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(54) Title: VARIABLE DISPLAY RATE IMAGE CODING**(57) Abstract**

A method and apparatus are provided to enable variable speed play of motion-prediction coded sequences of video signal frames. Prior to encoding, input image frames (S1, S2) are reduced in size with further image frames (M1, M2) being formed, each comprising two or more of the spatially reduced input image frames. Following decoding of the motion-prediction coded sequence of further image frames, display image update rates greater than the image decoding rate by a factor determined by the ratio of input sequence frames to a further image frame may be achieved. Particular applications of the method and apparatus are in interactive display systems where image update rates may be varied under user control.

