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# United States Patent [19]

Walker et al.

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[54] **METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR TEAM PLAY OF SLOT MACHINES**

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[22] Filed: **Mar. 31, 1998**

[51] **Int. Cl.**[7] ..... **A63F 9/24**

[52] **U.S. Cl.** ..... **463/16**; 463/42; 700/92; 340/323 R

[58] **Field of Search** ..... 463/1, 12–13, 463/16, 20, 25, 26–29, 30, 36, 40–42; 340/323 R, 825, 825.3–825.34; 700/91–93; 273/143 R, 138.1, 138.2, 139, 292–293; 705/16–18

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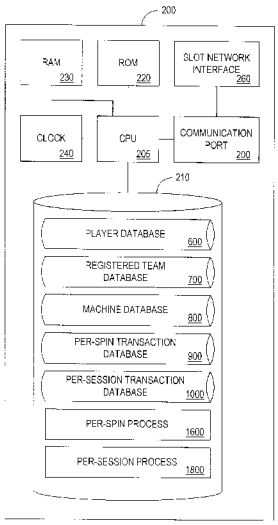
[57] **ABSTRACT**

Slot machines for enabling team play by a plurality of slot machine players are disclosed. The game results of each team player are combined in a predefined manner to obtain a team game result. The game results of each player may be combined on a "per-spin" basis, or collected for each team player over an entire play session, with the net result of each team player combined on a "per-session" basis. In a "per-spin" embodiment, each team player initiates play, and the individual game results of each team player are combined in a predefined manner to obtain the best team game result, with the highest resulting payout, for each spin. In a "per-session" embodiment each team player continues play for an entire play session, and the net result of each team player is analyzed in a predefined manner on a "per-session" basis to obtain the team session result. A session can be defined, for example, in terms of (i) the number of plays per session; (ii) the duration of the session; or (iii) all plays until a predefined event occurs.

**72 Claims, 24 Drawing Sheets**

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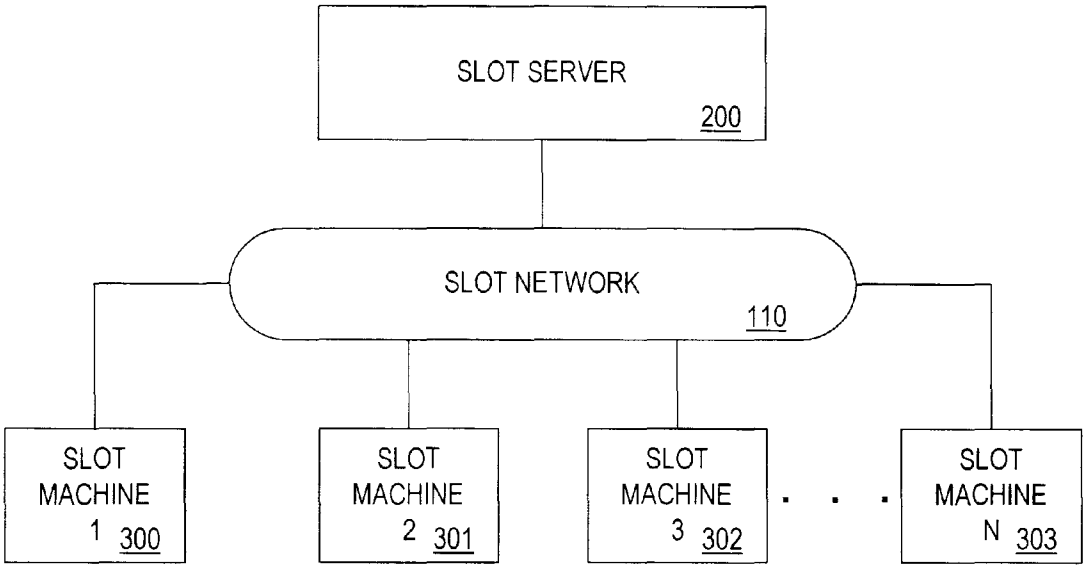


FIG. 1

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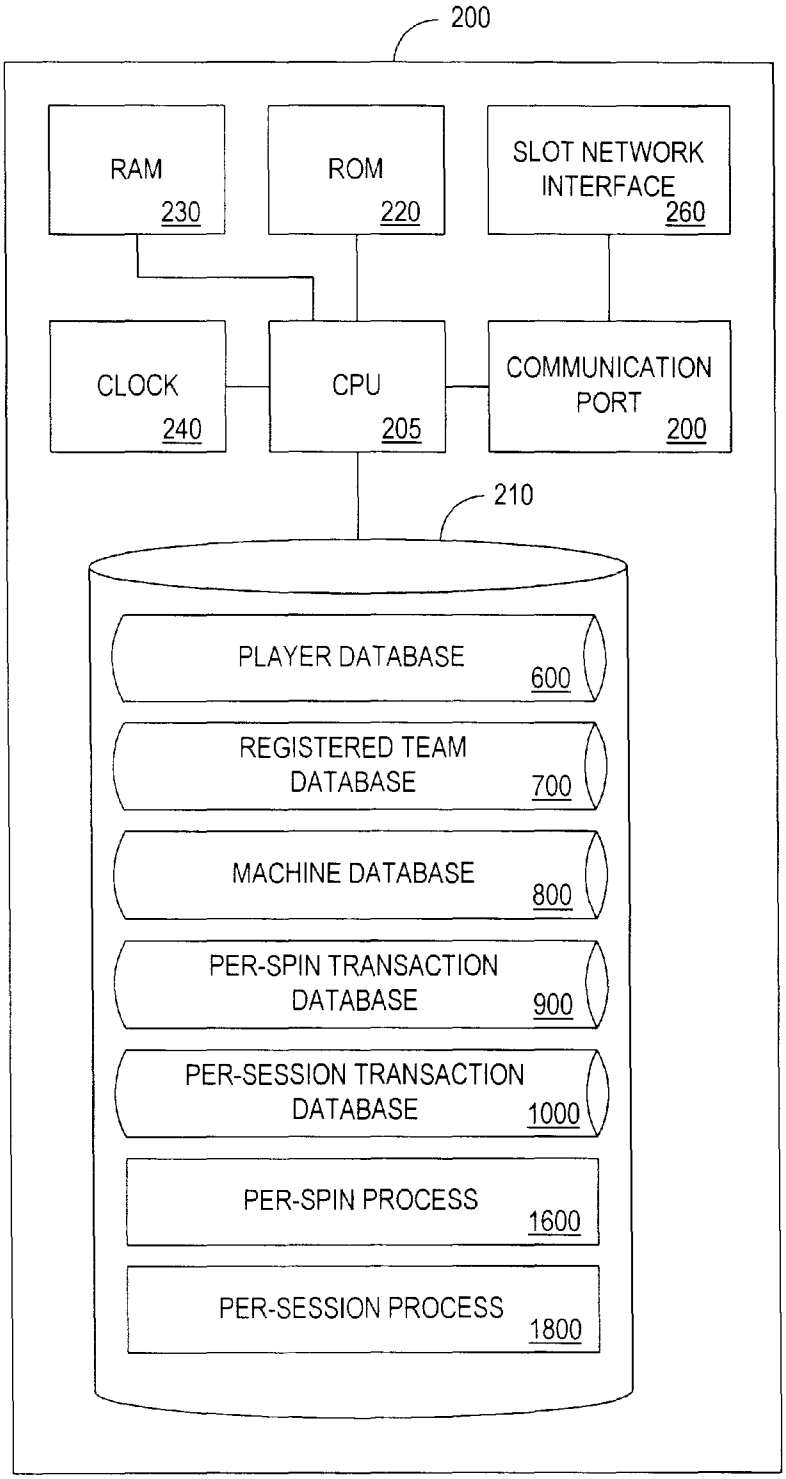


FIG. 2

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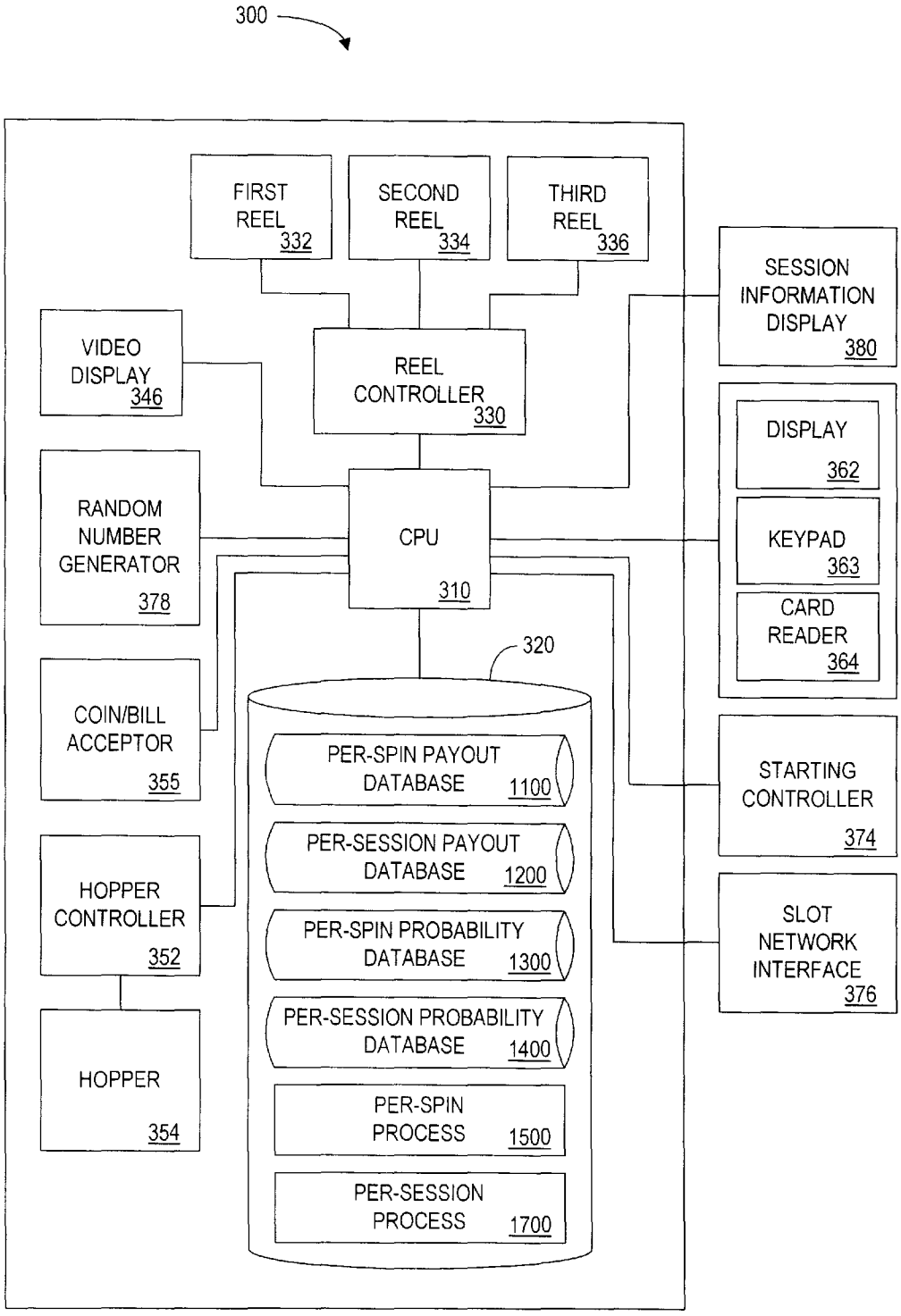


FIG. 3

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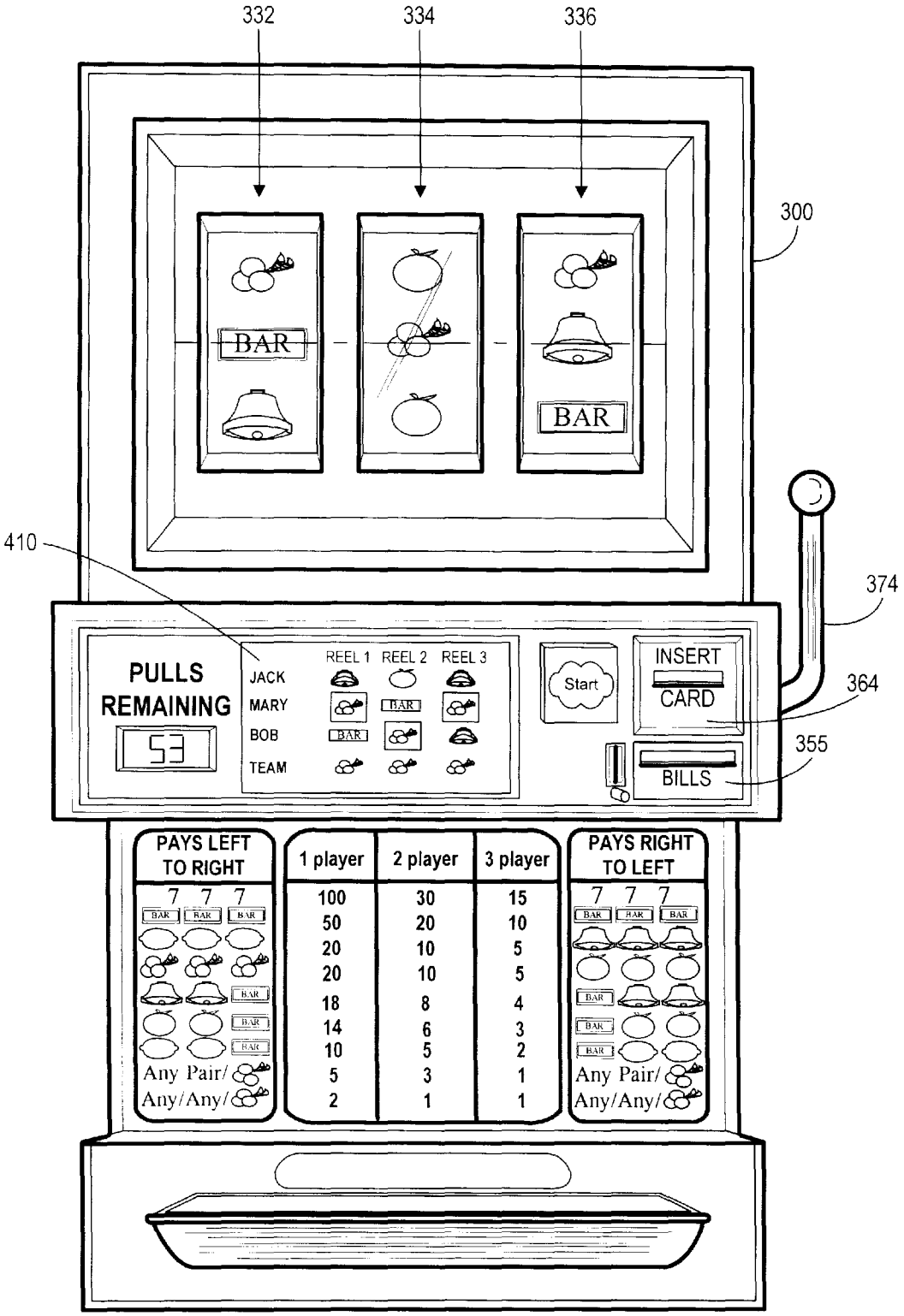


FIG. 4

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