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YE, Z. ET AL.: 'Single-Stage Offline SEPIC Converter with Power Factor Correction to Drive High Brightness LEDs' IEEE 2009 ABSTRACT, SECTIONS 1-3, TABLE I AND FIGURES INTRODUCTION pages 551 - 552, XP031442732

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WANG, S. ET AL.: 'A flicker-free electrolytic capacitor-less ac-dc LED drive' IEEE ENERGY CONVERSION CONGRESS AND EXPOSITION (ECCE) 17 September 2011, pages 2318 - 2325, XP011448252

DESCRIPTION

FIELD OF THE INVENTION

[0001] The present invention relates to a system comprising a plurality of high powered LED lamp units and a single driver. The system is particularly suitable, but not limited for use with high powered LED lamp units such as down lights, T5, T8, Light Troffer, Hi-Bay lamps and MR16 light bulbs etc.

BACKGROUND TO THE INVENTION

[0002] The following discussion of the background of the invention is intended to facilitate an understanding of the present invention. However, it should be appreciated that the discussion is not an acknowledgement or admission that any of the material referred to was published, known or part of the common general knowledge in any jurisdiction as at the priority date of the application.

[0003] Conventional lighting systems typically have a configuration where light products used in the systems are individually driven. For example, a light product such as a down light lamp has its own in-built power supply or ballast which converts incoming AC electrical supply to higher AC voltage and desired current that is required to provide electrical power to for example ignite and excite the gases (referring to CFL light) for lighting up of the down light. Examples of such other light products include T5, T8, Light Troffer, High-Bay lamps, street lamps and flood lamps.

[0004] Similarly, when Light Emitting Diodes (LEDs) were introduced in lighting systems, the configuration adopted for LEDs was based on a similar 'one-ballast (controller)' to 'one-lamp' arrangement of conventional lighting systems. Therefore, each LED light unit has its own in-built LED driver or controller that converts the incoming AC supply to DC voltage and current to light up the LED down light. This means that each LED light unit that is present in a lighting system has an accompanying controller dedicated to that particular LED light unit for converting the incoming AC supply to DC voltage and current for lighting up that particular LED light unit, i.e. a chain of ten LED down lights in a lighting system will require correspondingly ten LED controller circuits. These LED controllers increase the cost and overall form factor of each lamp unit.

[0005] A prior art LED light unit and system is illustrated in Fig. 1 and Fig. 2 respectively. The LED lamp unit comprises an AC source supply via AC Input Terminal 4, an AC-DC LED driver 3, a LED light/lamp module 1 and heat sink 2.

[0006] When connected, AC electrical supply current will flow to the input of the AC-DC LED

driver 3. The AC supply current will be rectified via switch mode power supply circuitry in the AC-DC LED driver 3 to supply the desired DC voltage and current to the LED light module 1. For continuous light-up operation, as heat will be generated by both the AC-DC LED driver 3 and the LEDs on the LED light module 1, introduction of heat sink 2 is important to ensure the heat generated along the light-up operation is drawn from the heat source and dissipated accordingly. The heat sink 2 has to account for heat dissipation from both the LED light module and AC-DC LED driver. Consequently, if at any time along the light-up operation the heat sink 2 reaches its maximum heat dissipation capability due to the design limitation in size for standard form factor for the particular LED lighting unit fulfillment will lead to the degradation of light performance and product life span.

[0007] The above-mentioned configuration has several disadvantages listed as follows:

- As each LED light unit requires its own in-built controller circuit 3 for lighting up, when the LED light unit is in continuous operation, considerable heat will be generated by both the LED and controller circuit. To moderate the heat, heat sink(s) must be present in each LED light unit for drawing the heat from the heat source and dissipating the heat to the surroundings so as to provide a thermally cool environment for the LED and controller circuit to operate in. It is important that the LED and controller circuit operate in a thermally cool environment because this will reduce power loss and hence improve efficiency. However, due to standard form factors, there is a limit as to the size of the heat sink in each LED light unit. As there are two heat generating sources in each LED light unit (i.e. the LED lamp unit and the LED controller), the heat sink 2 typically reaches its maximum heat dissipation capability during continuous operation where considerable heat is generated. Consequently, this will lead to the degradation of the LED light unit's light performance and product life span.
- It is typically costly to manufacture LED light units which have built-in controller circuits and heat sinks 2 as they increase the number of components that are needed for manufacture. Furthermore, the heat sink must also be designed to cope with the dissipation of heat from two heat sources with the constraints on its size due to standard form factors. This further increases the overall cost of producing the LED light units.
- As the AC supply will be converted to DC voltage and current in the LED light units by the controller circuits 3, there will be safety related issues that must be addressed. Hence, the LED light units will have to be designed such that they meet the standard safety requirements and size limitations imposed by standard form factors.

[0008] A system having the features of the preamble of claim 1 is known from US 7 902 771 B2.

[0009] Therefore, it is an object of the present invention to overcome, or at least alleviate, the aforementioned problems.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

[0010] The present invention provides a system and device to alleviate the above problems and to provide a 'one driver-to-many high powered LED lamp units' solution. To achieve the same, the system and device are suited to provide at least a relatively 'ripple free' current of less than 5% from the specified rated current. The specified rated current is typically (but not limited to) around 350 mA to 700 mA per lamp unit.

[0011] In addition, references to 'current', 'connection(s)' refer to electrical current and connections unless otherwise stated.

[0012] In accordance with a first aspect of the present invention there is a system according to claim 1.

[0013] Preferably the digital controller is an Application Specific Integrated Circuit (ASIC); the ASIC further operable to detect and compute the duration of the energy discharged by the core of transformer to the plurality of high powered LED lamp units to regulate and provide the ripple free output DC current. The ASIC is preferably programmed to receive feedback at each clock-cycle based on the duration of the energy discharged by the core of the transformer as an input to determine the amount of ripple free constant DC current at the next clock-cycle. More preferably the ASIC is programmed to provide a voltage waveform to turn an electronic switch on and off at each clock-cycle.

[0014] Preferably each of the plurality of high powered LED lamp units is in series with the other high powered LED lamp units.

[0015] Preferably the single driver is electrically connected to a dimmer circuitry for adjusting the brightness of the plurality of high powered LED lamp units. The dimmer circuitry preferably comprises a potential meter, infra-red interface, motion sensor or ambient sensor.

[0016] Preferably the system comprises a filter capacitor operable to vary its capacitance to maintain a power factor of at least 0.9 when the dimmer is adjusted.

[0017] In the case where the dimmer is a potential meter, the potential meter is operable to work within a voltage of 0 to 10V.

[0018] Preferably in an isolated fly back mode the secondary end of the transformer is electrically connected to a short circuit protection circuit.

[0019] Preferably, the ASIC is coupled with an active power factor controller. More preferably the active power factor controller comprises at least one voltage follower. In such a case the ASIC is preferably a 14-pin configuration so as to control both the active power factor controller

and the adjustment of the ripple-free constant DC current.

[0020] Preferably, each high powered LED lamp is provided with a heat sink shaped and configured to dissipate heat away from the high powered LED only.

[0021] Preferably, the system further comprises an electronic switch, wherein the ripple free constant DC current is achieved by means of voltage control according to the following equation:-

$$V_{OUT} = \frac{V_{IN} \cdot T_{ON}}{T_{OFF}} \sqrt{\frac{L_2}{L_1}}$$

[0022] Where V_{OUT} is the voltage across the output; V_{IN} is the input voltage; T_{OFF} is the time of the discharge of the core of the isolating transformer; T_{ON} is the switch on time of the electronic switch; L_1 is the inductance value of the primary windings of the transformer and L_2 is the inductance value of the secondary windings of the transformer.

[0023] As an alternative to the isolated configuration mode, the single driver may operate in a non-isolated configuration having an inductive element operating in a continuous mode in according to the following equation:-

$$I_{OUT} = (T_{OFF} \cdot I_1 + \frac{I_{MAX} \cdot T_{OFF}}{2}) * \frac{1}{T}$$

where T_{OFF} is fixed as a constant; T_{ON} is the switch on time of the electronic switch; T is the summation of T_{ON} , T_{OFF} , and T_{CALC} where T_{CALC} is the time after the discharge time of the inductive element to compute the formula; I_1 is the desired reference current and I_{MAX} is the peak current. In a hysteretic controller configuration, the value of I_{MAX} and I_1 may be fixed, and the T_{ON} and T_{OFF} timings determined.

[0024] In accordance with a second aspect of the invention there is a LED driver comprising: at least one Integrated Circuit (IC), the IC programmable using a hardware description language; a first electronic switch operable to provide a first switching time period to control power factor voltage, the first switching time period programmable by the at least one IC; and a second electronic switch operable to provide a second switching time period to regulate ripple free constant DC electrical current flowing into the at least one LED, the second switching time period is programmable by the at least one IC. Such an LED driver provides for an additional current control in the form of the power factor controller to achieve a ripple-free DC current.

[0025] Preferably, the first and second electronic switches are power MOSFETs.

[0026] Preferably, the at least one IC is an ASIC.

[0027] In accordance with a third aspect of the invention there is a LED driver comprising: a device having an input port and a plurality of output ports comprising a reverse polarity

protector arranged to be electrically connected to the input port and each of the plurality of output ports; and a plurality of open circuit protection circuits, each of the plurality of open circuit protector operable to connect to an output port; wherein the reverse polarity protector is operable to negate the polarity requirement in the event where a load is connected with a wrong polarity to any of the output port; and the open circuit protection circuit is operable to form a closed loop series connection in the event where no load is connected to an output port or when a load breaks down.

[0028] Preferably the reverse polarity protector is a diode bridge rectifier.

[0029] Preferably each output port comprises a corresponding open circuit protector.

[0030] Preferably the input port is suitable for connection with a LED driver and each of the output port is suitable for connection with a load comprising a high powered LED lamp unit.

[0031] In accordance with a fourth aspect of the invention there is a system according to the first aspect wherein the load is in a series connection, further comprising the device according to the third aspect of the invention; wherein the input port of the device is operable to be connected to the single driver.

[0032] In accordance with a fifth aspect of the invention there is a dimmer circuitry for use with a LED driver, the dimmer circuitry comprising at least a dimming interface operable to connect to at least one dimming controller; and a capacitive element adjustable to maintain a power factor of at least 0.9 within the dimmer circuitry.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

[0033] The following invention will be described with reference to the following drawings of which:

Fig. 1 is a perspective side view of a prior art LED lamp unit with driver and heat sink;

Fig. 2 is a system configuration of the 'one driver one lamp unit' configuration of the prior art LED lamp system;

Fig. 3 is a system view of a 'one driver multiple lamp units' or 'string driver' in accordance to an embodiment of the invention;

Fig. 4 is a circuit diagram of the LED driver circuit in accordance with an embodiment of the invention for isolated alternating current (AC) application;

Fig. 5a and 5b are circuit diagrams of the LED driver circuit with a power factor convertor driven by a 14-pin ASIC in accordance with another embodiment of the invention for isolating alternating current (AC) application;

Fig. 6 is a table summarizing the advantages of the invention on a plurality of MR 16 LED lamp as compared to the prior art system;

Fig. 7 illustrates simulation results of the ripple free constant DC current based on a MR16 load;

Fig. 8 illustrates another embodiment with an arrangement of circuit wherein the decoupling transformer operates in a continuous mode;

Fig. 9 illustrates electrical current flowing through rectifier circuitry in a continuous mode;

Fig. 10 illustrates a structure of hysteretic controller used for continuous operation of the circuit;

Fig. 11 is a PCB arrangement of an intermediary connector between the LED drivers and load in accordance with another embodiment of the invention;

Fig. 12 is a possible arrangement of a lighting system illustrating the use of an intermediary connector between the driver and load;

Fig. 13 is another possible arrangement of a lighting system illustrating the use of two intermediary connectors;

Fig. 14 shows the circuit diagram of the intermediary connector; and

Fig. 15 shows a general block diagram on the dimmer circuitry.

[0034] Other arrangements of the invention are possible and, consequently, the accompanying drawings are not to be understood as superseding the generality of the preceding description of the invention.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE INVENTION

[0035] In the context of the invention, the mention of 'ripple free' current and approximations to ripple free current refers to allowable ripple of less than (<) 5% from the specified rated current.

[0036] In the context of the invention, high powered LED lamp units refer to any LED lamp unit requiring a power of at least 5 watts.

[0037] In accordance with an embodiment of the invention there is a LED driver **10** for driving a plurality of high powered LED lamps **100** as illustrated in Fig. 4. LED driver **10** is particularly suited for an isolated alternating current (AC) application and comprises a primary side and a secondary side. The primary side of the LED driver **10** is decoupled from the secondary side

via a decoupling transformer **11**. The primary side comprises an electronic switch **14**, bridge rectifier circuit **16**, and an Integrated Circuit (IC) controller **18**. Although Fig. 4 shows an isolated configuration, it is appreciated by a skilled person that the circuit may be modified for non-isolated configuration where the decoupling transformer **11** may be replaced by other inductive elements.

[0038] To satisfy the decoupling function, transformer **11** is an isolation transformer, and may preferably be a planar transformer. Transformer **11** is operable to work in either a continuous or discontinuous mode, although for purpose of illustration Fig. 4, 5a, and 5b illustrates the circuitry suited for transformer **11** working in a discontinuous mode. In continuous mode certain output capacitors may be omitted as illustrated in Fig. 8 or 10. Where transformer **11** is a planar transformer based on printed circuit board technology, the printed circuit board may be FR4 PCB, Polyimide or other thick copper foil (lead frame).

[0039] Resistor **R_p** and capacitor **C_p** are connected in a parallel configuration with the primary end of the transformer **11**. A diode **D_p** is connected to the Resistors **R_p**, capacitor **C_p**, and the transformer **11**. The conducting end of the diode **D_p** is connected in a series configuration to the primary end of the transformer **11**. The non-conducting end of the diode **D_p** is connected in series configuration to the resistor **R_p** and capacitor **C_p**.

[0040] A capacitor **C_s** is connected in parallel to the secondary end of the transformer **11** for filtering the output electrical voltage. A diode **D_s** is connected to the secondary end of the transformer **11** and the capacitor **C_s**. The conducting end of the diode **D_s** is connected to the secondary end of the transformer **11** in a series configuration. The non-conducting end of the diode **D_s** is connected to the positive end of capacitor **C_s** (where applicable) in a series configuration. The LED load **100** is connected in a parallel configuration to the capacitor **C_s**. Each LED load **100** may be connected in series with the other LED load **100**. The secondary side may optionally include a short circuit protection circuit **44** as will be elaborated later.

[0041] Electronic switch **14** is typically a power transistor. In this particular embodiment, electronic switch **14** is more preferably a power MOSFET. In the MOSFET configuration, the drain of the electronic switch **14** is connected to the conducting end of the diode **D_p** and to the primary end of transformer **11**. The gate of the electronic switch **14** is connected to the output pin of the IC **18**, and the source of the electronic switch **14** is connected to the electrical ground.

[0042] It is to be appreciated that the electronic switch **14** may be replaced by other functionally equivalent component.

[0043] The IC controller **18** comprises an internal oscillator which is configured to turn on the gate of the electronic switch **14** with a particular turn-on time period T_{ON} (switching frequency) for each clock cycle as determined by the internal oscillator. IC controller **18** is preferably an

Application Specific Integrated Circuit (ASIC) programmed to sense and calculate the discharge time of the inductive elements L_1 and L_2 as a main input. ASIC **18** is programmed and configured to turn on the gate of the electronic switch **14** having a turn on period of T_{ON} at each clock cycle based on the following inputs:-

1. (a.) A reference constant **K** based on the discharge time of the inductive element L_1 and L_2 ;
2. (b.) Desired output DC ripple free current for LED I_{OUT} ;
3. (c.) A digitized voltage value V_{DD} (V_{in}) tapped and digitized from potential divider **22**, the potential divider **22** connected in parallel with the bridge rectifier **16**;
4. (d.) A time value T_{OFF} of the discharge of the core of transformer **11** measured through voltage potential divider **30** and compared to a reference voltage; and
5. (e.) The switching period T (i.e. the switching period of the electronic switch **14** as determined by the oscillator).

[0044] Using the received five inputs, the IC **18** computes an output T_{ON} which is the switch on time of the electronic switch **14** mathematically expressed as equation (1).

$$T_{ON} = \frac{I_{out} * T}{K * V_{in} * T_{off}} \quad (1)$$

[0045] The reference constant **K** is calculated based on the inductance value of the primary and secondary windings of the transformer **11** as described in formula 2.

$$K = \frac{1}{2 * \sqrt{L_1 * L_2}} \quad (2)$$

where L_1 is the inductance value of the primary windings of the transformer **11** and L_2 is the inductance value of the secondary windings of the transformer **11**. The value of reference **K** may be stored in a memory within the IC **16**. For a non-isolated direct current (DC) fly-back configuration, the reference constant **K** is calculated according to the following mathematical expression:-

$$K = \frac{1}{L_3} \quad (2a)$$

Where L_3 is the inductance value of the inductive element in the fly-back configuration.

[0046] Manipulating equation (1) and (2), I_{OUT} is derived as follows:-

$$I_{OUT} = \frac{V_{IN} * T_{ON} * T_{OFF}}{2 * \sqrt{L_1 * L_2} * T} \quad (3)$$

[0047] The IC controller **18** may further comprises a dimming pin coupled to a variable resistor **40** for performing dimming on the LED load **100**. The dimming pin facilitates the flexibility to

perform dimming via various dimming device such as potential meter, motion sensor or Infra-red sensor.

[0048] The IC controller **18** described above is typically 8-pin. To fine-tune the level of control of the IC controller **18**, a higher resolution IC controller may be used. In addition to the fine-tune control of a desired ripple free current I_{OUT} , active power factor controller (PFC) to improve the performance of the circuit.

[0049] A higher resolution IC controller having capabilities to fine-tune the control of desired ripple-free current I_{OUT} and provide active power factor control is described in another embodiment below.

[0050] Another embodiment of the invention in the form of a LED driver **500** for driving a plurality of high powered LED lamp units **100** is illustrated in Fig. 5a and Fig. 5b (with emphasis on primary side). LED driver **500** comprises a first electronic switch **513**; a second electronic switch **514**; a bridge rectifier circuit **516** and an integrated circuit controller **518**. LED driver **500** further comprises an active power factor controller (PFC) circuitry **520**. Comparing with the previous embodiment, the active power factor controller (PFC) is operable to form an additional stage of current controller to achieve an improved ripple free constant DC current. The integrated circuit controller **518** is operable to control the switching frequencies of the first electronic switch **513** and second electric switch **514** to achieve a desired power factor and output ripple free current I_{OUT} .

[0051] Integrated IC controller **518** is similar to the IC controller **18** comprising internal oscillators, built in Analogue to Digital convertor etc. It additionally comprises more pins for further control of the PFC controller. In this embodiment IC controller **518** comprises 14-pin. The overall resolution is higher (10 bits) thus allowing better adjustment and fine-tuning of the switching frequencies for the electronic switches **513**, **514** and I_{OUT} .

[0052] The bridge rectifier **516** is operable to receive an AC input and produces a rectified voltage output. The rectified voltage output is passed through a capacitor **C₄**. **C₄** is operable to function as an input voltage filter to further filter the rectified voltage from the rectifier circuit **516**. Capacitor **C₄** is connected parallel to resistors **R₈** and **R₉** and in series with an inductor **L₄**.

[0053] Resistors **R₈** and **R₉** form an input voltage divider. In operation, the voltage between **R₈** and **R₉** is tapped as an input voltage (denoted as V_{inP}) to the ASIC.

[0054] The inductor **L₄** is connected in series with resistors **R₁₀** and **R₁₁**. Resistors **R₁₀** and **R₁₁** form a PFC voltage divider, which is used to provide the PFC feedback voltage to the controller **518** via a **T_{2P}** pin input for PFC output voltage measurement.

[0055] The first electronic switch **513** is connected in series to inductive element **L₄** and in

parallel to the PFC voltage divider. First electronic switch **513** provides the variable frequency to control the PFC output voltage. Both the first electronic switch **513** and the second electronic switch **514** may be N-channel power MOSFET. The gate of the first electronic switch **513** is activated by the ASIC (**MOSOUT pin**), its drain is connected in series with **L₄** and the source is grounded.

[0056] In operation, the controller **518** drives the first electronic switch **513** to provide the necessary power factor voltage at the drain of the first electronic switch **513**.

[0057] It is to be appreciated that the first electronic switch **513** may be replaced by other functionally equivalent component.

[0058] A power diode **D₃** is connected in series with inductive element **L₄**. It allows the forward pass of the rectified PFC current; which is moderated by the first electronic switch **513**.

[0059] **C₅** is a capacitive filter for filtering the PFC output voltage.

[0060] Inductive element **L₄** may be a standard inductor as illustrated in Fig. 5a or a transformer as illustrated in Fig. 5b. For the case where **L₄** is a transformer, the transformer comprises **L_{4p}** primary inductance and **L_{4s}** secondary inductance. As illustrated in Fig. 5b, **L_{4p}** is connected from pin 1 to pin 6; **L_{4s}** is connected from pin 1 to pin 7 of the IC controller **518**.

[0061] The following equation (4) is applicable to the transformer variant to control the output voltage of the PFC:-

$$V_{PFC, OUT} = \sqrt{\frac{L_{4p}}{L_{4s}} \frac{V_{IN} \cdot T_{Q2on}}{T_{Q2off}}} \quad (4)$$

[0062] **V_{PFC,OUT}** is the output voltage of the PFC, **L_{4p}** is the PFC transformer primary inductor value, **L_{4s}** is the PFC transformer secondary inductor value, **V_{in}** is the input voltage, **T_{Q2on}** is the switch on time of the first electronic switch **513**, and **T_{Q2off}** is the discharge time of the PFC transformer. **T_{Q2on}** is controlled via the **MOSOUT** pin of the controller **518** and **V_{in}** and **T_{Q2off}** are feedback values used for ensuring and verifying that **V_{PFC,OUT}** properly tracks a desired output voltage **V_{OUT}**.

[0063] Equation (4) is known as a voltage follower, where **V_{PFC,OUT}** follows **V_{OUT}**; in the sense that after solving the equation, if **V_{PFC,OUT}** is less than expected (within allowable deviation) **T_{Q2on}** is increased, otherwise **T_{Q2on}** is decreased.

[0064] **V_{OUT}** is determined based on the total number of LED units and the desired current **I_{OUT}** to be supplied to the LED units.

[0065] For the second electronic switch **514**, the operation and equations for adjusting and calculation I_{OUT} is identical to that described in equations (1) to (3).

[0066] As mentioned above, the secondary side of the LED driver **10**, **500** may further comprise a voltage protection circuit **44**. Referring to Fig. 4 for the voltage protection circuit which may be incorporated in the secondary side of the LED driver **500** although not explicitly shown in Fig. 5a and 5b, voltage protection circuit **44** comprises a zener diode **46**, a silicon controlled rectifier (SCR) **48** and a resistor **50**. When a short circuit is detected, the zener diode **46** will conduct electricity thus enabling the SCR **48** and reducing the output voltage to the LEDs **100**.

[0067] The LED driver **10**, **500** in the context of operation of driving a string of LED light units, will be described in the following example:-

[0068] To operate the circuit, the variable resistors are adjusted to produce a voltage value of N for V_R (LED driver 10), or V_{inP} (for LED driver 500), where value N is an adjustment of turn on time period T_{ON} of the electronic switch **14**, **514** corresponding to the generation of the maximum approximately ripple-free constant current to drive a plurality of LED lamp units **100**. The decrement or increment of adjustment N value will be based on the feedback and cause changes in T_{ON} , T directly, thus varying I_{OUT} accordingly based on the variable resistor V_R to dim or brighten the LED lamp units 100.

[0069] For optimization of the equations (1) to (3); the equations of the circuits may be expressed in an alternative form

$$A = V_{IN} * T_{ON} * T_{OFF} \quad (5)$$

$$B = 1/K * I_{OUT} * (T_{ON} + T_{OFF} + T_{CALC}) \quad (6)$$

[0070] Wherein T_{CALC} is the time after the discharge time of the inductive element to compute the formula and the switching time period of the electronic switch is the summation of T_{ON} , T_{OFF} and T_{CALC} ;

[0071] In each adjustment cycle of I_{OUT} , the values of A and B are compared.

[0072] If A is greater than B, i.e. $A > B$, then T_{ON} is adjusted to $T_{ON} - N$ for the next time period T.

[0073] If A is smaller than B, i.e. $A < B$, then T_{ON} is adjusted to $T_{ON} + N$.

[0074] In the situation where A is equals to B, there is no updating of T_{ON} and T_{ON} remains

unchanged.

[0075] Depending on the number of lamp units **100** and the desired current I_{OUT} , a user performs design optimization by changing a few critical components as follows:-

Inductance L_1 and L_2 of the transformer **11**;

switching frequency, V_{DS} Drain-Source Voltage and I_D Drain current of the electronic switches **14, 514**;

values of Capacitor C_S and Diode D_S . Care must be taken to ensure that voltage across capacitor C_S voltage should be higher than the voltage of the LED load **100**.

[0076] The diode's forward current I_F and repetitive peak reverse voltage V_{RRM} are parameters to consider for the choice of a suitable diode D_S .

[0077] Once the above components are tuned to the load specification, the IC controllers **18, 518** detects and computes the duration of the energy discharged to the load via the core of transformer **11** (or inductive element for a non-isolated fly-back configuration) to the LED loads **100** to regulate the constant output current. Therefore, the controller **18, 518** can work on a wide range of load voltage and constant current for high powered LED lights **100**.

[0078] The described embodiment provides for an approximately ripple free constant DC current to the plurality of high powered LED lamp units **100**. The described configuration of one driver to multiple lamps is termed by the applicant as 'string configuration' .

[0079] As an optional feature, the IC controller **18, 518** may further comprise a multipoint control unit (MCU) to enable communication with intelligent control means such as power line, Digital Addressable Lighting Interface (DALI), wireless protocol for total lighting control system.

[0080] The described embodiments are based on the concept of a single LED driver **10, 500** to drive many high powered LED lamp units **100**, each high powered LED lamp unit provided with a heat sink shaped and configured to dissipate heat away from the high powered LED only and the single driver configured to provide approximately ripple free constant DC current to the plurality of high powered LED lamp units has been compared with a prior art MR 16 system where one LED driver **3** is required for each LED lamp unit **4**. This standard ASIC driver design solution drive in constant current and offer a wide range of flexibility to drive a series of any numbers of LEDs within the entire lighting system, the advantages of which are summarized in Fig. 6.

[0081] Fig. 7 illustrates an I_{OUT} measured from a high powered LED load **100** illustrating the extent of ripple free constant DC current.

[0082] The above embodiments illustrated in Fig. 4, 5a, and 5b have described the IC controller implementation as current controllers (i.e. manipulating I_{OUT}); and the transformer 11, 511 working in a discontinuous mode. Due to the flexibility of programming the ASIC based controller 18, 518, four different combination and/or modes may be achievable as follows:-

1. A. Voltage control instead of current control;
2. B. Discontinuous mode with primary inductor current feedback instead of T_{OFF} based feedback (or monitoring);
3. C. Continuous mode with primary inductor current feedback instead of T_{OFF} based feedback (or monitoring); and
4. D. Continuous mode for hysteretic controller.

A. Voltage control instead of current control

[0083] For using voltage control instead of current control, equation (3) may be re-written as:-

$$V_{OUT} = \frac{V_{IN} \cdot T_{ON}}{T_{OFF}} \sqrt{\frac{L_2}{L_1}} \tag{5}$$

where V_{OUT} is the output voltage. Where L_1 is equals to L_2 , the equation is modified as:-

$$V_{OUT} = \frac{V_{IN} \cdot T_{ON}}{T_{OFF}} \tag{5a}$$

B. Discontinuous mode with primary inductor current feedback instead of T_{OFF} based feedback (or monitoring)

[0084] For Discontinuous mode with primary inductor current feedback instead of T_{OFF} based feedback (or monitoring), the relationship between the peak current I_{MAX} , input voltage V_{IN} , and the inductive element L is expressed mathematically as:-

$$I_{MAX} = \frac{V_{IN} \cdot T_{ON}}{L} \tag{6}$$

Substituting equation (6) into equation (3) results in:-

$$I_{OUT} = \frac{I_{MAX} \cdot T_{OFF}}{2T} \tag{7}$$

in the case where the inductive element L is a single inductor used in cases for example in a non-isolated configuration; and

$$I_{OUT} = \frac{I_{MAX} \cdot T_{OFF}}{2T} \sqrt{\frac{L_1}{L_2}} \tag{8}$$

in the case where the inductive element L is a transformer and L_1 and L_2 denotes the primary

and secondary inductances respectively.

[0085] For application of equations (7) or (8), the circuit illustrated in Fig. 4, 5a and 5b may be modified such that the primary current may be read by the ASIC controller through a resistor from the source of the electronic switch **14, 514** to ground or using a current transformer in series to the electronic switch **14, 514** or, in case of forward structure, the filter inductor.

C. Continuous mode with primary inductor current feedback instead of T_{OFF} based feedback (or monitoring)

[0086] For the case of continuous mode with primary inductor current feedback instead of T_{OFF} based feedback (or monitoring), it is appreciated that the current flowing through the rectifier diode series to the LED is the same as the current on the LED.

[0087] The waveform of the electrical current in continuous mode is illustrated in Fig. 9. For a given switch on timing T_{ON} , if the T_{OFF} is fixed, the current across the diodes could be computed as:-

$$I_D = I_{OUT} = (T_{OFF} \cdot I_1 + \frac{I_{MAX} \cdot T_{OFF}}{2}) * \frac{1}{T} \quad (9)$$

[0088] Where $T = T_{ON} + T_{OFF} + T_{CALC}$; T_{CALC} is the discharge timing of the transformer or inductor element.

[0089] All the above information may be obtained from the primary inductive element L. In particular, the circuit arrangement shown in Fig. 8 comprises:-

1. i. a resistor in series with the electronic switch;
2. ii. a current transformer in series with the electronic switch; and
3. iii. a filter inductor.

[0090] The circuit arrangement shown in Fig. 8 comprises a first transformer **811** to isolate the load. A filter inductor **820** is used in the same way as the inductor in the hysteretic controller.

[0091] The output current I_{OUT} is controlled via the feedback from the resistor **822** connected to the source of the electronic switch.

[0092] Resistor **822** is used for protection purpose not for controlling purpose. A reset circuit **812** comprising an inductor **823** and a diode **824** is used in the forward structure to completely discharge the transformer core from the residual energy. This serves to prevent the core from

saturation after a certain working time.

D. Continuous mode for hysteretic controller

[0093] The structure of a hysteretic controller is as shown in Fig. 10. For implementation, the value of I_{MAX} and I_1 may be fixed according to Equation (9), and the T_{ON} and T_{OFF} timings determined. The current I_{OUT} will however be the area under the figure.

[0094] It is to be appreciated that the continuous mode described above is particularly suited for non-isolated fly-back or feed-forward configurations only. However, it reduces the minimum number of components required and is able to provide ripple free current without the need for load capacitors. Cost savings may thus be achieved.

[0095] In the described embodiments, the dimmer **40** may be used as a means for SSL lighting dimming control for energy saving instead of conventional triac dimmer. The dimmer **40** is arranged and operable to use energy only when light is required; otherwise the light is dimmed automatically to a low intensity or completely switched off (both saving electricity as compared to full switching on of light).

[0096] As illustrated in Fig. 4, 5a and 5b; the IC controller is connected to the dimmer **40** for better dimming performance and energy saving, such as at a low dimming level, a light output of less than 10% of total light, the power factor is maintained at more than or equals to 0.9 to meet the objective of the energy saving. Although the dimmer **40** is illustrated in Fig. 4, 5a and 5b, it is easily appreciated by a skilled person that the dimmer **40** may easily be incorporated in circuits as illustrated in both isolated/non-isolated configurations as well as continuous or discontinuous mode.

[0097] Further description relating to the operation of the dimmer **40** for purpose of meeting the above objectives of energy saving and maintenance of high power factor is elaborated with reference to Fig. 15 which forms another embodiment comprising a dimmer circuitry for use with a LED driver, the dimmer circuitry comprising at least an dimming interface operable to connect to at least one dimming controller; and a capacitive element adjustable to maintain a power factor of at least 0.9 within the dimmer circuitry.

[0098] As illustrated in Fig. 15, dimmer **40** may include a variety of devices capable of interfacing with a dimming interface **1670**, the interfacing including the IC controller **18, 518** pin for lighting dimming control.

[0099] When electricity supply is switched on, current flows to rectifier **1516**, which then turns on the switching power supply **1600** comprising ASIC controller **18, 518**. An isolated or non-isolated supply of ripple-free constant DC output current **1610** is provided. The switching power supply **1600** may be isolated or non-isolated, and depending on the configuration, inductive

element **1511** may be an isolating transformer. The output of inductive element **1511** provides a isolated or non-isolated ripple free constant DC output current **1610** to the LED load **1700** to turn on the light.

[0100] By default, the LED load **1700** consumes 100% energy to turning on the light, unless electrical power is switched off.

[0101] The dimmer **40** may be a 0-10V dimmer **1708**. When the dimmer set to 10V, DC output current **1610** will set the light output to 100%, when dimmer set to 5V, DC output current **1610** will set the light output to 50% of total light. At 0V, no light is provided.

[0102] An infra-red (IR) remote control **1711** may also be used for remote lighting control. Such configuration requires the dimming interface to have a suitable IR receiver such that when the IR transmitter transmits the signal, the IR receiver will decode the signal and generate a PWM duty cycle accordingly from range 0-100% for dimming control. When duty cycle set to 100%, DC output current **1610** will then set the light output 100%, while IR transmitter sends 50% duty cycle, DC output current **1610** will sends 50% of total light output. If IR transmitter sends 0% duty cycle PWM signal, no light will be provided.

[0103] Another type of dimmer may be embodied as a motion sensor **1712**. When there is no movement detected by motion sensor **1712**, DC output current **1610** will turn the output current from 100% to 20% for dimming purpose, or even switched off the output current. This means that energy is only being used when the motion sensor **1712** detects movement.

[0104] Another option is to use an ambient sensor **1714** to detect environmental conditions, for example when dawn is approaching; DC output current **1610** will switch off the output current and turn lights **1700** off. When ambient sensor **1714** detects environment turning to dusk, DC output current **1610** will switch on the output current to 100%.

[0105] It is to be appreciated that any other devices designed with PWM output duty cycle from 0-100% may connect to the dimmer interface for LED lighting dimming control. Dimmer interface is a circuitry comprising one or more micro-controller device for detection of dimming signal from various dimmers (IR remote, motion, ambient,..etc), and convert input dimming signal to analog voltage to the ASIC controller for dimming control. It may also be incorporated within the ASIC controller mentioned in other embodiments. In terms of implementation, the 'Dimmer Interface' may be a small module board mounted on power supply PCB or integrate into power supply circuitry PCB.

[0106] Capacitor **1630** is a component that would affect power factor. When dimming circuit is activated, the switching power supply **1600** will automatically charge the capacitance of **1630** to maintain power factor ≥ 0.9 , such that no matter how low the dimming level goes, power factor always stay at ≥ 0.9 .

[0107] The dimmer design from the various embodiments enable the user to dim their LED

lighting unit to as low as 1 ~ 2% of the original driving current without any flickering phenomena.

[0108] In accordance with another embodiment of the invention there is provided a device **1100** for use with any of the LED driver **10, 500** described in the previous embodiment(s). As illustrated in Fig. 11, the device **1100** is an intermediary connector between the LED drivers **10, 500** and LED load **100**. The intermediary connector is hereinafter referred to as 'junction box'.

[0109] Fig. 11 shows a PCBA design of the junction box **1100**. The junction box **1100** comprises an input connector **1120** and a plurality of output connectors **1140** arranged to achieve the following:-

1. a. Ease of installation of the high powered LED lamps load **100**;
2. b. Advantageous for a plurality of LED lamps **100** connected in series, and alleviates the problem of a system wide open circuit in the event where a high powered LED lamp **100** breaks down;
3. c. Reduce or completely eliminate common errors during installation, in particular errors relating to reversal in electrical polarities.

[0110] On point (b.) above, series connection of LED lighting units **100** ensures that each lamp unit **100** would be driven with exactly the same driving current hence each LED lighting unit **100** will produce the same brightness. For lighting systems where uniform brightness is important series connection would be advantageous over parallel connection.

[0111] To achieve the above, the junction box comprises a reverse polarity protector **1160** and an open circuit protector **1180**. Reverse polarity protector is preferably a rectifier **1160**.

[0112] As illustrated in Fig. 11, there are nine output connectors **1140**. The input connector **1120** is arranged to interface with the driver output connector; and the junction box output connector **1140** is arranged to interface with the LED load **100** which comprises the SSL driverless lighting unit strip end cable.

[0113] The input connector **1120** is typically a header type connector for coupling with LED driver **10, 500** output connector which is typically a cable entry plug-in type. The output connector **1140** is typically of a cable entry type so that the electrical connector for LED lamp **100**, for example those of a strip end SSL driverless cable type can be inserted to it to produce a close electrical loop.

[0114] Fig. 12 illustrates the lamp system comprising the single LED driver **10, 500**, a single junction box **1100** and the SSL driverless light unit/load **100**.

[0115] LED Driver **10, 500** with cable plug in type connector **1100** will be connected to the input connector **1120** and the SSL driverless with strip end cable will be inserted into the output

connector **1140** in order to create a complete networking lighting system for lighting purposes once electrical power is switched on.

[0116] Fig. 13 illustrates another possible arrangement with two junction boxes **1100**, wherein the entire system comprises the single string driver **10, 500**, dual junction boxes **1100** and SSL driverless light unit **100**.

[0117] The desired driver output voltage as predetermined by a qualified personnel will determine the total number of SSL driverless lighting units **100** or numbers of junction box **1100** that should be used for the entire lighting network in order for all the SSL driverless lighting units **100** to be driven with expected designed ripple free constant current.

[0118] As a simplified example, if the designed driver **10, 500** has a maximum output voltage rating of 170V DC and only single junction box **1100** exists in the lighting system, then each SSL driverless lighting unit forward voltage is limited to 18.8 VDC /unit (170VDC divided by 9 units) . If two junction boxes **1100** are used, then SSL driverless lighting unit forward voltage is limited to 10 VDC per unit (170VDC divided by 17 units).

[0119] Fig. 14 shows the circuitry diagram between the input and output connectors and the arrangement of the rectifier **1160** and the open circuit protection circuit **1180**. Bridge rectifier **1160** acts as a reverse polarity protection so that there will be no polarity concern between driver **10, 500** and junction box **1100** during installation. If an installer makes a mistake and connects a lamp unit **100** in reverse polarity, the reverse polarity protector in the form of a bridge rectifier **1160** protects the driver **10, 500** and junction box **1100** from damaging. The Open load protection circuit **1180** preferably comprises a Zener Diode **1220**; Silicon Controller Rectifier (SCR) **1240** and Resistor **1260** at each output port **1140**.

[0120] Additional rectifiers may also be added to the lighting units **100**. This addresses the following problem:-

Although rectifiers **1160** provide reverse polarity protection between driver **10, 500** and the junction box **1100**, a particular lighting load **100** must be connected in the correct polarity in order for that particular to work correctly. If lighting **100** is connected in reverse polarity the system wouldn't not work, so to overcome this the lighting units also must having a rectifier to provide reverse polarity protection .

[0121] When any open circuit occurs at any of the output connector **1140**, and/or when the voltage exceed the specified reverse breakdown voltage of the Zener Diode **1220**; hence causing the Zener Diode **1220** to be operated in reverse bias mode, the Silicon Controller Rectifier (SCR) **1240** will be triggered at the gate terminal to enable current to flow through the Silicon Controller Rectifier (SCR) **1240** thereby maintaining a close loop for the entire lighting system so that the other connected lighting **100** within the networking continue to operate regularly. Resistor **1260** is used a current limiter for the Zener Diode **1220** so as to prevent too large a current flowing through Zener Diode **1220**. Another resistor **1280** may be connected in parallel with the open circuit protection circuit and in parallel with the output connector **1140**.

[0122] As an alternative or addition to the open load protector **1180**, it is appreciated that a resistor **1280** may be deployed to act as a jumper/bypass resistor for deployment to specific output connector(s) **1140** which has (have) no load **100** connected to the same so as to maintain a close loop of the entire lighting system. Where specific output connector(s) **1140** is (are) permanently not supposed to be connected any load, the open circuit protector(s) connected to these output connector(s) may be removed.

[0123] Thus, junction box **1100** has been designed and will be implemented together with string driver to overcome the above described weaknesses arising from series connection.

Examples of operating technical specification

[0124] The recommended operating technical specification for the LED driver **10**, 8-pin (lower resolution) configuration is listed as follows:-

Operating Voltage:	100 to 120 VAC for US; 220 to 240 VAC for EU
Operating frequency:	50/60 Hertz (Hz)
AC current:	0.2 Amperes (A) for US; 0.1 A for EU
Inrush current:	maximum allowable at 4A for US; maximum allowable at 12A for EU
Leakage current:	less than (<) 0.7 milli-A
Efficiency (full load):	more than (>) 83%
Power factor (full load):	more than (>) 0.98

[0125] The output specification (8-pin configuration) based on 120 VAC (US) / 230VAC (EU) input; rated load and 25 degrees Celsius ambient temperature are listed as follows:

Output channel:	1
Output voltage range:	12 to 36 VDC
Output current:	600 or 700mA
Current tolerance:	±5%
Current adjust range:	Not adjustable
Rated Power:	21.6W _{MAX} (at 600 mA) and 25.2W _{MAX} (at 700mA)

[0126] The recommended operating input specification for the LED driver **10**, **500**, 14-pin configuration is listed as follows:-

Operating Voltage:	100 to 120 VAC for US; 220 to 240 VAC for EU
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Operating frequency:	50/60 Hertz (Hz)
AC current:	1.3 Amperes (A) for US; 0.6 A for EU
Inrush current:	maximum allowable at 7A for US; maximum allowable at 30A for EU
Leakage current:	less than (<) 0.7 milli-A
Efficiency (full load):	more than (>) 86%
Power factor (full load):	more than (>) 0.96

[0127] The output specification for the LED driver **10, 500** 14-pin configuration based on 120 VAC (US) / 230VAC (EU) input; rated load and 25 degrees Celsius ambient temperature having two output channels are listed as follows:

Output channel:	2
Output voltage range:	35 to 85 VDC (single channel) Total of 70 to 170 VDC
Output current:	600 or 700mA
Current tolerance:	±5%
Current adjust range:	Not adjustable
Rated Power:	102W _{MAX} (at 600 mA) and 119W _{MAX} (at 700mA)

[0128] The LED driver **10, 500** are especially suitable for LED downlights, Troffer LED lighting and MR 16, particularly at a temperature range of 0 degree Celsius to 40 degrees Celsius.

[0129] In addition, the following advantages are also apparent:-

a. Safer Methodology for LED Lighting Unit

[0130] As the LED driver 10, 500 are isolated DC configuration and only work with DC driven LED lighting Unit, there will be no safety related issue associated with AC currents for the LED lighting units 100 which are at the secondary side and isolated from the mains. As the LED driver 10, 500 will be isolated from the LED lighting unit 100 there will also be not size limitation on the design as in build in configuration so the LED driver 10, 500 can be designed in accordance to safety requirement.

b. High Electrical Efficiency

[0131] The LED Driver **10, 500**; termed 'string driver' operates in thermally cooler environment because it is isolated from the LED load units **100** and not affected by the heat dissipated by

the LEDs unit 100 during the continuous operation. This reduces thermal loss on the LED driver **10, 500** hence less power is consumed during operation to improve efficiency. Compared to the prior art, where each LED lamp comprises its own driver which is directly connected to the AC mains, power efficiency will be significantly improved compared to AC driver lighting unit in a complete lighting system because total power losses only apply to the particular single driver whereas AC driven lighting unit will having higher total power loss due to losses on each lighting.

c. High Efficacy (lumens/watt)

[0132] As an associated advantage, the string configuration offer cooler operating environment which resulted lower optical loss for the LEDs device hence higher luminous flux exhibited by the LED devices eventually improved the efficacy (lumens/watt) for the entire lighting system.

d. Longer Lifetimes

[0133] The LED driver **10, 500** using ASIC control, eliminates the use of short lifetimes components such as Aluminum Electrolytic Capacitor where this is extended the lifetimes of the LED driver **10, 500**. As for the LEDs lamp units **100**, the thermally cooler and operation with approximately ripple free constant current improves the performance and reliability of LED devices significantly and slow down the entire degradation progress on the LED device **100** eventually prolong the lifespan for the entire LED lighting unit.

e. Wide Range Application Options

[0134] The flexibility design for the single LED driver **10, 500** is applicable for any type of DC driven LED lighting unit and theoretically is able to drive unlimited numbers of LEDs in the entire lighting system by minor fine tuning of specific components as described earlier.

f. Cost Effective Solution

[0135] String driver configuration is a cost effective solution since single the LED Driver **10, 500** is capable to drive a series of DC driven LED lighting units whereas the prior art configuration require one driver for each LED lighting. Further, the solution also offer more competitive manufacturing cost as well as design part cost especially for heat sink.

g. Ease of Maintenance

[0136] Since the single LED Driver **10, 500** is isolated from the LED lighting unit 100, if any failure occurred within the lighting system that due to a faulty LED driver **10, 500**, the user just need to replace the faulty LED driver instead of dismantling the entire LED lighting (Build-in concept) . Such maintenance process is simple and may be completed within a relatively short period.

h. Miniature in Form Factor

[0137] The heat sink for the lighting luminaries will be smaller in size where the heat sink just to design to dissipate heat generated by the LED lighting unit 100 where not heat generated from the AC-DC LED driver because of isolating between them. Also the single driver can be design in such an optimized size due to less components count require for the entire system compare to integral concept and thus less material used and the introduction of planar transformer will further enhance the slim look of the driver solution instead of conventional transformer that is in bulky form factor.

[0138] It is further apparent that the LED Driver 10, 500 requires less components count and less repetition of components compared to prior art systems where each LED lamp unit requires its own AC to DC driver. The driver solution form factor is thus reduced. Besides that, manufacturing process will be simplified such that production throughput and yield rate will be improved.

[0139] It is further apparent that the heat sink form factor for each LED lighting unit 100 will be reduced in the string configuration because the each heat sink will be required to only handle the heat distributed by the LED lighting unit 100. This is because the LED driver 10, 500 is isolated from the LED lighting unit 100. This will beneficial on part cost due to less material utilization. Furthermore, the entire design cycle will be further shorten since both LED lighting unit 100 and LED driver 10, 500 design activity can be carried out simultaneously that leads to improve product time to market.

[0140] The junction box **1100** further provides additional advantages to the string driver concept as follows:-

a. Error Free Installation

[0141] The Junction Box **1100** is designed with "fool proof "concept so that to provide an error free installation experience to the end user. Polarity is a concern during installation to ensure the entire lighting system work as expected. With the bridge rectifier at each junction box providing an interface with the driver **10, 500** and the SSL driverless lighting unit **100**, accidental reverse polarity connection is negated during the installation. The lighting units **100** within the lighting system will operate normally as long as continuity exist between driver **10**,

500 and SSL driverless lighting unit **100** regardless of polarity consideration. Further, header and plug in connector design exist on the interface between driver output and junction box input where this will totally eliminate the possibility to connect the driver output to any of the junction box output connector.

b. Ease of Installation

[0142] The junction box **1100** comprises connector design for interfacing purposes with driver **10**, **500** and driverless SSL lighting units **100**. A user will thus find it easy to plug in or inserting the strip end cable to the correct or dedicated connector. In addition, due to the simplification of the installation, shorter time and thus lower cost is expended for installation and system set-up.

c. Safer Installation

[0143] As only DC supply exists on the junction box **1100** a safety environment is created for installation.

d. Flexibility of Installation

[0144] Since the string driver concept do not have a wire length constraint during installation, users have the flexibility to position the SSL driverless lighting units according to their preference design and/or needs. A user may lengthen the electrical wire of the SSL driverless lighting unit **100** easily to their desire length so as to meet the application with the specific wire specification, example American wire gauge (AWG) 16 ~ 24 to have a perfect match to the junction box input/output connectors **1120**, **1140**. Furthermore, the junction box is also designed to support dual (or possibly larger number of junction boxes linkage) which will provide additional flexibility on the installation.

e. Ease of Maintenance

[0145] The special design feature of the junction box as described in the embodiment enables a user/installer to identify the failure unit easily and to carry out the necessary maintenance as what they experienced in conventional practice even though the string driver is running in series connection

f. Reliable Connection

[0146] The described input/output connectors **1120, 1140** used for the connections within the lighting system is either wire entry or latch lock type which gives a good connection compared to conventional screw tightening method widely used on the market.

REFERENCES CITED IN THE DESCRIPTION

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Patent documents cited in the description

- US7902771B2 [0008]

Patentkrav

1. Enkeltdriver (10), der omfatter en primær side og en sekundær side, hvor den primære side af enkeltdriveren (10) omfatter en digital styreenhed (18), som kan programmeres til at
- 5 indstille en rippelfri jævnstrøm, der tilvejebringes til en flerhed af højeffekt-LED-lampeenheder (100), og den sekundære side af enkeltdriveren (10) omfatter flerheden af højeffekt-LED-lampeenheder (100),
- hvor enkeltdriveren (10) har et induktivt element som en transformer (11) med en primær ende (L1) og en sekundær ende (L2) til afkobling af den primære side fra den sekundære side
- 10 med henblik på at isolere flerheden af højeffekt-LED-lampeenheder (100) i den sekundære ende (L2) af transformeren (11), og **kendetegnet ved, at:**
- den digitale styreenhed (18) indstiller den rippelfrie jævnstrøm, der tilvejebringes til flerheden af højeffekt-LED-lampeenheder (100), i en klokcyklus ved at aktivere en elektronisk omskifter (14) i den primære ende (L1) af transformeren (11) med et
- 15 aktiveringstidsrum (T_{ON}) baseret på detektion af en afladning af en kerne i transformeren (11) i den primære ende (L1) af transformeren (11) målt gennem en spændingsdeler 30 og beregning af en tidsværdi (T_{OFF}) for afladningen af kernen i transformeren (11) ved sammenligning med en referencespænding.
- 20 **2.** Enkeltdriver (10) ifølge krav 1, hvor den digitale styreenhed (18) er et applikationsspecifikt integreret kredsløb (ASIC) (18).
- 3.** Enkeltdriver (10) ifølge krav 2, hvor ASIC'et (18) programmeres til at tilvejebringe en spændingsbølgeform med henblik på at aktivere og deaktivere den elektroniske omskifter
- 25 (14) i klokcyklussen.
- 4.** Enkeltdriver (10) ifølge krav 1, hvor hver af flerheden af højeffekt-LED-lampeenheder (100) er serieforbundet med de andre højeffekt-LED-lampeenheder.
- 30 **5.** Enkeltdriver (10) ifølge krav 1, hvor den sekundære ende (L2) af transformeren (11) er elektrisk forbundet med et kortslutningsbeskyttelseskredsløb (44).

6. Enkeltdriver (10) ifølge krav 2, hvor ASIC'et (18) sammenkobles med en aktiv effektfaktorstyreenhed (PFC).

7. Enkeltdriver (10) ifølge krav 1, hvor hver højeffekt-LED-lampe er forsynet med et varmedræn, der er formet og konfigureret til kun at sprede varme væk fra højeffekt-LED-lampeenhederne (100).

8. Enkeltdriver (10) ifølge krav 3, hvor den rippelfrie jævnstrøm opnås ved hjælp af

spændingsregulering ifølge følgende ligning:-
$$V_{OUT} = \frac{V_{IN} * T_{ON}}{T_{OFF}} \sqrt{\frac{L_2}{L_1}}$$

10

hvor V_{OUT} er spændingen over udgangen; V_{IN} er indgangsspændingen; T_{OFF} er tiden for afladningen af kernen i transformeren (11); T_{ON} er tilkoblingstiden for den elektroniske omskifter (14); L_1 er induktansværdien for primærviklingerne i transformeren (11), og L_2 er induktansværdien for sekundærviklingerne i transformeren (11).

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9. Enkeltdriver (10) ifølge krav 1, hvor det induktive element forbindes med den elektroniske omskifter (14), ifølge følgende ligning:-

$$I_{OUT} = (T_{OFF} * I_1 + \frac{I_{MAX} * T_{OFF}}{2}) * \frac{1}{T}$$

20

hvor T_{OFF} er fastsat som en konstant; T er summationen af T_{ON} , T_{OFF} og T_{CALC} , hvor T_{ON} er tilkoblingstiden for den elektroniske omskifter (14), og T_{CALC} er tiden efter afladningstiden for det induktive element; I_1 er den ønskede referencestrøm, og I_{MAX} er spidsstrømmen.

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10. Enkeltdriver (10) ifølge krav 9, hvor værdien af I_{MAX} og I_1 kan være fastsat til en hysteresestyreenhedskonfiguration, og T_{ON} - og T_{OFF} -tidsintervallerne kan bestemmes.

30

11. Enkeltdriver (500) ifølge krav 6, hvor den aktive effektfaktorstyreenhed (PFC) omfatter en omskifter (513), der kan tilvejebringe et omkoblingstidsrum til styring af effektfaktorspænding, idet omkoblingstidsrummet kan programmeres ved hjælp af mindst én integreret kredsløb-(IC)-styreenhed (518), som kan programmeres under anvendelse af et hardware-beskrivelsessprog.

12. Enkeltdriver (500) ifølge krav 11, hvor den elektroniske omskifter (14, 514) og omskifter (513) er effekt-MOSFET'er.

13. Enkeltdriver (10) ifølge krav 1 eller krav 9 til anvendelse med en indretning, hvor
5 indretningen har en indgangsåbning og en flerhed af udgangsåbninger, idet indgangsåbningen er anbragt med henblik på at være forbundet med udgangen af enkeltdriveren (10), hvilken indretning omfatter:

en omvendt polaritet-beskyttelse (1160), der er anbragt med henblik på at være
elektrisk forbundet med indgangsåbningen; og

10 en flerhed af åbent kredsløb-beskyttelseskredsløb (1180), idet hver af flerheden af åbent kredsløb-beskyttelseskredsløbene (1180) kan forbindes med en tilsvarende udgangsåbning blandt flerheden af udgangsåbninger;

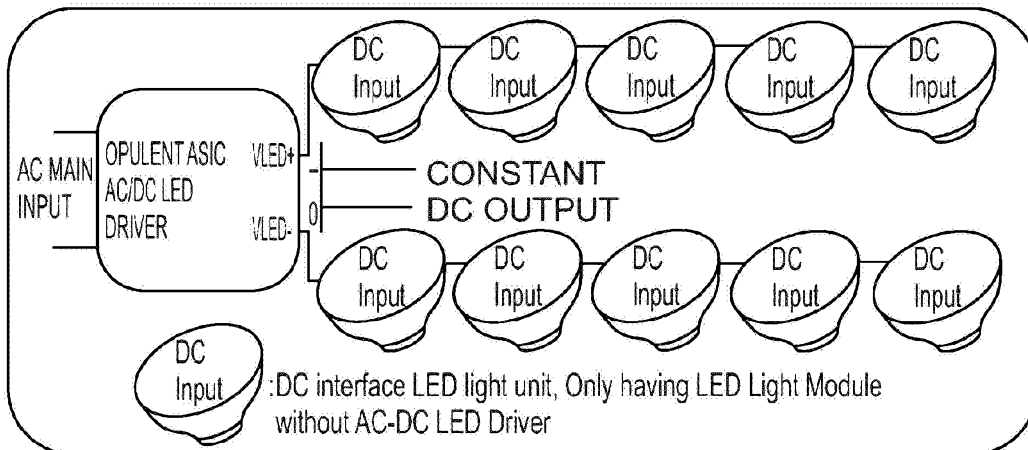
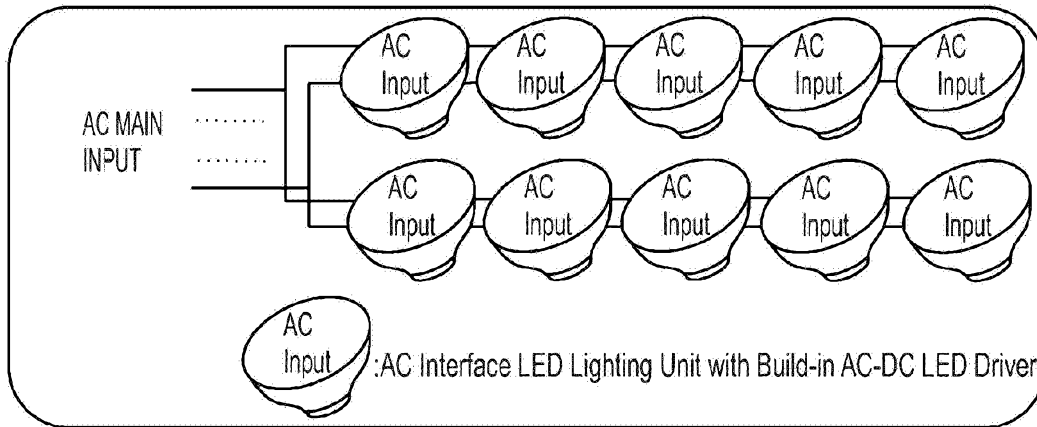
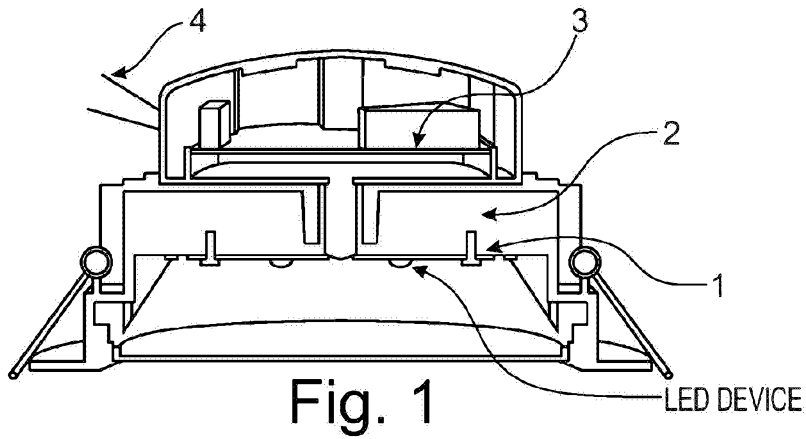
hvor omvendt polaritet-beskyttelsen (1160) kan negere polaritetskravet i det tilfælde,
hvor en belastning forbindes med en forkert polaritet til en hvilken som helst af
15 udgangsåbningerne; og åbent kredsløb-beskyttelseskredsløbet (1180) kan danne en lukket løkke-serieforbindelse i det tilfælde, hvor ingen belastning forbindes med en udgangsåbning, eller når en belastning bryder sammen.

14. Enkeltdriver (10) ifølge krav 13, hvor omvendt polaritet-beskyttelsen (1160) er en
20 diodebroensretter; hvor hver udgangsåbning omfatter et tilsvarende åbent kredsløb-beskyttelseskredsløb (1180); og/eller hvor hver af udgangsåbningerne er egnet til forbindelse med en belastning, der omfatter en højeffekt-LED-lampeenhed (100).

15. Enkeltdriver (10) ifølge krav 1 eller krav 9 til anvendelse med et lysdæmperkredsløb,
25 hvor lysdæmperkredsløbet omfatter mindst én mikrostyreenhedsindretning til detektion af mindst ét lysdæmpningssignal fra en flerhed af lysdæmpere; og et kapacitivt element (1630), der er indrettet til at blive opladet ved hjælp af en omkoblingseffektforsyning (1600) til opretholdelse af en effektfaktor på mindst 0,9 inde i lysdæmperkredsløbet.

30 **16.** Enkeltdriver (10) ifølge krav 15, hvor lysdæmperkredsløbet omfatter en spændingsmåler, infrarød grænseflade, bevægelsessensor eller omgivelsessensor; og hvor spændingsmåleren, når lysdæmperkredsløbet omfatter en spændingsmåler, kan fungere inden for en spænding på 0 til 10V.

DRAWINGS



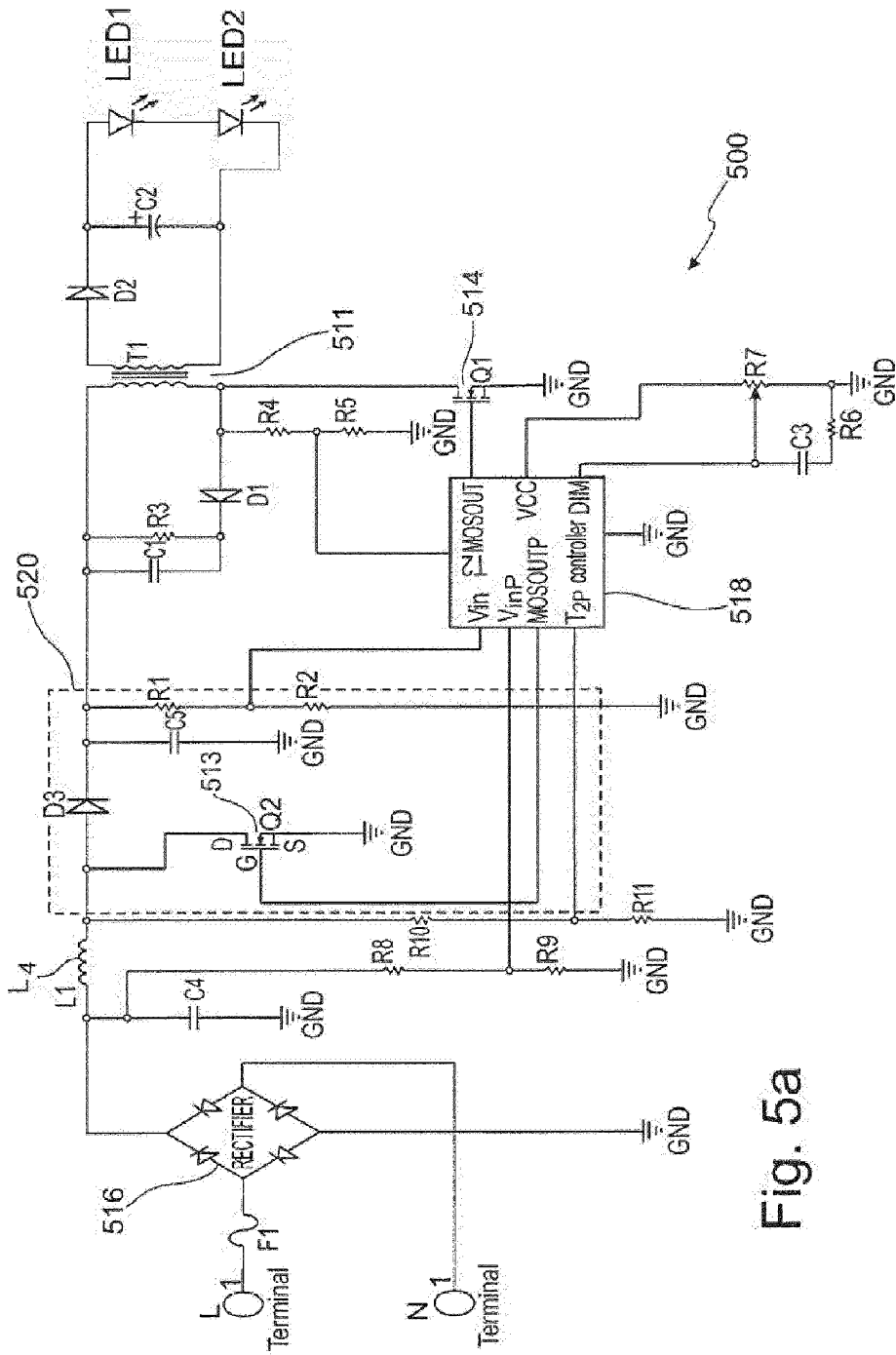


Fig. 5a

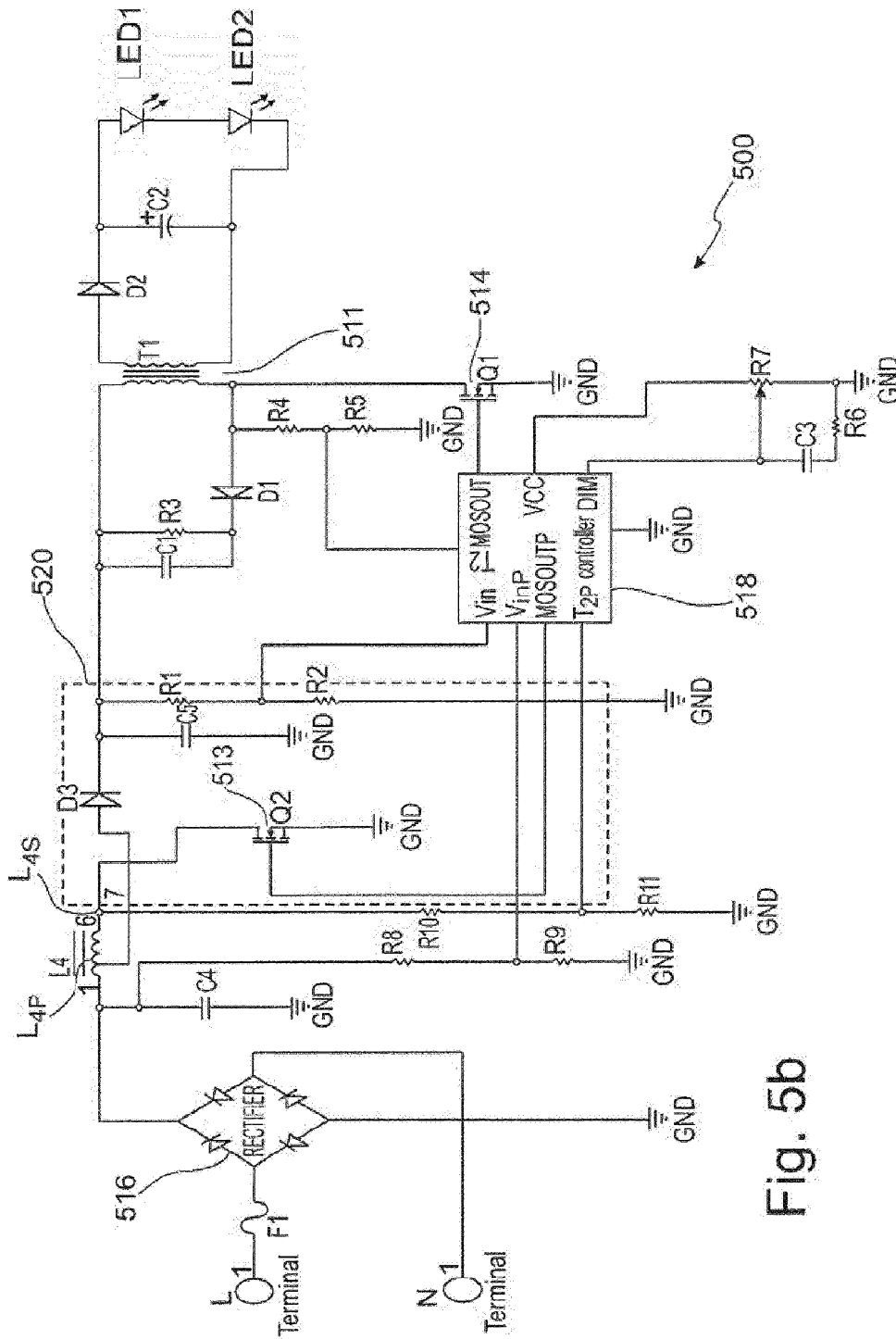


Fig. 5b

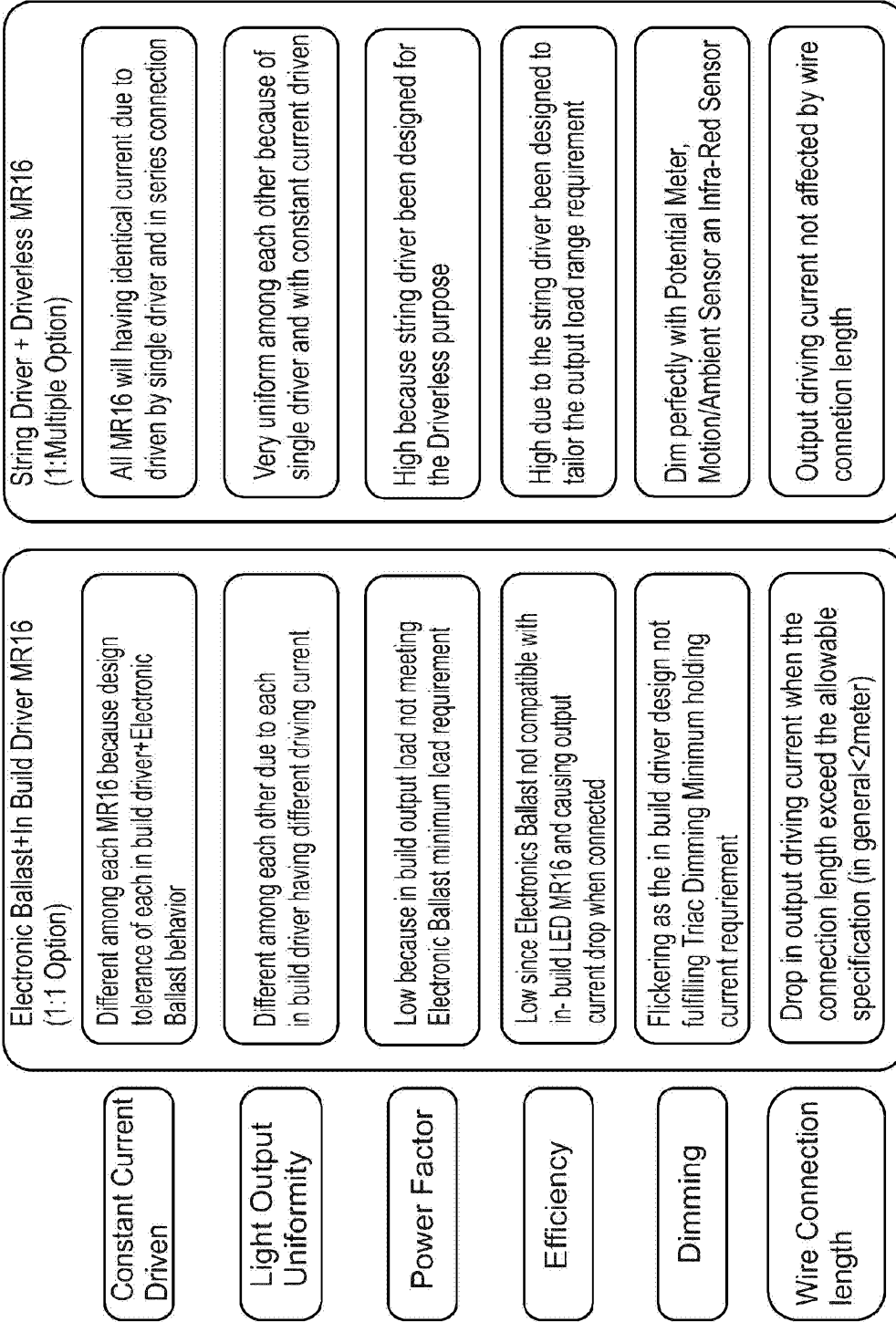
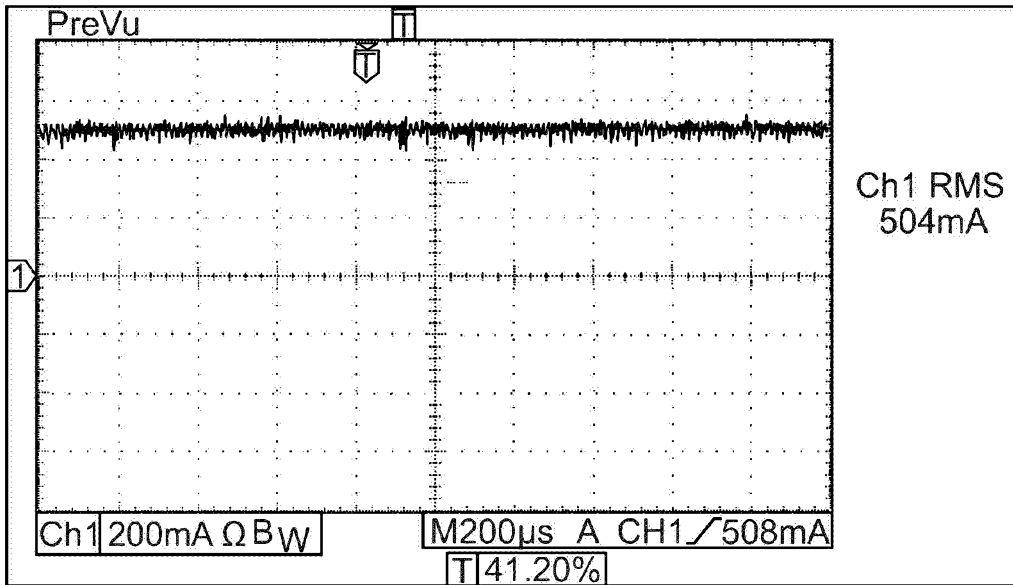


Fig. 6

Constant current @504mA



Ripple of 20mA(3.9% of 504mA)

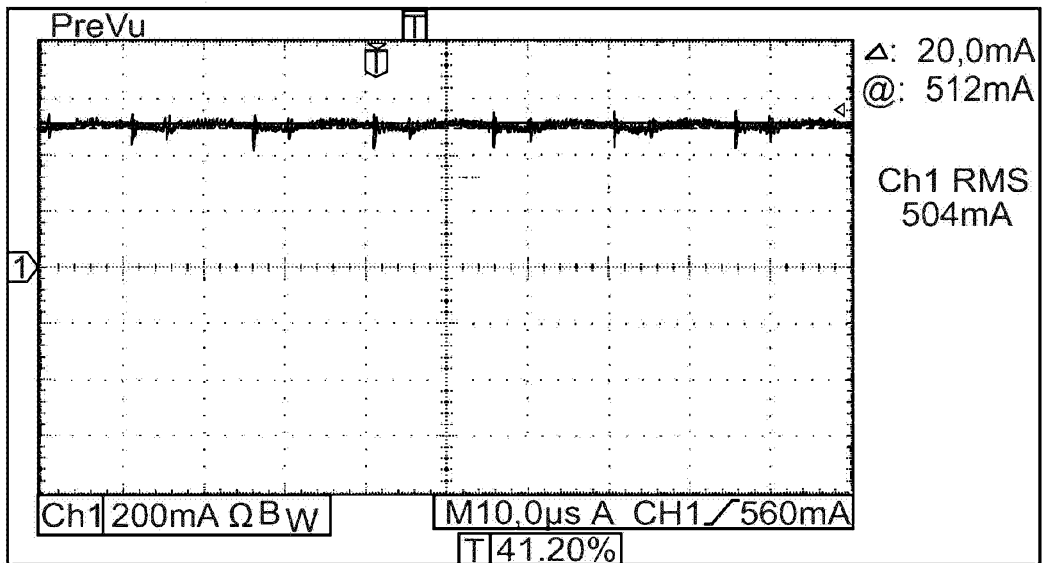


Fig. 7

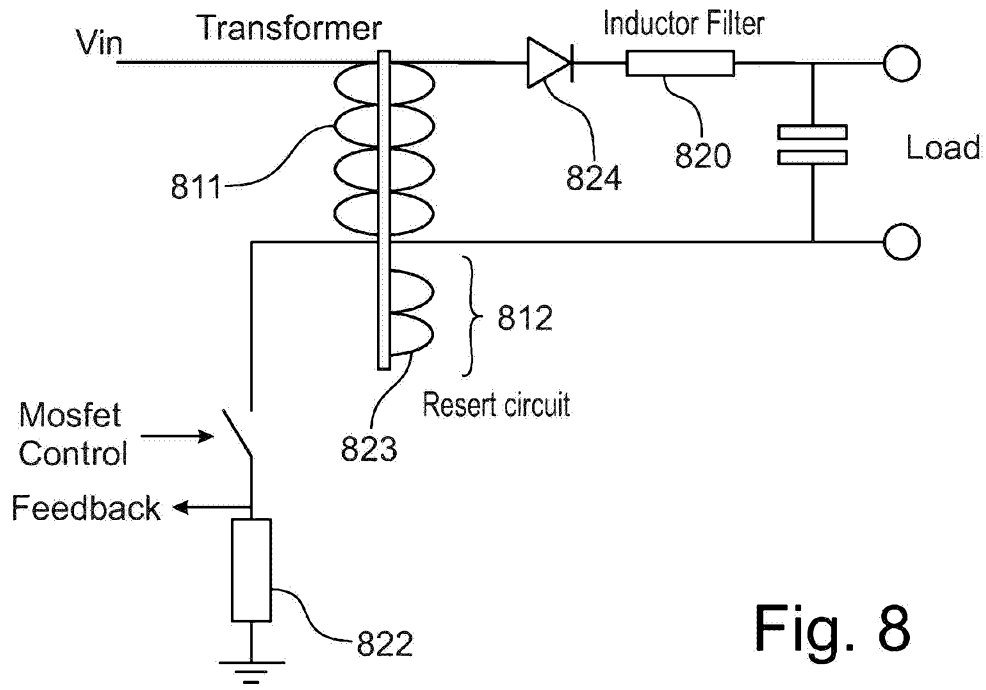


Fig. 8

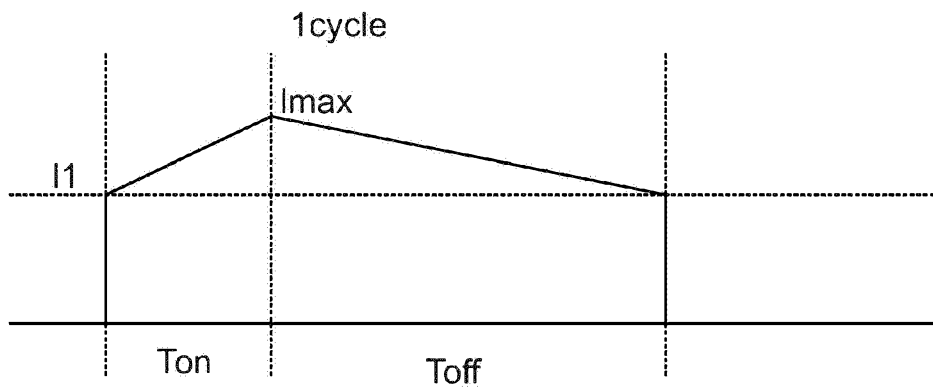


Fig. 9

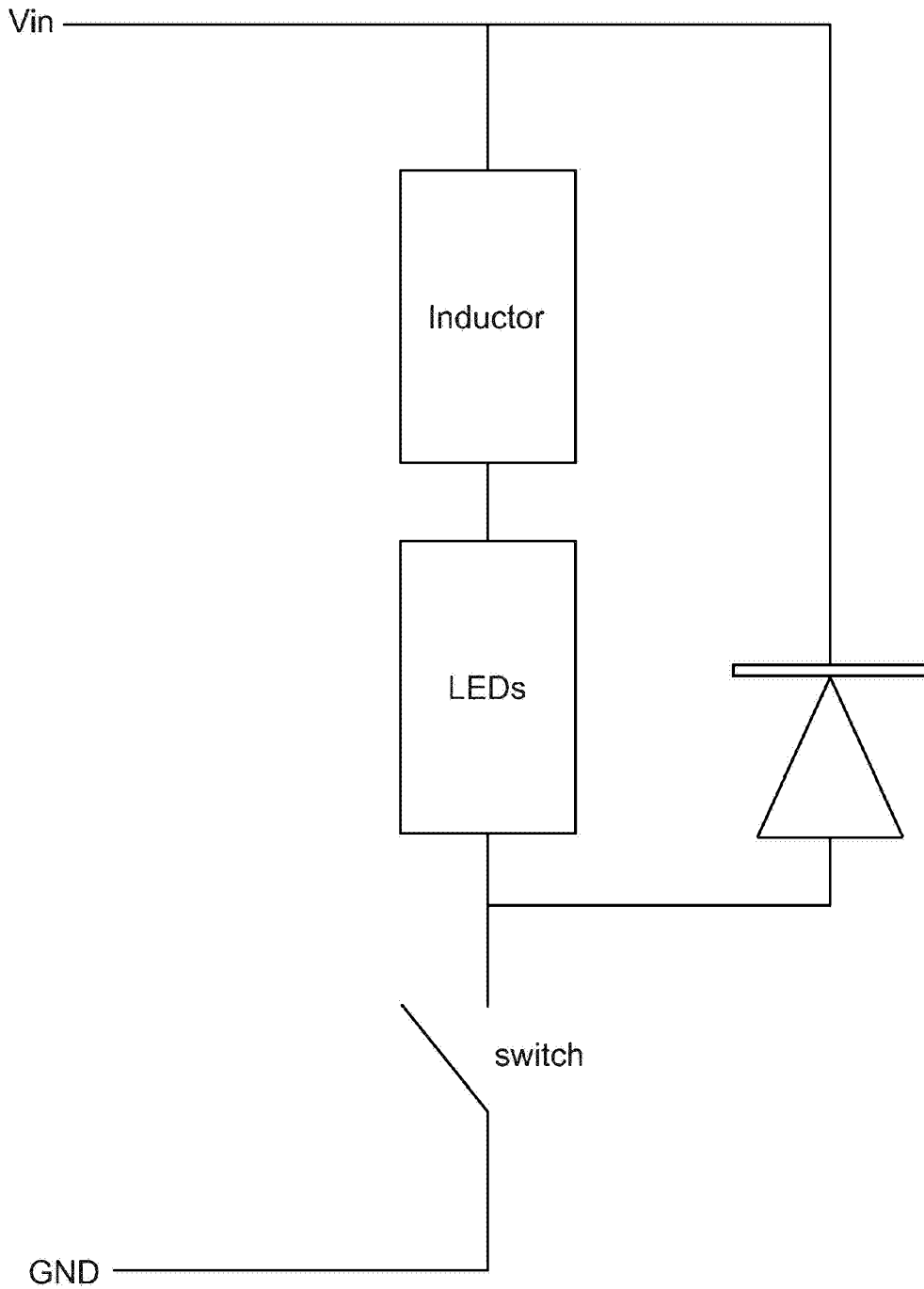


Fig. 10

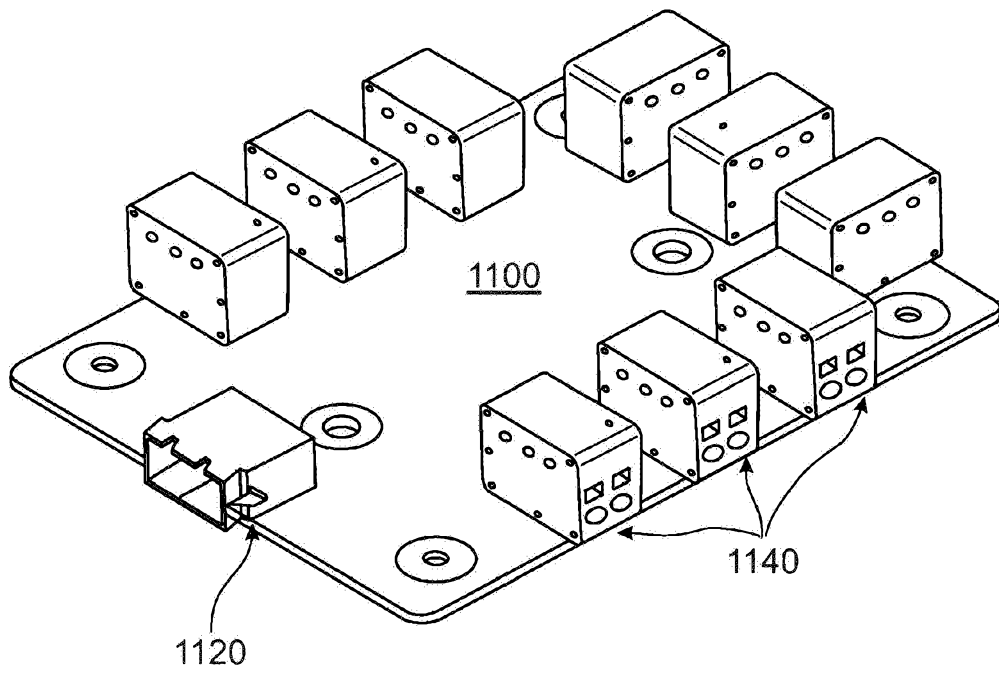


Fig. 11

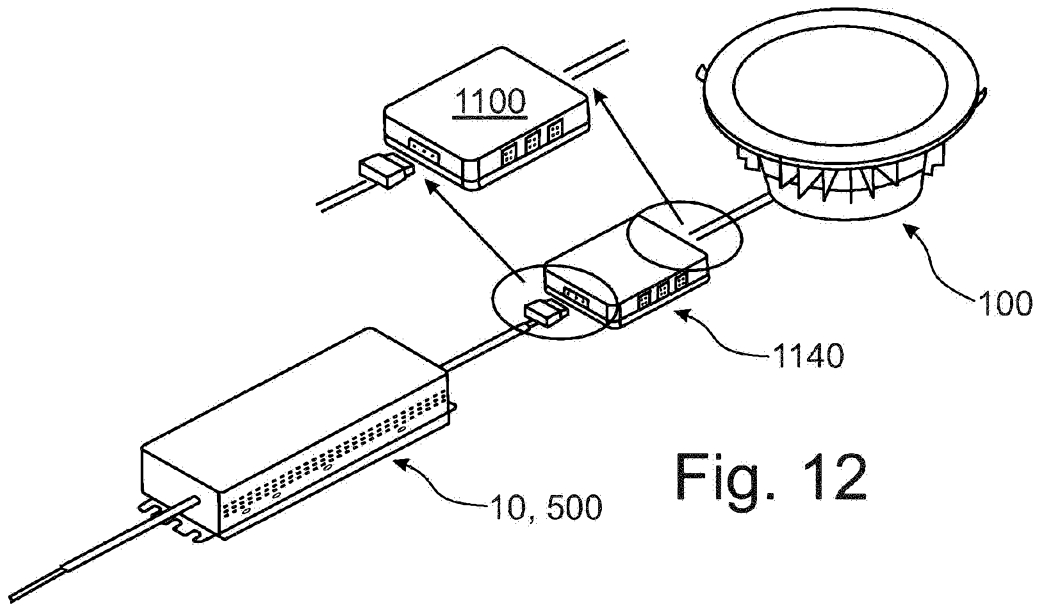


Fig. 12

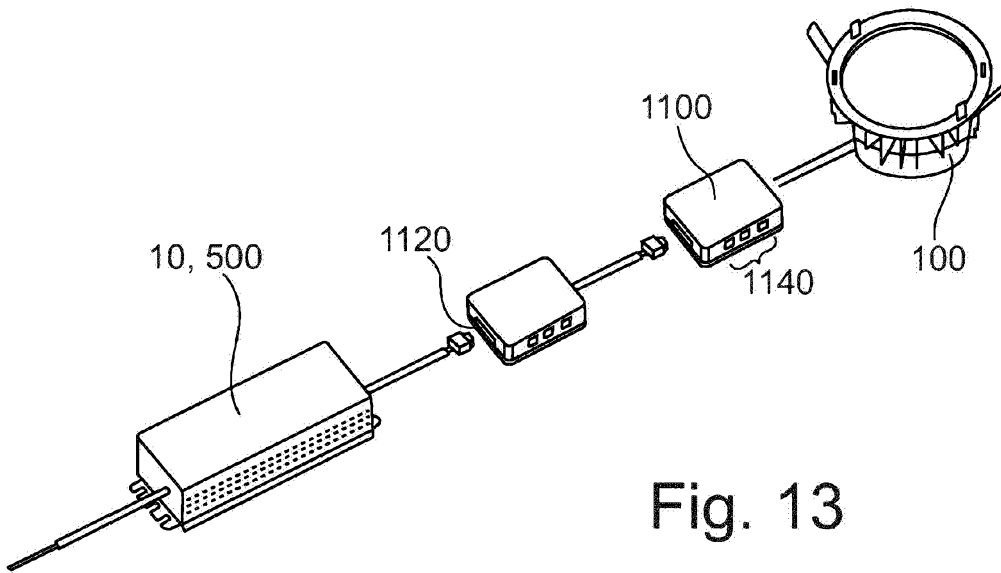


Fig. 13

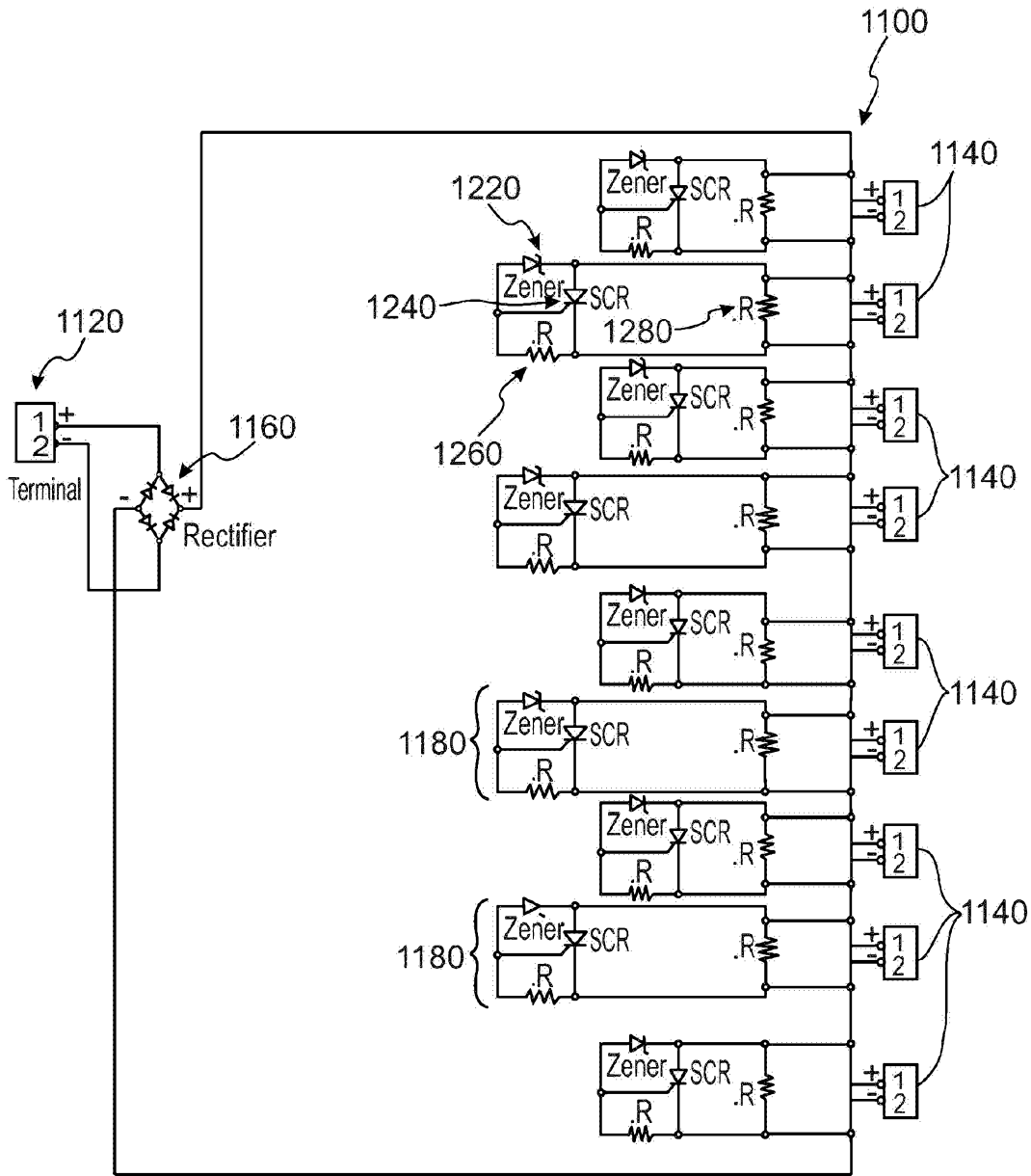


Fig. 14

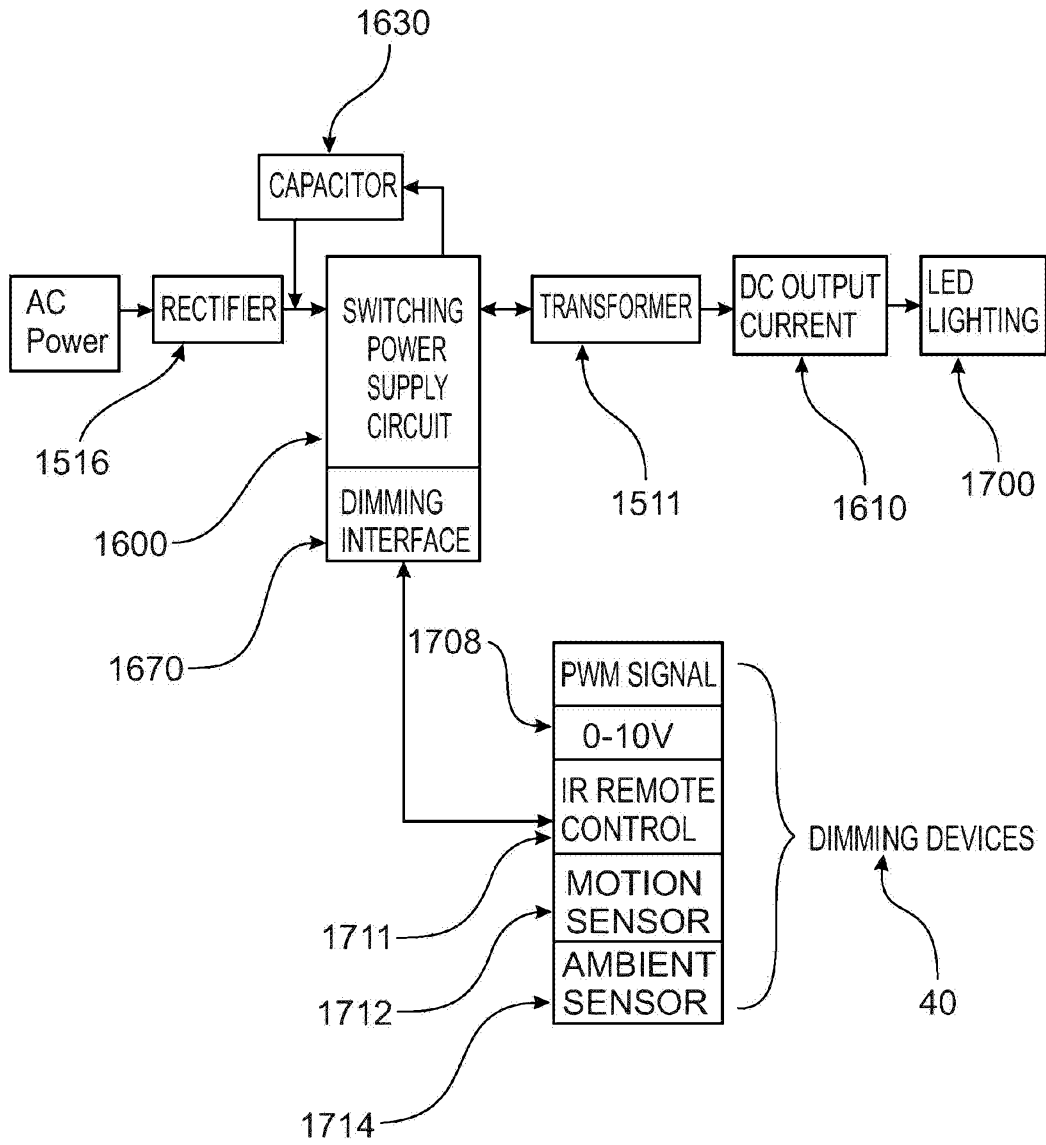


Fig. 15