

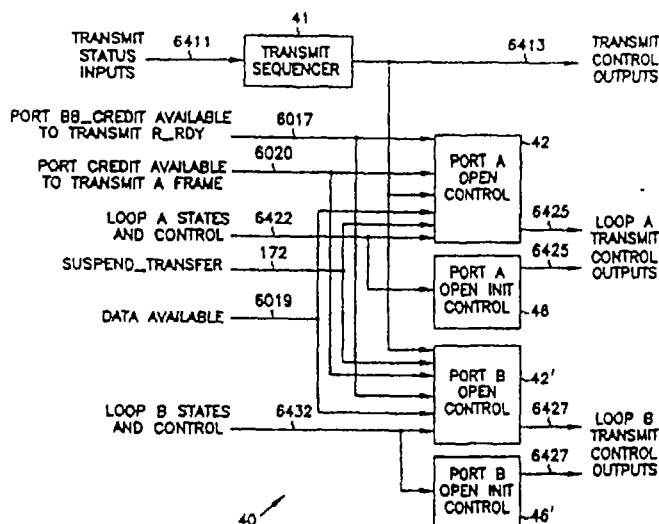
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(54) Title: PRESERVING LOOP FAIRNESS WITH DYNAMIC HALF-DUPLEX



(57) Abstract

A method and apparatus for preserving loop fairness. Some embodiments include a dynamic half-duplex feature. One aspect includes a communications channel system and method for preserving loop fairness that includes a first channel node having one or more ports, each port supporting and attached to a fibre-channel arbitrated-loop serial communications channel. One of the ports will arbitrate for control of that port's attached channel, wherein control of the channel loop, once arbitration is won, a fairness-preserving apparatus causes control of the communications channel to be released based at least in part on whether a predetermined amount of use has occurred between the first port and the communications channel. In some embodiments, the predetermined amount of use includes a transfer of a first predetermined amount of data. In some embodiments, release of control of the channel is inhibited if less than a second predetermined amount of data remains to be transferred.