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(54) Digital signal multiplexing apparatus

(57) A digital signal multiplexing apparatus is provided which can multiplex service data having a plurality of different bit rates and change the bit rate even during signal transmission. A controller generates multiplex configuration information indicating how service data is multiplexed, in accordance with instructions, and generates commands whose contents match the multiplex configuration information. The generated multiplex configuration information is written in a memory circuit, and the generated command is converted by a CPU into a control signal for encoders. The multiplex configuration

information read from the memory circuit is encoded by a convolution encoder into a predetermined format. A plurality of service data sets are encoded by convolution encoders into predetermined formats in accordance with control signals converted by CPU, and multiplexed by a multiplexer circuit. The data encoded by the convolution encoder and the data multiplexed by the multiplexer circuit are further multiplexed by another multiplexer circuit.

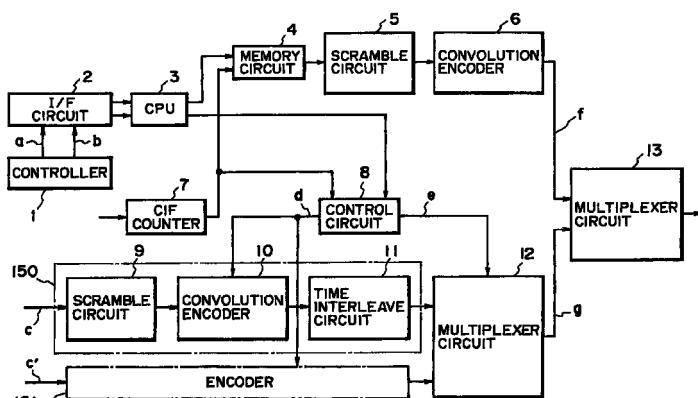


FIG. I



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			TECHNICAL FIELDS SEARCHED (Int.Cl.6)
			H04H H04J
The present search report has been drawn up for all claims			
Place of search	Date of completion of the search		Examiner
THE HAGUE	14 June 2000		Traverso, A
CATEGORY OF CITED DOCUMENTS			
X : particularly relevant if taken alone Y : particularly relevant if combined with another document of the same category A : technological background O : non-written disclosure P : intermediate document			
T : theory or principle underlying the invention E : earlier patent document, but published on, or after the filing date D : document cited in the application L : document cited for other reasons & : member of the same patent family, corresponding document			

**ANNEX TO THE EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT
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