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18. The method of claim **17**
wherein the step of retrieving further comprises:
retrieving a digitally encoded idle word portion of the
digitally encoded signal; and
retrieving a digitally encoded burst word portion of the
digitally encoded signal. 5

19. The method of claim **17**
wherein the step of retrieving further comprises:
retrieving the digitally encoded signal from a selected
value stored in said memory wherein the selected value
has an expected disparity encoding associated therewith.

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20. The method of claim **15**
wherein the communication medium is an optical commu-
nication medium.

21. The method of claim **15**
wherein the communication medium is an electrical com-
munication medium.

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