



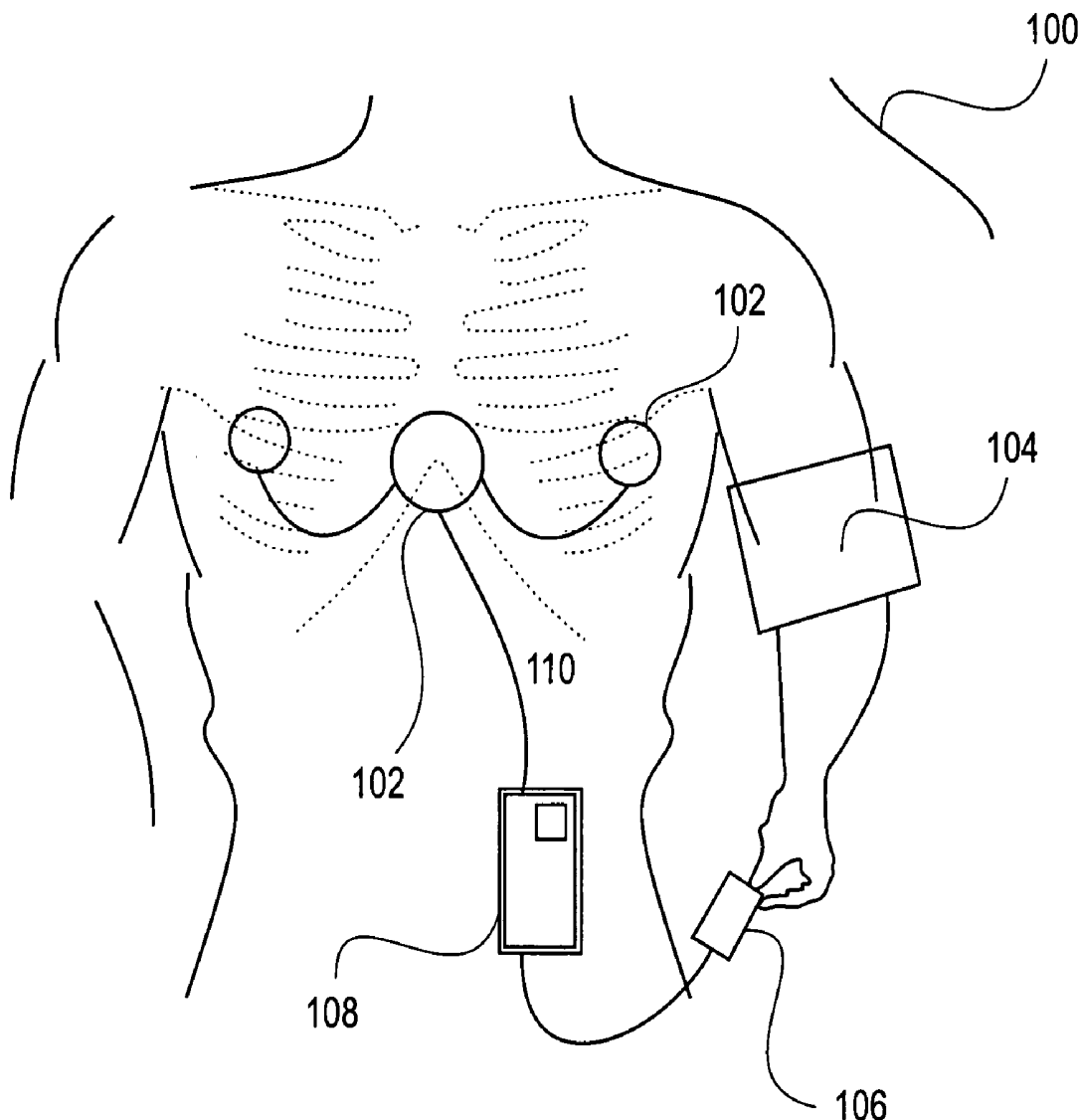
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(19) **United States**(12) **Patent Application Publication**  
**Nanikashvili**(10) **Pub. No.: US 2007/0015973 A1**(43) **Pub. Date: Jan. 18, 2007**(54) **COMMUNICATION TERMINAL, MEDICAL  
TELEMETRY SYSTEM AND METHOD FOR  
MONITORING PHYSIOLOGICAL DATA**

(57)

**ABSTRACT**(76) Inventor: **Reuven Nanikashvili**, Ashdad (IL)Correspondence Address:  
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**A61B 5/00** (2006.01)(52) **U.S. Cl.** ..... **600/300; 128/903; 128/904**

A medical telemetry system for remote monitoring of data collected from mobile persons including a sensor capable of monitoring physiological data, a mobile communication telemeter operably connected to said sensor for communicating physiological data to terminals, a plurality of terminals for receiving physiological data and for communication said physiological data over a wireless link using the Bluetooth standard to a communication gateway, and a communications gateway for communicating such physiological data to a first end of a communications network. Terminal may also be operably connected to power lines and may be capable of transmitting data via both a wireless link and a power line modem over power lines, such that the power line modem is capable of communicating or receiving physiological data over power lines if it is unable to communicate physiological data over a wireless link.



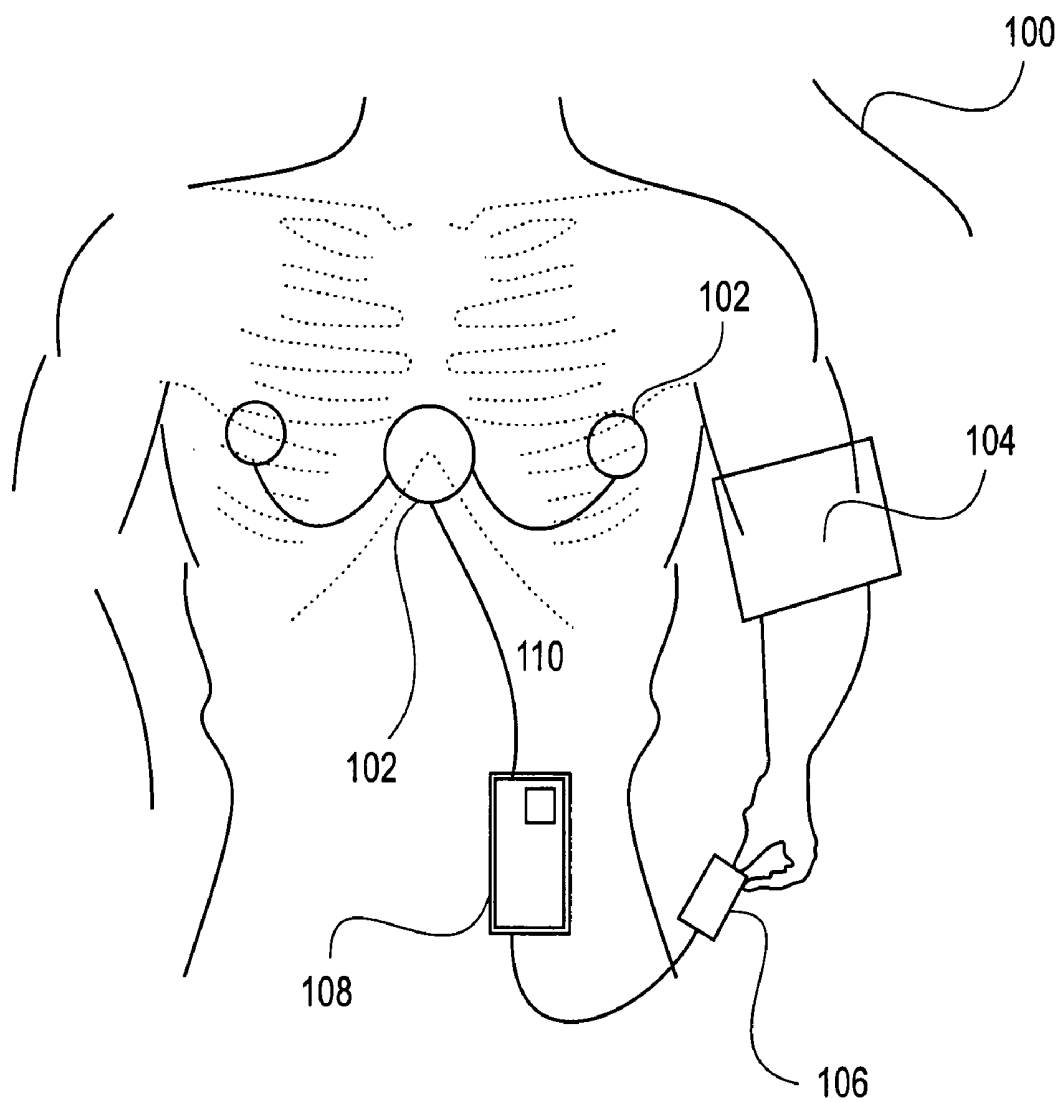


FIG. 1A

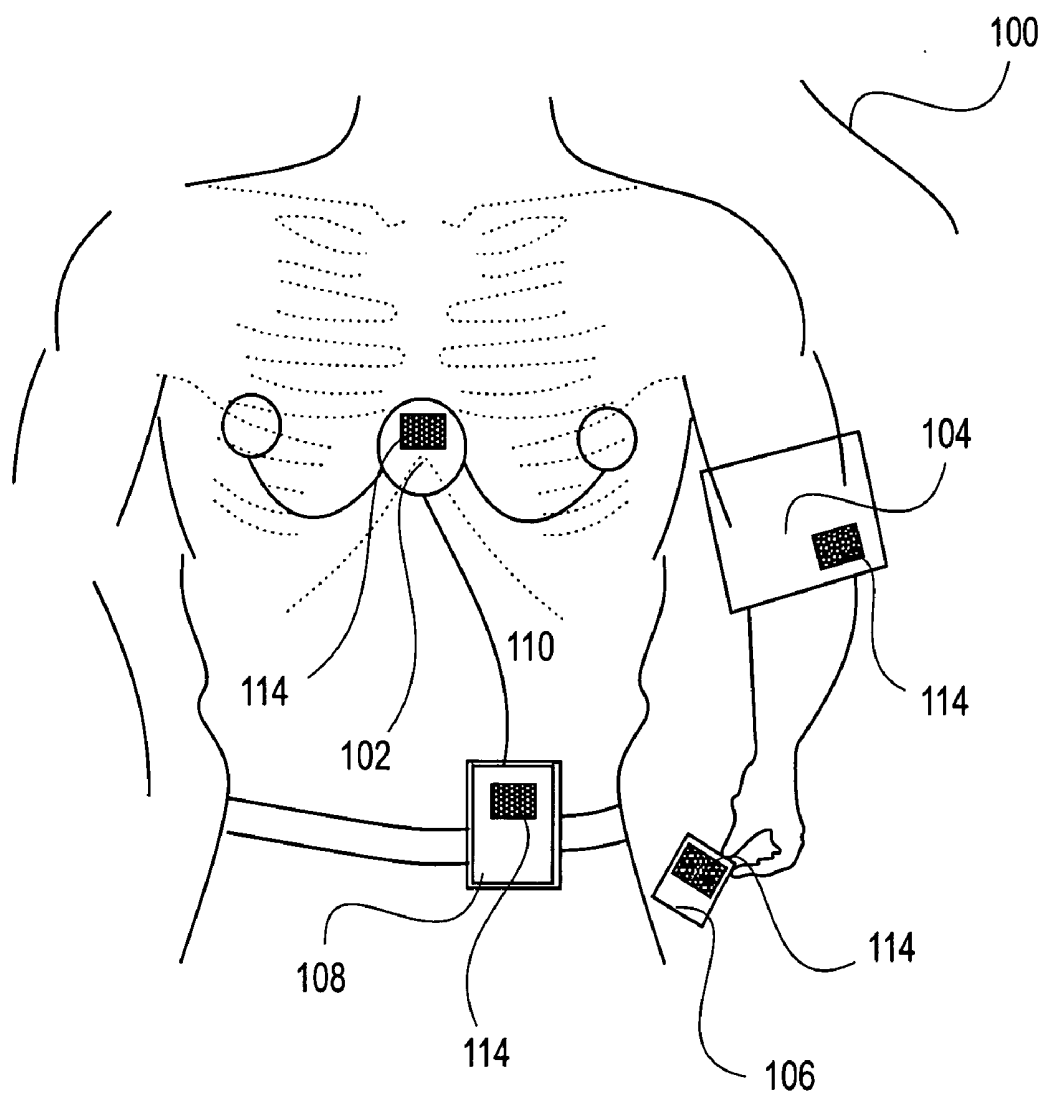


FIG. 1B

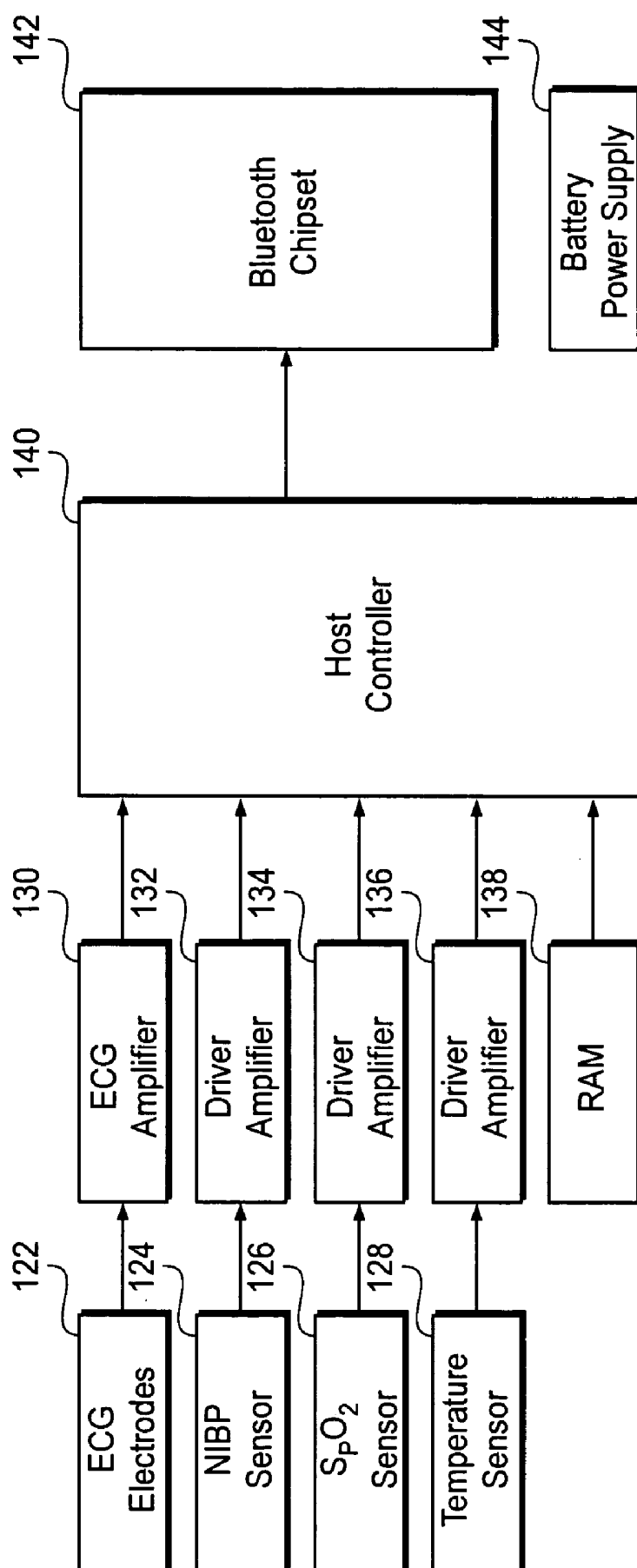


FIG. 1C

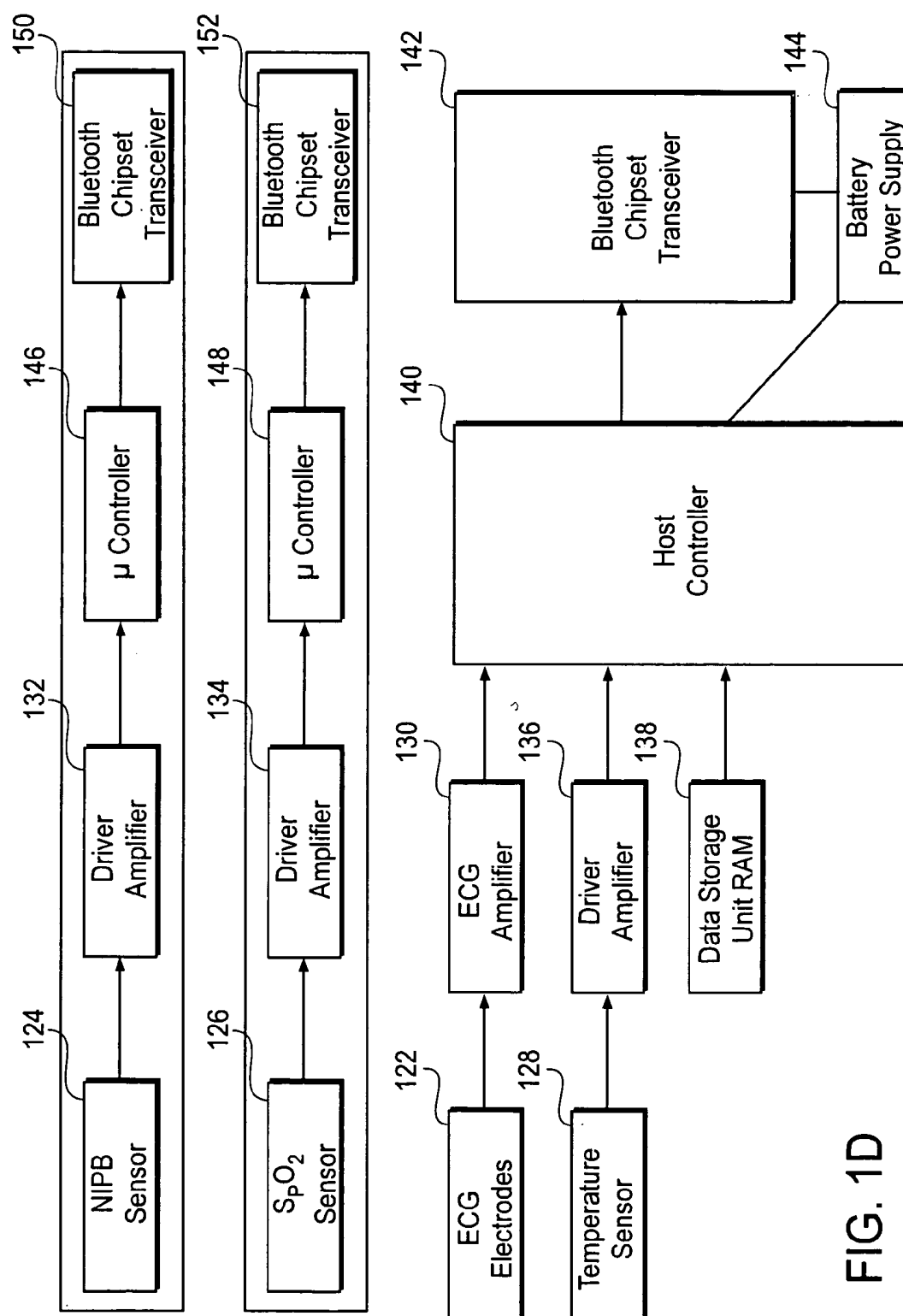


FIG. 1D

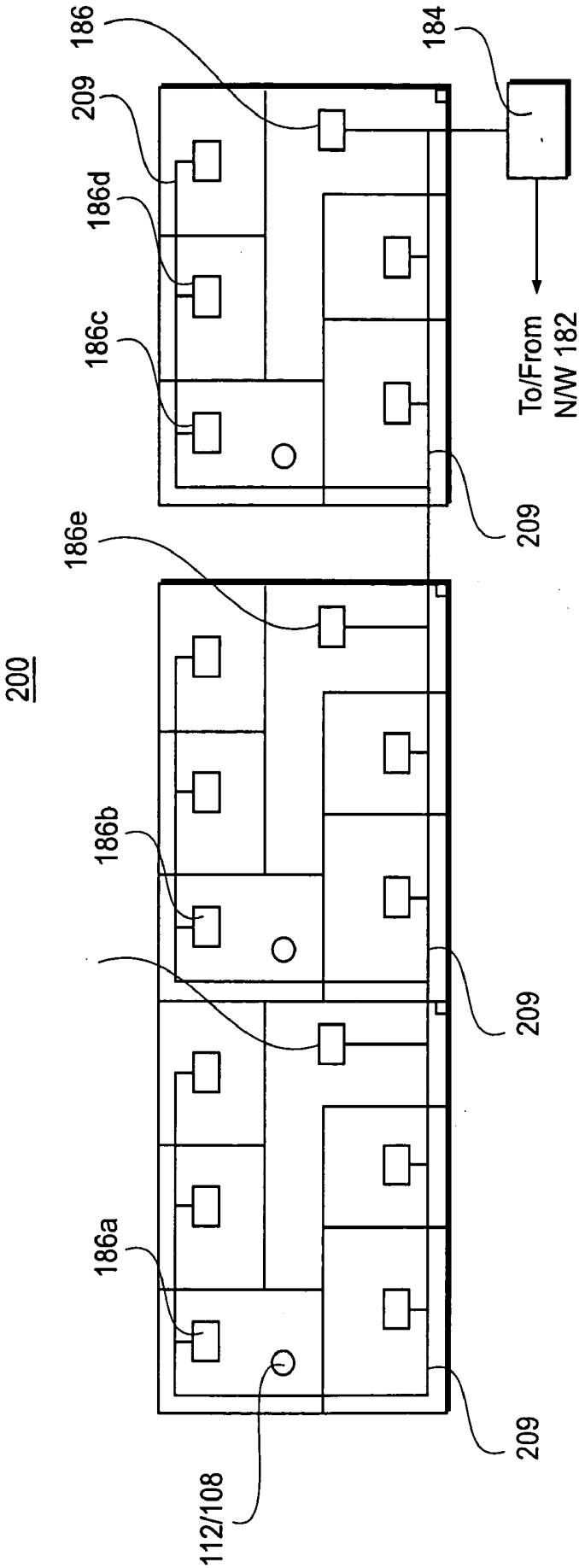


FIG. 2

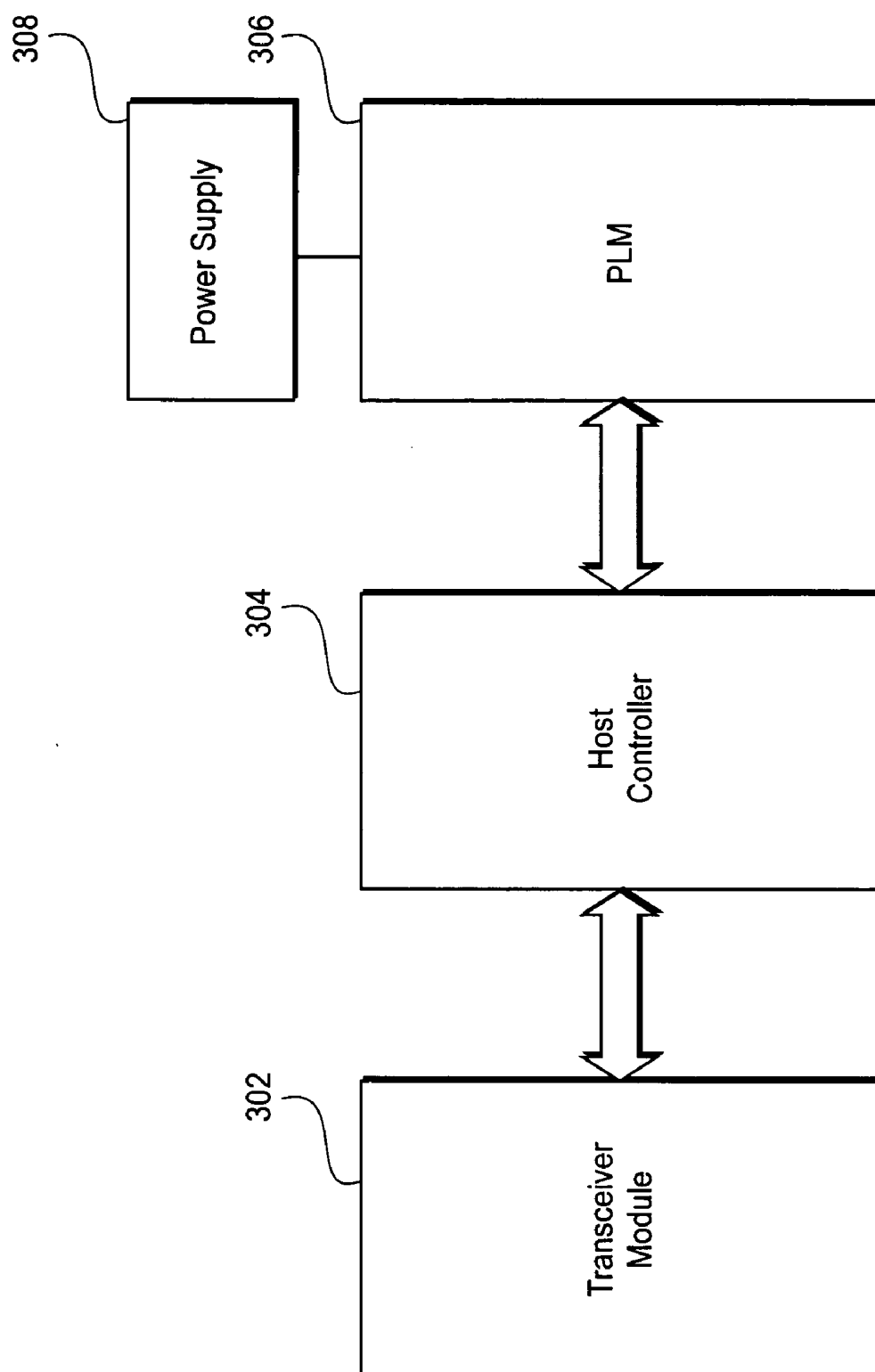


FIG. 3

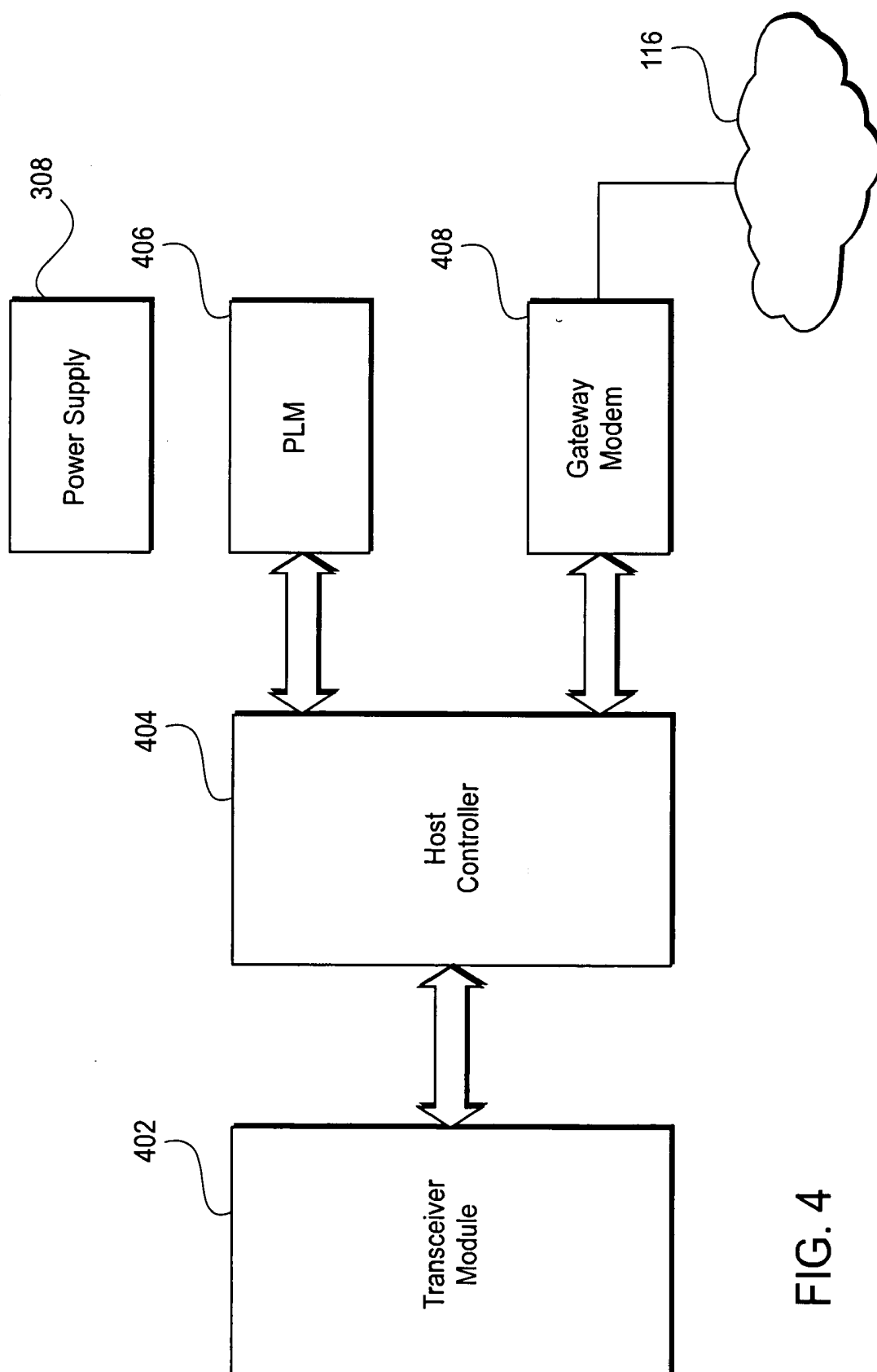


FIG. 4

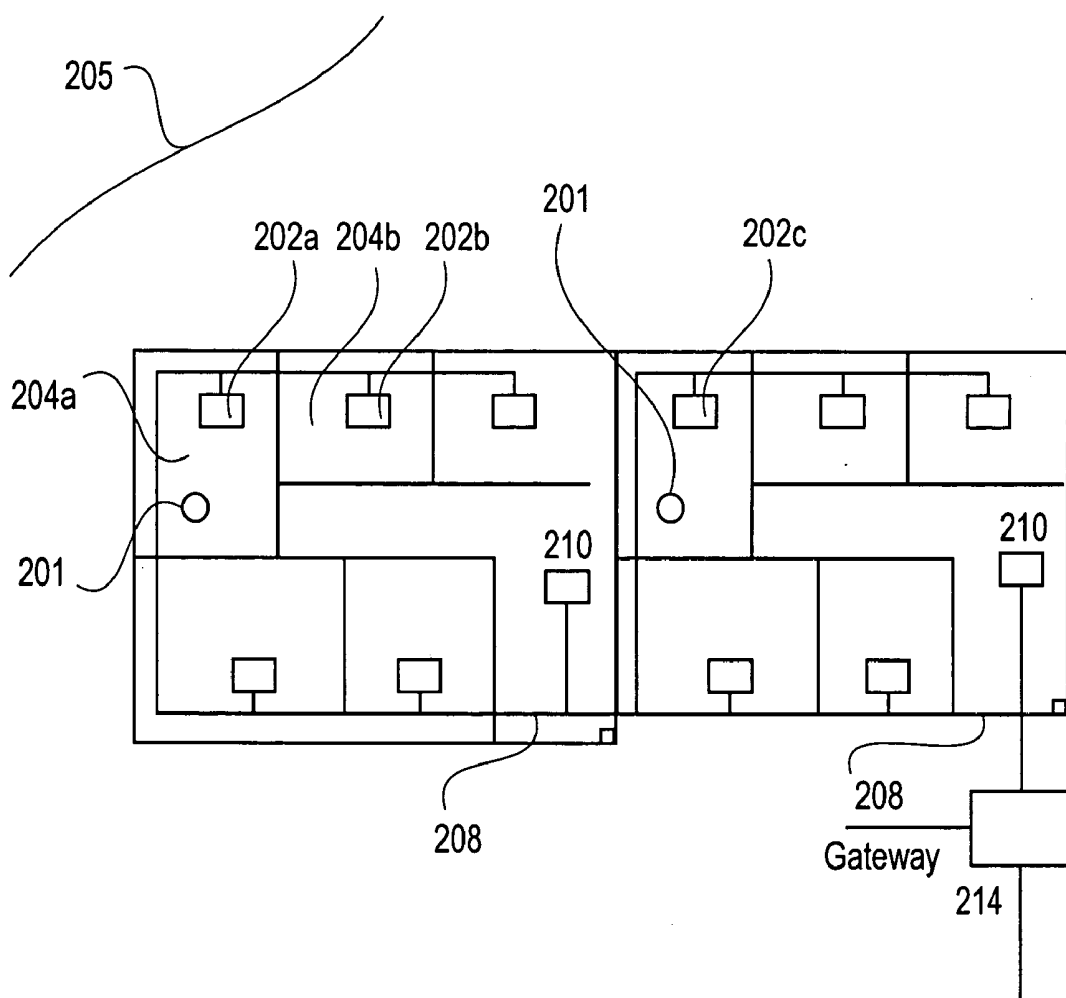


FIG. 5

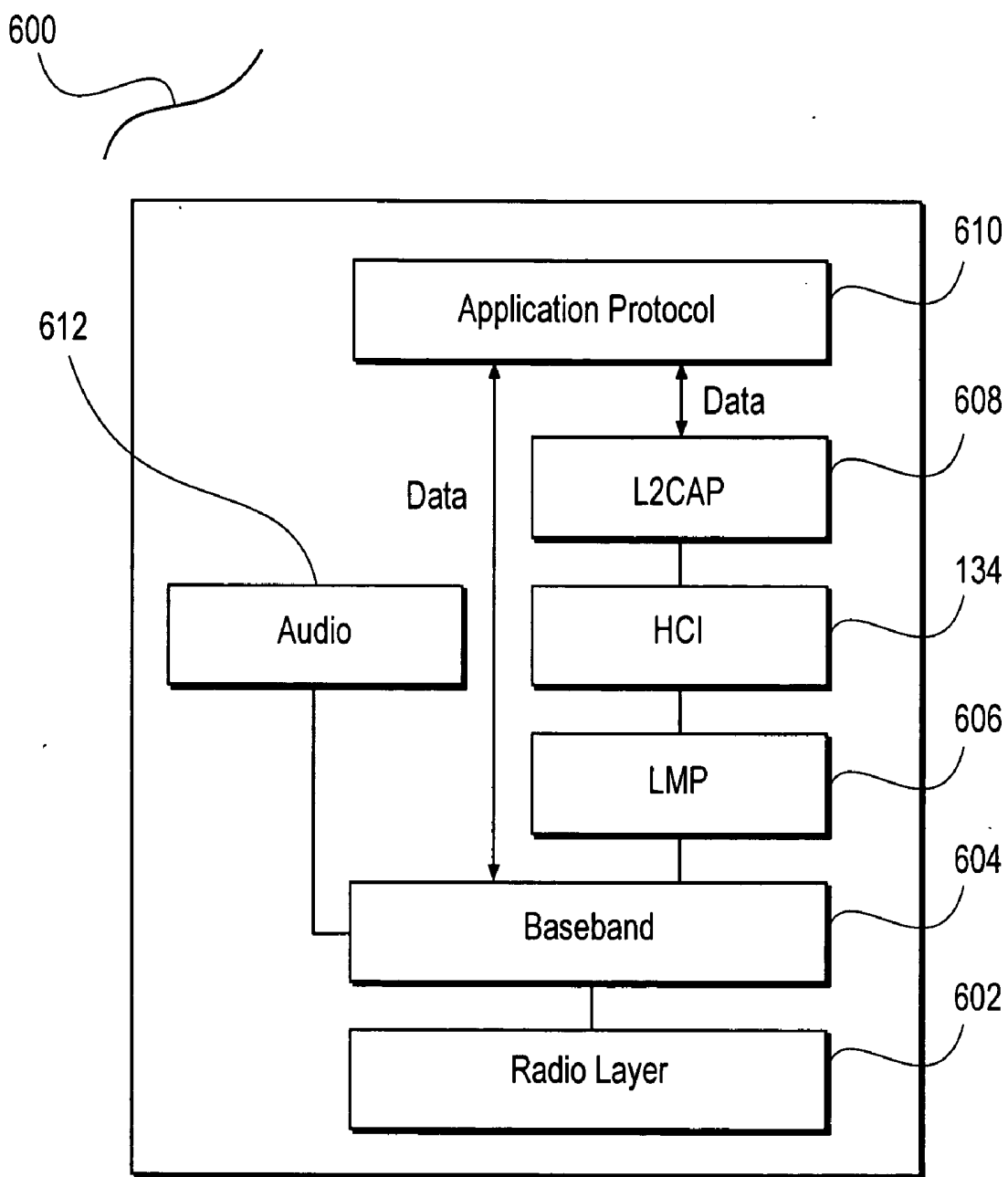


FIG. 6

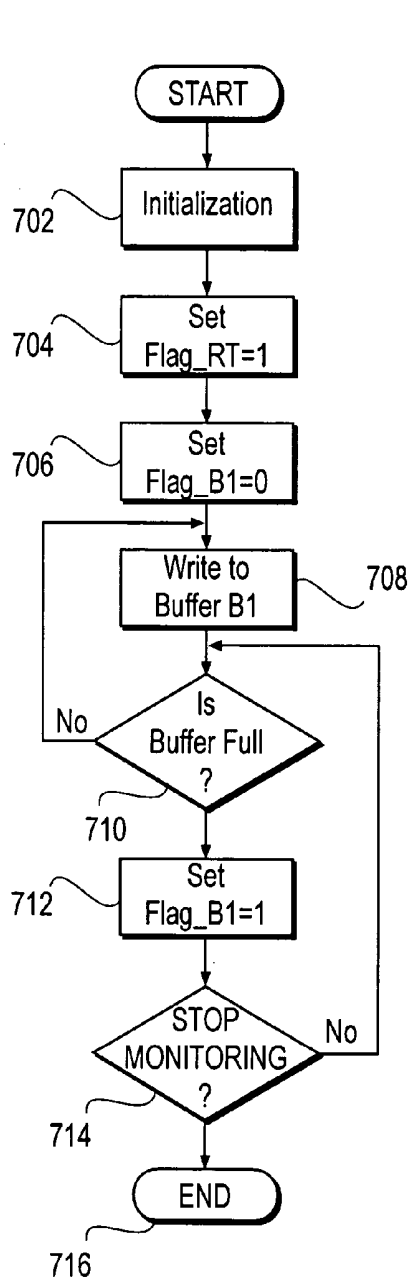


FIG. 7A

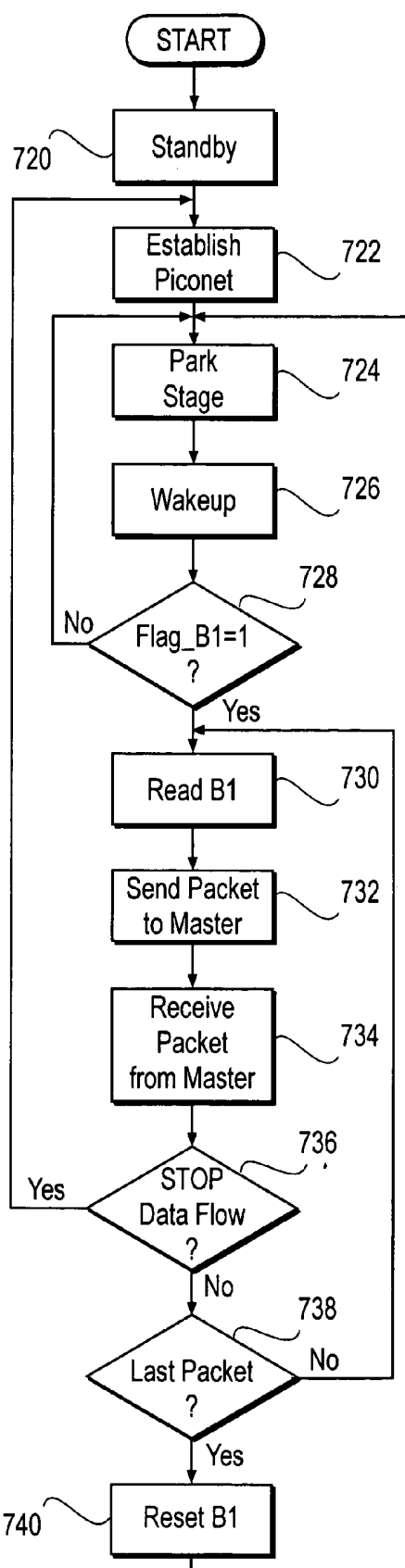


FIG. 7B

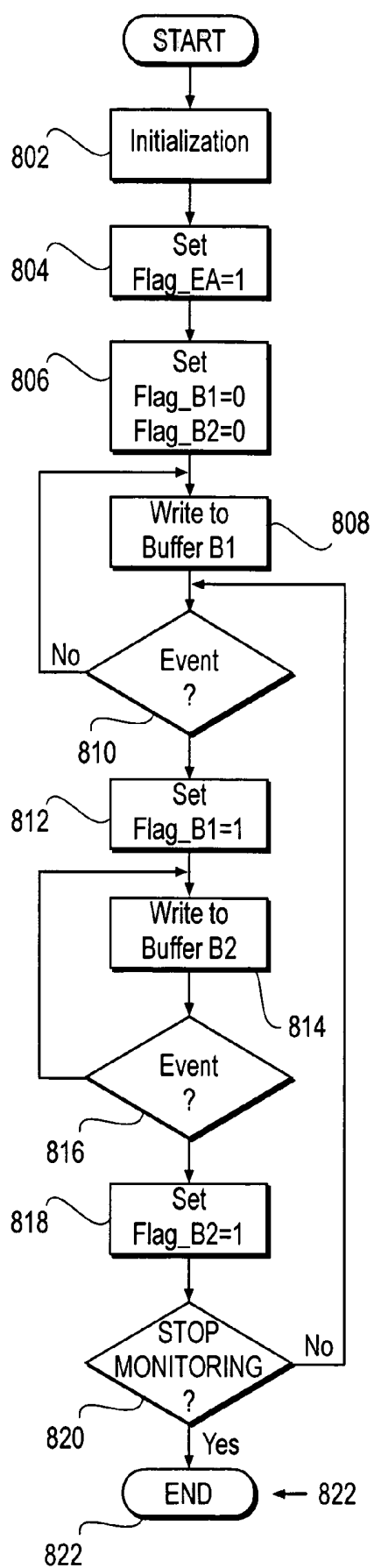
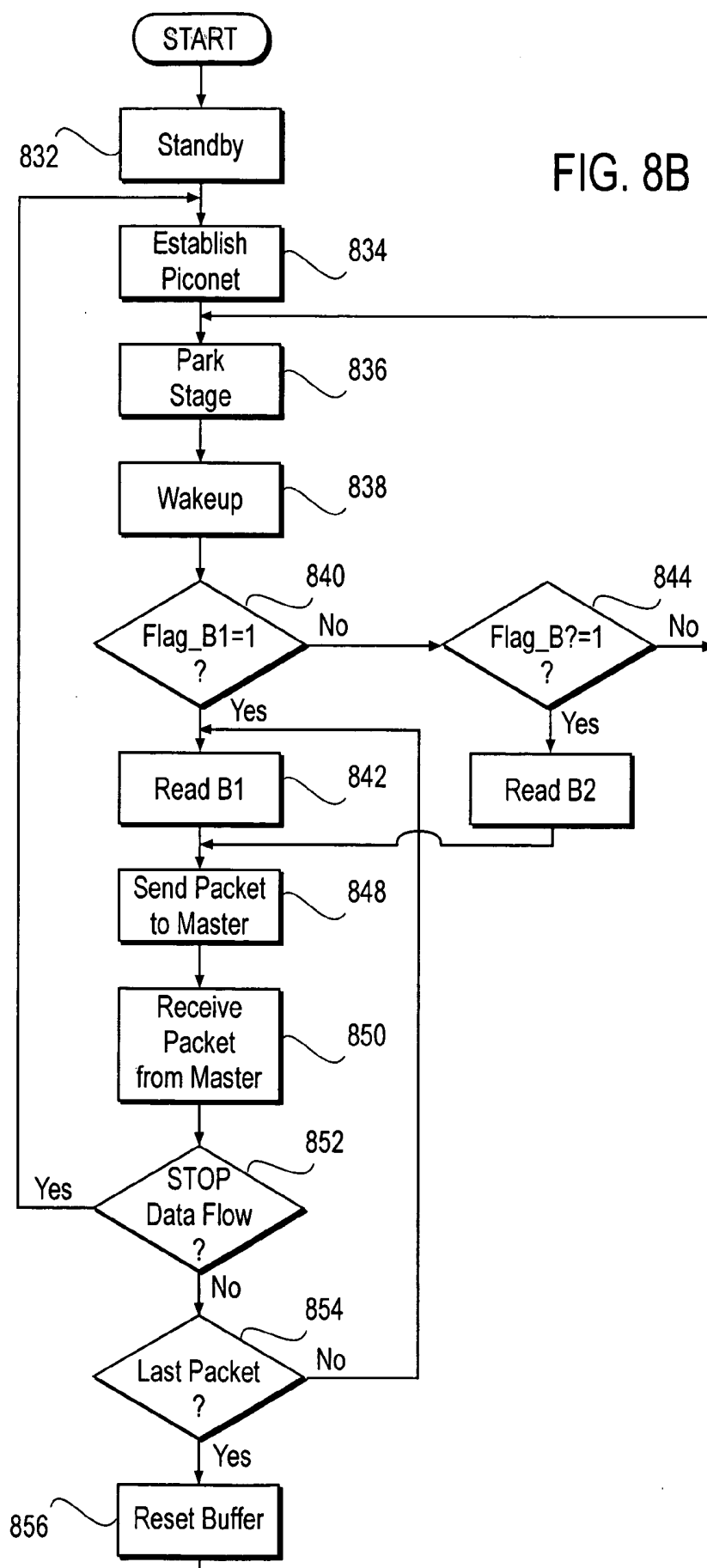


FIG. 8A



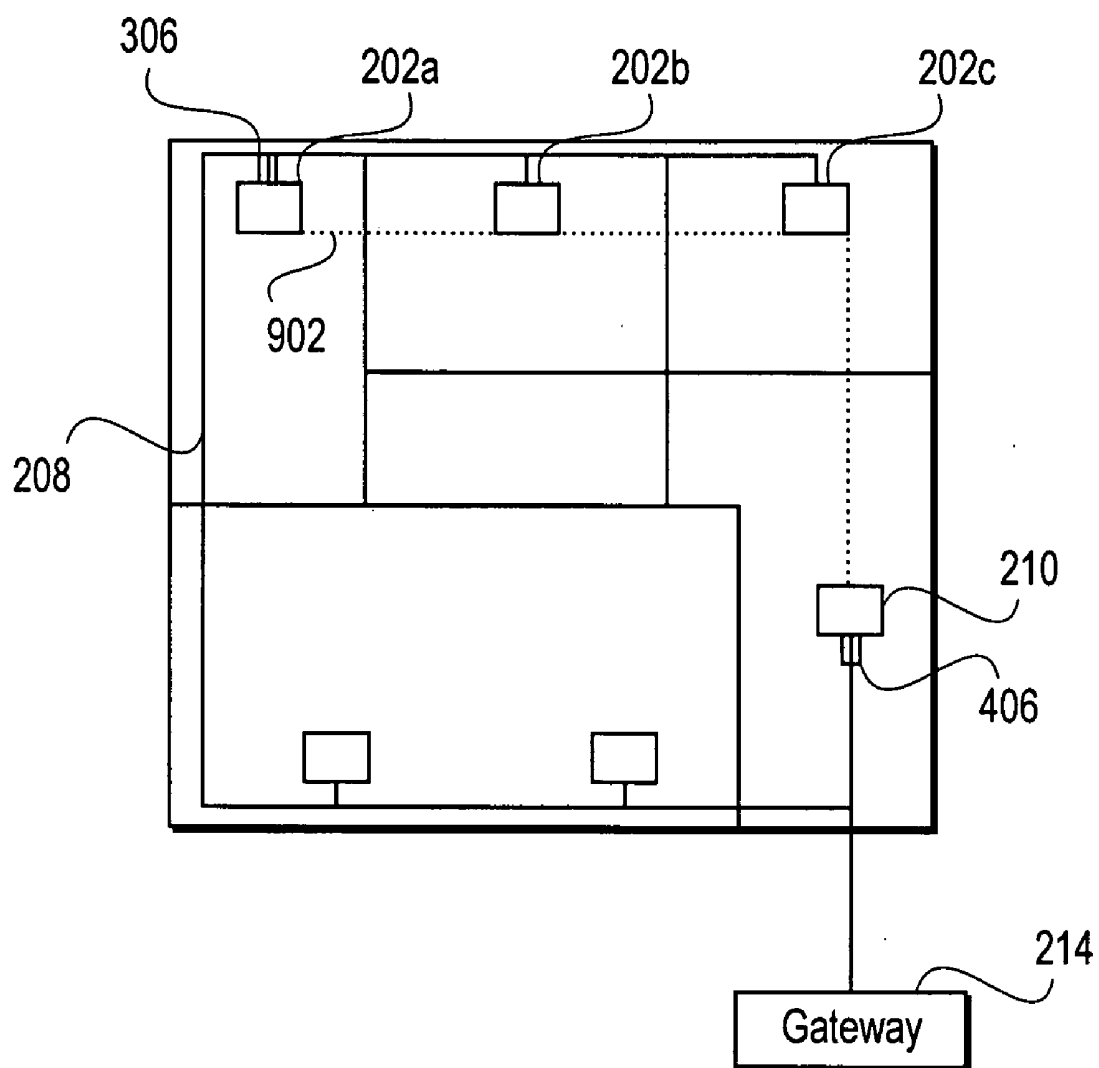


FIG. 9

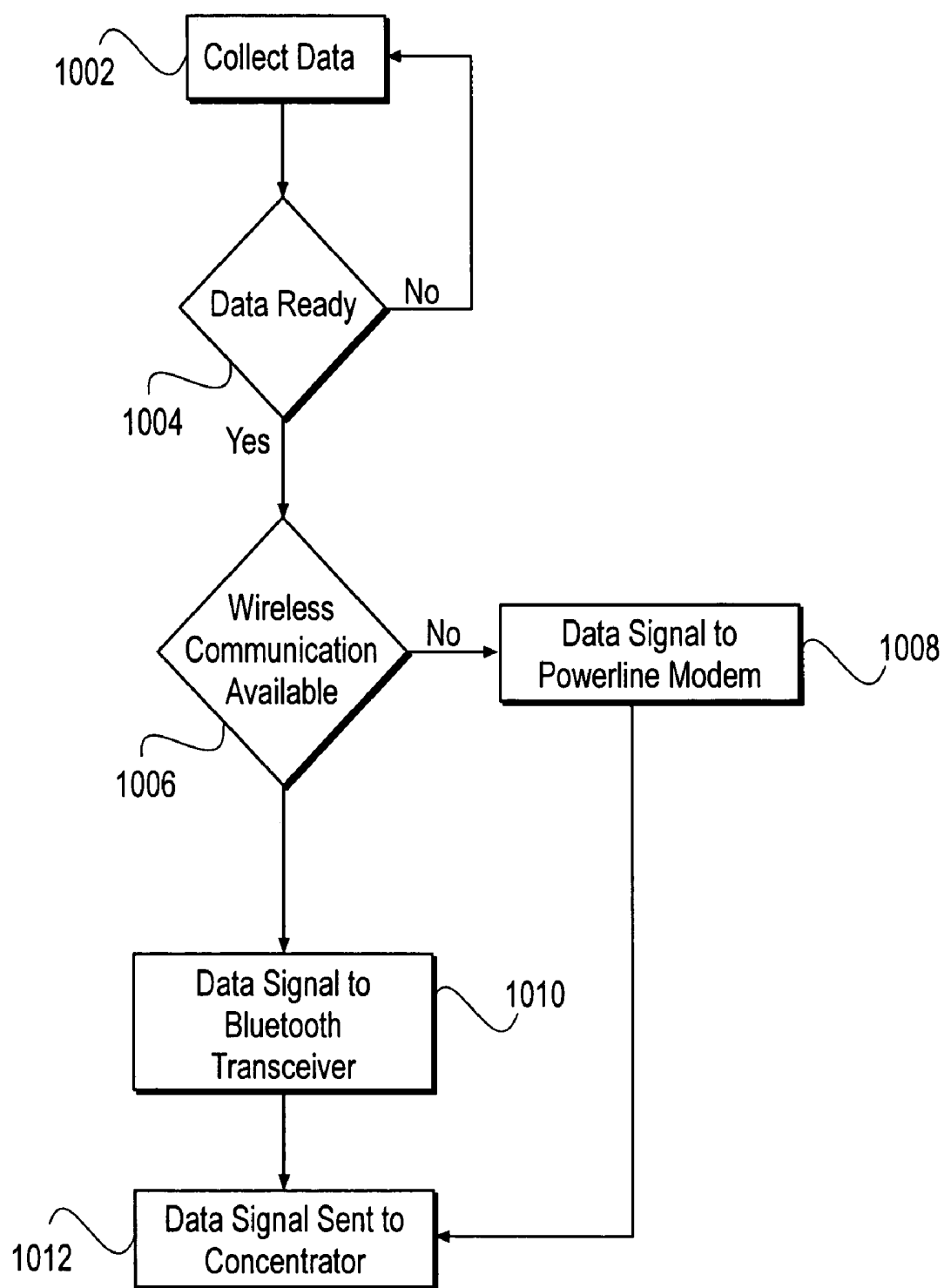


FIG. 10

**COMMUNICATION TERMINAL, MEDICAL  
TELEMETRY SYSTEM AND METHOD FOR  
MONITORING PHYSIOLOGICAL DATA**

**FIELD OF THE INVENTION**

[0001] The present invention relates to systems and methods for monitoring the health of one or multiple persons, especially within a building that includes multiple rooms.

**BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION**

[0002] There are various types of physiological data types that can reflect the health of a person. Various physiological monitors are known in the art and include an electrocardiograph (ECG) monitoring device, a device for monitoring blood oxygen saturation, a device for monitoring respiration, a device for monitoring blood glucose, a device for monitoring blood pressure, a device for monitoring lung function, a device for monitoring SpO<sub>2</sub> saturation, a device for monitoring temperature, a device for fat analysis, a fetal heart rate monitor device for pregnancy women, EEG device and the like. Each physiological monitoring device includes at least one sensor and may also include an analog component such as an analog amplifier, an analog comparator, an analog to digital converter and the like.

[0003] The monitoring devices can be fixed or mobile. Mobile monitoring devices can be carried by, mounted on worn by a client. Transmitting the gathered physiological data to remote locations can be expensive or highly complicated. The complexity can result from strict limitation upon the transmission power, from the multi-path phenomena and the like.

[0004] U.S. Pat. No. 6,773,398 of Flach et al., titled "cellular architecture and data transfer methods for real time person monitoring within a medical facilities", which is incorporated herein by reference, describes a complex system for transmitting physiological data over a hybrid network that includes multiple wireless transceivers (VCELLs) using a TDMA protocol and a RS-232 based twisted pair network for conveying the physiological data to a central unit and than to local network.

[0005] The system is very complex and requires to install dedicated communication links within the walls of the building, thus further increasing the cost of the system. Said installation is usually more expensive and time consuming in hospitals, as special safeguards must be taken to prevent direct or indirect damages to persons, oxygen supply lines and medical equipment. Furthermore, installing such a system in person homes is very expensive.

[0006] Therefore, there exists a need for an improved medical telemetry system for remote monitoring of data collected from mobile persons.

**SUMMARY**

[0007] A terminal for receiving physiological data over a wireless link and for transmitting said data over at least one power line. The terminal can be installed within a building and conveniently is capable of short range wireless communication with a mobile telemeter that in turn may receive the physiological data over wire or wireless links.

[0008] A system that includes multiple terminals that are connected to one or more computerized units such computers, display units, analysis stations storage stations and the like.

[0009] A method for providing physiological data that includes receiving over a wireless link physiological data and transmitting it over at least one power line.

[0010] According to an embodiment of the invention the physiological data can be processed, and in response can also be selectively transmitted.

**BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS**

[0011] The present invention will be understood and appreciated more fully from the following detailed description taken in conjunction with the appended drawings in which:

[0012] FIG. 1A illustrates sensors linked by wire to a mobile telemeter worn by a person in accordance with an embodiment of the invention.

[0013] FIG. 1B illustrates sensors wirelessly linked to a mobile telemeter worn by a person in accordance with an embodiment of the invention.

[0014] FIG. 1C is a schematic illustration of the components of sensors and a telemeter linked by wires in accordance with an embodiment of the present invention.

[0015] FIG. 1D is a schematic illustration of the components of sensors and a telemeter wherein certain sensors are linked by wire to a telemeter and other sensors are wirelessly linked to a telemeter in accordance with an embodiment of the present invention;

[0016] FIG. 2 is a schematic illustration of a person site coverage area in which the present invention may operate in certain embodiments of the present invention;

[0017] FIG. 3 is a simplified illustration of certain components of a terminal in accordance with an embodiment of the present invention;

[0018] FIG. 4 is a simplified illustration of the components of a central unit in accordance with an embodiment of the present invention;

[0019] FIG. 5 is a simplified illustration of a large area of coverage in which an embodiment of the present invention may operate, in accordance with an embodiment of the present invention;

[0020] FIG. 6 is a schematic illustration of a protocol stack upon which is based the wireless communication between mobile telemeter, terminals and a central unit, in accordance with an embodiment of the present invention;

[0021] FIG. 7A is a flow chart of a data collection task for real time monitoring by a mobile telemeter in accordance with an embodiment of the present invention;

[0022] FIG. 7B is a flow chart of a data transmission task for real time monitoring by a mobile telemeter in accordance with an embodiment of the present invention;

[0023] FIG. 8A is a flow chart of a data collection task for event activated monitoring by a mobile telemeter in accordance with an embodiment of the present invention;

[0024] FIG. 8B is a flow chart of a data transmission task for event activated monitoring by a mobile telemeter in accordance with an embodiment of the present invention;

[0025] FIG. 9 is a schematic diagram of two possible paths of data signals between terminals and a central unit, in accordance with an embodiment of the present invention; and

[0026] FIG. 10 is a simplified flow chart of the process of determining the communication path by which data signals may be transmitted between a terminal and a central unit.

#### DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE INVENTION

[0027] In the following description, various aspects of the invention will be described. For purposes of explanation, specific configurations and details are set forth in order to provide a thorough understanding of the invention. However, it will also be apparent to one skilled in the art that the invention may be practiced without the specific details presented herein. Furthermore, well known features may be omitted or simplified in order not to obscure the invention.

[0028] Unless specifically stated otherwise, as apparent from the following discussions, it is appreciated that throughout the specification discussions regarding signal or data processing, or utilizing terms such as “controllers,” “processing,” “computing,” “calculating,” “determining,” or the like, may refer to the action and/or processes of a data processor, computer or computing system, or similar electronic computing device, that manipulate and/or transform data represented as physical, such as electronic, quantities within the computing system’s registers and/or memories into other data similarly represented as physical quantities within the computing system’s memories, registers or other such information storage, transmission or display devices.

[0029] Embodiments of the present invention may include apparatuses for performing the operations herein. Such apparatuses may be specially constructed for the desired purposes, or may comprise general purpose computers selectively activated or reconfigured by a computer program stored in the computers. Such computer programs may be stored in a computer readable storage medium, such as, but not limited to, any type of disk including floppy disks, optical disks, CD-ROMs, magnetic-optical disks, read-only memories (ROMs), random access memories (RAMs) electrically programmable read-only memories (EPROMs), electrically erasable and programmable read only memories (EEPROMs), magnetic or optical cards, Flash memories, disks on key, disk on chip, or any other type of media suitable for storing electronic instructions, and capable of being coupled to a computer system bus.

[0030] The processes and displays presented herein are not inherently related to any particular computer, chipset, micro-chip, or other apparatus. Various general purpose systems may be used with programs in accordance with the teachings herein, or it may prove convenient to construct a more specialized apparatus to perform the desired method. The desired structure for a variety of these systems will appear from the description below.

[0031] The invention provides a terminal that includes: a wireless receiver, adapted to receive physiological data collected by at least one sensor; a power line transmitter, coupled to the wireless receiver, adapted to receive the physiological data and transmit, over at least one power line, the physiological data; and a terminal controller, coupled to

the power line transmitter and the wireless receiver, for controlling the power line transmitter and the wireless receiver.

[0032] Conveniently, at least one sensor is coupled to a short-range transceiver and whereas the terminal further comprises a wireless transmitter for transmitting signals to the short-range transceiver. Conveniently, the terminal according to claim 1 further adapted to receive physiological data from multiple persons simultaneously.

[0033] According to an embodiment of the invention the terminal controller is adapted to at least partially analyze the received physiological data and to decide whether to transmit said physiological data.

[0034] According to yet a further embodiment of the invention the terminal controller is adapted to at least partially process the received physiological data to provide processed physiological data. Conveniently, the terminal controller is further adapted to determine whether to transmit said physiological data.

[0035] According to an embodiment of the invention, the at least one sensor is coupled to a mobile telemeter adapted to at least partially process the received physiological data to provide processed physiological data.

[0036] Conveniently, the mobile telemeter is further adapted to determine whether to transmit said physiological data.

[0037] According to an embodiment of the invention, the terminal further includes an additional transmitter, for transmitting the physiological data over links other than power lines. Conveniently, the terminal is further adapted to determine whether to transmit the physiological data by the power line transmitter or by the other transmitter.

[0038] According to an embodiment of the invention the terminal is further adapted to temporarily store the physiological data.

[0039] According to an embodiment of the invention the terminal is further adapted to apply error corrections algorithms on a reception or on a transmission of the physiological data.

[0040] According to another embodiment of the invention the terminal is further adapted to apply acknowledge based transmission algorithms on a reception or on a transmission of the physiological data.

[0041] According to an embodiment of the invention the terminal is further adapted to limit a transmission of physiological data too instances wherein the physiological data varies from predefined physiological parameters.

[0042] The invention provides a health telemetry system, that includes multiple terminals adapted to wirelessly receive physiological data and to transmit, over at least one power line, the physiological data; and at least one computerized unit, adapted to receive at least a portion of the physiological data.

[0043] According to various embodiments of the invention the system can include terminals according to mentioned above embodiments.

[0044] According to another embodiments of the invention the terminals can be connected, by power lines and even

by additional networks or communication links to various computerized units that can analyze the transmitted physiological data, display said data, send control signals or otherwise participate in the generation of the physiological data or its transmission. For example, a mobile telemeter 108 can initiate a physiological data gathering session in response to signals provided by a computerized unit.

[0045] The processing may include performing statistical analysis of gathered data, comparing acquired data or processed data to expected data, performing health event detection and the like.

[0046] The invention provides a method that include receiving, by a terminal, physiological data generated by one or more sensors, over a wireless connection, and transmitting the physiological data over at least one power line.

[0047] The term physiological data also includes data representative of a physiological condition of a person. This data can be processed, packetized or otherwise formatted according to various communication protocol, and the like.

[0048] Reference is hereby made to FIG. 1A which illustrates sensors linked by wire to a mobile telemeter worn by a person in accordance with an embodiment of the present invention. One or more sensors 102 such as for example, an ECG sensor, blood pressure sensor 104 or oximetry sensor 106, or other sensors may be worn or carried by a person 100. In other embodiments, such sensors 102 may be any sensor suitable for monitoring or testing physiologic person 100 data such as respiration rate, temperature or other physiologic functions. Sensor 102 may additionally sense and transmit various types of non-physiologic data, such as ECG loose-lead status data and person location data. Sensor 102 may be operatively linked by wire 110 to a mobile telemeter 108 which may, for example, collect, format and packetize data from sensor 102. In certain embodiments of the present invention, the mobile telemeter 108 may be worn or carried by the person to whom sensor 102 is attached.

[0049] Reference is made to FIG. 1B which illustrates sensors wirelessly linked to a mobile telemeter worn by a person in accordance with an embodiment of the invention. In FIG. 1B, each sensor such as for example, ECG sensor 102, blood pressure sensor 104 and oximetry sensor 106 is fitted with a wireless transmitter device 114 that may be suitable for transmitting sensory data from sensors 102 to mobile telemeter 108. Such transmitter devices 114 may, for example, utilize the Bluetooth standard as is known in the art. Other transmitters may be used. Such wireless links may in certain embodiments reduce or alleviate the need for wires between sensor 102 and mobile telemeter 108.

[0050] Alternate embodiments of the system and method of the present invention may transmit medical data using the Bluetooth standard in different manners. For example, the Bluetooth standard may be used in a mobile medical telemeter system without intermediate devices between endpoints.

[0051] FIG. 1C is a schematic illustration of the components of sensors 102 and mobile telemeter 108 linked by wires in accordance with one embodiment of the present invention. Sensors 102, such as, for example ECG electrodes 122, NIBP sensor 124 and SpO<sub>2</sub> sensor 126 typically include amplifiers 130 through 136 to amplify the readings collected by sensors 122 through 128. After being amplified,

physiological data is transmitted by wires to controller 140. Controller 140 is capable of controlling the transmission of data from sensors 102 by, typically, Bluetooth Chipset transceiver 142. Other transmission methods, platforms and standards may be used. Controller 140 may in certain embodiments be a series of software instructions embedded in mobile telemeter 108. Other methods and systems may be used for controller 140. Controller 140 may in certain embodiments include a data storage unit to store data collected from sensors 102. Controller 140 may be connected to a power supply 144 such as a battery.

[0052] FIG. 1D illustrates a different configuration of the mentioned above components. Briefly, instead of having a single controller 140 and a single Bluetooth chipset, additional controllers 146 and 148, as well as additional chipsets 150 and 152 were added.

[0053] In certain embodiments of the present invention, controller 140 may be a microcontroller on which a Bluetooth protocol stack and application software are running. The application software may control, among other things, transceiver 142. In some embodiments, the application software may contain event-monitoring or detection software modules which may, for example, direct mobile telemeter 108 to transmit data or take other actions in the event physiological data collected by a sensor 102 varies from pre-defined parameters. For example, mobile telemeter 108 could be pre-programmed to transmit data or alert the person or a monitoring physician in the event that ECG readings from sensor 102 indicate arrhythmia or other cardiac abnormalities. In some embodiments such pre-defined parameters may be programmed into the application software of sensor 102. In certain embodiments, a data storage unit 138 is connected to controller unit 140 to store physiological data. Data storage unit 138 may be, for example, RAM, but may be another type of data storage unit, such as a disk drive. Data storage unit 138 may for example, store physiological data that is collected over long periods of time such as hours or even days and such data may be downloaded and evaluated at a later time, in a manner similar to that done with halter monitors as are currently known in the art. In other embodiments, data storage unit 138 may be used for short-term storage of collected physiological data. Such short term storage may be needed for example to evaluate collected physiological data against pre-defined physiologic parameters programmed into controller unit 140, or may be called upon for re-transmission by mobile telemeter 108 in the event that a prior transmission of such collected physiological data was interrupted or incomplete. When used for short term data storage purposes, data storage unit 138 can be constructed as a refreshable loop memory buffer that may be written over by subsequently collected physiological data. Other implementations of the controller unit 140 and other components may be used. For example, firmware or a computer on a chip may be used, and the Bluetooth standard need not be used.

[0054] In certain embodiments described below, collected physiological data may be stored in data storage unit 138 until telemeter 108 receives confirmation from a terminal, (such as a terminal 186 of FIG. 2 described below), that such physiological data was successfully transmitted and received by a terminal or by a central unit, such as central

unit **184** of FIG. 2 described below. The data storage unit **138** may then store new physiological data by, for example, over-writing the old data.

[0055] Bluetooth chipset transceiver **142** is known in the art and includes such transceivers as are available from Cambridge Silicon Radio (CSR), such as the BlueCore-2 single chip system BC2120115A. Other transceiver systems may be used and may be based on other platforms and standards.

[0056] Some or all of mobile telemeter **108**, sensor **102**, Bluetooth chipset transceiver **142** and data storage unit **138** may be powered by battery power supply **144**. Power supply **144** may be a disposable or rechargeable battery or other similar electrical power source. In alternative embodiments, sensor **102** may have any or all of its own power source and data storage unit. Other configurations of components of mobile telemeter **108** are also possible.

[0057] Reference is now made to FIG. 2, which illustrates a remote person site coverage area **200** in which the present invention may operate in certain embodiments. Open areas or rooms in coverage area **200** may be equipped with, for example, a terminal such as terminals **186a-186e**, (collectively referred to as **186**), or other communications terminal to receive and/or transmit physiological data. Terminal **186** may, for example, be affixed to a power line connector located on the wall or ceiling or otherwise located within a room or a corridor. Coverage area **200** may also contain a central unit **184** or other communication unit that may in certain embodiments of the present invention receiver data from multiple terminals, perform communication protocol conversions and act to a gateway. The central unit can be connected to one or more computerized units such as monitoring systems, display systems, local area networks, wide area networks, wireless networks and the like. Each terminal **186** can also receive physiological data from one or more persons using various prior art methods for multiple user communication. Physiological data received by terminal **186** may for example be the data collected by sensor **102** and transmitted by mobile telemeter **108**. Terminal **186** may be connected to and powered by household power lines **209**.

[0058] The communications link established between terminals **186** and central unit **184** can be deemed a short-range communications network as is known in the art. In the transmission of physiological data from mobile telemeter **108** to terminal **186**, terminal **186** functions as master and mobile telemeter **108** serves as slave. In certain embodiments the present invention may be used to transmit data and voice signals.

[0059] In an embodiment of the invention, person **112** who may be equipped with a mobile telemeter **108** may move about within coverage area **200**. As person **112** moves from room to room wearing mobile telemeter **108**, mobile telemeter **108** typically transmits and/or receives data by wireless communication to and from terminal **186** in such a room. Transmission of such data is typically in the form of packetized physiological data along with, for example, ID codes of the respective mobile telemeter **108** that is transmitting. In a typical embodiment, terminal **186** transmits data either directly to central unit **184** or to another terminal **186** in the path to central unit **184**. Central unit **184** may collect physiological data and transmit it to a gateway (not shown) for delivery onto a network **182**.

[0060] In a typical embodiment of the present invention, a doctor, medical professional or medical data recording device may be connected or have access to a computerized unit such as a central station, as a PC in a hospital which is connected to network **182**. Such doctor or other medical professional is thereby able to monitor such physiological data as it is retrieved from network **216**. In other embodiments, network **216** may be a point-to-point communications network linking, for example, a person's home with a medical facility.

[0061] According to an embodiment of the invention a terminal **186** can also be adapted to perform wireless communication with network **184** or other devices. According to an embodiment of the invention the terminal can select between the two types of communication.

[0062] The wireless communication between terminals **186** and mobile telemeter **108** may in certain embodiments of the present invention embody Bluetooth technology and utilize Bluetooth standards and formats. Other data transmission formats may be used.

[0063] Data and voice signals may in certain embodiments flow from all or some of a central station to mobile telemeter **108** by way of central unit **184** and terminal **186**, such that one way or two-way communication may be used in all or part of the present invention. Mobile telemeter **108** may in certain embodiments both receive and transmit voice data to and from one or more terminals **186**.

[0064] Reference is made to FIG. 3, which is a simplified illustration of the components of terminal **186** in accordance with an embodiment of the present invention. In certain embodiments of the invention, terminal **186** includes a Bluetooth Chipset transceiver **302** for sending and receiving wireless signals, a power line modem (PLM) **306**, and a terminal controller **304** which may in certain embodiments house the application software, the protocol stack and the software driver of power line modem **306**. Power line modem **306** may be connected to power line **209**, which may also provide operating power for terminal **186** and for other devices in the present invention. Power line modem **306** may be suitable for transmitting voice and/or data over power lines to which terminal **186** is connected. Power line modem **306** may be connected to power lines by a common two or three prong plug into a wall outlet, or by other methods. Power line modem **306** may be any embedded power line carrier (PLC) modem such as those available from Archnet ATL90115-1 or ATL90120-1. Bluetooth transceiver **302** may be a standard Bluetooth transceiver such as those available from Cambridge Silicon Radio (CSR) the BlueCore-2 single chip system BC2120115A. Terminal controller **304** may be a standard programmable microcontroller such as the ARM7TDMI from ARM Ltd. Company. Other configurations and models of the components of terminal **186** may also be used.

[0065] Power line **209** may be, for example, standard residential electric power lines of, for example, 110 volts, 220 volts or other voltage as may be in use, and may be connected to, for example, the local power grid (not shown). Connection of terminal **186** to power lines **209** may facilitate supplying power to the terminals **186** and central unit **184** as well as providing an additional medium of communication between terminals **186** and central unit **184** by way of power line communication through power line modem **306**.

[0066] Reference is made to FIG. 4, which is a simplified illustration of the basic components of a central unit 184 in accordance with an embodiment of the present invention. Central unit 184 includes, for example, a Bluetooth chipset transceiver 402, a controller 404, and a power line modem 406. Power line modem 406 may be connected to power line 209 as described in FIG. 2. Such power line 209 may in certain embodiments also serve as a power source for central unit 184. In other embodiments, central unit 184 may be powered by a battery or other power source. Central unit 184 may in certain embodiments be connected to a gateway which may deliver data to network 116 as depicted in FIG. 2.

[0067] Bluetooth chipset 402 may be a Bluetooth transceiver chipset as are known in the art, such as the single chip BlueCore2 from Cambridge Silicon Radio (CSR). Controller 404, may be a standard programmable microcontroller as is known in the art such as ARM7TDMI from ARM Ltd. Company. Power line modem 406 may be suitable for transmitting voice and/or data over power lines to which central unit 184 is connected. Power line modem 406 may be an embedded power line carrier (PLC) modem such as those available from Archnet ATL90115-1 or ATL90120-1. Other configurations and models of such components of central unit 184 may also be used.

[0068] An embodiment of the present invention based on Bluetooth technology contemplates a single central unit 184 communicating with, in one embodiment, up to seven terminals 186 simultaneously. Similarly, using Bluetooth chipsets, terminals 186 may be able to communicate with, in one embodiment, up to seven mobile telemeters 108. Other numbers (and limits) of mobile telemeters 108 and terminals 186 that can be used with the present invention are also possible.

[0069] Reference is now made to FIG. 5, which is a simplified illustration of a relatively large area of coverage 205 of a wireless network with numerous rooms such as 204a and 204b and open spaces, in accordance with an embodiment of the present invention. In such large area of coverage 205, a terminal 186a may be too far away from central unit 184 to permit direct transmission of data or voice signals between them. Similarly, direct transmission may be not desirable or possible for other reasons such as for example, interference or bad signal quality. In such event, terminal 186a may transmit physiological data via other terminals such as 186b or 186c, which relay such signals to central unit 184. Other paths by which data or voice signals may be related from one terminal 186 to another in route to central unit 184 are also possible.

[0070] In certain embodiments of the present invention, terminal 186 may receive and transmit using multiple channels. Terminals 186 that are Bluetooth enabled may transmit and receive wireless data on, for example, up to seven channels simultaneously. Such a capability may allow a single terminal 186 to receive voice and data from up to seven mobile telemeters 108 simultaneously. Other limits or numbers of channels are possible.

[0071] As depicted in FIG. 5, to support person mobility, a number of terminals 186 may in certain embodiments of the invention be placed throughout a coverage area 205 to provide a "cell-like" coverage of the entire coverage area, consisting of overlapping zones of coverage. Such coverage

may in certain embodiments permit the mobile telemeter 108 worn or carried by person to transmit to, and receive data from, at least one terminal 186 from anywhere in the coverage area 205. It is therefore possible that in certain embodiments of the present invention, a mobile telemeter 108 may transmit data to more than one terminal 186 at the same time. Similarly, it is possible that a single transmission of packetized data may be initiated between a mobile telemeter 108 worn or carried by a person and a particular terminal 186, but may be completed with another terminal 186. For example, referring to FIG. 5, a mobile telemeter 108 carried by person 201 moving from room 204a to room 204b may begin a transmission of physiological data to terminal 186a, then continue such transmission to both terminals 186a and 186b and finally end such transmission to terminal 186b alone. Other combinations are possible. controller software in central unit 184 may in certain embodiments of the present invention use error detection codes or other software to discard packets received in incomplete transmissions and/or duplicate packets received from more than one terminal 186. Embodiments of the present invention are thereby capable of supporting transmission by a mobile telemeter 108 while such mobile telemeter is moving from the transmission range of one terminal 186a into that of another terminal 186b, or when a mobile telemeter is within the transmission range of more than one terminal 186. Similarly, gateway 214 can be equipped with such error detection or duplicate packet detection capabilities to discard packets received in incomplete transmissions and/or duplicate packets received from more than one central unit 184.

[0072] Typically, controller layer software (reference numeral 134 of FIG. 1C) of mobile telemeter 108 supports temporary storage of data. Such temporary storage may in certain embodiments be called upon in the event that transmission of physiological data between a mobile telemeter 108 and a terminal 186 is interrupted, or in case there is a loss of data between mobile telemeter 108 and gateway 214. In that case, a repeat transmission of physiological data may be called from the data stored in the data storage unit 138 of mobile telemeter 108. Such storage and retransmission may in certain embodiments be controlled by software stored in controller 140 of mobile telemeter 108 as is depicted in FIG. 1C. Other components of the present invention such as central unit 184 or the terminal 186 may also call for repeat transmission of physiological data. In certain embodiments of the present invention, mobile telemeter 108 may be programmed to repeat a particular transmission until it receives confirmation of a successful receipt of such transmission from terminal 186, from central unit 184 or from gateway 214.

[0073] As illustrated in FIG. 5, the architecture of the present invention provides for a high degree of scalability. The present invention can initially be installed, for example, with a single central unit 184 which may in certain embodiments serve up to seven terminals 186. By adding an additional central unit, up to an additional seven terminals can be added without a corresponding degradation in performance.

[0074] Reference is now made to FIG. 6 which illustrates a protocol stack 600 upon which is based the wireless communication between mobile telemeter 108, terminals 186 and central unit 184, in accordance with an embodiment

of the present invention. In an embodiment of the invention, protocol stack 600 may include a radio layer 602 which conforms to the physical connection interface. The Bluetooth radio layer 602 is the lowest defined layer of the Bluetooth specification. It defines requirements of the Bluetooth chip transceiver operating in the 2.4 GHz ISM band. Baseband 604 and link manager protocol (LMP) 606 reside over the radio layer 602 and may, in an embodiment, establish and control links with the controller 140 as is depicted in FIG. 1C. Each of radio layer 602, baseband 604 and link manager protocol 606 are included as standard components in many commercially available Bluetooth transceivers which in certain embodiments may be used as controller 140 as is shown in FIG. 1C controller 140, interfaces between the upper application protocol 610 and the Bluetooth chipset transceiver 142 components which include radio layer 602, baseband 604 and link manager protocol 606.

[0075] In a typical embodiment of the present invention, radio layer 602 may operate in the unlicensed ISM band and use spread spectrum communication, though operation in other available broadcast bands is also possible. CVSD coding may also be adopted in certain embodiments to withstand high bit error rates. In addition, packet headers may be protected by a highly redundant error correction scheme to make them robust to errors. In a typical embodiment, frequency hops may be fixed at  $2402+k$  MHz, where  $k=0, 1, 2, \dots, 78$ . A normal hop rate in a typical embodiment of the invention may be around 1600 hops per second, providing single hop slot of 625 microseconds. In a typical embodiment, the modulation used is Gaussian prefiltered Binary FSK, and power may be set at 0 dBm for 10 m range. Other configurations of such settings are possible in accordance with local licensing requirements and the power needs of particular installations of the present invention. Other frequencies and other data formats may be used.

[0076] In a typical embodiment of the invention, baseband 604 controls radio layer 602 and provides the frequency hops. Baseband 604 may in a typical embodiment handle SCO (Synchronous Connection Oriented) and ACL links, where the SCO link mainly carries voice information.

[0077] In a typical embodiment baseband layer 604 may also manage packet transmission over wireless links. The SCO packets are used for 64 kB/sec speech transmission. In a typical embodiment, Bluetooth audio resources like Handset Profile and Intercom Profile support the audio layer 612. ACL link may be used for data transfer. In a typical embodiment, baseband 604 may provide functionality required to synchronize clocks of the various components of the present invention and establish connections between them.

[0078] Link manager protocol 606 provides piconet management, link configuration and security. Logical link control and adaptation protocol (L2CAP) 608 provides interaction between application protocol 610 and controller interface (HCI) 134 as is depicted in FIG. 1C. In certain embodiments, L2CAP provides multiplexing capabilities to controller 140 so that the controller 140 may communicate with more than one device simultaneously. L2CAP 608 may also reduce the size of packets provided by applications to the size of packets accepted by baseband 604. For example, L2CAP 608 may in certain embodiments accept packet sizes

up to 64 Kbits, whereas baseband 604 may be capable of accepting packets of 2,745 bits. L2CAP 608 may also be capable of combining segmented packets into the proper order. Additionally, L2CAP 608 may be configured to manage quality of service functions for controller 140 and Bluetooth chipset transceiver 142 by monitoring peak bandwidth, latency and delay variation. L2CAP 608 may in such case determine the quality of service that the wireless link is capable of providing and configure the transmission of data accordingly. In other embodiments, other modules or sets of modules may control data transmission. Furthermore, functionality of various modules may be combined into other modules.

[0079] Controller interface 134 may be used when logical link control and adaptation protocol 608 resides in software in the controller 140. In many commercially available transceiver modules, such as the BlueCore2 from Cambridge Silicon Radio, the logical link control and adaptation protocol 608 are included in the transceiver module. In such case, the controller interface 134 may not be necessary since the Logical link control and adaptation protocol 608 can directly communicate with link manager protocol 606 and baseband 604.

[0080] To support person 201 mobility within coverage area 200, terminal 186 and mobile telemeter 108 may in certain embodiments implement a "switch-over" protocol in which the mobile telemeter 108 continuously attempts to establish a wireless connection with terminal 186. In such embodiments, as mobile telemeter 108 comes into transmission range of a particular terminal 186, it will attempt to establish a wireless link with such terminal 186.

[0081] In certain embodiments, mobile telemeter 108 may operate in various states such as a "standby state" and a "transmit state". Other states are of course possible. In the standby state, mobile telemeter 108 may operate at a default low power state such that it monitors physiological data from sensors 102, but activates few of its transmission functions. In standby state it may be possible to keep the native clock of the mobile telemeter 108 active, with the remainder of the transmit and receive functions inactive.

[0082] When in "transmit state", terminal 186 and mobile telemeter 108 exchange transmission of data. In certain embodiments of the present invention, the wireless link between mobile telemeter 108 and terminal 186 is established during inquiry and paging procedures. Transmit state may be initiated with a poll packet sent by terminal 186 to verify that the mobile telemeter 108 has switched to the timing and channel frequency hopping pattern of terminal 186.

[0083] When in "transmit state", mobile telemeter 108 may also be in any of several states including, for example, active and park mode. In active mode, mobile telemeter 108 actively monitors and transmits on the selected channel, and may support regular transmission to keep the terminal 186 synchronized to the channel and to send data to the terminal 186. When in park mode, mobile telemeter 108 may remain synchronized to the channel in which mobile telemeter 108 is transmitting, but it may not participate in the transmission or reception of data traffic. The parked mobile telemeter 108 may occasionally monitor the transmission to synchronize its clock and check on broadcast messages from terminal 186. The park state typically has a low duty cycle and high

power efficiency. Other statuses and variations of the readiness of the mobile telemeter **108** and terminal **186** are also possible and result in varying power efficiencies and transmission monitoring benefits.

[0084] In certain embodiments of the present invention, mobile telemeter **108** can be set to operate in one of several monitoring methods including “real time monitoring” and “event activated monitoring”. Real time monitoring implies that terminal **186** continuously saves physiological data in a buffer of its data storage unit **138** as is depicted in FIG. 1C, and periodically transmits the contents of the buffer data via the terminal **186** to central unit **184** for further processing and or retransmission. This setting lets a continuous flow of physiological data be transmitted to central station **218**. In “event activated monitoring” mobile telemeter **108** or terminal **186** may be set to process and analyze physiological data in real time or at preset intervals and store certain limited portions of physiological data in a refreshable loop memory buffer of data storage unit **138**. Other modes of operation are possible.

[0085] FIG. 7A is a flow chart of a data collection task for real time monitoring by a mobile telemeter **108** in accordance with an embodiment of the present invention. FIG. 7B shows a data transmission task for real time monitoring by a mobile telemeter **108** in accordance with an embodiment of the present invention. The data collection task described in FIG. 7A begins with an initialization stage **702**, wherein the real time monitoring mode “set Flag\_RT”=**1** **704**, memory buffer is set to zero **706** and “Write to buffer B1” **708** routine is activated. “Write to Buffer B1” **708** routine cycles until the “Buffer Full” indicator is detected **710**. When the buffer full indicator is detected **710**, another routine sets the “Flag\_B1” to **1** **712** and the content of the buffer B1 is transmitted to terminal **186** in the transmission process described in FIG. 7B. If for some reason the sensor is directed to stop monitoring **714**, the data collection task ends **716**.

[0086] Other steps or series of steps may be used.

[0087] As depicted in FIG. 7B, data transmission mode starts with terminal **186** in standby mode **720** until a wireless link is established with another transceiver **722** such as a mobile telemeter **108**. Terminal **186** periodically wakes up **726** the transceiver module of mobile telemeter **108** (which may have theretofore been in park state) and checks on Flag B1 as described in reference numeral **712** of FIG. 7A. If Flag B1=**1** **728**, the controller **140** (as depicted in FIG. 1C) of mobile telemeter **108** reads its buffer **730** and sends data **732** to the terminal. Mobile telemeter **108** receives a polling packet from master **732**. Terminal **186** checks to see if data has stopped flowing **736** from mobile telemeter **108**. If data has stopped flowing, terminal **186** checks to see whether a last packet indicator has been received **738** from the mobile telemeter **108** to indicate that the transmission has ended. If no such indicator has been received even though the data has stopped flowing, there may have been a failure in the communication link. In such event, once the communication link is re-established, the data in Buffer B1 that was incompletely transmitted is transmitted again to the terminal **186**.

[0088] The amount of time that incompletely transmitted data can remain in Buffer B1 depends on several factors including the amount of memory available in data storage unit **138** and the volume of data being delivered to such data

storage unit **138** by the relevant sensor **186**. Once the last packet has been received **738** and all data in Buffer B1 has been transmitted to terminal **186**, buffer B1 can be reset **740** for further data collection. Other steps or series of steps may be used.

[0089] The data collection and data transmission process described in FIGS. 7A and 7B may run independently or simultaneously.

[0090] FIG. 8A is a flow chart of a data collection task for “event activated monitoring” by a mobile telemeter **108** in accordance with an embodiment of the present invention. FIG. 8B shows a data transmission task for event activated monitoring by a mobile telemeter **108** in accordance with an embodiment of the present invention. The data collection task in FIG. 8A starts with initialization stage **802** which sets the event activated monitoring mode “Flag\_EA”=**1** **804**, resets the memory buffers by setting “Flag\_B1”=**0** and “Flag\_B2”=**0** **806**, and activates the “Write to Buffer B1” routine **808** similar to the routine described in reference numeral **708** of FIG. 7A. This routine may in certain embodiments cycle until the predefined event is detected **812**. Once the event is detected, the routine sets the “Flag\_B1”=**1** **812** and switches to writing to buffer B2 routine **814**.

[0091] The content of buffer B1 will be sent to terminal in the data transmission task described in FIG. 8B below. The writing to buffer B2 routine **814** cycles until the next pre-defined event occurs **816** which sets the “Flag\_B2”=**1** **818** and switches the mobile telemeter **108** back to writing to Buffer B1 **818**. Once Flag B2 is set to **1**, the content of Buffer B2 will be sent to terminal **186** in the data transmission task described in FIG. 8B. If stop monitoring indicator is detected **820**, the monitoring process is ended **822**.

[0092] The data transmission task described in FIG. 8B starts with the Bluetooth chipset transceiver **140** of the mobile telemeter **108** (as is depicted in FIG. 1C) in standby stage **832**. A wireless link between mobile telemeter **108** as slave and terminal **186** as master is established **834** and mobile telemeter **108** is set in the parked stage **836**. Terminal **186** periodically wakes up **838** mobile telemeter **108** and checks the “Flag\_B1” **840**. If “Flag\_B1”=**1** the routine read Buffer B1 is activated **842**. If “Flag\_B”=**0** and “Flag\_B2”=**1** **844**, the routine read Buffer B2 **846** is activated, sends packet to the terminal **848**, receives the packet from master **850** and checks **852** the “STOP data flow” indicator. If “STOP data flow” indicator **852** is not received, the “LAST Packet” indicator is checked **854**. The transmission process cycles until the “LAST Packet” is detected. At this stage buffers B1 or B2 is reset **856** and the device is switched to the Parked Stage **836**. Receiving “STOP data flow” indicator means a failure has occurred in the wireless link. At that point the mobile telemeter **108** attempts to re-establish the wireless link **834**.

[0093] Other steps or series of steps may be used.

[0094] Reference is made to FIG. 9 which is a schematic diagram of two possible paths of data signals between terminals **186** and central unit **184**, in accordance with an embodiment of the present invention. Other signal paths may be used. When wireless communication is available, terminal **186a** may transmit signals to terminal **186b** using wireless signals **902** illustrated by dashed lines. Terminal

**186b** may then, for example, relay such signals **902** to terminal **186c** which may further relay signals to central unit **184**. When wireless communication becomes unavailable for reasons such as, for example, multi-path interference or technical failure of a transceiver, terminal **186a** may, for example, transmit data signals by way of power line modem **306** that is included in terminal **186** and the power line modem **406** that is included in central unit **184** over power lines **208** to which both terminals **186** and central unit **210** are connected.

[0095] Reference is made to FIG. 10 which is a simplified flow chart of the process implemented by controller **304** or other components of terminal **186** in determining the communication path by which data signals may be sent between terminal **186** and central unit **184**.

[0096] In step **1002** terminal **186** collects data from, for example a mobile telemeter **108**. Terminal **186** may then determine that data is ready to be transmitted by terminal **186** in step **1004** or that more data is to be collected before initiating such transmission. In step **1006** terminal may poll other terminals **186** or central unit **184** to determine whether a wireless communication link is available for transmission of data signals or whether no such wireless communication link is available. If a wireless communication link can be established then terminal **186** transmits the data signal over such wireless link. If no wireless link can be established, controller **304** or other component of terminal **186** directs the data signal to be sent to central unit **184** over power lines **208** by way of power line modem **306**.

[0097] Other steps or series of steps may be used.

[0098] It will be appreciated by persons skilled in the art that the present invention is not limited to what has been particularly shown and described hereinabove. Rather the scope of the present invention is defined only by the claims which follow.

We claim:

1. A terminal comprising:
  - a wireless receiver, adapted to receive physiological data collected by at least one sensor;
  - a power line transmitter, coupled to the wireless receiver, adapted to receive the physiological data and transmit, over at least one power line, the physiological data; and
  - a terminal controller, coupled to the power line transmitter and the wireless receiver, for controlling the power line transmitter and the wireless receiver.
2. The terminal according to claim 1 whereas the at least one sensor is coupled to a short-range transceiver and whereas the terminal further comprises a wireless transmitter for transmitting signals to the short-range transceiver.
3. The terminal according to claim 1 further adapted to receive physiological data from multiple persons simultaneously.
4. The terminal according to claim 1 whereas the terminal controller is adapted to at least partially analyze the received physiological data and to decide whether to transmit said physiological data.
5. The terminal according to claim 1 whereas the terminal controller is adapted to at least partially process the received physiological data to provide processed physiological data.

6. The terminal of claim 5 whereas the terminal controller is further adapted to determine whether to transmit said physiological data.

7. The terminal according to claim 1 whereas the at least one sensor is coupled to a mobile telemeter adapted to at least partially process the received physiological data to provide processed physiological data.

8. The terminal of claim 7 whereas the mobile telemeter is further adapted to determine whether to transmit said physiological data.

9. The terminal of claim 1 further comprising an additional transmitter, for transmitting the physiological data over links other than power lines.

10. The terminal of claim 9 further adapted to determine whether to transmit the physiological data by the power line transmitter or by the other transmitter.

11. The terminal of claim 1 further adapted to temporarily store the physiological data.

12. The terminal of claim 1 further adapted to apply error corrections algorithms on a reception or on a transmission of the physiological data.

13. The terminal of claim 1 further adapted to apply acknowledge based transmission algorithms on a reception or on a transmission of the physiological data.

14. The terminal of claim 1 further adapted to limit a transmission of physiological data too instances wherein the physiological data varies from predefined physiological parameters.

15. A health telemetry system, comprising:

multiple terminals adapted to wirelessly receive physiological data and to transmit, over at least one power line, the physiological data; and

at least one computerized unit, adapted to receive at least a portion of the physiological data.

16. The system of claim 11 whereas at least one terminal comprises a wireless receiver, a power line transmitter and a terminal controller.

17. The system of claim 11 whereas a computerized unit is adapted to process the physiological data.

18. The system of claim 11 whereas a computerized unit is adapted to display information representative of at least a portion of the physiological data.

19. The system of claim 11 whereas a computerized unit is adapted to remotely control at least one terminal.

20. The system of claim 11 whereas the computerized unit is adapted to participate in a physiological data generation process.

21. The system of claim 11 whereas the computerized unit is adapted to participate in a physiological data transmission process.

22. The system of claim 11 further comprising a gateway for receiving transmissions from multiple communication terminals.

23. The system of claim 11 wherein at least one terminal is adapted to transmit physiological data via a power line or a wireless link.

24. The system of claim 19 wherein the at least one terminal transmits the physiological data over a power line if it is unable to transmit the physiological data over the wireless link

25. A method comprising:

receiving, by a terminal, physiological data gathered by one or more sensors, over a wireless connection; and

transmitting the physiological data over at least one power line.

**26.** The method of claim 25 whereas the stage of receiving by a terminal is preceded by a stage of short range transmitting the physiological data.

**27.** The method of claim 25 whereas the receiving comprises receiving physiological data from multiple persons simultaneously.

**28.** The method of claim 25 further comprising a stage of at least partially analyzing the received physiological data and determining whether to transmit the physiological data over at least one power line.

**29.** The method of claim 25 further comprising a stage of at least partially processing the received physiological data.

**30.** The method of claim 25 further comprising transmitting the physiological data over a link other than a power line.

**31.** The method of claim 25 further comprising determining whether to transmit the physiological data over the at least one, power line or over a link other than a power line.

**32.** The method of claim 25 further comprising applying error correction algorithms.

**33.** The method of claim 25 further comprising applying acknowledge based transmission algorithms.

\* \* \* \* \*

专利名称(译)	通信终端，医疗遥测系统和用于监测生理数据的方法		
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#### 摘要(译)

一种用于远程监控从移动人员收集的数据的医疗遥测系统，包括能够监测生理数据的传感器，可操作地连接到所述传感器的移动通信遥测器，用于将生理数据传送到终端，用于接收生理数据和用于通信的多个终端，使用蓝牙标准到通信网关的无线链路上的生理数据，以及用于将这种生理数据传送到通信网络的第一端的通信网关。终端还可以可操作地连接到电力线，并且能够通过无线链路和电力线调制解调器通过电力线传输数据，使得电力线调制解调器能够通过电力线传送或接收生理数据，如果它是无法通过无线链路传递生理数据。

