

Attorney Docket No.: 0160132
Application Serial No.: 11/201,637

REMARKS

This is in response to the *Final* Office Action of April 14, 2009, where the Examiner has rejected claims 1-24. By the present amendment, applicant has amended claims 1, 5, 13 and 17. After the present amendment, claims 1-24 remain pending in the present application. Applicant acknowledges and appreciates the Examiner's withdrawal of previous objections and rejections. An early allowance of outstanding claims 1-24 in view of the following remarks is requested.

A. Rejection of Claims 1-24 under 35 USC § 112, ¶ 2

The Examiner has rejected claims 1-24, under 35 USC § 112, ¶ 2, as being indefinite, because "Applicant fails to particularly point out and distinctly claims the transforms used in the filter adaptation."

Applicant respectfully submits that "the transforms used in the filter adaptation" is not clear to applicant. However, to the best of applicant's understanding, it is respectfully submitted that, claim 1, as amended, recites a transformation including "canceling said echo signal from a local-end signal based on said first bulk delay using said foreground adaptive filter, wherein canceling said echo signal from said local-end signal generates an error signal." In other words, the foreground adaptive filter is utilized to cancel the echo signal from a local-end signal based on the first bulk delay and generate an error signal.

Accordingly, applicant respectfully submits that the Examiner's rejection of claims 1-24, under 35 USC § 112, ¶ 2, has been overcome.

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B. Rejection of Claims 1-4, 7-16 and 19-24 under 35 USC § 103(a)

The Examiner has rejected claims 1-4, 7-16 and 19-24, under 35 USC § 103(a), as being unpatentable over Ericksson US Patent No. 6,219,418 in view of Roy US Patent No. 5,347,177.

In rejecting claim 1 and response to applicant's remarks, the Examiner states that "Examiner upholds the rejection based on Ericksson's "adaptive and programmable" filters being adaptive filters." To further clarify the invention of claim 1, applicant has amended claim 1 to recite: "feeding said error signal to both said foreground adaptive filter and said background adaptive filter." Applicant respectfully submits that "adaptive filters," as defined in the art are self-adjusted. For example, FIG. 2 of the present application clearly discloses that error signal 219 is fed to both foreground adaptive filter and background adaptive filter (see dashed lines feeding error signal 219 to elements 222 and 225), and the written description states that the error signal that is fed back is used to update the filter coefficients based on the error signal (see page 9.)

Now, turning to Ericksson, applicant notes that in both patent no. 3,787,645 (see FIG. 3, and Ericksson (FIG. 4), the error signal is only fed back to filter 12 and not filter 18. Therefore, filter 18 of both patent no. 3,787,645 and Ericksson are not self-adjusted. In contrast, FIG. 2 of the present application and the detail description disclose that the error signal is fed back to both filters 222 and 225, and both filters are self-adjusted.

Even more, since one filter of Ericksson is not a self-adjusted filter, Ericksson naturally fails to show that the background adaptive filter remains in open-loop mode, while the foreground adaptive filter moves from open-loop mode to closed-loop mode. Also, claim 1 recites that both adaptive filters are SPARSE filters. Applicant respectfully submits that there is no disclosure, teaching or suggestion in the cited references that both filters are SPARSE filters.

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Accordingly, at least for the reasons stated above, applicant respectfully submits that claim 1, as amended, is patentably distinguishable over the cited references, and should be allowed. Further, independent claim 13, as amended, includes limitations similar to those of claim 1, and claims 2-4, 7-12, 14-16 and 19-24, depend from claims 1 and 13, respectively, and should be allowed for the reasons stated above.

C. Rejection of Claims 5-6 and 17-18 under 35 USC § 103(a)

The Examiner has rejected claims 5-6 and 17-18, under 35 USC § 103(a), as being unpatentable over Ericksson in view of Roy, and further in view of Yatrou US Patent No. 5,343,522.

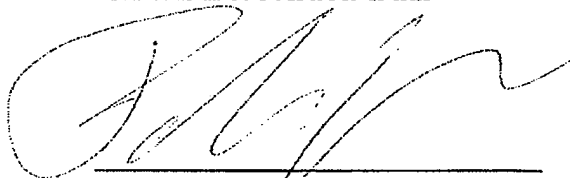
Applicant respectfully submits that claims 5-6 and 17-18 depend from independent claims 1 and 13, respectively, and should be allowed at least for the reasons stated above in conjunction with patentability of claims 1 and 13, as amended.

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D. Conclusion

Based on the foregoing reasons, an early Notice of Allowance directed to all claims 1-24 pending in the present application is respectfully requested.

Respectfully Submitted,
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