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(54) **SINGLE CARRIER COMMUNICATION IN DYNAMIC FADING CHANNELS**

(71) Applicant: **Anchor Hill Communications, LLC**,
Scottsdale, AZ (US)

(72) Inventor: **Eric Jacobsen**, Scottsdale, AZ (US)

(73) Assignee: **Anchor Hill Communications, LLC**,
Scottsdale, AZ (US)

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(51) **Int. Cl.**

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H04L 25/03 (2006.01)
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(52) **U.S. Cl.**

CPC **H04L 27/01** (2013.01); **H04L 25/03057**
(2013.01); **H04L 25/03318** (2013.01); **H04L**
2027/0038 (2013.01)
USPC **375/341**; 375/327; 375/267; 375/299;
375/229

(58) **Field of Classification Search**

USPC 375/343, 341, 262, 327, 229; 455/205
See application file for complete search history.

(56)

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Primary Examiner — Qutbuddin Ghulamali

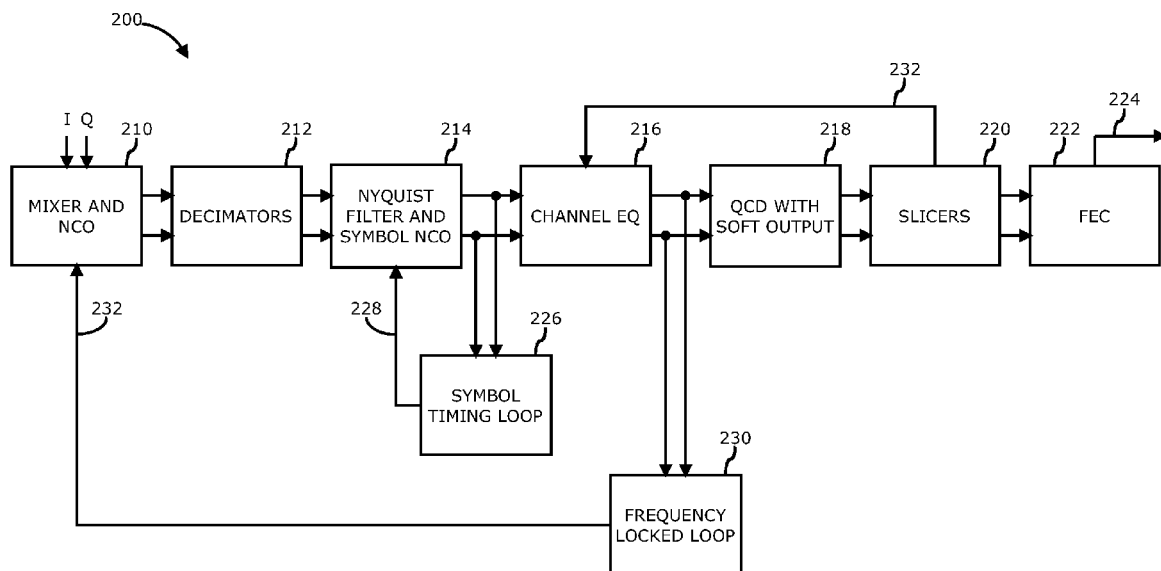
(74) *Attorney, Agent, or Firm* — Cool Patent, P.C.

(57)

ABSTRACT

Briefly, in accordance with one or more embodiments, in response to receiving a single carrier signal that is not phase locked, channel equalization may be applied to the signal via a channel equalizer. The equalized signal may be phase averaged to provide a signal that is at least partially phase stabilized. The channel equalizer may then be trained by feeding back the at least partially phase stabilized phase reference to the channel equalizer. The resulting signal may then be decoded via coherent or quasi-coherent detection.

11 Claims, 6 Drawing Sheets



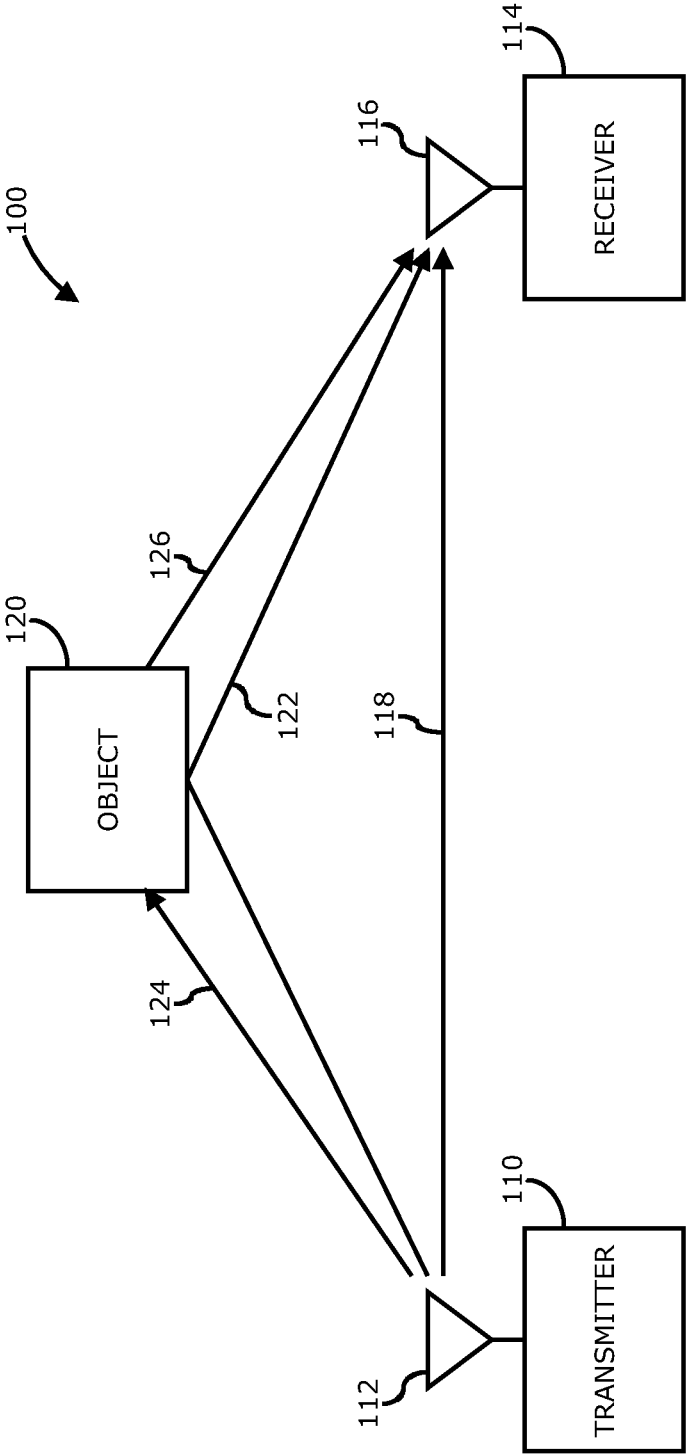


FIG. 1

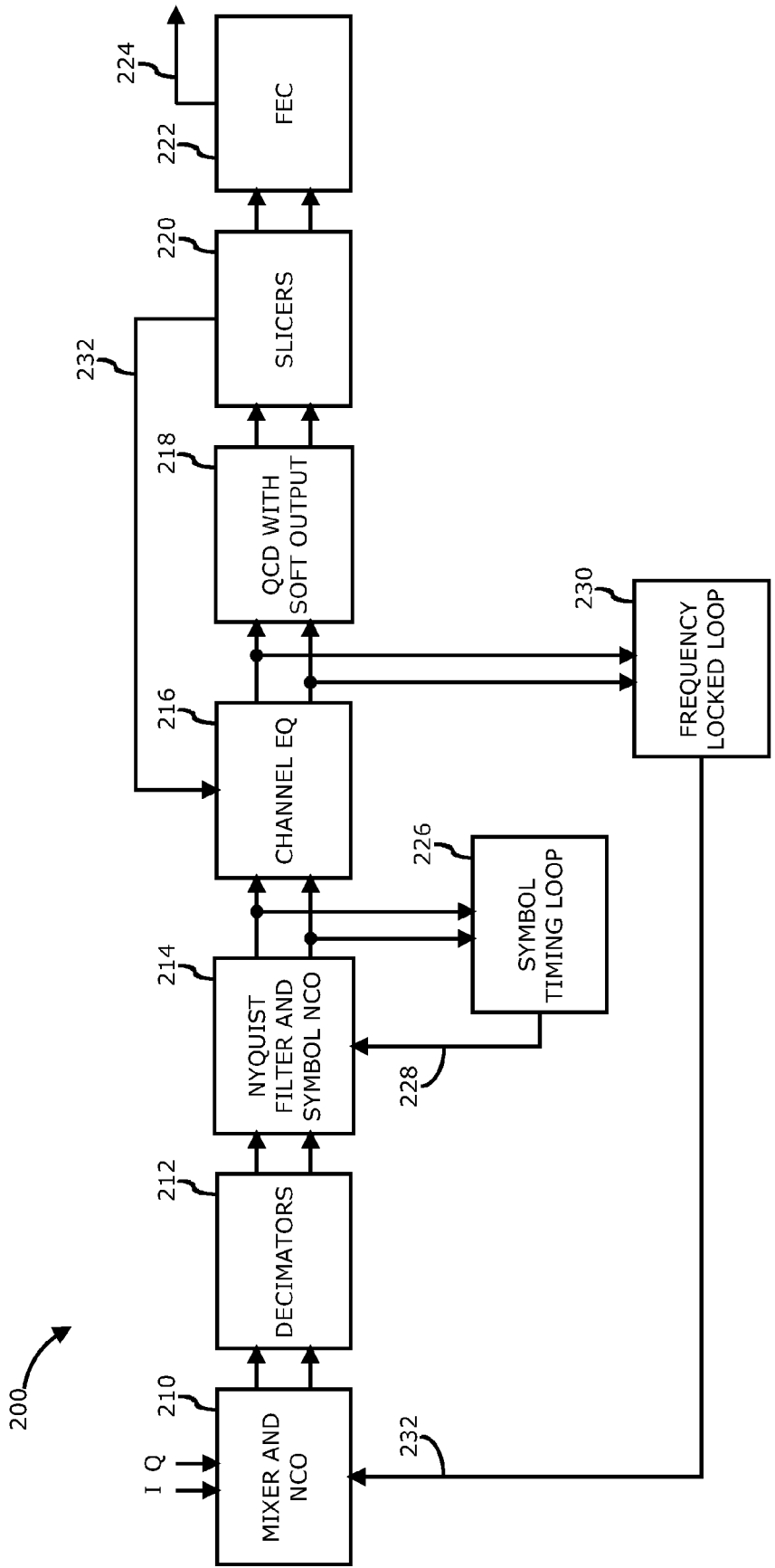


FIG. 2

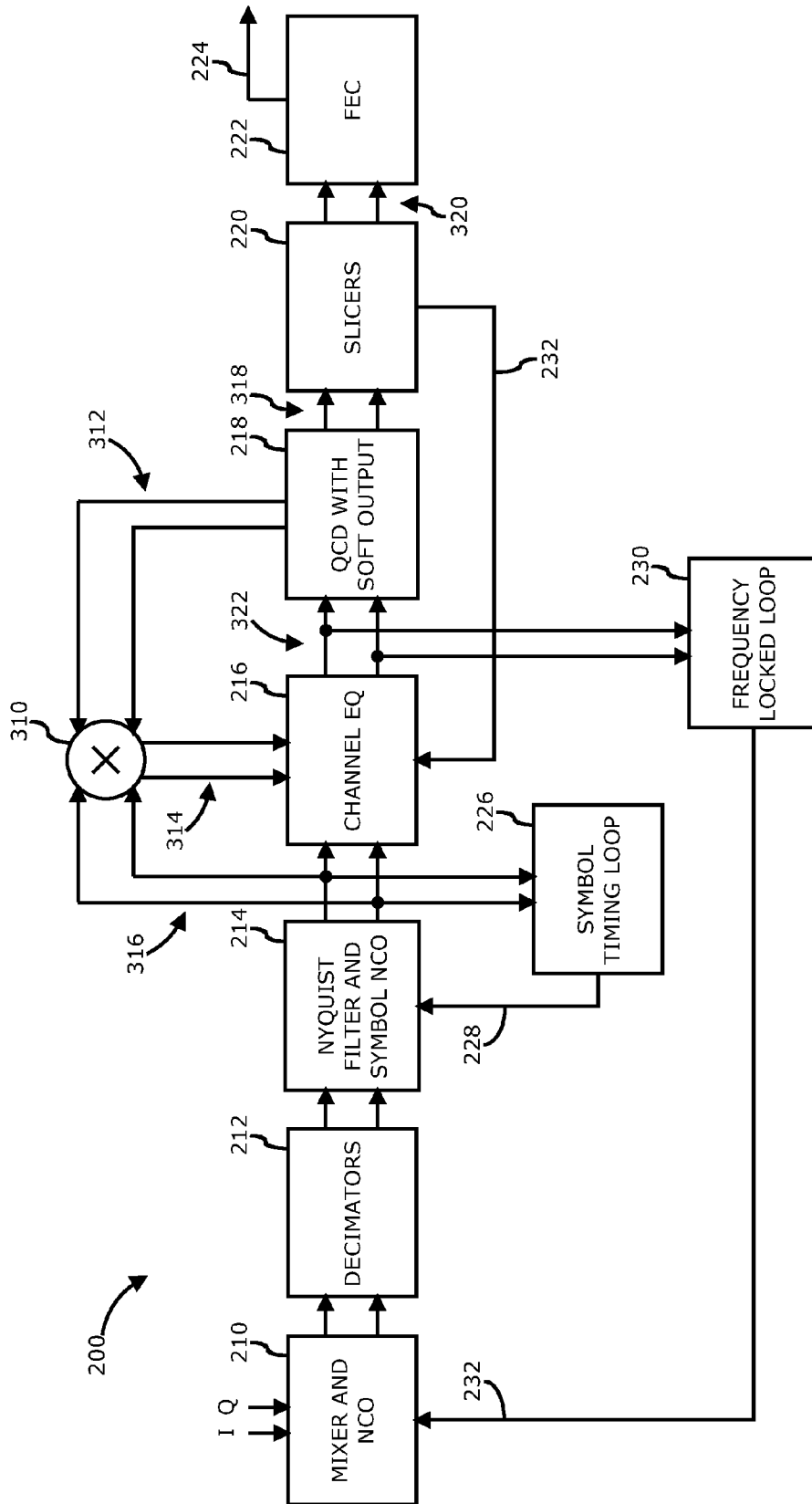


FIG. 3

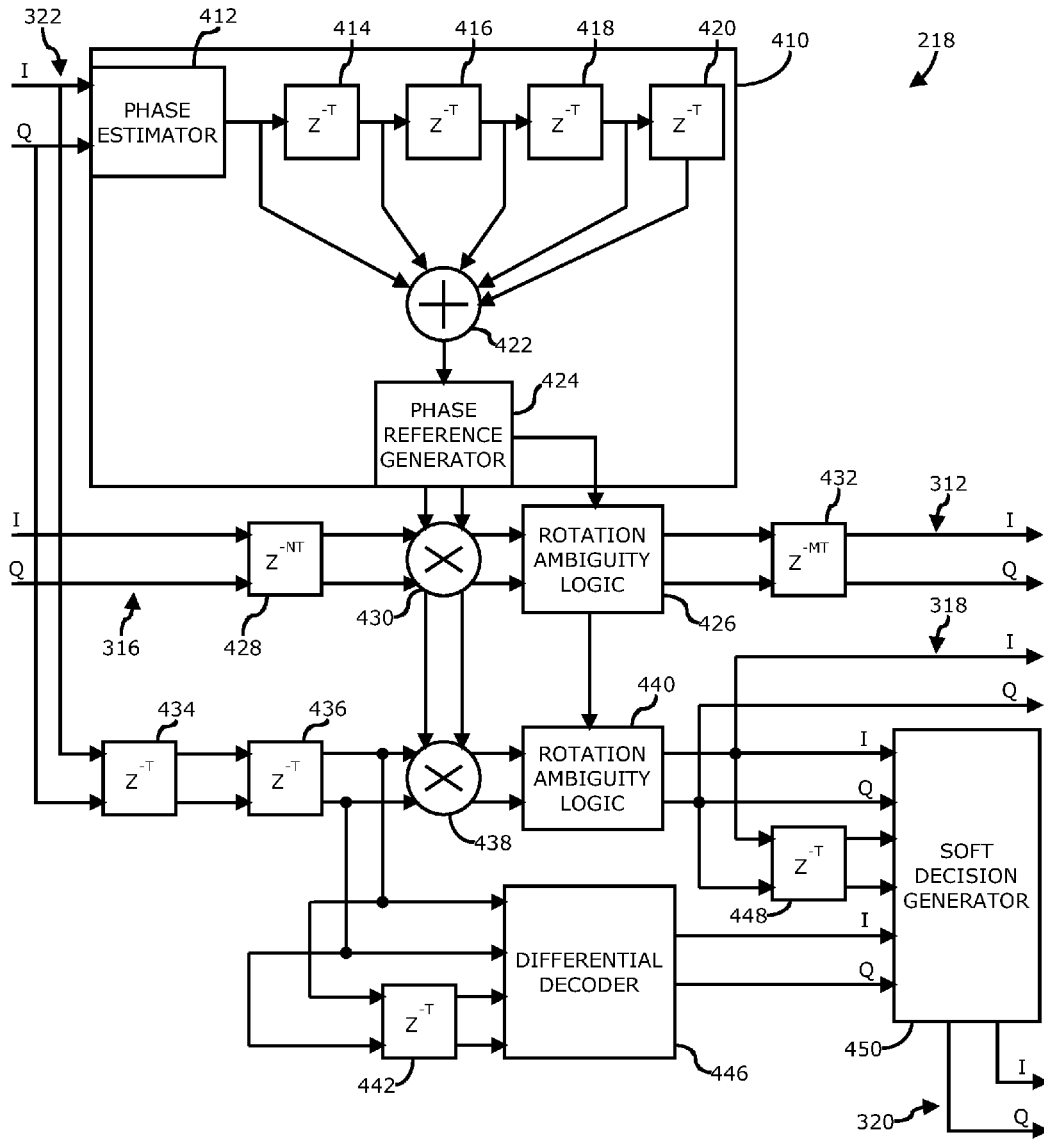


FIG. 4

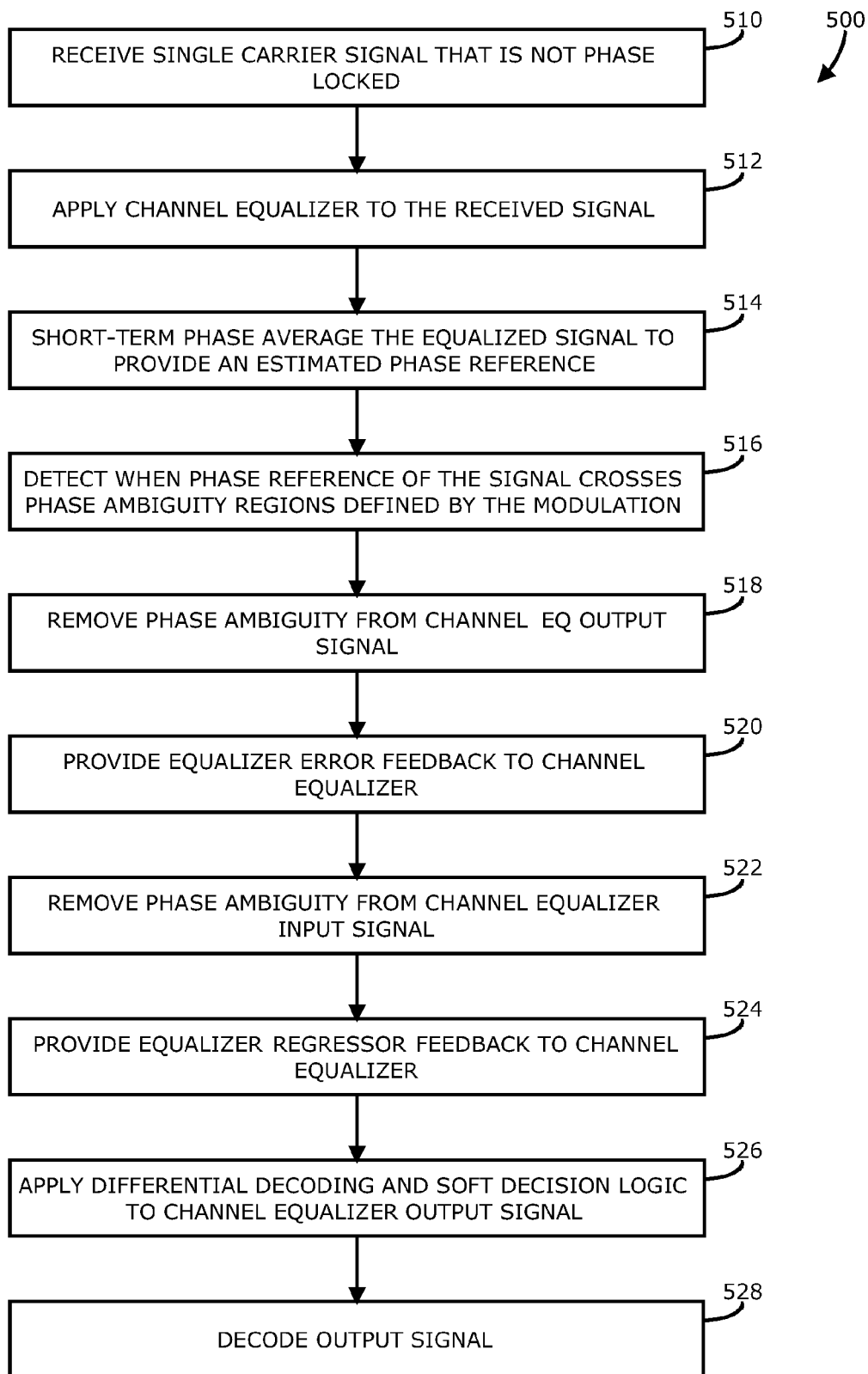


FIG. 5

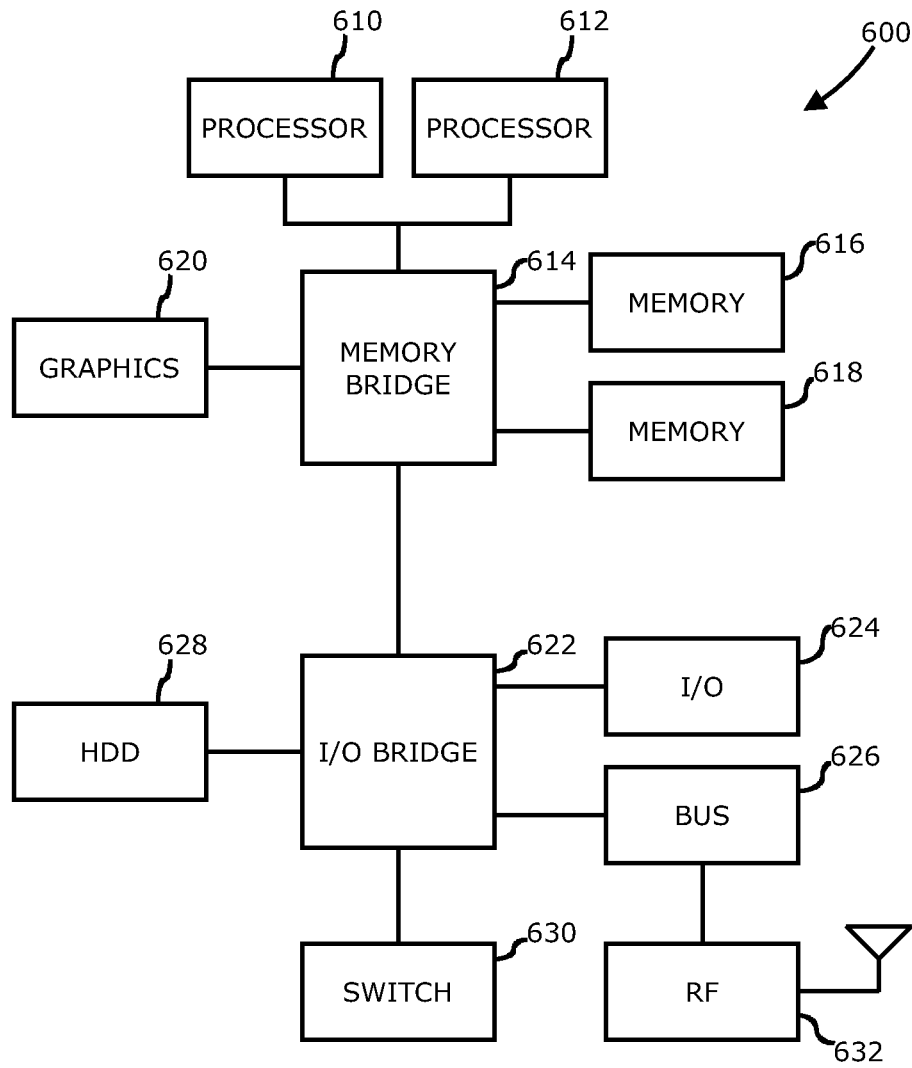


FIG. 6

SINGLE CARRIER COMMUNICATION IN DYNAMIC FADING CHANNELS

CROSS-REFERENCE TO RELATED APPLICATIONS

The present application is a divisional of U.S. application Ser. No. 12/758,162 filed Apr. 12, 2012 in the name of inventor Eric Jacobsen which claims the benefit of U.S. Provisional Application No. 61/314,308 filed Mar. 16, 2010 in the name of inventor Eric Jacobsen. Said application Ser. No. 12/758,162 and said Application No. 61/314,308 are hereby incorporated herein by reference in their entireties.

BACKGROUND

Digital data transmission is often accomplished using modulation schemes. For higher data rates, the equalizer complexity involved for single carrier modulation grows with the symbol rate and as a result multicarrier transmission schemes such as orthogonal frequency-division multiplexing (OFDM) typically are utilized instead. Many higher data rate systems such as systems compliant with a Wireless Fidelity (Wi-Fi) Alliance standard, a Worldwide Interoperability for Microwave Access (WiMAX) standard, a Digital Video Broadcasting-Terrestrial (DVB-T) standard, a Long Term Evolution (LTE) standard, and so on, use multicarrier modulation for this reason. Many of these systems are utilized in environments with heavy multipath propagation and/or dynamic fading, often wherein one or both of the link terminals are non-stationary. Even when the link terminals are stationary, dynamic changes in the environment, for example trucks passing by on nearby streets, may create rapid changes in the channel that challenge the synchronization capabilities of the demodulator.

Recent advances in video compression technology have greatly reduced the data rates involved to transport video data streams. Such advances have provided an opportunity to reduce the signal bandwidth used to transport video data. A reduction in signal bandwidth via compression allows certain benefits such as power concentration to increase link margin. Compression has also reopened the door for the use of single carrier modulation schemes since the equalizer complexity is more manageable at the reduced signal bandwidths. However, single carrier signal synchronization, especially carrier phase tracking, can be very difficult in fading conditions at the involved signal bandwidths which are narrower than the bandwidths for typical broadband systems, for example WiFi at 20 MHz or DVB-T at 8 MHz, and broader than the bandwidths for most cellular systems, for example 500 kHz to 1 MHz. At these intermediate signal bandwidths, both the narrow signal techniques used for many cellular systems and the broadband techniques used for higher-rate signals may be suboptimal.

DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWING FIGURES

Claimed subject matter is particularly pointed out and distinctly claimed in the concluding portion of the specification. However, such subject matter may be understood by reference to the following detailed description when read with the accompanying drawings in which:

FIG. 1 is a diagram of a single carrier wireless communication system in accordance with one or more embodiments;

FIG. 2 is a block diagram of a single carrier demodulator in accordance with one or more embodiments;

FIG. 3 is a block diagram of a more detailed single carrier demodulator in accordance with one or more embodiments;

FIG. 4 is a block diagram of a quasi-coherent detector of a single carrier demodulator in accordance with one or more embodiments;

FIG. 5 is a flow diagram of a method for single carrier demodulation in accordance with one or more embodiments; and

FIG. 6 is a block diagram of an information handling system capable of utilizing a single carrier demodulator in accordance with one or more embodiments.

It will be appreciated that for simplicity and/or clarity of illustration, elements illustrated in the figures have not necessarily been drawn to scale. For example, the dimensions of some of the elements may be exaggerated relative to other elements for clarity. Further, if considered appropriate, reference numerals have been repeated among the figures to indicate corresponding and/or analogous elements.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION

In the following detailed description, numerous specific details are set forth to provide a thorough understanding of claimed subject matter. However, it will be understood by those skilled in the art that claimed subject matter may be practiced without these specific details. In other instances, well-known methods, procedures, components and/or circuits have not been described in detail.

In the following description and/or claims, the terms coupled and/or connected, along with their derivatives, may be used. In particular embodiments, connected may be used to indicate that two or more elements are in direct physical and/or electrical contact with each other. Coupled may mean that two or more elements are in direct physical and/or electrical contact. However, coupled may also mean that two or more elements may not be in direct contact with each other, but yet may still cooperate and/or interact with each other. For example, "coupled" may mean that two or more elements do not contact each other but are indirectly joined together via another element or intermediate elements. Finally, the terms "on," "overlying," and "over" may be used in the following description and claims. "On," "overlying," and "over" may be used to indicate that two or more elements are in direct physical contact with each other. However, "over" may also mean that two or more elements are not in direct contact with each other. For example, "over" may mean that one element is above another element but not contact each other and may have another element or elements in between the two elements. Furthermore, the term "and/or" may mean "and", it may mean "or", it may mean "exclusive-or", it may mean "one", it may mean "some, but not all", it may mean "neither", and/or it may mean "both", although the scope of claimed subject matter is not limited in this respect. In the following description and/or claims, the terms "comprise" and "include," along with their derivatives, may be used and are intended as synonyms for each other.

Referring now to FIG. 1, a diagram of a single carrier wireless communication system in accordance with one or more embodiments will be discussed. As shown in FIG. 1 generally, a single carrier wireless communication system 100 may comprise a transmitter 110 having an antenna 112 for transmitting a wireless signal 118 to a receiver 114 via antenna 116. Although FIG. 1 shows a transmitter 110 and a receiver 114 for purposes of discussion, in some embodiments one or both of these devices may comprise a transceiver capable of transmitting and receiving, and the scope of the claimed subject matter is not limited in this respect. The

signal 118 transmitted from transmitter 110 to receiver 114 may be a direct line of sight signal that is the intended signal between transmitter 110 and receiver 114. However, in some environments, system 100 may suffer deleterious effects due to multipath and/or fading. For example, in the presence of an interfering object 120, at least a portion of the transmitted signal may be reflected off of object 120 via scattering and/or diffraction causing a multipath signal 122 to reach receiver 114 at a different time and/or phase than the line of sight signal 118 and which may interfere with the reception and demodulation of the line of sight signal 118. Likewise, object 120 may at least partially or altogether block a transmitted signal 124 from reaching receiver 114, or may severely attenuate the transmitted signal resulting in a shadowed signal 126 which also may be difficult to receive and demodulate. Furthermore, in a dynamic environment in which any one or more of transmitter 110, receiver 114, or object 120 is moving and therefore non-stationary, additional multipath signals and/or shadowing effects may result in attenuation, delay, and/or phase shift of the transmitted signal which may interfere with reception and/or demodulation of the transmitted signal.

As will be discussed in further detail, below, in one or more embodiments, system 100 may implement a single carrier demodulator system where the signal phase may be at least partially locked in receiver 114. The channel equalizer of receiver is then fed with an error feedback signal using the phase-locked signal, and the equalizer is trained by and applied to the phase-locked signal. In such embodiments, a single carrier transmission technique utilized by system 100 in fading multipath channels allows both carrier phase tracking in fast multipath fading as well as coherent channel equalizer training. Such an arrangement may provide mitigation against dominant impairments in dynamic multipath environments, specifically the channel response and phase perturbations due to changes in the channel.

Traditional carrier-recovery phase-locked Loop (PLL) topologies used for synchronizing the carrier phase in single carrier demodulators can be considered as long-term phase averagers that steer the intermediate frequency (IF) or baseband mixer based on long-term signal phase histories. In dynamic multipath, the carrier phase can change rapidly due to movement of the transmit antenna 112 or receiver antenna 116 or signal reflectors in the environment such as object 120. When the phase perturbations due to the environmental changes are more rapid than the effective averaging time of the carrier PLL, phase synchronization easily may be lost resulting in a dropout of signal reception and decoding. Existing techniques for surviving phase perturbations due to lower-cost oscillators and other impairments may generate a phase reference from a very short history of signal phase, typically only the most recent few symbols. Short-term phase reference generators allow link performance better than non-coherent differential decoding, but not quite as good as full coherent demodulation with a traditional carrier-recovery PLL. Such short-term phase averaging techniques are sometimes called Quasi-Coherent Detection (QCD).

In accordance with one or more embodiments, Quasi-Coherent Detection (QCD) may be utilized not only to provide a short-term phase reference for demodulation, but also to provide a short-term phase-locked signal for providing the equalizer error feedback, automatic gain control (AGC) correction, and a better reference signal for a differential decoder if used. Eliminating the carrier-recovery PLL provides robustness to the phase perturbations due to fast multipath fading, and utilizing a Least Mean Square (LMS) equalizer architecture with the QCD-locked signal provides mitigation of the chan-

nel fading. Such a single carrier demodulator for receiver 114 is shown in and described with respect to FIG. 2, below.

Referring now to FIG. 2, a block diagram of a single carrier demodulator in accordance with one or more embodiments will be discussed. FIG. 2 shows an example block diagram of a single carrier demodulator 200 utilized for example in receiver 114 of FIG. 1 for demodulating signal 118 transmitted to receiver 114 from transmitter 110. In one or more embodiments, demodulator 200 comprises a mixer and numerically controlled oscillator (NCO) circuit 210 to receive in-phase (I) and quadrature (Q) signals. The output of mixer and NCO circuit 210 is provided to a decimator circuit 212 to down sample the signal that in turn feeds a Nyquist filter and symbol NCO circuit 214 for anti-aliasing of the signal. A symbol timing loop circuit 226 receives the output of Nyquist filter and symbol NCO circuit 214 and feeds a timing reference 228 back to Nyquist filter and symbol NCO circuit 214. A channel equalizer (EQ) 216 also receives the output of Nyquist filter and symbol NCO circuit 214 and in turn feeds equalized signals to quasi-coherent detector QCD processor with soft output 218. Frequency locked loop circuit 230 also receives the output of channel EQ 216 to provide a frequency reference 232 back to mixer and NCO circuit 210. Continuing along the signal chain, QCD processor 218 provides an output to slicers circuit 220 to provide clipping or limiting of the signal and/or automatic gain control (AGC) and which in turn feeds forward error correction (FEC) circuit 222. An output of slicers circuit 220 also provides an equalizer error feedback signal 232 to channel EQ circuit 216 as will be discussed in further detail, below. A demodulated output signal 224 is provided by the output of FEC circuit 222.

Since the single carrier signal received by receiver 114 and processed by demodulator 200 is not phase-locked, channel EQ 216 applies equalization to a signal with a random and/or potentially fluctuating phase received at its input. However, training of channel EQ 216 may be performed on a phase-stabilized output signal from QCD processor 218 functioning as a short-term phase averager using equalizer error feedback signal 232. Such an arrangement allows certain equalizer architectures to be utilized for channel EQ 216, for example a Least Mean Square (LMS) equalizer, which involve error feedback based at least in part on phase-coherent demodulated signals. In one or more embodiments, the architecture of such a QCD arrangement may be based at least in part on a short-term phase averaging technique described in "Nonlinear Estimation of PSK-Modulated Carrier Phase with Application to Burst Digital Transmission", IEEE Transactions on Information Theory, Vol. IT-29, No. 4, July 1983 pp. 543-550 which is hereby incorporated herein by reference, and which is often referred to as Viterbi-Viterbi detection after the names of the authors. In such an arrangement, a phase estimate for one or more or each symbol may be generated, typically by removing the modulation with an exponential for example by raising the received symbol to the fourth power for quaternary phase-shift keying (QPSK), and the phase estimates may be averaged over several symbols to provide a signal phase reference. The generated phase reference then may be applied to coherently or quasi-coherently demodulate the symbols at or near the middle of the phase estimate region. A more detailed demodulator architecture for demodulator 200 is shown in and described with respect to FIG. 3, below.

Referring now to FIG. 3, a block diagram of a more detailed single carrier demodulator in accordance with one or more embodiments will be discussed. Demodulator 200 as shown in FIG. 3 is essentially demodulator 200 as shown in FIG. 2 but with more detail added. FIG. 3 shows a demodu-

lator **200** having an architecture with a stabilized Equalizer Regressor path populated wherein equalizer regressor input signal **314** is applied to channel EQ **216** by mixing the output **316** of Nyquist filter and symbol NCO circuit **214** with the output **312** of QCD processor **218** via mixer **310**. As shown in FIG. **3**, if the received signal is not phase-locked at the input of channel EQ **216**, nor at the output thereof, the phase reference of the output signal of QCD processor **218** may be utilized to phase-lock the signal fed into the path of equalizer regressor input signal **314**. Such an arrangement is capable of increasing performance by increasing the correlation between the equalizer error feedback signal **232**, which may be generated based at least in part on the phase-locked signal output **318** of QCD processor **218** and the signal applied to the equalizer regressor input signal **314**. Channel EQ **216** may be trained on the channel of the signal based at least in part on the feedback loop comprising the output **322** of channel EQ **216** fed to QCD processor **218** providing a phase reference output **312** mixed with the input **316** to channel EQ **216** to provide equalizer regressor input signal **314**. Further details of QCD processor **218** and its operation are shown in and discussed with respect to FIG. **4**, below.

Referring now to FIG. **4**, a block diagram of a quasi-coherent detector of a single carrier demodulator in accordance with one or more embodiments will be discussed. In one or more embodiments, QCD processor **218** comprises a Viterbi-Viterbi processor **410** to provide a phase average as described in the “Nonlinear Estimation of PSK-Modulated Carrier Phase with Application to Burst Digital Transmission” article cited, above. In one or more embodiments, Viterbi-Viterbi processor **410** may comprise a phase estimator circuit **412** receiving the outputs **322** of channel EQ **216** providing an output to a series of delay circuits such as delay circuit **414**, delay circuit **416**, delay circuit **418**, and delay circuit **420**, the outputs of which being combined via summer **422** and provided to phase reference generator circuit **424**. The output of Viterbi-Viterbi processor **410** may be applied to rotation ambiguity logic circuits **426** and **440** to remove any ambiguity in the processed signal as will be discussed in further detail, below. In one or more embodiments, rotation ambiguity logic circuit **426** and rotation ambiguity logic circuit **440** may comprise a single rotation ambiguity logic circuit, or two sub-blocks of a single rotation ambiguity logic circuit. In some embodiments, rotation ambiguity logic circuit **426** and rotation ambiguity logic circuit **440** may comprise the same circuit, or alternatively may comprise separate individual circuits. However, the scope of the claimed subject matter is not limited in these respects.

In one or more embodiments, the input signal **316** of channel EQ **216** is received by QCD processor **218** and applied to delay circuit **428** to provide N units of delay and to mix with the output of phase reference generator **424** of Viterbi-Viterbi processor **218** via mixer **430**. The output of mixer **430** is applied to rotation ambiguity circuit **426**, the output of which is applied through delay circuit **432** to provide M units of delay as the output **312** of QCD processor **218** to be feed back to equalizer regressor inputs **314**.

The output of mixer **430** is applied to another mixer **438** to mix with the output **322** of channel EQ **216** via delay circuit **434** and delay circuit **436**. The resulting output of mixer **438** is applied to rotation ambiguity logic circuit **440**, the output of which is applied to soft decision generator circuit **450**, both directly and also via delay circuit **448**. The output of rotation ambiguity logic circuit **440** comprises output **318** of QCD processor **218** to be applied to slicers circuit **220** for automatic gain control (ACG) and/or signal-to-noise ratio estimation. Additional inputs are applied to soft decision generator cir-

cuit **450** via the outputs of differential decoder circuit **446**. Differential decoder circuit **446** receives the output of delay circuit **436**, both directly and delayed via delay circuit **442**. The outputs of soft decision generator circuit **320** may be applied directly to forward error correction (FEC) circuit **222**.

In one or more embodiments, the generated phase reference of output **312** of QCD processor **218** provides a mechanism to derotate and phase-lock the output of channel EQ **216** which can then be used to provide the equalizer error feedback signal **232**, an input for automatic gain control (ACG), an input for signal-to-noise ratio (SNR) generation, and/or to be provided to forward error correction (FEC) circuit **222** for data recovery. The input to channel EQ **216** also may be derotated to provide a coherent, stable input to the equalizer regressor input signal **314**. Such an arrangement of demodulator **200** using QCD processor **218** is capable of providing a maximum, or nearly maximum, correlation between the equalizer error feedback signal **232** from subsequent processing of output signal **318** and the equalizer regressor input signal **314**, although the scope of the claimed subject matter is not limited in these respects. In one more embodiment, output signal **318** may be utilized as a quasi-coherent signal for demodulation and data recovery, although the scope of the claimed subject matter is not limited in this respect.

Since the input signal **322** fed into the QCD processor **218** from Channel EQ **216** as shown in FIG. **4** is not phase-locked, the input signal **322** may be rotating in phase. To accommodate a rotating input signal **322**, phase reference generator circuit **424** is capable of detecting when the phase reference rotates through the possible phases of a phase-shift keying (PSK) signal, for example through the four quadrant phase modulation points of a quaternary phase-shift keying (QPSK) signal, and removing, or at least sufficiently reducing, the resulting phase ambiguity as the signal rotates. In one or more embodiments, the phase ambiguity is capable of being removed or at least sufficiently reduced via rotation ambiguity logic circuit **426** and/or rotation ambiguity logic circuit **440**, although the scope of the claimed subject matter is not limited in this respect.

In some embodiments, in very low signal-to-noise ratio (SNR) conditions, it is possible for output signal **318** of QCD processor **218** to experience phase cycle slips, which may disrupt the ability of the signal to be demodulated. In such conditions, differential coding with differential detection may be utilized via differential decoder circuit **446**. As shown in FIG. **4**, differential decoder circuit **446** operates on input signal **322** prior to derotation via rotation ambiguity logic circuits **426** and **440** by utilizing the generated QCD phase reference of input signal **322**. In some instances, differential decoder **446** may amplify noise and potentially reduce performance. However the derotated output signal **318** optionally may be utilized to provide a more stable hard-decision reference to increase the reliability of the output of differential decoder circuit **446**. Soft decision generator circuit **450** shown generates and output signal **320** based at least in part on the differentially decoded hard-decision bits at output signal **318** and applying soft-decision scaling based at least in part on the output of differential decoder circuit **446**. Such an arrangement is capable of reducing the overall error rate by reducing the rate of erroneous high-confidence soft-decision outputs due to cycle slips output signal **318**, although the scope of the claimed subject matter is not limited in this respect.

Referring now to FIG. **5**, a flow diagram of a method for single carrier demodulation in accordance with one or more embodiments will be discussed. As shown in FIG. **5**, method **500** may include more or fewer blocks than shown, and/or in

a different order than shown, and the scope of the claimed subject matter is not limited in these respects. Furthermore, the blocks of method 500 are discussed with respect to respective blocks of demodulator 200 as shown in FIG. 2 and FIG. 3 and with respect to QCD processor 218 of FIG. 3 for purposes of example as how method 500 may be tangible embodied, however method 500 may also be implemented with other blocks and/or circuits and the scope of the claimed subject matter is not limited in this respect. In one or more embodiments, at block 510 demodulator 200 may receive a single carrier signal that is not phase locked and thus may be rotating in phase through the phase ambiguity regions defined by the modulation. The signal may be applied to Channel EQ 216 at block 512 for shaping of the received signal such that any inter-symbol interference (ISI) may be reduced or minimized. The output signal 322 of Channel EQ 216 may be short-term phase averaged at block 514 via Viterbi-Viterbi processor 410 to provide an estimated phase reference for the signal. The phase of the signal may then be monitored to detect at block 516 if/when the phase reference of the signal crosses phase ambiguity regions defined by the particular modulation scheme applied to the signal, for example the four phase modulation points of QPSK modulation. Any phase ambiguity in the phase of the signal may then be removed at block 518 if/when the phase of the signal passes through a constellation point, for example via rotation ambiguity logic circuit 440. The resulting signal may then be feed back to Channel EQ 216 at block 520 as Equalizer Feedback signal 232.

In one or more embodiments, phase ambiguity may likewise be removed from the input signal 314 of Channel EQ 216 at block 522 if/when the phase of the input signal 314 passes through a phase ambiguity region defined by the modulation, for example via rotation ambiguity logic circuit 426. The resulting signal 312 may be provided to the Equalizer Regressor Input signal 314 of Channel EQ 216 at block 524. Optionally, differential decoding via Differential Decoder circuit 446 may be applied to the output signal 322 of Channel EQ 216 at block 526 to reduce the overall error rate in the event of any phase cycle slips in the processed signal, and soft-decision logic may be applied to the signal to provide an output signal 320. Output signal 320 may then be decoded at block 528. In one or more embodiments, method 500 may be implemented in an information handling system incorporating a receiver 114 and/or transceiver that includes demodulator 200. An example of such an information handling system is shown in and described with respect to FIG. 6, below.

Referring now to FIG. 6, a block diagram of an information handling system capable of utilizing a single carrier demodulator in accordance with one or more embodiments will be discussed. Information handling system 600 of FIG. 6 may represent the hardware of a device or system incorporating receiver 114 of FIG. 1 and demodulator 200 of FIG. 2 or FIG. 3, with greater or fewer components depending on the hardware specifications of the particular device. Although information handling system 500 represents one example of several types of computing platforms, information handling system 500 may include more or fewer elements and/or different arrangements of elements than shown in FIG. 5, and the scope of the claimed subject matter is not limited in these respects.

Information handling system 600 may comprise one or more processors such as processor 610 and/or processor 612, which may comprise one or more processing cores. One or more of processor 610 and/or processor 612 may couple to one or more memories 616 and/or 618 via memory bridge 614, which may be disposed external to processors 610 and/or

612, or alternatively at least partially disposed within one or more of processors 610 and/or 612. Memory 616 and/or memory 618 may comprise various types of semiconductor based memory, for example volatile type memory and/or non-volatile type memory. Memory bridge 614 may couple to a graphics system 620 to drive a display device (not shown) coupled to information handling system 600.

Information handling system 600 may further comprise input/output (I/O) bridge 622 to couple to various types of I/O systems. I/O system 624 may comprise, for example, a universal serial bus (USB) type system, an IEEE 1394 type system, or the like, to couple one or more peripheral devices to information handling system 600. Bus system 626 may comprise one or more bus systems such as a peripheral component interconnect (PCI) express type bus or the like, to connect one or more peripheral devices to information handling system 600. A hard disk drive (HDD) controller system 628 may couple one or more hard disk drives or the like to information handling system, for example Serial ATA type drives or the like, or alternatively a semiconductor based drive comprising flash memory, phase change, and/or chalcogenide type memory or the like. Switch 630 may be utilized to couple one or more switched devices to I/O bridge 622, for example Gigabit Ethernet type devices or the like. Furthermore, as shown in FIG. 6, information handling system 600 may include a radio-frequency (RF) block 632 comprising RF circuits and devices for wireless communication with other wireless communication devices and/or via wireless networks transmitter 110 and/or receiver 114 of FIG. 1, although the scope of the claimed subject matter is not limited in this respect. Furthermore, at least some portion of transmitter 110 and/or receiver 114 may be implemented by processor 610, for example the digital functions of receiver 114 which may include processing of the baseband and/or quadrature signals, although the scope of the claimed subject matter is not limited in this respect.

Although the claimed subject matter has been described with a certain degree of particularity, it should be recognized that elements thereof may be altered by persons skilled in the art without departing from the spirit or scope of claimed subject matter. It is believed that the subject matter pertaining to single carrier communication in dynamic fading channels and many of its attendant utilities will be understood by the forgoing description, and it will be apparent that various changes may be made in the form, construction and/or arrangement of the components thereof without departing from the scope or spirit of the claimed subject matter or without sacrificing all of its material advantages, the form herein before described being merely an explanatory embodiment thereof, and/or further without providing substantial change thereto. It is the intention of the claims to encompass and/or include such changes.

What is claimed is:

1. A method, comprising:
 - receiving a single carrier signal that is not phase locked;
 - applying channel equalization to the signal via a channel equalizer;
 - phase averaging a phase of the signal to provide a signal that is at least partially phase stabilized;
 - feeding back a phase reference to the channel equalizer from the at least partially phase stabilized signal for training of the channel equalizer; and
 - decoding the signal to obtain data encoded in the signal.
2. A method as claimed in claim 1, further comprising feeding back an equalizer error signal to the channel equalizer.

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3. A method as claimed in claim 1, wherein said phase averaging a phase of the signal comprises Viterbi-Viterbi processing of the signal.

4. An apparatus, comprising:

means for receiving a single carrier signal that is not phase locked;

means applying channel equalization to the signal via a channel equalizer;

means for phase averaging a phase of the signal to provide a signal that is at least partially phase stabilized;

means for feeding back a phase reference to the channel equalizer from the at least partially phase stabilized signal for training of the channel equalizer; and

means for decoding the signal to obtain the data encoded in the signal.

5. An apparatus as claimed in claim 4, further comprising means for feeding back an equalizer error signal to the channel equalizer.

6. An apparatus as claimed in claim 4, wherein said means for phase averaging a phase of the signal comprises means for Viterbi-Viterbi processing of the signal.

7. A system, comprising:

processor coupled to a memory; and

a radio-frequency receiver having an antenna to receive a single carrier signal that is not phase locked and being coupled to the processor, wherein the radio-frequency processor comprises:

a channel equalizer to equalize the signal;

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a quasi-coherent detector to phase average a phase of the signal received from an output of the channel equalizer to provide a signal that is at least partially phase stabilized.

8. A system as claimed in claim 7, wherein the channel equalizer includes a regressor input coupled to an output of the quasi-coherent detector to receive an equalizer regressor feedback signal to train the equalizer on a channel of the signal, the equalizer regressor feedback signal comprising an input signal of the channel equalizer at least partially phase locked by phase reference from the quasi-coherent detector.

9. A system as claimed in claim 7, wherein the channel equalizer comprises an equalizer error signal input coupled to another output of the quasi-coherent detector to receive an error signal as an equalizer error feedback signal.

10. A system as claimed in claim 7, wherein the quasi-coherent detector comprises a Viterbi-Viterbi processor to perform phase averaging of a phase of the signal.

11. A system as claimed in claim 7, wherein the quasi-coherent detector comprises:

a phase reference generator to detect if a phase reference of the signal crosses a phase ambiguity region defined by modulation of the signal; and

a rotation ambiguity logic circuit to remove phase ambiguity from the signal if the phase reference of the signal crosses through a phase ambiguity region.

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