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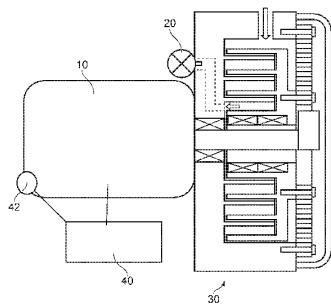


FIG. 1

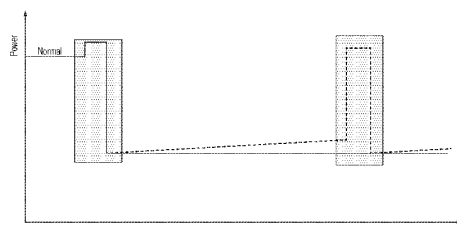


FIG. 4

(57) **Abstract:** A vacuum pump and a method of controlling such a pump to reduce power consumption of the pump during a standby mode. The method comprises: operating the pump by driving a pumping mechanism at a nominal speed; determining that the pump is to enter a standby mode in which an exhaust non-return valve is closed; boosting a speed of the pumping mechanism for a predetermined time to reduce an amount of gas within the pump; and reducing the speed of the pumping mechanism and operating the pump in the standby mode with the exhaust non-return valve being closed.

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