[54] **METHOD FOR CONTROLLING THE SCHEDULING OF MULTIPLE ACCESS TO COMMUNICATION RESOURCES**

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[52] U.S. Cl. **370/95.1**; 370/85.2
[58] Field of Search 370/95.1, 85.2, 87.7, 370/95.3, 104.1

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[57] **ABSTRACT**

A method of providing a communication unit (10) access to a shared communication resource. In the communication unit, a clock (123) is maintained, and the unit detects the time when an inhibit period on the shared communication resource begins, and the time at which it concludes. When access to the shared communication resource is desired, the unit attempts to access the communication resource based on the time at which access was desired, as well as the times at which a detected inhibit condition began and concluded. A virtual time clock runs only during non-inhibit periods. Access to the communication resource is then based on when the virtual time clock equals the desired access time.
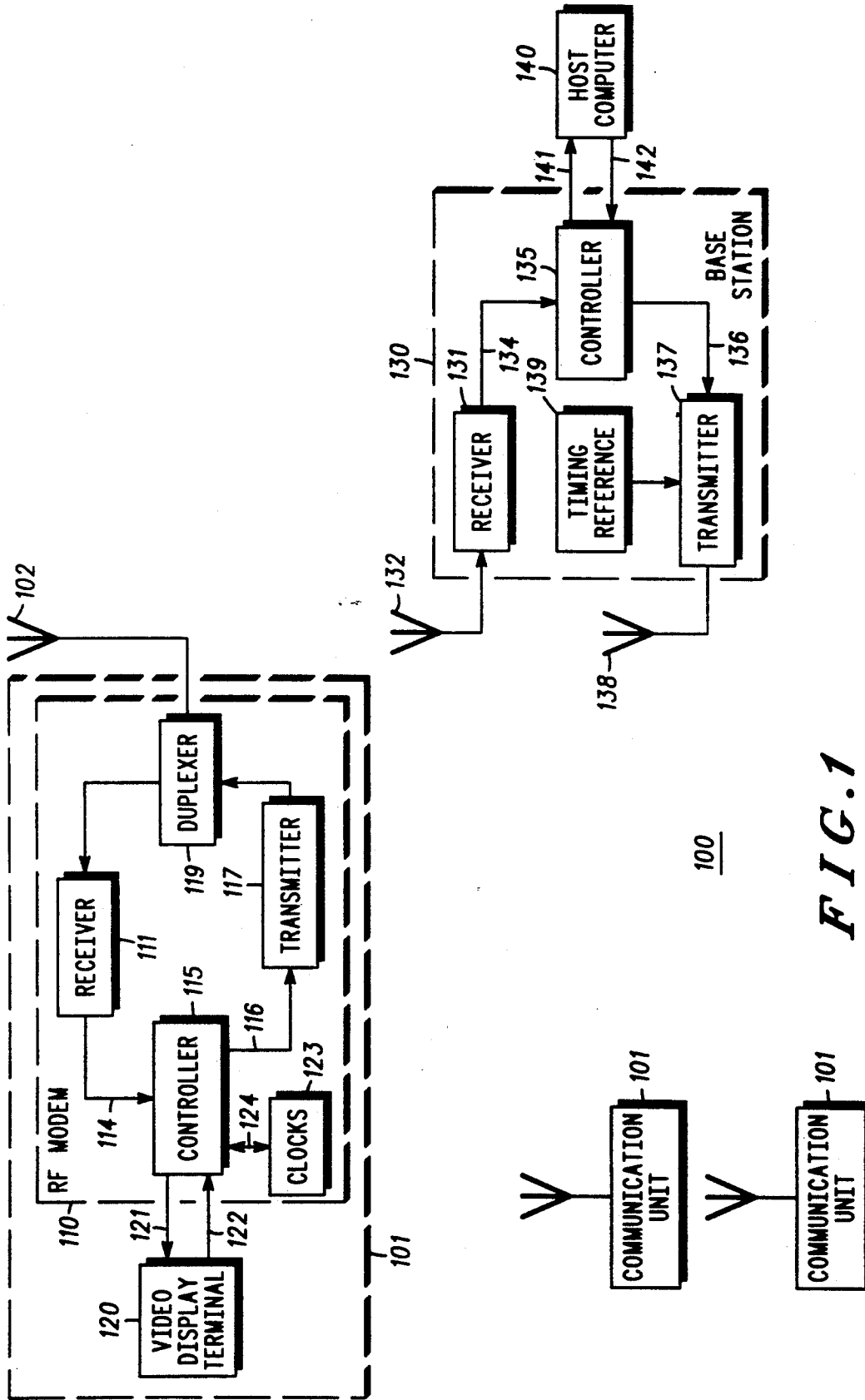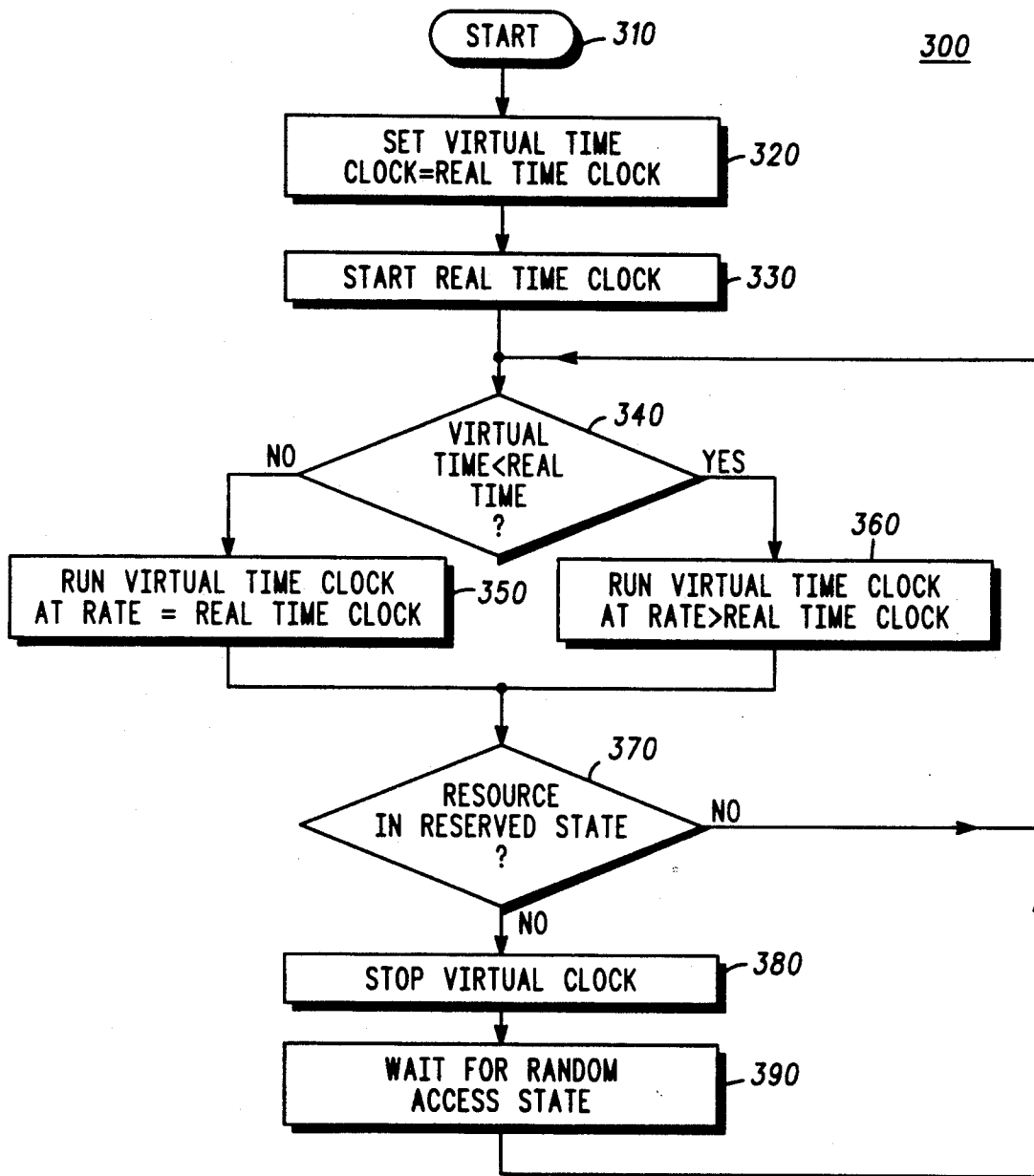
13 Claims, 6 Drawing Sheets

FIG.1
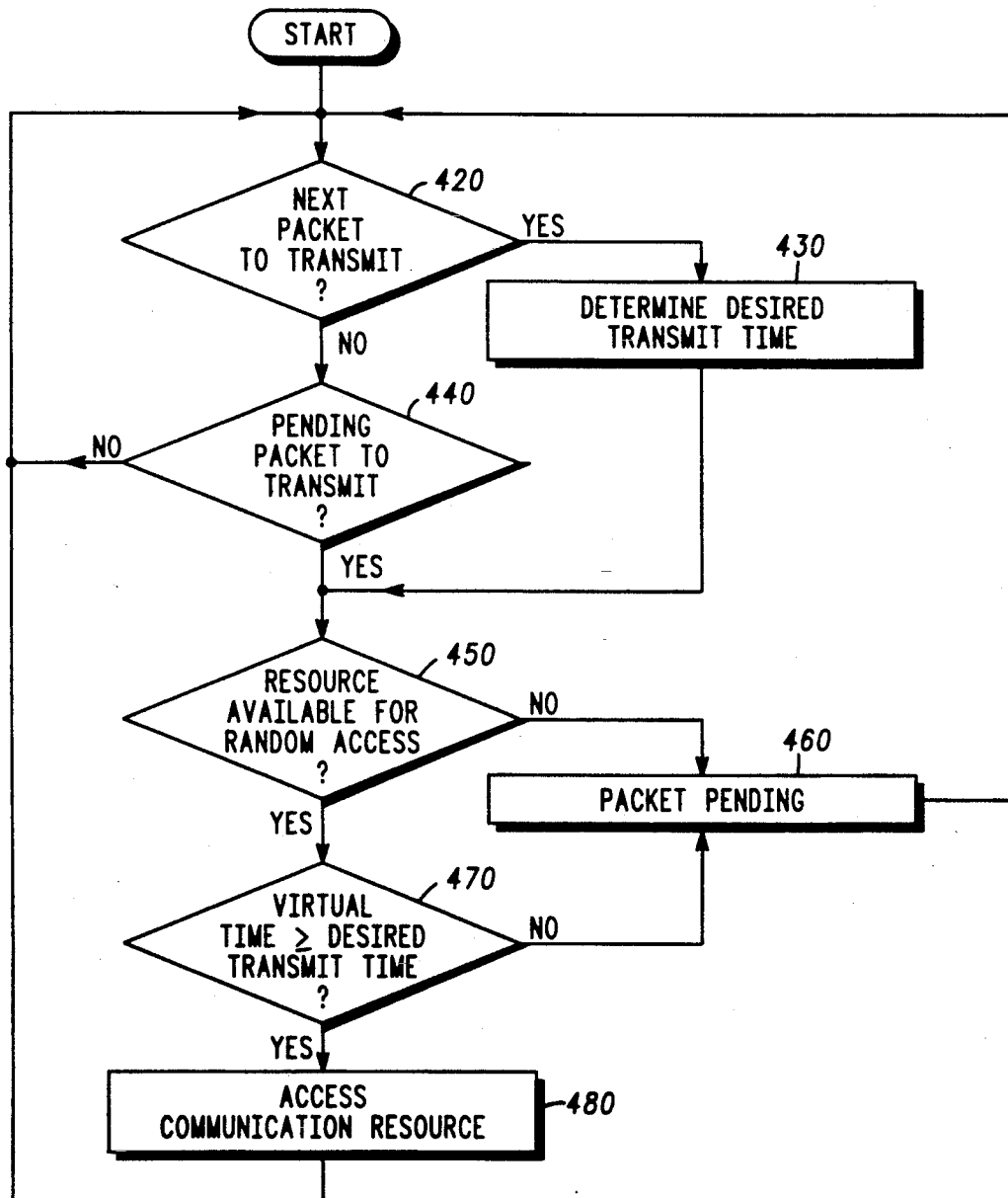
100

FIG.2A

FIG.2B

FIG.2C

FIG.3

FIG.4

<u>400</u>
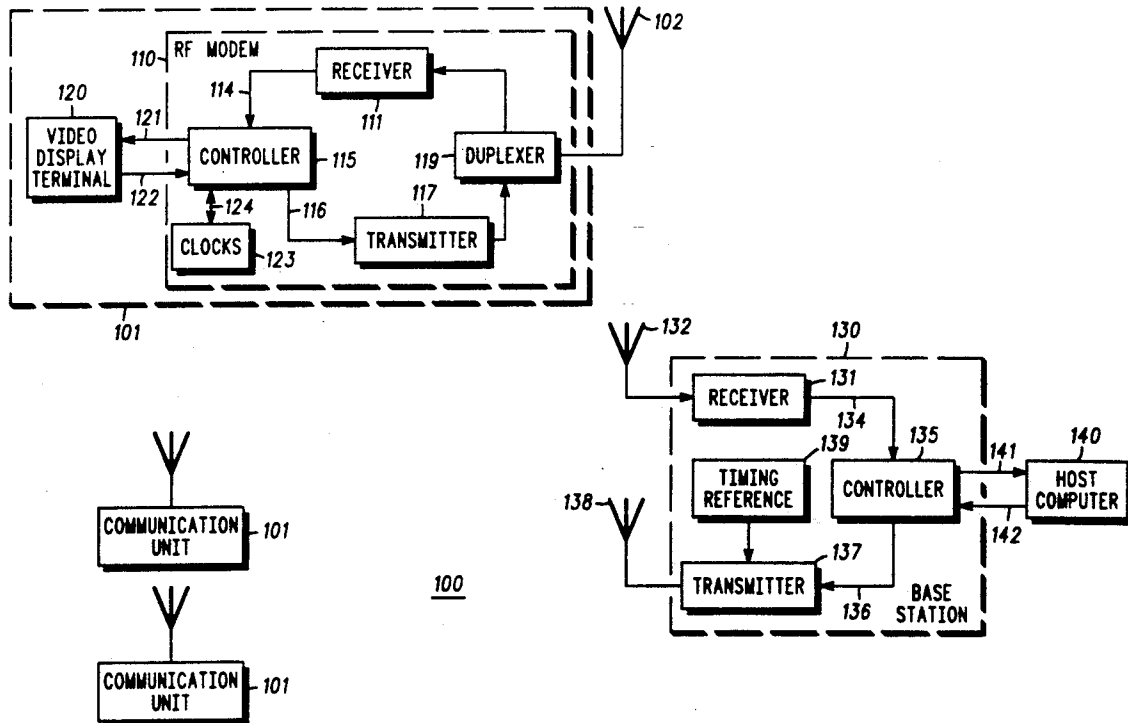
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