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(71) Applicants: **INTEL CORPORATION** [US/US], 2200 Mission College Boulevard, Santa Clara, CA 95052 (US). **ANALOG DEVICES, INC.** [US/US], One Technology Way, P.O. Box 9106, Norwood, MA 02062-9106 (US)

(72) Inventors: **SINGH, Ravi, P.**; 12349 Metric Boulevard, #829, Austin, TX 78758 (US) **ROTH, Charles, P.**, 13305 Tichester Court, Austin, TX 78729 (US) **OVERKAMP, Gregory, A.**, P.O. Box 163442, Austin, TX 78716 (US)

(74) Agent: **HARRIS, Scott, C.**, Fish & Richardson P.C., Suite 500, 4350 La Jolla Village Drive, San Diego, CA 92122 (US)

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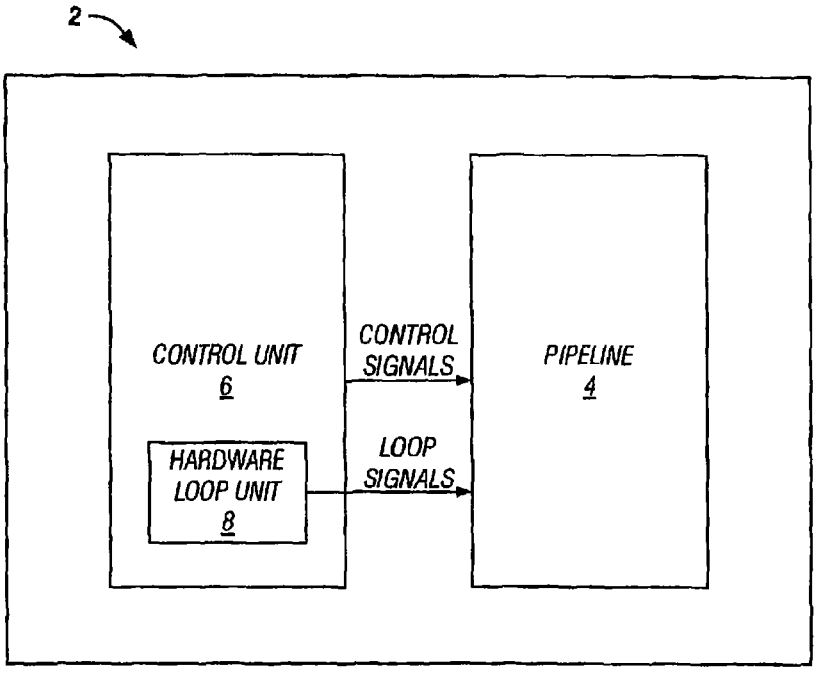
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(54) Title: METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR PROCESSING PROGRAM LOOPS




(57) Abstract: In one embodiment, a programmable processor is adapted to include loop hardware to increase processing speed without significantly increasing power consumption. During a first pass through a loop, a first subset of a sequence of instructions may be loaded into the loop hardware. Then, during subsequent passes through the loop the first subset may be issued from the loop hardware while a second subset is retrieved from a memory device. In this manner, the second subset may be issued with no additional penalty after the first subset has been issued.

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