

Title (en)  
SIGNAL PROCESSING APPARATUS AND METHOD

Title (de)  
VORRICHTUNG UND VERFAHREN ZUR SIGNALVERARBEITUNG

Title (fr)  
DISPOSITIF ET PROCEDE DE TRAITEMENT DU SIGNAL

Publication  
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Application  
**EP 99973212 A 19991116**

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Abstract (en)  
[origin: WO0033582A1] A signal-processing arrangement comprising an examining circuit (EXAM), and adjustable filter (FIL), and a signal processor (PRC). The signal processor (PRC) may be, for example, a video encoder for encoding a sequence of pictures in accordance with an MPEG standard. The examining circuit (EXAM) examines a signal (S) to be processed so as to obtain a distortion indication (IND) the distortion indication (IND) indicates to which extent distortion (DIST) would be introduced if the signal (S) were processed (PRC[S]) by means of the processor (PRC). An adjustable filter (FIL) filters the signal (S) in dependence on the distortion indication (IND) so as to obtain a filtered signal (SF). The signal processor (PRC) processes the filtered signal (SF). Thus, the signal-processing arrangement filters the signal to be processed in a pro-active manner so as to counter distortion which might otherwise be introduced by processing the signal. Accordingly, a satisfactory signal quality can be obtained. For example, in a video-encoding application, the filter can reduce details contained in a series of pictures. This allows the series of pictures to be coded with a sufficient precision without introducing block effects which might otherwise occur if the pictures were not filtered. Moreover, since the filter is pro-actively adjusted, it filters the series of pictures more evenly than if the filter were retro-actively adjusted. Accordingly, there will be relatively little variation in resolution from one picture to another, which contributes to a satisfactory overall picture quality.

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