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(19) **United States**(12) **Patent Application Publication****Kira et al.**(10) **Pub. No.: US 2004/0069548 A1**(43) **Pub. Date:****Apr. 15, 2004**(54) **HYBRID VEHICLE**(30) **Foreign Application Priority Data**(75) Inventors: **Nobuhiro Kira**, Saitama (JP); **Tetsuya Hasebe**, Saitama (JP); **Ryo Nishikawa**, Saitama (JP)

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**PLLC****Suite 400****1050 Connecticut Avenue, N.W.****Washington, DC 20036-5339 (US)**(57) **ABSTRACT**

In a hybrid vehicle in which front wheels are driven by an engine and a front motor, and rear wheels are driven by a main rear motor and a sub rear motor, both main rear motor and the sub rear motor are driven when a large driving force is required as when the vehicle is driven at low speed to haul a trailer or the like or to run on a sandy ground, whereas when the required driving force is small, only the main rear motor is driven.

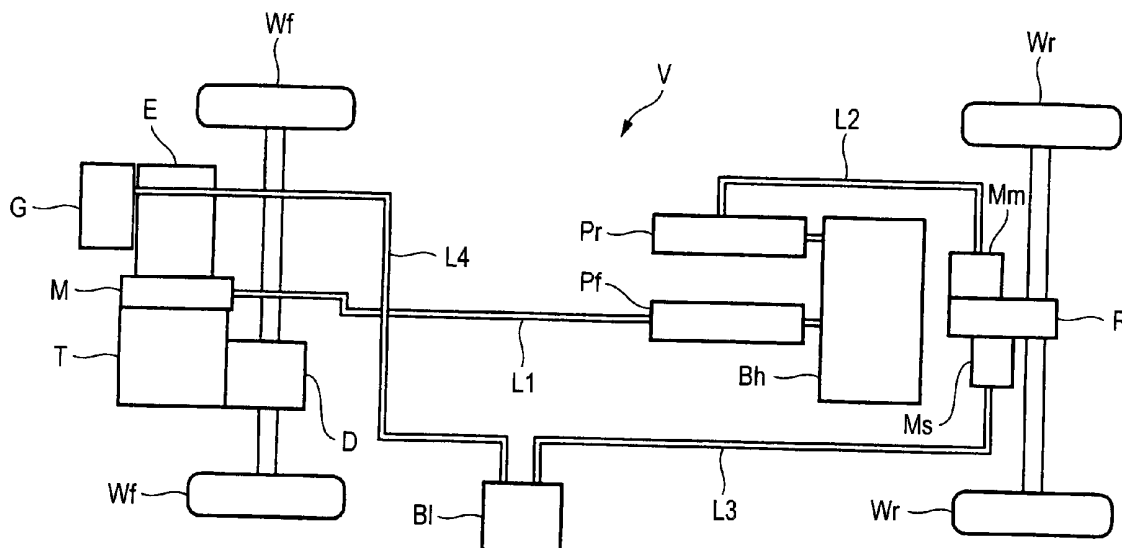
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**KABUSHIKI KAISHA**(21) Appl. No.: **10/663,764**(22) Filed: **Sep. 17, 2003**

FIG. 1

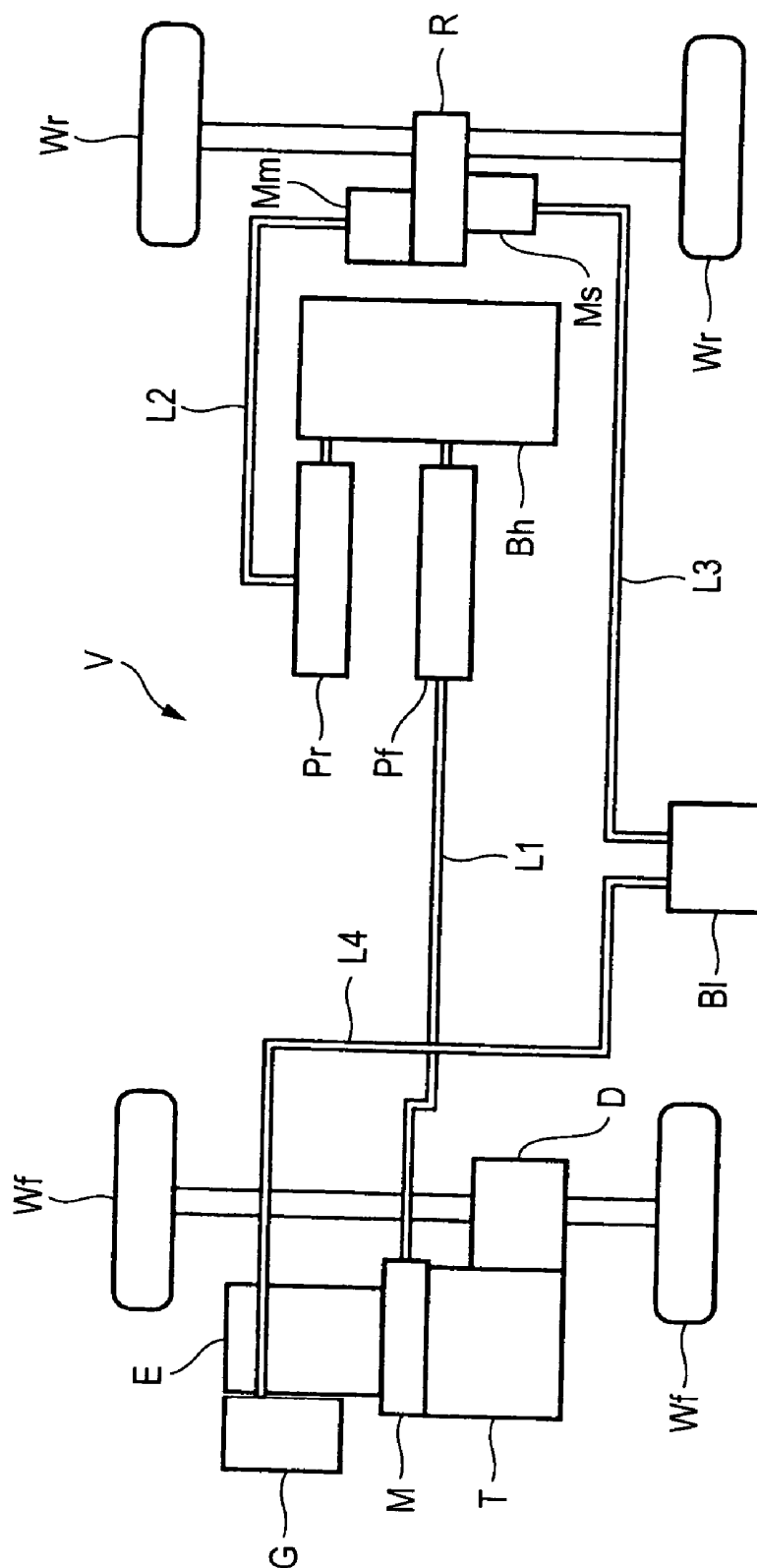


FIG. 2

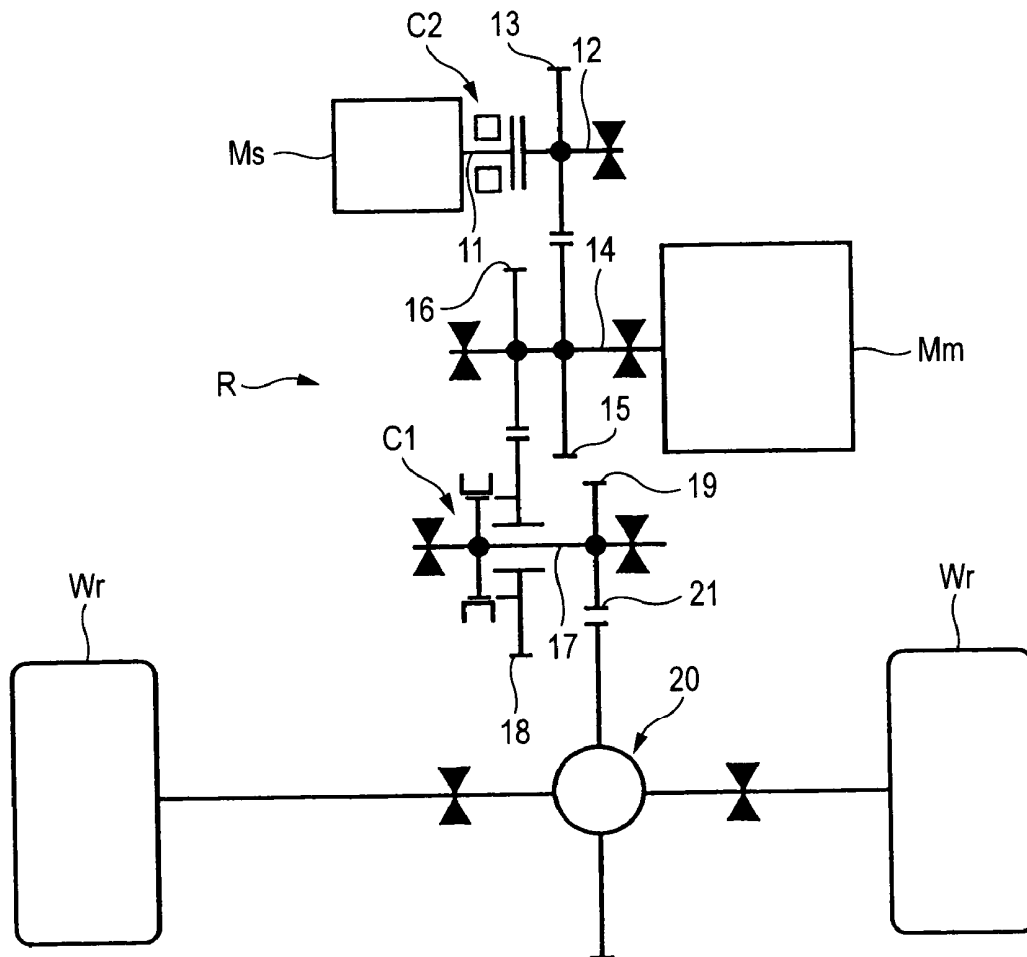


FIG. 3

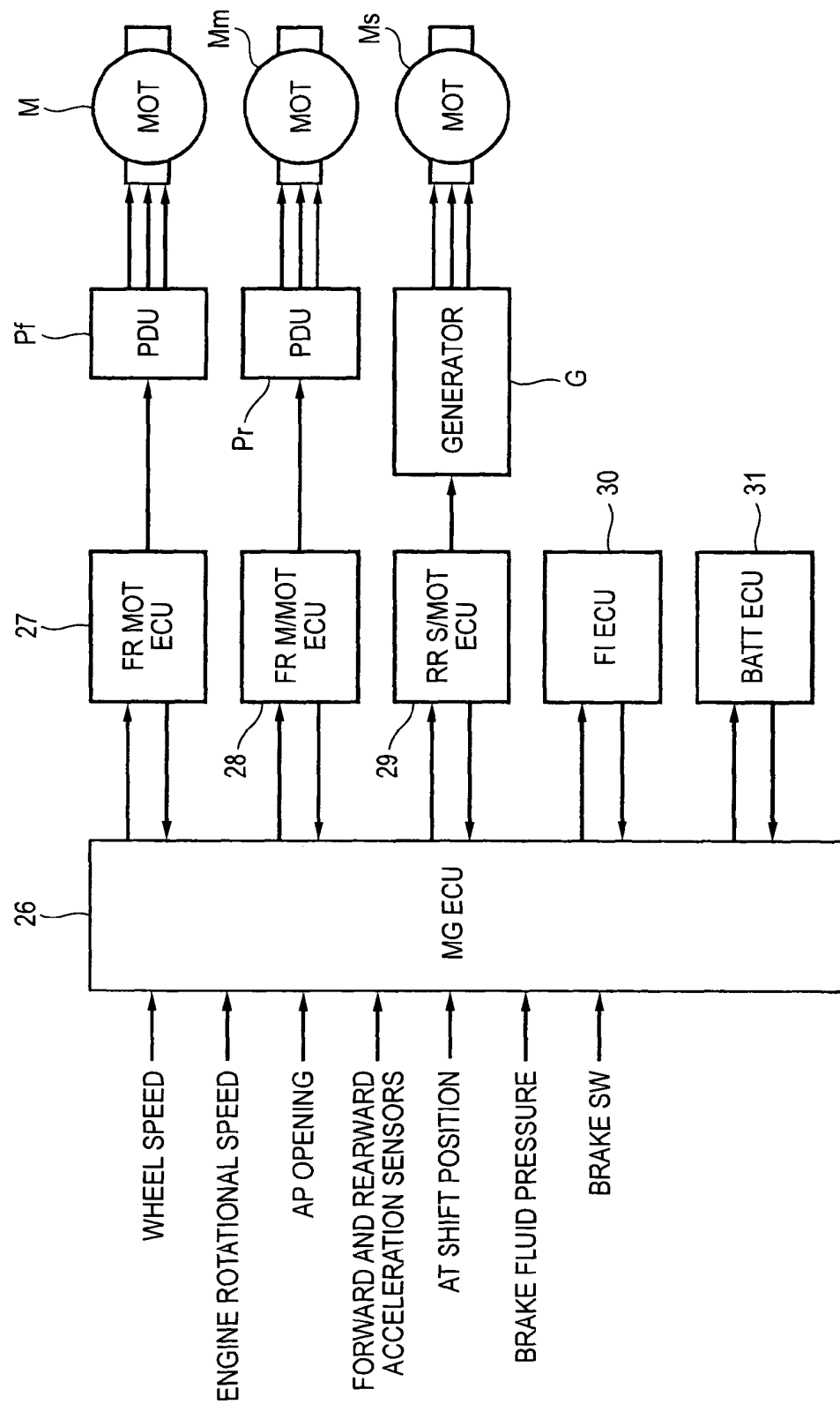
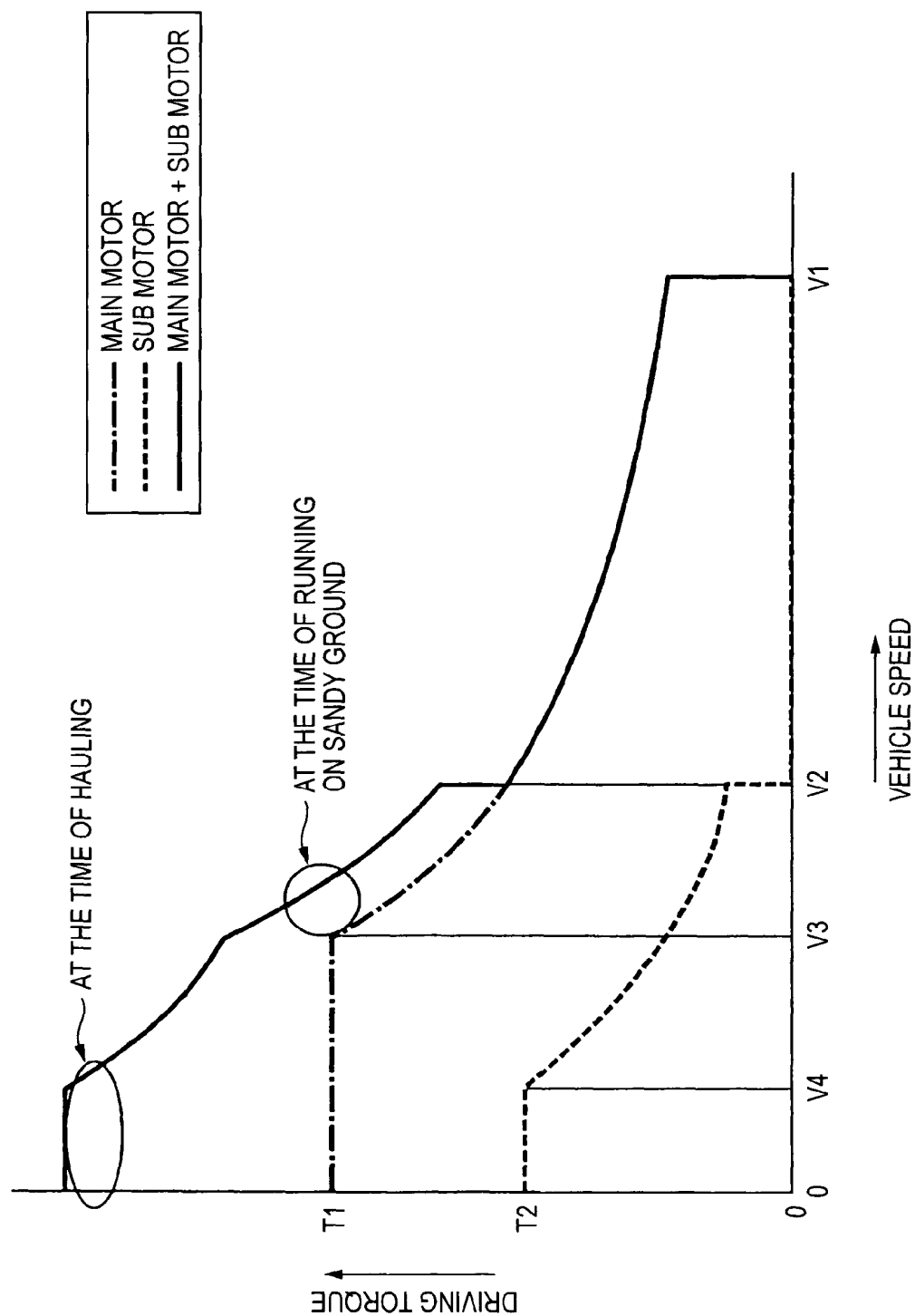


FIG. 4





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