United States Patent [19]

Jeffers et al.

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[54] **DIRECT BROADCAST SATELLITE SIGNAL TRANSMISSION SYSTEM**

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[73] Assignee: **General Instrument Corp.,** New York, N.Y.

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Related U.S. Application Data

[63] Continuation of Ser. No. 729,290, May 1, 1985, abandoned.

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[52] U.S. Cl. 380/15; 380/19; 380/20; 358/84
[58] Field of Search 380/10, 20, 15, 19; 358/84; 455/2

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[57] **ABSTRACT**

Audio and control signals are digitized and inserted in the horizontal blanking intervals of the distributed composite television signal. The control signals are in the form of a data stream which includes a header containing group address, sync, and program-related information applicable to all receiving units, and a plurality of portions which are addressable to and contain information applicable to the control of particular individual receiving units in the addressed group. The information in the addressable portions can be altered on a real time basis such that the system operator has direct control over certain functions of individual receiving units from the transmission end.
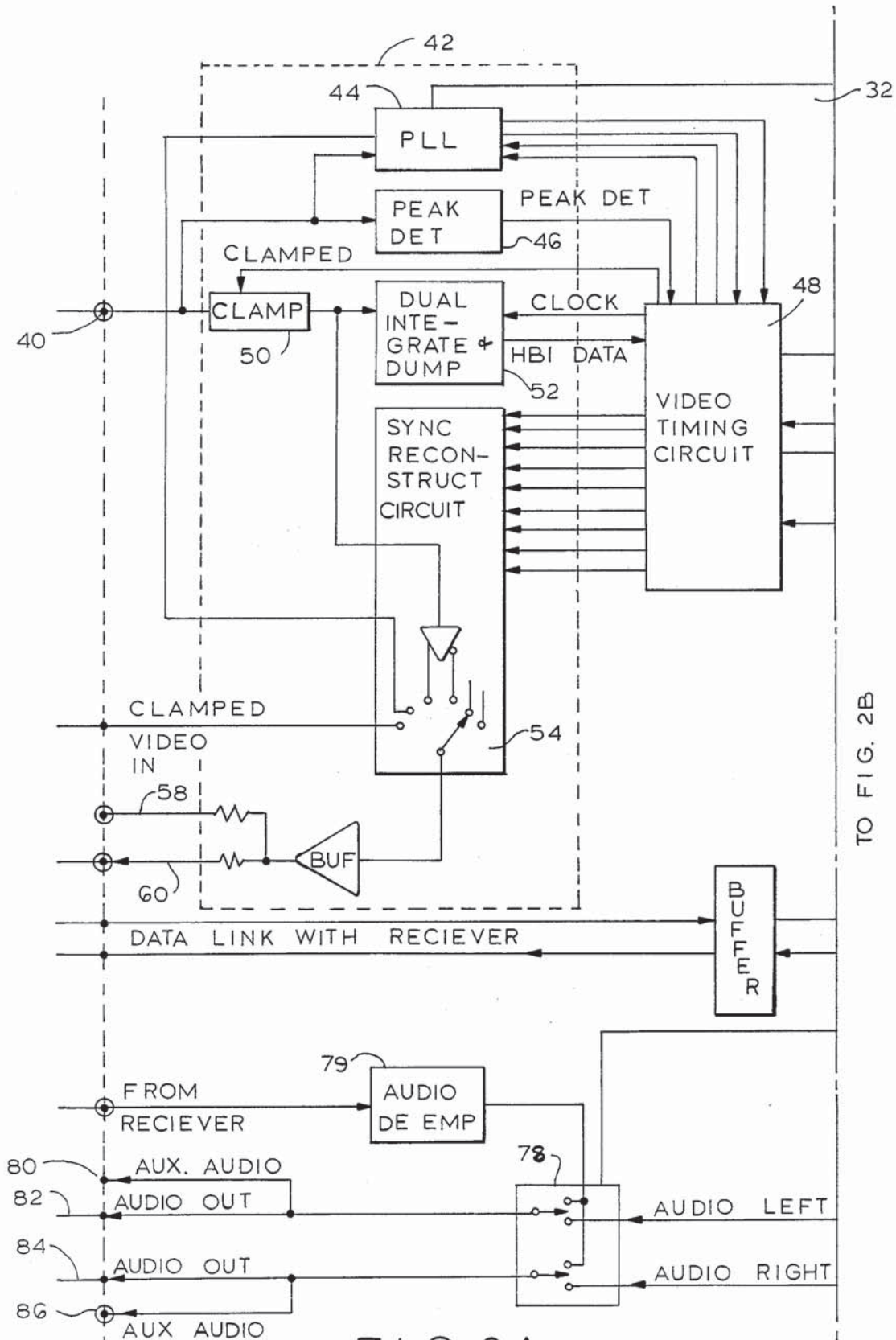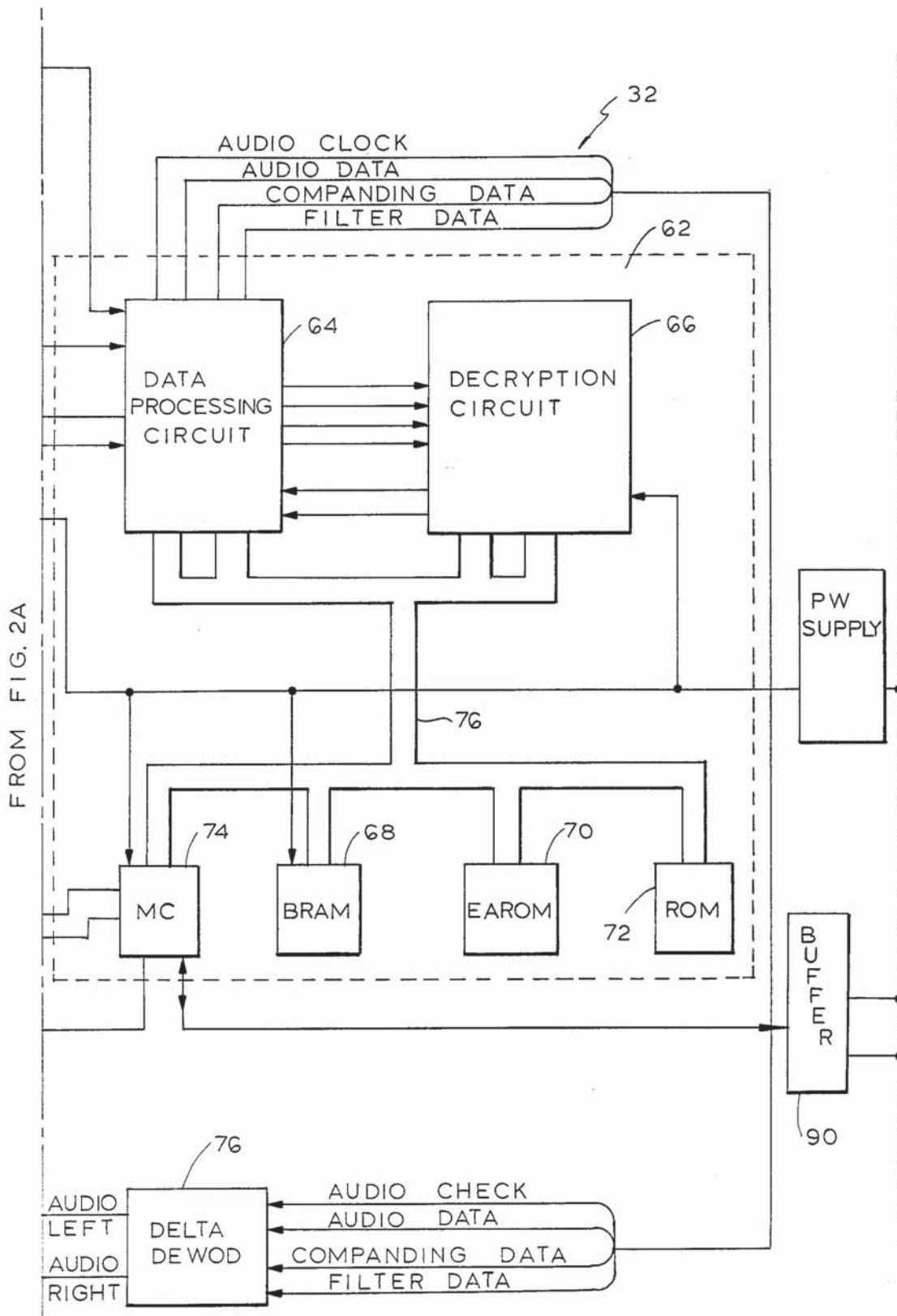
32 Claims, 9 Drawing Sheets
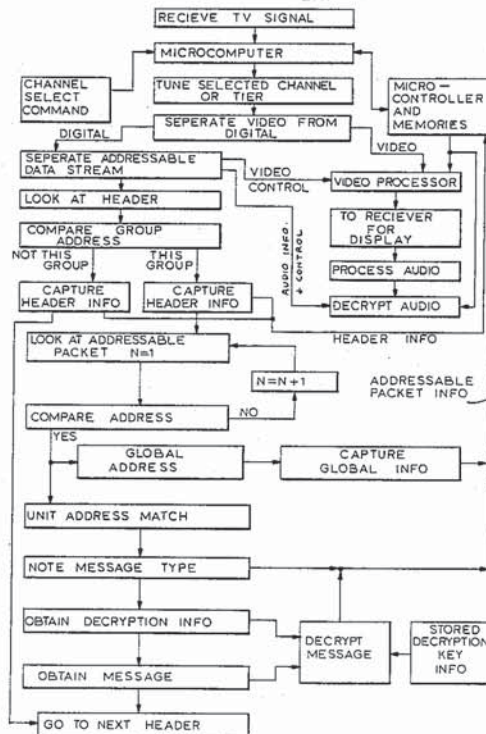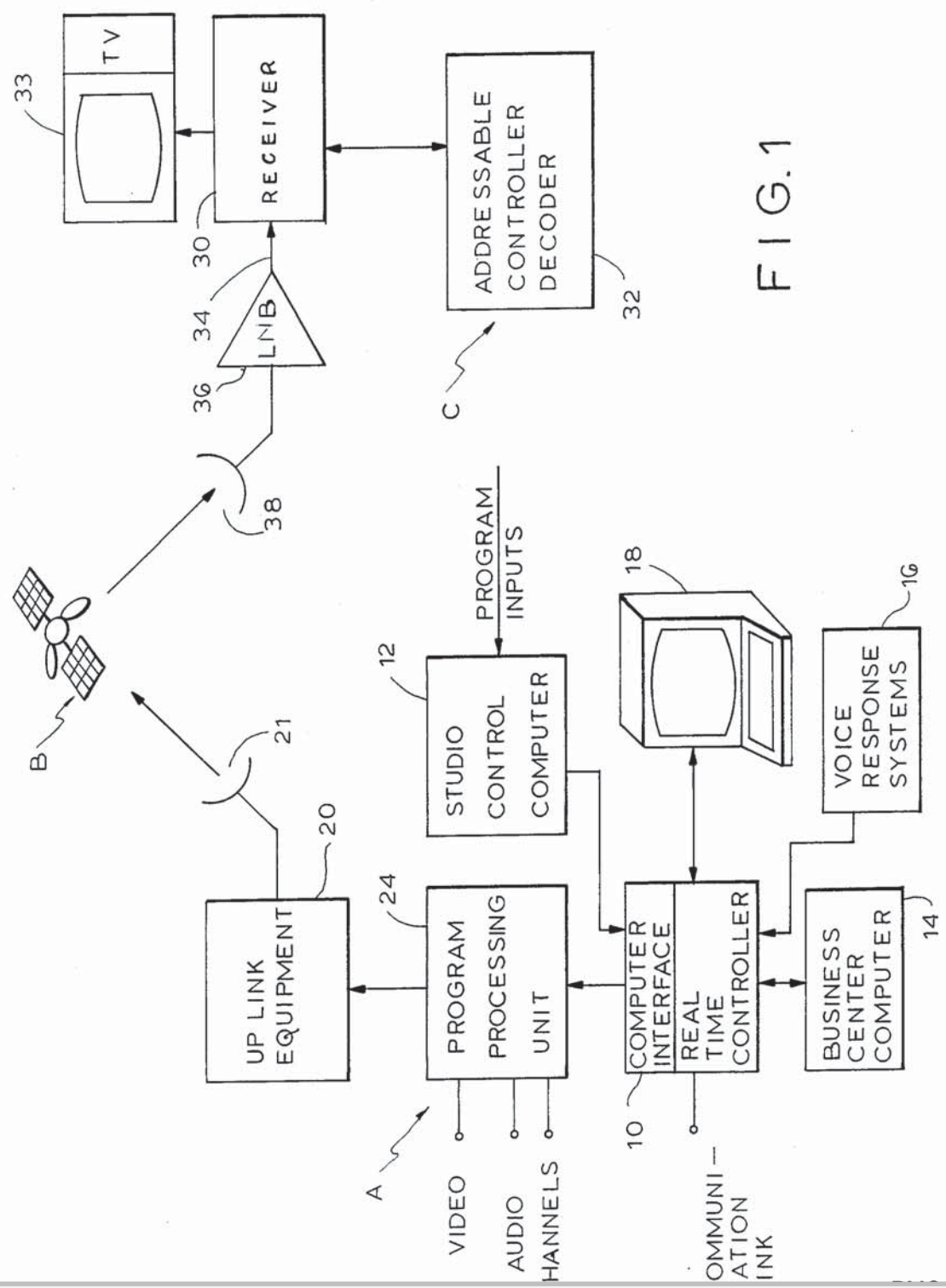
F I G. 1

F I G. 3

DOCKET ALARM
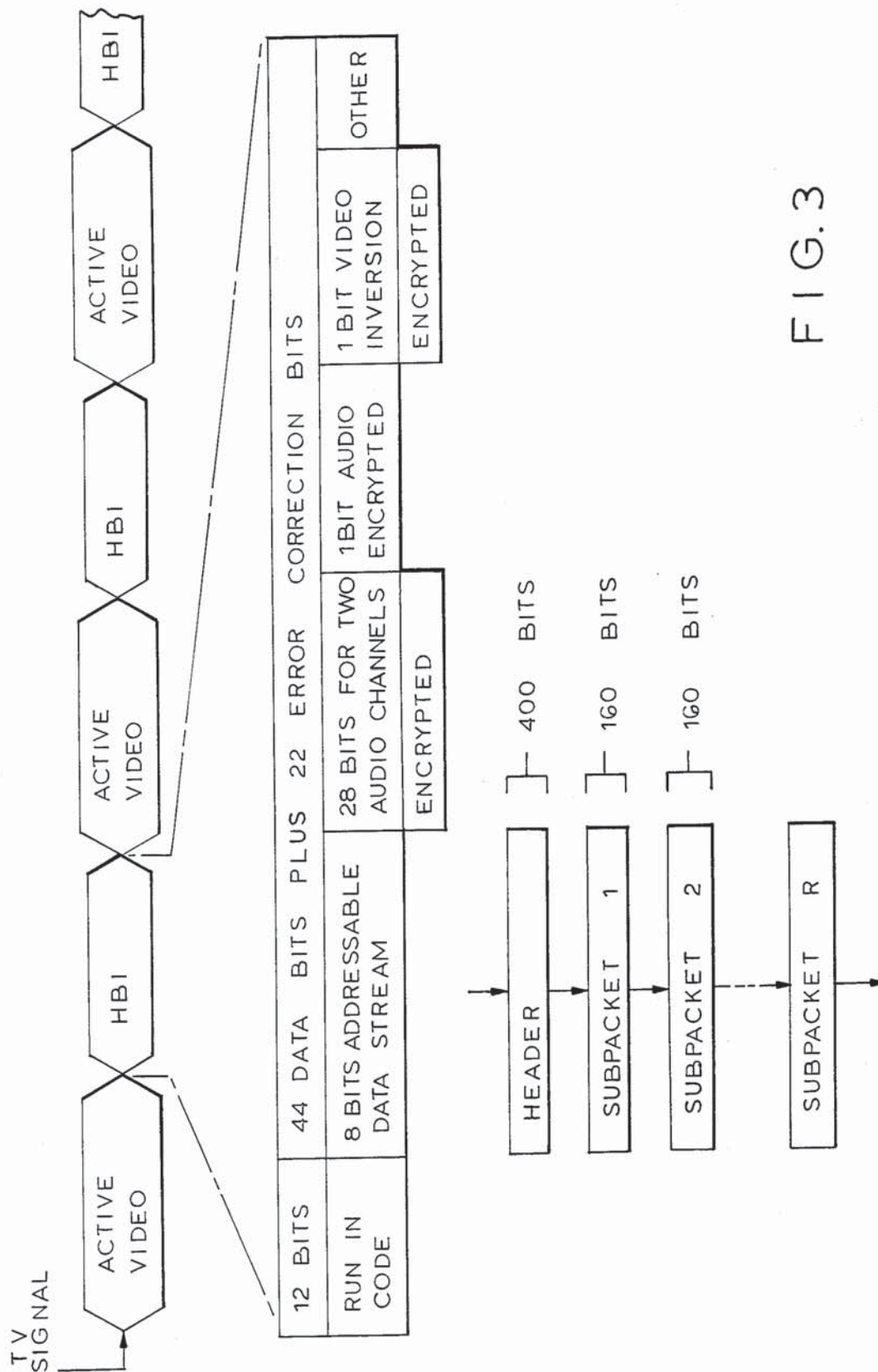
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