



(51) International Patent Classification:
H04L 27/34 (2006.01)

(21) International Application Number:
PCT/CN2023/133341

(22) International Filing Date:
22 November 2023 (22.11.2023)

(25) Filing Language: English

(26) Publication Language: English

(30) Priority Data:
63/511,201 30 June 2023 (30.06.2023) US

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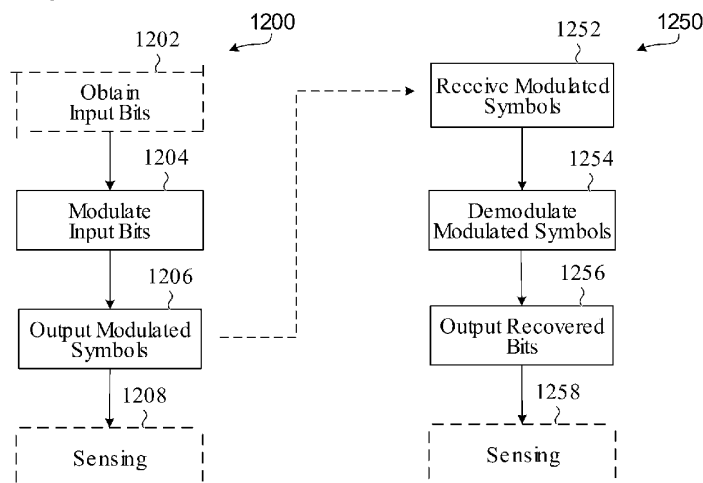
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(81) Designated States (*unless otherwise indicated, for every
kind of national protection available*): AE, AG, AL, AM,
AO, AT, AU, AZ, BA, BB, BG, BH, BN, BR, BW, BY, BZ,
CA, CH, CL, CN, CO, CR, CU, CV, CZ, DE, DJ, DK, DM,
DO, DZ, EC, EE, EG, ES, FI, GB, GD, GE, GH, GM, GT,
HN, HR, HU, ID, IL, IN, IQ, IR, IS, IT, JM, JO, JP, KE, KG,
KH, KN, KP, KR, KW, KZ, LA, LC, LK, LR, LS, LU, LY,
MA, MD, MG, MK, MN, MU, MW, MX, MY, MZ, NA,
NG, NI, NO, NZ, OM, PA, PE, PG, PH, PL, PT, QA, RO,
RS, RU, RW, SA, SC, SD, SE, SG, SK, SL, ST, SV, SY, TH,
TJ, TM, TN, TR, TT, TZ, UA, UG, US, UZ, VC, VN, WS,
ZA, ZM, ZW.

(84) Designated States (*unless otherwise indicated, for every
kind of regional protection available*): ARIPO (BW, CV,

(54) Title: SYSTEMS, METHODS, AND APPARATUS FOR PRUNED CONSTELLATIONS

[Fig. 12]



(57) **Abstract:** Input bits are mapped to produce modulated symbols, and the modulated symbols can be demodulated to recover the input bits, based on a first constellation. The first constellation may be referred to as a pruned constellation, and includes constellation points that are consistent with a portion of a second constellation. That portion of the second constellation excludes a first subset of constellation points in the second constellation that are associated with lowest power and a second subset of constellation points in the second constellation that are associated with highest power. In this sense, it may be considered that the first constellation is obtained by pruning lowest power and highest power constellation points from the second constellation. Dynamic range of power associated with constellation points is smaller in the first constellation than the second constellation. Average power of constellation points may be substantially the same in the first and second constellations.

[Continued on next page]

GH, GM, KE, LR, LS, MW, MZ, NA, RW, SC, SD, SL, ST,
SZ, TZ, UG, ZM, ZW), Eurasian (AM, AZ, BY, KG, KZ,
RU, TJ, TM), European (AL, AT, BE, BG, CH, CY, CZ,
DE, DK, EE, ES, FI, FR, GB, GR, HR, HU, IE, IS, IT, LT,
LU, LV, MC, ME, MK, MT, NL, NO, PL, PT, RO, RS, SE,
SI, SK, SM, TR), OAPI (BF, BJ, CF, CG, CI, CM, GA, GN,
GQ, GW, KM, ML, MR, NE, SN, TD, TG).

Published:

- with international search report (Art. 21(3))
 - with amended claims (Art. 19(1))
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