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(54) **COOLING GARMENTS, WARMING GARMENTS, AND RELATED METHODS**

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(Continued)

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(58) **Field of Classification Search**
CPC combination set(s) only.
See application file for complete search history.

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Related U.S. Application Data

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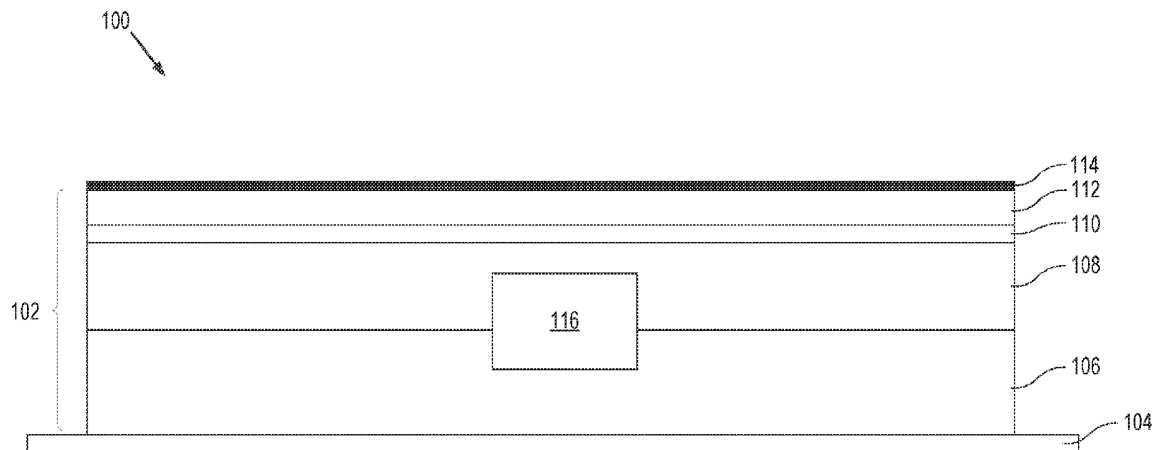
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(57) **ABSTRACT**

The present disclosure generally relates to intelligent garments that provide thermal regulation in a variety of environments. The garments may include different layers such as a hydrophilic layer in direct contact with a wearer's skin surface and saturated with an aqueous mixture, a spacer layer, a reflective layer, and an outer hydrophobic layer. The layers of the garment may work together to reduce the metabolic expenditure of the wearer in extreme environmental conditions or during demanding physical activity. A variety of sensors may be displaced throughout the garments so as to enable the collection of data associated with wearers as well as environmental conditions. Wearers may control the thermal balance and other properties of the garments as desired.

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21 Claims, 12 Drawing Sheets



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A43B 3/00 (2006.01)
A43B 7/00 (2006.01)
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A61F 7/02 (2006.01)
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A61B 5/024 (2006.01)
A61B 5/11 (2006.01)

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2007/0234 (2013.01); *A61F 2007/0236*
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2201/0207 (2013.01); *A61H 2201/0214*
 (2013.01); *H04Q 2209/10* (2013.01)

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FIG. 1

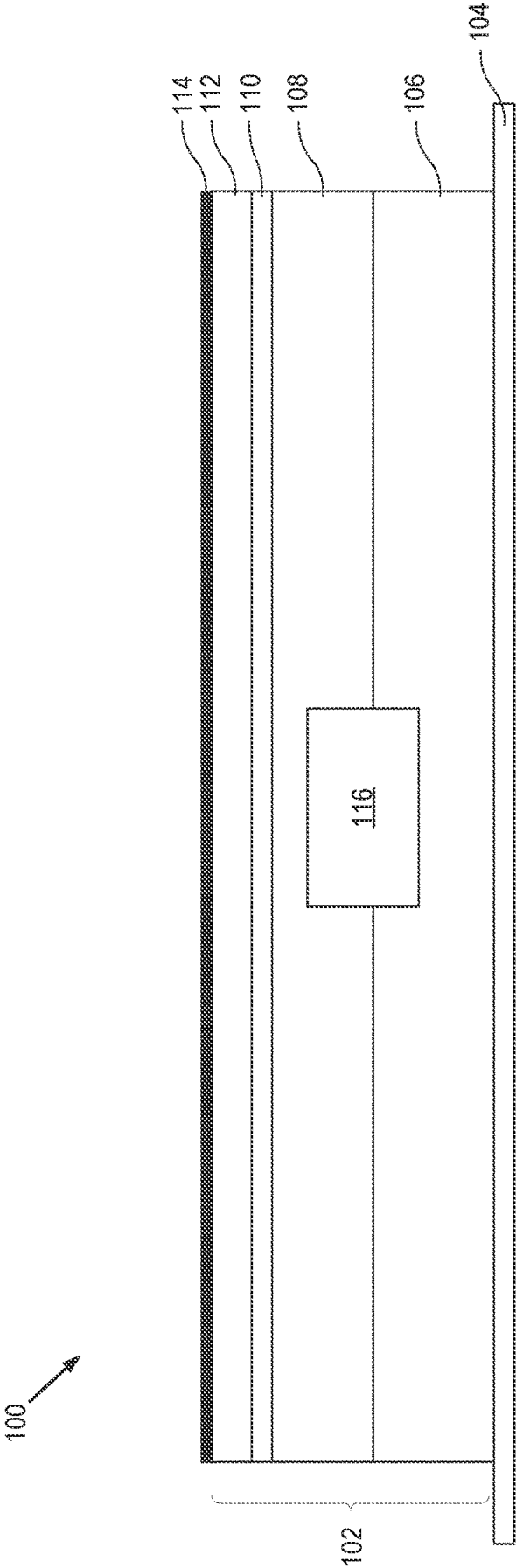


FIG. 2

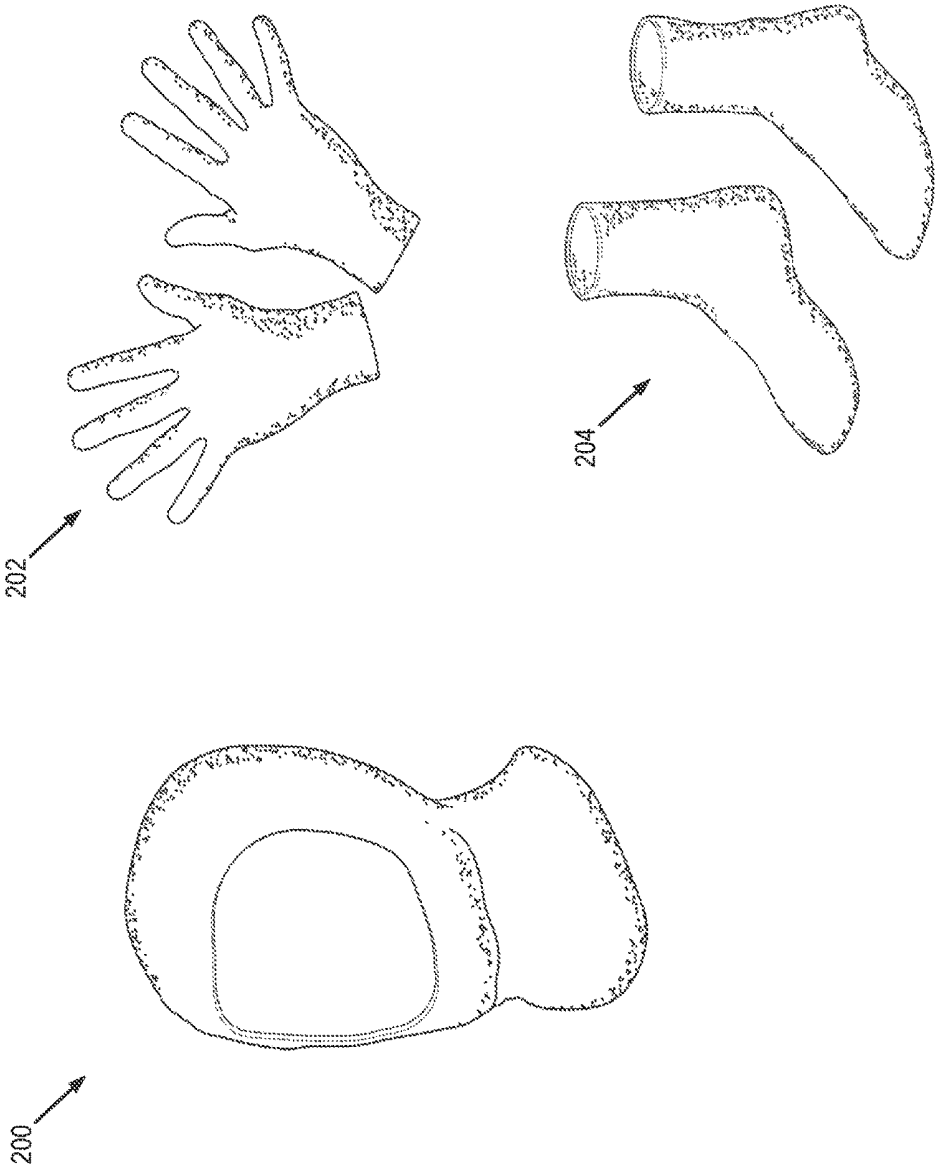


FIG. 3

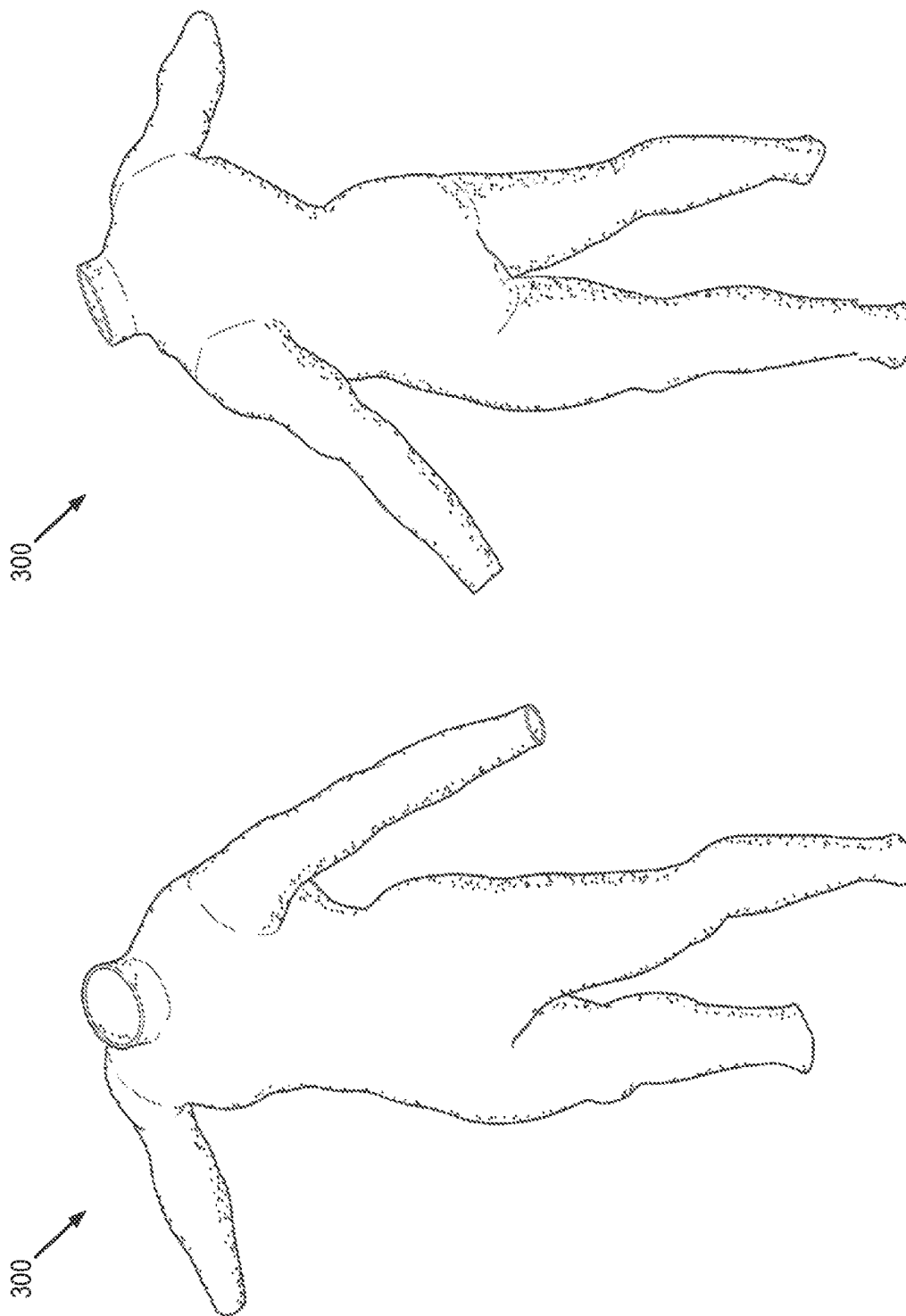


FIG. 4

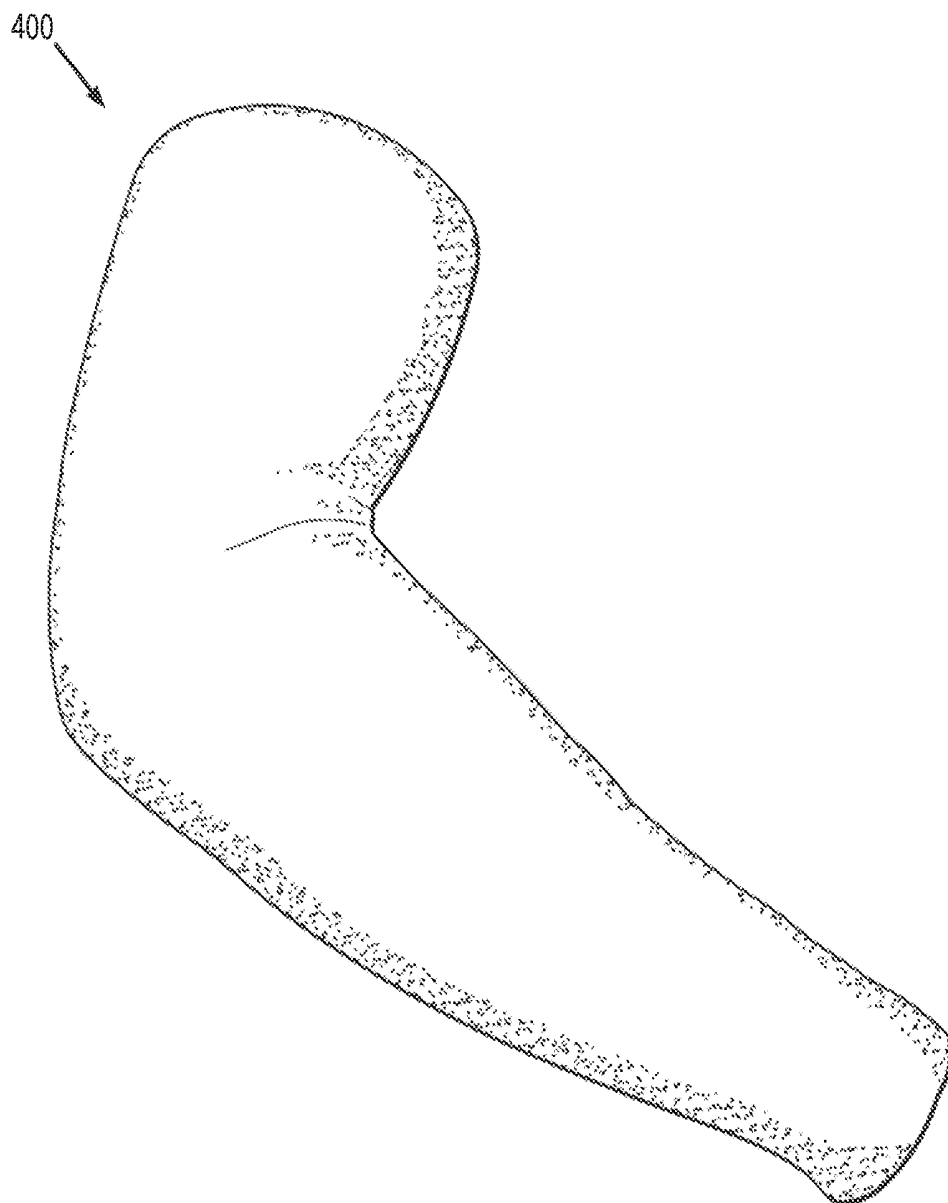


FIG. 5

500

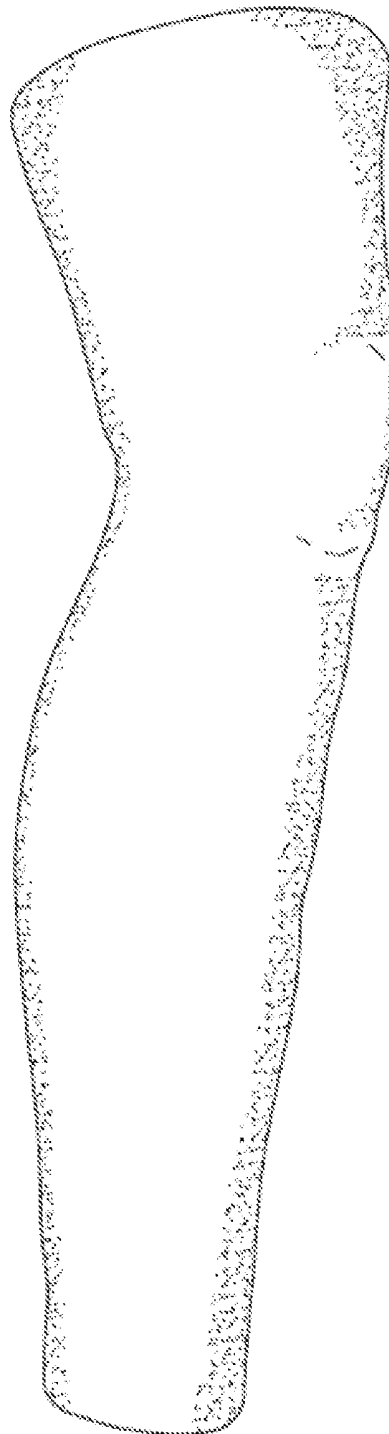


FIG. 6

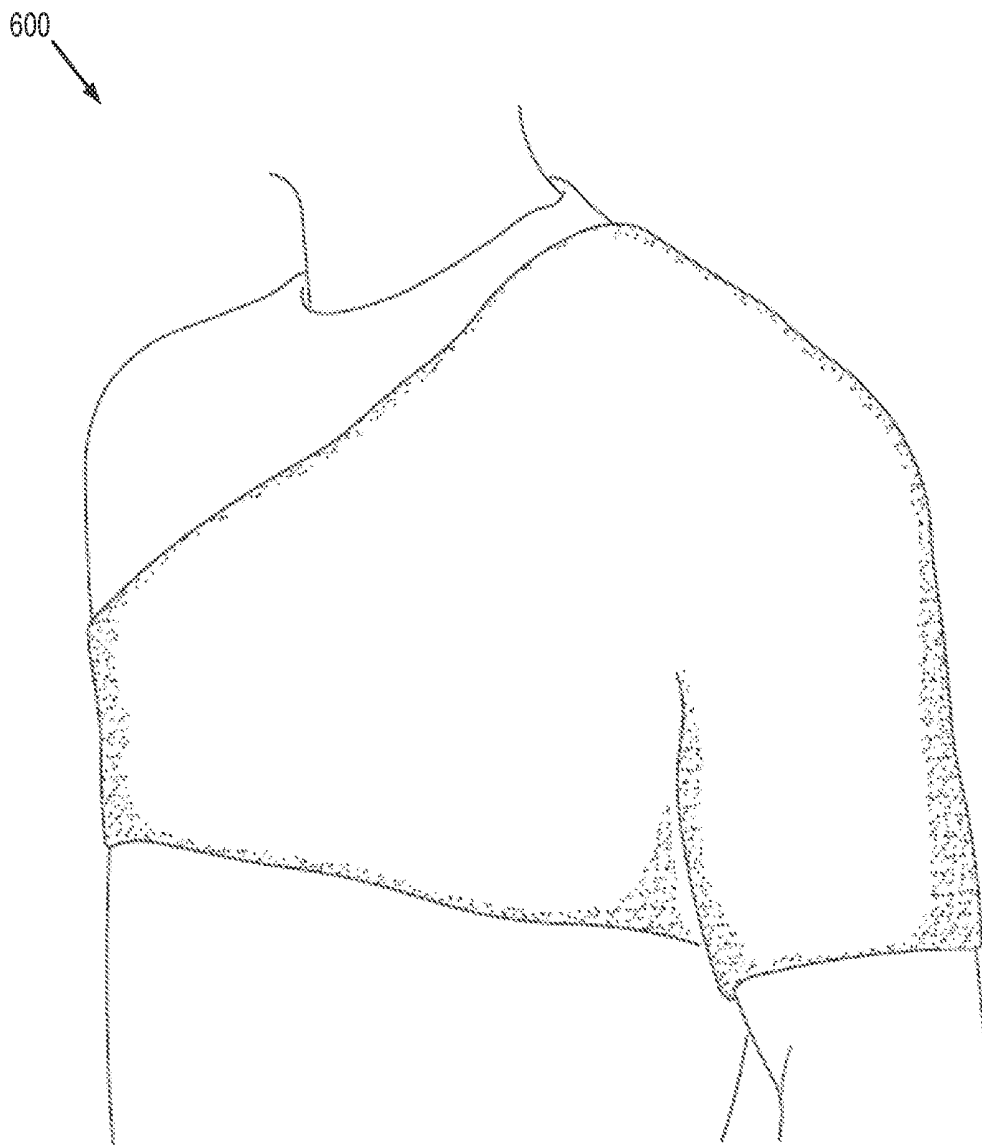


FIG. 7

700

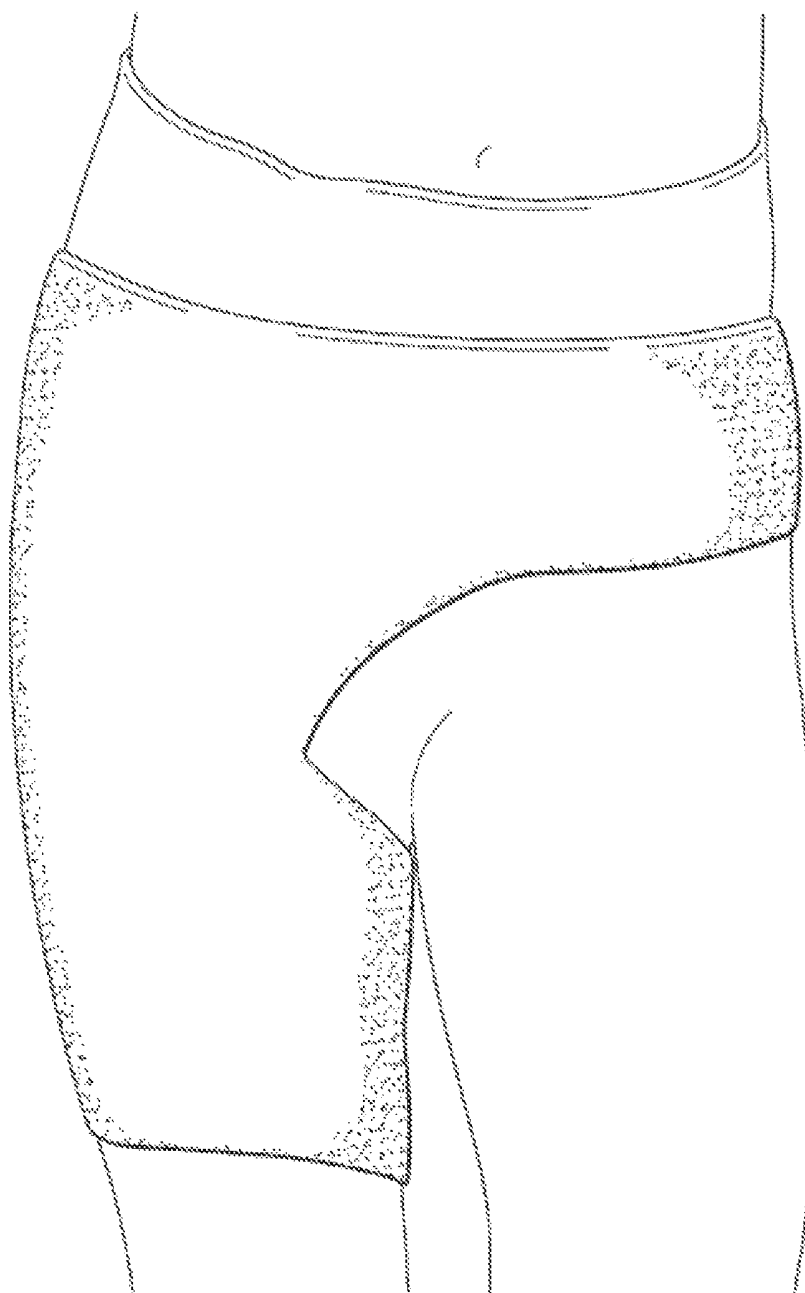


FIG. 8

800

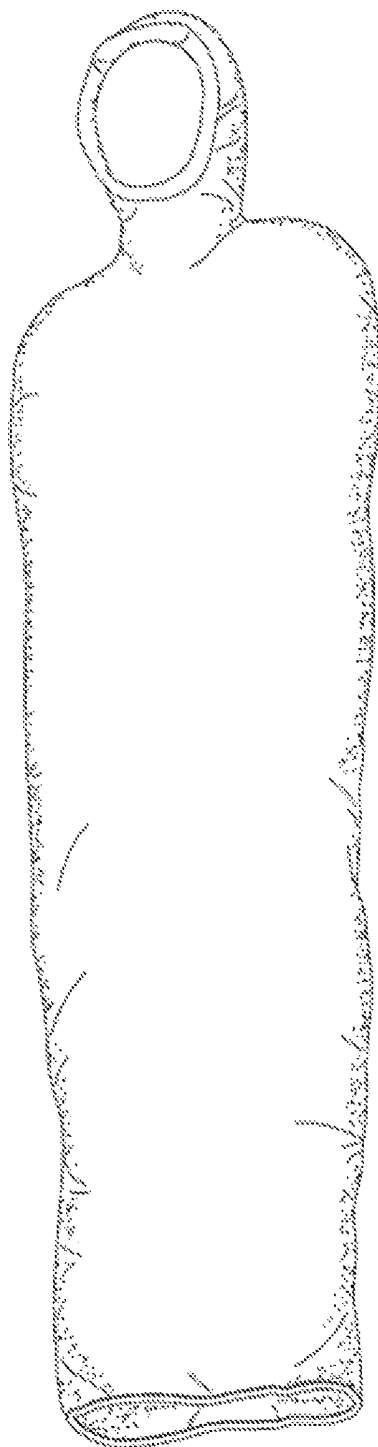


FIG. 9

900

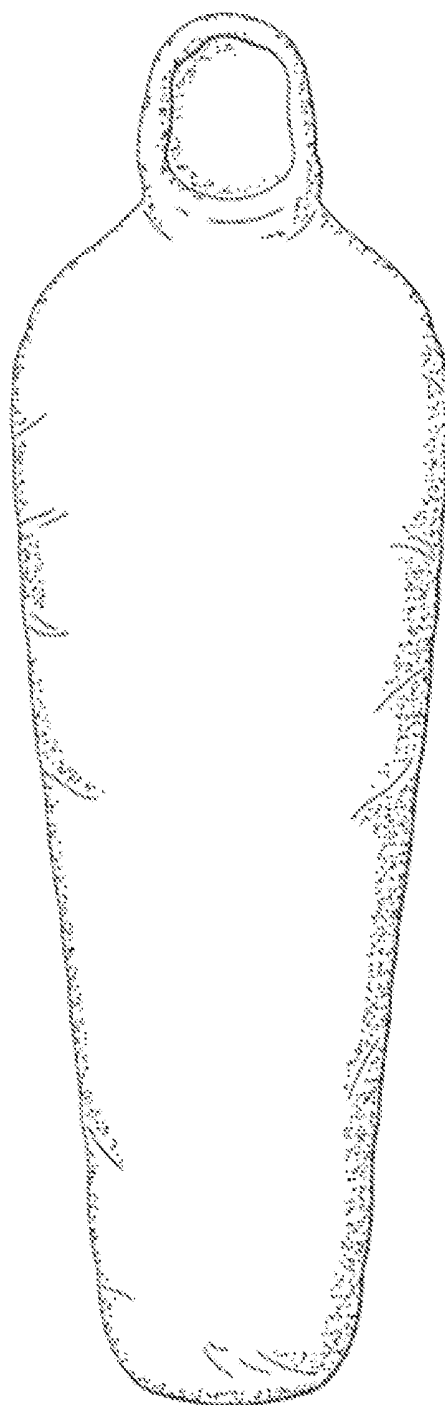


FIG. 10

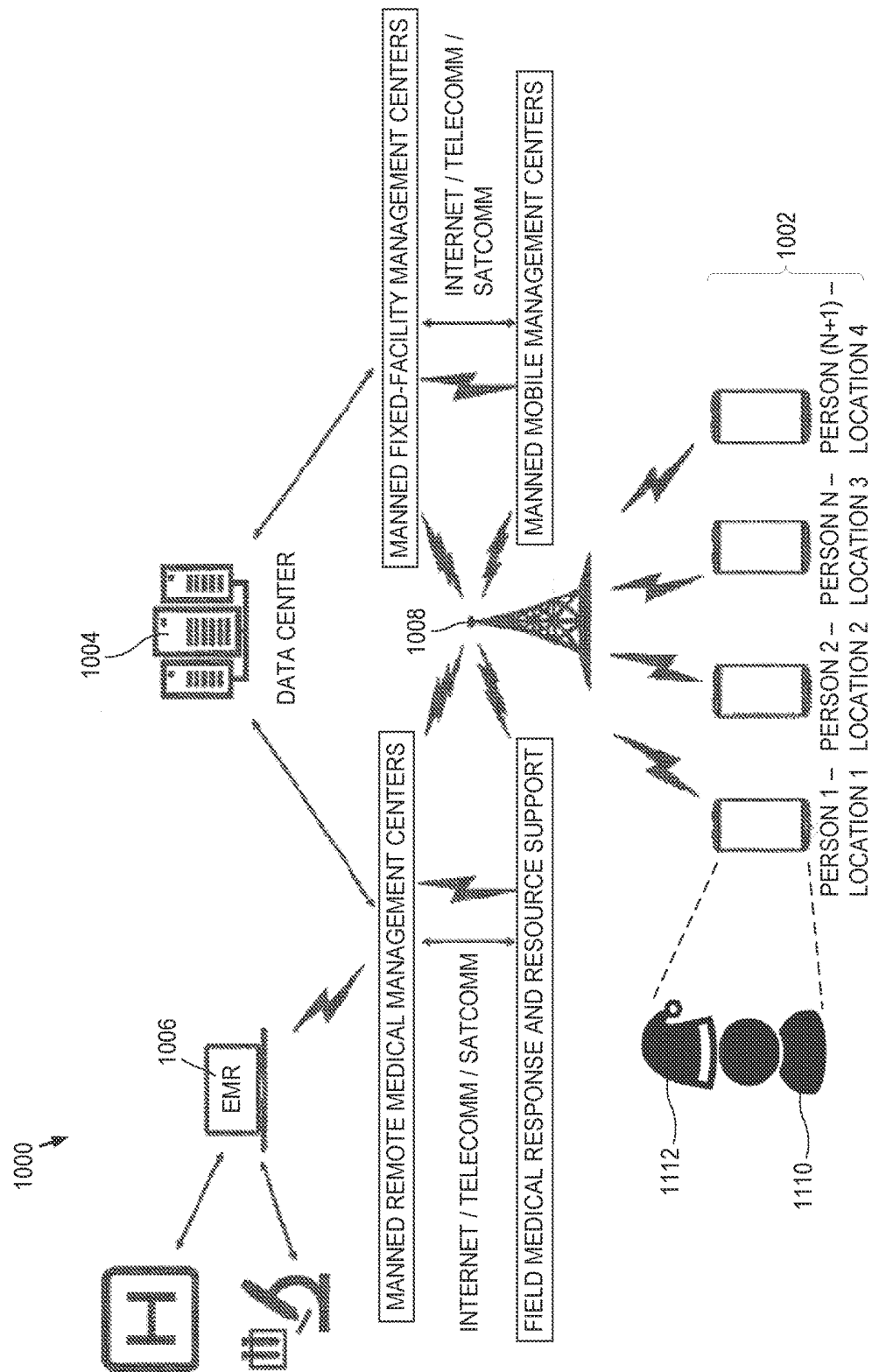


FIG. 11

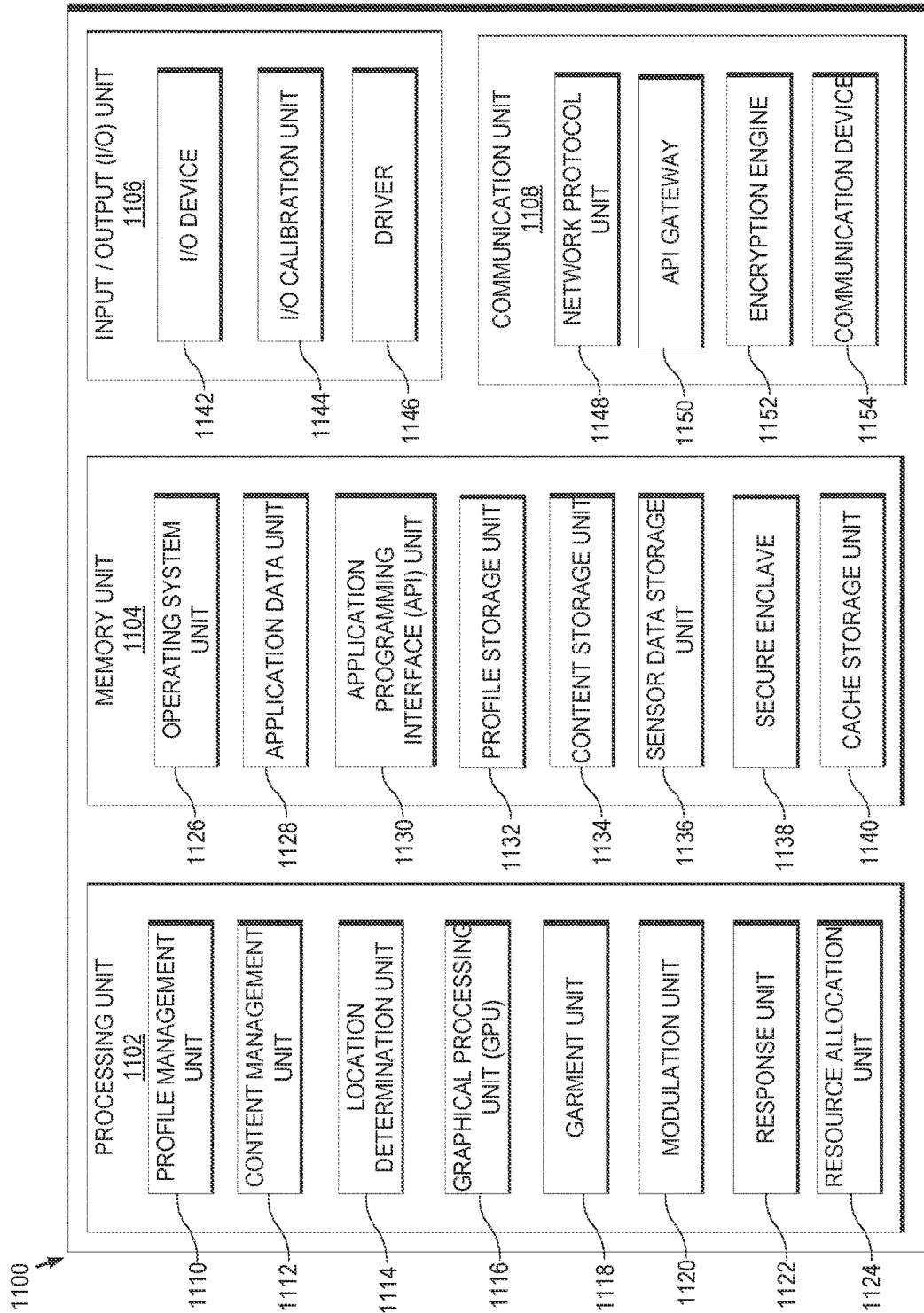
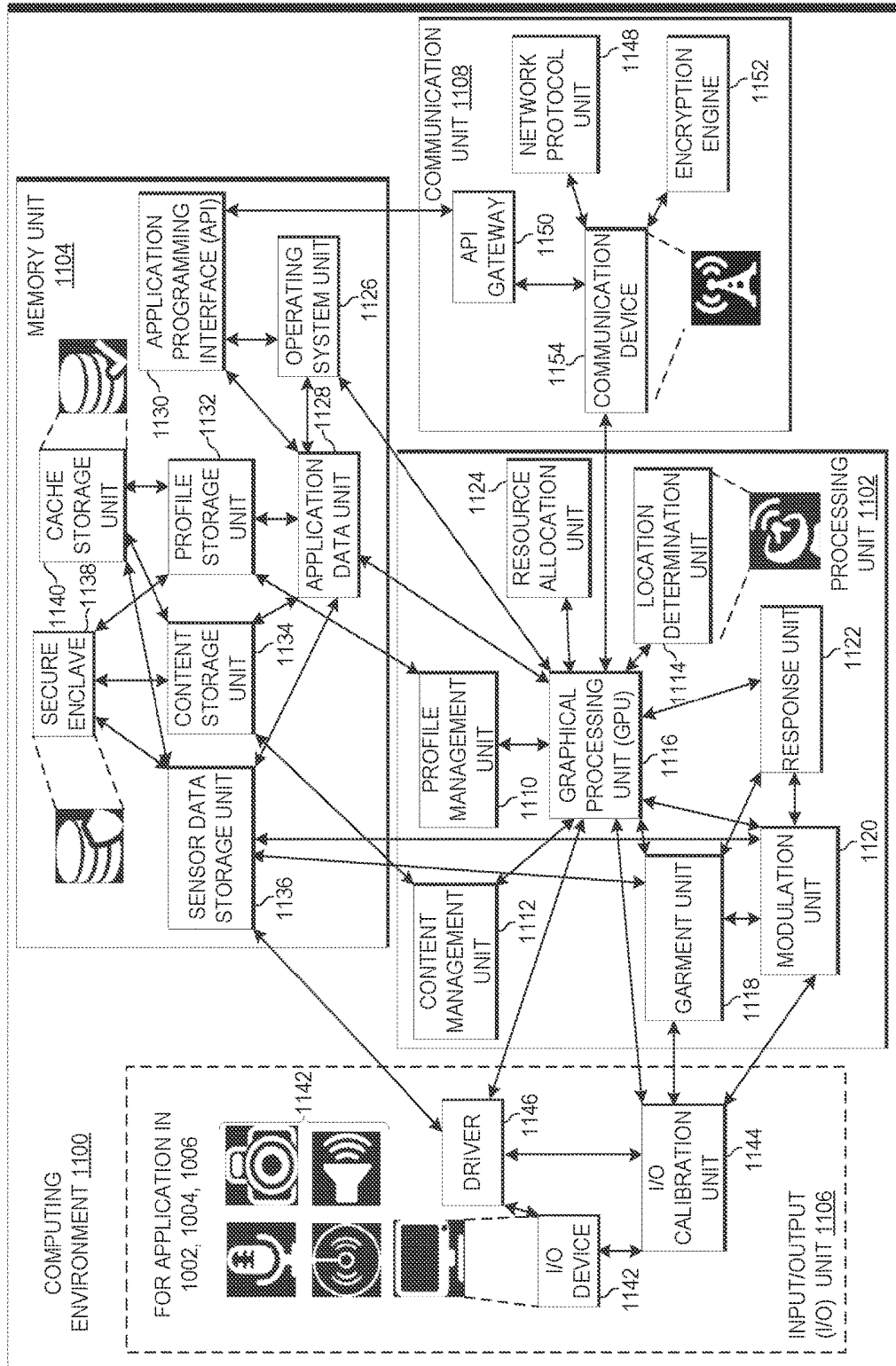


FIG. 12



COOLING GARMENTS, WARMING GARMENTS, AND RELATED METHODS

CROSS-REFERENCE TO RELATED APPLICATIONS

The present application is a utility application of, and claims priority to, U.S. Provisional Application No. 62/355,771 filed on Jun. 28, 2016, the entirety of which is incorporated by reference.

BACKGROUND

The human body is quite efficient at regulating body temperature. However, in extreme environmental conditions or during extreme physical exertion, the human body may be unable to regulate body temperature in a manner that is required for maintaining a desired level of health or a desired level of physical performance. For example, a professional athlete competing at a maximum level of physical exertion and in extremely hot and humid conditions may be at risk of experiencing a heat stroke. As another example, in extremely cold weather conditions, a person's body may struggle to maintain a healthy core body temperature, and as a result the person may be exposed to risks associated with hypothermia. Thus, garments for regulating body temperature more efficiently so as to reduce metabolic strain on the body, particularly in extreme conditions, are desired.

BRIEF SUMMARY

The present disclosure generally relates to intelligent garments for enhancing body heat transfer from a skin surface of a wearer into surrounding atmospheric environments while concurrently reducing physiological, metabolic, and neuropsychological expenditures. The garments described herein may be utilized in extreme conditions such as high environmental and micro-environmental temperatures, low environmental and micro-environmental temperatures, saturating humidity levels, submersion or exposure to low-temperature water or low atmospheric temperature levels, high levels of environmental thermal irradiation, low levels of environmental thermal irradiation, body tissue discomfort or injury, and extreme psychological stress.

As a result, the garments described herein may reduce the amount of metabolic resources required for maintaining a desired body temperature. For example, the garments described herein may reduce a wearer's need to sweat when cooling off, or conversely reduce an amount of expenditure required for keeping a wearer warm. The garments disclosed herein involve operational use of the garments as well as use of embedded, worn, and networked sensor arrays to predict, monitor, survey, adapt, and optimize performance of garments and wearers.

In some embodiments, the garments described herein may be applicable to a variety of types of users, including: the young, the debilitated, and the elderly; those with functionally-reduced body surface such as amputees and recovered burn victims; those who suffer acute or chronic soft-tissue inflammation as a result of sun-exposure, hypersensitivity reactions, disease, superficial first- and second-degree burns, trauma, overexertion, and surgery; those who experience dysfunction of central thermoregulatory centers or peripheral responses as a consequence of menopause, malignant hyperthermia, medication or drug side-effects and central nervous system injury; those without access or who unexpectedly or emergently lose access to cooling homes, trans-

portation, and other inhabited spaces reliant upon residential or commercial power during power outages, adverse weather, evacuation or disaster; persons at commonplace voluntary risk due to ambient environmental heat exposure such as outdoor construction and roofing workers, maritime, longshore, and shipbuilding workers, agricultural workers, mining and oil/gas industry workers, landscaping and outdoor maintenance personnel, warehousing workers, chefs, cooks, kitchen workers, outdoor recreational workers, athletes, and outdoor event spectators; persons who engage in exceptional voluntary risk with occupational duties and obligations to don protective apparel (e.g., a personal protective ensemble (PPE) which protects them from one or more life-threatening hazards but which severely limits body heat loss by creating a thermal barrier with a perspiration-saturated microclimate beneath the PPE) such as healthcare workers, law enforcement, search and rescue personnel, special weapons and tactics personnel, firefighters, explosive ordnance disposal personnel, hazardous materials technicians, training, armed conflict, and supportive logistical military personnel, working dogs, electrical, utility, public works, and welding/fabrication workers, roadway, railway, shipping, flight crews, aeronautical construction and maintenance personnel, and athletes in thermally or physically protective apparel (e.g., high-performance motor sports, football, ice hockey, and/or the like). The garments may also be adapted for use with animals such as pets, civilian and military working dogs, zoo animals, tournament and sport animals, and exhibition animals.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

Reference is now made to the following descriptions taken in conjunction with the accompanying drawings.

FIG. 1 illustrates an exemplary cross-sectional view of garment layer construction according to the present disclosure.

FIG. 2 illustrates exemplary perspective views of a hood, gloves, and boots according to the present disclosure.

FIG. 3 illustrates exemplary front and rear perspective views of a full-body ensemble according to the present disclosure.

FIG. 4 illustrates an exemplary perspective view of an arm sleeve according to the present disclosure.

FIG. 5 illustrates an exemplary perspective view of a leg sleeve according to the present disclosure.

FIG. 6 illustrates an exemplary perspective view of a shoulder support according to the present disclosure.

FIG. 7 illustrates an exemplary perspective view of a hip support according to the present disclosure.

FIG. 8 illustrates an exemplary perspective view of a blanket according to the present disclosure.

FIG. 9 illustrates an exemplary perspective view of a sleeping bag according to the present disclosure.

FIG. 10 illustrates an exemplary computing system according to the present disclosure.

FIG. 11 illustrates an exemplary computing environment according to the present disclosure.

FIG. 12 illustrates an exemplary connectivity diagram of the computing environment of FIG. 11.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION

Various embodiments of garments are described according to the present disclosure. It is to be understood, however, that the following explanation is merely exemplary in

describing the devices and methods of the present disclosure. Accordingly, several modifications, changes, and substitutions are contemplated.

FIG. 1 illustrates an exemplary cross-sectional view of a layer construction 100 of a garment 102. The garment 102 may generally be a contact-fitted garment or undergarment. In some embodiments, the garment 102 may be worn beneath street clothes, PPE, a uniform, or outerwear. Alternatively, the garment 102 may include fitted outerwear, hooded, draped, wrapped, and/or otherwise covering apparel. The garment 102 may also include seating, matting, bedding, blanketing, and/or enveloping shrouds.

The garment 102 may be disposed (e.g., worn) on an outer skin surface 104 of a wearer. By being in direct contact with the skin surface 104, the garment 102 may be enabled to regulate the cooling, heating, buffering, and/or maintenance of the wearer's body temperature in an efficient manner. Additionally, when worn, the garment 102 may be positioned on the skin surface 104 so as to maximize the surface area of the skin surface 104 in direct contact with the garment 102. This may ensure accurate monitoring and control of heat transfer away from and/or toward the skin surface 104.

The garment 102 may be constructed as a single continuous garment portion. Alternatively, the garment 102 may be constructed as multiple garment portions. Multiple garment portions may be coupled together via seams, zippers, buttons, clasps, welds, stitches, clamps, adhesives, and/or other couplings. For example, a first garment portion may cover a first body portion of the wearer, whereas a second garment portion adjacently coupled to the first garment portion may cover a second body portion. The garment 102 may be positioned over any external non-mucosal skin surface 104 of the wearer's body.

In some embodiments, the layer construction 100 of the garment 102 may be approximately 1/4-inch thick. In other embodiments, the layer construction 100 of the garment 102 may be thicker, particularly for medical applications where extra padding and/or support is required.

In some embodiments, the garment 102 may include a basal layer 106 in direct contact with the skin surface 104. The basal layer 106 may include a hydrophilic material capable of fluid adsorption. With respect to materials, the basal layer 106 may be manufactured from a woven fabric, a nonwoven fabric or porous matrix (e.g., sponge) of hydrophilic material, and/or the like. For example, the basal layer 106 may include animal wools, cellulosic fibers such as cotton, bamboo, hemp, soy, silk, and/or other natural fiber derivatives, semisynthetic fibers such as rayon, modal, lyocell, and synthetic fabrics such as polyester, acrylonitrile, polylactide, polyethylene polypropylene, and activated carbon fiber fabric, and/or natural and synthetic sponge materials.

As described herein, a liquid or other fluids may be adsorbed to the basal layer 106 so as to achieve desired cooling and/or warming effects. A fluid-adsorbed basal layer 106 may provide surrogate evaporation for heat exchange to the environment (e.g., outside of the garment 102) despite extreme environmental temperatures, water vapor saturation levels, and/or dew points. Additionally, the basal layer 106 may provide conductive and/or radiative means for heat transfer from the skin surface 104 into an adsorbed liquid of the basal layer 106. In this manner, the basal layer 106, may enable production and/or retention of an aqueous heat sink within the basal layer 106 of the garment 102.

The liquid adsorbed into the basal layer 106 may include an aqueous, thermodynamic liquid. For example, the liquid

may include a variety of fluids such as water, alcohols, and/or an aqueous mixture of the same. Exemplary alcohols include ethanol, propanol, and isopropanol. Other primary or secondary alcohols may be utilized as well. In some embodiments, a total initial volatile alcohol component composition is at least approximately 5% and no more than approximately 50% by volume.

Prior to being worn, the liquid may be adsorbed to the basal layer 106 via surface fiber adsorption, core fiber imbibition, soaking, wetting, submersion, electrostatic deposition, saturation, perfusion, injection, and/or the like. A predetermined amount of liquid may be desired for adsorption in the basal layer 106 of each garment design. During operation and/or over time, the liquid adsorbed into the basal layer 106 may spontaneously deplete. For example, the liquid may evaporate, be absorbed by the skin surface 104, seep out of the garment 102, and/or the like. As such, the liquid may need to be replenished. In some embodiments, replenishing the liquid in the basal layer 106 may include replacement, re-submersion, re-wetting, re-perfusion, re-injection, and/or the like. The replacement liquid may be obtained from a reservoir internal to and/or external to the garment 102.

As seen in FIG. 1, the garment 102 may further include a spacer layer 108 positioned (e.g., displaced and/or superimposed) on top of and in direct contact with an outer surface of the basal layer 106. The spacer layer 108 may enable evaporative and/or convective loss of the liquid of the basal layer 106. For example, the spacer layer 108 may include one or more vents for enabling a volatile component of the liquid of the basal layer 106 (e.g., an alcohol component) to evaporate and thus transfer heat from the skin surface 104 to the outside ambient environment. By being highly permeable to vapor and/or water, the spacer layer 108 may serve as a conductive and/or convective barrier to prevent the transfer of heat from the outside ambient environment to the skin surface 104.

The spacer layer 108 may be manufactured from a rigid and/or non-rigid material. For example, the spacer layer 108 may include three-dimensional and/or four-dimensional fabric meshes, discrete micro-molded polymer spacers, pleating, piping, inserts, tubing, corrugations, bolsters, buttresses, open-cell foam, and/or other warp-knitting or stretchable woven materials. In some embodiments, the thickness of the spacer layer 108 may be within a range of approximately 6 millimeters thick to approximately 10 millimeters thick.

The garment 102 may further include a reflective layer 110 positioned (e.g., displaced and/or superimposed) on top of and in direct contact with an outer surface of the spacer layer 108. The reflective layer 110 may include a thermal radiant-reflective and/or thermal radiant-modulating material that functions to efficiently regulate cooling and/or warming effects upon the skin surface 104. For example, the reflective layer 110 may reflect heat being emitted from the skin surface 104 in efforts to keep the skin surface 104 warm. Alternatively, the reflective layer 110 may be operated in such a way as to prevent heat emitted from the environment from passing into the layers 106 and 108 or reaching the skin surface 104. For example, the reflective layer 110 may include one or more closeable holes.

The reflective layer 110 may include infrared radiant-reflective and/or radiant-modulating materials such as sealed or unsealed multilayer metallized (e.g., metal or metallic) aluminum, gold, silver and other metallized foils, metallized films, metallized fabrics, metallized coatings, metallized laminations, metallized composite fabrics, and/or metallized

aerogels. The reflective layer **110** may be used to control and/or adjust the water and/or vapor permeability of the garment **102**.

The garment **102** may further include a hydrophobic layer **112** positioned (e.g., displaced and/or superimposed) on top of and in direct contact with an outer surface of the reflective layer **110**. The hydrophobic layer **112** may allow for one-way or two-way escape of vapor and/or moisture emitted from the skin surface **104** to the ambient environment. The hydrophobic layer **112** may also act as a seal that disallows any transfer of vapor or moisture from the ambient environment to the remainder of the garment and/or the skin surface **104**. In some embodiments, the hydrophobic layer **112** may be treated with waterproofing and may also be reversible.

The garment **102** may further include a compression layer **114**. The compression layer **114** may serve as a superficial layer composed of a fabric with compression properties and/or effects for ensuring that the garment **102** maintains contact with the underlying skin surface **104**. One or more of the other layers of the garment **102** (e.g., the basal layer **106**, the spacer layer **108**, the reflective layer **110**, and/or the hydrophobic layer **112**) may include compression materials as well. In other embodiments, the garment **102** may not include the compression layer **114**.

One or more of the basal layer **106**, the spacer layer **108**, the reflective layer **110**, the hydrophobic layer **112**, and/or the compression layer **114** may include treated functionality such as water-resistance, water-proofing, chemical-proofing, flame-retardation, electrical grounding, magnetic degaussing, and/or the like. This treated functionality may be integrated into the garment **102** without interference in operation as described herein. Each of the layers **106**, **108**, **110**, **112**, and/or **114** may include compression materials, composite materials, and/or synthetic materials. One or more of the layers **106**, **108**, **110**, **112**, and/or **114** may be bonded to each other via sewn stitches, needle punching, lamination, quilting, bonding agents, adhesives, clasps, clamps, buttons, snaps, and/or other couplings.

The layer construction **100** of the garment **102** can be utilized for providing both cooling and warming effects. For example, in some embodiments, the liquid infused with the basal layer **106** may be a warm liquid such that the wearer of the garment **102** maintains warmth when the garment is worn in cold conditions. Additionally, when the garment **102** is worn in cold conditions, the outermost hydrophobic layer **112** may be sealed in both directions so that vapor and/or moisture do not pass either from the skin surface **104** to the ambient environment or from the ambient environment to the skin surface **104**. Alternatively, the liquid infused with the basal layer **106** may be a cool liquid such that the wearer of the garment **102** is cooled when the garment is worn in warm conditions. Additionally, when the garment **102** is worn in warm conditions, the outermost hydrophobic layer **112** may be opened (e.g., vented) in both directions so that vapor and/or moisture may pass therethrough (e.g., either from the skin surface **104** to the ambient environment and/or from the ambient environment to the skin surface **104**).

Also shown in the layer construction **100** of the garment **102** of FIG. 1 is a sensor **116**. One or more sensors (e.g., sensor **116**) may be displaced within and/or otherwise embedded into the layer construction **100** of the garment **102** in various locations. The sensor **116** may include multiple sensors.

In some embodiments, the sensor **116** may measure biophysiological values of the wearer and/or characteristics of the garment **102** and/or individual garment layers. For

example, the sensor **116** may collect information associated with the wearer such as a skin surface temperature, a heart rate, a breathing rate, a skin surface conductivity, and/or other information associated with the wearer. The sensor **116** may also collect information associated with the garment **102** such as a sensor position, a motion of the sensor, a liquid level, a humidity level, a moisture level, a thickness, a weight, a tensile strength, and/or the like. The sensor **116** may also collect information associated with the environment external to the garment **102** such as ambient condition values of air temperature, air humidity, wind speed, dry or dry bulb temperatures, air pressure, altitude, infrared, optical, and UV irradiance, and/or the like.

The sensor **116** may include a variety of input/output (I/O) devices as described herein such as a probe, an actuator, an accelerometer, a monitor, and/or the like. As described in more detail below, the sensor **116** may embody one or more elements of the computing environment **1100** shown in FIG. 11 and FIG. 12.

The sensor **116** may collect data at predetermined sampling intervals and/or substantially in real time. In some embodiments, the sensor **116** may transmit collected data to a data center (e.g., data center **1006** of FIG. 10) and/or another central data repository for storage and/or processing. The sensor **116** may also transmit collected data to a user device of the wearer for controlling the functionality of the garment **102**. Data collected by the sensor **116** may be transmitted by the sensor **116** substantially simultaneously to collecting the data, at predetermined intervals, upon connection to a predetermined network and/or a predetermined device, and/or the like.

The data center may receive the data collected by the sensor **116** of the garment **102** as well as data collected from other sensors of the same garment **102** and/or other sensors associated with other garments. In this manner, the data center may aggregate information associated with a variety of garments, users, wearers, environments, and/or the like.

The data center may allow one or more users to access this aggregated information. For example, a wearer of the garment **102** may be enabled to access data associated with the garment **102**, the wearer, and/or environmental conditions via a user device (e.g., smart phone, wearable device, and/or the like). The wearer of the garment **102** may use the user device, which is in communication with the data center, to control operation of the garment **102**. For example, the wearer may determine, based on the data associated with the garment **102** presented to the wearer via the user device, that environmental conditions are extremely cold. In response, the wearer may adjust one or more settings of the garment **102** and/or garment layers **106**, **108**, **110**, **112**, **114** for a duration of time so that less heat is transferred outside of the garment **102** and more heat is reflected inward toward the skin surface **104**. In this manner, the wearer may buffer himself/herself from disadvantageous measures of thermal balance through time (e.g., minutes, hours, days, weeks, months, and/or years) in harsh environments. Additionally, the wearer of the garment **102** may achieve advantageous in-activity cooling, in-activity warming, pre-cooling, pre-warming, post-cooling, post-warming, interactivity cooling, and/or interactivity warming as desired.

Further, a user associated with a management center (e.g., management center **1008** of FIG. 10) may be enabled to access this information. A management center may include a variety of entities such as a hospital, a research laboratory, a product design company, a medical facility, a field medical response team, a resource support team, an IT facility, and/or another institution. For example, a garment manufacturer

may access the data stored at the data center via a computing device terminal (e.g., a laptop, a desktop, a tablet, a smart phone, and/or the like) and used the data collected by the sensor **116** to identify design modifications and improvements to be made to the garment **102**.

In some embodiments, the data collected and aggregated by the data center may be used by the management center to continuously monitor environmental conditions, continuously monitor wearer behavior and/or vitals (e.g., health and/or medical information), identify trends among garment wearers, and/or the like. Ambient environment information may be analyzed along with past, present, and/or predicted future data associated with the garment **102** and/or the wearer. Based on analyzing this aggregated sensor data, the management center may alert emergency response personnel in the event that a wearer's vitals show that the wearer is at risk. As another example, the management center may be enabled to control the functionality of the garment **102** to make the wearer more comfortable, achieve higher levels of performance, and/or otherwise provide situational awareness to the wearer over time. Various reports may also be generated by the management center.

In some embodiments, information included in the data center and/or information used by the wearer and/or management center may include weather information such as current weather conditions, historical weather conditions, and/or forecast weather conditions, environmental indoor and/or outdoor air quality data, solar infrared, ultraviolet, and/or visible irradiance data, altitude and/or variation data, geospatial location integration data, and/or the like. The information included in the data center and/or information used by the wearer and/or management center may also include information collected by the sensor **116** as well as information collected by other sensors at various points in time. The collected data in the data center may be sorted, filtered, analyzed, processed, displayed, and/or otherwise manipulated in a variety of ways so as to be productively utilized by the management center and/or the wearer.

As seen in FIG. 2, the garment may include a facemask **200** (e.g., a hood, a hat, a balaclava, a toboggan, and/or the like), gloves **202** (e.g., mittens and/or the like), and/or boots **204** (e.g., socks, shoes, sandals, and/or the like). In some embodiments, the facemask **200** may entirely cover a wearer's face. In some embodiments, the boots **204** may include rubber and/or composite soles for traction.

As seen in FIG. 3, the garment may include a full-body ensemble **300** (e.g., a jumpsuit, a skeleton suit, a flight suit, and/or the like). In some embodiments, the full-body ensemble **300** may be manufactured from one or more adjacently-coupled garment portions so as to substantially cover the entirety of a wearer's body.

As seen in FIG. 4, the garment may include an arm sleeve **400** (e.g., a compression sleeve, an orthopedic or orthotic sleeve, an elbow sleeve, an upper arm sleeve, a forearm sleeve, a wrist sleeve, and/or the like). The arm sleeve **400** may include an arm hole through which a wearer may insert his or her arm when putting on the arm sleeve **400**.

As seen in FIG. 5, the garment may include a leg sleeve **500** (e.g., a compression sleeve, an orthopedic or orthotic sleeve, a knee sleeve, a thigh sleeve, a shin sleeve, an ankle sleeve, and/or the like). The leg sleeve **500** may include an arm hole through which a wearer may insert his or her leg when putting on the leg sleeve **500**.

As seen in FIG. 6, the garment may include a shoulder sleeve **600** (e.g., a compression sleeve, an shoulder support, a sling, and/or the like). The shoulder sleeve **600** may include an arm hole through which a wearer may insert his

or her arm when putting on the shoulder sleeve **600**. The shoulder sleeve **600** may also include a torso hole through which a wearer may insert his or her torso when putting on the shoulder sleeve **600**.

As seen in FIG. 7, the garment may include a hip sleeve **700** (e.g., a compression sleeve, an hip support, a sling, and/or the like). The hip sleeve **700** may include a leg hole through which a wearer may insert his or her leg when putting on the hip sleeve **700**. The hip sleeve **700** may also include a torso hole through which a wearer may insert his or her torso when putting on the hip sleeve **700**.

As seen in FIG. 8, the garment may include a blanket **800** (e.g., a compression blanket, a shroud, a cloak, an overcoat, a coat, a jacket, a scarf, and/or the like). The blanket **800** may include an open bottom so that a wearer's feet can still be operational. Alternatively, the blanket may completely enshroud a wearer.

As seen in FIG. 9, the garment may include a sleeping bag **900** (e.g., a compression sleeping bag, a cocoon, and/or the like). The sleeping bag **900** may include a closed bottom so as to completely enshroud a wearer.

FIG. 10 illustrates a computing system **1000** for enabling operation of the garments described herein. In some embodiments, the computing system **1000** may include a user device **1002**, a data center **1004**, and a management center **1006**. Each of the user device **1002**, the data center **1004**, and the management center **1006**, as well as any other element of the computing system **1000**, may be communicatively coupled with one another via a network **1008** as described herein. As such, a variety of data may be transmitted between the user device **1002**, the data center **1004**, and the management center **1006** during operations described herein.

The user device **1002** may be associated with a user **1010** of a garment **1012** as described herein. For example, the user device **1002** may include the facemask **200**, the gloves **202**, and/or the boots **204** of FIG. 2, the full-body ensemble **300** of FIG. 3, the arm sleeve **400** of FIG. 4, the leg sleeve **500** of FIG. 5, the shoulder support **600** of FIG. 6, the hip support **700** of FIG. 7, the blanket **800** of FIG. 8, the sleeping bag **900** of FIG. 9, and/or any other garment disclosed herein. In some embodiments, the user device **1002** may include hardware such as a sensor, an accelerometer, a monitor, a probe, an actuator, a thermometer, a valve, a port, a sealant, a computer chip, a handheld computing device, a smart phone, a smart watch, a wearable device, a touch screen, a biometric device, a computing device, and/or any element of the computing environment **1100** described with reference to FIG. 11 and FIG. 12. Additionally, the user device **1002** may include multiple user devices configured to communicate with one another. For example, the user device **1002** may include a garment with multiple sensors as well as a smart phone for enabling the user to control operation of the garment.

The data center **1004** may be associated with a central computing device for processing data associated with users (e.g., the user **1010**) and/or garments (e.g., garment **1012**). For example, the data center **1004** may serve as a central repository for storing and/or processing collected garment data and/or user data that can later be accessed by various users. The data center **1004** may include a cloud-based server, mainframe server, a content server, a communication server, a laptop computer, a desktop computer, a handheld computing device, and/or any element of a computing environment as described herein (e.g., computing environment **1100** of FIG. 11 and FIG. 12). The data center **1004**

may also include multiple computing devices configured to communicate with one another.

The management center **1006** may be associated with a computing device for remotely accessing data associated with users (e.g., the user **1010**), ambient environments, and/or garments (e.g., garment **1012**). For example, the management center **1006** may be associated with a computing device at a hospital, a science research laboratory, an emergency dispatch center, an information technology (IT) administration provider, and/or another third party facility that is used for accessing and/or processing collected data associated with users and/or garments. The management center **1006** may include a laptop computer, a desktop computer, a handheld computing device, a smart phone, a smart watch, a wearable device, a touchscreen, and/or any element of a computing environment as described herein (e.g., computing environment **1100** of FIG. **11** and FIG. **12**). The management center **1006** may also include multiple computing devices configured to communicate with one another.

The network **1008** may include any wireless and/or wired communications network that facilitates communication between the user device **1002**, the data center **1004**, and/or the management center **1006**, as well as between any other computing device (e.g., a third party server). For example, the network **1008** may include an Ethernet network, a cellular network, a computer network, the Internet, a wireless fidelity (Wi-Fi) network, a light fidelity (Li-Fi) network, a Bluetooth network, a radio frequency identification (RFID) network, a near-field communication (NFC) network, a laser-based network, and/or the like. In some embodiments, the network **1008** may also include a plurality of networks.

FIG. **11** and FIG. **12** illustrate exemplary functional and system diagrams of a computing environment **1100** for operation of the intelligent garments described herein. Specifically, FIG. **11** provides a functional block diagram of the computing environment **1100**, whereas FIG. **12** provides a detailed system diagram of the computing environment **1100**. Additionally, any units and/or subunits described herein with reference to the computing environment **1100** of FIG. **11** and/or FIG. **12** may be included in one or more elements of FIG. **10** such as the user device **1002**, the data center **1004**, and/or the management center **1006**. The computing environment **1100** and/or any of its units and/or subunits described herein may include general hardware, specifically-purposed hardware, and/or software.

The computing environment **1100** may include, among other elements, a processing unit **1102**, a memory unit **1104**, an input/output (I/O) unit **1106**, and/or a communication unit **1108**. As described herein, each of the processing unit **1102**, the memory unit **1104**, the I/O unit **1106**, and/or the communication unit **1108** may include and/or refer to a plurality of respective units, subunits, and/or elements. Furthermore, each of the processing unit **1102**, the memory unit **1104**, the I/O unit **1106**, and/or the communication unit **1108** may be operatively and/or otherwise communicatively coupled with each other so as to facilitate the operation of garments as described herein. Further, the processing unit **1102**, the memory unit **1104**, the I/O unit **1106**, and/or the communication unit **1108** may refer to and/or be included in any of the user device **1002**, the data center **1004**, and/or the management center **1006** of FIG. **10**.

The processing unit **1102** may control any of the one or more units **1104**, **1106**, **1108**, as well as any included subunits, elements, components, devices, and/or functions performed by the units **1104**, **1106**, **1108** included in the

computing environment **1100**. The described sub-elements of the computing environment **1100** may also be included in similar fashion in any of the other units and/or devices included in the system **1000** of FIG. **10**. Additionally, any actions described herein as being performed by a processor may be taken by the processing unit **1102** alone and/or by the processing unit **1102** in conjunction with one or more additional processors, units, subunits, elements, components, devices, and/or the like. Additionally, while only one processing unit **1102** may be shown in FIG. **11** and/or FIG. **12**, multiple processing units may be present and/or otherwise included in the computing environment **1100** or elsewhere in the overall system (e.g., system **1000** of FIG. **10**). Thus, while instructions may be described as being executed by the processing unit **1102** (and/or various subunits of the processing unit **1102**), the instructions may be executed simultaneously, serially, and/or otherwise by one or multiple processing units.

In some embodiments, the processing unit **1102** may be implemented as one or more computer processing unit (CPU) chips and/or graphical processing unit (GPU) chips and may include a hardware device capable of executing computer instructions. The processing unit **1102** may execute instructions, codes, computer programs, and/or scripts. The instructions, codes, computer programs, and/or scripts may be received from and/or stored in the memory unit **1104**, the I/O unit **1106**, the communication unit **1108**, subunits and/or elements of the aforementioned units, other devices and/or computing environments, and/or the like.

In some embodiments, the processing unit **1102** may include, among other elements, subunits such as a profile management unit **1110**, a content management unit **1112**, a location determination unit **1114**, a graphical processing unit (GPU) **1116**, a garment unit **1118**, a modulation unit **1120**, a response unit **1122**, and/or a resource allocation unit **1124**. Each of the aforementioned subunits of the processing unit **1102** may be communicatively and/or otherwise operably coupled with each other.

The profile management unit **1110** may facilitate generation, modification, analysis, transmission, and/or presentation of a profile associated with a garment and/or a user (e.g., wearer) of a garment. For example, the profile management unit **1110** may operate a database associated with a user and may manage information associated with garments worn by the user as described herein. The profile management unit **1110** may receive, process, analyze, organize, and/or otherwise transform any data received from the user and/or another computing element so as to generate a profile of a user and/or a garment that includes personal information (e.g., an age, a weight, a height), vitals (e.g., a resting heart rate, a core body temperature), contact information (e.g., an address, an email address, a phone number), garment information (e.g., a model name, a model number, an amount of fluid adsorbed in each layer), device information (e.g., a model number, a device type, operating system information), and/or location information (e.g., an Internet protocol (IP) address, global positioning system (GPS) coordinates) of the same.

The content management unit **1112** may facilitate generation, modification, analysis, transmission, and/or presentation of user interfaces for controlling operation of garments and/or processing data as described herein. For example, the content management unit **1112** may control the audio-visual environment and/or appearance of application data during execution of various processes. Media content for which the content management unit **1112** may be responsible may include advertisements, images, text, themes, audio files,

video files, documents, and/or the like. In some embodiments, the content management unit **1112** may also interface with a third-party content server and/or memory location.

The location determination unit **1114** may facilitate detection, generation, modification, analysis, transmission, and/or presentation of location information. Location information may include global positioning system (GPS) coordinates, a mile marker, an Internet protocol (IP) address, a media access control (MAC) address, geolocation information, an address, a port number, a zip code, a server number, a proxy name and/or number, device information (e.g., a serial number), and/or the like. In some embodiments, the location determination unit **1114** may include various sensors, a radar, and/or other specifically-purposed hardware elements for enabling the location determination unit **1114** to acquire, measure, and/or otherwise transform location information into a useable format.

The GPU unit **1116** may facilitate generation, modification, analysis, processing, transmission, and/or presentation of data. In some embodiments, the GPU unit **1116** may be utilized to render visual content for presentation on a computing device, to analyze collected data, and/or the like. The GPU unit **1116** may also include multiple GPUs and therefore may be configured to perform and/or execute multiple processes in parallel.

The garment unit **1118** may facilitate operation of one or more sensors embedded in garments. For example, the garment unit **1118** may be utilized locally in a garment for enabling a sensor array network in the garment to receive and/or transmit various signals. For example, the garment unit **1118** may monitor user vitals, detect environmental conditions, and/or the like. In some embodiments, the garment unit **1118** may include GPUs and/or other processing elements so as to enable efficient operation of garments in either series or parallel. The garment unit **1118** may utilize a variety of I/O devices described herein for operating garments such as sensors, actuators, valves, pumps, dispensers, powered ingested, embedded, wearable, printed-flexible-and-organic-electronics (PFOEs), simplex-linked and networked linked sensors coupled with interfaced microprocessor programmable logical controllers, Arduino boards, and/or the like.

The modulation unit **1120** may facilitate the accurate real time processing of data collected by the garment unit **1118** so that any modulations (e.g., adjustments) to the garment may be made in response to detected environmental conditions, user vitals, and/or desired performance. The modulation unit **1120** may receive and/or transmit signals from the garment unit **1118** so that the user may obtain a desired performance of the garment. For example, upon determining that the user is in an extremely cold environment based on an analysis of collected sensor data, the modulation unit **1120** may transmit instructions to the garment unit **1118** for increasing an amount of reflection toward the body to maintain and/or raise the user's core body temperature.

The response unit **1122** may facilitate the post-processing of collected sensor data amongst medical dispatchers, researchers, and/or other users. The response unit **1122** may generate alerts or recommendations for medical assistance of a user, generate reports during research and development phases of new garments and/or garment technologies, and/or the like.

The resource allocation unit **1124** may facilitate the determination, monitoring, analysis, and/or allocation of computing resources throughout the garments and/or computing systems described herein. For example, the computing system **1000** of FIG. **10** may facilitate a high volume of

(e.g., multiple) communication connections between a large number of supported garments and/or devices (e.g., the user device **1002**, the data center **1004**, and/or the management center **1006**). As such, computing resources of the computing environment **1100** (and/or any subunit of the aforementioned units) such as processing power, data storage space, network bandwidth, and/or the like may be in high demand at various times during operation. Accordingly, the resource allocation unit **1124** may be configured to manage the allocation of various computing resources as they are required by particular units and/or subunits of the computing environment **1100** and/or other computing environments. In some embodiments, the resource allocation unit **1124** may include sensors and/or other specially-purposed hardware for monitoring performance of each unit and/or subunit of the computing environment **1100**, as well as hardware for responding to the computing resource needs of each unit and/or subunit. In some embodiments, the resource allocation unit **1124** may utilize computing resources of a second computing environment separate and distinct from the computing environment **1100** to facilitate a desired operation.

For example, the resource allocation unit **1124** may determine a number of simultaneous communication connections and/or incoming requests for data and/or image processing. The resource allocation unit **1124** may then determine that the number of simultaneous communication connections and/or incoming requests for meets and/or exceeds a pre-determined threshold value. Based on this determination, the resource allocation unit **1124** may determine an amount of additional computing resources (e.g., processing power, storage space of a particular non-transitory computer-readable memory medium, network bandwidth, and/or the like) required by the processing unit **1102**, the memory unit **1104**, the I/O unit **1106**, the communication unit **1108**, and/or any subunit of the aforementioned units for enabling safe and efficient operation of the computing environment **1100** while supporting the number of simultaneous communication connections and/or incoming requests. The resource allocation unit **1124** may then retrieve, transmit, control, allocate, and/or otherwise distribute determined amount(s) of computing resources to each element (e.g., unit and/or subunit) of the computing environment **1100** and/or another computing environment.

In some embodiments, factors affecting the allocation of computing resources by the resource allocation unit **1124** may include the number of ongoing communication connections and/or other communication channel connections, a number of garments and/or devices on a network, a duration of time during which computing resources are required by one or more elements of the computing environment **1100**, and/or the like. In some embodiments, computing resources may be allocated to and/or distributed amongst a plurality of second computing environments included in the computing environment **1100** based on one or more factors mentioned above. In some embodiments, the allocation of computing resources of the resource allocation unit **1124** may include the resource allocation unit **1124** flipping a switch, adjusting processing power, adjusting memory size, partitioning a memory element, transmitting data, controlling one or more input and/or output devices, modifying various communication protocols, and/or the like. In some embodiments, the resource allocation unit **1124** may facilitate utilization of parallel processing techniques such as dedicating a plurality of GPUs included in the processing unit **1102**.

In some embodiments, the memory unit **1104** may be utilized for storing, recalling, receiving, transmitting, and/or accessing various files and/or information during operation

of the computing environment **1100**. For example, the memory unit **1104** may be utilized for storing user profile information, garment information, sensor data, generated reports, and/or the like. The memory unit **1104** may include various types of data storage media such as solid state storage media, hard disk storage media, and/or the like. The memory unit **1104** may include dedicated hardware elements such as hard drives and/or servers, as well as software elements such as cloud-based storage drives. For example, the memory unit **1104** may include various subunits such as an operating system unit **1126**, an application data unit **1128**, an application programming interface (API) unit **1130**, a profile storage unit **1132**, a content storage unit **1134**, a sensor data storage unit **1136**, a secure enclave **1138**, and/or a cache storage unit **1140**.

The memory unit **1104** and/or any of its subunits described herein may include random access memory (RAM), read only memory (ROM), and/or various forms of secondary storage. RAM may be used to store volatile data and/or to store instructions that may be executed by the processing unit **1102**. For example, the data stored may be a command, a current operating state of the computing environment **1100**, an intended operating state of the computing environment **1100**, and/or the like. As a further example, data stored in the memory unit **1104** may include instructions related to various methods and/or functionalities described herein. ROM may be a non-volatile memory device that may have a smaller memory capacity than the memory capacity of a secondary storage. ROM may be used to store instructions and/or data that may be read during execution of computer instructions. In some embodiments, access to both RAM and ROM may be faster than access to secondary storage. Secondary storage may be comprised of one or more disk drives and/or tape drives and may be used for non-volatile storage of data or as an over-flow data storage device if RAM is not large enough to hold all working data. Secondary storage may be used to store programs that may be loaded into RAM when such programs are selected for execution. In some embodiments, the memory unit **1104** may include one or more databases for storing any data described herein. Additionally or alternatively, one or more secondary databases located remotely from the computing environment **1100** may be utilized and/or accessed by the memory unit **1104**.

The operating system unit **1126** may facilitate deployment, storage, access, execution, and/or utilization of an operating system utilized by the computing environment **1100** and/or any other computing environment described herein. In some embodiments, the operating system may include various hardware and/or software elements that serve as a structural framework for enabling the processing unit **1102** to execute various processing operations described herein. The operating system unit **1126** may further store various pieces of information and/or data associated with operation of the operating system and/or the computing environment **1100** as a whole, such as a status of computing resources (e.g., processing power, memory availability, resource utilization, and/or the like), runtime information, modules to direct execution of operations described herein, and/or the like.

The application data unit **1128** may facilitate deployment, storage, access, execution, and/or utilization of an application utilized by the computing environment **1100** and/or any other computing environment described herein (e.g., the user device **1002**, the data center **1004**, and/or the management center **1006** of FIG. 10). For example, users may be required to download, access, and/or otherwise utilize a

software application on a computing device in order for various operations described herein to be performed. As such, the application data unit **1128** may store any information and/or data associated with the application. Information included in the application data unit **1128** may enable a user and/or computer processor to execute various operations described herein. The application data unit **1128** may further store various pieces of information and/or data associated with operation of the application and/or the computing environment **1100** as a whole, such as a status of computing resources (e.g., processing power, memory availability, resource utilization, and/or the like), runtime information, modules to direct execution of operations described herein, and/or the like.

The API unit **300** may facilitate deployment, storage, access, execution, and/or utilization of information associated with APIs of the computing environment **1100** and/or any other computing environment described herein. For example, the computing environment **1100** may include one or more APIs for enabling various devices, applications, and/or computing environments to communicate with each other and/or utilize common data. Accordingly, the API unit **1130** may include API databases containing information that may be accessed and/or utilized by applications and/or operating systems of other devices and/or computing environments. In some embodiments, each API database may be associated with a customized physical circuit included in the memory unit **1104** and/or the API unit **1130**. Additionally, each API database may be public and/or private, and so authentication credentials may be required to access information via an API database.

The profile storage unit **1132** may facilitate deployment, storage, access, and/or utilization of information associated with profiles of users and/or garments. For example, the profile storage unit **1132** may store a user profile, identification information, vitals, garment information, location information, and/or metadata associated with a user and/or garment. In some embodiments, the profile storage unit **1132** may communicate with the profile management unit **1110** to receive and/or transmit information associated with a user and/or a garment.

The content storage unit **1134** may facilitate deployment, storage, access, and/or utilization of information associated with requested content by the computing environment **1100** and/or any other computing environment described herein. For example, the content storage unit **1134** may store one or more user interfaces, application information, and/or metadata to be presented to a user and/or otherwise utilized during operations described herein. In some embodiments, the content storage unit **1134** may communicate with the content management unit **1112** to receive and/or transmit content files.

The sensor data storage unit **1136** may facilitate deployment, storage, access, analysis, and/or utilization of information associated with users and/or garments as it is collected during operation of the garments. For example, the sensor data storage unit **1136** may store a user's vitals, muscle activity information, blood pressure information, external environmental information, fluid viscosity information, and/or the like. In some embodiments, the sensor data storage unit **1136** may communicate with the GPUs **1116**, the garment unit **1118**, the modulation unit **1120**, and/or the response unit **1122** to facilitate analysis of any stored image frame and/or associated information.

The secure enclave **1138** may facilitate secure storage of data. In some embodiments, the secure enclave **1138** may include a partitioned portion of storage media included in

the memory unit **1104** that is protected by various security measures. For example, the secure enclave **1138** may be hardware secured. In other embodiments, the secure enclave **1138** may include one or more firewalls, encryption mechanisms, and/or other security-based protocols. Authentication credentials of a user may be required prior to providing the user access to data stored within the secure enclave **1138**.

The cache storage unit **1140** may facilitate short-term deployment, storage, access, analysis, and/or utilization of data. In some embodiments, the cache storage unit **1140** may serve as a short-term storage location for data so that the data stored in the cache storage unit **1140** may be accessed quickly. In some embodiments, the cache storage unit **1140** may include RAM and/or other storage media types that enable quick recall of stored data. The cache storage unit **1140** may include a partitioned portion of storage media included in the memory unit **1104**.

The I/O unit **1106** may include hardware and/or software elements for enabling the computing environment **1100** to receive, transmit, and/or present information. For example, elements of the I/O unit **1106** may be used to capture sensor data associated with a user, an environment, and/or a garment, receive user input from a user via a user device, present information to a user, and/or the like. In this manner, the I/O unit **1106** may enable the computing environment **1100** to interface with a human user of the garment. As described herein, the I/O unit **1106** may include subunits such as an I/O device **1142**, an I/O calibration unit **1144**, and/or video driver **1146**.

The I/O device **1142** may facilitate the receipt, transmission, processing, presentation, display, input, and/or output of information as a result of executed processes described herein. In some embodiments, the I/O device **1142** may include a plurality of I/O devices. For example, the I/O device **1142** may include a variety of elements that enable capturing of sensor data such as a sensor, a camera, a probe, a thermometer, a microphone, a valve, a pump, and/or the like. The I/O device **1142** may also include hardware for interfacing with a user, such as a display, a keyboard, a touchscreen, a button, a sensor, a biometric scanner, a laser, a microphone, a camera, and/or another element for receiving and/or collecting input from a user. Additionally and/or alternatively, the I/O device **1142** may include a display, a screen, a sensor, a vibration mechanism, a light emitting diode (LED), a speaker, a radio frequency identification (RFID) scanner, and/or another element for presenting and/or otherwise outputting data to a user. In some embodiments, the I/O device **1142** may communicate with one or more elements of the processing unit **1102** and/or the memory unit **1104** to execute operations described herein.

The I/O calibration unit **1144** may facilitate the calibration of the I/O device **1142**. For example, the I/O calibration unit **1144** may detect and/or determine one or more settings of the I/O device **1142**, and then adjust and/or modify settings so that the I/O device **1142** may operate more efficiently.

In some embodiments, the I/O calibration unit **1144** may utilize a driver **1146** (or multiple drivers) to calibrate the I/O device **1142**. For example, a sensor driver **1146** may enable sensors included in a garment to be adequately calibrated in response to various instructions. In some embodiments, the I/O device **1142** may be calibrated by the I/O calibration unit **1144** by based on information included in the driver **1146**.

The communication unit **1108** may facilitate establishment, maintenance, monitoring, and/or termination of communications (e.g., a communication connection) between computing devices of the intelligent garment system described herein. The communication unit **1108** may further

enable communication between various elements (e.g., units and/or subunits) of the computing environment **1100**. In some embodiments, the communication unit **1108** may include a network protocol unit **1148**, an API gateway **1150**, an encryption engine **1152**, and/or a communication device **1154**. The communication unit **1108** may include hardware and/or software elements.

The network protocol unit **1148** may facilitate establishment, maintenance, and/or termination of a communication connection between computing environment **1100** and another computing environment (e.g., the user device **1002**, the data center **1004**, and/or the management center **1006** of FIG. 10) by way of a network. For example, the network protocol unit **1148** may detect and/or define a communication protocol required by a particular network and/or network type. Communication protocols utilized by the network protocol unit **1148** may include Wi-Fi protocols, Li-Fi protocols, cellular data network protocols, Bluetooth® protocols, WiMAX protocols, Ethernet protocols, powerline communication (PLC) protocols, and/or the like. In some embodiments, facilitation of communication between the computing environment **1100** and any other device, as well as any element internal to the computing environment **1100**, may include transforming and/or translating data from being compatible with a first communication protocol to being compatible with a second communication protocol. In some embodiments, the network protocol unit **1148** may determine and/or monitor an amount of data traffic to consequently determine which particular network protocol is to be used for establishing a video communication connection, transmitting data, and/or performing other operations described herein.

The API gateway **1150** may facilitate the enablement of other devices and/or computing environments to access the API unit **1130** of the memory unit **1104** of the computing environment **1100**. For example, a user device may access the API unit **1130** via the API gateway **1150**. In some embodiments, the API gateway **1150** may be required to validate user credentials associated with a user of a user device prior to providing access to the API unit **1130** to the user. The API gateway **1150** may include instructions for enabling the computing environment **1100** to communicate and share information with another device.

The encryption engine **1152** may facilitate translation, encryption, encoding, decryption, and/or decoding of information received, transmitted, and/or stored by the computing environment **1100**. Using the encryption engine, each transmission of data may be encrypted, encoded, and/or translated for security reasons, and any received data may be encrypted, encoded, and/or translated prior to its processing and/or storage. In some embodiments, the encryption engine **1152** may generate an encryption key, an encoding key, a translation key, and/or the like, which may be transmitted along with any data content.

The communication device **1154** may include a variety of hardware and/or software specifically purposed to enable communication between the computing environment **1100** and another device, as well as communication between elements of the computing environment **1100**. In some embodiments, the communication device **1154** may include one or more radio transceivers, chips, analog front end (AFE) units, antennas, processing units, memory, other logic, and/or other components to implement communication protocols (wired or wireless) and related functionality for facilitating communication between the computing environment **1100** and any other device. Additionally and/or alternatively, the communication device **1154** may include a

modem, a modem bank, an Ethernet device such as a router or switch, a universal serial bus (USB) interface device, a serial interface, a token ring device, a fiber distributed data interface (FDDI) device, a wireless local area network (WLAN) device and/or device component, a radio transceiver device such as code division multiple access (CDMA) device, a global system for mobile communications (GSM) radio transceiver device, a universal mobile telecommunications system (UMTS) radio transceiver device, a long term evolution (LTE) radio transceiver device, a worldwide interoperability for microwave access (WiMAX) device, a GPS communications link, a radiofrequency transponder for networked communications by one or more modes of authorized, allocated FCC and ITU radiofrequency band plans transmission (ELF through THF) such as US FCC Part 97 Amateur Radio Operators Digital and Voice Mode Frequencies or US FCC Part 13 Commercial Radio Operators Digital and Voice Mode Frequencies, a laser to permit remote telemetry to and from the garment wearer within the wearers' ambient conditions and to other commercial or non-commercial networked devices for analysis and intelligence-gathering of performance, safety, capability and ongoing necessary adaptations, (e.g., human thermal balance management Internet-of-things devices) and/or another device used for communication purposes.

While various implementations in accordance with the disclosed principles have been described above, it should be understood that they have been presented by way of example only, and are not limiting. Thus, the breadth and scope of the implementations should not be limited by any of the above-described exemplary implementations, but should be defined only in accordance with the claims and their equivalents issuing from this disclosure. Furthermore, the above advantages and features are provided in described implementations, but shall not limit the application of such issued claims to processes and structures accomplishing any or all of the above advantages.

Various terms used herein have special meanings within the present technical field. Whether a particular term should be construed as such a "term of art," depends on the context in which that term is used. "Connected to," "in communication with," "communicably linked to," "in communicable range of" or other similar terms should generally be construed broadly to include situations both where communications and connections are direct between referenced elements or through one or more intermediaries between the referenced elements, including through the Internet or some other communicating network. "Network," "system," "environment," and other similar terms generally refer to networked computing systems that embody one or more aspects of the present disclosure. These and other terms are to be construed in light of the context in which they are used in the present disclosure and as those terms would be understood by one of ordinary skill in the art would understand those terms in the disclosed context. The above definitions are not exclusive of other meanings that might be imparted to those terms based on the disclosed context.

Words of comparison, measurement, and timing such as "at the time," "equivalent," "during," "complete," and the like should be understood to mean "substantially at the time," "substantially equivalent," "substantially during," "substantially complete," etc., where "substantially" means that such comparisons, measurements, and timings are practicable to accomplish the implicitly or expressly stated desired result.

Additionally, the section headings herein are provided for consistency with the suggestions under 37 C.F.R. 1.77 or

otherwise to provide organizational cues. These headings shall not limit or characterize the implementations set out in any claims that may issue from this disclosure. Specifically and by way of example, although the headings refer to a "Technical Field," such claims should not be limited by the language chosen under this heading to describe the so-called technical field. Further, a description of a technology in the "Background" is not to be construed as an admission that technology is prior art to any implementations in this disclosure. Neither is the "Summary" to be considered as a characterization of the implementations set forth in issued claims. Furthermore, any reference in this disclosure to "implementation" in the singular should not be used to argue that there is only a single point of novelty in this disclosure. Multiple implementations may be set forth according to the limitations of the multiple claims issuing from this disclosure, and such claims accordingly define the implementations, and their equivalents, that are protected thereby. In all instances, the scope of such claims shall be considered on their own merits in light of this disclosure, but should not be constrained by the headings herein. Any words following the terms "including," "include," "for example" or any similar phrase shall be construed as illustrative and shall not limit the generality of preceding words.

Lastly, although similar reference numbers may be used to refer to similar elements for convenience, it can be appreciated that each of the various example implementations may be considered distinct variations.

What is claimed is:

1. A garment, comprising:

a basal layer including a hydrophilic material and substantially saturated with an aqueous mixture, the basal layer being configured to contact a skin surface of a wearer to provide conductive heat transfer from the skin surface of the wearer to the aqueous mixture and to maintain contact of the aqueous mixture with the skin surface of the wearer over a treatment time while the garment is worn;

a permeable spacer layer disposed on and in direct contact with an outer surface of the basal layer, the spacer layer being configured to pass vapor from the aqueous mixture toward an ambient environment and to provide a conductive barrier to limit transfer of heat from the ambient environment to the skin surface of the wearer;

a reflective layer disposed on an outer surface of the spacer layer, wherein the reflective layer is configured to modulate the thermal permeability of the garment; and

a hydrophobic layer disposed on an outer surface of the reflective layer.

2. The garment of claim 1, wherein the aqueous mixture includes water and at least one of ethanol, propanol, and isopropanol.

3. The garment of claim 1, wherein at least approximately 5% of the aqueous mixture by volume is alcohol.

4. The garment of claim 3, wherein no more than approximately 50% of the aqueous mixture by volume is the alcohol.

5. The garment of claim 1, wherein the basal layer is configured to absorb the aqueous mixture by at least one of surface fiber adsorption, core fiber imbibition, soaking, wetting, submersion, and electrostatic deposition.

6. The garment of claim 1, further comprising a sensor disposed between the basal layer and the hydrophobic layer and configured to collect data associated with at least one of the wearer, the garment, one or more garment layers, and the ambient environment.

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7. The garment of claim 6, further comprising a garment unit configured to control operation of the garment in response to the data collected by the sensor.

8. The garment of claim 6, further comprising a transmitter configured to transmit the data collected by the sensor to a data center.

9. A system, comprising:

the garment of claim 6;

a data center configured to receive and store data collected from the sensor; and

a management center configured to process the data received at the data center.

10. The system of claim 9, further comprising a user device associated with the wearer of the garment and configured to display the data collected by the sensor.

11. The system of claim 9, wherein the management center is configured to determine, based on processing the data collected by the sensor, at least one of: an adjustment to be made to the garment a product enhancement to be made to the garment, and a medical service to be provided to the wearer.

12. The system of claim 9, wherein the management center is associated with at least one of a research laboratory, a medical services provider, an emergency response dispatcher, and the wearer of the garment.

13. The system of claim 9, wherein the garment includes at least one of a facemask, a hood, a hat, a balaclava, a toboggan, gloves, mittens, boots, socks, shoes, sandals, a full-body ensemble, a jumpsuit, a skeleton suit, a flight suit, an arm sleeve, a compression sleeve, an orthopedic or orthotic sleeve, an elbow sleeve, an upper arm sleeve, a forearm sleeve, a wrist sleeve, a leg sleeve, a knee sleeve, a thigh sleeve, a shin sleeve, an ankle sleeve, a shoulder sleeve, a shoulder support, a sling, a hip sleeve, a hip support, a blanket, a compression blanket, a shroud, a cloak, an overcoat, a coat, a jacket, a scarf, a sleeping bag, a compression sleeping bag, and a cocoon.

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14. The garment of claim 6, wherein the sensor is configured to collect data associated with the wearer.

15. The garment of claim 14, wherein the data associated with the wearer is at least one of a weight, a height, a heart rate, a blood pressure, a core body temperature, a skin surface body temperature, a metabolic expenditure, and a movement of the wearer.

16. The garment of claim 6, wherein the sensor is configured to collect data associated with the ambient environment.

17. The garment of claim 16, wherein the data associated with the ambient environment is at least one of an air temperature, an air humidity, a wind speed, a dry bulb temperature, a wet-bulb temperature, an air pressure, an altitude, infrared irradiance, optical irradiance, and UV irradiance.

18. The garment of claim 1, wherein the spacer layer includes one or more vents.

19. The garment of claim 1, wherein the reflective layer includes one or more closable holes.

20. The garment of claim 1, wherein the hydrophobic layer includes one or more vents.

21. The garment of claim 1, wherein the garment includes at least one of a facemask, a hood, a hat, a balaclava, a toboggan, gloves, mittens, boots, socks, shoes, sandals, a full-body ensemble, a jumpsuit, a skeleton suit, a flight suit, an arm sleeve, a compression sleeve, an orthopedic or orthotic sleeve, an elbow sleeve, an upper arm sleeve, a forearm sleeve, a wrist sleeve, a leg sleeve, a knee sleeve, a thigh sleeve, a shin sleeve, an ankle sleeve, a shoulder sleeve, a shoulder support, a sling, a hip sleeve, a hip support, a blanket, a compression blanket, a shroud, a cloak, an overcoat, a coat, a jacket, a scarf, a sleeping bag, a compression sleeping bag, and a cocoon.

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专利名称(译)	冷却服装，保暖服装和相关方法		
公开(公告)号	US10010471	公开(公告)日	2018-07-03
申请号	US15/497953	申请日	2017-04-26
[标]发明人	DONAT TERRY L SMITH DAVID		
发明人	DONAT, TERRY L. SMITH, DAVID		
IPC分类号	A41D13/005 A61B5/0205 A43B7/34 A43B7/02 A43B7/00 A43B3/00 A42B1/04 A41D31/00 A41D23/00 A41D19/015 A41D19/01 A41D3/08 A41D1/00 A41B11/00 A61H1/00 A41D13/02 A61B5/00 A42B1/00 A61F5/37 A61F7/02 H04Q9/00 A61B5/021 A61B5/024 A61B5/11		
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摘要(译)

本公开一般涉及在各种环境中提供热调节的智能服装。衣服可包括不同的层，例如与穿着者的皮肤表面直接接触并用含水混合物饱和的亲水层，间隔层，反射层和外疏水层。衣服的各层可以一起工作以减少穿着者在极端环境条件下或在苛刻的身体活动期间的代谢消耗。各种传感器可以在整个衣服中移位，以便能够收集与穿着者相关的数据以及环境条件。穿着者可以根据需要控制衣服的热平衡和其他性质。

