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(54) **Title:** VECTOR FIND ELEMENT EQUAL INSTRUCTION

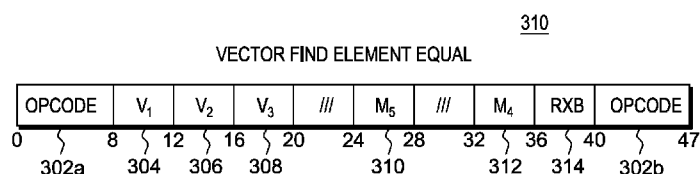


FIG. 3

(57) **Abstract:** Processing of character data is facilitated. A Find Element Equal instruction is provided that compares data of multiple vectors for equality and provides an indication of equality, if equality exists. An index associated with the equal element is stored in a target vector register. Further, the same instruction, the Find Element Equal instruction, also searches a selected vector for null elements, also referred to as zero elements. A result of the instruction is dependent on whether the null search is provided, or just the compare.

