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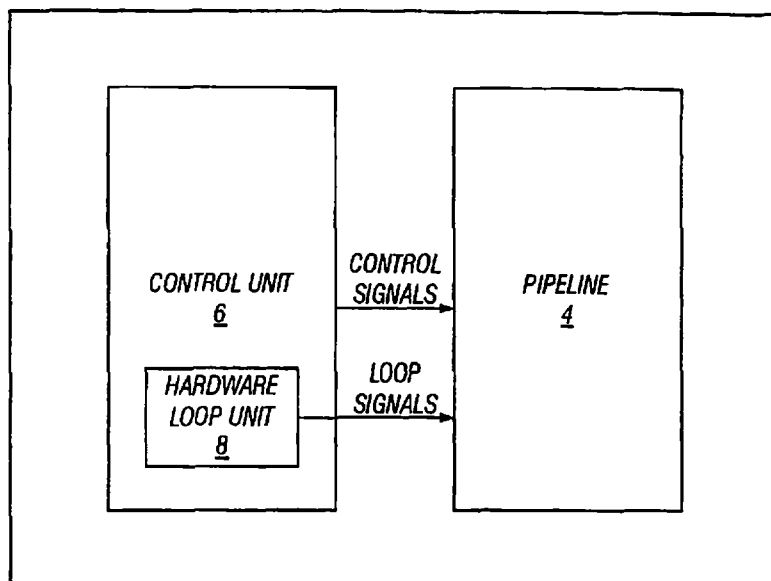
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(54) Title: METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR PROCESSING PROGRAM LOOPS

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(57) Abstract: In one embodiment, a programmable processor is configured to support a loop setup instruction. The loop setup instruction may be decoded and a zero offset loop may be detected from the loop setup instruction. The next instruction in the instruction stream may then be immediately issued as a first instruction in a loop. The loop setup instruction may also be used to detect a single instruction loop.

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