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(21) International Application Number: PCT/GB99/02138 (22) International Filing Date: 5 July 1999 (05.07.99) (30) Priority Data: 9814513.9 3 July 1998 (03.07.98) GB 9907918.8 7 April 1999 (07.04.99) GB (71) Applicant (for all designated States except US): MERIDIAN AUDIO LIMITED [-/GB]; Stonehill, Stukeley Meadows, Huntingdon, Cambridgeshire PE18 6ED (GB). (71)(72) Applicants and Inventors: CRAVEN, Peter, Graham [GB/GB]; 6 Kings Road, Lancing, West Sussex BN15 8EA (GB). LAW, Malcolm, James [GB/GB]; 14 Stonecroft Close, Hangleton, Hove, East Sussex BN3 8BP (GB). (72) Inventor; and (75) Inventor/Applicant (for US only): STUART, John, Robert [GB/GB]; 21 Storeys Way, Cambridge CB3 0DP (GB). (74) Agent: ERTL, Nick; Elkington and Fife, Prospect House, 8 Pembroke Road, Sevenoaks, Kent TN13 1XR (GB).		(81) Designated States: AE, AL, AM, AT, AU, AZ, BA, BB, BG, BR, BY, CA, CH, CN, CU, CZ, DE, DK, EE, ES, FI, GB, GD, GE, GH, GM, HR, HU, ID, IL, IN, IS, JP, KE, KG, KP, KR, KZ, LC, LK, LR, LS, LT, LU, LV, MD, MG, MK, MN, MW, MX, NO, NZ, PL, PT, RO, RU, SD, SE, SG, SI, SK, SL, TJ, TM, TR, TT, UA, UG, US, UZ, VN, YU, ZA, ZW, ARIPO patent (GH, GM, KE, LS, MW, SD, SL, SZ, UG, ZW), Eurasian patent (AM, AZ, BY, KG, KZ, MD, RU, TJ, TM), European patent (AT, BE, CH, CY, DE, DK, ES, FI, FR, GB, GR, IE, IT, LU, MC, NL, PT, SE), OAPI patent (BF, BJ, CF, CG, CI, CM, GA, GN, GW, ML, MR, NE, SN, TD, TG). Published <i>With international search report.</i>
(54) Title: TRANSCODERS FOR FIXED AND VARIABLE RATE DATA STREAMS <pre> graph LR Disc((Disc)) -- "MLP Variable" --> MLPDecoder[MLP Decoder] MLPDecoder -- "PCM AUDIO" --> Out1[] MLPDecoder -- "MLP FIXED OPTION" --> Out2[] subgraph Label MLPDecoder --- L[Lossless decoder] end style Out1 fill:none,stroke:none style Out2 fill:none,stroke:none </pre> (57) Abstract A transcoder is provided for receiving encoded data read from a Digital Video Disc. This data usually comprises variable length audio data packets, each data packet including a packet header. For the invention, at least one packet header for each track gives the peak data rate of the track. The transcoder converts the variable rate packetised stream into a fixed rate stream of the same rate as the peak rate indicated in the packet header. This fixed rate stream is suitable for transmission over certain interface protocols, or else for storage on a storage medium if fixed rate stored audio is desired. The track may give data indicating the minimum rate to which the data could be reserialised, or repacketised, for controlling the operation of a subsequent transcoder.		