Title: APPARATUS AND METHOD OF ENCODING AND DECODING AUDIO SIGNAL

(a) level 0

(b) level 1

(c) level Z

(d) level 3

(e) level 4

(f) level 5

(0)000 0000

(0)101 0000

(0)110 0000

(O)101 0000

not possible

not possible

(57) Abstract: In one embodiment, a channel in a frame of the audio signal is subdivided into a plurality of blocks according to a subdivision hierarchy. The subdivision hierarchy has more than one level, and each level being associated with a different block length. At least two of the blocks have different lengths. First subdivision information may be generated indicating a number of levels in the subdivision hierarchy, and second subdivision information may be generated indicating the subdivision of the channel into the blocks. A length of the second subdivision information depends on the first subdivision information.
before the expiration of the time limit for amending the claims and to be republished in the event of receipt of amendments

For two-letter codes and other abbreviations, refer to the “Guidance Notes on Codes and Abbreviations” appearing at the beginning of each regular issue of the PCT Gazette.

(88) Date of publication of the international search report:
15 March 2007
**INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT**

International application No. PCT/KR 2006/002681

### A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER

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<td>G10L 19/00</td>
<td>(2006.01)</td>
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*According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC*

### B. FIELDS SEARCHED

Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)

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Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched

Electronic database consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practicable, search terms used)

**WPI EPDOC IEEE INSPEC**

### C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

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<th>Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages</th>
<th>Relevant to claim No.</th>
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<td>WO 2000/045389 A1 (Dolby Laboratories) 3 August 2000 (03.08.2000) page 14, line 5 - page 22, line 9</td>
<td>1-18, 26-34</td>
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* Special categories of cited documents:

- "A" document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance
- "E" earlier application or patent but published on or after the international filing date
- "L" document which may throw doubts on priority claim(s) or which is cited to establish the publication date of another citation or other special reason (as specified)
- "O" document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or other means
- "P" document published prior to the international filing date but later than the priority date claimed

See patent family annex.

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Form PCT/ISA/210 (second sheet) (January 2004)

**International Search Report**

**AUSTRIAN PATENT OFFICE**

Dresdner Straße 87, A-1200 Vienna

**Authorized officer**

SCHLECHTER B.

**Date of the actual completion of the international search**

25 November 2006 (25.11.2006)

**Date of mailing of the international search report**

18 January 2007 (18.01.2007)

**Facsimile No.** +43 / 1 / 534 24 / 535

**Telephone No.** +43 / 1 / 534 24 / 448
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FormPCr/ISA/210 (patent family annex) (July 1998; reprint January 2004)