



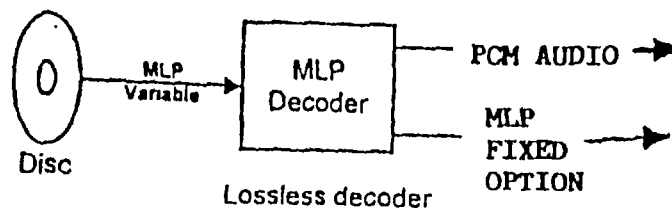
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(54) Title: TRANSCODERS FOR FIXED AND VARIABLE RATE DATA STREAMS



(57) Abstract

A transcoder is provided for receiving encoded data read from a Digital Video Disc. This data usually comprises variable length audio data packets, each data packet including a packet header. For the invention, at least one packet header for each track gives the peak data rate of the track. The transcoder converts the variable rate packetised stream into a fixed rate stream of the same rate as the peak rate indicated in the packet header. This fixed rate stream is suitable for transmission over certain interface protocols, or else for storage on a storage medium if fixed rate stored audio is desired. The track may give data indicating the minimum rate to which the data could be reserialised, or repacketised, for controlling the operation of a subsequent transcoder.