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(54) Title: A METHOD, APPARATUS, AND MEDIUM FOR ENCODING AND DECODING OF AUDIO BITSTREAMS AND ASSOCIATED ECHO-REFERENCE SIGNALS

FRAME N-2	FRAME N-1	FRAME N	
		ID=0, F=N, P=0	BLOCK STREAM 0
		ID=1, F=N, P=0	BLOCK STREAM 1
		ID=2, F=N, P=0	BLOCK STREAM 2

FIG. 13

(57) Abstract: A method for generating a frame of an encoded bitstream of an audio program comprising a plurality of audio signals, wherein the frame comprises two or more independent blocks of encoded data, the method comprising receiving, for one or more of the plurality of audio signals, information indicating a playback device with which the one or more audio signals are associated, receiving, for the indicated playback device, information indicating one or more additional associated playback devices, receiving one or more audio signals associated with the indicated one or more additional associated playback devices, encoding the one or more audio signals associated with the playback device, encoding the one or more additional associated playback devices, combining the one or more encoded audio signals associated with the playback device and signaling information indicating the one or more additional associated playback devices into a first independent block, combining the one or more encoded audio signals associated with the one or more additional associated playback devices into one or more additional independent blocks, and combining the first independent block and the one or more additional independent blocks into the frame of the encoded bitstream.

[Continued on next page]

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