

ABSTRACT

ENCODING AND DECODING DATA

A method of packing and unpacking encoded symbols, which method has particular but not exclusive application in selecting any one of a number of stored screen texts in different languages for use by a cordless telephone in a particular country. In the method, symbols are encoded on the basis of the higher the probability of a symbol occurring in a text, the fewer the number of bits which are used to represent the signal, and vice versa. The encoded bits are concatenated into bytes of n binary bits, which bytes are stored. The encoded bits relating to a selected one of the screen texts are unpacked by storing n successive bits in a shift register (12). A predetermined bit or number of bits in the shift register (12) is or are unmasked. The unmasked bit or bits is or are compared with at least one codeword of a length corresponding to the number of unmasked bits. When a match is achieved, the bits are decoded and the shift register is topped-up by the addition of further ones of the encoded bits.

15 (Figure 2)

This Sheet Has Been Replaced

