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(54) Title: METHODS AND SYSTEMS FOR DYNAMICALLY CONFIGURING AND MANAGING COMMUNICATION NETWORK NODES AT THE MAC SUBLAYER

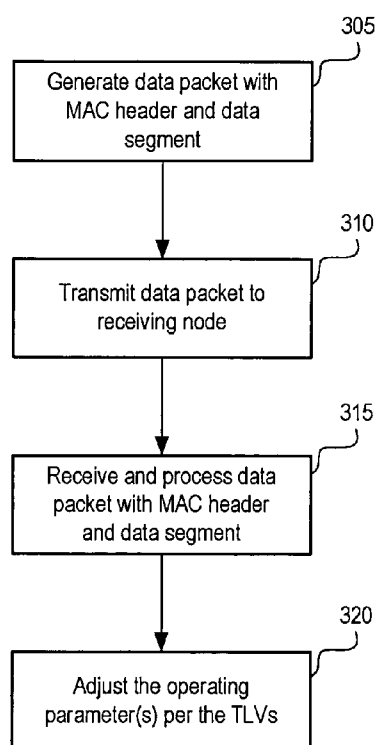


FIG. 3

(57) Abstract: Methods are disclosed for generating a data packet at a sending node of the network that conforms to a media access control (MAC) layer protocol for network communications. The data packet includes a MAC header and a data segment, wherein data in said data segment is encoded as a type-length-value element identifying a value for an operating parameter of the network. The data packet is transmitted from the sending node to a receiving node. At the receiving node, the data packet is processed at the MAC sublayer of network protocols to retrieve said element and determine the value for the operating parameter. Operating parameters within the receiving node are adjusted to conform to the determined value of the operating parameter.



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