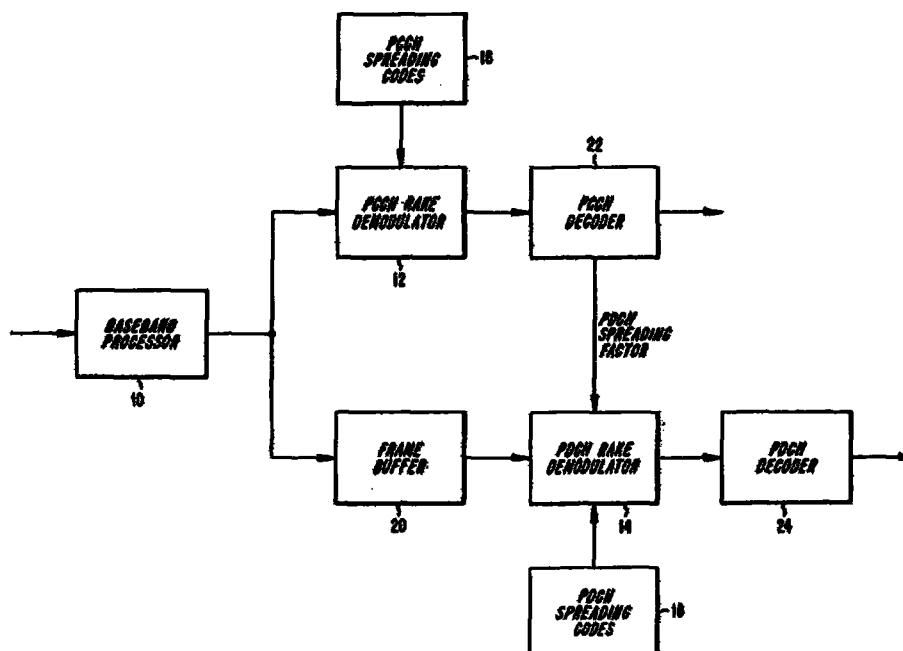




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(54) Title: RATE DETECTION FOR VARIABLE RATE CDMA COMMUNICATION SYSTEM

**(57) Abstract**

Variable rate data transmissions are accommodated having BRI transmitted in the same frame as the data itself. When Walsh code spreading is employed, the despreading process can be split into two separate despreading operations, with buffering between the two operations. Buffering is made of the intermediate symbols between the despreading stages, and can be made at the maximum user data rate instead of the much higher chip rate. In this way, the size of the buffer in the receiver can be significantly reduced.