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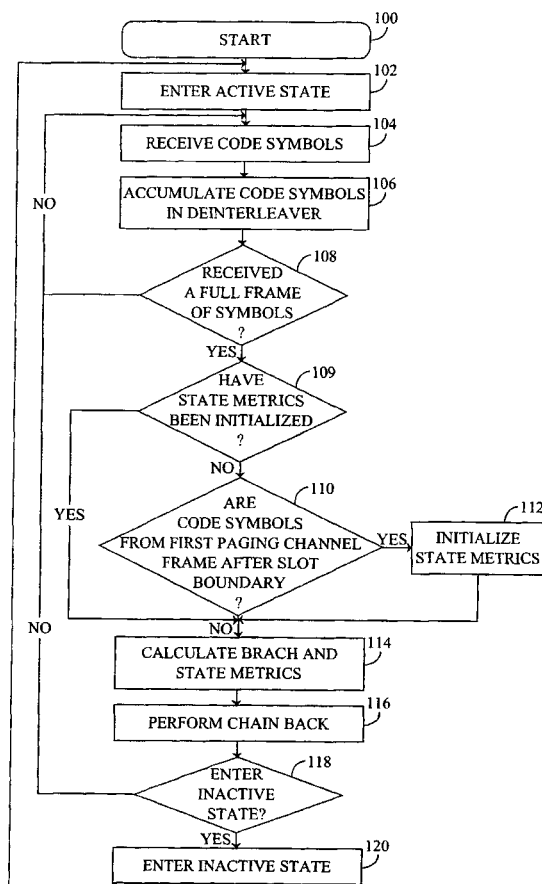
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(54) Title: SLOTTED MODE DECODER STATE METRIC INITIALIZATION



(57) Abstract: A method and apparatus for improving the performance of a convolutional encoder used in a slotted mode communication system. In a typical slotted mode communication system a stream of continuously convolutionally encoded symbols is transmitted by a base station. A remote unit, comprising a convolutional decoder to decode the stream of symbols periodically transits between active and inactive states. While in the inactive state the remote unit misses a portion of the continuous stream of symbols. Following the interruption of the stream of symbols, the state metrics of a trellis within the decoder are initialized. Initialization of the state metrics may be such that the decoding process will be biased towards only valid states and away from invalid states. In addition, the initialization may be such that there is not a bias towards any particular state within the trellis.

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