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(54) Title: HEARING AID AND A METHOD OF DRIVING AN OUTPUT STAGE

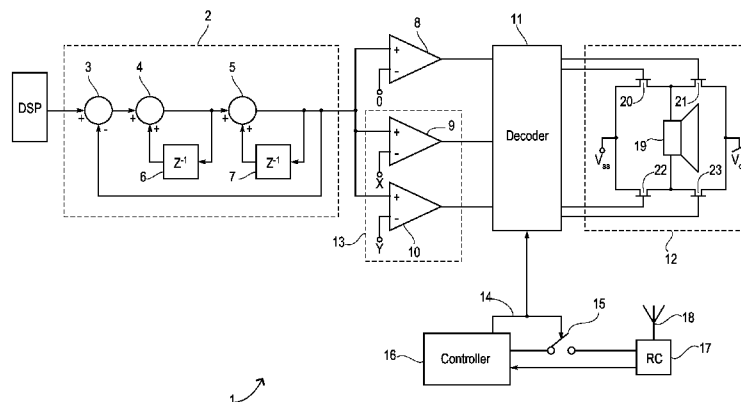


Fig. 1

(57) **Abstract:** In a hearing aid (40), a direct-digital H-bridge output driver stage (1) driven by a sigma-delta modulator (2) is configured to operate in a power-saving three-level output mode or a power-consuming two-level output mode. The three-level output mode of the H-bridge output driver stage (1) has low power consumption but suffers the disadvantage of emitting capacitive noise potentially interfering with the reception of radio signals in a radio receiver (17) in the hearing aid (40). By providing a novel method of selecting the two-level output mode whenever the radio receiver (17) is receiving signals, and selecting the three-level output mode whenever the radio receiver (17) is idle, this capacitive interference does not disturb the radio receiver (17) in the hearing aid (40). During use, a timer (33) intermittently activates the radio receiver (17). Selection between the two-level output mode and the three-level output mode is performed at the quantization stage (8, 13) of the sigma-delta converter (2). Power consumption in the hearing aid (40) may thus be reduced without compromising the reception quality of the radio receiver (17). A controller (16) is configured to coordinate means (11) for output mode selection with the operating mode of the radio receiver (17).