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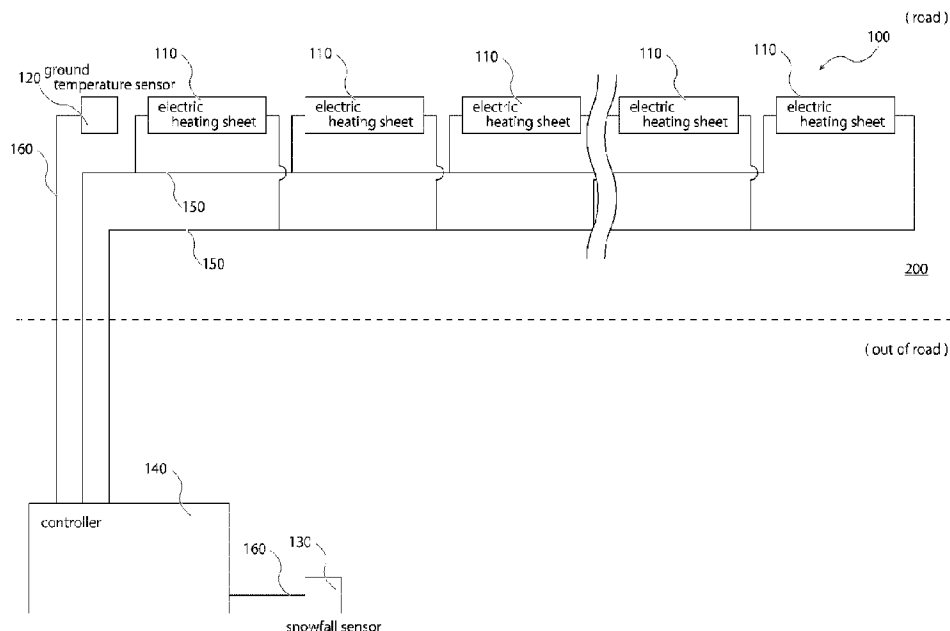
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(54) **Titre : DISPOSITIF DE CHAUFFAGE DE LA SURFACE DE ROUTE, METHODE DE FABRICATION, METHODE DE CHAUFFAGE DE LA SURFACE DE ROUTE, ET SYSTEME DE CHAUFFAGE DE LA SURFACE DE ROUTE**
(54) **Title: ROAD SURFACE HEATING DEVICE, CONSTRUCTION METHOD THEREOF, ROAD SURFACE HEATING METHOD, AND ROAD SURFACE HEATING SYSTEM**



(57) **Abrégé/Abstract:**

The present invention intends to provide a road surface heating device, a method of constructing the road surface heating device, a road surface heating method, and a road surface heating system capable of heating a road at a saved energy and having excellent maintainability. [Means for Solution] A plurality of belt-shaped electric heating sheets are buried in divisional sections where a construction section is divided into a plurality of sections, along the traveling direction of a road requiring heating, with a sheet plane being in perpendicular to a road surface, and a connection structure for connecting the plurality of electric heating sheets to a power supply via a power line.

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Abstract:

The present invention intends to provide a road surface heating device, a method of constructing the road surface heating device, a road surface heating method, and a road surface heating system capable of heating a road at a saved energy and having excellent maintainability. [Means for Solution] A plurality of belt-shaped electric heating sheets are buried in divisional sections where a construction section is divided into a plurality of sections, along the traveling direction of a road requiring heating, with a sheet plane being in perpendicular to a road surface, and a connection structure for connecting the plurality of electric heating sheets to a power supply via a power line.

DESCRIPTION

Title of the Invention

Road Surface Heating Device, Construction Method Thereof, Road Surface Heating Method, and Road Surface Heating System

Technical Field

[0001]

The present invention relates to a road surface heating device, a construction method of the road surface heating device, a road surface heating method, and a road surface heating system and, more in particular, it relates to the road surface heating device, the construction method of the road surface heating device, the road surface heating method, and the road surface heating system for elevating the temperature of a road surface.

Background Art

[0002]

In heavy snowfall areas, such as Hokkaido, Tohoku and Hokuriku areas, countermeasures against snow and freezing in winter have imposed very serious subjects in order to maintain regional activities in winter and to ensure the safety of local residents.

[0003]

As a common countermeasure against snowfall, shoveling by using shovels has been carried out for snow removal, and industrial snow countermeasures include snow removing or excavating works by using heavy machineries and snow plows. In addition, road heating systems are sometimes used in highways of large vertical inclinations in order to prevent road surface from freezing (refer, for example, to Patent Reference 1).

[0004]

For example, the Patent Reference 1 discloses a simple and less expensive anti-freezing and snow-melting road structure. In the antifreezing and snow-melting road structure, a far-infrared electric heating sheet 30 is interposed between a base layer 21 and a surface layer 22 of an asphalt pavement 20 of a road 1, a far-infrared element is disposed in the asphalt of the surface layer 22 and, further, a far-infrared lamps 40 are arranged in the shoulder of the road 1.

[0005]

By electric current supply to the far infrared heating sheet 30, far infrared rays emitted from the far infrared heating sheet 30 are absorbed to the far infrared elements blended in the asphalt of the surface layer 22, so that the structure is simple and inexpensive, to prevent freezing and snow accumulation

efficiently.

[0006]

Further, since a far infrared lamp 40 installed at the shoulder of the road 1 emits far infrared rays toward the surface of the road 1, it is possible to melt the frozen surface and prevent snow from depositing on the road surface. Further, the far-infrared rays emitted from the far-infrared ray lamp 40 are irradiated to the far-infrared elements blended with the asphalt of the surface layer 22, so that the far-infrared rays emitted from the far-infrared sheet 30 can prevent road from freezing and snow from depositing on the surface efficiently, easily and inexpensively.

[0007]

However, in order to bury the anti-freezing and snow-melting preventing structure disclosed in the Patent Reference 1 in an existent road, it is necessary to first dig out the load at the surface layer 22 covered with an asphalt or concrete pavement, and then fill back the far-infrared heating sheet 30 horizontally over the exposed base layer 21.

[0008]

Thus, it is necessary to refill the excavated surface layer 22 of asphalt or concrete pavement. Therefore, not only a lot of construction works were

required, but also this may hinder smooth road traffic.

[0009]

Then, a road heating structure that can facilitate the installation of electric heating sheets and improve the melting efficiency for the road surface has been developed when the road heating structure is installed to the road (refer, for example, to Patent Reference 2).

[0010]

For example, in the road surface heating structure of the Patent Reference 2, each of containing grooves 11b is formed first in a direction perpendicular to the surface 11a of a road 11 made of concrete C, and a belt-shaped electric heating sheet 12 is buried in the containing groove 11b formed in a direction in perpendicular to the surface 11a. Next, by filling a gap between the inner surface of the containing groove 11b and the lateral surface of the electric heating sheet 12 with an insulative mortar 13, the electric heating sheet 12 is buried and fixed in the containing groove 11b.

[0011]

This can eliminate the need of extraction work to bury the electric heating sheet in the road over a wide range. Since the containing groove 11b can be formed easily by a road cutter or the like, the belt-shaped electric heating sheet 12 can be contained easily and continuously over a long distance.

Citation List

Patent Literature

[0012]

Patent Literature 1: JP-A 2001-81710

Patent Literature 2: JP-A 2007-231655

Summary of the Invention

Technical Problem

[0013]

However, roads involve places tending to be frozen, easy to be covered with snow, and tend to remain snow. For example, roads on bridges tend to be frozen. Further, snow tends to remain in a place of the road that is always in the shade of buildings. In addition, such shade areas exist spotwise in the road, so that the environment of the road is not always uniform.

[0014]

Even if roads under such varied environments are heated by burying long belt-shaped electric heating sheets as in the Patent Reference 2, effect of thawing a frozen part and melting deposited snow may be attained only for a place where it is easy to freeze or where snow is easy to accumulate. However, in other places, the road is heated only in vain and to waste energy.

[0015]

For solving the problem, it may be considered to adjust the temperature over the entire length of the road. However, even when the entire electric heating sheet is set to a high temperature in accordance with the state of freezing of road or remaining of snow that may occur depending on places, effects may be expected only in specific portions tending to cause road freezing of snow deposition.

On the contrary, if the temperature is adjusted depending the conditions on a place where freezing or snow remaining does not occur, this is not effective in other places where freezing or snow remaining may occur, and melting and thawing cannot be attained in the places where they are necessary.

[0016]

In addition, since the road may expand or contract due to vibrations caused by automobiles and seasonal temperature differences, if an electric heating sheet is buried for a longtime in a road where vibrations or expansions and contractions always occur, the electric heating sheet may be damaged due to the vibrations and expansions or contractions of the road.

[0017]

For example, when a belt-shaped electric heating sheet buried in a road over a long distance is disconnected even

partially, this leads to entire failure due to vibrations or expansions and contractions of the road, and brings about a problem that the whole electric heating sheet can no more be heated.

[0018]

Further, upon such failure, it is necessary to identify and repair a place of the failed place from the buried electric heating sheet, but it is very difficult to identify a failed place from the buried electric heating sheet. In order to recover the road heating, it is necessary to dig up all the electric heating sheets and then identify the point of the broken wire from the electric heating sheet, or to re-fill the new electric heating sheet entirely. Then, this will make maintainability very poor.

[0019]

Furthermore, in order to dig up the buried electric heating sheet, it is necessary to close the traffic lane on one side during the day time repair work when there is a lot of traffic, which may hinder the traffic. In addition, it was difficult to perform a large-scale construction work because the work had to be carried out in the daytime while closing the track on one side or carried out in a limited time of the midnight with less traffic, making large-scale construction difficult.

[0020]

The present invention has been achieved in view of the foregoing and intends to provide a road surface heating device, a method of constructing the road surface heating device, a road surface heating method, and a road surface heating system, capable of heating a road at a saved energy to provide excellent maintainability.

Solution to Problem

[0021]

For solving the subjects, the present invention intends to provide a road surface heating device for elevating the temperature of a road surface including:

a plurality of belt-shaped electric heating sheets buried in divisional sections, along the traveling direction of the road, with a sheet plane being in perpendicular to the road surface,

a connection structure for linking the plurality of electric heating sheets and connecting them to a power supply, and

a controller for controlling the amount of heating the electric heating sheets connected to the connection structure in each of the divisional section.

[0022]

According to the invention, a construction section is divided into a plurality of sections and a plurality of belt-

shaped electric heating sheets are buried in each of the divisional sections, along the traveling direction of a road requiring temperature elevation, with a sheet plane being in perpendicular to a road surface, a connection structure for links a plurality of electric heating sheets and connects them to a power supply, and a controller controls the heating amount of the electric heating sheets connected to the connection structure in each divisional section.

[0023]

Further, the present invention provides a method of constructing the road surface heating device for elevating the temperature of a road the surface, including:

a step of burying a plurality of belt-shaped electric heating sheets in each of divisional sections obtained by dividing a construction section into a plurality of divisional sections, along the traveling direction of the road requiring heating, with a sheet plane being in perpendicular to the road surface, and

a step of linking the the plurality of electric heating sheets and connecting them to the power supply by the connection structure, in which

the controller controls the heating amount of the heating sheet according to the presence or absence of snowfall or the amount of snowfall detected by the snowfall detection means, and

a step of connecting a controller for controlling the heating amount of the electric heating sheets in each of the divisional sections to the connection structure.

[0024]

Thus, a plurality of belt-shaped electric heating sheets are buried the divisional sections where a construction section is divided into a plurality of sections, along the traveling direction of a road requiring heating, with a sheet plane being in perpendicular to the road surface, where the plurality of electric heating sheets are linked by the connection structure and connected to the power supply, and the heating amount of the electric heating sheets linked to the connection structure in each of the divisional sections is controlled by the controller.

[0025]

Further, the present invention provides a road surface heating method for elevating the temperature of a road surface including:

a step of burying a plurality of belt-shaped electric heating sheets in divisional sections where a construction section is divided into a plurality of sections, along the traveling direction of the road requiring heating, with a sheet plane, being in perpendicular to the road surface;

a step of linking structure a plurality of electric heating sheets are connected to a power supply; and

a step of controlling the heating amount of the electric heating sheets connected to the connection structure in each of the divisional sections.

[0026]

Thus, a plurality of belt-shaped electric heating sheets are buried in a divisional section where a construction section is divided into a plurality of sections, along the traveling direction of a road requiring heating, with a sheet plane being in perpendicular to a road surface, a connection structure linking the plurality of electric heating sheets and connecting them to a power supply, and a controller for controlling the heating amount of the electric heating sheets connected to the connection structure in each of divisional sections.

[0027]

Further, the present invention provides a road surface heating system for elevating the temperature of a road surface, including;

a plurality of belt-shaped electric heating sheets buried in divisional sections divided in plurality from the working section, along the traveling direction of the road, with a sheet plane being in perpendicular to the road surface, a connection structure for linking a plurality of electric heating sheets and connecting them to a power supply; and

a controller for controlling the heating amount of the electric heating connected to the connection structure in each of the divisional sections; and

a mobile power supply vehicle for supplying electric power to the connection structure.

[0028]

Thus, a plurality of belt-shaped electric heating sheets are buried in each of divisional sections where a construction section is divided into each of a plurality of sections, along the traveling direction of a road requiring heating, with a sheet plane being in perpendicular to a road surface,

a connection structure connects the plurality of electric heating sheets to a power supply,

a controller controls the heating amount of the electric heating sheets connected to the connection structure in each of divisional sections, and

a power supply vehicle that supplies electric power to the connection structure.

Another aspect of the present invention provides a road surface heating device for elevating the temperature of a road surface including:

a plurality of belt-shaped electric heating sheets buried in divisional sections along the traveling direction of the road, with a plane of the sheet being in perpendicular to the road surface, and

a connection structure for linking the plurality of electric heating sheets and connecting them to a power source, and

a controller for controlling the amount of heating of the electric heating sheets connected to the connection structure in each of divisional sections.

Another aspect of the present invention provides a method of constructing a road surface heating device for elevating the temperature of the road surface, including:

a step of burying a plurality of belt-shaped electric heating sheets in divisional sections where a construction section is divided into a plurality of sections, along the traveling direction of the road requiring heating, with the sheet plane being in perpendicular to the road surface,

a step of linking a plurality of electric heating sheets and connecting them to a power source, and

a step of linking a plurality of heating sheets to a controller that controls the amount of heat from the electric heating sheets in each of divisional sections connected to the connection structure; and

a step of connecting the controller for controlling the amount of heat generated from the electric heating sheets in each of the divisional sheets.

Another aspect of the present invention provides a road

surface heating method for elevating the temperature of a road surface, including:

- a step of burying a plurality of belt-shaped electric heating sheets, along divisional sections where the construction section is divided into a plurality of sections, along the traveling direction of the road requiring heating, with a sheet plane being in perpendicular to the road surface,

- a step of connecting a plurality of electric heating sheets and connecting them to a power source;

- a step of connecting the controller for controlling the heating amount of the electric heating sheets connected to the connection structure in each of the divisional sections; and

- a step of controlling the heating amount of the electric heating sheets connected to the connection structure by the controller.

Another aspect of the present invention provides a road surface heating system for elevating the temperature of a road surface, including:

- a plurality of belt-shaped electric heating sheets buried in divisional sections, along the traveling direction of the road in which a construction section is divided into a plurality of sections, with a sheet plane being in perpendicular to the road surface;

- a connection structure for connecting the plurality of electric heating sheets to a power source; and

a controller for controlling the heating amount of the electric heating sheets connected to the connection structure in each of the divisional sections; and

a power source mobile vehicle for supplying electric power to the connection structure.

Advantageous Effect of the Invention

[0029]

According to the road surface heating device, the construction method of the road surface heating device, the road surface heating method, and the road surface heating system of the present invention, since a plurality of belt-

shaped electric heating sheets are buried in each of the divisional sections where the construction section is divided into a plurality of sections, along the traveling direction of a road requiring heating, with the sheet plane being in perpendicular to the road surface, and the connection structure links the plurality of electric heating sheets and connecting them to a power supply, the controller controls the heating amount of the electric heating sheets connected to the connection structure in each of the divisional sections, the temperature for each of divisional sections can be controlled in which the construction section is divided into a plurality of sections. Further, since a plurality of electric heating sheets are buried in each of the divisional sections, it is sufficient to replace only the failed portion of the electric heating sheet, thereby improving maintainability.

Brief Explanation of Drawings

[0030]

FIG. 1 is a block diagram illustrating the concept of a road heating system according to a first embodiment of the invention;

FIG. 2 is a front elevational view showing details of an electric heating sheet according to the first embodiment;

Fig. 3 is a cross-sectional view of a road along the travelling direction showing the process of installing the

electric heating sheet to the road;

FIG. 4 is a block diagram showing details of a controller;

FIG 5 is a top plan view and cross-sectional view of a road with a road heating system installed on a pier;

FIG. 6 is a cross sectional view showing a road heating system along the travelling direction;

FIG. 7 is a top plan view showing a road heating system installed in the vicinity of a tollbooth;

FIG. 8 shows a plurality of examples of a method of controlling divisional sections;

FIG. 9 is a block diagram illustrating the concept of a road heating system according to a second embodiment;

FIG. 10 is a front elevational view showing details of an electric heating sheet according to the second embodiment;

FIG. 11 is a front elevational view showing a state of connecting the electric heating sheet according to the second embodiment;

FIG. 12 is a front elevational view showing details of an electric heating sheet according to a third embodiment; and

FIG. 13 is a front elevational view illustrating a method of forming an electric heating sheet.

Preferred Embodiments of the Invention

[0031]

Preferred embodiments of the present invention will now be described in details with reference to the drawings.

First Embodiment

[0032]

FIG. 1 is a block diagram showing the concept of a road heating system according to the first embodiment.

A road heating system 100 shown in FIG. 1 is for melting snowfall on the ground of a road, a sidewalk, a parking lot or the like, and preventing the ground surface from freezing. Hereinafter, the road heating system 100 will be described by way of an example in a case where the road heating system 100 is installed on an existing road 200, in particular, an exclusively used for automobile road such as a highway.

[0033]

As shown in FIG. 1, the road heating system 100 includes electric heating sheets 110, a ground temperature sensor 120, a snowfall sensor 130, a controller 140, a power line 150, and a communication cable 160.

[0034]

The electric heating sheet 110 is a belt-shaped heating element at a length of 2,000 mm and a height of 80 mm, and buried in a containing groove at a depth of 90 mm and a width of 24 mm formed vertically from the surface of the road 200, along the traveling direction of automobiles running on the

road 200, so that the short side of the electric heating sheet 110 direct the vertical direction.

[0035]

The electric heating sheet 110 generates heat from both sides of the electric heating sheet 110 by electric power supplied via the electric power line 150, and can melt snow falling on the road 200 and prevent freezing of the ground by heating at the periphery of the road 200 in contact with the electric heating sheet 110.

[0036]

A plurality of the electric heating sheets 110 are installed in each of divisional sections formed by dividing a predetermined sections in a road 200 into a plurality of sections for constructing the road heating system 100.

As a specific example, in a case where a road heating system 100 is installed in a 3 km construction section, the electric heating sheets 110 are installed by an arbitrary number at a predetermined interval in a 30 m divisional section obtained by dividing the construction section into a number of 100. The electric heating sheets 110 are connected in parallel by the power lines 150. The distance and the number of divisions of the divisional sections and the number of electric heating sheets 110 buried in the divisional sections may be changed depending on the state of construction.

[0037]

The ground temperature sensor 120 is a temperature sensor for measuring the temperature of the road 200 in which the electric heating sheets 110 are buried. The sensor is buried together with the electric heating sheet 110 in a containing groove that contains the electric heating sheet 110, and may detect to notify the temperature of the road 200 where the electric heating sheet is buried.

[0038]

The ground temperature sensor 120 is installed at least by one in the divisional section, and detects and notifies the measured temperature of the road 200 to the controller 140 connected via a communication cable 160.

[0039]

A ground temperature sensors 120 may be disposed in the vicinity of each of electric heating sheets 110 buried in plurality or at a predetermined interval in the divisional section, and may detect and notify the temperature in the vicinity of the buried ground temperature sensor 120.

[0040]

The snowfall sensor 130 is a sensor for detecting snowfall and installed, for example, above the ground near the road 200 in which the electric heating sheets 110 are buried. Specifically, it may be fixed to a sound proof wall or a guardrail disposed near the road 200.

[0041]

Examples of the snowfall sensor 130 include a moisture detection type sensor having an external atmospheric temperature measuring means and a moisture detection means for determining snowfall based on the acquired external atmospheric temperature and moisture, an infrared detection type sensor for detecting snow as an obstacle by irradiating infrared rays, etc.

[0042]

The snowfall sensor 130 is installed at least by one in the divisional section and notifies the presence or absence of snowfall or the amount of snowfall to the controller 140 connected via a communication cable 160. Further, the snowfall sensor 130 may be installed at least by one each at a predetermined interval in the divisional section, and may detect the presence or absence of snowfall or the amount of snowfall each in the vicinity of the installed snowfall sensor 130.

[0043]

In the controller 140, a plurality of electric heating sheets 110 are connected via a power line 150, and a ground temperature sensor 120 and a snowfall sensor 130 are connected via respective communication cables 160, and the controller 140 is operated by receiving electric power supplied from a power supply such as a commercial power supply not shown.

[0044]

Specifically, the controller 140 acquires the temperature of the road 200 from the ground temperature sensor 120 connected via the communication cable 160, detects the presence or absence of snowfall and the amount of snowfall from a snowfall sensor 130 connected via the communication cable 160, and controls the amount of power supplied to the electric heating sheet 110.

[0045]

For example, when the ground temperature sensor 120 detects a temperature below a predetermined level, for example, 5°C, the electric power supply to the electric heating sheet 110 is started, whereby the electric heating sheet 110 generates heat, to heat the road 200 that surrounds the electric heating sheet 110.

[0046]

Thus, the road 200 can be prevented from freezing. Alternatively, electric power supply to the electric heating sheet 110 may be controlled depending on the temperature of the road 200 detected by the ground temperature sensor 120 to keep the temperature of the road 200 constant.

[0047]

When the snowfall sensor 130 detects snowfall or judges that the amount of snowfall tends to increase, power supply to the electric heating sheet 110 is started, to generate heat from the electric heating sheet 110, and heat the peripheral

road 200 where the electric heating sheet 110 is buried to prevent snowfall on the road 200 from remaining.

[0048]

The controller 140 may also be connected to other controllers 140 installed in other divisional sections (not shown) by way of the communication cable 160, and a plurality of controllers 140 connected by the communication cable 160 may be connected to a network such as an internet (not shown) by way of a wiring or in a wireless manner, to control each of controllers 140 from the outside by a terminal device such as a computer connected to the network such as the internet.

[0049]

The power line 150 serves to connect the electric heating sheet 110 and the controller 140, and transmit the electric power supplied from the controller 140 to the electric heating sheet 110, and comprises, for example, a heat resistant, water resistant and flexible cable.

[0050]

The communication cable 160 serves to transmit information by a wiring mode such as an optical fiber cable or a LAN (local area network) cable. In this embodiment, the ground temperature sensor 120 and the snowfall sensor 130 are connected to the controller 140 via the communication cables 160. In addition, the ground temperature sensor 120 and the snowfall sensor 130 may be connected in a wireless manner to

the controller 140 by using a short-range wireless communication technology.

[0051]

As described above, in the road heating system 100 of this embodiment, a plurality of electric heating sheets 110 are buried in divisional sections formed by dividing a predetermined section of constructing the road heating system 100 in the road 200 into a plurality of sections, and the controller 140 can control the operation of the electric heating sheets 110 on each of the divisional sections. Accordingly, the temperature can be controlled on each of the divisional sections. Thus, the electric heating sheet 110 no more generates heat in a part where heating of the road 200 is unnecessary, so that the energy efficiency is improved.

[0052]

Further, since the electric heating sheets 110 are connected in parallel between the power lines 150, if one of the electric heating sheets 110 installed in plurality should happen be disconnected partially by vibrations or expansions and contractions of the road 200 due to earthquake or automobile traffic, and heat can be generated from other heating sheets 110.

[0053]

In addition, since the electric heating sheet 110 no more generates heat due to disconnection or the like, causing

no temperature elevation, location of the disconnected electric heating sheet 110 can be easily identified from the outside, and by replating the electric heating sheet 110, it is necessary to excavate only the failed portion and replace the disconnected electric heating sheets 110 (for about 2,000 mm or more), so that the maintainability can be improved.

[0054]

Further, when the controller 140 having the electric heating sheets 110 connected in parallel is provided with a power supply detection means or a leakage detection means, and the location of the disconnected electric heating sheets 110 can be specified without confirming the temperature from the outside. In addition, when the electric heating sheet 110 is no longer energized, the power supply detecting means may notify warning to an administrator or the like.

[0055]

FIG. 2 is a front elevational view showing details of the electric heating sheet according to the first embodiment.

As shown in FIG. 2, the electric heating sheet 110 is a belt-shaped rectangular heating element at a length of 2,000 mm, a height of 80 mm, and a thickness of 1 mm, and includes a heating part 111, electrode parts 112, and a protective sheet part 113.

[0056]

The heating part 111 is a rectangular sheet-like heating

strip that generates heat upon voltage supply. The heating part 111 is made, for example, of Japanese paper mixed with carbon fibers, which generates heat not by gathering electric wires like an existent metal wire heater, but generates heat uniformly from a sheet-like heating part 111 under voltage supply, so that the whole of the heating part 111 generates heat not from the wires but from the surface.

[0057]

Since the road 200 is in contact with the heating part 111 is warmed for a wider planar shape, the amount of heat generated by the heating part 111 can be transmitted efficiently to the road 200. Ice and snow deposited on the surface of the road 200 can be melted by warming the road 200. It is also possible to prevent snow from accumulating to the surface of the road 200 thereby preventing the surface of the road 200 from freezing.

[0058]

The electrode parts 112 are terminals provided on both longitudinal ends of the heating part 111, and include an anode and a cathode for passing a current to the heating part 111. The electrode parts 112 are connected in parallel to the controller 140 by a power line 150 (not shown). By connecting the electric heating sheets 110 in parallel with the controller 140 in this manner, even if the electric heating sheets 110 are partially disconnected, the road 200 can be

heated without stopping heat generation from other electric heating sheets 110.

[0059]

Since the damaged electric heating sheets 110 can be replaced sheet by sheet, it may suffice to excavate the road 200 only at a portion where the damaged electric heating sheet 110 is buried, only the damaged electric heating sheet 110 needs to be replaced, so that the amount of repair work and maintenance work can be decreased to improve the maintainability.

[0060]

The protective sheet part 113 comprises a film material for protecting the electric heating sheet 110 and a connection part between the electric heating sheet 110 and the electrode part 112, which is a water resistant, heat resistant and impact resistant strong film material comprising, for example, polyethylene terephthalate, and is crimped between both sides by the protective sheet parts 113 so as to sandwich the electric heating sheet 110 and the connection part between the electric heating sheet 110 and the electrode parts 112.

Also, butyl rubber of excellent heat resistance, cold resistance, weather resistance, water resistance or the like can be used for the protective sheet part 113.

[0061]

FIG. 3 is a cross sectional view of a road in the

traveling direction that shows steps of installing an electric heating sheet in the road.

FIG. 3(1) shows a state of forming a electric heating sheet containing groove 211 for electric heating sheets 110 and a cable containing groove 212 burying for a power line 150 and a communication cable 160 in a road 200.

[0062]

The electric heating sheet containing groove 211 is formed of a groove at 90 mm depth 24 mm width in a road 200 along a traveling direction of the road 200 by using a road cutter or the like in a section where the road heating system 100 is constructed.

[0063]

As a place to form the electric heating sheet containing groove 211, two electric heating sheet containing grooves 211 are preferably formed by two tracks (ruts) for one lane in the road 200 where automobiles run frequently. Thus, since the road 200 is warmed along the tracks (ruts) where the automobiles run frequently, snowfall and freezing of the road 200 can be prevented mainly around the tracks, to improve the safety of the automobiles running along the road 200.

[0064]

Even if the white lines drawn on the road 200 become invisible due to snowfall, since the electric heating sheets 110 are buried along the tracks (ruts) on which the

automobiles run frequently, so that snow deposition and freezing of the road 200 around the tracks (ruts) can be prevented on the road 200 by the heat generation of the electric heating sheets 110, so that the tracks can be clearly shown to automobile drivers, to improve the safety of the automobiles running on the road 200.

[0065]

The cable containing grooves 212 are formed each at 90 mm depth 24 mm width in a road 200 by a road cutter or the like in a direction traversing the road 200 along each of divisional sections formed by dividing a construction section.

[0066]

For example, when the road heating system 100 is provided for a 3 km construction section and the construction section is divided into 100 sections with the divisional section be formed 30 m, a cable containing groove 212 is formed on every 30 m divisional section.

[0067]

FIG. 3(2) shows a state of containing electric heating sheets 110, a power line 150, and a communication cable 160 in an electric heating sheet containing groove 211 and a cable containing groove 212 formed in the road 200.

[0068]

First, a heat insulating material 213 is filled to the bottom of an electric heating sheet containing groove 211

formed in a road 200 along a longitudinal direction of the electric heating sheet containing groove 211. The heat insulating material 213 serves to prevent heat generated by the electric heating sheet 110 from escaping downward below the road 200, that is, downward, from the bottom of the electric heating sheet containing groove 211.

[0069]

The heat insulating material 213 is formed, for example, of a material excellent in heat insulation and water resistance such as polystyrene foam or cellulose fiber. By installing the heat insulating material 213 having such heat insulative and water resistant nature by 10 to 30 mm from the bottom of the electric heating sheet containing groove 211, it is possible to prevent downward heat conduction to a road foundation of a steel floor slab, a concrete floor slab or a road foundation structural part of a bridge structure showing high heat loss, thereby improving the horizontal heat conduction of the road 200.

[0070]

Next, the electric heating sheet 110 is inserted in the electric heating sheet containing groove 211 so that the short side direction of the electric heating sheet 110 is in the vertical direction. The electric heating sheet 110 is installed such that the upper end is not exposed from the surface of the road 200. In addition, a ground temperature

sensor 120 (not shown in the drawing) is also disposed at an arbitrary location in the same manner as the electric heating sheet 110 in the electric heating sheet containing groove 211.
[0071]

Since the height of the electric heating sheet 110 is 80 mm relative to the 90 mm depth of the electric heating sheet containing groove 211, the lower end of the electric heating sheet 110 may also be buried in the heat insulating material 213 disposed at the bottom of the electric heating sheet containing groove 211.

[0072]

When the electric heating sheet 110 is located in the electric heating sheet containing groove 211, a support 214 may be inserted preferably into the gap between the electric heating sheet 211 and the electric heating sheet containing groove 211, so that the electric heating sheet 110 is fixed at the center of the electric heating sheet containing groove 110.

[0073]

The support 214 is formed by hardening a material identical with the joint material 215 to be filled in a gap between the electric heating sheet 110 and the electric heating sheet containing groove 211 subsequently, and is formed in such a shape as not hinder the filling of the joint material 215 in a gap between the electric heating sheet 110 and the electric heating sheet containing groove 211.

[0074]

The support 214 is, for example, a solid rod or a plate member having a sufficient width to fill the gap between the electric heating sheet 110 and the electric heating sheet containing groove 211, and is installed in a gap between the electric heating sheet 110 and the electric heating sheet containing groove 211 at a predetermined interval. Since the support 214 is formed of the same material as the joint material 215, it is subsequently integrated with the joint material 215.

[0075]

Also the power line 150 connected to the electric heating sheet 110 and the communication cable 160 connected to the ground temperature sensor 120 may be wired along the electric heating sheet containing groove 211, and then gathered in the cable containing grooves 212, and then provided on both ends of the divisional section.

[0076]

Preferably, the power line 150 and the communication cable 160 may be inserted through a flexible conduit made of a synthetic resin such as a CD (Combined Duct) pipe in advance and then installed in the electric heating sheet containing groove 211 and the cable containing groove 212.

[0077]

FIG. 3(3) shows a state of filling a joint material 215

in a gap between the electric heating sheet 110 and the electric heating sheet containing groove 211.

The joint material 215 comprises an elastic, insulative, and water proof material, for example, a urethane rubber of hydroxy terminated polybutadiene, which is, preferably, liquid at the time of filling and cured later to show strength and flexibility, and is filled in the gap between the electric heating sheet 110 and the electric heating sheet storage groove 211 and the cable containing groove 212.

[0078]

The joint material 215 that is a urethane rubber comprising hydroxy terminated polybutadiene shows high workability in a liquid state upon filling the gap between the electric heating sheet 110 and can provide the electric heating sheet containing groove 211, and high flexibility and strength after curing.

[0079]

Therefore, when compared with a case of filling the gap between the electric heat sheet 110 and the electric heating sheet containing groove 211 with mortar, since the joint material 215 of high flexibility can correspond to the expansion and contraction of the road 200 due to vibration and the temperature difference flexibly, so that the damages of the electric heating sheet 110 caused by expansion and contraction of the road 200 due to the vibration and the

temperature difference can be reduced.

[0080]

Furthermore, if the electric heating sheet 110 is buried in the traffic track (ruts) in the road on which the automobiles runs, since the joint material 215 absorbs the vibrations of the automobiles, the damage of the electric heating sheet 110 can be reduced even for a road at large traffic amounts, and the electric heating sheet 110 can be used for a long time.

[0081]

The support 214 is formed by curing a urethane rubber comprising hydroxy terminated polybutadiene as a joint material 215, and the joint material 215 is cured to integrate the joint material 215 and the support 214.

[0082]

Since the joint material 215 is resistant to calcium chlorides used as an antifreezing agent or a snow melting agent, it is possible to prevent the joint material 215 from deterioration by the snow melting agent, the antifreezing agent or the like scattered on the road 200 and invading into the electric heating sheet containing groove 211.

[0083]

In addition, by incorporating high latent heat melting material such as sodium acetate trihydrate or sodium sulfate 10-hydrate in the joint material 215 to improve the heat

storability of the joint material 215. When the joint material has high heat storability, temperature keeping performance is improved, and the road 200 can be heated at a saved energy.

[0084]

In addition to incorporation of a material having a high latent heat of melting in the joint material 215, a highly heat storing material may be provided between the electric heating sheet 110 and the road 200, or between the electric heating sheet 110 and the joint material 215, so that the heat generated from the electric heating sheet 110 may be stored in the highly heat storing material.

[0085]

FIG. 3(4) shows a state of laying a surface material 216 to the upper end of the joint material 215 filled in the electric heating sheet containing groove 211.

The uppermost surface of the joint material 215 filled in the electric heating sheet containing groove 211 is filled to be lower than the surface of the road 200, and the surface material 216 is laid so as to be in flash with the surface of the road 200 by filling the step difference.

[0086]

The surface material 216 comprises, for example, silica sand, and a material harder than the joint material 215 is laid over the upper end of the joint material 215 filled in the electric heating sheet containing groove 211. The surface

material 216 can adsorb to the joint material 215 by scattering to the upper end of the joint material before the hardening of the material.

[0087]

The surface material 216 harder than the joint material 215 is laid on the upper end of the elastic joint material 215, peeling and abrasion of the joint material 215 caused by running of automobiles can be prevented, to protect the electric heating sheet 110.

[0088]

In this embodiment, the electric heating sheets 110 has been explained as having a length of 2,000 mm and a height of 80 mm. However, it can be explained, for example, such that the electric heating sheet 110 has 2,000 mm length x 80 mm height and the electric heating sheet containing groove 211 has 90 mm depth x 90 mm height and 24 mm height. However, they can be constructed by optionally adjusting the size, for example, such that the electric heating sheet 110 has 100 mm to 5,000 mm of length, 40 mm to 80 mm of height and 9 mm to 24 mm of width, and the electric heating sheet containing groove 211 has 50 mm to 90 mm of depth.

[0089]

Specifically, by reducing the height of the electric heating sheet 110, or increasing the depth of the electric heating sheet containing groove 211, thereby burying the

electric heating sheet 110 below the surface layer 200 by 30 mm to 50 mm in the road 110, so that the asphalt can be peeled in repair work with no effect on the road heating system 100.
[0090]

Further, by coloring the joint material 215 filled in a gap between the electric heating sheet 110 and the electric heating sheet containing groove 211 and the joint material 215 to be filled in the cable containing groove 212 with a color, such as white or yellow which is visually distinguishable from the road 200, it is possible to clarify a portion where the electric heating sheet 110 is buried upon excavating the road 200, for example, during asphalt repair working.

[0091]

FIG. 4 is a block diagram showing details of the controller.

As shown in FIG. 4, the controller 140 has a power supply unit 141, a ground temperature monitoring unit 142, a snowfall monitoring unit 143, and a power supply unit 144.

[0092]

The power supply unit 141 is connected to a ground temperature monitoring unit 142, a snowfall monitoring unit 143, the power supply unit 144, an electric heating sheet 110, a network 300, and is in connection with other controller 140 and serves to adjust the amount of power supplied to the electric heating sheet 110 connected therewith.

[0093]

The ground temperature monitoring unit 142 is connected to the ground temperature sensor 120, detects the temperature of the road 200 in which the electric heating sheet 110 is buried, to monitor the temperature thereof.

[0094]

The ground temperature monitoring unit 142 monitors the temperature of the road 200 and, when the temperature of the road 200 is lower than a predetermined temperature, the ground temperature monitoring unit 142 transmits a signal for increasing the temperature of the road 200 to a power supply unit 141, and the power supply unit 141 increases the amount of electric power supplied to the electric heating sheet 110.

[0095]

Further, the ground temperature monitoring unit 142 monitors the temperature of the road 200 and when it reaches a predetermined temperature, the ground temperature monitoring unit 142 transmits a signal to the power supply unit 141 for maintaining the temperature of the road 200, and the power supply unit 141 reduces the amount of electric power supplied to the electric heating sheet 110.

[0096]

The snowfall monitoring unit 143 is connected to a snowfall sensor 130, and the snowfall sensor 130 detects a state of snowfall on a place where the snowfall sensor unit is

installed for monitoring the state of snowfall.

[0097]

A snowfall monitoring unit 143 monitors the state of snowfall in the road 200 on which the snowfall sensor 130 is installed and, when the snowfall sensor 130 detects snowfall or when the snowfall monitoring unit 143 judges that the snowfall amount tends to increase, the snowfall sensor 130 transmits, a signal for increasing the temperature of the road 200 to a power supply unit 141, and the power supply unit 141 increases the amount of electric power supplied to the electric heating sheet 110.

[0098]

Thus, the power supply unit 141 can supply an accurate amount of electric power to the electric heating sheet 110 based on the signals transmitted from the ground temperature sensor 120 and the snowfall monitoring unit 143.

[0099]

The power supply unit 141 may be connected to other controllers 140 installed in other divisional sections by communication cables 160. A plurality of controllers 140 connected by the communication cables 160 may be connected to a network such as an internet (not shown), and each of the controllers 140 can be controlled from the outside by using a terminal equipment such as a computer connected to the network such as an internet.

[0100]

The power supply unit 144 is connected to the power supply unit 141 and a commercial power source P installed near the road 200, and serves to supply electric power obtained from a commercial power source P via the power supply unit 141 to each of devices constituting the road heating system 100. The commercial power supply P may be available from electric power obtained by natural energy source such as a solar panel or wind power generation, or electric power generated from a generator using a fuel such as gasoline, in addition to electric power available from existent electric power companies.

[0101]

FIG. 5 is a top plan view and a cross-sectional view showing a state of road heating system installed to a road formed on bridge piers.

As shown in the cross-sectional view of FIG. 5, a bridge pier 220 comprises columns 221 disposed each at a predetermined interval, beams 222 disposed over columns 221, and a floor plates 223 made of concrete or steel, and disposed on two adjacent beams 222. The road 200 is formed on a floor board 223.

[0102]

As shown in the top plan view of FIG. 5, the road 200 has two lanes on each side of a median strip 231, each lane is

demarcated by a roadway centerline 232, and the roadway and shoulder or the roadway and the median 231 are demarcated by the roadway outside line 233 on the side opposite to the roadway centerline 232 of each lane. On the outside of the road 200, there are formed walls 234 such as wall balustrades to preventing falling of people, automobiles, and the like from the bridge, and noise preventive sound proof walls.

[0103]

The electric heating sheets 110 are buried in track portion where automobiles run on each lane. Further, since the joint between the floor boards 223 tends to undergo the effect of the expansions and contractions of the road 200 due to the vibration of the road 200 and the temperature difference, the joint material is inserted for joining the floor boards 223, the divisional section for burying the electric heating sheet 110 may be provided so as not to cross the joint as shown in the top plan view of FIG. 5. The controller 140 and the snowfall sensor 130 may be provided, for example, on the wall 234.

[0104]

FIG. 6 is a cross sectional view showing the state of providing the road heating system in the automobile traveling direction.

As shown in FIG. 6, the electric heating sheets 110 are buried in two rows, for example, along tire tracks (ruts)

where the tire and the road 200 are usually in contact each other during running of the automobiles 400, for example, between roadway center line 232 and the roadway outside line 233.

[0105]

Thus, since the road 200 is warmed mainly around the track traces (ruts) where the automobiles 400 frequently run, snow accumulation and the freezing of the road 200 can be prevented to improve the safety of the road 200.

[0106]

A plurality of the electric heating sheets 110 buried in the road 200 are connected via power lines 150 to the controller 140 fixed to the wall 234. The ground temperature sensor 120 for measuring the temperature of the road 200 where the electric heating sheets 110 are buried is also connected to the controller 140 fixed to the wall 234 via the communication cable 160.

[0107]

FIG. 7 is a top plan view showing the state of the road heating system installed in the vicinity of a tollgate.

As shown in FIG. 7, in the vicinity of the tollgate, the electric power can be supplied to the road heating system 100 by using a mobile power supply vehicle 500 having a diesel engine or a gas turbine-driven generator loaded instead of a commercial power source P.

[0108]

For example, in the tollgate, an optional lane among a plurality of lanes is closed to stop a power supply vehicle 500, the power supply unit 144 of the controller 140 is connected and the power supply vehicle 500, and the power generated by the power supply vehicle 500 is supplied to the road heating system 100.

[0109]

Thus, by using the mobile power supply vehicle 500, the road heating system 100 can be used even in a case of a power failure caused, for example, by a disaster, and the safety of the road 200 can be maintained.

[0110]

FIG. 8 is a diagram showing an example for the method of controlling a plurality of divisional sections.

As shown in FIG. 8(1), a plurality of electric heating sheets 110 are buried in each of the divisional sections of the road 200, and the buried electric heating sheets 110 are connected to one controller 140 for control. Each of the controllers 140 is connected to other controllers 140 via a network 300 such as an internet, and each of the controllers 140 is controlled by a computer 600 connected to the network 300.

[0111]

A plurality of controllers 140 installed in a road 200

are configured so as to allocate the two groups of the section A and the section B, and the allocated sections A and the sections B are connected alternately.

[0112]

First as shown in FIG. 8(2), upon starting operation of the road heating system 100, the divisional sections each allocated as the section A are heated first. Specifically, the controllers 140 supply electric power to the electric heating sheets 110 buried in the divisional sections allocated as the sections A.

[0113]

Next, as shown in FIG. 8(3), the divisional sections allocated as the section B are heated. Specifically, the controller 140 supplies electric power to the electric heating sheets 110 buried in each of the divisional sections and allocated as the sections B.

[0114]

As shown in FIGS. 8(2) and 8(3), by alternately heating the sections A and the sections B thereby performing the heating in the sections A and in the sections B at an interval, for example, of about 5 or 10 minutes, it is possible to reduce the power supply in the initial stage of snowfall to one-half.

[0115]

Further, a plurality of controllers 140 installed to the

road 200 may be configured to be assigned to three groups of sections A, sections B, and sections C, and the assigned sections A, sections B, and sections C are sequentially connected to each other, so that the power load of the power supply can be reduced to 1/3 by heating each of groups in rotation.

[0116]

In this embodiment, the electric heating sheet containing groove 211 is formed in the existing road 200 and the electric heating sheets 110 are buried in the electric heating sheet containing groove 211. Instead, in a case of newly constructing a road, electric heating sheets 110 previously surrounded with the joint material 215 may also be provided in a road.

Second Embodiment

[0117]

Next, a second embodiment of the invention will be described. The road heating system 100 of the second embodiment is substantially similar to the configuration of the first embodiment excepting that the method of connecting the electric heating sheets 110 is different from the connection method for heating sheets 110. For this reason, components that are substantially identical with those in the first embodiment are denoted by the same reference numerals,

for which description will be omitted as a rule.

[0118]

FIG. 9 is a block diagram showing the concept of a road heating system according to the second embodiment.

As shown in FIG. 9, the road heating system 100 includes electric heating sheets 110, a ground temperature sensor 120, a snowfall sensor 130, a controller 140, a power line 150, a communication cable 160, and a current monitoring unit 170.

[0119]

A plurality of electric heating sheets 110 are buried at a predetermined interval in each of the divisional sections, and respective electric heating sheets 110 are connected in series by a power line 150. Note that the distance and the number of divisions for the divisional sections and the number of electric heating sheets 110 buried in each of the divisional sections may be varied depending on the state of construction.

[0120]

A power supply monitoring unit 170 is provided straddling each of the electric heating sheets 110 for monitoring the state of power supply to the electric heating sheet 110, and the power supply monitoring unit 170 periodically confirms whether the corresponding electric heating sheet 110 is correctly supplied with power or not, and notifies the result of the check to a controller 140 connected

via a communication cable 160 (not shown).

[0121]

If the power supply monitoring unit 170 detects that the electric heating sheet 110 is not energized, a signal informing that the electric heating sheet 110 corresponding to the controller 140 is not energized is immediately reported, and the controller 140 informs a manager that the electric heating sheet 110 is not energized through the network 300.

[0122]

If one of the electric heating sheets 110 connected in series no more supplies power, the entire divisional section cannot be heated. However, since the energization monitoring unit 170 can periodically monitor the power supply state and can identify that the electric heating sheet 110 is in failure, only the portion of the not energized electric heating sheet 110 can be found and repaired or replaced, so that the maintainability can be improved greatly as compared with the conventional case.

[0123]

FIG. 10 is a front elevational view showing details of the electric heating sheet according to the second embodiment of the invention.

As shown in FIG. 10, the electric heating sheet 110 is a rectangular belt-shaped heating element at 2,000 mm length x 80 mm height x 1 mm thickness, and includes a heating part 111, electrode parts 112, and sheet protective parts 113.

[0124]

The electrode parts 112 are terminals formed continuously along the upper and lower ends in the longitudinal direction of the heating part 111, and has an anode and a cathode for passing a current to the heating part 111. The electrode parts 112 are connected in series to the controller 140 by a power line 150 (not shown).

[0125]

In the following explanatory, the electrode part 112 protruding from the left of the upper end of the electric heating sheet 110 is referred to as the electrode part 112A, and the electrode part 112 protruding from the right of the lower end of the electric heating sheet 110 is referred to as the electrode part 112B.

[0126]

Since the electric heating sheets 110 can be replaced sheet by sheet for a failed portion identified by the power supply monitoring unit 170, it is necessary that the road 200 may be excavated only for a portion where the failed electric heating sheet 110 is buried and that only the failed electric heating sheet 110 is replaced or repaired, maintenance work can be reduced to improve the maintainability.

[0127]

FIG. 11 is a front elevational view showing a state of connecting electric heating sheets according to the second

embodiment.

As shown in FIG. 11(1), respective electric heating sheets 110 are connected in series and connected via a power line 150 to a (not shown) controller 140. The power supply monitoring unit 170 is not illustrated.

[0128]

As a specific connection example, a power supply unit 141 of the controller 140 is connected via a power line 150 to the electrode part 112A of the electric heating sheet 112. The electrode part 112B of the electric heating sheet 111-1 is connected to the electrode 112B of the electric heating sheet 110-2B in a state of turning the electric heating sheet 110 upside down.

[0129]

Further, the electrode part 112A of the electric heating sheet 110-2 is connected to the electrode part 112A of the electric heating sheet 110-3 such that the upper and the lower surfaces of the electric heating sheet 110 are reversed upside downs and connected to the electrode part 112A of the electric heating sheet 110. Thus, the voltage can be divided depending on the resistance.

[0130]

In this state, in the electric heating sheet 110-1, a current flows from the electrode part 112A to the electrode part 112B to generate heat in the heating part 111 and, in the

electric heating sheet 110-2, a current flows from the electrode part 112B to the electrode part 112A to generate heat in the electric heating sheet 111.

[0131]

Further, as shown in FIG. 11(2), by connecting the electrode part 112A and the electrode part 112A or connecting the electrode part 112B and the electrode part 112B each at an angle, the electric heating sheets 110 can be installed in accordance with the unevenness or inclination of the road.

[0132]

Specifically, the road is inclined in the vicinity of a tollgate, an entrance, etc., of an expressway, and the electric heating sheet 110 can be connected in accordance with the inclination and the unevenness of the road by connecting the connecting part of the electrode part 112 at an angle.

[0133]

In this embodiment, the road heating system 100 has been described as having the power supply monitoring unit 170 and the communication cable 160. Alternately, the road heating system 100 excluding the power supply monitoring unit 170 and the communication cable 160 connecting the power supply monitoring unit 170 and the controller 140 may be buried in the road 200.

[0134]

By saving the power supply monitoring unit 170 and the

communication cable 160, since the volume of the power supply monitoring unit 170 and the communication cable provided in the electric heating sheet containing groove 211 and the cable containing groove 212 can be reduced, the formed electric heating sheet containing groove 211 and the cable containing groove 212 can be reduced at least to the volume capable of containing the electric heating sheet 110.

[0135]

Thus, since the working time for excavating the electric heating sheet containing groove 211 and the cable containing groove 212 in the road 200 can be decreased, it can cope with the short-time construction which is required during a limited midnight work in the construction state.

Third Embodiment

[0136]

Next, a third embodiment of the invention will be described. The road heating system 100 of this embodiment is substantially similar to the configuration of the second embodiment excepting that the method of forming the electric heating sheet 110 is different. Then, components substantially similar to those of the second embodiment are denoted by the same reference numerals, without particularly mentioning them.

[0137]

FIG. 12 is a front elevational view showing details of

an electric heating sheet according to the third embodiment.

As shown in FIG. 12, the electric heating sheet 110 is a rectangular belt-shaped heating element having a 80 mm height x a 3 ~ 7 mm thickness x an arbitrary length, including a heating part 111, electrode parts 112, and protective sheet parts 113. For example, the electric heating sheet 110 is formed to several tens or hundreds meters of length, and can be carried to the working site in a rolled state or the like.

[0138]

The electrode parts 112 are terminals provided on both ends of the heating part 111, and have an anode side and a cathode side for passing a current to the heating part 111. By forming upper and lower recesses to the electrode part 112 to form notches in the heating sheet 110, the same state as that where the heating sheet 110 according to the second embodiment is connected in series can be formed. Details will be described later.

[0139]

The protective sheet part 113 is made of protective material for protecting the electric heating sheet 110 and a connection part between the electric heating sheet 110 and the electrode part 112, and is made of a material having a thickness of about 2 mm, excellent in flexibility, heat resistance, cold resistance, weather resistance, water resistance, etc., comprising, for example, butyl rubber, and

is bonded from both sides by protective sheet parts 113 so as to sandwich the electric heating sheet 110 and the connection part between the electric heating sheet 110 and the electrode part 112. By protecting another surface of the protective sheet part 113 with releasable paper or the like, it is possible to prevent the protective sheet part 113 from adhering to other parts.

[0140]

FIG. 13 is a front elevational view showing a method of forming an electric heating sheet.

As shown in FIG. 13(1), an electric heating sheet 110 formed in an arbitrary length includes notches 114.

[0141]

The notches 114 are formed at arbitrary places depending on the conditions of the road where the road heating system 100 is installed, and the notched parts 114 are formed in the electric heating sheet 110 so as to cut only one electrode part 112 from the upper direction or the lower direction of the electrode part 112.

[0142]

A specific installation method of the electric heating sheets 110 will be described below.

First, an electric heating sheet 110 formed of an arbitrary length in a rolled state or the like is cut in accordance with the length of an electric heating sheet

containing groove 211 to be installed.

[0143]

Then, notches 114 are formed to the electric heating sheet 110. The notches 114 are formed such that one side of the electrode part 112 is exposed on both ends of the cut electric heating sheet 110, and the notches are formed in the electric heating sheet 110 so as to cut the electrode part 112 from above or below. As a result, the same state as that where the electric heating sheets 110 according to the second embodiment of the invention are connected in series, so that the voltage can be divided depending on the resistance of the electric heating sheets 110.

[0144]

Further, the power from the electric heating sheets 110 can be varied also by increasing or decreasing the number of notches 114 formed in the electric heating sheet 110. More specifically, by reducing the number of the notches 114, the electric resistance value of the entire electric heating sheet 110 is reduced, so that the power of the electric heating sheet 110 can be increased. Further, by increasing the number of the notches 114, the electric resistance value of the entire electric heating sheet 110 is increased, so that the power for the electric heating sheet 110 can be reduced.

[0145]

As described above, by adjusting the number of the

notches 114 formed in the electric heating sheet 110, it is possible to construct the system corresponding appropriately to any type of power supply such as DC or AC, and at a voltage, for example, of 12 V, 24 V, 48 V, 100 V, 200 V, and 400 V.

[0146]

Further, as shown in FIG. 13(2), by forming each of the notches 114 to the electric heating sheet 110, the electric heating sheet 112 can be curved near the electrode 112 connected by the formed notch 114. Thus, the electric heating sheets 110 can be installed in accordance with irregularity and inclination of the road.

[0147]

Further, since the electric heating sheet 110 can be cut in accordance with the electric heating sheet containing groove 211 formed in the road, and the notches 114 are formed to the recessed electric heating sheet 110, the adaptability to the construction site can be improved.

[0148]

In order to form the notches 114, the notches 114 each having a predetermined shape can be formed to the electric heating sheet 110 by preparing a punching die formed by a die or the like in advance. Thus, the notches 114 each in a uniform shape can be formed on the electric heating sheet 110, to improve the stability of construction quality.

[Reference Signs List]

[0149]

100 Road heating system

110 Electric heating sheet

120 Ground temperature sensor

130 Snowfall sensor

140 Controller

150 Power line

160 Communication cable

200 Road

The embodiments of the invention in which an exclusive property or privilege is claimed are defined as follows:

1. A road surface heating device for elevating the temperature of a road surface including:

a plurality of belt-shaped electric heating sheets buried in divisional sections along the traveling direction of the road, with a plane of the sheet being in perpendicular to the road surface, and

a connection structure for linking the plurality of electric heating sheets and connecting them to a power source, and

a controller for controlling the amount of heating of the electric heating sheets connected to the connection structure in each of divisional sections.

2. The road surface heating device according to claim 1, including:

a snowfall detection means for detecting snowfall, where the controller controls the heating amount of the electric heating sheets according to the presence or absence of snowfall or the amount of snowfall detected by the snowfall detection means.

3. The road surface heating device according to claim 1, including:

a ground temperature detection means for detecting the temperature of a road where the electric heating sheets are buried, and

the controller for adjusting the heating amount of the electric heating sheets to the temperature of the road detected by a ground temperature detection means.

4. The road surface heating device according to claim 1, wherein

the connection structure is a parallel connection structure where the electric heating sheets are connected in parallel to the power source.

5. The road surface heating device according to claim 4, wherein

each of the electric heating sheets includes:

electrode parts connected in parallel to the end of the shorter side of the heating sheet.

6. The road surface heating device according to claim 1, wherein

the connection structure is a serial connection structure, including:

the electric heating sheets connected in series and

a power supply monitoring unit for monitoring power supply to the heating sheets connected in series.

7. The road surface heating device according to claim 6, wherein

the heating sheet has:

an upper end electrode part provided at an upper end in the longitudinal direction of the electric heating sheet, and

a lower end electrode part provided at a lower end in the longitudinal direction of the heating sheets, connected in series to each other.

8. The road surface heating device according to claim 7, wherein

the serial connection structure includes:

a long electric heating sheet formed in accordance with the construction section,

a plurality of notches formed to the long electric heating sheet,

the notches having:

upper end notches including the upper end electrode portion, and

the lower end notched cutout while including the lower end electrode portion formed alternately.

9. The road surface heating device according to claim 8, wherein

the output from the divisional electric heating sheet divided by the notches from the long heating sheets is varied by the amount of the notches.

10. The road surface heating device according to claim 1, including:

means for heating alternately electric heating sheets buried in the divisional sections on each of the divided sections.

11. The road surface heating device according to claim 1, wherein

the electric heating sheets buried along a track trace of a road where automobiles usually run.

12. The road surface heating device according to claim 1, wherein

a shock absorber material having elasticity for absorbing vibrations and expansions and contractions of the road is located between the road and the electric heating sheet.

13. The road surface heating device according to claim 12, wherein

the shock absorber material comprises a water proof and electrically insulating rubber material.

14. The road surface heating device according to claim 12, wherein

the surface layer of the shock absorber material comprises a hard surface material.

15. The road surface heating device according to claim 14, wherein

the surface layer of the shock absorber material comprises

silica sand bonded to the surface layer of the shock absorber material.

16. A road surface heating device according to claim 12, wherein the electric heating sheet is contained in a containing groove formed, in a direction perpendicular to the surface of an existent road, and

a support member for vertically supporting the electric heating sheet is contained in the containing groove, and

the shock absorber material is filled between the containing groove and the electric heating sheet.

17. The road surface heating device according to claim 16, wherein

the support member is formed of the same material as the shock absorber material.

18. The road surface heating device according to claim 12, wherein

the shock absorber material has a color distinguishable from the color of the road.

19. The road surface heating device according to claim 12, including:

a heat storing means for storing an amount of heat generated from the electric heating sheet.

20. The road surface heating device according to claim 1,
wherein

the lower end of the electric heating sheet has a heat
insulating means for preventing downward heat radiation from the
electric heating sheet.

21. The road surface heating device according to claim 1,
wherein

the electric heating sheet has:
Japanese paper blended with carbon fibers.

22. The road surface heating device according to claim 21,
wherein

a water proof, heat and impact resistant protective material
is provided on the peripheral surface of the Japanese paper for
protecting the Japanese paper.

23. The road surface heating device according to claim 22,
wherein

the protective material is a flexible butyl rubber further
having flexibility.

24. The road surface heating device according to claim 1,
wherein

the electric heating sheet is buried below the surface layer
to be peeled when the surface layer of the road is peeled and
repaired.

25. A method of constructing a road surface heating device for elevating the temperature of the road surface, including:

a step of burying a plurality of belt-shaped electric heating sheets in divisional sections where a construction section is divided into a plurality of sections, along the traveling direction of the road requiring heating, with the sheet plane being in perpendicular to the road surface,

a step of linking a plurality of electric heating sheets and connecting them to a power source, and

a step of linking a plurality of heating sheets to a controller that controls the amount of heat from the electric heating sheets in each of divisional sections connected to the connection structure; and

a step of connecting the controller for controlling the amount of heat generated from the electric heating sheets in each of the divisional sheets.

26. A road surface heating method for elevating the temperature of a road surface, including:

a step of burying a plurality of belt-shaped electric heating sheets, along divisional sections where the construction section is divided into a plurality of sections, along the traveling direction of the road requiring heating, with a sheet plane being in perpendicular to the road surface,

a step of connecting a plurality of electric heating sheets and connecting them to a power source;

a step of connecting the controller for controlling the heating amount of the electric heating sheets connected to the connection structure in each of the divisional sections; and

a step of controlling the heating amount of the electric heating sheets connected to the connection structure by the controller.

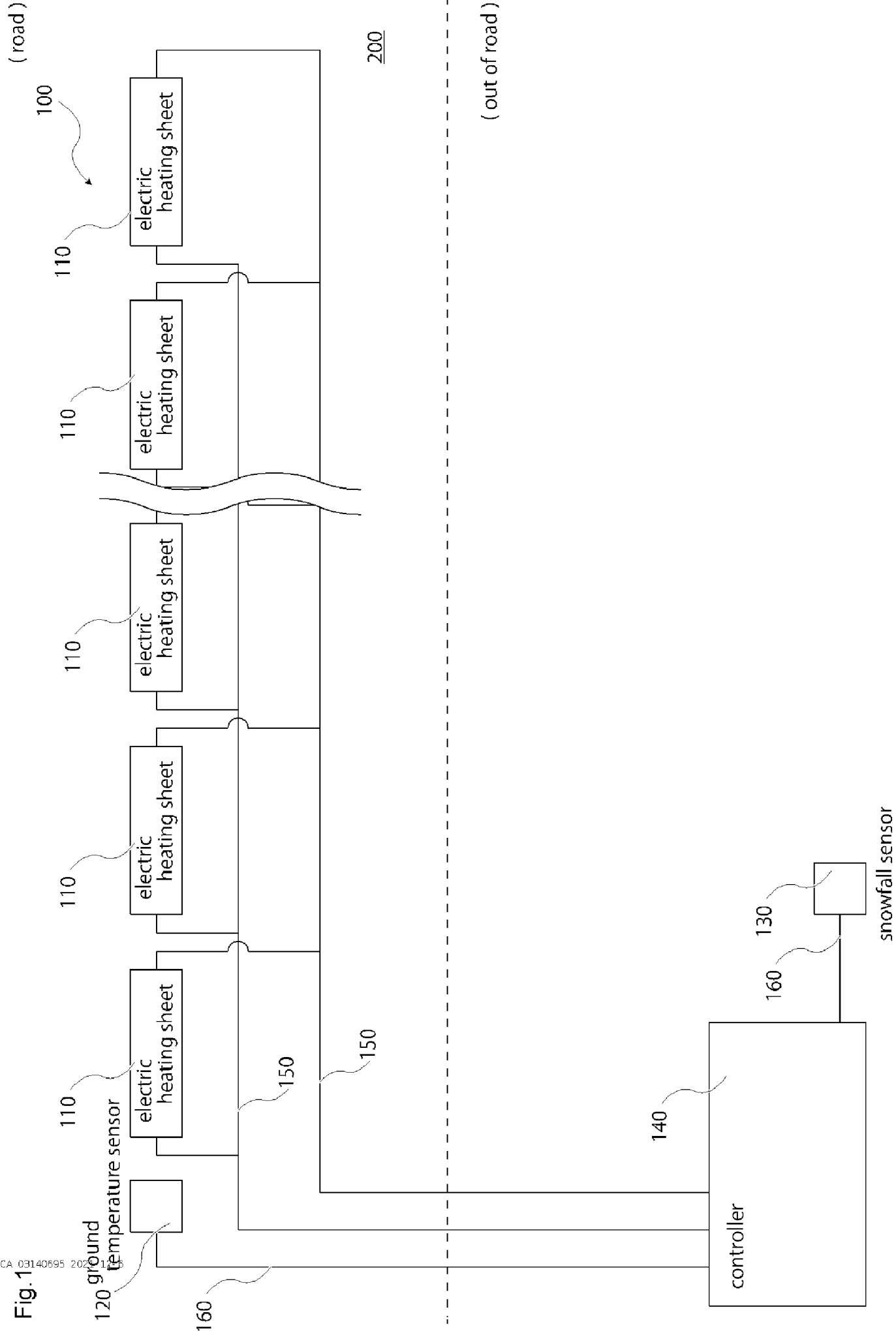
27. A road surface heating system for elevating the temperature of a road surface, including:

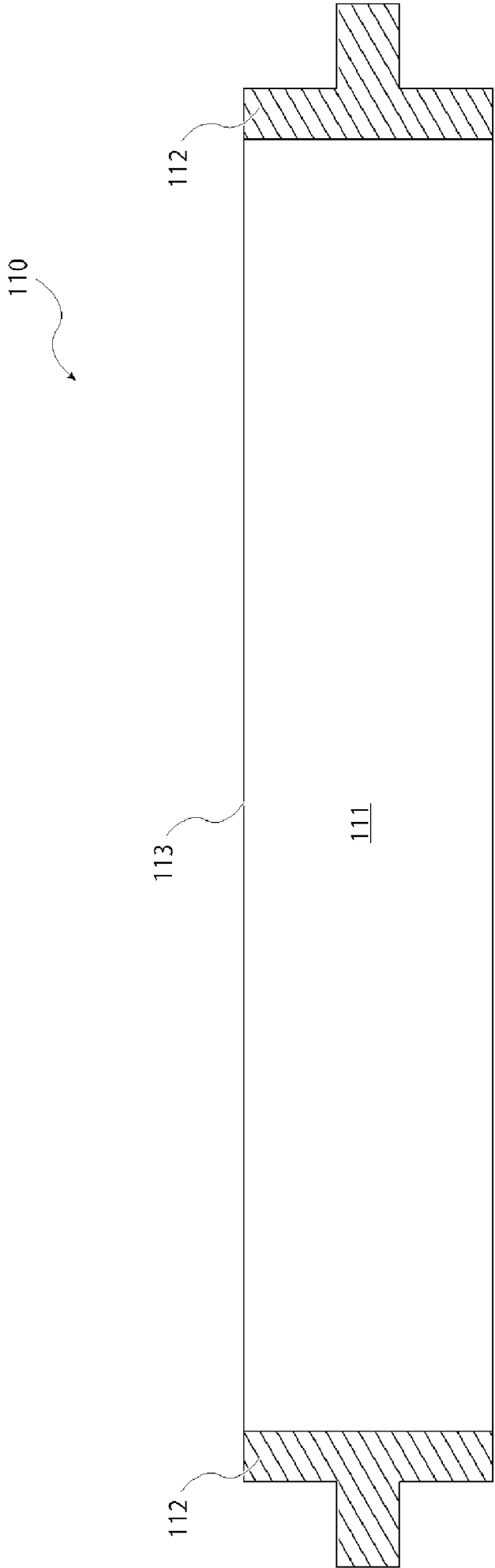
a plurality of belt-shaped electric heating sheets buried in divisional sections, along the traveling direction of the road in which a construction section is divided into a plurality of sections, with a sheet plane being in perpendicular to the road surface;

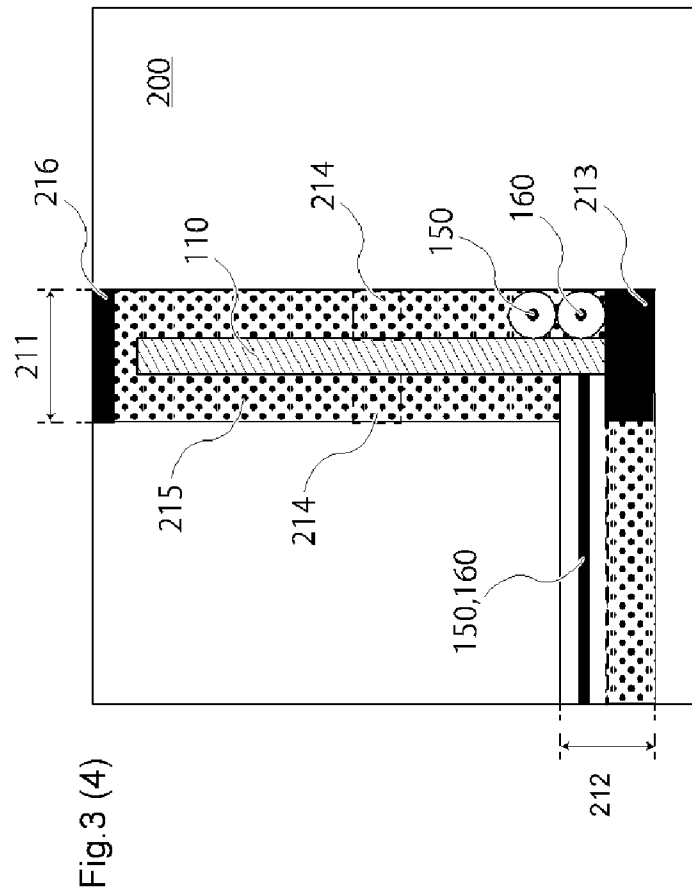
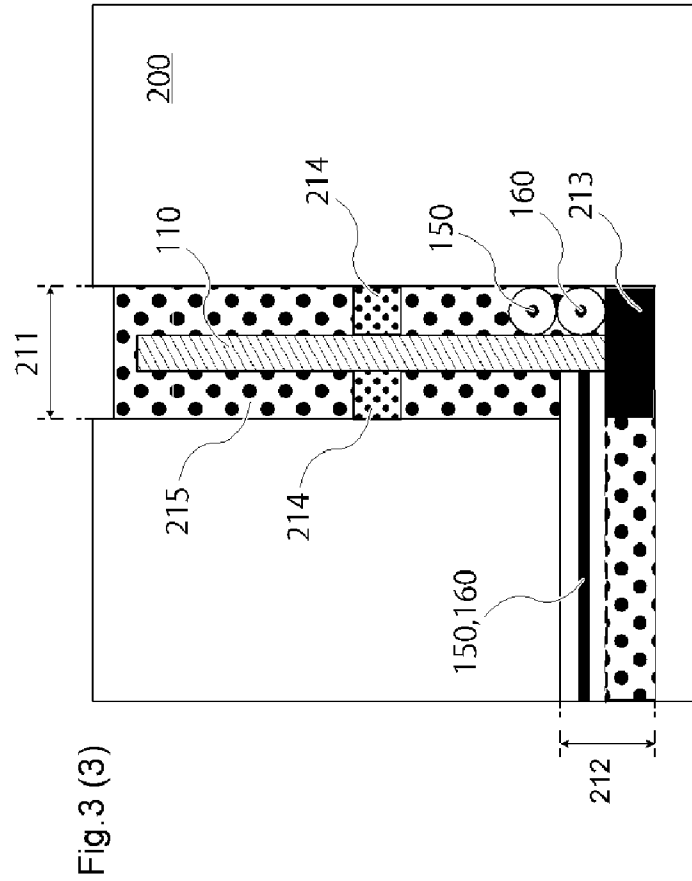
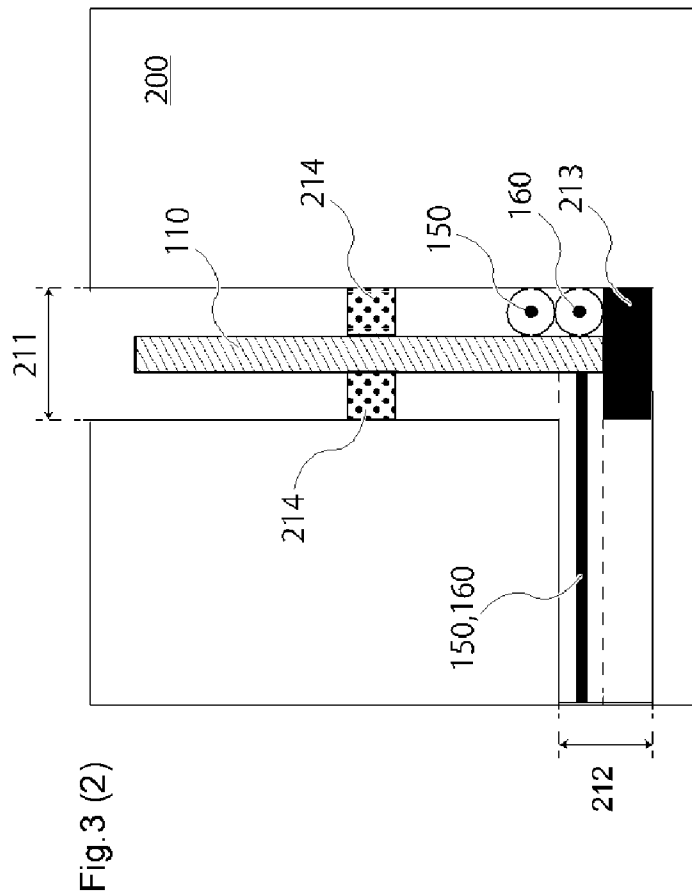
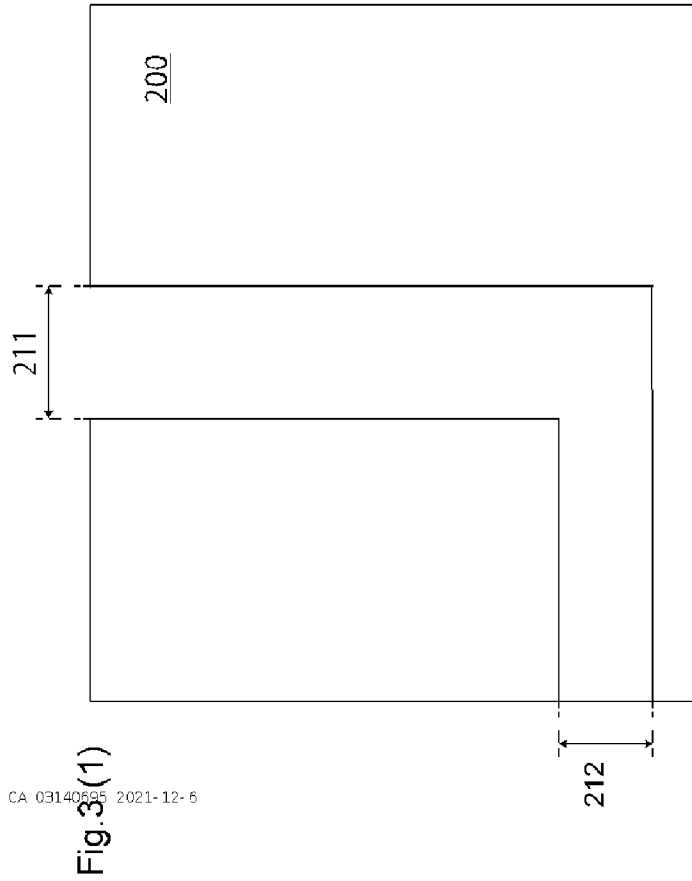
a connection structure for connecting the plurality of electric heating sheets to a power source; and

a controller for controlling the heating amount of the electric heating sheets connected to the connection structure in each of the divisional sections; and

a power source mobile vehicle for supplying electric power to the connection structure.







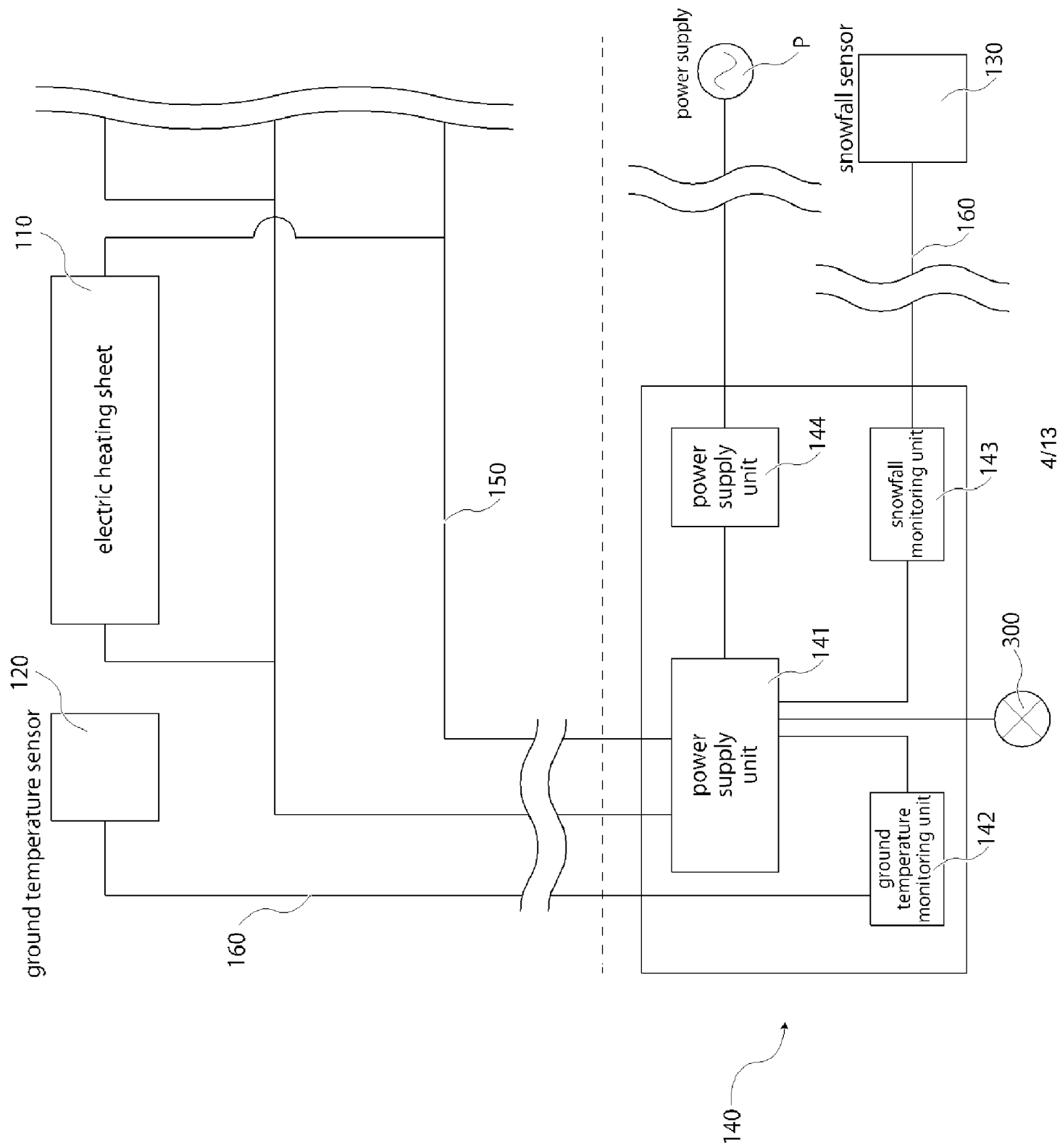


Fig.5

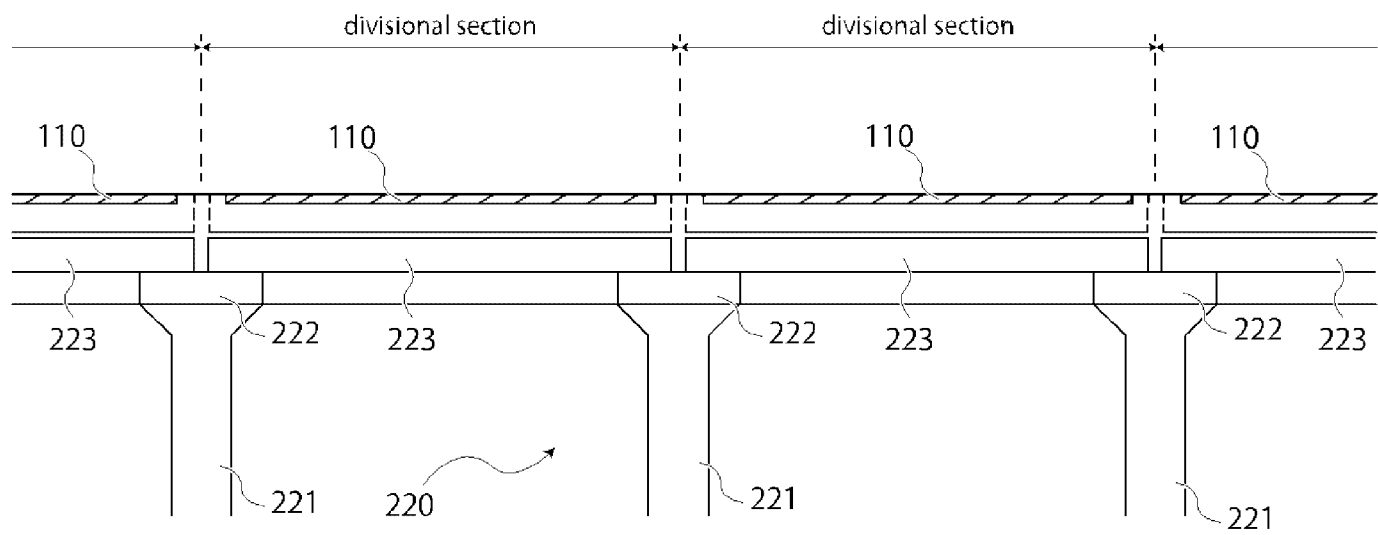
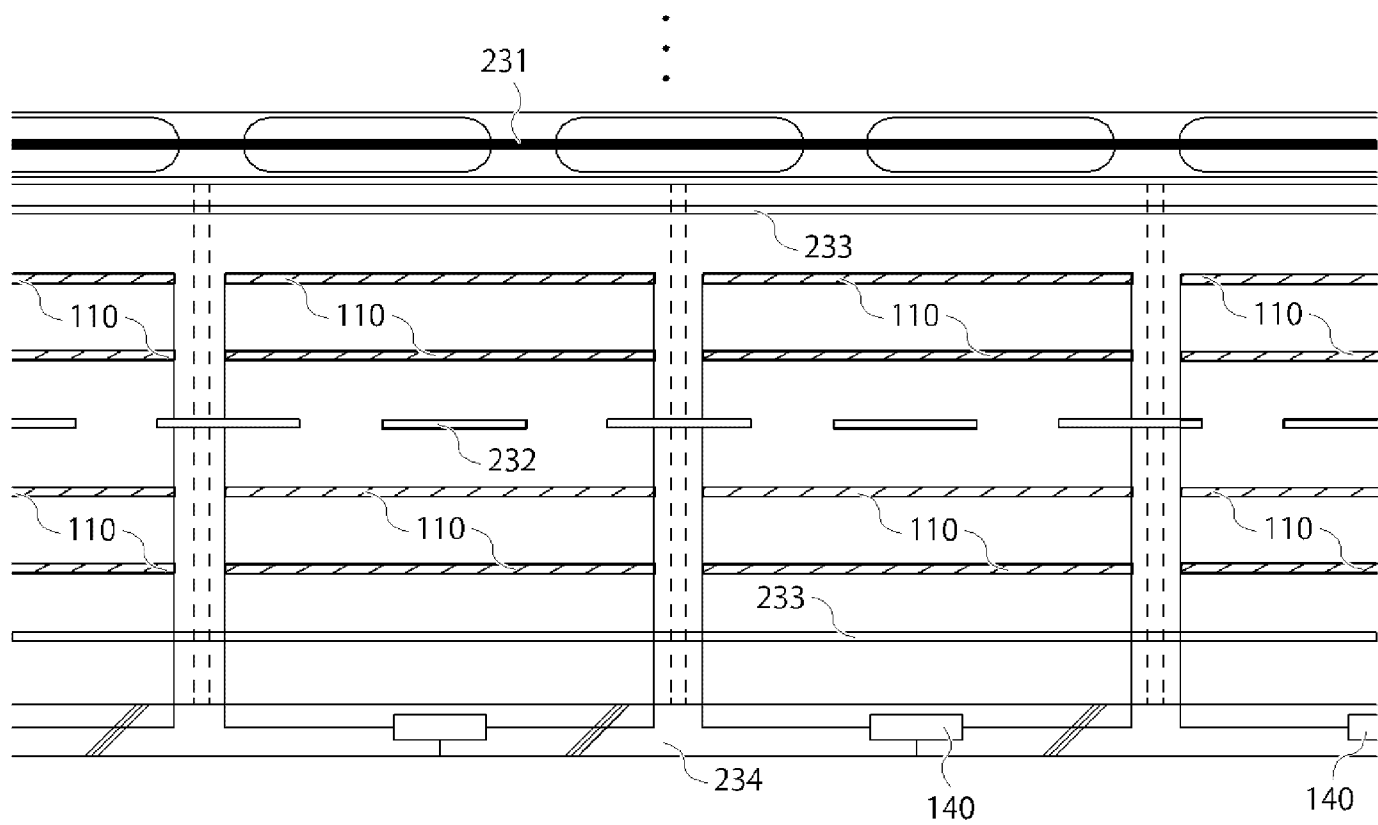


Fig 6

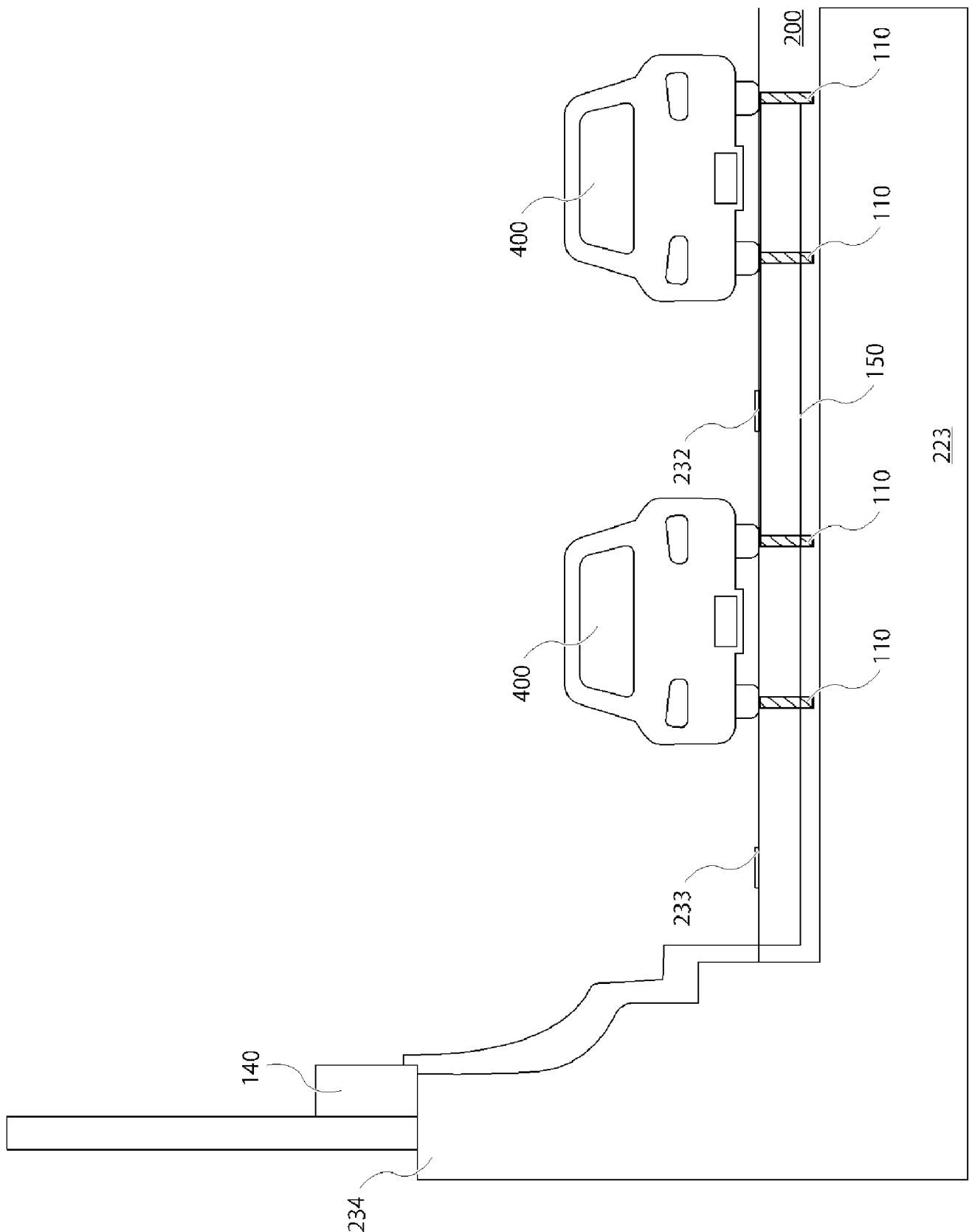


Fig.7

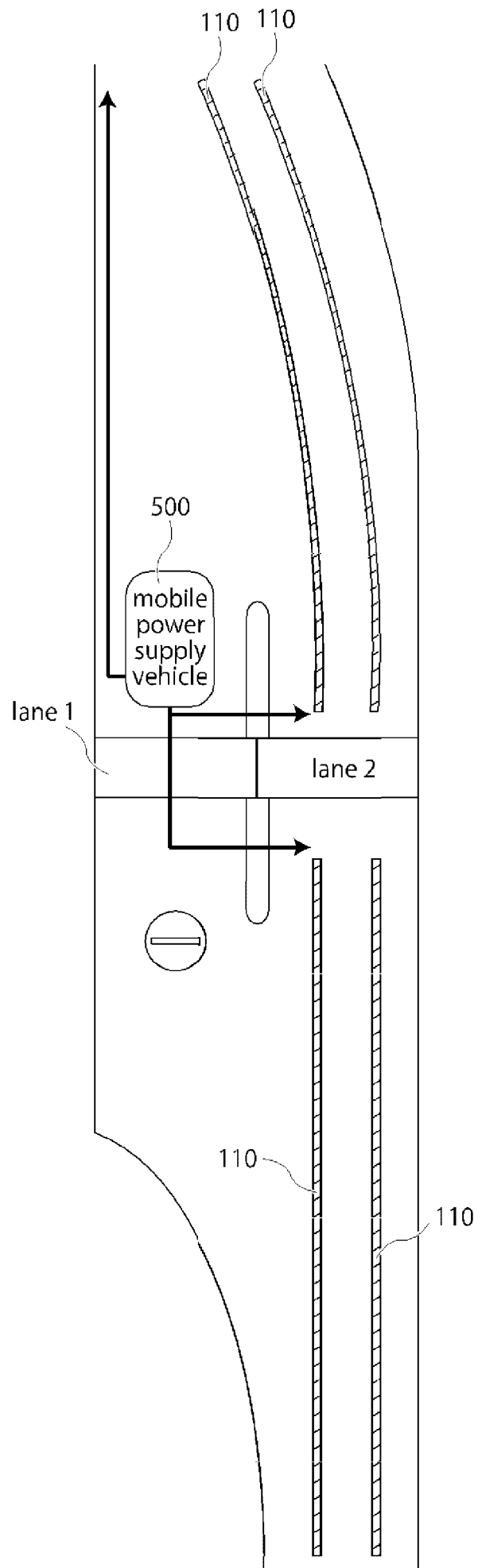


Fig.8(1)

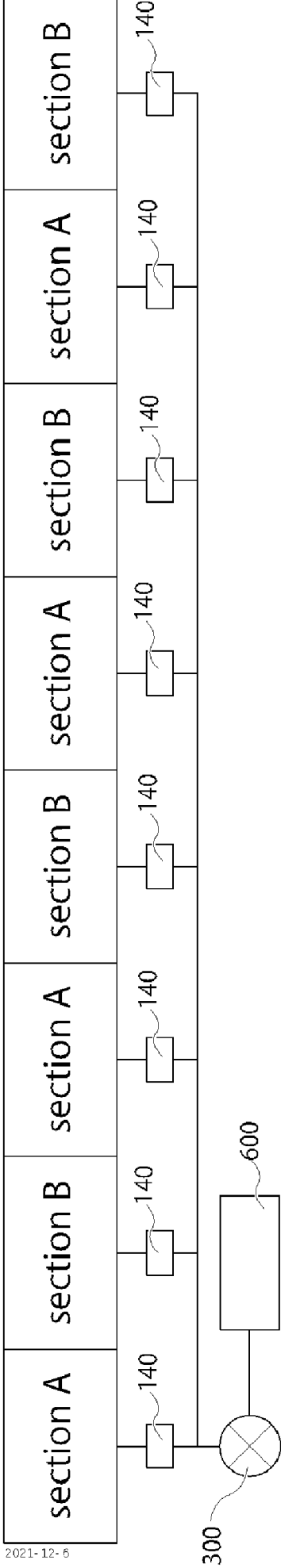


Fig.8(2)

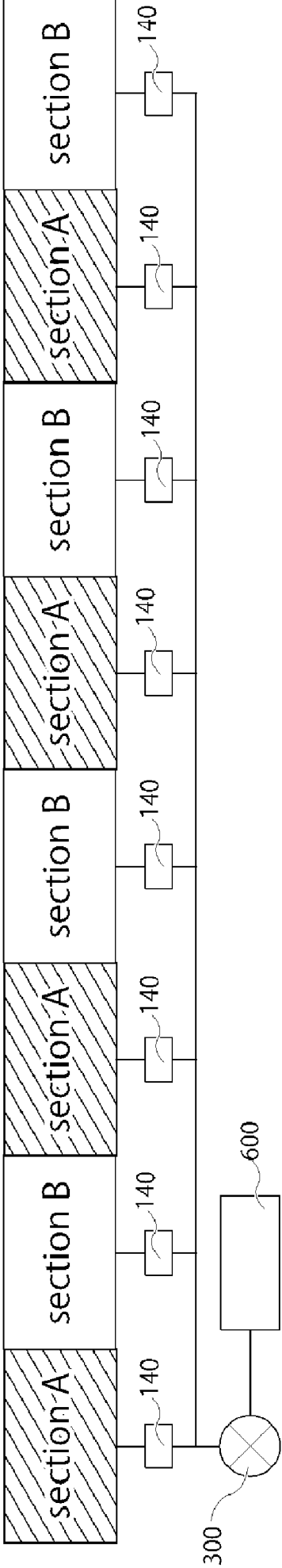


Fig.8(3)

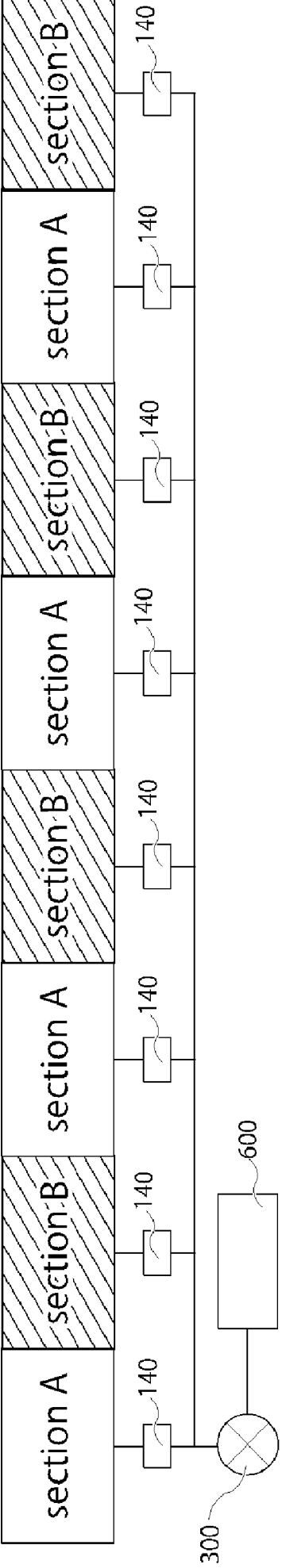


Fig. 9

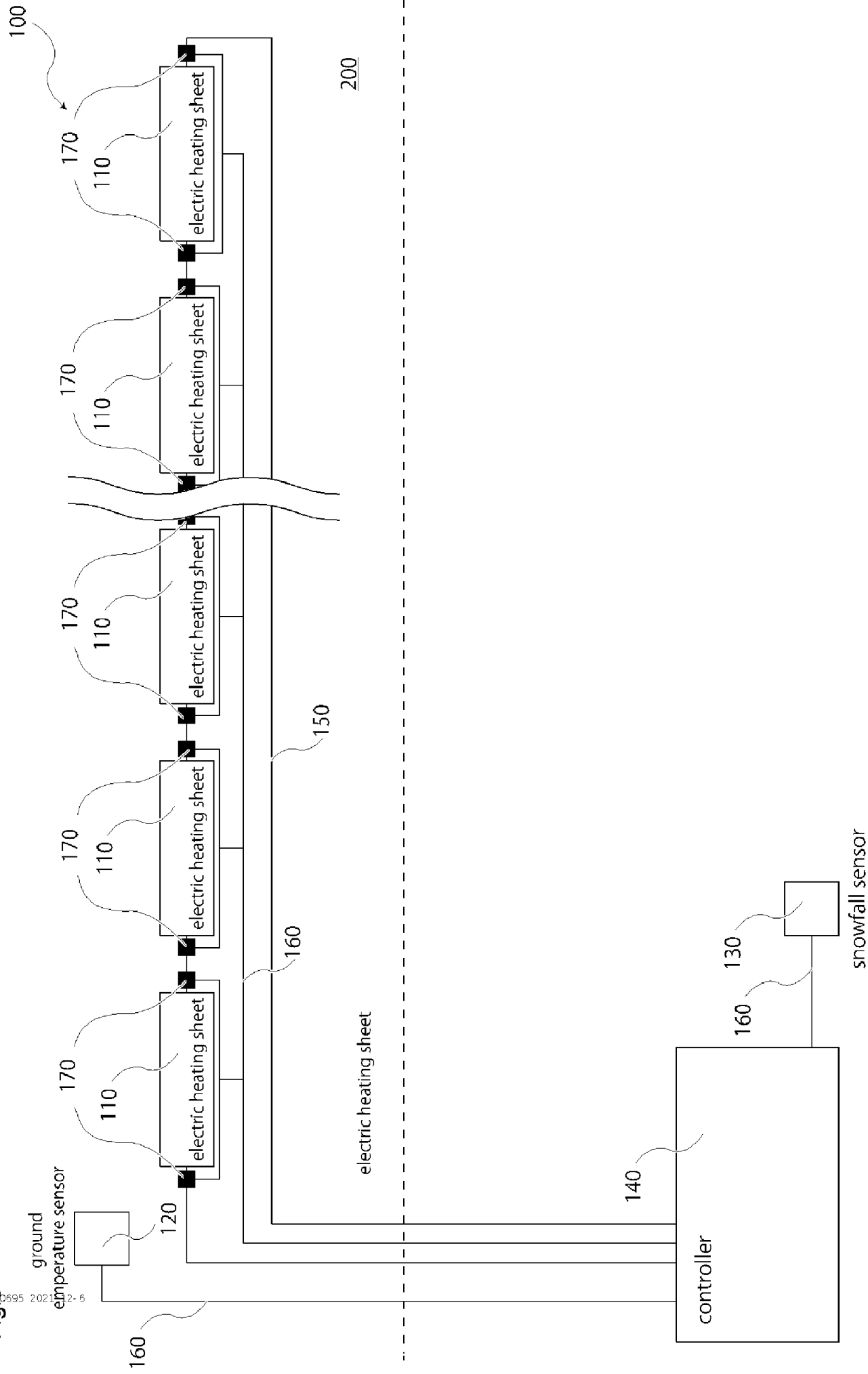


Fig. 10

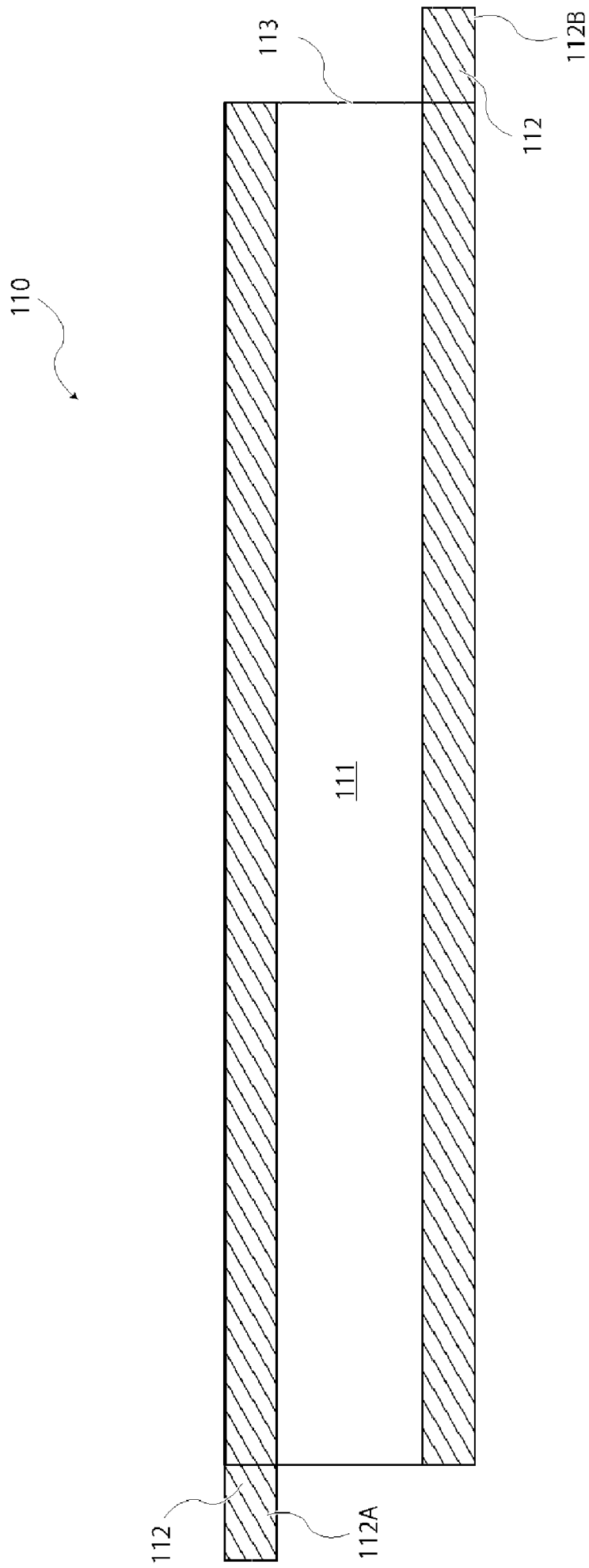


Fig. 11(1)

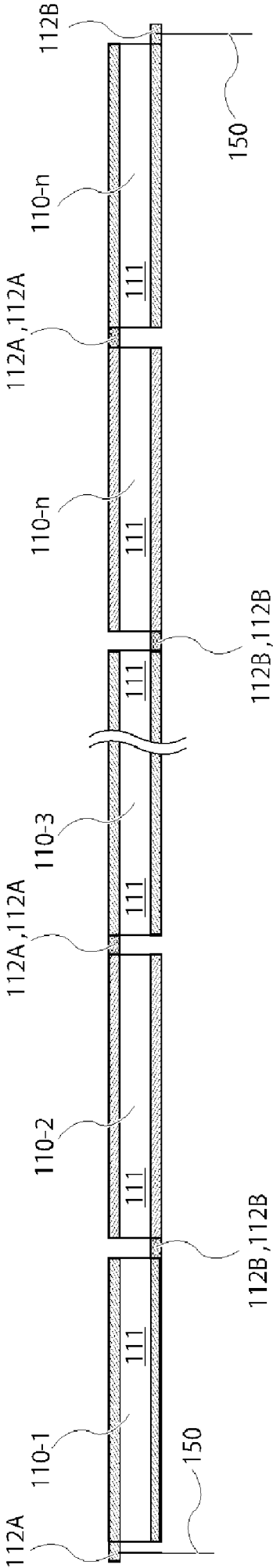


Fig. 11(2)

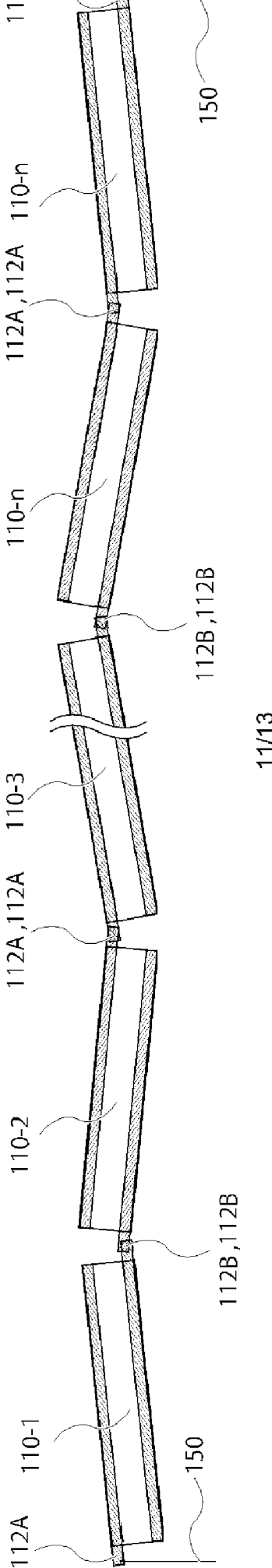


Fig12

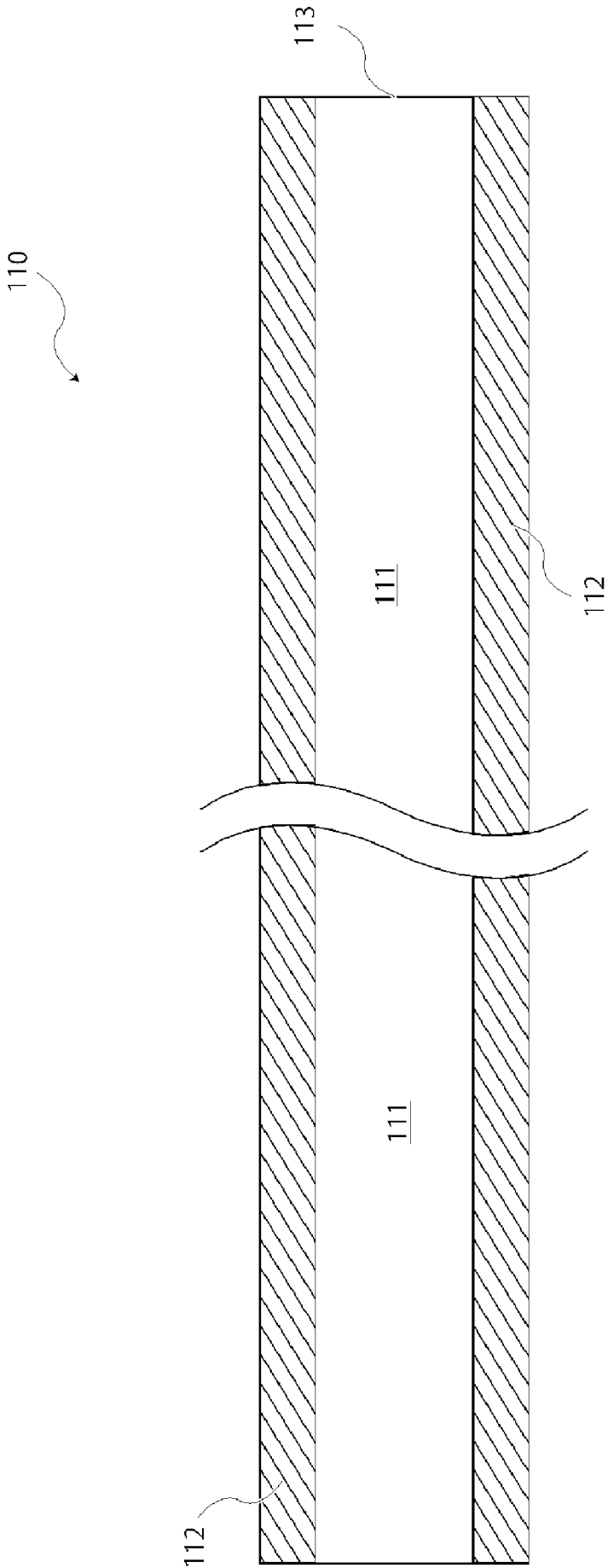


Fig. 13(1)

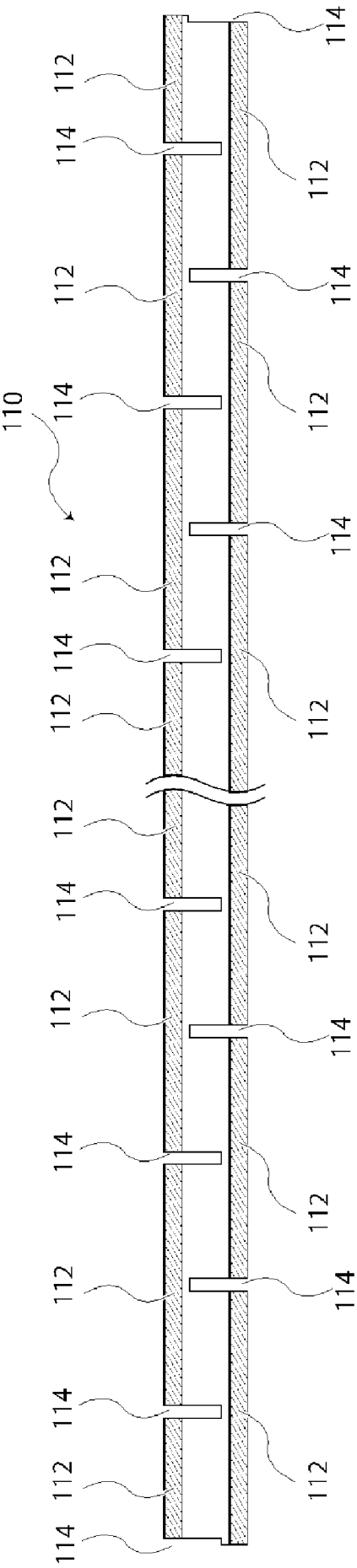


Fig. 13(2)

