



US 20060095807A1

(19) **United States**

(12) **Patent Application Publication**  
**Grochowski et al.**

(10) **Pub. No.: US 2006/0095807 A1**

(43) **Pub. Date: May 4, 2006**

(54) **METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR VARYING ENERGY PER INSTRUCTION ACCORDING TO THE AMOUNT OF AVAILABLE PARALLELISM**

(22) Filed: **Sep. 28, 2004**

**Publication Classification**

(51) **Int. Cl.**  
**G06F 1/30** (2006.01)

(52) **U.S. Cl.** ..... **713/324; 713/322**

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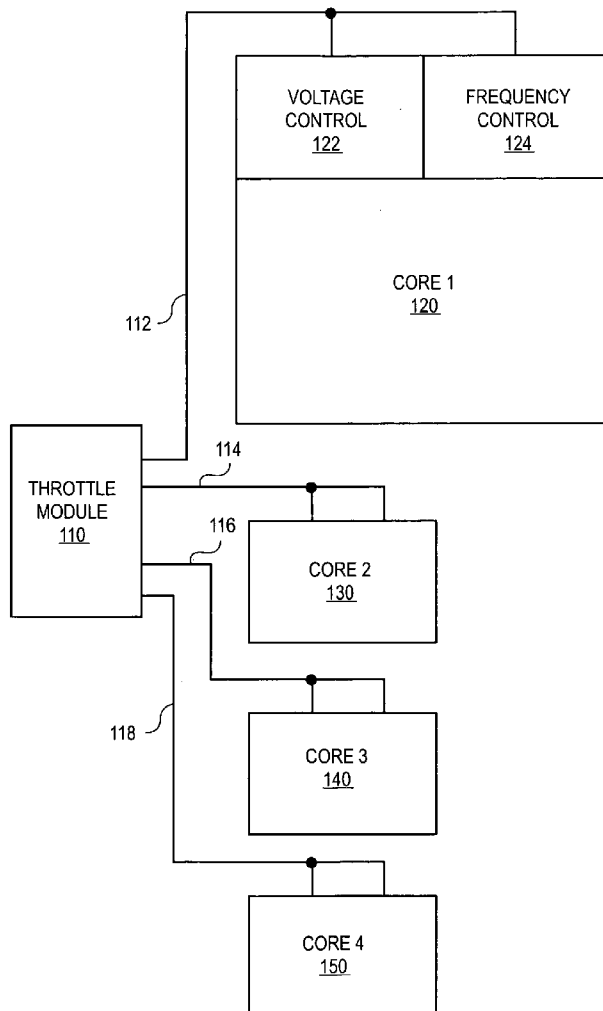
(57) **ABSTRACT**

A method and apparatus for changing the configuration of a multi-core processor is disclosed. In one embodiment, a throttle module (or throttle logic) may determine the amount of parallelism present in the currently-executing program, and change the execution of the threads of that program on the various cores. If the amount of parallelism is high, then the processor may be configured to run a larger amount of threads on cores configured to consume less power. If the amount of parallelism is low, then the processor may be configured to run a smaller amount of threads on cores configured for greater scalar performance.

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(21) Appl. No.: **10/952,627**



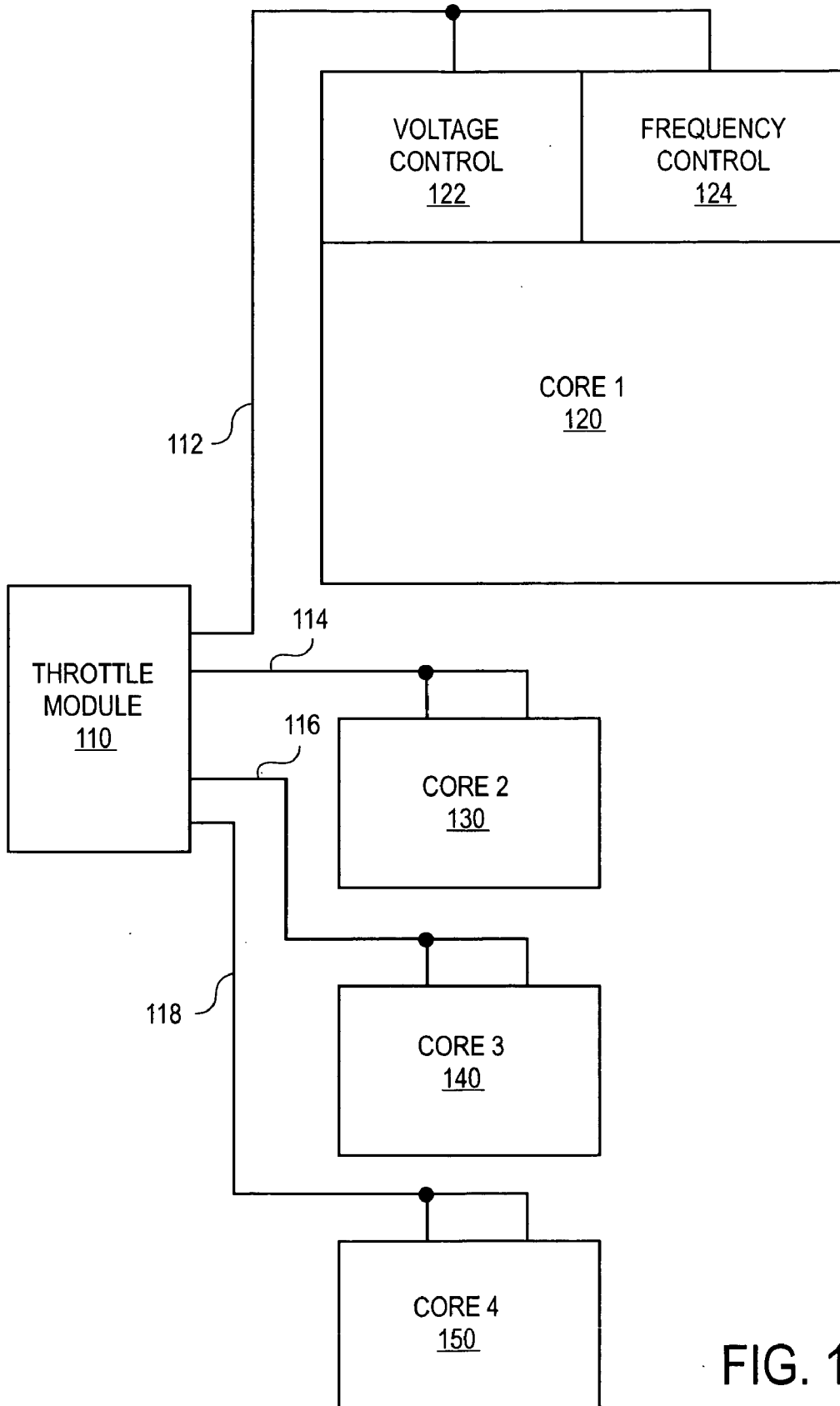


FIG. 1

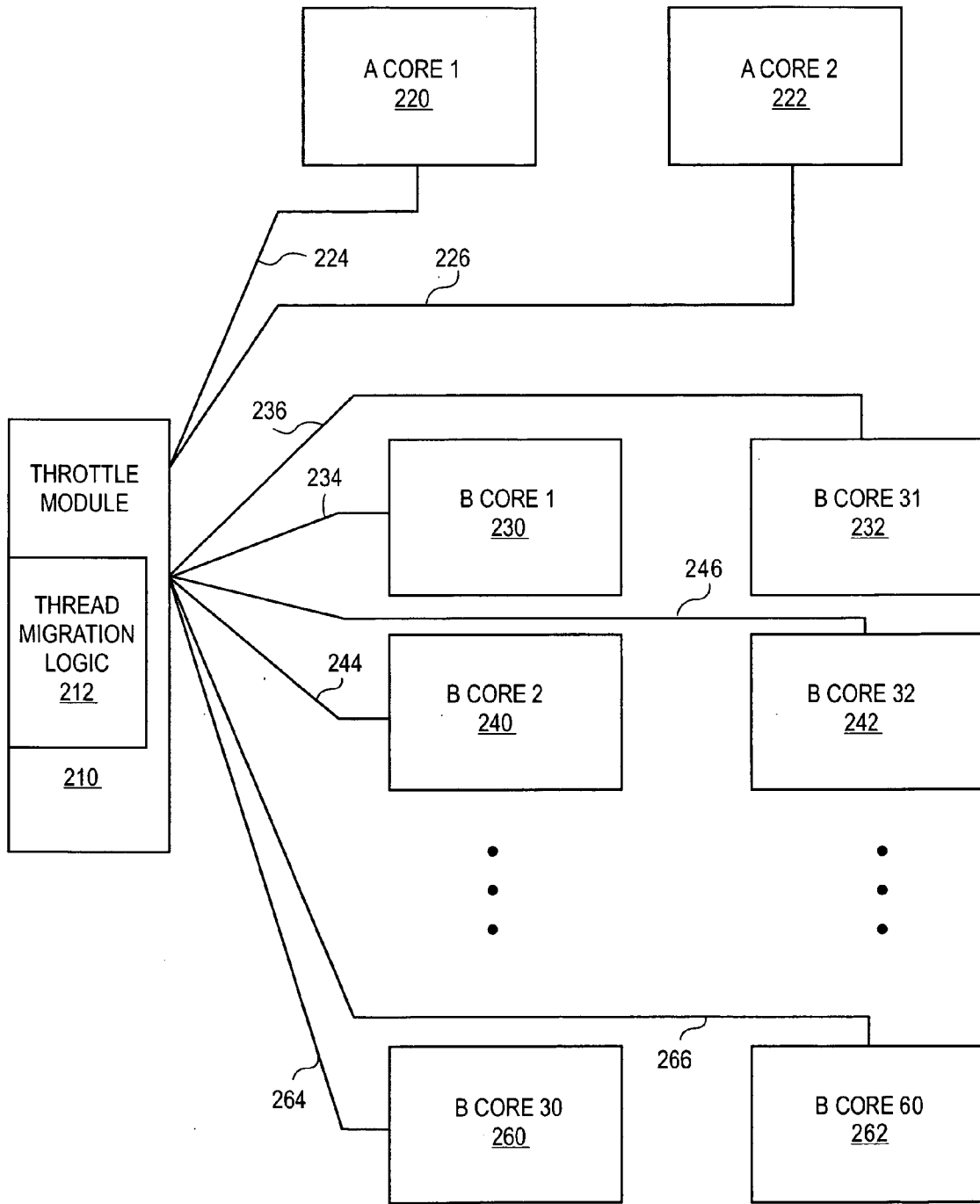


FIG. 2

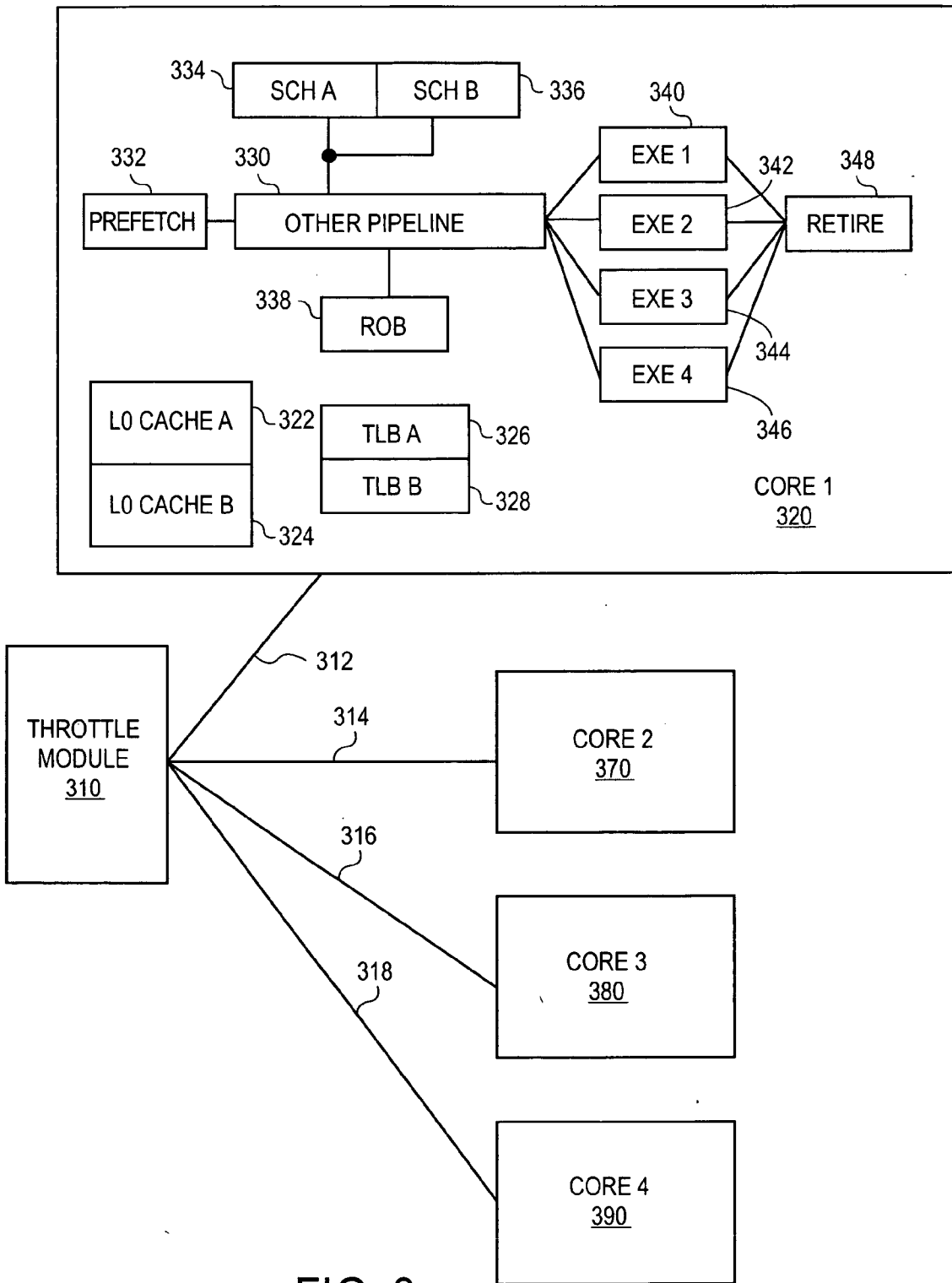


FIG. 3

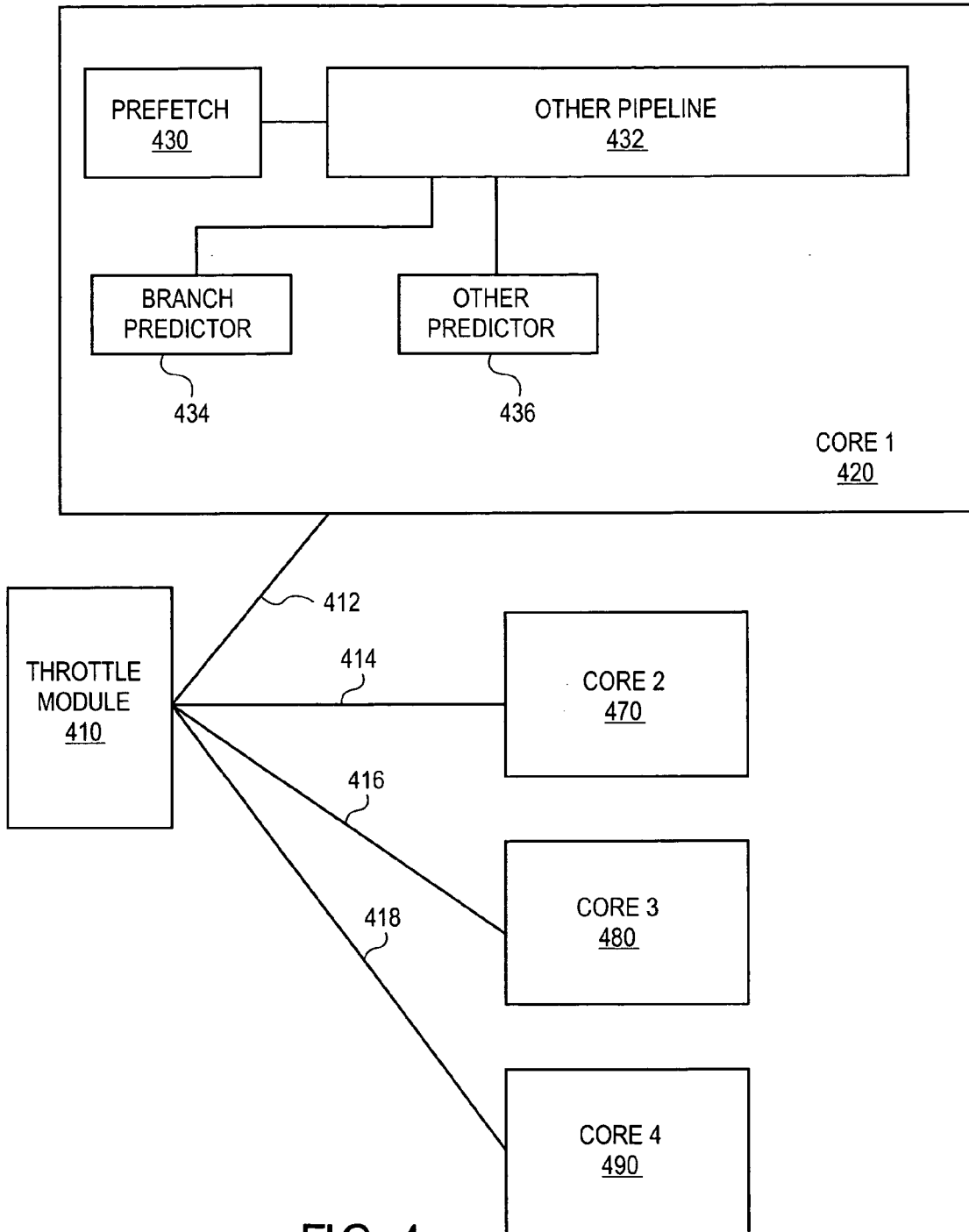


FIG. 4

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