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SOFT DECISION DIGITAL COMMUNICATION METHOD AND APPARATUS

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Abstract of the Disclosure

A decoding apparatus (200) decodes a coherent, differentially encoded multi-level phase shift keying (DEPSK) modulated signal. A coherent receiver (101) receives and, subsequently, outputs the
10 coherent DEPSK modulated signal to a metric computer (201). The metric computer (201) generates a soft decision metric $\hat{\Lambda}(\tilde{s}(n))$ corresponding to the coherent DEPSK modulated signal which is outputted to a forward error correction (FEC) decoder (107). The FEC decoder (107) decodes the coherent DEPSK modulated signal in
15 accordance with the soft decision metric $\hat{\Lambda}(\tilde{s}(n))$ corresponding to the coherent DEPSK modulated signal.

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