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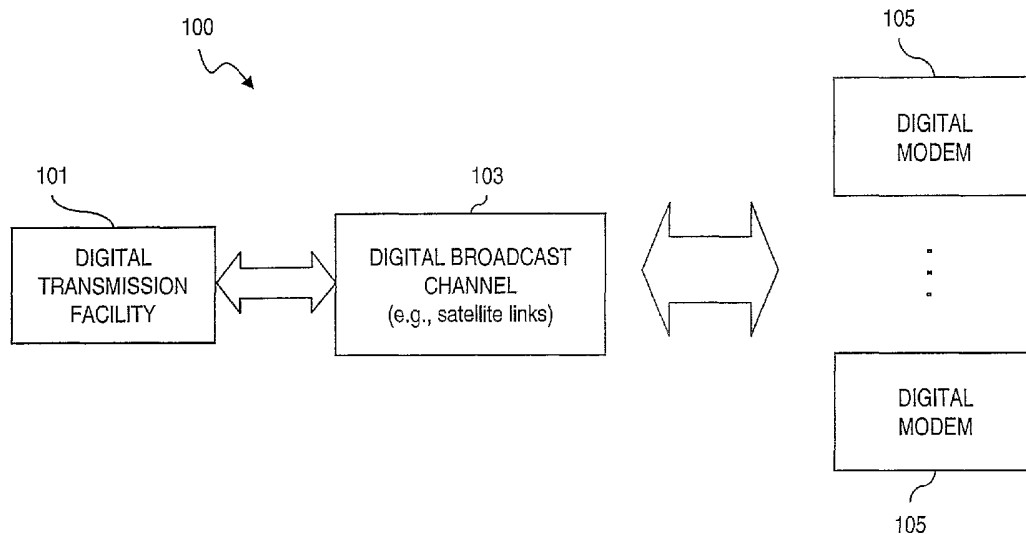
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METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR MINIMIZING CO-CHANNEL INTERFERENCE BY SCRAMBLING

RELATED APPLICATIONS

[0001] This application claims the benefit of the earlier filing date under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) of U.S. Provisional Application Serial No. 60/583,410 filed June 28, 2004, entitled “Scrambling of Physical Layer Header and Pilot Symbol in DVB-S2 to Reduce Co-Channel Interference,” and U.S. Provisional Application Serial No. 60/585,654 filed July 6, 2004, entitled “Scrambling of Physical Layer Header and Pilot Symbol in DVB-S2 to Reduce Co-Channel Interference”; the entireties of which are incorporated herein by reference.

FIELD OF THE INVENTION

[0002] The present invention relates to communication systems, and more particularly to combating signal interference.

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

[0003] Broadcast systems have embraced the demand for high quality transmissions made possible by digital technology. The digital revolution has transformed the delivery of broadband services, including audio and video programming as well as data transmission. Satellite communication systems have emerged as a viable solution for supporting such broadband services. As such, power and bandwidth efficient modulation and coding are highly desirable for satellite communications systems to provide reliable communication across noisy communication channels. Receiver performance is negatively impacted by co-channel interference. Such interference occurs largely from frequency-reuse, as spectral allocation of frequencies is finite and expensive. In practical applications, the co-channel interference may stem from transmission of other system operators, a satellite operating in adjacent orbital slots, or other spot beams in a spot beam satellite system.

[0004] Traditionally, the negative effects of co-channel interference have been minimized by redesigning the frequency assignments or altering (by upgrading) the transmission facilities to confine the spreading of the signals. These approaches require significant engineering investments (assuming that a technical solution is even possible); this necessarily entails significant costs.

[0005] Therefore, there is a need for a communication system that minimizes co-channel interference without requiring substantial system redesign.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

[0006] These and other needs are addressed by the present invention, wherein an approach is provided for minimizing co-channel interference in a digital broadcast and interactive system. It is recognized that the cross-correlations between co-channel frames are periodic in nature. Each of these frames includes a header and a pilot sequence for synchronization of carrier phase and carrier frequency. Non-header portions of the frames are scrambled according to respective different scrambling sequences to minimize interference between the co-channels. According to one embodiment of the present invention, different initialization seeds are supplied to a Gold sequence generator for each of the co-channels to produce the different scrambling sequences. The above arrangement advantageously reduces the impact of co-channel interference, thereby enhancing receiver performance.

[0007] According to one aspect of an embodiment of the present invention, a method for minimizing co-channel interference in a communication system is disclosed. The method includes assigning a first scrambling sequence, associated with a header or a pilot sequence of a first frame, to a first co-channel. The method also includes assigning a second scrambling sequence, associated with a header or a pilot sequence of a second frame, to a second co-channel that is adjacent to the first co-channel. The non-header portions of the frames are scrambled according to the respective different scrambling sequences.

[0008] According to another aspect of an embodiment of the present invention, an apparatus for minimizing co-channel interference in a communication system is disclosed. The apparatus includes a scrambler configured to assign a first scrambling sequence, associated with a header or a pilot sequence of a first frame, to a first co-channel. The scrambler assigns a second scrambling sequence, associated with a header or a pilot sequence of a second frame, to a second co-channel that is adjacent to the first co-channel. The non-header portions of the frames are scrambled according to the respective scrambling sequences.

[0009] According to another aspect of an embodiment of the present invention, a method for communicating in a radio communication system is disclosed. The method includes transmitting

a plurality of frames over different communication channels established over the radio communication system. The communication channels are adjacent co-channels. Each of the frames includes a header and a pilot sequence for synchronization of carrier phase and carrier frequency, and non-header portions of the frames are scrambled according to respective different scrambling sequences to minimize interference between the co-channels.

[0010] According to another aspect of an embodiment of the present invention, an apparatus for communicating in a radio communication system is disclosed. The apparatus includes a transmitter configured to transmit a plurality of frames over different communication channels established over the radio communication system, wherein the communication channels are adjacent co-channels. Each of the frames includes a header and a pilot sequence for synchronization of carrier phase and carrier frequency, and non-header portions of the frames are scrambled according to respective different scrambling sequences to minimize interference between the co-channels.

[0011] According to another aspect of an embodiment of the present invention, method for communicating in a radio communication system is disclosed. The method includes receiving a plurality of frames over different communication channels established over the radio communication system. The communication channels are adjacent co-channels. Each of the frames includes a header and a pilot sequence for synchronization of carrier phase and carrier frequency, and non-header portions of the frames are scrambled according to respective different scrambling sequences to minimize interference between the co-channels.

[0012] According to yet another aspect of an embodiment of the present invention, an apparatus for communicating in a radio communication system is disclosed. The apparatus includes a receiver configured to receive a plurality of frames over different communication channels established over the radio communication system, wherein the communication channels are adjacent co-channels. Each of the frames includes a header and a pilot sequence for synchronization of carrier phase and carrier frequency, and non-header portions of the frames are scrambled according to respective different scrambling sequences to minimize interference between the co-channels.

[0013] Still other aspects, features, and advantages of the present invention are readily apparent from the following detailed description, simply by illustrating a number of particular embodiments and implementations, including the best mode contemplated for carrying out the present invention. The present invention is also capable of other and different embodiments, and its several details can be modified in various obvious respects, all without departing from the spirit and scope of the present invention. Accordingly, the drawings and description are to be regarded as illustrative in nature, and not as restrictive.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

[0014] The present invention is illustrated by way of example, and not by way of limitation, in the figures of the accompanying drawings and in which like reference numerals refer to similar elements and in which:

[0015] FIG. 1 is a diagram of a digital broadcast system capable of minimizing co-channel interference, according to an embodiment of the present invention;

[0016] FIG. 2 is a diagram of an exemplary transmitter employed in the digital transmission facility of the system of FIG. 1;

[0017] FIG. 3 is a diagram of an exemplary digital modem in the system of FIG. 1;

[0018] FIG. 4 is a diagram of an exemplary frame structure used in the system of FIG. 1;

[0019] FIGs. 5A and 5B are, respectively, a diagram of a scrambler for isolating co-channel interference and a diagram of a Gold sequence generator for outputting Gold codes used to construct scrambling codes, according to various embodiments of the present invention;

[0020] FIG. 6 is a diagram showing the periodic nature of the cross-correlation between co-channel frames, in accordance with an embodiment of the present invention;

[0021] FIG. 7 is a diagram of an exemplary Gold sequence generator used in the scrambler of FIG. 6;

[0022] FIG. 8 is a flowchart of a process for generating different physical layer sequences, according to an embodiment of the present invention;

[0023] FIG. 9 is a flowchart of process for generating scrambled physical headers, according to an embodiment of the present invention;

[0024] FIGs. 10 and 11 are tables showing the worst-case cross-correlations of pilot-segments for each pair of co-channels for determining the initialization seeds of the m-generator of FIG. 7; and

[0025] FIG. 12 is a diagram of a hardware platform that can perform the various processes for isolating co-channel interference, in accordance with embodiments of the present invention.

DESCRIPTION OF THE PREFERRED EMBODIMENT

[0026] An apparatus, method, and software for reducing co-channel interference in a digital broadcast and interactive system are described. In the following description, for the purposes of explanation, numerous specific details are set forth in order to provide a thorough understanding of the present invention. It is apparent, however, to one skilled in the art that the present invention may be practiced without these specific details or with an equivalent arrangement. In other instances, well-known structures and devices are shown in block diagram form in order to avoid unnecessarily obscuring the present invention.

[0027] FIG. 1 is a diagram of a digital broadcast system capable of minimizing co-channel interference, according to an embodiment of the present invention. The digital communications system 100 includes a digital transmission facility 101 that generates signal waveforms for broadcast across a communication channel 103 to one or more digital modems 105. According to one embodiment of the present invention, the communication system 100 is a satellite communication system that supports, for example, audio and video broadcast services as well as interactive services. Interactive services include, for example, electronic programming guides (EPGs), high-speed internet access, interactive advertising, telephony, and email services. These interactive services can also encompass such television services as Pay Per View, TV Commerce, Video On Demand, Near Video On Demand and Audio On Demand services. In this environment, the modems 105 are satellite modems.

[0028] In broadcast applications, continuous mode modems 105 are widely used. Codes that perform well in low signal-to-noise (SNR) environments are at odds with these modems with respect to synchronization (e.g., carrier phase and carrier frequency). Physical layer header and/or pilot symbols can be used for such synchronization. Accordingly, an important consideration with respect to system performance is that of co-channel interference on physical layer header and/or pilot symbols. Because physical layer header and/or pilots are used for acquiring and/or tracking carrier phase, carrier frequency, such interference can degrade receiver performance.

[0029] Conventional digital broadcast systems (not shown) require use of additional training symbols beyond that of the normal overhead bits in a frame structure for their synchronization processes. The increase in overhead is particularly required when the Signal-to-Noise (SNR) is low; such an environment is typical when high performance codes are used conjunction with high order modulation. Traditionally, continuous mode modems utilize a feedback control loop to acquire and track carrier frequency and phase. In this synchronization process, the FEC (Forward Error Correction) coded data fields, e.g., preambles of a block code, which contain known data symbols, are simply ignored. Such conventional approaches that are purely based on feedback control loops are prone to strong Radio Frequency (RF) phase noise and thermal noise, causing high cycle slip rates and an error floor on the overall receiver performance. Thus these approaches are burdened by increased overhead in terms of training symbols for certain performance target, in addition to limited acquisition range and long acquisition time. Further, these conventional synchronization techniques are dependent on the particular modulation scheme, thereby hindering flexibility in use of modulation schemes.

[0030] In the system 100 of FIG. 1, the modems 105 achieve carrier synchronization by examining the preambles and/or unique words (UW) that are embedded in broadcast data frame structures (shown in FIG. 4), thereby reducing the use of additional overhead specifically designated for training purposes. The digital modems 105 are more fully described below with respect to FIG. 3.

[0031] In this discrete communications system 100, the transmission facility 101 produces a discrete set of possible messages representing media content (e.g., audio, video, textual information, data, etc.); each of the possible messages has a corresponding signal waveform. These signal waveforms are attenuated, or otherwise altered, by communications channel 103. To combat the noise channel 103, the transmission facility 101 utilizes Low Density Parity Check (LDPC) codes.

[0032] The LDPC codes that are generated by the transmission facility 101 enable high speed implementation without incurring any performance loss. These structured LDPC codes output from the transmission facility 101 avoid assignment of a small number of check nodes to the bit

nodes already vulnerable to channel errors by virtue of the modulation scheme (e.g., 8PSK). Such LDPC codes have a parallelizable decoding process (unlike turbo codes), which advantageously involves simple operations such as addition, comparison and table look-up. Moreover, carefully designed LDPC codes do not exhibit any sign of error floor.

[0033] According to one embodiment of the present invention, the transmission facility 101 generates, using a relatively simple encoding technique as explained below in FIG. 2, LDPC codes based on parity check matrices (which facilitate efficient memory access during decoding) to communicate with the satellite modem 105.

[0034] FIG. 2 is a diagram of an exemplary transmitter employed in the digital transmission facility of the system of FIG. 1. A transmitter 200 is equipped with an LDPC encoder 203 that accepts input from an information source 201 and outputs coded stream of higher redundancy suitable for error correction processing at the receiver 105. The information source 201 generates k signals from a discrete alphabet, X . LDPC codes are specified with parity check matrices. On the other hand, encoding LDPC codes require, in general, specifying the generator matrices. Even though it is possible to obtain generator matrices from parity check matrices using Gaussian elimination, the resulting matrix is no longer sparse and storing a large generator matrix can be complex.

[0035] Encoder 203 generates signals from alphabet Y to a modulator 205 using a simple encoding technique that makes use of only the parity check matrix by imposing structure onto the parity check matrix. Specifically, a restriction is placed on the parity check matrix by constraining certain portion of the matrix to be triangular. Such a restriction results in negligible performance loss, and therefore, constitutes an attractive trade-off. The construction of such a parity check matrix is described more fully described in a co-pending patent application filed July 3, 2003, and entitled, "Method and System for Providing Low Density Parity Check (LDPC) Encoding" (Attorney Docket No. PD-203016; Serial No. 10/613,823); the entirety of which is incorporated herein by reference.

[0036] Modulator 205 maps the encoded messages from encoder 203 to signal waveforms that are transmitted to a transmit antenna 207, which emits these waveforms over the

communication channel 103. Accordingly, the encoded messages are modulated and distributed to a transmit antenna 207. The transmissions from the transmit antenna 207 propagate to a digital modem, as discussed below. In the case of a satellite communication system, the transmitted signals from the antenna 207 are relayed via a satellite. The transmitter 200 further includes a scrambler 209 for altering symbols for transmission as to minimize co-channel interference, as more fully described below.

[0037] FIG. 3 is a diagram of an exemplary digital modem in the system of FIG. 1. The digital modem 300, as a modulator/demodulator, supports both transmission and reception of signals from the transmitter 200. According to one embodiment of the present invention, the modem 300 has a front-end module 301 that provides filtering and symbol timing synchronization of the LDPC encoded signals received from antenna 303, a carrier synchronization module 302 that provides frequency and phase acquisition and tracking of the signals output from the front-end module 301. A demapper 305 performs demapping of received signals output from the carrier synchronization module 302. After demodulation, the signals are forwarded to a LDPC decoder 307, which attempts to reconstruct the original source messages by generating messages, X' .

[0038] On the transmission side, the modem 300 utilizes a LDPC encoder 309 to encode input signals. The encoded signals are then modulated by a modulator 311, which can employ a variety of modulation schemes – e.g., Binary Phase Shift Keying (BPSK), Quadrature Phase Shift Keying (QPSK), 8PSK, 16 Amplitude Phase Shift Keying (APSK), 32APSK, a high order Quadrature Amplitude Modulation (QAM), or other high order modulation schemes.

[0039] FIG. 4 is a diagram of an exemplary frame structure used in the system of FIG. 1. By way of example, an LDPC coded frame 400, which can support, for example, satellite broadcasting and interactive services, is shown. The frame 400 includes a Physical Layer Header (denoted “PLHEADER”) 401 and occupies one slot, as well as other slots 403 for data or other payload. In addition, the frame 400, according to one embodiment of the present invention, utilizes a pilot block 405 to aid synchronization of carrier phase and frequency. It is noted that the pilot block 405 is optional, and is inserted via a pilot insertion process. Although shown after

16 slots 403, the pilot block (or pilot sequence) 405, which represents a Unique Word (UW), can be inserted anywhere along the frame 400.

[0040] In an exemplary embodiment, the pilot insertion process inserts pilot blocks every 1440 symbols. Under this scenario, the pilot block includes 36 pilot symbols. For instance, in the physical layer frame 400, the first pilot block is thus inserted 1440 symbols after the PLHEADER, the second pilot block is inserted after 2880 symbols, and etc. If the pilot block position coincides with the beginning of the next PLHEADER, then the pilot block is not inserted. The above pilot insertion process is further detailed in co-pending application, entitled "Method and Apparatus for Providing Carrier Synchronization in Digital Broadcast and Interactive Systems" (filed May 10, 2004; Serial No. 10/842,325); which is incorporated herein in its entirety.

[0041] The carrier synchronization module 302 (FIG. 3), according to an embodiment of the present invention, utilizes the PLHEADER 401 and/or UWs 405 for carrier frequency and phase synchronization. As previously mentioned, conventionally, the FEC coded data, which contains known data symbols (e.g., the PLHEADER 401), are ignored in continuous mode modems. That is, the PLHEADER 401 and/or UWs 405 are used for carrier synchronization, i.e., for assisting with the operation of frequency acquisition and tracking, and phase tracking loop. As such, the PLHEADER 401 and UWs 405 are considered "training" or "pilot" symbols, and constitute, individually or collectively, a training block.

[0042] For 8PSK modulation, the pilot sequence 405 is a 36-symbol long segment (with each symbol being $(1+j)/\sqrt{2}$); that is, 36 symbols (PSK). In the frame 400, the pilot sequence 405 can be inserted after 1440 symbols of data. Under this scenario, the PLHEADER 401 can have 64 possible formats depending on the modulation, coding and pilot configuration.

[0043] To mitigate the effect of co-channel interference, the non-header portion 407 of the frame 400 is scrambled. The scrambling process is further explained with respect to FIGs. 5A, 5B, 8 and 9. As used herein, the scrambled pilot sequence is also denoted as a "pilot-segment" of the frame 400. Further, although the frame 400 exhibits a structure for an 8PSK-modulated

frame, when transmitting in the long-frame mode (e.g., 64800 data bits/frame), a QPSK-modulated frame can contain 22 pilot-segments.

[0044] Although the frame 400 is described with respect to a structure that supports satellite broadcasting and interactive services (and compliant with the Digital Video Broadcast (DVB) – S2 standard), it is recognized that the carrier synchronization techniques of the present invention can be applied to other frame structures.

[0045] FIG. 5A is a diagram of a scrambler for isolating co-channel interference, according to an embodiment of the present invention. A scrambling code is a complex sequence that can be constructed from a Gold code, according to one embodiment of the present invention. That is, a scrambler 209 generates a scrambling sequence $R_n(i)$. Table 1 defines how the scrambling sequence $R_n(i)$ scrambles the frame using the scrambler 209, according to the scrambler logic of FIG. 7. In particular, Table 1 shows the mapping of an input symbol to an output symbol based on the output of the scrambler 209.

$Rn(i)$	Input(i)	Output(i)
0	$I+jQ$	$I+jQ$
1	$I+jQ$	$-Q+jI$
2	$I+jQ$	$-I-jQ$
3	$I+jQ$	$Q-jI$

Table 1

[0046] Different Gold sequences can be generated by using different seeds for either of the two m -sequence generators. By using different seeds for different services, the mutual interference can be reduced.

[0047] In a broadcast mode, the 90 symbol physical layer header 401 can remain constant for a particular physical channel. The Gold sequence is reset at the beginning of each frame, and thus, the scrambled pilots are periodical as well with a period equal to the frame length. Because the information carrying data in a frame varies and appears to be random, the co-channel interference is random and degrades the operating signal-to-noise ratio. However, due to the nature of time-invariance of the physical layer header 401 and the pilot block 405, the carrier and phase estimation is skewed for a receiver depending on these pilots and physical layer header for such acquisition and tracking. This will degrade the performance beyond those of signal-to-noise ratio degradation associated with random data.

[0048] The scrambler 209 utilizes different scrambling sequences (n in number) to further isolate the co-channel interference. Each scrambling sequence, or pilot sequence, corresponds to a different seed n . By way of example, 17 possible configurations are provided, as shown in Table 2 below. In each configuration, one scrambling sequence is provided for the physical layer header and one for the pilots. Different pilots are specified in terms of different seed of the Gold sequences.

[0049] FIG. 5B provides a diagram of a Gold sequence generator for outputting Gold codes used to construct scrambling codes, in accordance with an embodiment of the present invention.

As shown, a Gold Sequence Generator 500 employs two Pseudo-Noise (PN) Sequence Generators 501, 503 to generate a “preferred pair” of sequences. The “preferred pair” can be specified by “preferred polynomials” (as seen in the scrambler of FIG. 7). The outputs of these PN Sequence Generators 501, 503 are fed to an XOR logic 505, which performs an Exclusive-OR function on the output sequences to produce a Gold sequence. The Gold Sequence Generator 500 generates Gold sequences from a large class of sequences that exhibit good periodic cross-correlation properties. The Gold sequences are defined using a specified pair of sequences u and v , of period $N = 2^n - 1$; such a pair is termed a “preferred pair.” The set $G(u, v)$ of Gold sequences is defined as follows:

$$G(u, v) = \{u, v, u \oplus v, u \oplus Tv, u \oplus T^2v, \dots, u \oplus T^{N-1}v\}, \quad \text{Eq. (1)}$$

where T represents the operator that shifts vectors cyclically to the left by one place, and $\oplus$ represents modulo 2 addition. It is noted that $G(u, v)$ contains $N + 2$ sequences of period N . Gold sequences have the property that the cross-correlation between any two, or between shifted versions of them, assumes one of three values: $-t(n)$, -1 , or $t(n) - 2$, where

$$t(n) = \begin{cases} 1 + 2^{(n+1)/2} & n \text{ even} \\ 1 + 2^{(n+2)/2} & n \text{ odd} \end{cases} \quad \text{Eq. (2)}$$

[0050] Turning back to the scrambler 209, in operation, different seed or physical layer sequences are used for “adjacent co-channel.” The scrambling mechanism of the scrambler 209 advantageously reduces the signaling by associating one by one between the physical layer signaling and the different seeds representing different Gold sequences. Table 2 enumerates the selection of the scrambling sequence for the physical layer header, in octal format.

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00000000000000000000000000000000
017441442073372365611356321532
265426356443536276670211411740
252227554465164204771634274377
776172163477102134531155722252
723677114643600327625322063065
530630226523726003613144773627
414501457322433557672435620361
436023561273755661226751405141
152764667421361462275664347537
765716133572231436421733137254
475506033002140572621247123361
436624712423275014200660305571
546402134245534407404410536306
306365041101701165512164201315
417456000231306236305251032641
413260452506362306462000351741

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Table 2

[0051] Data is assumed to be independent in the co-channels. Therefore, the co-channel interference consists only of terms corresponding to the cross-correlation between the pilot-segments of the channels. The data of one channel and pilot-segment on the other channel are also uncorrelated. Depending on the extent of overlap, the correlation may be complete or partial. The correlation $C_{xy}(n)$ of the pilot-segments $x(n)$ and $y(n)$ is expressed in Equation 3, where the sum is over the number of overlapping symbols.

$$C_{xy}(n) = \frac{1}{36} \sum_k x(k) y^*(k-n) \quad \text{Eq. (3)}$$

[0052] Furthermore, it is important to note that these cross-correlations are periodic in nature; that is, they recur at the frame rate. As shown in FIG. 6, frames 601, 603 associated with co-channel 1 are simply shifted with respect to frames 605, 607 of co-channel 2.

[0053] If the co-channels use the same seed and are aligned perfectly (with aligned frame boundaries), then the cross-correlation of their pilot segments yields the following:

$$C_{XY}(0) = A_x A_y e^{j\phi}, \quad \text{Eq. (4)}$$

where, A_x and A_y are the magnitudes of vectors $x(k)$ and $y(k)$, respectively and ϕ is the phase difference between the vectors $x(k)$ and $y(k)$. This correlation has the effect of rotating the desired user's signal, thereby causing severe interference.

[0054] FIG. 7 is a diagram of an exemplary Gold sequence generator used in the scrambler of FIG. 6. By using different Gold sequences for the co-channels, i.e., different initialization seeds for each of the co-channels, the interference can be mitigated. In this example, a Gold sequence generator 700 employs the preferred polynomials of $1+X^7+X^{18}$ and $1+Y^5+Y^7+Y^{10}+Y^{18}$. Continuing with the example of FIG. 5, to sustain 17 co-channels, in an exemplary embodiment of the present invention, the seeds in Tables 3 and 4 can be programmed into an m -sequence generator 701. The polynomials are initialized as follows: $X(0)=1$, and $X(1)=X(2)=\dots X(17)=0$; and $Y(0)=Y(1)=X(2)=\dots X(17)=1$. The Gold code sequence numbers " n " corresponding to the initialization are also listed in Table 3.

[0055] The seeds are generated, according to one embodiment of the present invention, using a sub-optimal search algorithm that minimizes the worst cross-correlation between every pair of the co-channel pilot-segments.

Co-channel #	Seed X		Sequence # (n)
	Decimal	Hex	
1	1	00001	0
2	42348	0A56C	189063
3	55204	0D7A4	153751
4	57415	0E047	238776
5	74129	12191	62994
6	88022	157D6	95552
7	111487	1B37F	2553
8	112625	1B7F1	227369
9	123876	1E3E4	26392
10	137205	217F5	214455
11	145515	2386B	51921
12	151841	25121	208647
13	166238	2895E	27314
14	174767	2AAAF	104754
15	183101	2CB3D	76683
16	186848	2D9E0	146239
17	188914	2E1F2	96364

Table 3

Co-channel #	Seed X	
	Decimal	Hex
1	13	0000D
2	53	00035
3	70	00046
4	74	0004A
5	126	0007E
6	159	0009F
7	179	000B3
8	216	000D8
9	236	000EC
10	238	000EE
11	244	000F4
12	262	00106
13	278	00116
14	536	00218
15	628	00274
16	737	002E1
17	771	00303

Table 4

[0056] The worst case correlations between any two of the listed co-channels of Tables 3 and 4 are given in FIGs. 10 and 11, respectively. The maximum cross-correlation is seen in FIG. 10 to be -2.78 dB (highlighted in bold font). For FIG. 11, this maximum cross-correlation occurs at -2.92 dB. It is observed that, although the Gold sequences themselves have good cross-correlation properties, the pilot-segments can exhibit poor cross-correlation characteristics. This is due to the fact that the segments are only 36-symbols long and the seed-selection procedure is constrained by the worst cross-correlation.

[0057] The scrambling process is now further explained in FIGs. 8 and 9.

[0058] FIG. 8 is a flowchart of a process for generating different physical layer sequences, according to an embodiment of the present invention. In step 801, different initialization seeds are assigned to the respective co-channels. Next, Gold sequences are generated based on the seeds, per step 803. A scrambling sequence is then constructed, as in step 805, from the Gold sequence for each different service. In step 807, the physical layer sequences are output by the scrambler 209 (FIG. 2).

[0059] FIG. 9 is a flowchart of process for generating scrambled physical headers, according to an embodiment of the present invention. The transmitter 200 (of FIG. 2) receives input symbols associated with the physical header or pilot sequence, as in step 901. In step 903, the transmitter maps the input symbols according to a scrambling sequence generated by the scrambler 209. The output symbols are then generated, per step 905. Thereafter, the transmitter outputs a frame with a scrambled physical and/or scrambled pilot sequence (step 907).

[0060] FIG. 12 illustrates exemplary hardware upon which an embodiment according to the present invention can be implemented. A computing system 1200 includes a bus 1201 or other communication mechanism for communicating information and a processor 1203 coupled to the bus 1201 for processing information. The computing system 1200 also includes main memory 1205, such as a random access memory (RAM) or other dynamic storage device, coupled to the bus 1201 for storing information and instructions to be executed by the processor 1203. Main memory 1205 can also be used for storing temporary variables or other intermediate information during execution of instructions by the processor 1203. The computing system 1200 may further

include a read only memory (ROM) 1207 or other static storage device coupled to the bus 1201 for storing static information and instructions for the processor 1203. A storage device 1209, such as a magnetic disk or optical disk, is coupled to the bus 1201 for persistently storing information and instructions.

[0061] The computing system 1200 may be coupled via the bus 1201 to a display 1211, such as a liquid crystal display, or an active matrix display, for displaying information to a user. An input device 1213, such as a keyboard including alphanumeric and other keys, may be coupled to the bus 1201 for communicating information and command selections to the processor 1203. The input device 1213 can include a cursor control, such as a mouse, a trackball, or cursor direction keys, for communicating direction information and command selections to the processor 1203 and for controlling cursor movement on the display 1211.

[0062] According to one embodiment of the invention, the processes of FIGs. 8 and 9 can be provided by the computing system 1200 in response to the processor 1203 executing an arrangement of instructions contained in main memory 1205. Such instructions can be read into main memory 1205 from another computer-readable medium, such as the storage device 1209. Execution of the arrangement of instructions contained in main memory 1205 causes the processor 1203 to perform the process steps described herein. One or more processors in a multi-processing arrangement may also be employed to execute the instructions contained in main memory 1205. In alternative embodiments, hard-wired circuitry may be used in place of or in combination with software instructions to implement the embodiment of the present invention. In another example, reconfigurable hardware such as Field Programmable Gate Arrays (FPGAs) can be used, in which the functionality and connection topology of its logic gates are customizable at run-time, typically by programming memory look up tables. Thus, embodiments of the present invention are not limited to any specific combination of hardware circuitry and software.

[0063] The computing system 1200 also includes at least one communication interface 1215 coupled to bus 1201. The communication interface 1215 provides a two-way data

communication coupling to a network link (not shown). The communication interface 1215 sends and receives electrical, electromagnetic, or optical signals that carry digital data streams representing various types of information. Further, the communication interface 1215 can include peripheral interface devices, such as a Universal Serial Bus (USB) interface, a PCMCIA (Personal Computer Memory Card International Association) interface, etc.

[0064] The processor 1203 may execute code that is being received over the communication interface 1215 and/or store the code in the storage device 1209, or other non-volatile storage for later execution. In this manner, the computing system 1200 may obtain application code in the form of a carrier wave.

[0065] The term “computer-readable medium” as used herein refers to any medium that participates in providing instructions to the processor 1203 for execution. Such a medium may take many forms, including but not limited to non-volatile media, volatile media, and transmission media. Non-volatile media include, for example, optical or magnetic disks, such as the storage device 1209. Volatile media include dynamic memory, such as main memory 1205. Transmission media include coaxial cables, copper wire and fiber optics, including the wires that comprise the bus 1201. Transmission media can also take the form of acoustic, optical, or electromagnetic waves, such as those generated during radio frequency (RF) and infrared (IR) data communications. Common forms of computer-readable media include, for example, a floppy disk, a flexible disk, hard disk, magnetic tape, any other magnetic medium, a CD-ROM, CDRW, DVD, any other optical medium, punch cards, paper tape, optical mark sheets, any other physical medium with patterns of holes or other optically recognizable indicia, a RAM, a PROM, and an EPROM, a FLASH-EPROM, any other memory chip or cartridge, a carrier wave, or any other medium from which a computer can read.

[0066] Various forms of computer-readable media may be involved in providing instructions to a processor for execution. For example, the instructions for carrying out at least part of the present invention may initially be borne on a magnetic disk of a remote computer. In such a scenario, the remote computer loads the instructions into main memory and sends the instructions

over a telephone line using a modem. A modem of a local system receives the data on the telephone line and uses an infrared transmitter to convert the data to an infrared signal and transmit the infrared signal to a portable computing device, such as a personal digital assistant (PDA) or a laptop. An infrared detector on the portable computing device receives the information and instructions borne by the infrared signal and places the data on a bus. The bus conveys the data to main memory, from which a processor retrieves and executes the instructions. The instructions received by main memory can optionally be stored on storage device either before or after execution by processor.

[0067] Accordingly, the various embodiments of the present invention provide an approach for minimizing co-channel interference in a digital broadcast and interactive system. It is recognized that the cross-correlations between co-channel frames are periodic in nature. Each of these frames includes a header and a pilot sequence for synchronization of carrier phase and carrier frequency. Non-header portions of the frames are scrambled according to respective different scrambling sequences to minimize interference between the co-channels. According to one embodiment of the present invention, different initialization seeds are supplied to a Gold sequence generator for each of the co-channels to produce the different scrambling sequences. The above arrangement advantageously reduces the impact of co-channel interference, thereby enhancing receiver performance.

[0068] While the present invention has been described in connection with a number of embodiments and implementations, the present invention is not so limited but covers various obvious modifications and equivalent arrangements, which fall within the purview of the appended claims.

CLAIMS

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A method for minimizing co-channel interference in a communication system, the method comprising the steps of:
assigning a first scrambling sequence, associated with a header or a pilot sequence of a first frame, to a first co-channel; and
assigning a second scrambling sequence, associated with a header or a pilot sequence of a second frame, to a second co-channel that is adjacent to the first co-channel,
wherein non-header portions of the frames are scrambled according to the respective different scrambling sequences.
2. A method according to claim 1, wherein the scrambling sequences are based on Gold sequences with correspondingly different seeds.
3. A method according to claim 2, wherein the co-channels are among 17 co-channels, the seeds corresponding to the 17 co-channels are specified by Table A or Table B:

Co-channel #	Seed X	
	Decimal	Hex
1	1	00001
2	42348	0A56C
3	55204	0D7A4
4	57415	0E047
5	74129	12191
6	88022	157D6
7	111487	1B37F
8	112625	1B7F1
9	123876	1E3E4

10	137205	217F5
11	145515	2386B
12	151841	25121
13	166238	2895E
14	174767	2AAAF
15	183101	2CB3D
16	186848	2D9E0
17	188914	2E1F2

Table A

Co-channel #	Seed X	
	Decimal	Hex
1	13	0000D
2	53	00035
3	70	00046
4	74	0004A
5	126	0007E
6	159	0009F
7	179	000B3
8	216	000D8
9	236	000EC
10	238	000EE
11	244	000F4
12	262	00106
13	278	00116
14	536	00218
15	628	00274
16	737	002E1
17	771	00303

Table B

4. A method according to claim 2, further comprising the step of:
determining the seeds to minimize a worst cross-correlation condition.

5. A method according to claim 1, wherein the communication system includes a satellite supporting digital broadcast and interactive applications.
6. A method according to claim 1, wherein the header or the pilot sequence is used for acquiring or tracking carrier phase and carrier frequency.
7. A method according to claim 1, wherein the header and the pilot sequence is used for acquiring or tracking carrier phase and carrier frequency.
8. A method according to claim 1, further comprising the step of:
transmitting the frame according to a modulation scheme including Binary Phase Shift Keying (BPSK), Quadrature Phase Shift Keying (QPSK), 8PSK, 16 Amplitude Phase Shift Keying (APSK), 32APSK, or a high order Quadrature Amplitude Modulation (QAM).
9. A method according to claim 1, further comprising the step of:
modulating the frames according to different modulation schemes.
10. A method according to claim 1, wherein each of the frames includes information encoded according to Low Density Parity Check (LDPC) coding.
11. A computer-readable medium bearing instructions for minimizing co-channel interference in a communication system, said instruction, being arranged, upon execution, to cause one or more processors to perform the method of claim 1.

12. An apparatus for minimizing co-channel interference in a communication system, comprising:
- a scrambler configured to assign a first scrambling sequence, associated with a header or a pilot sequence of a first frame, to a first co-channel,
- wherein the scrambler assigns a second scrambling sequence, associated with a header or a pilot sequence of a second frame, to a second co-channel that is adjacent to the first co-channel,
- wherein non-header portions of the frames are scrambled according to the respective scrambling sequences.
13. An apparatus according to claim 12, wherein the scrambling sequences are based on Gold sequences with different seeds.
14. An apparatus according to claim 13, wherein the co-channels are among 17 co-channels, the seeds corresponding to the 17 co-channels are specified by Table A or Table B:

Co-channel #	Seed X	
	Decimal	Hex
1	1	00001
2	42348	0A56C
3	55204	0D7A4
4	57415	0E047
5	74129	12191
6	88022	157D6
7	111487	1B37F
8	112625	1B7F1
9	123876	1E3E4
10	137205	217F5
11	145515	2386B
12	151841	25121
13	166238	2895E
14	174767	2AAAF
15	183101	2CB3D

16	186848	2D9E0
17	188914	2E1F2

Table A

Co-channel #	Seed X	
	Decimal	Hex
1	13	0000D
2	53	00035
3	70	00046
4	74	0004A
5	126	0007E
6	159	0009F
7	179	000B3
8	216	000D8
9	236	000EC
10	238	000EE
11	244	000F4
12	262	00106
13	278	00116
14	536	00218
15	628	00274
16	737	002E1
17	771	00303

Table B

15. An apparatus according to claim 13, further comprising:

means for determining the seeds to minimize a worst cross-correlation condition.

16. An apparatus according to claim 12, wherein the communication system includes a satellite supporting digital broadcast and interactive applications.

17. An apparatus according to claim 12, wherein the header or the pilot sequence is used for acquiring or tracking carrier phase and carrier frequency.
18. An apparatus according to claim 12, wherein the header and the pilot sequence is used for acquiring or tracking carrier phase and carrier frequency.
19. An apparatus according to claim 12, further comprising:
a transmitter configured to transmit the frame according to a modulation scheme including Binary Phase Shift Keying (BPSK), Quadrature Phase Shift Keying (QPSK), 8PSK, 16 Amplitude Phase Shift Keying (APSK), 32APSK, or a high order Quadrature Amplitude Modulation (QAM).
20. An apparatus according to claim 12, further comprising:
a modulator configured to modulate the frames according to different modulation schemes.
21. An apparatus according to claim 12, wherein each of the frames includes information encoded according to Low Density Parity Check (LDPC) coding.
22. A method for communicating in a radio communication system, the method comprising the steps of:
transmitting a plurality of frames over different communication channels established over the radio communication system, the communication channels being adjacent co-channels, wherein each of the frames includes a header and a pilot sequence for synchronization of carrier phase and carrier frequency, and non-header portions of the frames are scrambled according to respective different scrambling sequences to minimize interference between the co-channels.

23. A method according to claim 22, wherein each of the frames has a structure according to a Digital Video Broadcast (DVB) standard.
24. An apparatus for communicating in a radio communication system, comprising:
a transmitter configured to transmit a plurality of frames over different communication channels established over the radio communication system, wherein the communication channels are adjacent co-channels,
wherein each of the frames includes a header and a pilot sequence for synchronization of carrier phase and carrier frequency, and non-header portions of the frames are scrambled according to respective different scrambling sequences to minimize interference between the co-channels.
25. A transmitter according to claim 24, wherein each of the frames has a structure according to a Digital Video Broadcast (DVB) standard.
26. A method for communicating in a radio communication system, the method comprising the steps of:
receiving a plurality of frames over different communication channels established over the radio communication system, the communication channels being adjacent co-channels,
wherein each of the frames includes a header and a pilot sequence for synchronization of carrier phase and carrier frequency, and non-header portions of the frames are scrambled according to respective different scrambling sequences to minimize interference between the co-channels.
27. A method according to claim 26, wherein each of the frames has a structure according to a Digital Video Broadcast (DVB) standard.

28. An apparatus for communicating in a radio communication system, comprising:
a receiver configured to receive a plurality of frames over different communication channels
established over the radio communication system, wherein the communication channels
are adjacent co-channels,
wherein each of the frames includes a header and a pilot sequence for synchronization of
carrier phase and carrier frequency, and non-header portions of the frames are scrambled
according to respective different scrambling sequences to minimize interference between
the co-channels.
29. An apparatus according to claim 28, wherein each of the frames has a structure
according to a Digital Video Broadcast (DVB) standard.

FIG. 1

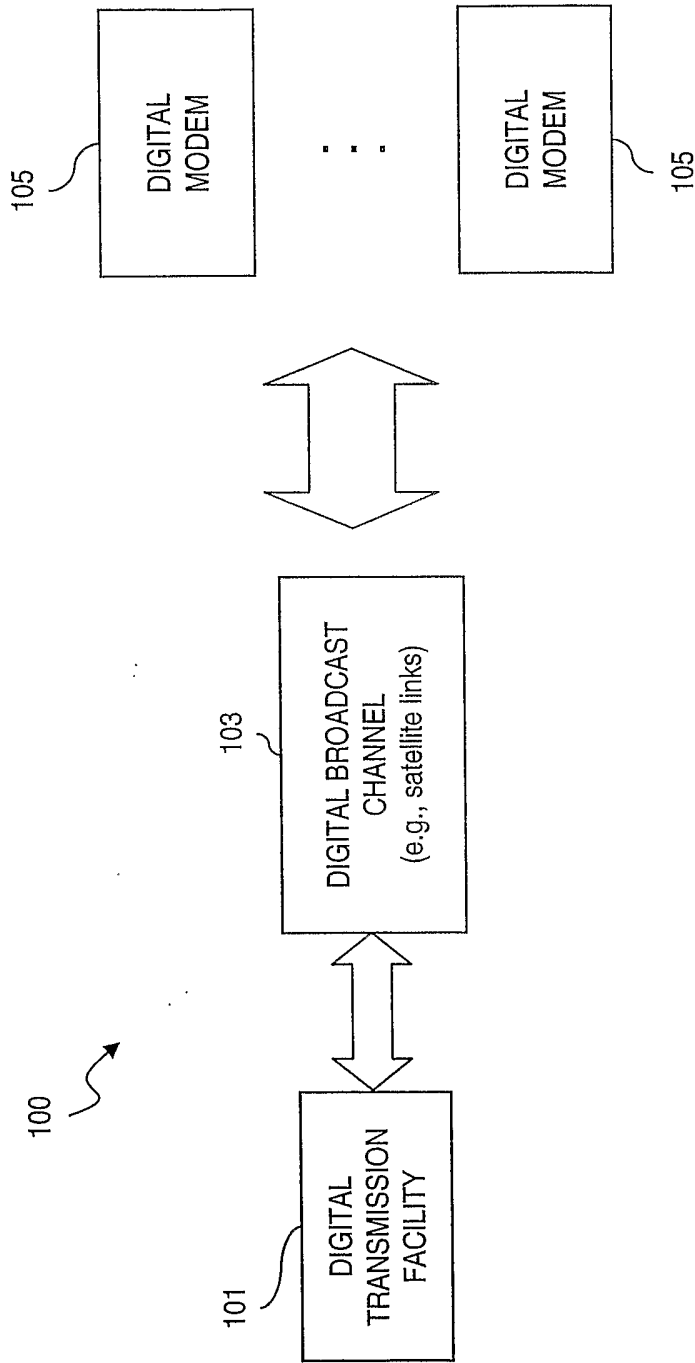


FIG. 2

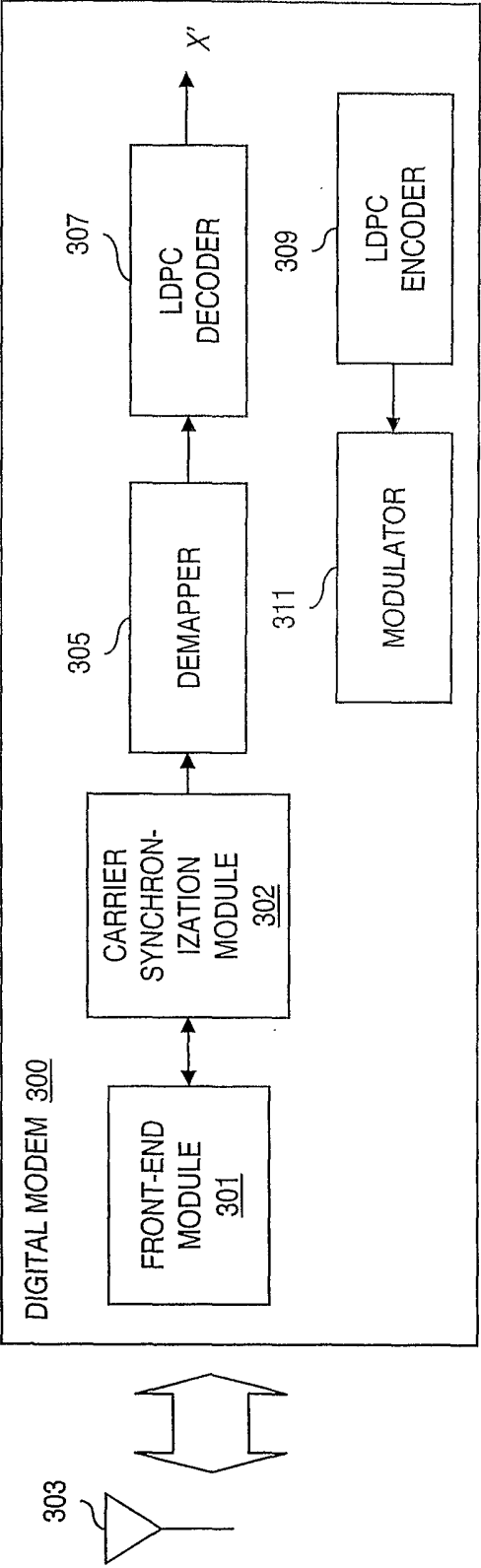
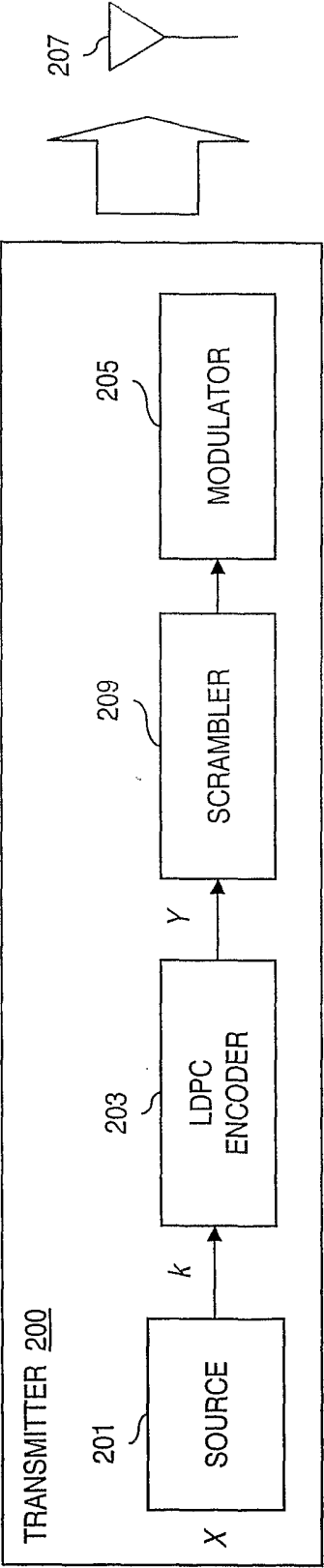


FIG. 3

FIG. 4

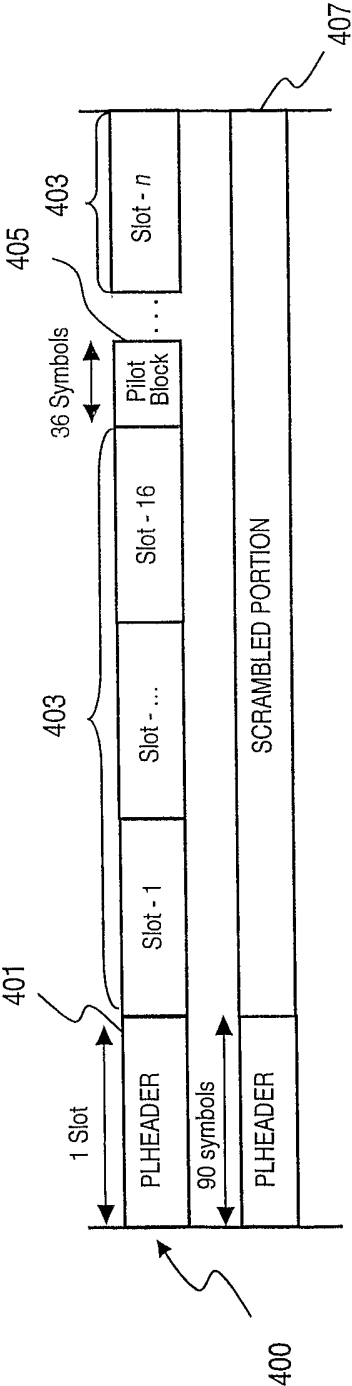


FIG. 5A

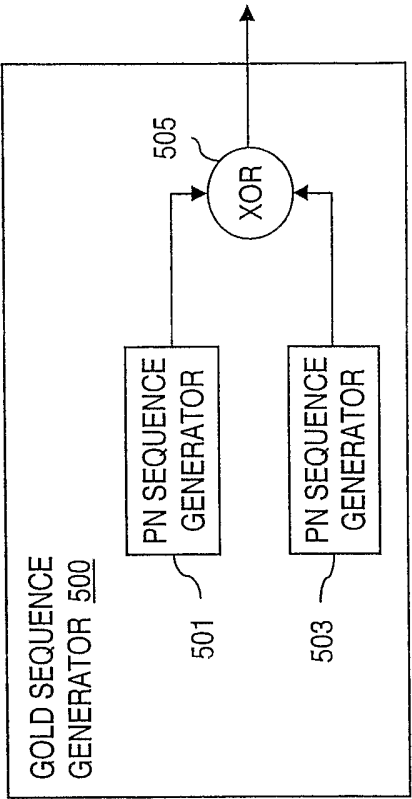
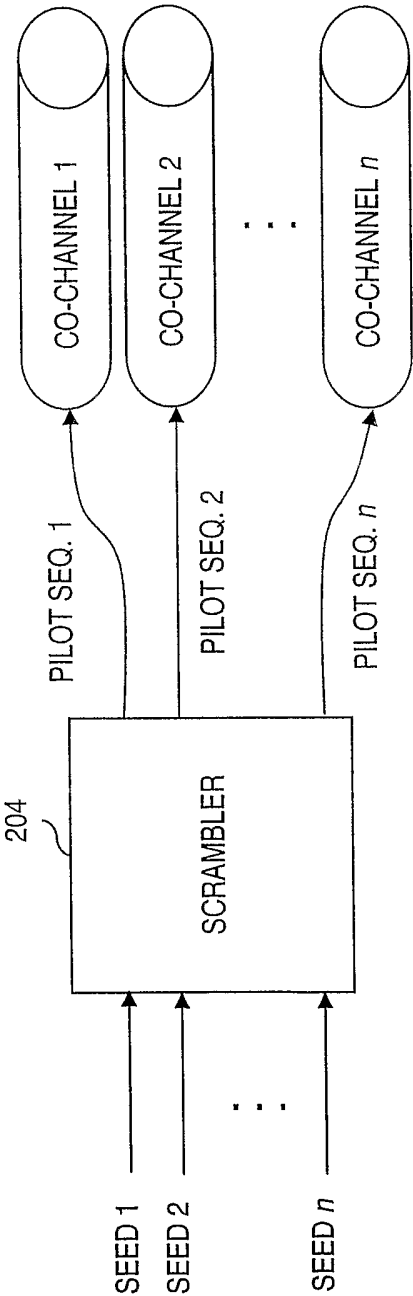


FIG. 5B

FIG. 6

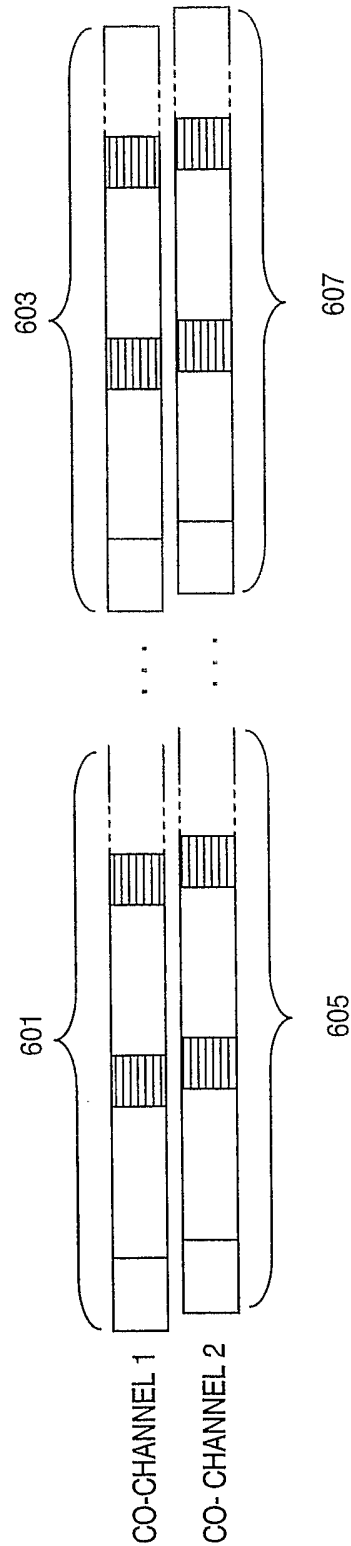
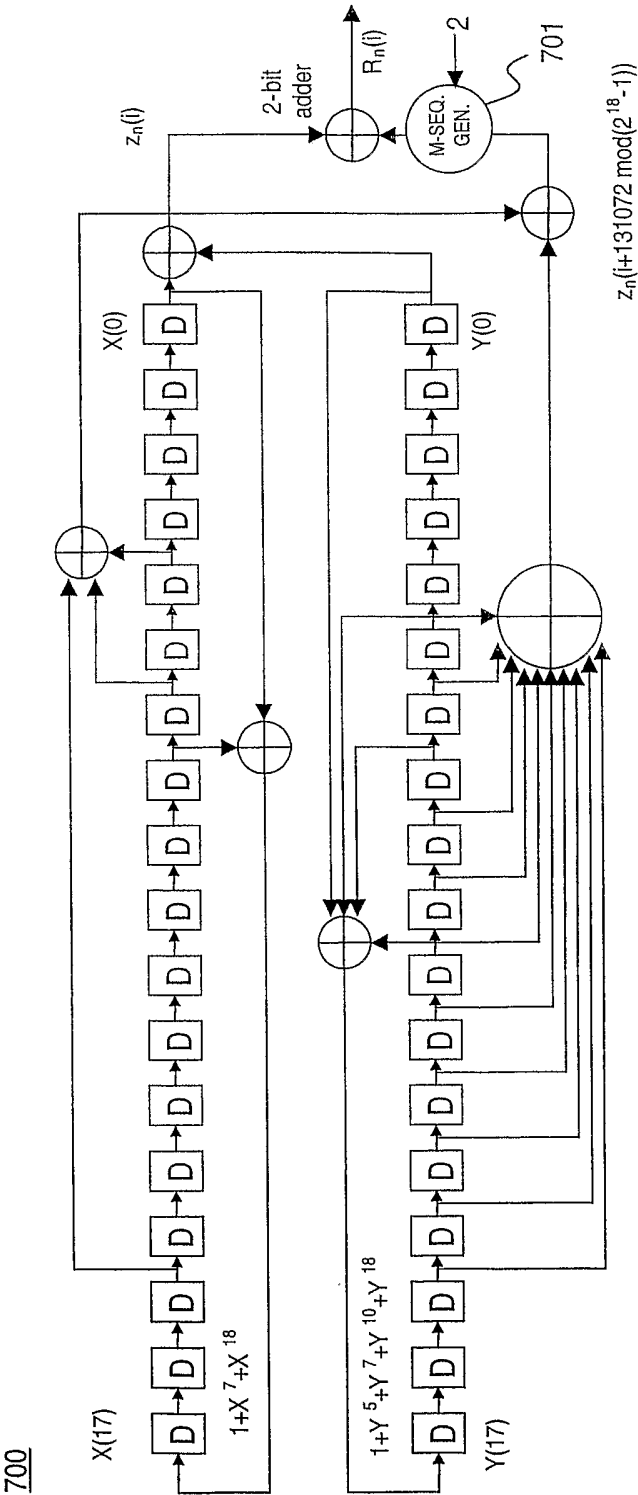


FIG. 7



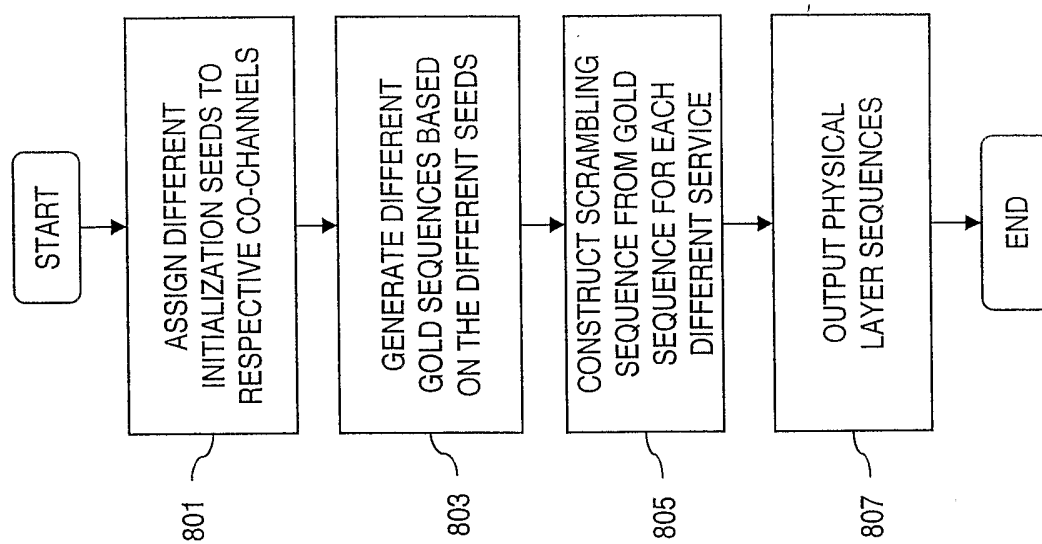


FIG. 9

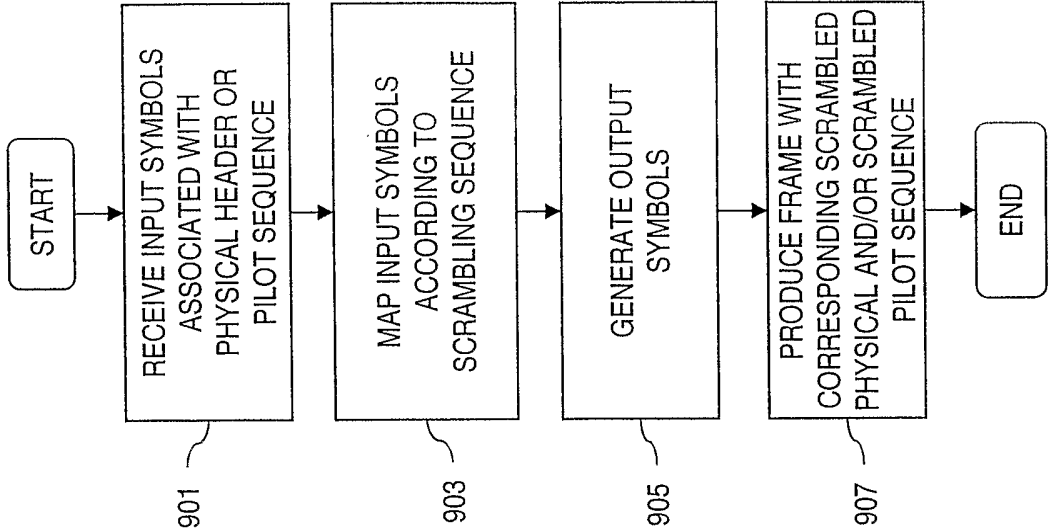


FIG. 10

Seq. #(n)	0	189063	153751	238776	62994	95552	2553	227369	26392	214455	51921	208647	27314	104754	76683	146239	96364
0	0.00	-3.65	-3.48	-3.45	-3.49	-3.57	-3.45	-3.49	-3.23	-2.98	-3.49	-3.14	-3.00	-3.00	-3.57	-3.32	-3.19
189063	-3.65	0.00	-3.14	-3.45	-2.98	-3.32	-3.45	-3.52	-3.49	-3.39	-3.57	-3.26	-3.25	-3.39	-3.00	-3.57	-3.08
153751	-3.48	-3.14	0.00	-3.13	-3.14	-3.00	-3.24	-3.73	-3.19	-3.19	-3.62	-3.37	-2.92	-3.48	-3.09	-3.14	-3.32
238776	-3.45	-3.45	-3.13	0.00	-3.23	-2.85	-3.14	-3.14	-3.06	-3.24	-3.23	-3.65	-2.92	-2.91	-3.13	-3.25	-2.87
62994	-3.49	-2.98	-3.14	-3.23	0.00	-3.14	-3.37	-2.92	-3.72	-3.00	-3.24	-3.41	-3.37	-3.01	-2.78	-3.25	-3.27
95552	-3.57	-3.32	-3.00	-2.85	-3.14	0.00	-3.23	-3.09	-2.92	-3.32	-3.62	-3.57	-3.57	-3.14	-3.06	-3.00	-3.13
2553	-3.45	-3.45	-3.24	-3.14	-3.37	-3.23	0.00	-3.00	-3.00	-3.65	-3.45	-3.26	-3.09	-3.63	-3.45	-3.26	-3.25
227369	-3.49	-3.52	-3.73	-3.14	-2.92	-3.09	-3.00	0.00	-3.26	-2.91	-2.82	-3.21	-3.25	-3.21	-3.00	-3.00	-3.00
26392	-3.23	-3.49	-3.19	-3.06	-3.72	-2.92	-3.00	-3.26	0.00	-3.45	-3.57	-3.19	-3.37	-3.14	-3.57	-3.32	-3.39
214455	-2.98	-3.39	-3.19	-3.24	-3.00	-3.32	-3.65	-2.91	-3.45	0.00	-3.32	-3.27	-3.45	-3.39	-3.45	-3.65	-3.08
51921	-3.49	-3.57	-3.62	-3.23	-3.24	-3.62	-3.45	-2.82	-3.57	-3.32	0.00	-3.35	-3.37	-3.24	-3.09	-3.26	-3.01
208647	-3.14	-3.26	-3.37	-3.65	-3.41	-3.57	-3.26	-3.21	-3.19	-3.27	-3.35	0.00	-3.08	-3.52	-3.45	-3.63	-3.25
27314	-3.00	-3.25	-2.92	-2.92	-3.37	-3.57	-3.09	-3.25	-3.37	-3.45	-3.37	-3.08	0.00	-2.92	-3.39	-2.98	-3.24
104754	-3.00	-3.39	-3.48	-2.91	-3.01	-3.14	-3.63	-3.21	-3.14	-3.39	-3.24	-3.52	-2.92	0.00	-3.37	-2.91	-3.14
76683	-3.57	-3.00	-3.09	-3.13	-2.78	-3.06	-3.45	-3.00	-3.57	-3.45	-3.09	-3.45	-3.39	-3.37	0.00	-3.35	-3.65
146239	-3.32	-3.57	-3.14	-3.25	-3.25	-3.00	-3.26	-3.00	-3.32	-3.65	-3.26	-3.63	-2.98	-2.91	-3.35	0.00	-2.95
96364	-3.19	-3.08	-3.32	-2.87	-3.27	-3.13	-3.25	-3.00	-3.39	-3.08	-3.01	-3.25	-3.24	-3.14	-3.65	-2.95	0.00

FIG. 11

Seed	13	53	70	74	126	159	179	216	236	238	244	262	278	536	628	737	771
13	0.00	-3.37	-3.21	-3.37	-3.26	-3.24	-3.14	-3.23	-3.63	-3.48	-3.14	-3.52	-3.14	-3.23	-3.41	-3.39	-3.37
53	-3.37	0.00	-3.06	-3.13	-3.25	-3.27	-3.49	-3.51	-3.62	-3.57	-3.24	-3.04	-3.26	-3.25	-3.49	-3.63	-3.24
70	-3.21	-3.06	0.00	-3.74	-3.26	-3.25	-3.19	-3.49	-3.84	-3.35	-3.27	-3.25	-3.26	-3.39	-3.45	-3.00	-3.51
74	-3.37	-3.13	-3.74	0.00	-3.37	-3.00	-3.25	-3.14	-3.26	-3.45	-3.57	-3.37	-3.04	-3.37	-3.26	-3.04	-3.65
126	-3.26	-3.25	-3.26	-3.37	0.00	-3.26	-3.49	-3.09	-3.08	-3.48	-3.26	-3.14	-3.26	-3.32	-3.49	-3.49	-3.19
159	-3.24	-3.27	-3.25	-3.00	-3.26	0.00	-3.24	-3.09	-3.23	-3.00	-3.45	-3.21	-3.23	-3.39	-3.32	-3.24	-3.48
179	-3.14	-3.49	-3.19	-3.25	-3.49	-3.24	0.00	-2.92	-3.49	-3.25	-3.01	-3.14	-3.49	-3.49	-3.14	-3.41	-3.39
216	-3.23	-3.51	-3.49	-3.14	-3.09	-3.09	-2.92	0.00	-3.32	-3.49	-3.00	-3.48	-3.32	-3.51	-3.45	-3.49	-3.25
236	-3.63	-3.62	-3.84	-3.26	-3.08	-3.23	-3.49	-3.32	0.00	-3.25	-3.04	-3.48	-3.24	-3.45	-2.92	-3.57	-3.26
238	-3.48	-3.57	-3.35	-3.45	-3.48	-3.00	-3.25	-3.49	-3.25	0.00	-3.00	-3.48	-3.26	-3.39	-3.35	-3.49	-3.45
244	-3.14	-3.24	-3.27	-3.57	-3.26	-3.45	-3.01	-3.00	-3.04	-3.00	0.00	-3.09	-3.13	-3.39	-3.26	-3.27	-2.95
262	-3.52	-3.04	-3.25	-3.37	-3.14	-3.21	-3.14	-3.48	-3.48	-3.48	-3.09	0.00	-3.08	-3.00	-3.74	-3.57	-3.19
278	-3.14	-3.26	-3.26	-3.04	-3.26	-3.23	-3.49	-3.32	-3.24	-3.26	-3.13	-3.08	0.00	-3.63	-3.26	-3.14	-3.35
536	-3.23	-3.25	-3.39	-3.37	-3.32	-3.39	-3.49	-3.51	-3.45	-3.39	-3.39	-3.00	-3.63	0.00	-3.51	-3.19	-3.14
628	-3.41	-3.49	-3.45	-3.26	-3.49	-3.32	-3.14	-3.45	-2.92	-3.35	-3.26	-3.74	-3.26	-3.51	0.00	-3.52	-3.26
737	-3.39	-3.63	-3.00	-3.04	-3.49	-3.24	-3.41	-3.49	-3.57	-3.49	-3.27	-3.57	-3.14	-3.19	-3.52	0.00	-3.26
771	-3.37	-3.24	-3.51	-3.65	-3.19	-3.48	-3.39	-3.25	-3.26	-3.45	-2.95	-3.19	-3.35	-3.14	-3.26	-3.26	0.00

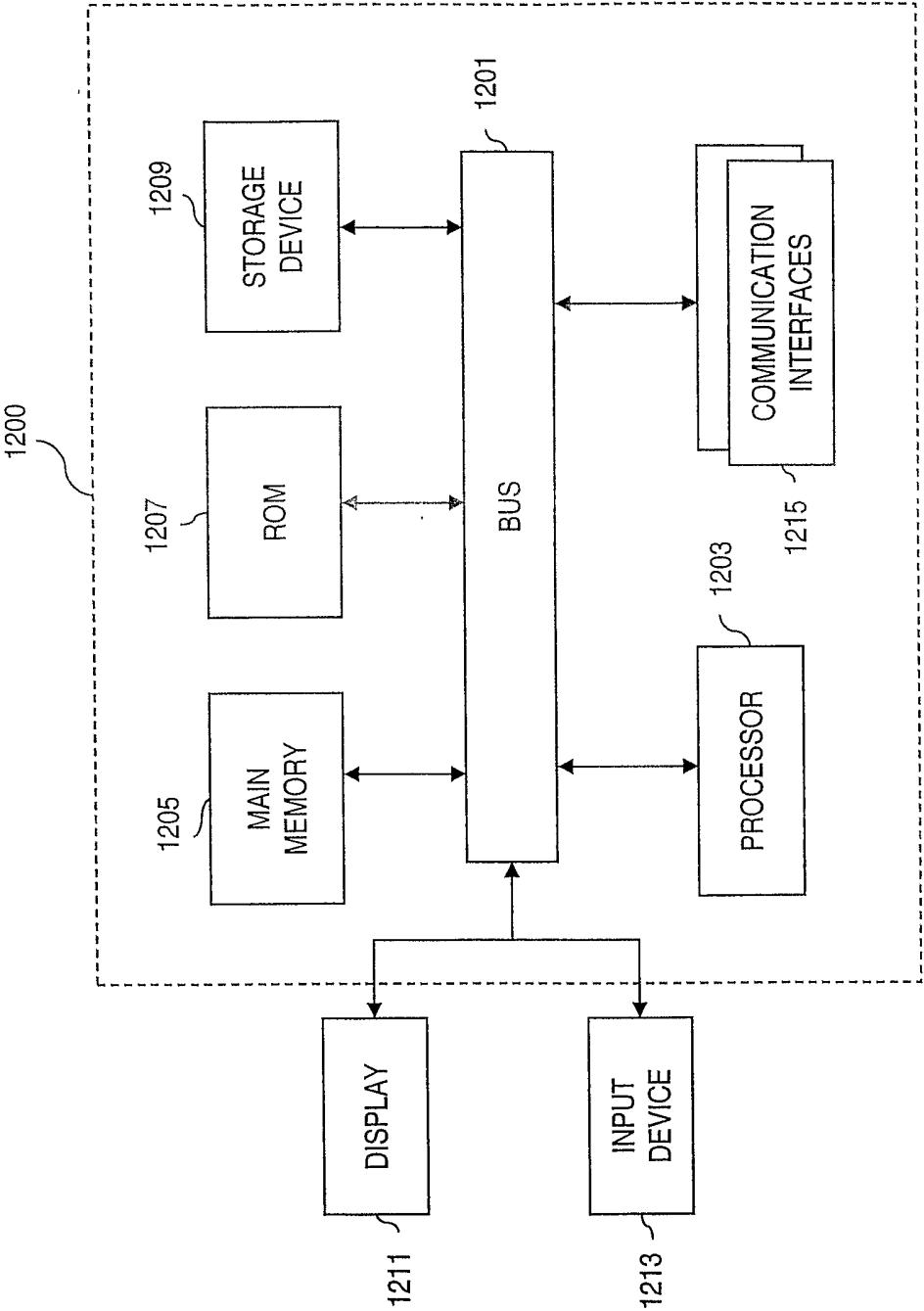


FIG. 12