

Description

General/Features/Construction

General

In a conventional brake system, if the brake pedal is depressed excessively, the wheels can lock before the vehicle comes to a stop. In such a case, the stability of the vehicle is reduced if the rear wheels are locked, and maneuverability of the vehicle is reduced if the front wheels are locked, creating an extremely unstable condition.

The Anti-Lock Brake (ALB) system modulates the pressure of the brake fluid applied to each caliper, thereby preventing the locking of the wheels, whenever the wheels are likely to be locked due to excessive braking. It then restores normal hydraulic pressure when there is no longer any possibility of wheel locking.

Features

- Increased braking stability can be achieved regardless of changing driving conditions.
- The maneuverability of the vehicle is improved as the system prevents the front wheels from locking.
- When the ALB goes into action, kick-back is felt on the brake pedal.
- The ALB system is equipped with a self-diagnosis function. When an abnormality is detected, the dash warning light comes on and the LED display on the control unit blinks. The location of the system's trouble can be diagnosed from the frequency of the LED display blinks.
- This system has individual control of the front wheels and common control ("select low") for the rear wheels. "Select Low" means that the rear wheel that would lock first (the one with the lowest resistance to lock-up) determines ALB activation for both rear wheels.

Construction

In addition to the conventional braking system, the ALB system is composed of: gear pulsers attached to the rotating part of individual wheels; speed sensors, which generate pulse signals in correspondence to the revolution of the gear pulsers; control unit, which controls the working of the ALB system by performing calculations based on the signals from the individual speed sensors and the individual switches; modulator unit, which adjusts the hydraulic pressure applied to each caliper on the basis of the signals received from the control unit; an accumulator, in which high-pressure brake fluid is stored; a pressure switch, which detects the pressure in the accumulator and transmits signals to the control unit; a power unit, which supplies the high-pressure working fluid to the accumulator by means of a pump; a motor relay for driving the power unit; a fail-safe relay, which cuts off the solenoid valve ground circuit when the fail-safe device is at work; and, a dash warning light.

Control Unit

Construction

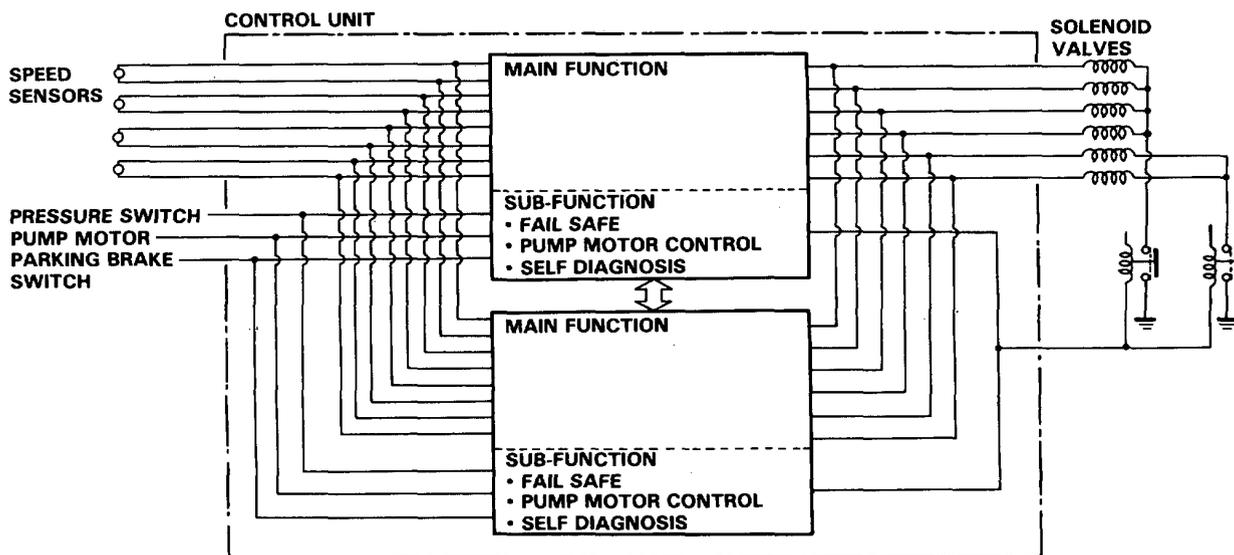
The control unit consists of a main function section, which controls the operation of ALB system, and sub-function, which controls the pump motor and "self-diagnosis."

1. Main Function

The main function section of the control unit performs calculations on the basis of the signals from each speed sensor and controls the operation of the ALB system by putting into action the solenoid valves in the modulator unit for each front brake for the two rear brakes.

2. Sub Function

The sub-function section gives driving signals to the pump motor and also gives "self-diagnosis" signals, necessary for backing up the ALB system.



Self-Diagnostic Function

Since the ALB system modulates the braking pressure when a wheel is about to lock, regardless of the driver's intention, the system operation and the braking power will be impaired if there is a malfunction in the system. To prevent this possibility, at speeds above 10 km/h (6 mph), the self diagnosis function, monitors the main system functions. When an abnormality is detected, the dash warning light goes on.

There is also a check mode of the self-diagnosis system itself: when the ignition switch is first turned on, the dash warning light comes on and stays on for a few seconds after the engine starts, to signify that the self-diagnosis system is functional.

(cont'd)

Description

Control Unit (cont'd)

Fail-Safe Function

If an abnormality is detected, the control unit turns off the fail-safe relays and motor relay. In this condition the ALB system is prevented from functioning, yet the basic system continues to operate normally.

The Dash Warning Light comes On

1. When the fluid pressure pump runs more than 120 seconds.
2. When the parking brake is applied for more than 30 seconds while the vehicle is being driven.
3. When the rear wheel(s) is (are) locked more than a specified time.
4. When the wheel rotation signal is not transmitted due to faulty wire or sensor.
5. When the operation time of the solenoid valve(s) exceeds a predetermined valve and the control unit finds an open in the solenoid circuit.
6. When the output signals from both main functions in the control unit are not transmitted to the solenoid valve(s).