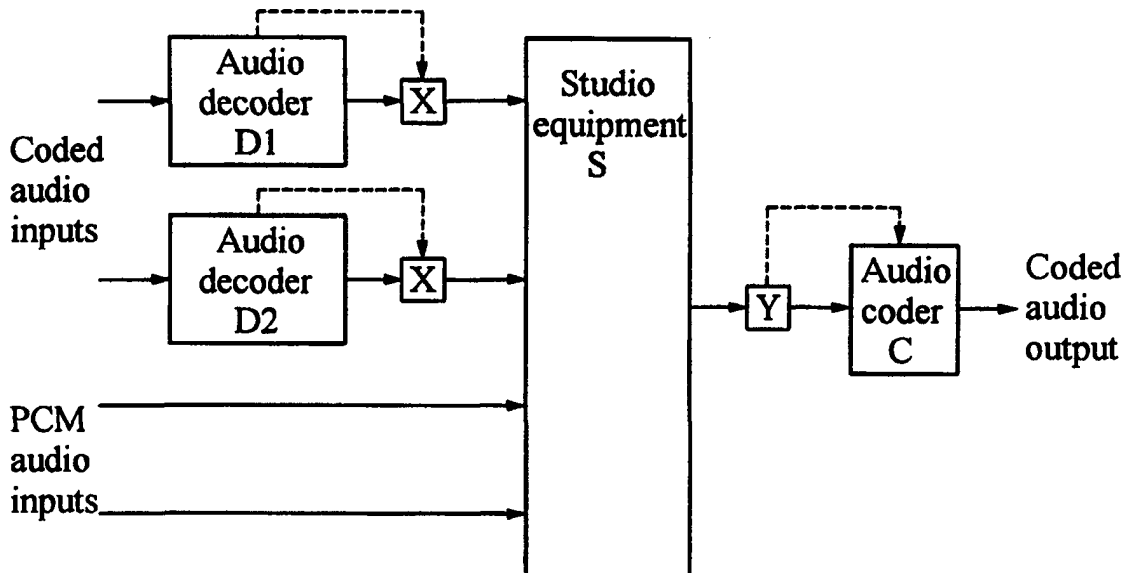




INTERNATIONAL APPLICATION PUBLISHED UNDER THE PATENT COOPERATION TREATY (PCT)

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<p>(21) International Application Number: PCT/GB98/00226 (22) International Filing Date: 27 January 1998 (27.01.98) (30) Priority Data: 9701616.6 27 January 1997 (27.01.97) GB (71) Applicant (for all designated States except US): BRITISH BROADCASTING CORPORATION [GB/GB]; Broadcasting House, London W1A 1AA (GB). (72) Inventors; and (75) Inventors/Applicants (for US only): WELLS, Nicholas, Dominic [GB/GB]; 17 Wellington Road, Brighton, East Sussex BN2 3AB (GB). MASON, Andrew, James [GB/GB]; 1 Meadow Way, Reigate, Surrey RH2 8DP (GB). FLETCHER, John, Andrew [GB/GB]; 39 Holly Road, Reigate, Surrey RH2 7LU (GB). MCPARLAND, Andrew, Kevin [GB/GB]; 3 Kingsley Road, Horley, Surrey RH6 8HP (GB). (74) Agents: KAZI, Ilya et al.; Mathys &amp; Squire, 100 Grays Inn Road, London WC1X 8AL (GB).</p>		<p>(81) Designated States: AU, CA, JP, US, European patent (AT, BE, CH, DE, DK, ES, FI, FR, GB, GR, IE, IT, LU, MC, NL, PT, SE). <b>Published</b> <i>With international search report. Before the expiration of the time limit for amending the claims and to be republished in the event of the receipt of amendments.</i> (88) Date of publication of the international search report: 14 January 1999 (14.01.99)</p>

(54) Title: AUDIO COMPRESSION



(57) Abstract

An auxiliary data signal is derived from a received compression encoded audio signal during decoding of the signal and communicated with the decoded audio signal for use in re-encoding the signal. The auxiliary data signal may be communicated integrally with the audio signal, for example in the least significant bits, or may follow a different path. The provision of the auxiliary data signal may enable more transparent decoding and re-coding processes to take place, by allowing the coding decision to match the coding decisions originally used; this can alleviate problems with quality reduction arising from cascaded decoding and re-coding processes.

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# INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International Application No

PCT/GB 98/00226

**A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER**

IPC 6 H04B1/66

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)

IPC 6 H04B H04H

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

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

**C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT**

Category	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
A	US 5 570 363 A (HOLM ROBERT E) 29 October 1996 see column 1, line 50 - column 1, line 64 ---	1,6
A	US 5 451 954 A (DAVIS MARK F ET AL) 19 September 1995 see abstract; figures 1,2 see column 7, line 35 - column 8, line 57 ---	1,6,11
A	"ERROR CORRECTION IN A HIDDEN CHANNEL TRANSMISSION SYSTEM" RESEARCH DISCLOSURE, no. 375, July 1995, page 498/499 XP000524820 see the whole document ---	1,6,11
A	EP 0 423 050 A (FRANCE ETAT) 17 April 1991 see abstract; figure 1 ---	1,6,10
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Date of the actual completion of the international search

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Date of mailing of the international search report

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# INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International Application No

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C.(Continuation) DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT		
Category	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
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