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(54) Title: A METHOD OF TRANSMITTING AN ATM CELL OVER AN ATM NETWORK

(57) Abstract

An ATM network comprises a set of interconnected switches (110-118) and gateways (131 and 133). The ATM network is capable of providing both a conventional connection-oriented service or a connectionless service. Where a connectionless service is required, at the input interface, source and destination addresses are inserted into the header and fields in the header are set to values which indicate that a connectionless service is required and whether or not additional processing is also required. At each node between the input interface and the output interface, where a connectionless service is required, each ATM cell is routed in accordance with its source address and destination address and/or a routing table which is set up by routing protocol or network management.

