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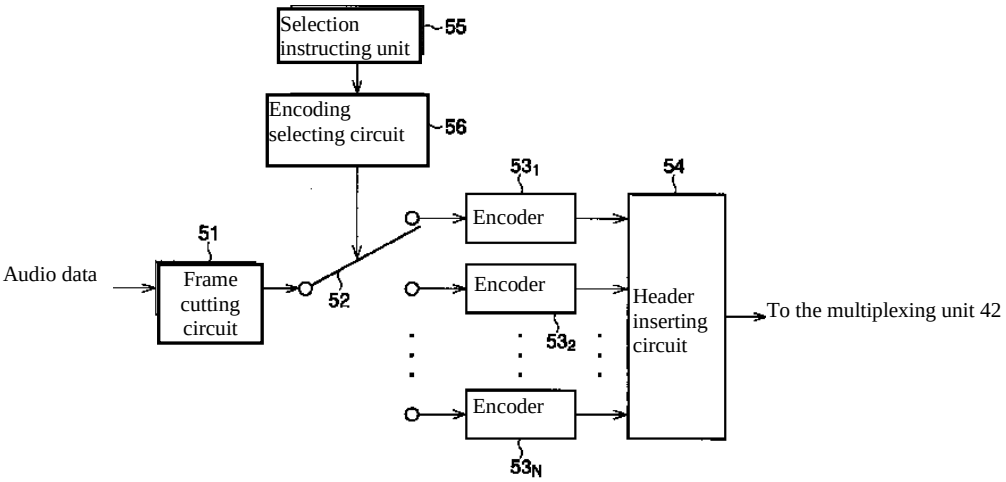
(54) [Title of the invention]
Transmitting apparatus and transmitting method, receiving apparatus and receiving method, as well as providing medium

(57) [Abstract]
[Problem to be solved]
To decode and reproduce the digital audio signals in real time.
[Solution means]
The transmission rate of a transmission line will be detected out, and a selection instructing unit 55 instructs, to an encoding selecting circuit 56, a coding method which will be possible to provide the coded data having a bit rate corresponding to that detected transmission rate. According to the instruction from the selection instructing unit 55, the encoding selecting circuit 56 will control a switch 52. According to the control from the encoding selecting circuit 56, the switch 52 will select one of a plurality of encoders 53_1 to 53_N, as a result, each frame of the audio signal cut out by a frame cutting circuit 51 will be supplied to the encoder selected by the switch for encoding thereof. Such coded data can be outputted after an ID corresponding to that coding method has been added in a header inserting circuit 54.



Encoding unit 41m

[Scope of the patent claims]

[Claim 1]

A transmitting apparatus for outputting the coded data resulted from encoding the time series digital signal, wherein such transmitting apparatus will be equipped with: a plurality of coding means for respectively encoding the above-mentioned digital signal with a plurality of coding methods and outputting the above-mentioned coded data, the instructing means for instructing the coding method for the purpose of encoding a part or all of the above-mentioned digital signal from the above-mentioned plurality of coding methods, the selecting means for selecting the above-mentioned coded data according to the coding method instructed by the above-mentioned instructing means, the adding means for adding the coding method information indicating the coding method for the coded data to the above-mentioned coded data selected by the above-mentioned selecting means, and the outputting means for outputting the above-mentioned coded data to which the above-mentioned coding method information is added.

[Claim 2]

A transmitting apparatus as described in the Claim 1, wherein the above-mentioned instructing means will instruct a coding method which encodes the above-mentioned digital signal based on the processing capability of the receiving apparatus which receives the above-mentioned coded data.

[Claim 3]

A transmitting apparatus as described in the Claim 1, wherein the above-mentioned instructing means will instruct a coding method which encodes the digital signal based on the above-mentioned digital signal.

[Claim 4]

A transmitting apparatus as described in the Claim 1, wherein the above-mentioned instructing means will instruct a coding method which encodes the above-mentioned digital signal based on the operation instructing the above-mentioned coding method.

[Claim 5]
A transmitting apparatus as described in the Claim 1, wherein the above-mentioned instructing means will instruct a coding method which encodes the above-mentioned digital signal based on the request from a receiving apparatus which receives the above-mentioned coded data.

[Claim 6]
A transmitting apparatus as described in the Claim 1, wherein, in the case if the above-mentioned receiving apparatus which receives the above-mentioned coded data functions as a decoding apparatus for decoding the above-mentioned coded data by executing a computer program, at the time when the above-mentioned receiving apparatus does not have a computer program for the purpose of functioning as a decoding apparatus for decoding the above-mentioned coded data outputted by the above-mentioned outputting means, the transmitting means for transmitting the computer program to the above-mentioned receiving apparatus will be further equipped.

[Claim 7]
A transmitting apparatus as described in the Claim 1, wherein, in the case if the above-mentioned receiving apparatus which receives the above-mentioned coded data functions as a decoding apparatus which decodes the above-mentioned coded data by executing the computer program, at the time when the above-mentioned receiving apparatus does not have a computer program for the purpose of functioning as a decoding apparatus for decoding the above-mentioned coded data outputted by the above-mentioned outputting means, the changing means for changing the above-mentioned coded data outputted by the above-mentioned outputting means to the data coded by a coding method which can be decoded by the above-mentioned receiving apparatus will be further equipped.

[Claim 8]
A transmitting apparatus as described in the Claim 7, wherein, for the above-mentioned receiving apparatus not having a computer program to function as a decoding apparatus for decoding the above-mentioned coded data outputted by the above-mentioned outputting means, after the coded data by the coding method changed by the above-mentioned changing means were provided, at the time when providing the coded data to the receiving apparatus again, the coding method before change will not be used.

[Claim 9]
A transmitting apparatus as described in the Claim 1, wherein the above-mentioned selecting means will select one of the above-mentioned plurality of coding means which performs the coding by the coding method instructed by the above-mentioned instructing means and encode the above-mentioned digital signal, and the above-mentioned outputting means will output the above-mentioned coded data outputted by that above-mentioned coding means selected.

[Claim 10]
A transmitting apparatus as described in the Claim 1, wherein a plurality of storing means for storing a plurality of coded data obtained through encoding the above-mentioned digital signal by the above-mentioned plurality of coding means will be further equipped, and the above-mentioned selecting means will select one of a plurality of coded data stored in a plurality of storing means by the coding method instructed by the above-mentioned instructing means.

[Claim 11]
A transmitting apparatus as described in the Claim 1, wherein a plurality of groups of the above-mentioned plurality of the coding means, the instructing means, the selecting means, and the adding means will be equipped; and the multiplexing means for multiplexing the output of each group of the above-mentioned adding means will be further equipped.

[Claim 12]
A transmitting method for outputting the coded data resulted from encoding the time series digital signal, wherein the above-mentioned transmitting apparatus will be equipped with a plurality of coding means for respectively encoding the above-mentioned digital signal with a plurality of coding methods and outputting the above-mentioned coded data;
the instructing step for instructing the coding method for the purpose of encoding a part or all of the above-mentioned digital signal from the above-mentioned plurality of coding methods,
the selecting step for selecting the above-mentioned coded data according to the coding method instructed by the above-mentioned instructing step,
the adding step for adding the coding method information indicating the coding method for the coded data to the above-mentioned coded data selected by the above-mentioned selecting step,
and the outputting step for outputting the above-mentioned coded data to which the above-mentioned coding method information is added will be equipped.

[Claim 13]
A transmitting method as described in the Claim 12, wherein the above-mentioned instructing step will instruct a coding method which encodes the above-mentioned digital signal based on the processing capability of the receiving apparatus which receives the above-mentioned coded data.

[Claim 14]
A transmitting method as described in the Claim 12, wherein in the above-mentioned instructing step, a coding method which encodes the digital signal will be instructed based on the above-mentioned digital signal.

[Claim 15]
A transmitting method as described in the Claim 12, wherein in the above-mentioned instructing step, a coding method which encodes the above-mentioned digital signal will be

instructed based on the operation instructing the above-mentioned coding method.

[Claim 16]
A transmitting method as described in the Claim 12, wherein in the above-mentioned instructing step, a coding method which encodes the above-mentioned digital signal will be instructed based on the request from a receiving apparatus which receives the above-mentioned coded data.

[Claim 17]
A transmitting method as described in the Claim 12, wherein, in the case if the above-mentioned receiving apparatus which receives the above-mentioned coded data functions as a decoding apparatus for decoding the above-mentioned coded data by executing a computer program, at the time when the above-mentioned receiving apparatus does not have a computer program for the purpose of functioning as a decoding apparatus for decoding the above-mentioned coded data outputted in the above-mentioned outputting step, the transmitting step for transmitting the computer program to the above-mentioned receiving apparatus will be further equipped.

[Claim 18]
A transmitting method as described in the Claim 12, wherein, in the case if the above-mentioned receiving apparatus which receives the above-mentioned coded data functions as a decoding apparatus which decodes the above-mentioned coded data by executing the computer program, at the time when the above-mentioned receiving apparatus does not have a computer program for the purpose of functioning as a decoding apparatus for decoding the above-mentioned coded data outputted in the above-mentioned outputting step, the changing step for changing the above-mentioned coded data outputted in the above-mentioned outputting step to the data coded by a coding method which can be decoded by the above-mentioned receiving apparatus will be further equipped.

[Claim 19]
A transmitting method as described in the Claim 18, wherein, for the above-mentioned receiving apparatus not having a computer program to function as a decoding apparatus for decoding the above-mentioned coded data outputted in the above-mentioned outputting step, after the coded data by the coding method changed by the above-mentioned changing step were provided, at the time when providing the coded data to the receiving apparatus again, the coding method before change will not be used.

[Claim 20]
A transmitting method as described in the Claim 12, wherein, in the above-mentioned selecting step, one of the above-mentioned plurality of coding step which performs the coding by the coding method instructed by the above-mentioned instructing step will be selected, and the above-mentioned digital signal will be encoded; and in the above-mentioned outputting step, the above-mentioned coded data outputted by that above-mentioned coding step selected will be outputted.

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