Claims

1. An image decoding method for genera ting a decoded image, the decoded image being generated by adding a prediction image and a difference image comprising, the steps of:

variable-length-decoding an inputted encoded bit stream to obtain a parameter for prediction signal prediction, a compressed difference image, filters and class identification information for a block in the decoded image, the parameter being used for generating the prediction image, the compressed difference image being used for generating the difference image;

determining a class for the block according to the class identification information; and

carrying out a filtering process on the decoded image with the filters based on the determined class.

2. The image decoding method according to claim 1, wherein the class identification information includes information indicating whether or not to perform the filtering process on
the decoded image.