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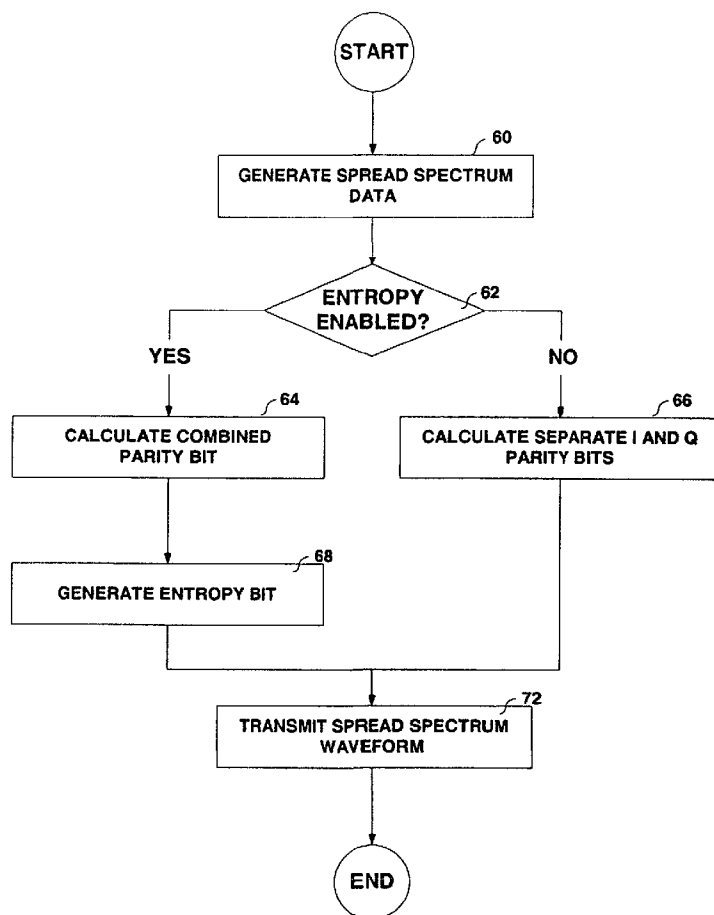
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(54) Title: FRAME SYNCHTONIZATION WITHIN A COMMUNICATION SYSTEM



(57) Abstract: An apparatus, such as a modem or other component within a spread spectrum communication system, is described that introduces one or more "entropy" bits into a data stream to ensure that other components of the communication system readily detect data frame misalignment. In particular, an entropy bit is introduced within each frame to help ensure that the other components generate parity errors when not properly synchronized with the framing of the data stream. The entropy bits have values that change relatively frequently, and are unrelated to the other data bits of the frames. The entropy bit may, for example, be randomly or pseudo-randomly generated.

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