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(54) **VARIABLE REFRIGERANT PACKAGE**

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See application file for complete search history.

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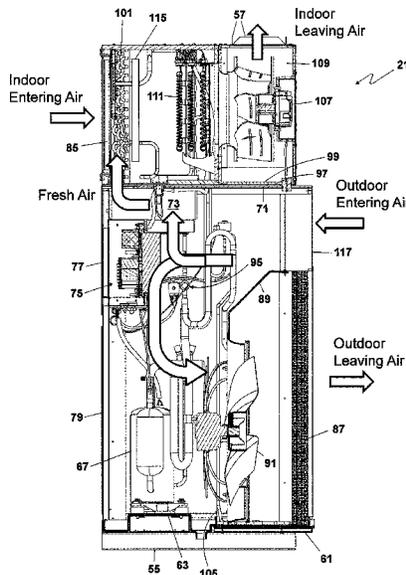
(57) **ABSTRACT**

A variable refrigerant package air conditioner is shown that is easy to install in new construction with a unique base that causes collected mixture that overflows to drain outside the building. A control system is shown that has motors and compressor that are pulse width modulated so the air conditioner is infinitely variable while maintaining the highest possible power factor. Dehumidification of outside air occurs as it is mixed with inside air. By gradually approaching a temperature set point and even reheating after dehumidification, moisture is removed from the room.

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9 Claims, 13 Drawing Sheets



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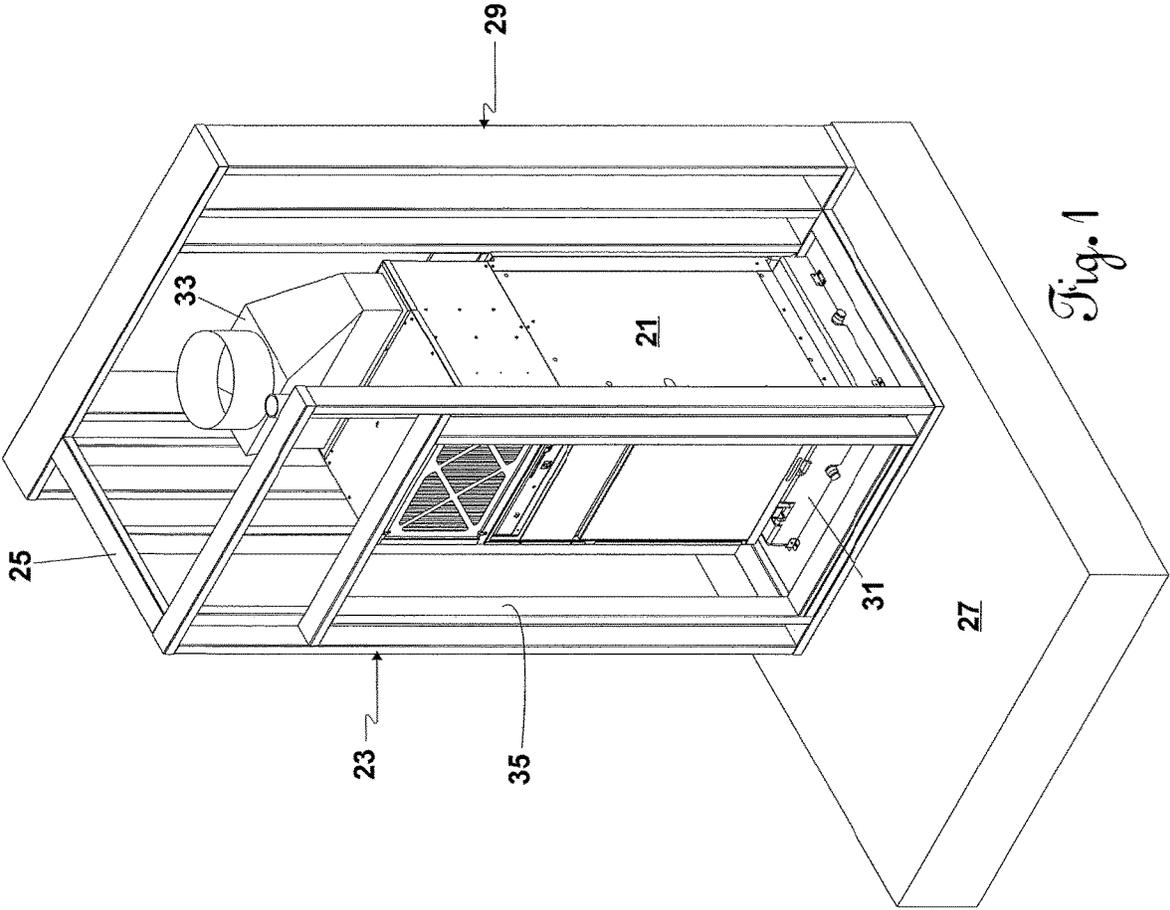


Fig. 1

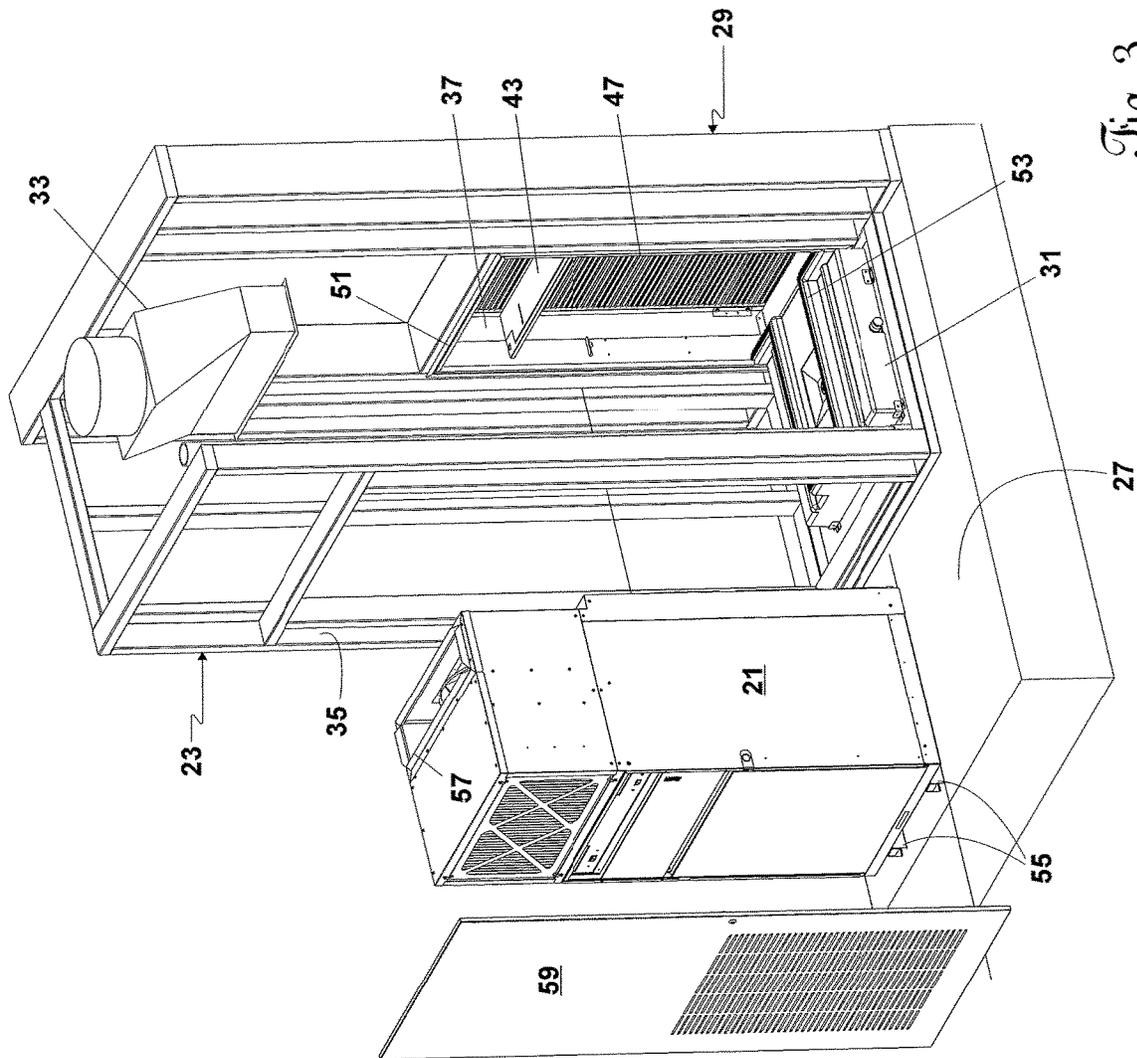


Fig. 3

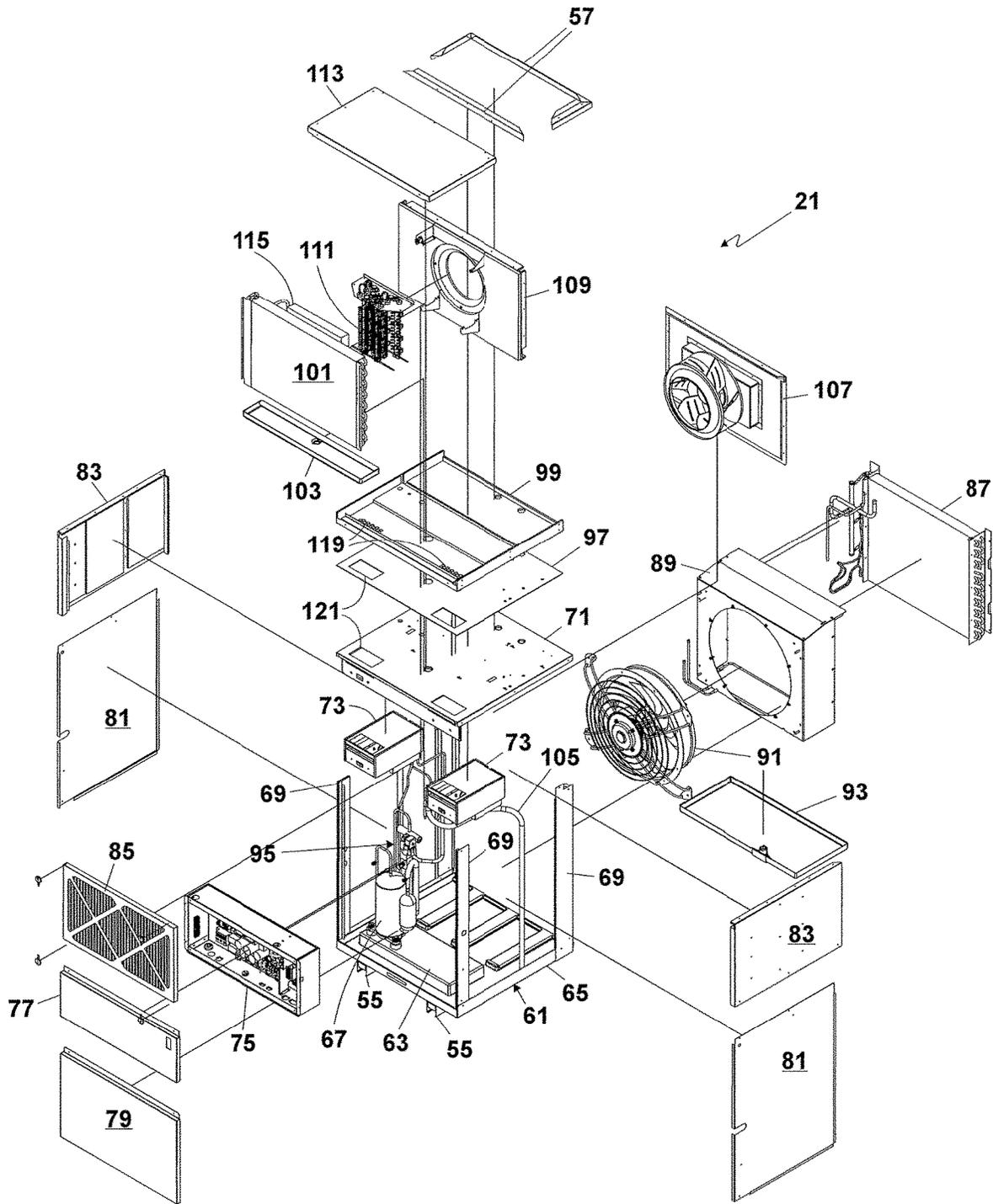


Fig. 4

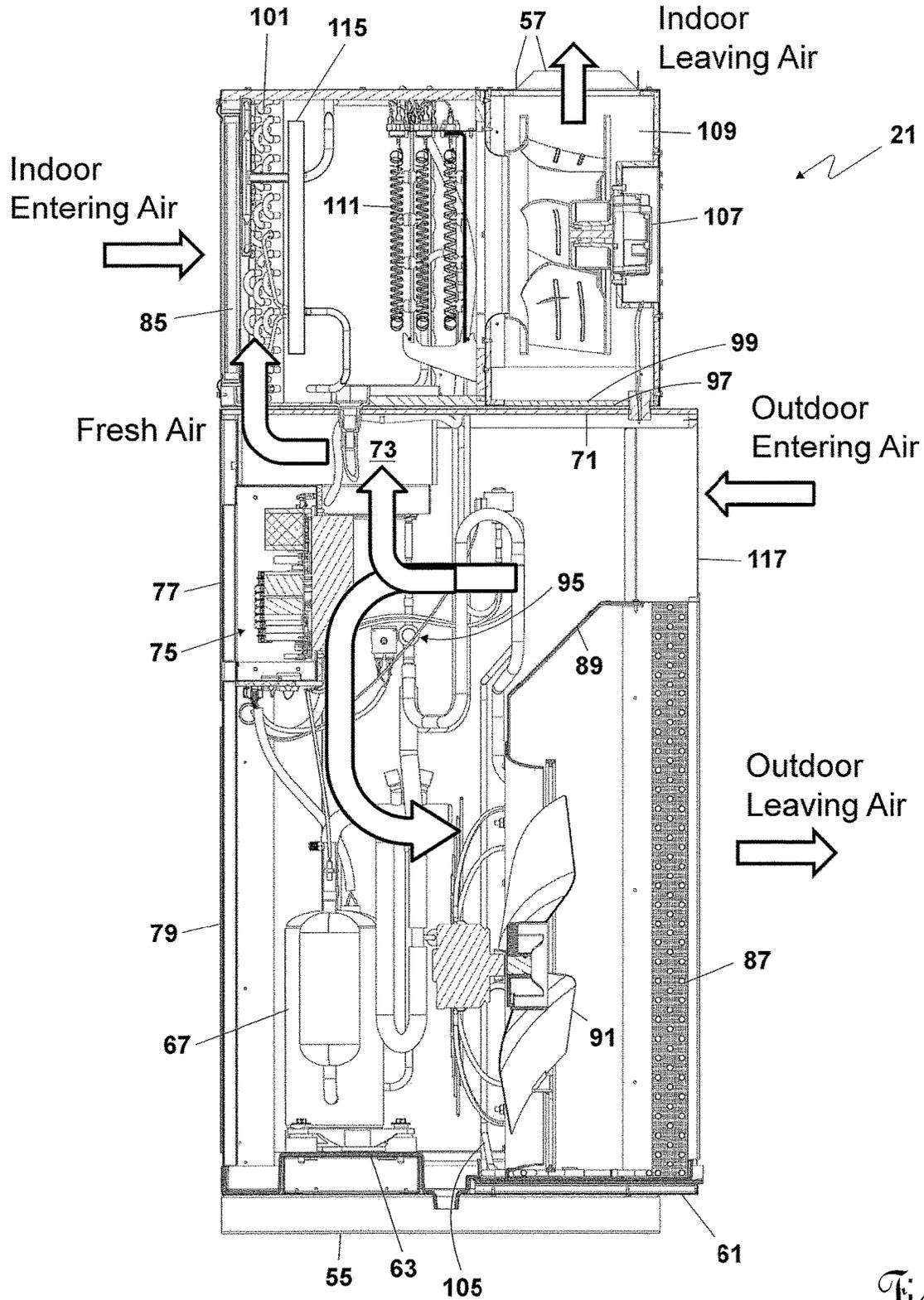


Fig. 5

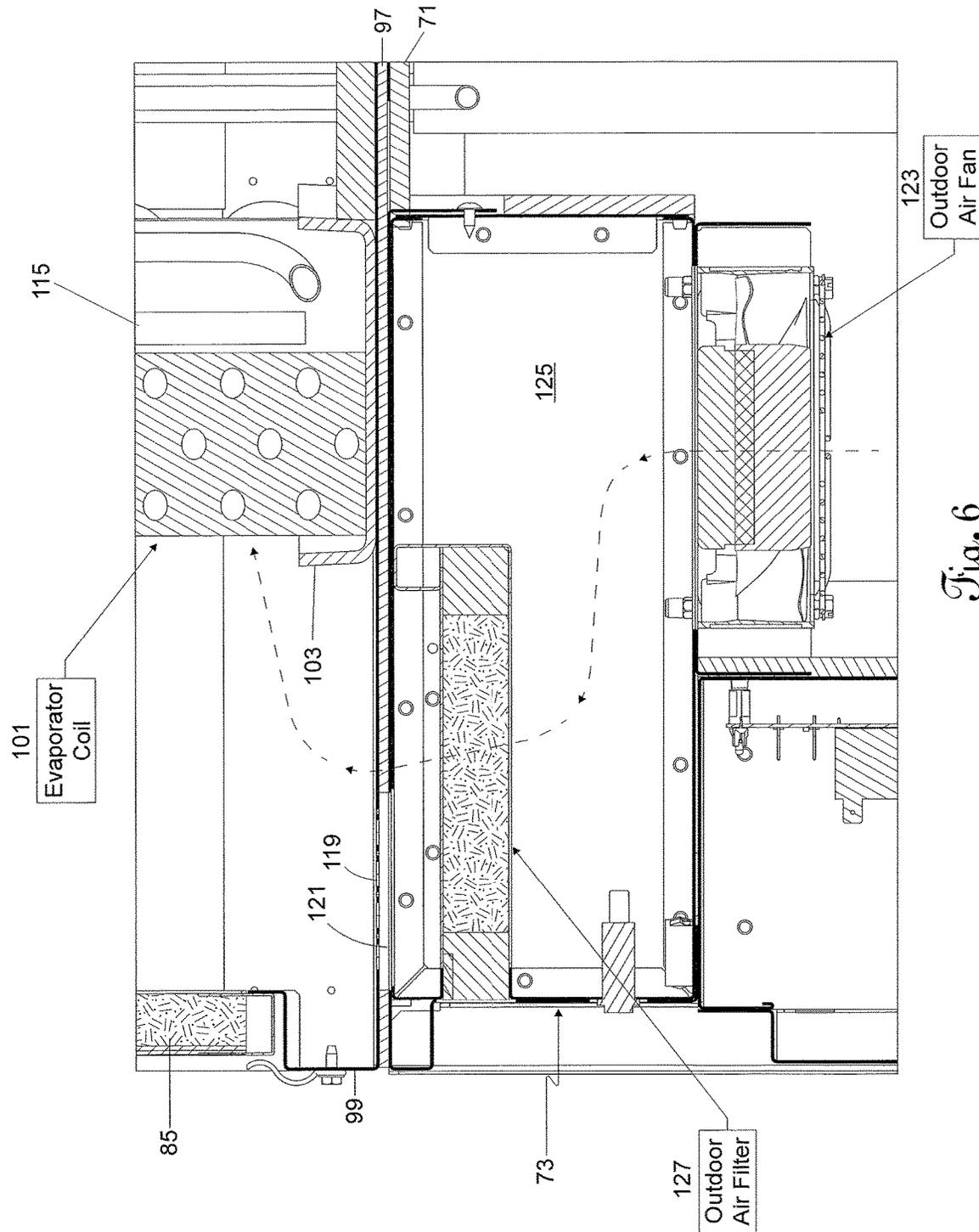


Fig. 6

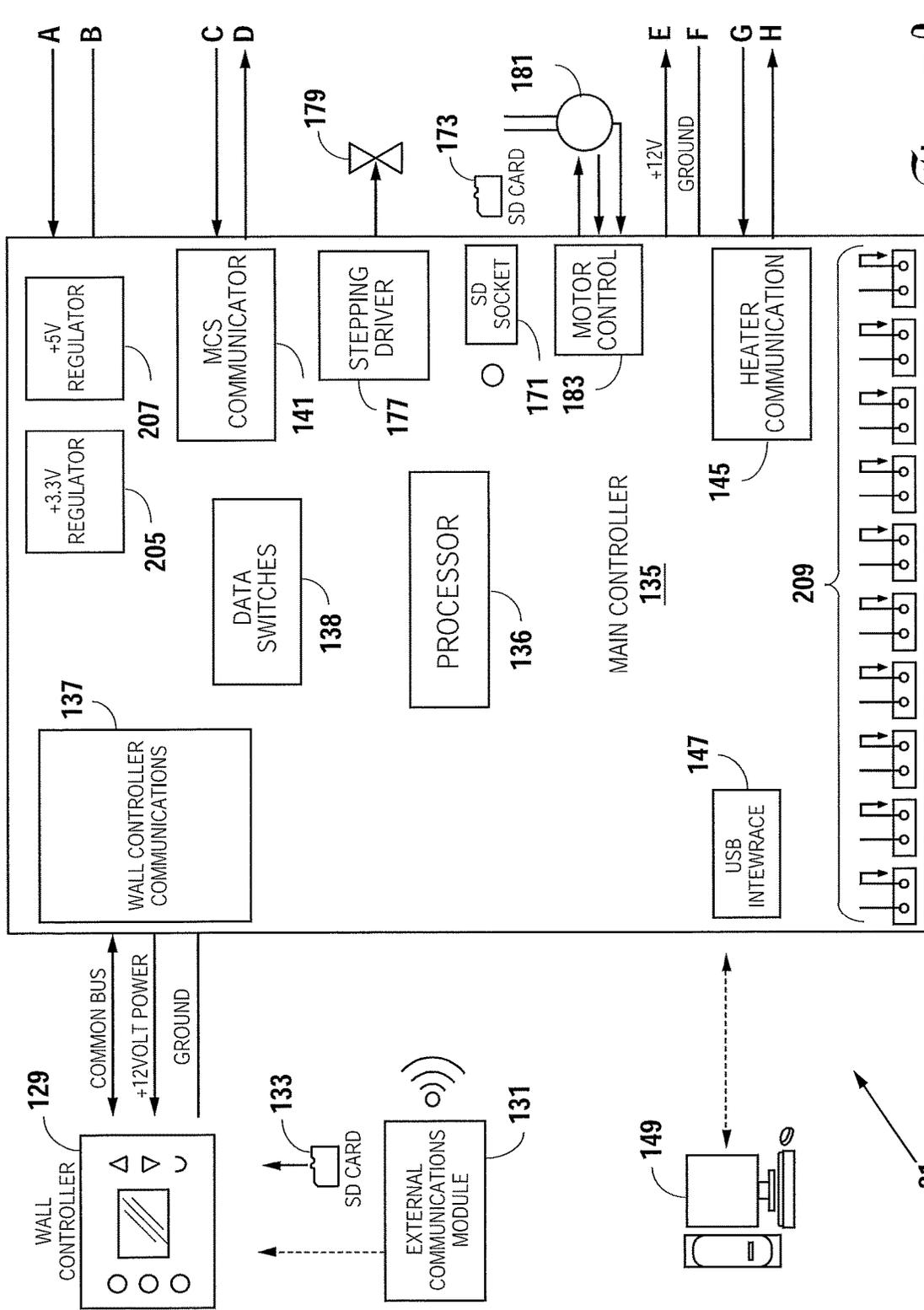


Fig. 7A

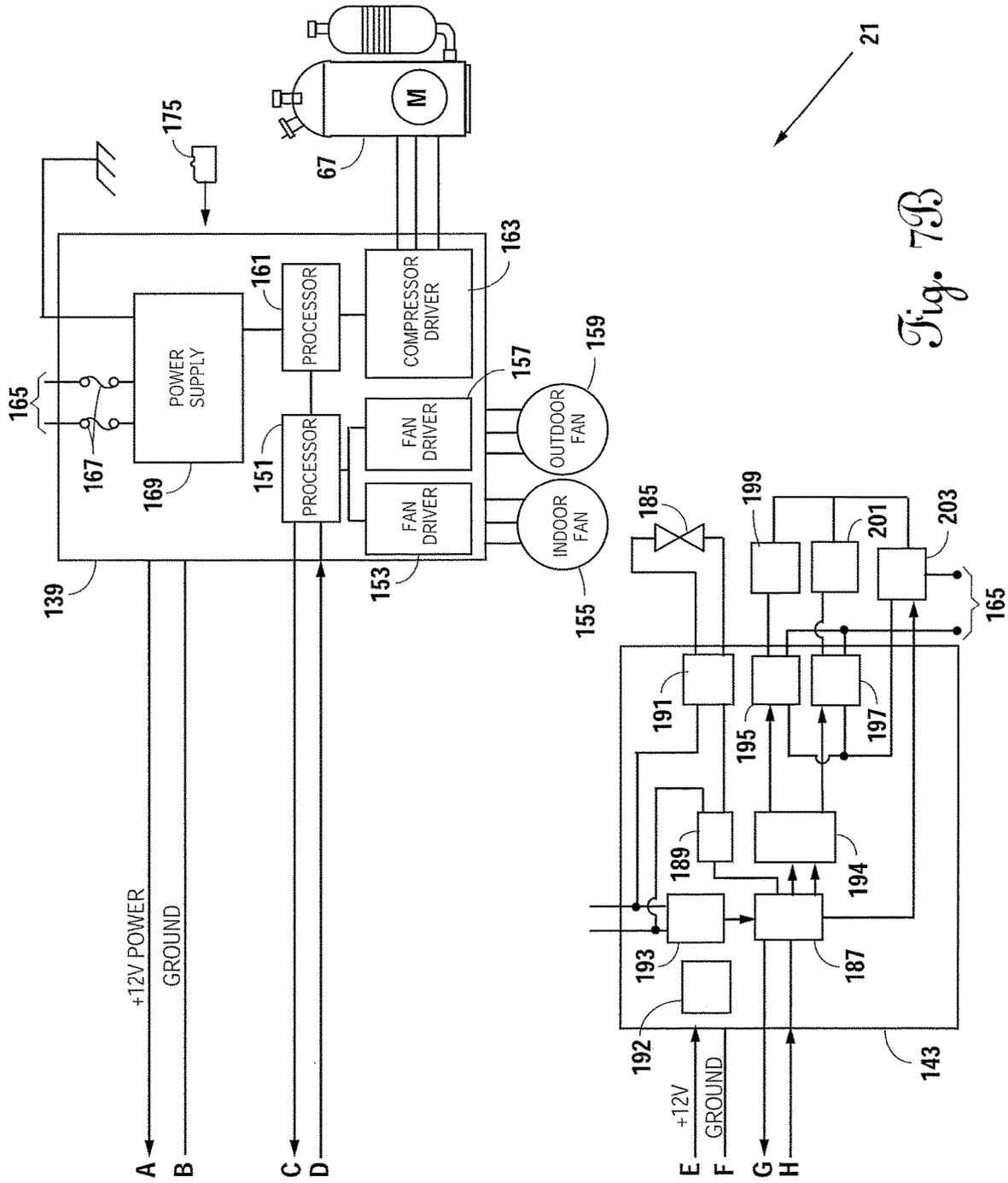


Fig. 7B

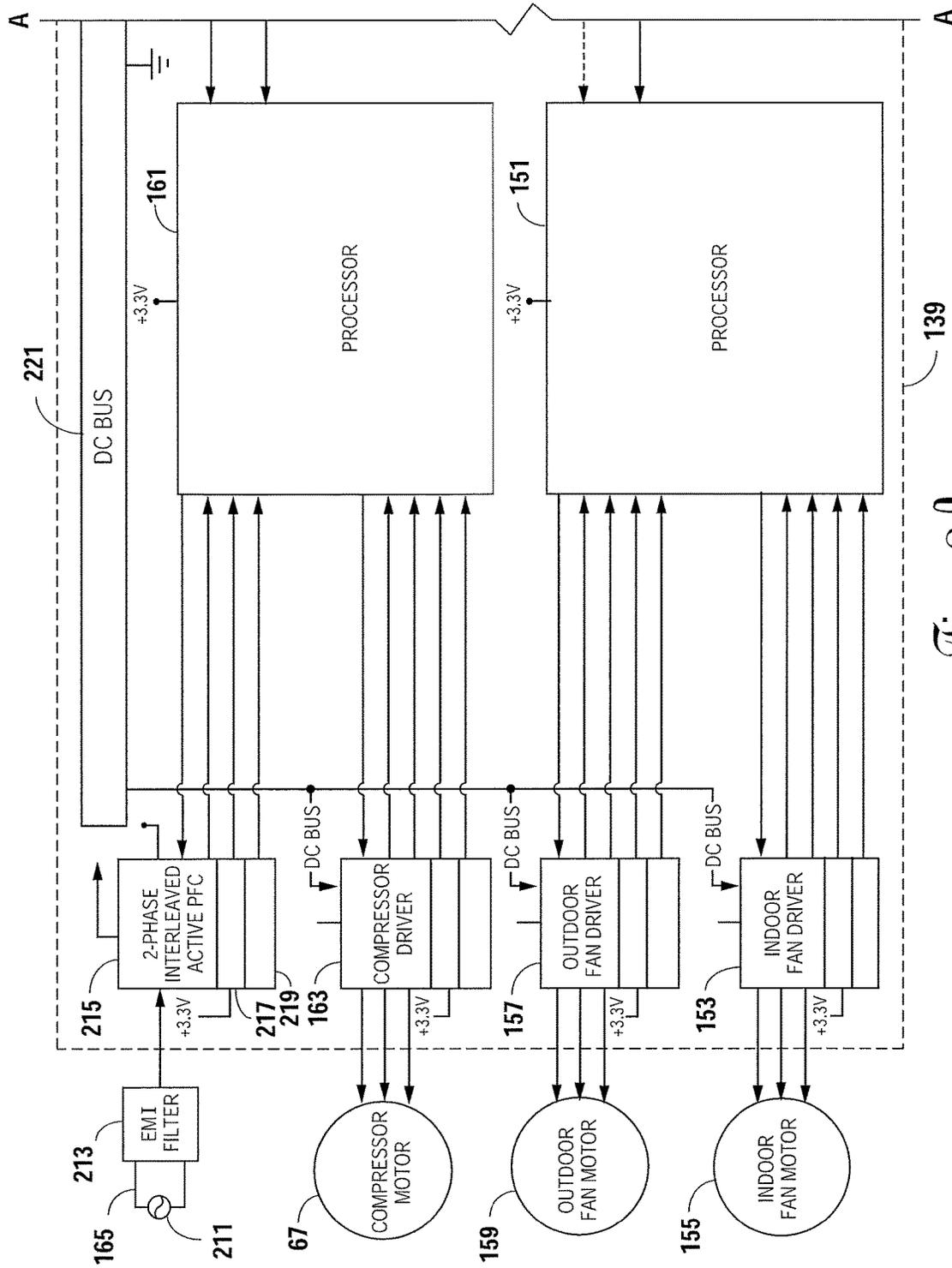


Fig. 8A

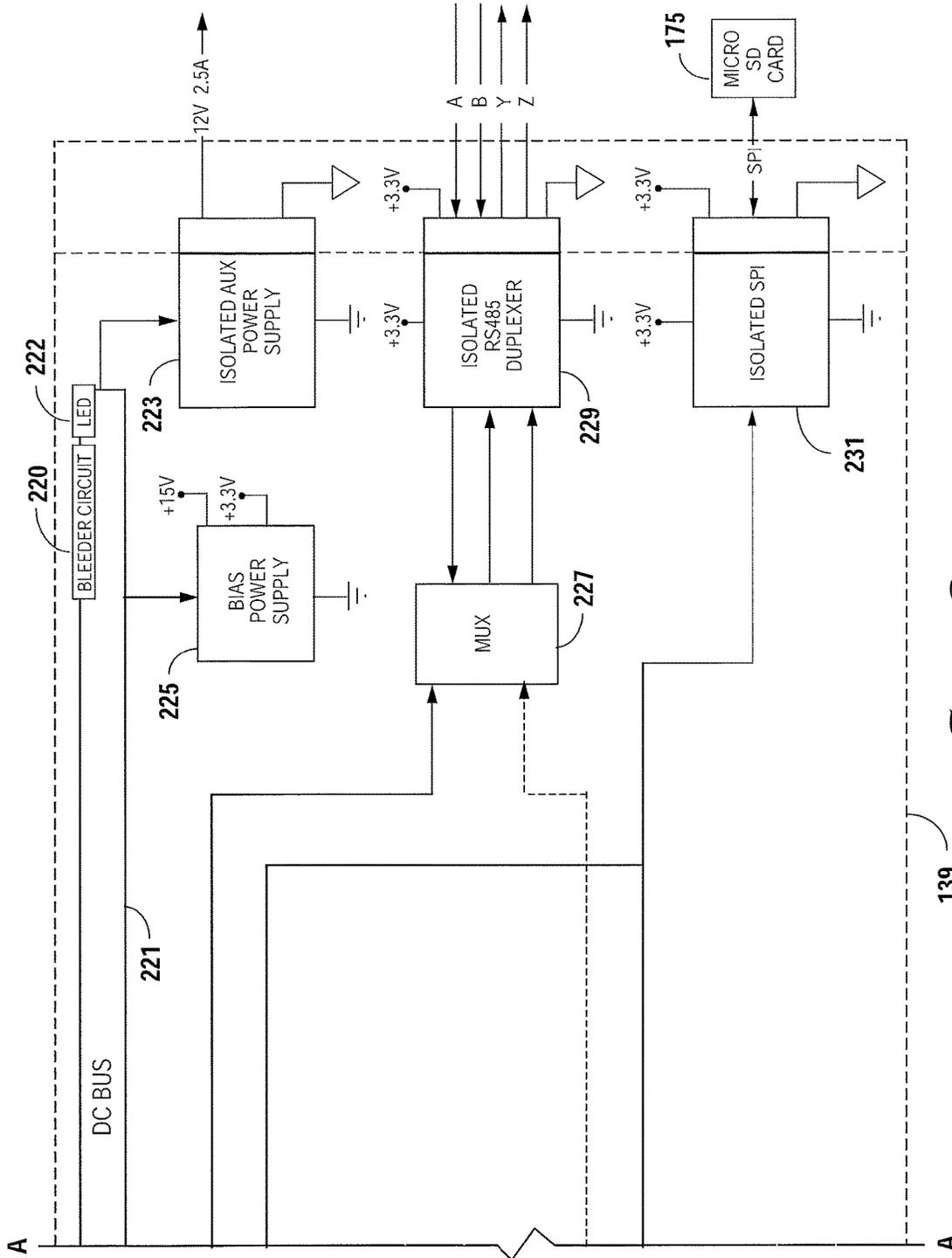


Fig. 8B

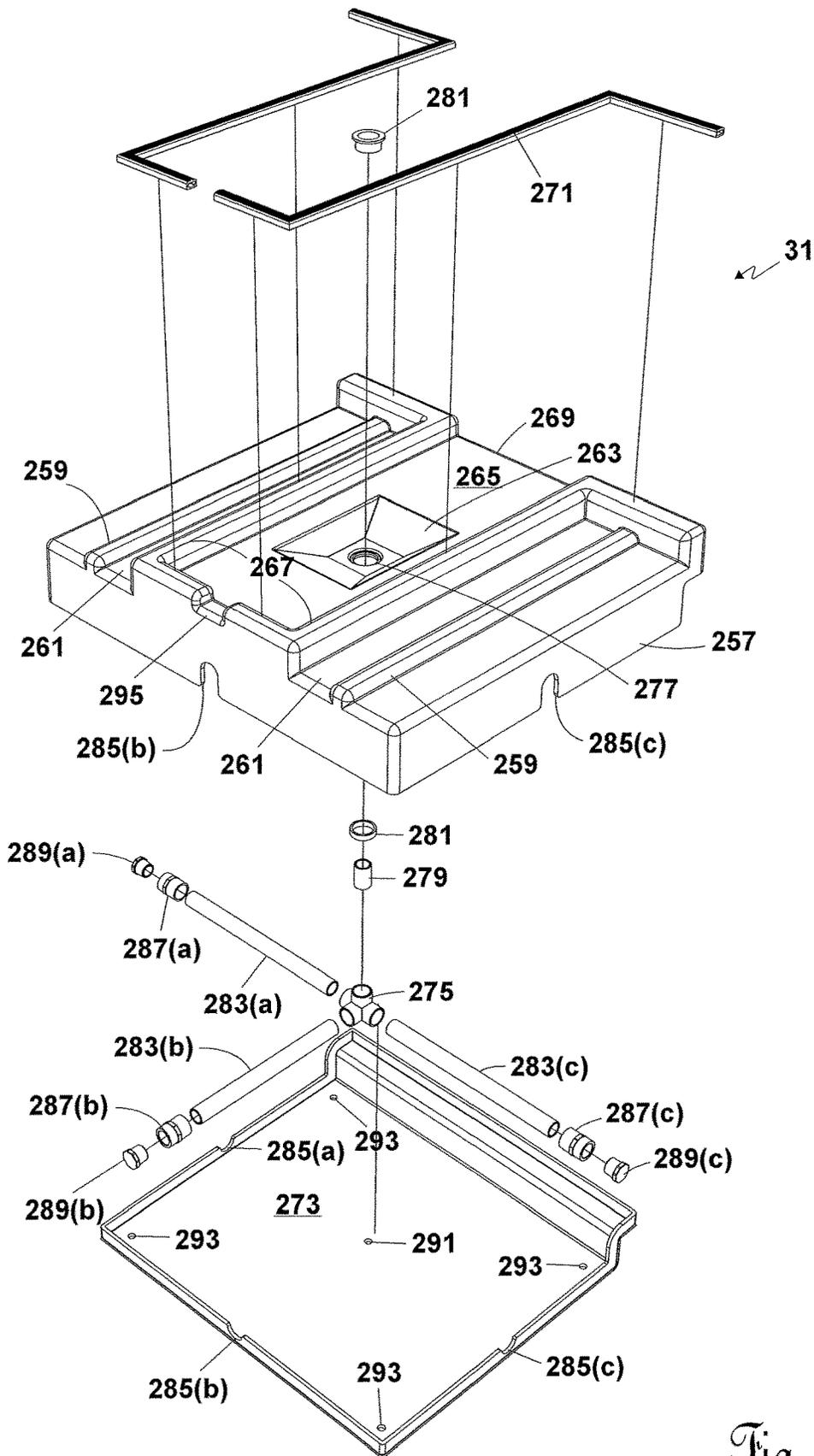


Fig. 10

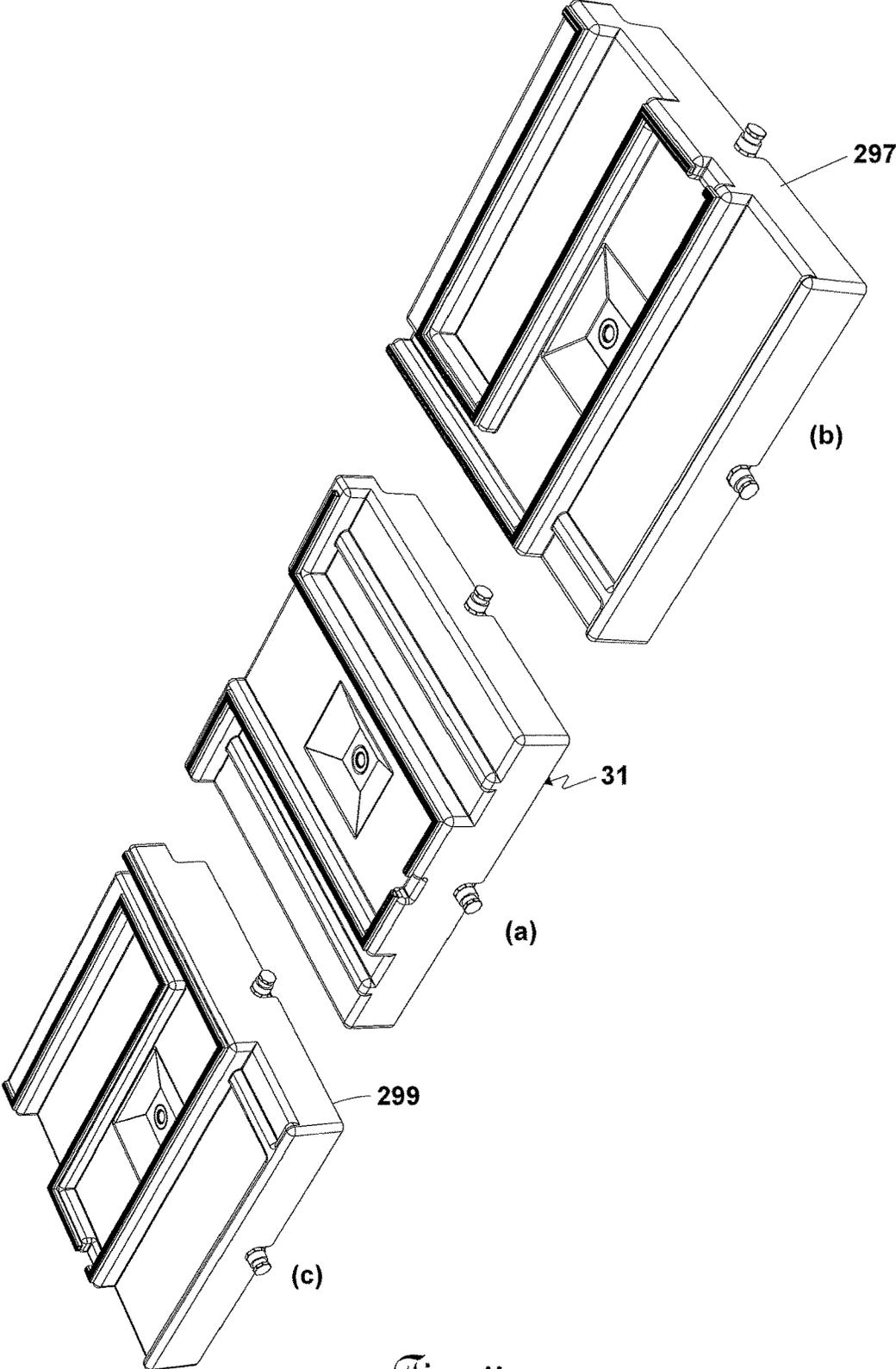


Fig. 11

VARIABLE REFRIGERANT PACKAGE

Matter enclosed in heavy brackets [] appears in the original patent but forms no part of this reissue specification; matter printed in italics indicates the additions made by reissue; a claim printed with strikethrough indicates that the claim was canceled, disclaimed, or held invalid by a prior post-patent action or proceeding.

CROSS-REFERENCE TO RELATED APPLICATIONS

This application is a reissue of U.S. Pat. No. 10,731,899, issued Aug. 4, 2020, from U.S. application Ser. No. 15/835,882 filed Dec. 8, 2017, which is a divisional [application claiming priority to parent U.S. patent application Ser. No. 14/975,166, filed on Dec. 18, 2015] of U.S. application Ser. No. 14/975,166, filed Dec. 18, 2015, now U.S. Pat. No. 10,488,083, issued Nov. 26, 2019.

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

1. Field of the invention

This invention relates to a variable refrigerant package (VRP), and more particularly, to a variable refrigerant package that may be quickly installed in new construction.

2. Description of the Prior Art

A package terminal air conditioner (PTAC) and a vertical packaged air conditioner (VPAC) are types of self-contained heating and air conditioning systems commonly found in hotels or motels. Most PTAC and VPAC units are designed to go through a wall having vents and/or heat sinks both inside and outside. While PTACs and VPACs are commonly used to heat or cool a single living space, there are cooling only PTACs and/or VPACs with an external heating source. On some PTACs/VPACs condensate drain piping is not required because the condensate water extracted from the air by the evaporator coil is thrown by the condenser fan onto the condenser coil surface where it evaporates. Conventional PTACs/VPACs still require condensate drain piping to be installed.

Through-the-wall units such as PTACs/VPACs have some basic problems. The through-the-wall units do not ventilate the space in which the air is being conditioned. If provisions are made to ventilate the space being conditioned, then humidity is introduced into the space being conditioned. For example, in coastal areas, motels/hotels have a tendency to have a musty smell due to the humidity. The problem is the unit does not run long enough to remove the moisture from the space being conditioned. Yet, building codes require ventilation of the areas being conditioned which PTAC/VPAC units do not normally provide.

While there have been various attempts to reduce the humidity inside of the space being conditioned, such attempts normally require ancillary devices or systems other than the PTAC/VPAC unit. Some require separate dehumidifiers that have to be connected to a building drain. Others require separate dehumidified air being forced into the conditioned space. Each of these systems are either complicated, expensive, or do not work properly.

The standard air conditioner as it is cooling a particular space only responds to the temperature inside the space. Once the space's temperature is satisfied, the active cooling

and dehumidification of the space stops. Humidity in the space continues to build. One solution to address the dehumidification and ventilation that has been used in the hotel/motel industry was to have duct work connecting a source of dehumidified outside air to the enclosed space. The dehumidified outside air is forced through the duct work into the room. The increased pressure caused by forcing the dehumidified outside air into the room being conditioned escapes through leakage points such as around the entry door and through the room exhaust. However, this method requires the running of additional duct work and having a dehumidifier to remove moisture from the outside air.

Another common method that was used was to have a flap inside of a PTAC unit that is opened to allow outside air to be brought in. However, the outside air was not dehumidified which adds humidity to the space and would many times cause a musty smell inside of the room. Many times after inspection the outside air flap was simply bolted shut.

Another variation of the room air conditioner is what is called a variable refrigerant flow system (VRF). Those systems have very large outdoor condensers and multiple indoor evaporators with refrigerant tubing being run to every space being cooled. Still, the variable refrigerant flow systems continue to have problems with high humidity and lack of available ventilation air.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

It is an object of the present invention to provide a variable refrigerant package (VRP).

It is another object of the present invention to provide effective dehumidification of a conditioned space using a variable refrigerant package.

It is still another object of the present invention to provide variable, yet stable, power to the power consuming parts of a variable refrigerant package.

It is yet another object of the present invention for a contractor when building a hotel/motel to install external connections for a variable refrigerant package so that a non-skilled person can install the variable refrigerant package to provide cooling of an enclosed space.

It is another object of the present invention to provide a new base for a variable refrigerant package.

It is still another object of the present invention to provide a control system for a variable refrigerant package, which control system dehumidifies the air inside of the closed space.

It is yet another object of the present invention to dehumidify outside air before it is added to the air in the enclosed space.

It is still another object of the present invention to modulate the power being supplied to the compressor and/or fans of a variable refrigerant package.

It is another object of the present invention to use pulse width modulation on the compressor and motors contained within a variable refrigerant package, which pulse width modulation is used to slowly bring the variable refrigerant package slowly to the inside temperature set in the room sensor to allow for increased dehumidification of the inside air.

It is yet another object of the present invention to provide a reheat system to provide extra dehumidification by the evaporator.

It is a further object of the present invention to actively control the power factor of the variable refrigerant package for reduced power consumption.

DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

FIG. 1 illustrates a variable refrigerant package fitting inside a closet.

FIG. 2 is an exploded perspective showing how a plenum and base are installed in a framed (but not enclosed) closet for receiving a variable refrigerant package.

FIG. 3 is an exploded pictorial illustration showing how the variable refrigerant package is inserted into a framed (but not enclosed) closet.

FIG. 4 is an exploded perspective view of a variable refrigerant package.

FIG. 5 is a sectional view illustrating air flow in the variable refrigerant package.

FIG. 6 is an enlarged partial sectional view of FIG. 5 illustrating how outside air entering the room being conditioned is dehumidified.

FIGS. 7A and 7B are pictorial block diagrams of controls for a variable refrigerant package.

FIGS. 8A and 8B are expanded block diagrams of the motor control system shown in FIG. 7B.

FIG. 9 is an expanded block diagram of the power factor correction shown in FIG. 8A.

FIG. 10 is an exploded perspective view of a base for the variable refrigerant package.

FIG. 11 shows alternative perspective views of three different bases that can be used with the variable refrigerant package.

DESCRIPTION OF THE PREFERRED EMBODIMENT

A preferred embodiment of the present invention will be given herein below in conjunction with the illustrations shown in the attached figures. A variable refrigerant package 21 is shown in FIG. 1 installed in a closet 23 formed by frame 25 on floor 27 of a space to be cooled. Frame 25 extends to the outside 29 of the space being cooled. For illustration purposes, the sheetrock or other covering material for the frame 25 has been removed.

Inside of the closet 23 is installed a base 31 on which the variable refrigerant package 21 sits. A duct adapter 33 is installed near the top of the closet 23 for connection to the top of the variable refrigerant package 21 to direct the conditioned air to a desired location. The variable refrigerant package 21 is inserted into the closet 23 through door opening 35.

Referring now to FIG. 2, the variable refrigerant package 21 has been removed. During construction of the closet 23 by the contractor building the hotel/motel, a plenum 37 is installed that has an interior wall plenum 39 that telescopes inside of exterior wall plenum 41. The lower portion of both the interior wall plenum 39 and exterior wall plenum 41 slopes downward toward the outside 29. A plenum divider baffle 43 is located inside of the interior wall plenum 39 and exterior wall plenum 41. The plenum 37 extends from the outside 29 to the inside of closet 23. Because of the telescoping feature of the plenum 37, varying widths of the outside wall 45 can be accommodated with typical widths being between four to eight inches. An outdoor louvre grill 47 covers the outside opening of plenum 37. The outdoor louvre grill 47 has downwardly sloped louvres 49 to keep rain from entering through plenum 37.

In addition to installing the plenum 37 through outside wall 45, a contractor building the hotel/motel will install base 31 inside of closet 23. The outer portion of the base 31

will extend over the inside lower edge of interior wall plenum 39 in a manner as will be subsequently described.

To provide good sealing contact with the variable refrigerant package 21 (shown in FIG. 1), a plenum gasket 51 is located on the inside of interior wall plenum 39. To seal with the bottom of the variable refrigerant package 21, a base gasket 53 is provided on the top edge of base 31.

In FIG. 3, the installation of the variable refrigerant package 21 inside of the closet 23 is illustrated. The variable refrigerant package 21 is inserted through the door opening 35. Installation rails 55 are mounted on the bottom of the variable refrigerant package 21 to slide in grooves in the top of base 31 until the variable refrigerant package 21 slides through and presses against the plenum gasket 51 to provide a good seal between the plenum 37 and the variable refrigerant package 21. The bottom of the variable refrigerant package 21 rests on the base gasket 53. After the variable refrigerant package 21 is in place, duct adapter 33 moves downward to enclose supply duct flanges 57.

While not shown in FIGS. 1 through 3, closet 23 will be wired by the contractor with electricity so the variable refrigerant package may be plugged in for power. Also, a connection (not shown) is provided in closet 23 to the room sensor. By installing the return air door 59 in the door opening 35 of the closet 23 and plugging into power and the room sensor, the variable refrigerant package 21 as shown in FIG. 3 is ready for operation. The installation of the variable refrigerant package 21 can be completed by non-certified personnel.

FIG. 4 shows an exploded perspective view of the mechanical parts of the variable refrigerant package 21. The condenser base assembly 61 has a drain tray 63 in the bottom thereof, which rests on base 65. Below base 65 are located the installation rails 55. Compressor 67 rests on the drain tray 63, which is supported by the base 65.

Extending upward from the base 65 are corner posts 69. On the top of corner posts 69 is located the condenser top cover 71. Connected to the underside of the condenser top cover 71 are fresh air modules 73, which will be discussed in more detail subsequently. Control box 75 is located between corner posts 69. Adjacent the control box 75 is control box cover 77. Located below the control box cover 77 is condenser access panel 79. Lower side covers 81 enclose the sides of the condenser base assembly 61. Upper side covers 83 enclose the upper sides of the variable refrigerant package 21. Any return air coming back into the variable refrigerant package 21 has to enter through the return air filter 85.

Located within the condenser base assembly 61 are the condenser 87 and the condenser shroud 89. The condenser fan assembly 91 is located within the condenser shroud 89 and blows air through the condenser 87. Condenser drain pan 93 will collect any moisture that drips off of condenser 87 or the evaporator drain pan 103. Located above the compressor 67 is the reversing valve assembly 95.

Located above the condenser top cover 71 is an insulation plate 97, which is mounted between the condenser top cover 71 and the evaporator base 99. Located above the evaporator base 99 is evaporator 101 with an evaporator drain pan 103 there below. Connecting from the evaporator drain pan 103 to the bottom of the variable refrigerant package 21 is evaporator drain tube 105.

To draw air through the evaporator 101, a blower assembly 107 draws air through blower inlet panel 109. Between the blower inlet panel 109 and the evaporator 101 is located electric heater 111. Allowing access to the electric heater 111 is heater access panel 113.

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Conditioned air after flowing through evaporator **101**, electric heater **111**, blower inlet panel **109** and blower assembly **107** leaves through supply duct flanges **57** as previously described in conjunction with FIG. **3**. A reheat coil **115** is located behind the evaporator **101**.

Referring now to FIG. **5**, a pictorial cross-sectional view of the variable refrigerant package **21** is shown. The same numbers as applied to prior component parts described in FIGS. **1** through **4** will be used in FIG. **5**. The blower assembly **107** brings indoor entering air across the return air filter **85**, evaporator coil **101**, reheat coil **115** and out blower inlet panel **109** to give indoor leaving air. Any moisture that is collected drains out through evaporator drain tube **105**.

Outdoor entering air is drawn in through outdoor air inlet **117** by the condenser fan assembly **91** with the majority of the air blowing out through the condenser shroud **89** and through condenser **87** to give outdoor leaving air. The flow of the outdoor air provides cooling for the control box **75** as well as removing heat from condenser **87**.

A small amount of the outdoor entering air flows through the fresh air module **73**. Rectangular openings **121** and honeycomb openings **119** (see FIG. **4**) in evaporator base **99** allows the fresh air to flow there through. From the honeycomb openings **119**, the fresh air flows to the inlet side of evaporator **101**. Therefore, excess moisture in the fresh air is removed as the fresh air flows through the evaporator **101**. To ensure that an appropriate amount of fresh air is being drawn into the space being cooled, each of the fresh air modules **73** have fans inside of them to control the fresh air flow, as will be described in more detail subsequently. The fresh air entering through the fresh air module **73** is cooled and dehumidified by the evaporator **101**. The fresh air is mixed with the indoor entering air, cooled and dehumidified with the evaporator **101** with any moisture being collected by evaporator drain panel **103** and discharged out the evaporator drain tube **105**.

During the heating mode for the variable refrigerant package **21**, electric heaters **111** may be turned ON to heat the indoor entering air. If humidity needs to be removed from the fresh air, the evaporator **101** is operated just enough to remove the humidity. The reheat coil **115** will provide any reheating necessary due to the operation of the evaporator **101** in removing humidity.

Referring to FIGS. **5** and **6** in combination, FIG. **6** shows an enlarged, cross-sectional view of one of the fresh air modules **73**. The fresh air module **73** has an outdoor air fan **123** for drawing air into fresh air chamber **125**. The outdoor air fan **123** has a housing, fan blade and motor very similar to a computer-style fan. From the fresh air chamber **125** fresh air flows through outdoor air filter **127**. Rectangular openings **121** and honeycomb openings **119** allows some of the outdoor entering air to be mixed with indoor entering air in front of the evaporator coil **101**. The mixed air streams of outdoor entering air and indoor entering air are then conditioned to whatever condition the variable refrigerant package **21** is set. The mixed air can be cooled, dehumidified or heated. If dehumidified, the evaporator drain pan **103** will collect the moisture which is subsequently discharged out evaporator drain tube **105** (see FIGS. **4** and **6**). Any air entering the air conditioned space is filtered by the outdoor air filter **127** or, upon recirculation, by the return air filter **85**.

Traditional air conditioners simply control the temperature of the space being cooled. They turn ON or OFF based upon the temperature set point inside the space being conditioned. The traditional air conditioner may not run long enough to remove moisture from the space. Most traditional air conditioners do not bring fresh air into the space being

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cooled. Fresh air is required for the occupants to breathe and to displace noxious fumes, plus bring oxygen into the space being conditioned.

The present invention brings fresh air into the space being conditioned and by a sophisticated control system that coordinates the motors and compressor allows the variable refrigerant package **21** to run longer so that it will cause more dehumidification of the air. As the space being conditioned gets closer and closer to the desired temperature, the motors and compressor are slowed down so that the unit will run longer to dehumidify the space being conditioned.

The variable refrigerant package **21** varies its ability to cool the enclosed space by two distinct methods. In the first method, the variable refrigerant package **21** reduces its capacity or ability to cool by varying the speeds of the motors or compressor as the conditioned space approaches the desired temperature. The second method is to add some reheat back to the space being cooled as is provided by the re-heater coil **115**. In the reheat method, the evaporator **101** is allowed to continue to run and remove moisture from the air, but heat is then added back through re-heater coil **115**. In this method the conditioned space is being actively dehumidified.

The electrical controls for the variable refrigerant package **21** are illustrated in FIG. **7**. A wall controller **129**, commonly called a thermostat, sets the desired temperature inside of enclosed space. The wall controller **129** may be communicated with through an external communications module **131**. Also, setting up the operating parameters of the variable refrigerant package **21** may be done with SD card **133**. The wall controller **129** communicates with the main controller **135**. The main controller **135** has a wall controller communications **137** for communicating with the wall controller **129**. The main controller **135** has a processor **136** in which provisional data may be programmed by data switches **138**.

The main controller **135** communicates with motor control system **139** via MCS communication **141**. Also, main controller **135** communicates with heater board **143** via heater communication **145**. The main controller **135** could be referred to as the master unit with the motor control system **139** and/or the heater board **143** being referred to as slave units. Both the motor control system **139** and the heater board **143** receive commands from the processor **136** in the main controller **135**. If a problem is detected in either the motor control system **139** or the heater board **143**, the message is communicated back through the main controller **135** and is displayed on the wall controller **129**. The wall controller **129** may receive commands or send commands back and forth with the main controller **135**, plus having an external communications module **131**.

The main controller **135** has a USB interface **147** for communicating with a personal computer **149**. The personal computer **149** may be programmed to set data points in the main controller **135**, retrieve data, send commands, or remotely control the entire variable refrigerant package **21**. Also, the personal computer **149** may be used to do monitor control tests to make sure the variable refrigerant package **21** is operating properly. Any error history in the main controller **135** may be downloaded and observed in the personal computer **149**. The personal computer **149** may be used for troubleshooting or upgrading software in the main controller **135**. The parameters set in the main controller **135** can be changed through the personal computer **149**.

Inside of the motor control system **139**, processor **151** controls fan driver **153** that operates the indoor fan **155**. By providing pulse width modulation to the indoor fan **155**, the speed of the indoor fan **155** and its power consumption is

controlled. Also, processor 151 controls the fan driver 157 for the outdoor fan 159. The indoor fan 155 is the same as blower assembly 107 shown in FIGS. 4 and 5. Outdoor fan 159 is the same as condenser fan assembly 91 shown in FIGS. 4 and 5.

Processor 161 inside of motor control system 139 operates a compressor driver 163 that in turn operates the compressor 67. By pulse width modulation from the processor 161 via the compressor driver 163, the speed of the compressor 67 may be varied.

Outside power feeds through power input lines 165 and fuses 167 to the power supply 169. The power supply 169 has power factor correction therein as will be subsequently described in conjunction with FIGS. 8 and 9.

Service personnel that may work on the variable refrigerant package 21 will probably not have a personal computer 149 to connect through USB interface 147. Therefore, an SD socket 171 is provided to receive SD card 173. The SD card 173 may be used to upgrade the program or firmware inside of the main controller 135. Also, the SD card 173 may be used for troubleshooting or downloading the history of the operation of the variable refrigerant package 21. The SD card 173 can also provide extra memory for the main controller 135.

The motor control system 139 may have its own SD card 175. By having the SD card 173 in the main controller 135 and SD card 175 in the motor control system 139, extra memory is provided for a remote upgrade. If the motor control system 139 is being upgraded from the wall controller 129, SD card 175 needs to be installed to provide as a temporary memory storage space while the motor control system 139 is being upgraded. Similarly, to upgrade the main controller 135 through the wall controller 129, SD card 173 must be installed to provide temporary memory storage.

The main controller 135 also controls a stepping driver 177 that operates electronic expansion valve 179. The electronic expansion valve 179 controls the flow of the refrigerant inside the system. The operation of the electronic expansion valve 179 is controlled by the temperature entering the evaporator 101 and the temperature entering the compressor 67 (see FIG. 5). The electronic expansion valve 179 is opened or closed to maintain a certain temperature range between the evaporator inlet and the compressor inlet. The electronic expansion valve 179 acts like a modulating valve.

As an alternative to the motor control system 139 operating the indoor fan 155, an indoor fan 181 may be pulse width modulated by motor control 183 inside of main controller 135.

The heater board 143 energizes and de-energizes the reversing valve 185. Assuming the variable refrigerant package 21 has been in the cooling mode and is switched to the heating mode, the main controller 135 will cause the heater board 143 to switch the reversing valve 185. Communication between the main controller 135 and the heater board 143 is provided by heater communication 145 with the microcontroller 187. From the microcontroller 187, a signal is sent to the reversing valve triac 189 to switch the reversing valve relay 191. A microcontroller 187 that could be used is a Freescale KL02.

Since the microcontroller 187 provides pulse width modulation, the zero cross-detector 193 lets the microcontroller 187 know when the alternating current provided in power input lines 165 crosses the zero axis. If heat is being called for, the microcontroller 187 will operate heater relay drivers 194 to switch heater relays 195 and/or 197, which controls heaters 199 and 201, respectively. A heater silicon controlled

rectifier 203 completes the circuit for heaters 199 and/or 201 and is operated by microcontroller 187. A 3.3 volt regulator 192 is provided internally in a heater board 143.

Internally within the main controller 135 are a +3.3 volt regulator 205 and a +5 volt regulator 207. Feeding into microcontroller 135 is a number of temperature sensors 209 of the variable refrigerant package 21.

FIG. 8 is a more in-depth review of the motor control system 139. The power input lines 165 connect from an alternating current source 211, which may vary from 180 to 293 volts AC, into the motor control system 139. The alternating current source 211 feeds through an EMI filter 213 prior to connecting to 2-phase interleaved active power factor correction 215. The 2-phased interleaved active power factor correction 215 has a current sensor 217 and a voltage sensor 219. With the current sensor 217 and voltage sensor 219, the power being consumed can continually be determined.

From the 2-phase interleaved active power factor correction 215, a 430 volt DC bus 221 is generated. From the 430 volt DC bus 221, an isolated auxiliary power supply 223 generates +12 volts DC at 2.5 amps.

Inside of motor control system 139 is processor 161 as previously explained in connection with FIG. 7. Processor 161 controls the compressor motor 67 through compressor driver 163. The 430 volt DC bus 221 supplies DC voltage to the compressor driver 163.

Processor 151 controls outdoor fan motor 159 through outdoor fan driver 157 and indoor fan motor 155 through indoor fan driver 153. The processor 151 provides pulse width modulated power via outdoor fan driver 157 to outdoor fan motor 159. Likewise, processor 151 provides pulse width modulated power to indoor fan 155 via indoor fan driver 153.

The motor control system 139 shown in FIG. 8 has an active power factor correction which is provided in part by the 2-phase interleaved active power factor correction 215.

The signal being delivered to the compressor motor 67 through the compressor driver 163 from the processor 161 senses the rotor position inside the compressor 67. The signal being received from the 430 volt DC bus 221 is chopped and converted into a simulated three-phase AC signal to make the motor axis of the compressor 67 spin at the desired rate. The outdoor fan driver 157 for the outdoor fan motor 159 is doing essentially the same thing by taking the signal from the 430 volt DC bus 221, chopping it and providing a simulated three-phase AC current to the outdoor fan motor 159. Likewise, the indoor fan driver 153 does essentially the same thing for the indoor fan motor 155. While the compressor driver 163 is being controlled by processor 161, outdoor fan driver 157 and indoor fan driver 153 are being controlled by processor 151.

A bias power supply 225 receives voltage from 430 volts DC bus 221 and generates +15 volts DC and +3.3 volts DC, which is used to supply power to any part of the variable refrigerant package 21 that may need those voltage levels. The +3.3 volt DC is used to operate processors 161 and processor 151.

All of the conditioning of the power received and converted to DC signals is done inside of the motor control system 139. While the bias power supply 225 generates +15 volts and +3.3 volts, multiplexer 227 has an isolated RS-485 duplexer 229 for connection to an external device. The external device may be similar to the personal computer 149 shown in FIG. 7. The isolated RS-485 duplexer 229 allows for external connections and controls to the motor control system 139. Also, the motor control system 139 has an

isolated serial peripheral interface **231** that may connect to a micro SD card **175**. The SD card **175** may be used to update the motor control system **139**, check error messages and exchange information therewith.

The motor control system **139** is where all of the power conversion is done. This is where the drivers **163**, **157** and **153** are all located. This is where regulated power is generated from a highly unregulated source.

When the variable refrigerant package **21** is turned OFF so the alternating current source **211** no longer connects through the EMI filter **213** to the 2-phase interleaved active power factor correction **215**, inductive or capacitive charges may still remain in the circuit. A bleeder circuit **220** is provided through which the inductive and/or capacitive charges may drain down. The LED **222** will remain lit until the bleeder circuit **220** has fallen below a predetermined current.

Turning now to FIG. 9, a schematic view is shown of the 2-phase interleaved active power factor correction **215**. The alternating current source **211** feeds through the EMI filter **213** to the 2-phase interleaved active power factor correction **215**. Within the 2-phase interleaved active power factor correction **215**, the alternating current is changed by a full wave rectifier **301** to a rectified AC signal. The rectified AC signal from the full wave rectifier **301** feeds through inductors **303** and **305**. The inductors **303** and **305** are connected to current sensors **307** and **309**, respectively. Each current sensor **307** and **309** connects to MOSFETs **311** and **313**, respectively.

Resistor network on the front of the N-phase interleaved active PFC **215** are resistors **315** and **317**. While resistors **315** and **317** provide sensing on the front end of the two-phase interleaved active PFC **215**, resistors **319** and **321** provide a feedback voltage **323** to a controller **325**. The controller **325** also receives a current sense **327** from current sensor **307** and current sense **329** from current sensor **309**, respectively. Further, the controller **325** receives the input voltage **333** as developed across input resistors **315** and **317**.

Diodes **335**, **337** and **339** insure that current only flows in one direction to capacitor **341**.

The controller **325** monitors the input voltage **333**, feedback voltage **323**, along with current sense **327** and **329** to decide if the power factor needs to be corrected. The controller **325** controls the point at which each of the MOSFETs **311** and/or **313** are fired to get the maximum power factor. The maximum power factor is when the current and the voltage are in phase with each other. An example of such a controller **325** that can control the firing of MOSFETs **311** and **313** is a Texas Instrument, Part No. UCC-2807.

The controller **325** is taking the feedback voltage **323** and the input voltage **333** and comparing them with the current sense **327** and **329** and firing the MOSFETs **311** and **313** to get a power factor as close to 1 as possible.

“Power factor” in an AC electrical power system is the ratio of real power flowing to the load versus apparent power in the circuit. A power factor of less than 1 means the voltage and current wave forms are not in phase. Real power is the capacity of the circuit for performing work in a particular time. Apparent power is the product of the current load of the circuit. In an electrical power system, a load with a low power factor draws more current than a load with a high power factor. Higher currents increase the energy loss in the system. The present system uses an active power factor which is built into the power consuming portion of the variable refrigerant package **21**. In the 2-phase interleaved active power factor correction **215**, there is continuous

“ebb-and-flow” of the reactants (capacitive and inductive). The power factor will continue to change unless there are corrections in the power factor. The present invention uses a 2-phase interleaved active factor correction **215**, but could use a single phase or other multi-phase configurations.

In FIG. 9, the unregulated AC voltage being received from alternating current source **211** is taken and converted into a regulated DC output voltage by using a switched mode power supply. The DC voltage is regulated even though the AC voltage may vary over a broad range. For example, the AC voltage can vary from 180 volts AC to 293 volts AC, yet the DC bus will be maintained at 430 volts DC.

Referring to FIG. 10, and exploded perspective view of the base **31** is shown. The base **31** has a hard plastic top **257** which is fairly thin. The hard plastic top **257** has ribs **259** formed on either side thereof. The ribs define a channel **261** on each side of the hard plastic top **257** of the base **31**.

A drain basin **263** is provided in the internal trough **265** provided inside of raised rib seat **267**. One end of the internal trough **265** provides outdoor drain access **269**. Sealing the top of the raised rim seat **267** to the underside of the variable refrigerant package **21** is chassis seal **271**.

On the underside of the base **31** is located bottom cover **273**. Between the bottom cover **273** and the hard plastic top **257** is located a three-way tee **275** that connects to drain hole **277** of drain basin **263** via drain connecting tube **279** which connects to retaining rings **281**. Connected to the lower side of the three-way tee **275** are building drain tubes **283** (a), (b) and (c). Building drain tubes **283** are held into slots **285** (a), (b) and (c), respectively, by retaining rings **287** (a), (b), and (c), respectively. The ends of the filling drain tubes **283** are temporarily sealed by end caps **289** (a), (b) and (c), respectively.

When assembled, a two-part expanding foam is injected between hard plastic top **257** and bottom cover **273** through injection port **291** until a portion of the two-part expanding foam can be seen at each of the outlet ports **293**. The two-part expanding foam (not shown) gives rigidity to the base **31** so that it can support the variable refrigerant package **21**.

When installed, the installation rails **55** (see FIG. 3) will rest inside of channels **261**. When installing the base **31**, the end cap **289** (a), (b), or (c) that is the most convenient to the building drain system is removed and the appropriate building drain tube **283**(a), (b) or (c) is connected to the building drain system (not shown). By having the drain basin **263** drain to any of three sides of the base **31**, it is more convenient for the construction crew to connect to the building drain system.

If the building drain system becomes clogged, the outdoor drain access **269** extends over the inside edge of the plenum **37** so that any accumulated moisture will drain outside the building. Thereafter, if service personnel sees the drainage flowing through the plenum **37** to outside the building, the service personnel will know that the drain system for that particular room is clogged and needs to be cleaned. However, no damage will have been caused inside the room.

When installing the variable refrigerant package **21**, a notch **295** is provided in the raised rib seat **267**. This notch **295** allows the lower end of the evaporator drain tube **105** to move there through when being installed until the lower end of the evaporator drain tube **105** is just above the drain basin **263**. After installation of the variable refrigerant package **21** a piece of foam may be placed inside of notch **295**.

Because hotel/motel rooms may be different, the shape of the base **31** may need to be different to accommodate different plenum **37** and door openings **35** being located on

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different sides of the closet 23. Referring to FIG. 11, base 31 in FIG. 11(a) is the straight install base. FIG. 11(b) is the right install base 297. FIG. 11(c) is the left install base 299. Each of the bases 31, 297 and 299 allows for access water to drain outside of the building if the normal drain line is plugged. At the time of construction, the contractor will decide which style base 31, 297 or 299 will be used.

What we claim is:

1. A variable refrigerant package for cooling a room, said variable refrigerant package being located in a closet adjacent an outside wall, said closet being wired for power and connection to a thermostat to set temperature in said room, said variable refrigerant package abutting a plenum through said outside wall and resting on a base, said variable refrigerant package including:

an outdoor air inlet through said plenum;

a condenser;

a condenser fan assembly for drawing outside air through said outdoor air inlet and moving said outside air through said condenser and out said plenum to outside said room;

a path for indoor entering air;

an evaporator [and electric heater] in said path;

a blower assembly for drawing said indoor entering air from said room through said evaporator [and electric heater] prior to discharge back into said room;

[an evaporator drain pan below said evaporator for collecting any condensate and discharging collected condensate through a drain tube from said variable refrigerant package;]

a compressor connected to refrigerant lines connecting said condenser to said evaporator to compress refrigerant flowing [there through] therethrough;

[a reversing valve assembly connected to said refrigerant lines for reversing direction of flow of said refrigerant;] an improvement in said variable refrigerant package comprising:

an electromagnetic interference filter for receiving and filtering electromagnetic interference from said power, said power being an AC signal;

an n-phase interleaved active power factor correction for said power, said n-phase interleaved active power factor correction receiving said power filtered by said electromagnetic interference filter, said n-phase interleaved active power factor correction including:

(a) a full wave rectifier for converting said power to a rectified AC signal;

(b) a resistor network comprised of a first plurality of resistors connected to said full wave rectifier, said first plurality of resistors for sensing an input voltage from said full wave rectifier, and a second plurality of resistors for sensing an output voltage from an output capacitor and providing a feedback voltage;

(c) a pair of inductors connecting to a pair of current sensors before connecting to respective power switching devices, said pair of current sensors comprised of a current sensor and voltage sensor, said pair of current sensors continually detecting consumption of said power;

(d) a controller programmed for monitoring and receiving (1) said input voltage from said full wave rectifier, (2) said output voltage from said output capacitor, and (3) currents from said pair of current sensors, and comparing said input voltage and said output voltage with said currents from said pair of current

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sensors to trigger said power switching devices to give an increased power factor equal to or substantially close to unity;

said increased power factor being for power supplied to said compressor, blower assembly and/or condenser fan.

2. The variable refrigerant package for cooling a room as recited in claim 1 wherein said power switching devices are MOSFETs.

3. The variable refrigerant package for cooling a room as recited in claim 2, further [includes] comprising diodes which are configured to allow current flow only to said capacitor from said pair of said inductors and said full wave rectifier.

4. The variable refrigerant package for cooling a room as recited in claim 3, further [including] comprising:

an input voltage divider which is configured to give said input voltage; and

an output voltage divider which is configured to give said output voltage.

5. The variable refrigerant package for cooling a room as recited in claim 1, further comprising a reversing valve assembly connected to the refrigerant lines for reversing direction of flow of the refrigerant.

6. The variable refrigerant package for cooling a room as recited in claim 1, further comprising an electric heater in the path.

7. The variable refrigerant package for cooling a room as recited in claim 1, further comprising an evaporator drain pan below the evaporator.

8. The variable refrigerant package for cooling a room as recited in claim 7, further comprising a drain tube connected to the evaporator drain pan, the drain tube being configured to discharge any condensate collected in the drain pan from the refrigerant package.

9. A variable refrigerant package for cooling a room, wherein the variable refrigerant package is configured to be installed in a closet adjacent an outside wall, the closet being wired for power and connection to a thermostat to set a temperature in the room, the variable refrigerant package abutting a plenum through the outside wall, the variable refrigerant package comprising:

an outdoor air inlet through the plenum;

a condenser;

a condenser fan assembly configured to draw outside air through the outdoor air inlet and move the outside air through the condenser and out the plenum to outside the room;

a path for indoor entering air;

an evaporator in the path;

a blower assembly configured to draw the indoor entering air from the room through the evaporator prior to discharge back into the room;

a compressor connected to refrigerant lines connecting the condenser to the evaporator to compress refrigerant flowing therethrough;

an electromagnetic interference filter for receiving and filtering electromagnetic interference from the power, the power being an AC signal;

an n-phase interleaved active power factor correction for the power, the n-phase interleaved active power factor correction receiving the power filtered by the electromagnetic interference filter, the n-phase interleaved active power factor correction comprising:

(a) a full wave rectifier configured to convert the power to a rectified AC signal;

- (b) a resistor network comprised of (i) a first plurality of resistors connected to the full wave rectifier, the first plurality of resistors configured to sense an input voltage from the full wave rectifier, and (ii) a second plurality of resistors configured to sense an output voltage from an output capacitor and to provide a feedback voltage; 5
- (c) a pair of inductors connecting to a pair of current sensors before connecting to respective power switching devices, the pair of current sensors comprised of a current sensor and voltage sensor, the pair of current sensors being configured to continually detect consumption of the power; 10
- (d) a controller programmed for monitoring and receiving (1) the input voltage from the full wave rectifier, (2) the output voltage from the output capacitor, and (3) currents from the pair of current sensors, and comparing the input voltage and the output voltage with the currents from the pair of current sensors to trigger the power switching devices to give an increased power factor equal to or substantially close to unity, wherein the increased power factor is for power supplied to the compressor, blower assembly and/or condenser fan. 15 20

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