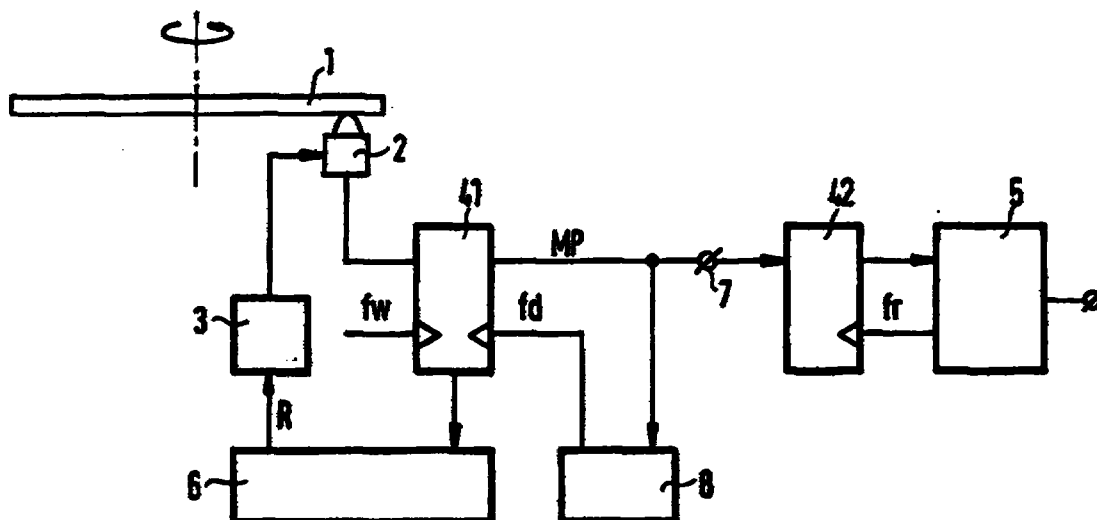




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(54) Title: PLAYBACK DEVICE AND METHOD OF PLAYING BACK A BIT STREAM OF A STORAGE MEDIUM



(57) Abstract

The MPEG standard for compressing audio and video signals allows video compression with variable bitrate coding. It yields a profit of approximately 30 % as compared with a constant bitrate. Variable bitrate compression provides the possibility of storing complete films on an optical disc. To play back the bit stream at a variable bitrate, the playback device comprises a buffer (4). This buffer is read by the MPEG decoder (5) and burst-wise filled with new data. In a possible embodiment, the bitrate is accommodated in the bit stream. The playback device comprises detection means (8) for detecting the bitrate and reads the buffer at this bitrate. The bit stream which has been read can be applied to a standard MPEG decoder.

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