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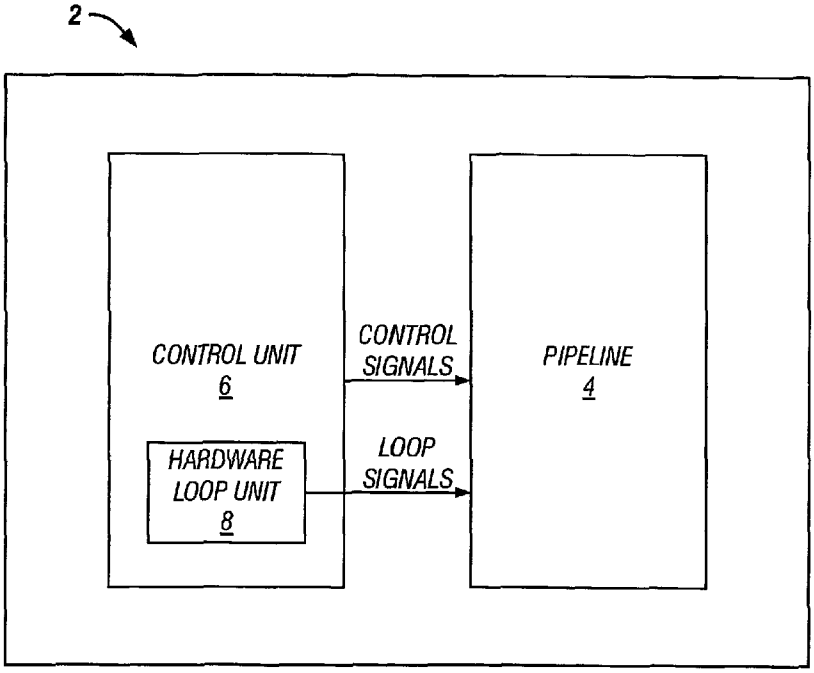
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(54) Title: METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR PROCESSING PROGRAM LOOPS



(57) Abstract: In one embodiment, a programmable processor is adapted to include loop hardware to increase processing speed without significantly increasing power consumption. During a first pass through a loop, a first subset of a sequence of instructions may be loaded into the loop hardware. Then, during subsequent passes through the loop the first subset may be issued from the loop hardware while a second subset is retrieved from a memory device. In this manner, the second subset may be issued with no additional penalty after the first subset has been issued.

WO 02/037271 A3