



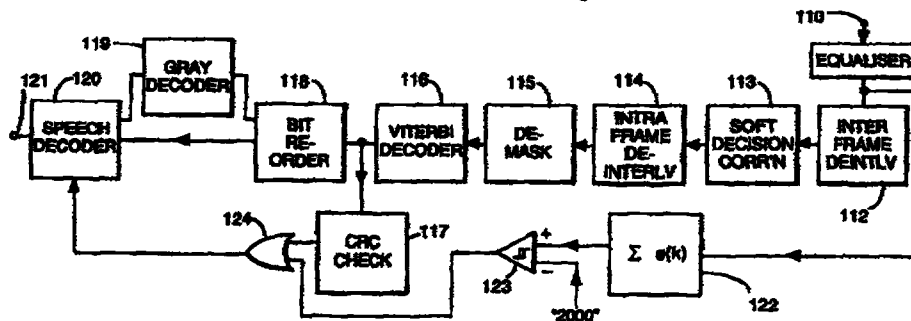
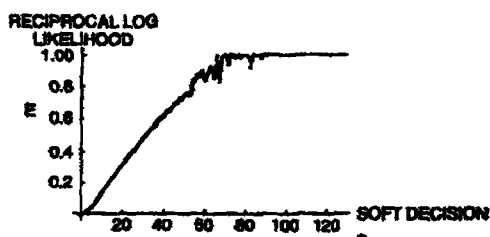
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(71) Applicant (for all designated States except US): BRITISH TELECOMMUNICATIONS PUBLIC LIMITED COMPANY [GB/GB]; 81 Newgate Street, London EC1A 7AJ (GB).			
(72) Inventors; and (75) Inventors/Applicants (for US only): WONG, Wing, Tak, Kenneth [GB/GB]; 7 Histon Close, Kesgrave, Ipswich, Suffolk IP5 7JE (GB). WONG, Danny, Yuk-Kun [GB/GB]; Enigma Limited, Turing House, Station Road, Chepstow NP6 5PB (GB).			
(74) Agent: LLOYD, Barry, George, William; BT Group Legal Services, Intellectual Property Dept., 8th floor, 120 Holborn, London EC1N 2TE (GB).			

(54) Title: CONFIDENCE AND FRAME SIGNAL QUALITY DETECTION IN A SOFT DECISION CONVOLUTIONAL DECODER



(57) Abstract

Received signals are processed (111) to generate confidence measure signals. Before these are forwarded to a soft decision decoder (116), correction factors are applied, e.g. by a look-up table (113), to reduce the extent to which the signals differ from a logarithmic representation of the error statistics of the received signals. Alternatively, or as well, the confidence measure signals may be summed (122) and thresholded (123) to provide a quality-indicating signal. In a coder, error check bits for a frame of bits to be convolutionally coded are generated from bits taken from the beginning and end of the frame but not the middle.