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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In Re Application of	)		
	)		
John C. Harvey and James W. Cuddihy	)	Examiner:	Groody, J.
	)		
Serial No. 08/449,097	)	Group Art Unit:	2608
	)		
Filed: May 24, 1995	)	Atty Dkt.	5634-208
	)		
For: **SIGNAL PROCESSING APPARATUS AND METHODS**	)		
	)		

Honorable Commissioner of Patents
and Trademarks
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

I. AMENDMENT

In response to the Office Action mailed on August 27, 1996, please amend the above-captioned application as follows:

A. In The Claims

Please amend Claims 2-4 as follows:

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2. A method of processing signals at a receiver station, said receiver station having a plurality of processors, said method comprising the steps of:

[programming a control processor to execute a predetermined function;]

receiving an information transmission containing a digital television signal and a message stream;

detecting [a] said message stream in said information transmission;

selecting one message of said detected message stream;

inputting at least a first portion of said selected one message to [said] a control processor;

selecting control information in said inputted first portion of said selected one message and communicating said selected control information to [a plurality of dedicated] at least one register [memories;] memory;

determining the length or format of [some] at least one segment of said message stream on the basis of [a] plurality of comparisons at said at least one register memory;

outputting selected other portions of said message stream to said plurality of processors;

processing said selected other portions of said message stream simultaneously;

controlling the reception or presentation of [some] television programming in accordance [of] with said message stream; and

metering or monitoring the availability, [use or usage] of said television programming or said message stream.

3. A method of processing signals at a receiver station, said receiver station having a plurality of processors, comprising the steps of:

(1) receiving an information transmission at a transmission station;

(2) generating a message stream that is effective to enable [a] said receiver station to control the reception or presentation of [some] television programming [in

accordance with said message] and meter or monitor the availability, use or usage of said television programming or said message stream; and

(3) transmitting said message stream.

4. A method of processing signals in a network, comprising the steps of:

(1) receiving an information transmission to be transmitted;

(2) receiving an instruct signal which is effective to:

(a) effect a [transmission] transmitter station to generate at least a first message that is effective to enable a receiver station to control the reception or presentation of [some] television programming [in accordance with said message] and meter or monitor the availability, use or usage of said television programming or said at least a first message; or

(b) effect a first receiver station to generate at least a first message that is effective to enable a second receiver station to control the reception or presentation of [some] television programming [in accordance with said message] and meter or monitor the availability, use or usage of said television programming or said at least a first message;

(3) receiving a transmitter control signal which operates at said transmitter station to communicate said at least a first message to a transmitter; and

(4) transmitting said information transmission, said instruct signal and said transmitter control signal.

Please add the following claims:

5. The method of claim 2, further comprising the step of programming said control processor to execute a controlled function in response to said one message.

6. The method of claim 5, further comprising the step of programming said control processor to compare information stored in at least a first of said at least one register memory with control function invoking information.

7. The method of claim 6, further comprising the step of programming said control processor to compare information stored in at least a second of said at least one register memory with information that identifies the composition of said one message.

8. The method of claim 2, wherein said at least one register memory includes an input signal register memory and said step of selecting control information in said inputted first portion of said selected one message and communicating said selected control information to a plurality of registers memories comprises:

communicating said at least a first portion of said selected one message to said input signal memory;

selecting information at said input signal memory to compare or communicate; and

communicating said control information to at least a second of said at least one register memory.

9. The method of claim 8, further comprising the step of communicating at least one of said other portions of said message stream to said input signal register memory.

10. The method of claim 2, further comprising the step of controlling a switch to output at least one of said selected other portions of said message stream to a specific one of said plurality of processors.

11. The method of claim 10, further comprising the step of controlling said switch to communicate said at least one of said selected other portions of said message stream from one of (1) said control processor and (2) a buffer that inputs to said control processor.

12. The method of claim 10, wherein said switch outputs said at least one of said selected other portions to said control processor.

13. The method of claim 10, wherein said switch outputs said at least one of said selected other portions to one of a signal processor and a central processor.

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