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[Continued on next page]

(54) Title: VIRTUAL LIMIT SWITCH

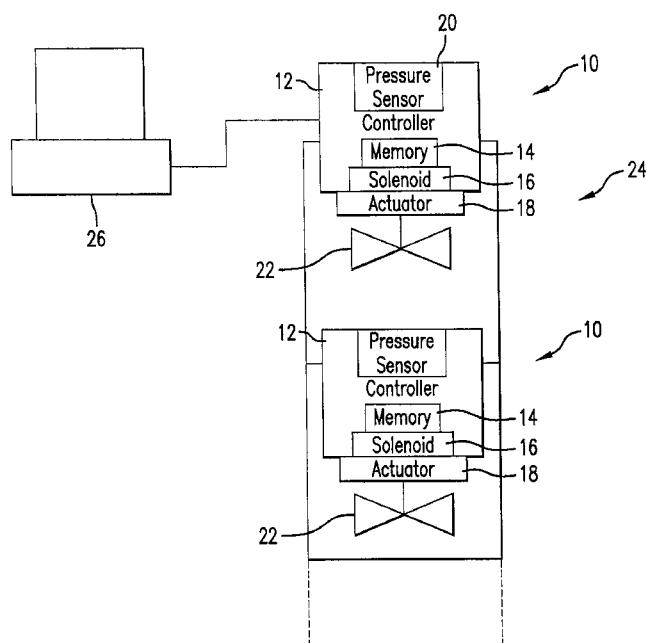


FIG. 1

(57) Abstract: A method associated with a valve package having a process valve, an actuator and a controller. The method includes obtaining a baseline signature corresponding to opening or closing the valve as the valve moves from a first position to a second position. The method also includes obtaining an operating signature corresponding to values associated with the baseline signature each time the valve moves from the first position to the second position. In addition, the operating signature is compared to the baseline signature. The method further includes determining if one or more of the values associated with the operating signature is within an acceptable range from the corresponding one or more values in the baseline signature.

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