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(54) Title: METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR USING A DATA TELEMETRY SYSTEM OVER MULTI-CONDUCTOR WIRELINES

(57) Abstract: A data telemetry system for multi-conductor wirelines to enhance transmission of analog and digital signals with frequency content up to 100 kHz by assigning at least two conductors to a first terminal of a data transmittal means and to a first terminal of a data receiver means and connecting at least one additional conductor to a second terminal of a data transmittal means and to a second terminal of a data receiver means. Pairing conductors reduces attenuation and crosstalk and permits the signal to contain multiple frequency modulated carrier bands with individual channel bandwidths of up to 3 kHz or higher.



WO 2007/018916 A2

METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR USING A DATA TELEMETRY SYSTEM OVER MULTI-CONDUCTOR WIRELINES

CROSS REFERENCE TO RELATED APPLICATION

[0001] This application claims the benefit of U.S. Application No. 11/186,523, filed 27 July 2005.

FIELD OF THE INVENTION

[0002] This invention relates generally to the field of wireline data telemetry. Specifically, the invention is a method and system for data telemetry using a multi-conductor wireline for well operations related to the production of hydrocarbons.

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

[0003] A multi-conductor wireline with integral electrical conductors is often used in the oil and gas industry to physically transport a logging tool downhole and to transmit data between a downhole tool and a surface station. Generally, most of the data transfer involves sending data from the tool to recording equipment located on the surface, but certain applications require sending data down to the tool from the surface. The wireline may have from one to seven or more separate electrical conductors, typically composed of copper, depending on the requirements of the application. These conductors have electrical insulation and are wrapped in helical strands of high-strength armor, which are typically made of steel. In the particular case of seven-strand wireline cable, there is a single insulated inner conductor wrapped by a helix of six insulated conductors, overlaid by two layers of inner and outer armor strands that are wrapped in opposing directions. In many applications, each conductor is assigned to a single dedicated analog or digital signal. Typical dimensions are about 0.04-inch (1 mm) for the diameter of each conductor and up to 30,000 ft (9146 m) for the length of the wireline, although variations from these typical values are common.

[0004] Electrically, the wireline cable acts as a distributed low-pass filter with frequency-dependent coupling, displaying a complex impedance characteristic with mutual impedance between conductors. A signal transmitted on any given channel (consisting of a voltage difference between two terminals) is subjected to attenuation (or reduction in signal amplitude) between the input signal and the output signal. This attenuation typically increases with frequency and is a result of "self-impedance." Self impedance is the resistance, capacitance and inductance of an individual conductor. Also, transmitting a signal on one set of conductive paths generates a corresponding signal on other paths by the existence of "mutual impedance" that results from capacitive and inductive coupling between the conductors. This coupling is known as crosstalk. Typically, for transmission systems such as a conventional multi-conductor wireline, the amplitude of the induced crosstalk signal increases with the frequency of the input signal.

[0005] As more fully described in U.S. Patent Nos. 5,747,750 and 5,917,160 (Bailey, et al), a method has been developed to extend the usefulness of this conventional wireline to a greater number of data signals and to increase the maximum frequency bandwidth of these signals. In particular, this method was designed for use with a Triaxial Borehole Seismic (TABS) downhole logging tool to record microseismic acoustic data that are emitted by formations after fluids injection at fracturing rates. The TABS fracture mapping technology uses a relatively inexpensive, reusable, clamped logging tool and specialized data analysis methods to locate microseismic events. The induced fracture geometry may be inferred from maps composed of collections of such event source locations. Fracture azimuth, length, height, and orientation (vertical or horizontal) may be estimated from this data. Such data may be critical for optimizing the field development plan of a fracture stimulated reservoir.

[0006] Modern logging tools (e.g., TABS) are capable of producing large quantities of information characterizing subsurface formations. This information must be communicated or transmitted to the surface so that it may

be utilized (e.g., to locate underground oil deposits or identify fracture propagation geometry). Data telemetry is no simple task since the number of signals to be transmitted may exceed the number of conductors, hereinafter referred to as "telemetric conductors," available in the wireline. Moreover, signal attenuation and frequency-dependent crosstalk commonly occur at higher frequencies in the data telemetry process, limiting the signal bandwidth.

[0007] Multi-channel frequency-modulated (FM) telemetry as described in the Bailey et al. patents was developed for the first generation of the TABS tool. Signal transmission by frequency modulation is preferred to amplitude modulation because the signal amplitude is significantly attenuated along the wireline, but the signal frequencies are preserved. At the surface data recorder, each frequency can be selected and demodulated to recover a facsimile of the original signal. In the prior art TABS system, seven channels of seismic data are transmitted on FM signals over four conductors, leaving three conductors for other uses. Data that is transmitted on these wire pairs have a bandwidth that begins to roll off significantly at 20 kHz (depending on the specific wireline configuration), limiting signal detectability at higher frequencies. Appropriate frequency spacing between channels is required for proper signal separation, and the overall design constraints force the use of lower frequency carrier channels that impose an overall bandwidth limit of about 500 Hz on the modulating and recovered signals.

[0008] U.S. Patent No. 4,796,026 (Hammond) proposes a piezoelectric transducer for noise logging applications. Downhole circuitry is used to convert the noise signal amplitude to a variable pulse rate, similar to a voltage-to-frequency conversion process. In this reference, there is no discussion of transmission of downhole signals to the surface over multiple conductors.

[0009] In U.S. Patent No. 3,514,750 (Pritchett), a multiple conductor encoding scheme for transmission of digitized signals is described. To

mitigate the effects of wireline impedance coupling, signals of opposite polarity are transmitted simultaneously on alternate conductors. Encoding methods for 3, 4, 6, and 7 conductors are disclosed.

[0010] U.S. Patent No. 5,062,084 (Schoepf) specifies a system for operating a downhole-digitizing acoustic tool on seven conductor wireline. Two conductors provide power, and the remaining cables provide digital data telemetry, including downlink communication in addition to the uplink data transfer. The system has distinct recording and transmitting modes. Therefore, Schoepf's downhole digitizing acoustic tool cannot provide full real-time data telemetry.

[0011] U.S. Patent No. 4,646,083 (Woods) describes a system by which an analog signal is transmitted on a FM channel over a pair of wires. The frequency is not defined in the claims, but a value of 15 kHz is cited in the preamble. This signal is the summation of two square waves with frequencies that are proportional to two DC values, such as temperature and pressure. This reference does not consider the use of additional conductors or the assignment of conductors to particular signals to mitigate wireline impedance.

[0012] U. S. Patent No. 4,891,641 (Gard) describes the use of a single channel FM telemetry system to transmit a signal comprised of frequencies beyond the bandwidth of the wireline system. In particular, Gard describes a method to facilitate transmission of signals with higher frequencies on a lower frequency carrier signal because 30 kHz is cited as being the practical limit for data telemetry on wireline. The data is then reconstructed at the surface using standard demodulation techniques and commercially-available equipment.

[0013] Other attempts to address wireline telemetry have been based on digital transmission and encoding techniques that utilize different types of cables, such as fiber optic cables. Also, other attempts have focused on low

frequency transmissions, data buffering and avoiding simultaneous transmission of multiple signals.

[0014] Accordingly, there is a need for improved data telemetry methods and apparatus for data-intensive real-time tools whereby analog or digital signals of up to 100 kHz can be transmitted uphole using conventional wireline systems that are available worldwide. This transmitted signal may contain data from multiple devices, each of which may have signal bandwidths up to 3 kHz or higher. Further, the system may be capable of transmitting a large number of signals that exceed the number of conductor pairs available on the wireline.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

[0015] In one embodiment, the present invention is a method to achieve a favorable reduction in attenuation and crosstalk transmission characteristics on a wireline having at least three telemetric conductors. This method comprises (a) connecting one end of the wireline to a data transmittal means at the first location and the other end of the wireline to a data receiver means at the second location, the data transmittal means having first and second output terminals, the data receiver means having first and second input terminals, wherein (1) at least two of the conductors are connected to the first output terminal of the data transmittal means and to the first input terminal of the data receiver means, and (2) at least one of the conductors is connected to the second output terminal of the data transmittal means and to the second input terminal of the data receiver means; (b) generating the data signal at the first location; (c) transmitting the data signal from the data transmittal means through the wireline to the data receiver means; and (d) receiving the data signal at the second location.

[0016] A second embodiment includes a method for communicating with a device within a wellbore. The method includes receiving amplitude-modulated data from one or more devices in the wellbore. This amplitude-modulated

data is used to modulate channel signals at various frequencies, wherein the frequency range includes frequencies from a lowest frequency to a highest frequency. The highest frequency being below the first harmonic of the lowest frequency that interferes with the highest frequency. Then, the method includes summing the channel signals into a composite modulated signal. Finally, the method includes transmitting a single composite modulated signal to a receiver at the surface.

[0017] A third embodiment includes a system for operating a device within a wellbore. The device is configured to receive amplitude-modulated data signals; modulate channel signals at various frequencies, wherein the frequency range includes frequencies from a lowest frequency to a highest frequency that is below the first harmonic of the lowest frequency; and then sum the channel signals into a single composite modulated signal. Also, the system includes surface equipment coupled to the device via wireline. The surface equipment is configured to receive the composite modulated signal and demodulate this signal into amplitude-modulated channel signals.

[0018] In a fourth embodiment, the method and apparatus may include auxiliary digital signals operating at higher frequencies than the first significant harmonic of the lowest frequency band, such data being amenable to reconstruction without error in the presence of interference from the lower-amplitude harmonics of lower frequencies.

[0019] In a final embodiment, the downhole circuitry includes compact electronic circuitry in which chip die are mounted on circuit board or alumina substrates and enclosed in a small container that is back-filled with inert gas. These "hybridized" systems may provide enhanced performance, longevity, and temperature-resistance.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

[0020] The present invention and its advantages will be better understood by referring to the following detailed description and the attached drawings in which:

[0021] FIG. 1 is a schematic illustration of the prior art TABS tool data telemetry configuration, as described in U.S. Patent Nos. 5,747,750 and 5,917,160;

[0022] FIG. 2 is a schematic illustration of the test evaluation configuration to characterize the prior art TABS tool data telemetry method;

[0023] FIG. 3 illustrates the test evaluation results for the prior art method, showing the telemetry system input-output frequency response, including both self-impedance and mutual impedance effects;

[0024] FIG. 4 is a schematic illustration of the test configuration of one embodiment of the present invention, illustrating the method of pairing opposing wires on two terminals;

[0025] FIG. 5 illustrates the test evaluation results for the inventive method, for the specific embodiment of FIG. 4;

[0026] FIG. 6 is a schematic illustration of a test configuration used to illustrate the embodiment of pairing of opposing wires on one terminal;

[0027] FIG. 7 illustrates the test evaluation results for the self-impedance characterization of the systems illustrated in FIGs. 2, 4, and 6;

[0028] FIG. 8 is a schematic illustration of a telemetry system for the TABS tool that uses the inventive method as shown in FIG. 4;

[0029] FIG. 9 is a graph showing the frequency response for different termination characteristics (resistor R and capacitor C values) at the terminals of the surface transformer as illustrated in FIG. 8;

[0030] FIG. 10 is an exemplary embodiment of an alternative telemetry system configuration in accordance with aspects of the present techniques;

[0031] FIG. 11 is an exemplary diagram of frequency bands utilized in the process of FIG. 10 in accordance with aspects of the present techniques;

[0032] FIGs. 12A and 12B are exemplary charts of a modulated signal from the system of FIG. 10 in accordance with aspects of the present techniques;

[0033] FIG. 13 is an exemplary schematic diagram of the square rooter of FIG. 10 in accordance with aspects of the present techniques;

[0034] FIG. 14 is an exemplary schematic diagram of the VCOs of FIGs. 8 and 10 in accordance with aspects of the present techniques; and

[0035] FIG. 15 is an exemplary schematic diagram of the mixer of FIGs. 8 and 10 in accordance with aspects of the present techniques.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE PREFERRED EMBODIMENTS

[0036] In the following detailed description, the invention will be described in connection with its preferred embodiments. However, to the extent that the following description is specific to a particular embodiment or a particular use of the invention, this is intended to be illustrative only. Accordingly, the invention is not limited to the specific embodiments described below, but rather, the invention includes all alternatives, modifications, and equivalents falling within the true scope of the appended claims.

[0037] Conventional multi-strand wirelines that are widely available in the oilfield often have seven conductors. This is commonly known as "open-hole wireline" because it is generally used for formation evaluation logging tools. However, it may also be used for certain cased-hole logging tools. The number of strands typically limits the number of channels of data that may be transmitted to the surface. Since electrical power is usually required, often

there are no more than six available data channels. The frequency bandwidth that may be transmitted is also limited, since frequencies in excess of 20 kHz are often severely attenuated and the transfer function (relationship of input and output of the system) becomes more irregular. The electrical impedance of long wirelines (often in excess of 20,000 ft) tends to limit the upper frequency bandwidth of these data because of signal attenuation and crosstalk.

[0038] FIGS. 1 and 2 illustrate the current TABS tool telemetry configuration, showing the use of four conductors **18** within wireline **11** to transmit data on nine FM channels at carrier frequencies from 3 to 20 kHz. The transformers **15** and **16** (T1 through T6) are all identical devices. Transformers T1 and T3 are each connected across pairs of wireline conductors **18** at the downhole tool. These conductors **18** are connected to transformers T2 and T4, respectively, at the surface. Transformers T5 and T6 each have one lead connected to the centertap lead of the other two transformers (i.e. T5 is connected across the centertaps of T1 and T3 at the downhole tool, and similarly, T6 is connected across T2 and T4 at the surface).

[0039] The input (downhole) transformers **16** are arranged as 7:1 step-down transformers at the input end to the wireline **11** and 1:7 step-up output transformers **15** at the receiver end. It is desirable to reduce the voltage and increase the current of the signal to propagate the signal on the wireline with lower losses. The particular transformer designed and built for this application is fabricated on a 2616 core, consisting of a primary coil and secondary bifilar windings on a bobbin of 26 mm diameter and 16 mm height. The wire used is known as "magnet wire" and is typically 28 to 32 gauge wire with enamel insulation. The transformer efficiency is in the range of 95% to 98%.

[0040] The downhole tool and surface equipment, as shown in FIG. 1, are known in the art (i.e., U.S. Patent Nos. 5,747,750 and 5,917,160). The

downhole tool and surface equipment can be modified to use the new telemetry method described herein. Therefore, the improved method for data telemetry can provide improved transfer of data between the downhole tool and the surface equipment.

[0041] In the prior method, the signal fed into each downhole transformer **16** consists of the summation of three FM signals. For example, the 5, 10, and 20 kHz channels are summed and input to T1, the 3, 6, and 12 kHz channels are summed and input to T3, and the 4, 8, and 16 kHz channels are summed and input to T5. In general, a longer wireline length has greater attenuation at higher frequencies. In the absence of wireline crosstalk, the signal received at T2 would be that input to T1, only with frequency-dependent amplitude attenuation that depends on the wireline length and impedance. By design, this would relax the filter design parameters necessary to recover the individual 5, 10, and 20 kHz channels. However, with the conductor assignments shown in FIGS. 1 and 2, depending on the wireline **11** length and specific configuration, these signals couple into the signals on the T3-T4 and T5-T6 pairs of transformers. Therefore, it was necessary to design the banks of bandpass filters **14** at the surface unit to reject all frequencies except the desired signal frequency.

[0042] FIG. 2 schematically illustrates the test configuration on a 22,300 foot wireline **11** to evaluate the prior art TABS tool data telemetry method. The wireline **11** includes seven conductors numbered 1 through 7. Each conductor, except for the center conductor **7**, is crosswise-paired or opposite to another conductor when the wireline **11** is cut perpendicularly. In the prior art data telemetry method there are three input data signals (A_i , B_i , and C_i) with the corresponding output data signals (A_o , B_o , and C_o). Output terminals from T1 and T3 are connected or tied electrically by wire connections **17** to a terminal strip **19** which is then electrically connected by wire connections **18** to the individual conductors of a seven conductor wireline **11**. Corresponding connections are made on the output side at T2 and T4.

[0043] FIG. 3 characterizes the effects of attenuation on one leg of a system configured as shown in FIGS. 1 and 2 operating on a 22,300 ft wireline. For the specific wireline impedance of this example, the response reaches a peak value of -5 dB at 4 kHz. The nondimensional unit of the decibel (dB) is used commonly in signal processing. It is a logarithmic transform such that the value in dB is equal to 20 times the log of the amplitude ratio. Thus, each 6 dB of attenuation corresponds to an amplitude reduction of a factor of two, and additive amounts on the decibel scale are multiplicative on a linear scale. Therefore, an attenuation of 6 dB corresponds to an amplitude reduction of a factor of 2; attenuation of 12 dB corresponds to an amplitude ratio of 4; attenuation of 18 dB is an amplitude ratio of 8; 24 dB is a ratio of 16; 30 dB of attenuation is a ratio of 32; 36 dB is a reduction factor of 64.

[0044] The frequency response **31** declines from -12 dB at 10 kHz to -24 dB at 20 kHz, varies between -20 to -24 dB to about 50 kHz, and then falls from -24 dB at 50 kHz to -42 dB at 100 kHz. The variable peaks and valleys in the response make compensation filtering difficult, particularly in that these specific deviations will vary with wireline length and other specific factors that are individual to each unit and will thus be subject to significant variability in a field environment.

[0045] The crosstalk that results from mutual impedance between conductors is also illustrated in FIG. 3. The lower response curves correspond to signals measured on two other conductor pairs (1 & 4) **33** and (5 & 6) **35** that result from transmission of a signal on the original conductor pair (2 & 3) **31**. Beyond about 60 kHz, the signals on the conductor pairs (1 & 4) **33** and (5 & 6) **35** are nearly as strong as the transmitted signal (2 & 3) **31**.

[0046] These characteristics pose difficulty in signal reconstruction, both because of the amount of gain required to recover the mean downhole signal amplitude and the variability of the response at different frequencies within the

desired bandwidth of 10 to 100 kHz. Experience with the system designed and built according to FIGS. 1 and 2 has shown that the lower frequency channels are marginally acceptable for seismic data transmission, with amplitude and phase response that are inferior to the channels above 10 kHz. The carrier frequency should be at least ten times the frequency of the desired input signal bandwidth for high fidelity reconstruction.

[0047] According to the present invention, the limitations imposed on downhole data telemetry to the surface are reduced by increasing the number of transmitted channels and by utilization of higher frequency carrier channels than can be normally transmitted on conventional seven-strand wireline cable. Specifically, the telemetry method of the present invention increases the number of available channels and increases the transmitted data bandwidth relative to the system described in FIGS. 1, 2, and 3.

[0048] One embodiment is to use carrier frequencies at successive multiples of each other. To avoid excessive filtering, successive frequencies should be at least a multiple of 1.1 (e.g., 10, 11, 12.1, 13.3...kHz). Furthermore, to fit a favorable number of channels, the multiple should not be more than 10 (e.g., 1, 10, 100 kHz). A preferred embodiment is to choose a multiple of about 1.25 starting at about 15 kHz. The selection of a group consisting of 14.9, 18.7, 23.3, 29.2, 36.5, 45.5, 57.0, 71.2, 89.0 kHz is one such choice. Another embodiment is to choose carrier frequencies that are prime numbers. Use of prime numbers for the carrier frequency can limit harmonic interference or overlap. Harmonic interference is when any integral multiple of a carrier frequency falls within a bandwidth of another carrier frequency.

[0049] FIG. 4 is a schematic that illustrates one embodiment of the invention and the test configuration that was used to evaluate the invention. An input signal consisting of a swept sine wave was applied to the "Telemetry Input," and the output signal was received at the "Telemetry Output." The signal was transmitted through a 22,300 foot wireline. A modern electronic

instrument, such as a Stanford Research Systems SRS785 spectrum analyzer, may be used to provide the input signal and to process/display the output signal.

[0050] For the embodiment illustrated in FIG. 4, one terminal of each transformer (terminals **15a** and **16a**) is tied to conductors 1 & 4, and the other terminals (**15b** and **16b**) are connected to conductors 2 & 5. It should be noted that conductors 1 & 4 and conductors 2 & 5 are crosswise-paired or "opposing pairs." Other examples of wireline configurations of groups of two opposite or crosswise-paired conductors include the groups consisting of the following conductors: 1 & 4 and 2 & 5, 1 & 4 and 3 & 6, 2 & 5 and 1 & 4, 2 & 5 and 3 & 6, 3 & 6 and 2 & 5, 3 & 6 and 1 & 4.

[0051] This means that conductor 4 is located on the opposite side of wireline **11** from conductor 1 and, similarly, conductor 5 is opposite conductor 2. The selection of specific pairs is arbitrary, so long as each conductor wire is tied to the opposing wire (pairing with opposite conductors). There was improvement in the frequency response for alternative arrangements, such as connecting one terminal to conductors 1 & 2 and the other terminal to 4 & 5, but these alternatives were found to be inferior to using opposing pairs.

[0052] FIG. 5 illustrates the frequency response for the embodiment shown in FIG. 4 (pairing conductors 1 & 4 and 2 & 5) **51**. The peak response **51** is -4 dB at 3 kHz, with a smooth and gradual decline to -27 dB at 100 kHz. Over the frequency range from 10 to 100 kHz, only 15 dB of attenuation is observed, indicating a steady response characteristic with no drastic attenuation changes. This is a significant improvement to the response seen in FIG. 3, in which a 30 dB decline is seen in a very uneven fashion from 10 kHz to 100 kHz. Note that a decline of 15 dB is a factor of 5.6 reduction in signal amplitude, whereas a 30 dB decline corresponds to a factor of 32 reduction in signal strength. A compensation filter for the system of FIG. 5 is far more readily obtained, because there are no peaks and valleys and also

because the reduction in attenuation will increase the signal-to-noise ratio significantly.

[0053] Also shown in FIG. 5 is the frequency response **53** of the signal induced on the 3 & 6 conductor pair while transmitting on the 1 & 4 and 2 & 5 conductor pairs. The scale of the graph had to be modified to show this response, because the amplitude is less than -70 dB over the entire frequency range. Therefore, this system has very low crosstalk onto other conductors.

[0054] An alternative embodiment is illustrated in FIG. 6. This method uses only three conductors **18** to transmit signals. One terminal of each transformer (terminals **15a** and **16a**) is tied to conductors 1 & 4, and the remaining terminals (**15b** and **16b**) are attached to the center conductor 7. This system would be appropriate if a design tradeoff were required so that four conductors would be available for other uses.

[0055] The frequency responses of each of these systems are provided in FIG. 7 for comparison. It may be seen that the response of a preferred embodiment (transmitting on 1 & 4 and 2 & 5, FIGS. 4 and 5) **51** has the least attenuation, and the prior art method (transmitting on 2 and 3, FIGS. 1, 2, and 3) **31** has the greatest attenuation. The three-wire system (transmitting on 1 & 4 and 7) **75** has an intermediate characteristic. The advantage of the latter method over the prior art is a modest reduction in attenuation with a pronounced reduction in the variability of the response over the desired frequency band of 10 to 100 kHz. A compensation filter is far easier to design for the system of FIG. 6 than for that of FIG. 2.

[0056] The system of FIG. 1 may be revised in light of the frequency response improvement, resulting in the system of FIG. 8 which is provided to illustrate one illustrative means of implementing the inventive method. In FIG. 8, the downhole systems are located on the left of the graph, the wireline cable **11** is in the middle, and the surface receiver systems are on the right side. A total of ten FM channels **82** are identified, including nine seismic

channels (F1-F9) that support three triads of orthogonal geophones. The analog geophone output signals are passed through voltage-controlled oscillators (VCOs) **87** to generate sinusoidal signals with small frequency variations about center carrier frequencies operating in the range of 10 to 100 kHz. Thus, the input voltage signals are transformed into signals with frequency variations, about distinct carrier frequencies.

[0057] In the embodiment of FIG. 8, the data transmittal means are the transformer **16** located both downhole and on the surface of the earth. However, persons skilled in the art would understand that other known devices (e.g., high-current output amplifier with isolation at the transmittal means and high impedance input device at the receiver means) could be used as the data transmittal means and receiver means.

[0058] One embodiment uses an auxiliary digital telemetry voltage-controlled oscillator (VCO) **84**. This "digital FM channel" can be implemented by digital modulation of each full or half wave of a sinusoid. For example, a wavelength may be modulated at a low frequency (i.e., 3.6 kHz) to transmit a "0" and a high frequency (i.e., 4.2 kHz) for a "1". This may be determined by measuring the period between zero crossings in the detector and assigning a "0" to a long period and a "1" for a short period. This method provides for downhole-digitized data to be sent directly uphole. In the system of FIG. 8, there is one such digital FM channel F10 that transmits multiplexed digital data from several devices (i.e., wellbore pressure, wellbore temperature, tool temperature, tool voltage, tool inclination and tool azimuth). The update period to service all of the devices depends on the signals to be transmitted as well as the implementation of the analog/digital converter, but would typically be in the range of one to several seconds.

[0059] In the Mixer **86**, these FM signals (up to ten or more) are then summed together to create a single input signal that contains all of the real-time data from this tool. This signal is applied to the inputs of a single step-down output transformer **16** and is subsequently transmitted uphole over

two pairs of wires using the inventive method. The system shown in FIG. 8 also includes the transmission of an auxiliary casing collar locator (CCL) **89** signal on the transformer secondary centertap lines.

[0060] At the surface **83**, the signal is applied to the inputs of a complementary step-up transformer **15**. The transformer outputs are then passed into a "Surface Input Board" (SIB) **90** which has a compensating high-pass filter to balance the signal across the frequency band. The SIB also has an automated gain section to boost the signal to a specified level. This filter section consists of cascaded sections of a simple RC (resistance and capacitance) filter design, with parameters selected to flatten the signal over the desired bandwidth and to reject low frequency noise that may be present.

[0061] FIG. 9 illustrates the signal of the inventive method with no compensation (FIG. 5) **51**. The system response with an R value of 5 k Ω and no capacitance C (**91**) and the preferred approach of using a 5 k Ω (kilo-ohms) resistor R and an 820 pF (picofarads) capacitor C (**93**) are also shown. The compensation filters measurably flatten the system response with some reduction in overall signal amplitude. The purpose of the compensation filtering is to achieve a smaller deviation in amplitude response as a function of frequency over the desired signal bandwidth of approximately 1 kHz to 100 kHz. The gain portion of the SIB **90** then increases the signal strength to a specified level.

[0062] In one embodiment, the output signal from the compensation filter may be passed into a surface unit system that performs signal band separation, demodulation, and signal reconstruction in the analog domain. As shown in FIG. 8, a comb filter (frequency selection filter) or bank of bandpass filters **97** may be used to select each of the carrier frequencies. The bandpass filters **97** are followed by individual signal FM demodulation known to those skilled in the art. The recovered signals may have frequency content up to 3 kHz or more and may be sampled at rates up to 10 kHz or higher.

[0063] In an alternate embodiment, the surface equipment may be configured to use commercially-available digital signal processing products. In this embodiment, the filters **97** and signal demodulation of FIG. 8 may be replaced with the DSP prep circuit or logic **148** and DSP processing device **150** of FIG. 10, which is discussed below. In this configuration, the DSP prep circuit **148** receives the output of the SIB module **90**, provides bandpass filtering on the composite modulated signal, and conditions the output amplitude for the specific input requirements of DSP processing device **150**. The specific requirements of this DSP processing device **150** may alter the design parameters of the downhole system to optimize the system interfaces, facilitating transmission of carrier frequencies up to about 100 kHz. This alternate embodiment may reduce cost and component footprint, while also enhancing the system performance.

[0064] It may be appreciated that the analog to digital conversion process may occur at different locations within the processing flow, and the basic concept of selecting frequency bands and demodulating the frequency-modulated signal to recover the original amplitude-modulated signal may occur in a number of different possible implementations.

[0065] To further enhance the embodiment of the present techniques, the waveforms of the channel signals may be adjusted to reduce the influence of noise on the channel signals. For example, as noted above, sine waveforms may be utilized as the channel signals for the system because sine waveforms are pure waveforms that do not experience interference from harmonics. However, modulating sine waveform signals without noise and/or distortion may be difficult. As such, the channel signals may include different types of waveforms, such as triangular waveforms, square waveforms, sawtooth waveforms, or other similar types of waveforms. In particular, the systems of FIG. 8 and 10 may utilize odd-function waveforms, such as triangular waveforms, as the base waveform for the channel signals. A triangular waveform signal is generated by an up and down integration of a constant value and may be provided with reduced noise relative to the sine

waveform. Small variations of the input integration signal yield a frequency modulated triangular waveform.

[0066] For the systems of FIG. 8 and 10 to utilize triangular waveform signals, various aspects of the frequency bands of these waveform signals may be adjusted to reduce possible interference. To begin, it should be noted that triangular waveform signals experience interference from odd-harmonics, but do not experience interference from even-harmonics. Therefore, the first odd harmonic of a lowest frequency channel signal of a given bandwidth occurs at a frequency that is three times that of the lower edge of the frequency band of the channel signal. Accordingly, the upper edge of the highest frequency band of a channel signal should be less than three times the frequency of the lower edge of the lowest frequency of the first channel signal. This harmonic interference may be better understood with reference to FIG. 11.

[0067] FIG. 11 is an exemplary diagram of frequency bands utilized in the configurations of FIGs. 8 and 10 in accordance with aspects of the present techniques. With analog signals, one or more channel signals **132a-132n** may define a frequency range **134** and may be characterized by amplitude versus frequency over a portion of the modulated signal. Each of these channel signals **132a-132n** include individual frequency bands **133a-133n** that are centered on a specific frequency within the frequency range **134**. If these channel signals **132a-132n** are triangular waveform signals, then the system may be configured such that the first harmonic of the lowest channel signal **132a** is greater than the highest frequency of the channel signal **132n** in the frequency range **134**. By managing the frequency range **134** in this manner, the interference between channel signals **132a-132n** may be reduced or even eliminated. In addition, one or more auxiliary digital channel signals **136a-136n** are inherently more noise tolerant. As such, these auxiliary digital channel signals **136a-136n** may be utilized in the presence of harmonic contributions of lower frequency channel signals **132a-132n**, above the frequency range **134**.

[0068] In the case of triangular waveforms, the first channel signal **132a** may be located at a low frequency f_L and the last channel signal **132n** may be located at the high frequency f_H . If each of the channel signals **132a** and **132n** have a constant frequency bandwidth **133**, such as frequency bandwidth Δf , the lower edge of the first channel signal **132a** may be represented by $f_L - \Delta f/2$, while the upper edge of the last channel signal **132n** may be represented by $f_H + \Delta f/2$. Because the first odd harmonic of the lower edge of the first channel signal **132a** is the first harmonic that may interfere with the last channel signal **132n**, the upper edge of the last channel signal **132n** should be less than the first odd harmonic of the lower edge of the first channel signal **132a**. That is, the upper edge of the last channel **132n**, $(f_H + \Delta f/2)$, should be less than $3(f_L - \Delta f/2)$. As such, the frequency range of the analog channels **134** may include the frequencies from $f_L - \Delta f/2$ to a frequency that is less than $3(f_L - \Delta f/2)$.

[0069] Additional channels are centered at various frequencies spaced within this frequency range **134** between the lowest and highest frequencies of the channel signals **132a** and **132n**, in a manner to prevent overlap of channel frequency bands **133a-133n**. Also, stop bands, which are the spaces between the frequency bands **133a-133n**, may overlap. However, the channel pass bands or frequency bands **133a-133n** do not overlap to prevent distortion. Further, auxiliary channel signals **136a-136n** may be utilized within or outside the frequency range **134**. While these auxiliary channel signals **136a-136n** may overlap with the harmonic signals **137** of the channel signals **132a-132n**, the system may utilize the auxiliary channel signals **136a-136n** as digital signals to compensate for the interference and distortion.

[0070] Accordingly, with the present technique, different frequencies are assigned to different channel signals to reduce interference. For example, a system such as that shown in FIG. 10 may utilize ten different frequencies to transmit data channel signals. The first nine channel signals may include analog seismic data and may be located on the lower frequencies of the frequency range **134**, adhering to the procedure established in FIG. 11. The

tenth channel signal may be an auxiliary digital channel that is resistant to noise degradation and thus operated above the frequency range **134**.

[0071] FIG. 10 is an exemplary embodiment of an alternative telemetry system configuration in accordance with aspects of the present techniques. This system **140** may be similar to and include various components of the system **83** of FIG. 8 to manage the communication and processing of the channel signals. Similar to the discussion above, ten FM channels **82**, which may include the channel signals **132a-132i** and **136a** of FIG. 11, are utilized to communicate data over a wireline to surface equipment. These channels **82** may include nine seismic channels (F1-F9) and one digital FM channel F10. In this embodiment, square rooters **142**, VCOs (Voltage-Controlled Oscillators) **144**, and a mixer **86** are utilized to generate a composite modulated signal from channel signals. This single composite modulated signal is transmitted over a transformer pair **15** and **16** via the wireline **11** to the surface, where SIB **90**, DSP prep circuit **148**, and DSP processing device **150** are utilized to process the composite modulated signal to extract the channel signals.

[0072] As noted above, the downhole tool is utilized to provide seismic data to the surface units **83** and **140** via the wireline **11**. The downhole tool includes three triads of orthogonal geophone signals **141a-141i**. The geophone signals **141a-141i** are typically analog seismic data signals. These seismic data signals are provided to the square rooters **142**, which may be individual square rooters **142a-142i** that are each associated with a specific one of the channel signals. The square rooters **142** convert the seismic data signals from a first voltage range to a second voltage range that is lower than the first voltage range. In particular, each of the square rooters **142**, which are further described in FIG. 14, generate a rooter output signal or signed-square root output signal that is the signed square root of the seismic data signal received by that square rooter **142a-142i**, achieving data range compression. The rooter output signal is provided to the VCOs **144**, which may operate similar to VCOs **87** and VCO **84** of FIG. 8. Each of the VCOs

144 generate a triangular waveform signal and modulate this signal about its center frequency with the output from the respective square rooter **142**. As an example, the VCOs **144** may generate signals having triangular waveforms with frequency variations about center carrier frequencies operating in a range of about 10 to 100 kHz, or more specifically, in a range of about 30 kHz to 90 kHz. These triangular waveform signals are provided to the mixer **86**, which combines the triangular waveform signals from the channels **82** with multiplicative weights to balance the resulting composite modulated signal. Also, the mixer **86** may balance the amplitude of certain channel signals to provide a slight boost in the higher frequency components to offset frequency-dependent attenuation along the wireline. The transformer **16** transmits the composite modulated signal on the wireline **11**, as discussed above.

[0073] At the surface **140**, the composite modulated signal is provided to the inputs of a complementary transformer **15**. The transformer **15** provides output signals to the SIB **90** which may have a high-pass filter, an automated gain, and compensate for line and impedance loss. These circuits may be tuned for different ranges of wireline lengths to keep the parameters within an optimal band, using for example a five-position switch for "zero", short, medium, long, and extra-long wireline lengths. From the SIB **90**, the signal is provided to the DSP prep circuit **148** which may include low-pass and high-pass filters to condition the signals to the range of about 10 to 100kHz or about 30 to 90 kHz. An output amplifier buffer may also scale this filtered signal to a desired voltage output range as may be required by DSP processing device **150**.

[0074] The DSP processing device **150** may be a commercially-available digital system that may be adapted for use by software customization. In particular, the DSP processing device **150** may be an ICS-652 digital data acquisition board located in computer system **152**, such as the TABS surface unit. The ICS-652 digital data acquisition board may operate at 64 MHz with a DC-50-MN multi-channel tuner module. The DSP processing device **150** may demodulate the signal into the various channel signals that correspond to

the channels **82**. The operating software may be based on Matlab with the ICS Matlab library used as a starting point for this custom software application. The DSP processing device **150** may separate each channel and demodulate these signals to reconstruct the amplitude-modulated signals that were input to each of the VCOs in the system. Demodulation processes that convert instantaneous frequency to instantaneous amplitude changes are commonly known and are supported by commercially-available equipment such as the ICS-652 multi-channel tuner board. These methods may rely upon comparing the phase angles (similar to the Matlab "demod" function) or perhaps other methods, such as Kalman filters, or other variety of tracking algorithms.

[0075] The use of digital components in DSP processing device **150** provides greater flexibility to correct errors in the signals and modify the signals than fully analog systems. For instance, the center frequency of a channel signal may drift as the temperature fluctuates within the wellbore, despite the presence of first-order compensation circuitry or logic applied to the VCOs. This temperature drift creates a DC offset in the demodulated signal. In a digital system, the DC component may be removed and additional filtering may be performed to improve the signal quality. Also, digital systems may adjust the frequency bands for larger drift errors and facilitate interchange of components that operate at slightly different frequencies. For example, the data acquisition software may include a process to "tune" a center frequency to the current center frequency value by adjusting the center frequency until the calculated DC component vanishes. It is more difficult to adjust a completely analog system, and matching of downhole tool and surface unit is operationally cumbersome. Finally, the digital signals may be more efficiently modified and managed for transmission to other devices, such as a second computer that is used to analyze data in real-time. This may be accomplished using an ethernet connection and a data buffer. An example chart of the frequencies utilized in the modulated signal for this system is shown in FIGs. 12A and 12B.

[0076] FIGs. 12A and 12B are exemplary charts of modulated signals obtained from the system **140** of FIG. 10 in accordance with aspects of the present techniques. Accordingly, the charts **158** and **160** of FIGs. 12A and 12B may be best understood by concurrently viewing FIGs. 10 and 11. This chart, which may be referred to by reference numeral **158**, shows the raw form of the amplitude versus time for the composite modulated signal **162**. In FIG. 12A, an exemplary composite modulated signal **162** is transmitted from a downhole tool, such as the mixer **86**, to surface equipment, such as SIB **90**.

[0077] In FIG. 12B, the chart **160** of amplitude versus frequency shows the composite modulated signal **162** divided into various channel signals **164a-164j**, which are positioned around different center frequencies corresponding to the channel signals **132a-132n** and **136a**. Continuing with the example discussed above, the channels **82** may include nine analog seismic channels **164a-164i** and one auxiliary digital channel **164j**. Accordingly, for this system **140**, the seismic data channels **164a-164i** may be centered on frequencies in the range of about 30 kHz to about 72 kHz, while the one auxiliary channel **164j** may be centered around a frequency of about 80 kHz. As a result of using these frequencies, the first harmonic of the lowest frequency, which is about 81 kHz, does not interfere with the highest frequency analog signal at about 77 kHz.

[0078] As noted above, various hybridized components may be utilized to handle the processing of the data signals. In particular, the square rooters **142** may be utilized to provide compressed output signals that are the signed square root of the input signals from the geophones. FIG. 13 is an exemplary schematic diagram of the one of the square rooters **142** of FIG. 10, such as square roter **142a**, in accordance with aspects of the present techniques. In the schematic diagram, the square roter **142a** may include filtering logic **170**, absolute value logic **172**, offset adjustment logic **174**, and division logic **176** that is utilized to provide a signed-square root output signal or roter output signal SQR. The signed-square root output signal SQR is the signed square root of the input geophone signal SIG. This filtering logic **170**, absolute value

logic **172**, offset adjustment logic **174**, and division logic **176**, which may also be referred to as data range compression logic, reduce an amplitude range of ± 25 V to ± 5 V, while simultaneously boosting the values of signals of amplitude less than 1 V. A high voltage input signal is thereby reduced to a smooth lower voltage output signal without loss of resolution of the smaller signals.

[0079] The square rooter **142a** may include various resistors **182**, **184**, **186**, **191**, **192**, **202**, **204**, **208**, **210**, **218**, **220**, **222**, **224**, **226** and **238**; terminals **180**, **188**, **212** and **233**; capacitors **193**, **195**; diodes **200**, **234** and **236**; op-amps **187**, **196**, **198**, **214**, **216**, and **232**; and division logic or multipliers **228** and **230**, which are shown in FIG. 13. In an exemplary configuration, the division logic **176** is comprised of two multipliers **228** and **230**. The multiplier **228** is configured as a square rooter, with a gain equal to $k \cdot (\sqrt{\text{abs}(V_{\text{in}})})$. Mathematically it provides unity gain at input values of 1, higher gains for values less than 1, and attenuates values greater than 1. The scaled square root absolute value output is applied to multiplier **230** configured as a divider. Multiplier **230** divides the original output from filter op amp **187** by this signal. The output from the multiplier **230** is the scaled mathematical equivalent of the input divided by the square root of the absolute value of the input (which restores the original sign of the signal), with an offset bias to eliminate division by zero. The output of the divider section is buffered through the buffer op amp **232** as the output signal at the output terminal **233**, which is the signed-square root output signal SQR.

[0080] As specific examples of the components utilized, the square rooter **142a** may be configured to receive 25 volt peak geophone signals and provide a 5 volt peak output signal. In this configuration, resistors **182**, **184**, **186**, **202**, **208**, **210**, **218**, **220**, **224**, **226** and **238** may be 10 k Ω resistors. Resistors **191** and **192** may be 24 k Ω resistors, resistor **222** may be a 487 k Ω resistor, and resistor **204** may be a 4.99 k Ω resistor. Capacitor **195** may be 5400 pF, while the capacitors **193** may be 2700 pF. Diodes **200**, **234**, and

236 may be 1N914B diodes from Fairchild Semiconductor. The op-amps **187**, **196**, **198**, **214**, **216**, and **232** may be OP-470 op amp from Analog Devices, Inc. The division logic **228** and **230** may be AD534 division logic from Analog Devices, Inc. With these components, a geophone output signal SIG may be received and converted into an output signal, which is the signed-square root output signal SQR that is 5 volts peak amplitude. Accordingly the square rooter **142a** may provide a signal which may be further processed by another hybridized component, such as VCOs **144**, as shown in greater detail in FIG. 14.

[0081] FIG. 14 is an exemplary schematic diagram of one of the VCOs of FIG. 10 in accordance with aspects of the present techniques. In the schematic diagram the VCO, which may be VCO **144a**, is configured to generate triangular waveform signals. By utilizing triangular waveforms, the frequency range **134** of Fig. 11 may include frequencies from the lowest frequency to the third harmonic of that lowest frequency without harmonic interference from other signals in the frequency range. In the schematic diagram, the VCO **144a** may include voltage logic **250**, signal input and temperature drift logic **252**, switching logic **254**, and integration logic **256** to generate a 5-Volt peak frequency modulated triangular waveform signal. It should be noted that the various signals from various VCOs at different frequencies may be mixed together by the mixer **86** for transmission to the surface system **140**, as discussed above.

[0082] The VCO **144a** may include various resistors **266**, **268**, **270**, **272**, **274**, **276**, **278**, **282**, **292**, **294**, **296**, **298**, **302**, **308**, **310**, **312**, **314** and **322**; terminals **258**, **260**, **284**, **286** and **324**; capacitors **306** and **320**; op amps **262**, **264**, **288**, **290**, **316** and **318**; comparator **304**; and electronic switch **300**, which are shown in FIG. 14. As an example configuration, the VCO **144a** operates as a linear integrator with a switched reverse point. With inputs into logic **250** and **252**, voltages are applied to the electronic switch **300**. The integration logic **256**, which may be referred to as an integrator, integrates negative with a positive input to it from the switch **300**. The switch applies a

negative reference voltage to the comparator and remains in this state until the negative integrator output exceeds it. Then, the comparator **304** switches the reference voltage and the input to the integration logic **256** via switch **300** to the opposite polarity. The reference voltage goes positive and the input of the integration logic **256** goes negative. Then, the integration logic **256** generates a linear ramp toward the positive reference voltage and at the reference level the switch **300** operates again. Accordingly, the cycle repeats while the VCO **144a** remains operational. A change in the inputs varies the ramp slope and thereby the frequency yielding the modulated signal. The output signal from the integration logic **256** is buffered to the VCO output **324**.

[0083] To begin, the channel input section may include voltage logic **250** and signal input and temperature drift logic **252**, which receive various input signals into the VCO. The input signals may be the signed-square root output signal SQR or may be an input signal from other components. In this example, the ± 5 V input signal SQR is presented to the input terminal **258** of the input logic **252** from the square rooter **142a** or some other source across a high pass filter circuit (not shown). The high pass filter eliminates DC offsets and low frequency signals from the input signal. Also, a DC voltage, which is the temperature signal TEMP and represents the circuit temperature, is applied from a temperature transducer to the input terminal **260**. A reference voltage signal $V_{REF/2}$ is applied to the input **284** to provide a base input signal for the VCO oscillator integration ramp. By providing the temperature signal TEMP to the input terminal **260** and the reference voltage signal $V_{REF/2}$ to the input **284** and subtracting the result from the input signal SQR, a temperature compensated output signal is provided from the op amp **262** to the switch **300**. This temperature compensated output signal is inverted by the inverting op amp **264**, and both output signals are applied to the switch **300**. The switch **300** may be a dual electronic switch that is configured as double-pole, double-throw (DPDT). Because the output signals are constantly present, the output signal through resistor **278** equals the inverse of the output signal through resistor **282**. These resistors **278** and **282** may limit the current

transients generated by the switching of the switch **300**. The output signals are locked out of phase with the reference voltage signal $V_{REF/2}$ by the operation of the switch **300**.

[0084] Also, the reference voltage signal $V_{REF/2}$ is provided to the buffer **288** and is inverted by the inverting op amp **290**. These output signals are provided via resistors **292** and **296** to the switch **300**. Resistors **292** and **296** may limit the transient current generated by the operation of switch **300**. The positive reference is also applied through a summing resistor to the adder op amp **262**.

[0085] The switch logic **254** provides the switched input signal to the integration logic **256** and the amplitude comparator **304**. The amplitude comparator **304** drives the switch **300** in a DPDT configuration. As a result, the switch **300** provides the negative reference signal and the positive reference signal or vice versa to the comparator **304** and to an input of an integrator op amp **316** via a frequency resistor **302**, which sets the center frequency for the VCO **144a**.

[0086] The integrator logic **256**, which includes resistor **322**, capacitor **320**, op amps **316** and **318**, and output terminal **324**, provides a linear ramp. The slope of the ramp in volts per microsecond varies linearly with the input voltage from the switch **300** across the frequency resistor **302**. The frequency of the output from the VCO **144a** is determined by the length of time the integrator logic **256** utilizes to traverse from the positive reference level to the negative reference level and back again, as seen by the comparator **304**, completing one cycle. The reference voltage is applied from the switch **300** to the comparator **304** and is a fixed amplitude square wave at any given input signal level. The output of the integrator logic **256** is also applied to the comparator **304** for amplitude control and through the buffer op amp **318** to the output terminal **324** for use in the mixer **86**.

[0087] As a specific example of one exemplary configuration, the VCO **144a** in FIG.14 may be configured to operate at a frequency of 30 kHz. This center frequency is determined by selecting the frequency resistor **302** to set the triangular frequency to 30 kHz with zero input on terminal **258**. Values for resistor **302** are shown in Table 1 for representative center frequencies:

Center Frequency	Frequency Resistor Value
80 kHz	4.67 k Ω
75 kHz	5.73 k Ω
68 kHz	6.58 k Ω
62 kHz	8.01 k Ω
56 kHz	8.98 k Ω
50 kHz	11.38 k Ω
45 kHz	13.06 k Ω
40 kHz	15.86 k Ω
35 kHz	18.39 k Ω
30 kHz	22.48 k Ω

Accordingly, these different values for the frequency resistor **302** may be utilized in various configurations for the different VCOs **144**.

[0088] In this configuration, the resistors **266** and **270** may be 100 k Ω resistors, resistors **268**, **272**, **274**, **276**, **294** and **298** may be 13.7 k Ω resistors, the resistors **278**, **282**, **292** and **296** may be 1 k Ω resistors, the resistors **308**

and **310** may be 20 k Ω resistors, the resistors **312** and **314** may be 4.99 k Ω resistors and the resistor **322** may be a 3.653 k Ω resistor. The capacitors **306** and **320** may be 220 pF capacitors, while the op amps **262**, **264**, **288**, **290**, **316** and **318** may be OP-470 op amps from Analog Devices, Inc. The comparator **304** may be a TI3016 comparator from Texas Instruments, Inc. Finally, the switch **300** may be a Siliconix DG-271A switch from Vishay Siliconix. In this configuration, the positive or negative input signals SQR may decrease or increase the frequency of the signal at the output terminal **324** by ± 2500 Hz for a ± 5 Volt input signal SQR. In this manner, the VCO **144a** may provide a triangle waveform signal that operates within a ± 5 -Volt range to another hybridized component, such as the mixer **86**, as discussed in greater detail in FIG. 15.

[0089] FIG. 15 is an exemplary schematic diagram of the mixer **86** of FIGs. 8 and 10 in accordance with aspects of the present techniques. In the exemplary schematic diagram, the mixer **86** is configured to receive 10 input channel signals via the input terminals **336a-336j**, which may be frequency-modulated ± 5 Volt triangular waveform signals **82**. As discussed above, each of the signals are centered at different frequencies, which may be specified by the respective VCOs **144a-144i**. Buffer op amps **334a-334j** drive summing resistors **338a-338j**. These signals are summed and scaled by an op amp **330**. The output of the summing op amp **330** is inverted by an inverting op amp **332**. The out-of-phase output signals from the two op amps **330** and **332** are used to drive the transformer **16** to provide the composite modulated signal to the surface equipment.

[0090] To begin, the triangular waveform signals are provided to the input terminals **336a-336j** from the VCOs, such as VCO **144a**. Each of these signals is applied to one of the unity gain buffer op amps **334a-334j**. In this embodiment, the frequencies are in descending order from **336a-336j**. Alternatively, the buffer op amps **334a-334j** may be configured as inverting

unity gain op amps to facilitate impedance control of the input signal line for noise reduction purposes.

[0091] The input signals are provided to the summing op amp **330**, the amplitude scaling resistor **340**, and the weighted value input summing resistors **338a-338j**. The summing resistors **338a-338j** may each be of about equal value or sized to compensate for line loss of the frequency component they add to the composite modulated signal. For instance, the resistors for high and low frequencies may be increased or decreased to adjust for attenuation, while the resistors of the mid level frequencies are about equal. In particular, resistors for **338a-338c** may increase in value, resistors **338h-338j** may decrease in value, and resistors **338d-338g** may be about equal. These adjustments in the resistors may emphasize the upper and lower frequencies of the composite modulated signal. As a result, this configuration may be utilized to account for the SIB **90** characteristics, as shown in the system response **93** of FIG. 9.

[0092] For example, in one configuration, the values for the summing resistors **338a-338j** may be 22.6 k Ω , 24.9 k Ω , 30.1 k Ω , 36.5 k Ω , 40.2 k Ω , 40.2 k Ω , 40.2 k Ω , 40.2 k Ω and 30.9 k Ω , respectively. The value for the resistor **340** may be 2.49 k Ω , and resistors **344** and **346** may be 20 k Ω . The op amps **330** and **332** may be Analog Devices AD822 op amps.

[0093] The output signal from the mixer **86** is push-pull to the primary of the transformer **16**. The out-of-phase component is supplied by a unity gain inverting op amp **332** and resistors **344** and **346**, which invert the output signal from the summing op amp **330**. As a result, the output signal from the mixer **86** is provided push-pull from the outputs **348** and **350** of the op amps.

[0094] In addition to the embodiments above, various components may be combined to further enhance the system. For instance, the square rooters **142** and VCOs **144** may be combined into a single logic component. This

combination of the square rooters **142** and VCOs **144** may reduce the number of wiring connections and further decrease the footprint of the downhole tool.

[0095] Also, certain channel signals may include high precision data that is transmitted at lower data rates. Accordingly, the system **140** of FIG. 10 may utilize downhole digitization for these signals. The data may include wellbore pressure, tool temperature, inclinometer output, and state-of-health diagnostics, for example. Also, the data may be prepared for transmission by use of an asynchronous digital data channel that is fed into a VCO **84** or **144** without a square rooter **142**. Tristate asynchronous logic on the digitizer A/D board may be utilized to transmit the data in various states, such as "0" and "1" bits and intermediate-state bits that separate the individual data bits. Because of the robustness of this method, it is transmitted at the highest frequency in the system that might see some incursion from the harmonic of the lowest frequency seismic channel.

[0096] Furthermore, the composite modulated signal may be transmitted via two conductors, three conductors, four conductors or more than four conductors in various embodiments. As noted above, the conductors may be arranged in various configurations, such as crosswise-paired or as a pair of conductors that are not directly adjacent to each other. For example, with wireline that includes seven conductors, each conductor, except for the center conductor **7**, may be paired with a conductor that is not directly adjacent to it or that is crosswise-paired or opposite to that conductor when the wireline **11** is cut perpendicularly. These conductors may be adjusted to reduce crosstalk and interference between conductors.

[0097] By rearranging the wireline conductor assignments and signal mixing, a superior wireline analog signal transfer function may be obtained. This enhanced characteristic enables significant revisions to the telemetry, with support for more than nine seismic channels that are capable of frequency bands of up to 3 kHz bandwidth or more.

[0098] Moreover, it should be appreciated that the composite modulated signal may also be utilized for communication between multiple devices within a well with each other or with surface equipment. For example, while the downhole tool is described in the exemplary embodiments, a well may include various monitoring and operational devices, such as gauges, valves, sensors, pumps, downhole tools and other similar devices. These devices may utilize the present techniques to communicate operational or other data to surface equipment in the manner discussed above. These devices may also communicate data to facilitate or enhance the production of hydrocarbons from the wellbore. As such, the present techniques may be utilized to enhance the production of hydrocarbons from a well along with the use for collecting seismic data.

[0099] The telemetry method can be useful in other logging tool designs that could accomplish one or more of the following open-hole or cased-hole well logging objectives (the list below illustrates representative applications but is not meant to be limiting). The list includes: caliper logs; cement bond logs; depth logs, including casing collar locator and gamma ray logs; downhole video logs; formation resistivity and radial microimager logs; neutron logs, including flowing neutron and pulsed neutron capture logs; oriented density logs; production logs, including fluid rate, density, and capacitance logs; radial differential temperature logs; radioactive tracer logs; sonic, ultrasonic, and noise logs; temperature and pressure logs; and well surveying logs.

[00100] The foregoing description has been directed to particular embodiments of the invention for the purpose of illustrating the invention. It will be apparent to persons skilled in the art, however, that many alternatives, modifications, and variations to the embodiments described herein are possible. All such alternatives, modifications, and variations are intended to be within the scope of the present invention, as defined by the appended claims.

We claim:

1. A method for improved telemetry of a data signal from a first location to a second location using a wireline having at least three conductors, comprising:

(a) connecting one end of said wireline to a data transmittal means at said first location and the other end of said wireline to a data receiver means at said second location, said data transmittal means having first and second output terminals, said data receiver means having first and second input terminals, wherein

(1) at least two of said conductors are connected to said first output terminal of said data transmittal means and to said first input terminal of said data receiver means, and

(2) at least one of said conductors is connected to said second output terminal of said data transmittal means and to said second input terminal of said data receiver means;

(b) generating said data signal at said first location, wherein said data signal comprises amplitude-modulated data used to modulate channel signals at various frequencies, the data signals frequency range includes frequencies from a lowest frequency to a highest frequency with the highest frequency being below the first harmonic of the lowest frequency that interferes with the highest frequency;

(c) transmitting said data signal from said data transmittal means through said wireline to said data receiver means; and

(d) receiving said data signal at said second location.

2. The method of claim 1 wherein said two conductors connected to said first output terminal of said data transmittal means and to said first input

terminal of said data receiver means are crosswise paired with opposite conductors in a cable.

3. The method of claim 1 wherein said wireline is deployed in a wellbore, said first location is a downhole location in said wellbore, and said second location is nearer to the surface than the first location.

4. The method of claim 3 wherein said data signal has a plurality of channels that are each associated with a specific frequency band in a frequency range, and said frequency range including frequencies from a low frequency band to a high frequency band, wherein the high frequency band is below a harmonic of said low frequency band that interferes with said high frequency band.

5. The method of claim 4 wherein said plurality of channels comprises analog signals within the frequency range and said data signal comprises at least one digital channel assigned to a frequency outside the frequency range.

6. The method of claim 4 wherein said frequency range is from 1 kHz to 100 kHz.

7. A method comprising:

receiving data from a device in a wellbore;

forming a plurality of frequency modulated channel signals that are each associated with a specific frequency band in a frequency range, the frequency range including frequencies from a low frequency band to a high frequency band and the high frequency band is below a harmonic of said low frequency band that interferes with said high frequency band

summing the plurality of frequency modulated channel signals into a composite modulated signal; and

transmitting the composite modulated signal to surface equipment.

8. The method of claim 7 wherein the plurality of frequency modulated channel signals comprises analog channel signals within the frequency range
9. The method of claim 8 wherein the plurality of frequency modulated channel signals further comprising creating a digital channel signal assigned to a frequency outside the frequency range that is summed with the plurality of modulated channel signals into the composite modulated signal.
10. The method of claim 8 wherein the frequency range includes frequencies from about 30 kHz to about 90 kHz.
11. The method of claim 7 wherein transmitting comprises communicating the composite modulated signal via a wireline having a plurality of conductors.
12. The method of claim 11 wherein communicating comprises:
 - utilizing at least two conductors of the wireline between a first downhole terminal of a downhole transformer and a first surface terminal of a surface transformer; and
 - utilizing at least one other conductor of the wireline between a second downhole terminal of the downhole transformer and a second surface terminal of the surface transformer.
13. The method of claim 7 wherein forming the plurality of frequency modulated channel signals comprises generating an odd-function waveform signal for each of the plurality of channel signals and frequency-modulating each odd-function waveform signal at different frequencies.
14. The method of claim 13 wherein the frequency range includes frequencies from the low frequency band to the high frequency band that is below a first odd harmonic of the low frequency band.
15. The method of claim 7 wherein each of the plurality of frequency modulated channel signals is centered at a specific frequency and has a

frequency band that does not overlap with other frequency bands in the plurality of frequency modulated channel signals.

16. The method of claim 7 wherein forming comprises adjusting at least one of the plurality of frequency modulated channel signals to compensate for temperature.

17. The method of claim 7 comprising utilizing the data to produce hydrocarbons from the wellbore.

18. A system comprising:

at least one device within a wellbore configured to:

receive a plurality of data signals;

create a plurality of frequency modulated channel signals within a frequency range for the plurality of data signals, wherein each of the plurality of frequency modulated channel signals is associated with a specific frequency band in the frequency range and the frequency range including frequencies from a low frequency to a high frequency, the high frequency is below a harmonic of the low frequency that interferes with the high frequency; and

sum the plurality of frequency modulated channel signals into a composite modulated signal.

19. The system of claim 18 comprising surface equipment coupled to at least one device via wireline, the surface equipment configured to:

receive the composite modulated signal; and

separate each of the plurality of frequency modulated channel signals from the composite modulated signal.

20. The system of claim 18 wherein the at least one device comprises a square rooter that converts at least one of the plurality of the data signals in a first voltage range to a signed-square root output signal in a second voltage range, wherein the second voltage range is lower than the first voltage range.

21. The system of claim 20 wherein the square rooter comprises:

filtering logic configured to receive at least one of the plurality of data signals and limit the signal bandwidth using a lowpass filter;

absolute value logic coupled to the filtering logic, the absolute value logic configured to convert the negative voltages of first voltage range into positive voltages;

offset adjustment logic coupled to the filtering logic and the absolute value logic, the offset adjustment logic configured to adjust a reference voltage for the square rooter to avoid dividing by zero; and

division logic coupled to the filtering logic, absolute value logic, and the offset adjustment logic, the division logic configured to generate the signed-square root output signal.

22. The system of claim 18 wherein at least one device comprises a voltage-controlled oscillator that converts an input signal to one of the plurality of frequency modulated channel signals.

23. The system of claim 22 wherein the voltage-controlled oscillator comprises:

channel input section configured to sum an input signal with at least a temperature drift signal from the temperature drift logic;

switching logic coupled to the channel input section, the switching logic configured to provide the input signal or a complimentary input signal that is the inverse of the input signal and positive or negative reference signals;

comparison logic to compare the modulated channel signal with a reference signal and output a change of state to the switching logic when the reference value has been exceeded; and

integration logic coupled to the switching logic and configured to form a modulated channel signal.

24. The system of claim 23 wherein the input signal comprises the signed square root output signal of one of the plurality of data signals.

25. The system of claim 23 wherein the temperature drift logic is configured to compensate for impedance and gain changes as a function of temperature to offset frequency shifts of the voltage-controlled oscillator.

26. The system of claim 18 wherein each of the plurality of modulated channel signals comprises triangular waveforms.

27. The system of claim 18 wherein at least one device comprises a mixer that sums a plurality of modulated channel signals into the composite modulated signal.

28. The system of claim 27 wherein the mixer comprises:

at least one operational amplifier that receives one of the plurality of modulated channel signals from the voltage-controlled oscillator; and

at least one summing operational amplifier to form the composite modulated signal that is the summation of the plurality of modulated channel signals.

29. The system of claim 28 further comprising scaling resistors to preferentially boost certain frequencies to compensate for frequency-dependent line losses.

30. The system of claim 18 comprising:

a downhole transformer coupled to at least one device, the downhole transformer having a first downhole terminal coupled to at least two conductors of the wireline and a second downhole transformer coupled to at least one other conductor of the wireline; and

a surface transformer coupled to the surface equipment, the surface equipment having a first surface terminal coupled to at least two conductors and a second surface terminal coupled to at least one other conductor.

31. The system of claim 30 wherein at least two conductors are crosswise paired with opposite conductors.

32. The system of claim 30 wherein the wireline has at least four conductors and at least two conductor pairs are each crosswise paired with opposite conductors.

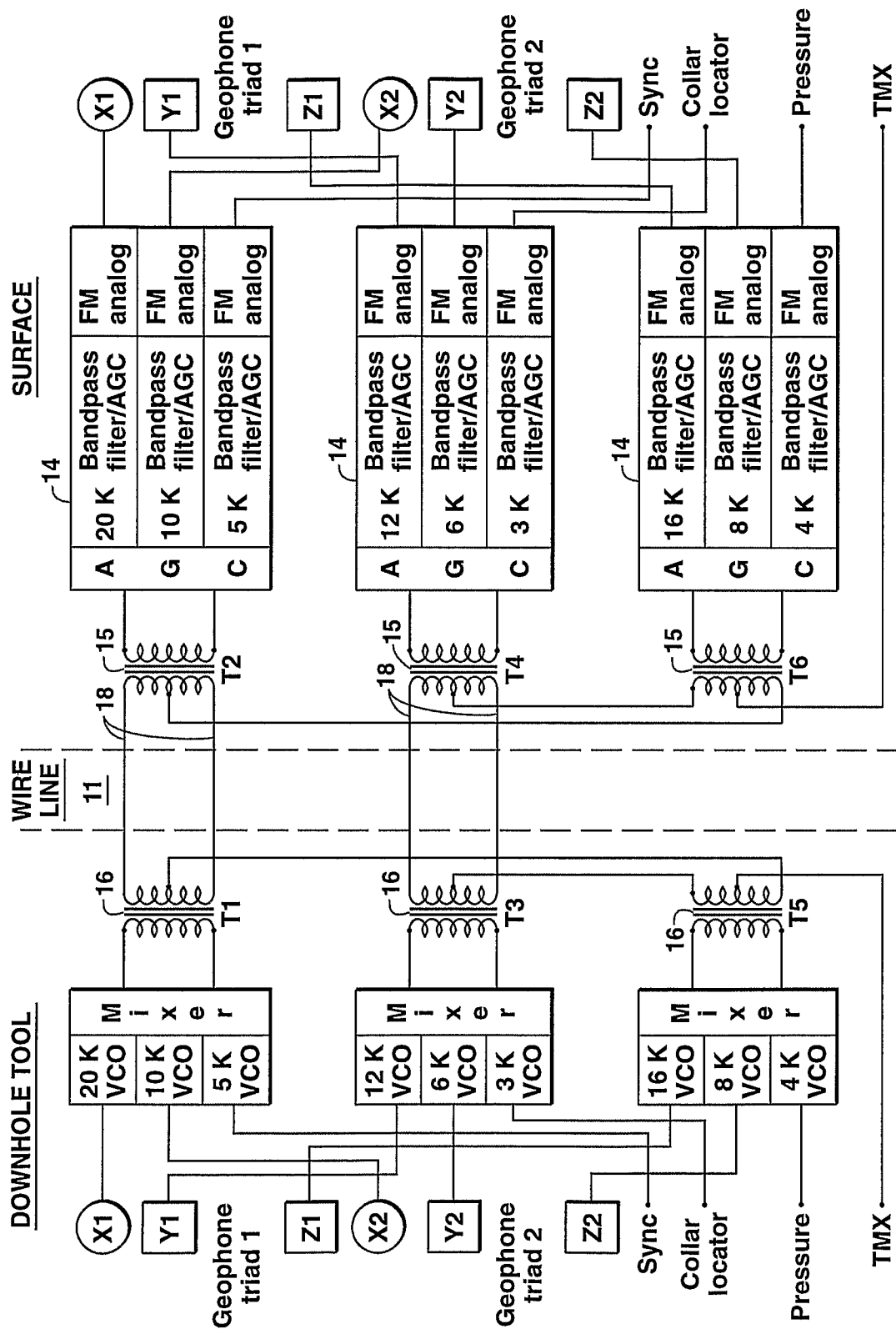


FIG. 1 (Prior Art)

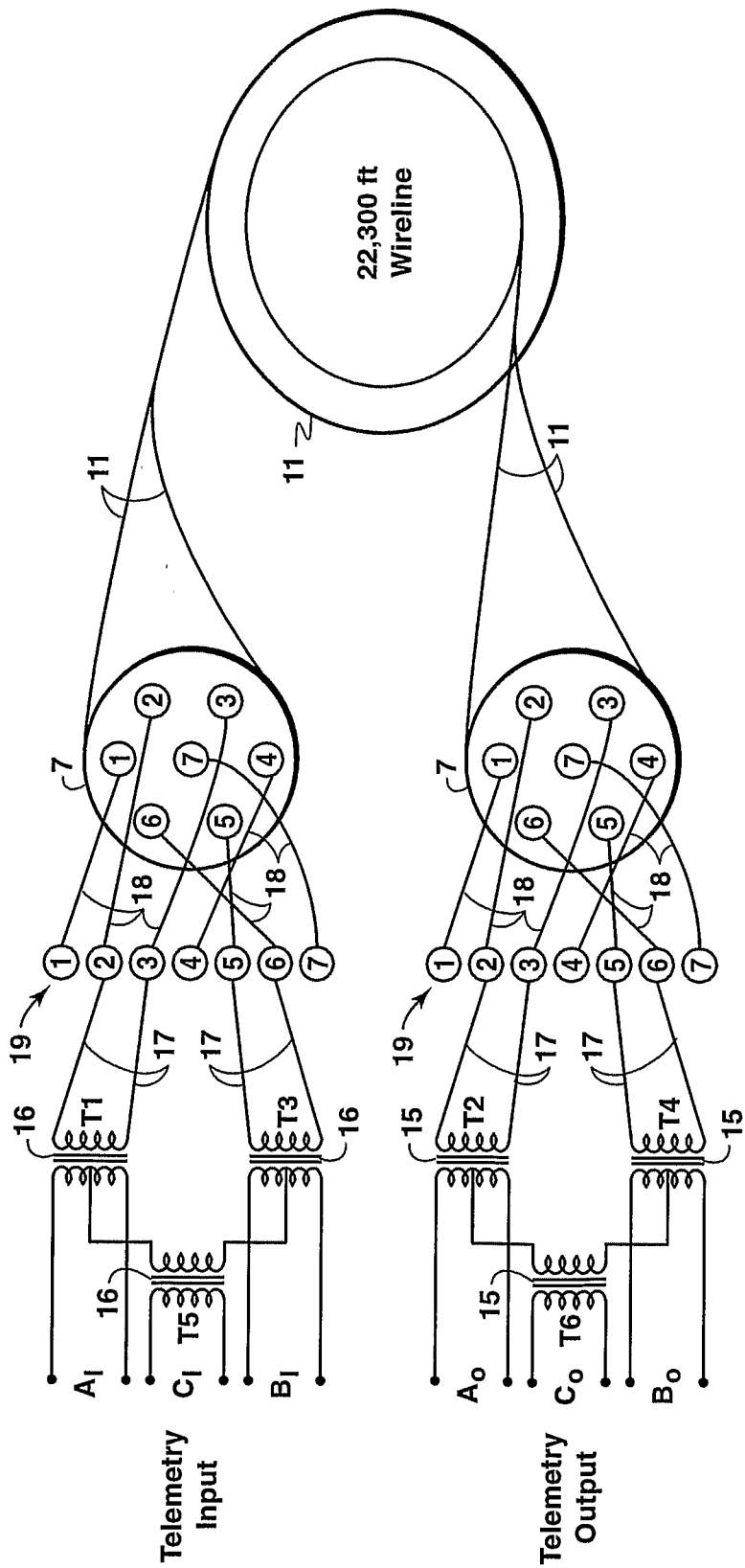


FIG. 2

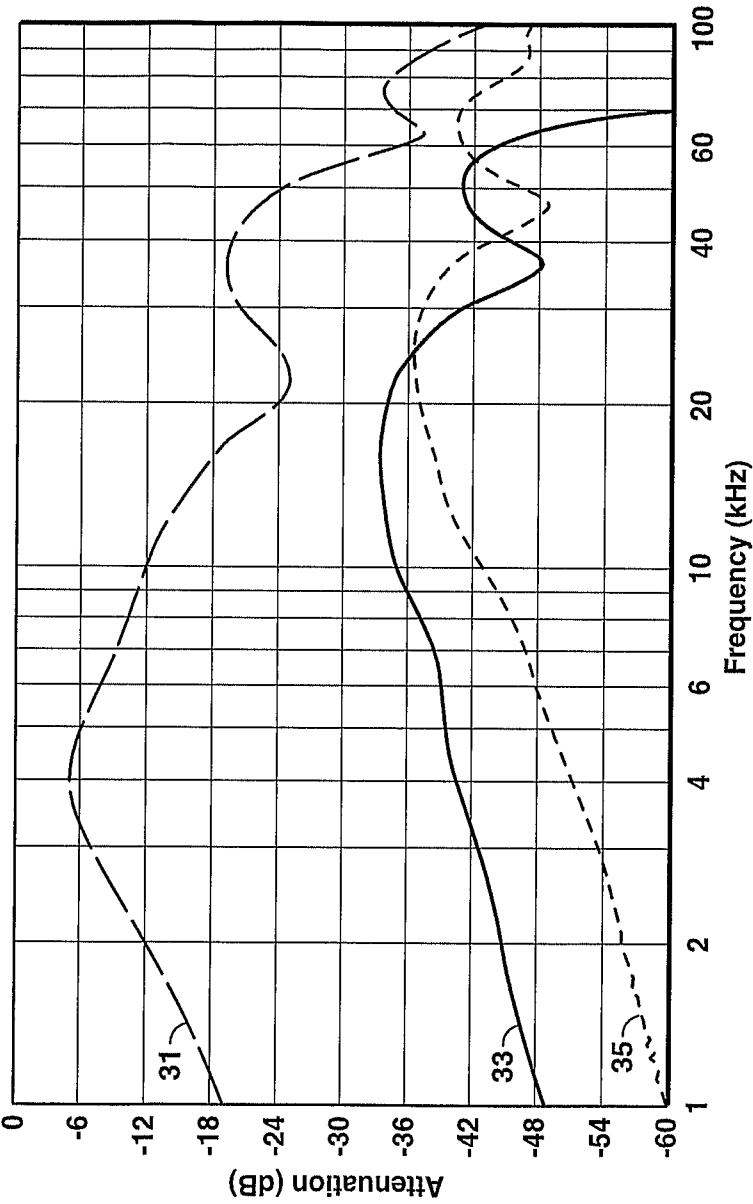


FIG. 3

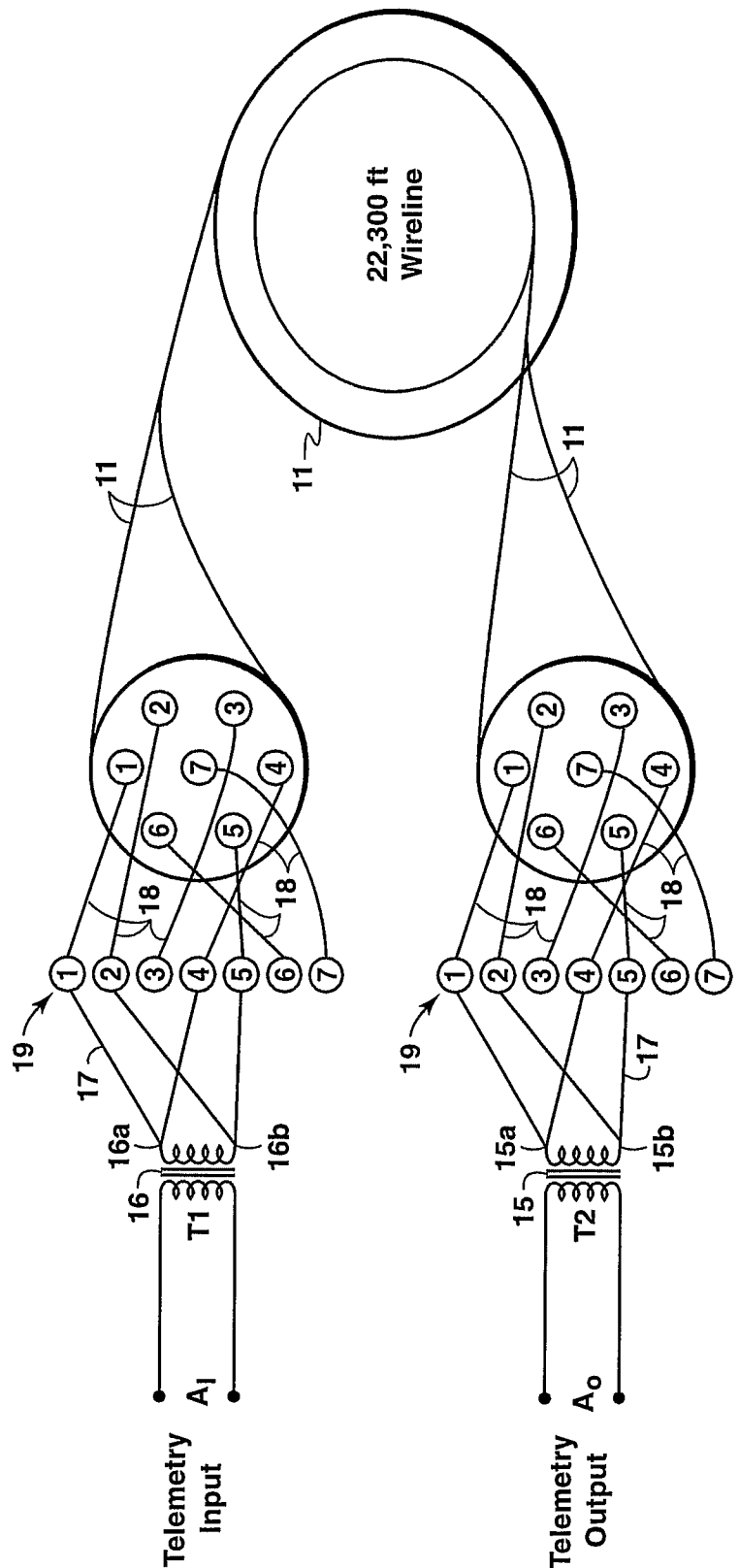


FIG. 4

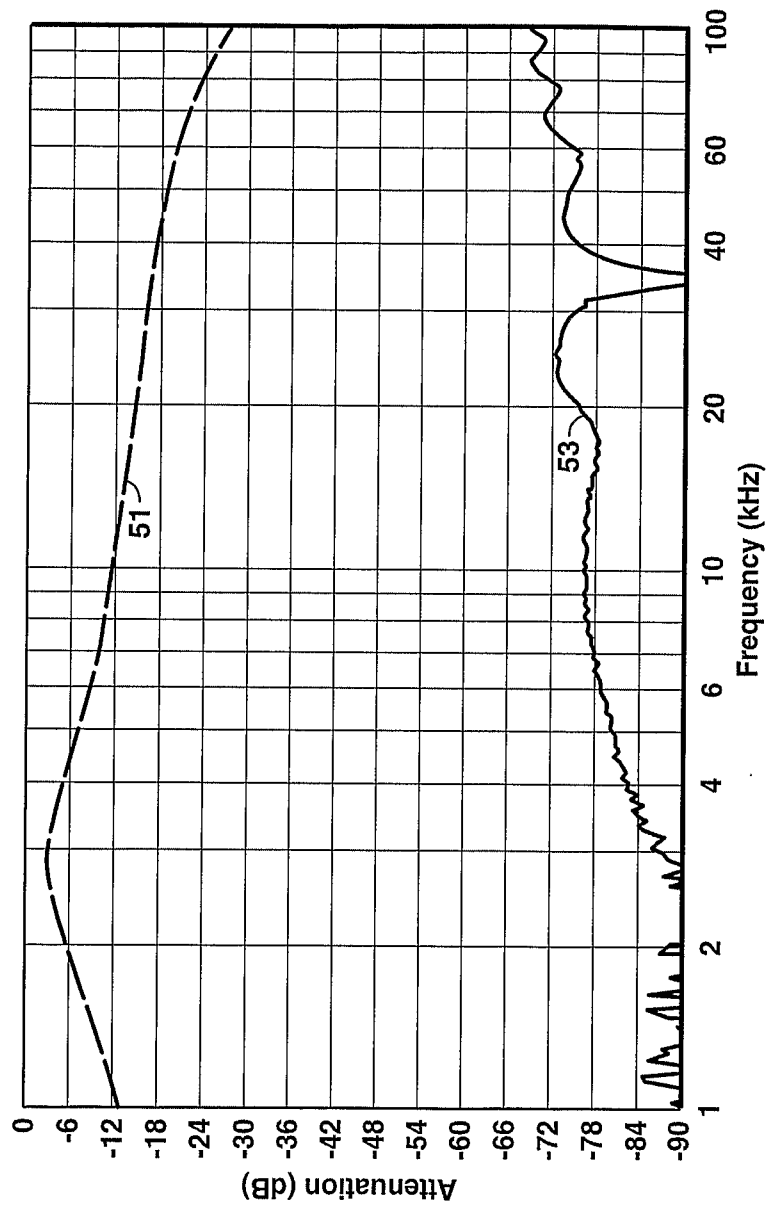


FIG. 5

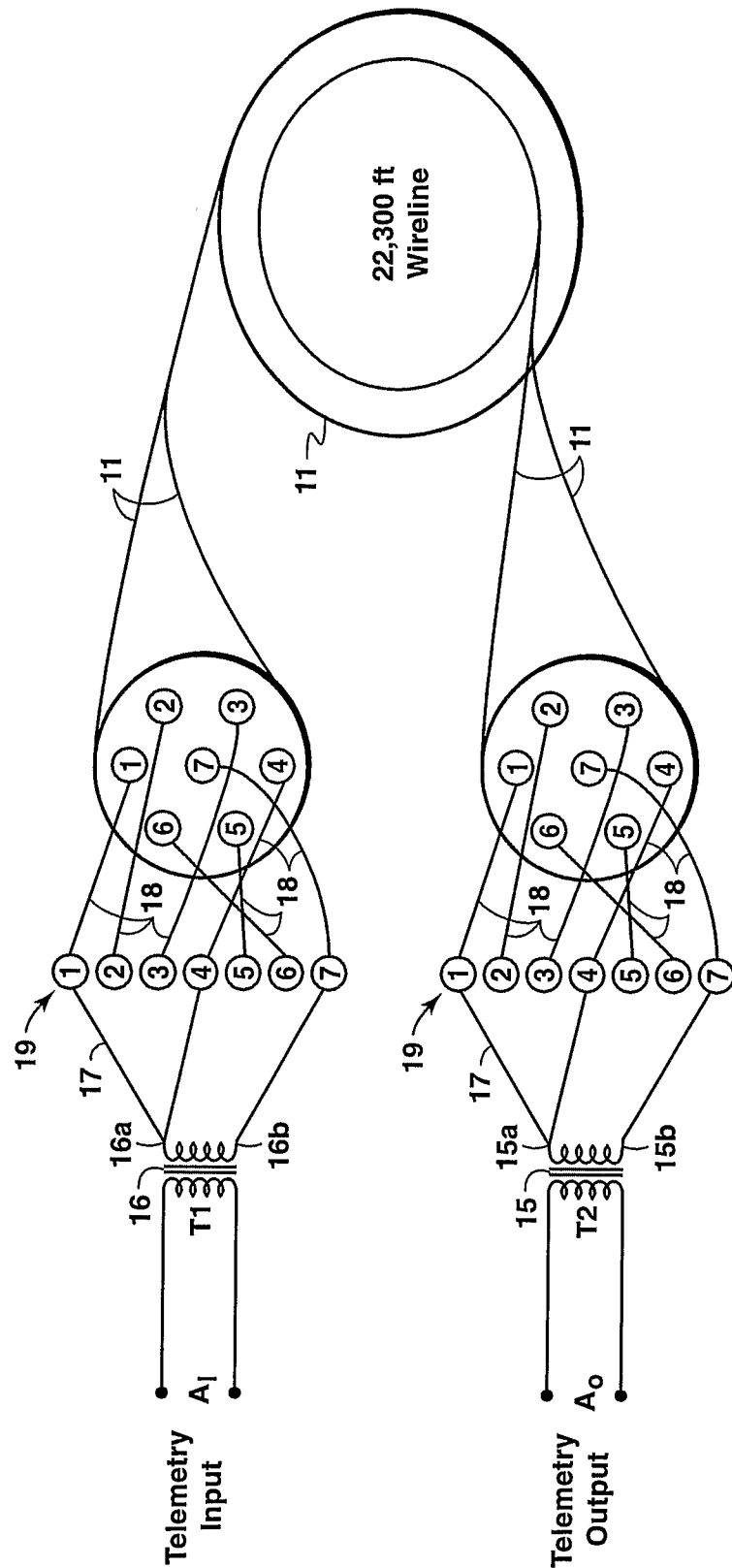


FIG. 6

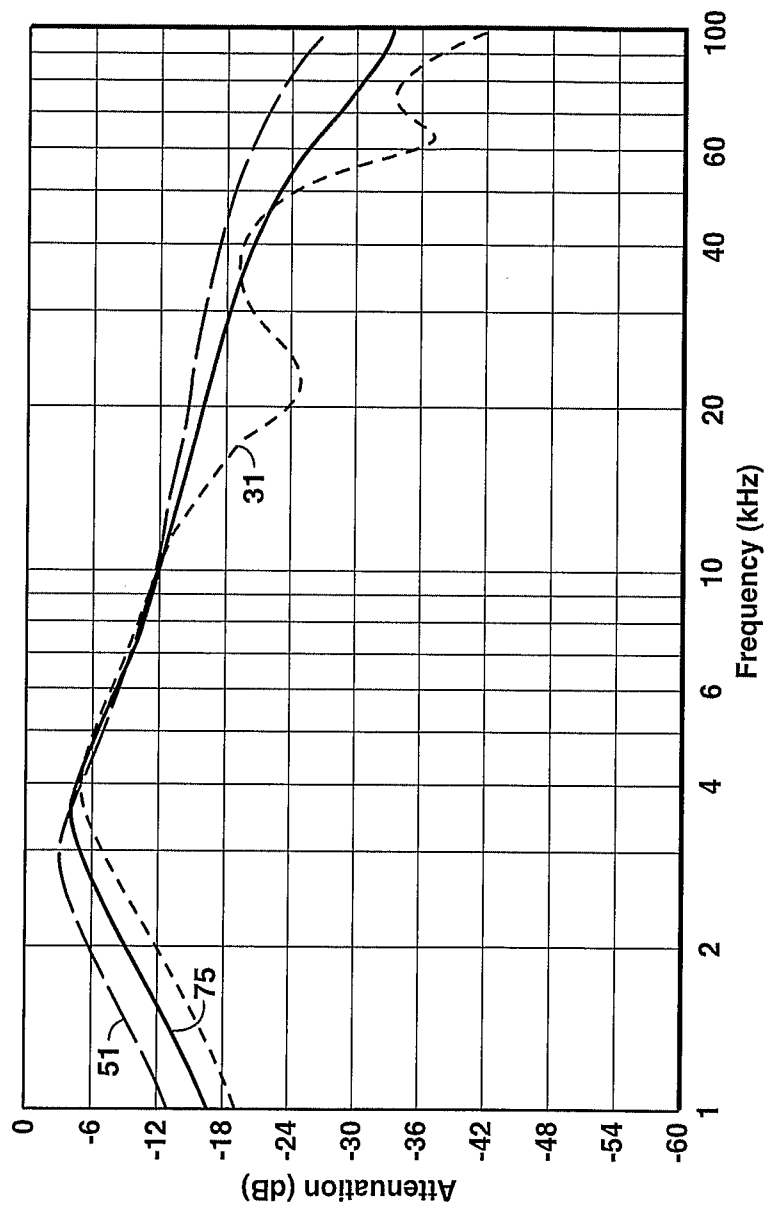


FIG. 7

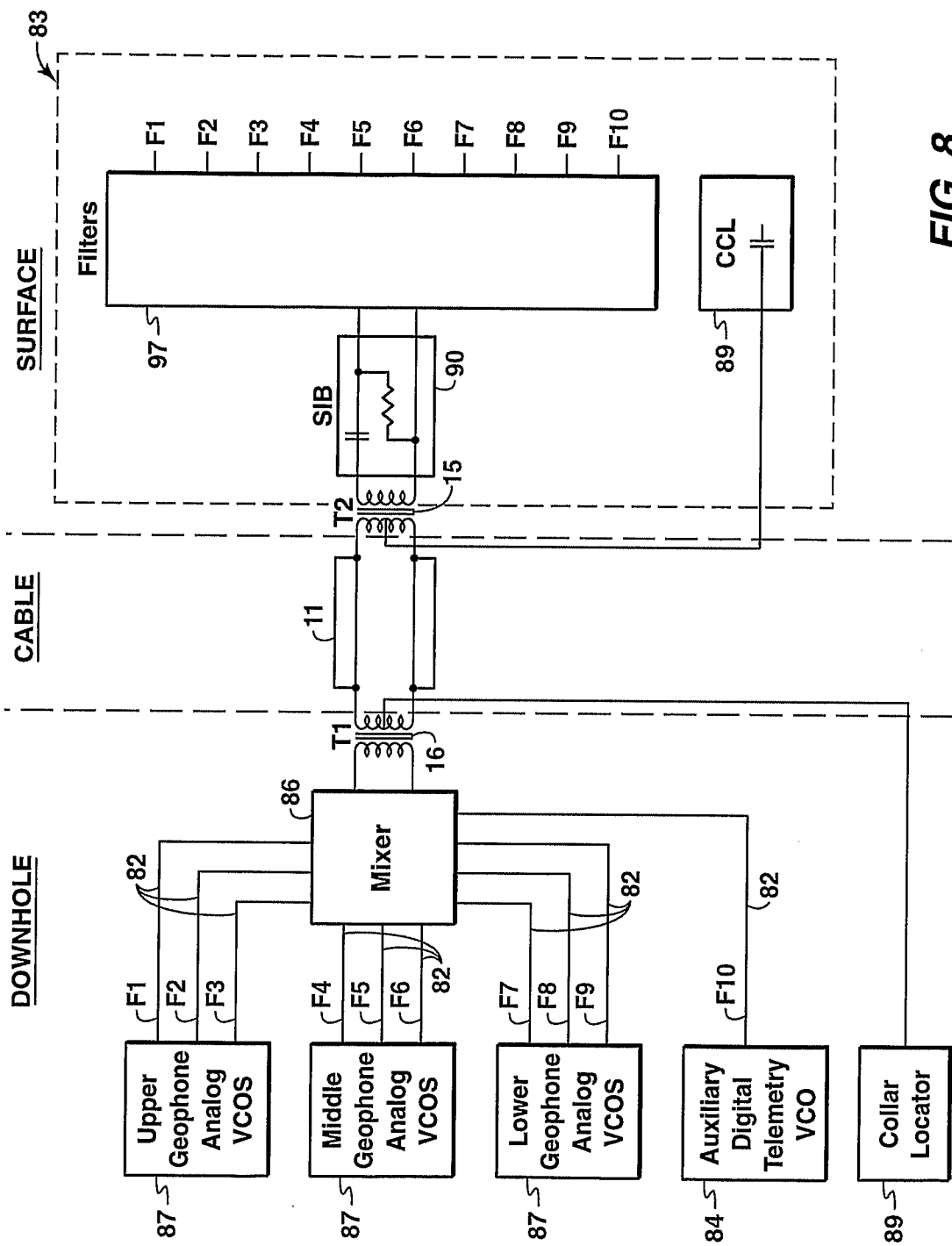


FIG. 8

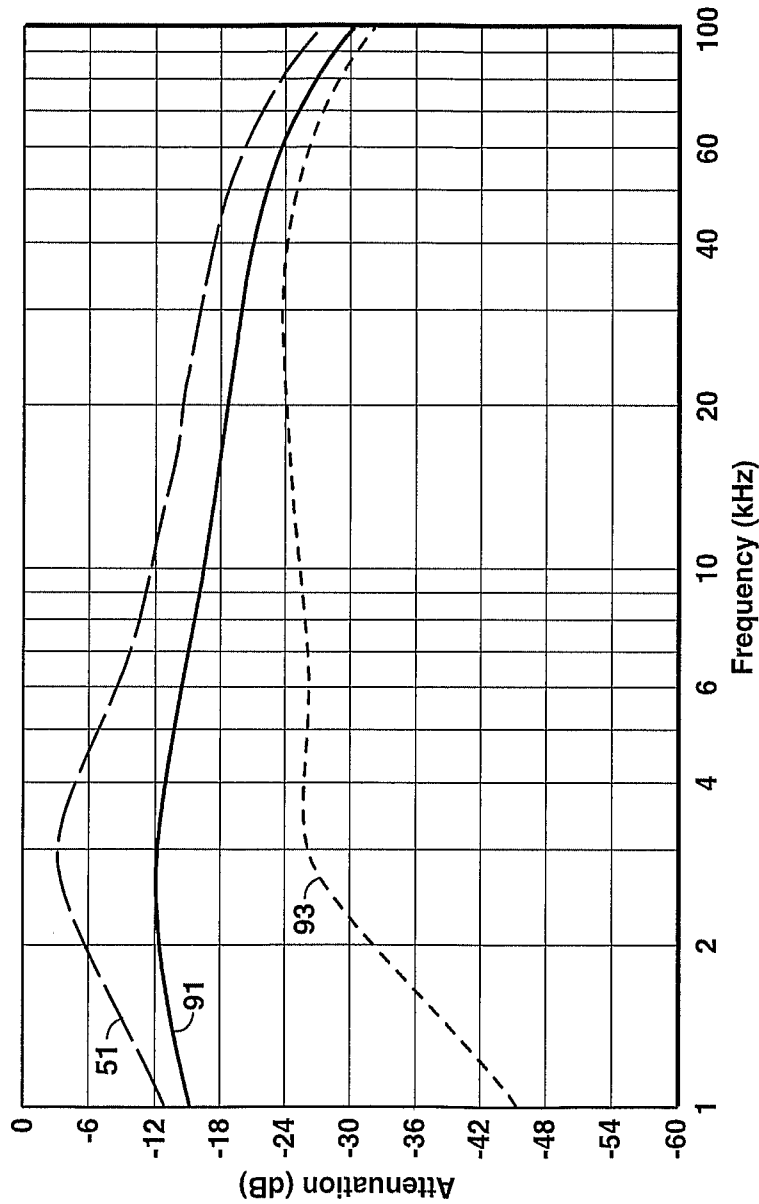


FIG. 9

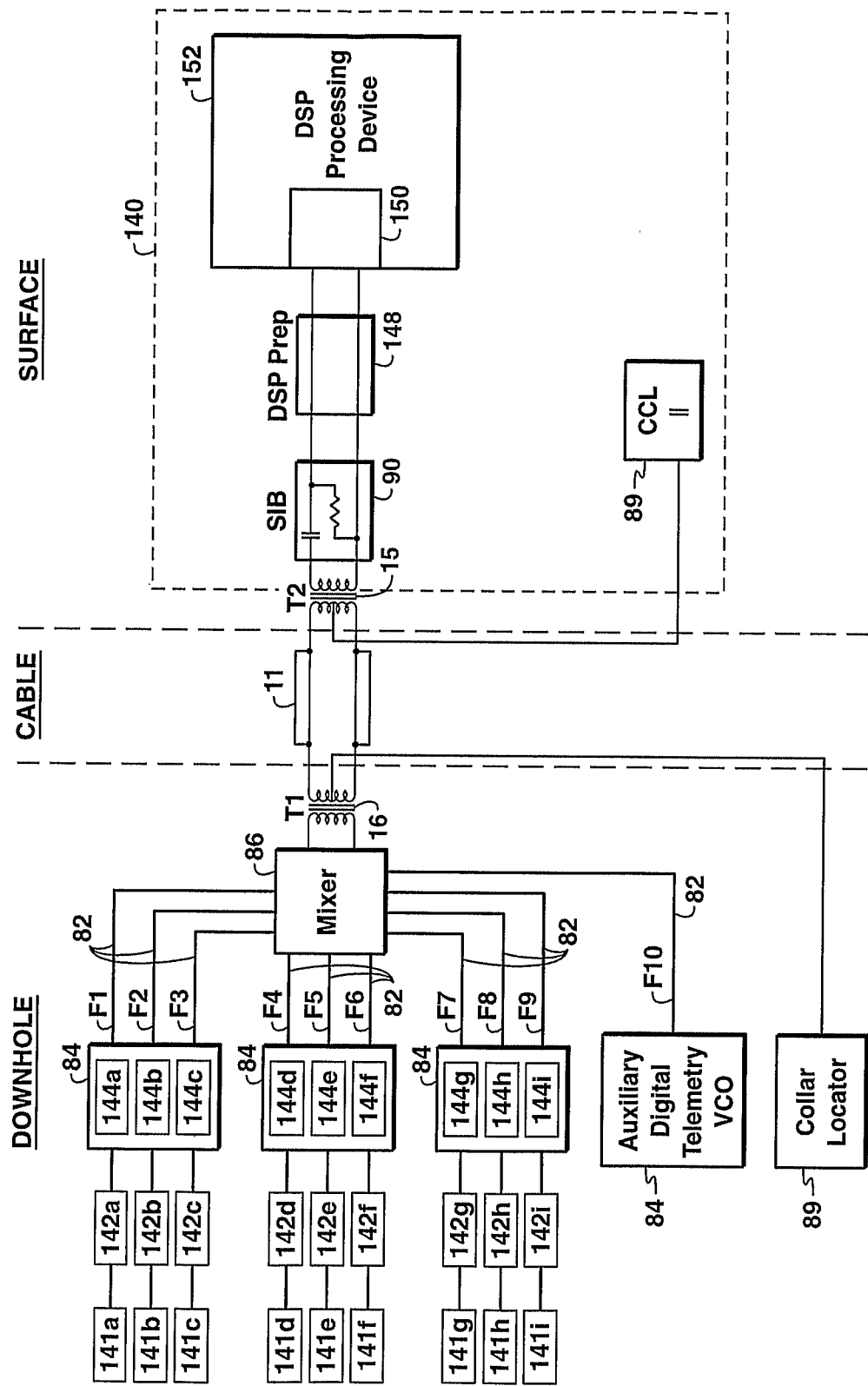


FIG. 10

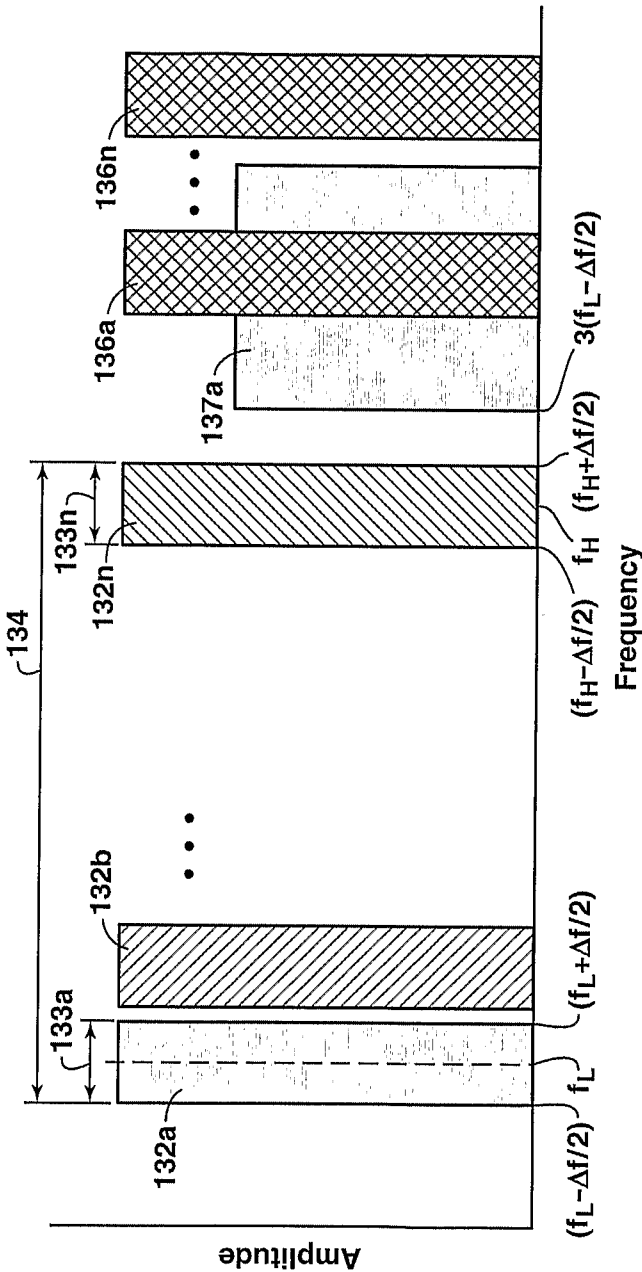


FIG. 11

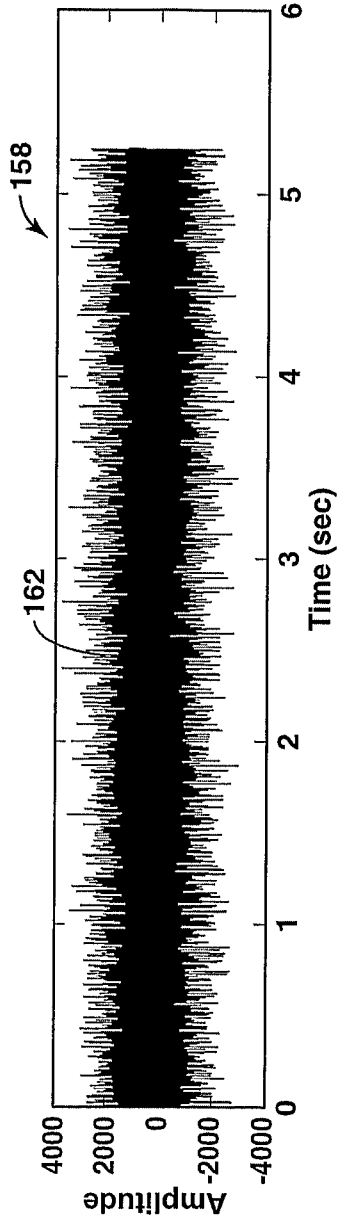


FIG. 12A

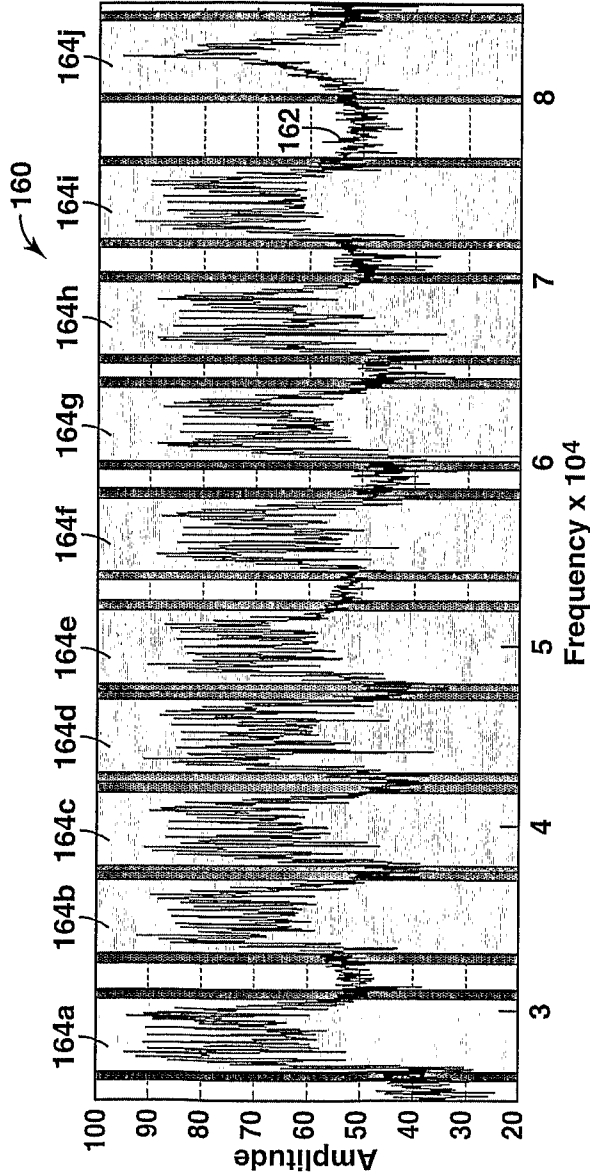


FIG. 12B

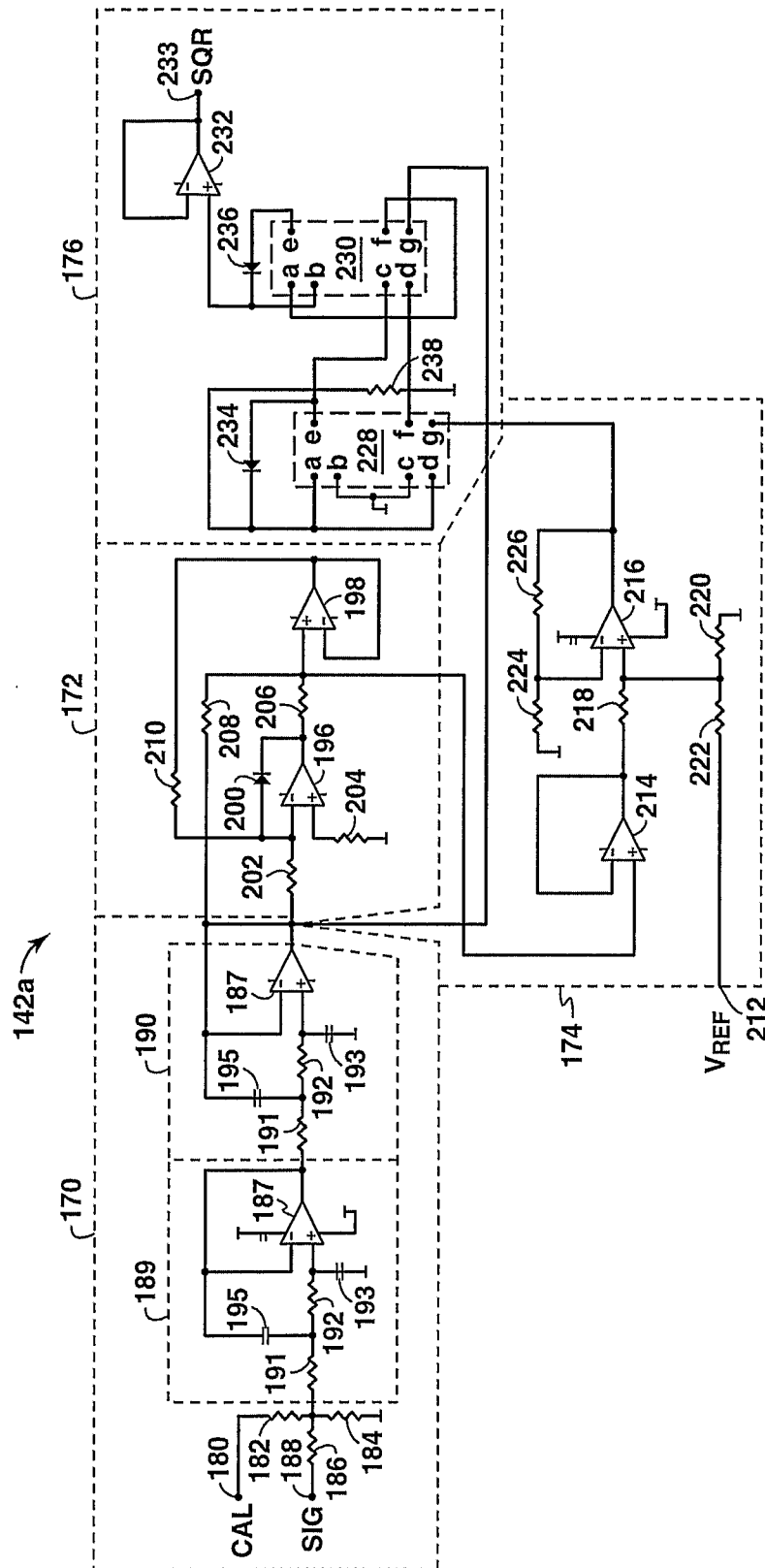


FIG. 13

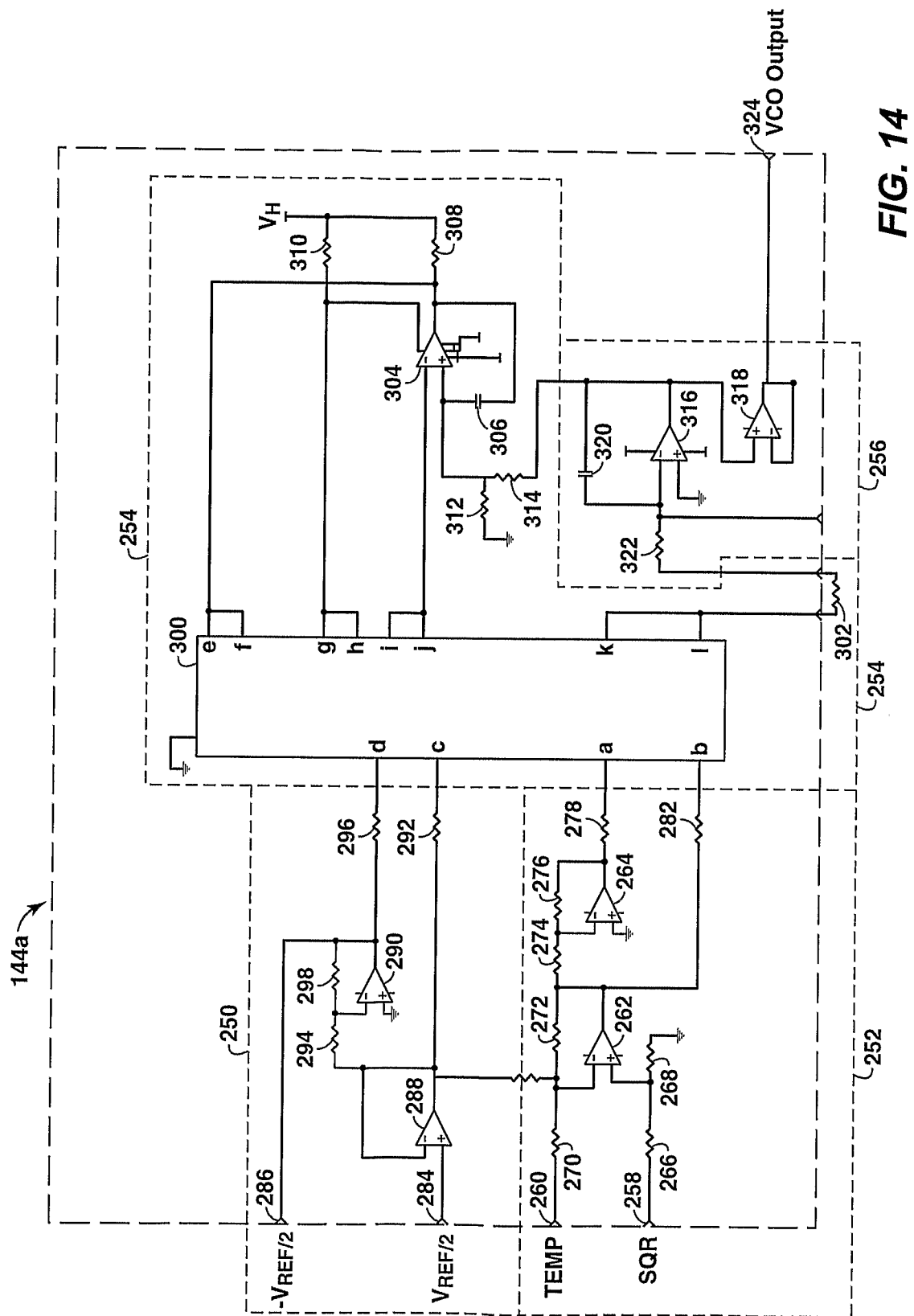
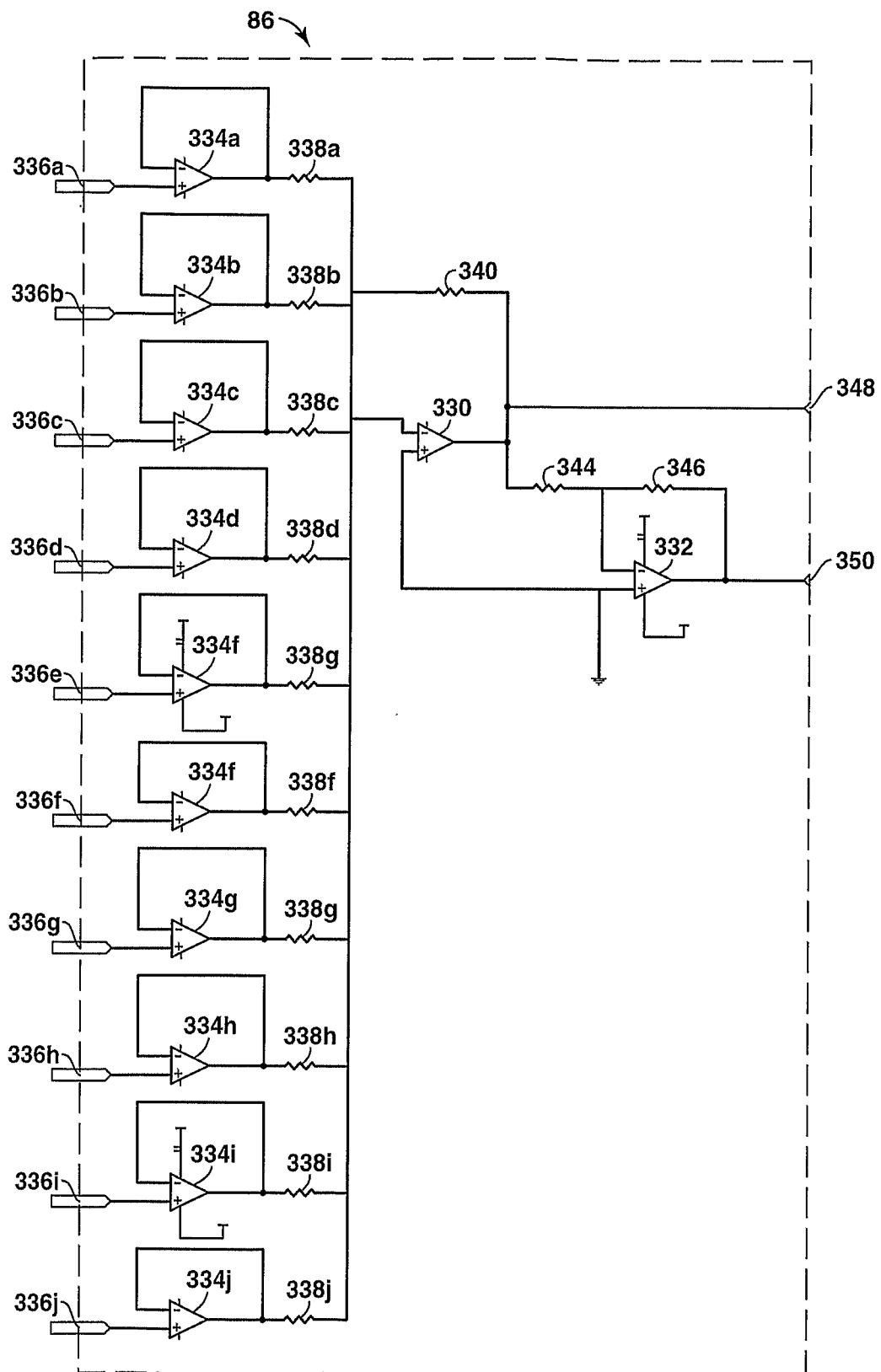


FIG. 14

**FIG. 15**