

TITLE OF THE INVENTION

METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR REGION-BASED MOVING IMAGE ENCODING AND
DECODING

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

In partitioning and encoding an image into multiple regions, the degree of freedom of the region shape has generally been low and setting regions based on image features of was difficult. A moving image encoding apparatus includes a region partitioning section, an encoder, and a memory for motion-compensated prediction. The region partitioning section includes a partitioning processing section and a integration processing section. The partitioning processing section partitions the input image based on a criterion relating to the state of partition. The integration processing section integrates mutually close regions based on a criterion relating to the state of integration. Thereafter, each region is encoded. A large variety of region shapes can be produced by the integration processing section.

Figure 1