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Knappe et al.

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(54) **VIRTUAL CONFERENCE ROOM FOR VOICE CONFERENCING**

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(*) Notice: Subject to any disclaimer, the term of this patent is extended or adjusted under 35 U.S.C. 154(b) by 759 days.

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(52) **U.S. Cl.** **370/260**; 370/266; 379/202.01; 709/204

(58) **Field of Search** 370/260, 266; 379/202.01, 203.01, 204.01, 205.01, 206.01; 709/204, 205

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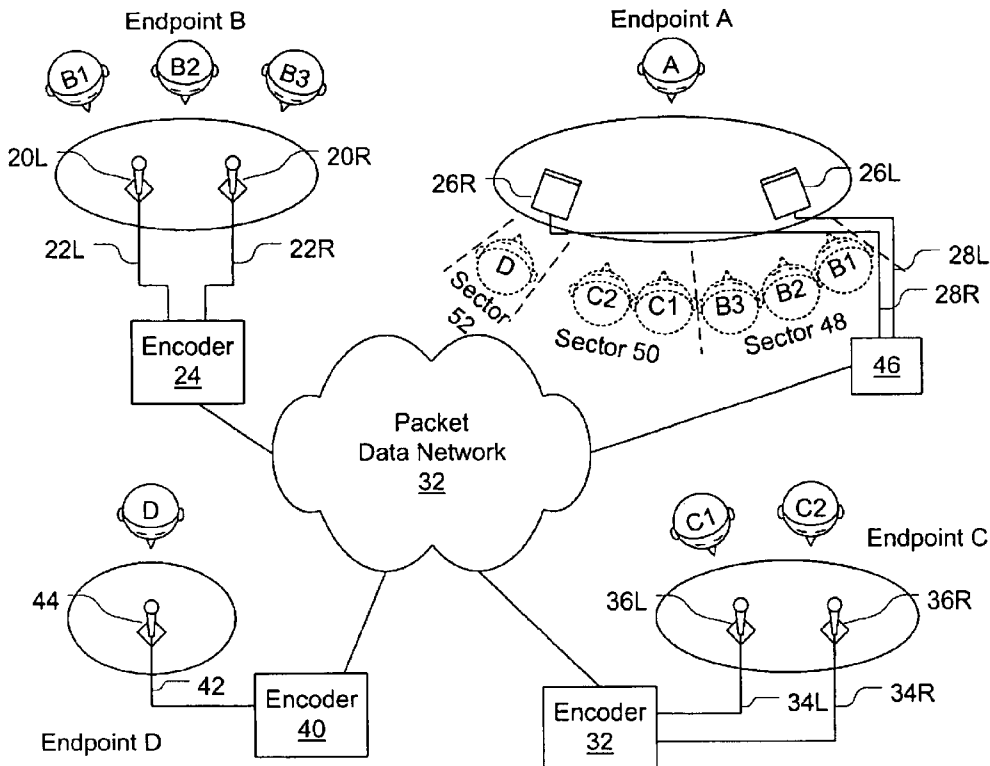
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(57) **ABSTRACT**

A system and method are disclosed for packet voice conferencing. The system and method divide a conferencing presentation sound field into sectors, and allocate one or more sectors to each conferencing endpoint. At some point between capture and playout, the voice data from each endpoint is mapped into its designated sector or sectors. Thereafter, when the voice data from a plurality of participants from multiple endpoints is combined, a listener can identify a unique apparent location within the presentation sound field for each participant. The system allows a conference participant to increase their comprehension when multiple participants speak simultaneously, as well as alleviate confusion as to who is speaking at any given time.

44 Claims, 10 Drawing Sheets



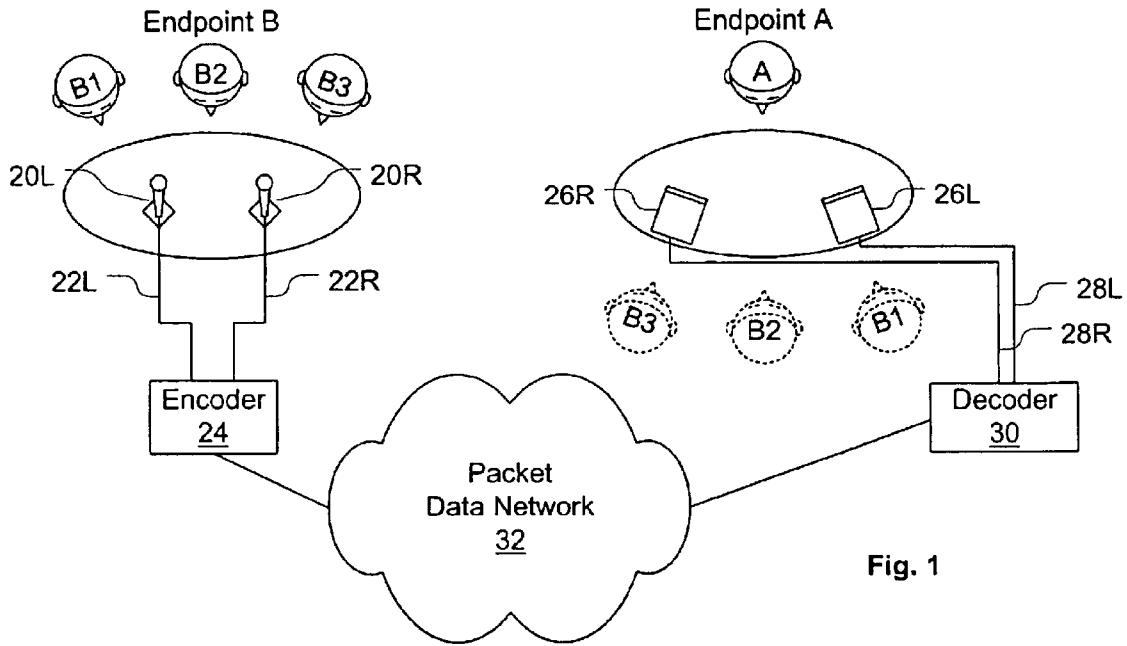


Fig. 1

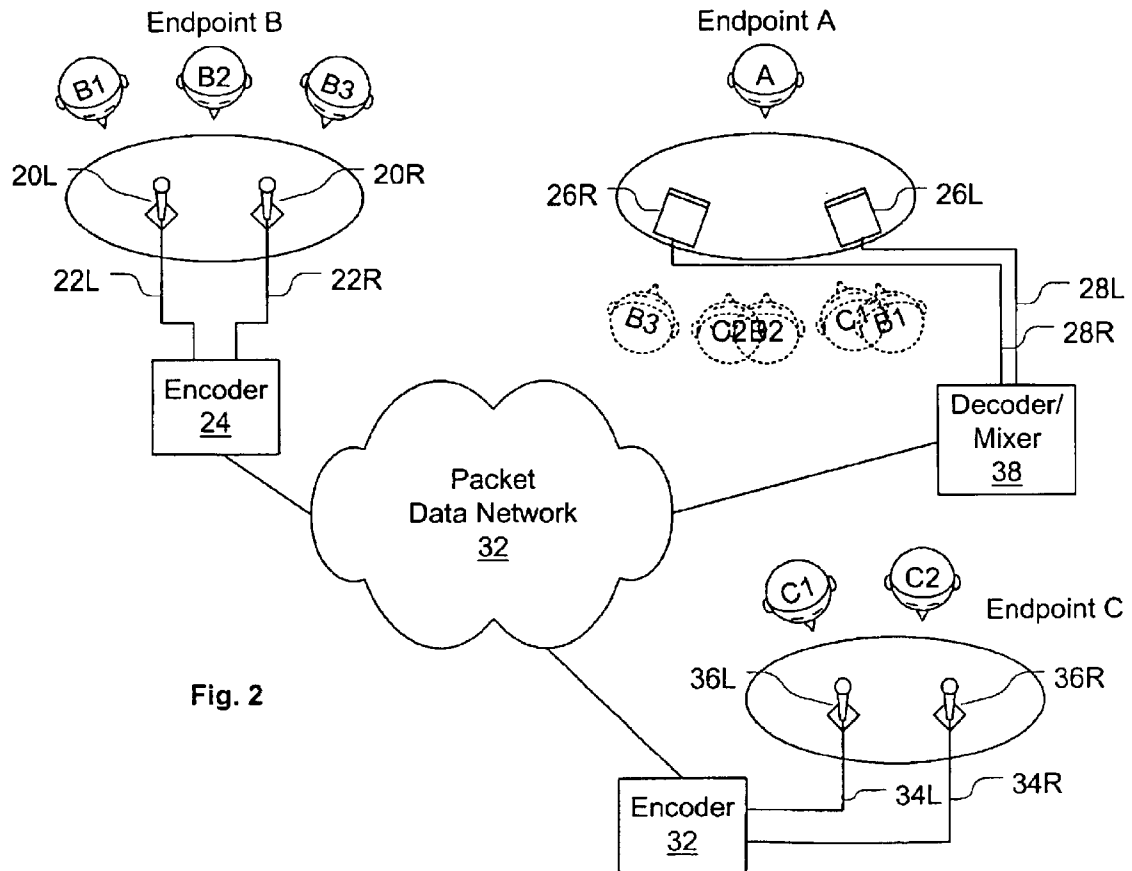
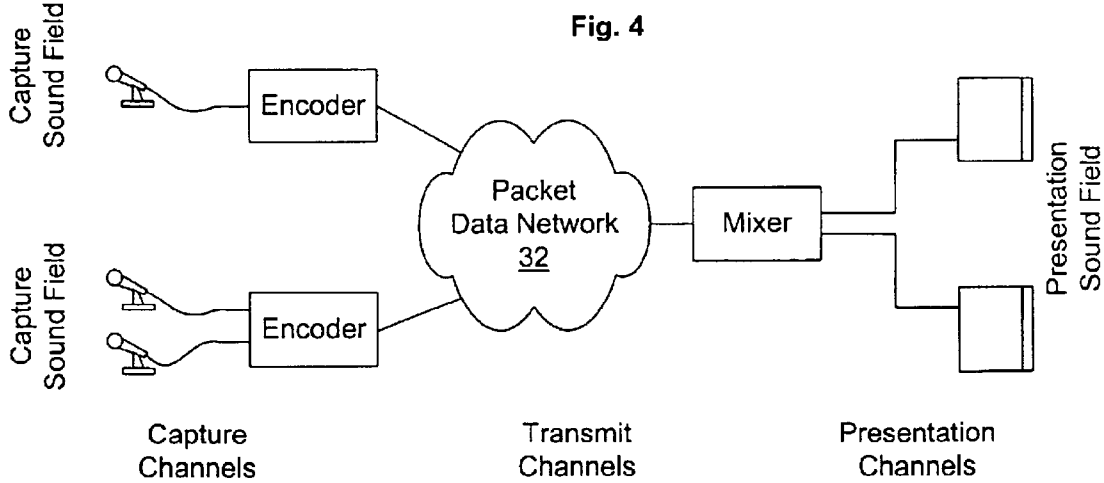
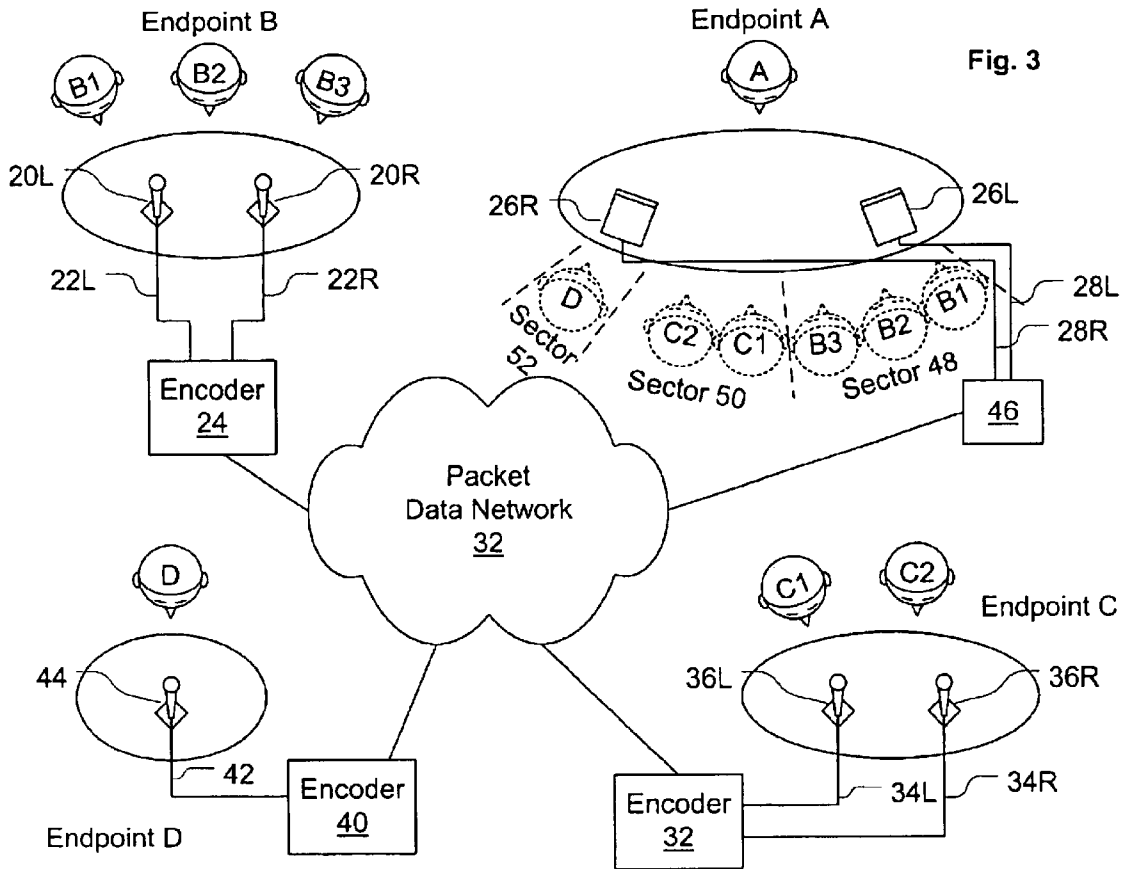


Fig. 2



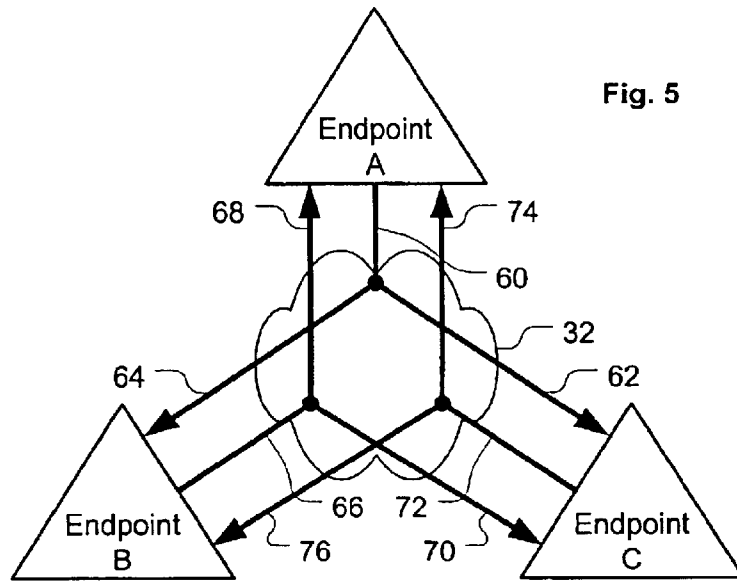


Fig. 5

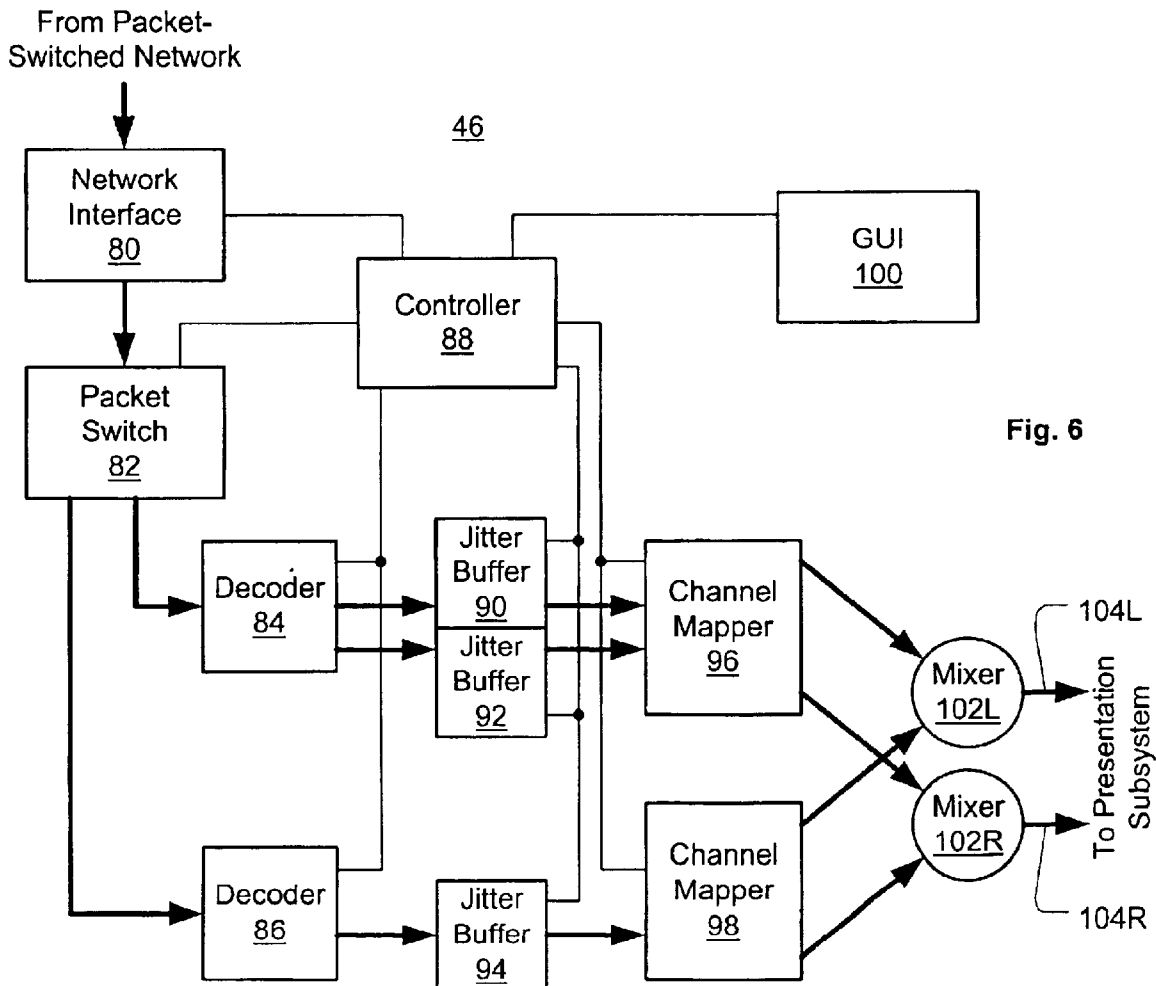


Fig. 6

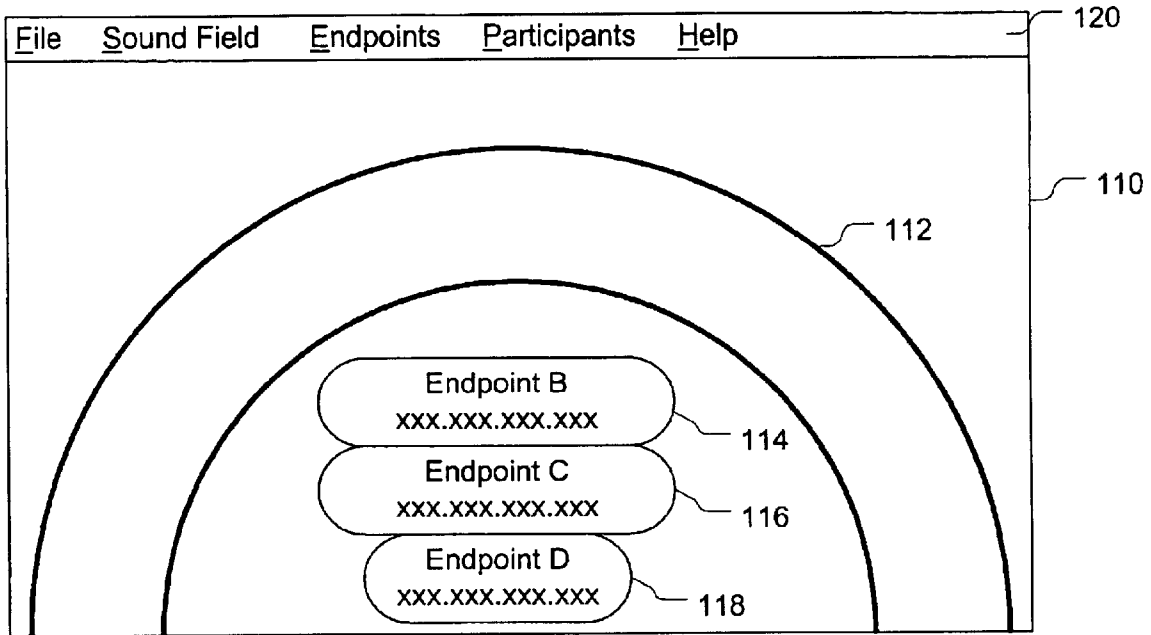


Fig. 7A

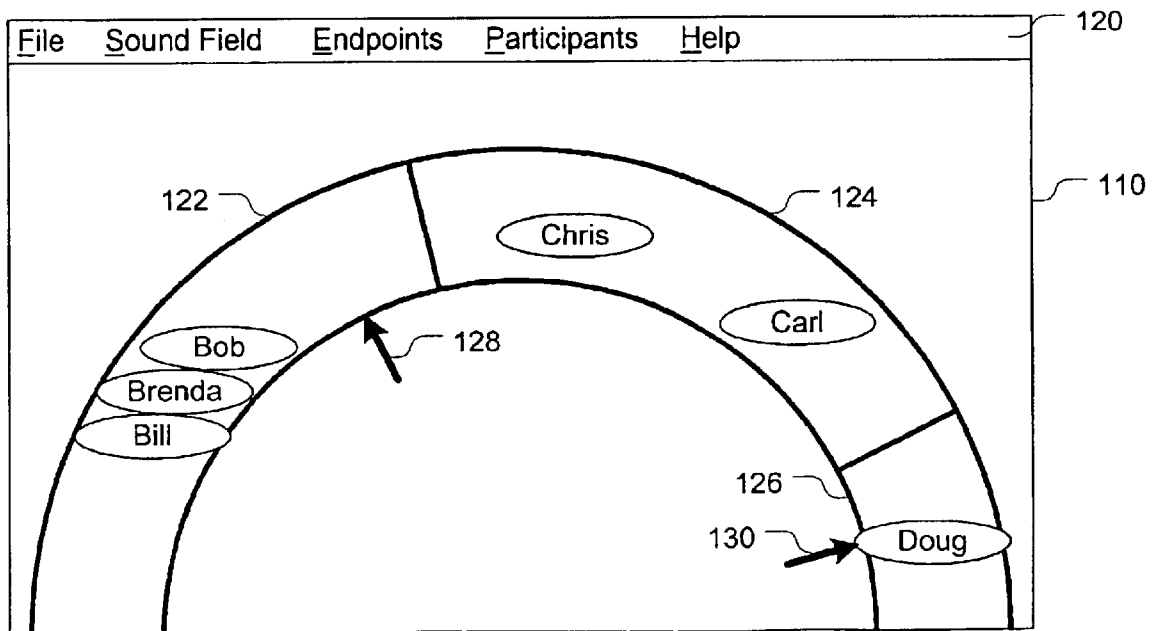


Fig. 7B

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