



(51) International Patent Classification:

G06F 1/30 (2006.01) H02J 9/06 (2006.01)
G06F 1/26 (2006.01)

(21) International Application Number:

PCT/US2015/057955

(22) International Filing Date:

29 October 2015 (29.10.2015)

(25) Filing Language:

English

(26) Publication Language:

English

(71) Applicant: **HEWLETT PACKARD ENTERPRISE DEVELOPMENT LP** [US/US]; 11445 Compaq Center Drive West, Houston, TX 77070 (US).

(72) Inventors: **NGUYEN, Hai Ngoc**; 11445 Compaq Center Drive West, Houston, Texas 77070 (US). **BANERJEE, Abhishek**; 11445 Compaq Center Drive West, Houston, Texas 77070 (US). **GASTON, Darrel G.**; 11445 Compaq Center Drive West, Houston, Texas 77070 (US).

(74) Agents: **FEBBO, Michael A.** et al.; Hewlett Packard Enterprise, 3404 East Harmony Road, Mail Stop 79, Fort Collins, Colorado 80528 (US).

(81) Designated States (unless otherwise indicated, for every kind of national protection available): AE, AG, AL, AM, AO, AT, AU, AZ, BA, BB, BG, BH, BN, BR, BW, BY,

BZ, CA, CH, CL, CN, CO, CR, CU, CZ, DE, DK, DM, DO, DZ, EC, EE, EG, ES, FI, GB, GD, GE, GH, GM, GT, HN, HR, HU, ID, IL, IN, IR, IS, JP, KE, KG, KN, KP, KR, KZ, LA, LC, LK, LR, LS, LU, LY, MA, MD, ME, MG, MK, MN, MW, MX, MY, MZ, NA, NG, NI, NO, NZ, OM, PA, PE, PG, PH, PL, PT, QA, RO, RS, RU, RW, SA, SC, SD, SE, SG, SK, SL, SM, ST, SV, SY, TH, TJ, TM, TN, TR, TT, TZ, UA, UG, US, UZ, VC, VN, ZA, ZM, ZW.

(84) Designated States (unless otherwise indicated, for every kind of regional protection available): ARIPO (BW, GH, GM, KE, LR, LS, MW, MZ, NA, RW, SD, SL, ST, SZ, TZ, UG, ZM, ZW), Eurasian (AM, AZ, BY, KG, KZ, RU, TJ, TM), European (AL, AT, BE, BG, CH, CY, CZ, DE, DK, EE, ES, FI, FR, GB, GR, HR, HU, IE, IS, IT, LT, LU, LV, MC, MK, MT, NL, NO, PL, PT, RO, RS, SE, SI, SK, SM, TR), OAPI (BF, BJ, CF, CG, CI, CM, GA, GN, GQ, GW, KM, ML, MR, NE, SN, TD, TG).

Declarations under Rule 4.17:

- as to the identity of the inventor (Rule 4.17(i))
- as to applicant's entitlement to apply for and be granted a patent (Rule 4.17(ii))

Published:

- with international search report (Art. 21(3))

(54) Title: PARALLEL OUTPUT OF BACKUP POWER MODULES

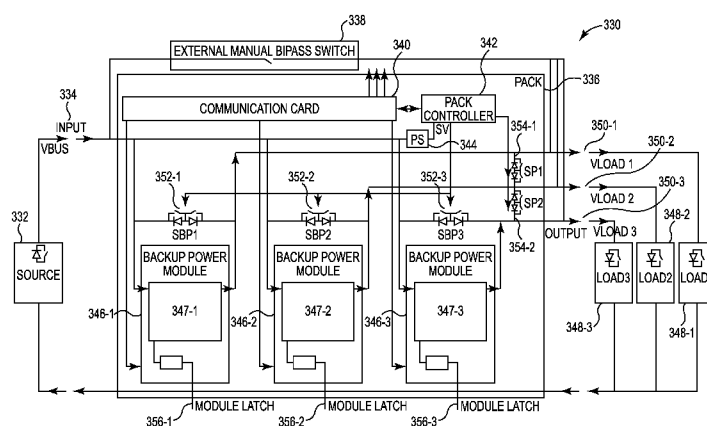


Fig. 3

(57) Abstract: In one example, a system for parallel output of backup power modules includes a first backup power module coupled to an input and a first output of an enclosure, a second backup power module coupled to the input and a second output of the enclosure, wherein the second backup power module is coupled in parallel with the first backup power module, and a switch coupling the first backup power module and the first output of the enclosure to the second output of the enclosure.

PARALLEL OUTPUT OF BACKUP POWER MODULES

Background

[0001] Computing systems can utilize devices such as an uninterruptible power system (UPS). The UPS can help provide backup power to the computing system when main power fails. It can be important to utilize a UPS that can provide adequate power to a load when there is a failure of a main power source. Loads can be altered or exchanged for different types of loads and the altered or exchanged loads can utilize different quantities of power. In some cases, the altered loads can utilize more power than a UPS is capable of providing, which can place the altered load at risk for failure when backup power is utilized.

Brief Description of the Drawings

[0002] Figure 1 illustrates a diagram of an example of a system for parallel output of backup power modules consistent with the present disclosure.

[0003] Figure 2 illustrates a diagram of an example computing device for parallel output of backup power modules consistent with the present disclosure.

[0004] Figure 3 illustrates an example system for parallel output of backup power modules consistent with the present disclosure.

Detailed Description

[0005] A number of methods, systems, and computer readable medium for parallel output of backup power modules are described herein. In one example, a system for parallel output of backup power modules can include a first backup power module coupled to an input and a first output of an enclosure, a second backup power module coupled to the input and a second output of the enclosure, wherein the second backup power module is coupled in parallel with the first backup power module, and a switch coupling the first backup power module and the first output of the enclosure to the second output of the enclosure.

[0006] In some examples, the system for parallel output of backup power modules can include a plurality of backup power modules that are coupled in parallel. In some examples, each of the plurality of backup power modules can be coupled to a corresponding load. In some examples, it can be important that a backup power module can provide adequate power to a load. For example, a first backup power module may be able to provide adequate power (e.g., power utilized by the load to function to a specification of the load, etc.) to a first load during normal operation (e.g., when the main power supply is functional, when the main power supply is activated, etc.). In this example, the first backup power module may also be able to provide adequate power to the first load during a backup process (e.g., when a main power supply is not functional, when a main power supply is deactivated, etc.). In some examples, the first load can be changed or altered to utilize a greater quantity of power. In these examples, a switch can be activated that allows the first backup power module and a second backup power module to combine resources to provide adequate power to the first load.

[0007] In some examples, the switch can couple an output of a first backup power module to an output of a second backup power module to provide power to a load that is coupled to the output of the first backup power module. In some examples, a controller can be coupled to the switch to activate or deactivate the switch based on an output power of each of a plurality of backup power modules. That is, the controller can monitor output power for each backup power module to determine when a particular load coupled to a particular output exceeds a power limitation of a particular backup power module. In some examples, the controller can activate the switch when it is

determined that multiple backup power modules are needed to provide the load with adequate power.

[0008] The systems described herein can utilize a plurality of backup power modules connected in parallel to provide individual loads with a backup power solution. Previous systems could only utilize the backup power modules for loads within a particular threshold power level. When a load exceeded the particular threshold power level the corresponding backup power module would not be utilized and may be idle for an extended period of time. The systems described herein can include a controller that is coupled to multiple backup power modules to provide power to a load that exceeds the threshold power level of a single backup power module.

[0009] The systems described herein can be adaptable to power changes utilized by loads that are coupled to corresponding backup power modules. That is, the power utilized by loads coupled to the plurality of backup power modules can be changed and the controller can ensure that adequate power is continuously provided to loads, even when the power utilized by a load exceeds a threshold power level of a particular backup power module.

[0010] Figures 1 and 2 illustrate examples of system 100 and computing device 214 consistent with the present disclosure. Figure 1 illustrates a diagram of an example of a system 100 for parallel output of backup power modules consistent with the present disclosure. The system 100 can include a database 104, a parallel output system 102, and/or a number of engines (e.g., controller engine 106). The parallel output system 102 can be in communication with the database 104 via a communication link, and can include the number of engines (e.g., controller engine 106). The soft-start system 102 can include additional or fewer engines that are illustrated to perform the various functions as will be described in further detail in connection with Figure 3.

[0011] The number of engines (e.g., controller engine 106) can include a combination of hardware and programming, but at least hardware, that is configured to perform functions described herein (e.g., activate the switch when an output power level of one of the first and second backup power modules is greater than a threshold power level, monitor the output power level provided to a first load coupled to the first output of the enclosure and provided to the second load coupled to the second output of the

enclosure, activate the switch when one of the first backup power module and the second backup power module are removed from the input of the enclosure and a corresponding output of the enclosure with an energized DC bus, activate the switch when output power of one of the first backup power module and the second backup power module is outside a threshold value, etc.). The programming can include program instructions (e.g., software, firmware, etc.) stored in a memory resource (e.g., computer readable medium, machine readable medium, etc.) as well as hard-wired program (e.g., logic).

[0012] The controller engine 106 can include hardware and/or a combination of hardware and programming, but at least hardware, to activate a switch when an output power level of one of a first and a second backup power module is greater than a threshold power level. The output power level can be a power level monitored at the output of a backup power module and/or distributed energy system (DES) that includes an enclosure to encase a plurality of backup power modules. That is, the output power level can be a power level utilized by a load coupled to the output of a particular backup power module. In some examples, the controller engine 106 can monitor the output power level and automatically activate the switch or multiple switches to allow multiple backup power modules to provide power to the load that corresponds to the output power level. In some examples, the controller engine 106 can monitor the output current level and automatically activate the switch or multiple switches to allow multiple backup power modules to provide power to the load that corresponds to the output current level.

[0013] The controller engine 106 can include hardware and/or a combination of hardware and programming, but at least hardware, to monitor the output power level provided to a first load coupled to the first output of the enclosure and provided to the second load coupled to the second output of the enclosure. The controller engine 106 can monitor output power level for each backup power module within a particular DES or parallel backup power module system (e.g., system 330 as referenced in Figure 3, etc.). The monitored output power level can enable the controller engine 106 activate and deactivate a number of switches as described herein. Activating and deactivating the number of switches can provide a single backup power module or a plurality of backup power modules to provide power to a particular load based on the monitored

output power level. In some examples, monitoring the output power level can include monitoring the output current of the backup power modules.

[0014] The controller engine 106 can include hardware and/or a combination of hardware and programming, but at least hardware, to activate a switch when one of the first backup power module and the second backup power module are removed from the input of the enclosure and a corresponding output of the enclosure with an energized DC bus. In some examples, a first switch can be activated so that a plurality of backup power modules are utilized to provide power to a particular load. In these examples, when one of the plurality backup power modules is removed, the controller engine 106 can be utilized to activate a second switch so that a plurality of backup power modules are utilized to provide power to the particular load.

[0015] Figure 2 illustrates a diagram of an example computing device 214 consistent with the present disclosure. The computing device 214 can utilize software, hardware, firmware, and/or logic to perform functions described herein.

[0016] The computing device 214 can be any combination of hardware and program instructions configured to share information. The hardware, for example, can include a processing resource 216 and/or a memory resource 220 (e.g., computer-readable medium (CRM), machine readable medium (MRM), database, etc.). A processing resource 216, as used herein, can include any number of processors capable of executing instructions stored by a memory resource 220. Processing resource 216 may be implemented in a single device or distributed across multiple devices. The program instructions (e.g., computer readable instructions (CRI)) can include instructions stored on the memory resource 220 and executable by the processing resource 216 to implement a desired function (e.g., activate the switch when an output power level of one of the first and second backup power modules is greater than a threshold power level, monitor the output power level provided to a first load coupled to the first output of the enclosure and provided to the second load coupled to the second output of the enclosure, activate the switch when one of the first backup power module and the second backup power module are removed from the input of the enclosure and a corresponding output of the enclosure with an energized DC bus,

activate the switch when output power of one of the first backup power module and the second backup power module is outside a threshold value, etc.).

[0017] The memory resource 220 can be in communication with a processing resource 216. A memory resource 220, as used herein, can include any number of memory components capable of storing instructions that can be executed by processing resource 216. Such memory resource 220 can be a non-transitory CRM or MRM. Memory resource 220 may be integrated in a single device or distributed across multiple devices. Further, memory resource 220 may be fully or partially integrated in the same device as processing resource 216 or it may be separate but accessible to that device and processing resource 216. Thus, it is noted that the computing device 214 may be implemented on a participant device, on a server device, on a collection of server devices, and/or a combination of the participant device and the server device.

[0018] The memory resource 220 can be in communication with the processing resource 216 via a communication link (e.g., a path) 218. The communication link 218 can be local or remote to a machine (e.g., a computing device) associated with the processing resource 216. Examples of a local communication link 218 can include an electronic bus internal to a machine (e.g., a computing device) where the memory resource 220 is one of volatile, non-volatile, fixed, and/or removable storage medium in communication with the processing resource 216 via the electronic bus.

[0019] A number of modules (e.g., controller module 222) can include CRI that when executed by the processing resource 216 can perform functions. The number of modules (e.g., controller module 222) can be sub-modules of other modules. For example, the controller module 222 and an additional module can be sub-modules and/or contained within the same computing device. In another example, the number of modules (e.g., controller module 222) can comprise individual modules at separate and distinct locations (e.g., CRM, etc.).

[0020] Each of the number of modules (e.g., controller module 222) can include instructions that when executed by the processing resource 216 can function as a corresponding engine as described herein. For example, the controller module 222 can include instructions that when executed by the processing resource 216 can function as the soft-start controller engine 106.

[0021] Figure 3 illustrates an example system 330 for parallel output of backup power modules consistent with the present disclosure. The system 330 can be utilized to provide power from a main power source 332 during normal operation and provide backup power from a number of backup power modules 346-1, 346-2, 346-3 during a backup operation to a number of loads 348-1, 348-2, 348-3.

[0022] In some examples, the system 330 can include a distributed energy system (DES) pack enclosure 336 that encases the number of backup power modules 346-1, 346-2, 346-3, a power supply 344, a pack controller 342, and/or a communication card 340. In some examples, the DES pack enclosure 336 can include an input 334 that is coupled to a main power source 332 and a number of outputs 350-1, 350-2, 350-3 that are each coupled to a corresponding number of loads 348-1, 348-2, 348-3. In some examples, the system 330 can include an external manual bypass switch 338 for bypassing the DES pack enclosure 336 for maintenance or replacement.

[0023] In some examples, the power supply 344 can be utilized to direct power received from the main power source 332 to the pack controller 342 and/or a communication card 340. In some examples, the communication card 340 can be utilized to communicate information to a host. In some examples, the pack controller 342 can be utilized to monitor output power and/or output current at the number of outputs 350-1, 350-2, 350-3 of the DES pack enclosure 336. In certain examples, the pack controller 342 can be utilized to monitor output power and/or output current at an output of each of the number of backup power modules 346-1, 346-2, 346-3. In some examples, the pack controller 342 can perform the functions of the controller engine 106 as referenced in Figure 1 and/or the controller module 222 as referenced in Figure 2.

[0024] In some examples, the number of backup power modules 346-1, 346-2, 346-3 can be coupled in parallel to individually provide power to a corresponding load from the number of loads 348-1, 348-2, 348-3. For examples, backup power module 346-1 can individually provide power to load 348-1 during normal operation as well as provide backup power during backup operations. Thus, in some examples, each of the number of backup power modules 346-1, 346-2, 346-3 can have backup power sources 347-1, 347-2, 347-3 (e.g., batteries, etc.) that can provide power to each of the corresponding number of loads 348-1, 348-2, 348-3. In some examples, the backup

power sources 347-1, 347-2, 347-3 can include a plurality of batteries coupled in series to provide high voltage direct current (HVDC) to a number of loads 348-1, 348-2, 348-3 during a backup operation. In some examples, the main power source 332 can supply alternating current (AC) power to the number of loads 348-1, 348-2, 348-3 via the backup power sources 347-1, 347-2, 347-3 during normal operations. Thus, the number of loads 348-1, 348-2, 348-3 can be provided with AC power during normal operation and provided with HVDC during backup operations.

[0025] In some examples, the DES pack enclosure 336 can provide a particular total load value (e.g., maximum power level, maximum current, level, etc.). That is, the DES pack enclosure 336 can be limited to a particular total load value. In these examples, the number of loads 348-1, 348-2, 348-3 may not be able to exceed a particular total load value. In some examples each of the number of loads 348-1, 348-2, 348-3 may each utilize an equal share of the total load value. For example, the total load value of the number of loads 348-1, 348-2, 348-3 can be 18 kilowatts (kW). In some examples, each of the number of loads 348-1, 348-2, 348-3 can utilize an equal share of the total load value and utilize 6 kW of power. In this example, each of the number of backup power modules 346-1, 346-2, 346-3 can be utilized to provide 6 kW of power to each of the number of loads 348-1, 348-2, 348-3 respectively.

[0026] In some examples, each of the number of loads 348-1, 348-2, 348-3 can utilize an unequal share of the total load value. For example, the total load value of the number of loads 348-1, 348-2, 348-3 can be 16 kW. In this example, load 348-1 can utilize 10 kW, load 348-2 can utilize 0 kW (e.g., deactivated, removed, etc.), and load 348-3 can utilize 6 kW. In this example, each backup power module 346-1, 346-2, 346-3 may only be able to provide 6 kW of power to each corresponding load 348-1, 348-2, 348-3. In this example, the controller 342 can determine that an output current associated with load 348-1 is greater than a threshold of 6 kW. In this example, the controller 342 can activate switch 354-1 to allow backup power module 346-1 and backup power module 346-2 to both provide power to the load 348-1. In this example, the backup power module 346-1 and the backup power module 346-1 can each individually provide 6 kW of power and with the switch 354-1 activated the backup power module 346-1 and the backup power module 346-1 can provide a total of 12 kW

to the load 348-1. Thus, adequate power can be provided to the load 348-1 via the backup power module 346-1 and the backup power module 346-1 when the switch 354-1 is activated. In other examples, the controller 342 can activate switch 354-1 and switch 354-2 to provide power to the load 348-1 with the combined resources of the backup power modules 346-1, 346-2, 346-3. For example, the load 348-1 can utilize 15 kW of power and each of the backup power modules 346-1, 346-2, 346-3 can provide 6 kW. In this example, the controller 342 can activate switch 354-1 and switch 354-2 to provide load 348-1 with power up to 18 kW and thus providing adequate power to the load 348-1.

[0027] In some examples, the number of switches 354-1, 354-2 can include back to back semiconductors. In some examples, the back to back semiconductors can each act as a switch that can be controlled by the controller 342. In some examples, each of the back to back semiconductors can include reverse polarity semiconductors to prevent reverse polarity between the number of backup power modules 346-1, 346-2, 346-3 of the system 330.

[0028] In some examples, the backup power modules 346-1, 346-2, 346-3 can be hot-pluggable backup power modules. As used herein, a hot-pluggable backup power module can include a backup power module that is capable of being coupled and decoupled from an already energized DC bus. For example, each of the backup power modules 346-1, 346-2, 346-3 can be coupled to a corresponding module latch 356-1, 356-2, 356-3. The module latch 356-1, 356-2, 356-3 can be operated by a user to remove a corresponding backup power module 346-1, 346-2, 346-3 even when coupled to an already energized DC bus. For example, backup power module 346-1 can be removed from an already energized DC bus by pressing the module latch 356-1 to a lower position and the backup power module 346-1 can be removed from the DES pack enclosure 336.

[0029] In some examples, removing one or more of the backup power modules 346-1, 346-2, 346-3 can create a load from the number of loads 348-1, 348-2, 348-3 to exceed an output current for a number of backup power modules 346-1, 346-2, 346-3. For example, switch 354-1 can be active to enable backup power module 346-1 and backup power module 346-2 to provide power to load 348-2. In this example, if backup

power module 346-1 is removed from the DES pack enclosure 336, the controller 342 can determine that the backup power module 346 is not capable of providing adequate power to the load 348-2. In this example, the controller 342 can activate switch 354-2 to enable backup power module 346-2 and backup power module 346-3 to provide power to the load 348-2.

[0030] In some examples, each of the backup power modules 346-1, 346-2, 346-3 can include a corresponding bypass switch 352-1, 352-2, 352-3. The number of bypass switches 352-1, 352-2, 352-3 can be utilized to bypass a corresponding backup power module 346-1, 346-2, 346-3 when a backup power module is removed or is non-functional. In some examples, when one of the backup power modules 346-1, 346-2, 346-3 are removed or is non-functional, the corresponding bypass switch 352-1, 352-2, 352-3 can be utilized to bypass the backup power module and continue to provide power, without a backup power module, to a corresponding load of the number of loads 346-1, 346-2, 346-3.

[0031] The system 330 can provide for adaptive backup power solutions that utilize a number of parallel backup power modules 346-1, 346-2, 346-3. The system 330 can be utilized to provide power to the number of loads 348-1, 348-2, 348-3 with a corresponding backup power module 346-1, 346-2, 346-3 individually or with a combination of a plurality of backup power modules 346-1, 346-2, 346-3 without having to reconfigure the DES pack enclosure 336. That is, the requirements of the number of loads 348-1, 348-2, 348-3 can be altered and the controller 342 can detect the changes via an output current of each of the backup power modules 346-1, 346-2, 346-3 to determine if a plurality of backup power modules 346-1, 346-2, 346-3 are needed to provide adequate power to one of the number of loads 348-1, 348-2, 348-3.

[0032] As used herein, “logic” is an alternative or additional processing resource to perform a particular action and/or function, etc., described herein, which includes hardware, e.g., various forms of transistor logic, application specific integrated circuits (ASICs), etc., as opposed to computer executable instructions, e.g., software firmware, etc., stored in memory and executable by a processor. Further, as used herein, “a” or “a number of” something can refer to one or more such things. For example, “a number of widgets” can refer to one or more widgets.

[0033] The above specification, examples and data provide a description of the method and applications, and use of the system and method of the present disclosure. Since many examples can be made without departing from the spirit and scope of the system and method of the present disclosure, this specification merely sets forth some of the many possible example configurations and implementations.

What is claimed:

1. A system for parallel output of backup power modules, comprising:
 - a first backup power module coupled to an input and a first output of an enclosure;
 - a second backup power module coupled to the input and a second output of the enclosure, wherein the second backup power module is coupled in parallel with the first backup power module; and
 - a switch coupling the first backup power module and the first output of the enclosure to the second output of the enclosure.
2. The system of claim 1, comprising a controller coupled to the switch to activate the switch when an output power level of one of the first and second backup power modules is greater than a threshold power level.
3. The system of claim 2, wherein the controller is to monitor the output power level provided to a first load coupled to the first output of the enclosure and provided to the second load coupled to the second output of the enclosure.
4. The system of claim 2, wherein the controller is coupled to a module latch of the first backup power module and to a module latch of the second backup power module.
5. The system of claim 1, wherein the switch is deactivated to enable the first backup power module to provide backup power to a first load coupled to the first output and to enable the second backup power module to provide backup power to a second load coupled to the second output.
6. The system of claim 1, wherein the first backup power module and the second backup power module are hot-pluggable backup power modules.

7. The system of claim 6, comprising a controller to activate the switch when one of the first backup power module and the second backup power module are removed from the input of the enclosure and a corresponding output of the enclosure with an energized DC bus.

8. A system for parallel output of backup power modules, comprising:
a plurality of backup power modules coupled in parallel, wherein each of the plurality of backup power modules include an input coupled to an enclosure input and an output coupled to a corresponding enclosure output;
a switch to couple a first output of a first backup power module to a second output of a second backup power module; and
a controller to activate the switch when output power of one of the first backup power module and the second backup power module is outside a threshold value.

9. The system of claim 8, wherein the switch is to couple the first output of the first backup power module to the second output of the second backup power module between the first output and second output and the corresponding output of the enclosure.

10. The system of claim 8, wherein the controller is to monitor the output power of each of the plurality of backup power modules and monitor a module latch corresponding to each of the plurality of backup power modules.

11. The system of claim 8, wherein the first backup power module and the second backup power module provide backup power to the same load when the switch is activated by the controller.

12. A system for parallel output of backup power modules, comprising:
a plurality of backup power modules coupled in parallel between an input of an enclosure and a corresponding output of the enclosure, wherein an output of each

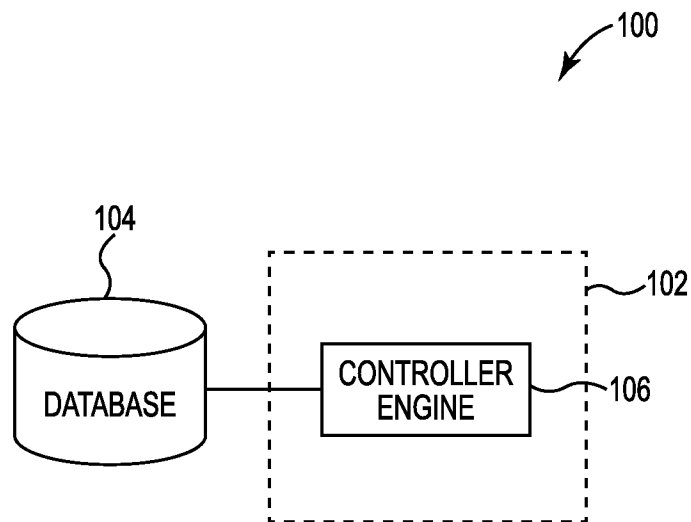
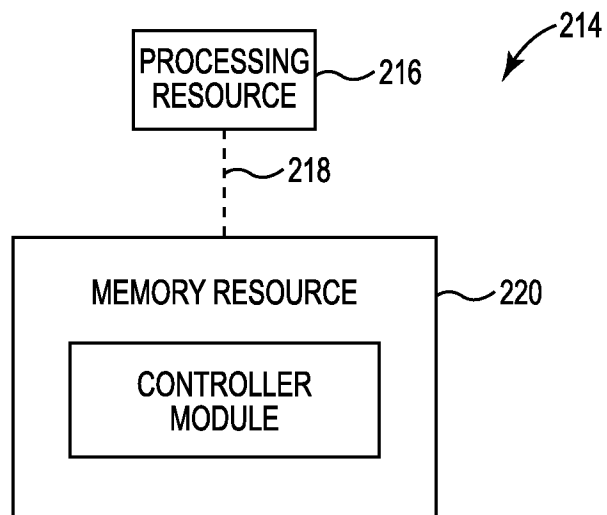
of the plurality of backup power modules is coupled to a switch that is coupled to at least one different output of the plurality of backup power modules; and

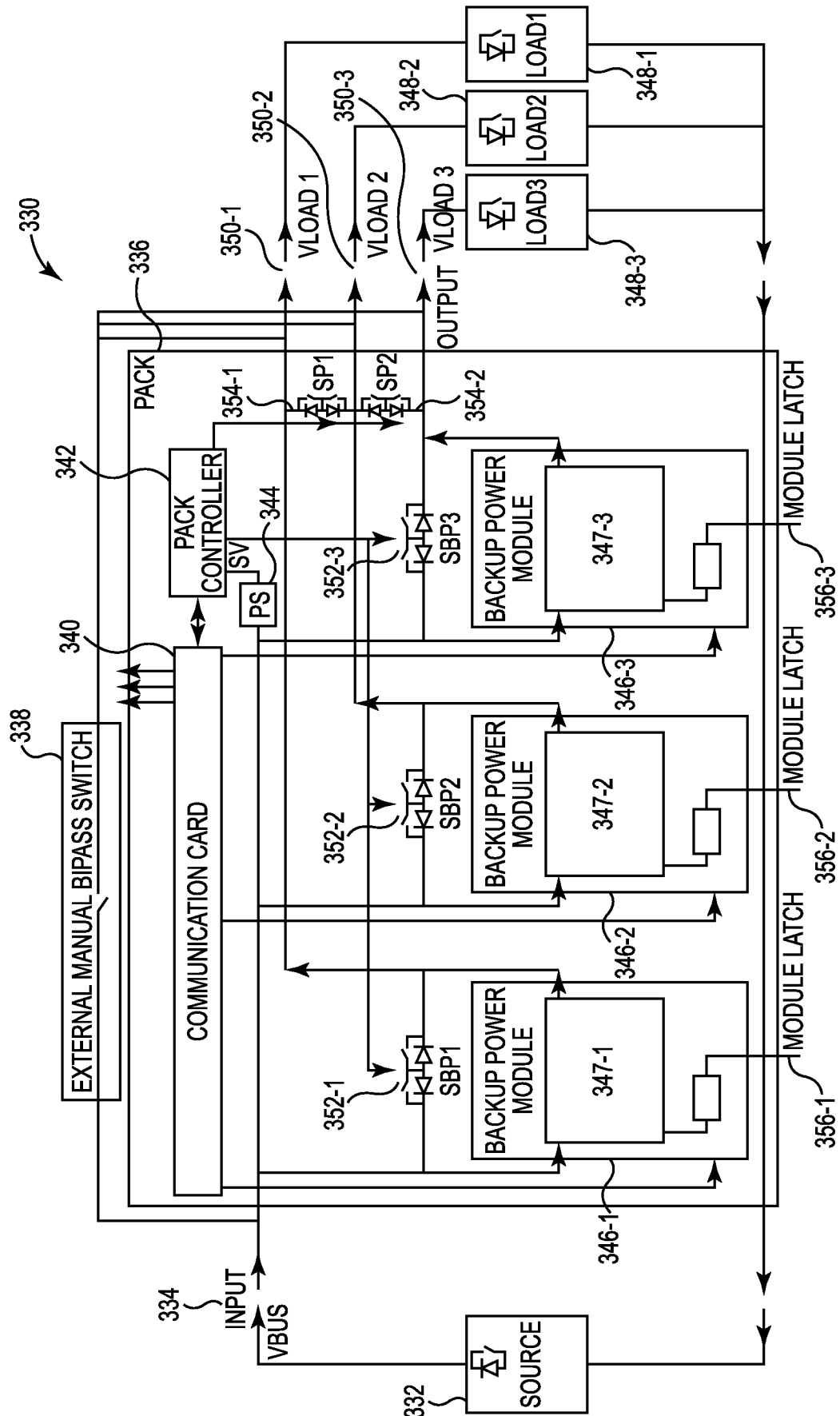
a controller to activate one or more of the switches coupled to each of the plurality of backup power modules based on an output power of a portion of the plurality of backup power modules.

13. The system of claim 12, wherein the plurality of backup power modules are each coupled to a separate load coupled to the corresponding output of the enclosure when the switches coupled to each of the plurality of backup power modules are deactivated.

14. The system of claim 12, wherein the plurality of backup power modules provide alternating current to a corresponding load when a main power source coupled to the input of the enclosure is activated and provide direct current to the corresponding load when a main power source coupled to the input of the enclosure is deactivated.

15. The system of claim 12, wherein the output power of the portion of the plurality of backup power modules is altered by at least one of the plurality of backup power modules being removed from an energized DC bus.

**Fig. 1****Fig. 2**

**Fig. 3**

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No.
PCT/US2015/057955**A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER****G06F 1/30(2006.01)i, G06F 1/26(2006.01)i, H02J 9/06(2006.01)i**

According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC

B. FIELDS SEARCHED

Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)

G06F 1/30; H02J 9/06; H02J 7/00; G06F 1/00; G06F 1/26

Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched

Korean utility models and applications for utility models

Japanese utility models and applications for utility models

Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practicable, search terms used)

eKOMPASS(KIPO internal) & Keywords:switch, backup power module, parallel, output power, UPS

C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category*	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
X	US 2001-0011845 A1 (JAMES M. SIMONELLI) 09 August 2001 See paragraphs [0003], [0009], [0034], [0037], [0039], [0044]; claim 1; and figure 6.	1-3, 5-9, 11-15
Y		4, 10
Y	US 6041414 A (KAZUHITO KIKUCHI) 21 March 2000 See column 5, lines 40-42; and figure 1.	4, 10
A	US 2013-0076132 A1 (DANIEL C. COHEN et al.) 28 March 2013 See paragraphs [0018]-[0019]; and figure 1. See	1-15
A	US 8829714 B2 (YUAN-FANG LAI et al.) 09 September 2014 See column 5, lines 18-56; and figure 1.	1-15
A	WO 2009-020788 A1 (AMERICAN POWER CONVERSION CORPORATION) 12 February 2009 See page 8, lines 4-15; and figure 2.	1-15

☐ Further documents are listed in the continuation of Box C.☒ See patent family annex.

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Date of the actual completion of the international search

28 July 2016 (28.07.2016)

Date of mailing of the international search report

28 July 2016 (28.07.2016)

Name and mailing address of the ISA/KR

International Application Division

Korean Intellectual Property Office

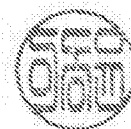
189 Cheongsa-ro, Seo-gu, Daejeon, 35208, Republic of Korea

Facsimile No. +82-42-481-8578

Authorized officer

LEE, Dong Yun

Telephone No. +82-42-481-8734



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