

Description

Background of the invention

1. Field of the invention

This invention relates generally to the field of signal synchronization systems and in particular to a signal synchronization system in which predetermined adjustments are made as a function of the time sample and the degree of dissimilarity between incoming and reference signals.

2. Description of the prior art

Signal synchronization systems for analog signals are well known in the art and, perhaps the best known systems are employed to control the tuning frequency for radio receivers. A phase lock loop circuit containing a voltage control oscillator would normally compare frequency with that of a master oscillator. Any drift of the voltage controlled oscillator frequency is detected by a phase comparator and the resulting error voltage provides a signal to adjust the voltage controlled oscillator and correct the frequency. The magnitude of the error signal is directly proportional to the phase difference between the signals and thus, synchronization may be maintained.

There have been many variations of prior art phase lock loop circuits which have been applied to processing incoming signals containing information in a digital format. The usual requirement in such systems is to synchronize a local clock with an external system clock so that correct decoding of digital information may be achieved. Such a system would be similar to a radio receiver tuning control circuit in which the voltage controlled oscillator is replaced by a local clock and phase adjustment circuit operating so that instead of modifying an oscillator's frequency, the local clock is adjusted to achieve time synchronization with the incoming signal.

As shown in the block diagram of Figure 1, a data input line is supplied to a phase detector, which operates to determine the phase difference between the local clock and the incoming data signal. Such phase lock loop systems frequently include a transfer function circuit for modifying the effect of the error signal to achieve a predetermined functional relationship in the response of the system. The transfer function circuit is frequently designated as a weighting circuit and may include some time delay. The modified function is then applied to a sample and hold device which allows adjustments to be made to a system only at specific time periods. A separate timing circuit would normally determine when the modified adjustment will be applied to the phase adjuster to alter the local clock signal timing. The phase adjuster provides a recovered clock signal which is supplied to the phase detector.

The problems with such prior art circuits are several including the detection and distinguishing of digital signal levels which are usually in binary form, the effect of noise in the signal, and the cumulative effect of past adjustments. It is also difficult to determine the beginning and ending of a bit interval and the inclusion of the sample and hold feature is for the purpose of applying corrections only at selected intervals which ideally correspond to the edges defining a bit interval.

Another form of phase lock loop circuit which has been employed for synchronization utilizes differentiation techniques for the purpose of detecting the occurrence of edges of bit intervals. Normally, such systems rely on the detection of a repetitive 0 and 1 level signal pattern of sufficient length to allow the system to identify the occurrence of edges and to achieve synchronization of the local clock system with respect to the incoming bit edge sequence. The difficulties with the edge detection synchronization systems are that a 0 and 1 synchronization bit pattern must ordinarily be imposed on the incoming signal so that a sufficient number of distinct uniformly spaced edges can be provided to achieve synchronization; the presence of noise during the reception of this critical synchronization bit pattern can destroy the synchronization attempt; and simple drift in the local clock can result in a loss of synchronization.

Some additional prior art systems which attempt to reduce the problem by including a recovery circuit to maintain functioning if synchronization is not achieved within the time span of the repetitive 0 and 1 sequence or is subsequently lost have local clocks which can be synchronized in phase with broadcast system clocks, and thereby normally function as slave units, but can also function as a master clock in the event that synchronization is lost. The principal problem with such systems is that for digital information being broadcast in a synchronous format, having a local clock operating as a master clock can only be advantageous if the local clock has indeed been synchronized to the system clock and does not exhibit any drift with time and if the disruption interval is quite short.

A signal synchronization system in accordance with the precharacterising portion of Claim 1 is known from United States Patent No. 3654390.

Summary of the invention

It is an object of the present invention to provide an improved signal synchronization system.

It is another object to provide a signal synchronization system in which adjustments are a function of both time and the magnitude of dissimilarity between signals.

It is a further object to provide a signal synchronization system which adjusts timing to achieve synchronization which is responsive to the cumulative effect of past adjustments.

The present invention encompasses a signal synchronization system as defined in Claim 1. The present invention also encompasses more specifically a digital synchronization system which relies on repetitive

sampling occurring at a sufficient rate to give several data samples during an anticipated bit interval period. Each of these samples is processed and combined with the output of a sequence correlator which determines the difference between the information contained in the sequence of the sampled incoming digital signal and a predetermined reference bit sequence. The sampling clock system adjustment is based on the derived information of the magnitude of the difference between the known and received bit sequence and the sample time period during which this information is derived. The magnitude of the difference and the sample period each constitutes an independent variable. A memory is accessed by two independent variables, to provide the predetermined correction to achieve synchronization of the sampling clock. The predetermined correction which is to be applied is made to be dependent upon the cumulative effect of the recent history of adjustments. The synchronization function of the device eventually adjusts the sampling clock so that the minimum bit sequence error is achieved at a central sampling interval substantially corresponding to the center of the anticipated bit interval.

Brief description of the drawings

Features of this invention which are believed to be novel are set forth with particularity in the appended claims. The invention itself, however, together with its further objects and advantages thereof, may be best understood by reference to the following description, when taken in conjunction with the accompanying drawings, in which:

Figure 1 is a functional block diagram showing prior art synchronization systems.

Figure 2A is a functional block diagram of the synchronization system for the preferred embodiment of the present invention.

Figure 2B is a more detailed functional block diagram for the preferred embodiment of the present invention.

Figures 3A and 3B are detailed electrical schematics of the synchronization apparatus for Figure 2B.

Figure 4 is a functional block diagram for an alternative embodiment of a signal correlator for the present invention.

Figure 5 is a block diagram of a microcomputer containing the firmware program for an alternative embodiment of the invention.

Figure 6 is a diagram of the digital signal format for the alternative embodiment of the invention.

Figures 7A and 7B comprise a single flowchart of the entire firmware program for the alternative embodiment of the invention.

Figure 8 is a detailed flowchart of the synchronization subprogram for the alternative embodiment of the invention.

Description of the preferred embodiment

Referring now more particularly to the drawings, Figure 2A shows a functional block diagram of the synchronization system for the preferred embodiment of the present invention. A pattern analyzer 20 receives two input signals, designated signal 1 and signal 2. The function of pattern analyzer 20 is to compare the signal patterns of signal 1 and signal 2 and produce a control signal which is related to the measured differences or dissimilarity between the two incoming signals. A timing means 22 generates regular timing signals. Adjustment means 24 is coupled to a local signal means 26 and receives the control signal from pattern analyzer 20 and timing signals generated by timing means 22. Adjustment means 24 produces an adjustment signal which is a function of the control signal and timing signals. A local signal means 26 produces an output signal which is adjusted by an adjustment signal from adjustment means 24.

When signal 1 and signal 2 are applied to pattern analyzer 20 a control signal is produced. This control signal in conjunction with timing signals of timing means 22 constitute two independent variables which are provided to adjustment means 24 and determine the characteristics of the adjustment signal which will be supplied to local signal means 26. The output signal of adjustment means 24 is a function of the two independent variables of its input signals. Local signal means 26 produces an output signal which is then adjusted in time by the output signal of adjustment means 24. Thus the local signal means output signal, as a function of time, is controlled by adjustment means 24. Thus the synchronization which occurs is in the timing of the output signal of local signal means 26 as a function of the difference between signal 1 and signal 2 and time as independent parameters. Thus, it may be advanced or retarded by any magnitude.

Figure 2B is a more detailed block diagram of the synchronization system for the preferred embodiment operating in discrete time. It has been additionally modified to show more details of the preferred embodiment. A receiver 30 receives a single incoming signal. Receiver 30 may be either a hard wire connection or a type of communication receiver detecting transmitted information. Receiver 30 is connected to a correlation pattern matcher 32 which corresponds to pattern analyzer 20. However, the signal provided to correlation pattern matcher 32 is preferably a binary digital pattern. A second signal input to correlation pattern matcher 32 is not shown in this more detailed diagram since the pattern is a predetermined signal and it is more convenient to provide pattern matcher 32 with an internal second signal against which the correlation is performed. The output signal of correlation pattern matcher 32 is supplied to an addressable memory 34 and to a comparator 36. This output signal measures the difference or dissimilarity between the incoming signal pattern and the internally stored or generated predetermined

signal pattern. This difference may be a discrete value as in the case of differences between binary digit sequences or it may be a continuously variable difference signal for two generalized signal patterns.

Comparator 36 receives a reference value signal for assessment of the magnitude of the difference or dissimilarity from correlation pattern matcher 32. An output of comparator 36 under the condition that the difference magnitude from a known pattern is less than the reference value is designated as Detect Match Signal which is supplied to an AND gate 38. AND 38 also receives an Enable Adjust Signal from an external clock. The signal at the output of AND 38 will eventually allow updating the adjustments to achieve synchronization at predetermined time intervals as determined by the external clock. The use of the term external clock is merely to distinguish this clock operation from the equivalent of timing means 22. The output of AND 38 is connected to a variable phase clock 40 and to a clear terminal of an N-state counter 42. A first output of N-state counter 42 is connected to addressable memory 34. The output of addressable memory 34 is connected to variable phase clock 40. The output of variable phase clock 40 is designated as Sampling Clock Signal and is applied to a second input of N-state counter 42 and to a second input of correlation pattern matcher 32. At a second output terminal of N-state counter 42 is a signal designated Recovered Clock which corresponds to the time for an anticipated bit interval edge.

When a signal is received and detected by receiver 30 it is supplied to correlation pattern matcher 32 where it is correlated with an internally stored or generated predetermined pattern. The output of the correlation pattern matcher 32 is a signal which is a measure of the difference or dissimilarity between the incoming signal detected by receiver 30 and the predetermined signal pattern. This output signal is applied to addressable memory 34 and serves as one independent variable to partially designate a corresponding adjustment signal defined by a specific functional relationship. In the case of the preferred embodiment it is convenient for the purposes of this description to use a binary signal pattern as the received pattern and correspondingly the predetermined pattern for correlation will also be a binary sequence. The output signal from correlation pattern analyzer 32 is then a discrete value which addresses a range of locations within addressable memory 34.

In a similar manner, N-state counter 42 corresponds to timing means 22 and it is convenient to describe its function terms of discrete timing signals or intervals relating to the counting states of the counter. The outputs of N-state counter 42 are timing signals which form the second independent variable supplied to an adjustment means to determine the functional relationship. In the present case, the discrete timing signals specify a range of addresses of locations in addressable memory 34 for the value for the functionally related adjustment signal. An output of N-state counter 42 is connected to memory 34 and along with the control signal complete the designation of a unique addressable location contained in addressable memory 34. The information contained in the various locations of addressable memory 34 can only be accessed by the various combinations of the signal from N-state counter 42 and the output signal from correlation pattern matcher 32. The information contained in addressable memory 34 comprises the discrete corrections with magnitude and direction which will be applied to variable phase clock 40. Although described as a discrete system, it is clear that any functional relationship can be made using the timing and dissimilarity signals as independent variables.

Comparator 36 provides an output signal which indicates that a sufficient correlation has been achieved so that a match in the patterns may be said to have been detected. This requires a predetermined value which is deemed sufficient for synchronization purposes in this case if the measure of the difference from the known pattern is A, then the predetermined reference magnitude is B. This value is the largest difference which is acceptable. Thus, whenever A is less than B, a signal is produced indicating that sufficient correlation has been detected. This is consistent with the normal concept of correlation.

It is convenient to combine the Detect Match Signal with an appropriate time signal at the inputs to AND 38 to generate an Update signal. This Update Signal enables the variable phase clock 40 to apply the correction to alter the timing of its sampling clock signal by the correction stored in addressable memory 34. The Update signal is also coupled to N-state counter 42 to provide clearing that counter so that it may restart its counting operation. As will be described in more detail later, the various states of N-state counter 42 correspond to the finite time intervals into which an anticipated bit interval will be divided with the sampling clock signal supplied to N-state counter actuating each state.

Although many other possible combinations of the independent variables could be suitable, it may be seen that the correction to the variable phase clock is a function of both the detected difference or dissimilarity between the incoming signal and the known pattern and the time at which this difference is determined. Therefore, the corrections which are applied to the variable phase clock are a function of two independent variables, namely the sampling time position within an anticipated interval and the magnitude of the sampled difference between incoming and known signals.

Figures 3A and 3B, in combination, show the detailed electrical schematic diagram for a first embodiment of the synchronization system of Figure 2B. A sampling clock signal is applied to the clock input terminals of a series arrangement of five eight bit serial shift registers having parallel outputs designated, respectively, 50, 52, 54, 56 and 58. A data input signal which comprises a sampled received signal pattern for synchronization is applied to the data input terminal of serial shift register 50. Each of the five serial shift registers has eight parallel outputs designated as A₀ through A₇. The series arrangement of the serial shift registers is achieved by interconnecting output A₇ of register 50 with the data input terminal of serial register 52. Similarly, output terminal A₇ of register 52 is connected to the data input terminal of

register 54; output terminal A₇ of register 54 is connected to the data input terminal of register 56; and output terminal A₇ of register 56 is connected to the data input terminal of register 58.

Terminals A₀ through A₇ of each of registers 50, 52, 54, 56 and 58 are connected, respectively, to the input terminals of programmable read-only memories (PROM) 60, 62, 64, 66 and 68. Each of PROM's 60, 62, 64, 66 and 68 has four output terminals designated O₀ through O₃. Output terminals O₀ through O₃ of PROM's 60 and 62 are connected to the input terminals of a binary adder 70. Similarly, output terminals O₀ through O₃ of PROM's 64 and 66 are connected to the input terminals of a binary adder 72. Binary adders 70 and 72 each have a clock input terminal IN which is grounded and four output terminals designated Σ_0 through Σ_3 . The outputs of binary adders 70 and 72 are connected to the corresponding eight input terminals of a third binary adder 74, which has its clock input terminal IN grounded.

The OT terminal of binary adder 70 is connected to a first input of an AND gate 76 and the first input of an Exclusive OR gate 78. The OT output terminal of binary adder 72 is connected to the second input of AND 76 and to the second input of Exclusive OR 78. The Σ_0 through Σ_3 output terminals of binary adder 74 are connected to the first four input terminals of a binary adder 80. Output terminals O₀ through O₃ of PROM 68 are connected to the remaining set of four input terminals of binary adder 80. Binary adder 80 has its clock input terminal IN of a binary adder 82. The O₇ terminal of adder 74 is connected to a first input terminal of binary adder 82. The next three input terminals of adder 82 are grounded. The output of Exclusive OR 78 is connected to a fifth input terminal of binary adder 82 and the output of AND 76 is connected to its sixth input terminal. The seventh and eighth input terminals of binary adder 82 are connected to ground. The four output terminals of binary adder 80 are designated signals B₀ through B₃ and only two output terminals of binary adder 82 are shown and are designated as signals B₄ and B₅. Signals B₀ through B₅ are additionally designated as the correlator output signal.

Generally, the functioning of signal correlators is well understood in the art. An incoming signal is compared with a reference signal, usually by some type of comparator device, and the output is then provided to a summing circuit for the purpose of adding up the number of similar or dissimilar comparisons. As for example, U.S. Patent No. 4,032,885 shows such a prior art digital correlator operating in the described manner. In the preferred embodiment for the present invention, it is advantageous to eliminate the separator comparator operation with the reference signal and allow the output of the serial bit registers into which the input data has been serially stored, to directly address a memory location in one of the several programmable read-only memories. The information at that location is the correct number of dissimilar comparisons.

Briefly, the operation of the correlator for the preferred embodiment is as follows. The data input signal is applied to the first register in the serial arrangement of the eight bit shift registers and, with each sampling clock signal, the measured signal level of the sample of the received signal is appropriately clocked into the first register. During start up of the system, the data will serially shift from left to right until all of the registers contain sampling information. At that time, there is a string of 40 bits in the several shift registers which preferably designate five samples each of eight bits of received input information. Thus, serial registers 50, 52, 54, 56 and 58 would accommodate an eight bit coded pattern and a sampling scheme of five samples for anticipated bit interval. It is clear to those skilled in the art that additional registers may be added to allow for an increased pattern for correlation or an increase in the number of samples per anticipated bit interval.

In the normal operation of a prior art correlator, the shift registers advance the sample values along and provide a storage means so that the data may be compared with the reference signal to provide the correlation. The reference signal and the input data signal are usually applied to a series of digital bit comparators so that when the sample and anticipated value correspond correctly, an output signal is produced. The output signals are then summed to determine how many correct comparisons there have been in the signal correlation.

For the first embodiment, it is advantageous to have the incoming sampled data directly address locations in a programmable read-only memory with the values of the information located at the addressable locations determining the correct number of correlations. This information is then supplied to adding circuits which then determine the correlation. Again, for the purposes of simplicity of the explanation, let the incoming digital signal pattern be a series of binary 0's and 1's and the pattern to which it is to be correlated an identical pattern of 0's and 1's repeated in a string at least as long as eight bits. Thus, serial registers 50, 52, 54, 56 and 58 would contain various sampled information corresponding to a 0 and 1 bit string. In particular, serial register 50, when fully loaded, might contain, in the first five positions, five 0's followed by three 0's. Correspondingly, serial register 52 would contain two 0's and five 1's followed by an additional 0. Then serial register 54 would contain four 0's and four 1's. Serial register 56 would contain one 1, five 0's and two 1's. Serial register 58 would then contain three 1's followed by five 0's. Thus, the outputs A₀ through A₇ of the various serial registers would correspond to the detected 0—1 input signal pattern which had been sampled at the rate of five samples per anticipated bit interval.

The information in the programmable read-only memory may then be merely the sum of the correct number of 0's and 1's for the various serial positions within the serial register arranged at proper locations. It is clear that several different but possible patterns will address different locations all containing the same number. It is a matter of analysis of the number of permutations of N objects of which N₁ and N₂ are similar.

In this case, the similarities are the numbers of 1's and 0's in the pattern. For example, consider the first-five stages of serial register 50 and the corresponding outputs A_0 through A_4 . The various combinations for the pattern which may be derived from the output lines A_0 through A_4 are as follows. First, there may be five 1's which is a unique configuration; secondly there may be four 1's and a 0 for which there are five possible combinations; thirdly, there may be three 1's and two 0's for which there are ten possible combinations; fourthly, there may be two 1's and three 0's for which there are ten combinations; fifthly, there may be one 1 and four 0's for which there are five possible combinations; and, lastly, there may be all 0's which is also a unique configuration. There are then 32 possible combinations of the 0 and 1 bit patterns for the first five bits of serial register 52, and each of these patterns comprises a different addressable location in PROM 60. However, the number of different values for the information stored at the location addressed by the input repetitive 0—1 pattern is considerably less. Therefore, although the input signal pattern addresses many locations, the values of the number of correctly ascertained signal levels which would be stored at those locations is considerably less. Since the desired pattern for A_0 through A_4 is all 1's, then counting the number of 0's present in the detected pattern gives a measure of the dissimilarity. This information may be additionally modified to achieve any functional weighting that might be appropriate.

Continuing with the analysis of the serial register 50, the remaining three bits could be treated as in a similar manner. Repeating the analysis for the three remaining bits, the all 1 configuration is unique; there may be one 1 and two 0's for which there are three possible combinations of this configuration, similarly two 1's and one 0 provide three possible combinations and lastly, the all 0's provide a unique combination. This results in eight possible combinations. The size of the memory for the addressing operation is the product of the two possible combinations which is the 32 times eight possible combinations for the five and the three bit patterns which requires 256 addressable locations. It is therefore advantageous to have the memories contain at least 256 addressable locations and capable of containing four bits of information.

The analysis for the remaining registers is quite similar with the various combinations of the detected sample values causing addressing of a location at which is the correct value for the detected combination of bits. The binary adders are preferably of the four bit type which are suitably interconnected to all of the output information from PROM's 60, 62, 64, 66 and 68. The arrangement is standard for four bit binary full adders with a fast carry operation. The arrangement allows the generation of a correlator output number having a maximum magnitude of 256 for counting dissimilarities. In the preferred embodiment, for eight bits sampled at five samples per anticipated bit interval, the worst case number is 40 but as will be described later in more detail, the correlation reference magnitude will eliminate the necessity of ever going to that value.

Moreover, it has been found to be advantageous to use standard integrated circuits to achieve the implementation of this correlator circuit. In particular, type SN74164 which are eight bit parallel output serial shift registers for which pin 1 would correspond to the input terminal, pin 8 would correspond to the clock terminal and pins 3, 4, 5, 6, 10, 11, 12, and 13 would correspond respectively to outputs designated A_0 through A_7 . Similarly, it has been found to be advantageous to use a 1024 bit programmable read-only memory with three state outputs of the type SN74287 for PROM's 60, 62, 64, 66 and 68. In such cases, the inputs would be designated as pins 5, 6, 7, 4, 3, 2, 1 and 15; the data outputs would correspond to pins 12, 11, 10 and 9. In addition, it has been found advantageous for binary adders 70, 72, 74, 80 and 82 to employ type SN74283 which is a four bit binary full adder with fast carry. The input terminals of these adders correspond to pins 5, 3, 14 and 12 and 6, 2, 15 and 11. The output terminals designated Σ_0 through Σ_3 correspond to pins 4, 1, 13 and 10. The OT terminal corresponds to pin 7 and the IN terminal corresponds to pin 9, which in all cases except binary adder 82 is grounded. In the case of full adder 82 only output terminals designated B_4 and B_5 in the drawing are utilized and these correspond to pins 4 and 1. The IN terminal of adder 82 which is coupled to the OT terminal of adder 80 corresponds to the pin 9. The three data input terminals of adder 82 correspond respectively to pins 5, 6 and 2 with pins 3, 14, 12, 15 and 11 being grounded.

The arrangements of the four bit binary full adders with fast carry are such that the adding and carrying operation is totaled so that the correlator output designated as signals B_0 through B_5 corresponds to a number which represents in magnitude the degree of correlation between the incoming sampled signal and a predetermined signal pattern, which, for the purposes of description in this case, is a repetitive 0 and 1 binary sequence resulting from the application of a sample rate of five samples per anticipated bit interval.

While Figure 3A shows the detailed circuitry corresponding to the correlation pattern matcher 32 of Figure 2B, Figure 3B shows the remaining detailed electronic schematic for the remainder of the system described by the functional block diagram of Figure 2B. The output signals of the correlator, designated B_0 through B_5 are applied to the input terminals of a four bit magnitude comparator 90. The output signals from the correlator designated B_4 and B_5 are applied to the first two input terminals of a second four bit magnitude comparator 92. The remaining two input terminals of four bit magnitude comparator 92 are grounded. Binary signals designated C_0 through C_3 are applied to the second set of input terminals of magnitude comparator 90 and binary signals C_4 and C_5 are applied to the first two of the second set of input terminals of magnitude comparator 92. The remaining two of the second set of input terminals to magnitude comparator 92 are grounded.

The binary signal designated C_0 through C_5 is the reference magnitude signal which determines a

range of magnitudes for which an acceptable correlation has been detected. In the example for which five samples per bit are used with an eight bit $\emptyset$, repetitive signal for synchronization, the number of dissimilar comparisons between the bit samples and the corresponding anticipated bit pattern is preferably chosen to be less than or equal to four. Thus, as a specific example, C_0 through C_5 could be a binary encoded signal having magnitude four.

Magnitude comparators 90 and 92 are shown enclosed by a broken line to enhance their correspondence with comparator 36 of Figure 2B. The inputs of magnitude comparator 90 designated symbolically as greater than, equal to or less than, are connected as shown. The greater than, equal to or less than output terminals of magnitude comparator 90 are connected respectively to the greater than, equal to or less than input terminals of magnitude comparator 92. The less than and equal to output terminals of magnitude comparator 92 are connected respectively as the first and second inputs of an OR gate 93 whose output is connected as the first input of an AND gate 94. The output of OR 93 is a signal designated as Detect Match. The second input of AND 94 is a signal designated Enable Adjust which is similar to the enable adjust signal shown in Figure 2B coming from a clock which is external to the timing functions of this portion of the system.

While many four bit magnitude comparators would be appropriate, it is convenient to utilize IC devices bearing the number SN74LS85 which are four bit magnitude comparators and when such a choice is made the input terminals at which signals B_0 through B_3 are applied, respectively, correspond to pins 10, 12, 13 and 15; while the input terminals at which signals C_0 through C_3 are applied correspond to pins 9, 11, 14 and 1. The input terminals less than, equal to and greater than correspond to pins 2, 3 and 4 while the output terminals less than, equal to, greater than correspond to pins 7, 6 and 5.

Similarly, for magnitude comparator 92, the input terminals at which signals B_4 and B_5 are applied, correspond to 10 and 12 with pins 13 and 15 grounded; the input terminals at which signals C_4 and C_5 are applied correspond to pins 9 and 11 with pins 14 and 1 grounded. The less than and equal to output terminals correspond to pins 7 and 6.

Referring again to Figure 3B, the output of AND 94 is connected to the set terminal of D-type flip-flop 98. The D terminal of flip-flop 98 is connected to ground. The Q output of flip-flop 98 is connected as the first input of an OR gate 100. The output of OR 100 is connected to the clear terminal of a synchronous four bit counter 102. A positive voltage is applied to the Enable P, Enable T and LD terminals of counter 102. The flip-flop 98 and counter 102 are shown enclosed in a broken line to enhance the correspondence with N-state counter 42 of Figure 2B. The Q_A terminal of counter 102 is connected to the first input D_1 of latch 103 and through an inverter 106 as a first input of a NAND gate 108. The Q_B output of counter 102 is connected to the second input terminal D_2 of latch 103 and through an inverter 110 as the second input of AND 108. The Q_C output terminal of counter 102 is connected to the third input terminal D_3 of latch 103 and through an inverter 112 as the third input of AND 108. The Q_C output terminal of counter 102 is also connected as the second input of OR 100. The output terminals of latch 103 designated as R_A , R_B and R_C are connected respectively to the first three input terminals of PROM 104. The output of AND 94 is connected through an inverter 105 to the enable input terminals of latch 103 designated as E_1 and E_2 . The output of AND 108 is a signal designated Recovered Clock which corresponds to the bit edge and it is clear that AND 94 corresponds to AND 38 of Figure 2B.

The B_0 through B_4 output signals from the correlator are connected to the five remaining input terminals of PROM 104. For the preferred embodiment, the B_5 output signal is not used because of the range of possible comparisons for the five bit per sample operation and this results in the utilization of a smaller memory. However, by modifying the range of correlation magnitudes resulting from the arrangement of the eight bit serial shift registers the resulting additional information can be used to address a larger memory.

PROM 104 may be a 256 by eight bit addressable memory. Typically, such a memory could be comprised by an IC designated MCM7641 which is a 512 by eight bit-three stage output programmable read-only memory. It will be recalled that by the example for the five sample per bit and eight bits contained in the serial registers that a 256 by four bit memory would be appropriate. In this case, the MCM7641 provides additional information capacity which, for the normal operation under the conditions described, may not be completely utilized. However, the addressing features are completely utilized.

The output signals of counter 102 form a portion of the possible addresses of PROM 104 while the signals from the correlator output designated B_0 through B_4 complete the specification of an address within PROM 104. Latch 103 ensures that the information in counter 102 is retained for the purpose of addressing PROM 104. For latch 103 with both enable inputs E_1 and E_2 at $\emptyset$, the output levels will follow the data input levels. When both enable input levels are at 1 the output levels R_A , R_B and R_C remain at the last levels established at inputs D_1 , D_2 and D_3 , respectively, prior to the $\emptyset$ to 1 level transition at the enable inputs. Thus the output of NAND 94 causes latching. The contents at the specific locations of PROM 104 provide for the application of the functionally related adjustment signal to achieve synchronization. It is clear that with two independent variables, in particular the time variable as designated by the output of counter 102 through latch 103 and the magnitude of dissimilarity variable, as designated by signals B_0 through B_4 , the PROM 104 can be programmed to apply whatever function relationship is desired for the correction magnitude and direction appropriate for the input conditions of time and magnitude of dissimilarity.

The first four output terminals of PROM 104 designated M_0 through M_3 are applied to the input

terminals of synchronous counter 114 and the remaining four output terminals designated M_4 through M_7 of PROM 104 are connected to the input terminals of synchronous counter 116. The output of AND 94 is connected to the load terminal of each synchronous counters 114 and 116. Positive voltage V is applied to the Enable T and Enable P terminals of synchronous counter 114. The carry output terminal designated TC of counter 114 is connected to the Enable T, Enable P terminals of counter 116. A fast clock 117 operating at at least 32 times the sampling clock rate is applied to the clock input terminals of both counters 114 and 116. The fast clock may be derived from the same enable adjust source which provides the enabling signal to AND 94. It is well known in the art to include various clock timing means to cause counting and dividing of signals in an appropriate manner. Counters 114 and 116 are shown enclosed in a broken line to enhance the correspondence with the variable phase clock 40 of Figure 2B. The latching feature is provided by the counters in conjunction with the logic gates appropriately attached thereto.

Output terminals F_1 , F_2 , F_3 and F_4 of synchronous counter 114 are connected respectively as the first, second, third and fourth input terminals of NAND 118 and OR 120. Output terminal F_5 of synchronous counter 116 is connected as a fifth input of NAND 118 and a fifth input of OR 120. Output terminal F_6 is connected as the sixth input of OR 120 and through inverter 122 as the sixth input of NAND 118. Output terminal F_7 is connected as the seventh of OR 120 and through inverter 124 as the seventh input of NAND 118. Output terminal F_8 is connected as the eighth input of OR 120 and through inverter 126 as the eighth input of NAND 118. The output of NAND 118 is connected to the Clear terminals of both synchronous counters 114 and 116. The output of OR 120 is connected to the clock terminal of synchronous counter 102 and to the clock terminal of data flip-flop 98. The signal at the output of OR 120 is designated as the Sampling Clock Signal.

The function of synchronous counters 114 and 116 may be described as follows. Fast clock 117 operates at a rate that is 32 times the normal sampling rate for the system. As had been described earlier, it is preferred to describe the system in terms of a five sample per bit rate but the actual frequency of operation being determined by the bit rate at which information is received. Synchronous counters 114 and 116 combine to form a counting unit which is capable of a maximum of 256 states. Counter 114 by itself can count up to 16 states normally designated as 0 through 15 and the carry over is accomplished by counter 116 which also has 16 possible states giving the total combination of 256. In operation, fast clock 117 generates the timing signals to cause counting to occur. It may be seen from the interconnection of the logic devices with counters 114 and 116 that the clear terminal is activated on the 31 to 0 state transition. For the adjustment of time, the outputs of PROM 104 are applied to the synchronous counters 114 and 116 and cause various states to be preset. For example, if one wished to count only 24 states, one could put in 256 minus 24 as the preset state and this would allow for counting 24 states and achieving the 0 state transition in 24 fast clock time periods. At the transition of 255 to 0 state the sampling clock signal is produced. This clock signal is $1/32$ of a sample time interval but the circuit responds to the leading edge of the pulse. Clearly, adjustments for both advancement and retardation of the normal timing signal may be achieved by inputting different preset states and causing different counting times to occur from the designated input state to the transitional 0 state to produce the Sampling Clock Signal.

The information contained in PROM 104 is the predetermined information of the desired functional relationship for the combination of the independent variables of time and magnitude of dissimilarity. For example, if a variation which is only a function of time were desired, all of the input information contained in PROM 104 would have the values independent of the error magnitude or if the correction to be applied were only a function of the magnitude of the detected dissimilarity, that information would be contained at the various locations of PROM 104. The choice of the specific information contained in PROM 104 is not relevant except to the fact that it is the combination of the independent variables of both time and magnitude of dissimilarity which access the magnitude of an adjustment value.

While any of a number of counters might be used for synchronous counters 102, 114 and 116 it is advantageous to use the type designated SN54LS163. With that designation, the input terminals correspond to pins 3, 4, 5 and 6, the LD terminal corresponds to pin 9, the Enable T, Enable P correspond to pins 10 and 7, the clear terminal corresponds to pin 1, the clock terminal corresponds to pin 2, the TC or ripple carry terminal corresponds to pin 15, the F_1 through F_4 output terminals correspond to pins 14, 13, 12 and 11. The same correspondence holds for synchronous counter 116. For the counter 102 the input terminals are not utilized and only three of the output pins are required. Output terminals Q_A , Q_B , Q_C correspond respectively to pins 14, 13 and 12. Preferably data flip-flop 98 is of an SN54LS74 type for which the D, CK, Q and S terminals correspond to pins 2, 3, 5 and 4 respectively. Any of several latching device may be employed but it is convenient to utilize an SN74116 for which the D_1 , D_2 , D_3 , R_A , R_B , R_C , E_1 and E_2 terminals correspond respectively to pins 4, 6, 8, 5, 7, 9, 2 and 3.

The operation of the correlator circuit shown in Figure 3A has been previously described as producing a signal indicating the magnitude of dissimilarity between the input detected signal and a predetermined signal. In the operation of the detailed circuitry shown in Figure 3B, the correlator output signal is compared with a predetermined reference magnitude which sets an acceptable limit for correlation. When an acceptable limit has been detected, the detect match signal is actuated indicating that match in the binary sequences has been detected. At an appropriate time for the system as designated by an enable adjust signal from the external clock, the set terminal of data flip-flop 98 is actuated to clear counter 102. In response to the sampling clock signal, counter 102 cycles through its five possible states, each one being

indicative of a serialization of the sample time within an anticipated bit interval. The sampling clock signal, it will be recalled, causes reception of an additional sample from the incoming signal circuit. The output signals of counter 102 are combined with the correlator output signal to address PROM 104 to provide the predetermined corrections.

5 Synchronous counters 114 and 116 provide counting at a rate that is 32 times the normal sample rate and respond to the inputs from PROM 104 to preset the time position at which $\emptyset$ state is reached. It is the variance in the normal 32 state time interval between the clear and the achieving of the $\emptyset$ state which determines the relative time position for the sampling clock signals. The effect of the output of PROM 104 is to selectively increase or decrease the time at which a sampling clock signal is produced. Thus, the
10 synchronization which occurs is in the timing of the sampling clock signal and that its advancement or regression is determined both by the serial sampling period within an anticipated bit interval during which a magnitude of correlation is detected.

While many variable phase clock adjustment schemes are possible, the preferred embodiment employs a scheme in which an adjustment is always made to the variable phase clock when the correlation
15 error magnitude is less than the maximum allowable magnitude. Correction of the clock phase is made so that the new phase is adjusted with respect to the detect match signal and not the old phase interval (see Table I). As an example of the type of information which may be stored in PROM 104 reference should be made to Table I which may be used to create a related table.

TABLE I

	Decimal equivalent of percent of bit interval	Error magnitude				
		0	1	2	3	4
25	0	.60	.53	.47	.41	.35
	1	.60	.58	.57	.56	.55
30	2	.60	.60	.60	.60	.60
	3	.60	.61	.62	.63	.64
35	4	.60	.66	.72	.78	.84

35 The normal signal to the variable phase clock is one which will identify the position of the center of the next bit interval. For the decision made in the last sample period of the previous bit interval the correct adjustment is 0.60 or 60% of an anticipated bit interval. Table I shows the corresponding values for the situation in which there are 5 sample periods per bit interval and the maximum allowable magnitude for a
40 correlation error is 4.

Figure 4 shows a detailed functional block diagram for an alternative form of correlator 32 which is a modification of the correlator shown in Figure 3A. An advantage of the signal correlator constructed in accordance with Figure 4 is that it has both hardware and firmware implementations and serves as an introduction to the description of an alternative embodiment for the synchronization system. The functions
45 of the correlators of Figure 3B and Figure 4 are identical and the only variations occur in the detailed data processing path. Both devices take the stream of incoming data and perform the correlation function with the use of a sampling clock signal. Both devices produce equivalent correlation output signals. The correlator of Figure 4 may even be interconnected with the rest of the hardware embodiment as shown in Figure 3B. The principal difference between the devices is that correlator of Figure 4 utilizes greater
50 sophistication in the signal analysis and has several data processing advantages including a firmware implementation as will be described.

The schematic diagram of Figure 4 shows a signal input line applied to the input terminals of five serial shift registers designated 150, 152, 154, 156 and 158. Each of these serial shift registers has a selective enable terminal designated SE and a clock terminal designated CK. The input terminals of the serial shift
55 registers are labelled IN and the output terminals are labelled OT. Each of the OT output terminals represents eight lines of output as shown by the label 8/ on each line. The information transmitted on each of the individual lines corresponds to one of the eight bits contained in the serial shift register.

Each of the OT output terminals of registers 150, 152, 154, 156 and 158 is connected to a corresponding input terminal of a multiplexer 160. It may be appreciated that each of these input terminals really
60 represents eight lines of input and the total number of input terminals would be forty. The function of the multiplexer is to select which of the five possible combinations of eight lines will be activated.

A clock circuit 162 operating at a rate of twenty-five times the bit rate supplies its signal to a divide-by-five counter 164. A first output of divide-by-five counter 164 is supplied to the clock terminals of each of serial shift registers 150, 152, 154, 156 and 158. The output of divide-by-five counter is also supplied
65 to a five-state counter 166 whose binary encoded output is supplied to a demultiplexer 168 and to the select

terminal of multiplexer 160. Demultiplexer 168 has five outputs designated as signals 0, 1, 2, 3 and 4 and these correspond to the selective enable terminals of the serial shift registers and the connection to the Select terminal of multiplexer 160 ensures actuation of the corresponding regions for the input terminals.

Multiplexer 160 functions to selectively apply eight bits of information contained in a selected one of the serial shift registers. The multiplexer operates by decoding the binary encoded signal it receives from five-state counter 166. The output of multiplexer 160 is connected to a PROM 170 containing a correlation error table. The output of multiplexer 160 is shown as a single line bearing the label 8/ indicating that eight parallel outputs are used to connect with the PROM. The eight signals from multiplexer 160, which correspond to the bit sequence in one of the selected serial shift registers, are used to address locations in PROM 170. The purpose of this feature will be described in more detail later as this operation corresponds to a finite impulse response correction procedure for a digital filter.

The output from PROM 170 is applied to the input terminals of five buffer registers designated 172, 174, 176, 178 and 180. Each of these buffer registers contains a select input terminal and input terminals to which the output of PROM 170 are connected in parallel. The input terminals for buffer registers 172, 174, 176, 178, 180 are selectively enabled by the signals from the demultiplexer 168 designated 0 through 4, respectively. The buffer registers function as parallel eight-bit in, eight-bit out selectively enabled registers. The outputs of buffer registers 172, 174, 176, 178 and 180 are connected respectively to the input terminals of a multiplexer 182 which are labelled respectively as 0', 1', 2', 3' and 4'. A second output of divide-by-five counter 164 is connected to a demultiplexer 184 having five output terminals labelled 0', 1', 2', 3' and 4', each of which is connected to the multiplexer 182. Demultiplexer 184 provides an individual signal at five times the selective enable rate to access the buffer registers. Demultiplexer 184 then selectively transfers information from the buffer registers to the output terminal. Thus during each selective enable signal corresponding to a sampling interval, the information in all five buffer registers is transferred through a multiplexer 182.

The output terminals of multiplexer 182, shown as a single line, are connected to a summation register 186 which is in turn connected to an accumulation register or accumulator 188. The output of accumulator 188 is connected back to summation register 186 and also to the input of an output register 190. Output register 190 is selectively enabled by an output signal from divide-by-five counter 164. Accumulator 188 also receives signals for clearing and accumulating designated CLR and ACC. It may be appreciated that these signals may be generated as part of an external timing circuit for the system and function to cause accumulation of the information transferred to the summation register or clearing the accumulator for the next accumulation of information. The signals for clear and accumulate correspond to the functional operation for adding all of the contents of the five buffer registers after each selective enabling by demultiplexer 168. Thus, each time the information could be changed in any one of buffer registers 172—180, the sum of all five registers is accumulated in accumulator 188 and placed in output register 190, which at an appropriate time provides the correlator output. Then with the next selective enabling the accumulator is cleared to allow an additional summing of the contents of five buffer registers.

The functional description of this circuit begins with clock 162 operating at a rate which is twenty-five times the bit rate. Divide-by-five counter 166 reduces a clocking signal to the five-times bit rate which is precisely the sampling rate described earlier. Thus the output of divide-by-five counter 166 provides the clocking signal for the incoming signal information to be serially shifted into the selectively enabled shift register. It may be observed that operating at the same rate is five-state counter 166 which functions through demultiplexer 168 to selectively enable the serial shift registers. Thus the first sample of information on the signal in line would go into register 150, the next sample would go into register 152, then each succeeding sample would serially be advanced into the next appropriate register. Upon completion of five sample cycles, the next sample would again be applied to the input terminal of serial shift register 150 and appropriately clocked in. Thus the information in each of the serial shift registers is one sample of eight possible bits of information and that the information in the various serial shift registers is serially related in time. Register 150 contains all sampled data at the 0 sampling as designated by the 0 state of five-state counter 166 and the 0 enabling signal from demultiplexer 168. Registers 152, 154, 156 and 158 contain all the sampled data at the 1, 2, 3, 4 selective enable signals respectively.

During the selective enabling of multiplexer 160, the information contained in the several serial shift registers is used to address PROM 170 containing a correlation table of errors for the correlator operation. The binary encoding contained in the eight positions of each of the serial bit registers addresses PROM 170 which contains predetermined information based on a design of a finite impulse response (FIR) filter. Reference should be made to Table II.

TABLE II

	00	01	01	01	02	01	01	03	02	01	04	06	05	03	02	05	01
5	10	01	02	04	02	02	01	02	01	04	02	05	01	02	01	01	01
	20	02	02	02	03	02	03	04	03	02	05	07	06	04	03	06	02
	30	02	03	05	03	03	02	03	02	05	03	06	02	03	02	02	02
10	40	01	00	01	01	01	00	02	01	00	03	05	04	02	01	04	00
	50	01	00	03	01	00	00	01	00	03	01	04	03	01	00	03	01
15	60	01	01	01	02	01	02	03	02	01	04	06	05	03	02	05	01
	70	01	02	04	02	02	01	02	01	04	02	05	01	02	01	01	01
	80	02	02	02	03	02	03	04	03	02	05	07	06	04	03	06	02
20	90	02	03	05	03	03	02	03	02	05	03	06	02	03	02	02	02
	A0	03	03	03	04	03	04	05	04	03	06	08	07	05	04	07	03
25	B0	03	04	06	04	04	03	04	03	06	04	07	03	04	03	03	03
	C0	01	01	01	02	01	02	03	02	01	04	06	05	03	02	05	01
	D0	01	02	04	02	02	01	02	01	04	02	05	01	02	01	01	01
30	E0	02	02	02	03	02	03	04	03	02	05	07	06	04	03	06	02
	F0	02	03	05	03	03	02	03	02	05	03	06	02	03	02	02	02

35 It is well known in the prior art how a finite duration impulse response filter operates and an array of coefficients in the correlation error table corresponds generally to the constants in a series expansion of a functional relationship for the chosen filter design. The purpose of the correlation is to locate the edges in the bit synchronization field of the decoder data stream. This technique is more flexible than the standard binary correlation technique. It may be appreciated that any of several possible designs may be employed and that the information contained in the correlation table would be a matter of choice.

40 As described earlier Table II shows the array of coefficients for the finite impulse response filter operation. It may be appreciated that the first column of Table II corresponds to the hexadecimal representation of the binary bit pattern which can occur in any of the serial shift registers 150—158. It may be appreciated that there are 2^8 or 256 possible combinations of these bit patterns and thus there are 256 entries in this table. Shown in a 16×16 array fashion are the correction constants corresponding to the known method of a finite impulse response filter. When these constants are accessed by the serial bit pattern contained within the serial shift register, or the equivalent data register of the firmware program, the information is transferred into the buffer registers for subsequent summation to determine the corresponding error magnitude. With this information, the weighting of the correlation operation for the

50 determining signal correlation can be duplicated.

Each time demultiplexer 168, in conjunction with five-state counter 166 caused the selective enablement and clocking of a serial shift register and the transfer of information to address PROM 170, information stored at the address location is transferred to an output buffer register capable of containing eight bits of information. Thus during each sample time, one of the buffer registers is loaded with the information contained in the correlation error table. After each such correlation error is loaded into one of the buffer registers, all five buffer registers are interrogated with the sum of the error magnitudes sent to an accumulator to produce an output correlator signal for each sample period.

55 Buffer registers 172 through 180 are selectively enabled in the same time sequence as the selective enabling of the serial shift registers 150. Thus the information contained in the correlation error table is transferred in and stored during each sample time in an appropriate buffer register. Demultiplexer 184 operates at five times the rate of demultiplexer 168 and transfers the information contained in the five buffer registers to summation register 186 and then into accumulator 188 so that the sum of all the information in the buffer registers 172—180 may be accumulated for each selective enabling which occurs during sampling each of the five times the bit rate time. Thus for each sample, multiplexer 182 transfers

60 information from each of buffer registers 172—180 into summation register 186 where it is summed and

65

this information is accumulated in accumulator 188 so that, for each sampling time, the sum of all the errors in the buffer registers 172—180 are transferred into output register 190 to provide the correlator output signal. Thus the detailed comparison of the comparators of Figures 3A and 4 show that the designation data in is the equivalent of signal in; the sampling clock signal is the equivalent of the signal output from clock bit rate X 25 block 162; and the output signals are equivalent. Moreover, while registers 50 to 58 in Figure 3A are arranged in a serial configuration while registers 150 to 158 in Figure 4 are in a parallel configuration to enhance the multiple sampling per bit operation. The inclusion of the various multiplexers and demultiplexers of Figure 4 serve to provide the correct data sequence for analysis while the same operation is provided in Figure 3A by the hardwire interconnection of the adders. The device of Figure 4 does utilize a FIR filter technique which improves the sophistication of the analysis.

Figure 5 shows a combination functional and schematic block diagram of a microcomputer of the type suitable for containing a firmware implementation of the functional block diagram of the complete synchronization system shown in Figure 2A and which contains a signal correlator of the type shown in Figure 4. Although this alternative embodiment should not be so limited, it is preferred that the microcomputer be of the Motorola 146805 type. A timer signal for actuation is supplied to a timer control unit 200 containing a prescaler and a timer and counter. A crystal 202 is coupled to oscillator circuit 204 which is also connected to timer control 200. The timer control circuit controls the various operations of the microcomputer.

Oscillator 204 is also connected to central processing unit 206 which contains the central processing unit control circuit, an arithmetic logic unit designated ALU, an accumulator, index register, condition code register, stack pointer, program counter high and program counter low modules. Also connected to the central processing unit are data directional input/output registers 208 and 210 having a plurality of input/output lines. In particular, eight lines are shown for each of two data direction registers. Also interfacing with the central processing unit are a read-only memory (ROM) 212, and a random access memory (RAM) 214. As is characteristic of the Motorola 146805 family the on-chip RAM permits the microcomputer to operate without an external memory. The parallel input/output capability includes programmable pins indicating whether it is to be an input or an output. The timer/counter is normally an eight-bit counter with a programmable prescaler which can be used as an event counter to generate interrupt signals at certain software-selected events or can be used for timing keeping. In the case of the Motorola CMOS version MCM146805, this timer can be set to wake-up the microprocessor from a software-actuated command to establish a power-saving wait mode.

Figure 5 also shows the arrangement of major firmware modules stored in the ROM and the corresponding addresses at which the modules begin. The choice and arrangement of this module is a function of the specific program for the alternative embodiment of the present invention. It is sufficient to describe the major program modules and their address origination points so that with the core dump of the operating software program for the alternative embodiment, one can ascertain where the various subroutines begin. The use of RAM 214 is principally to contain variables accessed during the program and as a scratch-pad storage. The use of the Motorola 146805 is not a necessary requirement for the alternative embodiment, however, it is a convenient one. All of the subsequently disclosed coding are written to be compatible with the 146805 coding format.

The alternative embodiment provides a bit-synchronization system for a communications receiver system, and it is therefore necessary to understand the coding format under which the communications receiver system operates. It will be appreciated that, because the signal coding and decoding scheme is relatively complex but the synchronization scheme is somewhat more simple, the synchronization operation will of necessity be contained within a reasonably lengthy firmware program. However, when synchronization is desired, that portion of the firmware containing the synchronization routine is addressed so that synchronization can be achieved according to the functional block diagram. In particular, the functional block diagram shown in Figure 4 is the principle diagram for the signal correlator portion of the operation of the alternative firmware embodiment while the overall operation is shown in Figure 2B.

Figure 6 shows a diagram of the repetitive message coding scheme which would require synchronization of the type provided by the present invention to describe the alternative embodiment of the present invention. This signalling system is similar to one described in the article entitled "New Radio Paging System" described in the March, 1978, *Telocator*, a trade journal for paging systems, beginning at page 26. This system uses NRZ (non-return-to-zero) digital signal coding, instead of the selective calling signal of two sequential tones used by several conventional systems. The coded signal accesses individual paging devices to generate an alert signal that a message has been received for the person carrying the device. The system is a synchronous one in that each receiver synchronizes to a signal designated at the transmitter.

As shown in line A of Figure 6, the signals to all receivers are divided into fifteen groups. Selective calling signals for a receiver within a group are sent only for the corresponding time duration of the individual group signal. Line B shows that the group call signal consists of nine words. The first word is a synchronization word and the remaining eight words are information words. A synchronization signal and up to eight selective calling signals are sent for each group. Line C of Figure 6 shows the detailed arrangement of the synchronization word for any group. A thirty-one bit synchronizing word comprises a nine-bit synchronizing signal, a fifteen-bit frame synchronizing signal, and a seven-bit group identification

signal. As may be seen in line C, the bit-synchronization word is designated as nine bits K_1 through K_9 , frame synchronization as L_1 through L_{15} and the group designation G_1 through G_7 . The nine-bit synchronizing signal is used to synchronize the internal clock of each receiver to that of the received signal so that proper decoding may be achieved. Thus the desired synchronization which is achieved is between the local clock of the receiver and the broadcast clock of the transmitter.

The frame synchronization signal uses a fifteen-bit code to indicate the position of selective calling signals. The group indicating signal uses a seven-bit code to identify the group. This signal comprises four information bits and three check bits in a BCH format. Line D of Figure 6 shows the construction of an information word containing thirty-one bits. Each information word comprises a thirty-one BCH code composed of sixteen bits for information and fifteen bits for checking. As shown in line D, the information bits are labelled I_{16} through I_1 and the parity bits are labelled P_{15} through P_1 .

It may be appreciated that a variety of formats of information may be used for the bit-synchronization portion of the coding as indicated in line C of Figure 6. The nine bits of information which are used to achieve bit-synchronization can be any of a number of patterns. However, for the purposes of explanation, the most commonly occurring pattern is a repetitive 0 and 1 sequence for the nine bit positions. The firmware description of the alternative embodiment will proceed under the assumption that the signalling system is a nine-bit 0 and 1 repetitive bit-synchronization pattern.

Figures 7A and B show a flowchart of the operational program to decode a communication coding system shown in Figure 6 which requires synchronization of the type provided by the present invention. A program module INITIAL enclosed with a broken line and designated 220 includes a decision block interrogating a test switch normally not accessible to the user. The setting of the test switch results in a test mode which is not necessary to the description of the synchronization system. During actuation of INITIAL module 220, the code plug information designating as many as two addresses, is transferred into specified memory locations. The inclusion of two addresses allows the receiver to receive and distinguish between calls from two different sources, such as, for example, between urgent calls and nonurgent calls.

If the test switch has not been set, a program module SYNC 2 enclosed by a broken line and designated 222 operates for a period of N words to find bit synchronization, frame positions and group identification. N may be chosen with respect to the message scheme code shown in Figure 6 to find and identify frame positions (word delineators) and group positions (nine word delineators) with some desired confidence level. Any negative answer from the decision blocks of module 222 causes a return to the entry point of SYNC 2 module 222.

The affirmative FIND GROUP line from SYNC 2 module 226 accesses a GET INFORMATION WORDS module 224 which operates to interrogate the memory locations where the one or more code plug address information has been stored. It interrogates eight information words contained in each group segment to determine if a page has been detected. Any decision as to whether a page has been detected is deferred until the eight information words within a group have been reviewed.

GET 8 INFORMATION WORDS module 224 accesses a pause module 226. PAUSE denotes a suspension of decoding and processing incoming signals for some timed period. Thus, the first time there is an attempt to detect a page and before any detect can be confirmed, the system assumes a PAUSE configuration for one complete message cycle and returns at the same relative position in the approximately 21 second message cycle.

After the PAUSE operation, control is transferred to a SYNC 3 program module enclosed by a broken line and designated 230. SYNC 3 is the signal synchronization portion for the alternative embodiment. SYNC 3 interrogates one word of information comprising eight bits of the synchronization word and determines if this corresponds to the predesignated repetitive 01 pattern. The data is listed to determine if it is still valid and currently in synchronization. DATA STILL VALID is a procedural test to insure that long term integrity of the data has been maintained to some desired confidence level. A negative determination transfers control back to the entry point of SYNC 2 module 222. IN SYNC NOW is a procedural test to check the positions of selected fields in the data system. A negative determination transfers control back to PAUSE module 226.

A positive determination accesses an ALERT module 230 enclosed by a broken line which functions to cause an audible alert signal to alert the pager carrier if one of the eight information words corresponded to an address in the code plug. It may be appreciated that since there are two types of addresses, this device may have two kinds of tones for the ALERT signal which may be used to discriminate between which of the two addresses, has been paged. If the ALERT signal is not manually reset by the carrier of the paging device, it will remain on for several minutes and then shut off. A manual reset button available to the paging device carrier allows for shutting down the ALERT signal indicating acknowledgement.

After the manual resetting of the ALERT signal, or if no page is detected control of the program is transferred to PAUSE module 226 as before. After the suitable time period, the PAUSE module 226 transfers control to SYNC 3 module 232 which looks for synchronization of the eight bits in the synchronization word and whether the data is still valid. The inclusion of SYNC 3 at this point in the flowchart is to confirm that the paging device has remained in synchronization after the pause operation. A negative determination from DATA STILL VALID causes transfer to the entry point of SYNC 2 module 222 in Figure 7A. Because of the possibility of a second address or a second call corresponding to the second address of the pager, the output of the SYNC 3 module 232 transfers control to module 234 which

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comprises GET 8 INFORMATION WORDS and DETECT PAGE modules. The GET 8 portion functions to again interrogate the eight bit address word and to determine if a second addressable code has been detected. In the event that a page has not been detected, control is then returned to PAUSE module 226 configuration. If a second addressed page ID code has been detected, control of the program is transferred to ALERT module 230 to signal the pager carrier.

The operational loop for the system once an alert signal has been detected is through PAUSE module 226 of Figure 7B into SYNC 3 module 232 of Figure 7B and module 234 of Figure 7B. It is this looping where the normal operation of the pager occurs. The SYNC 3 module 232 ensures the synchronization of the internal clock with the incoming signal information contained in the synchronization word for each group.

Figure 8 shows the flowchart for the SYNC 3 module which comprises the firmware alternative embodiment for the synchronization system. The first block in the diagram designated 240 shows the function of awaiting the beginning of the repetitive 0—1 synchronization field. Reference is made to Figure 6 where the message coding format is shown. Control of the program operation is then transferred to block 242 which describes the operation of taking at the specified rate a number of samples from the 0—1 bit pattern and moving this information into the data registers which are the equivalent of the serial shift registers. This operation may be more clearly understood by making reference to Figure 4 which shows a correlator which serves both as a hardware implementation and as a functional diagram for the present firmware alternative embodiment for the correlator.

After taking the samples, control of the program function is transferred to block 244 so that the error table may be accessed for the value of the predetermined information that corresponds to the binary sequences of the data in the data registers. As has been previously described, the error information is listed in Table II. Control is then transferred to decision block 246 which tests whether the sampling time is greater than M samples or the summation of the errors is less than the maximum allowable errors. While the flowchart in Figure 8 has been written generally for a SYNC 3 module, in particular the M samples may correspond to 40 bit samples and therefore the sampling time is tested for whether or not the time is greater than that required for 40 samples. Also the maximum number of errors is usually designated as less than or equal to four. With these numbers inserted into the flowchart, a more complete description of the operation of the firmware alternative embodiment of the synchronization scheme is obtained.

In the event that the decision from block 246 is no, transfer of control to functional block 248 again takes one sample at the specified rate and moves it into the data registers transferring the control back to functional block 244. Assuming the decision from decision block 246 is yes, in that more than 40 samples have been taken or that the summation of errors is less than the acceptable amount of four for determining correlation, control is transferred to the decision block 250 to determine whether the summation of the errors is less than four and that therefore bit synchronization has been found. In the event that bit synchronization has not been found, control of the program operation is transferred to block 252 which leaves the variable phase clock unchanged and causes an exit from the subroutine back to the main line program. In the event that the output of the decision block 250 is yes, that bit synchronization has indeed been found, the clock phase corrector table is accessed using the sample number and error magnitude to apply two dimensional corrections to the clock phase (block 254). In this case, for the alternative embodiment Table III contains this information.

TABLE III

		Error magnitude				
		0	1	2	3	4
Sample No.	0	28	23	18	13	8
	1	28	27	26	25	24
	2	28	28	28	28	28
	3	28	29	30	31	32
	4	28	33	38	43	48

Table III contains the information in matrix form correlating the sample position and the error magnitude showing the number of clock cycles for the variable phase clock. Reference should be made, again, to the correlator shown in Figure 4 and the type of phase clock shown in Figure 3B to fully comprehend the operation of these factors. The independent variables of the correlator error magnitude and sample number access in matrix fashion a number contained in this table which corresponds to the appropriate timing for the variable phase clock. In particular, it may be seen that for the column of information corresponding to error magnitude 0 and the row of information corresponding to sample number 2 all contain the same magnitude of correction. This is, in effect, no correction to the variable phase clock but is a preferred magnitude for its normal operation. Thus, 28 internal clocking periods would normally designate an adjustment in the variable phase clock to the center of the next bit interval. It may be

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observed that as the error magnitude goes up or as the sample number deviates from the 2 position (the sample which corresponds to the center of the anticipated bit interval) varies the magnitude of the correction supplied to the variable phase clock.

To complete the detailed description of the alternative embodiment for the synchronization apparatus, a program table is included with the detailed information which the alternative embodiment employs. The alternative embodiment comprises a firmware synchronization system contained within the firmware for decoding the message coding scheme of Figure 6. Table IV is a memory core dump of this entire firmware program which operates in conjunction with a microprocessor. The main functional operation of this program is described by flowchart of Figures 7A and 7B which shows the operation for decoding message coding scheme of Figure 6. The program modules designated in the flowchart are also shown in Figure 4 as being contained in ROM 212. More information is contained in the core dump of the program than is shown by the flowchart since the program core dump includes certain test modes and other operations that are not pertinent to the description of the alternative embodiment of this invention.

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TABLE IV

0800	07	3A	04	3F	4C	3F	4D	AE	1F	3C	39	CD	0C	7E	5A	26
0810	FA	00	4F	40	AE	00	98	B6	44	B8	3C	A4	7F	27	02	99
0820	97	B6	45	B8	3D	27	04	25	2B	99	97	B6	46	B8	3E	27
0830	04	25	21	99	97	B6	47	B8	3F	27	03	25	17	97	AD	79
0840	2A	12	0E	4B	04	3D	48	26	0B	A6	01	CD	08	D4	A6	03
0850	B7	48	20	40	02	4F	3D	AE	00	98	B6	44	B8	40	A4	7F
0860	27	02	99	97	B6	45	B8	41	27	04	25	28	99	97	B6	46
0870	B8	42	27	04	25	1E	99	97	B6	47	B8	43	27	03	25	14
0880	97	AD	36	2A	0F	0E	4B	04	B6	49	26	08	A6	02	AD	44
0890	A6	03	B7	49	3A	3A	26	17	B6	4C	26	04	A6	02	20	02
08A0	A6	03	BE	48	27	02	3A	48	3D	49	27	02	3A	49	81	B6
08B0	4C	27	03	A6	01	81	A6	00	81	A6	00	57	A9	00	57	A9
08C0	00	57	A9	00	57	A9	00	57	A9	00	57	A9	00	57	A9	00
08D0	57	A9	FE	81	BE	4C	26	03	B7	4C	81	B1	4C	27	02	B7
08E0	4D	81	01	4C	42	B6	3A	A1	03	23	12	CD	0D	40	B6	3A
08F0	A0	04	27	30	A1	04	26	05	CD	0D	40	20	27	A0	02	27
0900	0A	24	10	CD	0C	A7	CD	0D	53	20	19	CD	0C	9C	CD	0D
0910	59	20	11	8F	A6	02	4A	26	FD	7D	A6	FB	AE	3A	CD	0D
0920	63	CD	0C	93	A6	00	81	CD	0C	A7	CD	0D	5F	3A	3A	26
0930	F6	20	F1	A6	1C	B7	23	A6	F3	B7	22	C6	00	4C	26	03
0940	CC	09	CD	AD	40	01	24	03	CC	09	CD	CD	0C	A7	16	01
0950	16	01	16	01	3F	01	B6	39	4C	A1	87	25	02	A0	87	B7
0960	39	0F	01	E7	AE	03	CD	0C	9C	16	01	16	01	16	01	3F
0970	01	5A	26	F2	B6	39	AB	06	A1	87	25	02	A0	87	B7	39
0980	C6	00	4D	27	48	B7	21	B6	21	A1	01	26	05	CD	0D	40

0 074 994

TABLE IV continued

	0990	20	0F	A6	04	B7	20	99	CD	0C	A7	CD	0D	5F	3A	20	26
5	09A0	F6	39	24	B6	39	AB	04	B7	39	A0	87	27	02	25	13	B7
	09B0	39	CD	0A	EB	C6	00	48	27	02	3A	48	C6	00	49	27	02
	09C0	3A	49	01	24	08	3C	23	26	BE	3C	22	26	BA	A6	00	81
10	09D0	9B	A6	60	B7	04	A6	0F	B7	05	3F	09	1D	00	A6	0B	B7
	09E0	01	14	01	15	01	3F	01	16	01	14	01	15	01	3F	01	16
15	09F0	01	16	01	16	01	3F	01	0F	01	F5	5F	5A	26	FD	0F	01
	0A00	EE	CD	0C	93	CD	0A	EB	1A	04	1B	00	CD	0A	EB	CD	0D
	0A10	40	25	F8	1B	04	3F	39	3F	48	3F	49	CD	0C	B2	3F	4A
20	0A20	08	01	02	3A	4A	B6	01	A4	60	3F	4B	A1	60	27	07	1E
	0A30	4B	4D	26	02	1C	4B	A6	00	0A	01	02	A6	01	81	B6	39
25	0A40	AB	10	B7	39	A6	10	B7	38	A6	FE	B7	37	20	1C	B6	39
	0A50	AB	12	B7	39	A6	D2	B7	38	A6	FD	B7	37	20	0C	3C	39
	0A60	3C	39	A6	69	B7	38	A6	EF	B7	37	A6	02	B7	30	A6	FF
30	0A70	B7	28	1A	04	1B	00	AD	73	CD	0B	0B	CD	0B	17	26	37
	0A80	A6	1F	4A	26	FD	CD	0C	93	1B	04	CD	0B	0B	3F	46	3F
35	0A90	47	B6	37	26	04	B6	38	27	19	B6	46	A8	44	A4	7F	26
	0AA0	06	B6	47	A8	D7	27	15	CD	0C	7E	3C	38	26	EB	3C	37
	0AB0	26	E7	1B	04	A6	01	81	1B	04	A6	00	81	AE	07	A6	01
40	0AC0	B7	39	CD	0C	7E	5A	26	FA	0C	4B	0D	B6	47	B8	3B	A4
	0AD0	7F	27	05	1B	04	A6	02	81	A6	0A	B7	2E	B7	2F	A6	03
45	0AE0	B7	27	A6	08	B7	3A	1B	04	A6	03	81	16	01	14	01	14
	0AF0	01	09	00	00	15	01	3F	01	25	10	1C	00	16	01	1C	00
	0B00	9D	9D	1D	00	3F	01	1D	00	20	F0	81	AE	04	A6	0E	E7
50	0B10	29	E7	31	5A	2A	F9	81	1B	AE	04	BF	36	16	01	B6	00
	0B20	B8	4A	48	69	31	EE	31	D6	0E	BA	3F	01	BE	36	E7	29
55	0B30	B6	29	BB	2A	BB	2B	BB	2C	BB	2D	0E	28	04	3A	28	20
	0B40	05	9D	B1	30	23	22	5A	2B	0B	D6	0B	49	D6	0B	4C	D6
	0B50	0B	4F	20	C6	AE	04	9D	3C	38	27	03	9D	20	02	3C	37
60	0B60	26	B8	A6	DE	CD	0C	95	81	BB	36	38	36	38	36	BB	36
	0B70	97	D6	0B	71	4F	81	A6	F8	B7	38	A6	FF	B7	37	3F	47
65	0B80	3F	46	1A	04	1B	00	A6	04	B7	30	A6	22	B7	28	8F	CD

TABLE IV continued

	0B90	0B	18	26	0E	D6	0E	00	4A	26	FD	CD	0C	93	CD	0C	80
5	0BA0	20	05	36	31	CD	0C	87	1B	04	CD	0A	EB	A6	01	B7	39
	0BB0	CD	0B	0B	AE	10	CD	0C	7E	B6	46	A8	44	A4	7F	26	0F
10	0BC0	B6	47	A8	D7	26	09	CD	0C	7E	A6	0B	B7	2E	20	03	5A
	0BD0	26	E3	AE	06	CD	0C	7E	5A	26	FA	0C	4B	08	B6	47	B8
	0BE0	3B	A4	7F	26	04	A6	0B	B7	2F	A6	08	B7	3A	3A	2F	27
15	0BF0	10	3A	2E	27	0C	B6	2F	A1	0A	26	03	A6	03	81	A6	02
	0C00	81	A6	01	81	14	01	3F	01	A6	07	B7	01	3F	01	B6	39
20	0C10	A1	85	23	04	A0	87	B7	39	CD	0C	9C	16	01	16	01	16
	0C20	01	3F	01	3C	39	3C	39	B6	39	A1	83	23	EB	16	01	16
	0C30	01	16	01	3F	01	00	39	03	CD	0C	A7	CD	0C	A7	16	01
25	0C40	16	01	16	01	3F	01	A6	0B	B7	01	14	01	15	01	3F	01
	0C50	16	01	14	01	15	01	3F	01	1A	04	1B	00	CD	0C	B2	3F
30	0C60	4A	08	01	02	3A	4A	AE	1F	CD	0C	7E	5A	26	FA	3F	39
	0C70	A6	00	81	A3	F8	CD	0C	7E	5A	26	FA	A6	00	81	AD	12
	0C80	B6	00	16	01	B8	4A	48	39	47	39	46	39	45	39	44	3F
35	0C90	01	81	8F	A6	E5	B7	08	A6	09	B7	09	81	8F	7D	A6	EF
	0CA0	B7	08	A6	0F	B7	09	81	8F	A6	06	4A	26	FD	7D	4F	CC
40	0CB0	0D	4A	AE	07	D6	0D	02	B7	01	B6	00	3F	01	46	36	40
	0CC0	46	36	41	46	36	3C	46	36	3D	46	36	3B	5A	2A	E5	3F
	0CD0	4F	B6	3D	26	06	BE	3C	26	02	10	4F	BE	3C	AD	2B	34
45	0CE0	3C	36	3D	56	46	B7	3F	BF	3E	B6	41	26	06	BE	40	26
	0CF0	02	12	4F	BE	40	AD	13	34	40	36	41	56	46	B7	43	BF
50	0D00	42	81	0E	0D	0A	09	06	05	02	01	BF	44	B7	45	AE	07
	0D10	3F	46	3F	47	34	45	24	0E	B6	46	D8	0F	D2	B7	46	B6
	0D20	47	D8	0F	CA	B7	47	34	44	24	0E	B6	46	D8	0F	C2	B7
55	0D30	46	B6	47	D8	0F	BA	B7	47	5A	2A	D9	BE	46	B6	47	81
	0D40	8F	7D	4A	A6	FB	AE	2B	99	AD	19	A6	EE	B7	08	A6	0E
60	0D50	B7	09	81	A6	FE	AE	72	20	0A	A6	FC	AE	D5	20	04	A6
	0D60	FF	AE	2C	B7	50	46	1C	00	B4	01	1C	00	3F	01	1D	00
	0D70	5C	27	04	16	01	20	EF	3C	50	26	EB	48	81	3F	04	0D
65	0D80	00	57	A6	FF	B7	04	3F	05	A6	01	B7	00	B1	01	26	FE

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TABLE IV continued

	0D90	48	24	F7	3F	04	A6	FF	B7	05	A6	80	B7	01	B1	00	26
5	0DA0	FE	44	26	F7	AE	10	A6	01	F7	F1	26	FE	78	48	24	F9
	0DB0	5C	2A	F3	AE	08	D6	0D	D1	E7	10	5A	26	F8	5F	4F	BD
	0DC0	11	3C	12	26	FA	4D	26	FE	3F	04	A6	01	B7	05	3C	01
10	0DD0	20	FC	D8	F8	00	5C	26	FA	81	AE	00	BF	51	DD	0E	1D
	0DE0	BB	51	97	DE	0E	19	20	F3	A6	60	B7	09	80	00	00	00
15	0DF0	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00
	0E00	1C	17	12	0D	08	1C	1B	1A	19	18	1C	1C	1C	1C	1C	1C
20	0E10	1D	1E	1F	20	1C	21	26	2B	30	07	46	00	00	CC	09	D0
	0E20	70	70	0E	0E	CC	0A	3E	70	70	0E	15	CC	0A	5E	15	15
	0E30	77	1C	CC	08	00	23	00	00	00	CC	0C	04	00	70	1C	2A
25	0E40	CC	0B	76	31	00	00	00	CC	09	33	38	00	00	00	CC	0C
	0E50	04	00	70	3F	3F	CC	0B	76	3F	3F	31	2A	CC	08	00	46
	0E60	46	4D	4D	CC	0A	4E	46	46	4D	85	CC	0A	5E	54	5B	62
30	0E70	62	CC	08	00	62	00	00	00	CC	08	E2	00	46	54	54	CC
	0E80	0B	76	9A	00	00	00	CC	0C	73	07	00	00	00	CC	0C	04
35	0E90	7E	00	00	00	CC	0C	04	00	70	77	3F	CC	0B	76	85	85
	0EA0	9A	8C	CC	08	00	00	46	93	5B	CC	0B	76	8C	00	00	00
	0EB0	CC	0C	73	00	46	69	54	CC	0B	76	01	01	01	02	01	01
40	0EC0	03	02	01	04	06	05	03	02	05	01	01	02	04	02	02	01
	0ED0	02	01	04	02	05	01	02	01	01	01	02	02	02	03	02	03
45	0EE0	04	03	02	05	07	06	04	03	06	02	02	03	05	03	03	02
	0EF0	03	02	05	03	06	02	03	02	02	02	01	00	01	01	01	00
	0F00	02	01	00	03	05	04	02	01	04	00	01	00	03	01	00	00
50	0F10	01	00	03	01	04	03	01	00	03	01	01	01	01	02	01	02
	0F20	03	02	01	04	06	05	03	02	05	01	01	02	04	02	02	01
55	0F30	02	01	04	02	05	01	02	01	01	01	02	02	02	03	02	03
	0F40	04	03	02	05	07	06	04	03	06	02	02	03	05	03	03	02
	0F50	03	02	05	03	06	02	03	02	02	02	03	03	03	04	03	04
60	0F60	05	04	03	06	08	07	05	04	07	03	03	04	06	04	04	03
	0F70	04	03	06	04	07	03	04	03	03	03	01	01	01	02	01	02
65	0F80	03	02	01	04	06	05	03	02	05	01	01	02	04	02	02	01

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TABLE IV continued

	0F90	02	01	04	02	05	01	02	01	01	01	02	02	02	03	02	03
5	0FA0	04	03	02	05	07	06	04	03	06	02	02	03	05	03	03	02
	0FB0	03	02	05	03	06	02	03	02	02	02	AE	78	3C	1E	A0	50
	0FC0	A8	D4	8F	C8	64	32	96	4B	25	12	6A	1A	22	BE	F0	78
10	0FD0	BC	5E	09	8B	CA	EA	FA	7D	3E	1F	00	00	00	00	00	00
	0FE0	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	97
15	0FF0	00	00	00	00	00	00	0D	E8	0D	E8	0D	7D	0D	7D	0D	A6

Claims

1. A signal synchronisation system comprising:
 - means (30, 60, 62, 64, 66, 68) for providing first (received) and second (reference) signals for comparative evaluation,
 - pattern analyzing means (20) receiving said first and second signals and producing a control signal in response thereto, said control signal being related to the dissimilarity between said first and second signals;
 - timing means (22) producing repetitive timing signals and;
 - local signal means (26) producing output signals; characterized by;
 - adjustment means (24) coupled to said local signal means (26) and responsive to said control signal from said pattern analyzing means (20) and to said timing signals from said timing means (22), for advancing or retarding the time occurrence of said output signals of said local signal means (26), by incrementally applying predetermined values as a function of the magnitude of said control signal and a discrete serial timing interval formed by said timing signals.
2. The signal synchronization system of claim 1 further including means (32) for measuring said magnitude of dissimilarity during a corresponding discrete serial timing interval.
3. The signal synchronization system of claim 2 where said pattern analyzing means comprises a signal correlator (32), said first signal contains digitally encoded information said second signal is a reference signal, said system further including receiving means (30) coupled to said signal correlator for receiving and detecting said digitally encoded signal and memory means (60, 62, 64, 66, 68) for retaining said reference signal.
4. The signal synchronization system of claim 1 further including receiving means (30) for detecting digitally encoded signals transmitted at a predetermined rate over a communication channel; said timing means comprising a local clock (40) producing timing signals to establish repetitive sampling periods serially related in time; said pattern analyzing means (20) includes differential pattern analysis means (32, 36) responsive to said receiving means and said local clock (40), producing an output signal for each said sampling period, corresponding to the magnitude of dissimilarity between said detected digitally encoded signals, comprising said first signal, and a predetermined reference signal comprising said second signal; and said adjustment means (24) is coupled to said local clock (40) and said differential pattern analysis means (32, 36) and is responsive to the serial time position of said sampling period and the magnitude of dissimilarity between said detected digitally encoded signals and said predetermined reference signal, for adjusting the occurrence of said timing signals of said local clock (40).
5. The synchronization system of claim 4 wherein said local clock (40) further includes means for serially ordering and establishing said sampling periods in predesignated groups of equal size.
6. The synchronization system of claim 5 wherein said differential pattern analysis means (32, 36) further includes memory means (60, 62, 64, 66, 68) for storing said predetermined reference signal.
7. The synchronization system of claim 6 wherein said detected digitally encoded signals and said predetermined reference signal each comprise sequences of binary digits and said differential pattern analysis means (32, 36) further includes means (32) for measuring the magnitude of dissimilarity between said binary sequences.
8. The synchronization system of claim 7 wherein said differential pattern means (32, 36) further includes means (34) for retaining detected digitally encoded sequences more than one sampling period for accumulating historical data for the measurement of said sequence dissimilarity.
9. The synchronization system of claim 8 wherein said adjustment means (24) further includes addressable matrix memory means (34) accessed by the serial position of a sampling period within a predesignated group and the magnitude of the dissimilarity of said detected and reference sequences, said matrix memory means (34) producing a signal containing information related to the magnitude and direction of the adjustment to be applied to said local clock timing signals.



10. The synchronization system of claim 9 wherein said adjustments means (24) further includes sequence difference range means (114, 116, 120) which inhibits any adjustments from being applied to said clock signals unless said detected difference between said sequences is within a predetermined range.

5 Patentansprüche

1. Ein Signalsynchronisationssystem mit folgenden Merkmalen:
 einer Einrichtung (30, 60, 62, 64, 66, 68) zum Erzeugen von ersten (empfangenen) und zweiten (Bezugs-)Signalen für eine vergleichende Bewertung;
 10 einer Musteranalyseeinrichtung (20), die die ersten und zweiten Signale empfängt und ein Steuerungssignal in Reaktion auf diese Signale erzeugt, wobei das Steuerungssignal in einer Beziehung zur Abweichung zwischen den ersten und zweiten Signalen steht;
 einer Zeitgebereinrichtung (22) zum Erzeugen von sich wiederholenden Taktsignalen; und
 einer Lokal-Signaleinrichtung (26) zum Erzeugen der Ausgangssignale; gekennzeichnet durch
 15 eine Einstelleinrichtung (24), die an die Lokal-Signaleinrichtung (26) angekoppelt ist und auf das Steuerungssignal von der Musteranalyseeinrichtung (20) und auf die Taktsignale von der Zeitgebereinrichtung (22) anspricht, um durch inkrementales Anlegen vorbestimmter Werte als eine Funktion der Größe des Steuerungssignales und eines diskreten seriellen Taktintervalles, das durch die Taktsignale gebildet wird, das zeitliche Auftreten der Ausgangssignale der Lokal-Signaleinrichtung (26) nach vorne oder nach hinten zu verlagern.
 20
2. Das Signalsynchronisationssystem nach Anspruch 1, ferner mit einer Einrichtung (32) zum Messen der Größe der Abweichung während eines entsprechenden diskreten seriellen Taktintervalles.
3. Das Signalsynchronisationssystem nach Anspruch 2, bei dem die Musteranalyseeinrichtung einen Signalkorrelator (32) aufweist, bei dem das erste Signal eine digitalverschlüsselte Information ist und das
 25 zweite Signal ein Bezugssignal ist, bei dem das System ferner eine Empfangseinrichtung (30) aufweist, die an den Signalkorrelator angekoppelt ist, um das digitalverschlüsselte Signal zu empfangen und zu erfassen, und bei dem es ferner eine Speichereinrichtung (60, 62, 64, 66, 68) zum Zurückhalten des Bezugssignales aufweist.
4. Das Signalsynchronisationssystem nach Anspruch 1, ferner mit einer Empfangseinrichtung (30) zum
 30 Erfassen der digitalverschlüsselten Signale, die mit einer vorbestimmten Rate über einen Übertragungskanal übertragen werden; wobei die Zeitgebereinrichtung eine Lokal-Takteinrichtung (40) zum Erzeugen der Taktsignale aufweist, um sich wiederholende Abtastperioden zu bilden, die seriell bezüglich der Zeit in Bezug stehen; wobei die Musteranalyseeinrichtung (20) eine differentielle Musteranalyseeinrichtung (32, 36) enthält, die auf die Empfangseinrichtung und die lokale Takteinrichtung (40) anspricht, um ein
 35 Ausgangssignal für jede Abtastperiode zu erzeugen, das auf die Größe der Abweichung zwischen den erfaßten, digitalverschlüsselten Signalen, die das erste Signal enthalten, und einem vorbestimmten Bezugssignal entsprechen, das das zweite Signal enthält; und wobei die Einstelleinrichtung (24) an die lokale Takteinrichtung (40) und die differentielle Musteranalyseeinrichtung (32, 36) angeschlossen ist und auf die serielle zeitliche Lage der Abtastperiode und die Größe der Abweichung zwischen den erfaßten,
 40 digitalverschlüsselten Signalen und dem vorbestimmten Bezugssignal anspricht, um das Auftreten der Taktsignale der lokalen Takteinrichtung (40) einzustellen.
5. Das Synchronisationssystem nach Anspruch 4, bei dem die lokale Takteinrichtung (40) ferner eine Einrichtung zum seriellen Anfordern und Erzeugen der Abtastperioden in vorbestimmten Gruppen von gleicher Größe aufweist.
- 45 6. Das Synchronisationssystem nach Anspruch 5, bei dem die differentielle Musteranalyseeinrichtung (32, 36) ferner eine Speichereinrichtung (60, 62, 64, 66, 68) zum Speichern des vorbestimmten Bezugssignales aufweist.
7. Das Synchronisationssystem nach Anspruch 6, bei dem die erfaßten, digitalverschlüsselten Signale und das vorbestimmte Bezugssignal jeweils Folgen von binären Ziffern enthalten und bei dem die
 50 differentielle Musteranalyseeinrichtung (32, 36) ferner eine Einrichtung (32) zum Messen der Größe der Abweichung zwischen den binären Folgen aufweist.
8. Das Synchronisationssystem nach Anspruch 7, bei dem die differentielle Musteranalyseeinrichtung (32, 36) ferner eine Einrichtung (34) zum Zurückhalten der erfaßten, digitalverschlüsselten Folgen um mehr als eine Abtastperiode zum Ansammeln von historischen Daten für die Messung der Folgeabweichung
 55 aufweist.
9. Das Synchronisationssystem nach Anspruch 8, bei dem die Einstelleinrichtung (24) ferner eine adressierbare Matrixspeichereinrichtung (34) aufweist, auf die zugegriffen wird durch die serielle Lage einer Abtastperiode innerhalb einer vorbezeichneten Gruppe und die Größe der Abweichung der erfaßten und der Bezugs-Folgen, wobei die Matrixspeichereinrichtung (34) ein Signal erzeugt, das eine Information
 60 enthält, die einen Bezug aufweist zur Größe und Richtung der anzulegenden Einstellung für die Taktsignale von der lokalen Takteinrichtung.
10. Das Synchronisationssystem nach Anspruch 9, bei dem die Einstelleinrichtung (24) ferner eine Folge-Differenz-Bereichseinrichtung (114, 116, 120) beinhaltet, die das Anlegen von Einstellungen an die Taktsignale verhindert, wenn nicht die erfaßte Abweichung zwischen den Folgen innerhalb eines
 65 vorbestimmten Bereiches liegt.



Revendications

1. Système de synchronisation de signaux, comportant: un dispositif (30, 60, 62, 64, 66, 68) pour produire un premier (reçu) et un second (de référence) signaux pour une évaluation comparative, un dispositif analyseur de profil (20) qui reçoit ledit premier et le dit second signaux et qui produit un signal de commande en réponse, ledit signal de commande étant lié à la dissimilitude entre ledit premier et ledit second signaux; un dispositif de temporisation (22) produisant des signaux répétitifs de temporisation et; un dispositif de signaux locaux (26) produisant des signaux de sortie; caractérisé par un dispositif de réglage (24) couplé avec ledit dispositif de signaux locaux (26) et réagissant audit signal de commande provenant dudit dispositif analyseur de profil (20) et auxdits signaux de temporisation provenant dudit dispositif de temporisation (22), en avançant ou en retardant l'apparition dans le temps desdits signaux de sortie dudit dispositif de signaux locaux (26), en appliquant par incréments des valeurs prédéterminées en fonction de l'amplitude dudit signal de commande et d'un intervalle de temps en série discret formé par lesdits signaux de temporisation.
2. Système de synchronisation de signaux selon la revendication 1, comportant en outre un dispositif (32) destiné à mesurer ladite amplitude de dissimilitude pendant un intervalle de temporisation en série discret correspondant.
3. Système de synchronisation de signaux selon la revendication 2, dans lequel ledit dispositif analyseur de profil consiste en un corrélateur de signaux (32), ledit premier signal contenant des informations codées numériquement, ledit second signal étant un signal de référence, ledit système comportant en outre un dispositif de réception (30) couplé avec ledit corrélateur de signaux pour recevoir et détecter ledit signal codé numériquement, et une mémoire (60, 62, 64, 66, 68) pour conserver ledit signal de référence.
4. Système de synchronisation de signaux selon la revendication 1, comportant en outre un dispositif de réception (30) pour détecter des signaux codés numériquement émis à une fréquence prédéterminée sur un canal de communication; ledit dispositif de temporisation comportant une horloge locale (40) produisant des signaux de temporisation pour établir des périodes d'échantillonnage répétitives liées en série dans le temps, ledit dispositif analyseur de profil (20) comportant un dispositif d'analyse de profil différentiel (32, 36) réagissant audit dispositif de réception et à ladite horloge locale (40) en produisant un signal de sortie pour chacune desdites périodes d'échantillonnage correspondant à l'amplitude de dissimilitude entre lesdits signaux codés numériquement et détectés, constituant ledit premier signal et un signal de référence prédéterminé constituant ledit second signal; ledit dispositif de réglage (24) étant couplé avec ladite horloge locale (40) et ledit dispositif d'analyse de profil différentiel (32, 36) et réagissant à la position temporelle en série de ladite période d'échantillonnage et à l'amplitude de dissimilitude entre lesdits signaux codés numériquement et détectés et ledit signal de référence prédéterminé en réglant l'apparition desdits signaux de temporisation de ladite horloge locale (40).
5. Système de synchronisation selon la revendication 4, dans lequel ladite horloge locale (40) comporte en outre un dispositif pour ordonner en série et établir lesdites périodes d'échantillonnage en des groupes spécifiés à l'avance de dimensions égales.
6. Système de synchronisation selon la revendication 5, dans lequel ledit dispositif d'analyse de profil différentiel (32, 36) comporte en outre une mémoire (60, 62, 64, 66, 68) pour mémoriser ledit signal de référence prédéterminé.
7. Système de synchronisation selon la revendication 6, dans lequel lesdits signaux codés numériquement et détectés et ledit signal de référence prédéterminé consistent chacun en des séquences de chiffres binaires, et ledit dispositif d'analyse de profil différentiel (32, 36) comprenant en outre un dispositif (32) pour mesurer l'amplitude de dissimilitude entre lesdites séquences binaires.
8. Système de synchronisation selon la revendication 7, dans lequel ledit dispositif de profil différentiel (32, 36) comporte en outre un dispositif (34) pour conserver des séquences codées numériquement et détectées pendant plus d'une période d'échantillonnage afin d'accumuler des données passées pour la mesure de ladite dissimilitude de séquence.
9. Système de synchronisation selon la revendication 8, dans lequel ledit dispositif de réglage (24) comporte en outre une mémoire en matrice adressable (34) à laquelle l'accès est donné par la position en série d'une période d'échantillonnage dans un groupe spécifié à l'avance, et l'amplitude de la dissimilitude desdites séquences détectées et de référence, ladite mémoire en matrice (34) produisant un signal contenant des informations qui concernent l'amplitude et la direction du réglage à appliquer auxdits signaux de synchronisation d'horloge locale.
10. Système de synchronisation selon la revendication 9, dans lequel ledit dispositif de réglage (24) comporte en outre un dispositif de plage de différence de séquence (114, 116, 120) qui empêche que des réglages soient appliqués auxdits signaux d'horloge à moins que ladite différence détectée entre lesdites séquences se situe dans une plage prédéterminée.

