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(57) Abstract :

An encoder (10) is provided for encoding input data (D1) to generate corresponding encoded output data (D2). The encoder (10) includes a data processing arrangement for generating a run length encoded (RLE) representation of the input data (D1). Moreover the encoder (10) is operable to split the run length encoded (RLE) representation into a plurality of parts (A B) wherein at least one part is associated with original symbols and at least another part is associated with counters representative of occurrence of the original symbols. Furthermore the encoder (10) is operable to encode the plurality of parts (A B) separately to generate the encoded output data (D2). There is also provided a corresponding decoder (50) for decoding the encoded data (D2) to generate corresponding decoded output data (D3). Additionally there is provided a codec (20) including the aforesaid encoder (10) and decoder (50). Optionally the original symbols include at least one of: characters alphabetic elements numbers bits bytes words.

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