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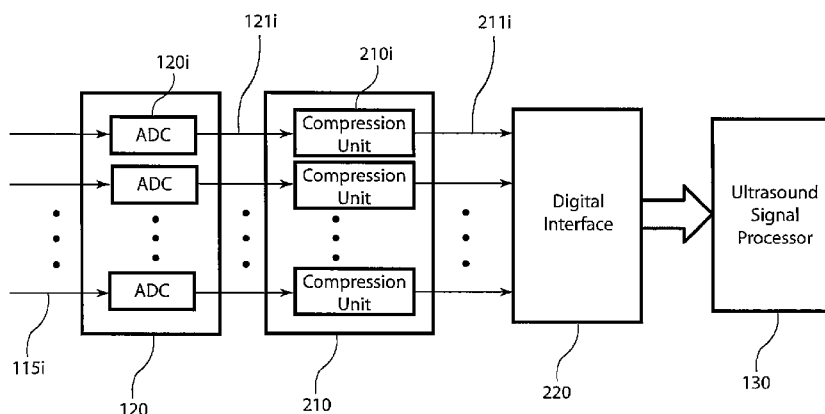


Figure 5

(57) Abstract: A method and an apparatus for an ultrasound system provide compression of ultrasound signal samples after analog to digital conversion and before beamforming. The analog ultrasound signals received from an array of ultrasound transducer elements are digitally sampled by a plurality of analog to digital converters (ADCs) to produce a plurality of sequences of signal samples. Each sequence of signal samples is compressed to form a corresponding sequence of compressed samples. The resulting sequences of compressed samples are transferred via a digital interface to an ultrasound signal processor. At the ultrasound signal processor, the received sequences of compressed samples are decompressed. The typical processing operations, such as beamforming, downconversion and detection, are applied to decompressed samples. This abstract does not limit the scope of the invention as described in the claims.

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER*A61B 8/00(2006.01)i, G06T 13/00(2006.01)i, G06T 15/00(2006.01)i*

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

B. FIELDS SEARCHED

Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)

A61B 8/00

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

Korean utility models and applications for utility models

Japanese utility models and applications for utility models

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

eKOMPASS(KIPO internal) & Keywords: ultrasonic, compress, multiplexer, ADC

C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category*	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
A	US 6315722 B1 (YABGASHI; MITSUTOSHI) 13 November 2001 See claims 1-5, and figures 1-3	1-43
A	US 2007-0239019 A1 (WILLIAM RICHARD et al.) 11 October 2007 See claims 1-20, and figures 1-4	1-43
A	US 2005-0124890 A1 (MENACHEM HALMANN et al.) 09 June 2005 See claims 1-52, and figures 1-5	1-43
A	US 2005-0148878 A1 (PHELPS ROBERT N et al.) 07 July 2005 See claims 1-24, and figures 1-4	1-43



Further documents are listed in the continuation of Box C.



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INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

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