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(74) Agents: **OGROD, Gregory, D.** et al.; Qualcomm Incorporated, 5775 Morehouse Drive, San Diego, CA 92121 (US).

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(71) Applicant: **QUALCOMM INCORPORATED** [US/US];  
5775 Morehouse Drive, San Diego, CA 92121 (US).

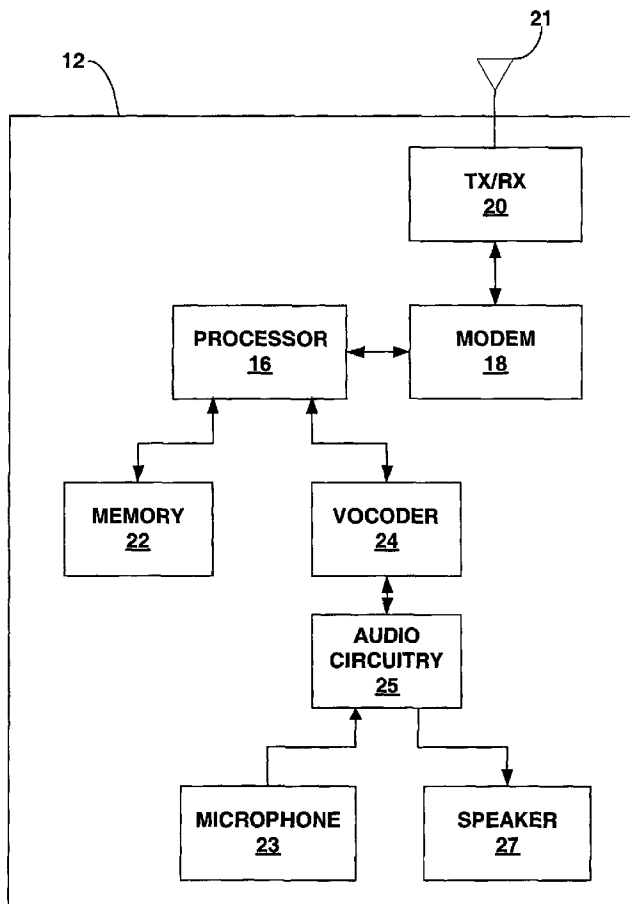
(72) Inventors: **HUTCHISON, James, A.**; 2013 Cardinal  
Drive, San Diego, CA 92123 (US). **TAM, Sun**; 8540 Costa  
Verde Boulevard #4236, San Diego, CA 92122 (US).

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(54) Title: CONDENSED VOICE BUFFERING, TRANSMISSION AND PLAYBACK



(57) Abstract: This disclosure is directed to techniques for condensed voice buffering, transmission and playback. The techniques may involve identification of encoded voice frames as either speech or a pause, and selective exclusion of a portion of the frames for storage, transmission or playback based on the identification. In this manner, the techniques are capable of condensing a series of encoded voice frames. When variable rate coding is employed, a pause frame may be identified, for example, based on a threshold comparison for the rate of the encoded frame. In some cases, the techniques may involve excluding only a portion of the identified frames from a consecutive sequence of the identified frames, thereby preserving a minimum number of the identified frames needed for intelligible conversation.

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