

## (12) United States Patent Hofer et al.

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#### (54) PHASE RANGING RFID LOCATION SYSTEM

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(52)U.S. Cl.

> USPC ..... **340/10.1**; 340/8.1; 340/12.1; 340/539.13; 340/572.4

#### (58) Field of Classification Search

340/825.7, 10.1–10.6; 342/42, 44, 47, 127 See application file for complete search history.

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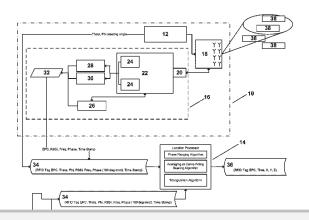
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Primary Examiner — Daniel Wu Assistant Examiner — Mancil Littlejohn (74) Attorney, Agent, or Firm — Babcock IP, PLLC

#### (57)ABSTRACT

A method and apparatus for phase ranging the distance an RFID tag is from an RFID location system antenna along the interrogation signal beam, based upon the phase readings included in data sets obtained from monitoring reply signals corresponding to interrogation signals at multiple frequencies and a common interrogation signal beam direction; by comparison of measured phase and frequency data sets with theoretical phases calculated with respect to the same frequencies over a range of positions corresponding to a beam extent of the interrogation signal.

### 20 Claims, 7 Drawing Sheets





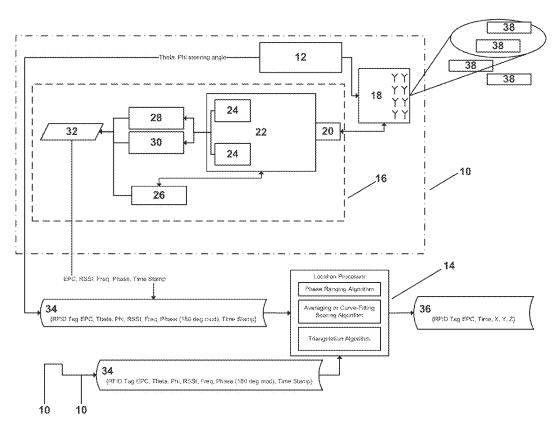


Fig. 1

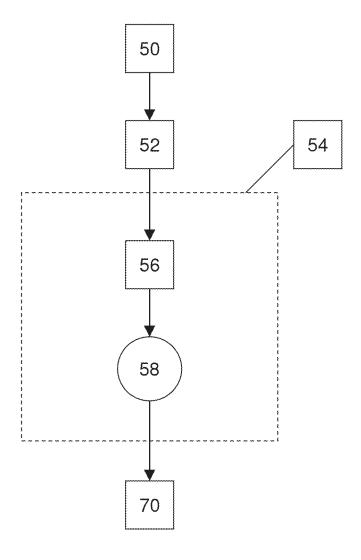


Fig. 2

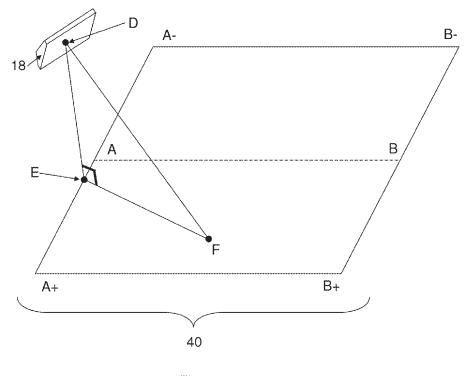


Fig. 3

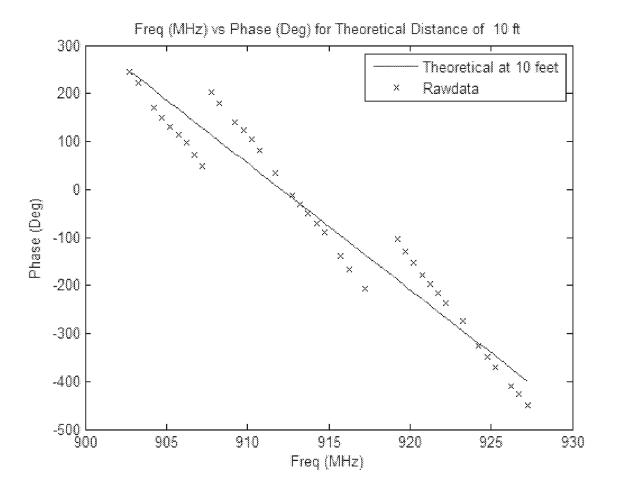


Fig. 4

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