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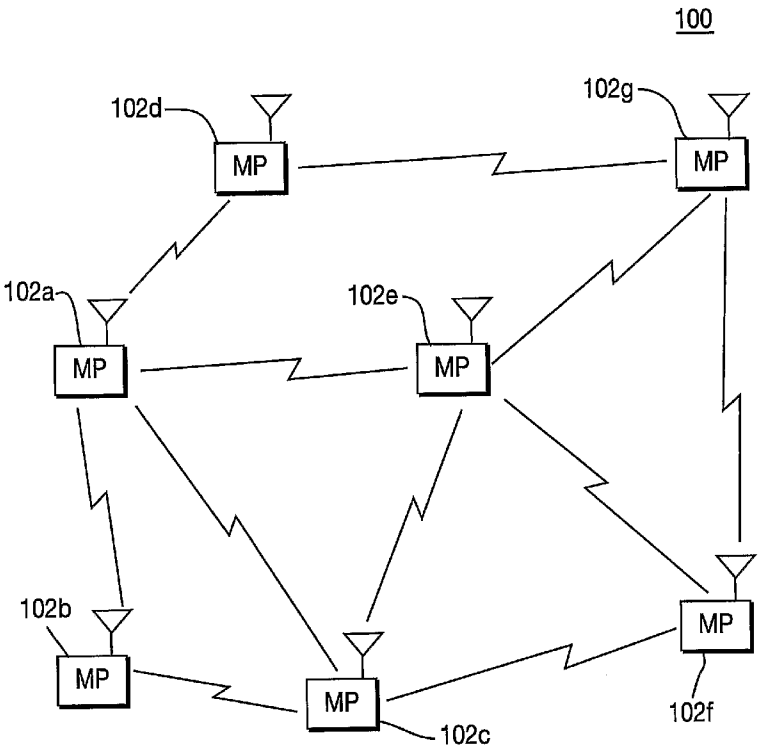
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(54) Title: METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR SUPPORTING DATA FLOW CONTROL IN A WIRELESS MESH NETWORK



(57) Abstract: A method and apparatus for supporting data flow control in a wireless mesh network by reporting to a source mesh point (MP) in a particular path the allowed data rate that each MP in the path may support. The source MP sends, over the path, a data packet destined which includes a flow identification (ID) field and an available data rate field to a destination MP. An acknowledgement (ACK) packet including the same fields is sent in response to the data packet. The source MP adjusts a data rate in accordance with the available data rate field in the ACK packet. Alternatively, a congestion indication field may be used instead of the available data rate field to indicate that congestion exists on the path. Additionally, a quality of service (QoS) field indicating QoS parameters for the data flow may be included in the data and ACK packets.

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