



[54] MULTIMEDIA CONTROL SYSTEM AND METHOD FOR CONTROLLING MULTIMEDIA PROGRAM PRESENTATION

[75] Inventors: Hal Hjalmar Ottesen; Gordon J. Smith; George Willard VanLeeuwen, all of Rochester, Minn.

[73] Assignee: International Business Machines Corporation, Armonk, N.Y.

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[52] U.S. Cl. 395/500; 348/7

[58] Field of Search 395/500; 455/4.2; 364/514 A; 348/7

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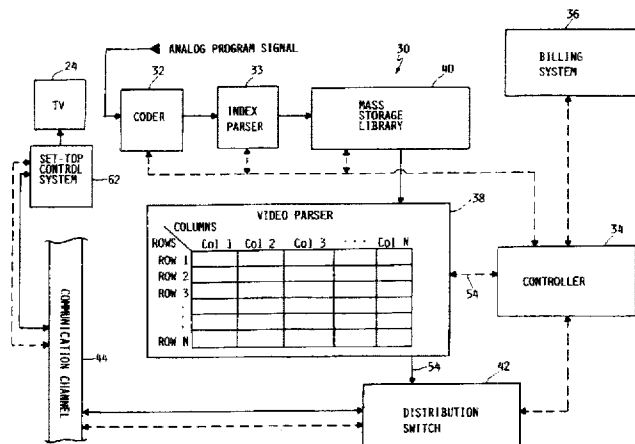
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Primary Examiner—Gary Chin
Assistant Examiner—Matthew Loppnow
Attorney, Agent, or Firm—Mark A. Hollingsworth

[57] ABSTRACT

An apparatus and method for effectuating local reception and processing of source program signals representative of a compressed digital multimedia program received from a remote multimedia server are disclosed. The multimedia server transmits a selected multimedia program as a custom ordered series of discrete program segments to a local set-top control system, which buffers and decompresses the compressed program segments for presentation on a local display monitor. A local set-top control system preferably includes a direct access storage device adapted to buffer a predetermined number of compressed program segments received from a multimedia server, some of which may be non-sequentially ordered and others of which may be sequentially ordered. A novel formatting methodology provides for the sequential presentation of the program segments asynchronously distributed on one or more data storage disks disposed in the direct access storage device. A user-definable presentation control window for performing local VCR-type presentation control functions for the portion of a multimedia program buffered in the direct access storage device is also provided through the novel formatting methodology. The novel formatting methodology also provides concurrent presentation and buffering of program segments received from the multimedia server for on-demand viewing of a selected multimedia program.

23 Claims, 30 Drawing Sheets



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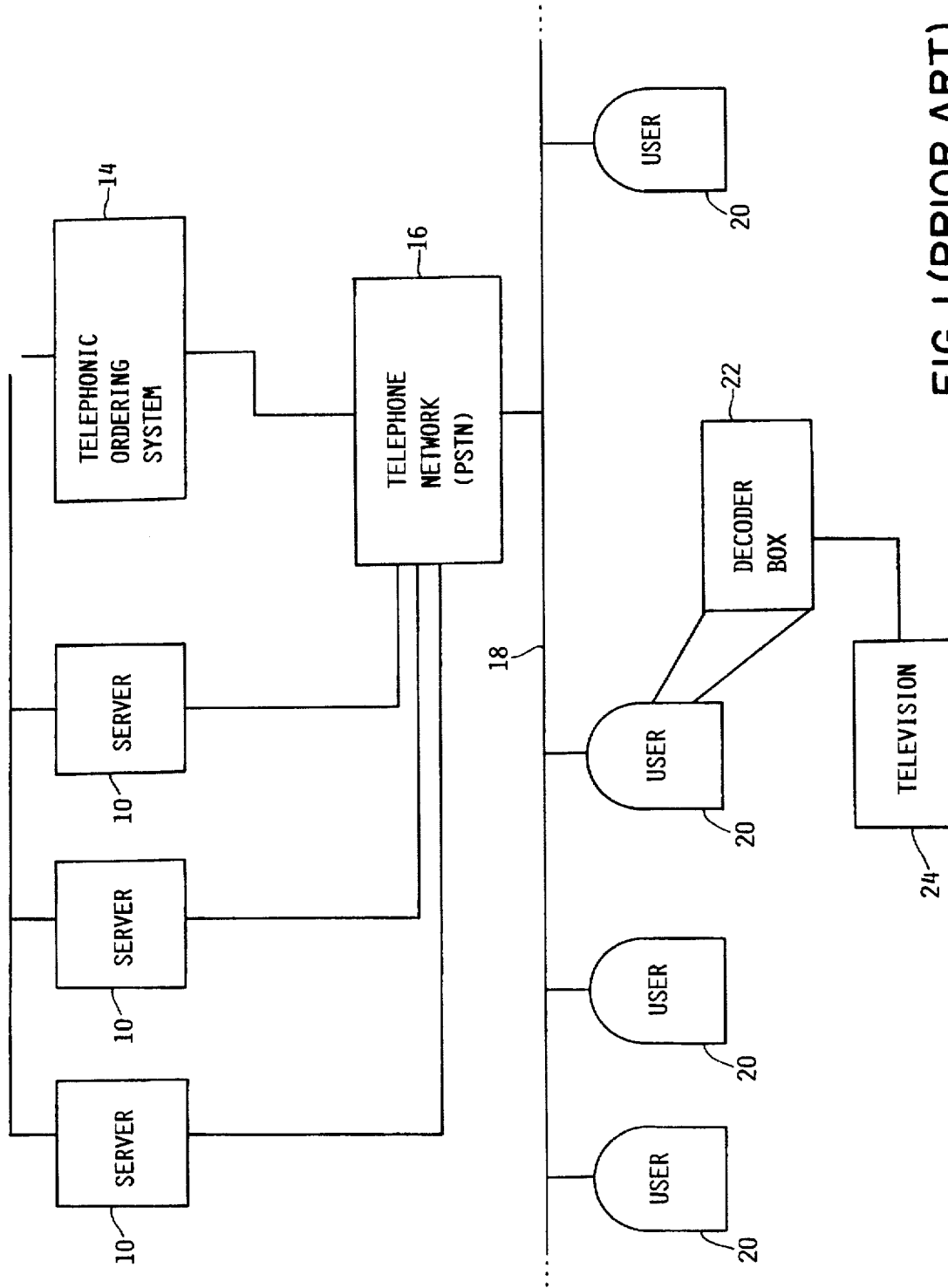


FIG. 1 (PRIOR ART)

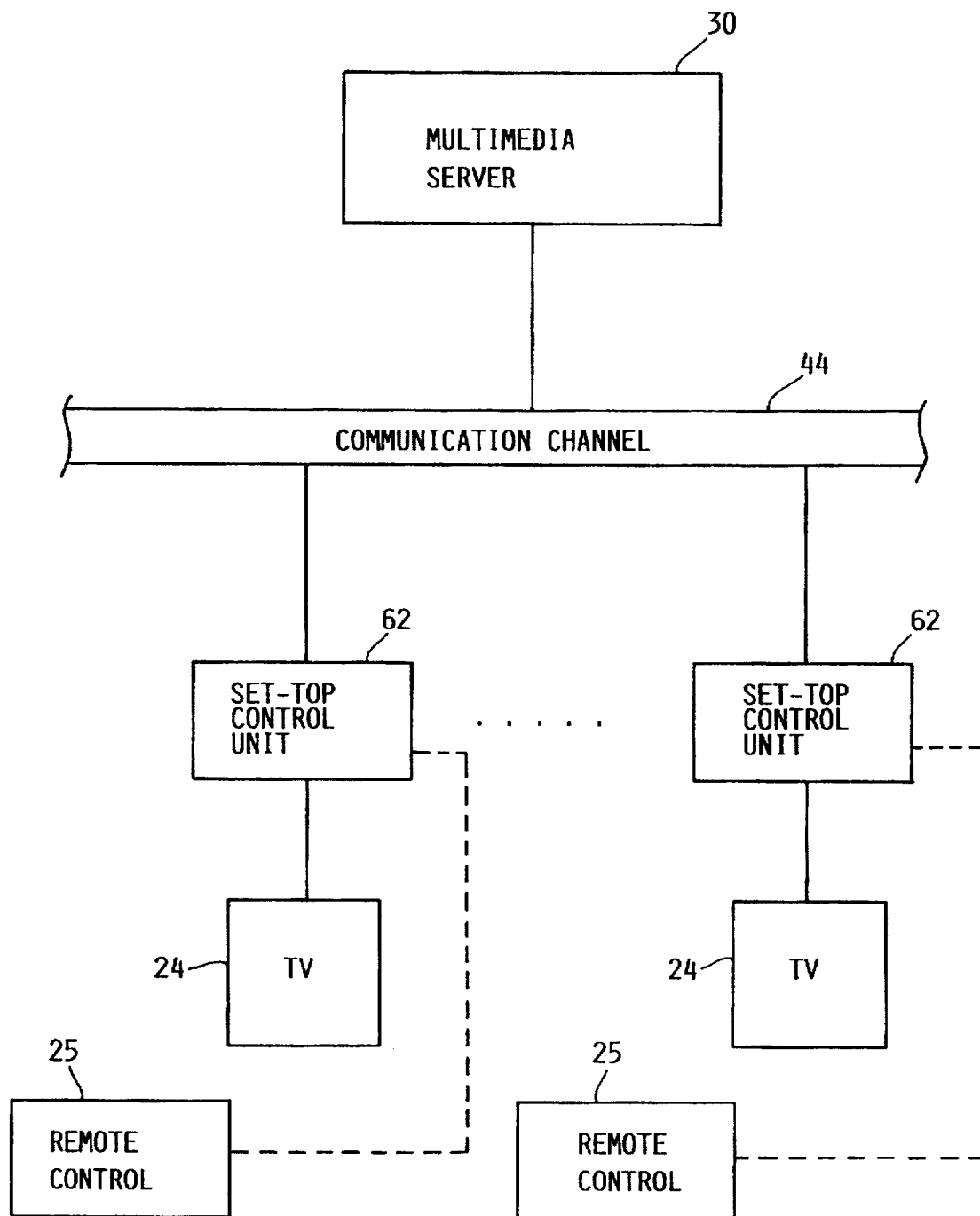
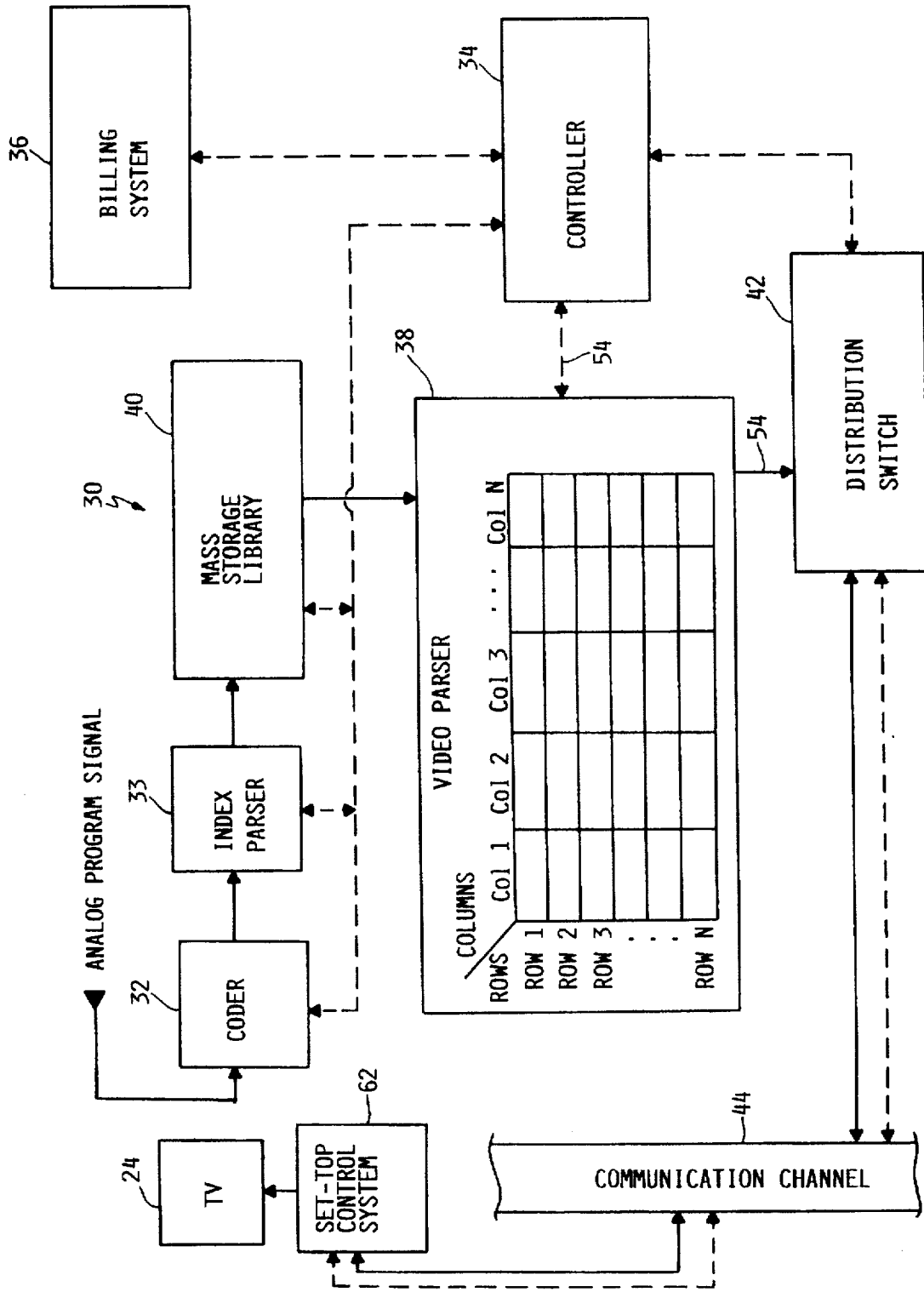


FIG. 2



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