A B S T R A C T

A video encoding apparatus comprises a frame memory / predictive image generator 108 having a first predictive mode for generating a predictive image signal 212 by selecting a combination from among a plurality combinations of a reference image number and a plurality of predictive parameters, and a second predictive mode for generating a predictive image signal according to a predictive parameter computed based on reference image numbers of a plurality of reference images and an image-to-image distance, and a variable-length encoder 111 to select either of the first and second prediction modes by the number of reference images, and encode orthogonal transformation coefficient information 210 concerning a predictive error signal of a predictive image signal 212 with respect to input video signal 100, mode information 213 indicating an encoding mode, motion vector information 214 and combination of selected reference image number with predictive parameter index information 215 indicating combination of selected reference image information 213.