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SPEECH CODING WITH COMFORT NOISE VARIABILITY FEATURE FOR INCREASED FIDELITY

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

The quality of comfort noise generated by a speech decoder (93) during non-speech periods is improved by modifying (30,75) comfort noise parameter values (33) normally used to generate the comfort noise. The comfort noise parameter values are modified in response to variability information (43) associated with a background noise parameter. The modified comfort noise parameter values (35) are then used to generate the comfort noise.