

GP 3661



PATENT

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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

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Group Art Unit: 3661

Dual Rate Communication Protocol

Examiner: Olga Hernandez

U. S. Serial No. 08/795,999

Filed: February 5, 1997

Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks

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AMENDMENT

Sir:

In response to the Office Action dated January 8, 1999, please amend the above-identified patent application as follows:

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IN THE SPECIFICATION

On page 2, lines 4-5, delete "patent application 08/325,718 filed January 10, 1995", and insert --Patent No. 5,474,327 issued on December 12, 1995-- in place thereof.

On page 2, lines 15-17, delete "Patent application 08/431,002 filed April 28, 1995, entitled ULTRASONIC SENSING OF OCCUPANT POSITION VIA WINDSHIELD REFLECTION and assigned to the assignee of this invention, describes one such method."

On page 6, lines 10-11, delete "patent application 08/325,718", and insert --Patent No. 5,474,327-- in place thereof.

IN THE CLAIMS

Please cancel Claim 7 and amend Claims 1-6 and 8-9 as follows:

1. (amended) In a supplemental restraint system having means for acquiring data on occupant presence and/or occupant position and a communication system for communicating such data to a control circuit, a method of [communicating messages at different rates for] accommodating communication of occupant presence data and/or occupant position data at different rates over a common communication link comprising the steps of:

establishing a [low] series of message rate [interval] intervals on the common communication link [for presence data];

devoting a first portion of each message rate interval to [low rate] occupant presence data and reserving a second portion of each message rate interval for occupant position data;

the first portion being sufficient [for] to accommodate only a fragment of [low rate] a complete transmission of occupant presence data thereby requiring a [plurality] series of [consecutive] message rate intervals for a complete transmission of occupant presence data;

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establishing [a high] an occupant position message rate sufficient to accommodate a complete transmission of occupant position data [message] within the second portion of each message rate interval; and

transmitting [at least one of] the occupant presence and/or occupant position data in the respective portion of each message rate interval.

2. (amended) The [invention] method as defined in claim 1 [including] wherein the step of transmitting the occupant presence data includes the step of:

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encoding the occupant presence data [into a message] by setting [the] nominal logic states [of successive] in the series of message rate intervals to values in accord with [a] an occupant presence code.

3. (amended) The [invention] method as defined in claim 2 including:

sensing the presence of an occupant;

sensing the presence and position of an infant seat; and

encoding occupant presence data [into a message] by setting the nominal logic states of [successive] the series of message rate intervals to values representing the sensed [condition] presence and position in accord with [the] said occupant presence code.

4. (amended) The [invention] method as defined in claim 2 [including] wherein the step of transmitting the occupant position data includes the step of:

[encoding occupant presence data into a message by setting the nominal logic states of successive intervals to values in accord with the code; and]

encoding the occupant position data [at a high rate into a message] by overriding [the] said nominal logic [state] states during the second portion of each message rate interval in accord with an occupant position code.

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5. (amended) [The invention as defined in claim 2 including:] In a supplemental restraint system having means for acquiring data on occupant presence and/or position and a communication system for communicating such data to a control circuit, a method of communicating occupant presence data and occupant position data at different rates comprising the steps of:

establishing a low message rate interval for presence data;

devoting a first portion of each interval to low rate presence data and reserving a second portion of each interval for position data;

the first portion being sufficient for only a fragment of low rate presence data thereby requiring a plurality of consecutive intervals for complete presence data;

establishing a high message rate interval sufficient to accommodate a complete position data message within the second portion of each low message rate interval;

encoding occupant presence data into a message by setting the nominal logic states of successive intervals to values in accord with a code;

sensing occupant position to acquire position data; [and]

[the transmitting step includes] encoding occupant position data at a high rate into [a] said message by overriding [the] said nominal logic [state] states during the second portion of each interval; and

transmitting said message.

6. (amended) A method of [communicating messages] accommodating communication of first and second types of data at [different] first and second message rates over a common communication link comprising the steps of:

establishing a [low] message rate interval on the common communication link;

devoting a [period] portion of each message rate interval to [high rate message] the first type of data and reserving [the remainder] a remaining portion of each message rate interval for [low rate information] the second type of data;

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Q1 [establishing a high] providing the first type of data at a first message rate sufficient to [accommodate a] form a complete [high rate] message [data] within the devoted [period] portion of each message rate interval;

providing the second type of data at a second message rate sufficient to form only a fragment of a complete message in the remaining portion of each message rate interval, thereby requiring a plurality of consecutive message rate intervals to form a complete message of the second type of data; and

[sending messages by] transmitting [data in] at least one of the [devoted period and the remainder] first and second types of data in the respective portions of each message rate interval.

Q2 7. (amended) The [invention] method as defined in claim 6 including encoding [a low rate message] the second type of data on a plurality of successive [low] message rate intervals by setting each bit of the message rate interval to a nominal logic state [, each interval carrying only a fragment of a low rate message].

8. (amended) The [invention] method as defined in claim 7 including encoding a complete [high rate message] message of the first type of data on a [low] message rate interval by overriding the nominal logic state [during] in the devoted [period] portion to impose a series of logic pulses representing the [high rate message] first type of data.

REMARKS

In the subject Office Action, the examiner rejected Claims 1 and 2 under 35 USC 102(b) over Omura '185, and rejected Claims 3-4 and 6-9 under 35 USC 103(a) over Omura '185 in view of Kamei et al. '698. Claim 5 was indicated to be allowable if rewritten in independent form including the limitations of base Claim 1 and intervening Claim 2. Applicant requests reconsideration of his application in view of this response

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