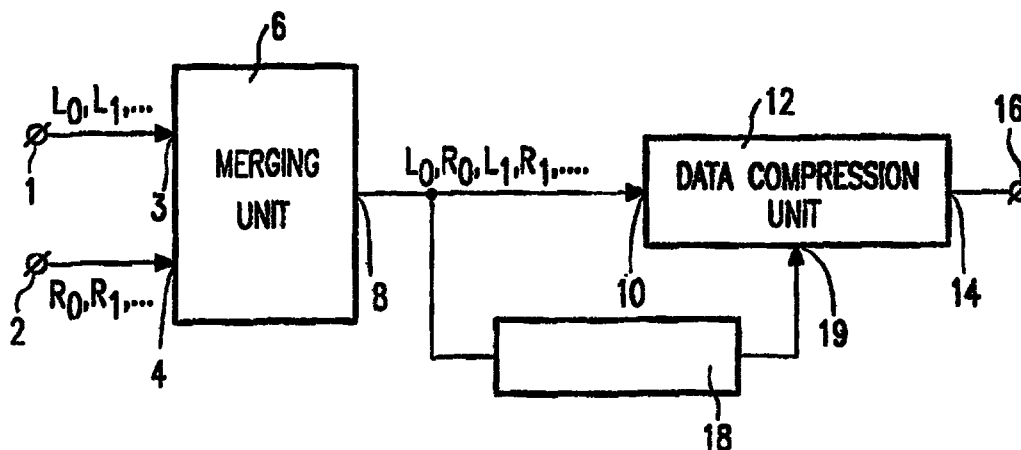


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(54) Title: DATA COMPRESSION/EXPANSION ON A PLURALITY OF DIGITAL INFORMATION SIGNALS



(57) Abstract

A data compression apparatus is proposed for data compressing at least a first and a second digital information signal ($L_0, L_1, L_2, \dots, R_0, R_1, R_2, \dots$), each of the at least two digital information signals comprising subsequent samples. The apparatus comprises an input (1, 2) for receiving the first and second digital information signal, a merging unit (6) for merging the samples of the first and second digital information signal after each other into one datastream so as to obtain a composite information signal ($L_0, R_0, L_1, R_1, L_2, R_2, \dots$). Further, a data compression unit (12) is available for data compressing the composite information signal so as to obtain a data compressed composite information signal and an output (16) is present for supplying the data compressed composite information signal.