

(19) World Intellectual Property Organization
International Bureau



(43) International Publication Date
28 September 2006 (28.09.2006)

PCT

(10) International Publication Number
WO 2006/100792 A1

(51) International Patent Classification:
G06F 1/24 (2006.01)

(21) International Application Number:
PCT/JP2005/015173

(22) International Filing Date: 15 August 2005 (15.08.2005)

(25) Filing Language: English

(26) Publication Language: English

(30) Priority Data:
2005-079562 18 March 2005 (18.03.2005) JP

(71) Applicant (for all designated States except US):
KABUSHIKI KAISHA TOSHIBA [JP/JP]; 1-1, Shibaura
1-chome, Minato-ku, Tokyo, 1058001 (JP).

(72) Inventor; and

(75) Inventor/Applicant (for US only): **ISHIGAKI, Takeshi**
[JP/JP].

(74) Agents: **SUZUYE, Takehiko** et al.; c/o **SUZUYE**
& **SUZUYE**, 1-12-9, Toranomon, Minato-ku, Tokyo
1050001 (JP).

(81) Designated States (unless otherwise indicated, for every kind of national protection available): AE, AG, AL, AM, AT, AU, AZ, BA, BB, BG, BR, BW, BY, BZ, CA, CH, CN, CO, CR, CU, CZ, DE, DK, DM, DZ, EC, EE, EG, ES, FI, GB, GD, GE, GH, GM, HR, HU, ID, IL, IN, IS, KE, KG, KM, KP, KR, KZ, LC, LK, LR, LS, LT, LU, LV, MA, MD, MG, MK, MN, MW, MX, MZ, NA, NG, NI, NO, NZ, OM, PG, PH, PL, PT, RO, RU, SC, SD, SE, SG, SK, SL, SM, SY, TJ, TM, TN, TR, TT, TZ, UA, UG, US, UZ, VC, VN, YU, ZA, ZM, ZW.

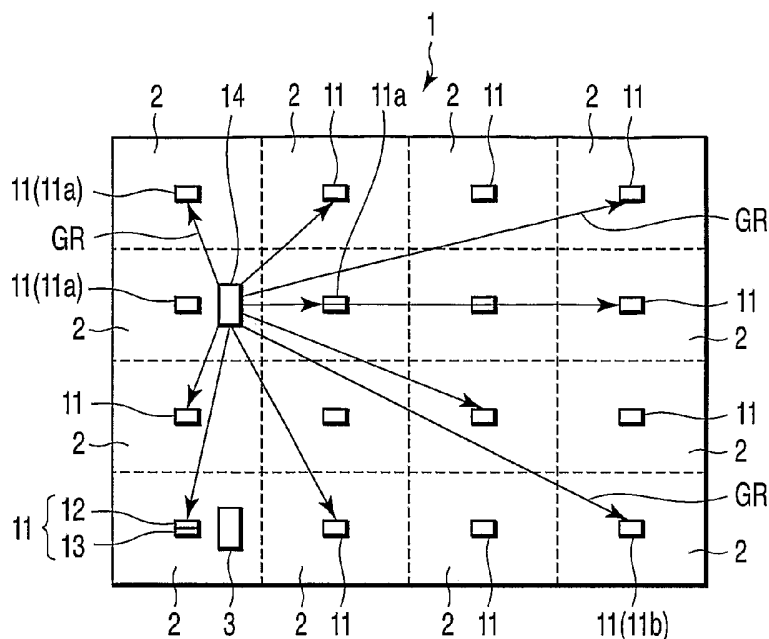
(84) Designated States (unless otherwise indicated, for every kind of regional protection available): ARIPO (BW, GH, GM, KE, LS, MW, MZ, NA, SD, SL, SZ, TZ, UG, ZM, ZW), Eurasian (AM, AZ, BY, KG, KZ, MD, RU, TJ, TM), European (AT, BE, BG, CH, CY, CZ, DE, DK, EE, ES, FI, FR, GB, GR, HU, IE, IS, IT, LT, LU, LV, MC, NL, PL, PT, RO, SE, SI, SK, TR), OAPI (BF, BJ, CF, CG, CI, CM, GA, GN, GQ, GW, ML, MR, NE, SN, TD, TG).

Published:

— with international search report

For two-letter codes and other abbreviations, refer to the "Guidance Notes on Codes and Abbreviations" appearing at the beginning of each regular issue of the PCT Gazette.

(54) Title: SEMICONDUCTOR INTEGRATED CIRCUIT DEVICE AND METHOD OF OUTPUTTING SIGNALS ON SEMI-CONDUCTOR INTEGRATED CIRCUIT



(57) Abstract: A semiconductor integrated circuit device includes a semiconductor substrate having a first area. A first counter is provided in the first area, cyclically counts and outputs a first counter signal as a result of counting. A global reset circuit is provided on the semiconductor substrate and outputs a global reset signal. A first local reset circuit is provided in the first area and outputs a first local reset signal upon receiving the first counter signal of a set value after supplied with the global reset signal. A first circuit is provided in the first area and supplied with the first local reset signal.

WO 2006/100792 A1

D E S C R I P T I O N

SEMICONDUCTOR INTEGRATED CIRCUIT DEVICE AND METHOD OF
OUTPUTTING SIGNALS ON SEMICONDUCTOR INTEGRATED CIRCUIT

5

CROSS-REFERENCE TO RELATED APPLICATIONS

This application is based upon and claims the
benefit of priority from prior Japanese Patent
Application No. 2005-079562, filed March 18, 2005, the
entire contents of which are incorporated herein by
reference.

10

Technical Field

The present invention relates to a semiconductor
integrated circuit device and a method of outputting
signals on a semiconductor integrated circuit, and for
example, to the supply of a signal to a plurality of
areas on a semiconductor substrate.

15

Background Art

Functional areas on an integrated circuits (IC)
chip operate in synchronism with one another in
accordance with a clock signal. The clock signal is
distributed to the functional areas at the same timing
using a method called clock mesh or clock tree. The
clock mesh method involves arrangement of wiring for
the clock signal in a mesh form on the IC chip. The
clock tree method involves provision of a plurality of
medium areas each consisting of a group of a plurality
of small areas and can receive a signal simultaneously.

20

25

A relay circuit provided in each medium area supplies a signal to the small areas simultaneously.

With the recently improved functions of IC chips, it may be necessary that the functional areas operate at different clock frequencies. In this case, with both the clock mesh and tree methods, clock signal wiring is required for each of the clocks with different frequencies.

Further, the increased speeds of ICs have also increased the frequencies of clock signals. Thus, at present, the time required for one cycle (cycle time) of a clock signal is very short. In addition, with the improvement of techniques for manufacturing IC chips, semiconductor elements provided on the IC chip have reduced sizes. Thus, there is a long distance between the functional areas. This increases the time required for a signal to move from one position to another on the IC chip.

With the reduction in the cycle time of a clock signal and the increase in the distance between two positions, it has become difficult to deliver a certain kind of signal to positions on the IC chip simultaneously. Such signals include a reset signal. The reset signal must reach all the parts of the IC chip simultaneously. However, for the above reasons, a plurality of cycles of the clock signal may be required for the reset signal to reach a certain position. Thus, the

arrival time of the reset signal may vary depending
on the position on the IC chip. This may cause the
functional areas to shift to an operative state at
different timing, thus leading the IC chip to
5 malfunction.

To solve this problem, it is possible to provide
a reset signal having a tree structure or to insert
the same number of flip-flops connected in series, in
each path for the reset signal to the corresponding
10 functional area. A method for providing a reset signal
having a tree structure is the same as the clock
signal. This requires the setting of the number and
positions of relay circuits for an IC chip. Thus,
a very long time is required to design both the clock
15 and reset signals having a tree structure.

With the method of inserting flip-flops, the
number of flip-flops in each reset signal path is set
equal to that in the reset signal path via which the
reset signal requires the longest time to reach the
20 functional area. This allows the reset signal to reach
the functional areas simultaneously. However, this
method requires the prediction of the time needed for
the reset signal to reach each functional area without
using any flip-flops and the insertion of a number of
25 flip-flops based on the predicted time. Consequently,
it is difficult to design the structure. Further,
this method requires a large number of flip-flops

unnecessary for the essential operation of the IC chip to increase manufacturing costs.

Disclosure of Invention

According to a first aspect of the present invention, there is provided a semiconductor integrated circuit comprising: a semiconductor substrate having a first area; a first counter provided in the first area, cyclically counting and outputting a first counter signal as a result of counting; a global reset circuit provided on the semiconductor substrate and outputting a global reset signal; a first local reset circuit provided in the first area and outputting a first local reset signal upon receiving the first counter signal of a set value after supplied with the global reset signal; and a first circuit provided in the first area and supplied with the first local reset signal.

According to a second aspect of the present invention, there is provided a semiconductor integrated circuit comprising: a semiconductor substrate having a first area and a second area; a plurality of counters one of which is provided in the first area and the second area and which cyclically count a same value at a same timing in synchronism with a first clock signal and output a counter signal as a result of counting; a first clock circuit provided in the first area, supplied with the counter signal and outputting a second clock signal having a phase which becomes zero

every time the counter signal counts n times (n being a natural number); a first circuit provided in the first area and operating in synchronism with the second clock signal; a second clock circuit provided in the second area, supplied with the counter signal and outputting a third clock signal having a phase which becomes zero every time the counter signal counts m times (m being a natural number different from n); and a second circuit provided in the second area, operating in synchronism with the third clock signal and supplying the first circuit with data when the counter signal has a value equal to a common multiple of n and m .

According to a third aspect of the present invention, there is provided a semiconductor integrated circuit comprising: a semiconductor substrate having a first area and a second area; a plurality of counters one of which is provided in the first area and the second area and which cyclically count a same value at a same timing and output a counter signal as a result of counting; a first circuit provided in the first area, supplied with the counter signal and outputting a first signal when the counter signal has a first value; and a second circuit provided in the second area, supplied with the counter signal and supplying the first circuit with a second signal containing information on a value of the counter signal obtained upon reception of the first signal.

According to a fourth aspect of the present invention, there is provided a semiconductor integrated circuit comprising: a semiconductor substrate having a first area and a second area; a first counter provided in the second area, cyclically counting in synchronism with the first clock signal and outputting a first counter signal as a result of counting; a first clock circuit supplied with the first counter signal and the first clock signal and outputting a second clock signal having a phase which becomes zero when supplied with the first counter signal with a value of n (n being a natural number) and the first clock signal in a first state; and a first circuit provided in the second area and operating in synchronism with the second clock signal.

According to a fifth aspect of the present invention, there is provided a semiconductor integrated circuit comprising: outputting a first counter signal as a result of cyclic counting from a first counter provided in a first area on a semiconductor substrate; outputting a global reset signal from a global reset circuit provided on the semiconductor substrate; outputting a first local reset signal from a first local reset circuit provided in the first area to a first circuit provided in the first area when the first local reset circuit receives the first counter signal of a set value after supplied with the global

reset signal.

Brief Description of Drawings

FIG. 1 is a diagram showing a semiconductor integrated circuit device according to a first embodiment of the present invention;

FIG. 2 is a block diagram showing each area according to the first embodiment in further detail;

FIG. 3 is a block diagram showing a method for distributing a clock signal;

FIG. 4 is a circuit diagram showing the method for distributing a clock signal;

FIG. 5 is a timing chart showing waveforms for main parts of the first embodiment;

FIG. 6 is a diagram showing a semiconductor integrated circuit device according to a second embodiment of the present invention;

FIG. 7 is a block diagram showing each area according to the second embodiment in further detail;

FIG. 8 is a timing chart showing waveforms for main parts of the second embodiment;

FIG. 9 is a diagram showing a semiconductor integrated circuit device according to a third embodiment of the present invention;

FIG. 10 is a block diagram showing each area according to the third embodiment in further detail;

FIG. 11 is a timing chart showing waveforms for main parts of the third embodiment;

FIG. 12 is a diagram showing a semiconductor integrated circuit device according to a fourth embodiment of the present invention;

FIG. 13 is a block diagram showing each area according to the fourth embodiment in further detail;

FIGS. 14, 15, 16, 17, 18 and 19 are diagrams showing a clock converting circuit according to the fourth embodiment;

FIG. 20 is a timing chart showing waveforms for main parts of the fourth embodiment;

FIG. 21 is a diagram showing a semiconductor integrated circuit device according to a fifth embodiment of the present invention;

FIG. 22 is a timing chart showing waveforms for main parts of the fifth embodiment;

FIG. 23 is a diagram showing a semiconductor integrated circuit device according to a sixth embodiment of the present invention; and

FIG. 24 is a timing chart showing waveforms for main parts of the sixth embodiment.

Best Mode for Carrying Out the Invention

Embodiments of the present invention will be described below with reference to the drawings. In the description below, components having substantially the same functions and configurations are denoted by the same reference numerals. Duplicate descriptions will be given only when required.

(First Embodiment)

A first embodiment relates to the supply of a reset signal on an IC chip. FIG. 1 is a diagram schematically showing a main part of a semiconductor integrated circuit device according to the first embodiment of the present invention. As shown in FIG. 1, an IC chip (semiconductor substrate) 1 is divided into some areas 2. FIG. 2 is a block diagram showing one area 2 in further detail. Each area has the arrangement shown in FIG. 2 and described below.

As shown in FIGS. 1 and 2, one or more functional circuits 3 are provided in each area 2. Each of the functional circuits 3 performs predetermined operations, signal processing, information storage, and the like. The functional circuit 3 is composed of analog elements, logic circuits, a memory, and the like.

Further, each area 2 is provided with a reset signal timing section 11. The reset timing circuit 11 has a global counter 12 and a local reset circuit 13. One of the areas 2 is provided with a global reset circuit 14 that instructs each functional circuit 3 to be reset. The global reset circuit 14 supplies a global reset signal GR to a reset timing circuit 11 in each area 2.

A common clock signal CLK is supplied to each functional circuit 3, the global counter 12, and the

local reset circuit 13 at the same timing. Any method is available for supplying the clock signal CLK to the functional circuits 3 on the IC chip 1 at the same timing. However, a typical one of the methods will be described below in brief. The method for distributing the clock signal CLK does not limit the contents of the present embodiment. Any technique may be used to provide the clock signal CLK to reach the functional circuits 3 at the same timing.

FIG. 3 is a diagram showing a method for distributing the clock signal CLK. The IC chip 1 has a clock source 15. The IC chip 1 is divided into some medium areas each consisting of an appropriate number of areas 2. Each medium area is provided with a buffer 16. The clock source 15 supplies the clock signal CLK to the buffers 16 at the same timing. Each buffer 16 supplies the provided clock signal CLK to each functional circuit 3 in the medium area to which the buffer 16 belongs. The arrangement of the medium area and the position of the clock source 15 are determined so that the clock signal CLK from the clock source 15 reaches all the buffers 16 without delay (or within one cycle of the clock signal CLK; this also applies to the description below). The buffer 16 is appropriately positioned to allow the signal from the buffer 16 to reach the flip flops in all the functional circuits 3 in each medium area without delay. By appropriately

setting the number of areas 2 constituting the medium area and the configurations of the clock source 15 and buffer 16, the clock signal CLK can be supplied to all the functional circuits 3 simultaneously.

5 Alternatively, the method called clock mesh may be adopted. As shown in FIG. 4, in the clock mesh, the signal paths from the clock source 15 to the functional circuits 3 are connected together immediately before connection nodes to the flip flops FF in the functional
10 circuit 3. Thus, although the clock signal paths ideally have the same length, the timing gap for the clock signal to reach the functional circuits 3 is smaller than in FIG. 3 even if the clock signal paths have different lengths.

15 As shown in FIG. 1, a global reset circuit 13 is provided in one of the areas 2. The global reset circuit 13 supplies each reset signal timing circuit 11 with the global reset signal GR instructing the corresponding functional circuit 3 to be reset. A path
20 for the global reset signal GR is composed of normal wiring even though delay occurs depending on where the destination of the global reset signal GR is.

 The global counters 12 are connected together. Each of the global counters 12 counts in accordance
25 with the timing of the clock signal CLK and outputs a resultant counter signal GC. In normal operations, all the global counters 12 must count the same value.

This can be achieved using, for example, the following method. First, when a power supply to the IC chip 1 starts, the value in the reference global counter 12 is referenced by the adjacent (second) global counter 12 to have the same value as the reference global counter 12. Then, the adjacent third global counter 12 references the value in the second global counter 12 to set its value equal to that in the second global counter 12. The above operation is sequentially performed until the values in all the global counters 12 are equal.

Each local reset circuit 13 is supplied with the counter signal GC and the global reset signal GR. The local reset circuit 13 outputs a local reset signal LR in accordance with a procedure described below.

FIG. 5 is a timing chart showing waveforms for main parts of the semiconductor integrated circuit device according to the first embodiment. FIG. 5 shows operations related only to a reset timing circuit 11a close to the global reset circuit 14, shown in FIG. 1, and a reset timing circuit 11c furthest from the global reset circuit 14. However, all the other reset timing circuits 11 operate in accordance with a similar rule.

As shown in FIG. 5, the global counters 12 in all the areas 2 count the same value at the same timing. The global counter 12 keeps cyclic counting. In FIG. 5, by way of example, the numbers 0 to 7 are

repeatedly counted (8 cycles). Description will be given later of a method for determining these numbers.

With reference to the value of the counter signal GC, the global reset circuit 14 outputs the global
5 reset signal GR at a time T1 when the value in the global counter 12 becomes zero. The global reset signal GR reaches each reset timing circuit 11 (local reset circuit 13) via the signal path to it.

The signal paths between the reset timing circuits
10 11 and the global reset circuit 14 have different lengths. Thus, the global reset signal GR reaches the reset timing circuit 11a at a time T2 when the value in the global counter 12 is 1. The global reset signal GR reaches the reset timing circuit 11b at a time T3 when
15 the value in the global counter 12 is 5. The global reset signal GR reaches all the reset timing circuits 11 at least before the global counter 12 counts the value 5.

The local reset circuits 13 do not immediately
20 output the local reset signal LR after receiving the global reset signal GR. Subsequently, all the local reset circuits 13 observe the value of the counter signal GC and output the local reset signal LR (LRa, LRb) at a time T4 when the value becomes 7. Then, the
25 functional circuits 3 simultaneously receive the local reset signal LR at a time T5 to clear the resetting.

The local reset circuit 13 may have any

configuration as long as it performs the operations described in the present embodiment. However, the local reset circuit 13 is typically implemented as described below. The period of the global counter 12 is 8 in the above example. Accordingly, the local reset circuit 13 is supplied with the counter signal GC consisting of 3 bits. Then, in the eighth cycle of the global counter 12, the local reset signal LR is output. Consequently, the local reset circuit 13 latches the global reset signal GR and outputs the latched signal when supplied with the counter signal GC "111". The local reset circuit 13 must have a circuit configuration that can realize the above operations.

Now, description will be given of the timings for the signals and the rule for the setting of the range of the area 2. In the above description, the local reset signal LR is output when the value in the global counter 12 is 7. The time amount needed for the local reset signal LR to be output should be longer than maximum time amount required for the global reset signal GR to reach the reset timing circuit 11. This enables all the local reset circuits 13 to output the local reset signal LR simultaneously after receiving the global signal GR.

The range of each area 2 is set using as a boundary, the position (functional circuit 3) which the reset signal LR from the reset timing circuit 13 in the

area 2 reaches in one cycle of the global counter 12. This enables all the functional areas 3 to start operations at the beginning of a cycle immediately after receiving the local reset signal LR.

5 In the semiconductor integrated circuit device according to the first embodiment of the present invention, the areas 2 have the respective global counters 12 that count the same value at the same timing and the respective local reset circuits 13 that
10 outputs a local signal when the global counter 12 exhibits a predetermined value after receiving the global reset signal GR. Thus, even if the global reset signal GR reaches the local reset circuits 13 at different times, the local reset circuits 13 can output
15 the local reset signals LR simultaneously. Since the local reset signals LR reach the functional circuits 3 within one cycle of the global counter 12, all the functional circuits can be reset simultaneously.

(Second Embodiment)

20 A second embodiment relates to timings for the transmission and reception of signals to and from the functional circuit 3 when the clock frequency varies with the areas 2.

FIG. 6 is a diagram schematically showing main
25 parts of a semiconductor integrated circuit according to the second embodiment of the present invention. As shown in FIG. 6, an IC chip (semiconductor

substrate) 21 is divided into some areas 2. Symbols A to E for the areas 2 indicate that the components in the areas 2 having the same symbol operate in accordance with a clock signal of the same frequency.

5 FIG. 7 is a block diagram showing one area 2 in further detail. Each of the areas 2 has the arrangement shown in FIG. 7 and described below.

As shown in FIGS. 6 and 7, the clock signal CLK is supplied to the global counters 12 in all the areas 2.
10 The clock signal CLK is supplied to all the global counters 12 at the same timing using, for example, the configuration shown in FIGS. 3 and 4. The global counters 12 count the same value in accordance with the timing of the clock signal CLK and supply the
15 counter signal GC to the respective functional circuits 3. The counter signal GC is also supplied to a clock converting circuit 22 described later.

The clock signal CLK is also supplied to the clock converting circuit 22 in each area. The clock
20 converting circuit 22 uses a known method to convert the clock signal CLK into a clock signal CLKb to CLKe of a frequency required for the area to which the clock converting circuit 22 belongs. For example, the clock converting circuit 22 supplied with a clock signal of
25 2 GHz and provided in the area labeled B generates a clock signal CLKb of 1 GHz from the clock CLK. Consequently, the phase of the clock signal CLKb

becomes zero whenever the counter signal GC exhibits zero after two cycles.

Similarly, the clock converting circuit 22 generates, for example, a clock signal CLKc of 750 MHz in the area 2C, a clock signal CLKd of 666 MHz in the
5 area 2D, and a clock signal CLKe of 500 MHz in the area 2E. The phases of the clock signals CLKc to CLKe become zero whenever the counter signal GC exhibits zero after natural number of, for example, 3 or 4
10 cycles. In the figure, the converted clock signals are collectively shown as CCLK.

The clock signals CLKb to CLKe are supplied to the functional circuits 3 in the respective areas 2. The functional circuits 3 operate in synchronism with
15 the clock signals CLKb to CLKe. The functional areas 3 in the areas 2A operate in synchronism with the clock signal CLKa.

Now, with reference to FIG. 8, the operations of the functional circuit will be described in further
20 detail. FIG. 8 is a timing chart showing waveforms for main parts of the semiconductor integrated circuit device according to the second embodiment. As shown in FIG. 8, the clock converting circuit 22 converts the
25 clock signal CLKb to CLKe so that the phase of the clock signal becomes zero when the counter signal GC exhibits zero (timing T10). Thus, every time the number of cycles of the counter signal GC is a multiple

of 2 (for example, timing T11), the phase of the clock signal CLK and the phase of the clock signal CLKb with a period double that of the clock signal CLK is zero.

Similarly, every time the number of cycles of the counter signal GC, including a time T12, is a multiple of 3, the phases of the clock signals CLK and CLKc is zero. Further, every time the number of cycles of the counter signal GC, including a time T13, is a multiple of 4, the phases of the clock signals CLK, CLKb, and CLKe is zero. In this manner, every time the number of cycles of the counter signal GC reaches a multiple of a certain value, at least two of the clock signals CLK and CLKb to CLKe are zero. Moreover, whenever the number of cycles of the counter signal GC reaches a multiple of 24, the phases of all the clock signals CLK and CLKb to CLKe are zero. At times T14 to T16, the phase of the clock signal CLK matches those of any of the clock signals CLKb to CLKe.

Thus, each functional circuit 3 simply monitors the value of the counter signal GC and can determine when the phase of its clock signal matches those of other signals. A control section of each functional section 3 pre-stores the frequencies of the clock signals for the other functional circuits 3. Alternatively, each functional circuit 3 exchanges the information with the others immediately after the IC chip 21 has started its operation. Then, the

functional circuits 3 transfer data when the phases of their clock signals become zero. Thus, it is possible to execute the synchronous transfer of data, the supply of the reset signal, and the like even between areas
5 that use clock signals having different frequencies.

In the semiconductor integrated circuit device according to the second embodiment of the present invention, the areas 2 are provided with the respective global counters 12 that count the same value at the
10 same timing. The clock signals CLK and CLKb to CLKe for the respective areas 2 synchronize with the corresponding global counters 12. Thus, each functional circuit 3 simply monitors the value of the counter signal GC and can determine the when the phase
15 of its clock signal matches those of clock signals for the other functional circuits 3 even if the clock signals have different frequencies. Consequently, data transmission and reception timings can be easily controlled between areas 2 that use clock signals
20 having different frequencies.

(Third Embodiment)

A third embodiment relates to the case in which units communicate with one another via a bus.

FIG. 9 schematically shows main parts of a semiconductor integrated circuit device according
25 to the third embodiment of the present invention. As shown in FIG. 9, the semiconductor integrated

circuit device is provided with a plurality of units U0 to U6. The units U0 to U6 may be provided on one semiconductor chip or distributed among a plurality of semiconductor chips. Each of the units U0 to U6
5 performs predetermined operations, signal processing, information storage, and the like. The units U0 to U6 are each composed of various analog elements, logic circuits, a memory, and the like. The units U0 to U6 may be a group of circuits that collectively
10 constitute one functional unit or that are functionally independent of one another. In either case, each of the units U0 to U6 is composed of one or more functional circuits 3 as shown in FIG. 10.

Each of the units U0 to U6 has the global counter
15 12. All the global counters 12 count the same value at the same timing. A bus B connects the global counters 12 together.

The bus B connects the units U0 to U6 together. In FIG. 9, the bus B is symbolically shown as one line.
20 However, the bus B is actually composed of appropriate number of wires in accordance with amount of data transferred. Alternatively, some units may share one bus B and choose a timing to use when no other units use it or an exclusive bus may be provided for each
25 combination of two units.

Now, the operations of the units U0 to U6 will be described in detail with reference to FIGS. 9 to 11.

The units U0 to U6 shift to a measurement mode, for example, when the IC chip is powered on and every fixed time during normal operations. FIG. 11 is a timing chart showing waveforms for main parts of the semiconductor integrated circuit device according to the third
5 embodiment.

As shown in FIG. 9, first, one of the units U0 to U6, for example, the unit U0, operates as a master, while the remaining ones operate as slaves. As shown
10 in FIGS. 9 to 11, the unit U0 transmits measurement data D (for example, pulses) when the counter signal GC exhibits zero. The other units U1 to U6 already know that the unit transmits the data D when the counter signal GC exhibits zero.

15 The transmitted data reaches the units U1 to U6 via the bus B after the elapse of different amounts of time corresponding to the distances between the unit 0 and each of the units U1 to U5. For example, as shown in FIG. 11, the units U1 and U2 receive the data D
20 within one cycle of the counter signal GC after the data transmission. Similarly, the units U3, U4, and U5 receive the data D within two cycles of the counter signal GC after the transmission of the data D. The unit U6 receives the data D within three cycles of the
25 counter signal GC after the transmission of the data D. The units U1 to U6 observe value of the counter signal GC upon receiving the data D and then can determine

how many cycles are required to receive the data D.
Then, the units U1 to U6 use a signal R to notify the
unit U0 how many cycles are required to receive data
from the unit U0.

5 The series of operations are sequentially
performed using each of the units U1 to U6 as a master.
These operations enable each of the units U0 to U6 to
determine the amount of time required for data to reach
the other units U0 to U6.

10 In the prior art, if some units are connected
together by a bus and for example, two of these units
communicate with each other, the handshake is carried
out before the data communication in order to check
whether or not the units are ready for transmission or
15 reception. Various known handshake methods have been
devised and all these methods need time to complete.

 In contrast, according to the present embodiment,
each of the units U0 to U6 knows the time amount
required for the data transmission between the units.
20 Thus, if any of the units U0 to U6 does not receive
a response from another one after the elapse of at
least the previously acquired time amount required
for the transmission or reception, the transmission
can be retried to establish communication. That is,
25 communication errors can be detected without the
handshake for each communication. This makes it
possible to eliminate the time amount to handshake.

The communication control is performed by for example, a communication control section 3a that is one of the functional circuits 3.

Further, when a unit is designed, it is impossible to determine, for example, the connectional relationships with the other units or the lengths of the buses between the units. Nevertheless, the time amount required for data to transfer between the units depends on the distance between the units and the environment for operations (temperature and voltage). It is thus difficult to minimize the communication time while securing the communication between the units.

In contrast, the present embodiment can establish the communication between the units while minimizing the communication time, regardless of how the units U0 to U6 are used. This facilitates the design of the units U0 to U6. Further, shifting each of the units U0 to U6 (communication control section 3a) to the measurement mode regularly can update transmission and reception cycles stored by the units U0 to U6, depending on a change in the environment.

In the semiconductor integrated circuit device according to the third embodiment, the units U0 to U6 have the respective global counters 12 that count the same value at the same timing. Each of the units U0 to U6 stores transmission and reception cycles between itself and each of the other units in association with

the value in the global counter 12. The units U0 to U6 can efficiently communicate with one another regardless of the conditions under which the units U0 to U6 are used.

5 (Fourth Embodiment)

A fourth embodiment is related to a method for creating clock signals of different frequencies.

FIG. 12 is a diagram showing a semiconductor integrated circuit device according to a fourth
10 embodiment of the present invention. As shown in FIG. 12, an IC chip (semiconductor substrate) 31 is divided into some areas 2. Symbols F to L for the respective areas 2 indicate that the components in the areas 2 having the same symbol operate in accordance
15 with a clock signal of the same phase and the same frequency.

The functional circuits 3 in the areas 2 labeled F operate in accordance with the clock signal CLK of for example, 2 GHz. The functional circuits 3 in the areas
20 labeled G and H operate in accordance with clock signals of a frequency (for example, 1 GHz) half that of the clock signal CLK. The phase of the clock signal for the areas labeled G is offset, by 180°, from that of the clock signal for the areas labeled H.

25 Similarly, the functional circuits 3 in the areas labeled I, J, K, and L operate in accordance with clock signals of a frequency (for example, 500 MHz) a quarter

that of the clock signal CLK. The phase of each of the clock signals for the areas labeled I, J, K, and L is advanced compared with the clock signal for the areas denoted by the succeeding symbol by 90° .

5 FIG. 13 is a block diagram showing one area 2 according to the fourth embodiment in further detail. Each area 2 has the arrangement shown in FIG. 13 and described below.

 As shown in FIGS. 12 and 13, the clock signal CLK
10 is supplied to the global counters 12 in the areas 2. The clock signal CLK is supplied to all the global counters 12 at the same timing using, for example, the configuration shown in FIGS. 3 and 4. The global counters 12 count the same value at the same timing
15 in accordance with the clock signal CLK. The global counters 12 then supply the counter signal GC to respective clock converting circuits 32 described later. According to the present embodiment, the counter signal GC is composed of for example, two bits.

20 Each of the clock converting circuits 32 generates, from the clock signal CLK and counter signal GC, a clock signal CLKf to CLKl of a frequency required for the area 2 to which the clock converting circuit 32 belongs. Accordingly, the clock converting circuits 32
25 have different configurations in accordance with the frequencies and phases of the clock signals CLKf to CLKl to be generated.

Now, a specific example of the clock converting circuit 32 will be described with reference to FIGS. 14 to 20. Each of FIGS. 14 to 19 shows one of the clock converting circuits 32 according to the fourth
5 embodiment which is provided in the area labeled G, H, I, J, K, or L, respectively. FIG. 20 is a timing chart showing waveforms for main parts of the fourth embodiment. Each of the clock signals CLK_g to CLK_l goes high every time the counter signal GC and clock
10 signals CLK of predetermined values are supplied.

As shown in FIG. 14, the clock converting circuit 32 in the area 2 labeled G is implemented using an AND circuit AND1. The AND circuit AND1 is supplied with a signal GC[0] indicating the least significant one bit
15 of the counter signal, as well as the clock signal CLK. Accordingly, as shown in FIG. 20, the AND circuit AND1 outputs the clock signal CLK_g, which remains high while the least significant one bit of the counter signal GC is 1 and while the clock signal CLK remains high.
20 The clock signal CLK_g has a frequency half that of the clock signal CLK.

As shown in FIG. 15, the clock converting circuit 32 in the area 2 labeled H is implemented using an AND circuit AND2. The AND circuit AND2 is supplied with
25 the inverted signal GC[0] as well as the clock signal CLK. Accordingly, as shown in FIG. 20, the AND circuit AND2 outputs the clock signal CLK_h, which remains high

while the least significant one bit of the counter signal GC is 0 and while the clock signal CLK remains high. The clock signal CLKh rises at the same frequency as the clock signal CLKg and in a phase offset from that of the clock signal CLKg by 180°.

As shown in FIG. 16, the clock converting circuit 32 in the area 2 labeled I is implemented using an AND circuit AND3. The AND circuit AND3 is supplied with a signal GC[1] indicating the most significant one bit of the counter signal, as well as the signal GC[0] and the clock signal CLK. Accordingly, as shown in FIG. 20, the AND circuit AND3 outputs the clock signal CLKi, which remains high while the bit sequence of the counter signal GC is "11" and while the clock signal CLK remains high. The clock signal CLKi has a frequency a quarter that of the clock signal CLK.

As shown in FIG. 17, the clock converting circuit 32 in the area 2 labeled J is implemented using an AND circuit AND4. The AND circuit AND4 is supplied with the inverted signal GC[1], the inverted signal GC[0], and the clock signal CLK. Accordingly, as shown in FIG. 20, the AND circuit AND4 outputs the clock signal CLKj, which remains high while the bit sequence of the counter signal GC is "00" and while the clock signal CLK remains high. The clock signal CLKj rises at the same frequency as the clock signal CLKi and in a phase advanced compared with the clock signal CLKi by 90°.

As shown in FIG. 18, the clock converting circuit 32 in the area 2 labeled K is implemented using an AND circuit AND5. The AND circuit AND5 is supplied with the inverted signal GC[1], the signal GC[0], and the clock signal CLK. Accordingly, as shown in FIG. 20, the AND circuit AND5 outputs the clock signal CLKk, which remains high while the bit sequence of the counter signal GC is "01" and while the clock signal CLK remains high. The clock signal CLKk rises at the same frequency as the clock signal CLKj and in a phase advanced compared with the clock signal CLKj by 90°.

As shown in FIG. 19, the clock converting circuit 32 in the area 2 labeled L is implemented using an AND circuit AND6. The AND circuit AND6 is supplied with the signal GC[1], the inverted signal GC[0], and the clock signal CLK. Accordingly, as shown in FIG. 20, the AND circuit AND6 outputs the clock signal CLKl, which remains high while the bit sequence of the counter signal GC is "10" and while the clock signal CLK remains high. The clock signal CLKl rises at the same frequency as the clock signal CLKk and in a phase advanced compared with the clock signal CLKk by 90°.

In the semiconductor integrated circuit device according to the fourth embodiment of the present invention, the areas 2 are provided with the respective global counters 12 that count the same value at the same timing. The clock signal CLK for each area 2 is

generated by supplying the logic circuit with the counter signal GC and clock signal CLK from the global counter 12. Thus, even if the functional circuits 3 operate in accordance with the clock signals CLK and CLKg to CLKl of different frequencies, the variation in the time at which the clock signal CLK or CLKg to CLKl reaches the functional circuit 3 is at most equal to that which may occur when the clock signal CLK is distributed to the areas 2. This reduces factors to be considered in the design of the functional circuits 3, thus facilitating the design.

(Fifth Embodiment)

A fifth embodiment relates to generating clock signals with different phases using global counters that count different values.

FIG. 21 is a diagram showing a semiconductor integrated circuit device according to the fifth embodiment of the present invention. As shown in FIG. 21, an IC chip (semiconductor substrate) 41 is divided into some areas 2. Symbols M to Q for the respective areas 2 indicate that the components in the areas 2 having the same symbol operate in accordance with a clock signal of the same phase and the same frequency.

The functional circuits 3 in the areas 2 labeled M operate in accordance with the clock signal CLK of for example, 2 GHz. The functional circuits 3 in the areas

labeled N, O, P, and Q operate in accordance with clock signals of a frequency (for example, 500 GHz) a quarter that of the clock signal CLK. The phase of the clock signal for the areas denoted by any of the symbols N, O, P, and Q is offset, by 90° , from that of the clock signal for the areas denoted by the succeeding symbol.

Each area 2 has the arrangement shown in FIG. 13 and described below. However, the value in the global counter 12 consists of two bits and varies with the areas 2 as described later. The timing for the count is the same. The clock converting circuit 32 in each area 2 has the configuration shown in FIG. 16. The clock converting circuits 32 output clock signals CLK_n to CLK_q with different phases in accordance with the clock signals CLK corresponding to the areas 2.

FIG. 22 is a timing chart showing waveforms for main parts of the fifth embodiment. As shown in FIG. 22, the values in counter signals GC1 to GC4 in the areas 2 labeled N, O, P, and Q differ from one another and decrease in order of N, O, P, and Q. In each area 2, the corresponding one of the counter signals GC1 to GC4 is supplied to the clock converting circuit 32, shown in FIG. 16. Thus, each clock converting circuit 32 outputs the corresponding one of the clock signals CLK_n to CLK_q while the corresponding one of the counter signals GC1 to GC4 has a value of "11" and which the clock signal CLK remains high.

Accordingly, as shown in FIG. 22, the frequencies of the clock signals CLKn to CLKq are a quarter of that of the clock signal CLK. The phase of the clock signal denoted by one of CLKn to CLKq is advanced, by 90°, compared with the clock signal denoted by the succeeding symbol.

In the semiconductor integrated circuit device according to the fifth embodiment of the present invention, the areas 2 are provided with the respective global counters 12 that count a value at the same timing. The clock signal CLKn to CLKq for each area is generated by supplying the logic circuit with the counter signal GC and clock signal CLK from the global counter 12. Then, by configuring the logic circuits in the respective areas in the same manner and varying the values in the global counters 12, it is possible to generate clock signals CLKn to CLKq with different phases and the same frequency. The variation in timing for the clock signal CLK and CLKg to CLKl among the areas 2 is at most equal to that which may occur when the clock signal CLK is distributed to the areas 2. This reduces the factors to be considered in the design of the functional circuits 3, thus facilitating the design.

(Sixth Embodiment)

A sixth embodiment can be used in addition to each of the above embodiments and relates to the control of

the clock signal.

FIG. 23 is a diagram showing a part of a semiconductor integrated circuit device according to the sixth embodiment of the present invention. FIG. 23 shows the area 2. As shown in FIG. 23, a control section 51 is provided for each global counter 12. The control section 51 outputs control signals CNT1 and CNT2. The control signals CNT1 and CNT2 are supplied to the global counter 12. A counter section 52 of the global counter 12 is supplied with the control signal CNT1. The control section 52 can change the value in the global counter 12 in accordance with the contents of the signal CNT1.

The global counter 12 has a switch section, for example, a transistor, in its output stage. The switch section 52 is turned on or off in accordance with the control signal CNT2 to output or stop the counter signal. For example, the clock converting circuit 32 has the configuration shown in FIG. 16.

FIG. 24 is a timing chart showing waveforms for main parts of the sixth embodiment. The clock converting circuit 32 is supplied with the signals GC[0] and GC[1] and the clock signal CLK. Accordingly, as shown in FIG. 24, the clock converting circuit 32 outputs a clock signal CLKr that remains high while the counter signal GC5 has a value of "11" and while the clock signal CLK remains high.

At a time T21, the counter section 52 is supplied with the control signal CNT1 indicating that the output of the counter signal GC5 is to be stopped. As a result, the output of the counter signal GC5 is
5 stopped. Thus, the clock signal CLKr from the clock converting circuit 32 does not go high.

Then, at a time T22, the counter section 52 is supplied with the control signal CNT1 indicating that the output of the counter signal GC5 is to be started.
10 As a result, the output of the counter signal GC5 is resumed. While the output of the counter signal GC5 is at a stop, the control signal CNT2 can rewrite the value of the counter signal GC5 so that the phase of the clock signal CLKr after the resumption of the
15 output of the counter signal GC5 differs from that of the clock signal CLKr before the stoppage of the output of the counter signal GC5. The phase of the clock signal CLKr before the stoppage of the output of the counter signal GC5 matches the clock signal CLKi.

20 The value counted by the clock signal CLKr when the output of the counter signal GC5 is resumed is set to "10", which would be "11" if the counting had been continued since before the stoppage. Accordingly, the phase of the clock signal CLKr after the resumption
25 differs from that of the clock signal CLKr before the stoppage and is the same as the clock signal CLK1. Therefore, by resuming the counting with the counter

signal GC5 at an appropriate value, it is possible to control the phase of the clock signal CLKr upon the resumption.

On the other hand, if the value of the counter
5 signal CNT2 is not changed using the control signal CNT2 upon the resumption, the counter section 52 continues the count even while the output of the counter signal GC is at a stop. Then, once the output of the counter signal GC resumes, a value is output
10 which has been continuously counted since the stoppage.

The control signal CNT2 may be used to cause the counter signal GC5 to keep counting the same value. By setting the count to any value other than "11", it is possible to keep the clock signal CLKr low during
15 the supply of this value.

With the semiconductor integrated circuit device according to the sixth embodiment of the present invention, the clock signal CLKr for each area 2 is generated by supplying the logic circuit with the
20 clock signal CLK and the counter signal GC from the corresponding one of the global counters 12 for the respective areas 2 that carry out the counting at the same timing. Then, setting the counter signal GC5 to an appropriate value makes it possible to stop or
25 resume the output of the clock CLKr or control the phase of the clock CLKr.

Additional advantages and modifications will

readily occur to those skilled in the art. Therefore,
the invention in its broader aspects is not limited to
the specific details and representative embodiments
shown and described herein. Accordingly, various
5 modifications may be made without departing from the
spirit or scope of the general inventive concept as
defined by the appended claims and their equivalents.

C L A I M S

1. A semiconductor integrated circuit device comprising:

a semiconductor substrate having a first area;

5 a first counter provided in the first area, cyclically counting and outputting a first counter signal as a result of counting;

a global reset circuit provided on the semiconductor substrate and outputting a global reset signal;

a first local reset circuit provided in the first area and outputting a first local reset signal upon receiving the first counter signal of a set value after supplied with the global reset signal; and

15 a first circuit provided in the first area and supplied with the first local reset signal.

2. The device according to claim 1, wherein the semiconductor substrate has a second area, and

the device further comprises:

20 a second counter provided in the second area and counting a same value as the first counter at a same timing as first counter and outputting a second counter signal as a result of counting;

a second local reset circuit provided in the second area and outputting a second local reset signal upon receiving the second counter signal of the set value after supplied with the global reset signal; and

a second circuit provided in the second area and supplied with the second local reset signal.

3. The device according to claim 2, wherein the second area is located at a position which the global reset signal requires the longest time to reach, and
5 the set value is equal to a value counted by the first counter during time required by the global reset signal to reach the second area.

4. The device according to claim 2, wherein the
10 first area is a range that the local reset signal from the local reset circuit travels before the first counter counts 1.

5. The device according to claim 1, further comprising:

15 a clock source outputting a clock signal;
a plurality of buffers each of which is supplied by the clock source with the clock signal via a signal line which communicates a signal within one cycle of the clock signal and each of which distributes the
20 clock signal to a plurality of areas including the first area via a signal line which communicates a signal within one cycle of the clock signal, and
wherein the first counter counts in synchronism with the clock signal supplied by the buffer.

25 6. A semiconductor integrated circuit device comprising:

a semiconductor substrate having a first area and

a second area;

a plurality of counters one of which is provided in the first area and the second area and which cyclically count a same value at a same timing in synchronism with a first clock signal and output a counter signal as a result of counting;

a first clock circuit provided in the first area, supplied with the counter signal and outputting a second clock signal having a phase which becomes zero every time the counter signal counts n times (n being a natural number);

a first circuit provided in the first area and operating in synchronism with the second clock signal;

a second clock circuit provided in the second area, supplied with the counter signal and outputting a third clock signal having a phase which becomes zero every time the counter signal counts m times (m being a natural number different from n); and

a second circuit provided in the second area, operating in synchronism with the third clock signal and supplying the first circuit with data when the counter signal has a value equal to a common multiple of n and m .

7. The device according to claim 6, wherein the first area is equal to a range that the second clock signal from the first clock circuit travels within one cycle of the first clock signal.

8. The device according to claim 6, further comprising:

a clock source outputting a clock signal;

a plurality of buffers each of which is supplied
5 by the clock source with the clock signal via a signal
line which communicates a signal within one cycle of
the clock signal and each of which distributes the
clock signal to a plurality of areas including the
first area and the second area via a signal line which
10 communicates a signal within one cycle of the clock
signal, and

wherein the plurality of counters count in
synchronism with the clock signal supplied by the
buffer.

15 9. A semiconductor integrated circuit device
comprising:

a semiconductor substrate having a first area and
a second area;

a plurality of counters one of which is provided
20 in the first area and the second area and which
cyclically count a same value at a same timing and
output a counter signal as a result of counting;

a first circuit provided in the first area,
supplied with the counter signal and outputting a first
25 signal when the counter signal has a first value; and

a second circuit provided in the second area,
supplied with the counter signal and supplying the

first circuit with a second signal containing information on a value of the counter signal obtained upon reception of the first signal.

10. The device according to claim 9, wherein the
5 semiconductor substrate has a third area in which one of the plurality of counters is provided,

the semiconductor integrated circuit device further comprises a third circuit provided in the third area, supplied with the counter signal and supplying
10 the first circuit with a third signal containing information on a value of the counter signal obtained upon reception of the first signal,

the second circuit outputs a fourth signal when the counter signal has a second value,

15 the first circuit supplies the second circuit with a fifth signal containing information on a value of the counter signal obtained upon reception of the fourth signal, and

the third circuit supplies the second circuit with
20 a sixth signal containing information on a value of the counter signal obtained upon reception of the fourth signal.

11. A semiconductor integrated circuit device comprising:

25 a semiconductor substrate having a first area and a second area;

a first counter provided in the second area,

cyclically counting in synchronism with the first clock signal and outputting a first counter signal as a result of counting;

5 a first clock circuit supplied with the first counter signal and the first clock signal and outputting a second clock signal having a phase which becomes zero when supplied with the first counter signal with a value of n (n being a natural number) and the first clock signal in a first state; and

10 a first circuit provided in the second area and operating in synchronism with the second clock signal.

12. The device according to claim 11, wherein the semiconductor substrate has a third area, and

15 the semiconductor integrated circuit device further comprises:

a second counter provided in the third area, cyclically counting at a same timing as the first counter signal and outputting a second counter signal as a result of counting;

20 a second clock circuit supplied with the second counter signal and the first clock signal and outputting a third clock signal having a phase which becomes zero when supplied with the second counter signal with a value of m (m being a natural number) and
25 the first clock signal in the first state; and

a second circuit provided in the third area and operating in synchronism with the third clock signal.

13. The device according to claim 12, wherein the first counter counts the same value as that counted by the second counter,

m is equal to n, and

5 the second clock signal and the third clock signal have different phases.

14. The device according to claim 11, wherein the first area is a range that the second clock signal from the first clock circuit travels within one cycle of the first clock signal.

10

15. The device according to claim 11, further comprising:

a clock source outputting a clock signal;

a plurality of buffers each of which is supplied
15 by the clock source with the clock signal via a signal line which communicates a signal within one cycle of the clock signal and each of which distributes the clock signal to a plurality of areas including the first area and the second area via a signal line which
20 communicates a signal within one cycle of the clock signal, and

wherein the first counter counts in synchronism with the clock signal supplied by the buffer.

16. The device according to claim 11, wherein the first counter and the second counter count different values during a same cycle.

25

17. The device according to claim 16, wherein the

first area is a range that the second clock signal from the first clock circuit travels within one cycle of the first clock signal.

18. The device according to claim 11, wherein the first counter has at least one of a function for continuously supplying the first counter signal of a same value, a function for selecting supply or stoppage of the first counter signal, and a function for starting counting with a certain value.

19. The device according to claim 18, wherein the first area is a range that the second clock signal from the first clock circuit travels within one cycle of the first clock signal.

20. A method of outputting signals on semiconductor integrated circuit comprising:

outputting a first counter signal as a result of cyclic counting from a first counter provided in a first area on a semiconductor substrate;

outputting a global reset signal from a global reset circuit provided on the semiconductor substrate;

outputting a first local reset signal from a first local reset circuit provided in the first area to a first circuit provided in the first area when the first local reset circuit receives the first counter signal of a set value after supplied with the global reset signal.

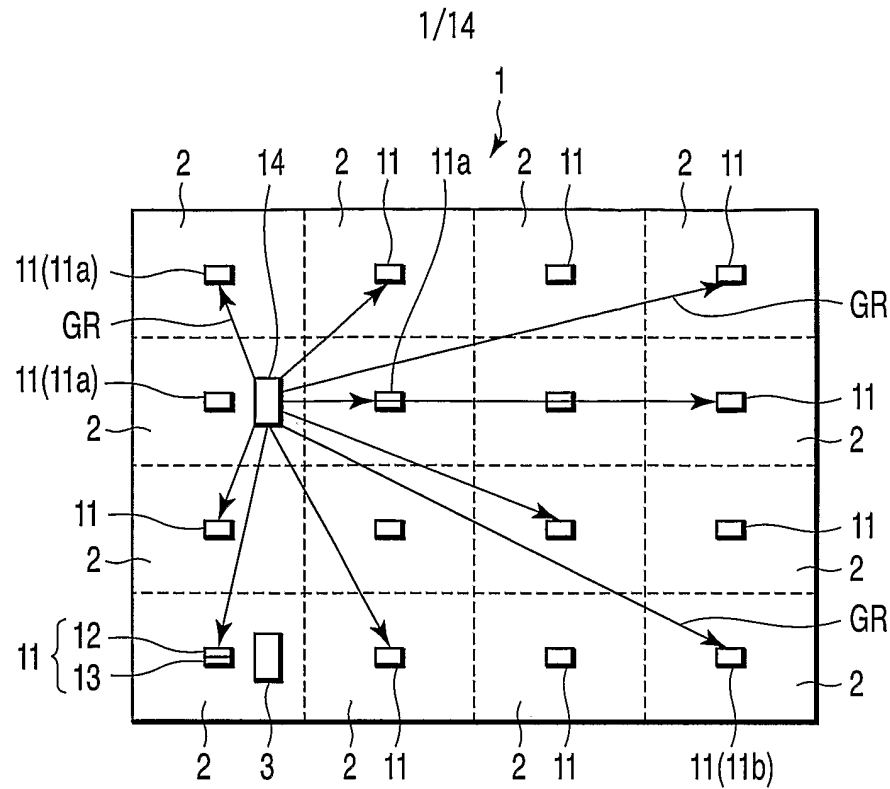


FIG. 1

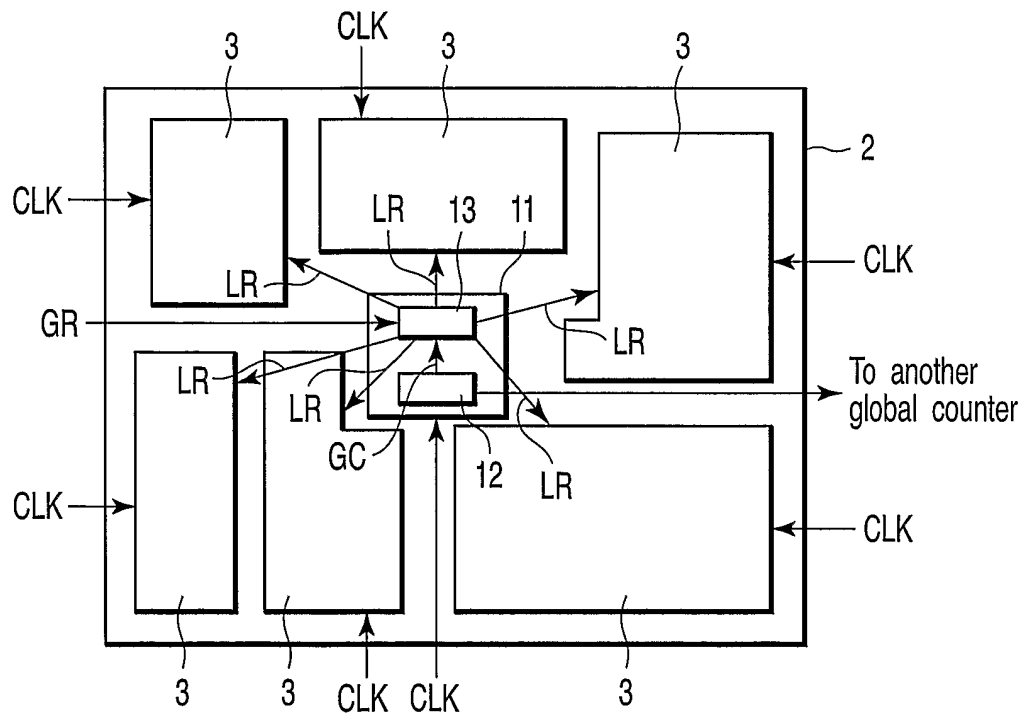


FIG. 2

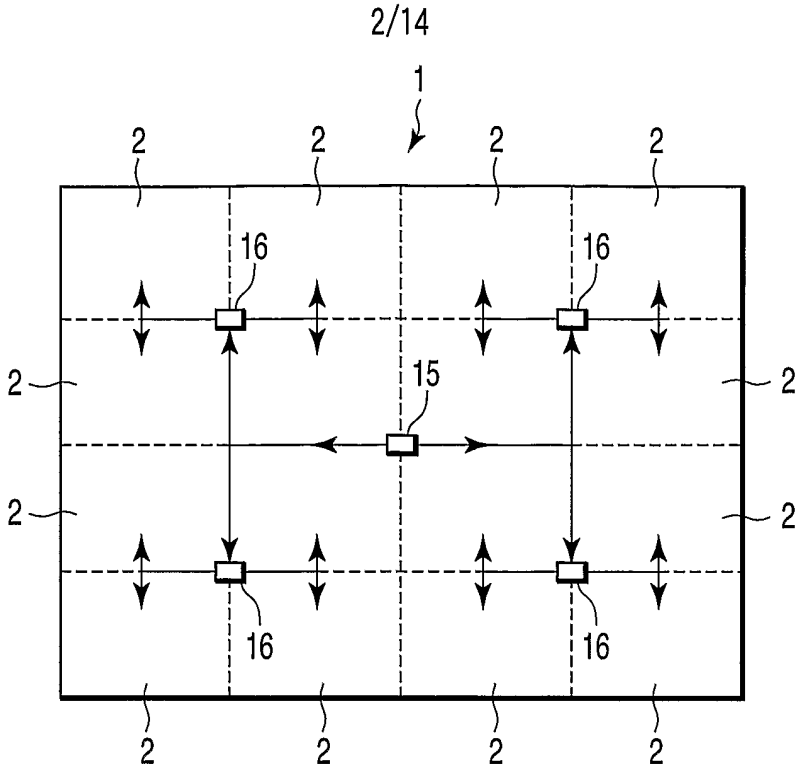


FIG. 3

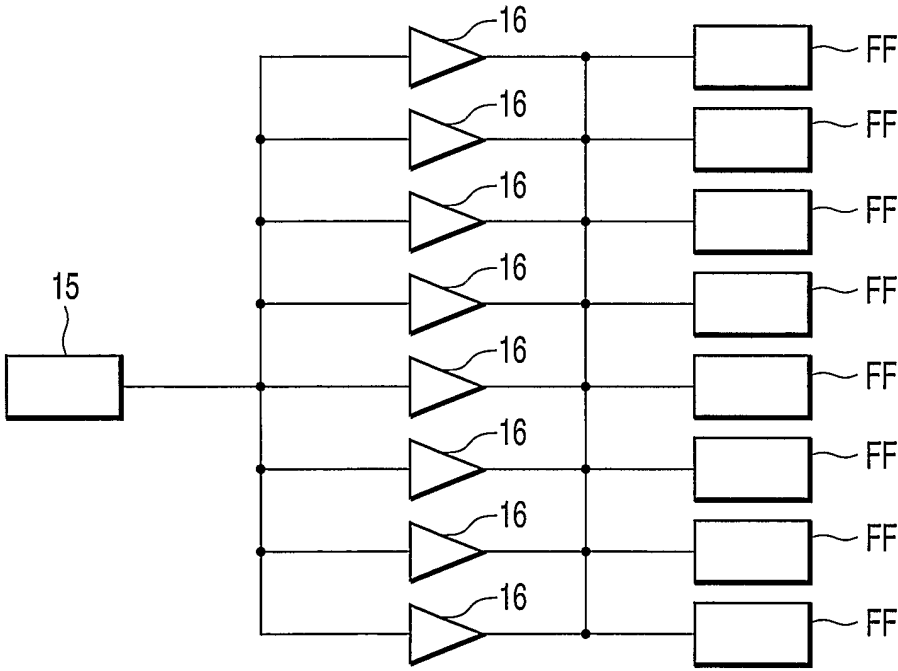


FIG. 4

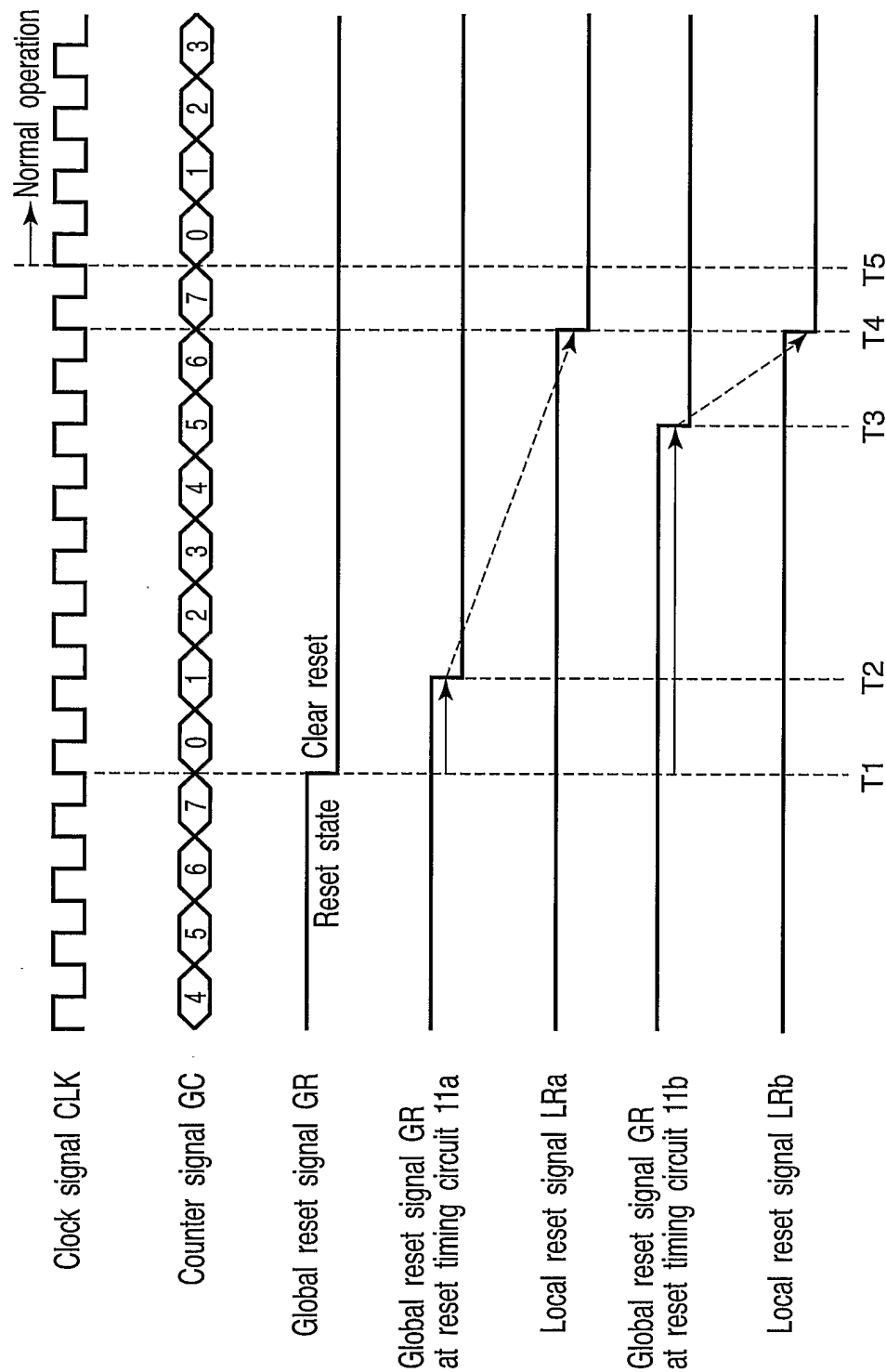


FIG. 5

4/14

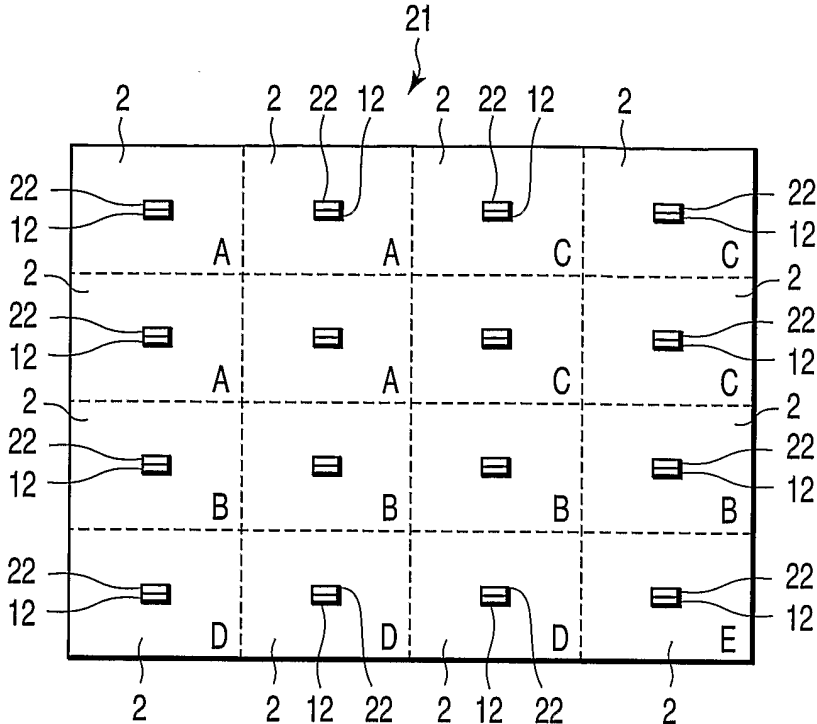


FIG. 6

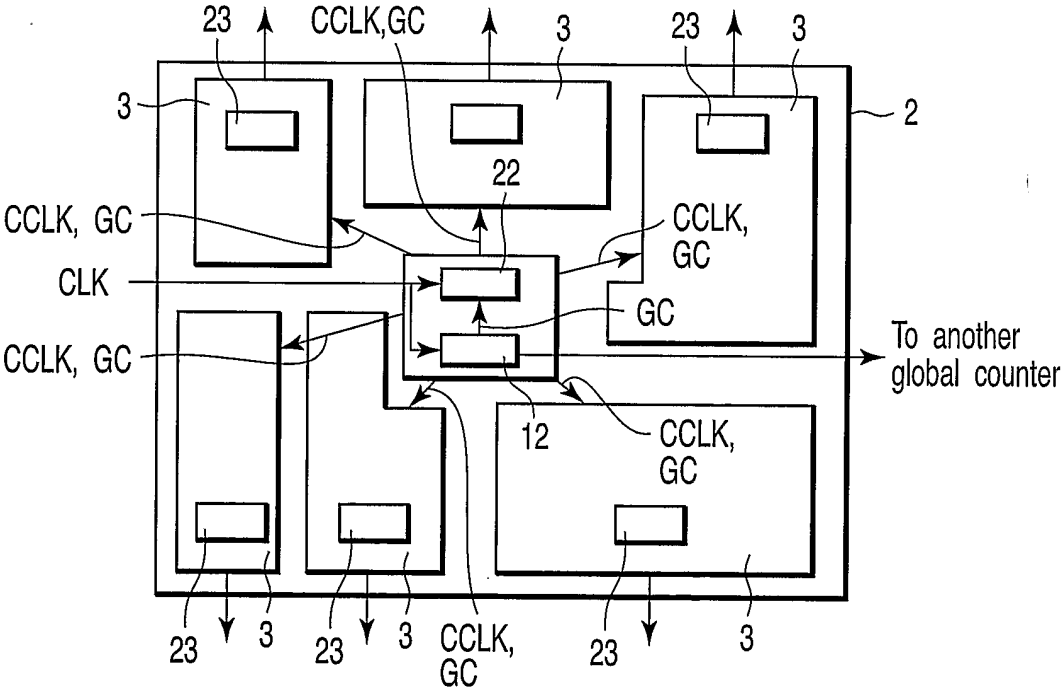


FIG. 7

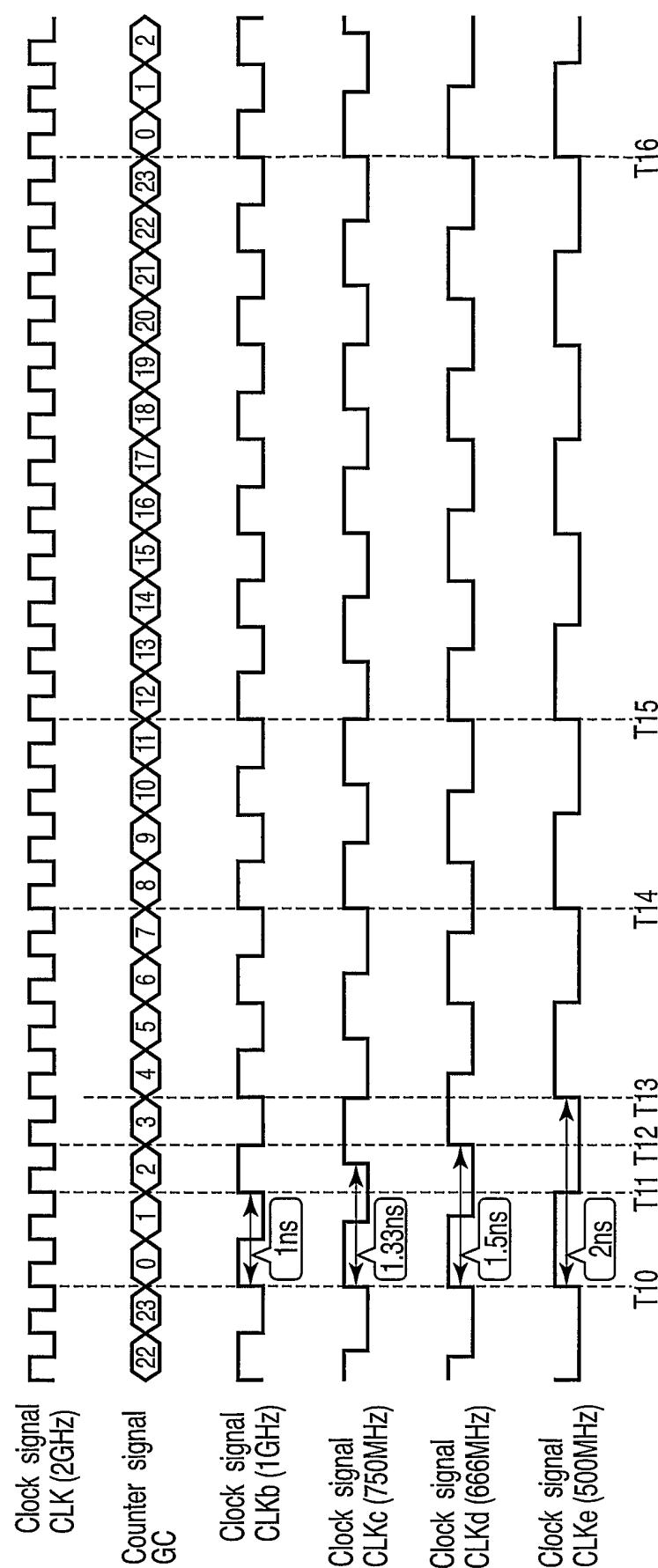


FIG. 8

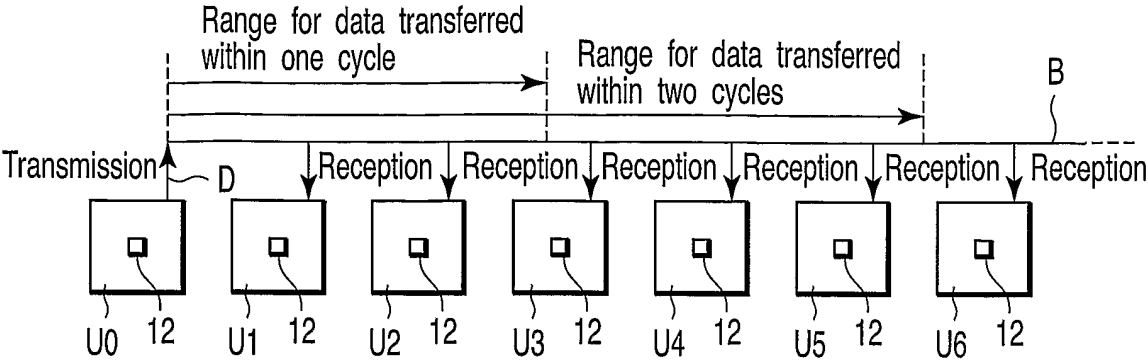


FIG. 9

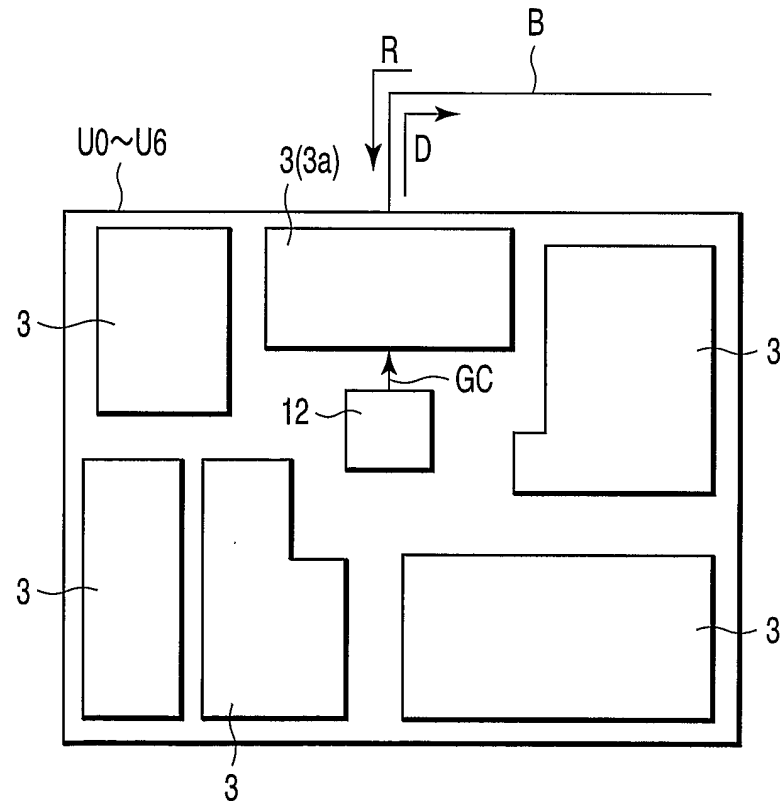


FIG. 10

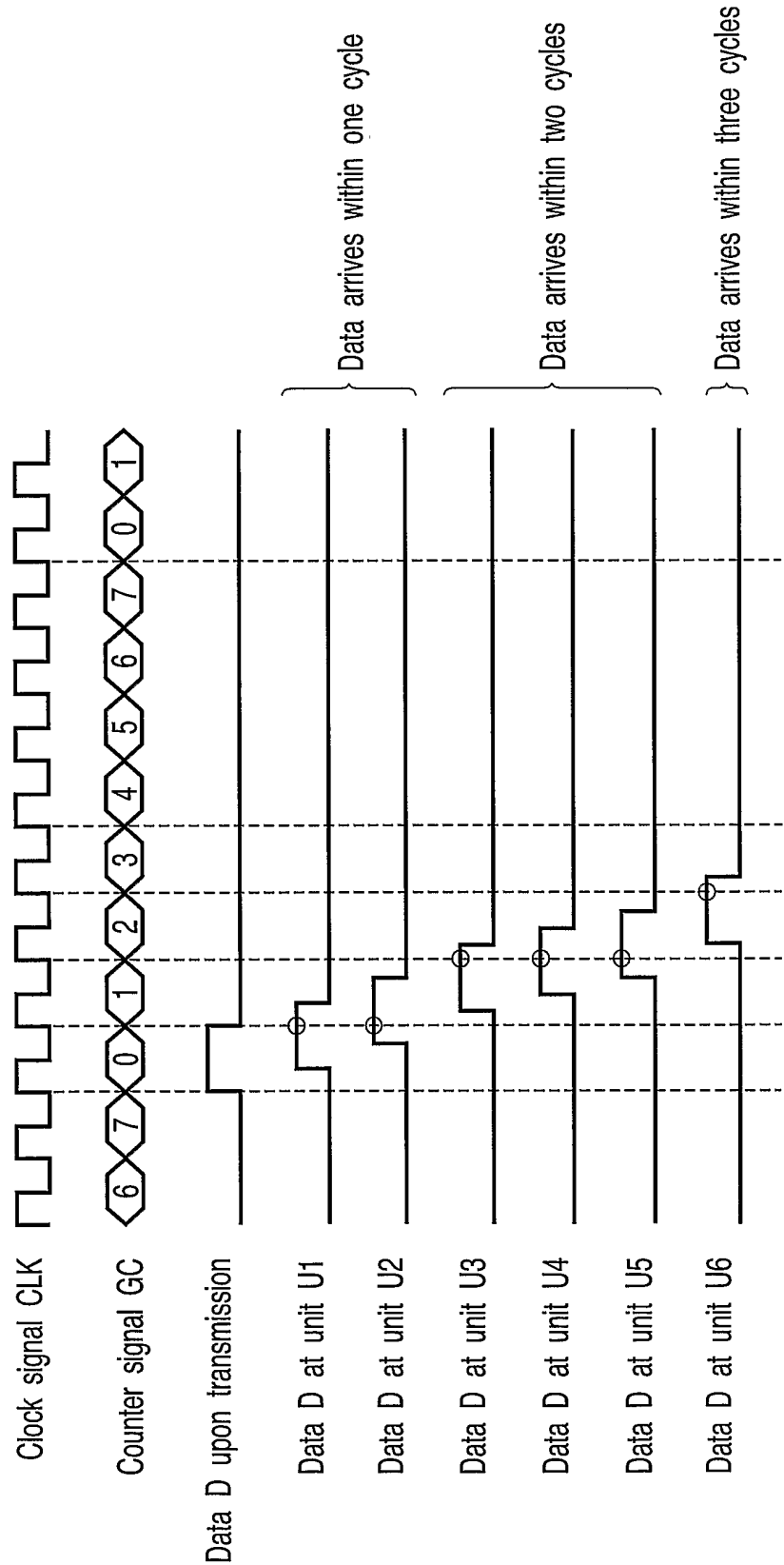


FIG.11

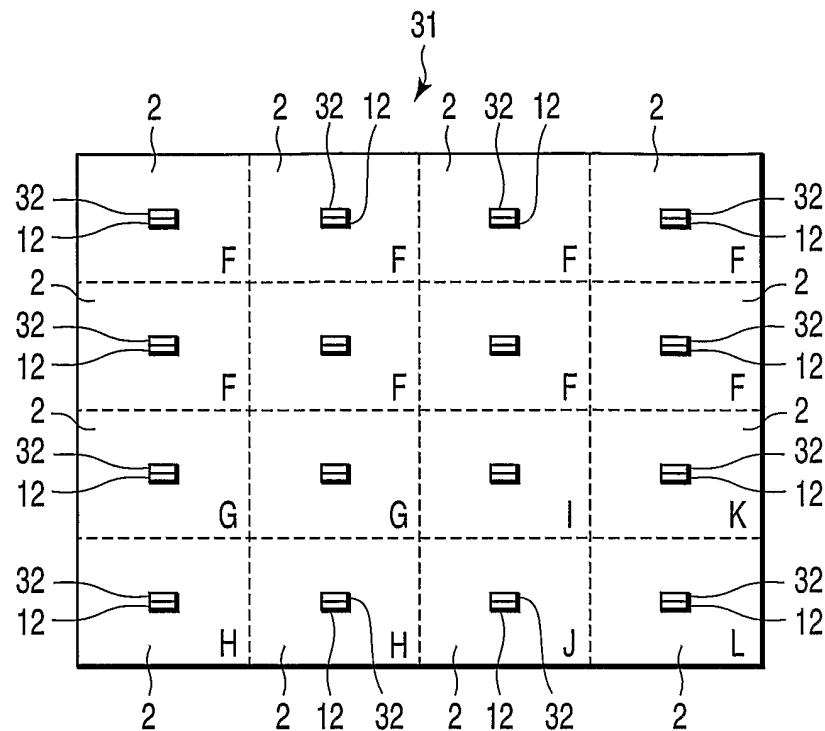


FIG. 12

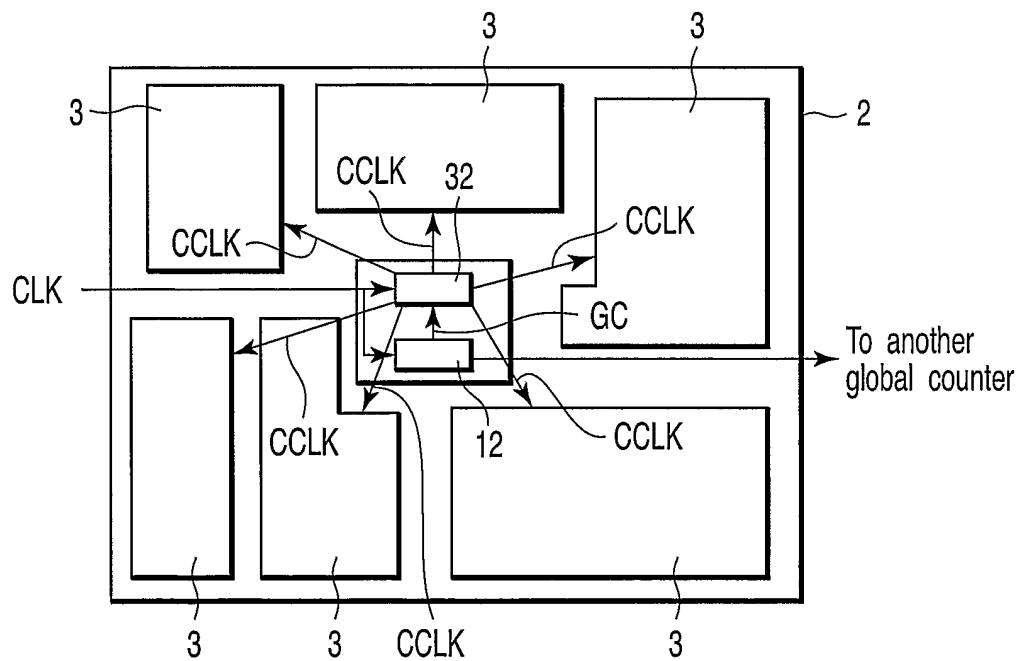


FIG. 13

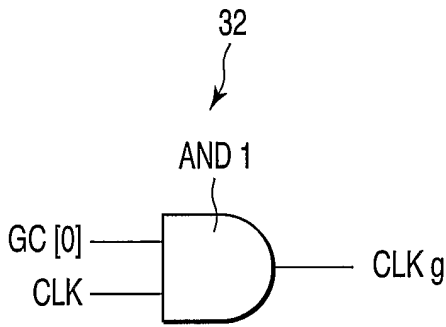


FIG. 14

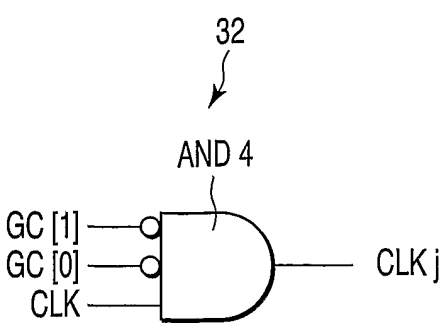


FIG. 17

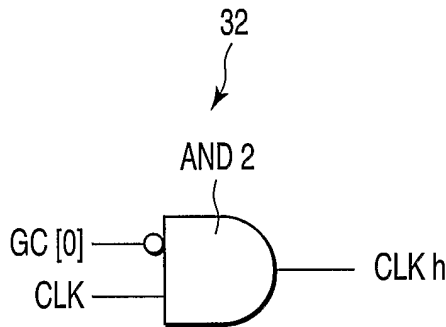


FIG. 15

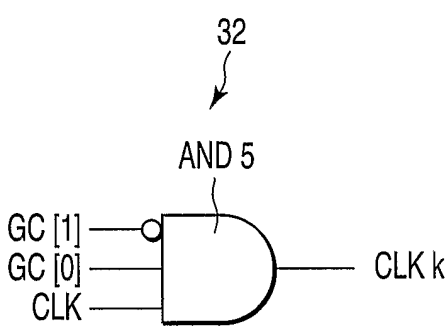


FIG. 18

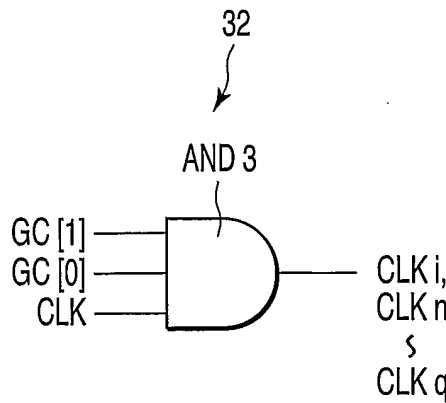


FIG. 16

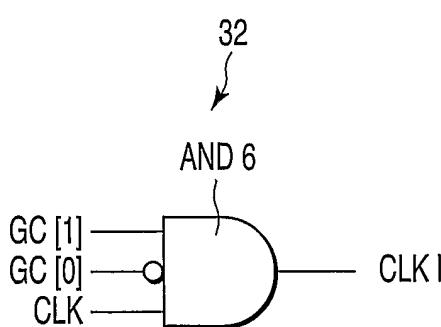


FIG. 19

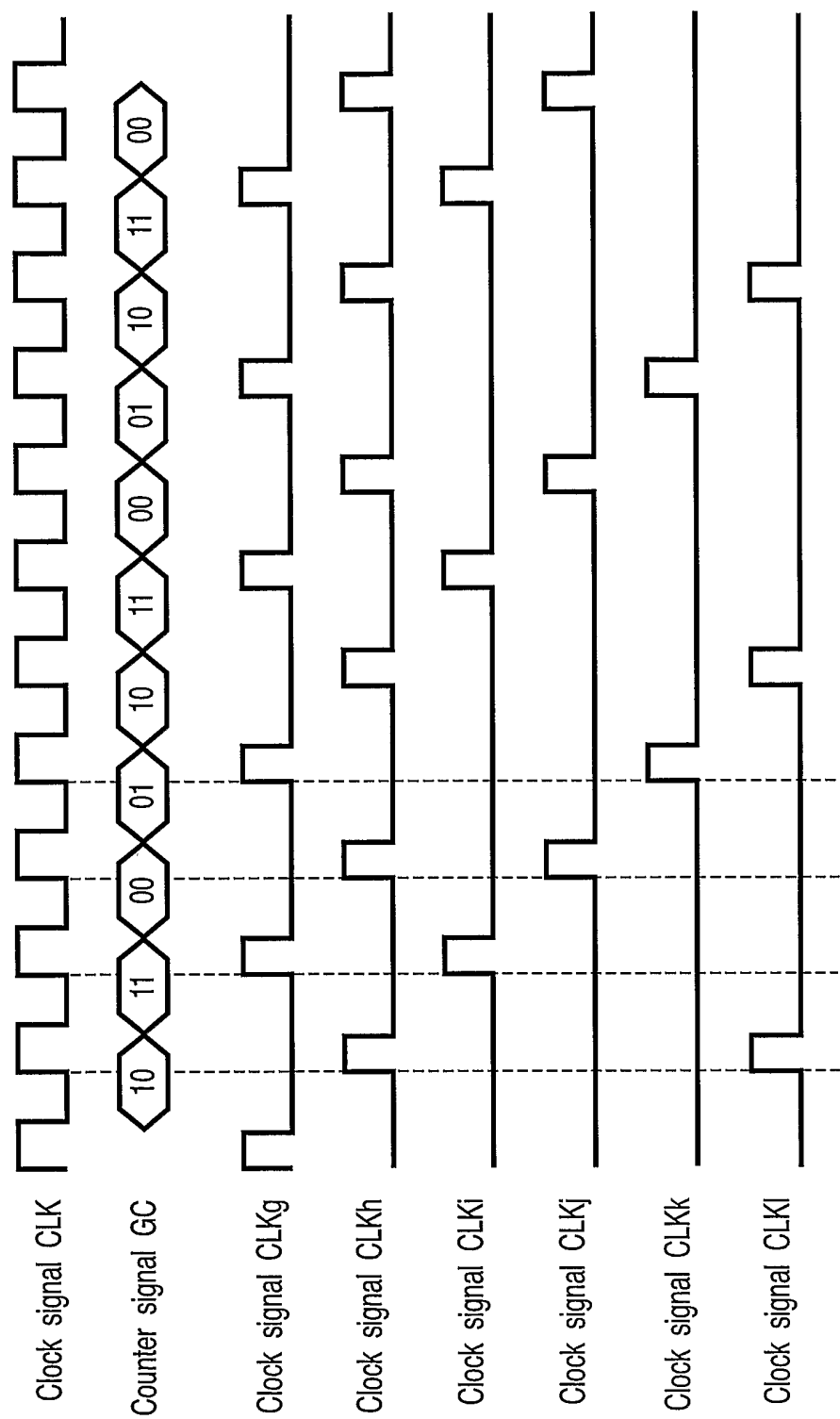


FIG. 20

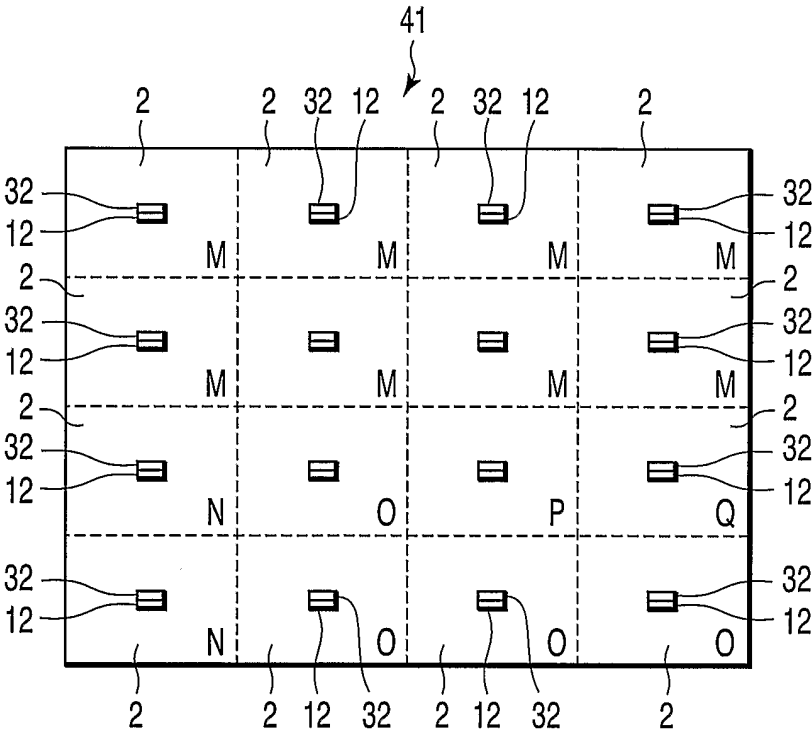


FIG. 21

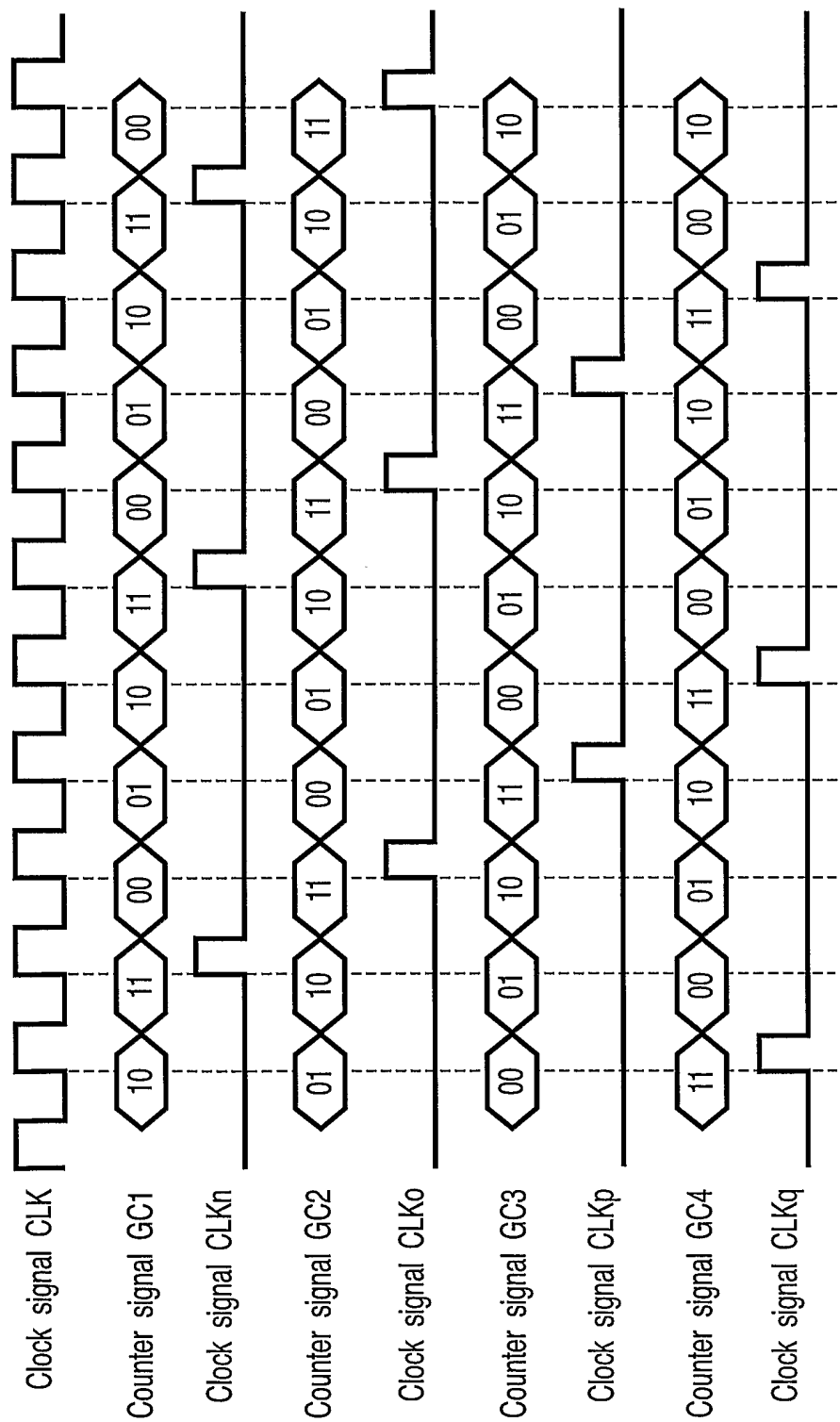


FIG. 22

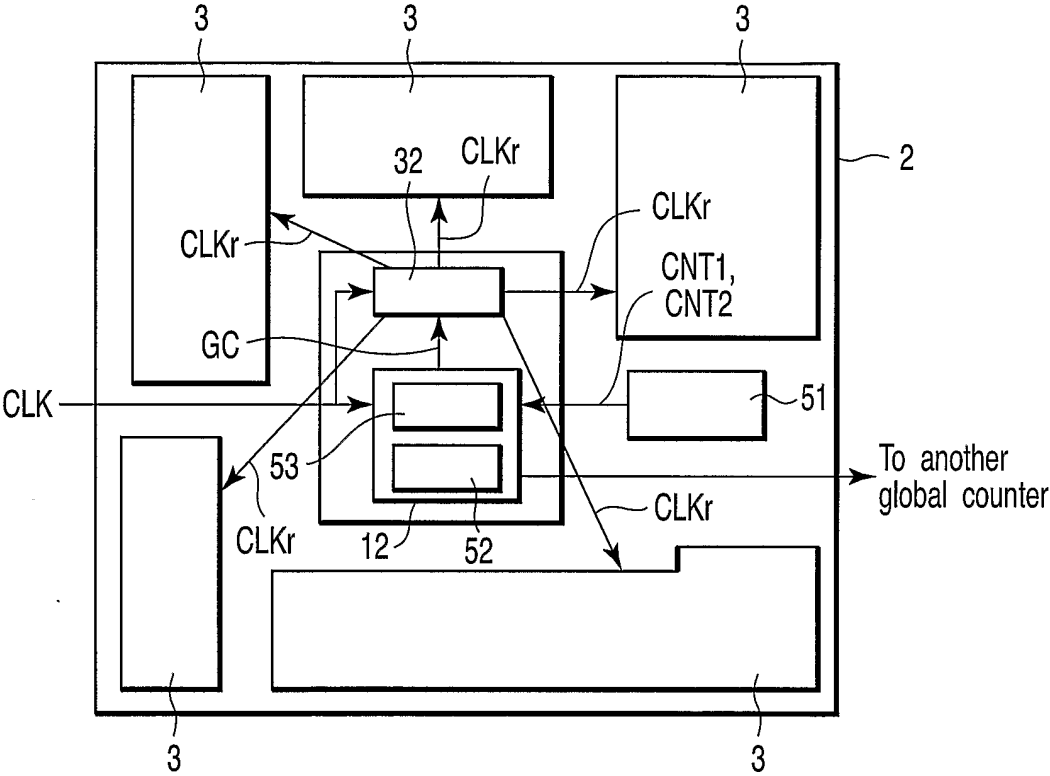


FIG. 23

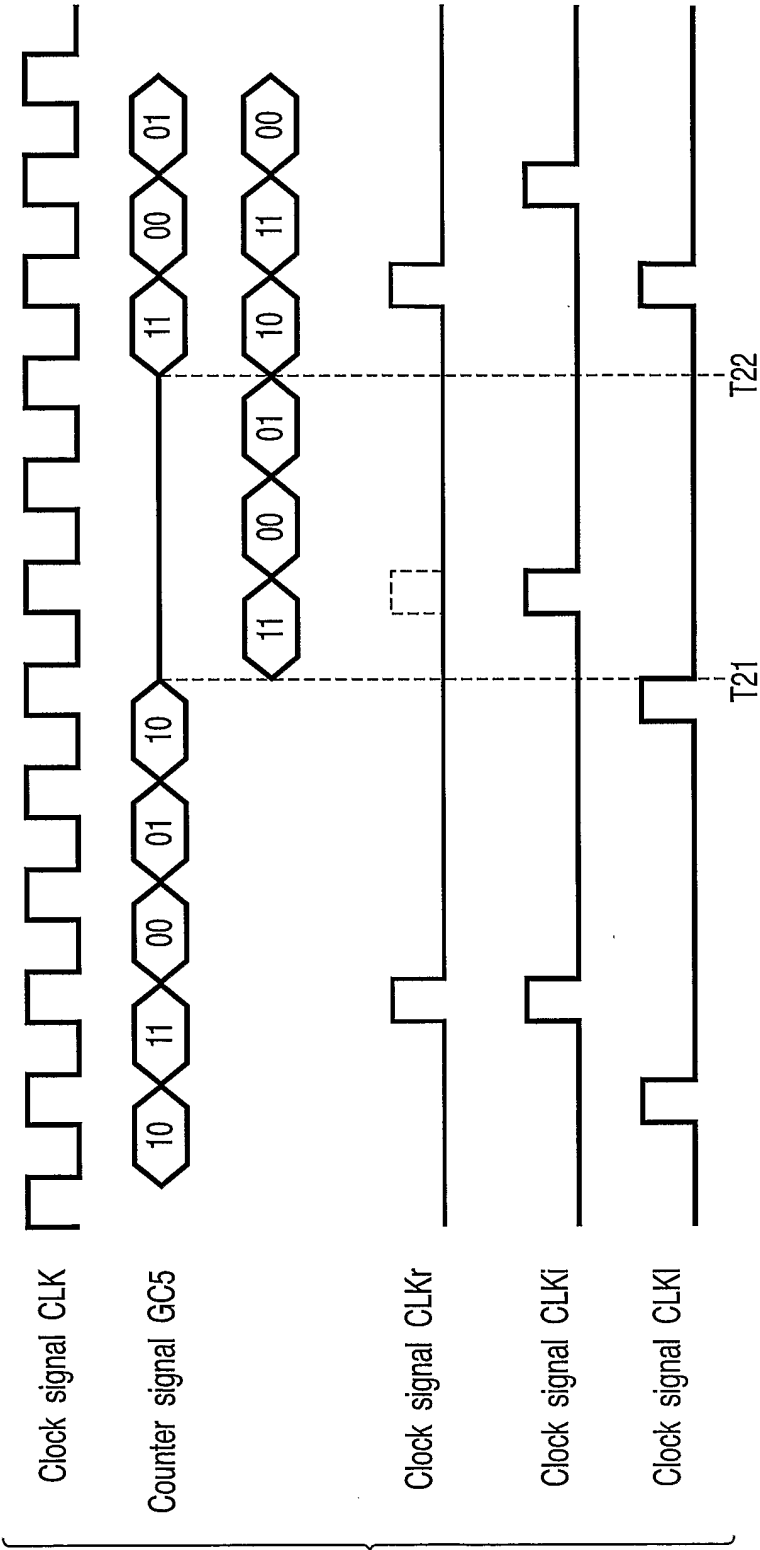


FIG. 24

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No
PCT/JP2005/015173

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER

INV. G06F1/24

According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC

B. FIELDS SEARCHED

Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)

G06F

Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched

Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practical, search terms used)

EPO-Internal, PAJ, WPI Data

C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category*	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
X	US 2003/020524 A1 (EHMANN GREGORY E) 30 January 2003 (2003-01-30) paragraphs [0004], [0007], [0008], [0020] - [0032] figures 1,2a,2b	1-5,20
X	US 6 118 314 A (ARNOULD ET AL) 12 September 2000 (2000-09-12) column 4, line 16 - column 6, line 39 figures 2-4	1-5,20
A	IT 1 055 311 B (TELEFONAB LM ERICSSON) 21 December 1981 (1981-12-21) page 1, line 6 - line 9 page 3, line 18 - page 6, line 2 figure 1	1-5,20
	----- -/--	



Further documents are listed in the continuation of Box C.



See patent family annex.

* Special categories of cited documents :

"A" document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance

"E" earlier document but published on or after the international filing date

"L" document which may throw doubts on priority claim(s) or which is cited to establish the publication date of another citation or other special reason (as specified)

"O" document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or other means

"P" document published prior to the international filing date but later than the priority date claimed

"T" later document published after the international filing date or priority date and not in conflict with the application but cited to understand the principle or theory underlying the invention

"X" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered novel or cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is taken alone

"Y" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is combined with one or more other such documents, such combination being obvious to a person skilled in the art.

"&" document member of the same patent family

Date of the actual completion of the international search

10 January 2006

Date of mailing of the international search report

30. 03. 2006

Name and mailing address of the ISA/

European Patent Office, P.B. 5818 Patentlaan 2
NL - 2280 HV Rijswijk
Tel. (+31-70) 340-2040, Tx. 31 651 epo nl,
Fax: (+31-70) 340-3016

Authorized officer

Vertua, A

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No
PCT/JP2005/015173

C(Continuation). DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT		
Category*	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
A	US 6 185 691 B1 (GANDHI JAYANTI L ET AL) 6 February 2001 (2001-02-06) column 2, line 5 - column 5, line 10 figures 1,3a,3b -----	1-5,20
A	US 5 617 458 A (JONES ET AL) 1 April 1997 (1997-04-01) column 1, line 15 - column 4, line 35 figures 1,2 -----	1-5,20

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No.
PCT/JP2005/015173

Box II Observations where certain claims were found unsearchable (Continuation of item 2 of first sheet)

This International Search Report has not been established in respect of certain claims under Article 17(2)(a) for the following reasons:

1. ☐ Claims Nos.:
because they relate to subject matter not required to be searched by this Authority, namely:
2. ☐ Claims Nos.:
because they relate to parts of the International Application that do not comply with the prescribed requirements to such an extent that no meaningful International Search can be carried out, specifically:
3. ☐ Claims Nos.:
because they are dependent claims and are not drafted in accordance with the second and third sentences of Rule 6.4(a).

Box III Observations where unity of invention is lacking (Continuation of item 3 of first sheet)

This International Searching Authority found multiple inventions in this international application, as follows:

see additional sheet

1. ☐ As all required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant, this International Search Report covers all searchable claims.
2. ☐ As all searchable claims could be searched without effort justifying an additional fee, this Authority did not invite payment of any additional fee.
3. ☐ As only some of the required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant, this International Search Report covers only those claims for which fees were paid, specifically claims Nos.:
4. ☒ No required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant. Consequently, this International Search Report is restricted to the invention first mentioned in the claims; it is covered by claims Nos.:

1-5, 20

Remark on Protest

- ☐ The additional search fees were accompanied by the applicant's protest.
- ☐ No protest accompanied the payment of additional search fees.

FURTHER INFORMATION CONTINUED FROM PCT/ISA/ 210

This International Searching Authority found multiple (groups of) inventions in this international application, as follows:

1. claims: 1-5, 20

Circuit device comprising global and local reset circuit

2. claims: 6-8

Circuit device comprising two clock circuits to output clock signals

3. claims: 9,10

Circuit device comprising a second circuit to provide information on a value of a counter signal when a first circuit provides a signal based on the value of the counter

4. claims: 11-19

Circuit device comprising a clock circuit to output a clock signal having phase zero, depending on the value of a counter and of a clock

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

information on patent family members

Intern: I application No
PCT/JP2005/015173

Patent document cited in search report		Publication date	Patent family member(s)	Publication date
US 2003020524	A1	30-01-2003	CN 1489723 A	14-04-2004
			EP 1415217 A2	06-05-2004
			WO 03010640 A2	06-02-2003
			JP 2004537115 T	09-12-2004

US 6118314	A	12-09-2000	NONE	

IT 1055311	B	21-12-1981	AU 1128076 A	01-09-1977
			BR 7601089 A	14-09-1976
			DK 70976 A	22-08-1976
			ES 445097 A1	16-05-1977
			FI 760158 A	22-08-1976
			HU 174133 B	28-11-1979
			NO 760562 A	24-08-1976
			SE 383788 B	29-03-1976
			YU 38676 A1	18-06-1982

US 6185691	B1	06-02-2001	NONE	

US 5617458	A	01-04-1997	NONE	
