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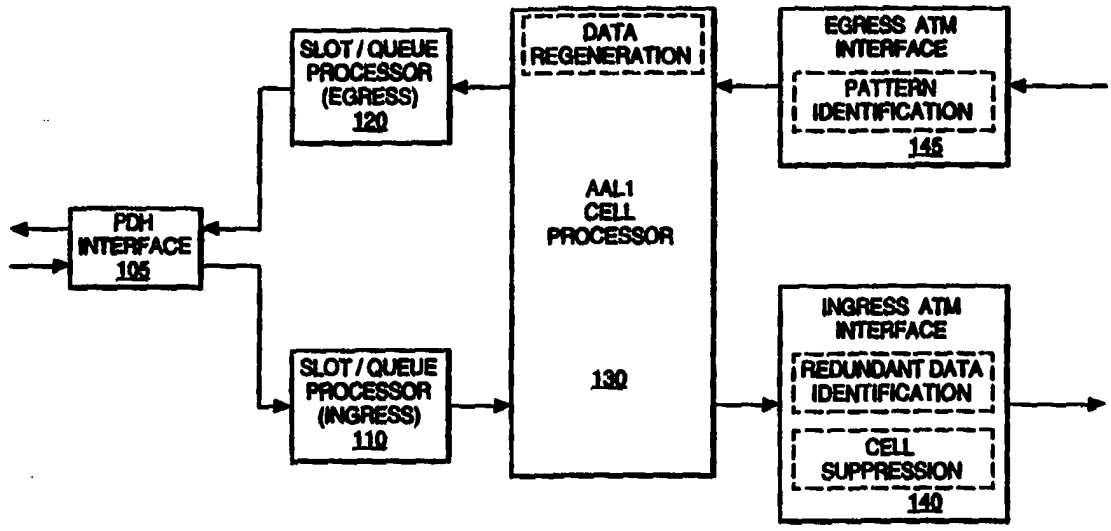

(57) Abstract

A method of reducing bandwidth used on a telecommunications link comprising, at an input to the link, the steps of: receiving a plurality of data packets, each packet comprising data and a packet identifier; determining packets which contain redundant data; transmitting, across the link, packets which do not contain redundant data; and further comprising, at an output of the telecommunications link, the steps of: receiving the transmitted packets; determining missing packets according to the identifiers of received packets; and generating data for the missing packets, which generated data corresponds to redundant data not transmitted across the link. This ensures bit count integrity between the input and the output of the link. Redundant data may be data following a predictable pattern, such as identical data. Where the packet identifiers are a recurring sequence of N symbols, the input transmits at least one packet in every N packets.

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INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

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A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER
IPC 6 H04L12/66 H04L12/56 H04Q11/04

According to International Patent Classification(IPC) or to both national classification and IPC

B. FIELDS SEARCHED

Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)
IPC 6 H04L H04Q H04N H04J H03M

Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched

Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practical, search terms used)

C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category °	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
X	US 5 020 058 A (HOLDEN BRIAN D ET AL) 28 May 1991 see column 1, line 44 - column 3, line 33 ---	1-21
X	US 5 535 200 A (GARDNER MICHAEL J) 9 July 1996 see column 1, line 19 - column 2, line 22 see column 4, line 51 - column 6, line 34 ---	1-21
X	US 5 600 316 A (MOLL EDWARD W) 4 February 1997 see column 1, line 49 - column 2, line 34 see claims 1-34 --- -/--	1-21

[X] Further documents are listed in the continuation of box C.

[X] Patent family members are listed in annex.

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Date of the actual completion of the international search	Date of mailing of the international search report
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Name and mailing address of the ISA	Authorized officer
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C.(Continuation) DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

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A	US 5 555 244 A (CHEN YU-REN B ET AL) 10 September 1996 see column 7, line 19 - line 24 see column 11, line 18 - column 12, line 15 see column 25, line 32 - column 26, line 41	4-6
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