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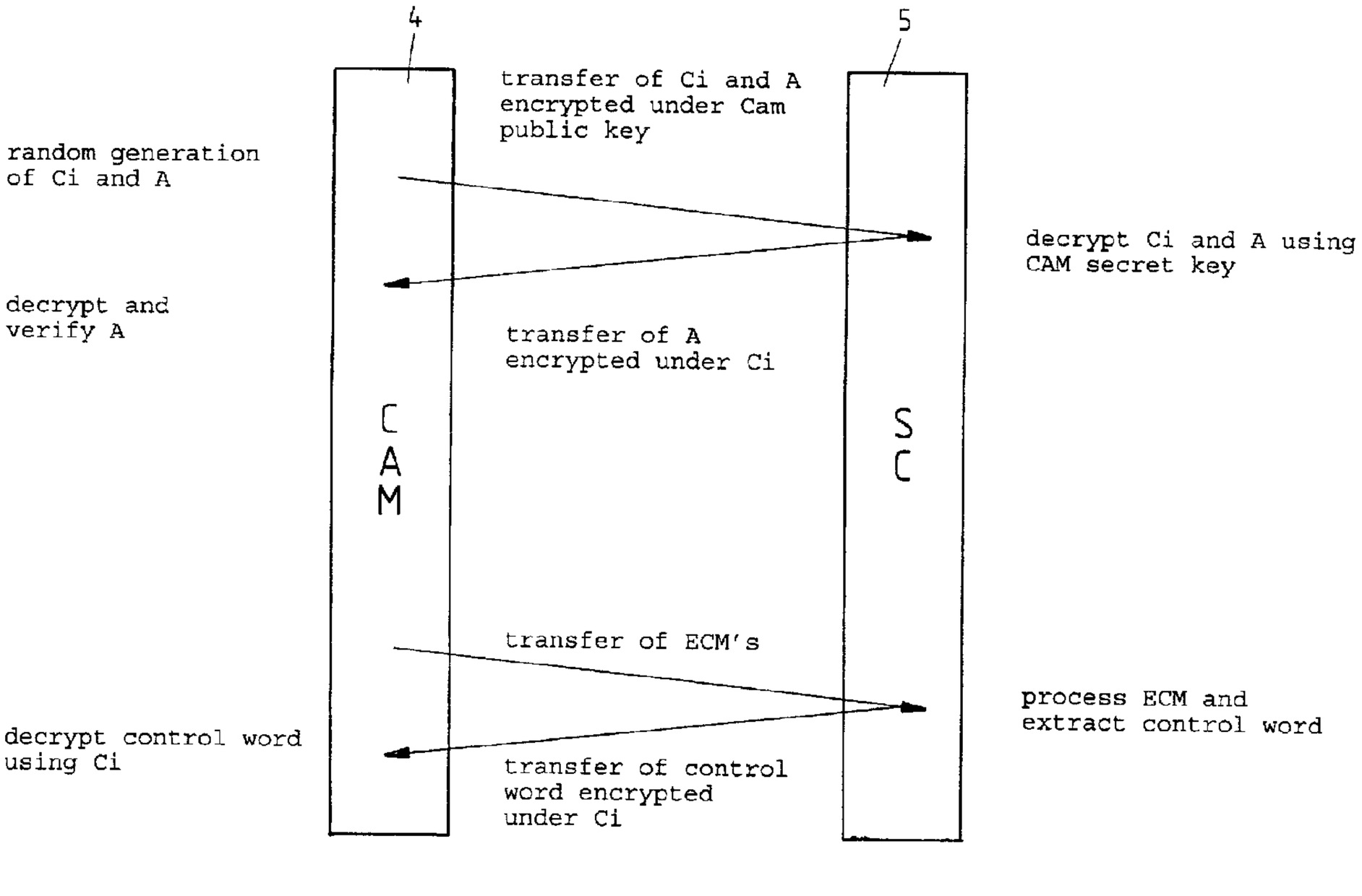

(57) Abrégé/Abstract:
In a method for providing a secure communication between two devices, a first device generates a random key (Ci) and transfers this key to a second device in a first message encrypted using a plublic key. The second device decrypts the first encrypted message by means of a corresponding secret key to obtain the random key (Ci) and this random key is used to encrypt and decrypt all transmissions between these devices. In a decoder for a pay TV system, comprising a conditional access module and a smart card, this method is applied to provide a secure communication between the control access module and the smart card and/or between the decoder and the conditional access module.

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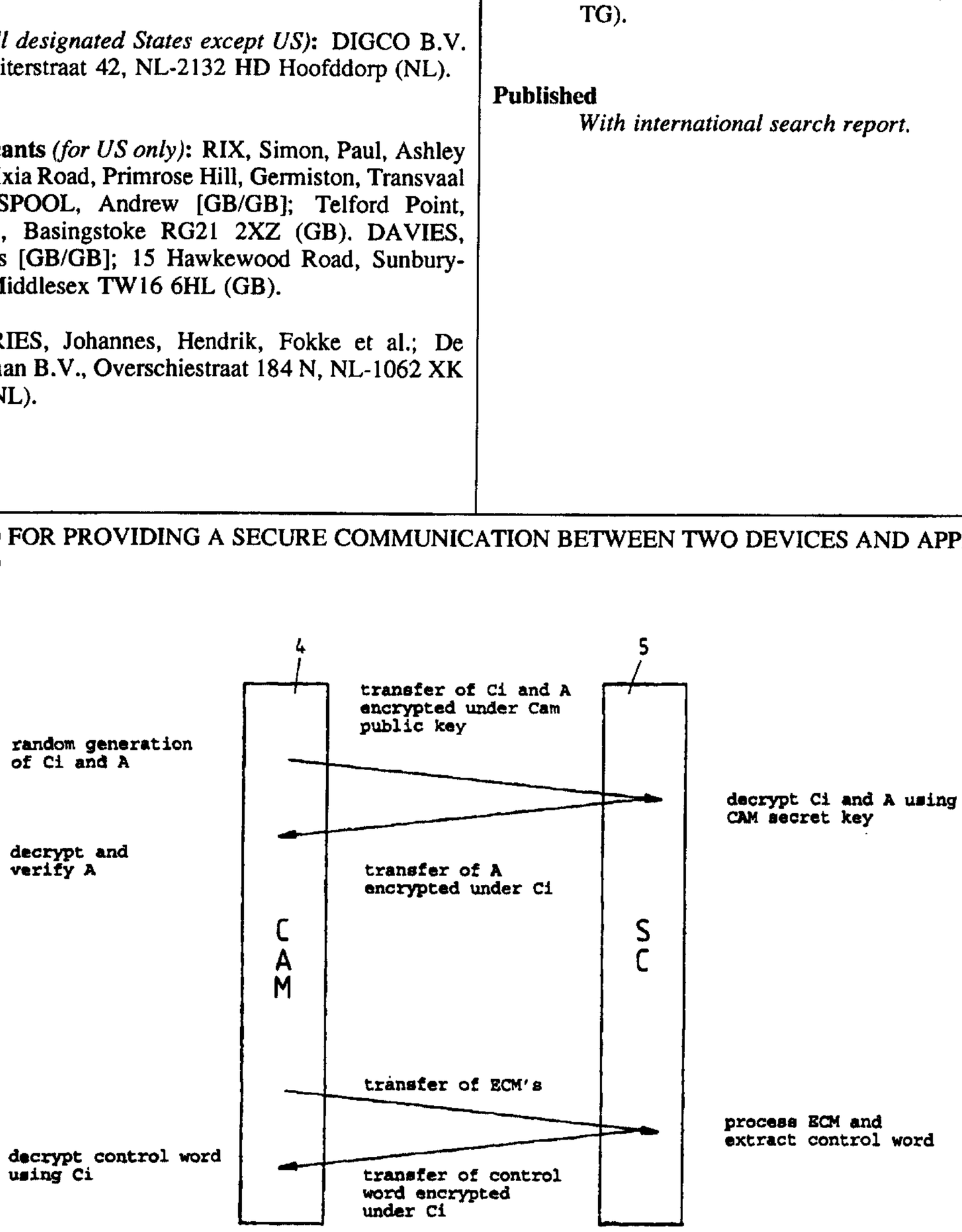


(57) Abstract

In a method for providing a secure communication between two devices, a first device generates a random key (Ci) and transfers this key to a second device in a first message encrypted using a plublic key. The second device decrypts the first encrypted message by means of a corresponding secret key to obtain the random key (Ci) and this random key is used to encrypt and decrypt all transmissions between these devices. In a decoder for a pay TV system, comprising a conditional access module and a smart card, this method is applied to provide a secure communication between the control access module and the smart card and/or between the decoder and the conditional access module.

Method for Providing a Secure Communication Between Two Devices and Application of This Method

The present invention relates to a method for providing a secure communication between two devices, in particular between devices used in a pay TV system.

In a pay TV system each subscriber generally has a decoder for descrambling the source component signal, wherein said decoder comprises a conditional access module and a smart card for decrypting entitlement control messages and entitlement management messages. In order to prevent unauthorized operation of the decoder for descrambling a source component signal it is important to prevent switching between an authorized and an unauthorized smart card for example.

EP-A-0 428 252 discloses a method for providing a secure communication between two devices and an application of this method in a pay TV system. In this known method the authenticity of a second device, i.e. a smart card, is checked by a first device.

US-A-5 029 207 discloses a method for providing a secure communication between two devices and an application of this method in a pay TV system. In this known method a first key is transmitted in an encrypted message from an encoder to a decoder and the decoder decrypts this message to obtain the first key to decrypt the program signal. A secret serial number is used for encryption and decryption. There are no transmissions from the decoder to the encoder.

The invention aims to provide a method of the abovementioned type wherein the communication between two devices, such as the control access module and the smart card or the decoder and the conditional access module, is arranged in such a manner that switching between authorized and unauthorized devices is not possible.

According to the invention a method is provided, wherein a first device generates a random key (Ci) and transfers said key to a second device in a first message encrypted using a public key, wherein said second device decrypts the first encrypted message by means of a

corresponding secret key to obtain said random key (Ci), wherein said random key is used to encrypt and decrypt further transmissions from said second to said first device.

According to the invention this method can be applied in a decoder for a pay TV system, wherein said decoder comprises a conditional access module and a smart card, wherein said method is applied to provide a secure communication between the control access module and the smart card or between the decoder and the conditional access module.

The invention further provides a decoder for a pay TV system, comprising a conditional access module and a smart card, said conditional access module comprising means for generating a random key (Ci), means for encrypting said key in a first encrypted message using a public key encryption method, means for transferring said first encrypted message to the smart card, said smart card comprising means for receiving and decrypting said first encrypted message to obtain said random key, means for encrypting transmissions to the conditional access module under said random key, said conditional access module having means to decrypt said transmissions received from the smart card.

In a further aspect of the invention, there is provided a decoder system for a pay TV system, comprising a decoder and a conditional access module, wherein said decoder comprises means for generating a random key (Ci), means for encrypting said key in a first encrypted message using a public key encryption method, means for transferring said first encrypted message to the conditional access module, said conditional access module comprising means for receiving and decrypting said first encrypted message to obtain said random key, means for encrypting transmissions to the decoder under said random key, said decoder having means to decrypt said transmissions received from the conditional access module.

The invention will be further explained by reference to the drawings in which an embodiment of the method of the invention is explained as applied in a decoder for a pay TV system.

Fig. 1 shows a block diagram of an embodiment of the decoder according to the present invention.

Fig. 2 shows a sequence of steps of an embodiment of the method of the invention.

Referring to fig. 1 there is shown in a very schematical manner a block diagram of a decoder for a pay TV system, wherein digital information signals are scrambled using a control word in accordance with the Eurocrypt standard for example. In this embodiment the decoder comprises a demodulator 1, a demultiplexer 2 and a decompression unit 3. The decoder further comprises a conditional access module or CAM 4 and a smart card 5 which can be inserted into a connection slot of the conditional access module 4. Further the decoder is provided with a microprocessor 6 for configuration and control purposes.

The conditional access module 4 is provided with a descrambler unit 7 and a microprocessor 8 having a memory 9. The smart card 5 comprises a microprocessor 10 having a memory 11.

As the operation of the above-mentioned parts of the decoder is not a part of the present invention, this operation will not be described in detail. Typically, the signal received by the demodulator 1 is a modulated data stream between 950 MHz and 2050 MHz. The output of the demodulator 1 is a scrambled digital data stream which is provided to the CAM 4 and the descrambler 7 will be allowed to descramble this scrambled data stream assuming that an authorized smart card has been inserted and the subscriber is entitled to receive the program. The descrambled data stream is demultiplexed by the demultiplexer 2 and decompressed and converted into the original analogue audio and video signal by the decompression unit 3.

In a pay TV system the control word required for descrambling, is transferred to the subscribers in so-called entitlement control messages containing the control word encrypted using a service key. This service key is downloaded in the memory 11 of the smart card 5 by means of a so-called entitlement management message for example. During operation the CAM 4 transfers the entitlement control messages towards the microprocessor 10 of the smart card 5 so that the microprocessor 10 can process the entitlement control message and extract the control word. Thereafter the smart card 5 returns the decrypted control word towards the CAM 4 so that the descrambler 7 is allowed to descramble the digital data stream received from the demodulator 1.

In order to prevent the use of an unauthorized smart card 5 in combination with the CAM 4 it is important to provide a secure communication between the CAM 4 and the smart card 5. According to the present invention the following method is used to provide such a secure communication. The steps of this method are shown in fig. 2. When a smart card is inserted into the decoder, the microprocessor 8 of the CAM 4 will generate two random numbers Ci and A. The microprocessor 8 will encrypt in a first message the random numbers Ci and A under a public key of the CAM 4. The thus obtained first message is transferred to the smart card 5 and the microprocessor 10 will decrypt this first message using the secret key of the CAM 4. Thereafter the microprocessor 10 will return a second message to the CAM 4, said second message being the random number A encrypted under the number Ci used as encryption key. The microprocessor 8 of the CAM 4 decrypts this second message and verifies whether the random number A is correct. Assuming that the random number A is indeed correct, so that it may be assumed that the inserted smart card 5 is an authorized smart card, the CAM 4 will then forward entitlement control messages containing the encrypted control word to the smart card 5 which will process the entitlement control message and extract the control word in a conventional manner. However, in the return message towards the CAM 4, the smart card will forward the extracted control word encrypted under the key Ci and these encrypted control words are decrypted by the microprocessor 8 using the same key Ci. As soon as one tries to replace the inserted smart card 5 by an other smart card, for example by switching from the authorized smart card 5 to an unauthorized smart card, the CAM 4 will immediately establish such change as the key Ci will not be known to the new smart card, so that the CAM will no longer be able to descramble the return messages containing the control word. Thereby the descrambler unit 7 will be disabled.

The method described can be used in the same manner for providing a secure communication between the CAM 4 and the decoder, wherein the same protocol as shown in fig. 2 is followed.

In summary it will be understood that if a new CAM 4 is connected to the other decoder parts, the microprocessor 6 of the decoder will generate the two random numbers Ci and A and as soon as the microprocessor 6 has decrypted the second message received from

the microprocessor 8 of the CAM 4, and has verified that the random number A is correct, the key Ci will be used in all transmissions between the CAM 4 and the microprocessor 6.

The invention is not restricted to the above-described embodiments which can be varied in a number of ways within the scope of the claims. As an example for a further embodiment the CAM (i.e. the descrambler) may be part of the decoder. The decoder would now challenge the smart card to authenticate itself to obtain a secure communication between the smart card and the decoder.

CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1. Method for providing a secure communication between two devices (4, 5), wherein a first device (4) generates a random key (Ci) and transfers said key to a second device (5) in a first message encrypted using a public key, wherein said second device (5) decrypts the first encrypted message by means of a corresponding secret key to obtain said random key (Ci), wherein said random key is used to encrypt and decrypt transmissions from said second to said first device.

2. Method according to claim 1, wherein after decrypting said encrypted message, said second device (5) first returns said random key (Ci) in a second encrypted message with an authentication to said first device (4).

3. Method according to claim 2, wherein for providing said authentication said first device (4) further generates a random number (A) and transfers this random number (A) together with said random key (Ci) in said first encrypted message to the second device (5), wherein the second device uses said random number (A) for authentication in the second encrypted message.

4. Method according to claim 3, wherein said second device (5) encrypts said random number (A) under said random key (Ci) to obtain said second encrypted message.

5. Application of the method of any one of claims 1-4 in a decoder for a pay TV system, wherein said decoder comprises a control access module (CAM) (4) and a smart card (SC) (5), wherein said method is applied to provide a secure communication between the control access module (4) and the smart card (5).

6. Application of the method of any one of claims 1-4 in a decoder for a pay TV system, wherein said decoder comprises a conditional access module (CAM) (4) and a smart card (SC) (5), wherein said method is applied to provide a secure communication between the decoder and the conditional access module (4).

7. Decoder for a pay TV system, comprising a conditional access module (4) and a smart card (5), said conditional access module comprising means (8) for generating a random key (Ci), means (8) for encrypting said key in a first encrypted message using a public key encryption method, means (8) for transferring said first encrypted message to the smart card, said smart card (5) comprising means (10) for receiving and decryptinq said first encrypted message to obtain said random key, means (10) for encrypting transmissions to the conditional access module under said random key, said conditional access module (4) having means (8) to decrypt said transmissions received from the smart card.

8. Decoder according to claim 7, wherein said smart card (5) comprises means (10) for returning said random key to the conditional access module in a second encrypted message with an authentication.

9. Decoder according to claim 8, wherein said generating means (8) of the conditional access module (4) further generates a random number which is included in said first encrypted message, wherein the smart card (5) is adapted to use said random number as authentication in the second encrypted message.

10. Decoder system for a pay TV system, comprising a decoder and a conditional access module (4), wherein said decoder comprises means (6) for generating a random key (Ci), means (6) for encrypting said key in a first encrypted message using a public key encryption method, means (6) for transferring said first encrypted message to the conditional access module (4), said conditional access module comprising means (8) for receiving and decrypting said first encrypted message to obtain said random key, means (8) for encrypting transmissions to the decoder under said random key, said decoder having means (6) to decrypt said transmissions received from the conditional access module.

11. Decoder system according to claim 10, wherein said conditional access module (4) comprises means (8) for returning said random key to the decoder in a second encrypted message with an authentication.

12. Decoder system according to claim 11, wherein said generating means (6) of the decoder further generates a random number which is included in said first encrypted message, wherein the conditional access module (4) is adapted to use said random number as authentication in the second encrypted message.

13. A method for providing a secure communication between two devices in a decoder for a pay TV system, wherein said decoder comprises a conditional access module (CAM) and a smart card (SC), wherein a first device generates a random key (Ci) and transfers said key to a second device in a first message encrypted using a public key, wherein said second device decrypts the first encrypted message by means of a corresponding secret key to obtain said random key of a corresponding secret key to obtain said random key (Ci), wherein after decrypting said encrypted message, said second device first returns said random key (Ci) in a second encrypted message with an authentication to said first device, wherein said random key (Ci) is used to encrypt and decrypt transmissions between said devices.

14. The method according to claim 13, wherein for providing said authentication said first device further generates a random number (A) and transfers this random number (A) together with said random key (Ci) in said first encrypted message to the second device, wherein the second device uses said random number (A) for authentication in the second encrypted message.

15. The method according to claim 14, wherein said second device encrypts said random number (A) under said random key (Ci) to obtain said second encrypted message.

16. The method of claim 13, wherein said method provides a secure communication between the conditional access module and the smart card.

17. The method of claim 13, wherein said method provides a secure communication between the decoder and the conditional access module.

18. The method of claim 14, wherein said method provides a secure communication between the conditional access module and the smart card.

19. The method of claim 15, wherein said method provides a secure communication between the conditional access module and the smart card.

20. The method of claim 14, wherein said method provides a secure communication between the decoder and the conditional access module.

21. The method of claim 15, wherein said method provides a secure communication between the decoder and the conditional access module.

22. A decoder for use in a decoder system for a pay TV system, the decoder system having a conditional access module, the conditional access module including means for receiving a first encrypted message encrypted under a random key (Ci) and means for decrypting the first encrypted message, the conditional access module further including means for encrypting transmissions to decoder, said decoder comprising:

means for generating the random key (Ci);

means for encrypting the random key in the first encrypted message using a public key encryption method;

means for transferring the first encrypted message to the conditional access module for the conditional access module to retrieve the random key; and

means for decrypting the transmissions encrypted under the random key and received from the conditional access module.

23. The decoder of claim 22, wherein said generating means further generates a random number which is included in the first encrypted message, wherein the conditional access module is adapted to use said random number as authentication for returning the random key to the decoder in a second encrypted message.

24. A conditional access module for use in a decoder system for a pay TV system, the decoder system having a decoder, the decoder including means for generating a random key, means for encrypting the random key in a first encrypted message using a public key encryption method, and means for transferring the first encrypted message to said conditional access module, said conditional access module comprising:

means for receiving and decrypting the first encrypted message to obtain the random key; and

means for encrypting transmissions to the decoder under the random key,

wherein the decoder decrypts said transmissions received from the conditional access module.

25. The conditional access module of claim 24, said conditional access module further comprising means for returning the random key to the decoder in a second encrypted message with an authentication.

26. The conditional access module of claim 25, wherein the generating means of the decoder further generates a random number which is included in the first encrypted message, wherein said conditional access module is adapted to use said random number as authentication in the second encrypted message.

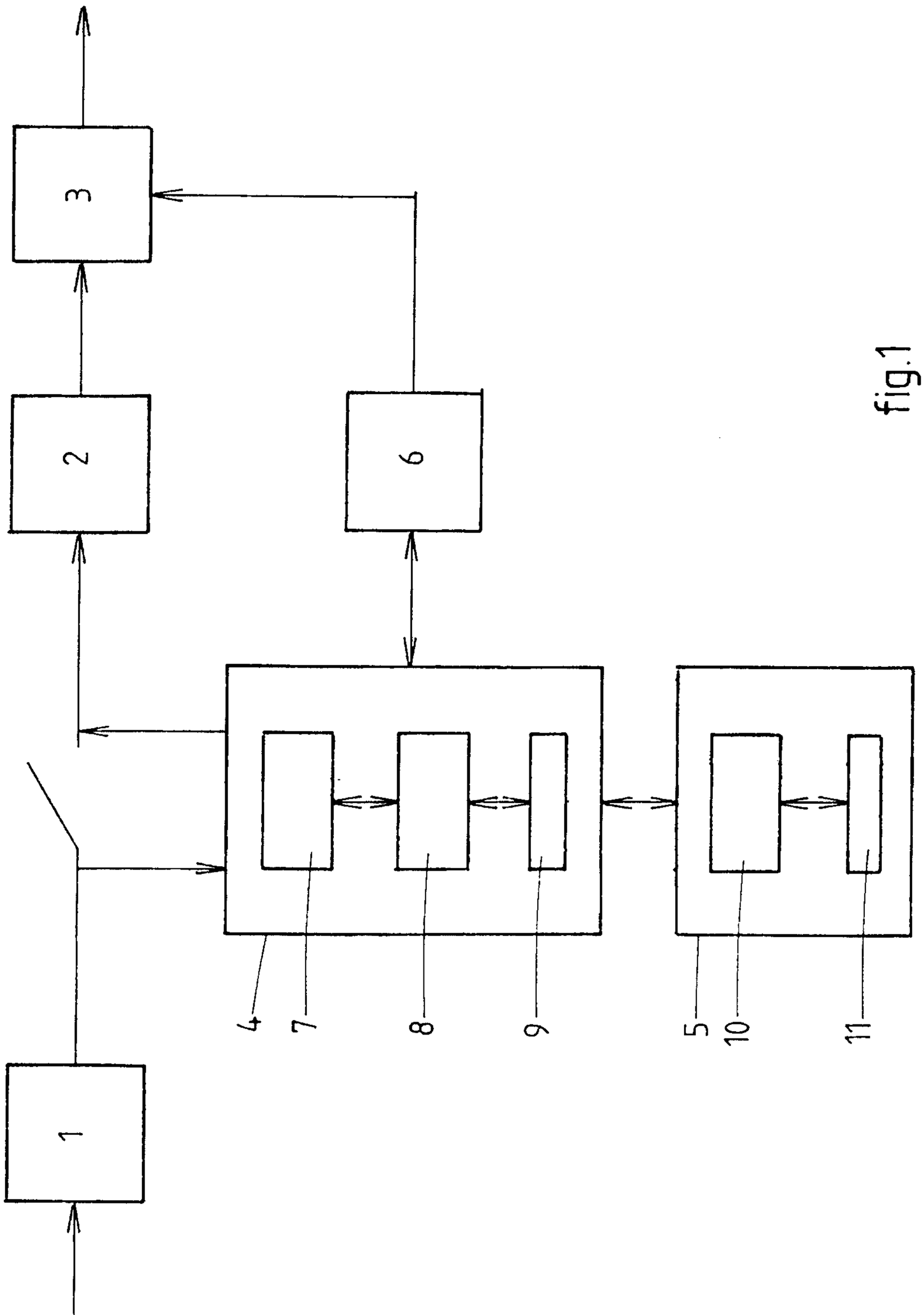
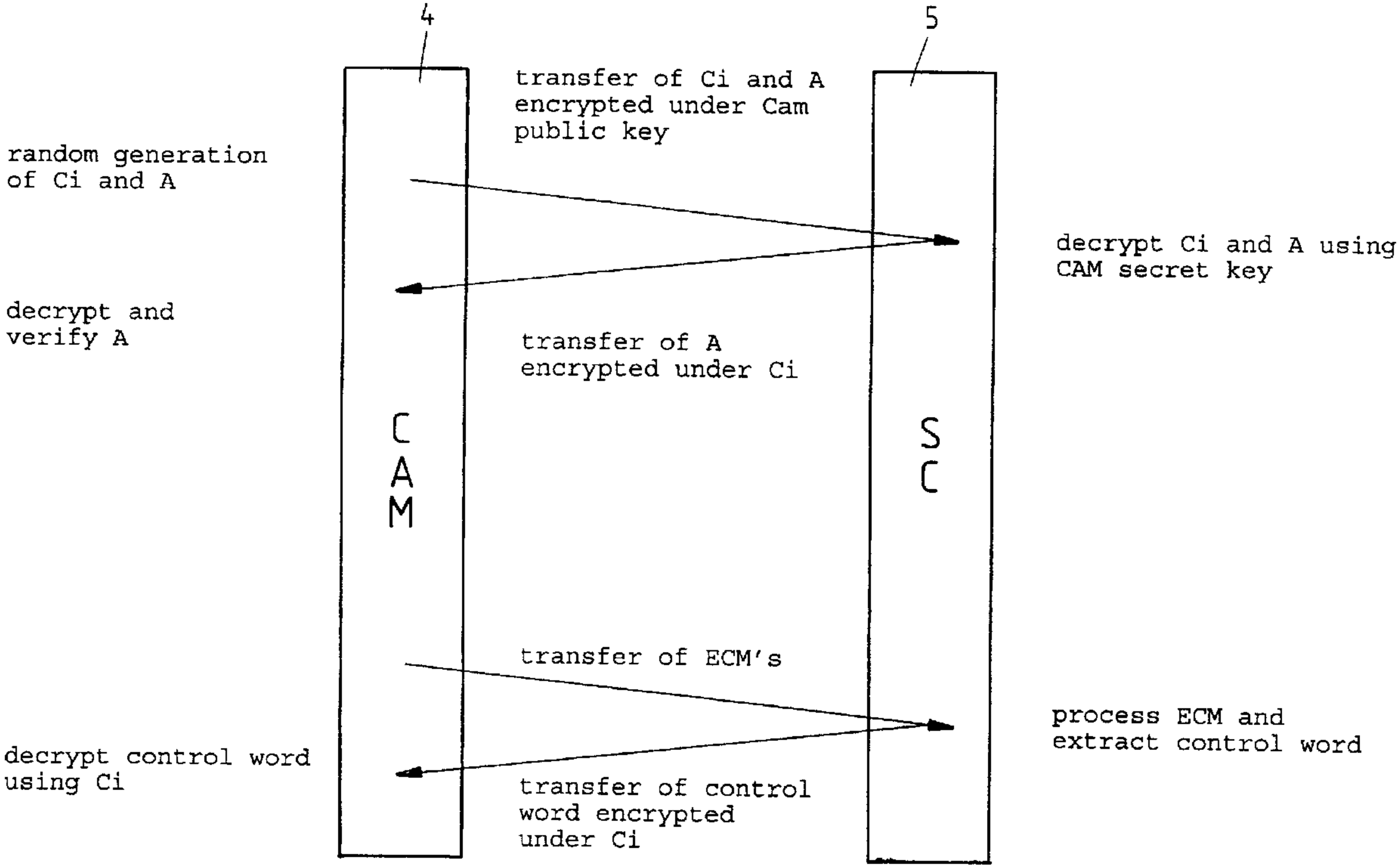


fig.1

5
SC
4
CAM
random generation of Ci and A
transfer of Ci and A encrypted under CAM public key
decrypt and verify A
transfer of A encrypted under Ci
decrypt control word using Ci
transfer of control word encrypted under Ci
process ECM and extract ECM's
transfer of ECM's

fig.2


4
5
random generation of Ci and A
transfer of Ci and A encrypted under Cam public key
decrypt Ci and A using CAM secret key
decrypt and verify A
transfer of A encrypted under Ci
CAM
SC
transfer of ECM's
process ECM and extract control word
decrypt control word using Ci
transfer of control word encrypted under Ci