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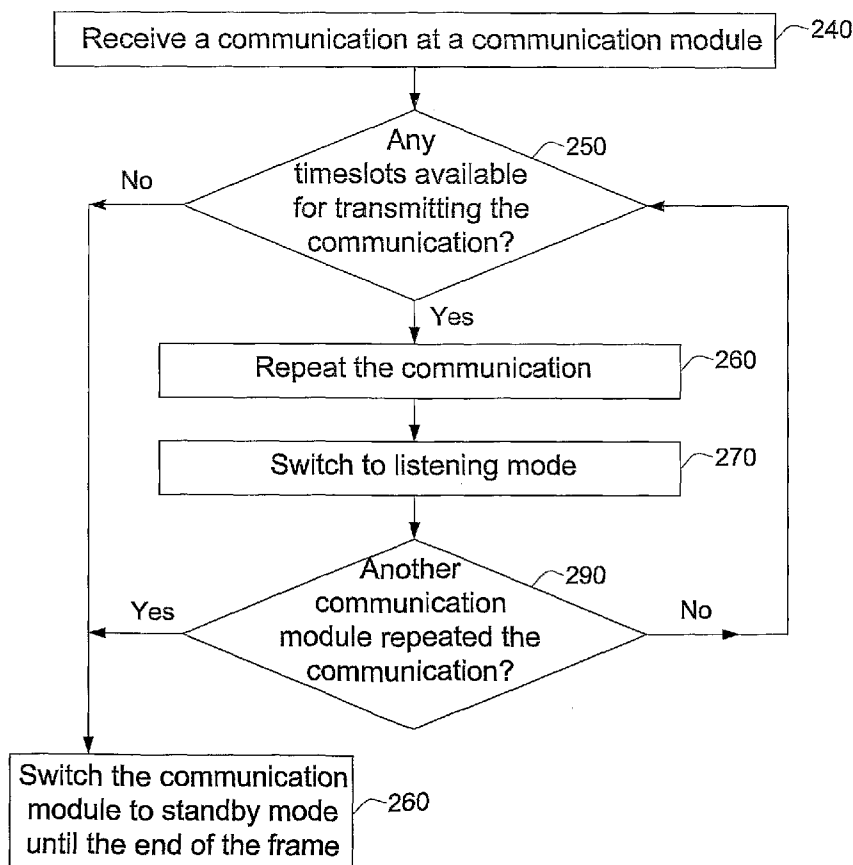
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[Continued on next page]

(54) Title: A METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR MANAGING COMMUNICATIONS WITHIN A DISTRIBUTED NETWORK



(57) Abstract: Some embodiments of the present invention relate to an apparatus for managing communications within a distributed network. According to some embodiments of the invention, the apparatus may include a communication management module and a synchronization module. The communication management module may be operatively coupled to a communication module belonging to the distributed network. The communication management module may be adapted to allocate for a communication within the network a communication frame comprised of a predetermined number of timeslots. The communication management module may configure the communication module coupled thereto to repeat the communication at one or more of the timeslots of the frame allocated for the communication. The synchronization module may be adapted to synchronize the communication module with at least one other communication

module within the distributed network.

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