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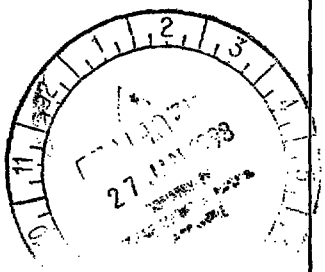
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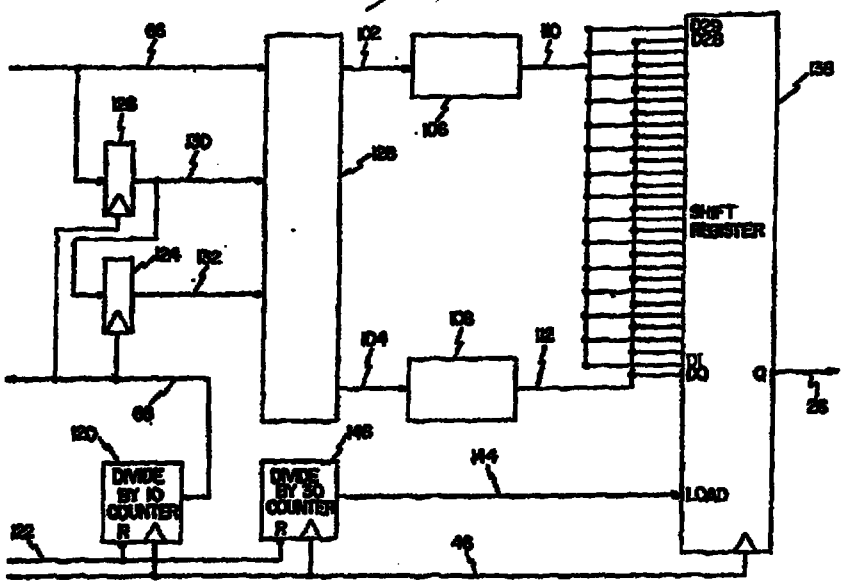
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(54) Title: TRELLIS CODE WITH IMPROVED ERROR PROPAGATION



(57) Abstract

A digital communication apparatus (20) transmits sectors of digital values that include error correction values used to detect and correct errors within the sector. Each sector consists of a number of blocks (70, 72, 74) and the error correction values of each block (70) are useful in correcting up to a maximum number of erroneous digital units (78, 84) in that block (70). The digital communication apparatus (20) encodes the blocks of digital units to transmit them through a channel (32) and then decodes the channel's representation of those encoded blocks, where the channel's representation occasionally contains burst errors. The encoding and decoding is performed in a manner that reduces the number of consecutive erroneous digital units caused by any one burst error to a number less than the number of blocks in a sector, ensuring that the error burst corrupts at most one digital unit in each block.