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SHIN et al.(10) **Pub. No.: US 2017/0172448 A1**(43) **Pub. Date: Jun. 22, 2017**(54) **BIO-PROCESSOR FOR MEASURING EACH BIOLOGICAL SIGNALS AND WEARABLE DEVICE HAVING THE SAME**(71) Applicant: **Samsung Electronics Co., Ltd.**,
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(2013.01); **A61B 5/681** (2013.01); **A61B**
5/0022 (2013.01); **A61B 5/0533** (2013.01)

(57)

ABSTRACT

A wearable device includes a case, a bio-processor embedded in the case, and a plurality of electrodes connected to the bio-processor. The bio-processor is configured to selectively and respectively operate the electrodes as sensing electrodes and sourcing electrodes in response to a selection signal. The selected one/ones of the electrodes operated as sensing electrodes which pick up a biological signal from (e.g. biological activity or a biological condition of) the wearer. The selected one/ones of the electrodes operated as sourcing electrodes supply current to the wearer regulated to cause the desired biological signal to be picked up by the sensing electrode(s).

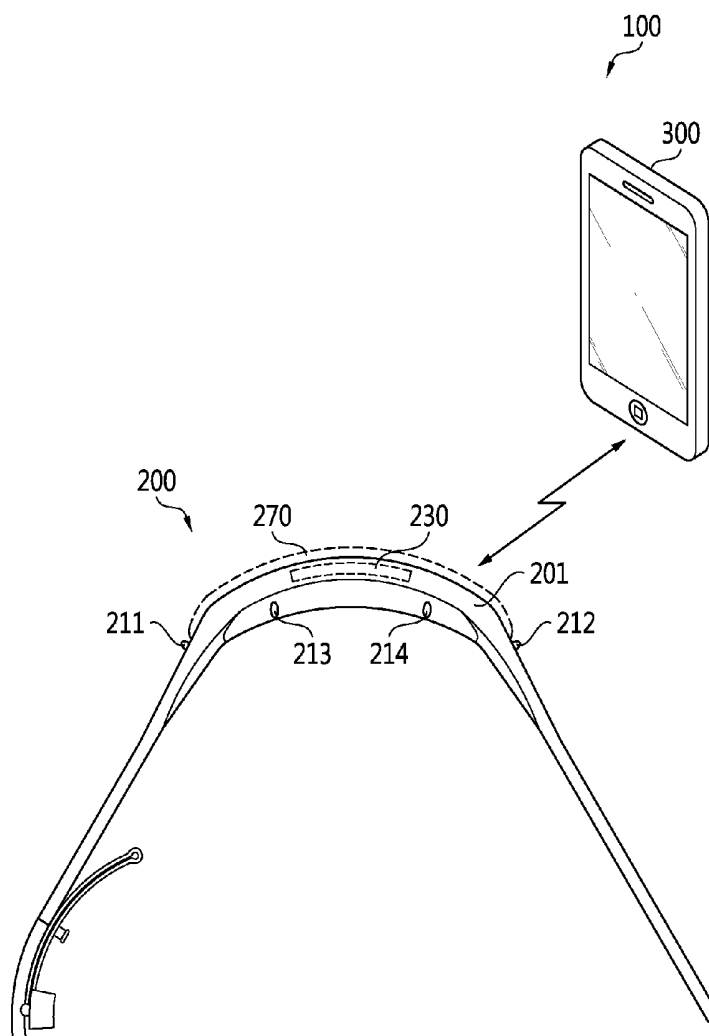


FIG. 1

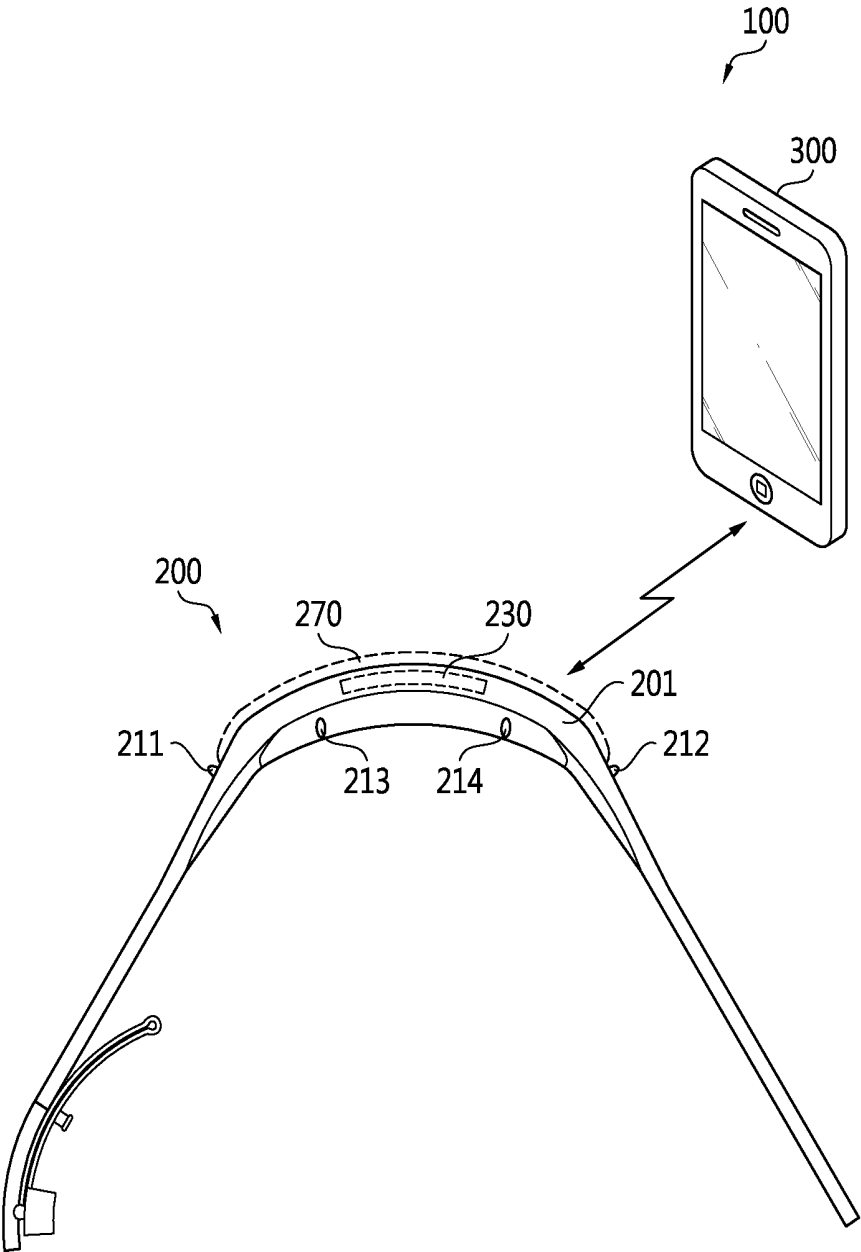


FIG. 2

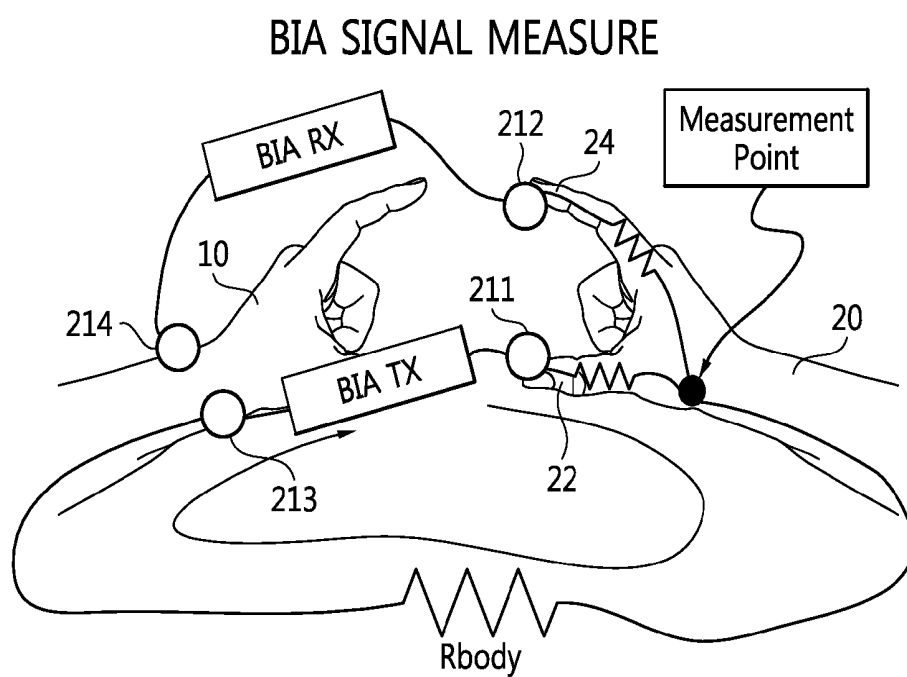


FIG. 3

ECG SIGNAL MEASURE

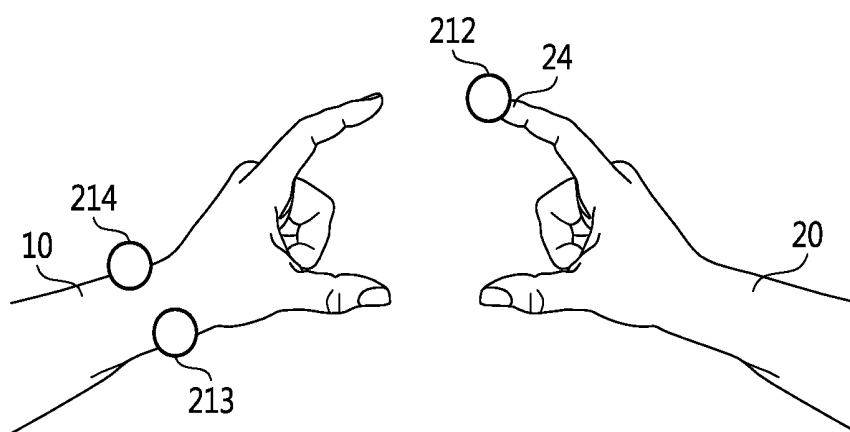


FIG. 4

GSR SIGNAL MEASURE

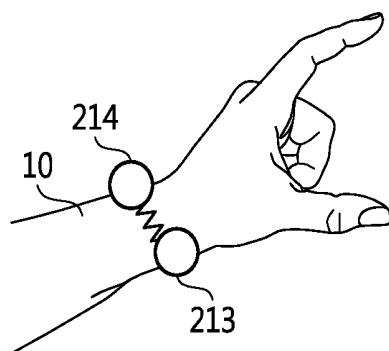


FIG. 5

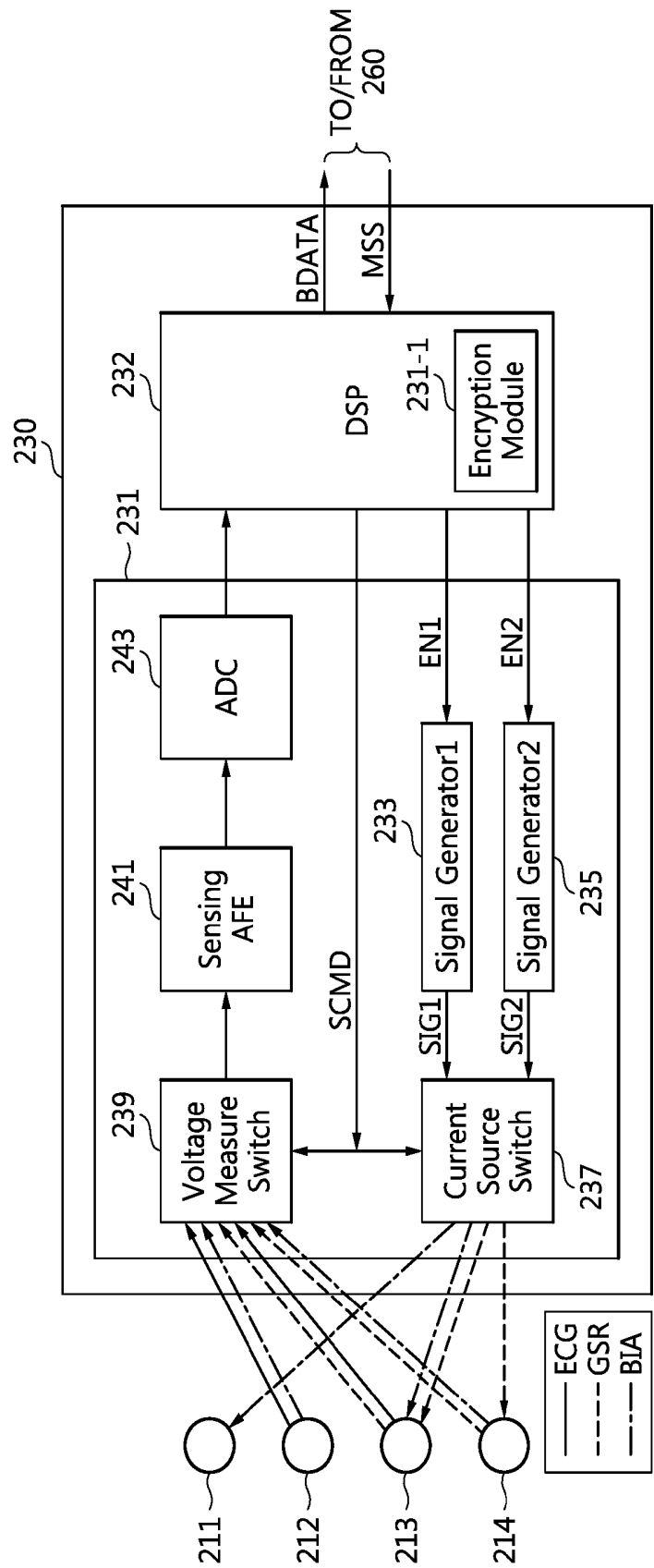


FIG. 6

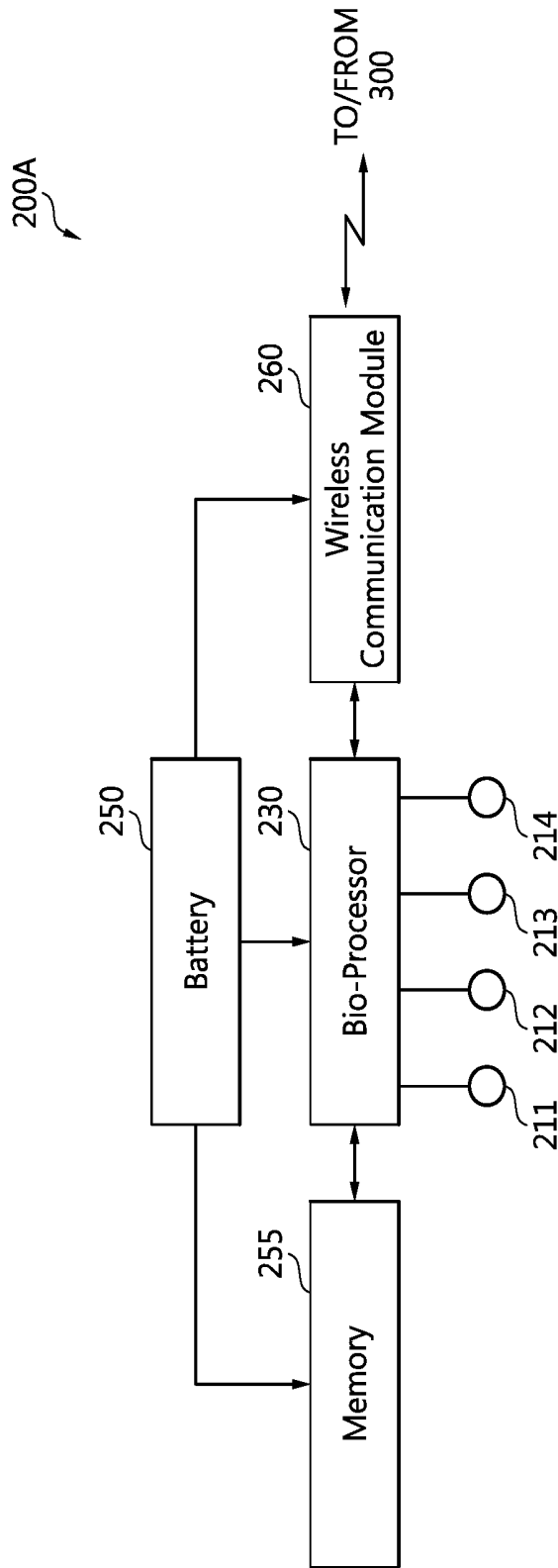


FIG. 7

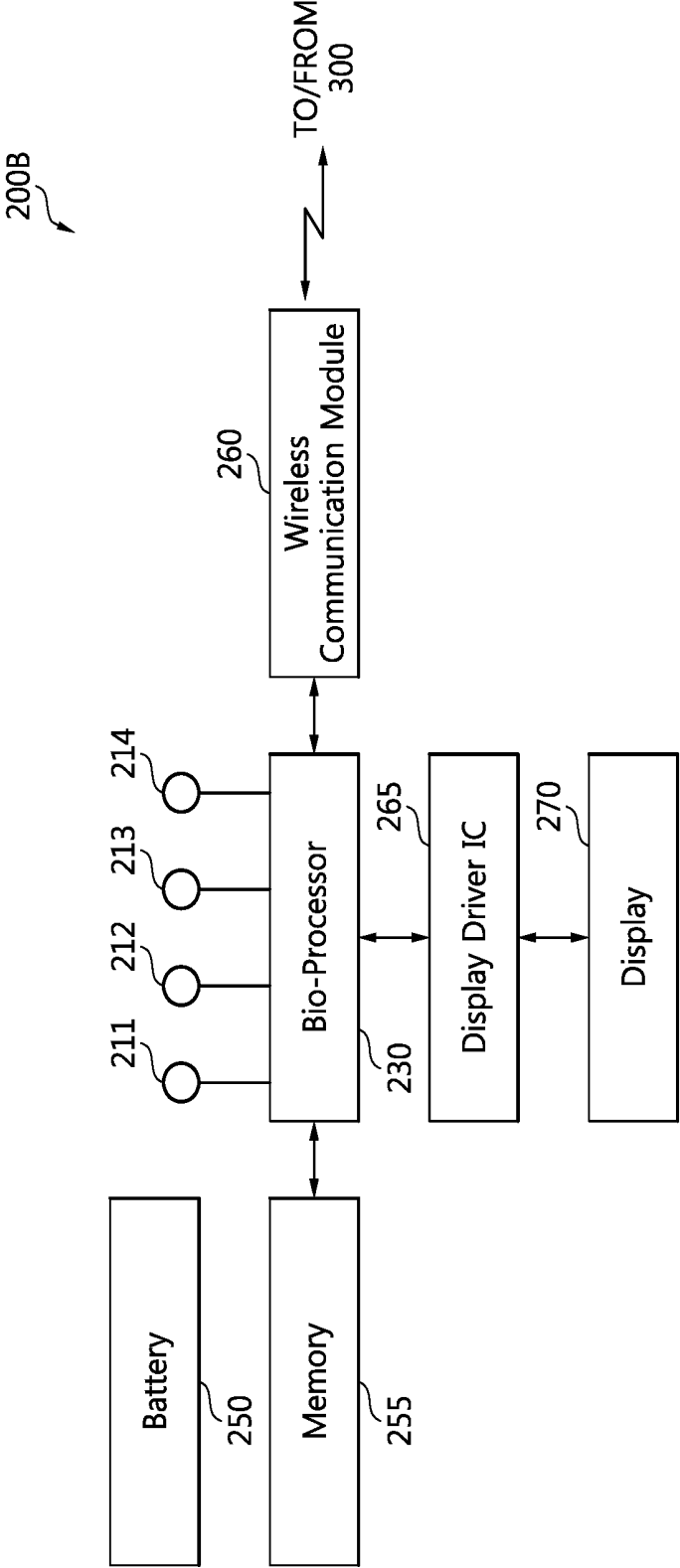


FIG. 8

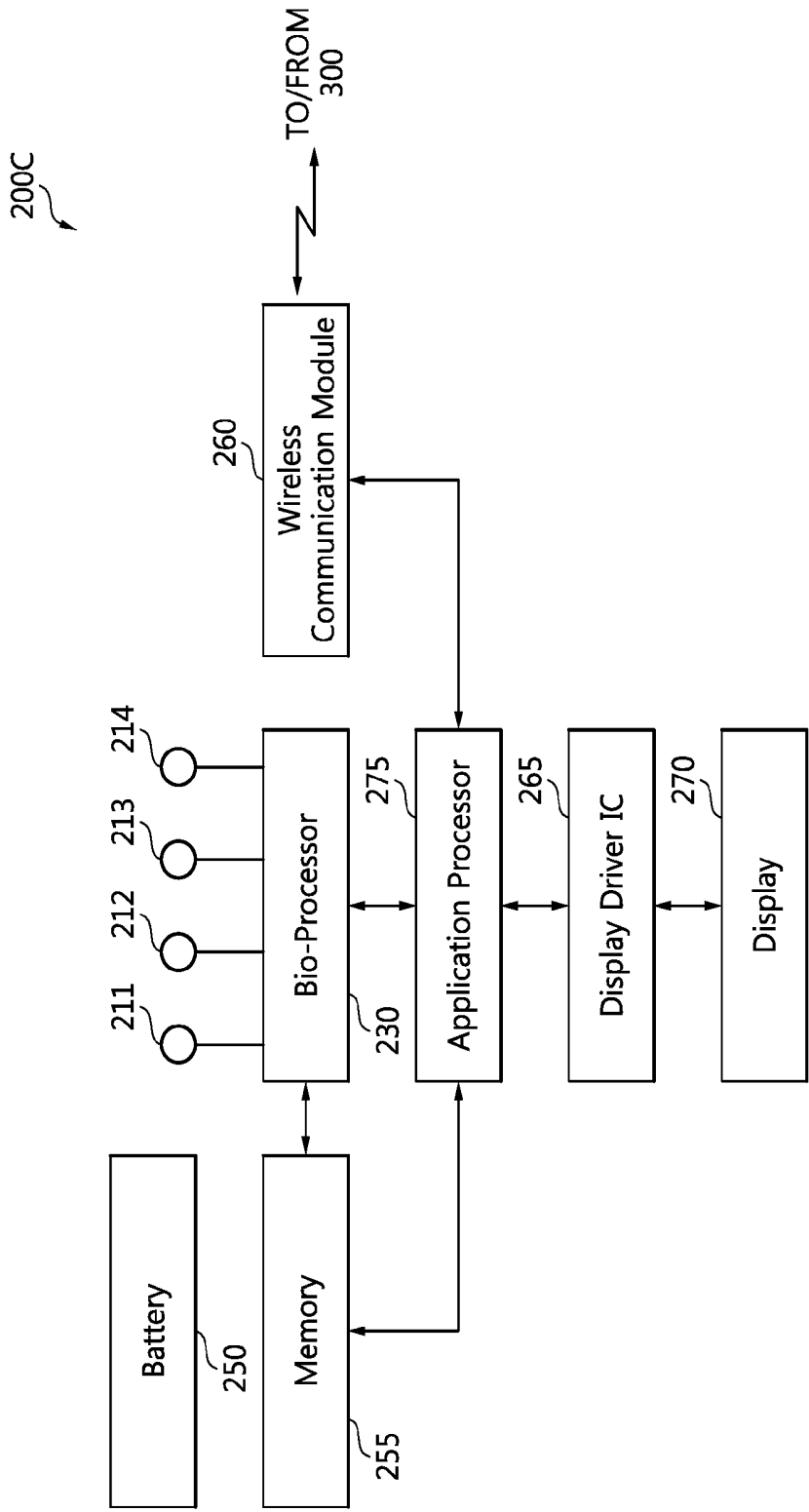


FIG. 9

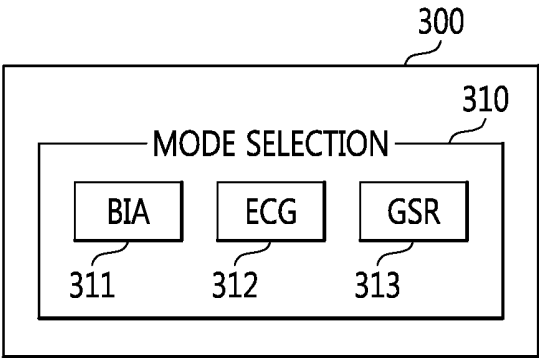


FIG. 10

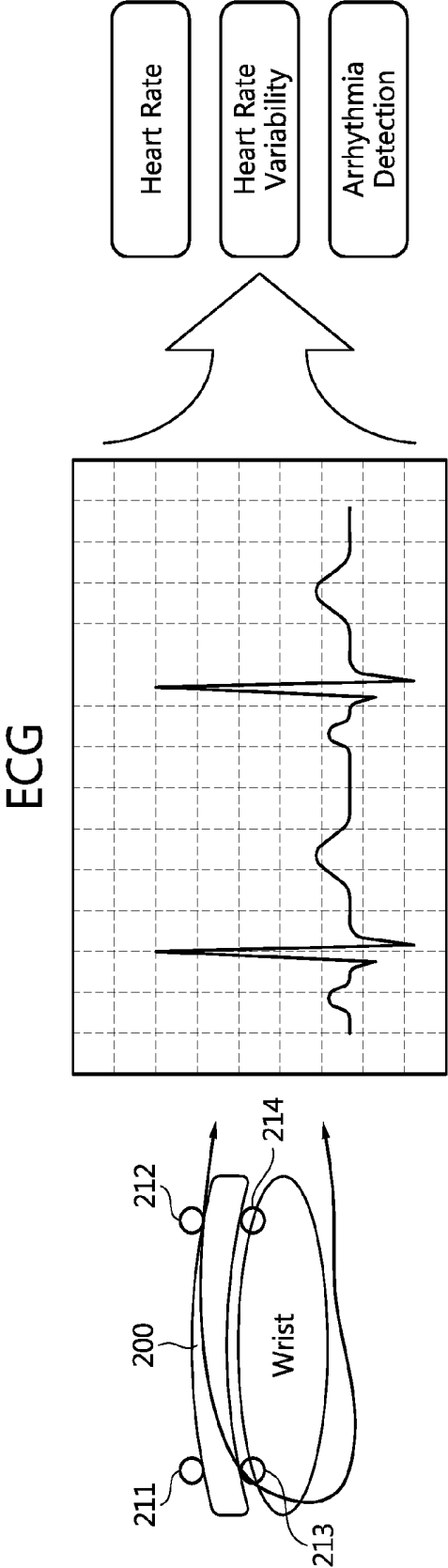


FIG. 11

GSR

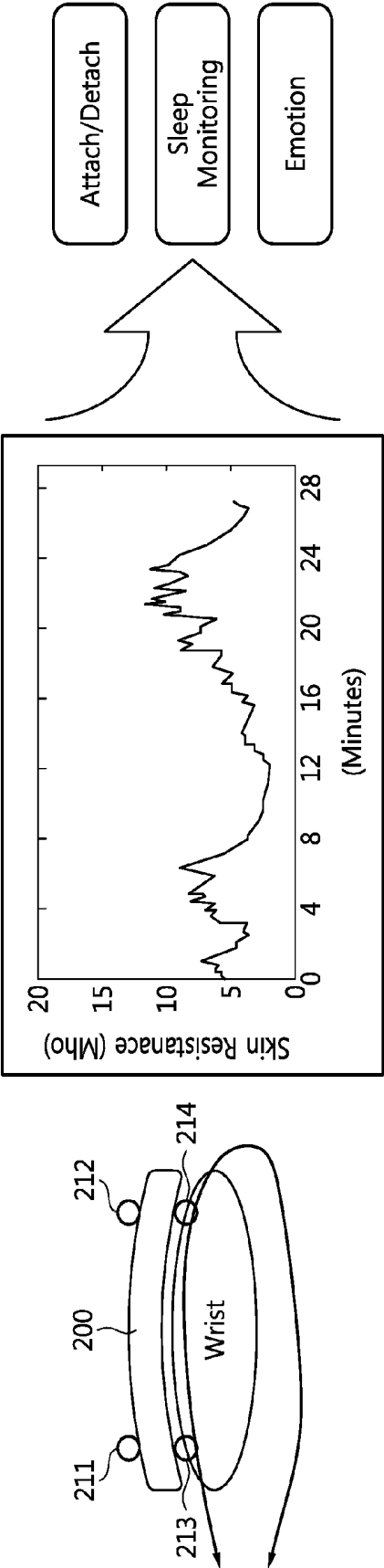


FIG. 12

BIA

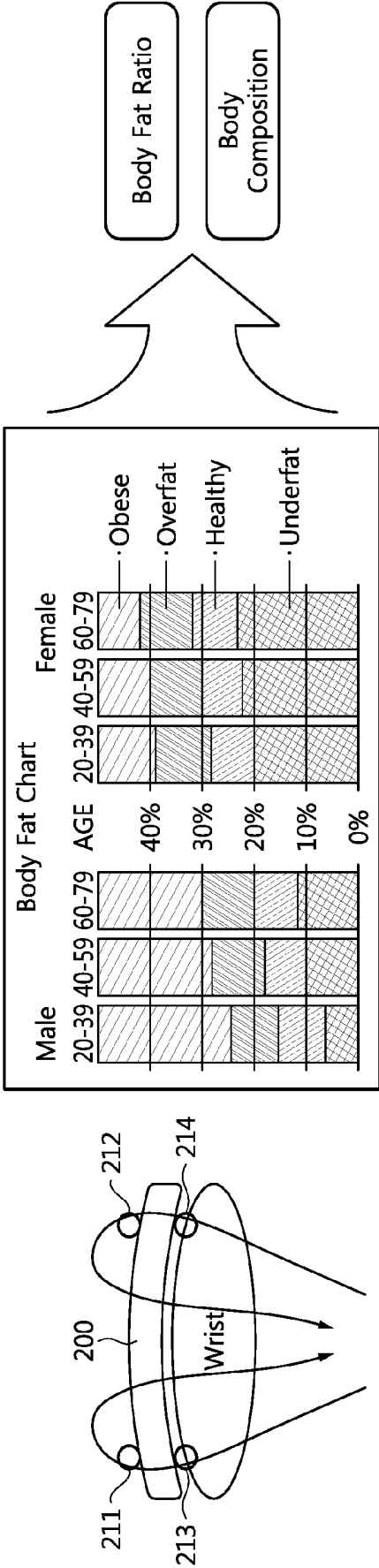


FIG. 13

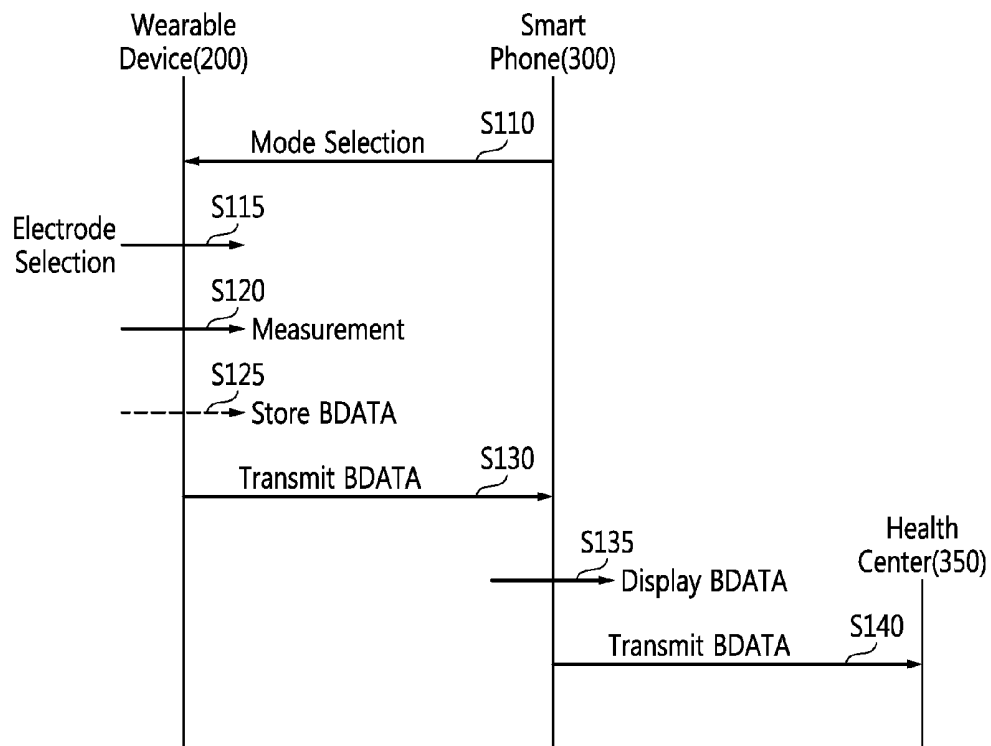


FIG. 14

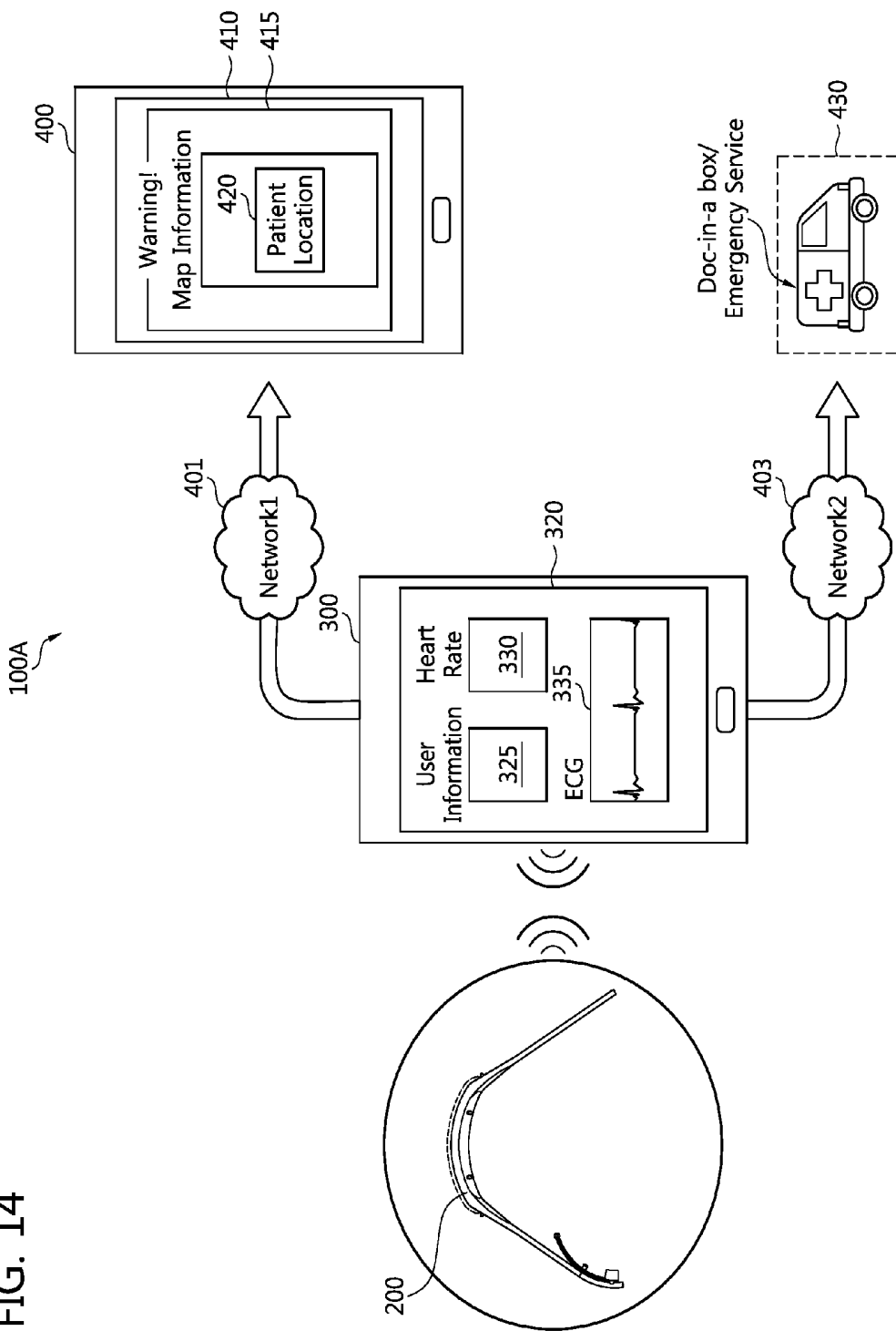


FIG. 15

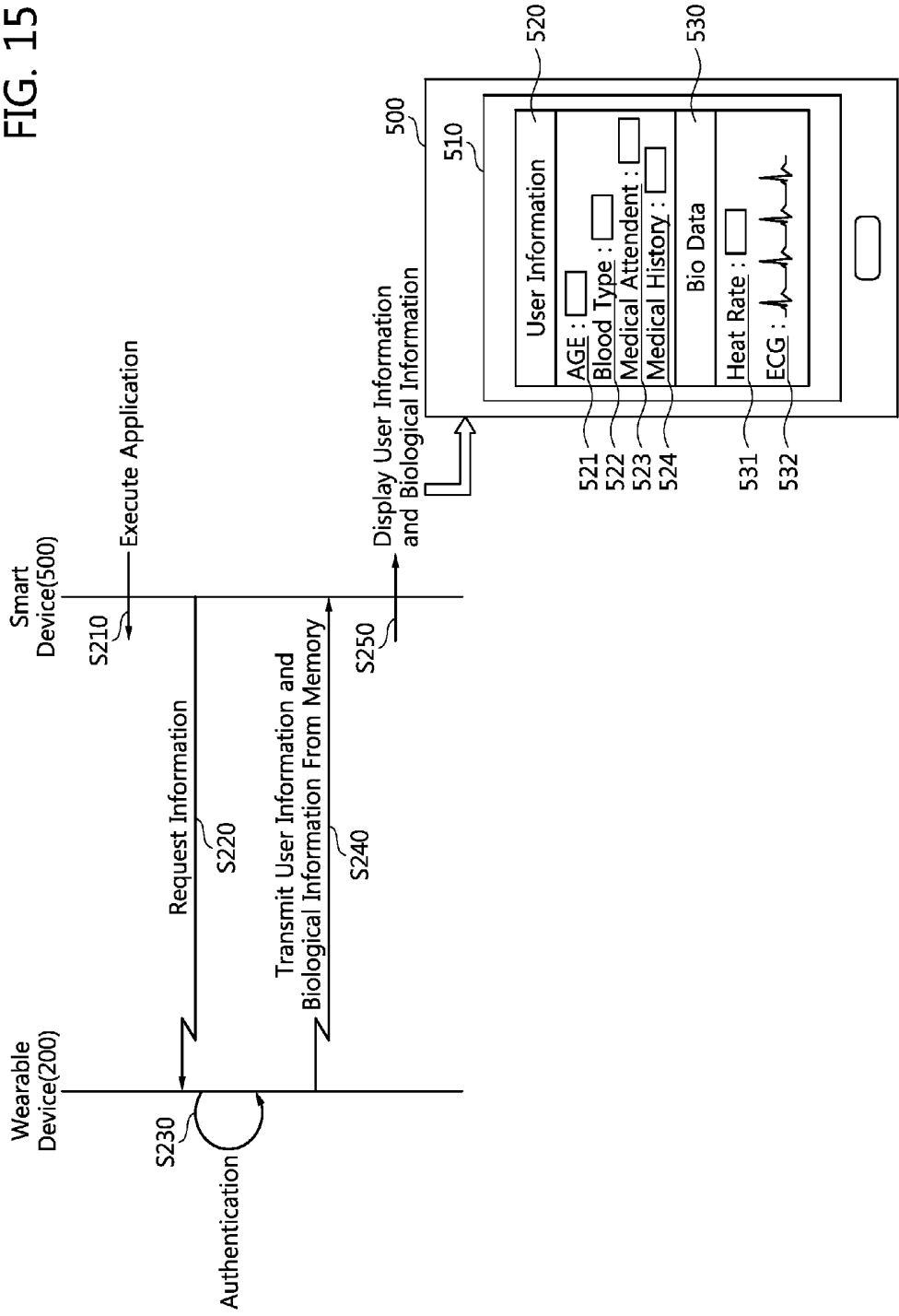


FIG. 16

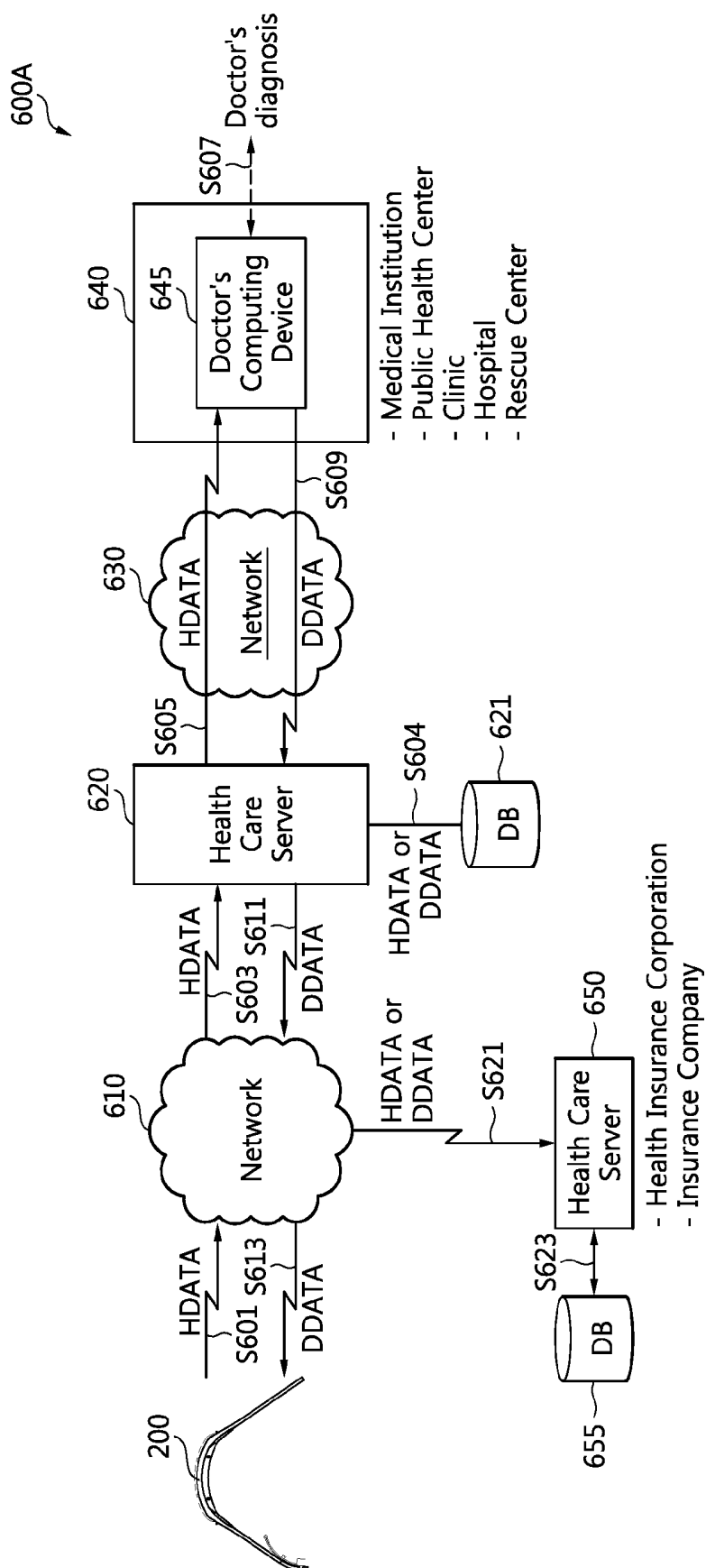


FIG. 17

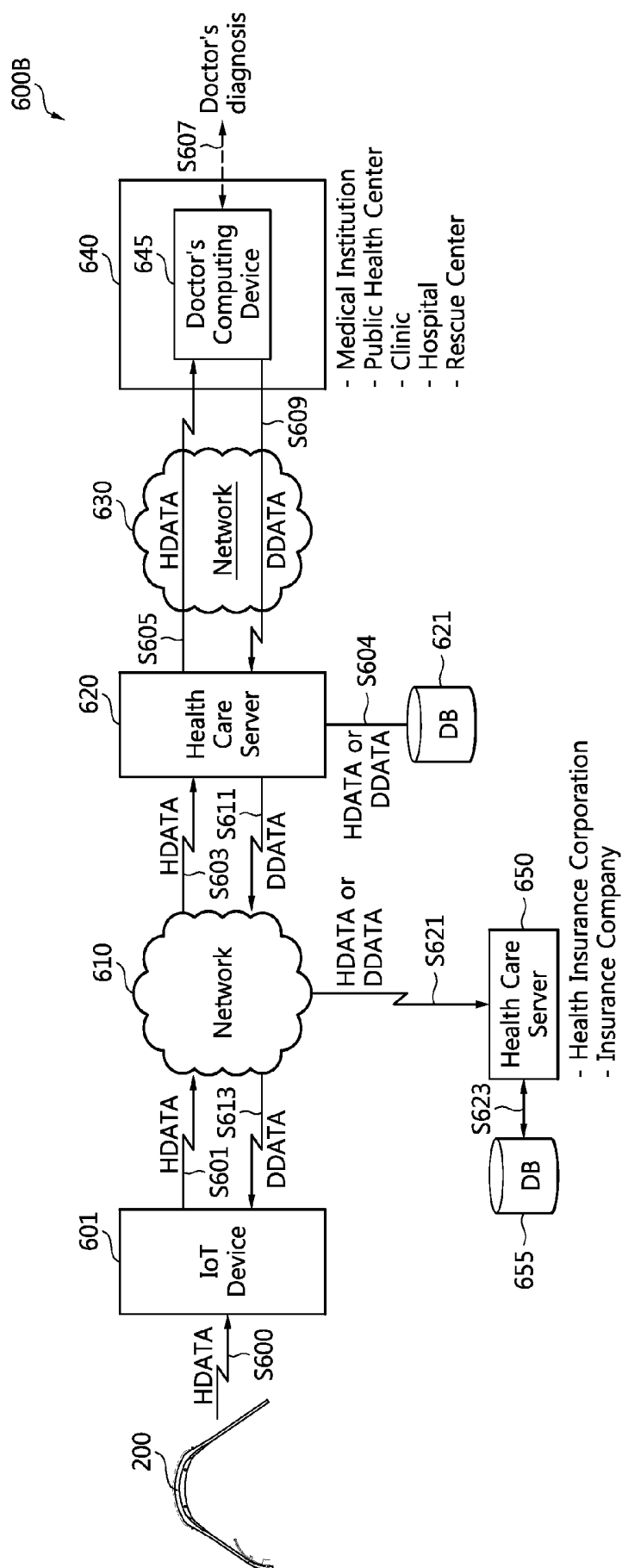


FIG. 18

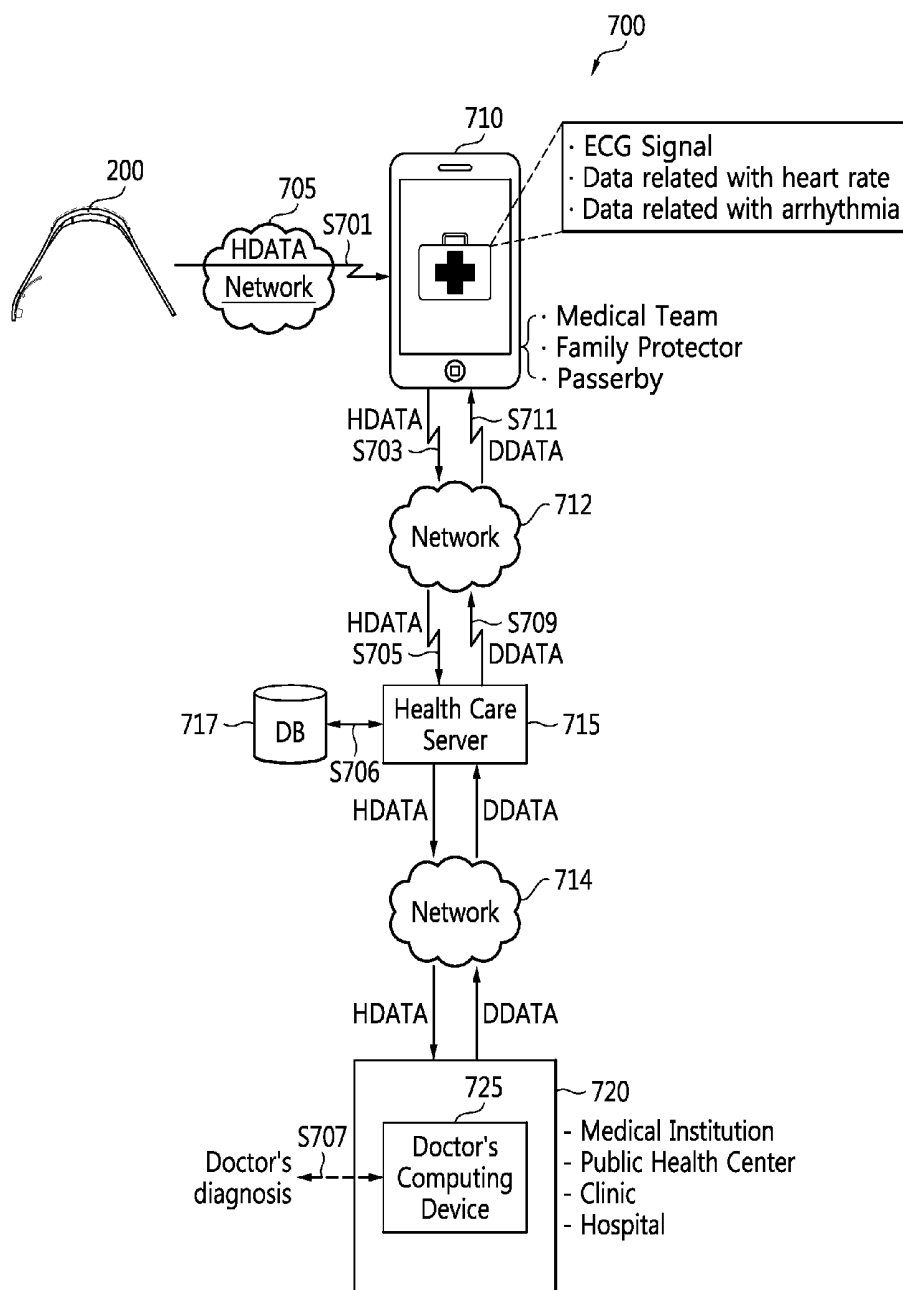


FIG. 19

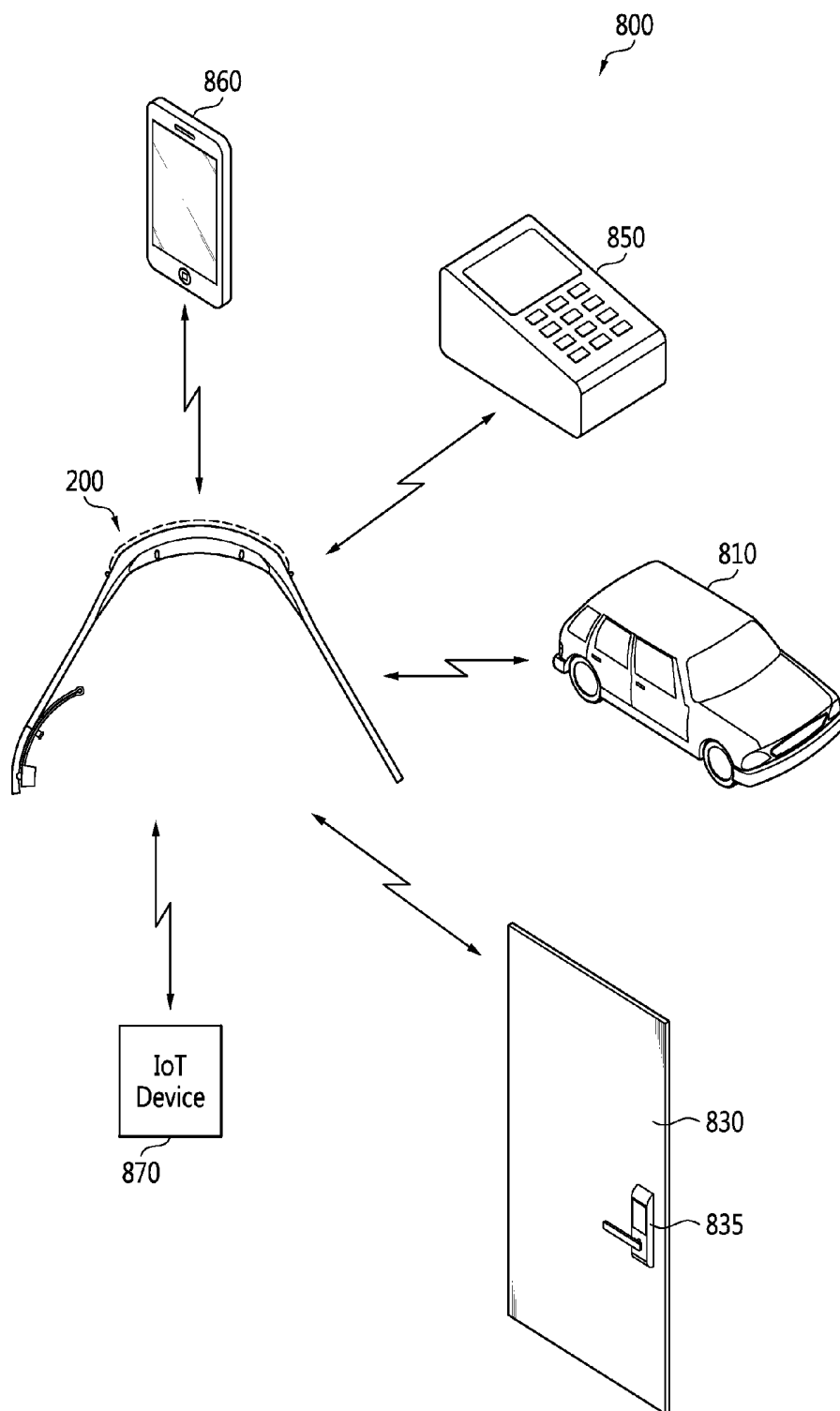
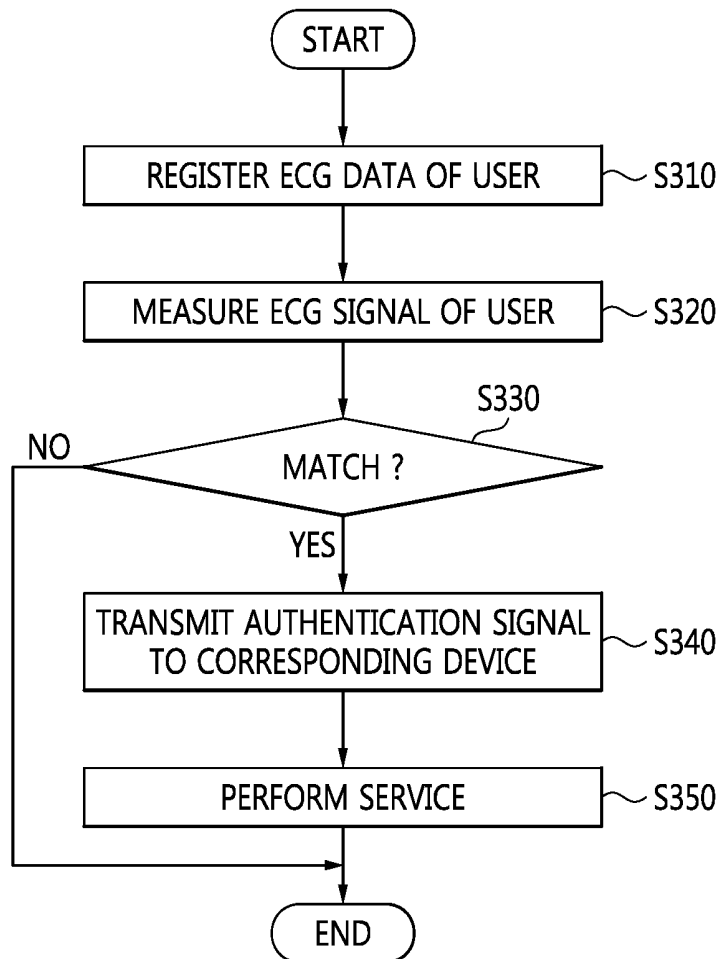


FIG. 20



**BIO-PROCESSOR FOR MEASURING EACH
BIOLOGICAL SIGNALS AND WEARABLE
DEVICE HAVING THE SAME**

PRIORITY STATEMENT

[0001] This application claims priority under 35 U.S.C. §119(a) from Korean Patent Application No. 10-2015-0183032 filed on Dec. 21, 2015, the disclosure of which is hereby incorporated by reference in its entirety.

BACKGROUND

[0002] The present inventive concept relates to a bio-processor, and to a wearable device including a bio-processor.

[0003] An electrocardiogram (ECG) be generated by various methods and then analyzed to check the state of health of a person's heart. In general, the ECG is generated using a high-precision voltage measuring device and ten or more medical-purpose electrodes attached to a person's body, and is analyzed by a doctor. More specifically, ten or more electrodes are attached to a patient's torso and limbs in a predetermined order, electrical activity of the heart is picked up by the electrodes and converted into an ECG signal, the ECG signal is displayed as a graph referred to as the ECG, and the ECG is directly analyzed by a doctor.

[0004] A growing technology in recent years is the technology of wearable devices which measure biological activity of a person wearing the device and which are used to monitor a state of health of the person according to such measurements of biological activity. These wearable devices can generate an ECG signal at various places on the human body and process the ECG signal using hardware such as a digital signal processor. However, the end user may be the party responsible for setting the positions of the electrodes for generating the ECG signal, and may not be skilled at positioning the electrodes. Therefore, an ECG signal processed by the digital signal processor may not accurately reveal a state of health of the heart of the user.

SUMMARY

[0005] An example of the present inventive concept is a wearable device including a case, a bio-processor embedded in the case, and a plurality of electrodes electrically connected to the bio-processor, and in which the bio-processor is configured to decide, based on a selection signal indicating a type of data desired, which ones of the plurality of electrodes to use as sensing electrodes for sensing a biological signal from a wearer of the device, and in which the bio-processor is configured to decide, based on the selection signal, which ones of the plurality of electrodes to use as sourcing electrodes for supplying current to the wearer of the device.

[0006] An example of the present inventive concept is a processor including a plurality of pads each connected to an electrode of a corresponding one of a plurality of electrodes, a controller which receives a selection signal indicating a type of a biological signal to be sensed, and an electrode control circuit which decides which ones of the plurality of pads to use as sensing pads for sensing a biological signal under the control of the controller operating based on the selection signal, and decides which ones of the plurality of

pads to use as sourcing pads for supplying a source current causing the biological signal under the control of the controller.

[0007] Another example of the present inventive concept is a wearable device including a case, a bio-processor embedded in the case, and a plurality of electrodes operatively electrically connected to the bio-processor, and in which the bio-processor is configured to select a number of the electrodes for use in sensing activity at an anatomical region of a user who wears the device, based on a selection signal indicative of a type of biological signal to be produced from the activity, and to enable the selected electrodes to sense said activity and produce the biological signal.

[0008] Yet another example of the present inventive concept is a wearable device including a jacket securable to an anatomical region of a user of the device, a processor disposed within the jacket, a power source integral with the jacket, and at least three electrodes integral with the jacket and electrically connected to the processor, and in which the processor is operatively electrically connected to the power source and to the electrodes and is configured to operate the device selectively in a plurality of different modes in response to mode selection signals, respectively. In one of the modes a first group of the electrodes is used to produce a signal representative of biological data of a first type and respective ones of the electrodes constituting the first group are electrically connected to the power source so as to serve as source electrodes through which current is supplied to the anatomical region. In another of the modes a group of the electrodes, different from the first group, is used to produce a signal representative of biological data of a second type different than the first type.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

[0009] These and/or other aspects and advantages of the present general inventive concept will become apparent and more readily appreciated from the following description of examples thereof, taken in conjunction with the accompanying drawings of which:

[0010] FIG. 1 is a perspective view of a data processing system including a wearable device and a smart phone according to an example of the present inventive concept;

[0011] FIG. 2 is a conceptual diagram which illustrates a connection between electrodes for detecting a bioelectrical impedance analysis (BIA) signal using the wearable device shown in FIG. 1;

[0012] FIG. 3 is a conceptual diagram which illustrates a connection between electrodes for detecting an electrocardiogram (ECG) signal using the wearable device shown in FIG. 1;

[0013] FIG. 4 is a conceptual diagram which illustrates a connection between electrodes for detecting a galvanic skin response (GSR) signal using the wearable device shown in FIG. 1;

[0014] FIG. 5 is a block diagram of a bio-processor shown in FIG. 1 according to an example of the present inventive concept;

[0015] FIG. 6 is a block diagram of a wearable device according to examples of the present inventive concept, which includes the bio-processor shown in FIG. 5;

[0016] FIG. 7 is a block diagram of the wearable device according to examples of the present inventive concept, which includes the bio-processor shown in FIG. 5;

[0017] FIG. 8 is a block diagram of the wearable device according to examples of the present inventive concept, which includes the bio-processor shown in FIG. 5;

[0018] FIG. 9 is a schematic diagram of a graphic user interface which is provided by an application for selecting an operation mode of the bio-processor shown in FIG. 5;

[0019] FIG. 10 shows an ECG waveform provided by and conditions which can be detected using the wearable device shown in FIG. 1;

[0020] FIG. 11 shows a GSR waveform provided by and conditions that can be detected using the wearable device shown in FIG. 1;

[0021] FIG. 12 shows a BIA waveform provided by and conditions that can be detected using the wearable device shown in FIG. 1;

[0022] FIG. 13 is a data flow diagram of an operation of the data processing system shown in FIG. 1;

[0023] FIG. 14 is a block diagram of the data processing system including the wearable device shown in FIG. 1;

[0024] FIG. 15 is a block diagram of the data processing system including the wearable device shown in FIG. 1;

[0025] FIG. 16 is a block diagram of a health care system including the wearable device shown in FIG. 1;

[0026] FIG. 17 is a block diagram of the health care system including the wearable device shown in FIG. 1;

[0027] FIG. 18 is a block diagram of the health care system including the wearable device shown in FIG. 1;

[0028] FIG. 19 is a block diagram of a security/authentication system including the wearable device shown in FIG. 1; and

[0029] FIG. 20 is a flowchart for illustrating an operation of the security/authentication system shown in FIG. 19.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION

[0030] Reference will now be made in detail to examples of the present general inventive concept, which are illustrated in the accompanying drawings, and wherein like reference numerals designate like elements throughout. The examples are described below in order to explain the present general inventive concept by referring to the figures.

[0031] As is traditional in the field of the inventive concept, the examples may be described and illustrated in terms of blocks which carry out a described function or functions. These blocks, which may be referred to herein as units or modules or the like, are physically implemented by analog and/or digital circuits such as logic gates, integrated circuits, microprocessors, microcontrollers, memory circuits, passive electronic components, active electronic components, optical components, hardwired circuits and the like, and may optionally be driven by firmware and/or software. The circuits may, for example, be embodied in one or more semiconductor chips, or on substrate supports such as printed circuit boards and the like. The circuits constituting a block may be implemented by dedicated hardware, or by a processor (e.g., one or more programmed microprocessors and associated circuitry), or by a combination of dedicated hardware to perform some functions of the block and a processor to perform other functions of the block. Each block of the examples may be physically separated into two or more interacting and discrete blocks without departing from the scope of the inventive concept. Likewise, the blocks of the examples may be physically combined into more complex blocks without departing from the scope of the inventive concept.

[0032] Furthermore, terminology used herein for the purpose of describing particular examples or embodiments of the inventive concept is to be taken in context. For example, the terms “comprises” or “comprising” when used in this specification specifies the presence of stated features or processes but does not preclude the presence or additional features or processes. The term “operatively connected” may be understood as referring to a connection through electronic means (wiring and/or electronic components) even in the case in which such means allow electrical power through the connection to be cut off in a certain operating mode of the device.

[0033] FIG. 1 shows a data processing system including a wearable device and a smart phone according to an example of the present inventive concept. Referring to FIG. 1, a data processing system 100 may include a wearable device 200 and a smart phone 300 which can communicate with each other through a wireless communication network.

[0034] Each of the wearable device 200 and the smart phone 300 may be an Internet of Things (IoT) device and hence, may together constitute an IoT. Here, each IoT device may include an accessible interface (for example, a wired interface or a wireless interface). Also, each IoT device may be a device for transmitting or receiving data (wired or wireless data) to or from at least one electronic device (or an IoT device) through the accessible interface.

[0035] In this example, the accessible interface may include a local area network (LAN), a wireless local area network (WLAN) such as a wireless fidelity (Wi-Fi), a wireless personal area network (WPAN) such as a Bluetooth, a wireless universal serial bus (USB), a Zigbee, a near field communication (NFC), a radio-frequency identification (RFID), or a mobile cellular network; however, it is not limited thereto. Examples of the mobile cellular network include a 3rd generation (3G) mobile cellular network, a 4th generation (4G) mobile cellular network, a long term evolution (LTE™) mobile cellular network, and an LTE-Advanced (LTE-A) mobile cellular network, but are not limited thereto.

[0036] The wearable device 200 includes a plurality of electrodes 211, 212, 213, and 214. In the example of FIG. 1, two electrodes 211 and 212 are disposed in an upper portion or outer side of a case 201 of the wearable device 200 and two electrodes 213 and 214 are disposed in a lower portion or inner side the case 201 of the wearable device 200; however, positions of the electrodes 211, 212, 213, and 214 are not limited thereto. The wearable device 200 may also include a display 270 but such a display is optional.

[0037] The wearable device 200 also includes a bio-processor 230 embedded in the case 201 of the wearable device 200 as will be described in more detail with reference to FIG. 5, and may include other elements (or components) within the case as will be described with reference to the examples of FIGS. 6, 7, and 8. Thus, the case 201 has the form of a jacket within which electronic components of the device are provided and protected by the case 201. In the illustrated example, the jacket is in the form of a band, e.g., a wrist band or strap that can be secured to the wrist of a user so as to be worn on the wrist. FIG. 1 shows a mechanism including a rivet-like projection at one of the band and to which the other end of the band having a series of holes therein (not shown) can be fixed by popping the rivet-like projection into one of the holes.

[0038] The bio-processor 230 may sense or generate a health-related signal (i.e., biological activity or a biological signal) using sensors (for example, the electrodes 211, 212, 213, and 214). The health-related signal may be a bioelectrical impedance analysis (BIA) signal, an electrocardiogram (ECG) signal, or a galvanic skin response (GSR) signal; however, it is not limited thereto.

[0039] FIG. 2 is a conceptual diagram which illustrates how a bioelectrical impedance analysis (BIA) signal may be produced using the wearable device shown in FIG. 1. BIA is a widely known method of measuring a body's composition, particularly, body fat. In this example, four electrodes are used for a BIA or for producing a BIA signal. A current source having a frequency of 50 kHz to 1 MHz is required to produce a BIA signal and a bandwidth of the BIA signal may be 50 kHz to 1 MHz; however, it is not limited thereto.

[0040] Referring to FIGS. 1 and 2, when a user wears the wearable device 200 on a wrist of his own left (or right) hand 10, and brings a thumb 22 and an index finger 24 of his own right (or left) hand 20 in contact with and presses the electrodes 211 and 212 disposed in the upper portion of the case 201, the electrodes 213 and 214 disposed in the lower portion of the case 201 are held in contact with a skin of the left (or right) hand 10. Current output from each of the electrodes 211 and 213 is supplied to the person's body, a voltage is generated in proportion to a resistance (R_{body}) of the body, and the electrodes 212 and 214 may be used to detect the voltage.

[0041] FIG. 3 is a conceptual diagram which illustrates how an electrocardiogram (ECG) signal may be produced using the wearable device shown in FIG. 1. An example will be described in which three of the electrodes are used to produce an ECG signal. A current source is not required to produce an ECG signal, and a bandwidth of the ECG signal may be 0.5 Hz to 250 Hz; however, it is not limited thereto.

[0042] For example, one of the electrodes 212 is used as a positive electrode, another of the electrodes 213 is used as a negative electrode, and still another of the electrodes 214 is used as a reference electrode. The reference electrode 214 may be connected to a battery.

[0043] Referring to FIGS. 1 and 3, when a user wears the wearable device 200 on a wrist of his own left (or right) hand 10, and brings an index finger 24 of his own right (or left) hand 20 in contact with and presses the electrode 212, the electrodes 213 and 214 are held in contact with the skin of the left (or right) hand 10. Thus, the electrodes 212 and 213 may be used to detect a minute electrical difference in the skin caused (or induced) by heart muscle depolarizing during each heartbeat.

[0044] FIG. 4 is a conceptual diagram which describes how a galvanic skin response (GSR) signal may be produced using the wearable device shown in FIG. 1. Two electrodes are required to produce a GSR signal. A DC current source is required to produce a GSR signal and a bandwidth of the GSR signal may be 0 Hz to 4 Hz; however, it is not limited thereto.

[0045] Referring to FIGS. 1 and 4, when a user wears the wearable device 200 on a wrist of his own left (or right) hand 10 and presses the wearable device 200 using his own right (or left) hand, the electrodes 213 and 214 are held in contact with the skin of the left (or right) hand 10. The electrodes 213 and 214 in contact with the skin may be used to sense or measure electrical resistance (or electrical conductivity) between the electrodes 213 and 214. When current is sup-

plied to one of the electrodes 213 and 214, the electrical resistance is changed according to a reaction of the skin, and accordingly, a voltage may be generated. Therefore, the electrodes 213 and 214 may be used to sense or detect a voltage corresponding to the electrical resistance.

[0046] As described referring to FIGS. 2 to 4, when the wearable device 200 includes the plurality of electrodes 211, 212, 213, and 214, a user may use select numbers of the electrodes (for example, four, three, or two electrodes) to obtain different biological signals (for example, BIA signal, ECG signal, or GSR signal) using the wearable device 200. The bio-processor 230 of the wearable device 200 may decide the number of electrodes to be used, in producing a biological signal, based on a selection signal indicating a type of a biological signal to be sensed.

[0047] FIG. 5 is a block diagram of the bio-processor (i.e., biological processor) shown in FIG. 1 according to an example of the present inventive concept. Referring to FIGS. 1 to 5, the bio-processor 230 may include an electrode control circuit 231 and a digital signal processor (DSP) 232.

[0048] The electrode control circuit 231 may decide which ones of the plurality of electrodes 211, 212, 213, and 214 to use as sensing electrodes for sensing a biological signal, under the control of the DSP 232. Moreover, the electrode control circuit 231 may decide which ones of the plurality of electrodes 211, 212, 213, and 214 to use as sourcing electrodes for supplying a source current which generates the biological signal, under the control of the DSP 232.

[0049] Each of the plurality of electrodes 211, 212, 213, and 214 may be connected to each of a plurality of pads (or a plurality of pins) in the bio-processor 230. Accordingly, the electrode control circuit 231 may decide which ones of the plurality of pads to use as sensing pads for sensing a biological signal, under the control of the DSP 232. Moreover, the electrode control circuit 231 may decide which ones of the plurality of pads to use as sourcing pads for supplying a source current for producing the biological signal, under the control of the DSP 232.

[0050] The electrode control circuit 231 may include a first signal generator 233, a second signal generator 235, a current source switch 237, a voltage measuring switch 239, a sensing analog-front end (AFE) 241, and an analog-to-digital converter (ADC) 243. The bio-processor 230 may be embodied as an integrated circuit (IC) or a system-in package (SiP); however, it is not limited thereto.

[0051] The DSP 232 may receive and process a digital signal output from the ADC 243 and transmit a processed digital signal (for example, biological data BDATA) to a wireless communication module 260 examples of which are shown in FIGS. 6, 7 and 8. The DSP 232 may control an operation of each of components 233, 235, 237, and 239 in response to a selection signal MSS transmitted from the wireless communication module 260. The DSP 232 may serve as a controller. For example, the DSP 232 may generate a first enable signal EN1, a second enable signal EN2, and a switch enable signal SCMD in response to a selection signal MSS.

[0052] The first signal generator 233 may be enabled or disabled in response to the first enable signal EN1. For example, the first signal generator 233 may generate a first signal SIG1 for sensing a BIA signal. The first signal SIG1 may be a sinusoidal wave signal as a current signal; however, it is not limited thereto. The first signal generator 233 may serve as a first current source.

[0053] The second signal generator **235** may be enabled or disabled in response to the second enable signal **EN2**. For example, the second signal generator **235** may generate a second signal **SIG2** for measuring a GSR signal. The second signal **SIG2** may be a pulse signal as a current signal; however, it is not limited thereto. The second signal generator **235** may serve as a second current source. One of the signal generators **233** and **235** may be enabled or all of the signal generators **233** and **235** may be disabled. Each of the current source switch **237** and the voltage measuring switch **239** may be enabled or disabled in response to a switch enable signal **SCMD**.

[0054] The current source switch **237** enabled may transmit the first signal **SIG1** or the second signal **SIG2** to select ones of the electrodes **211**, **212**, **213**, and **214**, thereby designating those electrodes as sourcing electrodes. The current source switch **237** may select the sourcing electrodes from among the plurality of electrodes **211**, **212**, **213**, and **214** in response to a switch enable signal **SCMD**.

[0055] For example, when the selection signal **MSS** indicates a sensing of a BIA signal, the DSP **232** may generate an activated first enable signal **EN1** and a deactivated second enable signal **EN2**, and generate a switch control signal **SCMD** having a first value. Accordingly, the first signal generator **233** may generate a first signal **SIG1** in response to the activated first enable signal **EN1**.

[0056] Referring to FIG. 2, the current source switch **237** may select the electrodes **211** and **213** among the plurality of electrodes **211**, **212**, **213**, and **214** as the sourcing electrodes in response to the switch control signal **SCMD** having a first value, and transmit the first signal **SIG1** to the sourcing electrodes **211** and **213** as a source current.

[0057] The voltage measuring switch **239** may select the electrodes **212** and **214** among the plurality of electrodes **211**, **212**, **213**, and **214** as sensing electrodes in response to the switch control signal **SCMD** having a first value, and sense a biological signal (that is, BIA signal) caused by the source current through the sensing electrodes **212** and **214**. The sensing AFE **241** may amplify a difference between voltages (for example, BIA signals) output from the sensing electrodes **212** and **214**, remove noise from the amplified signal, and transmit the resulting noise-filtered analog signal to the ADC **243**.

[0058] For example, when the selection signal **MSS** indicates an ECG signal is to be produced, the DSP **232** may generate a deactivated first enable signal **EN1** and a deactivated second enable signal **EN2**, and generate a switch control signal **SCMD** having a second value. Accordingly, each of the signal generators **233** and **235** is deactivated. The current source switch **237** is disabled in response to the switch control signal **SCMD** having a second value. That is, each of the signal generators **233** and **235** may be disconnected from the plurality of electrodes **211**, **212**, **213**, and **214**.

[0059] Referring to FIG. 3, the voltage measuring switch **239** may select the electrodes **212** and **213** among the plurality of electrodes **211**, **212**, **213**, and **214** as sensing electrodes in response to the switch control signal **SCMD** having a second value, and sense a biological signal (corresponding to an ECG signal) caused by the current through the sensing electrodes **212** and **213**. Accordingly, the sensing AFE **241** may amplify a potential difference between the electrodes **212** and **213** and output the same as an amplified

signal, remove noise from the amplified signal, and transmit the resulting noise-filtered analog signal to the ADC **243**.

[0060] For example, when the selection signal **MSS** indicates that a GSR signal is to be produced, the DSP **232** may generate a deactivated first enable signal **EN1** and an activated second enable signal **EN2**, and generate a switch control signal **SCMD** having a third value. Accordingly, the second signal generator **235** may generate a second signal **SIG2** in response to the activated second enable signal **EN2**.

[0061] Referring to FIG. 4, the current source switch **237** may select the electrodes **213** and **214** among the plurality of electrodes **211**, **212**, **213**, and **214** as sourcing electrodes in response to the switch control signal **SCMD** having a third value, and transmit a second signal **SIG2** to the sourcing electrodes **213** and **214** as a source current.

[0062] The voltage measuring switch **239** may select the electrodes **213** and **214** among the plurality of electrodes **211**, **212**, **213**, and **214** as sensing electrodes in response to the switch control signal **SCMD** having a third value, and sense a biological signal (corresponding to a GSR signal) caused by the source current through the sensing electrodes **213** and **214**. Accordingly, the sensing AFE **241** may amplify a potential difference between the electrodes **213** and **214**, remove a noise from the amplified signal, and transmit the resulting noise-filtered analog signal to the ADC **243**.

[0063] The ADC **243** may convert an analog signal processed by the sensing AFE **241** into a digital signal and transmit the digital signal to the DSP **231**. The digital signal may be data related to BIA, data related to ECG, or data related to GSR.

[0064] The sensing AFE **241** and the ADC **243** may configure an AFE. The AFE may amplify an output signal of the voltage measuring switch **239**, convert an amplified signal into a digital signal, and transmit the digital signal to the DSP **232**.

[0065] The DSP **232** may process the digital signal and transmit biological data **BDATA** corresponding to a result of the processing to the wireless communication module (or wireless transceiver) **260** shown in FIG. 6, 7, or 8. The biological data **BDATA** may be biological data encrypted by an encryption module **231-1** embedded in the DSP **232**.

[0066] As described above, the bio-processor **230** may decide which ones of the plurality of electrodes **211**, **212**, **213**, and **214** to use as sensing electrodes and which ones of the plurality of electrodes **211**, **212**, **213**, and **214** to use as sourcing electrodes based on the selection signal **MSS** indicating a type of a biological information to be sensed and corresponding biological signal to be produced.

[0067] FIG. 6 is a block diagram of a wearable device according to examples of the present inventive concept, which includes the bio-processor shown in FIG. 5. Referring to FIGS. 1 to 6, a wearable device **200A** may include the bio-processor **230** connected to the plurality of electrodes **211**, **212**, **213**, and **214**, a battery **250**, a memory **255**, and the wireless communication module **260**.

[0068] The battery **250** may supply operation voltages to each of the bio-processor **230**, the memory **255**, and the wireless communication module **260**, respectively. The bio-processor **230** may store biological data **BDATA** or more specifically, encrypted biological data **BDATA**, generated by the DSP **232** in the memory **255** or transmit the biological data **BDATA** to a smart phone **300** through the wireless communication module **260**. The memory **255** may be

embodied as a volatile memory or a non-volatile memory. The wireless communication module 260 may communicate with the smart phone 300 through a WLAN such as Wi-Fi, a WPAN such as Bluetooth, a wireless USB, a Zigbee, an NFC, an RFID, or a mobile cellular network.

[0069] FIG. 7 is a block diagram of a wearable device according to examples of the present inventive concept, which includes the bio-processor shown in FIG. 5. Referring to FIGS. 1 to 5 and 7, a wearable device 200B may include the bio-processor 230 connected to the plurality of electrodes 211, 212, 213, and 214, a battery 250, a memory 255, the wireless communication module 260, a display driver IC 265, and a display 270.

[0070] The battery 250 may supply operation voltages to each of the components 230, 255, 260, 265, and 270, respectively. The bio-processor 230 may transmit biological data BDATA to the display driver IC 265. The display driver IC 265 may display the biological data BDATA on the display 270. Examples of the biological data BDATA displayed on the display 270 will be described later with reference to FIGS. 10, 11, and 12.

[0071] FIG. 8 is a block diagram of a wearable device according to examples of the present inventive concept, which includes the bio-processor shown in FIG. 5. Referring to FIGS. 1 to 5 and 8, a wearable device 200C may include the bio-processor 230 connected to the plurality of electrodes 211, 212, 213, and 214, a battery 250, a memory 255, the wireless communication module 260, a display driver IC 265, a display 270, and an application processor 275.

[0072] The battery 250 may supply operation voltages to the components 230, 255, 260, 265, 270, and 275. The application processor 275 may control an operation of each of the components 230, 250, 255, 260, 265, and 270.

[0073] The bio-processor 230 may transmit biological data BDATA to the application processor 275. The application processor 275 may transmit the biological data BDATA to the display driver IC 265. The display driver IC 265 may display the biological data BDATA on the display 270. Again, examples of the biological data BDATA displayed on the display 270 are shown in and will be described with reference to FIGS. 10, 11, and 12.

[0074] According to examples, the biological data BDATA may be transmitted to the smart phone 300 under the control of the bio-processor 230 or the application processor 275. The wearable devices 200A, 200B, and 200C are examples of the configuration of the wearable device 200 of FIG. 1.

[0075] FIG. 9 shows a graphic user interface which is provided by an application for selecting an operation mode of the bio-processor shown in FIG. 5. Referring to FIGS. 1 and 6 to 9, an application program (app or software) executed by the smart phone 300 may provide a user with a graphic user interface (GUI) 310. The user may select a type of a biological signal to be sensed through the GUI 310. The user may select a first GUI 311 for sensing a BIA signal, a second GUI 312 for sensing an ECG signal, or a third GUI 313 for sensing a GSR signal. An application program executed by the smart phone 300 may generate a selection signal MSS indicating a type of a biological signal to be sensed, and transmit the selection signal MSS to the wireless communication module 260 of the wearable device 200. The wireless communication module (or wireless transmitter) 260 may transmit the selection signal MSS to the bio-processor 230.

[0076] Even if an application program executed by the smart phone 300 is shown in FIG. 9, an application program executed by a CPU of the bio-processor 230 of the wearable device 200B of FIG. 7 may provide a user with a GUI that is the same as or similar to the GUI 310 of FIG. 9 through the display 270.

[0077] In addition, an application program executed by a CPU of the application processor 275 of the wearable device 200C of FIG. 8 may provide a user with a GUI that is the same as or similar to the GUI 310 of FIG. 9 through the display 270. At this time, the bio-processor 230 or a CPU of the application processor 275 may generate a selection signal MSS for indicating a type of a biological signal to be sensed and transmit the selection signal MSS to the DSP 232.

[0078] FIG. 10 shows an ECG waveform and conditions that can be sensed by the wearable device shown in FIG. 1. Referring to FIGS. 1, 3, and 10, an ECG signal generated through the sensing electrodes 212 and 213 may be displayed on the display 270 or smart phone 300.

[0079] A biological signal analysis application program executed by a CPU of the bio-processor 230, a CPU of the application processor 275, or a CPU of the smart phone 300 may detect a heart rate, heart rate variability, and arrhythmia by processing the ECG signal, and display a result of the detection on the display 270 or the display of the smart phone 300.

[0080] FIG. 11 shows a GSR waveform and conditions sensed by the wearable device shown in FIG. 1. Referring to FIGS. 1, 4, and 11, a GSR signal produced through the sensing electrodes 213 and 214 may be displayed on the display 270 or smart phone 300.

[0081] The biological signal analysis application program executed by the CPU of the bio-processor 230, the CPU of the application processor 275, or the CPU of the smart phone 300 may determine whether the user is wearing the wearable device 200 on his or her wrist, may determine whether the user is sleeping, or may determine an emotional state of the user, and display a result of the determination on the display 270 or smart phone 300.

[0082] FIG. 12 shows a BIA waveform and conditions sensed by the wearable device shown in FIG. 1. Referring to FIGS. 1, 2, and 12, a BIA signal produced through the sensing electrodes 212 and 214 may be displayed on the display 270 or smart phone 300.

[0083] The biological signal analysis application program executed by the CPU of the bio-processor 230, the CPU of the application processor 275, or the CPU of the smart phone 300 may determine a body fat ratio and a body composition using a BIA signal processed by the bio-processor 230, and display a result of the determination on the display 270 or smart phone 300.

[0084] FIG. 13 shows a data flow in an operation of the data processing system shown in FIG. 1. Referring to FIGS. 1 to 13, when a user selects a type (or a mode selection) of a biological signal to be sensed using the GUI 310 shown in FIG. 9, an application program executed by the smart phone 300 may transmit a selection signal MSS for indicating a type (or a mode selection) of a biological signal to be sensed through its wireless communication module to the wireless communication module 260 of the wearable device 200 (S110).

[0085] The bio-processor 230 may decide which ones of the plurality of electrodes 211, 212, 213, and 214 to use as

sensing electrodes for sensing a biological signal and/or which ones of the plurality of electrodes **211**, **212**, **213**, and **214** to use as sourcing electrodes for supplying a source current which causes the biological signal under the control of the DSP **232** operating in response to a selection signal MSS (**S115**).

[**0086**] The bio-processor **230** may receive a biological signal from the sensing electrodes selected by the bio-processor **230** (**S120**), process (for example, amplification, noise removal, and analog-to-digital conversion) the signal, generate biological data BDATA from the processed signal, and store the biological data BDATA in the memory **255** (**S125**). In some cases, though, the biological data BDATA may not be stored in the memory **255**.

[**0087**] The biological data BDATA generated by the bio-processor **230** may be transmitted to the smart phone **300** through the wireless communication module **260** (**S130**). An application program executed by the smart phone **300** may display biological data (for example, BIA data, ECG data, or GSR data) as described with reference to FIG. **10**, **11**, or **12** on (the display of) the smart phone **300** (**S135**).

[**0088**] According to examples, the application program executed by the smart phone **300** may transmit the biological data (for example, BIA data, ECG data, or GSR data) to a server, for example, a server of a health center **350** (**S350**). The server of the health center **350** may analyze the biological data (for example, BIA data, ECG data, or GSR data) and transmit a result of the analysis to the smart phone **300**.

[**0089**] FIG. **14** is a block diagram of another example of a data processing system including the wearable device shown in FIG. **1**. Referring to FIGS. **1** to **14**, a data processing system **100A** may include the wearable device **200**, a first smart device **300**, a second smart device **400**, and an emergency medical system **430**.

[**0090**] When a wireless communication module of the first smart device **300** transmits a biological data transmission request to the wearable device **200** in a wireless manner, the wireless communication module **260** of the wearable device **200** may transmit the data transmission request to the bio-processor **230** or the application processor **275**.

[**0091**] The bio-processor **230** or the application processor **275** may read biological data from the memory **255** in response to the data transmission request and transmit read biological data to a wireless communication module of the first smart device **300** through the wireless communication module **260**. A first application (or app) executed by a CPU of the first smart device **300** may display at least one of user information **325**, a heart rate **330**, and an ECG signal **335** of a user wearing the wearable device **200** on a display **320** based on the biological data. The ECG signal **335** shown in FIG. **14** is exemplary only; the first application (or app) may display at least one of a BIA signal, an ECG signal, and a GSR signal on the display **320**.

[**0092**] The wireless communication module of the first smart device **300** may transmit warning data to the second smart device **400** through a network **401** under the control of the first application executed by the CPU of the first smart device **300**.

[**0093**] For example, the first application may analyze biological data transmitted from the wearable device **200**. When an abnormality is detected in a heart of a user wearing the wearable device **200** according to a result of the analysis, the first smart device **300** may generate warning data under

the control of the first application and transmit the warning data to the second smart device **410**.

[**0094**] For example, the first application may transmit positional information of the user output from a GPS receiver of the wearable device **200** or positional information of the first smart device **300** output from a GPS receiver of the first smart device **300** to a wireless communication module of the first smart device **300** along with the warning data. Accordingly, the wireless communication module of the first smart device **300** may transmit the warning data and the positional information to the second smart device **400**.

[**0095**] A second application (or app) executed by a CPU of the second smart device **400** may display a warning message **415** including map information on a display **410** of the second smart device **400**. The map information may include a map **420** representing a position of the user. According to an example, the map **420** may be generated by a second application, and may be received from the first smart device **300** along with the positional data or the warning data.

[**0096**] The wireless communication module of the first smart device **300** may transmit a signal for help to the emergency medical system **430** through a network **403** under the control of a first application executed by a CPU of the first smart device **300**.

[**0097**] The wireless communication module **260** of the wearable device **200** may transmit biological data or an analysis result of the biological data to the first smart device **300**. The first smart device **300** may transmit warning data to the second smart device **400** through the network **401** or transmit a signal for help to the emergency medical system **430** through the network **403** based on the biological data or the analysis result. The emergency medical system **430** may be a computer of any type of (e.g., physically located in) an emergency center, a fire station, or a hospital.

[**0098**] FIG. **15** is a block diagram of another example of a data processing system including the wearable device shown in FIG. **1**. Referring to FIGS. **1** to **12**, and **15**, a user of a smart device **500** may execute an application (or app) APP installed in the smart device **500** (**S210**).

[**0099**] A wireless communication module of the smart device **500** may transmit an information request to the wearable device **200** according to the application APP executed by the CPU of the smart device **500** (**S220**).

[**0100**] The bio-processor **230** or the application processor **275** of the wearable device **200** may perform an authentication for the information request input through the wireless communication module **260** (**S230**).

[**0101**] After authentication for the information request is completed, the bio-processor **230** or the application processor **275** may read user information and biological data from the memory **255**, encrypt the user information and the biological data through an encryption module, and transmit encrypted user information and encrypted biological data to the wireless communication module **260**. The wireless communication module **260** may transmit the encrypted user information and the encrypted biological data to the smart device **500** (**S240**).

[**0102**] The application APP executed by the smart device **500** may decrypt each of the encrypted user information and the encrypted biological data, and display decrypted user information **520** and decrypted biological data **530** on the display **510** of the smart device **500** (**S250**). The decrypted user information **520** may include an age **521**, a blood type

522, a medical attendant **523**, and a medical history **524**; however, it is not limited thereto. The decrypted biological data **530** may include a heart rate **531** and an ECG signal **532**, for example. Although the ECG signal **532** is shown as an example of the biological data **530** in FIG. 15, the biological data may include a BIA signal or a GSR signal according to some examples.

[0103] The application APP executed by the smart device **500** may detect, predict, or analyze sudden cardiac arrest (SCA) of a user wearing the wearable device **200** using the ECG signal. For example, the application APP may detect, predict, or analyze ventricular fibrillation of the user using the ECG signal and/or cardiac arrhythmia of the user using ventricular Tachycardia of the user.

[0104] A health care professional (for example, a medical team or an emergency medical technician) in possession of the smart device **500** may determine a state of health of the person wearing the wearable device **200** using the user information **520** and the biological data **530**, and perform an appropriate medical treatment or an emergency measure on the person according to a result of the determination.

[0105] FIG. 16 is a block diagram of another example of a data processing system including the wearable device shown in FIG. 1. Referring to FIGS. 1 to 12, and 16, a data processing system **600A** may be used to provide a telemedicine service. The data processing system **600A** may include the wearable device **200**, a wireless network **610**, and a first medical server **620** for communicating with the wearable device **200** through the wireless network **610**.

[0106] According to examples, the data processing system **600A** may further include a second medical server **650** for communicating with the wearable device **200** and/or the first medical server **620** through the wireless network **610**. For example, a health insurance corporation and/or an insurance company may manage the second medical server **650** and a database **655**.

[0107] The wireless communication module **260** of the wearable device **200** may transmit data HDATA corresponding to biological data (for example, data related to a BIA signal, data related to an ECG signal, and/or data related to a GSR signal) to the first medical server **620** (**S601**) or the second medical server **650** (**S621**) through the network **610** under the control of an application executed by the bio-processor **230** or the application processor **275**.

[0108] The application may store a uniform resource locator (URL) of the first medical server **620** and/or a URL of the second medical server **650**. Accordingly, the wireless communication module **260** of the wearable device **200** may transmit data HDATA to each of the servers **620** and **650** corresponding to each URL under the control of the application.

[0109] The data HDATA may include biological data, data generated based on the biological data, and user information of the wearable device **200**. For example, data generated based on the biological data may include data for ventricular fibrillation, data for ventricular tachycardia, a heart rate, or cardiac arrhythmias; however, it is not limited thereto.

[0110] The wireless network **610** may transmit the data HDATA to the first medical server **620** and/or the second medical server **650** (**S603** and/or **S621**). The first medical server **620** may store the data HDATA in the database **621** (**S604**), and transmit the data HDATA to a computing device **445** of a doctor through the network **630** (**S605**). For example, the computing device **645** of a doctor may be a PC

or a tablet PC; however, it is not limited thereto. The doctor may work at a medical institution, a public health care center, a clinic, a hospital, or a rescue center.

[0111] The doctor may diagnose a state of health of a user wearing the wearable device **200** using the data HDATA displayed through the computing device **645** and input diagnosis data in the computing device **645** (**S607**). The computing device **645** may transmit the diagnosis data DDATA to the first medical server **620** through the network **630** (**S609**), and the first medical server **620** may store the diagnosis data DDATA in the database **621** (**S604**) and transmit the diagnosis data DDATA to the network **610** (**S611**). The network **610** may transmit the diagnosis data DDATA to the wearable device **200** (**S613**) or to the second medical server **650** (**S621**). The wearable device **200** may store the diagnosis data DDATA in the memory **255** or output the diagnosis data DDATA through the display device **270**. The second medical server **650** may store the diagnosis data DDATA in the database **655** (**S623**).

[0112] The servers **620** and **650** may store the data HDATA and DDATA in the databases **621** and **655** or analyze the data HDATA and DDATA. Moreover, each of the servers **620** and **650** may transmit a result of the analysis to each of the networks **610** and **630**.

[0113] FIG. 17 is a block diagram of another example of a data processing system including the wearable device shown in FIG. 1. Referring to FIGS. 1 to 12, and 17, a data processing system **600B** may include the wearable device **200**, an IoT device **601**, and the first medical server **620** for communicating with the IoT device **601** through the wireless network **610**.

[0114] The data processing system **600B** of FIG. 17 is similar to the data processing system **600A** of FIG. 16 in terms of structure and operation except that the wearable device **200** transmits or receives data to or from the wireless network **610** through the IoT device **601**. The IoT device **601** may be the smart phone **300** of FIG. 1; however, it is not limited thereto.

[0115] That is, the wearable device **200** may transmit data HDATA generated by the wearable device **200** to the IoT device **601** (**S600**). The wearable device **200** may automatically transmit the data HDATA to the IoT device **601** according to a request of the IoT device **601** or when an abnormality is detected in a heart of a user wearing the wearable device **200** (**S600**).

[0116] The IoT device **601** may transmit the data HDATA to the network **610** (**S601**) and receive the diagnosis data DDATA output from the network **610** (**S613**). The IoT device **601** may display the diagnosis data DDATA on a display of the IoT device **601**. Accordingly, a user of the IoT device **601** may perform an appropriate medical care or first aid on a user of the wearable device **200** using the diagnosis data DDATA.

[0117] FIG. 18 is a block diagram of another example of a data processing system including the wearable device shown in FIG. 1. Referring to FIGS. 1 to 12, and 18, a data processing system **700** may be used to provide a remote medical treatment. The data processing system **700** may include the wearable device **200** and a mobile computing device **710** for communicating with the wearable device **200** through a network **705**. The data processing system **700** may further include a medical server **715** for communicating with the mobile computing device **710** through a network **712**.

[0118] The wireless communication module 260 of the wearable device 200 may transmit data HDATA corresponding to biological data (for example, ECG data) to the mobile computing device 710 through the network 705 under the control of the bio-processor 230 or the application processor 275 (S701).

[0119] For example, the mobile computing device 710 may be a smart phone, a tablet PC, a mobile internet device (MID), an IoT device, or an internet of everything (IoE) device; however, it is not limited thereto. The user of the mobile computing device 710 may be a medical team, a family protector, or a passerby. The passerby may be one who has completed first aid training.

[0120] An application executed by a CPU of the mobile computing device 710 may display the data HDATA on a display device. The mobile computing device 710 may transmit the data HDATA to the medical server 715 through the network 712 under the control of the application (S703 and S705). The mobile computing device 710 stores a URL of the medical server 720, and thus transmits the data HDATA to the medical server 715 corresponding to the URL under the control of the application (S703 and S705).

[0121] The medical server 715 may store the data HDATA in a database 717 (S706), and transmit the data HDATA to a computing device 725 of a doctor working at a medical institution through a network 714.

[0122] The doctor may diagnose a state of health of a user wearing the wearable device 200 using the data HDATA displayed through the computing device 725 and input diagnosis data in the computing device 725 (S707). The computing device 725 may transmit the diagnosis data DDATA to the medical server 715 through the network 714, and the medical server 715 may store the diagnosis data DDATA in the database 717 (S706) and transmit the diagnosis data DDATA to the mobile computing device 710 through the network 712 (S709 and S711). The mobile computing device 710 may display the diagnosis data DDATA of the doctor on a display of the mobile computing device 710. Accordingly, a user of the mobile computing device 710 may perform appropriate medical care or first aid on the user wearing the wearable device 200 using the diagnosis data DDATA.

[0123] FIG. 19 is a block diagram of a security/authentication system including the wearable device shown in FIG. 1, and FIG. 20 is a flowchart of an operation of the security/authentication system shown in FIG. 19. An ECG signal among the biological signals (for example, an ECG signal, a BIA signal, and a GSR signal) differs from person to person, and thus may facilitate a mobile payment, security, or authentication.

[0124] Referring to FIGS. 1 to 12, 19, and 20, the wearable device 200 may be used as a device for making mobile payments, a device for a health solution, a device for a security solution, or a device for authentication.

[0125] The wearable device 200 may transmit or receive a wireless signal to or from an automobile 810, a digital door lock 835, a payment terminal 850, a smart phone 860, or an IoT device 870 using the wireless communication module 260.

[0126] According to examples, the bio-processor 230 or the application processor 275 of the wearable device 200 may execute a mobile payment application program (or software). User payment information for a mobile payment may be safely stored in a security region of the memory 255

under the control of the bio-processor 230 or the application processor 275. At this time, the user payment information may be encrypted and stored in the security region of the memory 255.

[0127] The mobile payment application program may perform a mobile payment with the payment terminal 850 using the user payment information stored in the security region of the memory 255. For example, the user payment information may include identification information (for example, credit card information, password, and ECG information) for identifying a genuine user of the wearable device 200. The identification information may be registered in the security region of the memory 255 through a mobile payment application program by the genuine user of the wearable device 200.

[0128] The bio-processor 230 may produce an ECG signal of the genuine user using the sensing electrodes 212 and 213 shown in FIG. 3 or 10, and store ECG data corresponding to the ECG signal in a security region of the memory 255 (S310). That is, the mobile payment application program may store the ECG data in the security region of the memory 255 (S310).

[0129] When a proprietor wants user authentication for a mobile payment, the bio-processor 230 may measure a biological signal, e.g., an ECG signal, using the sensing electrodes 212 and 213 shown in FIG. 3 or 10, and generate biological data BDATA, e.g., ECG data, corresponding to the ECG signal (S320).

[0130] A mobile payment application program executed by the bio-processor 230 or the DSP 232 may compare ECG data stored (or registered) in the security region of the memory 255 with ECG data generated by the DSP 232 (S320). When they are matched (Yes in S330), the mobile payment application program executed by the bio-processor 230 or the DSP 232 may generate an authentication signal which represents the match. According to an example, the mobile payment application program executed by the application processor 275 may compare ECG data stored (or registered) in the security region of the memory 255 with ECG data generated by the DSP 232, and generate an authentication signal (S330).

[0131] The authentication signal output from the bio-processor 230 or the application processor 275 may be transmitted to a device, for example, the payment terminal 850, through the wireless communication module 260 (S340). The payment terminal 850 may provide a user of the wearable device 200 with a mobile payment service (S350).

[0132] According to examples, the wearable device 200 may be used as a device for authenticating a user. Authentication information (for example, ECG data) for authenticating a user may be registered in the security region of the memory 255 by the bio-processor 230 or the application processor 275 (S310). As described above, the bio-processor 230 or the application processor 275 may compare ECG data stored (or registered) in the security region of the memory 255 at S310 with ECG data generated by the DSP 232 of the bio-processor 230 at S320 (S330), and generate an authentication signal according to a result of the comparison.

[0133] The authentication signal output from the bio-processor 230 or the application processor 275 may be transmitted to a corresponding device (for example, 810, 835, 860, or 870) through the wireless communication module 260 (S340).

[0134] A door key control device of the automobile **810** may unlock a door of the automobile **810** in response to the authentication signal. The digital door lock **835** installed in a door **830** may be unlocked in response to the authentication signal.

[0135] The smart phone **860** or the IoT device **870** requiring authentication or security may provide a service in response to the authentication signal. For example, the smart phone **860** may be connected to a charged website or perform a payment in response to the authentication signal. For example, when the IoT device **870** is a wireless access point, the wireless access point may connect the wearable device **200** to the internet in response to the authentication signal.

[0136] A processor according to an example of the present inventive concept can decide the number of pads or select the pads used to sense biological data, based on a selection signal indicating a type of biological information desired. Likewise, a wearable device including a plurality of electrodes according to an example of the present inventive concept can decide, based on a selection signal indicating a type of a biological information desired, a number of electrodes used to sense biological data and can enable or otherwise activate those electrodes for sensing the biological data.

[0137] That is, the wearable device including a plurality of electrodes can select, based on the selection signal, the number of electrodes to be used for each biological signal to be produced such that various biological signals can be produced using a limited number of electrodes. Accordingly, a user of the wearable device can conveniently measure each of various biological conditions anytime and anywhere. Furthermore, the wearable device is relatively compact considering the amount of biological data it can produce.

[0138] Although examples of the present general inventive concept have been shown and described, it will be appreciated by those skilled in the art that changes may be made in these examples without departing from the principles and spirit and scope of the general inventive concept as defined in the appended claims.

1. A wearable device comprising:

a case wearable by a user of the device;

a bio-processor embedded in the case; and

a plurality of electrodes electrically connected to the bio-processor,

wherein the bio-processor is configured to decide, based on a selection signal indicating a type of user biological data desired, which ones of the plurality of electrodes to use as sensing electrodes for producing a biological signal from a wearer of the device, and

the bio-processor is configured to decide, based on the selection signal, which ones of the plurality of electrodes to use, if any, as source electrodes for supplying current to the user wearing the device.

2. The wearable device of claim 1, wherein the bio-processor includes:

a plurality of current sources;

a current source switch operatively connecting the current sources to at least some of the electrodes; and

a controller operatively connected to the current source switch and configured to selectively connect the current sources to respective ones of the electrodes in response to the selection signal.

3. The wearable device of claim 2, wherein the wearable device further includes a wireless communication module configured to transmit the selection signal from an external wireless device to the controller.

4. The wearable device of claim 1, wherein the bio-processor is configured to decide which of the electrodes to use as the sensing electrodes and which of the electrodes to use, if any, as the source electrodes in producing a biological signal of at least one of a bioelectrical impedance analysis (BIA), an electrocardiogram (ECG), and a galvanic skin response (GSR).

5. The wearable device of claim 4, wherein the bio-processor is configured to operate the same electrodes as the sensing electrodes and the source electrodes to produce the biological signal of a GSR.

6. The wearable device of claim 4, wherein the case has the form of a wristband, and at least some of the electrodes are disposed at an inner side of the case so as to face a wrist of a hand when the user is wearing the device.

7. The wearable device of claim 4, wherein the plurality of the electrodes comprise four electrodes, two of the electrodes are disposed at one side of the case to face the skin of the user wearing the device, and two other of the electrodes are disposed at another side of the case so as to be exposed when the device is worn and are spaced such that said other of the electrodes can be pressed by a finger and thumb of one hand of the user, and

the bio-processor is configured to operate the electrodes to produce the biological signal of a BIA.

8. The wearable device of claim 1, wherein the bio-processor is configured to only operate electrodes from said plurality of electrodes as the sensing electrodes to produce the biological signal of an ECG, and includes:

a controller configured to generate a switch control signal, designating which of the electrodes are to serve as the sensing electrodes, in response to the selection signal, and

voltage measuring circuitry configured to receive signals picked up by the designated sensing electrodes.

9. The wearable device of claim 8, wherein at least one of the electrodes is disposed at one side of the case to face the skin of the user wearing the device, and another of the electrodes is disposed at another side of the case so as to be exposed when the device is worn by the user such that said another of the electrodes can be contacted by a finger of the user.

10-15. (canceled)

16. A wearable device comprising:

a case;

a bio-processor embedded in the case; and

a plurality of electrodes operatively electrically connected to the bio-processor,

wherein the bio-processor is configured to select a number of the electrodes for use in sensing a state of a user who wears the device, based on a selection signal corresponding to a type of biological signal to be generated as an indicator of said state, and is configured to enable the selected electrodes to sense said state and produce the biological signal.

17. The wearable device of claim 16, wherein the bio-processor is configured to selectively generate as the biological signal a bioelectrical impedance analysis (BIA) signal, an electrocardiogram (ECG) signal, and a galvanic skin response (GSR) signal,

the bio-processor is configured such that the number of electrodes selected when the biological signal is the bioelectrical impedance analysis (BIA) signal is greater than the number of electrodes selected when the biological signal is the electrocardiogram (ECG) signal, and

the bio-processor is configured such that the number of electrodes selected when the biological signal is the ECG signal is equal to or greater than the number of electrodes selected when the biological signal is the galvanic skin response (GSR) signal.

18. The wearable device of claim 16, wherein the bio-processor is configured to selectively generate as the biological signal a bioelectrical impedance analysis (BIA) signal and a galvanic skin response (GSR) signal, and

the bio-processor is configured to designate and operate each of the selected electrodes as a sensing electrode for sensing a state of the user and/or a source electrode for supplying current to an anatomical region of the user,

the bio-processor is configured to designate and operate each of the selected electrodes as both a said sensing electrode and a said sourcing electrode when the biological signal is the galvanic skin response (GSR) signal, and to designate and operate each of the selected electrodes as only a said sensing electrode or a said sourcing electrode when the biological signal is the bioelectrical impedance analysis (BIA) signal.

19. A wearable device comprising:

a casing securable to an anatomical region of a user of the device;

a processor disposed within the casing;

an electrical power source integral with the casing; and

at least three electrodes integral with the casing and electrically connected to the processor, and

wherein the processor is operatively connected to the power source and to the electrodes and is configured to operate the device selectively in a plurality of different modes in response to mode selection signals input to the processor, respectively, and

the modes include a first mode in which a first group of the electrodes is used to produce a signal representative of biological data of a first type, and

a second mode in which a second group of the electrodes, different from the first group, is used to produce a signal representative of biological data of a second type different than the first type.

20. The wearable device of claim 19, wherein the casing comprises a band, and at least one of the electrodes is disposed at one side of the band and at least one other of the electrodes is disposed at the other side of the band such that each said at least one of the electrodes faces the skin of the user when the device is worn, and each said at least one other of the electrodes is exposed when the device is worn so that it can be pressed by a finger or thumb of the user.

21. The wearable device of claim 19, wherein the processor includes a current switching circuit operatively connecting the electrodes to the power source and operable to selectively electrically connect and disconnect each of respective ones of the electrodes to and from the power

source, and a voltage measuring circuit operable to measure a potential difference across respective ones of each of different pairs of the electrodes.

22. The wearable device of claim 19, wherein the first mode is one in which the first group of electrodes is used to generate a bioelectrical impedance analysis (BIA) signal or a galvanic skin response (GSR) signal, the processor being configured when operating the device in the first mode to connect the power source to select ones of the electrodes of the first group but not to others of the electrodes of the first group whereby said select ones of the electrodes serve as source electrodes through which current is supplied to the anatomical region of the user while the other of the electrodes serve as sensing electrodes across which a potential difference is measurable, and

the second mode is one in which the second group of electrodes is used to produce an electrocardiogram (ECG) signal, the processor being configured when operating the device in the second mode to keep the power source disconnected from the electrodes.

23. The wearable device of claim 19, wherein the plurality of modes include a third mode,

the first mode is one in which the first group of electrodes is used to generate a bioelectrical impedance analysis (BIA) signal, the processor being configured when operating the device in the first mode to connect the power source to select ones of the electrodes of the first group but not to others of the electrodes of the first group whereby said select ones of the electrodes of the first group serve as source electrodes through which current is supplied to the anatomical region of the user while the other of the electrodes of the first group serve as sensing electrodes across which a potential difference is measurable,

the second mode is one in which the second group of electrodes is used to produce an electrocardiogram (ECG) signal, the processor being configured when operating the device in the second mode to keep the power source disconnected from all of the electrodes, and

the third mode is one in which a third group of electrodes, different from each of the first and second groups, is used to generate a galvanic skin response (GSR) signal, the processor being configured when operating the device in the third mode to connect the power source to the electrodes of the third group whereby the electrodes of the third group serve as both source electrodes through which current is supplied to the anatomical region of the user and as sensing electrodes across which a potential difference is measurable.

24. The wearable device of claim 19, further comprising a wireless communication module integral with the casing and operatively connected to said processor, the wireless communication module enabling signals to be transmitted to and from the processor in a wireless manner.

25. The wearable device of claim 24, wherein the processor comprises a digital signal processor operatively connected to the electrodes and to which the wireless communication module is operatively connected.

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摘要(译)

可穿戴设备包括壳体，嵌入壳体中的生物处理器，以及连接到生物处理器的多个电极。生物处理器被配置为响应于选择信号选择性地和分别地操作电极作为感测电极和源电极。所选择的一个/多个电极用作感测电极，其从佩戴者（例如，生物活动或生物状况）获取生物信号。作为源电极操作的所选择的一个/多个电极向佩戴者提供电流，该电流被调节以使所需的生物信号被感测电极拾取。

