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(54) Title: METHOD AND DEVICE FOR DECODING DIGITAL VIDEO BITSTREAMS AND RECEPTION EQUIPMENT INCLUDING SUCH A DEVICE

## (57) Abstract

Decoding method and device with which it is proposed, in order to reduce the switching time from one among  $n$  input digital video bitstreams corresponding to  $n$  programs to another one, to use under the supervision of control means (30) including a control unit (31) and a switch (32), while a selected digital video bitstream is presented for decoding and display,  $(n-1)$  buffers (22, 23) for the  $(n-1)$  extra bitstreams, these extra buffers being dimensioned so that they always comprise at least an intra frame, and preferably the most recent one, of each incoming extra bitstream. In a simpler embodiment where the next program switched to is one up or one down, only one or two extra buffers are necessary, subject to the knowledge of an information on how the incoming programs may be accessed, i.e. according to some defined order. Application: reception equipments for decoding of digital television programs in accordance with the MPEG standard.

