INFORMATION ENCODING METHOD AND APPARATUS, INFORMATION DECODING METHOD AND APPARATUS AND INFORMATION RECORDING MEDIUM

ABSTRACT

In case codes of old and new standards are recorded on the same recording medium, it is desirable that the signals of the old standard can be reproduced by an old standard accommodating reproducing device, while both signals can be reproduced by the new standard accommodating reproducing device such as to avoid lowering of the signal quality. To this end, if multi-channel signals are recorded in terms of a frame the size of which cannot be controlled, a second encoding circuit encodes signals of a channel reproduced by the old standard accommodating reproducing device, while a first encoding circuit encodes the signals of a channel reproduced by an old standard accommodating reproducing device with a number of bits smaller than the maximum number of bits that can be allocated to that frame. A codestring generating circuit arrays a codestring encoded by the second encoding circuit in a void area of a frame provided by encoding in the first encoding circuit.

Figure 1