

ABSTRACT

The capacity of a compressor (21) in cleaning operation is set based on a Froude number Fr . The Froude number Fr expresses a ratio of an inertial force of a gas refrigerant flowing through a gas side communication pipe (70) to a gravity working on a liquid in the gas side communication pipe (70). The capacity of the compressor (21) in the cleaning operation is set so that the Froude number Fr is larger than 1, whereby the inertial force of the gas refrigerant flowing through the gas side communication pipe (70) becomes larger than the gravity working on the liquid in the gas side communication pipe (70) which contains mineral oil and foreign matters. In this connection, the liquid containing the mineral oil and the foreign matters is pushed up by the gas refrigerant even in a perpendicularly extending portion of the gas side communication pipe (70). Thus, the mineral oil and the foreign matters remaining in the existing liquid side communication pipe (60) and the existing gas side communication pipe (70) are recovered.