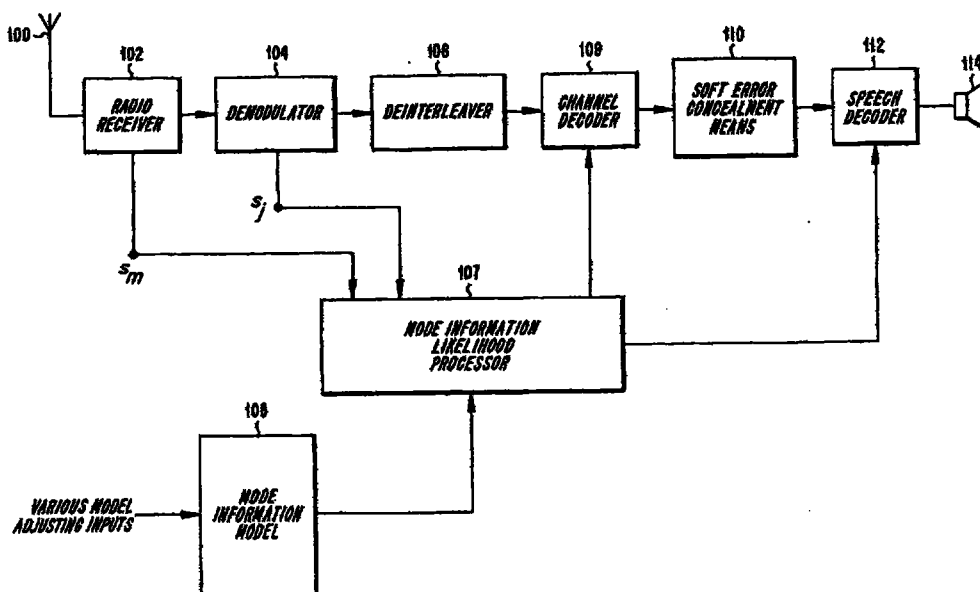




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(54) Title: CODEC MODE DECODING USING A PRIORI KNOWLEDGE



(57) Abstract

A communication system supports multiple source coding/channel coding schemes. A mode indicator can be transmitted with payload data to inform the receiver of the particular scheme currently being employed. The mode indicator may be encoded using a relatively weak channel coding to minimize extraneous overhead transmissions. To enhance the likelihood of successfully decoding the mode indicator, which has information that is highly important in successfully decoding the payload data, various value likelihood parameters can be calculated and combined to identify a most likely mode. Included in the likelihood (soft) parameters is one parameter which can be calculated based on a model of the mode information's likely value (e.g. Markov model).