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(54) **A METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR GENERATING A PRECISE FRAME RATE IN DIGITAL VIDEO TRANSMISSION**

VERFAHREN UND VORRICHTUNG ZUR ERZEUGUNG EINER GENAUEN RAHMENRATE IN
DIGITALER VIDEO ÜBERTRAGUNG

PROCEDE ET APPAREIL PERMETTANT DE GENERER UNE FREQUENCE DE TRAMES PRECISE
EN TRANSMISSION VIDEO NUMERIQUE

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(74) Representative: **Turner, James Arthur et al
D Young & Co
120 Holborn
London EC1N 2DY (GB)**

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(73) Proprietor: **SONY ELECTRONICS, INC.
Park Ridge,
New Jersey 07656-8003 (US)**

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(72) Inventors:

- **VU, Quan, A.
Milpitas, CA 95035 (US)**
- **SHIMA, Hisato
Sunnyvale, CA 94087 (US)**

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DescriptionFIELD OF THE INVENTION:

[0001] The present invention relates to the field of transmitting information between devices. More particularly, the present invention relates to the field of transmitting time sensitive information between devices over an IEEE 1394-1995 serial bus network.

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION:

[0002] The IEEE 1394-1995 standard, "1394-1995 Standard For A High Performance Serial Bus," is an international standard for implementing an inexpensive high-speed serial bus architecture which supports both asynchronous and isochronous format data transfers. Isochronous data transfers are real-time transfers which take place such that the time intervals between significant instances have the same duration at both the transmitting and receiving applications. Each packet of data transferred isochronously is transferred in its own time period. An example of an ideal application for the transfer of data isochronously would be from a video recorder to a television set. The video recorder records images and sounds and saves the data in discrete chunks or packets. The video recorder then transfers each packet, representing the image and sound recorded over a limited time period, during that time period, for display by the television set. The IEEE 1394-1995 standard bus architecture provides multiple channels for isochronous data transfer between applications. A six bit channel number is broadcast with the data to ensure reception by the appropriate application. This allows multiple applications to concurrently transmit isochronous data across the bus structure. Asynchronous transfers are traditional data transfer operations which take place as soon as possible and transfer an amount of data from a source to a destination.

[0003] The IEEE 1394-1995 standard provides a high-speed serial bus for interconnecting digital devices thereby providing a universal I/O connection. The IEEE 1394-1995 standard defines a digital interface for the applications thereby eliminating the need for an application to convert digital data to analog data before it is transmitted across the bus. Correspondingly, a receiving application will receive digital data from the bus, not analog data, and will therefore not be required to convert analog data to digital data. The cable required by the IEEE 1394-1995 standard is very thin in size compared to other bulkier cables used to connect such devices. Devices can be added and removed from an IEEE 1394-1995 bus while the bus is active. If a device is so added or removed the bus will then automatically reconfigure itself for transmitting data between the then existing nodes. A node is considered a logical entity with a unique address on the bus structure. Each node provides an identification ROM, a standardized set of control registers and its own address space.

[0004] The IEEE 1394-1995 cable environment is a network of nodes connected by point-to-point links, including a port on each node's physical connection and the cable between them. The physical topology for the cable environment of an IEEE 1394-1995 serial bus is a non-cyclic network of multiple ports, with finite branches. The primary restriction on the cable environment is that nodes must be connected together without forming any closed loops.

[0005] The IEEE 1394-1995 cables connect ports together on different nodes. Each port includes terminators, transceivers and simple logic. A node can have multiple ports at its physical connection. The cable and ports act as bus repeaters between the nodes to simulate a single logical bus. The cable physical connection at each node includes one or more ports, arbitration logic, a resynchronizer and an encoder. Each of the ports provide the cable media interface into which the cable connector is connected. The arbitration logic provides access to the bus for the node. The resynchronizer takes received data-strobe encoded data bits and generates data bits synchronized to a local clock for use by the applications within the node. The encoder takes either data being transmitted by the node or data received by the resynchronizer, which is addressed to another node, and encodes it in data-strobe format for transmission across the IEEE 1394-1995 serial bus. Using these components, the cable physical connection translates the physical point-to-point topology of the cable environment into a virtual broadcast bus, which is expected by higher layers of the system. This is accomplished by taking all data received on one port of the physical connection, resynchronizing the data to the local clock and repeating the data out of all of the other ports from the physical connection.

[0006] A block diagram of a video network including a computer system, a video camera, and a monitor is illustrated in Figure 1. The computer system 2 is coupled to the video camera 4. The video camera 4 is also coupled to the monitor 6. The computer system 2 is capable of transmitting a stream of video data to the video camera 4 for recording by the video camera 4 and/or display on the monitor 6. When the computer system 2 transmits a stream of video data to the digital video camera 4 for display on the monitor 6, the data is forwarded from the video camera 4 to the monitor 6. The monitor 6 receives the stream of video data from the digital video camera 4 and displays a corresponding image in response to the stream of video data. A frame rate is a number of video frames to the displayed per second. To properly display the video images, the monitor 6 typically requires that the stream of video data is transmitted from the video camera 4 at a required frame rate. If the monitor 6 does not receive the stream of video data from the video camera 4

at the required frame rate, the quality of the displayed images will suffer, causing color images to be displayed in black and white and other deteriorations of image quality.

[0007] U.S. Patent No. 5,708,961 to Hylton et al. (hereinafter "Hylton") discloses a digital network to deliver multiplexed channels to a customer premises. Each multiplexed channel contains a digitally multiplexed data stream including digitised broadband information relating to a number of programs. At the customer premises, a shared processing system includes several channel selectors and program selectors. Each channel selector selects one of the multiplexed channels, and each program selector selects digitised broadband information relating to a selected program from a selected channel. A multiplexer combines the selected digitised broadband information from the program selectors into a transport stream. A transmitter system, for example comprising a digital modulator, a spread spectrum modulator and a broadcast antenna, provides a wireless broadcast of the digital transport stream throughout the customer premises and possibly one or more nearby premises. Terminal devices within range of the broadcast receive the wireless broadcast and process selected digitised broadband information from the transport stream to present information relating to a selected program.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION:

[0008] The present invention provides a method of and apparatus for transmitting an isochronous video stream of data at a particular frame rate from a source device to a receiving device. Preferably, a video frame is part of an isochronous stream of video data which is transmitted over an IEEE 1394-1995 serial bus network. The particular, desired frame rate is determined by the receiving device. The source device preferably determines a proper ratio of data packets versus video frames in response to the particular frame rate required and a cycle time for isochronous data. This proper ratio of data packets versus video frames rarely computes to an integer result. Accordingly, once the proper ratio of data packets versus video frames is determined, the source device preferably generates two groups of frames. A first group contains an integer value of packets nearest to and above the desired overall average ratio of data packets versus video frames. The source device also generates a second group of frames where each frame from this second group contains an integer value of packets nearest to and below the ratio of packets versus video frames.

[0009] In order to achieve the desired frame rate, the source device generates a frame ratio containing a specific number of frames from the first group and the second group and forms the isochronous stream of video data. Further, the source device serially generates each of the frames in an order including a combination of the first group of frames and the second group of frames to achieve the overall desired average frame ratio. The source device then transmits the resulting isochronous video stream of data to the receiving device at the desired frame rate.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS:

[0010]

Figure 1 illustrates a block diagram of a prior art network including a computer system, a video camera, and a monitor. Figure 2 illustrates a block diagram of an IEEE 1394-1995 serial bus network including a computer system, a video camera, and a monitor. Figure 3 illustrates a block diagram of the internal components of the computer system. Figure 4 illustrates a block diagram of the internal components of the video camera. Figure 5 illustrates a block diagram of the software and hardware structure within the computer system. Figure 6 illustrates a sample isochronous video stream generated by the preferred embodiment of the present invention.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE PREFERRED EMBODIMENT:

[0011] A block diagram of an exemplary IEEE 1394-1995 serial bus network including a computer system, a video camera, and a monitor is illustrated in Figure 2. The computer system 10 includes an associated display 12 and is coupled to the video camera 14 by the IEEE 1394-1995 serial bus cable 16. The monitor 15 is coupled to the video camera 14 by a red, green, and blue (RGB) cable 17. Video data and associated data are sent between the video camera 14 and the computer system 10 over the IEEE 1394-1995 serial bus cable 16. Additionally, video data and its associated data are sent between the video camera 14 and the monitor 15 over the RGB cable 17.

[0012] In operation, the monitor 15 displays a series of video images provided from the video camera 14 which relate to the video data and corresponding data which are received by the video camera 14 and forwarded to the monitor 15 via the RGB cable 17. The monitor 15 requires that the video data and corresponding data be formatted for a specific frame rate in order for the related video images to be properly displayed. If the monitor does not receive the stream of video data at the correct frame rate, the video quality presented by the monitor 15 will be effected, potentially causing the monitor 15 to display color images in black and white and also effecting the clarity and quality of the displayed images.

In this preferred embodiment, the monitor 15 must receive the video data and corresponding data at a frame rate of 29.9700 frames per second. If the monitor 15 does not receive this data at the frame rate of exactly 29.9700 frames per second, the resulting video images will be displayed by the monitor 15 in black and white instead of color. In alternate embodiments, the frame rate required by the monitor 15 is different.

[0013] A block diagram of the internal components of the computer system 10 is illustrated in Figure 3. The computer system 10 includes a central processor unit (CPU) 20, a main memory 30, a video memory 22, a mass storage device 32 and an IEEE 1394-1995 interface circuit 28, all coupled together by a conventional bidirectional system bus 34. The interface circuit 28 includes the physical interface circuit 42 for sending and receiving communications on the IEEE 1394-1995 serial bus 16. The physical interface circuit 42 is coupled to the camera 14 over the IEEE 1394-1995 serial bus 16. In the preferred embodiment of the present invention, the interface circuit 28 is implemented on an IEEE 1394-1995 interface card within the computer system 10. However, it should be apparent to those skilled in the art that the interface circuit 28 can be implemented within the computer system 10 in any other appropriate manner, including building the interface circuit onto the motherboard itself. The mass storage device 32 may include both fixed and removable media using any one or more of magnetic, optical or magneto-optical storage technology or any other available mass storage technology. The system bus 34 contains an address bus for addressing any portion of the memory 22 and 30. The system bus 34 also includes a data bus for transferring data between and among the CPU 20, the main memory 30, the video memory 22, the mass storage device 32 and the interface circuit 28.

[0014] The computer system 10 is also coupled to a number of peripheral input and output devices including the keyboard 38, the mouse 40 and the associated display 12. The keyboard 38 is coupled to the CPU 20 for allowing a user to input data and control commands into the computer system 10. A conventional mouse 40 is coupled to the keyboard 38 for manipulating graphic images on the display 12 as a cursor control device.

[0015] A port of the video memory 22 is coupled to a video multiplex and shifter circuit 24, which in turn is coupled to a video amplifier 26. The video amplifier 26 drives the display 12. The video multiplex and shifter circuitry 24 and the video amplifier 26 convert pixel data stored in the video memory 22 to raster signals suitable for use by the display 12.

[0016] A block diagram of the internal components within the video camera 14 is shown in Figure 4. The video camera 14 preferably includes a physical interface circuit 100, an interface circuit 102, a video memory 104, a storage device 106, a video mux and shifters 110, and a video amplifier 112, all coupled together by a conventional bidirectional system bus 108. The IEEE 1394-1995 interface circuit 102 includes the physical interface circuit 100 for sending and receiving communications on the IEEE 1394-1995 serial bus 16. The physical interface circuit 100 is preferably coupled to the computer system 10 (Figure 2) over the IEEE 1394-1995 serial bus 16. In the preferred embodiment of the present invention, the interface circuit 102 is implemented on an IEEE 1394-1995 interface card within the video camera 14. However, it should be apparent to those skilled in the art that the interface circuit 102 can be implemented within the video camera 14 in any other appropriate manner. The storage device 106 is preferably the tape recording device and assembly by which the video camera 14 records a stream of video data. Alternately, the storage device may include both fixed and removable media using any one or more of magnetic, optical or magneto-optical storage technology or any other available storage technology. The system bus 108 also includes a data bus for transferring data between and among the storage device 106, the video amplifier 112, the video mux and shifters 110, the video memory 104, and the interface circuit 102.

[0017] In operation, the interface circuit 102 preferably receives video data and associated data from the computer system 10 (Figure 2) via the IEEE 1394-1995 serial bus network 16. The physical interface circuit 100 receives both the video data and the associated data. In response to the physical interface circuit 100, the video data is selectively transferred from the interface circuit 100 to one or both the storage device 106 and/or the video memory 104. After the video data is received by the video memory 104, the video multiplex and shifter circuitry 110 and the video amplifier 112 convert pixel data stored in the video memory 104 to RGB signals suitable for use by the display 15 (Figure 2). The video amplifier 112 preferably transmits the video data to the monitor 15 (Figure 2) via the RGB cable 17 (Figure 2).

[0018] A block diagram of the hardware and software architecture of the components and drivers within the computer system 10 for transmitting a video frame is illustrated in Figure 5. As described above and shown in Figure 3, the physical transceiver circuit 42 is coupled to the IEEE 1394-1995 serial bus 16 and is responsible for transmitting and receiving communications from the computer system 10 over the IEEE 1394-1995 serial bus network. It should be apparent to those skilled in the art that the present invention can be implemented on any appropriately configured node used to transmit data packets. A link chip 52 is coupled to the physical transceiver circuit 42 for providing data and control signals from device drivers and applications to the physical transceiver circuit 42. The link chip 52 is preferably included within the interface circuit 28. The software applications and device drivers communicate with the link chip 52. The relevant software applications and device drivers for transmitting data from the node over the IEEE 1394-1995 serial bus network include the IEEE 1394-1995 port driver 54, the IEEE 1394-1995 bus class driver 56 and the digital video mini driver 58. The drivers 54, 56 and 58 reside within the operating system and provide the instructions and data necessary to transmit a video frame.

[0019] In the preferred embodiment as shown in Figure 2, the computer system 10 is coupled to the video camera 14

via the IEEE 1394-1995 serial bus 16. Additionally, the video camera 14 is coupled to the monitor 15 via the RGB cable 17. Preferably, the computer system 10 transmits a digital video format video stream which contains video frames and associated data to the video camera 14 via the IEEE 1394-1995 serial bus 16. Each video frame in this video stream contains a time stamp embedded within the frame which instructs the video camera 14 regarding the proper timing to display each frame. Based on this time stamp, the video camera 14 preferably generates the appropriate video signals to reflect the desired frame rate and display each frame at the corresponding display time specified by its time stamp. In this preferred embodiment, the desired frame rate is 29.9700 frames per second. If the frame rate is not exactly 29.9700 frames per second, the resulting picture displayed on the monitor 15 is shown in black and white instead of color.

[0020] The computer system 10 preferably transmits the video stream in the form of isochronous packets via the IEEE 1394-1995 serial bus 16 to the video camera 14 over an isochronous channel. In this preferred embodiment, one isochronous packet is transmitted on the isochronous channel in each isochronous cycle. Within an IEEE 1394-1995 serial bus an isochronous cycle occurs every 125 microseconds. Accordingly, an isochronous packet is transmitted on the isochronous channel every 125 microseconds for the preferred embodiment. To assure that the required frame rate of 29.9700 frames per second is met, the following equation (1) is utilized to calculate the necessary number of packets per frame in order to achieve a frame rate of 29.9700 frames per second.

$$\frac{1}{\text{frame rate}} * \frac{1}{\text{cycle time}} = \frac{\text{No. of packets}}{\text{frame}} \quad \text{Equation (1)}$$

With the frame rate at 29.9700 frames per second and the cycle time at 125 microseconds per cycle according to equation (1), the resulting number of packets per frame is 266.9336 packets per frame.

[0021] Over the IEEE 1394-1995 serial bus network, only a whole packet can be sent for each isochronous cycle. Accordingly, in order to achieve the result of 266.9336 packets per frame, a ratio of frames containing different numbers of packets is used to achieve an overall average value of 266.9336 packets per frame. A data stream is formed from the frames as they are transmitted from the computer 10 to the video camera 14. In order to achieve the overall average of 266.9336 packets per frame over the course of 10,000 frames, 9336 frames are generated within the computer system 10 containing 267 packets, and 664 frames are generated containing 266 packets. This yields a ratio of fourteen frames containing 267 packets to every one frame containing 266 packets. Further, the computer system 10 generates one frame at a time and selectively generates frames either containing 267 packets or 266 packets based on the ratio of frames containing 267 packets and 266 packets. In this example, the computer system 10 generates fourteen frames containing 267 packets followed by one frame containing 266 packets. The computer system 10 repeats this pattern over the course of 10,000 frames, to achieve the overall frame rate equal to 266.9336 packets per frame. It should be realized by those skilled in the art that the data stream will include more or less than 10,000 frames, and that number is only utilized to illustrate the present invention. These frames are then transmitted to the video camera 14 as an isochronous stream of data via the IEEE 1394-1995 serial bus 16. By transmitting the correct ratio of frames containing different numbers of packets in this isochronous stream of data, the video camera 14 preferably receives the video frame data at the required frame rate of 29.9700 frames per second. This allows the video camera 14 to then transmit the video data to the monitor 15 at the desired frame rate to ensure the proper image quality.

[0022] Figure 6 illustrates a sample isochronous stream of frames configured by the computer system 10 (Figure 2) for transfer to the video camera 14 (Figure 2) and a sample stream of packets of video data. The sample isochronous stream of frames includes a first group of frames labeled "A" containing 267 packets in each frame and a second group of frames labeled "B" containing 266 packets in each frame. Over the course of 10,000 frames, the first group of frames (A) includes 9336 frames, and the second group of frames (B) includes 664 frames. As shown in Figure 6, fourteen frames from the first group of frames (A) are consecutively arranged and are interrupted by one frame from the second group of frames (B). Although not explicitly shown in Figure 6, this pattern of fourteen frames from the first group of frames (A) interrupted by one frame from the second group of frames (B) continues as long as the data stream is being transmitted.

[0023] Further, the computer system 10 places a selective number of packets from the stream of packets within each frame as that particular frame is generated by the computer system 10. For example, 266 packets from the stream of packets formed by a packet group 200 are included within a frame labeled 205. Then, 267 packets from the stream of packets formed by a packet group 210 are included within a frame labeled 215. The packet group 210 consecutively follows the packet group 200 in the stream of packets.

[0024] The above example of the preferred embodiment merely illustrates a sample operation of the present invention while utilizing a required frame rate and cycle time specific to the exemplary network illustrated in Figure 2. It is well

within the scope of the present invention to vary the required frame rate and cycle time. Accordingly, different frame rates and/or cycle times will produce a different resulting isochronous stream of data, including a different overall average value of packets per frame.

[0025] The present invention has been described in terms of specific embodiments incorporating details to facilitate the understanding of the principles of construction and operation of the invention. Such reference herein to specific embodiments and details thereof is not intended to limit the scope of the claims appended hereto. It will be apparent to those skilled in the art that modifications may be made in the embodiment chosen for illustration without departing from the scope of the present invention as defined by the appended claims.

Claims

1. A method of transmitting a data stream from a source device (10) at a frame rate determined at the receiving device, the method comprising the step of:
 - a. determining a frame rate at a receiving device (14), and being **characterised by** further comprising the steps of:
 - b. calculating a ratio of first frames (215) to second frames (205) to achieve the frame rate determined at the receiving device (14);
 - c. forming x number of the first frames (215) wherein each of the first frames (215) contains n packets of data (210) nearest to and above the frame rate determined at the receiving device (14);
 - d. forming y number of the second frames (205) wherein each of the second frames (205) contains m packets of data (200) nearest to and under the frame rate determined at the receiving device (14), wherein m is not equal to n; and
 - e. combining x number of first frames (215) and y number of second frames (205) into a data stream to achieve the frame rate determined at the receiving device (14), wherein the first frames (215) and the second frames (205) are of a same type and have same characteristics and the x number of first frames (215) are evenly distributed among the y number of second frames (205), thereby forming a repeating pattern of the first frames (215) and the second frames (205) within the data stream.
2. The method according to claim 1 further comprising the step of transmitting the data stream from the source device (10) at the frame rate of the receiving device (14).
3. The method according to claim 1 wherein the data stream is digital video data.
4. The method according to claim 1 wherein n, m, x, and y are integer values.
5. The method according to claim 1 further comprising the step of transmitting the data stream from the source device (10) to the receiving device (14).
6. The method according to claim 5 wherein n, m, x, and y are integer values.
7. The method according to claim 5 wherein the data stream conforms to standards of an IEEE 1394-1995 network (16).
8. The method according to claim 5 wherein the source device (10) and the receiving device (14) are coupled together within a network.
9. The method according to claim 8 wherein the network is an IEEE 1394-1995 network (16).
10. The method according to claim 9 further comprising the step of receiving the data stream from the network by the receiving device (14) at the frame rate of the receiving device (14) and wherein the data stream conforms to standards of an IEEE 1394-1995 network (16).
11. A source device (10) for transmitting a data stream a frame rate determined at a receiving device (14), the source device being **characterised by** comprising controller being arranged for calculating a ratio of first frames (215) to second frames (215) to achieve the frame rate determined at the receiving device (14); generating a data stream containing a plurality of the first frames (215) wherein each of the first frames includes x packets of data (210) nearest to and above the frame rate determined at the receiving device (14) and a plurality of the second frames

(205) wherein each of the second frames includes y packets of data (200) nearest to and below the frame rate determined at the receiving device (14) to achieve the frame rate determined at the receiving device (14) and y is not equal to x, and transmitting the data stream at the frame rate determined at the receiving device (14) wherein the first frames (215) and the second frames (205) are of a same type and have same characteristics and the number of first frames (215) are evenly distributed among the number of second frames (205), thereby forming a repeating pattern of the first frames (215) and the second frames (205) within the data stream.

12. The source device according to claim 11 wherein x and y are integer values.

13. The source device according to claim 11 further comprising an interface coupled to the controller and configured for connecting said source device to a network.

14. The source device according to claim 13 wherein the network is a IEEE 1394-1995 network (16).

15. A system comprising the source device (10) according to claim 11 and further comprising a receiving device (14) coupled to the source device (10) and configured to receive the data stream at the frame rate of the receiving device (14).

16. The system according to claim 15 wherein x and y are integer values.

17. The system according to claim 15 wherein the controller is a computer system (10).

18. The system according to claim 15 wherein the receiving device (14) is a digital video camera (14).

19. The system according to claim 15 wherein the frame rate determined at the receiving device is 29.97 frames per second.

20. The system according to claim 15 wherein the plurality of first frames (215) are 9336 frames, x packets (210) represent 267 packets, the plurality of second frames (205) are 664 frames, and y packets (200) represent 266 packets.

21. The system according to claim 15 wherein the data stream conforms to standards of an IEEE 1394-1995 network (16).

22. The system according to claim 15 further comprising a network coupled between the source device (10) and the receiving device (14) and configured to transmit the data stream.

23. The system according to claim 22 wherein the network is an IEEE 1394-1995 network (16).

Patentansprüche

1. Verfahren zum Übertragen eines Datenstroms von einem Quellgerät (10) mit einer Bildfolge rate, die durch das Empfangsgerät bestimmt ist, wobei das Verfahren den Schritt umfasst:

a. Bestimmen einer Bildfolge rate in einem Empfangsgerät (14), und durch die weiteren Schritte **gekennzeichnet** ist:

b. Berechnen eines Verhältnisses von ersten Rahmen (215) zu zweiten Rahmen (205), um die in dem Empfangsgerät (14) bestimmte Bildfolge rate zu erhalten;

c. Bilden von x einer Anzahl von ersten Rahmen (215), wobei jeder der ersten Rahmen (215) m Pakete von Daten (210) enthält, dessen Bildfolge rate der in dem Empfangsgerät (14) bestimmten Bildfolge rate am nächsten kommt und darüber liegt;

d. Bilden einer Anzahl y von zweiten Rahmen (205), wobei jeder der zweiten Rahmen (205) m Pakete von Daten (200) enthält, dessen Bildfolge rate der in dem Empfangsgerät (14) bestimmten Bildfolge rate am nächsten kommt oder darunter liegt, wobei m nicht gleich n ist;

e. Kombinieren der Anzahl x von ersten Rahmen (215) und der Anzahl y von zweiten Rahmen (205) zu einem Datenstrom, um die in dem Empfangsgerät (14) bestimmte Bildfolge rate zu erhalten, wobei die ersten Rahmen (215) und die zweiten Rahmen (205) vom gleichen Typ sind und die gleichen Eigenschaften aufweisen und wobei die Anzahl x von ersten Rahmen (215) gleichmäßig über die Anzahl y von zweiten Rahmen (205) verteilt

sind, wodurch sich ein Wiederholen des Musters der ersten Rahmen (215) und der zweiten Rahmen (205) innerhalb des Datenstroms ausbildet.

2. Verfahren nach Anspruch 1, das weiterhin den Schritt des Übertragens des Datenstromes von dem Quellgerät (10) bei der in dem Empfangsgerät (14) bestimmten Bildfolgerate umfasst.
3. Verfahren nach Anspruch 1, wobei der Datenstrom digitalen Videodaten entspricht.
4. Verfahren nach Anspruch 1, wobei n, m, x und y ganzzahlige Werte sind.
5. Verfahren nach Anspruch 1, das weiterhin den Schritt des Übertragens des Datenstromes von dem Quellgerät (10) zu dem Empfangsgerät (14) umfasst.
6. Verfahren nach Anspruch 5, wobei n, m, x und y ganzzahlige Werte sind.
7. Verfahren nach Anspruch 5, wobei der Datenstrom den Standards von IEEE 1394-1995 Netzwerk (16) entspricht.
8. Verfahren nach Anspruch 5, wobei das Quellgerät (10) und das Empfangsgerät (14) miteinander in einem Netzwerk verbunden sind.
9. Verfahren nach Anspruch 8, wobei das Netzwerk einem IEEE 1394-1995 Netzwerk (16) entspricht.
10. Verfahren nach Anspruch 9, das weiterhin den Schritt des Empfangens des Datenstroms von einem Netzwerk durch das Empfangsgerät (14) bei einer Bildfolgerate des Empfangsgeräts (14) umfasst, und wobei der Datenstrom zu den Standards eines IEEE 1394-1995 Netzwerks (16) konform ist.
11. Quellgerät (10) zum Übertragen eines Datenstroms mit einer durch ein Empfangsgerät (14) bestimmten Bildfolgerate, wobei das Quellgerät **dadurch gekennzeichnet ist, dass** es eine Steuerung umfasst, die ausgebildet ist, um ein Verhältnis von ersten Rahmen (215) zu zweiten Rahmen (205) zu berechnen, um die in dem Empfangsgerät (14) bestimmte Bildfolgerate zu erhalten, um einen Datenstrom zu erzeugen, der mehrere erste Rahmen (215) umfasst, wobei jeder der ersten Rahmen x Pakete (210) umfasst, dessen Bildfolgerate der in dem Empfangsgerät (14) bestimmten Bildfolgerate am nächsten kommt und darüber liegt, und mehrere zweite Rahmen (205) umfasst, wobei jede der zweiten Rahmen y Pakete von Daten (200) umfasst, dessen Bildfolgerate der in dem Empfangsgerät (14) bestimmten Bildfolgerate am nächsten kommt und darunter liegt, um die in dem Empfangsgerät (14) bestimmte Bildfolgerate zu erhalten und wobei y nicht gleich x ist, und um den Datenstrom bei der in dem Empfangsgerät (14) bestimmten Bildfolgerate zu übertragen, wobei die ersten Rahmen (215) und die zweiten Rahmen (205) vom gleichen Typ sind und die gleichen Eigenschaften aufweisen und die Anzahl der ersten Rahmen (215) gleichmäßig über die Anzahl der zweiten Rahmen (205) verteilt sind, wodurch ein sich wiederholendes Muster von ersten Rahmen (215) und zweiten Rahmen (205) innerhalb des Datenstromes ausbildet.
12. Quellgerät nach Anspruch 11, wobei x and y ganzzahligen Werte entsprechen.
13. Quellgerät nach Anspruch 11, das weiterhin eine Schnittstelle umfasst, die mit der Steuerung verbunden ist und die zum Verbinden des Quellgeräts mit einem Netzwerk ausgebildet ist.
14. Quellgerät nach Anspruch 13, wobei das Netzwerk einem IEEE 1394-1995 Netzwerk (16) entspricht.
15. System mit dem Quellgerät (10) nach Anspruch 11 und weiterhin mit einem Empfangsgerät (14), das mit dem Quellgerät (10) verbunden ist, und ausgebildet ist, um den Datenstrom bei einer Bildfolgerate des Empfangsgerätes (14) zu empfangen.
16. System nach Anspruch 15, wobei x und y ganzzahligen Werten entsprechen.
17. System nach Anspruch 15, wobei die Steuerung einem Computersystem (10) entspricht.
18. System nach Anspruch 15, wobei das Empfangsgerät (14) einer digitalen Videokamera (14) entspricht.
19. System nach Anspruch 15, wobei die in dem Empfangsgerät bestimmte Bildfolgerate 29,97 Rahmen/s beträgt.

20. System nach Anspruch 15, wobei die mehreren ersten Rahmen (215) 9336 Rahmen entsprechen, x Pakete (210) 267 Pakete darstellen, die mehreren zweiten Rahmen (205) 664 Rahmen entsprechen und die y Pakete (200) 266 Pakete darstellen.
- 5 21. System nach Anspruch 15, wobei der Datenstrom den Standards eines IEEE 1394-1995 Netzwerk (16) entspricht.
22. System nach Anspruch 15, das weiterhin ein Netzwerk umfasst, das zwischen dem Quellgerät (10) und dem Empfangsgerät (14) angeordnet ist und ausgebildet ist, den Datenstrom zu übertragen.
- 10 23. System nach Anspruch 22, wobei das Netzwerk einem IEEE 1394-1995 Netzwerk (16) entspricht.

Revendications

- 15 1. Procédé de transmission d'un flux de données à partir d'un dispositif source (10) à une fréquence de trames déterminée au niveau du dispositif de réception, le procédé comprenant l'étape consistant à :
- a. déterminer une fréquence de trames au niveau du dispositif de réception (14),
et étant **caractérisé par** le fait de comprendre en outre les étapes consistant à :
- 20 b. calculer un rapport de premières trames (215) sur des deuxièmes trames (205) pour obtenir la fréquence de trames déterminée au niveau du dispositif de réception (14),
c. former un nombre x de premières trames (215) où chacune des premières trames (215) contient n paquets de données (210) les plus proches et au-dessus de la fréquence de trames déterminée au niveau du dispositif de réception (14),
25 d. former un nombre y de deuxièmes trames (205) où chacune des deuxièmes trames (205) contient m paquets de données (200) les plus proches et en dessous de la fréquence de trames déterminée au niveau du dispositif de réception (14), où m n'est pas égal à n, et
e. combiner le nombre x de premières trames (215) et le nombre y de deuxièmes trames (205) en un flux de données pour obtenir la fréquence de trames déterminée au niveau du dispositif de réception (14), où les
30 premières trames (215) et les deuxièmes trames (205) sont d'un même type et présentent des caractéristiques identiques et le nombre x de premières trames (215) sont réparties de manière régulière entre le nombre y de deuxièmes trames (205), en formant ainsi un motif répétitif des premières trames (215) et des deuxièmes trames (205) dans le flux de données.
- 35 2. Procédé selon la revendication 1, comprenant en outre l'étape consistant à transmettre le flux de données à partir du dispositif source (10) à la fréquence de trames du dispositif de réception (14).
3. Procédé selon la revendication 1, dans lequel le flux de données est constitué de données vidéo numériques.
- 40 4. Procédé selon la revendication 1, dans lequel n, m, x et y sont des valeurs entières.
5. Procédé selon la revendication 1, comprenant en outre l'étape consistant à transmettre le flux de données du dispositif source (10) au dispositif de réception (14).
- 45 6. Procédé selon la revendication 5, dans lequel n, m, x et y sont des valeurs entières.
7. Procédé selon la revendication 5, dans lequel le flux de données se conforme aux normes d'un réseau IEEE 1394-1995 (16).
- 50 8. Procédé selon la revendication 5, dans lequel le dispositif source (10) et le dispositif de réception (14) sont couplés ensemble au sein d'un réseau.
9. Procédé selon la revendication 8, dans lequel le réseau est un réseau IEEE 1394-1995 (16).
- 55 10. Procédé selon la revendication 9, comprenant en outre l'étape consistant à recevoir un flux de données d'un réseau par le biais du dispositif de réception (14) à la fréquence de trames du dispositif de réception (14) et dans lequel le flux de données se conforme aux normes d'un réseau IEEE 1394-1995 (16).

- 5 11. Dispositif source (10) destiné à transmettre un flux de données à une fréquence de trames déterminée au niveau d'un dispositif de réception (14), le dispositif source étant **caractérisé par** le fait de comprendre un contrôleur qui est conçu pour calculer un rapport de premières trames (215) sur des deuxièmes trames (205) pour obtenir la fréquence de trames déterminée au niveau du dispositif de réception (14), générer un flux de données contenant une pluralité des premières trames (215) dans lequel chacune des premières trames comprend x paquets de données (210) les plus proches et au-dessus de la fréquence de trames déterminée au niveau du dispositif de réception (14) et une pluralité des deuxièmes trames (205), dans lequel chacune des deuxièmes trames comprend y paquets de données (200) les plus proches et au-dessous de la fréquence de trames déterminée au niveau du dispositif de réception (14) pour obtenir la fréquence de trames déterminée au niveau du dispositif de réception (14) et y n'est pas égal à x, et transmettre le flux de données à la fréquence de trames déterminée au niveau du dispositif de réception (14), dans lequel les premières trames (215) et les deuxièmes trames (205) sont d'un même type et présentent des caractéristiques identiques et le nombre de premières trames (215) sont réparties de manière régulière entre le nombre de deuxièmes trames (205), en formant ainsi un motif répétitif des premières trames (215) et des deuxièmes trames (205) dans le flux de données.
- 15 12. Dispositif source selon la revendication 11, dans lequel x et y sont des valeurs entières.
- 20 13. Dispositif source selon la revendication 11, comprenant en outre une interface couplée au contrôleur et configurée pour connecter ledit dispositif source à un réseau.
- 25 14. Dispositif source selon la revendication 13, dans lequel le réseau est un réseau IEEE 1394-1995 (16).
15. Système comprenant le dispositif source (10) selon la revendication 11 et comprenant en outre un dispositif de réception (14) couplé au dispositif source (10) et configuré pour recevoir le flux de données à la fréquence de trames du dispositif de réception (14).
- 30 16. Système selon la revendication 15, dans lequel x et y sont des valeurs entières.
17. Système selon la revendication 15, dans lequel le contrôleur est un système informatique (10).
- 35 18. Système selon la revendication 15, dans lequel le dispositif de réception (14) est une caméra vidéo numérique (14).
19. Système selon la revendication 15, dans lequel la fréquence de trames déterminée au niveau du dispositif de réception est de 29,97 trames par seconde.
- 40 20. Système selon la revendication 15, dans lequel la pluralité de premières trames (215) est constituée de 9336 trames, les x paquets (210) sont 267 paquets, la pluralité de deuxièmes trames (205) est constituée de 664 trames, et les y paquets (200) sont 266 paquets.
- 45 21. Système selon la revendication 15, dans lequel le flux de données se conforme aux normes d'un réseau IEEE 1394-1995 (16).
22. Système selon la revendication 15, comprenant en outre un réseau couplé entre le dispositif source (10) et le dispositif de réception (14) et configuré pour transmettre le flux de données.
- 50 23. Système selon la revendication 22, dans lequel le réseau est un réseau IEEE 1394-1995 (16).

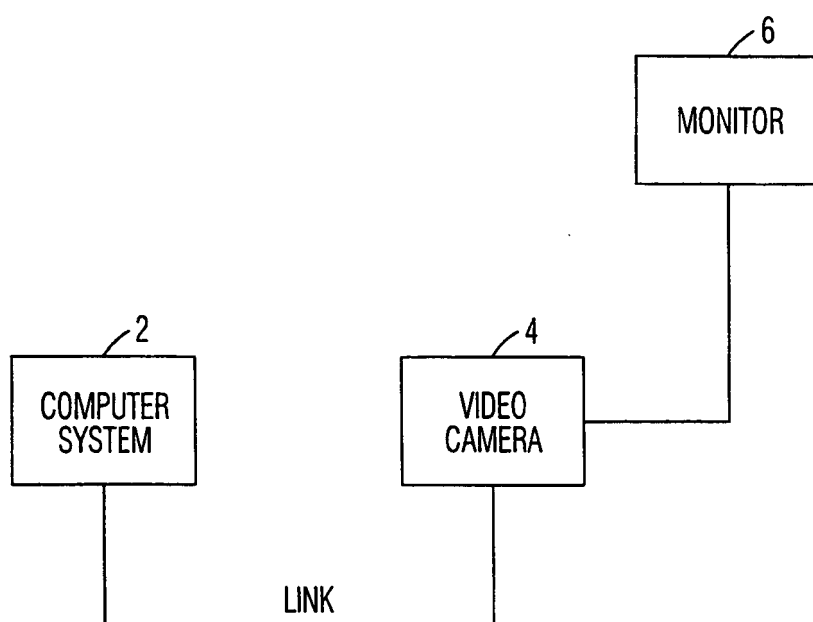


Fig. 1

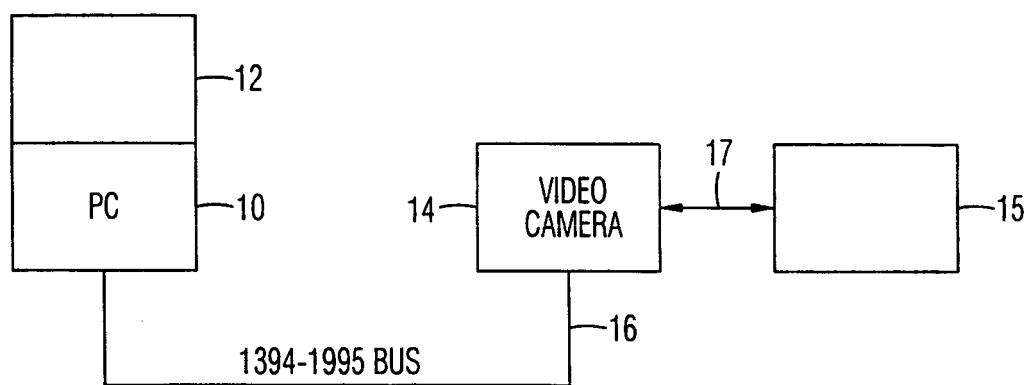


Fig. 2

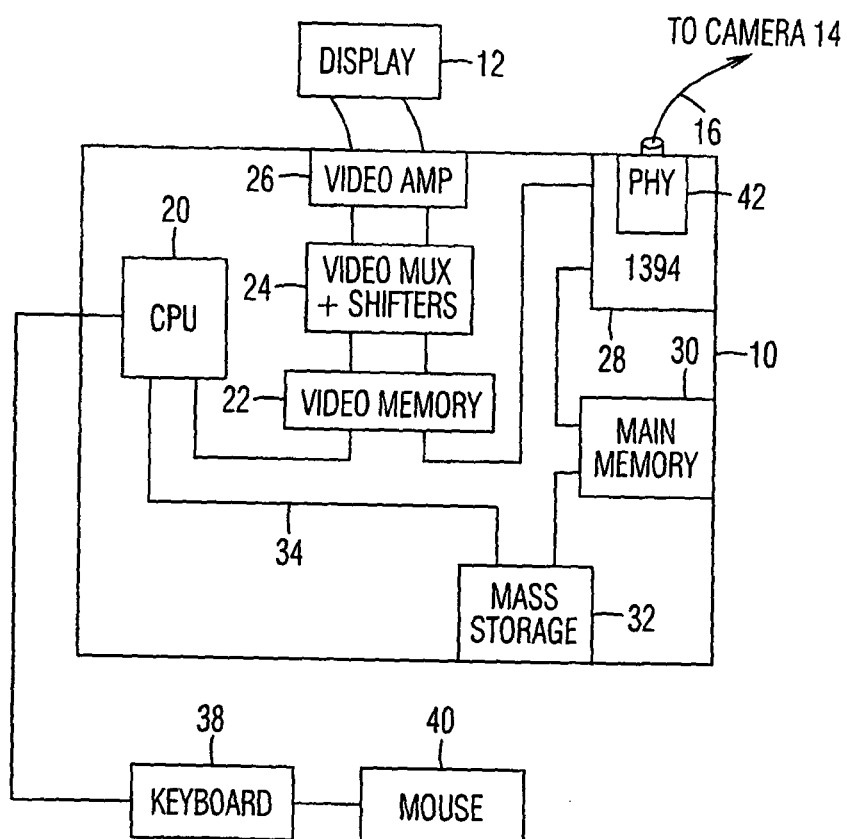


Fig. 3

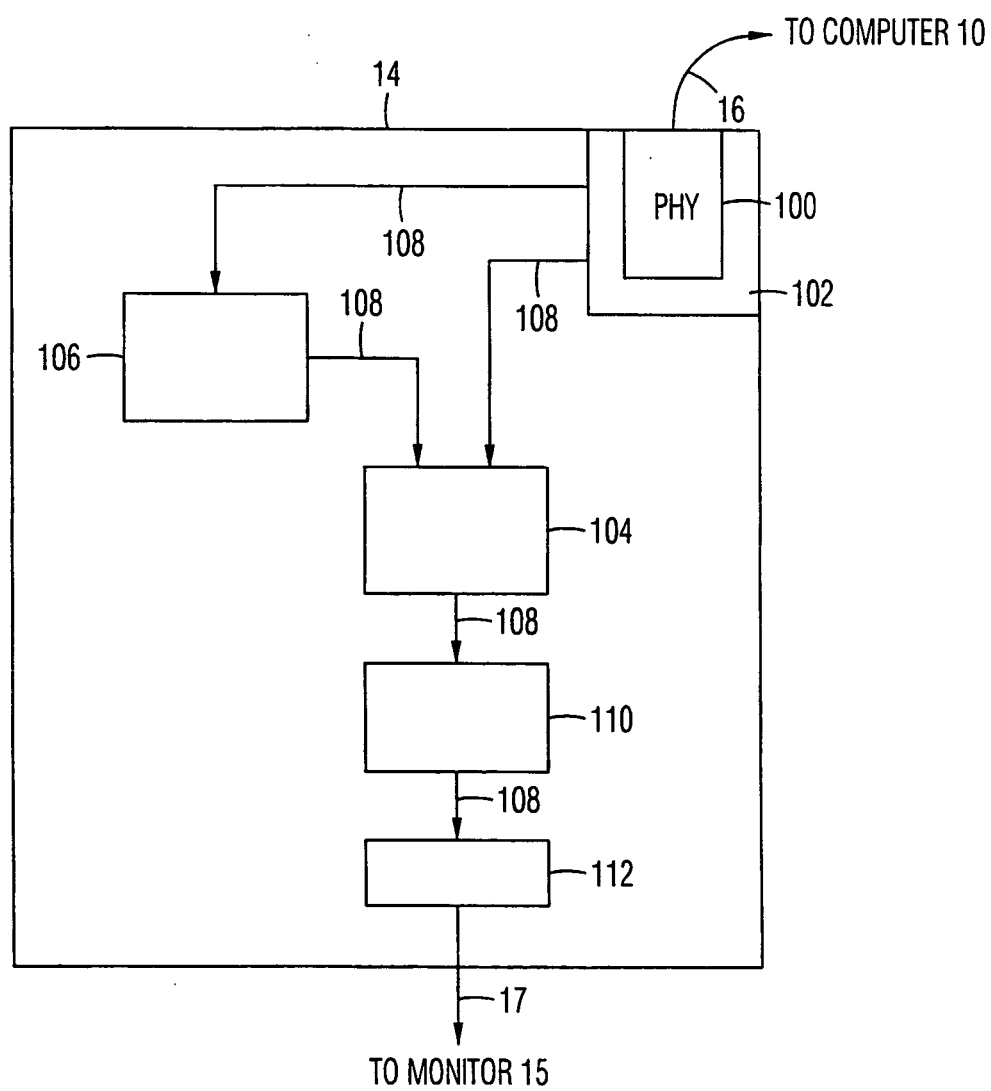


Fig. 4

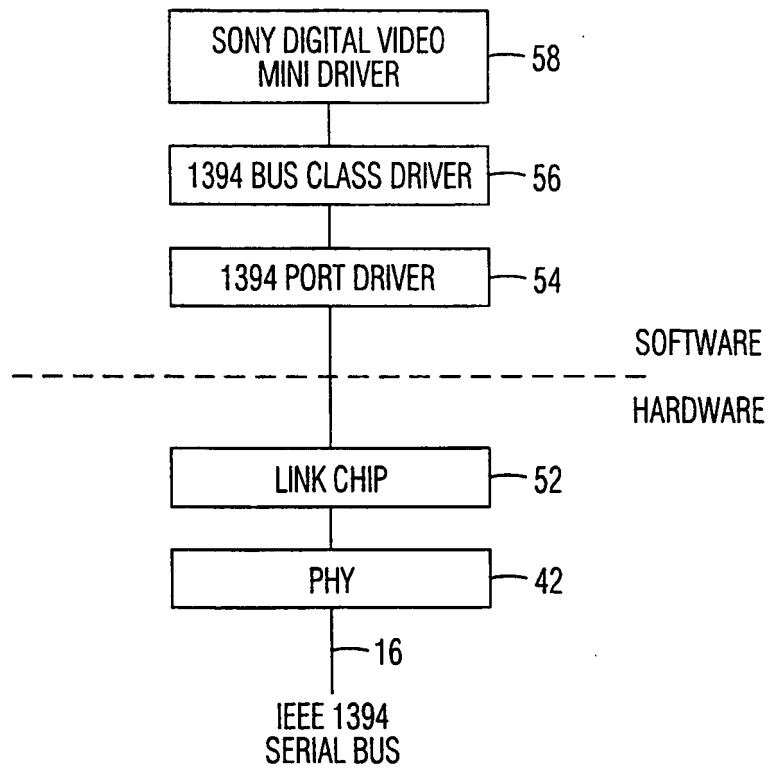


Fig. 5

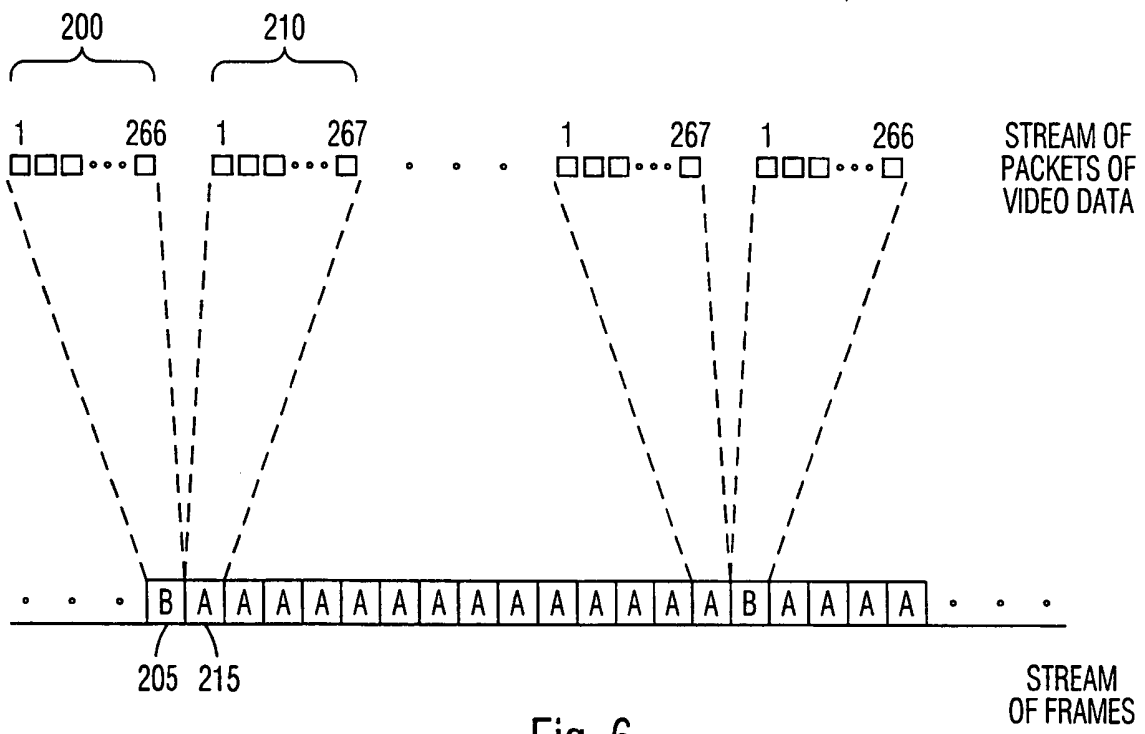


Fig. 6

REFERENCES CITED IN THE DESCRIPTION

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