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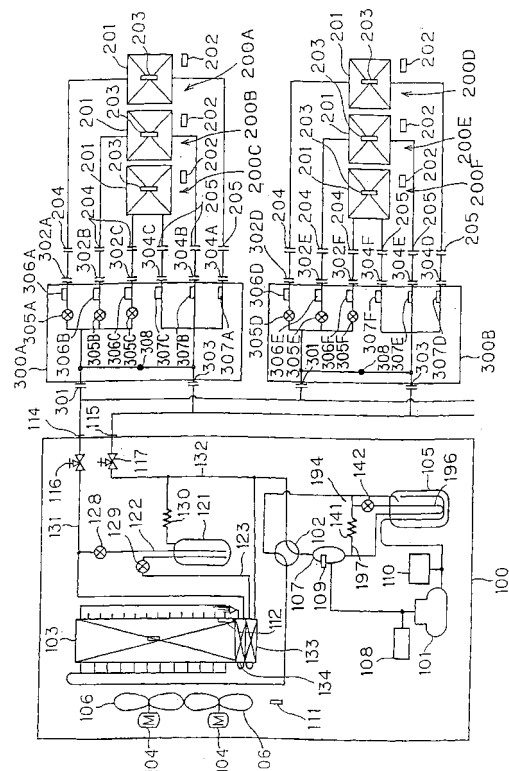
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(54) **Air conditioner**

(57) An air conditioner comprising a refrigerant circuit formed of an outdoor unit refrigerant circuit including at least a compressor (101), a four-way valve (102) and an outdoor heat exchanger (103) arranged in an outdoor unit (100), and an indoor heat exchanger (201) arranged in an indoor unit (200) and connected to said outdoor unit refrigerant circuit by a liquid-side pipe and a gas-side pipe, wherein a bypass circuit forming a bypass between said liquid-side and gas-side pipes (131,132) is provided with a receiver (121) for collecting liquid refrigerant, and refrigerant on-off means (128,129) arranged in a liquid pipe connection pipe (122) connecting said receiver (121) to said liquid-side pipe (131) and in a gas pipe connecting pipe (123) connecting said receiver (121) to said gas-side pipe (132), said refrigerant on-off means (128,129) is controlled based on determination of presence/absence of surplus refrigerant performed by determining a current heat exchanging performance of said outdoor heat exchanger (103), and thereby an amount of the refrigerant in said receiver (121) is controlled.

Fig. 1





European Patent
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EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT

Application Number
EP 07 01 2492

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			TECHNICAL FIELDS SEARCHED (IPC)
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The present search report has been drawn up for all claims			
Place of search Munich		Date of completion of the search 1 August 2007	Examiner Szilagy, Barnabas
<p>CATEGORY OF CITED DOCUMENTS</p> <p>X : particularly relevant if taken alone Y : particularly relevant if combined with another document of the same category A : technological background O : non-written disclosure P : intermediate document</p> <p>T : theory or principle underlying the invention E : earlier patent document, but published on, or after the filing date D : document cited in the application L : document cited for other reasons & : member of the same patent family, corresponding document</p>			

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**ANNEX TO THE EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT
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