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ABSTRACT

A data encoding method for converting a $(m \ i)$ bit based data word string into a $(n \ i)$ bit based codeword string. The encoding method receives a $(m \ i)$ bit based data word string by a shift register 1, decides a constraint length specifying the length of a data word which is to be converted by an encoder 2, and decides on which number of bits as counted from the leading end of the m bits falls the leading end bit of the data word which is to be converted. The encoding method selects, by a selector 3, one of a plurality of conversion tables constituting variable length tables and at least satisfying the minimum run length d , in accordance with the constraint length and the above results of decision. The encoding method also generates a codeword corresponding to the data word, now to be converted, in accordance with the selected conversion table. The encoding method assures a larger value of the product of the minimum length between transitions and the window margin, thus enabling data to be recorded to a higher density on an information recording medium.

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