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(54) **REMOTE SENSING USING RAYLEIGH SIGNALING**

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(51) **Int. Cl.**⁷ **G01S 13/00**; G01S 13/08

(52) **U.S. Cl.** **342/178**; 342/189; 342/145

(58) **Field of Search** 342/178, 189, 342/157, 200, 202, 203, 204, 108, 145; 367/100; 375/140-146

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Primary Examiner—Bernarr E. Gregory

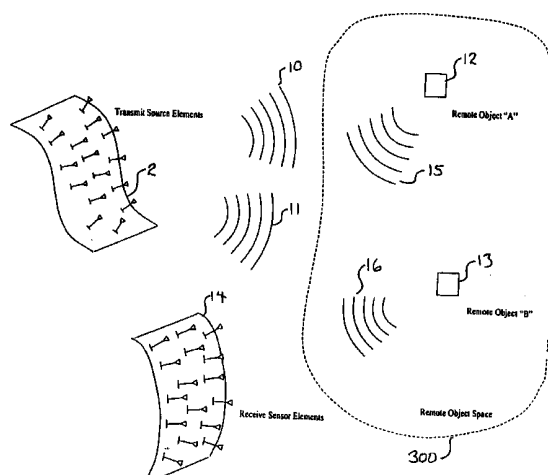
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(57) **ABSTRACT**

This invention features an improved technique for search and track surveillance. In this invention, distinct and random (in both space and time) signal beams are simultaneously transmitted from an array of transmitter source elements in a manner to cover all sectors about a source location. In addition, countermeasures against a system according to the invention are difficult because the signal waveforms for each beam are distinct and random, making prediction of any signal waveform for any beam very unlikely. An array of receiver sensor elements is provided to receive signals that are scattered from remote objects and may or may not be co-located with and share the elements of the source array element. The scattered signals are received and processed to yield the direction and range of the remote objects.

90 Claims, 15 Drawing Sheets



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Figure 1

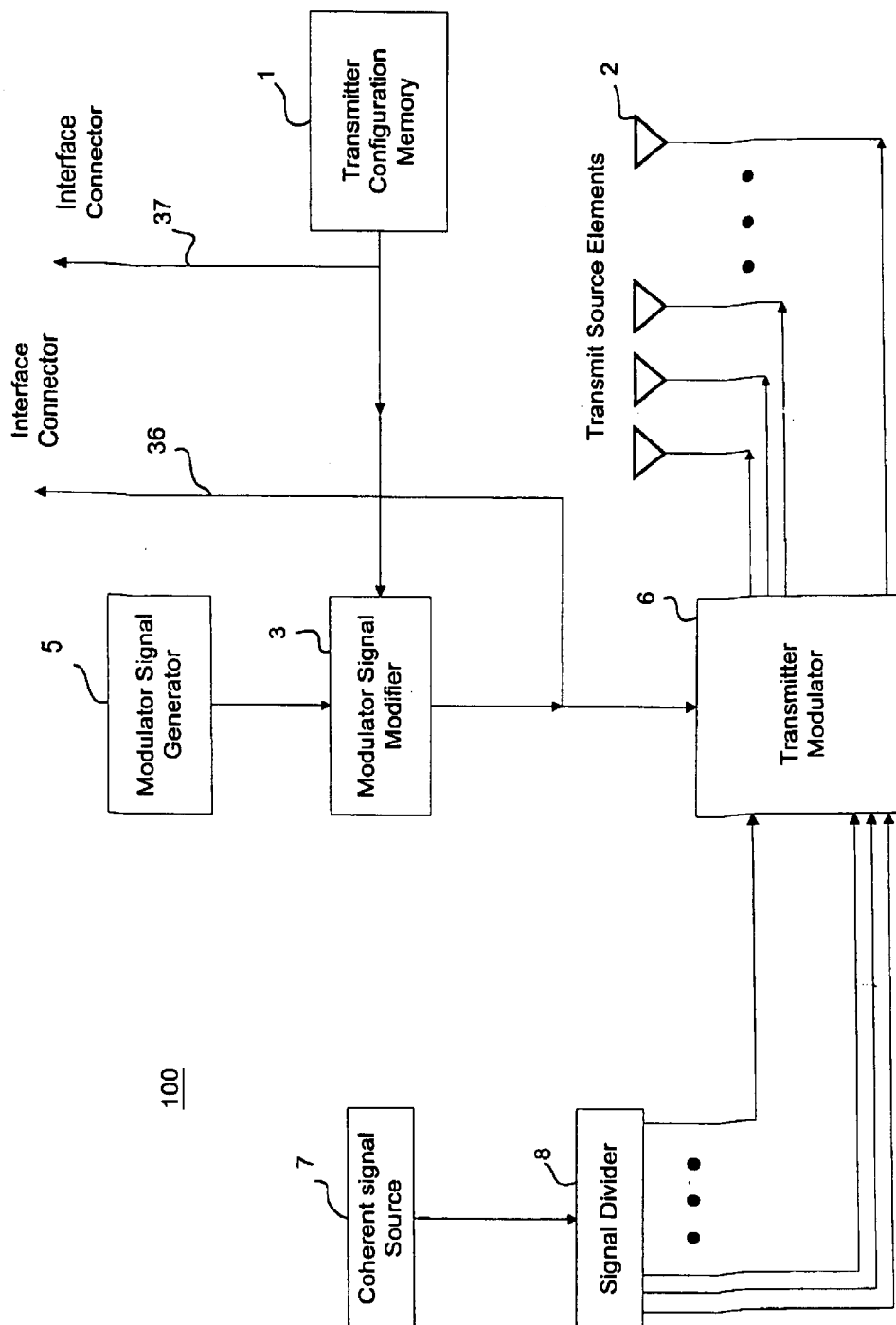
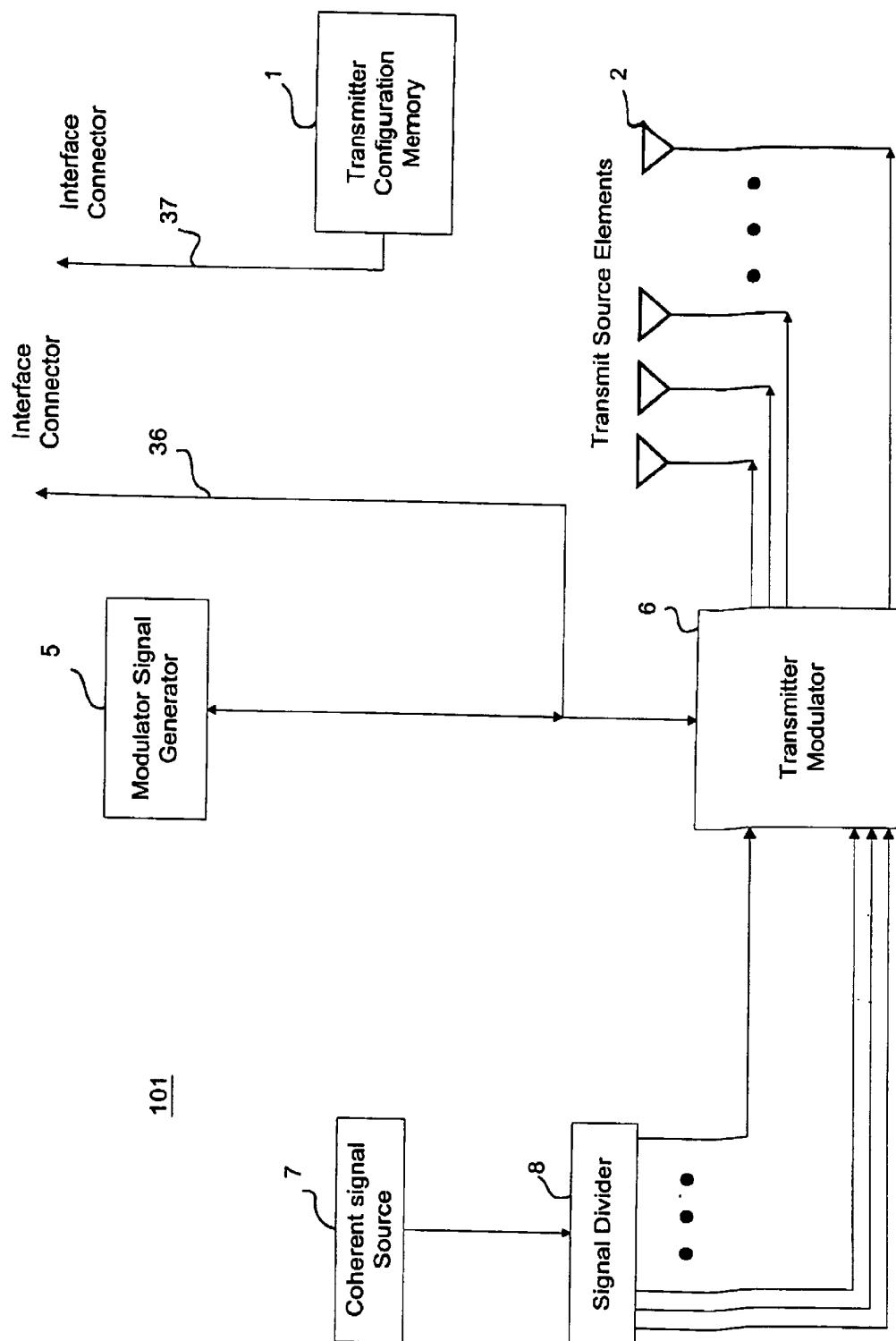
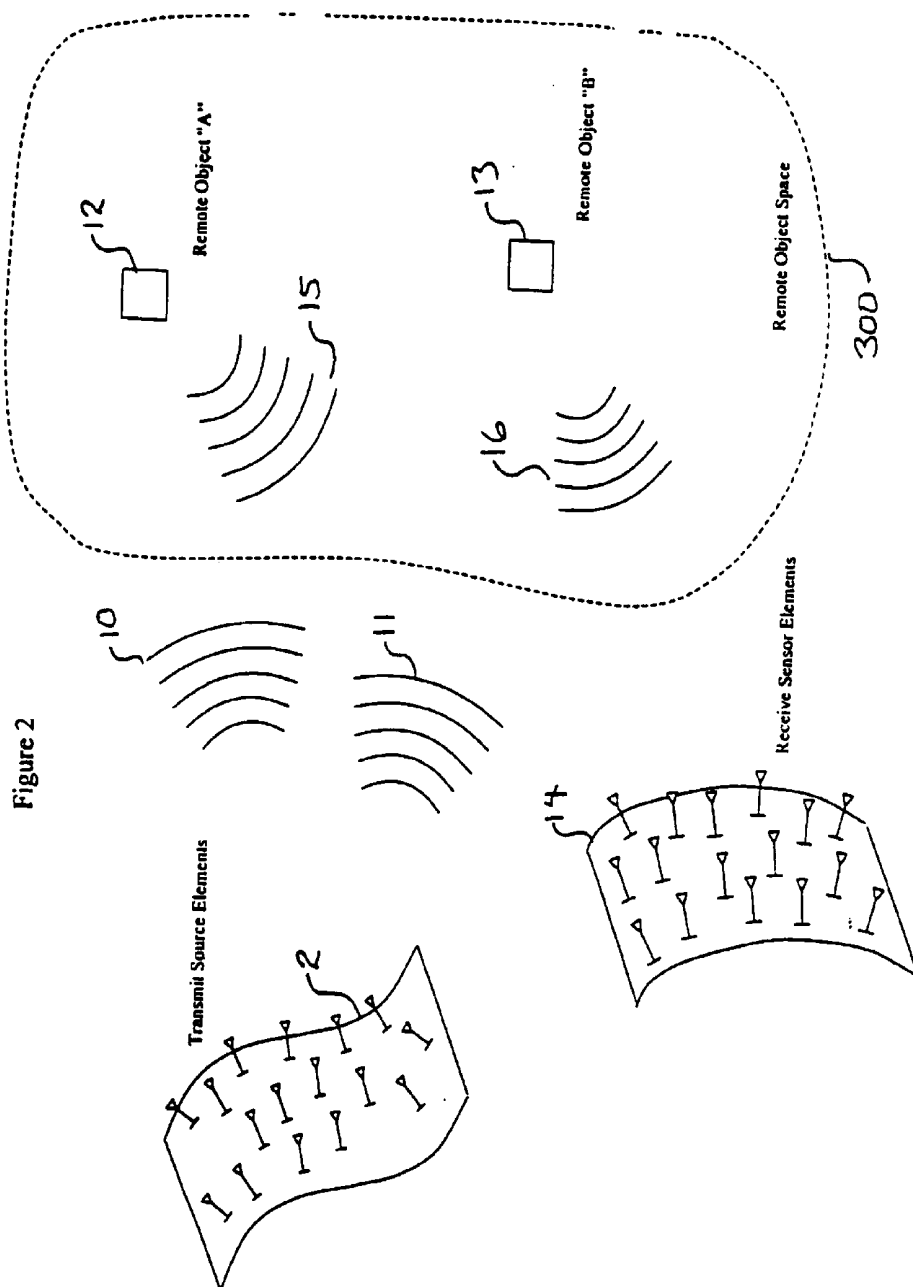


Figure 1A





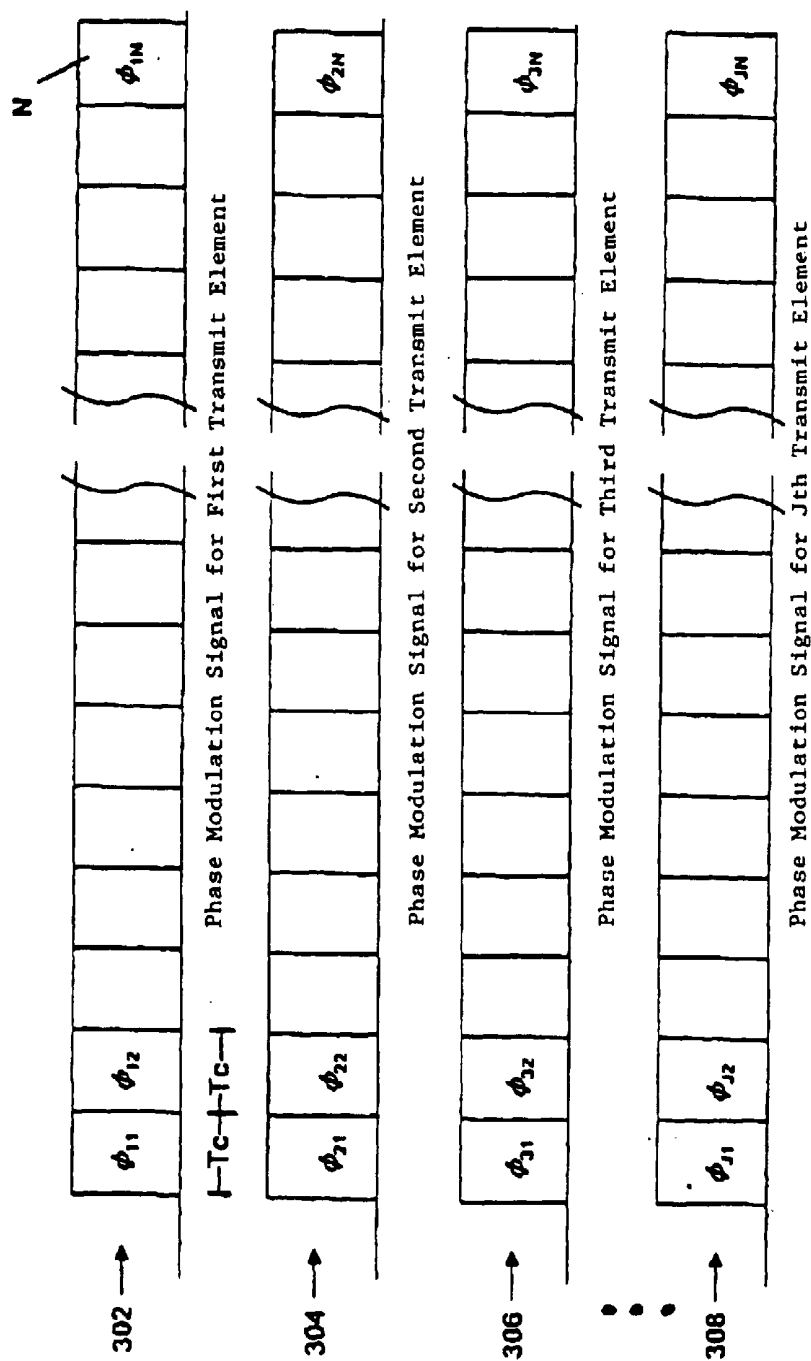


FIG. 3A

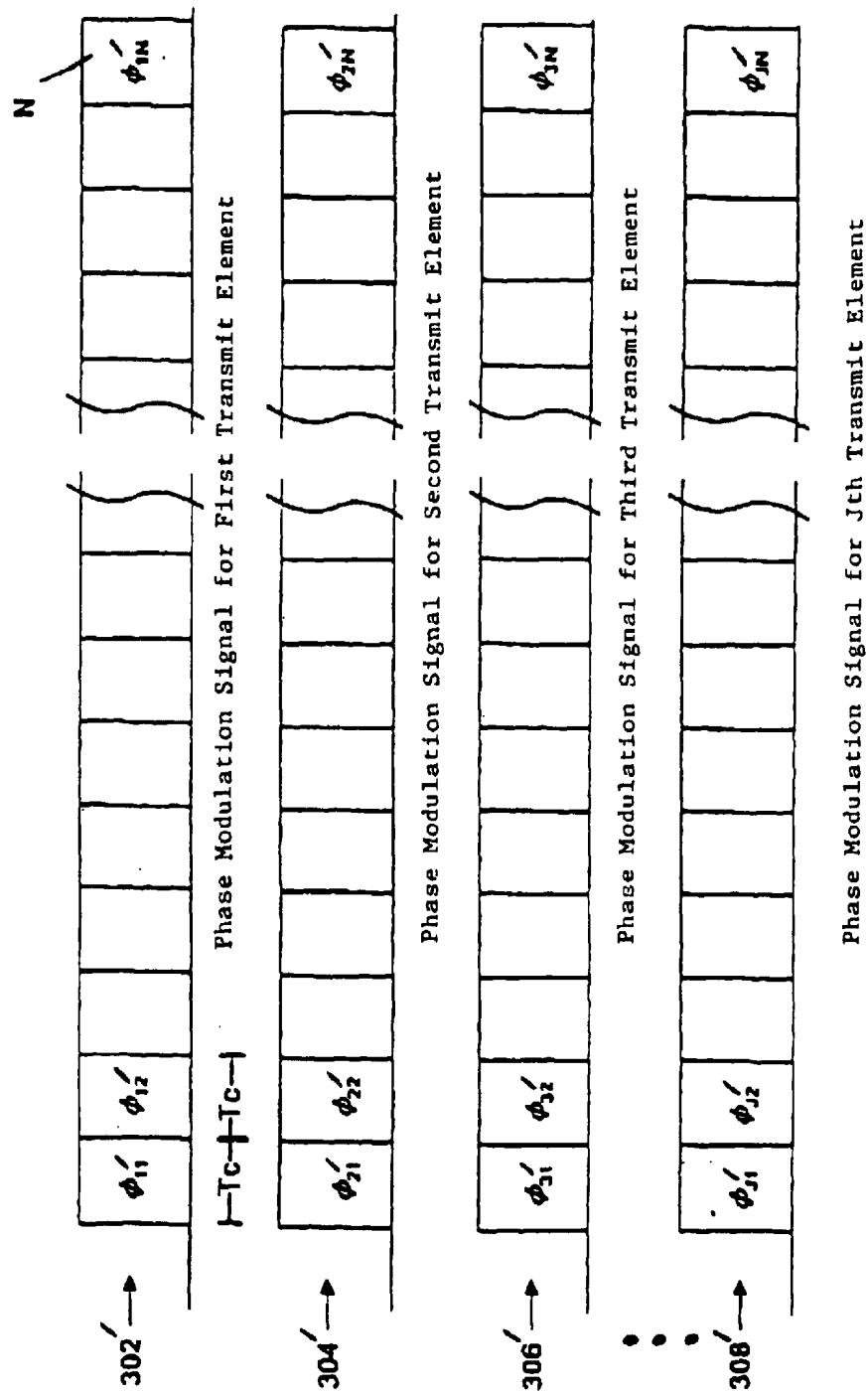


FIG. 3B

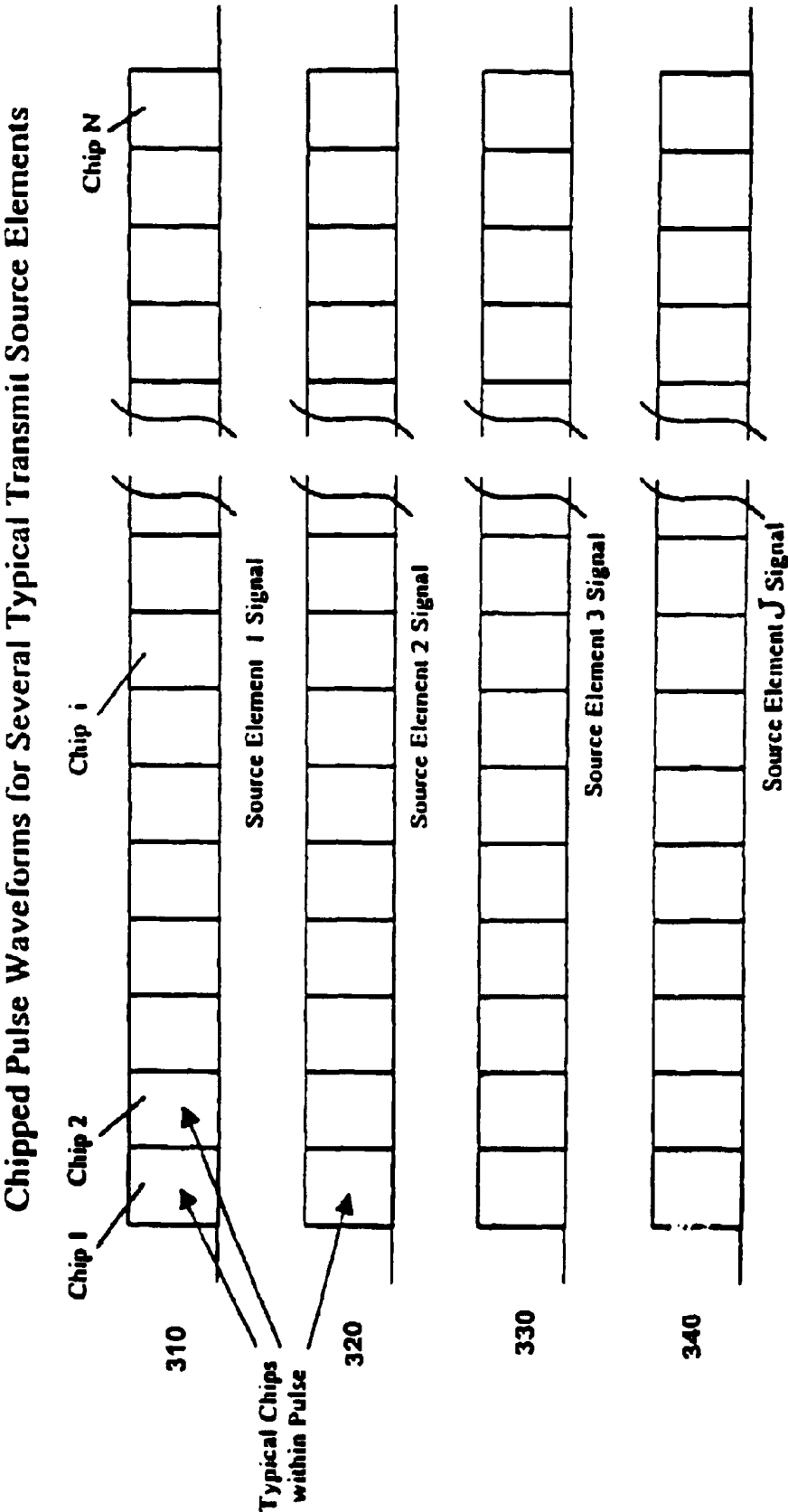


FIG. 3C

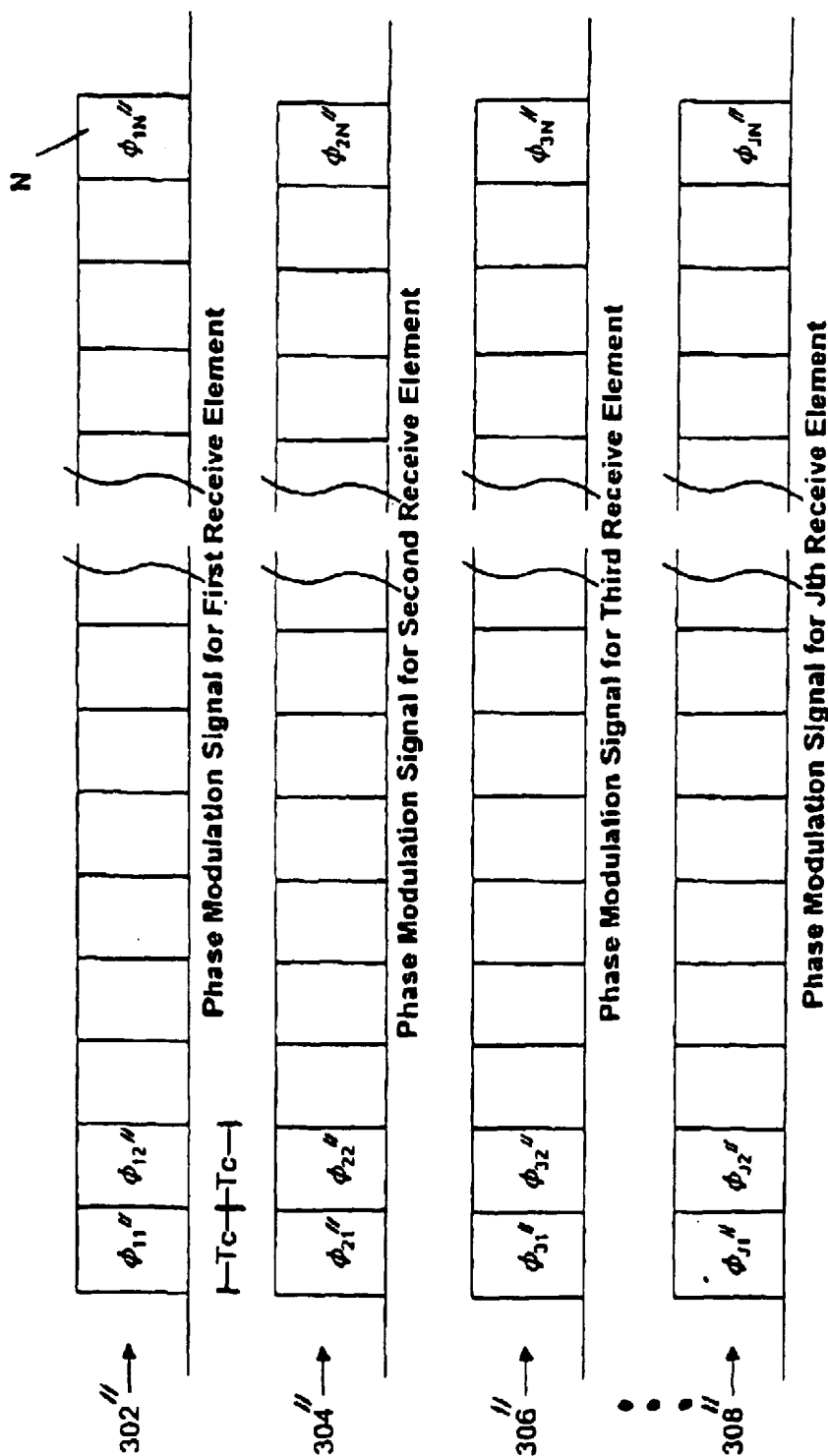


FIG. 3D

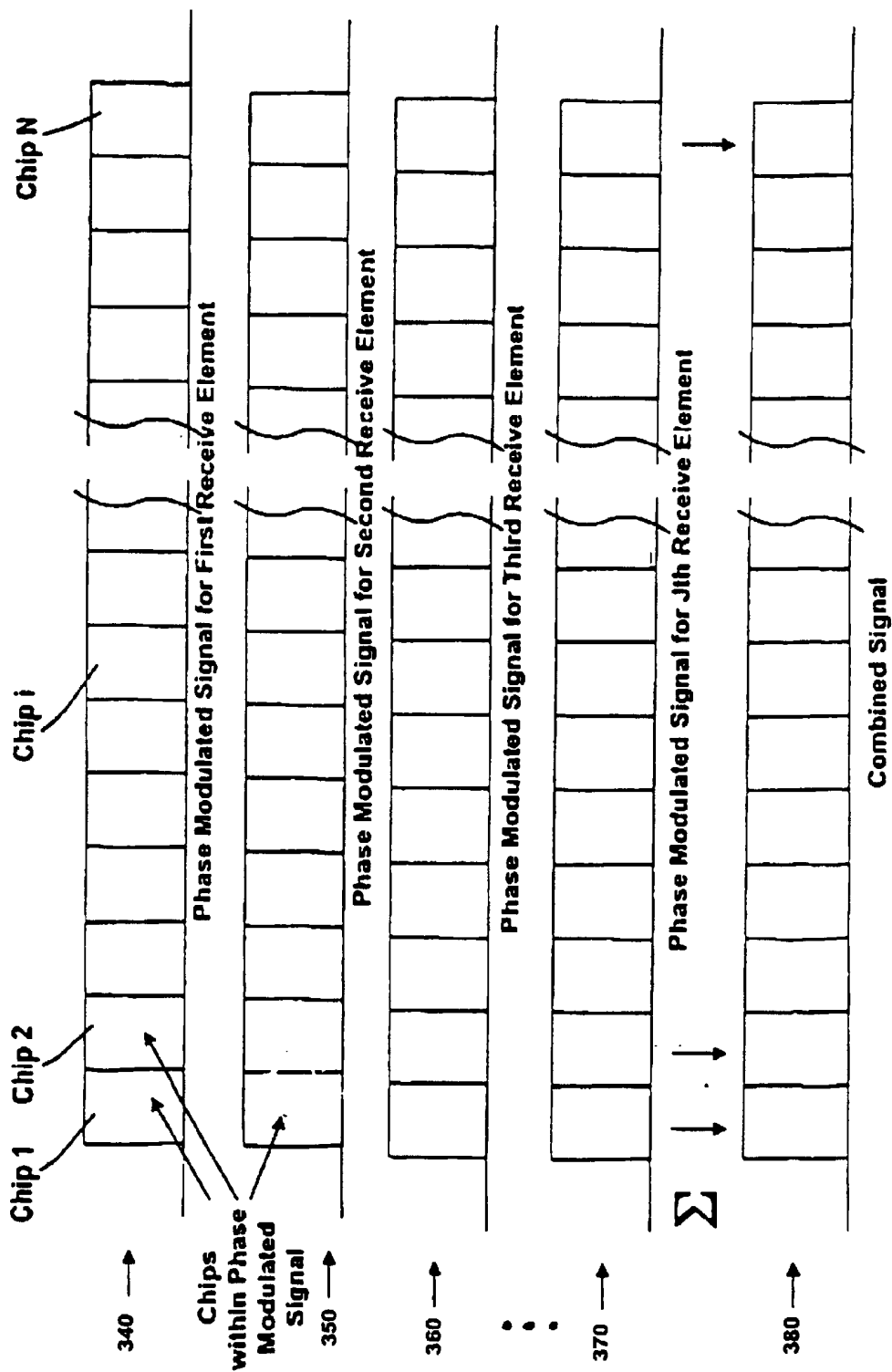


FIG. 3E

Figure 4

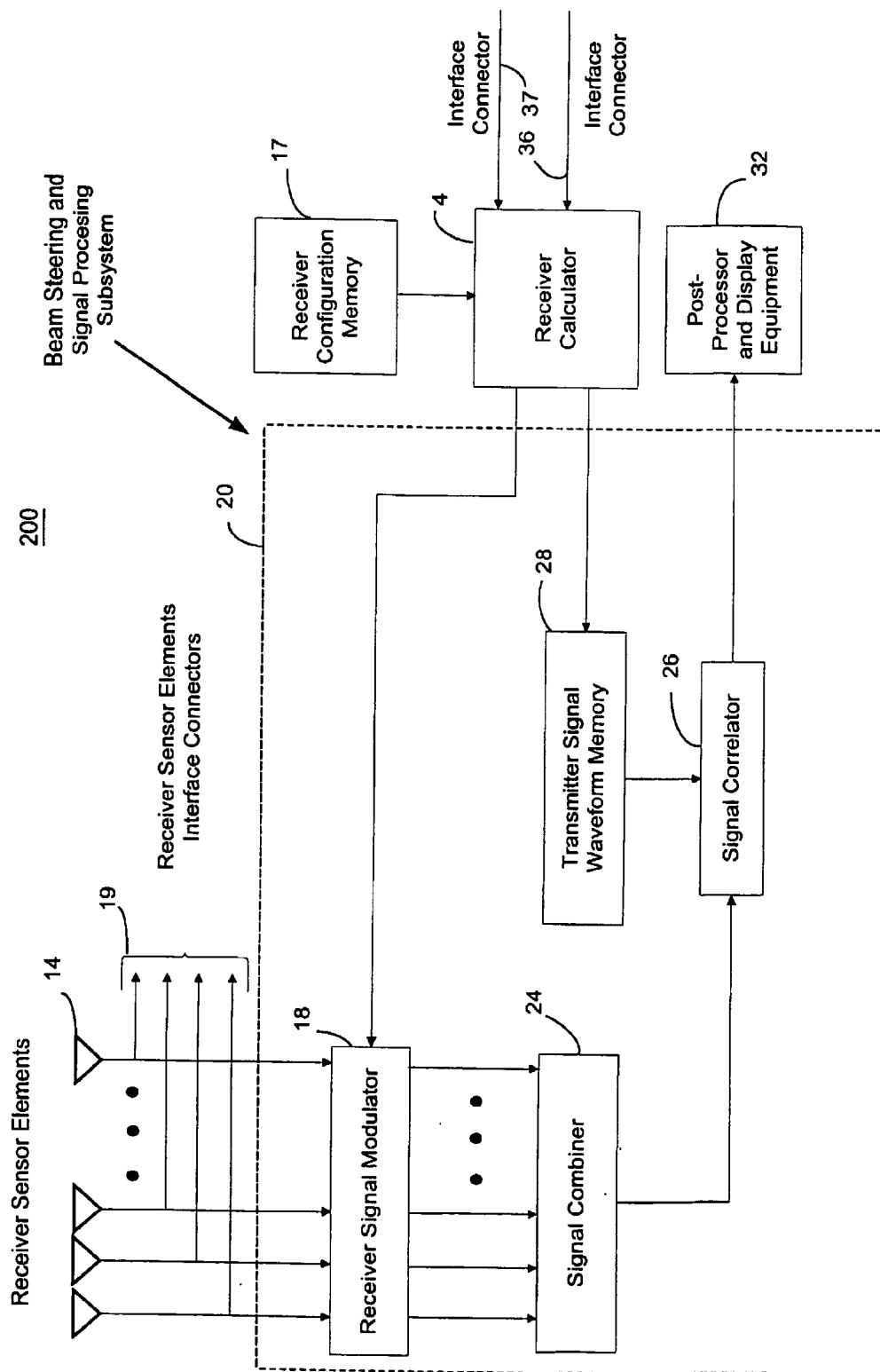


Figure 5

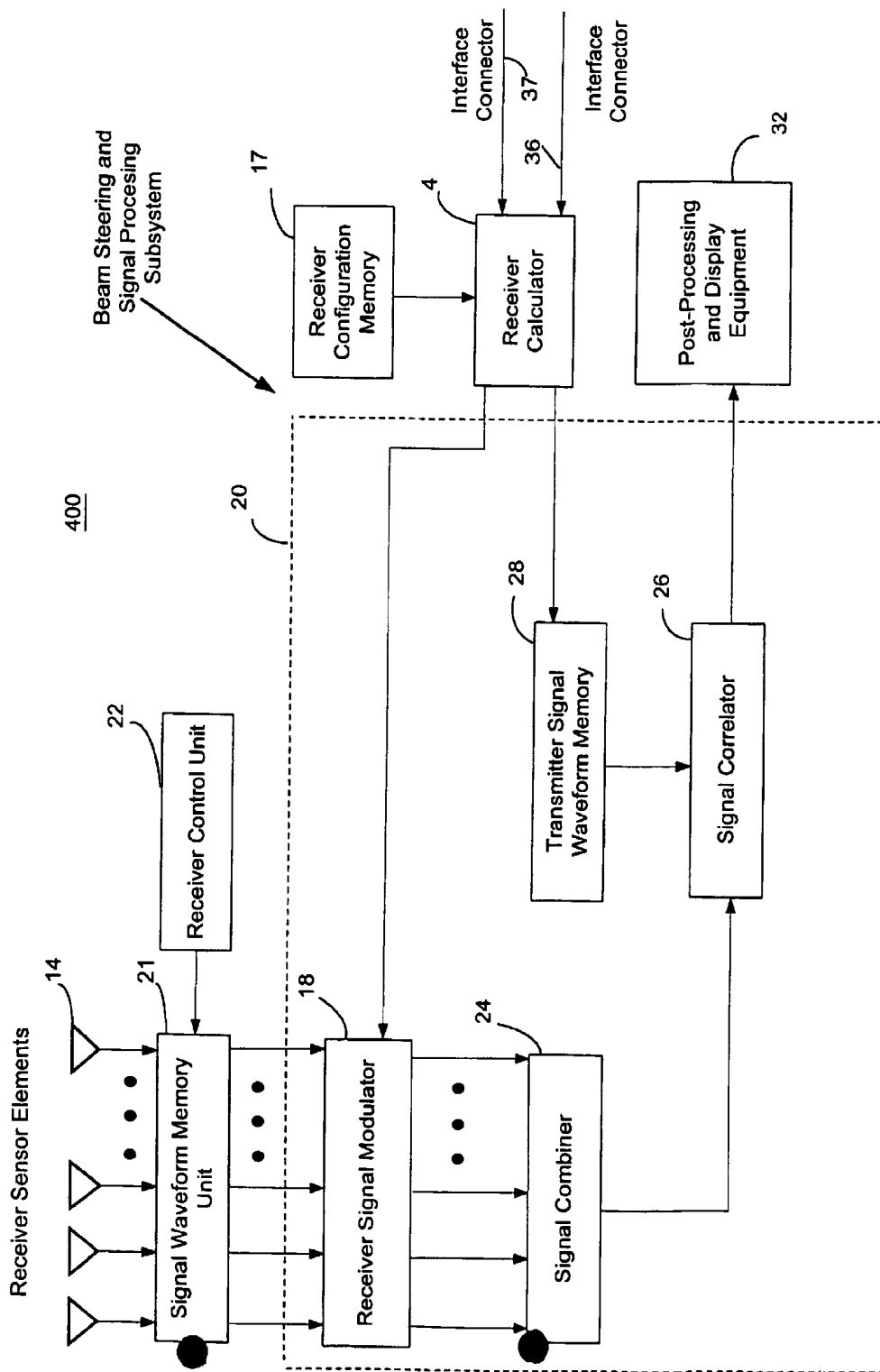
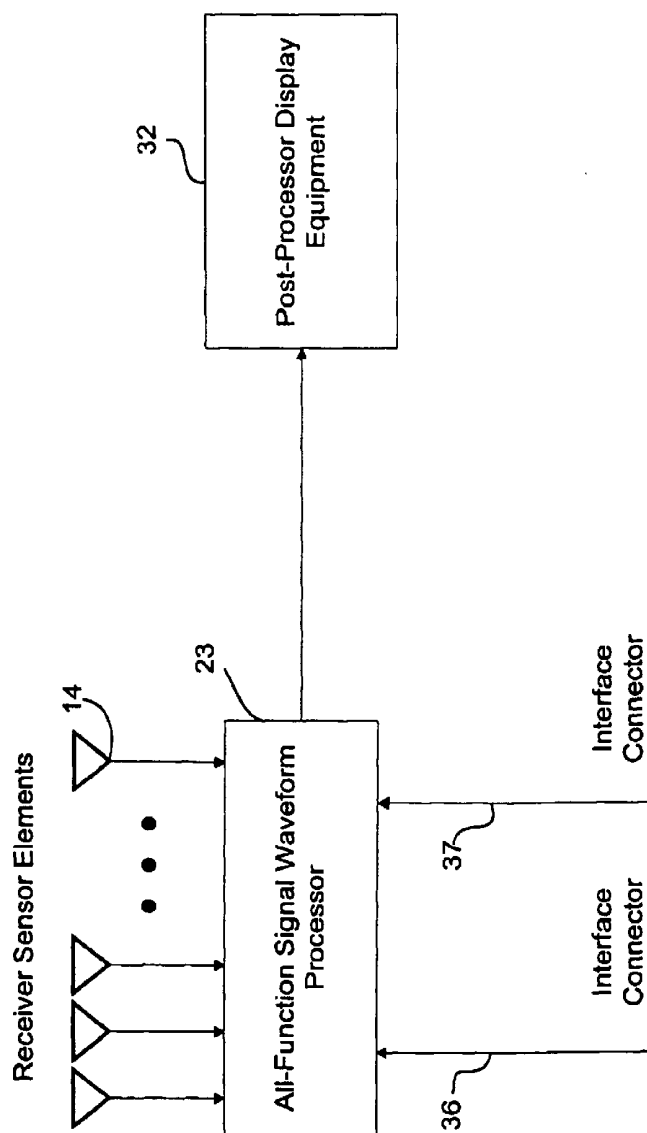


Figure 6



500

Figure 7

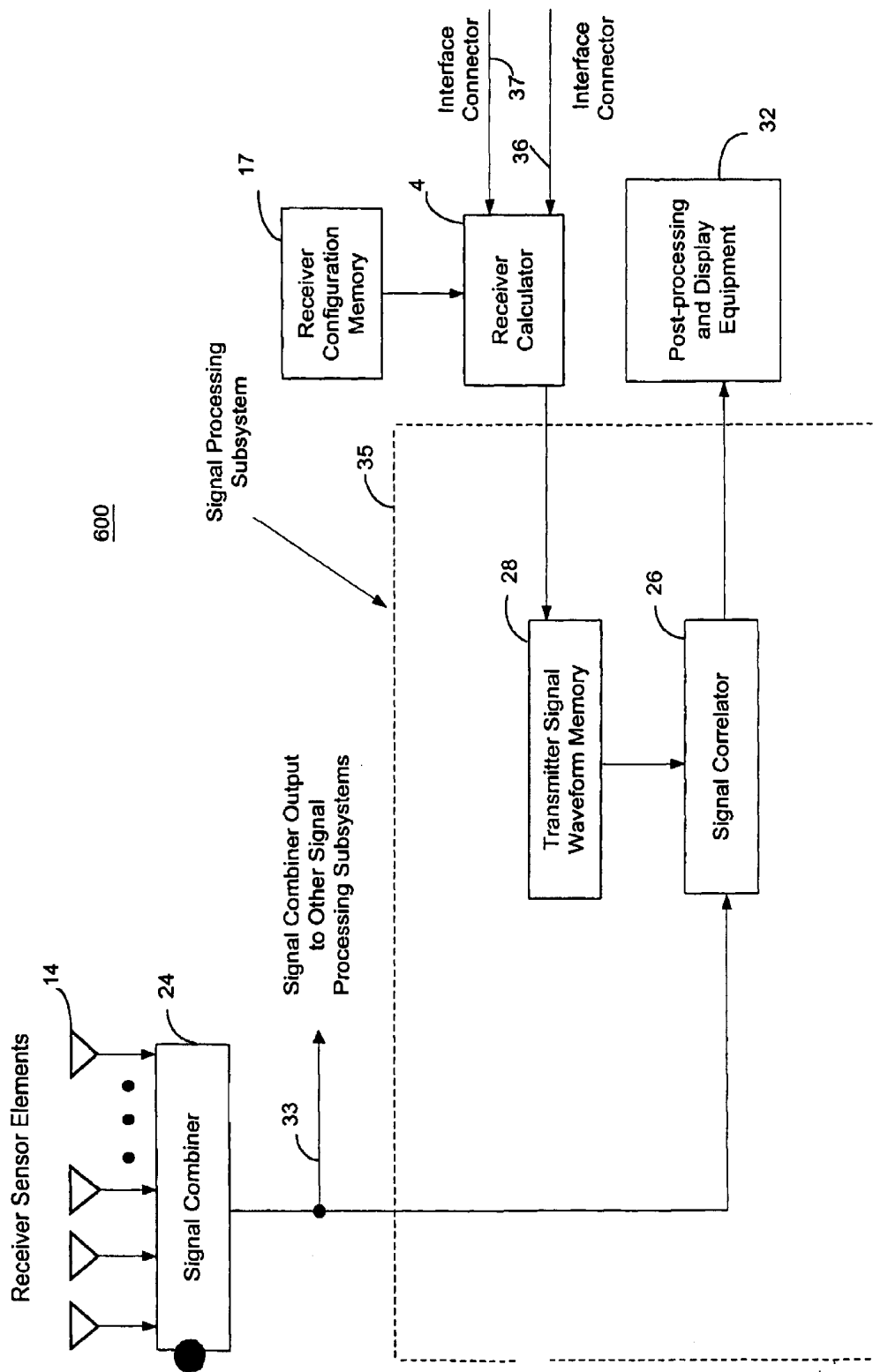


Figure 7A

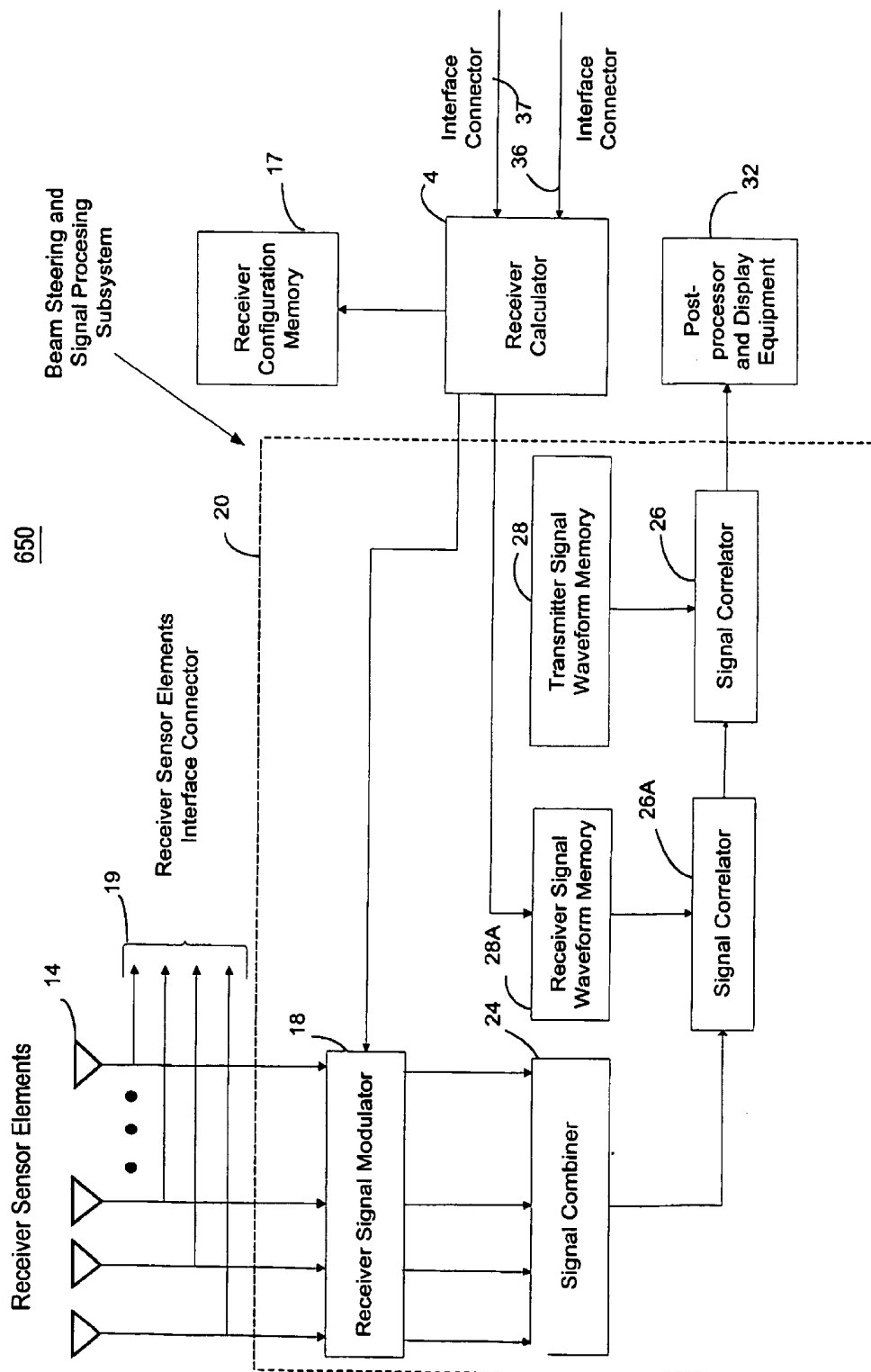


Figure 8

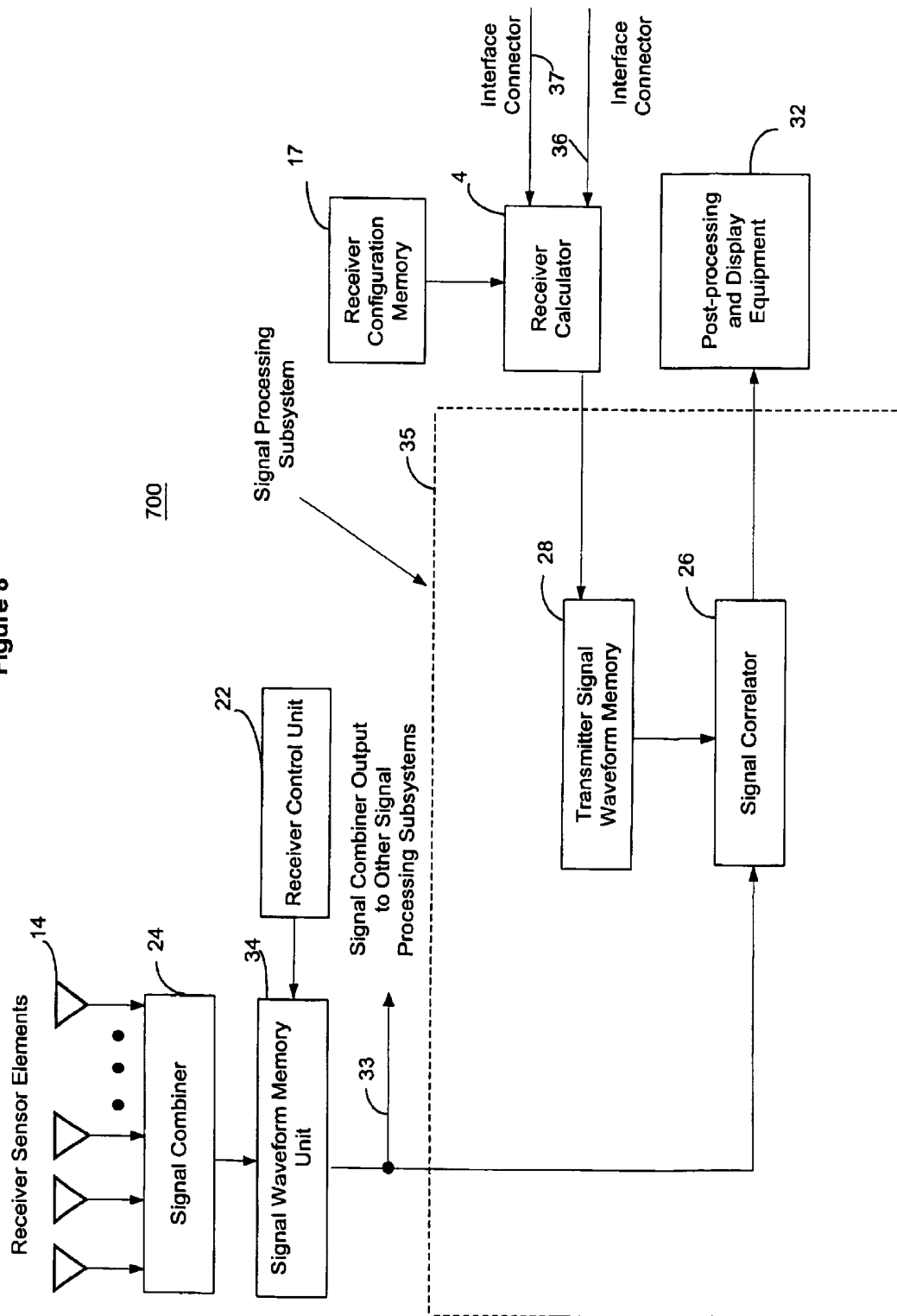
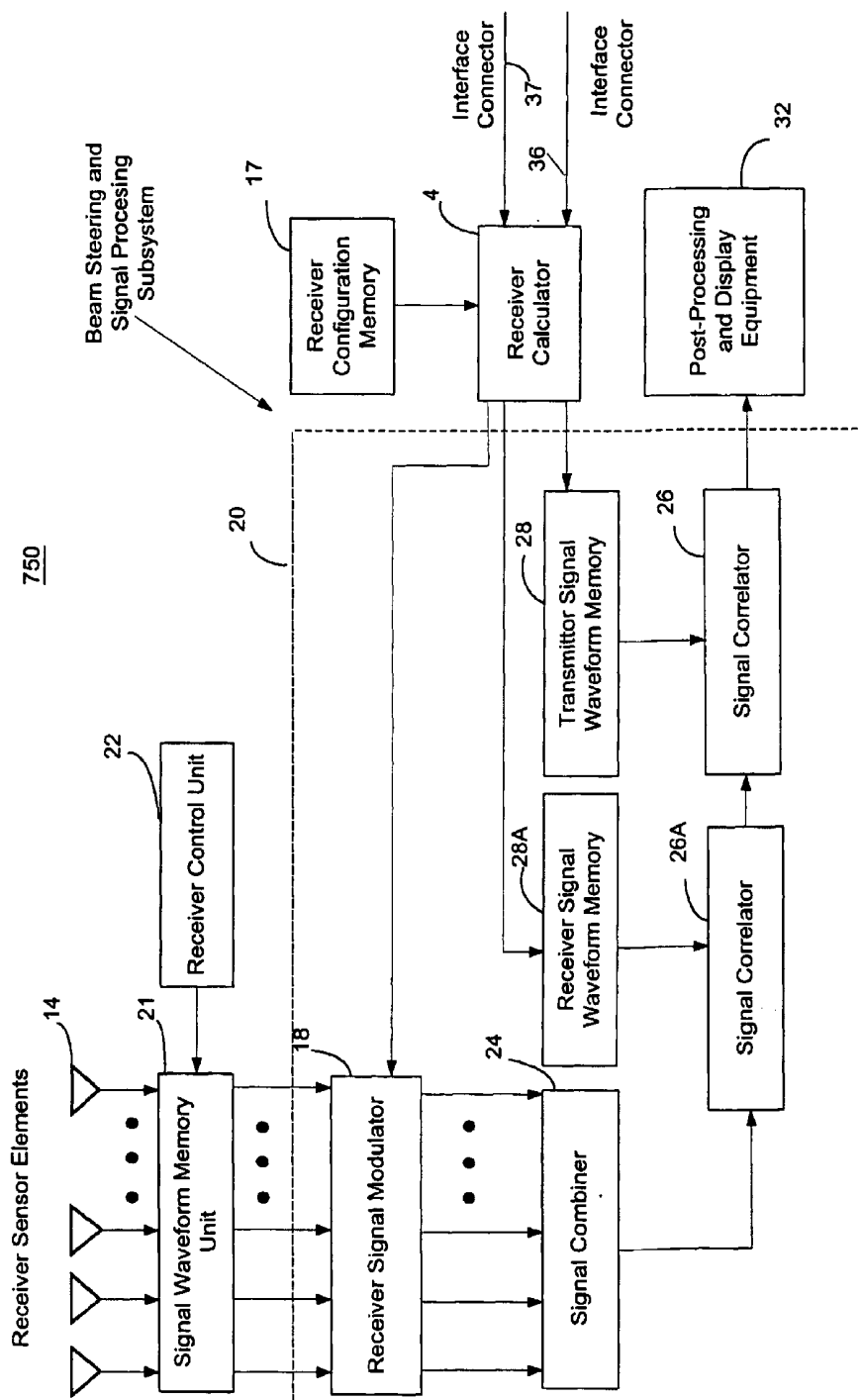


Figure 8A



REMOTE SENSING USING RAYLEIGH SIGNALING

This is a continuation of application Ser. No. 09/851,450, filed May 7, 2001, now U.S. Pat. No. 6,608,588, which is hereby incorporated by reference, which claims the benefit of U.S. provisional application No. 60/202,055, filed May 5, 2000.

FIELD OF THE INVENTION

The present invention relates to a method and apparatus for sensing remote objects. More particular, the present invention relates to sensing remotes objects using unique and random signal waveforms in both space and time.

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

Current techniques for search and track surveillance use an array of transmitter source elements (e.g., electromagnetic or acoustic) and an array of receiver sensor elements. The array of transmitter source elements generates one or more transmitted signal beams that the array of receiver sensor elements receives by forming beams, the received signals being scattered by remote objects. The received scattered signals are subsequently processed to yield direction and range information of remote objects. In many systems, the array of transmitter source elements and the array of receiver sensor elements share elements within a single array.

In the current techniques, only a limited number of signal beams can be formed simultaneously. Therefore, a remote object space (volume of coverage) must be sequentially scanned sector by sector until the complete remote object space of interest has been thoroughly scanned. A fast moving object traveling through the remote object space can escape detection simply because the signal beam is never directed toward the object at any instant. Also, in the current technique, simple countermeasures may affect the system. This is particularly true if the remote object space is sequentially scanned in the same manner repeatedly using the same signal waveform throughout the object space.

Therefore, there is a need to provide a method and apparatus for forming more beams simultaneously to reduce the likelihood that a remote object will escape detection. There is also a need to provide a method and apparatus for reducing the effects of countermeasures against the apparatus.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

In accordance with the invention, there is provided an apparatus having a transmitter and a receiver for sensing remote objects. The transmitter comprises J transmitter source elements. The apparatus further comprises a source generator for providing J equal carrier signals and a modulator signal generator for generating J statistically independent chip sequences. Each chip sequence comprises a plurality of chips, each chip having a random phase. Still further, the apparatus comprises a modulator for independently modulating the J equal carrier signals with the J statistically independent chips sequences, respectively, to generate J modulated signals. Each modulated signal comprises a plurality of chips, each chip having a random phase. The J modulated signals are transmitted by the J transmitter source elements, respectively, forming a composite signal beam. The transmitter source elements are separated by approximately $\frac{1}{2}$ wavelength.

There is also provided a method for sensing remote objects comprising the steps of generating J equal carrier signals and J statistically independent chip sequences. Each chip sequence comprises a plurality of chips, each chip having a random phase. The method further comprises independently modulating the J equal carrier signals with the J statistically independent chip sequences, respectively, to generate J modulated signals and then transmitting the J modulated signals, forming a composite signal beam. Each modulated signal comprises a plurality of chips, each chip having a random phase.

Additional objects and advantages of the invention will be set forth in part in the description which follows, and in part will be obvious from the description, or may be learned by practice of the invention. The objects and advantages of the invention will be realized and attained by means of the elements and combinations particularly pointed out in the appended claims.

It is to be understood that both the foregoing general description and the following detailed description are exemplary and explanatory only and are not restrictive of the invention, as claimed.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

The accompanying drawings, which are incorporated in and constitute a part of this specification, illustrate several embodiments of the invention and together with the description, serve to explain the principles of the invention.

FIG. 1 illustrates a transmitter according to the present invention.

FIG. 1A illustrates an alternate embodiment of a transmitter according to the present invention.

FIG. 2 illustrates a remote object space.

FIGS. 3A-E illustrates various waveforms output by modules in a transmitter or receiver according to the present invention.

FIGS. 4-8A illustrates various embodiments of a receiver of the present invention.

DESCRIPTION OF THE EMBODIMENTS

Reference will now be made in detail to the present embodiments of the invention, examples of which are illustrated in the accompanying drawings. Wherever possible, the same reference numbers will be used throughout the drawings to refer to the same or like parts.

This invention features an improved technique for search and track surveillance that overcomes the limitations described above for current techniques. In this invention, distinct signal beams are simultaneously transmitted from an array of transmitter source elements in a manner to cover all sectors about a source location. In addition, countermeasures against a system according to the invention is difficult because the signal waveforms for each beam is distinct and random (in both space and time), making prediction of any signal waveform for any beam very unlikely. An array of receiver sensor elements is provided to receive signals that are scattered from remote objects and may be co-located with and share the elements of the array of transmitter source elements. The scattered signals are received and processed to yield the direction and range of the remote objects.

FIG. 2 illustrates an array of transmitter source elements 2 that radiates signals to form composite signals 10 and 11. These signals are reflected by remote objects 12, 13 resulting in scattered signals 15 and 16, which are intercepted by an array of receiver sensor elements 14. The radiated signals

from each transmitter source element **2** are each uniquely modulated, as explained in further detail below. The composite signal beam **10** received at remote object **12** is entirely different from the composite signal beam **11** received at remote object **13**, provided they are separated by at least one beam-width of the array of transmitter source elements **2**.

FIG. 1 illustrates an exemplary transmitter **100** in accordance with the present invention. The transmitter **100** includes a coherent signal source **7**, a signal divider **8**, a transmitter modulator **6**, and transmitter source elements **2**. The coherent signal source **7** provides a reference stable carrier signal. The coherent signal source **7** outputs the carrier signal to the signal divider **8**. The signal divider **8** divides the carrier signal into multiple signals of equal value, one signal for each transmitter source element **2**. The signal divider **8** outputs the multiple signals to the transmitter modulator **6**.

A transmitter configuration memory **1** stores information such as the configuration of the transmitter source elements **2**, transmission line lengths, and other information that influences amplitude, phase, and polarization of the signals emitted from each transmitter source element **2**. The information stored in the transmitter configuration memory **1** may be input to a modulator signal modifier **3**, which also receives signals from a modulator signal generator **5**. The modulator signal generator **5** defines the signal waveforms applied to the transmitter modulator **6** for each transmitter source element **2**. FIG. 3A illustrates signals **302**, **304**, **306**, **308** generated by the modulator signal generator **5**, one for each transmitter source element **2**. The modulator signal generator **5** generates J signals where the i -th signal has phases $\phi_{i1}, \phi_{i2}, \dots, \phi_{iN}$ of duration T_c where $i=1, 2, \dots, J$ and J equals the number of transmitter source elements **2**. The individual phases of each signal **302**, **304**, **306**, **308** are referred to as "chips."

The modulator signal modifier **3** may modify the phase of the signal from the modulator signal generator **5** based on the data from the transmitter configuration memory **1**. In general, these values of phase are fixed and non-varying. The values may, for example, be selected by the transmitter configuration memory **1** such that they establish an equivalent planar array with the beam steered in a particular direction. FIG. 3B illustrates signals **302'**, **304'**, **306'**, **308'** generated by the modulator signal modifier **3**. The output from the modulator signal modifier **3** is input to the transmitter modulator **6**. In an alternate embodiment as illustrated by transmitter **101** shown in FIG. 1A, the signals from the modulator signal generator **5** may be input directly to the transmitter modulator **6** without modification by the modulator signal modifier **3**.

The following discussion assumes that the signals generated by modulator signal generator **5** are input directly to the transmitter modulator **6**. The transmitter modulator **6** independently modulates each signal output from the signal divider **8** based on the signals output from the modulator signal generator **5** to produce phase modulations. That is, the transmitter modulator **6** phase modulates, or chips, each signal output from the signal divider **8** with one of the signals generated by the modulator signal generator **5**. The phase modulated signals are subsequently emitted by the transmitter source elements **2** (i.e., there is one transmitter source element **2** for each modulated signal). For each pulse emitted from the transmitter system **101**, the modulator signal generator **5** creates statistically independent chip sequences for each transmitter source element **2**. Each transmitter source element **2** is separated from an adjacent transmitter source element **2** by approximately $\frac{1}{2}$ wave-

length. The aperture of the array of transmitter source elements **2** determines the beam width of the signal beams **10** and **11**, shown in FIG. 2.

FIG. 3C illustrates typical phase modulated signals **310**, **320**, **330**, **340** output by the transmitter modulator **6** and emitted by the transmitter source elements **2**. As mentioned above, the transmitter modulator **6** phase modulates, or chips, each signal output from the signal divider **8** with one of the signals generated by the modulator signal generator **5** (FIG. 1A), which may be modified by the modulation signal modifier **3** (FIG. 1). Each chip of the phase modulated signals **310**, **320**, **330**, **340**, equal phase shifted versions of respective signals output from the signal divider **8**. For example, using transmitter **101** of FIG. 1A, assume transmitter modulator **6** modulates (or chips) a first signal output from signal divider **8** with signal **302** of FIG. 3A. The resulting signal is signal **310** of FIG. 3C. A first chip of signal **310** equals the first signal output from the signal divider **8** phase shifted by ϕ_{11} , the second chip of signal **310** equals the first signal phase shifted by ϕ_{12} , and so on. Similarly, signal **320** of FIG. 3C results from transmitter modulator **6** modulating (or chipping) a second signal output from signal divider **8** with signal **304** of FIG. 3A. A first chip of signal **320** equals the second signal output from the signal divider **8** phase shifted by ϕ_{21} , the second chip of signal **320** equals the second signal phase shifted by ϕ_{22} , and so on. Signals **330** through **340** are generated in a similar manner. For transmitter **100**, each chip of the phase modulated signals **310**, **320**, **330**, **340** will be phase modulated using the signals **302'**, **304'**, **306'**, **308'**, illustrated in FIG. 3B. For an electromagnetic system, the modulation of each signal preferably is a pulse of one microsecond in duration containing 50 phase modulated chips, each of a 20 nanosecond duration. In this example, the carrier frequency is 1×10^9 Hz. For an underwater acoustic system, the modulation of each signal preferably is a pulse of 200 milliseconds in duration containing 50 phase modulated chips, each of four milliseconds duration. In this example, the carrier frequency is 5,000 Hz.

Because of the random nature of the signal waveform chip contributions from each transmitter source element **2**, the resultant chip signals at remote object **12** and **13** will conform to a Rayleigh density function. Therefore, each chip at a remote object will tend to be equal in magnitude but different in phase.

In addition to phase modulations, the transmitters **100** and **101** may also impose amplitude and/or polarization modulations on the signals.

FIG. 4 illustrates an exemplary receiver **200** in accordance with the present invention. The receiver **200** comprises an array of receiver sensor elements **14**, a beam steering and signal processing subsystem **20**, a receiver configuration memory **17**, a receiver calculator **4**, and post-processing and display equipment **32**.

As stated above, the receiver sensor elements **14** intercept the scattered signals **15** and **16**. The scattered signals **15**, **16** are input to the beam steering and signal processing subsystem **20**. Since the receiver **200** is capable of simultaneously receiving many signal beams, each receiver sensor element **14** may have an interface connection **19** to interface with multiple beam steering and signal processing subsystems **20**.

Each subsystem **20** comprises an receiver signal modulator **18**, a signal combiner **24**, a signal correlator **26**, and a transmitter signal waveform memory **28**. The subsystems **20** are normally controlled by the receiver calculator **4** in a manner such that the subsystems **20** operate independently of each other.

The receiver signal modulator **18** performs phase adjustments on the signals received by each receiver sensor element **14** to electrically steer the signals to form a received signal beam in some desired direction. The receiver signal modulator **18** performs beam steering based on beam steering data calculated by the receiver calculator **4**. The receiver calculator **4** calculates beam steering data based on data received from the receiver configuration memory **17**. The receiver configuration memory **17** stores information such as the configuration of the receiver sensor elements **14**, transmission line lengths, and other factors that influence amplitude, phase, and polarization of the signals intercepted by each receiver sensor element **14**.

The receiver signal modulator **18** outputs the adjusted received signals to the signal combiner **24**. The signal combiner **24** combines the adjusted received signals into a resultant signal waveform and outputs it to the signal correlator **26**. The signal correlator **26** performs a cross-correlation between the resultant signal waveform and a transmitter signal waveform stored in the transmitter signal waveform memory **28**, described in the following paragraph.

In addition to calculating the data that electrically steers the receiver sensor elements **14**, the receiver calculator **4** calculates the transmitter signal waveform stored in the transmitter signal waveform memory **28**. The receiver calculator **4** calculates the expected transmitter signal based upon data received from the modulator signal generator **5** and the modulator signal modifier **3** (shown in FIGS. 1 and 1A) via the interface connector **36** and the transmitter configuration memory **1** (shown in FIGS. 1 and 1A) via the interface connector **37**. This data allows the receiver calculator **4** to predict the resultant signal in any direction. The receiver calculator **4**, therefore, calculates the transmitter signal waveform contained in any transmitter beam that is radiated in any direction in the object space **300** of FIG. 2. When processing a received scattered signal **15** or **16** from a particular beam direction, the receiver calculator calculates the transmitter signal waveform that was transmitted in that direction and outputs that data to the transmitter signal waveform memory **28** for temporary storage.

The output of the signal correlator **26** gives the essential remote object detection signal, which is input to the post-processing and display equipment **32**.

In general, the receiver **200** can perform the signal comparison in a number of other manners, such as comparing the various signals from the receiver sensor elements **14** (individually or in any combination) with expected values calculated (individually or in any combination) by the receiver calculator **4**. In general, the receiver **200** may utilize any technique for signal comparison that yields satisfactory detection performance.

In a second embodiment as illustrated in FIG. 5, receiver **400** further includes a signal waveform memory unit **21** and a receiver control unit **22**. The signal waveform memory unit **21** receives inputs from the receiver sensor elements **14** and the receiver control unit **22**. The signal waveform memory unit **21** stores a time interval snapshot of the signals received by the receiver sensor elements **14** and subsequently, upon receiving a command from the receiver control unit **22**, outputs the received signals to the receiver signal modulator **18**. The snapshot may be output multiple times in order to permit the processing of signals for various received signal beam directions using only a single beam steering and processing subsystem **20**.

In a third embodiment as illustrated in FIG. 6, a receiver **500** comprises receiver sensor elements **14**, an all-function

signal waveform processor **23**, and a post-processor and display equipment **32**. The processor **23** receives inputs from the receiver sensor elements **14** and performs all the function described above and below for the receiver. Receiver **500** can perform the comparison of the transmitter signal with the received signals using the cross correlation techniques described for receivers **200** and **400**. In addition, receiver **500** can perform the comparison in a number of manners such as comparing the various signals from receiver sensor elements **14** (individually or in any combination) with expected values calculated by the all-function signal waveform processor **23**. In general, receiver **500** may utilize any technique for signal comparison that yields satisfactory detection performance.

FIG. 7 illustrates a fourth embodiment of the present invention. FIG. 7 illustrates a receiver **600** in which receiver beam steering is inherent in the correlation processing. The receiver sensor elements **14** output their signals directly to the signal combiner **24**. In this embodiment, the receiver signal modulator **18** is omitted. The relative phase of the signals received by each receiver sensor element **14** is random for a given incoming wavefront. That is, care is not taken to achieve any particular phase relationship.

In a fifth embodiment as illustrated in FIG. 7A, the receiver signal modulator **18** randomizes the phases of the signals received by the receiver sensor elements **14**. That is, the receiver signal modulator **18** modulates (or chips) the chips of the signals received by each receiver sensor element **14** based on random phase settings from the receiver calculator **4**. The relative phase of each element is, therefore, random for each incoming signal. That is, care is not taken to achieve any particular phase relationship. The receiver **650** further includes a receiver signal waveform memory **28A** and a signal correlator **26A**. Receiver beam steering is inherent in the correlation processing.

More specifically, in the receiver **650**, the receiver calculator **4** generates a plurality of phase modulation signals, as shown in FIG. 3D. The receiver signal modulator **18** individually modulates the signals received by each receiver sensor element **14** based on the plurality of phase modulation signals output from the receiver calculator **4**. That is, the receiver signal modulator **18** phase modulates, or chips, each signal output from the receiver sensor element **14** with one of the signals **302**", **304**", **306**", **308**" generated by the receiver calculator **4**.

FIG. 3E illustrates typical signals **340**, **350**, **360**, **370** generated by the receiver signal modulator **18** based on the plurality of phase modulation signals **302**", **304**", **306**", **308**" from the receiver calculator **4**. The chipping rate of the receiver signal modulator **18** is greater than that of the transmitter modulator **6**. In one embodiment, the chipping rate of the receiver signal modulator **18** is 50 times greater than the chipping rate of the transmitter modulator **6**. To use the receiver **650**, the duration of the transmitted chips may be increased, for example, by a factor of 50 to one micro-second for an electromagnetic system with a carrier frequency of 1×10^9 Hz. For an acoustic system, a corresponding increase in the transmitted chip duration may be required. This increase permits a sufficient number of carrier frequency cycles to reside within each chip created by the receiver. For example, the number of cycles within each chip can be 20. The number of cycles selected for a particular system will depend on the minimum number required for satisfactory correlation processing.

The receiver signal modulator **18** phase modulates each of the signals from the receiver sensor element **14** with one of

the signals 302", 304", 306", 308". For example, assume receiver signal modulator 18 modulates (or chips) a first signal output from the receiver sensor elements 14 with signal 302" of FIG. 3D. The resulting signal is signal 340 of FIG. 3E. A first chip of signal 340 equals the first signal output from the receiver sensor elements 14 phase shifted by ϕ_{11} , the second chip of signal 340 equals the first signal output from the receiver sensor elements 14 phase shifted by ϕ_{12} , and so on. Similarly, signal 350 of FIG. 3E results from receiver signal modulator 18 modulating (or chipping) a second signal output from the receiver sensor elements 14 with signal 304" of FIG. 3D. A first chip of signal 350 equals the second signal output from the receiver sensor elements 14 phase shifted by ϕ_{21} , the second chip of signal 350 equals the second signal output from the receiver sensor elements 14 phase shifted by ϕ_{22} , and so on. Signals 360 through 370 are generated in a similar manner. The phase modulated signals 340, 350, 360, 370 are input to the signal combiner 24. Signal combiner 24 combines the signals into a combined signal 380, for example, by adding them together. FIG. 3E illustrates a resultant signal 380 formed by adding the phase modulated chips 340, 350, 360, 370.

In addition to generating a plurality of phase modulation signals, the receiver calculator 4, based on information received from the receiver configuration memory 17 and using the phase values within the plurality of phase modulation signals, calculates an expected received signal. The expected received signal is stored in the receiver signal waveform memory 28A. The expected received signal is a signal that the combined signal from the signal combiner 24 is expected to be if an unmodulated carrier was transmitted and scattered by a remote object from a particular direction relative to receiver sensor elements 14. For example, referring to FIG. 2, receiver calculator 4 may generate an expected signal for a carrier signal transmitted and scattered by remote object 13.

The combined signal from the signal combiner 24 and the expected signal from the receiver signal waveform memory 28A are output to the signal correlator 26A, which correlates the two signals. The correlated signal is input to a second signal correlator 26, where it is correlated with an expected transmitter signal stored in the transmitter signal waveform memory 28. The receiver calculator 4 calculates the expected transmitter signal based on data received from the modulator signal generator 5 and the modulator signal modifier 3 (shown in FIGS. 1 and 1A) via the interface connector 36 and the transmitter configuration memory 1 (shown in FIGS. 1 and 1A) via the interface connector 37. The expected transmitter signal is a signal that is expected to arrive from a desired direction. This desired direction of the expected transmitter signal may be the direction of signal arrival that the expected receiver signal output from the receiver calculator 4 to receiver signal waveform memory 28A is based upon.

The teachings disclosed in U.S. patent application Ser. No. 09/697,187 filed on Oct. 27, 2000 by Carl Elam, which is incorporated by reference, may be used in the present invention.

In a sixth embodiment as illustrated in FIG. 8, the receiver sensor elements 14 output their signals directly to the signal combiner 24 which combines the signals and outputs the resultant signal waveform to the signal waveform memory 34. The signal waveform memory 34 stores a time interval snapshot of the resultant signal waveforms and subsequently, upon command from the receiver control unit 22, outputs the received signal waveforms to the signal correlator 26 for processing. The receiver signal modulator

18 is omitted and the receiver beam steering is inherent in the correlation processing, as in receiver 600.

FIG. 8A illustrates a seventh embodiment of the present invention. In receiver 750, the signal waveform memory unit 21 receives inputs from the receiver sensor elements 14 and receiver control unit 22. The signal waveform memory 21 stores a time interval snapshot of the received signal waveforms and subsequently, upon command from the receiver control unit 22, outputs the received signal waveforms to the receiver signal modulator 18, signal combiner 24, and signal correlators 26A and 26 for processing. The receiver beam steering is inherent in the correlation processing, as in receiver 650 illustrated in FIG. 7A. The receiver signal modulator 18 randomizes the phases of the signals received by receiver sensor elements 14, similar to receiver 650 in FIG. 7A. That is, the receiver signal modulator 18 modulates (or chips) the chips of the signals received by each receiver sensor element 14 based on random phase settings from the receiver calculator 4. Each time a snapshot is output from signal waveform memory unit 21 and processed, the random phase settings of the receiver signal modulator 18 may be changed by the receiver calculator 4. This, of course, requires a revision of the data contained in the receiver signal waveform memory 28A prior to performing the first cross correlation.

The physical size of a transmitter array or a receiver array may be small compared with the length of a transmitted chip propagating in the medium being utilized.

The receiver correlator 26 has a processing gain of: $\sqrt{N}/1$ where "N" is the number of chips in a single transmitted signal pulse waveform. The transmitter 100 or 101 sends out chipped signal pulses that may typically contain 50 chips. The value for processing gain is established as follows:

A transmitted and received signal pulse containing N chips will have a correlation energy expression of:

$$R_{TR}(\tau, \theta) = \int_{-\infty}^{+\infty} \{\bar{v}_T(t)\} \cdot \{\bar{v}_R(t+\tau)e^{+j\theta}\} dt$$

where $\bar{v}_R(t+\tau)$ is the received pulse comprised of N chips and $\bar{v}_T(t)$ is the corresponding transmitted pulse also comprised of N chips. Each chip of both $\bar{v}_R(t+\tau)$ and $\bar{v}_T(t)$ has a mean square value of α_R^2 and α_T^2 respectively, or an r.m.s. value of α_R and α_T , respectively. Each chip of both $\bar{v}_R(t+\tau)$ and $\bar{v}_T(t)$ is a random vector which conforms to a Rayleigh density function each with random phase and expected magnitude values of

$$\frac{\sqrt{\pi\alpha_R^2}}{2}$$

and

$$\frac{\sqrt{\pi\alpha_T^2}}{2}$$

respectively. The random vectors are composed of the resultant random phase signals from the transmitted source elements 2. The phase shift term $e^{+j\theta}$, within the correlation integral, is applied equally to all chips of a received pulse where the parameter θ is chosen to maximize the correlation output for each received pulse that is processed.

The magnitude of the correlation energy of N chips, which are well correlated, will be

$$N(\alpha_R)(\alpha_T)\left(\frac{T}{N}\right),$$

where

$$\left(\frac{T}{N}\right)$$

is the time interval of a single chip.

If on the other hand, the received signal pulse chips are random with respect to the transmitted signal pulse chips, the magnitude of the correlation energy of the N chips will be

$$\sqrt{N}(\alpha_R)(\alpha_T)\left(\frac{T}{N}\right).$$

In this case, the N received vectors, represented by the received chips, will have random phases with respect to their corresponding N transmitted vectors represented by the transmitted chips. The sum of N random vectors (with r.m.s. value of α_R) is two dimensional Gaussian (with r.m.s. value of $\sqrt{N}\alpha_R$). This two dimensional Gaussian density function may also be described as a Rayleigh density function.

The value for processing gain is found by forming a ratio of the correlator output for a well correlated signal

$$N(\alpha_R)(\alpha_T)\left(\frac{T}{N}\right)$$

and an uncorrelated signal

$$\sqrt{N}(\alpha_R)(\alpha_T)\left(\frac{T}{N}\right).$$

The previous expression for correlator output was for a stationary object. If the object has a radial velocity with respect to the apparatus, then the expression will become:

$$R_{TR}(\tau, \theta) = \int_{-\infty}^{+\infty} \{\vec{v}_T(t)\} \cdot \{\vec{v}_R(t+\tau)e^{+j\omega(t+\tau)}\} dt$$

Where the term $e^{+j\omega(t+\tau)}$ is a simplified phase shift term that accounts for the alteration in the phase of the received signal chips due to a doppler frequency shift ω . It will be noted that the doppler frequency shift will cause an ever increasing (or decreasing) phase shift in each successive chip of a received signal pulse.

If the receiver correlation processing neglects the doppler frequency shift, the resultant effect will be partial or total decorrelation of otherwise correlated signals.

For an electromagnetic signal with a carrier frequency of 1×10^9 Hz and a pulse length of one microsecond, the radial velocity that will cause complete decorrelation is 1 million feet/second. A velocity of about 1/10th that value (100,000 feet/second) should only slightly degrade the correlation output. The value of this velocity that will cause decorrelation will depend upon the transmitter signal parameters of carrier frequency and the pulse duration.

Those skilled in the art may utilize well known technology to compensate for doppler effects in the correlation processing. One such technique is to introduce a compensating phase term in the correlation processing as illustrated in the following expression:

$$R_{TR}(\tau, \theta) = \int_{-\infty}^{+\infty} \{\vec{v}_T(t)\} \cdot \{\vec{v}_R(t+\tau)e^{+j\omega(t+\tau)}e^{-j\omega(t+\tau)}\} dt$$

The term $e^{-j\omega(t+\tau)}$ is a processor compensating term that will remove the effects of the received doppler phase shift term $e^{+j\omega(t+\tau)}$.

For an underwater acoustic signal with a carrier frequency of 5,000 Hz and a pulse length of 200 milliseconds, the radial velocity that will cause complete decorrelation is five feet/second. This velocity will depend upon the transmitter signal parameters of carrier frequency and the pulse duration. Those skilled in the art may utilize well known technology to compensate for these doppler effects in the correlation processing. One such technique, as described above, is to introduce a compensating phase term in the correlation processing.

It is generally easier for signal processors to generate pseudo-random numbers rather than purely random numbers, and thus the term "random" includes "pseudo-random." This pseudo-randomness applies for phase modulation signals ϕ that are either continuously variable or limited to a finite number of variables. Other embodiments of the invention will be apparent to those skilled in the art from consideration of the specification and practice of the invention disclosed herein. It is intended that the specification and examples be considered as exemplary only, with a true scope and spirit of the invention being indicated by the following claims.

What is claimed is:

1. An apparatus for sensing a remote object, the apparatus comprising:

a receiver comprising J receive elements, wherein each of the J receive elements receives a carrier signal from the remote object, and provides a corresponding one of J element signals;

a receiver signal generator configured to generate J statistically independent chip sequences, wherein each chip sequence comprises a plurality of chips each having a random phase; and

a modulator configured to modulate the J element signals with a corresponding one of the J statistically independent chip sequences to generate J modulated signals, wherein each modulated signal comprises a plurality of chips each having a random phase.

2. The apparatus of claim 1, further comprising a processor to perform a signal comparison for a direction of interest.

3. The apparatus of claim 2, wherein the processor comprises:

a signal combiner configured to combine the modulated signals to form a resultant signal; and

a correlator configured to compare the resultant signal and a predicted received signal.

4. The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the modulator comprises:

a storage element configured to store snapshots of the element signals and output the stored snapshots multiple times; and

a processing element configured to randomize phases of the J stored snapshots and to perform signal comparison for the direction of interest.

5. The apparatus of claim 4, wherein the processing element comprises:

a signal combiner configured to combine the stored snapshots to form a resultant signal; and

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a correlator configured to compare the resultant signal and a predicted received signal.

6. A method for sensing a remote object comprising:
 receiving a carrier signal from the remote object in each of J receive elements, and wherein each of the J receive elements provides a corresponding one of J element signals;
 generating J statistically independent chip sequences, wherein each chip sequence comprises a plurality of chips each having a random phase; and
 modulating each of the J element signals with a corresponding one of the J statistically independent chip sequences, to generate J adjusted signals, wherein each adjusted signal comprises a plurality of chips each having a random phase.

7. The method of claim 6, further comprising performing signal comparison on the adjusted signals for a direction of interest.

8. The method of claim 7, wherein performing signal comparison comprises:
 combining the adjusted signals to form a resultant signal; and
 performing signal comparison between the resultant signal and a predicted signal.

9. The method of claim 6, further comprising:
 storing snapshots of the element signals;
 outputting the stored snapshots multiple times; and
 performing signal comparison on the stored snapshots for a direction of interest.

10. The method of claim 9, wherein performing signal comparison comprises:
 combining the stored snapshots to form a resultant signal; and
 performing signal comparison between the resultant signal and a predicted signal.

11. An apparatus for detecting a remote object, the apparatus comprising:
 a plurality of receive elements to receive a carrier signal to form a plurality of element signals, the carrier signal arriving from a remote object;
 a receiver signal modulator to randomly chip the plurality of element signals to form adjusted signals;
 a processing element configured for a direction of interest to perform signal comparison as a function of the adjusted signal.

12. The apparatus of claim 11, wherein the processing element comprises:
 a signal combiner configured to combine the adjusted signals to form a resultant signal; and
 a correlator configured to compare the resultant signal and a predicted received signal.

13. An apparatus for detecting a remote object, the apparatus comprising:
 a plurality of receive elements to receive a carrier signal from the remote object to form a plurality of element signals;
 a storage element configured to store a snapshot of each of the plurality of element signals and output the snapshots; and
 a processing element configured to randomly phase chip the stored snapshots and to perform signal comparison for a direction of interest.

14. The apparatus of claim 13, wherein the processing element comprises:

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a receiver modulator configured to randomly phase chip the stored snapshots to form adjusted signals;
 a signal combiner configured to combine the adjusted signals to form a resultant signal;
 a correlator configured to compare the resultant signal and a predicted received signal.

15. A method for sensing a remote object comprising:
 receiving a carrier signal from the remote object in a plurality of receive elements to form a plurality of element signals;
 randomizing phases of the element signals to form adjusted signals, wherein randomizing comprises random phase chipping the element signals to form adjusted signals; and wherein performing signal comparison comprises combining the adjusted signals to form a resultant signal and performing signal comparison between the resultant signal and a predicted received signal to form a correlated signal; and
 performing signal comparison for a direction of interest as a function of the adjusted signals.

16. A method for detecting a remote object comprising:
 receiving a carrier signal from a remote object in a plurality of receive elements to form a plurality of receive element signals;
 generating a plurality of random phase modulation signals; and
 phase-modulating each the plurality of receive element signals with a corresponding one of the plurality of random phase modulation signals to form a plurality of phase-modulated signals.

17. The method of claim 16, wherein the random phase modulation signals are uncorrelated random phase signals.

18. The method of claim 16, further comprising combining the plurality of phase-modulated signals into a combined signal.

19. The method of claim 18, wherein combining comprises summing the plurality of phase-modulated signals into the combined signal.

20. The method of claim 18, further comprising detecting the carrier signal from the combined signal.

21. The method of claim 20, further comprising extracting location information from the detected carrier signal.

22. The method of claim 18, further comprising
 generating an expected signal; and
 correlating the combined signal with the expected signal to form a correlation signal.

23. The method of claim 22, wherein generating an expected signal comprises generating the expected signal as a function of the plurality of phase modulation signals.

24. The method of claim 22, wherein generating the expected signal comprises generating the expected signal from a particular direction.

25. The method of claim 24, wherein generating the expected signal comprises generating a plurality of expected signals from a plurality of directions; and wherein correlating the combined signal comprises correlating the combined signal with each of the plurality of expected signals from a plurality of directions to form a plurality of correlation signals.

26. The method of claim 25, further comprising determining a location of the remote object using the plurality of correlation signals.

27. The method of claim 22, wherein correlating the combined signal with the expected signal comprises cross-correlating the combined signal with the expected signal to form a cross-correlation signal.

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28. The method of claim 22, further comprises storing the correlation signal in a correlation signal memory; and analyzing the correlation signal to determine a location of the remote object.

29. A receiver for detecting a remote object comprising:
a plurality of receive elements, each receiving a carrier signal from a remote object to form a plurality of receive element signals;

a modulation signal generator to generate a plurality of random phase modulation signals; and

a signal modulator to phase-modulate each of the plurality of receive element signals with a corresponding one of the phase modulation signals to form a plurality of phase-modulated signals.

30. The receiver of claim 29, wherein the phase modulation signals are uncorrelated random phase signals.

31. The receiver of claim 29, further comprising a signal combiner to combine the plurality of phase-modulated signals into a combined signal.

32. The receiver of claim 31, wherein the signal combiner sums the plurality of phase-modulated signals into the combined signal.

33. The receiver of claim 31, comprising a detector to detect the carrier signal from the combined signal.

34. The receiver of claim 33, comprising a signal processor for extracting location information from the detected carrier signal.

35. The receiver of claim 31, further comprising
a receiver calculator to generate an expected signal; and
a signal correlator to correlate the combined signal with the expected signal to form a correlation signal.

36. The receiver of claim 35, wherein the receiver calculator generates the expected signal as a function of the plurality of phase modulation signals.

37. The receiver of claim 35, wherein the receiver calculator generates the expected signal from a particular direction.

38. The receiver of claim 33, wherein the receiver calculator generates a plurality of expected signals from a plurality of directions; and wherein the signal correlator separately correlates the combined signal with each of the plurality of expected signals from a plurality of directions to form a plurality of correlation signals.

39. The receiver of claim 35, wherein the correlator comprises a cross-correlator to correlate the combined signal with the expected signal to form a cross-correlation signal.

40. The receiver of claim 35, further comprising:
a correlation signal memory to store the correlation signal; and

a signal processor to analyze the correlation signal.

41. A method detecting a remote object comprising:
simultaneously receiving a plurality of carrier signals in a receiver having a plurality of receive elements, wherein each carrier signal arrives from a corresponding one of a plurality of remote objects;

forming a plurality of receive element signals in the plurality of receive elements;

forming a combined signal derived from the plurality of receive element signals; and

detecting each of the plurality of carrier signals from the combined signal by a different spatial location of each remote object.

42. The method of claim 41, further comprising
generating a plurality of phase modulation signals; and
phase-modulating each of the plurality of receive element signals with a different one of the phase modulation signals to form a plurality of phase-modulated signals.

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43. The method of claim 42, wherein the phase modulation signals are uncorrelated random phase modulation signals.

44. The method of claim 41, wherein forming the combined signal comprises combining the plurality of phase-modulated signals into a combined signal.

45. The method of claim 44, wherein combining comprises summing the plurality of phase-modulated signals into the combined signal.

46. The method of claim 41, further comprising extracting location information from the detected carrier signals.

47. The method of claim 41, wherein detecting comprises generating an expected signal; and correlating the combined signal with the expected signal to form a correlation signal.

48. The method of claim 47, wherein generating an expected signal comprises generating the expected signal as a function of the plurality of phase modulation signals.

49. The method of claim 47, wherein generating the expected signal comprises generating the expected signal from a particular direction.

50. The method of claim 49, wherein generating the expected signal comprises generating a plurality of expected signals from a plurality of directions; and wherein correlating the combined signal comprises correlating the combined signal with each of the plurality of expected signals from a plurality of directions to form a plurality of correlation signals.

51. The method of claim 47, wherein correlating the combined signal with the expected signal comprises cross-correlating the combined signal with the expected signal to form a cross-correlation signal.

52. The method of claim 47, further comprising:

storing the correlation signal in a correlation signal memory; and

analyzing the correlation signal.

53. A receiver for detecting a remote object, the receiver comprising:

a plurality of receive elements to simultaneously receive a plurality of carrier signals to form a plurality of receive element signals, wherein each carrier signal arrives from a corresponding one of a plurality of remote objects, wherein each remote object has a different spatial location;

a signal combiner to form a combined signal derived from the plurality of receive element signals; and

a detector to detect each of the plurality of carrier signals from the combined signal by its different spatial location.

54. The receiver of claim 53, further comprising:

a modulation signal generator to generate a plurality of random phase modulation signals; and

a signal modulator to phase-modulate each of the plurality of receive element signals with a different one of the phase modulation signals to form a plurality of phase-modulated signals.

55. The receiver of 54, wherein the plurality of random phase modulation signals are uncorrelated random phase signals.

56. The receiver of claim 54, wherein the signal combiner combines the plurality of phase-modulated signals into a combined signal.

57. The receiver of claim 56, wherein the signal combiner sums the plurality of phase-modulated signals into the combined signal.

58. The receiver of claim 53, comprising a signal processor for extracting location information from the detected carrier signal.

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59. The receiver of claim 53, further comprising:

a receiver calculator to generate an expected signal; and
a signal correlator to correlate the combined signal with
the expected signal to form a correlation signal.

60. The receiver of claim 59, wherein the receiver calcu-
lator generates the expected signal as a function of the
plurality of phase modulation signals.

61. The receiver of claim 59, wherein the receiver calcu-
lator generates the expected signal from a particular direc-
tion.

62. The receiver of claim 61, wherein the receiver calcu-
lator generates a plurality of expected signals from a plu-
rality of directions; and wherein the signal correlator cor-
relates the combined signal with each of the plurality of
expected signals from a plurality of directions to form a
plurality of correlation signals.

63. The receiver of claim 59, wherein the signal correlator
cross-correlates the combined signal with the expected sig-
nal to form a cross-correlation signal.

64. The receiver of claim 59, further comprising:

a memory to store the correlation signal in a correlation
signal memory; and

a signal processor to analyze the correlation signal.

65. A method for a detecting remote object comprising:

receiving a carrier signal from a remote object in a
plurality of receive elements to form a plurality of
receive element signals, wherein the carrier signal has
a modulation rate;

generating a plurality of phase modulation signals,
wherein the phase modulation signals have a chipping
rate and the chipping rate exceeds the modulation rate;
and

phase-modulating each of the plurality of receive element
signals with a different one of the phase modulation
signals from a plurality of phase-modulated signals.

66. The method of claim 65, wherein the phase modula-
tion signals are random phase modulation signals.

67. The method of claim 66, wherein the random phase
modulation signals are uncorrelated random phase signals.

68. The method of claim 65, further comprising combin-
ing the plurality of phase-modulated signals into a combined
signal.

69. The method of claim 68, wherein combining com-
prises summing the plurality of phase-modulated signals
into the combined signal.

70. The method of claim 68, further comprising detecting
the carrier signal from the combined signal.

71. The method of claim 70, further comprising extracting
location information from the detected carrier signal.

72. The method of claim 68, further comprising

generating an expected signal; and

correlating the combined signal with the expected signal
to form a correlation signal.

73. The method of claim 72, wherein generating an
expected signal comprises generating the expected signal as
a function of the plurality of phase modulation signals.

74. The method of claim 72, wherein generating the
expected signal comprises generating the expected signal
from a particular direction.

75. The method of claim 74, wherein generating the
expected signal comprises generating a plurality of expected
signals from a plurality of directions; and wherein correlat-
ing the combined signal comprises correlating the combined

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signal with each of the plurality of expected signals from a
plurality of directions to form a plurality of correlation
signals.

76. The method of claim 72, wherein correlating the
combined signal with the expected signal comprises cross-
correlating the combined signal with the expected signal to
form a cross-correlation signal.

77. The method of claim 72, further comprising:

storing the correlation signal in a correlation signal
memory; and

analyzing the correlation signal.

78. A method for detecting a remote object comprising:

receiving a signal from a remote object in a plurality of
receive elements to form a plurality of receive element
signals;

generating a plurality of phase modulation signals inde-
pendent of the direction of the remote object; and

phase-modulating each the plurality of receive element
signals with a different one of the plurality of random
phase modulation signals to form a plurality of phase-
modulated signals.

79. The method of claim 78, wherein the phase modula-
tion signals are random phase modulation signals.

80. The method of claim 79, wherein the random phase
modulation signals are uncorrelated random phase signals.

81. The method of claim 78, further comprising combin-
ing the plurality of phase-modulated signals into a combined
signal.

82. The method of claim 81, wherein combining com-
prises summing the plurality of phase-modulated signals
into the combined signal.

83. The method of claim 81, further comprising detecting
the carrier signal from the combined signal.

84. The method of claim 83, further comprising extracting
location information from the detected carrier signal.

85. The method of claim 81, further comprising:

generating an expected signal; and

correlating the combined signal with the expected signal
to form a correlation signal.

86. The method of claim 85, wherein generating an
expected signal comprises generating the expected signal as
a function of the plurality of phase modulation signals.

87. The method of claim 85, wherein generating the
expected signal comprises generating the expected signal
from a particular direction.

88. The method of claim 87, wherein generating the
expected signal comprises generating a plurality of expected
signals from a plurality of directions; and wherein correlat-
ing the combined signal comprises correlating the combined
signal with each of the plurality of expected signals from a
plurality of directions to form a plurality of correlation
signals.

89. The method of claim 85, wherein correlating the
combined signal with the expected signal comprises cross-
correlating the combined signal with the expected signal to
form a cross-correlation signal.

90. The method of claim 85, further comprising:

storing the correlation signal in a correlation signal
memory; and

analyzing the correlation signal.

* * * * *

UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE
CERTIFICATE OF CORRECTION

PATENT NO. : 6,833,809 B2
DATED : December 21, 2004
INVENTOR(S) : Carl M. Elam

Page 1 of 1

It is certified that error appears in the above-identified patent and that said Letters Patent is hereby corrected as shown below:

Title page,

Item [57], **ABSTRACT**,

Line 3, "simultaneous" should read -- simultaneously --.

Column 14,

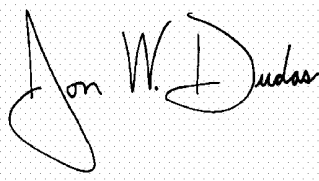
Line 56, "of 54," should read -- of claim 54, --.

Column 15,

Line 25, "a detecting remote object" should read -- detecting a remote object --.

Signed and Sealed this

Twelfth Day of July, 2005

A handwritten signature in black ink on a light gray dotted background. The signature reads "Jon W. Dudas" in a cursive, stylized script. The "J" is large and loops around the "on". The "W" and "D" are also stylized.

JON W. DUDAS

Director of the United States Patent and Trademark Office