(54) **Sitting passenger detecting apparatus and sitting passenger detecting method**

(57)   A sitting passenger detecting apparatus characterized in that the apparatus comprises:
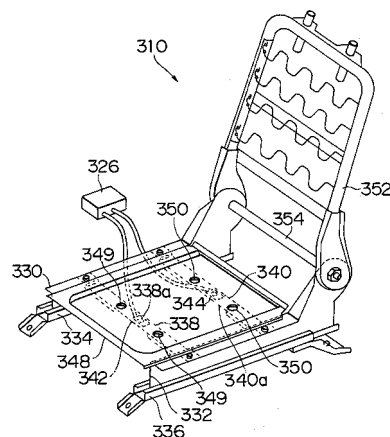first load detecting means (342) for detecting a load added to the front portion of a seating surface of a seat (310) of a vehicle;
second load detecting means (344) for detecting a load added to the rear portion of the seating surface;
first determining means (326) for determining a fact that a passenger which is sitting on said seat is an adult when the sum of values detected by said first and second load detecting means (342,344) is not smaller than a first threshold value; and
a second determining means (326) for determining a fact that a passenger which is sitting on the seat is an adult when a value detected by said first load detecting means (342) is not smaller than a second threshold value and a value detected by said second load detecting means (344) is not smaller than a third threshold value.

FIG. 19

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