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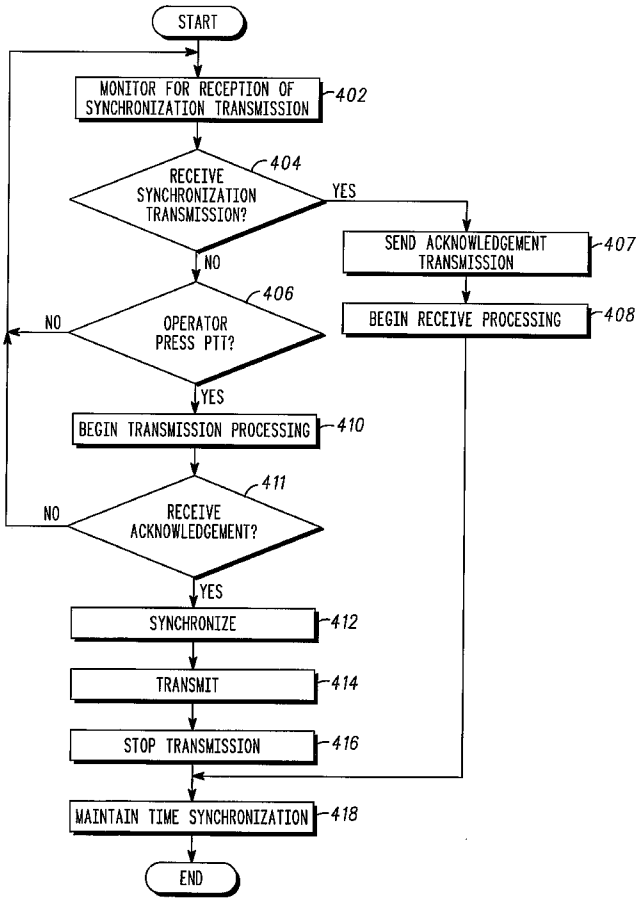
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(54) Title: FAST SYNCHRONIZATION FOR HALF DUPLEX DIGITAL COMMUNICATIONS



(57) Abstract: Half duplex, Frequency Hopped-Spread Spectrum wireless transceivers (102), operating without a central controller, maintain time synchronization with the frequency hopping sequence for a period after transmission of a half duplex signal ceases. The wireless transceiver (102) operates their receivers (308) according to the RF frequency hopping sequence and schedule (200). The wireless transceiver (102) is then able to send a short transmission request to signal that it will start transmitting on the Frequency Hopping schedule (200) of the previously ceased transmission. A wireless transceiver (102) that was either the original transmitter or the original receiver is able to transmit this transmission request. A subset of time slots within the hopping schedule (200) can be optionally assigned to the original transmitter and original receiver to obviate collisions of the transmit request transmissions from both device at the same time.

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