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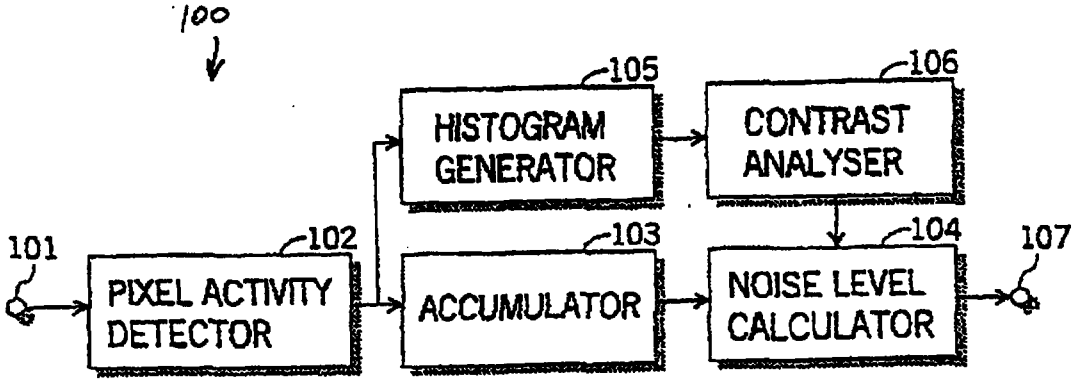
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(54) Title: VIDEO SIGNAL NOISE LEVEL ESTIMATOR



(57) Abstract: A method and apparatus for noise level estimation in a digital video signal, the apparatus including a pixel activity detector (102) which produces a mean pixel activity level for each picture in the video signal, a contrast analyser (106) which produces a contrast activity level for each picture and a noise level calculator (104) which is coupled to the activity detector and contrast analyser to produce an estimated noise level by offsetting the contrast activity level from accumulated output of the activity detector.

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