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(54) **TILTING PAD JOURNAL BEARING**

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(71) Applicant: **KABUSHIKI KAISHA KOBE**
SEIKO SHO (KOBE STEEL, LTD.),
Hyogo (JP)

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(72) Inventor: **Hirotoishi ARIHARA**, Hyogo (JP)

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(73) Assignee: **KABUSHIKI KAISHA KOBE**
SEIKO SHO (KOBE STEEL, LTD.),
Hyogo (JP)

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(57) **ABSTRACT**

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A tilting pad journal bearing includes a bearing housing, a plurality of pads and a projecting portion. The plurality of pads are arranged on an inner circumferential surface of the bearing housing and support a rotary shaft. The projecting portion is provided on a surface of the pad and has a plurality of projections. The projecting portion is provided on a surface other than a pad bearing surface in surfaces of the pad, the pad bearing surface being a surface that faces the rotary shaft.

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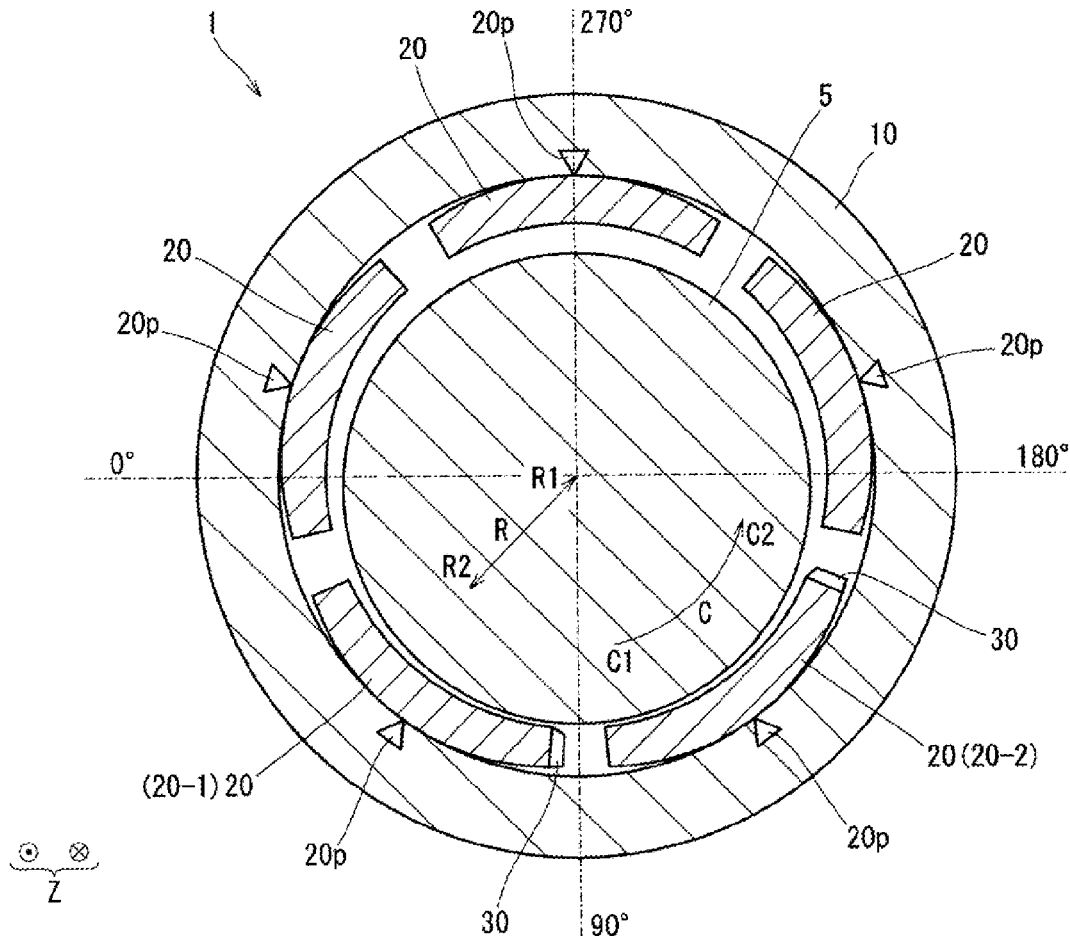


FIG. 1

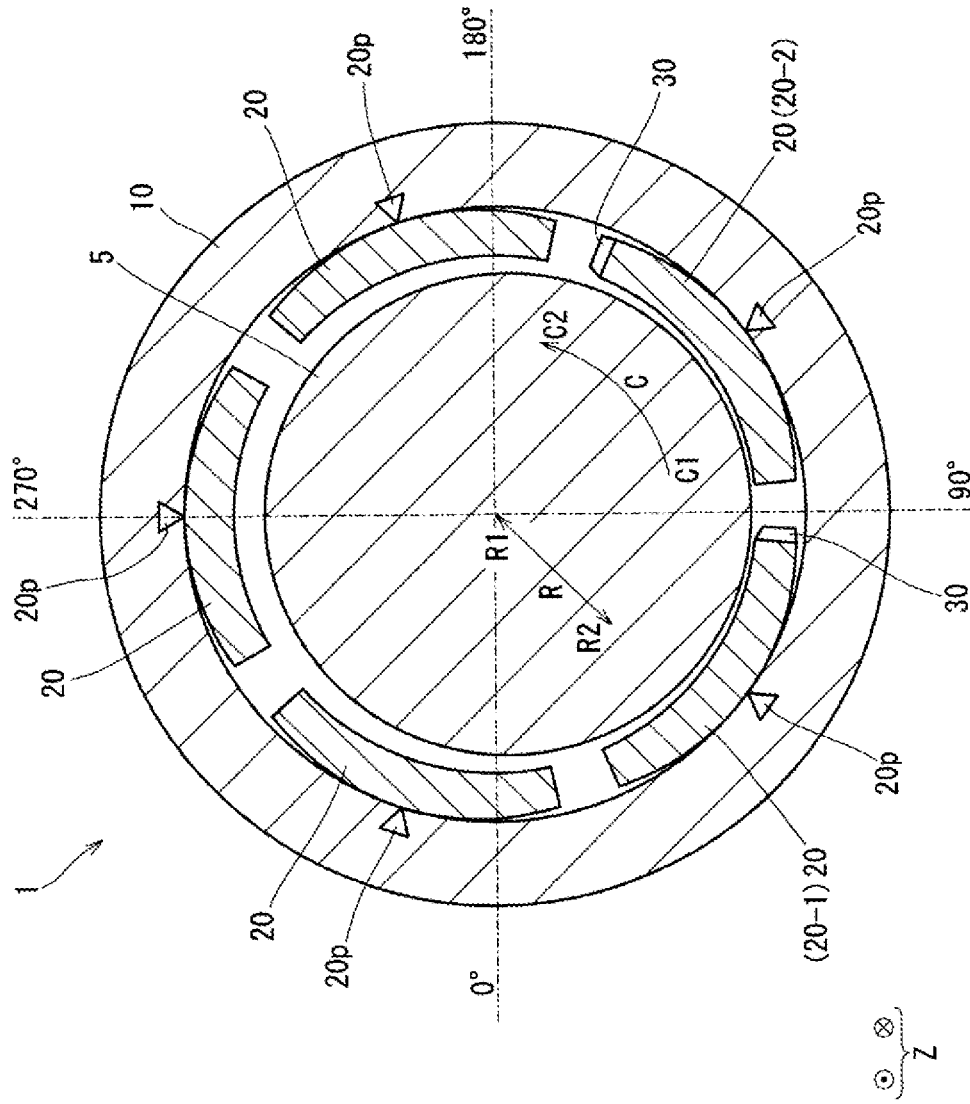
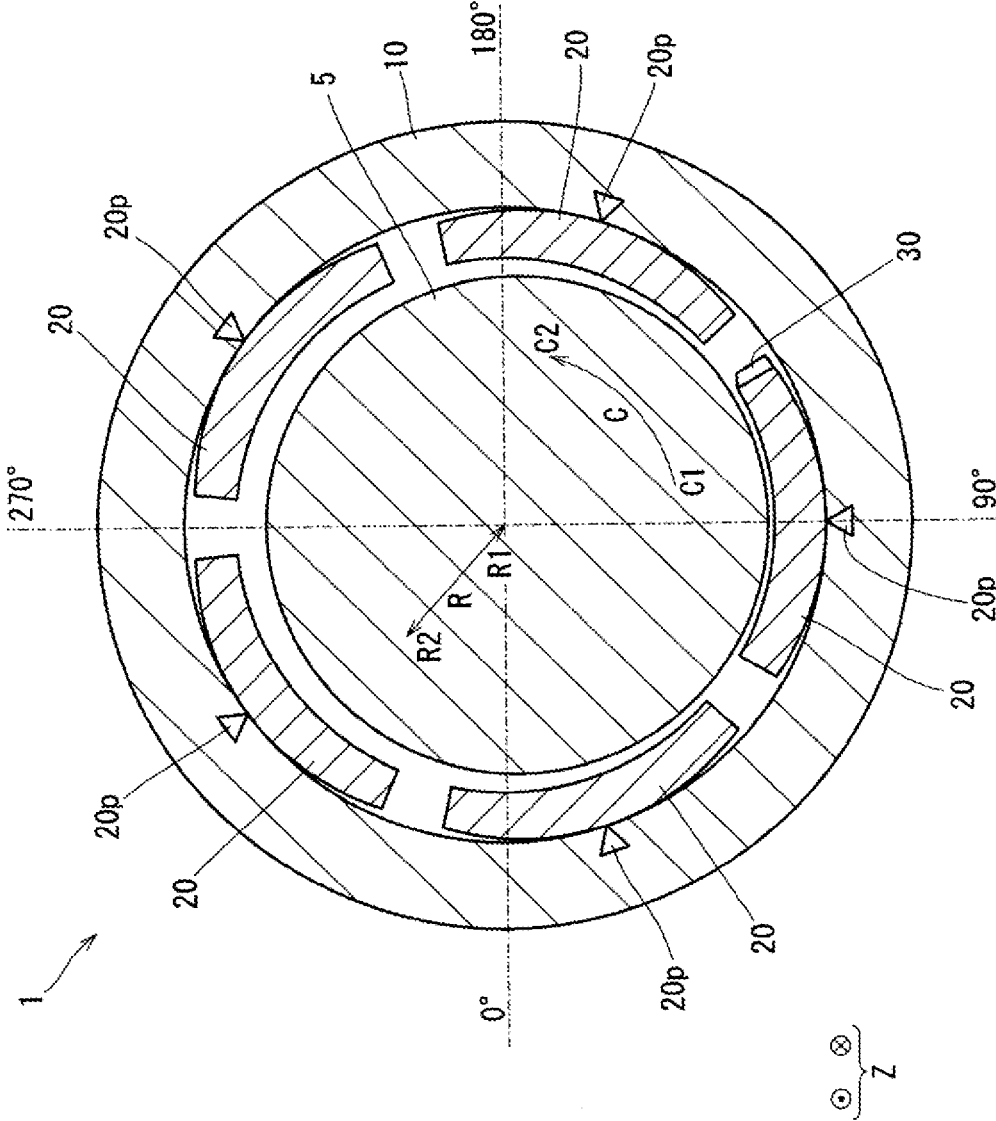


FIG. 2



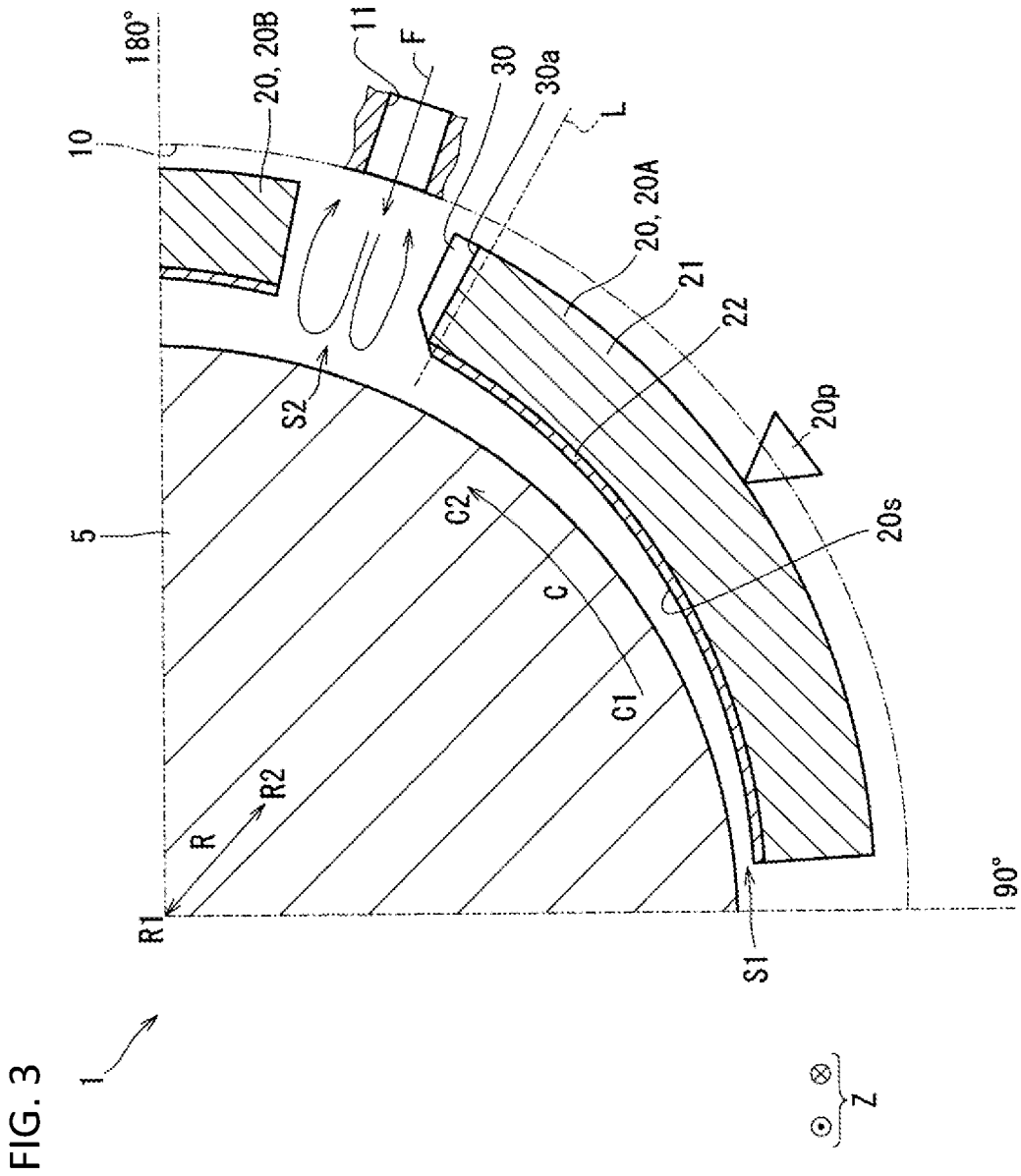
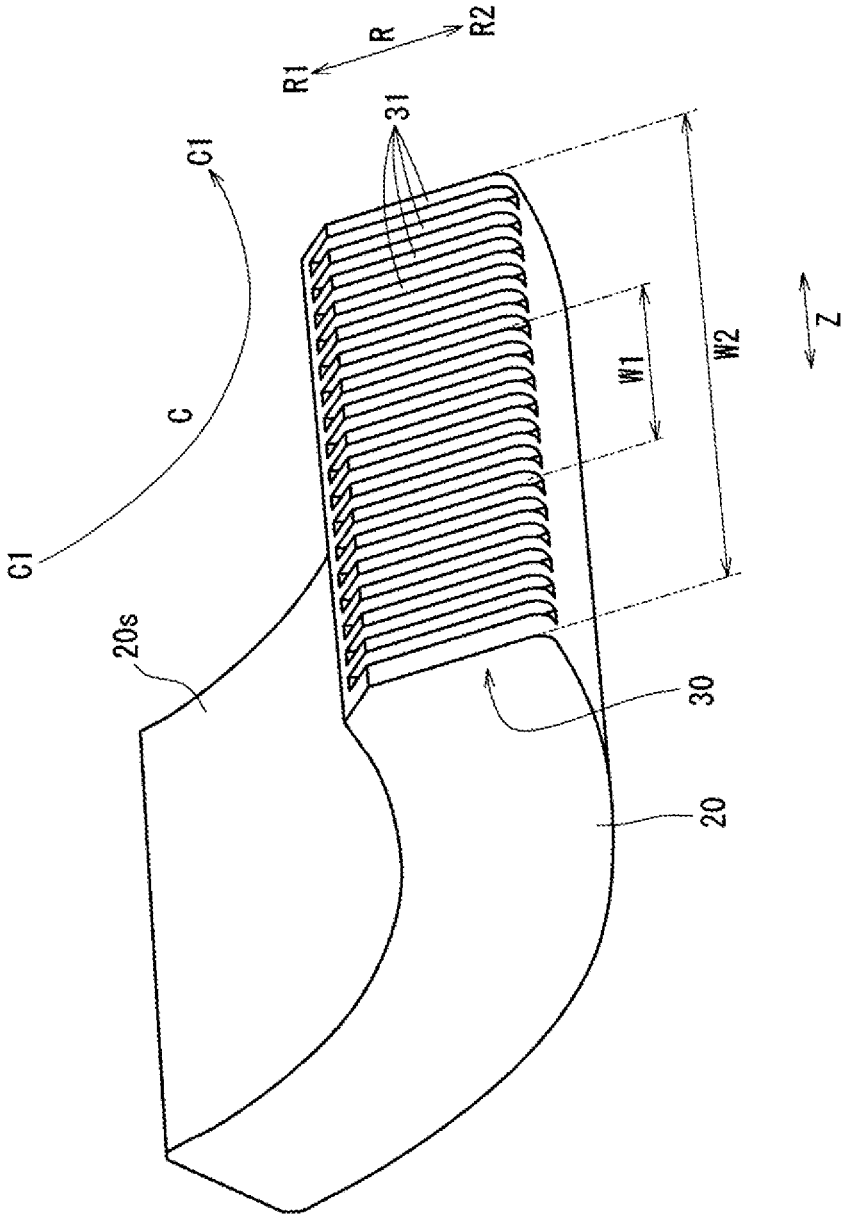


FIG. 4



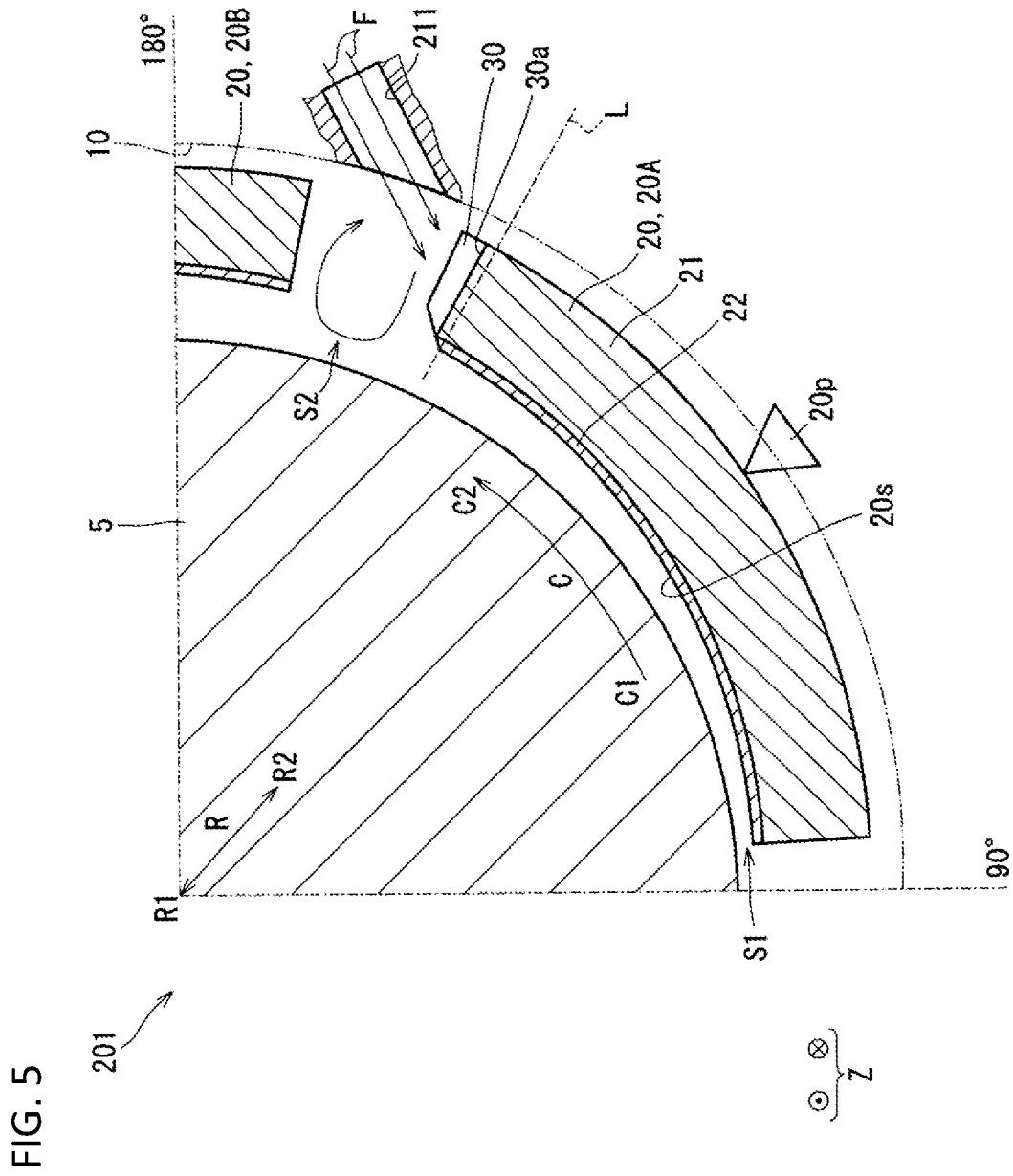


FIG. 6

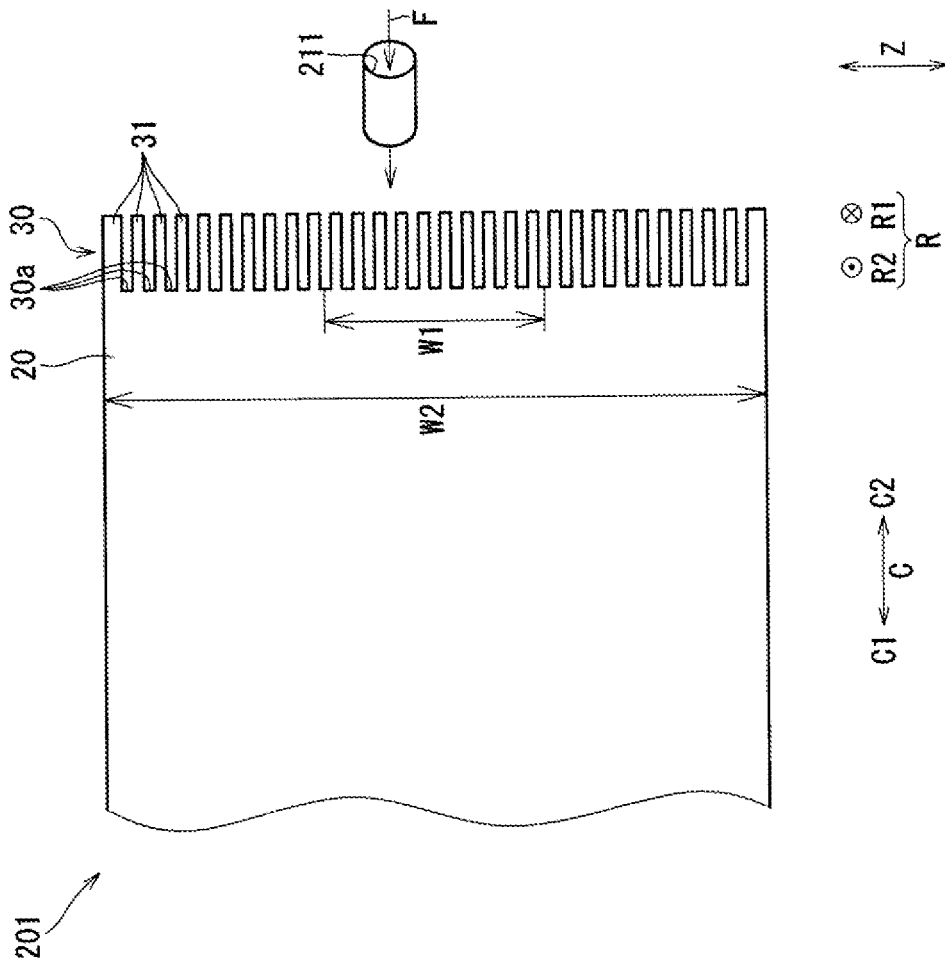


FIG. 7

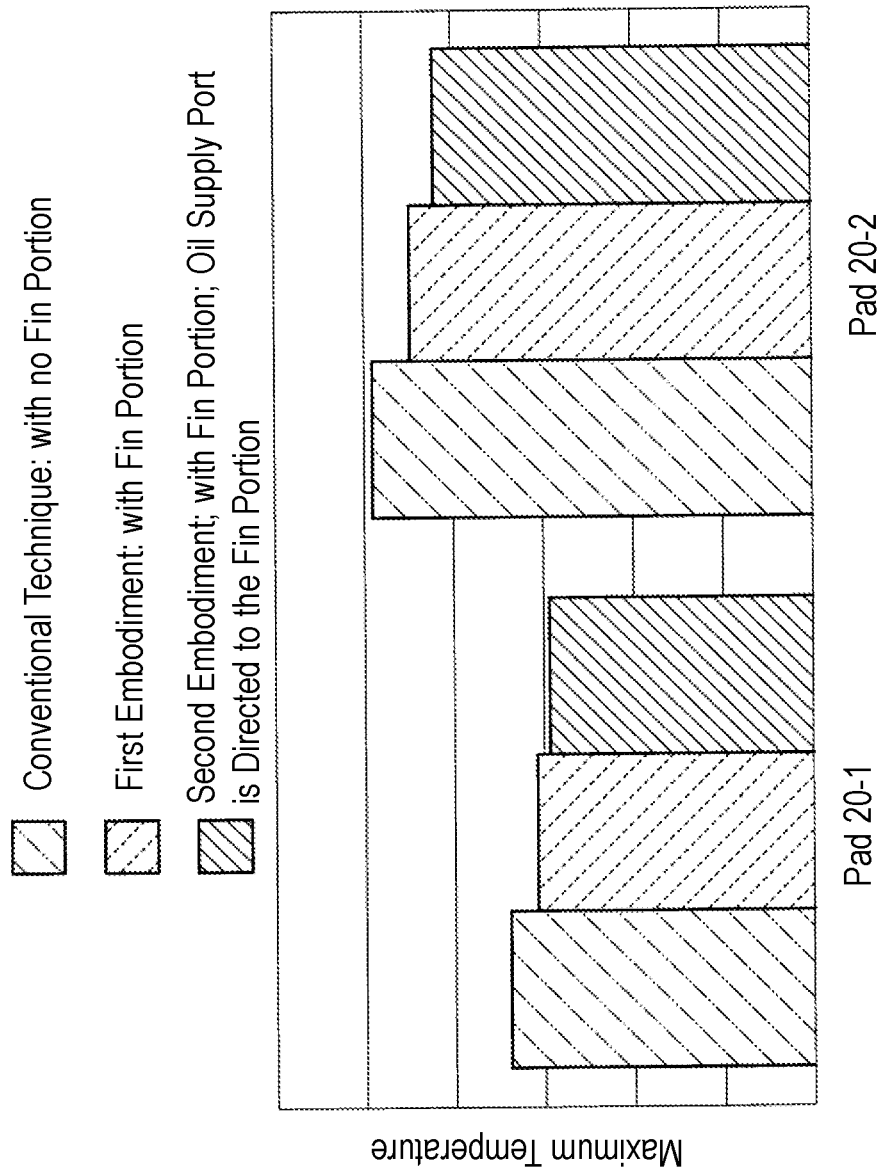


FIG. 8

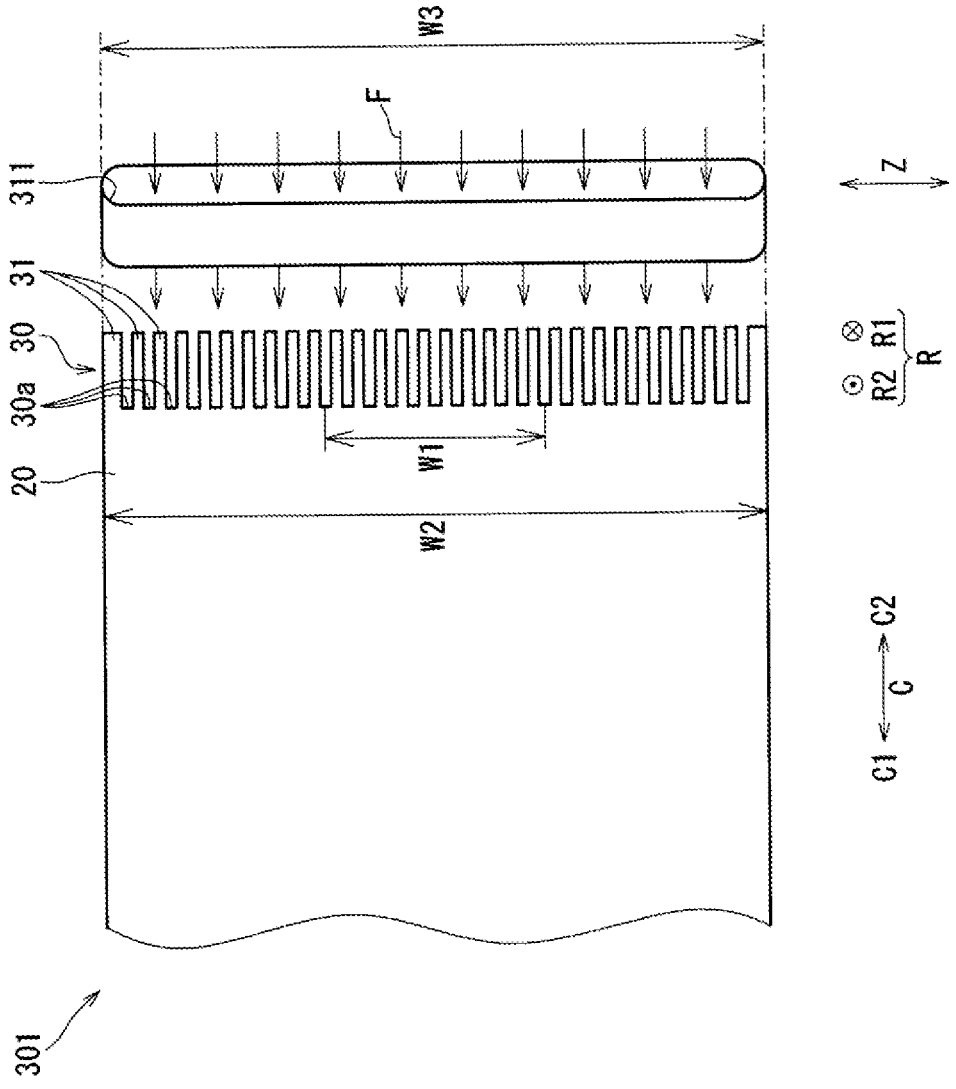


FIG. 10

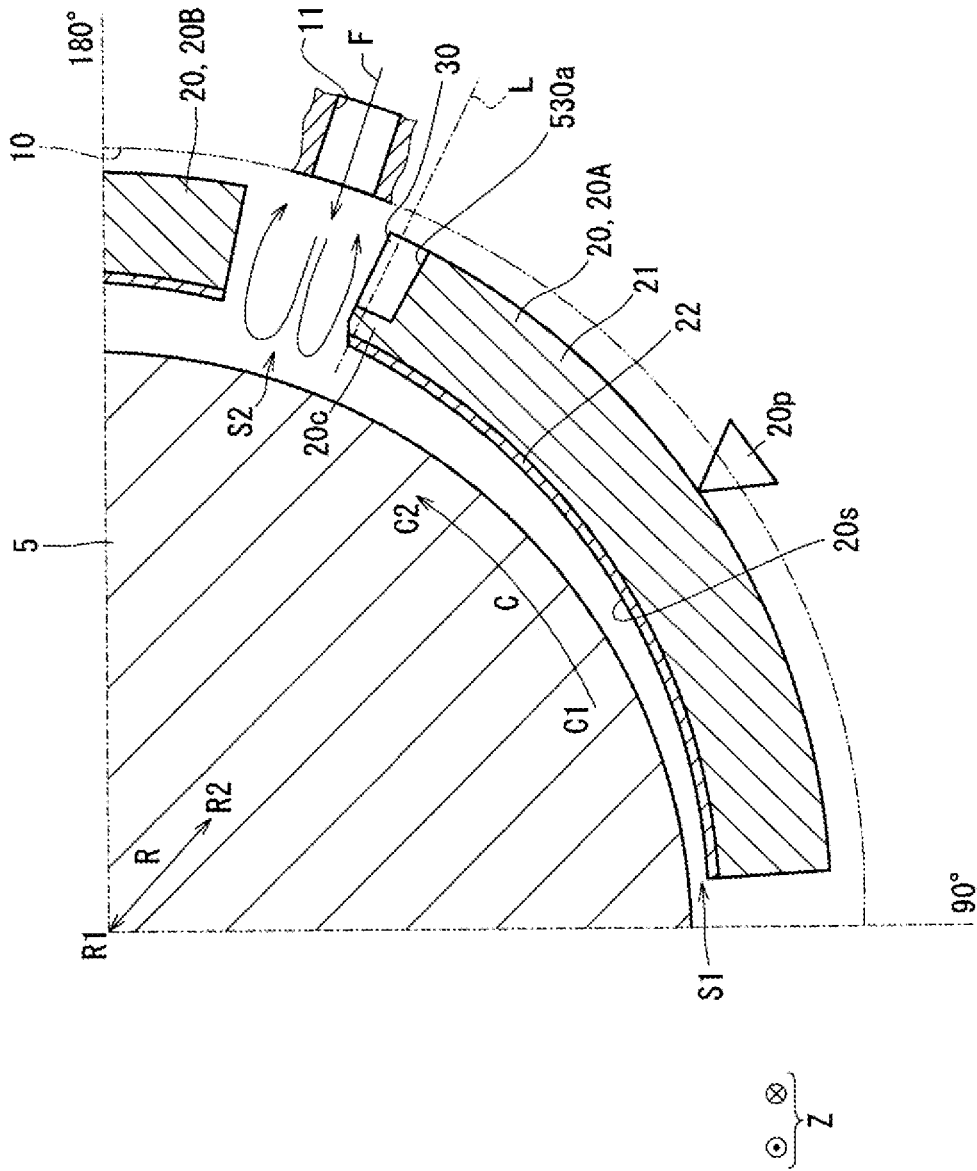
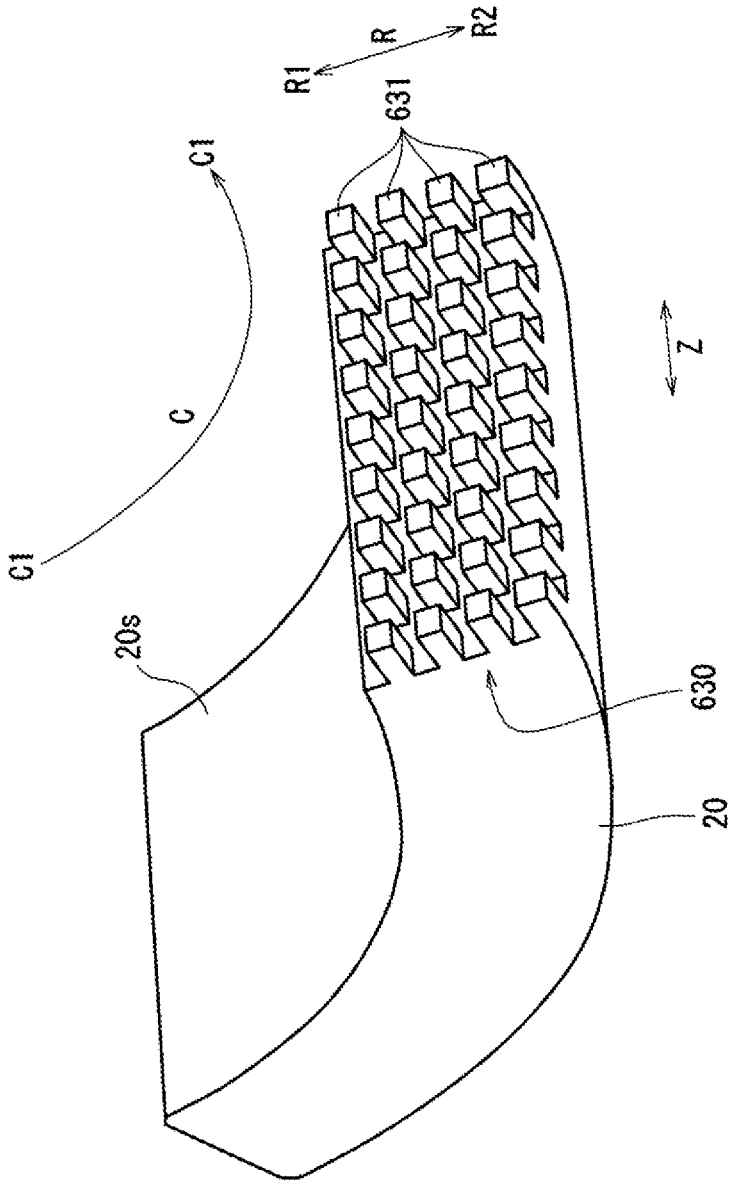


FIG. 11



TILTING PAD JOURNAL BEARING

TECHNICAL FIELD

[0001] The present invention relates to a tilting pad journal bearing.

BACKGROUND ART

[0002] For example, Patent Document 1 describes a conventional tilting pad journal bearing. A tilting pad journal bearing is a bearing that is used in a rotary machine whose rotary shaft rotates at a high speed and that can inhibit unstable vibrations such as oil whip or oil swirl. The tilting pad journal bearing includes a plurality of pads that rotatably support a rotary shaft. The rotating rotary shaft sweeps a lubricant into a gap between pad bearing surfaces of the pads and the rotary shaft. When the temperature of the pads rises too high, the pads are burnt to be damaged, leading to a fear that the tilting pad journal bearing does not properly function as a bearing.

[0003] Patent Document 1 describes a technique for avoiding the increase in the temperature of the pads. In this technique, oil supply grooves are provided on the pad bearing surfaces. The increase in the temperature of the pad bearing surfaces is attempted to be inhibited by a low-temperature lubricant that is supplied from these oil supply grooves.

PRIOR ART DOCUMENT

Patent Document

[0004] Patent Document 1: JP-A-2009-30704

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

Technical Problems

[0005] In the technique of Patent Document 1, however, the following problem is caused by providing the oil supply grooves on the pad bearing surfaces. A pressure for supporting the rotary shaft is generated on the pad bearing surfaces. However, a flow path of the lubricant that flows in a rotating direction of the rotary shaft through the gap between the pad bearing surfaces and the rotary shaft expands quickly at portions where the oil supply grooves are provided, leading to generation of a negative pressure. Because of this, the pressure for supporting the rotary shaft is reduced, leading to a problem in that a capability to support the load of the rotary shaft (a load supporting capability) is reduced. Further, in the tilting pad journal bearing, a damping effect (a vibration inhibiting effect) is generated by an oil film in the gap between the pad bearing surfaces and the rotary shaft, however, the damping effect is not generated at the portions where the oil supply grooves are provided. Because of this, as compared with a pad having no oil supply groove, there is a problem that the damping effect is reduced.

[0006] Then, an object of the present invention is to provide a tilting pad journal bearing that can ensure the load supporting capability and the damping effect and can cool pads.

Solution to Problems

[0007] The tilting pad journal bearing in the present invention includes a bearing housing, a plurality of pads, and a

projecting portion. The pads are arranged on an inner circumferential surface of the bearing housing and support a rotary shaft. The projecting portion is provided on a surface of the pad and has a plurality of projections. The projecting portion is provided on a surface other than a pad bearing surface in surfaces of the pad, the pad bearing surface being a surface that faces the rotary shaft.

Advantageous Effects of the invention

[0008] Adopting the configuration described above can ensure the load supporting capability and the damping effect and can cool the pads.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF DRAWINGS

[0009] FIG. 1 is a sectional view of a tilting pad bearing 1 as seen from an axial direction Z.

[0010] FIG. 2 is a view of the tilting pad bearing 1 in a modified example (LOP), corresponding to FIG. 1.

[0011] FIG. 3 is a view of pads 20 and the like that are shown in FIG. 1 as seen from the axial direction Z.

[0012] FIG. 4 is a perspective view of the pad 20 and the like that are shown in FIG. 3.

[0013] FIG. 5 is a drawing corresponding to FIG. 3 that shows a second embodiment.

[0014] FIG. 6 is a schematic view of a pad 20 and the like that are shown in FIG. 5 as seen from a radially outer side R2.

[0015] FIG. 7 is a graph showing maximum temperatures of pads 20.

[0016] FIG. 8 is a drawing corresponding to FIG. 6 that shows a third embodiment.

[0017] FIG. 9 is a drawing corresponding to FIG. 5 that shows a fourth embodiment.

[0018] FIG. 10 is a drawing corresponding to FIG. 3 that shows a modified example.

[0019] FIG. 11 is a drawing corresponding to FIG. 4 that shows a modified example.

DESCRIPTION OF EMBODIMENTS

First Embodiment

[0020] Referring to FIG. 1 to FIG. 4, a tilting pad bearing 1 (a tilting pad journal bearing) in the first embodiment is described.

[0021] A tilting pad bearing 1 (a tilting pad bearing with cooling fins) is a bearing that rotatably supports a rotary shaft 5 of a rotary machine. The tilting pad bearing 1 includes a bearing housing 10, a pad 20 and a fin portion 30 (a projecting portion). The rotary machine having the rotary shaft 5 is, for example, a compressor for compressing a fluid, a pump or blower for sending a fluid under pressure, and a turbine for expanding a fluid. Hereinafter, an axial direction Z, a radial direction R (a radially inner side R1, a radially outer side R2) and a rotation direction C (an upstream side C1 in the rotation direction and a downstream side C2 in the rotation direction) are described on the basis of a center axis of the rotary shaft 5.

[0022] The bearing housing 10 is a cylindrical member that covers the rotary shaft 5, the pad 20 and the like. The bearing housing 10 includes an oil supply port 11 shown in FIG. 3. The oil supply port 11 is an oil supply means for supplying a lubricant into the bearing housing 10. The lubricant is used to lubricate and cool the tilting pad bearing

1. The oil supply port **11** is a hole formed in an inner circumferential surface of the bearing housing **10**. The oil supply port **11** is directed towards the radially inner side **R1**. The direction of the oil supply port **11** is a direction of a center axis of the oil supply port **11** at an exit of the oil supply port **11** and a direction of a flow **F** of the lubricant that is jetted from the oil supply port **11**. The oil supply port **11** is directed towards an inter-pad space **S2** between an upstream-side pad **20A** and a downstream-side pad **20B**. The exit of the oil supply port **11** has, for example, a circular shape when seen from the radial direction **R**.

[0023] As shown in FIG. 1, the pad **20** (the bearing pad) is a substantially plate-shaped member that supports the rotary shaft **5**. As the pad **20**, a plurality of pads is provided, and in this embodiment, for example, five pads are provided. The plurality of pads **20** are arranged on the inner circumferential surface of the bearing housing **10** so as to be aligned around the rotary shaft **5** along the rotation direction **C**. The pads **20** contact the inner circumferential surface of the bearing housing **10** at fulcrums **20p** that are shown schematically in FIG. 1 and FIG. 3. The pads **20** shown in FIG. 1 can oscillate about fulcrums **20p** in a section perpendicular to the axial direction **Z**. Each pad **20** tilts at an optimum angle to the bearing housing **10** depending on the magnitude of a load exerted on each pad **20**. As shown in FIG. 3, in surfaces of the pad **20**, a surface that faces the rotary shaft **5** is referred to as a pad bearing surface **20s**. The pad bearing surface **20s** touches the rotary shaft **5** via the lubricant. The pad **20** includes a base metal **21** and a white metal **22**. The base metal **21** has a thickness of, for example, several tens of millimeters and has a relatively high heat conductivity among general metals. The white metal **22** is coating on a radially inner side **R1** surface of the base metal **21** and makes up the pad bearing surface **20s**. The white metal **22** has a thickness of, for example, several millimeters, is relatively soft among general metals and has good conformability. It should be noted that the white metal **22** may be replaced by other metals than the white metal **22**.

[0024] (Temperature Increase in Pad **20** or the Like)

[0025] In general, there are two ways of arranging the pads **20**. As shown in FIG. 1, a method of arranging pads **20** so that an operating line of a bearing load exerted on the tilting pad bearing **1** from the rotary shaft **5** (refer to "90°" in FIG. 1) passes between two pads **20** is called Load Between Pads (hereinafter, referred to as LBP). In the LBP, pads **20** disposed adjacent to each other across the operating line bear a greater load than a load that the other pads **20** bear. As shown in FIG. 2, a method of arranging pads **20** so that a bearing load exerted on the tilting pad bearing **1** from the rotary shaft **5** is exerted on one pad **20** is called Load On Pad (hereinafter, referred to as LOP). In the LOP, a pad **20** through which the operating line passes bears a greater load than a load that the other pads **20** bear. In the pad **20** that bears the greater load than the load that the other pads **20** bear, the temperature of the relevant pad **20** is increased to a high level due to heat generated by an increase in the viscosity of the lubricant. The bearing load exerted on the tilting pad bearing **1** from the rotary shaft **5** is a total force of a weight of the rotary shaft **5** itself and a force exerted on the pad **20** via the rotary shaft **5** from a gear and the like coupled to the rotary shaft **5**.

[0026] As shown in FIG. 3, a gap **S1** exits between the pad bearing surfaces **20s** of the pads **20** and the rotary shaft **5**. A lubricant flows into the gap **S1** to form an oil film. When the

rotary shaft **5** rotates, the lubricant is swept into the gap **S1** towards the downstream side **C2** in the rotation direction, and this generates a wedge effect of lifting up the rotary shaft **5** relative to the pads **20**. In this case, the lubricant flows towards the downstream side **C2** in the rotation direction through the gap **S1**. The temperature of the lubricant is increased due to viscous friction generated by the lubricant flowing. Because of this, the temperature of the lubricant in the gap **S1** between one pad **20** and the rotary shaft **5** is higher towards the downstream side **C2** in the rotation direction. As a result, a temperature of the pad bearing surface **20s** of the relevant pad **20** also becomes higher towards the downstream side **C2** in the rotation direction. Additionally, a temperature at an end portion of the pad **20** at the downstream side **C2** in the rotation direction is higher towards a center of the pad **20** in the axial direction **Z**. When the temperature of the pad bearing surface **20s** is too high, there is a fear that the pad **20** is burnt to be damaged. In particular, in the case of the white metal **22** being used as the pad bearing surface **20s**, the white metal **22** has a low melting point (lower than that of the base metal **21**), and therefore, the pad **20** tends to be burnt to be damaged easily. When the pad **20** burns to be damaged, there is a fear that the tilting pad bearing **1** does not properly function as a bearing. Because of this, there is a fear that a malfunction of the tilting pad bearing **1** leads to a failure of a machine including the tilting pad bearing **1**. Because of this, it is important to inhibit an increase in the temperature of the pad bearing surface **20s** by cooling the pad bearing surface **20s** by cooling the pad **20**. It is preferable to cool particularly the end portion of the pad **20** that bears the bearing load from the rotary shaft **5**, at the downstream side **C2** in the rotation direction of the pad **20**, in the plurality of pads **20** shown in FIG. 1, and the cooling of the pad **20** in that way is effective to inhibit an increase in the temperature of the pad **20**.

[0027] The fin portion **30** (the projecting portion) is a portion for cooling the pad **20** by expanding a heat transfer area between the pad **20** and the lubricant. The fin portion **30** is provided on at least the pad **20** in the plurality of pads **20** that bears the bearing load from the rotary shaft **5**. in the case of LBP, the fin portion **30** is provided on at least the pads **20** that are disposed adjacent to each other across the operating line of the bearing load (the pad **20** on the upstream side **C1** in the rotation direction and the pad **20** on the downstream side **C2** in the rotation direction). In the case of the LOP shown in FIG. 2, the fin portion **30** is provided on at least the pad **20** through which the operating line of the bearing load passes. As shown in FIG. 3, the fin portion **30** is provided on a surface of the pad **20**. In the surfaces of the pad **20**, the fin portion **30** is provided on a surface of the pad **20** other than the pad bearing surface **20s**.

[0028] It is preferable that the fin portion **30** is provided as follows. The fin portion **30** is provided so that a performance as a bearing can be ensured. To be more specific, the fin portion **30** is provided so as to ensure a supporting force with which the rotary shaft **5** is supported, a required rigidity of the pad **20** and a damping property (a vibration inhibiting effect) by the tilting pad bearing **1**. The fin portion **30** is provided so that the pad bearing surface **20s** can have a pressure bearing area that is required to support the rotary shaft **5**. For example, there may be a case where the supporting force and the rigidity cannot be ensured in the case where the fin portion **30** is formed by digging a groove in a surface of a

conventional pad. Then, the fin portion 30 is provided, for example, by adding the fin portion 30 to an outer side of the conventional pad.

[0029] It is preferable that the fin portion 30 is provided on a surface portion where the temperature of the pad 20 is high in the surfaces of the pad 20. More specifically, the fin portion 30 is provided on a surface of the end portion of the pad 20 at the downstream side C2 in the rotation direction. To enable heat to be dissipated effectively, the fin portion 30 is provided on a portion made up of the base metal 21 having higher heat conductivity than the white metal 22. As shown in FIG. 4, the fin portion 30 is provided on at least a central portion of the pad 20 in a width direction thereof. The width direction of the pad 20 is equal to an axial direction Z thereof. A width W1 of the “central portion of the pad 20 in the width direction thereof” is one third of an overall width W2 of the pad 20. The fin portion 30 is provided over the whole surface (along the overall width) which extends from one end to the other end in the width direction of the pad 20.

[0030] It is desirable that the fin portion 30 is provided so that a heat capacity of a portion of the pad 20 that lies towards the radially outer side R2 from the pad bearing surface 20s shown in FIG. 3 is not reduced. For example, as shown in FIG. 10, the following case is considered: a fin portion 30 is formed by digging (hollowing out, gouging) a groove at a portion of the pad 20 that lies towards the radially outer side R2 from a pad bearing surface 20s of a conventional pad. Then, a volume of the pad 20 at the portion lying towards the radially outer side R2 from the pad bearing surface 20s is reduced, whereby a thin portion 20c is formed between the fin portion 30 and the pad bearing surface 20s. Then, there may be a case where the temperature of the pad 20 is increased due to thermal saturation resulting from a small heat capacity of the thin portion 20c as compared with the case where no fin portion 30 is provided. To cope with this, as shown in FIG. 3, the fin portion 30 is provided towards the downstream side C2 in the rotation direction from the pad bearing surface 20s. When seen from the axial direction Z, a bottom portion 30a of the fin portion 30 resides within an area including an imaginary line L that extends from an end of the pad bearing surface 20s that lies at the downstream side C2 in the rotation direction towards the radially outer side R2 along the radial direction R and a portion lying towards the downstream side C2 in the rotation direction from the imaginary line L. For example, the bottom portion 30a is disposed so as to follow a surface of the conventional pad. A section of the bottom portion 30a as seen from the axial direction Z has a shape of a straight line.

[0031] This fin portion 30 is provided only on the surface of the end portion of the pad 20 in the rotation direction C (in this embodiment, on the surface of the end portion at the downstream side C2 in the rotation direction). In this case, the tilting pad bearing 1 of this embodiment can be used in place of a conventional tilting pad bearing without changing a diameter of a bearing housing 10 thereof. Thus, the conventional tilting pad bearing can be replaced by the tilting pad bearing 1 of the present invention easily. As a result, a machine in which the tilting pad bearing 1 is provided does not have to be modified.

[0032] It is desirable that a height of the fin portion 30 is set as follows. The “height of the fin portion 30” means a dimension from the bottom portion 30a to a surface of the fin portion 30 at the downstream side C2 in the rotation

direction. One pad 20 on which the fin portion 30 is provided is referred to as an upstream-side pad 20A, and a pad that is situated next to (adjacent to) the upstream-side pad 20A towards the downstream side C2 in the rotation direction is referred to as a downstream-side pad 20B. A space between the upstream-side pad 20A and the downstream-side pad 20B is referred to as an inter-pad space S2. In this configuration, the height of the fin portion 30 is set so that a lubricant convects easily in the inter-pad space S2. More specifically, the height of the fin portion 30 is equal to or smaller than one fifth of a space (a shortest distance) between the upstream-side pad 20A and the downstream-side pad 20B in the rotation direction C. It is preferable that the height of the fin portion 30 is equal to or smaller than one tenth of the space from the standpoint of facilitating heat transfer between the fin portion 30 and the lubricant.

[0033] An end portion of the fin portion 30 that lies at the upstream side C1 in the rotation direction and the radially inner side R1 and an end portion of the white metal 22 that lies at the downstream side C2 in the rotation direction are chamfered to provide a continuous chamfered portion. Providing the chamfered portion can avoid the pad 20 and fin portion 30 from being damaged. The fin portion 30 has a plurality of fins 31 (projections) that are disposed parallel to one another. In FIG. 4, reference numeral is given to only a part of the plurality of fins 31 (this is also applied to the cases in FIG. 6 and FIG. 8).

[0034] The fins 31 are disposed so that a lubricant can flow through gaps between the fins 31. A better lubricating effect can be obtained as the number of fins 31 is greater. A thickness of the fin 31 is, for example, about 1 mm. An interval between the fins 31 is, for example, about 1 mm. The plurality of fins 31 each extend in the radial direction R and the rotation direction C (extend in a direction perpendicular to the axial direction Z). The gaps between the plurality of fins 31 penetrate the fin portion 30 in the radial direction R.

[0035] (Flow of Lubricant)

[0036] A lubricant is supplied to the tilting pad bearing 1 shown in FIG. 3 from an oil pump (not shown) that is situated outside the tilting pad bearing 1. A lubricant passes through the oil supply port 11 and is supplied into the inter-pad space S2. The lubricant oil whose temperature is low convects in the inter-pad space S2, thereby heat of the pad 20 whose temperature is high is transferred to the lubricant by way of the fin portion 30. As a result, the temperature of the pad 20 is reduced. The lubricant whose temperature is increased as a result of the heat of the pad 20 being transferred by way of the fin portion 30 passes through the gap between the rotary shaft 5 and the downstream-side pad 20B and is then discharged to the outside of the tilting pad bearing 1. Since the fins 31 (refer to FIG. 4) extends in the direction perpendicular to the axial direction Z, the lubricant in the gaps between the fins 31 tends to flow in the radial direction R and the rotation direction C easily. This tends to allow the lubricant to convect easily in the inter-pad space S2. This then allows the lubricant to easily flow towards the downstream-side pad 20B from the inter-pad space S2.

[0037] (Advantage of the First Invention)

[0038] An advantage provided by the tilting pad bearing 1 shown in FIG. 1 is as follows. The tilting pad bearing 1 includes the bearing housing 10, the plurality of pads 20, and

the fin portion 30. The pads 20 are arranged on the inner circumferential surface of the bearing housing 10 and support the rotary shaft 5.

[0039] [Configuration 1-1] The fin portion 30 is provided on the surface of the pad 20 and has the plurality of fins 31 (refer to FIG. 4).

[0040] [Configuration 1-2] As shown in FIG. 3, the fin portion 30 is provided on a surface other than the pad bearing surface 20s in the surfaces of the pad 20, the pad bearing surface 20s being a surface facing the rotary shaft 5.

[0041] By adopting the above [Configuration 1-1], the heat of the pad 20 can be transferred to the lubricant by way of the plurality of fins 31 (refer to FIG. 4). Thus, the pad 20 can be prevented from being damaged through burning as a result of the pad 20 being able to be cooled. Further, the tilting pad bearing 1 includes the above [Configuration 1-2]. Thus, the capability of supporting the load of the rotary shaft 5 (the load supporting capability) by the pad bearing surface 20s is not reduced by the fin portion 30. Additionally, by adopting the above [Configuration 1-2], an oil film of a lubricant is formed in the gap S1 between the pad bearing surface 20s and the rotary shaft 5. Thus, a damping effect provided by the oil film formed in the gap S1 is not reduced by the fin portion 30. Consequently, in the tilting pad bearing 1, the pad 20 can be cooled while maintaining the load supporting capability and the damping effect. As a result, it is possible to improve the reliability of a machine including the tilting pad bearing 1.

[0042] (Advantage of the Second Invention)

[0043] [Configuration 2] The fin portion 30 is provided on the surface of the end portion of the pad 20 at the downstream side C2 in the rotation direction.

[0044] In the above [Configuration 2], the fin portion 30 is provided, in the surfaces of the pad 20, on the surface of the end portion thereof at the downstream side C2 in the rotation direction where the temperature is higher than those of the other surfaces of the pad 20. Thus, the pad 20 can be cooled more than the case where the fin portion 30 is provided on the other surfaces.

[0045] (Advantage of the Third Invention)

[0046] [Configuration 3] When seen from the axial direction Z, the bottom portion 30a of the fin portion 30 resides within the area that includes the imaginary line L that extends from the end of the pad bearing surface 20s at the downstream side C2 in the rotation direction to the radially outer side R2 along the radial direction R and the portion that is situated towards the downstream side C2 in the rotation direction from the imaginary line L.

[0047] In the above [Configuration 3], the heat capacity of the portion of the pad 20 that is situated towards the radially outer side R2 from the pad bearing surface 20s is greater than the case where the bottom portion 30a is situated towards the upstream side C1 in the rotation direction from the imaginary line L. In greater detail, the pad 20 has no thin portion 20c as shown in FIG. 10. Thus, it is possible to inhibit an increase in the temperature of the pad 20 shown in FIG. 3, and therefore, the pad 20 can be cooled more.

[0048] (Advantage of the 10th Invention)

[0049] The fin portion 30 is provided on the surface of the end portion of the pad 20 at the downstream side C2 in the rotation direction. The pad 20 where the fin portion 30 is provided is referred to as the upstream-side pad 20A, and the pad 20 that is disposed next to the upstream-side pad 20A

towards the downstream side C2 in the rotation direction is referred to as the downstream-side pad 20B.

[0050] [Configuration 10] The height of the fin portion 30 that is defined from the bottom portion 30a to the surface of the fin portion 30 at the downstream side C2 in the rotation direction is equal to or smaller than one fifth of the space between the upstream-side pad 20A and the downstream-side pad 20B.

[0051] By adopting the above [Configuration 10], the lubricant is easily allowed to convect in the inter-pad space S2 between the upstream-side pad 20A and the downstream-side pad 20B, as compared with the case where the height of the fin portion 30 is too high. Thus, the heat is easily transferred from the fin portion 30 to the lubricant, and the lubricant is easily supplied from the inter-pad space S2 towards the downstream-side pad 20B. Thus, the pad 20 can be cooled more.

[0052] (Advantage of the 11th Invention)

[0053] [Configuration 11] As shown in FIG. 4, the fin portion 30 (the projecting portion) has the plurality of fins 31 that are disposed parallel to one another.

[0054] By adopting the above [Configuration 11], the lubricant is easy to flow the gaps between the fins 31, as compared with the case where a projecting portions are provided not parallel to one another. Thus, the heat is easy to be transferred from the fin portion 30 to the lubricant. Thus, the pad 20 can be cooled more.

[0055] (Advantage of the 12th Invention)

[0056] [Configuration 12] The plurality of fins 31 each extend in the radial direction R and the rotation direction C and are aligned in the axial direction Z.

[0057] In the above [Configuration 12], as shown in FIG. 3, the lubricant is easy to flow in the radial direction R and the rotation direction C. Thus, the lubricant flows in the radial direction R along the fins 31 that extend in the radial direction R (refer to FIG. 4, hereinafter, this is applied to the fins 31), whereby the heat is easy to be transferred from the fin portion 30 to the lubricant. Additionally, the lubricant flows in the rotation direction C along the fins 31 that extend in the rotation direction C, whereby the lubricant is easy to be supplied to the downstream-side pad 20B. Thus, the pad 20 can be cooled more,

[0058] (Advantage of the 13th Invention)

[0059] The bearing housing 10 includes the oil supply port 11 for supplying a lubricant into the bearing housing 10. [Configuration 13] The plurality of fins 31 each extend parallel to the supply direction of the lubricant from the oil supply port 11.

[0060] By adopting the above [Configuration 13], the lubricant is easy to flow through the gaps between the fins 31. Thus, the heat is easy to be transferred from the fin portion 30 to the lubricant. Thus, the pad 20 can be cooled more.

Second Embodiment

[0061] Referring to FIG. 5 to FIG. 7, a tilting pad bearing 201 in the second embodiment is described in relation to a different feature from the first embodiment. In the tilting pad bearing 201 in the second embodiment, the reference numerals same as those of the first embodiment are given to the same features in the second embodiment, and a description thereof is omitted (omitting a description of the same

features is also applied to other embodiments). A different feature is a direction of an oil supply port **211** as shown in FIG. 5.

[0062] The oil supply port **211** is configured as follows, As shown in FIG. 3, the oil supply port **11** in the first embodiment is directed towards the radially inner side **R1**. On the other hand, as shown in FIG. 5, the oil supply port **211** in the second embodiment is directed towards a fin portion **30**. The oil supply port **211** is inclined with respect to a radial direction **R** so as to be directed towards an upstream side **C1** in a rotation direction and the radially inner side **R1**. Here, the oil supply port **211** is inclined, for example, at about 45 degrees with respect to a radial direction **R**. Here, a temperature distribution of a pad **20** shown in FIG. 6 is such that the temperature increases from both end portions of the pad **20** in a width direction thereof towards a central portion of the pad **20** in the width direction (a central portion in an axial direction **Z**). Then, the oil supply port **211** is directed towards the fin portion **30** that is provided at the central portion of the pad **20** in the width direction thereof. Thus, the lubricant whose temperature is low can be injected directly to the portions of the pad **20** and the fin portion **30** whose temperatures are high, and this increases the effect of cooling the pad **20**. As a result, an amount of the lubricant that is required to reduce the temperature of the pad **20** can be reduced. As a result, a volumetric capacity of the oil pump, which is expensive, does not have to be increased. Additionally, a diameter of an oil supply pipe that connects to the oil supply port **211** does not have to be enlarged. The temperatures at both the end portions (a range excluding the width **W1** among the overall width **W2** in FIG. 6) of the pad **20** in the width direction thereof are also increased, and the end portions of the pad **20** in the width direction thereof can be cooled by the lubricant. Thus, it is preferable that the lubricant is injected also to the end portion of the pad **20** in the width direction (as is described below).

[0063] The following three types of tilting pad bearings were compared with one another in relation to maximum temperatures of pads **20** thereof.

[0064] Conventional Technique: represented by the conventional tilting pad bearing that does not include the fin portion **30** shown in FIG. 3 but includes an oil supply port **11** that is similar to that of the first embodiment. **p1** First Embodiment: represented by the tilting pad bearing **1** that includes the fin portion **30** and the oil supply port **11** that is directed towards the radially inner side **R1**

[0065] Second Embodiment: represented by the tilting pad bearing **201** shown in FIG. 5 that includes the fin portion **30** and the oil supply port **211** that is directed towards the fin portion **30**.

[0066] FIG. 7 shows the graph showing the results of the comparisons. FIG. 7 shows respective maximum temperatures of the two pads **20** (the pad **20-1** and the pad **20-2**) that bear the bearing load in the LBP shown in FIG. 1. As shown in the graph, the maximum temperatures of the pads **20** according to the first and second embodiments where the fin portion **30** is provided are reduced as compared with the conventional technique where the fin portion **30** (refer to FIG. 3) is not provided. In addition, the maximum temperatures of the pads **20** are much reduced in the second embodiment as compared with the first embodiment by directing the oil supply port **211** towards the fin portion **30** as shown in FIG. 5.

[0067] (Advantage of the Fourth Invention)

[0068] An advantage of the tilting pad bearing **201** shown in FIG. 5 is as follows. The bearing housing **10** includes the oil supply port **211** for supplying a lubricant into the bearing housing **10**.

[0069] [Configuration 4] The oil supply port **211** is directed towards the fin portion **30**.

[0070] By adopting the above [Configuration 4], the lubricant whose temperature is lower than that of the lubricant that has passed through the gap **S1** is allowed to touch the fin portion **30** from the oil supply port **211**. Thus, since the fin portion **30** can be cooled more, the pad **20** can be cooled more accordingly.

[0071] (Advantage of the Fifth Invention)

[0072] [Configuration 5] A width direction of the pad **20** shown in FIG. 6 is equal to the axial direction **Z**. The oil supply port **211** is directed towards the fin portion **30** that is provided at the central portion of the pad **20** in the width direction thereof.

[0073] By adopting the above [Configuration 5], the oil supply port **211** can inject the lubricant towards the portions of the pad **20** and the fin portion **30** whose temperatures are high. Thus, since the fin portion **30** can be cooled more, the pad **20** can be cooled more accordingly.

Third Embodiment

[0074] Referring to FIG. 8, a tilting pad bearing **301** in the third embodiment is described in relation to a different feature from the second embodiment (refer to FIG. 6). A different feature is a shape of an oil supply port **311**. The sectional shape of the oil supply port **211** in the second embodiment is circular. On the other hand, the oil supply port **311** in the third embodiment has a shape that enables a lubricant to be injected towards a wide range of a fin portion **30** (of a pad **20**) in a width direction thereof. The oil supply port **311** has a slit shape that extends parallel to a longitudinal direction of the fin portion **30**. A longitudinal direction of the oil supply port **311**, the longitudinal direction of the fin portion **30** and the width direction of the pad **20** are equal to an axial direction **Z**. The oil supply port **311** is directed towards the fin portion **30** that is provided on at least a central portion of the pad **20** in the width direction thereof. A width **W3** of the oil supply port **311** in the longitudinal direction is preferably larger than the width **W1** of the central portion of the pad **20** in the width direction thereof (one third of an overall width **W2**). The width **W3** of the oil supply port **311** in the longitudinal direction is more preferably equal to or larger than the overall width **W2** of the pad **20**. The width **W3** of the oil supply port **311** in the longitudinal direction is preferably equal to or larger than an overall width (= **W2**) of the fin portion **30**. For example, the extent of the width **W3** is equal to the extent of the overall width **W2**. The lubricant injected from the oil supply port **311** is injected uniformly in the longitudinal direction of the oil supply port **311**.

[0075] (Advantage of the Sixth invention)

[0076] An advantage provided by the tilting pad bearing **301** shown in FIG. 8 is as follows.

[0077] [Configuration 6] The fin portion **30** has the longitudinal direction. The oil supply port **311** has the slit shape that extends parallel to the longitudinal direction of the fin portion **30**.

[0078] By adopting the above [Configuration 6], the oil supply port **311** can inject a lubricant towards the wide range

of the fin portion **30** in the longitudinal direction. Thus, since the fin portion **30** can be cooled more, the pad **20** can be cooled more accordingly.

[0079] (Advantage of the Seventh Invention)

[0080] The width direction of the pad **20**, the longitudinal direction of the fin portion **30** and the longitudinal direction of the oil supply port **311** are equal to the axial direction *Z*. The oil supply port **211** is directed towards the fin portion **30** that is provided on the central portion of the pad **20** in the width direction thereof.

[0081] [Configuration 7] When the width *W1* of the central portion of the pad **20** in the width direction thereof is assumed to be one third of the overall width *W2* of the pad **20**, the width *W3* of the oil supply port **311** in the longitudinal direction is larger than the width *W1* of the central portion of the pad **20** in the width direction thereof.

[0082] In the above [Configuration 7], the oil supply port **311** can inject the lubricant towards the wider range of the fin portion **30** in the longitudinal direction, as compared with the case where the width *W3* of the oil supply port **311** is equal to or smaller than the width *W1* of the central portion of the pad **20**. Thus, since the fin portion **30** can be cooled more, the pad **20** can be cooled more accordingly.

[0083] (Advantage of the Eighth Invention)

[0084] [Configuration 8] The width *W3* of the oil supply port **311** in the longitudinal direction is equal to or larger than the overall width *W2* of the pad **20**.

[0085] In the above [Configuration 8], the oil supply port **311** can inject the lubricant towards the wider range of the fin portion **30** in the longitudinal direction, as compared with the case where the width *W3* of the oil supply port **311** is smaller than the overall width *W2* of the pad **20**. Thus, since the fin portion **30** can be cooled more, the pad **20** can be cooled more accordingly.

Fourth Embodiment

[0086] Referring to FIG. 9, a tilting pad bearing **401** in the fourth embodiment is described in relation to a different feature from the second embodiment (refer to FIG. 5). A different feature is a shape of a bottom portion **430a** of a fin portion **30**. As shown in FIG. 5, in the second embodiment, the section of the bottom portion **30a** when seen from the axial direction *Z* is the straight line that extends in the radial direction *R*. Hereinafter, the “section” is a section seen from the axial direction *Z*. On the other hand, as shown in FIG. 9, in the fourth embodiment, a section of the bottom portion **430a** has a shape that promotes a convection of a lubricant and is an arc shape that curves inwardly towards an upstream side *C1* in a rotation direction. The “arc shape” may be substantially an arc shape. An oil supply port **211** is directed towards the bottom portion **430a**.

[0087] (Advantage of the Ninth Invention)

[0088] An advantage provided by the tilting pad bearing **401** shown in FIG. 9 is as follows.

[0089] [Configuration 9] The section of the bottom portion **430a** of the fin portion **30** is the arc shape that curves inwards.

[0090] By adopting the above [Configuration 9], a lubricant is easy to convect along the bottom portion **430a**. This makes it easy for heat to be transferred from the fin portion **30** to the lubricant, whereby a pad **20** can be cooled more. In addition, the lubricant is easy to convect along the bottom portion **430a**, and this allows the lubricant to easily convect in an inter-pad space *S2*. Thus, the lubricant can be supplied

more to a gap between a downstream-side pad **20B** and a rotary shaft **5**, whereby the downstream-side pad **20B** can be cooled more.

[0091] (Modified Examples)

[0092] The constituent elements in the embodiments that differ from each other may be combined together. For example, the slit-shaped oil supply port **311** (refer to FIG. 8) in the third embodiment and the arc-shaped bottom portion **430a** (refer to FIG. 9) in the fourth embodiment may be combined together.

[0093] A part of the constituent elements in the embodiments may not be provided. For example, in the case of the LBP shown in FIG. 1, the fin portion **30** is described as being provided on the two pads **20**, however, the fin portion **30** may be provided only on one of the pads **20**.

[0094] The number of constituent elements in the embodiments may be changed. For example, in the case of the LBP, the fin portion **30** may be provided on three or more pads **20**. In the case of the LOP shown in FIG. 2, the fin portion **30** may be provided on two or more pads **20**. The number of pads **20** is five in the embodiments, however, the number of pads **20** may be four or fewer or six or more.

[0095] The configuration (the number, position and direction) of the oil supply port **11** shown in FIG. 3 may be changed (this is also applied to the oil supply port **211** and the oil supply port **311**). For example, the oil supply port **11** may be directed towards the axial direction *Z*. In this case, the oil supply port **11** is disposed, for example, in a position that faces the pad **20** and the axial direction *Z*.

[0096] The configuration of the fin portion **30** may be changed. For example, a great cooling effect can be obtained by providing the fin portion **30** in a position where the difference in temperature between the lubricant and the pad **20** is large. However, the fin portion **30** may be provided in a position where the difference in temperature between the lubricant and the pad **20** is small. The fin portion **30** is provided on the surface of the end portion of the pad **20** at the downstream side *C2* in the rotation direction, however, in place of (or in addition to) this position, the fin portion **30** may be provided on the other surfaces of the pad **20** than the surface of the end portion at the downstream side *C2* in the rotation direction. The fin portion **30** may be provided on at least any of a surface of an end portion of the pad **20** at the upstream side *C1* in the rotation direction, a surface of an end portion at the radially outer side *R2* and a surface of an end portion at an outer side in the axial direction *Z*.

[0097] In FIG. 4, the direction in which the fin **31** extends and the direction in which plurality of fins **31** are aligned may be changed. In the embodiment, the direction in which the fin **31** extends is the direction perpendicular to the axial direction *Z*. However, the fin **31** may extend in a direction perpendicular to the radial direction *R* or a direction perpendicular to the rotation direction *C*. In the embodiment, the direction in which the fins **31** are aligned is equal to the axial direction *Z*. However, the fins **31** may be aligned in the radial direction *R* or the rotation direction *C*. The direction in which the fin **31** extends may be a direction that is oblique to at least any of the rotation direction *C*, the radial direction *R* and the axial direction *Z* (this is also applied to the direction in which the fins **31** are aligned).

[0098] As shown in FIG. 10, a bottom portion **530a** of the fin portion **30** may be situated towards the upstream side *C1* in the rotation direction from the imaginary line *L*. In this case, the fin portion **30** is provided so that a heat capacity

that is good enough to cool the pad **20** as compared with the conventional pad can be ensured by the thin portion **20c**.

[0099] As shown in FIG. **11**, the fin portion **30** (refer to FIG. **4**) may be replaced by a projecting portion **630**. The projecting portion **630** has a plurality of projections **631**. The projections **631** may be of a pillar shape, quadrangular prisms, circular cylinders or the like. In the case where the projections **631** are quadrangular prisms, the projections **631** can easily be fabricated as compared with the case where the projections **631** are circular cylinders. A direction in which the projection **631** extends and a direction in which the projections **631** are aligned can be set variously as with the direction in which the fin **31** (refer to FIG. **4**) extends and the direction in which the fins **31** are aligned. The projections **631** may not have the pillar shape.

[0100] While the present invention has been described heretofore in detail or by reference to the specific embodiments, it is obvious to those skilled in the art to which the invention pertains that various alterations or modifications can be made thereto without departing from the spirit and scope of the invention.

[0101] This patent application is based on Japanese Patent Application No. 2016-018116 filed on Feb. 2, 2016, the contents of which are incorporated herein by reference.

INDUSTRIAL APPLICABILITY

[0102] The tilting pad journal bearing of the invention can cool the pads while ensuring the load supporting capability and the damping effect and is useful for various pumps or blowers.

DESCRIPTION OF REFERENCE NUMERALS AND SIGNS

[0103] **1, 201, 301, 401**: Tilting pad bearing (tilting pad journal bearing)

[0104] **10**: Bearing housing

[0105] **11, 211, 311**: Oil supply port

[0106] **20**: Pad

[0107] **20A**: Upstream-side pad

[0108] **20B**: Downstream-side pad

[0109] **20s**: Pad bearing surface

[0110] **30**: Fin portion (projecting portion)

[0111] **31**: Fin (projection)

[0112] **630**: Projecting portion

[0113] **631**: Projection

[0114] **C2**: Downstream side in a rotation direction (downstream side in a rotation direction of a rotary shaft)

[0115] **L**: Imaginary line.

1. A tilting pad journal bearing, comprising:

a bearing housing;

a plurality of pads that are arranged on an inner circumferential surface of the bearing housing and support a rotary shaft; and

a projecting portion provided on a surface of the pad and having a plurality of projections,

wherein the projecting portion is provided on a surface other than a pad bearing surface in surfaces of the pad, the pad bearing surface being a surface that faces the rotary shaft.

2. The tilting pad journal bearing according to claim 1, wherein the projecting portion is provided on a surface of an end portion of the pad at a downstream side in a rotation direction of the rotary shaft.

3. The tilting pad journal bearing according to claim 2, wherein when seen from an axial direction of the rotary shaft, a bottom portion of the projecting portion resides within an area that includes an imaginary line that extends from an end of the pad bearing surface at the downstream side in the rotation direction of the rotary shaft to a radially outer side of the rotary shaft along a radial direction of the rotary shaft and a portion that is situated towards the downstream side in the rotation direction of the rotary shaft from the imaginary line.

4. The tilting pad journal bearing according to claim 1, wherein the bearing housing comprises an oil supply port for supplying a lubricant into the bearing housing, and the oil supply port is directed towards the projecting portion.

5. The tilting pad journal bearing according to claim 4, wherein a width direction of the pad is equal to an axial direction of the rotary shaft, and

the oil supply port is directed towards the projecting portion provided at a central portion in the width direction of the pad.

6. The tilting pad journal bearing according to claim 4, wherein the projecting portion has a longitudinal direction, and

the oil supply port has a slit shape that extends parallel to the longitudinal direction of the projecting portion.

7. The tilting pad journal bearing according to claim 6, wherein a width direction of the pad, the longitudinal direction of the projecting portion and a longitudinal direction of the oil supply port are equal to an axial direction of the rotary shaft,

the oil supply port is directed towards the projecting portion provided at a central portion in the width direction of the pad, and

when a width of the central portion in the width direction of the pad is assumed to be one third of an overall width of the pad, a width of the longitudinal direction of the oil supply port is larger than the width of the central portion in the width direction of the pad.

8. The tilting pad journal bearing according to claim 7, wherein the width of the longitudinal direction of the oil supply port is equal to or larger than the overall width of the pad.

9. The tilting pad journal bearing according to claim 1, wherein a section of a bottom portion of the projecting portion has an arc shape that curves inwardly.

10. The tilting pad journal bearing according to claim 1, wherein the projecting portion is provided on a surface of an end portion of the pad at the downstream side in the rotation direction of the rotary shaft, and

a height of the projecting portion from a bottom portion thereof towards the downstream side in the rotation direction of the rotary shaft is equal to or smaller than one fifth of a space between an upstream-side pad that is the pad on which the projecting portion is provided and a downstream-side pad that is disposed next to the upstream-side pad towards the downstream side in the rotation direction of the rotary shaft.

11. The tilting pad journal bearing according to claim 1, wherein the projecting portion is a fin portion having a plurality of fins that are disposed parallel to one another.

12. The tilting pad journal bearing according to claim **11**, wherein the plurality of fins each extend in a radial direction of the rotary shaft and a rotation direction of the rotary shaft and are aligned in a axial direction of the rotary shaft.

13. The tilting pad journal bearing according to claim **11** or **12**, wherein the bearing housing comprises an oil supply port for supplying a lubricant into the bearing housing, and the plurality of fins each extend parallel to a supply direction of the lubricant from the oil supply port.

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