

(19) World Intellectual Property Organization International Bureau



(43) International Publication Date 23 December 2004 (23.12.2004)

PCT

(10) International Publication Number WO 2004/112264 A2

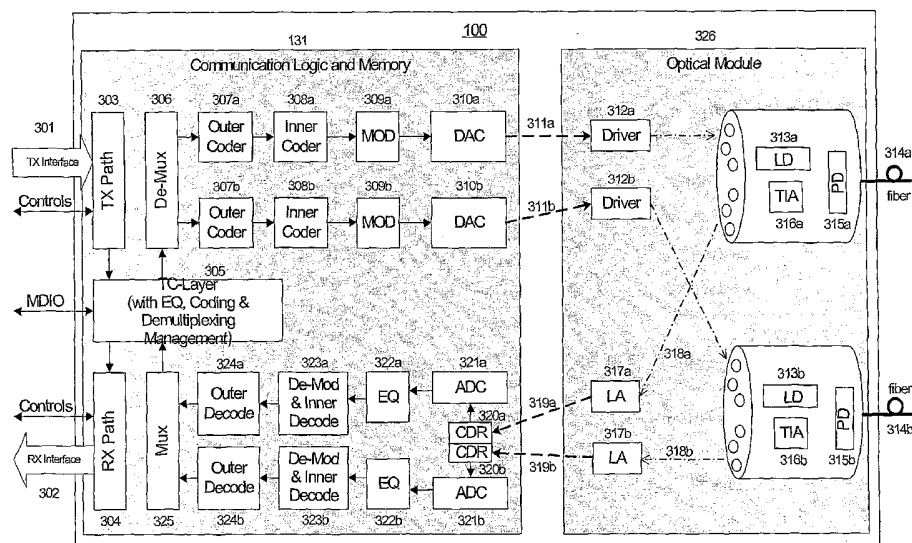
- (51) International Patent Classification⁷: **H04B**
- (21) International Application Number: PCT/US2004/018732
- (22) International Filing Date: 10 June 2004 (10.06.2004)
- (25) Filing Language: English
- (26) Publication Language: English
- (30) Priority Data:
 - 60/477,845 10 June 2003 (10.06.2003) US
 - 60/480,488 21 June 2003 (21.06.2003) US
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- (81) Designated States (unless otherwise indicated, for every kind of national protection available): AE, AG, AL, AM, AT, AU, AZ, BA, BB, BG, BR, BW, BY, BZ, CA, CH, CN, CO, CR, CU, CZ, DE, DK, DM, DZ, EC, EE, EG, ES, FI, GB, GD, GE, GH, GM, HR, HU, ID, IL, IN, IS, JP, KE, KG, KP, KR, KZ, LC, LK, LR, LS, LT, LU, LV, MA, MD, MG, MK, MN, MW, MX, MZ, NA, NI, NO, NZ, OM, PG, PH, PL, PT, RO, RU, SC, SD, SE, SG, SK, SL, SY, TJ, TM, TN, TR, TT, TZ, UA, UG, US, UZ, VC, VN, YU, ZA, ZM, ZW.
- (84) Designated States (unless otherwise indicated, for every kind of regional protection available): ARIPO (BW, GH, GM, KE, LS, MW, MZ, NA, SD, SL, SZ, TZ, UG, ZM, ZW), Eurasian (AM, AZ, BY, KG, KZ, MD, RU, TJ, TM), European (AT, BE, BG, CH, CY, CZ, DE, DK, EE, ES, FI, FR, GB, GR, HU, IE, IT, LU, MC, NL, PL, PT, RO, SE, SI, SK, TR), OAPI (BF, BJ, CF, CG, CI, CM, GA, GN, GQ, GW, ML, MR, NE, SN, TD, TG).

Published: — without international search report and to be republished upon receipt of that report

[Continued on next page]

(54) Title: SYSTEM AND METHOD FOR PERFORMING HIGH-SPEED COMMUNICATIONS OVER FIBER OPTICAL NETWORKS



(57) Abstract: Processing a received optical signal in an optical communication network includes equalizing a received optical signal to provide an equalized signal, demodulating the equalized signal according to an m-ary modulation format to provide a demodulated signal, decoding the demodulated signal according to an inner code to provide an inner-decoded signal, and decoding the inner-decoded signal according to an outer code. Other aspects include other features such as equalizing an optical channel including storing channel characteristics for the optical channel associated with a client, loading the stored channel characteristics during a waiting period between bursts on the channel, and equalizing a received burst from the client using the loaded channel characteristics.

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5 **SYSTEM AND METHOD FOR PERFORMING HIGH-SPEED
COMMUNICATIONS OVER FIBER OPTICAL NETWORKS**

CROSS-REFERENCE TO RELATED APPLICATIONS

[0001] This application claims the benefit of U.S. Provisional Application No.
10 60/477,845 filed June 10, 2003, incorporated herein by reference, and U.S.
Provisional Application No. 60/480,488 filed June 21, 2003, incorporated herein by
reference.

FIELD OF THE INVENTION

[0002] The invention relates to optical fiber communications.

15 **BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION**

[0003] Line coding is a process by which a communication protocol arranges
symbols that represent binary data in a particular pattern for transmission.
Conventional line coding used in fiber optic communications includes non-return-to-
zero (NRZ), return-to-zero (RZ), and biphase, or Manchester. The binary bit stream
20 derived from these line codes can be directly modulated onto wavelengths of light
generated by the resonating frequency of a laser. Traditionally direct binary
modulation based transmission offers an advantage with regard to the acceptable
signal-to-noise ratio (SNR) at the optical receiver, which is one of the reasons direct
binary modulation methods are used in the Datacom Ethernet/IP, Storage Fiber-
25 Channel/FC and Telecom SONET/SDH markets for transmission across
nonmultiplexed unidirectional fiber links.

[0004] The performance of a fiber optic network can be measured by the
maximum data throughput rate (or information carrying capacity) and the maximum
distance between source and destination achievable (or reach). For Passive Optical
30 Networks (PONs) in particular, additional measures of performance are the maximum
number of Optical Networking Units (ONUs) and/or Optical Networking Terminals
(ONTs) possible on a network and the minimum and maximum distance between the
Optical Line Terminator (OLT) and an ONU/ONT. These performance metrics are
constrained by, among other things, amplitude degradation and temporal distortions as
35 a result of light traveling through an optical fiber.

5 [0005] Amplitude degradation is substantially a function of length or distance
between two end points of an optical fiber. Temporal distortion mechanisms include
intramodal (chromatic) dispersion and intermodal (modal) dispersion. Intramodal
dispersion is the dominant temporal dispersion on Single-mode fiber (SMF), while
intermodal dispersion is dominant on Multi-mode fiber (MMF). Both types of
10 temporal distortions are measured as functions of frequency or rate of transmission
(also referred as line rate of a communication protocol) over distance in MHz•km.
Temporal distortions are greater, hence a constraint on network performance, with
increasing frequency transmission.

15 SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

[0006] In general, in one aspect, the invention includes a method for
processing a received optical signal in an optical communication network, the method
including: determining a first set of coefficients to equalize a portion of an optical
signal received over a first optical link including using a blind equalization method
20 that does not use a known training sequence to equalize the portion of the optical
signal, equalizing the portion of the optical signal using the determined coefficients,
and demodulating the equalized portion of the optical signal according to an m-ary
modulation format.

[0007] Aspects of the invention may include one or more of the following
25 features. The method includes determining a second set of coefficients to equalize a
portion of an optical signal received over a second optical link. The method includes
selecting one of the first or second set of coefficients based on a source of the portion
of optical signal being equalized. The portion of the optical signal includes a burst
within a time slot of the first optical link. The method includes storing the determined
30 coefficients. The method includes retrieving the stored coefficients for equalizing a
second portion of the optical signal corresponding to a portion received from a same
source as generated the first portion of the optical signal. The coefficients are
retrieved between signal bursts on the first optical link. The stored coefficients are
retrieved for respective portions of the optical signals that correspond to respective
35 signal sources. The first optical link includes a link in a point-to-multipoint passive
optical network. The m-ary modulation format is selected from the group consisting

5 of quadrature amplitude modulation and pulse amplitude modulation. The method includes demodulating a received first data stream and demodulating a second data stream received in the optical signal, and multiplexing the first and second data streams.

[0008] In general, in another aspect, the invention includes optical
10 communication system including: a first transceiver coupled by an optical network to a second transceiver and third transceiver, the first transceiver including an equalization block and a modulation block, the equalization block operable to determine a first set of coefficients to equalize a portion of an optical signal received over the optical network from the second transceiver and a second set of coefficients
15 to equalize a portion of the optical signal received over the optical network from the third transceiver, the equalization block including a blind equalization routine that does not use a known training sequence to equalize the portions of the optical signal, the equalization block operable to equalize the portions of the optical signal using the determined coefficients, and the modulation block operable to demodulate equalized
20 portions of the optical signal according to an m-ary modulation format.

[0009] Aspects of the invention may include one or more of the following features. The optical network includes a first optical link for coupling the first and second transceiver, and a second optical link for coupling the first and third transceivers and where the equalization block is operable to select one of the first or
25 second set of coefficients based on a source of the portion of optical signal being equalized. The equalization block is operable to store the first and second sets of coefficients for later retrieval and use to equalize portions of the optical signal. The portion of the optical signal includes a burst within a time slot on the optical network. The equalization block is operable to retrieve the sets of coefficients between signal
30 bursts on the optical network. The optical network includes a link in a point-to-multipoint passive optical network. The m-ary modulation format is selected from the group consisting of quadrature amplitude modulation and pulse amplitude modulation. The system includes a multiplexer, the modulation block operable to demodulating a received first data stream and a second data stream received in the
35 optical signal, and the multiplexer operable to multiplex the first and second data streams. The system includes a transmission convergence layer block for processing

5 data streams received by the first transceiver, the transmission convergence layer block operable to control the demultiplexing of data streams including control of the multiplexer. The optical network is an optical distribution network. The first transceiver is an optical line terminator. The second and third transceivers are optical network terminals or optical network units.

10 [0010] In general, in another aspect, the invention includes a method for processing data for transmission in an optical communication network, the method including: demultiplexing a data stream into a first demultiplexed data stream and a second demultiplexed data stream, modulating each of the first and second data streams according to an m-ary modulation format, transmitting the first modulated
15 data stream over a first optical link; and transmitting the second modulated data stream over a second optical link.

[0011] In general, in another aspect, the invention includes an optical communication system including: a demultiplexer operable to demultiplex a data stream into a first demultiplexed data stream and a second demultiplexed data stream,
20 a modulation block operable to modulate each of the first and second data streams according to an m-ary modulation format, transmitting means operable to transmit the first modulated data stream over a first optical link and the second modulated data stream over a second optical link.

[0012] In general, in another aspect, the invention includes a method for
25 processing a received optical signal in an optical communication network, the method including: equalizing a received optical signal to provide an equalized signal, demodulating the equalized signal according to an m-ary modulation format to provide a demodulated signal, decoding the demodulated signal according to an inner code to provide an inner-decoded signal, and decoding the inner-decoded signal
30 according to an outer code.

[0013] Aspects of the invention may include one or more of the following features. The m-ary modulation format is selected from the group consisting of quadrature amplitude modulation and pulse amplitude modulation. Equalizing the received optical signal includes equalizing the received optical signal using a blind
35 equalization routine that does not use a known training sequence. Equalizing the received optical signal includes equalizing the received optical signal using a known

5 training sequence. The known training sequence is multiplexed in a frame within the received optical signal. The inner code includes a trellis code. The outer code includes an error correction code. The outer code includes a Reed Solomon code.

[0014] In general, in another aspect, the invention includes a transceiver including: an equalizer for equalizing a received optical signal to provide an
10 equalized signal, a demodulator in communication with the equalizer for demodulating the equalized signal according to an m-ary modulation format to provide a demodulated signal, an inner-decoder in communication with the demodulator for decoding the demodulated signal according to an inner code to provide an inner-decoded signal, and an outer-decoder in communication with the
15 inner-decoder for decoding the inner-decoded signal according to an outer code.

[0015] Aspects of the invention may include one or more of the following features. The transceiver includes an optical module including a first bi-directional optical fiber interface including a first detector and a first driver, and a second bi-directional optical fiber interface including a second detector and a second driver, and
20 management means for managing data flow across the first bi-directional optical fiber interface and across the second bi-directional optical fiber interface. The transceiver includes an optical module including a first bi-directional optical fiber interface including a first detector and a first driver, and a second bi-directional optical fiber interface including a second detector and a second driver, and a multiplexer for
25 multiplexing a first demultiplexed data stream received over the first bi-directional optical fiber interface and a second demultiplexed data stream received over the second bi-directional optical fiber interface into a multiplexed data stream for transmission. The transceiver includes an optical module including a first bi-directional optical fiber interface including a first detector and a first driver, and a
30 second bi-directional optical fiber interface including a second detector and a second driver, and a queue manager for managing traffic for a first bi-directional link associated with the first bi-directional optical fiber interface independently from traffic for a second bi-directional link associated with the second bi-directional optical fiber interface.

[0016] In general, in another aspect, the invention includes a transceiver including: an optical module including a first bi-directional optical fiber interface

5 including a first detector and a first driver, and a second bi-directional optical fiber interface including a second detector and a second driver, and management means for managing data flow across the first bi-directional optical fiber interface and across the second bi-directional optical fiber interface.

[0017] Aspects of the invention may include one or more of the following
10 features. The management means includes a multiplexer for multiplexing a first demultiplexed data stream received over the first bi-directional optical fiber interface and a second demultiplexed data stream received over the second bi-directional optical fiber interface into a multiplexed data stream for transmission. The management means is configured to demultiplex a data stream over a plurality of fiber
15 links that excludes one or more failed fiber links. The management means includes a queue manager for managing traffic across the first bi-directional fiber interface independently from traffic for the second bi-directional fiber interface. The management means is configured to change the alignment of received data bits to adjust for an order of optical fiber connections to the first bi-directional optical fiber
20 interface and the second bi-directional optical fiber interface.

[0018] In general, in another aspect, the invention includes a method for equalizing an optical channel including: storing channel characteristics for the optical channel associated with a client, loading the stored channel characteristics during a waiting period between bursts on the channel, and equalizing a received burst from
25 the client using the loaded channel characteristics.

[0019] Aspects of the invention may include one or more of the following features. The method includes determining that the waiting period occurs before a burst from the client based on a schedule. The method includes updating the stored channel characteristics. The method includes providing a grant window, transmitting
30 an identification number to the client in response to receiving a serial number from the client after the grant window. The method includes determining a distance from an upstream device to the client. The method includes compensating for communication delays between the upstream device and the client based on the determined distance.

35 [0020] In general, in another aspect, the invention includes a method for communicating data on a fiber optic network, the method including: modulating and

5 demodulating data traffic on an optical link in the network in an m-ary modulation format; encoding and decoding data traffic on an optical link in the network according to an inner coding routine and an outer coding routine, demultiplexing data traffic from an optical link in the network and transmitting the data traffic across a plurality of optical fiber links in the network, multiplexing the data traffic from the plurality of
10 optical fiber links, and equalizing a receive channel in the network to remove temporal distortions.

[0021] Aspects of the invention may include one or more of the following features. The method includes equalizing the receive channel according to a blind equalization routine. The method includes equalizing the receive channel according
15 to a decision directed equalization routine. The method includes saving and loading coefficients for equalizing the receive channel for each of a plurality of transmitting sources. The method includes saving and loading an inner coding state for the receive channel for each of a plurality of transmitting sources. The method includes saving and loading an outer coding state for the receive channel for each of a plurality of
20 transmitting sources. The method includes excluding one or more failed optical fiber links from the plurality of optical fiber links. The method includes conveying a training sequence for a decision directed equalization routine as part of an in-use communication protocol. A training sequence for a decision directed equalization routine is conveyed as part of the activation process for an optical network terminal or
25 optical network unit. An incorrect connection of an optical fiber link is corrected without having to physically change the connection.

[0022] In general, in another aspect, the invention includes a method for communicating on a passive optical network between a central transmission point and a plurality of receiving client end points, the method including: preparing downstream
30 data for transmission and transmitting an optical downstream continuous mode signal demultiplexed across a plurality of bi-directional fibers using a plurality of wavelengths of light, receiving an optical downstream continuous mode signal demultiplexed from the plurality of bi-directional fibers using the plurality of wavelengths of light and recovering a downstream data transmission, preparing
35 upstream data for transmission and transmitting an optical upstream burst mode signal demultiplexed across the plurality of bi-directional fibers using the plurality of

5 wavelengthss of light, and receiving an optical burst mode signal demultiplexed from the plurality of bi-directional fibers using the plurality of wavelengths of light and recovering an upstream data transmission.

[0023] Aspects of the invention may include one or more of the following features. The central transmission point includes an optical line terminal, and the end
10 points are operative as transceivers in a passive optical network. The upstream and downstream data for transmission are conveyed by respective different industry-standard services.

[0024] Implementations of the invention may include one or more of the following advantages.

15 [0025] A system is proposed that provides for high-speed communications over fiber optic networks. The system may include the use of the one or more of the following techniques either individually or in combination: m-ary modulation; channel equalization; demultiplexing across multiple fibers, coding and error correction. M-ary modulation allows for increased data throughput for a given line
20 rate due to an increase in the number of bits per symbol transmitted. Channel equalization reduces the effects of temporal distortions allowing for increased reach. Demultiplexing across multiple fibers allows lower lines rates for a given data throughput rate due to the increased aggregate data throughput from the multiplexing. Coding and error correction allows for a greater selection of qualifying optical
25 components that can be used in the network and complements m-ary modulation and channel equalization for overall system performance improvement as measured by transmit energy per bit. These methods when combined (in part or in total) increase the data throughput and reach for fiber optic networks. For PONs in particular, these methods may increase the number of ONU/ONTs and the distance between OLT and
30 ONU/ONT without increasing the line rate as compared to a conventional communication system of equivalent data throughput.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

[0026] FIG. 1 illustrates a fiber optic data network.

35 [0027] FIG. 2 illustrates a block diagram of a passive optical network.

- 5 [0028] FIG. 3 illustrates a block diagram of a high-speed communication system for fiber optic networks.
- [0029] FIG. 4 illustrates a block diagram of an alternative high-speed communication system for fiber optic networks.
- [0030] FIG. 5 illustrates a block diagram of an alternative high-speed
10 communication system for fiber optic networks.
- [0031] FIG. 6 illustrates a block diagram of an alternative high-speed communication system for fiber optic networks.
- [0032] FIG. 7 illustrates a block diagram of an alternative high-speed communication system for fiber optic networks.
- 15 [0033] FIG. 8 is a flow diagram for an upstream burst mode communication equalization process.
- [0034] FIG. 9 is a flow diagram for a downstream continuous mode communication equalization process.

20

DETAILED DESCRIPTION

- [0035] Referring to **FIG. 1**, wherein like reference numerals designate identical or corresponding parts throughout the several views, a high-level fiber optic data network **50** includes a first transceiver **100** in communication with a second transceiver **101** via a fiber **108**. The first transceiver **100** and the second transceiver
25 **101** include transmitter circuitry (Tx) **134, 135** to convert electrical data input signals into modulated light signals for transmission over the fiber **108**. In addition, the first transceiver **100** and the second transceiver **101** also include receiver circuitry (Rx) **133, 136** to convert optical signals received via the fiber **108** into electrical signals and to detect and recover encoded data and/or clock signals. First transceiver **100** and
30 second transceiver **101** may contain a micro controller (not shown) and/or other communication logic and memory **131, 132** for network protocol operation. Although the illustrated and described implementations of the transceivers **100, 101** include communication logic and memory in a same package or device as the transmitter circuitry **134, 135** and receiver circuitry **133, 136**, other transceiver configurations
35 may also be used.

5 [0036] First transceiver **100** transmits/receives data to/from the second transceiver **101** in the form of modulated optical light signals of known wavelength via the optical fiber **108**. The transmission mode of the data sent over the optical fiber **108** may be continuous, burst or both burst and continuous modes. Both transceivers **100,101** may transmit a same wavelength (e.g., the light signals are polarized and the polarization of light transmitted from one of the transceivers is perpendicular to the polarization of the light transmitted by the other transceiver). Alternatively, a single wavelength can be used by both transceivers **100, 101** (e.g., the transmissions can be made in accordance with a time-division multiplexing scheme or similar protocol).

10 [0037] In another implementation, wavelength-division multiplexing (WDM) may also be used. WDM is herein defined as any technique by which two optical signals having different wavelengths may be simultaneously transmitted bi-directionally with one wavelength used in each direction over a single fiber. In yet another implementation, dense wavelength-division multiplexing (DWDM) may be used. DWDM is herein defined as any technique by which more than two optical signals having different wavelengths may be simultaneously transmitted bi-directionally with more than one wavelength used in each direction over a single fiber with each wavelength unique to a direction. For example, if wavelength division multiplexing is used, the first transceiver **100** may transmit data to the second transceiver **101** utilizing a first wavelength of modulated light conveyed via the fiber **108** and, similarly, the second transceiver **101** may transmit data via the same fiber **108** to the first transceiver **100** utilizing a second wavelength of modulated light conveyed via the same fiber **108**. Because only a single fiber is used, this type of transmission system is commonly referred to as a bi-directional transmission system. Although the fiber optic network illustrated in **FIG. 1** includes a first transceiver **100** in communication with a second transceiver **101** via a single fiber **108**, other implementations of fiber optic networks, such as those having a first transceiver in communication with a plurality of transceivers via a plurality of fibers (not shown), may also be used.

15 [0038] Electrical data input signals (Data IN 1) **115**, as well as any optional clock signal (Data Clock IN 1) **116**, are routed to the transceiver **100** from an external data source (not shown) for processing by the communication logic and memory **131**.

5 Communication logic and memory 131 process the data and clock signals in accordance with an in-use network protocol. Communication logic and memory 131,132 provides management functions for received and transmitted data including queue management (e.g., independent link control) for each respective link, demultiplexing/multiplexing and other functions as described further below. The
10 processed signals are transmitted by the transmitter circuitry 134. The resulting modulated light signals produced from the first transceiver's 100 transmitter 134 are then conveyed to the second transceiver 101 via the fiber 108. The second transceiver 101, in turn, receives the modulated light signals via the receiver circuitry 136, converts the light signals to electrical signals, processes the electrical signals using the
15 communication logic and memory 132 (in accordance with an in-use network protocol) and, optionally, outputs the electrical data output signals (Data Out 1) 119, as well as any optional clock signals (Data Clock Out 1) 120.

[0039] Similarly, the second transceiver 101 receives electrical data input signals (Data IN 1) 123, as well as any optional clock signals (Data Clock IN) 124,
20 from an external data source (not shown) for processing by the communication logic and memory 132 and transmission by the transmitter circuitry 135. The resulting modulated light signals produced from the second transceiver's 101 transmitter 135 are then conveyed to the first transceiver 100 using the optical fiber 108. The first transceiver 100, in turn, receives the modulated light signals via the receiver circuitry
25 133, converts the light signals to electrical signals, processes the electrical signals using the communication logic and memory 131 (in accordance with an in-use network protocol), and, optionally, outputs the electrical data output signals (Data Out 1) 127, as well as any optional clock signals (Data Clock Out 1) 128.

[0040] Fiber optic data network 50 may also include a plurality of electrical
30 input and clock input signals, denoted herein as Data IN N 117/125 and Data Clock IN N 118/126, respectively, and a plurality of electrical output and clock output signals, denoted herein as Data Out N 129/121 and Data Clock Out N 130/122, respectively. The information provided by the plurality of electrical input signals may or may not be used by a given transceiver to transmit information via the fiber 108
35 and, likewise, the information received via the fiber 108 by a given transceiver may or may not be outputted by the plurality of electrical output signals. The plurality of

5 electrical signals denoted above can be combined to form data plane or control plane bus(es) for input and output signals respectively. In some implementations, the plurality of electrical data input signals and electrical data output signals are used by logic devices or other devices located outside (not shown) a given transceiver to communicate with the transceiver's communication logic and memory 131, 132,
10 transmit circuitry 134, 135, and/or receive circuitry 133,136.

[0041] FIG. 2 illustrates an implementation of a passive optical network (PON) 52, where the functions described above associated with the first transceiver 100 and the second transceiver 101 of FIG. 1, are implemented in an optical line terminator (OLT) 150 and one or more optical networking units (ONU) 155, and/or
15 optical networking terminals (ONT) 160, respectively. PON(s) 52 may be configured in either a point-to-point network architecture, wherein one OLT 150 is connected to one ONT 160 or ONU 155, or a point-to-multipoint network architecture, wherein one OLT 150 is connected to a plurality of ONT(s) 160 and/or ONU(s) 155. In the implementation shown in FIG. 2, an OLT 150 is in communication with multiple
20 ONTs/ONUs 160, 155 via a plurality of optical fibers 152. The fiber 152 coupling the OLT 150 to the PON 52 is also coupled to other fibers 152 connecting the ONTs/ONUs 160, 155 by one or more passive optical splitters 157. All of the optical elements between an OLT and ONTs/ONUs are often referred to as the Optical Distribution Network (ODN). Other alternate network configurations, including
25 alternate implementations of point-to-multipoint networks are also possible.

[0042] FIG. 3 shows a system block diagram for an implementation of transceiver 100. The following is a description of the functions and responsibilities that are part of an implementation of the Communication Logic & Memory 131 of transceiver 100. The Communication Logic & Memory 131 includes an
30 asynchronous or synchronous system transmit (TX) interface 301 and receive (RX) interface 302 that is supported by the TX Path 303 and RX Path 304 blocks. System interfaces can be selected from conventional interfaces including serial, serial XFI, parallel, GMII, XGMII or XAUI or some other interface may be used. TX Path 303 and RX Path 304 blocks manage the TX and RX interfaces 301,302 and feed data into
35 and get data from the transmission convergence layer (TC-Layer) block 305. TX Path 303 and RX Path 304 blocks may perform line code adaptation functions (e.g., line

5 coding used outside the transceiver can be terminated by a TX Path block **303** or
sourced by a RX Path block **304** to allow a bit stream, cell and/or packet formatted
data to be adapted for processing by a TC-Layer block **305**). The TC-Layer **305** block
creates the transport system that the data traffic, management and control agents will
exploit. TC-Layer **305** block includes a TC-layer protocol stack such as specified in
10 the ITU G.984 specification (incorporated herein by reference), IEEE 802.3ah MAC
protocol stack specification (incorporated herein by reference) or a derivative thereof.
A variety of other protocol stacks may also be used. The TC-Layer **305** block may
perform the additional functions of equalizer, coding, queue and demultiplexing
management. The TC-Layer **305** block sends transmit data to a DeMux **306** block,
15 which splits the transmitting data into a plurality of data paths (two paths shown in
FIG. 3) for demultiplexing data across multiple fibers. Some implementations need
not include DeMux **306** block (and hence do not support demultiplexing data across
multiple fibers). DeMux **306** block may demultiplex data across a subset of fibers to
exclude fibers experiencing link failure to ensure data throughput. The exclusion of
20 fiber links experiencing failure is controlled by the TC-Layer **305** block as part of the
demultiplexing management function.

[0043] After DeMux **306** block, in one implementation, the transmit paths
have analogous processing blocks. In an alternative implementation, independent
signal processing is can be supported in each path. **FIG. 3** shows two transmit paths,
25 though more can be included. In a transmit path, the transmit data is provided to the
outer coder **307a, 307b** block. In one implementation, outer coder **307a** performs a
reed-solomon coding. Other coding methods can be used. The outer coder **307a,**
307b block provides data to the inner coder **308a, 308b** block. In order to improve
the energy per bit required to deliver the transmitting data, an inner coder **308a, 308b**
30 is used. Outer coder **307a, 307b** may be used to support forward error correction
(FEC) recovery of bit(s) errors. In one implementation, inner coder **308a, 308b**
implements a trellis coding method. Other coding methods may be used. Data from
the inner coder **308a, 308b** is provided to Modulation (MOD) **309a, 309b** block.
Alternatively, in some implementations, the outer coder **307a, 307b** and inner coder
35 **308a, 308b** blocks are not used, and the output of the DeMux **306** block is provided
directly to the MOD **309a, 309b** block.

5 [0044] To increase the number of bits per symbol transmitted, m-ary modulation is performed in the MOD **309a, 309b** block. In one implementation, an m-ary modulation method such as Quadrature Amplitude Modulation (QAM), 32-QAM, 256-QAM, Pulse Amplitude Modulation (PAM) or 5-PAM is used. Other m-ary modulation methods can be used. After processing by the MOD **309a, 309b**
10 block, the transmit data is converted to an analog signal by a Digital to Analog Converter (DAC) **310a, 310b**. In one implementation, DAC **310a, 310b** is configured to shape, condition or emphasize the signal for improved transmission performance. The DAC **310a, 310b** passes the transmit data via electrical signals **311a, 311b** to the laser driver (Driver) **312a, 312b** as part of an implementation of TX **134** in an Optical
15 Module **326**. The driver **312a, 312b** drives the Laser Diode (LD) **313a, 313b**, which transmits light in response to transmit data signals received from the driver **312a, 312b**. The light emitted from LD **313a, 313b** is directed into the fibers **314a, 314b** with the aid of a fiber optic interface (not shown). The fiber optic interface may include the necessary components (e.g., filters) to implement WDM or DWDM
20 functions.

[0045] On the receive side of the transceiver **100** as part of an implementation of RX **133** in an Optical Module **326**, light propagated across an ODN (not shown in **FIG. 3**) travels over fibers **314a, 314b** through a fiber optic interface (not shown) and is received by the photo diode (PD) **315a, 315b**. In response, the PD **315a, 315b**
25 provides a photocurrent to the TransImpedance Amplifier (TIA) **316a, 316b** that converts the photocurrent into an electrical voltage signal. The electrical voltage signal from the TIA **316a, 316b** is then transmitted to a Linear Amplifier (LA) **317a, 317b** as a differential signal or a single-ended signal **318a, 318b**. The LA **317a, 317b** performs signal conditioning on the received electrical voltage signal to provide
30 increased resolution and system performance. The LA **317a, 317b** provides an electrical signal **319a, 319b** to a Clock Data Recovery (CDR) **320a, 320b** block that recovers clock and data signals, which are provided to an Analog to Digital Converter (ADC) **321a, 321b**. The ADC **321a, 321b** converts analog signals to digital signals, which are provided to an Equalization (EQ) **322a, 322b** block. The EQ **322a, 322b**
35 block performs equalization on the received data, which is then provided to a De-Mod & Inner Decoder **323a, 323b**. An Equalization **322a, 323b** block may implement a

5 blind equalization method or decision-directed equalization method. Blind equalization is discussed further below. Other equalization methods may be used. The De-Mod & Inner Decoder **323a, 323b** block performs complementary demodulation to the m-ary modulation performed in the MOD **309a, 309b** block as well as a complementary decoding method to the coding method performed in the Inner
10 Coder **308a, 308b** block. In one implementation, De-Mod & Inner Decoder **323a, 323b** includes a Viterbi decoder. Other decoding means may be used. Received data is then provided to the outer decoder **324a, 324b** block, which performs a complementary decode to the error detection and/or recovery method chosen in the outer coder **307a, 307b** block. After demodulation and decoding, the received data is
15 then provided to the Mux **325** block that performs a complementary function to the DeMux **306** block. The combined received data is then provided to the TC-Layer **305**. In implementations without Outer Coder **307a, 307b** and Inner Coder **308a, 308b** blocks, the output of the EQ **322a, 322b** block is provided directly to the Mux **325** block.

20 [0046] The RX **133,136** and TX **134,135** circuitry of transceivers **100,101**, or portions thereof, for example, PD **315a, 315b** and LA **317a, 317b**, can be combined within industry standard optical modules. Common optical module standards are 300pin, XENPAK, X2, and XPAK transponders and XFP or SFP transceivers. These optical modules include unidirectional fiber links with one fiber link for transmit path
25 and a second fiber link for the receive path. However, implementations of optical modules **326, 401, 501** incorporate a plurality of bi-directional fiber links for transmitting demultiplexed data on separate fiber links. Any of a variety of optical couplers may be used to separate and/or combine light propagating into or out of the fiber links. These optical modules **326, 401, 501** used herein can conform to a form
30 factor of standard optical modules such as the 300pin, XENPAK, X2, XPAK, XFP or SFP. Other form factors may also be used.

[0047] Alternatively, in other implementations of transceiver **100**, functions described above may be integrated into various different components. For example, in the implementation of transceiver **100** shown in **FIG. 4**, various functions may be
35 incorporated into optical module **401** such as: digital to analog conversion **310a, 310b**; analog to digital conversion **321a, 321b**; clock data recovery **320a, 320b**; m-ary

5 modulation **309a, 309b**; m-ary de-modulation **323a, 323b**; channel equalization **322a, 322b**; inner coder **308a, 308b**; inner de-coder **323a, 323b**; outer coder **307a, 307b**; outer de-coder **324a, 324b**, and the De-Mux **306** and Mux **325** functions that enable demultiplexing across multiple fibers. The optical module **401** may have an interface that can connect to existing TC-Layer or MAC implementations currently produced.

10 In another alternative implementation the digital to analog conversion **310a, 310b**; analog to digital conversion **321a, 321b**, and the clock data recovery **320a, 320b** functions are incorporated into an optical module (not shown). In yet another alternative implementation of the transceiver **100** as shown in **FIG. 5**, an optical module **501** includes the De-Mux **306** and Mux **325** functions enabling

15 demultiplexing across multiple fibers. The optical module **501** may have an interface that can connect to existing TC-Layer or MAC implementations currently produced.

[0048] An alternative implementation of transceiver **100** utilizing a single fiber link **314a** (without demultiplexing across multiple fibers) is illustrated in **FIG. 6**. Alternatively, an implementation of the transceiver **100** may utilize multiple fiber

20 links **314a, 314b** while not performing demultiplexing across multiple fibers, as illustrated in **FIG. 7**. In this implementation, the TC-Layer **701** block manages the fiber links as independent fiber links that all connect to the same end point(s) on the network. In one implementation, TC-Layer **701** block is a derivative of the Transmission Convergence Layer specified in ITU G.984 or MAC specified in IEEE

25 802.3ah, with the added functionality of queue management of the traffic across the plurality of independent fiber links. The TC-Layer **701** block may exclude use of one or more fiber links if the fiber link experiences a failure. This exclusion of failed fiber links enables the TC-Layer **701** block (i.e., queue management function) to continue providing service across a PON using the remaining active links. Each fiber

30 can be deployed across physically different paths to provide optical fiber distribution path diversity and improved protection against failures. Failures may originate in the optical module or across elements of the ODN such as fiber or connector breaks.

Channel Equalization

[0049] An implementation for a channel equalization routine executed in the

35 EQ **322a, 322b** block includes determining coefficients or weights that are applied to the received data to remove undesired information or noise from the received data.

5 Channel equalization can include a training or convergence period in which characteristics of the channel are learned or accounted for and coefficients or weights are adapted before processing the received data. Decision-directed equalization is an equalization method in which a known training sequence is sent during the training period and the receiver/transceiver uses the knowledge of the training sequence to
10 learn about the channel characteristics. The training sequence can be multiplexed within a PON's TC-Layer framing protocol. Blind equalization is a process during which an unknown input data sequence is recovered from the output signal of an unknown channel (i.e., current equalization data for a given channel is unknown or otherwise unavailable).

15 [0050] One mode of communications used by a PON, e.g., for upstream data traffic (ONU/ONT to OLT direction), is "burst mode" communications. For example, upstream communications on a PON may include a link shared among multiple clients or ONUs/ONTs via time division multiplexing under control by an OLT. The upstream direction is divided into time slots; each time slot includes a defined number
20 of bits. A given ONU/ONT is granted some number of time slots during which to transmit an upstream frame of data to an OLT. The upstream direction uses an orchestrated collection of bursts from the different ONU/ONTs, coordinated by the OLT that tries to maximize upstream traffic bandwidth efficiency by minimizing empty slots.

25 [0051] A flow chart for an exemplary upstream burst mode communication equalization process is shown in **FIG. 8**. To read or interpret the upstream data traffic from a client ONU/ONT, an OLT trains and/or equalizes the channel for that client ONU/ONT. Since the ONU/ONTs may be at different distances from the OLT and all do not share the same fiber, different channel characteristics result.

30 Communication efficiencies may be obtained by determining **800** a set of equalization coefficients for a channel during a burst from a client, saving **801** the determined equalization coefficients, entering a wait period **802** (also known as a PON's silence period when no client ONU/ONTs are transmitting upstream), and loading **803** the stored equalization coefficients before a next burst from the client (during the wait
35 period), to avoid re-training or re-equalizing on every burst communication. The OLT has prior knowledge of which ONU/ONT will be transmitting data during which

5 time slots and can use this knowledge during the time between burst communications (during the wait period) to load **803** an appropriate set of coefficients pertaining to the particular ONU/ONT transmitting prior to receiving **804** its next upstream burst. This process continues for subsequent bursts. In one implementation, periodic (though not coincident with each communication burst) updates to the channel characteristics may
10 be made (and stored). The OLT can save **801** coefficients that have converged or have been trained after receiving burst communications from the first ONU/ONT and load **803** a new set of coefficients during the wait period between bursts (i.e., before an incoming upstream burst from a second ONU/ONT). In one implementation, in addition to or alternative to storage of coefficient data, the OLT may also save and
15 load inner and/or outer coding states between bursts improving the efficiency of communication, similar to the equalization process of **FIG. 8**.

[0052] Another mode of communications used by a PON, e.g., for downstream data traffic (OLT to ONU/ONT direction), is "continuous mode" communications. In one implementation, a receiver, such as an ONU/ONT, equalizes
20 a received data channel using either one of a blind equalization or a decision directed equalization method.

[0053] A flow chart for an exemplary PON activation process is shown in **FIG. 9**. In a PON in which a decision directed method is used for training an ONU/ONT receiver, a continuous mode transmitter, such as an OLT transmitter,
25 sends a training sequence **900** multiplexed within a PON's TC-Layer downstream frame protocol. In a PON in which a blind equalization method is used, the OLT needed not send this training sequence **900**. An ONU/ONT equalizes its received downstream channel **901** before it is able to receive and interpret PON network parameters **902**. If the OLT has not been previously informed of the existence of the
30 ONU/ONT then the ONU/ONT awaits an upstream grant window **903** available for new ONU/ONTs to respond to the OLT with its serial number **904**. After the ONU/ONT has received an upstream grant window and processed PON system parameters, the ONU/ONT sends a training sequence **905** and then its serial number **904** to the OLT. In a PON in which blind equalization is used the ONU/ONT need
35 not send a training sequence **905**. After the OLT has received the ONU/ONT serial number the OLT will assign and send the ONU/ONT an identification number. If the

5 ONU/ONT does not receive an identification number **906a**, the ONU/ONT returns to waiting for an upstream grant window for new ONU/ONTs **903**. Once the ONU/ONT receives an identification number **906b**, the OLT performs ranging **907** to determine the distance between the OLT and ONU/ONT and then compensates for the communication timing delays. The ONU/ONT can perform updates continuously or
10 periodically depending on the equalization method employed. After the downstream continuous mode channel and the upstream burst mode channel have been equalized, both ends of the PON transmission link are equalized and the ONU/ONT enters its normal operating state **908**.

15 **Link Connection Errors**

[0054] A system has been proposed that includes demultiplexing across multiple fibers as is shown above with reference to **FIG.s 3-6**. In systems using demultiplexing across multiple fibers, fibers can be connected incorrectly at installation. For example, a first transceiver **100**, such as is shown in **FIG. 3**, with
20 fibers **314a** and **314b** can be connected to a second transceiver **101** with fiber **314b** connected in place of fiber **314a**, and fiber **314a** connected in place of fiber **314b**. The incorrect connection in this example may cause the first and second transceivers to not establish communications due to misalignment of bits during multiplexing of received data.

25 [0055] Information in a frame is used to synchronize a receiver (e.g., transceiver **101**) with the beginning of a frame (e.g., a "frame delimiter"). The process of discovering the beginning of a frame is called "frame synchronization." In specific protocols such as G.984, the downstream frame delimiter is called Psync, the upstream frame delimiter is called Delimiter and the process of frame synchronization
30 in the downstream is called the HUNT. In one implementation, TC-Layer **305** block performs frame synchronization. In one implementation, specific bit patterns or values for frame delimiters are used that are unique for each fiber to differentiate one fiber from another or the order of fiber connections to correctly multiplex received data. The use of unique frame delimiters allows the TC-Layer **305** block to change
35 the alignment of received data bits during multiplexing to adjust for the order of the fiber connections, without having to physically change the connections. Management

5 of the bit alignment in this implementation forms part of the TC-Layer's **305** block demultiplexing management responsibilities and functions.

[0056] Alternatively, the TC-Layer **305** block may assume an order for the fiber connections to determine the alignment of bits for multiplexing the received data and attempt frame synchronization. After a period of time with no frame
10 synchronization success, the TC-Layer **305** block may assume a different order for the fiber connections and change the alignment of bits during multiplexing and attempt frame synchronization again. The process may repeat, including changing the alignment of bits to reflect other configurations during the multiplexing, and frame synchronization attempts continue until frame synchronization succeeds. In yet
15 another alternative implementation, the TC-Layer **305** block may assume and attempt frame synchronization on all possible combinations of bit alignments in parallel, one of which will succeed in achieving frame synchronization.

[0057] Although the invention has been described in terms of particular implementations, one of ordinary skill in the art, in light of this teaching, can generate
20 additional implementations and modifications without departing from the spirit of or exceeding the scope of the claimed invention. Accordingly, it is to be understood that the drawings and descriptions herein are proffered by way of example to facilitate comprehension of the invention and should not be construed to limit the scope thereof.

25

5 What is claimed is:

1. A method for processing a received optical signal in an optical communication network, the method comprising:

10 determining a first set of coefficients to equalize a portion of an optical signal received over a first optical link including using a blind equalization method that does not use a known training sequence to equalize the portion of the optical signal;

equalizing the portion of the optical signal using the determined coefficients; and

15 demodulating the equalized portion of the optical signal according to an m-ary modulation format.

2. The method of claim 1, further comprising determining a second set of coefficients to equalize a portion of an optical signal received over a second optical link.

20 3. The method of claim 2 further comprising selecting one of the first or second set of coefficients based on a source of the portion of optical signal being equalized.

4. The method of claim 1, wherein the portion of the optical signal comprises a burst within a time slot of the first optical link.

25 5. The method of claim 1, further comprising storing the determined coefficients.

5 6. The method of claim 5, further comprising retrieving the stored coefficients for equalizing a second portion of the optical signal corresponding to a portion received from a same source as generated the first portion of the optical signal.

10 7. The method of claim 6, wherein the coefficients are retrieved between signal bursts on the first optical link.

8. The method of claim 7, wherein the stored coefficients are retrieved for respective portions of the optical signals that correspond to respective signal sources.

9. The method of claim 1, wherein the first optical link comprises a link in a point-to-multipoint passive optical network.

15 10. The method of claim 1, wherein the m-ary modulation format is selected from the group consisting of quadrature amplitude modulation and pulse amplitude modulation.

20 11. The method of claim 1, further comprising demodulating a received first data stream and demodulating a second data stream received in the optical signal, and multiplexing the first and second data streams.

12. A optical communication system comprising:

a first transceiver coupled by an optical network to a second transceiver and third transceiver,

the first transceiver including an equalization block and a modulation block,

5 the equalization block operable to determine a first set of coefficients to
 equalize a portion of an optical signal received over the optical
 network from the second transceiver and a second set of coefficients to
 equalize a portion of the optical signal received over the optical
 network from the third transceiver, the equalization block including a
10 blind equalization routine that does not use a known training sequence
 to equalize the portions of the optical signal, the equalization block
 operable to equalize the portions of the optical signal using the
 determined coefficients, and
 the modulation block operable to demodulate equalized portions of the optical
15 signal according to an m-ary modulation format.

13. The system of claim 12, wherein the optical network includes a first
optical link for coupling the first and second transceiver, and a second optical link for
coupling the first and third transceivers and where the equalization block is operable
to select one of the first or second set of coefficients based on a source of the portion
20 of optical signal being equalized.

14. The system of claim 12, wherein the equalization block is operable to store
the first and second sets of coefficients for later retrieval and use to equalize portions
of the optical signal.

15. The system of claim 12, wherein the portion of the optical signal
25 comprises a burst within a time slot on the optical network.

16. The system of claim 12, wherein the equalization block is operable to
retrieve the sets of coefficients between signal bursts on the optical network.

17. The system of claim 12, wherein the optical network comprises a link in a
point-to-multipoint passive optical network.

5 18. The system of claim 12, wherein the m-ary modulation format is selected from the group consisting of quadrature amplitude modulation and pulse amplitude modulation.

 19. The system of claim 12, further comprising a multiplexer, the modulation block operable to demodulating a received first data stream and a second data stream
10 received in the optical signal, and the multiplexer operable to multiplex the first and second data streams.

 20. The system of claim 19, further comprising a transmission convergence layer block for processing data streams received by the first transceiver, the transmission convergence layer block operable to control the demultiplexing of data
15 streams including control of the multiplexer.

 21. The system of claim 12, wherein the optical network is an optical distribution network.

 22. The system of claim 12, wherein the first transceiver is an optical line terminator.

20 23. The system of claim 12, wherein the second and third transceivers are optical network terminals or optical network units.

 24. A method for processing data for transmission in an optical communication network, the method comprising:

25 demultiplexing a data stream into a first demultiplexed data stream and a second demultiplexed data stream;
 modulating each of the first and second data streams according to an m-ary modulation format;
 transmitting the first modulated data stream over a first optical link; and

5 transmitting the second modulated data stream over a second optical link.

25. A optical communication system comprising:

a demultiplexer operable to demultiplex a data stream into a first
demultiplexed data stream and a second demultiplexed data stream;

10 a modulation block operable to modulate each of the first and second data
streams according to an m-ary modulation format;

transmitting means operable to transmit the first modulated data stream over a
first optical link and the second modulated data stream over a second
optical link.

15 26. A method for processing a received optical signal in an optical
communication network, the method comprising:

equalizing a received optical signal to provide an equalized signal;

demodulating the equalized signal according to an m-ary modulation format to
provide a demodulated signal;

20 decoding the demodulated signal according to an inner code to provide an
inner-decoded signal; and

decoding the inner-decoded signal according to an outer code.

27. The method of claim 26, wherein the m-ary modulation format is selected
from the group consisting of quadrature amplitude modulation and pulse amplitude
modulation.

25 28. The method of claim 26, wherein equalizing the received optical signal
comprises equalizing the received optical signal using a blind equalization routine that
does not use a known training sequence.

5 29. The method of claim 26, wherein equalizing the received optical signal comprises equalizing the received optical signal using a known training sequence.

 30. The method of claim 29, wherein the known training sequence is multiplexed in a frame within the received optical signal.

 31. The method of claim 26, wherein the inner code comprises a trellis code.

10 32. The method of claim 26, wherein the outer code comprises an error correction code.

 33. The method of claim 31, wherein the outer code comprises a Reed Solomon code.

 34. A transceiver comprising:

15 an equalizer for equalizing a received optical signal to provide an equalized signal;

 a demodulator in communication with the equalizer for demodulating the equalized signal according to an m-ary modulation format to provide a demodulated signal;

20 an inner-decoder in communication with the demodulator for decoding the demodulated signal according to an inner code to provide an inner-decoded signal; and

 an outer-decoder in communication with the inner-decoder for decoding the inner-decoded signal according to an outer code.

25 35. The transceiver of claim 34, further comprising:
 an optical module including

5 a first bi-directional optical fiber interface including a first detector and
a first driver, and
a second bi-directional optical fiber interface including a second
detector and a second driver; and
management means for managing data flow across the first bi-directional
10 optical fiber interface and across the second bi-directional optical fiber
interface.

36. The transceiver of claim 34, further comprising:

an optical module including

15 a first bi-directional optical fiber interface including a first detector and
a first driver, and
a second bi-directional optical fiber interface including a second
detector and a second driver; and
a multiplexer for multiplexing a first demultiplexed data stream received over
the first bi-directional optical fiber interface and a second
20 demultiplexed data stream received over the second bi-directional
optical fiber interface into a multiplexed data stream for transmission.

37. The transceiver of claim 34, further comprising:

an optical module including

25 a first bi-directional optical fiber interface including a first detector and
a first driver, and
a second bi-directional optical fiber interface including a second
detector and a second driver; and
a queue manager for managing traffic for a first bi-directional link associated
with the first bi-directional optical fiber interface independently from
30 traffic for a second bi-directional link associated with the second bi-
directional optical fiber interface.

5 38. A transceiver comprising:
an optical module including
a first bi-directional optical fiber interface including a first detector and
a first driver, and
a second bi-directional optical fiber interface including a second
10 detector and a second driver; and
management means for managing data flow across the first bi-directional
optical fiber interface and across the second bi-directional optical fiber
interface.

15 39. The transceiver of claim 38, wherein the management means includes a
multiplexer for multiplexing a first demultiplexed data stream received over the first
bi-directional optical fiber interface and a second demultiplexed data stream received
over the second bi-directional optical fiber interface into a multiplexed data stream for
transmission.

20 40. The transceiver of claim 38, wherein the management means is configured
to demultiplex a data stream over a plurality of fiber links that excludes one or more
failed fiber links.

 41. The transceiver of claim 38, wherein the management means includes a
queue manager for managing traffic across the first bi-directional fiber interface
independently from traffic for the second bi-directional fiber interface.

25 42. The transceiver of claim 38, wherein the management means is configured
to change the alignment of received data bits to adjust for an order of optical fiber
connections to the first bi-directional optical fiber interface and the second bi-
directional optical fiber interface.

 43. A method for equalizing an optical channel comprising:

5 storing channel characteristics for the optical channel associated with a client;
loading the stored channel characteristics during a waiting period between
bursts on the channel; and
equalizing a received burst from the client using the loaded channel
characteristics.

10 44. The method of claim 43, further comprising determining that the waiting
period occurs before a burst from the client based on a schedule.

45. The method of claim 43, further comprising updating the stored channel
characteristics.

46. The method of claim 43, further comprising:
15 providing a grant window;
transmitting an identification number to the client in response to receiving a
serial number from the client after the grant window.

47. The method of claim 43, further comprising determining a distance from
an upstream device to the client.

20 48. The method of claim 43, further comprising compensating for
communication delays between the upstream device and the client based on the
determined distance.

49. A method for communicating data on a fiber optic network, the method
comprising:
25 modulating and demodulating data traffic on an optical link in the network in
an m-ary modulation format;

- 5 encoding and decoding data traffic on an optical link in the network according to an inner coding routine and an outer coding routine;
- demultiplexing data traffic from an optical link in the network and transmitting the data traffic across a plurality of optical fiber links in the network;
- 10 multiplexing the data traffic from the plurality of optical fiber links; and equalizing a receive channel in the network to remove temporal distortions.

50. The method of claim 49, further comprising equalizing the receive channel according to a blind equalization routine

51. The method of claim 49, further comprising equalizing the receive channel according to a decision directed equalization routine.
- 15

52. The method of claim 49, further comprising saving and loading coefficients for equalizing the receive channel for each of a plurality of transmitting sources.

53. The method of claim 49, further comprising saving and loading an inner coding state for the receive channel for each of a plurality of transmitting sources.
- 20

54. The method of claim 49, further comprising saving and loading an outer coding state for the receive channel for each of a plurality of transmitting sources.

55. The method of claim 49, further comprising excluding one or more failed optical fiber links from the plurality of optical fiber links.

- 25 56. The method of claim 49, further comprising conveying a training sequence for a decision directed equalization routine as part of an in-use communication protocol.

5 57. The method of claim 49, wherein a training sequence for a decision directed equalization routine is conveyed as part of the activation process for an optical network terminal or optical network unit.

58. The method of claim 49, wherein an incorrect connection of an optical fiber link is corrected without having to physically change the connection.

10 59. A method for communicating on a passive optical network between a central transmission point and a plurality of receiving client end points, the method comprising:

 preparing downstream data for transmission and transmitting an optical
 downstream continuous mode signal demultiplexed across a plurality
15 of bi-directional fibers using a plurality of wavelengths of light;
 receiving an optical downstream continuous mode signal demultiplexed from
 the plurality of bi-directional fibers using the plurality of wavelengths
 of light and recovering a downstream data transmission;
 preparing upstream data for transmission and transmitting an optical upstream
20 burst mode signal demultiplexed across the plurality of bi-directional
 fibers using the plurality of wavelengthss of light; and
 receiving an optical burst mode signal demultiplexed from the plurality of bi-
 directional fibers using the plurality of wavelengths of light and
 recovering an upstream data transmission.

25 60. The method of claim 59, wherein the central transmission point comprises an optical line terminal, and the end points are operative as transceivers in a passive optical network.

 61. The method of claim 59, wherein the upstream and downstream data for
transmission are conveyed by respective different industry-standard services.

30

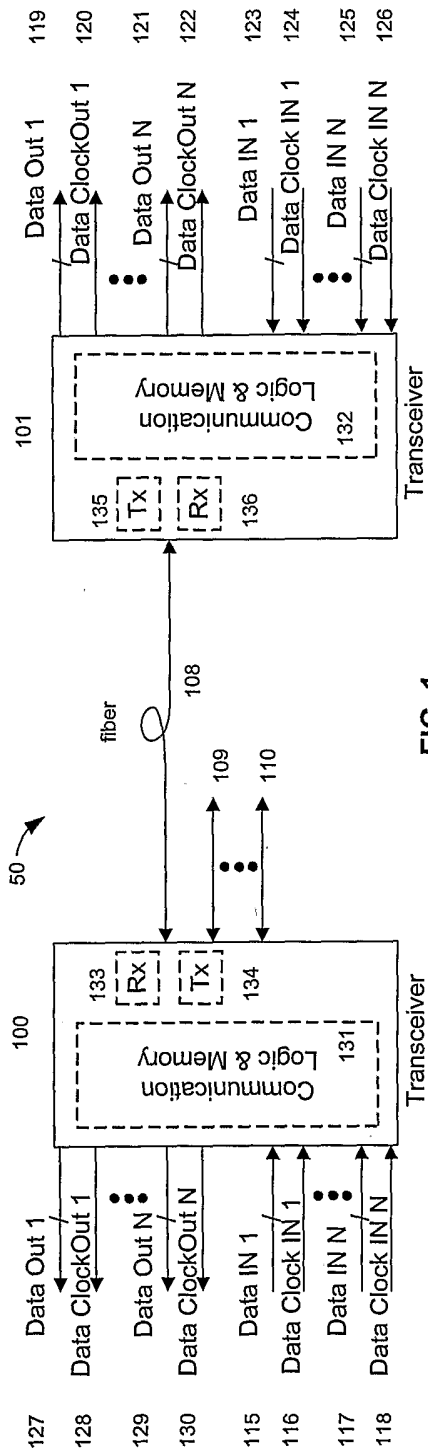


FIG. 1

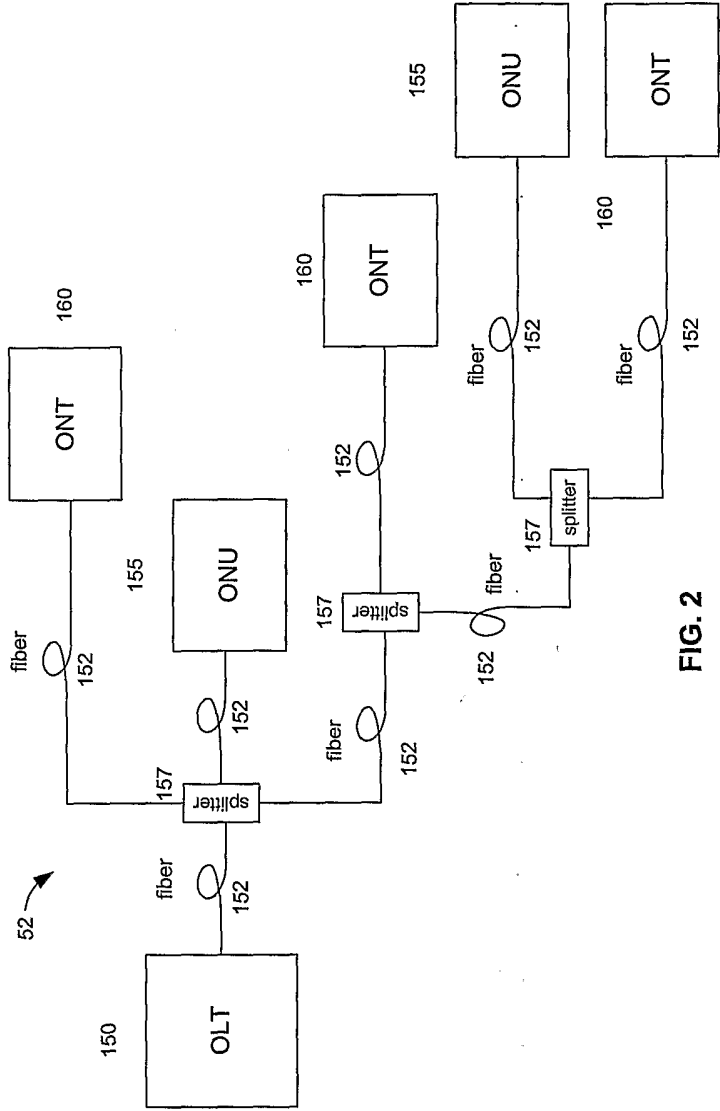


FIG. 2

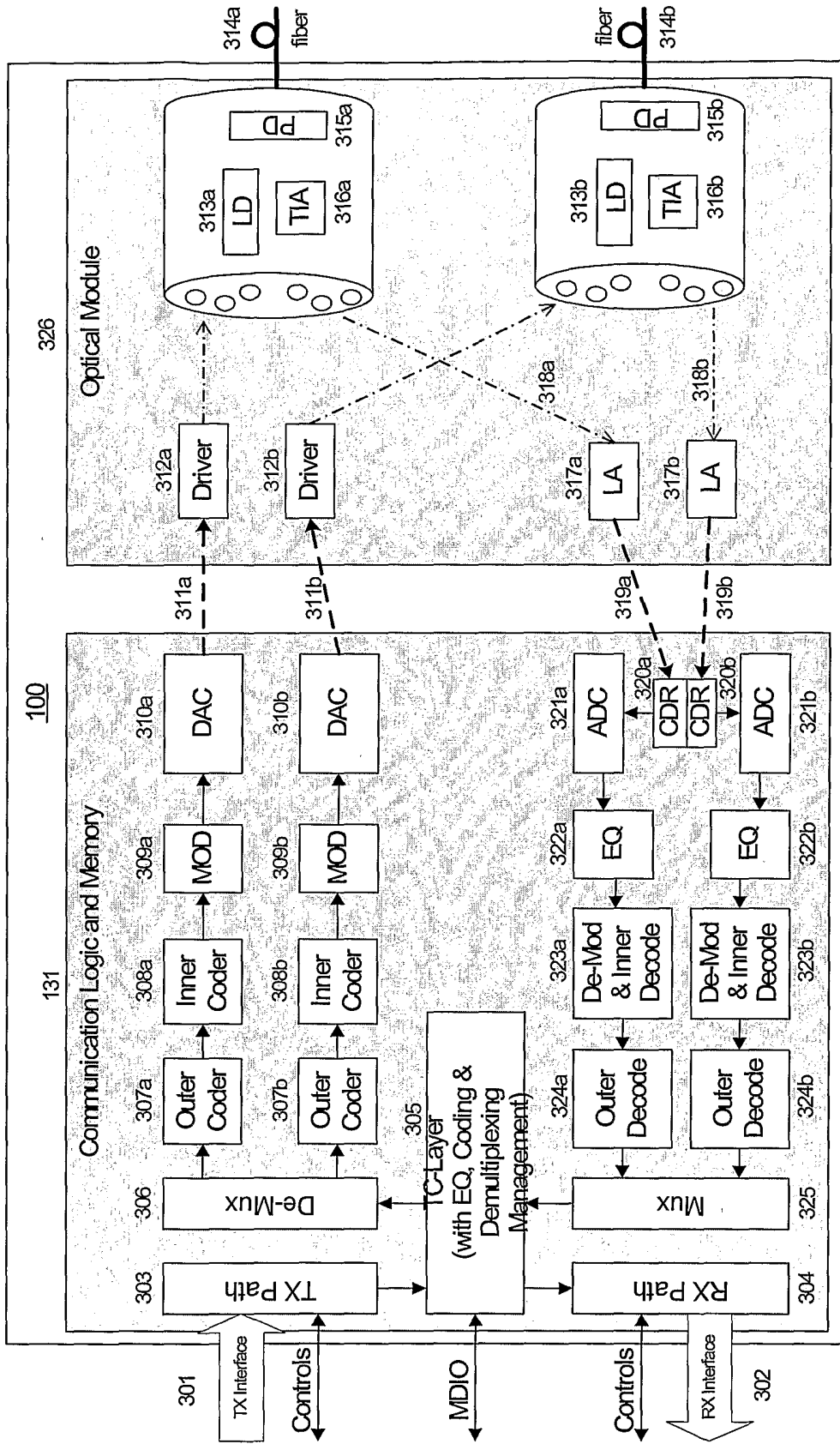


FIG. 3

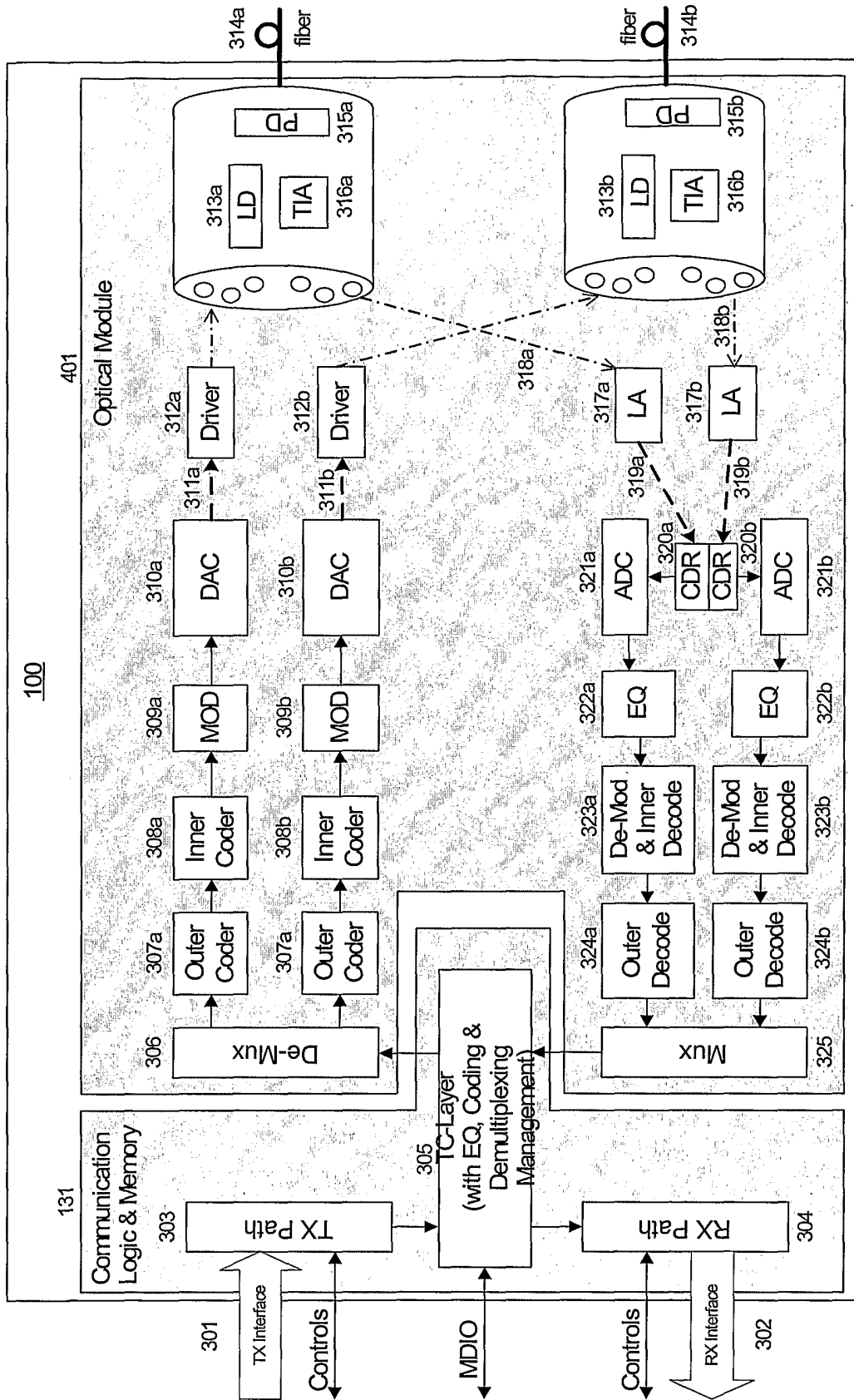


FIG. 4

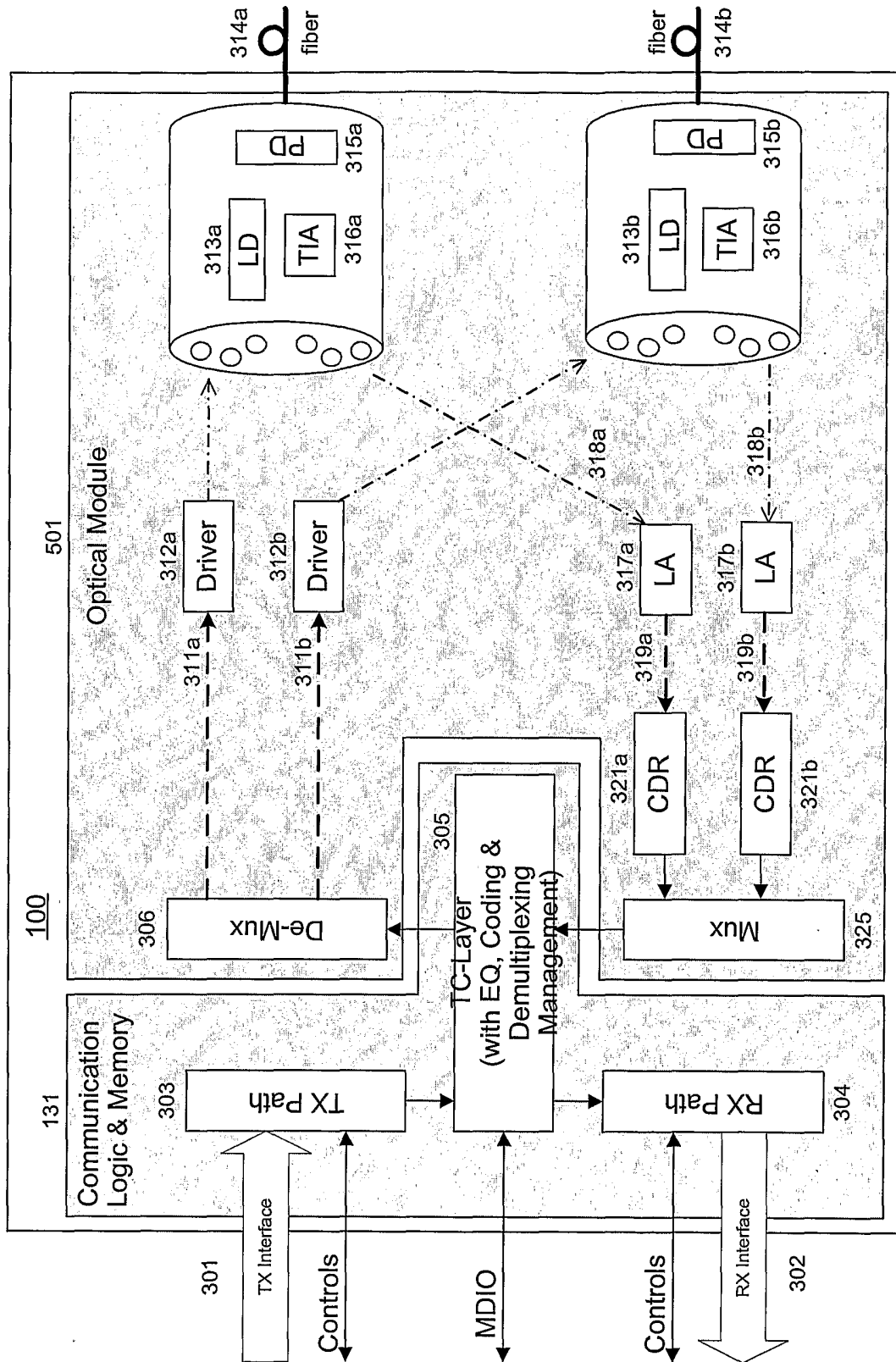


FIG. 5

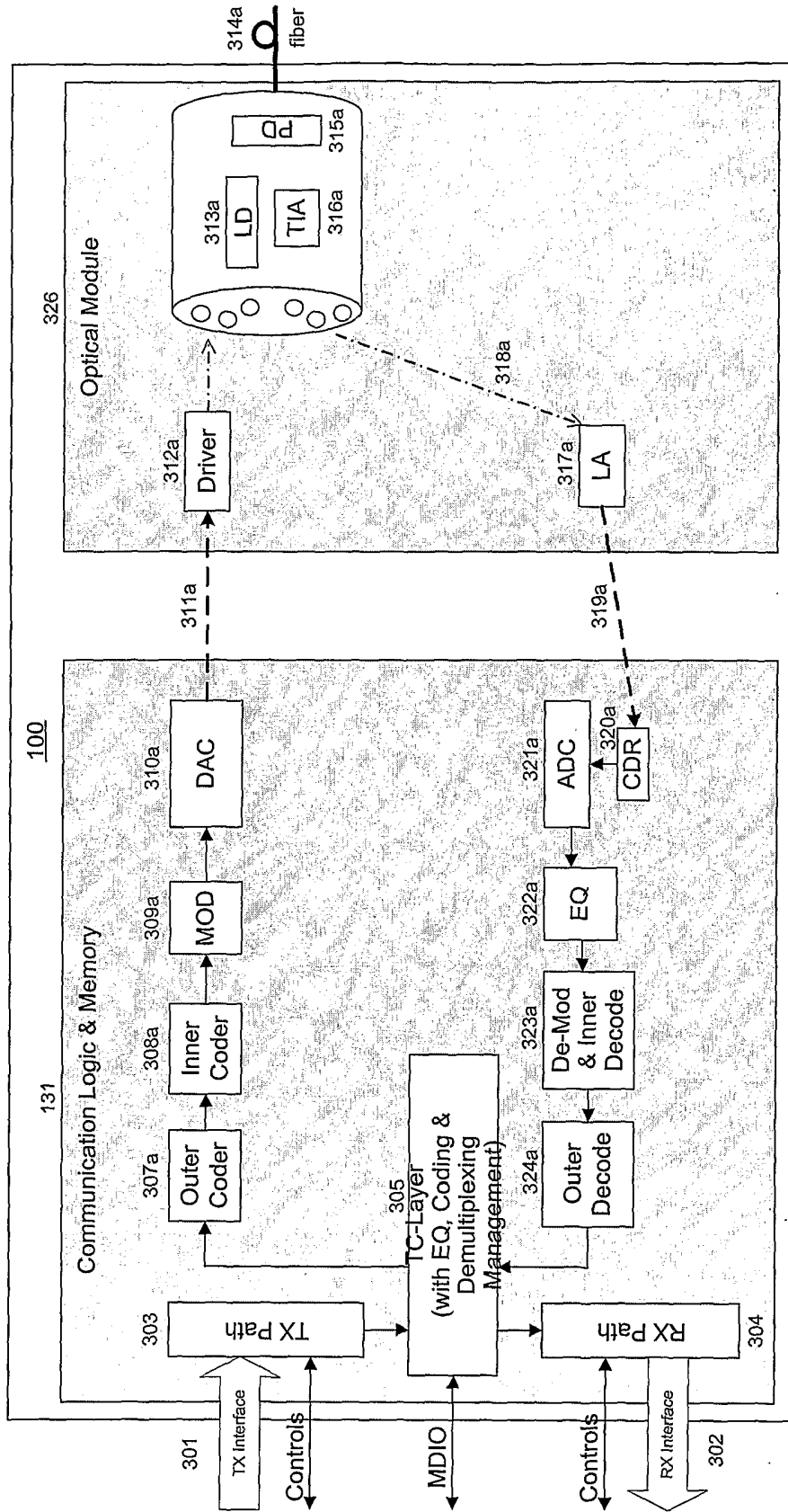


FIG. 6

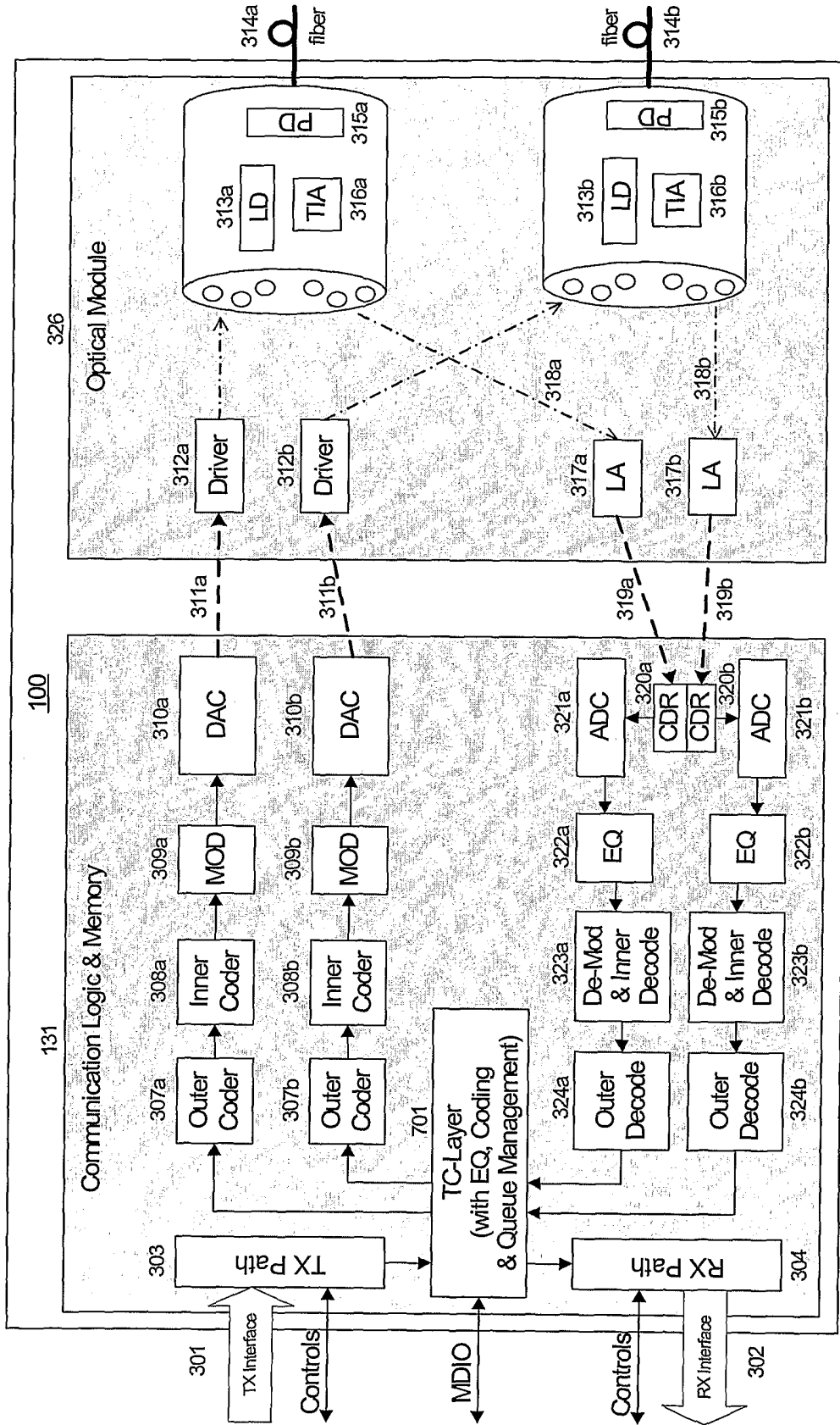


FIG. 7

