

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

The invention relates in general to low bit-rate encoding and decoding of information such as audio information. More particularly, the invention relates to adaptive bit allocation and quantization of encoded information useful in high-quality low bit-rate coding systems. In an encoder, a hybrid of forward-adaptive and backward-adaptive allocation is used to adaptively quantize information and to prepare an encoded signal which requires minimal side information to convey explicit allocation information to a companion decoder. In a decoder, a hybrid allocation technique is used to obtain allocation information required to dequantize information from a received encoded signal.

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