



(11)

EP 4 502 478 A1

(12)

EUROPEAN PATENT APPLICATION

published in accordance with Art. 153(4) EPC

(43) Date of publication:

05.02.2025 Bulletin 2025/06

(21) Application number: 23780583.3

(22) Date of filing: 28.03.2023

(51) International Patent Classification (IPC):

F24F 5/00 (2006.01) F24D 3/00 (2022.01)

F24F 11/64 (2018.01) F24F 11/74 (2018.01)

F24F 11/83 (2018.01) F24F 140/20 (2018.01)

(84) Designated Contracting States:

AL AT BE BG CH CY CZ DE DK EE ES FI FR GB
GR HR HU IE IS IT LI LT LU LV MC ME MK MT NL
NO PL PT RO RS SE SI SK SM TR

Designated Extension States:

BA

Designated Validation States:

KH MA MD TN

(30) Priority: 31.03.2022 JP 2022061047

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(52) Cooperative Patent Classification (CPC):

F24D 3/00; F24F 5/00; F24F 11/83; F24F 2110/64;
F24F 2110/74; F24F 2140/20

(86) International application number:

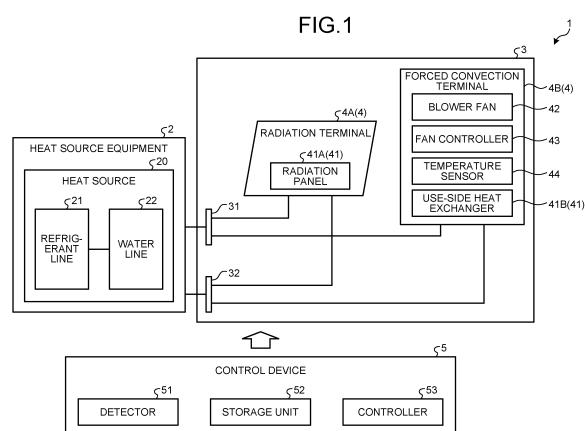
PCT/JP2023/012634

(87) International publication number:

WO 2023/190574 (05.10.2023 Gazette 2023/40)

(54) HEAT PUMP DEVICE

(57) A heat pump device includes heat source equipment that produces heated water by a heat source, a radiation terminal, a forced convection terminal, and a control device. The radiation terminal is connected to the source equipment and adjusts a temperature of an indoor space using radiant heat that is obtained by flowing the heated water from the source equipment into a radiation panel. The forced convection terminal is connected to the source equipment, flows the heated water from the source equipment into a use-side heat exchanger, and blows air on which heat exchange with the heated water is performed by the use-side heat exchanger using a blast fan and thus adjusts the temperature of the indoor space. The control device controls the source equipment, the radiation terminal, and the forced convection terminal. The control device includes a controller that, when the radiation terminal and the forced convection terminal are operated at a time, controls the forced convection terminal to reduce an air volume of the forced convection terminal compared to an air volume in a case where only the forced convection terminal is in operation. The heat pump device capable of inhibiting comfortableness to a user from lowering is provided.



Description**Field**

[0001] The present invention relates to a heat pump device.

Background

[0002] For example, a heat pump device that flows heated water that is produced by heat source equipment to an indoor terminal to warm an indoor space in which the indoor terminal is set is known. There are, as the indoor terminal, for example, a forced convection terminal that adjusts an indoor temperature by forced convection from the indoor terminal and a radiation terminal that adjusts the indoor temperature by radiant heat of the heated water that passes through the indoor terminal.

[0003] When a heating operation is performed using a forced convection terminal that is connected to a heat pump device, heat is supplied to a user via indoor air and therefore, it is necessary to increase the temperature of the heated water to a high temperature compared to a case where a radiation terminal is used. For this reason, when a heating operation is performed using the forced convection terminal, setting a target temperature such that the temperature of the heated water is high in heating ensures comfortableness to the user.

Citation List**Patent Literature**

[0004] Patent Literature 1: Japanese Laid-open Patent Publication No. 2019-70498

Summary**Technical Problem**

[0005] In the conventional heat pump device, however, when the forced convection terminal and the radiation terminal are operated at a time, heated water at the same temperature as heated water that is supplied to the forced convection terminal is supplied to the radiation terminal. As a result, in the radiation terminal, heated water at a temperature exceeding a temperature that the user feels comfortable is supplied and thus the case where the user feels uncomfortable is assumed.

[0006] In view of the above-described problem, an object of the present invention is to provide a heat pump device that makes it possible to inhibit comfortableness to a user from lowering.

Solution to Problem

[0007] According to an aspect of an embodiment, the heat pump device includes a heat source equipment, a

radiation terminal, a forced convection terminal and a control device. The heat source equipment produces heated water by a heat source. The radiation terminal is connected to the heat source equipment and adjusts a temperature of an indoor space by radiation heat that is obtained by flowing the heated water from the heat source equipment into a radiation panel. The forced convection terminal is connected to the heat source equipment, flows the heated water from the heat source equipment into a use-side heat exchanger, and blows air on which heat exchange with the heated water is performed by the use-side heat exchanger using a blast fan and thus adjusts the temperature of the indoor space. The control device controls the heat source equipment, the radiation terminal, and the forced convection terminal. The control device includes a controller that, when the radiation terminal and the forced convection terminal are operated at a time, controls the forced convection terminal to reduce an air volume of the forced convection terminal compared to an air volume in a case where only the forced convection terminal is in operation.

Advantageous Effects of Invention

[0008] It is possible to inhibit comfortableness to a user from lowering as an aspect.

Brief Description of Drawings

[0009]

FIG. 1 is an illustration illustrating an example of a heat pump device of an embodiment.

FIG. 2 is an illustration illustrating an example of an air volume target value table that is stored in a storage unit.

FIG. 3 is an illustration illustrating an example of a relationship between the air conditioning performance and the volume of circulated water.

FIG. 4 is a flowchart illustrating an example of processing operations of a control device that relate to a temperature adjustment process.

Description of Embodiments

[0010] An embodiment of a heat pump device, etc., disclosed in the preset application will be described in detail below according to the drawings. Note that the embodiment does not limit the disclosed technique. Each embodiment illustrated below may be modified as appropriate within a range where no inconsistency is caused.

[Embodiment]

55 Configuration of Heat Pump Device

[0011] FIG. 1 is an illustration illustrating an example of a heat pump device 1 of the present embodiment. The

heat pump device 1 illustrated in FIG. 1 includes heat source equipment 2 that produces heated water, a use-side terminal group 3 including a plurality of use-side terminals 4, and a control device 5 that controls the entire heat pump device 1.

Configuration of Heat Source Equipment

[0012] The heat source equipment 2 includes a heat source 20 that produces heated water. The heat source 20 includes a refrigerant line 21 and a water line 22. The refrigerant line 21 is, for example, a line in which a refrigerant circulates inside with a compressor and that performs heat exchange between the refrigerant that circulates and external air. In the water line 22, for example, water circulates inside and the water line 22 causes heat exchange between the water circulating inside and the refrigerant circulating in the refrigerant line 21, thereby producing heated water. The water line 22, for example, flows the heated water into the use-side terminal group 3 using a circulation pump, thereby adjusting the temperature of the indoor space in which the use-side terminal 4 of the use-side terminal group 3 is arranged.

Configuration of Use-side Terminal Group

[0013] The use-side terminal group 3 includes the use-side terminals 4, a branch pipe 31 and a merging pipe 32. There are, as the use-side terminals 4 that are set in the indoor space, for example, a radiation terminal 4A, a forced convection terminal 4B, etc.

[0014] The radiation terminal 4A is, for example, a floor heating terminal and includes a radiation panel 41A that is an use-side heat exchanger 41, is connected to the water line 22 in the heat source equipment 2, and adjusts the temperature of the indoor space using the radiant heat obtained by flowing the heated water from the water line 22 into the radiation panel 41A.

[0015] The forced convection terminal 4B includes a use-side heat exchanger 41B (41), a blower fan 42, a fan controller 43, and a temperature sensor 44. The use-side heat exchanger 41B is connected to the water line 22 in the heat source equipment 2, the heated water flows from the water line 22 into the use-side heat exchanger 41B, and the blower fan 42 blows the air on which heat exchange with the heated water is performed by the use-side heat exchanger 41B into the indoor space, thereby adjusting the temperature of the indoor space. The blower fan 42 is a fan that generates forced convection. The fan controller 43 adjusts the air volume by controlling the rotation rate of the blower fan 42. The temperature sensor 44 is a sensor that is arranged at the inlet of the use-side heat exchanger 41B and that detects a temperature of the heated water that flows into the use-side heat exchanger 41B.

Configuration of Control Device

[0016] The control device 5 controls the heat source equipment 2 and the radiation terminal 4A and the forced convection terminal 4B that are the use-side terminal 4. The control device 5 includes a detector 51, a storage unit 52, and a controller 53. The detector 51 detects a current temperature of the heated water that is produced by the heat source equipment 2. Specifically, the detector 51 detects, as the current temperature, the temperature of the heated water that flows from the temperature sensor 44 in the forced convection terminal 4B into the use-side heat exchanger 41B.

[0017] When the forced convection terminal 4B and the radiation terminal 4A are operated at a time, the temperature of the heated water flowing into the forced convection terminal 4B and the radiation terminal 4A is conventionally set higher than that in the case where only the radiation terminal 4A is used. This is because the forced convection terminal 4B supplies heat to the user via indoor air and thus the heated water has to be higher than that in the case where only the radiation terminal 4A is used. As a result, the heated water at the same temperature as that of the heated water that is supplied to the forced convection terminal 4B is supplied to the radiation terminal 4A and, if the airflow to the forced convection terminal 4B is not lowered, the temperature of the air that is blown (blow temperature) lowers substantially, which makes the user uncomfortable. Thus, the embodiment focuses on lowering the heat discharge from the heated water to the air by changing the air flow to inhibit the temperature of the heated water from lowering. It is possible to calculate a heat discharge from the heated water to the air per unit of time by an air specific heat \times an air density \times an air flow \times a difference in temperature. The difference in temperature is (an average temperature of the heated water in the heat exchanger $-$ an air inlet temperature). In other words, reducing the air volume that is the air flow reduces the heat discharge from the heated water to the air per unit of time, which reduces a decrease in the temperature of the heated water. Accordingly, even when the temperature of the heated water is the same, reducing the air volume enables an appropriate temperature of the blow temperature from the forced convection terminal 4B.

[0018] FIG. 2 is an illustration illustrating an example of an air volume target value table that is stored in the storage unit 52. The air volume target value table is a table that is used when the radiation terminal 4A and the forced convection terminal 4B are operated at a time. The storage unit 52 stores an air volume level that is a target value of the air volume of the forced convection terminal 4B corresponding to the temperature level of the heated water. The temperature level of the heated water is a level corresponding to the temperature of the heated water that flows into the use-side heat exchanger of the forced convection terminal 4B, that is, the level corresponding to the current temperature that is a detected value of the

temperature sensor 44. The temperature level of the heated water includes levels at three stages of "high" of a region where the current temperature is high, "low" of a region where the current temperature is low, and "intermediate" of a region where the current temperature is between "high" and "low" described above. The air volume level is a level of the air volume of the forced convection terminal 4B for the user to feel comfortable. The air volume level also includes levels at three stages of "large" at which the air volume is large, "small" at which the air volume is small, and "intermediate" at which the air volume is between "large" and "small".

[0019] The air volume level of the forced convection terminal 4B is large when the temperature level of the heated water is high, the air volume level of the forced convection terminal 4B is intermediate when the temperature level of the heated water is intermediate, and the air volume level of the forced convection terminal 4B is small when the temperature level of the heated water is low. When the temperature level of the heated water is high, a decrease in the air volume for enabling a blow temperature that the user does not feel uncomfortable may be small. On the other hand, when the temperature level of the heated water is low, the decrease in the air volume has to be increased to enable a blow temperature that the user does not feel uncomfortable. Note that, in the embodiment, the air volume levels corresponding to the temperature levels of the heated water at three stages are set and this however does not apply to the case where an air volume corresponding to the temperature of the heated water is assigned and the air volume decreases as the temperature of the heated water decreases.

[0020] When the radiation terminal 4A and the forced convection terminal 4B are operated at a time, the controller 53 controls the forced convection terminal 4B to reduce the air volume of the forced convection terminal 4B compared to the air volume in the case where only the forced convection terminal 4B is in operation. Specifically, when the radiation terminal 4A and the forced convection terminal 4B are operated at a time, the controller 53 reads the air volume level corresponding to a temperature level of the temperature of the heated water that is detected by the detector 51 from the storage unit 52 and controls the forced convection terminal 4B to enable the read air volume level.

[0021] After controlling the forced convection terminal 4B to lower the air volume of the forced convection terminal 4B, when the temperature of the indoor space of the forced convection terminal 4B lowers, the controller 53 controls the heat source equipment 2 to increase the flow of the heated water to the forced convection terminal 4B and the radiation terminal 4A. When the heat discharge from the heated water to the air is small compared to the rate of heat leak because of the wall, windows, the entrance of the room, etc., the temperature of the indoor space lowers. For this reason, even when a blow temperature that the user does not feel uncomfortable is enabled, there is a risk that the temperature of the indoor

space would lower and the user would thus feel uncomfortable. For this reason, by controlling the heat source equipment 2 to increase the flow of the heated water to the forced convection terminal 4B and the radiation terminal 4A, the heat discharge from the heated water to the air is increased to increase the blow temperature.

[0022] FIG. 3 is an illustration illustrating an example of a relationship between air conditioning performance and the volume of circulated water. As for the air conditioning performance of the forced convection terminal 4B, the air conditioning performance increases because the circulated flow of the heated water of the heat source equipment 2 increases as illustrated in FIG. 3.

15 Operations of Heat Pump Device

[0023] FIG. 4 is a flowchart illustrating an example of processing operations of the control device 5 that relates to a temperature adjustment process. In FIG. 4, the control device 5 determines whether the radiation terminal 4A is in operation (step S11). When the radiation terminal 4A is in operation (step S11: Yes), the control device 5 determines whether the forced convection terminal 4B is in operation (step S12).

[0024] When the forced convection terminal 4B is in operation (step S12: Yes), the control device 5 does not change the set temperature of the heated water (step S13) and reads an air volume level that is an air volume of a target value corresponding to a temperature level of the heated water that is the current temperature and that is detected by the detector from the storage unit 52 (step S14).

[0025] The control device 5 sets the read air volume of the target value (air volume level) in the forced convection terminal 4B (step S15) and ends the processing operations illustrated in FIG. 4. In other words, when the radiation terminal 4A and the forced convection terminal 4B are operated at a time, the control device 5 reads an air volume level corresponding to a temperature level of the detected temperature of the heated water from the storage unit 52 and controls the forced convection terminal 4B to enable the read air volume level. As a result, while maintaining the temperature that the user feels comfortable in the radiation terminal 4A, it is possible to inhibit comfortableness to the user from lowering also in the forced convection terminal 4B.

[0026] When the radiation terminal 4A is not in operation at step S11 (step S11: No), the control device 5 determines whether the forced convection terminal 4B is in operation (step S16). When the forced convection terminal 4B is in operation (step S16: Yes), the control device 5 adjusts the set temperature of the heated water (step S17) and ends the processing operations illustrated in FIG. 4. In other words, when only the forced convection terminal 4B is operated, the control device 5 controls the heat source equipment 2 to adjust the current temperature of the heated water without changing the normal air volume level. Specifically, in

the refrigerant line 21, the rotation rate of the compressor is increased to increase heat exchange between the refrigerant and the air and between the water and the refrigerant. As a result, it is possible to maintain the temperature that the user feels comfortable in the forced convection terminal 4B.

[0027] When the forced convection terminal 4B is not in operation (step S16: No), the control device 5 ends the processing operations illustrated in FIG. 4. When the forced convection terminal 4B is not in operation (step S12: No), the control device 5 ends the processing operations illustrated in FIG. 4.

Effect of Embodiment

[0028] When the radiation terminal 4A and the forced convection terminal 4B are operated at a time, the heat pump device 1 of the embodiment reads an air volume level corresponding to a temperature level of a temperature of heated water that is detected by the detector 51 from the storage unit 52 and controls the forced convection terminal 4B to enable the read air volume level. As a result, while maintaining a temperature that the user feels comfortable in the radiation terminal 4A, it is possible to inhibit comfortableness to the user from lowering also in the forced convection terminal 4B. In other words, because the blow temperature is increase by lowering the air volume level of the forced convection terminal 4B even in a state where the temperature of the heated water is low, it is possible to avoid a situation in which comfortableness lowers even when the wind is on the user.

[0029] After controlling the forced convection terminal 4B to lower the air volume of the forced convection terminal 4B, when the temperature of the indoor space of the forced convection terminal 4B lowers, the heat pump device 1 controls the heat source equipment 2 to increase the flow of the heated water to the forced convection terminal 4B and the radiation terminal 4A. As a result, it is possible to increase the blow temperature by, instead of reducing the air volume of the forced convection terminal 4B that is the circulated volume of the air side, increasing the flow that is the volume of circulation of the heated water to the forced convection terminal 4B and the radiation terminal 4A and maintain air conditioning performance.

[0030] Note that, for convenience of explanation, the case where, when the forced convection terminal 4B and the radiation terminal 4A are operated at a time, the controller 53 reads an air volume level corresponding to a temperature level of heated water that is detected by the detector 51 from the storage unit 52 and controls the forced convection terminal 4B to enable the read air volume. The controller 53 however may control the forced convection terminal 4B to reduce the air volume of the forced convection terminal 4B compared to the air volume in the case where only the forced convection terminal 4B is in operation and it is possible to make appropriate changes. As a result, in the radiation terminal

4A, it is possible to, while maintaining a temperature that a user feels comfortable in the radiation terminal 4A, it is possible to inhibit comfortableness to the user from lowering in the forced convection terminal 4B. For example,

5 reducing the air volume of the air passing through the use-side heat exchanger 41B in the forced convection terminal 4B increases the blow temperature. In other words, without adjusting the temperature of heated water as in the conventional technique, it is possible to adjust 10 the temperature of blow from the forced convection terminal 4B and thus ensure comfortableness.

[0031] Each component of each unit illustrated in the drawings need not necessarily be configured physically as illustrated in the drawings. In other words, specific 15 modes of distribution and integration of each units are not limited to those illustrated in the drawings and all or part of the units can be configured by functional or physical distribution or integration in any unit according to various types of load and usage.

[0032] Furthermore, all or given part of various types of 20 processing functions implemented by each device may be executed on a CPU (Central Processing Unit) (or a microcomputer, such as a MPU (Micro Processing Unit) or a MCU (Micro Controller Unit)). Needless to say, all or 25 any part of the various types of processing functions may be executed on a program that is analyzed and executed by the CPU (or a microcomputer, such as a MPU or a MCU) or on hardware according to a wired logic.

30 Reference Signs List

[0033]

35	1	HEAT PUMP DEVICE
	2	HEAT SOURCE EQUIPMENT
	4A	FORCED CONVECTION TERMINAL
40	5	CONTROL DEVICE
	20	HEAT SOURCE
	41A	RADIATION PANEL
45	41B	USE-SIDE HEAT EXCHANGER
	51	DETECTOR
50	52	STORAGE UNIT
	53	CONTROLLER

55 Claims

1. A heat pump device comprising:

a heat source equipment that produces heated

water by a heat source;
a radiation terminal that is connected to the heat source equipment and that adjusts a temperature of an indoor space by radiation heat that is obtained by flowing the heated water from the heat source equipment into a radiation panel; 5
a forced convection terminal that is connected to the heat source equipment, flows the heated water from the heat source equipment into a use-side heat exchanger, and blows air on which heat exchange with the heated water is performed by the use-side heat exchanger using a blast fan and thus adjusts the temperature of the indoor space; and
a control device that controls the heat source equipment, the radiation terminal, and the forced convection terminal, 15
wherein the control device includes a controller that, when the radiation terminal and the forced convection terminal are operated at a time, controls the forced convection terminal to reduce an air volume of the forced convection terminal compared to an air volume in a case where only the forced convection terminal is in operation. 20
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2. The heat pump device according to claim 1, wherein the control device includes

a detector that detects a temperature of the heated water that is produced by the heat source equipment; and 30
a storage that stores a target value of the air volume of the forced convection terminal corresponding to the temperature of the heated water, wherein, when the radiation terminal and the forced convection terminal are in operation at a time, the controller reads the target value corresponding to the temperature of the heated water that is detected by the detector from the storage and controls the forced convection terminal to enable the read target value. 35
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3. The heat pump device according to claim 2, wherein the detector detects the temperature of the heated water that flows into the use-side heat exchanger as the heated water that is produced by the heat source equipment. 45

4. The heat pump device according to claim 1 or 2, wherein, when the temperature of the indoor space of the forced convection terminal lowers after the controller controls the forced convection terminal to lower the air volume of the forced convection terminal, the controller controls the heat source equipment to increase a flow of the heated water to the forced convection terminal and the radiation terminal. 50
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FIG. 1

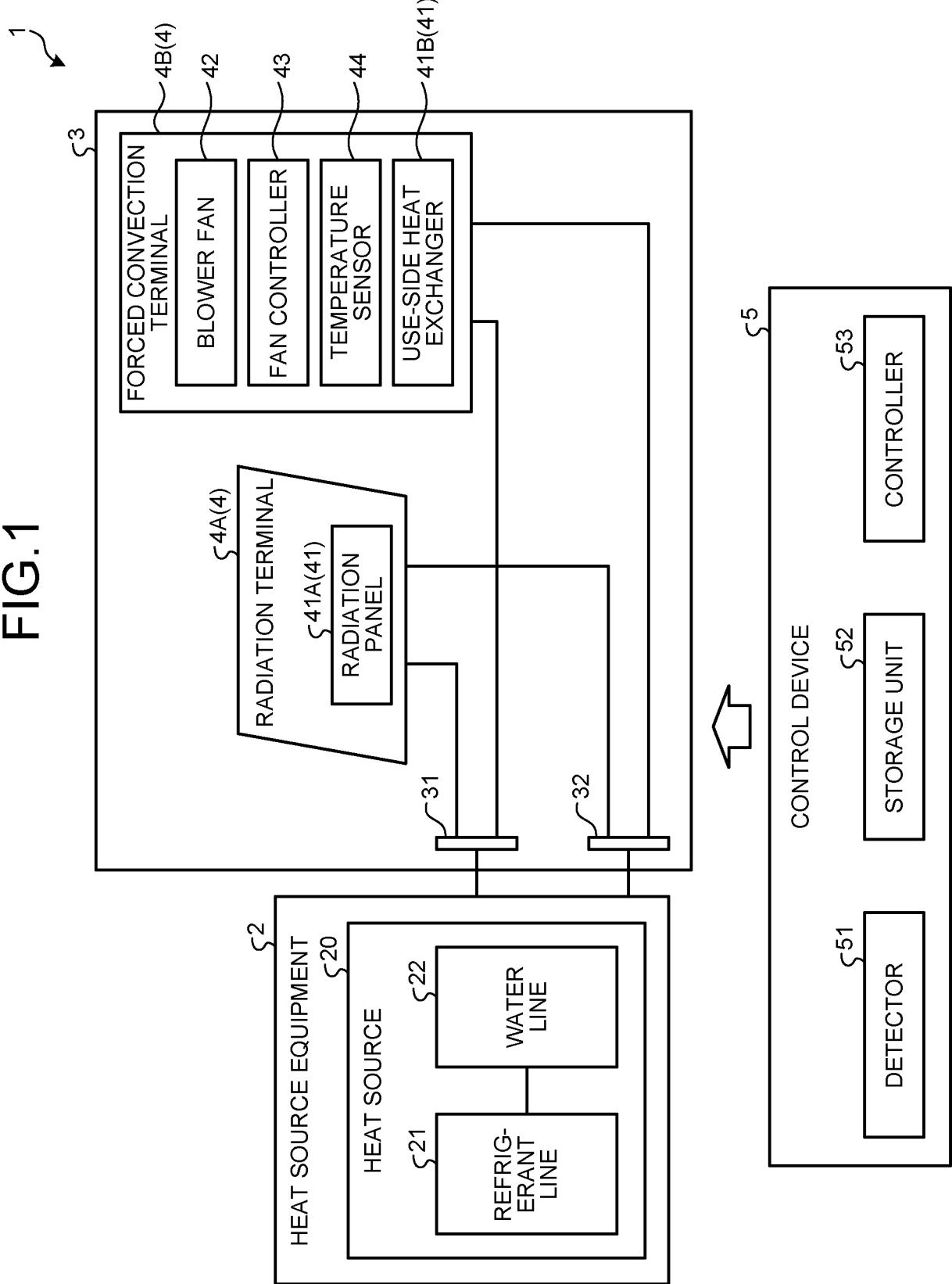


FIG.2

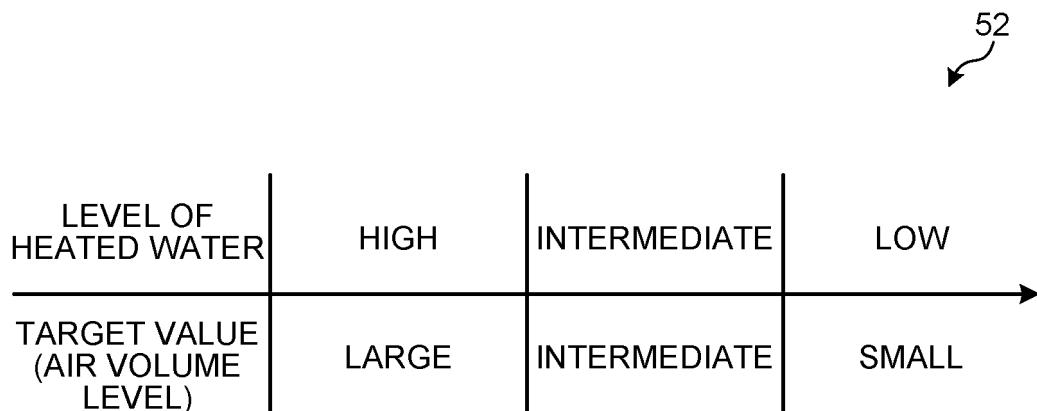


FIG.3

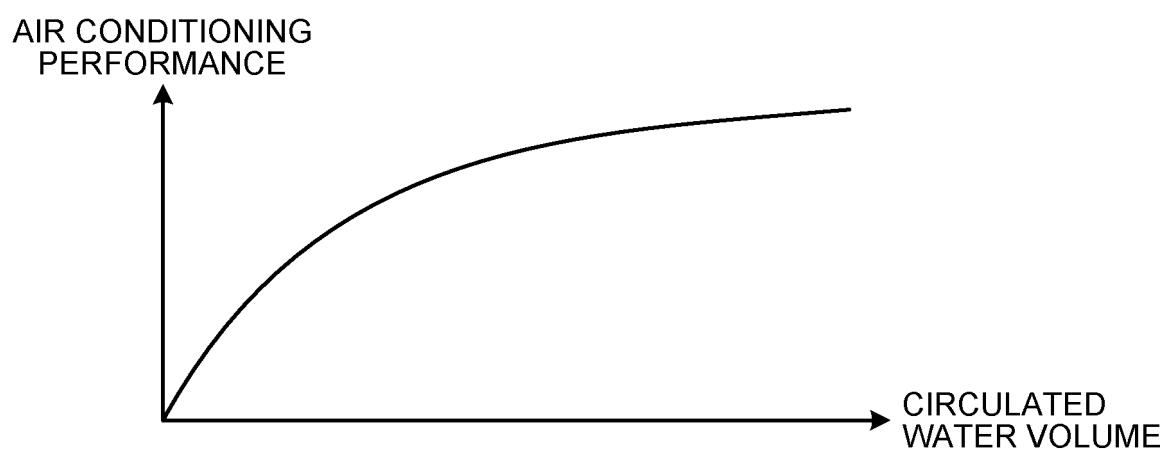
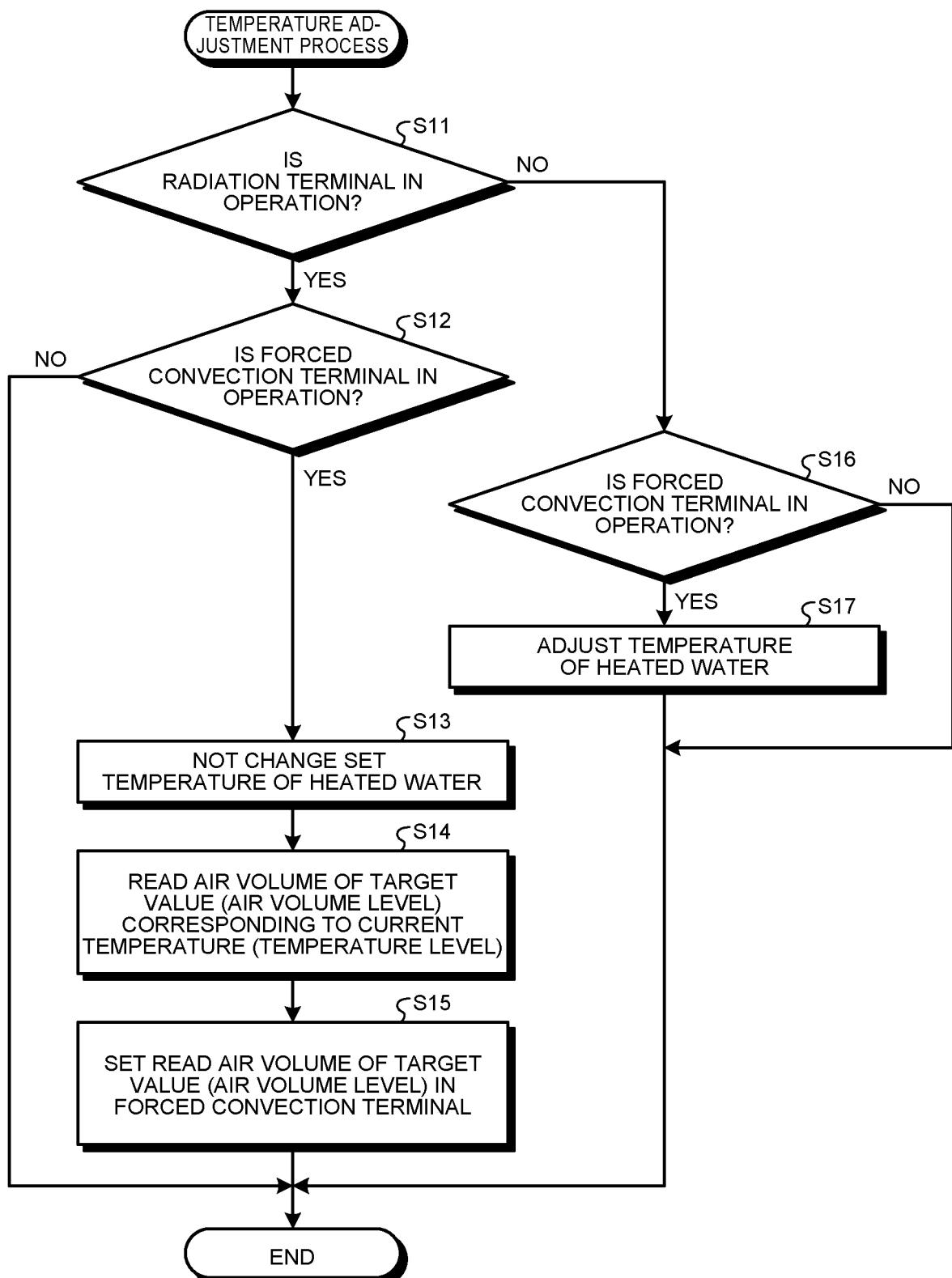


FIG.4



INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No.

PCT/JP2023/012634

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A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER <i>F24F 5/00</i> (2006.01)i; <i>F24D 3/00</i> (2022.01)i; <i>F24F 11/64</i> (2018.01)i; <i>F24F 11/74</i> (2018.01)i; <i>F24F 11/83</i> (2018.01)i; <i>F24F 140/20</i> (2018.01)n Fl: F24F5/00 101Z; F24F5/00 101B; F24F11/64; F24F11/83; F24F11/74; F24D3/00 J; F24F140:20													
10	According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC												
15	B. FIELDS SEARCHED Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols) F24F5/00; F24D3/00; F24F11/64; F24F11/74; F24F11/83; F24F140/20												
20	Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched Published examined utility model applications of Japan 1922-1996 Published unexamined utility model applications of Japan 1971-2023 Registered utility model specifications of Japan 1996-2023 Published registered utility model applications of Japan 1994-2023												
25	Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practicable, search terms used)												
30	C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Category*</th> <th>Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages</th> <th>Relevant to claim No.</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>X</td> <td>JP 9-287748 A (FUJITSU GENERAL LTD.) 04 November 1997 (1997-11-04) paragraphs [0001]-[0034], fig. 1-4</td> <td>1-3</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Y</td> <td>Microfilm of the specification and drawings annexed to the request of Japanese Utility Model Application No. 023213/1981 (Laid-open No. 137943/1982) (MITSUBISHI ELECTRIC CORP.) 28 August 1982 (1982-08-28), specification, page 3, lines 3-15, drawings</td> <td>4</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Y</td> <td>JP 2003-322348 A (OSAKA GAS CO., LTD.) 14 November 2003 (2003-11-14) paragraph [0061]</td> <td>4</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Category*	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.	X	JP 9-287748 A (FUJITSU GENERAL LTD.) 04 November 1997 (1997-11-04) paragraphs [0001]-[0034], fig. 1-4	1-3	Y	Microfilm of the specification and drawings annexed to the request of Japanese Utility Model Application No. 023213/1981 (Laid-open No. 137943/1982) (MITSUBISHI ELECTRIC CORP.) 28 August 1982 (1982-08-28), specification, page 3, lines 3-15, drawings	4	Y	JP 2003-322348 A (OSAKA GAS CO., LTD.) 14 November 2003 (2003-11-14) paragraph [0061]	4
Category*	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.											
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Y	JP 2003-322348 A (OSAKA GAS CO., LTD.) 14 November 2003 (2003-11-14) paragraph [0061]	4											
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40	<input type="checkbox"/> Further documents are listed in the continuation of Box C. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> See patent family annex.												
45	* Special categories of cited documents: "A" document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance "E" earlier application or patent but published on or after the international filing date "L" document which may throw doubts on priority claim(s) or which is cited to establish the publication date of another citation or other special reason (as specified) "O" document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or other means "P" document published prior to the international filing date but later than the priority date claimed	"T" later document published after the international filing date or priority date and not in conflict with the application but cited to understand the principle or theory underlying the invention "X" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered novel or cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is taken alone "Y" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is combined with one or more other such documents, such combination being obvious to a person skilled in the art "&" document member of the same patent family											
50	Date of the actual completion of the international search 30 May 2023	Date of mailing of the international search report 13 June 2023											
55	Name and mailing address of the ISA/JP Japan Patent Office (ISA/JP) 3-4-3 Kasumigaseki, Chiyoda-ku, Tokyo 100-8915 Japan	Authorized officer Telephone No.											

Form PCT/ISA/210 (second sheet) (January 2015)

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT
Information on patent family members

International application No.

PCT/JP2023/012634

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REFERENCES CITED IN THE DESCRIPTION

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