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ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

AN ENVIRONMENTAL NOISE LEVEL ESTIMATION APPARATUS,
A COMMUNICATION APPARATUS, A DATA TERMINAL APPARATUS,
AND A METHOD OF ESTIMATING AN ENVIRONMENTAL NOISE LEVEL

A level of a sound signal including a voice signal
and an environmental noise signal is detected and a level
(power level) is sampled in response to a clock signal. It
5 is detected whether the presently sampled level increases
from the previously sampled level. An environmental noise
level is estimated such that, when the presently sampled
level increases from the previously sampled level,
difference between the presently and previously estimated
10 environmental noise levels is lower than a predetermined
value. When the presently sampled level decreases, the
presently estimated environmental noise level is equalized
to the presently sampled value. The environmental noise
level is estimated only when the detected level is smaller
15 than the predetermined value. The sampling interval may be
smaller than 250 msec. Estimation may be stopped in the
presence of voice signal. An environmental noise level may
be estimated when the detected level is smaller than a
reference. A communication apparatus and data terminal
20 including the An environmental noise level estimation
apparatus are also disclosed.

Figure 1.



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