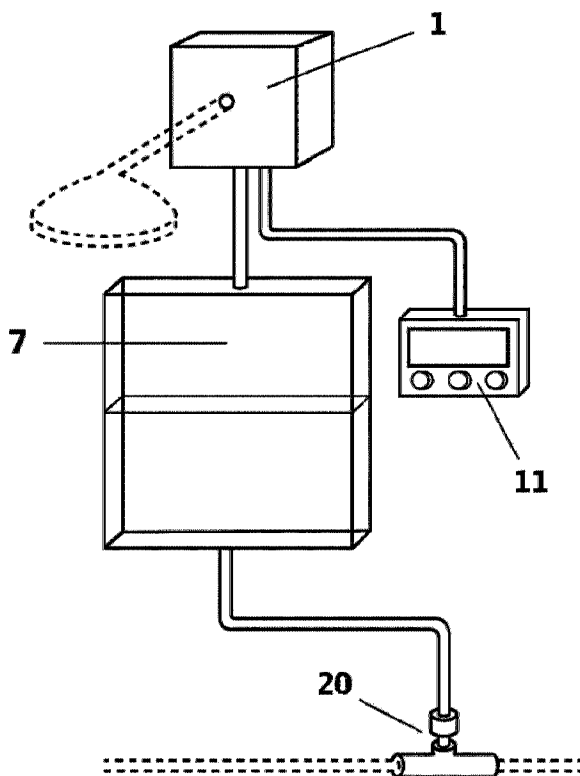




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(57) Abrégé/Abstract:

The invention relates to a water-saving device which is fully automated and comprises a complete electronic control system, the possibility of connection to the aqueduct supply network and a hydraulic generator for saving energy. The device according to the invention communicates with a modular system that optionally reduces the water flow of the shower to 50% and diverts the other 50% to the storage tank, by means of the electronic interface. The device according to the invention is applicable in the construction industry.

ABSTRACT

The invention relates to a water-saving device which is fully automated and comprises a complete electronic control system, the possibility of connection to the aqueduct supply network and a hydraulic generator for saving energy. The device according to the invention communicates with
5 a modular system that optionally reduces the water flow of the shower to 50% and diverts the other 50% to the storage tank, by means of the electronic interface. The device according to the invention is applicable in the construction industry.

AUTOMATED SHOWER WATER SAVING DEVICE

Field of the Invention

The present invention relates to mechanical and environmental engineering, specifically to the field of architecture and construction. The present invention is particularly related to the design of electro mechanic and electronic devices for water saving, more specifically with the development of these devices for domestic plumbing installations.

The present invention corresponds to the development of an automated device for water saving in showers and toilets that comprises an integrated and functional system.

Prior Art

Water saving is currently one of the factors of major interest and awareness in the world. Bathrooms are one of the main water consumption sources in households due to the amount of sanitary equipment that is used, such as showerheads, toilets and handwashers. Thus, a variety of devices for consumption reduction have been developed.

In the same way, patent **CN204373226** describes a utility model for a fully manual domestic device for water saving in the shower, which comprises two water collecting tanks, a gas water heater and a showerhead. However, like the previous system, it does not have an

electronic valve, a temperature sensor, a rechargeable battery, an energy micro generator, nor an electronic control interface that allows the system to measure variables automatically and divert the flow of water in two different directions. In neither case a venturi device, nor a lateral entry level valve, are used for water re-utilization.

There are other systems with storage tanks that comprise a water saving system along with hydraulic deviation device capable of sending the water in 2 directions from the water inlet of the watercourse supply, like in the granted patent **US7490373** that discloses a water saving system for showers, which comprises a manual deviation device that defines two water flow trajectories coming from the conventional plumbing, a deposit to store water, a venturi device between the deviation device and the showerhead output. The venturi device, in connection to a line, allows the water contained in the tank to re-enter the conventional plumbing so that it is discharged towards the showerhead output. However, the venturi's sucks the water from the tank so that it reenters the shower without the possibility of connection to the toilet or the watercourse supply network. The described system does not comprise a wireless connection module, rechargeable battery, nor electronic valves, or any kind of electronic controllers and interfaces, therefore it does not measure the water temperature at any moment for it does not have sensors to do so. It simply diverts water to a tank, and when the tank is full an alarm warns the user, so he/she diverts the water manually to the shower head.

In the same way, the utility model patent **CN204181532** provides an automatic water saving device consisting of a five positions 5-way valve with electromagnetic characteristics and a water storage tank, in which it is possible to detect the water temperature through a thermal sensor. Likewise, it comprises a backflow valve. However, the disclosed device does not have a system that allows the connection to the toilet or the water supply network in order to re-use the water that is stored in the tank, besides, the tank has a piston system to fill and empty itself, which does not take advantage of gravity, nor it uses a venturi device to re-introduce water. The device does not use an energy micro-generator, rechargeable battery, wireless connection module, or an electronic interface and therefore it does not have the option to reduce shower water flow in half by sending the remaining water flow to the tank.

It is not common to find devices and/or water saving systems with any kind of electronic operation, although there are cases like patent **CN205745606** where a smart shower is presented which includes a hot water storage tank, solenoid valve, temperature sensor, water flow sensor, microprocessor and control panel. The solenoid valve adjusts the water flow and is installed in both the hot and cold-water pipes, it includes casing, temperature and water flow sensors in the mixed water cavity. The showerhead has a microprocessor that controls the inlet of solar energy heated water and water stored in the tank, according to the received temperature information. This smart shower includes one-way valves that regulate water flow but do not divert it, and although it includes an electronic control device, this controller does not have a rechargeable battery in case there is a power outage, nor a wireless connection

module for internet connection. Contrary to the present invention, this patent is not adaptable for already built households and it requires its own solar heater, furthermore it proposes a smart control of the water temperature during the shower but it does not save the initial cold water, nor it allows the user to re-direct the water flow from the shower to a tank at any given moment, so it does not mention any method of water re-introduction.

Another water saving device like the one disclosed in patent **US2009165875** finds its main use in a water supply system and comprises a water storage chamber, a water flow sensor to determine if water flows in the hot water duct, a temperature sensor to determine water temperature, water flow direction means, and a control device. It also includes an electronic device to control the flow and temperature sensor signals; the water in the storage tank is available for the water supply network.

Unlike the present invention, the device shown in in this patent does not include a hydraulic microgenerator for energetic savings nor it uses a rechargeable battery or a wireless connection module for the system to connect to the internet. It does not give the user the option to divert 50% of the water flow to the storage tank in order to reduce water consumption in the shower. As for the valves, this water saving device works with two-way valves, not three-way valves like the present invention, nor it uses a lateral inlet level valve to re utilize saved water in the toilet. Finally, the turning-on process in the device starts due to a flow sensor and not by means of a power button/switch/ encoder.

Unlike the discussed devices in the prior art, the automated water saving device from the present invention is fully automated and comprises an electronic control device with which the user interacts, a wireless connection module that connects the system to the internet, a hydraulic microgenerator to save electrical energy, and the possibility to connect to the toilet or the water supply network for the autonomous reuse of saved water. Likewise, being a modular system, it allows the builder or the household owner to choose the location of the system's tank and piping and/or hoses, according to preference. Furthermore, it gives the user the option to reduce shower water flow by 50% and divert the remaining 50% to the storage tank, via the electronic interface.

Description of the Invention

The automated shower water saving device of the present invention combines a hydraulic routing, energy generation and flow measurement electro-mechanic integrated system, a modular water storage system, an electronic control interface with wireless internet connection and an autonomous clean water reintroduction mechanism in one integrated and functional unit.

The invention completes an automated saving of water as it reaches a temperature determined by a user, or when this user indicates so in an electronic interface. This interface comprises

a screen, a power button and/or switch and/or encoder, one or a group of buttons and/or switches and/or encoders for water temperature and routing control, a rechargeable battery and/or AC/DC converter, a microcontroller and a charge/use controller. Said interface displays information about shower time, water temperature and consumption, in real time. It also comprises a wireless connection module which connects the system to the internet, supplies relevant information about water consumption in the shower, and allows remote control of the system.

In the device of the present invention, the hydraulic routing, energy generation and flow measurement electro-mechanic integrated system comprises a three-way electronic valve horizontally or vertically connected to the hydraulic micro generator, a temperature sensor, a flowmeter and a removable filter at the entrance of the system.

According to this aspect of the invention, the modular water storage system comprises between 1 to 5 modular water storage tanks per shower, which can be internal, external or recessed in the wall. These tanks comprise between 1 to 5 reliefs, between 0 and 5 mechanical shut-off valves, between 0 and at least 1 backflow valve and at least 1 removable filter.

Likewise, the device of the invention counts with an autonomous clean water reintroduction mechanism, reintroducing it independently into the toilet water tank or the housing water supply network. For the reintroduction of water in the toilet, said system is composed by a

lateral entry level valve which connects directly to the toilet tank. For the water reintroduction into the supply network, the system is composed by a Venturi tube and between 0 and at least one unidirectional or backflow valve.

The stored water in the modular water storage system is driven to the autonomous clean water reintroduction point through gravity.

Brief Description of the Drawings

Figure 1. General outline of the device of the present invention. Autonomous clean water reintroduction mechanism (20) for any point of the household, with only one storage tank (7).

Figure 2. General outline of the device of the present invention. Autonomous clean water 5 reintroduction mechanism (20) connected directly to the toilet tank, with only one storage tank (7).

Figure 3. General outline of the device of the present invention. Autonomous clean water reintroduction mechanism (20) for any point of the household. The embodiment includes between 2 and 5 modular tanks connected in series (7).

Figure 4. General outline of the device of the present invention. Autonomous clean water reintroduction mechanism (20) connected directly to the toilet tank. The embodiment includes between 2 and 5 modular tanks connected in series (7).

Figure 5. General outline of the device of the present invention. Embodiment with a single central tank (24) for water storage from 2 or more showers. Autonomous clean water reintroduction mechanism (20) for any point of the household.

Figure 6. General outline of the device of the present invention. Embodiment with a single central tank (24) for water storage from 2 or more showers. Autonomous clean water reintroduction mechanism (20) connected directly to the toilet tank.

Figure 7. General arrangement of the hydraulic routing, energy generation and flow measurement electro-mechanic integrated system (1). 3-way electronic valve (6) horizontally connected with the hydraulic micro-generator (5).

Figure 8. General arrangement of the hydraulic routing, energy generation and flow measurement electro-mechanic integrated system (1). 3-way electronic valve (6) vertically connected with the hydraulic micro-generator (5).

Figure 9. General arrangement of the electronic control interface with wireless internet connection (11) in one of the embodiments of the invention.

Figure 9.A. General arrangement of the electronic control interface with wireless internet connection (11) in one of the embodiments of the invention.

Figure 9.B. General arrangement of the electronic control interface with wireless internet connection (11) in one of the embodiments of the invention.

Figure 10. General arrangement of the electronic control interface with wireless internet connection (11) in one of the embodiments of the invention.

Figure 11. General arrangement of the hydraulic routing, energy generation and flow measurement electro-mechanic integrated system (1) in one of the embodiments of the invention.

Figure 12. General arrangement of the electronic control interface with wireless internet connection (11) in one of the embodiments of the invention.

Figure 13. General arrangement of the hydraulic routing, energy generation and flow measurement electro-mechanic integrated system (1) in one of the embodiments of the invention.

Figure 14. General arrangement of the electronic control interface with wireless internet connection (11) in one of the embodiments of the invention.

Figure 15. General arrangement of the hydraulic routing, energy generation and flow measurement electro-mechanic integrated system (1) in one of the embodiments of the invention.

Figure 16. General arrangement of the electronic control interface with wireless internet connection (11) in one of the embodiments of the invention.

Figure 17. General arrangement of the hydraulic routing, energy generation and flow measurement electro-mechanic integrated system (1) in one of the embodiments of the invention.

Figure 18. General arrangement of the electronic control interface with wireless internet connection (11) in one of the embodiments of the invention.

Figure 19. General arrangement of the electronic control interface with wireless internet connection (11) in one of the embodiments of the invention.

Figure 20. Components of storage tank (7).

Figure 21. Autonomous clean water reintroduction mechanism (20). Venturi tube (21) and unidirectional or backflow valve (22).

Figure 22. Autonomous clean water reintroduction mechanism (20). Lateral entry level valve (23).

Detailed Description of the Invention

The automated shower water saving device of the present invention combines a hydraulic routing, energy generation and flow measurement electro-mechanic integrated system (1), a modular water storage system (7), an electronic control interface with wireless internet connection (11) and an autonomous clean water reintroduction mechanism (20) in one integrated and functional unit. 20 (FIG. 1 – FIG. 2)

The device of the present invention completes an automated water saving as it reaches a temperature determined by the user through the electronic control interface (11), or in any other moment through the actuation of the three-way electronic valve (6), the temperature sensor (4), the interface buttons and/or switches and/or encoders (13) and the micro-

controller (17). This system redirects shower water and stores it in a modular water storage system (7), for its later autonomous reintroduction in the housing water network or the toilet tank. Additionally, the device comprises a partial power supply system through a hydraulic micro-generator (5), connected to the water inlet, as well as a water flowmeter (3) and a wireless internet connection module (14) which allows the user to have a remote control of the system and access to relevant information regarding 10 their water consumption in the showers. The system's components are energetically supplied by the hydraulic micro-generator (5) and the rechargeable battery (15), which can be or not be connected to the housing energy supply network, through the AC/DC converter (16).

In one aspect of the invention, the hydraulic routing, energy generation and flow measurement electro-mechanic integrated system (1) comprises a three-way electronic valve (6) horizontally or 15 vertically connected to a hydraulic micro generator (5), a temperature sensor (4), a flowmeter (3) and a removable filter (2) at the entrance of the system. (FIG. 7 – FIG. 8).

In this same aspect of the invention, the three-way electronic valve (6) allows the routing of the water flow coming from the housing aqueduct network piping, either to the user's shower head or the device's modular water storage system (7). This is done automatically, according to the user's indication through the electronic control interface with wireless internet connection (11).

The three-way electronic valve (6) can be actioned to an intermediate position which allows the passing of 50% of water flow to the shower head, and the other 50% to the modular water storage system (7), in such a way that 50% of user water consumption is reduced, without affecting the water pressure or the water flow that goes through the water heater, and thus preventing such from turning off. These percentages can change, as indicated by the micro-controller (17), which determines the position to be assumed by the three-way valve (6), which in turn receives information from the temperature sensor (4) and the buttons and/or switches and/or encoders for temperature control and water routing of the interface (13). In particular, the three-way electronic valve (6) can be actuated to open the passage of a percentage of the water flow to the shower head and the other corresponding to the modular water storage system (7), in such a way that the water consumption of the user is reduced, without affecting the water pressure or the flow that passes through the heater.

According to this aspect of the invention, the hydraulic micro-generator (5) generates energy for the partial self-supply and according to system energetic requirements. It connects electronically with the charge/use controller (18) which in turn links with the micro-controller (17). It connects physically with the three-way electronic valve (6), vertically or horizontally, according to the desired arrangement of the device.

In this same aspect of the invention, the temperature sensor (4) connects with the electronic control interface (11), senses the water temperature, sends a signal to the micro-controller (17) and activates the change in position of the three-way electronic valve (6).

In this same aspect of the invention, the flowmeter (3) calculates the shower's water consumption and determines water savings. It is positioned before the electronic valve (6), so that both variables can be measured. It links electronically with the micro-controller (17), which allows to transmit and visualize the information on the screen (12).

According to this aspect of the invention, the removable filter (2) is positioned at the entrance of the system.

Specifically, the removable filter (2) is positioned at the entrance of the hydraulic routing, energy generation and flow measurement electro-mechanic integrated system (1), i.e., before the temperature sensor (4), the electronic valve (6), the micro-generator (5) and the flowmeter (3).

Such filter (2) preserves the system free from particles that could alter the appropriate operation of hydraulic components; said filter (2) is of easy maintenance. Preferably, this filter (2) can have a diameter between 1.27 cm and 3.81 cm, so that pressure losses are minimized.

According to another aspect of the invention, the modular water storage system (7) consists of between 1 and 5 storage tanks per shower, which can be internal, external, or recessed in the wall (FIG. 3 – FIG. 4), and comprise between 1 to 5 reliefs (8), between 0 and 5 mechanical shut-off valves (9), between 0 and at least 1 unidirectional backflow valve (22) and at least 1 removable filter (10) coupled to the water outlet (FIG. 20).

Particularly, the cumulated volume by the modular water storage system (7) will be at least 15 liters, per shower. This volume, and therefore the size of the tanks, can change and adapt to the user's needs.

In the same particular aspect of the invention, the modular water storage system (7) can relate to the water storage from one or several showers. More particularly, the modular water storage system (7) can relate to a single central tank (24), which stores the gravity driven water from several showers (FIG. 5 – FIG. 6). More particularly, the modular water storage system (7) can relate to a series of between 1 and 5 tanks per shower, which in turn conduct water by gravity to a central storage tank (24).

More particularly, the modular water storage system (7) is installed in an intermediate height between the hydraulic routing electro-mechanic integrated system (1) and the toilet water

tank, or the housing water reintroduction point, in order to conduct water by gravity. This conduction is performed by a hard or flexible piping system.

In this same aspect of the invention, the stored water in the modular water storage system (7) is driven by gravity and reintroduced through a system that is adapted to each shower and toilet, in built households, and the water supply network, in new households.

In another aspect of the invention, the electronic control interface with wireless internet connection (11) is comprised of a screen or display (12), a power button and/or switch and/or encoder; water temperature control and routing button(s) and/or switch(es) and/or encoder(s) (13); a wireless connection module (14); a rechargeable battery (15); a micro-controller (17); a charge/ use controller (18); Particularly, said interface comprises an AC/DC converter for new housing (16). 20 (FIG. 9 – FIG. 9.A – FIG. 9.B)

In this same aspect of the invention, the electronic control interface with wireless internet connection (11) allows the user to fully control the operation of the system in a simple and automated way. Said electronic control interface (11) presents information about shower time, water temperature and water consumption, in real time. Besides, it comprises a wireless connection 5 module (14) that connects the system to the internet, provides relevant information about water consumption in the shower, and allows remote control of the system. This remote control is done through external devices connected to the internet.

Particularly, the user turns the system on with the power button/switch/encoder (13). The screen (12) turns on, where the user can view the items to be controlled with the system's buttons/switches/encoders (13).

In the same aspect of the invention, the user operates the buttons/switches/encoders (13) to select the temperature at which the user wants the device to allow water to come out of the shower head. Particularly, the invention's device is adaptable to any shower head available.

In this same aspect of the invention, the user opens the shower hot water tap, by using a single lever mixer, a double lever mixer, or any mixer the user has, and the cold water that used to come out before reaching its ideal temperature is led by the hydraulic routing system (1), which is controlled by the micro-controller (17), to the modular water storage system (7). Water is sent to the modular water storage system (7) until it reaches the temperature that was indicated by the user. The change in water temperature is indicated in the screen (12) in real time, so that the user can see when the hot water will come out.

Preferably, the electronic control interface with wireless internet connection (11) comprises a visual or auditory indicator (19) to alert the user that the water has reached its ideal temperature.

Once the water reaches the indicated temperature, water comes out through the shower head, and the screen (12) shows real time information about water consumption, shower time and current water temperature, so that the user can have absolute control over his shower.

Still in this aspect of the invention, a button/switch/encoder (13) in the electronic control interface 5 (11) is operated at user's discretion to direct 100% or 50% of the water flow to the modular water storage system (7) without altering the water pressure or water flow that runs through the water heater.

In the same aspect of the invention, the wireless connection module (14) connects the system to the internet, which allows the remote control of the system, the monitoring of each user's historic 10 water consumption, and updates through a mobile application.

In this same aspect of the invention, all of the electronic components connect with the rechargeable battery (15) for its operation. Said rechargeable battery (15) can be connected to the energy supply network, by means of the charge/use controller (18) and the AC/DC converter (16).

In another aspect of the invention, the autonomous clean water reintroduction mechanism (20) reintroduces water to the toilet or the housing's water supply network. For the reintroduction of water to the toilet, the system comprises a lateral entry level valve (23)

which is connected to the toilet tank directly (FIG. 22). On the other side, for the reintroduction of water to the supply network, the system comprises a venturi tube (21), and between 0 and at least one backflow valve (22) (FIG. 21). The system composed of a venturi tube (21) and between 0 and at least one unidirectional or backflow valve (22) is also adaptable to the line that supplies the toilet tank with water from the supply network.

The automated water saving device of the present invention, unlike those disclosed in the state of the art, is completely automated and comprises a complete electronic control interface (11) with which the user interacts, a wireless connection module (14) that connects the system to the internet, a hydraulic micro-generator (5) for energetic savings, and the possibility to connect to the toilet or the aqueduct supply network for the autonomous reintroduction of clean saved water. Likewise, being a modular system, it allows the builder or the household owner to choose the location of the system's tank and piping and/or lines, according to preferences.

In this same aspect of the invention, the automated shower water saving device is totally autonomous and adaptable.

According to this or another aspect of the invention, the device comprises a sound reproduction system (25) in the electronic control interface with wireless internet connection (11), which connects with the micro-controller (17). (FIG. 10)

In another particular aspect, the device of the invention includes a wireless transmitter/receiver (26), a second charge/use controller (27) and a second rechargeable battery (28), located in the device's hydraulic routing, energy generation and flow measurement electro-mechanic integrated system (1), and connected with the flowmeter (3), the temperature sensor (4), the hydraulic micro-generator (5) and the 3-way electronic valve (6). It also includes a second wireless transmitter/receiver (29) located in the electronic control interface with wireless internet connection (11) and connected with the micro-controller (17). (FIG. 11 – FIG. 12)

More particularly in this aspect the device of the invention includes its own shower head, which comprises a servomotor (30), which connects with the micro-controller (17), and which allows the user to control the type of flow that comes out of the shower head, automatically. (FIG. 13 – FIG. 14)

In this same particular aspect of the invention, the device includes its own proportional electronic valves (31) which control cold and hot water flow, automatically, and connect with the microcontroller (17). (FIG. 15 – FIG. 16)

The device may also include a water pump (32) located before the entrance of water to the hydraulic routing, energy generation and flow measurement electro-mechanic integrated

system (1), which allows the increase in water pressure, and communicates with the micro-controller (17). (FIG. 17 – FIG. 18)

Likewise, the device replaces the AC/DC converter by a solar power feeding block (33), in order to supply the system's energetic requirements and recharge the battery (15). It connects with the charge/use controller (18). (FIG. 19)

In these aspects of the invention, one or several combinations of the previous embodiments are included.

Preferred embodiments

In a preferred embodiment of the invention, the device comprises a hydraulic routing, energy generation and flow measurement electro-mechanic integrated system (1), which is composed of a three-way electronic valve (6) horizontally or vertically connected to a hydraulic micro generator (5), a temperature sensor (4), a flowmeter (3) and a removable filter (2) at the entrance of the system.

According to this same aspect of the invention, the device comprises a modular water storage system (7) consisting on a single water storage tank which can be internal, external or recessed in the wall. This tank comprises one or two overflow reliefs (8), between 0 and at

least one mechanical shut-off valve (9), and one removable filter (10) located at the water exit in the lower part of the tank.

Particularly, in this same aspect or embodiment of the invention, water is stored in a modular water storage system (7) consisting on a series of between 2 and 5 modular tanks. These comprise between 1 to 5 overflow reliefs (8), between 0 and 5 mechanical shut-off valves (9), between 0 and at least 1 unidirectional or backflow valve (22) and at least one removable filter (10).

In the same embodiment, the device of the invention comprises an electronic control interface with wireless internet connection (11) which comprises a screen (12), a set of buttons and/or switches and/or encoders for turning the system on and off, controlling water temperature and water routing (13), a wireless connection module (14), a rechargeable battery (15), an AC/DC converter (16), a micro-controller (17), a charge/use controller (18) and an auditory or visual indicator (19).

In this same preferred embodiment of the invention, the device comprises an autonomous clean water reintroduction mechanism (20), which reintroduces the water autonomously into the housing's water supply network. It is composed of a Venturi tube (21) and between 0 and at least one unidirectional or backflow valve (22).

According to the same embodiment of the invention, the autonomous clean water reintroduction mechanism (20) reintroduces water autonomously into the toilet's water tank. It comprises a lateral entry level valve (23), which connects directly to the toilet tank.

Particularly, in another preferred aspect of the invention, a series of 2 or more showers, each one with a hydraulic routing, energy generation and flow measurement electro-mechanic integrated system (1) and an electronic control interface with wireless internet connection (11), wherein the clean water saved from the 2 or more showers is stored in a single central tank (24) with a single autonomous clean water reintroduction mechanism system (20), a Venturi tube (21) and between 0 and at least one unidirectional or backflow valve (22).

In this same preferred embodiment, a series of 2 or more showers comprise a single autonomous clean water reintroduction mechanism (20), with a lateral entry level valve (23).

In these aspects of the invention, one or several combinations of the previous embodiments are included.

Examples

Device of the invention application and operation test

- Tests for measuring water consumption and possible impact of the system:

The average water flow from the showerheads commonly used in the city was measured with the use of Hall effect flow sensors.

The average time of hot water to come out of the showerheads was measured; for this, electrical and gas-based water heaters and different lengths of piping were tested.

With this information, the water volume that could be saved per shower, in case of implementing the system, was measured.

- Tests to evaluate the hydraulic routing electro-mechanic system:

The precision of the temperature sensor was evaluated in a 1.27 cm diameter pipe using different water flows and pressure conditions.

The three-way electronic valve's response time was evaluated based on commands from the microcontroller.

The three-way electronic valve's functioning was evaluated under low pressure conditions (worst case scenario) and high-pressure conditions (best case scenario).

The screen's operation and real time transmission of data regarding water temperature, water consumption and shower duration, were evaluated.

- Tests to evaluate the operation of the energy generation system:

The efficiency of a variety of hydraulic micro-generators was evaluated, 0 to 80 volts, and their respective rechargeable batteries and regulators.

The possibility of using energy from the micro-generators to directly supply the system's components, without the need to go through the rechargeable battery, so as to minimize power losses, was assessed.

- Test to evaluate venturi tubes' efficiency as a stored water reuse system into the household's water supply network.

The efficiency for water reuse of 1.27 cm and 1.905 cm inlet diameter Venturi tubes was evaluated in a water storage tank. This variable was tested for levels between <1 and 15 liters of water inside the tank, and for a variety of pressure conditions in water supply networks.

- Test to evaluate lateral entry level valves' efficiency as a stored water reuse system into the household's water supply networks:

Several tests were conducted with different valves found commonly in the market, under different pressure conditions in the household's water supply network.

- Test with wireless connection module:

The possibility to transmit relevant information about water consumption through the internet was evaluated. The development of a mobile app to store relevant information about the user's water consumption was assessed.

- Test to evaluate the integrated operation of the device of the invention.

A prototype that unifies the elements of the present invention was developed, and its proper independent operation was verified. The prototype allows users to achieve water saving in showers, as described in the present invention, in a satisfactory way.

Claims:

1. An automated shower water saving device comprising:

a hydraulic routing, energy generation and flow measurement electro-mechanic integrated system (1), controlled by an electronic control interface with wireless internet connection (11), and connected to a modular water storage system (7) that conducts clean saved water by gravity to an autonomous clean water reintroduction mechanism (20), wherein the hydraulic routing, energy generation and flow measurement electro-mechanic integrated system (1) generates energy for a partial self-supply of the device's energetic requirements, filters particles in a water flow, measures water consumption, water savings, and water temperature in a shower, and directs the filtered water flow to a user's shower head or the modular water storage system (7), or both simultaneously;

wherein the electronic control interface with wireless internet connection (11) controls the hydraulic routing, energy generation and flow measurement electro-mechanic integrated system (1) directly or remotely;

wherein the modular water storage system (7) stores clean water saved by users of one or more showers and conducts it, by gravity, to the autonomous clean water reintroduction mechanism (20); and

wherein the autonomous clean water reintroduction mechanism (20) connects directly to a toilet or an external tank or a water supply network.

2. The automated shower water saving device of Claim 1, wherein the hydraulic routing, energy generation and flow measurement electro-mechanic integrated system (1) includes a removable filter (2), a flowmeter (3), a temperature sensor (4), a hydraulic micro-generator (5) and

a three-way electronic valve (6), wherein the removable filter (2), the flowmeter (3) and the temperature sensor (4) are positioned before the three-way electronic valve (6), and wherein the hydraulic micro-generator (5) is positioned horizontally or vertically in connection with the three-way electronic valve (6) to generate energy when the filtered water flow is directed to the user's shower head, or the modular water storage system (7), or both simultaneously.

3. The automated shower water saving device of Claim 1, wherein the modular water storage system (7) includes between 1 and 5 modular storage tanks connected in series that store clean saved water from a single shower or a central tank (24) that stores clean saved water from two or more showers, and which can be installed internally, externally, or recessed in the housing walls, and include between one to five overflow reliefs (8), between zero and five mechanical shut-off valves (9), at least one removable filter (10) and at least one unidirectional or backflow valve (22).

4. The automated shower water saving device of Claim 1, wherein the electronic control interface with wireless internet connection (11) presents information about shower time, water temperature, water consumption and water savings in real time, provides remote control of the device, and includes a screen or display (12); a power button or switch or encoder; a combination of buttons, switches, and encoders for real time water temperature and routing control (13); a wireless connection module (14); a rechargeable battery (15) or an AC/DC converter (16) or both; a micro-controller (17); and a charge/use controller (18).

5. The automated shower water saving device of Claim 1, wherein the autonomous water reintroduction mechanism (20) includes a lateral entry level valve (23) that reintroduces water to

the toilet or the external tank, or a venturi tube (21) and at least one unidirectional or backflow valve (22) that reintroduce clean water to any point of the housing water supply network.

FIGURES

FIGURE 1.

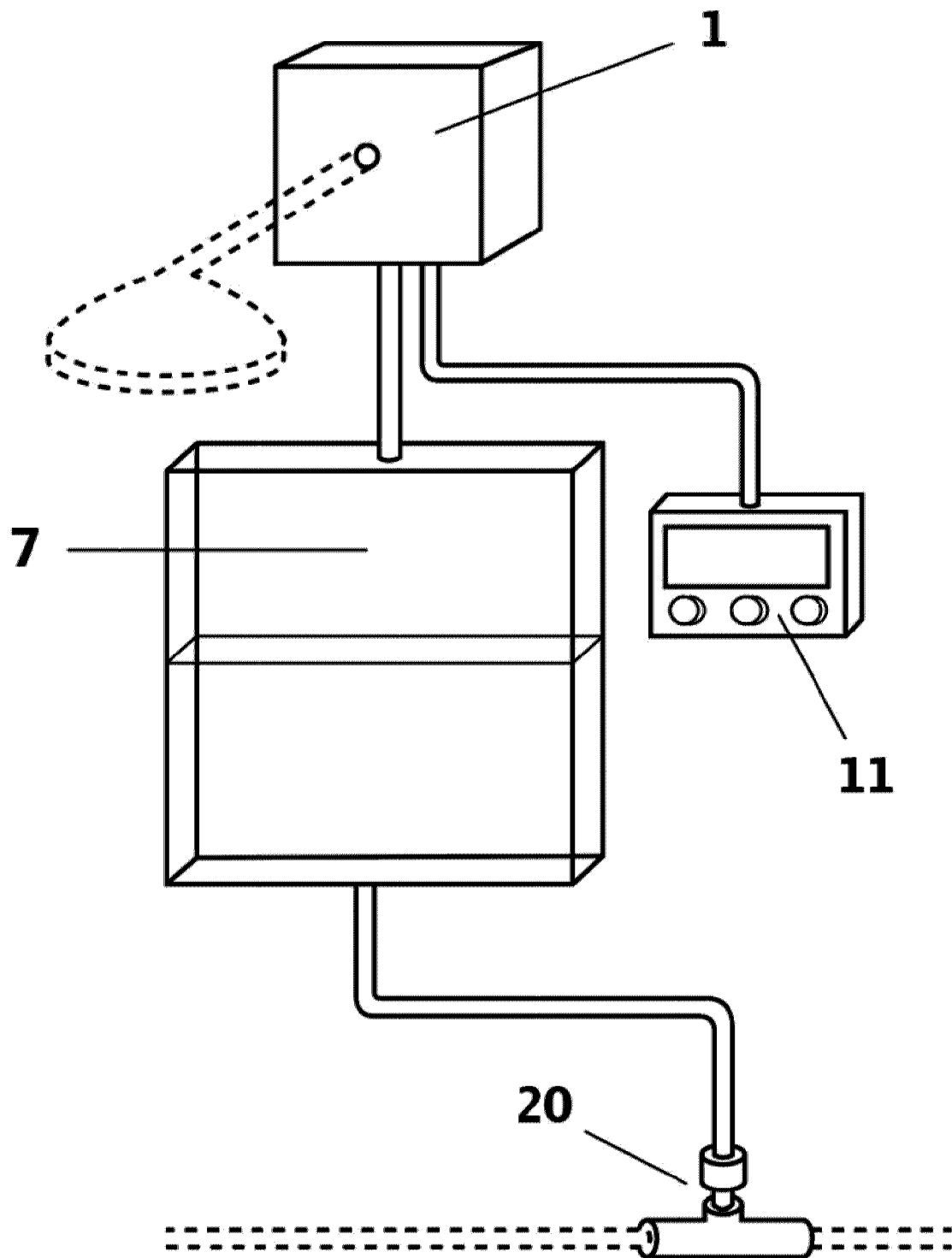


FIGURE 2.

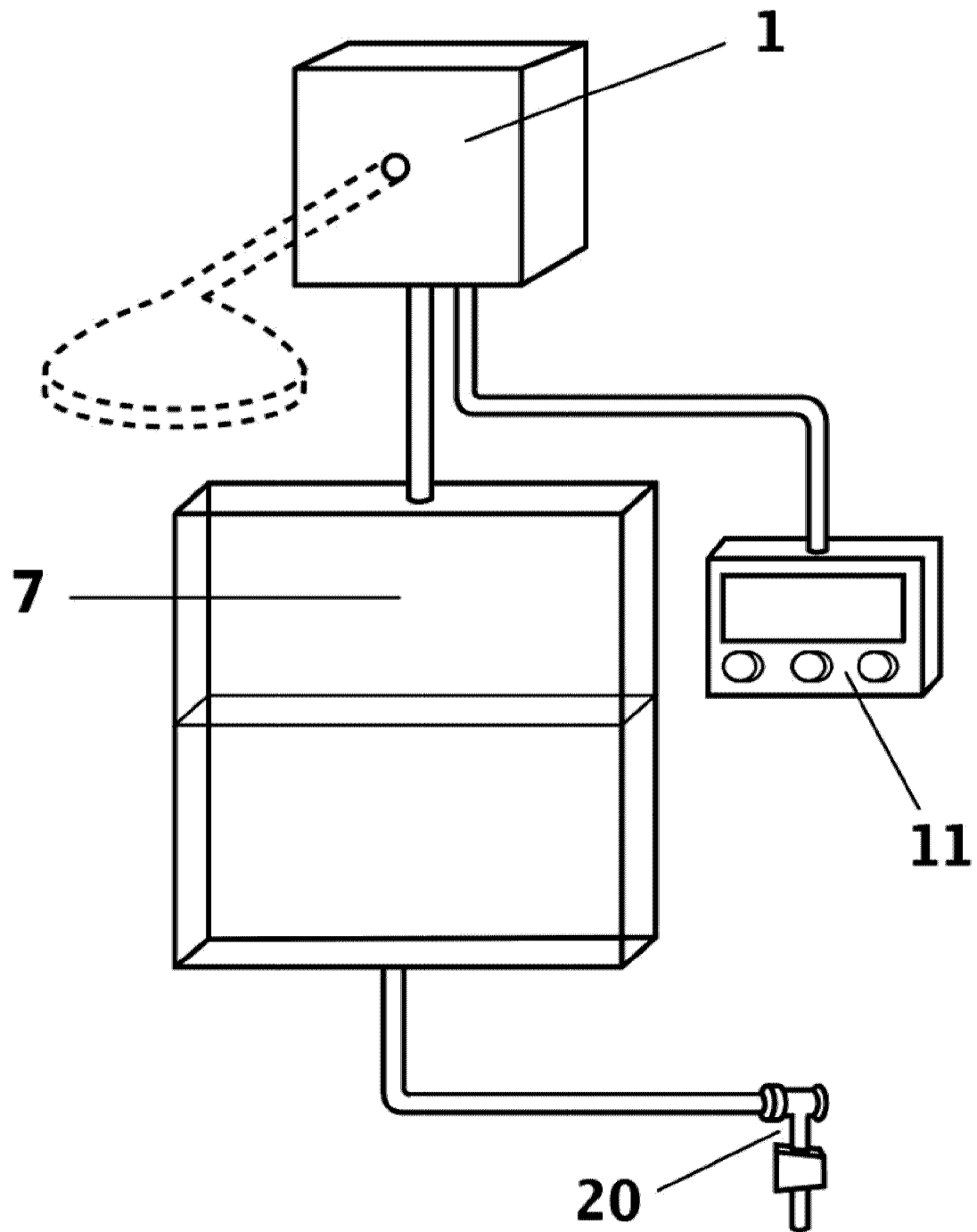


FIGURE 3.

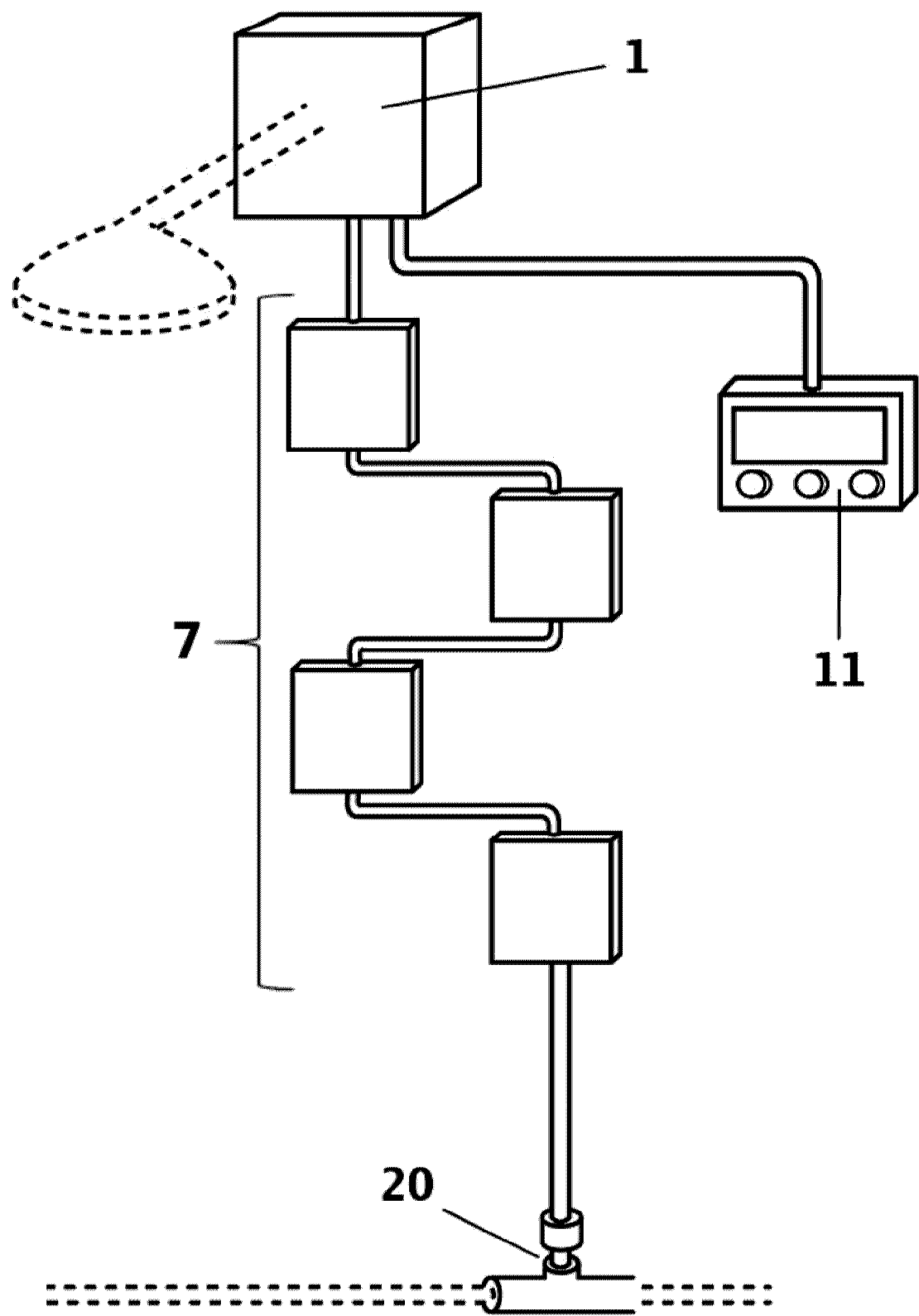


FIGURE 4.

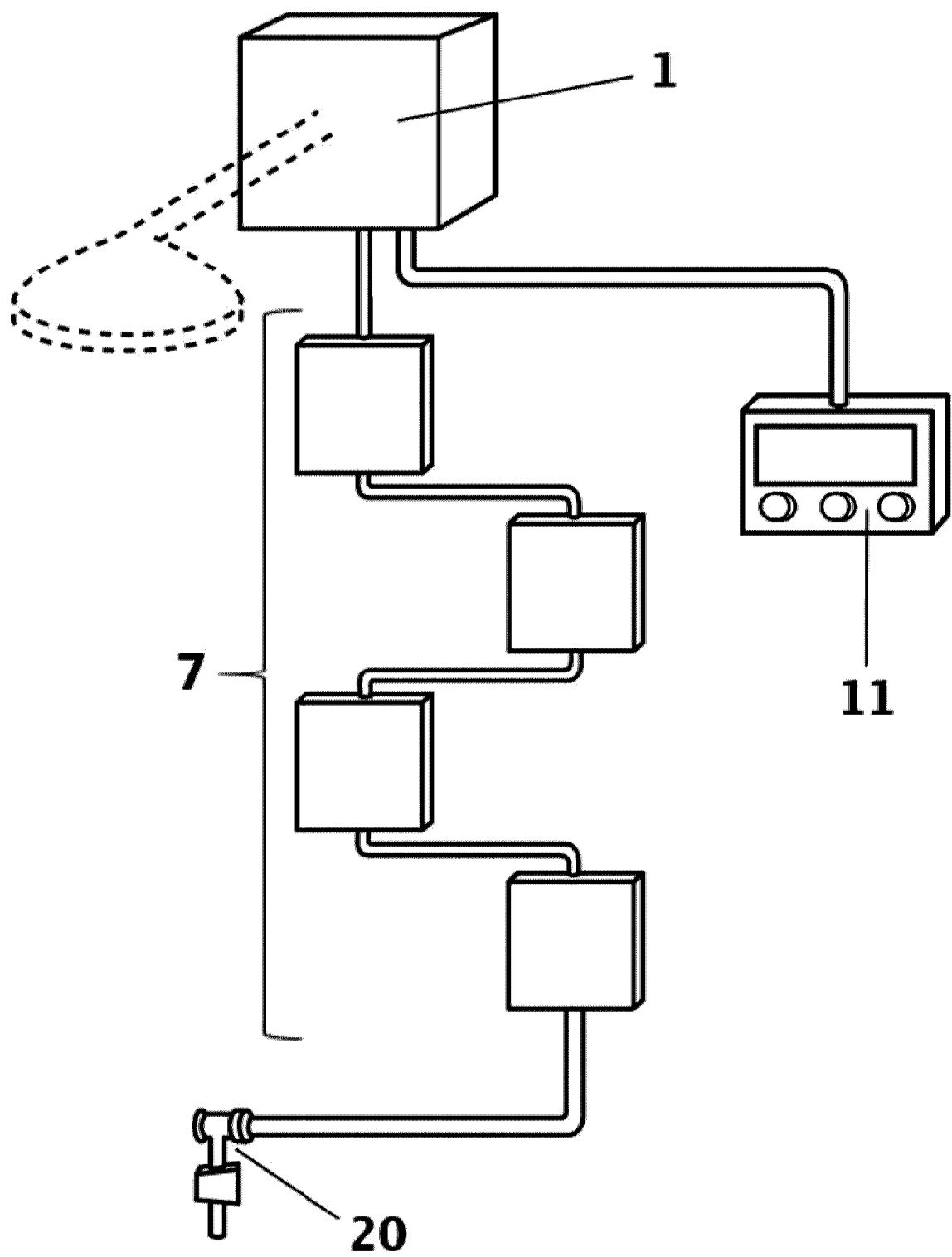


FIGURE 5.

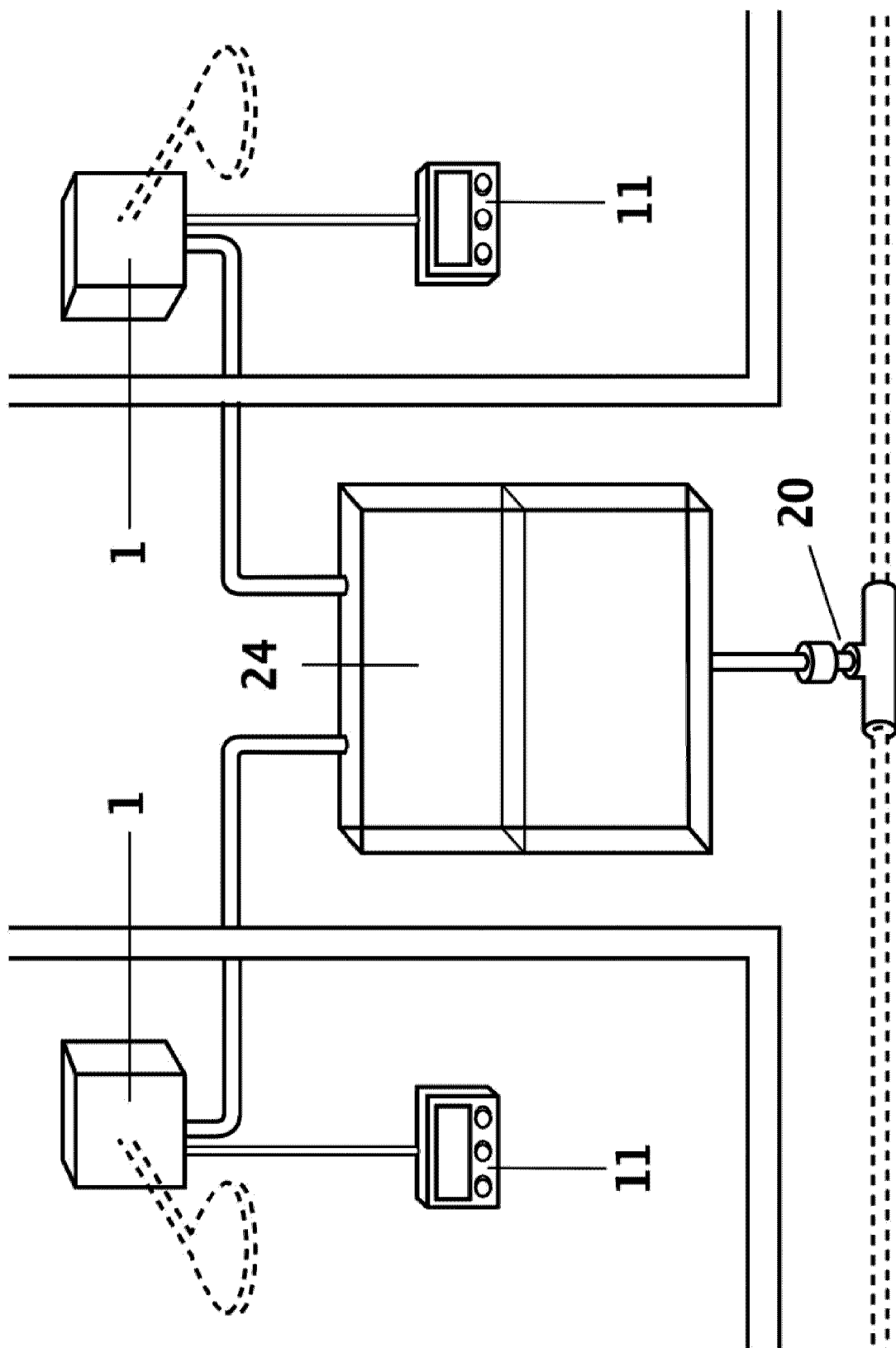


FIGURE 6.

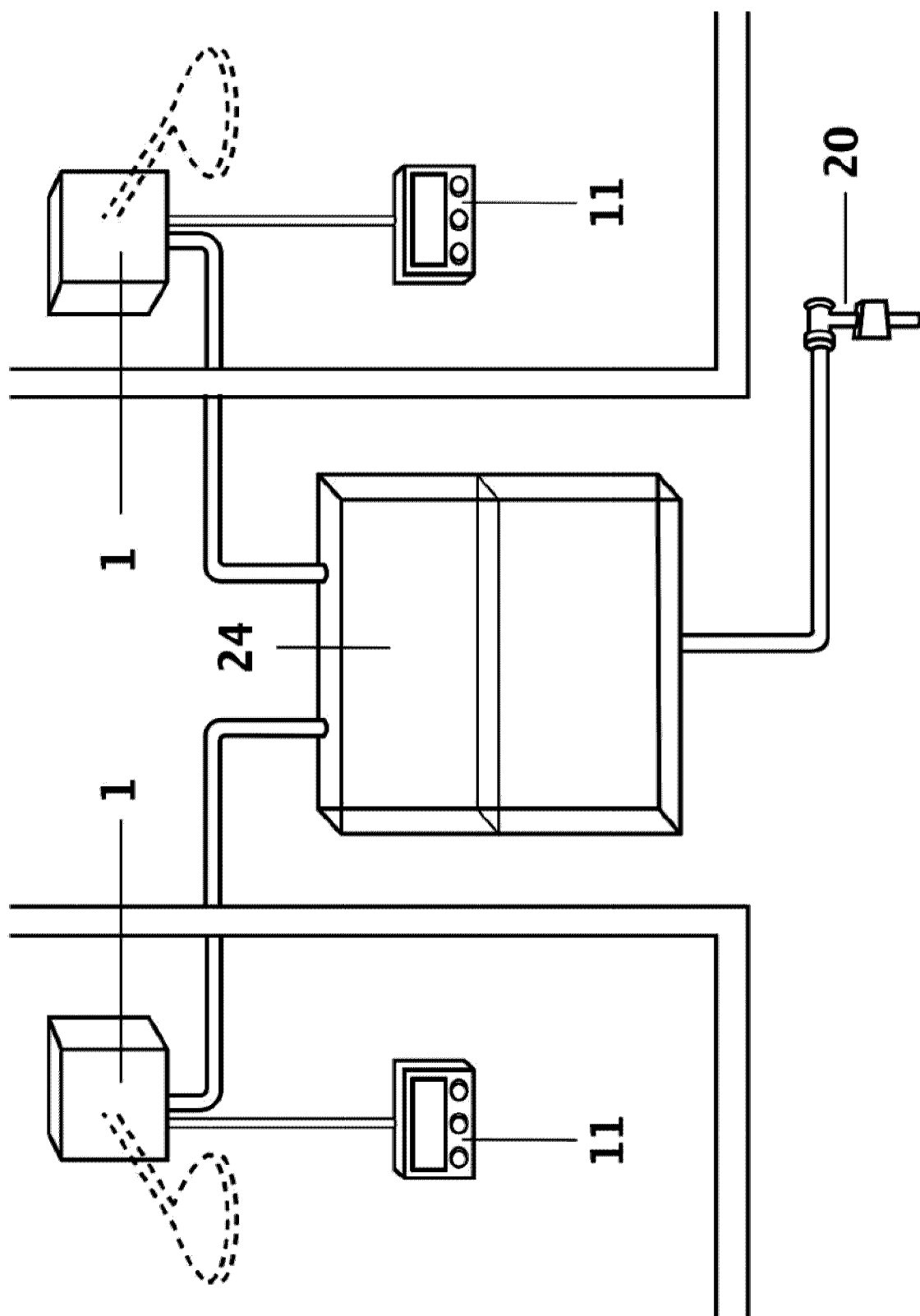


FIGURE 7.

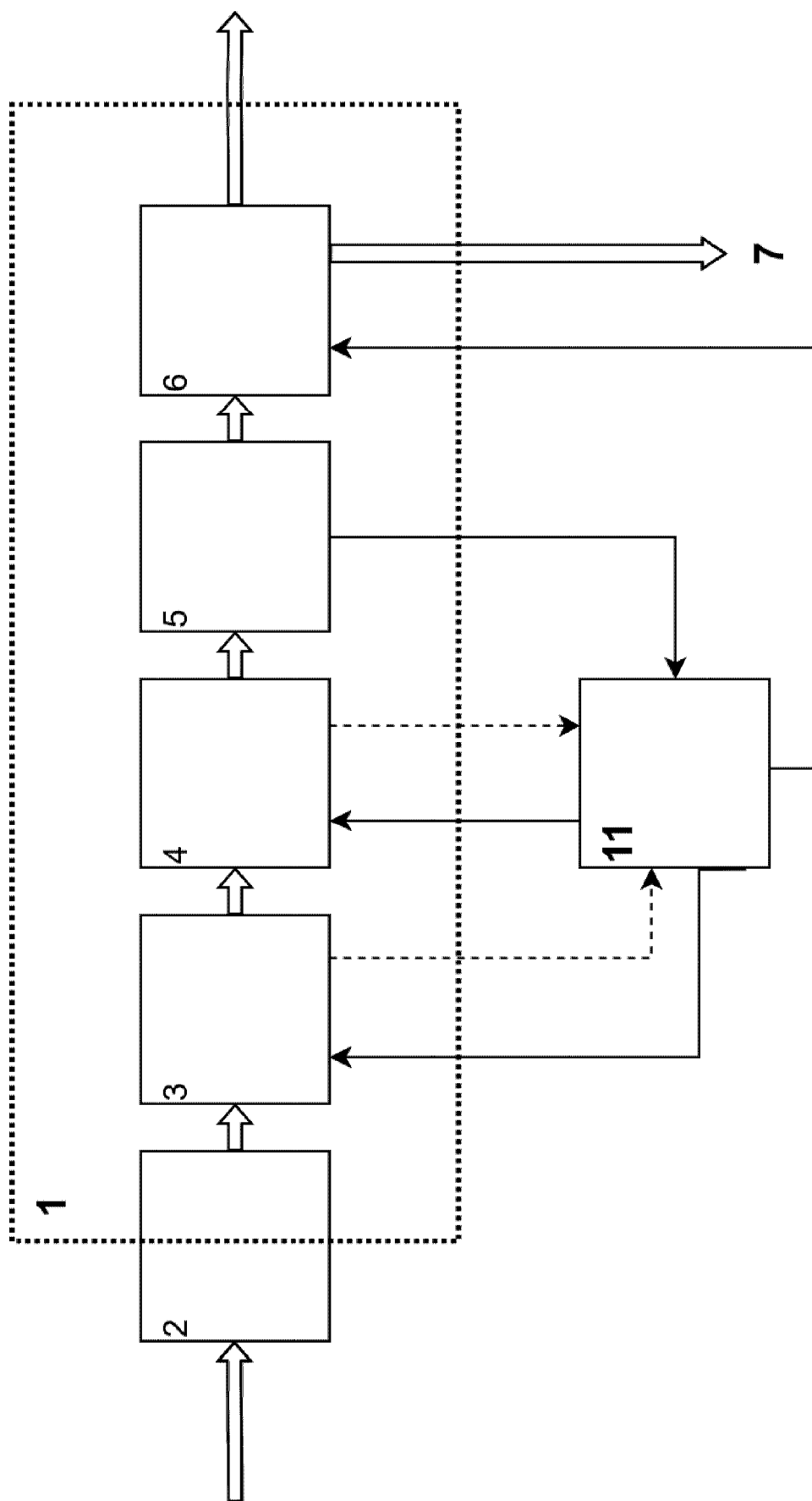


FIGURE 8.

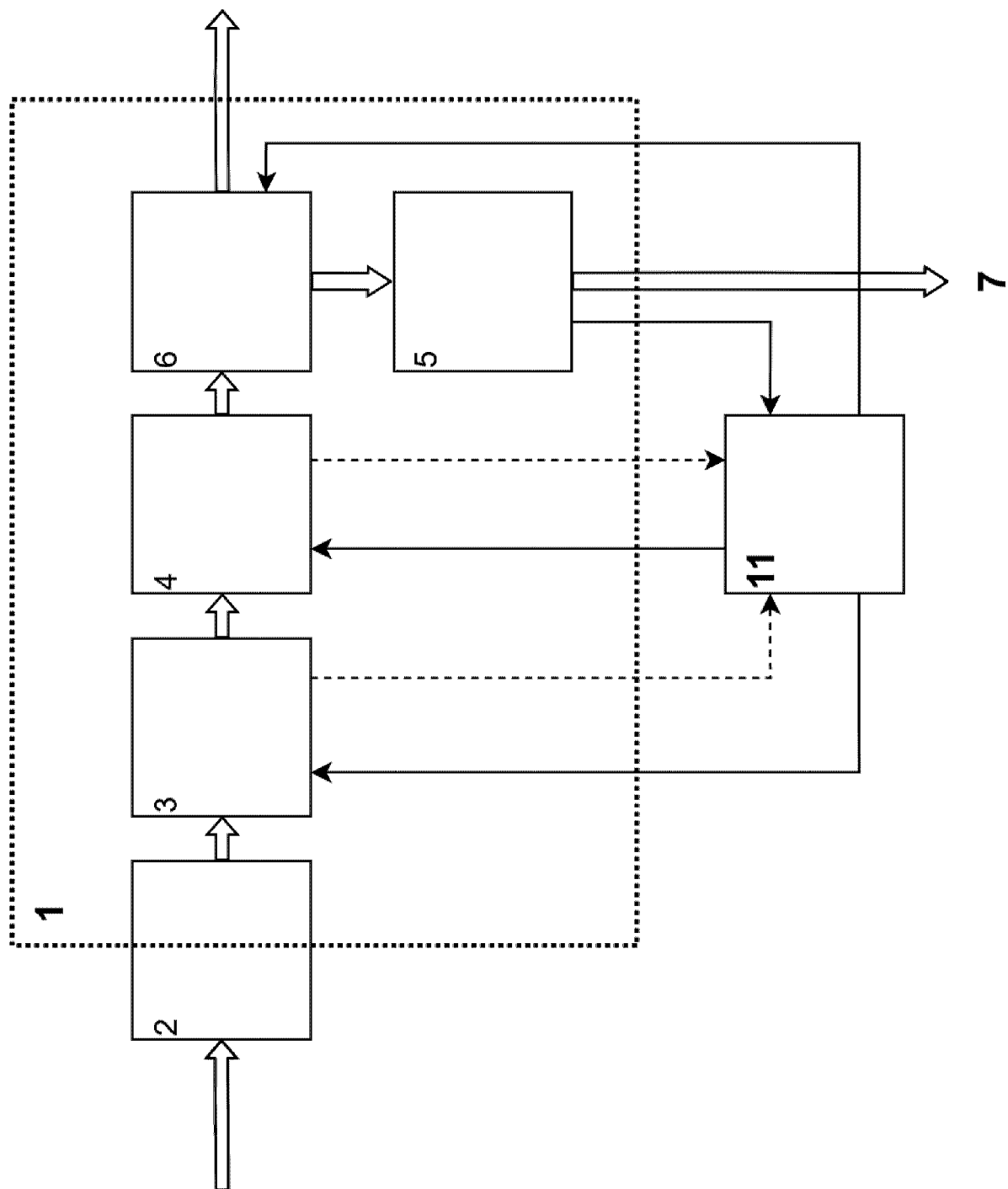


FIGURE 9.

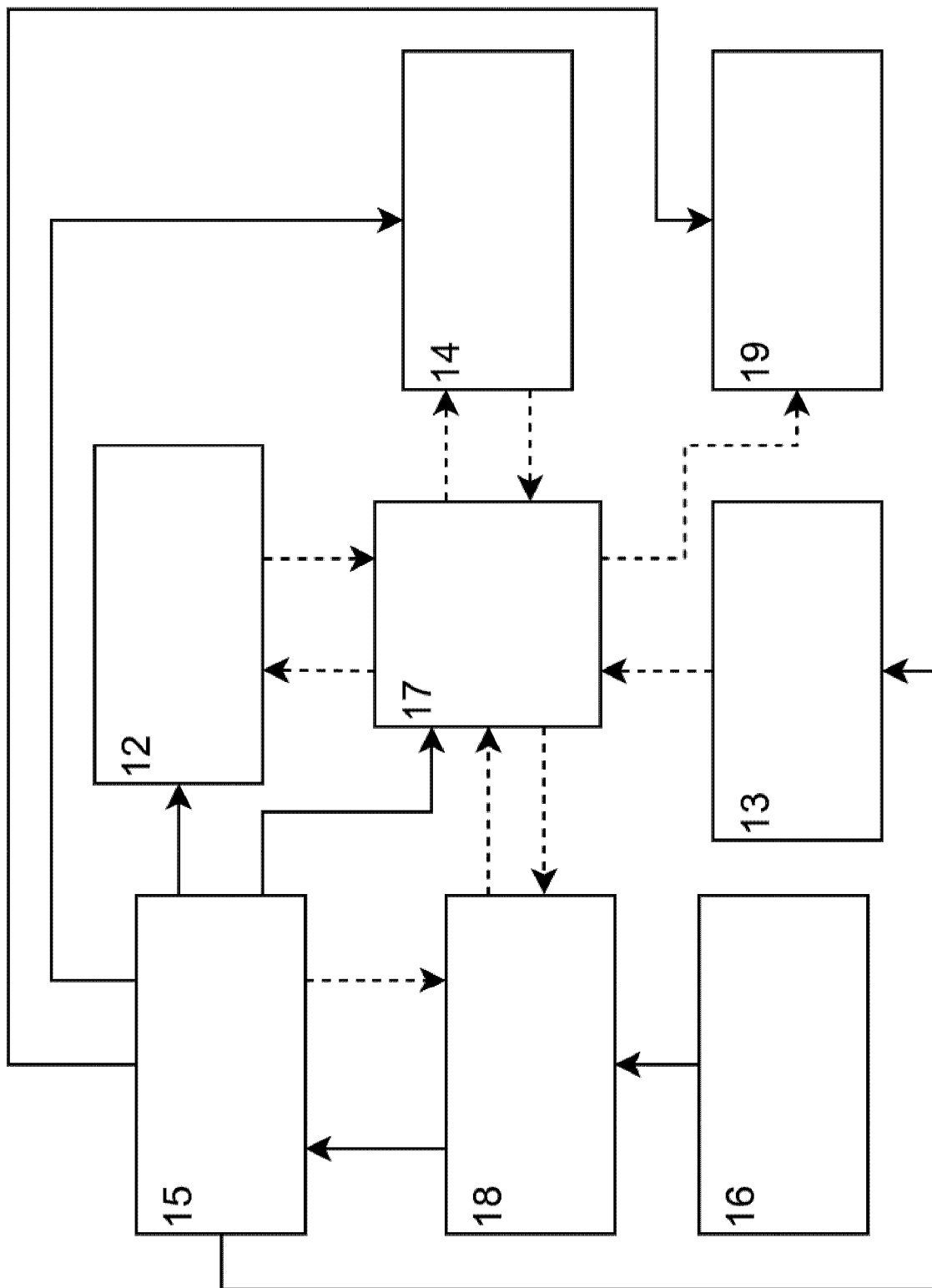


FIGURE 9A

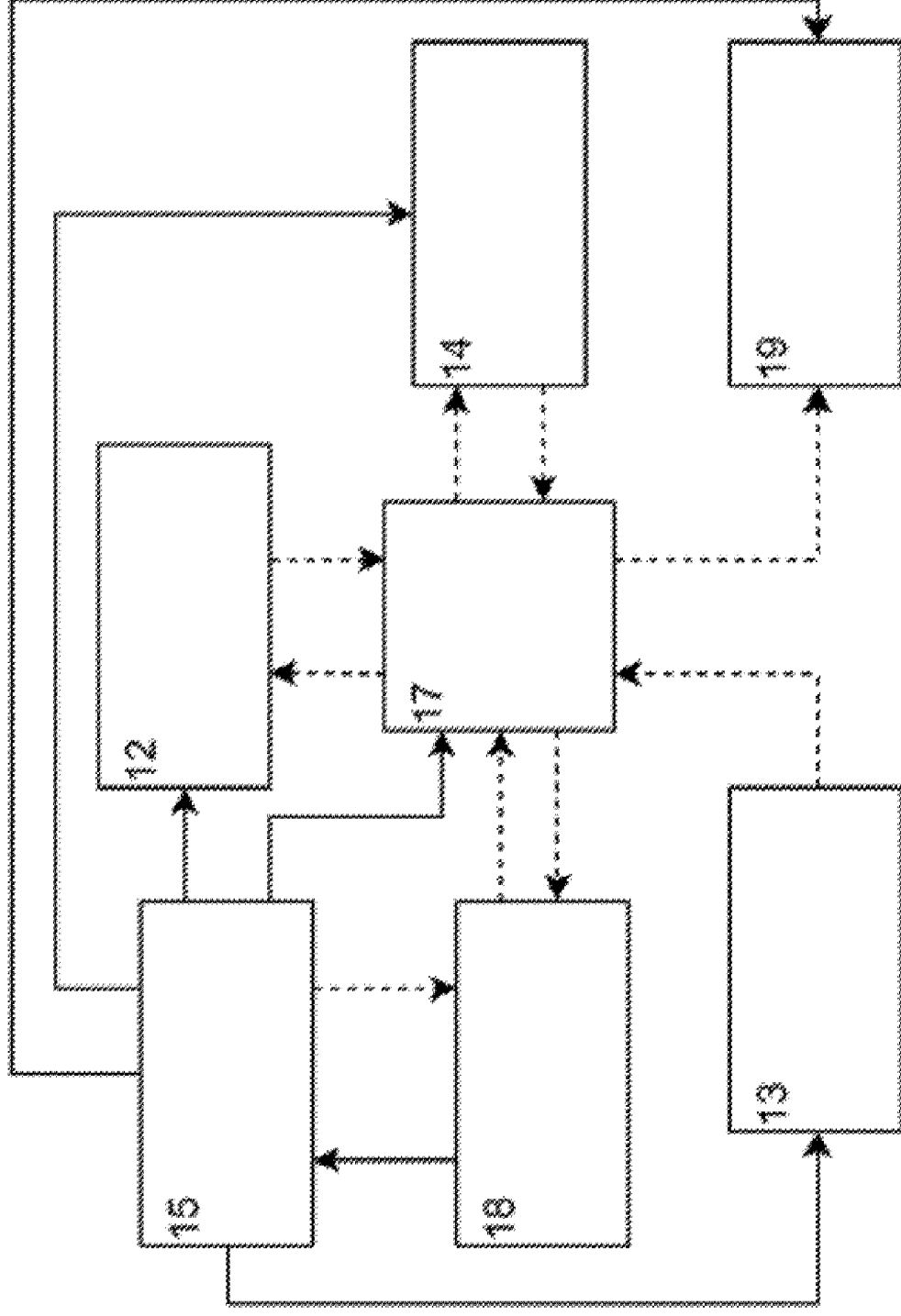


FIGURE 9B

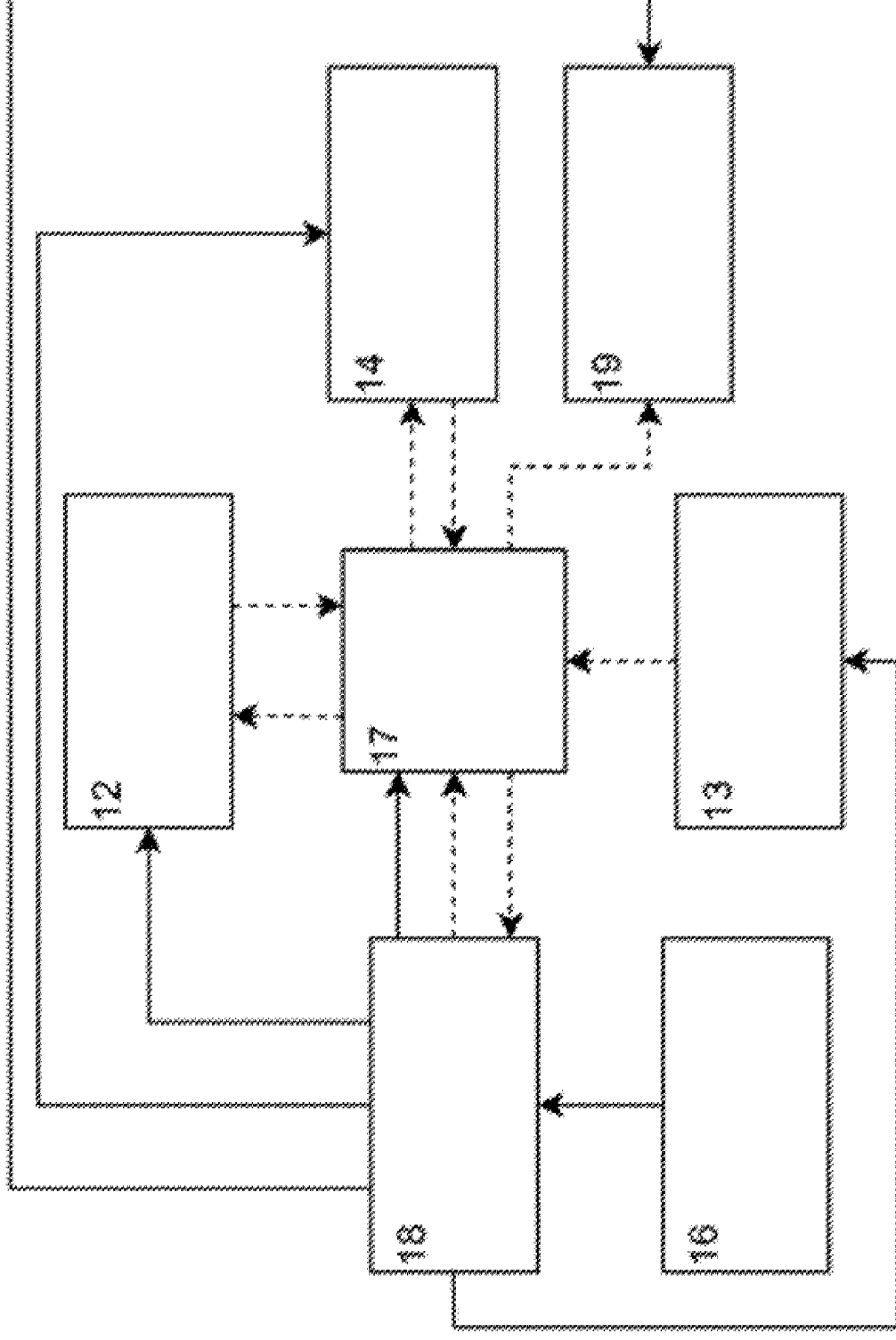


FIGURE 10.

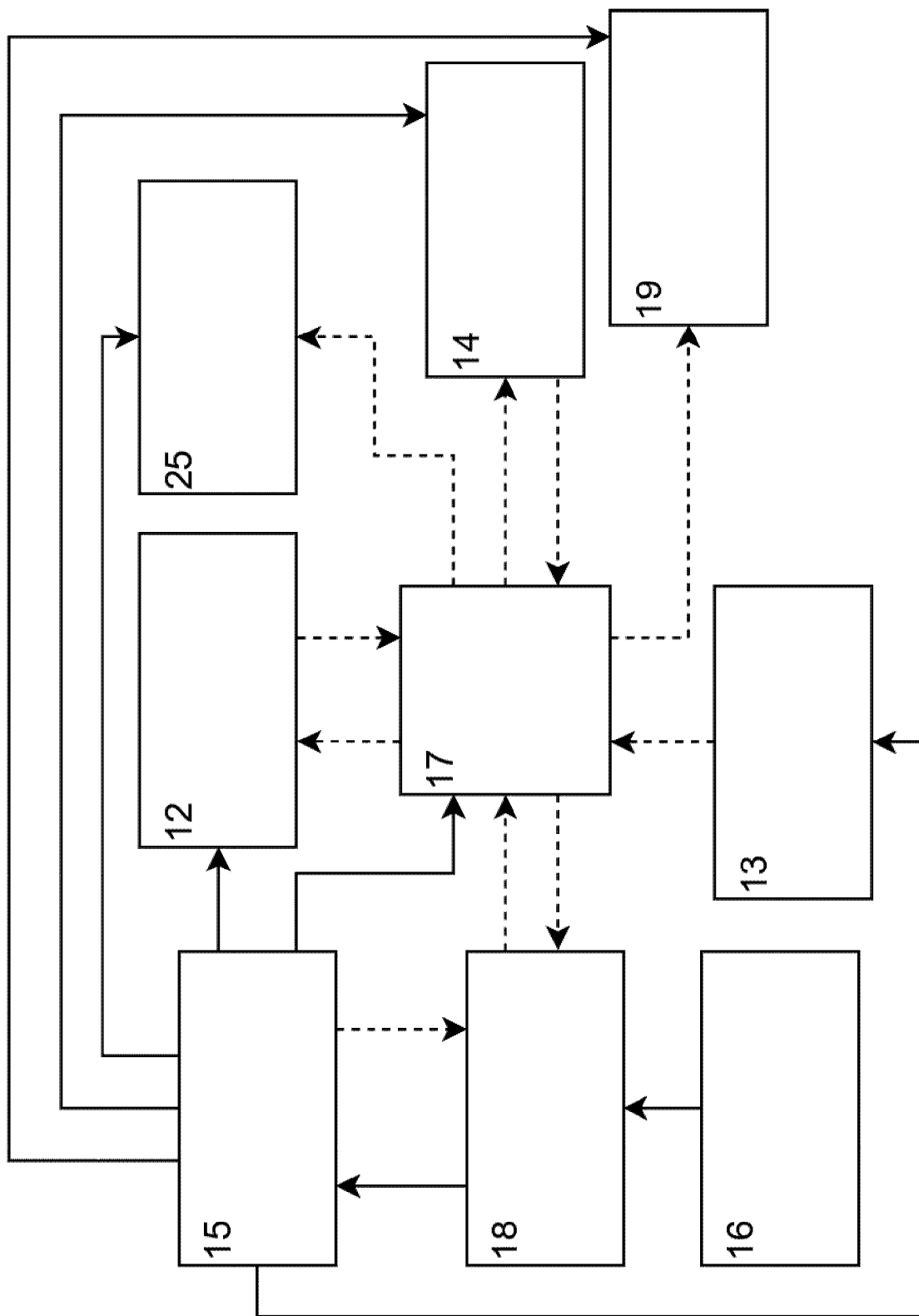


FIGURE 11.

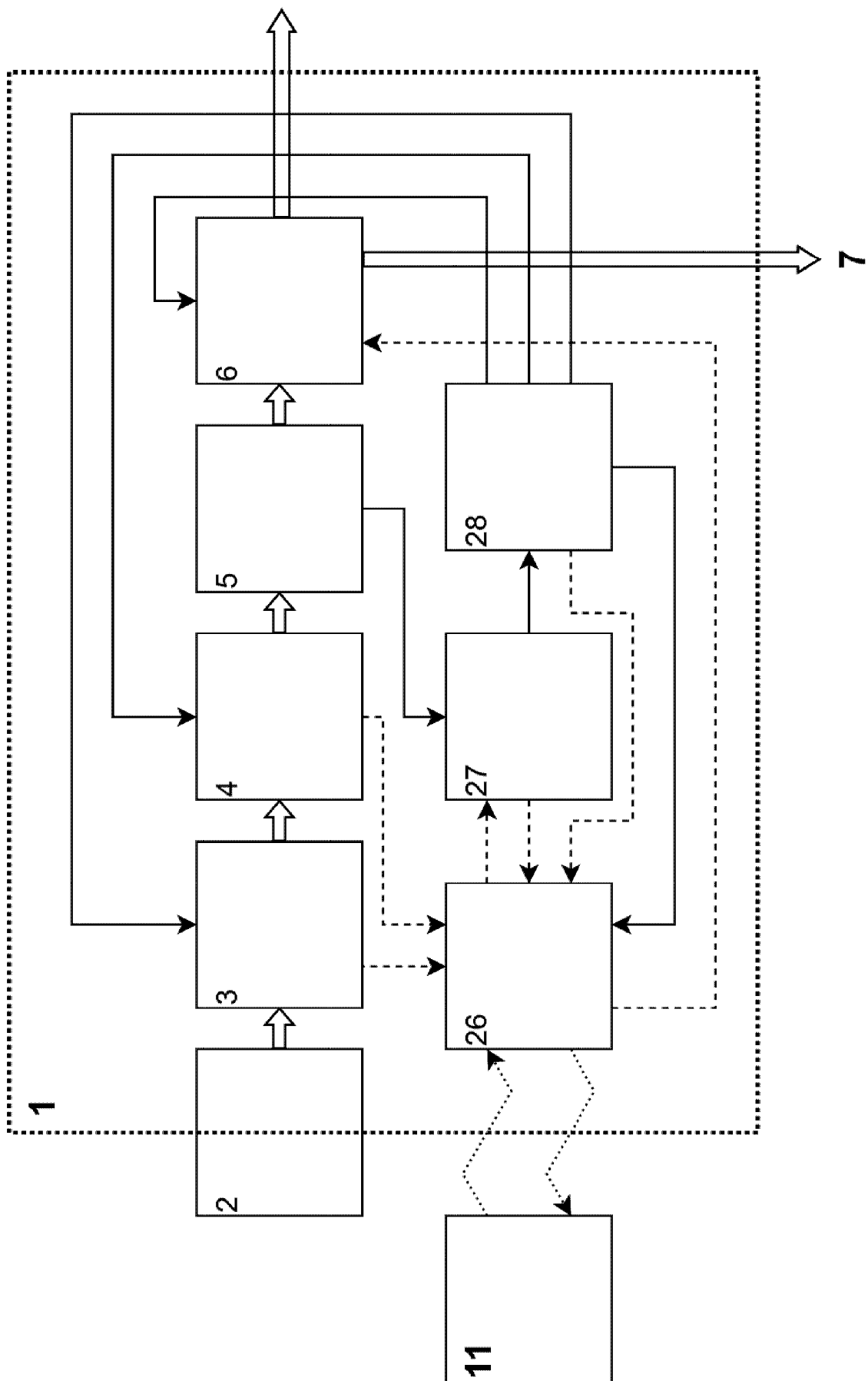


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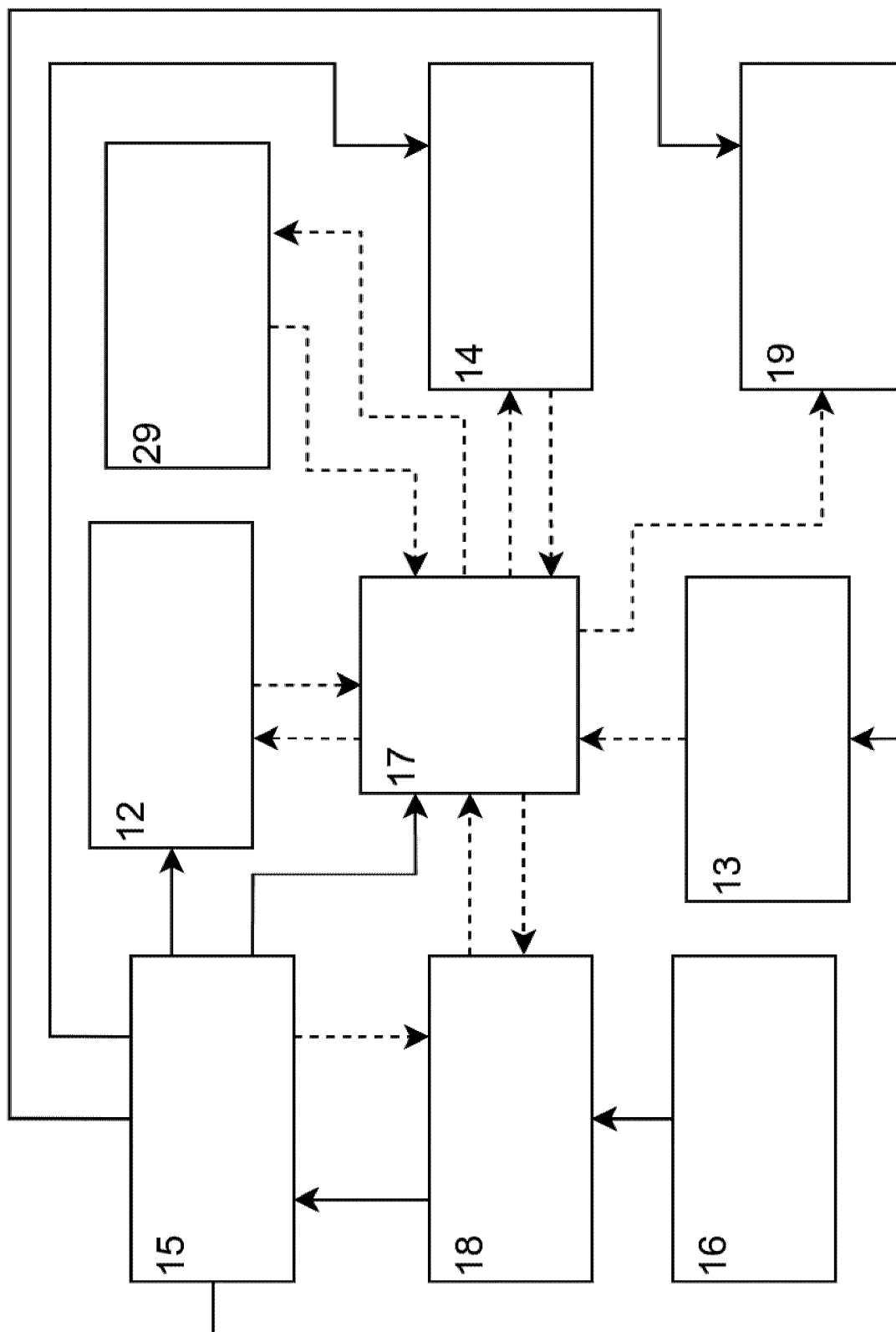


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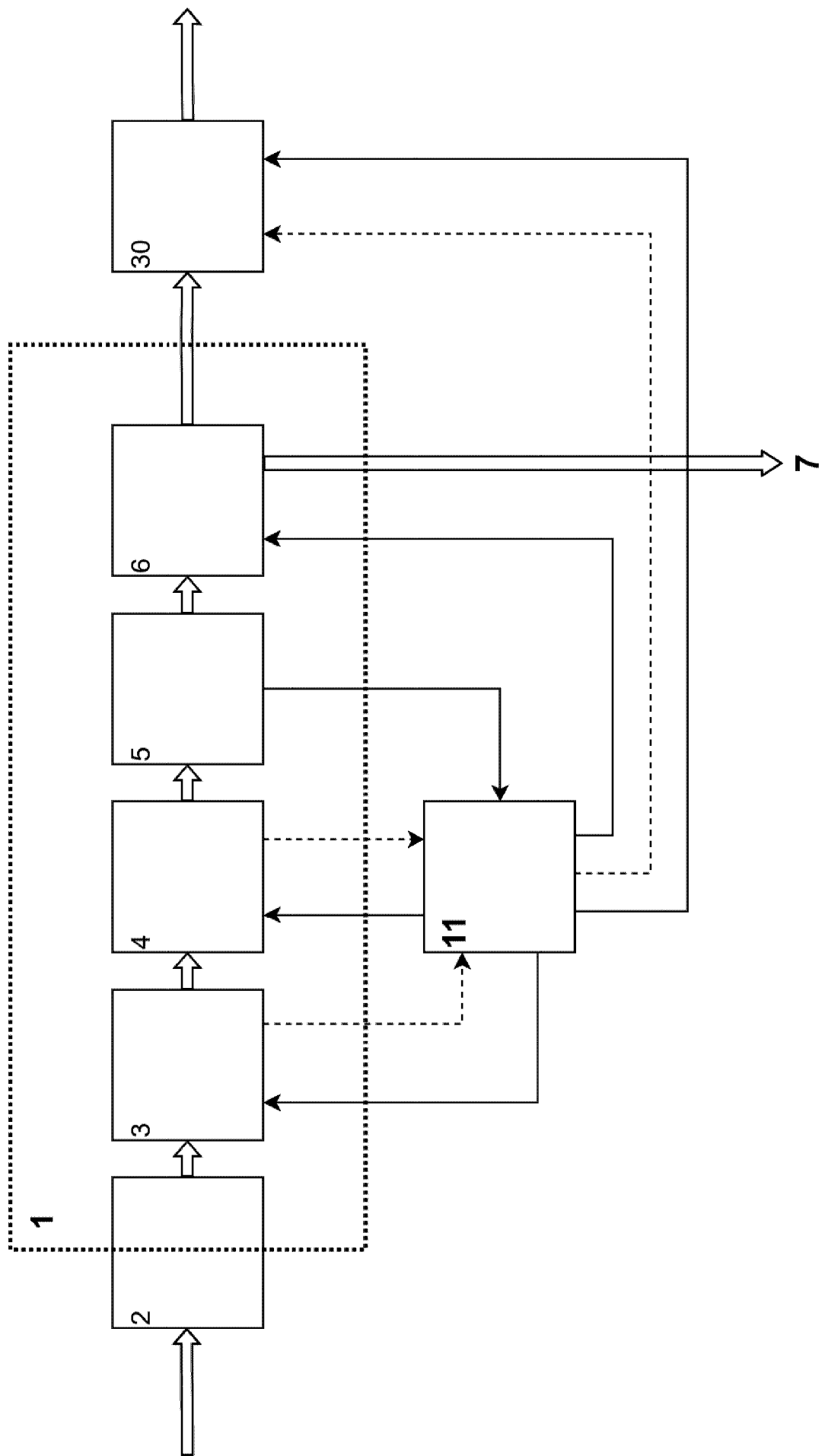


FIGURE 14.

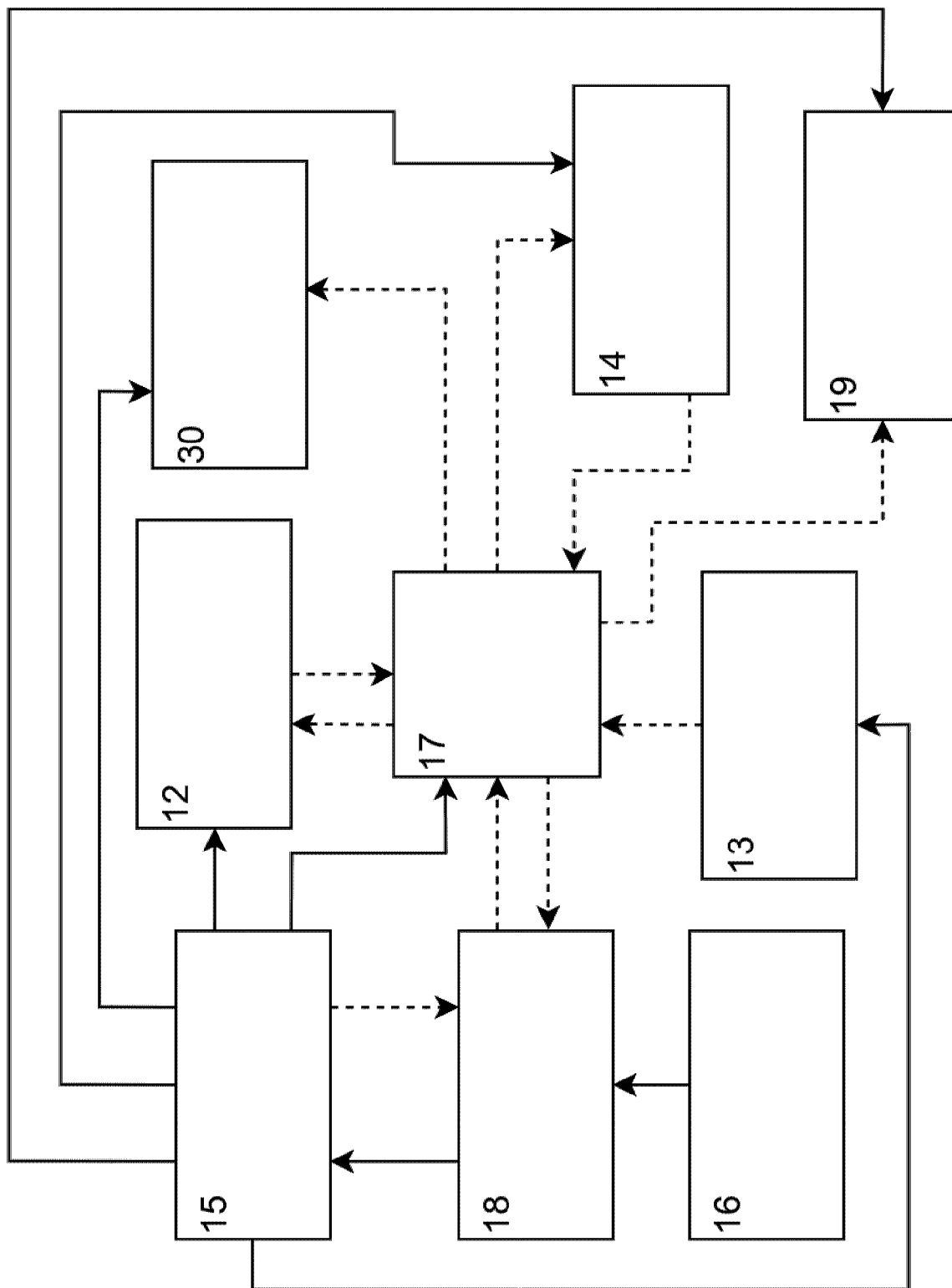


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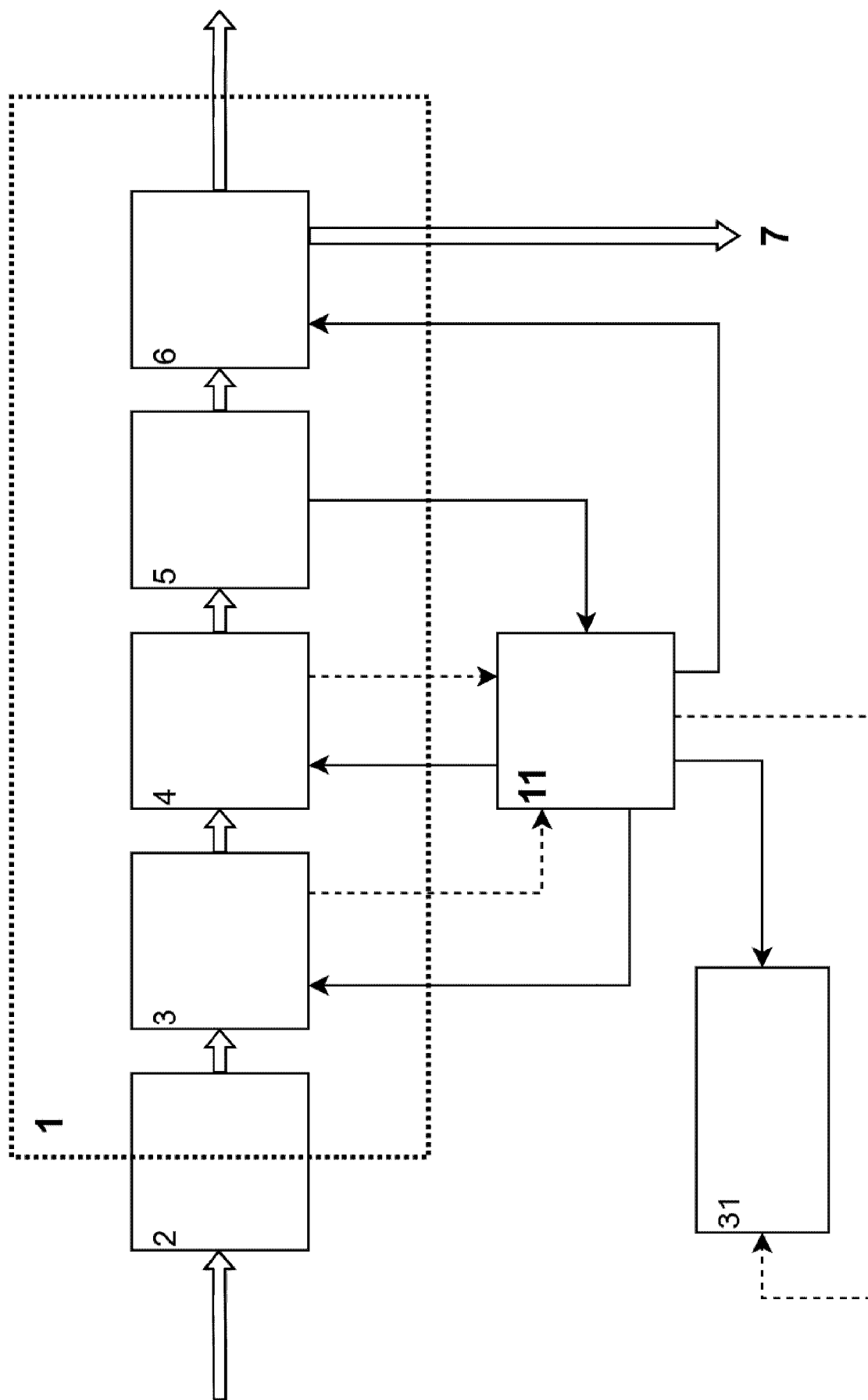


FIGURE 16.

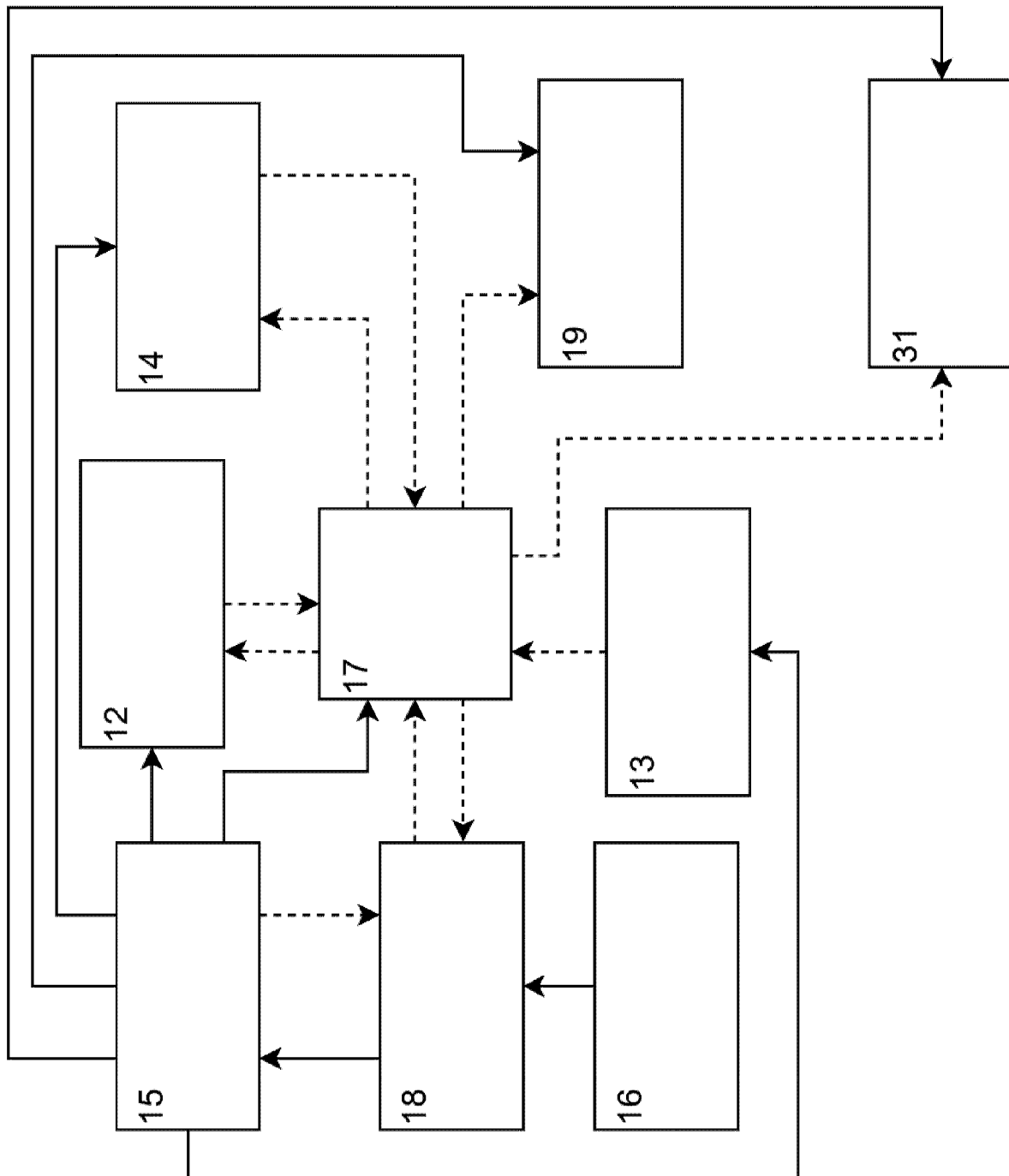


FIGURE 17.

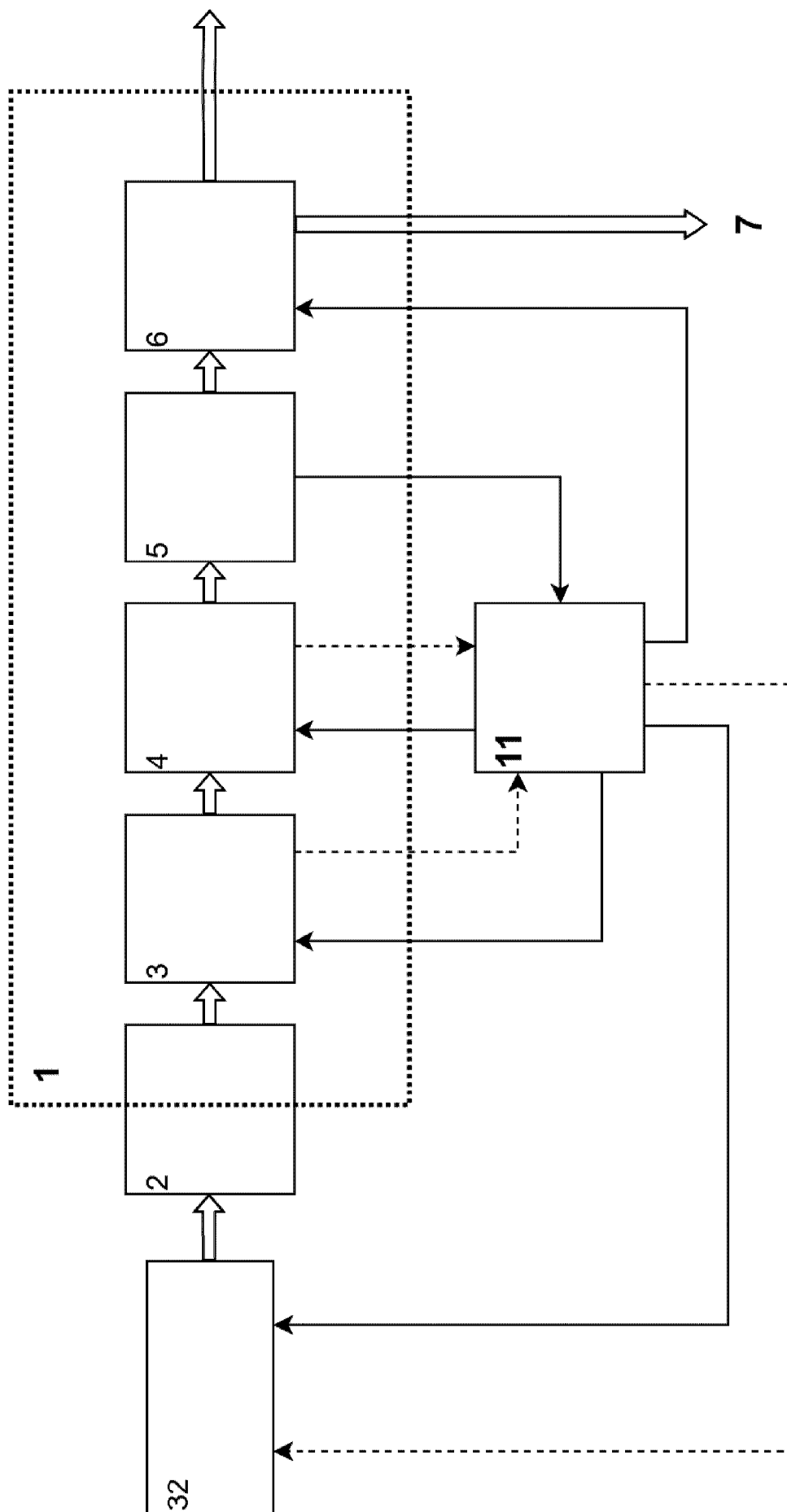


FIGURE 18.

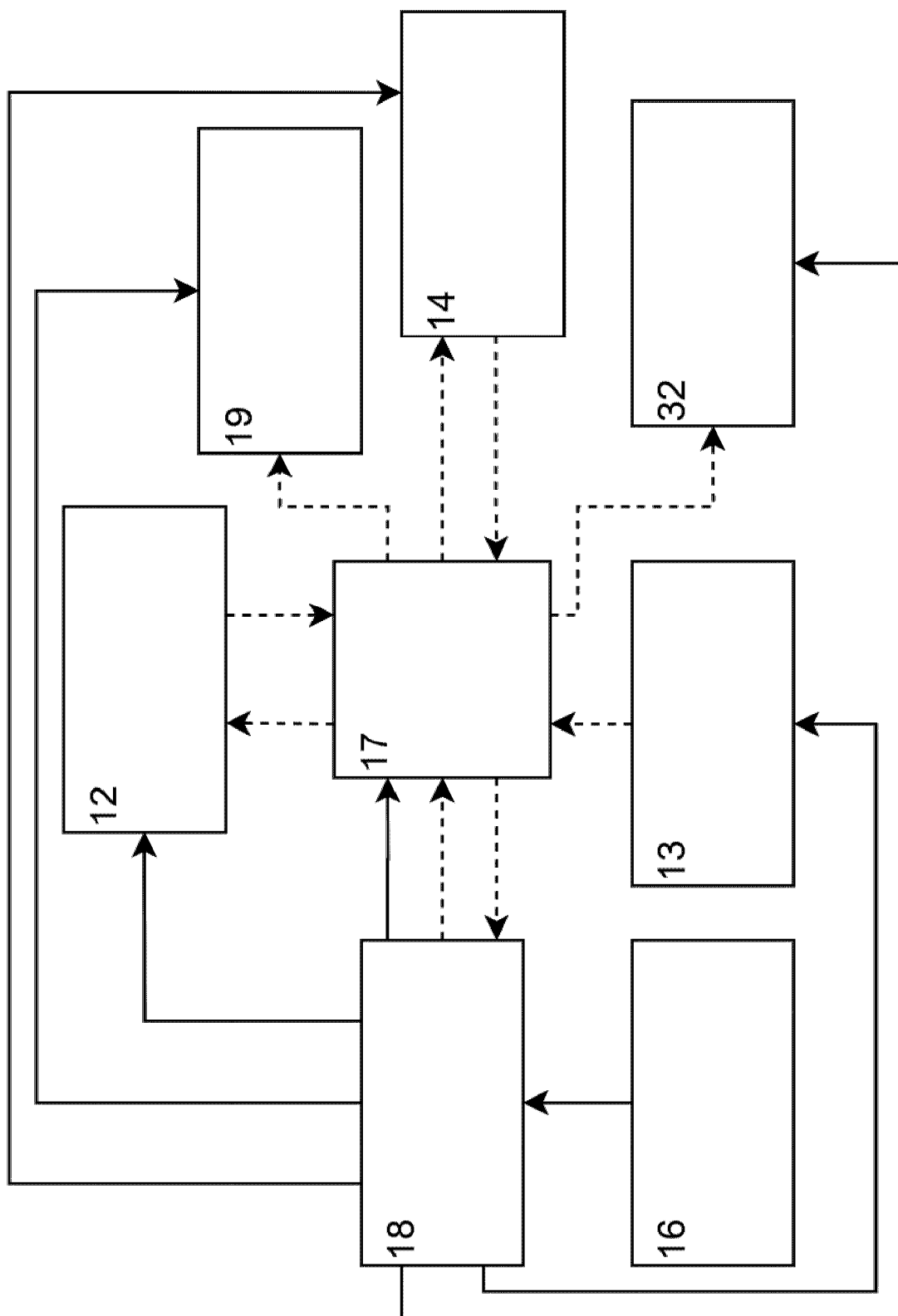


FIGURE 19.

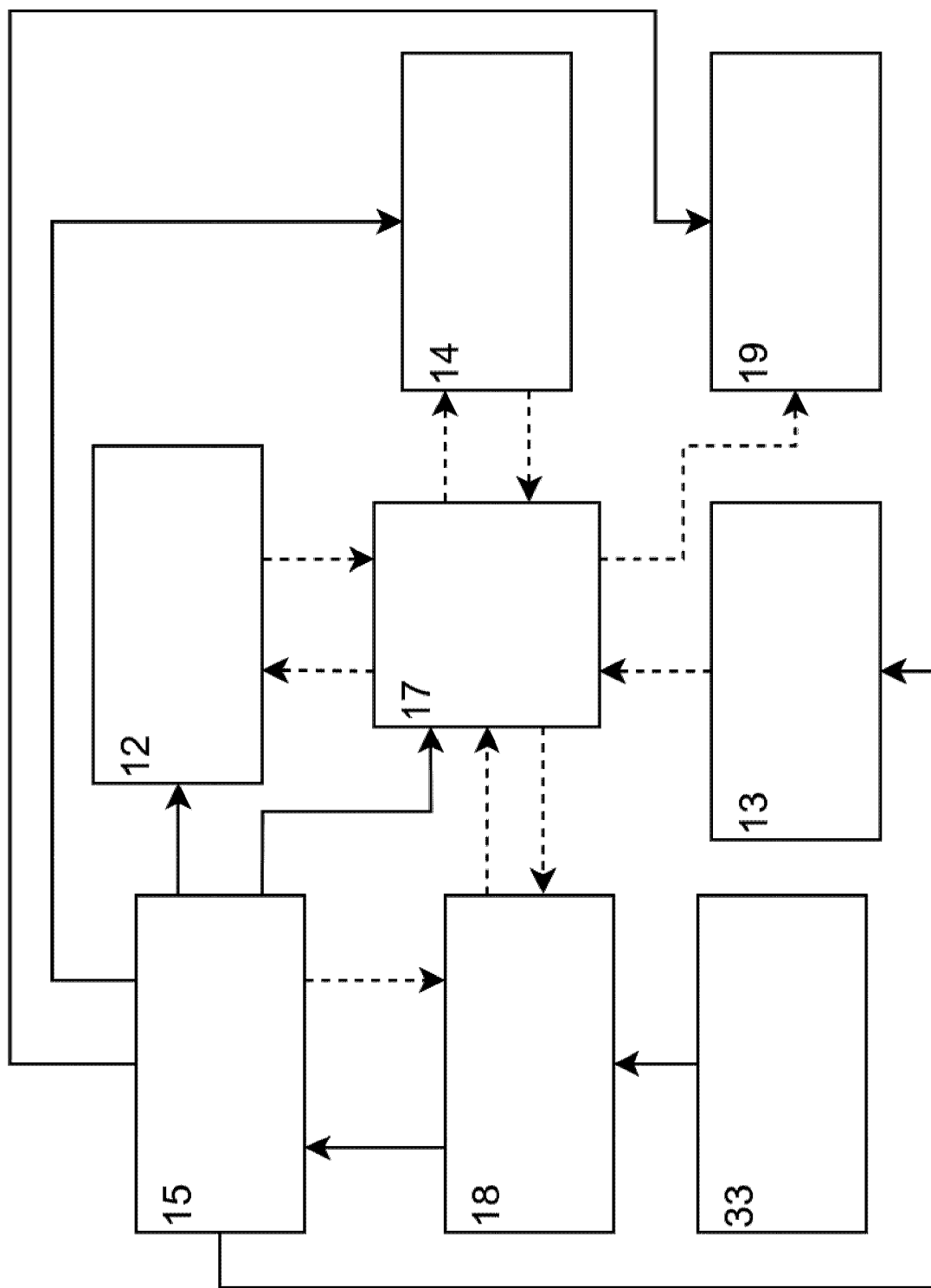


FIGURE 20.

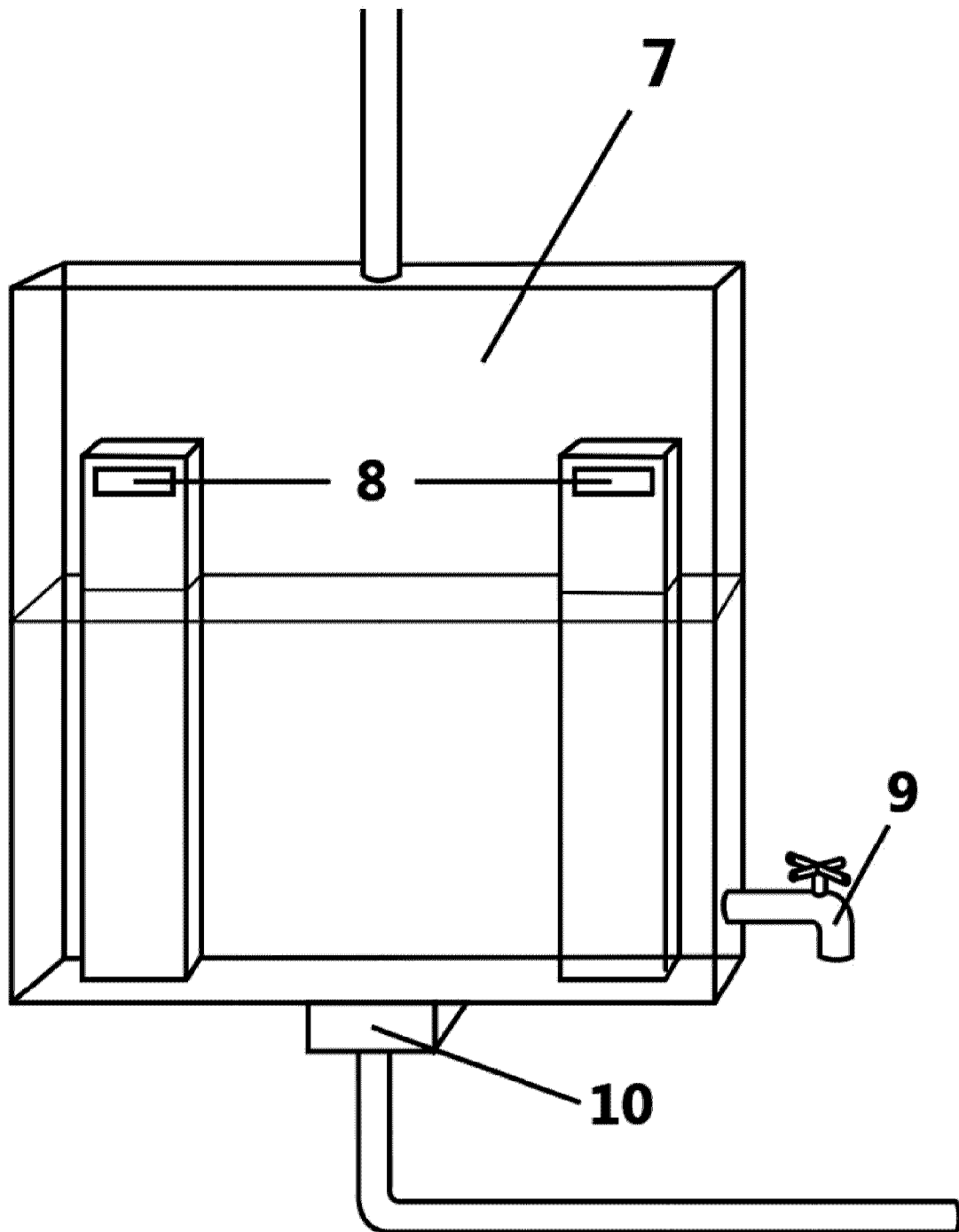


FIGURE 21.

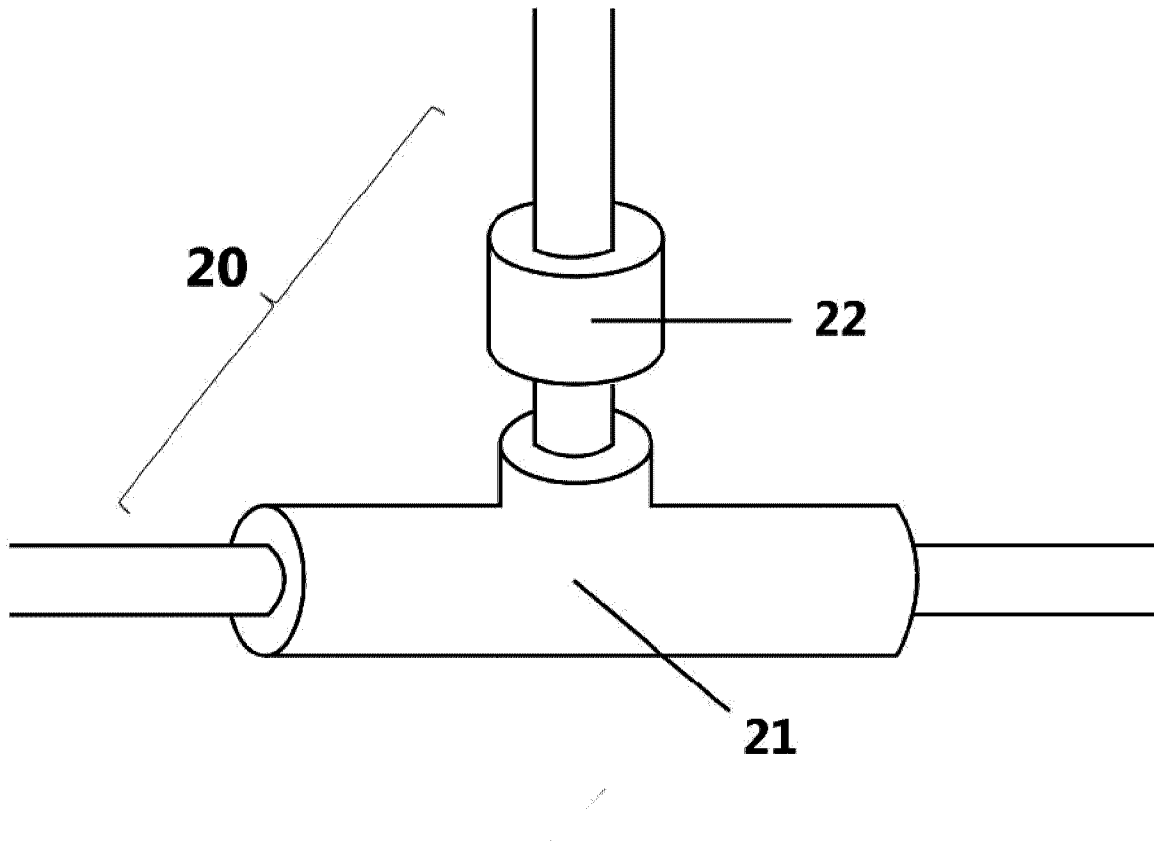


FIGURE 22.

