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SYSTEM FOR UNDERSEA DIGITAL ACOUSTIC COMMUNICATIONS

TO ALL WHOM IT MAY CONCERN:

BE IT KNOWN THAT (1) SUSAN M. JARVIS, (2) FLETCHER A. BLACKMON, (3) RONALD P. MORRISSEY, (4) NIXON PENDERGRASS, (5) DEAN J. SMITH AND (6) KEVIN C. FITZPATRICK, citizens of the United States, employees of the United States Government and residents of (1) Westport, County of Bristol, Commonwealth of Massachusetts, (2) Forestdale, County of Barnstable, Commonwealth of Massachusetts, (3) Randolph, County of Norfolk, Commonwealth of Massachusetts, (4) Nashville, County of Brown, State of Indiana, (5) Dover-Foxcroft, County of Piscataquis, State of Maine, and (6) Suwanee, County of Gwinnett, State of Georgia, has invented certain new and useful improvements entitled as set forth above of which the following is a specification:

JEAN-PAUL A. NASSER
Reg. No. 53372

2
3 SYSTEM FOR UNDERSEA DIGITAL ACOUSTIC COMMUNICATIONS

4
5 STATEMENT OF GOVERNMENT INTEREST

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

10
11 BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

12 (1) Field of the Invention

13 This invention generally relates to bi-directional
14 communication systems and more specifically to communication
15 systems capable of conducting bi-directional communications in an
16 undersea environment.

17 (2) Description of the Prior Art

18 Acoustic communications in undersea applications are subject
19 to multi-path effects in the water. Multi-path effects are
20 produced by acoustic propagations from a transmission point that
21 travel either directly to an underwater receiver or may reflect
22 from the ocean surface and ocean floor or even areas of different
23 temperature and density to create cancellation and distortion of
24 the directly propagated transmission.

25 Some suggest that these multi-path effects can be overcome
26 by the transmission of data over a number of different
27 transmission frequencies. This improves the chances of clear

1 communications as one or more of the transmitted signals may
2 ultimately be received without severe multi-path distortion.
3 However, such systems tend to be complex and difficult to
4 implement. They also make certain assumptions about
5 transmissions that may not be accurate in an actual operating
6 environment.

7 There are a number of other approaches for undersea acoustic
8 communications that vary with different applications. United
9 States Letters Patent No. 4,563,758 (1986) to Paternostor
10 discloses an underwater communicator device that permits acoustic
11 communications between divers by using a voice synthesizer and an
12 acoustic transducer. A display is provided to visually
13 communicate a message. The diver can communicate stored messages
14 by activating a single key or by keying in an actual message.
15 Other preset messages can also be sent based on different
16 sensors.

17 United States Letters Patent No. 5,018,114 to Mackelburg et
18 al. (1991) discloses another type of acoustic communication
19 system in which an operator has adjustable frequency diversity so
20 data rates can be tailored to specific multi-path environments.
21 Transmitted messages are sent with precursor
22 transmission/reception synchronization data and transmission
23 parameter data so the receiving communication end can recognize
24 when message data starts by means of tone length as well as
25 frequency diversity in the transmitted message. Timing is
26 extracted from the data to compensate for Doppler shift.

1 United States Letters Patent No. 5,303,207 to Brady et al.
2 (1994) discloses an acoustic local area network for oceanographic
3 observation and data acquisition. A network node has telemetry
4 equipment for transporting data to a final destination. Each of
5 a plurality of sensors has an acoustic modem to transmit
6 information to the network node. Transmissions are in the form
7 of BPSK input signals. The data channels occupy a bandwidth of
8 about 5-10 kHz while control channels occupy a frequency
9 bandwidth of about 1 KHz.

10 United States Letters Patent No. 5,523,982 to Dale (1996)
11 discloses communication apparatus for diver-to-diver
12 communications. This system uses ultra-acoustic transmission
13 means and reception means. When the transmission means is
14 activated, a predetermined signal is transmitted that is suitable
15 by reception at another diver's apparatus.

16 United States Letters Patent No. 5,469,403 to Young et al.
17 (1995) discloses a digital sonar system that identifies multi-
18 frequency underwater activating sonar signals received from a
19 remote sonar transmitter. A transponder includes a transducer
20 that receives acoustic waves, including the activating sonar
21 signal, and generates an analog electrical receipt signal. This
22 signal converts to a digital receipt signal that is cross-
23 correlated with a digital transmission signal pattern
24 corresponding to the activating sonar signal. A relative peak in
25 the cross correlation value is indicative of the activating sonar
26 having been received by the transponder. In response to

1 identifying the activating sonar signal, the transponder
2 transmits a responding multi-frequency sonar signal.

3 United States Letters Patent No. 6,058,071 to Woodall et al.
4 (2000) discloses a magneto-inductive submarine communications
5 systems and buoy to provide two-way signal communication between
6 a submerged craft, such as a submarine, and a remote command
7 station that may be airborne, on the surface or on land. A buoy
8 released from the submarine and floating on the surface of the
9 ocean and a satellite are included to complete bi-directional
10 communications. Messages and commands between the submerged
11 craft and the buoy are communicated by magneto-inductive messages
12 signals and magneto-inductive command signals in an extremely low
13 frequency to very low frequency ranges. Messaging command
14 communications between the buoy and the satellite to the station
15 are transferred via radio frequency signals or laser emissions.

16 Each of the foregoing techniques provides some method of
17 undersea communication, but not a system that provides reliable
18 undersea communications. United States Letters Patent Nos.
19 5,469,403 and 5,303,207 disclose bi-directional acoustic systems,
20 however they do not use incoherent signal processing. What is
21 needed is a system that provides reliable undersea communications
22 at reasonable data rates

23

24

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

25 Therefore it is an object of this invention to provide an
26 acoustic bi-directional undersea communication system.

1 Another object of this invention is to provide an acoustic
2 bi-directional undersea communication system that overcomes many
3 of the problems of multi-path effects.

4 Still another object of this invention is to provide an
5 acoustic undersea bi-directional communication system that
6 provides high telemetry rates.

7 Yet still another object of this invention is to provide an
8 acoustic undersea bi-directional communications system that
9 provides reliable communications in both deep water and shallow
10 water environments.

11 In accordance with one aspect of this invention an undersea
12 communications system includes a transmitter at a transmitting
13 location and a receiver at a receiving location. The transmitter
14 includes a transmitting module for transmitting as an output
15 signal a modulated signal in a given frequency band and for
16 generating a continuous wave pilot signal having a frequency
17 adjacent said given frequency band. The receiver includes a
18 receiver for processing the pilot signal, a demodulator, a cross
19 correlator that processes the received pilot signal and modulated
20 signal to produce a cross-correlated demodulated signal. A
21 decoder converts the cross correlated demodulated signal into a
22 received message signal.

23 24 BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

25 The appended claims particularly point out and distinctly
26 claim the subject matter of this invention. The various objects,
27 advantages and novel features of this invention will be more

1 fully apparent from a reading of the following detailed
2 description in conjunction with the accompanying drawings in
3 which like reference numerals refer to like parts, and in which:

4 FIG. 1 depicts a land-based site and an undersea-based site
5 adapted for using this invention;

6 FIG. 2 is a block system diagram that depicts various
7 modules and components for forming a communications system
8 located at each site shown in FIG. 1 that incorporates this
9 invention;

10 FIG. 3 is a diagram that depicts data packets useful in this
11 invention;

12 FIG. 4 is a block diagram of a transmitter module useful in
13 this invention;

14 FIG. 5 is a block diagram of a receiver module useful in
15 this invention;

16 FIG. 6 is a more detailed schematic of a synchronization
17 pulse detector that is adapted for use in the receiver of FIG. 5;

18 FIG. 7 is a more detailed schematic of a complex demodulator
19 that is adapted for use in the receiver of FIG. 5; and

20 FIG. 8 is a more detailed schematic of a decision feedback
21 equalizer that is adapted for use in the receiver of FIG. 5.

22

23

DESCRIPTION OF THE PREFERRED EMBODIMENT

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27

FIG.1 depicts a communications system 20 constructed in
accordance with this invention that establishes communications
between two sites 21 and 22. Site 21 typically is a shore site,
although it can be an offshore site as on a surface or other

1 ship. Site 22 is a ship site, typically at a submarine or other
2 undersea vehicle.

3 In this specific embodiment the shore site 21 includes a
4 transceiver 23 that receives inputs from a receiving acoustic
5 transducer 24 and that transmits acoustic signals from a
6 transmitting acoustic transducer 25. The transceiver 23 is
7 computer-based and transmits signals in response to messages
8 input at a terminal 26 and displays messages on that same
9 terminal 26.

10 Site 22 has a similar organization with a transceiver 27
11 that receives signals from a receiving acoustic transducer 30 and
12 transmits signals from a transmitting acoustic transducer 31. A
13 terminal 32 serves as an input device for messages to be
14 transmitted and a display for received messages.

15 Incorporating transceivers, such as the transceivers 23 and
16 27 at each of two sites along with separate transmitting and
17 receiving acoustic transducers enables bi-directional or full
18 duplex communications. It will be apparent to those of ordinary
19 skill in the art that the system 20 in FIG. 1 is also adapted to
20 provide uni-directional or half-duplex communications.

21 Each site has the same basic construction so FIG. 2 depicts
22 SITE 21 as a representative site in which the transceiver 23
23 comprises a CPU-based modem 33 with a CPU 34 that interfaces with
24 a source of transmitted messages, such as the terminal 26. A
25 transmitter module 35 responds to messages from the terminal 26
26 by encoding the data for transmission to a digital to analog
27 (D/A) converter 36. The converter 36 generates an output from

1 the transmitting acoustic transducer 24 in the form of a
2 transmitted radiated signal 37.

3 For full duplex operations the receiving acoustic transducer
4 25 receives signals 40 in an analog form for transfer to an
5 analog-to-digital (A/D) converter 41. The A/D converter 41
6 generates signals that are compatible with a receiver module 42
7 that, with the CPU 34, provides decoding and message display at
8 the terminal 26.

9 Thus, messages generated at the keyboard of terminal, such
10 terminal 26, are encoded and transmitted as the signals 37.
11 Incoming signals 40 are converted and displayed on a display unit
12 with the terminal 26. The specific handling of the incoming
13 messages at either terminal 26 or 32 is not important to this
14 invention and could take any of several known implementations.

15 In one embodiment of this invention, a data message is
16 encoded into a pair of redundant, fixed-length data packets, such
17 as shown in FIG. 3 as PACKET 0 and PACKET 1. In FIG. 3 like
18 reference numerals refer to like portions of the message with a
19 suffix "0" for PACKET 0 and "1" for PACKET 1. Thus FIG. 3
20 depicts PACKET 0 as packet 50(0) and PACKET 1 as packet 50(1).

21 Each packet includes a leading synchronizing signal or pulse
22 51(0) or 51(1) that could be a phase shift keyed (PSK) target
23 identification signal. The duration and form of the
24 synchronizing pulse can be varied and generally will be
25 determined by outside characteristics that form no part of this
26 invention.

1 Dead time intervals 52(0) and 52(1) follow the synchronizing
2 pulses 51(0) or 51(1). Each dead time interval allows any
3 reverberation to dissipate before data is sent.

4 Next the packet includes a quadrature phase shift key
5 (QPSK) or like modulated data block that includes a sequence of
6 symbols, like characters, organized as training symbols 53(0) and
7 53(1), data symbols 54(0) and 54(1) and padding symbols 55(0) and
8 55(1). In one specific embodiment each data packet has 200
9 training symbols. The balance comprises 1800 symbols with a
10 symbol duration of 400 microseconds and a QPSK modulating signal
11 of 5 kHz. Of these 1800 symbols, the padding symbols 55(0) and
12 55(1) provide a full number of data bytes even though the actual
13 message may require fewer symbols.

14 Now referring to FIG. 4, initially the transmitter module
15 35, also shown in FIG. 2, begins to form the data packets by
16 generating the training symbols in step 60 and the data, or
17 information, symbols including the padding symbols in step 61.
18 Steps 62 and 63 represent optional convolutional encoding and
19 interleaving processes 62 and 63. As one example, step 62 can be
20 implemented by means of a convolutional encoder with a constraint
21 length of 6 or higher and a coding factor of 2 or higher for
22 providing error correction. Block coding and trellis coded
23 modulated processes are examples of alternatives to the
24 convolutional encoding process. Interleaving step 63 provides a
25 means for combating any burst errors. During interleaving, a bit
26 pattern is deterministically scrambled for transmission. If a
27 burst of errors occurs during the transmission of the interleaved

1 packet, errors will be distributed across the packet when the
2 receive packet is de-interleaved. This increases the likelihood
3 that a convolutional decoder can correct the bits in error.

4 Once these steps are complete, step 64 represents a process
5 by which the CPU 34 in FIG. 2 modulates the corresponding bit
6 stream by quadrature pulse shift keyed (QPSK) modulation. Step
7 65 provides the initial synchronizing pulses or pulse, such as
8 synchronizing signals 51(0) and 51(1). Step 66 appends the dead
9 times represented by pulses 52(0) and 52(1) in FIG. 3. Then the
10 modulated bit stream including the training symbols 53(0) and
11 53(1), the data symbols 54(0) and 54(1) and padding symbols 55(0)
12 and 55(1) are appended. A guard time is then added in step 68.

13 After the first data packet 50(0) is processed, step 70
14 returns control to step 65 to transmit data packet 50(1).

15 Step 71 represents the simultaneous transmission of a
16 continuous wave (CW) pilot signal at a frequency that is at the
17 edge of the QPSK signal band. As described later, a receiver
18 module, such as the receiver module 42 in FIG. 2, uses this tone
19 to estimate Doppler shift in the received signal.

20 The transmitted signal from the transmitter module 35 is in
21 digital form. The D/A converter 36 in FIG. 2 then transmits a
22 corresponding analog signal to the transducer 24 to produce the
23 radiated acoustic signal 37.

24 Referring now to FIG. 5, the incoming received acoustic
25 signal, such as the signal 40 in FIG. 2 is converted from its
26 analog form in the A/D converter 41 to a digital form compatible
27 with the process of the receiver module 42 process. More

1 specifically the receiver module 42 includes a first band pass
2 filter (BPF1) 72 and a second band pass filter 73 (BPF2). The
3 BPF1 filter 72 provides an input to a synchronization pulse
4 detector 74 while the BPF2 filter 73 provides the input to a data
5 buffer 75. The received signal is also applied to a Doppler
6 estimator 76 that provides an input to the synchronization pulse
7 detector 74 and to a complex demodulator 77. The output from the
8 demodulator 77 drives an adaptive decision feedback equalizer 80
9 in response to various parameters and to a multipath signal from
10 the synchronization pulse detector 74. In turn, the output from
11 the adaptive decision feedback equalizer drives a deinterleaver
12 81 and a decoder 82 to produce an output from which the data
13 signals, such as the signals 54(0) and 54(1) are recovered when
14 the transmitted signal incorporates these functions.

15 In order to properly decode the incoming signal, the
16 detection of the synchronizing signal must be generated from the
17 first threshold crossing at the synchronization pulse detector
18 74. FIG. 6 depicts a synchronization pulse detector 74
19 constructed as a clipped correlator. In this case the received
20 input $y[n]$ passes through the BPF1 band pass filter 72 into the
21 correlator 74. A limit circuit 83 provides gain control and a
22 divider 84 provides an appropriate sampling of the incoming
23 signal.

24 The incoming signal is then demodulated in the complex
25 demodulator 77 with the sine and cosine functions with a
26 demodulating frequency that is twice the Doppler shifted
27 frequency. This demodulator is represented as two demodulators

1 86 and 87 that operate at a frequency f_d . A low pass filter 90
2 and a "divide-by-16" circuit 91 process the output from the
3 demodulator 86. A low pass filter 92 and "divide-by-16" circuit
4 93 process the output from the demodulator 87. The outputs from
5 the circuits 91 and 93 drive summing circuits 94 and 95 that
6 connect to correlators 96 and 97, respectively. Absolute values
7 are then obtained from each correlator in circuits 100 and 101
8 before being coupled through threshold detectors 102 and 103.

9 The threshold circuits 102 and 103 provide a detect signal
10 for the decision feed back equalizer 80 to preserve time
11 diversity pairing of the data packets. Specifically, two
12 synchronization pulses are used for data transmission, one from
13 each packet. The complex demodulator 77 does not accept a
14 detection flag from the synchronization pulse detector 74 unless
15 both synchronizations are present. The complex demodulator also
16 blocks any further signals if the synchronization detectors do
17 not produce the synchronization pulses at the appropriate
18 repetition rate. This minimizes the potential for missed packet
19 detections and false alarms.

20 As previously indicated, at step 71 in FIG. 4 the
21 transmitter module superimposes a CW Doppler tracking signal on
22 the QPSK signal. This tone can be started prior to the
23 initiation of the data stream. In one specific example the CW
24 tone starts one second before the first packet begins
25 transmission and remains on continuously throughout the duration
26 of the transmission. Thus, the CPU 34, transmitter module 35,
27 D/A converter 36 and transducer 24 transmit, as an output signal,

1 a modulated signal in a given frequency band and a continuous
2 pilot signal having a frequency closely adjacent the given
3 frequency band.

4 The Doppler estimator 76 in FIG. 5 receives this Doppler
5 tracking tone, or pilot signal, and constantly samples this tone
6 to estimate the Doppler shift of the incoming QPSK data packet.
7 A narrow band pass filter centered at the frequency of the CW
8 pilot tone samples the data. The bandwidth of the filter is set
9 to pass the tone assuming frequent Doppler shifts in the
10 frequencies shift range of $\pm 1\%$. A decimator processes the
11 output from the bandpass filter, and a multi-point Fast Fourier
12 Transform (FFT) is then performed on the decimated data to
13 provide an accurate Doppler estimate. Using a decimating factor
14 of 48 to 56 and a 512 point FFT, for example, yields a Doppler
15 resolution of less than 0.02%.

16 As shown in FIG. 5, the output of the Doppler estimator is
17 transferred to the synchronization pulse detector 74 and to the
18 complex demodulator 77. The synchronization pulse detector 74
19 uses the information to tune the frequency of its space banding
20 routine. When a synchronization detection occurs, the receiver
21 42 buffers the incoming data packet in the data buffer 75. The
22 first Doppler estimate received after packet detection occurs is
23 assigned to the Doppler estimate of the buffered packet. With
24 the next packet detection, the presently buffered data and its
25 estimated Doppler shifted center frequency are passed to the
26 complex demodulator 77.

1 The complex demodulator 77 in FIG. 5 receives the Doppler
2 shifted center frequency signal from the estimator 76 and decodes
3 the information in the data buffer 75. FIG. 7 is a diagram of
4 this complex demodulator. It shows two input signals.
5 Specifically, a signal $x[n]$ represents the data taken at a
6 nominal sampling rate and a signal f_d is the Doppler compensated
7 bandwidth frequency. Demodulators 104 and 105 receive these
8 signals.

9 The advantage of using the Doppler compensated continuous
10 wave tone as a demodulating signal becomes apparent in terms of
11 analyzing a specific signal. Assume that the transmitted signal
12 has a bit duration of 400 microseconds with a nominal bandwidth
13 of 2500 Hz. If the Doppler shift is $\pm 0.1\%$, the Doppler shifted
14 signal has a bandwidth of 2502.5 Hz and its duration is $0.999 t_0$.
15 Assume further that both the original signal and the Doppler
16 shifted signal are sampled at a Nyquist rate of 5 kHz, so t_0
17 equal 800 milliseconds. All the power and information in the
18 original analog signal is contained within 4000 samples.
19 However, all the information in the Doppler shifted signal is
20 contained in only 3,996 samples. Now it will become apparent
21 that once a signal has been sampled, the time axis assigned to
22 the samples is arbitrary. If the clock of the A/D converter 42
23 in FIG. 2 were adjusted such that the Doppler shifted signal were
24 sampled at 5,005 Hz, there would be 4,000 samples within the time
25 interval t_d . In the absence of noise, these 4,000 samples would
26 be identical to the 4,000 samples from the original signal
27 sampled at 5 KHz.

1 Referring again to FIG. 7, low pass filters 106 and 107 pass
2 the signals from the demodulators 104 and 105 to Doppler
3 compensation circuits 110 and 111, respectively to produce
4 signals $\text{Re}\{s[n]\}$ and $\text{Im}\{s[n]\}$ representing the real and imaginary
5 components of the complex vector signal $x[n]$.

6 This circuitry approximates the previously described
7 methodology but uses a fixed sampling rate. In this case, the
8 sampling rate is set to 50 KHz so that the original signal has
9 40,000 samples. For the above-identified Doppler shift, the
10 Doppler shifted signal contains only 39,960 samples. If the
11 original signal were then decimated by 10, the resulting sequence
12 would again contain 4,000 samples with two samples per QPSK
13 symbol to create 4,000 samples in the Doppler shifted sample, the
14 signal would have to be decimated by $10/d=9.99$. The compensators
15 110 and 111 do not decimate by an integer value. Instead they
16 find the most evenly spaced 4,000 samples within the 39960
17 samples. No interpolation between samples occurs. For example,
18 the fifth entry in the decimated Doppler shifted sequence should
19 have an index in the over sampled sequence of five times 9.999 or
20 49.95. No such sample exists. The fiftieth sample in the
21 oversampled sequence would be used. For the 57th decimated
22 sample, 57×9.99 equals 569.4 so sample 569 would be used. This
23 process assumes that the difference between the closest sample in
24 the oversampled sequence and the actual value at the fractional
25 index is small and that the closest sample is a good
26 approximation of the actual value. However, this assumption is
27 only valid when the original fixed sampling rate is much greater

1 than the desired decimated rate. Oversampling by a factor of 10
2 appears sufficient, but obviously other oversampling factors
3 might be used.

4 FIG. 8 depicts the adaptive decision feedback equalizer in
5 greater detail. It contains a plurality of feedforward sections
6 shown as feedforward sections 112-1, 112-r and 112-R. Such
7 feedforward sections are known in the art and receive an input to
8 be summed and processed through a number of circuits to produce a
9 phase compensated output at a modulating junction 113-r.

10 A summing junction 114 receives all these input signals
11 along with a feedback signal from a feedback section 115. A
12 decision rule circuit 116 provides an output signal (os symbol
13 sequence) 117 that is conveyed to the de-interleaver circuit 81
14 in FIG. 4.

15 Such an adaptive equalizer forms an effective receiver
16 component because it has the ability to reduce severe time
17 varying intersymbol interference. The feedforward sections 112
18 use fractional spacing to compensate for any packet
19 synchronization misalignments as well as delay and amplitude
20 distortion. Diversity inputs are included to offset the
21 significant performance degradation that can occur in a single
22 input receiver due to fading. The digital phase locked loop
23 section that includes the feedback section 115 provides adaptive
24 carrier phase recovery and maintains receiver performance in the
25 underwater acoustic environment where rapid phase shifts can
26 introduce errors. The phase shifts are often too rapid to be
27 tracked by only adapting filter coefficients that are required in

1 other circuits. Without implicit phase correction, where $\theta_r(k)$
2 is the phase estimate for the r^{th} channel, the decision feedback
3 equalizer would fail in most underwater applications.

4 More specifically, the estimate of the received symbol can
5 be written as:

$$Z(k) = W^h(k)U(k) \quad (1)$$

$$W(k) = [w_{1,M}(k) \dots w_{1,-M}(k) \dots w_{R,M}(k) \dots w_{R,-M}(k) h_1(k) \dots h_L(k)]^T \quad (2)$$

$$U(k) = [x_1(2k+M)e^{-j\theta_{11}(k)} \dots x_1(2k+M)e^{-j\theta_{11}(k)} \dots x_1(2k-M)e^{-j\theta_{11}(k)} \dots x_R(2k+M)e^{-j\theta_{11}(k)} \dots x_R(2k+M)e^{-j\theta_{11}(k)} Z(k-1) \dots Z(k-L)]^T \quad (3)$$

9
10 Adaptive decision feedback equalizers for processing signals in
11 accordance with equations (1) through (3) are well within the
12 skill of a person of ordinary skill in the art. In some
13 applications a standard recursive least squares algorithm adjusts
14 the weight factor $W(k)$ with input $U(k)$ to produce minimum mean-
15 square error in the symbol estimate $Z(k)$. However, standard RLS
16 algorithms introduce complexities and make it undesirable for
17 this particular application. Consequently FIG. 8 depicts a
18 structure in which fast transversal filter (FTF) algorithms
19 provide an implementation of the RLS update equations to reduce
20 the computational burden. FTF algorithms offer convergence and
21 tracking performance without the computational load of
22 conventional RLS algorithms.

1 Referring again to FIG. 5, the output signal 117 from the
2 adaptive decision feedback equalizer 80 is a synchronized
3 demodulated signal based upon the received pilot signal and the
4 modulated signal from the received signal. The receiver 42
5 transfers this equalizer output to a de-interleaver circuit 81
6 that is a first component in the decoding process for generating
7 the received message at the terminal 26. The de-interleaver
8 circuit 81 performs the reverse function performed by the
9 interleaver 63 in FIG. 4. If data is encoded using for example a
10 convolutional code, a decoder 82 converts the signal from the de-
11 interleaver 81 to a decoded output message. The specific
12 implementation of the decoder 82 will be dependent upon the
13 specific implementation of the encoder 62.

14 As will now be apparent, a system constructed in accordance
15 with this invention meets several objectives of this invention.
16 Specifically, a communications system constructed in accordance
17 with this invention provides an acoustic bi-directional undersea
18 communication system. The system overcomes or minimizes many of
19 the problems introduced by multi-path effects. As a result, the
20 system provides high telemetry rates and provides reliable
21 communications in both deep water and shallow water environments.

22 This invention has been disclosed in terms of certain
23 embodiments. It will be apparent that many modifications can be
24 made to the disclosed apparatus without departing from the
25 invention. Therefore, it is the intent of the appended claims to
26 cover all such variations and modifications as come within the
27 true spirit and scope of this invention.

1 Attorney Docket No. 78704

2

3 SYSTEM FOR UNDERSEA DIGITAL ACOUSTIC COMMUNICATIONS

4

5 ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

6 An undersea communications system in which a message is
7 converted to a redundant fixed-length data packet and transmitted
8 acoustically as a quadrature phase-keyed signal in a frequency
9 band with a continuous pilot signal at a frequency closely
10 adjacent to the frequency band. A receiver uses the received
11 continuous pilot signal to Doppler compensate the incoming
12 quadrature phase keyed signal by estimating any Doppler
13 distortion in the received pilot signal. The resultant redundant
14 signals are then robustly processed coherently and jointly by the
15 adaptive decision feedback equalizer and decoder to provide the
16 original transmitted data.

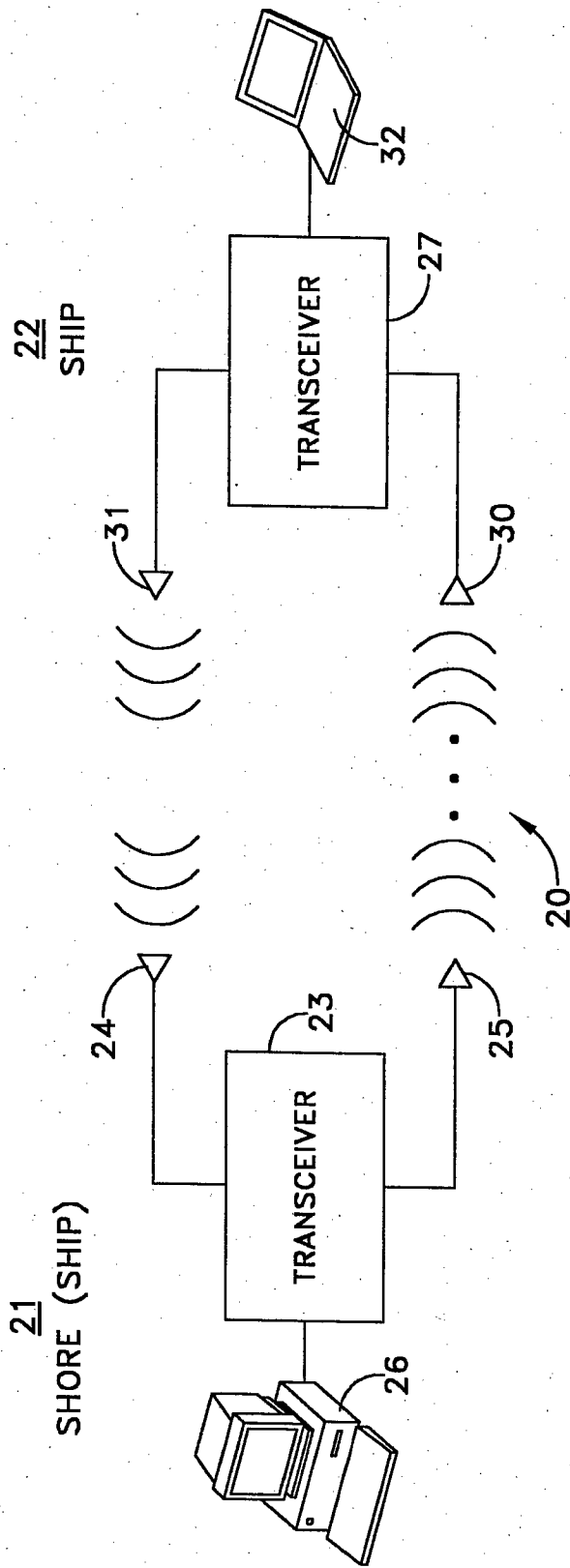


FIG. 1

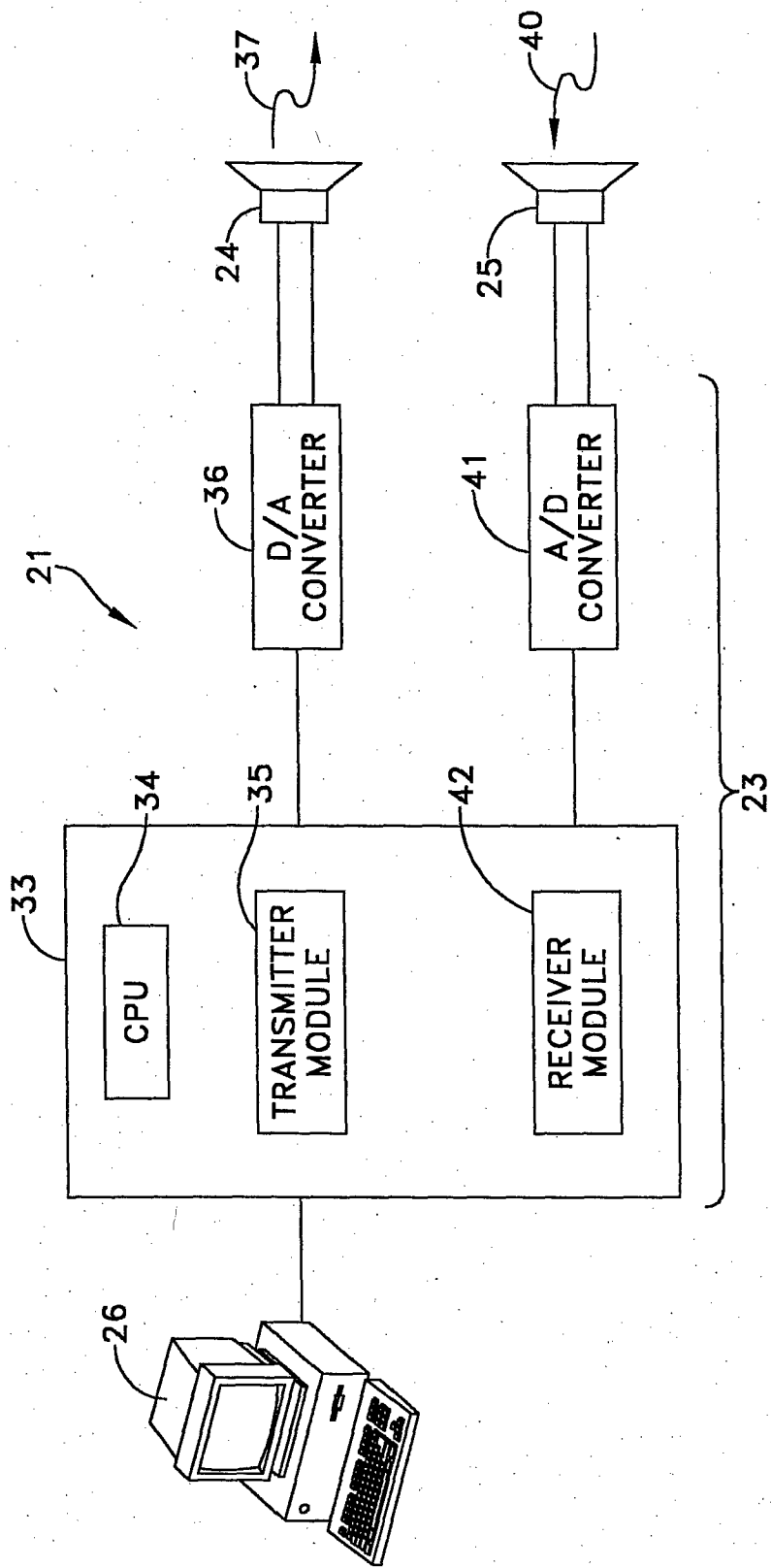


FIG. 2

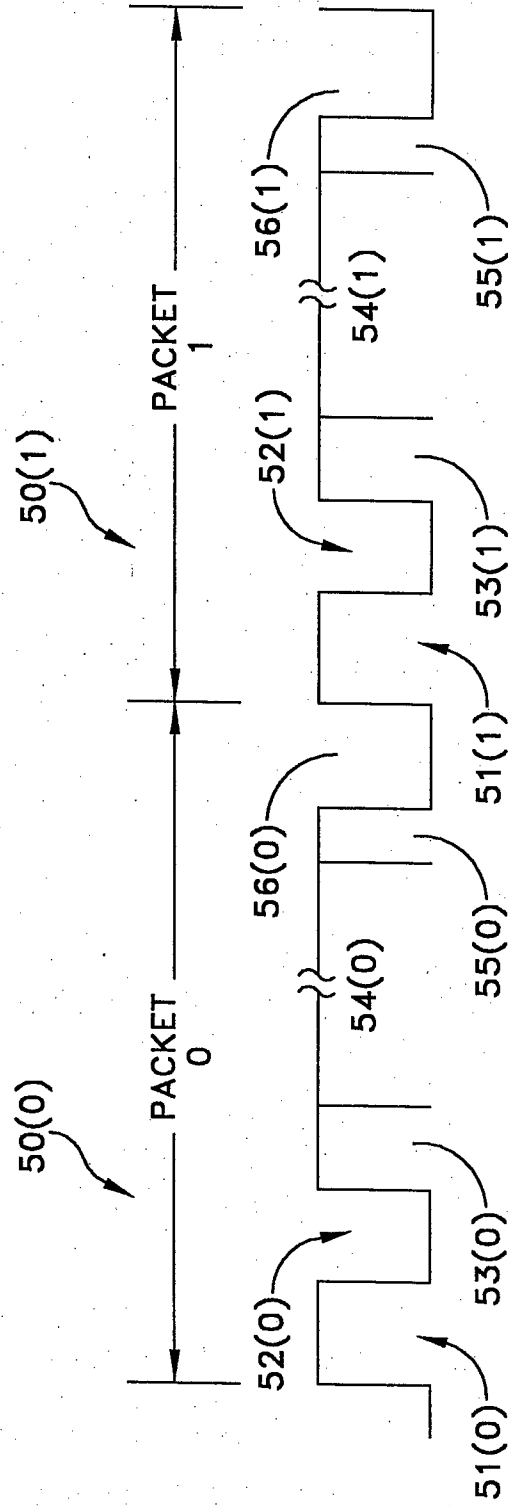


FIG. 3

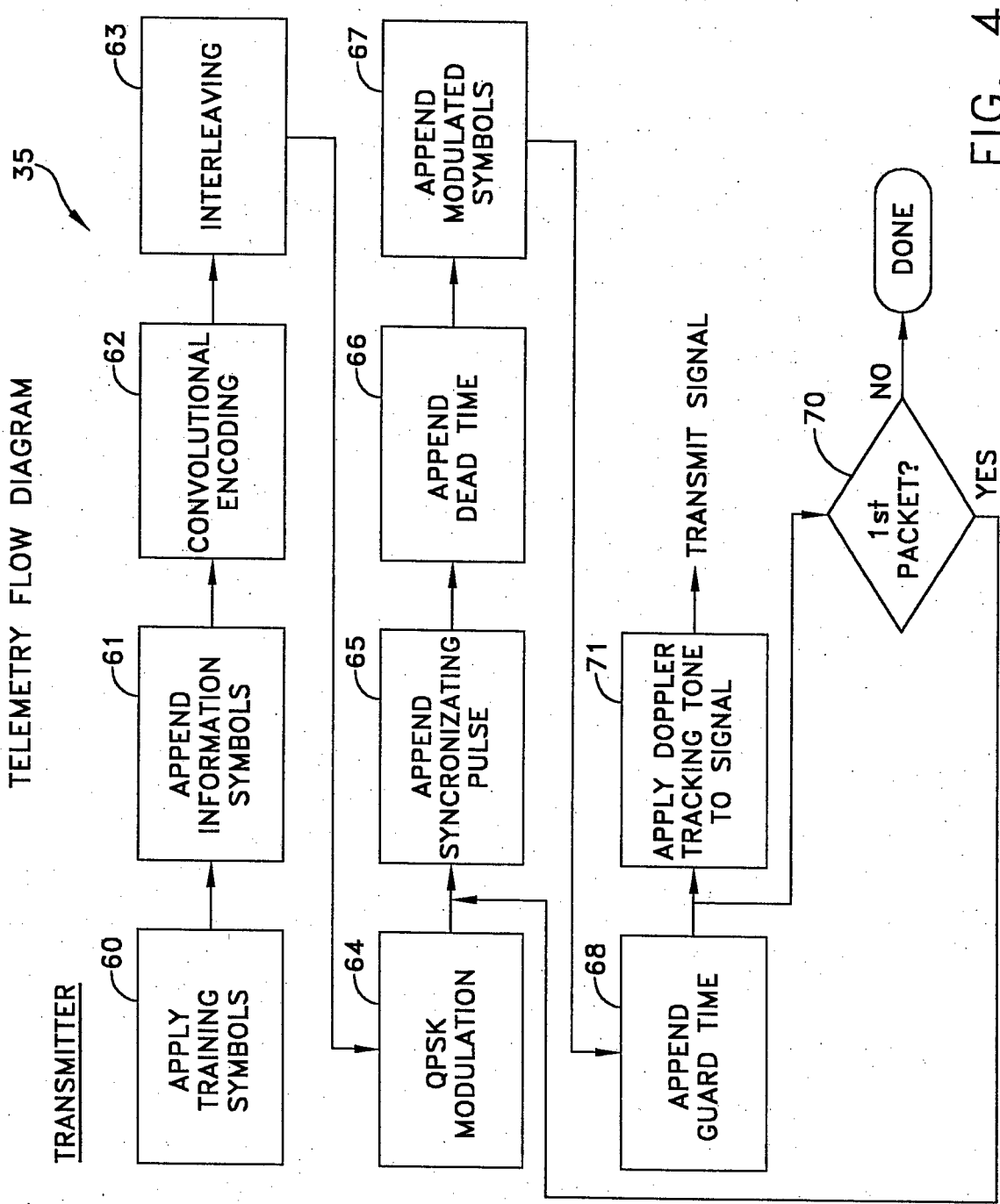


FIG. 4

RECEIVER

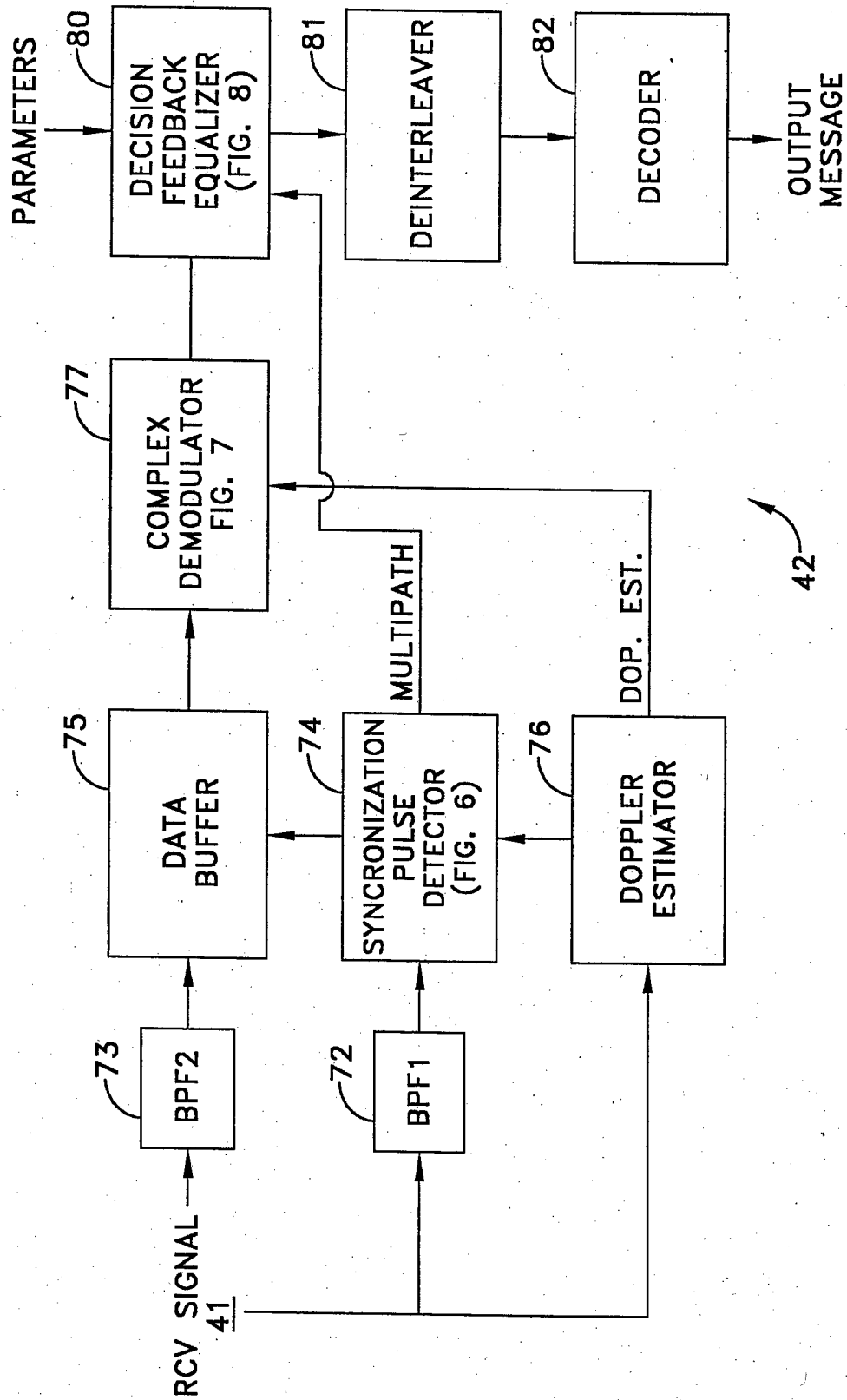
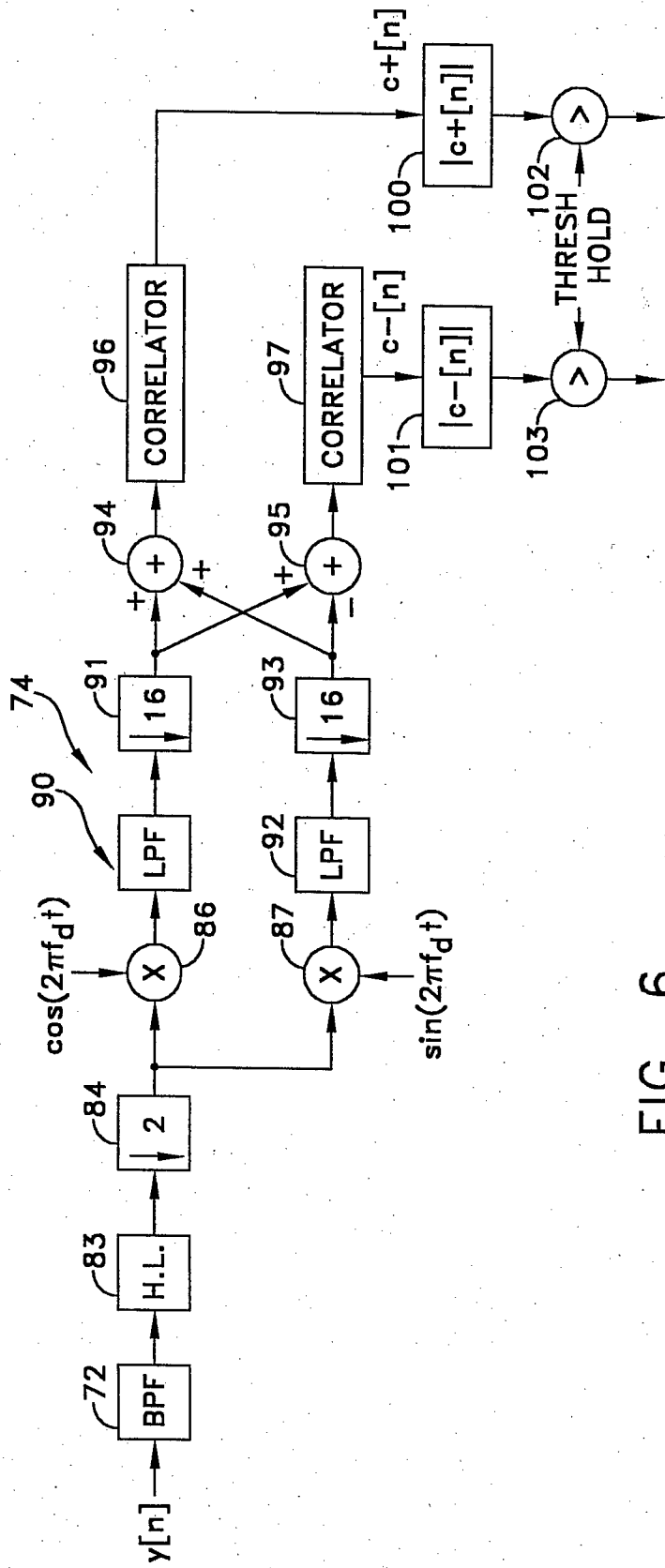


FIG. 5



DETECTED SIGNAL

FIG. 6

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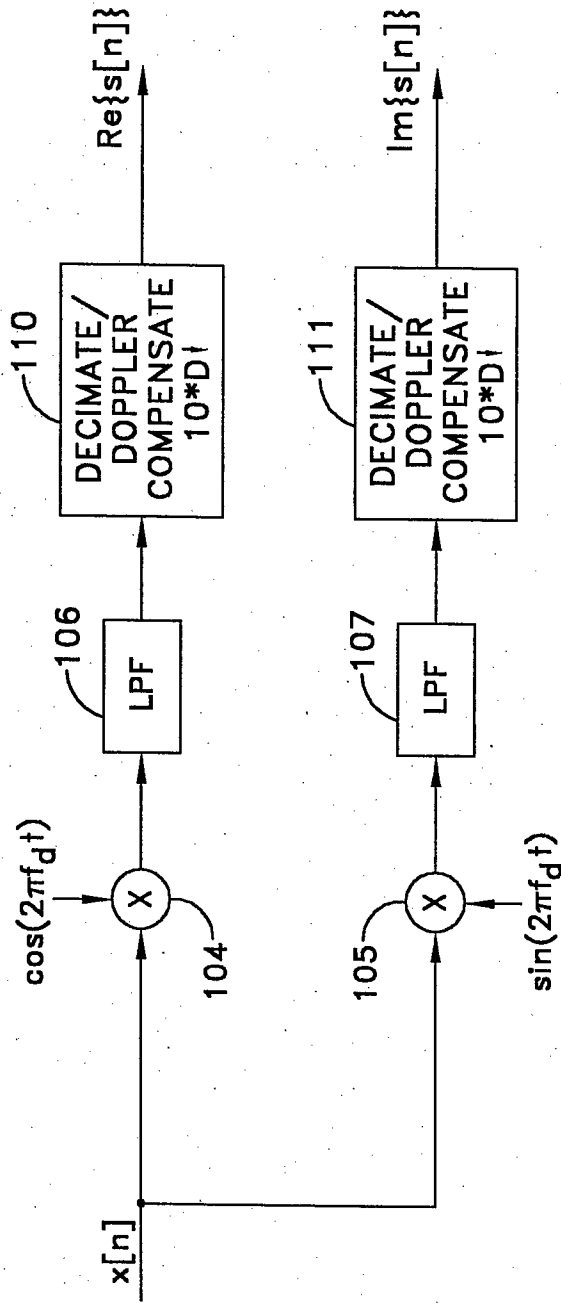


FIG. 7

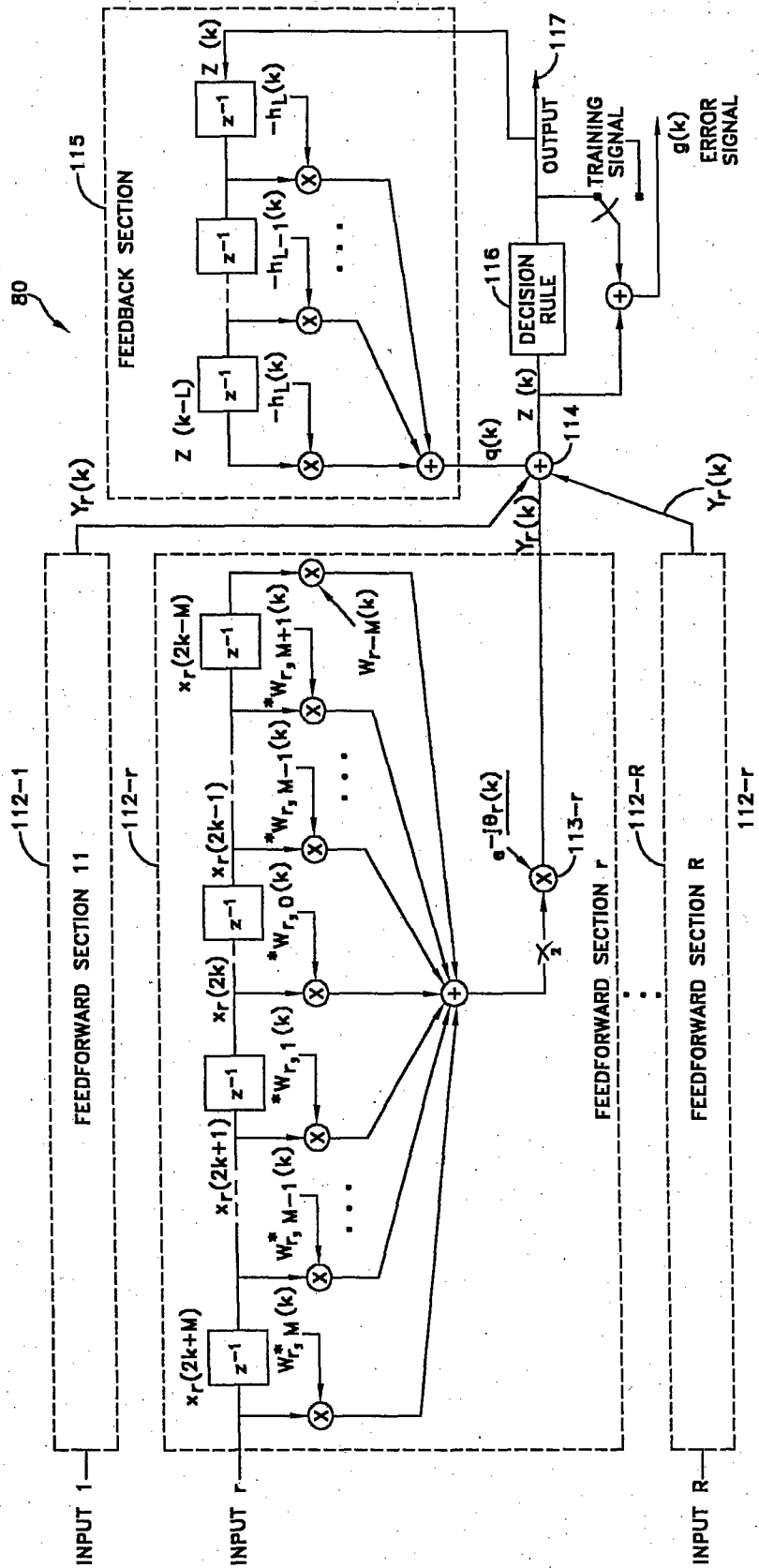


FIG. 8