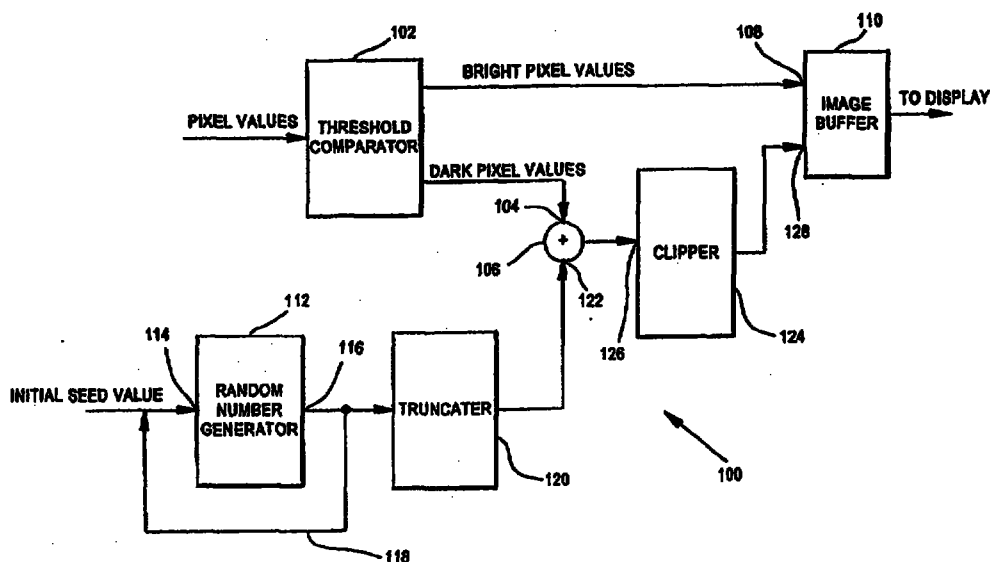




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(54) Title: IMAGE PROCESSING CIRCUIT AND METHOD FOR MODIFYING A PIXEL VALUE



(57) Abstract

An image processing circuit (100) compares (102) a pixel value to a threshold value and modifies the pixel value if the pixel value has a predetermined relationship to the threshold value. Alternatively, the image processing circuit generates a random number and combines (106) the random number with a pixel value. Such image processing circuits can be used to remove artifacts such as contour artifacts from a decoded electronic image or a sequence of decoded video frames.