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(71) Applicant (for all designated States except US): **DOLBY LABORATORIES LICENSING CORPORATION** [US/US]; 100 Potrero Avenue, San Francisco, CA 94103 (US).

(72) Inventor; and

(75) Inventor/Applicant (for US only): **CROCKETT, Brett, G.** [US/US]; 100 Potrero Avenue, San Francisco, CA 94103 (US).

(74) Agents: **GALLAGHER, Thomas, A.** et al.; Gallagher & Lathrop, 601 California Street, Suite 1111, San Francisco, CA 94108-2805 (US).

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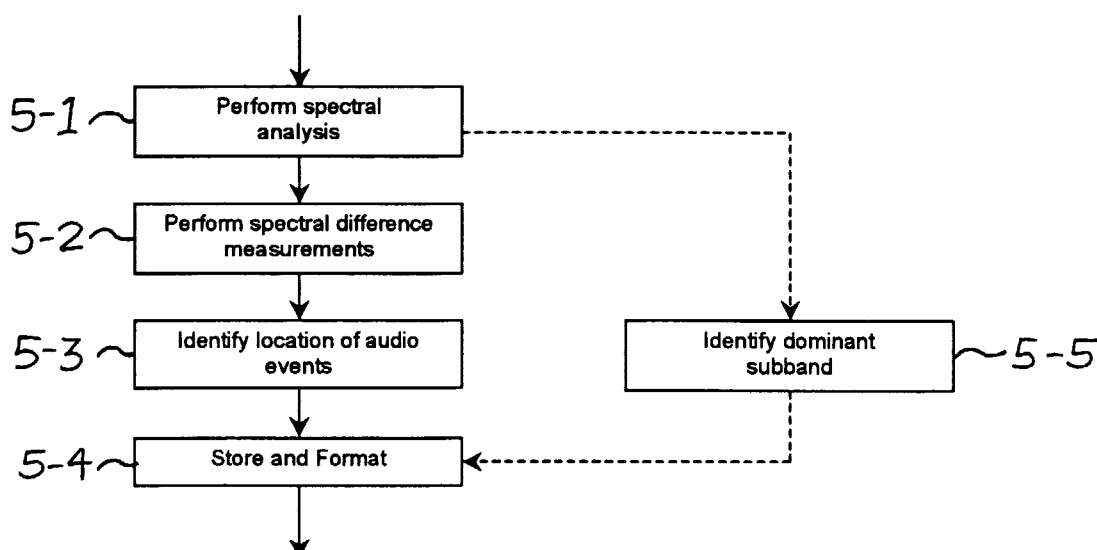
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(54) Title: SEGMENTING AUDIO SIGNALS INTO AUDITORY EVENTS



(57) Abstract: In one aspect, the invention divides an audio signal into auditory events, each of which tends to be perceived as separate and distinct, by calculating the spectral content of successive time blocks of the audio signal (5-1), calculating the difference in spectral content between successive time blocks of the audio signal (5-2), and identifying an auditory event boundary as the boundary between successive time blocks when the difference in the spectral content between such successive time blocks exceeds a threshold (5-3). In another aspect, the invention generates a reduced-information representation of an audio signal by dividing an audio signal into auditory events, each of which tends to be perceived as separate and distinct, and formatting and storing information relating to the auditory events (5-4). Optionally, the invention may also assign a characteristic to one or more of the auditory events (5-5).



WO 02/097792 A1



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