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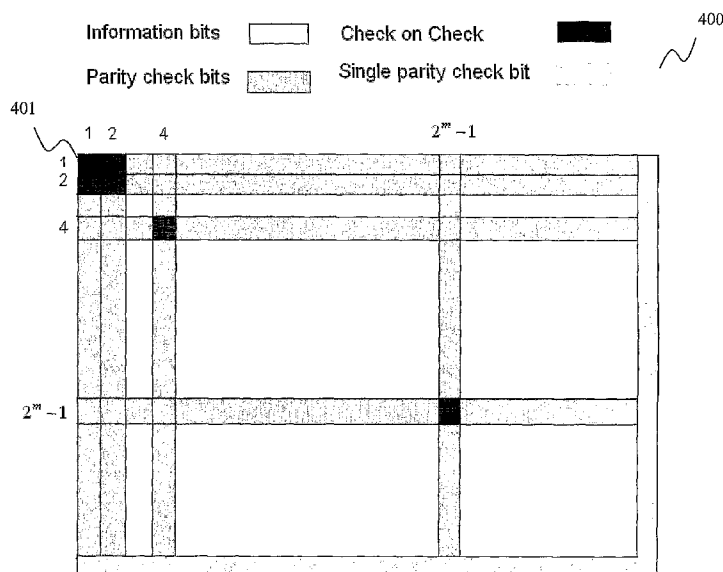
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(54) Title: METHODS AND DEVICES FOR DECODING AND ENCODING DATA



(57) Abstract: A method for decoding an input data sequence is provided. The method comprises generating a plurality of test sequences, determining an order for the plurality of test sequences, such that each test sequence differs from its adjacent test sequences by a respective predefined number of bits, and carrying out a maximum likelihood process with the ordered test sequences and the input data sequence thereby generating a maximum likelihood sequence.



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