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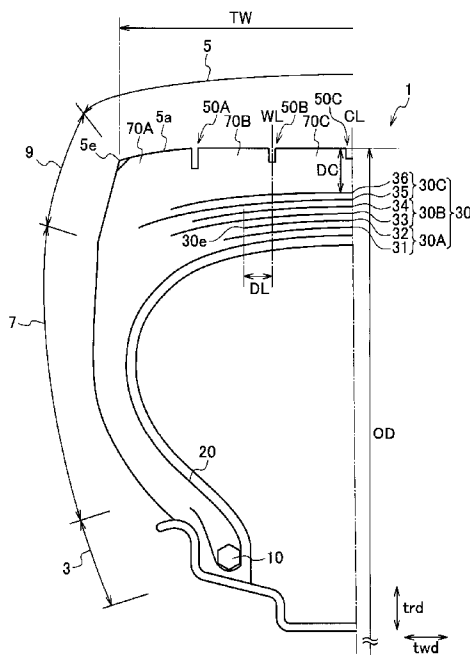
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(54) Title: TIRE

(54) 発明の名称: タイヤ



(57) Abstract: A tire (1) has a groove bottom (50B2) of a groove wherein multiple protrusions (500) are disposed. The protrusions (500) extend from one side wall (50B1) that forms the groove to the other side wall (50B3) facing the one side wall (50B1). The protrusions (500) are disposed at predetermined intervals in the groove. If the length of the protrusions (500) is denoted as L, and the predetermined intervals are denoted as P, the relationship $0.75L \leq P \leq 10L$ is satisfied. The length (DL) in the tread width direction from an end of the shortest belt layer in the tread width direction to the groove center line (WL) is not more than 200 mm.

(57) 要約: タイヤ 1 は、溝部の溝底 50B2 には、複数の突起部 500 が設けられ、突起部 500 は、溝部を形成する一方の側壁 50B1 から、一方の側壁 50B1 に対向する他方の側壁 50B3 に向けて延在し、突起部 500 は、溝部において、所定間隔毎に設けられ、突起部 500 の長さを L とし、所定間隔を P とした場合、 $0.75L \leq P \leq 10L$ の関係を満たし、トレッド幅方向における最短ベルト層の端部から溝中心線 WL までのトレッド幅方向に沿った長さ DL は、200 mm 以下である。

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DESCRIPTION

TYRE

[Technical Field]

[0001]

The present invention relates to a tyre that suppresses a temperature increase of a tyre due to running.

[Background Art]

[0002]

Conventionally, in a pneumatic tyre (hereinafter, a tyre) mounted on a vehicle, various methods have been used to suppress a temperature increase of a tyre due to vehicle running. Particularly, a temperature increase is remarkable in a heavy-duty tyre for a truck, bus, construction vehicle and the like.

[0003]

Thus, for example, a tyre having a number of fin-shaped protrusions in a sidewall portion (see PTL 1, for example) has been known. In such a tyre, when a tyre rolls on a road surface, a fin-shaped protrusions causes turbulence in an airflow passing through a sidewall surface, the turbulence accelerates heat radiation from a tyre, and a temperature increase of a sidewall portion is suppressed.

[0004]

However, the conventional tyre described above has a point to be improved. That is, there are limitations to effective suppression of a temperature increase in a tread portion only by a protrusion in a side wall portion.

[0005]

When a temperature of a tread portion 5 increases, a rubber member constituting the tread portion 5 is deteriorated by heat. Due to the deterioration of the rubber member, a belt layer disposed in the tread portion is likely to be peeled from the rubber member, and therefore, there is a problem that the durability of a tyre is lowered.

[Citation List]

[Patent Literature]

[0006]

[Patent Literature 1]: JP 2009-160994 A (pages 4 to 5, and Fig. 2)

[Summary of Invention]

[0007]

The feature of the present invention is summarized as a tyre comprising:

a tread portion with a groove portion formed to extend in a tyre

circumferential direction;

a plurality of protrusion portions provided on a groove bottom of the groove portion, each of the protrusion portions extending from one side wall forming the groove portion to the other side wall opposed to the one side wall, the protrusion portions arranged at predetermined intervals in the groove portion, wherein

a relationship of $0.75L \leq P \leq 10L$ is satisfied when a length of the protrusion portion along a groove center line passing through a center in a width direction of the groove portion is L, and the predetermined interval is P, in a tread surface view of the tyre, further comprising

a plurality of belt layers arranged in the tread portion and extending in a tyre circumferential direction,

a pair of bead cores; and

a carcass layer which extends across the pair of the bead cores and has a toroidal shape, wherein

the plurality of belt layers including a shortest belt layer whose length in a tread width direction is smallest,

a length along the tread width direction from an end of the shortest belt layer in the tread width direction to the groove center line is not more than 200 mm, and

each of the plurality of belt layers comprises an inner crossing belt group comprising a set of belt layers and located outside the

carcass layer in a tyre radial direction, an intermediate crossing belt group comprising another set of the belt layers and located on the outer side of the inner crossing belt group in the tyre radial direction, and an outer crossing belt group comprising the still another set of the belt layers and located on the outer side of the intermediate crossing belt group in the tyre radial direction, and

the inner crossing belt group includes the shortest belt layer.

[Brief Description of Drawings]

[0008]

Fig. 1 is a development view of a tread pattern of a tyre 1 according to a present embodiment.

Fig. 2 is a cross-sectional view along a tyre radial direction trd and a tread width direction twd of the tyre 1 according to the present embodiment.

Fig. 3 is an enlarged perspective view showing an enlarged land block 100.

Fig. 4 is a plan view of a circumferential land portion 70A in a tread surface view.

Figs. 5(a) to 5(c) are enlarged plan views of a recessed portion 300 in the tread surface view.

Fig. 6 is a partially broken perspective view of a

circumferential groove 50B.

Fig. 7 is a view showing a shape of the circumferential groove 50B in a tread plan view (a viewpoint above a tread portion 5).

Fig. 8 is a view showing a shape of the circumferential groove 50B from a direction of F5 in Fig. 7.

Fig. 9 is a cross-sectional view of the circumferential groove 50B (protrusion portion 500) along a line F6-F6 of Fig. 7.

Fig. 10(a) is a view showing a shape of the circumferential groove 50B in the tread plan view, and Fig. 10(b) is a view showing a shape of the circumferential groove 50B from the F5 direction of Fig. 7.

Fig. 11 is a graph showing a relationship between an angle θ_f and a heat transfer rate (index) in a circumferential groove.

Fig. 12 is a graph showing a relationship between a coefficient applied to a length L of the protrusion portion and the heat transfer rate in the circumferential groove.

Fig. 13 is a graph showing a relationship between a coefficient applied to a groove depth D and the heat transfer rate in the circumferential groove.

Fig. 14 is a graph showing a relationship between a durability of the tyre and a length DL along the tread width direction twd.

Fig. 15 is a plan view of a circumferential land portion 70A in the tread plan view according to another embodiment.

Fig. 16 is a plan view of the circumferential land portion 70A in the tread plan view according to the other embodiment.

Fig. 17 is an enlarged perspective view of an enlarged tread portion 5 according to still another embodiment.

Fig. 18 is a plan view of a circumferential land portion 70A in the tread surface view according to the other embodiment.

Fig. 19 is an enlarged perspective view of an enlarged tread portion 5 according to yet another embodiment.

Fig. 20 is a plan view of a circumferential land portion 70A in the tread surface view according to the other embodiment.

Figs. 21 (a) to 21(g) are views showing variations of a cross-sectional shape of a protrusion portion 500.

[Description of Embodiments]

[0009]

An example of a tyre according to the present invention will be described with reference to the drawings. More specifically, (1) a schematic configuration of a tyre 1, (2) a schematic configuration of an air supply mechanism, (3) a schematic configuration of a recessed portion 300, (4) a schematic configuration of a protrusion portion 500, (5) operations and effects, (6) comparative evaluation, and (7) other embodiments will be described.

[0010]

In the following description of the drawings, the same or similar constituent elements are designated by the same or similar reference numerals. It is to be noted that the drawings are schematic and the dimensions or ratios are different from actual values. Accordingly, specific dimensions and the like should be determined by taking the following description into consideration. Needless to say, a relationship or a ratio of mutual dimensions may differ among the drawings.

[0011]

(1) Schematic Configuration of Tyre 1

A schematic configuration of a tyre 1 according to the present embodiment will be described with reference to Figs. 1 and 2. Fig. 1 is a development view of a tread pattern of the tyre 1 according to the present embodiment. Fig. 2 is a cross-sectional view along a tyre radial direction trd and a tread width direction twd of the tyre 1 according to the present embodiment.

[0012]

The tyre 1 is assembled on a rim which is a normal rim. The tyre 1 has a normal inner pressure, and a normal load is applied to the tyre 1. The rim is provided with a rim flange. The rim flange supports a bead portion 3 in the tread width direction twd.

[0013]

In the present embodiment, for the convenience of description, the tyre 1 is mounted on a vehicle so as to rotate in a rotational direction tr1 when the vehicle moves forward. The rotational direction when the tyre 1 is mounted on the vehicle is not specified.

[0014]

The "normal rim" means a standard rim having an approved size defined in 2008 JATMA (Japan Automobile Tyre Manufactures Association) Year Book. In other countries than Japan, the "normal rim" means a standard rim having an approved size described in the below-mentioned standard.

[0015]

The "normal inner pressure" means an air pressure specified in a tyre inner pressure measuring method in 2008 JATMA Year Book (pp. 0-3 and p. 5). In other countries than Japan, the "normal inner pressure" means an air pressure corresponding to the air pressure in the measurement of a tyre dimension, described in the below-mentioned standard.

[0016]

The "normal load" means a load corresponding to a maximum load capacity in the application of a single wheel in 2008 JATMA Year Book. In other countries than Japan, the "normal load" means a maximum load (maximum load capacity) in an approved size described in the below-mentioned standard.

[0017]

The standards are determined by industrial standards valid in districts where a tyre is manufactured or used. For instance, it is "Year Book of the Tyre and Rim Association Inc." in U. S. A., and "Standards Manual of the European Tyre and Rim Technical Organization" in Europe.

[0018]

As shown in Figs. 1 and 2, the tyre 1 is provided with a bead portion 3, a tread portion 5, a side wall portion 7, and a buttress portion 9.

[0019]

The bead portion 3 has a bead core 10. The bead portion 3 is in contact with a rim.

[0020]

The tread portion 5 has a tread surface 5a which is in contact with a road surface. The tread portion 5 has a tread end portion 5e which is an outer end of the tread portion 5 in the tread width direction twd. The tread portion 5 has a tread pattern which is point symmetrical with respect to a point on a tyre equator line CL as the center.

[0021]

The side wall portion 7 configures a side surface of the tyre 1. The side wall portion 7 is located between the bead portion 3 and the buttress portion 9. The side wall portion 7 connects the

bead portion 3 and the tread portion 5 via the buttress portion 9.

[0022]

The buttress portion 9 extends inward in the tyre radial direction trd from the tread end portion 5e which is an outer end of the tread portion 5 in the tread width direction twd. The buttress portion 9 is continued to the side wall portion 7. The buttress portion 9 is located between the tread portion 5 and the side wall portion 7.

[0023]

An inward position in the tyre radial direction trd of the buttress portion 9 is equivalent to the innermost position in the tyre radial direction trd of an opening position in the tread end portion 5e of a below-mentioned lateral groove portion (lug groove 60). The buttress portion 9 is a portion not in contact with the ground during normal running.

[0024]

As shown in Fig. 2, the tyre 1 is a pneumatic tyre. In the tyre 1, the tread portion 5 has a large rubber gauge (rubber thickness) as compared with pneumatic tyres mounted on cars and the like.

[0025]

More specifically, the tyre 1 satisfies $DC/OD \geq 0.015$ when a tyre outer diameter is OD, and the rubber gauge of the tread portion

5 at the position of the tyre equator line CL is DC.

[0026]

The tyre outer diameter OD (unit: mm) is a diameter of the tyre 1 at a portion (generally, the tread portion 5 near the tyre equator line CL) where the outer diameter of the tyre 1 is maximum. The rubber gauge DC (unit: mm) is the rubber thickness of the tread portion 5 at the position of the tyre equator line CL. The rubber gauge DC does not include a thickness of a belt layer 30. As shown in Fig. 2, when a circumferential groove 50C is formed at a position including the tyre equator line CL, the rubber gauge DC is the rubber thickness of the tread portion 5 at a position adjacent to the circumferential groove 50C.

[0027]

As shown in Fig. 2, the tyre 1 is provided with a pair of bead cores 10, a carcass layer 20, and a plurality of belt layers 30.

[0028]

The bead core 10 is provided in the bead portion 3. The bead core 10 is configured of a bead wire (not shown).

[0029]

The carcass layer 20 configures a framework of the tyre 1. The carcass layer 20 is formed throughout from the tread portion 5 to the bead portion 3 through the buttress portion 9 and the side wall portion 7.

[0030]

The carcass layer 20 extends across the pair of the bead cores 10 and has a toroidal shape. The carcass layer 20 surrounds the bead core 10 in the present embodiment. The carcass layer 20 is in contact with the bead core 10. Both ends of the carcass layer 20 in the tread width direction twd are supported by a pair of the bead portions 3.

[0031]

The carcass layer 20 has a carcass cord extending in a predetermined direction in a tread surface view. In the present embodiment, the carcass cord extends along the tread width direction twd. A steel wire is used as the carcass cord, for example.

[0032]

The belt layer 30 is disposed in the tread portion 5. The belt layer 30 is located outside the carcass layer 20 in the tyre radial direction trd. The belt layer 30 extends in a tyre circumferential direction. The belt layer 30 has a belt cord extending while being inclined with respect to a predetermined direction as a direction in which the carcass cord extends. A steel cord is used as the belt cord, for example.

[0033]

The plurality of the belt layers 30 include a first belt layer 31, a second belt layer 32, a third belt layer 33, a fourth belt layer 34, a fifth belt layer 35, and a sixth belt layer 36.

[0034]

The first belt layer 31 is located outside the carcass layer 20 in the tyre radial direction trd. The first belt layer 31 is located at the innermost position in the tyre radial direction trd among the plurality of belt layers 30. The second belt layer 32 is located outside the first belt layer 31 in the tyre radial direction trd. The third belt layer 33 is located outside the second belt layer 32 in the tyre radial direction trd. The fourth belt layer 34 is located outside the third belt layer 33 in the tyre radial direction trd. The fifth belt layer 35 is located outside the fourth belt layer 34 in the tyre radial direction trd. The sixth belt layer 36 is located outside the fifth belt layer 35 in the tyre radial direction trd. The sixth belt layer 36 is located at the outermost position in the tyre radial direction trd among the plurality of belt layers 30. The first belt layer 31, the second belt layer 32, the third belt layer 33, the fourth belt layer 34, the fifth belt layer 35, and the sixth belt layer 36 are arranged in this order from inside to outside in the tyre radial direction trd.

[0035]

In the present embodiment, in the tread width direction twd, each width of the first belt layer 31 and the second belt layer 32 is not less than 25% and not more than 70% of a width TW of the tread surface 5a. In the tread width direction twd, each width of the third belt layer 33 and the fourth belt layer 34 is not less

than 55% and not more than 90% of the width TW of the tread surface 5a. In the tread width direction twd, each width of the fifth belt layer 35 and the sixth belt layer 36 is not less than 60% and not more than 110% of the width TW of the tread surface 5a.

[0036]

In the present embodiment, in the tread width direction twd, the width of the fifth belt layer 35 is wider than the width of the third belt layer 33, the width of the third belt layer 33 is not less than the width of the sixth belt layer 36, the width of the sixth belt layer 36 is wider than the width of the fourth belt layer 34, the width of the fourth belt layer 34 is wider than the width of the first belt layer 31, and the width of the first belt layer 31 is wider than the width of the second belt layer 32. In the tread width direction twd, among the plurality of belt layers 30, the width of the fifth belt layer 35 is largest, and the width of the second belt layer 32 is smallest. Accordingly, the plurality of belt layers 30 include a shortest belt layer (that is, the second belt layer 32) having the shortest length in the tread width direction twd.

[0037]

The second belt layer 32 which is the shortest belt layer has a belt end 30e which is an end in the tread width direction twd.

[0038]

In the present embodiment, in the tread surface view, each

inclination angle of belt cords of the first belt layer 31 and the second belt layer 32 with respect to the carcass cord is not less than 70 degrees and not more than 85 degrees. Each inclination angle of belt cords of the third belt layer 33 and the fourth belt layer 34 with respect to the carcass cord is not less than 50 degrees and not more than 75 degrees. Each inclination angle of the fifth belt layer 35 and the sixth belt layer 36 with respect to the carcass cord is not less than 50 degrees and not more than 70 degrees.

[0039]

The plurality of belt layers 30 includes an inner crossing belt group 30A, an intermediate crossing belt group 30B, and an outer crossing belt group 30C.

[0040]

The inner crossing belt group 30A is configured of a set of the belt layers 30 and located outside the carcass layer 20 in the tyre radial direction trd. The inner crossing belt group 30A is configured of the first belt layer 31 and the second belt layer 32. The intermediate crossing belt group 30B is configured of another set of the belt layers 30 and located outside the inner crossing belt group 30A in the tyre radial direction trd. The intermediate crossing belt group 30B is configured of the third belt layer 33 and the fourth belt layer 34. The outer crossing belt group 30C is configured of still another set of the belt layers 30 and located outside the intermediate crossing belt group 30B

in the tyre radial direction trd. The outer crossing belt group 30C is configured of the fifth belt layer 35 and the sixth belt layer 36.

[0041]

In the tread width direction twd, the width of the inner crossing belt group 30A is not less than 25% and not more than 70% of the tread surface 5a. In the tread width direction twd, the width of the intermediate crossing belt group 30B is not less than 55% and not more than 90% of the width TW of the tread surface 5a. In the tread width direction twd, the width of the outer crossing belt group 30C is not less than 60% and not more than 110% of the width TW of the tread surface 5a.

[0042]

In the tread surface view, the inclination angle of a belt cord of the inner crossing belt group 30A with respect to the carcass cord is not less than 70 degrees and not more than 85 degrees. In the tread surface view, the inclination angle of a belt cord of the intermediate crossing belt group 30B with respect to the carcass cord is not less than 50 degrees and not more than 75 degrees. In the tread surface view, the inclination angle of a belt cord of the outer crossing belt group 30C with respect to the carcass cord is not less than 50 degrees and not more than 70 degrees.

[0043]

In the tread surface view, the inclination angle of the belt

cord of the inner crossing belt group 30A with respect to the carcass cord is largest. The inclination angle of the belt cord of the intermediate crossing belt group 30B with respect to the carcass cord is not less than the inclination angle of the belt cord of the outer crossing belt group 30C with respect to the carcass cord.

[0044]

As shown in Figs. 1 and 2, in the tread portion 5, a plurality of grooves (circumferential grooves 50) extending in a tyre circumferential direction tcd and a plurality of lateral groove portions (lug grooves 60) are formed. Further, in the tread portion 5, a plurality of land portions (circumferential land portions 70) partitioned by the plurality of circumferential grooves 50 and the plurality of lug grooves 60 are formed.

[0045]

The plurality of circumferential grooves 50 extend along the tyre circumferential direction tcd. The plurality of circumferential grooves 50 include circumferential grooves 50A, 50B, and 50C.

[0046]

The circumferential groove 50A is a circumferential groove located on the outermost side in the tread width direction twd. The circumferential groove 50C is located on the tyre equator line CL.

[0047]

The circumferential groove 50B is located between the circumferential groove 50A and the circumferential groove 50C in the tread width direction twd. More specifically, the circumferential groove 50B is formed so that a length DL along the tread width direction twd from the belt end 30e to a groove center line WL passing through the center in a width direction of the circumferential groove 50B in the tread surface view of the tyre is not more than 200 mm.

[0048]

A plurality of protrusions 500 are provided in a groove bottom 50B2 of the circumferential groove 50B, as described later. Thus, a temperature around the tread portion 5 in which the circumferential groove 50B is located is decreased. Since the length DL in the tread width direction twd from the belt end 30e to the groove center line WL is not more than 200 mm, a temperature of the belt end 30e is decreased. Consequently, since deterioration due to heat of a rubber member around the belt end 30e is suppressed, peeling due to heat generation between the second belt layer 32 and its peripheral rubber member starting from the belt end 30e is suppressed. Since the peeling of the second belt layer 32 which is the shortest belt layer most easily affected by the heat generation of the tread portion 5 can be suppressed, durability of the tyre 1 may be improved.

[0049]

A tread portion of a heavy duty tyre mounted on trucks, buses, construction vehicles, and the like has a large rubber gauge (thickness), and a volume of rubber is large. When such a heavy duty tyre repeats deformation, a temperature of the tread portion increases. In such a heavy duty tyre, the tread portion 5 outside in the tread width direction twd generates more heat than the tread portion 5 near the tyre equator line CL. By virtue of the provision of the plurality of protrusions 500 in the groove bottom 50B2 of the circumferential groove 50B located outer side than the tyre equator line CL, heat is efficiently radiated from the tread portion 5.

[0050]

The lug groove 60 extends from the circumferential groove 50B to the buttress portion 9. The lug groove 60 has an opening portion 60a in the buttress portion 9. Accordingly, the lug groove 60 opens at the tread end portion 5e. The lug groove 60 communicates with the circumferential groove 50A and the circumferential groove 50B. An inner end of the lug groove 60 in the tread width direction twd communicates with the circumferential groove 50B.

[0051]

A width of the tread portion 5 from an end to the other end (the tread end portions 5e) in the tread width direction is represented by TW. In the present embodiment, the ends of the tread portion 5 indicate the ends in the tread width direction twd in a contact

range in such a state that the tyre is in contact with a road surface. The state in which the tyre is in contact with a road surface indicates a state in which the tyre is mounted on a normal rim, and a normal inner pressure and a normal load are applied.

[0052]

In the tread surface view of the tyre 1, the lug groove 60 extends while being inclined with respect to the tread width direction twd. The inclination angle ϕ of the lug groove 60 with respect to the tread width direction twd is not less than 15 degrees and not more than 60 degrees.

[0053]

As shown in Fig. 1, when the tyre 1 rotates in the rotational direction tr1, an airflow (relative wind) in an opposite direction to the rotational direction tr1 generated relatively to the rotation of the tyre 1 generates. The lug groove 60 on the left side of Fig. 1 goes to the front side in the rotational direction tr1 as it goes outside in the tread width direction twd. In the lug groove 60, the inclination angle ϕ of the lug groove 60 with respect to the tread width direction twd is not less than 15 degrees and not more than 60 degrees. Thus, when the tyre 1 rotates in the rotational direction tr1, it is possible to suppress collision of an airflow, entering inside the lug groove 60 from outside, against a side wall of the lug groove 60 near the opening portion 60a and stagnation of the airflow. As a result, the heat transfer coefficient inside

the lug groove 60 is enhanced, and the airflow smoothly reaches the circumferential groove 50B; therefore, the temperature of the tread portion 5 can be decreased.

[0054]

Meanwhile, when the tyre 1 rotates in the rotational direction tr1, in the tread portion 5 on the right side of Fig. 1 an airflow (relative wind) in an opposite direction to the rotational direction tr1 generated relatively to the rotation of the tyre 1 generates. Since the inclination angle ϕ of the lug groove 60 with respect to the tread width direction twd is not less than 15 degrees and not more than 60 degrees, the air inside the lug groove 60 easily flows along the lug groove 60. As a result, discharge of the air from the lug groove 60 to outside is promoted in the tread width direction twd, and the flow rate of air flowing inside the lug groove 60 can be increased. Consequently, the heat transfer coefficient of the lug groove 60 is improved, and the temperature of the tread portion 5 can be decreased.

[0055]

In addition, the air flowing in the circumferential groove 50B easily flows into the lug groove 60. Since air passing through the inside of the circumferential groove 50B and thereby accumulating heat flows outside through the lug groove 60, heat radiation from the tread portion 5 is promoted.

[0056]

Since the inclination angle ϕ is not more than 60 degrees, block rigidity of land blocks 100 and 200 to be described later can be secured. As a result, deformation of the land blocks 100 and 200 accompanied with the rotation of the tyre 1 is suppressed, and increase in a heat generation of the tread portion 5 can be suppressed.

[0057]

A plurality of the circumferential land portions 70 extends along the tyre circumferential direction. The circumferential land portions 70 include circumferential land portions 70A, 70B, and 70C.

[0058]

The circumferential land portion 70A is a circumferential land portion located on the outermost side in the tread width direction twd. The circumferential land portion 70B is located between the circumferential land portion 70A and the circumferential land portion 70C in the tread width direction twd. The circumferential land portion 70C is a circumferential land portion located on the innermost side in the tread width direction twd.

[0059]

The lug groove 60 is formed in the circumferential land portion 70A and the circumferential land portion 70B. The land blocks 100 and 200 partitioned by the lug groove 60 are provided in the tread portion 5. Namely, the land block 100 is formed by dividing the

circumferential land portion 70A by the lug groove 60. The land block 200 is formed by dividing the circumferential land portion 70B by the lug groove 60.

[0060]

In the present embodiment, as an example of the tyre 1, a radial tyre with an aspect ratio of not more than 80%, a rim diameter of not less than 57", a maximum load rating of not less than 60 mton, and a load coefficient (k-factor) of not less than 1.7 is supposed. The tyre 1 is not limited to the radial tyre of the present embodiment.

[0061]

(2) Schematic Configuration of Air Supply Mechanism

A schematic configuration of an air supply mechanism according to the present embodiment will be described with reference to Figs. 1 to 4. Fig. 3 is an enlarged perspective view showing the enlarged land block 100. Fig. 4 is a plan view of the circumferential land portion 70A in a tread surface view.

[0062]

The tyre 1 is provided with an air supply mechanism for supplying air to a lateral groove portion (the lug groove 60). In the present embodiment, the air supply mechanism is configured of a tapered surface 100R.

[0063]

As shown in Figs. 1 to 4, the land block 100 has a tread surface 100S abutted against a road surface, a side surface 101 formed outside in the tread width direction twd of the land block 100, a side surface 102 located inward in the tread width direction twd of the land block 100, a lateral groove surface 103 formed on one side of the tyre circumferential direction tcd of the land block 100 and forming a groove wall of the lug groove 60, and a lateral groove surface 104 formed on the other side of the tyre circumferential direction tcd of the land block 100 and forming the groove wall of the lug groove 60. The land block 100 has, at a corner portion 100A formed by a tread surface 100S, the side surface 101, and the lateral groove surface 103, a tapered surface 100R crossed with the tread surface 100S, the side surface 101, and the lateral groove surface 103. The corner portion 100A configures the tread end portion 5e of the tread portion 5 described above.

[0064]

The side surface 101 is formed on the buttress portion 9 side of the land block 100. The side surface 101 extends along the tyre circumferential direction tcd. The side surface 101 is continued to the lateral groove surfaces 103 and 104 of the land block 100 forming the groove wall of the lug groove 60. The side surface 102 is formed to face the side surface 101 in the tread width direction twd. The side surface 102 forms a groove wall of the circumferential groove 50A adjacent to inward in the tread width direction twd of

the land block 100.

[0065]

The lateral groove surface 103 extends in the tread width direction twd. The lateral groove surface 103 is located on one side of the tyre circumferential direction tcd of the land block 100. The lateral groove surface 104 extends in the tread width direction twd. The lateral groove surface 104 is located on the other side of the tyre circumferential direction tcd of the land block 100.

[0066]

The tapered surface 100R extends toward the tyre circumferential direction tcd at the corner portion 100A formed by the tread surface 100S and the side surface 101. The tapered surface 100R is inclined inward in the tyre radial direction trd as it goes to one side of the tyre circumferential direction tcd in a cross section in the tyre circumferential direction tcd and the tyre radial direction trd of the land block 100. The tapered surface 100R is inclined inward in the tyre radial direction trd as it goes outward in the tread width direction twd in a cross section in the tread width direction twd and the tyre radial direction trd of the land block 100.

[0067]

Namely, the tapered surface 100R is formed so as to chamfer the top in which tread surface 100S, the side surface 101, and the

lateral groove surface 103 intersect with each other. In other words, the tapered surface 100R is formed to have at least one side in each surface among the tread surface 100S, the side surface 101, and the lateral groove surface 103.

[0068]

The tapered surface 100R has one side in the side surface 101 of the side surface 101 and the side surface 102 in the tread width direction twd of the land block 100 and does not have one side in the side surface 102. Namely, in the land block 100, one (the side surface 102) of the side surface 101 and the side surface 102 opposed to each other in the tread width direction twd does not intersect with the tapered surface 100R.

[0069]

Further, the tapered surface 100R has one side in the lateral groove surface 103 of the lateral groove surface 103 and the lateral groove surface 104 in the tyre circumferential direction tcd of the land block 100 and does not have one side in the lateral groove surface 104. Namely, in the land block 100, one (the lateral groove surface 104) of the lateral groove surface 103 and the lateral groove surface 104 opposed to each other in the tyre circumferential direction tcd does not intersect with the tapered surface 100R.

[0070]

As described above, by virtue of the formation of the tapered surface 100R, air flowing along the tapered surface 100R during

rotation of the tyre 1 easily impinges against the lateral groove surface 104 of another land block 100 adjacent in the tyre circumferential direction tcd. Namely, the air flowing along the tapered surface 100R is easily taken into the lug groove 60 adjacent in the tyre circumferential direction tcd of the land block 100.

[0071]

In the present embodiment, the tapered surface 100R has a planar shape. Namely, the shape of the tapered surface 100R linearly extends in the cross section in the tyre circumferential direction tcd and the tyre radial direction trd or the cross section in the tread width direction twd and the tyre radial direction trd.

[0072]

As shown in Fig. 3, when a plane Sv passing through a top P2 in which the tapered surface 100R, the tread surface 100S, and the side surface 101 intersect with each other, a top P1 in which the tapered surface 100R, the tread surface 100S, and the lateral groove surface 103 intersect with each other, and a top P3 in which the tapered surface 100R, the side surface 101, and the lateral groove face 103 intersect with each other is assumed, an angle $\theta 2$ formed by the plane Sv and the tread surface 100S is in the range of 0 degrees $< \theta 1 < 45$ degrees. Meanwhile, an angle $\theta 1$ formed by the plane Sv and the side surface 101 is in the range of 0 degrees $< \theta 2 < 45$ degrees. Namely, one of the angle $\theta 1$ of the angle $\theta 2$ may be in the range of 0 degrees $< \theta 1$ (or $\theta 2$) < 45 degrees. More

preferably, the angle $\theta 1$ (or the angle $\theta 2$) is in the range of 10 degrees $< \theta 1$ (or $\theta 2$) < 30 degrees. In the present embodiment, since the tapered surface 100R has a planar shape, the tapered surface 100R and the plane S_v are the same surface.

[0073]

It is preferable that the tapered surface 100R is formed so that an interval L_2 in the tyre radial direction trd between the top P_1 and the top P_3 is larger than an interval L_1 in the tread width direction twd between the top P_1 and the top P_2 . This depends on the following reason. Namely, when the interval L_2 is longer than the interval L_1 , even if wear of the land block 100 progresses from the tread surface 100S, the tapered surface 100R more easily remains. Namely, the durability of the effect of the tapered surface 100R can be improved. The interval L_2 is more preferably not less than 50 mm.

[0074]

In the tyre 1, the land block 100 has, at the corner portion 100A formed by the tread surface 100S and the side surface 101 located outside in the tread width direction twd , the tapered surface 100R intersecting with the tread surface 100S, the side surface 101, and the lateral groove surface 103.

[0075]

Thus, as shown in Fig. 4, when the tyre 1 rotates in the rotational direction trl , an airflow (relative wind) AR generated

by the rotation of the tyre 1 and flowing in an opposite direction to the rotational direction tr1 flows along the tapered surface 100R. The airflow AR flowing along the tapered surface 100R impinges against the lateral groove surface 104 of the land block 100 arranged behind in the rotational direction tr1 and is guided into the lug groove 60. Thus, the airflow AR is formed from the side surface 101 of the land block 100 to the lug groove 60. Namely, air around the tyre 1 is taken into the lug groove 60, and the flow rate of air flowing inside the lug groove 60 can be increased. Consequently, the heat transfer coefficient inside the lug groove 60 is enhanced, and the temperature of the tread portion 5 can be decreased.

[0076]

When the tyre 1 rotates in a rotational direction tr2, the airflow (relative wind) AR generated inside the lug groove 60 and flowing in an opposite direction to the rotational direction tr2 flows out along the tapered surface 100R due to the rotation of the tyre 1. Thus, discharge of air from the lug groove 60 to outside in the tread width direction twd is promoted, and the flow rate of the air flowing inside the lug groove 60 can be increased. Consequently, the heat transfer coefficient inside the lug groove 60 is enhanced. In addition, the temperature of the tread portion 5 can be decreased.

[0077]

(3) Schematic Configuration of Recessed portion 300

A schematic configuration of a recessed portion 300 according to the present embodiment will be described with reference to Fig. 5. Figs. 5(a) to 5(c) are enlarged plan views of the recessed portion 300 in the tread surface view.

[0078]

As shown in Figs. 5(a) to 5(c), the recessed portion 300 is formed in the circumferential land portion 70C. The recessed portion 300 is located in an extending direction of the lug groove 60. The recessed portion 300 is formed on a groove wall surface of the circumferential land portion 70C opposed to the lug groove 60.

[0079]

In the present embodiment, the recessed portion 300 has a triangular shape in a tread plan view. In the tread plan view, one wall surface 300a of the recessed portion 300 extends along an extension line of one wall surface of the lug groove 60, and the other wall surface 300b of the recessed portion 300 intersects with an extension line of the other wall surface of the lug groove 60. In the tread plan view, a point at which the groove wall surface of the circumferential land portion 70C opposed to the lug groove 60 and the extension line of one wall surface of the lug groove 60 intersect with each other is an intersect a, and a point at which the groove wall surface of the circumferential land portion 70C opposed to the lug groove 60 and the extension line of the other

wall surface of the lug groove 60 intersect with each other is an intersect b. In the tread plan view, an end A of the wall surface 300a on the circumferential groove 50B side and the intersection a are located at the same position, and an end B of the wall surface 300b on the circumferential groove 50B side and the intersection b are located at different positions. The end B is not located between the intersection a and the intersection b. Accordingly, a length from the end A to the end B is larger than a length from the intersection a to the intersection b. In the tread plan view, a contact between the wall surface 300a and the wall surface 300b is a top C.

[0080]

In the tread plan view, an angle formed by an extension line along the groove wall surface of the circumferential land portion 70C opposed to the lug groove 60 and the wall surface 300a is an angle α , and an angle formed by the extension line along the groove wall surface of the circumferential land portion 70C opposed to the lug groove 60 and the wall surface 300b is an angle β . In the present embodiment, the angle β is smaller than the angle α . It is preferable that $20 \text{ degrees} \leq \alpha \leq 70 \text{ degrees}$ and $\beta \leq 45 \text{ degrees}$ are satisfied.

[0081]

The recessed portion 300 is formed so that the center of the recessed portion 300 in the extending direction of the

circumferential groove 50B deviates from a lug groove center line passing through a center in the extending direction of the lug groove 60 and a direction perpendicular to the extending direction. The center of the recessed portion 300 is at least one of the center of a straight line connecting the end A and the end B and the top C.

[0082]

As shown in Fig. 5(b), in the recessed portion 300, a length 300W in the tread width direction twd changes along the tyre circumferential direction tcd. Namely, in the tyre circumferential direction tcd, the length 300W gradually increases as it goes from the end B to the top C. In the tyre circumferential direction tcd, the length 300W gradually decreases as it goes from the end C to the top A.

[0083]

In the recessed portion 300, a length 300L in the tyre circumferential direction tcd decreases from a side opening in the circumferential groove 50B toward the depth. Namely, in the length 300L, the distance between the end A and the end B is largest, and the length 300L decreases as it goes to the top.

[0084]

As shown in Fig. 5(c), by virtue of the formation of the recessed portion 300, the airflow AR flowing from outside to inside in the tread width direction twd along the lug groove 60 impinges against

the wall surface 300b of the recessed portion 300. In Fig. 5(c), since the wall surface 300a is located above the wall surface 300b, the airflow AR is less likely to flow above the wall surface 300b. Thus, the airflow AR smoothly flows while being guided into the circumferential groove 50B.

[0085]

Since the airflow AR is formed in one side of the tyre circumferential direction tcd by the formation of the recessed portion 300, the airflow AR is less likely to stagnate in the circumferential groove 50B. As a result, the heat transfer coefficient inside the circumferential groove 50B is enhanced, and the temperature of the tread portion 5 can be decreased.

[0086]

(4) Schematic Configuration of Protrusion portion 500

A schematic configuration of the protrusion portion 500 according to the present embodiment will be described with reference to Figs. 6 to 9.

[0087]

Fig. 6 is a partial cutaway perspective view of the circumferential groove 50B. Fig. 7 is a view showing a shape in the tread plan view (a view point from above the tread portion 5) of the circumferential groove 50B. Fig. 8 is a view showing the shape of the circumferential groove 50B from an F5 direction of Fig. 7. Fig. 9 is a cross-sectional view of the circumferential

groove 50B (the protrusion portion 500) along a line F6-F6 of Fig. 7.

[0088]

As shown in Figs. 6 to 9, the groove bottom 50B2 of the circumferential groove 50B is provided with a plurality of the protrusions 500.

[0089]

In the present embodiment, the protrusions 500 are provided at predetermined intervals P in the circumferential groove 50B. The protrusion portion 500 extends from one side wall 50B1 forming the circumferential groove 50B toward the other side wall 50B3. In the present embodiment, the protrusion portion 500 continues from the one side wall 50B1 to the other side wall 50B3. Namely, the protrusion portion 500 is provided throughout the entire groove width W of the circumferential groove 50B. In the present embodiment, the side wall 50B1 and the side wall 50B3 extend substantially in parallel to the tyre circumferential direction, and the side wall 50B1 and the side wall 50B3 are formed to face each other.

[0090]

The protrusion portion 500 is provided upright outside in the tyre radial direction from the groove bottom 50B2 of the circumferential groove 50B. In the present embodiment, the protrusion portion 500 is formed of plate-shaped rubber rising from

the groove bottom 50B2 and provided to be inclined with respect to the tyre circumferential direction.

[0091]

More specifically, as shown in Fig. 7, an angle θ_f formed by the groove center line WL and the protrusion portion 500 is not less than 10 degrees and not more than 60 degrees. The angle θ_f is an angle formed by an extending direction x of the protrusion portion 500 and the groove center line WL passing through the center in the width direction of the circumferential groove 50B in the tread surface view of the tyre 1 and is an angle formed on the opposite side of the rotational direction of the tyre 1. Namely, the angle θ_f is an angle formed on the running direction side of the airflow AR generated by rolling of the tyre 1 in the rotational direction tr1.

[0092]

Further, in the tread surface view of the tyre 1, when a length of the protrusion portion 500 along the groove center line WL is L, and the predetermined interval is P, the protrusion portion 500 provided in the circumferential groove 50B satisfies a relationship of $0.75L \leq P \leq 10L$.

[0093]

Since the protrusion portion 500 satisfies the relationship of $0.75L \leq P$, the number of the protrusions 500 provided in the circumferential groove 50B does not become too large, and reduction

in the velocity of air flowing in the circumferential groove 50B can be suppressed. Since the protrusion portion 500 satisfies the relationship of $P \leq 10L$, the number of the protrusions 500 provided in the circumferential groove 50B does not become too small, and an airflow AR1 is efficiently changed to a spiral (swirl-shaped) flow.

[0094]

Further, it is preferable that a relationship of $1.25L < P$ is satisfied. It is more preferable that a relationship of $1.5L < P$ is satisfied, and it is still more preferable that a relationship of $2.0L < P$ is satisfied. By satisfying those relationships, the number of the protrusions 500 provided in the circumferential groove 50B becomes more suitable. Since the area of the groove bottom 50B2 through which the airflow AR passes does not become too small, heat is efficiently radiated from the groove bottom 50B2.

[0095]

The length L is a length from one end to the other end of the protrusion portion 500 in an extending direction of the circumferential groove 50B (the tyre circumferential direction in the present embodiment). An interval P is a distance between the centers of the protrusions 500 at which the protrusions 500 and the groove center line WL intersect with each other.

[0096]

When a distance from the side wall 50B1 to the side wall 50B3

of the circumferential groove 50B is the groove width W , the length L can be represented as $W/\tan\theta_f + TW_f/\sin\theta_f$. Here, as shown in Fig. 9, the protrusion width TW_f is a width of the protrusion portion 500 in the lateral direction of the protrusion portion 500, that is, in a direction perpendicular to the extending direction x of the protrusion portion 500.

[0097]

As shown in Fig. 8, when a height from the groove bottom 50B2 of the protrusion portion 500 is H_f , and a depth from the tread surface 5a to the groove bottom 50B2 (deepest portion) of the circumferential groove 50B is D , the protrusion portion 500 satisfies a relationship of $0.03D < H_f \leq 0.4D$. When the groove width of the circumferential groove 50B is W , the groove bottom 50B2 is flat at least in a width of $0.2 W$. Namely, a central portion including the groove center line WL in the groove width W of the groove bottom 50B2 has no unevenness, and the surface of the groove bottom 50B2 is smooth.

[0098]

When the groove width of the circumferential groove 50B is W , and the width of the protrusion portion 500 in the direction perpendicular to the extending direction x of the protrusion portion 500 is TW_f , a relationship of $TW_f/\cos\theta_f \leq 0.9 W$ is satisfied. It is preferable that the protrusion portion 500 is provided so as to satisfy a relationship of $0.2 \leq TW_f$. Since the protrusion width

TWf can be secured by satisfying the relationship of $0.2 \leq TWf$, the durability of the protrusion portion 500 is improved. Since damage to the protrusion portion 500 during use of the tyre 1 can be suppressed, temperature increase of the tread portion 5 accompanied with running of a vehicle can be effectively suppressed.

[0099]

The length L is in a range of from 10 mm to 100 mm, for example. The interval P is in a range of from 1.25 mm to 4.00 mm, for example. The protrusion height Hf is in a range of from 5 mm to 15 mm, for example. The protrusion width TWf is in a range of from 0.5 mm to 10 mm, for example. The depth D is in a range of from 40 mm to 120 mm, for example. The groove width W of the groove bottom 50B2 is in a range of from 5 mm to 20 mm, for example.

[0100]

(5) Operations and Effects

According to the tyre 1, the plurality of protrusions 500 are provided in the groove bottom 50B2 of the circumferential groove 50B, and each of the protrusions 500 extends from one side wall 50B1 forming the circumferential groove 50B toward the other side wall 50B3 opposed to the one side wall 50B1. The protrusions 500 are provided at predetermined intervals in the circumferential groove 50B, satisfy the relationship of $0.75L \leq P \leq 10L$, and a length along the tread width direction twd from the belt end 30e of the second belt layer 32, which is the shortest belt layer in the tread

width direction twd, to the groove center line WL is not more than 200 mm.

[0101]

Airflows AR1 and AR2 (relative winds) generated by the rotation of the tyre 1 and flowing in an opposite direction to the rotational direction tr1 are generated in the circumferential groove 50B. As shown in Figs. 10(a) and 10(b), the airflow AR1 along the side wall 50B3 on the end side of the protrusion portion 500 located far from the airflow cannot advance along the circumferential groove 50B because the protrusion portion 500 is located in the advancing direction. Accordingly, the airflow AR1 advances while being inclined with respect to the extending direction of the circumferential groove 50B, and overrides the protrusion portion 500. According to this constitution, the airflow AR1 is changed to a spiral (swirl-shaped) flow. Since the airflow AR1 advances while involving ambient air, the flow rate of air increases, and, at the same time, the velocity of the airflow AR1 increases. Consequently, the heat radiation from the rubber member constituting the periphery of the circumferential groove 50B is promoted.

[0102]

An airflow AR2 along the side wall 50B1 on the end side of the protrusion portion 500 located near the airflow advances along the extending direction of the protrusion portion 500. Then, the

airflow AR2 flows outside the circumferential groove 50B on the other side wall 50B3 side of the circumferential groove 50B. Since an air passing through the inside of the circumferential groove 50B and thereby accumulating heat flows outside, the heat radiation from the rubber member constituting the periphery of the circumferential groove 50B is promoted.

[0103]

Since the protrusion portion 500 satisfies the relationship of $0.75L \leq P$, the number of the protrusions 500 provided in the circumferential groove 50B does not become too large, and reduction in the velocity of the air flowing in the circumferential groove 50B can be suppressed. Since the protrusion portion 500 satisfies the relationship of $P \leq 10L$, the number of the protrusions 500 provided in the circumferential groove 50B does not become too small, and the airflow AR1 is efficiently changed to a spiral (swirl-shaped) flow. Consequently, the heat radiation from the rubber member constituting the periphery of the circumferential groove 50B is promoted.

[0104]

As described above, since the temperature around the tread portion 5 in which the circumferential groove 50 is located is decreased. Since the length DL in the tread width direction twd from the belt end 30e to the groove center line WL is not more than 200 mm, a temperature of the belt end 30e is decreased. Consequently,

since deterioration due to heat of a rubber member around the belt end 30e is suppressed, peeling due to heat generation between the second belt layer 32 and its peripheral rubber member starting from the belt end 30e is suppressed. Further, the peeling of the second belt layer 32 which is the shortest belt layer most easily affected by the heat generation of the tread portion 5 can be suppressed. Accordingly, the temperature increase of the tread portion 5 accompanied with running of a vehicle can be effectively suppressed, and the durability of the tyre can be improved.

[0105]

It is preferable that the relationship of $1.25L < P$ is satisfied. According to this, the number of the protrusions 500 provided in the circumferential groove 50B becomes more suitable. Since the area of the groove bottom 50B2 through which the airflow AR passes does not become too small, heat is efficiently radiated from the groove bottom 50B2.

[0106]

Further, it is preferable that the angle θ_f formed by the extending direction of the protrusion portion 500 and the groove center line WL is not less than 10 degrees and not more than 60 degrees. When the angle θ_f is not less than 10 degrees, an acute-angled portion formed by the protrusion portion 500 and the side wall 50B1 (or the side wall 50B3) can suppress weakening of the airflow AR flowing in the circumferential groove 50B. In

addition, the protrusion portion 500 can be easily manufactured in the circumferential groove 50B. When the angle θ_f is not more than 60 degrees, the airflow AR2 flowing in the circumferential groove 50B can be efficiently changed to a spiral flow. Thus, the air volume passing through the groove bottom 50B2 increases, and heat is efficiently radiated from the tread portion 5.

[0107]

Furthermore, it is preferable that the relationship of $0.03D < H_f \leq 0.4D$ is satisfied. When the relationship of $0.03D < H_f$ is satisfied, the height H_f of the protrusion portion 500 reaches not less than a predetermined height, and therefore, the airflow AR2 flowing in the circumferential groove 50B can be efficiently changed to a spiral flow. Thus, the air volume passing through the groove bottom 50B2 increases, and heat is efficiently radiated from the tread portion 5. By satisfying the relationship of $H_f \leq 0.4D$, the airflow AR1 changed to the spiral flow easily arrives at the groove bottom 50B2. Thus, heat is efficiently radiated from the groove bottom 50B2.

[0108]

The groove bottom 50B2 is flat at least in a width of $0.2 W$. According to this constitution, since the airflow AR passing through the groove bottom 50B2 is not impeded, the temperature increase of the tread portion 5 can be further effectively suppressed.

[0109]

It is preferable that $DC/OD \geq 0.015$ is satisfied. In a tyre satisfying $DC/OD \geq 0.015$, since the tread portion 5 has a large rubber gauge, heat is easily accumulated in the tread portion 5. Thus, in the tyre satisfying $DC/OD \geq 0.015$, a failure due to the temperature increase of the tread portion 5 can be suppressed by effectively suppressing the temperature increase of the tread portion 5 accompanied with running of a vehicle.

[0110]

The protrusion portion 500 is continued from the one side wall 50B1 to the other side wall 50B3. According to this constitution, since the airflow AR1 advancing along the protrusion portion 500 can override the protrusion portion 500 near the side wall 50B3, the airflow AR1 is efficiently changed to a spiral (swirl-shaped) flow. Thus, heat is efficiently radiated from the tread portion 5.

[0111]

In the tread width direction twd , the width of the inner crossing belt group 30A is not less than 25% and not more than 70% of the tread surface 5a, the width of the intermediate crossing belt group 30B is not less than 55% and not more than 90% of the width TW of the tread surface 5a, and the width of the outer crossing belt group 30C is not less than 60% and not more than 110% of the width TW of the tread surface 5a. Further, in the tread surface view, the inclination angle of a belt cord of the inner crossing belt group

30A with respect to the carcass cord is not less than 70 degrees and not more than 85 degrees, the inclination angle of a belt cord of the intermediate crossing belt group 30B with respect to the carcass cord is not less than 50 degrees and not more than 75 degrees, and the inclination angle of a belt cord of the outer crossing belt group 30C with respect to the carcass cord is not less than 50 degrees and not more than 70 degrees.

[0112]

In a tyre having the above belt structure, since the number of the belt layers 30 is large, peeling between the belt layer 30 and the rubber member is likely to occur. Accordingly, the durability of the tyre can be improved by applying the present invention to the tyre having such a belt structure.

[0113]

(6) Comparative evaluation

In order to confirm the effect of the tyre according to the present invention, the following measurement was performed. The invention is not limited to the following examples.

[0114]

As a test tyre, a tyre for mine vehicles (59/80R63) was used. A protrusion was provided in a circumferential groove, and the angle θ formed by a groove center line and the protrusion, a coefficient to be multiplied to the length L, and a coefficient to be multiplied to the groove depth D were changed, and the heat transfer coefficient

in the case where the rotational speed of the tyre was 20 km/h was measured. The heat transfer coefficient in the case without protrusion was set to 100 and was compared with the measured heat transfer coefficient. The results are shown in Figs. 11 to 13. Fig. 11 shows a relationship between the angle θ_f and the heat transfer coefficient (index indication) in a circumferential groove. Fig. 12 shows a relationship between the coefficient to be multiplied to the length L of the protrusion and the heat transfer coefficient in the circumferential groove. Fig. 13 shows a relationship between the coefficient to be multiplied to the groove depth D and the heat transfer coefficient in the circumferential groove.

[0115]

As shown in Fig. 11, it was found that when the angle θ_f was not less than 10 degrees and not more than 60 degrees, the heat transfer coefficient was good. In particular, it was found that when the angle θ_f was not less than 15 degrees and not more than 40 degrees, the heat transfer coefficient was better.

[0116]

As shown in Fig. 12, it was found that when the coefficient to be multiplied to the length L was not less than 0.75 and not more than 10, the heat transfer coefficient was good. It was found that when the coefficient to be multiplied to the length L was not less than 1.25, the heat transfer coefficient was better. It was found that when the coefficient to be multiplied to the length L was not

less than 1.5 and not more than 7, the heat transfer coefficient was further better.

[0117]

As shown in Fig. 13, it was found that when the coefficient to be multiplied to the groove depth D was not less than 0.03 and not more than 0.4, the heat transfer coefficient was good.

[0118]

Next, in order to confirm the effect of a positional relationship between a circumferential groove and a belt end, the following measurement was performed using a tyre similar to the above.

[0119]

A load of 101.6 kN was applied to tyres according to the following examples 1 to 11 and comparative examples 1 to 12, the tyres were run at a speed of 8 km/h, and the durability of each tyre was evaluated.

[0120]

In the tyres according to the examples and Comparative Example 12, a thickness of a tread gauge in the tyre radial direction trd was 140 mm, a depth of the circumferential groove in the tyre radial direction trd was 70 mm, and a width of the circumferential groove in the tread width direction was 10 mm. A groove bottom of the circumferential groove is provided with a protrusion. An angle θ of

of the protrusion was 20 degrees, an interval P between the protrusions was 2.5 mm, and a height Hf of the protrusion was 0.1 mm.

[0121]

In the tyre according to Example 1, the length DL in the tread width direction twd from a belt end to the groove center line WL of the circumferential groove was 0 mm. Namely, in the tread width direction twd, the belt end and the groove center line WL were at the same position. In the tyre according to Example 2, the length DL was 20 mm. In the tyre according to Example 3, the length DL was 40 mm. In the tyre according to Example 4, the length DL was 60 mm. In the tyre according to Example 5, the length DL was 80 mm. In the tyre according to Example 6, the length DL was 100 mm. In the tyre according to Example 7, the length DL was 120 mm. In the tyre according to Example 8, the length DL was 140 mm. In the tyre according to Example 9, the length DL was 160 mm. In the tyre according to Example 10, the length DL was 180 mm. In the tyre according to Example 11, the length DL was 200 mm. In the tyre according to Comparative Example 12, the length DL was 220 mm.

[0122]

In the tyres according to the comparative examples (except for Comparative Example 12), the thickness of the tread gauge in the tyre radial direction trd was 140 mm, the depth of the circumferential groove in the tyre radial direction trd was 100

mm, and the width of the circumferential groove in the tread width direction was 10 mm. A groove bottom of the circumferential groove has no protrusion.

[0123]

In the tyre according to Comparative Example 1, the length DL was 0 mm. In the tyre according to Comparative Example 2, the length DL was 20 mm. In the tyre according to Comparative Example 3, the length DL was 40 mm. In the tyre according to Comparative Example 4, the length DL was 60 mm. In the tyre according to Comparative Example 5, the length DL was 80 mm. In the tyre according to Comparative Example 6, the length DL was 100 mm. In the tyre according to Comparative Example 7, the length DL was 120 mm. In the tyre according to Comparative Example 8, the length DL was 140 mm. In the tyre according to Comparative Example 9, the length DL was 160 mm. In the tyre according to Comparative Example 10, the length DL was 180 mm. In the tyre according to Comparative Example 11, the length DL was 200 mm.

[0124]

The results are shown in Table 1 and Fig. 14. Fig. 14 is a graph showing a relationship between the durability of each tyre and the length DL. In Fig. 14, "O" shows the examples, and "X" shows the comparative examples. As the durability of the tyre, the life of the tyre of Comparative Example 1 was used as a reference (100), and other tyres were indicated by indexes.

[Table 1]

	Existence of Protrusion Portion	DL(mm)	Durability
Comparative Example 1	×	0	100
Comparative Example 2	×	20	98
Comparative Example 3	×	40	97
Comparative Example 4	×	60	95
Comparative Example 5	×	80	94
Comparative Example 6	×	100	92
Comparative Example 7	×	120	91
Comparative Example 8	×	140	88
Comparative Example 9	×	160	87
Comparative Example 10	×	180	86
Comparative Example 11	×	200	85
Example 1	○	0	131
Example 2	○	20	129
Example 3	○	40	124
Example 4	○	60	117
Example 5	○	80	111
Example 6	○	100	108
Example 7	○	120	106
Example 8	○	140	105
Example 9	○	160	103
Example 10	○	180	101
Example 11	○	200	100
Comparative Example 12	○	220	98

[0125]

In the tyres according to the examples, although the depth of the circumferential groove is small as compared with the tyres of the comparative examples, the durability of the tyres according to the examples was not less than 100, as shown in Table 1 and Fig. 14. Accordingly, in the tyres according to the examples, it was found that the durability of the tyre was improved.

[0126]

It was found that when the length DL was not less than 80 mm, the durability of the tyre was more improved. It was found that when the length DL was not less than 40 mm, the durability of the tyre was further improved.

[0127]

(7) Other embodiments

Although the contents of the present invention were disclosed through the embodiments of the present invention, it should not be understood that the discussion and drawings which form a part of this disclosure limit the present invention. The present invention includes various embodiments not described here.

[0128]

The following respective embodiments and the above embodiments may be appropriately combined in a range where the effects of the present invention are not impaired.

[0129]

(7.1) Air supply mechanism

In the above embodiment, although the air supply mechanism is configured of the tapered surface 100R, the present invention is not limited thereto.

[0130]

As shown in Figs. 15 and 16, for example, the length of the land

block 100 in the tread width direction twd may become smaller as it goes from one side in the tyre circumferential direction tcd to the other side.

[0131]

Fig. 15 is a plan view of a circumferential land portion 70A in the tread surface view according to another embodiment.

[0132]

One end 100D of a land block 100 in a tyre circumferential direction tcd is located on the back side in a rotational direction tr1 in which the tyre 1 rotates in a vehicle advancing direction when mounted on a vehicle. The other end 100E of the land block 100 in the tyre circumferential direction tcd is located on the front side in the rotational direction tr1. A length La1 in a tread width direction in the end 100D is smaller than a length La2 in the tread width direction in the end 100E of the land block 100. A difference between the length Lb1 and the length La1 is represented by a length Lw1, and the length Lw1 is preferably not less than 5 mm.

[0133]

A side surface 101 extends while being inclined inward the land block 100 with respect to a plane along the tyre circumferential direction and is continued to a lateral groove surface 103 of the land block 100 constituting an inner wall of a lug groove 60. The end 100D of the land block 100 on the back side in the rotational

direction in the tyre circumferential direction tcd is located inward in the tread width direction twd by the length Lw1 from a side wall portion 7. Namely, the back side in the rotational direction in the tyre circumferential direction tcd of the land block 100 of the buttress portion 9 is located inward in the tread width direction twd by a length Lw from the side wall portion 7. Thus, a step is formed between the buttress portion 9 and the side surface 101. A groove bottom 60b which is a groove bottom of the lug groove 60 extends from the end 100D on the back side in the rotational direction in the tyre circumferential direction tcd toward the end 100E. The groove bottom 60b is located between the buttress portion 9 and the side surface 101.

[0134]

As shown in Fig. 15, when the tyre 1 rotates in the rotational direction tr1, an air flow (relative wind) AR generated by the rotation of the tyre 1 and flowing in an opposite direction to the rotational direction tr1 flows along the side surface 101 of the land block 100. The airflow AR flowing along the side surface 101 impinges against the lateral groove surface 104 of the land block 100 arranged on the back side in the rotational direction tr1 and is guided into the lug groove 60. According to this constitution, air around the tyre 1 is taken into the lug groove 60, and the flow rate of air flowing inside the lug groove 60 can be increased. Consequently, the heat transfer coefficient inside the lug groove 60 is improved, and the temperature of the tread portion 5 can be

decreased.

[0135]

Fig. 16 is a plan view of the circumferential land portion 70A in the tread surface view according to another embodiment. A round surface 100Ru having a curved surface shape is formed in a portion in which a top formed by a tread surface 100S of a tread portion 5 abutted against a road surface, the side surface 101, and the lateral groove surface 103 of the land block 100 of the tyre 1 is formed. Namely, the top formed by the tread surface 100S, the side surface 101, and the lateral groove surface 103 is chamfered. As shown in Fig. 15, an area of the tread surface 100S of the tread portion 5 abutted against a road surface in the land block 100 of the tyre 1 is smaller than an area of the land block 100 continued to the groove bottom 60b of the lug groove 60. The area of the land block 100 becomes larger as it goes to a connecting portion with the groove bottom 60b from the tread surface 100S abutted against a road surface.

[0136]

As shown in Figs. 17 and 18, a side surface 101 of a land block 100 is cut out inward the land block 100 from the side surface 101, and a cut-out portion 130 communicating with at least one of lug grooves 60 may be formed.

[0137]

Fig. 17 is an enlarged perspective view of an enlarged tread

portion 5 according to still another embodiment.

Fig. 18 is a plan view of a circumferential land portion 70A in the tread surface view according to another embodiment.

[0138]

The cut-out portion 130 is formed in a buttress portion 9 which is a side surface intersecting in a tread width direction twd of the land block 100. The cut-out portion 130 is formed outside in a tyre radial direction trd relative to a line mutually connecting groove bottoms 60b of a lug groove 60 formed before and after the land block 100 in a tyre circumferential direction tcd.

[0139]

The cut-out portion 130 is formed on one end side of the side surface 101 of the land block 100 in the tyre circumferential direction tcd. The cut-out portion 130 is cut out inward (in the tread width direction twd) of the land block 100 from the side surface 101 and communicates with the lug groove 60 in the tyre circumferential direction tcd. The opening 131 is formed in the side surface 101 and a lateral groove surface 103 of the land block 100.

[0140]

A length Lk along a tyre circumferential direction of the cut-out portion 130 is smaller than a length WB in the tyre circumferential direction tcd of the land block 100.

[0141]

A depth d_s of the cut-out portion 130 in the tread width direction twd from the side surface 101 of the land block 100 of the cut-out portion 130 is constant throughout the tyre circumferential direction tcd of the land block 100. An opening 131 of the cut-out portion 130 formed in the side surface 101 of the land block 100 has a rectangular shape as viewed from the tread width direction twd . The cut-out portion 130 is formed in parallel to a surface of the tread portion 5.

[0142]

As shown in Fig. 18, when the tyre 1 rotates in a rotational direction $tr1$, an airflow (relative wind) AR generated by the rotation of the tyre 1 and flowing in an opposite direction to the rotational direction $tr1$ flows into the cut-out portion 130 and flows along the cut-out portion 130. The airflow AR flowing along the cut-out portion 130 impinges against a lateral groove surface 104 of the land block 100 arranged on the back side in the rotational direction $tr1$ and is guided into the lug groove 60. According to this constitution, air around the tyre 1 is taken into the lug groove 60, and the flow rate of air flowing inside the lug groove 60 can be increased. Consequently, the heat transfer coefficient inside the lug groove 60 is improved, and the temperature of the tread portion 5 can be decreased.

[0143]

In the cut-out portion 130, the depth d_s of the cut-out portion 130 may become larger as it goes to the lug groove 60 communicating with the cut-out portion 130.

[0144]

As shown in Figs. 19 and 20, a protrusion 150 protruding in a tread width direction twd may be formed on a side surface 101 of a land block 100.

[0145]

Fig. 19 is an enlarged perspective view of an enlarged tread portion 5 according to yet another embodiment. Fig. 20 is a plan view of a circumferential land portion 70A in the tread surface view according to another embodiment.

[0146]

The protrusion 150 is formed on the side of a lug groove 60 located on one side in a tyre circumferential direction tcd of the side surface 101 of the land block 100. The other side in the tyre circumferential direction tcd of the side surface 101 of the land block 100 is substantially smooth. The substantial smoothness allows fine unevenness due to manufacturing error. The fine unevenness is unevenness within $\pm 10\%$ of a length in the tread width direction twd of the land block 100, for example.

[0147]

A length L_r along the tyre circumferential direction tcd of the

protrusion 150 is smaller than the length WB in the tyre circumferential direction tcd of the land block 100 formed in the circumferential land portion 70A.

[0148]

The protrusion 150 has a rectangular shape linearly extending in a tyre radial direction trd, and the tyre radial direction trd and a rectangular longitudinal direction may be inclined. In this case, an angle $|\gamma|$ formed by a projection center line set at a central portion in the tyre circumferential direction tcd of the protrusion 150 and a tyre normal line (that is, the tyre radial direction trd) may be set so that $|\gamma| \leq 60$ degrees. The protrusion 150 shown in Figs. 19 and 20 is disposed so that the tyre radial direction trd and the rectangular longitudinal direction coincide with each other, and the tread width direction twd and a rectangular lateral direction coincide with each other.

[0149]

A plurality of the protrusions 150 may be formed on the side surface 101 of the land block 100. The protrusions 150 may be linearly arranged along the tyre radial direction trd.

[0150]

The plurality of protrusions 150 may be inclined with respect to the tyre radial direction trd as viewed from the tread width direction twd.

[0151]

The shape of the protrusion 150 may not be a rectangular shape. The protrusion 150 may have a triangular cross-sectional shape vertical to the longitudinal direction of the protrusion 150. The shape of the cross section vertical to the longitudinal direction of the protrusion 150 may be a trapezoidal shape of which long side is a root portion attached to the side surface 101 of the land block 100. The shape of the cross section vertical to the longitudinal direction of the protrusion 150 may be a trapezoidal shape of which short side is a root portion attached to the side surface 101 of the land block 100. The cross section vertical to the longitudinal direction of the protrusion 150 may have a shape inclined toward one side in the rotational direction. The protrusion 150 may have a parallelogram shape in plan view from a direction along a shaft core of a tyre rotation shaft. The protrusion 150 may have a shape in which the width at the central portion in the longitudinal direction is smaller than the width of an end in the longitudinal direction in plan view from a direction along the shaft core of the tyre rotation shaft. The protrusion 150 may have an elliptical shape in plan view from the direction along the shaft core of the tyre rotation shaft. In addition to the above examples, any shape is applicable as long as a structure producing an effect of disturbing air passing through a surface of a tyre is attained.

[0152]

In the above embodiment, although the both land blocks 100 in the tread width direction twd each have the air supply mechanism,

the present invention is not limited thereto. Only one of the land blocks 100 in the tread width direction twd may have the air supply mechanism. Meanwhile, the plurality of land blocks 100 may respectively have the air supply mechanisms having different shapes.

[0153]

(7.2) Protrusion

In the above embodiments, although the protrusion portion 500 has a flat plate shape, the present invention is not limited thereto. The protrusion portion 500 may have a wave shape in the tread surface view or a shape which is thick near the groove center line WL and becomes thinner as it goes to the side wall 50B1 and the side wall 50B3 (and vice versa).

[0154]

Figs. 21 (a) to (g) are views showing variations of the cross-sectional shape of the protrusion portion 500. As shown in Figs. 21 (a) to (g), in the cross-sectional shape of the protrusion portion 500 (similar to that of Fig. 9), the upper end may not be flat. In the cross-sectional shape of the protrusion portion 500, the upper end of the protrusion portion 500 may be inclined or may have a circular-arc shape.

[0155]

The angle θ_f , the groove depth D, and the groove width W may not necessarily satisfy the conditions prescribed in the above

embodiments.

[0156]

Although the protrusions 500 are provided in only the circumferential groove 50B, the present invention is not limited thereto. The protrusions 500 may be formed in the circumferential groove 50C formed at a position including the tyre equator line CL or in the circumferential groove 50C.

[0157]

(7.3) Others

In the above embodiments, although the circumferential groove 50B extends in parallel to the tyre circumferential direction tcd, the present invention is not limited thereto. The circumferential groove 50B may not necessarily be parallel to the tyre circumferential direction tcd. For example, the circumferential groove 50B may not be parallel to the tyre circumferential direction tcd as long as the angle formed with the tyre equator line CL is not more than 45 degrees. Further, the circumferential groove 50B may not necessarily be linear and may have a shape curved outward in the tread width direction twd or a zigzag shape, for example. When the circumferential groove 50B has a zigzag shape, it is preferable that the circumferential groove 50B has such a shape that the velocity of air flowing in the circumferential groove 50B is not reduced.

[0158]

The lug groove 60 may extend to the circumferential groove 50C, and, at the same time, the protrusion portion 500 may be provided in the groove bottom of the circumferential groove 50. Namely, the circumferential groove provided with the protrusion portion 500 may be formed at a position including the tyre equator line CL. According to this constitution, the temperature of the tread portion 5 can be decreased.

[0159]

Although all the lug grooves 60 are formed to have the same angle in the tyre circumferential direction tcd, the present invention is not limited thereto. In the same tyre, the inclination angles ϕ of the lug grooves 60 may not be necessarily the same. The inclination angle ϕ of the lug groove 60 may be different between the lug groove 60 located on one end side in the tread width direction twd and the lug groove 60 located on the other end side. In the plurality of lug grooves 60 located on one end side in the tread width direction twd, the inclination angles ϕ of the lug grooves 60 may be different from each other.

[0160]

In the tyre 1 according to the present embodiment, although a marked effect can be obtained when the tyre 1 is applied to so-called very large tyres, the tyre may be applied to general-purpose tyres.

[0161]

As the tyre according to the present invention, a pneumatic tyre

may be used, or a solid tyre filled with rubber may be used. Further, a tyre containing a gas other than air, such as a noble gas, such as argon, or nitrogen may be used.

[0162]

As mentioned above, it must be understood that the present invention includes various embodiments and the like that are not described herein. Accordingly, the scope of the present invention shall be defined only by the matters according to the claims that are appropriate from the description above.

[0163]

This application claims priority to JP 2012-150815 filed on July 4, 2012, the entire contents of which are incorporated by reference herein.

[Industrial Applicability]

[0164]

The present invention can provide a tyre that can effectively suppress a temperature increase of the tread portion 5 accompanied with running of a vehicle, and that can improve a durability of the tyre.

[0165]

In the claims which follow and in the preceding description of the invention, except where the context requires otherwise due to express language or necessary implication, the word "comprise" or

variations such as "comprises" or "comprising" is used in an inclusive sense, i.e. to specify the presence of the stated features but not to preclude the presence or addition of further features in various embodiments of the invention.

[0166]

It is to be understood that, if any prior art publication is referred to herein, such reference does not constitute an admission that the publication forms a part of the common general knowledge in the art, in Australia or any other country.

THE CLAIMS DEFINING THE INVENTION ARE AS FOLLOWS:

1. A tyre comprising:

a tread portion with a groove portion formed to extend in a tyre circumferential direction;

a plurality of protrusion portions provided on a groove bottom of the groove portion, each of the protrusion portions extending from one side wall forming the groove portion to the other side wall opposed to the one side wall, the protrusion portions arranged at predetermined intervals in the groove portion, wherein

a relationship of $0.75L \leq P \leq 10L$ is satisfied when a length of the protrusion portion along a groove center line passing through a center in a width direction of the groove portion is L, and the predetermined interval is P, in a tread surface view of the tyre, further comprising

a plurality of belt layers arranged in the tread portion and extending in a tyre circumferential direction,

a pair of bead cores; and

a carcass layer which extends across the pair of the bead cores and has a toroidal shape, wherein

the plurality of belt layers including a shortest belt layer whose length in a tread width direction is smallest,

a length along the tread width direction from an end of the

shortest belt layer in the tread width direction to the groove center line is not more than 200 mm, and

each of the plurality of belt layers comprises an inner crossing belt group comprising a set of belt layers and located outside the carcass layer in a tyre radial direction, an intermediate crossing belt group comprising another set of the belt layers and located on the outer side of the inner crossing belt group in the tyre radial direction, and an outer crossing belt group comprising the still another set of the belt layers and located on the outer side of the intermediate crossing belt group in the tyre radial direction, and

the inner crossing belt group includes the shortest belt layer.

2. The tyre according to claim 1, wherein an angle θ_f , which is an angle formed by an extending direction of the protrusion portions and the groove center line in the tread surface view of the tyre and is an angle formed on a side opposite to a rotation direction of the tyre, is not less than 10 degrees and not more than 60 degrees.

3. The tyre according to claim 1 or 2, wherein the relation of $0.03D < H_f \leq 0.4D$ is satisfied, when a height of the protrusion portions from the groove bottom is H_f , and a depth from a tread surface of the groove portion to the groove bottom is D .

4. The tyre according to any one of claims 1 to 3, wherein the relation of $DC/OD \geq 0.015$ is satisfied, when a tyre outer diameter is OD and a rubber gauge of the tread portion at a position of a tyre equator line is DC.

5. The tyre according to any one of claims 1 to 4, wherein the protrusion portions are continuous from the one side wall to the other side wall.

6. The tyre according to any one of claims 1 to 5, further comprising:

wherein the carcass layer has a carcass cord extending in a predetermined direction,

the belt layer include a belt cord extending while being inclined with respect to the predetermined direction,

the width of the inner crossing belt group is not less than 25% and not more than 70% of the width of the tread surface in the tread width direction,

the width of the intermediate crossing belt group is not less than 55% and not more than 90% of the width of the tread surface in the tread width direction,

the width of the outer crossing belt group is not less than 60% and not more than 110% of the width of the tread surface in the tread width direction,

an inclination angle of the belt cord of the inner crossing belt group with respect to the carcass cord is not less than 70 degrees and not more than 85 degrees in a tread surface view,

the inclination angle of the belt cord of the intermediate crossing belt group with respect to the carcass cord is not less than 50 degrees and not more than 75 degrees in the tread surface view, and

the inclination angle of the belt cord of the outer crossing belt group with respect to the carcass cord is not less than 70 degrees and not more than 85 degrees in the tread surface view.

7. The tyre according to any one of claims 1 to 6, further comprising:

a buttress portion extending inward in a tyre radial direction from a tread end that is an outer end of the tread portion in a tread width direction, and extending continuous to a side wall portion that forms a side face of the tyre;

a lateral groove portion extending from the groove portion to the buttress portion, and having an opening in the buttress portion;

a circumferential land portion opposed to the lateral groove portion with the groove portion interposed by the circumferential land portion and the lateral groove portion, wherein

a recess portion is formed on the circumferential land portion

and located in an extending direction of the lateral groove portion,

the recess portion is triangular in the tread face view,

a length of the recess portion in a tread width direction gradually increases from one point of connecting points between the groove portion and the recess portion toward a vertex of the recess portion, and gradually decreases from the vertex of the recess portion toward the other point of the connecting points between the groove portion and the recess portion,

the vertex of the recess portion is located on a position which is located in the extending direction of the lateral groove portion and displaced from a center line of the lateral groove portion passing a center in a direction orthogonal to the extending direction of the lateral groove portion.

8. The tyre according to any one of claims 1 to 6, further comprising:

a buttress portion extending inward in a tyre radial direction from a tread end that is an outer end of the tread portion in a tread width direction, and extending continuous to a side wall portion that forms a side face of the tyre;

a lateral groove portion extending from the groove portion to the buttress portion, and having an opening in the buttress portion;

a plurality of land portions defined by the lateral groove

portion and the groove portion, wherein

each of the land portion comprises:

a tread face to come into contact with a road surface,

the side face located outward of the land portion in the tread width direction

a first lateral groove face defining a side wall of the lateral groove portion on one side of the land portion in a tyre circumferential direction, and

a second lateral groove face defining a side wall of the lateral groove portion on the other side of the land portion in a tyre circumferential direction

the land portion is provided with an air supply mechanism for air supply to the lateral groove portion,

the air supply mechanism is tapered face crossing the tread face, the side face, and the first lateral groove face, at a corner position formed by the tread face, the side face, and the first lateral groove face,

two land portions opposed to each other with the lateral groove portion interposed are disposed such that the first lateral groove face of one land portion is opposed to the second lateral groove face of the other land portion, and

the second lateral groove face is not provided with the tapered face.

9. The tyre according to any one of claims 1 to 6, further comprising:

a buttress portion extending inward in a tyre radial direction from a tread end that is an outer end of the tread portion in a tread width direction, and extending continuous to a side wall portion that forms a side face of the tyre;

a lateral groove portion extending from the groove portion to the buttress portion, and having an opening in the buttress portion, wherein

the lateral groove portion extends to be inclined to the tread width direction,

an inclined angle of the lateral groove portion to the tread width direction is 15 degrees to 60 degrees, both inclusive.

FIG. 1

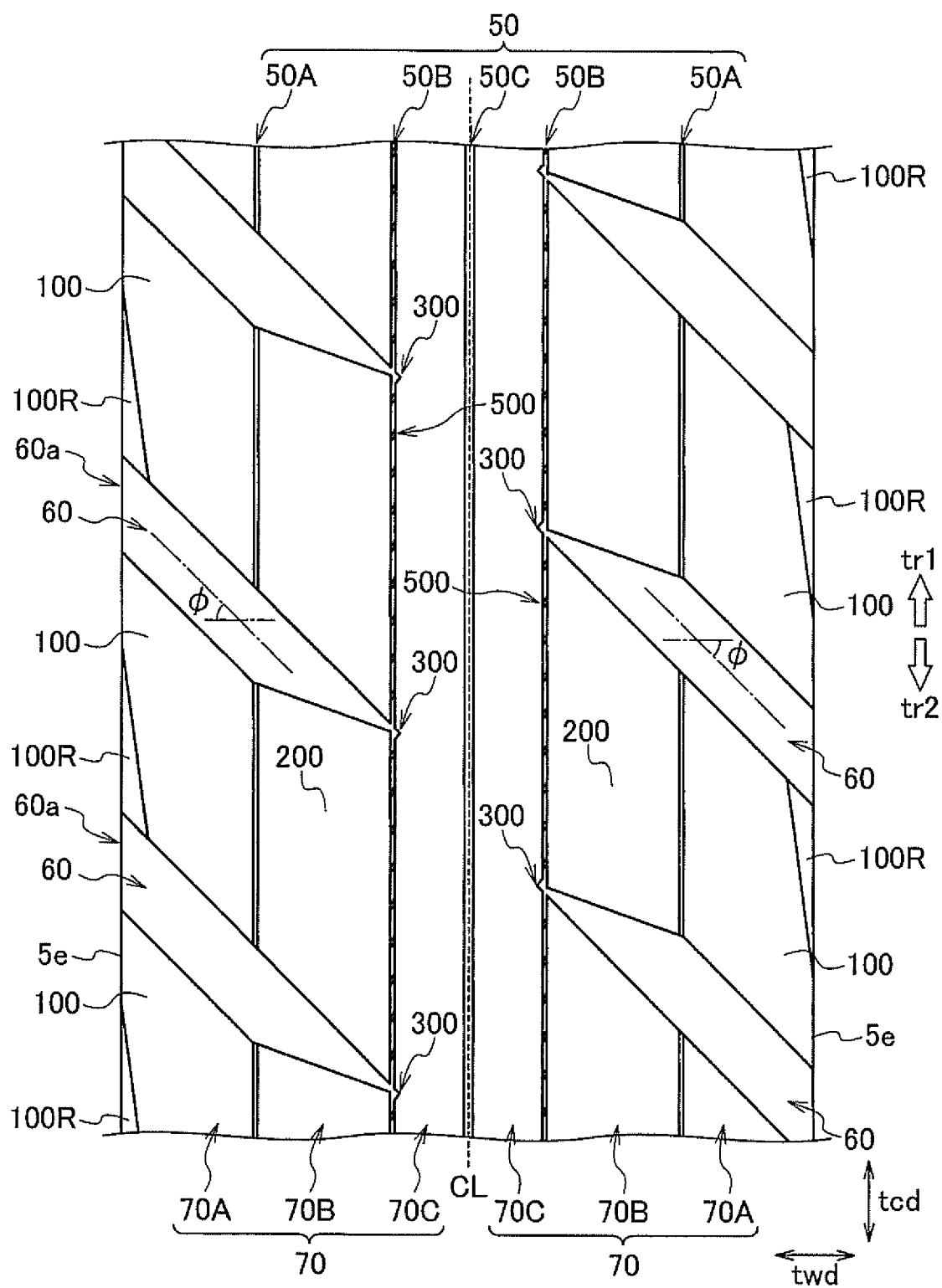


FIG. 2

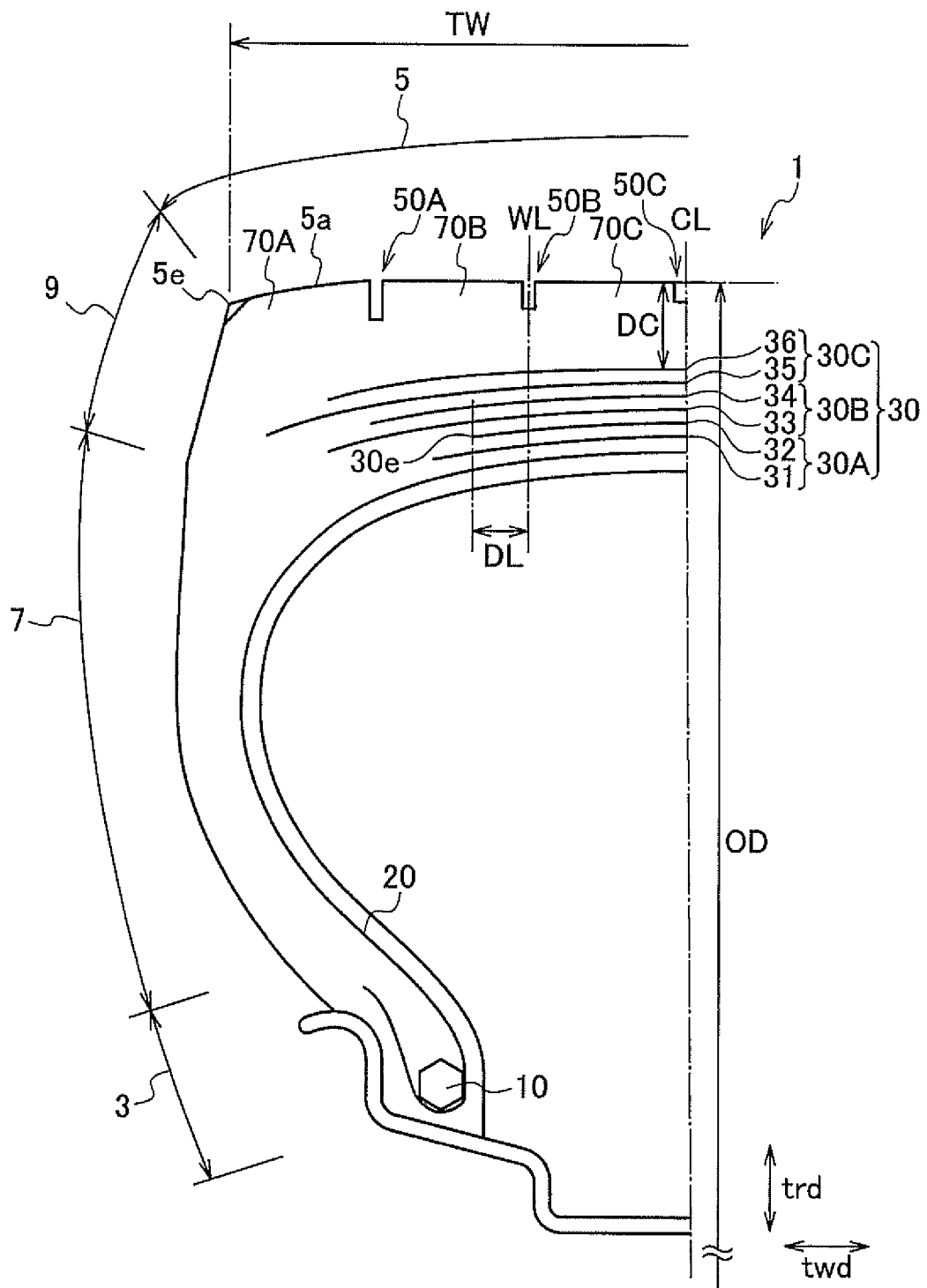


FIG. 4

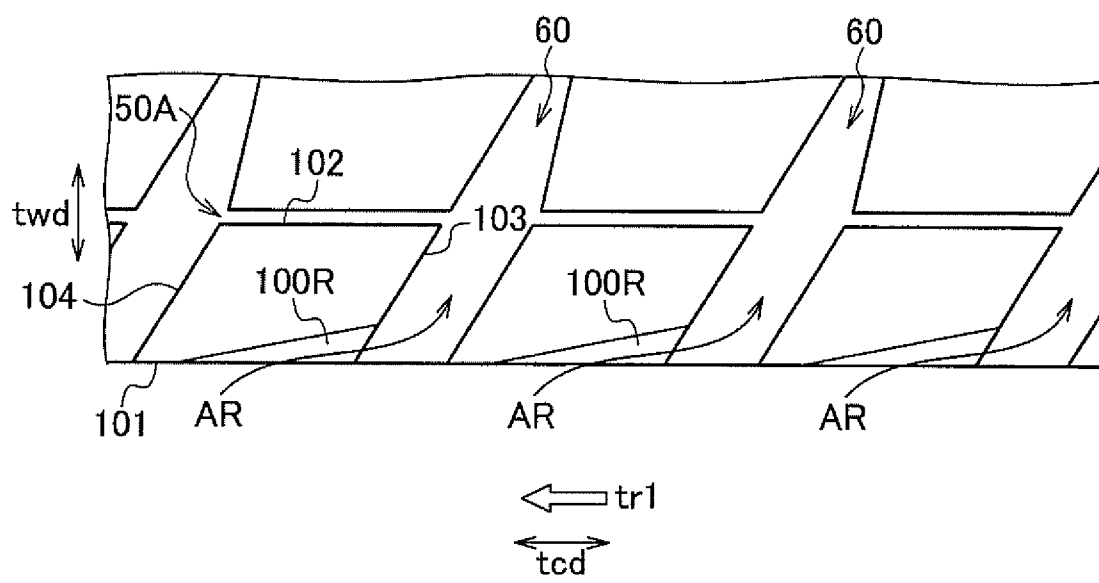


FIG. 5

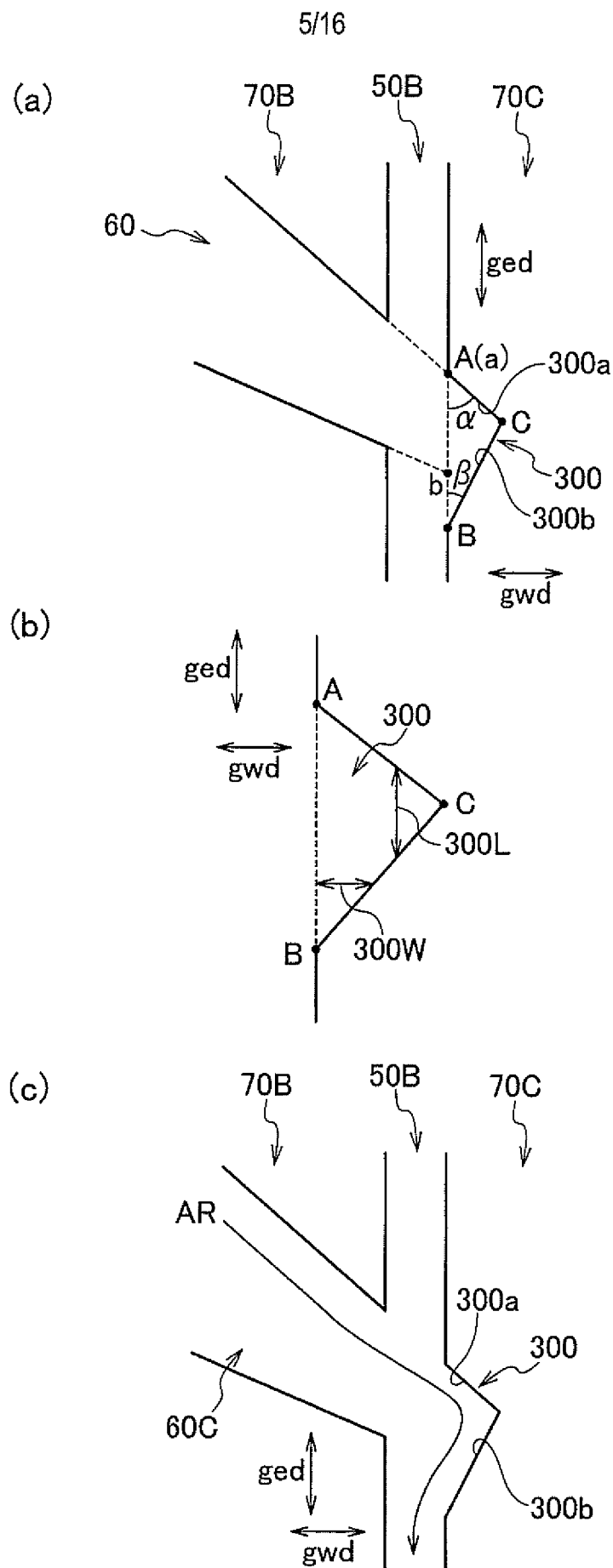


FIG. 6

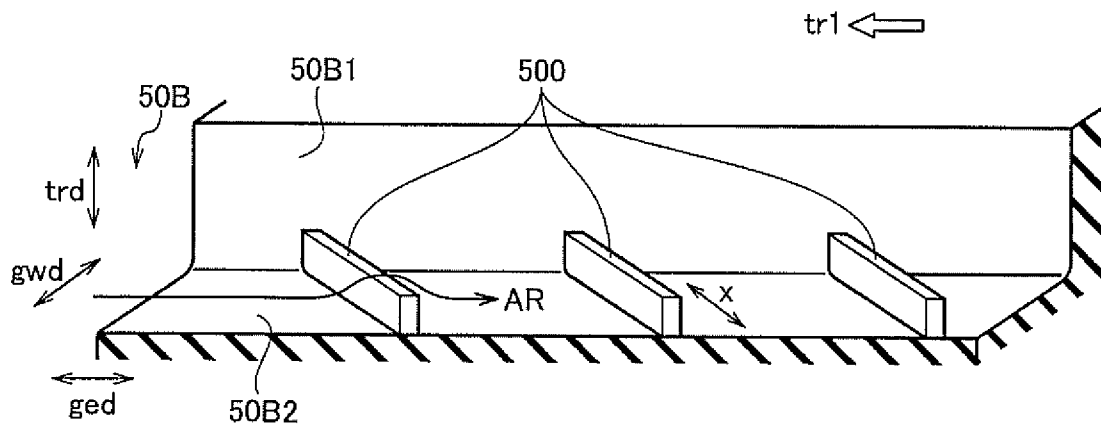


FIG. 7

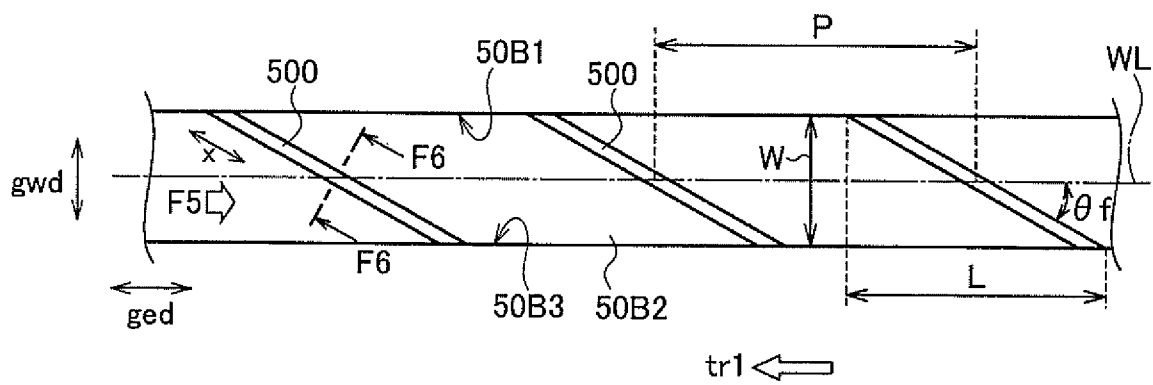


FIG. 8

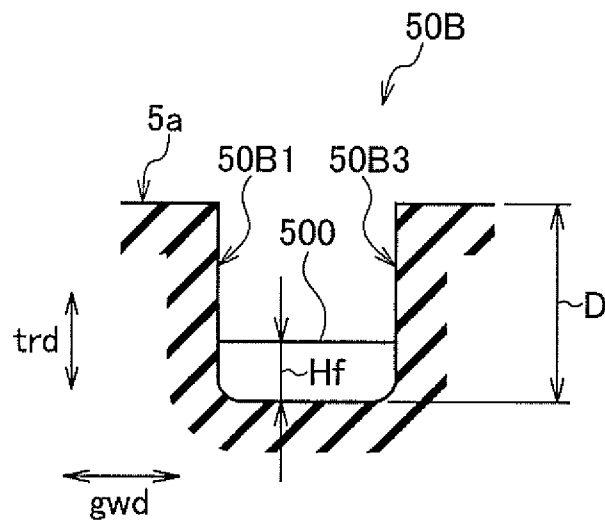


FIG. 9

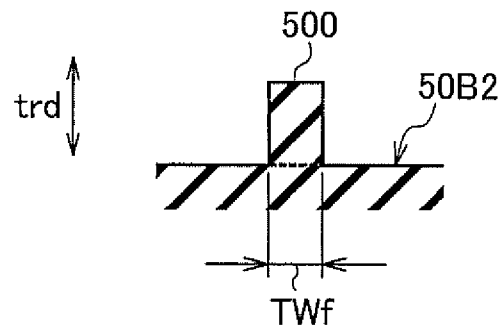
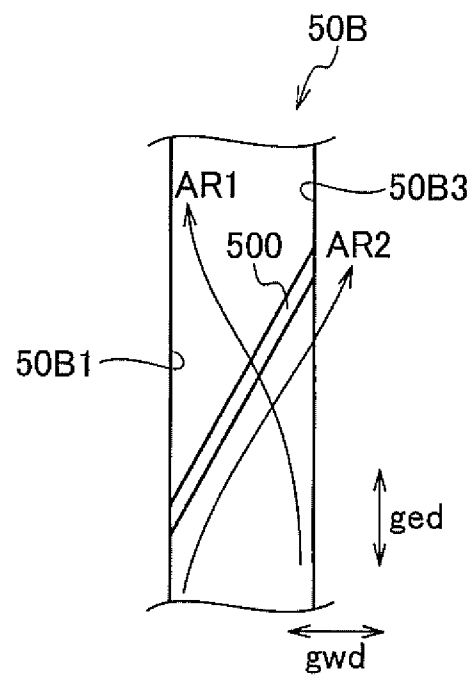
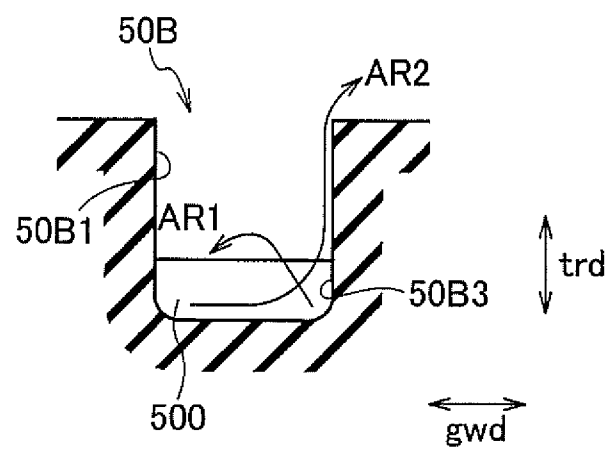


FIG. 10

(a)



(b)



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FIG. 11

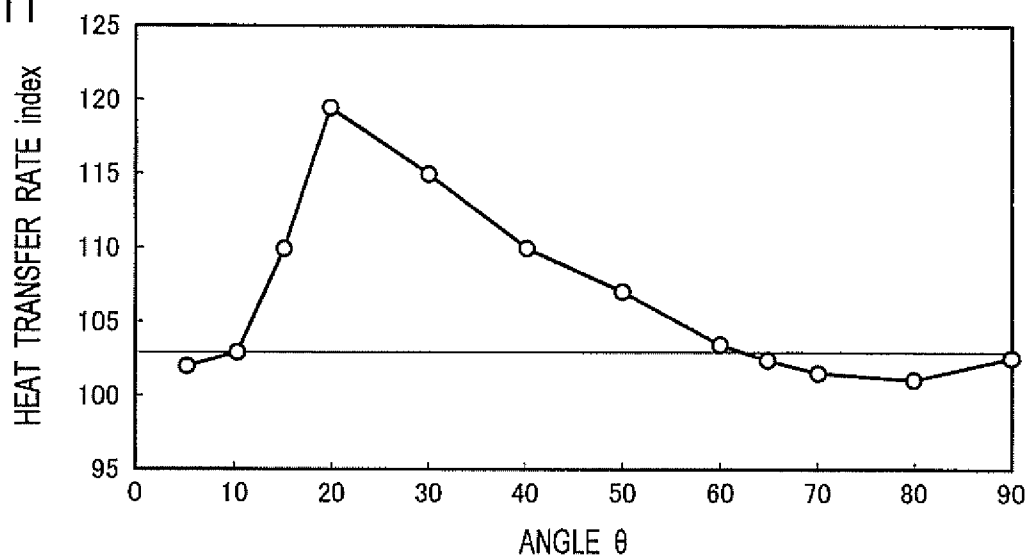


FIG. 12

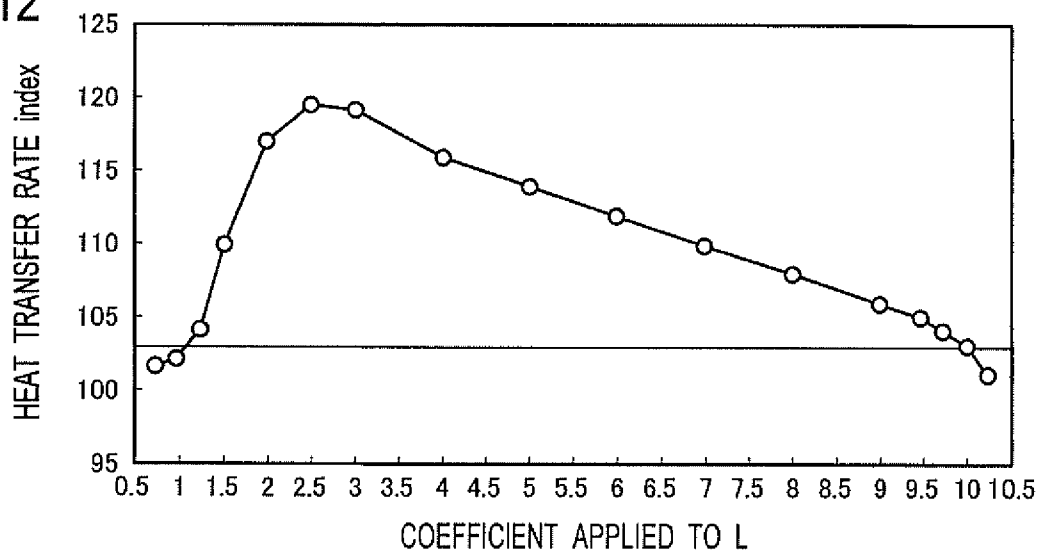


FIG. 13

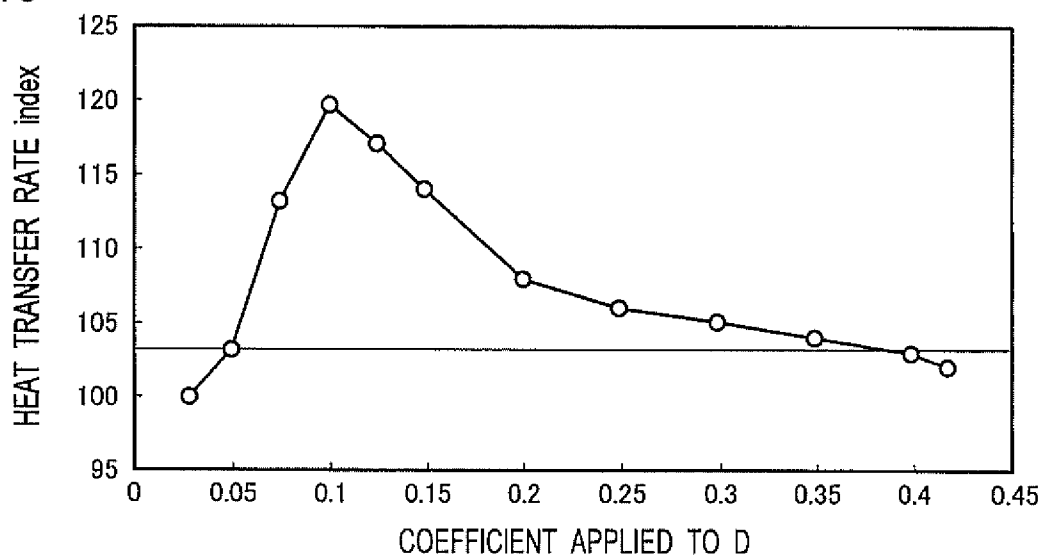
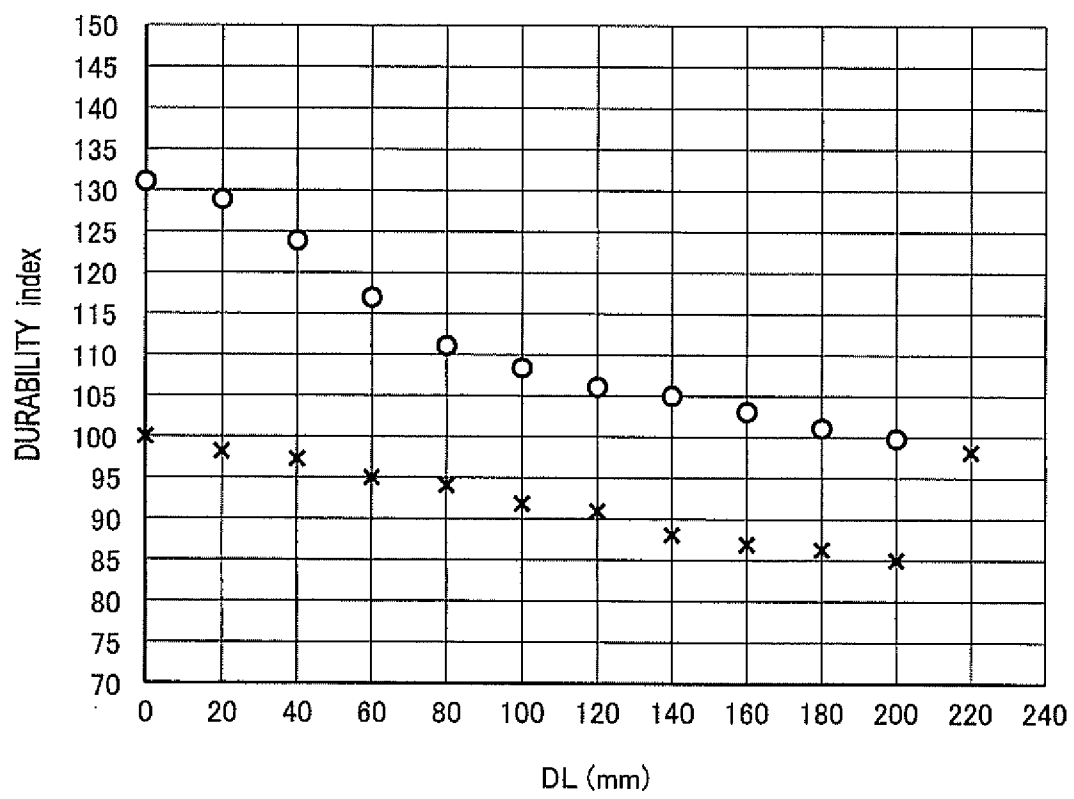


FIG. 14



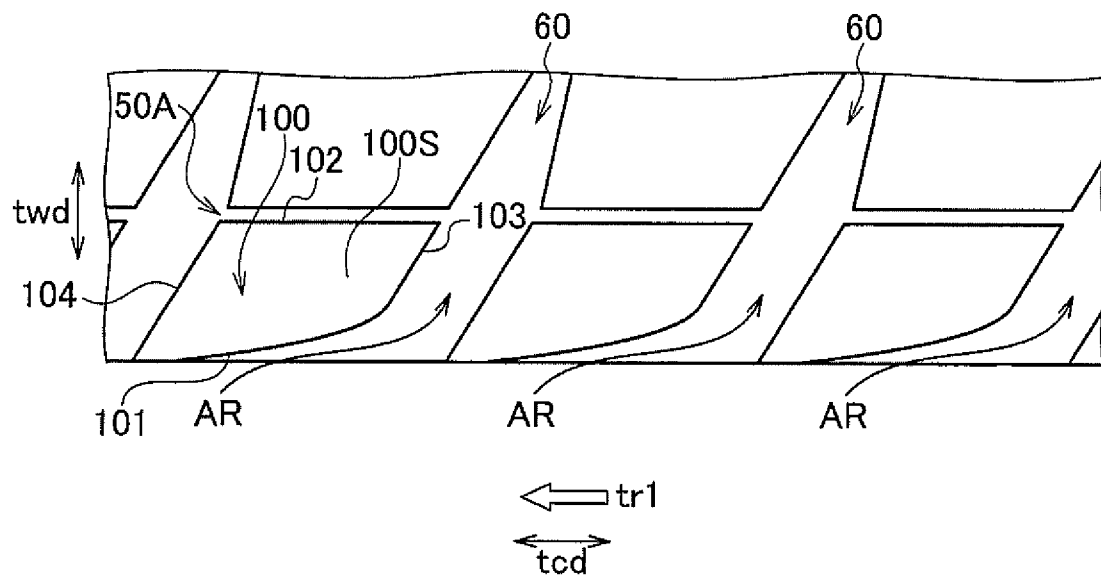


FIG. 19

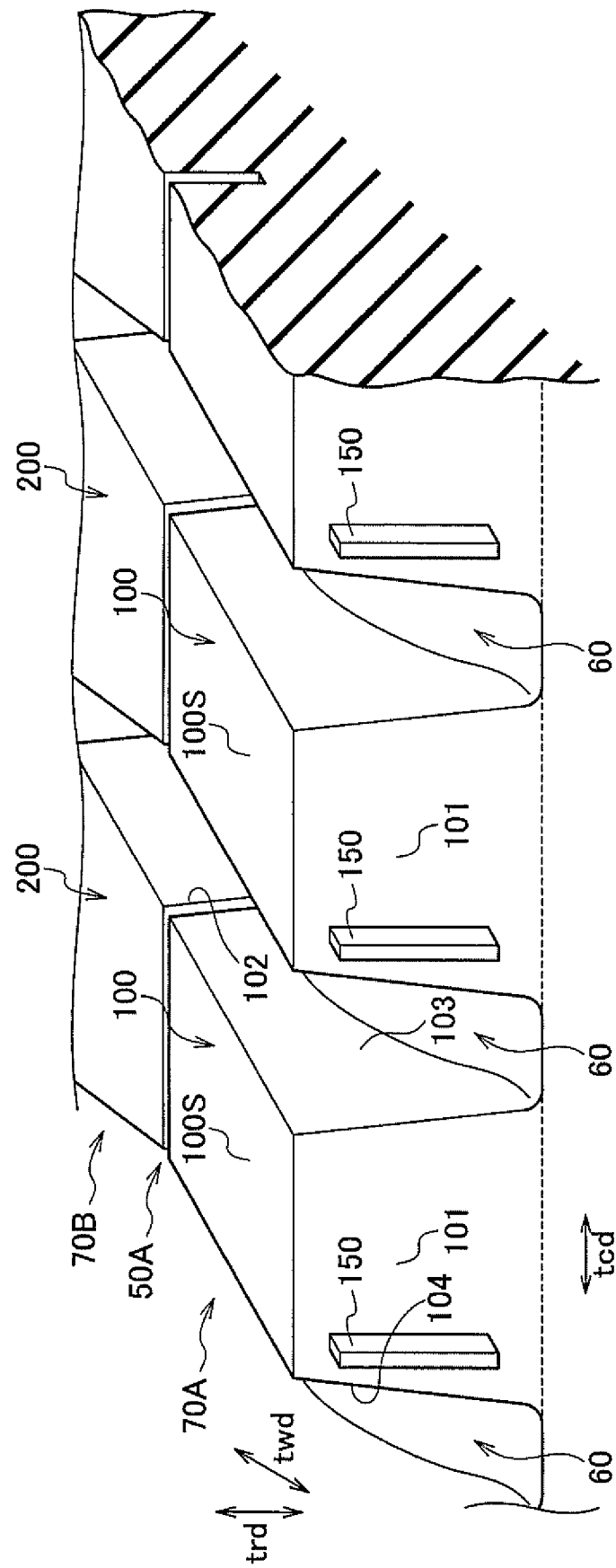


FIG. 20

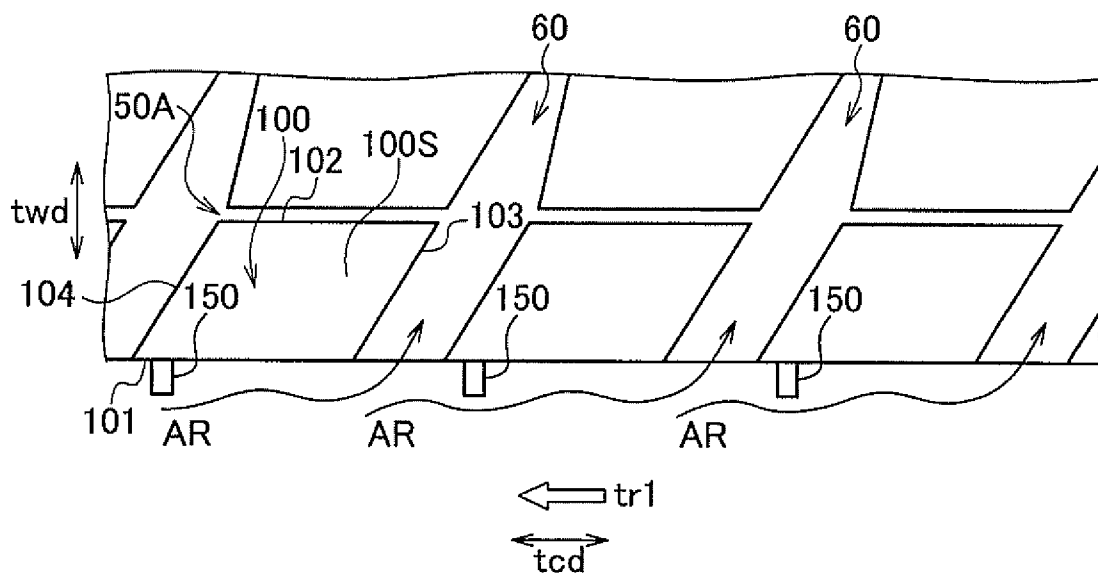


FIG. 21

