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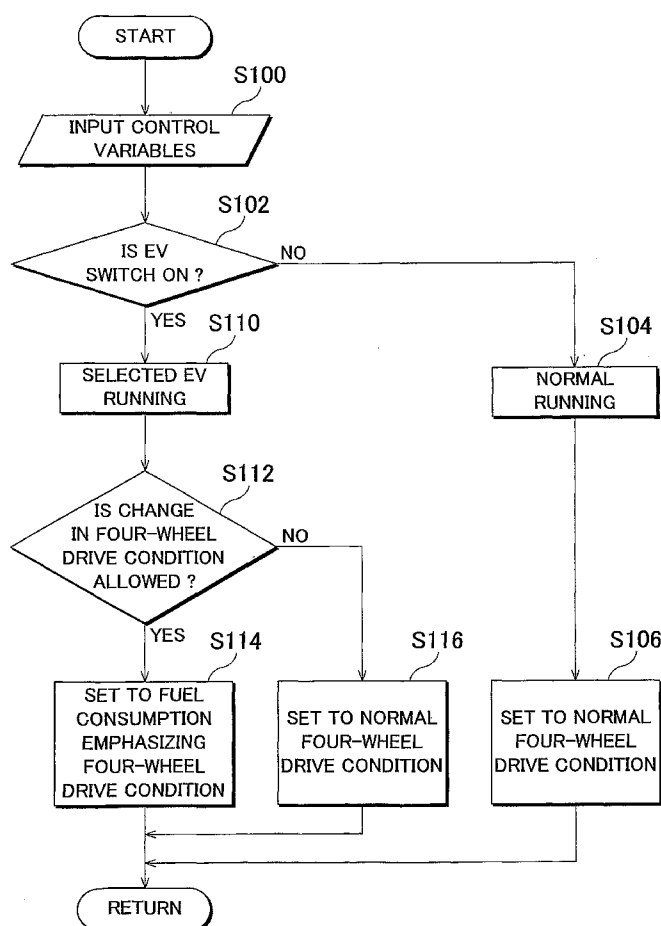
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[Continued on next page]

(54) Title: HYBRID VEHICLE AND CONTROL METHOD THEREOF



(57) Abstract: A hybrid vehicle is provided with means (60) for setting a four-wheel drive condition which is a condition for switching from two-wheel drive to four-wheel drive, and an EV switch (64) which, when turned on by an occupant of the vehicle, places the vehicle in an EV driving mode in which only an electric motor is used as the power source. The four-wheel drive condition setting means (60) changes (step S 114) the four-wheel drive condition to reduce a region in which the vehicle operates in four-wheel drive when the EV switch (64) is on (step S 102) as compared to when the EV switch (64) is off. As a result, the vehicle operates in two-wheel drive more frequently, thus reducing power consumption.

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B. FIELDS SEARCHED Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols) B60W B60K				
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C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT				
Category*	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.		
A	US 2004/134698 A1 (YAMAMOTO KAZUHISA [JP] ET AL) 15 July 2004 (2004-07-15) paragraphs [0010] - [0030] figures 1,10-14	1-6		
A	US 2001/008192 A1 (MORISAWA KUNIO [JP]) 19 July 2001 (2001-07-19) the whole document	1		
A	US 6 295 487 B1 (ONO MASAO [JP] ET AL) 25 September 2001 (2001-09-25) cited in the application the whole document	1		
A	US 2004/135527 A1 (TATARA YUSUKE [JP] ET AL) 15 July 2004 (2004-07-15) the whole document	1		
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"A" document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance "E" earlier document but published on or after the international filing date "L" document which may throw doubts on priority claim(s) or which is cited to establish the publication date of another citation or other special reason (as specified) "O" document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or other means "P" document published prior to the international filing date but later than the priority date claimed	"T" later document published after the international filing date or priority date and not in conflict with the application but cited to understand the principle or theory underlying the invention "X" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered novel or cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is taken alone "Y" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is combined with one or more other such documents, such combination being obvious to a person skilled in the art. "&" document member of the same patent family			
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