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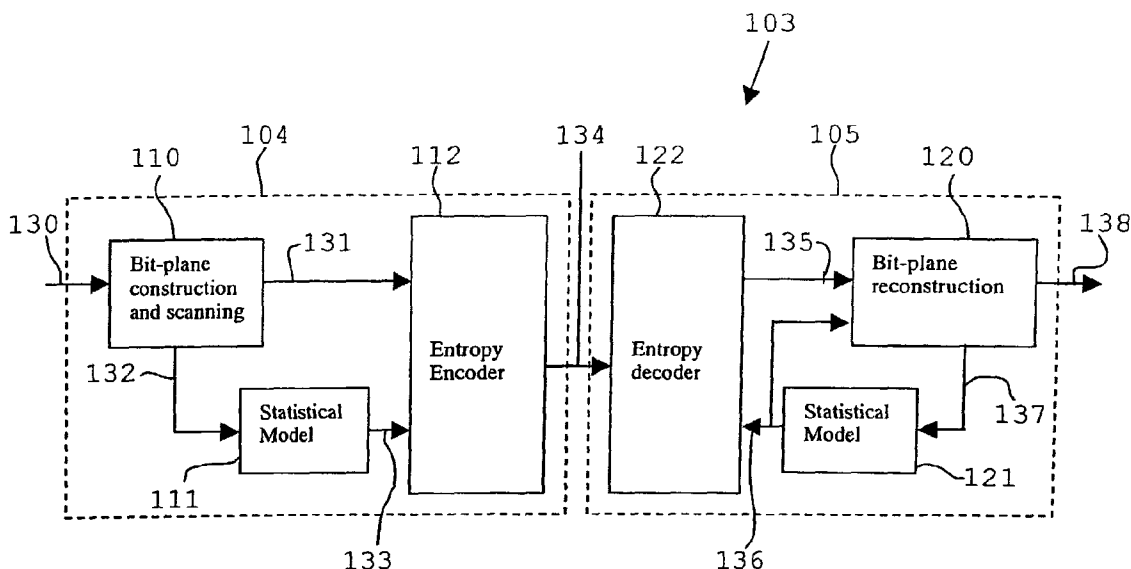
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(54) Title: A METHOD AND A DEVICE FOR PROCESSING BIT SYMBOLS GENERATED BY A DATA SOURCE; A COM-
PUTER READABLE MEDIUM; A COMPUTER PROGRAM ELEMENT



(57) Abstract: A method for processing bit symbols generated by a data source, in particular a video, still image or audio source, comprising the following steps of constructing a plurality of bit-planes from the data source, each bit-plane comprising a plurality of bit-plane symbols; scanning the bit-plane symbols of each bit-plane to generate a binary string of bit-plane symbols; and encoding the binary string of the bit-plane symbols using a statistical model, wherein the statistical model is based on statistical properties of a Laplacian probability distribution function which characterizes the data source.