

- [54] **TRAFFIC RESPONSIVE SPEED CONTROL SYSTEM**
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- [22] Filed: **Nov. 4, 1970**
- [21] Appl. No.: **86,922**
- [52] U.S. Cl. **343/7 ED**, 180/82.1
- [51] Int. Cl. **G01s 9/04**, G01s 9/46
- [58] Field of Search **343/7 ED**; 180/82.1, 98, 105; 354/4

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[57] **ABSTRACT**

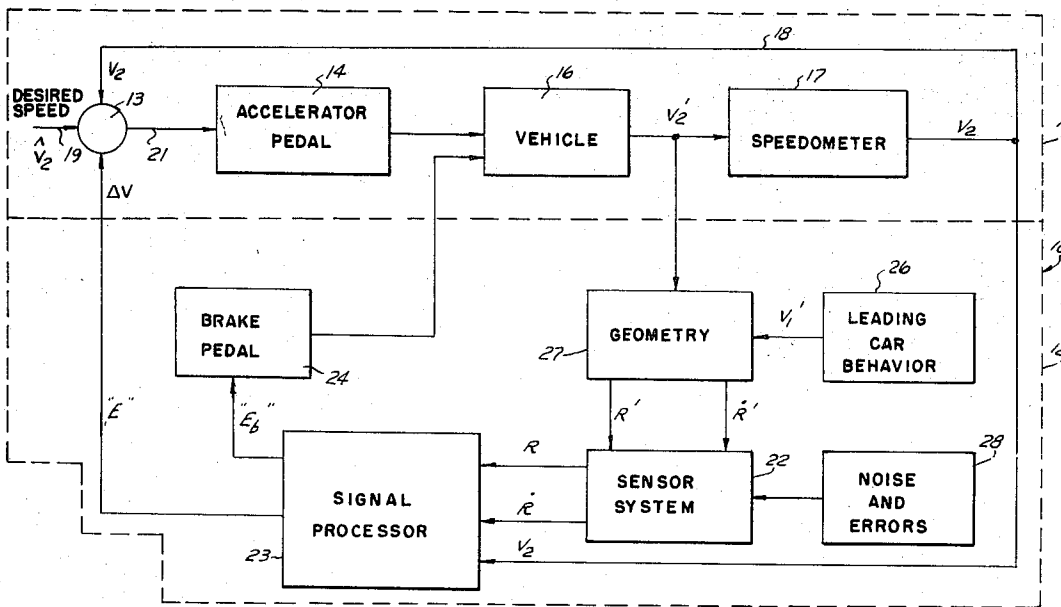
A system for automatically adjusting the speed of a vehicle to existing traffic conditions is described. The system functions in conjunction with an automatic speed control system to maintain a safe following distance between vehicles traveling in the same direction. A range and range-rate sensor generates signals which are indicative of the distance between the vehicles, as well as the closing or opening velocity of the vehicles. These signals are used to accelerate or decelerate the trailing vehicle to maintain a safe and optimum distance between the vehicles in accordance with the speed of the lead vehicle. The system is non-cooperative, so that the lead vehicle need not be similarly equipped in order for the system to operate. The system is capable of overriding the speed control system within the vehicle but can be overridden by the driver when a deceleration or acceleration decision is executed. Although the system can override the speed control system, the speed set into the speed control system can not be exceeded except by driver override. However, overriding of the speed control system by the invention system or by driver override does not destroy the speed set by the driver.

[56] **References Cited**

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30 Claims, 5 Drawing Figures



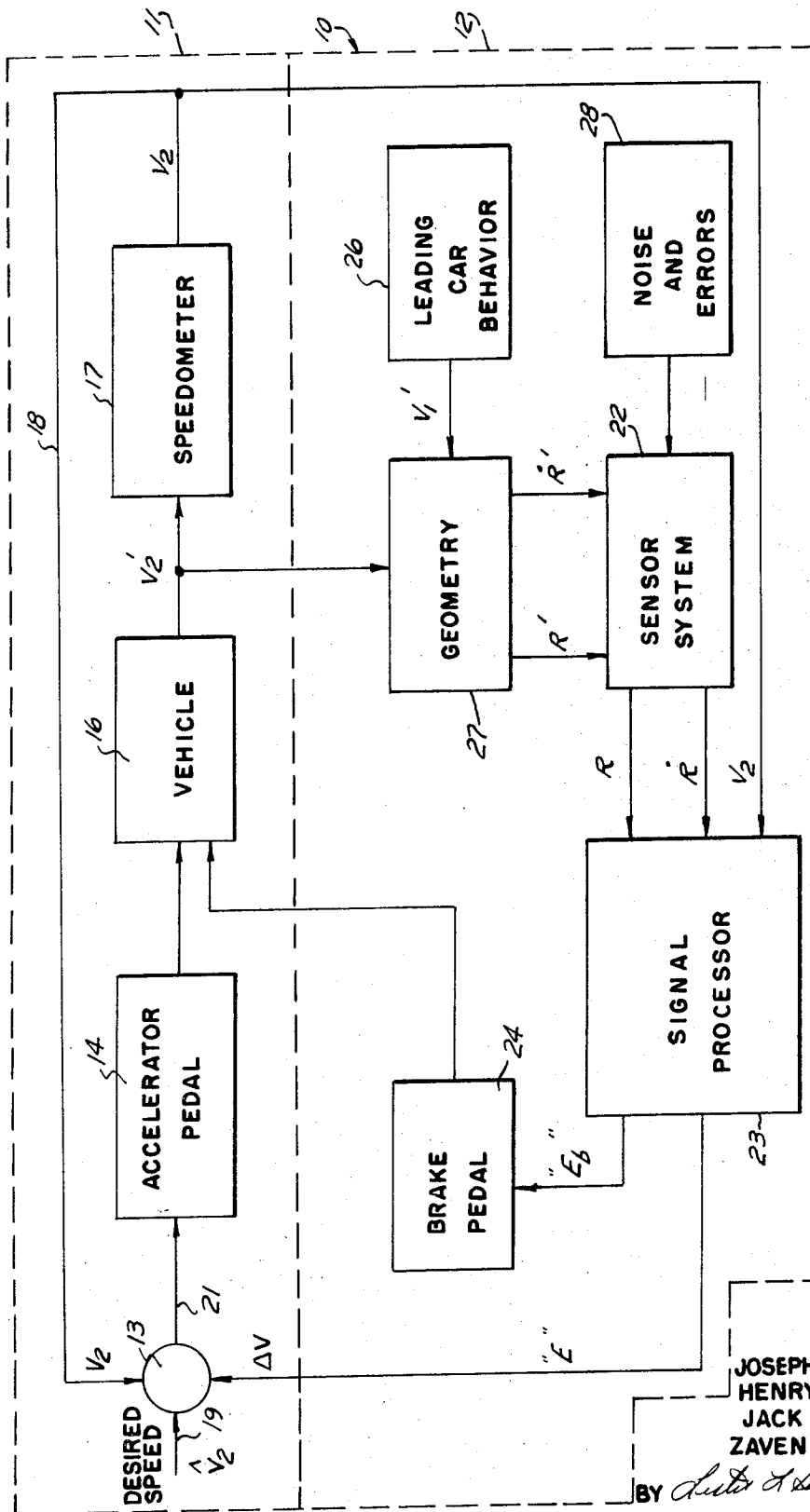


FIG. 1

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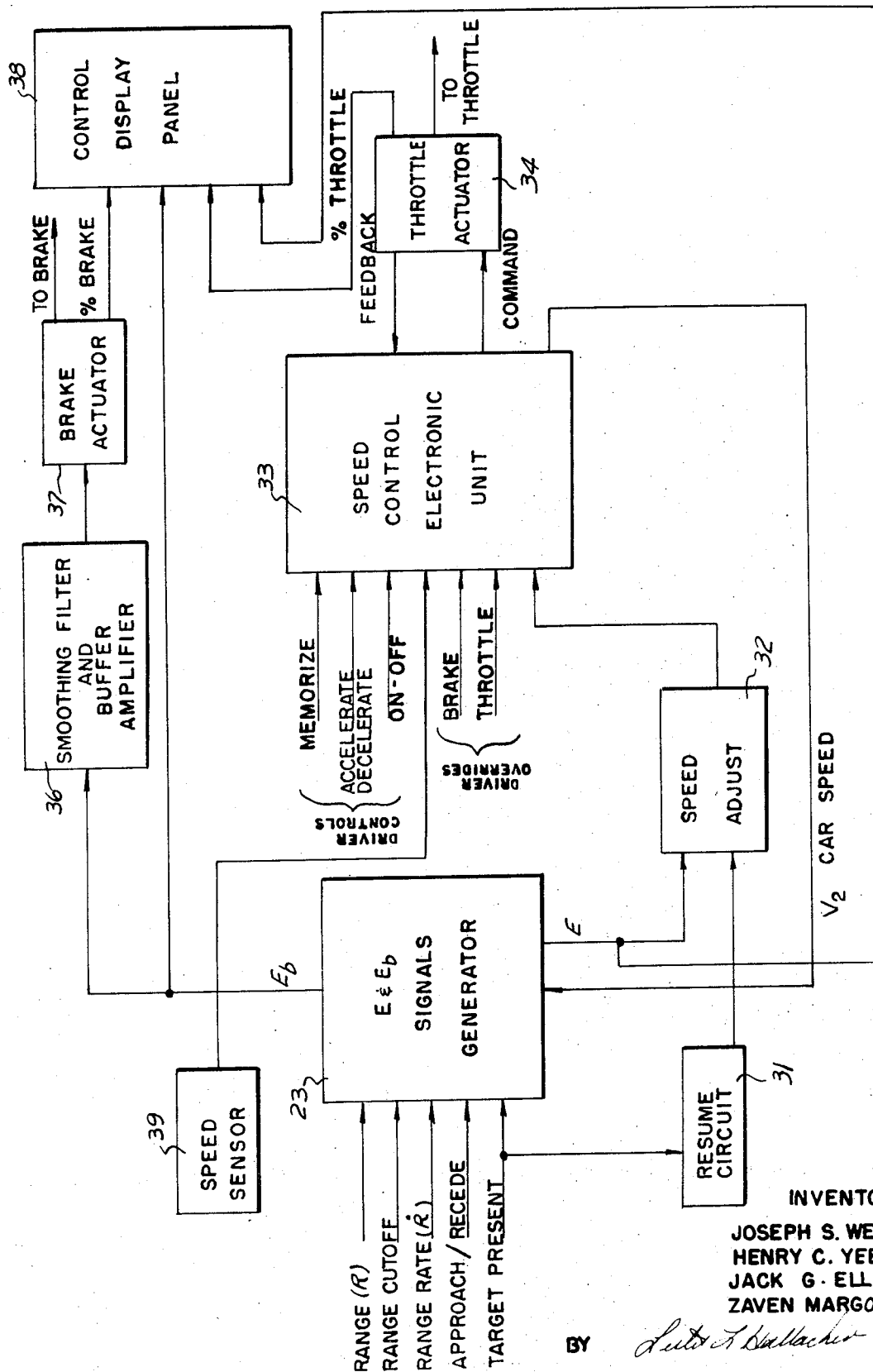


FIG. 2

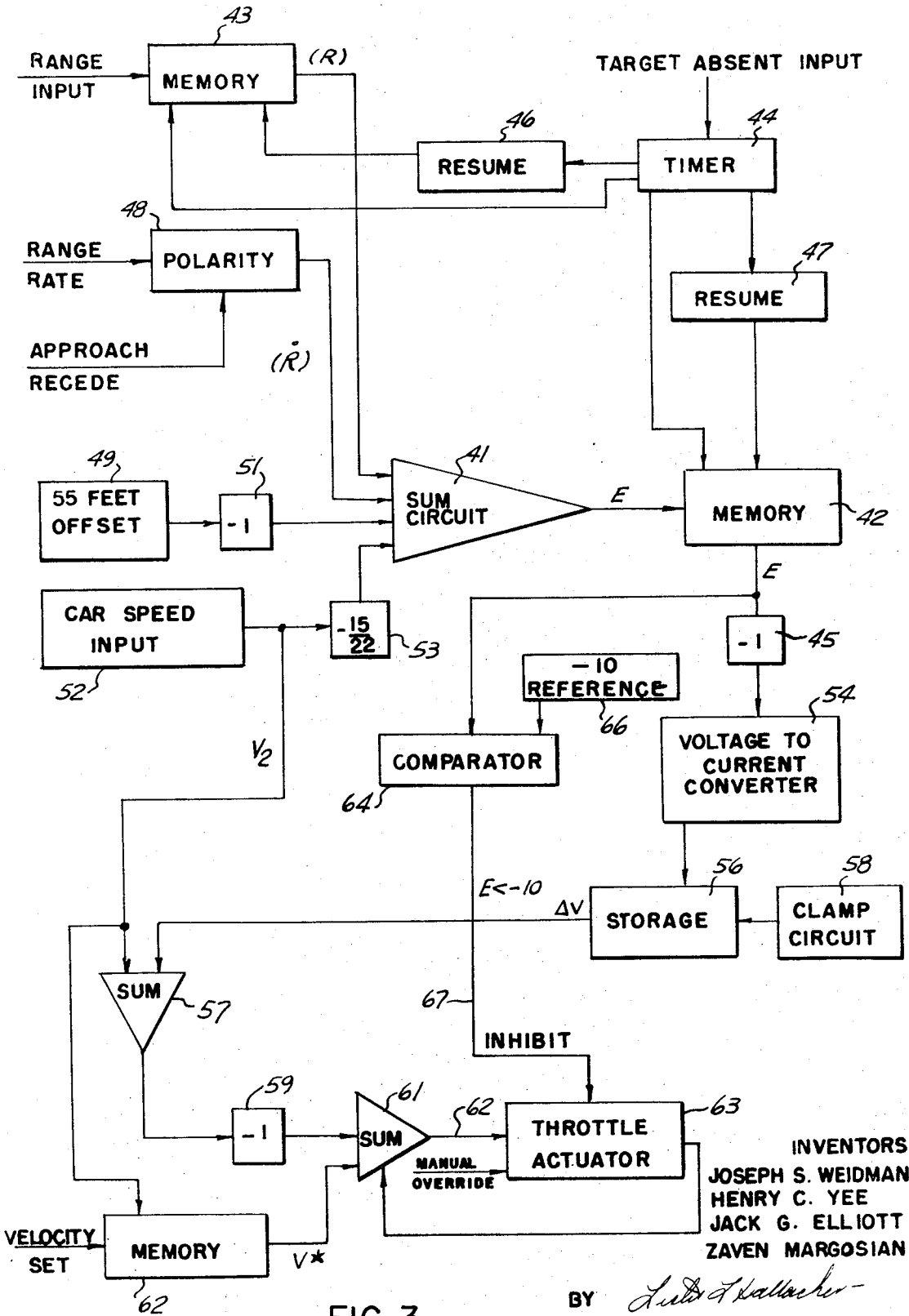
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FIG. 3

FIG. 4

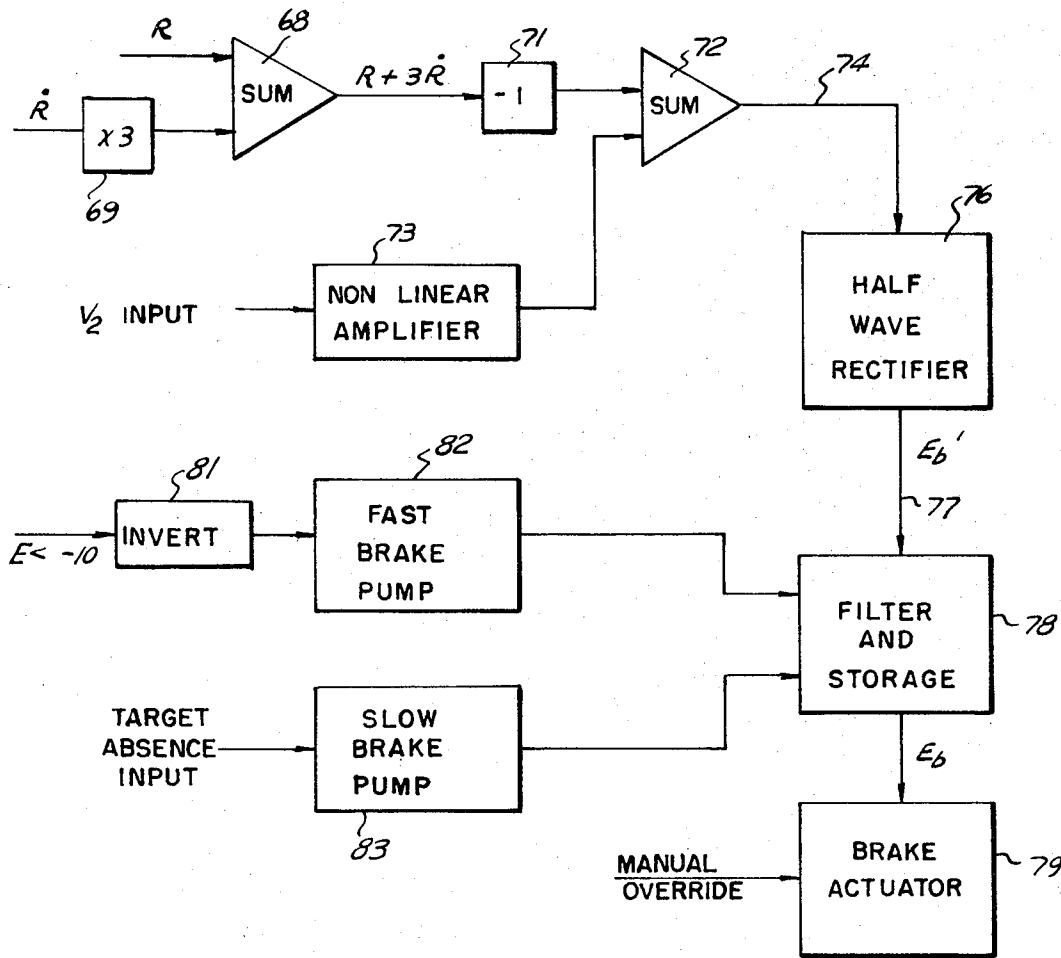
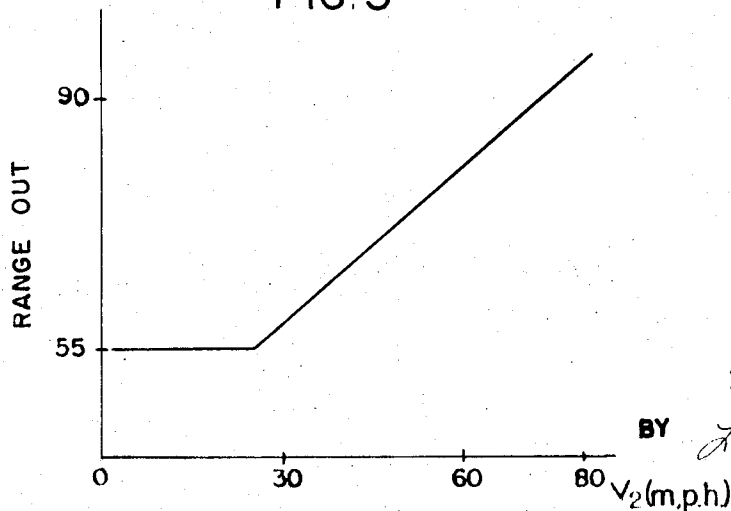


FIG. 5



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