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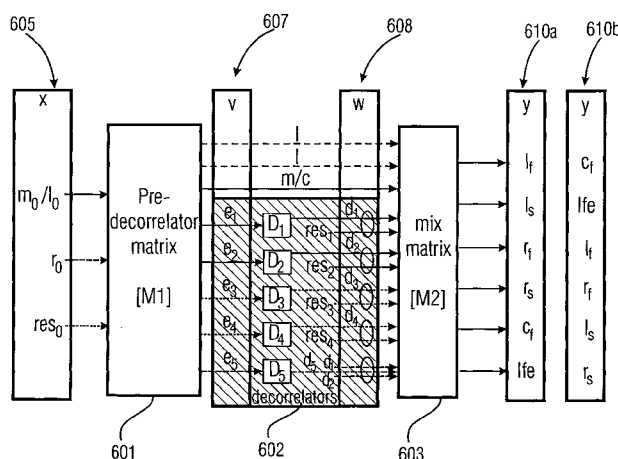
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(54) Title: CONCEPT FOR BRIDGING THE GAP BETWEEN PARAMETRIC MULTI-CHANNEL AUDIO CODING AND MATRIXED-SURROUND MULTI-CHANNEL CODING



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(57) Abstract: The purpose of the invention is to bridge the gap between parametric multi-channel audio coding and matrixed-surround multi-channel coding by gradually improving the sound of an up-mix signal while raising the bit-rate consumed by the side-information starting from 0 up to the bit-rates of the parametric methods. More specifically, it provides a method of flexibly choosing an "operating point" somewhere between matrixed-surround (no side-information, limited audio quality) and fully parametric reconstruction (full side-information rate required, good quality). This operating point can be chosen dynamically (i.e. varying over time) and in response to the permissible side-information rate, as it is dictated by the individual application.

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