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2

3 SYSTEM AND APPARATUS FOR THE DETECTION OF

4 RANDOMNESS IN TIME SERIES DISTRIBUTIONS

5 MADE UP OF SPARSE DATA SETS

6

7 STATEMENT OF GOVERNMENT INTEREST

8 The invention described herein may be manufactured and used
9 by or for the Government of the United States of America for
10 Governmental purposes without the payment of any royalties
11 thereon or therefore.

12

13 BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

14 (1) Field of the Invention

15 The invention generally relates to signal processing/data
16 processing systems for processing time series distributions
17 containing a small number of data points (e.g., less than about
18 ten (10) to fifteen (15) data points). More particularly, the
19 invention relates to a method and apparatus for classifying the
20 white noise degree (randomness) of a selected signal structure
21 comprising a time series distribution composed of a highly sparse
22 data set. As used herein, the term "random" (or "randomness") is

1 defined in terms of a "random process" as measured by the
2 probability distribution model used, namely a nearest-neighbor
3 stochastic (Poisson) process. Thus, pure randomness,
4 pragmatically speaking, is herein considered to be a time series
5 distribution for which no function, mapping or relation can be
6 constituted that provides meaningful insight into the underlying
7 structure of the distribution, but which at the same time is not
8 chaos.

9 (2) Description of the Prior Art

10 Recent research has revealed a critical need for highly
11 sparse data set time distribution analysis methods and apparatus
12 separate and apart from those adapted for treating large sample
13 distributions. This is particularly the case in applications
14 such as naval sonar systems which require that input time series
15 signal distributions be classified according to their structure,
16 i.e., periodic, transient, random or chaotic. It is well known
17 that large sample methods often fail when applied to small sample
18 distributions, but that the same is not necessarily true for
19 small sample methods applied to large data sets.

20 Very small data set distributions may be defined as those
21 with less than about ten (10) to fifteen (15) measurement (data)
22 points. Such data sets can be analyzed mathematically with

1 certain nonparametric discrete probability distributions, as
2 opposed to large-sample methods which normally employ continuous
3 probability distributions (such as the Gaussian).

4 The probability theory discussed herein and utilized by the
5 present invention is well known. It may be found, for example,
6 in works such as P.J. Hoel et al., Introduction to the Theory of
7 Probability, Houghton-Mifflin, Boston, MA, 1971, which is hereby
8 incorporated herein by reference.

9 Also, as will appear more fully below, it has been found to
10 be important to treat white noise signals themselves as the time
11 series signal distribution to be analyzed, and to identify the
12 characteristics of that distribution separately. This aids in
13 the detection and appropriate processing of received signals in
14 numerous data acquisition contexts, not the least of which
15 include naval sonar applications. Accordingly, it will be
16 understood that prior analysis methods and apparatus analyze
17 received time series data distributions from the point of view of
18 attempting to find patterns or some other type of correlated data
19 therein. Once such a pattern or correlation is located, the
20 remainder of the distribution is simply discarded as being noise.
21 It is believed that the present invention will be useful in

1 enhancing the sensitivity of present analysis methods, as well as
2 being useful on its own.

3

4 SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

5 Accordingly, it is an object of the invention to provide a
6 method and apparatus including an automated measurement of the
7 spatial arrangement among a very small number of points, object,
8 measurements or the like whereby an ascertainment of the noise
9 degree (i.e., randomness) of the time series distribution may be
10 made.

11 It also is an object of the invention to provide a method
12 and apparatus useful in naval sonar systems which require
13 acquired signal distributions to be classified according to their
14 structure (i.e., periodic, transient, random, or chaotic) in the
15 processing and use of those acquired signal distributions as
16 indications of how and from where they were originally generated.

17 Further, it is an object of the invention to provide a
18 method and apparatus capable of labeling a time series
19 distribution with (1) an indication as to whether or not it is
20 random in structure, and (2) an indication as to whether or not
21 it is random within a probability of false alarm of a specific
22 randomness calculation.

1 With the above and other objects in view, as will
2 hereinafter more fully appear, a feature of the invention is the
3 provision of a random process detection method and subsystem for
4 use in a naval sonar signal processing/data processing system.
5 In a preferred embodiment, the random process (white noise)
6 detection subsystem includes an input for receiving a time series
7 distribution of data points expressed in Cartesian coordinates.
8 This set of data points will be characterized by no more than a
9 maximum number of points having a value (amplitude) between a
10 maximum and a minimum value received within a preselected time
11 interval. A hypothetical representation of a white noise time
12 series signal distribution in Cartesian space is illustratively
13 shown in FIG. 1. The invention is specifically adapted to
14 analyze both selected portions of such time series distributions,
15 and the entirety of the distribution depending upon the
16 sensitivity of the randomness determination which is required in
17 any particular instance.

18 The input time series distribution of data points is
19 received by a display/operating system adapted to accommodate a
20 pre-selected number of data points N having a value (amplitude
21 for sonar signals and the like) within certain limits within a
22 pre-selected time interval. The display/operating system then

1 creates a virtual window around the input data distribution, and
2 divides the geometric area of the virtual window into a grid
3 consisting of cells each having the same geometric shape and an
4 equal enclosed area. Ideally, the grid fills the entire area of
5 the window, but if it does not, the unfilled portion of the
6 window is disregarded in the randomness determination.

7 An analysis device then examines each cell to determine
8 whether or not one or more of the data points of the input time
9 series distribution is located therein. Thereafter, a counter
10 calculates the number of occupied cells. Also, the number of
11 cells which would be expected to be occupied in the grid for a
12 totally random distribution is predicted by a computer device
13 according to known Poisson probability process theory equations.
14 In addition, the statistical bounds of the predicted value are
15 calculated based upon known discrete binomial criteria.

16 A comparator is then used to determine whether or not the
17 actual number of occupied cells in the input time series
18 distribution is the same as the predicted number of cells for a
19 random distribution. If it is, the input time series
20 distribution is characterized as random. If it is not, the input
21 time series distribution is characterized as nonrandom.

1 Thereafter, the characterized time series distribution is
2 labeled as random or nonrandom, and/or as random or nonrandom
3 within a pre-selected probability rate of the expected randomness
4 value prior to being output back to the remainder of the data
5 processing system. In the naval sonar signal processing context,
6 this output either alone, or in combination with overlapping
7 similarly characterized time series signal distributions, will be
8 used to determine whether or not a particular group of signals is
9 white noise. If that group of signals is white noise, it
10 commonly will be deleted from further data processing. Hence, it
11 is contemplated that the present invention, which is not
12 distribution dependent in its analysis as most prior art methods
13 of signal analysis are, will be useful as a filter or otherwise
14 in conjunction with current data processing methods and
15 equipment.

16 In the above regards, it should be understood that the
17 statistical bounds of the predicted number of occupied cells in a
18 random distribution (including cells occupied by mere chance)
19 mentioned above may be determined by a second calculator device
20 using a so-called probability of false alarm rate. In this case,
21 the actual number of occupied cells is compared with the number
22 of cells falling within the statistical boundaries of the

1 predicted number of occupied cells for a random distribution in
2 making the randomness determination. This alternative embodiment
3 of the invention has been found to increase the probability of
4 being correct in making a randomness determination for any
5 particular time series distribution of data points by as much as
6 60%.

7 The above and other novel features and advantages of the
8 invention, including various novel details of construction and
9 combination of parts will now be more particularly described with
10 reference to the accompanying drawings and pointed out by the
11 claims. It will be understood that the particular device and
12 method embodying the invention is shown and described herein by
13 way of illustration only, and not as limitations on the
14 invention. The principles and features of the invention may be
15 employed in numerous embodiments without departing from the scope
16 of the invention in its broadest aspects.

17

18 BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

19 Reference is made to the accompanying drawings in which is
20 shown an illustrative embodiment of the apparatus and method of
21 the invention, from which its novel features and advantages will
22 be apparent to those skilled in the art, and wherein:

1 FIG. 1 is a hypothetical depiction in Cartesian coordinates
2 of a representative white noise (random) time series signal
3 distribution;

4 FIG. 2 is a hypothetical illustrative representation of a
5 virtual window in accordance with the invention divided into a
6 grid of square cells each having a side of length δ , and an area
7 of δ^2 ;

8 FIG. 3 is a block diagram representatively illustrating the
9 method steps of the invention;

10 FIG. 4 is a block diagram representatively illustrating an
11 apparatus in accordance with the invention; and

12 FIG. 5 is a table showing an illustrative set of discrete
13 binomial probabilities for the randomness of each possible number
14 of occupied cells of a particular time series distribution within
15 a specific probability of false alarm rate of the expected
16 randomness number.

17

18 DESCRIPTION OF THE PREFERRED EMBODIMENT

19 Referring now to the drawings, a preferred embodiment of the
20 method and apparatus of the invention will be presented first
21 from a theoretical perspective, and thereafter, in terms of a

1 specific example. In this regard, it is to be understood that
2 all data points are herein assumed to be expressed and operated
3 upon by the various apparatus components in a Cartesian
4 coordinate system. Accordingly, all measurement, signal and
5 other data input existing in terms of other coordinate systems is
6 assumed to have been re-expressed in a Cartesian coordinate
7 system prior to its input into the inventive apparatus or the
8 application of the inventive method thereto.

9 The invention starts from the preset capability of a
10 display/operating system 8 (FIG. 4) to accommodate a set number
11 of data points N in a given time interval $\cong t$. The value
12 (amplitude) of each data point in each time series distribution
13 falls within limits which may be expressed as $\cong Y = \max(Y) - \min$
14 (Y) . A representation of a time series distribution of random
15 sonar input data points 4 is shown in FIG. 1. A subset of this
16 overall time series data distribution would normally be selected
17 for analysis of its signal component distribution by this
18 invention.

19 For purposes of mathematical analysis of the signal
20 components, it is assumed that the product/quantity given by $\cong t *$
21 $\Delta Y = [\max(t) - \min(t)] * [\max(Y) - \min(Y)]$ will define the window

1 "geometric area" with respect to the quantities in the analysis
2 subsystem. The sides of the $\cong t * \Delta Y$ window are drawn parallel to
3 the time axis and amplitude axis, respectively, although other
4 window shapes may be employed (such as a convex polygon) without
5 departure from the invention in its broadest aspects. Then, for
6 substantially the total area of the display region, a Cartesian
7 partition is superimposed on the region with each partition being
8 a small square of side δ (see, FIG. 2). The measure of δ will be
9 defined herein as:

$$\delta = (\Delta t * \Delta Y / k)^{1/2}$$

11 The quantity k represents the total number of small squares
12 each of area δ^2 created in the area $\cong t * \Delta Y$. Incomplete squares
13 are ignored in the analysis. The quantity of such squares
14 which it is desired to occupy with at least one data point from
15 an input time series distribution is determined using the
16 following relationship wherein N is the maximum number of data
17 points in the time series distribution, $\cong t$ and ΔY are the
18 Cartesian axis lengths, and the side lengths of each of the
19 squares is δ :

$$K_I = \text{int}(\Delta t / \delta_I) * \text{int}(\Delta Y / \delta_I)$$

1 where int is the integer operator,
2 $\delta_I = \sqrt{[(\Delta t \cdot \Delta Y)/k_o]}$, and
3 $k_o = k_1$ if $|N - k_1| \leq |N - k_2|$ or
4 $= k_2$ otherwise
5 where
6 $k_1 = [int(N^{1/2})]^2$
7 $k_2 = [int(N^{1/2}) + 1]^2$
8 $k_{II} = int(\Delta t/\delta_{II}) * int(\Delta Y/\delta_{II})$
9 where
10 $\delta_{II} = \sqrt{[(\Delta t \cdot \Delta Y)/N]}$
11 $\therefore k = k_I$ if $K_I > K_{II}$
12 $k = k_{II}$ if $K_I < K_{II}$
13 $k = \max(k_I, k_{II})$ if $K_I = K_{II}$
14 where
15 $K_I = \delta_I^2 k_I / (\Delta t \cdot \Delta Y) \leq 1$ and
16 $K_{II} = \delta_{II}^2 k_{II} / (\Delta t \cdot \Delta Y) \leq 1$
17 In cases with very small amplitudes, it may occur that $int(\Delta Y/\delta_I)$
18 ≤ 1 or $int(\Delta Y/\delta_{II}) \leq 1$. In such cases, the solution is to round
19 off either quantity to the next highest value (i.e., ≥ 2). This
20 weakens the theoretical approach, but it allows for practical
21 measurements to be made.

1 Thus, for example, if Δt (or N)=30, and $\Delta Y=20$, then $k=24$
2 and $\delta=5.0$. Accordingly, $k * \delta^2 = 24 * 25 = 600 = \cong t * \Delta Y$. In
3 essence, therefore, the above relation defining the value k
4 selects the number of squares of length δ and area δ^2 which fill
5 up the total space $\cong t * \Delta Y$ to the greatest extent possible (i.e.,
6 ideally $k * \delta^2 = \cong t * \Delta Y$).

7 From the selected partitioning parameter k , the region
8 (area) $\cong t * \Delta Y$ is carved up into k squares with the length of
9 each square being δ as defined above. In other words, the
10 horizontal (or time) axis is marked off into intervals, exactly
11 $\text{int}(\Delta t/\delta)$ of them, so that the time axis has the following
12 arithmetic sequence of cuts (assuming that the time clock starts
13 at $\Delta t = 0$):

14

$$15 \qquad\qquad\qquad 0, \delta, 2\delta, \dots, \text{int}(\Delta t/\delta) * \delta$$

16

17 Likewise, the vertical (or measurement or amplitude) axis is cut
18 up into intervals, exactly $\text{int}(\Delta Y/\delta)$ of them, so that the
19 vertical axis has the following arithmetic sequence of cuts:

1 $\min(Y), \min(Y) + \delta, \dots, \min(Y) + \text{int}(\Delta Y/\delta) * \delta = \max(Y),$

2 where \min is the minimum operator and δ is defined as above.

3 Based on the Poisson point process theory for a measurement

4 set of data in a time interval Δt of measurement magnitude $\Delta Y,$

5 that data set is considered to be purely random (or "white

6 noise") if the number of partitions k are nonempty (i.e., contain

7 at least one data point of the time series distribution thereof

8 under analysis) to a specified degree. The expected number of

9 nonempty partitions in a random distribution is given by the

10 relationship:

$$11 \quad k * \Theta = k * (1 - e^{-N/k})$$

12

13 where the quantity Θ is the expected proportion of nonempty

14 partitions in a random distribution and N/k is " the parameter of

15 the spatial Poisson process" corresponding to the average number

16 of points observed across all subspace partitions.

17 The boundary, above and below $k * \Theta,$ attributable to random

18 variation and controlled by a false alarm rate is the so-called

19 "critical region" of the test. The quantity Θ not only

20 represents (a) the expected proportion of nonempty partitions in

21 a random distribution, but also (b) the probability that one or

1 more of the k partitions is occupied by pure chance, as is well
2 known to those in the art. The boundaries of the random process
3 are determined in the following way.

4 Let M be a random variable representing the integer number
5 of occupied cells (partitions) as illustratively shown in FIG. 2.
6 Let m be an integer (sample) representation of M . Let m_1 be the
7 quantity forming the lower random boundary of the statistic $k *$
8 Θ given by the binomial criterion:

9

$$10 \quad P(M \leq m) \leq \alpha_0/2, \min(\alpha/2 - \alpha_0/2)$$

11 where,

$$12 \quad P(M \leq m) = \sum B(m;k,\Theta) \text{ from } m=0 \text{ to } m=m_1, \text{ and}$$

13 k and Θ are defined as above.

14

15 $B(m;k,\Theta)$ is the binomial probability function given as:

16

$$17 \quad B(m;k,\Theta) = \binom{k}{m} (\Theta)^m (1-\Theta)^{k-m}$$

18

19 where $\binom{k}{m}$ is the binomial coefficient, $\binom{k}{m} = k!/m!(k-m)!$

20 and $\sum B(m;k,\Theta)$ from $m=0$ to $m=k$ equals 1.0.

1 The quantity α_0 is the probability of coming closest to an
 2 exact value of the pre-specified false alarm probability α , and
 3 m_1 is the largest value of m such that $P(M \leq m) \leq \alpha_0/2$. It is an
 4 objective of this method to minimize the difference between α
 5 and α_0 . The recommended values of α (the probability false alarm
 6 rate) for differing values of spatial subsets k are as follows:

7

8 If $k > 25$, the $\alpha = 0.01$;

9 If $5 \leq k \leq 25$, then $\alpha = 0.05$; and

10 If $k < 5$, then $\alpha = 0.10$

11

12 The upper boundary of the random process is called m_2 , and
 13 is determined in a manner similar to the determination of m_1 .

14 Thus, let m_2 be the upper random boundary of the
 15 statistic $k \cdot \Theta$ given by:

16

17
$$P(M \geq m) \leq \alpha_0/2, \min(\alpha/2 - \alpha_0/2)$$

18 where

19
$$P(M \geq m) = \sum_{m=m_2}^k B(m; k, \Theta) \leq \alpha_0/2$$

20 or

1
$$P(M \geq m) = 1 - \sum_{m=0}^{m_0} B(m; k, \Theta) \leq \alpha_0 / 2$$

2 α_0 is the probability of coming closest to an exact value of
3 the pre-specified false alarm probability α , and m_0 is the
4 largest value of m such that $P(M \geq m) \leq \alpha_0 / 2$. It is an objective
5 of the invention to minimize the difference between α and α_0 .

6 Hence, the subsystem determines if the signal structure
7 contains m points within the "critical region" warranting a
8 determination of "random".

9 The subsystem also assesses the random process hypothesis by
10 testing:

11
$$H_0: \bar{P} = \Theta \text{ (Noise)}$$

12
$$H_1: \bar{P} \neq \Theta \text{ (Signal + Noise)}$$

13 Where $\bar{P} = m/k$ is the sample proportion of signal points
14 contained in the k subregion partitions expected to be occupied
15 by a truly random (stochastic) spatial distribution. As noted
16 above, FIG. 1 shows what a hypothetical white noise (random)
17 distribution looks like in Cartesian time-space.

18 Thus, if $\Theta \approx \bar{P} = m/k$, the observed distribution conforms to
19 a random distribution corresponding to "white noise".

1 The estimate for the proportion of k cells occupied by N
2 measurements (\bar{P}) is developed in the following manner. Let each
3 of the k cells of length δ be denoted by C_{ij} and the number of
4 objects observed in each C_{ij} cell be denoted $\text{card}(C_{ij})$ where card
5 means "cardinality" or subset count. C_{ij} is labeled from left to
6 right starting at the lower left-hand corner $C_{11}, C_{12}, \dots, C_{46}$ (see
7 FIG. 2).

8 Next to continue the example for $k = 24$ shown in FIG. 2,
9 define the following count quantity for the 6×4 partition
10 comprising whole square subsets:

11

$$12 \quad X_{ij} = 1 \text{ if } \text{card}(C_{ij}) > 0; \quad i = 1 \text{ to } 4, \quad j = 1 \text{ to } 6$$

13

$$14 \quad X_{ij} = 0 \text{ if } \text{card}(C_{ij}) = 0; \quad i = 1 \text{ to } 4, \quad j = 1 \text{ to } 6$$

15

16 where card is the cardinality or count operator. X_{ij} is a
17 dichotomous variable taking on the individual values of 1 if a
18 cell C_{ij} has one or more objects present, and a value of 0 if the
19 box is empty.

20 Then calculate the proportion of 24 cells occupied in the
21 partition region:

2
$$\bar{P} = 1/24 \sum \sum X_{ij}$$

3 where the sums are taken from $j = 1$ to 6 and $i = 1$ to 4,
4 respectively.

5 The generalization of this example to any sized table is
6 obvious, and within the scope of the present invention. For the
7 general case, it will be appreciated that, for the statistics X_{ij}
8 and C_{ij} , the index j runs from 1 to $\text{int}(\Delta t/\delta)$ and the index i runs
9 from 1 to $\text{int}(\Delta Y/\delta)$.

10 In addition, another measure useful in the interpretation of
11 outcomes is the R ratio, defined as the ratio of observed to
12 expected occupancy rates:

13

14
$$R = m / (k * \Theta) = \bar{P} / \Theta$$

15

16 The range of values for R indicate:

17 $R < 1$, clustered distribution

18 $R = 1$, random distribution; and

19 $R > 1$, uniform distribution.

1 In actuality, R may never have a precise value of 1.
2 Therefore the data is considered random when $R_{j-1} \geq R_j \geq R_{j+1}$ where
3 $R_j = 1 - R_1$. This formulation thus provides a range for randomness
4 for R statistics within those bounds. The R statistic may be
5 used in conjunction with the formulation just described involving
6 the binomial probability distribution and false alarm rate in
7 deciding to accept or reject the "white noise" hypothesis - or it
8 may be used as the sole determinant. In summary, operators may
9 find the role of the R statistic to be more intuitively useful.
10 Intelligent operators will always employ a plot of time series
11 and its amplitude, in order to eliminate the obvious situations
12 of a "perfect" functional or relational form being analyzed which
13 can be easily seen to be nonrandom, but which computationally may
14 be concluded to be random.

15

16

EXAMPLE

17 Having thus explained the theory of the invention, an
18 example thereof will now be presented for purposes of further
19 illustration and understanding (see, FIGS. 3 and 4). A value
20 for N is first selected, here $N = 30$ (step 100, FIG. 3). A time
21 series distribution of data points is then read into a

1 display/operating subsystem 8 adapted to accommodate a data set
2 of size N from data processing system 10 (step 102). Thereafter,
3 the absolute value of the difference between the largest and the
4 smallest data points ΔY is determined by a first comparator
5 device 12 (step 104). In this example, it will be assumed that
6 $N = \Delta t = 30$ measurements with a measured amplitude of $\Delta Y = 20$
7 units. The N and ΔY values are then used by window creating
8 device 14 to create a virtual window in the display/operating
9 system enclosing the input time series distribution, the size of
10 the window so created being $\Delta t * \Delta y = 600$ (step 106).

11 Thereafter, as described above, the virtual window is
12 divided by the window creating device 14 into a plurality k of
13 cells C_{ij} (see FIG. 4), each cell having the same geometric shape
14 and enclosing an equal area so as to substantially fill the
15 virtual window containing the input time series distribution set
16 of data points (step 108). The value of k is established by the
17 relation:

$$18 \quad k = \text{int}(\Delta t / \delta) * \text{int}(\Delta Y / \delta) = 6 * 4 = 24$$

19

$$20 \quad \delta = \sqrt{(\Delta t * \Delta Y) / k} = 5.0$$

1 Thus, the 600 square unit space of the virtual window is
2 partitioned into 24 cells of side 5.0 so that the whole space is
3 filled ($k * \delta^2 = 600$). The time-axis arithmetic sequence of cuts
4 are: 0, 5, ..., $\text{int}(\Delta t / \delta) * \delta = 30$. The amplitude axis cuts are:
5 $\text{min}(Y), \text{min}(Y) + \delta, \dots, \text{min}(Y) + \text{int}(\Delta Y / \delta) * \delta = \text{max}(Y)$

6 Next, the probability false alarm rate is set at step 110
7 according to the value of k as discussed above. More
8 particularly, in this case $\alpha = 0.01$, and the probability of a
9 false alarm within the critical region is $\alpha/2 = 0.005$.

10 The randomness count is then calculated by first computing
11 device 16 at step 112 according to the relation $k * \Theta = k * (1 - e^{-\Theta/k})$
12 Θ/k which in this example equals 0.713. Therefore, the number of
13 cells expected to be nonempty in this example if the input time
14 series distribution is random is about 17.

15 The binomial distribution discussed above is then calculated
16 by a second computing device 18 according to the relationships
17 discussed above (step 114, FIG. 3). Representative values for
18 this distribution are shown in FIG. 5 for each number of possible
19 occupied cells m .

20 The upper and lower randomness boundaries then are
21 determined, also by second calculating device 18. Specifically,

1 the lower boundary is calculated using m_1 from FIG. 5 (step 116).
2 Then, computing the binomial probabilities results in $P(M \leq 10) =$
3 .0025. Thus, the lower bound is $m_1 = 10$. FIG. 5 also shows the
4 probabilities for $\Theta = .713$, $k = 24$.

5 The upper boundary, on the other hand, is the randomness
6 boundary m_2 from the criterion $P(M \geq m) \leq \alpha_0/2$. Computing the
7 binomial probabilities gives $P(M \geq 23) = .0032$; hence $m_2 = 23$ is
8 taken as the upper bound (step 118). The probabilities necessary
9 for this calculation also are shown in FIG. 5.

10 Therefore, the critical region is defined in this example as
11 $m_1 \leq 10$, and $m_2 \geq 23$ (step 120).

12 The actual number of cells containing one or more data
13 points of the time series distribution determined by
14 analysis/counter device 20 (step 122, FIG. 3) is then used by
15 divider 22 and a second comparator 24 in the determination of the
16 randomness of the distribution (step 124, FIG. 3). Specifically,
17 using $m = 16$ as an example, it will be seen that $\bar{P} = m/k =$
18 0.667 , and that $R = \bar{P}/\Theta = 0.667/0.713 = .93$. This value is
19 close to the randomness boundary without consideration of the
20 discrete binomial probability calculations discussed above. It
21 is also worth noting in this regard that the total probability is

1 0.0023 + .0032 = .0055, which is the probability of being wrong
2 in deciding "random". This value is less than the probability of
3 a false alarm. Thus, the actual protection against an incorrect
4 decision is much higher (by about 45%) than the a priori sampling
5 plan specified.

6 Since $m = 16$ falls inside of the critical region, i.e., $m_1 \leq$
7 $16 \leq m_2$, the decision is that the data represent an essentially
8 white noise distribution (step 126). Accordingly, the
9 distribution is labeled at step 128 by the labeling device 26 as
10 a noise distribution, and transferred back to the data processing
11 system 10 for further processing. In the naval sonar situation,
12 a signal distribution labeled as white noise would be discarded
13 by the processing system, but in some situations a further
14 analysis of the white noise nature of the distribution would be
15 possible. Similarly, the invention is contemplated to be useful
16 as an improvement on systems which look for patterns and
17 correlations among data points. For example, overlapping time
18 series distributions might be analyzed in order to determine
19 where a meaningful signal begins and ends.

20 It will be understood that many additional changes in the
21 details, materials, steps and arrangement of parts, which have

1 been herein described and illustrated in order to explain the
2 nature of the invention, may be made by those skilled in the art
3 within the principles and scope of the invention,
4

2

3

SYSTEM AND APPARATUS FOR THE DETECTION OF

4

RANDOMNESS IN TIME SERIES DISTRIBUTIONS

5

MADE UP OF SPARSE DATA SETS

6

7

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

8 A method and apparatus are provided for automatically
9 characterizing the spatial arrangement among the data points of a
10 time series distribution in a data processing system wherein the
11 classification of said time series distribution is required. The
12 method and apparatus utilize a grid in Cartesian coordinates to
13 determine (1) the number of cells in the grid containing at least
14 one input data point of the time series distribution; (2) the
15 expected number of cells which would contain at least one data
16 point in a random distribution in said grid; and (3) an upper and
17 lower probability of false alarm above and below said expected
18 value utilizing a discrete binomial probability relationship in
19 order to analyze the randomness characteristic of the input time
20 series distribution. A labeling device also is provided to label
21 the time series distribution as either random or nonrandom,
22 and/or random or nonrandom within what probability, prior to its

- 1 output from the invention to the remainder of the data processing
- 2 system for further analysis.

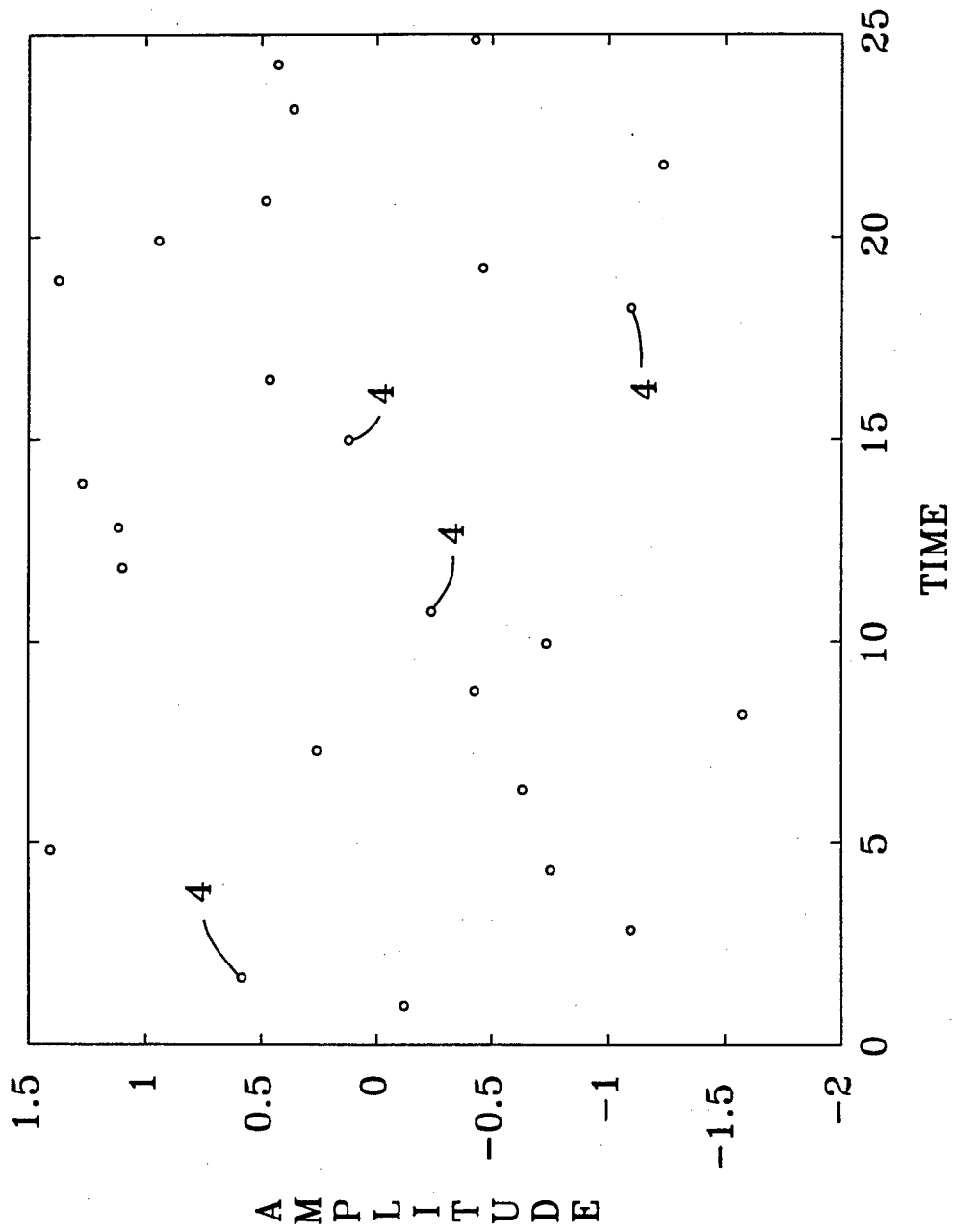


FIG. 1

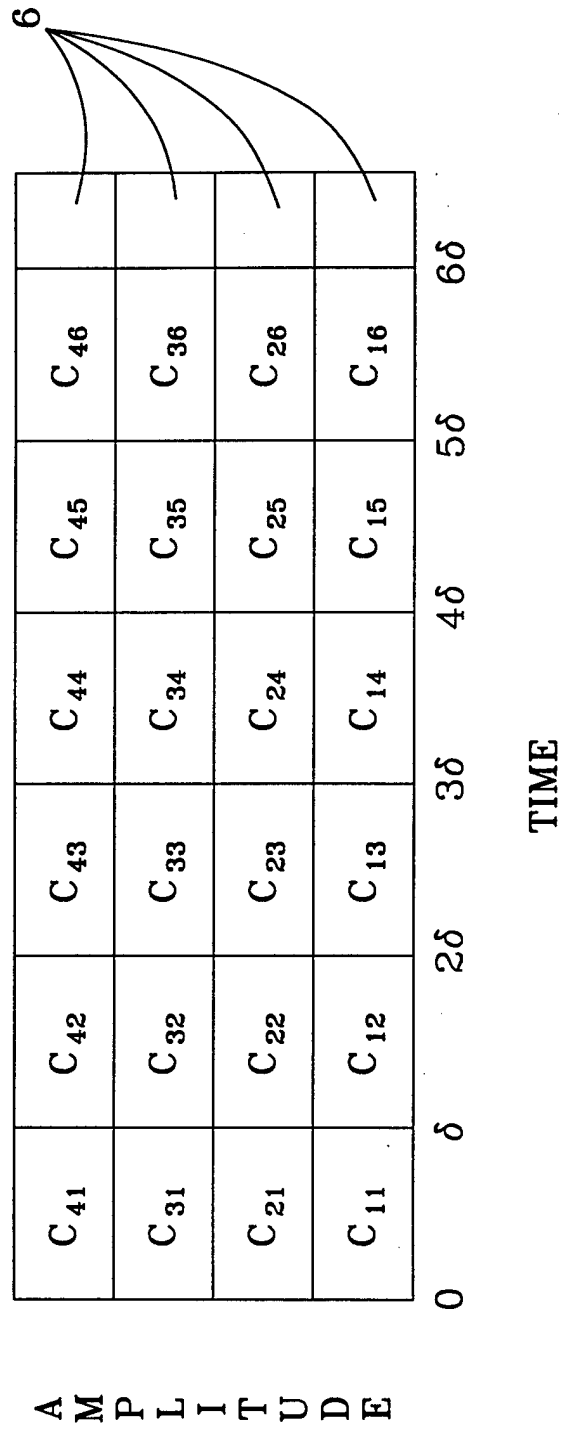


FIG. 2

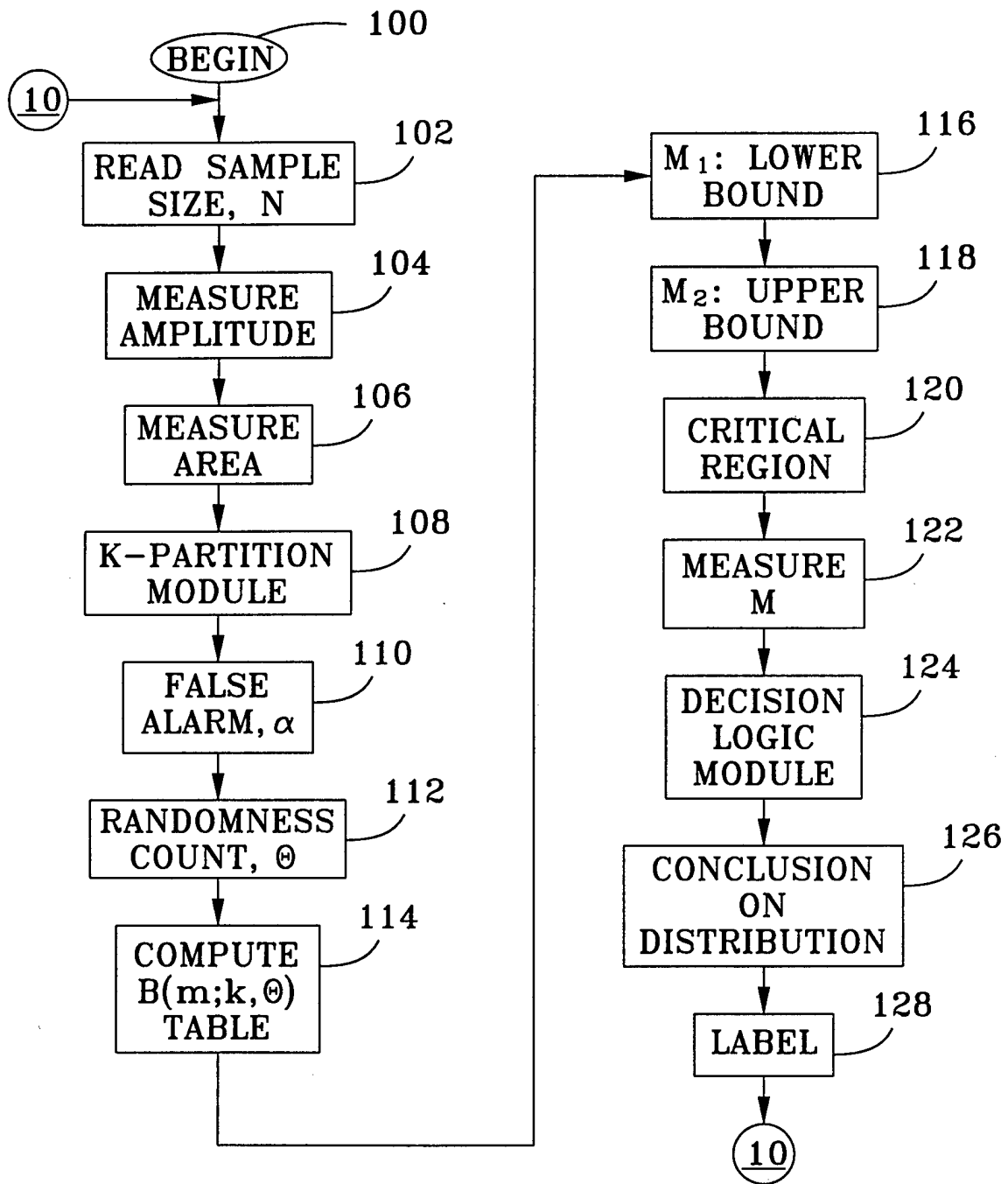


FIG. 3

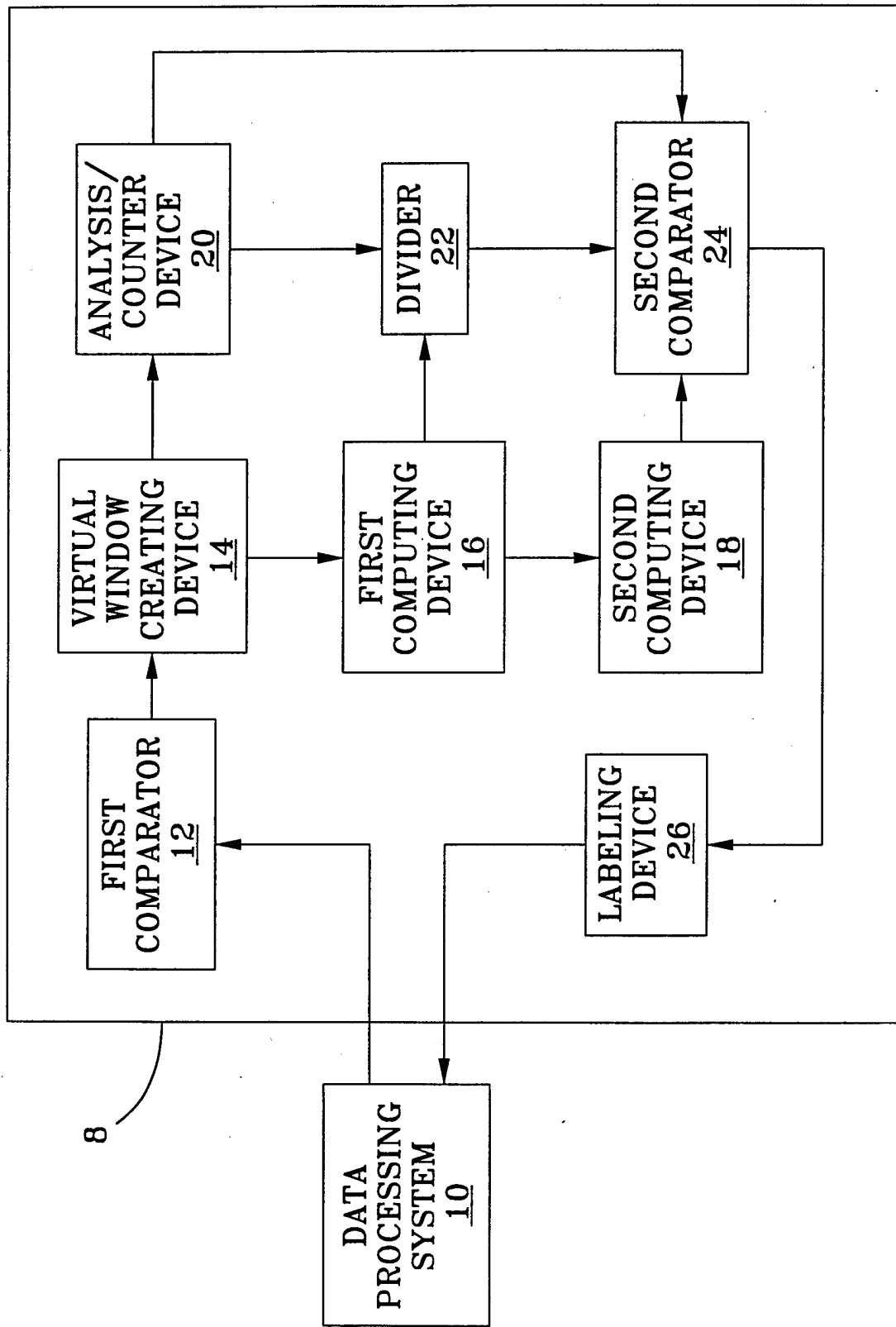


FIG. 4

Binomial Table for $k=24, \Theta=.713, \alpha=.01$

$$m \quad P(M = m) = \binom{k}{m} \Theta^m (1 - \Theta)^{k-m} \quad P(M \leq m) = \sum_0^m P(M = m) \quad P(M \geq m)$$

(cumulative)

0	0	0	
1	0	0	
2	0	0	
3	0	0	
4	0	0	
5	0	0	
6	0	0	
7	0	0	
8	.0001	.0001	
9	.0005	.0006	
10	.0017	.0023 (m_1), $P(M \leq m) \leq \alpha_0$	
11	.0053	.0076	
12	.0144	.0220	
13	.0334	.0551	
14	DATA NOT SHOWN for $m=14$ to 20		
15			
16			
17			
18			
19			
20			
21	.0397	.9833	.0564
22	.0135	.9968	.0167
23	.0029	.9997 (m_2), $P(M \geq m) \leq \alpha_0/2$.0032
$m=k=24$.0003	1.0000	.0003

FIG. 5