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(57) Abstract :

A decoder (10) decodes input data (20) to generate corresponding decoded output data (30). The decoder (10) includes data processing hardware which is operable: (a) to process the encoded input data (20) to extract therefrom header information indicative of encoded data pertaining to blocks and/or packets included in the encoded input data (20), the header information including data indicative of one or more transformations employed to encode and compress original block and/or packet data for inclusion as the encoded data pertaining to the blocks and/or packets; (b) to prepare a data field in a data storage arrangement for receiving decoded block and/or packet content; (c) to retrieve information describing the one or more transformations and then applying an inverse of the one or more transformation for decoding the encoded and compressed original block and/or packet data to generate corresponding decoded block and/or packet content for populating said data field; and (d) when the encoded input data has been at least partially decoded, to output data from the data field as the decoded output data (30). Optionally, the decoder (10) is operable to fetch supplementary information from a database arrangement for use when executing the inverse of one or more transformations, said supplementary information including at least one of: algorithms, rules, one or more transformation parameters. Optionally, the decoder is operable to split and/or combine blocks and/or packets in the data field according to splitting and/or combining information included in the encoded input data (20). The encoded data optionally includes at least one of: image data, video data, audio data, economic data, mask data, seismographic data, analog-to-digital (ADC) converted data, biomedical signal data, textural data, calendar data, mathematical data but not limited thereto. The decoder (10) is beneficially employed in electronic consumer products operable to receive and/or store input data. FIG. 1 for the Abstract.

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