

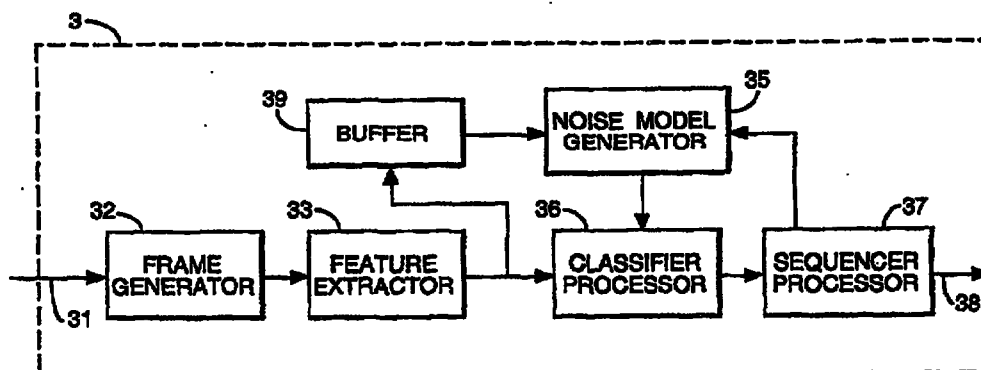


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(54) Title: **PATTERN RECOGNITION**

(57) Abstract

Pattern recognition apparatus comprises a recognition processor (3) for processing an input signal to indicate its similarity to allowed sequences of reference patterns to be recognised. A speech recognition processor (3) includes classification means (36, 37) to identify a sequence of patterns corresponding to said input signal and for repeatedly partitioning the input signal into a speech-containing portion and, preceding and/or following said speech-containing portion, noise or silence portions. A noise model generator (35) is provided to generate a pattern of the noise or silence portion, for subsequent use by said classification means (36, 37) for pattern identification purposes. The noise model generator may generate a noise model for each noise portion of the input signal, which may be used to adapt the reference patterns.