



- (51) International Patent Classification:
H04B 10/114 (2013.01) *G02B 27/01* (2006.01)
- (21) International Application Number:
PCT/IB2019/056808
- (22) International Filing Date:
09 August 2019 (09.08.2019)
- (25) Filing Language: English
- (26) Publication Language: English
- (30) Priority Data:
62/717,457 10 August 2018 (10.08.2018) US
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(81) Designated States (unless otherwise indicated, for every kind of national protection available): AE, AG, AL, AM, AO, AT, AU, AZ, BA, BB, BG, BH, BN, BR, BW, BY, BZ, CA, CH, CL, CN, CO, CR, CU, CZ, DE, DJ, DK, DM, DO, DZ, EC, EE, EG, ES, FI, GB, GD, GE, GH, GM, GT, HN, HR, HU, ID, IL, IN, IR, IS, JO, JP, KE, KG, KH, KN, KP, KR, KW, KZ, LA, LC, LK, LR, LS, LU, LY, MA, MD, ME, MG, MK, MN, MW, MX, MY, MZ, NA, NG, NI, NO, NZ, OM, PA, PE, PG, PH, PL, PT, QA, RO, RS, RU, RW, SA, SC, SD, SE, SG, SK, SL, SM, ST, SV, SY, TH, TJ, TM, TN, TR, TT, TZ, UA, UG, US, UZ, VC, VN, ZA, ZM, ZW.

(54) Title: SYSTEM FOR OPTICAL WIRELESS COMMUNICATION TO EXTENDED REALITY IMMERSION DEVICES

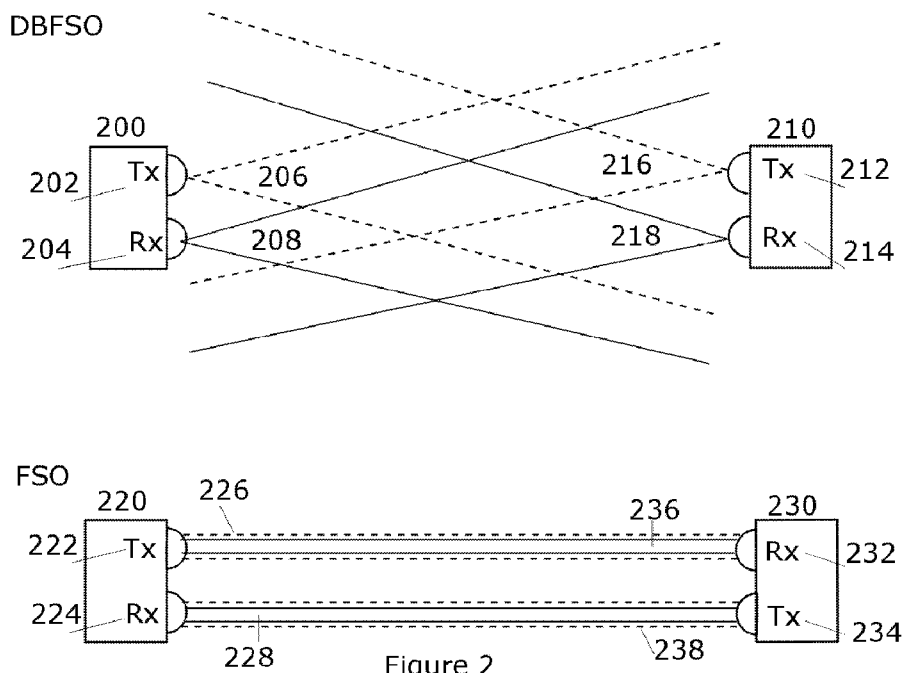


Figure 2

(57) Abstract: An optical communication system includes a base station and an extended reality immersion device (XRID). The base station includes an optical transmitter assembly configured to convert an electrical signal to an optical beam, and emit the optical beam in free space, uncollimated and with a divergence angle greater than 0.1 degrees. The XRID includes an optical receiver assembly having an acceptance angle greater than 0.1 degrees. The optical receiver is configured to detect the optical beam in free space, convert the optical beam to a corresponding electrical signal, and reproduce information carried by the corresponding electrical signal. The XRID also includes a head-up display configured to present the information.



(84) Designated States (*unless otherwise indicated, for every kind of regional protection available*): ARIPO (BW, GH, GM, KE, LR, LS, MW, MZ, NA, RW, SD, SL, ST, SZ, TZ, UG, ZM, ZW), Eurasian (AM, AZ, BY, KG, KZ, RU, TJ, TM), European (AL, AT, BE, BG, CH, CY, CZ, DE, DK, EE, ES, FI, FR, GB, GR, HR, HU, IE, IS, IT, LT, LU, LV, MC, MK, MT, NL, NO, PL, PT, RO, RS, SE, SI, SK, SM, TR), OAPI (BF, BJ, CF, CG, CI, CM, GA, GN, GQ, GW, KM, ML, MR, NE, SN, TD, TG).

Declarations under Rule 4.17:

- *as to the identity of the inventor (Rule 4.17(i))*
- *as to applicant's entitlement to apply for and be granted a patent (Rule 4.17(ii))*
- *as to the applicant's entitlement to claim the priority of the earlier application (Rule 4.17(iii))*

Published:

- *with international search report (Art. 21(3))*
- *before the expiration of the time limit for amending the claims and to be republished in the event of receipt of amendments (Rule 48.2(h))*
- *in black and white; the international application as filed contained color or greyscale and is available for download from PATENTSCOPE*

SYSTEM FOR OPTICAL WIRELESS COMMUNICATION TO EXTENDED REALITY IMMERSION DEVICES

CROSS-REFERENCE TO RELATED APPLICATION(S)

[0001] The present application claims priority to U.S. Provisional Patent Application No. 62/717,457, entitled: *System for Optical Wireless Communication to Headset*, filed on August 10, 2018, the content of which is incorporated herein by
5 reference in its entirety.

TECHNOLOGICAL FIELD

[0002] The present disclosure relates generally to high-speed free-space optical communication links and, in particular, to using such links to transmit data to and
10 from a user extended reality immersion device.

BACKGROUND

[0003] Various designs, methods and implementations, and systems for simulated and/or virtual/augmented/mixed reality environments exist in the literature. The
15 majority of these describe a mobile user that may have an extended reality immersion device (XRID), and immobile base station that does the majority of the processing and a communication system between the two. The prior art includes patents surrounding XRID design, full system design and implementing wireless
20 communications into various parts of the system. Full-design systems include an XRID, a base-station where the major audio/video processing occurs, and communications between the two. Various other patents focus on only the indoor communications pieces and include LiFi (light fidelity), RF (radio frequency) and MMW (millimeter wave) communications protocols. Prior art communications
25 systems have sought to minimize the bandwidth required for such systems in order to make them practical for RF communications, including MMW. RF spectrum bandwidth available for such communications is a major limitation to the prior art. XRID and base station processing to achieve the compression needed to minimize this
30 bandwidth also places major limitations on the prior art by increasing power, weight, and cost. Optical communications is known to solve these problems, but only in a limited way that introduces other limitations on numbers of users, bandwidths, complexity, weight, form factor, and cost.

[0004] U.S. Pat. No. 6,630,915 to Flood *et al.* discloses such a full system including a headset, base station, and wireless communication link between the two. Flood uses active tracking to point the transmitter at the receiver. The preferred embodiment for the transmitter is a laser with current modulator and the preferred
5 embodiment for the tracking system is with tracking sensors on the headset that provide locations to the transmitter which is moved by a two-axis gimbal. Digital information is relayed via amplitude modulation (on-off keying) of the laser. The detector, whose preferred implementation is an APD with gain stage detects the presence or absence of a light pulse and amplifies and digitizes it. **Figure 1** shows
10 one of the main figures from this patent showing an optical transceiver system with a computer and user headset. The user moves about the room and remains connected to the computer via the wireless communications system.

[0005] While Flood *et al.* describe the various pieces needed for simulation system based on wireless communications, they do not teach the various concepts
15 needed to design such a system. These may include the shape, type, or divergence of the optical beam, how tracking mechanisms are implemented and their various options, and how different modulation schemes can be used for different performance metrics. Some of these topics are non-obvious in the context of typical wireless communication design. Furthermore, they briefly mention the option of having
20 multiple users, but make no claims or statements teaching how this would be implemented.

[0006] U.S. Pat. No. 8,514,208 to Champion *et al.* discloses a method and apparatus for optical wireless communication digital video source and a display device. The focus of these teachings is on the protocol and control layer for sending
25 video from a transmitter to a receiver with a shadow memory. While the optical wireless transmission using a laser is the preferred implementation, the patent's disclosures are not on the optical wireless system parameters or design, but on the video data transfer protocols.

[0007] U.S. Pat. No. 8,948,601 to Shar *et al.* discloses a method and system for
30 indoor optical wireless bidirectional communications links between multiple user units and a centralized unit using collimated invisible light and a method for alignment between the users and the central unit using a visible light source on the central unit and windows on the user units to reflect it back. This patent teaches the use of collimated light beams, thus always requiring a tracking mechanism.

Furthermore, it also does not teach a complete system for optical wireless including modulation techniques, beam shape or divergence, or receiver art.

[0008] Additionally, there are numerous patents surrounding LiFi (light fidelity) technology including U.S. Pat. Pub. No. 2011/0105134, U.S. Pat. Pub. No.

5 2010/0209105, and U.S. Pat. Pub. No. 2009/0310971 which disclose visible light communication systems and methods using LEDs as the data transmission sources. Others include U.S. Pat. Pub. No. 2014/0265920, and U.S. Pat. No. 8,902,076, which teach the use of LEDs for illuminating interior room and building spaces as well as non-visible modulation of those LEDs for higher rate data communications. These
10 systems are limited to lower data rates due to the upper limit on modulation rate for current LED technology and could not be used for high definitely video transfer or HDMI.

[0009] Various other patents address pieces of the full simulation system, which include U.S. Pat. No. 9,880,619 which discloses a finger-wearable VR

15 communication device for tracking and position sensing of the user using wireless optical communication and U.S. Pat. Pub. No. 2017/0069217, which includes a full immersive system including limb and body movements using RF and 60 GHz communication frequencies.

[0010] Guelman et al. in IEEE Transactions on Aerospace and Electronic Systems
20 40(4):1239 - 1248 (2004) describe an acquisition and pointing control system for laser communications designed for inter satellites. Their device uses steering mirrors (fine and coarse) pointing, as well as a focusing mirror and quadrant detector. Their laser communication system beam's divergence is ~50 microradians, putting it in the class of very fine pointing and tracking mechanisms with highly collimated beams.

25 Additionally, they use a focusing mirror and fiber coupling collection.

[0011] Therefore, it would be desirable to have a system and method that takes into account and resolves at least some of the issues discussed above, as well as possibly other issues.

30 **BRIEF SUMMARY**

[0012] Example implementations of the present disclosure relate generally to high-speed free-space optical communication links and, in particular, to using such links to transmit data to and from a user extended reality immersion device (XRID). As described herein, an XRID includes any of a number of devices designed to enable

an extended reality or immersive experience. Examples of suitable XRIDs include headsets, haptic-based wearables, virtual environment control (e.g., humidity, temperature, odor, air circulation), simulator game machines (e.g., virtual vehicles), and the like. The present disclosure therefore includes, without limitation, the following example implementations.

5 [0013] Some example implementations provide an optical communication system comprising a base station including an optical transmitter assembly configured to convert an electrical signal to an optical beam, and emit the optical beam in free space, uncollimated and with a divergence angle greater than 0.1 degrees; and an extended reality immersion device (XRID) including: an optical receiver assembly
10 having an acceptance angle greater than 0.1 degrees, the optical receiver configured to detect the optical beam in free space, convert the optical beam to a corresponding electrical signal, and reproduce information carried by the corresponding electrical signal; and a head-up display configured to present the information.

15 [0014] In some example implementations of the optical communication system of any preceding example implementation, or any combination of any preceding example implementations, the optical communication system comprises a plurality of XRIDs including the XRID, and the optical receiver assembly is configured to detect the optical beam on a communication channel having a particular wavelength
20 assigned to the XRID in the optical communication system, the particular wavelength differing from other particular wavelengths assigned to others of the plurality of XRIDs.

[0015] In some example implementations of the optical communication system of any preceding example implementation, or any combination of any preceding
25 example implementations, the optical communication system comprises a plurality of XRIDs including the XRID, and the optical beam is time-division multiplexed to serve the plurality of XRIDs.

[0016] In some example implementations of the optical communication system of any preceding example implementation, or any combination of any preceding
30 example implementations, the optical communication system comprises a plurality of base stations including the base station, and a plurality of XRIDs including the XRID, the plurality of base stations assigned to respective ones of the plurality of XRIDs, wherein the optical receiver assembly is configured to detect the optical beam on a

communication channel between the XRID and the base station that is assigned to the XRID.

[0017] In some example implementations of the optical communication system of any preceding example implementation, or any combination of any preceding
5 example implementations, the optical receiver assembly is configured to detect the optical beam on a communication channel between the XRID and the base station, and wherein the optical communication system further comprises another XRID, and the XRID further comprises an optical transmitter assembly configured to encode an electrical signal with the information, convert the electrical signal to a corresponding
10 optical beam, and emit the corresponding optical beam in free space on another communication channel between the XRID and the other XRID, the XRID thereby configured to relay the information from the base station to the other XRID.

[0018] In some example implementations of the optical communication system of any preceding example implementation, or any combination of any preceding
15 example implementations, the base station includes a pointing system configured to point the optical transmitter assembly in a direction of the XRID.

[0019] In some example implementations of the optical communication system of any preceding example implementation, or any combination of any preceding
example implementations, the base station further includes a tracking system
20 configured to track the XRID as the XRID moves, the pointing system configured to point the optical transmitter assembly in the direction of the XRID as tracked.

[0020] In some example implementations of the optical communication system of any preceding example implementation, or any combination of any preceding
example implementations, the XRID includes a pointing system configured to point
25 the optical receiver assembly in a direction of the base station.

[0021] In some example implementations of the optical communication system of any preceding example implementation, or any combination of any preceding
example implementations, the XRID further includes a tracking system configured to track the base station as the XRID moves, the pointing system configured to point the
30 optical receiver assembly in the direction of the base station as tracked.

[0022] In some example implementations of the optical communication system of any preceding example implementation, or any combination of any preceding
example implementations, the information is carried by the electrical signal, and thereby also carried by the optical beam from the base station to the XRID, and

wherein the base station is configured to track a location and orientation of the XRID, and generate or modify the information carried by the optical beam based on the location and the orientation of the XRID.

5 [0023] Some example implementations provide an extended reality immersion device (XRID) comprising an optical receiver assembly having an acceptance angle greater than 0.1 degrees, the optical receiver configured to detect an optical beam in free space, convert the optical beam to a corresponding electrical signal, and reproduce information carried by the corresponding electrical signal; and a head-up display configured to present the information.

10 [0024] In some example implementations of the XRID of any preceding example implementation, or any combination of any preceding example implementations, the optical receiver assembly includes at least one array of optical detectors arranged to provide up to 2π steradians of coverage.

15 [0025] In some example implementations of the XRID of any preceding example implementation, or any combination of any preceding example implementations, the optical receiver assembly includes at least one array of coplanar optical detectors.

[0026] In some example implementations of the XRID of any preceding example implementation, or any combination of any preceding example implementations, the optical receiver assembly includes a longpass filter and an optical detector, the
20 longpass filter configured to suppress at least some visible and ultraviolet light from the optical beam, and the optical detector configured to detect the optical beam as filtered.

[0027] In some example implementations of the XRID of any preceding example implementation, or any combination of any preceding example implementations, the
25 optical receiver assembly further includes a bandpass filter between the longpass filter and the optical detector, the bandpass filter configured to further filter the optical beam.

[0028] In some example implementations of the XRID of any preceding example implementation, or any combination of any preceding example implementations, the
30 XRID further comprises an optical transmitter assembly configured to convert an electrical signal to a corresponding optical beam, and emit the corresponding optical beam in free space, uncollimated and with a divergence angle greater than 0.1 degrees.

[0029] In some example implementations of the XRID of any preceding example implementation, or any combination of any preceding example implementations, the optical transmitter assembly includes a laser and a longpass filter, the laser configured to emit the corresponding optical beam, and the longpass filter configured to suppress at least some visible and ultraviolet light from the corresponding optical beam.

[0030] In some example implementations of the XRID of any preceding example implementation, or any combination of any preceding example implementations, the optical receiver assembly and the optical transmitter assembly are combined in an arrangement further including a dichroic configured to pass the corresponding optical beam from which the longpass filter is configured to suppress at least some of the visible and ultraviolet light, and wherein the optical receiver assembly includes an optical detector, the longpass filter configured to suppress at least some visible and ultraviolet light from the optical beam, the dichroic configured to reflect the optical beam as filtered to the optical detector, and the optical detector configured to detect the optical beam reflected by the dichroic.

[0031] In some example implementations of the XRID of any preceding example implementation, or any combination of any preceding example implementations, the optical transmitter assembly includes at least one array of lasers arranged to provide at least 2π steradians of coverage.

[0032] In some example implementations of the XRID of any preceding example implementation, or any combination of any preceding example implementations, the optical transmitter assembly includes at least one array of coplanar lasers.

[0033] In some example implementations of the XRID of any preceding example implementation, or any combination of any preceding example implementations, the optical transmitter assembly includes a plurality of modulators configured to modulate the electrical signal with information thereby carried by the electrical signal, the plurality of modulators configured to share a total current

[0034] In some example implementations of the XRID of any preceding example implementation, or any combination of any preceding example implementations, the optical transmitter assembly includes a diffuser configured to diffuse the corresponding optical beam.

[0035] In some example implementations of the XRID of any preceding example implementation, or any combination of any preceding example implementations, the optical receiver assembly is configured to detect the optical beam on a downlink

communication channel having a particular wavelength, and the optical transmitter assembly is configured to emit the corresponding optical beam on an uplink communication channel having another, different particular wavelength.

5 [0036] In some example implementations of the XRID of any preceding example implementation, or any combination of any preceding example implementations, the corresponding electrical signal is encoded with the information using pulse amplitude modulation (PAM) or pulse position modulation (PPM), and the optical receiver assembly is configured to reproduce the information using the PAM or PPM.

10 [0037] In some example implementations of the XRID of any preceding example implementation, or any combination of any preceding example implementations, the optical receiver assembly is configured to detect the optical beam on a downlink communication channel having a particular wavelength, and wherein the XRID further comprises a radio transmitter assembly configured to convert an electrical signal to a corresponding radio signal, and transmit the corresponding radio signal on
15 an uplink communication channel.

[0038] These and other features, aspects and advantages of the present disclosure will be apparent from a reading of the following detailed description together with the accompanying figures, which are briefly described below. The present disclosure includes any combination of two, three, four, or more features or elements set forth in
20 this disclosure, regardless of whether such features or elements are expressly combined or otherwise recited in a specific implementation description herein. This disclosure is intended to be read holistically such that any separable features or elements of the disclosure, in any of its aspects and implementations, should be viewed as combinable, unless the context of the disclosure clearly dictates otherwise.

25 [0039] It will therefore be appreciated that the above Summary is provided merely for purposes of summarizing some example implementations so as to provide a basic understanding of some aspects of the disclosure. As such, it will be appreciated that the above described example implementations are merely examples of some implementations and should not be construed to narrow the scope or spirit of the
30 disclosure in any way. It will be appreciated that the scope of the disclosure encompasses many potential implementations, some of which will be further described below, in addition to those here summarized. Further, other aspects and advantages of implementations disclosed herein will become apparent from the

following detailed description taken in conjunction with the accompanying figures which illustrate, by way of example, the principles of the described implementations.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE FIGURE(S)

- 5 **[0040]** Having thus described the disclosure in the foregoing general terms, reference will now be made to the accompanying figures, which are not necessarily drawn to scale, and wherein:
- [0041]** **Figure 1** illustrates an optical transceiver system according to the prior art;
- [0042]** **Figure 2** illustrates a diverged beam free space optical (DBFSO) system
10 according to various example implementations of the present disclosure, and a traditional free space optical (FSO) system;
- [0043]** **Figure 3** illustrates possible types of extended reality immersion devices (XRIDs) according to various example implementations;
- [0044]** **Figure 4** illustrates a variety of potential arrangements for detector arrays,
15 according to various example implementations;
- [0045]** **Figure 5** illustrates a combined transmit and receive system using filters, according to various example implementations;
- [0046]** **Figure 6** illustrates an array of VCSEL (vertical cavity, surface emitting laser) elements, according to various example implementations;
- 20 **[0047]** **Figure 7** illustrates an optical communication system including a diffuser, according to various example implementations;
- [0048]** **Figure 8** illustrates how cross-talk from base stations to XRID might be reduced, according to various example implementations;
- [0049]** **Figures 9A and 9B** illustrate two different types of coverage areas,
25 according to various example implementations;
- [0050]** **Figures 10A, 10B, 10C and 10D** illustrate several possible options for setting up communications between users and base stations, according to various example implementations;
- [0051]** **Figures 11A, 11B and 11C** illustrate pointing of either or both the base
30 station or XRID, according to various example implementations;
- [0052]** **Figures 12A, 12B and 12C** illustrate how pointing may be implemented according to various examples;
- [0053]** **Figures 13A, 13B and 13C** illustrate how pointing may be implemented according to other examples;

[0054] **Figure 14** illustrates a tracked system, according to various example implementations;

[0055] **Figures 15A, 15B and 15C** illustrate how tracking may be implemented according to various examples;

5 [0056] **Figures 16A, 16B and 16C** illustrate modulation schemes, according to various example implementations;

[0057] **Figure 17** illustrates some of the potential combinations of optical wireless and other wireless technologies, according to various example implementations;

10 [0058] **Figure 18** illustrates using time-of-flight information to locate an XRID, according to various example implementations;

[0059] **Figures 19A and 19B** illustrate respectively XRID-to-XRID communication, and having more than one base station for a single user, according to various example implementations;

15 [0060] **Figures 20A and 20B** illustrate respectively an XRID having an optical link module, and an XRID having an integrated optical link, according to various example implementations; and

[0061] **Figures 21A, 21B and 21C** illustrate examples in which one or more base stations are connected to a network or cloud, according to various example implementations.

20

DETAILED DESCRIPTION

[0062] The present disclosure will now be described more fully hereinafter with reference to example implementations thereof. These example implementations are described so that this disclosure will be thorough and complete, and will fully convey
25 the scope of the disclosure to those skilled in the art. Indeed, the disclosure may be embodied in many different forms and should not be construed as limited to the implementations set forth herein; rather, these implementations are provided so that this disclosure will satisfy applicable legal requirements. As used in the specification and the appended claims, for example, the singular forms “a,” “an,” “the” and the like
30 include plural referents unless the context clearly dictates otherwise. Also, for example, reference may be made herein to quantitative measures, values, relationships or the like. Unless otherwise stated, any one or more if not all of these may be absolute or approximate to account for acceptable variations that may occur, such as those due to engineering tolerances or the like.

[0063] To insure consistent nomenclature, the following terms are used herein: node, link, and channel. A node is a physical location within the network and may be stationary or mobile. A link is a diverged beam free space optical (DBFSO) connection between two or more nodes that transmits and receives data and network control information between the nodes. A channel is a single path within a link and is differentiated from other channels by some physical characteristic such as wavelength or polarization and undergoes an electrical to optical (E-O) and optical to electrical (O-E) conversion. A DBFSO system such as that disclosed by U.S. Pat. No. 9,847,834 is made up of many nodes, with each node having one or more links to other nodes. Each link is then made up of one or more channels.

AR/VR DBFSO Links

[0064] DBFSO links have been described in detail in the U.S. Pat. No. 9,847,834, the content of which is incorporated by reference in its entirety. Instead of using highly-collimated laser beams with sophisticated pointing and tracking, the approach described in the '834 patent uses higher-power, diverged laser beams to increase the coverage area and angular tolerance, and decrease overall complexity and cost. Likewise, the receiver uses a larger-area detector or detector array to receive light from a range of angles. This architecture results in a lower-cost, higher-performance system compared to previous free space optical (FSO) communications implementations.

[0065] **Figure 2** illustrates the key differences between the DBFSO system and traditional FSO systems. In a DBFSO system the two nodes **200, 210** each have a transmitter (TX) **202, 212** and a receiver (RX) **204, 214**. The transmitters for each node **200, 202** emit diverging optical beams **206, 216** that cover a wide area at the opposite node's receiver. Similarly, each receiver **204, 214** has a broad field-of-view **208, 218**, meaning that the receivers are collecting light from a wide range of angles.

[0066] In traditional FSO systems, the nodes, **220, 230** also have transmitters **222, 234** and receivers **224, 232**, but in these systems the transmit beams are collimated **226, 238** and the receivers have a very narrow field-of-view **236, 228** and collect light that is nearly collimated. This adds cost and complexity to the pointing-and-tracking system for traditional FSO systems. As described in the '834 patent, in some examples, a DBFSO system is described by the transmitter transmitting beams in free space, uncollimated and with a divergence angle greater than 0.1 degrees (and up to

180 degrees), and the receiver having an acceptance angle greater than 0.1 degrees (and up to +/- 90 degrees).

[0067] This application describes the innovations required to use DBFSO links for high bandwidth, low latency communications to and from user extended reality immersion devices (XRIDs). These headsets may be used for extended reality (XR) such as virtual reality (VR), augmented reality (AR), mixed reality (MR), immersive or other applications requiring high bandwidth communications. Again, examples of suitable XRIDs include headsets, haptic-based wearables, virtual environment control (e.g., humidity, temperature, odor, air circulation), simulator game machines (e.g., virtual vehicles), and the like.

[0068] Data transfer for XR applications typically includes high-speed, high-definition video, as well as control commands and feedback from various sensors. The challenge for any wireless system is transmitting the large amount of data required for high-resolution video with minimal latency and maximal data throughput. Typical 4k video standards include DCI 4K and its relative 4K-UHD, both of which use more than 17 Gbps of uncompressed bandwidth. In order to handle this data transfer rate, wireless solutions may need to use compression algorithms. There are three trade-offs with using compression: first, that compression and decompression algorithms often add latency, second that compression degrades the quality of the picture and third, compression requires an increase in processing power. To ensure the highest quality for data transfer of video, the bandwidth of the communications system must be high while the latency is minimized. There may be additional communications data needed for eye tracking, position tracking, audio, haptic feedback or the like that may use a lower bandwidth channel or the same channel as the high-speed video. High bandwidth optical wireless aims at solving these issues due to its nearly unlimited spectral availability which may solve both the bandwidth and the latency issue, as standard error correction without need for compression results in ultra-low latency requirements.

[0069] The bandwidth range for DBFSO for XR applications may range from a 1 Mbps up to and beyond 100 Tbps. DBFSO links with bandwidths of 100 Mbps and 1 Gbps have been reduced to practice. Lower capacity links, down to 1 Mbps can be implemented with a similar architecture as the 100 Mbps link with potentially cheaper components and higher laser power. Current fiber optic communications systems already have single wavelengths carrying 10, 20, 40 and 100 Gbps. These

components used in the DBFSO configurations can provide 10 to 100 Gbps links today. Advances in components and the use of multiple wavelengths may extend the link capacity for DBSO to XRIDs up to 100 Tbps.

5 [0070] The physical scenarios for XR type applications have some important differences compared to outdoor FSO communication links for last mile type applications described in some of the prior art. Specifically, most XR is indoor which reduces the amount of ambient light. Since the XR links are usually on the order of meters to tens of meters in length, atmospheric effects are also minimized. However, in XR applications, the XRID will move and rotate and the link must still provide near
10 continuous communications.

[0071] In most XR applications, the user wears some type of XRID that has a mechanism for projecting an image that is ultimately received by one or both eyes. **Figure 3** shows examples of possible types of XRIDs that can range from full coverage of the head with a portion that covers the eyes completely **300** with straps
15 fitted around the head **302** to implementations that look like glasses **304** with tiny projectors added that rest on the ear pieces **306** or elsewhere in the frame. For the full XRID, the transceiver unit **310** could hook into the head straps **302**. For an implementation that has glass **304**, the transceiver **312** could integrate or sit near the glasses **304** or be integrated with the rims. Example implementations of the present
20 disclosure can be used with any XRID implementation. For full XRIDs that cover the head, the sensors, transmitters, and receivers can be integrated into the physical structure of the XRID. For the lower profile devices such as glasses, as detectors and electronics are improved, it will be possible to integrate optical links into the frames of glasses.

25

Receiver Field-of-View

[0072] To increase the usability of AR/VR links, communications links need to be maintained while the user moves around. The space in which the user moves may include the entire horizontal plane within some space, as well as vertical (as a user
30 stands, sits on something or lies on the floor), and rotational (as the user spins around in one spot). Complete 4π spherical coverage would be the ideal although many use cases will be satisfied by 2π or hemispherical coverage. Example implementations of the present disclosure will satisfy in any case, although the exact implementation may be different for individual cases.

[0073] As a first example, consider hemispherical coverage of an XRID with the user moving around a room that is 10 meters wide by 10 meters deep by 5 meters tall. If a single base station is used to cover the entire room then it must operate over a distance to the XRID ranging from 3 meters (2 meter tall person directly under transmitter) to $5\sqrt{3} = 8.7$ meters (person on floor in corner of room). If the required receive power is 1 microW on a 1 cm^2 detector, then the base-station transmitter must launch at least 4.7 W of power (1 cm^2 out of hemisphere with radius of 8.7 meters).

[0074] Many of the previously described example implementations of the DBFSO communications links as well as the standard FSO links have described large detectors with an optics facing out. Many detectors have a larger acceptance angle than needed for the link, and by placing a focusing optic before the detector, the angular range is traded for an increase in optical gain. This reduces the total amount of power needed in the system, while simultaneously decreasing the field of view of the receiver system.

[0075] For XR application that requires a broader field-of-view, the acceptance angle of the link will typically be larger than the acceptance angle of a given detector, so multiple detectors pointing in different directions may be needed to achieve the necessary angular coverage. For example, many detectors have an acceptance angle of $\sim \pm 45$ degrees. To achieve hemispherical coverage one would need 8 of these detectors (with some overlap between detectors) with one pointing straight up and the other four in the horizontal plane separated by 90 degrees. The cross section over which light can be detected would now be the size of an individual detector. Since there are no optics, the detection area of the receiver is much smaller, so many more detectors are now needed.

[0076] One example implementation to achieve larger detector size is to use arrays of detectors. In one such implementation, there may be multiple detectors in a single plane that are adjacent or nearly adjacent to each other. **Figure 4** shows a variety of potential arrangements for detector arrays. Fill factors for the arrays can either be 100% which include **400**, **402**, and **404** where each element is touching all the surrounding elements, or they can have less than 100% fill factor shown in **406**, **408**, and **410** where there is dead space in between the individual elements. The arrays of detectors could have different geometries such as offset squares **400**, where the individual elements are squares and they are arranged in lines with each

subsequent line offset from the one above. Other geometries include honeycomb **402**, **408** made up of hexagonal elements, with either 100% fill factor **402** or less than 100% fill factor **408**, circular elements, **406**, octagonal elements **412**, octagonal and square combinations, **404** or any combination thereof. Additionally, arrays can also include space for associated electronics **410**. There may be multiple sets of these detector arrays in different locations and pointing in different directions. In another case, the detectors may not be coplanar, but point in different directions while still being physically close to each other. Total receiver area for the detectors may be a relevant factor, and this can be achieved in a variety of ways. In some example implementations, the detector arrays may be made out of a single piece of silicon or InGaAs (indium gallium arsenide) and further etched into arrays, while in other cases, discrete detectors may simply be placed adjacent to each other in their separate packages.

[0077] In some example implementations, the detectors or detector arrays can be made from avalanche photodiodes (APDs).

[0078] In some example implementations, the APDs can be based on silicon materials. These materials may be sensitive to light with wavelengths between 350 nm and 1000 nm. In some example implementations, the APDs can be based on InGaAs materials (indium gallium arsenide). These materials may be sensitive to light with wavelengths from about 1.0 microns up to about 2.6 microns.

[0079] In some example implementations, the detectors or detector arrays can be made from SiPMs (silicon photomultipliers) technology.

Filtering / Optical Bandwidth / Angular Acceptance

[0080] In some example implementations, the detectors or detector arrays may have optical filters in front of them. These filters may suppress unwanted light from other sources such as room lights, sunlight, or other optical links. In some cases, the filters may be long pass, such as for suppressing most visible and UV light. In some cases, the filters may be bandpass, such as for suppressing visible light and attenuating nearby optical channels. Filters may need to have an angular acceptance range that is similar to the acceptance angle of the detector. For typical thin film interference filters, such as most common bandpass filters, the range of wavelengths accepted changes as a function of angle between the filter and the incoming light. For these filters, the bandpass wavelengths shift to the blue as the angle from the normal

increases. This angle tuning effect may limit how spectrally close the next AR/VR communications channel can be to keep the crosstalk below the acceptable level.

[0081] One possible implementation of a combined transmit and receive system using filters is shown in **Figure 5**. Here, the laser **500**, and the detector **502** optical paths share a common path until the dichroic **506**. For this system, the laser wavelength **512** is different from the bandpass filter wavelength **514**, for its own receiver. The transmit light emitted by the laser **500** travels straight through the dichroic **506**, through the lens **508**, and out through the longpass filter **510** to another node (not shown). Transmitted light from another node follows a similar path back through the longpass filter **510**, focusing lens **508** and is reflected into the other arm of the dichroic **506**. This light is filtered by a narrowed bandpass filter **504** and finally lands on the receiver **502**. Using common elements and a common path reduces the complexity and the overall footprint of the transmit / receive pair. Minimization of cross-talk from the dichroic is one potential issue, although with high out of band blocking on the bandpass filter **504**, this should not be an issue. Other possible implementations include using a power beam splitter in place of dichroic **506**, removing LP filter **510**, removing BP filter **504**, or some combination thereof. In addition to optical filtering, known signal processing techniques such as CDMA, TDMA, FDMA, and PDMA can be used to improve signal to noise ratios in high noise environments such as full sunlight.

Laser Arrays

[0082] In a similar fashion to the receiver, the transmitter may benefit from arrays of lasers. Several of the DBFSO links built to date have used arrays of VCSEL (vertical cavity, surface emitting laser) to achieve high power output and high data rate. These VCSEL arrays can have a few to a few thousand individual VCSEL elements. Such an array is shown in **Figure 6**. Here, the laser array **612** is driven by one or more modulators **600**, **602**, **604**. The modulators **600**, **602**, **604** are each electrically connected to the VCSEL array and any number of them can be used to drive the laser array. At gigahertz speeds, there are currently no known modulators that can drive multiple amps of current needed to produce the several watts of modulated optical power. One solution to this is to use multiple modulators, **600**, **602**, **604** and share the total current between them. Each modulator can be driven by a separate data source **606**, **608**, **610**, or they can all be driven by the same data

source, or any combination of data sources. The emitted modulated light is then diverged by a lens **614**.

Eye Safety

5 **[0083]** In general, the system will be eye safe outside of the transmitter enclosures. In some example implementations, this will be accomplished by using a diffuser which can increase the angular aperture and range of the transmitted beam. This increases the allowed optical power level as the beam is no longer focused to a tight spot on the retina. In some example implementations, such as those using arrays
10 of lasers, the size of the array contributes to making the source eye-safe, as arrays make the source extended which cannot be focused to a tight spot by the retina. In some example implementations, the high divergence of the laser will ensure the beam is eye-safe in a very short distance from the source, making the enclosure needed, very small.

15 **[0084]** **Figure 7** shows one such system where the laser array **700** is itself an extended source, and a diffuser **704** is placed after it, making a larger extended source **702**. The diffuser also can diverge the light rays faster, making the spot size larger at a closer distance which reduces overall footprint. The light from the diffuser hits a lens **706** of focal length f_1 **718** and travels some distance (L) **720** before hitting the
20 eye **712**. The eye **712** focuses the image to an extended spot **714** on the retina. The focal length of the eye is denoted by f_2 **722**. The angle, alpha (α) **716** is given by the image size on the retina divided by f_2 .

$$\alpha = \frac{\text{image size on retina}}{f_2} = \frac{f_2 * \text{extended spot size}}{f_1 * f_2} = \frac{\text{extended spot size}}{f_1}$$

where the extended spot **702** is dependent on the divergence angle of the laser and the
25 distance to the diffuser in the above case. The maximum power density that the eye may safely receive is dependent on alpha (α), the wavelength, and the exposure time.

Multiple Wavelengths

[0085] In some example implementations, more than one optical wavelength will
30 be used. In some cases, the bandwidth per wavelength is limited by the performance of one or more components. The system bandwidth may be increased by using multiple wavelengths. Wavelengths may range from the UV to the deep IR. Different wavelengths will have different advantages. For example, using wavelengths longer

than ~800 nm, but shorter than ~1000 nm may be advantageous because they have very low responsivity in the human eye, and thus are not readily perceived, but can be detected by silicon detectors, which are typically lower in cost and have lower noise floors. Wavelengths beyond 1000 nm may be advantageous because there is no
5 responsivity in the human eye and can be detected with InGaAs detectors. One advantage to using InGaAs detectors is they are used in large volume in the fiber optic telecom industry and thus their cost to manufacture is continuously decreasing.

[0086] In some example implementations, the XRIDs may use one wavelength for optical communications up to the base station and the base station may use a different
10 wavelength for communications down to the XRID. This may be particularly useful in configurations where the transmitter and receiver share some of their optical path and may be more susceptible to crosstalk between the local transmitter and receiver. For example, in the case where the transmitter and receiver are co-axial in the XRID and share a pointing mirror or optic, there are crosstalk paths where the transmit light
15 is reflected or scattered off of the optics or other surfaces and ends up at the receiver. Since the receiver threshold may be on the order of 1/1,000,000 of the transmit launch power, it does not take much crosstalk to overpower the signal from the other end of the link. One uncoated optical surface can reflect 4% of incident light and reach the receiver at a level that is orders of magnitude above threshold.

[0087] Multiple wavelengths can also be used to increase the number of XRIDs in a given physical area. Each XRID may have one or two or more designated wavelengths, either a shared uplink and downlink wavelength or one wavelength for uplink and another wavelength for the downlink or multiple wavelengths that can be
25 selectively used either to reduce crosstalk between multiple users or to overcome equipment failures at a particular wavelength. Using multiple wavelengths for multiple users is also a way to reduce the crosstalk between the base stations and XRIDs.

[0088] **Figure 8** shows one example of how cross-talk from base stations to XRIDs might be reduced. Here, there are two base stations denoted B1 **800** and B2
30 **808** and two XRIDs H1 **804** and H2 **814**, although generally this could be true for any number of XRIDs, base stations and wavelengths. B1 has a transmitting wavelength, λ_2 which is directed towards H1 **804** by the arrow **802**. H1 **804** has a receiver of wavelength λ_2 . H1 **804** has a different transmitting wavelength, λ_1 which is received by B1 **800** denoted by arrow **806**. Similarly, B2 **808** has a transmitting wavelength

λ_1 , received by H2 **814** denoted by the arrow **810** and H2 **814** transmits back λ_2 to B2 **808** denoted by the arrow **812**. The cross-talk opportunities here are between B1 **800** transmitter and B2 **808** receiver denoted by the dashed arrow **818**, B2 **808** transmitter and B1 **800** receiver denoted by the dashed arrow **816**, H1 **804** transmitter and H2 **814** receiver denoted by the dashed arrow **820**, and H2 **814** transmitter and H1 **804** receiver denoted by the dashed arrow **822**. These situations however, are much less physically likely due to the setup geometry. The most likely cases of cross-talk for multiple users in a space especially if the users are moving around, would be between B1 **800** and H2 **814** and B2 **808** and H1 **804**. However, since these operate on different wavelengths, cross-talk between them is minimized.

[0089] In some example implementations, multiple wavelengths could be used for communications between user to user versus users to a base station. This could include one or more wavelengths for separate uplink and downlink communications and inter-user communications.

[0090] In some example implementations, tunable lasers and / or filters may be used. In these cases, wavelengths may be assigned and reassigned as needed. This wavelength assignment may be set on the device for example by setting switches or via a user interface or may be assigned via another communications channel such as RF, mm wave or other.

Coverage Areas

[0091] There are multiple ways to provide transmission of optical data over a physical area. In some example implementations each transmitter has a coverage area that is set by the divergence of its emitter. Larger areas may then be covered by having multiple lasers either co-located, but pointing in different directions, at multiple locations or by some combination thereof. **Figures 9A** and **9B** show two different types of coverage areas. In **Figure 9A**, there are multiple nodes **900**, spaced around a room **908**. Each node's transmitter has a divergence angle **902** which translates into a certain coverage area **904** in the plane of the user's **906** head. The nodes **900**, are spaced such that their coverage areas **904** slightly overlap so that the user has a seamless transition from one to the next. In **Figure 9B**, multiple nodes **910** are located in the same area within the room **918**. Each of the nodes **910** is pointed in a different direction in order to provide coverage area. Each node has a divergence angle **912** which translated to a coverage area **914** in the plane of the user **916**. The

advantage or disadvantage to either of these setups is room-dependent, but the transmission and coverage provided is the same in each of the cases. The divergence angle of the transmitters may be set by the intrinsic divergence of the laser or emitter, or by use of optical elements such as diffusers, which generally broaden the natural
5 divergence, or by lenses, which may either increase or decrease the divergence.

[0092] In some example implementations, the transmission links may be configured to allow multiple users within the coverage area of a given transmitter. These users may either share the same data or they may require different data. This maybe done via either time division multiplexing or wavelength division
10 multiplexing. In time-division multiplexing, a single source beam carries both users' information, but each user is allocating a set time portion of the beam. This generally reduces bandwidth per user, but also reduces the need for multiple transmitters. In wavelength division multiplexing, there are multiple emitters emitting different wavelengths and each separate user has their own wavelength channel. This method
15 allows users access to the full bandwidth, but may increase the complexity of the transmitters in some cases. In some example implementations, the wavelengths may be tunable. In some example implementations, the tunable lasers may be dynamically adjusted and allocated to different users at different times.

[0093] **Figures 9A** and **9B** show the nodes are shown **900, 910** as discrete boxes, but as XR becomes more widespread, these boxes may be integrated into the
20 infrastructure of a particular location. As an example, nodes may be integrated into light fixtures, similar to designs that have been proposed for Li-Fi. Other locations include walls, ceilings, network equipment both indoors and outdoors.

[0094] **Figure 10** shows several possible options for setting up communications
25 between users and base stations. **Figure 10A** shows the case where a single base station **1002** transmits data to two users **1004, 1006**. These users will either receive the same data, or they will time-share the data – one user **1004** gets up to half of the time-slotted data while the other user **1006**, gets up to the other half. **Figure 10B** shows a configuration where there are two base stations **1008, 1010** and two users
30 **1012, 1014**. One base station transmits data to one user in this scenario. Multiple wavelengths can be used to reduce cross-talk as previously mentioned. The base stations could track the users or be stationary and provide wide coverage areas. **Figure 10C** shows a configuration where there is a single base station **1016** and two users **1018** and **1020**. The base station **1016** transmits data to one user. There is a

second link between one user **1018** and the other **1020** denoted by **1022**. Data from the base station **1016** then gets relayed to the second user **1020** via the optical link between users **1022**. **Figure 10D** shows a system where there is more than one base station per user. Here, there are two base stations per user, **1024** and **1030** are both sending data to user **1036** and base stations **1028** and **1032** are sending data to user **1038**. Multiple base stations per user can be used to create more coverage, have redundancy in the link, or potentially be multiplexed for either higher speeds or so each base station could send data at a lower rate.

10 Pointing

[0095] One of the advantages of DBFSO systems is that they may be used in conjunction with pointing and tracking systems where the pointing and tracking systems may be lower cost and complexity than what is needed for collimated beam FSO systems. The DBFSO systems may have a beam divergence that ranges from a few milliradians up to 180 degrees. Typical FSO systems have beam divergences of 100 microradians and below. This directly impacts the pointing system required. If a beam has a divergence of 100 microradians, then the motor system must have at least 126,000 positions to cover 2 pi range of pan. To cover 2 pi steradians requires about 629M different positions. In a DBFSO system with 2 milliradians of divergence, only 1.5M positions are required to cover 2 pi steradians and this drops to 5.4K positions if the divergence is 34 milliradians (2 degrees). The cost and complexity of the pointing systems scale with the number of positions that must be covered so the DBFSO will significantly reduce the cost of pointing.

[0096] This section describes some example implementations that integrate pointing and tracking systems into DBFSO communications links.

[0097] In some example implementations, the coverage area of a transmitter or a receiver is increased beyond its inherent divergence or acceptance through the use of pointing. The laser or detector may have an inherent coverage area, which is then moved across a coverage area using a steering mechanism. This may include both pan (horizontal movement) and tilt (vertical movement) or some other set of near orthogonal axes. **Figures 11A, 11B and 11C** shows several of the example implementations listed below.

[0098] In some example implementations, the base station (**Figure 11A**) **1102** transmitter and/or receiver may be pointed to cover the XRID **1104** as it moves.

Either the transmitter or receiver may not be moved, but may have a larger inherent coverage area. The pointed beam **1108** has a small coverage area, but is mainly steered while the XRID **1104** has a static larger coverage area **1106** and does not require pointing.

- 5 **[0099]** In some example implementations (**Figure 11B**), XRID **1112** transmitter and/or receiver may be pointed **1116** to maintain alignment with the base station **1110** as the XRID **1112** moves. Either the transmitter or receiver may not be moved, but may have a larger inherent coverage area. The base station **1110** may have a larger coverage area **1114** as well and not require pointing.
- 10 **[0100]** In some example implementations (**Figure 11C**), there will be pointing on both the base station **1118** and the XRID **1120**. Here, the base station **1118** pointing is denoted by **1122** and the XRID **1120** pointing is denoted by **1124**. Again, either the transmitter or receiver on either the base station **1118** or XRID **1120** may not be moved, but may have a larger inherent coverage area.
- 15 **[0101]** In some example implementations, the pointing may be implemented by moving a lens in front of the transmitter and/or receiver. **Figure 12A** shows such an implementation where a laser **1200** emits light that is focused by a lens **1204** into an on-axis diverging beam. If the lens **1206** is moved off axis, this results in the light from the laser array **1202** being steered **1210**. In some example implementations, the
- 20 pointing may be implemented by controlling a liquid lens that points the transmitter and/or receiver. A possible example of this implementation is shown in **Figure 12B** where a laser array **1212** emits light that hits a liquid lens **1214**. The lens can either focus the beam into the diverging nominal beam **1222**, or it can focus the beam into a more collimated or more diverged beam **1224** or it can steer the beam **1220** or any
- 25 combination thereof.
- [0102]** In some example implementations, the pointing may be implemented by a spatial light modulator (SLM) or deformable mirror device (DMD). An example of this implementation is shown in **Figure 12C**. The laser array **1216** emits light that hits an SLM or DMD **1218**. The SLM or DMD can focus the beam **1230**, or steer the
- 30 beam **1226** from the standard nominal beam **1228**.
- [0103]** In some example implementations, the pointing may be implemented by moving a mirror in front of the transmitter and/or receiver. An example of one such implementation is shown in **Figure 13A**. Light from the transmitter (TX) **1300** is steered by a mirror **1306**. The mirror **1306** is on a mount that has both a pan stage

1304 and a tip axis point 1308 for two dimensional steering capabilities. Similarly, light is guided into the receiver (RX) 1302 via a mirror 1312 that also has a pan stage 1314 and a tilt axis point 1310. These mirrors have a limited range they can steer over since they are single sided mirrors.

5 [0104] Another steering implementation involves separating the pan and tilt stages. Here, for example, both TX 1316 and RX 1318 sit behind the same mirror (Mirror #1) 1320 which tilt both the transmit and receive beams. There is another mirror (Mirror #2) 1324 which is on a pan mount 1326 that rotates in the orthogonal direction and similarly steers both beams.

10 [0105] In some example implementations, the mirror may be dual sided. The mirror may rotate around an axis aligned with the optical center of the transmitter and/or receiver. The mirror may tilt around an axis perpendicular to the optical axis. There may be one mirror for the transmitter. There may be one mirror for the receiver. There may be one mirror for both the transmitter and the receiver. In this
15 case the transmitter and receiver may then be separated by a dichroic filter with the transmitter having one wavelength and the receiver having a second wavelength. Or the transmitter and receiver may be separated by a power beamsplitter. Or the transmitter and receiver may be separated by a polarizing beamsplitter.

[0106] An example of one such implementation is shown in **Figure 13B**. Light
20 from the laser 1328 travels straight through the dichroic beam splitter 1336, gets focused by the lens 1338 and then steered by the double-sided mirror 1340. Similarly, light from another TX (with a different wavelength), hits the steering mirror 1340 and gets focused by the lens 1338 through the dichroic 1336 and takes the orthogonal path through a bandpass filter 1332 and finally to the detector 1330. A longpass filter (LP
25 filter) 1334 is placed adjacent to the lens 1338 to filter out excess background light. The double-sided mirror 1340 can steer the light in either direction as shown with 1341 and 1340 or cannot steer at all such as in 1342.

[0107] **Figure 13C** shows three different potential mirror configurations and how each results in a different beam steering case, although it should be understood that
30 other configurations or implementations of pointing may be used. The first case is when the mirror 1344 is parallel to the transmit beam 1346. In this case, the mirror does not block the transmit beam 1346 or steer it in any way so the resulting light ends up following its nominal path to the receiver side 1348. In another case, the mirror 1350 steers the beam 1352, but only part of the beam lands on the mirror 1348

and is steered. The other part of the beam 1354 passes by the mirror 1348 and continues on the original path 1346. Yet another case is when the entire beam 1358 lands on the mirror 1356 and is steered. There is then no light in the original direction.

5

Tracking

[0108] In some example implementations, there will be a feedback mechanism to allow the endpoints (base station or XRID) to track the location of the other endpoint (XRID or base station) as the XRID moves within a user area.

10 [0109] Some example implementations of tracking may use one or more cameras. The cameras may be setup anywhere in the space with a field-of-view that covers the area where the XRID may be located. Image recognition may be used to determine where the XRID or user is in the space, and data fed back to the transmitter for pointing. Other example implementations may use a LED or other light source. The
15 light source may be at a particular wavelength or may blink at a known frequency. Different base stations or XRIDs may blink at different frequencies to allow identification. Blinking may also be used to convey other information.

[0110] Figure 14 shows an example of a tracked system. The base station 1404 contains a transmit/receive pair (TX RX) 1406, a camera 1408 and motors 1414. The
20 emitted beam 1412 has some small coverage area for the user's XRID 1410. The camera 1408 sends the images back to the processor 1402, which will perform image recognition 1400 with either integrated or separate software. The feedback from the image recognition 1400 is then sent to the motors 1414 to adjust the beam steering.

[0111] In some example implementations, the tracking system may use a quad
25 detector (or four separate detectors). In this example implementation, an optical signal from the other end of the link would be equally balanced on the quad or four detectors, if the user was pointed directly at the source. If there is an imbalance in the signals of the detectors, that data may be fed to the transmitter so that it can be repointed. Optical signal may be modulated at some frequency to allow
30 identification, to transmit information, or to reduce power consumption.

[0112] An example of this is shown in Figure 15A. The base station 1500 receives light from an LED 1512 on the XRID 1514 of a user. A lens 1510 focuses this onto a quad detector 1502. Each element of the quad detector 1516 is separated by a baffle 1530. The signal strengths on each detector can be used to calculate the

position of the LED. For example, in the vertical directions detector #3 is subtracted from detector #1 to give a positive or negative value for movement in this direction. Similarly, detector #4 is subtracted from detector #2 to ascertain the imbalance in the horizontal direction. The processor 1504 calculates these values and the needed
5 adjustment directions and feeds them into the motors 1506 which are then used to steer the TX and RX 1508.

[0113] Some example implementations may use 3 detectors. These example implementations follow the same idea as the quad detector case, but balance the signal across 3 detectors. As in the previous example implementation the optical signal may
10 be modulated at some frequency to allow identification, to transmit information, or to reduce power consumption.

[0114] An example of this example implementation is shown in **Figure 15B** where each element of the 3 detector array 1518 is separated by a baffle 1520. In this case where each detector covers 120 degrees; the equations for determining the
15 direction are modified from the quad detector case in the following way. In the vertical direction the average of detectors #2 and #3 are subtracted from #1. In the horizontal direction, detector #3 is subtracted from detector #2.

[0115] Some example implementations of tracking may use RF. These example implementations use GPS or other location data and sends that information back to
20 the transmitter for repointing. An example of this example implementation is shown in **Figure 15C**. A base station 1522 tracks the location of an XRID 1528 using a GPS chip 1526 and RF communication 1524.

Modulation Schemes

25 [0116] In some example implementations, the data may be encoded on the optical beam using pulse amplitude modulation (PAM). In some example implementations, there are multiple amplitude levels that encode multiple pieces of information using different levels. The phase may also be varied to increase the amount of information represented.

30 [0117] One example implementation of PAM is On/Off keying (OOK) where digital data is represented by the laser being turned on for a 1 and off for a 0. This is a relatively simple modulation scheme with straightforward implementation. It requires a 50/50 duty cycle from the laser and may consume more power on average than other modulation schemes. One feature of OOK is that there are occasionally long periods

with the laser is either on or off. Some example implementations may use a scrambler / descrambler to minimize the number of consecutive 1's or 0's, i.e., the amount of time that the laser is either on or off. This may also be thought of as limiting the lowest frequency of modulation.

5 [0118] An example of OOK is depicted in **Figure 16A**. Here, each unit of time has either a pulse or no pulse in it denoting the "1" or the "0". The pulses shown can either be one bit period long **1600**, or 2 bit periods long **1602**, three bit periods **1604** or more, but on average, there are an equal number of 0s and 1s. Bit periods are as long as a single pulse which is determined by the speed of the modulators, laser, and
10 transmit printed circuit boards.

[0119] In some example implementations, the data may be encoded using pulse position modulation (PPM) or variants thereof. In some versions of PPM time is divided into discrete frames with the frames then being further divided into bins. In each frame there will be one pulse of light in one of the bins. Frames are typically set
15 up with 2^N time bins and so that each frame encodes N bits of information. For example, a frame could have 8 time bins. In each frame, one of the 8 bins will have a pulse of light in it. The frame can then take on values from 1 to 8 or 3 bits worth of data. In general, the power requirements for PPM are lower as the duty cycle is lower, the SNR is higher relative to OOK, but there is a trade-off in the bandwidth of
20 the channel in the standard PPM setup. This may be advantageous in these applications (XR) as the system needs to be eye-safe and have a large angular coverage range.

[0120] **Figure 16B** shows an example of PPM. Here, each frame **1606**, **1620**, **1622** is made up of 4 time bins **1608**. A pulse is assigned to one of the bins in each
25 frame. This particular setup encodes two bits of information per frame but has $\frac{1}{4}$ of the speed of OOK, for a total bandwidth of $\frac{1}{2}$ that of the OOK system.

[0121] In some example implementations of PPM one or more guard bins can be added to each frame. This is particularly useful in the case where the rise time of the laser (and modulator) is shorter than the overall pulse duration. As an example, some
30 combinations of lasers with modulators may have a rise time of 300 ps but an overall bandwidth (and hence minimum pulse width) of 700 MHz or 1 ns. Using standard PPM with an 8 bin frame, the maximum data rate would be $1 \text{ Gbps} * \frac{3}{8} = 375 \text{ Mbps}$. However, if the bin width is 333 ps (very close to the rise time) and there are 2 guard bins at the end of the frame (in case the pulse falls in the last time bin), the data rate is

now 3 bits in 10 bins or 900 Mbps. This can be used across a range of bins, frames, and guard bin sizes to optimize the data throughput and SNR for various noise conditions.

[0122] **Figure 16C** shows a version of PPM with a guard bin **1614**. Here, again, time is split into frames **1612**, **1614**, **1626** with each frame having 4 time bins **1610** and a guard bin **1614**. In the first frame **1612**, the pulse rises in the second time bin and falls in the third, so there would be no interference with the next frame. In the second **1624** and third **1626** frame the pulse **1616** in the second frame **1624** falls in the guard bin while the pulse **1618** in the third frame rises in the first time bin. The guard bin serves to keep this pulses from temporally overlapping and causing errors in the data stream.

Integrated Optics and Wireless

[0123] Some example implementations may have communications links that are a combination of optical wireless and other wireless technologies. For example, the downlink to the XRID may be diverged beam optical while the uplink is RF (Bluetooth, Wi-Fi, or other). In another example implementation the downlink would be both optical and RF wireless and the uplink would be RF wireless. In another example implementation, both the downlink and uplink would be both optical and RF wireless.

[0124] **Figure 17** shows some of the potential combinations of optical wireless and other wireless technologies. In some cases, the base station **1700** communicates to the XRID **1702** via optical wireless and the XRID **1702** communicates back to the base station **1700** with a RF link **1706**. The base station **1708** and XRID **1710** can also communicate solely using optical wireless for both the downlink **1712** and the uplink **1714**. The base stations **1716** and XRID **1718** can communicate using both RF and optical. Here, the XRID **1718** has both an optical link **1722** and RF **1724** to the base station and the base station has both an optical link **1729** and RF link **1726** to the XRID. Finally, the base station **1728** can send data to the XRID **1730** over an RF link and the XRID **1730** can send data to the base station **1728** with and optical link **1732**.

XRID Location and Orientation

[0125] In many XR systems it is important to know the location and orientation of the XRID as well as any changes that occur. This information may be used to

generate or modify the information sent to the XRID for video display, audio, or other. In some example implementations, the system may also have the capability to provide both the location and orientation of the XRID relative to one or more base stations or some other location. This will be referred to as integrated tracking. This may be done by some or all of the same hardware that is used for the communications between the base station and the XRID. This is in addition to location and orientation information that is generated by other hardware and then transmitted either up or down by the optical link.

[0126] Time-of-flight for location – in some example implementations the location of the XRID relative to the base station may be calculated using time-of-flight information from the light pulses. These pulses may be the same pulses as used for communications or they may be different pulses used specifically for locating the XRID. In air, light travels ~0.3 meters (30 cm) per nanosecond (based on 3.0×10^8 m/sec velocity of light in vacuum). If the receiver has 100 picosecond resolution, then the distance resolution is 3 cm and at 10 picosecond resolution it is at 0.3 cm or 3 mm.

[0127] The system may determine position by calculating time-of-flight from base station to XRID. In other example implementations, it may use time-of-flight from XRID to base station. In yet another example implementation, it may use time-of-flight from base station to XRID, processing time in XRID and time-of-flight back to base station (or vice versa). In all of these example implementations, a synchronized clock may be needed to enable precision time of pulse launch and / or arrival on either need of link (i.e., base station or XRID).

[0128] **Figure 18** shows an example of using time-of-flight information to locate a XRID **1812** in a space using three base stations **1800**, **1802**, **1804**. Each base station **1800**, **1802**, and **1804** sends optical pulses **1806**, **1808**, and **1810** respectively to the XRID **1812**, which sends optical pulses **1806**, **1808**, and **1810** back to the base stations. Using time-of-flight from each of the base stations **1800**, **1802**, **1804** allows them to track the XRID **1812** around the room or space.

30

Multiple Users

[0129] XRID-to-XRID – in some example implementations the XRIDs may communicate directly with other XRIDs. **Figure 19A** shows a base station **1900** that is communicating with an XRID **1902** which is within its coverage area **1908**. For the

example implementations that use coverage areas, if a second XRID **1904** is in the coverage area of a first XRID **1902**, they may communicate directly with each other using the optical links. This communication may occur at the same time as communications with one or more base stations. For the example implementations using pointing systems, the two XRIDs may point their transceivers at each other to communicate optically with another XRID.

[0130] In some example implementations, a first XRID **1902** may act as a relay between a second XRID **1904** and a base station **1900**. That is, XRID **2 1904** may send information to XRID **1 1902** via optical or other link **1906**, and XRID **1 1902** may or may not perform some processing on the data, and then transmit the data to the base station **1900**. Data from the base station **1900** follows the reverse path to get back to XRID **2 1904** via XRID **1 1902**.

[0131] In some example implementations, each user may have a separate base station communicating with their XRID.

[0132] In some example implementations, there may be one base station communicating with more than one user using time-division multiplexing or wavelength division multiplexing.

[0133] In some example implementations, there may be one base station that communicates with one user and XRID-to-XRID link that communicates information for the second user via the first user. In this case, the second user would not need to be within the field of view of the base station.

[0134] In some example implementations, there may be more than one base station per user for one or more users.

[0135] In some example implementations, communications may occur only between XRIDs as in **1906**, without communications to a base station.

[0136] In some example implementations, the XRIDs may be configured to only allow for communications such in **1906**, and to prevent communications with outside parties, or awareness by outside parties that the communications **1906** are occurring.

[0137] In some example implementations, known signal processing techniques such as TDMA, CDMA, FDMA, and PDMA, or a combination of them may be used to ensure communications are not detectable beyond the intended **1906** links.

[0138] **Figure 19B** shows an example of having more than one base station **1908**, **1910** for a single user **1916**. The user **1916** is within the coverage area **1912** for base station **1908** and the coverage area **1914** for the base station **1910**.

[0139] In some example implementations, the XRIDs may also communicate directly with each other using RF links. These links may be Bluetooth, Wi-Fi, WiGig, or other frequencies or transmission protocols.

5 Level of Integration

[0140] In some example implementations, the link will interface to other manufacturers' XRIDs and base stations and / or computers. The electrical connections may be standard interfaces such as HDMI, USB, audio (analog or digital), Ethernet, or others. The base-station side of the link may be mounted to a tripod, wall, or other fixed location.

[0141] The XRID side of the link will attach to the XRID and provide the I/O to the XRID. I/O connection may interface to separate cables or the cables may be integrated into the XRID side of the link. There may be different implementations for different XRID manufacturers. These variations may include the physical interface required to attach to a particular XRID and / or different electrical / electronic I/O based on the I/O of a particular XRID. The link may be powered by the XRID or may have a separate battery. This battery may be integrated into the XRID side of the link or may be separate and connected by one or more wires. This battery may be designed to clip onto the user at a belt, pants, or other.

[0142] **Figure 20A** shows an example of an XRID **2000** where the optical link module **2008** is attached to the straps and cables for HDMI **2002**, USB **2004** and other cables or connections such as audio **2006** run between the optical link module **2008** and the XRID **2002**.

[0143] In some example implementations, the base station and / or XRID may be tightly integrated into the rest of the system. They may be manufactured as one device. The integrated system could be completely designed and built by 8 Rivers or use components and licensed intellectual property from other suppliers along with parts designed by us.

[0144] In particular, the XRID may be one integrated unit designed and built by a single manufacturer. At minimum this would include at least one video display and an optical downlink that would receive information from a base station, format the information, and display on the video. The XRID may also include additional displays, cameras, audio speakers, microphones, location sensors, orientation sensors, location beacons (LED's, lights, etc.), optical uplinks, RF downlinks, RF uplinks

(where RF covers MHz to 500 GHz), haptic sensors, haptic feedback, chemical sensors, chemical generators, body sensors (eye tracking, heartrate, blood pressure, pulse oximeter, temperature, brain waves, and others) and others.

5 [0145] **Figure 20B** shows an XRID 2010 where the optical link 2012 is integrated into the physical XRID instead of as a separate module such as the optical link module in **Figure 20A**.

Remote Connections

10 [0146] In addition to the example implementations, where the link primarily connects the XRID to the base station, there are example implementations where the XRID connects to other devices in other locations. There are cases where the base station is then connected to a local PC. This connection may be via a wired connection, a fiber optic connection or a diverged beam wireless connection.

15 [0147] Connect to internet – in some other example implementations, the base station may be connected directly to the internet. This connection may be via wired connection, an RF wireless connection, a fiber optic connection, a diverged beam wireless connection, a satellite connection or some other connection.

20 [0148] Connect to cloud – in some example implementations, the XRID may connect to a processing entity in the cloud. This processor may generate some or all of the AR/ MR / VR data used by the XRID. This processor may use some of the data generated by the XRID. This processor maybe located anywhere. The connection to the processor from the base station may be via wired connection, an RF wireless connection, a fiber optic connection, a diverged beam wireless connection, a satellite connection or some other connection.

25 [0149] **Figure 21A** shows an example of a base station 2102 that is communicating via an optical link 2104 with an XRID 2106, but also with the cloud 2100.

30 [0150] User to user (anywhere) – an XRID may connect to another XRID via an intermediate network. This network may transmit information from one XRID directly to another XRID with minimal or no processing along the way. That is, the two XRIDs may communicate with each other without using another processing in between. This path may include processing in the base stations or may use the base station purely as conduit to transmit information. Processing here means generating or modifying the information passed between the XRIDs.

[0151] **Figure 21B** shows an example of one XRID **2112** connecting to another XRID **2125** via a network **2108**. The first XRID **2112** has an optical link **2114** to the base station **2110** which is connected via a link **2116** to a network. The network is also connected **2118** to a different base station **2120**, which is connected to XRID
5 **2124** via an optical link **2122**.

[0152] Configurations where an XRID connects back to a server controlling a network are also possible. One such example is shown in **Figure 21C** where the XRID **2134** is connected via an optical link **2138** to a base station **2132**. The base station is connected via a link **2136** to a network **2126** which ultimately connects back
10 to a server **2128** via a link **2130**, which is typically a hard wired link.

[0153] Many modifications and other implementations of the disclosure set forth herein will come to mind to one skilled in the art to which these disclosure pertain having the benefit of the teachings presented in the foregoing descriptions and the associated figures. Therefore, it is to be understood that the disclosure are not to be
15 limited to the specific implementations disclosed and that modifications and other implementations are intended to be included within the scope of the appended claims. Moreover, although the foregoing descriptions and the associated figures describe example implementations in the context of certain example combinations of elements and/or functions, it should be appreciated that different combinations of elements
20 and/or functions may be provided by alternative implementations without departing from the scope of the appended claims. In this regard, for example, different combinations of elements and/or functions than those explicitly described above are also contemplated as may be set forth in some of the appended claims. Although specific terms are employed herein, they are used in a generic and descriptive sense
25 only and not for purposes of limitation.

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. An optical communication system comprising:
a base station including an optical transmitter assembly configured to convert an electrical signal to an optical beam, and emit the optical beam in free space,
5 uncollimated and with a divergence angle greater than 0.1 degrees; and
an extended reality immersion device (XRID) including:
an optical receiver assembly having an acceptance angle greater than 0.1 degrees, the optical receiver configured to detect the optical beam in free space, convert the optical beam to a corresponding electrical signal, and
10 reproduce information carried by the corresponding electrical signal; and
a head-up display configured to present the information.
2. The optical communication system of claim 1, wherein the optical communication system comprises a plurality of XRIDs including the XRID, and the
15 optical receiver assembly is configured to detect the optical beam on a communication channel having a particular wavelength assigned to the XRID in the optical communication system, the particular wavelength differing from other particular wavelengths assigned to others of the plurality of XRIDs.
- 20 3. The optical communication system of claim 1, wherein the optical communication system comprises a plurality of XRIDs including the XRID, and the optical beam is time-division multiplexed to serve the plurality of XRIDs.
- 25 4. The optical communication system of claim 1, wherein the optical communication system comprises a plurality of base stations including the base station, and a plurality of XRIDs including the XRID, the plurality of base stations assigned to respective ones of the plurality of XRIDs,
wherein the optical receiver assembly is configured to detect the optical beam on a communication channel between the XRID and the base station that is assigned
30 to the XRID.

5. The optical communication system of claim 1, wherein the optical receiver assembly is configured to detect the optical beam on a communication channel between the XRID and the base station, and
wherein the optical communication system further comprises another XRID,
5 and the XRID further comprises an optical transmitter assembly configured to encode an electrical signal with the information, convert the electrical signal to a corresponding optical beam, and emit the corresponding optical beam in free space on another communication channel between the XRID and the other XRID, the XRID thereby configured to relay the information from the base station to the other XRID.
10
6. The optical communication system of claim 1, wherein the base station includes a pointing system configured to point the optical transmitter assembly in a direction of the XRID.
- 15 7. The optical communication system of claim 1, wherein the base station further includes a tracking system configured to track the XRID as the XRID moves, the pointing system configured to point the optical transmitter assembly in the direction of the XRID as tracked.
- 20 8. The optical communication system of claim 1, wherein the XRID includes a pointing system configured to point the optical receiver assembly in a direction of the base station.
- 25 9. The optical communication system of claim 1, wherein the XRID further includes a tracking system configured to track the base station as the XRID moves, the pointing system configured to point the optical receiver assembly in the direction of the base station as tracked.
- 30 10. The optical communication system of claim 1, wherein the information is carried by the electrical signal, and thereby also carried by the optical beam from the base station to the XRID, and
wherein the base station is configured to track a location and orientation of the XRID, and generate or modify the information carried by the optical beam based on the location and the orientation of the XRID.

11. An extended reality immersion device (XRID) comprising:
an optical receiver assembly having an acceptance angle greater than 0.1
degrees, the optical receiver configured to detect an optical beam in free space,
5 convert the optical beam to a corresponding electrical signal, and reproduce
information carried by the corresponding electrical signal; and
a head-up display configured to present the information.
12. The XRID of claim 11, wherein the optical receiver assembly includes
10 at least one array of optical detectors arranged to provide up to 2 pi steradians of
coverage.
13. The XRID of claim 11, wherein the optical receiver assembly includes
at least one array of coplanar optical detectors.
15
14. The XRID of claim 11, wherein the optical receiver assembly includes
a longpass filter and an optical detector, the longpass filter configured to suppress at
least some visible and ultraviolet light from the optical beam, and the optical detector
configured to detect the optical beam as filtered.
20
15. The XRID of claim 14, wherein the optical receiver assembly further
includes a bandpass filter between the longpass filter and the optical detector, the
bandpass filter configured to further filter the optical beam.
16. The XRID of claim 11 further comprising:
25 an optical transmitter assembly configured to convert an electrical signal to a
corresponding optical beam, and emit the corresponding optical beam in free space,
uncollimated and with a divergence angle greater than 0.1 degrees.
17. The XRID of claim 16, wherein the optical transmitter assembly
30 includes a laser and a longpass filter, the laser configured to emit the corresponding
optical beam, and the longpass filter configured to suppress at least some visible and
ultraviolet light from the corresponding optical beam.

18. The XRID of claim 17, wherein the optical receiver assembly and the optical transmitter assembly are combined in an arrangement further including a dichroic configured to pass the corresponding optical beam from which the longpass filter is configured to suppress at least some of the visible and ultraviolet light, and
5 wherein the optical receiver assembly includes an optical detector, the longpass filter configured to suppress at least some visible and ultraviolet light from the optical beam, the dichroic configured to reflect the optical beam as filtered to the optical detector, and the optical detector configured to detect the optical beam reflected by the dichroic.

10

19. The XRID of claim 16, wherein the optical transmitter assembly includes at least one array of lasers arranged to provide at least 2 pi steradians of coverage.

15

20. The XRID of claim 16, wherein the optical transmitter assembly includes at least one array of coplanar lasers.

21. The XRID of claim 16, wherein the optical transmitter assembly includes a plurality of modulators configured to modulate the electrical signal with information thereby carried by the electrical signal, the plurality of modulators
20 configured to share a total current

25

22. The XRID of claim 16, wherein the optical transmitter assembly includes a diffuser configured to diffuse the corresponding optical beam.

23. The XRID of claim 16, wherein the optical receiver assembly is configured to detect the optical beam on a downlink communication channel having a particular wavelength, and the optical transmitter assembly is configured to emit the corresponding optical beam on an uplink communication channel having another,
30 different particular wavelength.

24. The XRID of claim 11, wherein the corresponding electrical signal is encoded with the information using pulse amplitude modulation (PAM) or pulse position modulation (PPM), and the optical receiver assembly is configured to reproduce the information using the PAM or PPM.

5

25. The XRID of claim 11, wherein the optical receiver assembly is configured to detect the optical beam on a downlink communication channel having a particular wavelength, and

10 wherein the XRID further comprises a radio transmitter assembly configured to convert an electrical signal to a corresponding radio signal, and transmit the corresponding radio signal on an uplink communication channel.

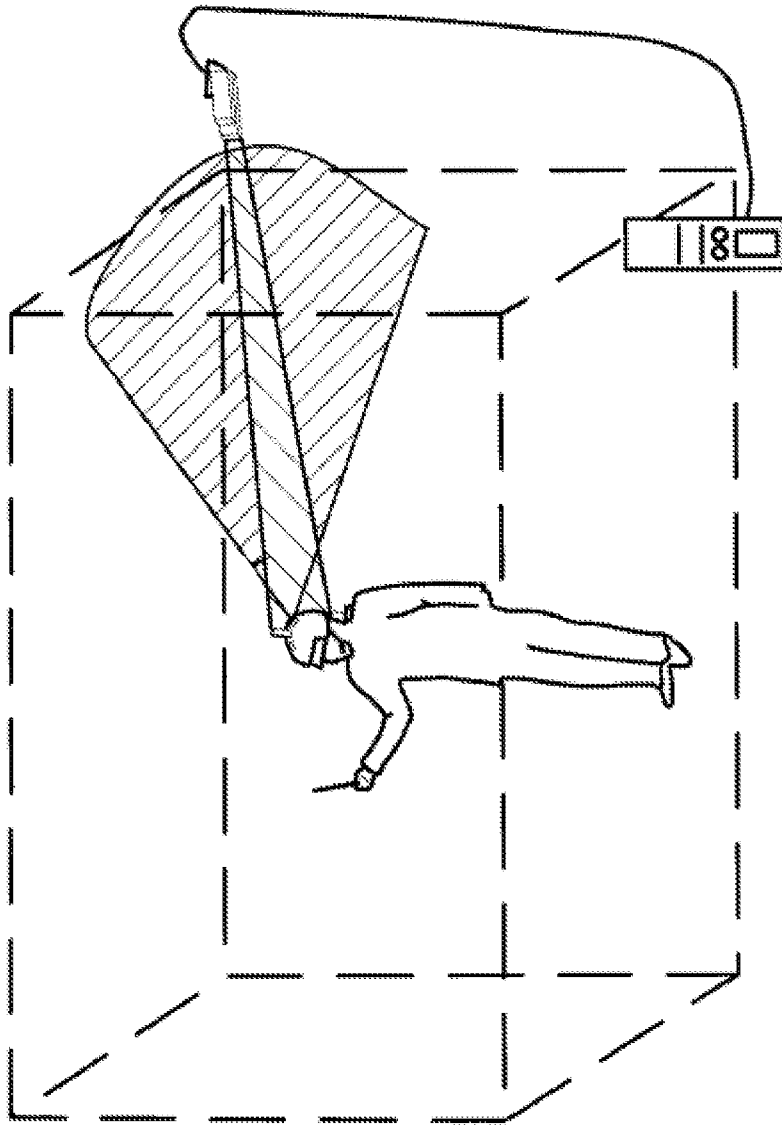


Figure 1
(Prior Art)

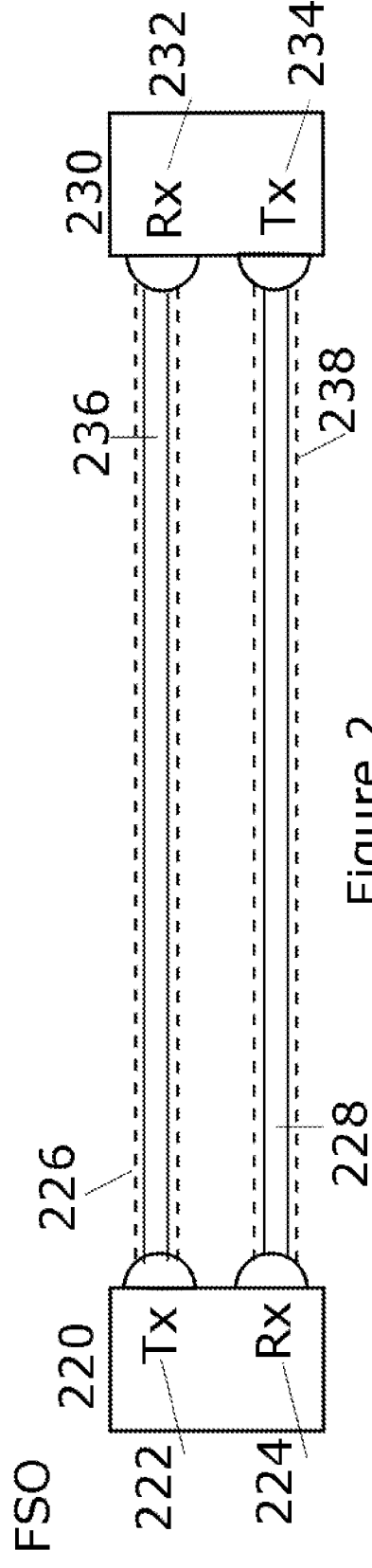
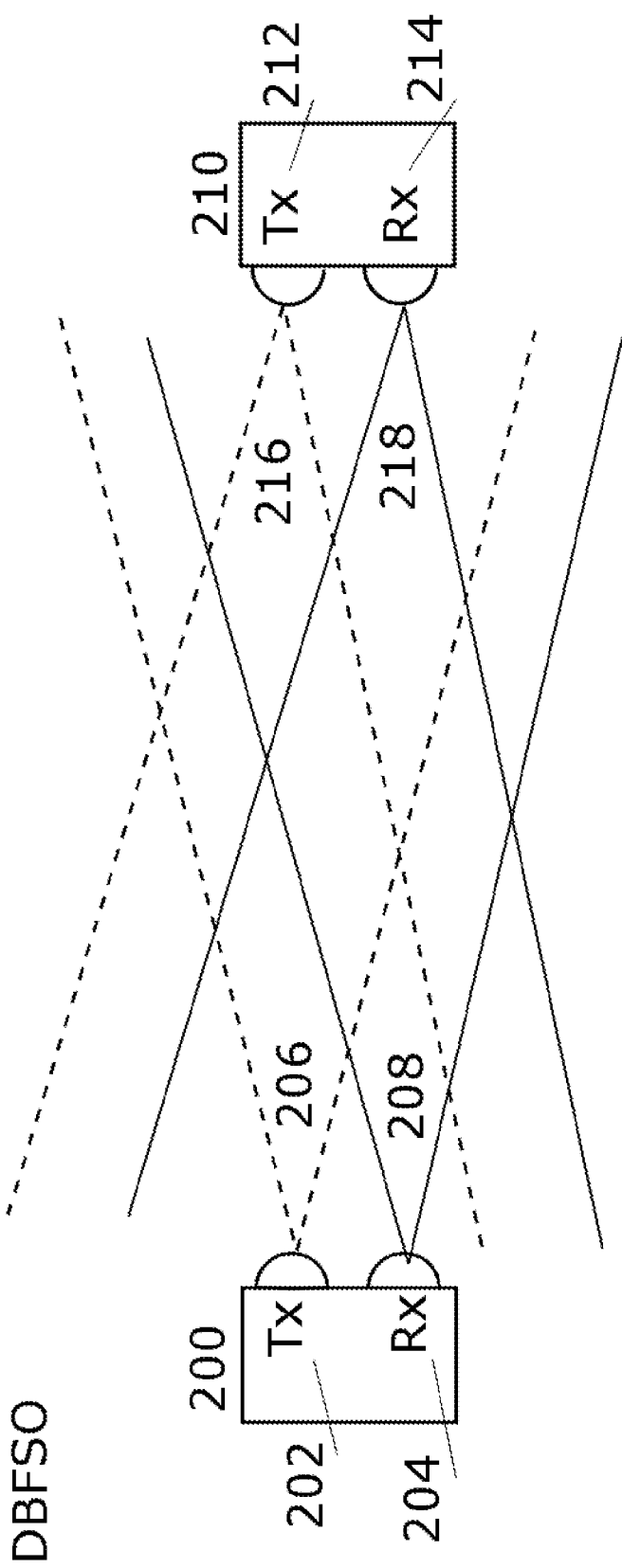


Figure 2



Figure 3

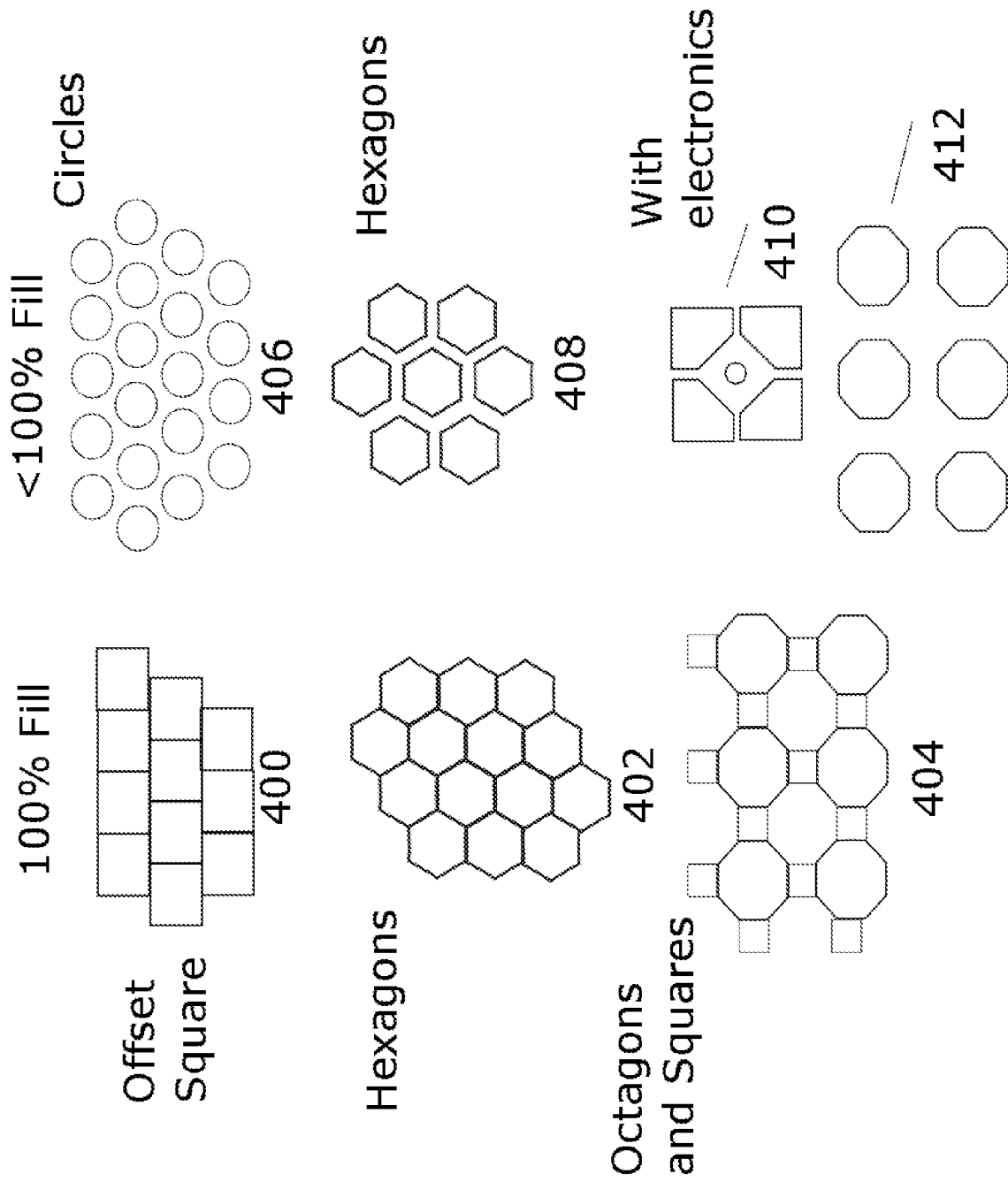


Figure 4

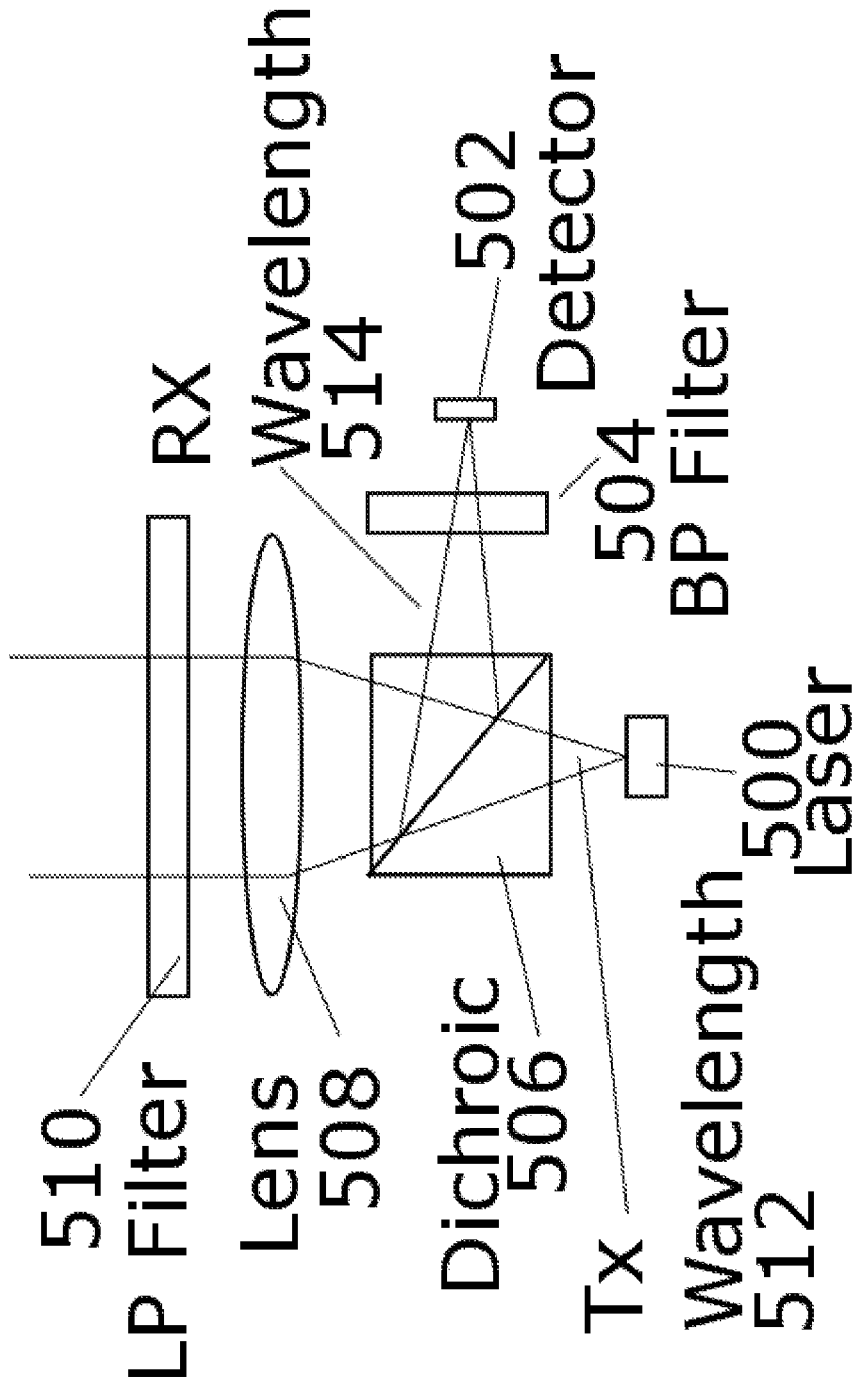


Figure 5

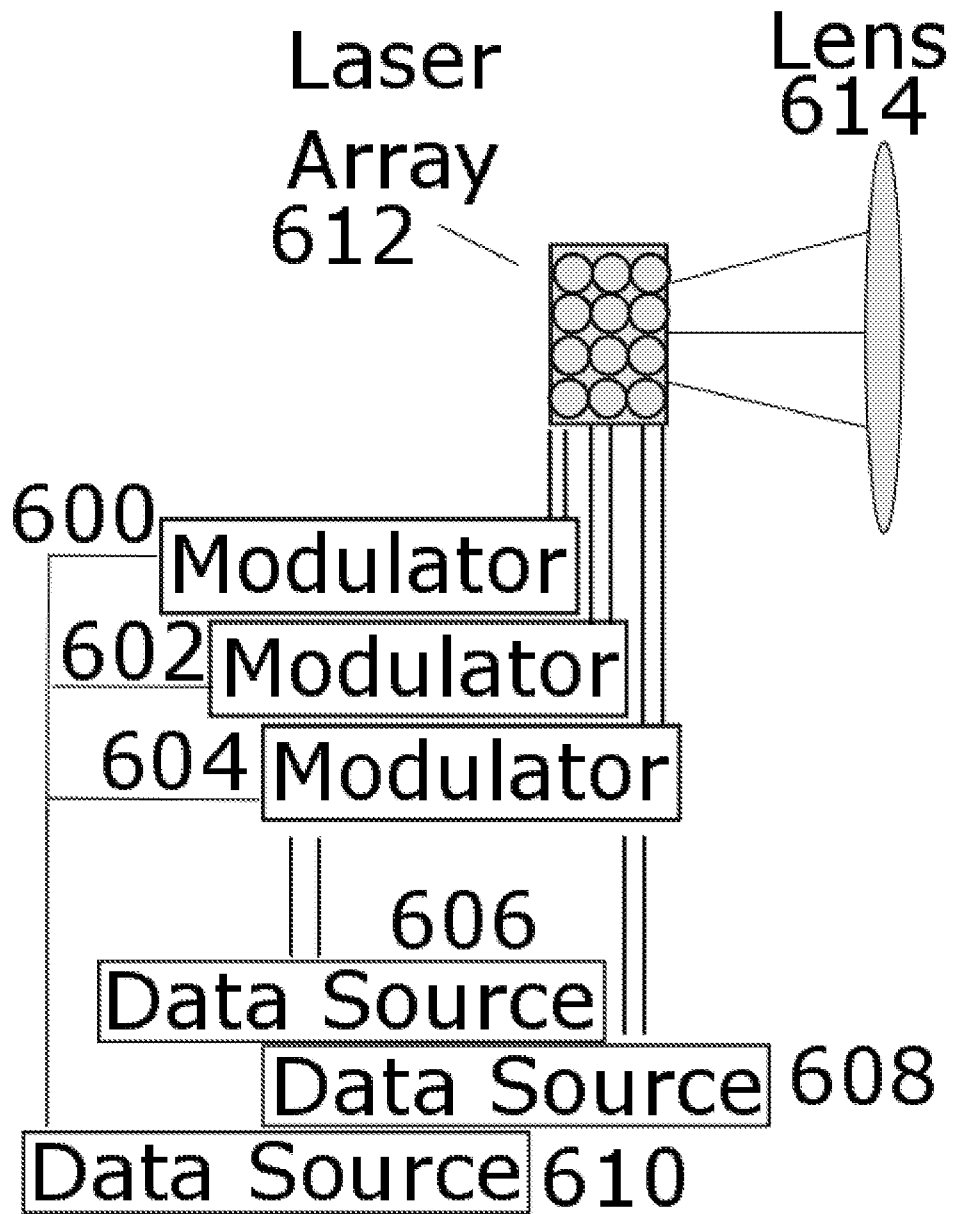


Figure 6

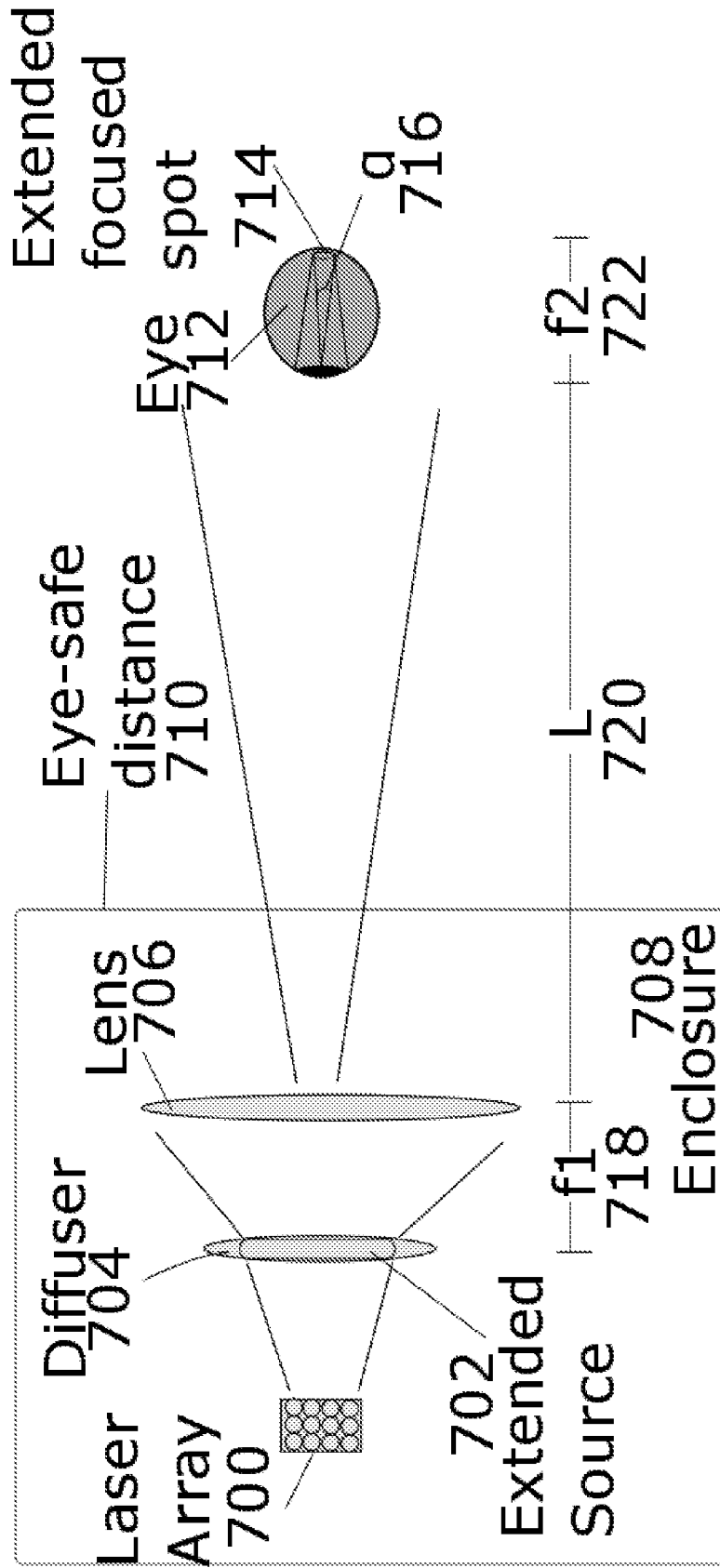


Figure 7

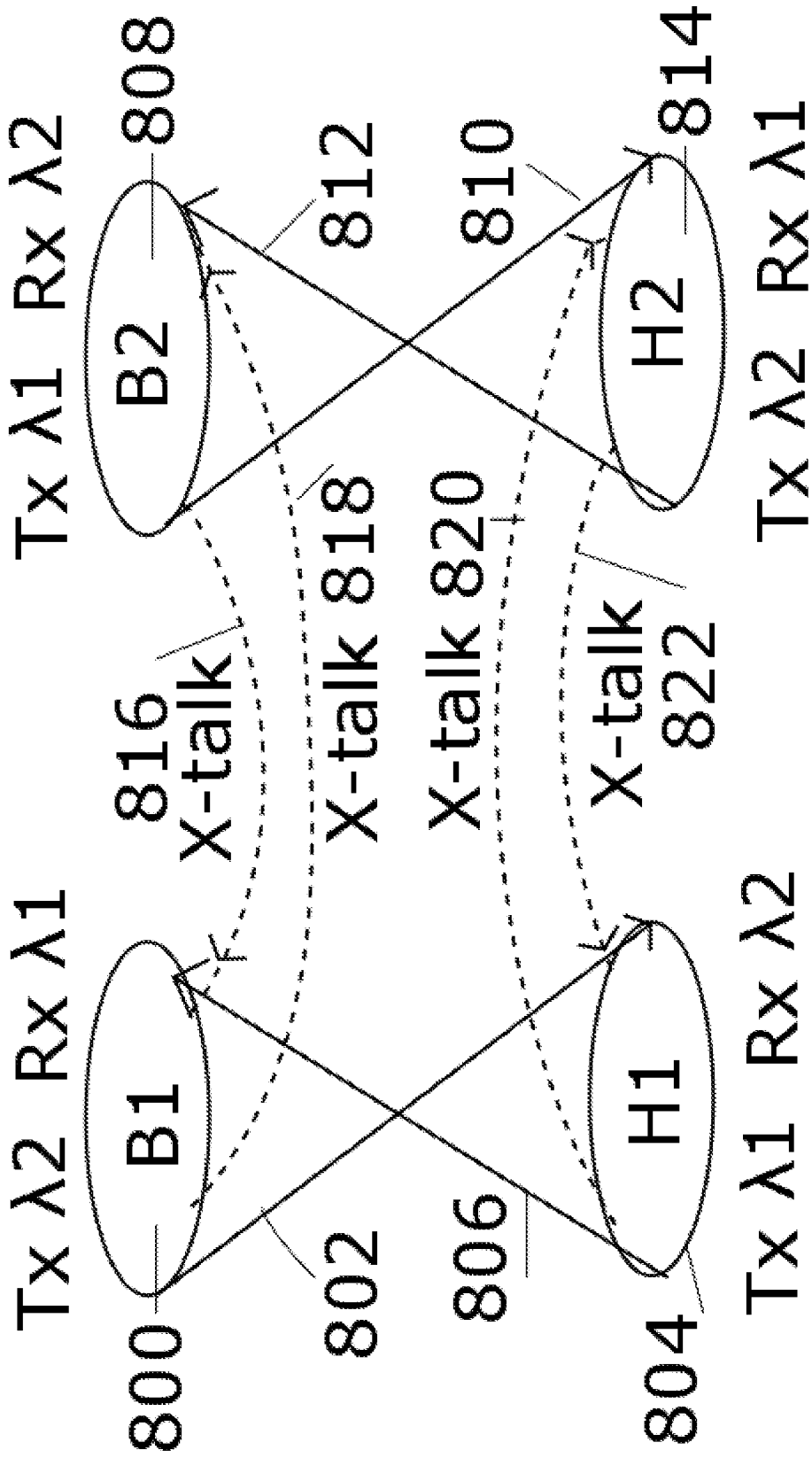


Figure 8

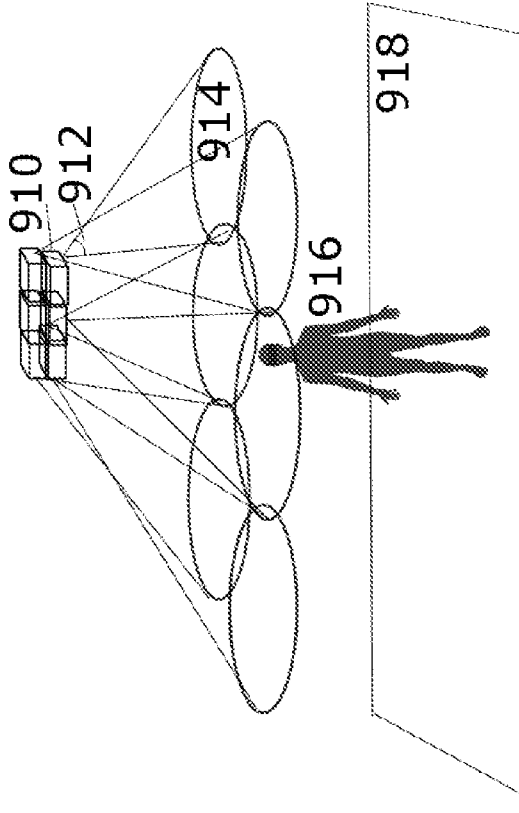


Figure 9A

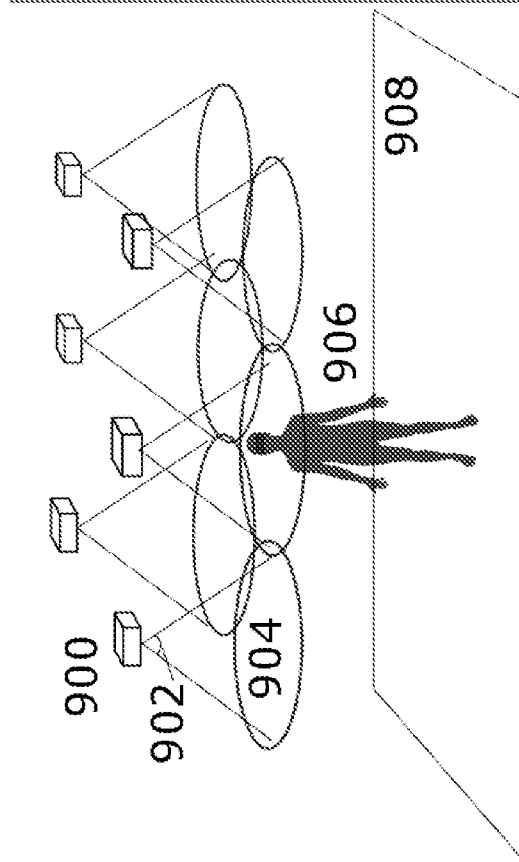


Figure 9B

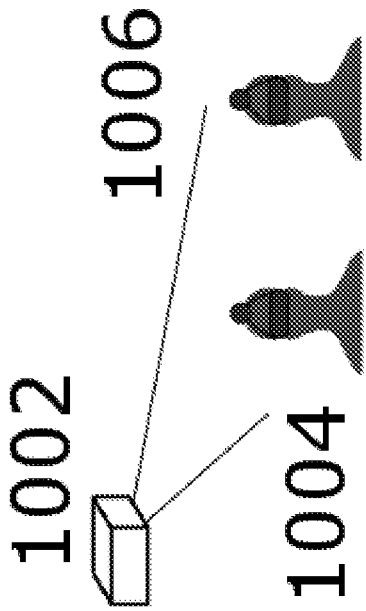


Figure 10A

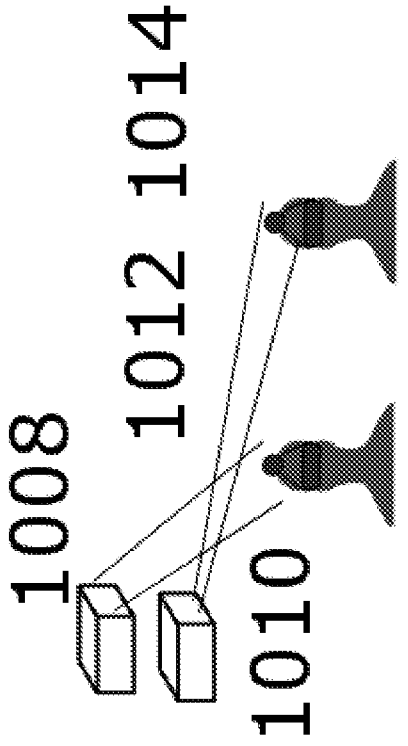


Figure 10B

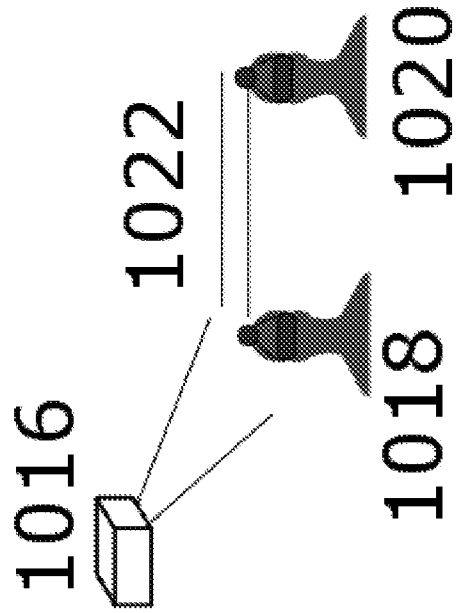


Figure 10C

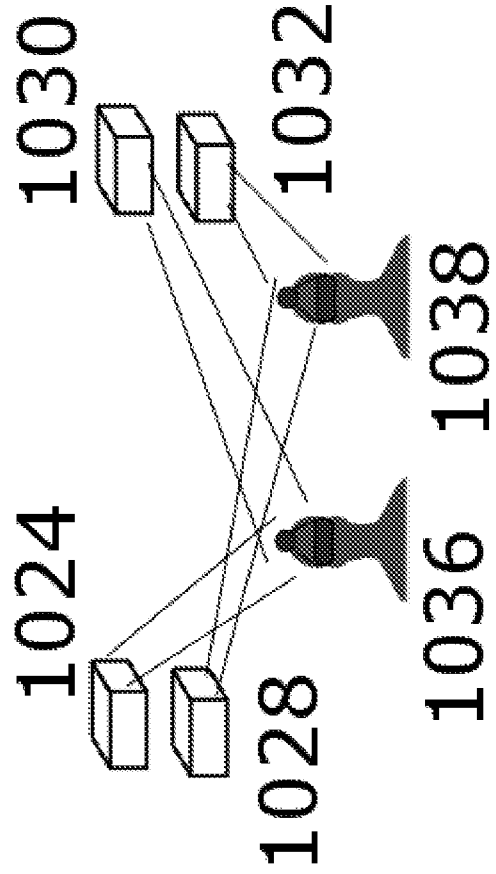


Figure 10D

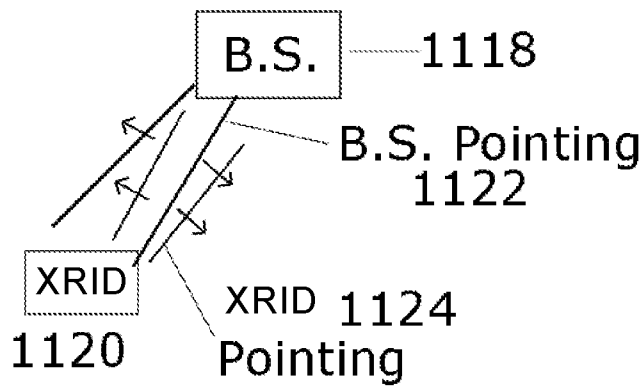
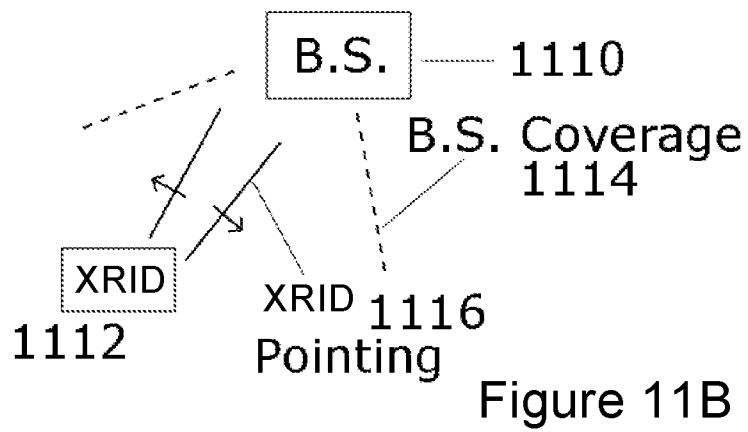
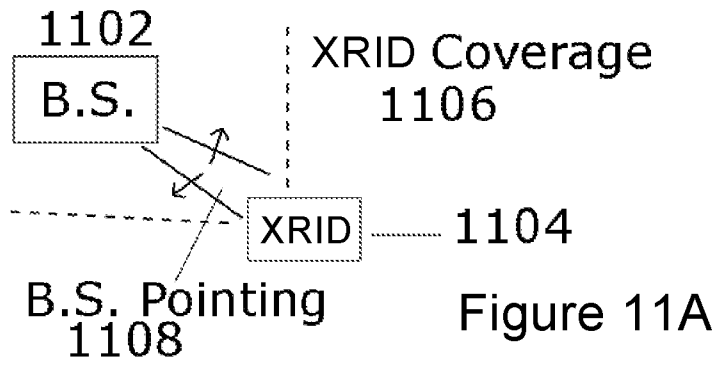


Figure 11C

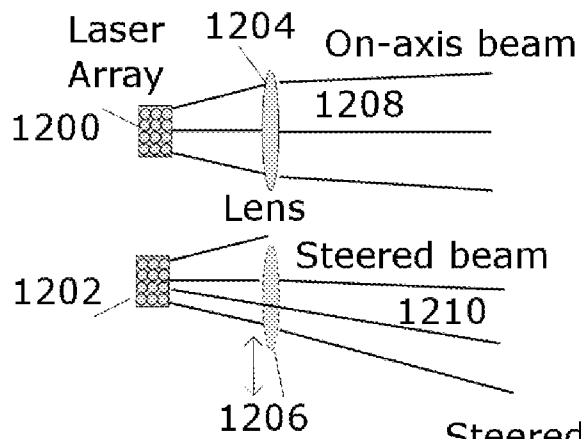


Figure 12A

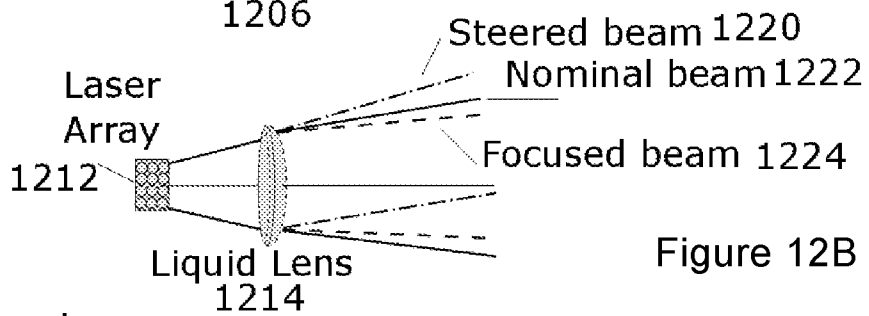


Figure 12B

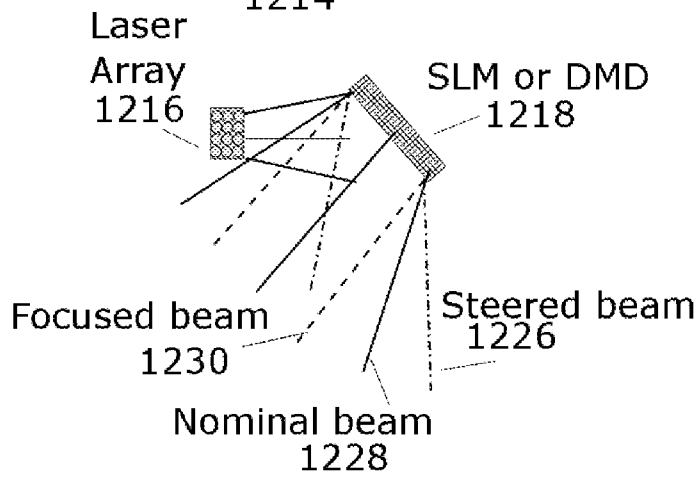
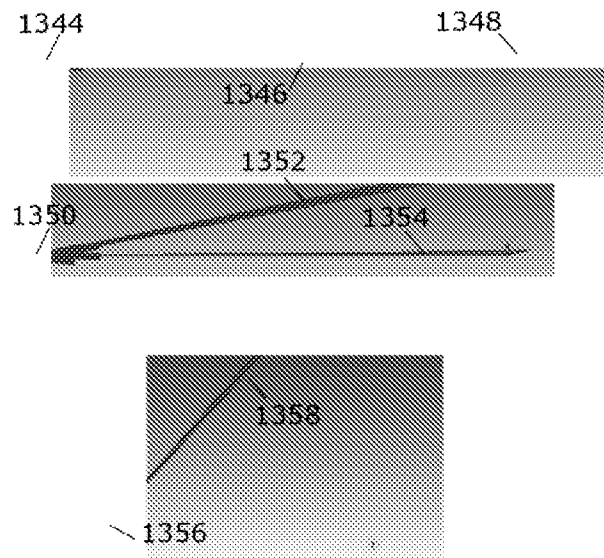
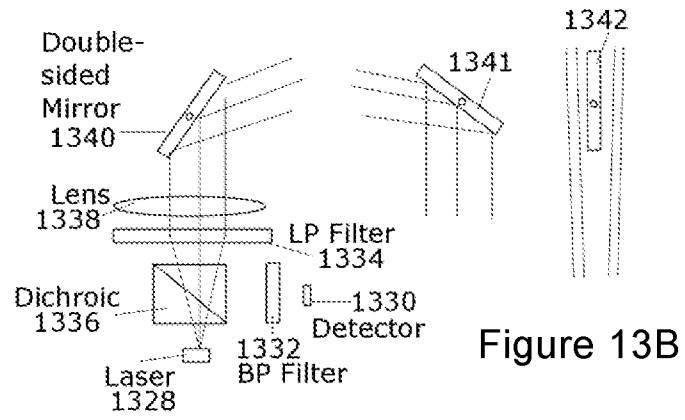
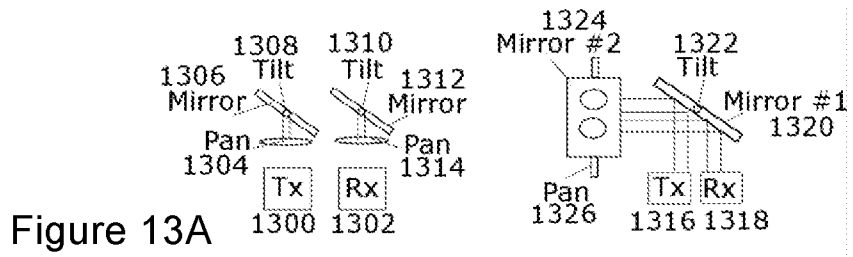


Figure 12C



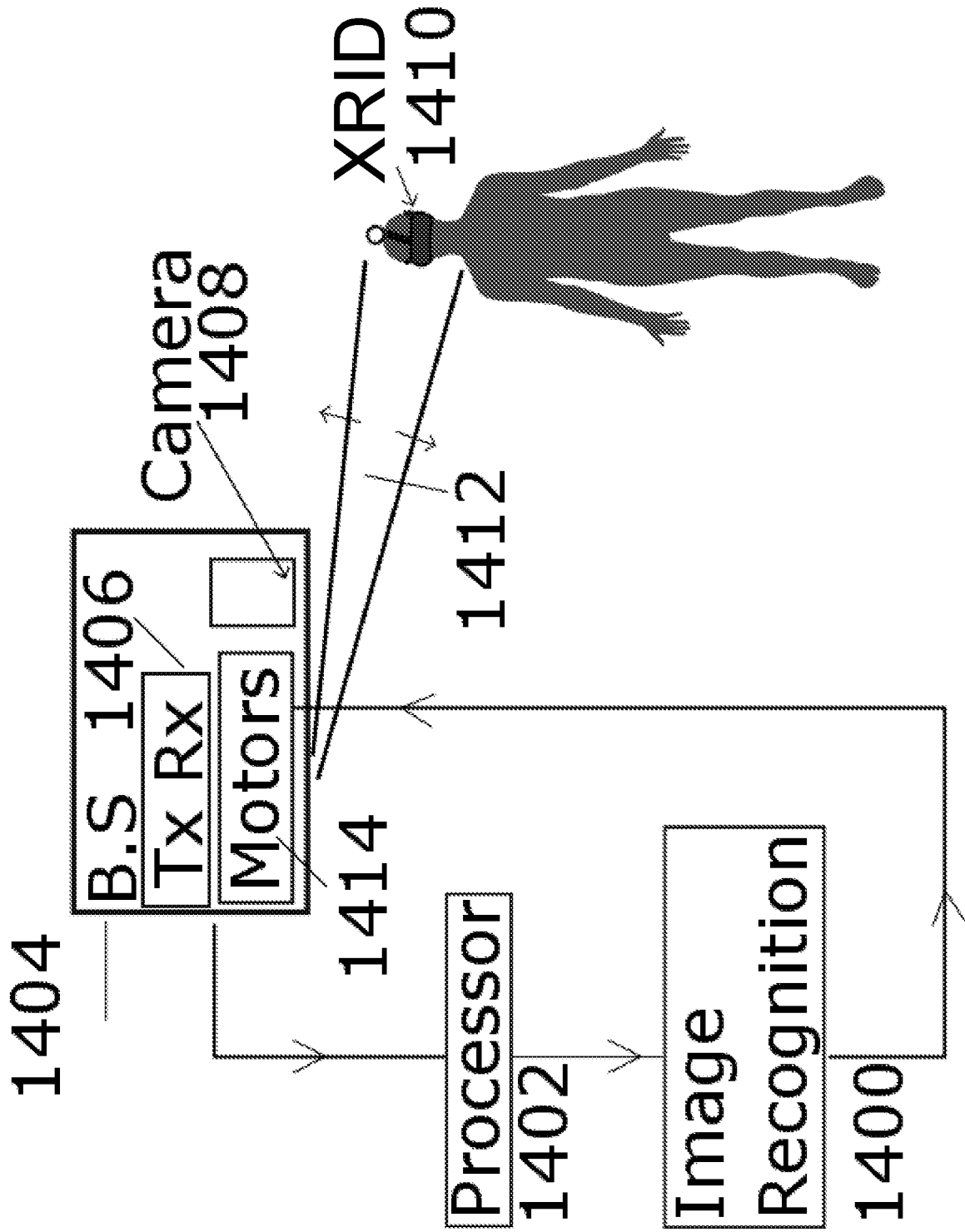


Figure 14

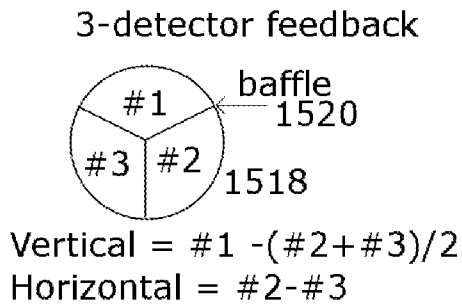
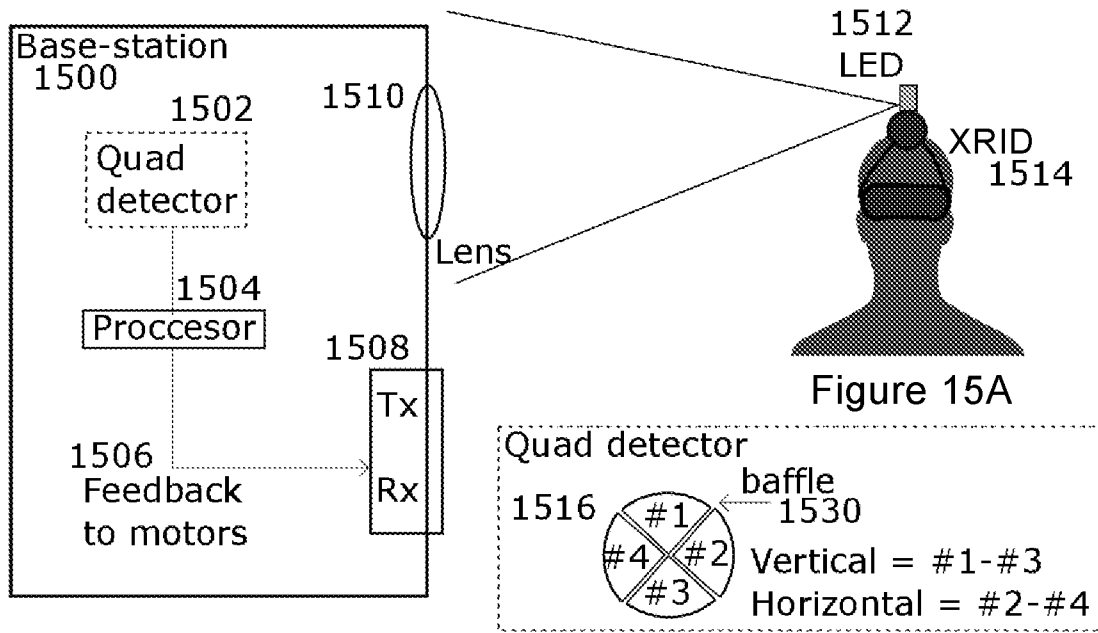


Figure 15B

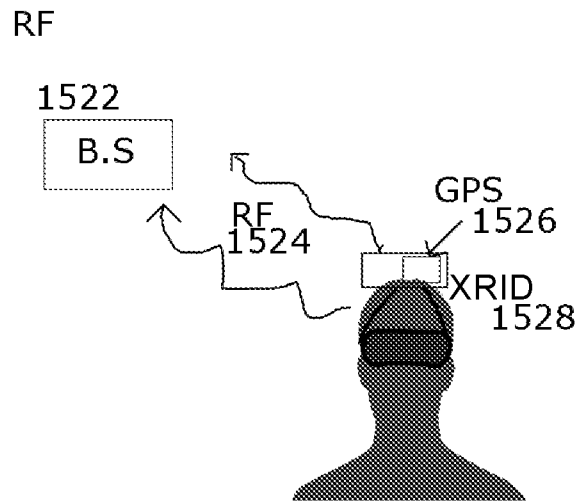


Figure 15C

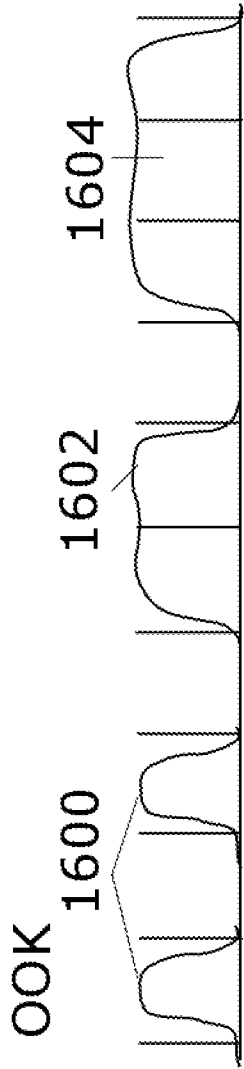


Figure 16A

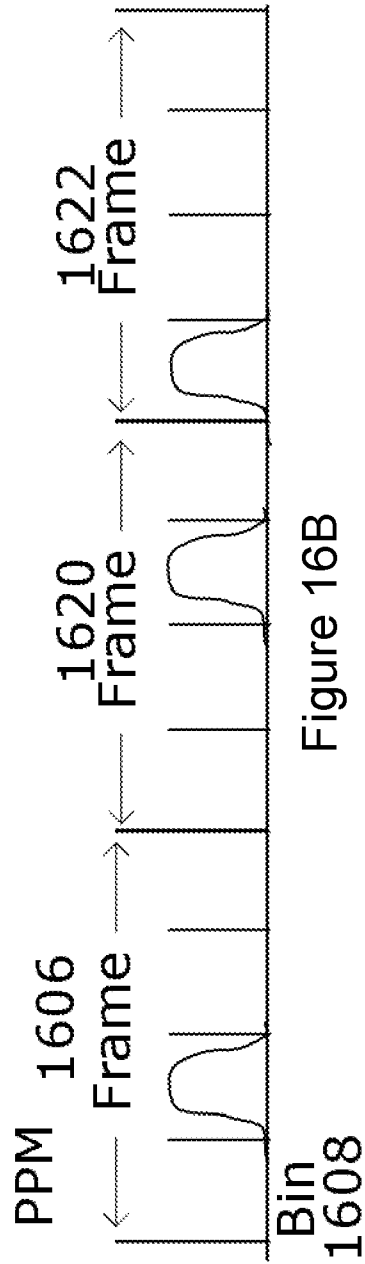


Figure 16B

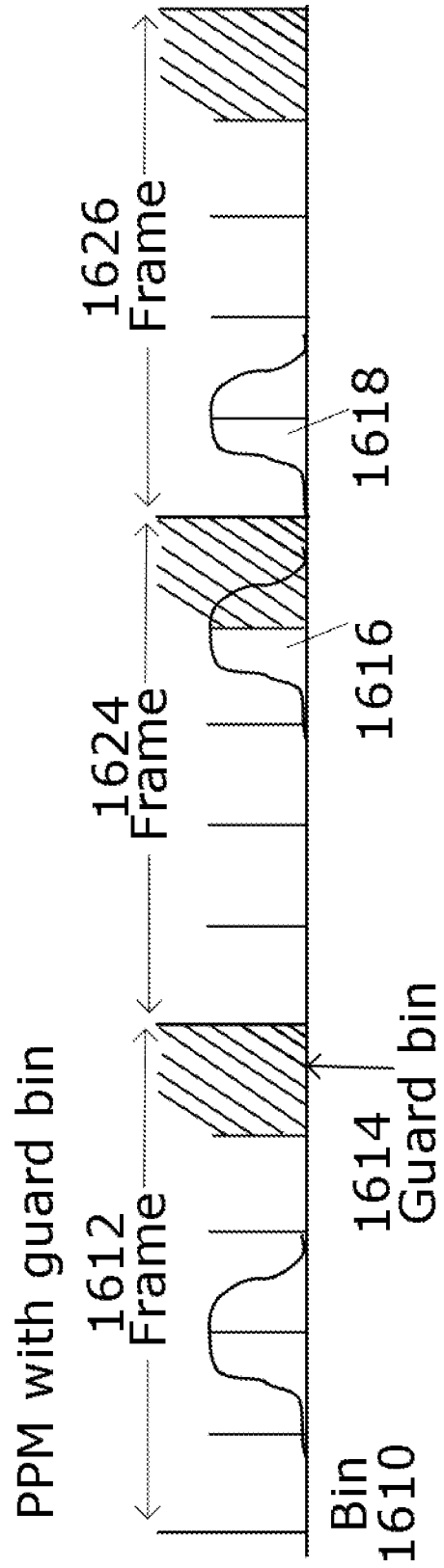


Figure 16C

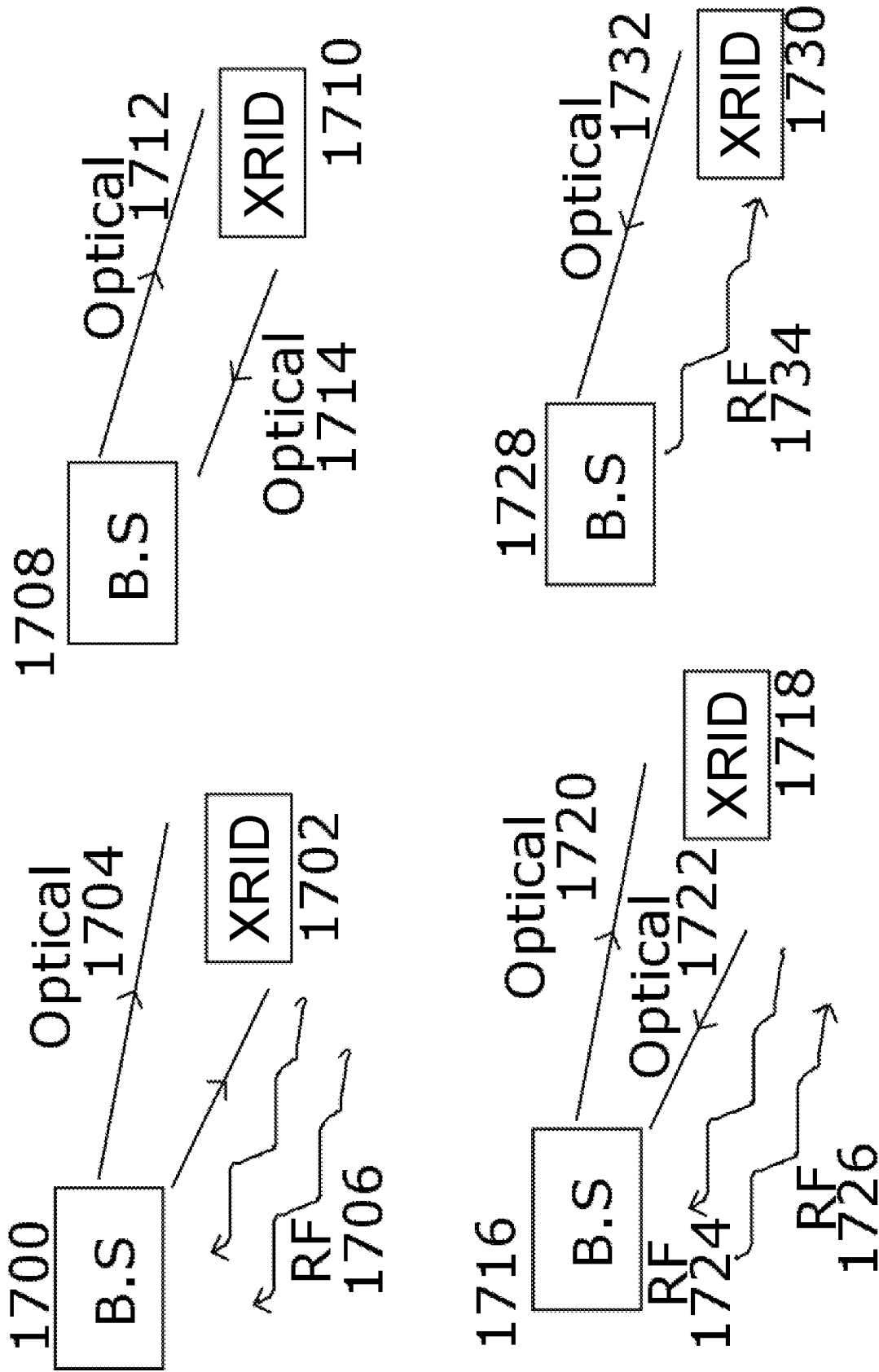


Figure 17

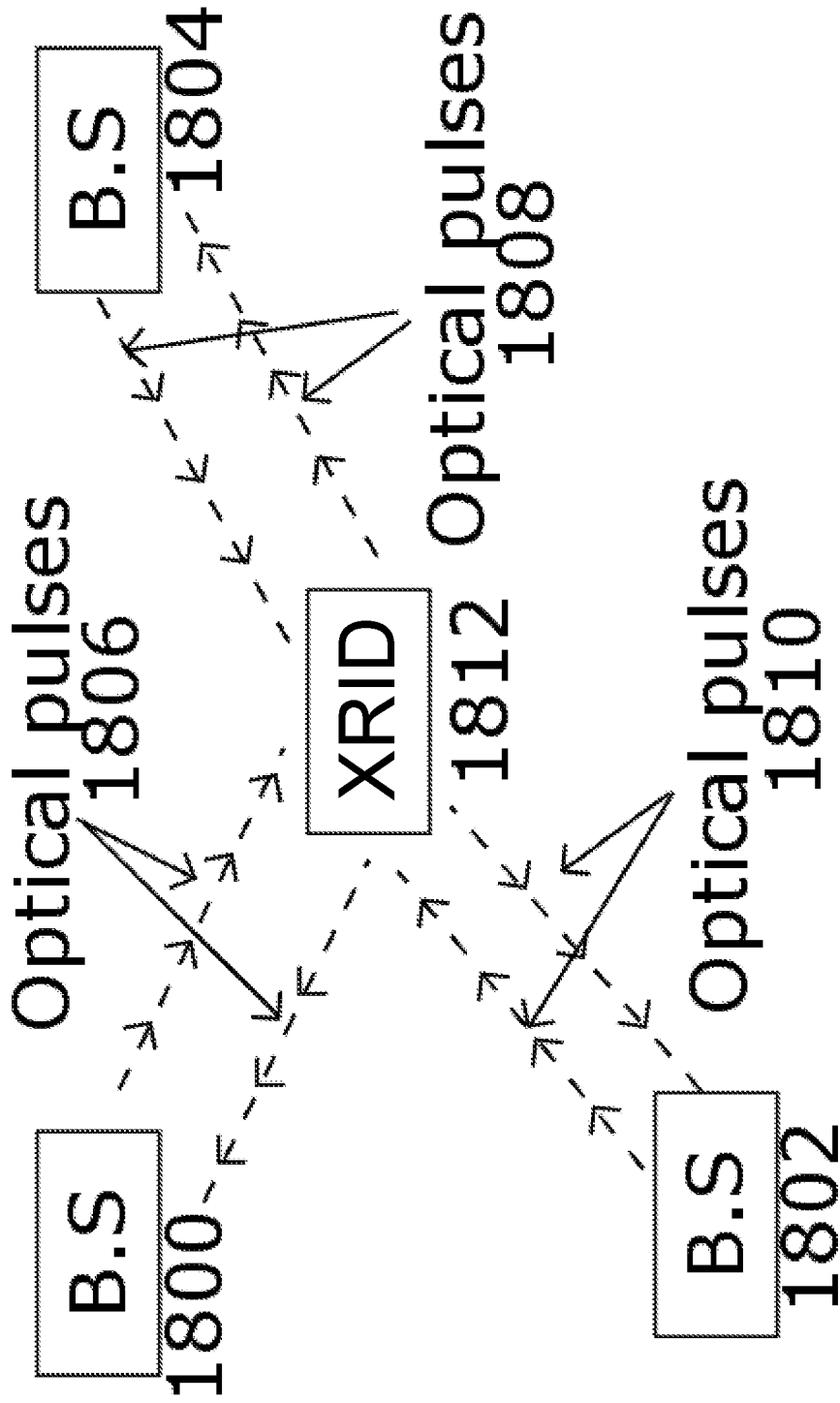


Figure 18

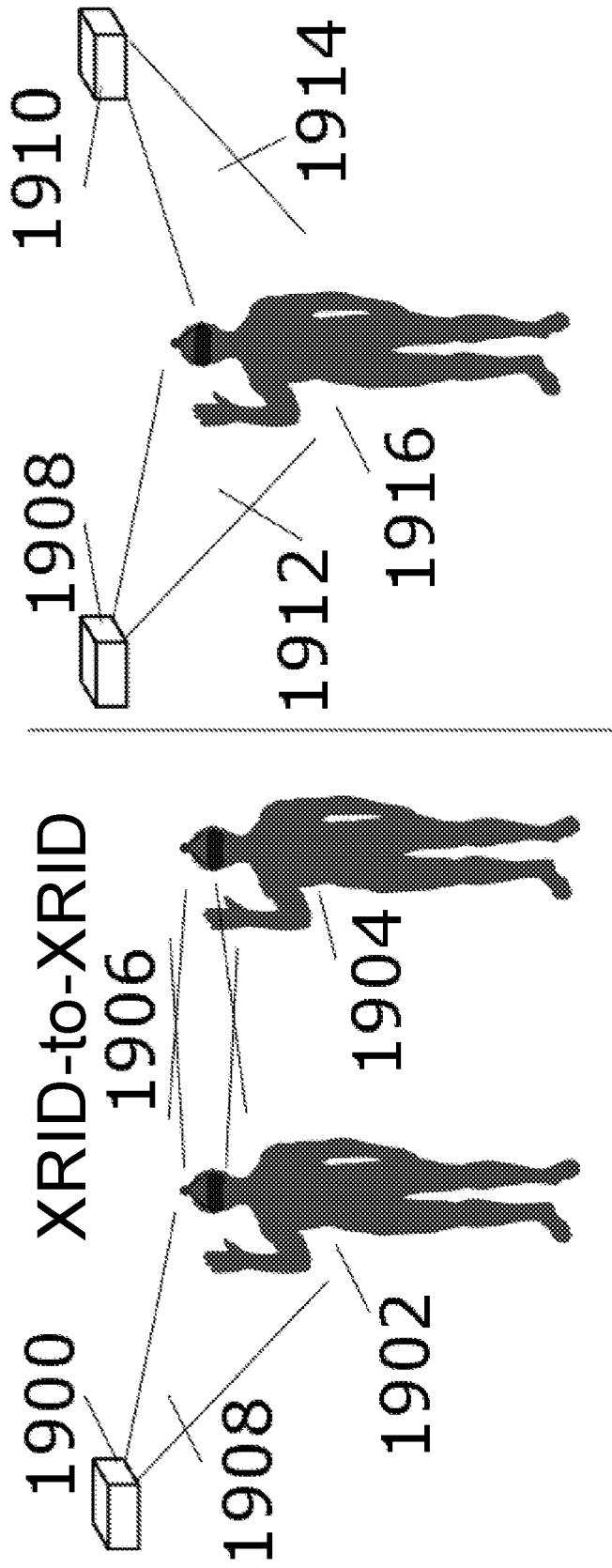


Figure 19B

Figure 19A

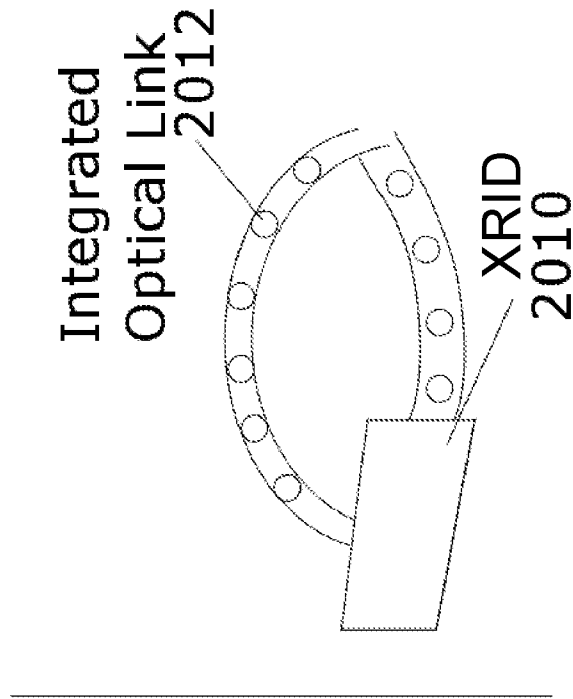


Figure 20A

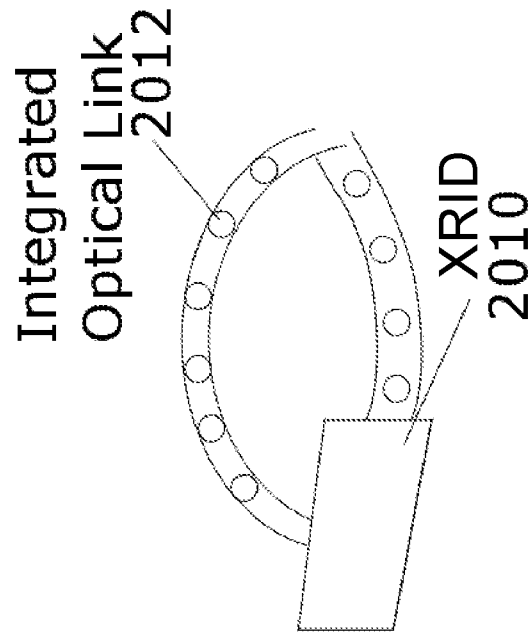


Figure 20B

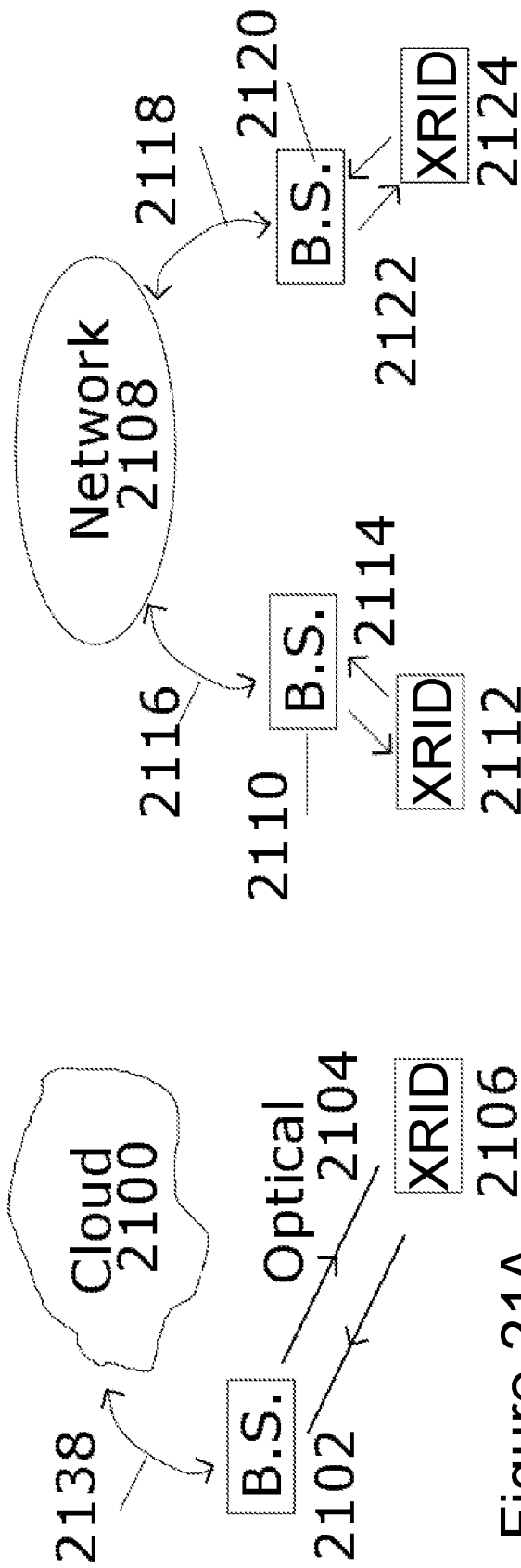


Figure 21A

Figure 21B

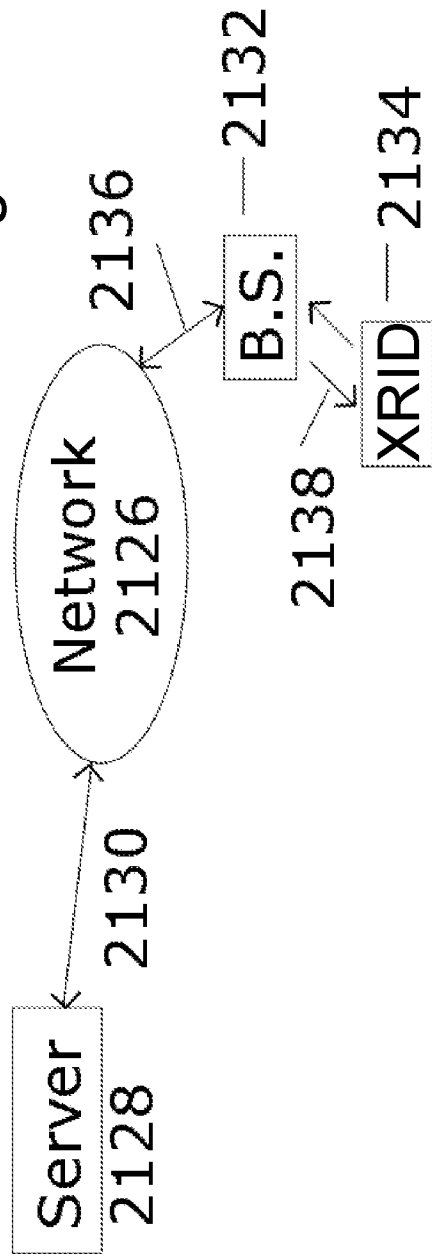


Figure 21C

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No
PCT/IB2019/056808

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER
 INV. H04B10/114 G02B27/01
 ADD.

According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC

B. FIELDS SEARCHED

Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)
 H04B G02B

Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched

Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practicable, search terms used)
 EPO-Internal, WPI Data, INSPEC

C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category*	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
X	WO 2017/108583 A1 (INST MINES TELECOM [FR]) 29 June 2017 (2017-06-29)	1-18,24, 25
Y	page 9, line 14 - line 18; figure 1 page 6, line 28 - line 30 page 7, line 20 - line 24 page 9, line 30 - page 10, line 4 page 10, line 15 - line 20 page 14, line 1 - line 9; figure 4 page 18, line 1 - line 15 page 7, line 5 - line 8 page 16, line 4 - line 26 page 7, line 16 - line 19 page 5, line 27 - line 31 ----- -/--	19-23

Further documents are listed in the continuation of Box C. See patent family annex.

* Special categories of cited documents :

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Date of the actual completion of the international search 4 December 2019	Date of mailing of the international search report 16/12/2019
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Name and mailing address of the ISA/ European Patent Office, P.B. 5818 Patentlaan 2 NL - 2280 HV Rijswijk Tel. (+31-70) 340-2040, Fax: (+31-70) 340-3016	Authorized officer Borsier, Celine
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INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

 International application No
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