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ABSTRACT



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ELECTRONIC PARKING METER SYSTEM

An electronic parking meter system, comprising:

multiple electronic parking meters, each respectively determining the time a parking space associated with the respective electronic parking meter is occupied by a vehicle and receiving coins denoting desired parking time and indicating said time;

multiple inductive loop vehicle detection sensors and each respective inductive loop vehicle detection sensor being located to detect both the physical presence or absence of a vehicle in said respective parking space and emitting a respective signal indicative thereof;

multiple microprocessor controllers, each controller being coupled to a corresponding sensor and a corresponding electronic parking meter for selectively controlling each electronic parking meter and each controller responsive to a respective sensor signal;

each electronic parking meter indicating time provided upon payment with a vehicle occupying said space to obtain a fixed amount of time in accordance with the amount of payment, each said electronic parking meter decrementing the indicated time; and

said controller initializing said electronic parking meter to zero when the corresponding sensor signals the corresponding controller that a vehicle no longer occupies the corresponding parking space of the associated meter.

Figure 1