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Performance improvement unit for pulsed-ultraviolet devices

Abstract

Embodiments of the present disclosure disclose a method for improving a performance of a pulsed-ultraviolet (PUV) device. The method includes monitoring an input current across a circuit breaker in communication with a UV lamp, where the input current is delivered by a power signal and is interrupted by the circuit breaker upon exceeding a predefined cut-off current; generating a pulse signal having a set of frequencies based on the power signal for driving the UV lamp, where the pulse signal is associated with a predetermined cut-off frequency that increases the input current beyond the cut-off current; determining a predefined threshold current less than the cut-off current; and configuring the pulse signal with multiple distinct pulse frequencies per second for a predefined configuration period based on the input current exceeding the threshold current. The distinct pulse frequencies per second include at least one pulse frequency greater than the cut-off frequency.

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Background/Summary

TECHNICAL FIELD

(1) The present disclosure generally relates to pulsed-ultraviolet (PUV) devices and particularly relates to a performance improvement unit for PUV devices.

BACKGROUND

(2) PUV devices are well-known in the modern cleaning industry and are steadily being adopted as an everyday tool for surface disinfection. Among other applications, a PUV device is employed to disinfect large areas such as rooms, halls, and corridors, and typically includes a circuit breaker for electrical safety and a UV lamp that emits PUV light for a predefined disinfection cycle or period. The circuit breaker interrupts an input current to the PUV device and shuts down the UV lamp if any electrical changes during operation increase the input current beyond a safe limit. Although such interruption safeguards against any potential electrical hazard, the PUV device is forced to be run for multiple disinfection cycles or longer durations to achieve an intended disinfection, thereby yielding a substandard operational performance.

SUMMARY

(3) Traditionally, various parameters of a PUV disinfection device (or “PUV device”) are adjusted to improve its operational performance, which is used in the present disclosure within the context of its broadest definition. One common approach to boost the operational performance includes increasing an applied voltage to a UV lamp of the PUV device for amplifying its UV output, e.g., intensity of UV light emitted therefrom. Since the UV output is limited by a voltage rating of the lamp, such increase in the applied voltage requires an existing UV lamp to be replaced with a new UV lamp having a relatively higher voltage rating. The new UV lamp with the higher voltage rating is generally expensive, adds to a replacement cost, and increases the manufacturing and/or operational costs of the PUV device.

(4) Another typical approach includes a pulse frequency of the UV output being increased to raise the UV intensity. Any increase in the pulse frequency increases an applied power to the UV lamp per unit time, which then ramps up an input current to the PUV device often beyond a safe limit and trips an on-device circuit breaker for a given operating voltage of the UV lamp. As a result, the PUV device, or the UV lamp, is shutdown that disrupts a disinfection cycle, thereby leading to an ineffective disinfection of a target area. The on-device circuit breaker has to be reset to restart the disinfection cycle. Such unintended toggling of the PUV device, or the UV lamp, between the on and off states extends a total time required to disinfect the target area, thereby magnifying operational costs and user inconvenience. One traditional remedy to such tripping is deploying, additionally or alternatively, a new on-device circuit breaker that has a higher current rating, which often moots the purpose of a mains circuit breaker. Moreover, the new circuit breaker having the higher current rating is expensive and increases a manufacturing cost of the PUV device.

(5) Yet another traditional approach includes an applied current to the UV lamp being variably increased over a disinfection period to increase the UV output. However, any variation in the applied current requires the applied voltage to the UV lamp being regulated to operate within safe limits of the input power thereto. Such need for simultaneous regulation of the applied voltage increases the operational complexity and signal delay, thereby limiting any rise in the UV output by voltage and current ratings of the UV lamp. Other existing approaches include running the PUV device, or a disinfection cycle thereof, for longer periods to increase an amount of UV light radiated on to the target area. However, such long-period operation of the PUV device increases the input current to the PUV device and repeatedly trips the on-device circuit breaker to disrupt the disinfection cycle, thereby resulting in an ineffective disinfection of the target area.

(6) It may therefore be beneficial to provide systems and methods that improve the operational

performance of PUV devices without disrupting a predefined disinfection cycle for given voltage and current ratings of the UV lamp.

(7) One exemplary embodiment of the present disclosure includes a method for improving a performance of a pulsed-ultraviolet (PUV) device. The method may include monitoring, using a pulse generator coupled to a processor and a memory, an input current across a circuit breaker in electrical communication with a UV lamp. The input current may be delivered by a power signal and interrupted by the circuit breaker upon exceeding a predefined cut-off current. The method may also include generating, using the pulse generator, a pulse signal having a set of one or more pulse frequencies based on the power signal for driving the UV lamp, where the pulse signal may be associated with a predetermined cut-off frequency capable of increasing the input current beyond the predefined cut-off current; determining, using the pulse generator, a predefined threshold current for the circuit breaker, where the predefined threshold current may be less than the cut-off current; and configuring, using the pulse generator, the generated pulse signal with multiple distinct pulse frequencies per second for a predefined configuration period based on the input current exceeding the predefined threshold current. The multiple distinct pulse frequencies per second may include at least one pulse frequency being greater than the predetermined cut-off frequency.

(8) One aspect of the present disclosure includes the distinct pulse frequencies per second further including at least one pulse frequency being less than the predetermined cut-off frequency.

(9) Another aspect of the present disclosure includes the predefined cut-off current being relative to a preset current rating of the circuit breaker.

(10) Yet another aspect of the present disclosure includes receiving a first control signal from a performance controller, where the first control signal may be configured to modulate one or more characteristics of a pulse frequency in the set to create a buffer period per second within the predefined configuration period, provided the set includes a single pulse frequency per second.

(11) Still another aspect of the present disclosure includes the buffer period has zero pulse frequency.

(12) A further aspect of the present disclosure includes receiving a second control signal from the performance controller, the second control signal being configured to drive the buffer period with a lowest frequency in a predefined group of upper frequencies if the single pulse frequency may be less than the predetermined cut-off frequency, where the predefined group of upper frequencies are greater than the predetermined cut-off frequency.

(13) Another aspect of the present disclosure includes receiving a first control signal from a performance controller based on a number of distinct pulse frequencies per second in the set being greater than one, where the first control signal may be configured to—select a highest frequency in the set, where the highest frequency may be greater than the predetermined cut-off frequency; and adjust the selected highest frequency by a predefined factor to a safe upper frequency belonging to a predefined group of upper frequencies greater than the predetermined cut-off frequency.

(14) Still another aspect of the present disclosure includes receiving a second control signal from the performance controller based on each of the distinct pulse frequencies per second in the set being less than the predetermined cut-off frequency, where the second control signal may be configured to—select a lowest frequency in the set, where the lowest frequency may be less than the predetermined cut-off frequency; and adjust the selected lowest frequency to a highest frequency in a predefined group of lower frequencies less than the predetermined cut-off frequency.

(15) Yet another aspect of the present disclosure includes multiple distinct pulse frequencies per second ranging from 2 Hz to 50 Hz.

(16) A further aspect of the present disclosure includes multiple distinct pulse frequencies per second including non-consecutive pulse frequencies.

(17) Another exemplary embodiment of the present disclosure includes a system for improving a performance of a pulsed-ultraviolet (PUV) device. The system includes a UV lamp for generating PUV light, a power supply providing a power signal carrying an input current, a circuit breaker,

and a pulse generator. The circuit breaker may be in electrical communication with the power supply. The circuit breaker may be configured to interrupt the input current applied thereto upon exceeding a predefined cut-off current. The pulse generator may be in electrical communication with the circuit breaker and the UV lamp, where the pulse generator may be configured to: monitor the input current across the circuit breaker; generate a pulse signal having a set of one or more pulse frequencies based on the power signal for driving the UV lamp, where the pulse signal may be associated with a predetermined cut-off frequency capable of increasing the input current beyond the predefined cut-off current; determine a predefined threshold current for the circuit breaker, where the predefined threshold current may be less than the cut-off current; and configure the generated pulse signal with multiple distinct pulse frequencies per second for a predefined configuration period based on the input current exceeding the predefined threshold current, where the plurality of distinct pulse frequencies per second includes at least one pulse frequency being greater than the predetermined cut-off frequency.

(18) One aspect of the present disclosure includes improving an electrical performance of the PUV device.

(19) Another aspect of the present disclosure includes improving a disinfection performance of the PUV device.

(20) Yet another exemplary embodiment may include a non-transitory computer-readable medium including computer-executable instructions for improving a performance of a pulsed-ultraviolet (PUV) device. The non-transitory computer readable medium may include instructions for monitoring an input current across a circuit breaker in electrical communication with a UV lamp. The input current may be delivered by a power signal and interrupted by the circuit breaker upon exceeding a predefined cut-off current. The non-transitory computer readable medium may also include instructions for generating a pulse signal having a set of one or more pulse frequencies based on the power signal for driving the UV lamp, where the pulse signal may be associated with a predetermined cut-off frequency capable of increasing the input current beyond the predefined cut-off current; determining a predefined threshold current for the circuit breaker, where the predefined threshold current may be less than the cut-off current; and configuring the generated pulse signal with multiple distinct pulse frequencies per second for a predefined configuration period based on the input current exceeding the predefined threshold current. The multiple distinct pulse frequencies per second may include at least one pulse frequency being greater than the predetermined cut-off frequency.

(21) The above summary of exemplary embodiments is not intended to describe each disclosed embodiment or every implementation of the present disclosure. Other and further aspects and features of the disclosure will be evident from reading the following detailed description of the embodiments, which are intended to illustrate, not limit, the present disclosure.

Description

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

(1) The illustrated embodiments of the subject matter will be best understood by reference to the drawings, wherein like parts are designated by like numerals throughout. The following description is intended only by way of example, and simply illustrates certain selected embodiments of devices, systems, and processes that are consistent with the subject matter as claimed herein.

(2) FIG. 1 illustrates a PUV device including an exemplary performance improvement unit according to an embodiment of the present disclosure.

(3) FIG. 2 is an exemplary schematic of a PUV system including the performance improvement unit of FIG. 1 according to an embodiment of the present disclosure.

(4) FIG. 3 is a flowchart illustrating an exemplary method for implementing the performance

improvement unit of FIG. 1 according to an embodiment of the present disclosure.

(5) FIGS. 4A-4B, 5A-5C, 6A-6C, and 7A-7B are typical graphs of test results indicating voltages and currents across a circuit breaker of the PUV device of FIG. 2 upon being driven by a pulsed signal at different fixed frequencies.

(6) FIGS. 8A-8C and 9A-9C are exemplary graphs of test results illustrating voltages and currents across the circuit breaker of the PUV device of FIG. 2 upon being regulated by the performance improvement unit of FIG. 1 according to an embodiment of the present disclosure.

(7) FIGS. 10A-10B are flowcharts illustrating an exemplary method implemented by the performance improvement unit of FIG. 1 for providing one or more control signals to configure a pulse signal with compound frequencies driving the PUV device of FIG. 1 according to an embodiment of the present disclosure.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION

(8) The following detailed description is provided with reference to the figures. Exemplary embodiments are described to illustrate the disclosure, not to limit its scope, which is defined by the claims. Those of ordinary skill in the art will recognize number of equivalent variations in the description that follows without departing from the scope and spirit of the disclosure.

Non-Limiting Definitions

(9) Definitions of one or more terms that will be used in this disclosure are described below without limitations. For a person skilled in the art, it is understood that the definitions are provided just for the sake of clarity and are intended to include more examples than just provided below.

(10) “Disinfection” is used in the present disclosure within the context of its broadest definition. The disinfection may refer to any process or technique of inactivating or killing contaminants including cancerous cells, tumorous tissues, and/or pathogens on a target surface using the UV light alone or in combination with a variety of biocompatible agents known in the art, related art, or developed later including, but not limited to, chemical agents (e.g., alcohols, oxidizing agents, naturally occurring or modified compounds, etc.), physical agents (e.g., heat, pressure, vibration, sound, radiation, plasma, electricity, etc.), and biological agents (e.g., living organisms, plants or plant products, organic residues, etc.).

(11) A “pulsed-ultraviolet (PUV) disinfection device” or “PUV device” is used in the present disclosure within the context of its broadest definition. The PUV device may refer to a standalone or a networked electronic or electromechanical device capable of providing pulses of UV light of a predetermined energy within a germicidal wavelength range of the electromagnetic spectrum for disinfection.

(12) “Current Rating” is used in the present disclosure within the context of its broadest definition. The current rating may refer to a maximum current that a device, or a circuit therewith, can carry for a set period before manipulating or interrupting a current flow therethrough, or becoming unfunctional, under predefined operating conditions including, but not limited to, temperature and resistance of the device, or any component or circuit electrically or magnetically coupled thereto.

(13) “Voltage Rating” is used in the present disclosure within the context of its broadest definition. The voltage rating may refer to a maximum voltage that a device, or a component or circuit therewith, can bear before failing to perform a designated or intended function under predefined operating conditions including, but not limited to, temperature, resistance, and current through the device, the component, or a circuit being electrically or magnetically coupled thereto.

(14) “Cut-off current” is used in the present disclosure within the context of its broadest definition. The cut-off current may refer to a value of input current being substantially restricted, or negligibly conducted, through a component, or a circuit coupled therewith. In some embodiments, the cut-off current may include or depend on the current rating of a device, e.g., a circuit breaker.

(15) “Operational performance,” or any aspects thereof, is used in the present disclosure within the context of its broadest definition. The operational performance may refer to an ability of a device to incessantly provide a set amount of intended output or result for a predefined duration. In one

example, the operational performance of the PUV device may refer to its ability to incessantly provide a set amount of germicidal light for a predefined duration sufficient to disinfect a set of one or more target surfaces. In some embodiments, the operational performance may be defined in terms of an electrical performance and/or disinfection performance of the PUV device.

(16) “Electrical performance,” or any aspects thereof, is used in the present disclosure within the context of its broadest definition. The electrical performance may refer to an ability of the PUV device to withstand changes in electrical parameters (e.g., current, voltage, etc.) during operation for a predefined duration.

(17) “Disinfection performance,” or any aspects thereof, is used in the present disclosure within the context of its broadest definition. The disinfection performance may refer to an ability of the PUV device to disinfect a set of one or more target surfaces within a predefined duration.

Exemplary Embodiments

(18) FIG. 1 illustrates a PUV device **100** including an exemplary performance improvement unit **130** according to an embodiment of the present disclosure. Embodiments and concepts disclosed herein are described in the context of a room or area disinfection device; however, one having ordinary skill in the art would understand that such embodiments and others may be implemented with any suitable electrical, electronic, or electromechanical systems, devices, or components capable of generating pulses of energy for various purposes including, but not limited to, disinfection, communication, signal processing, and data storage.

(19) The PUV device **100** of the present disclosure may represent a wide variety of devices configured to emit or facilitate emission of pulsed-UV light of a predetermined energy within a germicidal wavelength range (e.g., 100 nm to 400 nm, 180 nm to 350 nm, 100 nm to 1000 nm, etc.) of the electromagnetic spectrum. In one embodiment, as shown in FIG. 1, the PUV device **100** may be configured as a room or area disinfection device including a UV lamp **120** configured to emit PUV light having predetermined characteristics (e.g., intensity, frequency, power, wavelength, etc.) suitable to disinfect a target surface in a short period (e.g., approximately 10 minutes or less) from a relatively long distance (e.g., at least approximately 1 meter or more from the target surface). The UV lamp **120** may be of any suitable type known in the art, related art, or developed later including a mercury-vapour UV lamp, a Xenon UV lamp, and so on. The UV lamp **120** may be a pulsed radiation source, a continuous radiation source, or a set of both the pulsed radiation and the continuous radiation sources. The pulsed radiation source may be configured for emitting pulses of UV light within a predefined or dynamically defined germicidal wavelength range. The pulsed radiation source may be configured to have a pulse frequency, pulse width, pulse duration, or duty cycle that may cause the emitted PUV light to appear as continuous to a human eye. On the other hand, the continuous radiation source may be configured for being turned on and off at a predetermined frequency to emit pulses of UV light. In some embodiments, the UV lamp **120** may be configured for being flexible and diverge or converge the emitted PUV light. In some other embodiments, the UV lamp **120** may be coupled physically or wirelessly to the PUV device **100** or any portion thereof. Other embodiments may include the UV lamp **120** being a set of one or more UV lamps.

(20) Embodiments of the PUV device **100**, or a portion thereof (e.g., a UV unit or assembly), may be configured as a fixed, mobile, or handheld unit including one or more types of light sources such as a visible light source and an infrared light source. Some embodiments may include the PUV device **100** or any portions thereof being automated or configured to move, navigate, and/or operate autonomously. These portions may include the entire PUV device **100** or its sub-portions including, but not limited to, a lamp assembly, a support assembly, a remote unit, a control unit, a set of actuators or mobility devices, utility pods, one or more cooling systems, and a power unit. Such portions may be configured to move (e.g., pan, swivel, rotate, tilt, oscillate, pivot, extend, etc.) or navigate independently or relative to another portion, a component, an axis/plane of the PUV device **100**, an object proximate to the PUV device **100**, or a stimulus. Some other embodiments

may include the PUV device **100** being configured to operate independently or in communication with a set of one or more devices including, but not limited to, (i) sensors (e.g., motion sensors or proximity sensors; temperature sensors; light sensors such as infrared sensors, UV sensors, and visible-light sensors; sound sensors such as ultrasonic sensors; vibration sensors; pathogen detection sensors; pathogen identification sensors; altimeter; pedometer; magnetometer; ozone sensors; smoke sensors; electrical parameter sensors such as voltage sensors, current sensors, power sensors, dose/dosage sensors, and intensity sensors, etc.), (ii) remote control devices (e.g., wired or wireless devices, portable or fixed devices, dedicated or smart devices, generic or application-specific devices, scanners or readers, servers or client devices, automated or non-automated, machine-controlled or user-controlled devices, single-use or multi-use devices, etc.), (iii) another disinfection apparatus (e.g., a light-based disinfection apparatus, a chemical disinfection apparatus, a sound or vibration-based disinfection apparatus, liquid or vapour-based disinfection apparatus, etc.), (iv) autonomous and non-autonomous devices, (v) robotic or non-robotic devices, and/or any components (including implementing or supporting computer programs) connected or supported therewith.

(21) Other embodiments may include the PUV device **100** having video, voice, or data communication capabilities (e.g., unified communication capabilities) either independently or in communication with one or more network devices by being coupled to or including, various imaging devices (e.g., cameras, printers, scanners, medical imaging systems, etc.), various audio devices (e.g., microphones, music players, recorders, audio input devices, speakers, audio output devices, telephones, speaker telephones, etc.), various video devices (e.g., monitors, projectors, displays, televisions, video output devices, video input devices, camcorders, etc.), or any other type of hardware, in any combination thereof. The PUV device **100** may comprise or implement one or more real time protocols (e.g., session initiation protocol (SIP), H.261, H.263, H.264, H.323, etc.) and non-real-time protocols known in the art, related art, or developed later to facilitate data transfer to and from the network device. The PUV device **100** may also include a variety of known, related art, or later developed interface(s), including software interfaces (e.g., an application programming interface, a graphical user interface, etc.); hardware interfaces (e.g., cable connectors, a keyboard, a card reader, a barcode reader, a biometric scanner, an interactive display screen, a printer, sensors, etc.); or both. The interface(s) may facilitate communication over a network (not shown) between various components or network devices coupled to the PUV device **100**.

(22) When room or large area UV disinfection is desired, an operator may devoid human occupancy in the designated area where the disinfection is to be performed prior to activating the PUV device **100** to avoid health hazards due to the PUV light emitted by the UV lamp **120**. The PUV device **100** may be activated for a predefined or dynamically defined period (hereinafter also referred to as a disinfection cycle) and may be interrupted either on-demand by the operator or based on preset or dynamically set conditions such as those indicated by various sensors (e.g., motion/vibration sensors, occupancy/proximity sensors, ozone sensors, temperature sensors, smoke sensors, pathogen level detection sensors, etc.) in communication with the PUV device **100**. Examples of these conditions may include, but not limited to, motion detection in the proximity of the PUV device **100** or by remote sensors communicating therewith, temperature of a radiation source such as the UV lamp **120** above a predefined threshold, an accumulation of ozone above a predefined threshold, and so on.

(23) In one exemplary embodiment, the PUV device **100** may include a performance improvement unit **130** configured to, at least one of, (1) generate a pulsed-output signal **212** comprising of one or more trigger pulses (e.g., voltage pulses, current pulses, etc.) for driving a component/device such as the UV lamp **120**; (2) provide the pulsed-output signal **212** at a constant voltage relative to an operating voltage of such component/device; (3) manipulate an input current across the PUV device **100**, or a component thereof (e.g., a circuit breaker **204**, discussed below in detail) based on one or more characteristics (e.g., frequency, pulse width, pulse duration, duty cycle, time period,

etc.) of the pulsed-output signal **212**; (4) configure the pulsed-output signal **212** to adjust the input current for being below a cut-off input current (or cut-off current) associated with the circuit breaker **204**; (5) modulate one or more of the characteristics for driving the pulsed-output signal **212** with at least two distinct pulse frequencies per second (hereinafter interchangeably referred to as compound frequencies) for a predefined or dynamically defined operational period (e.g., disinfection cycle); (6) select or adjust at least one frequency in the compound frequencies for being greater than a predefined cut-off frequency associated with the pulsed-output signal **212**, where the cut-off frequency may correspond to the cut-off current that may trip or deactivate the circuit breaker **204** and in turn shut down the component/device (e.g., the UV lamp **120**) driven by the pulsed-output signal **212**; (7) select or adjust at least one frequency in the compound frequencies for being less than the cut-off frequency of the pulsed-output signal **212**; (8) drive the pulsed-output signal **212** with the compound frequencies including a first frequency being greater than or equal to the cut-off frequency and a second frequency being less than the cut-off frequency; (9) manipulate an intensity of PUV light generated by the UV lamp **120** upon being driven by the pulsed-output signal **212** at the compound frequencies; and (10) prevent or delay turning-off the PUV device **100**, or the UV lamp **120** connected thereto, while increasing the intensity of PUV light generated therefrom.

(24) The performance improvement unit **130** may be implemented as a standalone and dedicated device including hardware and installed software, where the hardware may be closely matched to the requirements and/or functionality of the software; however, in some embodiments, the performance improvement unit **130** may be implemented as a combination of multiple devices that are operatively connected or networked together. In some other embodiments, the performance improvement unit **130** may be a hardware device including processor(s) executing machine readable program instructions, which may be stored on a computer readable medium, and installed or embedded in an appropriate device for execution. Generally, the computer or machine executable instructions may include routines, programs, objects, components, data structures, procedures, modules, functions, and the like that may perform particular functions or implement particular abstract data types.

(25) The processor(s) may include, for example, microprocessors, microcomputers, microcontrollers, digital signal processors, central processing units, state machines, logic circuits, and/or any devices that manipulate signals based on operational instructions. Among other capabilities, the processor(s) may be configured to fetch and execute computer readable instructions in a dedicated or shared memory associated with the performance improvement unit **130** for performing tasks such as signal coding or encoding, signal or data processing, input/output processing, voltage, current, or power control, and/or other functions. The “hardware” may comprise a combination of discrete components, an integrated circuit, an application-specific integrated circuit, a field programmable gate array, a digital signal processor, or other suitable hardware. The “software” may comprise one or more objects, agents, threads, lines of code, subroutines, separate software applications, two or more lines of code or other suitable software structures operating in one or more software applications or on one or more processors.

(26) In one or more embodiments, the performance improvement unit **130** may include a telemetry circuit to communicate with any of a variety of computing devices (e.g., a desktop PC, a personal digital assistant (PDA), a server, a mainframe computer, a mobile computing device (e.g., mobile phones, laptops, etc.), an internet appliance, etc.). In some other embodiments, the performance improvement unit **130** may operate, cease to operate, or perform any predefined alternate function, in response to a portable device or a wearable device including, but not limited to, a fashion accessory (e.g., a wrist band, a ring, etc.), a utility device (e.g., a hand-held carry-case, a pen or stylus, a body monitor, a timing device, etc.), a body clothing, or any combinations thereof. In some embodiments, the performance improvement unit **130** may enhance or increase the functionality and/or capacity of the network to which it may be connected. The performance

improvement unit **130** of some embodiments may include software, firmware, or other resources that support remote administration, operation, and/or maintenance of the PUV device **100**.

(27) FIG. 2 is an exemplary schematic of a PUV system including the performance improvement unit **130** of FIG. 1 according to an embodiment of the present disclosure. Embodiments of the PUV system **200** may include fewer, more, or different components in a variety of configurations including those disclosed herein. A skilled artisan would understand that these components may communicate in a cohesive or distributed manner or may be disposed on one or more carriers such as circuit boards and integrated circuits in communication with the performance improvement unit **130**.

(28) In one embodiment, the PUV system **200** may include a power supply **202** in electrical communication with the PUV device **100** including the performance improvement unit **130**. The power supply **202** may include any type of suitable voltage source known in the art, related art, or developed later including a primary battery, a rechargeable or secondary battery, or the mains power supply **202** suitable or configurable to electrically power the PUV device **100**. Examples of the power supply **202** may include, but not limited to, metal-based or mineral-based batteries, super capacitors, nuclear or atomic batteries, mechanical resonators, infrared collectors, thermally-powered energy sources, flexural-powered energy sources, bioenergy power sources, fuel cells, bioelectric cells, and osmotic pressure pumps, or any combinations thereof.

(29) In one or more embodiments, the power supply **202** may supply a high-voltage or an alternating current (AC) power signal to the PUV device **100** for operation. The power supply **202** may be electrically coupled to the PUV device **100** either physically or wirelessly using any of a variety of mechanisms known in the art. For example, the power supply **202** may be a battery being supported with the PUV device **100**. In another example, the power supply **202** may include a capacitor bank operatively coupled to the PUV device **100**. The capacitor bank may be powered by another power source, e.g., a mains power supply or a battery. In yet another example, the power supply **202** may include a distributed power system including a charging coil and a power coil configured for being inductively coupled thereto. The charging coil may be electrically coupled to a power source such as a mains power supply **202** or a battery, and positioned outside the PUV device **100**. The power coil may be configured to inductively receive electromagnetic power from the charging coil based on the power coil being arranged within a coverage area of the charging coil and/or at a predefined angle or orientation therewith. One having ordinary skill in the art would understand various components and aspects thereof to implement the distributed power system. Examples of these aspects may include, but are not limited to, (i) respective coverage areas, quality factors, and coupling coefficients of the coils, (ii) an intended range of charging, (iii) an angle, orientation, and/or distance between the coils, and (iv) a resonant frequency of the coils. Further, the power supply **202** may apply a set voltage (e.g., 110V) to the PUV device **100**. In some embodiments, the power supply **202** or aspects thereof may be positioned on the PUV device **100**.

(30) In one embodiment, the PUV device **100** may include a circuit breaker **204**, a power management unit **206**, the UV lamp **120**, and the performance improvement unit **130**. However, in some embodiments, the PUV device **100** may additionally include a power adaptor (not shown) configured to adapt the voltage (e.g., 110 V) provided by the power supply **202** to a different voltage configuration (e.g., 220 V) depending on a load complexity and/or circuit compatibility of the PUV device **100**.

(31) The circuit breaker **204** may operate as an electrical gateway between the power supply **202** and the PUV device **100**, or any particular portions thereof. The circuit breaker **204** may include any suitable electrical switching device configured to interrupt an input current therethrough relative to a cut-off current defining a safe current limit for the PUV device **100**. The cut-off current may be defined relative to a preset current rating of the circuit breaker **204** depending on a configuration thereof. For example, a resettable, multiuse circuit breaker **204** may be configured with a cut-off current being less than the preset current rating. Another example may include a

single-use circuit breaker **204** configured with a cut-off current being equal to the preset current rating thereof. In one embodiment, the circuit breaker **204** may regulate a flow of power signal delivering the input current, e.g., from the power supply **202**, to the PUV device **100**, or any components or blocks thereof. The circuit breaker **204** may trip or deactivate to interrupt the power signal based on the input current across the circuit breaker **204** becoming unsafe “overcurrent” by reaching or exceeding the cut-off current. A skilled artisan would understand to implement any suitable type of circuit breaker **204** known in the art, related art, or developed later depending on an installation location, a design, an interrupting mechanism, a voltage applied across the circuit breaker **204**, or any other aspects thereof. Examples of these aspects include, but are not limited to, single-use or resettable/multiuse configurations, automatic and/or manual operability, arrangement and number of active elements (e.g., transistors, diodes, integrated circuits, etc.) and/or passive elements (e.g., resistors, capacitors, inductors, etc.), and temperature and/or current sensitivity.

(32) The circuit breaker **204** may be adapted to operate in tandem or communicate with any suitable component of the PUV device **100**. In one embodiment, as illustrated, the circuit breaker **204** may be coupled with the power management unit **206** of the PUV device **100**. The power management unit **206** may be configured to manipulate electrical aspects (e.g., voltage level, current level, signal conversion, etc.) of the power signal received through the circuit breaker **204** before being applied to different electrical components of the PUV device **100**. For example, the power management unit **206** may include a rectifier (not shown) to convert an alternating current (AC) power signal received from the power supply **202** via the circuit breaker **204** to a direct current (DC) power signal. The rectifier may be configured as a half-wave, full-wave, single phase, multi-phase, or any other suitable configuration known in the art, related art, or developed later depending on a component being fed with the power signal. In some embodiments, the DC power signal may have a voltage level same as that of the corresponding AC power signal; however, one having skill in the art would understand that a voltage of the DC power signal may differ from that of the corresponding AC power signal depending on the electrical component being driven. In another example, the power management unit **206** may additionally include a voltage transformer (not shown) configured to adjust a voltage of the power signal to an output voltage relative to an operating voltage of an intended component of the PUV device **100**. The voltage transformer may have any suitable configurations known in the art, related art, or developed later including, but not limited to, a step-up voltage transformer, a step-down voltage transformer, or a combination thereof. For instance, the voltage transformer may increase an input voltage of the power signal to an output voltage compliant with the operating voltage to power the UV lamp **120**. In another instance, the voltage transformer may drive the power signal with an output voltage sufficient to trigger the UV lamp **120** for a PUV operation. The power signal having the output voltage, or an adjusted voltage, may be fed forward for driving the performance improvement unit **130**.

(33) The performance improvement unit **130** may be configured to generate a pulsed-output signal **212** for driving an intended component such as the UV lamp **120**. The performance improvement unit **130** may include a pulse generator **208** and a performance controller **210**, one or each of those may be coupled to a processor(s) and a computer memory. The pulse generator **208** may be configured to generate the pulsed-output signal **212** for driving the UV lamp **120** to emit PUV light having predefined characteristics (e.g., energy, power, wavelength, frequency, etc.) according to an intended application, and a distance between the UV lamp **120** and a target surface. For example, the pulsed-output signal **212** may drive the UV lamp **120** to emit 10 to 1500 Joules of energy per pulse of UV light within a predefined frequency range from 1-50 Hz for a distance of approximately 1 to approximately 3 meters between the UV lamp **120** and a target surface for disinfection; however, a skilled artisan may contemplate other suitable frequency ranges including, but not limited to, 1 Hz to 50 Hz, 10 Hz to 28 Hz, 10 Hz to 40 Hz, 20 Hz to 50 Hz, and 15 Hz to 40 Hz. Other suitable characteristics may be contemplated for effective disinfection at greater distances from the target surface. A skilled artisan would understand other aspects (e.g., operational

period, temperature, etc.) of the pulse generator **208** to drive the UV lamp **120** for intended applications including, but not limited to, disinfection, communication, signal processing, and data storage.

(34) The pulse generator **208** may be configured to trigger or drive a UV lamp such as the UV lamp **120** with the pulsed-output signal **212** having a predefined number of pulses per second, i.e., pulse frequency. The number of pulses applied per second to the UV lamp **120** may be increased to improve a UV output of the UV lamp **120** and hence, the disinfection performance. However, an increase in the number of pulses per second or the pulse frequency, in general, also increases the input current applied across the PUV device **100**, particularly the circuit breaker **204**. The relationship between the pulse frequency and the input current can be understood based on an input power provided by the power signal received from the power supply **202** via the circuit breaker **204** and an output power delivered by the pulsed-output signal **212** generated by the pulse generator **208**.

(35) During operation, the power supply **202** may provide the power signal at a preset supply voltage (e.g., 110V) to the PUV device **100** via the circuit breaker **204**. The power signal may deliver the input current across the circuit breaker **204** and pass therethrough to the power management unit **206**. The input power delivered by the power signal across the circuit breaker **204**, and the PUV device **100**, may be represented by Equation 1.

(36) $P_{in} = V_{in} \cdot I_{in}$ (1) where: P_{in} =Input power provided by the power signal received from the power supply V_{in} =Input voltage applied across the circuit breaker by the power signal I_{in} =Input current applied across the circuit breaker by the power signal

(37) The power management unit **206** may adjust a voltage of the received power signal based on a component of the PUV device **100** to be driven by the power signal. For example, the power management unit **206** may adjust the voltage of the power signal to generate an adjusted power signal at a constant voltage (e.g., 2000V) compliant with an operating voltage of the UV lamp **120**. The voltage-adjusted power signal may be received by the pulse generator **208**, which may include a set of capacitors (not shown). The adjusted power signal may charge the capacitors that may discharge to generate one or more pulses of energy, which may be delivered as the pulsed-output signal **212**. Each energy pulse of the pulsed-output signal **212** within an operational period (e.g., a disinfection cycle) may deliver an output power represented by Equation 2. The number of pulses generated per second, or a portion thereof, may define a pulse frequency associated with the pulsed-output signal **212**, as represented by Equation 3.

(38) $P_{out} = \frac{E_o}{T_o}$ (2) where: P_{out} =Output power delivered by the pulsed-output signal

$E_{sub.o}$ =Energy delivered by the pulsed-output signal, where

(39) $E_o = \frac{1}{2} \cdot C \cdot V_o^2$ C =Total capacitance of all capacitors associated with the pulse generator $T_{sub.o}$ =Operational period for which the energy $E_{sub.o}$ is delivered

(40) $F_o = \frac{1}{T_o}$ (3) where: $F_{sub.o}$ =Pulse frequency or no. of pulses per second of the pulsed-output signal generated during the operational period $T_{sub.o}$

(41) Based on Equations 2 and 3, the output power of pulsed-output signal **212** may be a factor of the pulse frequency thereof, represented in Equation 4.

(42) $P_{out} = E_o \cdot F_o$ (4)

(43) Since a set of one or more capacitors in the pulse generator **208** may be charged by the power signal, the output power delivered by the pulsed-output signal **212** may be proportional to an input power provided by the power signal, as represented in Equation (5).

$$\text{Math. } P_{in} \propto P_o \quad (5)$$

$$\text{Math. } V_{in} \text{ Math. } I_{in} \propto E_o \text{ Math. } F_o \quad (6)$$

$$(44) \text{ Math. } V_{in} \text{ Math. } I_{in} \propto \frac{1}{2} \text{ Math. } V \text{ Math. } V_o^2 \text{ Math. } F_o \quad (7)$$

$$\text{Math. } I_{in} \propto F_o \quad (8)$$

(45) Based on Equations 5-8, the input current $I_{sub.in}$ may be directly proportional to the pulse frequency $F_{sub.o}$ of pulsed-output signal **212**. Any increase in the pulse frequency $F_{sub.o}$ may cause an increase in the input current $I_{sub.in}$ across the circuit breaker **204**. The pulse frequency $F_{sub.o}$ that may cause the input current $I_{sub.in}$ to exceed the cut-off current and trip the circuit breaker **204**, may be referred to as the cut-off frequency $F_{sub.cut}$. For example, as shown in FIGS. **4A-4B**, which illustrate graphs of test results indicating voltages and currents across the circuit breaker **204** upon being driven by the pulsed-output signal **212** at a fixed or set frequency of 29 Hz. The FIGS. **4A-4B** indicate the voltage and current changes caused across the circuit breaker **204** by the pulsed-output signal **212** at 29 Hz for operational durations of 5 minutes and 10 minutes respectively.

(46) In FIGS. **4A-4B**, electrical parameter values are indicated along the y-axis and the operational durations are indicated along the x-axis. The graphs also include a curve X (red lines) and a curve Y (blue lines) indicating the input current and the voltage across the circuit breaker **204** respectively during a predefined operational period. The current values for the curve X are indicated on the left y-axis and the voltage values for the curve Y are indicated on the right y-axis.

(47) At an outset of the operational duration of 5 minutes, the FIG. **4A** indicates that at point I, the voltage across the circuit breaker **204** averages at 138V, which is indicative of a supply voltage of 118V with a voltage correction factor of 20V during operation. At the same instant, at point II, the input current across the circuit breaker **204** averages at less than 3 Amp, which is indicative of an applied current of less than 1 Amp with a current correction factor of 15 Amp. During operation, the voltage drops and averages at 135V, which is indicative of 115V with the voltage correction factor. However, the current increases and averages at 17 Amp, which is indicative of 2 Amp with the current correction factor. The rise and fall in the curves X and Y are due to charging and discharging of capacitors in the pulse generator **208** to generate the pulsed-output signal **212** which may affect the input current across the circuit breaker **204** based on the above Equation 8. At the end of the operational period of 5 minutes, the pulse generator **208** stops generating the pulsed-output signal **212** for driving the UV lamp **120**. As a result, the voltage (indicated by curve Y) across the circuit breaker **204** goes back to average at 138V, indicative of a supply voltage of 118V (with the voltage correction factor) across the circuit breaker **204** at point III. Similarly, the current (indicated by curve X) drops back to being less than 3 Amp, which is indicative of an applied current of less than 1 Amp (with the current correction factor) at point IV. Since the voltage and current go back to the starting levels only after the end of the operational duration, it may indicate that the pulse generator **208** generates the pulsed-output signal **212** at the set frequency of 29 Hz to successfully drive the UV lamp **120** for 5 minutes without tripping the circuit breaker **204**.

(48) On the other hand, the FIG. **4B** indicates that the voltage (indicated by curve Y) averages at 118V (at point I) and the current (indicated by curve X) averages being less than 1 Amp (at point II) with the respective correction factors at the outset of the operational period of 10 minutes. However, both the voltage (indicated by curve Y) and the current (indicated by curve X) drop unexpectedly before the end of the operational period. As shown, before the end of 10 minutes, the voltage drops to near-zero volts and the input current drops to less than 1 Amp (at point T) with the respective correction factors. Such unexpected drop in the voltage and current before the end of 10 minutes indicates that the circuit breaker **204** being tripped. Therefore, the FIGS. **4A-4B** establish that 29 Hz may be the cut-off frequency associated with the pulsed-output signal **212** for driving the cut-off current across the circuit breaker **204** during operation.

(49) It may also be noted that pulsed-output signal **212** operated at any frequency greater than the cut-off frequency may continue to trip the circuit breaker **204**. This is established in FIGS. **5A-5C** and **6A-6C** which illustrate graphs of test results indicating voltages and currents across the circuit breaker **204** upon being driven by the pulsed signal at a fixed or set frequency of 30 Hz and 33 Hz respectively. Particularly, the FIGS. **5A-5C** indicate the voltage and current changes caused across the circuit breaker **204** by the pulsed-output signal **212** at 30 Hz for operational durations of 3 minutes, 5 minutes, and 10 minutes respectively. FIGS. **6A-6C** indicate the voltage and current changes caused across the circuit breaker **204** by the pulsed-output signal **212** at 33 Hz for operational durations of 3 minutes, 5 minutes and 10 minutes respectively.

(50) In FIGS. **5A-5C** and **6A-6C**, electrical parameter values are indicated along the y-axis and the operational durations are indicated along the x-axis. The graphs also show the curve X (red lines) and the curve Y (blue lines) indicating the input current and the voltage across the circuit breaker **204** respectively during respective predefined operational periods. The current values for the curve X are indicated on the left y-axis and the voltage values for the curve Y are indicated on the right y-axis.

(51) As shown in FIGS. **5B-5C**, similar to FIG. **4B**, both the voltage (indicated by curve Y) and the current (indicated by curve X) drop unexpectedly before the end of respective operational periods. As shown, in FIGS. **5A-5C**, the voltage (indicated by curve Y) drops to near-zero volts and the input current (indicated by curve X) drops to less than 1 Amp (at point T) with the respective correction factors 20V and 15 Amp before the end of 5 minutes and 10 minutes respectively. Such unexpected drops in the voltage and current before the end of operational periods degraded as compared to the pulsed-output signal **212** at the cut-off frequency of 29 Hz, and indicate the circuit breaker **204** being tripped even for a shorter duration of 5 minutes. Similarly, in FIGS. **6A-6C**, the voltage (indicated by curve Y) drops to near-zero volts and the input current (indicated by curve X) also drops to less than 1 Amp (at point T) with the respective correction factors of 20V and 15 Amps before the end of 3 minutes, 5 minutes, and 10 minutes respectively. Such unexpected drops in the voltage and current before the end of operational periods worsened as compared to the pulsed-output signal **212** at the frequencies of 29 Hz and 30 Hz, and indicate the circuit breaker **204** being tripped for a further short duration of 3 minutes.

(52) In one embodiment, the pulse generator **208** may be configured to, at least one of, (1) generate the pulsed-output signal **212** using the power signal received from the power management unit **206** via the circuit breaker **204**, where the generated pulsed-output signal **212** may include one or more trigger pulses for driving a component of the PUV device **100** such as the UV lamp **120**; (2) provide the pulsed-output signal **212** at a constant voltage being relative to an operating voltage of a component of PUV device **100** such as the UV lamp **120**; (3) configure the pulsed-output signal **212** based on one or more control signals from the performance controller **210** to manipulate the input current across the circuit breaker **204** for being below the cut-off current and prevent the circuit breaker **204** from being tripped or deactivated; and (4) manipulate an intensity of PUV light generated by the UV lamp **120** upon being driven by the configured pulsed-output signal **212**. In some embodiments, the constant voltage of the pulsed-output signal **212** may be adjusted by the pulse generator **208** to drive different types of UV sources (e.g., a low or high voltage UV lamps, a light emitting diode (LED), etc.). In some other embodiments, the pulse generator **208** may condition the pulsed-output signal **212** before being applied to a UV source such as the UV lamp **120**. For example, the pulse generator **208** may condition the pulsed-output signal **212** to have one or more pulses with a desired shape such as square, rectangular, triangular, spikes, and so on. A skilled artisan would be able to contemplate any other suitable conditioning attributes of the pulsed-output signal **212** for being modified prior to driving a component such as the UV lamp **120**.

(53) The pulse generator **208** may be in signal communication with the performance controller **210**, which may be configured to enable an interruption-free operation of the PUV device **100** while

improving the performance thereof. The performance controller **210** may control one or more predefined or dynamically defined functions or aspects of the pulse generator **208**. In one embodiment, the performance controller **210** may be configured to, at least one of, (1) define a threshold current being relatively less than the cut-off current of the circuit breaker **204** to provide a control signal; (2) determine a predetermined cut-off frequency of the pulsed-output signal **212** that increases a drawn input current to exceed the cut-off current and trip the circuit breaker **204**; (3) provide one or more control signals to modulate one or more characteristics of the pulsed-output signal **212** for being driven with at least two distinct pulse frequencies per second (or compound frequencies) for a predefined or dynamically defined period (“operational period”); (4) determine at least one frequency for the compound frequencies from a predefined group of upper frequencies greater than the predetermined cut-off frequency associated with the pulsed-output signal **212**; (5) determine at least one frequency for the compound frequencies from a predefined group of lower frequencies less than the predetermined cut-off frequency associated with the pulsed-output signal **212**; (6) determine a predefined or dynamically defined operational period for which the one or more characteristics may be modulated for driving the pulsed-output signal **212** with the compound frequencies; (7) adjust or vary a combination of frequencies in the compound frequencies for maximizing an intensity of the UV light while preventing the circuit breaker **204** from being tripped based on the input current being manipulated to be less than the cut-off current; and (8) communicate the determined compound frequencies to the pulse generator **208** based on the one or more control signals.

(54) In one embodiment, the performance controller **210** may be configured for controlling the pulse generator **208** to generate the pulsed-output signal **212** at compound frequencies for a predefined or dynamically defined operational period (e.g., disinfection cycle) and prevent the PUV device **100** being unintentionally interrupted during operation. The operational period may vary depending on an intended application (e.g., surface disinfection) of the PUV device **100** or the UV lamp **120** connected thereto. The compound frequencies may improve the electrical and disinfection performance of the PUV device **100** and prevent the circuit breaker **204** from being tripped due to the overcurrent.

(55) FIG. 3 is a flowchart illustrating an exemplary method for implementing the performance improvement unit **130** of FIG. 1 according to an embodiment of the present disclosure. The order in which the method **300** is described is not intended to be construed as a limitation, and any number of the described method blocks may be combined, deleted, or otherwise performed in any order to implement the method **300** or an alternate method without departing from the scope and spirit of the present disclosure. The exemplary method **300** may be described in the general context of computer-executable instructions, which may be stored on a computer readable medium, and installed or embedded in an appropriate device for execution. Further, the method **300** may be implemented in any suitable hardware, software, firmware, or combination thereof, that exists in the related art or that is later developed.

(56) In one embodiment, the method **300** may be implemented by the pulse generator **208**. However, one having ordinary skill in the art would understand that aspects of the method **300** may be performed on the performance controller **210**. At step **302**, an input current across the circuit breaker **204** may be monitored. In one embodiment, the pulse generator **208** may monitor the input current across the circuit breaker **204** having a preset current rating. The circuit breaker **204** may be configured to interrupt the input current upon exceeding a cut-off current being relative to the preset current rating. The input current may be monitored using a variety of techniques known in the art, related art, or developed later. For example, the PUV device **100** may include a current sensor (not shown) electrically coupled to the circuit breaker **204** and the pulse generator **208**. Upon being switched on or being actively coupled to the power supply **202**, the PUV device **100** may initiate the current sensor in communication with the pulse generator **208** to assess the input current across the circuit breaker **204**. The current sensor may provide a measure of input current

delivered by the power signal across the circuit breaker **204**. However, in some embodiments, the pulse generator **208** may directly monitor the input current by virtue of being electrically coupled to the circuit breaker **204**.

(57) In embodiments including a distributed arrangement for the PUV device **100**, the pulse generator **208** may include a different configuration to monitor the input current across the circuit breaker **204**. For example, the circuit breaker **204** and the power management unit **206** may be located on a first device wirelessly coupled with a second device including the performance improvement unit **130** and the UV lamp **120**. The first device may be configured to wirelessly power the second device, e.g., through inductive coupling. In such scenario, the pulse generator **208** on the second device may wirelessly sense the input current across the circuit breaker **204** in the first device from the current sensor over a network. For example, the first device may include the current sensor and a respective module (not shown), which may enable the current sensor and/or the first device being introduced to a network appliance, thereby enabling the network appliance to invoke the current sensor and/or the first device as a service. Examples of the network appliance include, but are not limited to, a DSL modem, a wireless access point, a router, a base station, and a gateway. The network appliance may communicate the input current measured by the current sensor to the second device, or the pulse generator **208** therewith, over the network. The pulse generator **208** may be configured to monitor the input current in signal communication with the performance controller **210**. In some embodiments, the input current across the circuit breaker **204** may be monitored by the performance controller **210** using the current sensor.

(58) At step **304**, a predefined threshold current associated with the circuit breaker **204** may be determined. In one embodiment, the pulse generator **208** may be configured with a threshold current for the circuit breaker **204**. The threshold current may be predefined or dynamically defined by a user via a user interface or defined by the performance controller **210** based on a transition delay of the power signal while delivering the input current across the circuit breaker **204**. A skilled artisan would understand any other aspects for the pulse generator **208** to automatically define the threshold current. In some embodiments, the pulse generator **208** may predefine a base threshold current that may be manipulated by a user for operation. The threshold current may be defined less than the cut-off current for enabling the pulse generator **208** to initiate configuring the pulse-output signal being generated therefrom in communication with the performance controller **210** and prevent the circuit breaker **204** from being tripped for the predefined operational period.

(59) At step **306**, a set of one or more pulses per second and a cut-off frequency associated with a pulsed signal is determined. The pulse generator **208** may be preconfigured in communication with the performance controller **210** to generate a pulse signal such as the pulsed-output signal **212** for driving the UV lamp **120**. The pulsed-output signal **212** may include one or more pulses per second defining a pulse frequency thereof. In one embodiment, the pulse generator **208** may determine a set of one or more pulse frequencies associated with the pulsed-output signal **212**. For example, the pulsed-output signal **212** may be configured with a set frequency (e.g., 20 pulses per second or 20 Hz) within a predefined frequency range (e.g., 1 Hz to 50 Hz). Another example may include the pulsed-output signal **212** being configured with multiple set frequencies (e.g., 20 pulses per second for the first 60 seconds, followed by 10 pulses per second for the remaining operational period) within the predefined frequency range. Further, the pulse generator **208** may be configured to determine a predetermined cut-off frequency associated with the pulsed-output signal **212**. Since a frequency of the pulsed-output signal **212** may be proportional to the input current across the circuit breaker **204** based on Equation 8, any increase in such frequency may also increase the input current. Depending on a preset current rating of the circuit breaker **204**, the frequency (i.e., cut-off frequency) at which the pulsed-output signal **212** causes the input current to exceed the cut-off current and trip the circuit breaker **204**, may be predetermined and stored in a memory (not shown) associated with the PUV device **100** or the performance improvement unit **130** (e.g., with the pulse generator **208** or the performance controller **210**). During operation, the pulse generator **208** may

access the memory and determine the cut-off frequency associated with the pulsed-output signal **212**.

(60) At step **308**, the input current across the circuit breaker **204** and the predefined threshold current may be compared. In one embodiment, the pulse generator **208** may generate the pulsed-output signal **212** at a preset pulse frequency. Based on the pulsed-output signal **212**, the pulse generator **208** may check and compare the input current across the circuit breaker **204** with the predefined threshold current. For example, the pulse generator **208** may be configured to determine whether or not the input current exceeds the predefined threshold current. For a given frequency of the generated pulsed-output signal **212**, the pulse generator **208** may be configured to execute a step **310** if the input current exceeds the predefined threshold current, else may continue to monitor the input current across the circuit breaker **204** at step **302**.

(61) At step **310**, the pulsed-output signal **212** may be configured with multiple distinct pulse frequencies per second for a predefined period. In one embodiment, unlike the typical one frequency of pulses per second, the pulse generator **208** may configure the pulsed-output signal **212** with multiple distinct pulse frequencies per second (or compound frequencies) based on a corresponding input current exceeding the predefined threshold current. In one example, for each second within a predefined period (e.g., an operational period such as a disinfection cycle), the pulse generator **208** may add a new frequency or adjust an existing frequency of the pulsed-output signal **212** for being configured with the compound frequencies; however, another example may include the predefined period being shorter than the operational period or the disinfection cycle. The compound frequencies may include two or more distinct pulse frequencies belonging to any suitable frequency range depending on the cut-off frequency. For example, the compound frequencies may range from 1 Hz to 50 Hz for a cut-off frequency of 29 Hz; however, other suitable frequency ranges may be contemplated including those having an upper frequency greater than 50 Hz.

(62) In one embodiment, the pulse generator **208** may include at least one frequency in the compound frequencies being greater than or equal to the cut-off frequency to maximize the UV output of the UV lamp **120**. For example, the pulse generator **208** may generate the pulsed-output signal **212** at a set pulse frequency of 28 Hz for different operational periods or disinfection cycles such as 5 minutes and 10 minutes as shown in FIGS. 7A-7B, and may be associated with a cut-off frequency of 29 Hz as shown in FIGS. 4A-4B. FIGS. 7A-7B illustrate graphs of test results indicating voltages and currents across the circuit breaker **204** upon being driven by the pulsed signal at a fixed or set frequency of 28 Hz. Particularly, the FIGS. 7A-7B indicate the voltage and current changes caused across the circuit breaker **204** by the pulsed-output signal **212** at 28 Hz for operational durations of 5 minutes and 10 minutes respectively. In FIGS. 7A-7B, electrical parameter values are indicated along the y-axis and the operational durations are indicated along the x-axis. The graphs also include a curve X (red lines) and a curve Y (blue lines) indicating the input current and the voltage across the circuit breaker **204** respectively during a predefined operational period. The current values for the curve X are indicated on the left y-axis and the voltage values for the curve Y are indicated on the right y-axis. The rise and fall in the curves X and Y may be due to charging and discharging of capacitors in the pulse generator **208** to generate the pulsed-output signal **212** which may affect the input current across the circuit breaker **204** based on the above Equation 8. For both the operational durations 5 minutes and 10 minutes shown in the FIGS. 7A-7B respectively, the pulsed-output signal **212** successfully drives the UV lamp **120** without tripping the circuit breaker **204**, as indicated by the voltage (indicated by curve Y) and the current (indicated by curve X) across the circuit breaker **204** going back to the near-starting levels only after the end of the operational durations, similar to that shown in FIG. 4A.

(63) In one embodiment, the pulse generator **208** may configure the pulsed-output signal **212** with the compound frequencies including at least one frequency being equal to or greater than the cut-off frequency such as 29 Hz. For example, as shown in FIGS. 8A-8C and FIGS. 9A-9C, which

illustrate exemplary graphs of test results depicting voltages and currents across the circuit breaker **204** upon being regulated by the performance improvement unit **130**. In FIGS. **8A-8C** and FIGS. **9A-9C**, electrical parameter values are indicated along the y-axis and the operational durations are indicated along the x-axis. The graphs also include a curve X (red lines) and a curve Y (blue lines) indicating the input current and the voltage across the circuit breaker **204** respectively during a predefined operational period. The current values for the curve X are indicated on the left y-axis and the voltage values for the curve Y are indicated on the right y-axis. The rise and fall in the curves X and Y are due to charging and discharging of capacitors in the pulse generator **208** to generate the pulsed-output signal **212** which may affect the input current across the circuit breaker **204** based on the above Equation 8.

(64) In a first example, the compound frequencies may include at least one frequency in the compound frequency being equal to the cut-off frequency, e.g., 29 Hz, provided at least one other frequency, e.g., 28 Hz, in the compound frequencies may be less than the cut-off frequency. The FIGS. **8A-8C** indicate the voltage and current changes caused across the circuit breaker **204** by the pulsed-output signal **212** at compound frequencies of 28 Hz, 29 Hz per second for operational durations of 3 minutes, 5 minutes, and 10 minutes respectively. For each of the operational durations 3 minutes, 5 minutes, and 10 minutes shown in the FIGS. **8A-8C** respectively, the pulsed-output signal **212** successfully drives the UV lamp **120** without tripping the circuit breaker **204**, as indicated by the voltage (indicated by curve Y) and the current (indicated by curve X) across the circuit breaker **204** going back to the near-starting levels only after the end of the operational durations at points III and IV respectively.

(65) In a second example, the compound frequencies may include at least one frequency, e.g., 30 Hz, in the compound frequency being greater than the cut-off frequency, e.g., 29 Hz, provided at least one other frequency, e.g., 28 Hz, in the compound frequencies may be less than the cut-off frequency. Similar to FIGS. **8A-8C**, the FIGS. **9A-9C** indicate the voltage and current changes caused across the circuit breaker **204** by the pulsed-output signal **212** at compound frequencies of 28 Hz, 30 Hz per second for operational durations of 3 minutes, 5 minutes, and 10 minutes respectively. For each of the operational durations 3 minutes, 5 minutes, and 10 minutes shown in the FIGS. **9A-9C** respectively, the pulsed-output signal **212** successfully drives the UV lamp **120** without tripping the circuit breaker **204**, as indicated by the voltage (indicated by curve Y) and the current (indicated by curve X) across the circuit breaker **204** going back to the near-starting levels only after the end of the operational durations at points III and IV respectively.

(66) The compound frequencies include at least one frequency equal to or greater than the cut-off frequency which improves the disinfection performance of the PUV device **100** by maximizing the UV output of the UV lamp **120**. For example, the pulsed-output signal **212** at a set frequency (F) of 28 Hz for 3 minutes (T) with an energy of 30 Joules per pulse (Ep) may drive the UV lamp **120** to produce a total UV energy ($E=F \times E_p \times T$) of 151.2 KJ. However, for the same total period of 3 minutes and same energy per pulse, the pulsed-output signal **212** at the compound frequencies of 28 Hz (F1) and 29 Hz (F2), each for 0.5 seconds, may drive the UV lamp **120** to produce a total UV energy [$E=(F1 \times E_p \times T1)+(F2 \times E_p \times T2)$] of 75.6 KJ+78.3 KJ=153.9 KJ, which is greater than the UV output with the pulsed-output signal **212** at a set frequency or single frequency. Moreover, the compound frequencies assist to improve the electrical performance of the PUV device **100**, since the input current is being held below the cut-off current for the operational period to prevent the circuit breaker **204** from tripping, despite driving a portion of the pulsed-output signal **212** at a frequency equal to or greater than the cut-off frequency.

(67) Further, in some embodiments, the compound frequencies include non-consecutive frequencies. For example, an absolute difference between any two frequencies in the compound frequencies may be greater than one, discussed below in further detail. The pulse generator **208** may configure the pulsed-output signal **212** with the compound frequencies based on one or more control signals received from the performance controller **210**.

(68) FIGS. **10A-10B** are flowcharts illustrating an exemplary method implemented by the performance controller **210** for providing one or more control signals to configure the pulsed-output signal **212** with compound frequencies. The order in which the method **10** is described is not intended to be construed as a limitation, and any number of the described method blocks may be combined, deleted, or otherwise performed in any order to implement the method **10** or an alternate method without departing from the scope and spirit of the present disclosure. The exemplary method **10** may be described in the general context of computer-executable instructions, which may be stored on a computer readable medium, and installed or embedded in an appropriate device for execution. Further, the method **10** may be implemented in any suitable hardware, software, firmware, or combination thereof, that exists in the related art or that is later developed. In one embodiment, the method **10** may be implemented by the performance controller **210**. However, one having ordinary skill in the art would understand that aspects of the method **10** may be performed on the pulse generator **208**.

(69) At step **12**, a predefined period for which the pulsed-output signal **212** is to be configured may be determined. In one embodiment, the performance controller **210** may determine a configuration period for which the pulsed-output signal **212** may be configured with the compound frequencies. The configuration period may be predefined by the performance controller **210** based on a predetermined disinfection cycle or duration; however, in some embodiments, the configuration period may be dynamically defined by a user via a user interface of the PUV device **100**. In some other embodiments, the configuration period may be less than the operational period, or the disinfection period or cycle.

(70) At step **14**, a number of distinct pulse frequencies per second associated with the pulsed-output signal **212** may be determined. The performance controller **210**, in communication with the pulse generator **208**, may determine the number of distinct pulse frequencies per second with the pulsed-output signal **212**. In one example, the pulsed-output signal **212** may have a single set frequency of 20 Hz. In another example, the pulsed-output signal **212** may be operating with compound frequencies based on being configured in a previous period/cycle, or being manually set therewith by a user via user interface of the PUV device **100**.

(71) At step **406**, for each second of the configuration period, the performance controller **210** may determine whether or not the number of distinct pulse frequencies per second in the pulsed-output signal **212** being greater than one. Such a determination may assist to assess if the pulsed-output signal **212** requires to be preconditioned for being driven with the compound frequencies. If the number of distinct pulse frequencies per second may be one, i.e., not greater than one, then the performance controller **210** may execute the step **18** for preconditioning the pulsed-output signal **212**. However, the performance controller **210** may execute the step **20** if the number of distinct pulse frequencies per second may be greater than one.

(72) At step **18**, a first control signal is provided to modulate one or more characteristics of a pulse frequency of the pulsed-output signal **212**. In one embodiment, the performance controller **210** may provide a first control signal to the pulse generator **208** for modulating one or more characteristics (e.g., frequency, pulse width, pulse duration, duty cycle, time period, etc.) of the pulsed-output signal **212** having the number of distinct pulse frequencies per second being equal to one. For example, if the pulsed-output signal **212** may have a single frequency per second such as 20 Hz for the configuration period, the performance controller **210** may provide the first control signal to the pulse generator **208**. Upon receiving the first control signal, the pulse controller may modulate the pulsed-output signal **212** to create a buffer period per second for the configuration period, where the buffer period of the pulsed-output signal **212** may have zero pulse frequency. For example, the pulse generator **208** may employ a variety of frequency modulation techniques known in the art, related art, or developed later to reduce the time period of the frequency per second by a predefined amount, e.g., 100 ms, 150 ms, 200 ms, 350 ms, 500 ms, etc. to create the buffer period. For instance, if the frequency of the pulsed-output signal **212** is 20 pulses per second or 20 Hz, the

pulse generator **208** may reduce the active time period to have the same 20 pulses in 500 ms instead of 1 second. A skilled artisan would understand that any other suitable characteristics of the pulsed-output signal **212** (e.g., pulse width) may also be adjusted for such configuration. The remaining 500 ms of each second within the configuration period may be used as the buffer period having no pulses or zero pulse frequency. In another example, the pulse generator **208** may reduce the active time period while reducing the frequency as well by the same amount. For instance, if the active time period per second is halved to 0.5 seconds, the frequency of 20 pulses may also be halved to 10 pulses for those active 0.5 seconds. The remaining 0.5 seconds for each second within the configuration period may be used as the buffer period. The performance controller **210** may then proceed to execute the step **22**.

(73) At step **20**, if the number of distinct pulse frequencies per second may be greater than one, the performance controller **210** may compare each of the distinct pulse frequencies per second with the predetermined cut-off frequency. The performance controller **210** may then proceed to execute the step **22**.

(74) At step **22**, the performance controller **210** may determine if at least one pulse frequency per second with the pulsed-output signal **212** being greater than or equal to the cut-off frequency. In case of the number of distinct pulse frequencies per second with the pulsed-output signal **212** being equal to one as determined in the step **16**, the performance controller **210** may check if that single pulse frequency of the pulsed-output signal **212** may be greater than or equal to the cut-off frequency associated with the pulsed-output signal **212**. If the number of distinct pulse frequencies per second associated with the pulsed-output signal **212** include at least one frequency greater than or equal to the cut-off frequency, the performance controller **210** may execute the step **26**, else the step **24** may be executed.

(75) At step **24**, if none of the distinct pulse frequencies per second associated with the pulsed-output signal **212** are greater than or equal to the cut-off frequency, the performance controller **210** may provide a second control signal depending on whether or not the number of distinct pulse frequencies per second determined in step **16** may be greater than one. In one embodiment, if the number of distinct pulse frequencies per second associated with the pulsed-output signal **212** may be greater than one, then the performance controller **210** may provide the second control signal to the pulse generator **208** to perform two steps. In a first step, the pulse generator **208** may be signalled to select a highest pulse frequency from a set of multiple frequencies per second associated with the pulsed-output signal **212**. In a second step, the selected highest frequency may be adjusted to be a lowest frequency in a predefined group of upper frequencies, which may include a range of frequencies greater than the cut-off frequency. In one example, if the pulsed-output signal **212** may have frequencies 15 Hz and 20 Hz per second, a cut-off frequency of 29 Hz, and the predefined group of upper frequencies ranging from 30 Hz to 50 Hz, the second control signal may instruct the pulse generator **208** to adjust the highest frequency, i.e., 20 Hz, to the lowest frequency, i.e., 30 Hz, in the predefined group of upper frequencies. A skilled artisan would be able to contemplate any suitable frequency range for the predefined group of upper frequencies and/or a number of frequencies therein. The predefined group of upper frequencies may be determined relative to the cut-off frequency. For example, for a cut-off frequency of 29 Hz, the predefined group of upper frequencies may range from 30 Hz to 50 Hz, 35 Hz to 50 Hz, 40 Hz to 50 Hz, 45 Hz to 50 Hz, and so on.

(76) In another embodiment, if the number of distinct pulse frequencies per second associated with the pulsed-output signal **212** may be equal to one, the second control signal may instruct the pulse generator **208** to drive the buffer period, which was created in the pulsed-output signal **212** based on the first control signal at step **18**, with the lowest frequency in the predefined group of upper frequencies. Once the pulsed-output signal **212** may be adjusted for being driven with compound frequencies, the performance controller **210** in communication with the pulse controller may execute the step **302** to continue monitoring the input current across the circuit breaker **204**.

(77) At step **26**, if at least one of the distinct pulse frequencies per second associated with the pulsed-output signal **212** are greater than or equal to the cut-off frequency, the performance controller **210** may provide a second control signal depending on whether or not the number of distinct pulse frequencies per second determined in step **16** may be greater than one. In one embodiment, if the number of distinct pulse frequencies per second associated with the pulsed-output signal **212** may be greater than one, then the performance controller **210** may provide the second control signal to the pulse generator **208** to perform two steps. In a first step, the pulse generator **208** may be signalled by the second control signal to select a highest pulse frequency from a set of multiple frequencies per second associated with the pulsed-output signal **212**. In a second step, the selected highest frequency may be adjusted or varied reduced by a predefined or dynamically defined factor, to a safe upper frequency belonging to the predefined group of upper frequencies, which may include a range of frequencies greater than the cut-off frequency. In one example, the pulsed-output signal **212** may have frequencies 35 Hz and 45 Hz per second, a cut-off frequency of 29 Hz, and the predefined group of upper frequencies ranging from 30 Hz to 50 Hz. The second control signal may instruct the pulse generator **208** to reduce the highest frequency, i.e., 45 Hz, by a predefined or dynamically defined factor such as 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, . . . , 10, and so on, such that the reduced frequency belongs to the predefined group of upper frequencies. For instance, the highest frequency, i.e., 45 Hz, may be reduced by 2 to an adjusted highest frequency of 43 Hz. In some embodiments, the pulse generator **208** may further reduce the safe upper frequency by 2 if an absolute difference of the safe upper frequency and any other distinct pulse frequency in the compound frequencies may be equal to one. In some embodiments, the safe upper frequency may always be greater than the cut-off frequency. For instance, the safe upper frequency may always be equal to or greater than the lowest frequency in the predefined group of upper frequencies. In another instance, the safe upper frequency may be less than the lowest frequency in the predefined group of upper frequencies but greater than the cut-off frequency.

(78) In another embodiment, if the number of distinct pulse frequencies per second associated with the pulsed-output signal **212** may be equal to one, the second control signal may instruct the pulse generator **208** to drive the buffer period, which was created in the pulsed-output signal **212** based on the first control signal in step **18**, with the lowest frequency (e.g., 30 Hz) belonging to the predefined group of upper frequencies. Once the pulsed-output signal **212** has been adjusted to have at least two distinct pulse frequencies per second for the configuration period with at least one frequency above the cut-off frequency, the performance controller **210** may execute the step **28**.

(79) At step **28**, the performance controller **210** may determine whether or not the distinct number of frequencies per second (or compound frequencies) associated with the pulsed-output signal **212** include at least one frequency less than the cut-off frequency. If the compound frequencies include at least one frequency less than the cut-off frequency, the performance controller **210** in communication with the pulse controller may execute the step **302** to continue monitoring the input current across the circuit breaker **204**. Else, the performance controller **210** may execute the step **30**.

(80) At step **30**, if the adjusted pulsed-output signal **212** being driven with the compound frequencies includes no frequency per second within the configuration period being less than the cut-off frequency, then the performance controller **210** may provide a third control signal to the pulse generator **208**. The third control signal may instruct the pulse generator **208** to select and adjust a lowest frequency in the compound frequencies to a highest frequency in a predefined group of lower frequencies, which may include a range of frequencies less than the cut-off frequency. In the above example of the pulsed-output signal **212** having compound frequencies including 35 Hz and the adjusted frequency of 43 Hz per second, the cut-off frequency being 29 Hz, and a predefined group of lower frequencies ranging from 1 Hz to 28 Hz, the third control signal may instruct the pulse generator **208** to reduce the lowest frequency, i.e., 35 Hz, to a highest frequency, i.e., 28 Hz, belonging to the predefined group of lower frequencies. A skilled artisan

would be able to contemplate any suitable frequency range for the predefined group of lower frequencies and/or a number of frequencies therein. The predefined group of lower frequencies may be determined relative to the cut-off frequency. For example, if the cut-off frequency is 29 Hz, the predefined group of lower frequencies may range from 10 Hz to 28 Hz, 15 Hz to 28 Hz, 20 Hz to 28 Hz, 10 Hz to 20 Hz, 2 Hz to 10 Hz, and so on. Once the pulsed-output signal **212** is adjusted for being driven with compound frequencies including at least one frequency equal to or greater than the cut-off frequency and at least one frequency less than the cut-off frequency, the performance controller **210** in communication with the pulse controller may execute the step **302** to continue monitoring the input current across the circuit breaker **204**.

(81) While the foregoing written description of the present disclosure enables one of ordinary skill to make and use what is considered presently to be the best mode thereof, those of ordinary skill will understand and appreciate the existence of variations, combinations, and equivalents of the specific embodiment, method, and examples herein. The present disclosure should therefore not be limited by the above described embodiments, methods, and examples, but by all embodiments and methods within the scope and spirit of the present disclosure. Notably, the figures and examples are not meant to limit the scope of the present disclosure to a single embodiment, but other embodiments are possible by way of interchanging some or all of the described or illustrated elements based on the concepts described herein.

Claims

1. A system, comprising: a first device providing an input current, wherein the first device operates to inhibit the input current upon exceeding a predefined cut-off current; and a second device in communication with the first device, wherein the second device is configured to: generate a pulsed signal for driving a load, wherein the generated pulsed signal upon having a single pulse frequency greater than a predetermined cut-off frequency causes the input current to exceed the predefined cut-off current; and configure the generated pulsed signal to include a set of distinct pulse frequencies based on the input current exceeding a threshold current, the set of pulse frequencies manipulating a parameter of the load, wherein the threshold current is less than the predefined cut-off current.
2. The system of claim 1, wherein the parameter includes at least one of an intensity of energy emitted by the load and an operational duration of the load.
3. The system of claim 1, wherein the load includes one of a light source and a portable device.
4. The system of claim 3, wherein the light source includes an ultraviolet (UV) source.
5. The system of claim 1, wherein at least one of the first device and the second device is coupled to one of a sensor and an actuator.
6. The system of claim 1, wherein the first device and the second device are integrated.
7. The system of claim 1, wherein the set of pulse frequencies includes at least one frequency less than the predetermined cut-off frequency and at least one frequency greater than or equal to the predetermined cut-off frequency.
8. The system of claim 1, wherein the second device is configurable to manipulate an operation of the system in response to the load or a remote device.
9. The system of claim 1, wherein the second device and the first device communicate with each other wirelessly.
10. The system of claim 1, wherein the second device is configured to generate the pulsed signal at a constant voltage.
11. A method, comprising: providing an input current using a first device operating to inhibit the input current upon exceeding a predefined cut-off current; generating, using a second device in communication with the first device, a pulsed signal for driving a load, wherein the generated pulsed signal upon having a single pulse frequency greater than a predetermined cut-off frequency

causes the input current to exceed the predefined cut-off current; and configuring, using the second device, the generated pulsed signal to include a set of distinct pulse frequencies based on the input current exceeding a threshold current, the set of pulse frequencies operating to manipulate a parameter of the load, wherein the threshold current is less than the predefined cut-off current.

12. The method of claim 11, wherein the parameter includes at least one of an intensity of energy emitted by the load energy and an operational duration of the load.

13. The method of claim 11, wherein the load includes one of a light source and a portable device.

14. The method of claim 13, wherein the light source includes an ultraviolet (UV) source.

15. The method of claim 11, wherein at least one of the first device and the second device is coupled to one of a sensor and an actuator.

16. The method of claim 11, wherein the first device and the second device are integrated.

17. The method of claim 11, wherein the set of pulse frequencies includes at least one frequency less than the predetermined cut-off frequency and at least one frequency greater than or equal to the predetermined cut-off frequency.

18. The method of claim 11, wherein an operation of the system is manipulated by the second device in response to the load or a remote device.

19. The method of claim 11, wherein the second device and the first device communicate with each other wirelessly.

20. The method of claim 11, wherein the second device generates the pulsed signal at a constant voltage.
