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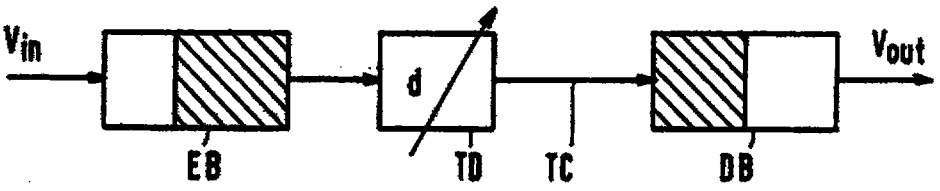
(54) Title: BUFFER MANAGEMENT IN VARIABLE BIT-RATE COMPRESSION SYSTEMS

(57) Abstract



A method of compression is provided for transmission of digital video signals between an encoder buffer and a decoder buffer. A tunable delay is provided at the encoder, suitably in the form of a portion of encoder buffer memory, with data being read out to a communications channel at a rate determined by the input bit rate of signals received a predetermined number of frame periods later. Use of the tunable delay improves efficiency of decoder buffering by maintaining a relatively constant level of decoder buffer fullness irrespective of signal bit rates.