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[73] Proprietor 專利所有人
MICROSOFT TECHNOLOGY LICENSING, LLC
ONE MICROSOFT WAY REDMOND
WA 98052-6399
UNITED STATES/UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
[72] Inventor 發明人
PFLAUMER, MICHAEL W.
[74] Agent and / or address for service 代理人及/或送達地址
China Patent Agent (H.K.) Ltd.
22/F, Great Eagle Centre
23 Harbour Road
Wanchai HONG KONG



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(54) **FILTER FOR DIGITAL TO ANALOG CONVERTERS**

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(73) Proprietor: **Microsoft Technology Licensing, LLC**
Redmond, WA 98052 (US)

(72) Inventor: **PFLAUMER, Michael, W.**
Berkeley, CA 94708 (US)

(74) Representative: **Goddar, Heinz J.**
Boehmert & Boehmert
Anwaltspartnerschaft mbB
Patentanwälte Rechtsanwälte
Pettenkoferstrasse 20-22
80336 München (DE)

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Description

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

Field of the Invention:

[0001] The invention relates generally to improvements in digital-to-analog (D-to-A) conversion, and, more particularly, to improvements in such conversion for audio signals. It is most useful in high quality audio for music reproduction in devices such as Compact Disc (CD) players, DVD players, etc.

Description of Related Art:

[0002] Essentially all modern analog-to-digital (A-to-D) and D-to-A converters used for audio operate at a sample rate higher than the output/input sample rate. These converters are known as over-sampling converters, and they use digital filters to decimate down to the output sample rate in the case of A-to-D converters and to interpolate up from the input sample rate in the case of D-to-A converters. An important reason for this configuration is that filters are necessary to minimize distortions present in both A-to-D and D-to-A conversion processes caused by unwanted frequencies, and digital filters are more stable, more reproducible, and less expensive to implement than analog filters of an equivalent quality. FIG. 1a is a simplified block diagram of an A-to-D converter and FIG. 1b is a simplified block diagram of a corresponding D-to-A converter.

[0003] The actual sampling rate for the converters themselves in over-sampling digital converters may be many times higher than the input/output sample rate. The decimation or interpolation process is normally done in several stages, with the last decimation filter and the first interpolation filter normally done with a two-to-one frequency ratio. These filters for the last/first operations have the most effect on the sonic performance of audio converters because their cutoff frequencies are close to the frequencies in the program material. FIG. 2a shows the frequency response of a typical filter used in an A-to-D converter as the final decimation filter. FIG. 2b shows the response of a typical filter used in a D-to-A converter as the first interpolation filter. The Y-axis of the graphs shows the magnitude of the amplitude response of the filters in decibels, and the X-axis shows the frequency as a fraction of the output/input sampling rate, F_s . The reason that we need to examine both the A-to-D and D-to-A filters is that they function as a system in determining the effects of several distortions in the output signal (FIG. 1b).

[0004] The frequency 0.5 in the middle of the graphs (FIGS 2a and 2b), the Nyquist frequency, has a special significance. It is important because the sampling theorem states that in a sampled data system, frequencies above one half the sampling frequency cannot be uniquely represented by the sampled data stream. In the case

of the A-to-D converter, any frequencies above the Nyquist frequency in the input signal that are not removed by the decimation filter appear as spurious frequencies in the output known as alias frequencies or alias distortion. The ideal decimation filter from an alias distortion perspective would pass all frequencies below 0.5 F_s and no energy above a frequency of 0.5 F_s . Such a filter is not realizable in practice, but practical filters usually try to approximate the ideal response. Any residual frequencies above Nyquist in the original signal fold over or alias into frequencies below Nyquist in the output signal (FIG. 1a), with the relationship that a frequency f in the input becomes $F_s - f$ in the output.

[0005] An alias distortion mechanism also exists in D-to-A converters in the interpolation process. The incoming digital signal (FIG. 1b) can be considered to have no frequencies above 0.5 F_s . The first stage of interpolation consists of adding zero value samples in between each of the original samples to double the sample rate and then passing the result through a low pass filter with a frequency response such as in FIG. 2b. The result is that the zero valued samples are replaced by values that are interpolated from the surrounding data.

[0006] The distortion arises from the fact that new frequencies are created above the original Nyquist frequency and that these new frequencies correspond to frequencies present in the original signal. In order to analyze the potential impact of this distortion, it is useful to graph the composite frequency response of the decimation/interpolation system. If one takes the frequency response of the A-to-D decimation filter in FIG. 2a and performs the equivalent decimation followed by inserting the zero value samples prior to the interpolation filter, one gets a frequency response shown in FIG. 3a. For each frequency below the Nyquist, a new frequency above Nyquist is created. These have the same relationship, *i.e.*, $f_{\text{new}} = F_s - f$, that alias products have in the A-to-D case, as can be seen from the symmetry about Nyquist. These new frequencies, f_{new} , are uniquely represented because the sampling rate is now twice as great.

[0007] If one now adds the cascade of the interpolation filter response of FIG. 2b, one gets the composite response shown in FIG. 3b. The frequencies above 0.5 are signals which were not there in the original signal and are alias distortion products. They fall into two general groups: those corresponding to the stop band of the interpolation filter, and those associated with the transition band behavior of both the decimation and interpolation filters.

[0008] Many people consider these distortion products to be of little importance because they are extra signals above the band of interest and are inaudible in the case of a CD or any other system with a sampling rate greater than 40 kHz. If everything in the audio system following the interpolation filter were really linear, this would be true. Unfortunately, the real world is not strictly linear. Non-linearities exist in the D-to-A converter, small signal amplifiers, power amplifiers, loudspeakers, and even hu-

man hearing.

[0009] In FIG. 3b, the acceptable level of stop band distortion products 220 determine the stop band performance requirement for the interpolation filter. The only way to reduce these distortions is to improve the performance of the interpolation filter stop band rejection.

[0010] The transition band distortions at 210 are more limited in frequency range, but they have much higher amplitude and can cause really audible problems in the output of a system. As an example, consider a cymbal crash in music, which generates large amplitude high frequency components. For each component just below Nyquist, there is a corresponding one at a mirror image frequency above Nyquist, and each pair of original frequency and alias frequency will generate a difference component when it encounters a non-linearity later in the system. In the case of a CD system with these filters, these difference components are in the frequency range of 0 to 5 kilohertz, where human hearing is very sensitive and where they are not masked very well by the signal that created them. They result in a "dirty" sound to the cymbals, which is very typical of digital systems.

[0011] Transition band distortions 210 result primarily from the transition band behavior of the interpolation filter. The type of filter that is normally used in this position in a system design is called a half-band filter. As can be seen from FIG. 2b, it is 6 dB down at Nyquist with considerable response above the 0.5 frequency.

[0012] It is used in most systems because it is very economical to implement computationally, and because it has good time domain behavior. It is a symmetrical finite impulse response (FIR) filter with linear phase response in which all even order coefficients except the middle one are exactly zero, and therefore, those multiplications do not have to be performed. This type of filter is used on the vast majority of commercial D-to-A converters designed for audio use.

[0013] A prior art approach to solving the problems associated with half-band interpolation filters is covered in U. S. patents nos. 5,479,168 and 5,808,574 and related materials. The solution that is optimal from a performance point of view is to use an interpolation filter which starts to attenuate at a lower frequency and is therefore not a half-band filter. It is possible to dramatically reduce the amplitude of the transition band alias components 210 while still maintaining good time domain impulse response by using a filter which is complementary to the decimation filter used in the A-to-D converter. It is also possible to control the stop band performance to any desired level. This approach has two major disadvantages in many commercial applications.

[0014] The first disadvantage is cost. The complexity of a non-half-band filter appropriate for this application is usually more than twice as great as the corresponding conventional half-band filter. This translates directly into silicon area, and hence cost, in a hardware implementation.

[0015] The second disadvantage is that the output

sample rate of the better interpolation filter is two times the F_s of the input and a D-to-A converter following the filter must be able to accept the higher sampling rate. Since most converters used in modem equipment are really combination filter/D-to-A converters they may not accept the higher sample rate.

[0016] Further background art may be found in an article entitled "Compatible Resolution Enhancement in Digital Audio Systems" of Keith O. Johnson et al., of November 1996.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

[0017] Briefly, and in general terms, the present invention provides a method for and a system of processing a digitally encoded signal that eliminates a type of alias distortion arising from the transition band behavior of half-band interpolation filters commonly used in D-to-A converters. The invention also provides a method for designing filters that reduce alias distortion for use with D-to-A converters.

[0018] The method for processing a digitally encoded signal converted from an analog signal using a digital decimation filter having an associated frequency response includes the steps of filtering the digital signal through a digital interpolation filter having an associated frequency response, wherein the digital interpolation filter is a half-band interpolation filter; prior to filtering the digital signal through the digital interpolation filter, locating the transition band portion of the frequency response resulting from the combination of the digital decimation filter frequency response and the digital interpolation filter frequency response; and attenuating the digital signal in the frequency range of the transition band portion.

[0019] By attenuating the digital signal in this manner and prior to filtering the digital signal through the interpolation filter, the method substantially eliminates the transition-band alias distortion associated with presently known D-to-A conversion processes without altering the interpolation filtering process itself.

[0020] In a preferred embodiment of the invention, the method further includes the step of performing additional signal processing on the digital signal after the step of attenuating the digital signal in the frequency range of the transition band portion. In another preferred embodiment, the method further includes the steps of performing data compression on the digital signal after filtering the digital signal using the digital decimation filter; and subsequently performing data expansion of the digital signal prior to the step of attenuating the digital signal in the frequency range of the transition band portion.

[0021] The system for processing a digital signal converted from an analog signal using a digital decimation filter having an associated frequency response includes a digital interpolation filter having an associated frequency response, the digital interpolation filter being a half-band interpolation filter; and an alias correction filter responsive to the digital signal for producing an alias-cor-

rected signal, said alias correction filter having a frequency response that attenuates the digital signal in the frequency range of the transition band portion of the frequency response resulting from the combination of the digital decimation filter frequency response and the digital interpolation filter frequency response, wherein the digital interpolation filter is responsive to the alias-corrected signal for producing an interpolated digital signal.

[0022] In a preferred embodiment, the digital decimation filter includes a series of individual digital decimation filters and the transition band portion of the frequency response is present within the frequency response resulting from the combination of the frequency response of the last digital decimation filter in the decimation-filter series and the digital interpolation filter frequency response. In another preferred embodiment, the digital interpolation filter includes a series of individual digital interpolation filters and the transition band portion of the frequency response is present within the frequency response resulting from the combination of the frequency response of the first digital interpolation filter in the interpolation-filter series and the digital decimation filter frequency response. In yet another preferred embodiment the system further includes a signal processor responsive to the alias corrected signal for providing a processed alias-corrected signal. In still another preferred embodiment, the system further includes a data compressor responsive to the decimated digital signal for performing data compression on the signal and a data expander responsive to the compressed decimated digital signal for performing data expansion on the signal.

[0023] The method of designing a filter that reduces alias distortion adapted to be used in processing a digital signal converted from an input analog signal using an analog-to-digital converter comprising a digital decimation filter. The digital signal being subsequently converted to an output analog using a digital-to-analog converter comprising a digital interpolation filter. Each of the decimation and interpolation filters have an associated frequency response. The method includes the steps of a) locating a transition band portion of the frequency response resulting from the combination of the digital decimation filter frequency response and the digital interpolation filter frequency response; b) selecting a first attenuation filter having a first frequency response that attenuates the digital signal in the frequency range of the distortion band portion; c) convolving the impulse responses of the decimation filter and the interpolation filter to produce a first impulse response; and d) convolving the impulse responses of the decimation filter, the attenuation filter and the interpolation filter to produce a second impulse response.

[0024] The method further includes the steps of e) comparing the time dispersion of the second impulse response in a region of the second impulse response above minus 80 dB with the time dispersion of the first impulse response in the same region; f) if the width of the second-impulse-response time dispersion in the region is greater

than the width of the first-impulse-response time dispersion in the same region, selecting another attenuation filter having a frequency response different then the first frequency response, that attenuates the digital signal in the frequency range of the transition band portion; and g) repeating steps d, e and f until the width of the second-impulse-response time dispersion in the region is no greater than the width of the first-impulse-response time dispersion in the same region.

[0025] By considering both the frequency-domain response and time-domain response of the system when designing an alias-distortion reduction filter, the invention can eliminate the alias distortion associated with D-to-A converters without significantly changing the time-domain response of the system.

[0026] In a preferred embodiment, the convolved impulse response is plotted on a logarithmic scale.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

[0027]

FIG. 1a is a block diagram of a prior-art analog-to-digital (A-to-D) converter;

FIG. 1b is a block diagram of a prior-art digital-to-analog (D-to-A) converter;

FIG. 2a depicts the frequency response of a typical filter used in an A-to-D converter as the final decimation filter;

FIG. 2b depicts the frequency response of a typical half-band filter used in a D-to-A converter as the first interpolation filter;

FIG. 3a depicts the frequency response obtained by taking the frequency response of the A-to-D decimation filter in FIG. 2a and performing the equivalent decimation followed by inserting the zero value samples prior to the interpolation filter;

FIG. 3b depicts the frequency response obtained by cascading the frequency response of the D-to-A interpolation filter response of FIG. 2b with the response of FIG. 3a;

FIG. 4 is a block diagram of a system according to the invention which includes an alias correction filter positioned before a D-to-A converter system;

FIG. 5a depicts an exemplary frequency response of the alias correction filter of FIG. 4;

FIG. 5b depicts the frequency response obtained by cascading the frequency response of FIG. 5a with the frequency response of FIG. 3b;

FIG. 6a depicts the impulse response of the cascaded filters of FIG. 3b plotted on a logarithmic scale;

FIG. 6b depicts the impulse response of the cascaded filters of FIG. 5b plotted on a logarithmic scale;

FIG. 7 is a block diagram of a system according to the invention in which other digital signal processing occurs between alias correction filtering and D-to-A conversion;

FIG. 8 is a block diagram of a system according to

the invention in which data decoding and/or expansion precedes alias correction filtering and D-to-A conversion;

FIG. 9 is a block diagram of a prior art system in which the alias correction filter is selected from a plurality of alias correction filters based on a hidden code carried by the digital signal; and

FIG. 10 is a block diagram of a system in which other selectable signal processing precedes selectable alias correction filtering, wherein both selections are based on a hidden code carried by the digital signal.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION

[0028] Referring now to the drawings, wherein like reference numerals denote like or corresponding parts throughout the drawing figures, FIG. 4 shows a D-to-A converter system according to the invention.

[0029] The original D-to-A converter structure is shown enclosed in a dashed line 140, and in many commercial applications, several channels of this type are integrated on a single integrated circuit (IC). The added filter 130 is placed in the input stream to the original converter. This filter 130 is referred to herein as a "1xFs alias correction filter." It is important to note that the input 122 and the output 135 of the alias correction filter 130 are at the same sample rate F_s and that is why it is called a 1xFs alias correction filter.

[0030] The frequency response of a typical instance of this filter is shown in FIG. 5a. It is a low-pass filter that attenuates only the frequencies in the input signal which are very near Nyquist. The plot of the filter is shown with the zero samples inserted, ready for interpolation, to make its relationship to the other plots clearer. The instance of the filter that is shown is a symmetrical FIR filter, which has linear phase response. Because it is operating at F_s , only the frequency response up to $0.5 F_s$ is necessary to specify its behavior.

[0031] When this filter response is cascaded with the earlier cascade of the decimation and interpolation filters in FIG. 3b, the response of FIG. 5b results. Notice that the transition band alias response 210 in FIG 3b is effectively suppressed in FIG. 5b, eliminating the alias distortions arising from the use of a half-band filter.

[0032] The alias response 220 (FIG. 3b) corresponding to the stop-band of the interpolation filter is not altered by the added alias correction filter 130, since a filter operating at 1xFs cannot change that area of the response while maintaining in-band performance. The only way that the stop-band related problems could be fixed is by using a filter at a higher sampling rate.

[0033] Our listening tests indicate that the transition band alias distortion 210 is much more audible than the higher frequency, lower amplitude distortions from the stop-band range 220. The introduction of the alias correction filter 130 (FIG. 4) can dramatically improve the sound of the system.

[0034] In order to suppress the alias distortion products

in the transition region of the interpolation filter, it is necessary to remove some of the frequencies at the top of the normal response of the original system, as explained above. The added alias correction filter 130 is a low-pass filter. In systems with CD or higher sampling rates, the loss of frequencies at about 20 kilohertz and higher is not usually sonically significant. There is, however, another phenomenon which may sound like the loss of high frequency resolution that is actually caused by a different mechanism having to do with dispersion of transient energy over time. We have referred to this as time smear.

[0035] If one takes the inverse Fourier transform of the cascaded frequency response in FIG. 3b, one gets an equivalent impulse response of the cascaded system.

From a listener's point of view, this is much more important than the impulse responses of the filters individually, since it is the combination of filters that the signal is actually going through. If one examines the cascaded impulse response on a normal linear scale, it looks very much like the text book responses of the individual filters. Normal linear plots do not reveal much information that correlates to listening experiences.

[0036] If, however, one plots the magnitude of the impulse response on a logarithmic scale, one can see some very interesting results, which do correlate with listening tests. The response of human hearing is logarithmic. A plot of this type for a simple decimation and interpolation filter combination like FIG. 3b is plotted in FIG. 6a. The vertical axis is the amplitude in dB with reference to full scale, and the horizontal axis is in samples. This can be thought of as the response of the system in time to a single impulse of unity amplitude (0 dB). Notice that the energy in the system response to a single impulse spike is spread over many samples in time. If one assumes that this is a CD example with a sampling frequency of 44.1 kHz, the spread in time at the point where the plot is 50 dB below full scale is about 3 milliseconds. This time corresponds to physical dimensions of roughly one meter, given the speed of sound in air. If the source of the sound was originally smaller, such as a wood block percussion instrument, the spreading in time or time smear will alter the sound as reproduced by the system in a way that sounds like a loss of high frequency resolution.

[0037] When one adds the 1xFs alias correction filter 130 (FIG. 4), one is adding another impulse response to the cascade. Since this is equivalent to the convolution of the impulse response of the new filter with the impulse response of the previous combination, the total length of the impulse response is greater. This does not have to mean that it will sound worse. The part of the response curve which is most significant sonically is the region above about minus 80 dB. It is possible to pick a filter design which has less time dispersion at higher amplitudes and more dispersion at very low amplitudes, which sounds as if it has better high frequency resolution than the system without the added alias correction filter. An example of a response with this character is shown in

FIG. 6b.

[0038] The plot in FIG. 6b is the same decimation/interpolation filter pair as in FIG 6a, cascaded with the alias correction filter of FIG. 5a. Notice that the width of the plot above -75 dB in FIG. 6b is narrower than the corresponding section of Fig 6a. The combination of filters in FIG. 6b actually sounds as if it has better high frequency response than FIG. 6a even though it actually has less high frequency components because of the low pass filter. It also sounds much less distorted because the alias distortion from the transition region has been suppressed.

[0039] It is very important when designing these alias correction filters 130 (FIG. 4) to examine the result in both the frequency and time domains, because both views show aspects of the design with sonic consequences. Frequently, the two views are at odds with each other. It is easy to solve one problem, such as alias distortion, by introducing another, time dispersion. The final choice is often a tradeoff that must be resolved with listening tests.

[0040] The combination of the 1xFs alias correction filter 130 with a half-band interpolation filter 150 and D-to-A converter 160 is frequently more economical to implement than the more complex non-half-band filter approach of the prior art. In many modem audio components for consumer use, there is a general-purpose digital signal processing (DSP) function plus an integrated filter / D-to-A converter which uses a half-band filter. Examples are DVD players and A/V receivers that use DSP functions to decode compressed audio and for other functions such as bass management. Frequently, there is enough extra processing power in the DSP to add the alias correction filter to the system without changing any hardware except the program ROM for the DSP. The invention allows systems designers to use the same standard integrated filter/D-to-A converter and gain the advantage of a better quality conversion with lower alias distortion.

[0041] The use of an alias correction filter 130 at the input sampling frequency of a D-to-A converter to reduce its alias distortion is believed to be new and novel. The nature of transition band alias distortions 210 does not seem to be well understood in the current literature, and is not reflected in current system designs except those employing HDCD, *i. e.*, the prior cited U.S. patents. Also, the method of analysis of the frequency and time domain behavior of cascaded decimation/interpolation filter systems set forth above and its use in designing interpolation filters or alias correction filters is believed to be unique.

[0042] The examples so far have covered the simple case of an alias correction filter 130 connected directly to the interpolation filter 150 and D-to-A converter 160. There are many possible variations of the basic structure of the invention that have the same basic functionality. One possible variation is shown in FIG. 7. In this case, the alias correction filter 130 is inserted in the data stream at the input 122 and then other digital processing 137 is

done on the signal before it goes to the interpolation filter. This other processing 137 can include bass management, spatial effects, tone controls, reverb, etc. without changing the essence of the invention. Since the behavior of the alias correction is based on the cascaded filters of the system, adding other processing is possible anywhere in the chain without altering the basic behavior of the corrective effect.

[0043] Yet another example is shown in FIG. 8. This is an example of systems in which some form of data compression is used to achieve a higher data storage density. Examples of such systems are AC3, MPEG audio compression, etc. The section of the playback system 125 responsible for decoding or expanding the compressed format must precede the alias correction filter 130. This block may also include other processing before the alias correction filter.

[0044] FIG. 9 shows an example of a form of HDCD system according to, the prior art described in the previously referenced U.S. patents. In this system, the decimation filter used in the encoder is selected dynamically for best fidelity based on the content of the program material. Since the alias correction filter 130 design is optimally based on both the decimation filter and the interpolation filter 150 used, and since the choice of decimation filter is conveyed to the reproducer via a hidden code side channel, the alias correction filter can be selected dynamically to give the best complement to the decimation filter at any given time. This is accomplished by a hidden code/filter select device 128, which recovers the hidden code information, decodes the commands contained in the hidden code, and selects one of several alias correction filters 130 using a control signal 129.

[0045] FIG. 10 is another example of an HDCD system similar to FIG. 9 with the addition of the HDCD amplitude decoder 125. The function of the amplitude decoder is also controlled by the hidden code side channel via the code command decoder 128 and control signal 126. In this system, the amplitude decoding must be done before the alias correction filter 130 in order for the decoding to track the encoding properly.

[0046] Although the alias correction filter 130 described above is a symmetrical FIR filter, which has linear phase characteristics, other types of filters could be used to accomplish the same goal. One possible type is a minimum phase IIR (infinite impulse response) filter. This type of filter has the time domain characteristic that the filter ringing occurs after the transient event that caused it. This would probably have a better time domain behavior from an audibility standpoint, although the phase shift near the band edge might cause other perceptual problems.

[0047] The example filters used in the discussion so far have been designs used for CD players and other systems with sampling rates between 40 and 50 kHz. The invention is also useful for high-resolution systems with higher sampling rates, such as DVD Audio, which allows sampling rates up to 192 kHz. As the sampling

rate is increased by an octave or two, the transition band alias 210 problems are still an issue. Half-band interpolation filters are still the norm for most audio systems designs, and the signal frequency component-alias frequency component pairs can still cause difference frequencies in the audio band when they encounter nonlinearities down stream in the system. This is true even though the amplitude of audio signals is lower in the transition region of the filters at higher sampling frequencies. We have done listening tests at 88.2 and 96 kHz in which the transition band alias components 210 cause the digital signal to sound very bright, that is sound as if there are much higher levels of high frequencies, when compared to the original signal. Introducing an alias correction filter 130 to the system caused the exaggerated brightness to go away, resulting in a very neutral reproduction of the original.

[0048] It will be apparent from the foregoing that, while particular forms of the invention have been illustrated and described, various modifications can be made without departing from the scope of the invention as defined by the appended claims.

Claims

1. A method of processing a digital signal converted from an analog signal using a digital decimation filter (110) having an associated frequency response, said method comprising the steps of:

filtering said digital signal through a digital interpolation filter (150) having an associated frequency response, wherein the digital interpolation filter (150) is a half-band interpolation filter; prior to filtering said digital signal through said digital interpolation filter (150):

locating the transition band portion of the frequency response resulting from the combination of the digital decimation filter frequency response and the digital interpolation filter frequency response; and attenuating the digital signal in the frequency range of the transition band portion.

2. The method of claim 1, further comprising the step of performing additional signal processing (137) on said digital signal after the step of attenuating said digital signal in the frequency range of said transition band portion.
3. The method of claim 2, wherein said additional signal processing (137) comprises at least one of bass correction, spatial effects, tone control and reverberation.
4. The method of claim 1, further comprising the steps

of:

performing data compression on said digital signal after filtering said digital signal using the digital decimation filter (110); and subsequently performing data expansion (125) of said digital signal prior to the step of attenuating said digital signal in the frequency range of said transition band portion.

5. The method of claim 1, wherein at least one of a plurality of signal processing characteristics are encoded in said digital signal and the method further comprises the step of decoding said signal processing characteristic from the digital signal prior to the step of attenuating the digital signal in the frequency range of the transition band portion, wherein said at least one signal processing characteristic is selected from said plurality of signal processing characteristics based on a hidden code carried by said digital signal.
6. The method of claim 5, wherein said signal processing characteristic comprises amplitude decoding.
7. The method of claim 1, wherein the digital decimation filter (110) is selected from a plurality of digital decimation filters, each digital decimation filter (110) having an associated frequency response, said decimation filter (110) selected based on a hidden code carried by said digital signal; and attenuating the digital signal is performed using an alias correction filter (130) selected from a plurality of individually selectable alias correction filters, each alias correction filter designed to attenuate a digital signal in the frequency range of the transition band portion of the frequency response resulting from the combination of the frequency response of one of said digital decimation filters (110) and the frequency response of said digital interpolation filter (150), wherein the selecting of said alias correction filters (130) is based on said hidden code, and said digital signal is filtered through said digital interpolation filter;
8. The method of claim 7, further comprising the step of performing additional signal processing on said digital signal after the step of filtering said digital signal through said selected alias correction filter (130).
9. The method of claim 8, wherein said additional signal processing comprises at least one of bass correction, spatial effects, tone control and reverb.
10. The method of claim 7, wherein at least one of a plurality of signal processing characteristics are encoded in said digital signal and the method further comprises the step of decoding said signal process-

ing characteristic from the digital signal prior to filtering said digital signal through said selected alias correction filter wherein said at least one signal processing characteristic is selected from said plurality of signal processing characteristics based on said hidden code carried by said digital signal.

11. The method of claim 10, wherein said signal processing characteristic comprises amplitude decoding.

12. The method of claim 11, wherein said digital signal is filtered using a series of digital decimation filters and the transition band portion of the frequency response is located within the frequency response resulting from the combination of the frequency response of the last digital decimation filter in said decimation-filter series and the digital interpolation filter frequency response.

13. The method of claim 11, wherein said digital signal is filtered using a series of digital interpolation filters and the transition band portion of the frequency response is located within the frequency response resulting from the combination of the frequency response of the first digital interpolation filter in said interpolation-filter series and the digital decimation filter frequency response.

14. The method of claim 11, wherein said digital signal is filtered using a series of digital decimation filters and a series of digital interpolation filters and the transition band portion of the frequency response is located within the frequency response resulting from the combination of the frequency response of the last digital decimation filter in said decimation-filter series and the frequency response of the first digital interpolation filter in said interpolation-filter series.

15. The method of any one of claims 11-14, further comprising the step of performing additional signal processing (137) on said digital signal prior to the step of attenuating said digital signal in the frequency range of said transition band portion.

16. The method of claim 15, wherein said additional signal processing (137) comprises at least one of bass management, spatial effects, tone control and reverb.

17. The method of any one of claims 14-16, further comprising the steps of:

performing data compression on said digital signal after the step of filtering said digital signal using a digital decimation filter (110); and subsequently performing data expansion of said digital signal prior to the step of attenuating said digital signal in the frequency range of said tran-

sition band portion.

18. A method of designing a filter for reducing alias distortion adapted to be used in processing a digital signal converted from an input analog signal using an analog-to-digital converter comprising a digital decimation filter, the digital signal subsequently converted to an output analog using a digital-to-analog converter comprising a digital interpolation filter, each of said decimation and interpolation filters having an associated frequency response, said method comprising the steps of:

- a) locating the transition band portion of the frequency response resulting from the combination of the digital decimation filter frequency response and the digital interpolation filter frequency response;
- b) selecting a first attenuation filter having a first frequency response that attenuates the digital signal in the frequency range of the transition band portion;
- c) convolving the impulse responses of the decimation filter (110) and the interpolation filter (150) to produce a first impulse response;
- d) convolving the impulse responses of the decimation filter, the attenuation filter and the interpolation filter (150) to produce a second impulse response;
- e) comparing the time dispersion of the second impulse response in a region of the second impulse response above minus 80 dB with the time dispersion of the first impulse response in the same region;
- f) if the width of the second-impulse-response time dispersion in said region is greater than the width of the first-impulse response time dispersion in the same region, selecting another attenuation filter having a frequency response different than said first frequency response, that attenuates the digital signal in the frequency range of the transition band portion; and
- g) repeating steps d, e and f until the width of the second-impulse-response time dispersion in said region is no greater than the width of the first-impulse-response time dispersion in the same region.

19. The method of claim 18, wherein the convolved impulse response is plotted on a logarithmic scale.

20. A system for processing a digital signal converted from an analog signal using a digital decimation filter (110) having an associated frequency response, said system comprising:

a digital interpolation filter (150) having an associated frequency response, the digital inter-

- polarization filter (150) being a half-band interpolation filter; and an alias correction filter (130) responsive to said digital signal for producing an alias-corrected signal, said alias correction filter (130) having a frequency response that attenuates said digital signal in the frequency range of the transition band portion of the frequency response resulting from the combination of the digital decimation filter frequency response and the digital interpolation filter frequency response; and wherein said digital interpolation filter (150) is responsive to said alias-corrected signal for producing an interpolated digital signal.
21. The system of claim 20, further comprising a signal processor responsive to said alias corrected signal for providing a processed alias-corrected signal.
22. The system of claim 21, wherein the signal processor comprises at least one of a bass correcter, spatial effector, tone controller and reverberator.
23. The system of claim 22, further comprising:
- a data compressor responsive to said decimated digital signal for performing data compression on said decimated digital signal; and a data expander responsive to said compressed decimated digital signal for performing data expansion on said decimated digital signal.
24. The system of claim 20, wherein the digital decimation filter (110) is selected from a plurality of digital decimation filters, each digital decimation filter (110) having an associated frequency response, said decimation filter (110) selected based on a hidden code carried by said digital signal; and the alias correction filter (130) is selected from a plurality of individually selectable alias correction filters, each alias correction filter (130) designed to attenuate a digital signal in the frequency range of the transition band portion of the frequency response resulting from the combination of the frequency response of one of said digital decimation filters and the frequency response of said digital interpolation filter (150), wherein the selecting of said alias correction filter (130) is performed by a selector responsive to said hidden code.
25. The system of claim 24, further comprising a signal processor responsive to said digital signal subsequent to said selected alias correction filter.
26. The system of claim 25, wherein said signal processor comprises at least one of a bass correcter, spatial effector, tone controller and reverberator.
27. The system of claim 24, wherein at least one of a plurality of signal processing characteristics are encoded in said digital signal and the system further comprises a decoder responsive to said digital signal prior to said selected alias correction filter (130) and to said hidden code for decoding said signal processing characteristic from the digital signal wherein said at least one signal processing characteristic is selected from said plurality of signal processing characteristics based on said hidden code carried by said digital signal.
28. The system of claim 27, wherein said signal processing characteristic comprises amplitude decoding.
29. The system of claim 20, wherein said digital decimation filter (110) comprises a series of individual digital decimation filters and the transition band portion of the frequency response is present within the frequency response resulting from the combination of the frequency response of the last digital decimation filter in said decimation-filter series and the digital interpolation filter frequency response.
30. The system of claim 20, wherein said digital interpolation filter (110) comprises a series of individual digital interpolation filters and the transition band portion of the frequency response is present within the frequency response resulting from the combination of the frequency response of the first digital interpolation filter in said interpolation-filter series and the digital decimation filter frequency response.
31. The system of claim 20, wherein said digital decimation filter (110) comprises a series of individual digital decimation filters, said digital interpolation filter comprises a series of individual digital interpolation filters and said transition band portion is present within the frequency response resulting from the combination of the frequency response of the last digital decimation filter in said decimation-filter series and the frequency response of the first digital interpolation filter in said interpolation-filter series.
32. The system of any one of claims 20 and 29-31, wherein said transition band portion is near Nyquist.
33. The system of any one of claims 20 and 29-31, wherein said decimated digital signal and said alias corrected signal are at the same sampling rate.
34. The system of any one of claims 20 and 29-31, further comprising a signal processor responsive to said alias corrected signal for providing a processed alias-corrected signal.
35. The system of claim 34, wherein the signal processor comprises at least one of a bass manager, spatial

effector, tone controller and reverberator.

36. The system of any one of claims 20 and 29-35, further comprising: a data compressor responsive to said decimated digital signal for performing data compression on said signal; and
a data expander responsive to said compressed decimated digital signal for performing data expansion on said signal.

Patentansprüche

1. Verfahren zur Verarbeitung eines digitalen Signals, das aus einem analogen Signal unter Verwendung eines digitalen Dezimationsfilters (110) mit einem zugehörigen Frequenzübertragungsverhalten umgewandelt ist, wobei das Verfahren die Schritte umfasst:

Filtern des digitalen Signals durch einen digitalen Interpolationsfilter (150) mit einem dazugehörigen Frequenzübertragungsverhalten, wobei der digitale Interpolationsfilter (150) ein Halbbandinterpolationsfilter ist;
vor Filtern des digitalen Signals durch den digitalen Interpolationsfilter (150):

Lokalisieren des Übergangsbereichsabschnitts des Frequenzübertragungsverhaltens, der sich anhand der Kombination des Frequenzübertragungsverhaltens des digitalen Dezimationsfilters und des Frequenzübertragungsverhaltens des digitalen Interpolationsfilters ergibt; und
Dämpfen des digitalen Signals in dem Frequenzbereich des Übergangsbereichsabschnitts.

2. Verfahren nach Anspruch 1, ferner umfassend den Schritt des Durchführens einer zusätzlichen Signalverarbeitung (137) an dem digitalen Signal nach dem Schritt des Dämpfens des digitalen Signals im Frequenzbereich des Übergangsbereichsabschnitts.
3. Verfahren nach Anspruch 2, wobei die zusätzliche Signalverarbeitung (137) Basskorrektur und/oder räumliche Effekte und/oder Klangsteuerung und/oder Hall umfasst.
4. Verfahren nach Anspruch 1, ferner umfassend die Schritte:

Durchführen von Datenkomprimierung an dem digitalen Signal nach Filtern des digitalen Signals unter Verwendung des digitalen Dezimationsfilters (110); und
nachfolgendes Durchführen von Datenexpansi-

on (125) des digitalen Signals vor dem Schritt des Dämpfens des digitalen Signals im Frequenzbereich des Übergangsbereichsabschnitts.

5. Verfahren nach Anspruch 1, wobei mindestens eine von einer Vielzahl von Signalverarbeitungseigenschaften in dem digitalen Signal kodiert ist und das Verfahren ferner den Schritt des Dekodierens der Signalverarbeitungseigenschaft aus dem digitalen Signal vor dem Schritt des Dämpfens des digitalen Signals im Frequenzbereich des Übergangsbereichsabschnitts umfasst, wobei die mindestens eine Signalverarbeitungseigenschaft aus der Vielzahl von Signalverarbeitungseigenschaften basierend auf einem von dem digitalen Signal getragenen versteckten Code ausgewählt ist.
6. Verfahren nach Anspruch 5, wobei die Signalverarbeitungseigenschaft Amplitudendekodieren umfasst.
7. Verfahren nach Anspruch 1, wobei der digitale Dezimationsfilter (110) aus einer Vielzahl von digitalen Dezimationsfiltern ausgewählt ist, wobei jeder digitale Dezimationsfilter (110) ein zugehöriges Frequenzübertragungsverhalten aufweist, wobei der Dezimationsfilter (110) basierend auf einem von dem digitalen Signal getragenen versteckten Code ausgewählt ist; und
Dämpfen des digitalen Signals unter Verwendung eines Alias-Korrekturfilters (130) durchgeführt wird, der aus einer Vielzahl von einzelnen wählbaren Alias-Korrekturfiltern ausgewählt ist, wobei jeder Alias-Korrekturfilter gestaltet ist, um ein digitales Signal im Frequenzbereich des Übergangsbereichsabschnitts der sich aus der Kombination des Frequenzübertragungsverhaltens von einem der digitalen Dezimationsfilter (110) und des Frequenzübertragungsverhaltens des digitalen Interpolationsfilters (150) ergebenden Frequenzübertragungsverhaltens zu dämpfen, wobei das Auswählen der Alias-Korrekturfilter (130) auf dem versteckten Code basiert, und das digitale Signal durch den digitalen Interpolationsfilter gefiltert wird.
8. Verfahren nach Anspruch 7, ferner umfassen den Schritt des Durchführens von zusätzlicher Signalverarbeitung an dem digitalen Signal nach dem Schritt des Filterns des digitalen Signals durch den ausgewählten Alias-Korrekturfilter (130).
9. Verfahren nach Anspruch 8, wobei die zusätzliche Signalverarbeitung Basskorrektur und/oder räumliche Effekte und/oder Klangsteuerung und/oder Hall umfasst.
10. Verfahren nach Anspruch 7, wobei mindestens eine

von einer Vielzahl von Signalverarbeitungseigenschaften in dem digitalen Signal kodiert ist und das Verfahren ferner den Schritt des Dekodierens der Signalverarbeitungseigenschaft aus dem digitalen Signal vor Filtern des digitalen Signals durch den ausgewählten Alias-Korrekturfilter umfasst, wobei die mindestens eine Signalverarbeitungseigenschaft aus der Vielzahl von Signalverarbeitungseigenschaften auf Basis des von dem digitalen Signal getragenen versteckten Codes ausgewählt ist.

11. Verfahren nach Anspruch 10, wobei besagte Signalverarbeitungseigenschaft Amplitudendekodieren umfasst.

12. Verfahren nach Anspruch 11, wobei das digitale Signal unter Verwendung einer Reihe von digitalen Dezimationsfiltern gefiltert wird und sich der Übergangsbereichsabschnitt des Frequenzübertragungsverhaltens in dem Frequenzübertragungsverhalten befindet, das sich aus der Kombination des Frequenzübertragungsverhaltens des letzten digitalen Dezimationsfilters in der Reihe von Dezimationsfiltern und dem Frequenzübertragungsverhalten des digitalen Interpolationsfilters ergibt.

13. Verfahren nach Anspruch 11, wobei das digitale Signal unter Verwendung einer Reihe von digitalen Interpolationsfiltern gefiltert wird und sich der Übergangsbereichsabschnitt des Frequenzübertragungsverhaltens in dem Frequenzübertragungsverhalten befindet, das sich aus der Kombination des Frequenzübertragungsverhaltens des ersten digitalen Interpolationsfilters in der Reihe von Interpolationsfiltern und dem Frequenzübertragungsverhalten des digitalen Dezimationsfilters ergibt.

14. Verfahren nach Anspruch 11, wobei das digitale Signal unter Verwendung einer Reihe von digitalen Dezimationsfiltern und einer Reihe von digitalen Interpolationsfiltern gefiltert wird und sich der Übergangsbereichsabschnitt des Frequenzübertragungsverhaltens in dem Frequenzübertragungsverhalten befindet, das sich aus der Kombination des Frequenzübertragungsverhaltens des letzten digitalen Dezimationsfilters in der Reihe von Dezimationsfiltern und dem Frequenzübertragungsverhalten des ersten digitalen Interpolationsfilters in der Reihe von Interpolationsfiltern ergibt.

15. Verfahren nach einem der Ansprüche 11 bis 14, ferner umfassend den Schritt des Durchführens von zusätzlicher Signalverarbeitung (137) an dem digitalen Signal vor dem Schritt des Dämpfens des digitalen Signals im Frequenzbereich des Übergangsbereichsabschnitts.

16. Verfahren nach Anspruch 15, wobei die zusätzliche

Signalverarbeitung (137) Bassverwaltung und/oder räumliche Effekte und/oder Klangsteuerung und/oder Hall umfasst.

17. Verfahren nach einem der Ansprüche 14 bis 16, ferner umfassend die Schritte:

Durchführen von Datenkomprimierung an dem digitalen Signal nach dem Schritt des Filterns des digitalen Signals unter Verwendung eines digitalen Dezimationsfilters (110); und nachfolgendes Durchführen von Datenexpansion des digitalen Signals vor dem Schritt des Dämpfens des digitalen Signals im Frequenzbereich des Übergangsbereichsabschnitts.

18. Verfahren zum Entwerfen eines Filters zur Reduzierung von Alias-Verzerrung, der geeignet ist, um bei der Verarbeitung eines digitalen Signals verwendet zu werden, das aus einem analogen Eingangssignal unter Verwendung eines Analog-Digital-Wandlers mit einem digitalen Dezimationsfilter umgewandelt ist, wobei das digitale Signal nachfolgend in ein analoges Ausgabesignal unter Verwendung eines Analog-Digital-Wandlers mit einem digitalen Interpolationsfilter umgewandelt wird, wobei jeder der Dezimations- und Interpolationsfilter ein zugehöriges Frequenzübertragungsverhalten aufweist, wobei das Verfahren die Schritte umfasst:

- a) Lokalisieren des Übergangsbereichsabschnitts des Frequenzübertragungsverhaltens, das sich aus der Kombination des Frequenzübertragungsverhaltens des digitalen Dezimationsfilters und dem Frequenzübertragungsverhalten des digitalen Interpolationsfilters ergibt;
- b) Auswählen eines ersten Dämpfungsfilters mit einem ersten Frequenzübertragungsverhalten, der das digitale Signal im Frequenzbereich des Übergangsbereichsabschnitts dämpft;
- c) Falten der Impulsantworten des Dezimationsfilters (110) und des Interpolationsfilters (150) zum Erzeugen einer ersten Impulsantwort;
- d) Falten der Impulsantworten des Dezimationsfilters, des Dämpfungsfilters und des Interpolationsfilters (150) zum Erzeugen einer zweiten Impulsantwort;
- e) Vergleichen der zeitlichen Dispersion der zweiten Impulsantwort in einem Gebiet der zweiten Impulsantwort oberhalb von minus 80 dB mit der zeitlichen Dispersion der ersten Impulsantwort in demselben Gebiet;
- f) wenn die Breite der zeitlichen Dispersion der zweiten Impulsantwort in dem Gebiet größer als die Breite der zeitlichen Dispersion der ersten Impulsantwort in dem Gebiet ist, Auswählen eines anderen Dämpfungsfilters mit einem sich von dem ersten Frequenzübertragungsverhalten

- ten unterscheidenden Frequenzübertragungsverhalten, der das digitale Signal im Frequenzbereich des Übergangsbereichsabschnitts dämpft; und
- g) Wiederholen der Schritte d, e und f, bis die Breite der zeitlichen Dispersion der zweiten Impulsantwort in dem Gebiet nicht größer als die Breite der zeitlichen Dispersion der ersten Impulsantwort in dem Gebiet ist.
- 19.** Verfahren nach Anspruch 18, wobei die gefaltete Impulsantwort in einem logarithmischen Maßstab dargestellt wird.
- 20.** System zur Verarbeitung eines digitalen Signals, das aus einem analogen Signal unter Verwendung eines digitalen Dezimationsfilters (110) mit einem zugehörigen Frequenzübertragungsverhalten umgewandelt ist, wobei das System umfasst:
- einen digitalen Interpolationsfilter (150) mit einem zugehörigen Frequenzübertragungsverhalten, wobei der digitale Interpolationsfilter (150) ein Halbbandinterpolationsfilter ist; und einen Alias-Korrekturfilter (130), der als Reaktion auf das digitale Signal ein Alias-korrigiertes Signal erzeugt, wobei der Alias-Korrekturfilter (130) ein Frequenzübertragungsverhalten aufweist, das das digitale Signal im Frequenzbereich des Übergangsbereichsabschnitts des Frequenzübertragungsverhaltens dämpft, das sich aus der Kombination des Frequenzübertragungsverhaltens des digitalen Dezimationsfilters und des Frequenzübertragungsverhaltens des digitalen Interpolationsfilters ergibt; und wobei der digitale Interpolationsfilter (150) als Reaktion auf das Alias-korrigierte Signal ein interpoliertes digitales Signal erzeugt.
- 21.** System nach Anspruch 20, ferner umfassend einen Signalprozessor, der als Reaktion auf das Alias-korrigierte Signal ein verarbeitetes Alias-korrigiertes Signal liefert.
- 22.** System nach Anspruch 21, wobei der Signalprozessor eine Basskorrekturereinrichtung und/oder einen räumlichen Effektor und/oder eine Klangsteuerung und/oder eine Halleinrichtung aufweist.
- 23.** System nach Anspruch 22, ferner umfassend:
- eine Datenkomprimiereinrichtung, die als Reaktion auf das dezimierte digitale Signal eine Datenkomprimierung an dem dezimierten digitalen Signal durchführt; und eine Datenexpansionseinrichtung, die als Reaktion auf das komprimierte dezimierte digitale Signal eine Datenexpansion an dem dezimierten digitalen Signal durchführt.
- 24.** System nach Anspruch 20, wobei der digitale Dezimationsfilter (110) aus einer Vielzahl von digitalen Dezimationsfiltern ausgewählt ist, wobei jeder digitale Dezimationsfilter (110) ein zugehöriges Frequenzübertragungsverhalten aufweist, wobei der Dezimationsfilter (110) basierend auf einem von dem digitalen Signal getragenen versteckten Code ausgewählt ist; und der Alias-Korrekturfilter (130) aus einer Vielzahl von einzeln wählbaren Alias-Korrekturfiltern ausgewählt ist, wobei jeder Alias-Korrekturfilter (130) gestaltet ist, um ein digitales Signal im Frequenzbereich des Übergangsbereichsabschnitts des Frequenzübertragungsverhaltens zu dämpfen, das sich aus der Kombination des Frequenzübertragungsverhaltens von einem der digitalen Dezimationsfilter und dem Frequenzübertragungsverhalten von dem digitalen Interpolationsfilter (150) ergibt, wobei das Auswählen des Alias-Korrekturfilter (130) von einer Auswahlrichtung als Reaktion auf den versteckten Code durchgeführt wird.
- 25.** System nach Anspruch 24, ferner umfassend einen Signalprozessor, der nachfolgend zum ausgewählten Alias-Korrekturfilter auf das digitale Signal anspricht.
- 26.** System nach Anspruch 25, wobei der Signalprozessor eine Basskorrekturereinrichtung und/oder eine räumliche Effekteinrichtung und/oder eine Klangsteuerung und/oder eine Halleinrichtung aufweist.
- 27.** System nach Anspruch 24, wobei mindestens eine von einer Vielzahl von Signalverarbeitungseigenschaften in dem digitalen Signal kodiert ist und das System ferner eine Dekodiereinrichtung zum Dekodieren der Signalverarbeitungseigenschaft aus dem digitalen Signal als Reaktion auf das digitale Signal vor dem ausgewählten Alias-Korrekturfilter (130) und den versteckten Code aufweist, wobei die mindestens eine Signalverarbeitungseigenschaft aus der Vielzahl von Signalverarbeitungseigenschaften basierend auf dem von dem digitalen Signal getragenen versteckten Code ausgewählt ist.
- 28.** System nach Anspruch 27, wobei die Signalverarbeitungseigenschaft Amplitudendekodierung umfasst.
- 29.** System nach Anspruch 20, wobei der digitale Dezimationsfilter (110) eine Reihe von einzelnen digitalen Dezimationsfiltern umfasst und der Übergangsbereichsabschnitt des Frequenzübertragungsverhaltens in dem Frequenzübertragungsverhalten vorhanden ist, das sich aus der Kombination des Frequenzübertragungsverhaltens des letzten digitalen

Dezimationsfilters in der Reihe von Dezimationsfiltern und dem Frequenzübertragungsverhalten des digitalen Interpolationsfilters ergibt.

30. System nach Anspruch 20, wobei der digitale Interpolationsfilter (110) eine Reihe von einzelnen digitalen Interpolationsfiltern umfasst und der Übergangsbereichsabschnitt des Frequenzübertragungsverhaltens in dem Frequenzübertragungsverhalten vorhanden ist, das sich aus der Kombination des Frequenzübertragungsverhaltens des ersten digitalen Interpolationsfilter in der Reihe von Interpolationsfiltern und dem Frequenzübertragungsverhalten des digitalen Dezimationsfilters ergibt. 5 10
31. System nach Anspruch 20, wobei der digitale Dezimationsfilter (110) eine Reihe von einzelnen digitalen Dezimationsfiltern umfasst, der digitale Interpolationsfilter eine Reihe von einzelnen digitalen Interpolationsfiltern umfasst und der Übergangsbereichsabschnitt in dem Frequenzübertragungsverhalten vorhanden ist, das sich aus der Kombination des Frequenzübertragungsverhaltens des letzten digitalen Dezimationsfilters in der Reihe von Dezimationsfiltern und dem Frequenzübertragungsverhalten des ersten digitalen Interpolationsfilters in der Reihe von Interpolationsfiltern ergibt. 15 20 25
32. System nach einem der Ansprüche 20 und 29-31, wobei der Übergangsbereichsabschnitt nahe Nyquist ist. 30
33. System nach einem der Ansprüche 20 und 29-31, wobei das sich dezimierte digitale Signal und das Alias-korrigierte Signal auf derselben Sampling-Rate befinden. 35
34. System nach einem der Ansprüche 20 und 29-31, ferner umfassend einen Signalprozessor, der als Reaktion auf das Alias-korrigierte Signal ein verarbeitetes Alias-korrigiertes Signal liefert. 40
35. System nach Anspruch 34, wobei der Signalprozessor eine Bassverwaltungseinrichtung und/oder eine räumliche Effekteinrichtung und/oder eine Klangsteuerung und/oder eine Halleinrichtung umfasst. 45
36. System nach einem der Ansprüche 20 und 29-35, ferner umfassend eine Datenkomprimiereinrichtung, die als Reaktion auf das dezimierte digitale Signale eine Datenkomprimierung an dem Signal durchführt; und 50
eine Datenexpansionseinrichtung, die als Reaktion auf das komprimierte dezimierte digitale Signal eine Datenexpansion an dem Signal durchführt. 55

Revendications

1. Procédé de traitement d'un signal numérique converti à partir d'un signal analogique à l'aide d'un filtre de décimation numérique (110) présentant une réponse en fréquence associée, ledit procédé comprenant les étapes ci-dessous consistant à :

filtrer ledit signal numérique à travers un filtre d'interpolation numérique (150) présentant une réponse en fréquence, dans lequel le filtre d'interpolation numérique (150) est un filtre d'interpolation demi-bande ;
avant de filtrer ledit signal numérique à travers ledit filtre d'interpolation numérique (150) :

localiser la partie de bande de transition de la réponse en fréquence résultant de la combinaison de la réponse en fréquence de filtre de décimation numérique et de la réponse en fréquence de filtre d'interpolation numérique ; et
atténuer le signal numérique dans la plage de fréquences de la partie de bande de transition. 5 10 15 20 25
2. Procédé selon la revendication 1, comprenant en outre l'étape consistant à mettre en oeuvre un traitement de signal supplémentaire (137) sur ledit signal numérique après l'étape d'atténuation dudit signal numérique dans la plage de fréquences de ladite partie de bande de transition. 30
3. Procédé selon la revendication 2, dans lequel ledit traitement de signal supplémentaire (137) comprend au moins l'un(e) parmi une correction des graves, des effets spatiaux, une réverbération et une commande de tonalité. 35
4. Procédé selon la revendication 1, comprenant en outre les étapes ci-dessous consistant à :

mettre en oeuvre une compression de données sur ledit signal numérique suite au filtrage dudit signal numérique en utilisant le filtre de décimation numérique (110) ; et
mettre en oeuvre subséquentement une expansion de données (125) dudit signal numérique avant l'étape d'atténuation dudit signal numérique dans la plage de fréquences de ladite partie de bande de transition. 40 45 50
5. Procédé selon la revendication 1, dans lequel au moins l'une d'une pluralité de caractéristiques de traitement de signal est codée dans ledit signal numérique, et le procédé comprend en outre l'étape consistant à décoder ladite caractéristique de traitement de signal à partir du signal numérique avant 55

l'étape d'atténuation du signal numérique dans la plage de fréquences de la partie de bande de transition, dans lequel ladite au moins une caractéristique de traitement de signal est sélectionnée parmi ladite pluralité de caractéristiques de traitement de signal sur la base d'un code masqué transporté par ledit signal numérique.

6. Procédé selon la revendication 5, dans lequel ladite caractéristique de traitement de signal comprend un décodage d'amplitude.

7. Procédé selon la revendication 1, dans lequel le filtre de décimation numérique (110) est sélectionné parmi une pluralité de filtres de décimation numériques, chaque filtre de décimation numérique (110) présentant une réponse en fréquence associée, ledit filtre de décimation (110) étant sélectionné sur la base d'un code masqué transporté par ledit signal numérique ; et

l'étape d'atténuation du signal numérique est mise en oeuvre en utilisant un filtre de correction d'alias (130) sélectionné parmi une pluralité de filtres de correction d'alias sélectionnables individuellement, chaque filtre de correction d'alias étant conçu de manière à atténuer un signal numérique dans la plage de fréquences de la partie de bande de transition de la réponse en fréquence résultant de la combinaison de la réponse en fréquence de l'un desdits filtres de décimation numériques (110) et de la réponse en fréquence dudit filtre d'interpolation numérique (150), dans lequel l'étape de sélection desdits filtres de correction d'alias (130) est basée sur ledit code masqué, et ledit signal numérique est filtré à travers ledit filtre d'interpolation numérique.

8. Procédé selon la revendication 7, comprenant en outre l'étape consistant à mettre en oeuvre un traitement de signal supplémentaire sur ledit signal numérique après l'étape de filtrage dudit signal numérique à travers ledit filtre de correction d'alias sélectionné (130).

9. Procédé selon la revendication 8, dans lequel ledit traitement de signal supplémentaire comprend au moins l'un(e) parmi une correction des graves, des effets spatiaux, une réverbération et une commande de tonalité.

10. Procédé selon la revendication 7, dans lequel au moins l'une d'une pluralité de caractéristiques de traitement de signal est codée dans ledit signal numérique, et le procédé comprend en outre l'étape consistant à décoder ladite caractéristique de traitement de signal à partir du signal numérique avant de filtrer ledit signal numérique à travers ledit filtre de correction d'alias sélectionné, dans lequel ladite au moins une caractéristique de traitement de signal

est sélectionnée parmi ladite pluralité de caractéristiques de traitement de signal sur la base dudit code masqué transporté par ledit signal numérique.

11. Procédé selon la revendication 10, dans lequel ladite caractéristique de traitement de signal comprend un décodage d'amplitude.

12. Procédé selon la revendication 11, dans lequel ledit signal numérique est filtré à l'aide d'une série de filtres de décimation numériques et la partie de bande de transition de la réponse en fréquence est située dans la réponse en fréquence résultant de la combinaison de la réponse en fréquence du dernier filtre de décimation numérique dans ladite série de filtres de décimation et de la réponse en fréquence de filtre d'interpolation numérique.

13. Procédé selon la revendication 11, dans lequel ledit signal numérique est filtré à l'aide d'une série de filtres d'interpolation numériques et la partie de bande de transition de la réponse en fréquence est située dans la réponse en fréquence résultant de la combinaison de la réponse en fréquence du premier filtre d'interpolation numérique dans ladite série de filtres d'interpolation et de la réponse en fréquence de filtre de décimation numérique.

14. Procédé selon la revendication 11, dans lequel ledit signal numérique est filtré à l'aide d'une série de filtres de décimation numériques et d'une série de filtres d'interpolation numériques, et la partie de bande de transition de la réponse en fréquence est située dans la réponse en fréquence résultant de la combinaison de la réponse en fréquence du dernier filtre de décimation numérique dans ladite série de filtres de décimation et de la réponse en fréquence du premier filtre d'interpolation numérique dans ladite série de filtres d'interpolation.

15. Procédé selon l'une quelconque des revendications 11 à 14, comprenant en outre l'étape consistant à mettre en oeuvre un traitement de signal supplémentaire (137) sur ledit signal numérique avant l'étape d'atténuation dudit signal numérique dans la plage de fréquences de ladite partie de bande de transition.

16. Procédé selon la revendication 15, dans lequel ledit traitement de signal supplémentaire (137) comprend au moins l'un(e) parmi une gestion des graves, des effets spatiaux, une réverbération et une commande de tonalité.

17. Procédé selon l'une quelconque des revendications 14 à 16, comprenant en outre les étapes ci-dessous consistant à :

mettre en oeuvre une compression de données

sur ledit signal numérique après l'étape de filtrage dudit signal numérique en utilisant un filtre de décimation numérique (110) ; et mettre en oeuvre subséquemment une expansion de données dudit signal numérique avant l'étape d'atténuation dudit signal numérique dans la plage de fréquences de ladite partie de bande de transition.

18. Procédé de conception d'un filtre pour réduire une déformation d'alias apte à être utilisé dans le cadre du traitement d'un signal numérique converti à partir d'un signal analogique d'entrée à l'aide d'un convertisseur analogique à numérique comprenant un filtre de décimation numérique, le signal numérique étant subséquemment converti en un signal analogique de sortie à l'aide d'un convertisseur numérique à analogique comprenant un filtre d'interpolation numérique, chacun desdits filtres de décimation et d'interpolation présentant une réponse en fréquence associée, ledit procédé comprenant les étapes ci-dessous consistant à

- a) localiser la partie de bande de transition de la réponse en fréquence résultant de la combinaison de la réponse en fréquence de filtre de décimation numérique et de la réponse en fréquence de filtre d'interpolation numérique ;
- b) sélectionner un premier filtre d'atténuation présentant une première réponse en fréquence qui atténue le signal numérique dans la plage de fréquences de la partie de bande de transition ;
- c) convolutionner les réponses en impulsion du filtre de décimation (110) et du filtre d'interpolation (150) en vue de produire une première réponse en impulsion ;
- d) convolutionner les réponses en impulsion du filtre de décimation, du filtre d'atténuation et du filtre d'interpolation (150) en vue de produire une seconde réponse en impulsion ;
- e) comparer la dispersion temporelle de la seconde réponse en impulsion dans une région de la seconde réponse en impulsion au-dessus de moins 80 dB à la dispersion temporelle de la première réponse en impulsion dans la même région ;
- f) si la largeur de la dispersion temporelle de la seconde réponse en impulsion dans ladite région est supérieure à la largeur de la dispersion temporelle de la première réponse en impulsion dans la même région, sélectionner un autre filtre d'atténuation présentant une réponse en fréquence différente de ladite première réponse en fréquence, qui atténue le signal numérique dans la plage de fréquences de la partie de bande de transition ; et
- g) répéter les étapes d, e et f jusqu'à ce que la

largeur de la dispersion temporelle de la seconde réponse en impulsion dans ladite région ne soit plus supérieure à la largeur de la dispersion temporelle de la première réponse en impulsion dans la même région.

19. Procédé selon la revendication 18, dans lequel la réponse en impulsion convolutionnée est tracée sur une échelle logarithmique.

20. Système destiné à traiter un signal numérique converti à partir d'un signal analogique en utilisant un filtre de décimation numérique (110) présentant une réponse en fréquence associée, ledit système comprenant :

un filtre d'interpolation numérique (150) présentant une réponse en fréquence associée, le filtre d'interpolation numérique (150) étant un filtre d'interpolation demi-bande ; et un filtre de correction d'alias (130) répondant audit signal numérique en vue de produire un signal à alias corrigé, ledit filtre de correction d'alias (130) présentant une réponse en fréquence qui atténue ledit signal numérique dans la plage de fréquences de la partie de bande de transition de la réponse en fréquence résultant de la combinaison de la réponse en fréquence de filtre de décimation numérique et de la réponse en fréquence de filtre d'interpolation numérique ; et dans lequel ledit filtre d'interpolation numérique (150) répond audit signal à alias corrigé en vue de produire un signal numérique interpolé.

21. Système selon la revendication 20, comprenant en outre un processeur de signal répondant audit signal à alias corrigé en vue de fournir un signal à alias corrigé traité.

22. Système selon la revendication 21, dans lequel le processeur de signal comprend au moins l'un parmi un correcteur des graves, un effecteur spatial, un réverbérateur et un contrôleur de tonalité.

23. Système selon la revendication 22, comprenant en outre :

un compresseur de données répondant audit signal numérique décimé en vue de mettre en oeuvre une compression de données sur ledit signal numérique décimé ; et un extenseur de données répondant audit signal numérique décimé compressé en vue de mettre en oeuvre une expansion de données sur ledit signal numérique décimé.

24. Système selon la revendication 20, dans lequel le filtre de décimation numérique (110) est sélection-

- né parmi une pluralité de filtres de décimation numériques, chaque filtre de décimation numérique (110) présentant une réponse en fréquence associée, ledit filtre de décimation (110) étant sélectionné sur la base d'un code masqué transporté par ledit signal numérique ; et
le filtre de correction d'alias (130) est sélectionné parmi une pluralité de filtres de correction d'alias sélectionnables individuellement, chaque filtre de correction d'alias (130) étant conçu de manière à atténuer un signal numérique dans la plage de fréquences de la partie de bande de transition de la réponse en fréquence résultant de la combinaison de la réponse en fréquence de l'un desdits filtres de décimation numériques et de la réponse en fréquence dudit filtre d'interpolation numérique (150), dans lequel l'étape de sélection dudit filtre de correction d'alias (130) est mise en oeuvre par un sélecteur en réponse audit code masqué.
25. Système selon la revendication 24, comprenant en outre un processeur de signal répondant audit signal numérique subséquent audit filtre de correction d'alias sélectionné.
26. Système selon la revendication 25, dans lequel ledit processeur de signal comprend au moins l'un parmi un correcteur des graves, un effecteur spatial, un réverbérateur et un contrôleur de tonalité.
27. Système selon la revendication 24, dans lequel au moins l'une d'une pluralité de caractéristiques de traitement de signal est codée dans ledit signal numérique, et le système comprend en outre un décodeur répondant audit signal numérique avant ledit filtre de correction d'alias sélectionné (130) et ledit code masqué, en vue de décoder ladite caractéristique de traitement de signal à partir du signal numérique, dans lequel ladite au moins une caractéristique de traitement de signal est sélectionnée parmi ladite pluralité de caractéristiques de traitement de signal sur la base dudit code masqué transporté par ledit signal numérique.
28. Système selon la revendication 27, dans lequel ladite caractéristique de traitement de signal comprend un décodage d'amplitude.
29. Système selon la revendication 20, dans lequel ledit filtre de décimation numérique (110) comprend une série de filtres de décimation numériques individuels, et la partie de bande de transition de la réponse en fréquence est présente dans la réponse en fréquence résultant de la combinaison de la réponse en fréquence du dernier filtre de décimation numérique dans ladite série de filtres de décimation et de la réponse en fréquence du filtre d'interpolation numérique.
30. Système selon la revendication 20, dans lequel ledit filtre d'interpolation numérique (110) comprend une série de filtres d'interpolation numériques individuels, et la partie de bande de transition de la réponse en fréquence est présente dans la réponse en fréquence résultant de la combinaison de la réponse en fréquence du premier filtre d'interpolation numérique dans ladite série de filtres d'interpolation et de la réponse en fréquence du filtre de décimation numérique.
31. Système selon la revendication 20, dans lequel ledit filtre de décimation numérique (110) comprend une série de filtres de décimation numériques individuels, ledit filtre d'interpolation numérique comprend une série de filtres d'interpolation numériques individuels, et ladite partie de bande de transition est présente dans la réponse en fréquence résultant de la combinaison de la réponse en fréquence du dernier filtre de décimation numérique dans ladite série de filtres de décimation et de la réponse en fréquence du premier filtre d'interpolation numérique dans ladite série de filtres d'interpolation.
32. Système selon l'une quelconque des revendications 20 et 29 à 31, dans lequel ladite partie de bande de transition est proche de la fréquence de Nyquist.
33. Système selon l'une quelconque des revendications 20 et 29 à 31, dans lequel ledit signal numérique décimé et ledit signal à alias corrigé sont à la même fréquence d'échantillonnage.
34. Système selon l'une quelconque des revendications 20 et 29 à 31, comprenant en outre un processeur de signal répondant audit signal à alias corrigé en vue de fournir un signal à alias corrigé traité.
35. Système selon la revendication 34, dans lequel le processeur de signal comprend au moins l'un parmi un gestionnaire des graves, un effecteur spatial, un réverbérateur et un contrôleur de tonalité.
36. Système selon l'une quelconque des revendications 20 et 29 à 35, comprenant en outre : un compresseur de données répondant audit signal numérique décimé en vue de mettre en oeuvre une compression de données sur ledit signal ; et un expanseur de données répondant audit signal numérique décimé compressé en vue de mettre en oeuvre une expansion de données sur ledit signal.

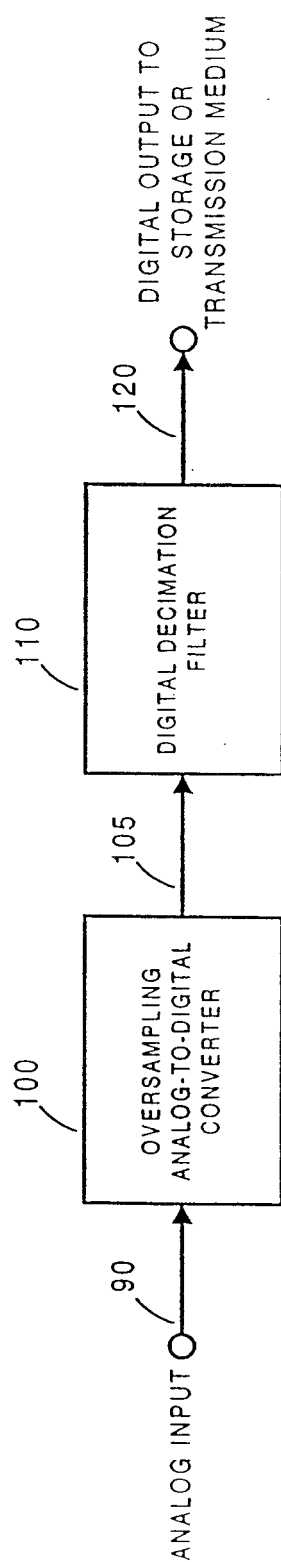


FIG. 1a (Prior Art)

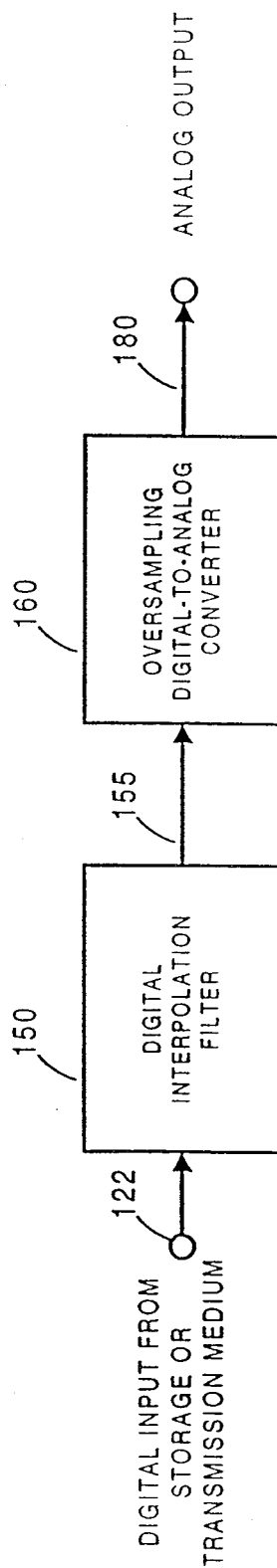


FIG. 1b (Prior Art)

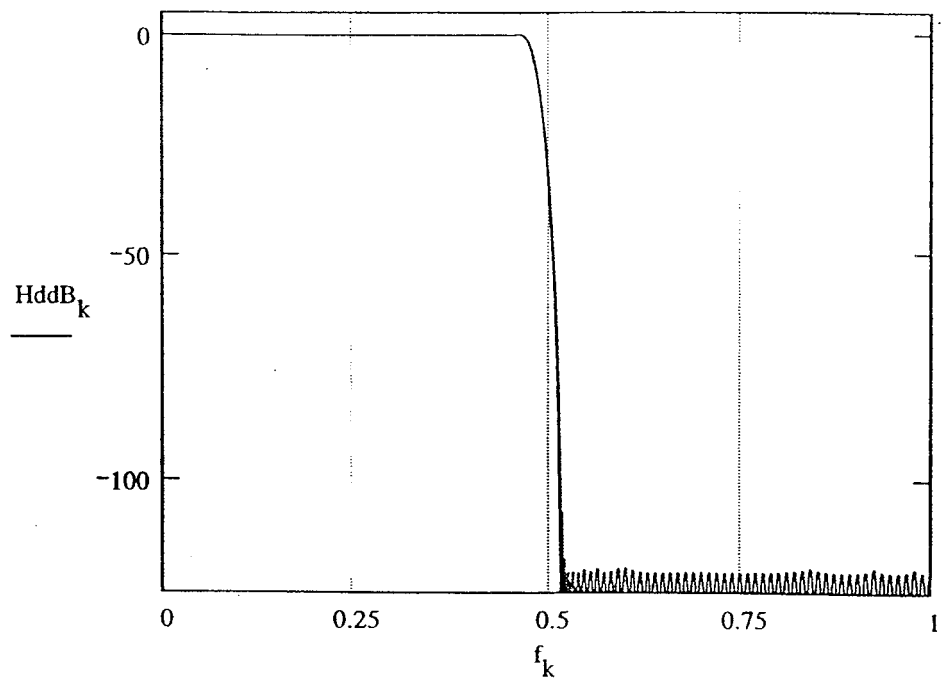


FIG. 2a

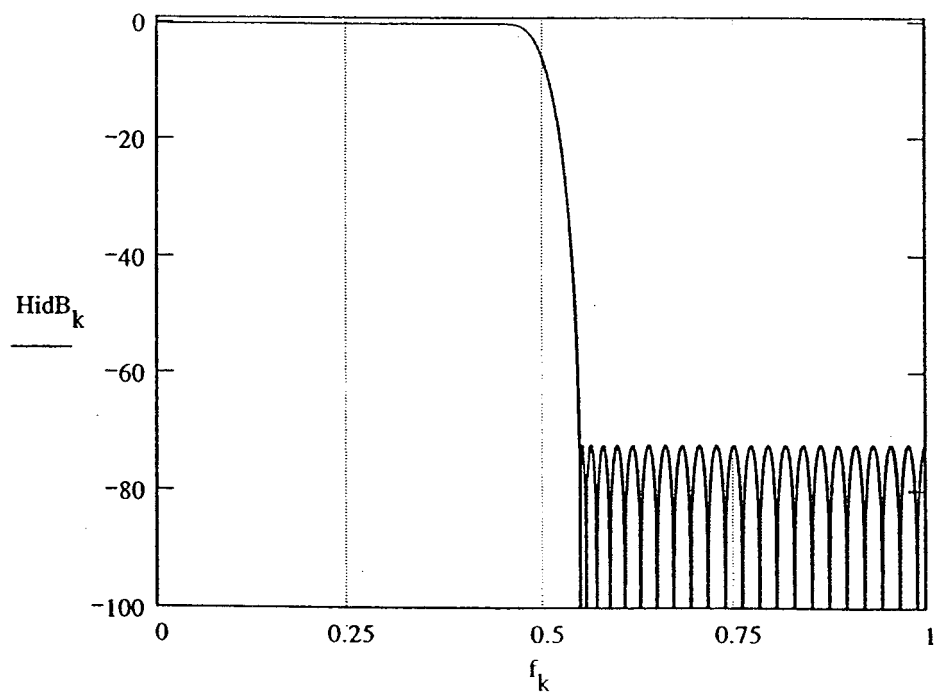


FIG. 2b

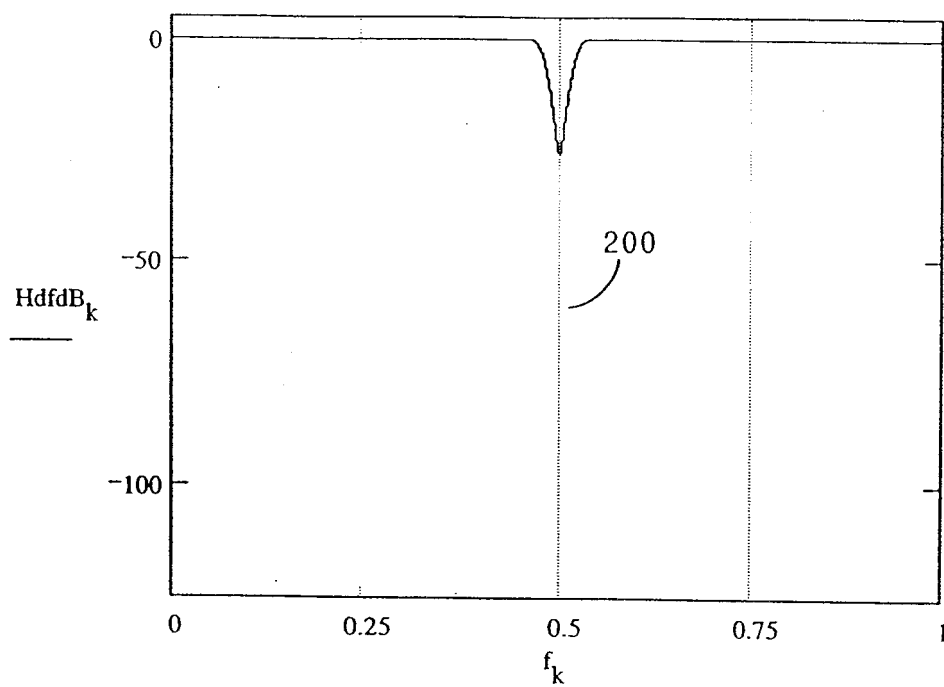


FIG. 3a

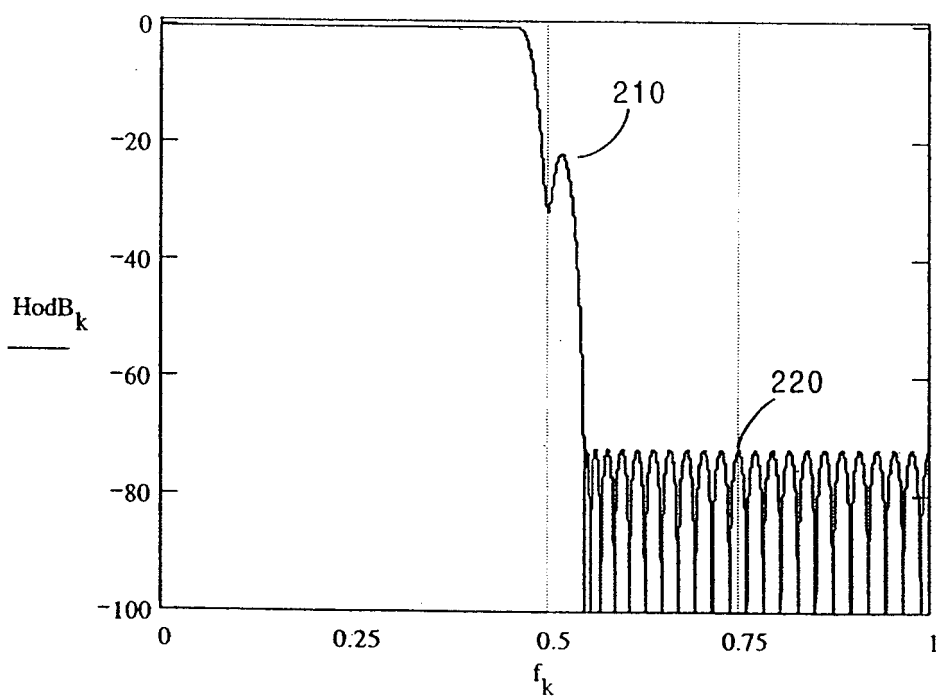


FIG. 3b

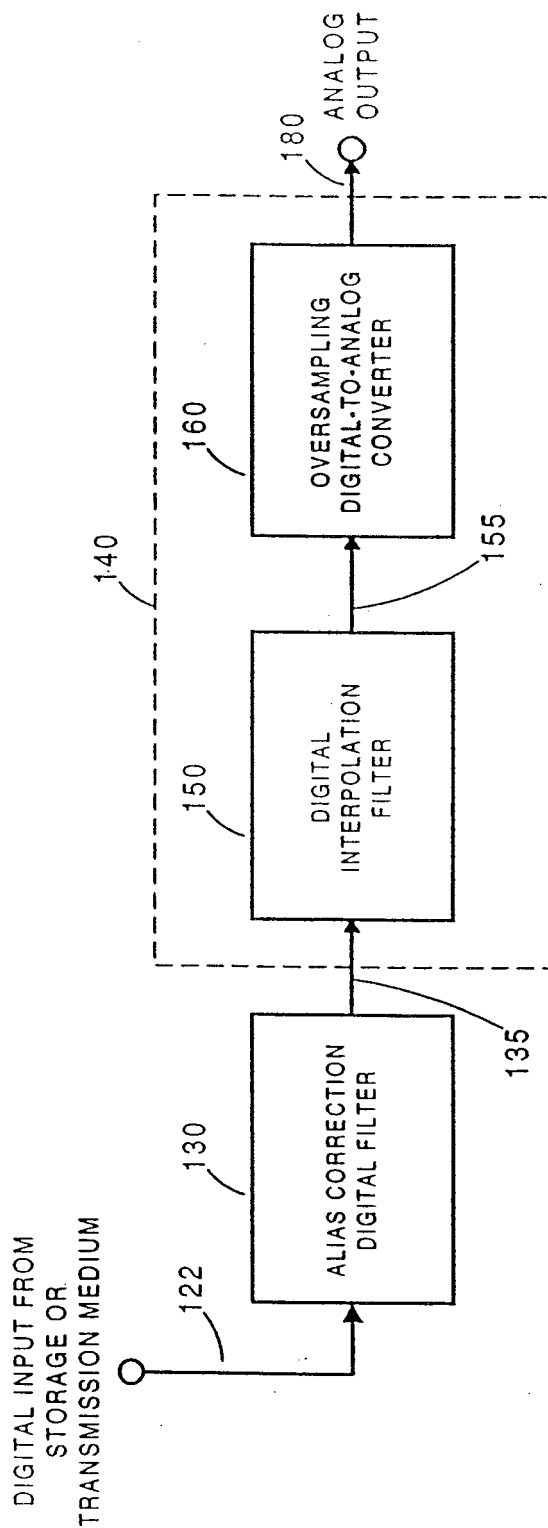


FIG. 4

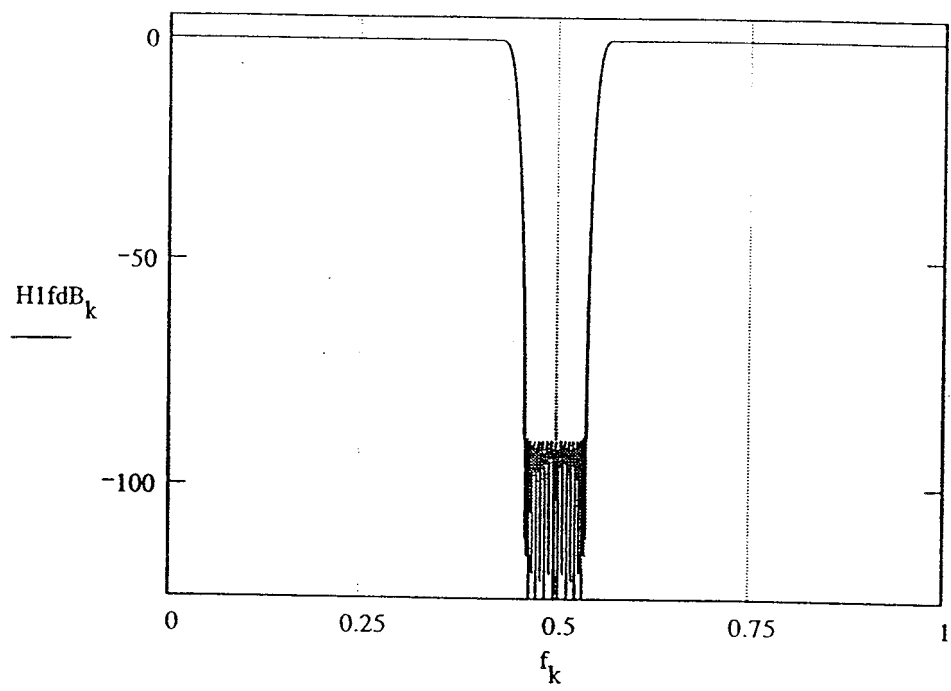


FIG. 5a

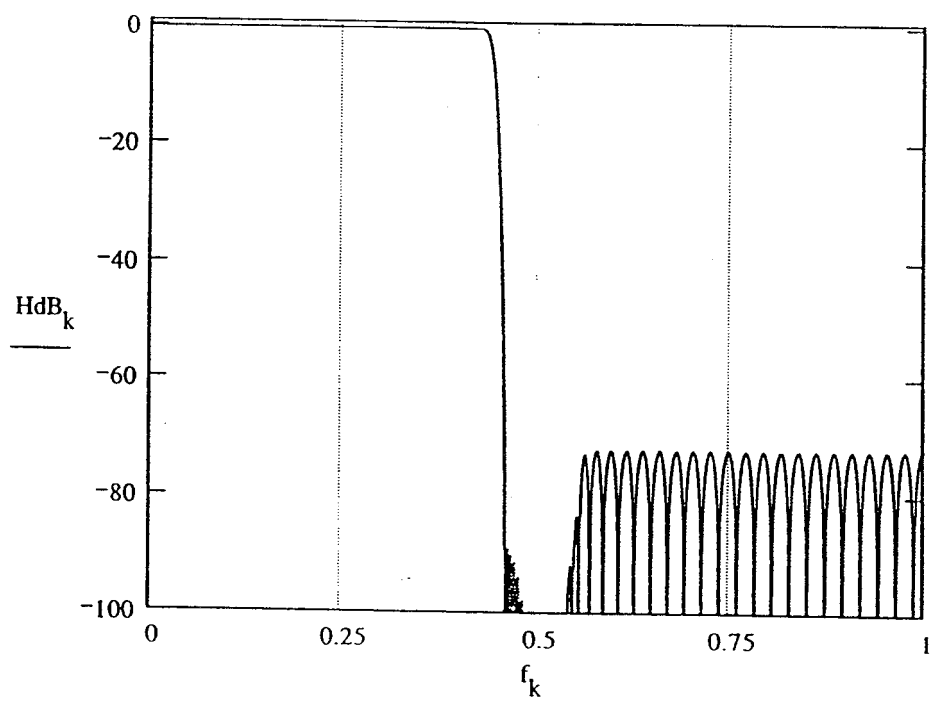


FIG. 5b

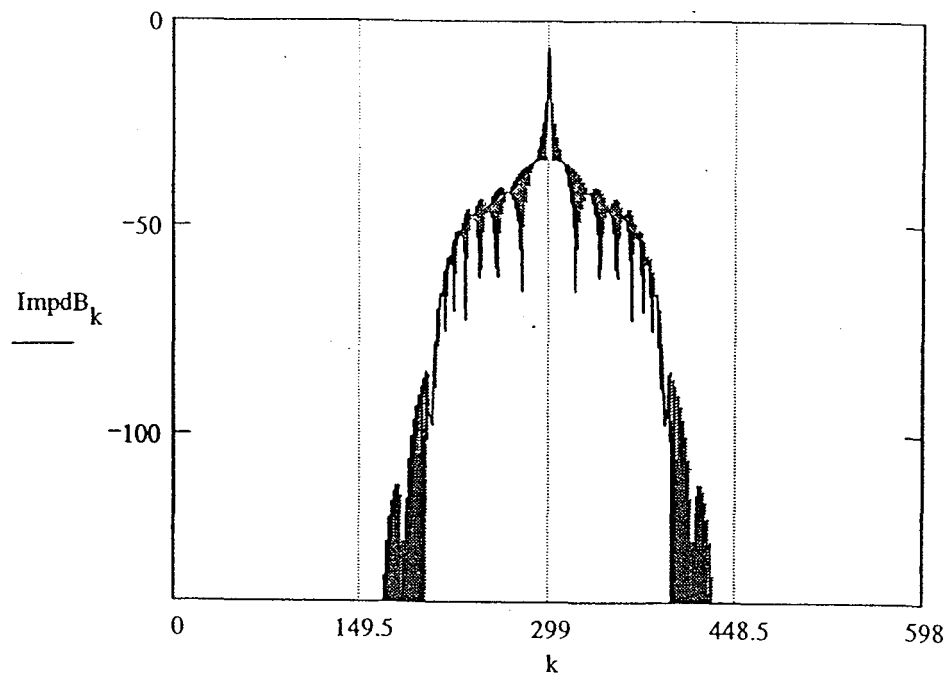


FIG. 6a

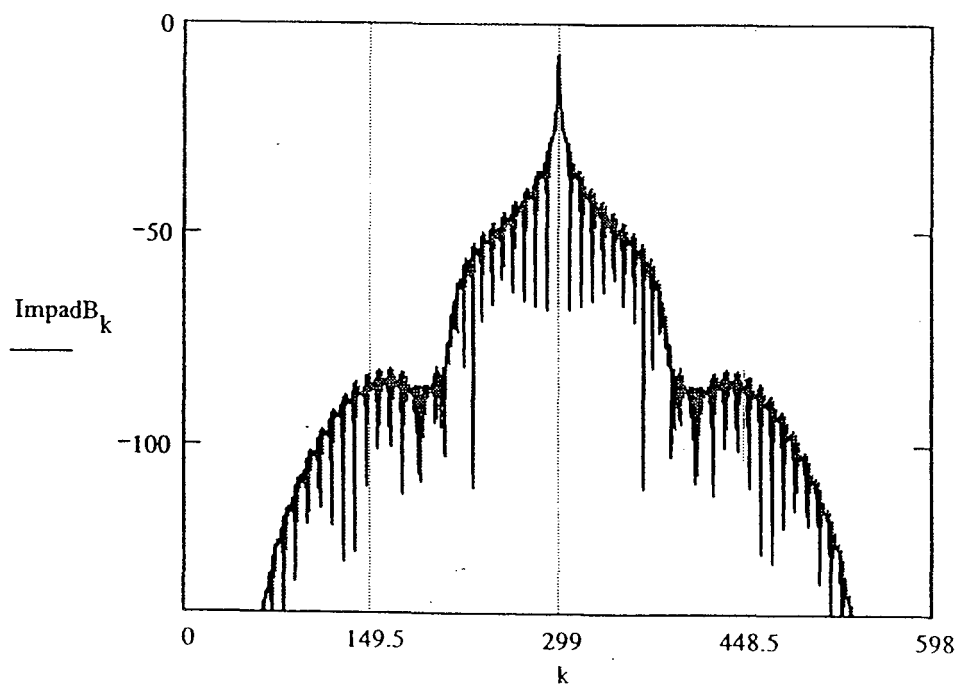


FIG. 6b

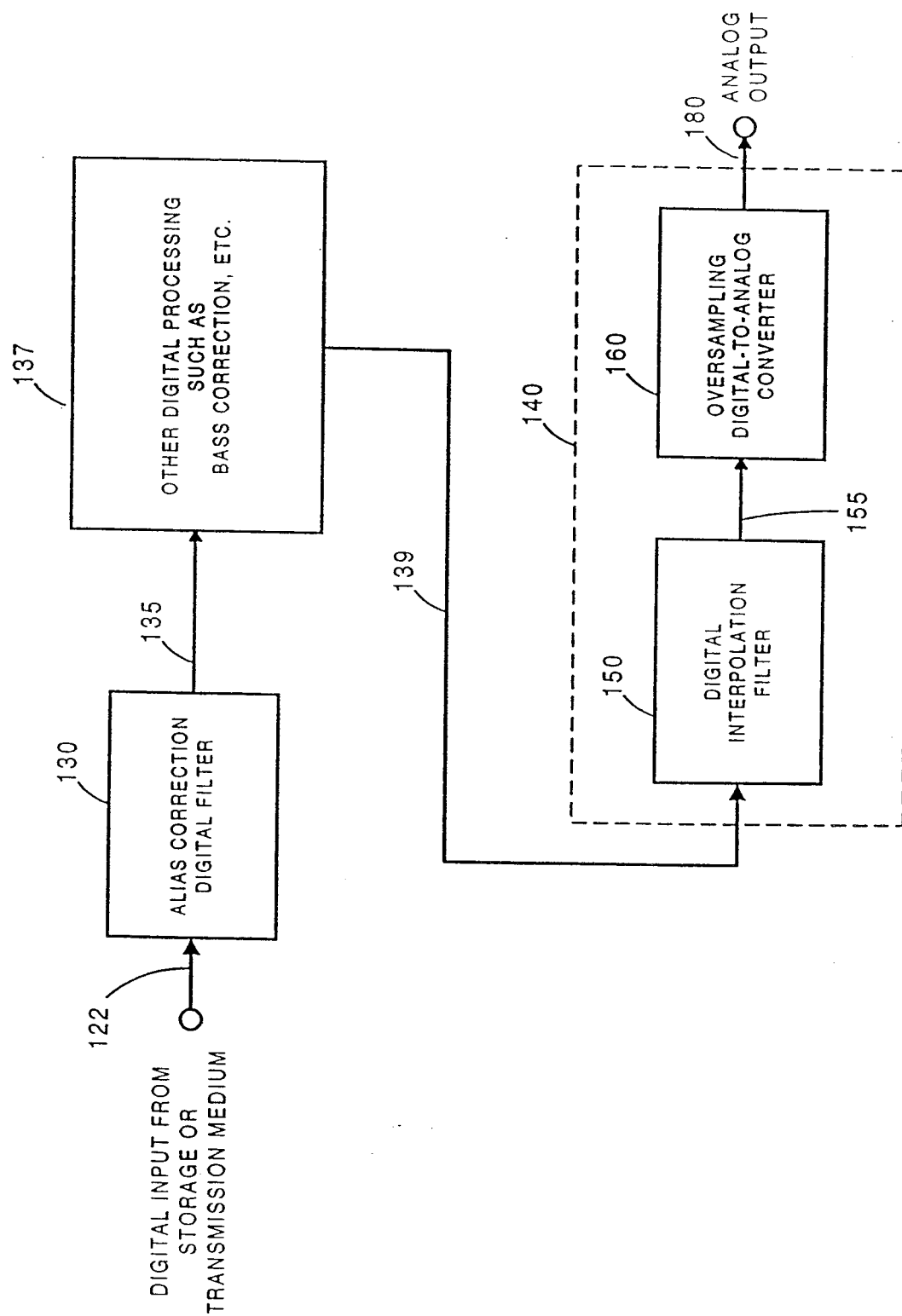


FIG. 7

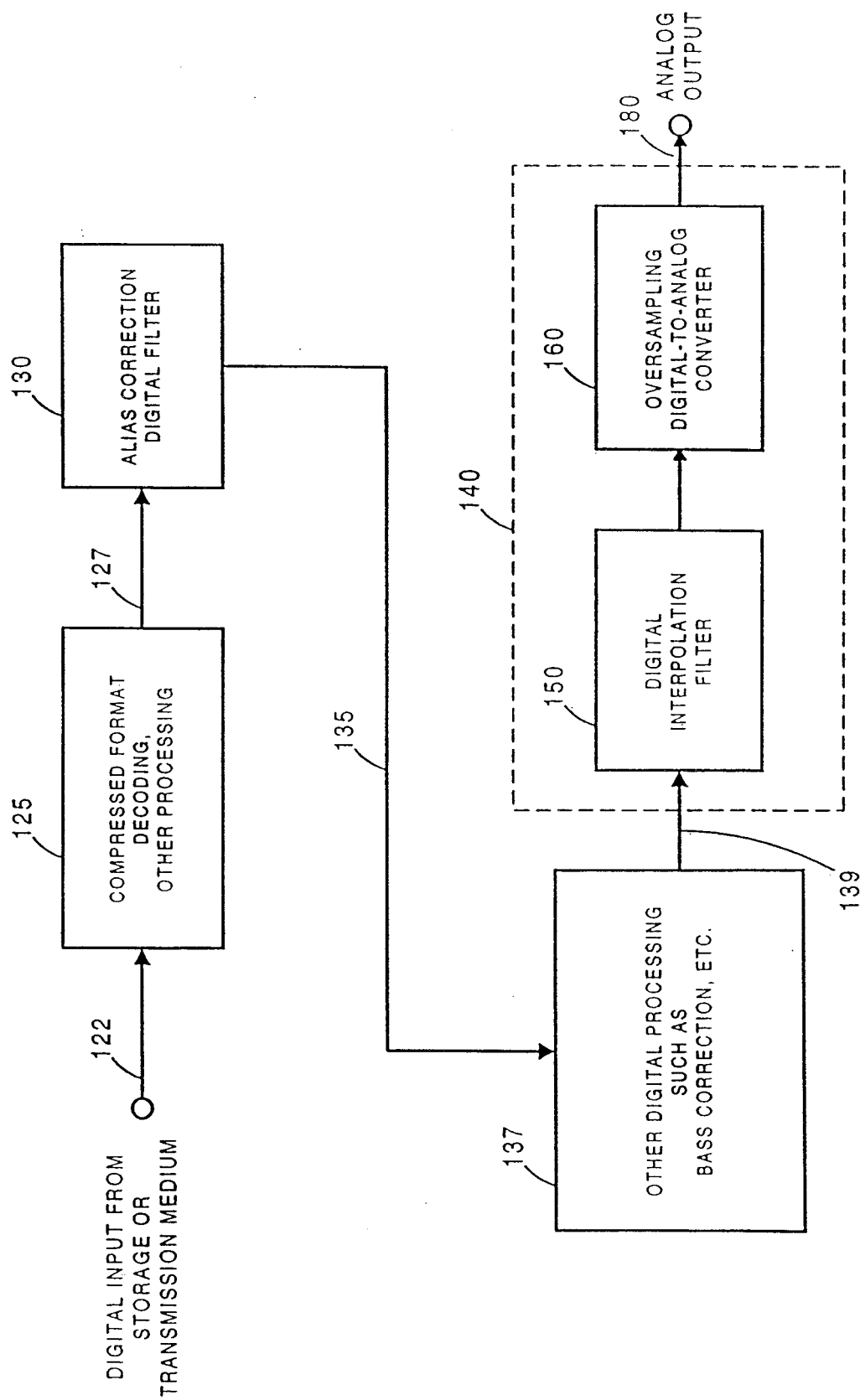


FIG. 8

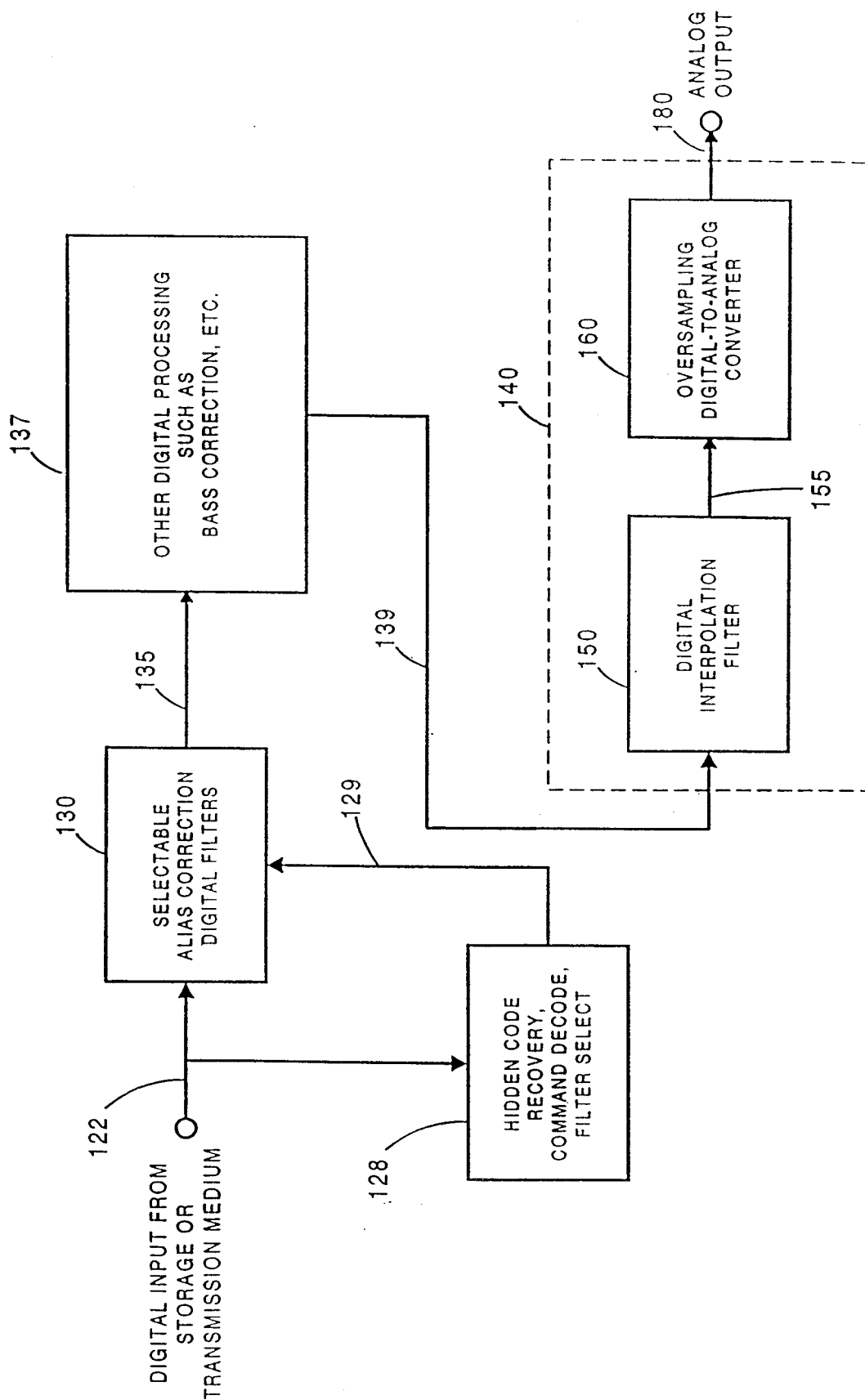


FIG. 9

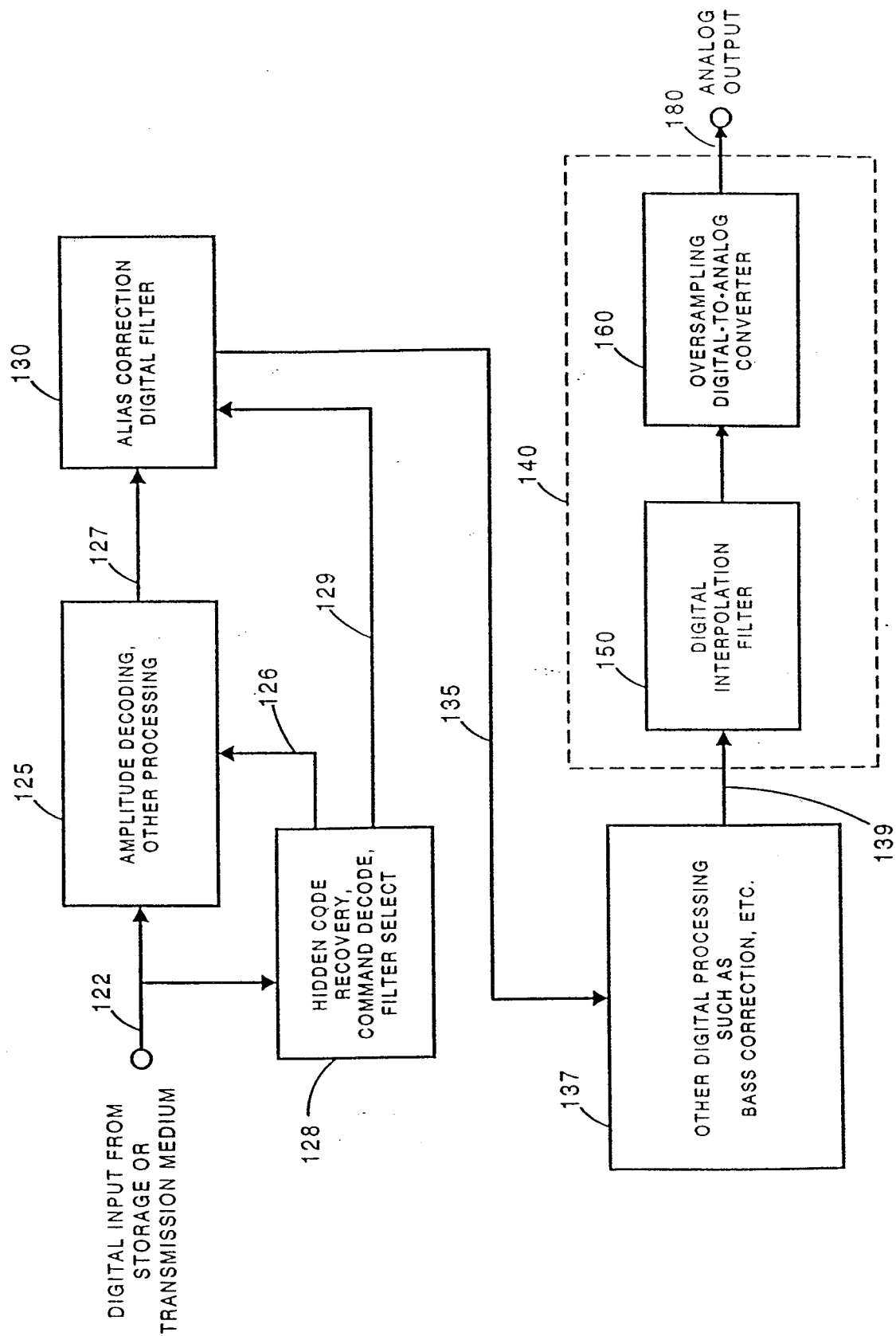


FIG. 10

REFERENCES CITED IN THE DESCRIPTION

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- US 5479168 A [0013]
- US 5808574 A [0013]