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(54) Title: A SET OF INSTRUCTIONS FOR OPERATING ON PACKED DATA

(57) Abstract

An apparatus for including in a processor a set of instructions that support operations on packed data required by typical multimedia applications. In one embodiment, the invention includes a processor having a storage area (150), a decoder (165), and a plurality of circuits (130). The plurality of circuits provide for the execution of a number of instructions to manipulate packed data. In this embodiment, these instructions include pack, unpack, packed multiply, packed add, packed subtract, packed compare, and packed shift.

