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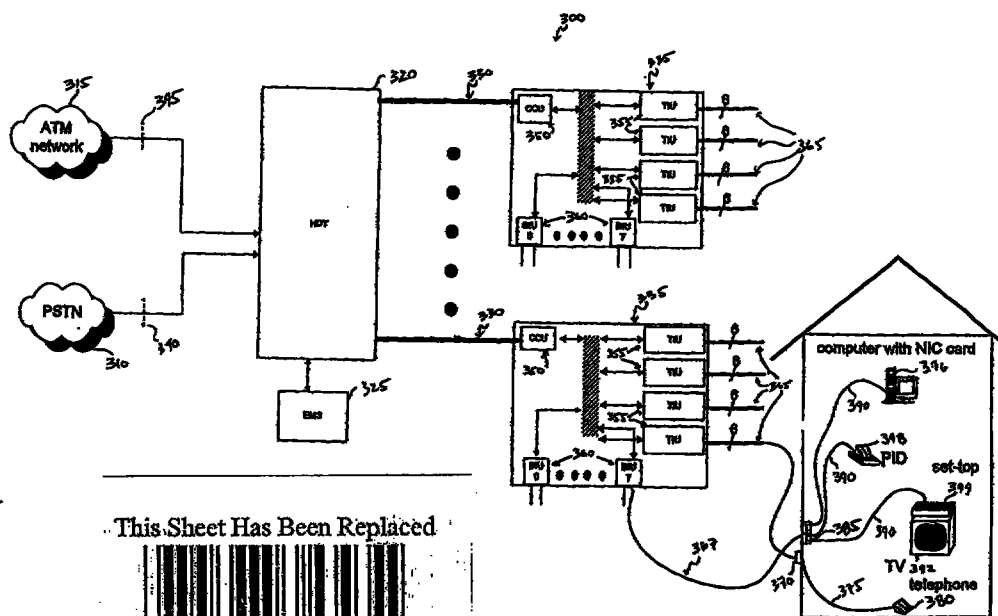
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(54) Title: METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR INSERTING/EXTRACTING SETS OF SIGNALS INTO/FROM A SIGNAL STREAM



(57) Abstract

A method and apparatus in an optical network unit for identifying signals for a set of communication devices in a signal stream having signals for a number of different sets of communication devices. Each optical network unit ONU (335) includes a common control unit CCU (350) which uses a content addressable memory CAM for identifying sets of signals that need to be extracted from the signal stream and transmitted to a first set (392, 394, 396, 398) of communication devices; and identifying time periods for inserting sets of signals from a first set of communication devices into a signal stream.