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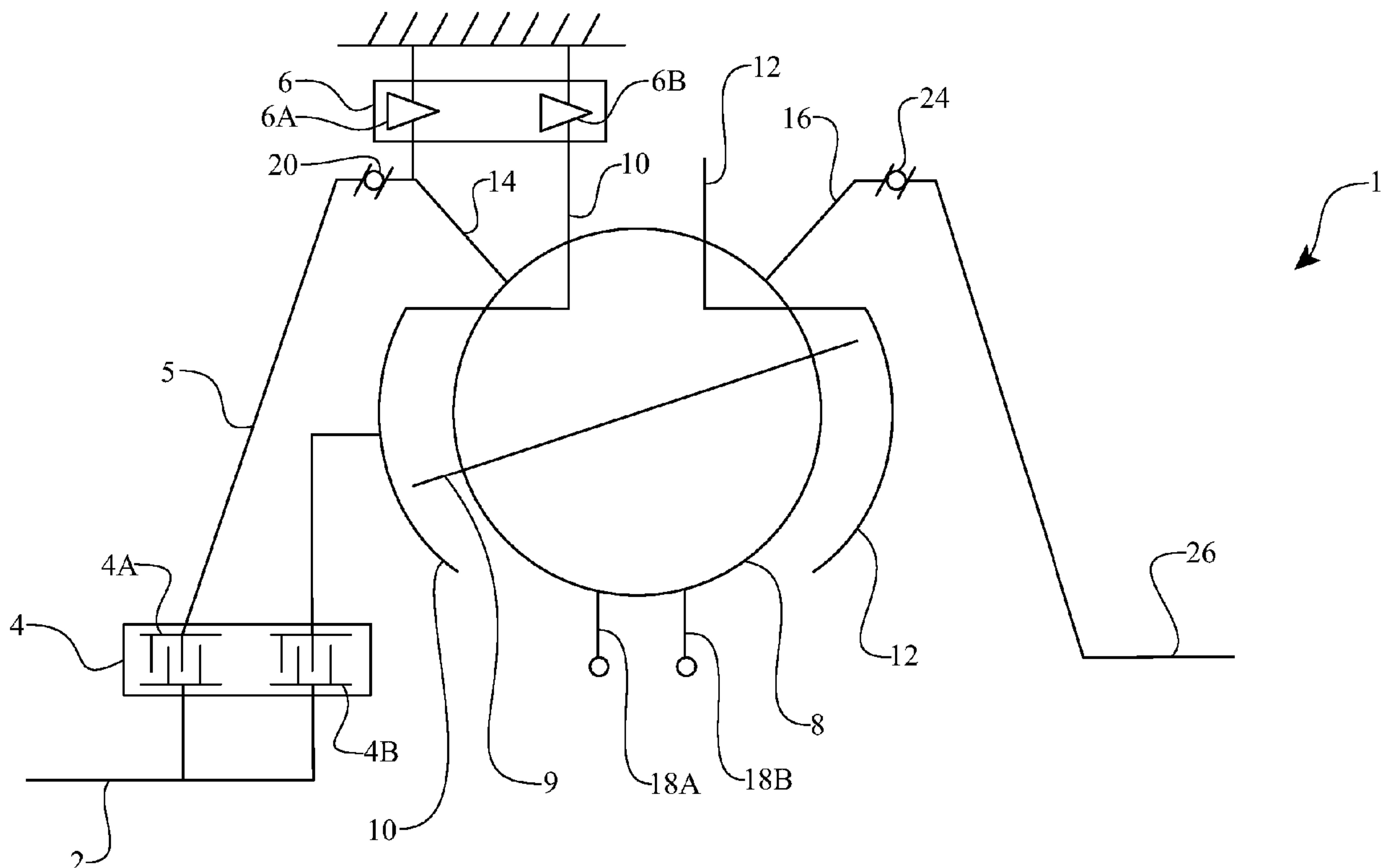
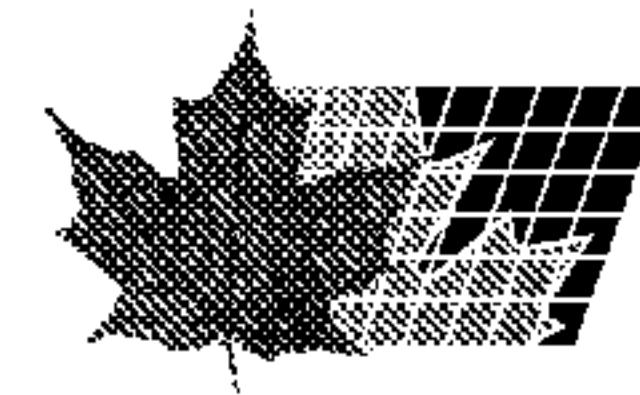


FIG. 1

(57) Abrégé/Abstract:

Inventive embodiments are directed to components, subassemblies, systems, and/or methods for infinitely variable transmissions (IVT). In one embodiment, a control system is adapted to facilitate a change in operating mode of an IVT. In another embodiment,



(57) Abrégé(suite)/Abstract(continued):

a control system includes a drive clutch coupled to a source of rotational power; the drive clutch is configured to selectively engage a traction ring and a carrier of the IVT. The control system includes a one-way clutch assembly configured to selectively engage the traction ring and the carrier. In some embodiments, the control system governs the actuation of the one-way clutch to selectively lock and unlock components of the IVT. In some embodiments, the control system implements an IVT mode wherein the carrier selectively couples to a source of rotational power.

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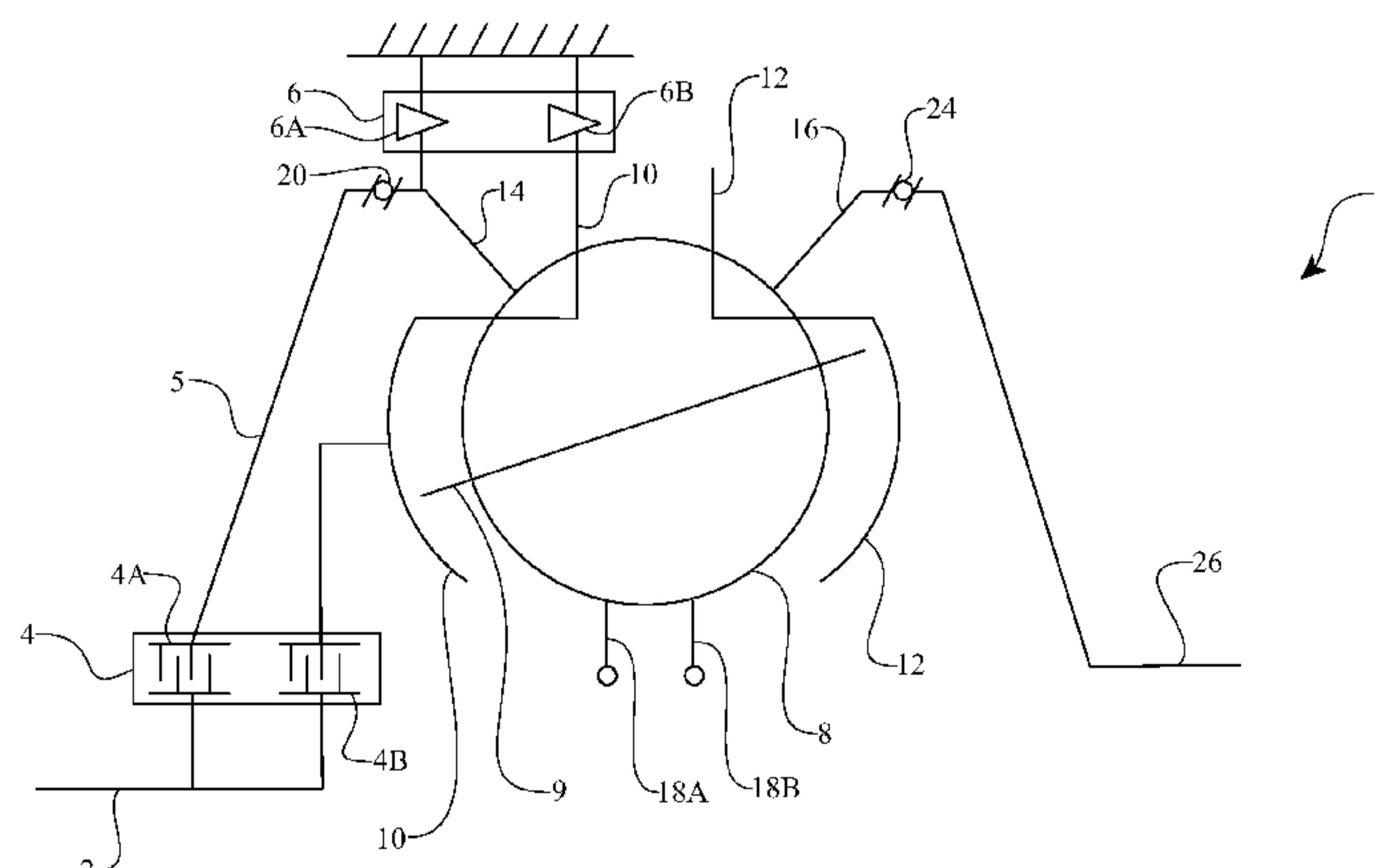


FIG. 1

(57) Abstract: Inventive embodiments are directed to components, subassemblies, systems, and/or methods for infinitely variable transmissions (IVT). In one embodiment, a control system is adapted to facilitate a change in operating mode of an IVT. In another embodiment, a control system includes a drive clutch coupled to a source of rotational power; the drive clutch is configured to selectively engage a traction ring and a carrier of the IVT. The control system includes a one-way clutch assembly configured to selectively engage the traction ring and the carrier. In some embodiments, the control system governs the actuation of the one-way clutch to selectively lock and unlock components of the IVT. In some embodiments, the control system implements an IVT mode wherein the carrier selectively couples to a source of rotational power.

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INFINITELY VARIABLE TRANSMISSIONS, CONTINUOUSLY VARIABLE TRANSMISSIONS, METHODS, ASSEMBLIES, SUBASSEMBLIES, AND COMPONENTS THEREFOR

CROSS REFERENCE TO RELATED APPLICATIONS

[0001] This application claims the benefit of U.S. Provisional Patent Application No. 61/589,765 filed on January 23, 2012, which is hereby incorporated by reference in its entirety.

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

Field of the Invention

[0002] This disclosure relates generally to transmissions, and more particularly the embodiments related to continuously variable transmissions (CVTs) and infinitely variable transmissions (IVTs).

Description of the Related Art

[0003] In certain systems, power is characterized by torque and rotational speed. More specifically, power in these systems is generally defined as the product of torque and rotational speed. Typically, a transmission couples to a power input that provides an input torque at an input speed. The transmission also couples to a load that demands an output torque and output speed, which may differ from the input torque and the input speed. Typically, and generalizing, a prime mover provides the power input to the transmission, and a driven device or load receives the power output from the transmission. A primary function of the transmission is to modulate the power input in such a way to deliver a power output to the driven device at a desired ratio of input speed to output speed (“speed ratio”).

[0004] Some mechanical drives include transmissions of the type known as stepped, discrete, or fixed ratio. These transmissions are configured to provide speed ratios that are discrete or stepped in a given speed ratio range. For example, such a transmission may provide for a speed ratio of 1:2, 1:1, or 2:1, but such a transmission cannot deliver intermediate speed ratios such as 1:1.5, 1:1.75, 1.5:1, or 1.75:1, for example. Other drives include a type of transmission generally known as a continuously variable transmission (or “CVT”), which includes a continuously variable variator. A CVT, in contrast to a stepped transmission, is configured to provide every fractional ratio in a given speed ratio range. For example, in the

speed ratio range mentioned above, a CVT is generally capable of delivering any desired speed ratio between 1:2 and 2:1, which would include speed ratios such as 1:1.9, 1:1.1, 1.3:1, 1.7:1, etc. Yet other drives employ an infinitely variable transmission (or “IVT”). An IVT, like a CVT, is capable of producing every speed ratio in a given ratio range. However, in contrast to a CVT, the IVT is configured to deliver a zero output speed (a “powered zero” state) with a steady input speed. Hence, given the definition of speed ratio as the ratio of input speed to output speed, the IVT is capable of delivering an infinite set of speed ratios, and consequently, the IVT is not limited to a given ratio range. It should be noted that some transmissions use a continuously variable variator coupled to other gearing and/or clutches in a split powered arrangement to produce IVT functionality. However, as used here, the term IVT is primarily understood as comprehending an infinitely variable variator which produces IVT functionality without being necessarily coupled to additional gearing and/or clutches.

[0005] The field of mechanical power transmission is cognizant of continuous or infinitely variable variators of several types. For example, one well known class of continuous variators is the belt-and-variable-radius-pulley variator. Other known variators include hydrostatic, toroidal, and cone-and-ring variators. In some cases, these variators couple to other gearing to provide IVT functionality. Some hydromechanical variators can provide infinite ratio variability without additional gearing. Some variators, continuously and/or infinitely variable, are classified as frictional or traction variators because they rely on dry friction or elastohydrodynamic traction, respectively, to transfer torque across the variator. One example of a traction variator is a ball variator in which spherical elements are clamped between torque transfer elements and a thin layer of elastohydrodynamic fluid serves as the torque transfer conduit between the spherical and the torque transfer elements. It is to this latter class of variators that the embodiments disclosed here are most related.

[0006] There is a continuing need in the CVT/IVT industry for transmission and variator improvements in increasing efficiency and packaging flexibility, simplifying operation, and reducing cost, size, and complexity, among other things. The embodiments of the CVT and/or IVT methods, systems, subassemblies, components, etc., disclosed below address some or all of the aspects of this need.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

[0007] The systems and methods herein described have several features, no single one of which is solely responsible for its desirable attributes. Without limiting the scope as expressed by the claims that follow, its more prominent features will now be discussed briefly. After considering this discussion, and particularly after reading the section entitled “Detailed

Description of Certain Embodiments" one will understand how the features of the system and methods provide several advantages over traditional systems and methods.

[0008] One aspect of the disclosure relates to a transmission having a first disc mounted coaxially about a longitudinal axis of the transmission, a number of tilttable balls placed angularly about the longitudinal axis and in contact with the first disc, and a second disc mounted coaxially about the longitudinal axis of the transmission and in contact with the plurality of tilttable balls. In one embodiment, the transmission is provided with an idler placed radially inward of, and in contact with, the tilttable balls. The transmission has a cage operably coupled to the balls. In one embodiment, the transmission has a first clutch assembly operably coupled to the cage and the first disc. The transmission is provided with a second clutch assembly operably coupled to the cage and the first disc. At least two of the first disc, second disc, idler, and cage are adapted to receive a power input. At least one of the first disc, second disc, idler and cage is adapted to provide a power output.

[0009] Another aspect of the disclosure is concerned with a method of controlling a variable ratio transmission having a group of tilttable balls in contact with a first traction ring and a cage. The method includes the steps of receiving a number of signals and determining a target operating mode. In one embodiment, the method includes determining a command signal for a one-way clutch assembly. The method has the step of determining a command signal for a drive clutch assembly. In one embodiment, the method has the step of selectively engaging the one-way clutch assembly to the first traction ring and the cage based at least in part on the command signal for the one-way clutch assembly.

[0010] Yet another aspect of the disclosure relates to a method of controlling a variable ratio transmission having a number of tilttable balls in contact with a first traction ring and a cage. In one embodiment, the method has the step of providing a one-way clutch assembly selectively coupled to the first traction ring and the cage. The method includes providing a drive-clutch assembly selectively coupled to the first traction ring and the cage. In one embodiment, the method includes the step of receiving at least one signal indicative of a current operating mode of the transmission. The method includes receiving a user command signal and determining a target operating mode of the transmission based at least in part on the user command signal. In some embodiments, the method includes comparing the target operating mode to the current operating mode. The method has the step of commanding the one-way clutch assembly to selectively unlock the first traction ring and/or the cage. In one embodiment, the method has the step of commanding the drive clutch assembly to selectively engage the first traction ring and/or the cage.

[0011] Another aspect of the disclosure involves a carrier assembly for a infinitely variable transmission (IVT) having a group of spherical traction planets arranged about a main drive axis. In one embodiment, the carrier assembly has a first carrier plate having a center arranged coaxially with the main drive axis. The first carrier plate includes a first set of angularly offset slots cut into and arranged angularly about the center of the first carrier plate. Each of the first set of angularly offset slots has an angular offset from a centerline of the first carrier plate. The centerline of the first carrier plate is perpendicular to the main drive axis thereby forming a coordinate system. The coordinate system has a z-axis corresponding to the main drive axis, a y-axis corresponding to the centerline, and a x-axis perpendicular to the y-axis and z-axis. The first set of angularly offset guides lie in a plane formed by the x-axis and y-axis. Each traction planet is adapted to tilt in a plane formed by the y-axis and z-axis. In one embodiment, the carrier assembly has a second carrier plate that has a center arranged coaxially with the main drive axis. The second carrier plate includes a second set of angularly offset slots cut into and arranged angularly about the center of the second carrier plate. Each of the second set of angularly offset slots has an angular offset from a centerline of the second carrier plate. The centerline of the second carrier plate is perpendicular to the main drive axis thereby forming a coordinate system. The coordinate system has a z-axis corresponding to the main drive axis, a y-axis corresponding to the centerline, and a x-axis perpendicular to the y-axis and z-axis. The second set angularly offset guides lie in a plane formed by the x-axis and y-axis. Each traction planet is adapted to tilt in a plane formed by the y-axis and z-axis. The angular offset of the first set of angularly offset slots is opposite the angular offset of the second set of angularly offset slots.

[0012] Yet another aspect of the disclosure involves a method of controlling a variable ratio transmission in a vehicle. In one embodiment, the transmission has a group of tiltable balls in contact with a first traction ring and a cage. The method includes the steps of receiving a signal indicative of a desired operating mode of the vehicle; receiving a signal indicative of a vehicle speed; and receiving a signal indicative of a transmission ratio. The method has the step of determining a torque command based at least in part on the operating mode, vehicle speed, and transmission ratio. The method includes determining a ratio command based at least in part on the operating mode, vehicle speed, and transmission ratio. The method has the step of determining a weighted command of the torque command and the ratio command based at least in part on the operating mode, vehicle speed, and transmission ratio.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE FIGURES

[0013] Figure 1 is a schematic view of a ball planetary infinitely variable transmission (IVT) having a power path control system.

[0014] Figure 2 is a block diagram of a control algorithm that can be used to determine a user command state of the IVT of Figure 1.

[0015] Figure 3 is a block diagram of a control algorithm that can be used to establish a park condition for the IVT of Figure 1.

[0016] Figure 4 is a block diagram of a control algorithm that can be used to establish a reverse condition for the IVT of Figure 1.

[0017] Figure 5 is a block diagram of a control algorithm that can be used to establish a neutral position of the IVT of Figure 1.

[0018] Figure 6 is a block diagram of a control algorithm that can be used with the IVT of Figure 1.

[0019] Figure 7 is a block diagram of another control algorithm that can be used with the IVT of Figure 1.

[0020] Figure 8 is a block diagram of a manual control mode algorithm that can be used with the IVT of Figure 1.

[0021] Figure 8A is a block diagram of a control algorithm that can be used in the algorithm of Figure 8.

[0022] Figure 8B is another block diagram of a control algorithm that can be used in the algorithm of Figure 8.

[0023] Figure 9 is a block diagram of another control algorithm that can be used with the IVT of Figure 1.

[0024] Figure 10 is a block diagram of a control algorithm that can be used to operate in a CVT mode or an IVT mode of the IVT of Figure 1.

[0025] Figure 10A is another block diagram of a control algorithm that can be used to operate in a CVT or an IVT mode of the IVT of Figure 1.

[0026] Figure 11 is a block diagram of a control algorithm for operating a launch condition for the IVT of Figure 1.

[0027] Figure 12 is a table depicting operating mode and clutch engagement to certain components of the IVT of Figure 1.

[0028] Figure 13 is a cross-sectional view of ball planetary infinitely variable transmission (IVT) having a power path control system.

[0029] Figure 14 is a cross-sectional view of another ball planetary infinitely variable transmission (IVT) having a power path control system.

[0030] Figure 15 is a cross-section view of yet another ball planetary infinitely variable transmission (IVT) having a power path control system.

[0031] Figure 16 is a cross-sectional view of a ball planetary infinitely variable transmission (IVT) having a power path control system and a hydraulic shift system.

[0032] Figure 17 is a cross-section view of another ball planetary infinitely variable transmission (IVT) having a power path control system and a hydraulic shift system.

[0033] Figure 18 is a schematic illustration of a carrier assembly that can be used with a ball planetary infinitely variable transmission (IVT) having a power path control system.

[0034] Figure 19 is a section view A-A of the carrier assembly of Figure 18.

[0035] Figure 20 is a plan view of a carrier plate of the carrier assembly of Figure 18.

[0036] Figure 21 is a plan view of another carrier plate of the carrier assembly of Figure 18.

[0037] Figure 22 is a plan view of another carrier plate of the carrier assembly of Figure 18.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF CERTAIN EMBODIMENTS

[0038] The preferred embodiments will be described now with reference to the accompanying figures, wherein like numerals refer to like elements throughout. The terminology used in the descriptions below is not to be interpreted in any limited or restrictive manner simply because it is used in conjunction with detailed descriptions of certain specific embodiments of the disclosure. Furthermore, embodiments of the disclosure can include several novel features, no single one of which is solely responsible for its desirable attributes or which is essential to practicing the embodiments described. Certain continuously variable transmission (CVT) and infinitely variable transmission (IVT) embodiments described here are generally related to the type disclosed in U.S. Patent Nos. 6,241,636; 6,419,608; 6,689,012; 7,011,600; 7,166,052; U.S. Patent Application Nos. 11/243,484; 11/543,311; 12/198,402; 12/251,325 and Patent Cooperation Treaty patent applications PCT/US2007/023315, PCT/IB2006/054911, PCT/US2008/068929, and PCT/US2007/023315, PCT/US2008/074496. The entire disclosure of each of these patents and patent applications is hereby incorporated herein by reference.

[0039] As used here, the terms “operationally connected,” “operationally coupled”, “operationally linked”, “operably connected”, “operably coupled”, “operably linked,” and like terms, refer to a relationship (mechanical, linkage, coupling, etc.) between elements whereby operation of one element results in a corresponding, following, or simultaneous operation or actuation of a second element. It is noted that in using said terms to describe various embodiments, specific structures or mechanisms that link or couple the elements are typically

described. However, unless otherwise specifically stated, when one of said terms is used, the term indicates that the actual linkage or coupling may take a variety of forms, which in certain instances will be readily apparent to a person of ordinary skill in the relevant technology.

[0040] For description purposes, the term “radial” is used here to indicate a direction or position that is perpendicular relative to a longitudinal axis of a transmission or variator. The term “axial” as used here refers to a direction or position along an axis that is parallel to a main or longitudinal axis of a transmission or variator. For clarity and conciseness, at times similar components are labeled similarly.

[0041] It should be noted that reference herein to “traction” does not exclude applications where the dominant or exclusive mode of power transfer is through “friction.” Without attempting to establish a categorical difference between traction and friction drives here, generally these may be understood as different regimes of power transfer. Traction drives usually involve the transfer of power between two elements by shear forces in a thin fluid layer trapped between the elements. The fluids used in these applications usually exhibit traction coefficients greater than conventional mineral oils. The traction coefficient (μ) represents the maximum available traction forces which would be available at the interfaces of the contacting components and is a measure of the maximum available drive torque. Typically, friction drives generally relate to transferring power between two elements by frictional forces between the elements. For the purposes of this disclosure, it should be understood that the CVTs and IVTs described here may operate in both tractive and frictional applications. For example, in the embodiment where an IVT is used for a bicycle application, the IVT can operate at times as a friction drive and at other times as a traction drive, depending on the torque and speed conditions present during operation.

[0042] Embodiments disclosed here can be related to the control of a variator and/or an IVT using generally spherical planets each having a tiltable axis of rotation (sometimes referred to here as a “planet axis of rotation”) that can be adjusted to achieve a desired ratio of input speed to output speed during operation. In some embodiments, adjustment of said axis of rotation involves angular misalignment of the planet axis in a first plane in order to achieve an angular adjustment of the planet axis of rotation in a second plane, thereby adjusting the speed ratio of the variator. The angular misalignment in the first plane is referred to here as “skew” or “skew angle”. This type of variator control is generally described in United States Patent Application Nos. 12/198,402 and 12/251,325, the entire disclosure of each of these patent applications is hereby incorporated herein by reference. In one embodiment, a control system coordinates the use of a skew angle to generate forces between certain contacting components in the variator that will tilt the planet axis of rotation in the second plane. The tilting of the planet

axis of rotation adjusts the speed ratio of the variator. It should be noted that the embodiments disclosed herein may be implemented using other known methods for shifting a variator.

[0043] Embodiments of an infinitely variable transmission (IVT), and components and control methods thereof, will be described now with reference to Figures 1-22. **Figure 1** shows an IVT 1 that can be used in many applications including, but not limited to, automobiles, light electrical vehicles, hybrid human-, electric-, or internal combustion powered vehicles, industrial equipment, wind turbines, etc. Any technical application that requires modulation of mechanical power transfer between a power input and a power sink (for example, a load) can implement embodiments of the IVT 1 in its power train. For example, one-way dog clutches can be substituted by dry or wet standard clutch systems whereby the one way action is implemented through clutch controls.

[0044] Referring still to **Figure 1**, in one embodiment the IVT 1 includes a main shaft 2 that substantially defines a longitudinal axis of the IVT 1. The main shaft 2 couples to an input power source (not shown). In some embodiments, the input power source can be a combustion engine, an electric motor, or any source of rotational power. The main shaft 2 is operably coupled to an engine drive clutch assembly 4. The engine drive clutch assembly can include a number of clutch elements configured to selectively engage certain components of the IVT 1. As an illustrative example, the engine drive clutch assembly 4 is depicted in Figure 1 as having clutch elements 4A and 4B. In one embodiment, the IVT 1 includes a one-way clutch assembly 6 operably coupled to a non-rotating component, such as a housing. The one-way clutch assembly 6 can include a number of clutch elements configured to selectively engage certain components of the IVT 1. As an illustrative example, the one-way clutch assembly 6 is depicted in Figure 1 as having clutch elements 6A and 6B.

[0045] Referring still to Figure 1, the IVT 1 includes a plurality of traction planet assemblies 8 arranged angularly about the main shaft 2. Each traction planet assembly 8 is provided with a tiltable axis of rotation 9. The first and second carrier members 10, 12 are configured to guide the tiltable axes of rotation 9. The main shaft 2 couples through the clutch assembly 4 to the first ring driver 5 or to the first carrier member 10. The first and second carrier members 10, 12 are coaxial with the main shaft 2. In one embodiment, each traction planet assembly 8 is coupled to first and second traction rings 14, 16, respectively. Each traction planet assembly 8 is in contact with an idler assembly 18A, 18B at a radially inward location. The first traction ring 14 couples to a first axial force generator assembly 20. The second traction ring 16 is coupled to a second axial force generator 24. The second traction ring 16 and the second axial force generator 24 are coupled to an output power interface 26. The output power interface 26 can be coupled to a load (not shown). The traction planet assemblies 8, first

and second traction rings 14, 16, and first and second carrier members 10, 12 may be referred to collectively as a “variator” portion of the IVT 1.

[0046] In one embodiment, the engine drive clutch assembly 4 can operably couple to at least the first carrier member 10 and/or the first ring driver 5. As an illustrative example, the clutch element 4A can be selectively coupled to the first ring driver 5; the clutch element 4B can be selectively coupled to the first carrier member 10. The one-way clutch assembly 6 can be operably coupled to at least the first carrier member 10 and/or the first traction ring 14. As an illustrative example, the clutch element 6A is selectively coupled to the first traction ring 14; the clutch element 6B is selectively coupled to the first carrier member 10. In other embodiments, the clutch element 6A can be selectively coupled to the first ring driver 5.

[0047] During operation of IVT 1, the engine drive clutch assembly 4 and the one-way clutch assembly 6 can be manipulated by a control system (not shown) to provide variable forward and reverse speeds. In one embodiment, the control system is an electro-hydraulic system having a number of electronically controlled hydraulic valves in communication with hydraulic clutch elements, such as clutch elements 4A, 4B, 6A, and 6B. For description purposes, the term “CVT mode” may be used to refer to operating conditions in which the IVT 1 provides forward speed; the term “IVT mode” may be used to refer to operating conditions in which the IVT 1 provides both forward and reverse speeds. In some embodiments, CVT mode is associated with an input power operably coupled to the first traction ring 14. In other embodiments, IVT mode is associated with an input power operably coupled to the first carrier member 10. Control processes will now be described as an illustrative example of the use of the engine drive clutch assembly 6 and the one-way clutch assembly 4 selectively engaging components of the IVT 1 in order to provide a CVT mode and IVT mode. These control processes can enable implementation of the IVT 1 into an automobile without the use of a torque converter or multi-speed gear box.

[0048] Turning now to **Figure 2**, in one embodiment a transmission control process 30 can be implemented for control of the IVT 1, for example. In one embodiment, the transmission control process 30 begins at a state 31 and proceeds to a state 32 where a user command signal is received. In some embodiments, the user command signal received at state 32 is indicative of a control lever position, or a PRNDL position as is typical on an automobile. The transmission control process 30 proceeds to a state 33 where the PRNDL position is evaluated. If the PRNDL position is equal to “P”, or a command for park, then the transmission control process 30 moves to a state 34 where a park control process is executed. The transmission control process 30 then proceeds to an end state 35. If the state 33 produces a negative result, the transmission control process 30 proceeds to a state 36. The PRNDL position

is evaluated at the state 36. If the PRNDL position is equal to “R”, or a command for reverse, then the transmission control process 30 moves to a state 37 where a reverse control process is executed. The transmission control process 30 then proceeds to an end state 38. If the state 36 produces a negative result, the transmission control process 30 moves to a state 39 at which the PRNDL position is evaluated. If the PRNDL position is equal to “N”, or a command for a neutral state, then the transmission control process 30 proceeds to an execution of a neutral control process at state 40 and ends at state 41.

[0049] Referring still to Figure 2, if the state 39 produces a negative result, then the transmission control process 30 proceeds to a state 42 at which the PRNDL position is evaluated. If the PRNDL position is equal to “D”, or a command for drive, then the transmission control process 30 proceeds a state 48A. The state 48A evaluates a manual mode selection from the user. For example, a switch (not shown) can be used to indicate a desire for a manual shift mode of the variator and/or transmission. If the state 48A produces a positive result, the transmission control process 30 proceeds to a state 49 where a manual control mode is executed. The transmission control process 30 then proceeds to an end state 50. If the state 48A produces a negative result, the transmission control process 30 proceeds to a state 43 where a drive control process is executed. The transmission control process 30 then ends at a state 44. If the state 42 produces a negative result, the transmission control process 30 proceeds to a state 45 at which the PRNDL position is evaluated. If the PRNDL position is “L”, or a command for low drive state, then the transmission control process 30 proceeds to a state 48B. The state 48B evaluates a manual mode request from the user. If the manual mode request from the user is negative, and the state 45 produced a positive result, then the transmission control process 30 proceeds to a state 46 where a low drive state control process is executed. The transmission control process 30 then ends at a state 47. If the state 45 produces a negative result, then the control process 30 ends at a state 51.

[0050] Referring now to **Figure 3**, in one embodiment, the park control process 34 begins at a state 53 and proceeds to a state 54 where signals are received from the transmission control process 30 and/or vehicle sensors. In some embodiments, the signals can include output transmission speed, vehicle speed, engine speed, throttle and/or brake position, and control lever positions such as a typical PRNDL indicator. In other embodiments, the transmission control process 30 communicates a command signal based at least in part on the result of the state 33, for example. The park control process 34 proceeds to a state 55 where vehicle speed and/or output speed is evaluated. If the output speed is not equal to zero, the park control process proceeds to an end state 58. It should be noted that in some embodiments, a control process can be implemented that monitors operating conditions for safety and, in some cases, can provide

corrective actions if a user's request would result in potential transmission damage or unsafe driving condition. If the output speed is equal to zero, the park control process 34 proceeds to a state 56 where the one-way clutch assembly 6 is commanded to lock the first traction ring 14 and the first carrier member 10. The park control process 34 then proceeds to a state 57 wherein the engine drive clutch assembly 4 is commanded to release the first traction ring 14 and the first carrier member 10, for example. The park control process 34 then ends at the state 58.

[0051] Turning now to **Figure 4**, in one embodiment, the reverse control process 37 begins at a state 60 and proceeds to a state 61 where signals are received. In one embodiment, the signals received at the state 61 are sent from the transmission control process 30. For example, the transmission control process 30 communicates a command signal based at least in part on the result of the state 36. In other embodiments, the signals can include output or input speed, vehicle speed, measured engine parameters, or any other signals indicative of operating condition. The reverse control process 37 proceeds to a state 62 where an output speed is evaluated. If the output speed is not equal to zero, then the reverse control process 37 proceeds to an end state 63. If the output speed is equal to zero, the reverse control process 37 proceeds to states 64, 65, 66, 67, 68, 69. It should be noted that states 64, 65, 66, 67, 68, 69 are presented in Figure 4 as an illustrative example and the order in which the states 64, 65, 66, 67, 68, 69 are executed is dependent on a desired performance of the transmission and can be ordered by a designer as appropriate. For example, the timing and duration of states 64, 65, 66, 67, 68, 69 may arbitrarily overlap to produce a desired performance. At state 64, the one-way clutch 6 is commanded to unlock from the first carrier member 10. At state 65, the engine drive clutch 4 is commanded to engage the first carrier member 10. At state 66, the engine drive clutch 4 is commanded to release or disengage the first traction ring 14. At state 67, the one-way clutch 6 is commanded to engage the first traction ring 14. At state 68, the one-way clutch 6 is commanded to release the first carrier member 10. At state 69, the one-way clutch 6 is commanded to lock the first traction ring 14. The reverse control process 37 proceeds to a state 70. The state 70 can execute control of the variator portion of the IVT 1, for example, and maintain the variator in a reverse direction. In one embodiment, the reverse direction corresponds to a range of tilt angles of the tiltable axes 9. The reverse control process 37 ends at a state 71.

[0052] Turning now to **Figure 5**, in one embodiment the neutral control process 40 begins at a state 80 and proceeds to a state 81 where a number of signals are received. The signals can be from sensors equipped on the IVT 1, an engine, and/or a vehicle. In some embodiments, the signals can be received from the transmission control process 30, for example. In one embodiment, the neutral control process 40 proceeds to a state 82 where at least one user

command signal is received. The user command signal received at the state 82 can be indicative of a desired towing condition. As an illustrative example, a user of a vehicle equipped with the IVT 1, can use a switch to indicate a desire to push the vehicle while the engine is not running. The neutral control process 40 proceeds to a state 83 where a towing mode is evaluated. If the result of the state 83 is positive, the neutral control process 40 proceeds to a state 84 where an output disengagement control process is executed. For example, the state 84 can command a clutch or mechanism (not shown) to mechanically decouple the wheels of a vehicle from the IVT 1. The output disengagement control process then ends at a state 85.

[0053] Referring still to Figure 5, if the result of the state 83 is negative, the neutral control process 40 proceeds to states 86, 87, 88, 89, 90, 91. It should be noted that states 86, 87, 88, 89, 90, 91 are presented in Figure 5 as an illustrative example and the order in which the states 86, 87, 88, 89, 90, 91 are executed is dependent on a desired performance of the transmission and can be ordered by a designer as appropriate. In fact the timing and duration of states 86, 87, 88, 89, 90, 91 may arbitrarily overlap to produce a desired performance. At state 86, the one-way clutch 6 is commanded to unlock from the first carrier member 10. At state 87, the engine drive clutch 4 is commanded to engage the first carrier member 10. At state 88, the engine drive clutch 4 is commanded to release or disengage the first traction ring 14. At state 89, the one-way clutch 6 is commanded to engage the first traction ring 14. At state 90, the one-way clutch 6 is commanded to release the first carrier member 10. At state 91, the one-way clutch 6 is commanded to lock the first traction ring 14. The neutral control process 40 proceeds to a state 92. The state 92 can execute control of the variator portion of the IVT 1, for example, and maintain the variator in a zero output speed condition. In one embodiment, the zero output speed corresponds to a tilt angle of the tiltable axes 9 that is substantially parallel to the longitudinal axis of the IVT 1. The neutral control process 40 ends at a state 93.

[0054] Referring now to **Figure 6**, in one embodiment, the drive control process 43 begins at a state 102 and proceeds to a state 104 where signals are received. The signal received in state 104 can be indicative of a gear shift signal, a throttle position of a vehicle, and/or an output speed signal. The drive control process 43 proceeds to a state 106 where a signal is received that is indicative of a current operating mode of the transmission. In some embodiments, a number of operating modes can be identified relating to the operating condition of the IVT 1. For example, certain operating conditions may be achieved in a “CVT” mode, whereas other operating conditions may be achieved in an “IVT” mode. The drive control process 43 can be implemented to control the engine drive clutch 4 and/or the one-way clutch 6 to achieve appropriate operating mode for the vehicle performance commanded by a user.

[0055] The drive control process 43 proceeds to a state 108 where a command signal is received. In one embodiment, the command signal is indicative of a desired output speed and/or a desired transmission operating mode. The drive control process 43 proceeds to a state 110 where a target transmission operating mode is determined. In one embodiment, the target transmission operating mode is a function at least in part on the output speed of the transmission, the speed ratio of the transmission, throttle/brake sensor readings, engine speed, and/or acceleration states of the vehicle. In some embodiments, the target transmission operating mode is a function at least in part on a speed of a vehicle. In other embodiments, the target transmission operating mode is a function at least in part on a control lever position. In one embodiment, the state 110 evaluates a look-up table using the aforementioned signals. In some embodiments, the state 110 performs an algorithm to determine the target transmission ratio.

[0056] Referring still to Figure 6, in one embodiment, the drive control process 43 includes a state 112 where the target transmission operating mode determined in state 110 is evaluated. If the target transmission operating mode determined in state 110 is equal to a “CVT” mode, the control process continues to a state 114. At state 114, the current transmission operating mode is evaluated. If the current transmission operating mode is equal to the target transmission operating mode of “CVT” then the drive control process 43 proceeds to an end state 116. If the target transmission operating mode determined in state 110 is not equal to a “CVT” mode, the control process 43 continues to a state 118. At state 118, the current transmission operating mode is compared to the target transmission operating mode. If the target transmission operating mode is equal to the current transmission operating mode, the drive control process 43 continues to an end state 120. If the target transmission operating mode does not equal the current transmission operating mode, the control process 43 proceeds to states 122, 124, 125, 126, 127, 128. It should be noted that states 122, 124, 125, 126, 127, 128 are presented in Figure 6 as an illustrative example and the order in which the states 122, 124, 125, 126, 127, 128 are executed is dependent on a desired performance of the transmission and can be ordered by a designer as appropriate. In fact the timing and duration of states 122, 124, 125, 126, 127, 128 may arbitrarily overlap to produce a desired performance. The drive control process 43 includes the state 122 at which a command is sent to unlock a one-way clutch assembly such as one-way clutch assembly 6. In one embodiment, the one-way clutch assembly 6 will unlock from the first carrier member 10 at state 122. The drive control process 43 includes the state 124 at which an engine drive clutch assembly, such as the engine drive clutch assembly 4, is commanded to engage the first carrier member 10. At state 125, the engine drive clutch 4 is commanded to release or disengage the first traction ring 14. The drive control process 43 includes the state 126 at which the one-way clutch assembly 6 is commanded to

engine the first traction ring 14. At state 127, the one-way clutch assembly 6 is commanded to release the first carrier member 10. The drive control process 43 includes the state 128 at which the one-way clutch assembly 6 is commanded to lock the first traction ring 14. Upon execution of states 122, 124, 125, 126, 127 128, the drive control process 43 proceeds to an end state 130.

[0057] Referring again to Figure 6, in one embodiment, the drive control process 43 includes the state 114. At state 114, the current transmission operating mode is evaluated. If the current transmission operating mode is not equal to the target transmission operating mode of “CVT” then the drive control process 43 proceeds to states 132, 134, 135, 136, 137, 138. It should be noted that states 132, 134, 135, 136, 137, 138 are presented in Figure 6 as an illustrative example and the order in which the states 132, 134, 135, 136, 137, 138 are executed is dependent on a desired performance of the transmission and can be ordered by a designer as appropriate. The timing and duration of states 132, 134, 135, 136, 137, 138 may arbitrarily overlap to produce a desired performance. The drive control process 43 includes the state 132 at which the one-way clutch assembly 6 is commanded to unlock the first traction ring 14. The drive control process 43 includes the state 134 at which the engine drive clutch assembly 4 is commanded to engage the first traction ring 14. At state 135, the engine drive clutch 4 is commanded to release or disengage the first carrier member 10. The drive control process 43 includes the state 136 at which the one-way clutch assembly 6 is commanded to engage the first carrier member 10. At state 137, the one-way clutch assembly 6 is commanded to release the first traction ring 14. The engagement of the first carrier member 10 and the release of the first traction ring 14 can be substantially simultaneous actions. The drive control process 43 includes the state 138 at which the one-way clutch assembly 6 is commanded to lock the first carrier member 10. Upon execution of states 132, 134, 135, 136, 137, 138, the control process 43 proceeds to an end state 140.

[0058] During operation of the IVT 1, the drive control process 43 can be implemented to provide infinitely variable range in forward and reverse directions. In some applications, such as an automobile, it is desirable to have overdrive through underdrive speed ranges and reverse speed ranges. Implementation of drive control process 43 can enable vehicle launch from zero speed though operation of IVT 1 and without the use of a typical torque converter.

[0059] Turning now to **Figure 7**, in one embodiment, the low drive control process 46 begins at a state 150 and proceeds to a state 151 where a number of signals can be received. In one embodiment, the state 151 receives signals from the transmission control process 30, for example, to indicate a user command for a low drive condition. The low drive control process 46 proceeds to states 152, 153, 154, 155, 156, 157. It should be noted that states 152, 153, 154,

155, 156, 157 are presented in Figure 7 as an illustrative example and the order in which the states 152, 153, 154, 155, 156, 157 are executed is dependent on a desired performance of the transmission and can be ordered by a designer as appropriate. In fact the timing and duration of states 152, 153, 154, 155, 156, 157 may arbitrarily overlap to produce a desired performance. At state 152, the one-way clutch 6 is commanded to unlock the first carrier member 10. At state 153, the engine drive clutch 4 is commanded to engage the first carrier member 10. At state 154, the engine drive clutch 4 is commanded to release or disengage the first traction ring 14. At state 155, the one-way clutch 4 is commanded to engage the first traction ring 14. At state 156, the one-way clutch 6 is commanded to release the first carrier member 10. At state 156, the one-way clutch 6 is commanded to lock the first traction ring 14. The low drive control process 46 proceeds to a state 158. The state 158 can execute control of the variator portion of the IVT 1, for example, and maintain the variator in a forward direction. In one embodiment, the forward direction corresponds to a range of tilt angles of the tiltable axes 9. The low drive control process 46 ends at a state 159.

[0060] Referring now to **Figure 8**, in one embodiment, the manual control process 49 begins at a state 160 and proceeds to a state 161. A number of signals can be received at the state 161 that can include signals indicative of vehicle operating conditions and/or signals generated from control processes such as the transmission control process 30. The manual control process 49 proceeds to a state 162. The state 162 evaluates a signal from a control lever. If the position corresponds to a “D” or a drive command, the state 162 produces a positive result. If a negative result is produced at the state 162, the manual control process 49 proceeds to a state 163. The state 163 evaluates the signal from the control lever. If the position corresponds to an “L” or low drive command, the state 163 produces a positive result. If the state 163 produces a negative result, the manual control process 49 ends at a state 164. If the state 163 produces a positive result, the manual control process 49 proceeds to states 165, 166, 167, 168, 169, 170. It should be noted that states 165, 166, 167, 168, 169, 170 are presented in Figure 8 as an illustrative example and the order in which the states 165, 166, 167, 168, 169, 170 are executed is dependent on a desired performance of the transmission and can be ordered by a designer as appropriate. In fact the timing and duration of states 165, 166, 167, 168, 169, 170 may arbitrarily overlap to produce a desired performance. At state 165, the one-way clutch assembly 6 is commanded to unlock the first carrier member 10. At state 166, the engine drive clutch assembly 4 is commanded to engage the first carrier member 10. At state 167, the engine drive clutch 4 is commanded to release or disengage the first traction ring 14. At state 168, the one-way clutch assembly 4 is commanded to engage the first traction ring 14. At state 169, the one-way clutch assembly 6 is commanded to release the first carrier member 10. At state 170, the

one-way clutch assembly 6 is commanded to lock the first traction ring 14. The manual control process 49 proceeds to a process 171. The process 171 executes a control algorithm for user control of the variator portion of the IVT 1. For example, a user can use an auxiliary or dual-path control lever to communicate a desired change in transmission ratio such as an up-shift or a down-shift. The manual control process 49 ends at a state 172.

[0061] Referring still to Figure 8, if the state 162 produces a positive result, the manual control process 49 proceeds to a state 173. The state 173 enables a safety monitoring control algorithm that can limit operation of the IVT 1 within predetermined operating conditions. For example, the state 173 may automatically proceed to the state 164 if speed conditions make manual drive operation undesirable. The manual control process 49 proceeds to states 174, 175, 176, 177, 178, 179. It should be noted that states 174, 175, 176, 177, 178, 179 are presented in Figure 8 as an illustrative example and the order in which the states 174, 175, 176, 177, 178, 179 are executed is dependent on a desired performance of the transmission and can be ordered by a designer as appropriate. In fact the timing and duration of states 174, 175, 176, 177, 178, 179 may arbitrarily overlap to produce a desired performance. At state 174, the one-way clutch assembly 6 is commanded to unlock the first traction ring 14. At state 175, the engine drive clutch assembly 4 is commanded to engage the first traction ring 14. At state 176, the engine drive clutch 4 is commanded to release or disengage the first carrier member 10. At state 177, the one-way clutch assembly 6 is commanded to engage the first carrier member 10. At state 178, the one-way clutch assembly 6 is commanded to release the first traction ring 14. At state 179, the one-way clutch assembly 6 is commanded to lock the first carrier member 10. The manual control process 49 proceeds to a process 180. The process 180 executes a control algorithm for user control of the variator portion of the IVT 1. For example, a user can use an auxiliary or dual-path control lever to communicate a desired change in transmission ratio such as an up-shift or a down-shift. The manual control process 49 ends at a state 181.

[0062] Referring now to Figure 8A, in one embodiment, the process 171 begins at a state 1711 and proceeds to a state 1712 where a number of signals are received. The process 171 proceeds to a state 1713 where a position of an accelerator pedal is evaluated. The process 171 proceeds in parallel to a state 1714 where a signal indicative of a manual command from a user is evaluated. The process 171 proceeds from the state 1713 to a process 1715 where an engine speed is controlled based on the evaluation in the state 1713. The process 171 proceeds from the state 1714 to a process 1716 where a shift torque is determined and applied based on the evaluation in the state 1714. The process 171 ends at a state 1717.

[0063] Turning now to Figure 8B, in one embodiment, the process 180 can begin at a state 1801 and proceed to a state 1802 where a number of signals are received. The process 180

proceeds to a process 1803 where an engine throttle is controlled based at least in part on the signals received in the state 1802. The process 180 proceed in parallel from the state 1802 to the process 1804 where a user command via a manual lever, for example, is used to control the ratio of the transmission. The process 180 ends at a state 1805.

[0064] Referring now to **Figure 9**, in one embodiment, the drive control process 43 begins at a state 190 and proceeds to a state 191 where signals are received. The signal received in state 191 can be indicative of a gear shift signal, a throttle position of a vehicle, and/or an output speed signal. The drive control process 43 proceeds to a state 192 where a signal is received that is indicative of a current operating mode of the transmission. In some embodiments, a number of operating modes can be identified relating to the operating condition of the IVT 1. For example, certain operating conditions may be achieved in a “CVT” mode, whereas other operating conditions may be achieved in an “IVT” mode. The drive control process 43 can be implemented to control the engine drive clutch 4 and/or the one-way clutch 6 to achieve appropriate operating mode for the vehicle performance commanded by a user.

[0065] The drive control process 43 proceeds to a state 193 where a command signal is received. In one embodiment, the command signal is indicative of a desired output speed and/or a desired transmission operating mode. The drive control process 43 proceeds to a state 194 where a target transmission operating mode is determined. In one embodiment, the target transmission operating mode is a function at least in part on the output speed of the transmission, the speed ratio of the transmission, throttle/brake sensor readings, engine speed, and/or acceleration states of the vehicle. In some embodiments, the target transmission operating mode is a function at least in part on a speed of a vehicle. In other embodiments, the target transmission operating mode is a function at least in part on a control lever position. In one embodiment, the state 194 evaluates a look-up table using the aforementioned signals. In some embodiments, the state 194 performs an algorithm to determine the target transmission ratio.

[0066] Referring still to Figure 9, in one embodiment, the drive control process 43 includes a state 195 where the target transmission operating mode determined in state 194 is evaluated. If the target transmission operating mode determined in state 194 is equal to a “CVT” mode, the control process continues to a state 196. At state 196, the current transmission operating mode is evaluated. If the current transmission operating mode is equal to the target transmission operating mode of “CVT” then the drive control process 43 proceeds to an operating process 197 in which a control algorithm for operating the transmission in the current mode is executed. The control process 43 proceeds to an end state 198.

[0067] If the target transmission operating mode determined in state 194 is not equal to a “CVT” mode, the control process 43 continues to a state 199. At state 199, the current

transmission operating mode is compared to the target transmission operating mode. If the target transmission operating mode is equal to the current transmission operating mode, the drive control process 43 continues to an operating process 200 in which a control algorithm for operating the transmission in the current transmission mode is executed. The control process 43 proceeds to an end state 201.

[0068] If the target transmission operating mode does not equal the current transmission operating mode, the control process 43 proceeds to states 202, 203, 204, 205, 206, 207. It should be noted that states 202, 203, 204, 205, 206, 207 are presented in Figure 9 as an illustrative example and the order in which the states 202, 203, 204, 205, 206, 207 are executed is dependent on a desired performance of the transmission and can be ordered by a designer as appropriate. In fact the timing and duration of states 202, 203, 204, 205, 206, 207 may arbitrarily overlap to produce a desired performance. The drive control process 43 includes the state 202 at which a command is sent to unlock a one-way clutch assembly such as one-way clutch assembly 6. In one embodiment, the one-way clutch assembly 6 will unlock from the first carrier member 10 at state 202. The drive control process 43 includes the state 203 at which an engine drive clutch assembly, such as the engine drive clutch assembly 4, is commanded to engage the first carrier member 10. At state 204, the engine drive clutch 4 is commanded to release or disengage the first traction ring 14. The drive control process 43 includes the state 205 at which the one-way clutch assembly 6 is commanded to engage the first traction ring 14. At state 206, the one-way clutch assembly 6 is commanded to release the first carrier member 10. The drive control process 43 includes the state 207 at which the one-way clutch assembly 6 is commanded to lock the first traction ring 14. Upon execution of states 202, 203, 204, 205, 206, 207, the drive control process 43 proceeds to an end state 208.

[0069] Referring again to Figure 9, in one embodiment, the drive control process 43 includes the state 196. At state 196, the current transmission operating mode is evaluated. If the current transmission operating mode is not equal to the target transmission operating mode of “CVT” then the drive control process 43 proceeds to states 209, 210, 211, 212, 213, 214. It should be noted that states 209, 210, 211, 212, 213, 214 are presented in Figure 6 as an illustrative example and the order in which the states 209, 210, 211, 212, 213, 214 are executed is dependent on a desired performance of the transmission and can be ordered by a designer as appropriate. The timing and duration of states 209, 210, 211, 212, 213, 214 may arbitrarily overlap to produce a desired performance. The drive control process 43 includes the state 209 at which the one-way clutch assembly 6 is commanded to unlock the first traction ring 14. The drive control process 43 includes the state 210 at which the engine drive clutch assembly 4 is commanded to engage the first traction ring 14. At state 211, the engine drive clutch 4 is

commanded to release or disengage the first carrier member 10. The drive control process 43 includes the state 212 at which the one-way clutch assembly 6 is commanded to engage the first carrier member 10. At state 213, the one-way clutch assembly 6 is commanded to release the first traction ring 14. The engagement of the first carrier member 10 and the release of the first traction ring 14 can be substantially simultaneous actions. The drive control process 43 includes the state 214 at which the one-way clutch assembly 6 is commanded to lock the first carrier member 10. Upon execution of states 209, 210, 211, 212, 213, 214, the control process 43 proceeds to an end state 215.

[0070] Turning now to **Figure 10**, in one embodiment, the operating process 197, 200 can begin at a state 231 and proceed to a state 232 where a signal indicative of the current operating mode is received. For example, the operating mode can be “CVT” or “IVT”. The process 197, 200 proceeds to a state 233 where a number of signals are received. For example, the signals can be indicative of a throttle position, a speed ratio, and engine speed, a vehicle speed and/or signals associated with the shift actuator. The process 197, 200 proceeds to a torque control process 234 and a ratio control process 235. The processes 234, 235 determine an actuator and engine throttle command based at least in part on a required torque or a required ratio, respectively. The process 197, 200 proceeds to a process 236 at which the current mode, vehicle speed, and transmission ratio are evaluated to determine the command strength from torque and ratio control signals applied to the engine throttle and actuator load, respectively. The actuator command, for example, may be a hydraulic pressure. As the control system transitions from 100% torque control to 100% ratio control the applied pressure becomes the sum of the weighted commands from processes 236, 237. The result is a smooth and stable transition between these different control regimes. The process 197, 200 proceeds to state 238 where the weighed command strengths are summed. The process 197, 200 proceeds to a state 239 where the determined actuator and engine throttle commands are applied to the transmission and engine. The process 197 ends at a state 240.

[0071] Referring now to **Figure 10A**, in one embodiment, the ratio control process 235 starts at a state 241 and proceeds to a state 242 where an accelerator pedal position is evaluated. The process 235 proceeds in parallel to states 243, 244. At state 243, an engine throttle command is determined based at least in part on the evaluation at the state 242. At state 244, the transmission ratio is determined based at least in part on the evaluation at the state 242. The process 235 proceeds to a process 246 at which a transmission shift actuator is controlled to achieve the transmission ratio determined at the state 244. The process 235 proceeds from the state 243 to a state 245 where an engine control process applies the throttle command determined in the state 243. The process 235 proceeds from the state 246 to a state 247 where

the shift actuator command determined in the state 246 is applied to the transmission. The process 235 ends at a state 248.

[0072] Referring now to **Figure 11**, in one embodiment the operating process 234 can begin at a state 220 and proceed to a state 221 where a signal indicative of an accelerator pedal position is received. The process 234 proceeds to a state 222 where an engine speed is set. The process 200 can proceed in parallel to a state 224 where a desired shift torque is determined. In one embodiment, the states 222, 224 include look-up tables that relate the pedal position to engine speed and shift torque respectively. In some cases, there is a pedal position threshold below which the engine speed is set to idle speed. Upon surpassing the pedal position threshold the engine speed is set to a non-idle condition. In one embodiment, the process 234 includes a state 226 where an engine throttle is controlled to achieve the desired engine speed determined in the states 222, 224. The process 234 proceeds to a state 224 where a PID control process 224 can be executed to set the engine speed to the target value. Upon execution of the process 224, the process 234 proceeds to a state 226 where a throttle position is controlled based on the result of the process 224. The process 234 proceeds from the state 223 to a state 225 where a shift actuator process is executed. In some embodiments, a gain on the pedal position can specify the shift torque to be applied. The shift actuator process can be configured to communicate with appropriate transmission hardware to apply a torque to the transmission to thereby control transmission ratio. Application of said torque to the transmission can occur at a state 228. The process 234 proceeds to an end state 230. During operation of the process 200, torque delivered to the wheels of a vehicle is substantially controlled by the control of the transmission ratio while the overall power is controlled via engine speed control.

[0073] Referring now to **Figure 12**, a table 250 illustrates engagement of a drive clutch assembly and a one-way clutch assembly to the corresponding operating mode. For example, the first column of the table lists clutch elements C1, C2, C3, and C4. The clutch elements C1 and C2 represent elements of the drive clutch, such as the engine drive clutch assembly 4. The clutch elements C3 and C4 represent the elements of the one-way clutch assembly, such as the one-way clutch assembly 6. The columns of table 250 labeled “IVP Mode” and “CVP Mode” are populated with “X” and “O”. The entry of “X” indicates engagement; the entry “O” indicates an open or disengaged condition. The last column of Table 250 is labeled “Coupling Component” and indicates a carrier member or a ring. For example, during IVP Mode operation, the clutch elements C1 and C3 are engaged to a carrier member and ring of the transmission, respectively, while the clutch elements C2 and C4 are open or disengaged. During CVP Mode operation, the clutch elements C2 and C4 are engaged to a ring and a carrier member, respectively, while the clutch elements C1 and C3 are open or disengaged.

During operation of the transmission, whether in IVP or CVP mode, the one-way clutch elements C3, C4 may always be active or engaged. In either mode, clutch elements C3 and C4 are active at least during the mode transition processes, such as from states 132 to 140. The one-way clutch elements are further locked in final step of the transition, for example at state 138. The locking of state 138 is when the “X” is applied to lock the one-way clutch element C4 as shown in Table 250, thus completing the transition to CVP Mode.

[0074] Turning now to **Figures 13-17**, embodiments of infinitely variable transmissions having a power path control system will be described. It should be noted that form and shape of particular components of the transmissions disclosed here can be selected by a designer to achieve a desired function and fulfill any number of design constraints encountered. The embodiments described in Figures 13-17 are illustrative examples of transmission architectures. In some embodiments, the one way clutches provide a specific connection between the traction ring and carrier members to ground. In their respective cases they prevent reverse rotation relative to ground, for example, a transmission housing. Reverse rotation is described as opposite to that of the drive shaft, say from engine or motor. The one-way action is always active. Alternatively, reverse rotation could be prevented through active control of a traditional wet or dry clutch (as illustrated in Figures 15-17). The one-way clutch provides an instantaneous mechanical constraint against reversal during a mode shift. This simplifies controls implementation. Once the operational mode is established then forward rotation must be additionally constrained at the one-way clutch, thus fully constraining both rotational directions. This is necessary for the drive to carry torque back driving loads and is implemented in “command lock one way” control blocks of Figs 4-9. One embodiment is to engage an intermediate slider, or dog, between the housing and the engaged traction ring or carrier member. During mode change neither intermediate slider is engaged. The last step of any mode change is “command lock” of the respective one way.

[0075] Referring specifically to **Figure 13** now, in one embodiment a transmission 300 is provided with a main drive shaft 302 arranged along a longitudinal axis. The transmission 300 includes first and second carrier members 304, 306. The main drive shaft 302 is adapted to receive a rotational power input. The second carrier member 306 is operably coupled to a shift actuator assembly 308. The shift actuator assembly 308 is configured to provide relative rotation between the first and second carrier members 304, 306 to thereby change the transmission ratio of the transmission 300. The transmission 300 includes first and second traction rings 309, 310. The first traction ring 310 is operably coupled to a ring driver 312. In one embodiment, the main drive shaft 302 is coupled to a drive clutch assembly 314. The drive clutch assembly 314 includes a ring coupling element 314A and a carrier coupling element

314B. The ring coupling element 314A is configured to selectively couple to the ring driver 312. The carrier coupling element 314B is configured to selectively couple to the first carrier member 304. In some embodiments, the drive clutch assembly 314 can be a hydraulic clutch. In other embodiments, the drive clutch assembly 314 can be a dog style clutch that is adapted to engage at a zero speed condition. In yet other embodiments, the drive clutch assembly 314 can be a one-way dog style clutch.

[0076] Still referring to Figure 13, the transmission 300 includes a one way clutch assembly 316. The one way clutch assembly 316 has clutch elements 316A, 316B coupled to the ring driver 312 and the first carrier member 304, respectively. The one-way clutch assembly 316 is coupled to a ground member, such as a transmission housing 320. In one embodiment, the one-way clutch assembly 316 and the drive clutch assembly 314 are located on the input side of the transmission 300. The shift actuator assembly 308 can be located on the output side of the transmission 300. The transmission 300 includes first and second axial thrust bearings 322, 324. The first axial thrust bearing 322 is coupled to the main drive shaft 302 and the ring driver 312. The second axial thrust bearing 324 is coupled to the main drive shaft 302 and an output shaft 326.

[0077] Turning now to **Figure 14**, in one embodiment a transmission 330 can be configured to have a power path control system that includes first and second drive clutches 332, 334 and first and second one-way clutches 336, 338. For simplicity, only the differences between the transmission 330 and the transmission 300 will be described. It should be noted that form and shape of particular components of the transmissions disclosed here can be selected by a designer to achieve a desired function and fulfill any number of design constraints encountered. In one embodiment, the transmission 330 is provided with a spring 340 coupled to the first carrier member 304. The spring 340 is adapted to position the first carrier member 304 in a pre-determined position to achieve a desired transmission ratio for an off condition. In one embodiment, the first and second drive clutches 332, 334 and the first one-way clutch 336 is located on the input side of the transmission 330. The first one-way clutch 336 is selectively coupled to the ring driver 312 and the housing 320. The second one-way clutch 338 is located on the output side of the transmission. The second one-way clutch 338 is selectively coupled to the first carrier member 304 and the housing 320. In some embodiments, the shift actuator assembly 308 is located on the output side of the transmission 330.

[0078] Referring now to **Figure 15**, a transmission 350 can be configured to have a power path control system that includes first and second drive clutches 352, 354 and first and second one-way clutches 356, 358. For simplicity, only the differences between the transmission 350 and the transmission 300 will be described. In one embodiment, the

transmission 350 is provided with first and second drive clutches 352, 354. The first drive clutch 352 can be located on the output side of the transmission 350. The first drive clutch 352 is selectively coupled to the second carrier member 306 and the main shaft 302. The second drive clutch 354 is located on the input side of the transmission 350. The second drive clutch 354 is selectively coupled to the ring driver 312. In one embodiment, the transmission 350 has first and second one-way clutches 356, 358. The first one-way clutch 356 is located on the input side of the transmission and can be integrated with the second drive clutch 354. The first one-way clutch is selectively coupled to the ring driver 312 and the housing 320. The second one-way clutch 358 is selectively coupled to the second carrier member 306 and the housing 320.

[0079] Turning now to **Figure 16**, in one embodiment, a transmission 360 can be configured to have a hydraulic shifting mechanism 362 provided with an axially translating hydraulic piston 363 operably coupled to the second carrier member 306. The transmission 360 can be provided with a power path control system that includes first and second drive clutches 364, 366 and first and second one-way clutches 368, 369. In one embodiment, the first drive clutch 364 is selectively coupled to the first carrier member 304 and the main drive shaft 302. The second drive clutch 366 is selectively coupled to the ring driver 312 and the main shaft 302. The first one-way clutch 368 is selectively coupled to the ring driver 312 and the housing 320. The first one-way clutch 369 is selectively coupled to the first carrier member 304 and the housing 320.

[0080] Referring now to **Figure 17**, in one embodiment a transmission 370 can be provided with a power path control system that includes first and second drive clutches 372, 374 and first and second one-way clutches 376, 378. In one embodiment, the transmission 370 is provided with a thrust bearing 380 coupled to the ring driver 312 and a coupling 381. The coupling 381 is operably coupled to an output load cam 382 and the output shaft 312. The thrust bearing 380 is configured to react axial forces generated during operation of the transmission 370. In some embodiments, the output shaft 312 is coupled to output gearing 384. In one embodiment, the first drive clutch 372 is configured to selectively couple an input drive shaft 385 to the first carrier member 304. The second drive clutch 374 is adapted to selectively couple the input drive shaft 385 to the ring driver 312. The first one-way clutch 376 is configured to selectively couple the second carrier member 306 to the housing 320. The second one-way clutch 378 is adapted to selectively couple the ring driver 312 to the housing 320.

[0081] Passing now to **Figures 18-22**, in one embodiment a carrier assembly 400 can be used with transmissions disclosed herein. The carrier assembly 400 can be operably coupled to a shift actuator 402. The shift actuator 402 can be a motor or any device that can apply a rotational torque to components of the carrier assembly 400. In one embodiment, the shift

actuator 402 is further provided with a sliding coupling 401. The sliding coupling 401 can be selectively positioned to engage certain components of the carrier assembly 400. The carrier assembly 400 is provided with a translating assembly 404. The translating assembly 404 includes a translating member 406 and any device configured to selectively position the translating member 406 with respect to the longitudinal axis. The carrier assembly 400 includes a number of carrier plates 408, 409, 410, 411. The carrier plates 408, 409, 410, 411 are adapted to support a traction planet assembly 412. The traction planet assembly 412 can include an axle 413 coupled to a number of rollers 414. The rollers 414 can couple to the carrier plates 408, 409, 410, 411. In other embodiments, the axle 413 can directly couple to the carrier plates 408, 409, 410, 411. The carrier plates 408, 409 are arranged on a first end of the axle 413 and the carrier plates 410, 411 are arranged on a second end of the axle 413. The carrier plates 408, 409 are provided with a number of circumferential splines 415 that are adapted to receive the translating member 406. The carrier plates 410, 411 are provided with a number of circumferential splines 419 that are adapted to receive the sliding coupling 401.

[0082] During operation of the transmission, control of the transmission ratio is achieved by relative rotation of the carrier members with respect to each other, for example rotation of carrier member 409 with respect to the carrier member 410. Depending on transmission operating mode, the transmission will see the traction ring in a forward or reverse direction with respect to the carrier members. The translating assembly 404 and the shift actuator 402 can selectively engage a pair of carrier members. For example, carrier members 409, 410 are engaged when the transmission is rotating in a forward rotation, while carrier members 408, 411 are engaged when the transmission is rotating in a reverse rotation. Carrier members 408, 409 switch between being free and attached to the shift actuator 402. Carrier members 411, 410 are switched between being free and controlled by the shift actuator 402. In a mode change between CVT and IVT, the switch between carrier members occurs when the rotations for the ring and the carrier members are synchronous. The carrier member comes to a stop as the ring driver speeds up to drive shaft speed when transitioning from IVP to CVP. The switch between carrier members occurs when the ring driver and the carrier members have the same speed. In some embodiments, the carrier member 410 is a radial guide slot 417 (Figure 20) and the carrier members 408, 409 are selectively engaged for reverse and forward direction, respectively.

[0083] Turning specifically now to Figure 20, in one embodiment the carrier plate 410 is a substantially bowl-shaped body having a central bore 416. The bowl-shaped body can be provided with a number of guide slots 417 arranged angularly about the central bore 416. The guide slots 417 are aligned with a radial construction line 418 when viewed in the plane of

the page of Figure 20. The guide slots 417 are adapted to receive one end of the planet axle 416. The bowl-shaped body is provided with a flange 419 formed about the outer periphery. The flange 419 can be adapted to attach to the shift actuator 402.

[0084] Referring now to Figure 21, in one embodiment the carrier plate 408 is a substantially bowl-shaped body having a central bore 420. The bowl-shaped body can be provided with a number of guide slots 422 arranged angularly about the central bore 420. Each guide slot 422 is sized to accommodate the coupling of the carrier plate 408 to the axle 416. The guide slots 422 are angularly offset from the radial construction line 424 when viewed in the plane of the page of Figure 21. The angular offset can be approximated by an angle 425. The angle 425 is formed between the radial construction line 424 and a construction line 426. The construction line 426 substantially bisects the guide slot 422 when viewed in the plane of the page of Figure 21. In some embodiments, the angle 425 is between 3 degrees and 45 degrees. The values of the angle 425 are provided as an illustrative example, and the angle 425 can be varied in any manner a designer desires. In some embodiments, the angle 425 can be any angle in the range of 10 to 25 degrees including any angle in between or fractions thereof. For example, the angle can be 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, or any portion thereof. In other embodiments, the angle 425 can be 20 degrees. In one embodiment, the guide slots 422 can be arranged so that the construction line 426 is radially offset from a construction line 427 by a distance 428. The construction line 428 is parallel to the construction line 427 and intersects the center of the bowl-shaped body.

[0085] Referring to Figure 22, in one embodiment the carrier plate 409 is a substantially bowl-shaped body having a central bore 430. The bowl-shaped body can be provided with a number of guide slots 432 arranged angularly about the central bore 430. Each guide slot 432 is sized to accommodate the coupling of the carrier plate 408 to the axle 416. The guide slots 432 are angularly offset from the radial construction line 434 when viewed in the plane of the page of Figure 22. The angular offset can be approximated by an angle 435. The angle 435 is formed between the radial construction line 434 and a construction line 436. The construction line 436 substantially bisects the guide slot 432 when viewed in the plane of the page of Figure 22. In some embodiments, the angle 435 is between 3 degrees and 45 degrees. The values of the angle 435 are provided as an illustrative example, and the angle 435 can be varied in any manner a designer desires. In some embodiments, the angle 435 can be any angle in the range of (-)10 to (-)25 degrees including any angle in between or fractions thereof. The “(-)” indicates a negative value with respect to construction line 434 in contrast to the positive values for the angle 425 with respect to the construction line 424. For example, the angle can be (-)10, (-)11, (-)12, (-)13, (-)14, (-)15, (-)16, (-)17, (-)18, (-)19, (-)20, (-)21, (-)22, (-)23, (-)24, (-)25, or any portion thereof.

)25, or any portion thereof. In other embodiments, the angle 435 can be 20 degrees. In one embodiment, the guide slots 432 can be arranged so that the construction line 436 is radially offset from a construction line 437 by a distance 438. The construction line 438 is parallel to the construction line 437 and intersects the center of the bowl-shaped body.

[0086] It should be noted that the carrier plate 411 can be substantially the same as the carrier plate 408 if the carrier plate 410 is configured to have angularly offset slots 432 as shown in Figure 22. When the carrier plate 410 is formed with radial slots 417, the carrier plate 411 is not needed in the carrier assembly 400.

[0087] Those of skill will recognize that the various illustrative logical blocks, modules, circuits, and algorithm steps described in connection with the embodiments disclosed herein, including with reference to the transmission control system described herein, for example, may be implemented as electronic hardware, software stored on a computer readable medium and executable by a processor, or combinations of both. To clearly illustrate this interchangeability of hardware and software, various illustrative components, blocks, modules, circuits, and steps have been described above generally in terms of their functionality. Whether such functionality is implemented as hardware or software depends upon the particular application and design constraints imposed on the overall system. Skilled artisans may implement the described functionality in varying ways for each particular application, but such implementation decisions should not be interpreted as causing a departure from the scope of the present disclosure. For example, various illustrative logical blocks, modules, and circuits described in connection with the embodiments disclosed herein may be implemented or performed with a general purpose processor, a digital signal processor (DSP), an application specific integrated circuit (ASIC), a field programmable gate array (FPGA) or other programmable logic device, discrete gate or transistor logic, discrete hardware components, or any combination thereof designed to perform the functions described herein. A general purpose processor may be a microprocessor, but in the alternative, the processor may be any conventional processor, controller, microcontroller, or state machine. A processor may also be implemented as a combination of computing devices, e.g., a combination of a DSP and a microprocessor, a plurality of microprocessors, one or more microprocessors in conjunction with a DSP core, or any other such configuration. Software associated with such modules may reside in RAM memory, flash memory, ROM memory, EPROM memory, EEPROM memory, registers, a hard disk, a removable disk, a CD-ROM, or any other suitable form of storage medium known in the art. An exemplary storage medium is coupled to the processor such the processor can read information from, and write information to, the storage medium. In the alternative, the storage medium may be integral to the processor. The processor and the storage

medium may reside in an ASIC. For example, in one embodiment, a controller for use of control of the IVT 1 comprises a processor (not shown).

[0088] The foregoing description details certain embodiments of the disclosure. It will be appreciated, however, that no matter how detailed the foregoing appears in text, the embodiments can be practiced in many ways. As is also stated above, it should be noted that the use of particular terminology when describing certain features or aspects of the disclosure should not be taken to imply that the terminology is being re-defined herein to be restricted to including any specific characteristics of the features or aspects of the disclosure with which that terminology is associated.

WHAT WE CLAIM IS:

1. A transmission comprising:
 - a first disc mounted coaxially about a longitudinal axis of the transmission;
 - a plurality of tiltable balls placed angularly about the longitudinal axis and in contact with the first disc;
 - a second disc mounted coaxially about the longitudinal axis of the transmission and in contact with the plurality of tiltable balls;
 - an idler placed radially inward of, and in contact with, the plurality of tiltable balls;
 - a cage operably coupled to the plurality of balls;
 - a first clutch assembly operably coupled to the cage and the first disc;
 - a second clutch assembly operably coupled to the cage and the first disc;
 - wherein at least two of the first disc, second disc, idler, and cage are adapted to receive a power input; and
 - wherein at least one of the first disc, second disc, idler and cage is adapted to provide a power output.
2. The transmission of Claim 1, wherein the idler is adapted to rotate freely without transferring power.
3. The transmission of Claim 1, wherein at least one of the first disc, second disc, idler and cage are adapted to provide a power output.
4. The transmission of Claim 1, wherein the first disc and the cage are adapted to receive a power input.
5. The transmission of Claim 1, wherein the first clutch assembly is operably coupled to a power source, wherein the second clutch is operably coupled to a ground member, and wherein the first and second clutch can be actuated to provide an input power to the transmission.
6. The transmission of Claim 1, wherein the first clutch assembly comprises a hydraulic clutch.
7. The transmission of Claim 1, wherein the second clutch assembly comprises a one-way clutch.
8. A method of controlling a variable ratio transmission having a plurality of tiltable balls in contact with a first traction ring and a cage, the method comprising:
 - receiving a plurality of signals;
 - determining a target operating mode;
 - determining a command signal for a one-way clutch assembly;

determining a command signal for a drive clutch assembly; and selectively engaging the one-way clutch assembly to the first traction ring and the cage based at least in part on the command signal for the one-way clutch assembly.

9. The method of Claim 8, further comprising the step of selectively engaging the drive clutch assembly to the first traction ring and the cage based at least in part on the command signal for the drive clutch assembly.

10. The method of Claim 8, wherein determining a command signal for a one-way clutch assembly comprises the step of comparing the target operating mode to a user command signal.

11. The method of Claim 10, wherein the user command signal comprises a throttle position signal.

12. The method of Claim 10, wherein the user command signal comprises a control lever position signal or a PRNDL position signal.

13. The method of Claim 8, wherein selectively engaging the one-way clutch assembly comprises the step of unlocking the one-way clutch.

14. The method of Claim 8, wherein selectively engaging the drive-clutch assembly comprises the step of releasing the first traction ring.

15. The method of Claim 8, wherein selectively engaging the drive-clutch assembly comprises the step of releasing the cage.

16. A method of controlling a variable ratio transmission, the transmission having a plurality of tiltable balls in contact with a first traction ring and a cage, a one-way clutch assembly selectively coupled to the first traction ring and the cage, and a drive-clutch assembly selectively coupled to the first traction ring and the cage, the method comprising:

receiving at least one signal indicative of a current operating mode of the transmission;

receiving a user command signal;

determining a target operating mode of the transmission based at least in part on the user command signal;

comparing the target operating mode to the current operating mode;

commanding the one-way clutch assembly to selectively unlock the first traction ring and/or the cage; and

commanding the drive clutch assembly to selectively engage the first traction ring and/or the cage.

17. The method of Claim 16, wherein commanding the one-way clutch assembly comprises the step of unlocking the first traction ring.

18. The method of Claim 16, wherein commanding the one-way clutch assembly comprises the step of locking the cage.

19. The method of Claim 16, wherein commanding the drive clutch assembly comprises the step of engaging the first traction ring.

20. The method of Claim 16, wherein commanding the drive clutch assembly comprises the step of releasing the cage.

21. The method of Claim 16, wherein commanding the one-way clutch assembly comprises the step of engaging the cage.

22. The method of Claim 16, wherein commanding the one-way clutch assembly comprises the step of locking the cage.

23. The method of Claim 16, wherein commanding the one-way clutch assembly comprises the step of locking the first traction ring.

24. The method of Claim 16, wherein commanding the one-way clutch assembly comprises the step of unlocking the cage.

25. The method of Claim 16, wherein commanding the drive clutch assembly comprises the step of engaging the cage.

26. The method of Claim 16, wherein commanding the drive clutch assembly comprises the step of releasing the first traction ring.

27. The method of Claim 16, wherein commanding the one-way clutch assembly comprises the step of engaging the first traction ring.

28. The method of Claim 16, wherein commanding one-way clutch assembly comprises the step of unlocking the cage.

29. A carrier assembly for a infinitely variable transmission (IVT) having a plurality of spherical traction planets arranged about a main drive axis, the carrier assembly comprising:

 a first carrier plate having a center arranged coaxially with the main drive axis, the first carrier plate comprising:

 a first plurality of angularly offset slots cut into and arranged angularly about the center of the first carrier plate; each of the first plurality of angularly offset slots having an angular offset from a centerline of the first carrier plate;

 wherein the centerline of the first carrier plate is perpendicular to the main drive axis thereby forming a coordinate system, the coordinate system having a z-axis corresponding to the main drive axis, a y-axis

corresponding to the centerline, and a x-axis perpendicular to the y-axis and z-axis;

wherein the first plurality of angularly offset guides lie in a plane formed by the x-axis and y-axis;

wherein each traction planet is adapted to tilt in a plane formed by the y-axis and z-axis;

a second carrier plate having a center arranged coaxially with the main drive axis, the second carrier plate comprising:

a second plurality of angularly offset slots cut into and arranged angularly about the center of the second carrier plate; each of the second plurality of angularly offset slots having an angular offset from a centerline of the second carrier plate;

wherein the centerline of the second carrier plate is perpendicular to the main drive axis thereby forming a coordinate system, the coordinate system having a z-axis corresponding to the main drive axis, a y-axis corresponding to the centerline, and a x-axis perpendicular to the y-axis and z-axis;

wherein the second plurality angularly offset guides lie in a plane formed by the x-axis and y-axis; and

wherein each traction planet is adapted to tilt in a plane formed by the y-axis and z-axis; and

wherein the angular offset of the first plurality of angularly offset slots is opposite the angular offset of the second plurality of angularly offset slots.

30. The carrier assembly of Claim 29, wherein the first and second carrier members have a splined circumference.

31. The carrier assembly of Claim 29, further comprising a third carrier member having a plurality of radial guide slots.

32. A method of controlling a variable ratio transmission in a vehicle, the transmission having a plurality of tiltable balls in contact with a first traction ring and a cage, the method comprising:

receiving a signal indicative of a desired operating mode of the vehicle;

receiving a signal indicative of a vehicle speed;

receiving a signal indicative of a transmission ratio;

determining a torque command based at least in part on the operating mode, vehicle speed, and transmission ratio;

determining a ratio command based at least in part on the operating mode, vehicle speed, and transmission ratio; and

determining a weighted command of the torque command and the ratio command based at least in part on the operating mode, vehicle speed, and transmission ratio.

33. The method of Claim 32, further comprising the step of determining a target transmission ratio based on an accelerator pedal position.

34. The method of Claim 32, wherein determining a torque command further comprises setting a target engine speed.

35. The method of Claim 34, wherein determining a torque command further comprises setting a target shift torque.

36. The method of Claim 35, wherein determining a torque command further comprises adjusting a shift actuator with the target shift torque.

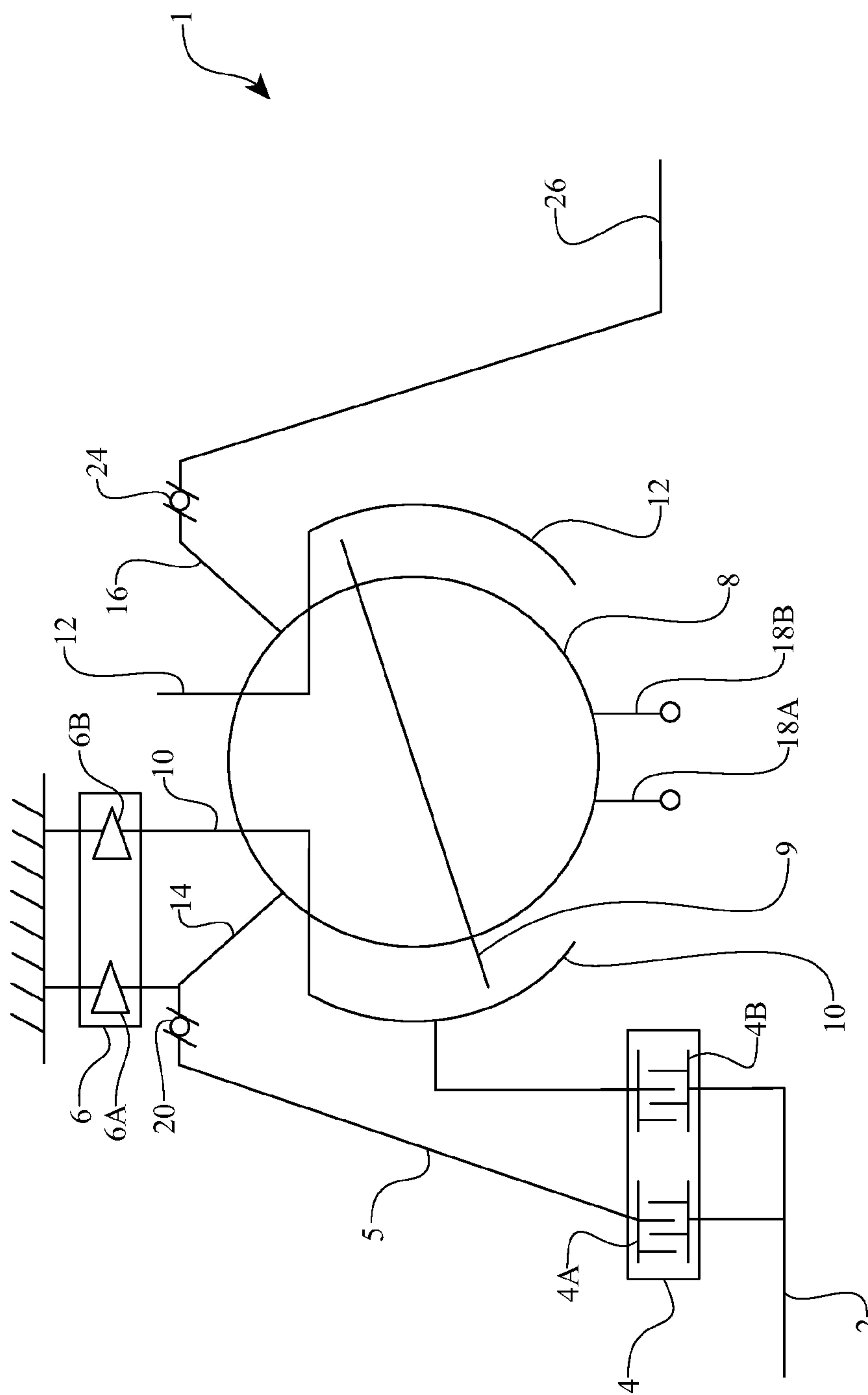


FIG. 1

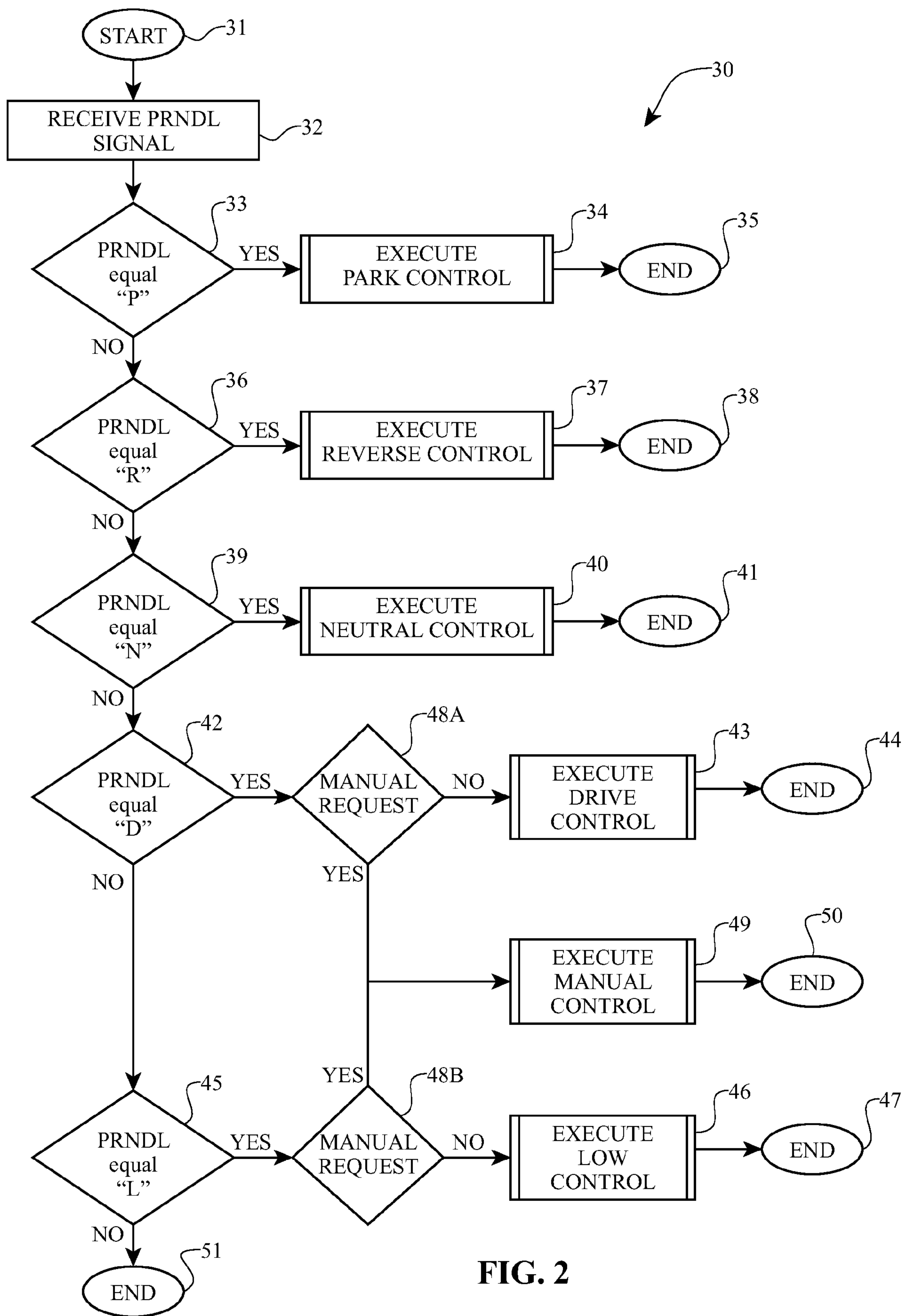


FIG. 2

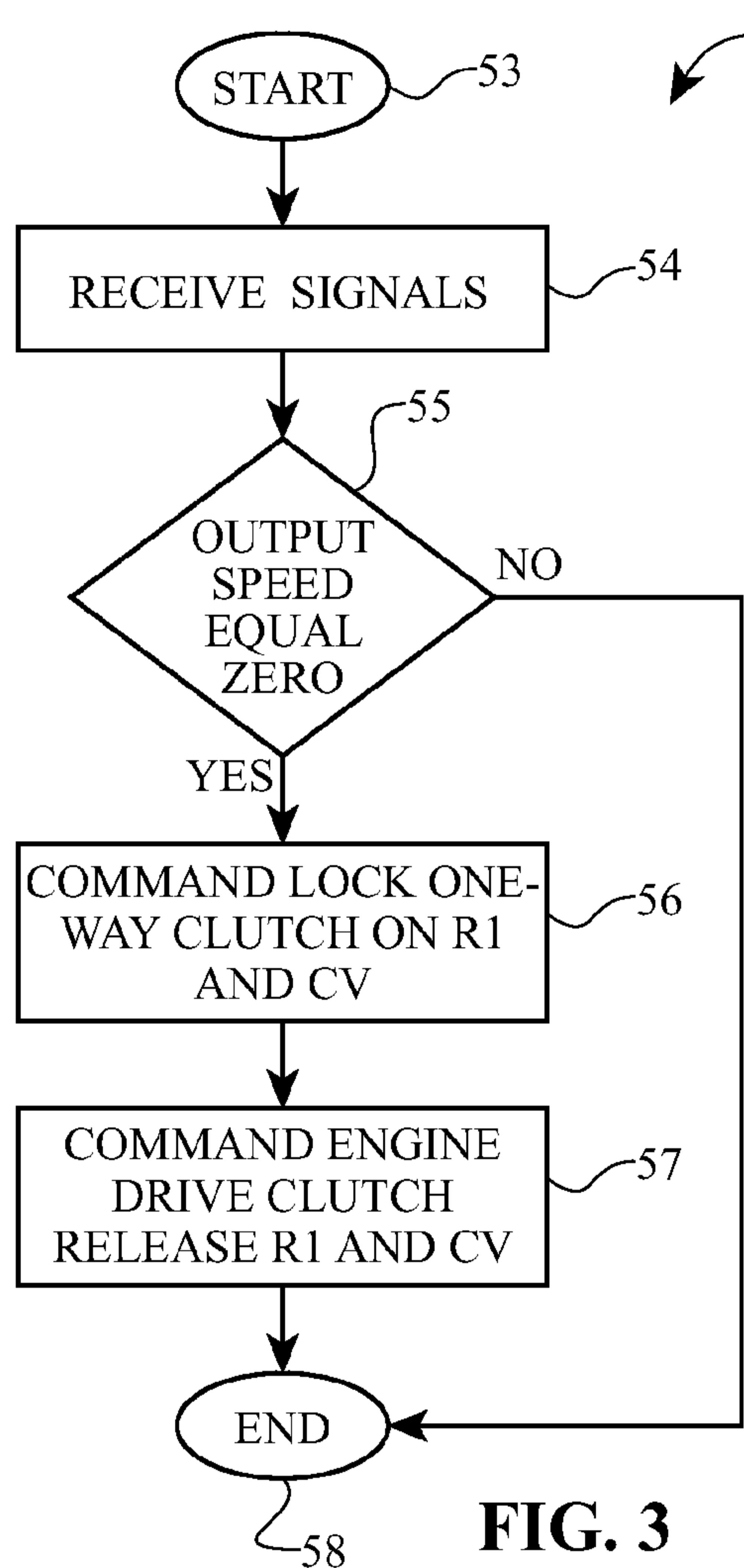


FIG. 3

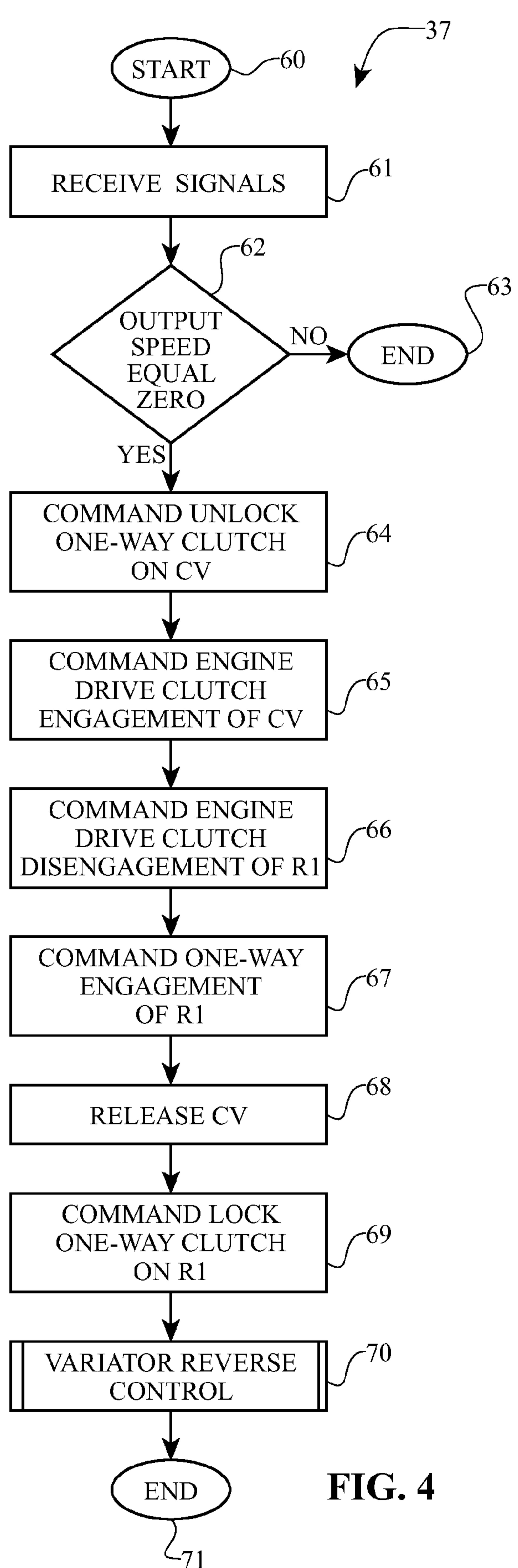


FIG. 4

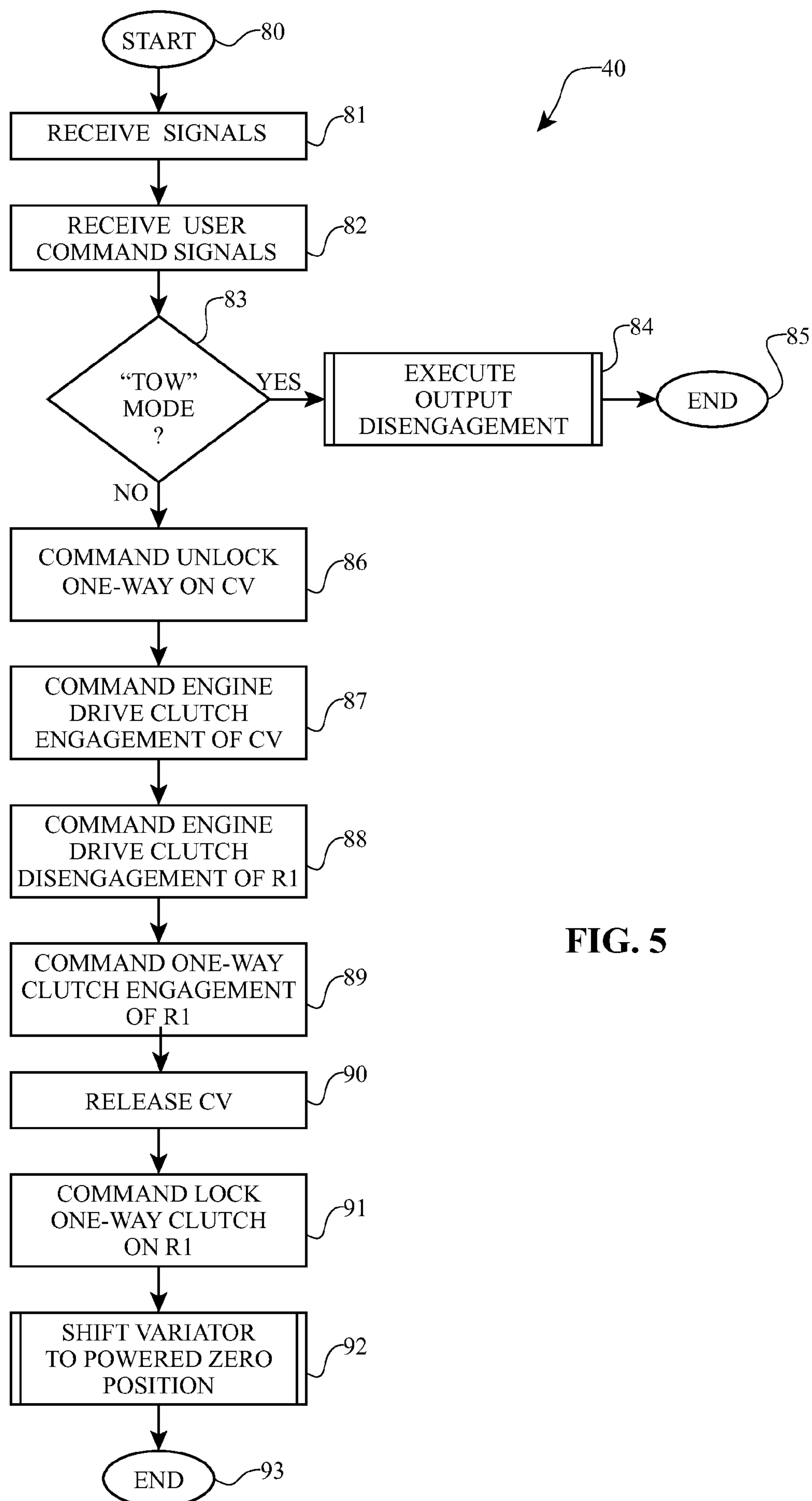
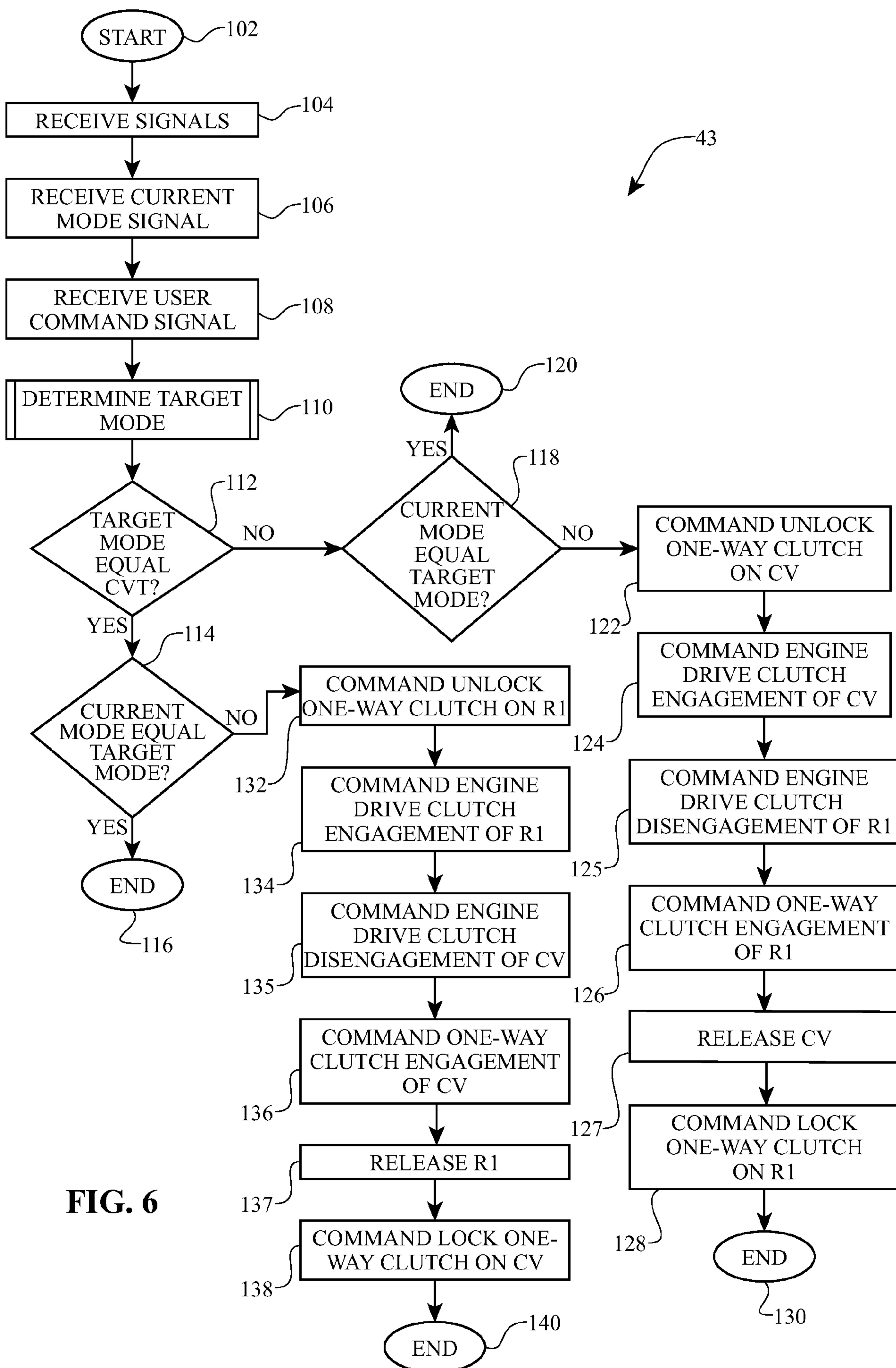


FIG. 5



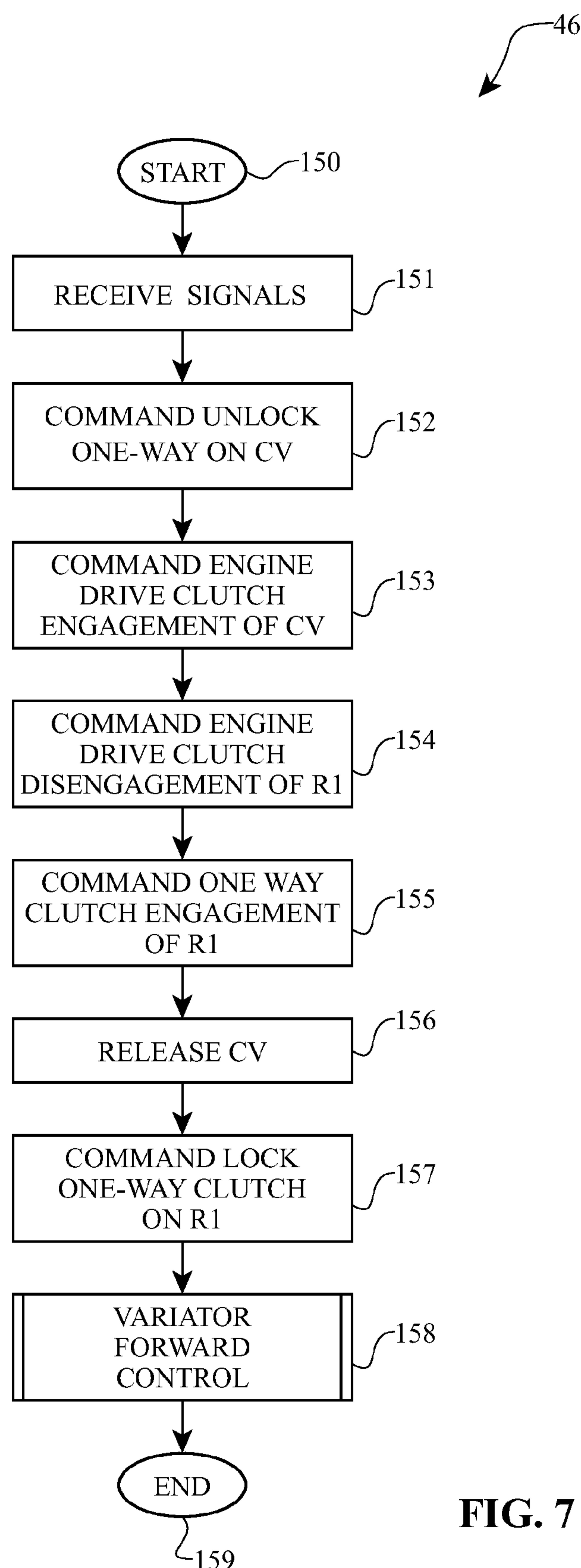


FIG. 7

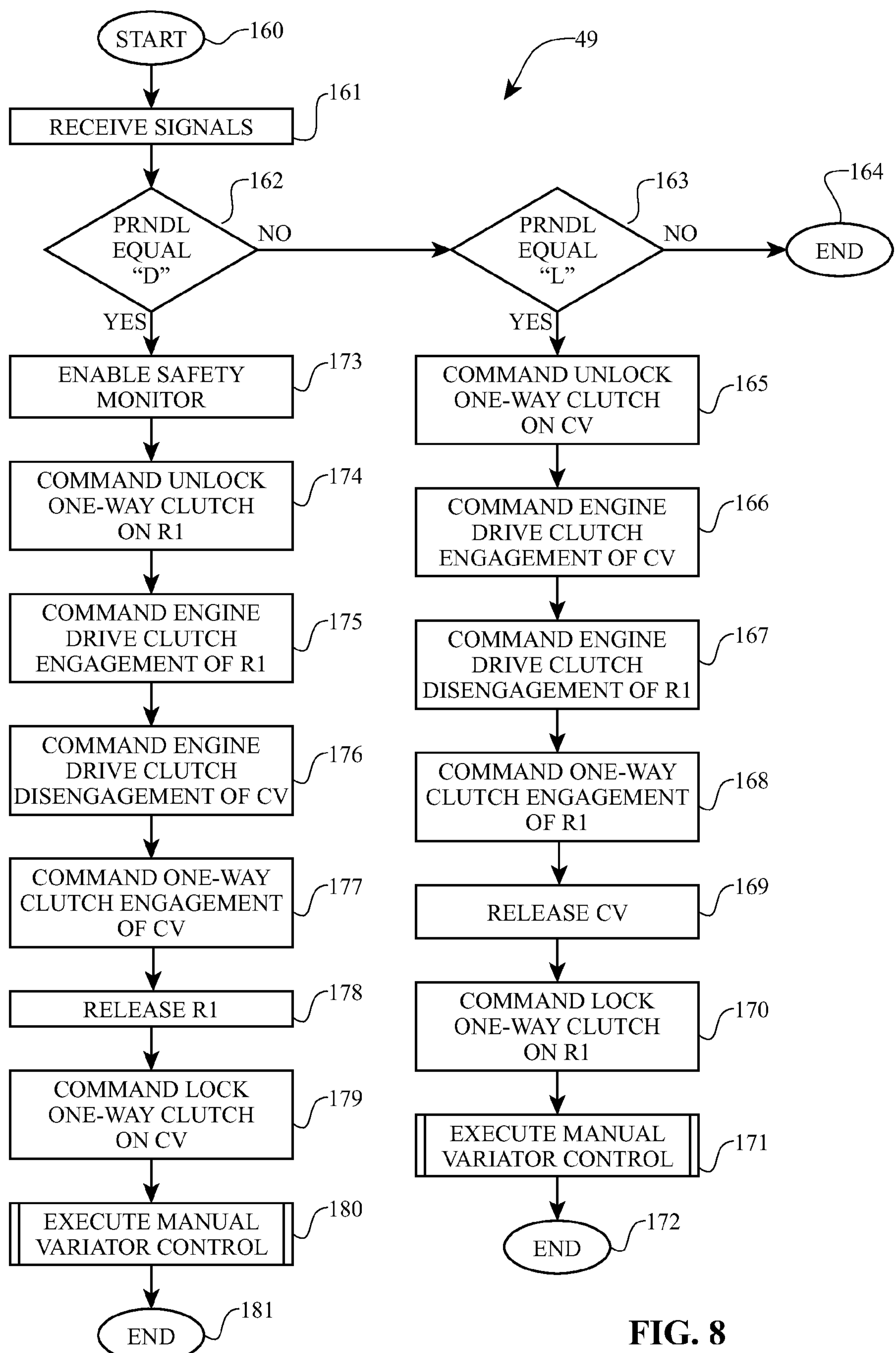
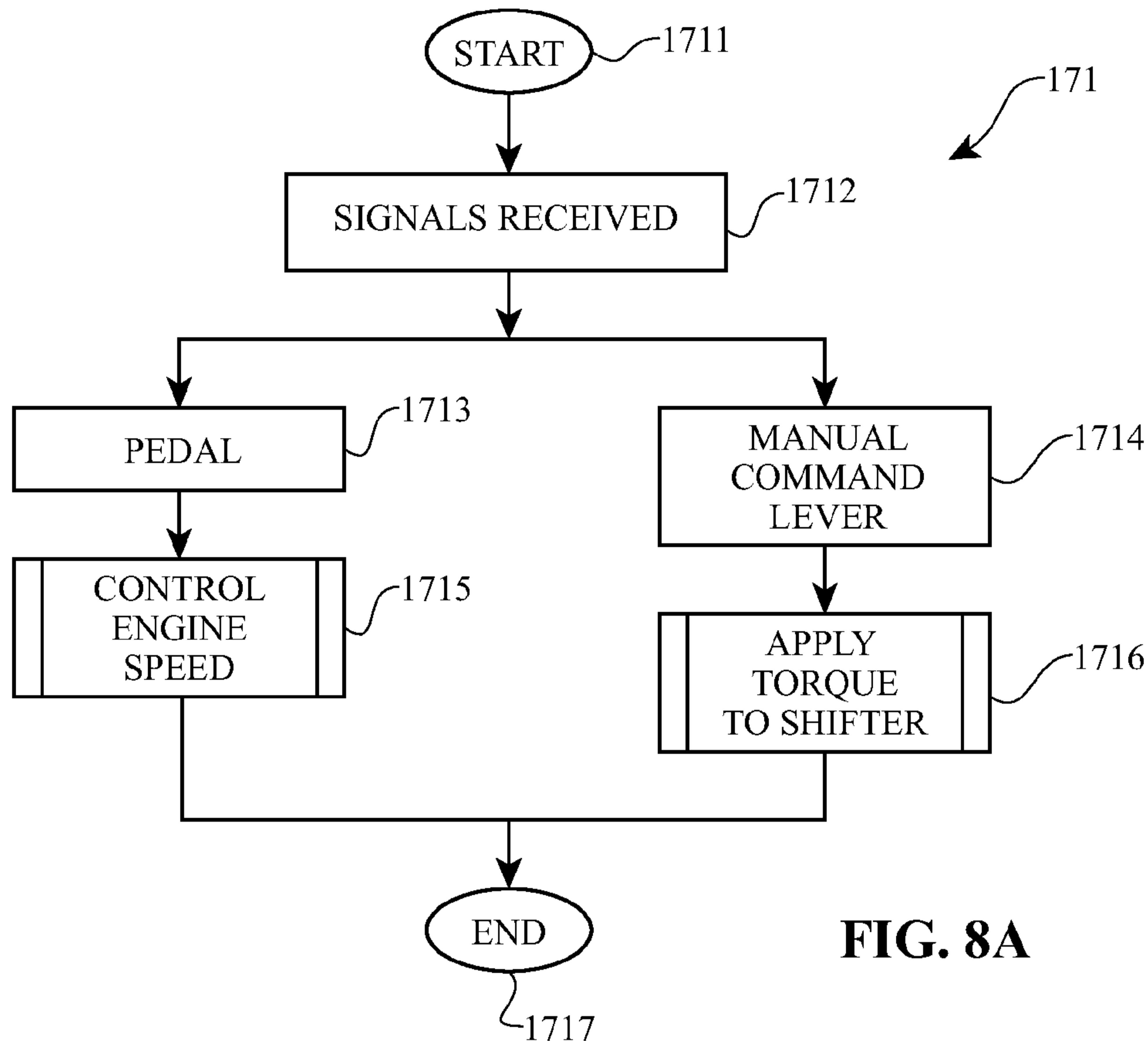
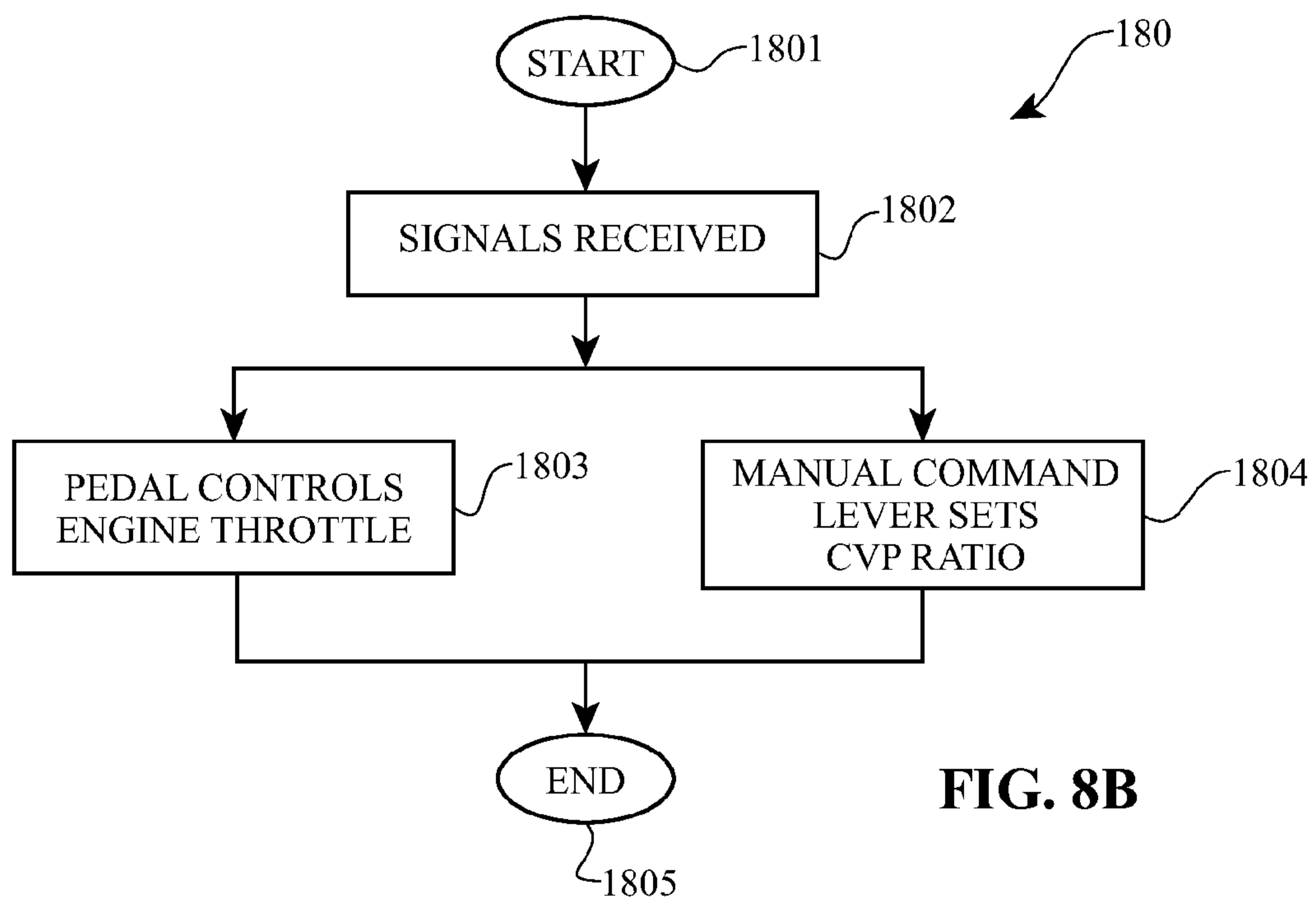


FIG. 8

**FIG. 8A****FIG. 8B**

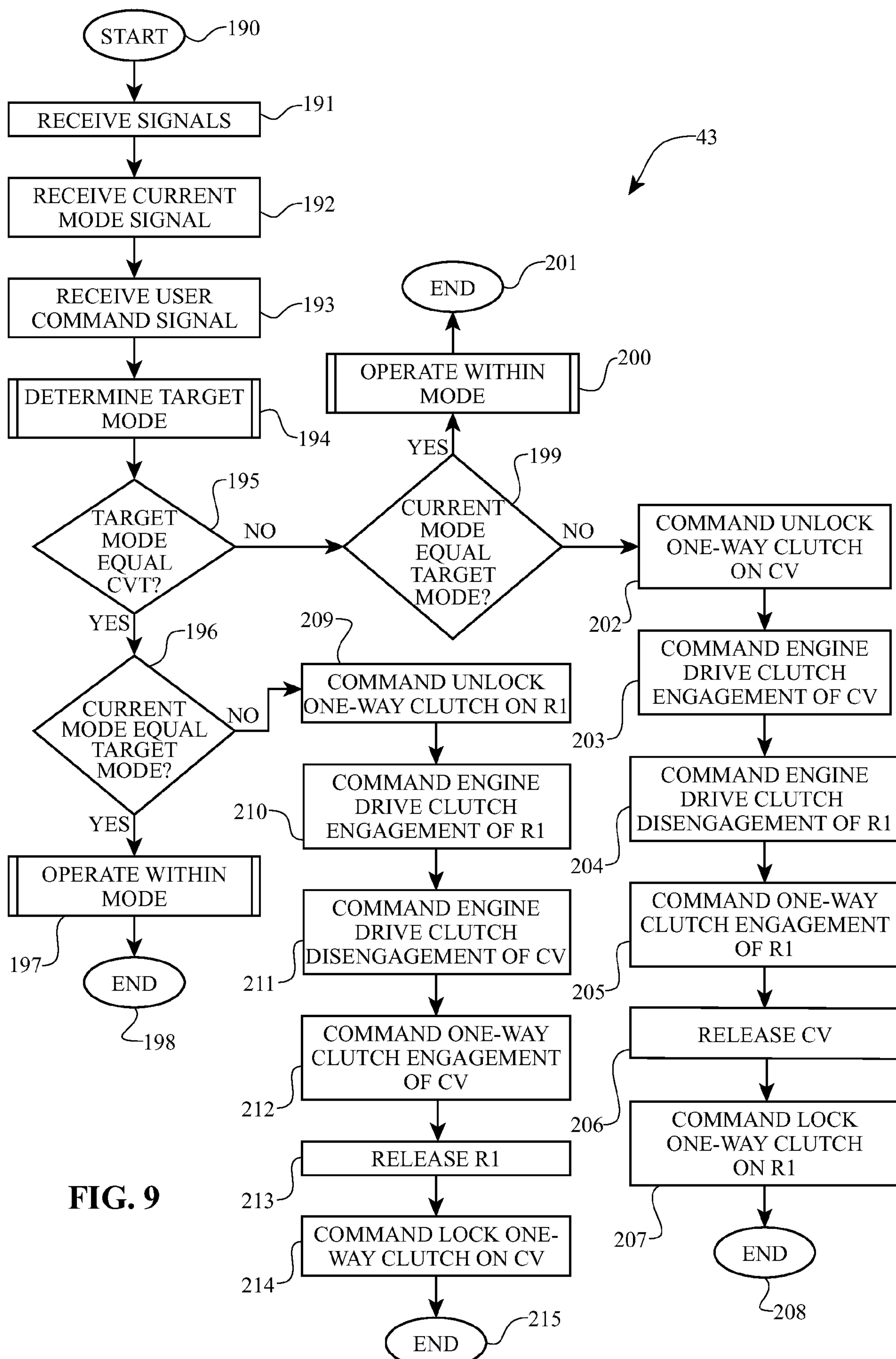
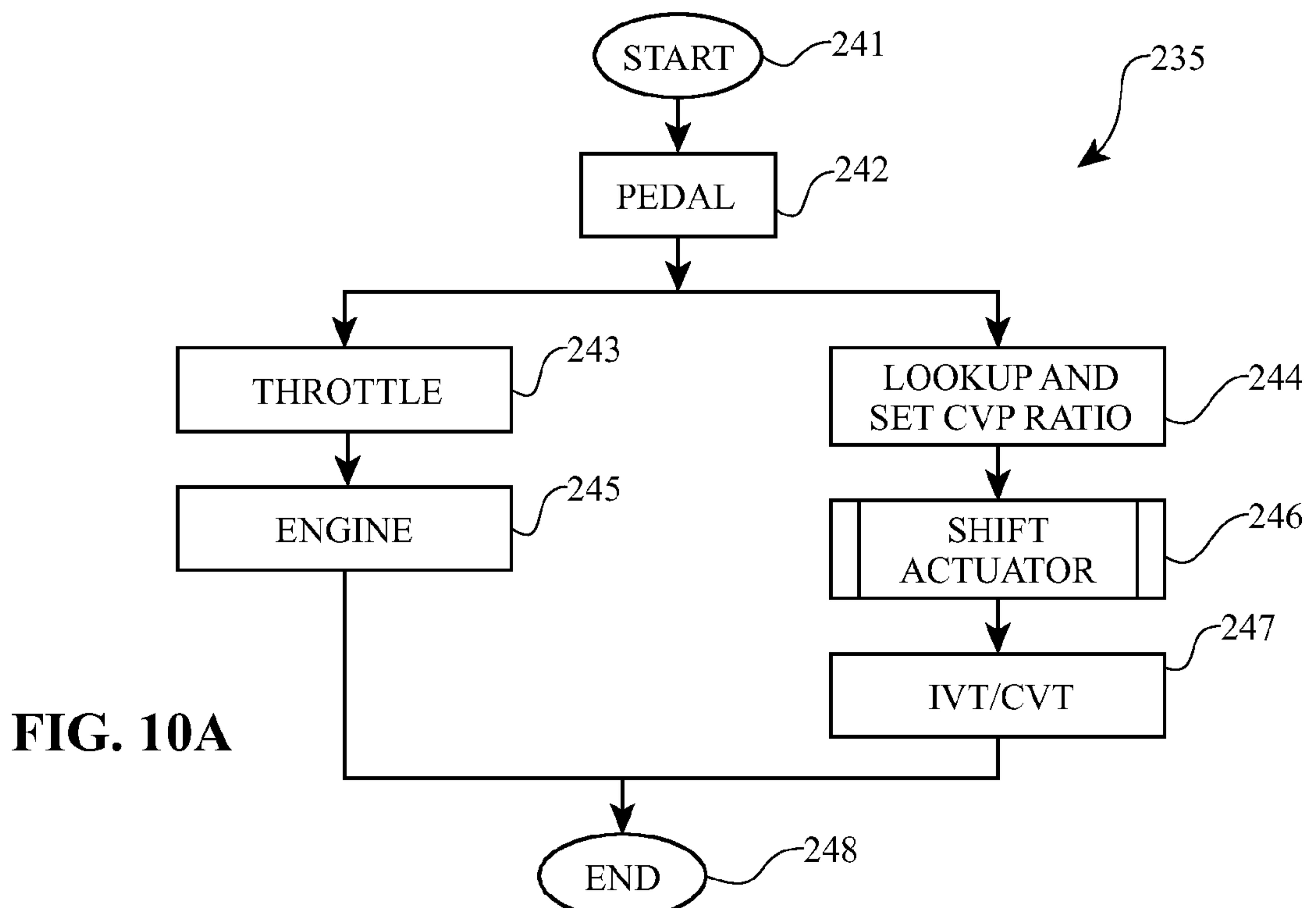
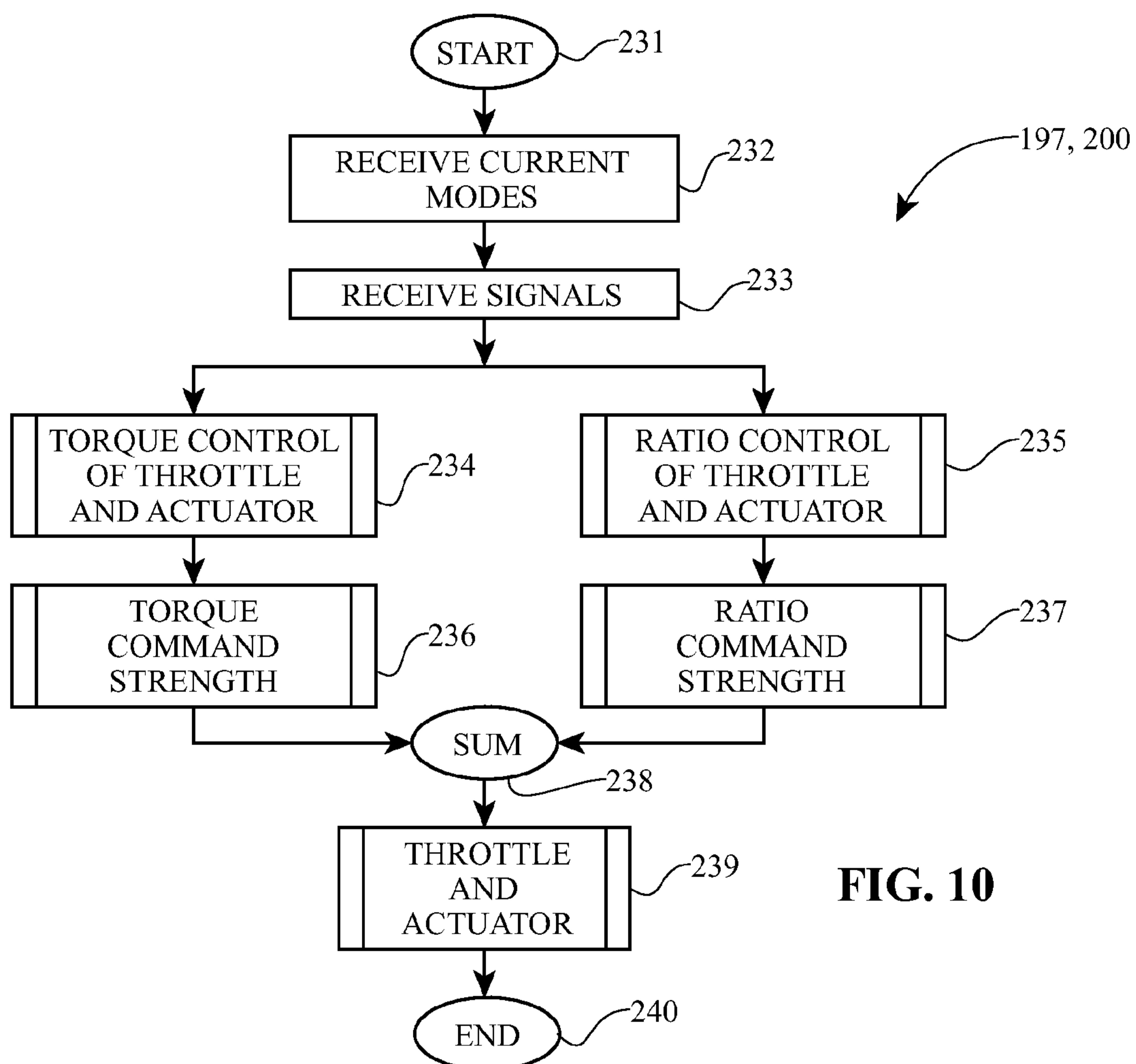


FIG. 9



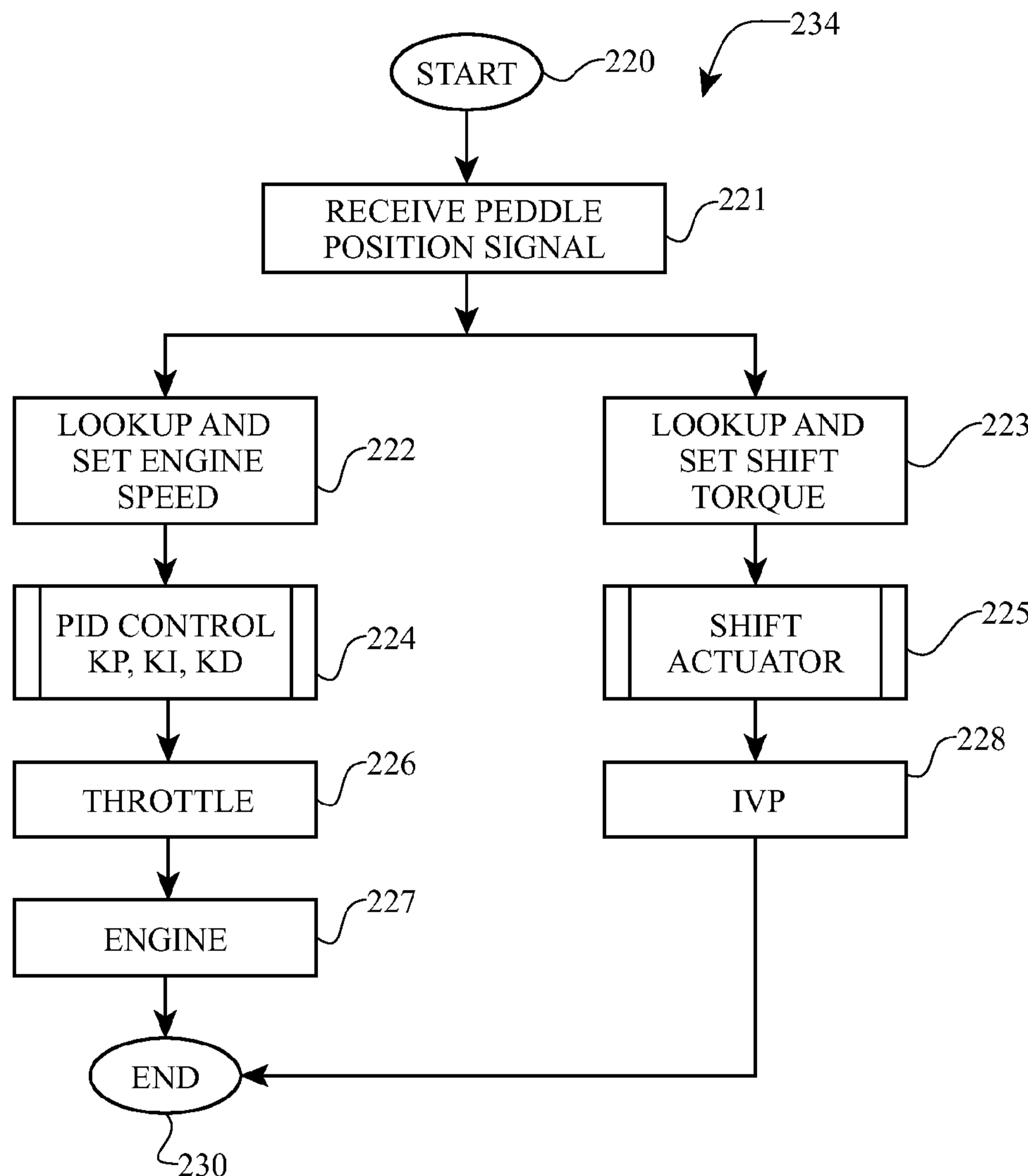
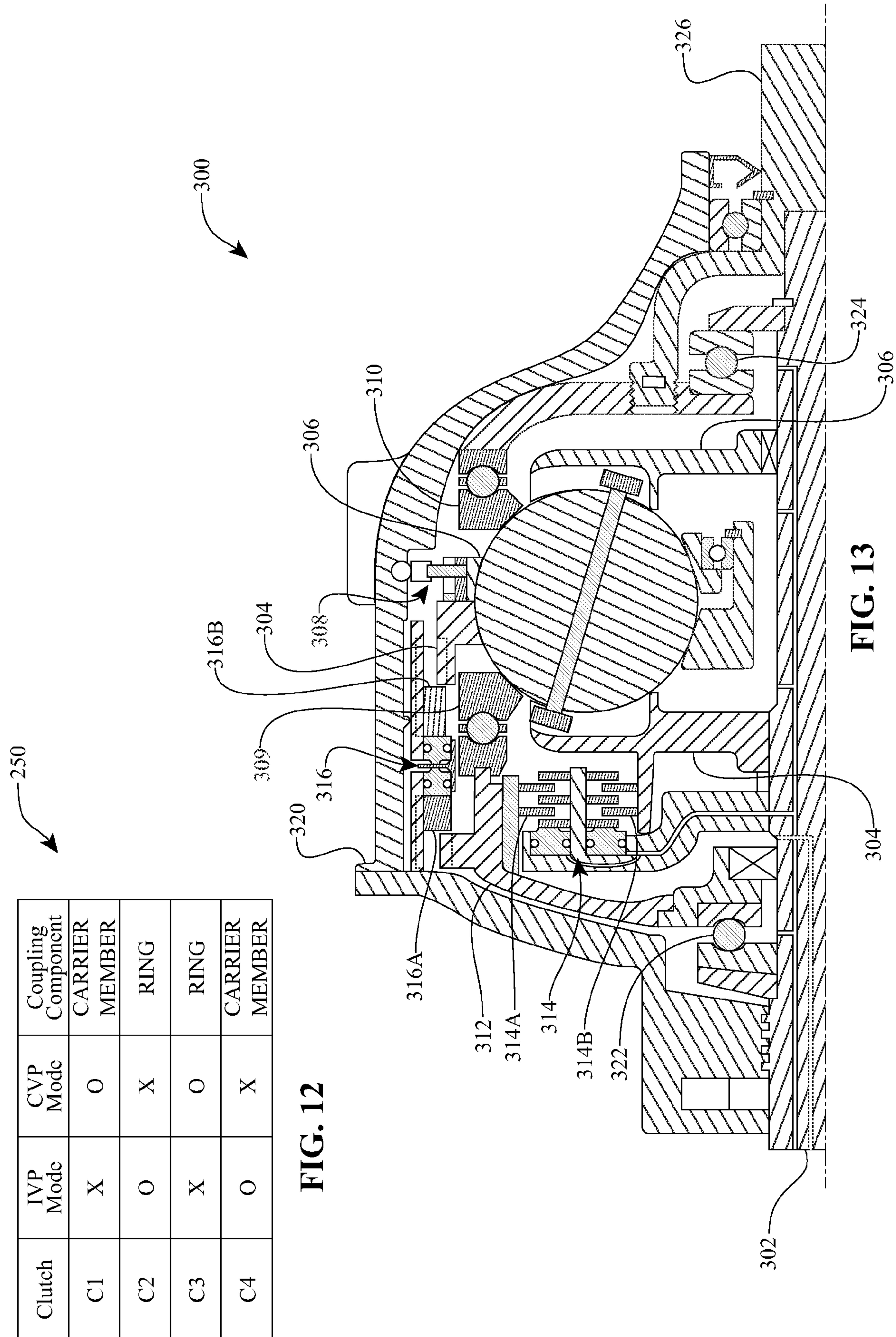


FIG. 11



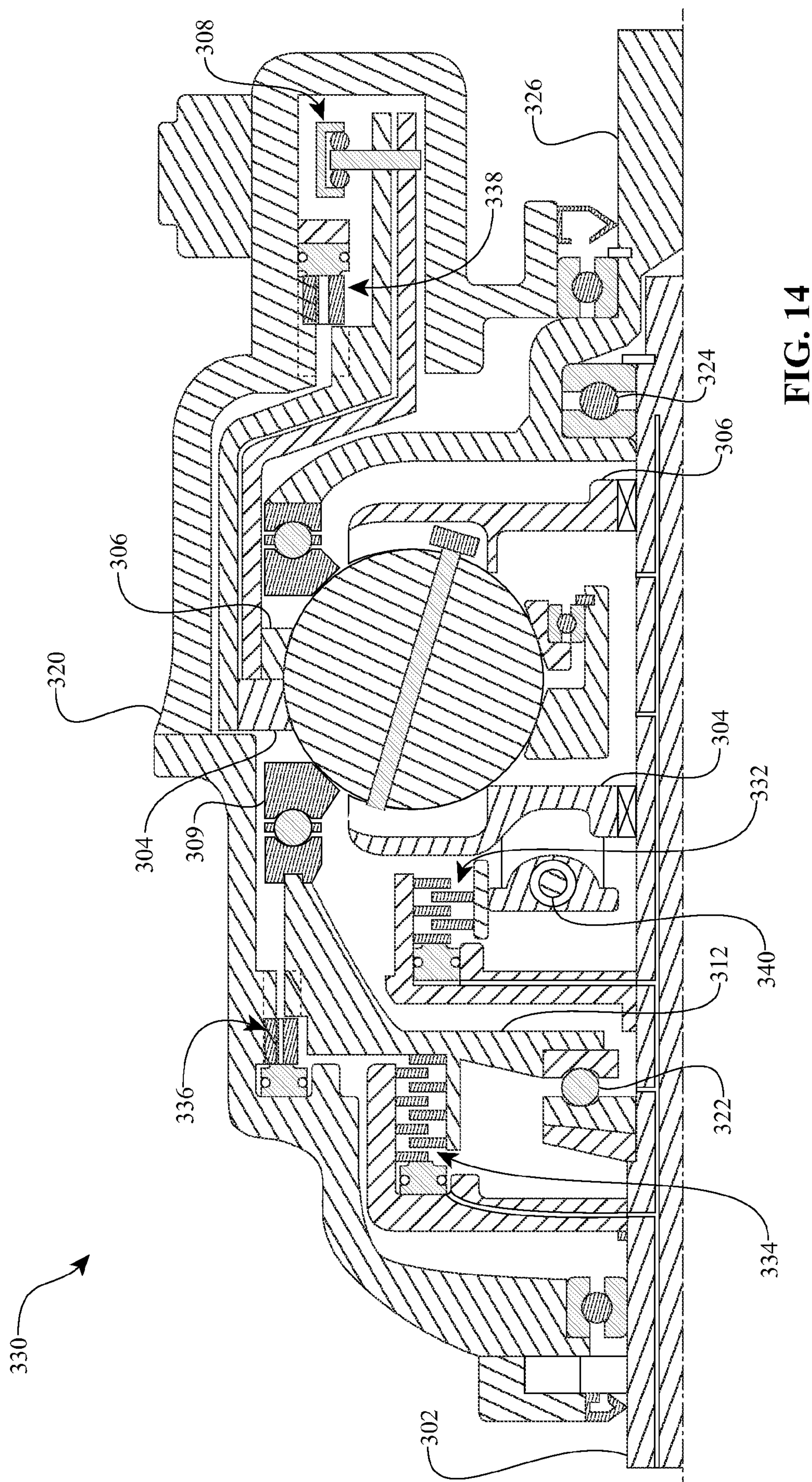


FIG. 14

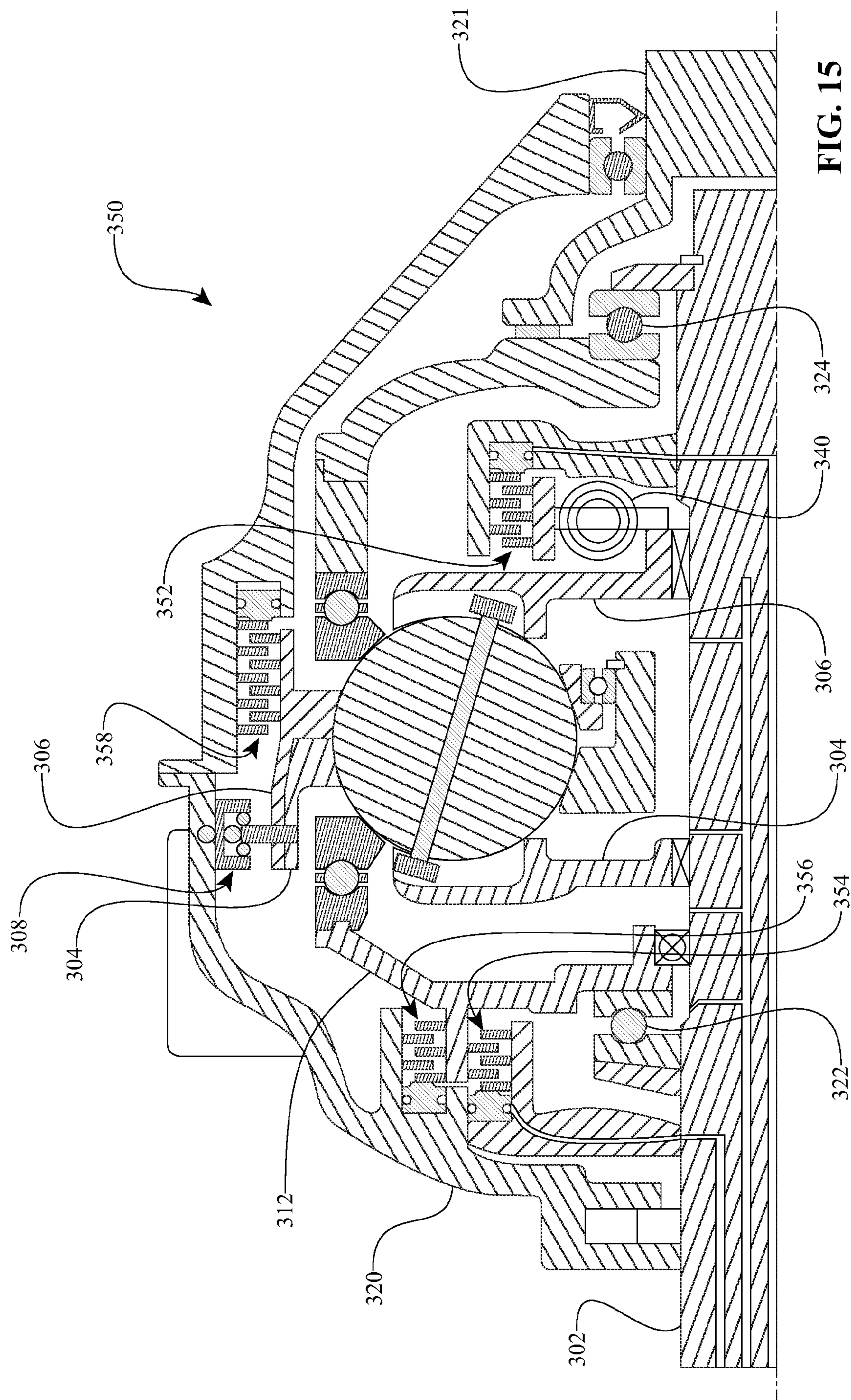


FIG. 15

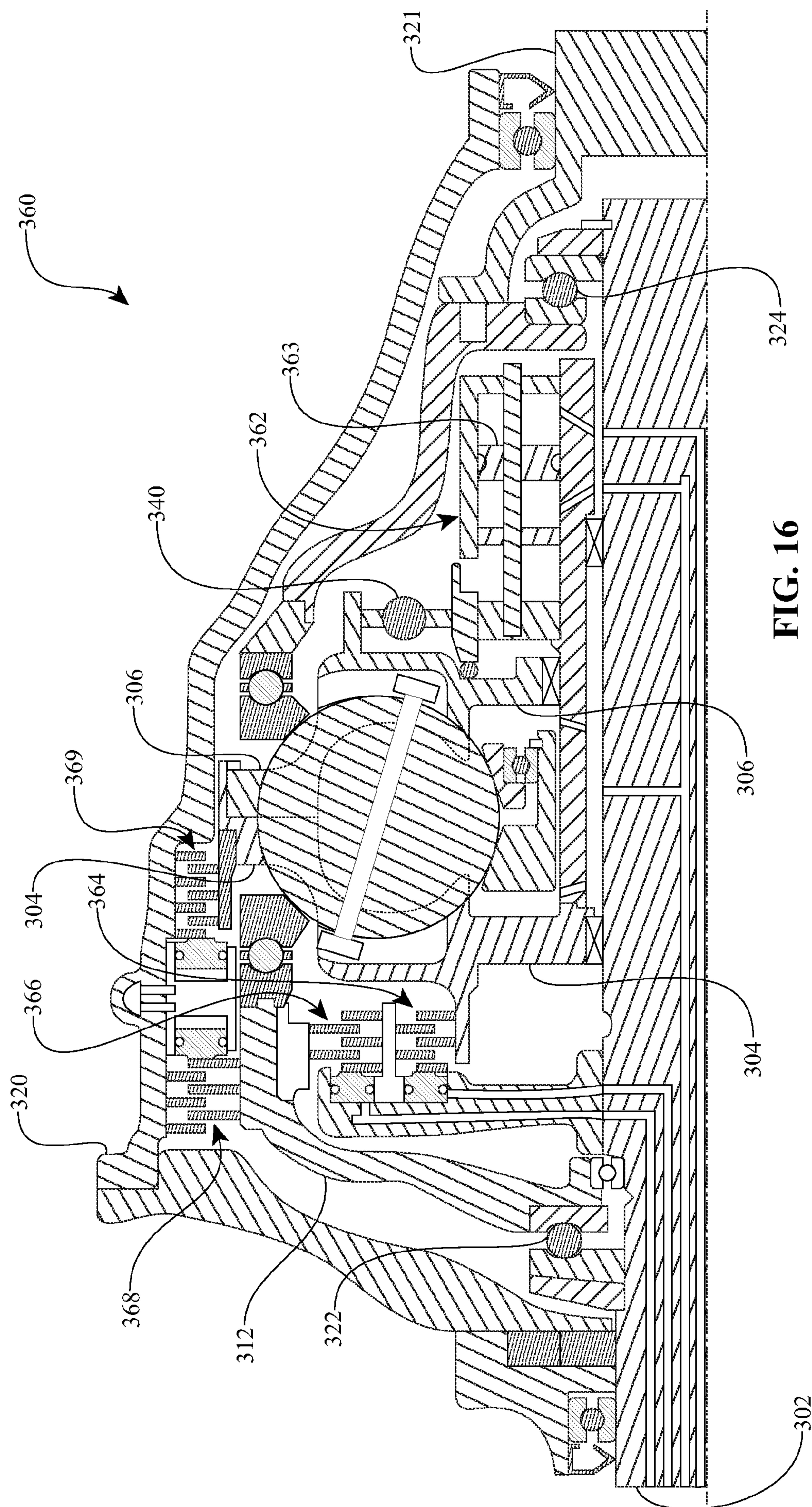


FIG. 16

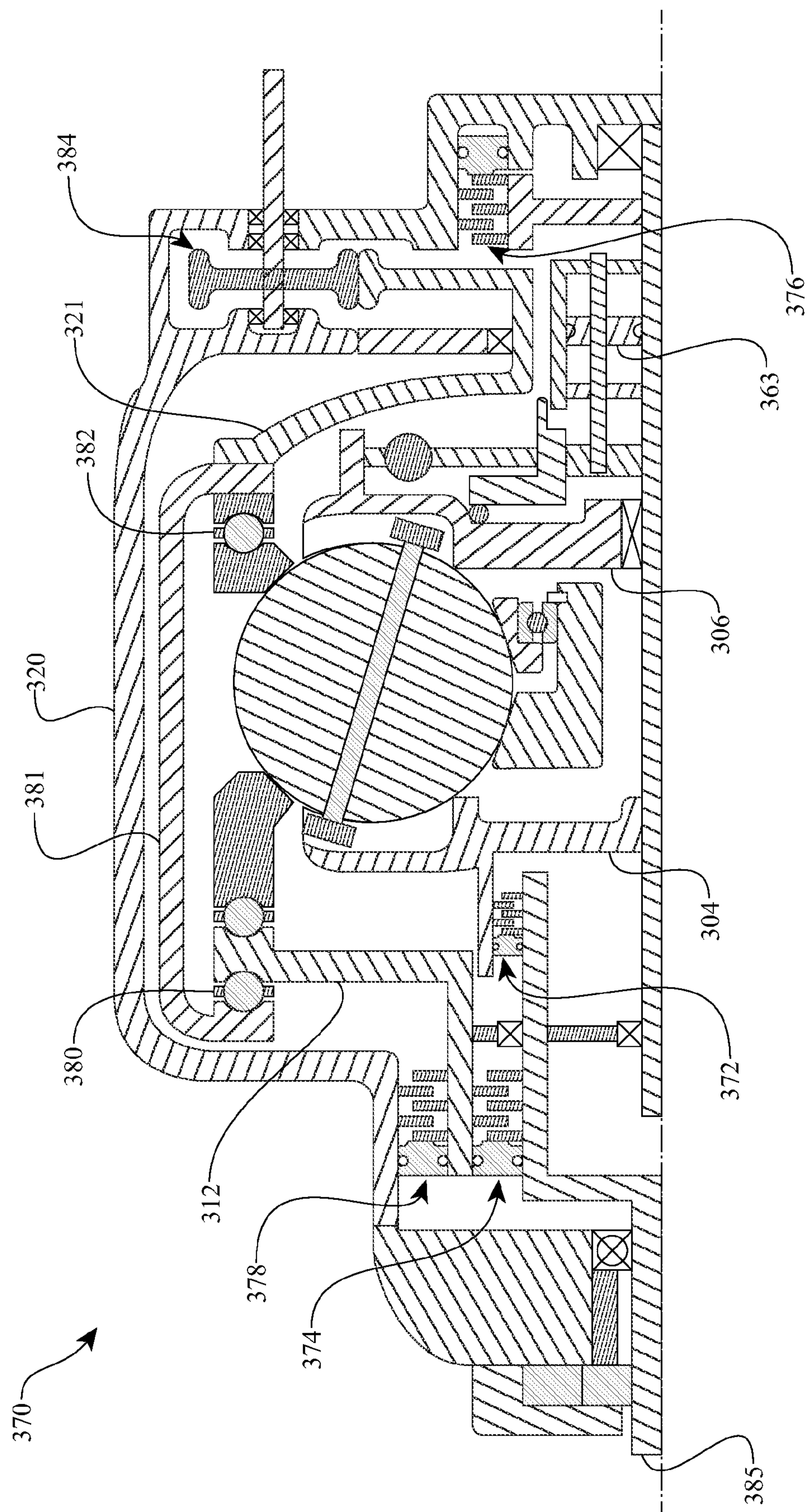


FIG. 17

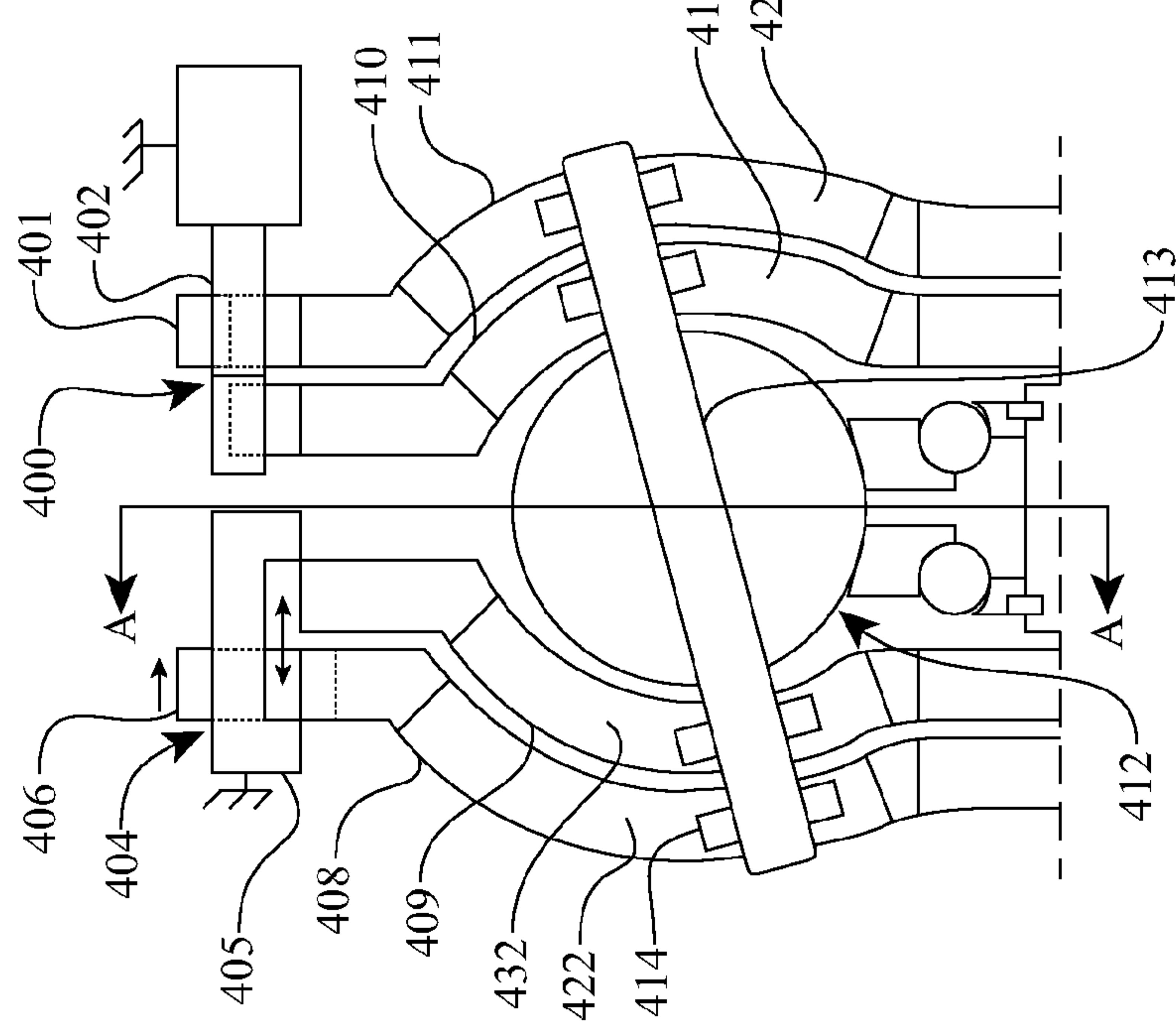


FIG. 18

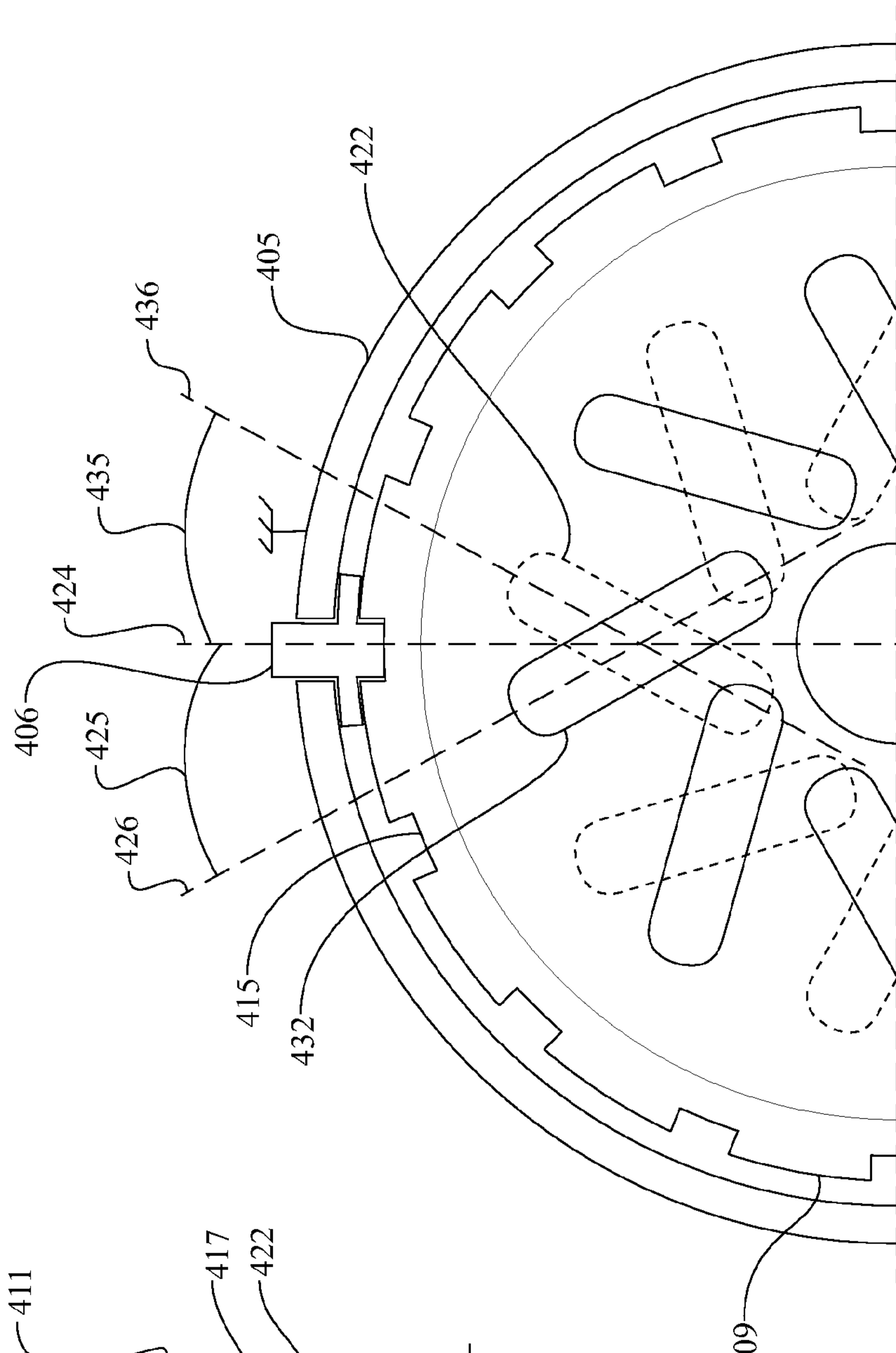
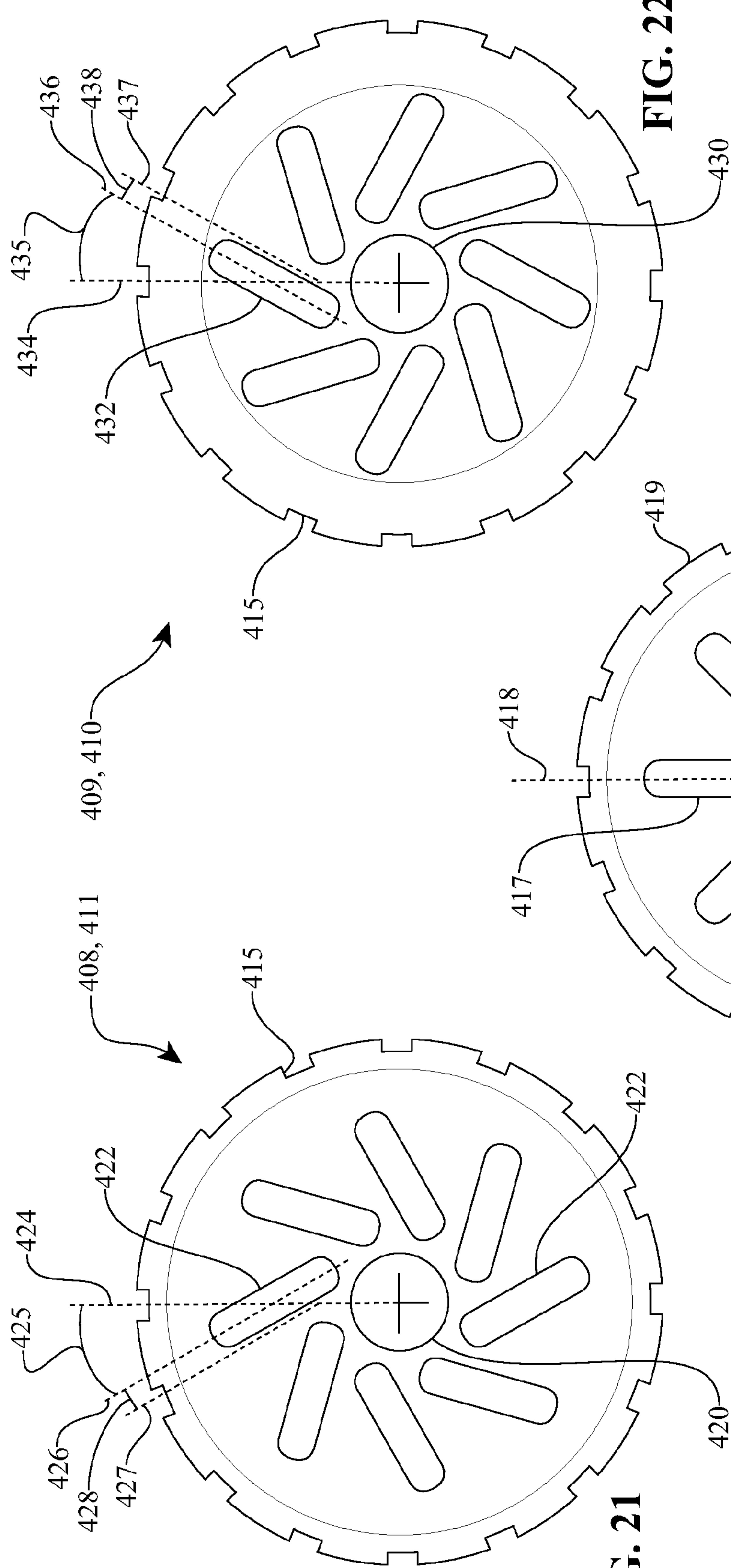


FIG. 19
Section A-A



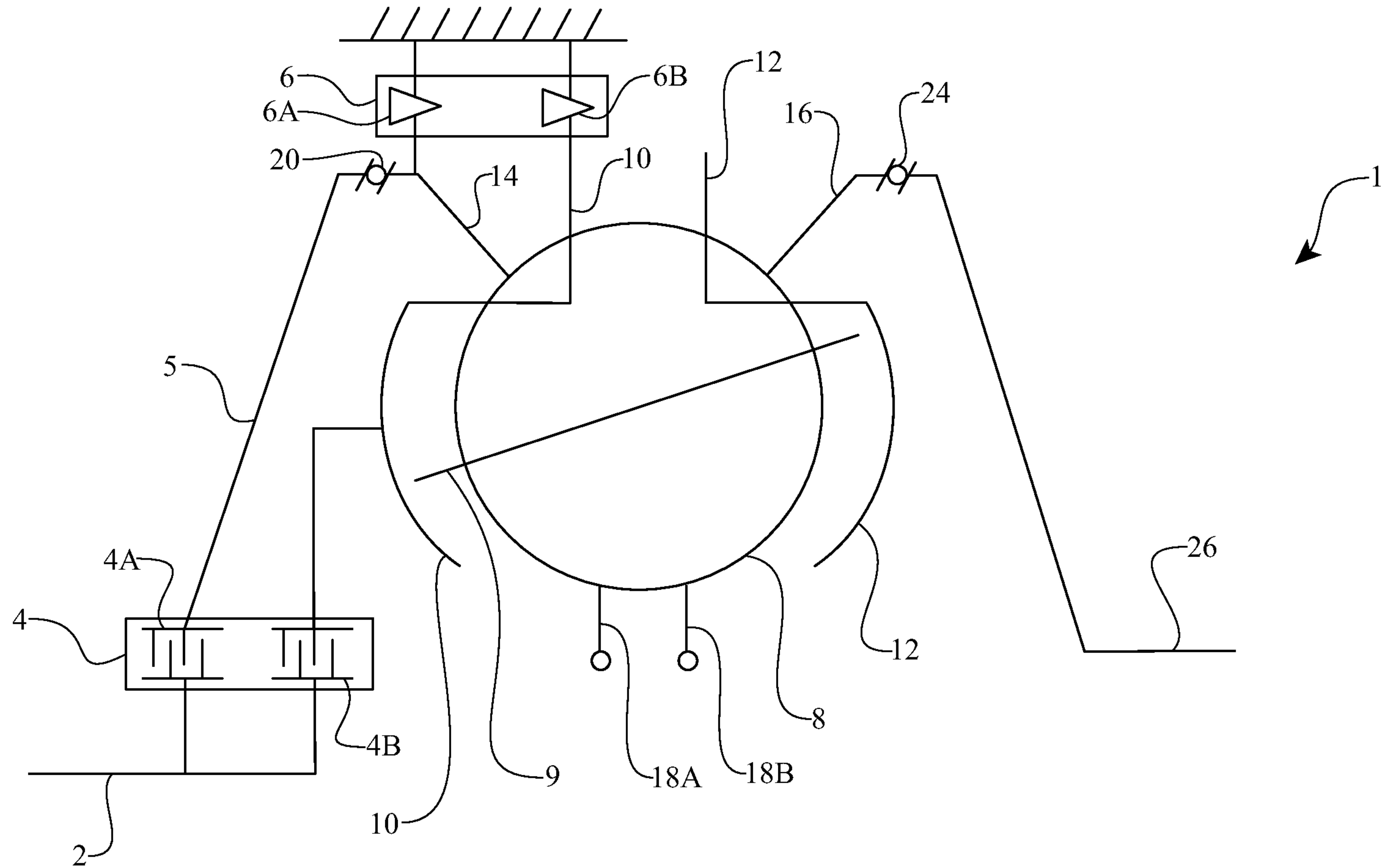


FIG. 1