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(54) **PHYSICAL ACTIVITY INFERENCE FROM ENVIRONMENTAL METRICS**

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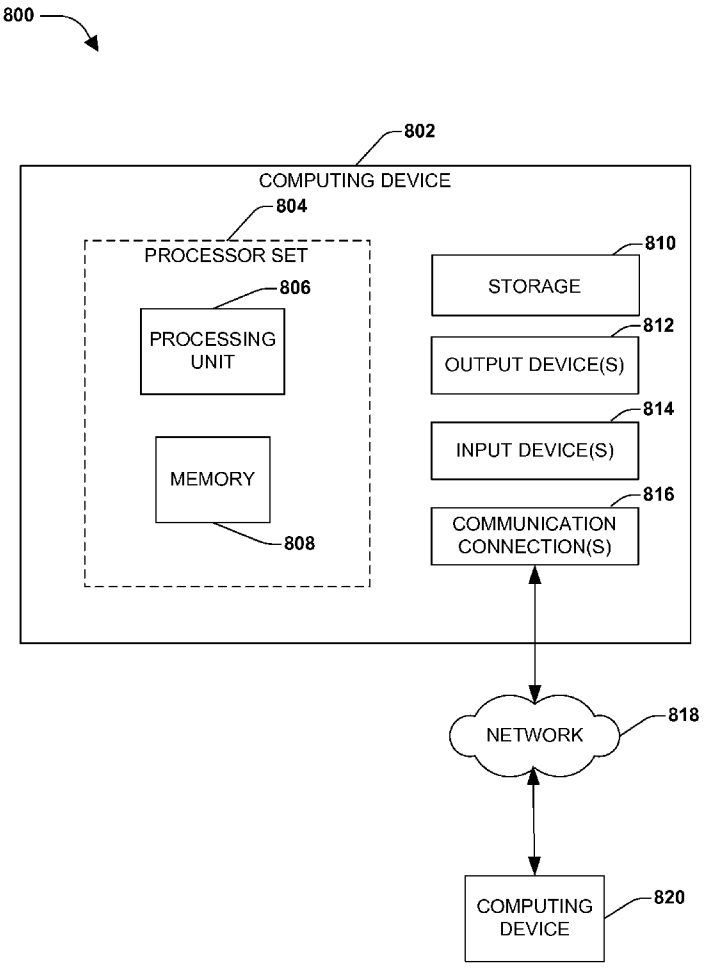
(57) **ABSTRACT**

Portable devices include environmental sensors that generate metrics about the environment (e.g., accelerometers detecting impulses and vibration, and GPS receivers detecting position and velocity). Such devices often use environmental metrics to extract user input directed at the device by the user, and status information about the device and the environment. Presented herein are techniques for using environmental metrics to infer physical activities performed by the user while attached to the device. For example, jogging may be inferred from regular, strong impulses and typical jogging speed; walking may be inferred from regular, weak impulses and typical walking speed; and riding in a vehicle may be inferred from low-level vibrations and high speed (optionally identifying the type of vehicle ridden by the user). Based on these inferences, the device may automatically present applications and/or or adjust user interfaces suitable for the user's physical activity, rather than responsive to user input.



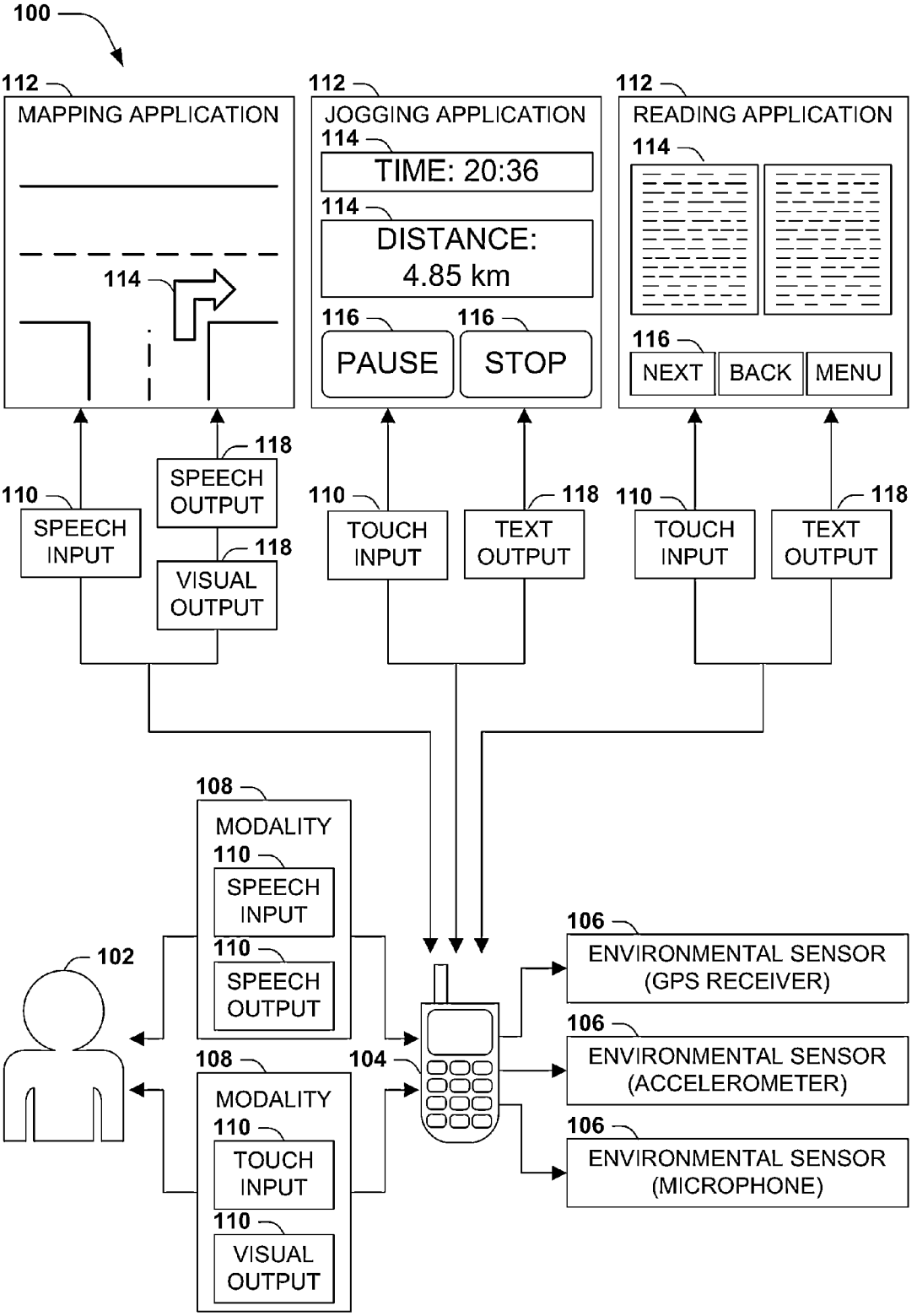

100
112
MAPPING APPLICATION
114
112
JOGGING APPLICATION
114
TIME: 20:36
114
DISTANCE:
4.85 km
116
116
PAUSE
STOP
112
READING APPLICATION
114
116
NEXT
BACK
MENU
118
SPEECH OUTPUT
118
VISUAL OUTPUT
110
SPEECH INPUT
110
TOUCH INPUT
118
TEXT OUTPUT
110
TOUCH INPUT
118
TEXT OUTPUT
108
MODALITY
110
SPEECH INPUT
110
SPEECH OUTPUT
102
108
MODALITY
110
TOUCH INPUT
110
VISUAL OUTPUT
104
106
ENVIRONMENTAL SENSOR (GPS RECEIVER)
106
ENVIRONMENTAL SENSOR (ACCELEROMETER)
106
ENVIRONMENTAL SENSOR (MICROPHONE)

FIG. 1

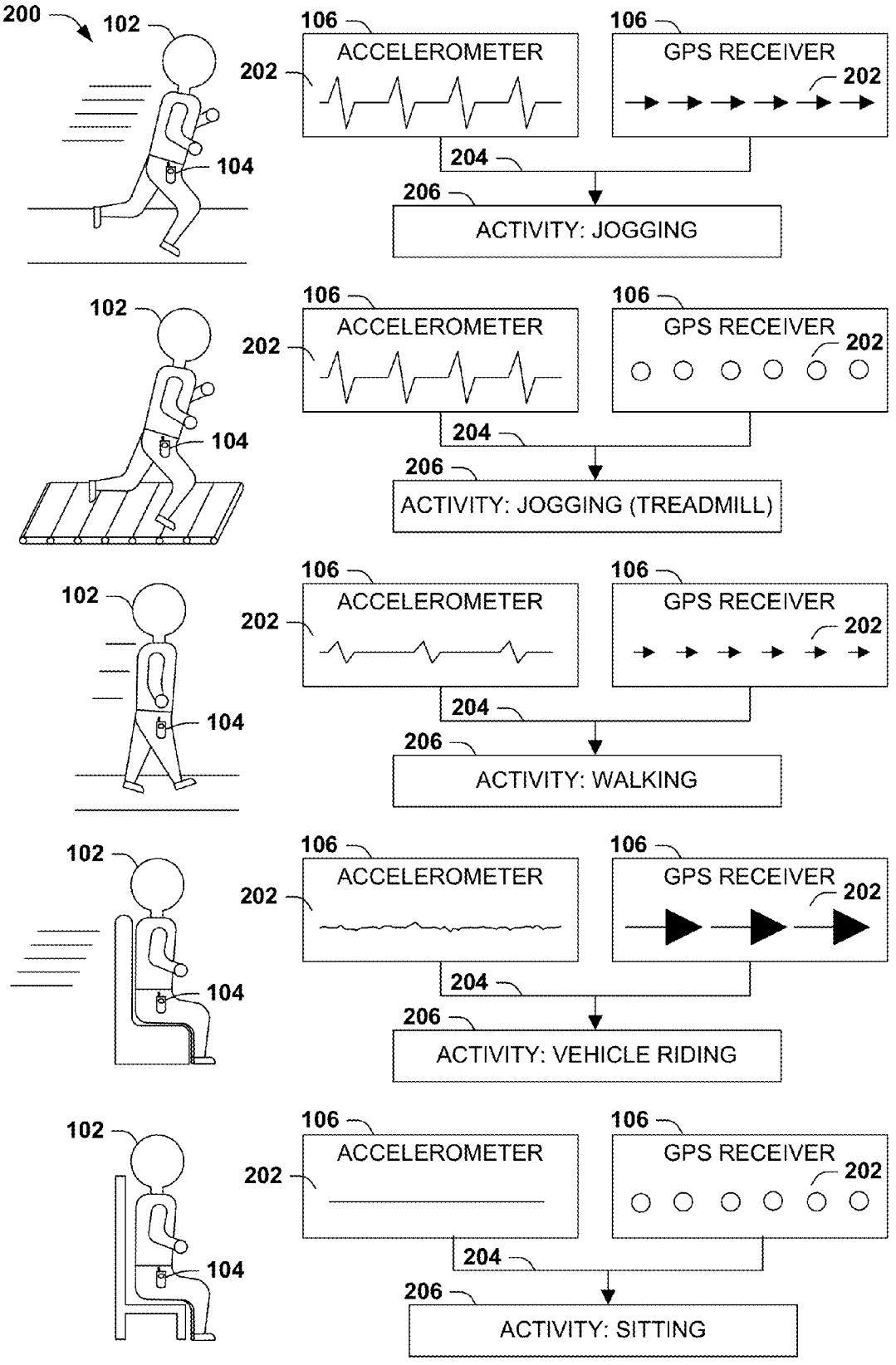

200
102
104
106
ACCELEROMETER
202
GPS RECEIVER
202
204
206
ACTIVITY: JOGGING
102
104
106
ACCELEROMETER
202
GPS RECEIVER
202
204
206
ACTIVITY: JOGGING (TREADMILL)
102
104
106
ACCELEROMETER
202
GPS RECEIVER
202
204
206
ACTIVITY: WALKING
102
104
106
ACCELEROMETER
202
GPS RECEIVER
202
204
206
ACTIVITY: VEHICLE RIDING
102
104
106
ACCELEROMETER
202
GPS RECEIVER
202
204
206
ACTIVITY: SITTING

FIG. 2

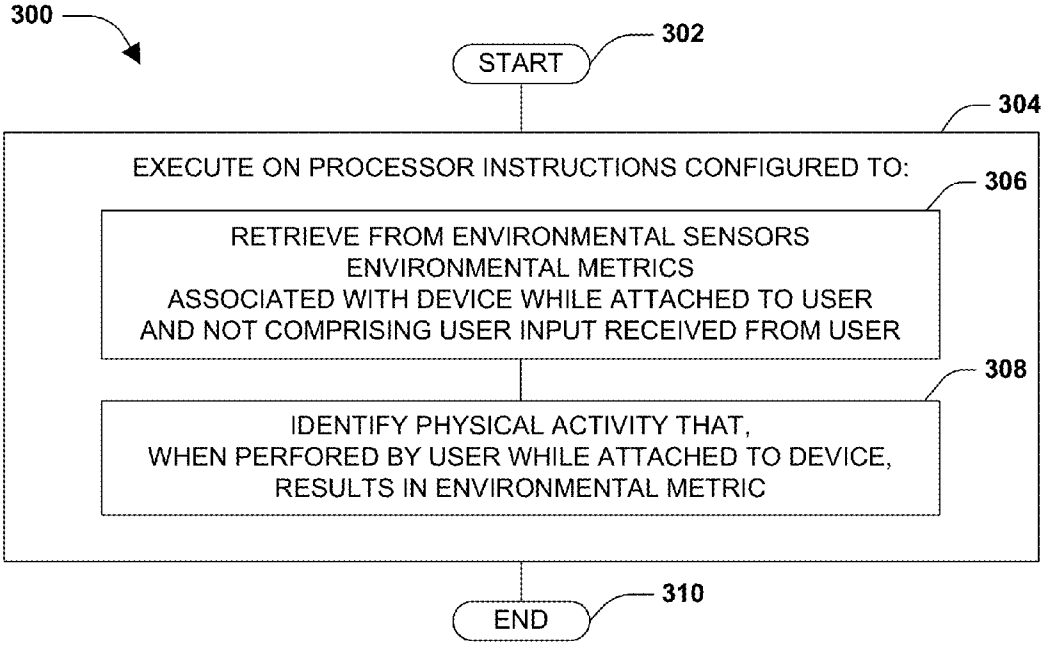

300
START
302
304
EXECUTE ON PROCESSOR INSTRUCTIONS CONFIGURED TO:
306
RETRIEVE FROM ENVIRONMENTAL SENSORS
ENVIRONMENTAL METRICS
ASSOCIATED WITH DEVICE WHILE ATTACHED TO USER
AND NOT COMPRISING USER INPUT RECEIVED FROM USER
308
IDENTIFY PHYSICAL ACTIVITY THAT,
WHEN PERFORED BY USER WHILE ATTACHED TO DEVICE,
RESULTS IN ENVIRONMENTAL METRIC
END
310

FIG. 3

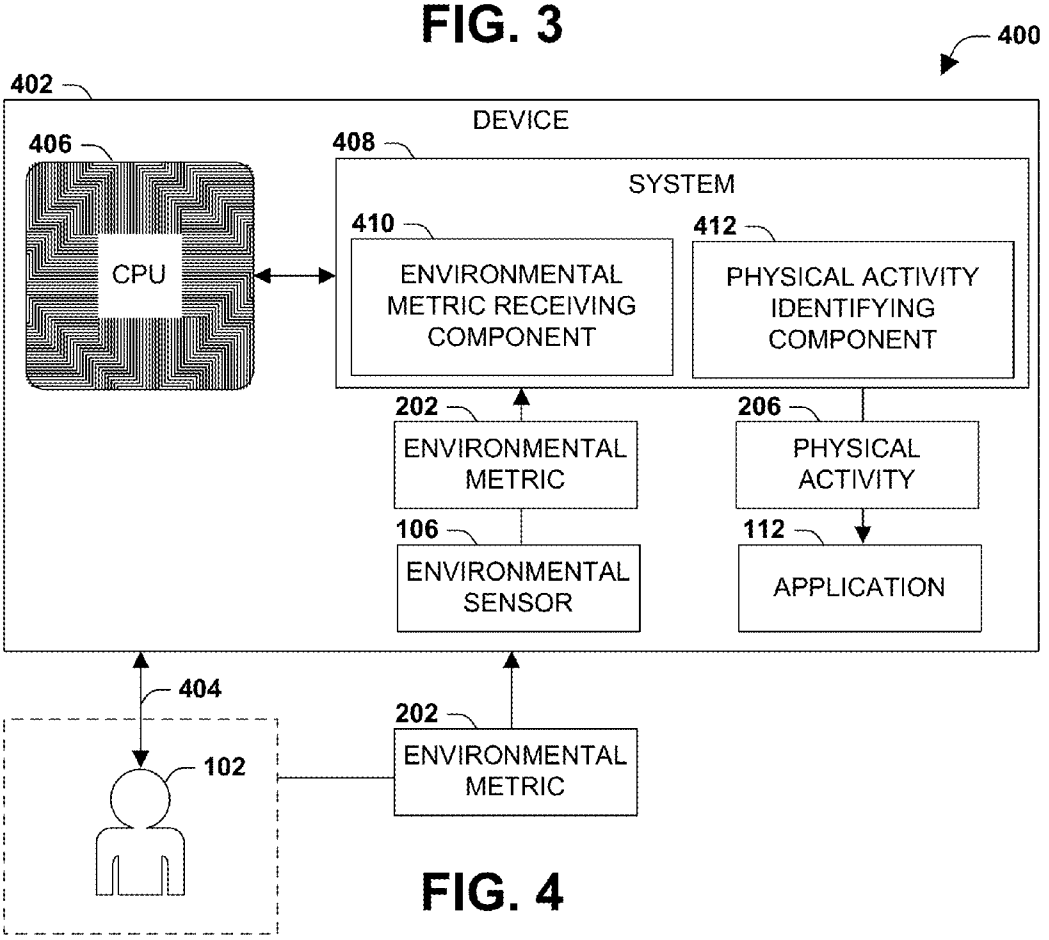

400
402
DEVICE
406
CPU
408
SYSTEM
410
ENVIRONMENTAL
METRIC RECEIVING
COMPONENT
412
PHYSICAL ACTIVITY
IDENTIFYING
COMPONENT
202
ENVIRONMENTAL
METRIC
206
PHYSICAL
ACTIVITY
106
ENVIRONMENTAL
SENSOR
112
APPLICATION
404
202
ENVIRONMENTAL
METRIC
102

FIG. 4

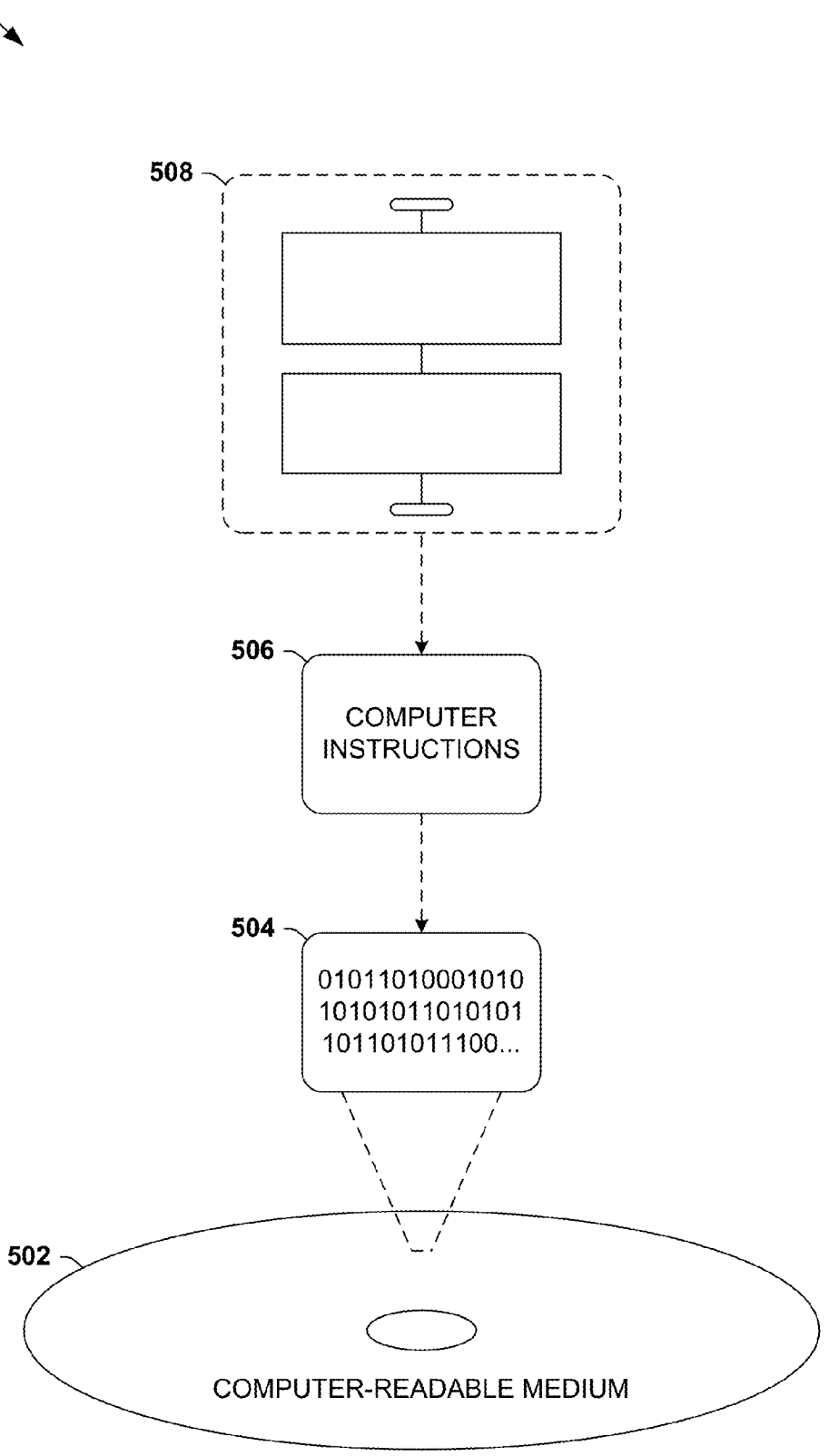

500
508
506
COMPUTER INSTRUCTIONS
504
01011010001010
10101011010101
101101011100...
502
COMPUTER-READABLE MEDIUM

FIG. 5

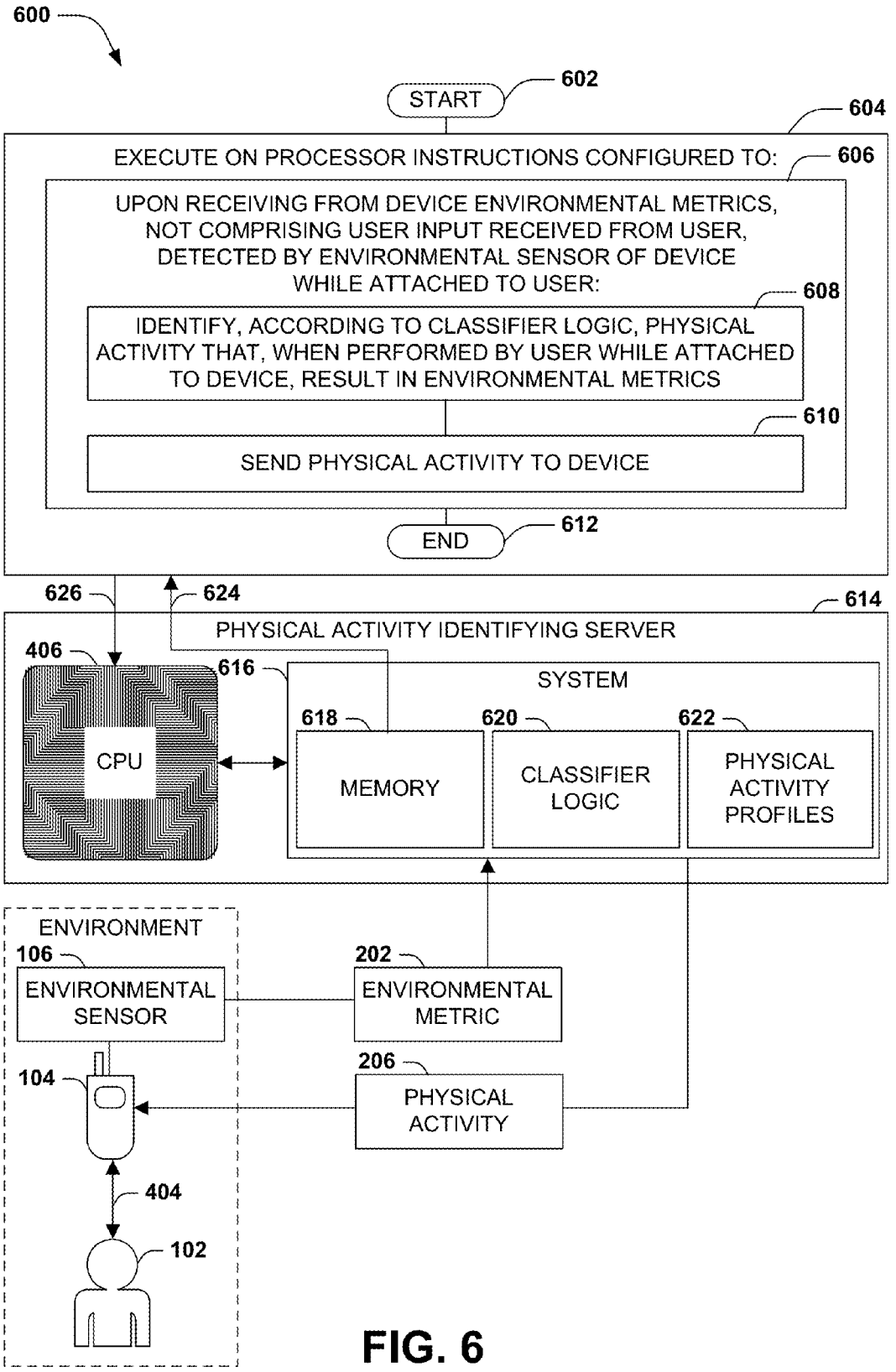

600
START
602
604
EXECUTE ON PROCESSOR INSTRUCTIONS CONFIGURED TO:
606
UPON RECEIVING FROM DEVICE ENVIRONMENTAL METRICS, NOT COMPRISING USER INPUT RECEIVED FROM USER, DETECTED BY ENVIRONMENTAL SENSOR OF DEVICE WHILE ATTACHED TO USER:
608
IDENTIFY, ACCORDING TO CLASSIFIER LOGIC, PHYSICAL ACTIVITY THAT, WHEN PERFORMED BY USER WHILE ATTACHED TO DEVICE, RESULT IN ENVIRONMENTAL METRICS
610
SEND PHYSICAL ACTIVITY TO DEVICE
END
612
626
624
614
PHYSICAL ACTIVITY IDENTIFYING SERVER
406
616
SYSTEM
618
620
622
CPU
MEMORY
CLASSIFIER LOGIC
PHYSICAL ACTIVITY PROFILES
ENVIRONMENT
106
202
ENVIRONMENTAL SENSOR
ENVIRONMENTAL METRIC
206
104
PHYSICAL ACTIVITY
404
102

FIG. 6

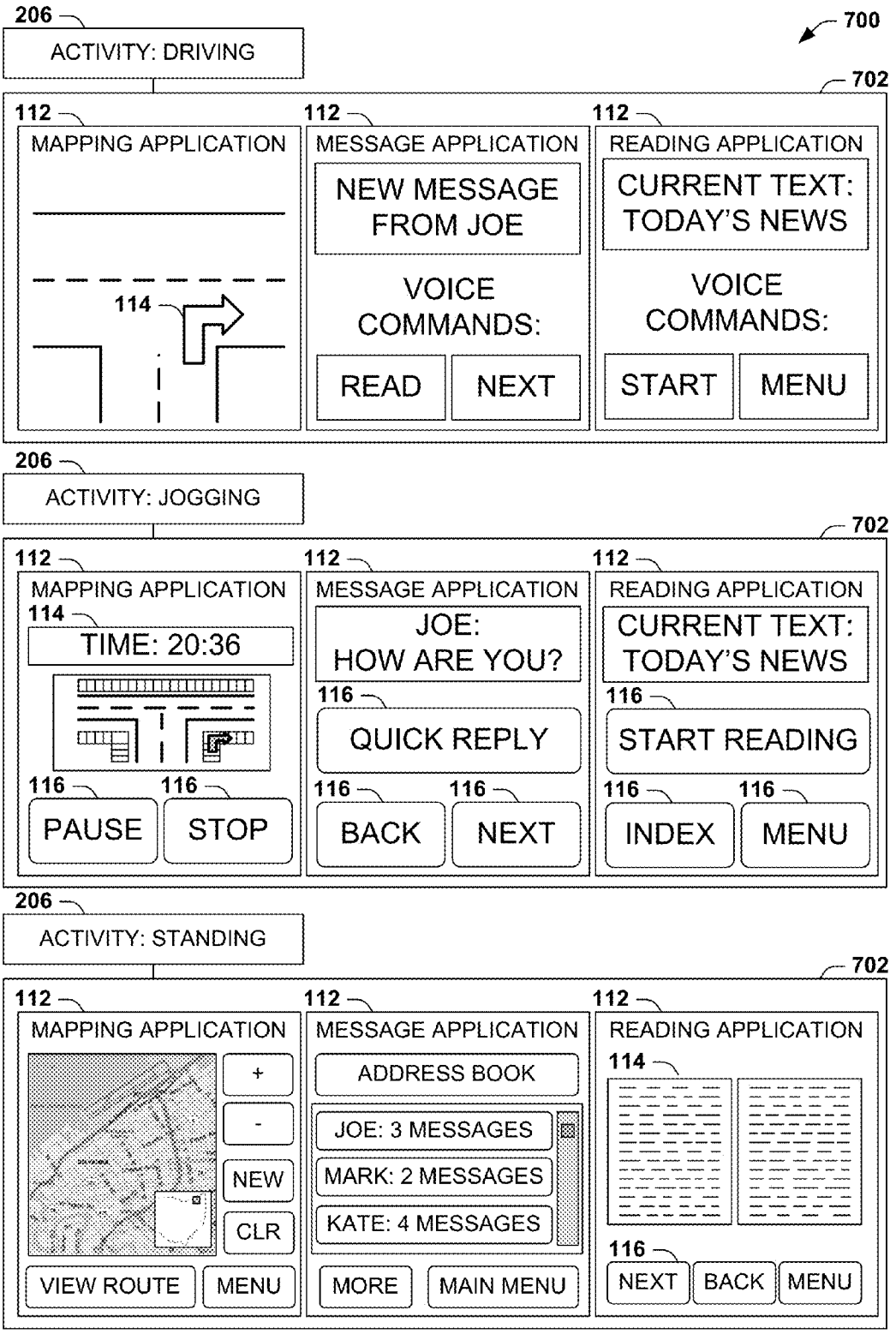

206
ACTIVITY: DRIVING
700
702
112
MAPPING APPLICATION
114
112
MESSAGE APPLICATION
NEW MESSAGE FROM JOE
VOICE COMMANDS:
READ
NEXT
112
READING APPLICATION
CURRENT TEXT: TODAY'S NEWS
VOICE COMMANDS:
START
MENU
206
ACTIVITY: JOGGING
702
112
MAPPING APPLICATION
114
TIME: 20:36
116
PAUSE
116
STOP
112
MESSAGE APPLICATION
JOE: HOW ARE YOU?
116
QUICK REPLY
116
BACK
116
NEXT
112
READING APPLICATION
CURRENT TEXT: TODAY'S NEWS
116
START READING
116
INDEX
116
MENU
206
ACTIVITY: STANDING
702
112
MAPPING APPLICATION
+
-
NEW
CLR
VIEW ROUTE
MENU
112
MESSAGE APPLICATION
ADDRESS BOOK
JOE: 3 MESSAGES
MARK: 2 MESSAGES
KATE: 4 MESSAGES
MORE
MAIN MENU
112
READING APPLICATION
114
116
NEXT
BACK
MENU

FIG. 7

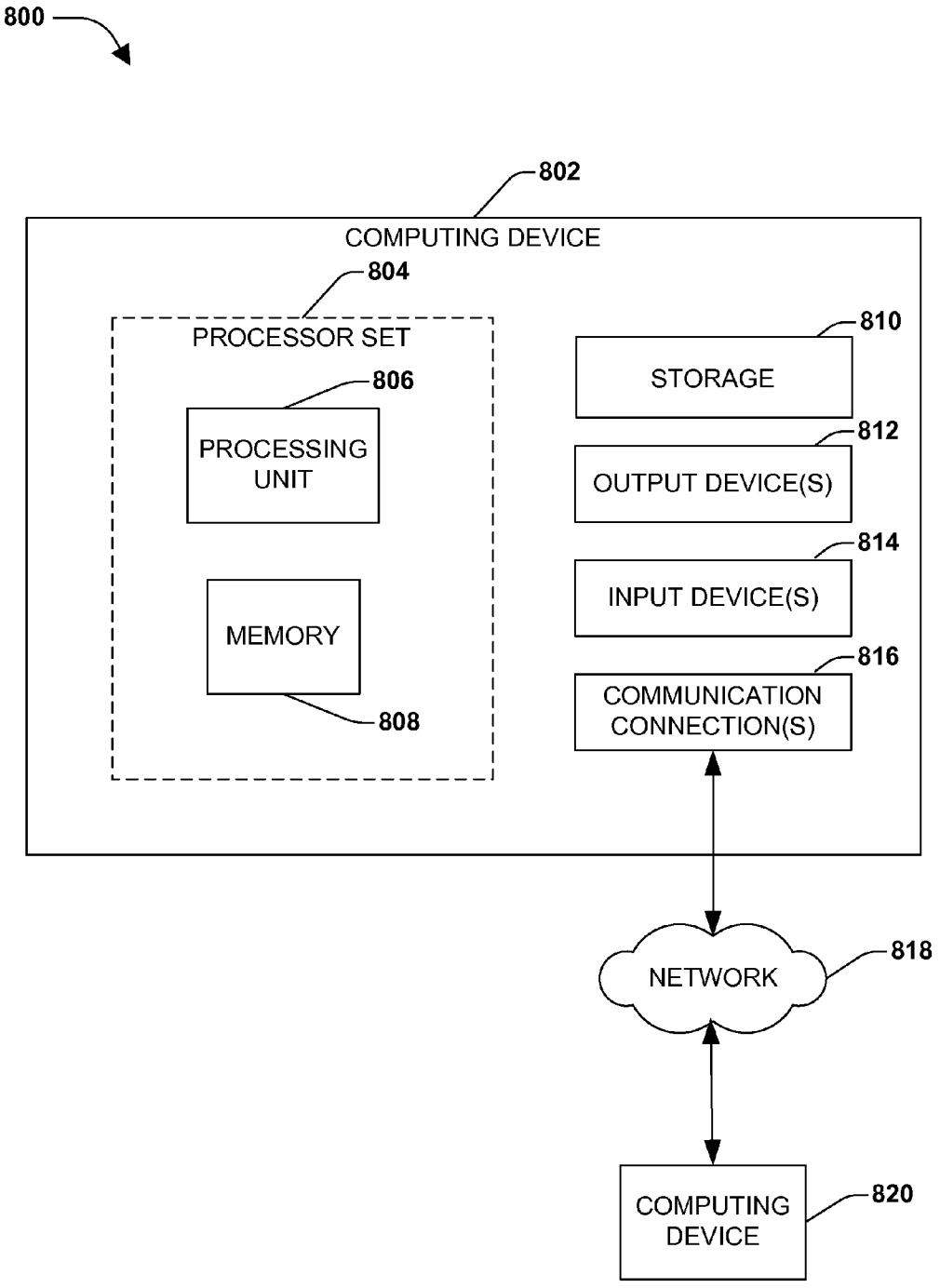

800
802
COMPUTING DEVICE
804
PROCESSOR SET
806
PROCESSING UNIT
MEMORY
808
810
STORAGE
812
OUTPUT DEVICE(S)
814
INPUT DEVICE(S)
816
COMMUNICATION CONNECTION(S)
NETWORK
818
COMPUTING DEVICE
820

FIG. 8

PHYSICAL ACTIVITY INFERENCE FROM ENVIRONMENTAL METRICS

BACKGROUND

[0001] Within the field of computing, many scenarios involve devices that are used during a variety of physical activities. As a first example, a music player may play music while a user is sitting at a desk, walking on a treadmill, or jogging outdoors. The environment and physical activity of the user may not alter the functionality of the device, but it may be desirable to design the device for adequate performance for a variety of environments and activities (e.g., headphones that are both comfortable for daily use and sufficiently snug to stay in place during exercise). As a second example, a mobile device, such as a phone, may be used by a user who is stationary, walking, or riding in a vehicle. The mobile computer may store a variety of applications that a user may wish to utilize in different contexts (e.g., a jogging application that may track the user's progress during jogging, and a reading application that the user may use while seated). To this end, the mobile device may also feature a set of environmental sensors that detect various properties of the environment that are usable by the applications. For example, the mobile device may include a global positioning system (GPS) receiver configured to detect a geographical position, altitude, and velocity of the user, and a gyroscope or accelerometer configured to detect a physical orientation of the mobile device. This environmental data may be made available to respective applications, which may utilize it to facilitate the operation of the application.

[0002] Additionally, the user may manipulate the device as a form of user input. For example, the device may detect various gestures, such as touching a display of the device, shaking the device, or performing a gesture in front of a camera of the device. The device may utilize various environmental sensors to detect some environmental metrics that reveal the actions communicated to the device by the user, and may extract user input from these environmental metrics.

SUMMARY

[0003] This Summary is provided to introduce a selection of concepts in a simplified form that are further described below in the Detailed Description. This Summary is not intended to identify key factors or essential features of the claimed subject matter, nor is it intended to be used to limit the scope of the claimed subject matter.

[0004] While respective applications of a mobile device may utilize environmental metrics received from environmental sensors in various ways, it may be appreciated that this environmental information is typically used to indicate the status of the device (e.g., the geolocation and orientation of the device may be utilized to render an "augmented reality" application) and/or the status of the environment (e.g., an ambient light sensor may detect a local light level in order to adjust the brightness of the display). However, this information is not typically utilized to determine the activity of the user. For example, when the user transitions from walking to riding in a vehicle, the user may manually switch from a first application that is suitable for the context of walking (e.g., a pedestrian mapping application) to a second application that is suitable for the context of riding (e.g., a driving directions mapping application). While each application may use environmental information in the selected context, the task of selecting and switching among applications to suit the context of the user may performed through user input. However, it may be appreciated that the physical activities of the user may be determinable automatically according to the environmental metrics.

[0005] Presented herein are techniques for configuring a device to infer a physical activity of the user, based on the environmental metrics provided by the environmental sensors. For example, the device may include a classifier utilizing a set of activity profiles that respectively identify the types of environmental metrics that are detectable when a user performs a particular physical activity while the device is attached to the user. At any point in time (e.g., upon receiving a request from an application), the device may receive some environmental metrics from the environmental sensors (exclusive of any environmental metrics comprising user input received from the user), and may invoke the classifier to infer the physical activity performed by the user at that time. This inference may be used to adjust the operation of the device, e.g., by invoking an application and/or adapting the user interface of an application in view of the physical activity of the user.

[0006] To the accomplishment of the foregoing and related ends, the following description and annexed drawings set forth certain illustrative aspects and implementations. These are indicative of but a few of the various ways in which one or more aspects may be employed. Other aspects, advantages, and novel features of the disclosure will become apparent from the following detailed description when considered in conjunction with the annexed drawings.

DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

[0007] FIG. **1** is an illustration of an exemplary scenario featuring a device comprising a set of environmental sensors and configured to execute a set of applications.

[0008] FIG. **2** is an illustration of an exemplary scenario featuring an inference of a physical activity of a user through environmental metrics according to the techniques presented

[0009] FIG. **3** is a flow chart illustrating an exemplary method of inferring physical activities of a user based on environmental metrics.

[0010] FIG. **4** is a component block diagram illustrating an exemplary system for inferring physical activities of a user based on environmental metrics.

[0011] FIG. **5** is an illustration of an exemplary computer-readable medium comprising processor-executable instructions configured to embody one or more of the provisions set forth herein.

[0012] FIG. **6** is an illustration of an exemplary scenario featuring a physical activity identifying service configured to assist a device in the identification of physical activities of a user based on environmental metrics.

[0013] FIG. **7** is an illustration of an exemplary scenario featuring an adaptation of a set of application user interfaces in view of the physical activity of the user inferred from a set of environmental metrics.

[0014] FIG. **8** illustrates an exemplary computing environment wherein one or more of the provisions set forth herein may be implemented.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION

[0015] The claimed subject matter is now described with reference to the drawings, wherein like reference numerals

are used to refer to like elements throughout. In the following description, for purposes of explanation, numerous specific details are set forth in order to provide a thorough understanding of the claimed subject matter. It may be evident, however, that the claimed subject matter may be practiced without these specific details. In other instances, structures and devices are shown in block diagram form in order to facilitate describing the claimed subject matter.

[0016] A. Introduction

[0017] Within the field of computing, many scenarios involve a mobile device operated by a user in a variety of contexts and environments. As a first example, a music player may be operated by a user during exercise and travel, as well as while stationary. The music player may be designed to support use in variable environments, such as providing solid-state storage that is less susceptible to damage through movement; a transflective display that is visible in both indoor and outdoor environments; and headphones that are both comfortable for daily use and that stay in place during rigorous exercise. While not altering the functionality of the device between environments, these features may promote the use of the mobile device in a variety of contexts. As a second example, a mobile device may offer a variety of applications that the user may utilize in different contexts, such as travel-oriented applications, exercise-oriented applications, and stationary-use applications. Respective applications may be customized for a particular context, e.g., by presenting user interfaces that are well-adapted to the use context.

[0018] FIG. **1** presents an illustration of an exemplary scenario **100** featuring a device **104** operated by a user **102** and usable in different contexts. In this exemplary scenario **100**, the device **104** features a mapping application **112** that is customized to assist the user **102** while traveling on a road, such as by automobile or bicycle; a jogging application **112**, which assists the user **102** in tracking the progress of a jogging exercise, such as the duration of the jog, the distance traveled, and the user's pace; and a reading application **112**, which may present documents to a user **102** that are suitable for a stationary reading experience. The device **104** may also feature a set of environmental sensors **106**, such as a global positioning system (GPS) receiver configured to identify a position, altitude, and velocity of the device **104**; an accelerometer or gyroscope configured to detect a tilt orientation of the device **104**; and a microphone configured to receive sound input. Additionally, respective applications **112** may be configured to utilize the information provided by the environmental sensors **106**. For example, the mapping application **112** may detect the current location of the device in order to display a localized map; the jogging application **112** may detect the current speed of the device **104** through space in order to track distance traveled; and the reading application **112** may use a light level sensor to detect the light level of the environment, and to set the brightness of a display component for comfortable viewing of the displayed text.

[0019] Additionally, respective applications **112** may present different types of user interfaces that are customized based on the context in which the application **112** is to be used. Such customization may include the use of the environmental sensors **106** to communicate with the user **102** through a variety of modalities **108**. For example, a speech modality **108** may include speech user input **110** received through the microphone and speech output produced through a speaker, while a visual modality **108** may comprise touch user input **110** received through a touch-sensitive display component and visual output presented on the display. In these ways, the information provided by the environmental sensors **106** may be used to receive user input **110** from the user **102**, and to output information to the user **102**. In some such devices **104**, the environmental sensors **106** may be specialized for user input **110**; e.g., the microphone may be configured for particular sensitivity to receive voice input and to distinguish such voice input from background noise.

[0020] Moreover, respective applications **112** may be adapted to present user interfaces that interact with the user **102** according to the context in which the application **112** is to be used. As a first example, the mapping application **112** may be adapted for use while traveling, such as driving a car or riding a bicycle, wherein the user's attention may be limited and touch-based user input **110** may be unavailable, but speech-based user input is suitable. The user interface may therefore present a minimal visual interface with a small set of large user interface elements **114**, such as a simplified depiction of a road and a directional indicator. More detailed information may be presented as speech output, and the application **112** may communicate with the user **102** through speech-based user input **110** (e.g., voice-activated commands detected by the microphone), rather than touch-based user input **110** that may be dangerous while traveling. The application **112** may even refrain from accepting any touch-based input in order to discourage distractions. As a second example, the jogging application **112** may be adapted for the context of a user **102** with limited visual availability, limited touch input availability, and no speech input availability. Accordingly, the user interface may present a small set of large user interface elements **114** that may be received through a brief glance, and a small set of large user interface controls **116**, such as large buttons that may be activated with low-precision touch input. As a third example, the reading application **112** may be adapted for a reading environment based on a visual modality **108** involving high visual input and precise touch-based user input **110**, but reducing audial interactions that may be distracting in reading environments such as a classroom or library. Accordingly, the user interface for the reading application **112** may interact only through touch-based user input **110** and textual user interface elements **114**, such as highly detailed renderings of text. In this manner, respective applications **112** may utilize the environmental sensors **106** for environment-based context and for user input **110** received from the user **102**, and may present user interfaces that are well-adapted to the context in which the application **112** is to be used.

[0021] B. Presented Techniques

[0022] The exemplary scenario **100** of FIG. **1** presents several advantageous uses of the environmental sensors **106** to facilitate the applications **112**, and several adaptations of the user interface elements **114** and user interface controls **116** of respective applications **112** to suit the context in which the application **112** is likely to be used. In particular, as used in the exemplary scenario **100** of FIG. **1**, the output of the environmental sensors **106** is are related to the status of the device **104** (e.g., its position or orientation), the status of the environment (e.g., the sound level), or explicit communication with the user **102** (e.g., touch-based or speech-based user input **110**). However, the output of the environmental sensors **106** may also be used as a source of information about the status of the user **102** while using the device **104**. That is, while the device **104** is attached to the user **102**, the movements of the user **102** and environmental changes caused

thereby may enable an inference as to the physical activities performed by the user **102**. The functionality of the device **104** may therefore be adjusted to satisfy the physical activity of the user **102**. For example, the device **104** may automatically (i.e., without prompting from the user **102**) present an application **112** relating to the physical activity, or may adjust the user interface elements **114** and/or user interface controls **116** to suit the physical activity of the user **102**. Notably, these effects are not achieved as responses to user input **110**—e.g., on data from the environmental sensors **106** from which user input **110** directed by the user **102** to the device **104** is extracted (e.g., an explicit user selection of a "Traveling" application or mode)—but, rather, on environmental metrics from which the physical activity of the user is inferred.

[0023] FIG. **2** presents an illustration of an exemplary scenario **200** featuring a detection of physical activities **206** performed by a user **102** of a device **104** based on environmental metrics **202** reported by respective environmental sensors **106**, including an accelerometer and a global positioning system (GPS) receiver. As a first example, the user **102** may perform a jogging physical activity **206** while attached to the device **104**. Even when the user **102** is not interacting with the device **104**, the environmental sensors **106** may detect various properties of the environment that enable an inference **204** of this physical activity **206**. For example, the accelerometer may detect environmental metrics **202** indicating a modest repeating impulse caused by the user's footsteps while jogging, while the GPS receiver also detects a speed that is within the typical speed of jogging physical activities **206**. Based on these environmental metrics **202**, the device **104** may therefore perform an inference **204** of the jogging physical activity **206** of the user **102**. As a second example, the user **102** may perform a jogging exercise on a treadmill. While the accelerometer may detect and report the same pattern of modest repeating impulses, the GPS receiver may indicate that the user **102** is stationary. The device **104** may therefore perform an evaluation resulting in an inference **204** of a treadmill jogging physical activity **206**. As a third example, a walking physical activity **206** may be inferred from a first environmental metric **202** of a regular set of impulses having a lower magnitude than for the jogging physical activity **206** and a steady but lower-speed direction of travel indicated by the GPS receiver. As a fourth example, when the user **102** is seated on a moving vehicle such as a bus, the accelerometer may detect a latent vibration (e.g., based on road unevenness) and the GPS receiver may detect high-velocity directional movement, leading to an inference **204** of a vehicle riding physical activity **206**. As a fifth example, when the user **102** is seated and stationary, the accelerometer and GPS receiver may both indicate very-low-magnitude environmental metrics **202**, and the device **104** may reach an inference **204** of a stationary physical activity **206**. Based on these inferences **204** of the physical activity **206** of the user **102** (not involving user input **110** from the user **102** that explicitly specifies the physical activity **202**), the device **104** may present applications **112** and user interfaces particularly well-suited for the physical activity **206** in accordance with the techniques presented herein.

[0024] C. Exemplary Embodiments

[0025] FIG. **3** presents a first exemplary embodiment of the techniques presented herein, illustrated as an exemplary method **300** of identifying a physical activity **206** of a user **102** of a device **104**. The exemplary method **300** may be implemented, e.g., as a set of processor-executable instructions stored in a memory component of the device **104** (e.g., a memory circuit, a solid-state storage device, a platter of a hard disk drive, or a magnetic or optical device) that, when executed on a processor of the device, cause the device to operate according to the techniques presented herein. The exemplary method **300** begins at **302** and involves executing **304** the instructions on the processor. Specifically, the instructions may be configured to retrieve **306** from at least one environmental sensor **106** at least one environmental metric **202** that is associated with the device **402** while attached to the user **102**, and where such environmental metrics **202** do not comprise user input **110** received from the user **102**. The instructions may also be configured to identify **308** a physical activity **206** that, when performed by the user **102** while attached to the device **104**, results in the at least one environmental metric **202**. The device **104** may then utilize the inference **204** of the physical activity **206** to many ends; and by inferring the physical activity **206** based not on user input **110** but on the evaluation of the environmental metrics **202**, the exemplary method **300** operates according to the techniques presented herein, and so ends at **310**.

[0026] FIG. **4** presents a second embodiment of the techniques presented herein, illustrated as an exemplary scenario **400** featuring an exemplary system **408** configured to identify physical activities **206** performed by a user **102** of a device **402** comprising at least one environmental sensor **106**, executing at least one application **112**, and having an attachment **404** to the user **102**. The exemplary system **408** may be implemented, e.g., as a set of processor-executable instructions stored in a memory component of the device **402** (e.g., a memory circuit, a solid-state storage device, a platter of a hard disk drive, or a magnetic or optical device) that, when executed on a processor **406** of the device **402**, cause the device **402** to operate according to the techniques presented herein. The exemplary system **408** comprises an environmental metric receiving component **410** that is configured to, while the user **102** is performing a physical activity **206**, receive from respective environmental sensors **106** at least one environmental metric **202** not comprising user input **110** received from the user **102**. The exemplary system **408** also includes a physical activity identifying component **412** that is configured to, using the environmental metrics **202**, identify the physical activity **206** performed by the user **102**, and report the physical activity **206** of the user **102** to the application **112**. Having achieved the identification of the physical activity **206** based on an inference from the environmental metrics **202**, the exemplary system **408** causes the device **402** to operate according to the techniques presented herein.

[0027] Still another embodiment involves a computer-readable medium comprising processor-executable instructions configured to apply the techniques presented herein. Such computer-readable media may include, e.g., computer-readable storage media involving a tangible device, such as a memory semiconductor (e.g., a semiconductor utilizing static random access memory (SRAM), dynamic random access memory (DRAM), and/or synchronous dynamic random access memory (SDRAM) technologies), a platter of a hard disk drive, a flash memory device, or a magnetic or optical disc (such as a CD-R, DVD-R, or floppy disc), encoding a set of computer-readable instructions that, when executed by a processor of a device, cause the device to implement the techniques presented herein. Such computer-readable media may also include (as a class of technologies that are distinct from computer-readable storage media) various types of

communications media, such as a signal that may be propagated through various physical phenomena (e.g., an electromagnetic signal, a sound wave signal, or an optical signal) and in various wired scenarios (e.g., via an Ethernet or fiber optic cable) and/or wireless scenarios (e.g., a wireless local area network (WLAN) such as WiFi, a personal area network (PAN) such as Bluetooth, or a cellular or radio network), and which encodes a set of computer-readable instructions that, when executed by a processor of a device, cause the device to implement the techniques presented herein.

[0028] An exemplary computer-readable medium that may be devised in these ways is illustrated in FIG. **5**, wherein the implementation 500 comprises a computer-readable medium **502** (e.g., a CD-R, DVD-R, or a platter of a hard disk drive), on which is encoded computer-readable data **504**. This computer-readable data **504** in turn comprises a set of computer instructions **506** configured to operate according to the principles set forth herein. In one such embodiment, the processor-executable instructions **506** may be configured to perform a method of inferring physical activities of a user based on environmental metrics, such as the exemplary method #R of FIG. **3**. In another such embodiment, the processor-executable instructions **506** may be configured to implement a system for inferring physical activities of a user based on environmental metrics, such as the exemplary system #T of FIG. **4**. Some embodiments of this computer-readable medium may comprise a nontransitory computer-readable storage medium (e.g., a hard disk drive, an optical disc, or a flash memory device) that is configured to store processor-executable instructions configured in this manner. Many such computer-readable media may be devised by those of ordinary skill in the art that are configured to operate in accordance with the techniques presented herein.

[0029] D. Variations

[0030] The techniques discussed herein may be devised with variations in many aspects, and some variations may present additional advantages and/or reduce disadvantages with respect to other variations of these and other techniques. Moreover, some variations may be implemented in combination, and some combinations may feature additional advantages and/or reduced disadvantages through synergistic cooperation. The variations may be incorporated in various embodiments (e.g., the exemplary method **300** of FIG. **3** and the exemplary system **408** of FIG. **4**) to confer individual and/or synergistic advantages upon such embodiments.

[0031] D1. Scenarios

[0032] A first aspect that may vary among embodiments of these techniques relates to the scenarios wherein such techniques may be applied.

[0033] As a first variation of this first aspect, the techniques presented herein may be used with many types of devices **104**, including mobile phones, tablets, personal information manager (PIM) devices, portable media players, portable game consoles, and palmtop or wrist-top devices. Additionally, these techniques may be implemented by a first device that is in communication with a second device that is attached to the user **102** and comprises the environmental sensors **106**. The first device may comprise, e.g., a physical activity identifying server, which may evaluate the environmental metrics **202** provided by the first device, arrive at an inference **204** of a physical activity **206**, and inform the first device of the inferred physical activity **206**. The device **104** may also have many types of attachment **404** to the user **102**, such as being carried by the user **102**, stowed in a pocket or bag, worn, attached to clothing, integrated with clothing (such as shoes, vision-correcting glasses, sunglasses, and goggles), and/or embedded in the human body.

[0034] As a second variation of this first aspect, the techniques presented herein may be used with many types of environmental sensors **106** providing many types of environmental metrics **202** about the environment of the user **102**. For example, the environmental metrics **202** may be generated by one or more environmental sensors **106** selected from an environmental sensor set comprising a global positioning system (GPS) receiver configured to generate a geolocation metric, a linear velocity metric, and/or an acceleration metric; a gyroscope configured to generate an angular velocity metric; a touch sensor configured to detect touch input that does not comprise user input (e.g., an accidental touching of a touch-sensitive display, such as the palm of a device who is holding the device); a wireless communication signal sensor configure to generate a wireless communication signal metric (e.g., a cellular signal strength metric, which may be indicative of the distance of the device **104** from a wireless communication signal source at a known location); a gyroscope or accelerometer configured to generate a device orientation metric (e.g., a tilt impulse, or vibration metric); an optical sensor, such as a camera, configured to generate a light level metric; a microphone configured to generate a sound level metric; a magnetometer configured to detect a magnetic field metric; and an impedance sensor configured to detect moisture contacting the device **104**. Moreover, a combination of such environmental sensors **106** may enable a set of overlapping and/or discrete environmental metrics **202** that provide a more robust indication of the physical activity **206** of the user **102**.

[0035] As a third variation of this first aspect, the techniques presented herein may enable the inference **204** of many types of physical activities **206** of the user **102**. As a first example, a walking physical activity **206** may be inferred from a regular set of impulses of a medium magnitude and/or a speed of approximately four kilometers per hour. As a second example, a jogging physical activity **206** may be inferred from a faster and higher-magnitude set of impulses and/or a speed of approximately six kilometers per hour. As a third example, a standing physical activity **206** may be inferred from a zero velocity, neutral impulse readings from an accelerometer, a vertical tilt orientation of the device **104**, and optionally a dark reading from a light sensor indicating the presence of the device in a hip pocket, while a sitting physical activity **206** may provide similar environmental metrics **202** but may be distinguished by a horizontal tilt orientation of the device **104**. As a fourth example, a swimming physical activity may be inferred from an impedance metric indicating the immersion of the device **104** in water. As a fifth example, a bicycling physical activity **206** may be inferred from a regular circular tilt motion indicating a stroke of an appendage to which the device **104** is attached and a speed exceeding typical jogging speeds. As a sixth example, a vehicle riding physical activity **206** may be inferred from a background vibration (e.g., created by uneven road surfaces) and a high speed. Moreover, in some such examples, the device **104** may further infer, along with a vehicle riding physical activity, at least one vehicle type that, when the vehicle riding physical activity is performed by the user **102** while attached to the device and while the user **102** is riding in a vehicle of the vehicle type, results in the environmental metric **202**. For example, the velocity, rate of acceleration,

and magnitude of vibration may distinguish when the user **102** is riding on a bus, in a car, or on a motorcycle. These and other types of physical activities **206** may be inferred in accordance with the techniques presented herein.

[0036] D2. Activity Inference

[0037] A second aspect that may vary among embodiments of these techniques relates to the manner of reaching an inference **204** of a physical activity **206** from one or more environmental metrics **202**.

[0038] As a first variation of this second aspect, the activity inference may be achieved using many types of classifier logic. As a first example of this first variation, the inference **204** may utilize one or more physical activity profiles that are configured to correlate environmental metrics **202** with physical activities **206**, and that may be invoked to select a physical activity profile matching the environmental metrics **202** in order to infer a physical activity **206**. As a first example of this first variation, the classifier logic may comprise a set of one or more physical activity profiles that respectively indicate a value or range of an environmental metric **202** that may enable an inference **204** of a physical activity **206** (e.g., a specified range of accelerometer impulses and speed indicating a jogging physical activity **206**). The physical activity profiles may be generated by a user **102**, automatically generated by one or more statistical correlation techniques, and/or a combination thereof, such as user manual tuning of automatically generated physical activity profiles. The device **104** may then infer a physical activity **206** by comparing a set of collected environmental metrics **202** with those of the physical activity profiles in order to identify a selected physical activity profile. As a second example of this first variation, the classifier logic may comprise an ad hoc classification technique, e.g., an artificial neural network or a Bayesian statistical classifier. For example, the device **104** may comprise a training data set that identifies sets of environmental metrics **202** as well as the physical activity **206** resulting in such environmental metrics **202**. The classifier logic may be trained using the training data set until it is capable of recognizing such physical activities **206** with an acceptable accuracy.

[0039] As a second variation of this second aspect, the accuracy of the inference **204** of the physical activity **206** may be sharpened through many techniques. As a first example of this second variation, respective physical activities **206** may be associated with respective environmental metrics **202** according to an environmental metric significance, indicating the significance of the environmental metric to the inference **204** of the physical activity **206**. For example, a device **104** may comprise an accelerometer and a GPS receiver. A vehicle riding physical activity **206** may place higher significance on the speed detected by the GPS receiver than the accelerometer (e.g., if the user device **104** is moving faster than speeds achievable by an unassisted human, the vehicle riding physical activity **206** may be automatically selected). On the other hand, a specific set of highly distinctive impulses may be indicative of a jogging physical activity **206** at a variety of speeds, and thus may place high significance on the environmental metrics **202** generated by the accelerometer than those generated by the GPS receiver. The inference **204** performed by the classifier logic may accordingly weigh the environmental metrics **202** according to the environmental metric significances for respective physical activities **206**.

[0040] As a second example of this second variation, the classifier logic may be further configured to, in addition to selecting a physical activity **206**, identify a selection confidence of the selection of the physical activity **206** associated with the environmental metrics **202**. For example, the device **104** may define an acceptable confidence level threshold in selecting one physical activity **206** over other physical activities **206** (e.g., 90% confidence in an accurate inference **204**), and may only report the inferred physical activity **206** if the selection confidence exceeds the acceptable confidence level threshold. Additionally, if the selection confidence is low, the device **104** may collect at least one additional environmental metric **202** from the environmental sensors **106** (e.g., continuing to sample the environment of the user **102** and the device **104**), and may apply the classifier logic to the combination of the set of additional environmental metrics **202** and the initial set of environmental metrics **202** in order to achieve an acceptably accurate inference **204**.

[0041] As a third example of this second variation, the device **104** may interact with the user **102** to determine the physical activity **206** represented by a set of environmental metrics **202**. For example, fi the environmental metrics **202** are difficult to correlate with any currently identified physical activity **206**, or if the user **102** performs a currently identified physical activity **206** in a peculiar or user-specific manner that leads to difficult-to-infer environmental metrics **202**, the device **104** may ask the user **102**, or a third user (e.g., as part of a "mechanical Turk" solution), to identify the physical activity **206** resulting in the reported environmental metrics **202**. Upon receiving a user identification of the physical activity **206**, the device **104** may adjust the classifier logic in order to achieve a more accurate identification of the physical activity **206** of the user **102** upon next encountering similar environmental metrics **202**.

[0042] As a third variation of this second aspect, the inference **204** may be performed using many architectures. As a first such example, the device **104** performing the inference **204** may be attached to the environmental sensors **106**, or may be in wireless communication with environmental sensors **106** attached to the user **102**. As a second such example, the inference **204** may be performed by a first device that is in communication with a second device associated with the environmental sensors **106**, such as a computer of the user **102** or a physical activity identifying service provided over a network such as the internet. For example, a device **104** may send the environmental metrics **202** to the service, which may evaluate the environmental metrics **202**, perform an inference of a physical activity **206**, and send the physical activity **206** back to the device. Alternatively, the physical activity identifying service may provide a classifier logic to the device, which may apply the classifier logic to perform the inference **204**. In either scenario, the second device or physical activity identifying service may adjust the classifier logic (e.g., upon receiving environmental metrics **202** associated with a new physical activity **206**, the device **104** and/or physical activity identifying service may adjust the inference **204** in order to infer the physical activity **206** accurately for these environmental metrics **202** in the future).

[0043] FIG. **6** presents an illustration of an exemplary scenario **600** featuring several of the variations of the techniques described herein. In this exemplary scenario **600**, a physical activity identifying server **614** is provided and configured to identify physical activities **206** from environmental metrics **202** reported by various devices **104**. For example, while a user **102** performs a physical activity **206**, a device **104** having an attachment **404** to the user **102** may apply an environmen-

tal sensor **106** to generate one or more environmental metrics **202**, which the device **104** may send to the physical activity identifying server **614** (e.g., via a wireless communication link to the internet). The physical activity identifying server **614** may comprise a processor **406** and a system **616** including a memory **618**, a classifier logic **620**, and a set of physical activity profiles **622**. The memory **618** may also comprise instructions executable by the processor **406**, and upon receiving the environmental metrics **202**, may perform **624** the exemplary method beginning at **604** by executing **604** the instructions **626** on the processor **406**. In particular, the instructions stored in the memory **618** may cause the physical activity identifying server **614** to identify, according to the classifier logic **620**, a physical activity **206** that, when performed by the user **102** while having an attachment **404** to the device **104**, result in the environmental metric **202**. The classifier logic **620** may achieve this identification, e.g., by comparing the environmental metrics **202** with those specified in respective physical activity profiles **622**, and, optionally, may adjust its physical activity profiles **622** in view of the inference for this environmental metric **202**. The physical activity identifying server **614** may then send **610** the physical activity **206** to the device **104**, which may adjust its operation to suit the physical activity **206** of the user **102**. In this manner, the device **104** and the physical activity identifying server **614** may interoperate to achieve the inference of the physical activity **206** from the environmental metric **202**. Many variations of this exemplary scenario **600** and other such scenarios may be devised by those of ordinary skill in the art while implementing the techniques presented herein.

[0044] D3. Uses of Physical Activity Inference

[0045] A third aspect that may vary among embodiments of these techniques relates to the configuration of the device **104** to apply the inferred physical activity **206** of the user **102**.

[0046] As a first variation of this third aspect, the device **104** may, upon identifying a newly initiated physical activity **206**, identify an application **112** associated with the physical activity **206**, and invoke the application **112**. For example, upon identifying a jogging physical activity **206**, the device **104** may identify and invoke an application **112** that is capable of tracking a jogging exercise and presenting jogging-related information to the user **102**. Alternatively or additionally, the application **112** may identify and notify a currently executing application **112** of a newly initiated physical activity **206**. For example, the device **104** may receive from an application **112** a request to receive reports of a particular physical activity **206** (e.g., a driving application **112** may subscribe to a driving physical activity **206**, and may provide a callback that the device **104** may invoke upon detecting a driving physical activity **206**). The device **104** may therefore store the request, and, upon identifying the requested physical activity **206**, may report the physical activity **206** to the application **112** associated with the request.

[0047] As a second variation of this third aspect, one or more applications **112** may present a flexible user interface that may adapt to the physical activity **206** of the user **102**. For example, an application **112** may comprise at least two user interface modes, each associated with a different physical activity **206**, and the device **104** may select the user interface mode for the user interface of the application **112** that is associated with a current physical activity **206**.

[0048] FIG. **7** presents an illustration of an exemplary scenario **700** featuring a set of applications **112** having adjustable user interface modes **702** for respective physical activities **206**. For example, when a driving physical activity **206** is detected, the applications **112** may present a user interface mode **702** comprising a constrained set of data that is highly relevant to driving, which may be presented in a large font, and may communicate with the user **102** primarily through speech-based output and speech-based user input. When a jogging physical activity **206** is selected, the applications **112** may present a second user interface mode **702**, comprising information relevant to the user **102** while jogging, and large user interface controls **116** that the user **102** may select via speech-based output and touch-based user input **110** even if such user input **110** is not highly accurate. As a third example, when the device **104** detects a standing physical activity **206**, the applications **112** may present a third user interface mode **702** comprising highly detailed user interface elements **114** (e.g., highly detailed maps) and plentiful user interface controls **116** that the user **102** may be able to invoke precisely while standing. In this manner, the applications **112** may utilize variable user interface modes **702** to present information relevant to the physical activity **206** of the user **102**, and/or to communicate with the user **102** through input/output modalities that are suitable for the physical activity **206**.

[0049] As a third variation of this third aspect, the device **104** may interact with the applications **112** and environmental sensors **106** in a manner that conserves the power of the device **104**, particularly for portable devices **104** having limited power supplied by a battery or limited amount of fuel, and/or constrained computational resources. For example, the device **104** may typically keep the environmental sensors **106** powered off until receiving from a request from an application **112** to identify the current physical activity **206** of the user **102**. Upon receiving such a request, the device **104** may enable the at least one environmental sensor **106**, detect the environmental metrics **202**, and, after reporting an inferred physical activity **206** of the user **102**, disable the at least one environmental sensor **106**. In this manner, the device **104** may achieve the inference **204** of the physical activity **206** while also conserving power and/or computational resources. These and other techniques may be applied to utilize the physical activity **206** inferred by the device **104** in accordance with the techniques presented herein.

[0050] E. Computing Environment

[0051] FIG. **8** and the following discussion provide a brief, general description of a suitable computing environment to implement embodiments of one or more of the provisions set forth herein. The operating environment of FIG. **8** is only one example of a suitable operating environment and is not intended to suggest any limitation as to the scope of use or functionality of the operating environment. Example computing devices include, but are not limited to, personal computers, server computers, hand-held or laptop devices, mobile devices (such as mobile phones, Personal Digital Assistants (PDAs), media players, and the like), multiprocessor systems, consumer electronics, mini computers, mainframe computers, distributed computing environments that include any of the above systems or devices, and the like.

[0052] Although not required, embodiments are described in the general context of "computer readable instructions" being executed by one or more computing devices. Computer readable instructions may be distributed via computer readable media (discussed below). Computer readable instructions may be implemented as program modules, such as functions, objects, Application Programming Interfaces (APIs), data structures, and the like, that perform particular tasks or

implement particular abstract data types. Typically, the functionality of the computer readable instructions may be combined or distributed as desired in various environments.

[0053] FIG. **8** illustrates an example of a system **800** comprising a computing device **802** configured to implement one or more embodiments provided herein. In one configuration, computing device **802** includes at least one processing unit **806** and memory **808**. Depending on the exact configuration and type of computing device, memory **808** may be volatile (such as RAM, for example), non-volatile (such as ROM, flash memory, etc., for example) or some combination of the two, such as the processor set **804** illustrated in FIG. **8**.

[0054] In other embodiments, device **802** may include additional features and/or functionality. For example, device **802** may also include additional storage (e.g., removable and/or non-removable) including, but not limited to, magnetic storage, optical storage, and the like. Such additional storage is illustrated in FIG. **8** by storage **810**. In one embodiment, computer readable instructions to implement one or more embodiments provided herein may be in storage **810**. Storage **810** may also store other computer readable instructions to implement an operating system, an application program, and the like. Computer readable instructions may be loaded in memory **808** for execution by processing unit **806**, for example.

[0055] The term "computer readable media" as used herein includes computer storage media. Computer storage media includes volatile and nonvolatile, removable and non-removable media implemented in any method or technology for storage of information such as computer readable instructions or other data. Memory **808** and storage **810** are examples of computer storage media. Computer storage media includes, but is not limited to, RAM, ROM, EEPROM, flash memory or other memory technology, CD-ROM, Digital Versatile Disks (DVDs) or other optical storage, magnetic cassettes, magnetic tape, magnetic disk storage or other magnetic storage devices, or any other medium which can be used to store the desired information and which can be accessed by device **802**. Any such computer storage media may be part of device **802**.

[0056] Device **802** may also include communication connection(s) **816** that allows device **802** to communicate with other devices. Communication connection(s) **816** may include, but is not limited to, a modem, a Network Interface Card (NIC), an integrated network interface, a radio frequency transmitter/receiver, an infrared port, a USB connection, or other interfaces for connecting computing device **802** to other computing devices. Communication connection(s) **816** may include a wired connection or a wireless connection. Communication connection(s) **816** may transmit and/or receive communication media.

[0057] The term "computer readable media" may include communication media. Communication media typically embodies computer readable instructions or other data in a "modulated data signal" such as a carrier wave or other transport mechanism and includes any information delivery media. The term "modulated data signal" may include a signal that has one or more of its characteristics set or changed in such a manner as to encode information in the signal.

[0058] Device **802** may include input device(s) **814** such as keyboard, mouse, pen, voice input device, touch input device, infrared cameras, video input devices, and/or any other input device. Output device(s) **812** such as one or more displays, speakers, printers, and/or any other output device may also be included in device **802**. Input device(s) **814** and output device (s) **812** may be connected to device **802** via a wired connection, wireless connection, or any combination thereof. In one embodiment, an input device or an output device from another computing device may be used as input device(s) **814** or output device(s) **812** for computing device **802**.

[0059] Components of computing device **802** may be connected by various interconnects, such as a bus. Such interconnects may include a Peripheral Component Interconnect (PCI), such as PCI Express, a Universal Serial Bus (USB), firewire (IEEE 1394), an optical bus structure, and the like. In another embodiment, components of computing device **802** may be interconnected by a network. For example, memory **808** may be comprised of multiple physical memory units located in different physical locations interconnected by a network.

[0060] Those skilled in the art will realize that storage devices utilized to store computer readable instructions may be distributed across a network. For example, a computing device **820** accessible via network **818** may store computer readable instructions to implement one or more embodiments provided herein. Computing device **802** may access computing device **820** and download a part or all of the computer readable instructions for execution. Alternatively, computing device **802** may download pieces of the computer readable instructions, as needed, or some instructions may be executed at computing device **802** and some at computing device **820**.

[0061] F. Usage of Terms

[0062] Although the subject matter has been described in language specific to structural features and/or methodological acts, it is to be understood that the subject matter defined in the appended claims is not necessarily limited to the specific features or acts described above. Rather, the specific features and acts described above are disclosed as example forms of implementing the claims.

[0063] As used in this application, the terms "component," "module," "system", "interface", and the like are generally intended to refer to a computer-related entity, either hardware, a combination of hardware and software, software, or software in execution. For example, a component may be, but is not limited to being, a process running on a processor, a processor, an object, an executable, a thread of execution, a program, and/or a computer. By way of illustration, both an application running on a controller and the controller can be a component. One or more components may reside within a process and/or thread of execution and a component may be localized on one computer and/or distributed between two or more computers.

[0064] Furthermore, the claimed subject matter may be implemented as a method, apparatus, or article of manufacture using standard programming and/or engineering techniques to produce software, firmware, hardware, or any combination thereof to control a computer to implement the disclosed subject matter. The term "article of manufacture" as used herein is intended to encompass a computer program accessible from any computer-readable device, carrier, or media. Of course, those skilled in the art will recognize many modifications may be made to this configuration without departing from the scope or spirit of the claimed subject matter.

[0065] Various operations of embodiments are provided herein. In one embodiment, one or more of the operations described may constitute computer readable instructions stored on one or more computer readable media, which if

executed by a computing device, will cause the computing device to perform the operations described. The order in which some or all of the operations are described should not be construed as to imply that these operations are necessarily order dependent. Alternative ordering will be appreciated by one skilled in the art having the benefit of this description. Further, it will be understood that not all operations are necessarily present in each embodiment provided herein.

[0066] Moreover, the word "exemplary" is used herein to mean serving as an example, instance, or illustration. Any aspect or design described herein as "exemplary" is not necessarily to be construed as advantageous over other aspects or designs. Rather, use of the word exemplary is intended to present concepts in a concrete fashion. As used in this application, the term "or" is intended to mean an inclusive "or" rather than an exclusive "or". That is, unless specified otherwise, or clear from context, "X employs A or B" is intended to mean any of the natural inclusive permutations. That is, if X employs A; X employs B; or X employs both A and B, then "X employs A or B" is satisfied under any of the foregoing instances. In addition, the articles "a" and "an" as used in this application and the appended claims may generally be construed to mean "one or more" unless specified otherwise or clear from context to be directed to a singular form.

[0067] Also, although the disclosure has been shown and described with respect to one or more implementations, equivalent alterations and modifications will occur to others skilled in the art based upon a reading and understanding of this specification and the annexed drawings. The disclosure includes all such modifications and alterations and is limited only by the scope of the following claims. In particular regard to the various functions performed by the above described components (e.g., elements, resources, etc.), the terms used to describe such components are intended to correspond, unless otherwise indicated, to any component which performs the specified function of the described component (e.g., that is functionally equivalent), even though not structurally equivalent to the disclosed structure which performs the function in the herein illustrated exemplary implementations of the disclosure. In addition, while a particular feature of the disclosure may have been disclosed with respect to only one of several implementations, such feature may be combined with one or more other features of the other implementations as may be desired and advantageous for any given or particular application. Furthermore, to the extent that the terms "includes", "having", "has", "with", or variants thereof are used in either the detailed description or the claims, such terms are intended to be inclusive in a manner similar to the term "comprising."

What is claimed is:

1. A method of identifying a physical activity of a user of a device having a processor and at least one environmental sensor, the method comprising:

executing on the processor instructions configured to:

retrieve from at least one environmental sensor at least one environmental metric associated with the device while attached to the user and not comprising user input received from the user; and

identify a physical activity that, when performed by the user while attached to the device, results in the at least one environmental metric.

2. The method of claim **1**, the environmental metric selected from an environmental metric set comprising:

a geolocation metric;
a linear velocity metric;
an angular velocity metric;
an acceleration metric;
a device orientation metric;
a light level metric;
a sound level metric;
a magnetic field metric;
a wireless communication signal metric; and
a touch metric that does not comprise user input.

3. The method of claim **1**, the at least one physical activity selected from a physical activity set comprising:

a walking physical activity;
a standing physical activity;
a sitting physical activity;
a jogging physical activity;
a swimming physical activity; and
a bicycling physical activity.

4. The method of claim **1**:

the at least one physical activity selected from a physical activity set comprising a vehicle riding physical activity; and

the instructions further configured to, upon identifying the vehicle riding physical activity, identify at least one vehicle type that, when the vehicle riding physical activity is performed by the user while attached to the device and while the user is riding in a vehicle of the vehicle type, results in the environmental metric.

5. The method of claim **1**, identifying the physical activity comprising:

sending the at least one environmental metric to a physical activity identification service; and

receive from the physical activity identification service an identification of the physical activity performed by the user according to the environmental metrics.

6. The method of claim **1**:

the device comprising at least one physical activity profile associated with a physical activity and specifying at least one environmental metric detected by the at least one sensor of the device while the physical activity is performed by the user while attached to the device, results in the environmental metric; and

the identifying comprising:

comparing the at least one environmental metric to the environmental metrics associated with respective physical activity profiles to identify a selected physical activity profile; and

identifying the physical activity associated with the selected physical activity profile.

7. The method of claim **1**:

the device comprising at least two environmental sensors;

respective physical activity profiles identifying, for respective environmental sensors, an environmental metric significance indicating a significance of environmental metrics of the sensor to identifying the physical activity of the physical activity profile; and

the device comprising a classifier configured to identify physical activities according to the environmental metrics and the environmental metric significance indicators of the physical activity profile.

8. A computer-readable storage device comprising instructions configured to, when executed on a processor of a device executing at least one application and having at least one environmental sensor and attached to a user, identify physical activities performed by the user by:

while the user is performing a physical activity, receive from respective environmental sensors at least one environmental metric not comprising user input received from the user;

using the environmental metrics, identify the physical activity performed by the user; and

report the physical activity of the user to the application.

9. The computer-readable storage device of claim **8**, the instructions further configured to:

receive from at least one application a request to receive reports of physical activity, store the request; and

upon identifying a physical activity that is associated with a request, report the physical activity to the application associated with the request.

10. The computer-readable storage device of claim **8**:

the device comprising at least one user interface presented to the user having at least two user interface modes respectively associated with a physical activity; and

the instructions further configured to, upon identifying a physical activity while presenting the user interface to the user, select the user interface mode for the user interface that is associated with the physical activity.

11. The computer-readable storage device of claim **8**, the instructions further configured to:

upon receiving from the application a request to identify the physical activity of the user, enable the at least one environmental sensor to detect the environmental metric; and

after reporting the physical activity of the user, disable the at least one environmental sensor.

12. The computer-readable storage device of claim **8**:

the device comprising a classifier logic that is configured to, for at least one environmental metric, select a physical activity associated with the environmental metric; and

identifying the at least one physical activity comprising: invoking the classifier logic to identify the physical activity associated with the at least one environmental metric.

13. The computer-readable storage device of claim **12**:

the device comprising at least one training data set identifying, for respective environmental metrics, a physical activity identifiable by at least one environmental metric;

the instructions further configured to train the classifier logic to identify, for respective training data sets, the physical activity identified by the training data set for the environmental metric.

14. The computer-readable storage device of claim **12**:

respective environmental metrics identifying the physical activity when performed by a particular user while attached to the device; and

the instructions further configured to, upon identifying from the environmental metric the physical activity performed by the particular user, update the classifier logic to identify the physical activities of the particular user for the environmental metric.

15. The computer-readable storage device of claim **12**:

the classifier logic further configured to, in addition to the selection of the physical activity, identify a selection confidence of the selection of the physical activity associated with the environmental metric; and

identifying the at least one physical activity comprising: invoking the classifier logic to identify the physical activity associated with the at least one environmental metric and having a selection confidence above a selection confidence threshold.

16. The computer-readable storage device of claim **15**, the instructions further configured to, upon the classifier logic failing to identify a physical activity having a selection confidence above the selection confidence threshold:

receive at least one additional environmental metric from the at least one environmental sensor metric; and

invoke the classifier logic to identify the physical activity associated with the at least one environmental metric and the at least one additional environmental metric.

17. The computer-readable storage device of claim **12**, the instructions further configured to, upon receiving from the user a user identification of a physical activity performed by the user when the environmental sensor received the environmental metric, update the classifier logic to identify the physical activity of the user for the environmental metric.

18. The computer-readable storage device of claim **17**, the instructions further configured to:

receive the classifier logic from a physical activity identifying service; and

upon receiving the user identification of the physical activity, send the user identification and the at least one environmental metric to the physical activity identifying service.

19. A method of facilitating devices comprising at least one environmental sensor in identifying physical activities performed by a user while attached to the device, the method involving a computer having a processor and a classifier logic and comprising:

executing on the processor instructions configured to, upon receiving from a device at least one environmental metric not comprising user input received from the user and detected by at least one environmental sensor of the device while attached to the user:

identify, according to the classifier logic, a physical activity that, when performed by the user while attached to the device, results in the at least one environmental metric; and

send the physical activity to the device.

20. The method of claim **19**, the instructions further configured to, upon receiving from a device an identification of a physical activity performed by a user while attached to the device when the environmental sensor detected the at least one environmental metric, update the classifier logic according to the physical activity and the at least one environmental metric.

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