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(19) **United States**(12) **Patent Application Publication**
KABUTO et al.(10) **Pub. No.: US 2010/0199298 A1**(43) **Pub. Date: Aug. 5, 2010**(54) **DATA READING METHOD, AND A VIDEO TRANSMITTER AND A VIDEO RECEIVER USING THE SAME****Publication Classification**(51) **Int. Cl.**
H04N 7/16 (2006.01)
H04N 7/173 (2006.01)
(52) **U.S. Cl.** **725/25; 725/126**(57) **ABSTRACT**

The present invention provides a data reading method, and a video transmitter and a video receiver using the same in which there is no video interruption time or a video interruption time is short during rewriting of EDID.

In a video transmitter which transmits a digital video signal obtained by performing a contents protection process to a video receiver through digital interfaces, after the video transmitter reads information related to the characteristics of the video receiver and performs a default setting of a video signal format on the basis of the information by a default setting process to be executed when power is started to be supplied from the video transmitter to the video receiver, the video transmitter performs a CP process and transmits a digital video signal. During transmission of the video signal, when receiving a re-reading request for the information related to the characteristics of the video receiver transmitted from the video receiver through a bidirectional communication line, the information related to the characteristics of the video receiver is read through the bidirectional communication line, and the video signal generated by resetting the video signal format on the basis of the read data is transmitted to the video receiver.

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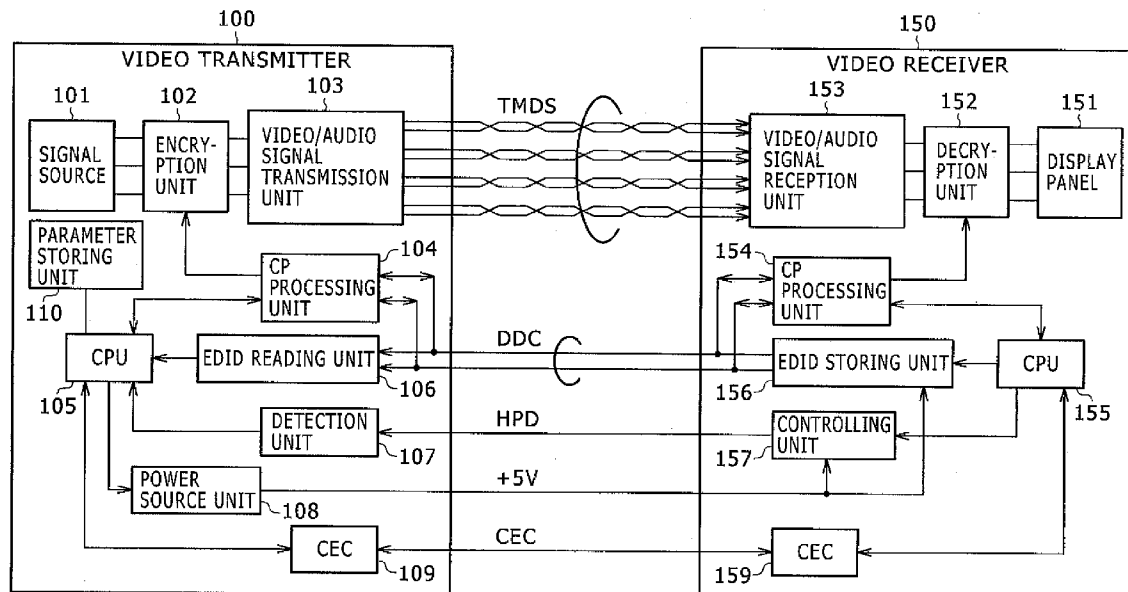


FIG. 1

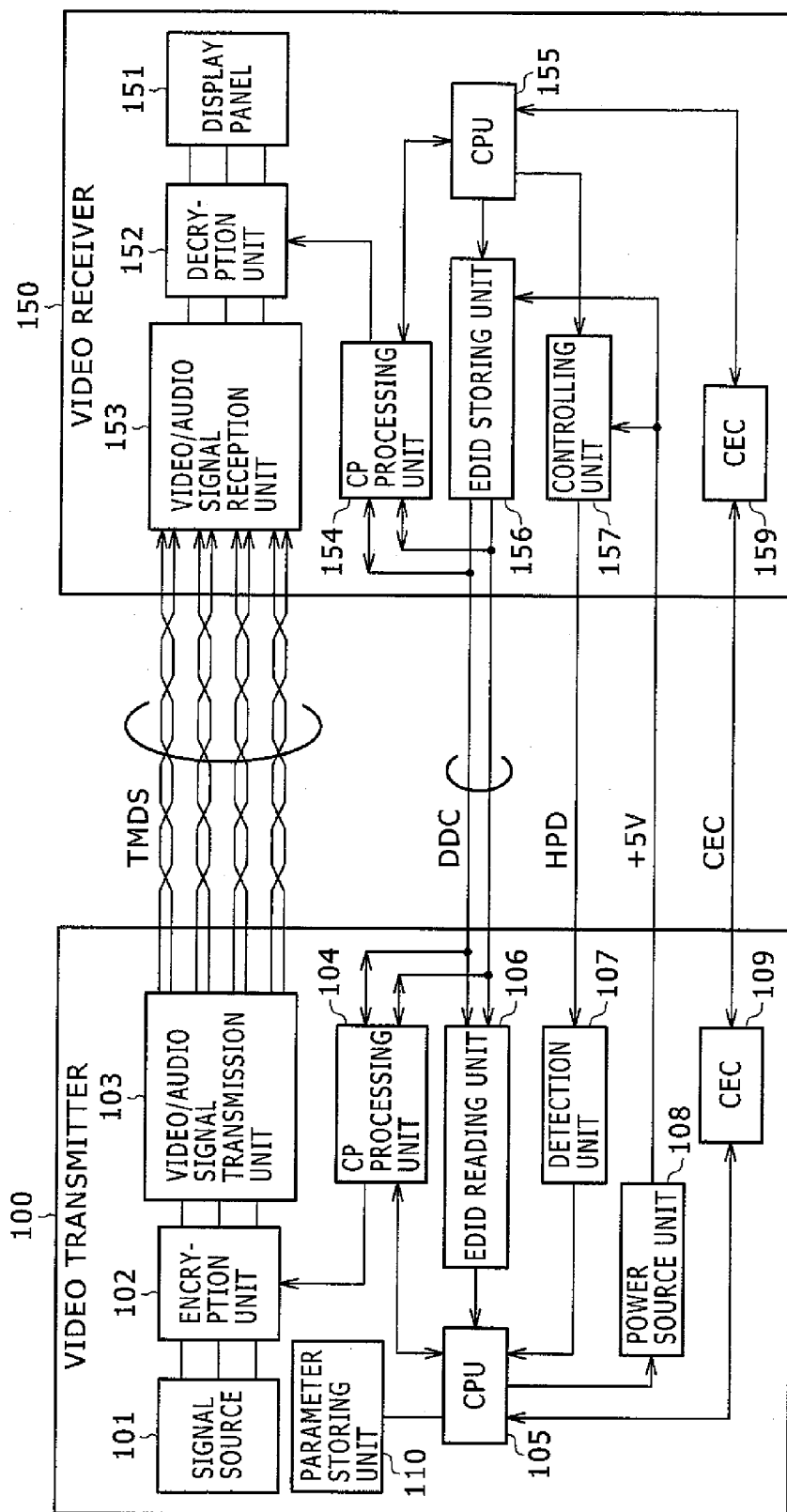


FIG. 2

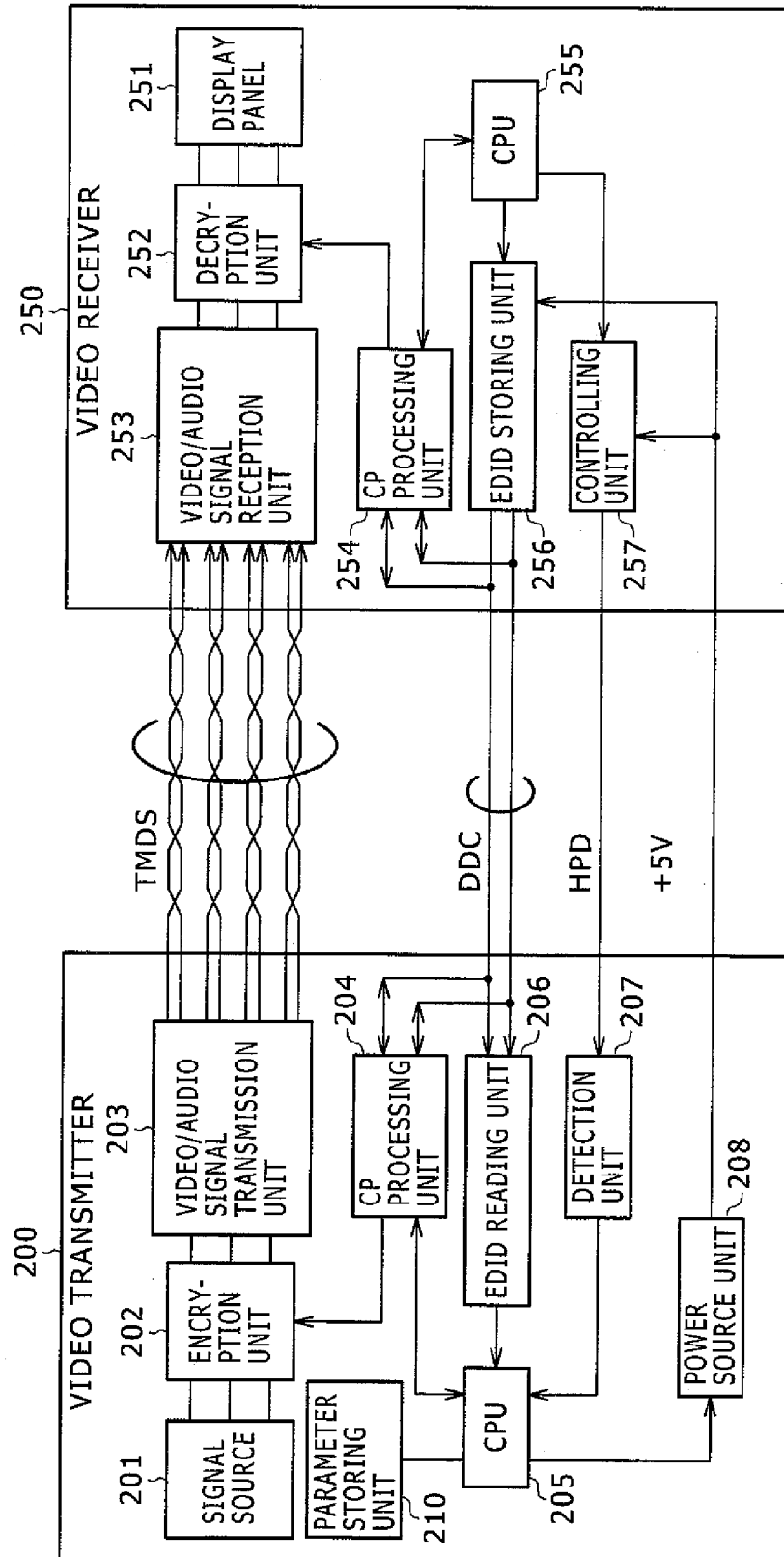


FIG. 3

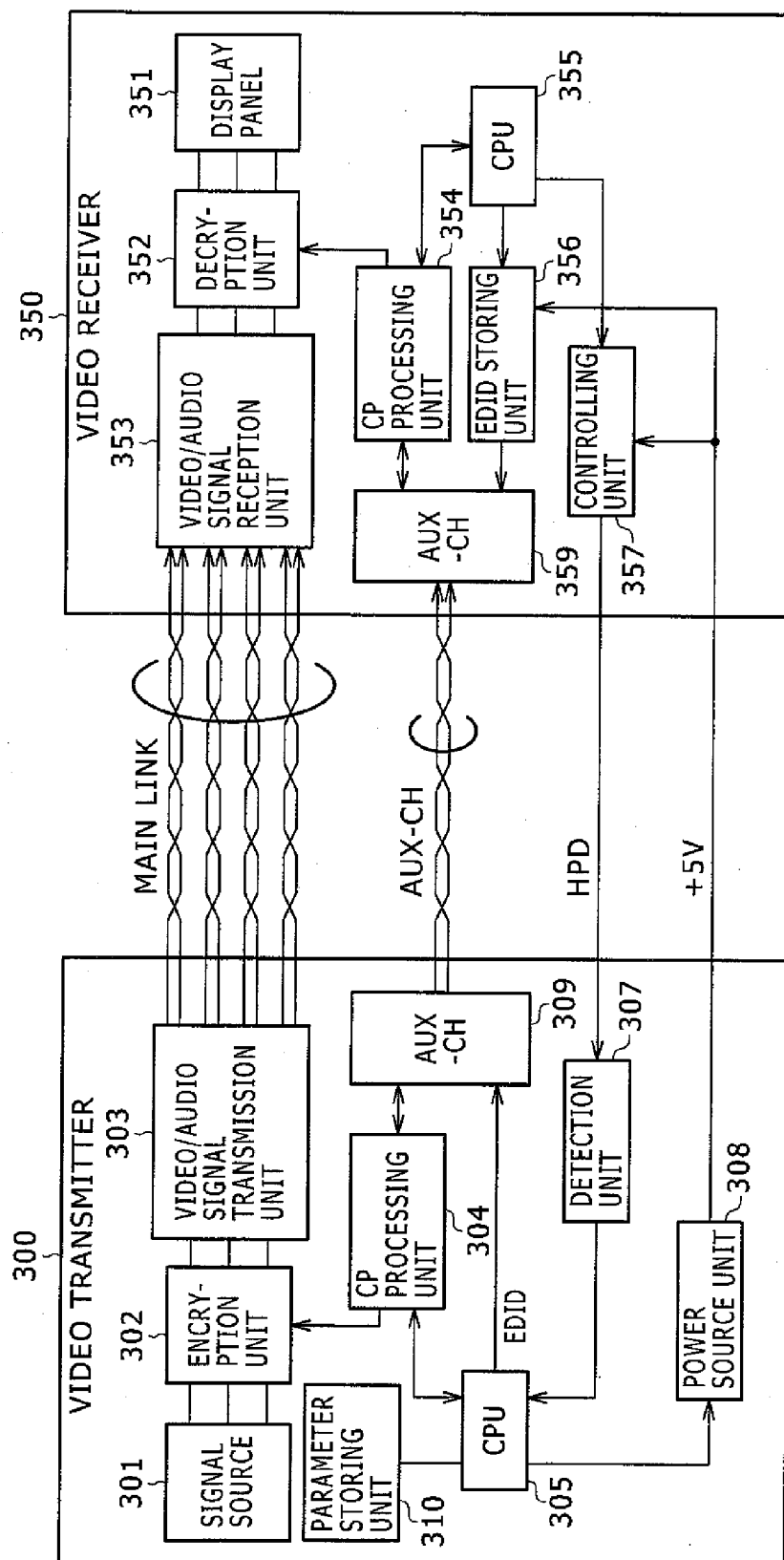


FIG. 4

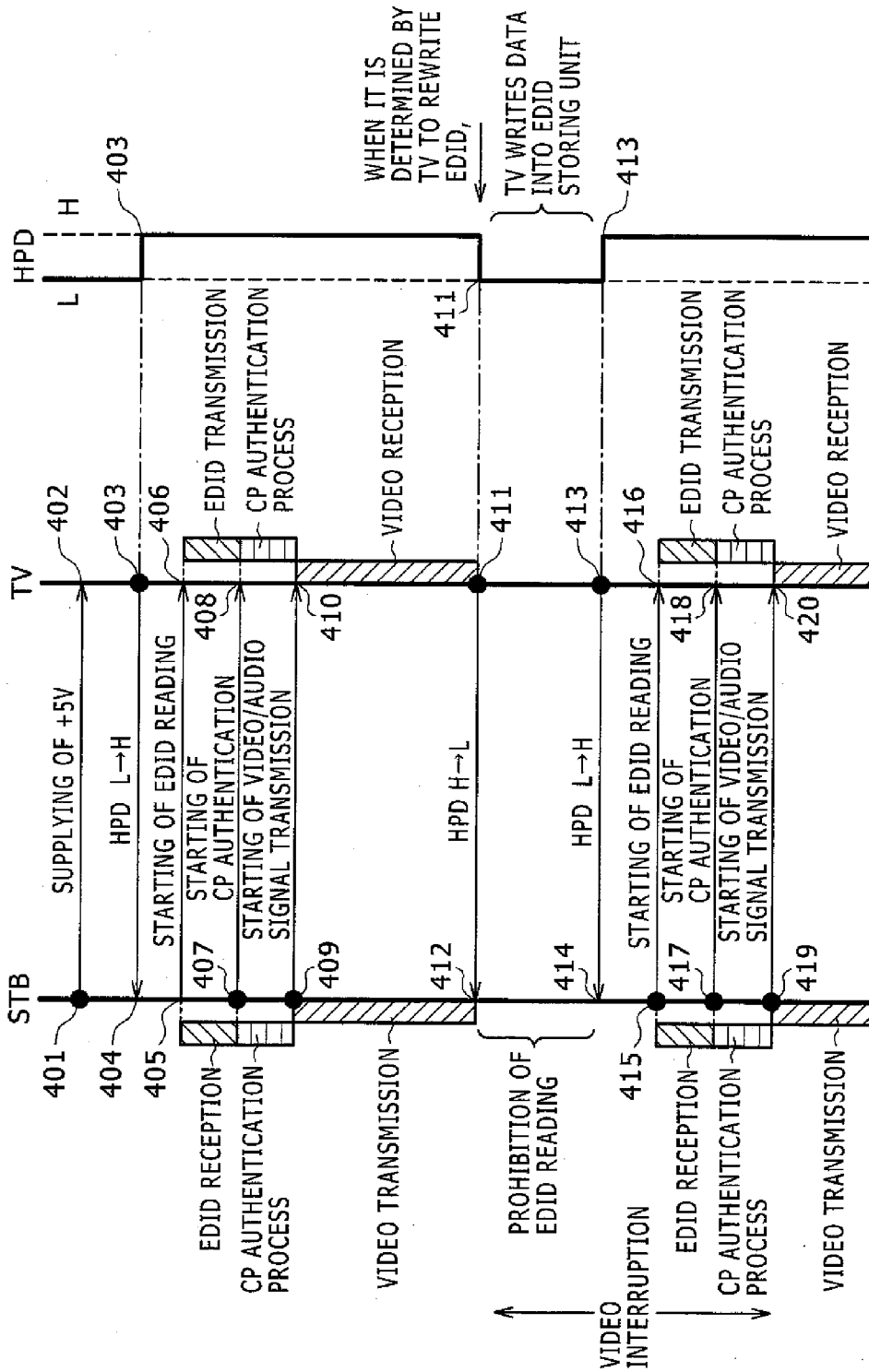


FIG. 5

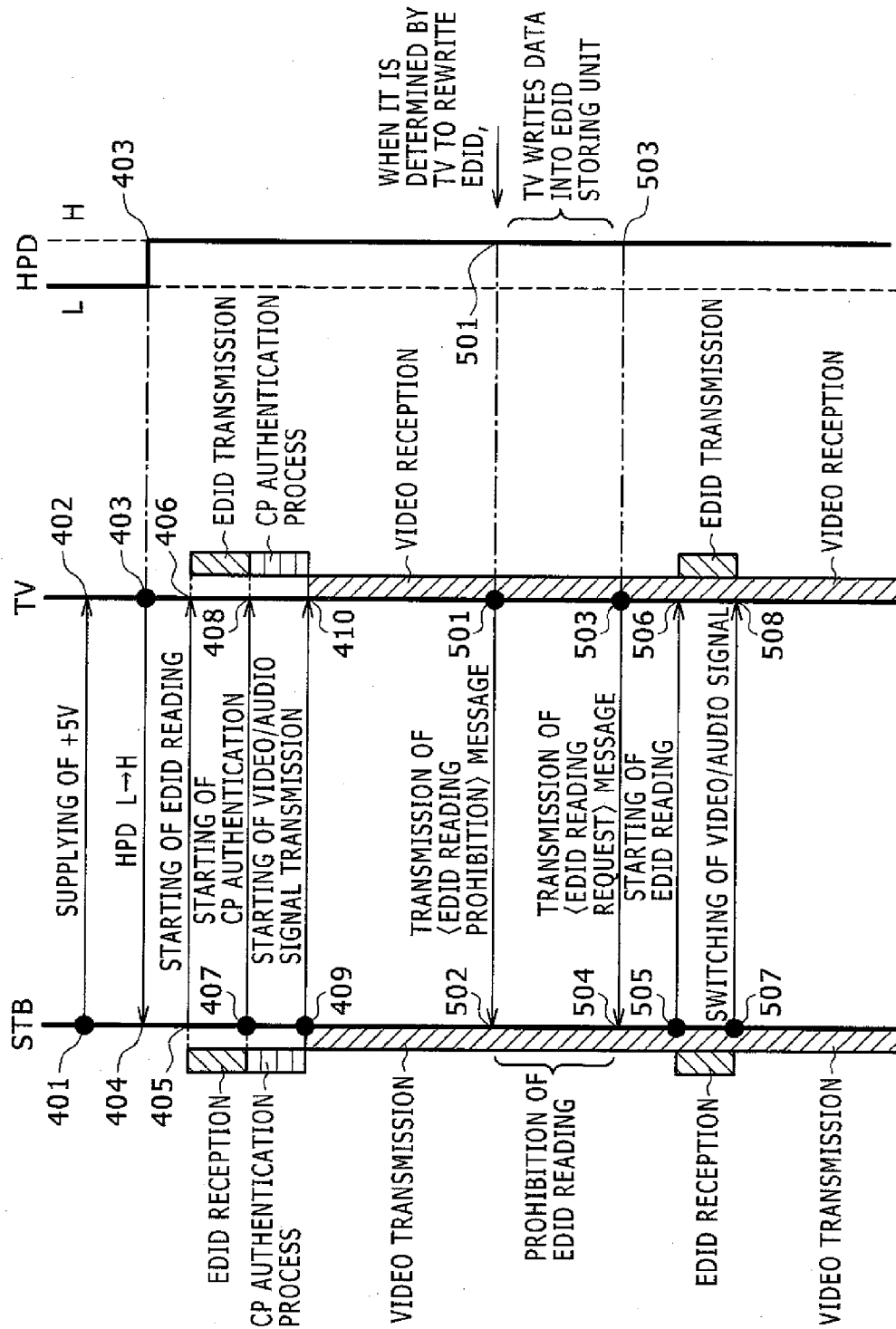


FIG. 6

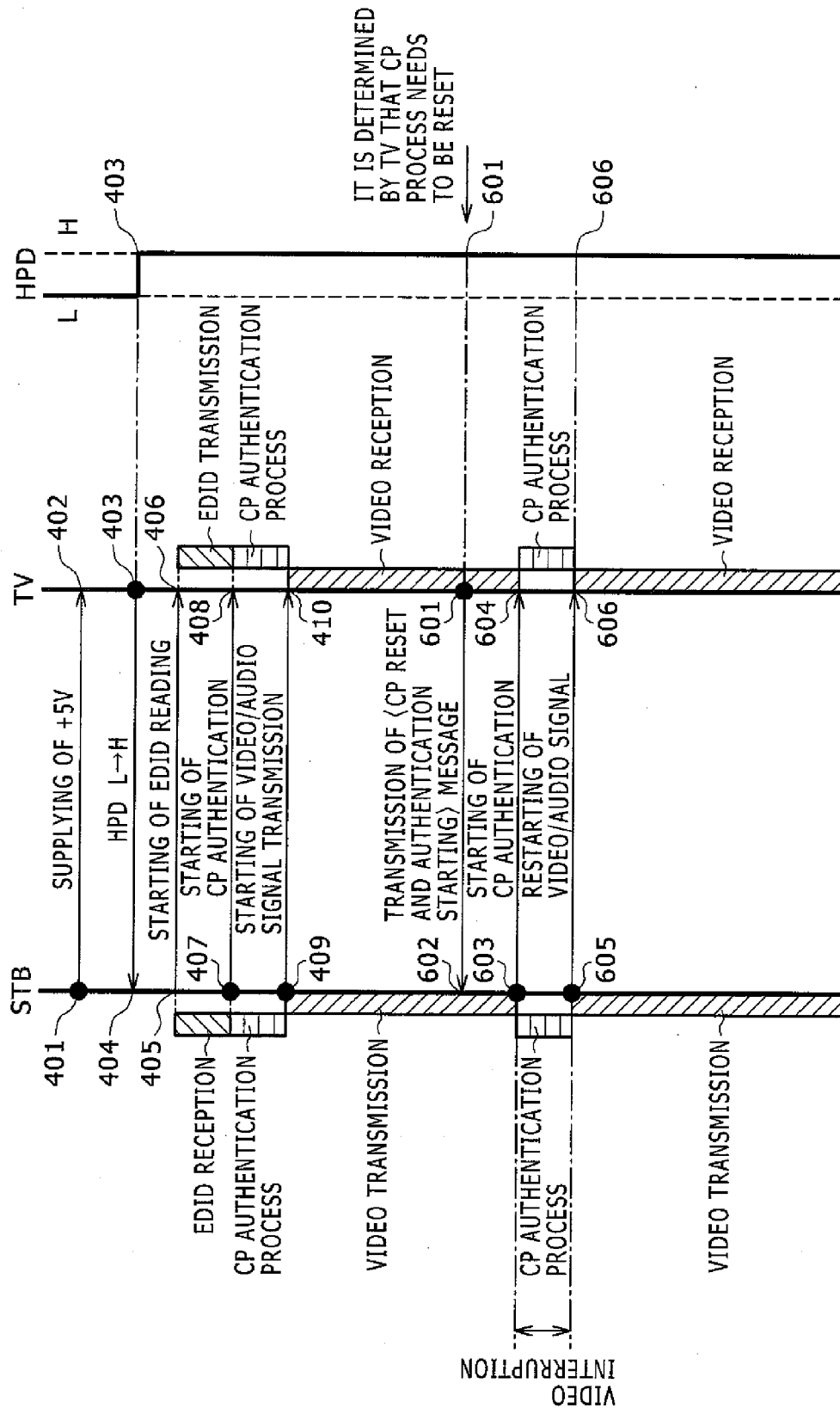


FIG. 7

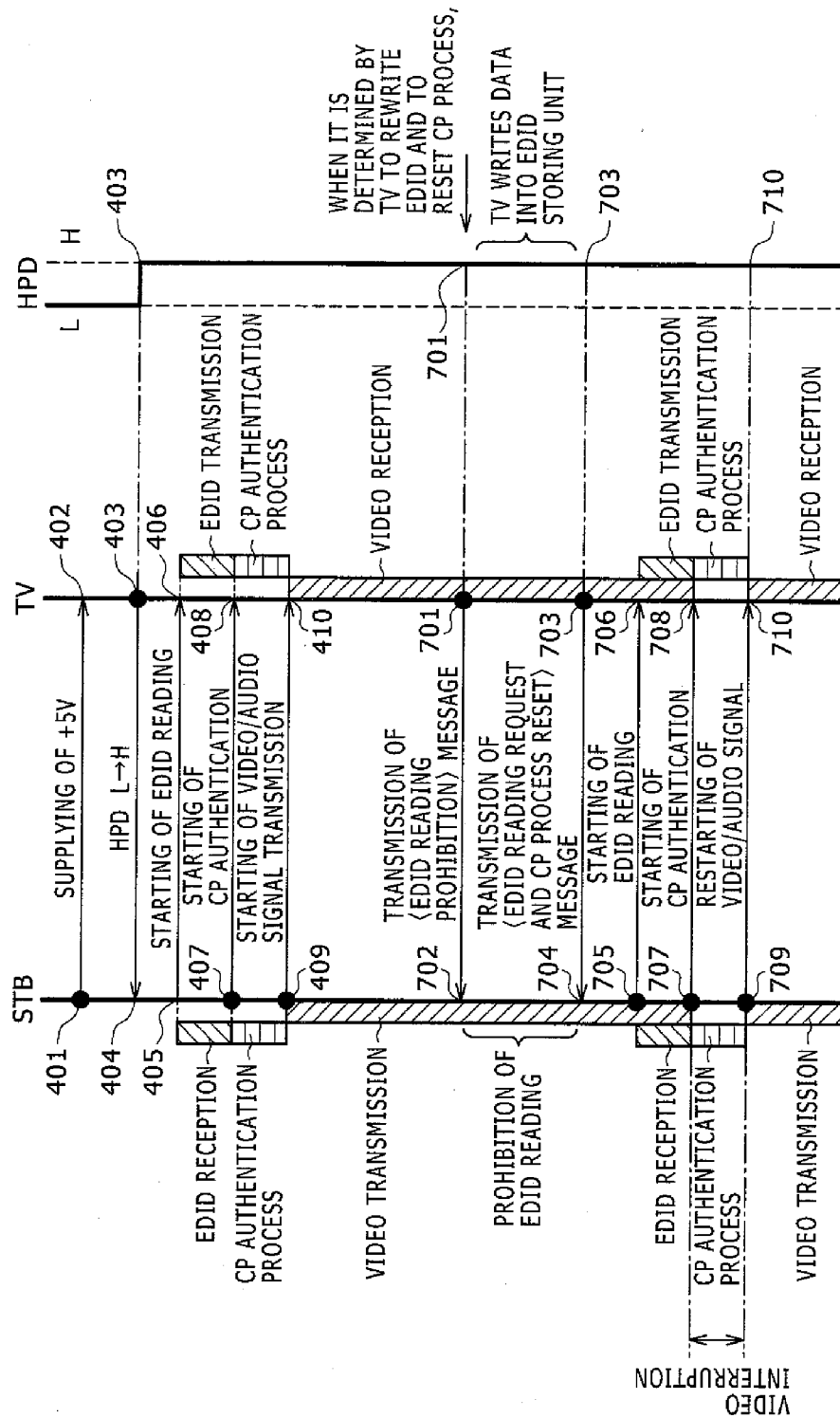


FIG. 8

	INTERFACE		HDMI	DVI	DISPLAY PORT
(1)	VIDEO/AUDIO TRANSMISSION SCHEME		TMDS	TMDS	Main Link
(2)	EDID READING/ CP	COMMUNICATION	DDC	DDC	AUX-CH
(3)	AUTHENTICATION	TRIGGER	HPD	HPD	HPD
(4)	LOW-SPEED BIDIRECTIONAL COMMUNICATION		CEC	DDC	AUX-CH
(5)	CP SCHEME		HDCP	HDCP	HDCP/DPCP
(6)	SCHEME ALTERNATIVE TO HPD (TRIGGER AND COMMUNICATION)		CEC	DDC	AUX-CH

FIG. 9

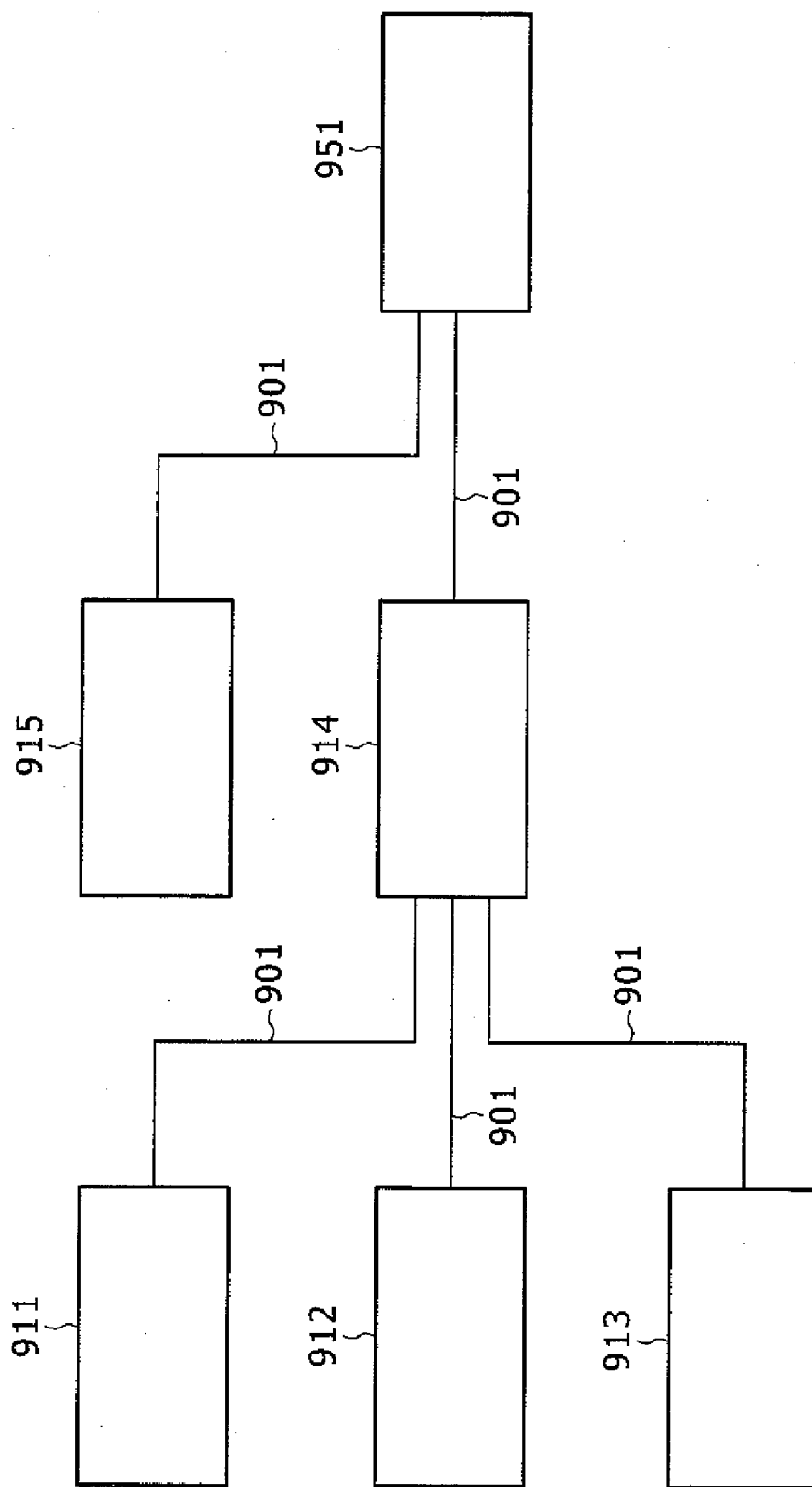
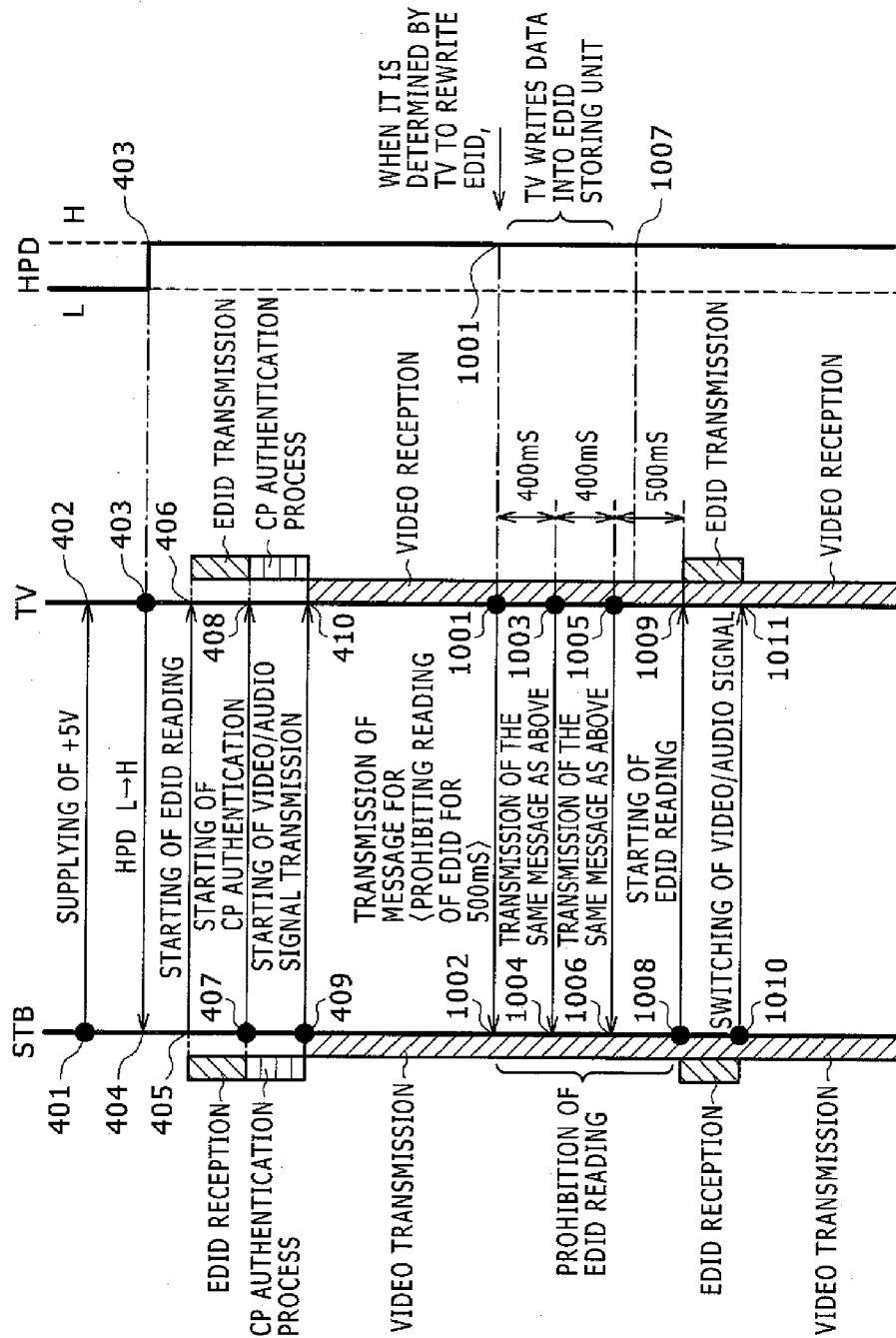


FIG. 10



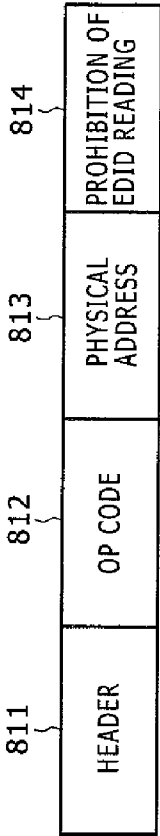


FIG. 11A

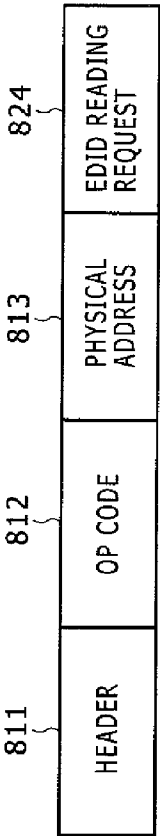


FIG. 11B

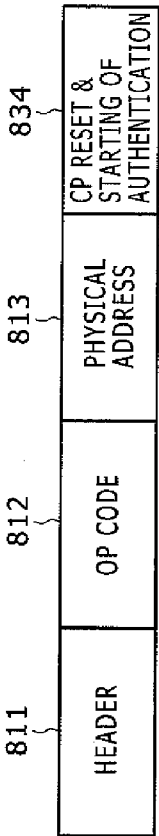


FIG. 11C

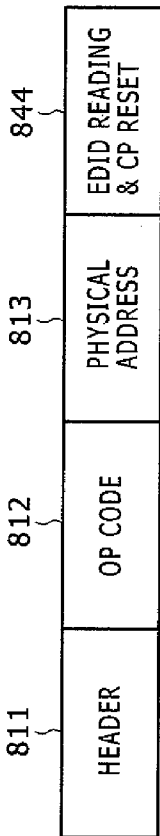


FIG. 11D

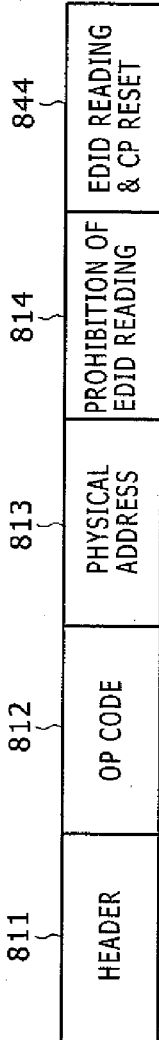


FIG. 11E

DATA READING METHOD, AND A VIDEO TRANSMITTER AND A VIDEO RECEIVER USING THE SAME

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

[0001] (1) Field of the Invention

[0002] The present invention relates to an interface for transmitting a digital video signal including an audio signal.

[0003] (2) Description of the Related Arts

[0004] Digital interfaces for transmitting a digital video signal, such as an HDMI (High Definition Multimedia Interface), a DVI (Digital Visual Interface), and a DisplayPort have been provided from the past.

[0005] These digital interfaces are used for transmitting a digital video signal from a video transmitter to a video receiver. The video transmitter is, for example, a digital recorder such as a DVD (Digital Versatile Disc) reproducing device, a STB (Set Top Box), or a personal computer. The video receiver is, for example, a video display device such as a monitor for a television or a personal computer.

[0006] In the case of connection through a digital interface such as the HDMI, a CP (Contents Protection, namely, copyright protection) technique such as an HDCP (High-bandwidth digital Contents Protection) is employed, and transmission and reception of a video signal is enabled only when the video transmitter and the video receiver are successfully authenticated.

[0007] However, a conventional authentication operation is executed while a HPD terminal is changed its level High to Low to High not only the time of power-on reset of the video receiver, but also every time when the display switch to another input terminal or data related to the characteristics of the video receiver are rewritten. Accordingly, the video transmitter cannot read the data related to the characteristics of the video receiver until the data rewriting is completed, which leads to problems that a video cannot be displayed or an interruption time of a video is long.

[0008] Japanese Patent Application Laid-Open No. 2008-252819 describes an example in which data related to the characteristics of a video receiver are rewritten in accordance with a state of the video receiver.

[0009] Japanese Patent Application Laid-Open No. 2006-246300 describes an example of a display when authentication fails, but does not describe eliminating or shortening of a video interruption time caused by switching of the input terminal or rewriting of data related to the characteristics of a video receiver

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

[0010] In view of the foregoing problems, the present invention provides a data reading method, and a video transmitter and a video receiver using the same in which there is no video interruption time or a video interruption time is short during switching of a display or data rewriting.

[0011] The present invention provides a video transmitter which transmits a digital video signal obtained by performing a contents protection process to a video receiver through digital interfaces, wherein during a period when the video transmitter reads data related to the characteristics of the video receiver and transmits a digital video signal generated on the basis of the read data by a default setting process to be executed at the time of power-on reset of the video receiver to the video receiver, when receiving a re-reading request mes-

sage for the data from the video receiver through a bidirectional communication line incorporated into the digital interfaces, the data related to the characteristics of the video receiver are read and the video signal generated on the basis of the read setting data is transmitted to the video receiver.

[0012] According to the present invention, it is possible to provide a data reading method, and a video transmitter and a video receiver using the same in which no interruption of a video occurs or a video interruption time is shortened due to no change in the signal level of the HPD terminal, even when data related to the characteristics of the video receiver are rewritten.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

[0013] FIG. 1 is a block diagram showing an embodiment of configurations of a video transmitter and a video receiver according to the present invention;

[0014] FIG. 2 is a block diagram showing an embodiment of configurations of a video transmitter and a video receiver according to the present invention;

[0015] FIG. 3 is a block diagram showing an embodiment of configurations of a video transmitter and a video receiver according to the present invention;

[0016] FIG. 4 is a sequence diagram showing an example of operations of a conventional EDID rewriting process and a conventional CP authentication process;

[0017] FIG. 5 is a sequence diagram showing an embodiment of an EDID reading processing operation according to the present invention;

[0018] FIG. 6 is a sequence diagram showing an embodiment of a CP process reset operation according to the present invention

[0019] FIG. 7 is a sequence diagram showing an embodiment of an EDID reading processing operation and a CP process reset operation according to the present invention;

[0020] FIG. 8 is a diagram for comparing signal transmission methods for each interface according an embodiment of the present invention;

[0021] FIG. 9 is a block diagram showing an embodiment of configurations of a video transmitter and a video receiver according to the present invention;

[0022] FIG. 10 is a sequence diagram showing an embodiment of an EDID reading processing operation according to the present invention; and

[0023] FIGS. 11A to 11E are diagrams for explaining a message structure according to the present invention.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE ILLUSTRATED EMBODIMENT

[0024] Hereinafter, embodiments of the present invention will be described in detail with reference to the accompanying drawings. It should be noted that constituent elements having common functions are given the same reference numerals in the respective drawings, and the explanations thereof will be omitted as much as possible to avoid duplication of the explanations.

First Embodiment

[0025] FIG. 1 is a block diagram showing an embodiment of configurations of a video transmitter and a video receiver according to the present invention, and the both are connected to each other through an HDMI.

[0026] The reference numeral **100** denotes a video transmitter which generates and transmits a digital video signal, and **150** denotes a video receiver. In the video transmitter **100**, the reference numeral **101** denotes a signal source, **102** denotes an encryption unit, **103** denotes a video/audio signal transmission unit, **104** denotes a CP processing unit, **105** denotes a CPU (Central Processing Unit), **106** denotes an EDID (Extended Display Identification Data) reading unit, **107** denotes a detection unit, **108** denotes a power source unit, **109** denotes a CEC (Consumer Electronics Control) unit, and **110** denotes a parameter storing unit. In addition, in the video receiver **150**, the reference numeral **151** denotes a display panel, **152** denotes a decryption unit, **153** denotes a video/audio signal reception unit, **154** denotes a CP processing unit, **155** denotes a CPU, **156** denotes an EDID storing unit which stores the data of the characteristics of the receiver, **157** denotes a controlling unit, and **159** denotes a CEC unit.

[0027] In FIG. 1, the video transmitter **100** is controlled by the CPU **105**, and the video receiver **150** is controlled by the CPU **155**. Further, each of these CPUs **105** and **155** is operated by a user through an MI (Man-Machine Interface) device including a remote controller (not shown) attached to the video transmitter **100** or the video receiver **150**.

[0028] Further, the video transmitter **100** and the video receiver **150** are coupled to each other through an HDMI cable.

[0029] In the video transmitter **100**, the signal source **101** is a video signal source such as an external video input terminal, a DVD, or a broadcast reception unit, and outputs a video signal to the encryption unit **102**. The encryption unit **102** encrypts (contents protection process) the input video signal with, for example, an HDCP to be output to the video/audio signal transmission unit **103**. The video/audio signal transmission unit **103** converts the input video signal into a serial transmission method of a TMDS (Transmission Minimized Differential Signaling) method, and transmits the resultant to the video/audio signal reception unit **153** of the video receiver **150** through a TMDS signal line.

[0030] At this time, the CP processing unit **104** performs authentication regarding to whether or not the video receiver **150** that is the connection target is provided with a legitimate HDCP processing function, through the CP processing unit **154** and a DDC (Display Data Channel) signal line. If authenticated, the CP processing unit **104** outputs key information of encryption to the encryption unit **102**. Specifically, the encryption unit **102** transmits a video signal obtained by performing a contents protection process for the input video signal on the basis of the key information input from the CP processing unit **104**, and accordingly, the video receiver **150** cannot decrypt the video signal without the key information by which the video signal obtained by performing the contents protection can be decrypted.

[0031] It should be noted that as the TMDS method, a well-known technique described in, for example, Japanese Patent Application Laid-Open No. 2007-28645 is used.

[0032] The power source unit **108** generates a DC voltage of +5V from an AC power source (not shown) supplied to the video transmitter, and supplies the voltage to the EDID storing unit **156** and the controlling unit **157** of the video receiver **150** through a +5V power source line.

[0033] The EDID reading unit **106** reads EDID from the EDID storing unit **156** of the video receiver **150** through the DDC signal line, and outputs the received EDID to the CPU **105**. While the CPU **105** sets a format of a video signal or an

audio signal to be transmitted on the basis of the input EDID to store the format setting parameter (a format information) into the parameter storing unit **110**, the CPU **105** gives an instruction on an output format of the video signal or the audio signal to the signal source **101**. Then, the CPU **105** controls the video/audio signal transmission unit **103** not to transmit the video signal until the initialization and the above-described CP process are completed.

[0034] In the case where the detection unit **107** detects a HPD (Hot Plug Detect) signal transmitted from the controlling unit **157** of the video receiver **150** through a HPD signal line, the detection unit **107** outputs the detected information of the HPD signal to the CPU **105**.

[0035] The CEC unit **109** mutually transmits and receives a CEC control signal such as a remote control signal or a power-on/standby signal to/from the CEC unit **159** of the video receiver **150** through a CEC signal line.

[0036] In the video receiver **150**, a video or audio signal transmitted from the video transmitter **100** is received by the video/audio signal reception unit **153**, and the signal is restored from the serial transmission method to the video signal in the original format to be output to the decryption unit **152**. Further, the CP processing unit **154** outputs the key information obtained through the authentication with the CP processing unit **104** of the video transmitter **100** to the decryption unit **152**.

[0037] The decryption unit **152** performs a decryption process for the video signal input from the video/audio signal reception unit **153** by using the key information obtained from the CP processing unit **154**, and outputs the resultant to the display panel **151** on which the video is displayed.

[0038] The EDID storing unit **156** stores data representing the characteristics of the video receiver **150**, and the EDID is transmitted through the DDC signal line in accordance with a reading operation of the EDID reading unit **106** of the video transmitter **100**.

[0039] When the system is started, the controlling unit **157** transmits the HPD signal as a trigger to the detection unit **107** of the video transmitter **100**.

[0040] The CEC unit **159** mutually transmits and receives the CEC control signal to/from the CEC unit **109** of the video transmitter **100** through the CEC signal line to control the timing of transmission and reception.

[0041] FIG. 9 is a block diagram showing the embodiment of configurations of the video transmitter and the video receiver according to the present invention. The reference numeral **911** denotes a DVD (Digital Versatile Disc), **912** denotes a D-VHS (Digital-Video Home System), **913** denotes an STB (Set Top Box), **914** denotes an Audio Amp, **915** denotes a PVR (Personal Video Recorder), **951** denotes a television (hereinafter, referred to as TV), and **901** denotes HDMI cables.

[0042] In FIG. 9, the devices on the left side and the right side are the video transmitter and the video receiver, respectively, which are connected to each other through the HDMI cables **901**. Further, for example, the DVD **911** as a video transmitter can be coupled to the TV **951** as a video receiver through the HDMI cable **901**, the Amp **914** and the HDMI cable **901**.

[0043] Next, an EDID reading process of the present invention will be described using FIGS. 4 and 5. FIG. 4 is a sequence diagram showing an example of operations of a conventional EDID reading process and a conventional CP authentication process. In addition, FIG. 5 is a sequence

diagram showing the embodiment of an EDID reading processing operation according to the present invention. In each case, the video transmitter and the video receiver are connected to each other through the HDMI.

[0044] In each of FIGS. 4 and 5, the video transmitter is represented as STB and the video receiver is represented as TV. Further, the HDMI cable is used for coupling the STB to the TV, and changes in the level of the HPD signal in each sequence operation of the STB and the TV are shown on the right side. Further, in FIGS. 4 to 7, time passes from the top to the bottom of each drawing, and a time indicated on each horizontal line (dashed-dotted line) in the lateral axis direction is the same time.

[0045] As for the HPD signal level in each of FIGS. 4 and 7, "H" represents a high level (for example, 2.7V to 5.0V), and "L" represents a low level (for example, 0.0V to 0.4V).

[0046] In FIG. 4, a voltage of +5V is started to be supplied from the STB to the TV through the +5V power source line at a time 401, and inputting of the power to the TV is started at a time 402. As a result, it is detected that the HPD signal level is raised from "L" to "H" between a time 403 and a time 404 in the TV, and the HPD signal level becomes "H" at the time 404 in the STB.

[0047] When the HPD signal level is changed from "L" to "H", the level change of the HPD signal triggers reading of the EDID and CP authentication in the STE. Specifically, in response to the result in which the "H" level is detected, the STB starts to read the EDID at a time 405, and the TV transmits the EDID at a time 406 in accordance with the reading operation of the STB. After reading the EDID, the STB starts to perform the CP authentication for the TV at a time 407. The TV starts to perform the CP authentication process for the STE at a time 408. Specifically, the STB reads the EDID to set a video format to be output on the basis of the EDID, and performs the CP authentication process.

[0048] When the CP authentication process succeeds, the STB starts to transmit the video signal to the TV (time 409). When the operation of the CP authentication process is completed, the TV starts to receive the video signal (starting of video/audio signal transmission) at a time 410.

[0049] As described above, in the case where it is determined by the TV to rewrite the EDID at a time 411 in a state where the video signal is transmitted from the STB and is received by the TV, the HPD signal level is switched from "H" to "L". At a time 412, the TV starts to write new data to the EDID storing unit 156 at a HPD signal level of "L". Then, in the case where the writing of data is completed at a time 413, the HPD signal level is switched from "L" to "H".

[0050] In the case where the HPD signal level is detected as "L" at the time 412, the STB prohibits the reading of the EDID from the EDID storing unit 156. In the case where the HPD signal level is detected as "H" at a time 414, the level change triggers the STB to start to read the EDID from the EDID storing unit 156 at a time 415.

[0051] The following sequence operations from a time 415 to a time 419 and a time 420 are the same as those from the time 405 to the time 409 and the time 410, and thus, the explanations thereof will be omitted.

[0052] As described above, in the case where it is determined by the TV to rewrite the EDID at the time 411, transmission of the video is interrupted from, for example, the time 412 to the time 419, and reception of the video is interrupted from the time 411 to the time 420.

[0053] As described above by using FIG. 4, in the case where it is determined by the TV to rewrite the EDID during transmission and reception of the video signal, it is necessary to interrupt the transmission and reception of the video signal in the conventional technique. Further, since the CP authentication process is performed, an interruption time of a video becomes long. Thus, even in the case where it is determined by the TV to rewrite the EDID during transmission and reception of the video signal, no interruption of a video occurs, or interruption time of a video is shortened in the present invention, as the embodiment shown in the following FIGS. 5 to 7.

[0054] In FIG. 5, the processing operations from the time 401 when a power source voltage of +5V is supplied to the time 410 when transmission and reception operations of the video signal are started (starting of video/audio signal transmission) are the same as those in the conventional example of FIG. 4. Thus, the explanations thereof will be omitted and an explanation will be made from the process next to the time 410.

[0055] For example, in the case where it is determined by the TV to rewrite the EDID at a time 501 during transmission and reception of the video signal, the CPU 155 (see FIG. 1) transmits a message (controlling command) for prohibiting the reading of the EDID from the CEC unit 159 to the CEC unit 109 of the STB through the CEO signal line. At this time, the HPD signal is still at the "H" level.

[0056] The CEC unit 109 of the STB receives the message for prohibiting the reading of the EDID to be passed on to the CPU 105 at a time 502. Accordingly, the CPU 105 prohibits the EDID reading processing operation.

[0057] In the case where the rewriting is completed, the TV transmits a reading request message (controlling command) for the EDID from the CEC unit 159 to the CEC unit 109 of the STB through the CEC signal line at a time 503. Accordingly, the CPU 105 can read the EDID. Specifically, the STB which received the reading request message for the EDID at a time 504 allows the EDID reading unit 106 to start to read the EDID of the EDID storing unit 156 of the TV through the DDC signal line from a time 505. At this time, the HPD signal is still at the "H" level. It should be noted that the TV writes the EDID from the time 501 to the time 504.

[0058] The STB which reset the format or the like of an output video signal on the basis of the read EDID starts to transmit the video/audio signal from the video/audio signal transmission unit 103 to the TV at a time 507. At this time, the HPD signal is still at the "H" level.

[0059] As described above, the video in the format on the basis of the EDID rewritten from the time 501 to the time 503 is displayed on the display panel 151 of the TV after a time 508.

[0060] According to the embodiment of FIGS. 1 and 5, in the video signal transmission and reception system in which the video transmitter and the video receiver are coupled to each other by the HDMI method, default setting of a video output format is performed on the basis of the EDID when the power is supplied, and then, the CP authentication process is performed, so that transmission and reception of the video signal is started. After transmission and reception of the video signal is started, a change in the level of the HPD signal is not used when it is necessary to rewrite the EDID, but the messages (controlling commands) for prohibiting the reading of the EDID and for requesting to read the EDID which are communicated through the CEC signal line are used. Accordingly, it is possible to realize the video transmitter and the

video receiver in which no interruption of a video occurs, the CP authentication is not needed, and switching of the video/audio signal is fast even when the EDID is rewritten.

[0061] In the embodiment of FIG. 5, the STB adds a message for notifying handling information to the EDID reading prohibition message or the EDID reading request message so as to ensure recognizing of a state in the video signal transmission and reception system including the STB and the TV, thus enhancing the reliability. For example, upon reception of a message indicating that prohibition setting is completed for the EDID reading prohibition message, rewriting of the EDID is started on the TV side. Accordingly, it is possible to avoid an abnormal operation in which the reading of the EDID is started by the STB when the EDID reading prohibition message is not delivered to the STB due to some false operation. This is similarly applied to other embodiments of the present invention to be described later.

[0062] In the above-described embodiment, the HPD signal is used for initialization only right after the power is supplied (or right after input switching) while being changed from Low to High. However, in case the mechanism of the EDID reading prohibition or the EDID reading request by means of the message malfunctions, the HPD signal is preferentially used when the HPD signal is changed to the low level, and the operation performed by means of the message may be stopped.

[0063] Next, the CP authentication process of the present invention will be described using FIG. 6. FIG. 6 is a sequence diagram showing the embodiment of a CP process reset operation of the present invention, and signal processing is performed by the HDMI method shown in FIG. 1.

[0064] In FIG. 6, the processing operations from the time 401 when a DC power source voltage of +5V is supplied to the time 410 when transmission and reception operations of the video signal are started are the same as those in the conventional example of FIG. 4. Thus, the explanations thereof will be omitted and an explanation will be made from the process next to the time 410.

[0065] For example, in the case where it is determined by the TV that the CP process needs to be reset at a time 601 during transmission and reception of the video signal, the CEC unit 159 outputs a CP reset and authentication starting message to the CEC signal line under control of the CPU 155 (see FIG. 1) of the TV. The CEC unit 109 of the STB receives the same message to be passed on to the CPU 105. At this time, the HPD signal is still at the "H" level.

[0066] After the CEC unit 109 receives the CP reset and authentication starting message at a time 602, the CPU 105 of the STB instructs the CP processing unit 104 of the STB to start the CP authentication with the TV. From a time 603, the CP processing unit 104 of the STB and the CPU processing unit 154 of the TV start the CP authentication process. The CP processing unit 104 outputs key information obtained as a result of the CP authentication process to the encryption unit 102. From a time 605, the video/audio signal transmission unit 103 starts to transmit the video signal encrypted by the encryption unit 102 on the basis of the key information to the TV through the TMDS signal line. The video/audio signal reception unit 153 of the TV receives the encrypted video signal to be passed on to the decryption unit 152 of the TV. From a time 606, the decryption unit 152 decrypts the input video signal on the basis of the key information supplied from the CP processing unit 154 to be displayed on the display panel 151. At this time, the HPD signal is still at the "H" level.

[0067] According to the embodiment of FIG. 6, in the video signal transmission and reception system in which the video transmitter and the video receiver are coupled to each other by the HDMI method, default setting of a video output format is performed on the basis of the EDID when the power is supplied, and then the CP authentication process is performed, so that the video interfaces are initialized. After transmission and reception of the video signal is started, a change in the level of the HPD signal is not used as a reset signal for the CP process, but the CP reset and authentication starting message (controlling command) which is communicated through the CEC signal line is used. Accordingly, it is possible to realize the video transmitter and the video receiver in which switching of the video/audio signal is fast because even when the CP process is reset, the reading operation of the EDID is not necessary and an interruption time of a video can be shortened.

[0068] Next, there will be described a case, using FIG. 7, in which both of the EDID reading process and the CP process reset operation of the present invention are performed. FIG. 7 is a sequence diagram showing the embodiment of the EDID reading process and the CP process reset operation of the present invention, and signal processing is performed by the HDMI method shown in FIG. 1.

[0069] In FIG. 7, the processing operations from the time 401 when a DC power source voltage of +5V is supplied to the time 410 when transmission and reception operations of the video signal are started are the same as those in the conventional example of FIG. 4. Thus, the explanations thereof will be omitted and an explanation will be made from the process next to the time 410.

[0070] For example, in the case where it is determined by the TV to rewrite the EDID and to reset the CP process at a time 701 during transmission and reception of the video signal, the CPU 155 (see FIG. 1) transmits a message for prohibiting the reading of the EDID from the CEC unit 159 to the CEC unit 109 of the STB through the CEC signal line. The CPU 105 of the STB which received the message of prohibiting the reading of the EDID at a time 702 controls so as not to perform the reading of the EDID until the EDID reading request message is received.

[0071] From a time 701, the TV starts to rewrite the EDID of the EDID storing unit 156 and the rewriting is completed at a time 703. When the rewriting is completed, the CPU 155 transmits an EDID reading request and CP process reset message from the CEC unit 159 to the CPU 105 through the CEC unit 109 of the STB. At this time, the HPD signal is still at the "H" level. Thus, the message for prohibiting the reading of the EDID is used for triggering data rewriting.

[0072] The CPU 105 of the STB which received the EDID reading request and CP process reset message at a time 704 requests the EDID storing unit 156 of the TV to read the EDID at a time 705. The EDID storing unit 156 starts to transmit the EDID at a time 706. Next, at a time 707 when the STB completes the reading of the EDID, the CP processing unit 104 of the STB transmits a CP process starting message to start the CP authentication process with the CP processing unit 154 of the TV.

[0073] Upon reception of the CP process starting message from the STB, the CP processing unit 154 of the TV performs the CP authentication with the CP processing unit 104 of the STB at a time 708, and the video is interrupted during the CP authentication process (from a time 707 to a time 709). However, at this time, the HPD signal is still at the "H" level.

[0074] When the CP processing unit of the STB completes the CP authentication, the STB starts to transmit the video signal on the basis of the rewritten EDID and the CP authentication from the video/audio signal transmission unit 103 to the video/audio signal reception unit 153 of the TV at a time 709. The TV receives the video signal on the basis of a new result of CP authentication and the EDID transmitted from the STB, so that the received video signal is decrypted and displayed on the basis of the new CP authentication at a time 710. At this time, the HPD signal is still at the "H" level.

[0075] According to the embodiment of FIG. 7, in the video signal transmission and reception system in which the video transmitter and the video receiver are coupled to each other by the HDMI method, default setting of a video output format is performed on the basis of the EDID when the power is supplied, and then the CP authentication process is performed, so that the video interfaces are initialized. After transmission and reception of the video signal is started, a change in the level of the HPD signal is not used as a trigger signal for rewriting the EDID, but the message (controlling command) for prohibiting the reading of the EDID which is communicated through the CEC signal line is used. Accordingly, it is possible to realize the video transmitter and the video receiver in which an interruption time of a video is short even when the EDID is rewritten and the CP process is reset after transmission and reception of the video signal is started.

[0076] It should be noted that if items of the embodiment of FIGS. 5 to 7 are replaced by those shown in a comparison table of FIG. 8, to be described later, in FIG. 2 (second embodiment) and FIG. 3 (third embodiment) to be described later, the embodiment can be similarly conducted even in a DVI method and a DisplayPort method.

[0077] FIG. 10 is a sequence diagram showing the embodiment of an EDID reading processing operation of the present invention. In the embodiment of FIG. 5, the CEC unit 159 of the TV transmits the message for prohibiting the reading of the EDID only when writing is started, and transmits the EDID reading request message after completion of writing. In addition, the STB prohibits the reading of the EDID when the STB receives one message for prohibiting the reading of the EDID, and prohibits the reading of the EDID until the STB receives the EDID reading request message. However, in the embodiment of FIG. 10, the message for prohibiting the reading of the EDID may be transmitted to the STB at predetermined time intervals (cycles), for example, intervals of 400 ms (times 1001, 1003, and 1005) during a period of rewriting the EDID in the EDID storing unit 156, and the reading of the EDID may be prohibited every time the STB receives the message during a predetermined period longer than the predetermined cycle, for example, up to 500 ms after reception of the message.

[0078] In this case, the TV transmits the message for prohibiting the reading of the EDID at the predetermined intervals from the time (a time 1001) rewriting of the EDID in the EDID storing unit 156 is started, and does not transmit the same after completion of the rewriting (a time 1007). Thus, the TV may be operated on the assumption that the reading request message is received 500 ms later from the reception of the last message for prohibiting the reading of the EDID.

[0079] An example of a structure of the message described above is shown in FIGS. 11A to 11E. Each message includes a Header 811, an Op Code 812, an Op Data 813 related to a destination Physical Address, and an OP Data 814 (824, 834, or 844) representing reading prohibition.

[0080] FIG. 11A represents a message for showing EDID reading prohibition, FIG. 11B represents a message for showing an EDID reading request, FIG. 11C represents a message for showing CP reset and starting of authentication, and FIG. 11D represents a message for showing an EDID reading request and CP authentication initialization. Each message has one Op Data other than the Physical Address. However, in order to reduce a message frequency, in FIG. 11E, it is advantageous in enhancing the usage efficiency of a low-speed communication line if the EDID reading prohibition Op Data and two pieces of OP Data representing the EDID reading and the CP authentication initialization are carried by one message. The EDID reading prohibition Op Data and two pieces of Op Data representing the EDID reading and the CP authentication initialization may be collectively defined as one piece of Op Data.

[0081] At this time, it is preferable that a time period from the EDID reading prohibition to the EDID reading is set to 100 ms or longer from the viewpoint of compatibility with a conventional HDMI device with HDCP. Further, it is desirable that the time period is set to less than 500 ms because a long time period leads to delay of response.

[0082] According to the present invention, it is possible to always set the HPD signal at the "H" level. Thus, the embodiment may be applied to a case in which a HPD terminal is considered to be always at the high level except for the time right after power supplying and another signal is transmitted to the HPD terminal.

Second Embodiment

[0083] FIG. 2 is a block diagram showing an embodiment of configurations of a video transmitter and a video receiver according to the present invention, and the both are configured by interfaces of a DVI method. The reference numeral 200 denotes a video transmitter which generates and transmits a digital video signal, and 250 denotes a video receiver. In the video transmitter 200, the reference numeral 201 denotes a signal source, 202 denotes an encryption unit, 203 denotes a video signal transmission unit, 204 denotes a CP processing unit, 205 denotes a CPU, 206 denotes an EDID reading unit, 207 denotes a detection unit, 208 denotes a power source unit, and 210 denotes a parameter storing unit. In addition, in the video receiver 250, the reference numeral 251 denotes a display panel, 252 denotes a decryption unit, 253 denotes a video signal reception unit, 254 denotes a CP processing unit, 255 denotes a CPU, 256 denotes an EDID storing unit, and 257 denotes a controlling unit.

[0084] In FIG. 2, the video transmitter 200 is controlled by the CPU 205, and the video receiver 250 is controlled by the CPU 255. Further, each of these CPUs 205 and 255 is operated by a user through an MMI device including a remote controller (not shown) attached to the video transmitter 200 or the video receiver 250.

[0085] Further, the video transmitter 200 and the video receiver 250 are coupled to each other through a DVI cable.

[0086] In the video transmitter 200, the signal source 201 is a video signal source, and outputs a video signal to the encryption unit 202. The encryption unit 202 encrypts the input video signal with, for example, an HDCP to be output to the video signal transmission unit 203. The video signal transmission unit 203 converts the input video signal into a serial transmission method of a TMDS method, and transmits the resultant to the video signal reception unit 253 of the video receiver 250 through a TMDS signal line.

[0087] At this time, the CP processing unit 204 performs authentication with the CP processing unit 254 regarding to whether or not the video receiver 250 that is the connection target is provided with a legitimate HDCP processing function, through a DDC signal line. If authenticated, the CP processing unit 204 outputs key information of encryption to the encryption unit 202. Specifically, the encryption unit 202 transmits a video signal obtained by performing a contents protection process for the input video signal on the basis of the key information input from the CP processing unit 204, and accordingly, the video receiver 250 cannot decrypt the video signal without the key information by which the copy protection signal can be decrypted.

[0088] The power source unit 208 generates a DC power source voltage of +5V from an AC power source (not shown) supplied to the video transmitter, and supplies the voltage to the EDID storing unit 256 and the controlling unit 257 of the video receiver 250 through a +5V power source line.

[0089] The EDID reading unit 206 reads EDID from the EDID storing unit 256 of the video receiver 250 through the DDC signal line, and outputs the received EDID to the CPU 205. While the CPU 205 sets a format of a video signal to be transmitted on the basis of the input EDID to store the format information into the parameter storing unit 210, the CPU 205 gives an instruction on an output format of the video signal to the signal source 201. Then, the CPU 205 controls the video signal transmission unit 203 not to transmit the video signal until the initialization and the above-described CP process are completed.

[0090] In the case where the detection unit 207 detects a HPD signal transmitted from the controlling unit of the video receiver 250 through a HPD signal line, the detection unit 207 outputs the detected information of the HPD signal to the CPU 205.

[0091] In the video receiver 250, a video signal transmitted from the video transmitter 200 is received by the video signal reception unit 253, and the signal is restored from the serial transmission method to the video signal in the original format to be output to the decryption unit 252. Further, the CP processing unit 254 performs authentication with the CP processing unit 254 regarding to whether or not the video transmitter 200 that is the connection target is provided with a legitimate HDCP processing function, through the DDC signal line. If authenticated, the CP processing unit 254 outputs key information of encryption to the decryption unit 252. Specifically, the decryption unit 252 performs a decryption process for the input video signal on the basis of the key information input from the CP processing unit 254, and outputs the resultant to the display panel 251 on which the video is displayed.

[0092] As described above, in the case where the information signal capable of decrypting the video signal obtained by performing a contents protection process is input, the decryption unit 252 decrypts the input video signal to be output to the display panel 251 on which the video is displayed.

[0093] The EDID storing unit 256 stores data representing the characteristics of the video receiver 250, and the EDID is transmitted through the DDC signal line in accordance with a reading operation of the EDID reading unit 206 of the video transmitter 200.

[0094] When the system is started, the controlling unit 257 transmits the HPD signal as a trigger to the detection unit 207 of the video transmitter 200.

Third Embodiment

[0095] FIG. 3 is a block diagram showing an embodiment of configurations of a video transmitter and a video receiver

according to the present invention, and the both are configured by interfaces of a DisplayPort method. The reference numeral 300 denotes a video transmitter which generates and transmits a digital video signal, and 350 denotes a video receiver. In the video transmitter 300, the reference numeral 301 denotes a signal source, 302 denotes an encryption unit, 303 denotes a video/audio signal transmission unit, 304 denotes a CP processing unit, 305 denotes a CPU, 309 denotes an AUX-CH (Auxiliary-Channel) unit, 307 denotes a detection unit, 308 denotes a power source unit, and 310 denotes a parameter storing unit. In addition, in the video receiver 350, the reference numeral 351 denotes a display panel, 352 denotes a decryption unit, 353 denotes a video/audio signal reception unit, 354 denotes a CP processing unit, 355 denotes a CPU, 359 denotes an AUX-CH unit, 356 denotes an EDID storing unit, and 357 denotes a controlling unit.

[0096] In FIG. 3, the video transmitter 300 is controlled by the CPU 305, and the video receiver 350 is controlled by the CPU 355. Further, each of these CPUs 305 and 355 is operated by a user through an MMI device including a remote controller (not shown) attached to the video transmitter 300 or the video receiver 350.

[0097] Further, the video transmitter 300 and the video receiver 350 are coupled to each other through a DisplayPort cable.

[0098] Communications between the CP processing unit 304 of the video transmitter 300 and the CP processing unit 354 of the video receiver 350 and communications between the CPU 305 of the video transmitter 300 and the EDID storing unit 356 of the video receiver 350 are performed through the AUX-CH unit 309 and the AUX-CH unit 359 which are coupled to each other through an AUX-CH signal line.

[0099] In the video transmitter 300, the signal source 301 is a video signal source, and outputs a video signal to the encryption unit 302. The encryption unit 302 encrypts the input video signal with, for example, an HDCP or a DPCP (DisplayPort Contents Protection) to be output to the video/audio signal transmission unit 303. The video/audio signal transmission unit 303 converts the input video signal into a serial transmission method of a Main Link method, and transmits the resultant to the video/audio signal reception unit 353 of the video receiver 350 through a Main Link signal line.

[0100] At this time, the CP processing unit 304 performs authentication with the CP processing unit 354 regarding to whether or not the video receiver 350 that is the connection target is provided with a legitimate HDCP processing function, through the AUX-CH signal line. If authenticated, the CP processing unit 304 outputs key information of encryption to the encryption unit 302. Specifically, the encryption unit 302 transmits a video signal obtained by performing a contents protection process for the input video signal on the basis of the key information input from the CP processing unit 304, and accordingly, the video receiver 350 cannot decrypt the video signal without the key information by which the copy protection signal can be decrypted.

[0101] The power source unit 308 generates a DC power source voltage of +3.3V from an AC power source (not shown) supplied to the video transmitter, and supplies the voltage to the controlling unit 357 of the video receiver 350 through a +3.3V power source line.

[0102] While the CPU 305 sets a format of a signal on the basis of the EDID transmitted from the EDID storing unit 356

of the video receiver 350 to store the format information into the parameter storing unit 310, the CPU 305 gives an instruction on an output format of the video signal to the signal source 301. Then, the CPU 305 controls the video/audio signal transmission unit 303 not to transmit the video signal until the initialization and the above-described CP process are completed.

[0103] In the case where the detection unit 307 detects a HPD signal transmitted from the controlling unit of the video receiver 350 through a HPD signal line, the detection unit 307 outputs the detected information of the HPD signal to the CPU 305.

[0104] In the video receiver 350, a video signal transmitted from the video transmitter 300 is received by the video/audio signal reception unit 353, and the signal is restored from the serial transmission method to the video signal in the original format to be output to the decryption unit 352. Further, the CP processing unit 354 performs authentication with the CP processing unit 354 regarding to whether or not the video receiver 350 that is the connection target is provided with a legitimate HDCP processing function, through the AUX-CH signal line. If authenticated, the CP processing unit 354 outputs key information of encryption to the encryption unit 302. Specifically, the encryption unit 302 transmits and outputs the video signal obtained by performing a contents protection process on the basis of the key information input from the CP processing unit 304.

[0105] As described above, in the case where the information signal capable of decrypting the video signal obtained by performing a contents protection process is input, the decryption unit 352 decrypts the input video signal to be output to the display panel 351 on which the video is displayed.

[0106] The EDID storing unit 356 stores data representing the characteristics of the video receiver 350, and the EDID is transmitted to the CPU 305 of the video transmitter 300 through the AUX-CH unit 359, AUX-CH signal line, and the AUX-CH unit 309.

[0107] When the system is started, the controlling unit 357 transmits the HPD signal as a trigger to the detection unit 307 of the video transmitter 300.

[0108] The types of signals in the respective interface methods in the first to third embodiments will be collectively described using FIG. 8. FIG. 8 is a diagram for comparing each embodiment of the signal transmission method for each interface of the present invention.

[0109] In FIG. 8, for three types of connection interfaces (HDMI, DVI, and DisplayPort), (1) shows a video/audio transmission method, (2) shows a communication method of EDID reading/CP authentication, (3) shows a trigger method of EDID reading/CP authentication, (4) shows a low-speed bidirectional communication method, (5) shows a CP method, and (6) shows a trigger method used for the present invention which is alternative to an "H"/"L" switching method of a conventional HPD during transmission and reception of a video signal.

[0110] As will be apparent from FIG. 8, according to the first to third embodiments, in the video signal transmission and reception system in which the video transmitter and the video receiver are coupled to each other by any one of the HDMI method, the DVI method, and the DisplayPort method, default setting of a video output format is performed on the basis of the EDID when the power is supplied, and then, the CP authentication process is performed, so that the video interfaces are initialized. Accordingly, it is possible to

realize the data reading method, and the video transmitter and the video receiver in which after transmission and reception of the video signal is started, no interruption of a video occurs or an interruption time is short.

What is claimed is:

1. A method of reading data related to the characteristics of a video receiver by a video transmitter, the video transmitter and the receiver being connected to each other through digital interfaces for transmitting a digital video signal obtained by performing a contents protection process, the method comprising the steps of:

during a period when the video transmitter generates a digital video signal to be output and transmits the same to the video receiver on the basis of the data related to the characteristics of the video receiver read by a default setting process to be executed when power is started to be supplied from the video transmitter to the video receiver,

transmitting a re-reading request message for the data related to the characteristics of the video receiver from the video receiver to the video transmitter through a bidirectional communication line included in the digital interfaces; and

reading the data related to the characteristics of the video receiver by the video transmitter which received the reading request message to output the digital video signal on the basis of the read data.

2. A data rewriting method, wherein

in the data reading method of claim 1, the default setting process to be executed when the power is started to be supplied is executed when a change in the signal level of a HPD terminal of the video receiver from a low level to a high level is detected in accordance with the supplied power source voltage, and a video signal generated on the basis of setting data prior to rewriting is transmitted when rewriting the setting data.

3. A data reading method, wherein

in the data rewriting method of claim 1, each of the digital interface is any one of an HDMI, a DVI, or a DisplayPort.

4. A data reading method, wherein

in the data rewriting method of claim 2, each of the digital interface is any one of an HDMI, a DVI, or a DisplayPort.

5. A video transmitter which includes a contents protection unit and a video signal transmission unit, and outputs a digital video signal obtained by performing a contents protection process to digital interfaces to be transmitted to a video receiver, the transmitter comprising:

a first bidirectional line transmission and reception unit which transmits and receives data related to the characteristics of the video receiver read by the video transmitter to/from a first bidirectional line of the digital interfaces for performing authentication with the video receiver;

a power source unit which supplies power to the video receiver;

a parameter storing unit which reads the data related to the characteristics of the video receiver through the first bidirectional line transmission and reception unit by a default setting process to be executed when the power is started to be supplied from the power source unit to the video receiver, and stores format information of a video or audio signal set on the basis of the read data;

a second bidirectional line transmission and reception unit of the digital interfaces which receives a reading request message or a reading prohibition message for the data related to the characteristics of the video receiver from the video receiver; and

a video transmission controlling unit which, after the reading request message for the data is received, reads the data related to the characteristics of the video receiver, and rewrites setting data stored in the parameter storing unit in accordance with the format information of a video or audio signal set on the basis of the read data, wherein

in the case where the reading prohibition message is received, the video transmission controlling unit does not read the data related to the characteristics of the video receiver from the video receiver, and in the case where the reading request message is received, the video transmission controlling unit reads the data related to the characteristics of the video receiver.

6. The video transmitter according to claim 5, wherein the second bidirectional line transmission and reception unit receives an initialization request message for the contents protection process, and starts to perform authentication with the video receiver as an initialization process for the contents protection process.

7. A video receiver which includes a contents protection unit and a video reception unit, and receives a digital video signal which is obtained by performing a contents protection process and is input from a video transmitter through digital interfaces, the receiver comprising:

a first bidirectional line transmission and reception unit which transmits data related to the characteristics of the video receiver to the video transmitter, and performs transmission and reception with a first bidirectional line

of the digital interfaces for performing contents authentication with the video transmitter;

a data storing unit which stores the data related to the characteristics of the video receiver;

a second transmission and reception unit which, during reception of a digital video signal from the video transmitter, transmits a prohibition message for prohibiting the reading of the data and a request message for requesting the reading of the data to a second bidirectional line of the digital interfaces; and

a video reception controlling unit which transmits the prohibition message for prohibiting the reading of the data to the second bidirectional line prior to rewriting of the data in the data storing unit, and transmits the request message for requesting the reading of the data to the second bidirectional line after completion of the rewriting.

8. The video receiver according to claim 7, wherein after transmission of an initialization request message for the contents protection process from the second bidirectional line transmission and reception unit, authentication with the video transmitter started through the first bidirectional line transmission and reception unit.

9. The video receiver according to claim 7, wherein a decryption unit which decrypts an encryption for the digital video signal obtained by performing a contents protection process, and a display device which displays the decrypted video signal are provided.

10. The video receiver according to claim 8, wherein a decryption unit which decrypts an encryption for the digital video signal obtained by performing a contents protection process, and a display device which displays the decrypted video signal are provided.

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