International Telecommunication Union

ITU-R

Radiocommunication Sector of ITU

Recommendation ITU-R BT.1577

(06/2002)

Serial digital interface-based transport interface for compressed television signals in networked television production based on Recommendation ITU-R BT.1120

BT Series

Broadcasting service (television)

International Telecommunication Union

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SA	Space applications and meteorology
SF	Frequency sharing and coordination between fixed-satellite and fixed service systems
SM	Spectrum management
SNG	Satellite news gathering
TF	Time signals and frequency standards emissions
V	Vocabulary and related subjects

Note*: This ITU-R Recommendation was approved in English under the procedure detailed in Resolution ITU-R 1.*

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RECOMMENDATION ITU-R BT.1577*

Serial digital interface-based transport interface for compressed television signals in networked television production based on Recommendation ITU-R BT.1120

(Question ITU-R 130/6)

(2002)

Scope

This Recommendation provides a means to transport packetized compressed or uncompressed data over the HDTV serial interface. The packetized data is identified with a unique identifier.

The ITU Radiocommunication Assembly,

considering

a) that the high definition serial digital interface (HD-SDI) is being implemented in television production studios and that it is documented in Recommendation ITU-R BT.1120;

b) that Recommendation ITU-R BR.1356 – User requirements for application of compression in television production, already exists;

c) that maintaining video signals in compressed form as far as possible throughout the production and post-production process offers the potential of increased operating efficiency;

d) that programme data composed of audio, compressed video and metadata should be streamed in a container commonly available in the high-definition production studio;

e) that a transport mechanism must be established which allows point-to-point and point-to-multipoint routing of these data through a digital production and post-production chain;

f) that the transport should allow synchronous data transfer to facilitate absolute and relative timing between programme data;

g) that the transport mechanism should allow faster than real-time and non-real time transfer of programme data,

recommends

1 that for applications based on the HD-SDI infrastructure in networked production and post-production based on Recommendation ITU-R BT.1120 the high definition serial data transport interface (HD-SDTI) described in Annex 1 should be used;

2 that compliance with this Recommendation is voluntary. However, the Recommendation may contain certain mandatory provisions (to ensure, e.g., interoperability or applicability) and compliance with the Recommendation is achieved when all of these mandatory provisions are met. The words "shall" or some other obligatory language such as "must" and the negative equivalents are used to express requirements. The use of such words shall in no way be construed to imply partial or total compliance with this Recommendation.

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* Radiocommunication Study Group 6 made editorial amendments to this Recommendation in October 2010 in accordance with Resolution ITU-R 1.

Annex 1

SDI-based transport interface for compressed television signals in networked television production

Introduction

This Recommendation specifies a data stream used to transport packetized data within a studio/production centre environment. The data packets and synchronizing signals are compatible with Recommendation ITU-R BT.1120 (see Fig. 1). This Recommendation describes the assembly of two channels of 10-bit words multiplexed onto one HD-SDI line for the purpose of transporting the data streams in a structured framework. The HD-SDTI data blocks and synchronizing signals provide a data transport protocol that can readily be added to the infrastructure described in Recommendation ITU-R BT.1120.

Recommendation ITU-R BT.1120 requires a sequence of 10-bit words which define a television horizontal line comprising five areas in the following sequence (Note – The first two areas are often described together):

– EAV: a 4-word unique timing sequence defining the end of active video (EAV) (of the previous line);
– LN/CRC: 2 words defining the line number (LN) followed by a 2-word cyclic redundancy check (CRC) error detection code;
– digital line blanking;
– SAV: a 4-word unique timing sequence defining the start of active video (SAV); and
– digital active line.

An associated television source format standard defines the rate of television horizontal lines by defining the following parameters:

– the number of words per line;
– the number of words in the digital active line (and hence the number of words in the digital line blanking period);
– the number of lines per frame;
– the number of frames per second.

Recommendation ITU-R BT.1120 currently defines several source formats. Recommendation ITU-R BT.656 defines the meaning of the EAV and SAV word sequences which can be applied to all relevant source formats.

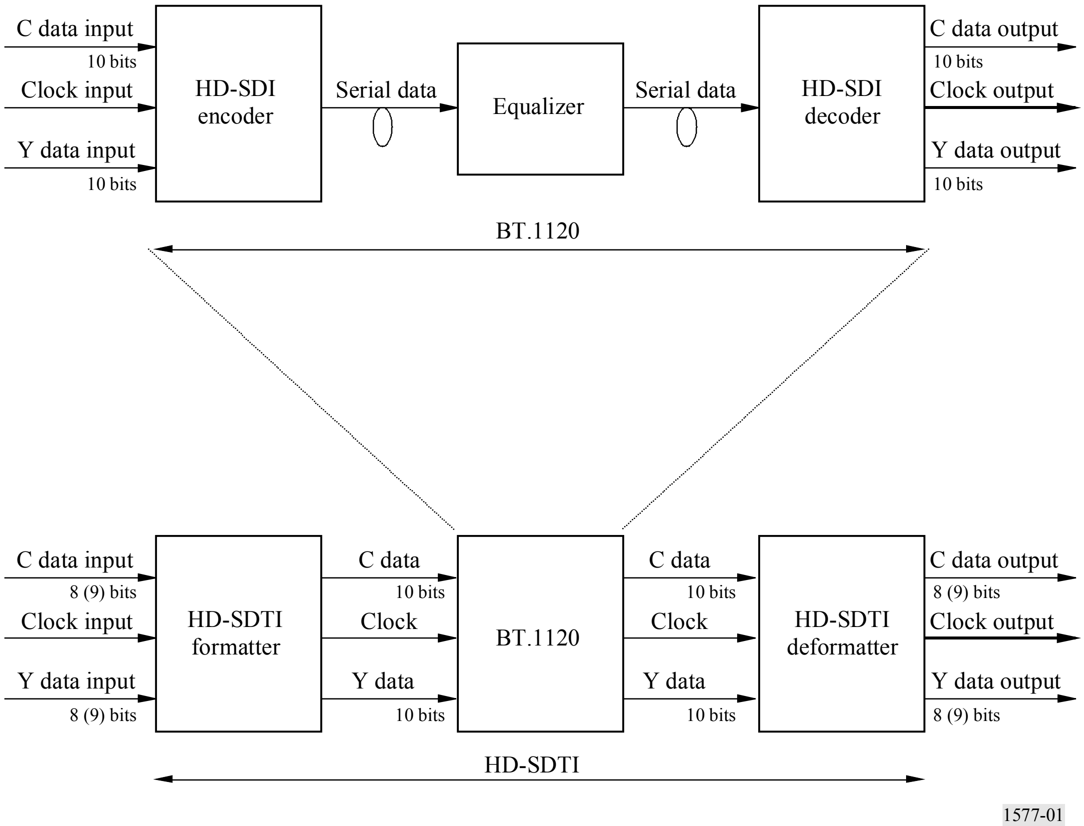
A decoder compliant with this Recommendation shall not be required to decode all the source formats available to Recommendation ITU-R BT.1120. The source formats that must be supported by the decoder shall be specified in application recommendations.

1 HD-SDTI mapping onto HD-SDI

The source formats, in combination with Recommendation ITU-R BT.1120, describe the bit-serial format formed from C/Y word-multiplexed channels as illustrated in Fig. 1.

FIGURE 1

Arrangement of HD-SDTI wrapped around Recommendation ITU-R BT.1120



The HD-SDTI data shall be serialized, scrambled, coded, and interfaced according to Recommendation ITU-R BT.1120 and the associated source format standard. The signal specifications and connector types shall be as described in Recommendation ITU-R BT.1120.

The data word length shall be 10 bits defined as bits B0 through to B9. B0 is the least significant bit (LSB) and B9 is the most significant bit (MSB). The order of bit-transmission shall be LSB first as defined in Recommendation ITU-R BT.1120.

Source data shall be in groups of four 10-bit words representing a word-multiplexed C_B, Y_1, C_R, Y_2 signal, where C_B and C_R form one parallel C-data channel and Y_1 and Y_2 form a second parallel Y-data channel.

The C/Y word clock rate shall be exactly 74.25 MWords/s for those picture rates which are an exact integer number per second and shall be 74.25/1.001 MWords/s for those picture rates which are offset by a divisor of 1.001.

The bit clock rate shall be 20 times the C/Y word clock rate (i.e., 1.485 Gbit/s or 1.485/1.001 Gbit/s).

The timing reference signals, EAV and SAV, shall occur on every line and shall be C/Y interleaved as described in the source format document. The LN and CRC shall occur on every line and shall be C/Y interleaved as described in Recommendation ITU-R BT.1120.

The HD-SDTI header data shall be encapsulated by an ancillary data packet according to Recommendation ITU-R BT.1364 and placed in the data space between the end of the EAV/LN/CRC and the beginning of the SAV.

The HD-SDTI payload shall be placed between the end of the SAV and the beginning of the EAV.

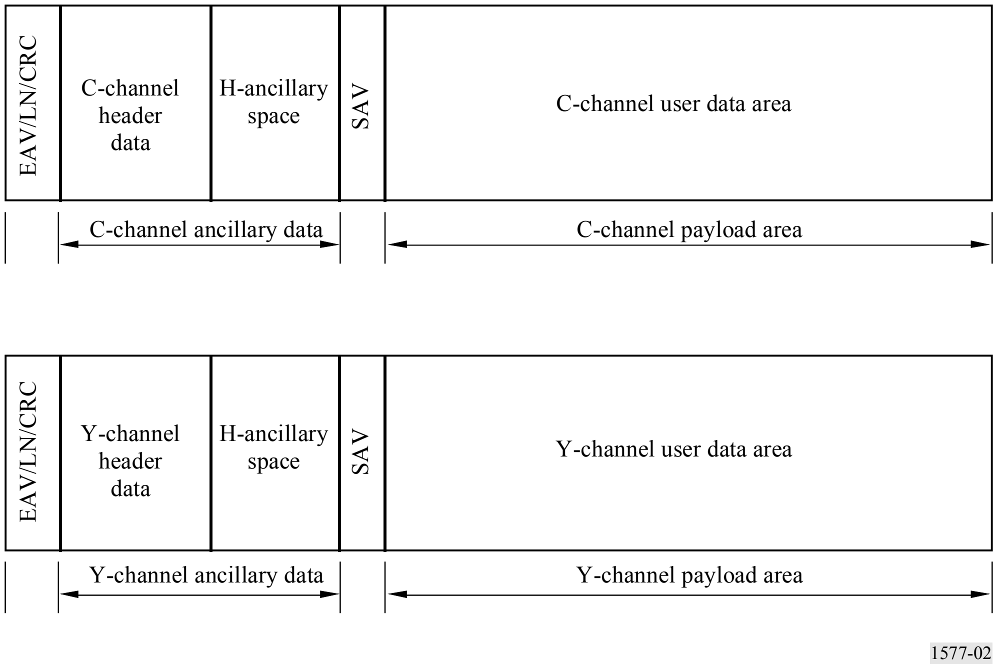
There shall be space for two HD-SDTI header data and payloads per line. The first HD-SDTI header data and payload shall use the C data channel and the second HD-SDTI header data and payload shall use the Y data channel. The two channels shall be word multiplexed according to Recommendation ITU-R BT.1120.

Each C/Y multiplexed line is treated as a separate HD-SDTI payload. Any line may carry an HD-SDTI payload on either the C-channel or the Y-channel. Where a line carries both C-channel and Y-channel payloads, the C-channel payload shall be assumed first in time, followed by the Y-channel payload.

Figure 2 shows the data placement of the two HD-SDTI header data and payloads for one line.

FIGURE 2

General layout of the dual-channel HD-SDTI header data and payload



2 Extended mode for constant payload data rate

The default HD-SDTI payload for each channel is the defined C/Y active line-channel period for the source format at all picture rates. An optional extension mode allows source formats that would otherwise reduce the payload data rate to advance the timing of the SAV marker so that the payload data rate remains a constant value. In extended mode, the constant payload data rate value is either exactly 129.6 Mbit/s or 129.6/1.001 Mbit/s depending on whether the frame rate of the source format includes a 1.001 divisor. The payload lengths associated with particular source formats are given in Table 1.

TABLE 1

Payload length extension values for varying source frame rates

Frame rate	Lines per frame	Samples per line	Blanking length	Payload length	Payload rate
25	1 125	2 640	336	2 304	129.6 Mbit/s
24 (24/1.001)	1 125	2 750	350	2 400	129.6 Mbit/s

NOTE 1 – Not all equipment may support the extended mode. Users are cautioned to check whether advancement of the SAV is supported by the HD-SDI infrastructure and the HD-SDTI decoder.

3 Double-rate operation

The source format may allow frequencies of double the baseline rate to accommodate the carriage of progressively scanned pictures at the rates of 50 Hz, 60/1.001 Hz and 60 Hz for some source formats.

The use of double-rate sampling frequencies is allowed within this Standard as a specified extension. The effect is a doubling of the number of line-channels per second and there is no effect on the data structure within each line-channel save doubling of the clock rates.

This is a significant extension of the source format capability and only specified equipment may support this operation. Users are cautioned to check whether double clock rate is supported by the HD-SDI infrastructure and the HD-SDTI decoder.

3.1 Header data specifications

For each line-channel carrying an HD-SDTI payload, HD-SDTI header data shall be encapsulated by an ancillary data packet conforming to a Recommendation ITU-R BT.1364 ancillary data packet structure (type 2) as shown in Table 2.

TABLE 2

HD-SDTI ancillary data packet structure

Name	Acronym	Value
Ancillary data flag (10-bit words)	ADF	000_h, $3FF_h$, $3FF_h$
Data identification	DID	40_h
Secondary data identification	SDID	02_h
Data count	DC	$2A_h$
HD-SDTI header data	42 words	–
Check sum	CS	–

The total size of the ancillary data packet shall be 49 words of which the HD-SDTI header data comprises the 42 words as shown in Table 3. The structure of the HD-SDTI header data packet is further described in Fig. 3.

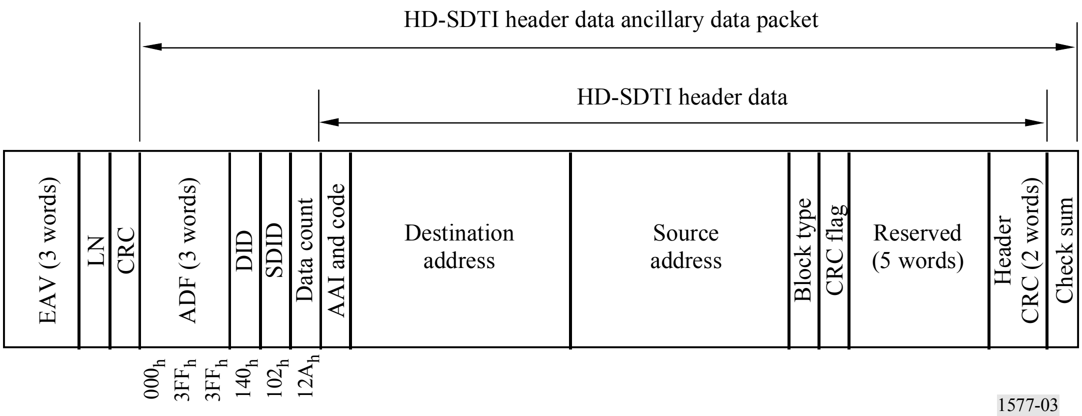
TABLE 3

HD-SDTI header data

Name	Word length
Code and authorized address identifier (AAI)	1 word
Destination address	16 words
Source address	16 words
Block type	1 word
CRC flag	1 word
Reserved data	5 words
Header CRC	2 words

FIGURE 3

Header data structure



HD-SDTI header data shall be located immediately after the EAV/LN/CRC sequence, as shown in Fig. 3, on lines specified in the application document. In the special case of HD-SDTI applications that embed digital audio according to Recommendation ITU-R BT.1365, the HD-SDTI header data packets shall be placed immediately following any such Recommendation ITU-R BT.1365 ancillary data packets.

For line-channels that do not carry an HD-SDTI payload, the Block Type shall be set to a value of 00_h to indicate a null payload (plus definition of other header data).

All data in the HD-SDTI header data shall use 8-bit words using bits B0 to B7 of each word. For all words of the HD-SDTI header data, bit B8 shall be the even parity of bits B0 to B7 and bit B9 shall be the complement of bit B8.

4 Ancillary data formatting

The ADF, DID, SDID, DC and CS data words shall conform to Recommendation ITU-R BT.1364. All data in the ancillary packet following the ADF shall be 8-bit words where the word value is defined by bits B7 through B0; Bit B8 is even parity of bits B7 through B0 and bit B9 is the complement of bit B8.

4.1 Data ID (DID)

The data ID shall have the value 40_h for bits B7 through B0.

4.2 Secondary data ID (SDID)

The secondary data ID shall have the value 02_h for bits B7 through B0.

4.3 Data count (DC)

The DC shall represent 42 words for the header and have the value $2A_h$ for bits B7 through B0.

5 AAI and code

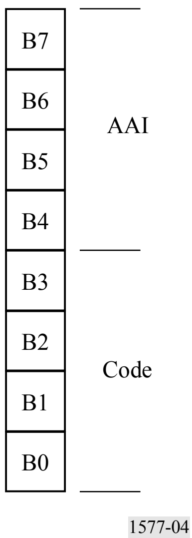
Both AAI and code shall consist of 4 bits (see Fig. 4).

AAI shall comprise bits B7 to B4.

Code shall comprise bits B3 to B0.

FIGURE 4

Assignment of AAI and code bits



5.1 AAI

The AAI shall identify the format of both the destination and source address words from one of 16 different states.

TABLE 4

Assignment of payload size

Address identification	B7	B6	B5	B4
Unspecified format	0	0	0	0
IP-v6 addressing	0	0	0	1

The value 0_h is reserved for applications where no source and destination address format is specified. In this case, any non-zero value in the source and destination address shall be ignored.

5.2 Code

"Code" shall identify the length of the payload which shall be contained in the area between the SAV and EAV timing reference points.

TABLE 5

Assignment of payload size

Payload bits	B3	B2	B1	B0
SDI	0	0	0	0
1 440 words	0	0	0	1
1 920 words	0	0	1	0
1 280 words	0	0	1	1
Reserved for 143 Mbit/s applications	1	0	0	0
2 304 words (extension mode)	1	0	0	1
2 400 words (extension mode)	1	0	1	0
1 440 words (extension mode)	1	0	1	1
1 728 words (extension mode)	1	1	0	0
2 880 words (extension mode)	1	1	0	1
3 456 words (extension mode)	1	1	1	0
3 600 words (extension mode)	1	1	1	1
Reserved but not defined	All other codes			

The value 0_h is reserved to carry a line-channel of SDI signal in the active line-channel area.

Code values higher than 8_h shall only be used if the HD-SDTI is being used in extended mode with support for advanced SAV positioning as detailed in Table 1.

6 Destination and source address

The destination and source address represents the address of the devices within the connection according to the AAI.

16 bytes are allocated for both destination and source address with the bit allocation for each address as shown in Fig. 5.

FIGURE 5

Assignment of payload size

A7	A15	A23	A31	A39	A47	A55	A63	A71	A79	A87	A95	A103	A111	A119	A127
A6	A14	A22	A30	A38	A46	A54	A62	A70	A78	A86	A94	A102	A110	A118	A126
A5	A13	A21	A29	A37	A45	A53	A61	A69	A77	A85	A93	A101	A109	A117	A125
A4	A12	A20	A28	A36	A44	A52	A60	A68	A76	A84	A92	A100	A108	A116	A124
A3	A11	A19	A27	A35	A43	A51	A59	A67	A75	A83	A91	A99	A107	A115	A123
A2	A10	A18	A26	A34	A42	A50	A58	A66	A74	A82	A90	A98	A106	A114	A122
A1	A9	A17	A25	A33	A41	A49	A57	A65	A73	A81	A89	A97	A105	A113	A121
A0	A8	A16	A24	A32	A40	A48	A56	A64	A72	A80	A88	A96	A104	A112	A120

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The default condition when neither destination nor source address is required is that all 16 bytes of the destination and source addresses shall be set to 00_h in accordance with AAI = 0_h. When all 16 bytes of the destination address are zero filled in accordance with AAI = 0_h, it shall indicate a universal address to all destination devices connected to the interface.

7 Block type

The block type shall consist of one word comprising bits B7 to B0. The block type shall define the segmentation of the payload. Either fixed block size or variable block size may be defined.

A block type value of 00_h shall be used to indicate that the payload area does not contain an HD-SDTI payload.

7.1 Fixed block type

B7 and B6 form the prefix to define the fixed block data structure as follows.

	B7	B6
Fixed block size without error correction control (ECC):	0	0
Fixed block size with ECC:	0	1

Where the fixed block includes ECC, the ECC is contained within the fixed block data and the type of ECC shall be defined by the application.

The possible segmentation of the fixed block size and the values for bits B5 to B0 are shown in Table 6.

The first fixed block shall start immediately following the last word of the SAV for the line-channel. Where more than one fixed block is present on a line-channel, the fixed blocks shall form a contiguous string. Any space between the end of the last fixed block and first word of the EAV shall be filled with the value 200_h.

TABLE 6

Payload segmentation for fixed blocks

Block type	Block size	Block type	Block size
01_h	1 438 words	$2A_h$	193 words
02_h	719 words	$2B_h$	257 words
03_h	479 words	$2C_h$	385 words
04_h	359 words	$2D_h$	513 words
09_h	1 918 words	$2E_h$	609 words
$0A_h$	959 words	31_h	62 words
$0B_h$	639 words	32_h	153 words
11_h	766 words	33_h	171 words
12_h	383 words	34_h	177 words
13_h	255 words	35_h	199 words
14_h	191 words	36_h	256 words
21_h	5 words	37_h	144 words
22_h	9 words	38_h	160 words
23_h	13 words	39_h	1 278 words
24_h	17 words	$3A_h$	1 726 words
25_h	33 words	$3B_h$	2 302 words
26_h	49 words	$3C_h$	2 398 words
27_h	65 words	$3D_h$	2 878 words
28_h	97 words	$3E_h$	3 454 words
29_h	129 words	$3F_h$	3 598 words

7.2 Variable block type

The presence of a variable block size on the payload line-channel shall be indicated by the value $C1_h$. Thus bits B7 and B6 are set to 1 to define the presence of a variable block easily.

With a variable block, any size of consecutive block data words are permitted and the variable block may extend beyond the length of one line-channel.

Where the variable block occupies more than one line-channel, the line-channels used shall be contiguous and header data shall be repeated for all line-channels associated with the variable block. The line-channels shall be considered as part of the contiguous sequence of a variable block with the C-channel of any line preceding the Y-channel.

8 Payload CRC flag

The payload CRC flag shall consist of one word provided only for compatibility with Recommendation ITU-R BT.1381. This word is redundant in HD-SDTI because the CRC words of each EAV sequence are calculated from the first word of the payload to the last word of the LN number.

The payload CRC flag word shall be set to 00_h. All other values are reserved but not defined.

9 Header expansion reserved data

The header expansion reserved data shall be positioned after the CRC flag. The default value for the five reserved data words shall be 00_h.

10 Header CRC

The header CRC shall be inserted following each ancillary data header. The header CRC applies to all 10 bits of each word, starting with the DID word through to the last reserved data word.

The generator polynomial for the header CRC shall be:

$G(X) = X^{18} + X^5 + X^4 + 1$ (see Fig. 7).

The header CRC shall be contained in bits CRC17 through CRC0 as defined in Fig. 6, and the initial value shall be set to all ones.

FIGURE 6

Header CRC bit definitions

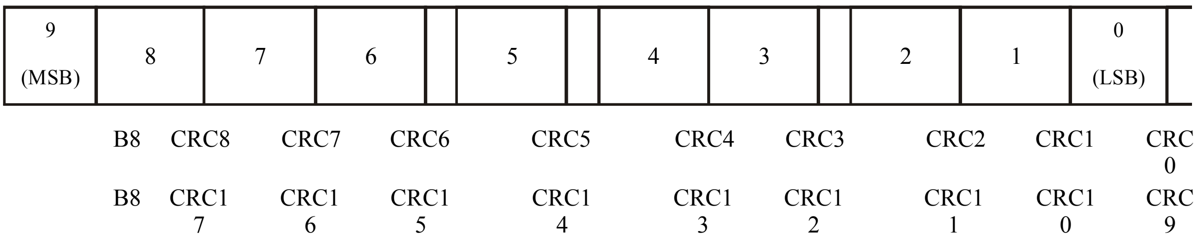
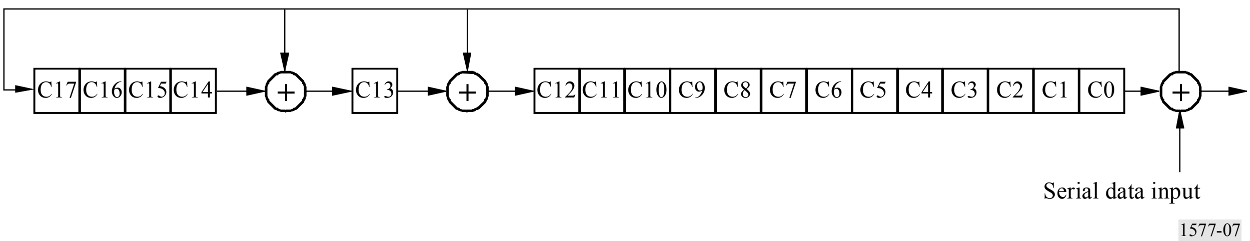


FIGURE 7

CRC generator polynomial block diagram



10.1 Payload data formats

HD-SDTI payload data may be present on any line-channel from the end of SAV to the beginning of EAV. Some applications may constrain the use of certain line-channels.

Although data may exist on any line it should be noted that data may be corrupted during a switch.

11 Payload bit assignment

The payload data shall consist of either:

– 8-bit words contained in bits B7 to B0 with bit B8 set to be even parity of bits B7 to B0;

– 9-bit words contained in bits B8 to B0.

The application shall define whether 8-bit or 9-bit inputs are used. It is recommended that 8-bit input modes are used unless clear reasons for using the 9-bit input mode can be provided. The 9-bit mode is provided primarily for backwards compatibility with Recommendation ITU-R BT.1381.

In all cases, bit B9 of each payload data word shall be set to the complement of bit B8 with the exception of the separator and end-code words of variable blocks.

12 Data type

The data type shall consist of one 8-bit word contained in bits B7 to B0 for both fixed and variable blocks.

TABLE 7

Data type

Type	Description
101_h	
102_h	SXV
203_h	
104_h	CP-System
205_h	CP-Picture
206_h	CP-Audio
107_h	CP-Data
108_h	
209_h	
$20A_h$	
$10B_h$	
$20C_h$	
$10D_h$	
$10E_h$	
$20F_h$	
110_h	
211_h	SDTI-PF
212_h	
113_h	
214_h	
115_h	
116_h	
217_h	
218_h	
119_h	
$11A_h$	
$21B_h$	
$11C_h$	
$21D_h$	
$21E_h$	
$11F_h$	
120_h	
241_h	DV CAM-1
242_h	
143_h	
244_h	
145_h	
146_h	
247_h	
248_h	HDCam
149_h	
$14A_h$	
$24B_h$	
$14C_h$	
$24D_h$	
$24E_h$	
$14F_h$	
250_h	
151_h	
152_h	MPEG-2 P/S
253_h	MPEG-2 T/S
154_h	
255_h	
256_h	
157_h	
158_h	
259_h	
$25A_h$	
$15B_h$	
$25C_h$	
$15D_h$	
$15E_h$	
$25F_h$	
260_h	

TABLE 7 (*continued*)

Type	Description	Type	Description
221$_h$	DVCPRO1/Digital S	161$_h$	
222$_h$	DVCPRO2	162$_h$	
123$_h$		263$_h$	
224$_h$		164$_h$	
125$_h$		265$_h$	
126h		266$_h$	
227h		167$_h$	
228$_h$		168$_h$	
129$_h$		269$_h$	
12A$_h$		26A$_h$	
22B$_h$		16B$_h$	
12C$_h$		26C$_h$	
22D$_h$		16D$_h$	
22E$_h$		16E$_h$	
12F$_h$		26F$_h$	
230$_h$		170$_h$	
131$_h$	HD-D5	271$_h$	
132$_h$		272$_h$	
233$_h$		173$_h$	
134$_h$		274$_h$	
235$_h$		175$_h$	
236$_h$		176$_h$	
137$_h$		277$_h$	
138$_h$		278$_h$	
239$_h$		179$_h$	
23A$_h$		17A$_h$	
13B$_h$		27B$_h$	
23C$_h$		17C$_h$	
13D$_h$		27D$_h$	
13E$_h$		27E$_h$	
23F$_h$		17F$_h$	
140$_h$		180$_h$	
281$_h$		1C1$_h$	
282$_h$	SXA	1C2$_h$	
183$_h$		2C3$_h$	SXC
284$_h$		1C4$_h$	
185$_h$		2C5$_h$	
186$_h$		2C6$_h$	
287$_h$		1C7$_h$	
288$_h$		1C8$_h$	
189$_h$		2C9$_h$	
18A$_h$		2CA$_h$	
28B$_h$		1CB$_h$	
18C$_h$		2CC$_h$	

TABLE 7 (*continued*)

Type	**Description**
$28D_h$	
$28E_h$	
$18F_h$	
290_h	
191_h	
192_h	
293_h	
194_h	
295_h	
296_h	
197_h	
198_h	
299_h	
$29A_h$	
$19B_h$	
$29C_h$	
$19D_h$	
$19E_h$	
$29F_h$	
$2A0_h$	
$1A1_h$	
$1A2_h$	
$2A3_h$	
$1A4_h$	Up to 64 ITU-R BS 647 Audio/data channels
$2A5_h$	
$2A6_h$	
$1A7_h$	
$1A8_h$	
$2A9_h$	
$2AA_h$	
$1AB_h$	
$2AC_h$	
$1AD_h$	
$1AE_h$	
$2AF_h$	
$1B0_h$	
$2B1_h$	
$2B2_h$	
$1B3_h$	
$2B4_h$	
$1B5_h$	
$1B6_h$	
$2B7_h$	
$2B8_h$	

Type	**Description**
$1CD_h$	
$1CE_h$	
$2CF_h$	
$1D0_h$	
$2D1_h$	FC
$2D2_h$	
$1D3_h$	
$2D4_h$	
$1D5_h$	
$1D6_h$	
$2D7_h$	
$2D8_h$	
$1D9_h$	
$1DA_h$	
$2DB_h$	
$1DC_h$	
$2DD_h$	
$2DE_h$	
$1DF_h$	
$1E0_h$	
$2E1_h$	User application
$2E2_h$	User application
$1E3_h$	User application
$2E4_h$	User application
$1E5_h$	User application
$1E6_h$	User application
$2E7_h$	User application
$2E8_h$	User application
$1E9_h$	User application
$1EA_h$	User application
$2EB_h$	User application
$1EC_h$	User application
$2ED_h$	User application
$2EE_h$	User application
$1EF_h$	User application
$2F0_h$	User application
$1F1_h$	User application
$1F2_h$	User application
$2F3_h$	User application
$1F4_h$	User application
$2F5_h$	User application
$2F6_h$	User application
$1F7_h$	User application
$1F8_h$	User application

TABLE 7 (*end*)

Type	Description	Type	Description
$1B9_h$		$2F9_h$	User application
$1BA_h$		$2FA_h$	User application
$2BB_h$		$1FB_h$	User application
$1BC_h$		$2FC_h$	User application
$2BD_h$		$1FD_h$	User application
$2BE_h$		$1FE_h$	User application
$1BF_h$		$2FF_h$	User application
$2C0_h$		200_h	Invalid data

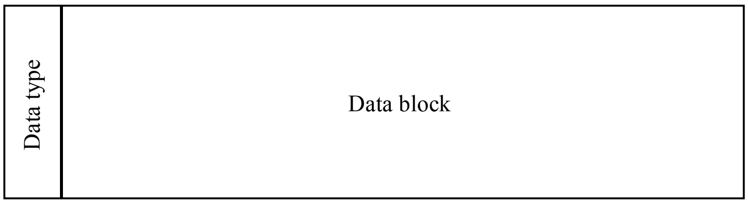
13 Fixed block data structure

The fixed block data structure shall be as defined in Fig. 8 comprising of a 1-byte data type word followed by the data block.

The data type word shall identify the type of data contained in the data block. The length of each data block shall be identified by block type value contained in the header data and defined by the length indicated in Table 6.

FIGURE 8

Data structure for fixed blocks



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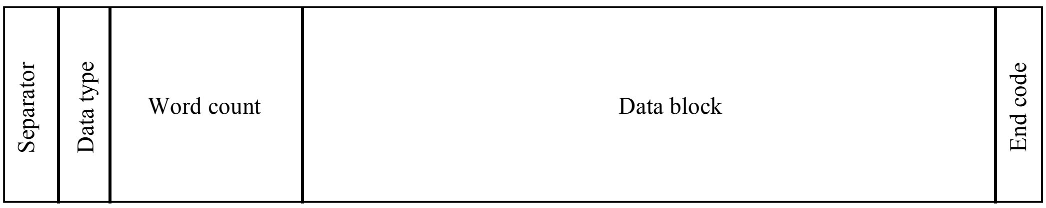
14 Variable block data structure

The variable block data structure shall be as defined in Fig. 9. It shall comprise a 1-word separator, followed by a 1-byte data type word, a 4-byte word count, the data block and terminating in a 1-word end-code.

FIGURE 9

Data structure for variable blocks



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If a variable block exceeds the length of one line-channel, the data shall continue over succeeding line-channels until the end of the block. Header data must be consistent for all line channels which carry a part of the same variable block.

It is recommended that each and every variable block starts on a new line immediately following the SAV.

Any space between the end code word of a variable block and either the start of a new variable block or the first word of the EAV on the same line shall be filled with the value 200_h.

14.1 Separator and end-code

Each variable block shall start with a 1-word separator and end with a 1-word end-code. The values of separator and end-code shall be 10-bit words as follows.

	B9	B8	B7	B6	B5	B4	B3	B2	B1	B0
Separator, 309_h :	1	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1
End-code, $30A_h$:	1	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	0

Note that bit B9 of the separator and end-codes is not the complement of bit B8. These two codes are registered values that break the normal HD-SDTI rules in order to guarantee their unique value and hence provide unambiguous start and stop codes for each variable block.

14.2 Word-count

The word-count shall consist of four words as shown in Fig. 10. The word-count shall be used to represent the number of words in the data block.

The word-count shall be contained in bits C31 through C0, and shall be interpreted as a single 32-bit unsigned integer with C31 as the MSB.

A word-count value of 00_h, 00_h, 00_h, 00_h shall be used to indicate either a variable block of unknown length or a variable block whose length exceeds that of the word-count capability. In such a case, the completion of a variable block is defined only by the reception of an end-code word.

FIGURE 10

Bit assignment of the variable block word-count

C7	C15	C23	C31
C6	C14	C22	C30
C5	C13	C21	C29
C4	C12	C20	C28
C3	C11	C19	C27
C2	C10	C18	C26
C1	C9	C17	C25
C0	C8	C16	C24

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It is the intent of this standard that all receiving equipment should attempt to receive data in a variable block even if the word-count has a zero value.