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(54) Title: MESSAGE REFERENCING

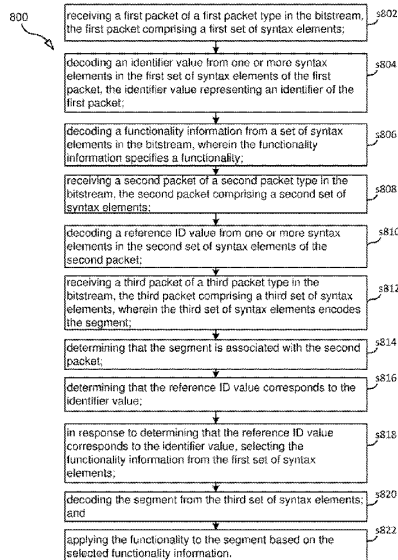


FIG. 8

(57) Abstract: There is provided a referencing mechanism for messages (e.g., SEI messages) in order to reduce the bit cost when different versions of messages (e.g., SEI messages) are used in an arbitrary manner in the bitstream, e.g. in an alternating way in the bitstream. In embodiments, two SEI messages are used to express a functionality. In the first SEI message, syntax elements specifying the functionality is provided. The first SEI message may also have an identifier value, which uniquely identifies the instance of that particular SEI message. The second SEI message, typically much smaller and sent more frequently than the first SEI message, is used to reference the first SEI message in order to apply the functionality of the first SEI message to a part of the bitstream determined by the persistence scope of the second SEI message, e.g. for the picture or subpicture it was sent with.

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