

IMAGE DECODING METHOD, IMAGE CODING METHOD, IMAGE
DECODING APPARATUS, IMAGE CODING APPARATUS, PROGRAM,
AND INTEGRATED CIRCUIT

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ABSTRACT

10 An image decoding method which can improve both image
quality and coding efficiency is an image decoding method for
decoding a coded stream which includes a plurality of processing
units and a header for the processing units, the coded stream being
generated by coding a moving picture, the processing units including
at least one processing unit layered to be split into a plurality of
smaller processing units, the image decoding method including
specifying a hierarchical layer having a processing unit in which a
15 parameter necessary for decoding is stored, by parsing hierarchy
depth information stored in the header (S101), and decoding the
processing unit using the parameter stored in the processing unit
located at the specified hierarchical layer (S102).

20 Figure 17A