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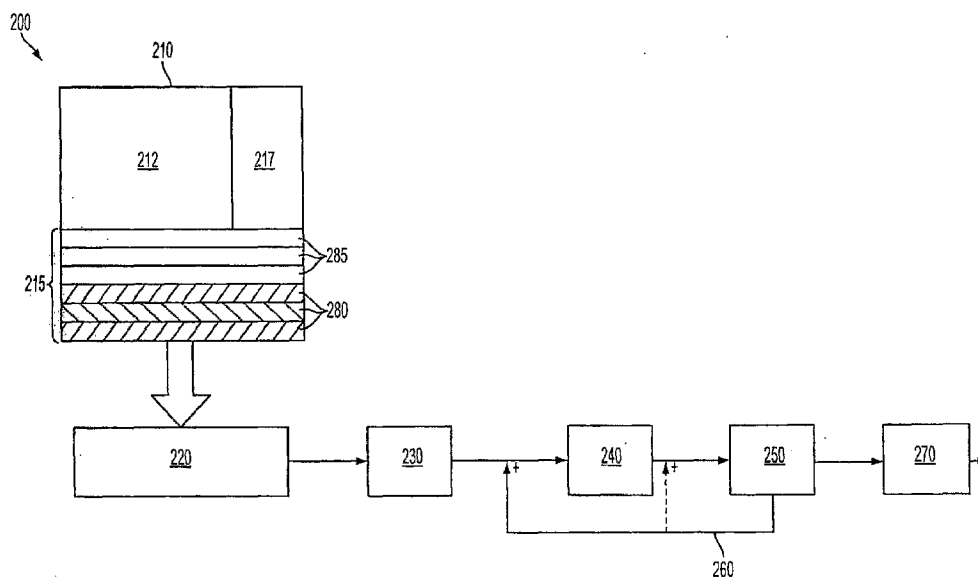
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(54) Title: METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR SETTING BLACK LEVEL IN AN IMAGER USING BOTH OPTICALLY BLACK AND TIED PIXELS



(57) Abstract: An imaging pixel array includes an active area of pixels, organized into rows and columns of pixels. The array also includes a plurality of dark pixel columns adjacent to the active area of pixels such that rows of pixels in the active area of pixels extend across the plurality of dark pixel columns. The plurality of dark pixel columns are composed of tied pixels. The array also includes a plurality of dark pixel rows adjacent to the active area of pixels and the plurality of dark pixel columns such that columns of pixels in the active area of pixels extend across the plurality of dark pixel rows. The plurality of dark pixel rows are composed of both optically black pixels and tied pixels on the same row.

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