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SEMICONDUCTOR DEVICE

Abstract

A semiconductor device includes an inverter circuit having a first switching element and a second switching element, a first control circuit, a second control circuit, and a limiting unit. The first switching element is supplied with a power supply voltage. The second switching element includes a first terminal connected to the first switching element, a second terminal connected to ground, and a control terminal. The first control circuit controls the first switching element. The second control circuit controls the second switching element. The limiting unit reduces fluctuation in voltage between the second terminal and the control terminal based on voltage fluctuation at the second terminal of the second switching element.

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Background/Summary

CROSS REFERENCE TO RELATED APPLICATIONS [0001] This application is based upon and claims the benefit of priority from prior Japanese Patent Application No. 2018-106986 filed on Jun. 4, 2018, International Patent Application No. PCT/JP2019/020747 filed on May 24, 2019, U.S. patent application Ser. No. 17/042,649 filed on Sep. 28, 2020, U.S. patent application Ser. No. 17/846,856 filed on Jun. 22, 2022, and U.S. patent application Ser. No. 18/752,356 filed on Jun. 24, 2024, the entire contents of which are incorporated herein by reference.

TECHNICAL FIELD

[0002] The present invention relates to a semiconductor device.

BACKGROUND ART

[0003] A semiconductor device that is being developed is integrated into a single package by mounting an inverter circuit and a control circuit on a lead frame. The inverter circuit includes a first switching element, which is supplied with a power supply voltage, and a second switching element, which is connected in series with the first switching element. The control circuit controls ON/OFF of each switching element (see e.g., Patent Document 1).

PRIOR ART DOCUMENT

Patent Document

[0004] Patent Document 1: Japanese Laid-Open Patent Publication No. 2016-82281

SUMMARY OF INVENTION

Technical Problems

[0005] In the semiconductor device described above, the second switching element and the lead frame are electrically connected by a bonding wire. The electrical characteristics of the second switching element may fluctuate due to the negative bias applied by the influence of the inductance of the bonding wire.

[0006] It is an object of the present invention is to provide a semiconductor device capable of reducing fluctuations in electrical characteristics.

Solutions to Problems

[0007] A semiconductor device that solves the above problem includes an inverter circuit, which has a first switching element and a second switching element, a first control circuit, a second control circuit, and a limiting unit. The first switching element is supplied with a power supply voltage. The second switching element includes a first terminal connected to the first switching element, a second terminal connected to ground, and a control terminal. The first control circuit controls the first switching element. The second control circuit controls the second switching element. The limiting unit reduces fluctuation in voltage between the second terminal and the control terminal based on voltage fluctuation at the second terminal of the second switching element.

[0008] The semiconductor device that solves the problem described above includes a inverter

circuit, which has a first switching element and a second switching element, and a limiting unit. The first switching element is supplied with a power supply voltage. The second switching element includes a first terminal connected to the first switching element, a second terminal connected to ground, and a control terminal. The limiting unit reduces fluctuation in the potential at the second terminal of the second switching element when the first switching element is turned on.

Advantageous Effects of Invention

[0009] According to the semiconductor device described above, fluctuation in the electrical characteristics can be reduced.

Description

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF DRAWINGS

[0010] FIG. 1 is a block diagram showing the electrical configuration of a semiconductor device in accordance with a first embodiment.

[0011] FIG. 2 is a plan view showing the layout inside a semiconductor device.

[0012] FIG. 3 is a perspective view of the semiconductor device.

[0013] FIG. 4 is a bottom view of the semiconductor device.

[0014] FIG. 5 is a cross-sectional view taken along line 5-5 in FIG. 2.

[0015] FIG. 6 is a cross-sectional view taken along line 6-6 in FIG. 2.

[0016] FIG. 7 is an enlarged view of part of FIG. 2.

[0017] FIG. 8 is a cross-sectional view taken along line 8-8 in FIG. 7.

[0018] FIG. 9 is an enlarged view of part of FIG. 2.

[0019] FIG. 10 is a cross-sectional view taken along line 10-10 in FIG. 9.

[0020] FIG. 11 is a cross-sectional view showing the structure of a MOSFET.

[0021] FIG. 12 is a detailed circuit diagram showing the electrical configuration of part of the semiconductor device.

[0022] FIG. 13 is a detailed circuit diagram showing the electrical configuration of part of a semiconductor device in accordance with a second embodiment.

[0023] FIG. 14 is a schematic plan view showing the element layout in part of the integrated circuit element of the semiconductor device.

[0024] FIG. 15 is a plan view in which part of the layout inside a semiconductor device in accordance with a third embodiment is enlarged.

[0025] FIG. 16 is a block diagram showing the electrical configuration of a semiconductor device in accordance with a fourth embodiment.

[0026] FIG. 17 is a plan view showing the layout inside the semiconductor device.

[0027] FIG. 18A is a cross-sectional perspective view showing the structure of a diode.

[0028] FIG. 18B is a cross-sectional view showing the structure of a diode.

[0029] FIG. 19 is a circuit diagram illustrating the operation of the fourth embodiment and showing the electrical connection configuration of a drive unit.

[0030] FIG. 20 is a block diagram showing the electrical configuration of a semiconductor device in accordance with a fifth embodiment.

[0031] FIG. 21 is a plan view showing the layout inside the semiconductor device.

[0032] FIG. 22 is a plan view in which part of the layout inside a semiconductor device in accordance with a modified example is enlarged.

[0033] FIG. 23 is a plan view in which part of the layout inside a semiconductor device in accordance with a modified example is enlarged.

[0034] FIG. 24 is a plan view in which part of the layout inside a semiconductor device in accordance with a modified example is enlarged.

[0035] FIG. 25 is a plan view in which part of the layout inside a semiconductor device in

accordance with a modified example is enlarged.

[0036] FIG. **26** is a plan view in which part of the layout inside a semiconductor device in accordance with a modified example is enlarged.

[0037] FIG. **27** is a plan view in which part of the layout inside a semiconductor device in accordance with a modified example is enlarged.

[0038] FIG. **28** is a plan view in which part of the layout inside a semiconductor device in accordance with a modified example is enlarged.

[0039] FIG. **29** is a plan view showing the layout inside a semiconductor device in accordance with a modified example.

[0040] FIG. **30** is a plan view showing the layout inside a semiconductor device in accordance with a modified example.

[0041] FIG. **31** is a plan view showing the layout inside a semiconductor device in accordance with a modified example.

[0042] FIG. **32** is a plan view in which part of the layout inside a semiconductor device in accordance with a modified example is enlarged.

[0043] FIG. **33** is a plan view showing the layout inside a semiconductor device in accordance with a modified example.

[0044] FIG. **34** is a cross-sectional view showing the structure of a MOSFET in accordance with a modified example.

[0045] FIG. **35** is a cross-sectional view showing the structure of a MOSFET in accordance with a modified example.

[0046] FIG. **36** is a cross-sectional view showing the structure of a diode in accordance with a modified example.

[0047] FIG. **37** is a block diagram showing the electrical configuration of a semiconductor device in accordance with a modified example.

[0048] FIG. **38** is a plan view showing the layout inside the semiconductor device of FIG. **37**.

[0049] FIG. **39** is a plan view showing the layout inside a semiconductor device in accordance with a modified example.

DESCRIPTION OF EMBODIMENTS

[0050] Hereinafter, embodiments of a semiconductor device will now be described with reference to the drawings. The embodiments described below exemplify configurations and methods embodying technical concepts and are not intended to limit the material, shape, structure, arrangement, dimension, and the like of each component. Various modifications can be made to the following embodiments.

[0051] In the present description, “a state in which a member A is connected to a member B” includes a case where the member A and the member B are physically and directly connected in addition to a case where the member A and the member B are indirectly connected through another member that does not affect the electrical connection state.

[0052] Similarly, “a state in which a member C is provided between the member A and the member B” includes a case where the member A and the member C or the member B and the member C are directly connected in addition to a case where the member A and the member C, or the member B and the member C are indirectly connected through another member that does not affect the electrical connection state.

First Embodiment

[0053] As shown in FIG. **1**, the semiconductor device **1** forms an inverter circuit for driving the motor **2** and includes a drive unit **10** having three inverter circuits, namely, a first inverter circuit **10U**, a second inverter circuit **10V**, and a third inverter circuit **10W**. The semiconductor device **1** further includes a control circuit **20** that controls the drive unit **10**. The inverter circuits **10U**, **10V**, and **10W** are connected in parallel to one another. One example of the motor **2** is a three-phase brushless motor.

[0054] Each inverter circuit **10U**, **10V**, **10W** includes a first switching element **11** and a second switching element **12**. The first switching element **11** and the second switching element **12** are connected in series. The first switching element **11** includes a first terminal supplied with a power supply voltage, a second terminal connected to the second switching element **12**, and a control terminal. The second switching element **12** includes a first terminal connected to the second terminal of the first switching element **11**, a second terminal connected to ground, and a control terminal. One example of the first switching element **11** and the second switching element **12** is a metal-oxide-semiconductor field-effect transistor (MOSFET). Hereinafter, the first switching element **11** of the first inverter circuit **10U** will be described as a MOSFET **11U**, the first switching element **11** of the second inverter circuit **10V** as a MOSFET **11V**, and the first switching element **11** of the third inverter circuit **10W** as a MOSFET **11W**. The second switching element **12** of the first inverter circuit **10U** will be described as a MOSFET **12U**, the second switching element **12** of the second inverter circuit **10V** as a MOSFET **12V**, and the second switching element **12** of the third inverter circuit **10W** as a MOSFET **12W**. In the present embodiment, N-channel MOSFETs are used as the MOSFETs **11U** to **11W** and **12U** to **12W**. The drain of each of the MOSFETs **11U** to **11W** is an example of the first terminal of the first switching element **11**, the source of each of the MOSFETs **11U** to **11W** is an example of the second terminal of the first switching element **11**, and the gate of each of the MOSFETs **11U** to **11W** is an example of the control terminal of the first switching element **11**. The drain of each of the MOSFETs **12U** to **12W** is an example of the first terminal of the second switching element **12**, the source of each of the MOSFETs **12U** to **12W** is an example of the second terminal of the second switching element **12**, and the gate of each of the MOSFETs **12U** to **12W** is an example of the control terminal of the second switching element **12**.

[0055] The MOSFET **11U** and the MOSFET **12U** are connected in series with each other. That is, the source of the MOSFET **11U** and the drain of the MOSFET **12U** are connected to each other. A node N between the source of the MOSFET **11U** and the drain of the MOSFET **12U** is electrically connected to a U-phase coil (not shown) of the motor **2**.

[0056] The MOSFET **11V** and the MOSFET **12V** are connected in series with each other. That is, the source of the MOSFET **11V** and the drain of the MOSFET **12V** are connected to each other. A node N between the source of the MOSFET **11V** and the drain of the MOSFET **12V** is electrically connected to a V-phase coil (not shown) of the motor **2**.

[0057] The MOSFET **11W** and the MOSFET **12W** are connected in series with each other. That is, the source of the MOSFET **11W** and the drain of the MOSFET **12W** are connected to each other. A node N between the source of the MOSFET **11W** and the drain of the MOSFET **12W** is electrically connected to a W-phase coil (not shown) of the motor **2**.

[0058] The drains of the MOSFETs **11U** to **11W** are connected to each other. The drains of the MOSFETs **11U** to **11W** are electrically connected to an external power supply. The sources of the MOSFETs **12U** to **12W** are connected to each other. The sources of the MOSFETs **12U** to **12W** are connected to ground GND. The gates of the MOSFETs **11U** to **11W** and the gates of the MOSFETs **12U** to **12W** are electrically connected to the control circuit **20**, respectively.

[0059] The current flowing through each of the MOSFETs **11U** to **11W** and the MOSFETs **12U** to **12W** is preferably less than 30 A. In the present embodiment, the current flowing through each of the MOSFETs **11U** to **11W** and the MOSFETs **12U** to **12W** is about 15 A.

[0060] The control circuit **20** includes a drive circuit **21** serving as an example of a drive signal output circuit that outputs drive signals to the gates of the MOSFETs **11U** to **11W** and the gates of the MOSFETs **12U** to **12W**, a logic circuit **22** that controls the drive circuit **21**, and a bootstrap circuit **23** that generates a drive power for the high potential block of the drive circuit **21** and the logic circuit **22**. The control circuit **20** includes a drive circuit **21**, a logic circuit **22**, and a bootstrap circuit **23** corresponding to each of the MOSFETs **11U** to **11W** and the MOSFETs **12U** to **12W**.

[0061] The drive circuit **21** includes drive circuits **21UU**, **21VU**, and **21WU** for controlling the gates of the high potential side MOSFETs **11U** to **11W**, and drive circuits **21UL**, **21VL**, and **21WL**

for controlling the gates of the low potential side MOSFETs **12U** to **12W**.

[0062] The drive circuit **21UU** is electrically connected to the gate of the MOSFET **11U** and outputs a drive signal to the gate. The drive circuit **21VU** is electrically connected to the gate of the MOSFET **11V** and outputs a drive signal to the gate. The drive circuit **21WU** is electrically connected to the gate of the MOSFET **11W**, and outputs a drive signal to the gate.

[0063] The drive circuit **21UL** is electrically connected to the gate of MOSFET **12U** and outputs a drive signal to the gate. The drive circuit **21VL** is electrically connected to the gate of the MOSFET **12V** and outputs a drive signal to the gate. The drive circuit **21WL** is electrically connected to the gate of MOSFET **12W** and outputs a drive signal to the gate.

[0064] The logic circuit **22** includes logic circuits **22UU**, **22VU**, **22WU** that control the drive circuits **21UU**, **21VU**, and **21WU** for controlling the gates of the high potential side MOSFETs **11U** to **11W**, and logic circuits **22UL**, **22VL**, **22WL** that control the drive circuits **21UL**, **21VL** and **21WL** for controlling the gates of the low potential side MOSFETs **12U** to **12W**.

[0065] The logic circuit **22UU** is electrically connected to the drive circuit **21UU** and outputs a signal to the drive circuit **21UU** so that the drive circuit **21UU** generates a drive signal output to the gate of the MOSFET **11U**. The logic circuit **22VU** is electrically connected to the drive circuit **21VU** and outputs a signal to the drive circuit **21VU** so that the drive circuit **21VU** generates a drive signal output to the gate of the MOSFET **11V**. The logic circuit **22WU** is electrically connected to the drive circuit **21WU** and outputs a signal to the drive circuit **21WU** so that the drive circuit **21WU** generates a drive signal output to the gate of the MOSFET **11W**.

[0066] The logic circuit **22UL** is electrically connected to the drive circuit **21UL** and outputs a signal to the drive circuit **21UL** so that the drive circuit **21UL** generates a drive signal output to the gate of the MOSFET **12U**. The logic circuit **22VL** is electrically connected to the drive circuit **21VL** and outputs a signal to the drive circuit **21VL** so that the drive circuit **21VL** generates a drive signal output to the gate of the MOSFET **12V**. The logic circuit **22WL** is electrically connected to the drive circuit **21WL** and outputs a signal to the drive circuit **21WL** so that the drive circuit **21WL** generates a drive signal output to the gate of the MOSFET **12W**.

[0067] The bootstrap circuit **23** includes a first bootstrap circuit **23U**, a second bootstrap circuit **23V**, and a third bootstrap circuit **23W**. The bootstrap circuits **23U**, **23V**, **23W** have the same configuration in which a boot diode and a boot capacitor are connected in series.

[0068] The first bootstrap circuit **23U** is electrically connected to the source of the MOSFET **11U**, the drive circuit **21UU**, and the logic circuit **22UU**. The first bootstrap circuit **23U** generates a drive voltage for the drive circuit **21UU** and the logic circuit **22UU**.

[0069] The second bootstrap circuit **23V** is electrically connected to the source of the MOSFET **11V**, the drive circuit **21VU**, and the logic circuit **22VU**. The second bootstrap circuit **23V** generates a drive voltage for the drive circuit **21VU** and the logic circuit **22VU**.

[0070] The third bootstrap circuit **23W** is electrically connected to the source of the MOSFET **11W**, the drive circuit **21WU**, and the logic circuit **22WU**. The third bootstrap circuit **23W** generates a drive voltage for the drive circuit **21WU** and the logic circuit **22WU**.

[0071] In the present embodiment, the drive circuits **21UU**, **21VU**, **21WU** and the logic circuits **22UU**, **22VU**, **22WU** are an example of a first control circuit that controls the first switching element **11**. The drive circuits **21UL**, **21VL**, **21WL** and the logic circuits **22UL**, **22VL**, **22WL** are an example of a second control circuit that controls the second switching element **12**. Furthermore, the drive circuit **21UL** and the logic circuit **22UL** are an example of a third control circuit that controls the second switching element **12** (MOSFET **12U**) of the first inverter circuit. The drive circuit **21VL** and the logic circuit **22VL** are an example of a fourth control circuit that controls the second switching element **12** (MOSFET **12V**) of the second inverter circuit. The drive circuit **21WL** and the logic circuit **22WL** are an example of a fifth control circuit that controls the second switching element **12** (MOSFET **12W**) of the third inverter circuit.

[0072] One example of the configuration of the semiconductor device **1** will now be described with

reference to FIGS. 2 to 6.

[0073] The semiconductor device **1** further includes a lead **30**, a heat dissipation member **40**, and an encapsulation resin **50** (double-dashed line in FIG. 2). The semiconductor device **1** is a single package formed by encapsulating the drive unit **10** and the control circuit **20** (both shown in FIG. 1) with the encapsulation resin **50**. The semiconductor device **1** is rectangular in a plan view. In the following description, a longitudinal direction of the semiconductor device **1** is defined as a first direction X, a direction orthogonal to the first direction X in a plan view of the semiconductor device **1** is defined as a second direction Y, and a direction orthogonal to both of the first direction X and the second direction Y is defined as a third direction Z. The third direction Z can also be referred to as the thickness direction of the semiconductor device **1**.

[0074] As shown in FIG. 3, the dimension DX in the first direction X of the semiconductor device **1** (encapsulation resin **50**) is preferably less than or equal to 60 mm. The dimension DY in the second direction Y of the semiconductor device **1** (encapsulation resin **50**) is preferably less than or equal to 35 mm. The dimension DZ in the third direction Z of the semiconductor device **1** (encapsulation resin **50**) is preferably less than or equal to 6 mm. In the semiconductor device **1** in accordance with the present embodiment, the dimension DX in the first direction X is about 57 mm, the dimension DY in the second direction Y is about 30 mm, and the dimension DZ in the third direction Z is about 5 mm.

[0075] As shown in FIG. 3, the encapsulation resin **50** is flat and rectangular. The encapsulation resin **50** is made of, for example, a black epoxy resin. The encapsulation resin **50** has a front surface **50A**, a back surface **50B**, a first side surface **50C**, a second side surface **50D**, a third side surface **50E**, and a fourth side surface **50F**. The front surface **50A** and the back surface **50B** are planes extending in the first direction X and the second direction Y and have a substantially rectangular shape in which the first direction X is the longitudinal direction. The first side surface **50C** is a side surface on one side of the encapsulation resin **50** in the first direction X, and the second side surface **50D** is a side surface on the other side of the encapsulation resin **50** in the first direction X. The first side surface **50C** and the second side surface **50D** are planes extending in the second direction Y and the third direction Z and have a substantially rectangular shape in which the second direction Y is the longitudinal direction. The third side surface **50E** is a side surface on one side of the encapsulation resin **50** in the second direction Y, and the fourth side surface **50F** is a side surface of the encapsulation resin **50** on the other side. The third side surface **50E** and the fourth side surface **50F** are planes extending in the first direction X and the third direction Z and have a substantially rectangular shape in which the first direction X is the longitudinal direction. The encapsulation resin **50** is provided with four first recesses **51** and two second recesses **52**. The four first recesses **51** are formed so as to be recessed in the second direction Y from the third side surface **50E** and to extend through the encapsulation resin **50** in the third direction Z. The four first recesses **51** are arranged in intervals in the first direction X in a portion of the third side surface **50E** close to the first side surface **50C**. The second recess **52** is provided at the center of the first side surface **50C** of the encapsulation resin **50** in the second direction Y and at the center of the second side surface **50D** of the encapsulation resin **50** in the second direction Y. The second recess **52** is formed so as to be recessed in the first direction X and to extend through the encapsulation resin **50** in the third direction Z.

[0076] As shown in FIG. 4, the heat dissipation member **40** is exposed from the back surface **50B** of the encapsulation resin **50**. The heat dissipation member **40** is made of, for example, ceramic. The exposed surface **40A** of the heat dissipation member **40** is rectangular in shape in which the first direction X is the longitudinal direction.

[0077] As shown in FIG. 2, the lead **30** supports the MOSFETs **11U** to **11W** and the MOSFETs **12U** to **12W** and the control circuit **20** (see FIG. 1) and serves as a conduction supporting member that forms a conduction path of the MOSFETs **11U** to **11W** and the MOSFETs **12U** to **12W**. The lead **30** is formed, for example, by performing cutting process and bending process such as through

punching of a sheet material made of metal. One example of the material of the lead **30** is copper (Cu). The thickness of the lead **30** is, for example, about 0.42 mm.

[0078] The lead **30** includes a frame **31**, the frames **32U**, **32V**, **32W**, a plurality of control frames **33**, a plurality of control frames **34**, a frame **35U** that is an example of a first ground frame, a frame **35V** that is an example of a second ground frame, and a frame **35W** that is an example of a third ground frame. Furthermore, the lead **30** of the present embodiment includes an auxiliary frame **36** that is not electrically connected to the MOSFET **11U** and the MOSFET **12L** and serves as a so-called non-connection. The frame **31** and the respective frames **32U**, **32V**, **32W** are arranged at intervals in the first direction X. The plurality of control frames **33** and the plurality of control frames **34** are arranged at intervals in the first direction X. The plurality of control frames **33** and the plurality of control frames **34** are arranged at intervals in the second direction Y together with the frames **31** and the respective frames **32U**, **32V**, **32W**. That is, the plurality of control frames **33** and the plurality of control frames **34** are disposed close to the third side surface **50E** of the encapsulation resin **50** in the second direction Y. The frames **35U**, **35V**, **35W** are disposed on the side of the frames **31** opposite to the frames **32U**, **32V**, **32W** in the first direction X. The frames **35U**, **35V**, **35W** are disposed close to the fourth side surface **50F** of the encapsulation resin **50** in the second direction Y. The auxiliary frame **36** is disposed on the encapsulation resin **50** at the end of the first side surface **50C** close to the fourth side surface **50F**. The auxiliary frame **36** has a terminal portion projecting out of the fourth side surface **50F**.

[0079] The frame **31** is a lead frame for electrically connecting the drains of the MOSFETs **11U** to **11W** to an external power supply, and includes an island portion **31a**, a terminal portion **31b**, and a connecting portion **31c**. The island portion **31a**, the terminal portion **31b**, and the connecting portion **31c** are integrally formed. The island portion **31a** is rectangular in shape in which the first direction X is the longitudinal direction. The MOSFETs **11U** to **11W** are mounted on the island portion **31a**. The terminal portion **31b** projects out of the fourth side surface **50F** of the encapsulation resin **50**. The connecting portion **31c** connects the island portion **31a** and the terminal portion **31b**. The connecting portion **31c** extends from the end of the island portion **31a** closer to the terminal portion **31b** in the second direction Y toward the terminal portion **31b**. The terminal portion **31b** projects out of the encapsulation resin **50**. The terminal portion **31b** is L-shaped and extends in the third direction Z after extending in the second direction Y from the encapsulation resin **50** (see FIG. 3). The island portion **31a**, the terminal portion **31b**, and the connecting portion **31c** may be formed separately and joined to each other to form the frame **31**.

[0080] The first frame **32U** is a lead frame for electrically connecting the drain of the MOSFET **12U** and an electric device (e.g., motor **2**) driven by the semiconductor device **1**. The first frame **32U** of the present embodiment is electrically connected to a U-phase coil (not shown) of the motor **2**. The second frame **32V** is a lead frame for electrically connecting the drain of the MOSFET **12V** and an electric device (e.g., motor **2**) driven by the semiconductor device **1**. The second frame **32V** of the present embodiment is electrically connected to a V-phase coil (not shown) of the motor **2**. The third frame **32W** is a lead frame for electrically connecting the drain of the MOSFET **12W** and an electric device (e.g. motor **2**) driven by the semiconductor device **1**. The third frame **32W** of the present embodiment is electrically connected to a W-phase coil (not shown) of the motor **2**. Each of the frames **32U**, **32V**, **32W** has generally the same shape and includes an island portion **32a**, a terminal portion **32b**, and a connecting portion **32c**. The island portion **32a**, the terminal portion **32b**, and the connecting portion **32c** are integrally formed. The island portion **32a** is rectangular in shape in which the second direction Y is the longitudinal direction. The size (width dimension) of the island portion **32a** of each frame **32U**, **32V**, **32W** in the first direction X is about $\frac{1}{3}$ of the size (width dimension) in the first direction X of the island portion **31a** of the frame **31**. The MOSFET **12U** is mounted on the island portion **32a** of the first frame **32U**. The MOSFET **12V** is mounted on the island portion **32a** of the second frame **32V**. The MOSFET **12W** is mounted on the island portion **32a** of the third frame **32W**.

[0081] The terminal portions **32b** of the frames **32U**, **32V**, **32W** project out of the fourth side surface **50F** of the encapsulation resin **50**. Each terminal portion **32b** is L-shaped and extends in the third direction **Z** after extending in the second direction **Y** from the encapsulation resin **50** (see FIG. 3).

[0082] The connecting portion **32c** of the first frame **32U** is extended toward the terminal portion **32b** from an end of the encapsulation resin **50** on the fourth side surface **50F** in the second direction **Y** and an end of the island portion **32a** of the first frame **32U** closer to the frame **31** in the first direction **X**. A wire joining portion **32f** having a rectangular shape in a plan view extending in the first direction **X** is provided the connecting portion **32c** near the fourth side surface **50F** of the encapsulation resin **50**. As shown in FIG. 2, the connecting portion **32c** of the second frame **32V** and the connecting portion **32c** of the third frame **32W** also have shapes similar to the connecting portion **32c** of the first frame **32U**. Furthermore, the island portion **32a**, the terminal portion **32b**, and the connecting portion **32c** may be separately formed and joined to each other to form the frames **32U**, **32V**, and **32W**.

[0083] The control frame **33** includes frames **33BU**, **33BV**, **33BW**, frames **33U**, **33V**, **33W**, a frame **33C**, and a frame **33S**.

[0084] The frame **33S** is a lead frame for supporting an integrated circuit element **25H**. In one example of the integrated circuit element **25H**, the high potential block circuit of the control circuit **20** is formed as a chip. In the present embodiment, the high potential block circuit of the control circuit **20** includes a first control circuit. That is, the high potential block circuit includes drive circuits **21UU**, **21VU** and **21WU**, and logic circuits **22UU**, **22VU** and **22WU** (all shown in FIG. 1). The frame **33S** includes an island portion **33a**, a first arm portion **33b** extending along the first direction **X** from the island portion **33a** toward the first side surface **50C** of the encapsulation resin **50**, a second arm portion **33c** extending in the second direction **Y** from an end of the encapsulation resin **50** of the first arm portion **33b** close to the first side surface **50C**, and a terminal portion **33d** extending from the second arm portion **33c**. The island portion **33a**, the first arm portion **33b**, the second arm portion **33c**, and the terminal portion **33d** are integrally formed.

[0085] The island portion **33a** is rectangular in shape in which the first direction **X** is the longitudinal direction. The size of the island portion **33a** in the second direction **Y** is larger than the size of the first arm portion **33b** in the second direction **Y**. The size of the island portion **33a** in the first direction **X** is smaller than the size of the island portion **31a** of the frame **31** in the first direction **X**. The island portion **33a** is spaced apart by a gap from the island portion **31a** of the frame **31** in the second direction **Y**. The island portion **33a** is located at generally the center in the first direction **X** of the island portion **31a** of the frame **31** in the first direction **X**. More specifically, the island portion **33a** is located such its central position is slightly closer to the side opposite to the first frame **32U** in the first direction **X** than the center in the first direction **X** of the island portion **31a**. The integrated circuit element **25H** is mounted on the island portion **33a**.

[0086] The first arm portion **33b** is extended to closer to the first side surface **50C** of the encapsulation resin **50** than the frame **33BU**. The first arm portion **33b** includes a plurality of recesses **33e** along the first direction **X**. The recesses **33e** of the present embodiment are each circular in a plan view and have a curved bottom portion in a cross-sectional view. The second arm portion **33c** is located near the first side surface **50C** of the encapsulation resin **50**. More specifically, the second arm portion **33c** is located between the second recess **52** closest to the first side surface **50C** among the four second recesses **52** and the first side surface **50C**. The size (width dimension) in the first direction **X** of the second arm portion **33c** is smaller than the size (width dimension) in the second direction **Y** of the first arm portion **33b**. The terminal portion **33d** projects in the second direction **Y** from the encapsulation resin **50**. The size (width dimension) of the terminal portion **33d** in the first direction **X** is equal to the width dimension of the second arm portion **33c**. The island portion **33a**, the first arm portion **33b**, and the second arm portion **33c** may be separately formed and joined to each other to form the frame **33S**.

[0087] The frames **33BU**, **33BV**, **33BW**, the frames **33U**, **33V**, **33W**, and the frame **33C** are arranged so as to surround the island portion **33a** of the frame **33S**.

[0088] The frames **33BU**, **33BV**, and **33BW** are lead frames for electrically connecting a control power supply (not shown) and the bootstrap circuit **23** (see FIG. 1). The frames **33U**, **33V**, and **33W** are lead frames for connection to a gate drive circuit (not shown) provided outside the semiconductor device **1**. The gate driving device applies gate signal voltages to the frames **33U**, **33V** and **33W** to generate drive signals. The frame **33C** is a lead frame for supplying power to the integrated circuit element **25H**.

[0089] The first boot frame **33BU** faces the island portion **33a** of the frame **33S** spaced apart by a gap in the first direction **X** and faces the first arm portion **33b** of the frame **33S** spaced apart by a gap in the second direction **Y**. The frame **33BU** is disposed on the encapsulation resin **50** closer to the first side surface **50C** than the frame **33BV** and the frame **33BW**.

[0090] The frame **33BV** and the frame **33BW** are located on the encapsulation resin **50** closer to the third side surface **50E** than the island portion **33a** of the frame **33S**. The frame **33BV** is arranged to face the island portion **33a** of the frame **33S** in the second direction **Y** spaced apart by a gap and is adjacent to the frame **33BU** in the second direction **Y** spaced apart by a gap. The frame **33BW** is arranged to face the island portion **33a** of the frame **33S** in the second direction **Y** spaced apart by a gap and is adjacent to the frame **33BV** in the second direction **Y** spaced apart by a gap. The frame **33BV** is located between the frame **33BU** and the frame **33BW** in the first direction **X**.

[0091] The frame **33BU** includes an island portion **33f** and a terminal portion **33g**. The island portion **33f** and the terminal portion **33g** are integrally formed. Each of the frame **33BV** and the frame **33BW** also includes an island portion **33f** and a terminal portion **33g** in the same manner as the frame **33BU**. The area of the island portion **33f** of the frame **33BU** is larger than the area of the island portion **33f** of the frame **33BV** and the area of the island portion **33f** of the frame **33BW**. The island portion **33f** of the frame **33BU** has a portion extending from the island portion **33f** of the frame **33BV** in the second direction **Y** toward the first arm portion **33b**. The island portion **33f** of the frame **33BV** and the island portion **33f** of the frame **33BW** include cut-away portions corresponding to the second recesses **52**.

[0092] The boot diode **24U** of the first bootstrap circuit **23U** is mounted on the island portion **33f** of the frame **33BU** through soldering or the like. The boot diode **24U** is located closer to the island portion **33f** of the frame **33BV** in the island portion **33f** of the frame **33BU**. The boot diode **24U** is formed by a semiconductor chip. The boot diode **24U** is provided with a cathode electrode serving as a front surface electrode and an anode electrode serving as a back surface electrode. The frame **33BU** is electrically connected to the anode electrode of the boot diode **24U**.

[0093] The boot diode **24V** of the second bootstrap circuit **23V** is mounted on the island portion **33f** of the frame **33BV** through soldering or the like. The boot diode **24V** is located close to the island portion **33f** of the frame **33BU** in the island portion **33f** of the frame **33BV**. The boot diode **24V** is formed of a semiconductor chip. The boot diode **24V** is provided with a cathode electrode serving as a front surface electrode and an anode electrode serving as a back surface electrode. The frame **33BV** is electrically connected to the anode electrode of the boot diode **24V**.

[0094] The boot diode **24W** of the third bootstrap circuit **23W** is mounted on the island portion **33f** of the frame **33BW** through soldering or the like. The boot diode **24W** is located at the end of the frame **33BV** in the island portion **33f** of the frame **33BW** on the side opposite to the island portion **33f** in the first direction **X**. The boot diode **24W** is formed by a semiconductor chip. The boot diode **24W** is provided with a cathode electrode serving as a front surface electrode and an anode electrode to be a back surface electrode. The frame **33BW** is electrically connected to the anode electrode of the boot diode **24W**.

[0095] The terminal portions **33g** of the frames **33BU**, **33BV**, and **33BW** project out of the third side surface **50E** of the encapsulation resin **50**. The terminal portions **33g** of the frames **33BU**, **33BV**, and **33BW** are L-shaped and extend in the third direction **Z** after extending in the second

direction Y (see FIG. 3). The first recess **51** is located between the terminal portion **33g** of the frame **33BU** and the terminal portion **33g** of the frame **33BV** in the first direction X, and the first recess **51** is located between the terminal portion **33g** of the frame **33BV** and the terminal portion **33g** of the frame **33BW** in the first direction X. That is, in the first direction X, the four first recesses **51** and the terminal portions **33g** of the frames **33BU**, **33BV**, and **33BW** are alternately arranged.

[0096] The frames **33U**, **33V**, **33W**, and the frame **33C** are each substantially L-shaped in a plan view. The frame **33U** and the frame **33V** are located closer to the third side surface **50E** of the encapsulation resin **50** than the island portion **33a** of the frame **33S** in the second direction Y. The frames **33V** and **33W** and the frame **33C** are located closer to the second side surface **50D** of the encapsulation resin **50** than the island portion **33a** of the frame **33S** in the first direction X. Part of the frame **33W** and the frame **33C** faces the island portion **33a** of the frame **33S** in the first direction X with a gap in between. The frame **33U** is disposed to face the island portion **33a** of the frame **33S** in the second direction Y with a gap in between and to face the frame **33BW** in the first direction X with a gap in between. The frame **33V** faces the frame **33U** spaced apart in the first direction X and the second direction Y. The frame **33W** faces the frame **33V** at an interval in the first direction X and the second direction Y. The frame **33C** faces the frame **33W** spaced apart in the first direction X and the second direction Y. The size of the gap between the frame **33U** and the frame **33V** in the first direction X is equal to the size of the gap between the frame **33V** and the frame **33W**. In the first direction X, the size of the gap between the frame **33W** and the frame **33C** is larger than the size of the gap between the frame **33V** and the frame **33W**.

[0097] In the frames **33U**, **33V**, **33W** and the frame **33C**, the terminal portions projecting out of the third side surface **50E** of the encapsulation resin **50** are L-shaped and extend in the third direction Z after extending in the second direction Y from the encapsulation resin **50** (see FIG. 3).

[0098] The control frame **34** includes frames **34U**, **34V**, **34W**, a frame **34CV**, a frame **34S**, and frames **34A**, **34B**, **34C**, **34D**.

[0099] The frame **34S** is a lead frame for supporting an integrated circuit element **25L** and grounding the integrated circuit element **25L**. In one example of the integrated circuit element **25L**, the low potential block circuit of the control circuit **20** is formed by a chip. In the present embodiment, the low potential block circuit of the control circuit **20** includes a second control circuit. That is, the low potential block circuit includes drive circuits **21UL**, **21VL**, **21WL** and logic circuits **22UL**, **22VL**, **22WL** (all shown in FIG. 1). The frame **34S** is substantially T-shaped in a plan view. Specifically, the frame **34S** includes an island portion **34a**, a terminal portion **34b**, a connecting portion **34c**, and an extension portion **34d**. The island portion **34a**, the terminal portion **34b**, the connecting portion **34c**, and the extension portion **34d** are integrally formed.

[0100] The island portion **34a** is rectangular in shape in which the first direction X is the longitudinal direction. In the first direction X, the central position of the island portion **34a** and the central position of the island portion **32a** of the second frame **32V** are equal to each other. The size of the island portion **34a** in the first direction X is larger than the size of the island portion **32a** in the first direction X. The end of the encapsulation resin **50** in the island portion **34a** closer to the second side surface **50D** faces the end of the encapsulation resin **50** in the island portion **32a** of the third frame **32W** closer to the first side surface **50C** in the second direction Y. The end of the encapsulation resin **50** in the island portion **34a** closer to the first side surface **50C** faces the end of the encapsulation resin **50** in the island portion **32a** of the first frame **32U** closer to the second side surface **50D** in the second direction Y. Furthermore, the size of the island portion **34a** in the first direction X is larger than the size of the island portion **33a** of the frame **33S** in the first direction X. The size of the island portion **34a** in the second direction Y is smaller than the size of the island portion **33a** in the second direction Y.

[0101] The integrated circuit element **25L** is mounted on the island portion **34a**. The integrated circuit element **25L** is disposed closer to the island portion **32a** of the third frame **32W** in the island

portion **34a**. More specifically, the integrated circuit element **25L** is disposed in the island portion **34a** such that its edge in the second direction **Y** is located at the same position in the second direction **Y** as the edge of the third frame **32W** close to the island portion **34a**. In the first direction **X**, the central position of the integrated circuit element **25L** and the central position of the island portion **34a** of the third frame **32W** are equal to each other. The size of the integrated circuit element **25L** in the first direction **X** is generally equal to the size of the integrated circuit element **25H** in the first direction **X**. The size of the integrated circuit element **25L** in the second direction **Y** is smaller than the size of the integrated circuit element **25H** in the second direction **Y**. Recesses **34e** are provided on both sides in the first direction **X** of the integrated circuit element **25L** in the island portion **34a**. The recesses **34e** in the present embodiment are circular in a plan view and have a curved bottom portion in a cross-sectional view.

[0102] The connecting portion **34c** connects the island portion **34a** and the terminal portion **34b**. The connecting portion **34c** extends in the second direction **Y** from the end of the encapsulation resin **50** in the island portion **34a** close to the first side surface **50C** and the end close to the third side surface **50E**. The connecting portion **34c** faces the frame **33C** spaced apart by a gap in the first direction **X**. The size of the gap in the first direction **X** between the connecting portion **34c** and the frame **33C** is generally equal to the size of the gap in the first direction **X** between the frame **33C** and the frame **33W**. The extension portion **34d** extends in the first direction **X** from the end of the encapsulation resin **50** in the island portion **34a** close to the first side surface **50C** and the end close to the fourth side surface **50F**. The tip of the extension portion **34d** faces the island portion **33a** of the frame **33S** in the first direction **X** spaced apart by a gap. The extension portion **34d** faces the island portion **32a** of the first frame **32U** and the portion closer to the second side surface **50D** of the encapsulation resin **50** in the island portion **31a** of the frame **31** spaced apart by a gap in the second direction **Y**. The extension portion **34d** faces the frame **33C** of the control frame **33** spaced apart by a gap in the second direction **Y**. The terminal portion **34b** projects out of the third side surface **50E** of the encapsulation resin **50**. The terminal portion **34b** is L-shaped and extends in the third direction **Z** after extending in the second direction **Y** (see FIG. 3).

[0103] The frames **34U**, **34V**, **34W**, the frame **34CV**, and the frames **34A**, **34B**, **34C**, **34D** are arranged to surround the island portion **34a** of the frame **34S**. The frames **34U**, **34V**, **34W**, the frame **34CV**, and the frame **34A** are disposed closer to the third side surface **50E** of the encapsulation resin **50** than the island portion **34a** of the frame **34S** in the second direction **Y**. The frames **34B**, **34C**, **34D** are disposed closer to the second side surface **50D** of the encapsulation resin **50** than the island portion **34a** of the frame **34S** in the first direction **X**.

[0104] The frames **34U**, **34V**, **34W** are lead frames for connection to a gate drive circuit (not shown) provided outside the semiconductor device **1**. The gate driving device applies gate signal voltages for generating drive signals to the frames **34U**, **34V** and **34W**. The frame **34CV** is a lead frame for supplying power to the integrated circuit element **25L**. The frame **34A** is a lead frame for outputting an error signal when an error occurs in the semiconductor device **1**. The frame **34B** is a lead frame for detecting a state in which at least one of the voltages applied to the frames **32U**, **32V**, **32W** is short-circuited to the high voltage application terminal (or corresponding high potential terminal). The frame **34C** is a lead frame for grounding the integrated circuit element **25L**. The frame **34D** is a non-connection lead frame.

[0105] The portion (connecting portion) of the frame **34U** in the encapsulation resin **50** extends in the second direction **Y**, and the size (width dimension) in the first direction **X** decreases toward the distal end. The portions in the encapsulation resin **50** in the frames **34V** and **34W**, the frame **34CV**, and the frames **34A** and **34B** are inclined toward the second side surface **50D** as they go toward the third side surface **50E** of the encapsulation resin **50**, respectively. The portions of the encapsulation resin **50** in the frames **34V** and **34W**, the frame **34CV**, and the frames **34A** and **34C** are decreased in size (width dimension) in the first direction **X** toward the distal end. The frame **34D** is L-shaped and includes a first portion extending in the first direction **X** and a second portion extending in the

second direction Y. The first portion of the frame **34D** is decreased in size (width dimension) in the second direction Y toward its distal end. The first portions of the frames **34C**, **34D** are wider than the frames **34U**, **34V**, **34W**, the frame **34CV**, and the frames **34A**, **34B**. Each of the frames **34C**, **34D** is provided with a plurality of recesses **34f**. The recesses **34f** of the present embodiment have the same shape as the recesses **34e**. That is, the recesses **34f** are circular in a plan view and have a curved bottom portion in a cross-sectional view.

[0106] The frames **34U**, **34V**, **34W**, the frame **34CV**, and the frames **34A**, **34B**, **34C**, **34D** each include a terminal portion that projects out of the third side surface **50E** of the encapsulation resin **50** to extend in the second direction Y and then extend in the third direction Z to be L-shaped. The terminal portions of the frames **34U**, **34V**, **34W**, the frame **34CV**, and the frames **34A**, **34B**, **34C**, **34D** are spaced apart by gaps and arranged next to one another in the first direction X.

[0107] The frames **35U**, **35V** and **35W**, serving as ground, are lead frames for grounding the sources of the MOSFETs **12U** to **12W**. Each of the frames **35U** and **35V** includes an island portion **35a** and a terminal portion **35b**. The frame **35W** includes an island portion **35a**, a terminal portion **35b**, and a connecting portion **35c**. In the frames **35U** and **35V**, the island portion **35a** and the terminal portion **35b** are integrally formed. In the frame **35W**, the island portion **35a**, the terminal portion **35b**, and the connecting portion **35c** are integrally formed.

[0108] The island portion **35a** of the frames **35U** and **35V** is disposed in the vicinity of the fourth side surface **50F** of the encapsulation resin **50**, that is, at the same position as the wire joining portion **32f** of the frames **32U**, **32V** and **32W** in the second direction Y. The island portion **35a** of the frame **35W** is disposed at the same position as the island portion **32a** of the third frame **32W** in the first direction X. That is, the island portion **35a** of the frame **35W** is disposed on the encapsulation resin **50** closer to the third side surface **50E** than the island portions **35a** of the frames **35U** and **35V** in the second direction Y. When viewed from the fourth side surface **50F** of the encapsulation resin **50**, part of the island portion **35a** of the frame **35W** is disposed so as to overlap with the island portion **35a** of the frame **35V**. The island portions **35a** of the frames **35U** and **35V** are disposed on the encapsulation resin **50** closer to the fourth side surface **50F** than the island portions **32a** of the third frame **32W**. The island portion **35a** of the frame **35U** is rectangular in shape in which the first direction X is the longitudinal direction in a plan view. The island portion **35a** of the frame **35V** is substantially square in a plan view. The size of the island portion **35a** of the frame **35U** in the second direction Y is equal to the size of the island portion **35a** of the frame **35V** in the second direction Y. The size of the island portion **35a** of the frame **35U** in the first direction X is larger than the size of the island portion **35a** of the frame **35V** in the first direction X. The island portion **35a** of the frame **35W** is rectangular in shape in which the second direction Y is the longitudinal direction. The size of the island portion **35a** of the frame **35W** in the second direction Y is larger than the size of the island portion **35a** of the frame **35U** in the second direction Y. The area of the island portion **35a** of the frame **35W** is larger than the area of the island portion **35a** of the frame **35U**. The connecting portion **35c** extends in the second direction Y from the end at the side of the second side surface **50D** and the end at the side of the fourth side surface **50F** of the encapsulation resin **50** of the island portion **35a** in the first direction X.

[0109] The terminal portions **35b** of the frames **35U**, **35V**, **35W** project out of the fourth side surface **50F** of the encapsulation resin **50**. The terminal portion **35b** of the frame **35U** is connected to the end of the encapsulation resin **50** in the island portion **35a** of the frame **35U** at the side of the second side surface **50D**. The terminal portion **35b** of the frame **35V** is connected to the center of the island portion **35a** of the frame **35V** in the first direction X. The terminal portion **35b** of the frame **35W** is connected to the connecting portion **35c**. Each terminal portion **35b** is L-shaped and extends in the third direction Z after extending in the second direction Y.

[0110] As shown in FIG. 5, the island portion **31a** of the frame **31** is joined to the heat dissipation member **40**. The connecting portion **31c** of the frame **31** is disposed spaced apart from the heat dissipation member **40** in the third direction Z. The frame **33S** and the frame **33BW** are located

closer to the front surface **50A** of the encapsulation resin **50** than the island portion **31a** of the frame **31**. The frame **33S** and the frame **33BW** are disposed spaced apart from the heat dissipation member **40** in the third direction **Z**. Although not shown in FIG. 5, the control frames **33** other than the frame **33S** and the frame **33BW** are also located closer to the front surface **50A** of the encapsulation resin **50** than the frame **31**, that is, spaced apart from the heat dissipation member **40** in the third direction **Z**.

[0111] As shown in FIG. 6, the island portion **32a** of the second frame **32V** is joined to the heat dissipation member **40**. FIG. 6 shows the cross-sectional structure of the second frame **32V** and the plurality of control frames **33**. The connecting portion **32c** of the second frame **32V** is disposed spaced apart from the heat dissipation member **40** in the third direction **Z**. The frame **34S** and the frame **34U** are located closer to the front surface **50A** of the encapsulation resin **50** than the second frame **32V**. The frame **34S** and the frame **34U** are located closer to the front surface **50A** of the encapsulation resin **50** than the frames **32U**, **32V**, and **32W**. Although not illustrated in FIG. 6, the island portions **32a** of the first frame **32U** and the third frame **32W** are each joined to the heat dissipation member **40**. Furthermore, the connecting portions **32c** of the first frame **32U** and the third frame **32W** are each disposed spaced apart from the heat dissipation member **40** in the third direction **Z**. The control frames **34** other than the frames **34S** and **34U** are located closer to the front surface **50A** of the encapsulation resin **50** than the frames **32U**, **32V**, **32W**, that is, spaced apart from the heat dissipation member **40** in the third direction **Z**.

[0112] The detailed configuration of the frame **31** and the arrangement of the MOSFET **11U** will now be described with reference to FIGS. 7 and 8.

[0113] The frame **31** includes an element mounting region **Rse** that is a region where integrated circuit elements such as MOSFETs **11U** to **11W** can be mounted. The element mounting region **Rse** is a rectangular region in which the first direction **X** is the longitudinal direction, and the element mounting region **Rse** is separated from other portions of the island portion **31a** by the groove **31d**. The element mounting region **Rse** is formed close to the control frame **33** of the island portion **31a** in the second direction **Y**. The element mounting region **Rse** is partitioned into six regions **Ra1** to **Ra6** by the groove **31e**. The six regions **Ra1** to **Ra6** are formed by dividing the element mounting region **Rse** into three in the first direction **X** and into two in the second direction **Y**. The three regions **Ra1** to **Ra3** are regions of the element mounting region **Rse** closer to the control frames **33** in the second direction **Y**. The three regions **Ra4** to **Ra6** are regions of the element mounting region **Rse** closer to the connecting portion **31c** in the second direction **Y**. As shown in FIG. 7, the regions **Ra1** and **Ra4** are arranged in the second direction **Y**, the regions **Ra2** and **Ra5** are arranged in the second direction **Y**, and the regions **Ra3** and **Ra6** are arranged in the second direction **Y**. The region **Ra2** is located between the region **Ra1** and the region **Ra3** in the first direction **X**. The region **Ra1** is located closer to the first side surface **50C** of the encapsulation resin **50** than the region **Ra2**, and the region **Ra3** is located closer to the second side surface **50D** of the encapsulation resin **50** than the region **Ra2**. Each of the regions **Ra1** to **Ra3** is a rectangular region in which the second direction **Y** is the longitudinal direction. The regions **Ra1** to **Ra3** are equal in size to one another in the first direction **X**, and the regions **Ra1** to **Ra3** are equal in size to one another in the second direction **Y**. Each of the regions **Ra4** to **Ra6** is a rectangular region in which the second direction **Y** is the longitudinal direction. The regions **Ra4** to **Ra6** are equal in size to one another in the first direction **X**, and the regions **Ra4** to **Ra6** are equal in size to one another in the second direction **Y**. The size of the regions **Ra1** to **Ra3** in the first direction **X** is equal to the size of the regions **Ra4** to **Ra6** in the first direction **X**. The size of the regions **Ra1** to **Ra3** in the second direction **Y** is larger than the size of the regions **Ra4** to **Ra6** in the second direction **Y**.

[0114] The MOSFET **11U** is mounted in the region **Ra1**. The MOSFET **11U** is located in the region **Ra1** closer to the control frame **33** in the second direction **Y**. The MOSFET **11V** is mounted in the region **Ra2**. The MOSFET **11V** is located in the region **Ra2** closer to the control frame **33** in the second direction **Y**. The MOSFET **11W** is mounted in the region **Ra3**. The MOSFET **11W** is

located in the region Ra3 closer to the control frame 33 in the second direction Y. The position of the MOSFET 11U in the second direction Y, the position of the MOSFET 11V in the second direction Y, and the position of the MOSFET 11W in the second direction Y are equal to one another. Semiconductor elements that differ from the MOSFETs 11U to 11W can be mounted in the regions Ra4 to Ra6. In the present embodiment, no semiconductor element is mounted in the regions Ra4 to Ra6.

[0115] As shown in FIG. 7, the MOSFETs 11U and 11V are disposed so as to overlap with the integrated circuit element 25H when viewed in the second direction Y. The MOSFET 11W is disposed closer to the second side surface 50D than the integrated circuit element 25H. The MOSFET 11U is disposed such that the end of the MOSFET 11U closer to the first side surface 50C is closer to the first side surface 50C than the edge of the integrated circuit element 25H closer to the first side surface 50C.

[0116] Recesses 31f are recessed in the third direction Z and arranged in portions of the island portion 31a other than the element mounting region Rse. The recesses 31f are arranged in a matrix form in the first direction X and the second direction Y. The recesses 31f of the present embodiment are circular in a plan view and have a curved bottom portion in a cross-sectional view.

[0117] The MOSFETs 11U to 11W and the MOSFETs 12U to 12W use the same MOSFET.

[0118] The MOSFET 11U is formed by a semiconductor chip that is rectangular in a plan view. The MOSFET 11U is disposed such that the second direction Y is the longitudinal direction. The size of the MOSFET 11U in the first direction X is smaller than the size of the region Ra1 in the first direction X. The source electrode pad 11s and the gate electrode pad 11g are provided on the front surface of the MOSFET 11U, and the drain electrode pad 11d (see FIG. 8) is provided on the back surface of the MOSFET 11U. Thus, the frame 31 is electrically connected to the drain of the MOSFET 11U. The solder SD (see FIG. 8), which is used to join the MOSFET 11U to the island portion 31a, is melted and then hardened to join the MOSFET 11U to the island portion 31a. As shown in FIG. 7, the solder SD slightly extends out of the periphery of the MOSFET 11U. The source electrode pad 11s, the drain electrode pad 11d, and the gate electrode pad 11g of the MOSFET 11U are made of, for example, aluminum (Al) or an aluminum alloy. Examples of the aluminum alloy include Al—Cu, Al—Si—Cu, and the like. The shape, size, and structure of the MOSFETs 11V and 11W and the connecting structure to the island portion 31a are the same as the MOSFET 11U.

[0119] The source electrode pad 11s of the MOSFET 11U occupies most of the front surface of the MOSFET 11U. Among the four corners of the front surface of the MOSFET 11U, the gate electrode pad 11g of the MOSFET 11U is arranged in a corner closer to the first side surface 50C of the encapsulation resin 50 in the first direction X and closer to the control frame 33 in the second direction Y. The source electrode pad 11s of the MOSFET 11U includes a cutout portion so as to avoid the gate electrode pad 11g. The gate electrode pad 11g of the MOSFET 11U is rectangular in shape in which the second direction Y is the longitudinal direction.

[0120] As shown in FIG. 8, the island portion 31a of the frame 31 and the heat dissipation member 40 are joined by an adhesive AH. The adhesive AH is applied over the entire surface of the island portion 31a facing the heat dissipation member 40. That is, the entire surface of the island portion 31a facing the heat dissipation member 40 contacts the heat dissipation member 40 through the adhesive AH. Preferably, the adhesive AH properly joins the heat dissipation member 40, which is made of a ceramic, and the island portion 31a, which is made of copper (Cu) and has thermal conductivity that is relatively satisfactory. For example, a resin adhesive having superior thermal conductivity is used.

[0121] Next, the detailed configuration of each frame 32U, 32V, 32W and the arrangement of the MOSFETs 12U to 12W will now be described with reference to FIGS. 9 and 10.

[0122] The island portion 32a of the first frame 32U, the island portion 32a of the second frame 32V, and the island portion 32a of the third frame 32W differ from one another in the shape of the

end closer to the connecting portion **32c** in the second direction Y. The island portion **32a** of the first frame **32U** includes a cut-away portion **32d** for preventing interference with the connecting portion **32c** of the second frame **32V**. The island portion **32a** of the second frame **32V** includes a cut-away portion **32e** for preventing interference with the connecting portion **32c** of the third frame **32W**. No cut-away portion is formed in the island portion **32a** of the third frame **32W**.

[0123] An element mounting region Rse is formed in each of the frames **32U**, **32V**, and **32W** in the same manner as the frame **31**. The element mounting region Rse of each of the frames **32U**, **32V**, **32W** are regions of the same shape. The element mounting region Rse is a rectangular region in which the second direction Y is the longitudinal direction. The size of the element mounting region Rse of each frame **32U**, **32V**, **32W** in the second direction Y is equal to the size of the element mounting region Rse of the frame **31** in the second direction Y. The size of the element mounting region Rse of each frame **32U**, **32V**, **32W** in the first direction X is about $\frac{1}{3}$ of the size of the element mounting region Rse of the frame **31** in the first direction X. That is, the size of the element mounting region Rse of each frame **32U**, **32V**, **32W** in the first direction X is equal to the size of the element mounting region Rse of the frame **31** in the first direction X.

[0124] The element mounting region Rse of each frame **32U**, **32V**, **32W** is separated from other portions of the island portion **32a** by the groove **32g**. The element mounting region Rse is partitioned into six regions Ra7 and Ra8 by the groove **32h**. The region Ra7 and the region Ra8 are arranged in the second direction Y. The region Ra7 is a region of the element mounting region Rse closer to the control frames **34** in the second direction Y. The region Ra7 is a rectangular region in which the second direction Y is the longitudinal direction. The size of the region Ra7 is equal to the size of each of the regions Ra1 to Ra3 of the element mounting region Rse of the frame **31**. The size of the region Ra8 is equal to the size of each of the regions Ra4 to Ra6 of the element mounting region Rse of the frame **31**. That is, the area of the region Ra7 is larger than the area of the region Ra8, and the size of the region Ra7 in the second direction Y is larger than the size of the region Ra8 in the second direction Y.

[0125] The MOSFET **12U** is mounted in the region Ra7 of the first frame **32U**. The MOSFET **12U** is located in the region Ra7 of the first frame **32U** closer to the control frame **34** in the second direction Y. The MOSFET **12V** is mounted in the region Ra7 of the second frame **32V**. The MOSFET **12V** is located in the region Ra7 of the second frame **32V** closer to the control frame **34** in the second direction Y. The MOSFET **12W** is mounted in the region Ra7 of the third frame **32W**. The MOSFET **12W** is located in the region Ra7 of the third frame **32W** closer to the control frame **34** in the second direction Y. The position of the MOSFET **12U** in the second direction Y, the position of the MOSFET **12V** in the second direction Y, and the position of the MOSFET **12W** in the second direction Y are equal to one another.

[0126] A semiconductor element that differs from that of the MOSFETs **12U** to **12W** can be mounted on the region Ra8 of each frame **32U**, **32V**, **32W**. In the present embodiment, no semiconductor element is mounted in the regions Ra8 of the frames **32U**, **32V**, **32W**.

[0127] A plurality of recesses **32i** are provided in a portion other than the element mounting region Rse in the island portion **32a**, that is, in a portion surrounding the element mounting region Rse in the island portion **32a**. The plurality of recesses **32i** of the present embodiment have the same shape as the recesses **31f**, are circular in a plan view, and have a curved bottom portion in a cross-sectional view.

[0128] The MOSFET **12U** is formed by a semiconductor chip that is rectangular in a plan view. The MOSFET **12U** is disposed such that the second direction Y is the longitudinal direction. As described above, since the MOSFET **12U** uses the same semiconductor chip as the MOSFET **11U**, the sizes of the MOSFET **12U** in the first direction X and the second direction Y are equal to the sizes of the MOSFETs **11U** to **11W** in the first direction X and the second direction Y. That is, the size of the MOSFET **12U** in the first direction X is smaller than the size of each region Ra7 in the first direction X. The source electrode pad **12s** and the gate electrode pad **12g** are provided on the

front surface of the MOSFET **12U**, and the drain electrode pad **12d** (see FIG. **10**) is provided on the back surface of the MOSFET **12U**. Thus, the first frame **32U** is electrically connected to the drain of the MOSFET **12U** mounted on the first frame **32U**. The solder **SD** (see FIG. **10**), which is used to join the island portion **32a** of the first frame **32U** to the MOSFET **12U**, is melted and then hardened to join the MOSFET **12U** and the island portion **32a**.

[0129] The second frame **32V** is electrically connected to the drain of the MOSFET **12V** mounted on the second frame **32V**. The third frame **32W** is electrically connected to the drain of the MOSFET **12W** mounted on the third frame **32W**. The joining structure of the MOSFETs **12V** and **12W** and the island portion **32a** of each frame **32V** and **32W** is the same as the joining structure of the MOSFET **12U** and the island portion **32a** of the first frame **32U**.

[0130] The shape of the source electrode pad **12s** of the MOSFETs **12U** to **12W** is equal to the shape of the source electrode pad **11s** of the MOSFET **11U**, and the shape of the gate electrode pad **12g** of the MOSFET **12U** to **12W** is equal to the shape of the gate electrode pad **11g** of the MOSFET **11U**. The source electrode pads **12s** and the gate electrode pads **12g** of the MOSFETs **12U** to **12W** are made of, for example, gold (Au). The drain electrode pads **12d** of the MOSFETs **12U** to **12W** are made of, for example, gold (Au) or silver (Ag).

[0131] As shown in FIG. **10**, the island portions **32a** of the frames **32U**, **32V**, **32W** and the heat dissipation member **40** are joined by an adhesive **AH**. The adhesive **AH** is applied over the entire surface of the island portion **32a** of each of the frames **32U**, **32V**, **32W** facing the heat dissipation member **40**. That is, the entire surface of the island portion **32a** of each frame **32U**, **32V**, **32W** facing the heat dissipation member **40** is in contact with the heat dissipation member **40** through the adhesive **AH**. Preferably, the adhesive **AH** is an adhesive that properly joins the heat dissipation member **40**, which is made of a ceramic, and the island portions **32a** of the frames **32U**, **32V**, **32W**, which are made of copper (Cu), and has thermal conductivity that is relatively satisfactory. For example, an adhesive made of resin having superior thermal conductivity is used.

[0132] As shown in FIG. **2**, the leads **30**, the MOSFETs **11U** to **11W** and the MOSFETs **12U** to **12W**, and the integrated circuit elements **25H** and **25L** are electrically connected to each other by wire bonding. More specifically, the semiconductor device **1** includes a high potential side power wire for connecting the lead **30** and the MOSFETs **11U** to **11W**. The high potential side power wire includes a first wire **60U** which is an example of a first power wire, a second wire **60V** which is an example of a second power wire, and a third wire **60W** which is an example of a third power wire. The semiconductor device **1** also includes a low potential side power wire for connecting the lead **30** and the MOSFETs **12U** to **12W**. The low potential side power wire includes a first wire **61U** which is an example of a fourth power wire, a second wire **61V** which is an example of a fifth power wire, and a third wire **61W** which is an example of a sixth power wire. The semiconductor device **1** also includes a plurality of wires **62** for connecting the integrated circuit element **25H** and the MOSFETs **11U** to **11W**, and a plurality of wires **62** for connecting the integrated circuit elements **25H** and **25L** and the plurality of control frames **33** and **34**. In the present embodiment, each of the wires **60U**, **60V**, and **60W** are connected to the lead **30** and the MOSFETs **11U** to **11W** through wedge bonding. The wires **61U**, **61V**, **61W** are connected to the lead **30** and the MOSFETs **12U** to **12W** through wedge bonding. Furthermore, in the present embodiment, the wires **62** connect the integrated circuit elements **25H** and **25L** and the plurality of control frames **33** and **34** through ball bonding. The semiconductor device **1** further includes a first wire **62U**, a second wire **62V** and a third wire **62W** which are examples of a control wire for connecting the MOSFETs **12U** to **12W** and the integrated circuit element **25L**, and a first wire **63U**, a second wire **63V** and a third wire **63W** which are examples of a limiting wire. As shown in FIG. **9**, the wires **63U**, **63V**, **63W** are provided separately from the wires **62U**, **62V**, **62W**. In the present embodiment, the wires **62U**, **62V**, **62W** and the wires **63U**, **63V**, **63W** connect the integrated circuit element **25L** and the MOSFETs **12U** to **12W** through ball bonding.

[0133] The wires **60U**, **60V**, **60W**, **61U**, **61V** and **61W** are made of, for example, aluminum (Al),

and the wires **62**, **62U**, **62V** and **62W** and the wires **63U**, **63V** and **63W** are made of, for example, gold (Au). The wires **60U**, **60V**, **60W**, **61U**, **61V**, **61W** have equal wire diameters. The wire diameters of the respective wires **62**, **62U**, **62V**, **62W** are equal to each other. The wires **63U**, **63V**, **63W** have equal wire diameters. The wire diameter of each of the wires **62**, **62U**, **62V**, **62W** are equal to the wire diameter of each of the wires **63U**, **63V**, **63W**. The wire diameter of each of the wires **60U**, **60V**, **60W**, **61U**, **61V**, **61W** are larger than the wire diameter of each of the wires **62**, **62U**, **62V**, **62W** and the wire diameter of each of the wires **63U**, **63V**, **63W**. The wire diameter of each of the wires **60U**, **60V**, **60W**, **61U**, **61V**, and **61W** is about 10 times greater than the wire diameter of each of the wires **62**, **62U**, **62V**, and **62W** and the wire diameter of each of the wires **63U**, **63V**, and **63W**. One example of the wire diameter of each wire **60U**, **60V**, **60W**, **61U**, **61V**, **61W** is 400 μm . One example of the wire diameter of each wire **62**, **62U**, **62V**, **62W** and the wire diameter of each wire **63U**, **63V**, **63W** is 38 μm .

[0134] The single first wire **60U** connects the source electrode pad **11s** of the MOSFET **11U** and the wire joining portion **32f** of the first frame **32U**. The single second wire **60V** connects the source electrode pad **11s** of the MOSFET **11V** and the wire joining portion **32f** of the second frame **32V**. The single third wire **60W** connects the source electrode pad **11s** of the MOSFET **11W** and the wire joining portion **32f** of the third frame **32W**. The wires **60U**, **60V**, **60W** are generally parallel to each other. The first wire **60U** is extended through the region **Ra5** of the element mounting region **Rse** and connected to the wire joining portion **32f** of the first frame **32U**. The second wire **60V** is extended through the region **Ra6** of the element mounting region **Rse** and the connecting portion **32c** of the first frame **32U** and connected to the wire joining portion **32f** of the second frame **32V**. The third wire **60W** is extended through the region **Ra8** of the element mounting region **Rse** of the first frame **32U** and the connecting portion **32c** of the second frame **32V** and connected to the wire joining portion **32f** of the third frame **32W**.

[0135] Each of the source electrode pads **11s** of the MOSFETs **11U** to **11W** is connected to the integrated circuit element **25H** by a single wire **62**. Each of the gate electrode pads **11g** of the MOSFETs **11U** to **11W** is connected to the integrated circuit element **25H** by a single wire **62**.

[0136] As shown in FIG. 7, the part of the first wire **60U** connected to the source electrode pad **11s** of the MOSFET **11U** is thicker than other portions of the first wire **60U**. The connecting part is provided on the gate electrode pad **11g** of the MOSFET **11U** closer to the integrated circuit element **25H** than the edge closer to the source electrode pad **11s** in the second direction **Y**. That is, the part of the first wire **60U** connected to the source electrode pad **11s** of the MOSFET **11U** is provided to overlap the gate electrode pad **11g** of the MOSFET **11U** as viewed from the first direction **X** and to extend across the edge on one side of the gate electrode pad **11g** in the second direction **Y**.

Furthermore, the connecting part is provided closer to the second side surface **50D** than a center line (single-dashed line) indicating the center of the MOSFET **11U** in the first direction **X**.

[0137] The part of the second wire **60V** connected to the source electrode pad **11s** of the MOSFET **11V** is thicker than other portions of the second wire **60V**. The connecting part is provided on the gate electrode pad **11g** of the MOSFET **11V** closer to the integrated circuit element **25H** than the edge closer to the source electrode pad **11s** in the second direction **Y**. That is, the part of the second wire **60V** connected to the source electrode pad **11s** of the MOSFET **11V** is provided to overlap the gate electrode pad **11g** of the MOSFET **11V** as viewed from the first direction **X** and to extend across the edge on one side of the gate electrode pad **11g** in the second direction **Y**. Furthermore, the connecting part is provided closer to the second side surface **50D** than a center line (single-dashed line) indicating the center of the MOSFET **11V** in the first direction **X**.

[0138] The part of the third wire **60W** connected to the source electrode pad **11s** of the MOSFET **11W** is thicker than other portions of the third wire **60W**. The connecting part is provided on the gate electrode pad **11g** of the MOSFET **11W** closer to the integrated circuit element **25H** than the edge closer to the source electrode pad **11s** in the second direction **Y**. That is, the part of the third wire **60W** connected to the source electrode pad **11s** of the MOSFET **11W** is provided to overlap

the gate electrode pad **11g** of the MOSFET **11W** as viewed from the first direction X and to extend across the edge on one side of the second direction Y of the gate electrode pad **11g**. Furthermore, the connecting part is provided closer to the second side surface **50D** than a center line (single-dashed line) indicating the center of the MOSFET **11W** in the first direction X.

[0139] The integrated circuit element **25H** is connected to the frames **33BU**, **33BV**, **33BW** and the boot diodes **24U**, **24V**, **24W** by wires **62**. More specifically, the integrated circuit element **25H** is connected to the island portion **33f** of each of the frames **33BU**, **33BV**, **33BW** by two wires **62**. The integrated circuit element **25H** is connected to the cathode electrode of each of the frames **33BU**, **33BV** and **33BW** by one wire **62**.

[0140] The integrated circuit element **25H** is connected to each of the frames **33U**, **33V** and **33W** by one wire **62**. The integrated circuit element **25H** is connected to the frame **33C** by three wires **62**. The integrated circuit element **25H** is connected to the extension portion **34d** of the frame **34S** of the control frame **34** by two wires **62**.

[0141] As shown in FIG. 2, one first wire **61U** connects the source electrode pad **12s** of the MOSFET **12U** and the frame **35U**. One second wire **61V** connects the source electrode pad **12s** of the MOSFET **12V** and the frame **35V**. One third wire **61W** connects the source electrode pad **12s** of the MOSFET **12W** and the frame **35W**. The wires **61U**, **61V**, **61W** are generally parallel to each other. The first wire **61U** is extended through the region **Ra8** of the element mounting region **Rse** of the second frame **32V** and the connecting portion **32c** of the third frame **32W** and connected to the frame **35U**. The second wire **61V** is extended through the region **Ra8** of the element mounting region **Rse** of the third frame **32W** and connected to the frame **35V**. The third wire **61W** is extended through the element mounting region **Rse** of the region **Ra8** closer to the third frame **32W** than the region **Ra7** side and connected to the frame **35W**.

[0142] As shown in FIG. 9, the part of the first wire **61U** connected to the source electrode pad **12s** of the MOSFET **12U** is thicker than other portions of the first wire **61U**. The connecting part is provided on the gate electrode pad **12g** of the MOSFET **12U** closer to the integrated circuit element **25H** than the edge closer to the source electrode pad **12s** in the second direction Y. That is, the part of the first wire **61U** connected to the source electrode pad **12s** of the MOSFET **12U** is provided to overlap the gate electrode pad **12g** of the MOSFET **12U** as viewed from the first direction X and to extend across the edge on one side of the second direction Y of the gate electrode pad **12g**.

Furthermore, the connecting part is provided closer to the second side surface **50D** than a center line (single-dashed line) indicating the center of the MOSFET **12U** in the first direction X.

[0143] The part of the second wire **61V** connected to the source electrode pad **12s** of the MOSFET **12V** is thicker than other portions of the second wire **60V**. The connecting part is provided on the gate electrode pad **12g** of the MOSFET **12V** closer to the integrated circuit element **25H** than the edge closer to the source electrode pad **12s** in the second direction Y. That is, the part of the second wire **61V** connected to the source electrode pad **12s** of the MOSFET **12V** is provided to overlap the gate electrode pad **12g** of the MOSFET **12V** as viewed from the first direction X and to extend across the edge on one side of the second direction Y of the gate electrode pad **12g**. Furthermore, the connecting part is provided closer to the second side surface **50D** than a center line (single-dashed line) indicating the center of the MOSFET **12V** in the first direction X.

[0144] The part of the third wire **61W** connected to the source electrode pad **12s** of the MOSFET **12W** is thicker than other portions of the third wire **61W**. The connecting part is provided on the gate electrode pad **12g** of the MOSFET **12W** closer to the integrated circuit element **25H** than the edge closer to the source electrode pad **12s** in the second direction Y. That is, the part of the third wire **61W** connected to the source electrode pad **12s** of the MOSFET **12W** is provided to overlap the gate electrode pad **12g** of the MOSFET **12W** as viewed from the first direction X and to extend across the edge on one side of the second direction Y of the gate electrode pad **12g**. Furthermore, the connecting part is provided closer to the second side surface **50D** than a center line (single-dashed line) indicating the center of the MOSFET **12W** in the first direction X.

[0145] One first wire **62U**, which is an example of a first control wire, connects the gate electrode pad **12g** of the MOSFET **12U** mounted on the first frame **32U** and the integrated circuit element **25L**. One second wire **62V**, which is an example of a second control wire, connects the gate electrode pad **12g** of the MOSFET **12V** mounted on the second frame **32V** and the integrated circuit element **25L**. One third wire **62W**, which is an example of a third control wire, connects the gate electrode pad **12g** of the MOSFET **12W** mounted on the third frame **32W** and the integrated circuit element **25L**. One end of each of the wires **62U**, **62V**, **62W** is connected to the end of the integrated circuit element **25L** closer to the MOSFETs **12U** to **12W**. The number of wires **62U**, **62V**, **63W** is not limited to one and may be two or more.

[0146] One first wire **63U**, which is an example of the first limiting wire, connects the source electrode pad **12s** of the MOSFET **12U** mounted on the first frame **32U** and the integrated circuit element **25L**. One second wire **63V**, which is an example of the second limiting wire, connects the source electrode pad **12s** of the MOSFET **12V** mounted on the second frame **32V** and the integrated circuit element **25L**. One third wire **63W**, which is an example of the third limiting wire, connects the source electrode pad **12s** of the MOSFET **12W** mounted on the third frame **32W** and the integrated circuit element **25L**. One end of each of the wires **63U**, **63V**, **63W** is connected to the end of the integrated circuit element **25L** closer to the MOSFETs **12U** to **12W**. The number of wires **63U**, **63V**, **63W** is not limited to one and may be two or more.

[0147] In the first direction X, the first wire **63U** is disposed to be adjacent to the first wire **62U**, the second wire **63V** is disposed to be adjacent to the second wire **62V**, and the third wire **63W** is disposed to be adjacent to the third wire **62W**. Specifically, the first wire **62U** is disposed closer to the second frame **32V** than the first wire **63U**. The first wire **62U** and the first wire **63U** are each connected to the one of the four corners of the integrated circuit element **25L** closer to the first frame **32U**. The second wire **63V** is disposed closer to the third frame **32W** than the second wire **62V**. The second wire **62V** and the second wire **63V** are connected to the portion of the integrated circuit element **25L** closer to the third frame **32W** than the central portion in the first direction X. The third wire **62W** is disposed closer to the second frame **32V** than the third wire **63W**. One end of each of the third wire **62W** and the third wire **63W** is connected to a portion of the integrated circuit element **25L** closer to the second frame **32V** than the position of the wire **62** connecting the integrated circuit element **25L** to the frame **34D**.

[0148] The integrated circuit element **25L** is connected to the frames **34U**, **34V**, **34W** by one wire **62**. The integrated circuit element **25L** is connected to the frame **34CV** by two wires **62**. The integrated circuit element **25L** is connected to each of the frames **34A**, **34B**, **34D** by one wire **62**. The integrated circuit element **25L** is connected to the frame **34C** by two wires **62**. One end of the wire **62** connected to the frame **34D** is connected to the end of the integrated circuit element **25L** closer to the frame **34D** in the second direction Y.

[Structure of MOSFET]

[0149] The detailed structures of the MOSFETs **11U** to **11W** and the MOSFETs **12U** to **12W** will now be described with reference to FIG. **11**. The MOSFETs **11U** to **11W** and the MOSFETs **12U** to **12W** have the same structure. Thus, the structure of the MOSFET **11U** will be described below, and the MOSFETs **11V** and **11W** and the MOSFETs **12U** to **12W** will not be described.

[0150] The MOSFET **11U** includes a SiC (silicon carbide:silicon carbide) substrate **70**. The SiC substrate **70** is doped with an N-type impurity at a high concentration (e.g., $1e18$ to $1e21$ cm.sup.-3). The front surface **70A** (upper surface) of the SiC substrate **70** is a Si surface, and the back surface **70B** (lower surface) is a C surface.

[0151] An N type epitaxial layer **71** is stacked on the front surface **70A** of the SiC substrate **70**. The N-type epitaxial layer **71** is made of SiC doped with an N-type impurity at a lower concentration than the SiC substrate **70**. The epitaxial layer **71** is formed on the SiC substrate **70** by so-called epitaxial growth. The epitaxial layer **71** formed on the front surface **70A**, which is a Si surface, is grown with the Si surface as a main growth surface. Therefore, the front surface **71A** of the

epitaxial layer **71** formed by the growth is a Si surface like the front surface **70A** of the SiC substrate **70**.

[0152] The portion (base layer portion) of the epitaxial layer **71** at the side of the C surface opposite to the portion of the Si surface (surface layer portion) forms an N type drain region **72** of which the entire region is maintained in a state after the epitaxial growth. The N-type impurity concentration of the drain region **72** is, for example, $1\text{e}15$ to $1\text{e}17$ cm.sup.-3.

[0153] A P-type body region **73** is formed in the surface layer portion of the epitaxial layer **71**. The body region **73** is in contact with the side of the drain region **72** closer to the front surface **71A** (Si surface side) of the epitaxial layer **71**. The P-type impurity concentration of the body region **73** is, for example, $1\text{e}16$ to $1\text{e}19$ cm.sup.-3.

[0154] In the epitaxial layer **71**, a gate trench **74** is formed dug down from the front surface **71A**. Although not shown in FIG. **11**, a plurality of gate trenches **74** are formed at regular intervals parallel to each other extending in the same direction (direction perpendicular to the plane of drawing of FIG. **11**, hereinafter, this direction may be referred to as “direction of gate width”) and has, for example, a stripe structure.

[0155] The gate trenches **74** are spaced apart from one another and are opposed to one another. Each gate trench **74** has two side surfaces **74a**, which are arranged along planes orthogonal to the front surface **71A**, and a bottom surface **74b**, which has a portion parallel to the front surface **71A**. The gate trench **74** extends through the body region **73** in the layer thickness direction, and the deepest portion (bottom surface **74b**) reaches the drain region **72**.

[0156] A gate insulating film **75** is formed on the inner surface of the gate trench **74** and the front surface **71A** of the epitaxial layer **71** so as to cover the entire region of the inner surface (side surface **74a** and bottom surface **74b**) of the gate trench **74**. The gate insulating film **75** is an oxide film containing nitrogen (Ni), for example, a silicon nitride oxide film formed by thermal oxidation using a nitrogen-containing gas. The nitrogen content (nitrogen concentration) in the gate insulating film **75** is, for example, 0.1% to 10%.

[0157] In the gate insulating film **75**, the thickness **T2** of the portion (insulating film bottom portion **75a**) on the bottom surface **74b** of the gate trench **74** is smaller than the thickness **T1** of the portion (insulating film side portion **75b**) on the side surface **74a**. Specifically, the ratio of the thickness **T2** of the insulating film bottom portion **75a** to the thickness **T1** of the insulating film side portion **75b** (thickness **T2** of the insulating film bottom portion **75a**/thickness **T1** of the insulating film side portion **75b**) is 0.3 to 1.0, and preferably, 0.5 to 1.0. The thickness **T1** of the insulating film side portion **75b** is, for example, 300 to 1000 Å, and the thickness **T2** of the insulating film bottom portion **75a** is, for example, 150 to 500 Å.

[0158] A gate electrode **76** is embedded in the gate insulating film **75**. The gate electrode **76** is formed by completely filling the inner side of the gate insulating film **75** with a polysilicon material doped with N-type impurities at high concentration.

[0159] In the surface layer portion of the body region **73**, an N.sup.+ type source region **77** is formed on both sides in a direction (left and right direction in FIG. **11**) orthogonal to the gate width with respect to the gate trench **74**. The source region **77** is a region doped with N-type impurity at a high concentration, which is higher than the N-type impurity concentration of the drain region **72**. The N-type impurity concentration of the source region **77** is, for example, $1\text{e}18$ to $1\text{e}21$ cm.sup.-3. The source region **77** extends in the direction of gate width at a position adjacent to gate trench **74**.

[0160] In the epitaxial layer **71**, a P.sup.+ -type body contact region **78** extends through the central portion of the source region **77** in the direction orthogonal to the gate width from the front surface **71A** and is connected to the body region **73**. The body contact region **78** is a region doped with P-type impurity at high concentration, higher than the P-type impurity concentration of the body region **73**. The P-type impurity concentration of the body contact region **78** is, for example, $1\text{e}18$ to $1\text{e}21$ cm.sup.-3.

[0161] The gate trench **74** and the source region **77** are alternately arranged in the direction orthogonal to the gate width and extend in the direction of gate width. A boundary between adjacent unit cells in the direction orthogonal to the gate width along the source region **77** is set on the source region **77**. At least one body contact region **78** is provided across two adjacent unit cells in the direction orthogonal to the gate width. The boundary between adjacent unit cells in the direction of gate width is set such that the gate electrode **76** included in each unit cell has a constant gate width.

[0162] An inter-layer insulating film **79** made of silicon oxide (SiO.sub.2) is stacked on the epitaxial layer **71**. The inter-layer insulating film **79** and the gate insulating film **75** include contact holes **80** for exposing the front surfaces of the source region **77** and the body contact region **78**.

[0163] A source wiring **81** is formed on the inter-layer insulating film **79**. The source wiring **81** contacts (is electrically connected to) the source region **77** and the body contact region **78** through the contact hole **80**. The source wiring **81** includes a polysilicon layer **82**, located at a portion in contact with the source region **77** and the body contact region **78**, and a metal layer **83**, located on the polysilicon layer **82**.

[0164] The polysilicon layer **82** is a doped layer formed using doped polysilicon doped with an impurity and is preferably, for example, a high concentration doped layer doped with an impurity at a high concentration of $1e19$ to $1e21$ cm.sup.-3. As an impurity for forming the polysilicon layer **82** as a doped layer (including high concentration doped layer), an N-type impurity such as phosphorus (P) or arsenic (As) or a P-type impurity such as boron (B) can be used. Furthermore, the polysilicon layer **82** completely fills the contact hole **80**. The thickness of the polysilicon layer **82** varies depending on the depth of the contact hole **80**, and is, for example, 5000 to 1000 Å.

[0165] The metal layer **83** is formed using, for example, aluminum (Al), gold (Au), silver (Ag), copper (Cu), or an alloy thereof and a metal material containing them. The metal layer **83** forms the outermost layer of the source wiring **81**, and for example, the first wire **60U** and the like are connected (bonded). The thickness of the metal layer **83** is, for example, 1 to 5 µm.

[0166] In the source wiring **81**, an intermediate layer **84** containing titanium (Ti) is interposed between the polysilicon layer **82** and the metal layer **83**. The intermediate layer **84** includes a single layer of a layer containing titanium or a plurality of layers including the layer. The layer containing titanium can be formed using titanium, titanium nitride (TiN), or the like. The thickness of the intermediate layer **84** is, for example, 200 to 500 nm.

[0167] The source wiring **81** including such polysilicon layer **82**, intermediate layer **84**, and metal layer **83** preferably has a stacked structure (Po—Si/Ti/TiN/Al) in which the polysilicon (polysilicon layer **82**), titanium (intermediate layer **84**), titanium nitride (intermediate layer **84**), and aluminum (metal layer **83**) are stacked in order.

[0168] A drain wiring **85** is formed on the back surface **70B** of the SiC substrate **70**. The drain wiring **85** contacts (is electrically connected to) the SiC substrate **70**. The drain wiring **85** includes a polysilicon layer **86** at a portion in contact with the SiC substrate **70** and includes a metal layer **87** on the polysilicon layer **86**.

[0169] The polysilicon layer **86** can be formed using the same material as that of the polysilicon layer **82**. The thickness of the polysilicon layer **86** is, for example, 1000 to 2000 Å.

[0170] The metal layer **87** can be formed using the same material as the metal layer **83**. The metal layer **87** forms the outermost layer of the drain wiring **85** and is joined to the island portion **31a** when, for example, the SiC substrate **70** is mounted on the island portion **31a** of the frame **31**. The thickness of the metal layer **87** is, for example, 0.5 to 1 µm.

[0171] In the drain wiring **85**, an intermediate layer **88** containing titanium (Ti) is interposed between the polysilicon layer **86** and the metal layer **87**. The intermediate layer **88** can be formed using the same material as that of the intermediate layer **84**.

[0172] A gate wiring **89** contacts (is electrically connected to) the gate electrode **76** through a contact hole (not shown) formed in the inter-layer insulating film **79**.

[0173] When a predetermined voltage (voltage higher than or equal to gate threshold value voltage) is applied to the gate wiring **89** while a predetermined potential difference is generated between the source wiring **81** and the drain wiring **85** (between the source and the drain), a channel is formed in the vicinity of the interface with the gate insulating film **75** in the body region **73** by the electric field from the gate electrode **76**. Thus, a current flows between the source wiring **81** and the drain wiring **85**, and the MOSFET **11U** is turned on.

[Configuration of Low Potential Block Circuit]

[0174] The circuit configuration of the low potential block circuit in the control circuit **20** will now be described with reference to FIG. **12**. FIG. **12** shows an example of the circuit configuration of the low potential block circuit.

[0175] As shown in FIG. **12**, the integrated circuit element **25L** includes a first output terminal **25au**, a second output terminal **25av**, a third output terminal **25aw**, a first input terminal **25bu**, a second input terminal **25bv**, and a third input terminal **25bw**. The first output terminal **25au** and the first input terminal **25bu** are electrically connected to the control circuit **20** (specifically, the drive circuit **21UL** of the control circuit **20**). The second output terminal **25av** and the second input terminal **25bv** are electrically connected to the control circuit **20** (specifically, the drive circuit **21VL** of the control circuit **20**). The third output terminal **25aw** and the third input terminal **25bw** are electrically connected to the control circuit **20** (specifically, the drive circuit **21WL** of the control circuit **20**).

[0176] The first output terminal **25au** is connected to the gate of the MOSFET **12U** through the first wire **62U**. The first input terminal **25bu** is connected to the source of the MOSFET **12U** through the first wire **63U**. The second output terminal **25av** is connected to the gate of the MOSFET **12V** through the second wire **62V**. The second input terminal **25bv** is connected to the source of the MOSFET **12V** through the second wire **63V**. The third output terminal **25aw** is connected to the gate of the MOSFET **12W** through the third wire **62W**. The third input terminal **25bw** is connected to the source of the MOSFET **12W** through the third wire **63W**.

[0177] The drive circuit **21UL** includes a source ground circuit **21a** which is an output stage. The source ground circuit **21a** has a first MOSFET **21b** that serves as a P-channel MOSFET and a second MOSFET **21c** that serves as an N-channel MOSFET. The source of the first MOSFET **21b** is electrically connected to the power supply voltage terminal (frame **34CV**), and the drain of the first MOSFET **21b** is connected to the drain of the second MOSFET **21c**. The gate of the first MOSFET **21b** and the gate of the second MOSFET **21c** are connected in common. The drive circuit **21UL** includes output wiring **21d** that connects a node N1 between the drain of first MOSFET **21b** and the drain of second MOSFET **21c** to the first output terminal **25au** of the integrated circuit element **25L**, and limiting wiring **21e** that connects the source of the second MOSFET **21c** of the source ground circuit **21a** and the first input terminal **25bu** of the integrated circuit element **25L**. The output wiring **21d** and the limiting wiring **21e** are each provided in the integrated circuit element **25L**. More specifically, the output wiring **21d** and the limiting wiring **21e** are provided closer to the first output terminal **25au** and the first input terminal **25bu** than the source ground circuit **21a** in the second direction Y. The second MOSFET **21c** of the source ground circuit **21a** in the drive circuit **21UL** is electrically connected to the source of the MOSFET **12U** through the limiting wiring **21e**, the first input terminal **25bu**, and the first wire **63U**.

[0178] The configurations of drive circuit **21VL** and drive circuit **21WL** are the same as the configuration of the drive circuit **21UL**. The output wiring **21d** of the drive circuit **21VL** connects the node N1 between the drain of the first MOSFET **21b** and the drain of the second MOSFET **21c** and the second output terminal **25av** of the integrated circuit element **25L**. The limiting wiring **21e** of the drive circuit **21VL** connects the source of the second MOSFET **21c** of the source ground circuit **21a** and the second input terminal **25bv** of the integrated circuit element **25L**. The second MOSFET **21c** of the source ground circuit **21a** in the drive circuit **21VL** is electrically connected to the source of the MOSFET **12V** through the limiting wiring **21e**, the second input terminal **25bv**,

and the second wire **63V**. The output wiring **21d** of the drive circuit **21WL** connects a node **N1** between the drain of the first MOSFET **21b** and the drain of the second MOSFET **21c** and the third output terminal **25aw** of the integrated circuit element **25L**. The limiting wiring **21e** of the drive circuit **21WL** connects the source of the second MOSFET **21c** of the source ground circuit **21a** and the third input terminal **25bw** of the integrated circuit element **25L**. The second MOSFET **21c** of the source ground circuit **21a** in the drive circuit **21WL** is electrically connected to the source of the MOSFET **12V** through the limiting wiring **21e**, the third input terminal **25bw**, and the third wire **63W**.

[0179] Thus, the semiconductor device **1** includes a first control path **RC1** that electrically connects the drive circuit **21UL** and the gate (control terminal) of the MOSFET **12U**, a second control path **RC2** that electrically connects the drive circuit **21VL** and the gate (control terminal) of the MOSFET **12V**, and a third control path **RC3** that electrically connects the drive circuit **21WL** and the gate (control terminal) of the MOSFET **12W**.

[0180] The first control path **RC1** transmits the drive signal of the drive circuit **21UL** to the gate of the MOSFET **12U**. The first control path **RC1** includes the output wiring **21d** of the drive circuit **21UL** and the first wire **62U**. That is, the first wire **62U** forms part of the first control path **RC1**.

[0181] The second control path **RC2** transmits the drive signal of the drive circuit **21VL** to the gate of the MOSFET **12V**. The second control path **RC2** includes the output wiring **21d** of the drive circuit **21VL** and the second wire **62V**. That is, the second wire **62V** forms part of the second control path **RC2**.

[0182] The third control path **RC3** transmits the drive signal of the drive circuit **21WL** to the gate of the MOSFET **12W**. The third control path **RC3** includes the output wiring **21d** of the drive circuit **21WL** and the third wire **62W**. That is, the third wire **62W** forms part of the third control path **RC3**.

[0183] The semiconductor device **1** further includes a first limiting path **RS1** that electrically connects the first control path **RC1** and the source (second terminal) of the MOSFET **12U**, a second limiting path **RS2** that electrically connects the second control path **RC2** and the source (second terminal) of the MOSFET **12V**, and a third limiting path **RS3** that electrically connects the third control path **RC3** and the source (second terminal) of the MOSFET **12W**.

[0184] The first limiting path **RS1** includes limiting wiring **21e** of the drive circuit **21UL** and the first wire **63U**. That is, the first wire **63U** forms part of the first limiting path **RS1**. The second limiting path **RS2** includes limiting wiring **21e** of the drive circuit **21VL** and the second wire **63V**. That is, the second wire **63V** forms part of the second limiting path **RS2**. The third limiting path **RS3** includes limiting wiring **21e** of the drive circuit **21WL** and the third wire **63W**. That is, the third wire **63W** forms part of the third limiting path **RS3**.

[0185] Each of the logic circuits **22UL**, **22VL**, and **22WL** includes an RS flip-flop circuit **22a** and the like. The RS flip-flop circuit **22a** includes a set terminal (S terminal) to which a set signal is input, a reset terminal (R terminal) to which a reset signal is input, and an output terminal (Q terminal) from which an output signal is output. The RS flip-flop circuit **22a** sets the output signal to a high level with the falling edge of the set signal as a trigger and sets the output signal to a low level using the falling edge of the reset signal as a trigger. The RS flip-flop circuit **22a** is electrically connected to the gate of each of the MOSFETs **21b** and **21c** and outputs an output signal to the gate. Each of the MOSFETs **21b** and **21c** is complementarily turned on and off based on the output signal of the RS flip-flop circuit **22a**. This generates a drive signal output to the gate of the MOSFET **12L** through the output wiring **21d**.

[0186] The operation of the present embodiment will now be described.

[0187] The semiconductor device **1** includes a limiting unit that reduces fluctuation of the source-gate voltage of the MOSFET **12U**. More specifically, as shown in FIG. **12**, the semiconductor device **1** includes a first limiting unit **CV1** as a limiting unit. The first limiting unit **CV1** is a mechanism for reducing fluctuation of the source-gate voltage of the MOSFET **12U** based on the

voltage fluctuation of the source of the MOSFET **12U** and includes the first limiting path **RS1**.
[0188] Since the source of the second MOSFET **21c** of the source ground circuit **21a** of the drive circuit **21UL** and the source of the MOSFET **12U** are electrically connected by the first limiting unit **CV1** (first limiting path **RS1**), even if the source potential of the MOSFET **12U** floats due to the current change dI/dt when the MOSFET **11U** is turned on and the inductance of the first wire **61U** connected to the source of the MOSFET **12U**, the source potential of the second MOSFET **21c** of the source ground circuit **21a** of the drive circuit **21UL** floats following the source potential of the MOSFET **12U**. Thus, shifting of the gate-source voltage of the MOSFET **12U** to a negative value is limited. As a result, the fluctuation of the threshold value voltage V_{th} of the MOSFET **12U** is reduced. As a result, even when the intermittent operation of the first inverter circuit **10U** is repeated, an increase in the rate of fluctuation of the threshold value voltage V_{th} of the MOSFET **12U** is reduced.

[0189] The semiconductor device **1** further includes a second limiting unit **CV2** and a third limiting unit **CV3** serving as limiting units. The second limiting unit **CV2** is a mechanism for reducing fluctuation of the source-gate voltage of the MOSFET **12V** based on the voltage fluctuation of the source of the MOSFET **12V** and includes the second limiting path **RS2**. The third limiting unit **CV3** is a mechanism for reducing fluctuation of the source-gate voltage of the MOSFET **12W** based on the voltage fluctuation of the source of the MOSFET **12W** and includes the third limiting path **RS3**. This configuration also limits increases in the rate of fluctuation of the threshold value voltage V_{th} of the MOSFETs **12L** and **12L** for the MOSFETs **12V** and **12L** in the same manner as the MOSFET **12U**.

[0190] The present embodiment has the advantages described below.

[0191] (1-1) The semiconductor device **1** includes the first limiting unit **CV1** (first limiting path **RS1**), the second limiting unit **CV2** (second limiting path **RS2**), and the third limiting unit **CV3** (third limiting path **RS3**). According to this configuration, even if the source potential of the MOSFET **12U** fluctuates, the gate potential of the MOSFET **12U** follows and fluctuates, and thus the fluctuation of the source-gate voltage of the MOSFET **12U** is reduced. Even if the source potential of the MOSFET **12V** fluctuates, the gate potential of the MOSFET **12V** follows and fluctuates, and thus the fluctuation of the source-gate voltage of the MOSFET **12V** is reduced. Even if the source potential of the MOSFET **12W** fluctuates, the gate potential of the MOSFET **12W** follows and fluctuates, and thus the fluctuation of the source-gate voltage of the MOSFET **12W** is reduced. Therefore, the fluctuation of threshold value voltage V_{th} can be reduced for each of the MOSFETs **12U** to **12W**.

[0192] (1-2) The first wire **63U** that forms part of the first limiting path **RS1** is connected to the source electrode pad **12s** of the MOSFET **12U**. Thus, the potential on the source side of the MOSFET **12U** can be extracted from the first wire **61U** connected to the source electrode pad **12s** of the MOSFET **12U** as the source side of the MOSFET **12U**. The MOSFET **12U** can thus be controlled by the gate-source voltage of the MOSFET **12U** in which the influence of the inductance of the first wire **61U** is reduced. The second wire **63V** that forms part of the second limiting path **RS2** is connected to the source electrode pad **12s** of the MOSFET **12V**. The third wire **63W** that forms part of the third limiting path **RS3** is connected to the source electrode pad **12s** of the MOSFET **12W**. Thus, effects similar to the first wire **63U** are obtained since the second wire **63V** and the third wire **63W** have the same configuration as the first wire **63U**.

[0193] In addition, the distances between the MOSFETs **12U** to **12W** and the integrated circuit element **25L** is shorter than the distances between the frames **35U**, **35V** and **35W** and the integrated circuit element **25L**. This shortens the lengths of the respective wires **62U**, **62V**, **62W** and the lengths of the wires **63U**, **63V**, **63W** connecting the sources of the MOSFETs **12U** to **12W** and the integrated circuit element **25L**. Therefore, the influence of the inductance of each wire **62U**, **62V**, **62W** and the influence of the inductance of each wire **63U**, **63V**, **63W** can be reduced.

[0194] (1-3) The MOSFET **12U** is disposed in the region **Ra7** of the element mounting region **Rse**

of the first frame **32U** at the end closer to the integrated circuit element **25L** in the second direction **Y**. Thus, the distance between the MOSFET **12U** and the integrated circuit element **25L** is shortened. This shortens the length of the first wire **62U** and the length of the first wire **63U** connecting the MOSFET **12U** and the integrated circuit element **25L**. Therefore, the influence of the inductance of the first wire **62U** and the influence of the inductance of the first wire **63U** can be reduced. The MOSFET **12V** is disposed at the end in the region **Ra7** of the element mounting region **Rse** of the second frame **32V** closer to the integrated circuit element **25L** in the second direction **Y**. The MOSFET **12W** is disposed in the region **Ra7** of the element mounting region **Rse** of the third frame **32W** at the end closer to the integrated circuit element **25L** in the second direction **Y**. With such a configuration, the lengths of the wires **62V** and **62W** and the lengths of the wires **63V** and **63W** can be shortened in the same manner as the first wire **62U** and the first wire **63U**. Thus, the influence of the inductance of each wire **62V** and **62W** and the influence of the inductance of each wire **63V** and **63W** can be reduced.

[0195] (1-4) The first wire **63U** is connected to the portion of the source electrode pad **12s** of the MOSFET **12U** closer to integrated circuit element **25L**. The second wire **63V** is connected to a portion of the source electrode pad **12s** of the MOSFET **12V** closer to the integrated circuit element **25L**. The third wire **63W** is connected to a portion of the source electrode pad **12s** of the MOSFET **12W** closer to the integrated circuit element **25L**. According to such a configuration, the length of each wire **63U**, **63V**, **63W** can be shortened. Therefore, the influence of the inductance of each wire **63U**, **63V**, **63W** can be reduced.

[0196] (1-5) The wires **63U**, **63V**, and **63W** are connected to the end of the integrated circuit element **25L** closer to the MOSFETs **12U** to **12W** in the second direction **Y**. Thus, the length of each wire **63U**, **63V**, **63W** can be shortened. Therefore, the influence of the inductance of each wire **63U**, **63V**, **63W** can be reduced.

[0197] (1-6) Each of the frames **32U**, **32V**, **32W** include the grooves **32g**, **32h** forming the element mounting region **Rse**. Thus, when the MOSFETs **12U** to **12W** are mounted in the region **Ra7** of the element mounting region **Rse**, the solder **SD** does not spread beyond the element mounting region **Rse**. If the melted solder **SD** is directed toward the edges of the grooves **32g** and **32h**, surface tension restricts movement of the solder **SD** beyond the grooves **32g** and **32h** and the edges of the grooves **32g** and **32h** function to stop the melted solder **SD** at the grooves **32g** and **32h**. The grooves **32g** and **32h** are formed to surround the entire periphery of the MOSFETs **12U** to **12W** and further limits spreading of the solder **SD**. Since the grooves **31d** and **3l** of the frame **31** have the same configuration as the grooves **32g** and **32h**, the solder **SD** does not spread beyond the element mounting region **Rse** when the MOSFETs **11U** to **11W** are mounted on the element mounting region **Rse**.

[0198] (1-7) The frame **31** includes the recesses **31f**, and each frame **32U**, **32V**, **32W** includes the recesses **32i**. According to this configuration, the encapsulation resin **50**, which enters the recesses **31f** and **32i**, increase the strength joining the encapsulation resin **50** to the frame **31** and the frames **32U**, **32V** and **32W**. Therefore, delamination of the encapsulation resin **50** from the frame **31** and the frames **32U**, **32V**, **32W** can be reduced.

[0199] (1-8) The recesses **31f** and **32i** are not provided in the element mounting region **Rse**. Thus, joining of the MOSFETs **11U** to **11W** to the frame **31** by the solder **SD** and joining of the MOSFETs **12U** to **12W** to the frames **32U**, **32V**, **32W** by the solder **SD** can be appropriately performed. In addition, the recess **31f** of the frame **31** is disposed so as to surround the element mounting region **Rse**. Thus, the encapsulation resin **50** is firmly joined to the island portion **31a** of the frame **31** so as to surround the MOSFETs **11U** to **11W**. The recess **32i** of each frame **32U**, **32V**, **32W** is arranged to surround the element mounting region **Rse**. Thus, the encapsulation resin **50** surrounds the MOSFETs **12U** to **12W** and is firmly joined to the island portions **33a** of the frames **32U**, **32V**, and **32W**. This reduces the generation of air gaps leading to the MOSFETs **11U** to **11W** and the MOSFETs **12U** to **12W** in the encapsulation resin **50** that would result from delamination

of the encapsulation resin **50**. Therefore, the insulating states of the MOSFETs **11U** to **11W** and the MOSFETs **12U** to **12W** can be maintained in a satisfactory state.

Second Embodiment

[0200] The semiconductor device **1** in accordance with a second embodiment will now be described with reference to FIGS. **13** and **14**. The semiconductor device **1** in accordance with the present embodiment differs from the semiconductor device **1** in accordance with the first embodiment in the configuration of the drive circuits **21UL**, **21VL**, and **21WL**. In the following description, same reference numerals are given to those components that are the same as the semiconductor device **1** in accordance with the first embodiment. Such components will not be described.

[0201] As shown in FIG. **13**, the first limiting unit **CV1** includes a diode **13** provided in the first limiting path **RS1**. The second limiting unit **CV2** includes a diode **13** provided in the second limiting path **RS2**. The third limiting unit **CV3** includes a diode **13** provided in the third limiting path **RS3**. Each diode **13** is mounted on the integrated circuit element **25L**. More specifically, the diode **13** of the first limiting unit **CV1** is provided on the limiting wiring **21e** of the drive circuit **21UL**. The anode of the diode **13** is electrically connected to the first input terminal **25bu**, and the cathode is electrically connected to the node **N2** of the output wiring **21d** of the drive circuit **21UL**. The diode **13** of the second limiting unit **CV2** is provided on the limiting wiring **21e** of the drive circuit **21VL**. The anode of the diode **13** is electrically connected to the second input terminal **25bv**, and the cathode is electrically connected to the node **N2** of the output wiring **21d** of the drive circuit **21VL**. The diode **13** of the third limiting unit **CV3** is provided on the limiting wiring **21e** of the drive circuit **21WL**. The anode of the diode **13** is electrically connected to the third input terminal **25bw**, and the cathode is electrically connected to the node **N2** of the output wiring **21d** of the drive circuit **21WL**.

[0202] As shown in FIG. **14**, in the integrated circuit element **25L**, the drive circuit **21UL**, the drive circuit **21VL**, and the drive circuit **21WL** are arranged in the first direction **X**. That is, the drive circuit **21UL**, the drive circuit **21VL**, and the drive circuit **21WL** are arranged in the longitudinal direction of the integrated circuit element **25L**. Here, the direction (first direction **X**) in which the drive circuit **21UL**, the drive circuit **21VL**, and the drive circuit **21WL** are arranged is an example of the layout direction of the third control circuit, the fourth control circuit, and the fifth control circuit.

[0203] The diode **13** of the first limiting unit **CV1** is disposed near the source ground circuit **21a** of the drive circuit **21UL**. More specifically, the diode **13** of the first limiting unit **CV1** is disposed closer to the first output terminal **25au** and the first input terminal **25bu** side, or the MOSFET **12U**, than the source ground circuit **21a** of the drive circuit **21UL** in the second direction **Y**.

[0204] The diode **13** of the second limiting unit **CV2** is disposed near the source ground circuit **21a** of the drive circuit **21VL**. More specifically, the diode **13** of the second limiting unit **CV2** is disposed closer to the second output terminal **25av** and the second input terminal **25bv**, or the MOSFET **12V**, than the source ground circuit **21a** of the drive circuit **21VL** in the second direction **Y**.

[0205] The diode **13** of the third limiting unit **CV3** is disposed near the source ground circuit **21a** of the drive circuit **21WL**. More specifically, the diode **13** of the third limiting unit **CV3** is disposed closer to the third output terminal **25aw** and the third input terminal **25bw**, or the MOSFET **12W**, than the source ground circuit **21a** of the drive circuit **21WL** in the second direction **Y**.

[0206] The operation of the present embodiment will now be described. Since the operation is the same in each of the inverter circuits **10U**, **10V** and **10W**, the operation of the first inverter circuit **10U** will be described. The operation of the second inverter circuit **10V** and the third inverter circuit **10W** will not be described.

[0207] When the MOSFET **11U** of the first inverter circuit **10U** is turned on, the source potential of the MOSFET **12U** floats due to the change dI/dt in the current flowing through the MOSFET **11U**

and the inductance of the first wire **61U** connected to the MOSFET **12U**. Consequently, the potential at the output wiring **21d** of the drive circuit **21UL** becomes higher through the first wire **63U** connected to the source of the MOSFET **12U** and the limiting wiring **21e** of the integrated circuit element **25L**. Thus, the gate-source voltage of the MOSFET **12U** does not become a negative value, and fluctuation of the threshold value voltage V_{th} of the MOSFET **12U** can be reduced.

[0208] The present embodiment has the advantages described below in addition to the advantages of the first embodiment.

[0209] (2-1) The diodes **13** are provided on the limiting wiring **21e** of the drive circuits **21UL**, **21VL** and **21WL**. Thus, the source potential of the MOSFETs **12U** to **12W** is not increased by the output voltage of the drive circuits **21UL**, **21VL**, **21WL** when the MOSFETs **12U** to **12W** are turned on. Therefore, the current flowing in each of MOSFETs **12U** to **12W** can be controlled with high accuracy.

[0210] (2-2) The diode **13** of the first limiting unit **CV1** is disposed closer to the first output terminal **25au** and the first input terminal **25bu** than the source ground circuit **21a** of the drive circuit **21UL**. The diode **13** of the second limiting unit **CV2** is disposed closer to the second output terminal **25av** and the second input terminal **25bv** than the source ground circuit **21a** of the drive circuit **21VL**. The diode **13** of the third limiting unit **CV3** is disposed closer to the third output terminal **25aw** and the third input terminal **25bw** than the source ground circuit **21a** of the drive circuit **21WL**. Thus, the length of the limiting wiring **21e** of the drive circuits **21UL**, **21VL**, and **21WL** can be shortened, and the influence of the inductance of the limiting wiring **21e** can be reduced.

[0211] (2-3) Each diode **13** is provided in the integrated circuit element **25L**. According to such a configuration, the semiconductor device **1** can be reduced in size as compared with a configuration in which each diode **13** is provided as a semiconductor chip separate from the integrated circuit element **25L**.

Third Embodiment

[0212] The semiconductor device **1** in accordance with a third embodiment will now be described with reference to FIGS. **9** and **15**. The semiconductor device **1** in accordance with the present embodiment differs from the semiconductor device **1** in accordance with the first embodiment in the arrangement mode of the MOSFET **12U**. In the following description, same reference characters are given to components that are the same as the components of the semiconductor device **1** in accordance with the first embodiment. Such components will not be described.

[0213] As shown in FIG. **9**, in the first embodiment, the orientations (arrangement positions) of the MOSFETs **12U** to **12W** mounted on the frames **32U**, **32V**, and **32W** are the same. The MOSFETs **12U** to **12W** in FIG. **9** are mounted on the frames **32U**, **32V**, and **32W** such that the second direction **Y** is the longitudinal direction. In this case, the length of the first wire **62U** and the length of the first wire **63U** of the MOSFET **12U** of the first frame **32U** disposed on the most frame **31** side among the frames **32U**, **32V**, and **32W** become longer.

[0214] Thus, in the present embodiment, as shown in FIG. **15**, the orientation (arrangement position) of the MOSFET **12U** mounted in the first frame **32U** is different from the orientation (arrangement position) of the MOSFET **12V** mounted in the second frame **32V** and the MOSFET **12W** mounted in the third frame **32W**. More specifically, the MOSFET **12U** of the first frame **32U** is mounted on the first frame **32U** such that the first direction **X** is the longitudinal direction. Furthermore, the MOSFET **12U** is mounted on the first frame **32U** such that the gate electrode pad **12g** approaches the integrated circuit element **25L**. More specifically, the MOSFET **12U** is mounted on the first frame **32U** such that the gate electrode pad **12g** is closer to the MOSFET **12V** in the first direction **X** and closer to the frame **34** in the second direction **Y** on the front surface of the MOSFET **12U**.

[0215] Furthermore, in the present embodiment, the arrangements of the first wire **63U** for

connecting the source electrode pad **12s** of the MOSFET **12U** and the integrated circuit element **25L** and the first wire **62U** for connecting the gate electrode pad **12g** of the MOSFET **12U** and the integrated circuit element **25L** are different. Specifically, the first wire **62U** is disposed closer to the second frame **32V** than the first wire **63U**. The first wire **62U** is adjacent in the first direction **X** to the gate electrode pad **12g** in the source electrode pad **12s** and connected to the region at the side of the frame **33**.

[0216] According to the present embodiment, the advantages described below can be obtained in addition to the advantages of the first embodiment.

[0217] (3-1) Since the MOSFET **12U** mounted on the first frame **32U** is disposed on the first frame **32U** such that the gate electrode pad **12g** approaches the integrated circuit element **25L**, the length of the first wire **62U** connecting the gate electrode pad **12g** and the integrated circuit element **25L** can be shortened. Therefore, the influence of the inductance of the first wire **62U** can be reduced.

Fourth Embodiment

[0218] The semiconductor device **1** in accordance with a fourth embodiment will now be described with reference to FIGS. **16**, **17**, **18A**, and **18B**. The semiconductor device **1** in accordance with the present embodiment differs from the semiconductor device **1** in accordance with the first embodiment in that a limiting unit for reducing fluctuation of the potential of the sources of the MOSFETs **12U** to **12W** when the MOSFETs **11U** to **11W** are turned on is provided. In the following description, same reference characters are given to those components that are the same as the components of the semiconductor device **1** in accordance with the first embodiment. Such components will not be described.

[0219] As shown in FIG. **17**, instead of the first limiting unit **CV1**, the second limiting unit **CV2**, and the third limiting unit **CV3** (all shown in FIG. **14**) serving as the limiting units in the first embodiment, the semiconductor device **1** includes a first limiting unit **CP1**, a second limiting unit **CP2**, and a third limiting unit **CP3** serving as a limiting unit.

[0220] The first limiting unit **CP1** is a mechanism that reduces fluctuation in the potential of the source of the MOSFET **12U** when the MOSFET **11U** is turned on. The first limiting unit **CP1** includes a first diode **14U** which is an example of a sixth diode connected to the second switching element of the first inverter circuit **10U**. The anode of the first diode **14U** is connected to the source of the MOSFET **12U**, and the cathode of the first diode **14U** is connected to the drain of the MOSFET **12U**.

[0221] The second limiting unit **CP2** is a mechanism that reduces fluctuation in the potential of the source of the MOSFET **12V** when the MOSFET **11V** is turned on. The second limiting unit **CP2** includes a second diode **14V** which is an example of a seventh diode connected to the second switching element of the second inverter circuit **10V**. The anode of the second diode **14V** is connected to the source of the MOSFET **12V**, and the cathode of the second diode **14V** is connected to the drain of the MOSFET **12V**.

[0222] The third limiting unit **CP3** is a mechanism that reduces fluctuation in the potential of the source of the MOSFET **12W** when the MOSFET **11W** is turned on. The third limiting unit **CP3** includes a third diode **14W** which is an example of an eighth diode connected to the second switching element of the third inverter circuit **10W**. The anode of the third diode **14W** is connected to the source of the MOSFET **12W**, and the cathode of the third diode **14W** is connected to the drain of the MOSFET **12W**.

[0223] One example of each of the diodes **14U**, **14V**, **14W** is a Schottky barrier diode. In the present embodiment, the first diode **14U** is configured such that its forward voltage V_f is lower than the forward voltage of the body diode of the MOSFET **12U**. The second diode **14V** is configured such that its forward voltage V_f is lower than the forward voltage of the body diode of the MOSFET **12V**. The third diode **14W** is configured such that its forward voltage is lower than the forward voltage of the body diode of the MOSFET **12W**. As shown in FIG. **17**, each of the diodes **14U**, **14V** and **14W** is formed by a semiconductor chip. The first diode **14U** is mounted in

the region Ra8 of the first frame 32U, the second diode 14V is mounted in the region Ra8 of the second frame 32V, and the third diode 14W is mounted in the region Ra8 of the third frame 32W. The diodes 14U, 14V, and 14W are located closer to the fourth side surface 50F of the encapsulation resin 50 in the second direction Y in the region Ra8.

[0224] Each of the diodes 14U, 14V, 14W has an anode electrode pad 14a which is a front surface electrode and a cathode electrode which is a back surface electrode. The cathode electrode of the first diode 14U is electrically connected to the first frame 32U by solder or the like. The cathode electrode of the second diode 14V is electrically connected to the second frame 32V by solder or the like. The cathode electrode of the third diode 14W is electrically connected to the third frame 32W by solder or the like.

[0225] As shown in FIG. 17, the first limiting unit CP1 further includes a first wire 61U and a first diode wire 64U which is an example of a fourth diode wire provided separately from the first wire 61U. The first wire 61U connects the source electrode pad 12s of the MOSFET 12U of the first frame 32U and the island portion 35a of the frame 35U. The first wire 61U is extended through the second diode 14V of the second frame 32V and the connecting portion 32c of the third frame 32W and connected to the frame 35U. The first diode wire 64U connects the anode electrode pad 14a of the first diode 14U and the island portion 35a of the frame 35U. The first diode wire 64U is extended through the connecting portion 32c of the frame 32V and the connecting portion 32c of the frame 32W and connected to the frame 35U. In the island portion 35a of the frame 35U, the position where the first wire 61U is connected differs from the position where the first diode wire 64U. More specifically, the position where the first wire 61U is connected to the island portion 35a of the frame 35U is located closer to the connecting portion 32c of the third frame 32W than the position where the first diode wire 64U is connected to the island portion 35a of the frame 35U.

[0226] The second limiting unit CP2 further includes a second wire 61V and a second diode wire 64V which is an example of a fifth diode wire provided separately from the second wire 61V. The second wire 61V connects the source electrode pad 12s of the MOSFET 12V of the second frame 32V and the island portion 35a of the frame 35V. The second wire 61V is extended through the third diode 14W of the third frame 32W and connected to the frame 35V. The second diode wire 64V connects the anode electrode pad 14a of the second diode 14V and the island portion 35a of the frame 35V. The second diode wire 64V is extended through the end on the connecting portion 32c side of the island portion 32a of the frame 32W and connected to the frame 35V. In the island portion 35a of the frame 35V, the position where the second wire 61V is connected differs from the position where the second diode wire 64V is connected. More specifically, the position where the second wire 61V is connected to the island portion 35a of the frame 35V is located closer to the island portion 35a of the frame 35U than the position where the second diode wire 64V is connected to the island portion 35a of the frame 35V.

[0227] The third limiting unit CP3 further includes a third wire 61W and a third diode wire 64W which is an example of a sixth diode wire provided separately from the third wire 61W. The third wire 61W connects the source electrode pad 12s of the MOSFET 12W of the third frame 32W and the island portion 35a of the frame 35W. The third wire 61W is extended through a portion closer to the region Ra7 than the third diode 14W of the frame 32W and connected to the frame 35W. The third diode wire 64W connects the anode electrode pad 14a of the third diode 14W and the island portion 35a of the frame 35W. In the island portion 35a of the frame 35W, the position where the third wire 61W is connected differs from the position where the third diode wire 64W is connected. More specifically, the position where the third wire 61W is connected to the island portion 35a of the frame 35W is located closer to the island portion 32a of the third frame 32W than the position where the third diode wire 64W is connected to the island portion 35a of the frame 35W.

[0228] Each of the diode wires 64U, 64V, 64W is made of, for example, aluminum (Al). The diode wires 64U, 64V, 64W have equal wire diameters. The wire diameters of each of the diode wires 64U, 64V, 64W is equal to the wire diameters of each of the wires 61U, 61V, 61W.

[Structure of First to Third Diodes]

[0229] With reference to FIGS. **18A** and **18B**, an example of the structure of each diode **14U**, **14V**, and **14W** will now be described. Since the structures of the diodes **14U**, **14V**, and **14W** are the same, the structure of the first diode **14U** will be described below, and the structures of the second diode **14V** and the third diode **14W** will not be described.

[0230] The first diode **14U** includes an N.sup.+ type (e.g., N-type impurity concentration is $1e18$ to $1e21$ cm.sup.-3) silicon substrate **90**. A cathode electrode **91** is formed on the back surface of the silicon substrate **90** so as to cover the entire region. The cathode electrode **91** is made of a metal (e.g., gold (Au), nickel (Ni), silicide, cobalt (Co) silicide etc.) that comes in Ohmic contact with the N-type silicon.

[0231] An N-type (e.g., N-type impurity concentration is $1e15$ to $1e17$ cm.sup.-3) epitaxial layer **92** (semiconductor layer) having a lower concentration than the silicon substrate **90** is stacked on the front surface of the silicon substrate **90**. The thickness of the epitaxial layer **92** is, for example, $2\text{ }\mu\text{m}$ to $20\text{ }\mu\text{m}$.

[0232] A field insulating film **93** made of, for example, silicon oxide (SiO.sub.2) is stacked on the front surface of the epitaxial layer **92**. The thickness of the field insulating film **93** is, for example, greater than or equal to $1000\text{ }\text{\AA}$, and preferably $7000\text{ }\text{\AA}$ to $40,000\text{ }\text{\AA}$. The field insulating film **93** may be formed of another insulator such as silicon nitride (SiN).

[0233] The field insulating film **93** has an opening **94** for exposing the central portion of the epitaxial layer **92**. In the surface layer portion of the central portion of the epitaxial layer **92**, a plurality of trenches **95** are formed by digging the epitaxial layer **92** from the front surface. Each trench **95** is a vertical groove extending in a predetermined direction. The bottom surface of the trench **95** is a plane that lies along the front surface of the epitaxial layer **92**. Therefore, the cross section of each trench **95** has a substantially rectangular shape. In the present embodiment, seven trenches **95** extend in parallel at predetermined intervals. That is, seven trenches **95** are stripes in a plan view.

[0234] In the surface layer portion of the epitaxial layer **92**, a mesa portion **96** is formed in a portion sandwiched by the adjacent trenches **95**. In a case where the trench **95** has a substantially rectangular-shaped cross section, the mesa portion **96** accordingly has a substantially rectangular-shaped cross section. Each mesa portion **96** includes, for example, two side wall surfaces (side wall surfaces of the trench **95**), which extend substantially perpendicularly from one side edge in the bottom surface of each of two adjacent trenches **95**, and a ceiling surface (front surface of the epitaxial layer **92**), which connects the two side wall surfaces.

[0235] An anode electrode **97** is formed on the epitaxial layer **92**. The anode electrode **97** fills the inside of the opening **94** of the field insulating film **93** and protrudes outward of the opening **94** so as to cover the peripheral edge portion **98** of the opening **94** in the field insulating film **93**. That is, the peripheral edge portion **98** of the field insulating film **93** is sandwiched by the epitaxial layer **92** and the anode electrode **97** from the upper and lower sides over the entire periphery. The amount of protrusion of the anode electrode **97** covering the peripheral edge portion **98** of the field insulating film **93** from the end of the opening **94** of the field insulating film **93** is, for example, greater than or equal to $10\text{ }\mu\text{m}$, and preferably $10\text{ }\mu\text{m}$ to $100\text{ }\mu\text{m}$.

[0236] The anode electrode **97** has a multilayer structure (in the present embodiment, a two-layer structure) including a Schottky metal **99**, which is joined to the epitaxial layer **92** in the opening **94** of the field insulating film **93**, and a contact metal **100**, which is stacked on the Schottky metal **99**.

[0237] The Schottky metal **99** is made of a metal (e.g., titanium (Ti), molybdenum (Mo), palladium (Pd) etc.) which forms a Schottky junction by the joining with the N-type silicon. Titanium is used as the Schottky metal **99** of the present embodiment. The Schottky metal **99** is formed to come into contact with the front surface of the epitaxial layer **92** including the inner wall surface (bottom surface and two side wall surfaces) of the trench **95**. Therefore, the Schottky metal **99** is in contact with the inner wall surfaces of all the trenches **95** and the front surface of the epitaxial layer **92**

outside the trenches **95**. In addition, the Schottky metal **99** covers the entire region of the inner wall surface of each trench **95** and extends continuously to the outside of the trench **95**. That is, the Schottky metal **99** is joined to the front surface of the epitaxial layer **92** exposed from the opening **94** of the field insulating film **93** so as to completely cover the entire region. The Schottky metal **99** according to the present embodiment includes a bottom surface portion **99a** that comes into contact with the bottom surface of the trench **95**, a side surface portion **99b** that comes into contact with the side wall surface of the trench **95** (side wall surface of the mesa portion **96**), and a ceiling surface portion **99c** that comes into contact with the ceiling surface of the mesa portion **96**.

[0238] In this case, as shown by a thick line in FIG. **18B**, the joining surface (Schottky junction surface) **S** between the Schottky metal **99** and the front surface of the epitaxial layer **92** is formed to have an irregular cross section in the region within the opening **94** of the field insulating film **93**. Therefore, the area of the Schottky junction surface **S** is larger than the visible area of the epitaxial layer **92** in a plan view along the normal direction of the front surface (portion extending in the horizontal direction in FIG. **18B**) of the epitaxial layer **92**. More specifically, the Schottky junction surface **S** includes a bottom surface portion **S1** that comes into contact with the bottom surface of the trench **95**, a side surface portion **S2** that comes into contact with the side wall surface of the trench **95** (side wall surface of the mesa portion **96**), and a ceiling surface portion **S3** that comes into contact with the ceiling surface of the mesa portion **96**. When the trench **95** has a substantially rectangular-shaped cross section, the area of the Schottky junction surface **S** can be increased by the amount of the side surface portion **S2** as compared with a case where the trench **95** is not formed.

[0239] The Schottky metal **99** joined to the epitaxial layer **92** forms a Schottky barrier (potential barrier) of, for example, 0.52 eV to 0.9 eV with the silicon semiconductor forming the epitaxial layer **92**. The thickness of the Schottky metal **99** in the present embodiment is 0.02 μm to 0.2 μm .

[0240] The contact metal **100** is a portion of the anode electrode **97** exposed to the outermost surface of the first diode **14U** and to which a first diode wire **64U** (see FIG. **17**) and the like are joined. That is, the contact metal **100** forms an anode electrode pad **14a**. The contact metal **100** is made of, for example, aluminum (Al). The thickness of the contact metal **100** of the present embodiment is, for example, 0.5 μm to 5 μm . The contact metal **100** is embedded in each trench **95** so as to come into contact with the Schottky metal **99** covering the inner wall surface of each trench **95**. That is, the contact metal **100** is in contact with the bottom surface portion **99a**, the two side surface portions **99b**, and the ceiling surface portion **99c** of the Schottky metal **99**. Therefore, the contact metal **100** is formed to have an irregular cross section at the side that comes into contact with the Schottky metal **99** of each trench **95**. The front surface of the contact metal **100** opposite to the side in contact with the Schottky metal **99** is flat and extends along the front surface of the epitaxial layer **92** (excluding inner wall surface of trench **95**).

[0241] When the Schottky metal **99** is made of titanium, a titanium nitride (TiN) layer is preferably interposed between the Schottky metal **99** and the contact metal **100** made of aluminum. The titanium nitride layer functions as a barrier layer that adheres titanium of the Schottky metal **99** and aluminum of the contact metal **100** while securing conductivity between titanium and aluminum and further reducing mutual diffusion of titanium and aluminum. Such a barrier layer protects the Schottky junction surface **S** by reducing or preventing the material of the contact metal **100** from diffusing into the Schottky metal **99**.

[0242] A surface protective film (not shown) may be formed on the outermost surface of the first diode **14U**. In this case, an opening for exposing the contact metal **100** is preferably formed in the central portion of the surface protective film. An external connection member such as the first diode wire **64U** (see FIG. **17**) is joined to the contact metal **100** through the opening.

[0243] A guard ring **101** including a P-type diffusion layer is formed in contact with the Schottky metal **99** on a surface layer portion of the epitaxial layer **92**. The guard ring **101** is formed along the contour of the opening **94** so as to extend across the inside and the outside of the opening **94** of the

field insulating film **93** in a plan view. Therefore, the guard ring **101** includes an inner side portion **101a** that protrudes inward of the opening **94** of the field insulating film **93** and comes into contact with the outer edge portion **99d** which is the terminal end of the Schottky metal **99** in the opening **94**, and an outer side portion **101b** that protrudes outward of the opening **94** and faces the anode electrode **97** (Schottky metal **99** on the peripheral edge portion **98**) with the peripheral edge portion **98** of the field insulating film **93** therebetween. The depth from the front surface of the epitaxial layer **92** of the guard ring **101** is, for example, 0.5 μm to 8 μm .

[0244] The guard ring **101** formed across the inside and the outside of the opening **94** of the field insulating film **93** covers the boundary portion between the peripheral edge portion **98** of the field insulating film **93** and the Schottky metal **99** from side of the epitaxial layer **92**. In a case where the guard ring **101** is not present, when a reverse bias is applied to the first diode **14U**, the electric field is concentrated at the boundary portion, and leakage tends to occur easily. In the first diode **14U** according to the present embodiment, the guard ring **101** covers the boundary portion, so that the concentration of electric field can be reduced by the depletion layer spreading from the guard ring **101** when reverse bias is applied, and the leakage can be reduced accordingly. Therefore, the withstand voltage of the first diode **14U** is increased.

[0245] The operation of the present embodiment will now be described with reference to FIG. **19**. The comparative semiconductor device is a semiconductor device that does not include the limiting units CP1, CP2, CP3 (diodes **14U**, **14V**, **14W** and diode wires **64U**, **64V**, **64W**).

[0246] In the comparative semiconductor device, for example, when the motor **2** (see FIG. **1**) is driven, a regenerative current flows through the body diode of the MOSFET **12U** when the MOSFET **11U** is turned off, and the recovery current flows to the body diode of the MOSFET **12U** when the MOSFET **11U** is turned on at this time. At this time, due to the influence of the inductance of the first wire **61U**, a so-called negative bias may occur in which the source potential of the MOSFET **12U** floats and becomes higher than the gate potential of the MOSFET **12U**.

[0247] In this respect, the semiconductor device **1** in accordance with the present embodiment has a configuration in which the first diode wire **64U** and the first wire **61U** are separately provided as the first limiting unit CP1, and the first diode wire **64U** is connected to the island portion **35a** of the frame **35U**. Therefore, for example, when the MOSFET **11U** is turned on when the motor **2** is driven (see FIG. **1**), the regenerative current generated by turning off the MOSFET **12U** flows through the first diode **14U** as the forward voltage V_f of the first diode **14U** is lower than the forward voltage of the body diode of the MOSFET **12U**. That is, this regenerative current does not flow through the body diode of the MOSFET **12U** through the first wire **61U**. This limits floating resulting from the source potential of the MOSFET **12U** generated due to the current change dI/dt when the MOSFET **11U** is turned on and the inductance of the first wire **61U**. The occurrence of negative bias of the MOSFET **12U** can thus be reduced.

[0248] In addition, the second diode wire **64V** and the second wire **61V**, and the third diode wire **64W** and the third wire **61W** have the same configuration as the first diode wire **64U** and the first wire **61U** and operate in the same manner.

[0249] According to the present embodiment, the advantage described below can be obtained in addition to the advantages of the first embodiment.

[0250] (4-1) Floating of the source potential of the MOSFETs **12U** to **12W** is limited by separately providing the wires **61U**, **61V**, **61W** connected to the MOSFETs **12U** to **12W** and the diode wires **64U**, **64V**, **64W**. Thus, the gate-source voltage of the MOSFET **12U** does not become a negative value when the MOSFET **11U** is turned on. Furthermore, the gate-source voltage of the MOSFET **12V** does not become a negative value when the MOSFET **11V** is turned on. Moreover, the gate-source voltage of the MOSFET **12W** does not become a negative value when the MOSFET **11W** is turned on. Therefore, the fluctuation of threshold value voltage V_{th} can be reduced for each of the MOSFETs **12U** to **12W**.

Fifth Embodiment

[0251] The semiconductor device **1** in accordance with a fifth embodiment will now be described with reference to FIGS. **20** and **21**. The semiconductor device **1** in accordance with the present embodiment differs from the semiconductor device **1** in accordance with the fourth embodiment in that a diode connected in antiparallel to each of the MOSFETs **11U** to **11W** is added. In the following description, same reference characters are given to components that are the same as the semiconductor device **1** in accordance with the fourth embodiment, and the description thereof may be omitted.

[0252] As shown in FIG. **20**, the semiconductor device **1** includes a first diode **15U** provided separately from the MOSFET **11U**, a second diode **15V** provided separately from the MOSFET **11V**, and a third diode **15W** provided separately from the MOSFET **11W**. The anode of the first diode **15U** is connected to the source of the MOSFET **11U**, and the cathode of the first diode **15U** is connected to the drain of the MOSFET **11U**. The anode of the second diode **15V** is connected to the source of the MOSFET **11V**, and the cathode of the second diode **15V** is connected to the drain of the MOSFET **11V**. The anode of the third diode **15W** is connected to the source of the MOSFET **11W**, and the cathode of the third diode **15W** is connected to the drain of the MOSFET **11W**. The first diode **15U** is an example of a third diode provided separately from the first switching element of the first inverter circuit **10U** and electrically connected to the first switching element. The second diode **15V** is an example of a fourth diode provided separately from the first switching element of the second inverter circuit **10V** and electrically connected to the first switching element. The third diode **15W** is an example of a fifth diode provided separately from the first switching element of the third inverter circuit **10W** and electrically connected to the first switching element.

[0253] One example of each of the diodes **15U**, **15V**, and **15W** is a Schottky barrier diode like each of the diodes **14U**, **14V**, and **14W**. As shown in FIG. **21**, each of the diodes **15U**, **15V** and **15W** is formed by a semiconductor chip. The first diode **15U** is mounted in the region **Ra4** of the frame **31**, the second diode **15V** is mounted in the region **Ra5**, and the third diode **15W** is mounted in the region **Ra6**. The first diode **15U** is located closer to the fourth side surface **50F** of the encapsulation resin **50** in the second direction **Y** in the region **Ra6**, the second diode **15V** is located closer to the fourth side surface **50F** of the encapsulation resin **50** in the second direction **Y** in the region **Ra7**, and the third diode **15W** is located closer to the fourth side surface **50F** of the encapsulation resin **50** in the second direction **Y** in the region **Ra6**.

[0254] Each of the diodes **15U**, **15V**, **15W** has an anode electrode pad **15a**, which is a front surface electrode, and a cathode electrode, which is a back surface electrode. The cathode electrodes of the diodes **15U**, **15V**, **15W** are electrically connected to the frame **31** by solder or the like.

[0255] The anode electrode pad **15a** of the first diode **15U** and the wire joining portion **32f** of the first frame **32U** are connected by the first wire **60U**. The anode electrode pad **15a** of the second diode **15V** and the wire joining portion **32f** of the second frame **32V** are connected by the second wire **60V**. The anode electrode pad **15a** of the third diode **15W** and the wire joining portion **32f** of the third frame **32W** are connected by the third wire **60W**.

[0256] As shown in FIG. **21**, the semiconductor device **1** includes each of the wires **60U**, **60V**, and **60W**, the first diode wire **65U** on the high potential side, the second diode wire **65V** on the high potential side, and the third diode wire **65W** on the high potential side, each of the wires **61U**, **61V**, **61W**, and each of the diode wires **64U**, **64V**, **64W** on the low potential side. The configurations and connecting modes of the wires **61U**, **61V**, **61W** and the diode wires **64U**, **64V**, **64W** are the same as those in the fourth embodiment. The diode wires **64U**, **64V**, **64W** are generally parallel to one another. The diode wires **65U**, **65V**, **65W** are generally parallel to one another. The respective diode wires **64U**, **64V**, **64W** and the diode wires **65U**, **65V**, **65W** are provided generally parallel to one another.

[0257] One first wire **60U** connects the source electrode pad **11s** of the MOSFET **11U** and the wire joining portion **32f** of the first frame **32U**. One second wire **60V** connects the source electrode pad **11s** of the MOSFET **11V** and the wire joining portion **32f** of the second frame **32V**. One third wire

60W connects the source electrode pad **11s** of the MOSFET **11W** and the wire joining portion **32f** of the third frame **32W**. The first wire **60U** is extended through the first diode **15U** side than the second diode wire **65V** of the second diode **15V** and connected to the wire joining portion **32f** of the first frame **32U**. The second wire **60V** is extended through the second diode **15V** side than the third diode wire **65W** of the third diode **15W** and the connecting portion **32c** of the first frame **32U** and connected to the wire joining portion **32f** of the second frame **32V**. The third wire **60W** is extended through the third diode **15W** side than the first diode wire **64U** of the first diode **14U** of the first frame **32U** and the connecting portion **32c** of the second frame **32V** and connected to the wire joining portion **32f** of the third frame **32W**.

[0258] The first diode wire **65U** is provided separately from the first wire **60U**. One first diode wire **65U** connects the anode electrode pad **15a** of the first diode **15U** and the wire joining portion **32f** of the frame **32U**. The position where the first wire **60U** is connected to the wire joining portion **32f** of the first frame **32U** differs from the position where the first diode wire **65U** is connected to the wire joining portion **32f** of the first frame **32U**. More specifically, the position where the first wire **60U** is connected to the wire joining portion **32f** of the first frame **32U** is located closer to the wire joining portion **32f** of the second frame **32V** than the position where the first diode wire **65U** is connected to the wire joining portion **32f** of the first frame **32U**. The first diode wire **65U** is extended through the connecting portion **31c** of the frame **31** and connected to the wire joining portion **32f** of the first frame **32U**. The second diode wire **65V** is extended through the connecting portion **32c** of the first frame **32U** and is connected to the wire joining portion **32f** of the second frame **32V**. The third diode wire **65W** is extended through the island portion **32a** of the first frame **32U** and the connecting portion **32c** of the second frame **32V** and connected to the wire joining portion **32f** of the third frame **32W**.

[0259] The second diode wire **65V** is provided separately from the second wire **60V**. One second diode wire **65V** connects the anode electrode pad **15a** of the second diode **15V** and the wire joining portion **32f** of the second frame **32V**. The position where the second wire **60V** is connected to the wire joining portion **32f** of the second frame **32V** differs from the position where the second diode wire **65V** is connected to the wire joining portion **32f** of the second frame **32V**. More specifically, the position where the second diode wire **65V** is connected to the wire joining portion **32f** of the second frame **32V** is located closer to the wire joining portion **32f** of the first frame **32U** than the position where the second wire **60V** is connected to the wire joining portion **32f** of the second frame **32V**.

[0260] The third diode wire **65W** is provided separately from the third wire **60W**. One third diode wire **65W** connects the anode electrode pad **15a** of the third diode **15W** and the wire joining portion **32f** of the third frame **32W**. The position where the third wire **60W** is connected to the wire joining portion **32f** of the third frame **32W** differs from the position where the third diode wire **65W** is connected to the wire joining portion **32f** of the third frame **32W**. More specifically, the position where the third diode wire **65W** is connected to the wire joining portion **32f** of the third frame **32W** is located closer to the wire joining portion **32f** of the second frame **32V** than the position where the third wire **60W** is connected to the wire joining portion **32f** of the third frame **32W**.

[0261] Each diode wire **65U**, **65V**, **65W** is made of, for example, aluminum (Al). The diode wires **65U**, **65V**, **65W** have equal wire diameters. The wire diameter of each of the diode wires **65U**, **65V**, **65W** is equal to the wire diameter of each of the wires **60U**, **60V**, **60W**. The present embodiment has the same advantages as the fourth embodiment.

MODIFIED EXAMPLES

[0262] The description related with the above embodiments exemplifies, without any intention to limit, an applicable form of a semiconductor device in accordance with the present invention. In addition to the embodiments described above, the semiconductor device in accordance with the present invention is applicable to, for example, modified examples of the above embodiments that are described below and combinations of at least two of the modified examples that do not

contradict each other.

[0263] At least two of the second to fifth embodiments can be combined.

[0264] In each of the embodiments described above, the structure of the electrode pads of the MOSFETs **12U** to **12W** mounted on the frames **32U**, **32V**, and **32W**, and the orientation (arrangement position) of the MOSFETs **12U** to **12W** can be changed in any manner. For example, the MOSFETs **12U** to **12W** may be changed like in modifications (A1) to (A4) described below.

[0265] (A1) As shown in FIG. **22**, the gate electrode pads **12g** of the MOSFETs **12U** to **12W** may be located on the encapsulation resin **50** closer to the second side surface **50D**. Each of the source electrode pads **12s** of the MOSFETs **12U** to **12W** has a cut-away portion that avoids the gate electrode pad **12g**. As shown in FIG. **22**, the MOSFETs **12U** and **12V** are disposed such that the second direction **Y** is the longitudinal direction. The MOSFET **12W** is disposed such that the first direction **X** is the longitudinal direction. The MOSFET **12W** is disposed such that its gate electrode pad **12g** is located closer to the frame **34**. The MOSFET **12W** is disposed closer to the second side surface **50D** than the integrated circuit element **25L**. In FIG. **22**, the MOSFET **12W** is disposed to be at the center of region **Ra7** in the first direction **X**. Instead, for example, the MOSFET **12W** may be disposed closer to the second frame **32V** in the first direction **X**. Furthermore, the MOSFET **12U** is disposed at the center of the region **Ra7** in the first direction **X**. Instead, for example, the MOSFET **12U** may be disposed closer to the second frame **32V** in the first direction **X**.

[0266] The first wire **62U** and the first wire **63U** are connected to the end of the MOSFET **12U** and the end of the first frame **32U** that is closer to the integrated circuit element **25L**. The first wire **62U** is disposed closer to the second frame **32V** than the first wire **63U** in the first direction **X**. The second wire **62V** and the second wire **63V** are connected to the vicinity of the central portion of the integrated circuit element **25L** in the first direction **X**. The second wire **62V** is disposed closer to the third frame **32W** than the second wire **63V** in the first direction **X**. The third wire **62W** and the third wire **63W** are connected to the portion of the integrated circuit element **25L** closer to the third frame **32W**. The third wire **63W** is disposed closer to the second frame **32V** than the third wire **62W** in the first direction **X**.

[0267] (A2) As shown in FIG. **23**, each of the MOSFETs **12U** to **12W** has two gate electrode pads **12g**. The MOSFETs **12U** to **12W** have the same structure. Therefore, the structure of the MOSFET **12U** will be described as an example, and the structures of the MOSFETs **12V** and **12W** will not be described. The two gate electrode pads **12g** of the MOSFET **12U** are disposed at the end in the longitudinal direction of the MOSFET **12U**. The two gate electrode pads **12g** of the MOSFET **12U** are spaced apart in the direction orthogonal to the longitudinal direction in a plan view of the MOSFET **12U**. The source electrode pad **12s** of the MOSFET **12U** includes a portion extending between the two gate electrode pads **12g** and has a tongue-like form in a plan view.

[0268] As shown in FIG. **23**, the MOSFET **12V** is disposed such that the second direction **Y** is the longitudinal direction. The MOSFETs **12U** and **12W** are disposed such that the first direction **X** is the longitudinal direction. The MOSFET **12U** is disposed such that its gate electrode pad **12g** approaches the integrated circuit element **25L**. More specifically, the MOSFET **12U** is disposed such that its gate electrode pad **12g** is close to the second frame **32V**. The MOSFET **12W** is disposed such that its gate electrode pad **12g** approaches the integrated circuit element **25L**. More specifically, the MOSFET **12W** is disposed such that its gate electrode pad **12g** is close to the second frame **32V**. Thus, the orientation (arrangement position) of the MOSFET **12U** is opposite to the orientation (arrangement position) of the MOSFET **12W**.

[0269] The first wire **62U** is connected to the one of the two gate electrode pads **12g** of the MOSFET **12U** that is closer to the integrated circuit element **25L**. The first wire **63U** is connected to a portion between the two gate electrode pads **12g** in the source electrode pad **12s**. The first wire **63U** is disposed closer to the second frame **32V** than the first wire **62U** in the first direction **X**. The second wire **62V** is connected to the one of the two gate electrode pads **12g** that is closer to the third frame **32W**. The second wire **63V** is connected to a portion between the two gate electrode

pads **12g** in the source electrode pad **12s**. Therefore, the second wire **62V** is disposed closer to the third frame **32W** than the second wire **63V** in the first direction X. The third wire **62W** is connected to the one of the two gate electrode pads **12g** closer to the integrated circuit element **25L**. The third wire **63W** is connected to a portion between the two gate electrode pads **12g** in the source electrode pad **12s**. The third wire **63W** is disposed closer to the second frame **32V** than the third wire **62W**.
[0270] (A3) The orientations (arrangement positions) of each of the MOSFETs **12U** to **12W** mounted on the frames **32U**, **32V**, **32W** can be changed in any manner. In one example, as shown in FIG. **24**, the orientations (arrangement positions) of the MOSFETs **12U** to **12W** are different from each other. More specifically, the MOSFET **12U** is disposed such that the gate electrode pad **12g** approaches the integrated circuit element **25L**, and the longitudinal direction of the MOSFET **12U** lies in a direction that differs from the first direction X and the second direction Y. One example of an angle $\theta 1$ between the longitudinal direction of the MOSFET **12U** and the first direction X is 80° . The MOSFET **12V** is disposed such that its longitudinal direction lies in the first direction X. The MOSFET **12W** is disposed such that the gate electrode pad **12g** approaches the integrated circuit element **25L**, and the longitudinal direction of the MOSFET **12W** lies in a direction that differs from the first direction X and the second direction Y. One example of an angle $\theta 2$ between the longitudinal direction of the MOSFET **12W** and the first direction X is 10° . The angle $\theta 1$ and the angle $\theta 2$ can be changed in any manner within the range of greater than or equal to 0° and less than or equal to 90° . Although the angles $\theta 1$ and $\theta 2$ are different in FIG. **24**, the angles $\theta 1$ and $\theta 2$ may be equal to each other.

[0271] The first wire **62U** and the first wire **63U** are connected to the integrated circuit element **25L** near the end close to the MOSFET **12U** and the first frame **32U**. The first wire **62U** is disposed closer to the second frame **32V** than the first wire **63U** in the first direction X. The second wire **62V** and the second wire **63V** are connected to the vicinity of the central portion of the integrated circuit element **25L** in the first direction X. The second wire **63V** is disposed closer to the third frame **32W** than the second wire **62V** in the first direction X. The third wire **62W** and the third wire **63W** are connected to the portion of the integrated circuit element **25L** closer to the third frame **32W**. The third wire **63W** is disposed closer to the second frame **32V** than the third wire **62W** in the first direction X.

[0272] Furthermore, the orientations of the MOSFETs **12U** and **12W** of the modified example shown in FIG. **24** may be further changed as shown in FIG. **25**. That is, as shown in FIG. **25**, the MOSFET **12U** is disposed such that the gate electrode pad **12g** is separated from the integrated circuit element **25L** and such that the longitudinal direction of the MOSFET **12U** lies in a direction that differs from the first direction X and the second direction Y. The MOSFET **12W** is disposed such that the gate electrode pad **12g** is separated from the integrated circuit element **25L** and such that the longitudinal direction of the MOSFET **12W** lies in a direction that differs from the first direction X and the second direction Y. One example of the angle $\theta 1$ is 100° . In this case, the angle $\theta 1$ can be changed in any manner within the range of greater than or equal to 90° and less than or equal to 180° .

[0273] The first wire **62U** and the first wire **63U** are connected to the integrated circuit element **25L** near the end close to the MOSFET **12U** and the first frame **32U**. The first wire **63U** is disposed closer to the second frame **32V** than the first wire **62U** in the first direction X. The third wire **62W** and the third wire **63W** are connected to the portion of the integrated circuit element **25L** close to the third frame **32W**. The third wire **62W** is disposed closer to the second frame **32V** than the third wire **63W** in the first direction X.

[0274] Furthermore, the MOSFETs **12U** to **12W** may be set in a state combining the modified example shown in FIG. **24** and the modified example shown in FIG. **25**. In one example, the orientation (arrangement position) of the MOSFET **12U** mounted on the first frame **32U** is the orientation of the MOSFET **12U** shown in FIG. **24**, and the orientation (arrangement position) of the MOSFET **12W** mounted on the third frame **32W** is the orientation of the MOSFET **12W** shown

in FIG. 25.

[0275] Furthermore, the orientations of the MOSFETs **11U** to **11W** mounted on the frame **31** can also be changed as the orientations of the MOSFETs **12U** to **12W** in FIGS. 24 and 25. In one example, as shown in FIG. 26, the orientations (arrangement positions) of the MOSFETs **11U** to **11W** are different from each other. More specifically, the MOSFET **11U** is arranged such that the gate electrode pad **12g** approaches the integrated circuit element **25H**, and the longitudinal direction of the MOSFET **11U** lies in a direction that differs from the first direction X and the second direction Y. One example of an angle $\theta 1$ between the longitudinal direction of the MOSFET **11U** and the first direction X is 80° . The MOSFET **11V** is disposed such that its longitudinal direction lies in the first direction X. The MOSFET **11W** is disposed such that the gate electrode pad **12g** approaches the integrated circuit element **25H**, and the longitudinal direction of the MOSFET **11W** lies in a direction that differs from the first direction X and the second direction Y. One example of an angle $\theta 2$ formed by the longitudinal direction of the MOSFET **11W** and the first direction X is 10° . The angle $\theta 1$ and the angle $\theta 2$ can be changed in any manner within the range of greater than or equal to 0° and less than or equal to 90° . Although the angles $\theta 1$ and $\theta 2$ are different in FIG. 26, the angles $\theta 1$ and $\theta 2$ may be equal to each other.

[0276] The first wire **62U** and the first wire **63U** shown in FIG. 26 are respectively connected to the vicinity of the end of the integrated circuit element **25H** close to the MOSFET **11U**. The first wire **62U** is disposed closer to the first side surface **50C** than the first wire **63U** in the first direction X. The second wire **62V** and the second wire **63V** are connected to the vicinity of the central portion of the integrated circuit element **25H** in the first direction X. The second wire **63V** is disposed closer to the second side surface **50D** than the second wire **62V** in the first direction X. The third wire **62W** and the third wire **63W** are connected to the portion of the integrated circuit element **25H** close to the MOSFET **11W**. The third wire **63W** is disposed closer to the second side surface **50D** than the third wire **62W** in the first direction X.

[0277] As shown in FIG. 27, the MOSFET **11U** is disposed such that the gate electrode pad **12g** is separated from the integrated circuit element **25H** and the longitudinal direction of the MOSFET **11U** lies in a direction that differs from the first direction X and the second direction Y. The MOSFET **11W** is disposed such that the gate electrode pad **12g** is separated from the integrated circuit element **25H** and the longitudinal direction of the MOSFET **11W** lies in a direction that differs from the first direction X and the second direction Y. One example of the angle $\theta 1$ is 100° . In this case, the angle $\theta 1$ can be changed in any manner within the range of greater than or equal to 90° and less than or equal to 180° .

[0278] The first wire **62U** and the first wire **63U** shown in FIG. 27 are respectively connected to the vicinity of the end on the MOSFET **11U** in the integrated circuit element **25H**. The first wire **63U** is disposed closer to the first side surface **50C** than the first wire **62U** in the first direction X. The third wire **62W** and the third wire **63W** are connected to a portion of the integrated circuit element **25H** close to the second side surface **50D**. The third wire **63W** is disposed closer to the second side surface **50D** than the third wire **62W** in the first direction X.

[0279] Furthermore, the orientations of the MOSFETs **11U** to **11W** may be set in a state combining the modified example shown in FIG. 26 and the modified example shown in FIG. 27. In one example, the orientation (arrangement position) of the MOSFET **11U** is the orientation of the MOSFET **11U** shown in FIG. 26, and the orientation (arrangement position) of the MOSFET **11W** is the orientation of the MOSFET **11W** shown in FIG. 27.

[0280] (A4) The shape and arrangement position of the gate electrode pad **12g** of each of the MOSFETs **12U** to **12W** can be changed in any manner. The shape of the source electrode pad **12s** is changed in accordance with the change in the shape and the arrangement position of the gate electrode pad **12g**. In one example, as shown in FIG. 28, the gate electrode pad **12g** is rectangular in which the first direction X is the longitudinal direction. The gate electrode pad **12g** is located on the front surface of each of the MOSFETs **12U** to **12W** at the end closer to the integrated circuit

element **25L** in the first direction **X** and the center in the second direction **Y**. The end of the source electrode pad **12s** close to the integrated circuit element **25L** in the first direction **X** includes a recess that is recessed to avoid the gate electrode pad **12g**. In FIG. **28**, the MOSFETs **12U** to **12W** are arranged such that the longitudinal direction lies in the first direction **X**. The orientation (arrangement position) of the MOSFETs **12U** to **12W** can be changed in any manner.

[0281] The first wire **62U** and the first wire **63U** are connected to the integrated circuit element **25L** at the end near the MOSFET **12U** and the first frame **32U**. The first wire **63U** is disposed closer to the second frame **32V** than the first wire **62U** in the first direction **X**. The second wire **62V** and the second wire **63V** are connected to the vicinity of the central portion of the integrated circuit element **25L** in the first direction **X**. The second wire **63V** is disposed on the first frame **32U** side than the second wire **62V** in the first direction **X**. The third wire **62W** and the third wire **63W** are connected to the portion closer to the third frame **32W** in the integrated circuit element **25L**. The third wire **63W** is disposed closer to the second frame **32V** than the third wire **62W** in the first direction **X**.

[0282] The shapes of the gate electrode pads **12g** and the source electrode pads **12s** of the MOSFETs **12U** to **12W** shown in FIG. **28** can be applied to the gate electrode pads **11g** and the source electrode pads **11s** of the MOSFETs **11U** to **11W**. In this case, in the semiconductor device **1**, currents of 30 A or more can flow to each of the MOSFETs **11U** to **11W** and **12U** to **12W**.

[0283] In the first to third embodiments, the shapes of the frame **31** and the frames **32U**, **32V**, **32W** can be changed in any manner. In one example, the frame **31** and each frame **32U**, **32V**, **32W** may be changed as shown in FIG. **29**.

[0284] More specifically, the size in the second direction **Y** of the island portion **31a** of the frame **31** in FIG. **29** is smaller than the size in the second direction **Y** of the island portion **31a** of the frame **31** in the first to third embodiments. The element mounting region **Rse** of the island portion **31a** in FIG. **29** includes the regions **Ra1** to **Ra3** and does not include the regions **Ra4** to **Ra6**.

[0285] The size in the second direction **Y** of the island portion **32a** of each frame **32U**, **32V**, **32W** in FIG. **29** is smaller than the size in the second direction **Y** of the island portion **32a** of each frame **32U**, **32V**, **32W** in the first to third embodiments. The element mounting region **Rse** of the island portion **32a** in FIG. **29** includes the region **Ra7** and does not include the region **Ra8**.

[0286] According to such a configuration, the size in the second direction **Y** of the encapsulation resin **50** of the semiconductor device **1** is smaller because the size in the second direction **Y** of the frame **31** and the frames **32U**, **32V**, **32W** is smaller. Therefore, the size and weight of the semiconductor device **1** can be reduced.

[0287] In the first to third embodiments, the number of wires **63U**, **63V** and **63W** connecting the source electrode pads **12s** of the MOSFETs **12U** to **12W** and the integrated circuit element **25L** can be changed in any manner. The number of wires **63U**, **63V**, **63W** may be two or more. For example, the number of wires **63U**, **63V**, **63W** may be two. Furthermore, at least one of the number of first wires **63U**, the number of second wires **63V**, and the number of third wires **63W** may be different.

[0288] In the fifth embodiment described above, the MOSFETs **11U** to **11W** and the diodes **15U**, **15V**, and **15W** of the frame **31** can be electrically connected in any manner. For example, the connecting modes of the MOSFETs **11U** to **11W** and the diodes **15U**, **15V**, and **15W** may be changed like in modification (B1) and (B2) described below.

[0289] (B1) As shown in FIG. **30**, the MOSFET **11U**, the first diode **15U** and the first frame **32U** are connected by one first wire **60U**. The MOSFET **11V**, the second diode **15V**, and the second frame **32V** are connected by one second wire **60V**. The MOSFET **11W**, the third diode **15W**, and the third frame **32W** are connected by one third wire **60W**. More specifically, the first wire **60U** connected to the source electrode pad **11s** of the MOSFET **11U** includes a first portion, extending in the second direction **Y** and connected to the anode electrode pad **15a** of the first diode **15U**, and a second portion, extending toward the second side surface **50D** and the fourth side surface **50F** of the encapsulation resin **50** to connect the anode electrode pad **15a** and the wire joining portion **32f**

of the first frame 32U. The second wire 60V connected to the source electrode pad 11s of the MOSFET 11V includes a first portion, extending in the second direction Y and connected to the anode electrode pad 15a of the second diode 15V, and a second portion, extending toward the second side surface 50D and the fourth side surface 50F of the encapsulation resin 50 to connect the anode electrode pad 15a and the wire joining portion 32f of the second frame 32V. The third wire 60W connected to the source electrode pad 11s of the MOSFET 11W includes a first portion, extending in the second direction Y and connected to the anode electrode pad 15a of the third diode 15W, and a second portion, extending toward the second side surface 50D and the fourth side surface 50F of the encapsulation resin 50 to connect the anode electrode pad 15a and the wire joining portion 32f of the third frame 32W.

[0290] (B2) One or two of the diodes 15U, 15V, 15W may be omitted. Furthermore, the wires 60U, 60V and 60W may be connected to the MOSFETs 11U to 11W in any manner. In one example, as shown in FIG. 31, the first diode 15U is omitted from the semiconductor device 1. The first wire 60U connected to the source electrode pad 11s of the MOSFET 11U is connected to the wire joining portion 32f of the first frame 32U. In the same manner as FIG. 29, the second wire 60V connected to the source electrode pad 11s of the MOSFET 11V includes a first portion, which is connected to the anode electrode pad 15a of the second diode 15V, and a second portion, which connects the anode electrode pad 15a and the wire joining portion 32f of the second frame 32V. The third wire 60W connected to the source electrode pad 11s of the MOSFET 11W is connected to the wire joining portion 32f of the third frame 32W. The third diode wire 65W connected to the anode electrode pad 15a of the third diode 15W is connected to the wire joining portion 32f of the third frame 32W.

[0291] In the third embodiment, as shown in FIG. 32, the wires 63U, 63V, 63W connecting the source electrode pads 12s of the MOSFETs 12U to 12W of the frames 32U, 32V, 32W and the integrated circuit element 25L may be omitted. This configuration also has the same advantages as the third embodiment.

[0292] In the fifth embodiment, the configuration of the third embodiment, that is, the configuration in which the orientation (arrangement position) of the MOSFET 12U of the first frame 32U is changed may be applied. In this case, the connection of the wires 61U, 61V, 61W can be changed as shown in FIG. 33. More specifically, the MOSFET 12U, the diode 14U and the frame 35U are connected by one first wire 61U. The MOSFET 12V, the second diode 14V, and the frame 35V are connected by one second wire 61V. The MOSFET 12W, the third diode 14W, and the frame 35W are connected by one third wire 61W. More specifically, the first wire 61U connected to the source electrode pad 12s of the MOSFET 12U includes a first portion, extending along the second direction Y and connected to the anode electrode pad 14a of the first diode 14U, and a second portion, extending toward the second side surface 50D and the fourth side surface 50F of the encapsulation resin 50 to connect the anode electrode pad 14a and the island portion 35a of the frame 35U. The second wire 61V connected to the source electrode pad 12s of the MOSFET 12V includes a first portion, extending in the second direction Y and connected to the anode electrode pad 14a of the second diode 14V, and a second portion, extending toward the second side surface 50D and the fourth side surface 50F of the encapsulation resin 50 to connect the anode electrode pad 14a and the island portion 35a of the frame 35V. The third wire 61W connected to the source electrode pad 12s of the MOSFET 12L includes a first portion, extending along the second direction Y and connected to the anode electrode pad 14a of the third diode 14W, and a second portion, extending toward the second side surface 50D and the fourth side surface 50F of the encapsulation resin 50 to connect the anode electrode pad 14a and the island portion 35a of the frame 35W.

[0293] In the above-described embodiments, the regions Ra7 and Ra8 of the element mounting regions Rse of the frames 32U, 32V, and 32W may be spaced apart in the second direction Y. In this case, a plurality of recesses 32i may be formed in a portion between the region Ra7 and the

region **Ra8** in the second direction Y. Similarly, in the frame **31**, the regions **Ra1** to **Ra3** and the regions **Ra4** to **Ra6** of the element mounting region **Rse** may be spaced apart in the second direction Y. In this case, a plurality of recesses **31f** may be formed in a portion between the regions **Ra1** to **Ra3** and the regions **Ra4** to **Ra6** in the second direction Y.

[0294] In the embodiments described above, the structures of the MOSFETs **11U** to **11W** and **12U** to **12W** can be changed in any manner. For example, the structures of the MOSFETs **11U** to **11W** and **12U** to **12W** may be changed to modifications (C1) and (C2) described below. Since the MOSFETs **11U** to **11W** and the MOSFETs **12U** to **12W** have the same structure, the structure of the MOSFET **11U** will be described and the MOSFETs **11V**, **11W**, and **12U** to **12W** will not be described in the description of the structures of modifications (C1) and (C2).

[0295] (C1) As shown in FIG. **34**, the MOSFET **11U** includes an N.sup.+ type (e.g., N-type impurity concentration is $1e18$ to $1e21$ cm.sup.-3) SiC substrate **110**. The front surface **110A** (upper surface) of the SiC substrate **110** is a Si surface, and the back surface **110B** (lower surface) is a C surface.

[0296] An epitaxial layer **111** made of N.sup.- type (e.g., N-type impurity concentration is $1e15$ to $1e17$ cm.sup.-3) SiC having a lower concentration than the SiC substrate **110** is stacked on the SiC substrate **110**. The epitaxial layer **111** serving as a semiconductor layer is formed on the SiC substrate **110** by so-called epitaxial growth. The epitaxial layer **111** formed on the front surface **110A**, which is a Si surface, is grown using the Si surface as a main growth surface. Therefore, the front surface **111A** of the epitaxial layer **111** formed by the growth is the Si surface in the same manner as the front surface **110A** of the SiC substrate **110**.

[0297] A well-shaped P-type body region **112** is formed over a wide range in the epitaxial layer **111** at the side of the front surface **111A** (Si surface). The P-type impurity concentration of the body region **112** is $1e16$ to $1e19$ cm.sup.-3. In the epitaxial layer **111**, the region closer to the SiC substrate **110** (C surface) than the body region **112** is an N-type drain region **113** (drift region) in which a state after the epitaxial growth is maintained.

[0298] In the body region **112**, an N.sup.+ type (e.g., N-type impurity concentration is $1e18$ to $1e21$ cm.sup.-3) source region **114** is formed over substantially the entire region at the side of the front surface **111A**, and a P.sup.+ type (e.g., P-type impurity concentration is $1e18$ to $1e21$ cm.sup.-3) body contact region **115** is formed at the side closer to the SiC substrate **110** (lower side) than the source region **114**. A large number of body contact regions **115** are formed in a matrix form. The source trenches **116** are formed in the same number as the body contact regions **115** so as to extend through the individual body contact region **115**. Then, lattice-form gate trenches **117** are formed so as to surround each of the body contact regions **115** in which the source trench **116** is formed. Thus, a large number of unit cells **118**, each functioning as a field effect transistor, are formed in the epitaxial layer **111**. More specifically, the unit cell **118** is formed such that body contact region **115** surrounds the source trench **116**, and furthermore, the body region **112** is formed so as to surround the body contact region **115**. The side opposite to the body contact region **115** in the body region **112** is exposed to the side surface of the gate trench **117**. Moreover, in the unit cell **118**, the depth direction of the gate trench **117** is the gate length direction, and the peripheral direction of each unit cell **118** orthogonal to the gate length direction is the gate width direction.

[0299] The source trench **116** and the gate trench **117** both extend through the body region **112** from the front surface **111A** of the epitaxial layer **111** and reach the drain region **113**. In the present embodiment, the depth of the source trench **116** is equal to the depth of the gate trench **117**. The distance **D1** between the side surface **116a** of the source trench **116** and the side surface **117a** of the gate trench **117** is, for example, $0.5\text{ }\mu\text{m}$ to $3\text{ }\mu\text{m}$. If the distance **D1** is within the range of $0.5\text{ }\mu\text{m}$ to $3\text{ }\mu\text{m}$, the increase in resistance value (on-resistance) when each unit cell **118** is turned on can be reduced, and the electric field applied to the bottom portion of the gate trench **117** can be reduced.

[0300] In the gate trench **117**, the two end corner portions **117b** in the direction orthogonal to the gate width at the bottom portion (opposing direction to adjacent unit cell **118**) are curved toward

the drain region **113** side, and the opposing side surfaces **117a** and the bottom surface **117c** has a U-shaped cross section continuous with the curved surface. Furthermore, in the same manner as the gate trench **117**, the source trench **116** has a U-shaped cross section in which the opposing side surfaces **116a** and the bottom surface **116b** are continuous with the curved surface. Thus, when the unit cell **118** is turned off, the electric field applied to the two end corner portions **117b** at the bottom portion of the gate trench **117** can be dispersed to portions other than the two end corner portions **117b**. Therefore, dielectric breakdown of a portion (insulating film bottom portion **120 a**) on the bottom surface **117c** of the gate insulating film **120** described later can be reduced.

[0301] In the drain region **113**, an implantation active layer **119** serving as an implantation layer formed by implantation of a P-type impurity (e.g., boron (B), aluminum (Al) etc.) is formed in a portion from the bottom surface **117c** of the gate trench **117** to a middle portion in the thickness direction. The implantation active layer **119** is formed to have a lattice form overlapping the gate trench **117** in a plan view and is shaped to be narrower in width than the distance between the adjacent unit cells **118**. The depth of the implantation active layer **119** in the present embodiment is, for example, 0.1 μm to 0.5 μm .

[0302] The implantation active layer **119** is a high resistance layer having a higher resistance value than the peripheral region (e.g., drain region **113**) of the epitaxial layer **111**. The resistance value of the implantation active layer **119** is, for example, several tens of $\text{k}\Omega/\square$ to several hundred $\text{k}\Omega/\square$. The P-type impurity concentration of the implantation active layer **119** is, for example, $1\text{e}16$ to $1\text{e}21 \text{ cm}^{-3}$.

[0303] The gate insulating film **120** is formed on the inner surface of the gate trench **117** so as to cover the entire region. The gate insulating film **120** is an oxide film containing nitrogen, for example, a silicon nitride oxide film formed by thermal oxidation using gas containing nitrogen and oxygen. The nitrogen content (nitrogen concentration) in the gate insulating film **120** is, for example, 0.1 to 10%.

[0304] In the gate insulating film **120**, a thickness **T4** of a portion (insulating film bottom portion **120a**) on the bottom surface **117c** of the gate trench **117** is less than a thickness **T3** of a portion (insulating film side portion **120b**) on the side surface **117a** of the gate trench **117**. The ratio (**T4/T3**) of the thickness **T4** to the thickness **T3** is 0.3 to 1.0, and preferably 0.5 to 1.0. The thickness **T3** is 300 to 1000 \AA , and the thickness **T4** is 150 to 500 \AA . A gate electrode **121** is buried in the gate trench **117** by filling the inner side of the gate insulating film **120** with a polysilicon material heavily doped with an N-type impurity.

[0305] An inter-layer insulating film **122** made of silicon oxide (SiO_2) is stacked on the epitaxial layer **111**. Contact holes **123** for exposing the front surfaces of the source trench **116** and the source region **114** of each unit cell **118** are formed in the inter-layer insulating film **122** and the gate insulating film **120**.

[0306] A source wiring **124** is formed on the inter-layer insulating film **122**. The source wiring **124** collectively enters the source trenches **116** of all of the unit cells **118** through each of the contact holes **123** and comes into contact with the drain region **113**, the body contact region **115**, and the source region **114** in order from the bottom side of source trench **116** in each unit cell **118**. That is, the source wiring **124** is shared by all of the unit cells **118**. An inter-layer insulating film (not shown) is formed on the source wiring **124**, and the source wiring **124** is electrically connected to the source electrode pad **11s** through the inter-layer insulating film. The gate electrode pad **11g** is electrically connected to the gate electrode **121** through a gate wiring (not shown) drawn on the inter-layer insulating film (not shown).

[0307] The source wiring **124** includes a polysilicon layer **125**, an intermediate layer **126**, and a metal layer **127** in order from the side in contact with epitaxial layer **111**.

[0308] The polysilicon layer **125** is a doped layer formed by using doped polysilicon doped with an impurity, and for example, is a high concentration doped layer doped with an impurity at a high concentration of $1\text{e}19$ to $1\text{e}21 \text{ cm}^{-3}$. As an impurity when forming the polysilicon layer **125**

as a doped layer (including high concentration doped layer), N-type impurity such as nitrogen (N), phosphorus (P) and arsenic (As) and P-type impurity such as aluminum (Al) and boron (B) can be used. The thickness of the polysilicon layer **125** is, for example, 5000 to 10000 Å.

[0309] The polysilicon layer **125** of the present embodiment is formed to cover the entire region of the front surface of the unit cell **118** exposed in the contact hole **123** and is in contact with the drain region **113**, the body contact region **115**, and the source region **114** in the source trench **116**.

[0310] The source wiring **124** can be brought into Ohmic junction with both of the body contact region **115** and the source region **114**, which are high concentration impurity regions, by using polysilicon for the layer contacting the drain region **113**, the body contact region **115**, and the source region **114** in the source wiring **124**. Heterojunction junction having smaller junction failure than the diffusion potential of the body diode **128** (PN diode formed by the joining between body region **112** and drain region **113**) internally existing in the MOSFET **11U** can be formed in the low concentration drain region **113**.

[0311] When current flows through the body diode **128** in the MOSFET **11U**, holes transferred from the body region **112** to the drain region **113** re-bonds with the electrons in the drain region **113**, and the bonding energy generated at that time may cause defects of the SiC crystal in the epitaxial layer **111** to spread in the plane. Since this crystal defect has a high resistance value, when the crystal defect expands toward the gate trench **117**, the crystal defect interferes with the normal transistor operation, and the on-resistance may rise.

[0312] In this respect, as shown in FIG. **34**, if the heterojunction junction is formed by the contact between the polysilicon layer **125** and the drain region **113**, a reverse voltage is applied between the source and the drain, and the current can preferentially flow to the heterojunction junction side rather than the body diode **128** side even in a state the current is flowing to the body diode **128**. As a result, the expansion of the crystal defect of SiC can be reduced, and a rise in the on-resistance can be reduced.

[0313] The intermediate layer **126** is stacked on the polysilicon layer **125**, and includes a single layer of a layer containing titanium (Ti) or a plurality of layers including the layer. The layer containing titanium can be formed using titanium, titanium nitride (TiN), or the like. Furthermore, the thickness of the intermediate layer **126** is, for example, 200 to 500 nm.

[0314] The metal layer **127** is stacked on the intermediate layer **126** and formed using for example, aluminum (Al), gold (Au), silver (Ag), copper (Cu), molybdenum (Mo), or an alloy of these elements and a metal material containing these elements. The metal layer **127** forms the outermost layer of the source wiring **124**. The thickness of the metal layer **127** is 1 to 5 µm.

[0315] A stacked structure (Poly-Si/Ti/TiN/Al) in which Poly-Si (polysilicon layer **125**), Ti (intermediate layer **126**), TiN (intermediate layer **126**), and Al (metal layer **127**) are stacked in order can be exemplified as a combination of the polysilicon layer **125**, the intermediate layer **126**, and the metal layer **127** described above.

[0316] A drain electrode **129** is formed on the back surface **110B** of the SiC substrate **110** so as to cover the entire region. The drain electrode **129** is an electrode shared by all of the unit cells **118**. For example, a stacked structure (Ti/Al) in which titanium (Ti) and aluminum (Al) are stacked in order from the SiC substrate **110** can be exemplified as the drain electrode **129**.

[0317] When a predetermined voltage (voltage higher than or equal to gate threshold value voltage) is applied to the gate electrode pad **11g** in a state where a predetermined potential difference is generated between the source electrode pad **11s** (source wiring **124**) and the drain electrode **129** (between source and drain), a channel is formed in the vicinity of the interface with the gate insulating film **120** in the body region **112** by the electric field from the gate electrode **121**. Thus, current flows between the source wiring **124** and the drain electrode **129**, and the MOSFET **11U** is turned on.

[0318] (C2) As shown in FIG. **35**, the MOSFET **11U** includes the N.sup.+ type SiC substrate **130**. An N-type epitaxial layer **131** made of SiC doped with an N-type impurity at a lower concentration

than the SiC substrate **130** is stacked on the front surface **130A** of the SiC substrate **130**. The front surface **131A** of the epitaxial layer **131** is made of, for example, a (0001) plane of SiC.

[0319] An N type drain region **132**, in which a state after the epitaxial growth is maintained, is formed in the epitaxial layer **131**. A P-type body region **133** is formed in the surface layer portion of the epitaxial layer **131**. Although not shown in FIG. **35**, a plurality of body regions **133** are formed at regular intervals and are extended in the same direction (direction perpendicular to the plane of drawing of FIG. **35**) parallel to each other and are arranged, for example, in a stripe or matrix form (rows and columns). The drain region **132** is exposed between adjacent body regions **133**. The surface layer portion of the body region **133** includes an N+ type source region **134** spaced apart from the peripheral edge.

[0320] A gate insulating film **135** is formed on the front surface **131A** of the epitaxial layer **131** so as to extend across the drain region **132**, the body region **133**, and the source region **134**. The gate insulating film **135** is made of, for example, silicon oxide (SiO.sub.2). Then, a gate electrode **136** made of polysilicon doped with an N-type impurity at a high concentration is formed on the gate insulating film **135**. The gate electrode **136** faces the drain region **132**, the body region **133**, and the source region **134** with the gate insulating film **135** interposed in between.

[0321] An inter-layer insulating film **137** made of silicon oxide (SiO.sub.2) is stacked on the epitaxial layer **131**. A source wiring **138** is formed on the inter-layer insulating film **137**. The source wiring **138** is electrically connected to the body region **133** and the source region **134** through a contact hole **139** formed in the inter-layer insulating film **137**.

[0322] Gate wiring **140** is electrically connected to the gate electrode **136** through a contact hole (not shown) formed in the inter-layer insulating film **137**. Furthermore, a drain electrode **141** is formed on the back surface **130B** of the SiC substrate **130**.

[0323] When the potential of the gate electrode **136** is controlled while applying a positive voltage of an appropriate magnitude to the drain electrode **141**, a channel can be formed in the vicinity of the interface with the gate insulating film **135** in the body region **133** by the electric field from the gate electrode **136**. Thus, current can flow between the source wiring **138** and the drain electrode **141**.

[0324] In the fourth and fifth embodiments described above, the structures of the diodes **14U**, **14V**, **14W** and the diodes **15U**, **15V**, **15W** can be changed in any manner. For example, the structures of the diodes **14U**, **14V**, **14W** and the diodes **15U**, **15V**, **15W** may be changed to a planar type structure as shown in FIG. **36**. The diodes **14U**, **14V**, **14W** and the diodes **15U**, **15V**, **15W** have the same structure. Thus, the structure of the first diode **14U** will now be described below, and the structures of the other diodes **14V**, **14W**, **15U**, **15V**, **15W** will not be described.

[0325] As shown in FIG. **36**, the first diode **14U** includes a semiconductor substrate **150** made of N.sup.+ type (e.g., N-type impurity concentration is 1e18 to 1e21 cm.sup.-3) silicon (Si). A cathode electrode **151** is formed on the back surface **150B** of the semiconductor substrate **150** so as to cover the entire region. The cathode electrode **151** is made of a metal (e.g., gold (Au), nickel (Ni), silicide, cobalt (Co) etc.) in Ohmic contact with the N-type silicon.

[0326] An epitaxial layer **152** made of N-type (e.g., N-type impurity concentration is 1e15 to 1e17 cm.sup.-3) silicon having a lower concentration than the semiconductor substrate **150** is stacked on the front surface **150A** of the semiconductor substrate **150**. The thickness of the epitaxial layer **152** is, for example, 2 to 10 μm .

[0327] A field insulating film **153** made of silicon oxide (SiO.sub.2) is stacked on the front surface **152A** of the epitaxial layer **152**. The thickness of the field insulating film **153** is, for example, greater than or equal to 1000 Å, and preferably 7000 Å to 40,000 Å. The field insulating film **153** may be made of another insulator such as silicon nitride (SiN).

[0328] The field insulating film **153** includes an opening **153a** for exposing the central portion of the epitaxial layer **152**. An anode electrode **154** is formed on the field insulating film **153**. The anode electrode **154** fills the inside of the opening **153a** of the field insulating film **153** and bulged

in the form of a flange toward the outside of the opening **153a** so as to cover the peripheral edge portion **153b** of the opening **153a** in the field insulating film **153** from above. That is, the peripheral edge portion **153b** of the opening **153a** of the field insulating film **153** is sandwiched by the epitaxial layer **152** and the anode electrode **154** from the upper and lower sides over the entire periphery.

[0329] The anode electrode **154** of FIG. **36** has a multilayer structure (two-layer structure in FIG. **36**) including a Schottky metal **155** joined to the epitaxial layer **152** in the opening **153a** of the field insulating film **153**, and an electrode metal **156** stacked on the Schottky metal **155**.

[0330] The Schottky metal **155** is made of a metal (e.g., titanium (Ti), molybdenum (Mo), palladium (Pd) etc.) which forms a Schottky junction when joined with the N-type silicon. The Schottky metal **155** joined with the epitaxial layer **152** forms a Schottky barrier (potential barrier) of, for example, 0.52 eV to 0.9 eV with the silicon semiconductor forming the epitaxial layer **152**. The thickness of the Schottky metal **155** is, for example, 0.02 to 0.20 μm .

[0331] The electrode metal **156** is a portion of the anode electrode **154** that is exposed from the outermost surface of the first diode **14U** and joined with the first diode wire **65U** and the like. That is, the electrode metal **156** forms the anode electrode pad **14a**. The electrode metal **156** is made of, for example, aluminum (Al). The thickness of the electrode metal **156** is thicker than that of the Schottky metal **155**, and is, for example, 0.5 to 5.0 μm .

[0332] A surface protective film **157** made of silicon nitride (SiN) is formed on the outermost surface of the first diode **14U**. An opening **157a** for exposing the electrode metal **156** is formed in the central portion of the surface protective film **157**. The first diode wire **65U** and the like are joined to the electrode metal **156** through the opening **157a**.

[0333] A region where the Schottky metal **155** is in Schottky contact with the front surface **152A** of the epitaxial layer **152** of the front surface **152A** of the epitaxial layer **152** is defined as an active region **158**, and a region surrounding the active region **158** is defined as an outer peripheral region **159**. In the surface layer portion of the epitaxial layer **152**, an outer peripheral trench **160** dug down from the front surface **152A** of the epitaxial layer **152** is formed at the boundary portion between the active region **158** and the outer peripheral region **159**. The outer peripheral trench **160** has an annular shape in a plan view, and is formed along the boundary between the active region **158** and the outer peripheral region **159** so as to cross the regions. The bottom surface of the outer peripheral trench **160** includes a flat surface that lies along the front surface **152A** of the epitaxial layer **152** and the front surface **150A** of the semiconductor substrate **150**. Thus, the cross section of the outer peripheral trench **160** has a substantially rectangular shape.

[0334] An insulating layer **161** made of, for example, silicon oxide (SiO₂) is formed over the entire region of the inner wall surface (side surfaces and bottom surface) of the outer peripheral trench **160**. The thickness of the insulating layer **161** is, for example, 0.2 to 0.5 μm .

[0335] In the outer peripheral trench **160**, a conductor **162** made of polysilicon is provided which is connected to the Schottky metal **155** and faces the entire region of the inner wall surface (including side surfaces and bottom surface) of the outer peripheral trench **160** through the insulating layer **161**. The conductor **162** may extend over the entire space in the outer peripheral trench **160** in which the insulating layer **161** is formed or may be a film formed along the inner surface of the insulating layer **161**. Thus, the first diode **14U** is a planar type Schottky barrier diode in which the front surface of the epitaxial layer **152** to which the Schottky metal **155** is in Schottky contact is flat.

[0336] In the second embodiment, the position of the diode **13** in the integrated circuit element **25L** can be changed in any manner. The diode **13** is preferably disposed at the periphery of the source ground circuit **21a** of each drive circuit **21UL**, **21VL**, and **21WL**. Thus, the length of the limiting wiring **21e** connecting the diode **13** and the output wiring **21d** of the source ground circuit **21a** can be shortened. The diode **13** is more preferably provided between the source ground circuit **21a** of each of the drive circuits **21UL**, **21VL**, and **21WL** and the output terminal **25a** and the input

terminal **25b** in the second direction **Y**. Thus, the length of the limiting wiring **21e** can be further shortened. Furthermore, the diode **13** may be provided as a semiconductor chip that differs from the integrated circuit element **25L**.

[0337] In each of the embodiments described above, the semiconductor device **1** including the MOSFETs **11U** to **11W** and **12U** to **12W** of the first inverter circuit **10U**, the second inverter circuit **10V**, and the third inverter circuit **10W** has been described. However, the configuration of the semiconductor device **1** is not limited in such manners. For example, as shown in FIGS. **37** and **38**, the semiconductor device **1** may include one inverter circuit.

[0338] More specifically, as shown in FIG. **37**, the semiconductor device **1** includes one inverter circuit **10A** as the drive unit **10**, and one drive circuit **21A** and one logic circuit **22A** as the control circuit **20**. The inverter circuit **10A** includes a MOSFET **11U** and a MOSFET **12L**. The drain of the MOSFET **11U** is connected to an external power supply, and the source of the MOSFET **11U** is connected to the drain of the MOSFET **12L**. The source of the MOSFET **12L** is grounded. The drive circuit **21A** includes a drive circuit **21AU** and a drive circuit **21AL**, and the logic circuit **22A** includes a logic circuit **22AU** and a logic circuit **22AL**. The drive circuit **21AU** is connected to the gate of MOSFET **11U** and outputs a gate drive signal to the gate. The drive circuit **21AL** is connected to the gate of the MOSFET **12L** and outputs a gate drive signal to the gate. The logic circuit **22AU** is connected to the drive circuit **21AU**, and the drive circuit **21AU** outputs a signal for generating a gate drive signal to the drive circuit **21AU**. The logic circuit **22AL** is connected to the drive circuit **21AL**, and the drive circuit **21AL** outputs a signal for generating a gate drive signal to the drive circuit **21AL**.

[0339] As shown in FIG. **38**, the semiconductor device **1** includes semiconductor chips, namely, the MOSFET **11U**, the MOSFET **12L**, and an integrated circuit element **25A** including the drive circuit **21A** and the logic circuit **22A**. The semiconductor device **1** includes a lead **200** and an encapsulation resin **220**. The MOSFET **11U**, the MOSFET **12L**, and the control circuit **20** are mounted on the lead **200**. The encapsulation resin **220** for encapsulating the MOSFET **11U**, the MOSFET **12L**, and the integrated circuit element **25A**. The encapsulation resin **220** is formed of, for example, a black epoxy resin, and is formed to a rectangular shape in a plan view. The encapsulation resin **220** includes a first side surface **221** and a second side surface **222**, which serve as side surfaces lying in the longitudinal direction, and a third side surface **223** and a fourth side surface **224**, which serve as side surfaces lying in the direction orthogonal to the longitudinal direction in a plan view. In the following description, the direction in the longitudinal direction of the encapsulation resin **220** is defined as “the first direction **V**”, and the direction orthogonal to the first direction **V** in a plan view is defined as “the second direction **W**”.

[0340] The lead **200** includes a frame **201**, a frame **205**, a control frame **209**, and first to sixth terminal frames **213** to **218** as a plurality of terminal frames. The frame **201** is disposed on the side of one end (left end in FIG. **35**) of the encapsulation resin **220** that is closer to the first side surface **221** in the first direction **V**, and the frame **205** is disposed on the side of the other end (right end in FIG. **35**) of the encapsulation resin **220** that is closer to the second side surface **222** in the first direction **V**. The frame **201** and the frame **205** are formed so as to be line symmetrical with respect to a center line **CL** extending in the first direction **V** at the center of the encapsulation resin **220** in the second direction **W**. The control frame **209** and the first to sixth terminal frames **213** to **218** are disposed on the side of one end (lower end in FIG. **35**) of the encapsulation resin **220** that is closer to the fourth side surface **224** in the first direction **V**.

[0341] The frame **201**, which is a lead frame electrically connecting the drain of the MOSFET **11U** to an external power supply, configures a VDC terminal. The frame **201** includes an island portion **202**, a terminal portion **203**, and a connecting portion **204**. The island portion **202**, the terminal portion **203**, and the connecting portion **204** are integrally formed.

[0342] The frame **205**, which is a lead frame for electrically connecting the drain of the MOSFET **12L** and an apparatus or electronic component electrically connected to the semiconductor device

1, configures an output terminal (OUT terminal). The frame **205** includes an island portion **206**, a terminal portion **207**, and a connecting portion **208**. The island portion **206**, the terminal portion **207**, and the connecting portion **208** are integrally formed.

[0343] The island portion **202** of the frame **201** and the island portion **206** of the frame **205** are disposed closer to the third side surface **223** of the encapsulation resin **220** in the second direction W. The island portion **202** of the frame **201** and the island portion **206** are arranged in the second direction W. The island portion **202** and the island portion **206** have a rectangular shape in which the second direction W is a longitudinal direction in a plan view. The island portion **202** and the island portion **206** project out toward the second direction W from the third side surface **223** of the encapsulation resin **220**. The island portion **202** and the island portion **206** are line symmetrical with respect to the center line CL.

[0344] The connecting portion **204** of the frame **201** extends toward the fourth side surface **224** from the end of the encapsulation resin **220** in the island portion **202** at the first side surface **221** close to the fourth side surface **224**. The terminal portion **203** of the frame **201** extends from the connecting portion **204** in the second direction W. The terminal portion **203** and the connecting portion **204** are disposed closer to the first side surface **221** of the encapsulation resin **220** than the frame **205**, the control frame **209**, and the first to sixth terminal frames **213** to **218**.

[0345] The connecting portion **208** of the frame **205** extends toward the fourth side surface **224** from the end of the encapsulation resin **220** in the island portion **206** at the second side surface **222** close to the fourth side surface **224**. The terminal portion **207** of the frame **205** extends from the connecting portion **208** in the second direction W. The terminal portion **207** and the connecting portion **208** are disposed closer to the second side surface **222** of the encapsulation resin **220** than the frame **201**, the control frame **209**, and the first to sixth terminal frames **213** to **218**.

[0346] The control frame **209** and the first to sixth terminal frames **213** to **218** are disposed closer to the fourth side surface **224** of the encapsulation resin **220** than the island portion **202** of the frame **201** and the island portion **206** of the frame **205** in the second direction W, and are disposed between the connecting portion **204** of the frame **201** and the connecting portion **208** of the frame **205** in the second direction W.

[0347] The control frame **209**, which is a lead frame for grounding the integrated circuit element **25A**, configures a GND terminal. The control frame **209** includes an island portion **210**, a terminal portion **211**, and a connecting portion **212**. The island portion **210**, the terminal portion **211**, and the connecting portion **212** are integrally formed.

[0348] The island portion **210** is rectangular in which the first direction V is a longitudinal direction. The island portion **210** is disposed closer to the first side surface **221** of the encapsulation resin **220** in the first direction V. The island portion **210** is disposed at a position that differs from the island portion **202** of the frame **201** and the island portion **206** of the frame **205** in the second direction W. Specifically, the island portion **210** is disposed closer to the fourth side surface **224** of the encapsulation resin **220** than the island portion **202** and the island portion **206**. Further, the island portion **210** is disposed at a position overlapping the island portion **202** and the island portion **206** when viewed in the second direction W. The island portion **210** is disposed closer to the connecting portion **204** of the frame **201** than the connecting portion **208** of the frame **205** in the second direction W.

[0349] The connecting portion **212** of the control frame **209** extends substantially from the center of the island portion **210** in the first direction V toward the fourth side surface **224** of the encapsulation resin **220**. The terminal portion **211** of the control frame **209** extends in the second direction W from the end of the connecting portion **212** close to the fourth side surface **224** of the encapsulation resin **220**.

[0350] The first terminal frame **213** is a lead frame for grounding the source of the MOSFET **12L**, and configures a PGND terminal. The second terminal frame **214** configures a VCC terminal which is an application terminal of the power supply voltage VCC. The third terminal frame **215**

configures a power supply detection terminal (FOB terminal) for detecting a state in which a voltage applied to the OUT terminal (frame **205**) is short-circuited to a high voltage application terminal (or a corresponding high potential terminal). The fourth terminal frame **216** configures an HIN terminal. A gate drive signal voltage applied to the HIN terminal is input to the gate of the MOSFET **11U** from a gate drive circuit (not shown) outside the semiconductor device **1**. The fifth terminal frame **217** configures a LIN terminal. A gate drive signal voltage applied to the LIN terminal is input to the gate of the MOSFET **12L** from the gate drive circuit. The sixth terminal frame **218** configures a VB terminal which is an application terminal of a boost voltage VB obtained by boosting the power supply voltage VCC.

[0351] The first terminal frame **213** and the fourth to sixth terminal frames **216** to **218** are disposed between the connecting portion **212** of the control frame **209** and the connecting portion **208** of the frame **205** in the first direction V. The second terminal frame **214** and the third terminal frame **215** are disposed between the connecting portion **212** of the control frame **209** and the connecting portion **204** of the frame **201** in the first direction V.

[0352] The first terminal frame **213** includes a rectangular island portion **213a** in which the second direction W is a longitudinal direction. The island portion **213a** is disposed between the island portion **210** of the control frame **209** and the connecting portion **208** of the frame **205** in the first direction V. The island portion **213a** is disposed so as to be adjacent to the island portion **206** of the frame **205** in the second direction W. The fourth to sixth terminal frames **216** to **218** are disposed closer to the fourth side surface **224** of the encapsulation resin **220** than the island portion **210** of the control frame **209** and the island portion **213a** of the first terminal frame **213** in the second direction W. The second terminal frame **214** and the third terminal frame **215** are disposed closer to the fourth side surface **224** of the encapsulation resin **220** than the island portion **210** of the control frame **209**.

[0353] The MOSFET **11U** is mounted on a portion closer to the fourth side surface **224** of the encapsulation resin **220** in the island portion **202** of the frame **201** by solder or the like. That is, the drain of the MOSFET **11U** is electrically connected to the island portion **202** of the frame **201**. The MOSFET **11U** is disposed such that the gate electrode pad **11g** is located closer to the first side surface **221** and the fourth side surface **224** of the encapsulation resin **220**.

[0354] The MOSFET **12L** is mounted on a portion closer to the fourth side surface **224** of the encapsulation resin **220** in the island portion **206** of the frame **205** by solder or the like. That is, the drain of the MOSFET **12L** is electrically connected to the island portion **206** of the frame **205**. The MOSFET **12L** is disposed such that its gate electrode pad **12g** is close to the MOSFET **11U** and the fourth side surface **224** of the encapsulation resin **220**. That is, in FIG. 35, the orientation (arrangement position) of the MOSFET **11U** and the orientation (arrangement position) of the MOSFET **12L** are the same.

[0355] The integrated circuit element **25A** is mounted on the island portion **210** of the control frame **209** by solder or the like. The integrated circuit element **25A** is disposed closer to the MOSFET **11U** than the MOSFET **12L** in the second direction W.

[0356] The source electrode pad **11s** of the MOSFET **11U** and the frame **205** are electrically connected by the wire **60**. Thus, the source of the MOSFET **11U** and the drain of the MOSFET **12L** are electrically connected. The wire **60** is connected to a portion closer to the third side surface **223** of the encapsulation resin **220** than the MOSFET **12L** in the island portion **206** of the frame **205**. The source electrode pad **11s** of the MOSFET **11U** and the integrated circuit element **25A** are connected by the wire **62**, and the gate electrode pad **11g** of the MOSFET **11U** and the integrated circuit element **25A** are connected by the wire **62**. The control wire **62** connected to the gate electrode pad **11g** is disposed closer to the first side surface **221** of the encapsulation resin **220** than the wire **63** which is an example of the limiting wire connected to the source electrode pad **11s**.

[0357] The source electrode pad **12s** of the MOSFET **12L** and the island portion **213a** of the first terminal frame **213** are electrically connected by the wire **61**. The wire **61** is connected to the island

portion **213a** of the first terminal frame **213**. The gate electrode pad **12g** of the MOSFET **12L** and the integrated circuit element **25A** are connected by the wire **62**, and the source electrode pad **12s** of the MOSFET **12L** and the integrated circuit element **25A** are connected by the sense wire **63**. The wire **62** connected to the gate electrode pad **12g** is disposed closer to the MOSFET **11U** than the wire **63** connected to the source electrode pad **12s**. The wire **63** is connected to the source of the second MOSFET **21c** of the source ground circuit **21a** in the drive circuit **21AL** in the integrated circuit element **25A** through the limiting wiring **21e** (see FIG. **37**). This obtains advantage (1-1) of the first embodiment.

[0358] The integrated circuit element **25A** is connected to the frame **201**, the control frame **209**, and the first to sixth terminal frames **213** to **218** by the wires **62**. Specifically, the integrated circuit element **25A** and the connecting portion **204** of the frame **201** are connected by one wire **62**. The integrated circuit element **25A** and the connecting portion **212** of the control frame **209** are connected by one wire **62**. The integrated circuit element **25A** and a portion closer to the fourth side surface **224** of the encapsulation resin **220** than the island portion **213a** in the first terminal frame **213** are connected by one wire **62**. The integrated circuit element **25A** and the second terminal frame **214** are connected by two wires **62**. The third to sixth terminal frames **215** to **218** are each connected by one wire **62** to the integrated circuit element **25A**.

[0359] As shown in FIGS. **37** and **38**, the semiconductor device **1** includes a limiting unit CV that reduces fluctuation of the source-gate voltage of the MOSFET **12L** based on the voltage fluctuation of the source of the MOSFET **12L**. The limiting unit CV includes a limiting path RS that electrically connects the control path RC and the source of the MOSFET **12L**. The limiting path RS includes a wire **63** connecting the source electrode pad **12s** of the MOSFET **12L** and the input terminal **25b** of the integrated circuit element **25A**, and limiting wiring **21e** of the drive circuit **21AL**. That is, the wire **63** forms part of the limiting path RS.

[0360] Furthermore, the semiconductor device **1** electrically connects the drive circuit **21AL** and the gate of the MOSFET **12L** and includes a control path RC (see FIG. **37**) that transmits a drive signal of the drive circuit **21AL**. The control path RC includes a wire **62**, which connects the gate electrode pad **12g** of the MOSFET **12L** and the output terminal **25a** of the integrated circuit element **25A**, and output wiring **21d** of the drive circuit **21AL**. That is, the wire **62**, which connects the gate electrode pad **12g** of the MOSFET **12L** and the output terminal **25a**, forms part of the control path RC.

[0361] In the modified example shown in FIG. **38**, a diode **13** may be added between the wire **62** connected to the source electrode pad **12s** of the MOSFET **12L** and the output wiring **21d** of the drive circuit **21AL**. This obtains advantage (2-1) of the second embodiment. The diode **13** may be provided inside the integrated circuit element **25A** or be provided as a semiconductor chip separate from the integrated circuit element **25A**.

[0362] In the modified example shown in FIG. **38**, the orientations of the MOSFETs **11U** and **12L** can be changed in any manner. In one example, as shown in FIG. **39**, the orientation of the MOSFET **11U** is changed such that the gate electrode pad **11g** of the MOSFET **11U** approaches the control circuit **20**. More specifically, the MOSFET **11U** is disposed such that the gate electrode pad **11g** of the MOSFET **11U** is located close to the control circuit **20** and the MOSFET **12L** on the front surface of the MOSFET **11U**. In this case, the wire **62** connecting the control circuit **20** and the gate electrode pad **11g** of the MOSFET **11U** is disposed closer to the MOSFET **12L** than the wire **62** connecting the control circuit **20** and the source electrode pad **11s** of the MOSFET **11U**. In the modified example shown in FIG. **39**, the wire **62** connecting the source electrode pad **12s** of the MOSFET **12L** and the control circuit **20** may be omitted.

[0363] In each of the embodiments described above, the orientation (arrangement position) of the frames **31** of the MOSFETs **11U** to **11W** with respect to the island portion **31a** can be changed in any manner. For example, the orientation (arrangement position) of the MOSFET **11U** may be changed such that the gate electrode pad **11g** of the MOSFET **11U** approaches the integrated circuit

element 25H. According to this configuration, the advantage of the third embodiment can be obtained.

[0364] The technical ideas which can be recognized from each of the embodiments described above and each of the modified examples described above will now be described.

Embodiment 1

[0365] A semiconductor device comprising: [0366] an inverter circuit including [0367] a first switching element supplied with a power supply voltage, and [0368] a second switching element including [0369] a first terminal connected to the first switching element, [0370] a second terminal connected to ground, and [0371] a control terminal; [0372] a first control circuit that controls the first switching element; [0373] a second control circuit that controls the second switching element; and [0374] a limiting unit that reduces fluctuation in voltage between the second terminal and the control terminal based on voltage fluctuation at the second terminal of the second switching element.

Embodiment 2

[0375] The semiconductor device according to embodiment 1, further comprising: [0376] an integrated circuit element spaced apart from the inverter circuit, wherein the second control circuit is mounted on the integrated circuit, and the integrated circuit includes an output terminal and an input terminal electrically connected to the second control circuit [0377] a control wire that electrically connects the control terminal and the output terminal, and [0378] the limiting unit includes a limiting wire that is separate from the control wire and electrically connected to the input terminal and the second terminal.

Embodiment 3

[0379] The semiconductor device according to embodiment 2, wherein the second control circuit includes a drive signal output circuit that outputs a drive signal, the semiconductor device comprising [0380] a control path that electrically connects the drive signal output circuit and the control terminal and transmits the drive signal, wherein [0381] the limiting unit includes a limiting path that electrically connects the control path and the second terminal of the second switching element, [0382] the control wire forms part of the control path, and [0383] the limiting wire forms part of the limiting path.

Embodiment 4

[0384] The semiconductor device according to embodiment 3, wherein [0385] the control path is provided in the integrated circuit element and includes output wiring that electrically connects the drive signal output circuit and the output terminal, and [0386] the limiting path is provided in the integrated circuit element and includes limiting wiring that electrically connects the input terminal of the integrated circuit element and the output wiring.

Embodiment 5

[0387] The semiconductor device according to embodiment 3 or 4, wherein [0388] the limiting unit includes a diode provided in the limiting path, [0389] the diode has an anode electrically connected to the second terminal of the second switching element, and [0390] the diode has a cathode electrically connected to the drive signal output circuit.

Embodiment 6

[0391] The semiconductor device according to embodiment 5 depending on embodiment 4, wherein the diode is mounted on the integrated circuit element and provided in the limiting wiring.

Embodiment 7

[0392] The semiconductor device according to embodiment 6, wherein the diode is disposed in a periphery of the drive signal output circuit in the integrated circuit element.

Embodiment 8

[0393] The semiconductor device according to embodiment 7, wherein [0394] the second control circuit further includes a logic circuit that controls the drive signal output circuit, [0395] in the integrated circuit element, the drive signal output circuit is disposed closer to the second switching

element than the logic circuit, and [0396] the diode is disposed closer to the second switching element than the drive signal output circuit.

Embodiment 9

[0397] The semiconductor device according to any one of embodiments 2 to 8, wherein [0398] the second switching element includes a ground electrode pad serving as the second terminal and a control electrode pad serving as the control terminal, [0399] the control wire is connected to the output terminal of the integrated circuit element and the control electrode pad, and [0400] the limiting wire is connected to the ground electrode pad and the input terminal of the integrated circuit element.

Embodiment 10

[0401] The semiconductor device according to embodiment 9, wherein [0402] a power wire that connects the ground electrode pad to the ground is connected to the ground electrode pad, and [0403] the limiting wire has a smaller diameter than the power wire.

Embodiment 11

[0404] The semiconductor device according to embodiment 10, wherein the limiting wire is connected to an area closer to the integrated circuit element than an area in the ground electrode pad where the power wire is connected in a plan view.

Embodiment 12

[0405] The semiconductor device according to any one of embodiments 1 to 11, wherein [0406] the inverter circuit includes a first inverter circuit, a second inverter circuit, and a third inverter circuit connected in parallel to one another, [0407] the limiting unit includes a first limiting unit, a second limiting unit, and a third limiting unit, [0408] the first limiting unit reduces fluctuation in voltage between the second terminal and the control terminal of the second switching element in the first inverter circuit based on a voltage fluctuation at the second terminal of the second switching element in the first inverter circuit, [0409] the second limiting unit reduces fluctuation in voltage between the second terminal and the control terminal of the second switching element in the second inverter circuit based on a voltage fluctuation at the second terminal of the second switching element in the second inverter circuit, and [0410] the third limiting unit reduces fluctuation in voltage between the second terminal and the control terminal of the second switching element in the third inverter circuit based on a voltage fluctuation at the second terminal of the second switching element in the third inverter circuit.

Embodiment 13

[0411] The semiconductor device according to embodiment 12, wherein [0412] the second control circuit is mounted on an integrated circuit element; [0413] the second control circuit includes a third control circuit that controls a second switching element of the first inverter circuit, a fourth control circuit that controls a second switching element of the second inverter circuit, and a fifth control circuit that controls a second switching element of the third inverter circuit, [0414] the second switching element of the first inverter circuit, the second switching element of the second inverter circuit, and the second switching element of the third inverter circuit are each rectangular in a plan view and include a ground electrode pad serving as the second terminal and a control electrode pad serving as the control terminal, and [0415] the integrated circuit element includes a first input terminal and a first output terminal electrically connected to the third control circuit, a second input terminal and a second output terminal electrically connected to the fourth control circuit, and a third input terminal and a third output terminal electrically connected to the fifth control circuit, [0416] the semiconductor device comprising: [0417] a first frame on which a second switching element of the first inverter circuit is mounted; [0418] a second frame on which a second switching element of the second inverter circuit is mounted; [0419] a third frame on which a second switching element of the third inverter circuit is mounted; [0420] a first control wire that connects the control electrode pad of the second switching element of the first inverter circuit and the first output terminal; [0421] a first limiting wire that connects the ground electrode pad of the

second switching element of the first inverter circuit and the first input terminal; [0422] a second control wire that connects the control electrode pad of the second switching element of the second inverter circuit and the second output terminal; [0423] a second limiting wire that connects the ground electrode pad of the second switching element of the second inverter circuit and the second input terminal; [0424] a third control wire that connects the control electrode pad of the second switching element of the third inverter circuit and the third output terminal; and [0425] a third limiting wire that connects the ground electrode pad of the second switching element of the third inverter circuit and the third input terminal, [0426] the first frame, the second frame, and the third frame are spaced apart from one another and are lined along a layout direction of the third control circuit, the fourth control circuit, and the fifth control circuit such that the first frame and the third frame sandwich the second frame, and [0427] the second frame is disposed such that the second frame faces the integrated circuit element in a direction orthogonal to the layout direction in a plan view.

Embodiment 14

[0428] The semiconductor device according to embodiment 13, wherein [0429] the control electrode pad of the second switching element of each of the first inverter circuit, the second inverter circuit, and the third inverter circuit is formed at any one of four corners of the second switching element in a plan view, and [0430] at least one of the second switching element of the first inverter circuit and the second switching element of the third inverter circuit is disposed in an arrangement position different from an arrangement position of the second switching element of the second inverter circuit such that the control electrode pad of the second switching element approaches the integrated circuit element.

Embodiment 15

[0431] A semiconductor device comprising: [0432] an inverter circuit including [0433] a first switching element supplied with a power supply voltage, and [0434] a second switching element including [0435] a first terminal connected to the first switching element, [0436] a second terminal connected to ground, and [0437] a control terminal; and [0438] a limiting unit that reduces fluctuation in potential at the second terminal of the second switching element when the first switching element is turned on.

Embodiment 16

[0439] The semiconductor device according to embodiment 15, comprising: [0440] a frame serving as the ground, wherein [0441] the limiting unit includes a second diode, a second power wire, and a second diode wire, [0442] the second diode is separate from the second switching element and includes a cathode electrically connected to the first terminal of the second switching element and an anode electrically connected to the frame, [0443] the second diode wire electrically connects the second terminal of the second switching element and the frame, and [0444] the second diode wire electrically connects the anode of the second diode and the frame.

Embodiment 17

[0445] The semiconductor device according to embodiment 16, wherein the second diode is a Schottky barrier diode.

Embodiment 18

[0446] The semiconductor device according to embodiment 16 or 17, wherein the second power wire and the second diode wire are connected to the frame at different positions.

Embodiment 19

[0447] The semiconductor device according to any one of embodiments 16 to 18, wherein the first switching element includes a first terminal supplied with a power supply voltage and a second terminal connected to the first terminal of the second switching element, the semiconductor device further comprising: [0448] a first diode, wherein the first diode is separated from the first switching element and includes a cathode electrically connected to the first terminal of the first switching element and an anode electrically connected to the second terminal of the first switching element.

Embodiment 20

[0449] The semiconductor device according to embodiment 19, further comprising: [0450] a lead frame on which the second switching element and the second diode are mounted, and to which the first terminal of the second switching element and the cathode of the second diode are electrically connected; [0451] a first power wire that electrically connects the second terminal of the first switching element and the lead frame; and [0452] a first diode wire that electrically connects the anode of the first diode and the lead frame.

Embodiment 21

[0453] The semiconductor device according to embodiment 20, wherein the first power wire and the first diode wire are connected to the lead frame at different positions.

Embodiment 22

[0454] The semiconductor device according to any one of embodiments 15 to 21, wherein [0455] the inverter circuit includes a first inverter circuit, a second inverter circuit, and a third inverter circuit connected in parallel to one another, [0456] the limiting unit includes a first limiting unit, a second limiting unit, and a third limiting unit, [0457] the first limiting unit reduces fluctuation in a potential of a second terminal of a second switching element of the first inverter circuit at a time when the first switching element of the first inverter circuit is turned on, [0458] the second limiting unit reduces fluctuation in a potential of the second terminal of the second switching element of the second inverter circuit at a time when a first switching element of the second inverter circuit is turned on, and [0459] the third limiting unit reduces fluctuation in a potential of a second terminal of a second switching element of the third inverter circuit when the first switching element of the third inverter circuit is turned on.

Embodiment 23

[0460] The semiconductor device according to embodiment 22, further comprising: [0461] a second diode separate from the second switching element and including a cathode electrically connected to the first terminal of the second switching element and an anode electrically connected to a frame serving as the ground; and [0462] a lead frame on which the second switching element and the second diode are mounted and electrically connected to the first terminal of the second switching element and the cathode of the second diode, wherein [0463] the lead frame includes a first frame, a second frame, and a third frame, [0464] the second diode includes a sixth diode, a seventh diode, and an eighth diode, [0465] the sixth diode includes a cathode that is electrically connected to the first terminal of the second switching element of the first inverter circuit and an anode that is electrically connected to the second terminal of the second switching element, [0466] the seventh diode includes a cathode that is electrically connected to the first terminal of the second switching element of the second inverter circuit and an anode electrically connected to the second terminal of the second switching element, [0467] the eighth diode includes a cathode that is electrically connected to the first terminal of the second switching element of the third inverter circuit and an anode that is electrically connected to the second terminal of the second switching element, [0468] the second switching element of the first inverter circuit and the sixth diode are mounted on the first frame, [0469] the second frame is spaced apart from the first frame, [0470] the second switching element of the second inverter circuit and the seventh diode are mounted on the second frame, [0471] the third frame is spaced apart from the first frame and the second frame, [0472] the second switching element of the third inverter circuit and the eighth diode are mounted on the third frame, [0473] the frame includes a first ground frame, a second ground frame, and a third ground frame spaced apart from one another, [0474] the first limiting unit includes [0475] the sixth diode, [0476] a fourth power wire that electrically connects the second terminal of the second switching element of the first inverter circuit and the first ground frame, and [0477] a fourth diode wire that electrically connects the anode of the sixth diode and the first ground frame, [0478] the second limiting unit includes [0479] the seventh diode, [0480] a fifth power wire that electrically connects the second terminal of the second switching element of the second inverter circuit and the

second ground frame, and [0481] a fifth diode wire that electrically connects the anode of the seventh diode and the second ground frame, and [0482] the third limiting unit includes [0483] the eighth diode, [0484] a sixth power wire that electrically connects the second terminal of the second switching element of the third inverter circuit and the third ground frame, and [0485] a sixth diode wire that electrically connects the anode of the eighth diode and the third ground frame.

Embodiment 24

[0486] The semiconductor device according to embodiment 23, further comprising: [0487] a third diode separate from the first switching element of the first inverter circuit and including a cathode electrically connected to the first terminal of the first switching element and an anode electrically connected to the second terminal of the first switching element; [0488] a first power wire that electrically connects the second terminal of the first switching element of the first inverter circuit and the first frame; [0489] a fourth diode separate from the first switching element of the second inverter circuit and including a cathode electrically connected to the first terminal of the first switching element and an anode electrically connected to the second terminal of the first switching element; [0490] a second power wire that electrically connects the second terminal of the first switching element of the second inverter circuit and the second frame; [0491] a fifth diode separate from the second switching element of the third inverter circuit, and including a cathode electrically connected to the first terminal of the second switching element and an anode electrically connected to the second terminal of the second switching element; and [0492] a third power wire that electrically connects the second terminal of the first switching element of the third inverter circuit and the third frame.

Embodiment 25

[0493] The semiconductor device according to embodiment 24, further comprising: [0494] a first diode wire that electrically connects the anode of the third diode and the first frame; [0495] a second diode wire that electrically connects the anode of the fourth diode and the second frame; and [0496] a third diode wire that electrically connects the anode of the fifth diode and the third frame.

Embodiment 26

[0497] The semiconductor device according to any one of embodiments 1 to 25, wherein a current flowing to the second switching element is less than 30 A.

Embodiment 27

[0498] The semiconductor device according to any one of embodiments 1 to 26, wherein the second switching element is a SiC MOSFET.

DESCRIPTION OF REFERENCE CHARACTERS

[0499] **1)** semiconductor device; **10A)** inverter circuit; **10U)** first inverter circuit; **10V)** second inverter circuit; **10W)** third inverter circuit; **11)** first switching element; **11U, 11V, 11W)** MOSFET (first switching element); **12)** second switching element; **12U, 12V, 12W)** MOSFET (second switching element); **12s)** source electrode pad (ground electrode pad); **12g)** gate electrode pad (control electrode pad); **13)** diode; **14U)** first diode (second diode, sixth diode); **14V)** second diode (second diode, seventh diode); **14W)** third diode (second diode, eighth diode); **15U)** first diode (first diode, third diode); **15V)** second diode (first diode, fourth diode); **15W)** third diode (first diode, fifth diode); **21)** drive circuit (drive signal output circuit); **21UU)** drive circuit (first control circuit); **21VU)** drive circuit (first control circuit); **21WU)** drive circuit (first control circuit); **21UL)** drive circuit (second control circuit, third control circuit); **21VL)** drive circuit (second control circuit, fourth control circuit); **21WL)** drive circuit (second control circuit, fifth control circuit); **21a)** source ground circuit; **21d)** output wiring; **21e)** limiting wiring; **22)** logic circuit; **22UU)** logic circuit (first control circuit); **22VU)** logic circuit (first control circuit); **22WU)** logic circuit (first control circuit); **22UL)** logic circuit (second control circuit, third control circuit); **22VL)** logic circuit (second control circuit, fourth control circuit); **22WL)** logic circuit (second control circuit, fifth control circuit); **25L)** integrated circuit element (integrated circuit element of

second control circuit); 25a) output terminal; 25au) first output terminal (output terminal); 25av) second output terminal (output terminal); 25aw) third output terminal (output terminal); 25b) input terminal; 25bu) first input terminal (input terminal); 25bv) second input terminal (input terminal); 25bw) third input terminal (input terminal); 32U) first frame; 32V) second frame; 32W) third frame; 35U) frame (ground frame, first ground frame); 35V) frame (ground frame, second ground frame); 35W) frame (ground frame, third ground frame); 60) wire; 60U) first wire (first power wire); 60V) second wire (second power wire); 60W) third wire (third power wire); 61) wire; 61U) first wire (fourth power wire); 61V) second wire (fifth power wire); 61W) third wire (sixth power wire); 62) control wire; 62U) first wire; 62V) second wire; 62W) third wire; 63) wire (limiting wire); 63U) first wire (first limiting wire); 63V) second wire (second limiting wire); 63W) third wire (third limiting wire); 64U) first diode wire (fourth diode wire); 64V) second diode wire (fifth diode wire); 64W) third diode wire (sixth diode wire); 65U) first diode wire; 65V) second diode wire; 65W) third diode wire; RC) control path; RC1) first control path; RC2) second control path; RC3) third control path; RS) limiting path; RS1) first limiting path; RS2) second limiting path; RS3) third limiting path; CV) limiting unit; CV1) first limiting unit; CV2) second limiting unit; CV3) third limiting unit; CP1) first limiting unit; CP2) second limiting unit; CP3) third limiting unit

Claims

1. A semiconductor device comprising: a first inverter circuit, a second inverter circuit, and a third inverter circuit, each including a first switching element and a second switching element, the first switching element and the second switching element each being rectangular in shape in a plan view and including a first electrode, second electrode and a control electrode, the first electrode of the first switching element being connected to a power supply, the second electrode of the first switching element being connected to the first electrode of the second switching element, the second electrode of the second switching element being connected to a ground; a first conductive layer on which the first switching element of each of the first inverter circuit, the second inverter circuit, and the third inverter circuit is mounted; a second conductive layer arranged away from the first conductive layer and on which the second switching element of the first inverter circuit is mounted; a third conductive layer arranged away from the first conductive layer and on which the second switching element of the second inverter circuit is mounted; a fourth conductive layer arranged away from the first conductive layer and on which the second switching element of the third inverter circuit is mounted; a first integrated circuit element arranged away from the first inverter circuit, the second inverter circuit, and the third inverter circuit, the first integrated circuit element controls the first switching elements of the first inverter circuit, the second inverter circuit, and the third inverter circuit; and first wires electrically connecting the first integrated circuit element with the control electrodes of the first switching elements of the first inverter circuit, the second inverter circuit, and the third inverter circuit; wherein the second conductive layer, the third conductive layer, and the fourth conductive layer are insulated from each other and arranged away from each other in a first direction orthogonal to a thickness direction of each of the first, second, and third switching elements, the second switching elements of the first, second, and third inverter circuits are mounted on the second, third and fourth conductive layers, respectively, in a state in which orientations of the respective second switching elements are the same in the plan view, and the first switching elements of the first, second, and third inverter circuits are mounted on the first conductive layer so that an orientation of at least one of the first switching element of the first, second, and third inverter circuits differs from orientations of other first switching elements of the first, second, and third inverter circuits in the plan view.

2. The semiconductor device according to claim 1, wherein a center of at least one of the first switching elements of the first, second, and third inverter circuits is deviated in a second direction

from respective centers of other first switching elements of the first, second, and third inverter circuits in the plan view, wherein the second direction intersects the first direction.

3. The semiconductor device according to claim 1, wherein the semiconductor device is rectangular in the plan view, wherein a longitudinal direction of the semiconductor device corresponds to the first direction, the first switching elements of the first, second, and third inverter circuits are arranged along the first direction in the plan view, and located at respective positions at which the first switching elements of the first, second, and third inverter circuits are overlap to each other in part when viewed in the first direction.

4. The semiconductor device according to claim 1, further comprising an encapsulation resin that encapsulates the first, second, and third inverter circuits, the first, second, third, and fourth conductive layers, the first integrated circuit element, and the first wires, wherein the encapsulation resin includes a first side surface through which first terminal portions project, the first terminal portions receiving a signal for generating a signal applied to the control electrode of the first switching element, the first terminal portions are arranged separate to each other in the plan view in a direction along which the first side surface of the encapsulation resin extends, and the first side surface of the encapsulation resin includes a recess, the recess being located between the first terminal portions arranged next to each other in the direction along which the first side surface of the encapsulation resin extends.

5. The semiconductor device according to claim 4, wherein a size of the recess in the direction along which the first side surface of the encapsulation resin extends is greater than a size of the recess in a direction perpendicular to the direction along which the first side surface of the encapsulation resin extends.

6. The semiconductor device according to claim 4, further comprising a second integrated circuit element arranged away from the first inverter circuit, the second inverter circuit, and the third inverter circuit, the second integrated circuit element controls the second switching elements of the first inverter circuit, the second inverter circuit, and the third inverter circuit, wherein second terminal portions project through the first side surface of the encapsulation resin, the second terminal portions being electrically connected to the second integrated circuit element, the second terminal portions are arranged separate to each other in the plan view in the direction along which the first side surface of the encapsulation resin extends, in the plan view, a distance between two adjacent first terminal portions arranged opposite sides of the recess is greater than a distance between two adjacent second terminal portions in the direction along which the first side surface of the encapsulation resin extends.

7. The semiconductor device according to claim 1, wherein current flowing to each of the second switching elements is less than 30 A.

8. The semiconductor device according to claim 1, wherein each of the first switching elements and the second switching elements is a SiC MOSFET, and the first electrode is a source electrode, the second electrode is a drain electrode, and the control electrode is a gate electrode.

9. The semiconductor device according to claim 1, wherein the first switching elements of the first, second, and third inverter circuits are arranged along the first direction in the plan view, the first, second, and third inverter circuits are arranged so that the first inverter circuit and the third inverter circuit sandwiches the second inverter circuit, and the first switching element of the second inverter circuit faces the first integrated circuit element in a direction orthogonal to the first direction in the plan view.

10. The semiconductor device according to claim 1, wherein the control electrode of the first switching element of each of the first inverter circuit, the second inverter circuit, and the third inverter circuit is formed at any one of four corners of the first switching element in the plan view, and at least one of the first switching element of the first inverter circuit and the first switching element of the third inverter circuit is disposed in an arrangement position different from an arrangement position of the first switching element of the second inverter circuit such that the

control electrode of the first switching element of at least one of the first inverter circuit and the third inverter circuit approaches the first integrated circuit element.

11. The semiconductor device according to claim 10, wherein the control electrode of the first switching element of each of the first inverter circuit, the second inverter circuit, and the third inverter circuit is formed at one of four corners of the first switching element closest to the first integrated circuit element in the plan view.

12. The semiconductor device according to claim 1, wherein the first switching elements of the first, second, and third inverter circuits are arranged along the first direction in the plan view, the first, second, and third inverter circuits are arranged so that the first inverter circuit and the third inverter circuit sandwiches the second inverter circuit, the first switching element of the first inverter circuit is disposed such that a longitudinal direction of the first switching element lies in a direction that differs from the first direction and a second direction perpendicular to the first direction, the first switching element of the second inverter circuit is disposed such that a longitudinal direction of the first switching element lies in the first direction, and the first switching element of the third inverter circuit is disposed such that a longitudinal direction of the first switching element lies in a direction that differs from the first direction and the second direction.

13. The semiconductor device according to claim 1, wherein the first switching elements of the first, second, and third inverter circuits are arranged along the first direction in the plan view, the first, second, and third inverter circuits are arranged so that the first inverter circuit and the third inverter circuit sandwiches the second inverter circuit, and the first switching element of any one of the first, second and third inverter circuits faces the first integrated circuit element in a direction orthogonal to the first direction in the plan view.

14. The semiconductor device according to claim 1, wherein the first electrodes of the first switching elements of the first, second and third inverter circuits are electrically connected to the second, third and fourth conductive layers via second, third and fourth wires, respectively.

15. The semiconductor device according to claim 1, further comprising a fifth conductive layer on which the first integrated circuit element is mounted, wherein the fifth conductive layer is arranged at a different height position than the first conductive layer.

16. The semiconductor device according to claim 4, further comprising a heat dissipation member connected to a surface of the first conductive layer opposite to a mounting surface on which the first switching element is mounted, wherein a part of the heat dissipation member exposes from the encapsulation resin.

17. The semiconductor device according to claim 1, further comprising an encapsulation resin that encapsulates the first, second, and third inverter circuits, the first, second, third, and fourth conductive layers, the first integrated circuit element, and the first wires, wherein each of the first, second, third and fourth conductive layers is a part of a lead frame and includes a terminal portion projected from a side surface of the encapsulation resin.

18. The semiconductor device according to claim 1, further comprising an encapsulation resin that encapsulates the first, second, and third inverter circuits, the first, second, third, and fourth conductive layers, the first integrated circuit element, and the first wires, wherein the encapsulation resin includes: a first side surface through which first terminal portions project, the first terminal portions receiving a signal for generating a signal applied to the control electrode of the first switching element; and a second side surface opposite to the first side surface, through which third terminal portions project, wherein the third terminal portions are electrically connected to respective second switching elements via fifth wires, each of the third terminal portions includes an island portion, wherein the encapsulation resin covers a plurality of island portions corresponding to the third terminal portions, at least two of the island portions, serving as first island portions, have end portions arranged toward the first side surface of the encapsulation resin, the end portions of the at least two first island portions being flush with each other, and at least one of the island portions, serving as a second island portion, has an end portion arranged toward the first side

surface of the encapsulation resin and positioned differently from the end portions of the at least two first island portions in a second direction that intersects the first direction.
