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(54) Title: INFORMATION PROCESSING

(57) Abstract

An information processing system (10) comprising: a first data pool (14) for containing information in the form of data items; a plurality of processing elements disposed within said first data pool (14) for processing data items; and a system controller (20) arranged to control the processing elements to take selectively at least one data item from a plurality of data items in said first data pool; in which system, each of the processing elements is arranged to perform, autonomously and asynchronously, a respective operation on its selected at least one data item and produce a resultant data item, and to place the resultant data item into said first data pool. In a preferred embodiment, a second data pool (12) is separated from the first data pool by a boundary (16), and a transfer means (18) governs transfer of data items between the data pools. Input information is put into the second data pool by a user, and after the system has completed processing, output data is available in the second data pool, having been transferred from the first data pool under control of the transfer means (18).

