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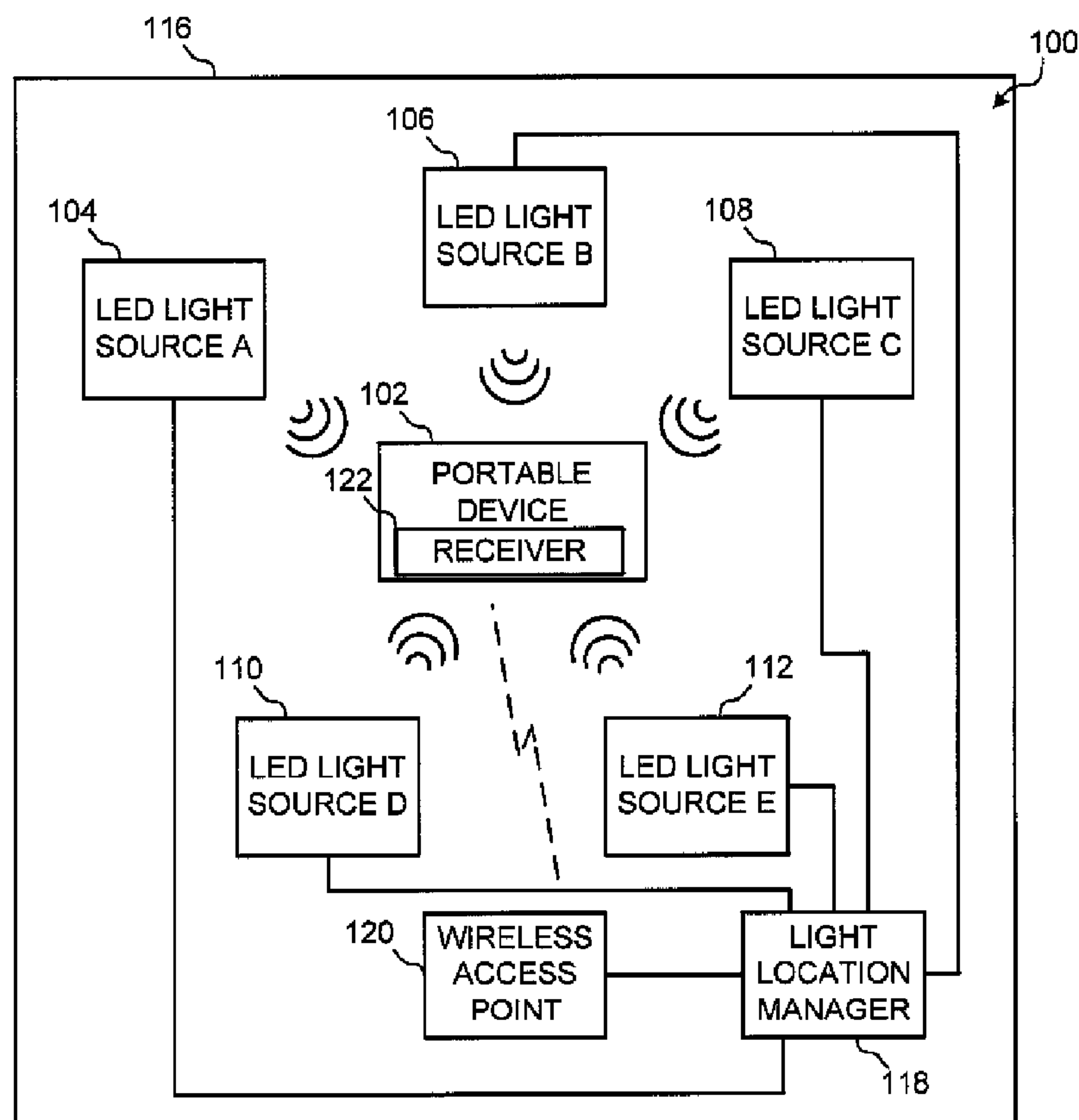
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(54) **Titre :** METHODE ET APPAREIL SERVANT A DETERMINER UNE POSITION A L'AIDE DE SOURCES LUMINEUSES

(54) **Title:** METHODS AND APPARATUS TO DETERMINE A POSITION USING LIGHT SOURCES



(57) **Abbrégé/Abstract:**

Methods and apparatus to determine a position using light sources are disclosed. An example method includes processing an output of a photodetector based on anticipated codes to identify multiple light sources from which the photodetector receives light at a first position, determining locations of the identified light sources; and determining a location of the first position based on the locations of the identified light sources.



ABSTRACT

Methods and apparatus to determine a position using light sources are disclosed. An example method includes processing an output of a photodetector based on anticipated codes to identify multiple light sources from which the photodetector receives light at a first position, determining locations of the identified light sources; and determining a location of the first position based on the locations of the identified light sources.

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METHODS AND APPARATUS TO DETERMINE A POSITION USING LIGHT SOURCES

5 FIELD OF THE DISCLOSURE

This disclosure relates generally to position determination and, more particularly, to methods and apparatus to determine a position using light sources.

BACKGROUND

Satellite-based positioning systems are used for relatively precise measurements of
10 global location. However, the signals used in satellite-based positioning systems are often unavailable or unreliable in non-line of sight (NLOS) environments. Therefore, there is a need for precise positioning in locations in which satellite-based positioning systems are unavailable.

SUMMARY

15 Example methods disclosed herein include processing an output of a photodetector based on anticipated codes to identify multiple light sources from which the photodetector receives light at a first position, determining locations of the identified light sources, and determining a location of the first position based on the locations of the identified light sources.

Example apparatus disclosed herein include a photodetector to convert received light to
20 an electrical signal, a code extractor to identify anticipated codes in the electrical signal, a light source identifier to identify multiple light sources and respective locations of the light sources based on the code extractor identifying the anticipated codes, and a location determiner to determine a location based on the identified light sources and the locations of the identified light sources.

According to one embodiment, there is disclosed a method, comprising: processing, via a logic circuit, an output of a photodetector based on anticipated codes to identify multiple light sources from which the photodetector receives light at a first position; determining, using the logic circuit, locations of the identified light sources; and determining a location of the first position based on the locations of the identified light sources. Determining the location of the first position comprises: calculating, for at least three of the anticipated codes, a distance between the photodetector and the light source associated with the anticipated code based on a time at which the anticipated code was received and an expected time of transmission by the light source associated with the anticipated code; and triangulating the location of the first position based on the calculated distances.

According to another embodiment, there is disclosed an apparatus, comprising: a photodetector to convert received light to an electrical signal; at least one code extractor to identify anticipated codes in the electrical signal; a light source identifier to identify multiple light sources and respective locations of the light sources based on the at least one code extractor identifying the anticipated codes; and a location determiner to determine a location based on the identified light sources and the locations of the identified light sources. The location determiner is to determine the location by: calculating, for at least three of the identified codes, a distance between the photodetector and the light source associated with the identified code based on a time at which the identified code was received and an expected time of transmission by the light source associated with the identified code; and triangulating a position based on the calculated distances.

According to another embodiment, there is disclosed a tangible computer readable storage medium comprising computer readable instructions which, when executed, cause a logic circuit to at least process an output of a photodetector based on anticipated codes to identify multiple light sources from which the photodetector receives light at a first position, wherein the instructions are to cause the logic circuit to identify the multiple light sources by: demodulating the output of the photodetector to generate a demodulated signal; correlating the demodulated signal to ones of the anticipated codes; and identifying a first one of the anticipated codes as being in the demodulated signal based on the demodulated signal having at least a threshold correlation with the first one of the anticipated codes. The instructions,

when executed, further cause a logic circuit to, at least: determine locations of the identified light sources; and determine a location of the first position based on the locations of the identified light sources.

According to another embodiment, there is disclosed a tangible computer readable storage medium comprising computer readable instructions which, when executed, cause a logic circuit to at least: process an output of a photodetector based on anticipated codes to identify multiple light sources from which the photodetector receives light at a first position; determine locations of the identified light sources; and determine a location of the first position based on the locations of the identified light sources. The instructions are to cause the logic circuit to determine the location of a first position by: calculating, for at least three of the anticipated codes, a distance between the light source associated with the anticipated code and the photodetector based on a time at which the anticipated code was received and an expected time of transmission by the light source associated with the anticipated code; and triangulating a position based on the calculated distances.

According to another embodiment, there is disclosed a method, comprising: processing, via a logic circuit, an output of a photodetector based on anticipated codes to identify multiple light sources from which the photodetector receives light at a first position; synchronizing a time reference for the light sources; modulating the light sources to transmit respective pseudorandom codes in a synchronized manner via light pulses from respective ones of the light sources, each of the light sources transmitting a different pseudorandom code from others of the light sources; determining, using the logic circuit, locations of the identified light sources; and determining a location of the first position based on the locations of the identified light sources.

According to another embodiment, there is disclosed a method, comprising processing, via a logic circuit, an output of a photodetector based on anticipated codes to identify multiple light sources from which the photodetector receives light at a first position, wherein identifying the multiple light sources comprises: demodulating the output of the photodetector to generate a demodulated signal; correlating the demodulated signal to ones of the anticipated codes; and identifying a first one of the anticipated codes as being in the demodulated signal based on the demodulated signal having at least a threshold correlation with the first one of the anticipated

codes. The method further comprises: determining, using the logic circuit, locations of the identified light sources; and determining a location of the first position based on the locations of the identified light sources.

According to another embodiment, there is disclosed an apparatus, comprising: a
5 photodetector to convert received light to an electrical signal; at least one code extractor to identify anticipated codes in the electrical signal; a light source identifier to identify multiple light sources and respective locations of the light sources based on the at least one code extractor identifying the anticipated codes; and a location determiner to determine a location based on the identified light sources and the locations of the identified light sources. The at
10 least one code extractor is configured to: demodulate the output of the photodetector to generate a demodulated signal; correlate the demodulated signal to ones of the anticipated codes; and identify a first one of the anticipated codes as being in the demodulated signal based on the demodulated signal having at least a threshold correlation with the first one of the anticipated codes.

The features, functions, and advantages that have been discussed can be achieved independently in various examples or may be combined in yet other examples further details of which can be seen with reference to the following description and drawings.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

5 FIG. 1 is a block diagram of an example system to determine a position of a receiver device using light sources.

FIG. 2 is a more detailed block diagram of the example receiver of FIG. 1.

FIG. 3 is a block diagram of an example light source to implement any of the light sources of FIG. 1.

10 FIG. 4 is a flow diagram of an example light source synchronization process to synchronize the example light sources of FIG. 1.

FIG. 5 is a flowchart of an example method to determine a position of a receiver device using light sources.

15 FIG. 6 is a flowchart of an example method to transmit codes from a light source to enable determination of locations of receiver devices.

FIG. 7 is a flowchart of platform production and service methodology.

FIG. 8 is a block diagram of a platform.

FIG. 9 is a block diagram of an example processor platform that may be used to implement the methods and apparatus described herein.

20 Wherever appropriate, the same reference numbers will be used throughout the drawing(s) and accompanying written description to refer to the same or like parts.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION

Light Emitting Diode (LED) lighting is advantageously used in factory and/or other indoor settings to provide visible light while improving energy efficiency and cost savings over incandescent or fluorescent lighting. In addition to energy efficiency, example methods and apparatus disclosed herein modulate LEDs to transmit a unique pseudorandom sequence from each LED-based light source to provide a light-based positioning system.

By using a pseudorandom sequence, example methods and apparatus disclosed herein measure the precise time of flight (and, therefore, distance measurements from each LED transmission fixture) from uniquely-identifiable light sources to a receiver, even in noisy ambient lighting conditions. In some disclosed examples, the pseudorandom sequence encoded in (e.g., modulated in) the light enables the receiver to detect the pseudorandom code in the signal even when the signal is below the background noise level. By using multiple distances to different light sources and the known locations of those light sources, example methods and apparatus triangulate the position of a receiver to determine its location within an environment (e.g., indoors). Example methods and apparatus further determine a three-dimensional location including altitude (e.g., altitude relative to the LED light sources) and the time offset between the LED light sources and the receiver (e.g., a local or reference time used by the LED light sources). If the height of the receiver has already been determined by another method (e.g., being consistently positioned a fixed distance above the floor surface), disclosed examples determine a reduced solution including a two-dimensional horizontal position and the receiver

time offset, which enhances operation of the receiver when the light signal reception by the receiver is substantially reduced.

Example methods and apparatus disclosed herein provide the benefits of precise three-dimensional navigation in locations where other precise positioning systems (e.g., satellite positioning systems) are unavailable. Examples disclosed herein enable rapid and precise location control for use in applications such as factory automation, retail (e.g., shopping mall or store) and/or warehouse navigation, and/or navigation of autonomous vehicles in indoor environments (e.g., in parking structures, transportation tunnels, etc.). Furthermore, examples disclosed herein do not require machine vision or other costly or error-prone positioning techniques, and may be implemented using low cost equipment (e.g., receiver circuits). Examples disclosed herein are implemented without using radio frequencies (RF) and therefore may be free of RF spectrum limitations and/or governmental (e.g., United States Federal Communications Commission (FCC)) regulation.

FIG. 1 is a block diagram of an example system **100** to determine a position of a portable device **102** using light sources **104-112**. In the example of FIG. 1, the portable device **102** includes a receiver **122**, which can determine the position of the portable device **102**. The position of the portable device **102** of FIG. 1 is determined relative to a defined area **116** (e.g., using a coordinate system defined for a building or campus) and/or with reference to a larger position system (e.g., using satellite positioning system coordinates, such as WGS84).

Example portable devices **102** that may be used with the system **100** include, but are not limited to, mobile robots or other autonomous mobile machines, lifting devices (e.g., cranes), handheld devices capable of displaying a location of the device to a user, and/or

tracking devices (e.g., inventory tracking, material tracking, device tracking, etc.). The portable device **102** may execute services or software applications that likewise depend on a location and/or timing relative to the area **116** and/or the system **100**.

The example light sources **104-112** of FIG. **1** each include one or more light-emitting diode (LED) lights. The example light sources **104-112** may be fixed banks of lighting (e.g., ceiling-mounted lights) and/or movable light sources (e.g., portable LED lamps). The outputs of the LED lights can be modulated at high frequencies to enable the LED lights to transmit data without human-observable flickering. In some examples, each of the light sources **104-112** uses multiple LEDs arranged to enable space-shifted keying, on-off keying, and/or other spatially-dependent modulation schemes. Each of the example light sources **104-112** is in a known position in the example area **116**. However, the positions of one or more of the light sources **104-112** may be changed.

The system **100** of the illustrated example includes a light location manager **118** to monitor and store the locations of the light sources **104-112**. The locations of one or more of the light sources **104-112** may be fixed relative to the area **116**. In some examples, the locations of the fixed ones of the light sources **104-112** are manually surveyed and provided to the light location manager **118**, which stores the location of each surveyed light source **104-112** in association with an identifier of that light source **104-112**. The light location manager **118** may then provide a light source **104-112** with the location of the light source **104-112** (e.g., when the light source is initialized).

In the example of FIG. **1**, one or more of the light sources **104-112** (e.g., the light source **112** in this example) derives its position in the area **116** based on the positions of the

other light sources. In this manner, the light source **112** performs a self-positioning procedure similar to the positioning procedure performed by the portable device **102**. Examples of the positioning procedure are disclosed below. When the light source **112** has derived its position in the area **116**, the example light source **112** provides the derived position to the light location manager **118**.

The example light location manager **118** updates the portable device **102** with the locations of the light sources **104-112** via a secondary data channel. For example, the portable device **102** is communicatively connected to a wireless access point **120**, which provides a data channel for communication with the portable device **102**. The wireless access point **120** may be one of a network of wireless access points in the area **116**. The portable device **102** is permitted to access one or more communication networks via the wireless access point **120**, such as one or more intranets, internets, and/or the Internet. Additionally, the wireless access point **120** enables the portable device **102** to obtain location updates for the light sources **104-112** from the light location manager **118**. In some examples, the light location manager **118** provides the portable device **102** with any other updates to the light sources **104-112**, such as changes in pseudorandom codes transmitted by respective ones of the light sources **104-112**.

To determine a position of the portable device **102**, the example portable device **102** includes the receiver **122**. The example receiver **122** of FIG. 1 determines a position of the portable device **102** based on receiving respective light signals from the light sources **104-112**. In the example of FIG. 1, the receiver **122** receives light signals from the light sources **104-112** with or without a line-of-sight to the light sources **104-112**. Each of the light signals from the light sources **104-112** transmits a unique pseudorandom code. As used herein, the term

“pseudorandom code” refers to a code that appears to be random (e.g., random noise) but is a deterministic sequence that repeats itself after a defined period. In some examples, the unique pseudorandom codes are selected to have low correlations with each other (e.g., orthogonal). Examples of such codes are used by the Global Positioning System (GPS). The example light sources **104-112** may use the **1024** bit “Gold” codes used by GPS. Different codes (e.g., longer codes, shorter codes) may also be used that have higher co-correlation (e.g., pseudorandom codes that have more correlation with each other than the GPS Gold codes). However, use of other codes having higher co-correlation permits the use of a larger number of unique pseudorandom codes than the GPS Gold codes. In this example, the pseudorandom code transmitted from a light source (e.g., the light source **104**) is a code that appears to be random noise but is selected to be different than the code of any of the other light sources **106-112**. The pseudorandom codes are modulated in the light transmitted by the light sources **104-112**.

In some examples, each of the light sources **104-112** repeats its respective pseudorandom code at known, predictable intervals (e.g., every **1** millisecond) to enable the receiver **122** to lock onto the pseudorandom code and/or to continuously determine its location once locked on. In some other examples, each of the light sources **104-112** transmits a sequence of pseudorandom codes. The sequence of pseudorandom codes is known to the light sources **104-112**, to the light location manager **118**, and to the receiver **122**. When a light source **104-112** reaches the end of a code sequence, the example light source **104** repeats the code sequence from the beginning.

The light sources **104-112** of FIG. **1** may transmit the respective pseudorandom codes in synchrony (e.g., via different frequencies). Additionally or alternatively, the example light

sources **104-112** may transmit the respective pseudorandom codes at respective overlapping or non-overlapping epochs.

As explained in more detail below, the example receiver **122** determines a position of the portable device **102** by: 1) identifying pseudorandom codes in the received light (e.g., codes from light sources **104-112** which transmit light that can be observed directly or indirectly by the receiver **122**); 2) identifying the light sources **104-112** corresponding to the pseudorandom codes; 3) determining distances from each of the identified light sources **104-112**; 4) determining locations of each of the identified light sources **104-112**; and 5) determining (e.g., triangulating) a position of the portable device **102** from the respective locations of the identified light sources **104-112** and the respective distances to the identified light sources **104-112**. In some examples, the receiver **122** further determines a relative time (e.g., a time relative to a reference) when a sufficient number of light sources **104-112** are identified (e.g., 4 of the light sources **104-112**).

FIG. 2 is a more detailed block diagram of the example receiver **122** of FIG. 1. The example receiver **122** of FIG. 2 includes a photodetector **202**, a code extractor **204**, a code book **206**, a light source identifier **208**, a location determiner **210**, and a data communications interface **212**.

The example photodetector **202** is exposed to the ambient lighting conditions of the area in which the receiver **122** is located (e.g., the area **116** of FIG. 1). The photodetector **202** outputs an electrical signal representative of the ambient lighting. In the example of FIGS. 1 and 2, the photodetector **202** detects and generates an output based on visible light. However,

in some examples the photodetector **202** may be responsive to infrared, ultraviolet, and/or other near-visible light wavelengths.

The example code extractor **204** receives the electrical signal generated by the photodetector **202**. The code extractor **204** extracts pseudorandom codes that are present in the electrical signal by, for example, de-modulating the baseband electrical signals using the carrier frequency selected for the light sources **104-112**. In some examples, the light sources modulate the pseudorandom codes assigned to the light sources **104-112** (e.g., the codes assigned to each of the possible light sources **104-112**) at respective carrier frequency(ies). The pseudorandom codes of the light sources **104-112** are known to the receiver **122** and are stored in the code book **206**. The example code book **206** provides the codes to the code extractor **204** for use in identifying the pseudorandom codes in a demodulated electrical signal.

In some examples, the code extractor **204** performs code alignment using, for example, a correlator to determine the correct frequency and starting of a particular pseudorandom code. In some such examples, the code extractor **204** identifies the anticipated codes by correlating the demodulated electrical signal to each of the anticipated pseudorandom codes. If a pseudorandom code has at least a threshold correlation to the demodulated electrical signal, the code extractor **204** determines that the electrical signal contains that pseudorandom code and can determine a received time (e.g., a start time, an epoch time) of the pseudorandom code. Thus, the example code extractor **204** may repeatedly process the electrical signal to identify the start of one or more pseudorandom codes that are present in the signal.

In some other examples, the code extractor **204** may use a matched filter to more rapidly determine the alignment of all of the codes by effectively testing all alignments

sequentially and continuously. In some other examples, little or no frequency shifting and/or velocity differences occur in the light signals due to relatively close range between the light sources **104-112** and the receiver **122**. Other filters may additionally or alternatively be used.

In some examples, the code extractor **204** identifies **3, 4**, or more unique pseudorandom codes in the demodulated electrical signal. To identify multiple pseudorandom codes in the demodulated electrical signal, the example code extractor **204** determines a correlation between the demodulated electrical signal and each of the anticipated pseudorandom codes. When a pseudorandom code has a high correlation with the demodulated signal, the example code extractor **204** determines that the pseudorandom code is present in the signal and determines a start time of the pseudorandom code (e.g., using a clock **214**).

When the code extractor **204** has determined the code alignment, the example code extractor **204** provides the pseudorandom code for which the alignment was determined to the light source identifier **208**. The example light source identifier **208** determines an identifier of one of the light sources **104-112** based on the identified pseudorandom code. For example, the light source identifier **208** may search the code book **206** to determine which of the light sources **104-112** is associated with the identified code. The codes stored in the code book **206** are therefore anticipated or expected codes that could be expected to be represented in the output of the photodetector **202**, depending on the location of the receiver **202** in the area **116**. The example code book **206** returns an identifier of the light source **104-112** corresponding to (e.g., assigned to) an identified pseudorandom code. In the example of FIG. 2, the code book **206** also provides the location (e.g., coordinates and/or altitude within the area **116**) and an epoch for the identified light source **104-112**. The epoch defines the times (e.g., the expected

start and/or end times) of the transmissions of the pseudorandom code by the identified light source **104-112**. To enable precise location determination by the receiver **122**, clocks of the light sources **104-112** that control the timing of the epochs in the example of FIG. 1 are synchronized.

5 The example light source identifier **208** and/or the location determiner **210** may perform despreading using an identified pseudorandom code to identify a message. The message transmitted by the light source **104-112** (and spread using the pseudorandom code) may provide information about the light source **104-112** that transmitted the message, a local time at which the message was transmitted, and/or any other information. If the message
10 includes the local time, the example light source identifier **208** and/or the location determiner **210** may determine a local time (when the clock **214** of the receiver **122** has been synchronized) based on the time at which the message was transmitted from the light source **104-112** and the propagation time of the message to the receiver **122**.

 The example location determiner **210** determines a location of the example receiver **122**
15 (and, thus, the device containing the receiver **122**) based on extracting the pseudorandom codes from the electrical signal, the epochs and locations of the light sources **104-112** from which pseudorandom codes were received, and the times at which the pseudorandom codes are received (e.g., each time at which the start of a pseudorandom code is received, each time at which the end of a pseudorandom code is received, etc.).

20 To determine the location of the receiver **122**, the location determiner **210** determines a clock offset of the clock **214**. For example, if the light sources **104-112** are configured to transmit the codes in synchrony, the location determiner **210** compares the received times of

the pseudorandom codes and determines a location and time at which the pseudorandom codes would be received at the respective times (e.g., based on the codes being transmitted at a same time from the respective locations of the light sources **104-112** assigned those codes). When the location is determined, the example location determiner **210** determines the time at which the signals were transmitted to reach the determined location at the respective times. The location determiner **210** then synchronizes the clock **214** with the determined time. In other words, the location determiner **210** synchronizes the clock **214** to a location and time at which the received codes are consistent with the observed timing and the known locations of the light sources **104-112**.

Based on the determined time, the example location determiner **210** determines distances to each of the example light sources **104-112** from which pseudorandom codes were received. For example, to determine a distance between the receiver **122** and one of the light sources (e.g., the light source **104**) the location determiner **210** multiplies the propagation velocity of light through the atmosphere by a time difference between a) the calculated transmission of the pseudorandom codes (e.g., based on the synchronized clock **214**) and b) the time at which the pseudorandom code for the light source **104** was received at the photodetector **202** (which may be determined from the time at which the code extractor **204** received the electrical signal from the photodetector **202**). The location determiner **210** then triangulates the position of the receiver **122** using the calculated distances to the light sources **104-112** and the known locations of the light sources **104-112**. Example pseudorange equations (1)-(4) that may be solved in combination to determine the position of the receiver are shown below:

$$P_1 = \sqrt{(x_1 - x)^2 + (y_1 - y)^2 + (z_1 - z)^2} + c\tau - c\tau_1 \quad \text{Equation (1)}$$

$$P_2 = \sqrt{(x_2 - x)^2 + (y_2 - y)^2 + (z_2 - z)^2} + c\tau - c\tau_2 \quad \text{Equation (2)}$$

$$P_3 = \sqrt{(x_3 - x)^2 + (y_3 - y)^2 + (z_3 - z)^2} + c\tau - c\tau_3 \quad \text{Equation (3)}$$

$$P_4 = \sqrt{(x_4 - x)^2 + (y_4 - y)^2 + (z_4 - z)^2} + c\tau - c\tau_4 \quad \text{Equation (4)}$$

5 In Equations (1)-(4), P_n is the pseudorange measured from light source n , x_n is the x-axis location of light source n , y_n is the y-axis location of light source n , z_n is the z-axis location of light source n , $c\tau_n$ is the time of reception at the receiver **122** of the light signal containing the pseudorandom code transmitted by light source n at time τ . The example location determiner **210** solves Equations (1)-(4) for x , y , and z , which provides the location of
10 the receiver **122** in the x , y , z coordinate system. In some examples, the location determiner **210** solves Equations (1)-(4) using a statistical method such as least squares error or the like.

In some other examples, the location determiner **210** solves the location of the receiver **210** using a state estimator such as a Kalman Filter that estimates the position state (and other aspects such as biases) using the calculated pseudoranges.

15 In some examples, the location determiner **210** combines the location solution determined using the photodetector **202** with location solutions determined using other methods such as an inertial measurement unit and/or a wheel encoder. For example, after a first position is determined via the photodetector **202**, the example location determiner **210** may verify that subsequent location solutions are consistent with relative motion detected via the
20 inertial measurement unit and/or a wheel encoder (or rotary encoder).

The example receiver **122** may propagate the calculated time and/or location to other components and/or applications of the portable device **102** for use in accomplishing the location-dependent and/or time-dependent tasks of the portable device **102**.

5 The example data communications interface **212** communicates with the example light location manager **118** (e.g., via the wireless access point **120**) to, for example, update (e.g., in the code book **206**) the locations of the light sources **104-112**, the pseudorandom codes used by the light sources **104-112**, the epochs of the light sources **104-112**, and/or any other information for determining the position of the receiver **122**. In some examples, the data communications interface **212** is a wireless communications interface (e.g., an IEEE **802.xx** wireless interface). In some other examples, the data communications interface **212** is a wired interface that connects to a local network.

While the example above describes a single photodetector **202** and a single code detection channel including a single code extractor **204**, the example receiver **122** of FIGS. 1 and/or 2 may include multiple photodetectors **202** and/or multiple channels (e.g., multiple code extractors **204**). For example, a single photodetector **202** may provide an output signal to multiple code extractors **204** to perform faster, simultaneous code extraction of multiple codes from the signal. When one of the code extractors **204** identifies and/or locks onto a code (e.g., a code in the code book **206**), the identifying code extractor **204** informs the remaining channels (e.g., code extractors **204**) that the code has been identified, and the other channels search for different codes.

In some other examples, the receiver **122** includes multiple photodetectors **202**, which output signals to multiple channels (e.g., code extractors **204**). Using multiple photodetectors

202, the example receiver 122 may mitigate multipath effects by creating different fields of view for different ones of the photodetectors 202 (e.g., by orienting the photodetectors 202 to receive light signals from a particular field of view). In some examples, two or more of the photodetectors 202 are spatially diverse and have a field of view in the upward direction (e.g., toward light sources located on the ceiling of the environment) to mitigate shading effects or signal blockages due to other objects in the area. In some examples, by making the multiple photodetectors spatially diverse, the example location determiner 210 determines the attitude (e.g., orientation) of the receiver 122 and/or the portable device 102 by determining time differences between receipt of light signals at different sources.

FIG. 3 is a block diagram of an example light source 300 to implement any of the light sources 104-112 of FIG. 1. The example light source 300 of FIG. 3 includes an LED array 302, a code modulator 304, a code generator 306, a time synchronizer 308, and a data communications interface 310. The example light source 300 of FIG. 3 further includes the example receiver 122 of FIGS. 1 and 2, the description of which will not be repeated below.

The example LED array 302 of FIG. 3 produces visible light. Additionally or alternatively, the LED array 302 may produce infrared, ultraviolet light, and/or any other near-visible light wavelengths. The LED array 302 is capable of modulating the light transmitted by the LED 302 (e.g., via on-off keying, variable pulse position modulation, etc.) to transmit data.

The LED array 302 of the illustrated example transmits, via the visible light, data provided by the code modulator 304. The example code modulator 304 of FIG. 3 modulates the pseudorandom code assigned to the light source 300 (stored in and/or generated by the code generator 306) for transmission via the LED array 302. For example, the code modulator 304

may receive the pseudorandom code from the code generator **306**, select a modulation scheme, and generate a control signal for the LED array **302**. The code modulator **304** and/or the code generator **306** include a clock **312** to enable transmission of the pseudorandom code at a designated time (e.g., in synchrony with other light sources, at a time reserved for the light source **300**, etc.).

Modulation via the LED array **302** may use, for example, orthogonal frequency division multiplexing (OFDM), quadrature amplitude modulation (QAM), spatial modulation, space shift keying, and/or any other type of modulation scheme(s).

The example time synchronizer **308** of FIG. **3** synchronizes the clock **312** to enable precise synchronization of code transmission with the other light sources. As used herein, time synchronization is defined to mean having the same (or derivable) values (within a margin of error), and does not necessarily include transmitting signals in synchrony. For example, two clocks may be synchronized if a) the clocks are set to have a same value at the same moment (within a margin of error) and/or b) if the clocks are set such that a first clock is set to have a first designated value at the same moment that the second clock has a second designated value derivable from the first designated value. As used herein, “in synchrony” is defined to mean performing actions simultaneously (within a margin of error).

The example time synchronizer **308** may synchronize the time by, for example, accessing a common time base shared by all of the light sources in the positioning system (e.g., the system **100** of FIG. **1**). An example of such a common time base might be the phase of an alternating current (AC) mains power supply that is provided to all of the light sources. The example time synchronizer **308** may determine the time of a designed phase of the common

time base and synchronize the clock **312** based on the phase. Because the propagation time of the AC mains power supply may be different for different light sources (e.g., different ones of the light sources **104-112** may see a given phase of the AC mains power supply at different times), the example time synchronizer **308** of FIG. **3** determines the propagation time difference(s) between the light source **300** and one or more other light sources to synchronize on the AC mains power supply.

As an example, the time synchronizer **308** may repeatedly perform ranging pings via the AC mains power supply with a reference node connected to the AC mains power supply. For example, the time synchronizer **308** may send a first test ping via the AC mains power supply circuit to the other time synchronizer, which returns a second test ping time synchronizer **308** upon receipt of the first test ping. The round trip time, less the processing time, multiplied by the propagation speed of the signal and divided by two results in an estimate of the electrical distance between the time synchronizer **308** and the reference node. By placing the reference node at a location accessible to the light sources **104-112**, the example time synchronizers **308** of the light sources **104-112** can determine their respective delays relative to the reference node and select respective phases of the AC mains power supply signal to result in synchronization.

In some examples, the time synchronizer **308** selects the AC mains power supply phase for use in synchronization when the time synchronizer **308** performs a receiver-based synchronization as described above. For example, after synchronizing to a reference light source, the example time synchronizer **308** determines the applicable phase of the signal to maintain synchrony with the reference light source (e.g., determines the phase of the AC mains

power supply at the time the reference light source transmitted its code that was received at the light source **300**). Thus, the example time synchronizer **308** tracks the determined phase to maintain synchrony and may re-synchronizes to the reference light source at longer intervals (e.g., less often).

5 In some other examples, the time synchronizer **308** is provided with the location (e.g., a surveyed location) of a reference light source (which is not the light source **300**) and the location (e.g., a surveyed location) of the light source **300** (e.g., from the light location manager **118** of FIG. 1 via the data communications interface **310**). Additionally or alternatively, the time synchronizer **308** may receive the distance between the reference light
10 source and the light source **300**. The example time synchronizer **308** also receives a time at which a pseudorandom code assigned to the reference light source (e.g., received from the light location manager **118** of FIG. 1 via the data communications interface **310**) is received at the receiver **122** of FIG. 3. Based on the time determined by the receiver **122**, the distance between the reference light source and the light source **300**, and the speed of light through the
15 atmosphere, the example time synchronizer **308** determines the time at which the reference light source transmitted the pseudorandom code. The example time synchronizer **308** then synchronizes the clock **312** (and/or the code generator **306**) to cause the code modulator **304** and the LED array **302** to transmit the pseudorandom code precisely at the epoch of the light source **300**.

20 Multiple example light sources **104-112** that include the receiver **122** of FIGS. 2 and 3 may be synchronized to a reference light source. For example, the light sources **104-112** may be synchronized in succession by synchronizing first light source(s) that are in communication

range of the reference light source, then synchronizing second light source(s) that are in communication range of the first synchronized light source(s) but not in communication range of the reference light source, and so on.

The example data communications interface **310** transmits and receives data via, for example, the wireless access point **120** of FIG. 1. In some examples, the data communications interface **310** is a wireless communications interface (e.g., an IEEE **802.xx** wireless interface). In some other examples, the data communications interface **310** is a wired interface that connects to a local network. The example data communications interface **310** enables the time synchronizer **308** to receive location and/or pseudorandom code updates from the light location manager **118**. Additionally or alternatively, the receiver **122** may update the light location manager **118** via the data communications interface with a current location of the light source **300** (e.g., if the light source **300** has been moved).

FIG. 4 is a flow diagram of an example light source synchronization process **400** to synchronize the example light sources **104-112** of FIG. 1. The example light source synchronization process **400** may be performed by the example time synchronizer **308** of FIG. 3 for each of the example light sources **104-112**.

The example time synchronizer **308** of the light source **300** receives a same AC power supply signal as other ones of the light sources **104-112**. The relative timing between the light sources **104-112** can be maintained by reference to the power grid AC signal **402**. As illustrated in FIG. 4, the example time synchronizer **308** detects zero crossings **404** of the supplied AC signal **402**. The time synchronizer **308** compares **406** times of the measured zero crossings to the zero crossing times predicted **408** by the local clock **312** of the light source

300. The time synchronizer **308** filters (e.g., low-pass filters) the differences between the measured zero crossing times and the crossing times predicted by the local clock **312** (e.g., prediction error) are filtered (e.g., low-pass filtered) and averaged **410**. The time synchronizer **308** calculates a clock adjustments **412** from the processed prediction errors, and feeds the clock adjustments **412** to the clock **312**, which generates new predictions **408** based on the adjustments. Each light source **104-112** in the example system **100** of FIG. 1 performs the example process **400**. While the clocks of all of the light sources **104-112** may drift as the shared AC signal fluctuates, the relative timing between the transmitter clocks of the light sources **104-112** is maintained.

The relative timing between each of the light sources **104-112** in the example system **100** can be additionally or alternatively be resolved through system calibration. For example, pairs of the light sources **104-112** may perform a two-way time transfer, in which a first light source (e.g., the light source **104**) sends a signal to a second light source (e.g., the light source **106**). The second light source **106** returns the signal to the first light source **104**, enabling the two-way time of transmission and relative clock offset to be computed by the time synchronizers **308** of the light sources **104-106**. The light sources **104-112** may transmit the first and second signals via the facility AC power infrastructure, through a secondary wired or wireless channel, and/or by light transmission between the light sources **104-112**. In other examples, the example receiver **122** of FIG. 1 is moved within the system **100** during system calibration process. The example receiver **122** estimates the relative locations and time delays of the light sources **104-112**, which are then provided to the time synchronizers **308** of the light sources **104-112** (e.g., via the light location manager **118**) to adjust the respective clocks **308**.

While an example manner of implementing the receiver **122** and the light sources **104-112** of FIG. **1** are illustrated in FIGS. **2** and **3**, one or more of the elements, processes and/or devices illustrated in FIG. **2** and **3** may be combined, divided, re-arranged, omitted, eliminated and/or implemented in any other way. Further, the example photodetector **202**, the example code extractor **204**, the example code book **206**, the example light source identifier **208**, the example location determiner **210**, the example data communications interfaces **212**, **310**, the clocks **214**, **312**, the example LED array **302**, the example code modulator **304**, the example code generator **306**, the example time synchronizer **308** and/or, more generally, the example receiver **122** and the light sources **104-112** of FIG. **1** may be implemented by hardware, software, firmware and/or any combination of hardware, software and/or firmware. Thus, for example, any of the example photodetector **202**, the example code extractor **204**, the example code book **206**, the example light source identifier **208**, the example location determiner **210**, the example data communications interfaces **212**, **310**, the clocks **214**, **312**, the example LED array **302**, the example code modulator **304**, the example code generator **306**, the example time synchronizer **308** and/or, more generally, the example receiver **122** and the light sources **104-112** could be implemented by one or more analog or digital circuit(s), logic circuits, programmable processor(s), application specific integrated circuit(s) (ASIC(s)), programmable logic device(s) (PLD(s)) and/or field programmable logic device(s) (FPLD(s)). When reading any of the apparatus or system claims of this patent to cover a purely software and/or firmware implementation, at least one of the example photodetector **202**, the example code extractor **204**, the example code book **206**, the example light source identifier **208**, the example location determiner **210**, the example data communications interfaces **212**, **310**, the clocks **214**, **312**, the

example LED array **302**, the example code modulator **304**, the example code generator **306**, and/or the example time synchronizer **308** is/are hereby expressly defined to include a tangible computer readable storage device or storage disk such as a memory, a digital versatile disk (DVD), a compact disk (CD), a Blu-ray disk, etc. storing the software and/or firmware. Further
5 still, the example the example receiver **122** and the light sources **104-112** of FIGS. 1 may include one or more elements, processes and/or devices in addition to, or instead of, those illustrated in FIGS. 2 and/or 3, and/or may include more than one of any or all of the illustrated elements, processes and devices.

A flowchart representative of an example method for implementing the receiver **122** of
10 FIGS. 1-3 is shown in FIG. 5. A flowchart representative of an example method for implementing the light source **300** of FIG. 3 is shown in FIG. 6. In these examples, the methods may be implemented using machine readable instructions that comprise programs for execution by a processor such as the processor **912** shown in the example processor platform
900 discussed below in connection with FIG. 9. The programs may be embodied in software
15 stored on a tangible computer readable storage medium such as a CD-ROM, a floppy disk, a hard drive, a digital versatile disk (DVD), a Blu-ray disk, or a memory associated with the processor **912**, but the entire programs and/or parts thereof could alternatively be executed by a device other than the processor **912** and/or embodied in firmware or dedicated hardware. Further, although the example programs are described with reference to the flowcharts
20 illustrated in FIG. 5 and 6, many other methods of implementing the example receiver **122** and/or the example light source **300** may alternatively be used. For example, the order of

execution of the blocks may be changed, and/or some of the blocks described may be changed, eliminated, or combined.

As mentioned above, the example methods of FIGS. 5 and/or 6 may be implemented using coded instructions (e.g., computer and/or machine readable instructions) stored on a
5 tangible computer readable storage medium such as a hard disk drive, a flash memory, a read-only memory (ROM), a compact disk (CD), a digital versatile disk (DVD), a cache, a random-access memory (RAM) and/or any other storage device or storage disk in which information is stored for any duration (e.g., for extended time periods, permanently, for brief instances, for temporarily buffering, and/or for caching of the information). As used herein, the term tangible
10 computer readable storage medium is expressly defined to include any type of computer readable storage device and/or storage disk and to exclude propagating signals and transmission media. As used herein, "tangible computer readable storage medium" and "tangible machine readable storage medium" are used interchangeably. Additionally or alternatively, the example methods of FIGS. 5 and/or 6 may be implemented using coded
15 instructions (e.g., computer and/or machine readable instructions) stored on a non-transitory computer and/or machine readable medium such as a hard disk drive, a flash memory, a read-only memory, a compact disk, a digital versatile disk, a cache, a random-access memory and/or any other storage device or storage disk in which information is stored for any duration (e.g., for extended time periods, permanently, for brief instances, for temporarily buffering, and/or
20 for caching of the information). As used herein, the term non-transitory computer readable medium is expressly defined to include any type of computer readable storage device and/or storage disk and to exclude propagating signals and transmission media. As used herein, when

the phrase "at least" is used as the transition term in a preamble of a claim, it is open-ended in the same manner as the term "comprising" is open ended.

FIG. 5 is a flowchart of an example method **500** to determine a position of a receiver device (e.g., the receiver **122** of FIGS. 1-3) using light sources (e.g., the light sources **104-112**, **300** of FIGS. 1 and/or 3). The example method **500** is described with reference to the receiver **122** shown in FIG. 2 within the example system **100** of FIG. 1.

The example receiver **122** begins (e.g., at powering on the receiver **122**) by updating location(s) and/or pseudorandom code(s) for the light sources (block **502**). For example, the code book **206** may update its pseudorandom codes and/or locations associated with the light sources **104-112** in the area **116** by requesting an update from the light location manager **118** via the data communications interface **212** and/or the wireless access point **120**.

The example code extractor **204** processes the output (e.g., an electrical signal) of the photodetector **202** to identify one or more pseudorandom codes (block **504**). For example, the code extractor **204** may continuously process the electrical signal to determine a beginning of the transmission of one or more pseudorandom codes based on the light detected by the photodetector **202**. In some examples, the code extractor **204** compensates for multi-path interference and/or other sources of error in the electrical signal. The number of pseudorandom codes that are detectable is based on a number of the light sources **104-112** in range of the receiver **122**.

The example code extractor **206** determines whether any pseudorandom code(s) have been identified (block **506**). If no pseudorandom codes have been identified (block **506**), control returns to block **504** to continue processing the output of the photodetector **202**. When

one or more pseudorandom codes are identified (block **506**), the example code extractor selects an identified pseudorandom code (block **508**).

The example light source identifier **208** of FIG. **3** identifies the light source **104-112** associated with the selected code and the location of the identified light source **104-112** (block **510**). For example, the light source identifier **208** looks up the selected unique pseudorandom code in the code book **206** to determine which of the light sources **104-112** is associated with (e.g., assigned) the selected pseudorandom code (block **510**). The light source identifier **208** may also determine the location of the identified light source **104-112** from the code book **206**, which may store the location in association with the pseudorandom code and the identification of the light source **104-112**.

The example location determiner **210** determines a time of receipt of the selected pseudorandom code (block **512**). For example, the location determiner **210** may obtain the code receive time from the code extractor **204**, which is based on the clock **214**.

Using the code receive time, the location determiner **210** determines a distance of the receiver **122** from the light source associated with the selected pseudorandom code (block **514**). For example, the location determiner **210** multiplies the time between the expected transmission of the pseudorandom code by the associated light source **104-112** and the light propagation speed (e.g., a stored constant value, an algorithmically determined value, etc.) to determine the distance. If the clock **214** has not been recently synchronized, the calculated distance may have a significant error. The location determiner **210** stores the identification of the light source **104-112** (and/or the location of the light source) and the calculated distance from the receiver **122** to the light source **104-112** as a location data point (block **516**).

The example location determiner **210** determines whether to synchronize the clock **214** (block **518**). For example, the location determiner **210** may synchronize the clock **214** at designated intervals, when an error threshold is reached, and/or continuously. The location determiner **210** of FIG. 2 uses at least **5** location data points to synchronize the clock **214**. If sufficient location data points have been collected to synchronize (block **518**), the location determiner **210** synchronizes the clock **214** using the location data points (block **520**). To synchronize the clock **214**, the example location determiner **210** of FIG. 2 uses the expected code transmission times to determine a location and a time at which the code transmission times (e.g., by the light sources **104-112** at the known positions) and receipt times (e.g., by the receiver **122**) are consistent with each other. As a result, in some examples, the location determiner **210** also uses the time synchronization process as a location determination process for the receiver **122**. The example location determiner **210** then sets or resets the clock **214** of the receiver **122** to have a synchronized value with the light sources **104-112** based on the transmission time and the reception time of one or more of the pseudorandom codes.

After synchronizing the clock **214** (block **520**), and/or if the clock **214** is not to be synchronized (block **518**), the example location determiner **210** determines whether sufficient location data points have been collected to determine a location (block **522**). For example, the location determiner **210** may require location data point from **3**, **4**, or more different ones of the light sources **104-112**. In some examples, the location determiner **210** further determines whether the clock **214** has been synchronized less than a threshold time prior to block **522**.

If there are sufficient location data points to determine a location of the receiver (block **522**), the example location determiner **210** calculates a location of the receiver **122** (block

524). For example, the location determiner **210** determines the location by triangulating a position from the data points using the respective distances from the light sources **104-112** and the known locations of the light sources **104-112**. In some examples, when more than 4 data points are available, the example location determiner **210** may discard or ignore some of the data points to reduce a calculated error in the position.

The location determiner **210** calculates a local or relative time from the location data points (block **526**). For example, the location determiner **210** may use a demodulated and/or de-spread message from a light source **104-112** containing a transmission time of the pseudorandom code to determine a local time. After calculating the time from the location data points (block **526**) or if insufficient location data points have been collected to determine the location (block **522**), the code extractor **204** determines whether additional pseudorandom codes have been identified (block **528**). If additional codes have been identified (block **528**), control returns to block **508** to select another one of the identified codes. In contrast, if no additional codes have been identified (block **528**), control returns to block **504** to process further output from the photodetector **202** to identify pseudorandom codes.

FIG. 6 is a flowchart of an example method **600** to transmit codes (e.g., pseudorandom codes) from a light source (e.g., the light sources **104-112**, **300** of FIGS. 1 and/or 3) to enable determination of locations of receiver devices. The example method **600** is described with reference to the example light source **300** of FIG. 3 implementing the light source **104** in the system **100** of FIG. 1.

The example light source **300** (e.g., via the data communications interface **310**, the time synchronizer **308**, and/or the receiver **122**) updates the locations and/or pseudorandom codes

for the light sources **104-112** in the system **100** (block **602**). The update to the locations may include a location of the light source **300** performing the method **600** (e.g., if the light source **300** is fixed at a location). The receiver **122** of FIG. **3** determines whether the location of the light source **300** is known (block **604**). For example, the receiver **122** may determine a location
5 of the light source **300** as described above with reference to FIG. **5** and/or may determine whether the location information for the light source **300** indicates that the location of the light source **300** is fixed.

If the location of the light source **300** is not known (e.g., the light source **300** has been moved) (block **604**), the example receiver **122** determines the location of the light source **300**
10 (block **606**). Block **606** may be implemented by performing the method **500** of FIG. **5**. The receiver **122** updates the determined location to the light location manager **118** (block **608**). For example, the receiver **122** may transmit the location and time to the light location manager **118** via the data communications interface **310**.

After updating the location (block **608**), or if the location is already known (block **604**),
15 the example time synchronizer **308** determines whether the clock **312** is synchronized (block **610**). For example, the time synchronizer **308** may determine that the clock **312** is not synchronized at powering on of the light source **300**, if a timing error has been detected (e.g., the receiver **122** receives a pseudorandom code from another light source **300** at a time indicating a loss of synchronization), and/or if synchronization has not occurred in at least a
20 threshold time.

If the clock **312** is not synchronized (block **610**), the example time synchronizer **308** determines whether a common time base is available (block **612**). For example, a common

signal may be provided to each of the light sources **104-112** that can be used by the time synchronizer **308** to lock onto the phase. If a common time base is available (block **612**), the example time synchronizer **308** synchronizes the clock **312** using the common time base (block **614**).

5 In contrast, if a common time base is not available (block **612**), the example time synchronizer **308** synchronizes the time base using the receiver **122** (block **616**). For example, the time synchronizer **308** may synchronize the clock **312** as described above with reference to blocks **502**, **504**, **508-516**, and **520** of FIG. 5. After synchronizing the clock **312** using the receiver **122** (block **616**) or synchronizing the clock **312** using a common time base (block
10 **614**), or if the clock **312** is already synchronized (block **610**), the code modulator **304** determines whether the epoch associated with the light source **300** has started (block **618**). The epoch is the time during which the light source **300** is to transmit its unique pseudorandom code. In some examples, the epoch is the same for all of the light sources **104-112**. In some other examples, the epochs are different for different light sources **104-112**.

15 If the epoch has started (block **618**), the code modulator **304** modulates a pseudorandom code provided by the code generator **306** onto a carrier frequency (block **620**). In some examples, the code modulator **304** modulates the carrier to have a non-zero direct current (DC) component and a non-zero alternating current (AC) component, so that the LED array consistently provides light (e.g., does not go dark in view of a long string of **0** bits or
20 chips). The code modulator **304** controls the LED array **302** to transmit the modulated code (e.g., at the carrier frequency) via light signals (block **622**). For example, the code modulator

304 controls the current to the LED array **302** to cause the LED array **302** to vary its light output to transmit the pseudorandom code via the carrier frequency.

The example receiver **122** (or, for example, an accelerometer) determines whether the light source has moved (block **624**). If the light source has not moved (block **624**), control
5 returns to block **618** to continue transmitting the pseudorandom code(s) during subsequent epochs for the light source **300**. If the receiver **122** determines that the light source **624** has moved (block **624**), control returns to block **606** to determine the new location using the receiver **122**.

Examples of the disclosure may be described in the context of a platform
10 manufacturing and service method **700** as shown in FIG. 7 and a platform **800**, such as an aircraft, as shown in FIG. 8. During pre-production, the example method **700** may include specification and design (block **702**) of the platform **800** (e.g., an aircraft). Preproduction may further include material procurement (block **704**). During production, component and subassembly manufacturing (block **706**) and system integration (block **708**) of the platform
15 **800** (e.g., an aircraft) takes place. Thereafter, the platform **800** (e.g., an aircraft) may go through certification and delivery (block **710**) in order to be placed in service (block **712**). While in service by a customer, the platform **800** (e.g., an aircraft) is scheduled for routine maintenance and service (block **714**), which may also include modification, reconfiguration, refurbishment, etc. The example system **100**, the receiver **122**, and/or the light sources **104-112**
20 of FIG. 1, and/or the example methods of FIGS. 5 and/or 6, may be implemented during and/or in support of the maintenance and service procedures of block **714**.

Each of the operations of the example method **700** may be performed or carried out by a system integrator, a third party, and/or an operator (e.g., a customer). For the purposes of this description, a system integrator may include without limitation any number of platform (e.g., aircraft) manufacturers and major-system subcontractors; a third party may include without
5 limitation any number of vendors, subcontractors, and suppliers; and an operator may be an airline, leasing company, military entity, service organization, and so on.

As shown in FIG. 8, the platform **800** (e.g., an aircraft) produced by example method **700** may include a frame **802** with a plurality of systems **804** and an interior **806**. Examples of high-level systems **804** include one or more of a propulsion system **808**, an electrical system
10 **810**, a hydraulic system **812**, and an environmental system **814**. The example systems and methods disclosed herein may be used during the manufacturing and/or maintenance stages (e.g., blocks **704**, **706**, **708**, **710**, and/or **714**) to, for example, control manufacturing automation and/or monitor inventory. Any number of other systems may be included.

Apparatus and methods embodied herein may be employed during any one or more of
15 the manufacturing and/or maintenance stages (e.g., blocks **704**, **706**, **708**, **710**, and/or **714**) of the example method **700**. For example, automated devices machining and/or assembling components or subassemblies corresponding to production process **706** may be controlled and/or moved based on determining their respective locations using the light sources and receivers disclosed herein. Also, one or more apparatus embodiments, method embodiments, or
20 a combination thereof may be implemented during the production stages **706** and **708**, for example, by substantially expediting assembly of or reducing the cost of a platform **800** (e.g., an aircraft) via automation. Similarly, one or more of apparatus embodiments, method

embodiments, or a combination thereof may be utilized while the platform **800** (e.g., spacecraft) is in service **712**, for example and without limitation, to maintenance and service **714**, by automating all or a portion of the maintenance and/or service sub-processes.

FIG. **9** is a block diagram of an example processor platform **900** to implement the methods of FIGS. **5** and **6**, and/or to implement the light sources **104-112**, the receiver **122**, and/or the light location manager **118** of FIGS. **1**, **2**, and/or **3**. The processor platform **900** can be, for example, a server, a personal computer, a laptop or notebook computer, a tablet computer, a mobile device, or any other type of computing device or combination of computing devices.

The processor platform **900** of the instant example includes a processor **912**. For example, the processor **912** can be implemented by one or more microprocessors or controllers from any desired family or manufacturer.

The processor **912** includes a local memory **913** (e.g., a cache) and is in communication with a main memory including a volatile memory **914** and a non-volatile memory (e.g., read only memory (ROM) **916**) via a bus **918**. The volatile memory **914** may be implemented by Synchronous Dynamic Random Access Memory (SDRAM), Dynamic Random Access Memory (DRAM), RAMBUS Dynamic Random Access Memory (RDRAM) and/or any other type of random access memory device. The non-volatile memory **916** may be implemented by flash memory and/or any other desired type of memory device. Access to the main memory **914, 916** is controlled by a memory controller.

The processor platform **900** also includes an interface circuit **920**. The interface circuit **920** may be implemented by any type of interface standard, such as an Ethernet interface, a universal serial bus (USB), and/or a PCI express interface.

One or more input devices **922** are connected to the interface circuit **920**. The input device(s) **922** permit a user to enter data and commands into the processor **912**. The input device(s) can be implemented by, for example, a keyboard, a mouse, a touchscreen, a voice recognition system, and/or any other method of input or input device.

One or more output devices **924** are also connected to the interface circuit **920**. The output devices **924** can be implemented, for example, by display devices (e.g., a liquid crystal display, a cathode ray tube display (CRT), a printer and/or speakers). The interface circuit **920**, thus, typically includes a graphics driver card.

The interface circuit **920** also includes a communication device such as a modem or network interface card to facilitate exchange of data with external computers via a network **926** (e.g., an Ethernet connection, a wireless local area network (WLAN) connection, coaxial cable, a cellular telephone system, etc.).

The processor platform **900** also includes one or more mass storage devices **928** for storing software and data. Examples of such mass storage devices **928** include floppy disk drives, hard drive disks, compact disk drives and digital versatile disk (DVD) drives.

Coded instructions **932** to implement the methods of FIGS. **5** and/or **6** may be stored in the mass storage device **928**, in the volatile memory **914**, in the non-volatile memory **916**, and/or on a removable storage medium such as a CD or DVD.

Although certain example methods, apparatus and articles of manufacture have been disclosed herein, the scope of coverage of this patent is not limited thereto. On the contrary, this patent covers all methods, apparatus and articles of manufacture fairly falling within the scope of the claims of this patent.

5 In one embodiment there is provided a method, comprising processing, via a logic circuit, an output of a photodetector based on anticipated codes to identify multiple light sources from which the photodetector receives light at a first position; determining, using the logic circuit, locations of the identified light sources; and determining a location of the first position based on the locations of the identified light sources.

10 The method may further comprise determining the anticipated codes based on a code book or code sequences associated with the light sources.

 The method may further comprise receiving the locations of the light sources via a data channel, and determining the locations of the identified light sources comprises determining the received locations associated with detected ones of the anticipated codes.

15 The method may further comprise determining a time difference between a time at which a first one of the anticipated codes is received and a reference time.

 Determining the location of a first position may comprise calculating, for at least three of the anticipated codes, a distance between the photodetector and the light source associated with the anticipated code based on a time at which the anticipated code was received and an
20 expected time of transmission by the light source associated with the anticipated code; and triangulating the location of the first position based on the calculated distances.

 The light source may comprise a visible light source in an indoor location.

The method may further comprise determining a time offset between the light source and the photodetector based on the output of the photodetector.

Identifying the multiple light sources may comprise demodulating the output of the photodetector to generate a demodulated signal; correlating the demodulated signal to ones of the anticipated codes; and identifying a first one of the anticipated codes as being in the demodulated signal based on the demodulated signal having at least a threshold correlation with the first one of the anticipated codes.

In another embodiment there is presented an apparatus, comprising a photodetector to convert received light to an electrical signal; a code extractor to identify anticipated codes in the electrical signal; a light source identifier to identify multiple light sources and respective locations of the light sources based on the code extractor identifying the anticipated codes; and a location determiner to determine a location based on the identified light sources and the locations of the identified light sources.

The location determiner may determine a time based on one or more of the identified anticipated codes.

The apparatus may further comprise a data communications interface to receive the locations of the light sources via a data channel, and the location determiner may determine the locations of the identified light sources by determining the received locations associated with detected ones of the anticipated codes.

The apparatus may further comprise a code book to store the anticipated codes, and a first one of the anticipated codes may comprise a pseudorandom code associated with a first one of the light sources.

The first one of the anticipated codes may be different than any other ones of the anticipated codes.

The location determiner may synchronize a clock based on the code extractor identifying the anticipated codes.

5 The location determiner may determine the location by calculating, for at least three of the identified codes, a distance between the photodetector and the light source associated with the identified code based on a time at which the identified code was received and an expected time of transmission by the light source associated with the identified code; and triangulating a position based on the calculated distances.

10 The code extractor may identify the anticipated codes by demodulating the electrical signal and correlating a demodulated electrical signal to the anticipated codes.

In another embodiment there is presented a tangible computer readable storage medium comprising computer readable instructions which, when executed, cause a logic circuit to execute any of the methods and/or variations thereof as disclosed above.

15 In another embodiment there is provided a method comprising synchronizing a time reference for light sources in an environment; and modulating the light sources to transmit respective pseudorandom codes in a synchronized manner via light pulses from respective ones of the light sources, each of the light sources transmitting a different pseudorandom code from others of the light sources.

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EMBODIMENTS IN WHICH AN EXCLUSIVE PROPERTY OR PRIVILEGE IS CLAIMED ARE DEFINED AS FOLLOWS:

1. A method, comprising:

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processing, via a logic circuit, an output of a photodetector based on anticipated codes to identify multiple light sources from which the photodetector receives light at a first position;

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determining, using the logic circuit, locations of the identified light sources; and

determining a location of the first position based on the locations of the identified light sources, wherein determining the location of the first position comprises:

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calculating, for at least three of the anticipated codes, a distance between the photodetector and the light source associated with the anticipated code based on a time at which the anticipated code was received and an expected time of transmission by the light source associated with the anticipated code; and

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triangulating the location of the first position based on the calculated distances.

- 25 2. The method as defined in claim 1, further comprising determining the anticipated codes based on a code book or code sequences associated with the light sources.

3. The method as defined in claim 1 or 2, further comprising receiving the locations of the light sources via a data channel, wherein determining the locations of the identified

light sources comprises determining the received locations associated with detected ones of the anticipated codes.

4. The method as defined in any one of claims 1-3, further comprising determining a time difference between a time at which a first one of the anticipated codes is received and a reference time.

5. The method as defined in any one of claims 1-4, wherein the light source comprises a visible light source in an indoor location.

6. The method as defined in any one of claims 1-5, further comprising determining a time offset between the light source and the photodetector based on the output of the photodetector.

7. The method as defined in any one of claims 1-6, wherein identifying the multiple light sources comprises:

demodulating the output of the photodetector to generate a demodulated signal;

correlating the demodulated signal to ones of the anticipated codes; and

identifying a first one of the anticipated codes as being in the demodulated signal based on the demodulated signal having at least a threshold correlation with the first one of the anticipated codes.

8. An apparatus, comprising:

a photodetector to convert received light to an electrical signal;

at least one code extractor to identify anticipated codes in the electrical signal;

a light source identifier to identify multiple light sources and respective locations of the light sources based on the at least one code extractor identifying the anticipated codes; and

5 a location determiner to determine a location based on the identified light sources and the locations of the identified light sources, wherein the location determiner is to determine the location by:

10 calculating, for at least three of the identified codes, a distance between the photodetector and the light source associated with the identified code based on a time at which the identified code was received and an expected time of transmission by the light source associated with the identified code; and

15 triangulating a position based on the calculated distances.

9. The apparatus as defined in claim 8, wherein the location determiner is to determine a time based on one or more of the identified anticipated codes.

20 10. The apparatus as defined in claim 8 or 9, further comprising a data communications interface to receive the locations of the light sources via a data channel, the location determiner to determine the locations of the identified light sources by determining the received locations associated with detected ones of the anticipated codes.

25 11. The apparatus as defined in any one of claims 8-10, further comprising a code book to store the anticipated codes, wherein a first one of the anticipated codes comprises a pseudorandom code associated with a first one of the light sources.

30 12. The apparatus as defined in claim 11, wherein the first one of the anticipated codes is different than any other ones of the anticipated codes.

13. The apparatus as defined in any one of claims 8-12, wherein the location determiner is to synchronize a clock based on the at least one code extractor identifying the anticipated codes.

5 14. The apparatus as defined by any one of claims 8-13, wherein the at least one code extractor is to identify the anticipated codes by demodulating the electrical signal and correlating a demodulated electrical signal to the anticipated codes.

10 15. A tangible computer readable storage medium comprising computer readable instructions which, when executed, cause a logic circuit to at least:

15 process an output of a photodetector based on anticipated codes to identify multiple light sources from which the photodetector receives light at a first position, wherein the instructions are to cause the logic circuit to identify the multiple light sources by:

demodulating the output of the photodetector to generate a demodulated signal;

20 correlating the demodulated signal to ones of the anticipated codes; and

identifying a first one of the anticipated codes as being in the demodulated signal based on the demodulated signal having at least a threshold correlation with the first one of the anticipated codes;

25 determine locations of the identified light sources; and

determine a location of the first position based on the locations of the identified light sources.

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16. The storage medium as defined in claim 15, wherein the instructions are further to cause the logic circuit to synchronize a clock based on the anticipated codes and the locations of the light sources.

5 17. A tangible computer readable storage medium comprising computer readable instructions which, when executed, cause a logic circuit to at least:

10 process an output of a photodetector based on anticipated codes to identify multiple light sources from which the photodetector receives light at a first position;

determine locations of the identified light sources; and

15 determine a location of the first position based on the locations of the identified light sources, wherein the instructions are to cause the logic circuit to determine the location of a first position by:

20 calculating, for at least three of the anticipated codes, a distance between the light source associated with the anticipated code and the photodetector based on a time at which the anticipated code was received and an expected time of transmission by the light source associated with the anticipated code; and

25 triangulating a position based on the calculated distances.

18. The storage medium as defined in claim 17, wherein the instructions are further to cause the logic circuit to synchronize a clock based on the anticipated codes and the locations of the light sources.

19. A method, comprising:

processing, via a logic circuit, an output of a photodetector based on anticipated codes to identify multiple light sources from which the photodetector receives light at a first position;

synchronizing a time reference for the light sources;

modulating the light sources to transmit respective pseudorandom codes in a synchronized manner via light pulses from respective ones of the light sources, each of the light sources transmitting a different pseudorandom code from others of the light sources;

determining, using the logic circuit, locations of the identified light sources; and

determining a location of the first position based on the locations of the identified light sources.

20. A method, comprising:

processing, via a logic circuit, an output of a photodetector based on anticipated codes to identify multiple light sources from which the photodetector receives light at a first position, wherein identifying the multiple light sources comprises:

demodulating the output of the photodetector to generate a demodulated signal;

correlating the demodulated signal to ones of the anticipated codes; and

identifying a first one of the anticipated codes as being in the demodulated signal based on the demodulated signal having at least a threshold correlation with the first one of the anticipated codes;

5 determining, using the logic circuit, locations of the identified light sources; and

determining a location of the first position based on the locations of the identified light sources.

10 **21.** The method as defined in claim **20**, wherein the first one of the anticipated codes is different than any other ones of the anticipated codes, wherein the logic circuit comprises a plurality of code extractors, and wherein identifying the multiple light sources is at one of the plurality of code extractors and further comprises informing the remaining code extractors of the identification of the first one of the anticipated codes
15 such that the remaining code extractors search for other ones of the anticipated codes.

22. The method as defined in claim **20** or **21**, further comprising determining the anticipated codes based on a code book or code sequences associated with the light sources.

20 **23.** The method as defined in any one of claims **20-22**, further comprising receiving the locations of the light sources via a data channel, wherein determining the locations of the identified light sources comprises determining the received locations associated with detected ones of the anticipated codes.

25 **24.** The method as defined in any one of claims **20-23**, further comprising determining a time difference between a time at which the first one of the anticipated codes is received and a reference time.

- 25.** The method as defined in claims **20-24**, wherein determining the location of the first position comprises:

calculating, for at least three of the anticipated codes, a distance between the photodetector and the light source associated with the anticipated code based on a time at which the anticipated code was received and an expected time of transmission by the light source associated with the anticipated code; and

triangulating the location of the first position based on the calculated distances.

- 26.** The method as defined in any one of claims **20-25**, wherein the light source comprises a visible light source in an indoor location.

- 27.** The method as defined in any one of claims **20-26**, further comprising determining a time offset between the light source and the photodetector based on the output of the photodetector.

- 28.** An apparatus, comprising:

a photodetector to convert received light to an electrical signal;

at least one code extractor to identify anticipated codes in the electrical signal;

a light source identifier to identify multiple light sources and respective locations of the light sources based on the at least one code extractor identifying the anticipated codes; and

a location determiner to determine a location based on the identified light sources and the locations of the identified light sources;

wherein the at least one code extractor is configured to:

demodulate the output of the photodetector to generate a demodulated signal;

5

correlate the demodulated signal to ones of the anticipated codes; and

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identify a first one of the anticipated codes as being in the demodulated signal based on the demodulated signal having at least a threshold correlation with the first one of the anticipated codes.

15

29. The apparatus of claim **28**, wherein the first one of the anticipated codes is different than any other ones of the anticipated codes, wherein the at least one code extractor comprises a plurality of code extractors, and wherein the plurality of code extractors are further configured to inform remaining code extractors of the identification of the first one of the anticipated codes such that the remaining code extractors search for other ones of the anticipated codes.

20

30. The apparatus as defined in claim **28** or **29**, wherein the location determiner is to determine a time based on one or more of the identified anticipated codes.

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31. The apparatus as defined in any one of claims **28-30**, further comprising a data communications interface to receive the locations of the light sources via a data channel, the location determiner to determine the locations of the identified light sources by determining the received locations associated with detected ones of the anticipated codes.

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32. The apparatus as defined in any one of claims **28-31**, further comprising a code book to store the anticipated codes, wherein a first one of the anticipated codes comprises a pseudorandom code associated with a first one of the light sources.

33. The apparatus as defined in any one of claims **28-32**, wherein the location determiner is to synchronize a clock based on the at least one code extractor identifying the anticipated codes.

5 **34.** The apparatus as defined in any one of claims **28-33**, wherein the location determiner is to determine the location by:

10 calculating, for at least three of the identified codes, a distance between the photodetector and the light source associated with the identified code based on a time at which the identified code was received and an expected time of transmission by the light source associated with the identified code; and

 triangulating a position based on the calculated distances.

15 **35.** A tangible computer readable storage medium comprising computer readable instructions which, when executed, cause a logic circuit to execute the method of any one of claims **1-7** or **19-27**.

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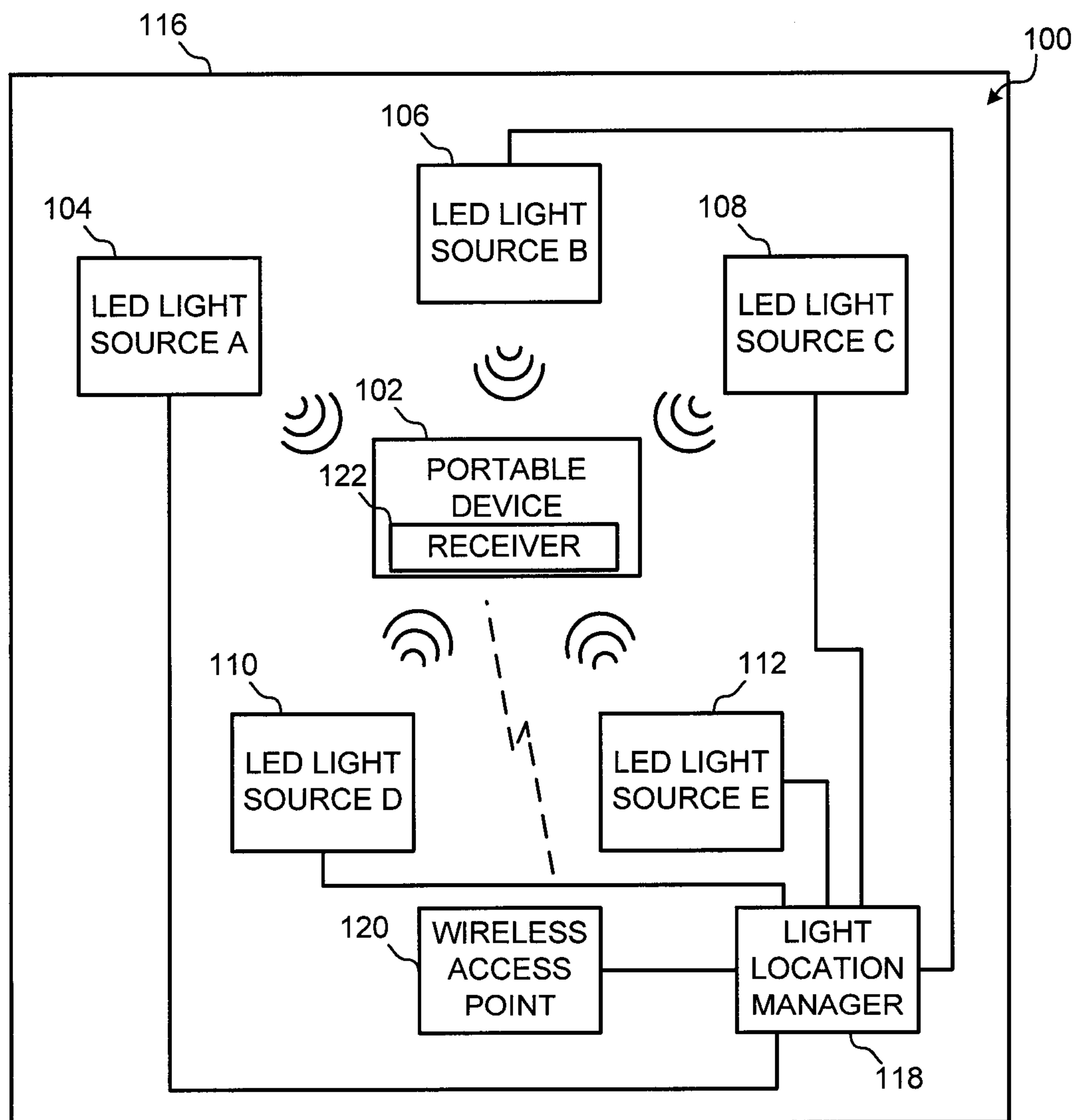


FIG. 1

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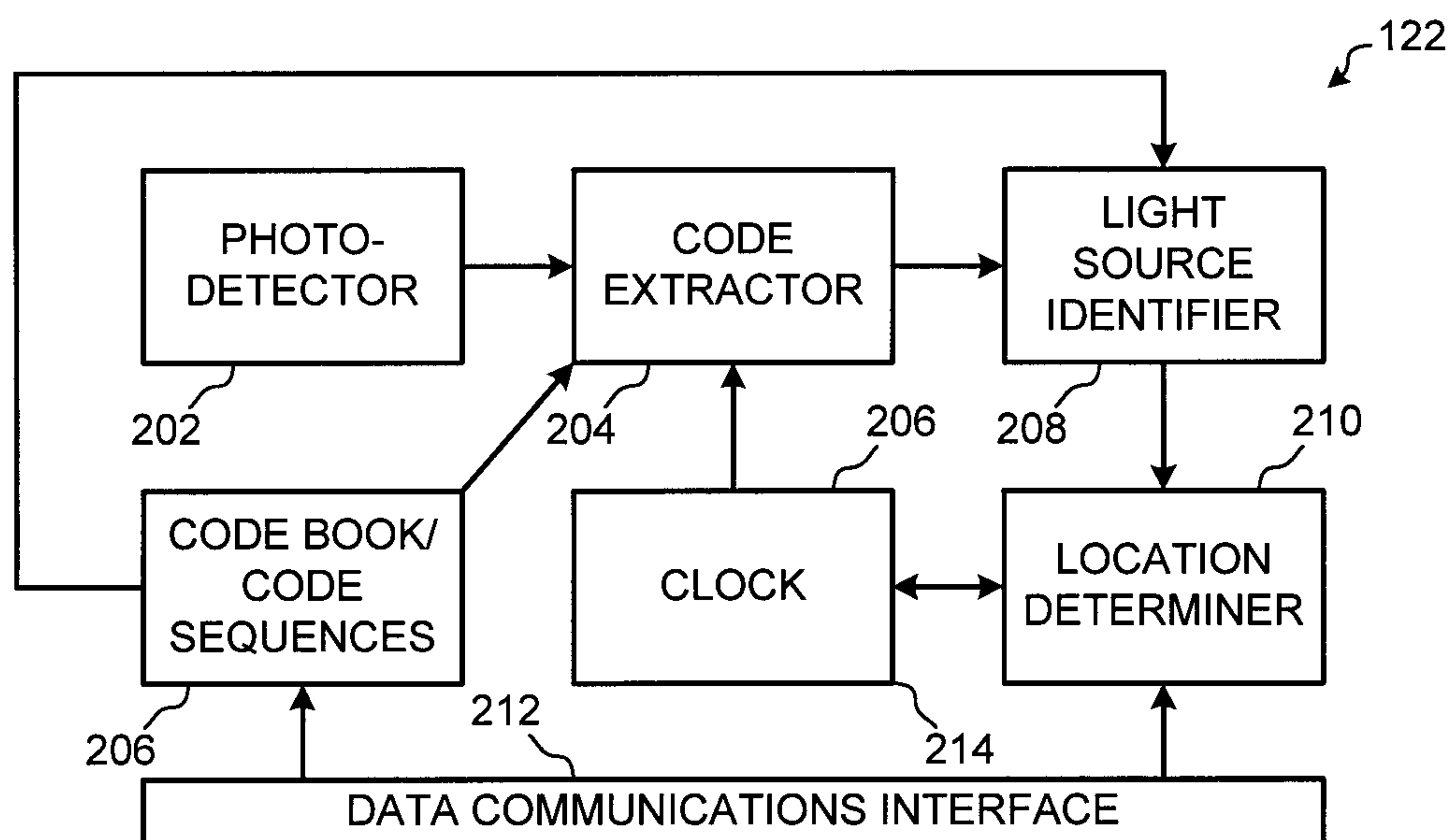


FIG. 2

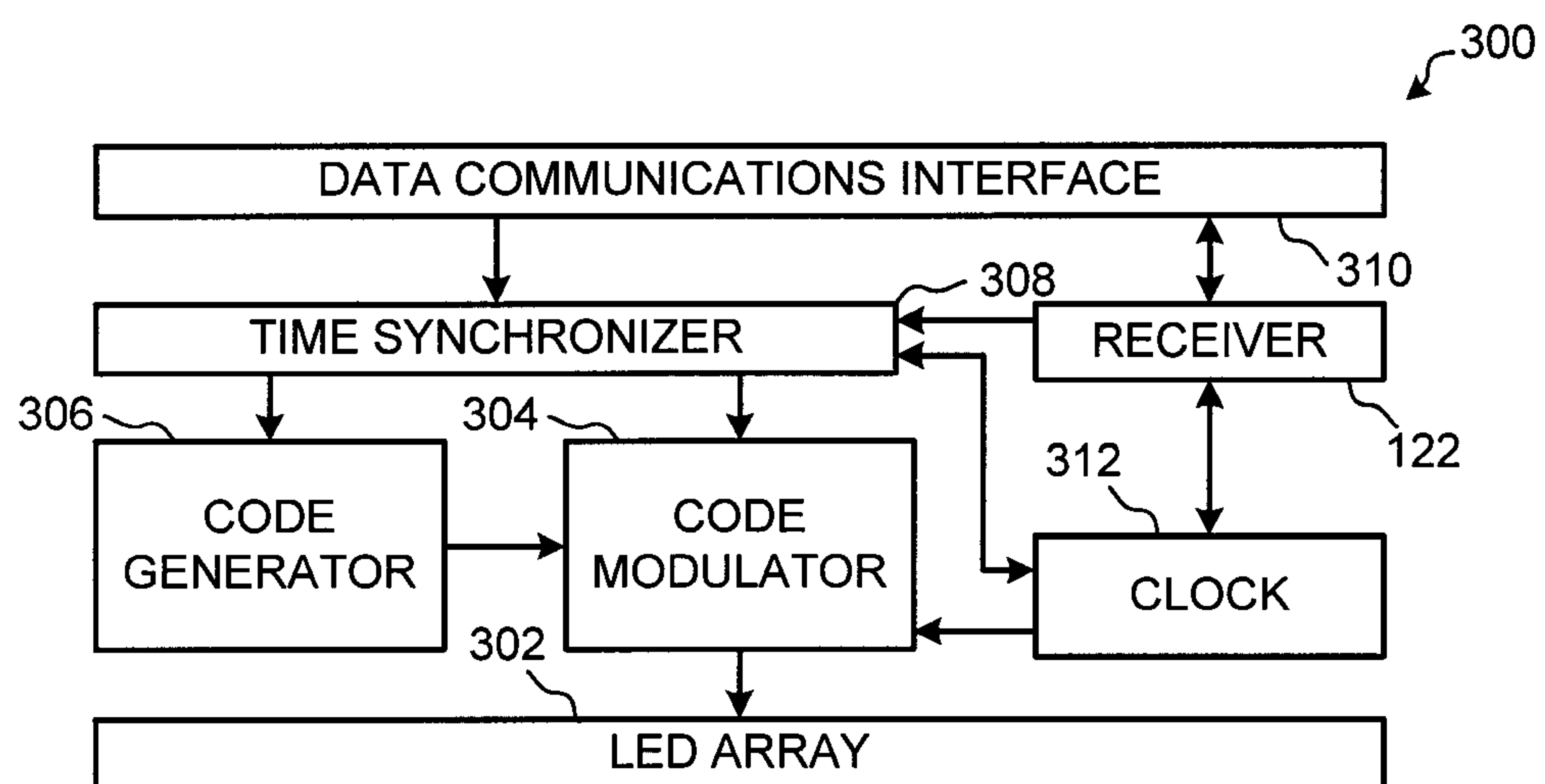


FIG. 3

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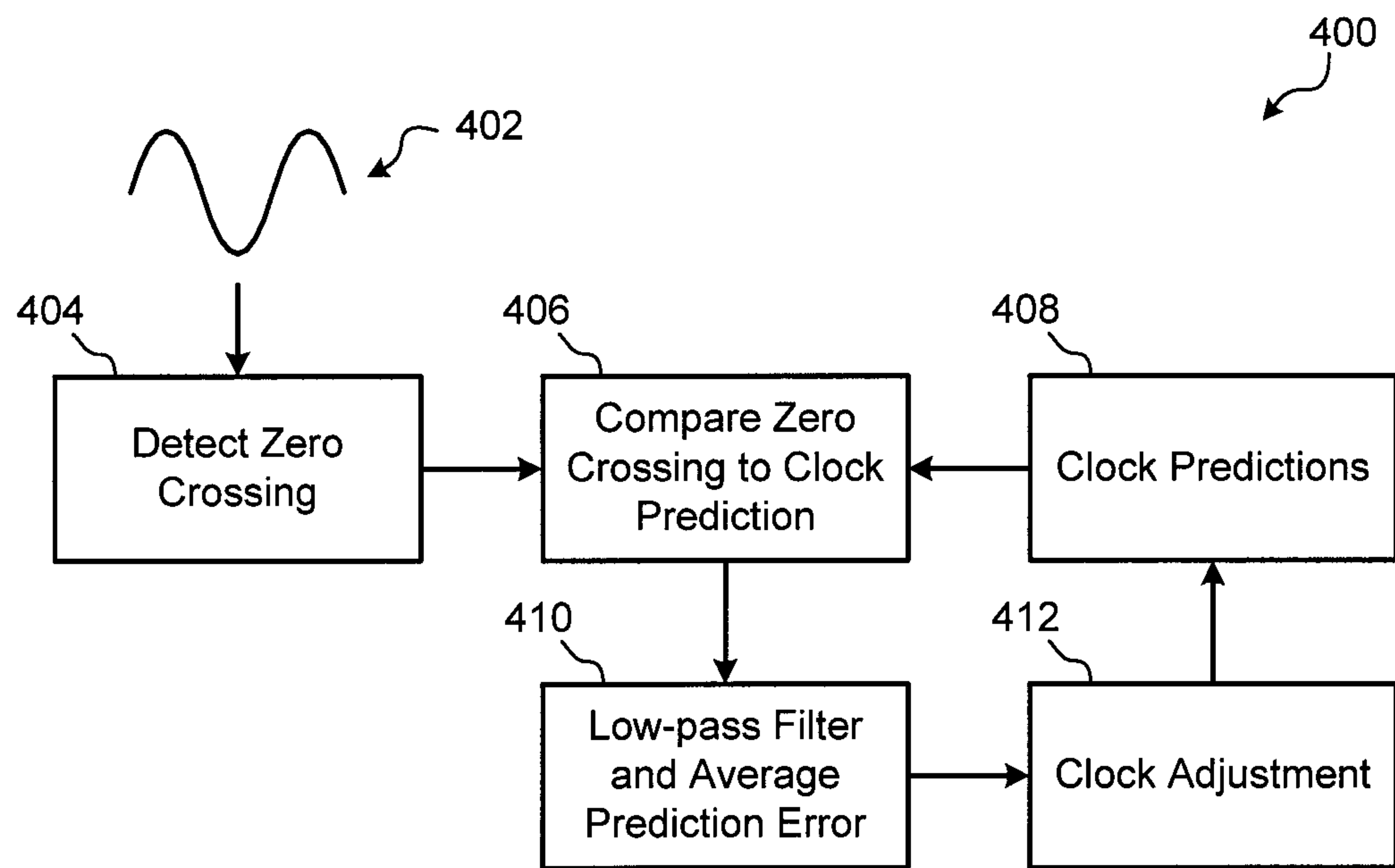


FIG. 4

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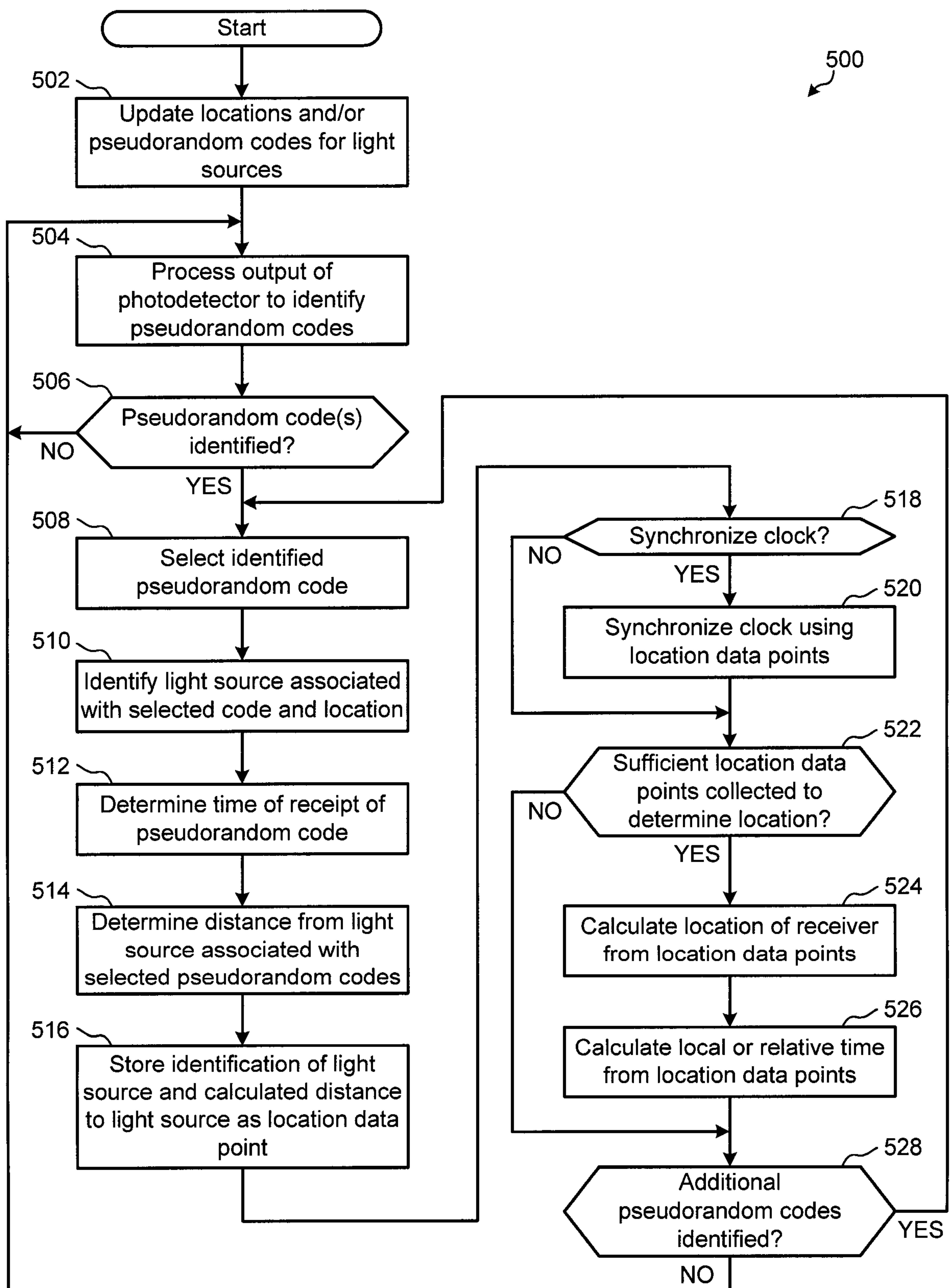


FIG. 5

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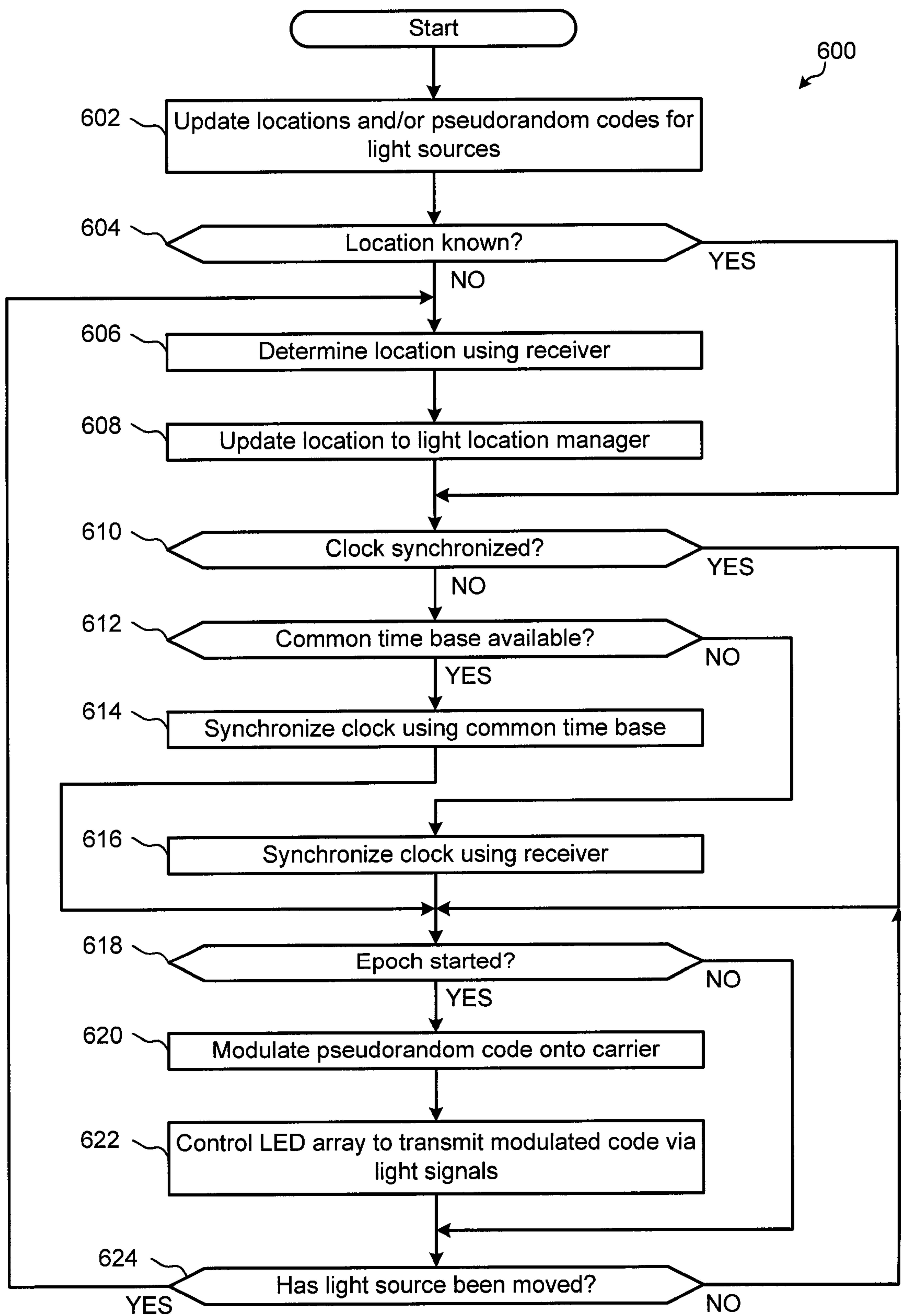


FIG. 6

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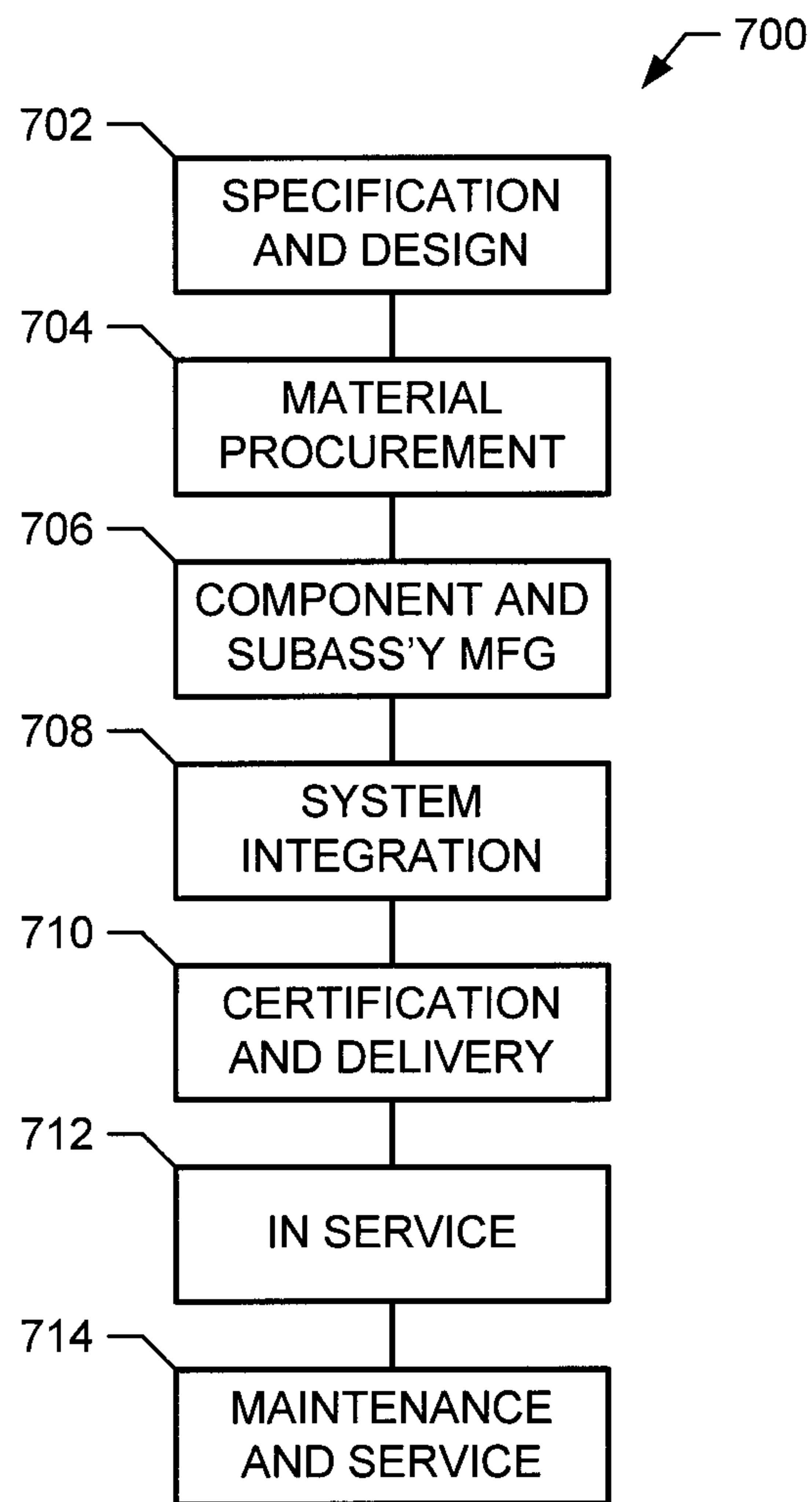


FIG. 7

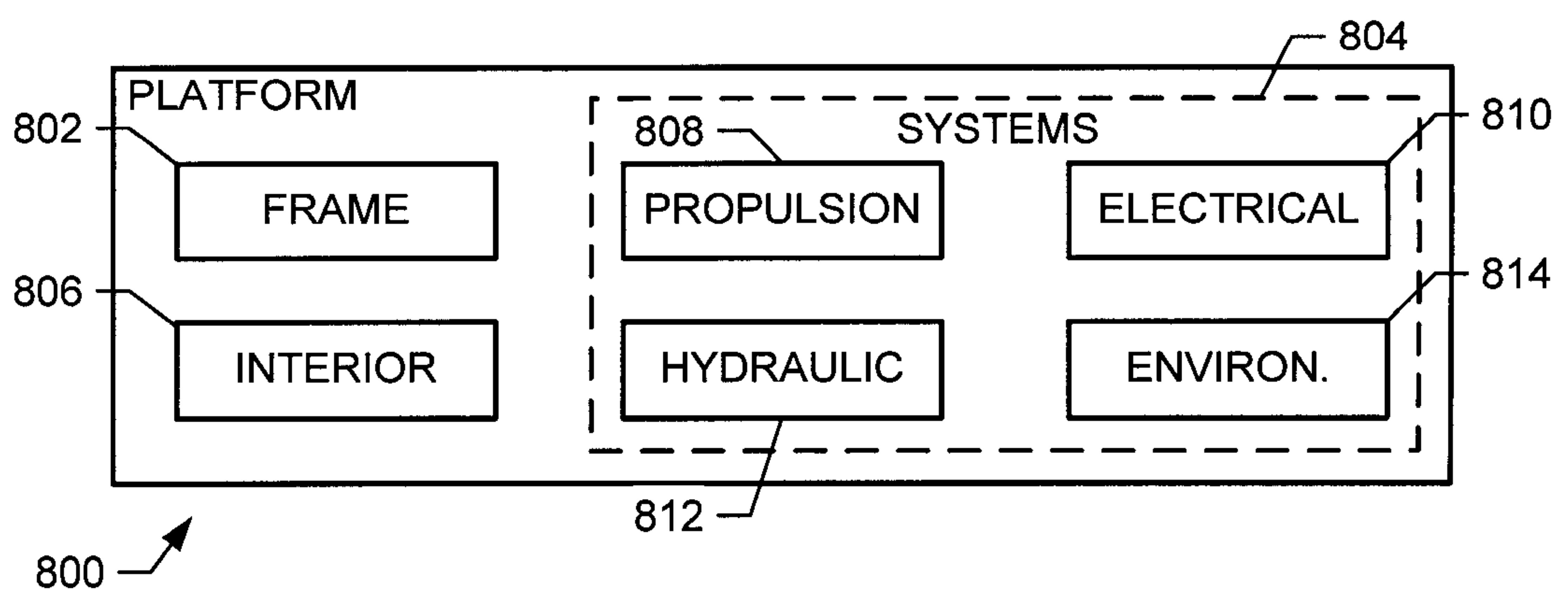


FIG. 8

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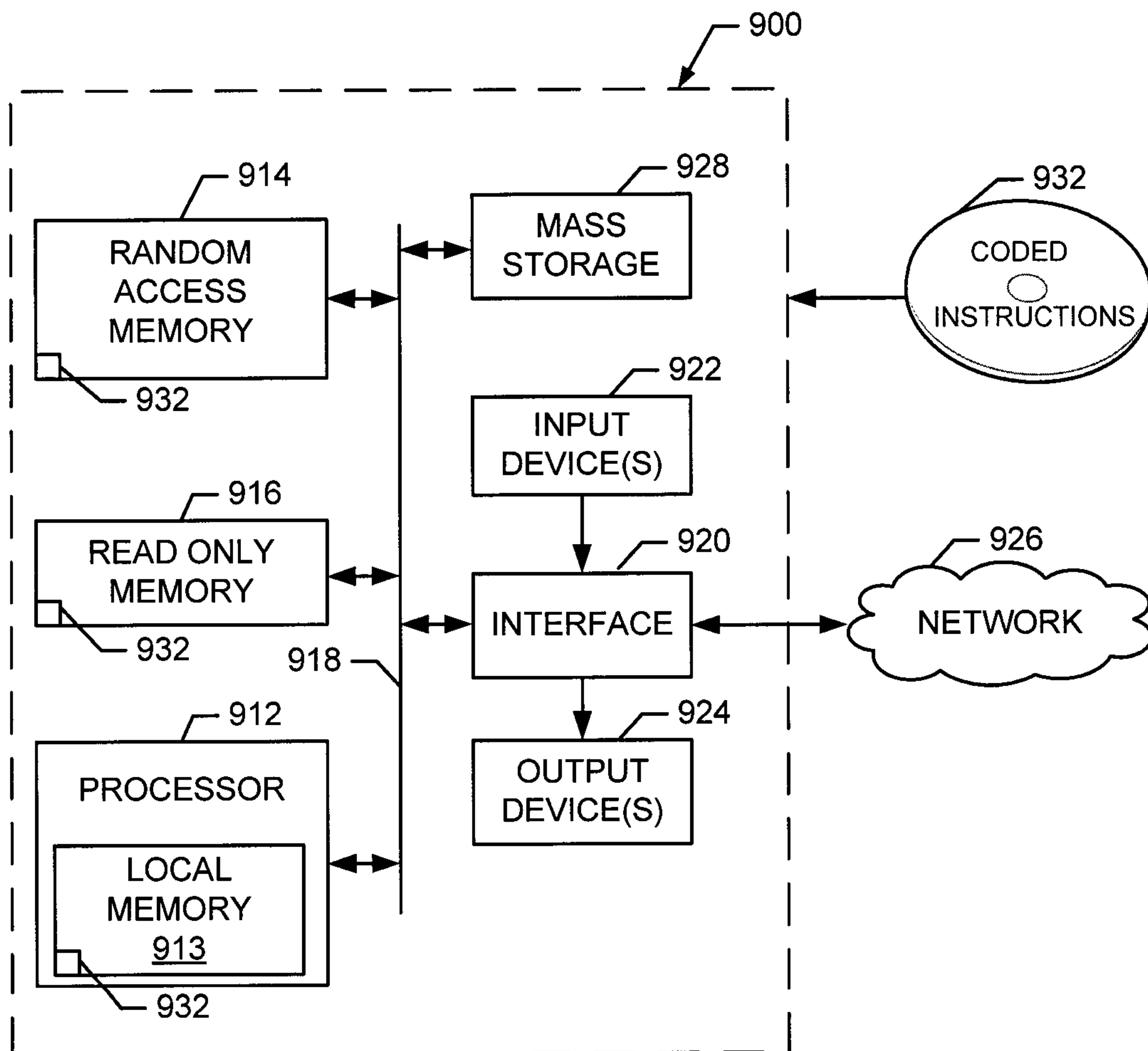


FIG. 9

