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(54) **DEVICE FOR THE REMOTE NON-CONTACT MONITORING OF THE VITAL SIGNS OF A LIVING BEING**

VORRICHTUNG ZUR KONTAKTLOSEN FERNÜBERWACHUNG DER VITALZEICHEN EINES LEBEWESENS

DISPOSITIF DE SUIVI À DISTANCE SANS CONTACT DE PARAMÈTRES D'ACTIVITÉS VITALES D'UN ORGANISME VIVANT

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Description

FIELD OF THE INVENTION

[0001] The present disclosure generally relates to the field of medicine, and more particularly, to devices for remote non-contact monitoring of vital signs of a living being, such as motion, breathing and heartbeat, enabling the health status of the organism to be monitored continuously throughout the monitoring time, and to determine its state of wakefulness, sleep, waking from sleep, convulsions, respiratory arrest.

[0002] The proposed device can be used for remote non-contact monitoring of vital signs and state of elderly people, patients of sedentary lifestyle, neonates, especially prone to sleep apnea, as well as for monitoring in order to study the phases of sleep, sleep disorders, epileptic aura, wherein monitoring can be as an outpatient (for instance, observation of sleep/wakefulness of a child or an adult, determining of a "turned" state for neonates), and in general in the wards of clinics or medical institutions. Besides, the device can also be used for remote non-contact monitoring of vital signs of animals, for instance, in veterinary medicine, in laboratory studies or in a zoo, in cases where the contact diagnosis is difficult, dangerous or unacceptable, as it may expose an animal to undesirable stress.

BACKGROUND

[0003] Every year devices for remote non-contact monitoring of vital signs of living beings, in particular, human beings, becoming increasingly relevant, as their use in various fields of medicine allows impact on the subject of observation and control to be minimized, and at the same time improving the information content and accuracy of control and diagnostics.

[0004] The U.S. patent application No. 20090203972, IPC A61B 5/00, publ. 13.08.2009 describes an apparatus for remote non-contact monitoring of breathing, heart rate and motion, comprising a processor configured to analyze the signal reflected by a subject without physical contact with the subject, and take measurements of breathing, heart rate and motion of the subject from the reflected signal, and a display configured to provide analyzed and measured parameters to a local or remote user of the apparatus. The apparatus further comprises a sensor coupled to the processor and arranged to receive the signal reflected from the subject. The sensor and processor are both arranged to operate without any direct or indirect physical contact with the subject. The reflected signal is generated by a transmitter collocated with the apparatus. The transmitter is configured to generate a radiofrequency energy signal compatible for use with a living subject. The reflected signal is multiplied with the transmitted signal to output a modulated signal representing a respiration, cardiac and/or motion function.

[0005] A disadvantage of the apparatus is the use of

the single signal both for transmission and as a reference signal for the multiplier. This either means the use of continuous probing and the reference signal, which automatically leads to a signal reflected from extraneous subjects and interference being received, or limits the distance resolution of the apparatus by the length of the UWB (Ultra Wide Band) signal (i.e., ultra wideband signal) or makes it impossible for the probing signal to comply with the UWB standards that will in all likelihood require a license to use the spectrum band. The U.S. patent No. 7725150, IPC A61B 5/05 G01S, publ. 25.05.2010, discloses a system for extracting physiological data using an ultra wideband signal comprising a controller connected to the user interface, a first signal processor input, a first analog-to-digital converter input, a first delay range input, and a pulse repetition frequency generator. The first output of the pulse repetition frequency generator is connected to the transmitter input, the output of which is connected to a receiving-transmitting antenna. The second output of the generator is connected to the second input of the delay range, the output of which is connected to the first input of the receiver. The second input of the receiver is connected to the receiving-transmitting antenna, and its output is connected to the second input of the analog-to-digital converter. Output of the analog-to-digital converter is connected to the second input of signal processor, the output of which is connected to the user interface.

[0006] A disadvantage of this device is in broadcasting radio frequency pulse signals without radiofrequency content, which makes the device inefficient from an energy point of view.

[0007] Prior art reveals systems for monitoring parameters of vital signs of living beings, including non-contact motion, breathing and heart rate sensors (WO2010091168, publ. 12.08.2010, IPC A61B 5/0205, A61B 5/113; WO2010036700, publ. 01.04.2010 IPC G06 F 19/00; WO2008057883, publ. 15.09.2008, IPC A61B 5/00; WO2007143529, publ. 13.12.2007, IPC A41D 27/00 27/02 27/12 27/28 13/00, G21F 3/02; EP 0 984 299 A1, publ. 08.03.2000, IPC G01S 13/12; US 2001/0009404 A1, publ. 26.07.2001, IPC G01S 13/00; WO 2008/001092 A2, publ. 03.01.2008, IPC G01S 13/89, G01S 13/56, G01S 13/88, G01S 13/87; WO 2011/146517 A2, publ. 24.11.2011; US 2006/0217612 A1, publ. 28.09.2006, IPC A61B 5/05, A61B 5/02, A61B 5/08). In the above systems, the sensor is a typical radar comprising a continuous or pulsed probing signal generator, a transmitting antenna, a receiving antenna, an amplifier, a mixer of the optionally delayed entire probing signal or a part of the probing signal and the received signal, and a frequency filter. Disclosed are modifications of radar using short-pulse UWB signals of various length and the Doppler Effect. All these radars, if no original solution is implemented, are limited in resolution, range of the device, as well as of the noise tolerance. All these radars use conventional radar topology where the reference UHF signal is created from the probing UHF signal

in the transmitter and further transferred on the receiver for the received signal demodulation. The reference UHF signal path between the transmitter and the receiver is a weak point in such devices which requires using high cost precise components and materials for keeping the signal-to-noise ratio at a reasonable level.

[0008] The nearest selected analog (prototype) is a pulsed ultra-wideband sensor (patent of the Russian Federation No. 2369323, IPC A61B 5/08 G01S 13/00, publ. 10.10.2009) for measuring respiratory rate and heart rate. The sensor can be used as a highly sensitive diagnostic tool for the cardiovascular system and respiratory system both under inpatient and outpatient conditions. The sensor comprises a control unit configured to generate a time delay of the synchronization pulse, a probing signal forming circuit, a transmitting and receiving antenna, a probing signal transmitter train, the output of which is connected to the transmitting antenna, a reflected signal receiver circuit, the input of which is connected to the receiving antenna, and a first electronic switch. The input of the first electronic switch is connected to the output of the probing signal forming circuit, and its outputs are connected to the input of the probing signal transmitter circuit and to the reflected signal receiver circuit. The outputs of the channels for processing a reflected signal contained in the reflected signal receiver circuit are connected to a circuit for calculating a respiratory rate and heart rate. The circuit for calculating rates includes two frequency filters, two adders, two signal amplitude calculating units, two signal energy calculating units, two integrators, two comparators, two signal multiplying units, two units for generating a reference signal, second and third electronic switches.

[0009] A disadvantage of the device is that the duration of the reference pulse is always equal to the duration of the probing pulse, whereby the reference pulse will always depend on the probing pulse that sets boundaries of the distance sensitivity range in dependence on the occupied bandwidth and resolution of the device, which greatly limits the functionality of the device, reducing the accuracy, reliability and range of the measurements. For instance, to increase the resolution and hence the accuracy of the device, the probing pulse has to be very short, therefore, the reference pulse is very short, and this reduces the operating range of the device. Besides, the construction of the device assumes at least one long UHF communication line (from the first electronic switch either to the probing signal transmitter circuit or to the reflected signal receiver circuit), which, due to rapid attenuation of the UHF signal, limits the maximum allowable distance between the transmitting and receiving antennas in the need for their spacing and imposes additional requirements on PCB material and makes the device relatively expensive.

DISCLOSURE OF INVENTION

[0010] The problem to be solved by the claimed inven-

tion is to develop a new high efficiency and at the same time, relatively inexpensive device for remote non-contact monitoring of vital signs of a living being to be used in medicine and/or veterinary in conditions when contact diagnosis of a living being is difficult, dangerous or unacceptable.

[0011] The present disclosure enables improved measurement accuracy and reliability, increased operating range and reduced likelihood of mistakenly detecting extraneous objects.

[0012] The problem is solved and the required technical effect is achieved in a device for remote non-contact monitoring of vital signs of a living being comprising at least one measuring unit, at least one control and data processing unit, and at least one interface unit, wherein the measuring unit is connected to the control and data processing unit, and the control and data processing unit is connected to the interface unit, wherein the measuring unit comprises at least one radio transmitting module, and at least one radio receiving module, wherein the control and data processing unit is configured to generate control pulses for each of the radio transmitting and radio receiving modules delayed for arbitrary time periods between each other, and the control and data processing unit is additionally configured to generate control pulses of arbitrary duration for each of the radio transmitting and radio receiving modules characterized in that each of the radio receiving modules further comprises a UHF reference pulse generator and each radio transmitting module and/or each radio receiving module contained in the measuring unit is made independent of the other modules, wherein the radio transmitting module comprises a sequentially connected UHF probing pulse generator, an amplifier and a transmitting antenna.

[0013] In another aspect, the invention is characterized in that each of the radio receiving modules comprises a sequentially connected receiving antenna, a low noise amplifier, a phase detector, a band-pass filter and an amplifier, wherein the second input of the phase detector is connected to the output of the UHF generator.

[0014] In yet another aspect, the invention is characterized in that each of the radio transmitting and receiving modules are spaced from each other by a distance from 0.0001 m to 20 m. In yet another aspect, the invention is characterized in that the control and data processing unit comprises sequentially interconnected an analog-to-digital converter and a microcontroller.

[0015] In yet another aspect, the invention is characterized in that the control and data processing unit further comprises short pulse driver, an input of which is connected to the microcontroller.

[0016] In yet another aspect, the invention is characterized in that the short pulse driver outputs are connected to the inputs of each of the UHF generators of the radio receiving and radio transmitting modules of the measuring unit.

[0017] In yet another aspect, the invention is characterized in that the analog-digital converter is built into the

microcontroller.

[0018] In yet another aspect, the invention is characterized in that the control and data processing unit further comprises an external non-volatile memory device connected to the microcontroller.

[0019] In yet another aspect, the invention is characterized in that the measuring unit further comprises at least one sensor and an actuating module. In yet another aspect, the invention is characterized in that the sensor is a sensor selected from a group comprising a motion sensor, a sound sensor, a video sensor, a temperature sensor, a humidity sensor, a pressure sensor, a magnetic field sensor, a light sensor, a tactile sensor, an electrical button or a combination thereof.

[0020] In yet another aspect, the invention is characterized in that the actuating module is a device selected from a group comprising a sound playback device, a video playback device, a light indicator device, a vibration motor, an electric motor or a combination thereof.

[0021] In yet another aspect, the invention is characterized in that the interface unit comprises at least one sensor and an actuating module.

[0022] In yet another aspect, the invention is characterized in that the sensor is a sensor selected from a group comprising a motion sensor, a sound sensor, a video sensor, a temperature sensor, a humidity sensor, a pressure sensor, a magnetic field sensor, a light sensor, a touch sensor, an electrical button or a combination thereof. In yet another aspect, the invention is characterized in that the actuating module is a device selected from a group comprising a sound playback device, a video playback device, a light indicator device, a vibration motor, an electric motor or a combination thereof.

[0023] In yet another aspect, the invention is characterized in that the measuring unit and the control and data processing unit are arranged in a common enclosure and are interconnected by a wired communication channel, and the control and data processing unit and the interface unit are connected by a wireless communication channel, wherein the interface unit is arranged in a separate enclosure.

[0024] In yet another aspect, the invention is characterized in that the measuring unit is located in a separate enclosure and is connected to the control and data processing unit by wireless communication channel, and the control and data processing unit and the interface unit are arranged in a common enclosure and are connected by a wired communication channel.

[0025] In yet another aspect, the invention is characterized in that the measuring unit, the control and data processing unit, and the interface unit are arranged in a common enclosure and are interconnected by wired communication channels.

[0026] In yet another aspect, the invention is characterized in that the measuring unit, the control and data processing unit, and the interface unit are each located in a separate enclosure and are interconnected by wireless communication channels.

[0027] The essential difference of the claimed invention is a new design of the device for remote non-contact monitoring of vital signs of a living being, in particular its radio transmitting and radio receiving modules, as well as the control and data processing unit. In the new device, each radio transmitting module and/or each radio receiving module contained in the measuring unit is made independent of the other modules, and the control and data processing unit is further configured to generate control pulses for each of the radio transmitting and radio receiving modules delayed for arbitrary time periods between each other, that unlike the prototype, cumulatively provides the possibility of independent setting and regulating durations of probing and/or reference pulses, and allows the duration of the probing pulse to be reduced, which leads to the expansion of the frequency band used, higher distance resolution which, in turn, leads to a sharp boundary between the zone of sensitivity and the far dead zone, decreasing the likelihood of mistakenly detecting motion of extraneous objects and interference, allowing for more accurate and reliable determining of the position of the observed subject in space relative to its starting position and simultaneously recording even smaller changes in position of the subject of observation in space relative to the starting position. Moreover, the possibility provided by the new design of the device to generate probing and reference pulses of arbitrary length allows just the duration of the probing pulse to be limited, making the reference pulse arbitrarily long, thereby increasing and at the same time adjusting the operating range of the device. Thus, the new embodiment of the above modules and the new embodiment of the control and data processing unit cumulatively enable the improved accuracy and reliability of measurements while increasing the operating range of the device and decreasing the likelihood of mistakenly detecting extraneous objects, i.e. the claimed technical effect is achieved.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

[0028]

Fig. 1 is a general layout of the main units of the device;

Fig. 2 is a general block diagram of the device.

EMBODIMENTS OF THE INVENTION

[0029] The device for remote monitoring of vital signs of a living being comprises a measuring unit 1, a control and data processing unit 2 and interface unit 3 (Fig. 1). The above units are arranged in a common enclosure (omitted) and are interconnected sequentially by the first and the second wired communication channels, respectively (Fig. 1).

[0030] In a particular embodiment of the device, the measuring unit 1 and control and data processing unit 2

can be arranged in a common enclosure (omitted) and interconnected by the first wired communication channel, and interface unit 3 is located in a separate enclosure and connected to the control and data processing unit 2 by the second wireless communication channel (omitted).

[0031] In another particular embodiment of the device, the measuring unit 1 can be arranged in a separate enclosure and connected to the control and data processing unit 2 by the first wireless communication channel, the control and data processing unit 2 and the interface unit 3 can be arranged in a separate common enclosure and interconnected by the second wired communication channel (omitted).

[0032] In another particular embodiment of the device, all the above units can be arranged in a common enclosure and interconnected by the first and the second wireless communication channels, respectively (omitted).

[0033] There can be multiple measuring units 1, control and data processing units 2 and interface units 3 (omitted) depending on the requirements for the specific conditions of the measurements.

[0034] The measuring unit 1 comprises at least one radio transmitting module 4, at least one radio receiving module 5, and further at least one sensor 6 and the actuating module 7 (Fig. 2).

[0035] Fig. 2 shows that the radio receiving module 5 comprises a sequentially connected receiving antenna 8, a low noise amplifier 9, a phase detector 10, a band-pass filter 11, an amplifier 12 and an additional UHF reference pulse generator 13, respectively connected to the phase detector. Radio transmitting module 4 comprises a sequentially connected UHF probing pulse generator 14, an amplifier 15 and a transmitting antenna 16 (Fig. 2).

[0036] The UHF probing pulse generator 14 in the radio transmitting unit 4 and the UHF reference pulse generator 13 in the radio receiving module 5 ensure the independence of the modules 4, 5 relatively to each other, which in particular allows a short probing signal to be generated with a bandwidth wider than 500 MHz, which conforms to UWB signal standards, and at the same time a delayed long reference signal can be generated to provide the desired operation range for the device.

[0037] The UHF probing pulse generator 14 in the radio transmitting unit 4 and the UHF reference pulse generator 13 in the radio receiving module 5 allow spacing the above radio transmitting and radio receiving modules with respect to each other by a distance from 0.0001 m to 20 m due to the absence of a UHF communication links between them.

[0038] Spaced arrangement of the radio transmitting module 4 and radio receiving module 5 from 0.0001 m to 20 m allows for the signal reflected from the subject of observation at a distance from the radio transmitting module 4 to be received, which reduces the level of the direct signal reaching the antenna 8 of the radio receiving module 5 generated by the operation of the radio transmitting module 4 and thereby improves the accuracy and

reliability of the measurements.

[0039] Spaced arrangement of multiple radio receiving modules (omitted) from 0.0001 m to 20 m, made independent of each other, provides, firstly, a considerable reduction in the likelihood that simultaneously in all receiving modules phase of the reflected signal will fall into a low phase sensitivity area of the phase detectors; secondly, a significant reduction in the likelihood of a decrease in simultaneous reflected signal level in all radio receiving modules due to interference, which also further improves the accuracy, integrity and reliability of measurements.

[0040] The spaced arrangement of multiple radio transmitting modules (omitted) from 0.0001 m to 20 m, made independent of each other, provides the possibility of obtaining information on the nature of the motion of the subject of observation in three dimensions, thereby further improving the accuracy, integrity and reliability of the measurements.

[0041] In a particular embodiment of the device, there can be multiple radio transmitting modules 4 as well as radio receiving modules 5 (omitted), wherein each of them is made independent of the other modules. Having multiple radio transmitting modules 4 and multiple radio receiving modules 5 allows measurements at different angles and in different planes, which further enables the extension of the observation area, information on the nature of the motion of the subject of observation in three dimension space to be obtained, and readings of several radio transmitting and/or radio receiving modules to be correlated, further improving the accuracy and reliability of the measurements by duplication.

[0042] The sensor 6 can be a motion sensor, a sound sensor, a video sensor, a temperature sensor, a humidity sensor, a pressure sensor, a magnetic field sensor, a light sensor, a touch sensor, an electrical button or a combination thereof (omitted).

[0043] The actuating module 7 is a device selected from a group comprising a sound playback device, a video playback device, a light indicator device, a vibration motor, an electric motor or a combination thereof (omitted).

[0044] The control and data processing unit 2 comprises an interconnected analog-to-digital converter 17 and a microcontroller 18 (Fig. 2). In a particular embodiment of the device, the analog-to-digital converter 17 can be built into the microcontroller 18 (omitted).

[0045] The control and data processing unit 2 further comprises a short pulse driver 19 and an external non-volatile memory device 20, the inputs of which are connected to the microcontroller 18 (Fig. 2). Input of the analog-to-digital converter 17 is connected to the output of amplifier 12 (the first communication channel). The microcontroller 18 is connected to the sensor 6 and the actuating module 7 of the measuring unit 1 (the first communication channel). Outputs of the short pulse driver 19 are connected to inputs of the UHF generators 13 and 14 (the first communication channel), wherein the mod-

ules 4, 5 are made independent of each other. Such a design of the device while measuring allows simultaneous adjustment of the occupied bandwidth, distance resolution and sensitivity area of the device (observation area).

[0046] The interface unit 3 comprises at least one sensor 21 and actuating module 22 connected to the microcontroller 18 (the second communication channel) (Fig. 2). The sensor 21 can be a motion sensor, a sound sensor, a video sensor, a temperature sensor, a humidity sensor, a pressure sensor, a magnetic field sensor, a light sensor, a touch sensor, an electrical button or a combination thereof (omitted). The actuating module 22 can be a device selected from a group comprising a sound playback device, a video playback device, a light indicator device, a vibration motor, an electric motor or a combination thereof (omitted).

[0047] The claimed device operates as follows.

[0048] The microcontroller 18 generates a clock signal, which is fed to the short pulse driver 19. The short pulse driver 19 generates a set of pulses with determined durations and mutual delays for the UHF generators 13, 14 of modules 4 and 5 that, unlike the prototype, allows:

- the delay between the probing signal and the reference signal to be set, thereby forming a distance dead zone, and therefore does not accept extraneous signals until the expected detection of the reflected signal, reduces the likelihood of receiving noisy signal, reduces the likelihood of receiving signals from extraneous objects, increases signal-to-noise ratio. Increasing signal-to-noise ratio leads to increased likelihood of deriving the motion path of the subject of observation, increased measurement reliability, increase in the maximum distance of the subject of observation from the device; reduction in the duration of the probing signals, resulting in expansion of the occupied bandwidth, increased distance resolution, and a sharper boundary between the distance sensitivity range of the device and far dead zone;

the duration of the probing signals to be increased, which leads to increased energy of the probing signal, and increases signal-to-noise ratio;

the duration of reference signals to be reduced, which leads to narrowing the observation area, a decrease in the time of receiving extraneous signals, and hence a reduction in the likelihood of receiving noisy signal, and the likelihood of receiving signals from extraneous objects, thus increasing the signal-to-noise ratio;

the duration of reference signals to be increased, which leads to expansion of the observation area, and thereby increasing the likelihood of detecting the subject.

[0049] The signal from the UHF generator 14 of the radio transmitting module 4 is fed through the amplifier 15 to the transmitting antenna 16 and radiated into a space towards the observed subject (omitted). The radio

signal reflected from the observed subject is received by the receiving antenna 8 of the module 5. Then the above signal is amplified by the low noise amplifier 9 and fed to the input of the phase detector 10. The signal of the UHF generator 13 is fed to the reference (second) input of the phase detector 10. At the output of the phase detector 10 the signal is generated, the shape of which is proportional to the change in the phase difference of signals on both inputs of the phase detector 10. The required range of the signal is allocated by the band-pass filter 11, amplified by amplifier 12 and fed to the control and data processing unit 2. There the signals are digitized by the analog-to-digital converter 17 and sent for processing to the microcontroller 18. The microcontroller 18 processes signals to derive the states of the observed subject. The processing results can be written to the volatile memory device 20. In addition to processing of the above radio signals, the microcontroller 18 processes data and events received from one or more sensors (6, 21) arranged both in the measurement unit 1 and in the interface unit 3. The microcontroller 18 also controls various actuating modules (7, 22) arranged both in the measurement unit 1, and in the interface unit 3, respectively.

[0050] The claimed device can be used, for instance, to prevent the crying of a child at the moment of awakening. Preventing crying of a child at the moment of awakening is performed by deriving the state of the child through the nature of his/her motion via the claimed device sensitive enough to register the child's breathing, and by transmitting information on motion activity of the child through the second communication channel to the interface unit 3. Determination of the "sleep" state takes place if a periodic signal of chest movement in a frequency range characteristic for infants (30 - 60 breaths per minute) is observed; determining the "awakening" state takes place if during a period of time t (for instance, 30 sec.) there is observed a stochastic signal with the amplitude greater than the amplitude of the periodic breathing signal is observed. Given the fact that the child starts moving before opening the eyes, then early alert to the observer (mom) on the "awakening" state will allow him (her) to come to the child before the child finds himself alone and starts to cry.

[0051] The claimed device can also be used, for instance, to inform parents on the presence of a child in a crib. Informing parents on the presence of the child in the crib is performed by deriving the state of the child through the nature of his/her motion via the claimed device sensitive enough to register the child's breathing, and by transmitting information on the motion activity of the child through the second communication channel to the interface unit 3. Determination of the "sleep" state takes place if a periodic signal of chest movement in a frequency range characteristic for infants (30 - 60 breaths per minute) is observed; determination of the "awakening" state takes place if during a period of time t (for instance, 30 sec.) a stochastic signal with the amplitude greater than the amplitude of the periodic breathing signal is observed.

served. Determining the "missing" state takes place if during the time t_i (for instance, 20 seconds) a stochastic signal which does not exceed the amplitude of the periodic breathing signal is observed. Determination of the above states will allow the observer at any time of the day or night to get information on whether the child is in the crib, whether he/she is asleep or awake, and make a decision at his/her discretion (for instance, one can wake up at night in silence, and instead of going to check the child, just look at the interface unit 3, and see that the child is asleep; or, after the "missing" signal from the actuating module 22, promptly react to the state of apnea which has occurred and prevent sudden infant death syndrome (SIDS) through mechanical action on the child). The claimed device can also be used, for instance, to inform the observer on the state of a patient in a bed. Informing the observer on the state of a patient in a bed is performed by deriving the state of the patient through the nature of his/her motion via the claimed device sensitive enough to register the patient's breathing, and by transmitting information on motion activity of the patient through the second communication channel to the interface unit 3. Determination of the "sleep" state takes place if a periodic signal of chest movement in a frequency range characteristic for an adult (4 - 20 breaths per minute) is observed; determination of the "awakening" state takes place if during a period of time t (for instance, 30 sec.) a stochastic signal with the amplitude greater than the amplitude of the periodic breathing signal is observed. Determining the "missing" state takes place if during the time t_x (for instance, 20 seconds) a stochastic signal which does not exceed the amplitude of the periodic breathing signal is observed. Determination of the above states will allow the observer at any time of the day or night to get information on whether the patient is in the bed, whether he/she is asleep or awake, and make a decision at his/her discretion (for instance, one may decide not to disturb the patient while the latter is sleeping, or, after the "missing" signal promptly react to the unauthorized leaving of the bed).

[0052] To implement the claimed invention both in general, and in particular configurations, the measuring unit 1, the control and data processing unit 2 and the interface unit 3 can basically be materials, elements and units that are well-known and used in the field of remote monitoring of vital signs of living beings.

[0053] The device can be arranged in a variety of modifications, so as to include additional elements and/or units of the prior art such as frequency filters, amplifiers, time-delay lines and modulators in the radio transmitting module, frequency filters, amplifiers, time-delay lines, phase-shifting circuits, multipliers, detectors and demodulators in the radio receiving module.

[0054] The present invention is not limited to the disclosed configurations, and on the contrary covers various modifications and variations within the scope of the stated claims.

Claims

1. A device for remote non-contact monitoring of vital signs of a living being comprising at least one measuring unit, at least one control and data processing unit, and at least one interface unit, wherein the measuring unit is connected to the control and data processing unit, and the control and data processing unit is connected to the interface unit, wherein the measuring unit comprises at least one radio transmitting module, and at least one radio receiving module, wherein the control and data processing unit is configured to generate control pulses for each of the radio transmitting and radio receiving modules delayed for arbitrary time periods between each other, and the control and data processing unit is additionally configured to generate control pulses of arbitrary duration for each of the radio transmitting and radio receiving modules, wherein the radio transmitting module comprises a sequentially connected UHF probing pulse generator, an amplifier and a transmitting antenna, **characterized in that** each of the radio receiving modules further comprises a UHF reference pulse generator and each radio transmitting module and/or each radio receiving module contained in the measuring unit is made independent of the other modules.
2. The device of claim 1, **characterized in that** each of the radio receiving modules comprises a sequentially connected receiving antenna, a low noise amplifier, a phase detector, a band-pass filter and an amplifier, wherein the second input of the phase detector is connected to the output of the UHF generator.
3. The device of claim 1, **characterized in that** each of the radio transmitting and radio receiving modules are spaced from each other by a distance from 0.0001 m to 20 m.
4. The device of claim 1, **characterized in that** the control and data processing unit comprises an analog-to-digital converter and a microcontroller, connected sequentially
5. The device of claim 4, **characterized in that** the control and data processing unit further comprises a short pulse driver, an input of which is connected to the microcontroller.
6. The device of claim 5, **characterized in that** the short pulse driver outputs are connected to the inputs of each of the UHF generators of the radio receiving and radio transmitting modules of the measuring unit.
7. The device of claim 4, **characterized in that** the an-

alog-digital converter is built into the microcontroller.

8. The device of claim 4, **characterized in that** the control and data processing unit further comprises an external non-volatile memory device connected to the microcontroller. 5
9. The device of claim 1, **characterized in that** the measuring unit further comprises at least one sensor and one actuating module. 10
10. The device of claim 9, **characterized in that** the sensor is a sensor selected from a group comprising a motion sensor, a sound sensor, a video sensor, a temperature sensor, a humidity sensor, a pressure sensor, a magnetic field sensor, a light sensor, a touch sensor, an electrical button or a combination thereof. 15
11. The device of claim 8, **characterized in that** the actuating module is a device selected from a group comprising a sound playback device, a video playback device, a light indicator device, a vibration motor, an electric motor or a combination thereof. 20
12. The device of claim 1, **characterized in that** the interface unit comprises at least one sensor and one actuating module. 25
13. The device of claim 12, **characterized in that** the sensor is a sensor selected from a group comprising a motion sensor, a sound sensor, a video sensor, a temperature sensor, a humidity sensor, a pressure sensor, a magnetic field sensor, a light sensor, a touch sensor, an electrical button or a combination thereof. 30
14. The device of claim 13, **characterized in that** the actuating module is a device selected from a group comprising a sound playback device, a video playback device, a light indicator device, a vibration motor, an electric motor or a combination thereof. 35
15. The device of claim 1, **characterized in that** the measuring unit and the control and data processing unit are arranged in a common enclosure and are interconnected by a wired communication channel, and the control and data processing unit and the interface unit are connected by a wireless communication channel, wherein the interface unit is arranged in a separate enclosure. 40
16. The device of claim 1, **characterized in that** the measuring unit is located in a separate enclosure and is connected to the control and data processing unit by a wireless communication channel, and the control and data processing unit and the interface unit are arranged in a common enclosure and are 45

connected by a wired communication channel.

17. The device of claim 1, **characterized in that** the measuring unit, the control and data processing unit, and the interface unit are arranged in a common enclosure and are interconnected by wired communication channels. 5
18. The device of claim 1, **characterized in that** the measuring unit, the control and data processing unit, and the interface unit are each located in a separate enclosure and are interconnected by wireless communication channels. 10

Patentansprüche

1. Einrichtung zur kontaktlosen Fernüberwachung der Vitalzeichen eines Lebewesens, umfassend mindestens eine Messeinheit, mindestens eine Steuer- und Datenverarbeitungseinheit und mindestens eine Schnittstelleneinheit, wobei die Messeinheit mit der Steuer- und Datenverarbeitungseinheit verbunden ist und die Steuer- und Datenverarbeitungseinheit mit der Schnittstelleneinheit verbunden ist, wobei die Messeinheit mindestens ein Funksendemodul und mindestens ein Funkempfangsmodul umfasst, wobei die Steuer- und Datenverarbeitungseinheit eingerichtet ist, um für jedes der Funksende- und Funkempfangsmodule Steuerimpulse zu erzeugen, die um willkürliche Zeitspannen zueinander verzögert sind, und wobei die Steuer- und Datenverarbeitungseinheit zusätzlich eingerichtet ist, um für jedes der Funksende- und Funkempfangsmodule Steuerimpulse von willkürlicher Dauer zu erzeugen, wobei das Funksendemodul einen sequentiell verbundenen UHF-Prüfimpulsgenerator, einen Verstärker und eine Sendeantenne umfasst, **dadurch gekennzeichnet, dass** jedes der Funkempfangsmodule weiterhin einen UHF-Referenzimpulsgenerator umfasst und jedes Funksendemodul und/oder jedes in der Messeinheit enthaltene Funkempfangsmodul unabhängig von den anderen Modulen ist. 25
2. Einrichtung nach Anspruch 1, **dadurch gekennzeichnet, dass** jedes der Funkempfangsmodule eine sequentiell verbundene Empfangsantenne, einen rauscharmen Verstärker, einen Phasendetektor, einen Bandpassfilter und einen Verstärker umfasst, wobei der zweite Eingang des Phasendetektors mit dem Ausgang des UHF-Generators verbunden ist. 30
3. Einrichtung nach Anspruch 1, **dadurch gekennzeichnet, dass** jedes der Funksende- und Funkempfangsmodule um einen Abstand von 0,0001 m bis 20 m voneinander beabstandet ist. 35

4. Einrichtung nach Anspruch 1, **dadurch gekennzeichnet, dass** die Steuer- und Datenverarbeitungseinheit einen Analog-Digital-Wandler und einen Mikrocontroller aufweist, die sequentiell verbunden sind. 5
5. Einrichtung nach Anspruch 4, **dadurch gekennzeichnet, dass** die Steuer- und Datenverarbeitungseinheit weiterhin einen Kurzimpulstreiber umfasst, von dem ein Eingang mit dem Mikrocontroller verbunden ist. 10
6. Einrichtung nach Anspruch 5, **dadurch gekennzeichnet, dass** die Kurzimpulstreiberausgänge mit den Eingängen jedes der UHF-Generatoren der Funkempfangs- und Funksendemodule der Messeinheit verbunden sind. 15
7. Einrichtung nach Anspruch 4, **dadurch gekennzeichnet, dass** der Analog-Digital-Wandler in den Mikrocontroller eingebaut ist. 20
8. Einrichtung nach Anspruch 4, **dadurch gekennzeichnet, dass** die Steuer- und Datenverarbeitungseinheit weiterhin eine externe nichtflüchtige Speichereinrichtung umfasst, die mit dem Mikrocontroller verbunden ist. 25
9. Einrichtung nach Anspruch 1, **dadurch gekennzeichnet, dass** die Messeinheit weiterhin mindestens einen Sensor und ein Betätigungsmodul umfasst. 30
10. Einrichtung nach Anspruch 9, **dadurch gekennzeichnet, dass** der Sensor ein Sensor ist, der aus einer Gruppe umfassend einen Bewegungssensor, einen Schallsensor, einen Videosensor, einen Temperatursensor, einen Feuchtigkeitssensor, einen Drucksensor, einen Magnetfeldsensor, einen Lichtsensor, einen Berührungssensor, einen elektrischen Knopf oder eine Kombination davon ausgewählt ist. 35
11. Einrichtung nach Anspruch 8, **dadurch gekennzeichnet, dass** das Betätigungsmodul eine Einrichtung ist, die aus einer Gruppe umfassend eine Tonwiedergabeeinrichtung, eine Videowiedergabeeinrichtung, eine Lichtindikatoreinrichtung, einen Vibrationsmotor, einen Elektromotor oder eine Kombination davon ausgewählt ist. 40
12. Einrichtung nach Anspruch 1, **dadurch gekennzeichnet, dass** die Schnittstelleneinheit mindestens einen Sensor und ein Betätigungsmodul umfasst. 45
13. Einrichtung nach Anspruch 12, **dadurch gekennzeichnet, dass** der Sensor ein Sensor ist, der aus einer Gruppe umfassend einen Bewegungssensor, einen Schallsensor, einen Videosensor, einen Tem-

peratursensor, einen Feuchtigkeitssensor, einen Drucksensor, einen Magnetfeldsensor, einen Lichtsensor, einen Berührungssensor, einen elektrischen Knopf oder eine Kombination davon ausgewählt ist.

14. Einrichtung nach Anspruch 13, **dadurch gekennzeichnet, dass** das Betätigungsmodul eine Einrichtung ist, die aus einer Gruppe umfassend eine Tonwiedergabeeinrichtung, eine Videowiedergabeeinrichtung, eine Lichtindikatoreinrichtung, einen Vibrationsmotor, einen Elektromotor oder eine Kombination davon ausgewählt ist.
15. Einrichtung nach Anspruch 1, **dadurch gekennzeichnet, dass** die Messeinheit und die Steuer- und Datenverarbeitungseinheit in einem gemeinsamen Gehäuse angeordnet sind und durch einen verdrahteten Kommunikationskanal miteinander verbunden sind und die Steuer- und Datenverarbeitungseinheit und die Schnittstelleneinheit durch einen drahtlose Kommunikationskanal verbunden sind, wobei die Schnittstelleneinheit in einem separaten Gehäuse angeordnet ist.
16. Einrichtung nach Anspruch 1, **dadurch gekennzeichnet, dass** sich die Messeinheit in einem separaten Gehäuse befindet und über einen drahtlosen Kommunikationskanal mit der Steuer- und Datenverarbeitungseinheit verbunden ist und die Steuer- und Datenverarbeitungseinheit und die Schnittstelleneinheit in einem gemeinsamen Gehäuse angeordnet sind und durch einen verdrahteten Kommunikationskanal verbunden sind.
17. Einrichtung nach Anspruch 1, **dadurch gekennzeichnet, dass** die Messeinheit, die Steuer- und Datenverarbeitungseinheit und die Schnittstelleneinheit in einem gemeinsamen Gehäuse angeordnet und durch verdrahtete Kommunikationskanäle miteinander verbunden sind.
18. Einrichtung nach Anspruch 1, **dadurch gekennzeichnet, dass** sich die Messeinheit, die Steuer- und Datenverarbeitungseinheit und die Schnittstelleneinheit jeweils in einem separaten Gehäuse befinden und durch drahtlose Kommunikationskanäle miteinander verbunden sind.

50 Revendications

1. Dispositif pour la surveillance sans contact à distance de signes vitaux d'un être vivant comprenant au moins une unité de mesure, au moins une unité de commande et de traitement de données, et au moins une unité d'interface, dans lequel l'unité de mesure est connectée à l'unité de commande et de traitement de données, et l'unité de commande et de trai-

tement de données est connectée à l'unité d'interface, dans lequel l'unité de mesure comprend au moins un module de transmission radio, et au moins un module de réception radio, dans lequel l'unité de commande et de traitement de données est configurée pour générer des impulsions de commande pour chacun des modules de transmission radio et de réception radio différées pendant des périodes de temps arbitraire les unes entre les autres, et l'unité de commande et de traitement de données est configurée en outre pour générer des impulsions de commande de durée arbitraire pour chacun des modules de transmission radio et de réception radio, dans lequel le module de transmission radio comprend un générateur d'impulsions de sondage UHF, un amplificateur et une antenne d'émission séquentiellement connectés,

caractérisé en ce que

chacun des modules de réception radio comprend en outre un générateur d'impulsions de référence UHF et chaque module de transmission radio et/ou chaque module de réception radio contenus dans l'unité de mesure sont rendus indépendants des autres modules.

2. Dispositif selon la revendication 1, **caractérisé en ce que** chacun des modules de réception radio comprend une antenne de réception, un amplificateur à faible bruit, un détecteur de phase, un filtre passe-bande et un amplificateur séquentiellement connectés, dans lequel la seconde entrée du détecteur de phase est connectée à la sortie du générateur UHF.
3. Dispositif selon la revendication 1, **caractérisé en ce que** chacun des modules de transmission radio et de réception radio sont séparés les uns des autres par une distance de 0,0001 m à 20 m.
4. Dispositif selon la revendication 1, **caractérisé en ce que** l'unité de commande et de traitement de données comprend un convertisseur analogique/numérique et un microcontrôleur, connectés séquentiellement.
5. Dispositif selon la revendication 4, **caractérisé en ce que** l'unité de commande et de traitement de données comprend en outre un pilote d'impulsion courte, dont une entrée est connectée au microcontrôleur.
6. Dispositif selon la revendication 5, **caractérisé en ce que** les sorties du pilote d'impulsion courte sont connectées aux entrées de chacun des générateurs UHF des modules de réception radio et de transmission radio de l'unité de mesure.
7. Dispositif selon la revendication 4, **caractérisé en ce que** le convertisseur analogique/numérique est construit dans le microcontrôleur.

8. Dispositif selon la revendication 4, **caractérisé en ce que** l'unité de commande et de traitement de données comprend en outre un dispositif de mémoire non volatile externe connecté au microcontrôleur.
9. Dispositif selon la revendication 1, **caractérisé en ce que** l'unité de mesure comprend en outre au moins un capteur et un module d'actionnement.
10. Dispositif selon la revendication 9, **caractérisé en ce que** le capteur est un capteur sélectionné dans un groupe comprenant un capteur de mouvement, un capteur de son, un capteur vidéo, un capteur de température, un capteur d'humidité, un capteur de pression, un capteur de champ magnétique, un capteur de lumière, un capteur tactile, un bouton électrique ou une combinaison de ceux-ci.
11. Dispositif selon la revendication 8, **caractérisé en ce que** le module d'actionnement est un dispositif sélectionné dans un groupe comprenant un dispositif de lecture sonore, un dispositif de lecture vidéo, un dispositif indicateur de lumière, un moteur vibrant, un moteur électrique ou une combinaison de ceux-ci.
12. Dispositif selon la revendication 1, **caractérisé en ce que** l'unité d'interface comprend au moins un capteur et un module d'actionnement.
13. Dispositif selon la revendication 12, **caractérisé en ce que** le capteur est un capteur sélectionné dans un groupe comprenant un capteur de mouvement, un capteur de son, un capteur vidéo, un capteur de température, un capteur d'humidité, un capteur de pression, un capteur de champ magnétique, un capteur de lumière, un capteur tactile, un bouton électrique ou une combinaison de ceux-ci.
14. Dispositif selon la revendication 13, **caractérisé en ce que** le module d'actionnement est un dispositif sélectionné dans un groupe comprenant un dispositif de lecture sonore, un dispositif de lecture vidéo, un dispositif indicateur de lumière, un moteur vibrant, un moteur électrique ou une combinaison de ceux-ci.
15. Dispositif selon la revendication 1, **caractérisé en ce que** l'unité de mesure et l'unité de commande et de traitement de données sont agencées dans une enceinte commune et sont interconnectées par un canal de communication filaire, et l'unité de commande et de traitement de données et l'unité d'interface sont connectées par un canal de communication sans fil, dans lequel l'unité d'interface est agencée dans une enceinte séparée.
16. Dispositif selon la revendication 1, **caractérisé en ce que** l'unité de mesure est située dans une enceinte séparée et est connectée à l'unité de com-

mande et de traitement de données par un canal de communication sans fil, et l'unité de commande et de traitement de données et l'unité d'interface sont agencées dans une enceinte commune et sont connectées par un canal de communication filaire.

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17. Dispositif selon la revendication 1, **caractérisé en ce que** l'unité de mesure, l'unité de commande et de traitement de données, et l'unité d'interface sont agencées dans une enceinte commune et sont interconnectées par des canaux de communication filaire.

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18. Dispositif selon la revendication 1, **caractérisé en ce que** l'unité de mesure, l'unité de commande et de traitement de données, et l'unité d'interface sont chacune situées dans une enceinte séparée et sont interconnectées par des canaux de communication sans fil.

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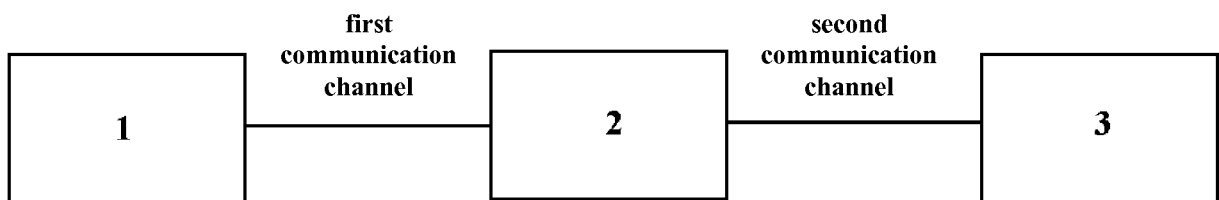


Fig. 1

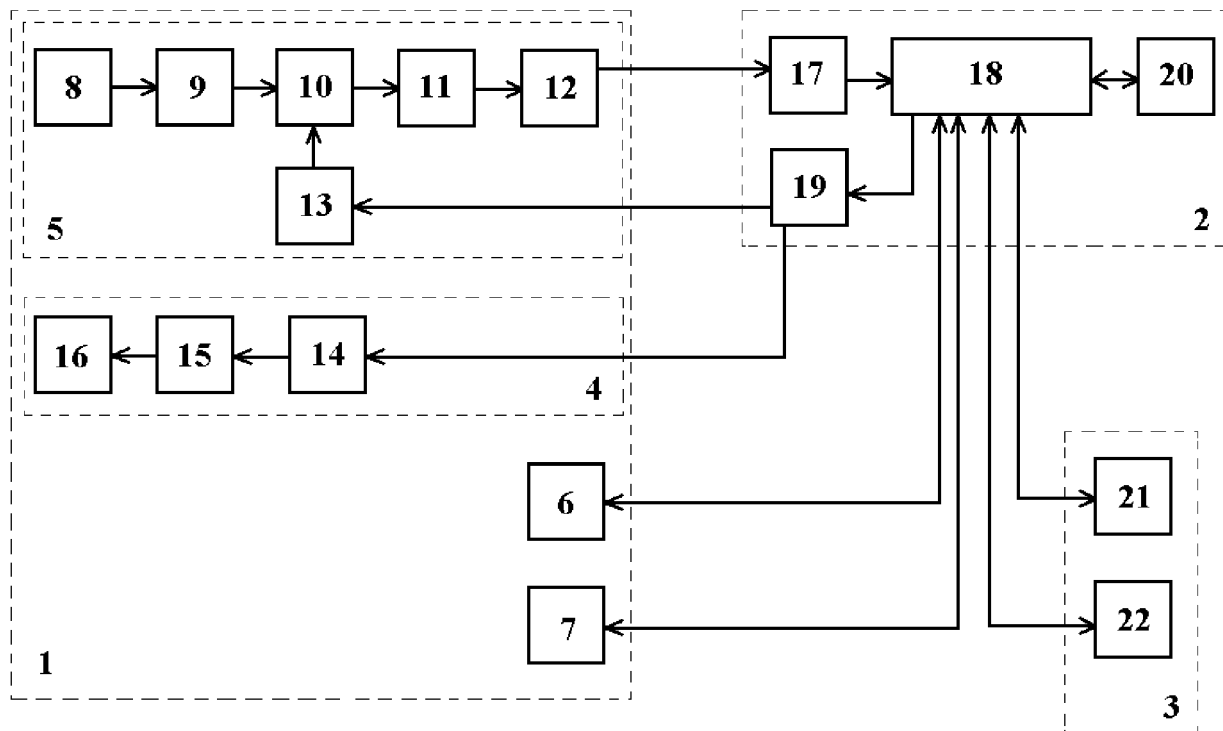


Fig. 2

REFERENCES CITED IN THE DESCRIPTION

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专利名称(译)	用于远程非接触式监测生物生命体征的装置		
公开(公告)号	EP2907448B1	公开(公告)日	2018-12-05
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[标]申请(专利权)人(译)	NANOPULSE INC NANOPULSE		
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IPC分类号	A61B5/00 A61B5/05 G01S7/41 G01S13/02 G01S13/88 A61B5/08 A61B5/11 A61B5/113		
CPC分类号	A61B5/0002 A61B5/0015 A61B5/05 A61B5/0816 A61B5/1115 A61B5/1118 A61B5/113 A61B5/4809 A61B5/746 A61B2503/04 G01S7/41 G01S13/0209 G01S13/88		
优先权	2012140602 2012-09-21 RU		
其他公开文献	EP2907448A4 EP2907448A1		
外部链接	Espacenet		

摘要(译)

本公开一般涉及医学领域，更具体地，涉及一种用于远程非接触式监测生物体的生命体征的装置。本公开能够提高测量精度和可靠性，增加操作范围并降低错误检测外来物体的可能性。用于生物体生命体征的远程非接触式监测的装置包括至少一个测量单元，至少一个控制和数据处理单元，以及至少一个接口单元，彼此连接。测量单元包括无线电发射模块和无线电接收模块。控制和数据处理单元被配置为针对彼此之间的任意时间段延迟的每个无线电发送和无线电接收模块生成控制脉冲，并且还被配置为针对无线电发送和无线电中的每一个生成任意持续时间的控制脉冲。接收模块。包含在测量单元中的每个无线电发射模块和/或每个无线电接收模块独立于其他模块。

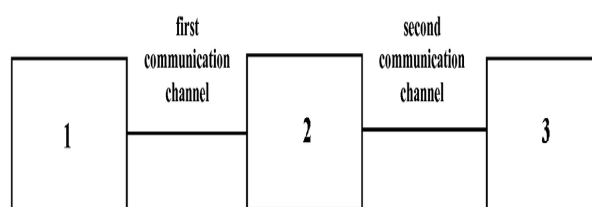


Fig. 1