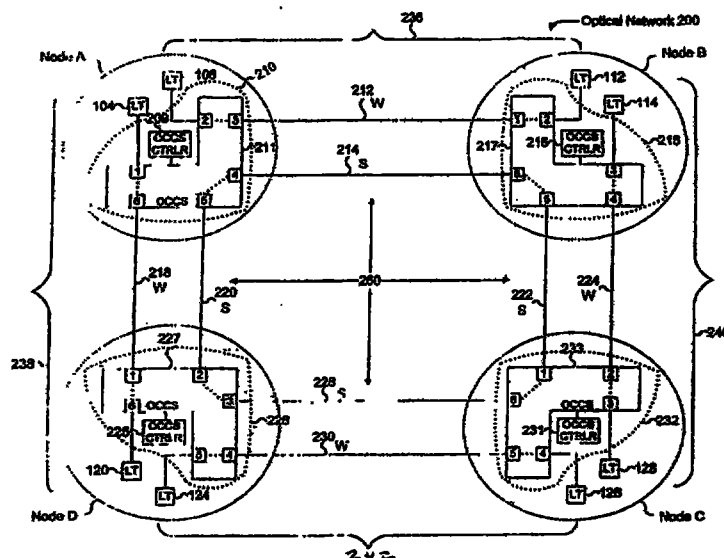




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(54) Title: SELF-HEALING OPTICAL NETWORK



(57) Abstract

A self-healing optical network carrying traffic between first and second optical linear terminals (NODE A, NODE B, NODE C, NODE D). The self-healing optical network including first, second, and third optical switching units (210, 216, 226, 232), first, second, and third spare optical channels (214, 220, 222, 228), and a working optical channel (212, 218, 224, 230). The first, second, and third optical switching units are coupled in a ring configuration using said first, second, and third spare optical channels. The first and second optical switching units are coupled by the first spare optical channel and by the working optical channel. The first and second optical switching units each direct the traffic between the first and second optical linear terminals along the working optical channel or along the second and third spare optical channels in the event the working optical channel is not available.