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(54) **WASHING MACHINE**

(57) A washing machine includes an electric motor generating a driving force for wash, rinse and dehydration operations (S1), a current detector detecting electric current flowing into the motor (S4), a torque control unit performing a vector control for the motor on the basis of the current detected by the current detector so that torque developed by the motor is rendered optimum for at least the wash and dehydration operations, a speed control unit controlling a rotational speed of the motor (S5), based on the current detected by the current detector, and a laundry amount determining unit determining an amount of laundry in a rotating tub, based on a magnitude of torque current in a period when a rotational speed of the motor varies (S6-S10).

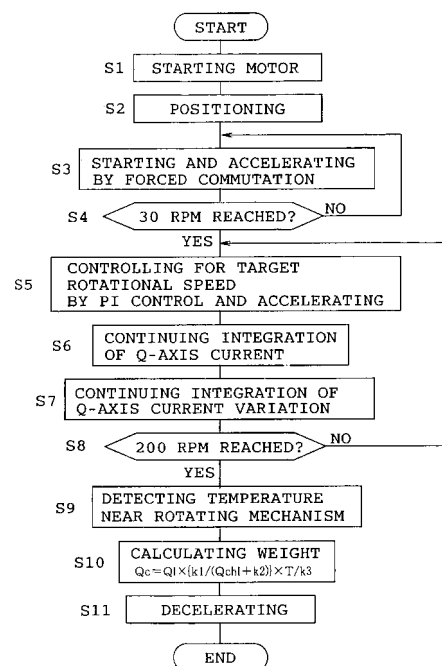


FIG. 1

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