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REQUEST FOR A STANDARD PATENT

AND NOTICE OF ENTITLEMENT

The Applicant identified below requests the grant of a patent to the nominated person identified below for an invention described in the accompanying standard complete patent specification.

[70,71]Applicant and Nominated Person:

Motorola, Inc.
1303 East Algonquin Road, Schaumburg, Illinois, 60196, UNITED STATES
OF AMERICA

[54]Invention Title:

METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR DATA COLLISION DETECTION IN A
MULTI-PROCESSOR COMMUNICATION SYSTEM

[72]Actual Inventors:

Peter J. Armbruster
James A. Stephens

[74]Address for Service:

PHILLIPS ORMONDE & FITZPATRICK
367 Collins Street
Melbourne 3000 AUSTRALIA

[31,33,32]

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Applicant states the following:

1. The nominated person is the assignee of the actual inventor(s)
2. The nominated person is
~~the applicant~~
- the assignee of the applicant
~~authorised to make this application by the applicant~~
of the basic application.
3. The basic application(s) was/were the first made in a convention country in respect of the invention.

The nominated person is not an opponent or eligible person described in Section 33-36 of the Act.

1 September 1992

Motorola, Inc.
By PHILLIPS ORMONDE & FITZPATRICK
Patent Attorneys
By

Our Ref : 302689

David B Fitzpatrick

5999q



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(54) Title
METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR DATA COLLISION DETECTION IN A MULTI-PROCESSOR
COMMUNICATION SYSTEM

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(71) Applicant(s)
MOTOROLA, INC.

(72) Inventor(s)
PETER J. ARMBRUSTER; JAMES A. STEPHENS

(74) Attorney or Agent
PHILLIPS ORMONDE & FITZPATRICK, 367 Collins Street, MELBOURNE VIC 3000

(56) Prior Art Documents
US 4807222
US 4751701
US 4707829

(57) Claim

1. A method for data collision detection and resolution in a multi-processor communication system including a plurality of processors coupled by a bus, said method including the steps of:

first determining by one processor of said plurality of processors that communication is required with at least one other processor of said plurality of processors via a first message on said bus;

second determining by said one processor whether a data collision flag indicates that a previous data collision occurred from a transmission of another message;

maximum waiting by said one processor a maximum time, if said previous data collision occurred;

initiating by said one processor transmission of said first message, if said data collision flag indicates a previous data collision has not occurred;

checking to determine whether a new data collision occurred during transmission of said first message by each of said plurality of processors by checking a plurality of source indicators in said first message, said source

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indicators indicating an identity of a processor transmitting said first message;

continuing transmitting by said one processor said first message to said at least one other processor, if no data collision is determined;

waiting by said one processor a selective time, if said new data collision of said first message is determined; and

repeating by said one processor said steps of first determining, second determining, initiating, checking, continuing transmitting and waiting, if said new data collision of said first message is determined.

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Name of Applicant:

Motorola, Inc.

Actual Inventor(s):

Peter J. Armbruster
James A. Stephens

Address for Service:

PHILLIPS ORMONDE & FITZPATRICK
Patent and Trade Mark Attorneys
367 Collins Street
Melbourne 3000 AUSTRALIA

Invention Title:

METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR DATA COLLISION DETECTION IN A MULTI-PROCESSOR
COMMUNICATION SYSTEM

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The following statement is a full description of this invention, including
the best method of performing it known to applicant(s):

METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR DATA COLLISION DETECTION
IN A MULTI-PROCESSOR COMMUNICATION SYSTEM

Background of the Invention

5 The present invention pertains to inter-processor communication and more particularly to data collision detection and recovery in multi-processor communication systems.

10 In distributed control systems, a number of processors perform portions of the overall operation of a functional unit, such as a telephone, for example. Modern telephones are sophisticated devices which provide for a number of features such as security. In addition, such phones provide for interfacing with facsimile machines, copying machines
15 and other telecommunication devices. The processors which control these different functions must communicate with one another. Typically, these processors are interconnected by a bus. This bus may be a serial bus and employ a CARRIER SENSE MULTIPLE ACCESS WITH COLLISION DETECTION (CSMA/CD) bus
20 protocol.

25 These multi-processor communication systems do not detect data collisions on the bus under all conditions. Further, such systems do not provide an efficient arrangement for settling conflicts between processors involved in a data collision.

30 Accordingly, it is highly desirable to provide a multiple processor communication system which detects data collisions under all conditions and resolves the collisions by efficiently permitting processors to communicate in a prioritized fashion.

In accordance with the present invention, a novel multi-processor communication system for detection of data collisions is provided.

According to one aspect of the present invention
5 there is provided a method for data collision detection and resolution in a multi-processor communication system including a plurality of processors coupled by a bus, said method including the steps of:

first determining by one processor of said plurality
10 of processors that communication is required with at least one other processor of said plurality of processors via a first message on said bus;

second determining by said one processor whether a
data collision flag indicates that a previous data
15 collision occurred from a transmission of another message;

maximum waiting by said one processor a maximum
time, if said previous data collision occurred;

initiating by said one processor transmission of
said first message, if said data collision flag indicates
20 a previous data collision has not occurred;

checking to determine whether a new data collision
occurred during transmission of said first message by each
of said plurality of processors by checking a plurality of
source indicators in said first message, said source
25 indicators indicating an identity of a processor
transmitting said first message;

continuing transmitting by said one processor said
first message to said at least one other processor, if no
data collision is determined;

30 waiting by said one processor a selective time, if
said new data collision of said first message is
determined; and

repeating by said one processor said steps of first
determining, second determining, initiating, checking,
35 continuing transmitting and waiting, if said new data
collision of said first message is determined.

According to a further aspect of the present
invention there is provided in a multi-processor
communication system including a plurality of processors



coupled by a bus, a data collision detection arrangement including:

5 a plurality of means for transmitting coupled to said bus and each of said plurality of means for transmitting being coupled to a corresponding one of said plurality of processors;

10 a plurality of means for receiving coupled to said bus and each of said plurality of means for receiving being coupled to a corresponding one of said processors, said means for receiving a transmitted message via said bus;

15 said plurality of said means for transmitting including means for initiating transmitting a first message from a source processor to at least one destination processors;

20 means for determining by each of said processors whether a data collision occurred between said first message and other messages by examining a source processor indicator in said first message;

25 said means for determining including first means for checking by each of said plurality of processors at least two consecutive source words including said source processor indicator for determining that each source word has only one bit set to a particular logic value, each bit of said source word indicating an identity of a particular one of said plurality of processors;

means for waiting by said source processor a selective time before transmitting said first message again, if a data collision is determined; and

30 said means for continuing transmitting said first message of said source processor operating to continue transmission of said first message, if no data collision is determined.

35 A preferred embodiment of the present invention will now be described with reference to the accompanying drawings wherein:-



~~to continue transmitting the message, if no data collision occurred.~~

~~Brief Description of the Drawings~~

5 FIG. 1 is a block diagram of a multi-processor communication system in accordance with the present invention.

FIG. 2 is a block diagram of the multi-processor arrangement of FIG. 1 in accordance with the present
10 invention.

FIG. 3 is a character format of a multi-processor communication system in accordance with the present invention.

FIG. 4 is a bus protocol data layout in accordance with
15 the present invention.

FIG. 5 is a flow chart of a collision detection method in accordance with the present invention.

FIG. 6 is a flow chart of a bus idle detection scheme in accordance with the present invention.

20

~~Description of the Preferred Embodiment~~

FIG. 1 is block diagram of a multi-processor communication arrangement. The processor arrangement depicted in FIG. 1 is suitable for implementation in secure
25 telephone terminals. One such secure telephone terminal is the super economic terminal or SET manufactured by Motorola, Inc. As shown in FIG. 1, processors 1-8 are shown connected to one another via bus 9. Processors 1-4 and 8 are shown. The ellipses represent processors 5-7 which are not shown
30 for the sake of simplicity. Processors 1-8 communicate by sending messages to one another.

Data processors 1 and 2 perform common communications functions between the SET terminal comprising processors 1-8 and other SET terminals (not shown) via a communication



network (not shown). Data processors 1 and 2 may be red and black processors for secure telephone terminal applications. Display processor 3 controls a display unit (not shown) associated with the secure telephone terminal. Test processor 4 provides for testing and maintenance of the secure telephone terminal. Adaptor processor 8 and the other processors (not shown) provide for interconnection to and communication with such external devices to the telephone such as facsimile and copying apparatus. This interconnection of processors 1-8 via bus 9 facilitates interprocessor communications of command-type information. This processor architecture is a distributed control architecture. That is, there is no master control processor. Distributed control processing allows for completely asynchronous operation of each of the processors within the terminal shown in FIG. 1.

Bus 9 is a zero dominant bus. Each of the processor 1-8 communicate via a half-duplex arrangement. The processors may include such processors as the Motorola DSP56001 or the 68HC11. The bus includes a single lead open collector path to which each of the processors are connected. Bus 9 is based on the 11-bit multi-drop mode of the DSP56001 and 68HC11 processors.

The bus protocol will use carrier sense multiple access with collision detection (CSMA/CD) for all message transfers among the processors. When a processor requires to transmit a message, the processor must first listen to the bus to ensure that the bus is not presently in use (carrier sense). If the bus is available, the processor may begin to transmit. If more than one processor begins to transmit simultaneously, a collision of data will result. All processors connected to the bus will detect a collision. In order to detect a collision, each processor receives and interprets the first two characters for framing errors and

pattern violations. If the first two characters are received correctly, that indicates that the transmission is proceeding collision free. If a collision occurs, the transmitting processors will abort the transmission and

5 "back-off" the bus for a particular amount of time prior to attempting to retransmit the message. A threshold time limit to wait before the retransmission of the message may be set. For the secure telephone terminal described herein, a maximum of three retrys is permitted. A fourth collision

10 indicates that a bus fault exists and the transmitting processor will no longer attempt to transmit messages until the processor is reset. The processor then declares itself faulty.

Referring to FIG. 2, a more detailed description of the processor arrangement of FIG. 1 is shown. Two processors 10 and 20 are shown. Processors 10 and 20 correspond to two of the processors shown in FIG. 1. The other processors are eliminated for the sake of simplicity of explanation.

15 Processor 10 includes processor 11 which is connected to UART (universal asynchronous receiver transmitter) 13. Processor 11 is connected to memory 16. Clock 15 is also connected to UART 13. UART 13 is connected to bus 9 via receive lead 17 and transmit lead 19.

Similarly, processor arrangement 20 includes processor

25 21 which is connected to UART 23. Processor 21 is also connected to memory 26. Clock 25 is also connected to UART 23. UART 23 is connected to bus 9 via receive lead 27 and transmit lead 29. Up to six other processors would be connected in a similar fashion. As previously mentioned,

30 the processors may be different processors such as the DSP56001 or the 68HC11. Different UARTs may be employed. Each UART which is used must have a character format of 11 bits. Clocks 15 and 25 and any other clock corresponding to

another processor arrangement provide the same frequency to each of the UARTs with a plus or minus 2 percent drift.

FIG. 3 depicts the character format for messages transmitted among the processors 1-8 via bus 9. The character (byte) formatting includes one start bit, followed by 8 data bits, D0 - D7, followed by two stop bits. Since bus 9 is a zero dominant bus, it is typically at logic 1. Therefore, the start bit makes a transition from logic 1 to logic 0. Data bits D0 - D7 may take on either value logic 1 or logic 0. The two stop bits are each at a logic 1 value. Therefore, on consecutive characters a transition is always made from logic 1 to logic 0 when a new character is sent for transmission.

Referring to FIG. 4, typical message 30 is shown. Message 30 which may be sent from one processor to another includes source byte 31 followed by another duplicate (of byte 31) source byte 32 followed by destination byte 33. Next, a number of data bytes 34 follow. Lastly, idle byte 35 ends the message 30.

Source bytes 31 and 32 are the identity of the processor which is transmitting the message. Destination byte 33 is the identity of the processor which is to receive the message. The values for source bytes 31, 32 and destination byte 33 which identify each of processors 1-8 are shown below in Table 1. Table 1 is stored in memory 16, 26 and others (not shown). Address field bytes 31, 32, 33 include bits D0 - D7 with D0 being the low order and D7 being the highest order bit. For each of processors 1-8 a particular bit in the address field byte is set to logic 1. For example, for processor 1, D0 is set to logic 1. For processor 2, D1 is set to logic 1, etc. An address field byte of all zeros is a illegal address. A processor receiving a source byte 31 or 32 with a framing error or an

illegal address indicates that there has been a data collision on bus 9.

TABLE 1

5

Address Field (BYTE)								Destination Processor
D0	D1	D2	D3	D4	D5	D6	D7	
0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	Illegal Address
1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	Processor 1
0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	Processor 2
0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	Processor 3
0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	Processor 4
0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	Processor 5
0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	Processor 6
0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	Processor 7
0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	Processor 8

Each processor on bus 9 checks every message that is transmitted. In this way, each processor determines whether the message is for that processor and whether a data collision has occurred. If a data collision has occurred, each processor sets its own local data collision flag.

Referring to FIG. 5, the process for transmitting a message from one processor to another is shown. This process is executed by each of processors 1-8 when it is determined they need to transmit a message to another processor. When a processor determines that data transmission is required, block 40 is entered. Block 40 transfers control to block 42. Block 42 determines whether bus 9 interconnecting processors 1-8 is idle. If bus 9 is busy, block 42 repeats the testing of whether bus 9 is idle until such time as bus 9 becomes idle. When bus 9 is idle, block 42 transfers control to block 44 via the YES path. The bus test of block 52 may be implemented in various ways. These particular implementations will be shown later.

Next, each processor checks its own local collision flag to determine whether it is set. If the processor's

local collision flag is set, block 44 transfers control to block 46 via the YES path. This indicates that other processors were transmitting messages when a data collision occurred. Block 46 then backs-off the bus (waits a
 5 predetermined maximum time before attempting to transmit again). Block 46 then after waiting transfers control to block 42 to determine whether the bus is idle.

If the collision flag is not set, block 44 transfers control to block 48 via the NO path. Block 48 initiates the
 10 data transmission according to the protocol shown in FIG. 4. The UART (universal asynchronous receiver transmitter) begins transmitting data over the bus. The receiver portion of the UART reads the transmitted data including source bytes 31 and 32 of FIG. 4 (block 50). Block 51 determines
 15 whether only one bit is set in each of the source bytes. As previously mentioned, the source bytes identify the processor who is transmitting the data. Valid source bytes for each of the processors are shown in Table 1. If a framing error or an illegal address is detected, this
 20 indicates a data collision occurred. For the data collision situation block 51 transfers control to block 58 via the NO path. If only one bit is set in each of the source bytes, block 51 transfers control to block 52 via the YES path. Optionally, block 52 determines whether the same bit is set
 25 for each of the source bytes 31 and 32. If the same bits are not set, block 52 transfers control to block 58 via the NO path. Block 58 backs-off the bus (waits a predetermined time) according to Table 2. The times set in Table 2 for each of the processors including the maximum time used by
 30 block 46 are organized such that N9, the maximum time, is greater than any of the other back-off times, N8 - N1. N8 is greater than N7, N7 is greater than N6, etc. As a result, if block 51 and block 52 detected a NO result to the test, this indicates that the particular processor has had a

data collision with another processor. Each of the processors involved then backs-off a predetermined amount of time according to Table 2 before attempting to retransmit. In this way, processor 1 is given priority over all the other processors. Processor 2 is given priority over all the other processors except processor 1 and so forth. Further, Table 2 may be dynamically changed to give particular processors priority over other processors. Also, the maximum time N9 may be dynamically changed to be a longer or shorter time, greater than each of the other times N1 - N8.

TABLE 2

Processor	Back-off Time (in character times)
Processor 1	N1
Processor 2	N2
Processor 3	N3
Processor 4	N4
Processor 5	N5
Processor 6	N6
Processor 7	N7
Processor 8	N8
Maximum Time	N9

If only one bit is set in each of the source bytes and it is the same bit set for both source bytes 31 and 32, block 51 transfers control to block 54 via the YES path. Since no data collisions have been detected, block 54 continues the message transmission of the protocol shown in FIG. 4. The process is then ended, block 56.

FIG. 6 depicts the details of the bus idle test, block 42 of FIG. 5. The bus idle test is entered and block 60 transfers control to block 61. This testing allows UARTs with and without idle receive indicators to be employed in the system design. Block 61 determine whether the UART associated with this processor has an idle receive

indicator, block 61. If the particular UART has an idle receive indicator, block 61 transfers control to block 62 via the YES path. The processor then reads the indicator from the UART, block 62. Block 63 tests the indicator to determine whether it is set. If the indicator is set, block 63 transfers control to block 64 via the NO path. Block 64 continues on with the process, that is, block 44 is given control as shown in FIG. 5. If the indicator is set, block 63 transfers control to block 61 via the YES path and the bus idle process is repeated until the bus becomes idle.

If the UART did not have a receive indicator, block 61 transfers control to block 66 via the NO path. Block 66 determines whether there are eleven consecutive bit times of logic 1. Since the bus is at logic 1 unless the processors are communicating, eleven consecutive bit times of logic 1 indicate that the bus is idle. If there are eleven consecutive bit times of logic 1, block 66 transfers control to block 67 via the YES path and the process continues. This corresponds to the transfer from block 42 to block 44 of FIG. 5. If the bus is busy, eleven consecutive bit times of logic 1 will not be seen and block 66 transfers control to block 61 via the NO path. The bus idle status will then be re-examined until the bus is idle. This corresponds to the NO path of block 42 of FIG. 5.

Data collisions on the bus are affected by the following system designs. First, all processors may transmit and receive asynchronously from the other processors. Second, transmitting and receiving bit clocks may vary plus or minus 2 percent for a worst case difference of 4 percent between two transmitting processors. Third, the processors sample the data on the bus by detecting the start bit of the eleven-bit character and sampling the data bits at the mid-bit point with reference to the falling edge of the start bit.

If there is no clock skew (clock rate difference) then mid-bit sample detects data collisions. In order to detect data collisions given the above system design (referencing the falling edge of the start bit of the first transmitting processor as a reference point), and assuming a maximum 4 percent clock skew, there are three conditions which must be analyzed. These conditions are: (1) transmission starting from within zero to 50 percent (of a bit time) from the reference edge; (2) transmissions starting after 86 percent (of a bit time) from the reference edge; and (3) transmissions starting from within 51 percent to 85 percent (of a bit time) from the reference edge. For the first condition (zero to 50 percent), each processor will detect an invalid source byte within the first character. This is due to the mid-bit sampling approach which, for example, will detect an all zeros source byte and interpret this as a data collision.

For the second condition (greater than 86 percent shift in the transmission from the reference edge), a data collision will be detected as an invalid source byte or a framing error within the first character. A framing error within the first character will occur because the 4 percent drift between the two reference clocks over bits 2 - 10 of the first character of the source byte will cause the leading edge of both processors bit 10 to be within 36 percent (9 bits + 4 percent/bit) of each other. To detect a framing error, the leading edge of one of the processors' bit 10 must cross the mid-bit sampling point which is at the 50 percent point of bit 10. Therefore, if one processor starts a transmission 87 percent past the reference point and has a 36 percent faster clock, the final edge will be 51 percent (87-36) into bit 10 of the first character. All processor receivers will therefore detect a framing error from their associated UART. To ensure that a framing error

will occur, two stop bits, each of a logic 1 have been employed as shown in FIG. 3.

For the third condition mentioned above (a data collision within 51 to 81 percent of the start bit), a data collision may not be detected as an invalid source byte or a framing error within the first character of the byte. Consider the following example. Bits 10 and 11 of each character will always be set to logic 1. Therefore, a drift of 36 percent can occur over 9 bits (4 percent drift per bit times 9 bits). This 36 percent drift can occur prior to bit 10. If one processor starts a transmission 51 to 86 percent past a reference point of the other processor and the first processor makes up a 36 percent difference due to a faster clock, the transmitted bit 10s of each processor will be within 15 (51-36) to 50 percent (81-36) of one another. Since each bit is sampled mid-bit (50 percent into the bit) each processor will see bit 10 as a valid stop bit and a framing error will not be detected. If the second processor begins transmitting 51 to 86 percent past the reference point of the first processor and the two processors have a source byte identity of two adjacent bits, then all receiving processors will see a valid source byte. This data collision will not be detected. All processors on the bus will begin sampling the data at mid-bit times with reference to the starting bit of the first processor. After 9 bits, processors A and B will have caught up allowing for the maximum 4 percent drift per bit. For bit 10, the difference between the two processors will be 50 percent of a bit time. As a result, all processors will sample bit 10 as a valid stop bit and a data collision will not be detected. In order to overcome the problem of the third condition, the source byte which uniquely identifies each processor is repeated as shown in FIG. 4, byte 32, by each processor. Allowing again for the maximum drift of 4

percent per bit, the second characters transmitted by each processor will have leading edges (the 12th transmitted bit) which differ by less than 33 percent (81-48). This error condition will be detected as in the first condition as mentioned above.

As can be seen from the above description, a multi-processor communication system is shown which detects data collisions and provides for prioritized access to the system data bus. This communication system provides for prioritizing subsequent communications among the processors according to a table-driven dynamically changeable arrangement. In addition, this system provides for processors which were not directly involved in a data collision from intervening with a request for access to the system bus prior to resolution of data collisions between other processors by having the non-colliding processor wait a maximum time limit before again attempting to transmit a message. This arrangement provides a multi-processor communication system in which data collisions are rapidly detected and communication among the processors is established by a prioritized arrangement. This prioritized arrangement is particularly useful in situations in which a number of processors are each performing a dedicated portion of the overall function of the system.

Although the preferred embodiment of the invention has been illustrated, and that form described in detail, it will be readily apparent to those skilled in the art that various modifications may be made therein without departing from the spirit of the invention or from the scope of the appended claims.

THE CLAIMS DEFINING THE INVENTION ARE AS FOLLOWS:

1. A method for data collision detection and resolution in a multi-processor communication system including a plurality of processors coupled by a bus, said method including the steps of:

first determining by one processor of said plurality of processors that communication is required with at least one other processor of said plurality of processors via a first message on said bus;

second determining by said one processor whether a data collision flag indicates that a previous data collision occurred from a transmission of another message;

maximum waiting by said one processor a maximum time, if said previous data collision occurred;

initiating by said one processor transmission of said first message, if said data collision flag indicates a previous data collision has not occurred;

checking to determine whether a new data collision occurred during transmission of said first message by each of said plurality of processors by checking a plurality of source indicators in said first message, said source indicators indicating an identity of a processor transmitting said first message;

continuing transmitting by said one processor said first message to said at least one other processor, if no data collision is determined;

waiting by said one processor a selective time, if said new data collision of said first message is determined; and

repeating by said one processor said steps of first determining, second determining, initiating, checking, continuing transmitting and waiting, if said new data collision of said first message is determined.

2. A method for data collision detection and resolution as claimed in claim 1, wherein there is further included the steps of:

third determining by said one processor whether said bus is idle prior to transmitting; and



second repeating by said one processor said step of third determining until said bus becomes idle, if said bus is not idle.

3. A method for data collision detection and resolution
5 as claimed in claim 2, wherein said step of second determining includes the steps of:

second waiting by said one processor a maximum time greater than said selective time, if a previous data collision occurred; and

10 third repeating by said one processor said steps of first determining, second determining, checking, waiting a selective time, repeating, transmitting, third determining, and second repeating if said first message incurred a data collision.

15 4. A method for data collision detection and resolution as claimed in claim 3, wherein said step of checking includes the steps of:

initiating by said one processor a transmission of said first message;

20 second checking by said one processor at least two of said source indicators from said transmitted message; and

fourth determining by said one processor whether only one-bit is set in each of said at least two source indicators of said message.
25

5. A method for data collision detection and resolution as claimed in claim 4, wherein said step of second checking further includes the step of fifth determining by said one processor whether, said one-bit set in each of
30 said at least two source indicators is in a same bit position within said source indicator.

6. A method for data collision detection and resolution as claimed in claim 5, wherein said step of waiting includes the steps of:

35 reading by said one processor from a table a value representing an amount of time;

third waiting by said one processor said amount of time before retransmitting said first message;

repeating by said one processor the steps of first



determining, second determining, checking, waiting a selective time, repeating, transmitting, third determining, second repeating, initiating, second checking, fourth determining, fifth determining, reading, and third waiting; and

said steps of reading and third waiting and repeating being performed after said step of fifth determining for other than one-bit being set of said source indicators or if the bits set in said source indicators are not in the same position within said source indicators.

7. A method for data collision detection and resolution as claimed in claim 6, wherein said step of transmitting includes the step of continuing to transmit by said one processor said message to said at least one other processor, after said step of fifth determining that only one-bit is set in each source indicator and said one-bit is in the same position within each source indicator.

8. In a multi-processor communication system including a plurality of processors coupled by a bus, a data collision detection arrangement including:

a plurality of means for transmitting coupled to said bus and each of said plurality of means for transmitting being coupled to a corresponding one of said plurality of processors;

a plurality of means for receiving coupled to said bus and each of said plurality of means for receiving being coupled to a corresponding one of said processors, said means for receiving a transmitted message via said bus;

said plurality of said means for transmitting including means for initiating transmitting a first message from a source processor to at least one destination processors;

means for determining by each of said processors whether a data collision occurred between said first message and other messages by examining a source processor indicator in said first message;

said means for determining including first means for



checking by each of said plurality of processors at least two consecutive source words including said source processor indicator for determining that each source word has only one bit set to a particular logic value, each bit of said source word indicating an identity of a particular one of said plurality of processors;

means for waiting by said source processor a selective time before transmitting said first message again, if a data collision is determined; and

said means for continuing transmitting said first message of said source processor operating to continue transmission of said first message, if no data collision is determined.

9. A method and apparatus for data collision detection and resolution in a multi-processor communication system substantially as shown in the drawings.

DATED: 4 October, 1994.

PHILLIPS ORMONDE & FITZPATRICK
Attorneys for:
MOTOROLA INC.

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METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR DATA COLLISION DETECTION
IN A MULTI-PROCESSOR COMMUNICATION SYSTEM

Abstract of the Disclosure

5

A method and apparatus for data collision detection and resolution in a multi-processor communication system. The system includes a plurality of processors (1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8) coupled via a common bus (9). When it is required
10 that one processor (1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 or 8) communicate with another processor (1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 or 8), the first processor (1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 or 8) determines whether a data collision flag is set. The processor (1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 or 8) then checks a number of indicators to determine
15 whether the identity of the transmitting processor (1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 or 8) is what it is expected to be. If a data collision is found, the processor (1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 or 8) waits a selective time before transmitting a message (30). The processor (1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 or 8) then repeats the
20 data collision checking and transmitting the message (30) to the other processor (1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 or 8) when no data collision is found. The time to wait is dependent upon the identity of the processor (1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 or 8) and is table driven.

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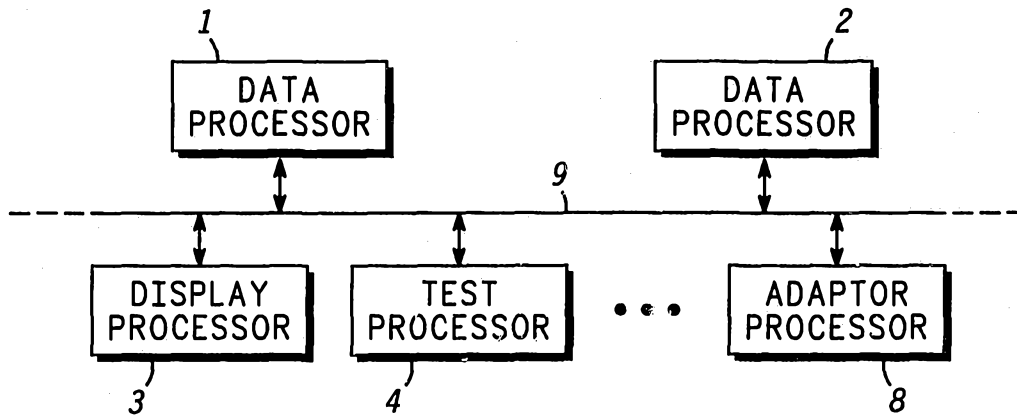


FIG. 1

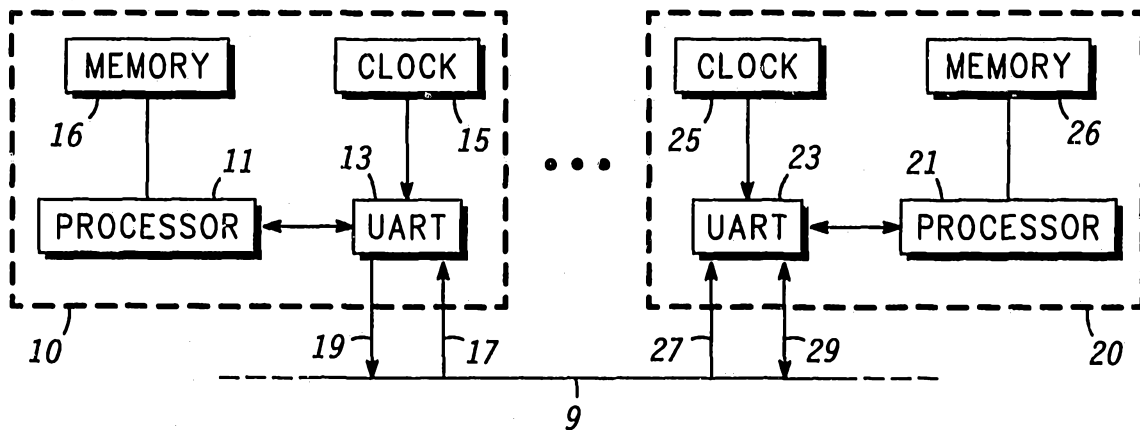


FIG. 2

FIG. 3

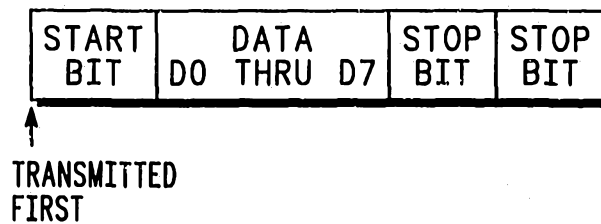
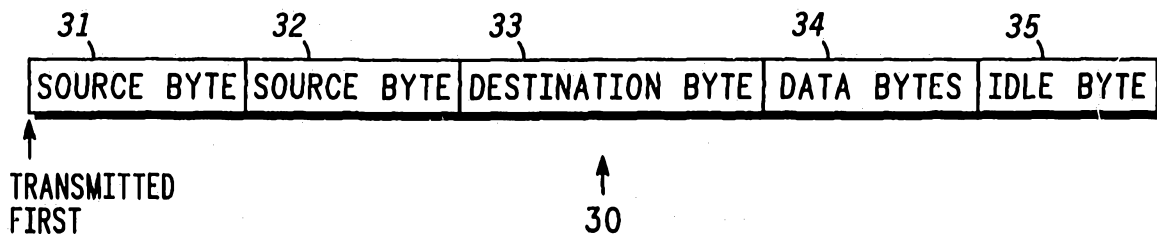


FIG. 4



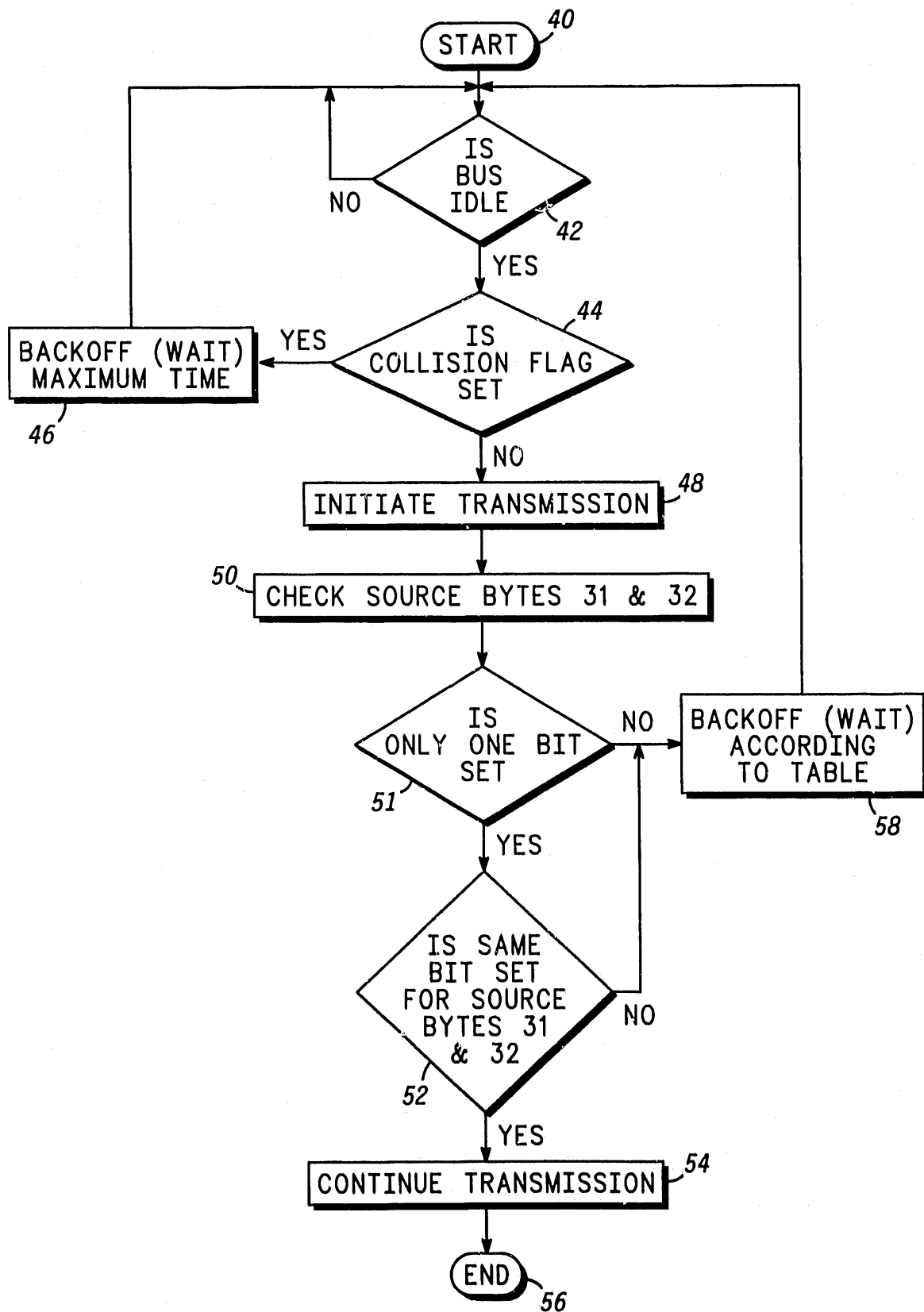


FIG. 5

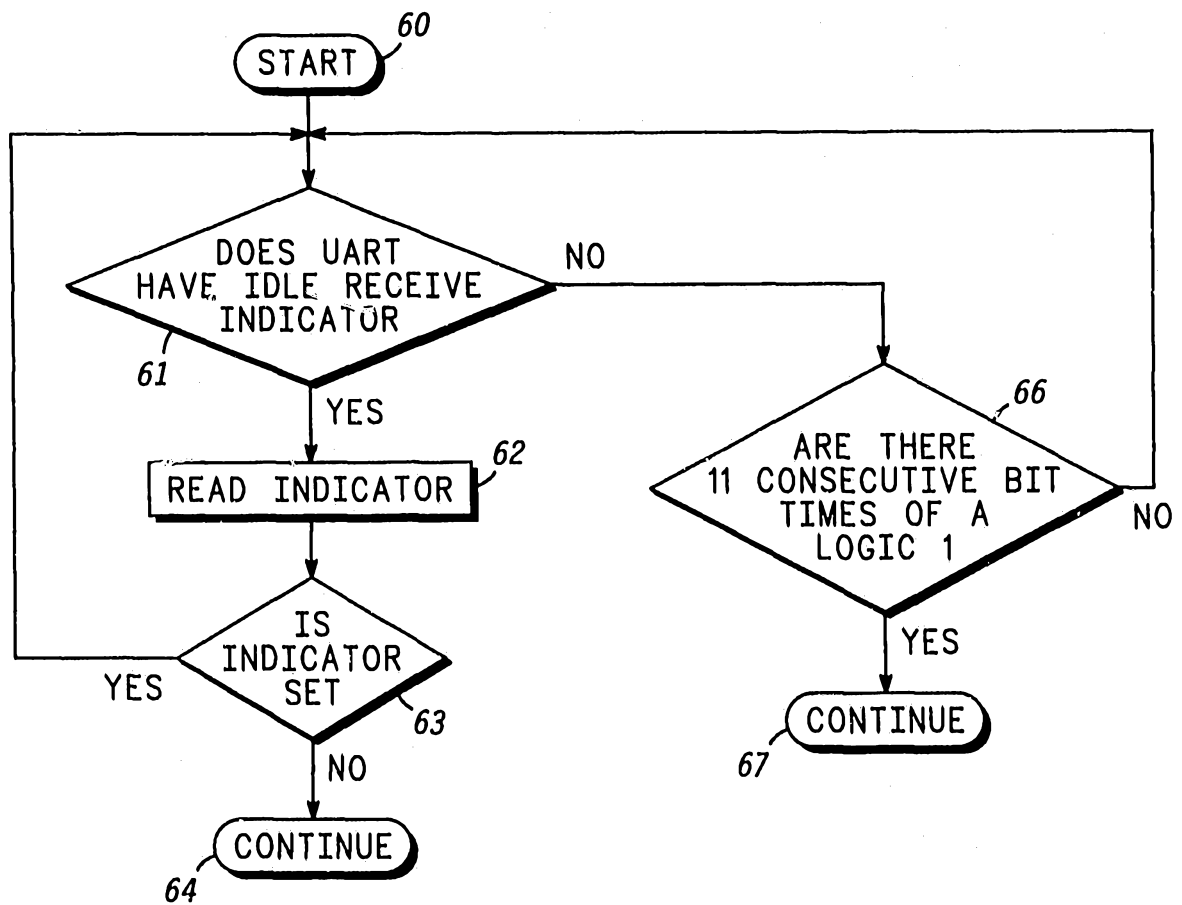


FIG. 6