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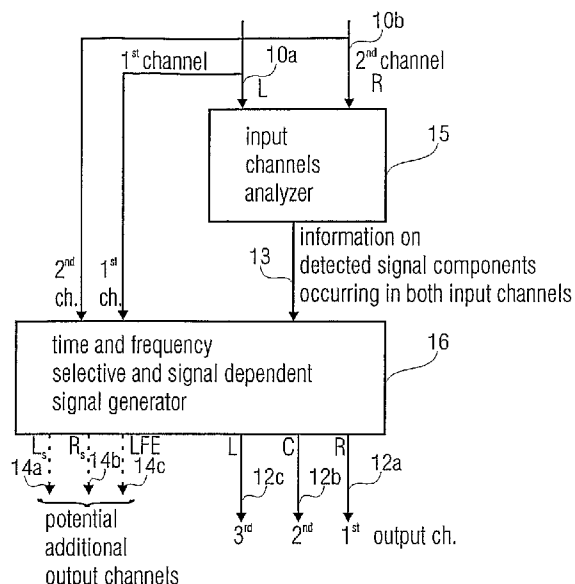
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(54) **Title:** APPARATUS AND METHOD FOR SYNTHESIZING THREE OUTPUT CHANNELS USING TWO INPUT CHANNELS



(57) **Abstract:** For synthesizing at least three output channels using two stereo input channels, the stereo input channels are analyzed (15) to detect signal components occurring in both input channels. A signal generator (16) is operative to introduce at least a part of the detected signal components into the second channel (12b) associated with a second speaker in an intended speaker scheme, which is positioned between a first and a third speaker in the speaker scheme. When, however, feeding of the complete detected signal components would result in a clipping situation, then only a part of the detected signal components is fed into the second channel as a real center channel and the remainder is located in the first and third channels as a phantom center channel.



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