



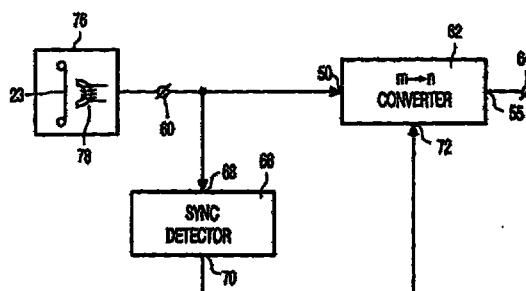
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(54) Title: DEVICE FOR ENCODING/DECODING N-BIT SOURCE WORDS INTO CORRESPONDING M-BIT CHANNEL WORDS, AND VICE VERSA



(57) Abstract

A device is disclosed for encoding a stream of databits of a binary source signal (S) into a stream of databits of a binary channel signal (C) satisfying a (d,k) constraint, wherein the bitstream of the source signal is divided into n-bit source words (x_1, x_2), which device comprises converting means (CM) adapted to convert said source words into corresponding m-bit channel words (y_1, y_2, y_3). The converting means (CM) are further adapted to convert n-bit source words into corresponding m-bit channel words, such that the conversion for each n-bit source word is parity preserving (table 1). The relations hold that $m > n \geq 1$, $p \geq 1$, and that p can vary. Preferably, $m = n + 1$. Further, a sync word generator (9) is available for generating a q-bit sync word also satisfying said (d,k) constraint, the said sync word starting with a '0' bit and ending with a '0' bit, the device further comprising merging means (19) for merging said sync word in said stream of databits of the binary channel signal, and that q is an integer value larger than k (Fig. 1). Further, a decoding device is disclosed for decoding the channel signal obtained by means of the encoding device.