United States Patent [19]

Tamaru

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[54] **COMMUNICATION CONTROL APPARATUS**

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[21] Appl. No.: **912,516**

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[30] **Foreign Application Priority Data**

Sep. 30, 1985 [JP] Japan 60-216840

[51] Int. Cl.⁴ G06F 13/00; H04J 3/24
[52] U.S. Cl. 364/200; 370/94
[58] Field of Search .... 370/90, 91, 92, 93, 370/94, 95; 364/200 MS File, 900 MS File

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Primary Examiner—Gareth D. Shaw
Assistant Examiner—Joseph T. Fitzgerald
Attorney, Agent, or Firm—Foley & Lardner, Schwartz, Jeffery, Schwaab, Mack, Blumenthal & Evans
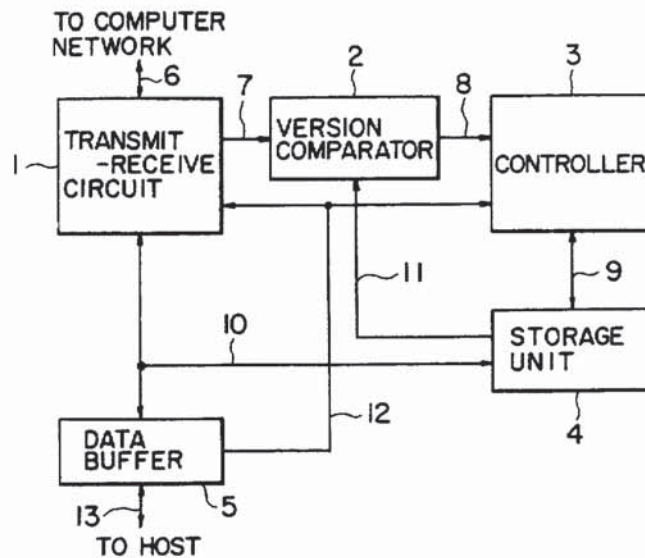
[57] **ABSTRACT**

A communication control apparatus wherein the version number of a communication control program in a packet accepted by a receive circuit is compared at a comparator with that of the local station. When the version for the local station is determined to be older than the version for the remote station, the apparatus receives the latest communication control program from the remote station and stores it in a rewritable memory, thereby allowing communication using the latest version.

8 Claims, 5 Drawing Sheets

TO COMPUTER
NETWORK

6

TRANSMIT
-RECEIVE
CIRCUIT

VERSION
COMPARATOR

CONTROLLER

STORAGE
UNIT

DATA
BUFFER

TO HOST

F I G. I

HEADER FIELD

DATA FIELD

21
DESTINATION
STATION
ADDRESS

23
VERSION
NUMBER

25
DATA
LENGTH

26

27
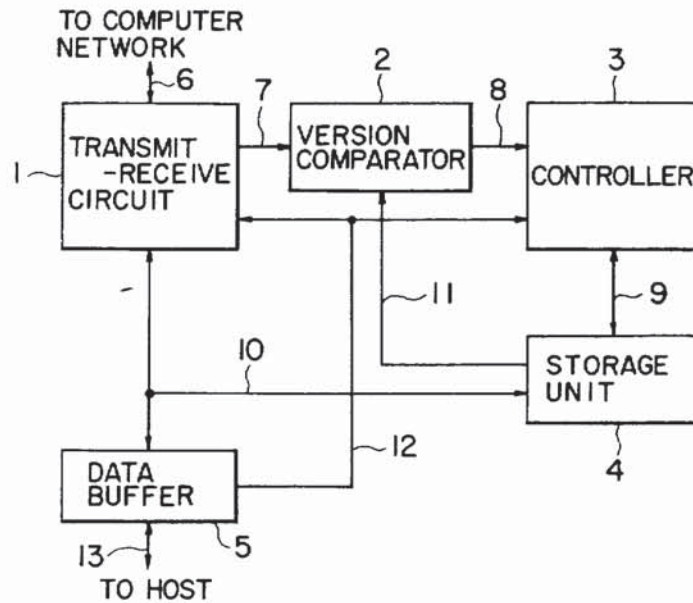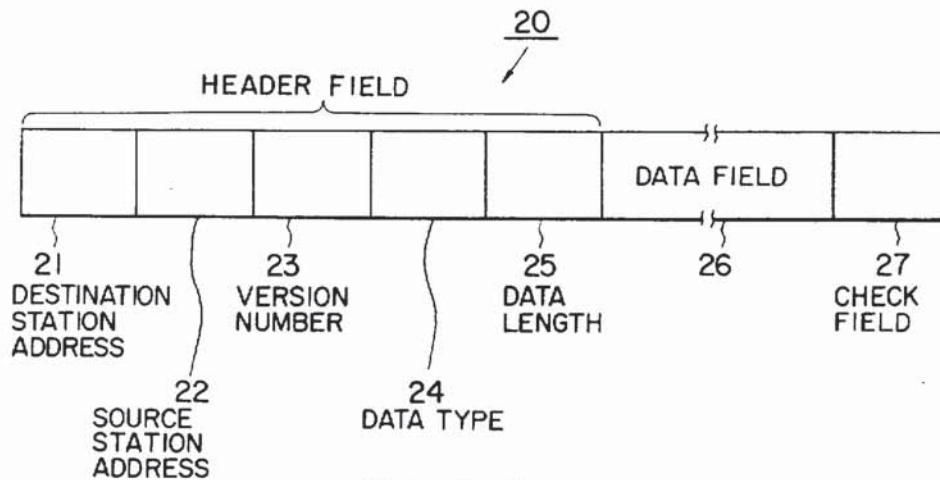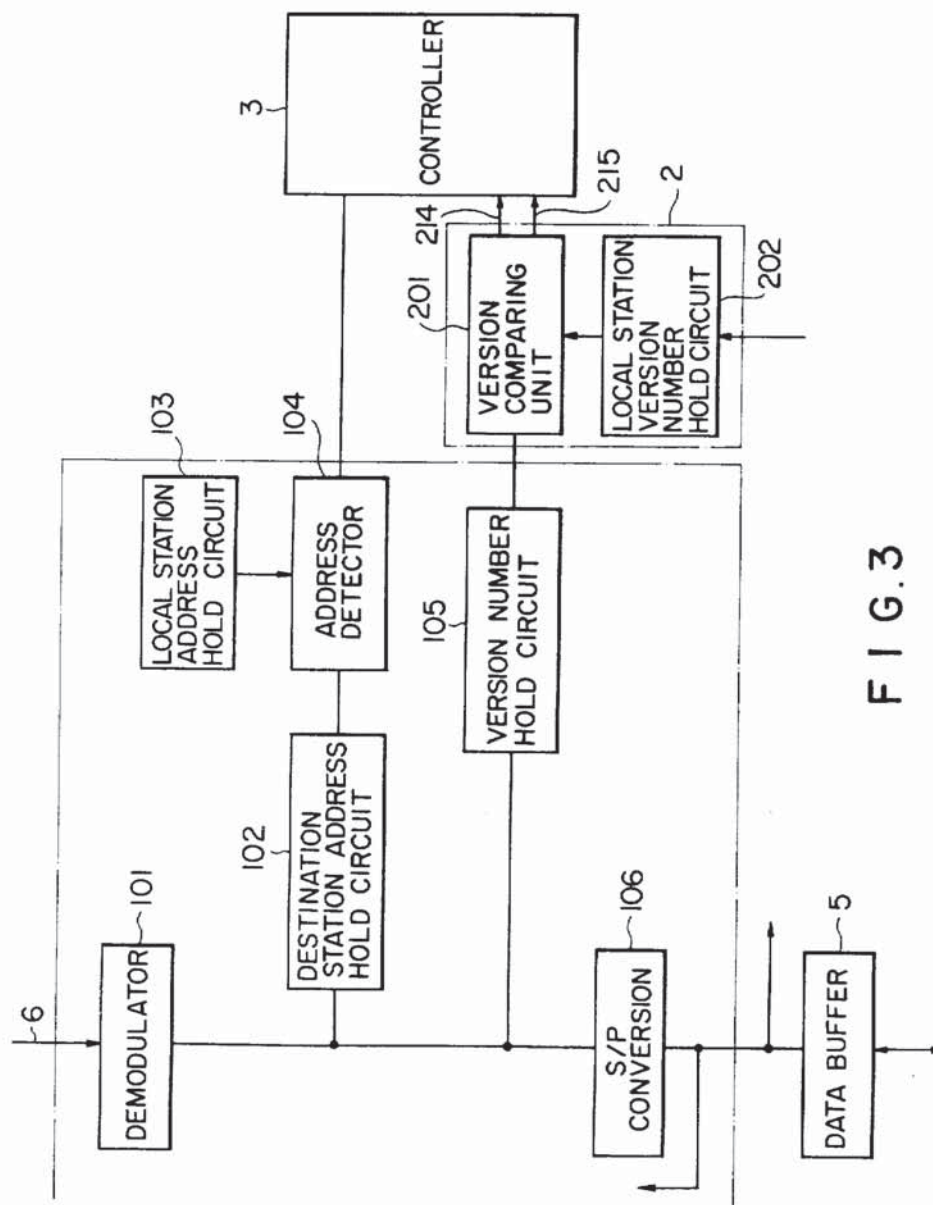CHECK
FIELD

22
SOURCE
STATION
ADDRESS

24
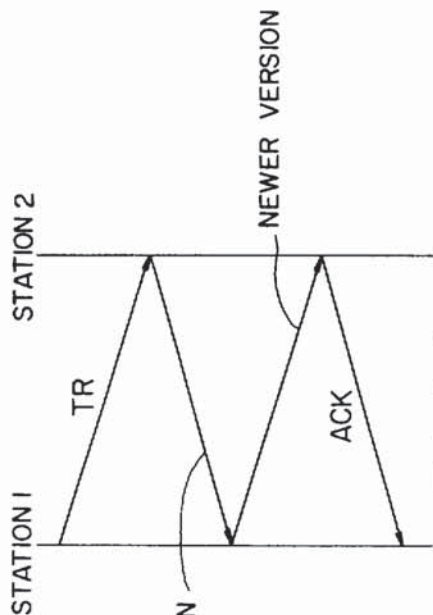DATA TYPE

F I G. 2

FIG. 3
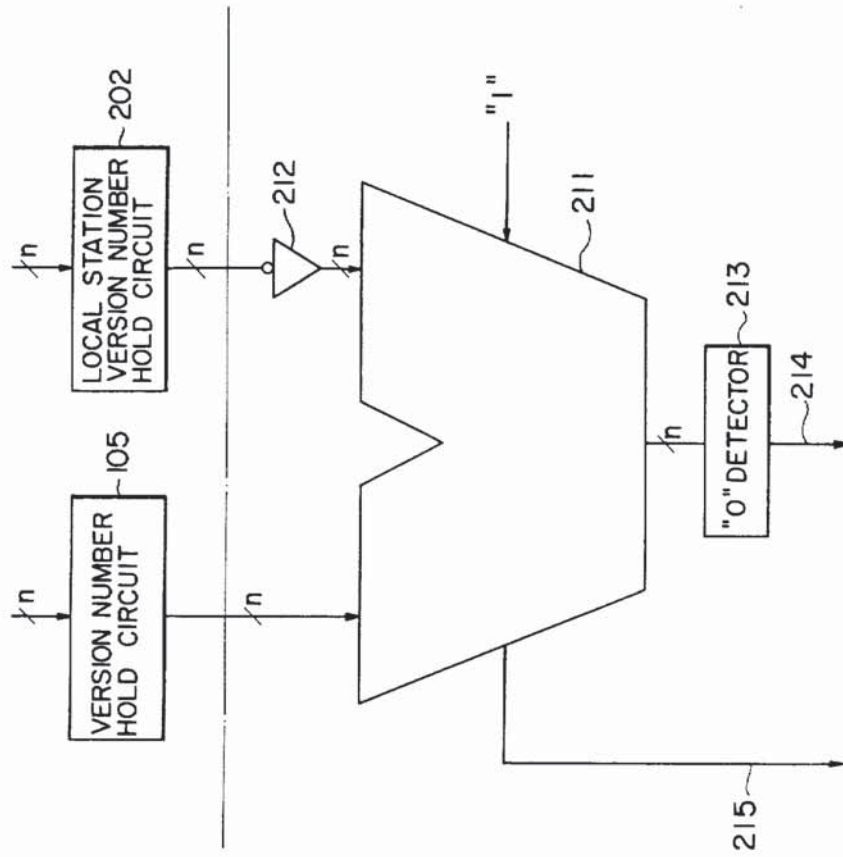
F I G. 4

FIG. 5

FIG. 6

FIG. 7

FIG. 8

DOCKET ALARM
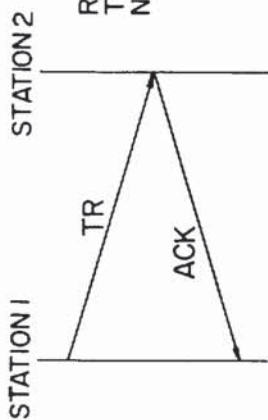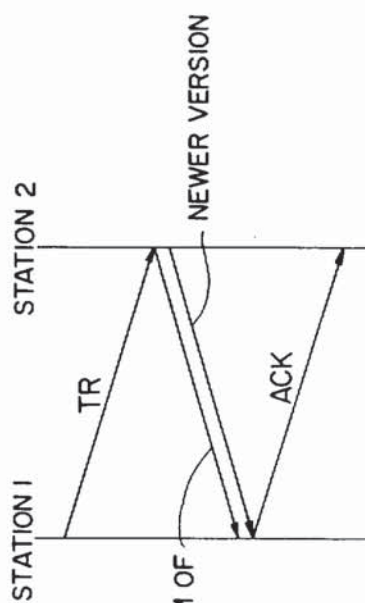
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