



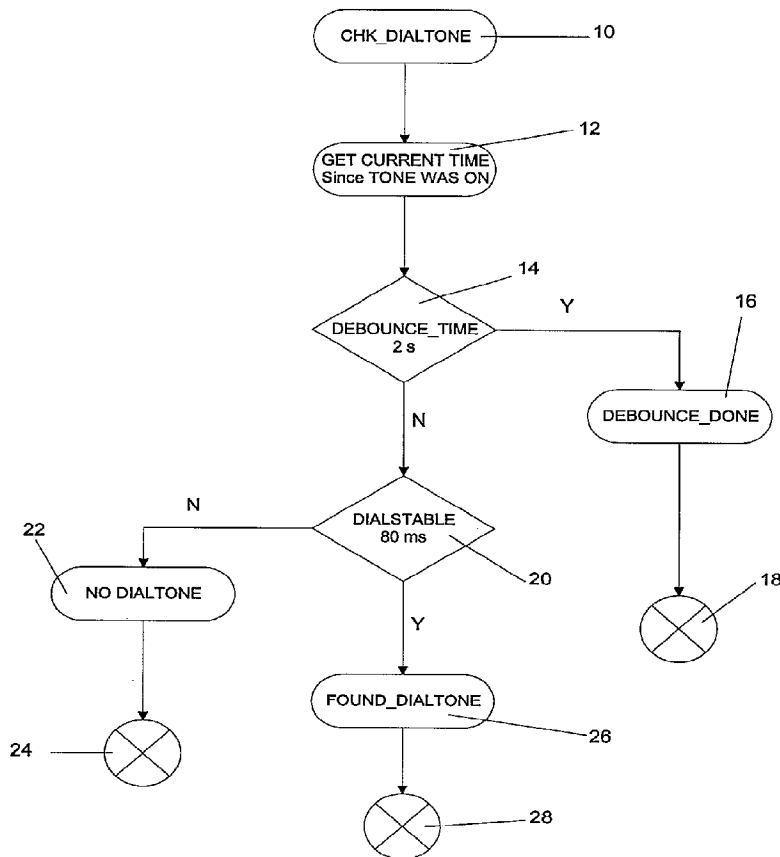
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(51) Int.Cl.<sup>6</sup> H04M 11/06, H04M 3/24

(54) **METHODE D'OPERATION D'UN MODEM LORSQU'IL Y A  
UNE TONALITE INTERROMPUE**

(54) **METHOD OF OPERATING A MODEM IN THE PRESENCE OF  
INTERRUPTED DIAL TONE**



(57) According to the present invention, a method is provided enabling an analog modem to dial out while a dial tone is interrupted or stuttered due to at least one unheard message at a Central Office for a subscriber to Call Answer is provided. Call Answer is an automated voice messaging system which causes the dial tone of a phone line connected to the modem, to be either interrupted or stuttered when a message is waiting for the subscriber. Users of the present invention are able to receive on-line access faster than users of the prior art. The method of the present invention implements a software program within the modem. By comparing the elapsed length of the dial tone with two predetermined time values (a maximum and a minimum), the method detects the presence and status of the dial tone and informs the modem of the status of the dial tone. Provided that a dial tone is present, whether uninterrupted interrupted or stuttered, the modem proceeds to dial out.