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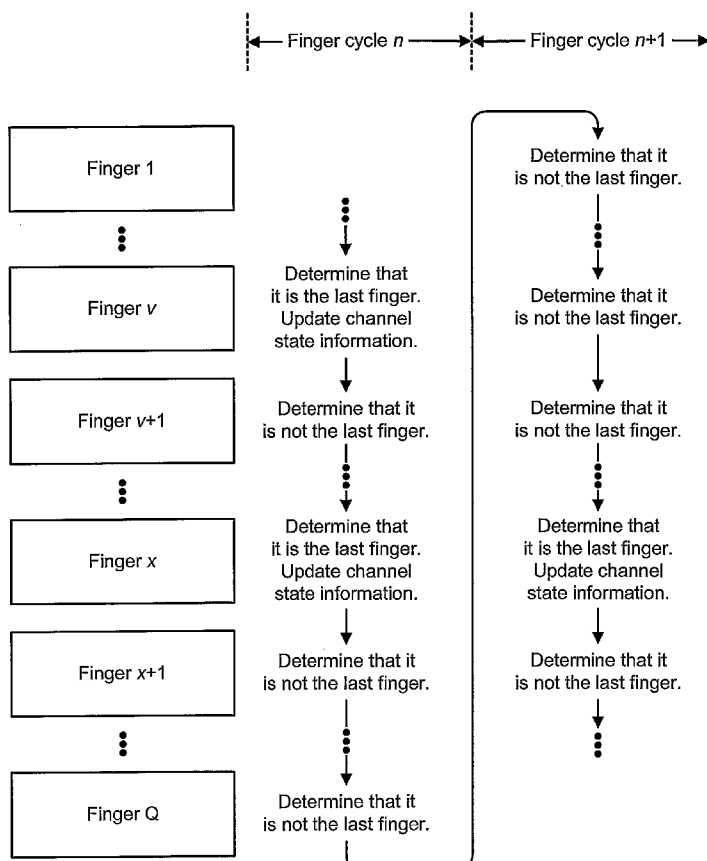
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(54) Title: LAST FINGER POLLING FOR RAKE RECEIVERS



(57) Abstract: Techniques for polling fingers on a channel (which are fingers for which symbols are to be combined) to determine the last finger on the channel. As each finger is polled, the polled finger compares its state information with the state information for the channel to determine whether or not it is the last finger on the channel. If the polled finger is deemed as the last finger then, (1) the channel state information is updated with the polled finger state information, and (2) the symbols provided by the polled finger may be marked as being ready for subsequent processing. This avoids buffering the demodulated symbols for a duration time that is longer than the largest expected difference between the earliest and the latest arriving multipath components.

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- *as to the applicant's entitlement to claim the priority of the earlier application (Rule 4.17(iii)) for all designations*

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