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Octrooibureau B.V., Prof. Holstlaan 6, NL-5656 AA Eind-
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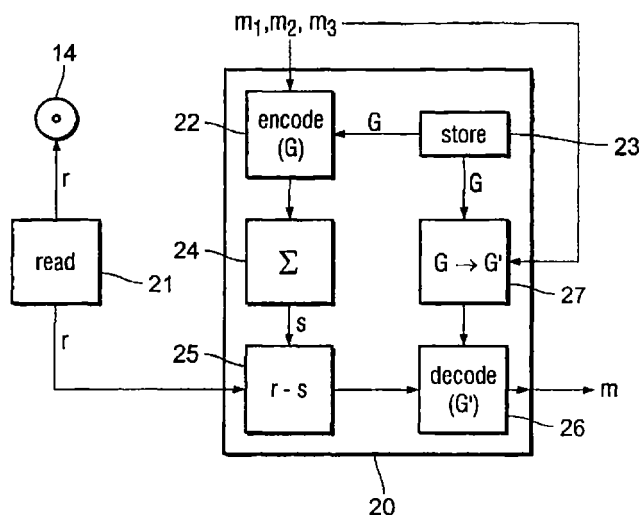
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ICS N.V.** [NL/NL]; Groenewoudseweg 1, NL-5621 BA
Eindhoven (NL).(72) Inventors: **VAN DIJK, Marten, E.**; Prof. Holstlaan 6,
NL-5656 AA Eindhoven (NL). **BAGGEN, Constant, P.,
M., J.**; Prof. Holstlaan 6, NL-5656 AA Eindhoven (NL).
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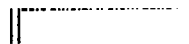
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54) Title: CODING AND DECODING OF PARTIALLY A PRIORI KNOWN INFORMATION

(57) Abstract: The invention relates to a method of selecting a generator matrix (G) for encoding information words (m) comprising information symbols (m₁, m₂, ..., m_k) into codewords (c) of a code (C) for providing an enhanced error correction capability if at least one information symbol (m₁, m₂, m₃) is known a priori to a decoder decoding received, possibly mutilated codewords (r). The invention relates further to a method of encoding information words (m) into codewords (c) and to a method of decoding possibly mutilated codewords (r). In order to design a code of which the correction power is enhanced if some information symbols are known to the decoder prior to decoding it is proposed according to the invention that said generator matrix (G) is selected such that the minimum Hamming distance of at least one subcode (C') of said code (C) is larger than the minimum Hamming distance of said code (C) and that a subcode generator matrix (G') of said subcode (C') derives from said generator matrix (G) of said code (C) by omitting the at least one row from said generator matrix (G) corresponding to said at least one a priori known information symbol (m₁, m₂, m₃).

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