CLAIMS

1. An image encoding method of dividing an input image signal into pixel blocks~~prediction units~~, and performing inter-prediction on the divided pixel blocks, comprising:~~;~~

selecting predicted motion information from a plurality of items of motion information in an encoded region, based on information acquired~~ing~~ in accordance with~~a block size of a target prediction unit to be encoded in a target image, and~~ first information indicating a method of selecting the predicted~~used to identify a position of representative~~ motion information ~~in an encoded region in a reference image different from the target image;~~, and predicting

~~deriving the representative motion information by using~~ motion information of an encoding target block~~at a central position of a collocated prediction unit in the reference image~~ by using the predicted motion information~~block size of the target prediction unit~~,

wherein the first information contains second information which specifies a~~represents that the~~ position in the encoding target block~~of~~, the second~~representative motion~~ information ~~is the central position of the collocated prediction unit; and~~

~~deriving motion information of the target prediction unit~~ being~~y~~ used~~ing~~ to select the ~~representative~~ motion information.

~~2. The method according to claim 1, wherein the motion information of the target prediction unit is derived by selecting from of the representative motion information and motion information of an adjacent prediction unit adjacent to the target prediction unit.~~

~~3. The method according to claim 2, further comprising~~

~~encoding an index corresponding to the selected motion information of the target prediction unit~~

~~4. The method according to claim 1, further comprising;~~

performing a scaling process in accordance with information of a reference frame contained in the representative motion information.

5. The method according to claim 1, wherein the representative motion information contains information of a reference frame.

26. An image encoding apparatus for dividing an input image signal into pixel blocksprediction units, and performing inter-prediction on the divided pixel blocks, comprising:;

a prediction unit to select predicted motion information from a plurality of items of motion information in an encoded region, based on informationmeans for acquireding in accordance witha block size of a target prediction unit to be encoded in a target image, and first information indicating a method of selecting the predictedused to identify a position of representative motion information in an encoded region in a reference image different from the target image, and predict

means for deriving the representative motion information of an encoding target block by using the motion information at a central position of a collocated prediction unit in the reference image by using the block size of the target prediction unit,

wherein the first information contains second information which specifies arepresents that the position in the encoding target block,of the secondrepresentative motion information is the central position of the collocated prediction unit; and

means for deriving motion information of the target prediction unit beingy useding to select the representative motion information.

3. An image decoding method of dividing an input image signal into pixel blocks, and performing inter-prediction on the divided pixel blocks, comprising:

selecting predicted motion information from a plurality of items of motion information in a decoded region, based on information acquired in accordance with first information indicating a method of selecting the predicted motion

information, and predicting motion information of a decoding target block by using the predicted motion information,

wherein the first information contains second information which specifies a position in the decoding target block, the second information being used to select the motion information.

4. An image decoding apparatus for dividing an input image signal into pixel blocks, and performing inter-prediction on the divided pixel blocks, comprising:

a prediction unit to select predicted motion information from a plurality of items of motion information in a decoded region, based on information acquired in accordance with first information indicating a method of selecting the predicted motion information, and predict motion information of a decoding target block by using the predicted motion information,

wherein the first information contains second information which specifies a position in the decoding target block, the second information being used to select the motion information.

~~7. The apparatus according to claim 6, wherein the motion information of the target prediction unit is derived by selecting from the representative motion information and motion information of an adjacent prediction unit adjacent to the target prediction unit.~~

~~8. The apparatus according to claim 7, further comprising encoding an index corresponding to the selected motion information of the target prediction unit~~

~~9. The apparatus according to claim 6, further comprising;~~
~~means for performing a scaling process in accordance with information of a reference frame contained in the representative motion information.~~

~~10. The apparatus according to claim 6, .wherein the representative motion information contains information of a reference frame.~~