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(71) Applicant: LANDIS+GYR INNOVATIONS, INC.

[US/US]; 30000 Mill Creek Avenue, Suite 100, Alpharetta,
Georgia 30022 (US).

(72) Inventors: MATTHEWS, Justin Clifford; 241 O'Riordan

Street Mascot, Sydney, New South Wales 2020 (AU).
HOLCOMBE, Michael Sean; 30000 Mill Creek Avenue,
Suite 100, Alpharetta, Georgia 30022 (US). HETT,
Christopher Scott; 30000 Mill Creek Avenue, Suite 100,
Alpharetta, Georgia 30022 (US).

(74) Agent: HOLMES, Brenda Ozaki et al.; IP Docketing -

22nd Floor, 1100 Peachtree Street NE, Suite 2800, Atlanta,
Georgia 30309 (US).

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(54) Title: TIME DIVISION PHYSICAL LAYER ACCESS FOR NETWORK COMMUNICATIONS

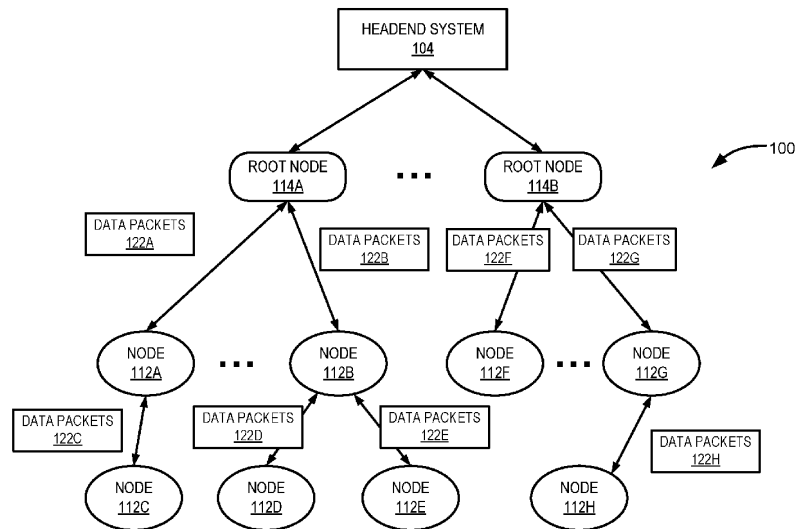


FIG. 1

(57) Abstract: A system for switching between different communication modes by network nodes according to a time-division schedule to transmit and receive data packets is provided. For example, a transmitting node is configured to determine a scheduled communication mode of an upcoming time division according to a time-division schedule, and transmit a data packet in that time division when the scheduled communication mode matches a selected communication mode supported by both the transmitting node and a receiving node. The receiving node operates in a scheduled communication mode specified for a current time division by the time-division schedule and determines whether a header of the data packet is detected in the current time division. If not, the receiving node switches to a second scheduled communication mode specified for the subsequent time division by the time-division schedule to detect the header of the data packet in a subsequent time division.

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