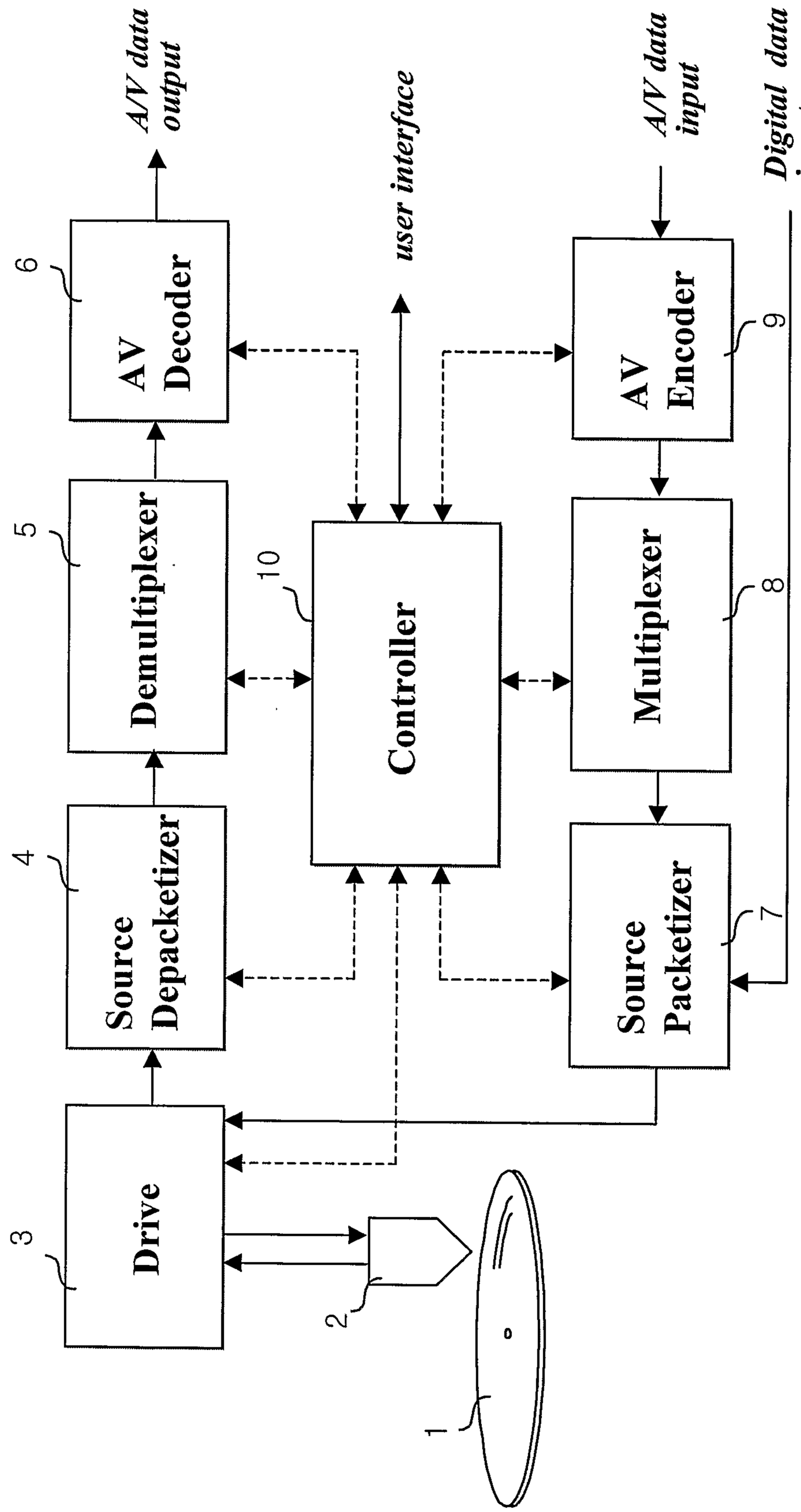
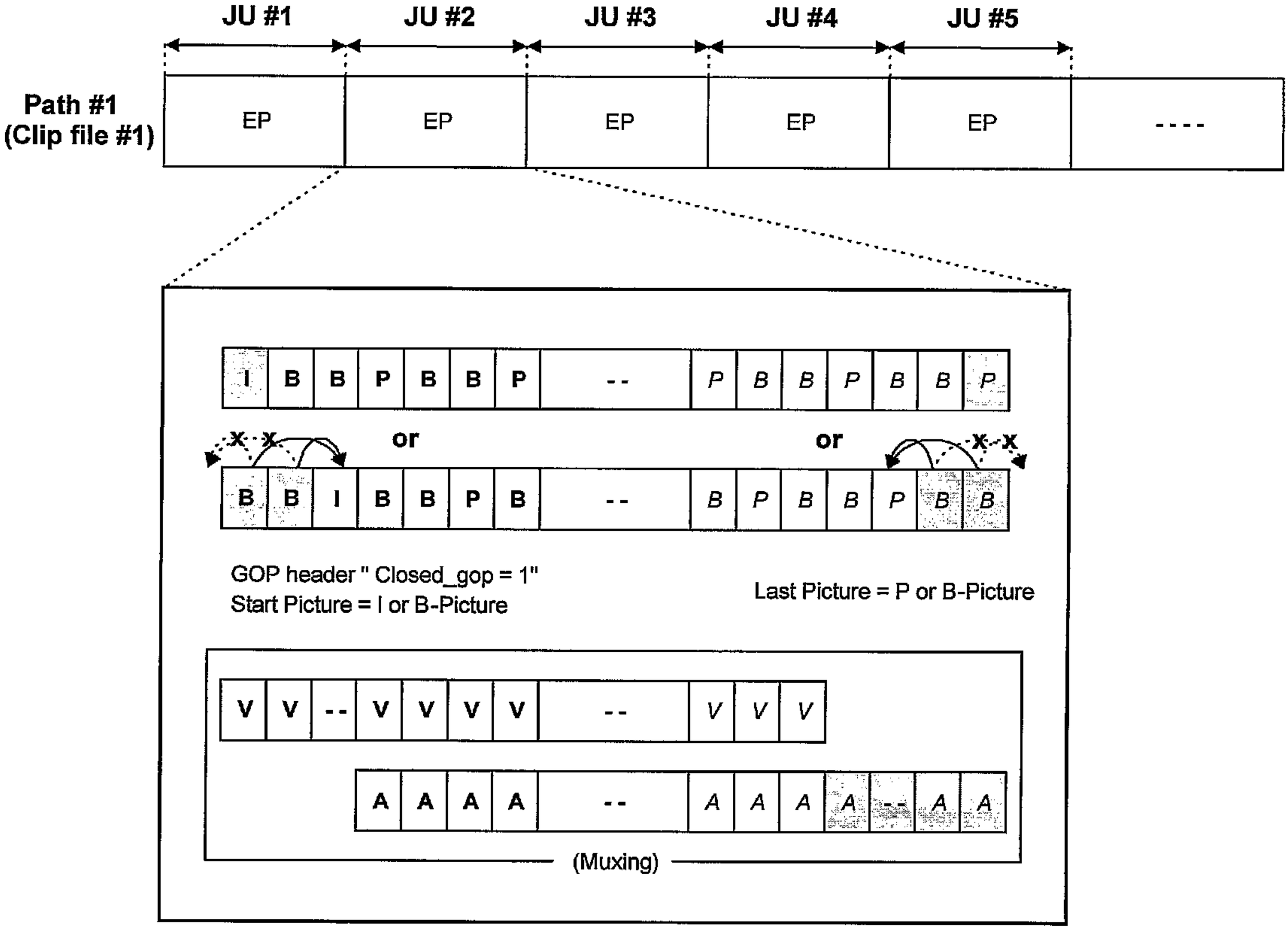

JU #1
JU #2
JU #3
JU #4
JU #5
EP
V
A
SPN_AE
Jump
(Audio Only Playback)
(A/V Stream Playback)
(Path Change Request)
Path #1
(Clip file #1)

FIG. 7


A/V data output
A/V data input
Digital data input
user interface
AV Decoder
AV Encoder
Demultiplexer
Controller
Multiplexer
Source Depacketizer
Source Packetizer
Drive
6
9
5
10
8
4
7
3
2
1


JU #1
JU #2
JU #3
JU #4
JU #5
Path #1
(Clip file #1)
EP
EP
EP
EP
EP

I B B P B B P -- P B B P B B P
or
or
B B I B B P B -- B P B B P B B
GOP header " Closed_gop = 1"
Start Picture = I or B-Picture
Last Picture = P or B-Picture
V V -- V V V V -- V V V
A A A A -- A A A A -- A A
(Muxing)