## CLAIMS

We claim:

1. A method of processing a data packet located in a first sequence of disjoint original segments, each original segment of the first sequence having the same length, comprising:

modifying a first of the original segments of the first sequence by modifying one or more symbols therein, a start of a data packet being located in the first of the original segments and being after a first symbol therein;

modifying a last of the original segments of the first sequence by modifying one or more symbols therein, an end of the data packet being located in the last of the original segments and being before the last symbol therein; and

determining a remainder by performing a polynomial division on a second sequence of disjoint derived segments, each segment of the second sequence corresponding to and being derived from one of the original segments, the segments of the second sequence having the length of the original segments, a first of the derived segments of the second sequence being the modified first of the original segments, a last of the derived segments of the second sequence being the modified last of the original segments.

2. The method of claim 1, wherein each derived segment that does not include the start or end of the data packet is equal to the corresponding one of the original segments.

3. The method of claim 1 or 2, wherein the modifying steps include masking portions of the original segments outside of the data packet such that said masked portions will contribute in a predetermined amount to the remainder determined by the polynomial division.

4. The method of claim 1, 2, or 3, wherein the modifying steps include masking portions of the original segments outside of the data packet such that said masked portions will not contribute to the remainder determined by the polynomial division when a cyclic redundancy check of the data packet vanishes.

5. The method of claim 1, further comprising:

writing an evaluated value of a cyclic redundancy check for the data packet into a specific one of the segments of the first sequence in response to the end of the data packet being in the specific one of the segments of the first sequence.

6. A method of processing a sequence of disjoint data segments of equal length, the sequence including a particular data packet, comprising:

masking a portion of one of the data segments, a portion of the particular data packet being in the one of the data segments and being outside of the masked portion;

modifying a start and/or end of the particular data packet; and

calculating a cyclic redundancy check for the particular data packet based on the masked segment and the modified particular data packet.

7. The method of claim 6, comprising comparing the calculated cyclic redundancy check to zero and

wherein the calculating a cyclic redundancy check comprises calculating a check sequence value based at least partially on another cyclic redundancy check transmitted with the data packet.

8. A system for processing a data packet located in a first sequence of disjoint original segments, each original segment of the first sequence having the same length, comprising:

a masking unit configured to modify one or more symbols in a first of the original segments of the first sequence where a start of the data packet is in the first of the original segments and is after a first symbol therein, the masking unit being configured to modify one or more symbols in a last of the original segments of the first sequence where an end of the data packet is located in the last of the original segments and is before a last symbol therein; and

cyclic redundancy check calculation unit configured to determine a remainder by performing a polynomial division on a second sequence of disjoint consecutive segments, each segment of the second sequence corresponding to and being derived from one of the original segments, the segments of the second sequence having the length of the original segments, the first of the derived segments of the second sequence being the modified first of the original segments, the last of the derived segments of the second sequence being the modified last of the original segments.

9. The system of claim 8, wherein the masking unit is configured to mask portions of the original segments outside of the data packet such that said portions will not contribute to the remainder determined by the polynomial division when a cyclic redundancy check of the data packet vanishes.

10. The system of claim 9, wherein the masking unit is configured to modify the first of the original segments by modifying symbols at the start of the data packet and to modify the last of the original segments by modifying symbols at the end of the data packet.

## CLAIMS

1. A method of processing a sequence of disjoint data segments of equal length, the sequence including a particular data packet, comprising:
forming a masked data segment of the length by masking a portion of one of the data segments, a portion of the particular data packet being in the one of the data segments and being outside of the masked portion, the start of the particular data packet being in the one of the data segments and being mis-aligned with a start of the one of the data segments;
forming a modified segment of the length by modifying a start or end of the particular data packet; and
calculating a cyclic redundancy check for the particular data packet by performing a calculation with the masked segment and the modified segment.

2. The method of claim 1, comprising comparing the calculated cyclic redundancy check to zero.

3. The method of claim 2, wherein the calculating a cyclic redundancy check comprises calculating a check sequence value based at least partially on another cyclic redundancy check transmitted with the data packet.

4. The method of claim 1, comprising inverting one or more symbols at the start of the data packet.

5. The method of claim 1, comprising inverting one or more symbols at the end of the data packet.

6. A system for processing a data packet located in a first sequence of disjoint original segments, each original segment of the first sequence having the same length, comprising:
a masking unit configured to modify one or more symbols in a first of the original segments of the first sequence where a start of the data packet is in the first of the original segments and is after a first symbol therein, the masking unit being configured to modify one or more symbols in a last of the original segments of the first sequence where an end of the data packet is located in the last of the original segments and is before a last symbol therein; and
cyclic redundancy check calculation unit configured to determine a remainder by performing a polynomial division on a second sequence of disjoint consecutive segments, each segment of the second sequence corresponding to and being derived from one of the original segments, the segments of the second sequence having the length of the original segments, the first of the derived segments of the second sequence being the modified first of the original segments, the last of the derived segments of the second sequence being the modified last of the original segments.

7. The system of claim 6, wherein the masking unit is configured to mask portions of the original segments outside of the data packet such that said portions will not contribute to the remainder determined by the polynomial division when a cyclic redundancy check of the data packet vanishes.

8. The system of claim 7, wherein the masking unit is configured to modify the first of the original segments by modifying symbols at the start of the data packet and to modify the last of the original segments by modifying symbols at the end of the data packet.

9. The method of claim 1, wherein the modifying includes modifying the start of the particular data packet.

10. The method of claim 1, further comprising forming another masked data segment of the length by masking an end portion of another of the data segments, an end of the particular data packet being in the another of the data segments and being outside of the masked end portion thereof.

11. The method of claim 10, wherein the end of the particular data packet is mis-aligned with an end of the another of the data segments.

12. The method of claim 11, wherein the calculating a cyclic redundancy check includes performing a calculation on the another masked data segment.

13. The method of claim 9, wherein the modifying includes modifying the end of the particular data packet.

14. The method of claim 1, wherein the modifying includes modifying the end of the particular data packet.