

- [54] **AUTOMATIC ELECTRONIC DATA TYPE IDENTIFICATION PROCESS**
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- [73] **Assignee:** **Apple Computer, Inc.**, Cupertino, Calif.
- [21] **Appl. No.:** **993,181**
- [22] **Filed:** **Dec. 18, 1992**
- [51] **Int. Cl.<sup>5</sup>** ..... **G06F 7/38**
- [52] **U.S. Cl.** ..... **340/146.2; 364/715.02**
- [58] **Field of Search** ..... **340/146.2; 364/715.02**

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*Attorney, Agent, or Firm*—V. Randall Gard

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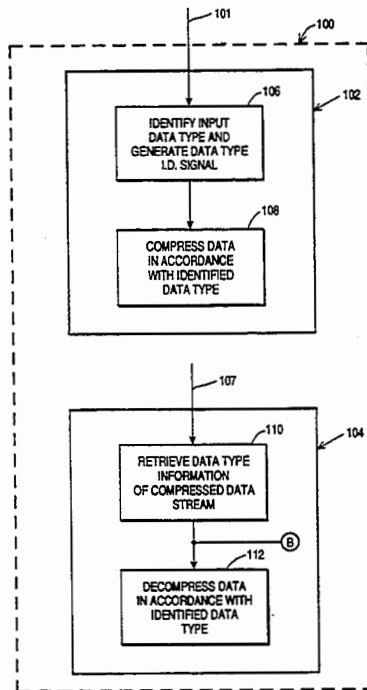
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[57] **ABSTRACT**

A data compression process and system that identifies the data type of an input data stream and then selects in response to the identified data type at least one data compression method from a set of data compression methods that provides an optimal compression ratio for that particular data type, thus maximizing the compression ratio for that input data stream. Moreover, the data compression process also provides means to alter the rate of compression during data compression for added flexibility and data compression efficiency. Furthermore, a system memory allocation process is also provided to allow system or user control over the amount of system memory to be allocated for the memory intensive data compression process. System memory allocation process estimates the memory requirement to compress the input data stream, and allocates only that amount of system memory as needed by the data compression for memory allocation efficiency.

**12 Claims, 8 Drawing Sheets**



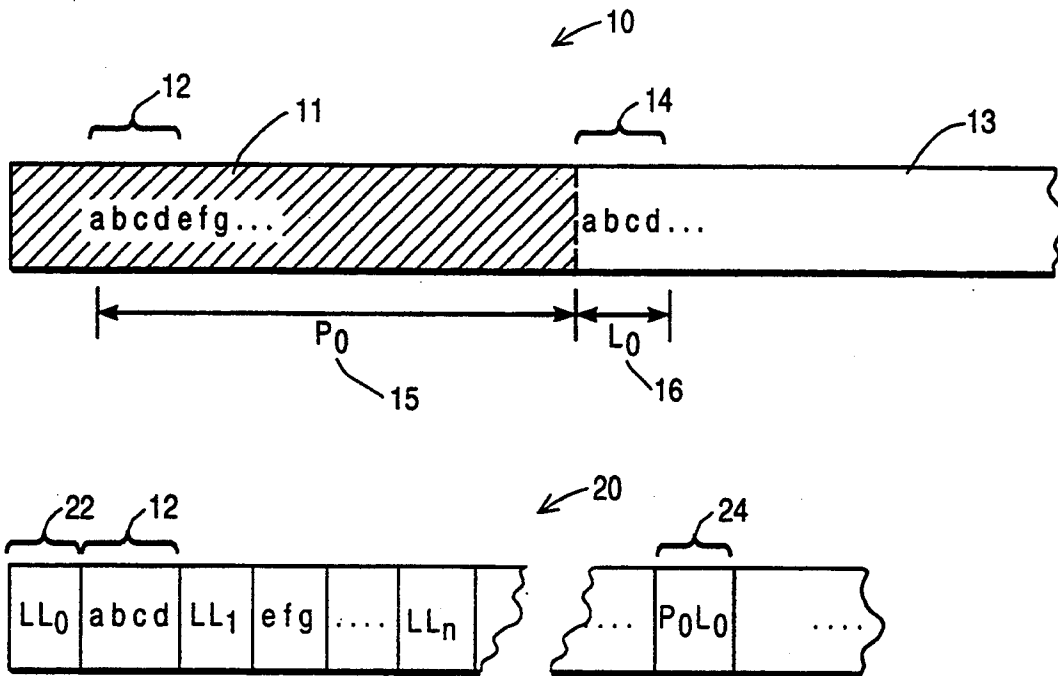


FIG. 1 (PRIOR ART)

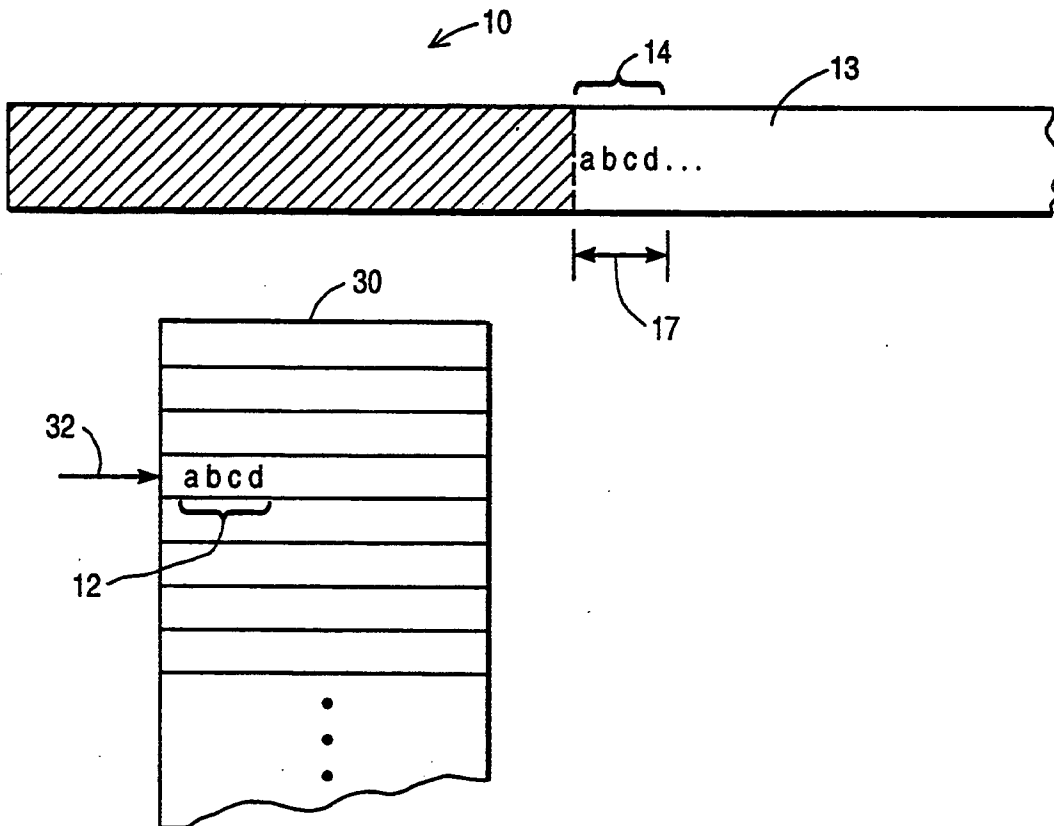


FIG. 2

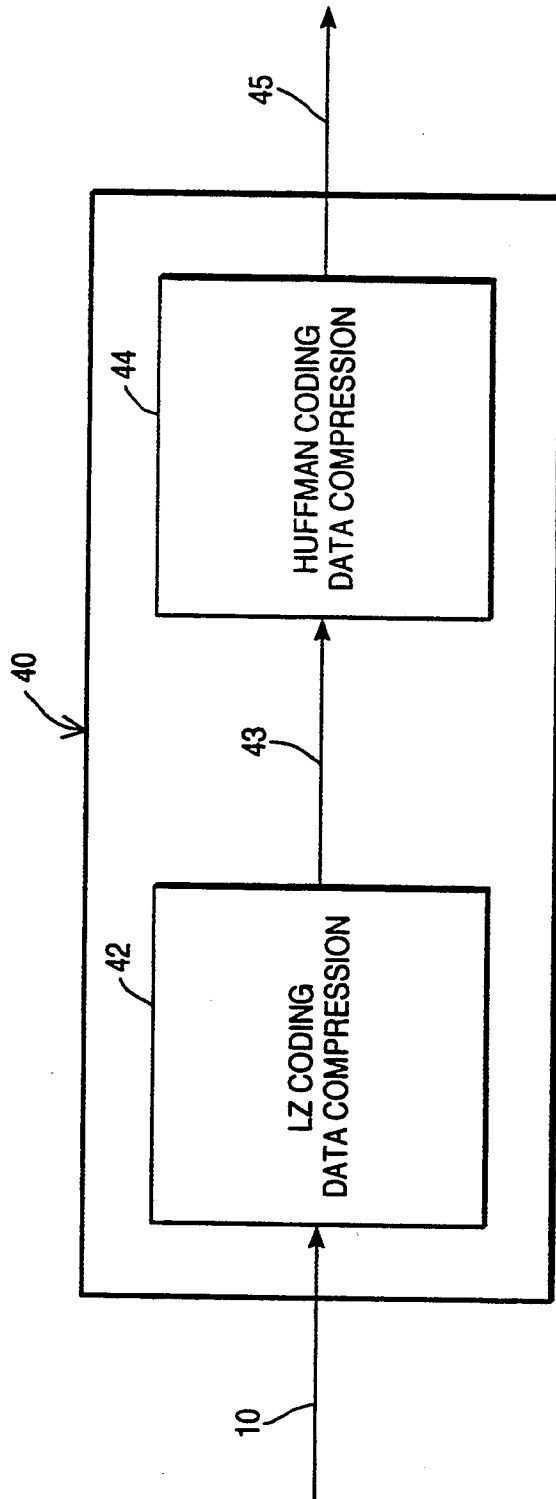
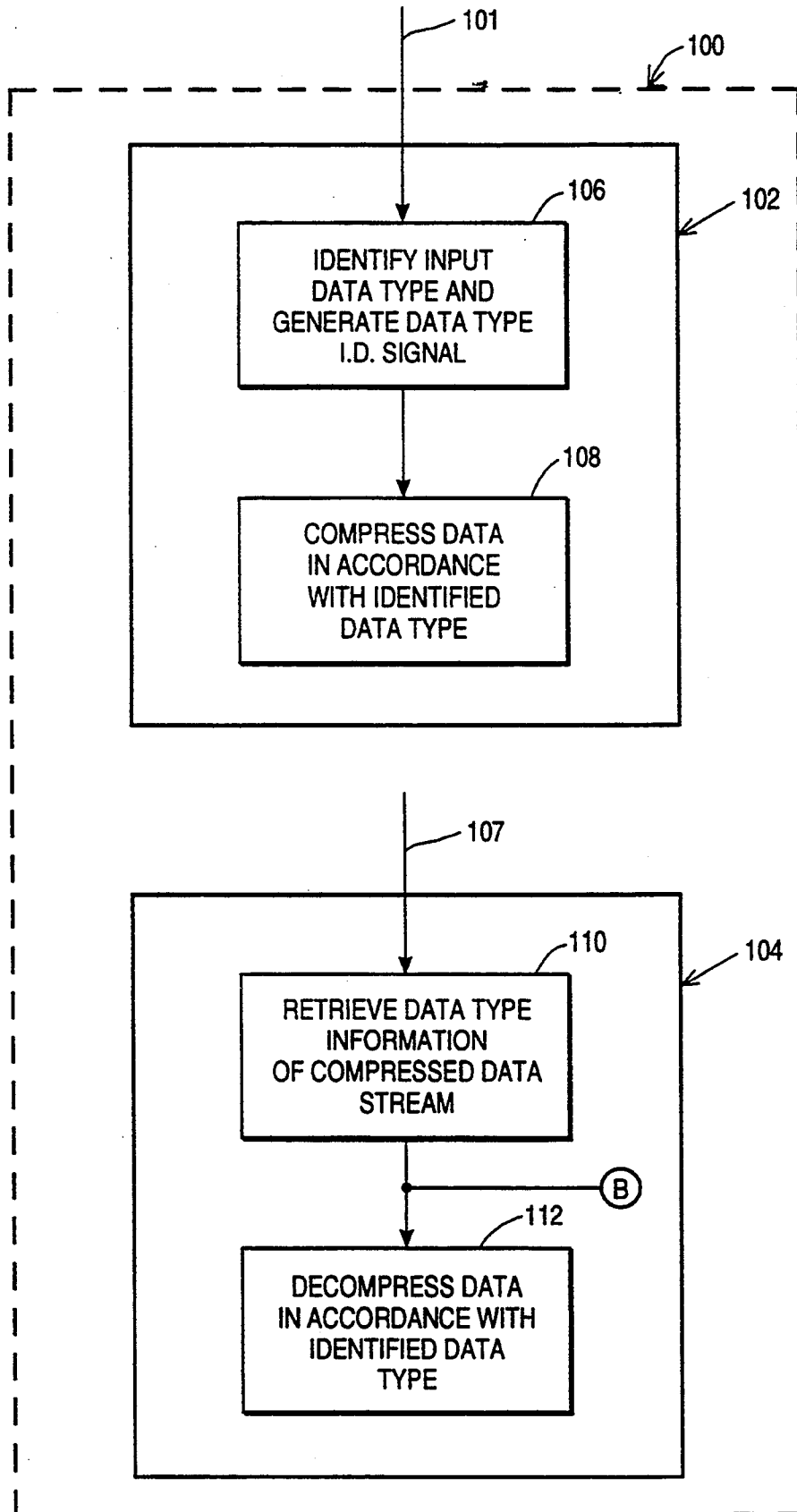


FIG. 3 (PRIOR ART)



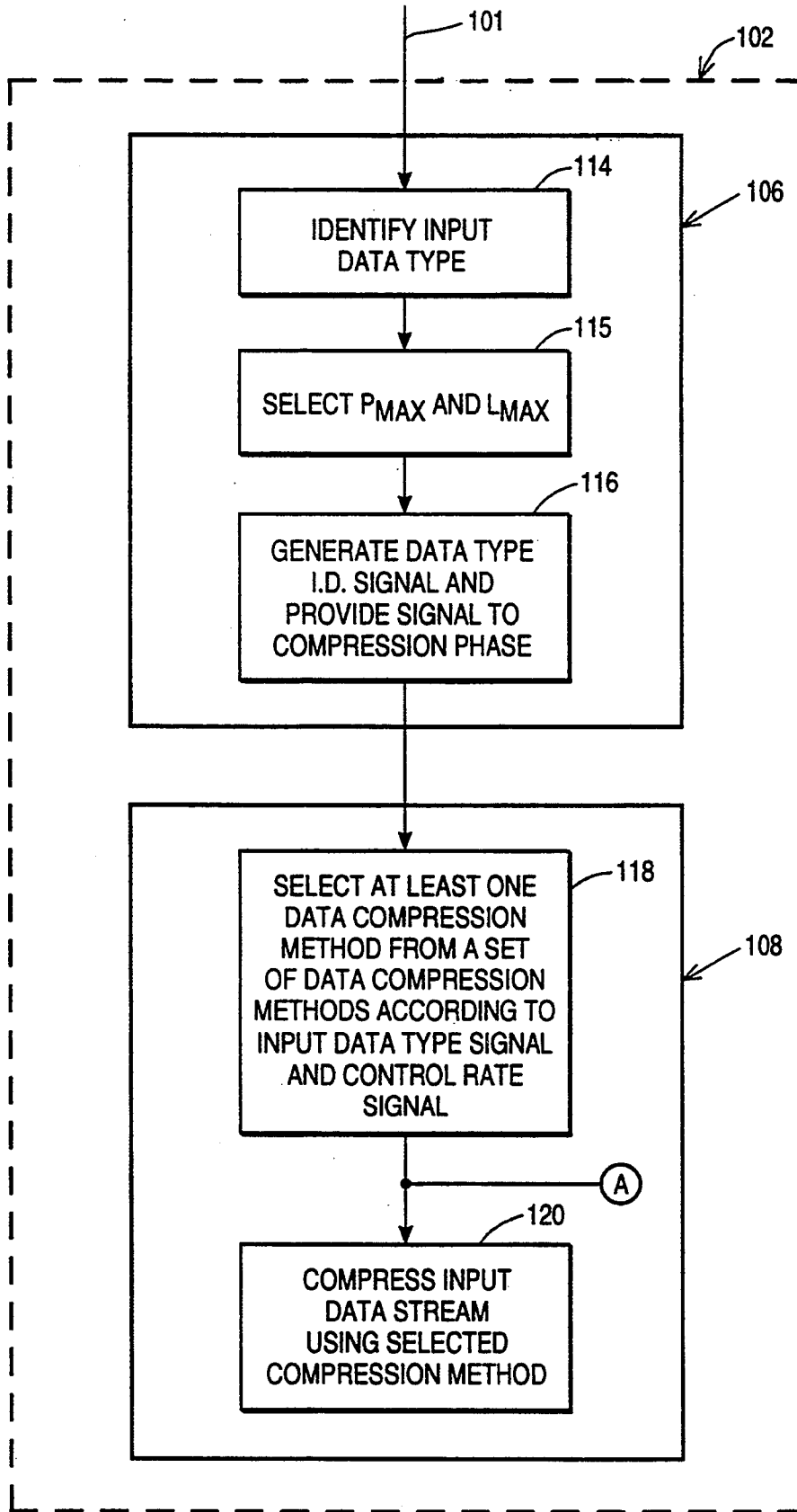


FIG. 5

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