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Saleh et al.

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(54) **METHOD FOR ROUTING INFORMATION
OVER A NETWORK**

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G06F 15/173

(52) **U.S. Cl.** **370/397**; 370/217; 370/395.2;
709/238

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245, 251, 399, 380; 709/220, 227, 235,
238, 239; 359/115, 119, 110, 117, 158

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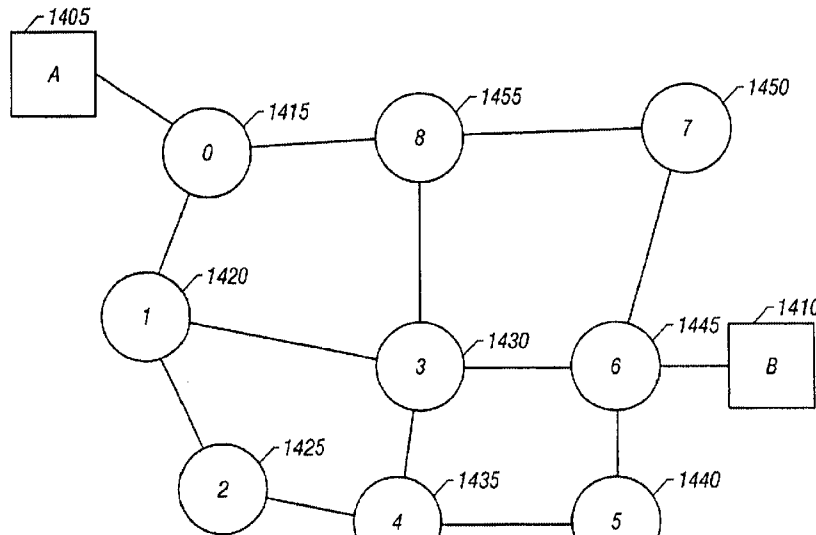
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(57) **ABSTRACT**

A method of operating an network is described. The network includes a number of nodes connected by a number of links. A method according to the present invention provisions a virtual path between a first and a second one of the plurality of nodes by: identifying the first and the second nodes, discovering a physical path from the first node to the second node, and establishing the virtual path. The method discovers a physical path from the first node to the second node by automatically identifying nodes forming the physical path. The method establishes the virtual path by configuring a set of connections between the nodes forming the physical path.

16 Claims, 23 Drawing Sheets



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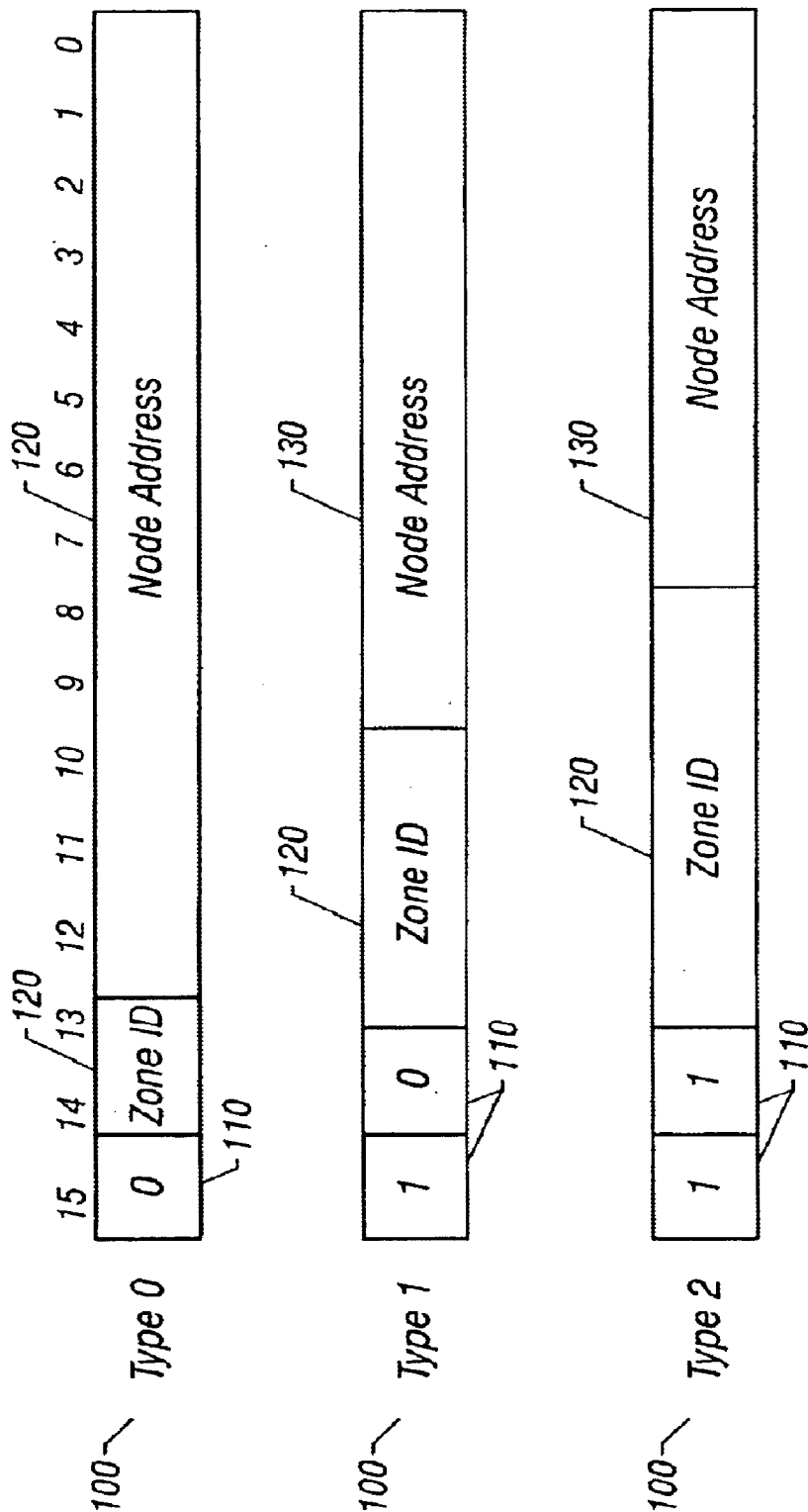


FIG. 1

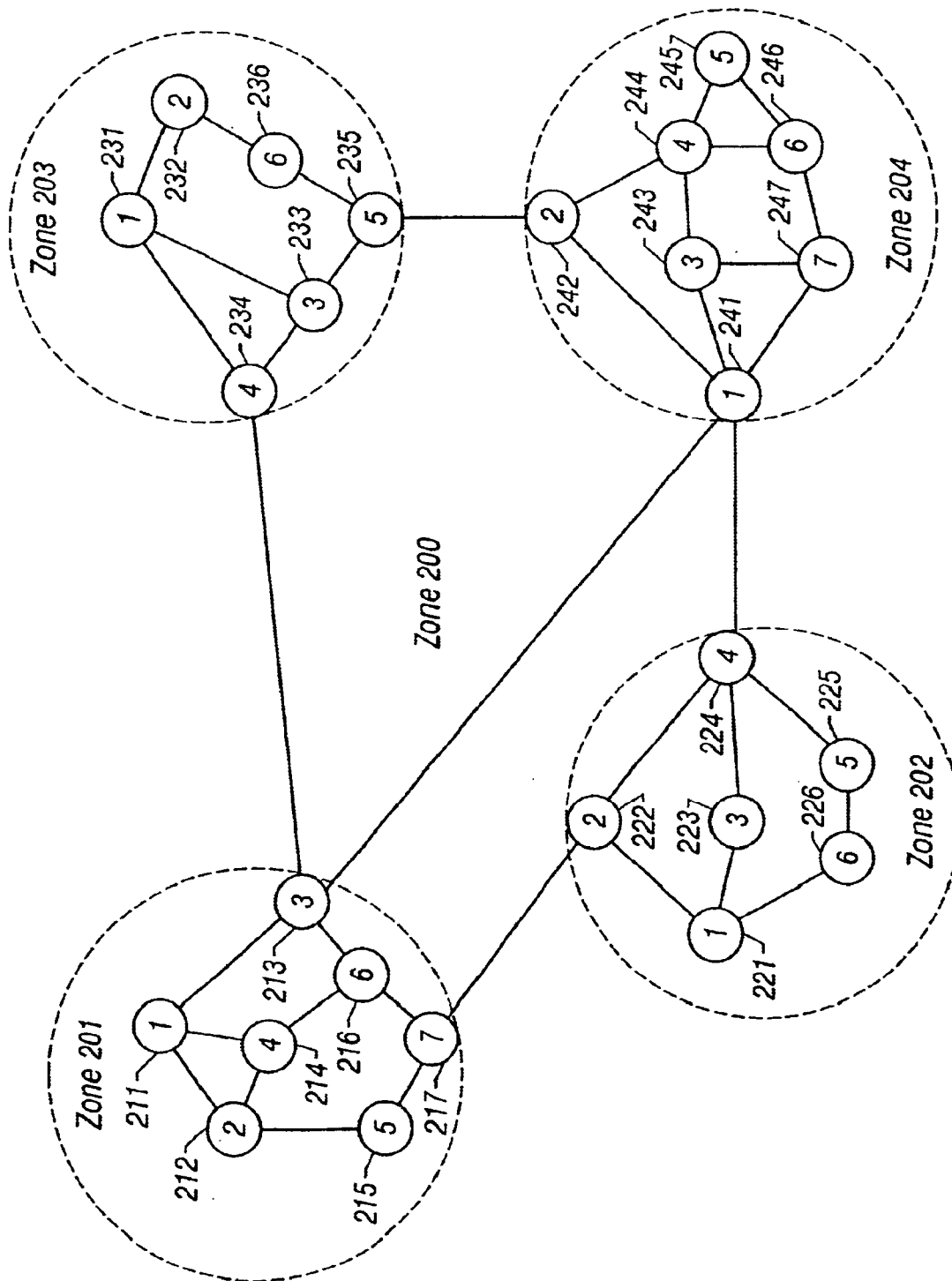


FIG. 2

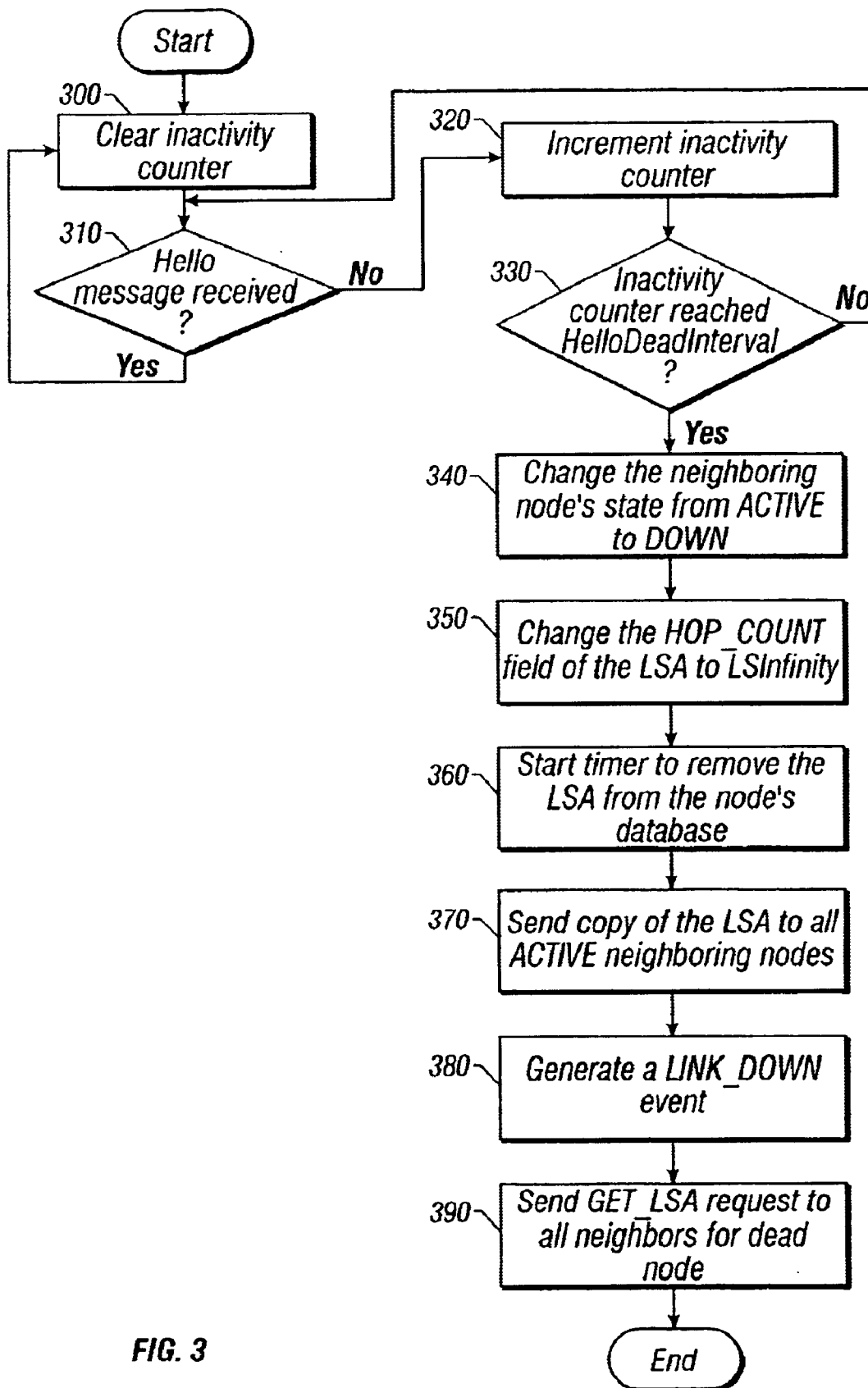


FIG. 3

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