

[54] **MOBILE ROBOT STEERING METHOD AND CONTROL DEVICE**

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[21] Appl. No.: **09/015,312**

[57] **ABSTRACT**

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A robot is provided to run so that a trace of the robot efficiently covers a given area according to the detection of a boundary of the area. A spiral pattern running, wherein a radius of the spiral is gradually increased, is started at a desired location in the area and is paused upon the detection of a boundary wall by sensors. Then, a random pattern running, which includes turning to depart from the wall and running forward, is conducted. After the turning has been repeated a predetermined number of times through simulations, the spiral pattern running is resumed at a location spaced from the last turning spot by a predetermined distance or a predetermined length of running time.

[30] **Foreign Application Priority Data**

Jan. 29, 1997 [JP] Japan ..... 9-029768

[51] **Int. Cl.<sup>7</sup>** ..... **G06F 165/00**

[52] **U.S. Cl.** ..... **701/23; 701/25; 701/26**

[58] **Field of Search** ..... **701/23, 25, 26**

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**19 Claims, 13 Drawing Sheets**

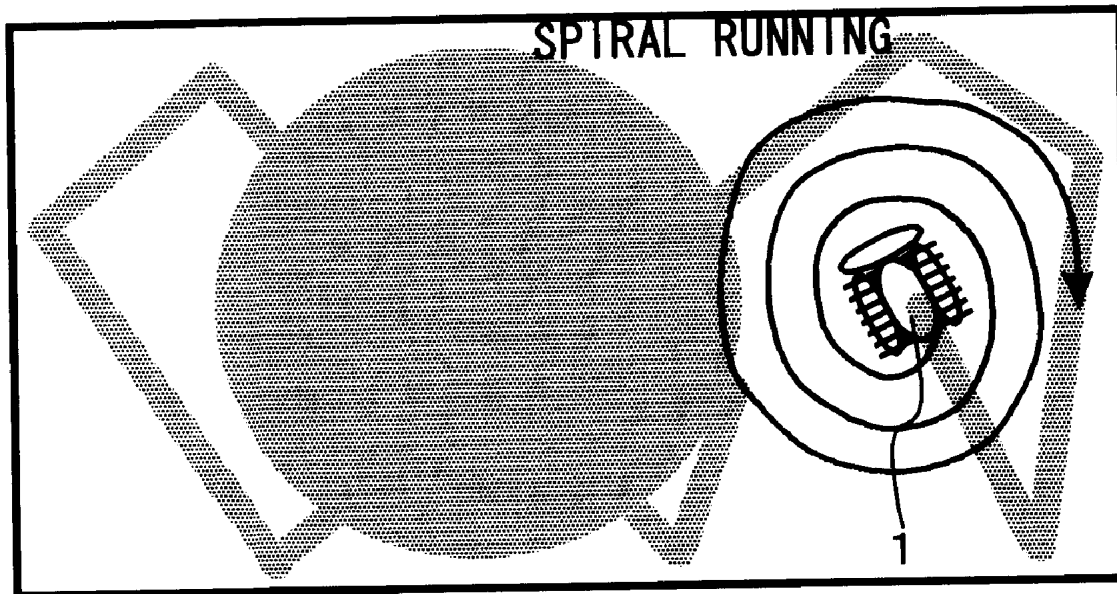


FIG. 1

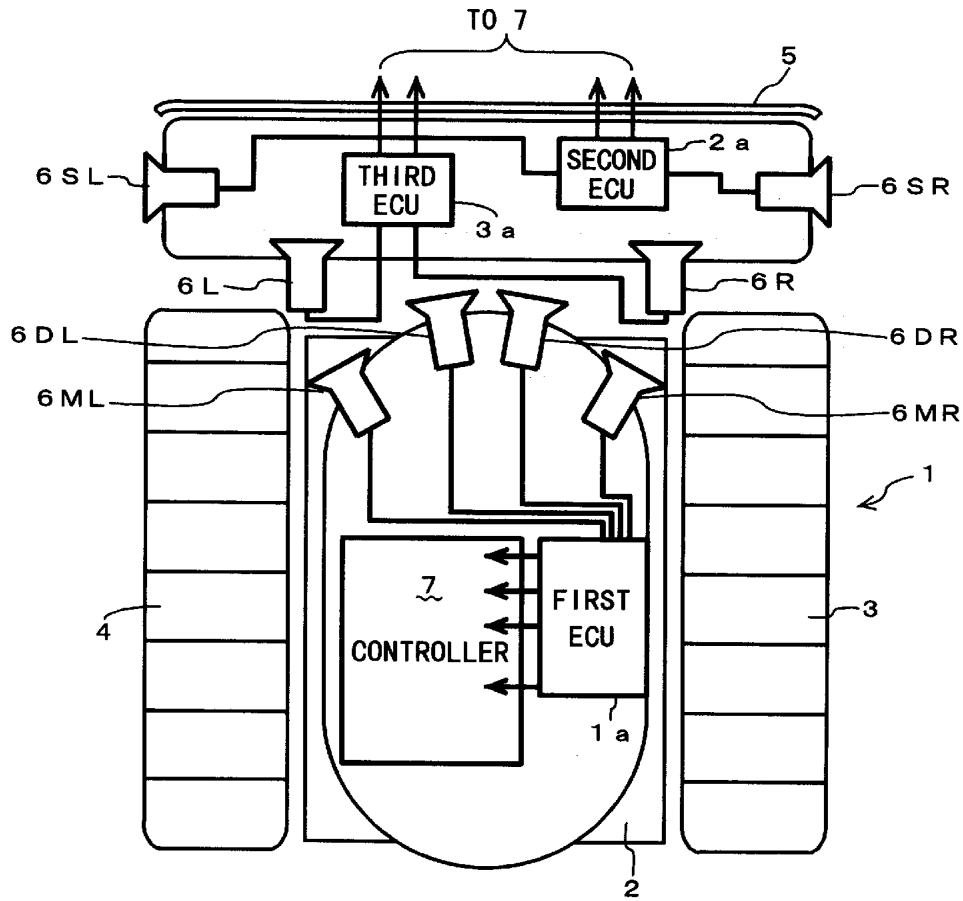


FIG. 2

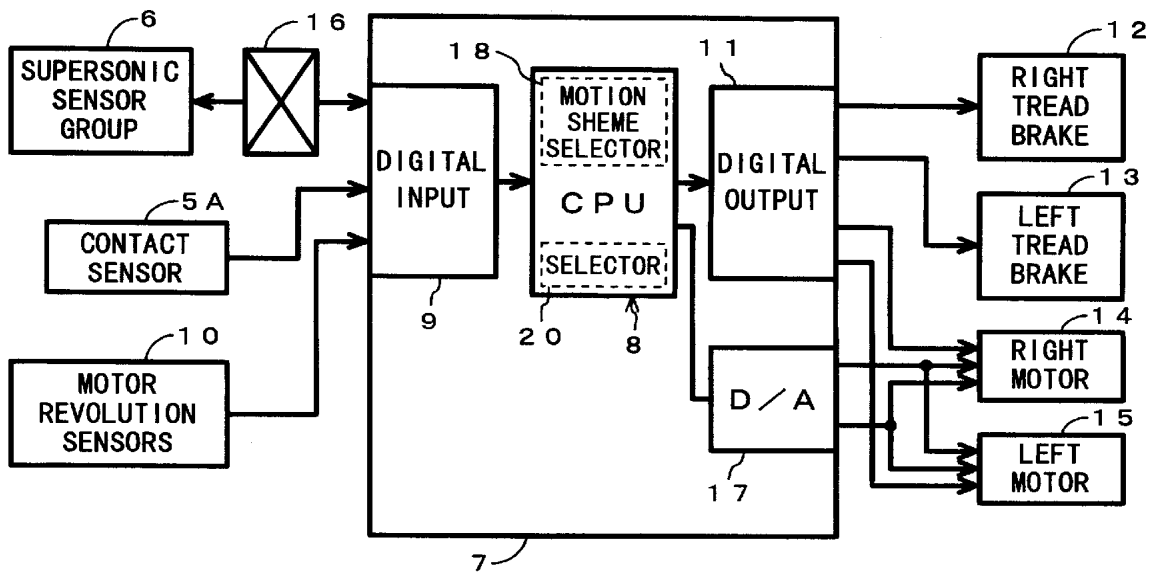


FIG. 3

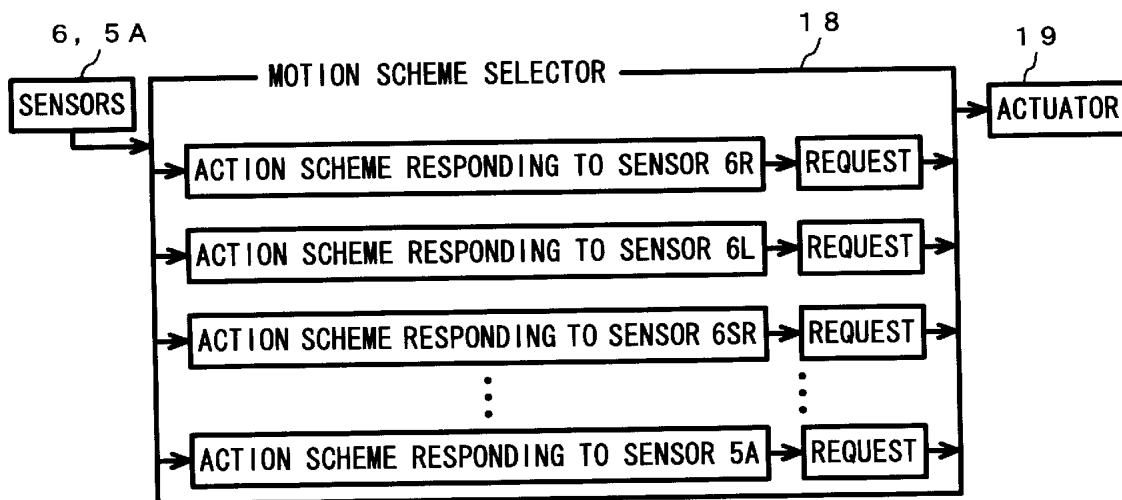


FIG. 4

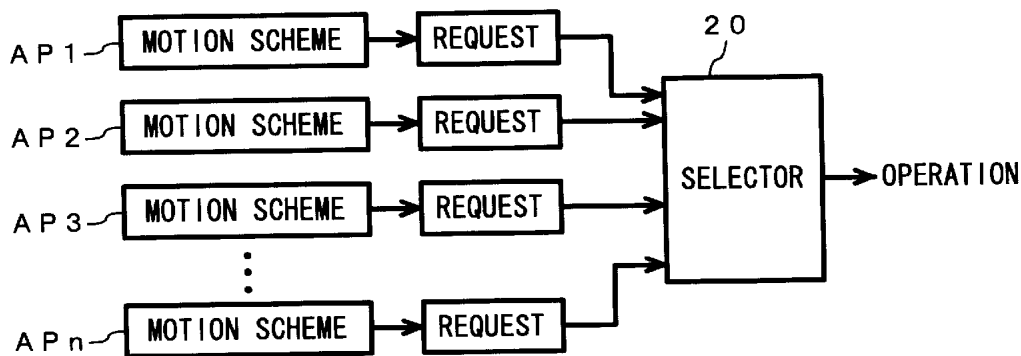


FIG. 5A

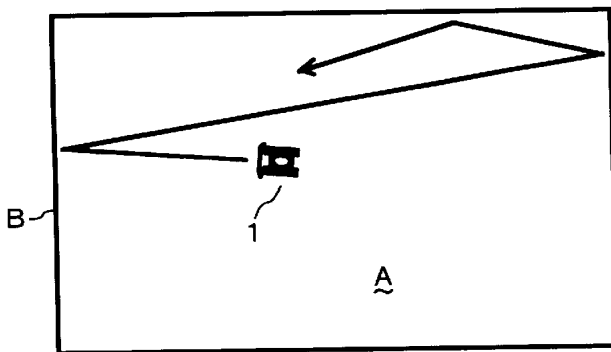


FIG. 5B

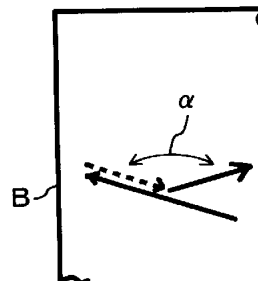


FIG. 6B

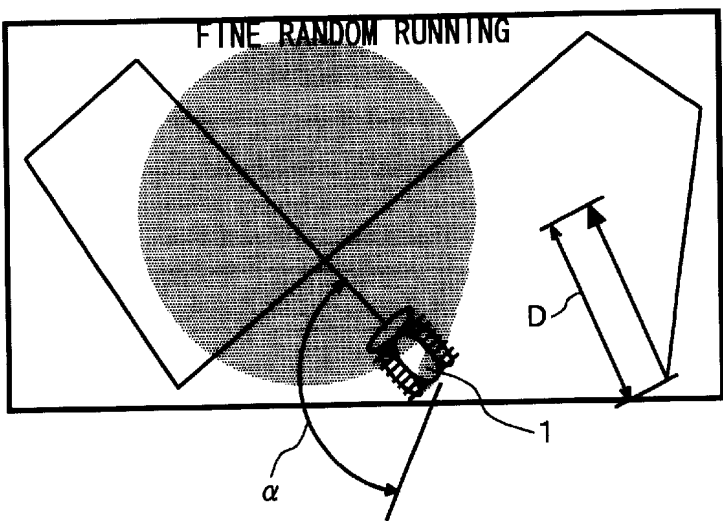


FIG. 6A

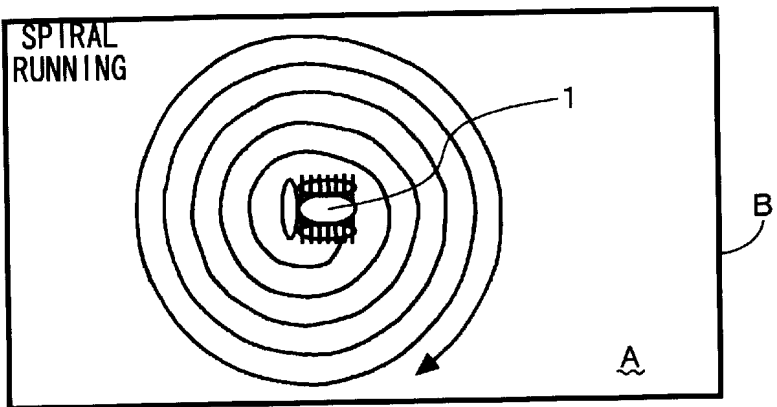


FIG. 6C

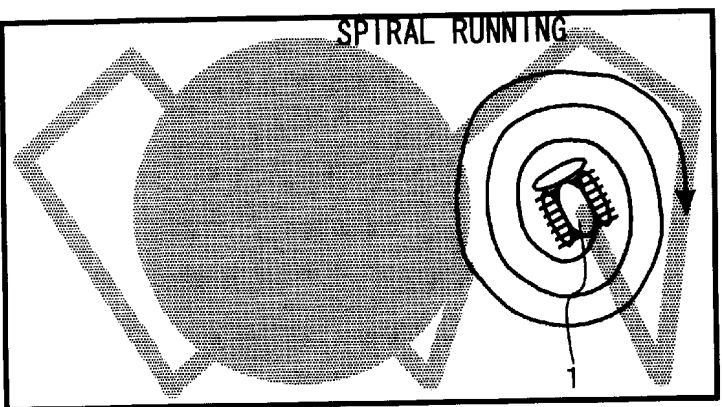


FIG. 7A

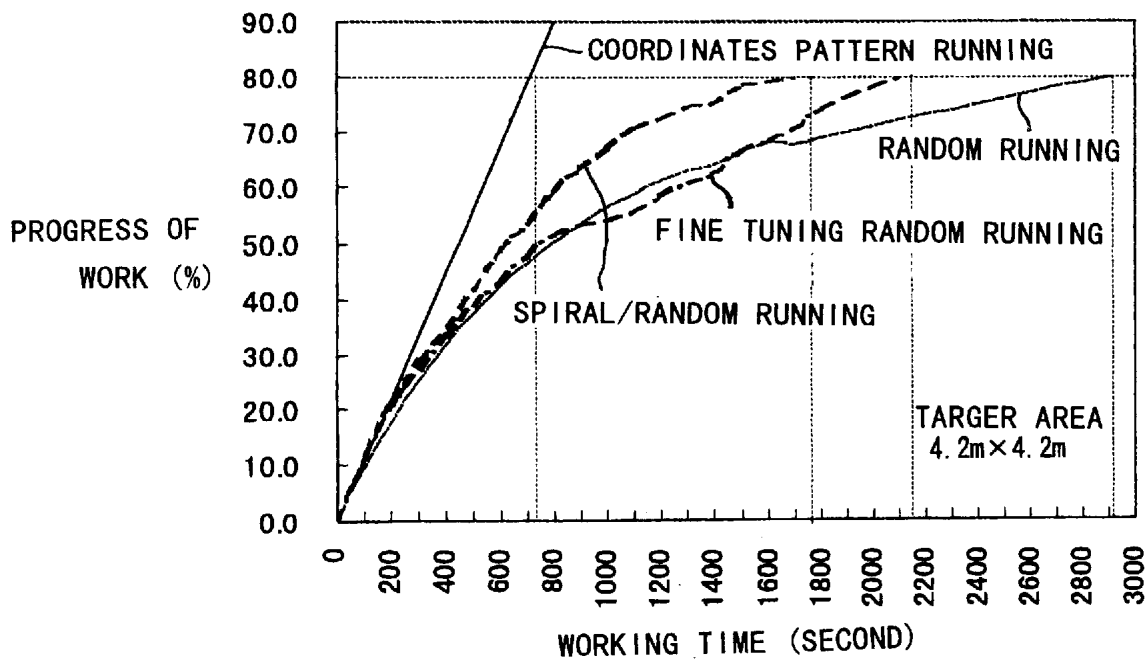
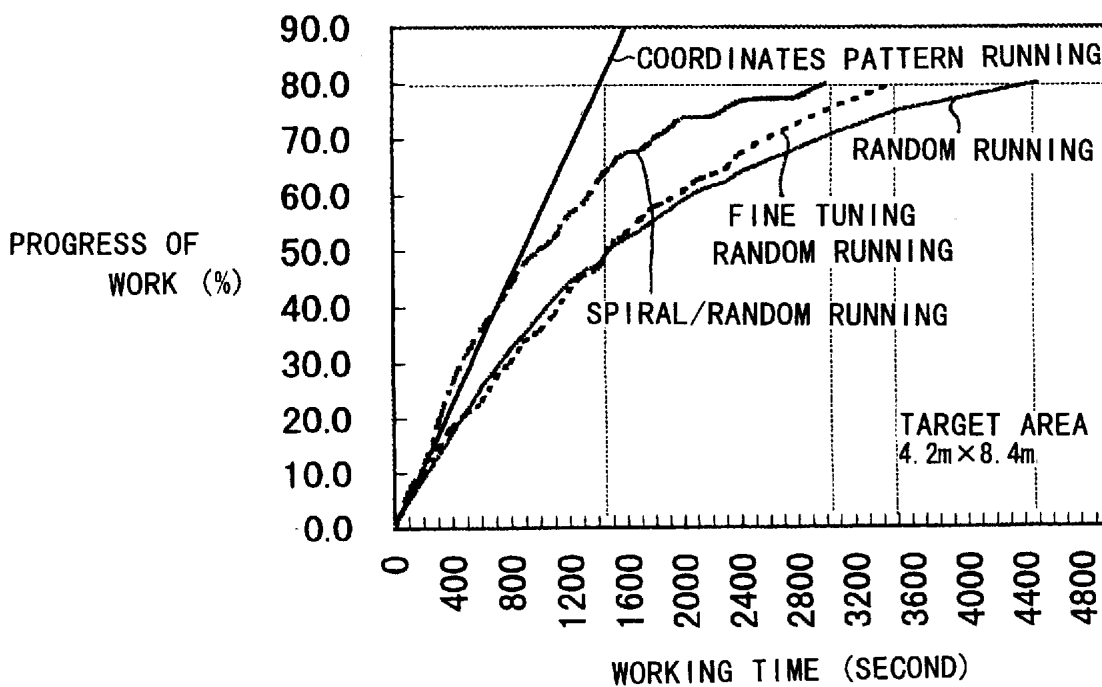


FIG. 7B



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