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(54) Title: METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR EFFICIENT IRREGULAR SYNCHRONIZATION OF A STREAM CIPHER

(57) Abstract: A method and apparatus for efficiently synchronizing a stream cipher. State information is transmitted that will allow the intented recipient of the encrypted data stream to set a stream cipher generator to the correct state from which to start generating the stream cipher. A cycle number indicating the current state of a linear feedback shift register and a stutter number indicating whether an output of the linear feedback shift register is dropped are both transmitted to a remote station along with the encrypted data stream.