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(54) Title: MAINTAINING COMPATIBILITY FOR COMPLEX FUNCTIONS OVER MULTIPLE MACHINE GENERATIONS

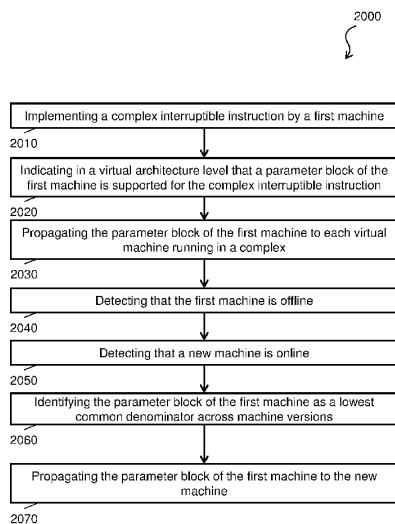


FIG. 20

(57) Abstract: A system including a plurality of machines includes a first generation machine and a second generation machine. Each of the plurality of machines includes a machine version. The first generation machine executes a first virtual machine and a virtual architecture level. The second generation machine executes a second virtual machine and the virtual architecture level. The virtual architecture level provides a compatibility level for a complex interruptible instruction to the first and second virtual machines. The compatibility level is architected for a lowest common denominator machine version across the plurality of machines. The compatibility level includes a lowest common denominator indicator identifying the lowest common denominator machine version.

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