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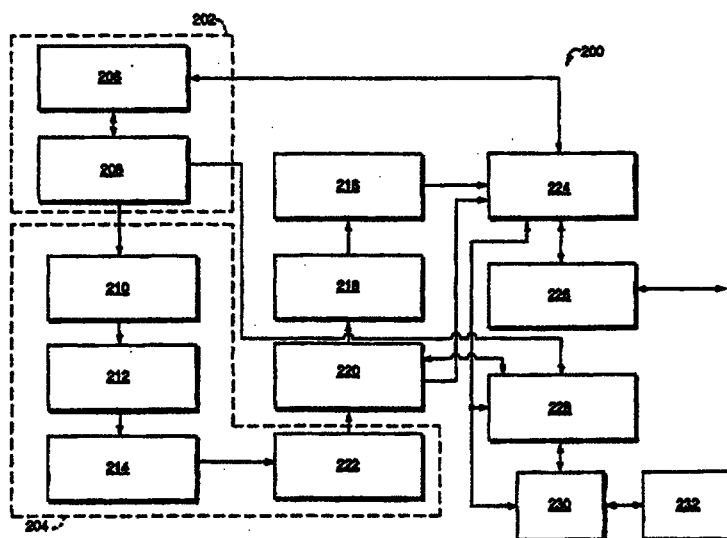
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(54) Title: FINANCIAL TRANSACTION PROCESSING SYSTEMS AND METHODS



(57) Abstract

The present invention provides financial transaction processing systems and methods. One preferred embodiment of a method according to one aspect of the present invention includes generating an optically scanned image of at least a portion of document containing visual data, in a particular format, representing information related to the financial transaction. Recognition characteristics are generated from the scanned image and are compared to respective sets of reference recognition characteristics generated from respective other transaction documents having different respective formats to determine therefrom whether the particular format of the visual data matches one of the respective formats of the other documents. When such a match is found to exist, location is determined of a field in the scanned image to which optical character recognition may be applied to generate therefrom the information, based upon the respective format found to match the particular format of the visual data. Optical character recognition is then utilized to generate said visual data from said location.