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- (71) Applicant (for all designated States except US): **COPPERGATE COMMUNICATIONS LTD.** [IL/IL]; 38 Habarzel St., 69710 Tel-aviv (IL).
- (72) Inventors; and
- (75) Inventors/Applicants (for US only): **LURIE, Aharona** [IL/IL]; 12 Tidhar St., 60409 Or Yehuda (IL). **STERENSON, Ronald Bruce** [IL/IL]; 29 Haofek St., 43565 Ra'anana (IL).
- (74) Agent: **SWIRSKY, Daniel J.**; AlphaPatent Associates Ltd., 55 Reuven St., 99544 Beit Shemesh (IL).

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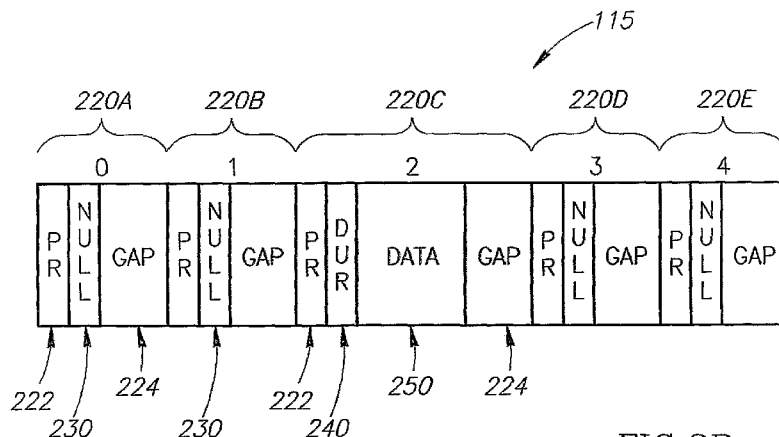


FIG.2B

(57) Abstract: A method implemented on a network node includes receiving an adjustable schedule of transmission start slots, the slots representing opportunities for initiating data transmission by at least one network device on a network, transmitting an expected duration indication in each slot associated with the network node as per the schedule, and adjusting the schedule in accordance with the expected duration for each transmission. A method for virtual carrier sensing includes receiving a schedule of transmission start slots on a network node, the slots representing opportunities initiating data transmission by at least one network device in a network, listening for transmissions by other network nodes according to the schedule, the transmissions indicating an expected length of a current transmission, adjusting the schedule in accordance with the indicating of a data transmission, and ignoring any subsequent transmissions until a next scheduled transmission start slot in accordance with the adjusted schedule.

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INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

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<p>A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER                  IPC(8) - H04L 12/413 (2009.01)                  USPC - 370/445                  According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC</p>														
<p>B. FIELDS SEARCHED</p> <p>Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)                  IPC(8) - H04L 12/413 (2009.01)                  USPC - 370/445</p> <p>Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched</p> <p>Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practicable, search terms used)                  Patbase, Google Patents</p>														
<p>C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Category*</th> <th>Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages</th> <th>Relevant to claim No.</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Y</td> <td>US 2007/0064720 A1 (STERENSON e al) 22 March 2007 (22.03.2007) entire document</td> <td>1-25</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Y</td> <td>US 7,133,423 B1 (CHOW et al) 07 November 2006 (07.11.2006) entire document</td> <td>1-25</td> </tr> <tr> <td>A</td> <td>US 2006/0114927 A1 (BAUM) 01 June 2006 (01.06.2006) entire document</td> <td>1-25</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>			Category*	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.	Y	US 2007/0064720 A1 (STERENSON e al) 22 March 2007 (22.03.2007) entire document	1-25	Y	US 7,133,423 B1 (CHOW et al) 07 November 2006 (07.11.2006) entire document	1-25	A	US 2006/0114927 A1 (BAUM) 01 June 2006 (01.06.2006) entire document	1-25
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<p>Name and mailing address of the ISA/US</p> <p>Mail Stop PCT, Attn: ISA/US, Commissioner for Patents                  P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450                  Facsimile No. 571-273-3201</p>		<p>Authorized officer:</p> <p>Blaine R. Copenheaver</p> <p>PCT Helpdesk: 571-272-4300                  PCT OSP: 571-272-7774</p>												