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Gwin et al.

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[54] **DRIVER ALARM**

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[52] **U.S. Cl.** **340/575**; 340/576; 180/271; 180/272

[58] **Field of Search** 340/575, 576; 180/271, 272

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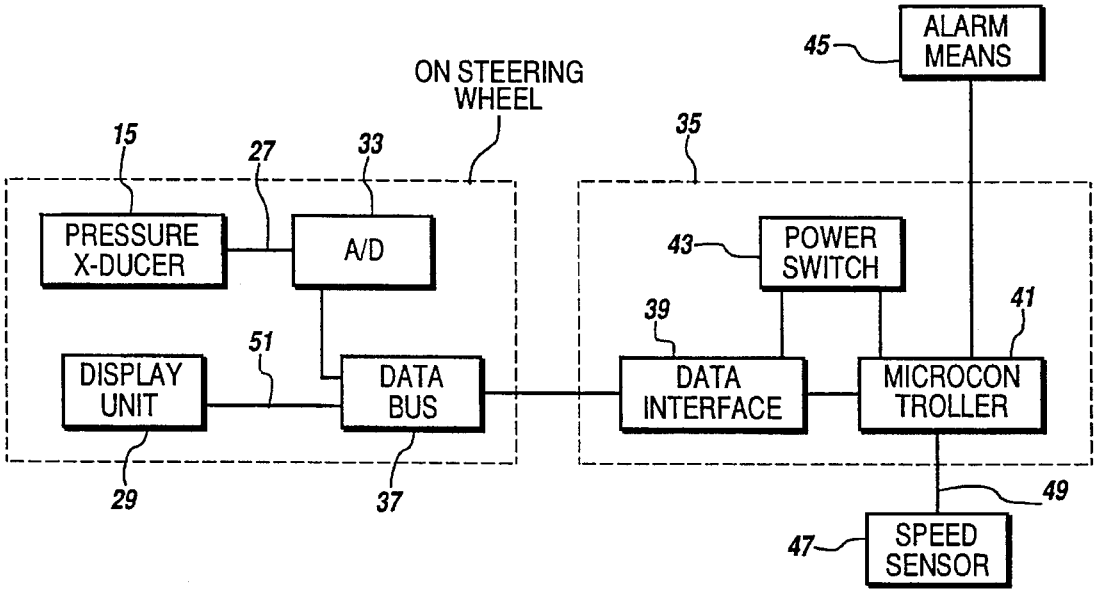
[57] **ABSTRACT**

A pressure transducer is attached along the circumference of the steering wheel of a vehicle and measures total hand grip pressure on the wheel. A control unit having a microcontroller monitors the variable pressure signal from the transducer and sounds an alarm when the pressure falls below a lower limit and when the transient behavior of the pressure signal deteriorates substantially. A display unit, attached to the steering wheel and having a number of LED's, gives a visual indication of the driver's drowsiness level.

13 Claims, 1 Drawing Sheet