Title: ROBUST MODE STAGGERCASTING WITH ADJUSTABLE DELAY OFFSET

Transmitter

Abstract: A method and apparatus for staggercasting includes encoding a first signal representing content having a time duration and a second signal also representing that content. A time delay period is specified for the time duration of the content. A composite signal, comprising the first and second encoded signals, is generated. In the composite signal the first encoded signal is delayed with respect to the second encoded signal by the time delay period for the time duration of the content. If an error is detected in the composite signal, then the received second encoded signal is decoded to produce the content, otherwise the delayed received first encoded signal is decoded to produce the content.
(88) Date of publication of the international search report:
27 January 2005

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.
INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No.
PCT/US04/01620

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER
IPC(7) : H04N 7/12
US CL : 375/240.01
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)
U.S. : 375/240.01-240.03, 240.1, 240.12-240.16, 240.26, 240.28; 348/384.1, 385.1, 700; 725/74, 86, 90, 94, 100

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 practicable, search terms used)
Please See Continuation Sheet

C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages</th>
<th>Relevant to claim No.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>X</td>
<td>US 6,304,609 B1 (STEHENS et al) 16 October 2001 (16.10.2001), figure 2, figure 5, figure 7, column 4, lines 33-60, column 8, lines 1-10, column 11, lines 18-26, column 13, lines 60-67, column 14, lines 1-67.</td>
<td>1-2, 6-8, 11-12, 16</td>
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<tr>
<td>X,P</td>
<td>US 6,535,717 B1 (MATSUSHIMA et al) 18 March 2003 (18.03.2003), figures 3-6, column 8, lines 56-67, column 9, lines 1-67, column 10, lines 58-67, column 11, lines 36-61</td>
<td>1-2, 6-8, 11-12, 16</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

☐ Further documents are listed in the continuation of Box C. ☐ See patent family annex.

Date of the actual completion of the international search:
23 November 2004 (23.11.2004)

Date of mailing of the international search report:
10 DEC 2004

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Form PCT/ISA/210 (second sheet) (July 1998)
Continuation of B. FIELDS SEARCHED Item 3:
USPAT, USPGPUB, EPO, JPO
search terms: encode, decode, multiplex, delay, PMT, PSIP,