

Abstract

The present invention provides technology for performing byte alignment on a bit stream. Adjustment coefficient sequences, that are a high-frequency components within quantized block coefficient sequences, are replaced with predetermined base coefficient sequences. A bit quantity that is to be increased for byte alignment is calculated based on code amount of a bit stream that has been acquired by subjecting the block coefficient sequences, that are the adjustment coefficient sequences that have been replaced with base coefficient sequences, to variable length encoding. Appropriate adjustment coefficient sequences that will replace the base coefficient sequences are searched based on bit quantity that is to be increased. The retrieved adjustment coefficient sequences are then inserted into high frequency components corresponding to base coefficient sequences.
