CLAIMS

[Claim 1]

A refrigerator, comprising:

a first storage compartment in a refrigeration temperature range, the first storage compartment including a front surface section and a rear surface section;

a second storage compartment in a refrigeration temperature range, the second storage compartment including a front surface section and a rear surface section;

a third storage compartment in a cooling temperature range, the third storage compartment including wall sections that include a front surface section and a rear surface section, and being located between the first storage compartment and the second storage compartment;

a cooler provided rearward of the rear surface section of the second storage compartment;

a vacuum thermal insulator provided in each of the wall sections partitioning off the third storage compartment;

a first air passage formed behind the vacuum thermal insulator provided in the rear surface section of the third storage compartment, the first air passage being configured to introduce air from the cooler into the second storage compartment;

a second air passage formed behind the vacuum thermal insulator provided in the rear surface section of the third storage compartment, the second air passage being configured to return air used at the second storage compartment to the cooler; and

a third air passage configured to return air used at the third storage compartment to the cooler through a return port,

the first air passage and the second air passage being formed overlapping each other in a front-back direction,

the first air passage and the second air passage being each branched into two in a width direction of the vacuum thermal insulator provided in the rear surface section of the third storage compartment,

air that flows through the first air passage being blown out from below a lower end of the vacuum thermal insulator provided in the rear surface section of the third storage compartment,

air that flows through the second air passage being introduced in from below the lower end of the vacuum thermal insulator provided in the rear surface section of the third storage compartment,

the return port being formed below the vacuum thermal insulator provided in the rear surface section of the third storage compartment.

[Claim 2]

The refrigerator of claim 1, wherein

when the return port is viewed from a front, the return port is formed at a rear surface of the third storage compartment, is formed between branched parts of the first air passage, and is formed between branched parts of the second air passage.

[Claim 3]

The refrigerator of claim 1 or 2, wherein the vacuum thermal insulator provided close to a rear surface of the third storage compartment has a width greater than a width of the cooler.

[Claim 4]

The refrigerator of any one of claims 1 to 3, wherein the first air passage is branched into two in the width direction of the vacuum thermal insulator provided in the rear surface section of the third storage compartment, and is further branched into two in a vertical direction.

[Claim 5]

The refrigerator of any one of claims 1 to 4, wherein

the first storage compartment is an ice-making compartment,

the second storage compartment is a freezer compartment,

the third storage compartment is a vegetable compartment, and

the ice-making compartment, the vegetable compartment, and the freezer compartment are arranged in order from top.