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Ott et al.(10) **Pub. No.: US 2020/0037877 A1**(43) **Pub. Date: Feb. 6, 2020**(54) **SINGLE POINT WIRELESS BIOPOTENTIAL
MONITORING SYSTEMS AND METHODS**(52) **U.S. Cl.**
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Jon Barron, Valley Center, CA (US)(57) **ABSTRACT**(21) Appl. No.: **16/179,474**(22) Filed: **Nov. 2, 2018****Related U.S. Application Data**(60) Provisional application No. 62/712,609, filed on Jul.
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Multiple wireless sensor assemblies are individually attached to standard biopotential electrodes, which are placeable on a subject's body at locations for biopotential signal recording. The sensor assemblies, which are electrically isolated, simultaneously measure potential voltages from the body sites in accordance with a synchronization. The measured signals are amplified, digitized, and filtered, and then sent wirelessly to a monitoring system. The monitoring system receives multiple sensor signals and constructs biopotential vectors depending on the placement and number of the sensors. The sensor signals are referenced to a common virtual center bias to synthesize a common mode rejection.

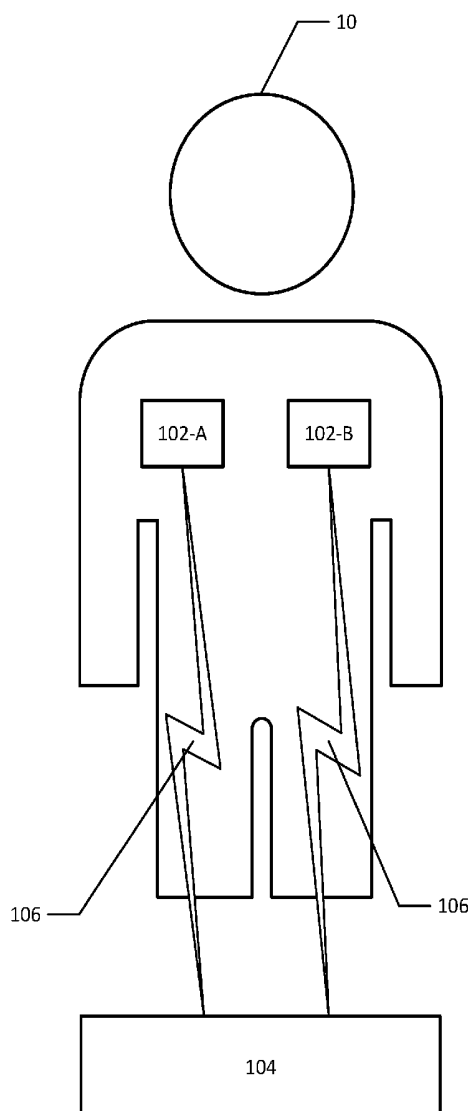
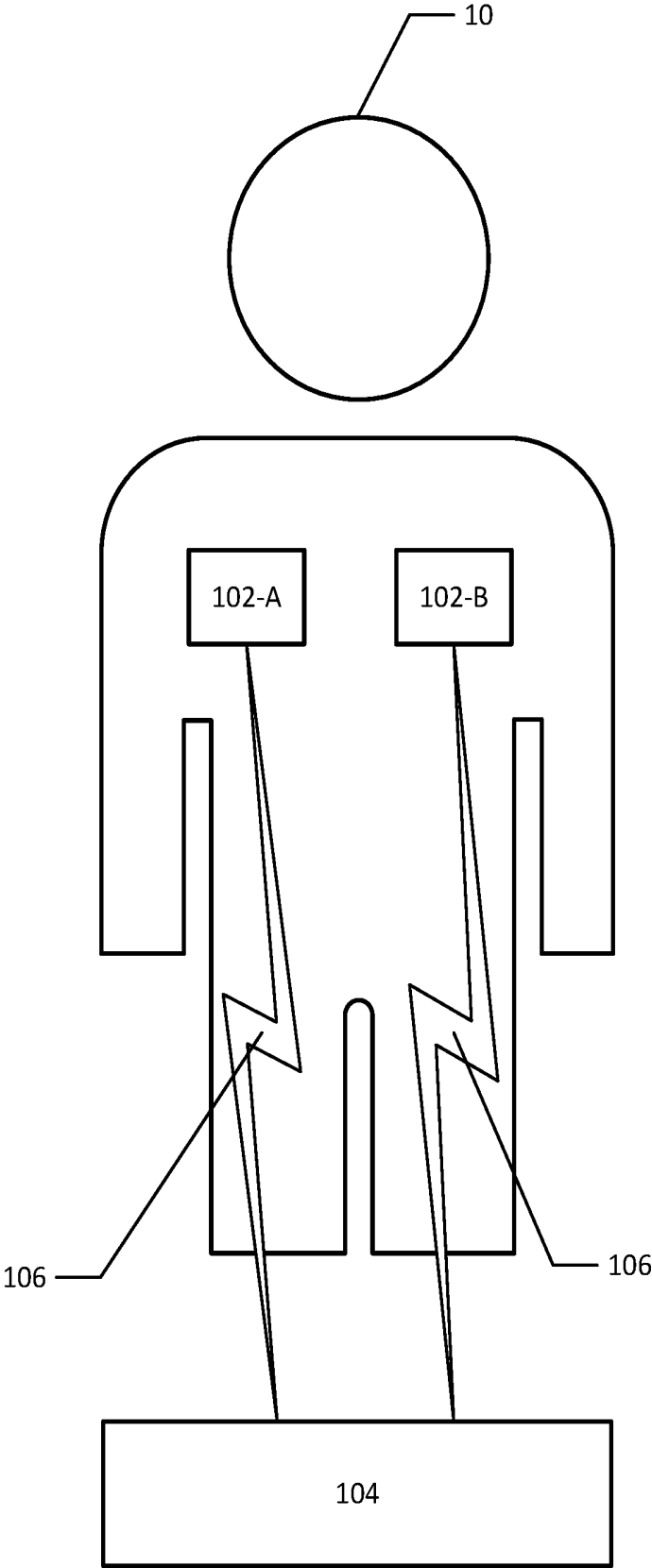


FIG. 1



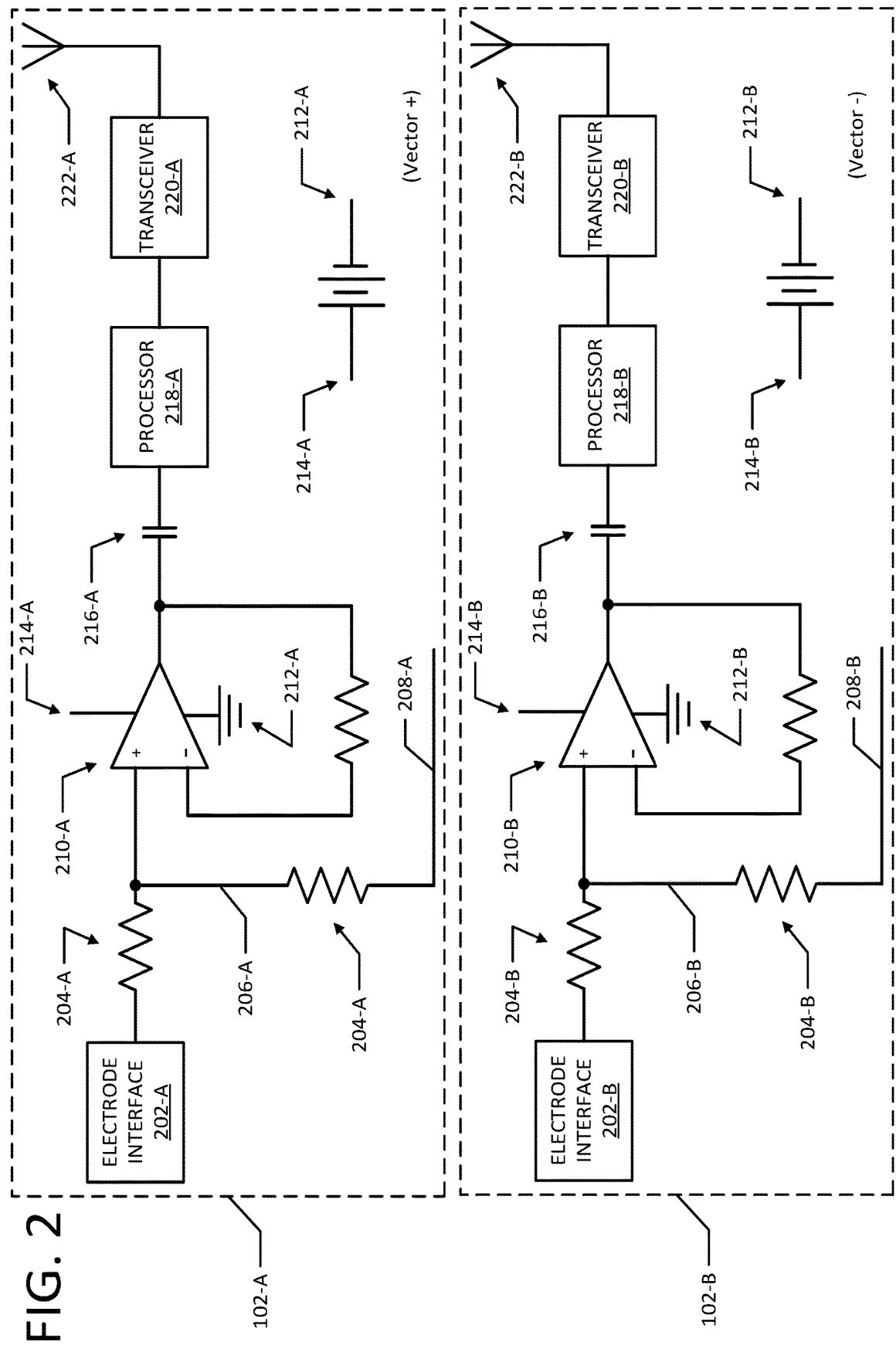


FIG. 3

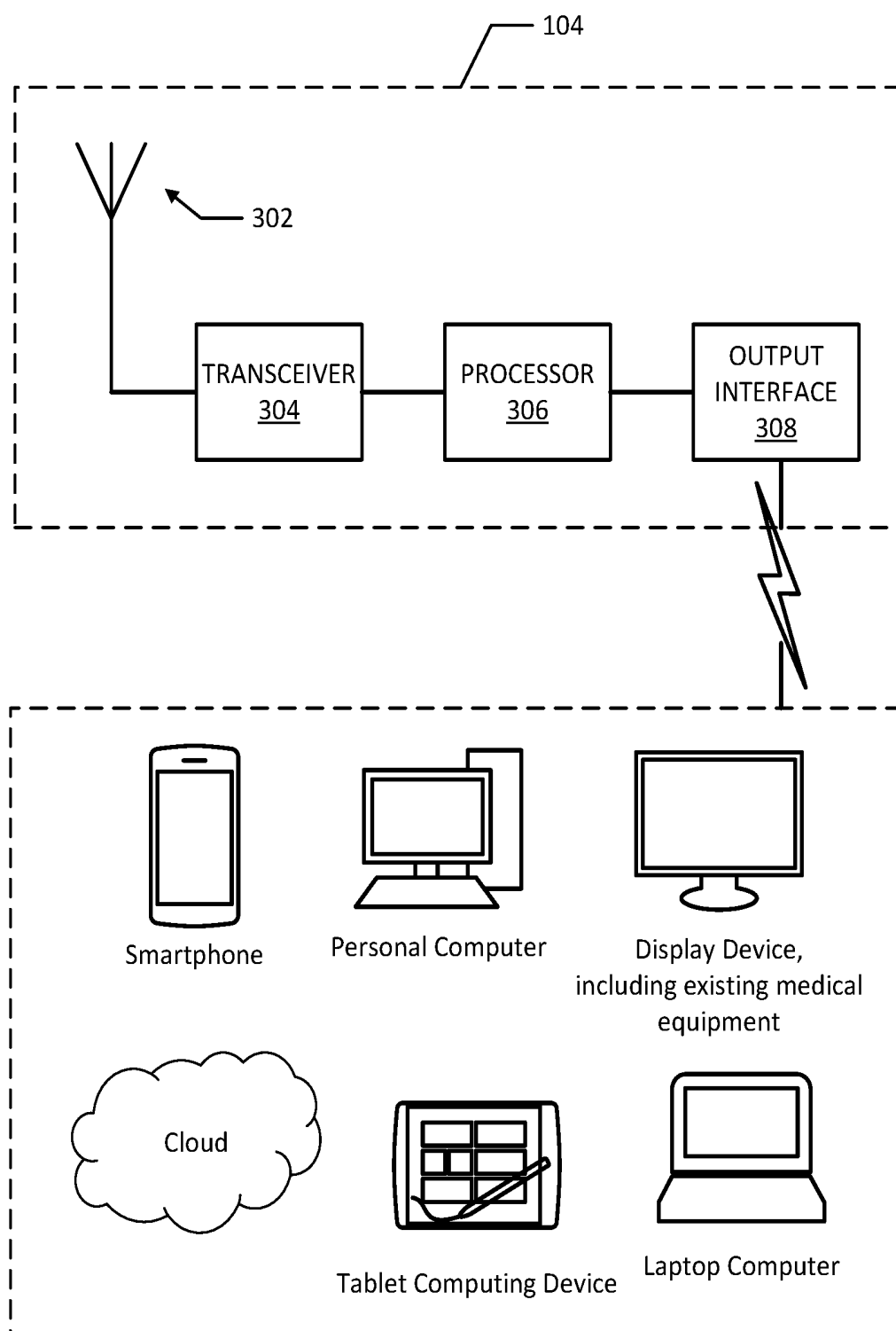


FIG. 4

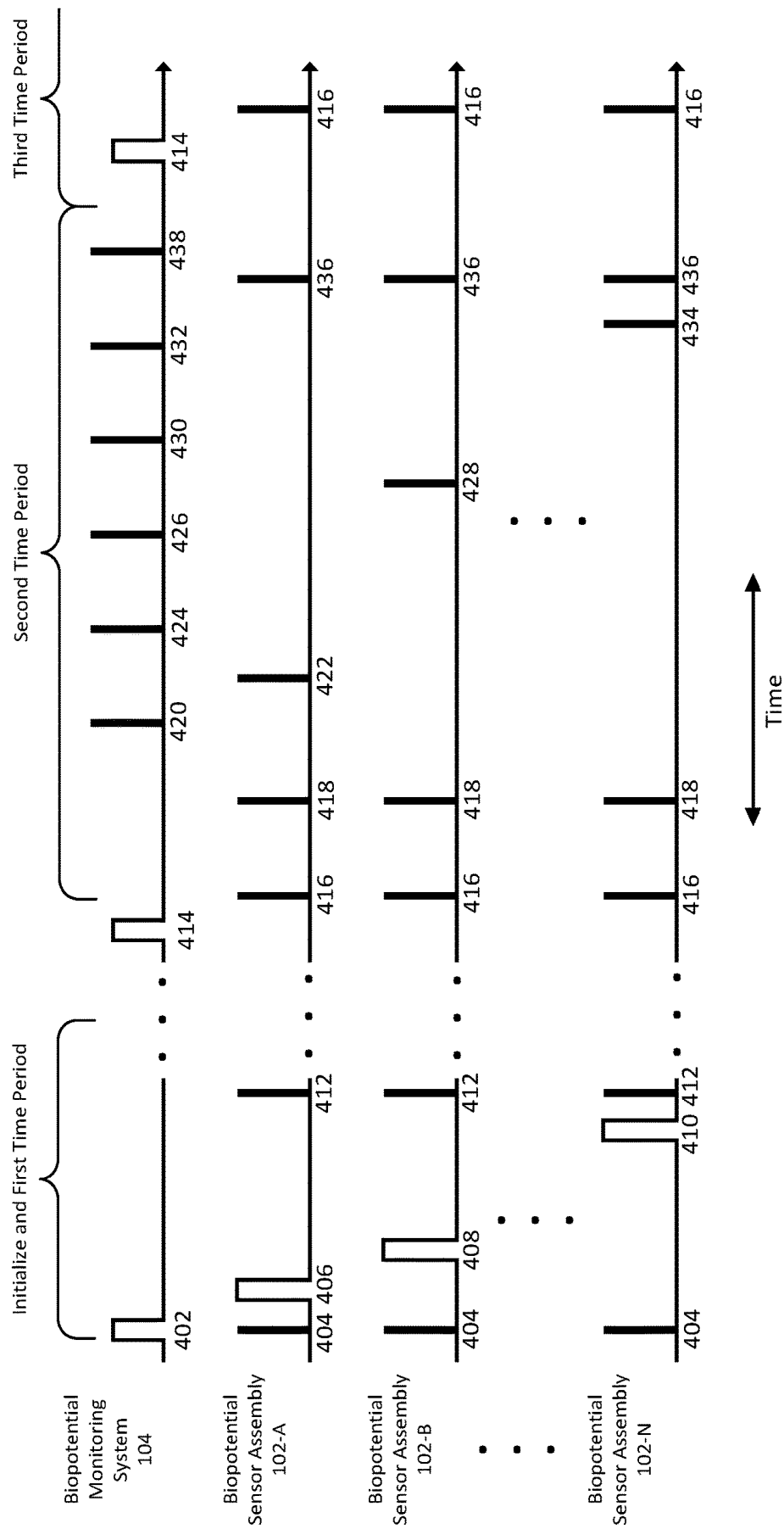


FIG. 5

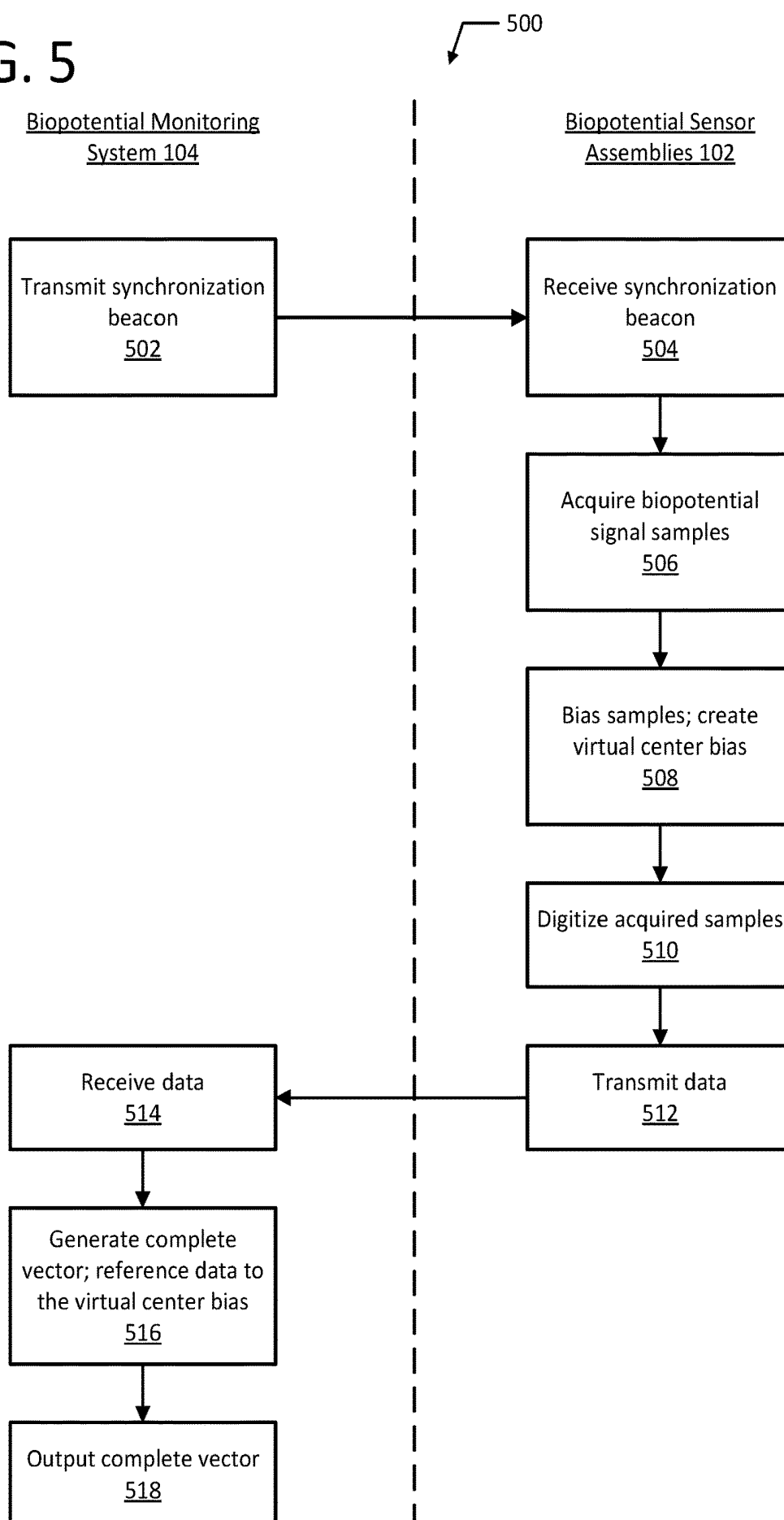
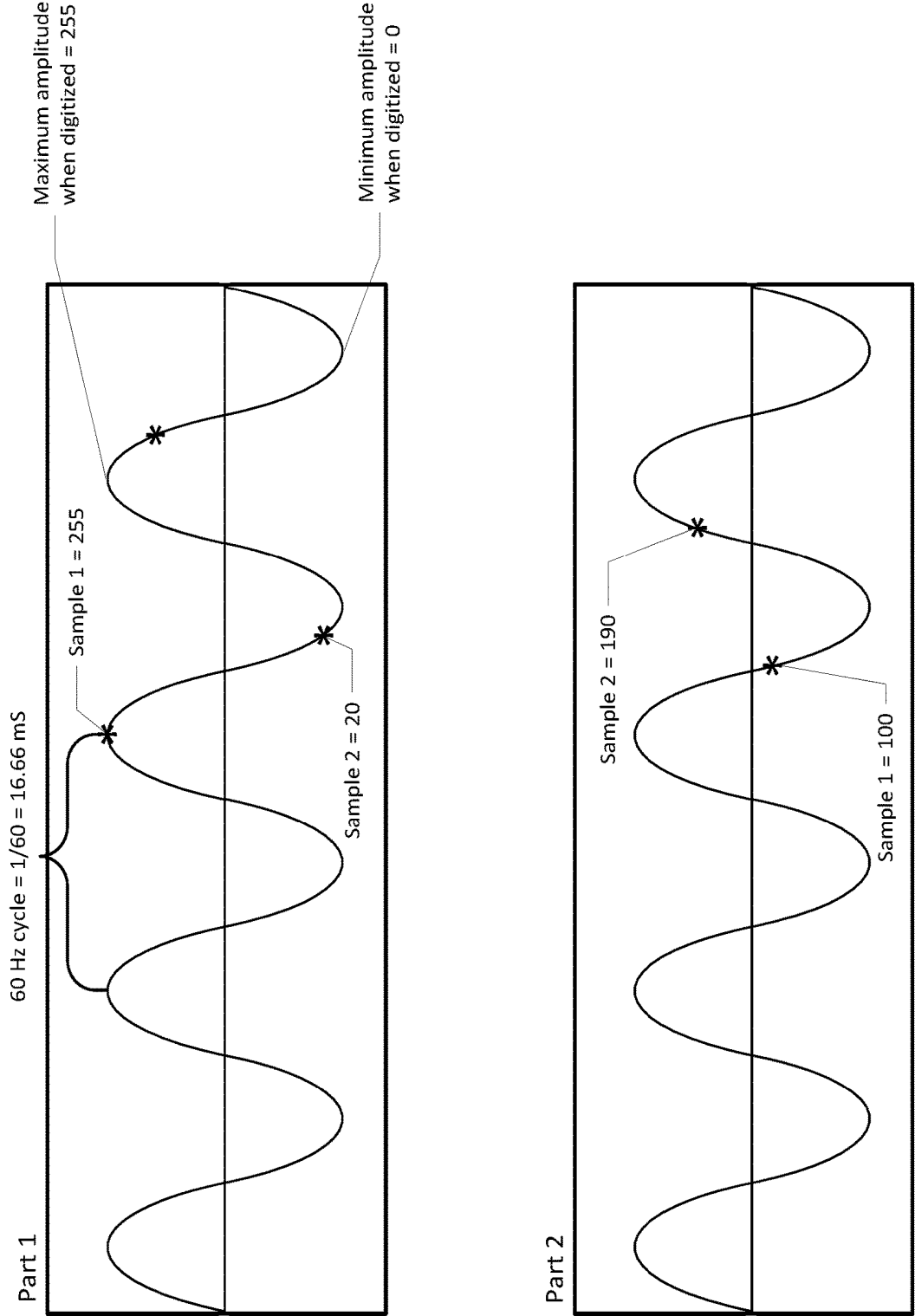


FIG. 6



SINGLE POINT WIRELESS BIOPOTENTIAL MONITORING SYSTEMS AND METHODS

CROSS-REFERENCE TO RELATED APPLICATIONS

[0001] This application claims priority to U.S. Provisional Application Ser. No. 62/712,609, filed Jul. 31, 2018, the entire disclosure of which is incorporated herein by reference.

FIELD OF INVENTION

[0002] The present disclosure relates generally to systems and methods for acquiring and monitoring biopotential measurements of a living subject, such as a patient.

BACKGROUND

[0003] Conventional electrocardiogram (EKG) techniques for biopotential measurements typically require multiple electrodes. Each electrode is connected to a wired lead that senses biopotential and connects it to instrumentation amplifiers that perform a differential voltage potential measurement from the measurement sites. The wires extending from such electrodes present a problem for the subjects (e.g., patients) as well as the healthcare personnel to manage. For example, electrode lead wires are time consuming to sort out, provide an opportunity for error of connection to the wrong electrode site, and obstruct patient mobility, posing discomfort. Wired leads also contribute to a low signal-to-noise ratio as they move during patient movements. Although telemetry systems exist, they require the use of wired leads connected to the patient's body to obtain measurements. These telemetry systems amplify and filter such measurements in a unit worn by the patient, which then transmits differential signals to a receiving base station.

[0004] Although wireless EKG biopotential monitoring and diagnosis systems exist, these systems require using a common (i.e., identical) reference point between the two measurement points from which a biopotential is recorded. The common reference point causes this common, or global, reference to cancel out when measuring the differential potential between the two inputs. Thus, it does not matter if the potential at the reference is time-varying and not fixed because it cancels out exactly by being a common, or identical, reference point to both inputs. The location of the reference on the body for bipolar measurements does not affect the measurement since it cancels out, therefore it can be located anywhere on the body. By requiring a common reference point, conventional wireless EKG systems require an extra electrode, increase inconvenience, increase weight, and are susceptible to lower signal quality. Furthermore, conventional wireless EKG systems are incompatible with defibrillators.

SUMMARY

[0005] Multiple wireless sensor assemblies are individually attached to standard biopotential electrodes, which are placeable on a subject's body at locations for biopotential signal recording. The sensor assemblies, which are electrically isolated, simultaneously measure potential voltages from the body sites in accordance with a synchronization. The measured signals are amplified, digitized, and filtered, and then sent wirelessly to a monitoring system. The monitoring system receives multiple sensor signals and constructs

biopotential vectors depending on the placement and number of the sensors. The sensor signals are referenced to a common virtual center bias to synthesize a common mode rejection.

[0006] In an aspect, systems and methods include a biopotential monitoring system transmitting a synchronization beacon to a plurality of biopotential sensor assemblies via a wireless communications channel. The biopotential sensor assemblies acquire biopotential signal samples substantially simultaneously based on the synchronization beacon and achieve a virtual common mode rejection for the acquired samples. The biopotential sensor assemblies are electrically isolated from each other. Each biopotential sensor assembly biases its acquired sample to a center voltage and the biopotential sensor assemblies create a virtual center bias that is common to all of the biopotential sensor assemblies. The biopotential monitoring system receives transmissions of biopotential data from each of the biopotential sensor assemblies via the wireless communications channel. The biopotential data digitally represents the acquired biopotential signal samples. The biopotential monitoring system generates complete electrocardiogram vectors from the received biopotential data by, at least in part, referencing the biopotential data to the virtual center bias.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

[0007] FIG. 1 is a block diagram of a system hereof, according to an example embodiment.

[0008] FIG. 2 is a block diagram of biopotential sensor assemblies of the system hereof, according to an example embodiment.

[0009] FIG. 3 is a block diagram of a biopotential monitoring system of the hereof, according to an example embodiment.

[0010] FIG. 4 is a diagram of a sample synchronization method hereof, according to an example embodiment.

[0011] FIG. 5 is a flowchart of a method hereof, according to an example embodiment.

[0012] FIG. 6 is a diagram of noise waveforms rejected by systems and methods hereof, according to an example embodiment.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION

[0013] In the following detailed description of example embodiments, reference is made to the accompanying drawings that form a part hereof, and in which is shown by way of illustration specific example embodiments in which the inventive subject matter may be practiced. These embodiments are described in sufficient detail to enable those skilled in the art to practice the inventive subject matter, and it is to be understood that other embodiments may be utilized and that logical, mechanical, electrical and other changes may be made without departing from the scope of the inventive subject matter. Aspects of the description herein refer to the drawings more particularly by reference numbers wherein like members refer to like parts.

[0014] Some portions of the detailed descriptions which follow are presented in terms of algorithms and symbolic representations of operations on data bits within a computer memory. These algorithmic descriptions and representations are the ways used by those skilled in the data processing arts to most effectively convey the substance of their work to others skilled in the art. An algorithm is here, and generally,

conceived to be a self-consistent sequence of steps leading to a desired result. The steps are those requiring physical manipulations of physical quantities. Usually, though not necessarily, these quantities take the form of electrical or magnetic signals capable of being stored, transferred, combined, compared, and otherwise manipulated. It has proven convenient at times, principally for reasons of common usage, to refer to these signals as bits, values, elements, symbols, characters, terms, numbers, or the like. It should be borne in mind, however, that all of these and similar terms are to be associated with the appropriate physical quantities and are merely convenient labels applied to these quantities. Unless specifically stated otherwise as apparent from the following discussions, terms such as “processing” or “computing” or “calculating” or “determining” or “displaying” or the like, refer to the action and processes of a computer system, or similar computing device, that manipulates and transforms data represented as physical (e.g., electronic) quantities within the computer system’s registers and memories into other data similarly represented as physical quantities within the computer system memories or registers or other such information storage, transmission or display devices.

[0015] The description of the various embodiments is to be construed as describing examples only and does not describe every possible instance of the inventive subject matter. Numerous alternatives could be implemented, using combinations of current or future technologies, which would still fall within the scope of the claims. The following detailed description is, therefore, not to be taken in a limiting sense, and the scope of the inventive subject matter is defined only by the appended claims.

[0016] Embodiments described herein provide a wireless and programmable biopotential monitoring system for subjects (e.g., patients, etc.) from electrically and physically isolated measurement sites. The embodiments herein enable the removal of the wires that are conventionally used to connect the electrical leads to the electrode sites on the subject’s body. In accordance with the descriptions herein, multiple small signal independent measurements can be taken from completely disconnected sites on the subject’s body. The resultant measurements can then be combined to reproduce conventional biopotential measurement outputs.

[0017] As further described herein, the systems and methods include miniature, low-weight, independent, wireless sensor assemblies that are attachable to conventional electrode patches. The sensor assemblies can detect small signal biopotential (e.g., EKG) measurements and transmit digital signals digitally representing the detected biopotential measurements to an associated biopotential monitoring system that reconstructs them into a biopotential measurement output that resembles conventional outputs. The biopotential monitoring system synchronizes the biopotential measurements collected by the sensor assemblies and applies signal processing algorithms for reconstruction, calibration, and filtration of the signals. The resulting biopotential measurement output can then be communicated to monitoring devices, computing devices, or the like for display and further analysis. In some embodiments, synchronizing the sensor assemblies to simultaneously acquire samples of biopotential signals facilitates a virtual common mode rejection to synthesize the common mode rejection inherent in conventional wired systems. In some embodiments, the sensor assemblies create a common virtual bias that centers

the incoming biopotential signals without using the conventional common bias reference signal. As described herein, the incoming signals are biased individually by each sensor assembly because there is no common ground or bias (i.e., each sensor assembly has an independent ground). Because the electrical grounds of the sensor assemblies are not tied together, creating the virtual bias, along with AC coupling, within each sensor assembly enables the digital signals to be referenced to the virtual center bias when reconstructed.

[0018] The systems and methods described herein thus provide advantages that include, but are not limited to, (1) enabling interfaces with existing monitoring equipment, personal computing devices, tablet computing devices, and smartphones; (2) enabling greater subject mobility by utilizing wireless communications instead of wired leads; (3) enabling enhanced subject comfort by eliminating all wires connecting the subject’s body to monitoring equipment or telemetry boxes; (4) reducing sensitivity of biopotential recording to motion artifacts by eliminating the wires that represent moving components of the biopotential system that typically pull or push the electrode pads and cause signal baseline variation during motion; (5) reducing the time required to connect, sort, organize, and disconnect wired leads; (6) enabling monitoring to occur for extended periods of time; and (7) enabling continuous monitoring of subjects, such as in-home monitoring. Other advantages will be, in part, apparent and, in part, pointed out herein.

[0019] FIG. 1 is a block diagram illustrating a biopotential system **100** for acquiring and monitoring biopotential measurements of a subject **10**, such as a patient. As illustrated, system **100** includes a plurality of biopotential sensor assemblies **102** and a biopotential monitoring system **104**. The biopotential sensor assemblies **102** and the biopotential monitoring system **104** are communicatively connected via wireless communications channels **106**. The biopotential sensor assemblies **102** are isolated (e.g., electrically and physically) from each other. Although the embodiments described herein include a first biopotential sensor assembly **102-A** and a second biopotential sensor assembly **102-B**, one of ordinary skill in the art will understand that the biopotential system **100** may include more than two biopotential sensor assemblies **102**. For example, in some embodiments, the biopotential system **100** may include up to ten or more biopotential sensor assemblies **102**. Notably, the biopotential system **100** does not include a sensor assembly for a reference electrode, as commonly required by conventional techniques.

[0020] The biopotential sensor assemblies **102** are configured to simultaneously acquire biopotential signal samples from the subject **10** in accordance with a synchronization schedule provided by the biopotential monitoring system **104**. As further described herein, synchronizing the acquisition of the biopotential signal samples to occur substantially simultaneously achieves a virtual common mode rejection for the acquired samples. The biopotential sensor assemblies **102** are further configured to center the acquired biopotential signal samples on a virtual center bias value that is common to the plurality of biopotential sensor assemblies **102**. Moreover, the biopotential sensor assemblies **102** are configured to convert the biopotential signal samples into digital biopotential data and wirelessly transmit the digital biopotential data to the biopotential monitoring system **104**. In some embodiments, the biopotential sensor assemblies **102** are configured to be electrically connected to conven-

tional biopotential electrodes. For example, each biopotential sensor assembly **102** may be attached to biopotential electrodes via a male/female snap connector.

[0021] The biopotential monitoring system **104** is configured to generate and wirelessly transmit a synchronization beacon to the biopotential sensor assemblies **102**. The biopotential monitoring system **104** is further configured to receive the digital biopotential data wirelessly transmitted by the biopotential sensor assemblies **102** and generate complete biopotential (e.g., electrocardiogram, etc.) vectors from the received biopotential data, including referencing the biopotential data to the virtual center bias.

[0022] The wireless communications channels **106** are configured to facilitate the wireless exchange of data between the biopotential sensor assemblies **102** and the biopotential monitoring system **104**. In an embodiment, the wireless communications channels comprise a wireless communications network (e.g., a personal area network (PAN), etc.) that conveys data in accordance with the IEEE 802.15 (e.g., Bluetooth®, etc.) protocols. In other embodiments, the wireless communications channels **106** include any medium that allows data to be wirelessly transferred through serial or parallel communication channels.

[0023] FIG. 2 is a block diagram illustrating the first biopotential sensor assembly **102-A** and the second biopotential sensor assembly **102-B**. As illustrated, each biopotential sensor assembly **102-A**, **102-B** includes, respectively, an electrode interface **202-A**, **202-B**, a plurality of resistors **204-A**, **204-B** for creating a virtual center **206-A**, **206-B**, a center bias point **208-A**, **208-B**, an operational amplifier (“op amp”) **210-A**, **210-B**, an electrical ground **212-A**, **212-B**, an electric power source **214-A**, **214-B**, an alternating current (AC) coupling capacitor **216-A**, **216-B**, a processor **218-A**, **218-B**, a transceiver **220-A**, **220-B**, and an antenna **222-A**, **222-B**.

[0024] Referring further to the first biopotential sensor assembly **102-A**, the electrode interface **202-A** is electrically connected to the plurality of resistors **204-A**. A non-inverting input of the op amp **210-A** is electrically connected between the plurality of resistors **204-A**. The output of the op amp **210-A** is electrically connected to an inverting input of the op amp **210-A** via another resistor (i.e., in a non-inverting amplifier configuration). The output of the op amp **210** is also electrically connected to a first lead of the AC coupling capacitor **216-A**. The other lead of the AC coupling capacitor **216-A** is electrically connected to the processor **218-A**. The processor **218-A** is electrically and/or communicatively connected to the transceiver **220-A**, which in turn is electrically and/or communicatively connected to the antenna **222-A**. Although the electrical ground **212-A** and electric power source **214-A** are not connected in FIG. 2 for ease of illustration, one of ordinary skill in the art will understand that the electrical ground **212-A** and electric power source **214-A** are electrically connected to the components of the first biopotential sensor assembly **102-A**. As illustrated in FIG. 2, the components of other biopotential sensor assemblies (e.g., the second biopotential sensor assembly **102-B**, etc.) are connected as described above with respect to the first biopotential sensor assembly **102-A**. Notably, the first biopotential sensor assembly **102-A** and the second biopotential sensor assembly **102-B** are electrically isolated from each other (e.g., the assemblies do not share a common ground, etc.). Moreover, each biopotential sensor assembly **102** has its own bias value.

[0025] The electrode interface **202** is configured to electrically interface the sensor assembly **102** to a biopotential electrode. For example, conventional a biopotential electrode having a male portion of a snap connector may interface with a sensor assembly **102** via a female portion of the snap connector that comprises the electrode interface **202**. The electrode interface **202** receives the biopotential signals collected by the biopotential electrodes.

[0026] In an embodiment, the plurality of resistors **204** comprise a voltage divider that is configured to adjust the level of the biopotential signals received by the electrode interface **202** and create a bias for the op amp **210**. For example, the resistors **204** in the voltage divider configuration create the virtual center **206** and the center bias point **208**. Exemplary resistor values include, but are not limited to, those in the range of about 27.4 kΩ to about 49.9 kΩ and having a precision of at least about 0.1%. In some embodiments, the resistors **204** are within this range to limit the current draw from the electric power source **214** (e.g., a small battery, etc.) and to keep the current flow to the patient's body at acceptable levels. Moreover, in some embodiments, the 0.1% precision of the resistors **204** keeps the ECG signal close to center.

[0027] The op amp **210** is configured to amplify the biopotential signals received by the electrode interface **202**. In an exemplary embodiment, the op amp **210** amplifies the biopotential signals by a factor of at least about four.

[0028] The electric power source **214** is configured to supply electric power to the electronic components of the biopotential sensor assembly **102**. The electrical ground **212** is the common return path for the electric current within the circuit of each biopotential sensor assembly and is the reference point from which voltages are measured within the circuit. The electrical ground **212** of each biopotential sensor assembly **102** is electrically isolated from the electrical grounds of other biopotential sensor assemblies **102**. In other words, the biopotential sensor assemblies **102** of the biopotential system **100** do not share a common ground. An exemplary electric power source includes, but is not limited to, a battery, such as a lithium polymer (LiPo) battery.

[0029] The AC coupling capacitor **216** is configured to remove (e.g., filter, etc.) direct current (DC) components from the amplified biopotential signals. For example, the AC coupling capacitor **216** isolates the wandering signal from DC offsets caused patient movements, electrode conduction changes, and the like. Exemplary capacitor values include, but are not limited to, 0.1 μF low equivalent series inductance (ESL) ceramic ±1%.

[0030] The processor **218** is configured to reduce the continuous-time biopotential signals to a discrete-time signal (i.e., sample the biopotential signals). In some embodiments, the processor **218** includes an analog-to-digital converter (ADC). The processor **218** is further configured to receive synchronization beacons from the biopotential monitoring system **104**, sample the biopotential signals in accordance with the received beacons, generate data packets including the sampled data, and send acknowledgements and the data packets to the biopotential monitoring system **104**, as further described herein. An exemplary processor includes, but is not limited to, one having extreme low power with multiple power saving functions.

[0031] The transceiver **220** is configured to combine the digital signals/data packets generated by the processor **218** with a radio frequency (RF) signal and apply the modulated

signal to the antenna 222, which radiates the energy of the RF signal as radio waves (e.g., transmissions to an antenna of the biopotential monitoring system 104, etc.). The transceiver 220 is further configured to receive alternating currents received from the antenna 222, which is configured to intercept radio waves (e.g., receiving transmissions from an antenna of the biopotential monitoring system 104, etc.) and convert them into the alternating currents. The transceiver 220 is configured to extract information/data from the alternating currents. Although embodiments herein are described with respect to radio waves, one of ordinary skill in the art will understand that transceivers and antennas configured to transmit and receive other types of electromagnetic waves (e.g., microwaves, infrared, etc.) are within the scope of the invention. An exemplary transceiver includes, but is not limited to, one operating at a low-power, short-range 2.4 GHz multiprotocol and an exemplary antenna includes, but is not limited to, a printed circuit board (PCB)-type antenna.

[0032] FIG. 3 is a block diagram illustrating the biopotential monitoring system 104. As illustrated, the biopotential monitoring system 104 includes an antenna 302, a transceiver 304, a processor 306, and an output interface 308. The antenna 302 is electrically and/or communicatively connected to the transceiver 304, which in turn is electrically and/or communicatively connected to the processor 306. The processor 306 is electrically and/or communicatively connected to the output interface 308.

[0033] The transceiver 304 is configured to receive alternating currents received from the antenna 302, which is configured to intercept radio waves (e.g., receiving transmissions from antennas of the sensor assemblies 102, etc.) and convert them into the alternating currents. The transceiver 304 is also configured to extract information/data from the alternating currents. The transceiver 304 is further configured to combine digital signals/data packets generated by the processor 306 with an RF signal and apply the modulated signal to the antenna 302, which radiates the energy of the RF signal as radio waves (e.g., transmissions to antennas of the biopotential sensor assemblies 102, etc.).

[0034] The processor 306 is configured to generate a continuous-time biopotential (e.g., electrocardiogram, etc.) vector from the sampled biopotential data received from a pair of biopotential sensor assemblies 102. For example, the sampled biopotential data received from the biopotential sensor assembly 102-A may comprise a positive vector and the sampled biopotential data received from the biopotential sensor assembly 102-B may comprise a negative vector, which are combined by the processor 306 to construct an output signal that resembles a typical biopotential measurement signal. The processor 306 is further configured to generate and send synchronization beacons to the biopotential sensor assemblies 102, receive data packets that include the sampled biopotential data, and send acknowledgements to and receive acknowledgements from the biopotential sensor assemblies 102, as further described herein.

[0035] The output interface 308 is configured to electrically and/or communicatively interface the biopotential monitoring system 104 to one or more output devices. Exemplary output devices include, but are not limited to, conventional EKG monitors, existing medical equipment, personal computer systems, tablet computing devices, smartphones, and the like. These devices enable the output signals and/or data to be displayed, further analyzed, stored (e.g., in memory devices), and the like. In some embodi-

ments, the output interface 308 is a network interface configured to interface the biopotential monitoring system 104 with a communications network (e.g., local area network, the internet, an intranet, etc.) for communicating the output signals and/or data to remote computing devices and/or a cloud.

[0036] FIG. 4 is a diagram illustrating the synchronization of the acquisition of the biopotential signal samples. In an embodiment, synchronization is controlled by the biopotential monitoring system 104. At 402, the biopotential monitoring system 104 transmits a synchronization beacon to the biopotential sensor assemblies 102 via the wireless communications channels 106. In an embodiment, the synchronization beacon is a command initiated by a two-byte sequence followed by a two-byte command. At 404, the biopotential sensor assemblies 102 acquire biopotential signal samples substantially simultaneously. The biopotential sensor assemblies 102-A, 102-B, 102-N each send a unique acknowledgement back to the biopotential monitoring system 104 at 406, 408, and 410, respectively. Upon receiving the acknowledgement from the last biopotential sensor assembly 102-N, the biopotential monitoring system 104 initiates another sample sequence at 412. When the biopotential monitoring system 104 fails to receive an acknowledgement from any one of the biopotential sensor assemblies, it restarts the sequence (e.g., at 402) until each of the biopotential sensor assemblies successfully acknowledges. In an embodiment, steps 402 through 412 comprise an initialization and first time period (e.g., second, etc.).

[0037] After the passing of one time period (e.g., one second, etc.), less the time required for one sample, the biopotential monitoring system 104 transmits another synchronization beacon to the biopotential sensor assemblies 102 at 414. In an embodiment, the subsequent synchronization beacons are sent one sample time early (e.g., before the start of the next time period) to enable each biopotential sensor assembly 102 to determine whether it should resynchronize itself or continue the process with the previous synchronization beacon. In some embodiments, the biopotential sensor assemblies 102 stay synchronized for a day or more without the need for a resynchronization beacon.

[0038] At the end of each time period, the biopotential sensor assemblies 102 send one time period's worth of samples to the biopotential monitoring system 104. In an embodiment, each data packet sent by the biopotential sensor assemblies 102 is numbered to identify the source and the sequence. The biopotential sensor assemblies 102 are configured to store one or more data packets to ensure sending success. At 416, the biopotential sensor assemblies 102 acquire another set of biopotential signal samples substantially simultaneously. The biopotential sensor assemblies 102 transmit these samples acquired at 416 to the biopotential monitoring system 104 after acquiring yet another set of biopotential signal samples substantially simultaneously at 418.

[0039] For example, the biopotential monitoring system 104 requests, at 420, the biopotential signal samples (416) acquired by the biopotential sensor assembly 102-A. At 422, the biopotential sensor assembly 102-A sends the acquired (416) biopotential signal samples with an identifier to the biopotential monitoring system 104. At 424, the biopotential monitoring system 104 acknowledges to the biopotential sensor assembly 102-A that it received the data. When the biopotential monitoring system 104 does not acknowledge

receiving the data, the biopotential sensor assembly 102-A will keep the data (e.g., in a memory device) for at least one time period (e.g., one second) to allow the biopotential monitoring system 104 to request the data until it has been received.

[0040] These steps are repeated for the biopotential sensor assemblies 102-B through 102-N. The biopotential monitoring system 104 requests, at 426, the biopotential signal samples (416) acquired by the biopotential sensor assembly 102-B. At 428, the biopotential sensor assembly 102-B sends the acquired (416) biopotential signal samples with an identifier to the biopotential monitoring system 104. At 430, the biopotential monitoring system 104 acknowledges to the biopotential sensor assembly 102-B that it received the data. The biopotential monitoring system 104 requests, at 432, the biopotential signal samples (416) acquired by the biopotential sensor assembly 102-N. At 434, the biopotential sensor assembly 102-N sends the acquired (416) biopotential signal samples with an identifier to the biopotential monitoring system 104. At 438, the biopotential monitoring system 104 acknowledges to the biopotential sensor assembly 102-N that it received the data. At 436, the biopotential sensor assemblies 102 acquire another set of biopotential signal samples, which initiates the process for sending the biopotential signal samples acquired at 418 to the biopotential monitoring system 104.

[0041] The biopotential sensor assemblies 102 use the synchronization beacon to keep their samples synchronized. If a sensor assembly 102 does not receive the synchronization beacon, it will continue on its sequence based on current timing parameters. When a set recording length is met, the biopotential monitoring system 104 sends out a stop command sequence to end the streaming/recording of data by the biopotential sensor assemblies 102.

[0042] FIG. 5 is a block diagram illustrating an exemplary method 500 of the biopotential system 100. At 502, the biopotential monitoring system 104 transmits a synchronization beacon to all of the biopotential sensor assemblies 102 via the wireless communications channels 106. The biopotential sensor assemblies 102 receive the synchronization beacon at 504 and then simultaneously acquire the biopotential signal samples at 506. As further described herein, acquiring the samples simultaneously achieves a virtual common mode rejection for the acquired samples. At 508, the biopotential sensor assemblies 102 each bias their respective acquired samples and create the virtual center bias that is common to all of the biopotential sensor assemblies 102. The biopotential sensor assemblies 102 digitize the acquired samples at 510 and transmit the data to the biopotential monitoring system 104 at 512 via the wireless communications channels 106. At 514, the biopotential monitoring system 104 receives the data and then generates complete biopotential vectors from the received data at 516. In some embodiments, generating the vectors includes referencing the biopotential data to the virtual center bias that was common to all of the biopotential sensor assemblies 102. At 518, the biopotential monitoring system 104 outputs the generated vectors to one or more computing devices, display devices, communications networks, or the like.

[0043] FIG. 6 illustrates the noise magnitude that results from non-synchronized samples, such as in accordance with conventional techniques. Conventional systems cancel noise at the analog level using differential amplifiers. The signals that are the same from two different inputs, such as noise, are

canceled out by applying the same signal to both the positive and negative sides of the differential amplifier. The most common noise seen in conventional ECG signals is 50 Hz and 60 Hz. Depending on the application, most conventional ECG equipment samples between 128 samples per second up to 1000 samples per second. The waveforms illustrated in FIG. 6 illustrate an example 60 Hz noise waveform at 8-bit magnitude. Part 1 and Part 2 are not synchronized and the sample rate per channel is 128 (1/128=7.8125 mS). When not synchronized, the resulting data from Part 1 and Part 2 is as follows:

$$\begin{aligned} &(\text{Part 1, Sample 1}) - (\text{Part 2, Sample 1}) = 255 - 100 = 155 \\ &\text{noise magnitude} \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned} &(\text{Part 1, Sample 2}) - (\text{Part 2, Sample 2}) = 20 - 190 = -170 \\ &\text{noise magnitude} \end{aligned}$$

When synchronized, the resulting data from Part 1 and Part 2 is as follows:

$$\begin{aligned} &(\text{Part 1, Sample 1}) - (\text{Part 2, Sample 1}) = 255 - 255 = 0 \\ &\text{noise magnitude} \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned} &(\text{Part 1, Sample 2}) - (\text{Part 2, Sample 2}) = 20 - 20 = 0 \text{ noise} \\ &\text{magnitude} \end{aligned}$$

[0044] As illustrated in FIG. 6, only 2.1248 samples will fit inside the 60 Hz wave. If the samples are not synchronized, then the worst case scenario is the noise would be amplified and not canceled out. When the data is synchronized, then a virtual common mode rejection is achieved.

[0045] Although embodiments are described herein in connection with biopotential signal measurements in the form of electrocardiographs (EKG or ECG), one having ordinary skill in the art will understand that the systems, methods, and techniques described herein are applicable with any biological parameter that utilizes a differential signal. For example, the systems, methods, and techniques described herein can be used for measurement and recording of electrophysiological activity including, but not limited to, electroencephalography (EEG), electromyography (EMG), electrical brain stimulation (EBS), and the like.

[0046] As is evident from the foregoing description, certain aspects of the present inventions are not limited by the particular details of the examples illustrated herein, and it is therefore contemplated that other modifications, applications, variations, or equivalents thereof, will occur to those skilled in the art. Many such changes, modifications, variations and other uses and applications of the present constructions will, however, become apparent to those skilled in the art after considering the specification and the accompanying drawings. All such changes, modifications, variations and other uses in applications which do not depart from the spirit and scope of the present inventions are deemed to be covered by the inventions which are limited only by the claims which follow.

What is claimed is:

1. A method, comprising:

transmitting, by a biopotential monitoring system, a synchronization beacon to a plurality of biopotential sensor assemblies via a wireless communications channel;
acquiring, by the plurality of biopotential sensor assemblies, a plurality of biopotential signal samples substantially simultaneously based on the synchronization beacon, thereby achieving a virtual common mode rejection for the acquired biopotential signal samples, wherein the plurality of biopotential sensor assemblies

are electrically isolated from each other, wherein a first biopotential signal sample of the plurality thereof comprises a positive vector, and wherein a second biopotential signal sample of the plurality thereof comprises a negative vector;

biasing, by each of the biopotential sensor assemblies, the biopotential signal sample acquired thereby to a center voltage within the biopotential sensor assembly;

creating, within each of the biopotential sensor assemblies, a virtual center bias, wherein the virtual center bias is common to the plurality of biopotential sensor assemblies;

receiving, by the biopotential monitoring system, transmissions of biopotential data from each of the biopotential sensor assemblies via the wireless communications channel, wherein the biopotential data digitally represents the acquired biopotential signal samples; and

generating, by the biopotential monitoring system, one or more complete electrocardiogram vectors from the received biopotential data digitally representing the biopotential signal samples comprising the positive and negative vectors, wherein said generating includes referencing the biopotential data to the virtual center bias.

2. The method of claim 1, wherein none of the plurality of biopotential sensor assemblies comprises a reference electrode.

3. The method of claim 1, wherein the plurality of biopotential sensor assemblies are applied to a body of a patient.

4. The method of claim 3, wherein the plurality of biopotential sensor assemblies are physically isolated from each other.

5. The method of claim 1, wherein the electrical isolation of the plurality of biopotential sensor assemblies comprises each biopotential sensor assembly having an electrical ground that is different from the electrical ground of the other biopotential sensor assemblies.

6. The method of claim 1, further comprising removing one or more direct current components from the biopotential signal samples.

7. The method of claim 1, wherein the biopotential data comprises one or more data packets, and wherein each data packet includes an identifier that uniquely identifies the biopotential sensor assembly from which the data packet was received.

8. A system, comprising:

a first biopotential sensor assembly, comprising:

a first interface configured to electrically interface the first biopotential sensor assembly with a first electrode for acquiring first biopotential signal samples based on a synchronization beacon,

a first electrical ground,

a plurality of first resistors configured to create a virtual center bias within the first biopotential sensor assembly,

a first processor configured to convert the first biopotential signal samples into first digital biopotential data, and

a first transceiver configured to wirelessly receive the synchronization beacon and wirelessly transmit the first digital biopotential data,

a second biopotential sensor assembly, comprising:

a second interface configured to electrically interface the second biopotential sensor assembly with a second electrode for acquiring second biopotential signal samples based on the synchronization beacon,

a second electrical ground, wherein the second electrical ground is isolated from the first electrical ground,

a plurality of second resistors configured to create the virtual center bias within the second biopotential sensor assembly,

a second processor configured to convert the second biopotential signal samples into second digital biopotential data, and

a second transceiver configured to wirelessly receive the synchronization beacon and wirelessly transmit the second digital biopotential data; and

a biopotential monitoring system, comprising:

a third transceiver configured to wirelessly receive the first and second digital biopotential data and wirelessly transmit the synchronization beacon, and

a third processor configured to:

generate the synchronization beacon for synchronizing the acquisition of the first and second biopotential signal samples by the first and second biopotential sensor assemblies,

reference the received first and second digital biopotential data to the virtual center bias, and

generate one or more complete electrocardiogram vectors from the virtually centered first and second digital biopotential data.

9. The system of claim 8,

wherein the first biopotential sensor assembly further comprises:

a first electric power source, and

a first operational amplifier (op amp) configured to amplify the first biopotential signal sample; and

wherein the second biopotential sensor assembly further comprises:

a second electric power source, wherein the second electric power source is isolated from the first electric power source, and

a second op amp configured to amplify the second biopotential signal sample.

10. The system of claim 8, wherein the first biopotential sensor assembly comprises a positive electrocardiogram (ECG) vector, and wherein the second biopotential sensor assembly comprises a negative ECG vector.

11. The system of claim 8, wherein neither the first biopotential sensor assembly nor the second biopotential sensor assembly comprises a reference electrode.

12. The system of claim 8, wherein the first and second biopotential sensor assemblies are applied to a body of a patient.

13. The system of claim 12, wherein the first and second biopotential sensor assemblies are physically isolated from each other.

14. The system of claim 8,

wherein the first biopotential sensor assembly further comprises a first AC coupling capacitor configured to remove one or more direct current components from the first biopotential signal sample, and

wherein the second biopotential sensor assembly further comprises a second AC coupling capacitor configured to remove one or more direct current components from the second biopotential signal sample.

15. The system of claim **8**,

wherein the first processor is further configured to insert a first identifier that uniquely identifies the first biopotential sensor assembly into the first digital biopotential data, and

wherein the second processor is further configured to insert a second identifier that uniquely identifies the second biopotential sensor assembly into the second digital biopotential data.

16. A method, comprising:

synchronizing collection of biopotential signal samples by each of a plurality of biopotential sensors such that the collections occur substantially simultaneously, thereby achieving a virtual common mode rejection for the collected biopotential signal samples;

centering the collected biopotential signal samples on a virtual center bias value that is common to the plurality of biopotential sensors; and

generating an electrocardiogram output from biopotential data digitally representing the centered biopotential signal samples, wherein said generating includes referencing the biopotential data to the virtual center bias value.

17. The method of claim **16**, wherein the plurality of biopotential sensors are electrically isolated from each other.

18. The method of claim **17**, wherein the electrical isolation of the plurality of biopotential sensors comprises each biopotential sensor having an electrical ground that is different from the electrical ground of the other biopotential sensors.

19. The method of claim **16**, further comprising removing one or more direct current components from the biopotential signal samples.

20. The method of claim **16**, further comprising uniquely identifying the biopotential data based on the biopotential sensor from which the biopotential signal samples represented by the biopotential data was collected.

* * * * *

专利名称(译)	单点无线生物电势监测系统和方法		
公开(公告)号	US20200037877A1	公开(公告)日	2020-02-06
申请号	US16/179474	申请日	2018-11-02
[标]发明人	OTT JAMES E BARRON JON		
发明人	OTT, JAMES E. BARRON, JON		
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摘要(译)

多个无线传感器组件分别连接到标准生物电势电极，可将其放置在受试者身体上的生物电势信号记录位置。电隔离的传感器组件会根据同步同时测量来自身体部位的潜在电压。被测信号被放大，数字化和滤波，然后无线发送到监视系统。监控系统接收多个传感器信号，并根据传感器的位置和数量构建生物势矢量。传感器信号以公共虚拟中心偏置为参考，以合成共模抑制。

