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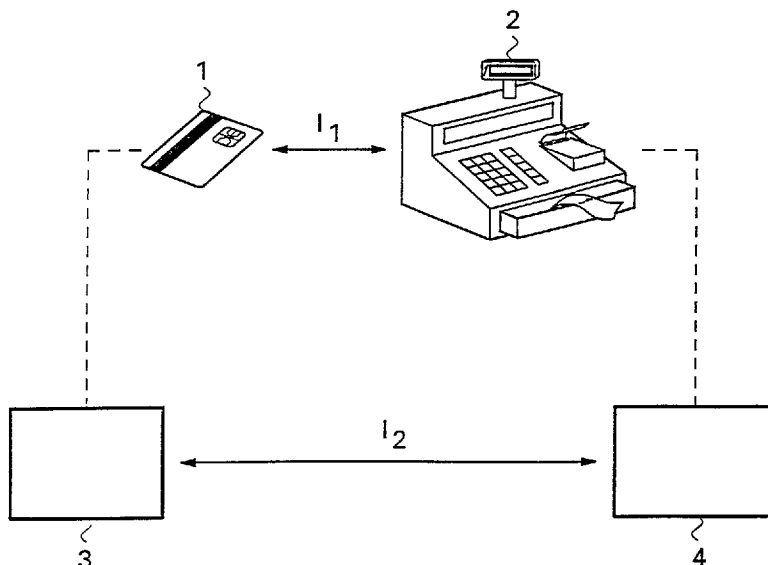
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(54) **SYSTEME DE PAIEMENT ELECTRONIQUE AYANT
PLUSIEURS UNITES DE CALCUL, MOYEN ET PROCEDE DE
PAIEMENT ELECTRONIQUE**

(54) **ELECTRONIC PAYMENT SYSTEM HAVING SEVERAL
CALCULATION UNITS, ELECTRONIC PAYMENT MEANS,
AS WELL AS A METHOD FOR ELECTRONIC PAYMENT**



(57) L'invention concerne un système de paiement avec un moyen de paiement électronique tel qu'une carte de paiement électronique (1) du type "carte intelligente" et un ou plusieurs postes de paiement (2) tel qu'une caisse enregistreuse électronique. Les postes de paiement sont conçus pour recevoir durant une transaction (paiement) portant sur une valeur monétaire, une première valeur créditée au poste de paiement. Une seconde valeur est débitée sur le moyen de paiement, la seconde valeur correspondant à la première. Selon l'invention, les première et seconde valeurs peuvent être exprimées dans différentes unités de calcul, telles que les monnaies de différents pays. Cette invention concerne en outre un moyen de paiement (1) utilisable dans un tel système et un procédé pour effectuer les transactions (paiements) avec ce moyen de paiement électronique.

(57) The invention relates to a payment system with electronic payment means, such as electronic payment cards (1) such as "smart cards", and one or more payment stations (2), such as electronic cash registers. The payment stations are designed for receiving, during a payment transaction, a monetary value by crediting, in the payment station, a first value, and debiting, in the payment means, a second value corresponding to the first value. According to the invention, the first and second values may be expressed in different calculation units, such as currencies of different countries. The invention furthermore offers a payment means (1) for application in such a system, and a method for effecting a payment transaction with an electronic payment means.

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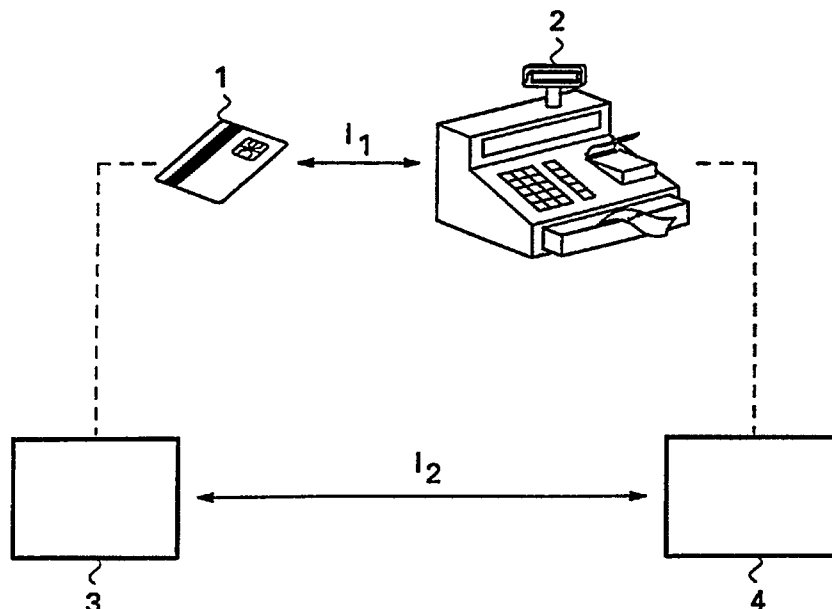
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(54) Title: ELECTRONIC PAYMENT SYSTEM HAVING SEVERAL CALCULATION UNITS, ELECTRONIC PAYMENT MEANS, AS WELL AS A METHOD FOR ELECTRONIC PAYMENT

(57) Abstract

The invention relates to a payment system with electronic payment means, such as electronic payment cards (1) such as "smart cards", and one or more payment stations (2), such as electronic cash registers. The payment stations are designed for receiving, during a payment transaction, a monetary value by crediting, in the payment station, a first value, and debiting, in the payment means, a second value corresponding to the first value. According to the invention, the first and second values may be expressed in different calculation units, such as currencies of different countries. The invention furthermore offers a payment means (1) for application in such a system, and a method for effecting a payment transaction with an electronic payment means.



Electronic payment system having several calculation units, electronic payment means, as well as a method for electronic payment.

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

The invention relates to a payment system having electronic payment means, such as so-called "chip cards" or "smart cards". More in particular, the invention relates to a payment system comprising electronic payment means
5 and one or more payment stations, which payment stations are designed for receiving, during a payment transaction, a monetary value by crediting, in the payment station, a first balance with a first value, and by debiting, in the payment means, a second balance with a second value corresponding to the first value, which balances represent numbers of calculation units.

10 Such payment systems, or generally systems for electronic payment having (electronic) payment means, are known in practice. Prior art payment means (payment cards) comprise one or more integrated circuits ("chips"), which are mounted on a plastic substrate. In such an arrangement, the at least one integrated circuit comprises a processing unit (microprocessor) for
15 carrying out, e.g., computations and cryptographic operations, and a storage unit (memory) for storing, e.g., monetary values and cryptographic data. Monetary values may be recorded as counter readings, with a certain counter reading corresponding to a certain amount of money in the currency in question. In the event of application of such payment means in a payment
20 transaction, the monetary value is debited by lowering counter readings (possibly the contents of specific memory positions).

Since the possible applications of such payment means may be considerably extended if they are capable of being used in more than one country, it has been proposed to accommodate several currencies in one

payment means. For this purpose, the storage means are provided with several counters, each of which updates a value of a certain currency (valuta). At the same time, the payment means is designed to each time draw on that currency, which is used in the country in question. Thus, this prior art
5 payment means will have a counter which records a value in guilders (stock or "pot" of Dutch guilders) and another counter which records, e.g., a value in German marks. In this manner, it is possible in the Netherlands to pay with guilders and in Germany with marks.

Although a payment system having such prior art payment means is fit
10 for use, it has several drawbacks. Thus, the number of different currencies is limited by the number of counters on the card which, due to the available memory space (or capacity of the hardware) is bound by a maximum. If such a payment means has been in use for some time in a relatively large number of countries, many counters will be in use and in practice be occupied by a
15 small amount in foreign currency. This situation is similar to the one of ready cash, with a traveller, after his trip, in most cases being left with several coins of various currencies. As a result, it is not possible to add a new currency to the payment means without erasing a counter. In addition, such residual values together may constitute an expense for the user.

20 Prior art devices dealing with multiple currencies do not solve these problems.

European patent application EP 0 251 619, for example, discloses a transaction card capable of authorising payments in alternate currencies. A transaction limit may be converted into another currency, but the transaction
25 limit is debited in a single currency, the so-called base currency. There is only one transaction limit for a certain type of transaction, so the issue of having several balances in different currencies does not arise.

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European Patent Application EP 0 306 892 discloses a smart card which allows the "exchange" of a balance in another currency. This Prior Art smart card has a single balance which can be converted into other currencies using stored conversion factors.

5 International patent application WO93/08545 discloses a value transfer system having a plurality of electronic purses. Different currencies may be loaded in the purses, and an amount held in a purse may be converted to a different currency. However, this conversion involves the floats of the
10 respective currencies and cannot be handled by the card alone. This prior art payment system is thus not completely flexible with respect to different currencies.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

The object of the invention is to eliminate the above and other
15 drawbacks of the prior art and to provide a payment system which enables currencies to be exchanged during a financing transaction, such as a payment transaction.

Another object of the present invention is to provide a payment system which allows an off-line conversion of currencies and a flexible use of those
20 currencies.

A further object of the invention is to provide a payment means for application in such a payment system, as well as a method for safely processing payments in a payment system.

These and other objects are achieved with a payment system comprising
25 at least one electronic payment means and one or more payment stations, which payment stations are designed for receiving, during a payment transaction, a monetary value by crediting, in the payment station, a first

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balance with a first value, and debiting, in the payment means, a second balance with a second value corresponding to the first value, which balances represent numbers of calculation units, the payment means being arranged for converting calculation units in such a manner that the first and second values may be expressed in different calculation units, which payment system is according to the present invention characterised in that the payment means is arranged for storing at least two balances, each balance having an associated calculation unit and an associated conversion factor for expressing at least part of the balance in a different calculation unit, and in that the payment means is arranged for composing the second value of at least a third and a fourth value, each of which is debited against a different balance.

Since a conversion of calculation units has been provided, the first balance (in the payment station) may be credited in a first currency (e.g., Dutch guilders), with the corresponding second balance (in the payment means) being debited in a second currency (e.g., German marks). In addition, the payment system of the invention is implemented in such a manner that the second value may be composed of at least a third and a fourth value, each of which may be expressed in a different calculation unit. In other words, the debiting of the second value may take place in more than one calculation unit. Thus, a payment may be effected by debiting the balance of several calculation units, such as by debiting two currencies (e.g., Dutch guilders and German marks, or Dutch guilders and British pounds). This has the advantage that the holder of the card may dispose of several balances of the payment means, irrespective of the calculation unit in which the payment itself (i.e., the crediting of the first value) must take place. In addition, it is made possible in this manner to use up remaining balances, even if no payments in the calculation units in question themselves are required.

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As stated above, with the payment system according to the invention it is possible to debit several counters (balances) during a single payment. As a result, in the first place the option is created of paying even if no sufficient balance is available of the currency required for the payment. After all, other
5 currencies may be drawn on. In the second place, the option exists of releasing counters by completely using up a balance of any currency (counter reset) if the amount to be paid is at least equal to the counter reading in question. In this manner, counters may be used for new currencies. In the
10 third place, the option arises of computing a total balance of the payment means in a simple manner. Since, according to the invention, the total balance may be converted into any currency, the user knows what are the maximum spending options of the payment means. In the fourth place, a spending limit may be set (by the user), i.e., not only for each currency separately but also for the payment means as a whole. This spending limit may apply both to
15 each transaction and cumulatively, i.e., for all transaction together.

Generally the first and second values, if they are expressed in the same currency, will be identical. It is conceivable, however, that e.g. transaction costs are charged, as a result of which the amount debited in the payment means may exceed the amount credited in the payment station.

20 As referred to above, the invention provides for a payment means, in the event of a payment transaction, being debited with other currencies than the one with which the payment station (e.g., an electronic cash register) is credited.

The invention further provides a payment means for use in a payment system.

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EXEMPLARY EMBODIMENTS

The invention will be explained in greater detail below by reference to the Figures.

Fig. 1 schematically shows a system for effecting financial transactions.

5 Fig. 2 schematically shows a table having calculation units according to the invention.

Fig. 3 schematically shows a method for effecting, with an electronic payment means, a payment transaction according to the invention.

10 Fig. 4 schematically shows a device for managing a payment means according to the invention.

The system shown in Fig. 1 comprises a payment means 1, a payment station 2, a first financial institution 3 and a second financial institution 4. Between the payment means 1, which may be a so-called "smart card", and the payment station 2, there takes place an interaction I_1 as part of a financial transaction. This interaction I_1 comprises the exchange of data, e.g., relating to the identity of the payment station and of the payment means, and amounts to be paid and the corresponding calculation units. In the event of a

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transaction, such as a payment, not only are the values in question recorded, but also the calculation units of such values. The payment station 2 may be an electronic cash register which is designed for electronic payment with payment means such as payment means 1. Between the first financial
5 institution 3 and the second financial institution 4, an interaction I_2 takes place which comprises, inter alia, the exchange of data relating to payments effected (such as in the interaction I_1). The first and second financial institutions may coincide.

As mentioned earlier, problems may arise in financial transactions with
10 a payment means 1 if the payment means disposes of several different calculation units. According to the invention, such problems may be solved by permitting, in the payment system, that in one transaction payment may be effected with several calculation units. For this purpose, a table is stored in the payment means 1 as shown in Fig. 2. This table comprises rows, each
15 having an amount (A), a calculation unit (C), a conversion factor (R) and possibly a priority factor (P). Regarding the first calculation unit, it is e.g. recorded that the amount A1 is 317.50, the calculation unit C1 is the German mark, the conversion factor R1 (as compared to a reference calculation unit) is 1.10, and the priority P1 is 2. Apart from a currency, the calculation unit
20 may be, e.g., a telephone pulse; the reference calculation unit may be the currency of the country of issue (e.g., Dutch guilder), but also another currency or unit, such as the ECU or the Japanese yen. In the event of a payment transaction, the balance of the calculation unit required by the payment station is preferably debited by default. As an alternative, the
25 reference calculation unit may serve as default unit. The reference calculation unit as such may be assigned a priority (P) equal to 1.

The conversion factors R1, R2, ... , which in the event of a currency

are exchange rates, are primarily informative: they give the user information relating to the value of the various balances. When a payment is effected, advantageously use will be made of a conversion factor which is stored in the payment station and which is updated regularly, e.g., daily.

5 The diagram of Fig. 3 shows, by way of example, a possible embodiment of the method according to the invention. The payment means 1 (see Fig. 1) is schematically referred to by I, the payment station 2 by II.

 In step 100, there takes place an activation of the payment means. In the subsequent step 101, the payment means transmits data, including the
10 balances (amounts) A1, A2, ... AN, to the payment station. In step 102, the payment station displays these balances, preferably multiplied by their respective conversion factors. The user may now choose, e.g., with the help of a keyboard available on the payment station, or by intervention of a device according to Fig. 4, which balance or which balances he/she will draw on for
15 the payment, in other words, in which calculation unit (currency, pulse) he will pay. It may be advantageous to provide for a default value, such as the calculation unit required by the payment station.

 In step 103, the user chooses the balances to be used. In this connection, it is checked whether the amounts to be paid do not exceed a
20 spending limit per calculation unit and/or per transaction. If such is the case, a return is made to step 103. If the spending limits have not been exceeded, in step 104 the payment data PD is composed of the balances chosen and supplementary (identification) information. In step 105, a random number α is generated and, together with the payment data PD, transferred to the
25 payment means. This random number α serves to protect the procedure and prevents so-called "replay" by third parties.

 In step 106 it is verified, in the payment means, whether the total

amount to be paid is available and, by means of a cryptographic function S and a (secret) key s , a value ρ is produced which will be applied to verify the procedure.

In step 107, the balances in question (A in Fig. 2), as well as the
5 available amounts, are lowered. Possibly, a flag may be set ("busy") to indicate that the procedure may not be interrupted at this stage. Subsequently, in step 108 the value ρ is transferred to the payment station. In step 109, the payment station checks the value ρ , e.g., by encyphering the payment dates and the value a with a public key π and a function T , which is the inverse of
10 S : $T_{\pi} = S_{\sigma}^{-1}$. If the outcome of this operation indeed produces ρ , in step 110 an acknowledgement ACK is sent to the payment means, whereupon the payment means in step 111 resets the flag ("busy") set earlier. This concludes the transaction.

The method described above according to the invention therefore offers
15 both a conversion of calculation units and a verification of the payment means.

The device ("wallet") 7 for managing a payment means 1, which is schematically shown in perspective in Fig. 4, comprises an opening 71 for receiving the payment means 1, a keyboard 72 and a display screen 73.
20 Internally, the device 7 may comprise a control, a memory, and a connector for contacting the contacts 11 of the payment means 1. The control may comprise a microprocessor which is also able to carry out cryptographic operations. The connector constitutes the mechanical and electrical coupling to the payment means 1 but, in the event of contactless payment cards, it may
25 be replaced by other suitable means for realising an (electromagnetic) coupling to the payment means 1. In addition, the device 7 may be provided with means for exchanging data with a payment station by means of optical,

electrical and/or acoustical signals.

According to the invention, the device 7 is provided with means for converting calculation units, such as currencies. The table of Fig. 2 may be advantageously made visible on the display screen 73. In this manner, the user is able to check the balances (A1, A2, ... in Fig. 2). The device 7 may advantageously display a total balance of the balances A1, A2,

It will be understood by those skilled in the art that the invention is not limited to the embodiments shown, and that many modifications and additions are possible without departing from the scope of the invention.

10

REFERENCES

- [1] EP 0 567 610 & WO 93/08545 & US 5 440 634
- [2] EP 0 518 365
- [3] EP 0 546 584
- 15 [4] EP 0 251 619 & US 4 766 293.
- [5] EP 0 542 298

CLAIMS

1. Payment system comprising at least one electronic payment means (1) and one or more payment stations (2), which payment stations are designed for receiving, during a payment transaction, a monetary value by crediting, in
5 the payment station, a first balance with a first value, and debiting, in the payment means, a second balance with a second value corresponding to the first value, which balances represent numbers of calculation units, the payment means (1) being arranged for converting calculation units in such a manner that the first and second values may be expressed in different
10 calculation units, characterised in that the payment means (1) is arranged for storing at least two balances (A1, A2, ...), each balance having an associated calculation unit (C1, C2, ...) and an associated conversion factor (R1, R2, ...) for expressing at least part of the balance in a different calculation unit, and in that the payment means (1) is arranged for composing the second value of
15 at least a third and a fourth value, each of which is debited against a different balance (e.g. A1 and A2).
2. Payment system according to claim 1, wherein the payment means (1) is arranged for storing, for each balance (e.g. A3), an associated priority (P3) and for debiting the balances according to their priorities.
- 20 3. Payment system according to claim 1 or 2, wherein the payment means (1) is arranged for determining a total balance, expressed in one calculation unit (e.g. C1), of the balances (A1, A2, ...) stored in the payment means (1).
4. Payment system according to any of the preceding claims, designed for periodically updating the conversion factors (R1, R2, ...).
- 25 5. Payment system according to any of the preceding claims, wherein the calculation units comprise currencies of different countries, preferably including the Euro.

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6. Electronic payment means (1), comprising a substrate and at least one integrated circuit with processing means, storage means and input and output means, with the storage means being arranged for storing at least one balance representing numbers of calculation units, the circuit being arranged for debiting a balance with a value, and for converting calculation units in such a manner that the value may be expressed in different calculation units, characterised in that the circuit is arranged for storing at least two balances (A1, A2, ...), each balance having an associated calculation unit (C1, C2, ...) and an associated conversion factor (R1, R2, ...) for expressing at least part of the balance in a different calculation unit, and in that the circuit is arranged for composing the value of at least a two other values, each of which is debited against a different balance (e.g. A1 and A2).

7. Payment means according to claim 6, further arranged for storing, for each balance (e.g. A3), an associated priority (P3) and for debiting the balances according to their priorities.

8. Payment means according to claim 6 or 7, further arranged for determining a total balance, expressed in one calculation unit (e.g. C1), of calculation units stored in the payment means (1).

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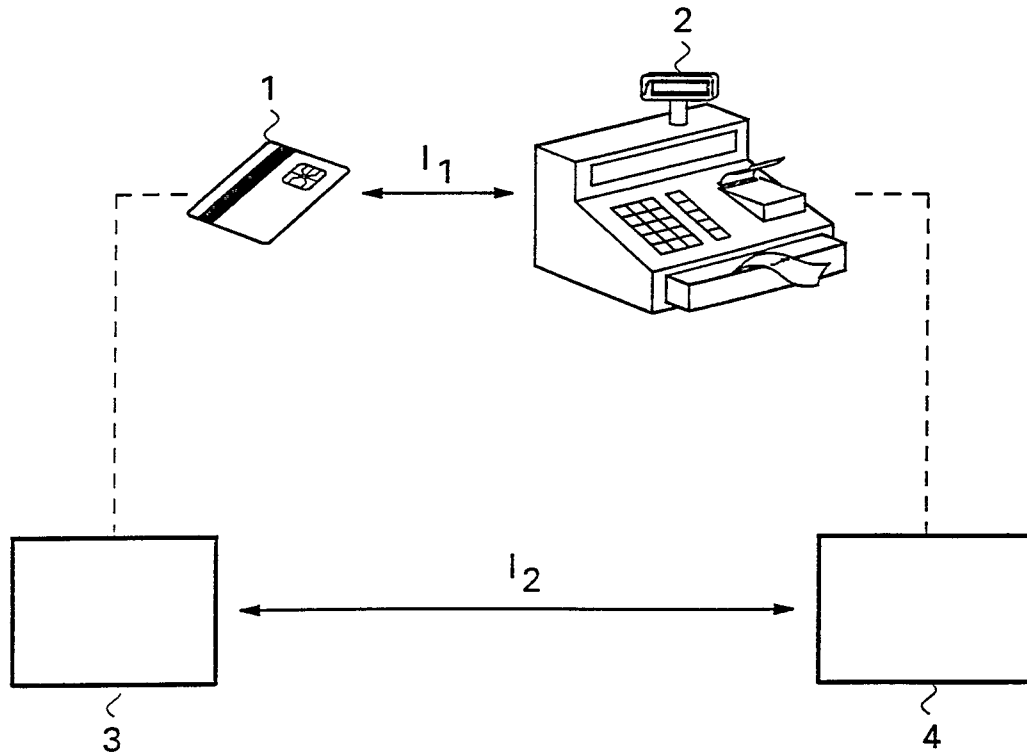


Fig. 1

A1	C1	R1	P1
A2	C2	R2	P2
A3	C3	R3	P3
⋮	⋮	⋮	⋮

Fig. 2

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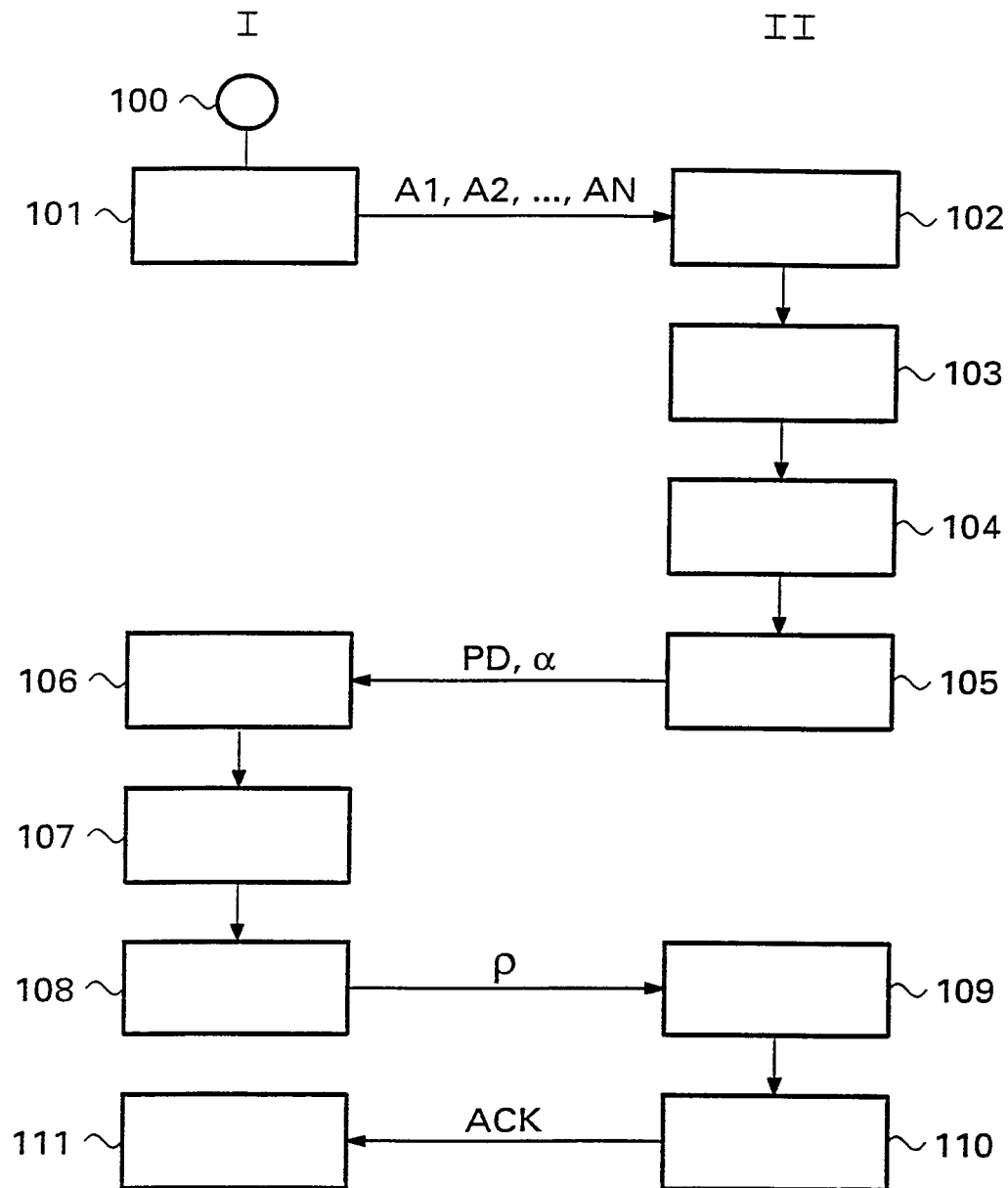


Fig. 3

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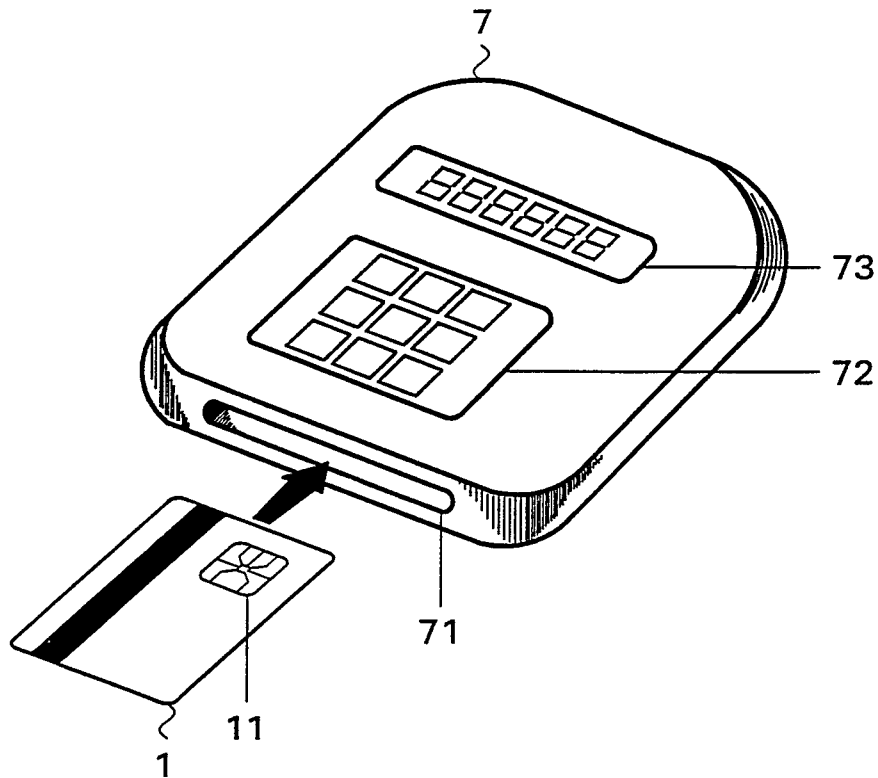


Fig. 4

