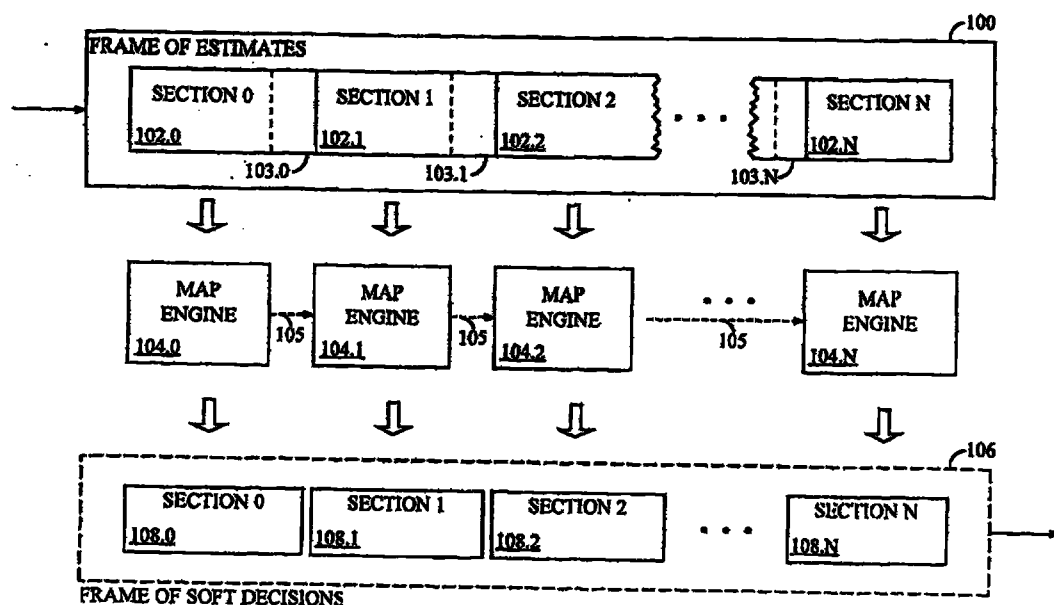




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(54) Title: **HIGHLY PARALLEL MAP DECODER**

(57) Abstract

A coded signal is decoded using maximum a posteriori (MAP) decoding. Several MAP engines (104) each decodes a corresponding different portion (102) of a frame (100) of symbol estimates. The tail portion (103) of each portion is decoded into an initialization value (105) for the adjoining map engine (104). The resulting sections (108) of soft (or hard) decisions are output to make a decision frame (106).