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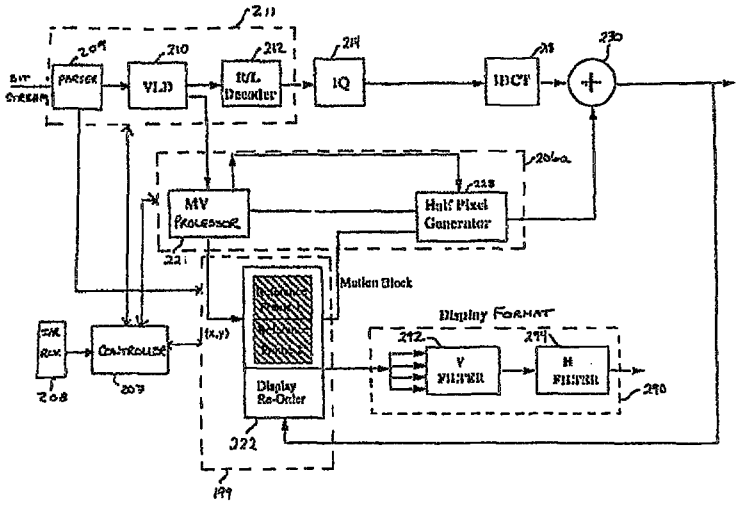
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(54) Title: HDTV DOWNCONVERSION SYSTEM



(57) Abstract

A video decoder compliant with the Advanced Television Systems Standard (ATSC) includes circuitry which decodes an ATSC encoded image and employs a downconversion process to produce a standard definition video signal. The video decoder includes a frequency-domain filter to reduce the resolution of the ATSC encoded signal. The video decoder downconversion system also includes a formatting section having vertical and horizontal filters, as well as resampling processing, to format the decoded and downconverted video image for a particular display and aspect ratio. The decoder senses the display format of the encoded video signal and changes the processing provided by the decoder to produce a standard definition output signal regardless of the display format of the encoded input signal. The system also includes a format converter which may be programmed to use a plurality of methods to convert the aspect ratio of the input signal for display on a display device having a different aspect ratio. In one mode, the system sequences through the possible methods to allow the user to select one method.