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Okamoto

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(54) **INFORMATION TRANSMITTING APPARATUS AND METHOD, INFORMATION RECEIVING APPARATUS AND METHOD, INFORMATION TRANSMITTING AND RECEIVING SYSTEM AND METHOD, RECORDING MEDIUM AND PROGRAM**

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(73) Assignee: **Sony Corporation** (JP)

(*) Notice: This patent is subject to a terminal disclaimer.

(21) Appl. No.: **13/936,871**

(22) Filed: **Jul. 8, 2013**

Related U.S. Patent Documents

Reissue of:

(64) Patent No.: **8,064,361**
Issued: **Nov. 22, 2011**
Appl. No.: **12/586,756**
Filed: **Sep. 28, 2009**

U.S. Applications:

(63) Continuation of application No. 13/934,892, filed on Jul. 3, 2013, which is an application for the reissue of

(Continued)

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Mar. 12, 2001 (JP) P2001-067969

(51) **Int. Cl.**
H04L 12/28 (2006.01)
H04J 1/16 (2006.01)

(52) **U.S. Cl.**
USPC **370/252**; 370/535; 370/487; 725/148

(58) **Field of Classification Search**
USPC 370/535, 487, 252; 725/148
See application file for complete search history.

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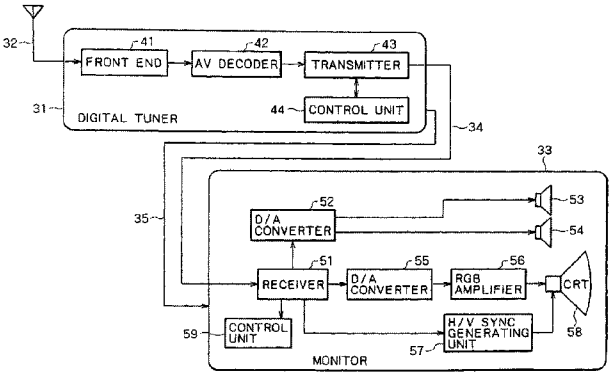
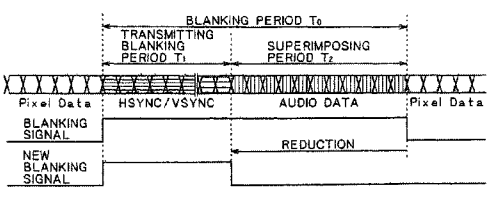
(57) **ABSTRACT**

An original blanking period of a video signal is shortened to a set blanking period, and audio data is multiplexed into a resulting superimposing period. Table distinguishing data indicating the length of the superimposing period is inserted into the period as a blanking signal. With this configuration, it is possible to enable transmission and reception of an audio signal in a system capable of transmitting and receiving a video signal.

8 Claims, 17 Drawing Sheets





Related U.S. Application Data

Pat. No. 8,064,361, which is a continuation of application No. 11/724,770, filed on Mar. 16, 2007, now Pat. No. 7,688,868, which is a continuation of application No. 10/095,848, filed on Mar. 12, 2002, now Pat. No. 7,209,496.

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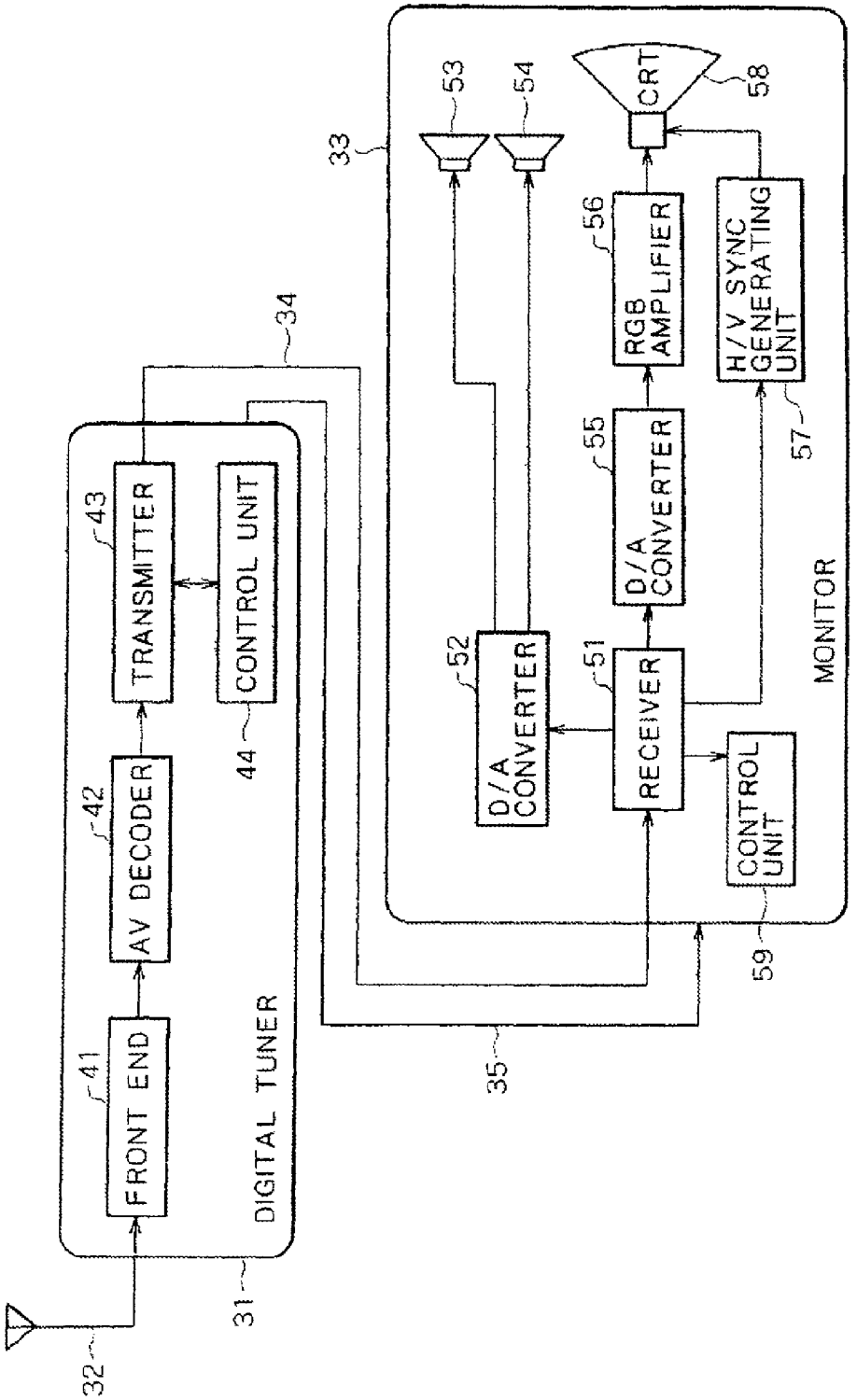
FIG. 1


DIGITAL TUNER
MONITOR
FRONT END
AV DECODER
TRANSMITTER
CONTROL UNIT
D/A CONVERTER
RECEIVER
D/A CONVERTER
RGB AMPLIFIER
H/V SYNC GENERATING UNIT
CRT
CONTROL UNIT
31
32
33
34
35
41
42
43
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51
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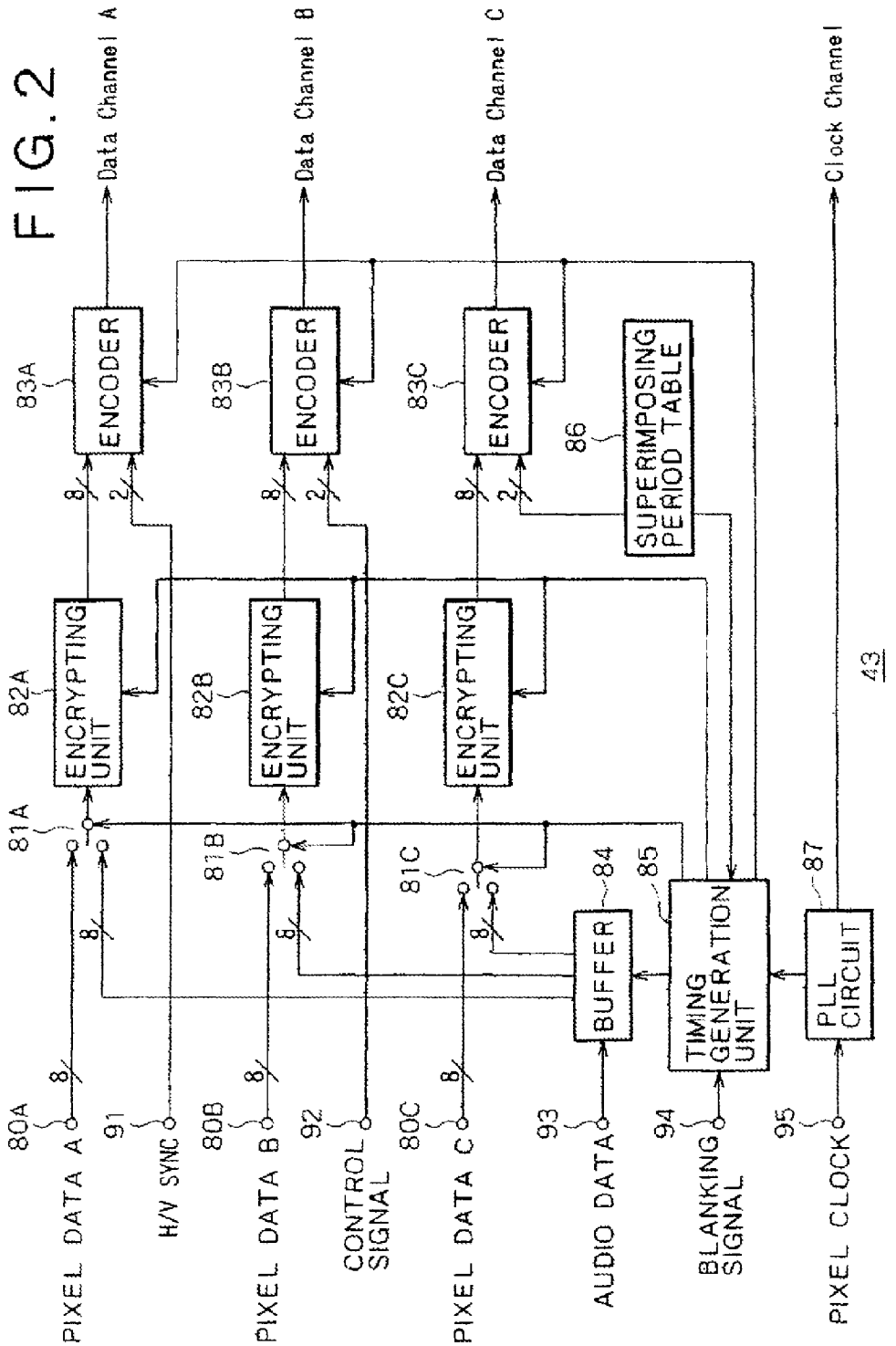
58
59

FIG. 2


80A
PIXEL DATA A
91
H/V SYNC
80B
PIXEL DATA B
92
CONTROL SIGNAL
80C
PIXEL DATA C
93
AUDIO DATA
94
BLANKING SIGNAL
95
PIXEL CLOCK
81A
81B
81C
82A
ENCRYPTING UNIT
82B
ENCRYPTING UNIT
82C
ENCRYPTING UNIT
83A
ENCODER
83B
ENCODER
83C
ENCODER
86
SUPERIMPOSING PERIOD TABLE
84
BUFFER
85
TIMING GENERATION UNIT
87
PLL CIRCUIT
Data Channel A
Data Channel B
Data Channel C
Clock Channel
43

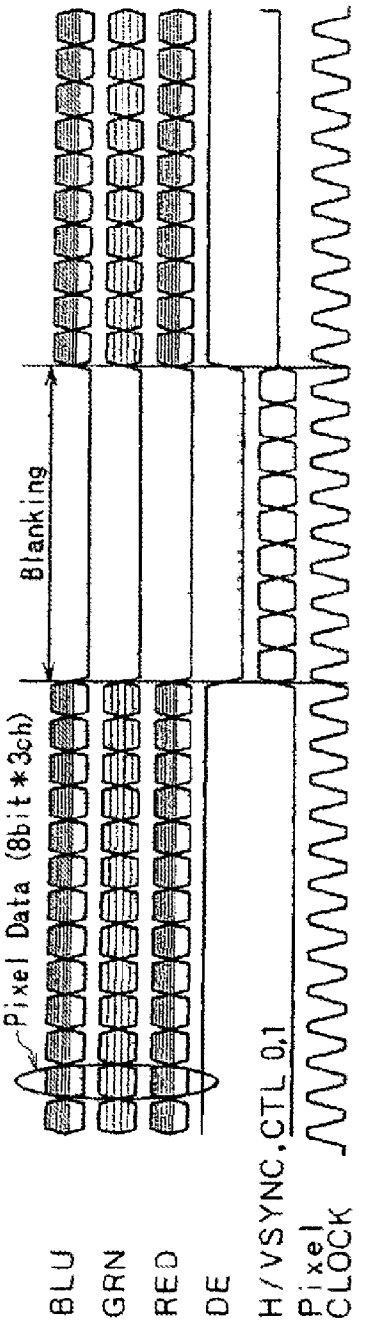


FIG. 3A
FIG. 3B
FIG. 3C
FIG. 3D
FIG. 3E
FIG. 3F

FIG. 4

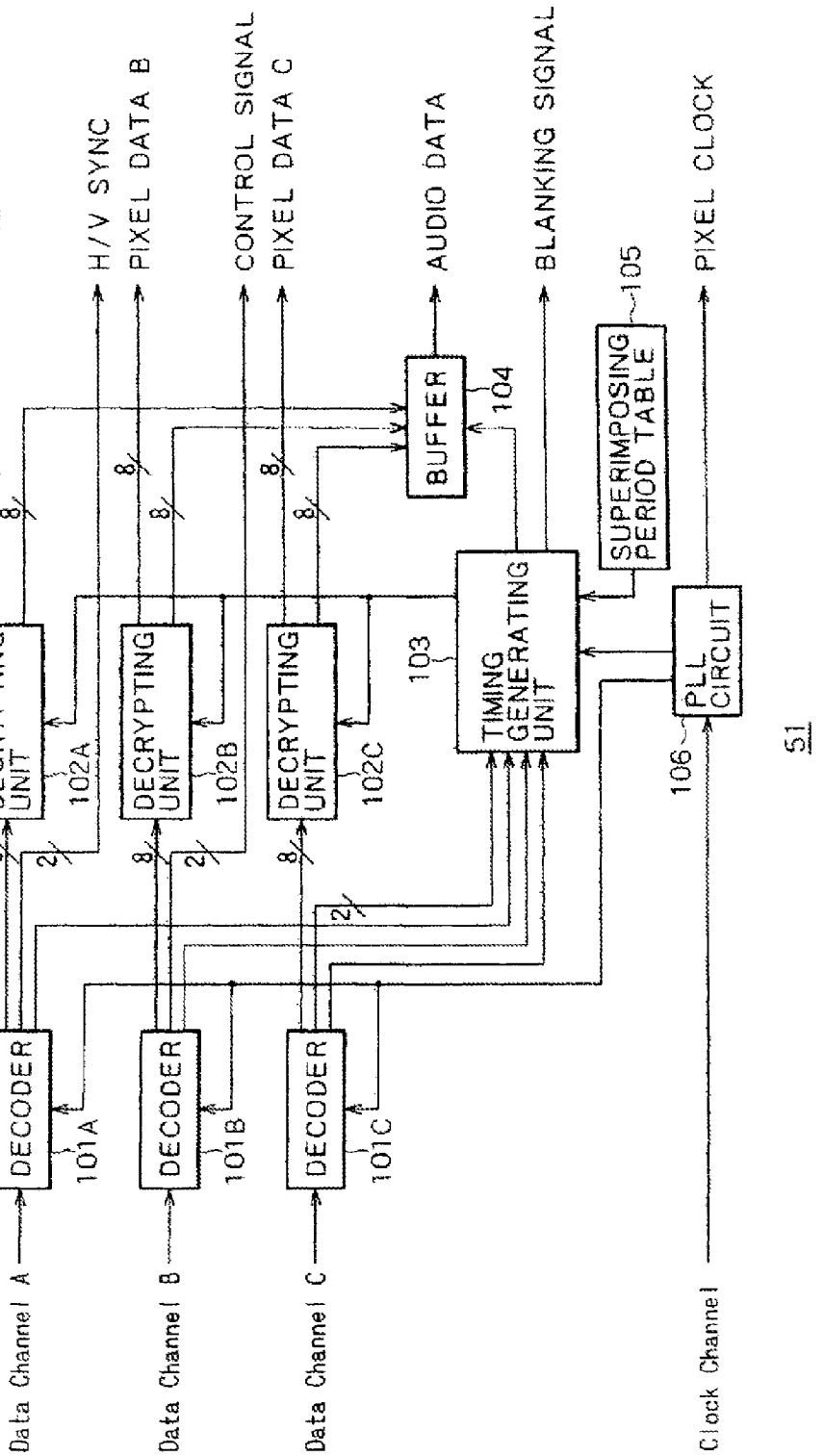

Data Channel A
Data Channel B
Data Channel C
Clock Channel
DECODER
101A
101B
101C
DECRYPTING UNIT
102A
102B
102C
TIMING GENERATING UNIT
103
BUFFER
104
SUPERIMPOSING PERIOD TABLE
105
PLL CIRCUIT
106
PIXEL DATA A
H/V SYNC
PIXEL DATA B
CONTROL SIGNAL
PIXEL DATA C
AUDIO DATA
BLANKING SIGNAL
PIXEL CLOCK
8
2
51

FIG. 5

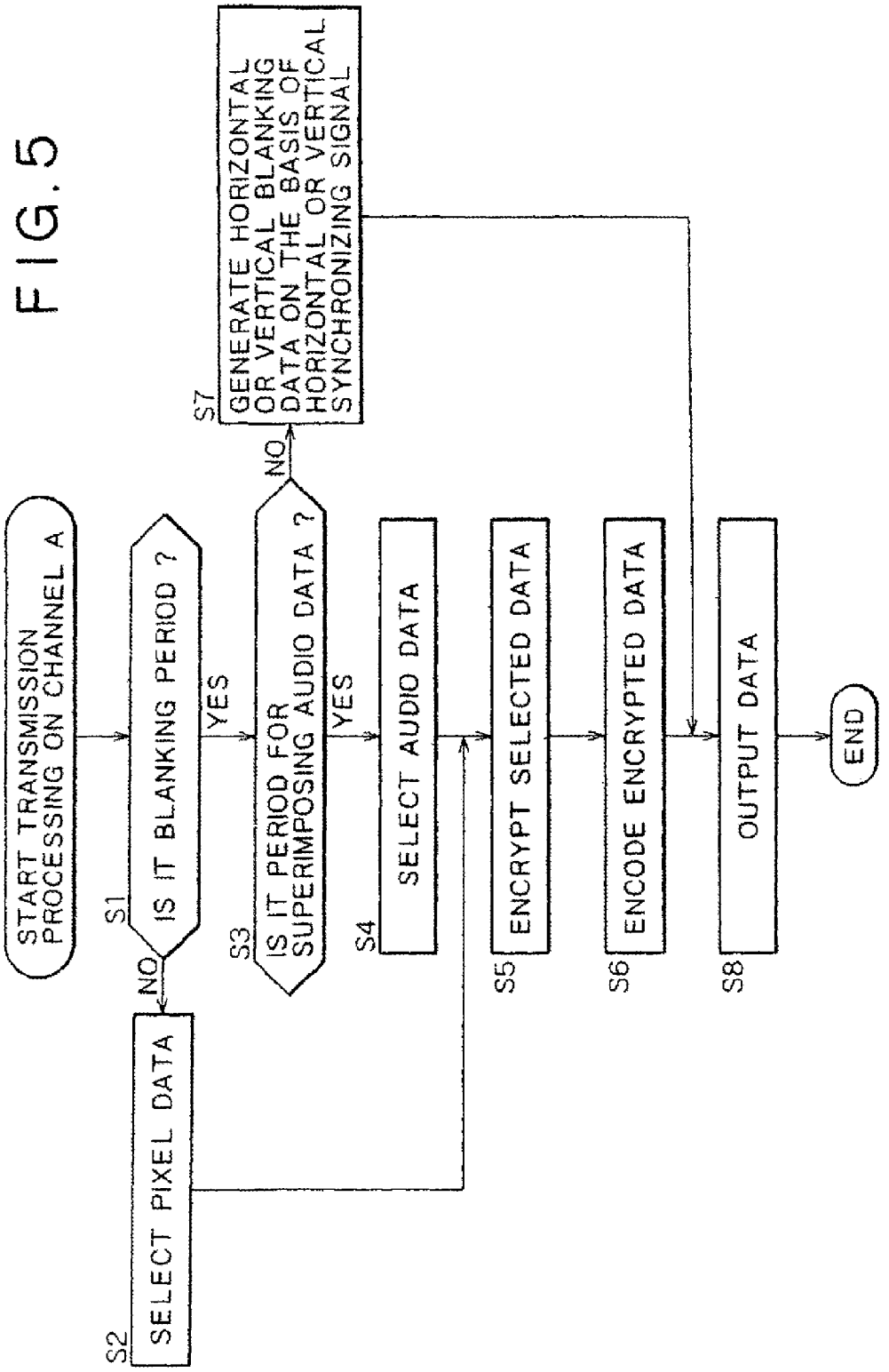

START TRANSMISSION PROCESSING ON CHANNEL A
S1
IS IT BLANKING PERIOD ?
YES
NO
S2
SELECT PIXEL DATA
S3
IS IT PERIOD FOR SUPERIMPOSING AUDIO DATA ?
YES
NO
S4
SELECT AUDIO DATA
S5
ENCRYPT SELECTED DATA
S6
ENCODE ENCRYPTED DATA
S7
GENERATE HORIZONTAL OR VERTICAL BLANKING DATA ON THE BASIS OF HORIZONTAL OR VERTICAL SYNCHRONIZING SIGNAL
S8
OUTPUT DATA
END

FIG. 6

C1	C0	CTL Code
0	0	0 0 1 0 1 0 1 0 1 1
0	1	1 1 0 1 0 1 0 1 0 0
1	0	0 0 1 0 1 0 1 0 1 0
1	1	1 1 0 1 0 1 0 1 0 1

FIG. 7

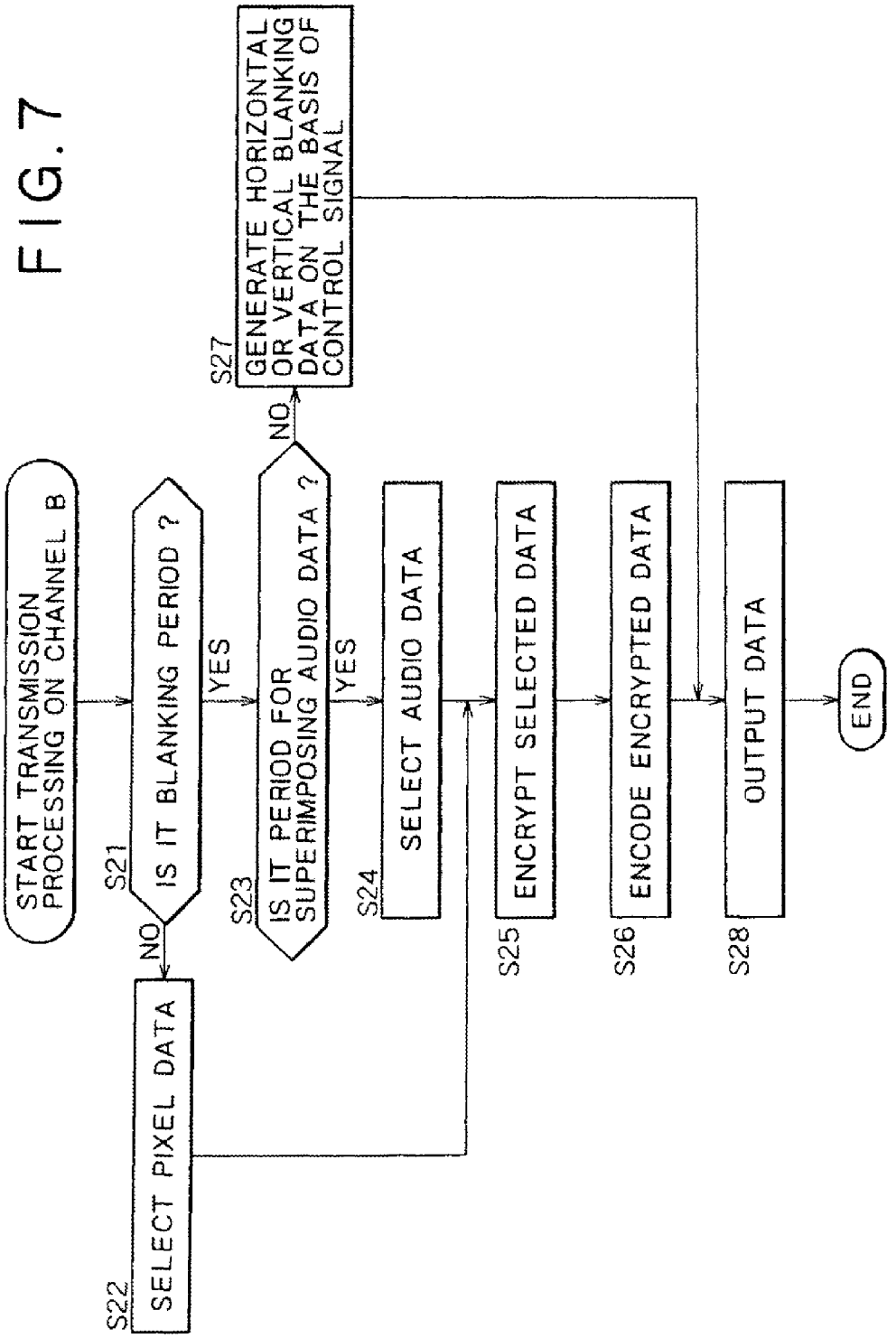
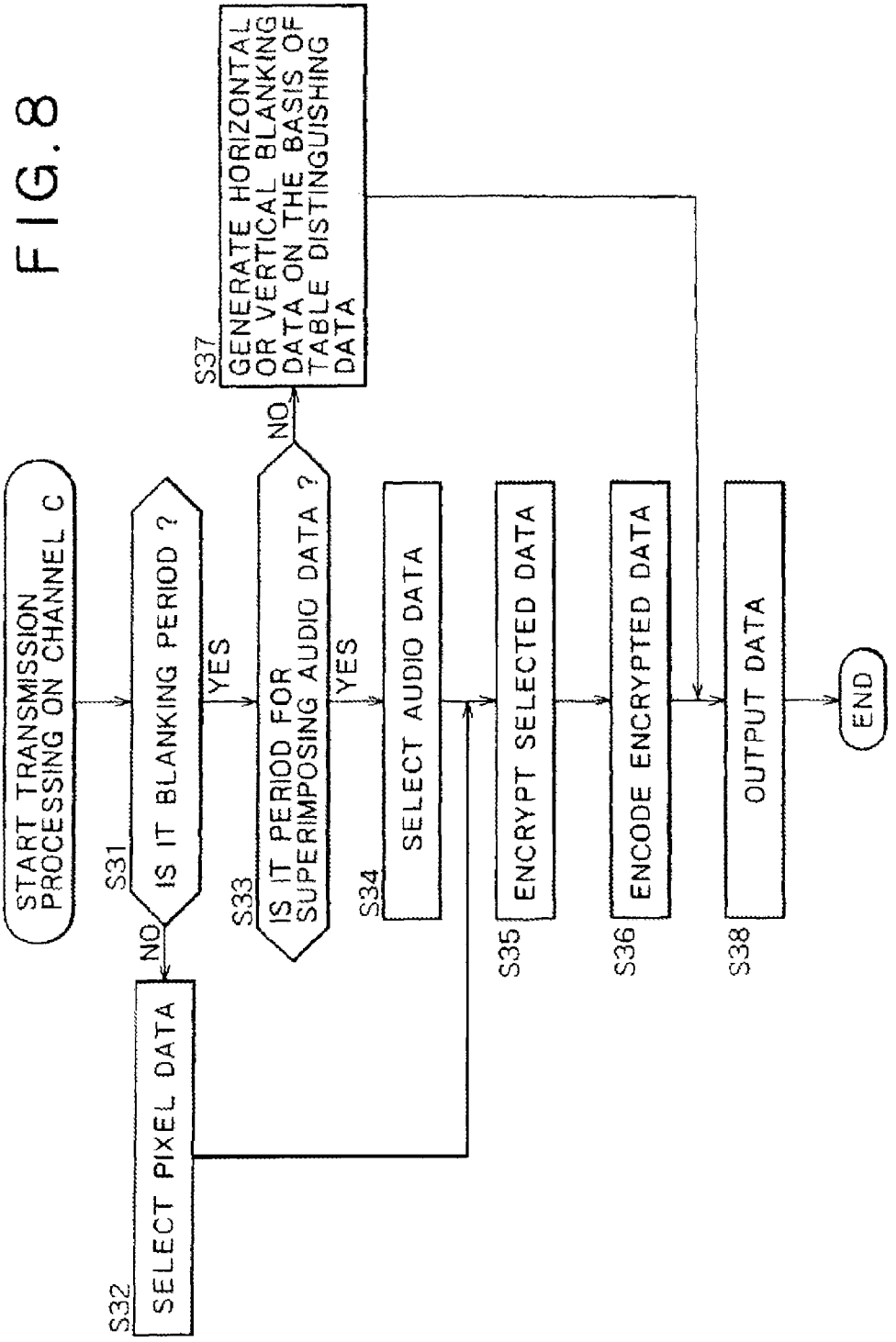

START TRANSMISSION PROCESSING ON CHANNEL B
S21
IS IT BLANKING PERIOD ?
YES
NO
S22
SELECT PIXEL DATA
S23
IS IT PERIOD FOR SUPERIMPOSING AUDIO DATA ?
YES
NO
S24
SELECT AUDIO DATA
S25
ENCRYPT SELECTED DATA
S26
ENCODE ENCRYPTED DATA
S27
GENERATE HORIZONTAL OR VERTICAL BLANKING DATA ON THE BASIS OF CONTROL SIGNAL
S28
OUTPUT DATA
END

FIG. 8


START TRANSMISSION PROCESSING ON CHANNEL C
S31
IS IT BLANKING PERIOD ?
YES
NO
S33
IS IT PERIOD FOR SUPERIMPOSING AUDIO DATA ?
YES
NO
S37
GENERATE HORIZONTAL OR VERTICAL BLANKING DATA ON THE BASIS OF TABLE DISTINGUISHING DATA
S34
SELECT AUDIO DATA
S35
ENCRYPT SELECTED DATA
S36
ENCODE ENCRYPTED DATA
S38
OUTPUT DATA
END
S32
SELECT PIXEL DATA

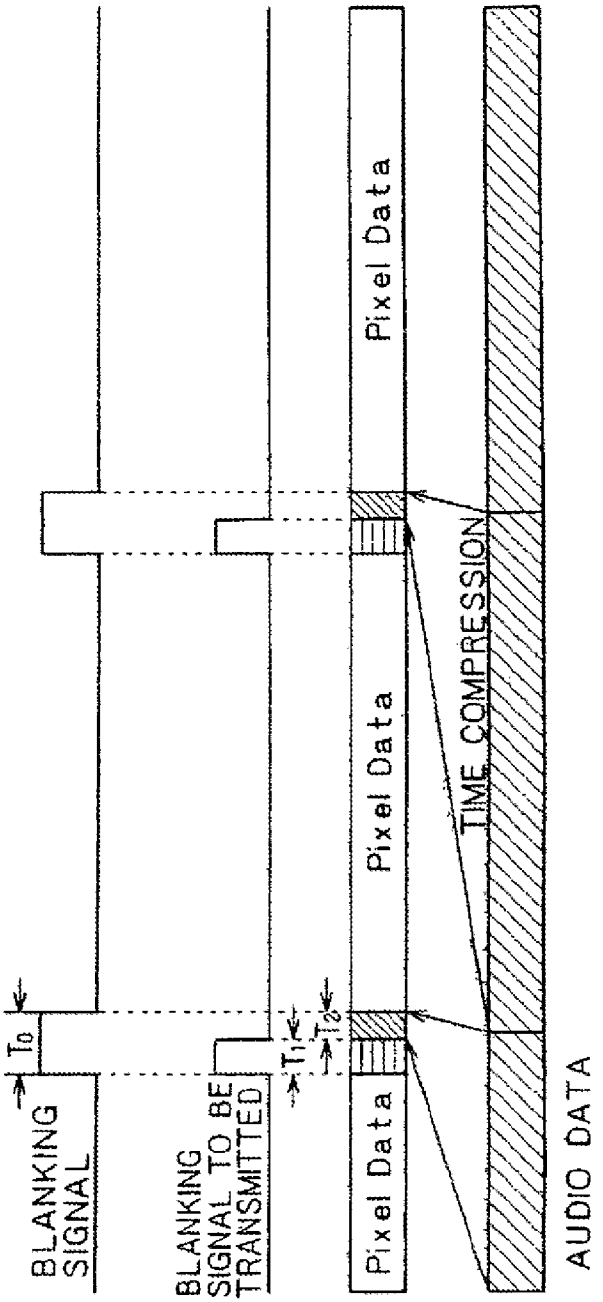


FIG. 9A FIG. 9B FIG. 9C FIG. 9D

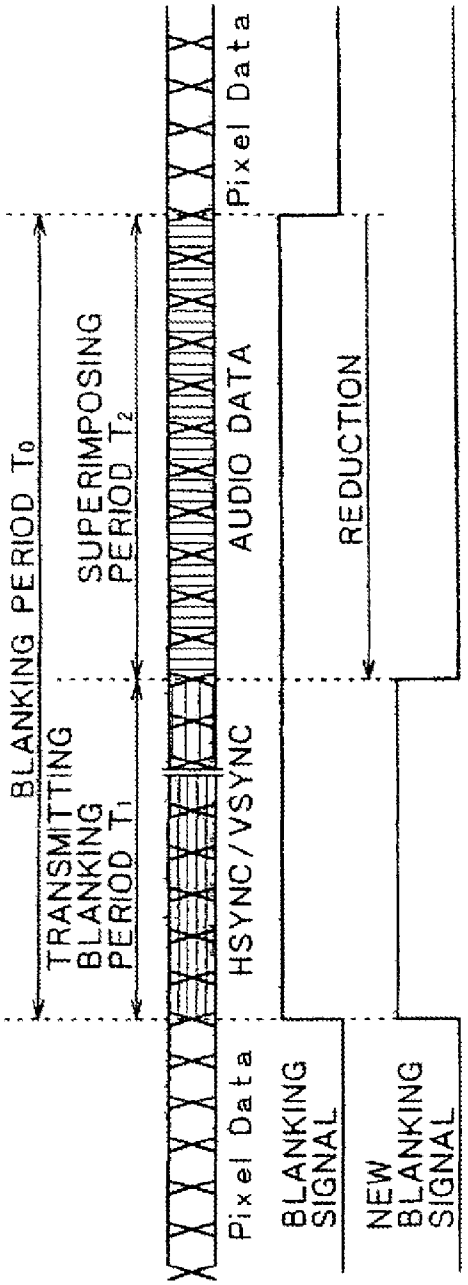


FIG. 10A

FIG. 10B

FIG. 10C

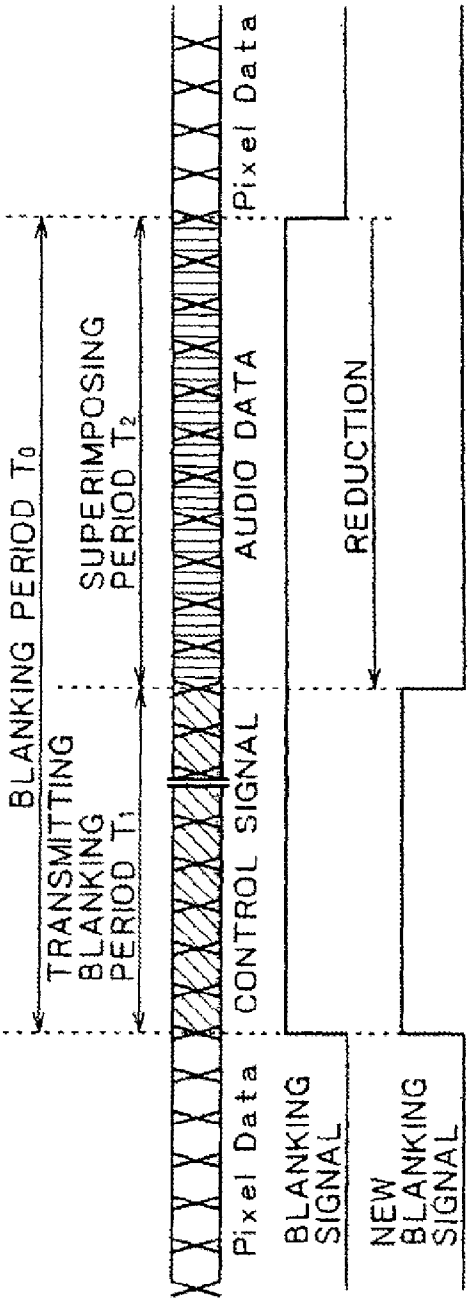


FIG. 11A

FIG. 11B

FIG. 11C

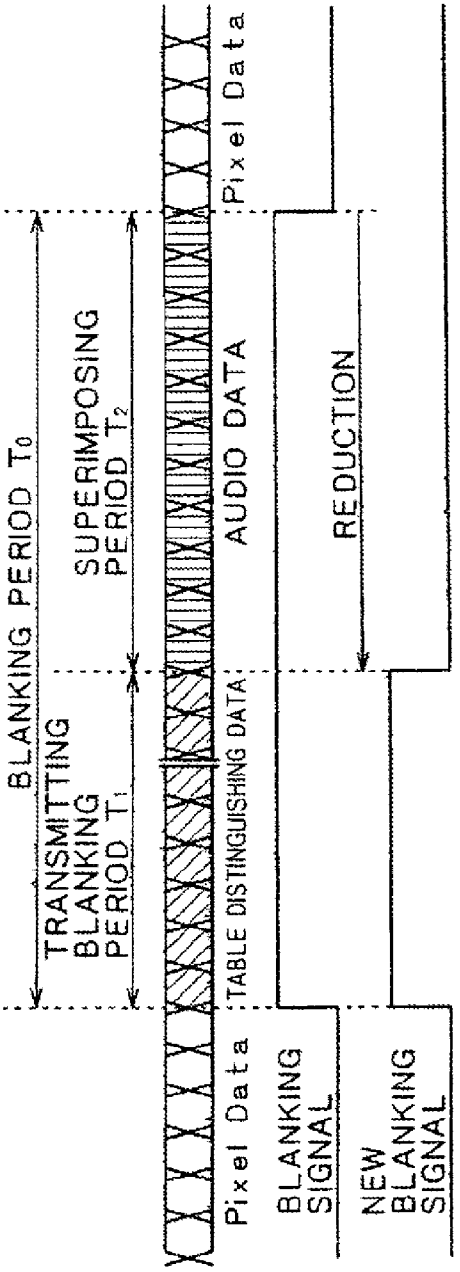


FIG. 12A

FIG. 12B

FIG. 12C

FIG. 13

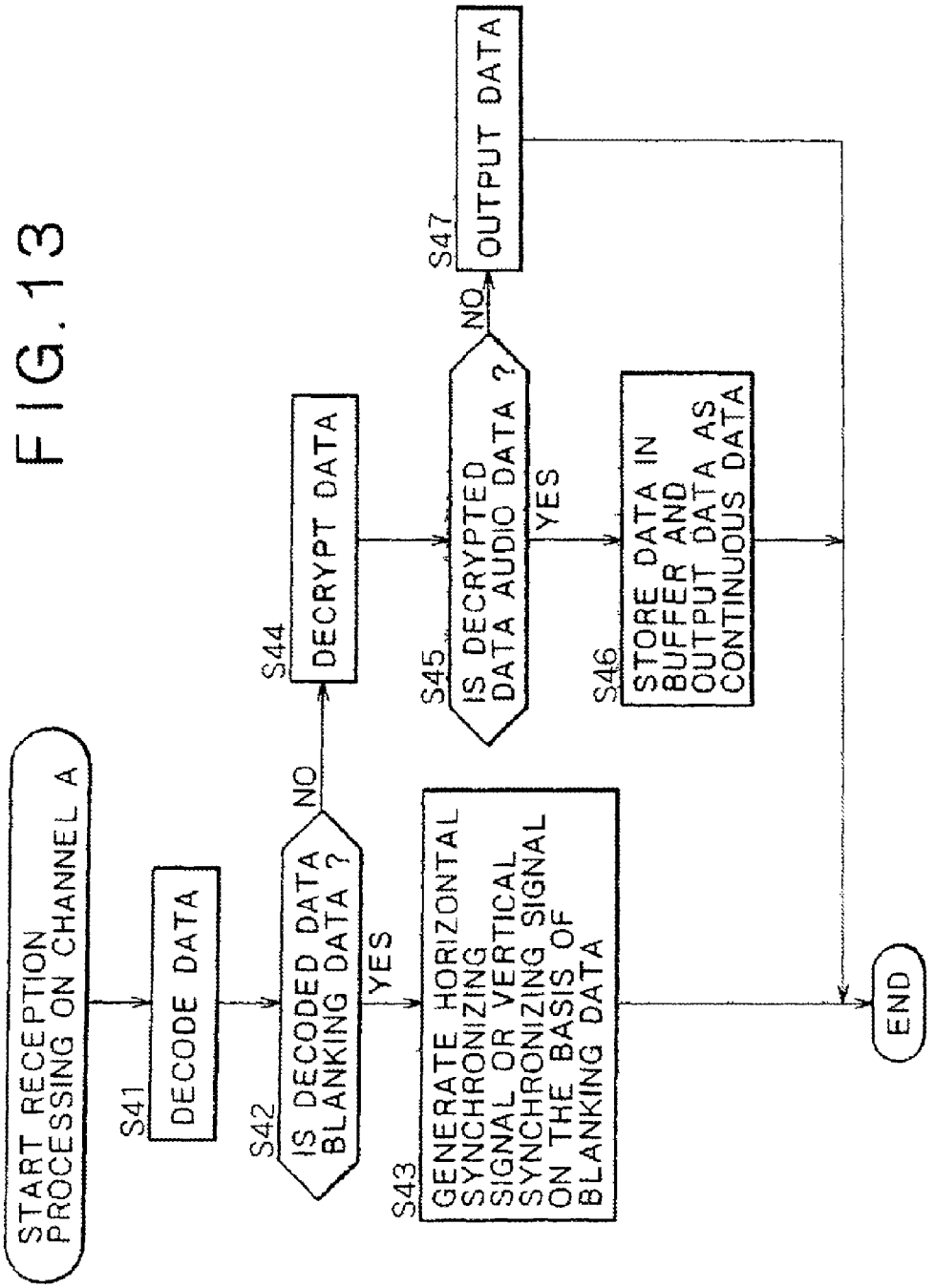

START RECEPTION PROCESSING ON CHANNEL A
S41
DECODE DATA
S42
IS DECODED DATA BLANKING DATA ?
NO
YES
S43
GENERATE HORIZONTAL SYNCHRONIZING SIGNAL OR VERTICAL SYNCHRONIZING SIGNAL ON THE BASIS OF BLANKING DATA
S44
DECRYPT DATA
S45
IS DECRYPTED DATA AUDIO DATA ?
NO
YES
S46
STORE DATA IN BUFFER AND OUTPUT DATA AS CONTINUOUS DATA
S47
OUTPUT DATA
END

FIG. 14

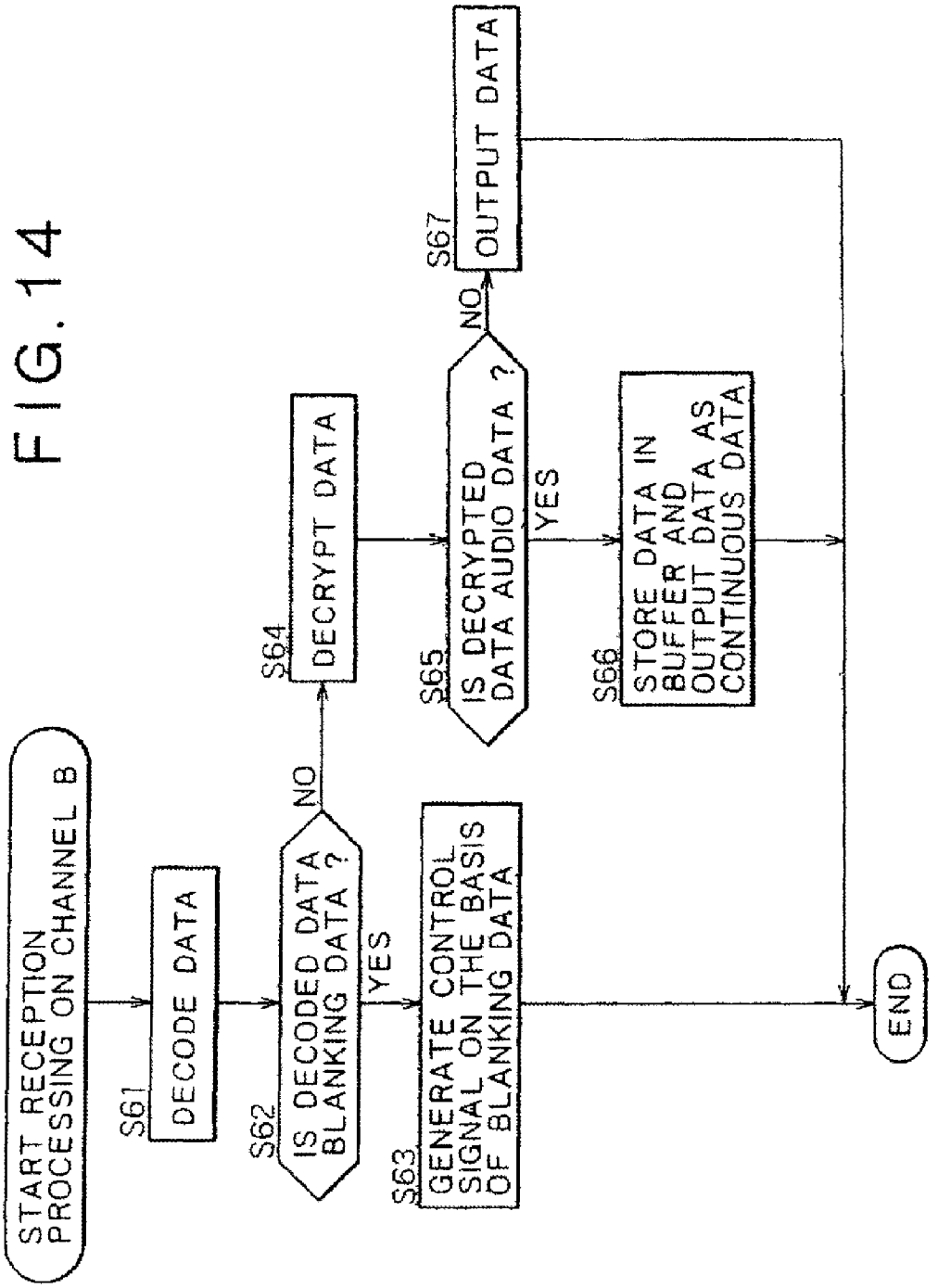
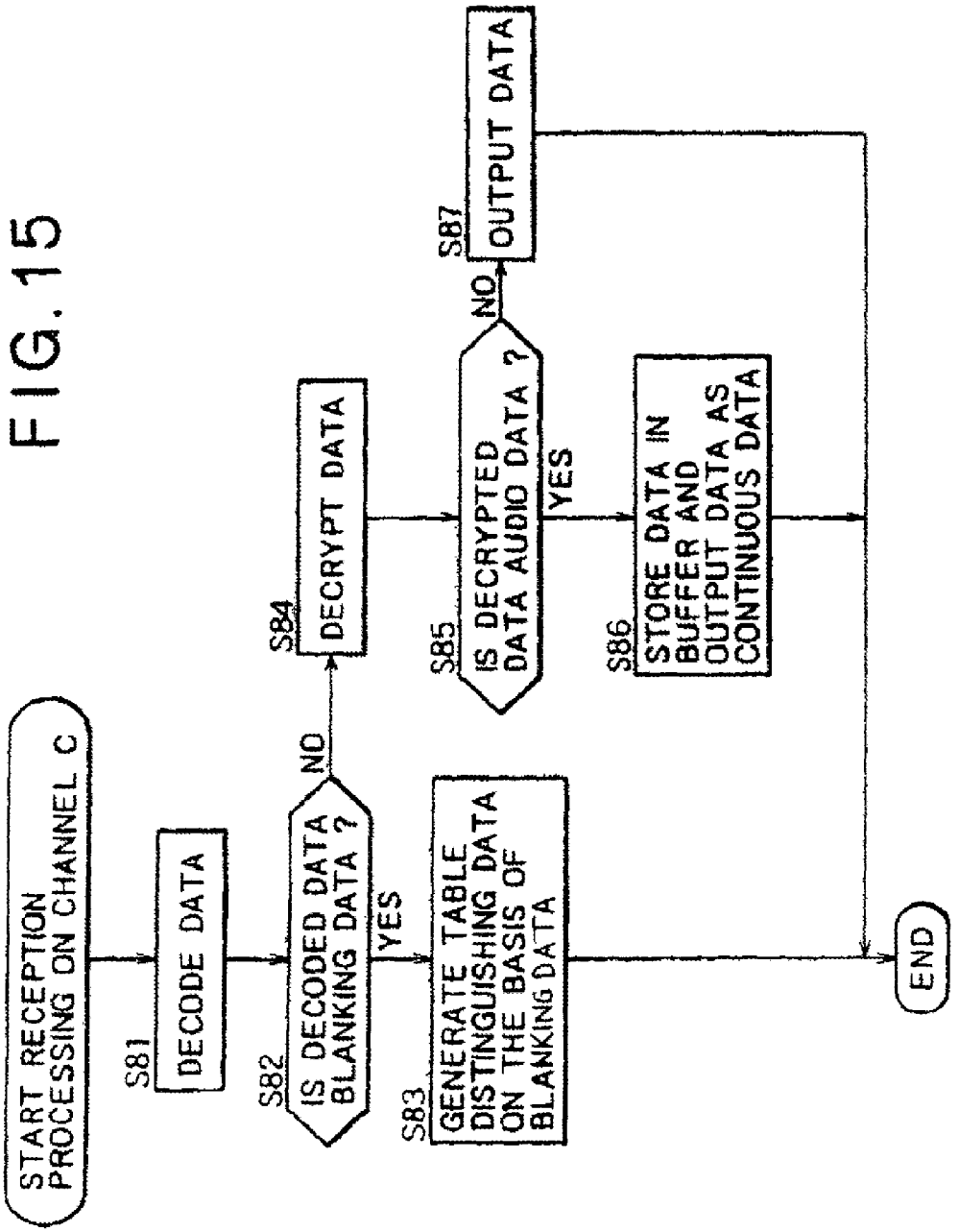

START RECEPTION PROCESSING ON CHANNEL B
S61
DECODE DATA
S62
IS DECODED DATA BLANKING DATA ?
NO
YES
S63
GENERATE CONTROL SIGNAL ON THE BASIS OF BLANKING DATA
S64
DECRYPT DATA
S65
IS DECRYPTED DATA AUDIO DATA ?
NO
YES
S66
STORE DATA IN BUFFER AND OUTPUT DATA AS CONTINUOUS DATA
S67
OUTPUT DATA
END

FIG. 15


START RECEPTION PROCESSING ON CHANNEL C
S81
DECODE DATA
S82
IS DECODED DATA BLANKING DATA ?
NO
YES
S83
GENERATE TABLE DISTINGUISHING DATA ON THE BASIS OF BLANKING DATA
S84
DECRYPT DATA
S85
IS DECRYPTED DATA AUDIO DATA ?
NO
YES
S86
STORE DATA IN BUFFER AND OUTPUT DATA AS CONTINUOUS DATA
S87
OUTPUT DATA
END

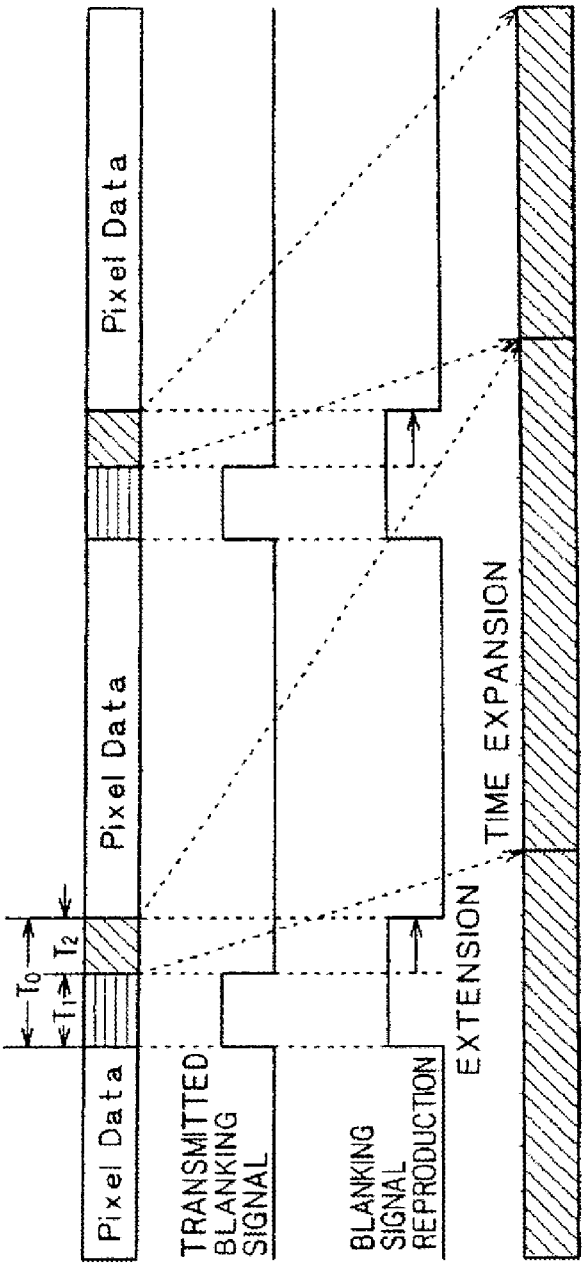
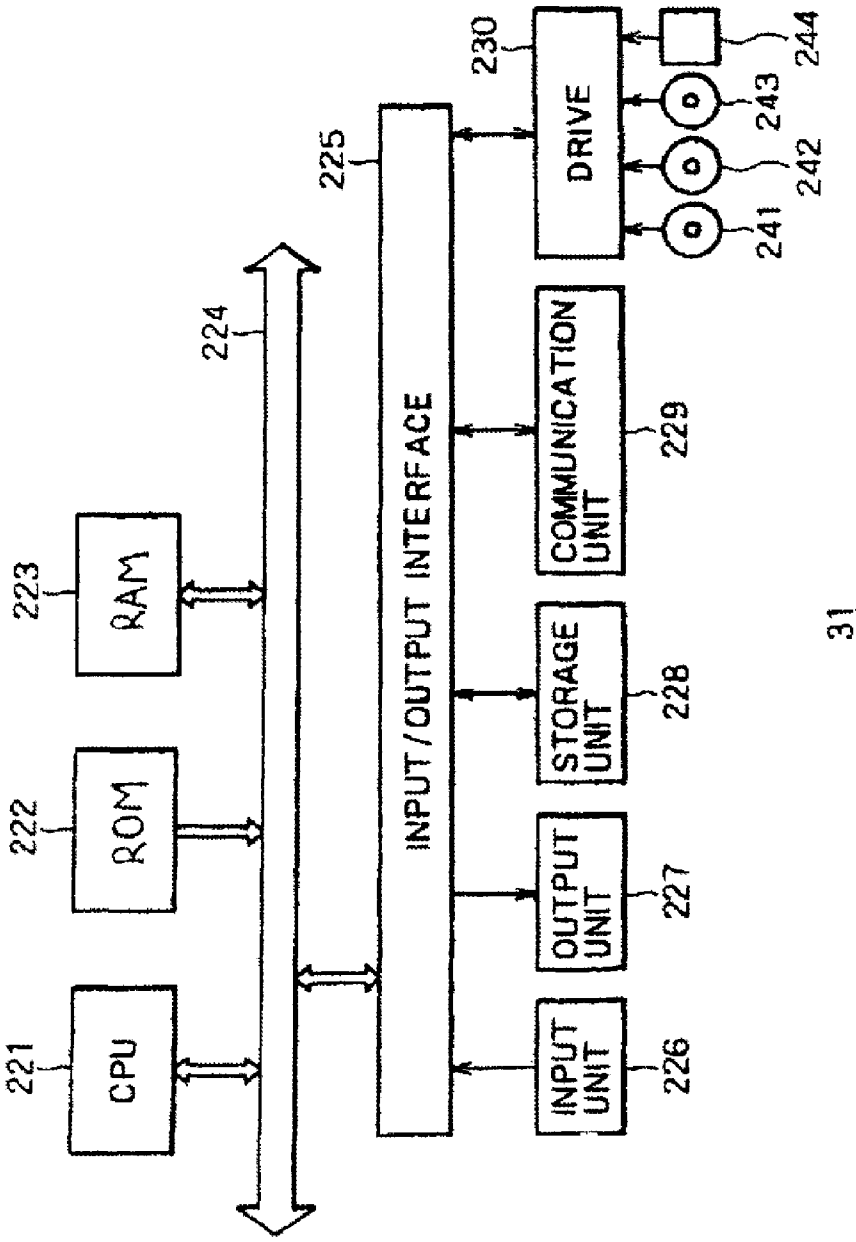


FIG. 16A FIG. 16B FIG. 16C FIG. 16D

FIG. 17


CPU
221
ROM
222
RAM
223
224
INPUT/OUTPUT INTERFACE
225
INPUT UNIT
226
OUTPUT UNIT
227
STORAGE UNIT
228
COMMUNICATION UNIT
229
DRIVE
230
241
242
243
244
31

INFORMATION TRANSMITTING APPARATUS AND METHOD, INFORMATION RECEIVING APPARATUS AND METHOD, INFORMATION TRANSMITTING AND RECEIVING SYSTEM AND METHOD, RECORDING MEDIUM AND PROGRAM

Matter enclosed in heavy brackets [ ] appears in the original patent but forms no part of this reissue specification; matter printed in italics indicates the additions made by reissue; a claim printed with strikethrough indicates that the claim was canceled, disclaimed, or held invalid by a prior post-patent action or proceeding.

CROSS-REFERENCE TO RELATED *REISSUE* APPLICATIONS

[The present application is a continuation of U.S. patent application Ser. No. 11/724,770, filed Mar. 16, 2007, which is a continuation of U.S. patent application Ser. No. 10/095,848, filed Mar. 12, 2002 and which claims priority from Japanese Application No. 2001-067969 filed Mar. 12, 2001, the disclosures of which are hereby incorporated by reference herein.] *This application is a continuation reissue of application Ser. No. 13/934,892, which is an application for reissue of U.S. Pat. No. 8,064,361, and is related to application Ser. No. 13/936,825 and application Ser. No. 13/936,843, which are continuation reissues of application Ser. No. 13/934,892, which is an application for reissue of U.S. Pat. No. 8,064,361.*

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

The present invention relates to an apparatus and a method for transmitting information, an apparatus and a method for receiving information, a system and a method for transmitting and receiving information, a recording medium and a program, and particularly to an apparatus and a method for transmitting information, an apparatus and a method for receiving information, a system and a method for transmitting and receiving information, a recording medium and a program that make it possible to transmit audio data more efficiently by multiplexing the audio data into video data.

A blanking period of video data is often used when the video data has other data superimposed thereon for transmission. In teletext broadcasting, text data is inserted into a vertical blanking period, for example.

Since the blanking period is extremely short as compared with a period for transmitting original video data, however, types of data capable of being multiplexed are limited to low-volume data such as text data.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

The present invention has been made in view of the above, and it is accordingly an object of the present invention to enable efficient transmission of data such as, for example, audio data which is low in volume as compared with video data, but high in volume as compared with text data or the like.

According to a first aspect of the present invention, there is provided an information transmitting apparatus including a first capturing unit operable to capture a video signal; a second capturing unit operable to capture a compressed audio signal; a setting unit operable to set a blanking period of the video signal to a predetermined period of a length different from an original period; a multiplexing unit operable to multiplex the compressed audio signal into a differential period corresponding to a difference between the blanking period of the video signal and the predetermined period set by the setting unit; and a video signal transmitter operable to transmit the video signal having the compressed audio signal multiplexed therein.

The setting unit may set the blanking period to the predetermined period by disposing a blanking signal representing the blanking period only in the predetermined period other than the differential period of the blanking period of the video signal.

The blanking signal may form a control signal.

The information transmitting apparatus may further include a retaining unit operable to retain information on the differential period or the predetermined period, and the multiplexing unit may multiplex the compressed audio signal into the differential period on the basis of the information retained by the retaining unit.

The retaining unit may retain a correspondence between a type of the video signal and the differential period or the predetermined period as the information on the differential period or the predetermined period.

The information transmitting apparatus may further include a distinguishing information transmitter operable to transmit distinguishing information for distinguishing the differential period or the predetermined period.

The distinguishing information transmitting unit may transmit the distinguishing information in the predetermined period of the video signal as a type of blanking signal representing a blanking period.

The distinguishing information transmitting unit may transmit the distinguishing information in a vertical blanking period.

The distinguishing information transmitting unit may transmit the distinguishing information via a transmission line different from a transmission line of the video signal.

The distinguishing information may be information allowing determination of a period from a start point to an end point of the predetermined period or a period from a start point to an end point of the differential period.

The information transmitting apparatus may further include a compressing unit operable to compress the audio signal.

The information transmitting apparatus may further include an encrypting unit operable to encrypt the audio signal by a method common with the video signal.

According to a second aspect of the present invention, there is provided an information transmitting method, including capturing a video signal; capturing a compressed audio signal; setting a blanking period of the video signal to a predetermined period of a length different from an original period; multiplexing the compressed audio signal into a differential period corresponding to a difference between the blanking period of the video signal and the predetermined period set by the setting step; and transmitting the video signal having the compressed audio signal multiplexed therein.

According to a third aspect of the present invention, there is provided a recording medium recorded with a computer readable program for transmitting information, the program including capturing a video signal; capturing a compressed audio signal; setting a blanking period of the video signal to a predetermined period of a length different from an original period; multiplexing the compressed audio signal into a differential period corresponding to a difference between the blanking period of the video signal and the predetermined

period set by the setting step; and transmitting the video signal having the compressed audio signal multiplexed therein.

According to a fourth aspect of the present invention, there is provided a system for performing an information transmission process, including a processor for executing instructions; and instructions, the instructions including capturing a video signal; capturing a compressed audio signal; setting a blanking period of the video signal to a predetermined period of a length different from an original period; multiplexing the compressed audio signal into a differential period corresponding to a difference between the blanking period of the video signal and the predetermined period set by the setting step; and transmitting the video signal having the compressed audio signal multiplexed therein.

According to a fifth aspect of the present invention, there is provided an information receiving apparatus including a receiver operable to receive a transmitted signal; a first capturing unit operable to capture a video signal from the received signal; a detecting unit operable to detect a blanking period of the captured video signal, the blanking period being set to a length different from an original period; a second capturing unit operable to capture information on a multiplexing period in which a compressed audio signal is multiplexed; a third capturing unit operable to capture the multiplexed compressed audio signal from the captured video signal on the basis of the captured information on the multiplexing period; and a correcting unit operable to correct the detected blanking period on the basis of the captured information on the multiplexing period.

The information receiving apparatus may further include a converting unit operable to convert the compressed audio signal captured by the third capturing unit into a continuous signal.

A blanking signal representing the blanking period may form a control signal.

The information receiving apparatus may further include a retaining unit operable to retain the information on the multiplexing period, and the second capturing unit may capture the information on the multiplexing period from the information retained by the retaining unit.

The retaining unit may retain a correspondence between a type of the video signal and the multiplexing period as the information on the multiplexing period.

The information receiving apparatus may further include a distinguishing information extracting unit operable to extract distinguishing information for distinguishing the multiplexing period.

The distinguishing information extracting unit may extract the distinguishing information from a blanking signal representing the blanking period, the blanking signal being inserted in the blanking period of the video signal.

The distinguishing information extracting unit may extract the distinguishing information from the blanking signal in a vertical blanking period.

The distinguishing into/nation extracting unit may extract the distinguishing information from a signal received via a transmission line different from a transmission line of the video signal.

The distinguishing information may be information allowing determination of a period from a start point to an endpoint of the multiplexing period or a period from a start point to an end point of the blanking period being set to the length different from the original period.

The information receiving apparatus may further include an expanding unit operable to expand the compressed audio signal.

The information receiving apparatus may further include a decrypting unit operable to decrypt the audio signal by a method common with the video signal, the audio signal being encrypted by a method common with the video signal.

According to a sixth aspect of the present invention, there is provided an information receiving method including receiving a transmitted signal; capturing a video signal from the received signal; detecting a blanking period of the captured video signal, the blanking period being set to a length different from an original period; capturing information on a multiplexing period in. which a compressed audio signal is multiplexed; capturing the multiplexed compressed audio signal from the captured video signal on the basis of the captured information on the multiplexing period; and correcting the detected blanking period on the basis of the captured information on the multiplexing period.

According to a seventh aspect of the present invention, there is provided a recording medium recorded with a computer readable program for receiving information, the program including receiving a transmitted signal; capturing a video signal from the received signal; detecting a blanking period of the captured video signal, the blanking period being set to a length different from an original period; capturing information on a multiplexing period in which a compressed audio signal is multiplexed; capturing the multiplexed compressed audio signal from the captured video signal on the basis of the captured information on the multiplexing period; and correcting the detected blanking period on the basis of the captured information on the multiplexing period.

According to an eighth aspect of the present invention, there is provided a system for performing information reception, including a processor for executing instructions; and instructions, the instructions including receiving a transmitted signal; capturing a video signal from the received signal; detecting a blanking period of the captured video signal, the blanking period being set to a length different from an original period; capturing information on a multiplexing period in which a compressed audio signal is multiplexed; capturing the multiplexed compressed audio signal from the captured video signal on the basis of the captured information on the multiplexing period; and correcting the detected blanking period on the basis of the captured information on the multiplexing period.

According to a ninth aspect of the present invention, there is provided an information transmitting and receiving system, including an information transmitting apparatus; and an information receiving apparatus; the information transmitting apparatus including a first capturing unit operable to capture a video signal; a second capturing unit operable to capture a compressed audio signal; a setting unit operable to set a blanking period of the video signal to a predetermined period of a length different from an original period; a multiplexing unit operable to multiplex the compressed audio signal into a differential period corresponding to a difference between the blanking period of the video signal and the predetermined period set by the setting unit; and a video signal transmitter operable to transmit the video signal having the compressed audio signal multiplexed therein; and the information receiving apparatus including a receiver operable to receive a signal transmitted from the information transmitting apparatus; a third capturing unit operable to capture the video signal from the received signal; a detecting unit operable to detect the blanking period of the captured video signal, the blanking period being set to the predetermined period; a fourth capturing unit operable to capture information on the differential period; a fifth capturing unit operable to capture the multiplexed compressed audio signal from the captured

video signal on the basis of the captured information on the differential period; and a correcting unit operable to correct the detected blanking period on the basis of the captured information on the differential period.

According to a tenth aspect of the present invention, there is provided an information transmitting and receiving method, including capturing a video signal; capturing a compressed audio signal; setting a blanking period of the video signal to a predetermined period of a length different from an original period; multiplexing the compressed audio signal into a differential period corresponding to a difference between the blanking period of the video signal and the predetermined period set by the setting step; transmitting the video signal having the compressed audio signal multiplexed therein; receiving the transmitted signal; capturing the video signal from the received signal; detecting the blanking period of the captured video signal, the blanking period being set to the predetermined period; capturing information on the differential period; capturing the multiplexed compressed audio signal from the captured video signal on the basis of the captured information on the differential period; and correcting the detected blanking period on the basis of the captured information on the differential period.

According to an eleventh aspect of the present invention, there is provided a recording medium recorded with a program for transmitting and receiving information, the program including capturing a video signal; capturing a compressed audio signal; setting a blanking period of the video signal to a predetermined period of a length different from an original period; multiplexing the compressed audio signal into a differential period corresponding to a difference between the blanking period of the video signal and the predetermined period set by the setting step; transmitting the video signal having the compressed audio signal multiplexed therein; receiving the transmitted signal; capturing the video signal from the received signal; detecting the blanking period of the captured video signal, the blanking period being set to the predetermined period; capturing information. on the differential period; capturing the multiplexed compressed audio signal from the captured video signal on the basis of the captured information on the differential period; and correcting the detected blanking period on the basis of the captured information on the differential period.

According to a twelfth aspect of the present invention, there is provided a system for performing information transmission and reception processes, including, a processor for executing instructions; and instructions, the instructions including capturing a video signal; capturing a compressed audio signal; setting a blanking period of the video signal to a predetermined period of a length different from an original period; multiplexing the compressed audio signal into a differential period corresponding to a difference between the blanking period of the video signal and the predetermined period set by the setting step; transmitting the video signal having the compressed audio signal multiplexed therein; receiving the transmitted signal; capturing the video signal from the received signal; detecting the blanking period of the captured video signal, the blanking period being set to the predetermined period; capturing information on the differential period; capturing the multiplexed compressed audio signal from the captured video signal on the basis of the captured information on the differential period; and correcting the detected blanking period on the basis of the captured information on the differential period.

The apparatus and method for information transmission, and the program according to the present invention, multiplex the compressed audio signal into the differential period created by setting the blanking period of the video signal to the predetermined period.

The apparatus and method for information reception, and the program according to the present invention, capture the compressed audio signal superimposed in the multiplexing period of the received video signal, and correct the blanking period on the basis of the multiplexing period.

The system and method for information transmission and reception, and the program according to the present invention, multiplex the compressed audio signal into the differential period of the video signal, and thereby transmit the compressed audio signal from the information transmitting apparatus. The information receiving apparatus captures the compressed audio signal multiplexed in the differential period, and corrects the blanking period on the basis of the differential.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

FIG. **1** is a block diagram showing a configuration of an information transmitting and receiving system to which the present invention is applied;

FIG. **2** is a block diagram showing a configuration of a transmitter in FIG. **1**;

FIGS. **3**A, **3**B, **3**C, **3**D, **3**E, and **3**F are diagrams of assistance in explaining signals input to the transmitter of FIG. **2**;

FIG. **4** is a block diagram showing a configuration of a receiver in FIG. **1**;

FIG. **5** is a flowchart of assistance in explaining transmission processing on a channel A of the transmitter of FIG. **2**;

FIG. **6** is a diagram showing an example of blanking data;

FIG. **7** is a flowchart of assistance in explaining transmission processing on a channel B of the transmitter of FIG. **2**;

FIG. **8** is a flowchart of assistance in explaining transmission processing on a channel C of the transmitter of FIG. **2**;

FIGS. **9**A, **9**B, **9**C, and **9**D are tinting charts of assistance in explaining the transmission processing of the transmitter of FIG. **2**;

FIGS. **10**A, **10**B, and **10**C are timing charts of assistance in explaining the operation on the channel A of the transmitter of FIG. **2** around a blanking period;

FIGS. **11**A, **11**B, and **11**C are timing charts of assistance in explaining the operation on the channel B of the transmitter of FIG. **2** around a blanking period;

FIGS. **12**A, **12**B, and **12**C are timing charts of assistance in explaining the operation on the channel C of the transmitter of FIG. **2** around a blanking period;

FIG. **13** is a flowchart of assistance in explaining reception processing on a channel A of the receiver of FIG. **4**;

FIG. **14** is a flowchart of assistance in explaining reception processing on a channel B of the receiver of FIG. **4**;

FIG. **15** is a flowchart of assistance in explaining reception processing on a channel C of the receiver of FIG. **4**;

FIGS. **16**A, **16**B, **16**C, and **16**D are timing charts of assistance in explaining operation of the receiver of FIG. **4**; and

FIG. **17** is a block diagram showing another configuration of the digital tuner of FIG. **2**.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION

Preferred embodiments of the present invention will hereinafter be described in detail with reference to the drawings.

FIG. **1** shows an example of a configuration of a transmitting and receiving system to which the present invention is applied. A digital tuner **31** receives a broadcast radio wave via an antenna **32**, and supplies a demodulated output to a moni-

tor **33** through a TMDS (Transition Minimized Differential Signaling) cord **34** (hereinafter described simply as a TMDS **34**) based on DVI (Digital Video Interface) standards. The digital tuner **31** is also connected to the monitor **33** by a DDC (Display Data Channel) bus **35** (hereinafter described simply as a DDC **35**) based on the DVI standards.

The digital tuner **31** has a front end **41**. The front end **41** demodulates the broadcast wave received via the antenna **32**, and then outputs video data and audio data (hereinafter also referred to as AV data) obtained by demodulating the broadcast wave to an AV decoder **42**. The AV decoder **42** decodes the AV data supplied from the front end **41**, and then outputs the result to a transmitter **43**. The transmitter **43** is controlled by a control unit **44**, and outputs the AV signal supplied from the AV decoder **42** to the monitor **33** via the TMDS **34**.

The monitor **33** incorporates a receiver **51**. The receiver **51** receives the AV data supplied from the transmitter **43** of the digital tuner **31** via the TMDS **34**, and then separates audio data, video data, and synchronizing data.

The audio data output from the receiver **51** is subjected to D/A conversion by a D/A converter **52**, and then output from left-channel and right-channel speakers **53** and **54**.

The video data output from the receiver **51** is subjected to D/A conversion by a D/A converter **55**, amplified by an RGB amplifier **56**, and output to a CRT **58**.

An H/V sync generating unit **57** generates a horizontal synchronizing signal and a vertical synchronizing signal on the basis of the synchronizing data supplied from the receiver **51**, and then supplies the horizontal synchronizing signal and the vertical synchronizing signal to a driving circuit of the CRT **58**.

FIG. **2** shows an example of a configuration of the transmitter **43**. Pixel data A, pixel data B, and pixel data C (for example blue (B), green (G), or red (R) pixel data as shown in FIG. **3**A, **3**B, or **3**C, respectively) for three channels A, B, and C, which data forms the video data output from the AV decoder **42**, are supplied from terminals **80**A, **80**B, and **80**C to the upper input terminals (as viewed in the figure) of switches **81**A, **81**B, and **81**C, respectively. The pixel data of each of the colors (channels) for one pixel is expressed as data of 8 bits.

A terminal **91** is supplied with data of 2 bits forming horizontal synchronizing data and vertical synchronizing data. The 2-bit data is supplied to an encoder **83**A.

A terminal **92** is supplied with data of 2 bits forming a control signal (CTL**0**, CTL**1**) as shown in FIG. **3**E, for example. The 2-bit data is supplied to an encoder **83**B.

A terminal **93** is supplied with audio data, in this example, as data to be superimposed (multiplexed). The audio data input from the terminal **93** is stored temporarily by a buffer **84**, and then supplied as data in units of 8 bits to the lower input terminal (as viewed in FIG. **2**) of the switch **81**A, **81**B, or **81**C.

A terminal **94** is supplied with a blanking signal indicating a blanking period as shown in FIG. **3**D. The blanking signal is supplied to a timing generation unit **85**.

A terminal **95** is supplied with a pixel clock of 25 MHz to 165 MHz as shown in FIG. **3**F. The pixel clock is supplied to a PLL circuit **87**. The pixel clock is in synchronization with each of the pixels of the channels A, B, and C. The PLL circuit **87** generates a clock of a frequency ten times that of the input pixel clock in synchronization with the pixel clock, and then supplies the generated clock to the timing generating unit **85**. The PLL circuit **87** also outputs a stable pixel clock to the monitor **33**.

The timing generating unit **85** generates a timing signal to control the buffer **84**, the switches **81**A, **81**B, and **81**C, and encrypting units **82**A, **82**B, and **82**C in synchronization with the blanking signal and the pixel clock. The timing generating unit **85** also sets (shortens) the blanking signal to a predetermined length, and supplies the set blanking signal to encoders **83**A, **83**B, and **83**C.

The switches **81**A, **81**B, and **81**C are each turned to the upper input terminal or the lower input terminal in the figure on the basis of the timing signal supplied from the timing generating unit **85** to select the pixel data A to C or the audio data. The switches **81**A, **81**B, and **81**C output the selected pixel data or audio data to their corresponding encrypting units **82**A, **82**B, and **82**C, respectively.

The encrypting units **82**A, **82**B, and **82**C encrypt the video data (pixel data) or the audio data input thereto by a common algorithm, and then output the results to their corresponding encoders **83**A, **83**B, and **83**C.

A superimposing period table **86** prestores data on length of a horizontal blanking period and length of a vertical blanking period corresponding to the pixel data to be output from the encoders **83**A to **83**C.

For example, when pixel data to be encoded and output is 480p (the number represents the number of scanning lines, and p denotes a progressive system), the horizontal blanking period corresponds to a length of 138 pixels, When pixel data to be encoded and output is 720p, the length of the horizontal blanking period corresponds to 370 pixels. When pixel data to be encoded and output is 1080i (i denotes an interlacing system), the length of the horizontal blanking period corresponds to 280 pixels.

That is to say, data for displaying position (length) of a horizontal blanking period and position (length) of a vertical blanking period corresponding to the displaying system are stored in the superimposing period table **86**.

The timing generating unit **85** turns the switches **81**A and **81**C to the lower side thereof (as viewed in the figure) to select audio data for a superimposing period (multiplexing period) stored in the superimposing period table **86**.

During a period when the blanking signal set by the timing generating unit **85** (hereinafter referred to as the set blanking signal) is not supplied, the encoder **83**A encodes the 8-bit pixel data A or audio data supplied from the encrypting unit **82**A on the basis of a predetermined algorithm, and then outputs the result as 10-bit data of the data channel A.

During a period when the set blanking signal is input (hereinafter referred to as a set blanking period), the encoder **83**A encodes (generates) 10-bit blanking data on the basis of the 2-bit horizontal synchronizing signal or vertical synchronizing signal input from the terminal **91**, and then outputs the blanking data as data of the data channel A.

As with the encoder **83**A, during the period other than the set blanking period, the encoder **83**B or **83**C encodes the pixel data or audio data input from the encrypting unit **82**B or **82**C, respectively, and then outputs the result as 10-bit data. During the set blanking period, the encoder **83**B encodes (generates) 10-bit blanking data on the basis of the 2-bit control signal input from the terminal **92**, and the encoder **83**C encodes (generates) 10-bit blanking data on the basis of 2-bit data indicating the superimposing period supplied from the superimposing period table **86**. output of the encoder **83**B and the output of the encoder **83**C are transmitted to the monitor **33** as an output of the data channel B and an output of the data channel C, respectively.

In addition, the pixel clock generated by the PLL circuit **87** is transmitted to the monitor **33** as data of a clock channel.

FIG. **4** shows a configuration of the receiver **51**. Decoders **101**A to **101**C receive the 10-bit data of the data channels A to C, respectively, decode the 10-bit data, and then output the results as 8-bit data. The decoders **101**A to **101**C are supplied

with a clock of a frequency ten times that of the pixel clock input to the clock channel in synchronization with the pixel clock, which clock of the frequency ten times that of the pixel clock is generated by a PLL circuit **106**.

Eight-bit pixel data A or audio data decoded by the decoder **101**A is supplied to a decrypting unit **102**A. When the 10-bit blanking data is input, the decoder **101**A converts the 10-bit blanking data into 2-bit horizontal synchronizing data or vertical synchronizing data, and then supplies the 2-bit horizontal synchronizing data or vertical synchronizing data to the H/V sync generating unit **57**.

Eight-bit pixel data B or audio data output by the decoder **101**B is supplied to a decrypting unit **102**B. When the 10-bit blanking data is input, the decoder **101**B converts the 10-bit blanking data into a 2-bit control signal, and then supplies the 2-bit control signal to a control unit **59** of the monitor **33**.

Eight-bit pixel data C or audio data output by the decoder **101**C is supplied to a decrypting unit **102**C. When the 10-bit blanking data is input, the decoder **101**C converts the 10-bit blanking data into 2-bit data indicating the superimposing period, and then supplies the 2-bit data to a timing generating unit **103**.

The decoders **101**A to **101**C also output the set blanking signal (Data Enable) indicating the set blanking period to the timing generating unit **103**. The timing generating unit **103** extends the set blanking period and thus generates a blanking signal of an original length by referring to a superimposing period table **105** (the same table as the superimposing period table **86** in FIG. **2** is retained), and then outputs the blanking signal to the H/V sync generating unit **57**. The timing signal generating unit **103** is supplied with a stabilized pixel clock (clock of the same frequency as that of the pixel clock input to the terminal **95** of the transmitter **43**) generated by the PLL circuit **106** in synchronization with the data of the clock channel. The timing generating unit **103** generates a timing signal on the basis of these pieces of data input thereto, and supplies the timing signal to the decrypting units **102**A to **102**C and a buffer **104**.

The decrypting units **102**A to **102**C decrypt the 8-bit pixel data A or audio data, the pixel data B or audio data, and the pixel data C or audio data input thereto, respectively, and then output the pixel data to the D/A converter **55**.

The 8-bit audio data decrypted by the decrypting units **102**A to **102**C is supplied to the buffer **104** to be converted into continuous data, and then output to the D/A converter **52**.

The blanking signal generated by the timing generating unit **103** is supplied to the H/V sync generating unit **57** in conjunction with the pixel clock of the frequency 1/10 that of the clock supplied to the decoders **101**A to **101**C, which pixel clock is generated by the PLL circuit **106** (clock of the same frequency as that of the pixel clock input to the terminal **95** of the transmitter **43** in FIG. **2**).

The operation of the transmitting and receiving system will next be described. When the front end **41** of the digital tuner **31** receives a radio wave of a channel specified by a user via the antenna **32**, the front end **41** of the digital tuner **31** demodulates the received signal, and then outputs the demodulated signal to the AV decoder **42**. The AV decoder **42** decodes the received signal input thereto, and then outputs decoded audio data and video data to the transmitter **43**. The transmitter **43** multiplexes the audio data into the horizontal blanking period of the video data input thereto, and then outputs the result to the monitor **33** via the TMDS **34**.

The TMDS **34** is essentially an interface for personal computers, and therefore is in a format not allowing transmission of audio data. In this case, however, the audio data is multiplexed into the blanking period of the video data, and therefore the audio data can be transmitted via the TMDS **34**.

The receiver **51** on the monitor **33** side receives the video data transmitted via the TMDS **34**, separates the audio data inserted in the blanking period, and then outputs the audio data to the D/A converter **52**. The D/A converter **52** converts the audio data input thereto into analog audio signals for a left and a right channel to be output from the speakers **53** and **54**.

Horizontal synchronizing data and vertical synchronizing data also extracted and generated limn the blanking period by the receiver **51** are supplied to the H/V sync generating unit **57**. The H/V sync generating unit **57** generates a horizontal synchronizing signal and a vertical synchronizing signal on the basis of the data input thereto, and then outputs the horizontal synchronizing signal and the vertical synchronizing signal to the driving circuit of the CRT **58**.

The receiver **51** also outputs pixel data extracted from the data input thereto to the D/A converter **55** to subject the pixel data to D/A conversion. RGB signals output from the D/A converter **55** (signals of the pixel data A to C) are amplified by the RGB amplifier **56**, and then supplied to the CRT **58** for display. In this case, the CRT **58** is controlled in the scanning of scanning lines on the basis of the horizontal synchronizing signal and the vertical synchronizing signal generated by the H/V sync generating unit **57**.

Transmission processing on the channel A of the transmitter **43** in FIG. **2** will next be described with reference to the flowchart of FIG. **5**.

At a step S**1**, the timing generation unit **85** determines whether the timing generation unit **85** is now in a blanking period on the basis of input from the terminal **94**. When the timing generation unit **85** is not in a blanking period, the processing proceeds to a step S**2**, at which the timing generation unit **85** generates a switch control signal and then outputs the switch control signal to the switch **81**A to turn the switch **81**A to the upper input terminal (as viewed in FIG. **2**). The switch **81**A thereby selects the pixel data A input from the terminal **80**A (B data of RGB data, for example), and then supplies the pixel data A to the encrypting unit **82**A.

At a next step S**5**, the encrypting unit **82**A encrypts the data selected by the switch **81**A (pixel data A in this case). At a step S**6**, the encoder **83**A encodes the pixel data A encrypted by the encrypting unit **82**A at the step S**5**, and at a step S**8**, the encoder **83**A outputs the encoded data to the TMDS **34** as data of the data channel A.

When the timing generation unit **85** determines at the step S**1** that the timing generation unit **85** is now in a blanking period, on the other hand, the processing proceeds to a step S**3**. At the step S**3**, the timing generation unit **85** refers to a table of the superimposing period table **86** to determine whether the timing generation unit **85** is in a period for superimposing (multiplexing) audio data. Specifically, as described above, a period for superimposing audio data (superimposing data) in a horizontal blanking period is predefined in the superimposing period table **86**. The timing generation unit **85** determines on the basis of the definition whether the timing generation unit **85** is now in a period for superimposing (multiplexing) audio data.

When the timing generation unit **85** determines that the timing generation unit **85** is in a horizontal blanking period but not in a period for superimposing audio data, the processing proceeds to a step S**7**. At the step S**7**, the timing generation unit **85** controls the encoder **83**A to generate 10-bit horizontal or vertical blanking data on the basis of 2-bit horizontal or vertical synchronizing data input from the terminal **91** and then output the 10-bit horizontal or vertical blanking data.

When the 2-bit data is denoted by (C1, C0), the encoder **83**A outputs 10-bit control (CTL) data provided for the 2-bit data as shown in FIG. **6**, for example, as the horizontal or vertical blanking data.

In the example of FIG. **6**, when a 2-bit input is '00,' the blanking data is '0010101011.' When the input is '01,' the blanking data is '1101010100.' When the input is '10,' the blanking data is '0010101010.' When the input is '11,' the blanking data is '1101010101.' The 10-bit blanking data is predetermined as blanking data, and is unique data used neither for video data (pixel data) nor for audio data.

Although the processing of the step S**7** is basically performed over the entire blanking period, the processing of the step S**7** in the present invention is performed only in a period when audio data is not superimposed. This means that the blanking period is set to a length shorter than the original period.

The step S**7** is succeeded by a step S**8**, at which the encoder **83**A outputs the blanking data generated at the step S**7** via the TMDS **34**.

When the timing generation unit **85** determines at the step S**3** that the timing generation unit **85** is now in a period for superimposing audio data, on the other hand, the processing proceeds to a step S**4**. At the step S**4**, the timing generation unit **85** controls the switch **81**A to turn the contact of the switch **81**A to the lower side (as viewed in FIG. **2**). At this step S**4**, the switch **81**A selects audio data supplied from the buffer **84**, and then outputs the audio data to the encrypting unit **82**A.

At the step S**5**, the encrypting unit **82**A encrypts the audio data input via the switch **81**A, and then outputs the encrypted audio data to the encoder **83**A. At the step S**6**, the encoder **83**A encodes the encrypted audio data input from the encrypting unit **82**A, and at the step S**8**, the encoder **83**A outputs the encoded data to the TDMS **34**. Thus, the video data (pixel data) and the audio data are encrypted by the common encrypting unit **82**A. It is therefore possible to simplify the configuration, miniaturize the apparatus, and lower the cost as compared with a case where the video data (pixel data) and the audio data are provided as data separate from each other.

Transmission processing on the channel B will next be described with reference to the flowchart of FIG. **7**.

The processing at steps S**21** to S**28** in FIG. **7** is basically the same as the processing at the steps S**1** to S**8** in the transmission processing of the channel A shown in FIG. **5**. However, the pixel data selected by the switch **81**B at the step S**22** is pixel data B, and the data encrypted by the encrypting unit **82**B at the step S**25** is the pixel data B or the audio data supplied from the buffer **84** selected by the switch **81**B.

In addition, at the step S**27**, the encoder **83**B generates 10-bit horizontal or vertical blanking data (FIG. **6**) on the basis of the 2-bit control signal supplied from the terminal **92**.

The other processing is the same as in FIG. **5**.

Transmission processing on the channel C is as shown in FIG. **8**. Processing at steps S**31** to S**38** is basically the same as the processing at the steps S**1** to S**8** in the flowchart of FIG. **5**. However, the data selected by the switch **81**C at the step S**32** and encrypted by the encrypting unit **82**C at the step S**35** is pixel data C supplied from the terminal **80**C or the audio data supplied from the buffer **84**. At the step S**37**, the encoder **83**C generates 10-bit horizontal or vertical blanking data (FIG. **6**) on the basis of 2-bit data indicating a superimposing period supplied from the superimposing period table **86**.

The processing described above will be described further with reference to the timing charts of FIGS. **9**A, **9**B, **9**C, and **9**D. As shown in FIG. **9**A, a blanking signal is generated in a cycle of a horizontal scanning line. As described above, the period of the horizontal blanking signal corresponds to 138 pixels in the case of 480p pixel data, 370 pixels in the case of 720p pixel data, and 280 pixels in the case of 1080i pixel data.

As shown in FIG. **9**B, a first period T_1 of the blanking period T_0 is a transmitting blanking period, and a remaining period T_2 of the blanking period T_0 is a period for multiplexing audio data.

The audio data, which is continuous data as shown in FIG. **9**D, is compressed with respect to a time axis by being encoded by the encoders **83**A to **83**C, and multiplexed into the period T_2 as shown in FIG. **9**C.

FIGS. **10**A, **10**B, and **10**C show in enlarged dimension data around a blanking period of the channel A. As shown in FIG. **10**B, although the period of an original blanking signal is T_0, the blanking signal is multiplexed in a manner as shown in FIG. **10**A and FIG. **10**C only in a period T_1 within the period T_0. This means that the blanking signal is, as it were, shortened from the period T_0 to the period T_1. Audio data is multiplexed into a remaining superimposing period T_2 obtained by subtracting the period T_1 from the period T_0. In other words, audio data is multiplexed as data similar to pixel data. In order to distinguish audio data from pixel data on the receiving part, however, distinguishing data indicating the superimposing period T_2 is transmitted in the period T_1 on the channel C, as described above.

FIGS. **11**A, **11**B, and **11**C show the arrangement of data around a blanking period of the channel B. FIGS. **12**A, **12**B, and **12**C show the arrangement of data around a blanking period of the channel C.

In the period T_1, horizontal synchronizing data or vertical synchronizing data is transmitted in the example of FIGS. **10**A, **10**B, and **10**C, whereas a control signal is transmitted in the example of FIGS. **11**A, **11**B, and **11**C, and table distinguishing data is transmitted in the example of FIGS. **12**A, **12**B, and **12**C. That is, as described above, blanking data inserted in the period T_1 is data representing the horizontal or vertical synchronizing data (for the channel A), the control signal (for the channel B), or the table distinguishing data (for the channel C).

The receiving processing of the channel A of the receiver **51** in FIG. **4** will next be described with reference to the flowchart of FIG. **13**. At a step S**41**, the decoder **101**A decodes data input thereto.

At a step S**42**, the decoder **101**A determines whether the decoded data is blanking data. When the decoder **101**A determines that the decoded data is blanking data, the processing proceeds to a step S**43**, at which the decoder **101**A generates horizontal or vertical synchronizing data (generates 2-bit data corresponding to the 10-bit control code in FIG. **6**) on the basis of the blanking data, and then outputs the horizontal or vertical synchronizing data to the H/V sync generating unit **57**.

The decoder **101**A also outputs data of a period corresponding to the blanking data as data of a set blanking period to the timing generating unit **103**. As will be described in detail in the processing at a step S**83** in FIG. **15**, the timing generating unit **103** corrects (lengthens) the set blanking period to thereby generate a blanking signal of original length.

When the decoder **101**A determines at the step S**42** that the decoded data is not blanking data, the data is either pixel data or audio data. Therefore, the decoder **101**A outputs the data to the decrypting unit **102**A. At a step S**44**, the decrypting unit **102**A decrypts the data input thereto. The decrypting unit **102**A determines whether the decrypted data is audio data on the basis of a timing signal from the timing generating unit **103** at a step S**45**. When the decrypting unit **102**A determines

that the decrypted data is audio data, the processing proceeds to a step S46, at which the audio data is supplied to the buffer 104 to be stored therein.

Specifically, the timing generating unit 103 reads a superimposing period T_2 corresponding to table distinguishing data for distinguishing the superimposing period, which data is output by the decoder 101C, from the superimposing period table 105 on the basis of the table distinguishing data. The timing generating unit 103 then outputs a timing signal corresponding to the period T_2. The decrypting unit 102A determines that data in the period T_2 is audio data.

The buffer 104 is also supplied with audio data decrypted by the decrypting unit 102B or 102C of the channel B or the channel C. The buffer 104 outputs these pieces of audio data as continuous data.

When the decrypting unit 102A determines at the step S45 that the decrypted data is not audio data (when the decrypting unit 102A determines that the decrypted data is pixel data A), on the other hand, the processing proceeds to a step S47, at which the decrypting unit 102A outputs the data to the D/A converter 55.

FIG. 14 shows the receiving processing of the channel B. The processing at steps S61 to S67 is basically the same as shown in the flowchart of FIG. 13. However, at the step S63, the decoder 101B generates a control signal rather than horizontal synchronizing data or vertical synchronizing data on the basis of blanking data. The control signal is output to the control unit 59.

The flowchart of FIG. 15 shows the receiving process of the channel C of the receiver 51. The processing at steps S81 to S87 in FIG. 15 is basically the same as the processing at the steps S41 to S48 in FIG. 13. However, the processing at the step S83 in FIG. 15 is different from the processing at the step S43 in FIG. 13. Specifically, at the step S83 in FIG. 15, the decoder 101C generates 2-bit table distinguishing data on the basis of 10-bit blanking data. The table distinguishing data, which allows the superimposing period T_2 to be identified, is supplied to the timing generating unit 103.

The timing generating unit 103 reads from the superimposing period table 105 the superimposing period T_2 corresponding to the table distinguishing data supplied from the decoder 101C, and then sets the period T_2 in an internal memory. The timing generating unit 103 generates a timing signal for separating audio data from pixel data by using the superimposing period T_2 until new table distinguishing data is received in a next vertical blanking period.

In addition, the timing generating unit 103 lengthens (corrects) the set blanking period T_1 by the period T_2 on the basis of the set blanking data supplied from the decoders 101A to 101C and the set superimposing period T_2. The timing generating unit 103 generates a blanking signal corresponding to the blanking period T_0 of original length, and then outputs the blanking signal to the H/V sync generating unit 57.

The receiving processing described above will be described further with reference to the timing charts of FIGS. 16A, 16B, 16C, and 16D. As shown in FIG. 16A, blanking data is transmitted in a state of being inserted in only the period T_1 of the blanking period T_0. This means that the blanking period T_0 is transmitted in a state of being shortened to the set blanking period T_1, as shown in FIG. 16B. If the blanking period T_0 remains in this state, audio data inserted in the period T_2 is processed as pixel data. Thus, as shown in FIG. 16C, the timing generating unit 103 lengthens (corrects) the set blanking period T_1 by the period T_2 to thereby generate a correct blanking period, or the period T_0 of original length, and then outputs the blanking period to the H/V sync generating unit 57.

As shown in FIG. 16D, the buffer 104 converts divided audio data supplied from the decrypting units 102A to 102C into continuous audio data, and then outputs the continuous audio data to the D/A converter 52.

The processing of inserting table distinguishing data into the period T_1 as shown in FIGS. 12A, 12B, and 12C needs to be performed in every horizontal blanking period when the value of the superimposing period T_2 is changed for each horizontal scanning line. Usually, however, the superimposing period T_2 is not changed frequently. In such a case, table distinguishing data may be multiplexed into only a vertical blanking period.

In the embodiment of FIG. 1, the transmitter 43 of the digital tuner 31 on the transmitting side and the receiver 51 of the monitor 33 on the receiving side retain the superimposing period table 86 and the superimposing period table 105, respectively, and table distinguishing data for indicating which of the tables retained in the superimposing period table 86 and the superimposing; period table 105 is to be used is inserted in the blanking period T_1 of the channel C. However, the table distinguishing data may be transmitted from the digital tuner 31 side to the monitor 33 side via the DDC 35, for example, forming a transmission line separate from the TMDS 34.

The series of processing steps described above may be carried out not only by hardware but also by software. In such a case, the digital tuner 31 is formed as shown in FIG. 17, for example.

A CPU (Central Processing Unit) 221 in FIG. 17 performs various processing according to programs stored in a ROM (Read Only Memory) 222 or programs loaded from a storage unit 228 into a RAM (Random Access Memory) 223. The RAM 223 also stores signals and the like necessary for the CPU 221 to perform various processing, as required.

The CPU 221, the ROM 222, and the RAM 223 are connected to each other via a bus 224. The bus 224 is also connected with an input/output interface 225.

The input/output interface 225 is connected with an input unit 226 formed by a keyboard, a mouse and the like, an output unit 227 formed by a display formed by a CRT, an LCD or the like and a speaker or the like, the storage unit 228 formed by a hard disk or the like, and a communication unit 229 formed by a modem, a terminal adapter or the like. The communication unit 229 performs processing for communication via a network.

When necessary, the input/output interface 225 is also connected with a drive 230 to Which a magnetic disk 241, an optical disk 242, a magneto-optical disk 243, a semiconductor memory 244 or the like is inserted as required. Computer programs read from the magnetic disk 241, the optical disk 242, the magneto-optical disk 243, the semiconductor memory 244 and the like are installed in the storage unit 228 as required.

Though not shown in the figure, when the series of processing steps is to be carried out by software, the receiver 51 and the like may also be formed by a computer as with the digital tuner 31. When the series of processing steps is to be carried out by software, a program forming the software is installed from a network or a recording medium onto a computer that is incorporated in special hardware, or a general-purpose personal computer that can perform various functions by installing various programs thereon, for example.

Examples of the recording medium include not only program-recorded packaged media distributed to users to provide the program separately from the apparatus proper, which packaged media are formed by magnetic disks 241 (including floppy disks), optical disks 242 (including CD-ROM (Com-

pact Disk-Read Only Memory) and DVD (Digital Versatile Disk)), magneto-optical disks **243** (including MD (Mini-Disk)), or semiconductor memories **244** as shown in FIG. **17**, but also the hard disk included in the storage unit **228** and the ROM **222** storing the program, which are supplied to the user in a state of being preincorporated in the apparatus proper.

It is to be noted that in the present specification, the steps describing the program recorded on a recording medium include not only processing steps carried out in time series in the described order, but also processing steps carried out in parallel or individually and not necessarily in time series.

Also, in the present specification, a system denotes the whole apparatus formed by a plurality of apparatus.

As described above, the apparatus and method for information transmission, and the program according to the present invention multiplex a compressed audio signal into a differential period created by setting a blanking period to a predetermined period. It is therefore possible to transmit an audio signal efficiently.

The apparatus and method for information reception, and the program according to the present invention capture the compressed audio signal multiplexed in the multiplexing period of a captured video signal, and correct the blanking period on the basis of the multiplexing period. It is therefore possible to reliably extract the compressed audio signal, recover the length of the original blanking period readily and reliably, and thereby prevent adverse effects on reproduction of the video signal.

According to the system and method for information transmission and reception, and the program according to the present invention, the information transmitting apparatus multiplexes a compressed audio signal into a differential period created by setting a blanking period of a video signal to a predetermined period, and thereby transmits the compressed audio signal, and the information receiving apparatus captures the compressed audio signal multiplexed in the differential period, and corrects the blanking period. Therefore, it is possible to transmit and receive the compressed audio signal other than the video signal readily and reliably in a system capable of transmitting and receiving a video signal, and thus realize a system having no adverse effects on transmission and reception of an original video signal.

Although the invention herein has been described with reference to particular embodiments, it is to be understood that these embodiments are merely illustrative of the principles and applications of the present invention. It is therefore to be understood that numerous modifications may be made to the illustrative embodiments and that other arrangements may be devised without departing from the spirit and scope of the present invention as defined by the appended claims.

The invention claimed is:

[1. A data transmission apparatus comprising

a processor to implement:

a first input unit for inputting video data of a predetermined number of bits;

a second input unit for inputting audio data;

a setting unit for setting, within a blanking period of the video data, a setup period that is shorter than the blanking period;

a multiplexing unit for multiplexing the audio data into a superimposing period, the superimposing period occurring within the blanking period and not including the setup period, and the setup period at least preceding the superimposing period;

a video data transmitting unit for encoding the video data to generate encoded video data having a number of bits greater than the predetermined number of bits and transmitting the encoded video data to a data channel; and

a retaining unit for retaining information on the setup period or the superimposing period, wherein the retaining unit retains a correspondence between a type of the video data and the setup period or superimposing period as the information on the setup period or superimposing period, and wherein the multiplexing unit multiplexes the audio data into the superimposing period on the basis of the information retained by the retaining unit,

the setup period being used to convey predetermined data other than video data or audio data; and

the predetermined data comprising information for identifying the encoded video data and the superimposing period.**]**

[2. A data transmission apparatus as claimed in claim **1**, wherein the setting unit sets the setup period by disposing a blanking signal representing the blanking period only during the setup period and not during the superimposing period.**]**

[3. A data transmission apparatus as claimed in claim **2**, wherein the blanking signal forms a control signal.**]**

[4. A data transmission apparatus as claimed in claim **1**, further comprising a distinguishing information transmitter for transmitting distinguishing information for distinguishing the setup period or the superimposing period.**]**

[5. A data transmission apparatus as claimed in claim **4**, wherein the distinguishing information transmitter transmits the distinguishing information in the setup period of the video data as a type of blanking signal representing a blanking period.**]**

[6. A data transmission apparatus as claimed in claim **5**, wherein the distinguishing information transmitter transmits the distinguishing information its a vertical blanking period.**]**

[7. A data transmission apparatus as claimed in claim **4**, wherein the distinguishing information transmitter transmits the distinguishing information via a transmission line different from a transmission line of the encoded video data.**]**

[8. A data transmission apparatus as claimed in claim **4**, wherein the distinguishing information is information allowing determination of a period from a start point to an end point of the setup period or a period from a start point to an end point of the superimposing period.**]**

[9. A data transmission apparatus as claimed in claim **1**, further comprising a compressing unit for compressing the audio data.**]**

[10. A data transmission apparatus as claimed in claim **1**, further comprising an encrypting unit for encrypting the audio data by a method common with the video data.**]**

[11. An information receiving apparatus comprising

a processor to implement:

a receiver for receiving a transmitted signal;

a first capturing unit for capturing video data from the received signal;

a detecting unit for detecting a blanking period of the captured video data, the blanking period being set to a duration different from the duration of an original blanking period of the video data;

a second capturing unit for capturing information on a superimposing period of the received signal in which audio data is multiplexed, the superimposing period occurring within the original blanking period and not including the blanking period of the captured video data, and the blanking period of the captured video data at least preceding the superimposing period;

a third capturing unit for capturing the audio data from the received signal on the basis of the captured information and superimposing period;

a correcting unit for correcting the detected blanking period on the basis of the captured information on the superimposing period; and

a retaining unit for retaining the information on the superimposing period, wherein the retaining unit retains a correspondence between a type of the video data and the superimposing period as the information on the superimposing period, and wherein the second capturing unit captures the information on the superimposing period from the information retained by the retaining unit,

data indicative of the duration of the superimposing period being received during the blanking period of the captured video data.]

[12. An information receiving apparatus as claimed in claim 11, further comprising a converting unit for converting the audio data captured by the third capturing unit into a continuous signal.]

[13. An information receiving apparatus as claimed in claim 11, wherein a blanking signal representing the blanking period of the captured video data forms a control signal.]

[14. An information receiving apparatus as claimed in claim 11, further comprising a distinguishing information extracting unit for extracting distinguishing information for distinguishing the superimposing period.]

[15. An information receiving apparatus as claimed in claim 14, wherein the distinguishing information extracting unit extracts the distinguishing information from a blanking signal representing the blanking period of the captured video data, the blanking signal being inserted in the blanking period of the captured video data.]

[16. An information receiving apparatus as claimed in claim 15, wherein the distinguishing information extracting unit extracts the distinguishing information from the blanking signal in a vertical blanking period.]

[17. An information receiving apparatus as claimed in claim 14, wherein the distinguishing information extracting unit extracts the distinguishing information from in a signal received via a transmission line different from a transmission line of the captured video data.]

[18. An information receiving apparatus as claimed in claim 14, wherein the distinguishing information is information allowing determination of a period from a start point to an end point of the superimposing period or a period from a start point to an end point of the blanking period of the captured video data.]

[19. An information receiving apparatus as claimed in claim 11, wherein the audio data is compressed audio data, and

further comprising an expanding unit for expanding the compressed audio data.]

[20. An information receiving apparatus as claimed in claim 11, further comprising a decrypting unit for decrypting the audio data by a method common with the video data, the audio data being encrypted by a method common with the video data.]

21. An information processing apparatus, comprising:

a storage unit; and

a transmitter that

sets a first period in a blanking period, the duration of the first period being shorter than the duration of the blanking period;

multiplexes audio data into a second period corresponding to a difference between the blanking period and the first period; and

transmits an audio/video (AV) signal which includes video data, the audio data and distinguishing data for distinguishing the second period,

wherein the transmitter transmits the AV signal via transition minimized differential signaling (TMDS).

22. An information processing method, comprising:

reading from a storage unit;

setting a first period in a blanking period, the duration of the first period being shorter than the duration of the blanking period;

multiplexing audio data into a second period corresponding to a difference between the blanking period and the first period; and

transmitting an audio/video (AV) signal which includes video data, the audio data and distinguishing data for distinguishing the second period,

wherein the step of transmitting comprises transmitting the AV signal via transition minimized differential signaling (TMDS).

23. A processor for an apparatus comprising a display and a speaker, the processor having a processing device that controls the apparatus to:

read from a storage unit;

set a first period in a blanking period, the duration of the first period being shorter than the duration of the blanking period;

multiplex audio data into a second period corresponding to a difference between the blanking period and the first period; and

transmit an audio/video (AV) signal which includes video data, the audio data and distinguishing data for distinguishing the second period,

wherein the AV signal is transmitted via transition minimized differential signaling (TMDS).

24. An information processing apparatus comprising a display, a speaker and a processor, wherein the processor includes a processing device that controls the apparatus to:

read from a storage unit;

set a first period in a blanking period, the duration of the first period being shorter than the duration of the blanking period;

multiplex audio data into a second period corresponding to a difference between the blanking period and the first period; and

transmit an audio/video (AV) signal which includes video data, the audio data and distinguishing data for distinguishing the second period,

wherein the A/V signal is transmitted via transition minimized differential signaling (TMDS).

25. An information processing apparatus, comprising:

a receiver that

receives a transmitted signal;

detects a first period in a blanking period, the duration of the first period being shorter than the duration of the blanking period; and

captures video data from the transmitted signal and audio data which is multiplexed into a second period corresponding to a difference between the blanking period and the first period; and

a digital-to-analog (D/A) converter that receives the audio data and converts the audio data,

wherein the receiver receives the transmitted signal via transition minimized differential signaling (TMDS).

26. An information processing method, comprising:

receiving a transmitted signal;

detecting a first period in a blanking period, the duration of the first period being shorter than the duration of the blanking period;

capturing video data from the transmitted signal and audio data which is multiplexed into a second period corresponding to a difference between the blanking period and the first period;

receiving the audio data; and

performing D/A conversion on the audio data,

wherein the step of receiving comprises receiving the transmitted signal via transition minimized differential signaling (TMDS).

27. A processor for an apparatus, the processor having a processing device that controls the apparatus to:

receive a transmitted signal;

detect a first period in a blanking period, the duration of the first period being shorter than the duration of the blanking period;

capture video data from the transmitted signal and audio data which is multiplexed into a second period corresponding to a difference between the blanking period and the first period; and

perform D/A conversion on the audio data,

wherein the transmitted signal is transmitted via transition minimized differential signaling (TMDS).

28. An information processing apparatus comprising a processor, wherein the processor includes a processing device that controls the apparatus to:

receive a transmitted signal;

detect a first period in a blanking period, the duration of the first period being shorter than the duration of the blanking period;

capture video data from the transmitted signal and audio data which is multiplexed into a second period corresponding to a difference between the blanking period and the first period; and

perform D/A conversion on the audio data,

wherein the transmitted signal is transmitted via transition minimized differential signaling (TMDS).

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