

(12) PATENT APPLICATION PUBLICATION

(21) Application No. : 2837/MUMNP/2015

(19) INDIA

(43) Publication Date : 03/06/2016
Journal No. - 23/2016

(22) Date of filing of Application :30/09/2015

(54) Title of the invention : ENCODER APPARATUS DECODER APPARATUS AND METHOD

(51) International classification	:H03M7/30
(31) Priority Document No	:1303658.7
(32) Priority Date	:01/03/2013
(33) Name of priority country	:U.K.
(86) International Application No	:PCT/EP2014
Filing Date	/000531
	:01/03/2014
(87) International Publication No	:WO
	2014/131528
(61) Patent of Addition to Application Number	:NA
Filing Date	:NA
(62) Divisional to Application Number	:NA
Filing Date	:NA

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(57) Abstract :

An encoder (10) is provided for encoding data (D1) provided thereto to generate corresponding encoded data (D2) wherein the encoder (10) includes a data processing arrangement (20) for applying one or more encoding processes to the data (D1) to generate the encoded data (D2). The data processing arrangement (20) is operable to represent the data (D1) at least partially in a set of numerical value symbols if the data (D1) is not already expressed in numerical value symbols. The data processing arrangement (20) is operable to generate intermediate data (40) in which the numerical value symbols are represented by original values and at least one symbol by a modified value with one or more continuum symbols generated by a continuum operator wherein the one or more continuum symbols modify preceding symbol values to accommodate an extended range of symbols. The data processing is operable (20) to process the intermediate data (40) to generate the encoded data (D2). A decoder (50) is provided for decoding encoded data (D2) provided thereto to generate corresponding decoded data (D3) wherein the decoder (50) includes a data processing arrangement (60) for applying one or more decoding processes to the encoded data (D2) to generate the decoded data (D3). The data processing arrangement (60) is operable to process the encoded data (D2) to generate intermediate data (40). The data processing arrangement (60) is operable to process the intermediate data (40) to decode the intermediate data wherein in the intermediate data numerical value symbols are represented by output symbols and at least by one modified output symbol with one or more continuum symbols that are then decoded by an inverse continuum operator wherein the one or more continuum symbols modify the modified output symbol value to accommodate an extended range of symbols. The data processing arrangement (60) is operable to translate and/or transform the processed intermediate data to represent the decoded data (D3) in a set of symbols. The encoder (10) and decoder (50) collectively a codec (100) are operable to process data representative of captured audio signals captured video signals captured images text data seismographic data sensor signals analog to digital (ADC) converted data biomedical signal data calendar data economic data mathematical data binary data but not limited thereto.

Number of Pages = 49

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