



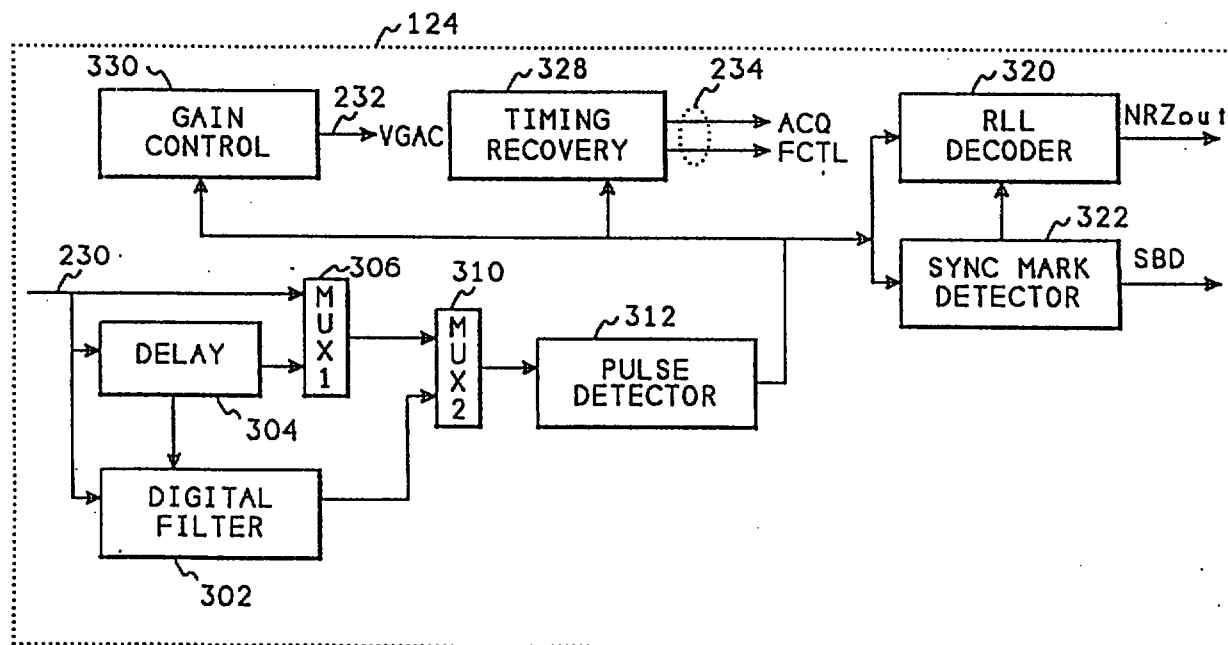
INTERNATIONAL APPLICATION PUBLISHED UNDER THE PATENT COOPERATION TREATY (PCT)

(51) International Patent Classification 5 : H04L 27/06, H03K 5/153		A1	(11) International Publication Number: WO 93/23941
			(43) International Publication Date: 25 November 1993 (25.11.93)
(21) International Application Number: PCT/US93/04234		(74) Agent: YOUNG, James, R.; 1333 W. 120th Avenue, Suite 302, Westminster, CO 80234 (US).	
(22) International Filing Date: 5 May 1993 (05.05.93)		(81) Designated States: JP, European patent (AT, BE, CH, DE, DK, ES, FR, GB, GR, IE, IT, LU, MC, NL, PT, SE).	
(30) Priority data: 07/879,938 8 May 1992 (08.05.92) US		Published With international search report.	
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(54) Title: DIGITAL PULSE DETECTOR



(57) Abstract

Disclosed is a pulse detector (312) that uses four samples (406, 408, 410, 412, 504, 506, 508, 510) of an analog signal to detect a pulse as soon as one sample beyond the time of the peak of signal level at the pulse. The pulse detector can detect pulses by sampling at the center of a peak of the pulse or by sampling at either side of the peak of the pulse. The pulse detector detects pulses while tracking data, and it uses an alternate detection system for detecting pulses while acquiring timing and gain lock on a signal having a known data pattern. The detector uses either the sampled signal levels directly, or a moving average of two samples to perform the detection.