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(54) Title of the Invention: **Method and apparatus for network port and network address translation**
 Abstract Title: **Method and apparatus for network port and network address translation**

(57) The present invention provides a method and apparatus for network port and network address translation. Several problems with limited addressability may occur when transmitting data packets between a terminal in a first network and a terminal in a second network that is outside the first network. Data forwarding rules are used to define if and how identifiers of data packets to be forwarded between the two networks correlate with each other. According to embodiments, a data forwarding rule includes a first identifier associated with the first network and a second identifier associated with the second network, wherein each identifier has two parts: a source address and source port number corresponding to a source network node, and a destination address and destination port number corresponding to a destination network node.

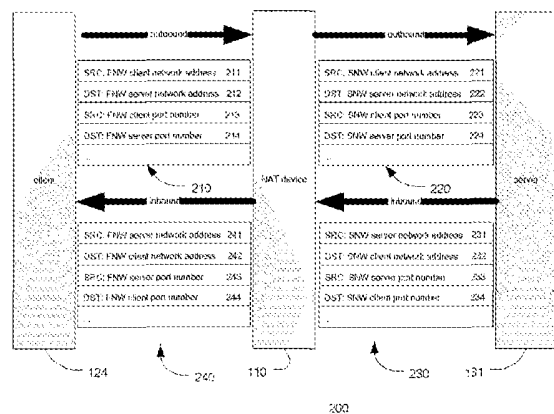


FIGURE 2