

Description

The present invention relates to the provision of information telecommunication services between an information handling centre and users, through the switched public telecommunication and telephone networks.

Digital signal processors have been used for linking multiplex communication systems operating on different parameters. U.S. Patent 4,013,842 discloses an arrangement of this type in which digital signal processing is used to perform digital filtering functions between channels of time division and frequency division systems, thereby avoiding any need for down-converting signals from either system to voiceband.

Such processors have also been considered for use between single communication lines and data processing centres for transforming speech and data signals between voiceband and processable forms with benefits of reduced circuit size and cost.

However, the art does not seem to have noticed the problem presently addressed; i.e. the need for providing information communication services via the public switched network to remote users having diverse analog and digital signalling equipment, without having to dedicate circuits and equipment for matching signals sent and received by the information provider with signalling characteristics of user equipment, and without having to provide conversions of individual user signals between analog and digital forms.

EP-A-0265272 describes a direct synthesis system for connecting a telephone switching office to a data processing centre. The direct synthesis device converts the modulated digital data from the telephone switching device directly to a non-modulated digital format readable by the data processing centre, and vice versa, replacing separate digital/modems with a single purely digital device.

What appears not to have been recognised or appreciated by those skilled in the art is that equipment and/or communication circuits need not be dedicated to matching the particular signalling characteristics of user equipment, but that equivalent effects can be obtained from all-digital equipment variably allocated in time to handle modem conversions of diverse forms on an as needed basis.

More specifically, present users of public communication networks have diverse terminal equipment for transmitting and receiving various forms of information (alphanumeric data, image data, voice, etc) in various signal forms (e.g. speech in analog form, speech and/or modem data in log PCM digital form, data in analog form modulating sinusoidal carrier oscillations as transmitted by Bell 212A DataSet equipment, data in various signal forms associated with protocol standard such as x.21, x.25, v.24, etc). Providers of information services (e.g. search databases) generally link to dial up subscribers either through dedicated transmission circuits and dedicated equipment associated with the type of equipment located at the user terminal, or through common equipment and variably allocated transmission circuits but with special signal form conversions performed by an intermediate carrier.

For the information providers, neither method is very efficient. Dedicated circuits and special terminal equipment to match user equipment, and/or special form conversion handling by a carrier, are costly; so costs must be passed on to the user making the information service less attractive and marketable than it otherwise could be. Dedicated circuits and equipment tend not to be occupied to capacity at all times, and are therefore inefficient. Furthermore, such arrangements are difficult to adapt to new types of service such as integrated handling of voice mail with data, or integrated handling of video conferencing services with data, etc.

Recognising the value of and need for being able to adapt to such diverse usage of digital trunks, we have devised an adapting system and method which constitute the present invention. This system can provide not only all-digital signal form conversions of different types (through undedicated digital processing circuits), but also it can support integrated all-digital handling of voice and data and provide additional processing activities relative to data with added cost saving benefits.

Thus the present invention provides a server system for providing information telecommunication services between an information handling centre and multiple user terminals remotely linked to the centre through parts of the public switched telephone network comprising:

at least one time division multiplexed digital carrier trunk linking the centre with the public telephone network, the trunk carrying digital signals in log PCM form; and

an all-digital signal processing means coupling the centre with the trunk including means for exchanging signals with time channels on the trunk in digital form, means for exchanging signals with the centre in a digital form associated with the information processing requirements of the centre, and means for digitally converting signals between the form exchanged with the trunk and the form associated with the information centre;

and characterised in that the system can provide information telecommunication services to diversely equipped user terminals which transmit and receive digital signals in correspondingly diverse formats, the means for digitally converting signals including means for converting between said diverse formats and the digital form associated with the information centre.

The digital data processing system provides information telecommunication services relative to multiple

diversely equipped user terminals through high speed digital carrier facilities in the public telecommunication network, and for performing real-time all-digital conversions of signals relative to channels of the digital carrier so as to transmit and receive information in forms associated with user terminal equipment while maintaining the same information internally in forms best suited for efficient process handling.

It links to end users or customers through variably allocatable time division channels of a digital carrier system - e.g. North American T-1 or comparable European facilities operating under standards defined by the CEPT (Conference of European Postal and Telecommunications Administrators) - and accommodates to a large variety of equipment at user terminals with associated all-digital conversions. In addition to cost savings in the avoidance of dedicated circuitry, the invention allows for merged handling of data and voice services (e.g. voice mail storage and forwarding), and allows for growth to accommodate other services without changing its basic structure.

One form thereof disclosed hereinafter includes paired digital signal processors (DSP) serving a host processor. The DSP interfaces between the host and digital carrier channels and performs the all-digital conversions mentioned above. The host provides basic information handling services which the user requires. In addition to modem conversions, the DSP may be adapted to other processing services to reduce processing loads on the host, and thereby allow more efficient operation of both subsystems. Relative to the carrier system, the DSP receives and transmits signals in digital forms directly adapted to user equipment (so that after conversion between digital and analog forms the signals correspond directly to what is sent or receivable at user terminals). Relative to the host, the DSP transmits and receives signals in forms commensurate with host processing requirements. Thus, for instance, incoming signals representing alphanumeric data might be received in log PCM form from a user employing a Bell 212A Data set (such signals representing digitised samples of a modulated reference oscillation), and converted into code bytes directly representing character symbols. As another example, incoming signals representing quantised speech samples in log PCM form could be converted into Linear Predictive Code (LPC) form suitable for compact storage at the host (as for voice mail applications).

The disclosed DSP features dual pipelined signal processors, one interfacing with the host system, the other with the digital carrier trunk, and both cooperating to perform digital signal conversion functions.

These signal processors are adaptable through various microprogram loads provided by the host subsystem to perform the various digital modem conversions associated with adapting to user equipment diversity at the trunk interface, as well as other signal form conversions and "value-added" processing relative to the host interface which tend to present information to the host system in a form more directly suited to processing by the latter system, while offloading from the host corresponding processing operations.

Examples of "value-added" functions performable in the DSP are: decoding of control information received from control signalling sub-channels of the carrier system, recognition of specific tones in speech channels, synthesis of tones and insertion of such into speech channels, etc.

Memory is shared by the dual signal processors and is configured logically as circular buffers offering special advantages in respect to handling the above-mentioned form conversions. Such circular buffers can have varied lengths tailored to the needs of conversion processes to which they are allocated and the buffer currently allocated to one carrier channel can be adapted to support both modem and digital filtering conversion processes relative to that channel.

As disclosed, the shared memory is organised into separately accessible instruction storage and data storage sections, and that parts of the data storage section are configured logically as the circular buffers.

Information is exchanged between the signal processors and the digital carrier and host interfaces without formal interruptions of the signal processors.

The present invention will be described further by way of example with reference to an embodiment thereof and contrasting prior art arrangements, as illustrated in the accompanying drawings, in which:

Fig. 1 illustrates prior art arrangements for transmitting information between processing centres and remote diversely equipped users;

Fig. 2 illustrates schematically an arrangement in accordance with the present invention for transmitting information between a processing centre and remote diversely equipped users via a high speed digital carrier (T-1) and the public switched network, without dedicating lines or circuits at the centre to accommodate user diversity;

Fig. 3 schematically illustrates the general organisation of presently contemplated DSP systems;

Fig. 4 illustrates a detail of the memory organisation of the DSP system of Fig. 3;

Fig. 5 illustrates timing of memory accesses by the two processing sections of the DSP system;

Fig. 6 illustrates the pipelined organisation of each processing section of a DSP system;

Fig. 7 illustrates frame and superframe timing on the digital carrier T-1 system to which the DSP connects;

Fig. 8 schematically indicates functional division of responsibilities within the subject system;

Fig. 9 schematically illustrates logical organisation features of the subject DSP system;

Fig. 10 illustrates timing signals designated generally in Fig. 9;

Fig. 11 illustrates how DSP operations are timed relative to T-1 channel periods;

Fig. 12 illustrates capacities and contents of the instruction memory and data memory sections of the subject DSP system;

Fig. 13 illustrates how the subject system is initialised;

Figs. 14A, 14B and 14C illustrate how the exchange of signals between parts of the subject system is handled. Fig. 14A illustrates how signals are exchanged between the DSP processors and the host, Fig. 14B shows how the two processors of the DSP exchange signals. Fig. 14C shows how signals are exchanged between the DSP and the T-1 interface;

Fig. 15 illustrates how the subject system performs modem conversions; to transform digital data between the log PCM format required by the T-1 system (digitised samples of analog modem signals) and the direct representational form most effectively handled by the host system (in which the digits represent character or symbol intelligence directly);

Fig. 16 illustrates how the subject system would handle non-coded picture information between carrier and host processor systems;

Fig. 17 illustrates how the subject system would handle speech signals between carrier and host systems; and

Fig. 18 illustrates a detail of the logical organisation of the data memory portion of the subject system showing how each T-1 channel is allocated a revolving FIFO buffer space of selected capacity tailored to the type of information currently being handled through the respective channel.

Attention is drawn to EP-A-0 249 720, which discloses certain aspects of a digital signal processing system which can be used to implement the present invention, while EP-A-0 198 216 discloses details pertaining to the pipelined organisation of instruction execution. Patent Application Serial Number

(BC9-84-019) discloses an equaliser scheme having particular suitability for application in modem receiver sections of the disclosed arrangement.

Referring to Fig. 1, prior art telecommunication arrangements for transferring digital information between user data terminals 1 and a remote information processing centre 2 through a T-1 sub-system 3.1 of a common carrier telephone system 3, usually require dedicated per line equipment 4-6 for the maximum number of user channels to be served. Circuits 4-6 -- each comprising multiplexing-demultiplexing circuits 4, analog-digital conversion circuits 5, and modem circuits 6 -- operate to transfer digital signals between input-output channels of processing centre 2 and time division channels of T-1 carrier system 3.1. User signals received from switched public network 3 are demultiplexed in circuits 4, converted from transmitted digital form to analog form by circuits 5, and then reconverted to processable digital form by modem circuits 6 (the difference between transmitted digital form and processable digital form will be explained later). In the reverse direction, signals received from host 2 are converted from processed digital form to analog form in circuits 6, then converted from analog form to transmittable digital form in circuits 5, and finally multiplexed for T-1 transmission in circuits 4.

Signals in transmittable form are signals which can be handled transparently through network 3 in either analog or digital form. Data signals of the type which can be received and transmitted by Bell System 212A DataSet Equipment -- i.e. sinusoidal or other type analog signals modulated by digital data or discrete PCM digital samples of such sinusoids -- represent examples of signals in this form. Signals in processable digital form are signals more directly representing data (i.e. the digital data originally used to modulate the sinusoids; e.g. data representing discrete alphanumeric characters).

Thus, in the illustrated configuration, up to 24 dedicated circuit paths 4-6 could be needed, since a T-1 system can sustain up to 24 time division channels of communication.

Also shown in Fig. 1 are individual analog circuit paths 3.2 between the network 3 and centre 2, as well as discrete voice signal paths 3.3 and dedicated analog-digital conversion circuits 10 between the public network and separate facilities 7 for storage of voice messages in compressed digital form relative to user telephone sets 1.3.

As shown in Fig. 2, the more efficient present arrangement uses a single digital signal processing system 14 (hereafter termed DSP) between a processing centre 17 and T-1 trunk 16 to effectively serve the aggregate of all user lines, represented at 15 in both Figs. 1 and 2. Although trunk 16 is designated and described as T-1, it will be understood as this description develops that this invention would serve other digital carrier systems including those used by common carriers outside the United States. Thus, DSP 14 and host 17 together can provide the equivalent of services performed by the aggregate of equipment 2, 4-7, and 10 in Fig. 1, as well as the communication functions of dedicated lines 3.2 and 3.3 in Fig. 1, for less cost, etc. The provision of DSP 14 for this purpose, as well as details of its organisation and method of operation, constitute the present invention, and are more fully described hereafter.

Figs. 3-6 illustrate the general organisation of the subject DSP system. As shown in Fig. 3, this system

comprises two processing elements 20 and 21 (also designated processors P1 and P2), coupled to memory 22 through a bus 23 and multiplexing circuits 24. Memory 22 is also accessible directly to the host system via bus 25. Processors 20 and 21 and multiplexing circuits 24 are controlled by timing circuits 26 to have the processors access the memory in a time interleaved manner when the host processor is not accessing memory. This is more fully described in EP-A 0249720. When the host processor is accessing memory, the DSP processors are inhibited from accessing memory, but they are free to perform other operations (e.g. data manipulations). The manner by which the processors 20 and 21 and the host system coordinate their accesses to memory with frame timing of the T-1 network is more fully discussed hereafter.

Processors 20 and 21 have input-output adapters 27, 28 for linking them to the host system and T-1 trunks. In the referred embodiment only one DSP processor and its adapter interface to the host system (P1 and adapter 27 in Fig. 3) and only the other DSP processor and its adapter (DSP2 and adapter 28) interface to T-1 trunks. When the host is not accessing the memory, P1 and P2 have time interleaved cyclic access to the memory. This is coordinated in real time with signal activities on the T-1 lines via coupling between timing circuits 26 and these lines.

As shown in Fig. 4, memory 22 is organised into two separately accessible access sections 40 and 41; 40 (I-RAM) holding instructions and 41 (D-RAM) holding data to be operated upon in accordance with instructions. As shown in Fig. 5, accesses of P1 and P2 to sections 40 and 41, and associated operations of these processors on instructions and data, are staggered in time. Thus, as one processor retrieves an instruction from I-RAM, the other one begins decoding of one retrieved earlier, and as one processor retrieves data from D-RAM the other operates on data previously fetched, etc.

Each processor 20, 21, has the pipelined organisation suggested in Fig. 6; with cascaded stages 50, 51 and 52 respectively controlling fetching, decoding and execution of instructions stored in memory section 40. Sequencer 53 controls the sequence of instructions fetched by stage 50 in accordance with operations required in the respective processor relative to either its external interface (to T-1 or host) or the other processor. Such operations, discussed more fully later, generally involve: 1) separation of control information carried in specific T-1 sub-channels from other information being carried to and from users; 2) movement of such other information between T-1 channels and revolving buffer portions of data memory 41 as discussed later; and 3) processing of such other information in the revolving buffers to convert between PCM sample forms required by the T-1 system and "direct representational" forms suitable for host system usage. Register 54 buffers instructions in transit between stages 50 and 51, and register 55 buffers decoded control signals applied to stage 52. Stage 52 has address bus connection 56, for transferring addresses to data memory 41, and data bus connections 57 for exchanging data with memory 41.

Aspects of T-1 system timing relevant to understanding DSP operations to be described are suggested in Fig. 7. Series of 24 consecutive time channels, separated by delimiter bit signals Y, form frames, and series of 12 consecutive frames form superframes, in a manner commonly understood in the telecommunications industry (reference: "High Capacity Digital Service - Channel Interface Specification", American Telephone And Telegraph company Publication 62411, Published Sept. 1983). Similar timing considerations apply to CEPT digital link standards mentioned earlier (reference: "CCITT Recommendations for TDM Carriers: G703, G704, G733 and G734, published in "CCITT Redbooks", 1985).

Each channel has 8 bit slots. The 5th frame of a superframe 60 is shown as typical at 61, and the 12th channel of that frame is suggested as typical at 62. As shown in the last two rows at 60, delimiter bit Y varies in distinctive S and T bit patterns from frame to frame. Such patterns are used for synchronising to the carrier for reception and transmission. The 8th bit in each channel (bit "X") is variable in context; being interpreted in other than the 6th and 12th frames of each superframe as the least significant of 8 data bits in the respective channels, and in the 6th and 12th frames as "A" and "B" signalling bits defining call connection control functions (e.g. "on hook", "off hook", etc.)

Since the T-1 data rate is 1.544 megabits per second, the nominal period of a frame channel is 5.18 microseconds. As will be seen later, this is orders of magnitude longer than the processing period of the DSP system. Hence, many system operations can be performed during each T-1 channel period.

Fig. 8 indicates the division of responsibilities between DSP1, DSP2 and their respective host and network interfaces. As suggested at 80 and 81, the host interface initialises I-RAM and D-RAM, after which the DSP processors conduct internal diagnostics and idle waiting for a host signal to begin operating relative to the network. Cooperating with DSP2, dedicated circuits 82, 83 at the T-1 interface extract bit clock and frame timing information from incoming signals. Processing this information, dedicated circuits 84 determine the network configuration (for instance toggling T-1 usage between 24 channel time division multiplex and one single large information transmission channel) and allocate buffer space suggested at 85 for reception and transmission.

With initialisation completed, and the network configured, DSP 2 initiates operations to establish frame/superframe synchronisation, and thereafter proceeds to receive and process signals incoming from the

network. The processing of such signals includes converting them from their received form, as digital representations of sampled analog waveforms, to direct digital representations of information to be processed (e.g. alphanumeric characters). These functions are suggested at 86.

Concurrently, DSP1 responds to interruptions presented by dedicated host interface circuits 87 to initiate conversion processing of outbound information signals, as suggested at 88.

Fig. 9 shows the logical organisation of the subject system. Processing elements 20 and 21, and timing network 26, are shown with the same numbers as in Fig. 3, and memory elements 40 and 41 are shown with the same numbers as in Fig. 4. I-RAM 40 is addressable by the host system, for initial program loading (IPL) of instruction programs used by the DSP system, through address bus 90 and address buffer 92, under direction of control signals presented by the host on line 94. When so addressed, instruction data is written to I-RAM from the host system via data buffer 96, under direction of control signals on line 94.

Similarly, D-RAM 41 is addressable by the host through address buffer register 98, under direction of control signals furnished by the host on line 100. When so addressed, D-RAM 41 receives initial data parameters associated with loaded instruction programs via buffer register 102. Control line 100 is applied via Or circuit 104 to memory control port 106, to prepare the memory for write-in and read-out of data as required. Or 104 receives other read/write control inputs from DSP1 and DSP2 during their accesses. During initialisation, control signals on lines 94 and 100 pass through OR circuit 108 to pre-empt control of I and D RAM's for the host.

After initialisation, these memories are addressed by processors 20 and 21 in a time-interleaved mode described in EP-A-0 249 720. In such operations, multiplexor unit 109 alternately receives instruction addresses from processor #1 on bus 110 and from processor #2 on bus 112, and supplies them to instruction memory unit 40. While this is occurring, multiplexor 114 receives addresses for D-RAM alternately from the same processors, via buses 116 and 118, and transfers them to memory 41. Concurrently, OR circuit 104 referred to previously applies read/write control signals to control port 106 setting the direction of data movement relative to memory.

Accordingly, memories 40 and 41 exchange information between addressed locations and the addressing processors via paths indicated in Fig. 9. Instructions are transferred from I-RAM 40 to DSP1 via memory output bus 119 and latching register 120, and to DSP2 via bus 119 and latching register 121.

In response to readout operations, data passes from memory 41 to DSP2 via memory output bus 124, latching register 126, buffer register 128, and processor data bus 130; and from memory 41 to DSP1 via memory bus 124, latching register 136, buffer register 138, and processor data bus 140. In writing operations, data is transferred from processors 20 and 21 to memory 41 via respective processor buses 140 and 130, multiplexor unit 142, buffer register 144 and memory bus 124. This unit alternates services to the processors in the same sequence as address multiplexor 114 but appropriately staggered in time so that the data to be written arrives at the memory input port just as the appropriate address path is established.

Processor 21 links to the T-1 interface via its I/O units 146, and its address and data buses, and processor 20 links to the host system via its I/O units 148 and its address and data buses. Although shown as single lines, it should be understood that the foregoing processor and memory address and data buses are actually plural line parallel bus configurations. Preferred bus sizes are 27 bits for instruction data, 18 bits for working data, 14 bits for instruction addressing, and 15 bits for addressing working data and I/O units.

Referring to Figs. 9 and 10, timing circuits 26 provide time staggered cyclic timing signals A, B, C, and D, and signals A+D and C+D derived by ORing A and D, and C and D. B and D are applied as references to processors 20 and 21 with relatively reversed connections so that their application in processor 20 is 180 degrees out of phase with their application in processor 21. Signal C+D controls multiplexor 109, to pass address signals to I-RAM 40 from processor 20 during C and D times, and from processor 21 during A and B times; processor 20 originating its signals during B times and processor 21 originating its signals during D times.

Signals D and B are also respectively applied to instruction latching registers 120 and 121 which respectively supply instructions to processors 20 and 21. Thus instructions addressed by processor 20 initially during B times appear at respective latching register 120 during successive D times, and instructions addressed by processor 21 during D times appear at respective latches 121 during successive B times. Similar time staggered time relationships are established between the processor and memory 41. Address multiplexor 114 is operated by signals C+D to initiate data accesses for processor 21 during A and B times and processor 20 during C and D times. Data read out during such operations for processor 20 is latched at D times in latching register 136, and for processor 21 at B times in latching register 126. Write data multiplexor 142 operates at A+D times to write data from processor 21 at B and C times and from processor 20 at A and D times.

Fig. 11 contrasts lengths of DSP cycles, as defined by parameters A-D, to recurrence periods of T-1 channels. DSP cycles recur at intervals of 120 nanoseconds, while T-1 channels recur at intervals of 5.181 microseconds. Thus, many DSP operations can be performed during each T-1 channel period. Since data paths between DSP processors and their I/O adapter units are at least 8 bits wide, it can be appreciated that only a

single cycle on the respective DSP data bus is required for either processor to transfer data to and/or from a T-1 channel. It can be appreciated further that the time required for each such bus transfer is so small by comparison to the length of a T-1 channel as to present minimal interference to other processor operations (control signal extraction, data format conversions, etc.)

5 Fig. 12 indicates the size and information contents of I-RAM and D-RAM. Both have 16,000 (16K) address locations, with word sizes of 27 bits in I-RAM and 16 bits in D-RAM.

Instruction and control parameters in I-RAM include: a 32 word section 180 for initialisation parameters, a 288 word section 181 for handling host system interruptions, a 739 word section 182 for data conversions tailored to remote user modems, a 138 word section 183 for USART/Host interface processes (USART, as defined in product specifications of the Intel 8251, means Universal Synchronous or Asynchronous Receiver/Transmitter) including a device for parallel to serial conversion in transmission and serial to parallel conversion in reception, as well as means for implementing other protocol functions such as byte alignment, error checking, formatting, etc., as required for standard data communication protocols (e.g. asynch, bisynch, SDLC, HDLC, etc.), a 136 word section 184 for linking to the T-1 interface, a diagnostic section 185 (including a 192 word portion for modem and T-1 process diagnostics, and a 2K word section for hardware and background diagnostics), a 9K word section 186 for initialising tables used in the foregoing processes (which after initialisation can be overlaid with instructions for other functions such as speech compression) and a 3.4K section 187 for miscellaneous other functions.

D-RAM includes a 512 word section for each currently active T-1 channel — that is, up to 24 such sections, occupying a space 188 of up to 12,228 words, for sustaining one T-1 line interface (to sustain communications with more than one T-1 line the preferred practice is to use plural DSP's linked to separate I/O channels of one or more host systems). Each space 188 includes work and buffer spaces allocated for reception and transmission processing. Depending upon the functional requirements of reception and transmission processing a trade-off may be made to allocate more of the available space to one or the other function. D-RAM further includes 3 512 word sections indicated at 189 for storing filter coefficients, tables for conversion of data between log and linear forms, and tables for sine value lookup for use in generating sinusoidal carrier signal functions. D-RAM also includes a 256 word section 190 for linking variables used by conversion programs, a 1.5K word section 191 for lookup tables needed for transmission processing, and a 512 word section 192 for staging for receive and transmit signalling bits (refer to earlier discussion of Fig. 7).

30 Referring to Fig. 13, the DSP subsystem initialises itself in a process generally indicated at steps 196-204. In step 196, the host loads microinstructions and control data for the DSP's into I-RAM, and notifies the DSP's via interruptions. DSP1 and DSP2 thereupon disable interrupts and, by alternate access to I-RAM, as explained previously, execute the bootstrap initialisation sequence contained therein (step 197, and refer to space 180 Fig. 12). Notice that both DSP's may perform this and other sequences simultaneously, via their shared access to I-RAM, thereby reducing memory capacity required for each DSP's instructions).

Thereafter, the DSP's run diagnostics upon themselves (step 198) using instructions in I-RAM space 185 (Fig. 12), and at completion notify the host of their status. Any detected fault is repaired before operations proceed. After successful completion of diagnostics, D-RAM is initialised (step 199) and linking information is set into D-RAM space 190 (Fig. 12) to establish initial program chaining procedures for each DSP (step 200).

40 At this point a request is made to the logic interfacing between DSP2 and the T-1 system to start the search for T-1 frame synchronisation (step 201 and Fig. 7). Upon detection of frame synchronisation, DSP's are informed via interruptions (step 202) and start to handle network requests for connection on a per channel basis (step 203). In this process, DSP2 receives the signalling bits (A,B Fig. 7) containing the connection request information, assembles them into words (in D-RAM space 192, Fig. 12) and notifies DSP1 of such assembly. Thereupon DSP1 interrupts the host system and passes the relevant location of the signalling word to the host. The host retrieves and analyses these words to determine the connection and passes signalling information via D-RAM to the DSP's for transfer to the network. In this way, connections (T-1 channel allocations and switched paths through the public network) are established. For each connection, a suitable program chaining sequence is established (step 204) to enable the DSP's to perform the reception and transmission conversion processes appropriate to the type of data being transmitted and the equipment at the remote user station.

50 Fig. 14A indicates the logical interface between the DSP's and Host for data transfers. The instruction transfer interface between the host and I-RAM 209 (or block 40 in Fig. 9) is a simple one-way bussing configuration using address buffer 227 and a not-shown data buffer. Most of the activity for instruction loading is accomplished during system initialisation when the DSP's are idle and time is not critical. However, the data transfer interface to D-RAM is used both by the DSP's and host DMA (direct memory access) and cycle steal controls when interference with DSP activities is less tolerable.

Under host control, data is transferred between host RAM 210 and D-RAM shown at 211, via host interface latches 214 and 216; 214 for outbound data and 216 for inbound data.

During host controlled data transfers, addresses are sent from the host to D-RAM addressing port 208 via address register 220, and are applied to D-RAM in one of two modes; a cycle steal mode or a direct access mode. In the cycle steal mode, described below, data is transferred while the DSP's are not using the D-RAM, whereas in direct access mode, DSP access is pre-empted by the host. Obviously, the cycle steal mode is more efficient in terms of bus usage and operation in the DSP subsystem.

Cycle steal transfers operate as follows. As each DSP decodes an instruction (previously fetched from I-RAM) it determines if its next cycle of read or write access to D-RAM is not required. For example, instructions defining data movement from an internal DSP register to another DSP register do not require the DSP to read data from or write data to D-RAM, and at such times the D-RAM is made accessible for cycle steal accesses.

At such times, the affected DSP applies a "CS Avail" signal, at 229A, to cycle steal control logic 228, this signal indicating availability of D-RAM for cycle steal access. If a request from DMA controls 212 is pending, logic 228 responds to the availability indication by immediately transferring data between register 214 and the D-RAM location defined by the address in register 220.

Since data in transit from host to D-RAM must be processed in the order of its transfer, and since cycle steal write transfers do not afford time to pass information regarding the location in D-RAM which has been written (where in normal DMA transfers time is available for updating address counts on the DSP side to reflect such) a mechanism is required to automatically indicate the completion of each "write cycle steal" transfer and the address written. This mechanism is implemented here by the "write CS complete" line 229B and backup buffer register 224. When line 229B is activated, DSP1 is notified via interrupt that the previously requested transfer is complete. Meanwhile, as the completion indication is given, the D-RAM address in register 220 is passed to register 224 to which DSP1 refers. DSP1 must then store this address internally as the next address from which it is to read data. The interrupt to DSP1 is cleared when circuit 226 detects a branch to the vector address for that interrupt.

Since host-DSP data transfers may be either a word (two bytes) or one byte wide, another function required in processing data so transferred is for the DSP to be able to determine if the amount of data transferred in the cycle steal write was one word or one byte. The mechanism for this involves the structure of buffer register 224 and upper data strobe (UDS) and lower data strobe (LDS) signals sent from host DMA. Register 224 is 16 bits wide and the 14-bit address word in register 220 is transferred to the middle 14 bits in register 224. UDS and LDS are respectively transferred to the highest and lowest order bit positions in register 224. UDS and LDS are both high (1 values) when a word is transferred, and UDS is high and LDS is low when only a byte is transferred. Thus, the values of the low and high order bits in register 224 indicate the width of the completed cycle steal transfer to the DSP.

Data Transfers to/from the host may also be controlled by DSP1. Data transfers between D-RAM and host RAM are controlled by DSP1 using multiple registers, including outbound registers 215 and inbound registers 217; the inbound registers carrying data from D-RAM to Host RAM and the outbound registers carrying data in the opposite direction. Each set comprises a pair of registers in tandem with associated latching controls (not shown) so that at any instant of time a pair may hold two data words (16 bits each) in transit. The not-shown latching controls indicate the state of vacancy or fullness of the pair. Whenever an inbound transfer is in process and one of the registers of the inbound pair is full a write request is presented to Host RAM. Similarly, when an outbound transfer is in process and one of the registers of the outbound pair is empty a read request is presented to host RAM.

As described previously, cycle steal transfers are used whenever possible; to fill registers 217 during inbound transfers and empty registers 215 during outbound transfers. During data transfers controlled by DSP1, counters keep track of lengths of scheduled burst transfers (block 223) and of successive address locations in D-RAM (block 225) and Host RAM (blocks 221 and 222).

Additional DSP/Host interfacing logic includes a multiplicity of status registers 219, which can be loaded by DSP1 with application dependent status information. The host can read such status whenever necessary. Interrupt vector latch 218 is also loaded by DSP1 and provides the host with an interrupt vector during an interrupt acknowledge cycle. Interrupts so generated are used by DSP1 to inform the host that a response is required. Additional command and status registers 213 allow the host processor to monitor error conditions in the DSP attachment logic and to selectively reset or ignore them depending on conditions.

Referring to Fig. 14B, the division of data signal handling responsibilities between DSP1 and DSP2 is: DSP1 handles the exchanges at the host interface and the conversion processes relative to outbound data, while DSP2 handles all exchanges at the T-1 interface and conversions of data received from the T-1. Handling responsibilities are handed over from one to the other processor, after conversion processing, by means of interruptions.

Relative to data outbound from host interface to T-1 interface, DSP1: reacts to host interruption or indication that a cycle steal transfer has occurred (action 230) to link to an instruction routine (in I-RAM) for han-

dling outbound data relative to a T-1 channel indicated by a channel counter (in the illustration, T-1 Channel 1).

Using the address or address pointer passed from the interface, DSP1 accesses the data just transferred (action 231) which is found in D-RAM Transmit Work Space (See Fig. 12 at 188), and links to instruction routines (action 232) for conversion of data appropriate to the type of data being handled in Channel 1 at this time, and to the type of modem equipment employed at the remote user station currently linked to channel 1. With these routines, the data in the Channel 1 work space is processed (action 233) to produce a channel 1 byte sample suitable for T-1 transmission and to store that sample into the Channel 1 Transmit Buffer space in D-RAM (action 234). DSP1 then interrupts DSP2 (Action 235).

DSP2 then takes over the handling of outbound data relative to T-1 channel 1, links to an instruction routine for transmit interfacing to T-1 (action 236), and passes the data sample formed by DSP1 over to T-1 channel 1 (action 237).

During the foregoing actions 230-235 by DSP1, DSP2 occupies itself with receiving data in another T-1 channel (here, the channel prior to channel 1, i.e. channel 24). To do so, DSP2 reacts to an interrupt at the T-1 interface to link to a reception processing routine (action 240). Using a pointer passed in such interrupt, DSP2 accesses data samples currently in the D-RAM channel 24 receive buffers (action 241). Then linking to receive conversion routines in I-RAM appropriate to the type of data and linked user configuration associated with Channel 24 (action 242), DSP2 performs conversion processing on received data samples (action 243) and stores a data byte suitable for host processing in the D-RAM channel 24 receive work space (action 244). Finally, an interruption is passed to DSP1 (action 245) alerting the latter to the D-RAM location and T-1 channel involved.

This causes DSP1 to link to instruction routines for host interfacing (action 246) and pass a channel 24 data byte to the host system (action 247). Upon concluding respective actions 247, 237 for transferring data respectively to the host and T-1 systems, DSP1 and DSP2 respectively link to routines for awaiting host and T-1 interrupts relative to the next data to be processed, and repeat the process just described for that data (respectively actions 248, and 249).

It should be realised that in the foregoing discussion, a block of data (multiple bytes) may be processed from a single channel (rather than a single byte per channel) in order to minimise instruction overhead. Also, the interrupt processes (235, 245) between DSP1 and DSP2 are actually asynchronous relative to each other and provide only a loose coordination of the flow of processing between the two processors.

Fig. 14C illustrates relevant features of the data transfer interface between the DSP's and the T-1 network. Data received from the network is staged in FIFO (first in first out) buffers 260, transferred out from these buffers in the order of reception to bus interface circuit 261, and from the latter circuit to D-RAM. Data outbound to the network is passed from D-RAM through circuits 261 to FIFO buffers 262, and from the buffers to the network in the order of entry into the buffers. Accesses to D-RAM for these transfers are by cycle steal action, similar to that described above relative to element 228 in Fig. 14A, in order to minimise interference with current DSP operations.

Circuits shown at 263-265 for addressing D-RAM relative to the foregoing data transfer operations are of particular interest. Mode select/switch circuit 263 has two multiplex sections 263A and 263 B for sustaining these operations in two different modes associated with two different modes of usage of the T-1 frame bandwidth; a "multi-channel" mode in which the frame is time divided into channels allocatable to multiple users (see Fig. 7), and a "single channel" mode in which the frame is allocated to a single high speed bit stream to or from a single user. Addresses to circuits 263A/263B are "offset" frame and channel counts explained next, which are passed through switching circuits alternating between "offset" transmit and receive channel and frame count functions corresponding to the timing of transmission and reception channels and frames on the T-1 link.

In the context just used, the "offset" counts are adjusted in value relative to the channel and/or frame currently being received so as to compensate for delays encountered by corresponding data in the respective FIFO buffer paths 260 and 262. The objective is that the offset receive (transmit) channel and frame counts should correspond in instantaneous value to the numbers of channel and frame time slots on the T-1 from which the data byte next out of buffer 260 was received (or respectively to which the next data byte into buffer 262 is to be sent). Thus, if the time needed for a received data byte to pass through buffer 260 is equal in duration to 5 T-1 channel periods, the offset channel count for that byte would be N-5, where N is the number of the T-1 time slot currently being received and N-5 represents the number of the time slot in which the byte was actually received. Similarly, for a data byte to be sent out in channel M the offset count associated with its entry into buffer 262 would be N+j where N is the number of the slot currently being transmitted, and j is the number of data bytes currently in buffer 262 waiting to be sent out. Thus, in cycle steal transfers to/from D-RAM, the un-offset count is used at the T-1 network interface to write to receive buffer 260 and read from transmit buffer

262, while the offset count is used at the other interface to read from receive buffer 260 and write to transmit buffer 262.

Addresses passed to D-RAM by circuits 263 are selected functions of the foregoing offset counts, the selection depending on the mode of T-1 usage. In multi-channel mode, the offset frame count is applied to the LSB (Least Significant Bit) address bit positions at the input to multiplexer circuit 263A, and the offset channel count is applied to the MSB (Most Significant bit) address bit positions of that circuit. Each address term applied to 263A in this mode, when concatenated with an additional offset value not shown, is used to address byte locations within a circular buffer formed in D-RAM work space locations 188 (see Fig. 12). Since channel counts form the most significant address bits in this mode, data received/sent in consecutive channels is written to/read from locations in D-RAM locations offset from each other by 512 word location positions. Since frame counts form least significant bits in this mode, data bytes received/sent in the same channel in successive frames are written to/read from consecutive byte locations in D-RAM. Thus, the data in each channel is staged in consecutive locations within a 512 word space allocated to that channel, and can be manipulated directly within that space for required modem conversions and digital filter transformations to be described.

In single channel high speed mode, addresses are formed through circuit 263B, where channel counts form the least significant bits and frame counts the most significant. Thus, in this mode, bytes received/sent in consecutive channel slots of a T-1 frame, and representing a single user bit stream, are written/read to/from consecutive byte locations in D-RAM space 188.

Mode select signals at 263C select between multichannel and high speed single channel modes. "Cycle Available" signals at 263D, indicating availability of D-RAM for cycle steal access, gate addresses through the selected mode section of circuits 263; namely section 263A or 263B. Thus, data is passed between the T-1 link and D-RAM in cycle steal mode, presenting minimal interference with processing operations concurrently being performed by the DSP's. Not shown priority logic in the network interface compares offset counts for transmit and receive functions to determine which function will use the next cycle available for data transfer.

Figs 15-18 illustrate conversion processes applied to different types of data ranging from simple alphanumeric data to data representing images (non-coded data) and speech. These processes are described next.

Referring to Fig. 15, typical functions for duplicating operations of a coherent phase shift keyed modem in all-digital manner include operations 270 on received (T-1) signals and operations 271 on signals to be transmitted. The order of these operations is indicated at 272.

Operations 270 include operations 273 for converting received T-1 data signals from log to linear form; the log form representing quantised and compressed samples of an analog waveform transmitted by the (remote) T-1 trunk operator, and the linear form representing directly processable samples of the same analog waveform. Results of conversion operations 273 receive AGC (automatic gain control) processing at 274, followed by digital filtering at 275 of real (275A) and imaginary (275B) parts of the signal functions.

If required, equalisation is applied at 276 (equalisation is used to compensate for spectral distortions introduced in the voice grade lines of the public system, and is generally needed only for signals transmitted at high baud rates on the order of 2400 bits per second). A preferred equalisation arrangement for the fixed sampling rate environment of this invention (where it is impractical to attempt to synchronise symbol sampling in reception to the transmission baud rates of multiple senders) is disclosed in EP-A-0353891.

Filtered signals then receive carrier recovery processing at 277, followed by demodulation processing at 278. Signals produced by process 278 are subjected to slicer/decoder processing 279 (serving to locate centres of symbol periods where maximum signal levels are available for processing, and to decode detected phase shifts into bits representing transmitted data), followed by de-scrambler processing 280 (serving to reverse a scrambling process applied in the transmission) and protocol processing 281 (serving to synchronise processing to 8-bit byte boundaries and to provide error checking). Results of protocol processing, representing data signals in a form directly suited for data processing applications, are forwarded to the host system.

Transmit process 271 comprises reverse protocol processing 290, followed by scrambler processing 291 (serving to enhance timing recovery at the receiver by ensuring that data transitions occur randomly even if data patterns repeat), followed by encoder processing 292 (serving to convert groups of bits into corresponding phase shifts to be transmitted), followed by modulation processing 293, where a digitally synthesised form of carrier oscillations introduced at 294 is combined with the output of the encoder process. Output of the modulator process is subjected to digital filtering 295, of real and imaginary parts shown respectively at 295A and 295B, followed by level control processing 296, followed by lin to log form conversion processing 297 yielding data signals suitable for T-1 transmission and handling through remote analog portions of the public network.

The initial microcode load to I-RAM typically will include code segments and subroutines to handle multiple modem types. Since all such segments reside in I-RAM simultaneously, it is simply a matter of linking them in the right order within the main line of program flow in order to control the assignment of appropriate segments to each channel. To accomplish this, the data segment for each channel is allocated several locations which

are used for linking: one pointing to the program segment in I-RAM to be used in processing the next channel's data, and the other pointing to the data segment to be used in that process. In this way, a chain can be constructed which can be modified as required to allocate appropriate segments to each active channel. Obviously, the same program segment can appear multiple times in the chain (as needed to perform the same process) and inactive channels can be bypassed in the chain.

A and B signalling bits within the T-1 frame (figure 7) denoting on-hook and off-hook conditions, are used by a supervisory background program to modify the chain when new channels become active; i.e. as incoming calls cause new links to be added, pointers are inserted in the chain for positioning such links in the correct process sequence (188, figure 12), while as calls are terminated respective pointers are removed.

In the simplest case, all channels would use the same conversion process (same segments with re-entrant pointers). For multiple different processes, per channel allocation of processes may be handled in several ways. A fixed allocation may be made wherein channels 1-M use process A, channels M-N use process B, etc. In an ISDN (Integrated Services Digital Network) environment, the common signalling channel is all digital and could carry messages to set up conversion processes relative to analog channels. A third and more flexible alternative would be to determine the type of conversion process required based on a signal received during an initial training period. Many modems offer multiple speed options, and usually include in their start-up procedures steps to determine the transmission speed at the other end of the line. Some modems also switch from one type of modulation to another (e.g. phase shift or PSK to frequency shift or FSK).

At the host interface, a structure of control blocks may be arranged to control the subject DSP attachments. A configuration control block would be used to initialise the attachment and select various frame format options. A channel control block would be used to activate a specific channel, and determine its use and associated conversion process. If outward dialling is required this control block may contain the number or numbers to be dialled, which would be converted in the DSP to the appropriate form of dial impulses for transmission to the network.

A separate channel service control block would be used for each active channel. When a channel is activated, receive and transmit control blocks would be used to reserve host RAM space for data buffers. A separate chain of such control blocks can be set up for each active channel to ensure that adequate buffer space is always available. If the host has prior knowledge of the required conversion process, based on configuration for a specific application, the channel services control block can be used to set up that process for a channel being activated. Otherwise, a process may be set up to detect the type of signal being received, and based on that information provide linkage to a suitable process.

The foregoing operations per se are not new as digital data processing functions, and are not presently claimed as such. What is new of course is the application of such processes within the context of the present invention, wherein digitised samples of analog signals are being passed between a host system and a public carrier network multiplex interface for linkage to variously equipped end users, and wherein the modem conversions required between the host and carrier interfaces are carried out in an all-digital fashion eliminating need for dedicated circuits for analog to digital conversion, etc.). Individually, such operations are described extensively in Textbooks and Published Technical Literature. Representative textbooks include:

1. "Digital And Analog Communication Systems", K. S. Shanmugam, Published by John Wiley & Sons in 1979.

2. "Digital Signal Processing", A. V. Oppenheim and R. W. Schaffer, Published by Prentice-Hall in 1975. Particular functions are described in:

1. AGC: In "Adaptive digital Automatic Gain Control", by G. T. Davis, in The IBM Technical Disclosure Bulletin, vol. 27, No. 10B, March 1985, Page 6334.

2. Carrier Recovery: In "Carrier-Phase Tracking In Synchronous Data-Transmission Systems", H. P. Kaeser, IBM Research Report RZ812, published 1/25/77 **

3. Modulator/Demodulator: "Microprocessor Implementation of High-Speed Data Modems", P. J. VanGerwen et al, IEEE Transactions On Communications, Vol. , 2/77, pages 238-250.

4. Transmit and receive filters: "Optimum FIR Transmitter and Receiver Filters For Data Transmission Over Band-Limited Channels",

P. R. Chevillat and G. Ungerboeck, IEEE Transactions On Communications, Vol. , August 1982, Pages 1909-1915.

Fig. 16 illustrates how non-coded (image or facsimile) data signals are handled in the subject system.

Image/video data provided by the host system for transmission to the network is optionally compressed at 350, and subjected to modulation processing at 351, as in Fig 15. Compression as an option depends on the equipment available at remote user stations. The purpose of compression is to reduce the bandwidth otherwise required to sustain such transmission. A reference for suitable compression algorithms is indicated in the drawing.

In the reverse direction, video data received from the network is demodulated at 352 (see Fig. 15 for this type of handling) and if in compressed form the demodulated signals are subjected to decompression processing at 353. Again it is noted that transmission in compressed form is a user option.

Video compression/decompression is described in: "Key Papers In The Development Of Coding Theory", 1974, Edited by E. R. Berlekamp (book of selected reprints from IEEE Press Series)

Handling of audio/speech signals between network and host is indicated in Fig. 17. A typical host application would be message store and forward (fee based telephone answering services, requiring rerouting of calls to a user/subscriber for storage of caller messages at the host (or in host peripherals), and forwarding of such messages to the user at the latter's request. In such applications host storage would be in compressed form and network transmission would be decompressed, as suggested respectively at 360 and 361.

Compression and decompression algorithms for audio signals are described in: "Speech Coding", J. L. Flanagan et al, IEEE Trans. On Commun. Vol Com-27 No 4, Pages 710-737, April 1977.

Use of D-RAM in foregoing time division digital modem applications/operations is illustrated in Fig. 18. The figure illustrates the handling of receive conversion operations (see Figs. 12 and 15). Handling of transmit conversion operations involve similar memory usage in transmit buffer and work space sections of D-RAM.

As indicated in this Figure, relative to representative receive channel n of T-1, spaces 380 and 381 in D-RAM are respectively allocated as Receive Buffer and Receive Work spaces. Data received in channel n is loaded into the Receive Buffer space as shown at 382, under control of channel counts associated with channel n and frame counts. Data in successive frames is loaded into consecutive byte locations in this space beginning at an initial location defined by a not-shown capacity counter and continuing until the space is filled. When that occurs, the capacity count recycles to point to the initial location and the process repeats with new received data being written over previously received data currently stored in the buffer space.

As the buffer space fills, DSP2 is directed by the application sustaining channel n handling to digital filtering processes 384 in I-RAM, and begins to generate the filtered output as described previously.

As demodulated data is extracted from space 381A copies of same are written into space 381B reserved for digital filtering, as suggested at 384. Relative to the latter space, the channel n application invokes routines 385 for digital filter processing. Space 381B is effectively treated as a separate recirculating delay line through which data is passed repeatedly to extract filtered data.

As filtered data is extracted from contents of space 381B, it is moved into other parts of the work space for other handling (see Fig. 15), until final data is formed. Final data is staged in yet another part of the work space of channel n for transfer to the host system in the order of extraction.

The following lists DSP instructions by type. Type abbreviations used are "RR" (for register to register), "RI" (for register immediate), "RX" (for register index), "RS" (for register to storage).

	OHR	r1,r2	OR H/W Register
	PNOP		Protected No Operation
5	SIGM	r1	Signum
	SHR	r1,r2	Subtract H/W Register
	SHRV	r1,r2	Subtract H/W Register with Saturation
10	TAHR	r1,r2	Test Add H/W Register
	TAHRP	r1,r2	Test Add H/W Register Positive
	TAHRV	r1,r2	Test Add H/W Register with Saturation
15	THR	r1	Test H/W Register
	TNHR	r1,r2	Test AND H/W Register
	TOHR	r1,r2	Test OR H/W Register
	TSHR	r1,r2	Test Subtract H/W Register
20	TSHRV	r1,r2	Test Subtract H/W Register with Saturation
	TXHRC	r1,r2	Text XOR H/W Register, 1's Complement
	XHRC	r1,r2	XOR H/W Register, 1's Complement Result
25	ZAHR	r1,r2	Zero and Add H/W Register
	ZHR	r1	Zero H/W Register
	ZSHR	r1,r2	Zero and Subtract H/W Register

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Register Immediate (RI) Instructions

	LHA	r1,d(idx)	Load H/W Address
35	LHI	r1,imm	Load H/W Register with Immediate Value

Register Index (RX) Instructions

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	B	d(idx)	Branch Unconditionally
	BAL	d(idx)	Branch and Link
45	BALI	O(CDB)	Branch and Link Indirect
	BBS	mask,d(idx)	Branch Bit Select
	BC	mask,d(idx)	Branch On Condition
	BCI	mask,O(CDB)	Branch On Condition W/Inhibit
50	BFOR	d,(idx)	Branch Unconditional Foreground
	BFORI	O(CDB)	Branch Unconditional Foreground W/Inhibit

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Register to Register (RR) Instructions

5	AHR	r1,r2	Add H/W Register
	AHRP	r1,r2	Add H/W Register Positive
	AHRV	r1,r2	Add H/W Register with Saturation
	CHR	r1,r2	Compare H/W Register
10	LHR	r1,r2	Load H/W Register
	LHRC	r1,r2	Load H/W Register, 1's Complement
	LHRN	r1,r2	Load H/W Register, 2's Complement
15	LHRP	r1,r2	Load H/W Register Positive
	LOG	r1	Log
	LOGM	r1	Log Magnitude
	MAX	r1,r2	Maximum
20	MAXM	r1,r2	Maximum Magnitude
	MHR	r1,r2	Multiply H/W Register
	MHRU	r1,r2	Multiply H/W Register Unsigned
25	MIN	r1,r2	Minimum
	MINM	r1,r2	Minimum Magnitude
	NHR	r1,r2	AND H/W Register
30	NOP		No Operation

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	BIPAR	d(idx)	Branch Indirect Program Address Read
	BIPAW	d(idx)	Branch Indirect Program Address Write
5	BLEX	d(idx)	Branch Unconditionally, Level Exit
	IC	rl,d(idx)	Insert Character
	ICM	rl,mask,d	Insert Character Under Mask(idx)
	LC	rl,d(idx)	Load Character
10	LCM	rl,mask,d	Load Character Under Mask(idx)
	LH	rl,d(idx)	Load H/W From Storage
	STH	rl,d(idx)	Store H/W To Storage

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Register Index Extended (RX) Instructions

	BE	d(idx)	Branch Equal
20	BH	d(idx)	Branch High
	BL	d(idx)	Branch Low
	BM	d(idx)	Branch Mixed
25	BN	d(idx)	Branch Negative
	BNE	d(idx)	Branch Not Equal
	BNH	d(idx)	Branch Not High
	BNL	d(idx)	Branch Not Low
30	BNN	d(idx)	Branch Not Negative
	BNO	d(idx)	Branch Not Ones
	BNP	d(idx)	Branch Not Positive
35	BNZ	d(idx)	Branch Not Zero
	BO	d(idx)	Branch Ones
	BP	d(idx)	Branch Positive
40	BV	d(idx)	Branch Overflow
	BY	d(idx)	Branch On Carry
	BZ	d(idx)	Branch Zero
	BEI	O(CDB)	Branch Equal W/Inhibit
45	BHI	O(CDB)	Branch High W/Inhibit
	BLI	O(CDB)	Branch Low W/Inhibit
	BMI	O(CDB)	Branch Mixed W/Inhibit
50	BNI	O(CDB)	Branch Negative W/Inhibit

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	BNEI	O(CDB)	Branch Not Equal W/Inhibit
	BNHI	O(CDB)	Branch Not High W/Inhibit
5	BNLI	O(CDB)	Branch Not Low W/Inhibit
	BNNI	O(CDB)	Branch Not Negative W/Inhibit
	BNOI	O(CDB)	Branch Not Ones W/Inhibit
10	BNPI	O(CDB)	Branch Not Positive W/Inhibit
	BNZI	O(CDB)	Branch Not Zero W/Inhibit
	BOI	O(CDB)	Branch Ones W/Inhibit
	BPI	O(CDB)	Branch Positive W/Inhibit
15	BVI	O(CDB)	Branch Overflow W/Inhibit
	BYI	O(CDB)	Branch On Carry W/Inhibit
	BZI	O(CDB)	Branch Zero W/Inhibit

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Compound Pipeline Instructions (PI)

25	PI	ce<r1,r2>,MHR<r3,r4>
	PI	LBI<r1,imm[(idx)]>c3<r2,r3>
	PI	LBI<r1,imm[(idx)]>,ce<r2,r3>,MHR<r4,r5>
30	PI	LH<r1,d(idx)>,ce<r2,r3>
	PI	LH<r1,d(idx)>,ce<r2,r3>,MHR<r4,r5>
	PI	STH<r1,d(idx)>,ce<r2,r3>
	PI	STH<r1,d(idx)>,ce<r2,r3>,MHR<r4,r5>

35

Define Constants (DC)

40	DC	A(address)
	DC	C'string'
	DC	F'value'
45	DC	H'value'
	DC	V'(address)
	DC	X'value'

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Define Storage (DS)

5	DS	A
	DS	C
	DS	F
	DS	H

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An example follows of how the foregoing instructions are used to implement a portion of a routine for modem conversion.

This is an example of a segment which implements a 32 tap fir filter. Coefficients are in RAM at 0000 to 0063 (byte addresses relative to index register R0).

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The data samples are stored in a RAM area from 0000 to 0063 (byte addresses relative to index register R4). These data samples are shifted through the filter pipeline by circular indexing using R4. Both index registers, R0 & R4, are initialised, and R4 is circularly incremented by a higher level routine before "FLTRIN" is called. The current newest sample is assumed to have been already loaded into the first position of the pipeline when the routine is called, and the filter output is left in R2.

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FLTRIN CSECT

CARRY UNLOCK

25	PI	LH<R1,000(R0)>,ZHR<R6>	*LD H00
	PI	LH<R5,062(R4)>,ZHR<R2>	*LD D00
	PI	LH<R3,002(R0)>,NOP<O><MHR<R1,RXH>	
		*LD H01; H00*D00	
30	PI	LH<R5,060(R4)>,NOP<O><MHR<R1,RXH>	
		*LD D01; H00&D00	
	PI	LH<R1,004(R0)>,MHR<R3,RXH>	*LD H02;
35		H01*D01	
	PI	LH<R5,058(R4)>,AHR<R2,RMH>,MHR<R3,RXH>	

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          *L D02,H01*D01
PI    LH<R3>,006(R0)>,MHR<R1,RXH>  *LD H03;
          *H02*D02
5      PI    LH<R5,056(R4)>,AHR<R2,RMH>,MHR<R1,
          RKH>  *L D03,H02*D02
          .
10     .
          PI    LH<R1,060(R0)>,MHR<R3,RXH>  *LD H30;
          H29*D29
          PI    LH<R5,002(R4)>,AHR<R2,RMH>,MHR<R3,
          RXH>  *L D30,H29*D29
          PI    LH<R3,062(R0)>,MHR<R1,RXH>  *LD H31;
          H30&D30
20     PI    LH<R5,000(R4)>,AHR<R2,RMH>,MHR<R1,
          RXH>  *L D31,H30*D30
          .
25     .
          PI    NOP<0>,MHR<R3,RXH>  *    H31*D31
          PI    AHR<R2,RMH>,MHR<R3,RXH>  *
          H31*D31
30     PI    NOP<0><MHR<R3,RXH> *ACC LOW; * NOP
          BFOR    OO(ILR)          *RETURN TO MAIN
          AHR    R2,RMH          *ACC HIGH
35     END    FLTRIN

```

Instruction Summary

- 40 **A. Program Flow Control**
- Branch
 - Conditional Branch
 - Subroutine Call
 - Subroutine Return
- 45 **B. Memory Reference**
- Memory (or I/O port) read
 - Memory (or I/O port) write
 - Load Immediate From Instruction Memory
- 50 **C. ALU**
- Arithmetic (Add, Subtract, Complement)
 - Logical (And, or, XOR, SNOR)
 - Other Special Instructions (Saturation, Test, Clear)
 - Register to Register Move
- 55 **D. Multiply**
- E. Parallel Combinations of B, C & D above (Capable of 1 FIR Filter Tap Per Instruction)**
- Typical example of usage in computing a "sum of products" equation for an FIR filter required by modern algorithms: $\text{Sum}(\text{Data}^m \times \text{COEF}^n)$

	<u>Memory Ref</u>	<u>Multiply</u>	<u>ALU</u>
	Load Data1		Clear RA
5	Load Coef2	1 x 2	Clear RB
	Load Data3	2 x 3	Add Mult Output to RA
	Load Coef4	3 x 4	Add Mult Output to RB
	Load Coef5	4 x 5	Add Mult Output to RA
10	Load Coef6	5 x 6	Add Mult Output to RB
	Load CoefN	(N+1) x N	Add Mult Output to RA
	(Filter output-Time T)		Add Mult Output to RB
15	Store RA		
	(Filter output Time T+1) Store RB		

20 Thus there has been shown and described, a system for interfacing between time division digital carriers and data processing centres and for providing high speed conversion and digital filtering functions to adapt between equipment restrictions at remote user interfaces and processing requirements at the centres.

Claims

- 25 1. A server system for providing information telecommunication services between an information handling centre (17) and multiple user terminals (1) remotely linked to the centre through parts of the public switched telephone network (3) comprising:
- 30 at least one time division multiplexed digital carrier trunk (16) linking the centre with the public telephone network, the trunk carrying digital signals in log PCM form; and
- an all-digital signal processing means (14) coupling the centre with the trunk including means (28) for exchanging signals with time channels on the trunk in digital form, means (27) for exchanging signals with the centre in a digital form associated with the information processing requirements of the centre, and means (20, 21) for digitally converting signals between the form exchanged with the trunk and the
- 35 form associated with the information centre;
- and characterised in that the system can provide information telecommunication services to diversely equipped user terminals which transmit and receive digital signals in correspondingly diverse formats, the means for digitally converting signals including means for converting between said diverse formats and the digital form associated with the information centre.
- 40 2. A system as claimed in claim 1, wherein the signal processing means (14) comprises:
- first digital signal processing means (20) interfacing with the centre, and second digital signal processing means (21) interfacing with the trunk channels;
- first and second random access memory arrays, one (D-RAM; 41) allocated for storing data and the other (I-RAM; 40) reserved for holding micro-instructions executable by both signal processing means;
- 45 means (24) cyclically coupling the first and second signal processing means with the memory arrays in time-staggered fashion whereby the processing means alternate in fetching instructions and data from the arrays and alternate in performing operations relative to the data as directed by the instructions;
- interruption control means coupling the processing means for enabling the first and second processing means to exchange interrupt requests, and for enabling the first processing means and centre to exchange interrupt requests; and
- 50 means responsive to interruption requests presented by the interruption control means for enabling the first and second processing means to exchange data through the data holding array, whereby the first processing means may process data prepared by the centre for one of the user terminals and the second means may further process the data so that each of the processing means partially converts the signal form of the data to prepare the data for transmission to the user terminal via a channel on the digital trunk.
- 55 3. A system as claimed in claim 1 wherein the centre includes a host data processing system, and the all-

	<u>Memory Ref</u>	<u>Multiply</u>	<u>ALU</u>
	Load Data1		Clear RA
5	Load Coef2	1 x 2	Clear RB
	Load Data3	2 x 3	Add Mult Output to RA
	Load Coef4	3 x 4	Add Mult Output to RB
	Load Coef5	4 x 5	Add Mult Output to RA
10	Load Coef6	5 x 6	Add Mult Output to RB
	Load CoefN	(N+1) x N	Add Mult Output to RA
	(Filter output-Time T)		Add Mult Output to RB
15	Store RA		
	(Filter output Time T+1) Store RB		

Thus there has been shown and described, a system for interfacing between time division digital carriers and data processing centres and for providing high speed conversion and digital filtering functions to adapt between equipment restrictions at remote user interfaces and processing requirements at the centres.

Claims

1. A server system for providing information telecommunication services between an information handling centre (17) and multiple user terminals (1) remotely linked to the centre through parts of the public switched telephone network (3) comprising:
 - at least one time division multiplexed digital carrier trunk (16) linking the centre with the public telephone network, the trunk carrying digital signals in log PCM form; and
 - an all-digital signal processing means (14) coupling the centre with the trunk including means (28) for exchanging signals with time channels on the trunk in digital form, means (27) for exchanging signals with the centre in a digital form associated with the information processing requirements of the centre, and means (20, 21) for digitally converting signals between the form exchanged with the trunk and the form associated with the information centre;
 - and characterised in that the system can provide information telecommunication services to diversely equipped user terminals which transmit and receive digital signals in correspondingly diverse formats, the means for digitally converting signals including means for converting between said diverse formats and the digital form associated with the information centre.
2. A system as claimed in claim 1, wherein the signal processing means (14) comprises:
 - first digital signal processing means (20) interfacing with the centre, and second digital signal processing means (21) interfacing with the trunk channels;
 - first and second random access memory arrays, one (D-RAM; 41) allocated for storing data and the other (I-RAM; 40) reserved for holding micro-instructions executable by both signal processing means;
 - means (24) cyclically coupling the first and second signal processing means with the memory arrays in time-staggered fashion whereby the processing means alternate in fetching instructions and data from the arrays and alternate in performing operations relative to the data as directed by the instructions;
 - interruption control means coupling the processing means for enabling the first and second processing means to exchange interrupt requests, and for enabling the first processing means and centre to exchange interrupt requests; and
 - means responsive to interruption requests presented by the interruption control means for enabling the first and second processing means to exchange data through the data holding array, whereby the first processing means may process data prepared by the centre for one of the user terminals and the second means may further process the data so that each of the processing means partially converts the signal form of the data to prepare the data for transmission to the user terminal via a channel on the digital trunk.
3. A system as claimed in claim 1 wherein the centre includes a host data processing system, and the all-



digital signal processing means comprises

first and second digital signal processors (DSP's; 20,21),

a random access instruction storing memory (I-RAM; 40) coupled to both the DSP's for holding instructions to be used by both and coupled to the host system for receiving instruction program loads for the DSP's from the host system,

a random access data storing memory (D-RAM; 41) coupled to both DSP's for holding data to be accessed by either or both DSP's and coupled to both the host system and the trunk for exchanging data with the host system and the trunk; the I-RAM and D-RAM memories having recurrent cycles of accessibility in which alternate cycles are normally allocated to the first and second DSP's in an interleaved manner, so that each DSP can retrieve instructions from I-RAM without interrupting or slowing operations in the other DSP and so that each DSP can fetch data from D-RAM and write data to D-RAM without interrupting or slowing operations in the other DSP; and

cycle steal control means coupled to the DSP's, D-RAM, the host system and the trunk for determining when a cycle of access to the D-RAM is not required by either DSP, and for selectively allocating the cycle to either the host system or the trunk, whereby data can be exchanged between the host system and D-RAM and between D-RAM and trunk in a cycle steal mode having the effect of not interrupting or slowing operations in either DSP.

4. A system as claimed in claim 3, wherein the I-RAM is configured to store programs of instructions for concurrent execution by both the DSP's, whereby for instance both DSP's may be operated to access a common block of diagnostic instructions in a time interleaved manner, and perform self-diagnostic tests defined by the block.
5. A system as claimed in claim 4, including direct memory access (DMA) control means coupling the host centre with the D-RAM for providing the host with access to the D-RAM in contention with the DSP's; the DMA and cycle steal control means cooperating whereby when the host system requires access to the D-RAM is preferably provided in a cycle steal mode so as not to interfere with operations of the DSP's, but when such access is unavailable the DMA takes over and provides access while blocking the DSP's from having access.
6. A system as claimed in any of claims 2 to 4, wherein the D-RAM is configured to provide a workspace for each the trunk channel of a size sufficient to sustain modem conversions relative to all channels concurrently.
7. A system as claimed in claim 6, including means for adapting the signal processing means for performing diverse digital filtering and modem conversion transformations on digital signals en route between the centre and the trunk, and means coupled to the memory arrays for configuring portions of the data storing array as circular buffers such that each buffer is allocatable to an interface to a channel of the trunk and can be used concurrently to sustain both modem and digital filtering transformations relative to data held therein.
8. A system as claimed in any preceding claim, the all-digital processing means including means for selectively handling signals representing digitised speech or sound data; the means including means for applying compression and decompression conversions to the signals whereby the signals can be stored in a compressed form at the centre and transmitted over the trunk in decompressed form.
9. A system as claimed in any preceding claim, the all-digital processing means including means for selectively handling signals representing digitised video image data; the means including means for applying decompression and compression conversions to the data whereby the data is handled in decompressed form at the centre and in compressed form over the trunk.
10. A system as claimed in claim 2, including means cooperative with the arrays for configuring portions of the arrays into circular buffers dimensioned in accordance with the requirements of signal conversion processes being handled in the signal processing means.

Patentansprüche

1. Ein Server-System zur Bereitstellung von Informations-Telekommunikationsdiensten zwischen einer



Informationsverarbeitungs-Hauptstelle (17) und mehreren Benutzer-Endeinrichtungen (1), die mit der Hauptstelle über das öffentliche Telefonwählnetz (3) mit einer Fernleitung verbunden sind, folgendes umfassend:

5 mindestens eine Abnehmerleitung mit digitalem Träger in Zeit-Multiplex-Schaltung, die die Hauptstelle mit dem öffentlichen Telefonnetz verbindet, wobei die Abnehmerleitung digitale Signale in Log-PCM-Form überträgt; und

ein volldigitales Signalverarbeitungsmittel (14), das die Hauptstelle mit der Abnehmerleitung koppelt und Mittel (28) zum Austausch von Signalen mit Zeitkanälen in der Abnehmerleitung in digitaler Form enthält, Mittel (27) für den Austausch von Signalen mit der Hauptstelle in einer digitalen Form, die den Informations-Verarbeitungsanforderungen der Hauptstelle zugeordnet ist, und Mittel (20, 21) für die digitale Umwandlung von Signalen zwischen der Form, die mit der Abnehmerleitung ausgetauscht wird, und der Form, die der informationsverarbeitenden Hauptstelle zugeordnet ist;

dadurch gekennzeichnet, daß das System Benutzern mit unterschiedlich ausgestatteten Endeinrichtungen, die digitale Signale in entsprechend unterschiedlichen Formaten übertragen und empfangen, Informations-Telekommunikationsdienste bereitstellen kann, wobei das Mittel für die digitale Umwandlung der Signale Mittel für die Umwandlung zwischen den genannten unterschiedlichen Formaten und der digitalen Form enthält, die der informationsverarbeitenden Hauptstelle zugeordnet ist.

2. Ein System nach Anspruch 1, bei dem das signalverarbeitende Mittel (14) folgendes umfaßt:
20 erste digitale Signalverarbeitungsmittel (20), die eine Schnittstelle zu der Hauptstelle bilden, und zweite digitale Signalverarbeitungsmittel (21), die eine Schnittstelle zu den Kanälen der Abnehmerleitung bilden; erste und zweite Direktzugriffsspeicher-Anordnungen, von denen eine (D-RAM; 41) der Speicherung von Daten zugeordnet ist und die andere (I-RAM; 40) zum Speichern von Mikrobefehlen reserviert ist, die von beiden signalverarbeitenden Mitteln ausgeführt werden können;

25 Mittel (24), welche zyklisch das erste und das zweite signalverarbeitende Mittel mit den Speicheranordnungen koppeln, und zwar zeitlich gestaffelt, wodurch die verarbeitenden Mittel abwechselnd Befehle und Daten aus den Speicheranordnungen holen und entsprechend der Befehle abwechselnd Operationen mit diesen Daten ausführen;

Unterbrechungs-Steuerungsmittel, die die Verarbeitungsmittel miteinander koppeln, damit das erste und das zweite Verarbeitungsmittel Unterbrechungs-Anforderungen austauschen können, und damit das erste Verarbeitungsmittel und die Hauptstelle Unterbrechungs-Anforderungen austauschen können; und Mittel, die auf Unterbrechungs-Anforderungen von dem Unterbrechungs-Steuerungsmittel reagieren, damit das erste und das zweite Verarbeitungsmittel in die Lage versetzt werden, Daten über die Datenspeicheranordnung auszutauschen, wodurch das erste Verarbeitungsmittel Daten verarbeiten kann, die von der Hauptstelle für eine Benutzer-Endeinrichtung vorbereitet wurden, und damit das zweite Mittel die Daten weiterverarbeiten kann, so daß jedes der Verarbeitungsmittel die Signalf orm der Daten teilweise um-

35 formatiert, um die Daten für die Übertragung zur Benutzer-Endeinrichtung über einen Kanal auf der digitalen Abnehmerleitung vorzubereiten.

3. Ein System nach Anspruch 1, bei dem die Hauptstelle ein Host-Datenverarbeitungssystem umfaßt, und das volldigitale Signalverarbeitungsmittel folgendes aufweist:

40 erste und zweite Digitalsignalprozessoren (DSPs; 20, 21), einen Direktzugriffs-Befehlsspeicher (I-RAM; 40), der an beide DSPs gekoppelt ist und Befehle speichert, die von beiden verwendet werden, und der mit dem Host-System gekoppelt ist, um mit Befehlsprogrammen für die DSPs vom Host-System geladen werden zu können,

45 einen Direktzugriffs-Datenspeicher (D-RAM; 41), der an beide DSPs gekoppelt ist, zum Speichern von Daten, auf die entweder von einer oder von beiden DSPs zugegriffen werden kann, und der sowohl mit dem Host-System als auch mit der Abnehmerleitung gekoppelt ist, um Daten mit dem Host-System und der Abnehmerleitung auszutauschen; der I-RAM und der D-RAM besitzen rekurrierende Zugriffsfähigkeits-Zyklen, in denen abwechselnd Zyklen normalerweise der ersten und der zweiten DSP versetzt zugeordnet werden, so daß jede DSP Befehle aus dem I-RAM abrufen kann, ohne die Operationen im anderen DSP zu unterbrechen oder zu verlangsamen, und so daß jede DSP Daten aus dem D-RAM holen und Daten in den D-RAM schreiben kann, ohne die Operationen im anderen DSP zu unterbrechen oder zu verlangsamen; und

55 Cycle-Stealing-Steuerungsmittel, die mit den DSPs, dem D-RAM, dem Host-System und der Abnehmerleitung gekoppelt sind, um festzustellen, wann ein Zugriffszyklus zum D-RAM von einer DSP nicht angefordert wird, und um den Zyklus selektiv entweder dem Host-System oder der Abnehmerleitung zuzuweisen, wodurch Daten zwischen dem Host-System und dem D-RAM und zwischen dem D-RAM und der Abnehmer-



leitung in einem Cycle-Stealing-Modus ausgetauscht werden können, was zur Folge hat, daß die Operationen in keiner DSP unterbrochen oder verlangsamt werden.

- 5 4. Ein System nach Anspruch 3, bei dem der I-RAM so konfiguriert ist, daß er Befehlsprogramme speichert, die gleichzeitig von beiden DSPs ausgeführt werden können, wodurch zum Beispiel beide DSPs auf einen gemeinsamen Block von Diagnosebefehlen zeitlich versetzt zugreifen und die durch diesen Block festgelegten Selbstdiagnose-Prüfungen ausführen können.
- 10 5. Ein System nach Anspruch 4, das Steuermittel für den direkten Speicherzugriff (DMA) umfaßt, die die Host-Hauptstelle mit dem D-RAM koppeln, um dem Host den Zugriff auf den D-RAM in Konkurrenz zu den DSPs bereitzustellen; der DMA und die Cycle-Stealing-Steuermittel kooperieren miteinander, hierdurch wird, wenn vom Host-System gewünscht, der Zugriff zum D-RAM bevorzugt in einem Cycle-Stealing-Modus bereitgestellt, so daß er die Operationen der DSPs nicht behindert, wenn jedoch ein solcher Zugriff nicht möglich ist, übernimmt die DMA und stellt den Zugriff bereit, während die DSPs vom Zugriff ausgeschlossen werden.
- 15 6. Ein System nach jedem der Ansprüche 2 bis 4, in dem der D-RAM so konfiguriert ist, daß er einen Arbeitsbereich für jeden Abnehmerleitungskanal bereitstellt, dessen Größe ausreicht, um Modem-Umwandlungen für alle Kanäle gleichzeitig aufrechtzuerhalten.
- 20 7. Ein System nach Anspruch 6, Mittel enthaltend zur Adaption des Signalverarbeitungsmittels, so daß dieses verschiedene digitale Filter- und Modem-Umwandlungstransformationen mit den digitalen Signalen durchführt, die zwischen der Hauptstelle und der Abnehmerleitung unterwegs sind, und an die Speicheranordnung angeschlossene Mittel, um Abschnitte der Datenspeicheranordnung als Umlaufpuffer zu konfigurieren, so daß jeder Puffer einer Schnittstelle zu einem Kanal der Abnehmerleitung zugewiesen und gleichzeitig genutzt werden kann, um sowohl Modem- als auch digitale Filtertransformationen für die darin gespeicherten Daten aufrechterhalten zu können.
- 25 8. Ein System nach jedem vorangehenden Anspruch, wobei das volldigitale Verarbeitungsmittel Mittel für die selektive Verarbeitung von Signalen umfaßt, die digitalisierte Sprach- oder Tondaten darstellen; wobei die Mittel Mittel zur Anwendung von Komprimierungs- und Entkomprimierungsumwandlungen für die Signale umfassen, wodurch die Signale in komprimierter Form an der Hauptstelle gespeichert und über die Abnehmerleitung in entkomprimierter Form gesendet werden können.
- 30 9. Ein System nach jedem der vorangehenden Ansprüche, wobei das volldigitale Verarbeitungsmittel Mittel zur selektiven Verarbeitung von Signalen umfaßt, die digitalisierte Video-Bilddaten darstellen; wobei das Mittel Mittel zum Anwenden von Entkomprimierungs- und Komprimierungsumwandlungen für die Daten umfaßt, wodurch die Daten in entkomprimierter Form an der Hauptstelle bearbeitet und in komprimierter Form über die Abnehmerleitung gesendet werden können.
- 35 10. Ein System nach Anspruch 2, Mittel umfassend, die mit den Anordnungen zusammenarbeiten, um bestimmte Abschnitte der Anordnungen als Umlaufpuffer zu konfigurieren, die entsprechend den Anforderungen der Signalumwandlungs-Prozesse dimensioniert sind, die in den Signalverarbeitungsmitteln verarbeitet werden.
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Revendications

- 50 1. Système de serveurs pour fournir des services de télécommunication d'informations entre un centre de gestion d'informations (17) et de multiples terminaux d'utilisateur (1) reliés à distance au centre par des parties du réseau téléphonique public commuté (3), comprenant:
 - au moins une jonction à porteuse numérique à multiplexage temporel (16) reliant le centre avec le réseau téléphonique public, la jonction portant des signaux numériques sous forme log PCM; et
 - des moyens de traitement de signaux tout numérique (14) couplant le centre avec la jonction, comprenant un moyen (28) pour échanger des signaux avec des voies temporelles sur la jonction sous
 - 55 forme numérique, un moyen (27) pour échanger des signaux avec le centre dans une forme numérique associée avec les besoins de traitement d'informations du centre, et des moyens (20, 21) pour convertir numériquement des signaux entre la forme échangée avec la jonction et la forme associée avec le centre d'informations;



et caractérisé en ce que le système peut fournir des services de télécommunication d'informations à des terminaux d'utilisateur diversement équipés qui transmettent et reçoivent des signaux numériques en divers formats correspondants, les moyens pour convertir numériquement des signaux comprenant des moyens de conversion entre lesdits divers formats et la forme numérique associée avec le centre d'informations.

2. Système selon la revendication 1, dans lequel les moyens de traitement de signaux comprennent:
 - un premier moyen de traitement de signaux numériques (20) faisant interface avec le centre, et
 - un deuxième moyen de traitement de signaux numériques (21) faisant interface avec les canaux de la jonction;
 - des première et deuxième matrices de mémoire à accès direct, l'une (D-RAM; 41) étant allouée pour l'emmagasinement de données et l'autre (I-RAM; 40) étant réservée pour maintenir des micro-instructions exécutables par les deux moyens de traitement de signaux;
 - un moyen (24) couplant cycliquement les premier et deuxième moyens de traitement de signaux avec les matrices de mémoire d'une manière décalée dans le temps ce qui fait que les moyens alternent dans la recherches d'instructions et de données dans les matrices et alternent dans l'accomplissement des opérations relatives aux données telles qu'elles sont dirigées par les instructions;
 - un moyen de contrôle d'interruption couplant les moyens de traitement pour autoriser les premier et deuxième moyens de traitement à échanger des demandes d'interruption et pour autoriser le premier moyen de traitement et le centre à échanger des demandes d'interruption; et
 - un moyen sensible aux demandes d'interruption présentées par le moyen de contrôle d'interruption pour autoriser les premier et deuxième moyens de traitement à échanger des données dans la matrice maintenant des données, ce qui fait que le premier moyen de traitement peut traiter des données préparées par le centre pour l'un des terminaux d'utilisateur et que le deuxième moyen peut en plus traiter les données pour que chacun des moyens de traitement convertisse partiellement la forme de signal des données pour préparer les données en vue d'une transmission sur le terminal d'utilisateur par l'intermédiaire d'un canal sur la jonction numérique.
3. Système selon la revendication 1, dans lequel le centre comporte un système de traitement de données hôte, et le système de traitement de signaux tout numérique comprend:
 - des premier et deuxième processeurs de signaux numériques (DSP 20, 21),
 - une mémoire d'emmagasinement d'instructions à accès direct (I-RAM: 40) couplée aux deux processeurs DSP pour maintenir des instructions à utiliser par les deux et couplée au système hôte pour recevoir des chargements de programme d'instructions pour les processeurs DSP en provenance du système hôte;
 - une mémoire d'emmagasinement de données à accès direct (D-RAM; 41) couplée aux deux processeurs DSP pour maintenir des données auxquelles il y a accès par l'un ou l'autre processeur DSP, ou les deux, et couplée à la fois au système hôte et à la jonction pour échanger des données avec le système hôte et la jonction, les mémoires I-RAM et D-RAM ayant des cycles d'accessibilité récurrents où des cycles alternés sont normalement alloués aux premier et deuxième processeurs DSP d'une manière imbriquée pour que chaque processeur DSP puisse récupérer des instructions dans I-RAM sans interrompre ou ralentir des opérations dans l'autre processeur DSP et pour que le processeur DSP puisse aller chercher des données dans D-RAM sans interrompre ou ralentir des opérations dans l'autre processeur DSP;
 - et
 - un moyen de contrôle de vol de cycle couplé aux processeurs DSP, à la mémoire D-RAM, au système hôte et à la jonction pour déterminer lorsqu'un cycle d'accès à D-RAM n'est pas requis par les deux processeurs DSP et pour allouer sélectivement le cycle au système hôte ou bien à la jonction, ce qui fait que des données peuvent être échangées entre le système hôte et la mémoire D-RAM et entre D-RAM et la jonction dans un mode de vol de cycle ayant pour effet de ne pas interrompre ou ralentir des opérations dans les deux processeurs DSP.
4. Système selon la revendication 3, dans lequel la mémoire I-RAM est configurée pour emmagasiner des programmes d'instructions en vue d'une exécution simultanée par les deux processeurs DSP ce qui fait que, par exemple, les deux processeurs DSP peuvent être opérés pour avoir accès à un bloc commun d'instructions de diagnostic d'une manière imbriquée dans le temps, et accomplir des tests d'auto-diagnostic définis par le bloc.
5. Système selon la revendication 4, comprenant un moyen de contrôle d'accès direct en mémoire (DMA)



- 5 couplant le centre hôte avec la mémoire D-RAM pour fournir à l'hôte un accès à D-RAM en conflit avec les processeurs DSP, le moyen de contrôle de vol de cycle et DMA coopérant ce qui fait que, lorsque le système hôte requiert l'accès à la mémoire D-RAM, il est de préférence assuré dans un mode de vol de cycle de manière à ne pas interférer avec des opérations des processeurs DSP, mais lorsque cet accès n'est pas disponible, l'accès DMA reprend et fournit l'accès tout en empêchant aux processeurs DSP d'avoir accès.
- 10 6. Système selon l'une quelconque des revendications 2 à 4, dans lequel la mémoire D-RAM est configurée de manière à fournir à chaque canal de la jonction un espace de travail de taille suffisante pour supporter simultanément des conversions modem relatives à tous les canaux.
- 15 7. Système selon la revendication 6, comprenant un moyen pour adapter les moyens de traitement de signaux pour accomplir diverses transformations de conversion modem et de filtrage numérique sur des signaux numériques en route entre le centre et la jonction, et un moyen couplé aux matrices de mémoire pour configurer des portions de matrice d'emmagasinement de données en tant que tampons circulaires pour que chaque tampon puisse être alloué à une interface avec un canal de la jonction et puisse être utilisé simultanément pour supporter des transformations de modem ainsi que de filtrage numérique relatives à des données maintenues dedans.
- 20 8. Système selon l'une quelconque des revendications précédentes, les moyens de traitement tout numérique comprenant un moyen pour gérer sélectivement des signaux représentant des données acoustiques ou vocales numérisées, les moyens comprenant un moyen pour appliquer des conversions de compression et de décompression aux signaux ce qui fait que les signaux peuvent être emmagasinés dans une forme comprimée au centre et transmis sur la jonction sous forme décomprimée.
- 25 9. Système selon l'une quelconque des revendications précédentes, les moyens de traitement tout numérique comprenant un moyen pour gérer sélectivement des signaux représentant des données d'image vidéo numérisées, les moyens comprenant un moyen pour appliquer des conversions de décompression et de compression aux données, ce qui fait que les données sont gérées sous forme décomprimée au centre et sous forme comprimée sur la jonction.
- 30 10. Système selon la revendication 2, comprenant un moyen qui coopère avec les matrices pour configurer des portions de matrices en tampons circulaires dont la taille est conforme aux besoins des procédés de conversion de signal alors gérés dans les moyens de traitement de signaux.
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