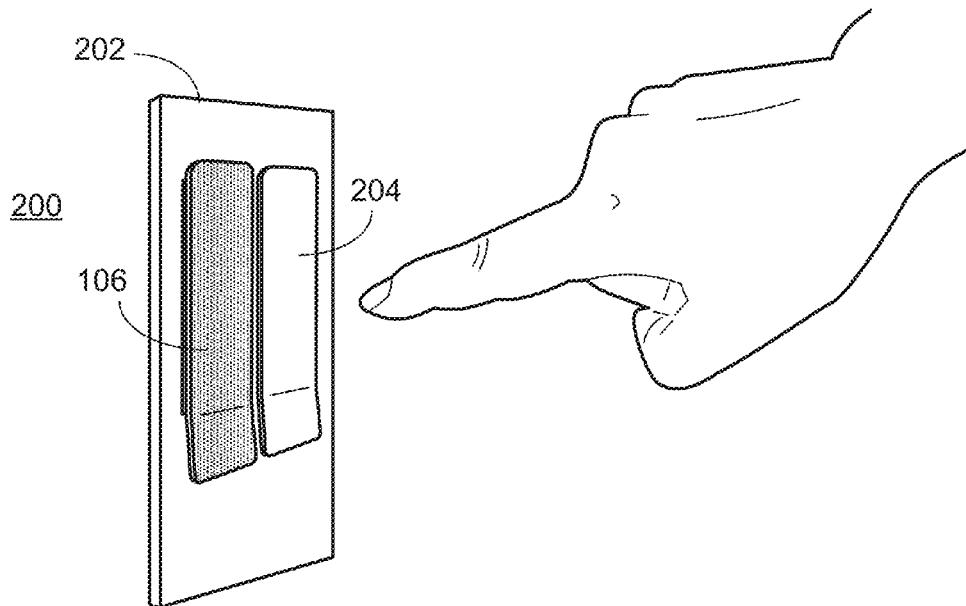




US 20170295623A1

(19) **United States**(12) **Patent Application Publication**
Pennycooke(10) **Pub. No.: US 2017/0295623 A1**(43) **Pub. Date: Oct. 12, 2017**(54) **INTELLIGENT LIGHTING CONTROL
POWER MEASUREMENT APPARATUSES,
SYSTEMS, AND METHODS**(52) **U.S. Cl.**
CPC *H05B 37/0227* (2013.01); *H05B 37/0272*
(2013.01); *H01H 3/122* (2013.01); *G01R*
21/06 (2013.01); *H01H 2231/052* (2013.01)(71) Applicant: **Locoroll, Inc.**, Cupertino, CA (US)(72) Inventor: **Nicholas David Pennycooke**, San
Mateo, CA (US)(21) Appl. No.: **15/484,444**(22) Filed: **Apr. 11, 2017****Related U.S. Application Data**(60) Provisional application No. 62/321,116, filed on Apr.
11, 2016.**Publication Classification**(51) **Int. Cl.**
H05B 37/02 (2006.01)
G01R 21/06 (2006.01)
H01H 3/12 (2006.01)(57) **ABSTRACT**

The present disclosure provides apparatuses and methods for measuring power for a lighting control system. The includes a lighting control module configured to cause a transmission of a quantity of electrical power to a lighting circuit of a light fixture electrically connected to the lighting control module, a detector circuit positioned in the lighting control module, and a controller in electrical communication with the detector circuit. The controller is specially programmed to correlate a quantity of electrical power transmitted to the lighting circuit to the response of the lighting circuit. The controller is further programmed to determine a power correction factor based on the correlation between the quantity of electrical power transmitted and the response. The power correction factor is configured to alter the response of the lighting circuit to a predetermined value.



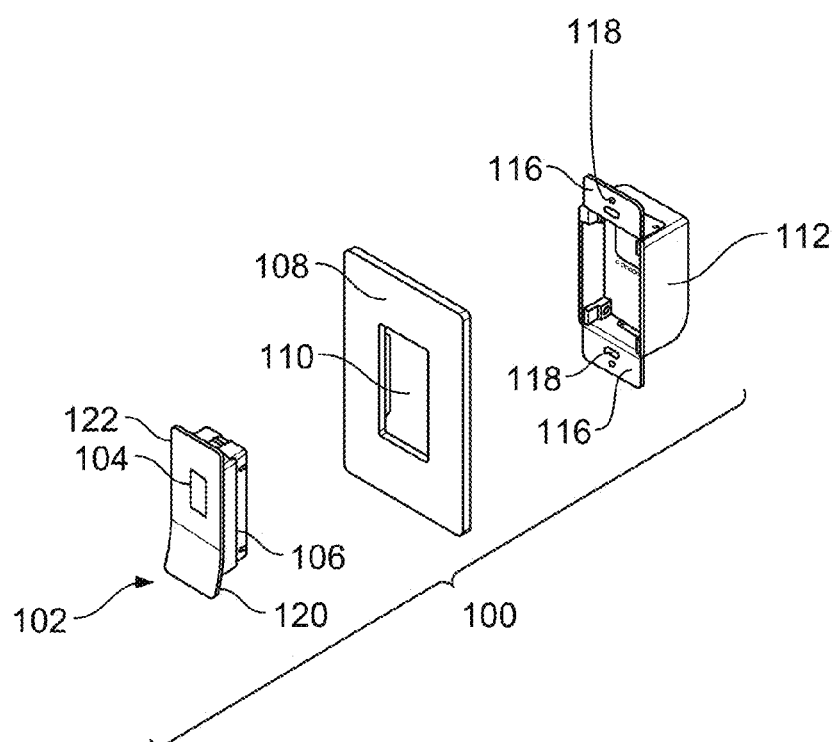


FIG. 1A

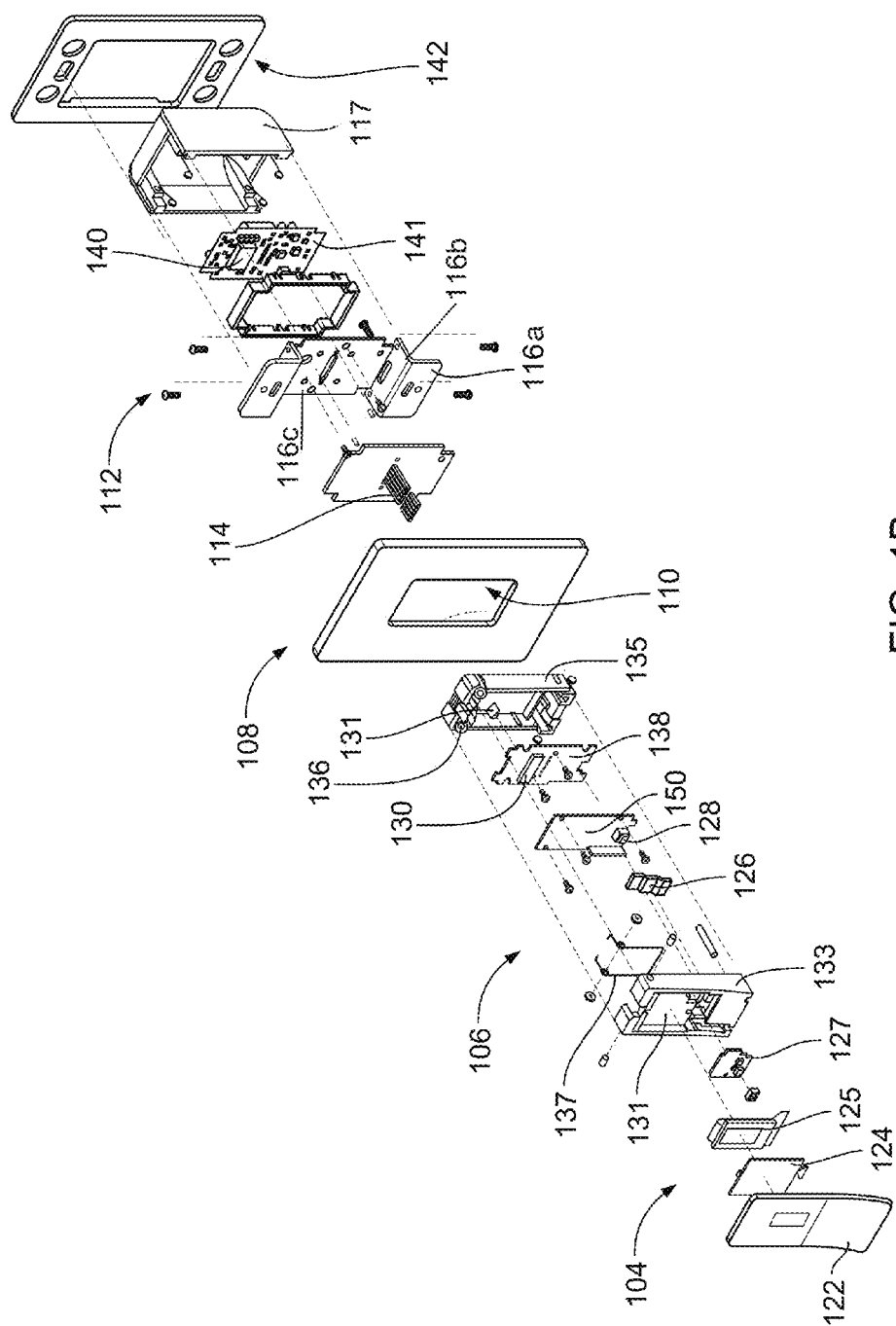


FIG. 1B

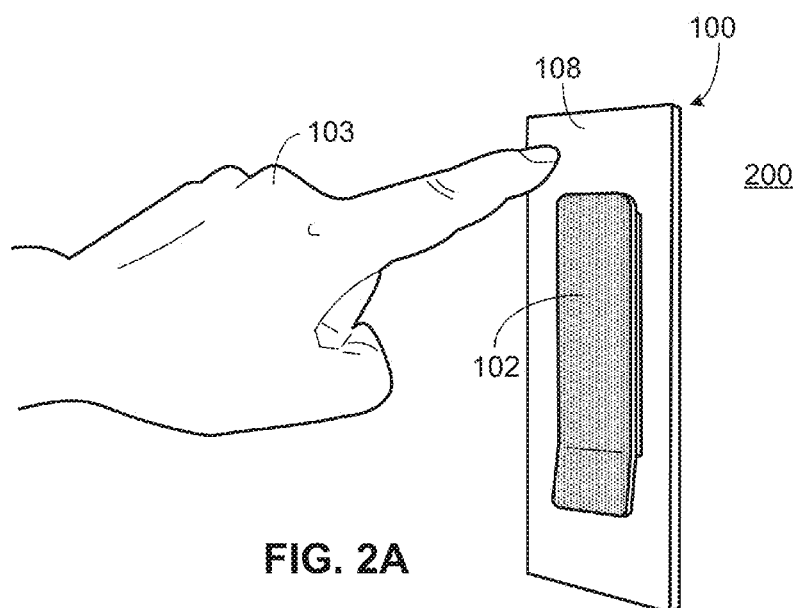


FIG. 2A

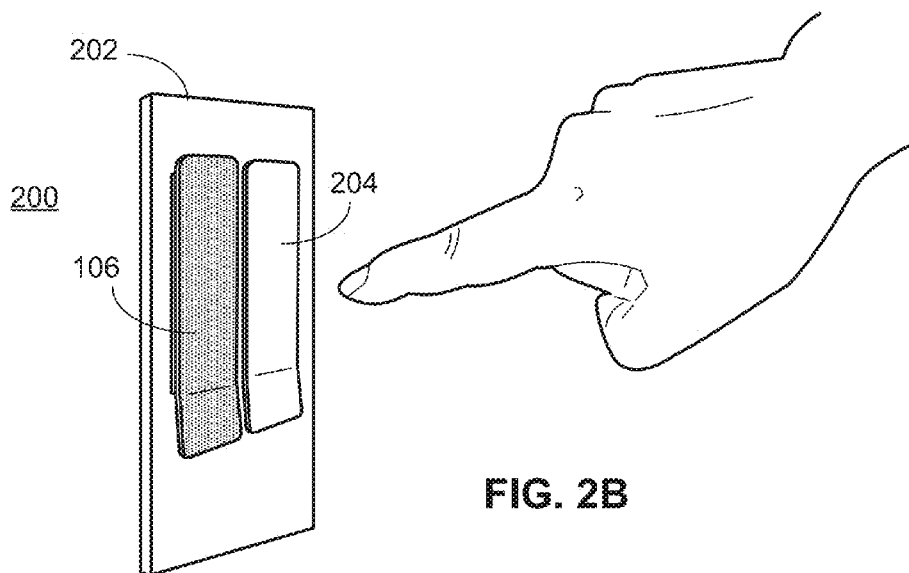


FIG. 2B

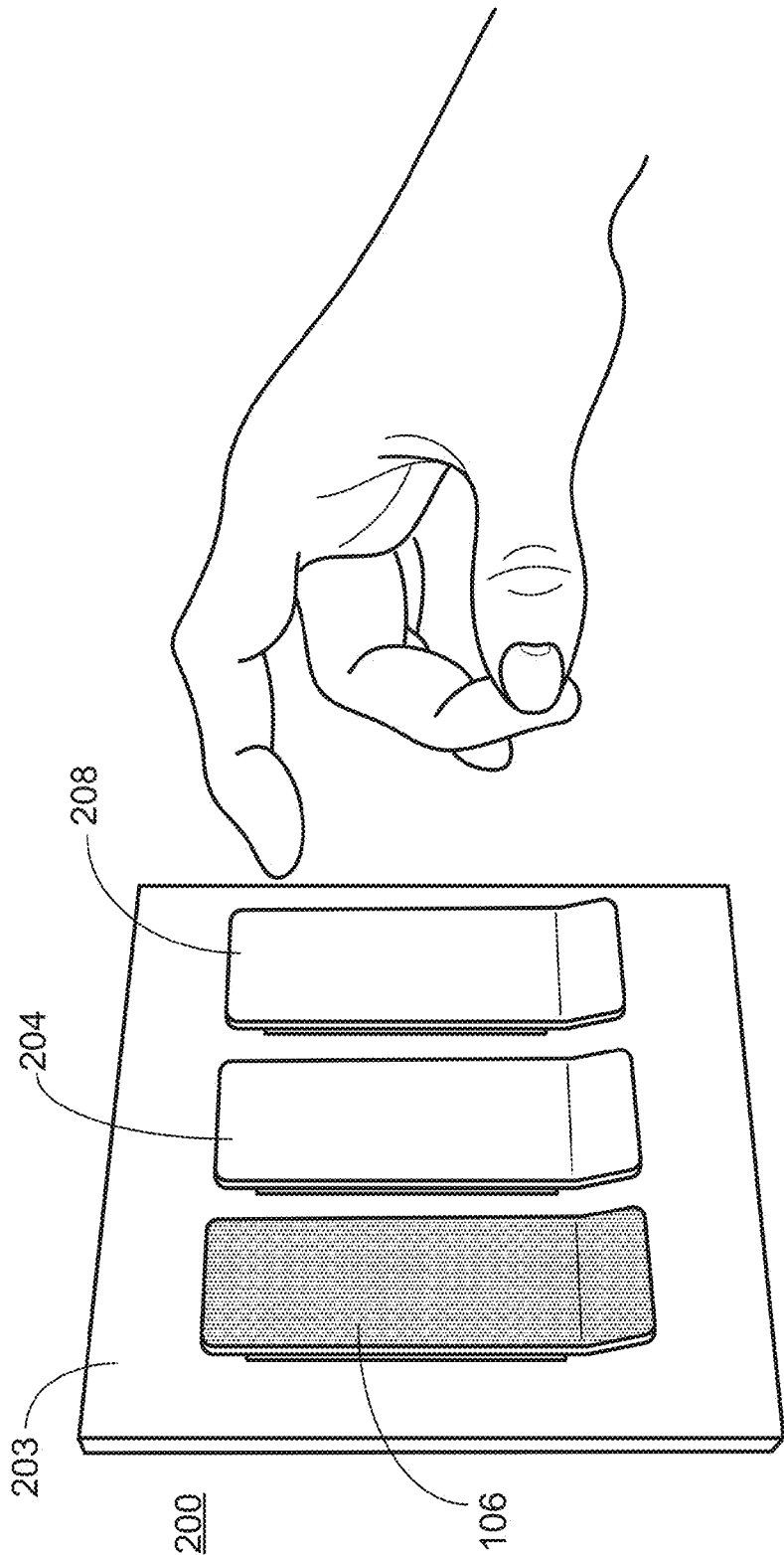


FIG. 2C

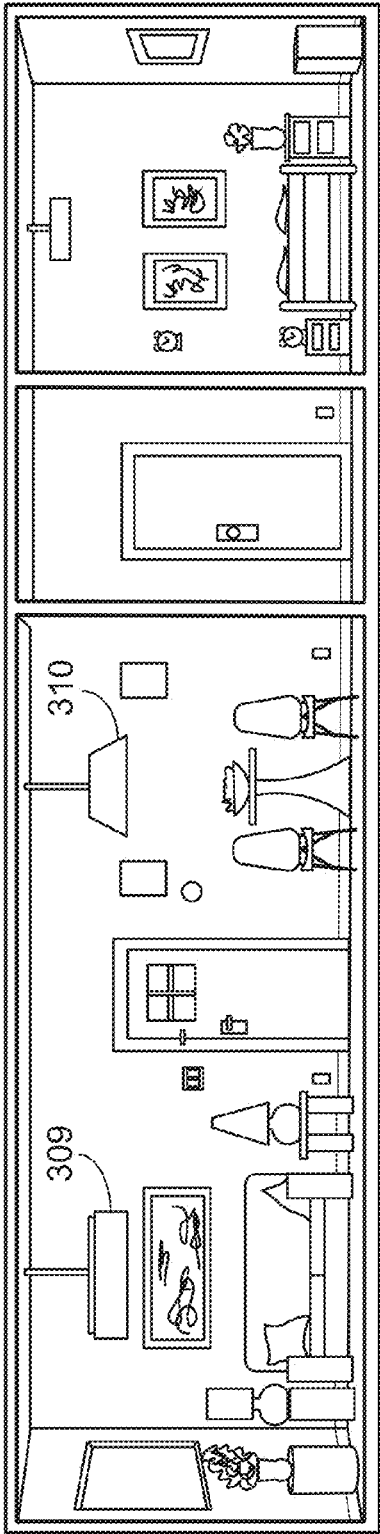
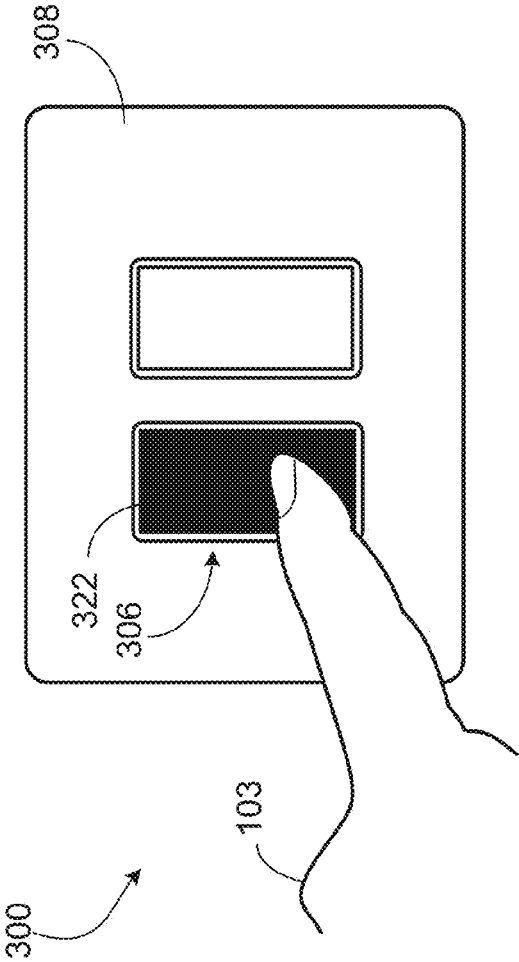


FIG. 3A

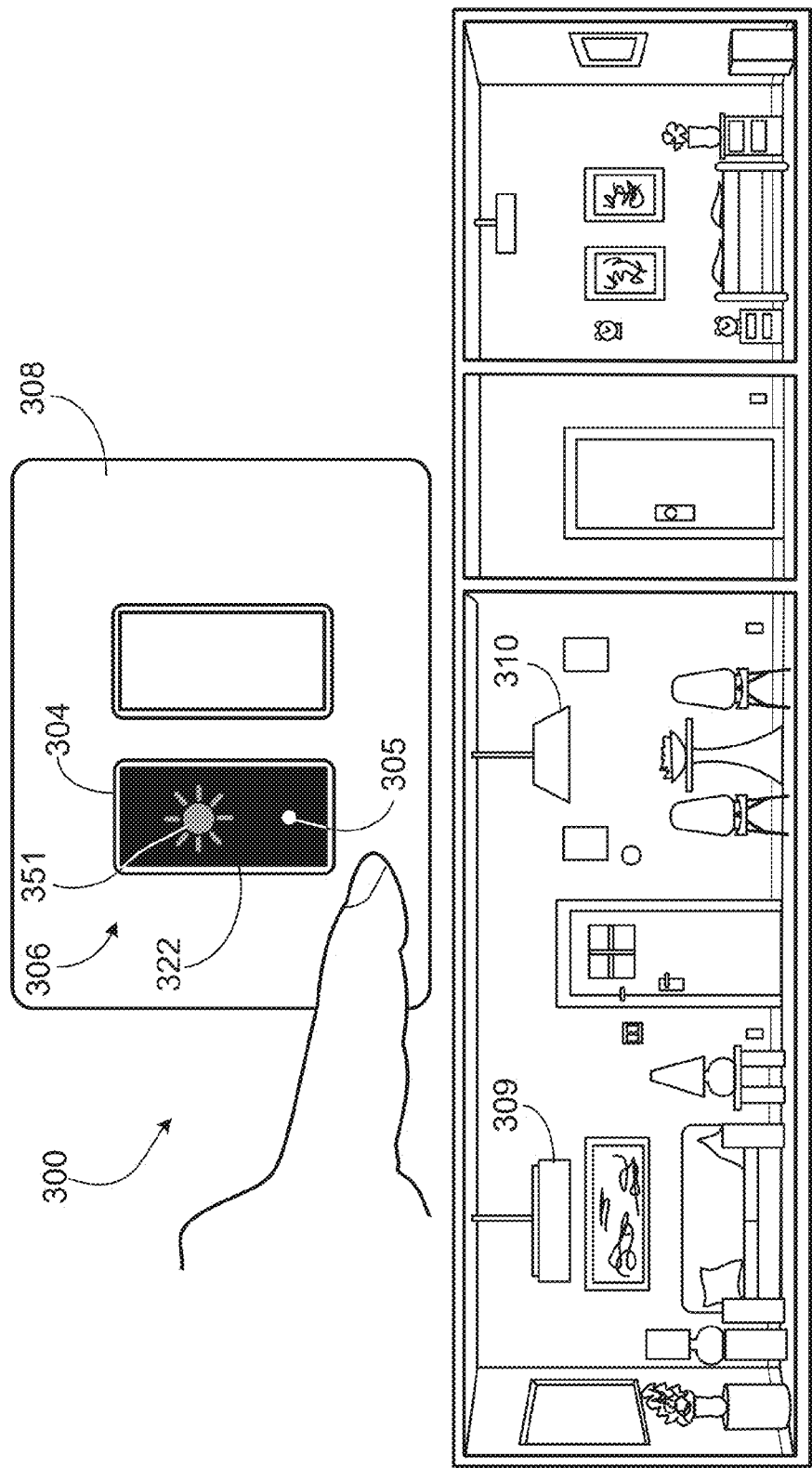


FIG. 3B

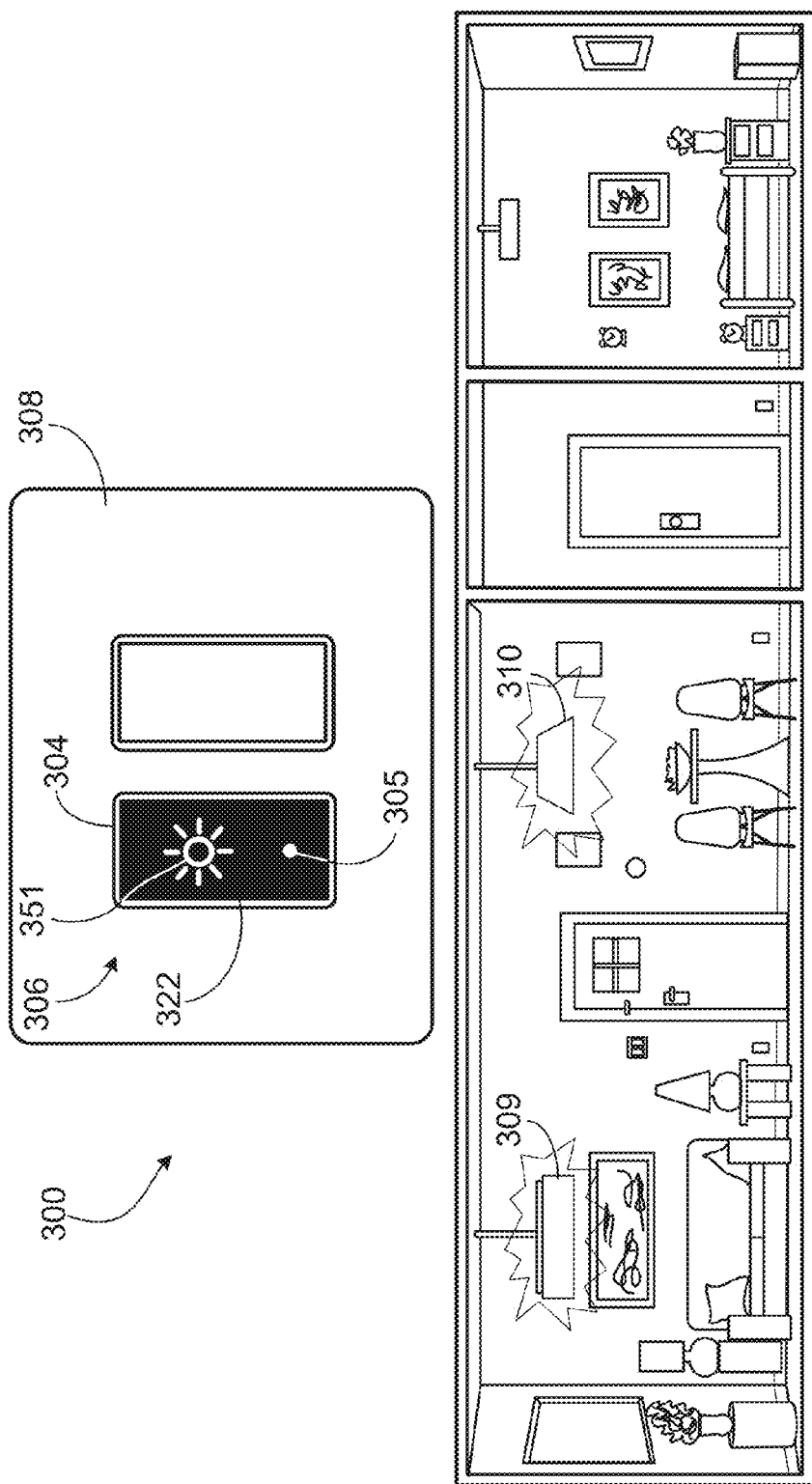


FIG. 3C

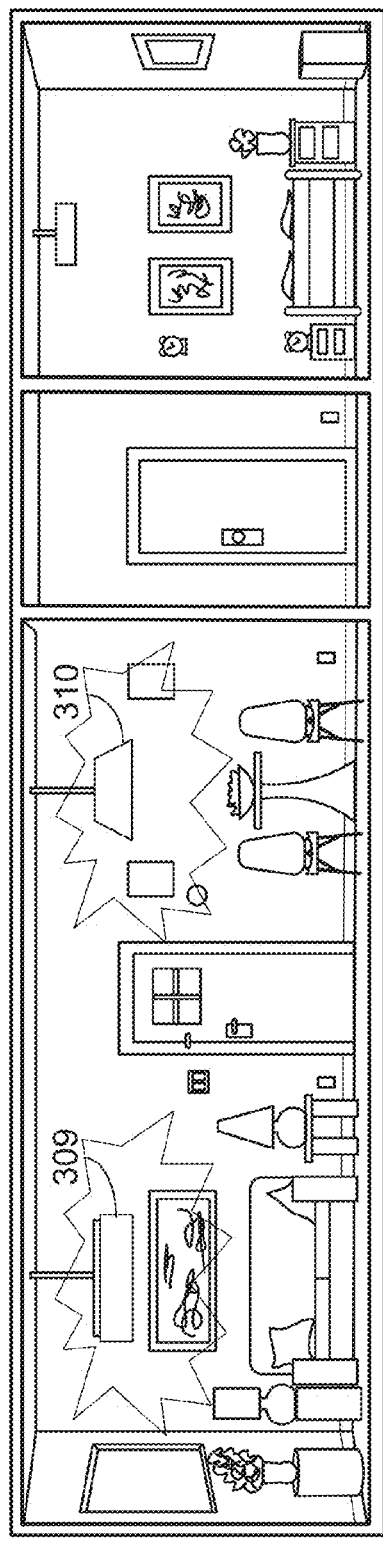
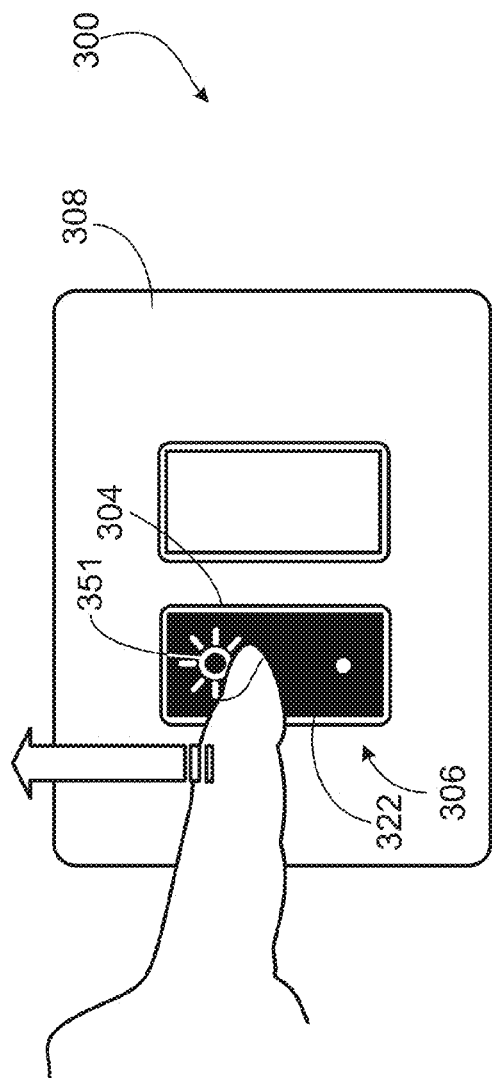


FIG. 3D

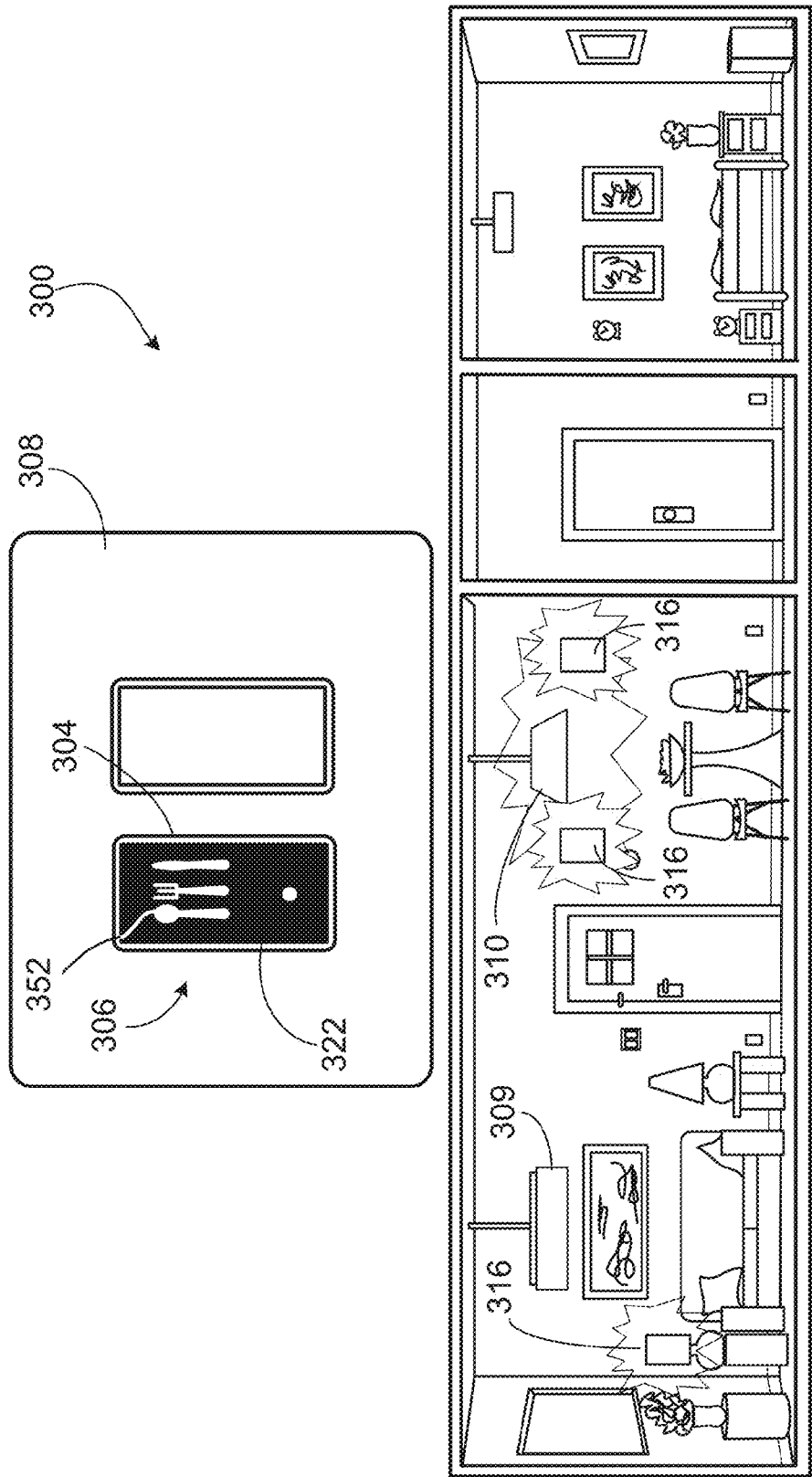


FIG. 3E

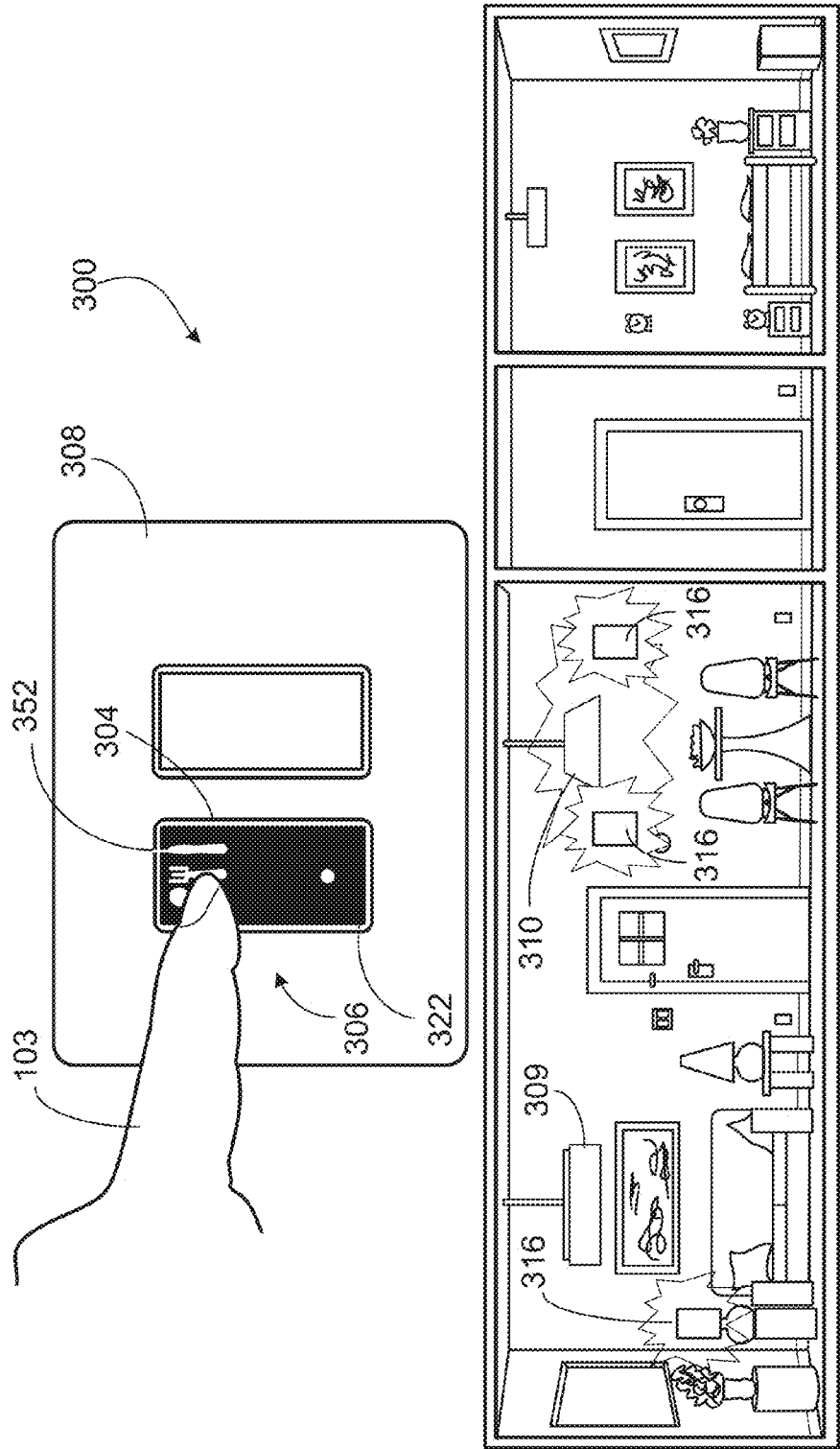


FIG. 3F

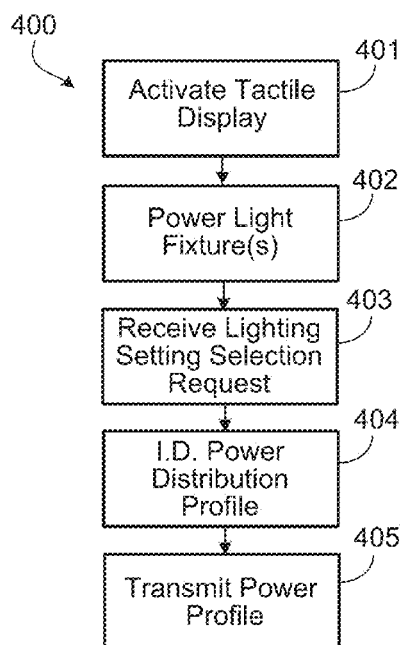


FIG. 4

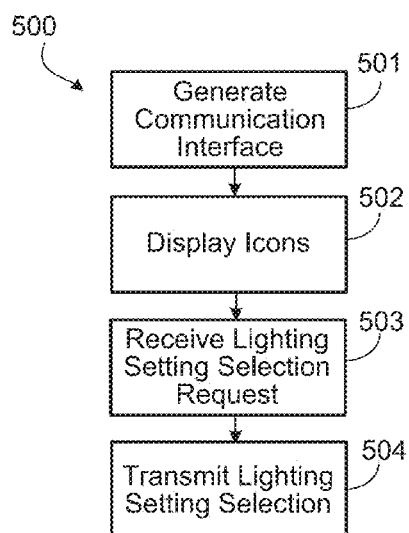


FIG. 5

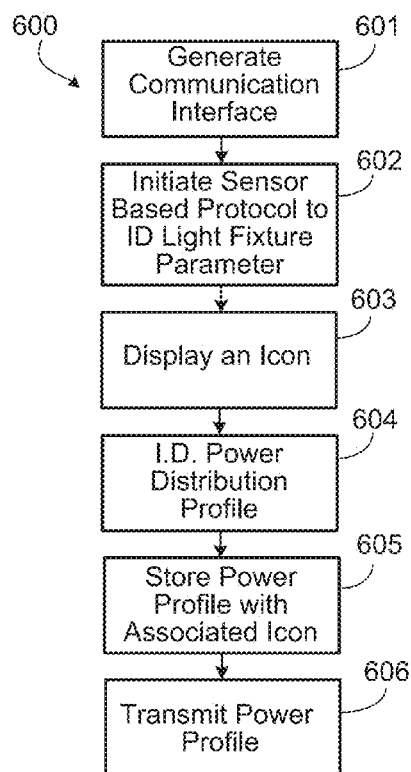


FIG. 6

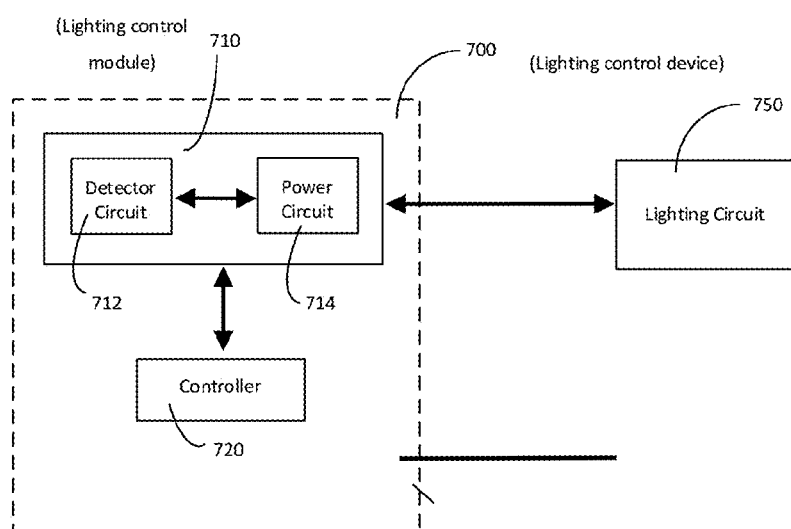


FIG. 7

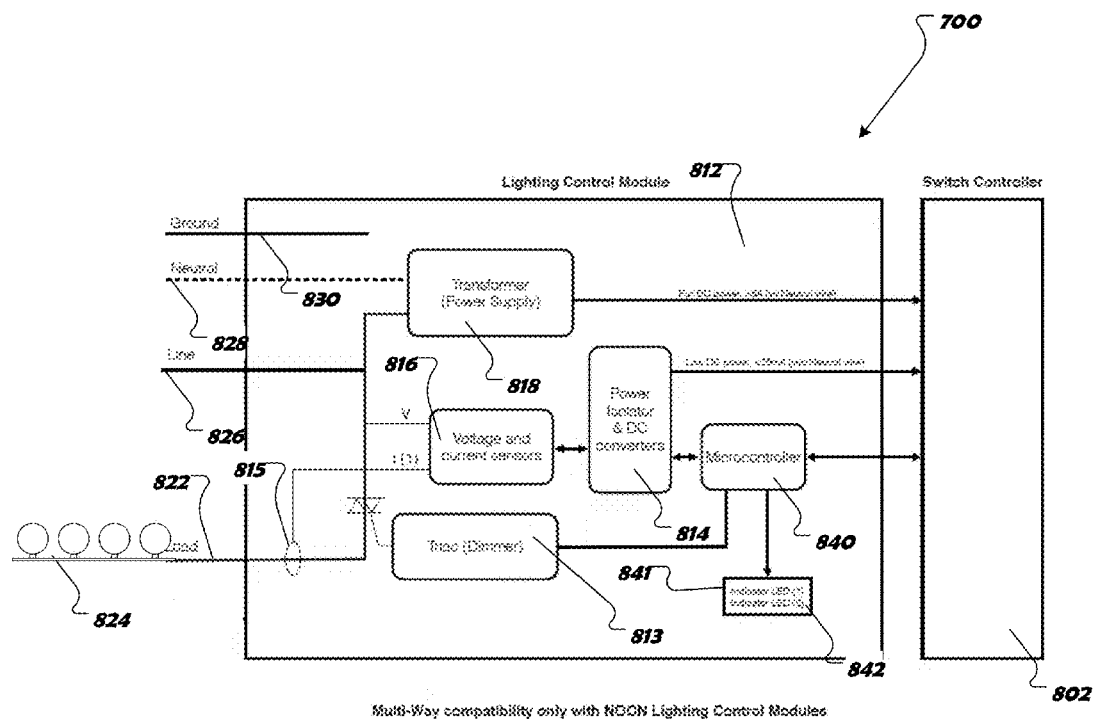


FIG. 8

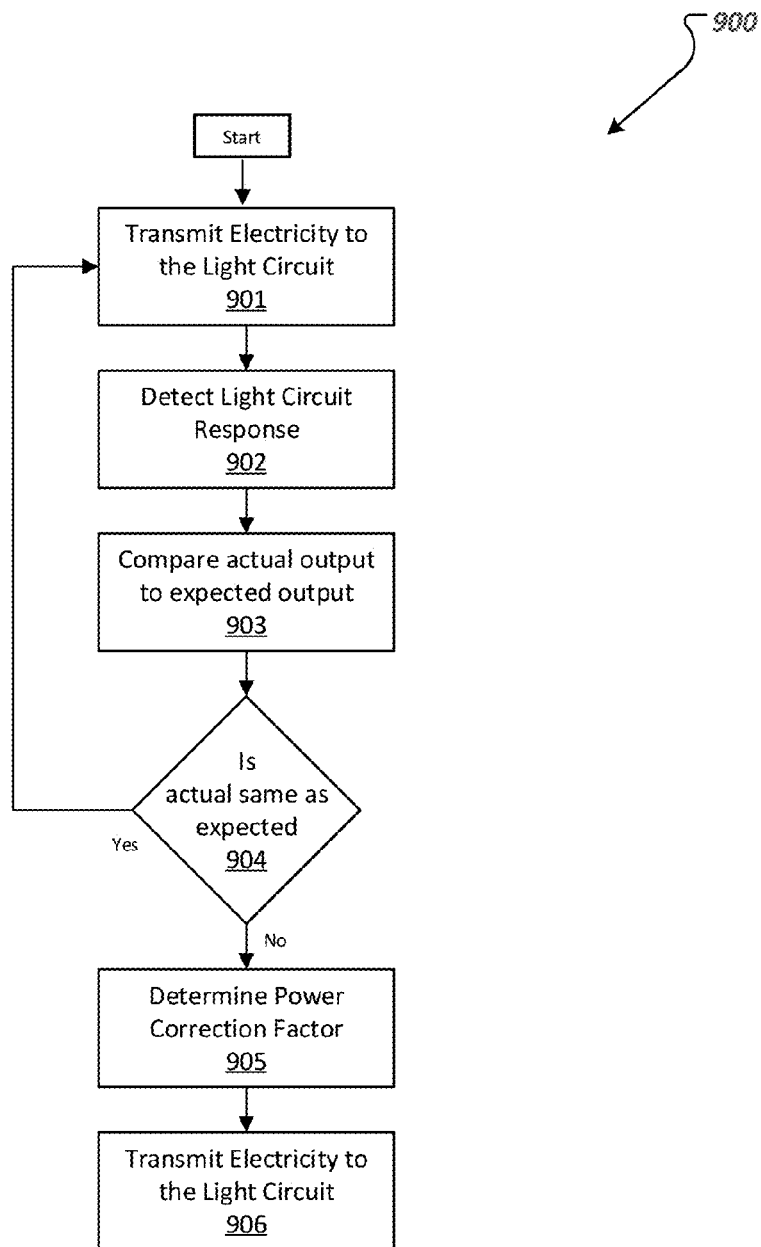


FIG. 9

INTELLIGENT LIGHTING CONTROL POWER MEASUREMENT APPARATUSES, SYSTEMS, AND METHODS

RELATED APPLICATION

[0001] The present application claims priority to U.S. Provisional Patent Application No. 62/321,116, filed on Apr. 11, 2016, entitled “INTELLIGENT LIGHTING CONTROL POWER MEASUREMENT APPARATUSES, SYSTEMS, AND METHODS,” which application is incorporated herein by reference in its entirety.

TECHNICAL FIELD

[0002] The present application relates generally to the field of lighting control systems.

BACKGROUND

[0003] Customizing and automating home lighting control devices is often epitomized by the installation of unsightly lighting switches that are inundated with light switches confusingly mapped to respective fixtures. Automated home lighting control systems can also include large, complex, expensive central hubs that require expert or skilled technicians for installation and/or operation. Smart light bulbs and/or Wi-Fi enabled lightbulbs introduced into any of these contexts or even in simpler ones can disadvantageously be limited by the light switch that it is associated with and/or the lighting fixture itself. For example, if a light switch associated with a smart light bulb is switched off the smart light bulb becomes inoperable.

[0004] Different light bulb types and models have different properties that determine how they behave to a provided current. The threshold at which a light “pops-on” and the rate at which the light “warms-up” is generally to unique to the specific bulb and depends on factors such as bulb type and bulb manufacturer. Also smart bulbs have their own inherent properties that uniquely drive the bulbs rate of dimming.

SUMMARY

[0005] The inventors have appreciated that various embodiments disclosed herein provide synchronization to coordinate changes in lighting scenes facilitated by one or more intelligent light switch of a lighting control system. The inventors have appreciated that normalizing the behavior of a plurality of bulb types and models provides a synchronous elegant lighting experience.

[0006] Various embodiments provide an apparatus for measuring power for a lighting control system. The apparatus includes a lighting control module configured to cause a transmission of a quantity of electrical power to a lighting circuit of a light fixture electrically connected to the lighting control module. The apparatus includes a detector circuit positioned in the lighting control module. The detector circuit configured to measure a response of the lighting circuit to the transmission of the quantity of electrical power. The apparatus includes a controller in electrical communication with the detector circuit. The controller is specially programmed to correlate the quantity of electrical power transmitted to the lighting circuit to the response of the lighting circuit. The controller is further programmed to determine a power correction factor based on the correlation between the quantity of electrical power transmitted and the

response. The power correction factor is configured to alter the response of the lighting circuit to a predetermined value.

[0007] In some embodiments, the controller is configured to determine the power correction factor based on a current sensing measurement and a voltage sensing measurement of the response.

[0008] In some embodiments, the current sensing measurement and the voltage sensing measurement are measured along an electrical line connected to the lighting circuit.

[0009] In some embodiments, the response includes a measure of an electrical energy.

[0010] In some embodiments, the detector circuit includes at least one of a current sensor and a voltage sensor.

[0011] In some embodiments, the detector circuit includes an analog digital converter.

[0012] In some embodiments, the detector circuit includes an optical sensor.

[0013] In some embodiments, the detector circuit is configured to measure a current consumption of the lighting circuit as the response.

[0014] In some embodiments, the detector circuit is configured to measure a wattage consumption as the response.

[0015] In some embodiments, the detector circuit is configured to measure a lumen output as the response.

[0016] In some embodiments, the power correction factor is configured to cause an estimated change in light output.

[0017] In some embodiments, the controller is further programmed to cause the lighting control module to deliver a second quantity of electrical power to the lighting circuit based on the power correction factor.

[0018] Various embodiments provide a method of operating a lighting control system according to anyone of the preceding claims.

[0019] Various embodiments provide a method of measuring power for a lighting control system. The method includes causing a lighting control module to cause a transmission of a quantity of electrical power to a lighting circuit of a light fixture electrically connected to the lighting control module. The method includes measuring, via a detector circuit positioned in the lighting control module, a response of the lighting circuit to the transmission of the quantity of electrical power. The method includes correlating, via a controller in electrical communication with the detector circuit positioned in the lighting control module. The quantity of electrical power transmitted to the lighting circuit to the response of the lighting circuit. The method includes determining a power correction factor based on the correlation between the quantity of electrical power transmitted to the lighting circuit and the response of the lighting circuit. The power correction factor is configured to alter the response of the lighting circuit to a predetermined value.

[0020] In some embodiments, measuring the response includes measuring an electrical energy.

[0021] In some embodiments, measuring an electrical energy includes measuring a current along an electrical line coupled to the lighting circuit.

[0022] In some embodiments, measuring an electrical energy includes measuring a voltage along an electrical line coupled to the lighting circuit.

[0023] In some embodiments, wherein measuring an electrical energy includes measuring a current along an electrical line coupled to the lighting circuit and measuring a voltage along the electrical line coupled to the lighting circuit.

[0024] In some embodiments, measuring the response includes measuring a lumen output from a bulb connected to the light fixture.

[0025] In some embodiments, determining the power correction factor includes determining the predetermined value that will cause a specific change in light output.

[0026] In some embodiments, the method further includes causing the lighting control module to deliver a second quantity of electrical power to the lighting circuit based on the power correction factor.

[0027] In some embodiments, the quantity of electrical power is a first quantity and further comprising causing a second transmission of a second quantity of electrical power to the lighting circuit based on the determination of the power correction factor, the second quantity distinct from the first quantity.

[0028] In some embodiments, the second quantity of electrical power is greater than the first quantity of electrical power.

[0029] In some embodiments, the second quantity of electrical power is less than the first quantity of electrical power.

[0030] In some embodiments, the method includes wirelessly receiving another correlation from another controller in another lighting control module positioned remote from the lighting control module.

[0031] It should be appreciated that all combinations of the foregoing concepts and additional concepts discussed in greater detail below (provided such concepts are not mutually inconsistent) are contemplated as being part of the inventive subject matter disclosed herein. In particular, all combinations of claimed subject matter appearing at the end of this disclosure are contemplated as being part of the inventive subject matter disclosed herein. It should also be appreciated that terminology explicitly employed herein that also may appear in any disclosure incorporated by reference should be accorded a meaning most consistent with the particular concepts disclosed herein.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

[0032] The drawings primarily are for illustrative purposes and are not intended to limit the scope of the inventive subject matter described herein. The drawings are not necessarily to scale; in some instances, various aspects of the inventive subject matter disclosed herein may be shown exaggerated or enlarged in the drawings to facilitate an understanding of different features. In the drawings, like reference characters generally refer to like features (e.g., functionally similar and/or structurally similar elements).

[0033] FIG. 1A is a perspective partially exploded view of a lighting control device.

[0034] FIG. 1B is a fully exploded view of the lighting control device of FIG. 1A.

[0035] FIG. 2A shows the lighting control device of FIG. 1A mounted on a wall.

[0036] FIGS. 2B and 2C illustrate multi-switch lighting control devices.

[0037] FIGS. 3A -3F illustrate a lighting control device transitioning through various lighting settings and a room having lighting fixtures controlled by the lighting control device.

[0038] FIG. 4 provides a flow diagram of operations of a system for controlling a lighting control device.

[0039] FIG. 5 shows a flow diagram of a system for remotely operating a lighting control device.

[0040] FIG. 6 illustrates a flow diagram of a system for remotely configuring operations of a lighting control device.

[0041] FIG. 7 is a schematic of a lighting control system apparatus.

[0042] FIG. 8 is a schematic of a lighting control module of FIG. 7.

[0043] FIG. 9 is a flow diagram of a system for measuring power for a lighting control system.

[0044] The features and advantages of the inventive subject matter disclosed herein will become more apparent from the detailed description set forth below when taken in conjunction with the drawings.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION

[0045] Following below are more detailed descriptions of various concepts related to, and exemplary embodiments of, inventive systems, methods and components of lighting control devices.

[0046] FIG. 1A is a perspective partially exploded view of a lighting control device 100. The lighting control device 100 includes a switch module 102 including a light switch actuator 106 and a tactile display 104 housed in the light switch actuator 106. The lighting control device 100 also includes a wall plate cover 108 including a switch module opening 110 extending therethrough. The lighting control device 100 also includes a base module 112 configured for coupling to the switch module 102 via multi-pin socket 114. The base module 112 is sized and configured for receipt within a one-gang wall electrical box and has a volume corresponding substantially thereto. The base module 112 is configured to be coupled to a wall electrical box via connection tabs 116 and fastener apertures 118 in the connection tabs 116.

[0047] The light switch actuator 106 includes an outer actuation surface 122, which as discussed further herein may be composed of glass. The actuation surface 122 is movable, for example, by pushing on the curved foot 120 to cause the light switch actuator 106 to pivot, for example. The pivoting of the light switch actuator 106 and the actuation surface 122 causes a contact component (shown in FIG. 2) of the switch actuator 106 to move from a first position to a second position. Movement of the contact component causes a connection of an electrical flow path, for example by allowing two electrical contacts to connect or by connecting the contact component with an electrical contact. The connecting of the electrical flow path, permits electrical energy supplied by a power source connected to the base module 112 to energize or activate the tactile display 104, as discussed in further detail herein. The tactile display 104 is structured in the switch module to move contemporaneously with at least a portion of the actuation surface 122 and with the actuator 106. When activated or energized, the tactile display 104 allows a user to define or select predefined lighting settings where the lighting settings change the voltage or power supplied to one or more light fixtures. The change in power supplied to the light fixtures may include a plurality of different voltages supplied to each fixture and may be based on various parameters including, but not limited to, location, light intensity, light color, type of bulb, type of light, ambient light levels, time of day, kind of activity, room temperature, noise level, energy costs, user proximity, user identity, or various other parameters which may be specified or detected. Furthermore, the lighting control device 100 may be connected to all of the lights in

a room or even in a house and can be configured to operate cooperatively with one or more other lighting control devices **100** located in a unit or room and connected to the same or distinct lighting fixtures.

[0048] FIG. 1B is a fully exploded view of the lighting control device **100** of FIG. 1A. As demonstrated in FIG. 1B, the tactile display **104** is positioned between the outer actuation surface **122** and the light switch actuator **106**. The actuation surface **122** may be composed of an impact-resistant glass material permitting light from the tactile display **104** and/or a clear sight of path for sensors **127** or other lights, such as a light from light pipe **126** indicating activation to pass through the actuation surface **122**. The tactile display **104** is composed of a polymer-based capacitive touch layer **124** and a light emitting diode panel **125**, which are controlled via one or more modules or processors positioned on the printed circuit board **129**. The tactile display **104** is housed within a recess **131** of the light switch actuator **106** beneath the actuation surface **122**. The light switch actuator **106** may be formed as a thermoplastic housing including a housing cover **133** and a housing base **135**. The light switch actuator housing cover **133** is pivotally connected to the housing base **135** via pins **136** and the housing cover **133** is biased with respect to the housing base **135** via torsion spring **137**. In particular embodiments, the light switch actuator housing cover **133** may be configured to slide or otherwise translate or rotate. The outer actuation surface **122** is biased with the switch actuator housing cover **133** and moves contemporaneously therewith in concert with the tactile display **104** housed in the cover component **133** of the light switch actuator **106**. The light switch actuator **106** includes a switch pin **128** movable between positions to close an open circuit on the primary printed circuit board substrate **150**, which board also houses a switch controller or processor. In certain embodiments the light switch actuator **106** may include a circuit board stack, including the primary printed circuit board substrate **150** and a secondary printed circuit board **138**. The light switch actuator **106** may include a latch **136** for coupling to the base module **112** (e.g. as the light switch actuator **106** is passed through the opening **110** in the wall plate cover **108**), which latch causes the light switch actuator **106** to click into place. The housing base **135** includes a multi-pin connector or plug **134** configured to engage the multi-pin socket **114** of the base module **112**.

[0049] The lighting control device **100** includes a mounting chassis **142** configured to be installed to an electrical wall box. The mounting chassis **142** creates an even surface for installation of the other modules (e.g., the base module **112** and the switch module **102**). Once the base module is connected to the electrical wall box via the mounting chassis **142**, the wall plate cover **108** can be coupled to the mounting chassis **142** and the light switch actuator **106** can be inserted through the switch module opening **110**. In particular embodiments, the wall plate cover can be coupled to the mounting chassis **142** and/or the tabs **116** of the base module via magnets. The magnets may be recessed within openings of a portion of the wall plate cover **108**. As noted, the base module **112** is configured to be coupled to a wall electrical box via connection tabs **116**. The base module **112** is further configured to be electrically coupled to a power source and to one or more light fixtures wired to the electrical box. Accordingly, the base module **112** provides an interface between a power source, the light switch actuator **106**, and

one or more light fixtures. The base module includes a processor **140** and a circuit board **141** for managing the power supplied by the power source and routed to the one or more light fixtures in accordance with a light setting selection identified via the light switch actuator **106** or the tactile display **104**.

[0050] One or more of the processor on the printed circuit board **15038a** or **138b** **130** and the base module processor **140** may include wireless links for communication with one or more remote electronic device such as a mobile phone, a tablet, a laptop, another mobile computing devices, one or more other lighting control devices **100** or other electronic devices operating in a location. In certain implementations the wireless links permit communication with one or more devices including, but not limited to smart light bulbs, thermostats, garage door openers, door locks, remote controls, televisions, security systems, security cameras, smoke detectors, video game consoles, robotic systems, or other communication enabled sensing and/or actuation devices or appliances. The wireless links may include BLUETOOTH classes, Wi-Fi, Bluetooth-low-energy, also known as BLE (BLE and BT classic are completely different protocols that just share the branding), 802.15.4, Worldwide Interoperability for Microwave Access (WiMAX), an infrared channel or satellite band. The wireless links may also include any cellular network standards used to communicate among mobile devices, including, but not limited to, standards that qualify as 1G, 2G, 3G, or 4G. The network standards may qualify as one or more generation of mobile telecommunication standards by fulfilling a specification or standards such as the specifications maintained by International Telecommunication Union. The 3G standards, for example, may correspond to the International Mobile Telecommunications-2000 (IMT-2000) specification, and the 4G standards may correspond to the International Mobile Telecommunications Advanced (IMT-Advanced) specification. Examples of cellular network standards include AMPS, GSM, GPRS, UMTS, LTE, LTE Advanced, Mobile WiMAX, and WiMAX-Advanced. Cellular network standards may use various channel access methods e.g. FDMA, TDMA, CDMA, or SDMA. In some embodiments, different types of data may be transmitted via different links and standards. In other embodiments, the same types of data may be transmitted via different links and standards.

[0051] FIG. 2A shows the lighting control device **100** of FIG. 1A mounted on a wall **200**. As demonstrated in FIG. 2A, the base module **112** is not visible upon installation of the lighting control device **100** in view of the wall plate cover **108**. Because the wall plate cover **108** attaches to the base module **112**, the wall plate cover **108** appears to be floating on the wall **200**. The lighting control device **100** may be activated by a user **103** interacting with the outer actuation surface **122** and the tactile display **104**.

[0052] FIGS. 2B and 2C illustrate multi-switch configurations of multiple lighting control device. FIGS. 2B and 2C illustrate a two switch and three switch embodiment respectively where the lighting control devices **202** and **203** each include a light switch actuator **106** as well as auxiliary switches **204** and **208**, as well as 2 and 3 base modules **112**, respectively.

[0053] FIGS. 3A-3F illustrate a lighting control device transitioning through various lighting settings and a room having lighting fixtures controlled by the lighting control device.

[0054] In FIG. 3A, the lighting control device 300 is connected to a base module positioned behind the wall plate 308. The lighting control device 300 includes a dynamic light switch actuator 306, operable in a manner similar to the light switch actuator discussed in connection with FIGS. 1A-2C, and an auxiliary light switch actuator. As demonstrated in FIG. 3A by the unilluminated outer actuation surface 322 of the light switch actuator 306 is inactive and not energized. In response to a user 103 moving the actuation surface 322 of the light switch actuator 306, the light switch actuator 306 begins to become energized, as shown in FIG. 3B. The energization or activation of the light switch actuator 306 is signaled by the power light indicator 305 and by full lighting setting icon 351. As shown in FIG. 3C where the icon 351 is fully lit (rather than partially lit as in FIG. 3B), the light switch actuator 306 is fully energized. In this particular configuration, the primary lights 309 and 310 are illuminated at full power. FIG. 3D shows the transition between lighting settings. As demonstrated in FIG. 3D, this transition is facilitated via user 103 completing swiping gesture 312 across the tactile display 304 and along the actuation surface 322. As the user completes the gesture 312, the icon 351 is swiped from the tactile display 304 as the tactile display toggles to a new light setting shown in FIG. 3E. The new light setting shown in FIG. 3E is represented or identified by the dinner icon 352. The new light setting shown in FIG. 3 has the light fixture 309 powered down and has caused lamp 316 and sconces 318 to become illuminated to change the lighting scene in the room. The change in the light setting causes a change in distribution of power to certain lighting fixture based on the selected lighting setting. The light switch actuator 306 may be pre-programmed with a plurality of lighting settings or may be configured with particular lighting settings as specified by the user 103. A further swiping gesture 315 shown in FIG. 3F or a different gesture are used to transition from the lighting setting of FIG. 3F represented by icon 352 to a further lighting setting.

[0055] FIG. 4 provides a flow diagram of operations of a system for controlling a lighting control device. FIG. 4 illustrates control operations of a control system, such as processor 130 configured to control the lighting control device 100 or 300, in accordance with various embodiments of the present invention. At 401, the tactile display housed in the light switch actuator is activated by moving the light switch actuator, for example by moving the actuation surface of the light switch actuator. At 402, the light fixtures electrically coupled to the light switch actuator via a base module are powered as the movement of the light switch actuator causes a contact component to move into a new position and thereby permit or cause an electrical flow path between a power source and the light fixture(s) to be closed. The tactile display housed in the light switch actuator is moved contemporaneously with the actuation surface. At 403, a lighting setting selection request is received via the tactile display, for example by a particular motion or motions on the tactile display. The lighting setting selection request identifies a lighting setting from among a plurality of lighting settings. A user may swipe multiple times to toggle through the plurality of lighting settings or may conduct a specific motion that corresponds to a particular lighting setting including, but not limited to, a half swipe and tap to achieve a light intensity of all the connected light fixtures at half of their peak output. The lighting settings identify distinct power distribution schemes for one or more light

fixtures connected to the light switch module. At 404, a power distribution scheme is identified. At 405, the identified power distribution scheme is transmitted, for example by the base module responding to control signals from the light switch actuator, to adjust one, some, or all of the lights based on the power distribution scheme corresponding to the lighting setting selected. The power distribution schemes or profiles may be stored in a memory device of the lighting control device. In certain embodiments, the power distribution schemes may be adjusted to account for other parameters such as ambient lighting from natural light or an unconnected source. In certain embodiments the power distribution schemes may be adjusted based on one or more other sensor parameters. In particular embodiments, the lighting setting may be adjusted by automation based on time of day, sensed parameters such as light, temperature, noise, or activation of other devices including, but not limited to, any electronic device described herein.

[0056] FIG. 5 shows a flow diagram of system for remotely operating a lighting control device. In particular embodiments, the lighting control device 100 or 300 may be operable from a remote device if the actuator switch is activated or energized. In such instances, the remote device may include one or more computer program applications, such as system 500, operating on the device to communicate with and control the lighting control device. Accordingly, at 501, the control system 500 initiates a connection module to generate a communication interface between a mobile electronic device and a light switch module. The connection module may cause the remote device to send one or more wireless transmission to the lighting control device via a communication protocol. At 502, the control system 500 causes the remote device to generate a display of icons on a display device of the mobile electronic device to facilitate selection of a lighting setting. At 503, the control system 500 receives a lighting setting selection based on the user selecting a particular icon. At 504, a transmission module causes the lighting setting selected to be transmitted to the lighting control device so that the light switch module and/or the base module can cause the power distribution scheme corresponding to the lighting setting to be transmitted to the lighting fixtures. The tactile display of the lighting control device may be updated in concert with receipt of the lighting setting to display the icon selected on the mobile electronic device and corresponding to the lighting setting selected on the tactile device.

[0057] FIG. 6 illustrates a flow diagram of a system for remotely configuring operations of a lighting control device. The remote device may include devices including, but not limited to a mobile phone, a mobile computing device or a computing device remote from the light control device. At 601, the mobile electronic device generates a communication interface with the light switch module. At 602 a light fixture identification module initiates a sensor based protocol to identify a parameter associated with one or more light fixtures connected to the light switch control module. At 603, a display selection module causes a display of an icon to appear on a display device of the mobile electronic device. At 604, a lighting setting configuration module allows a user to create a power distribution scheme or profile for the light fixtures identified based on the identified parameters and a user specified input related to light intensity. At 604, a storage module is used to store the power distribution scheme and associate a particular lighting set-

ting icon with the power distribution scheme. At 605, a transmission module transmits the power distribution scheme and the associated icon to the light switch control module.

[0058] FIG. 7 is a schematic of a lighting control system apparatus. The lighting control system apparatus includes a lighting control module 700. The lighting control module 700 can be configured like the lighting control device 100 to include a switch module removably coupled to a base module. The lighting control module 700 is configured to adjust a lighting scene by causing a change in the power distribution scheme to one or more lighting fixtures of lighting circuit 750. In connection with changing the power distribution scheme, the lighting control module 700 includes a detector circuit 712 for detecting one or more electrical parameters related to the lighting control module 700. As discussed further herein, these electrical parameters may provide information related to the configuration of the lighting control module 700 and/or the configuration of one or more components connected to the lighting control module 700. The lighting control module 700 also includes a power circuit 714 for regulating the power flow to and from the lighting control module 700. The power circuit 714 and the detector circuit 712 are communicably coupled for bidirectional communication with one or more controllers 720. In some embodiments, the controller 720 may include a controller on the switch module which may communicate with the detector circuit and the power circuit through a separate controller positioned in the base module. The power circuit 714 and 712 are positioned in a base module and are connected to the lighting circuit 750. The control of electricity from the power circuit 714 to the lighting circuit 750 is regulated (directly or indirectly) by the controller 720. The power circuit 714 may include one or more transformers or power converters and may be configured for power isolation to maintain AC current flow from interacting with various DC components. The detector circuit may include one or more components configured to measure current, voltage, impedance or other electrical properties, signals, or data.

[0059] The power circuit 714 can be configured to adjust the signal supplied (input signal), which is related to the power supplied by it, to the lighting circuit 750. For example, the power circuit 714 can comprise a tunable voltage source that can supply an input voltage signal with tunable voltage amplitude to the lighting circuit 750. The input voltage signal can be an AC and/or a DC signal whose amplitude can be tuned by the power circuit 714. In some implementations, the power circuit 714 can comprise a tunable current source that can supply an input current signal with varying current amplitude to the lighting circuit 750. For example, the input current signal can be an alternating (AC) and/or direct (DC) whose amplitude can be varied by the power circuit 714. In some implementation, the power circuit 714 can comprise both tunable voltage source and tunable current source. The power circuit 714 may be configured to supply an input voltage and/or current signal at discrete amplitudes. The power circuit 714 may be configured to increase/decrease the quantity of power supplied to the lighting circuit 750, for example by increasing/decreasing the amplitude of the input voltage and/or current signal.

[0060] One or more properties of the input signal can be controlled by the controller 720. The controller 720 and power circuit 714 can interact electronically by wire or

wirelessly. The controller 720 can send a control signal to the power circuit 714 that may determine the properties of the input signals (voltage and/or current signals). For example, the control signal may contain data that includes an array of numerical values of amplitudes (and frequencies) of sinusoidal input signals. The power circuit 714 may set the amplitude and frequency of the input signals (voltage and/or current signals) based on the control signal.

[0061] The response of the lighting circuit 750 measured by the detector circuit 712 may include one or more of current, voltage and impedance. The response of the lighting circuit 750 may be represented by an analog signal, i.e., a signal that can continuously vary with time. In some implementations, the detector circuit 712 may include a voltage sensing circuit that can detect a voltage signal (e.g., voltage across the lighting circuit 750). In some implementations the detector circuit 712 can include a current sensing circuit that can detect a current signal (e.g., the current flowing into the lighting circuit 750). In some implementations, the detector circuit 712 can include an impedance sensing circuit that detects the impedance of the lighting circuit 750.

[0062] The detector circuit 712 and power circuit 714 can interact by wire and/or wirelessly. The power circuit 714 can send a signal to the detector unit 712 based on which the detector circuit starts (or ends) detecting the response of the lighting circuit 750. For example, the power circuit 714 may send a notification signal to the detector circuit 712 that indicates that the power circuit 714 is about to send an input signal (voltage and/or current signal) to the lighting circuit 750. Based on the notification signal, the detection circuit 712 may begin detecting the response of the lighting circuit 750. Additionally or alternately, the power circuit 714 may send a notification signal to the detector circuit 712 that indicates that the detection circuit 712 may end detecting the response of the lighting circuit 750.

[0063] The detector circuit 712 and the controller 720 can interact by wire and/or wirelessly. For example, the detector circuit 712 may send detector signal to the controller 720 that contains data that represents information related to the detected response (e.g., voltage, current, impedance etc.) of the lighting circuit 750. As described before, the response of the lighting circuit 750 may be represented by an analog signal. In one implementation, the detector circuit 712 includes an analog-to-digital converter (ADC) that can convert the analog response signal to a digital response signal. Converting the analog response signal to the digital response signal may involve sampling the analog response signal at certain times, for example, sampling periodically at a sampling frequency. For example, the analog response signal can be sampled at greater than 1 KHz (more than 1000 samples per second) or at greater than 10 KHz. The sampled analog signal is rounded off to the nearest available digital value (sometimes referred to as "levels") of the ADC. The signal resolution of the ADC may depend on the range of analog signal that the ADC can detect (e.g., range of voltage/current values), and the number of available digital values. For example, the resolution of an 8-bit ADC (256 available digital values), having 5.12V (volts) range (e.g., from 0V to 5.12 V), will be 0.02 volts. This 8-bit ADC may convert a sampled analog signal to the nearest 0.02V-multiple value. For example, a 0.175 V sampled analog signal may be converted to a 0.18 V signal. The time resolution of the ADC (e.g., the time resolution of the digital response signal) depends on the sampling frequency, i.e., the

frequency at which the ADC samples the analog response signal. The sampling frequency of the ADC can be set to a value that is greater than twice the maximum frequency of the sampled analog signal (sometimes referred to Nyquist frequency).

[0064] In some implementations, the controller **720** can adjust the range of analog signals that the ADC in the detection circuit **712** can detect. The controller **720** can, for example, send a “reference” signal to the ADC that can determine the range of the ADC. For example, referring to the 8-bit ADC example discussed before, the controller **720** may send a 2.56 V reference signal to the ADC. As a result, the range of the 8-bit ADC may change to 2.56V (e.g., from 0V to 2.56 V). Changing the range of an ADC may also change the resolution of the ADC. For example, if the range of an 8-bit ADC is changed from 5.12V to 2.56V by the controller **720**, the resolution of the 8-bit ADC may change from 0.02V to 0.01V.

[0065] The detector signal (from the detector circuit **712** to the controller **720**) can include data that represents information about the digital response signal. The detector signal may also include the sampling times corresponding to the digital response signal. The controller **720** can make a determination about one or more properties of the lighting circuit **750** based on the detector signal for one or more input signals. For example, the controller **720** may compare the detected response signals with response data of known circuits in a database. The known circuits may include lighting circuits with different types of light bulbs (e.g., incandescent, fluorescent, LED, halogen, high intensity discharge, magnetic low-voltage, electronic low-voltage), with different number of light bulbs, or a combination of both. The database may also include one or more input signal data that may be related the response data. For example, the response data, for a known circuit, may represent the response of the known circuit to an input signal (e.g., time-dependent signal) represented by the input data.

[0066] The input signal data of a known circuit in the database may represent information about one or more properties of the input signals (voltage and/or current signals). For example, the input signal data can include information about the amplitude and frequency of a sinusoidal input signal. The response data of the known circuit may contain information about one or more properties of the response (e.g., voltage, current, impedance etc.) signal of the known circuit corresponding to an input signal. For example, the response data may comprise an array of numerical values that represents the amplitude of the response signals (e.g., amplitude of voltage and/or current signals) as a function of time.

[0067] As described before, the controller **720** can send a control signal to the power circuit **714** that may determine the properties of the input signals (voltage and/or current signals) supplied by the power circuit **714** to lighting circuit **750**. In some implementations, the control signal may include input signal data (e.g., the amplitudes and frequencies of the input signals represented by the input signal data). The power circuit **714** may supply input signals to the lighting circuit **750** based on the received input signal data. The detector circuit **712** may detect the response of the lighting circuit **750** to the aforementioned input signals, and send the detected response signals (e.g., digital response signal from the ADC in the detector circuit **712**) to the controller **720**. The controller **720** may compare (e.g., by

correlation) the detected response signals with the response data. Based on this comparison, the controller **720** may determine one or more properties of the lighting circuit **750**.

[0068] In one implementation, the power circuit **414** is configured to supply a small current input signal (configured leak electricity) that does not light up the bulbs in the lighting fixtures of the lighting circuit **750**. However, the small current input signal may be sufficient to detect a response signal or power draw from the lighting circuit **750**. In one implementation, the current input signal can be less than 25 milliamps, less than 15 milliamps, and/or less than 10 milliamps. The power circuit **414** may be configured to increase the power supplied by successive input signals. This can, for example, be achieved by successively increasing the amplitude of the voltage/current input signal

[0069] In one implementation, the controller **720** is configured to select a dimming profile (e.g., forward phase, reverse phase, non-dimmable) of the bulb (whose type has been determined by the controller **720**) in the lighting circuit **750**. The dimming profiles of the various light bulb may be stored in the database of the controller **720**. Based on the dimming profile, the controller may send a control signal to the power circuit **714** to change the power supplied to the lighting circuit based on data in the dimming profile. The controller **720** may be configured to determine the wattage rating of the bulb in the lighting circuit **750**. The wattage can, for example, be determined by the power consumed by the lighting circuit **750**. The power consumed by the lighting circuit **750** may be determined by multiplying the detected digital voltage response with the detected digital current response of the lighting circuit **750**. Based on the wattage of the lighting circuit **750**, the controller may identify the company that manufactures the bulb in the lighting circuit **750**.

[0070] FIG. 8 is a schematic of a lighting control module of FIG. 7. The lighting control module **700** is depicted separated into a base lighting control module **812** and a switch module or switch controller **802**. As described herein, the switch module **802** may include a tactile interface and a switch actuator, such as the tactile display **104** and the light switch actuator **106** described herein. The switch module **802** can also house the controller **720**. The power circuit **714** may include a transformer **818**, a power isolator and DC converter **814**, and a dimmer, such as a TRIAC dimmer **813**. In some embodiments, the power circuit **714** may include a MOSFET dimmer. The detection circuit **712** may include a voltage and current sensor **816**. The power isolator separates the analog AC current from the low power or DC digital components in the base lighting control module **812** and the switch module **802**.

[0071] The base lighting control module **812** includes a ground terminal **830** for grounding various electrical components container in the module **812**. The base light control module **812** includes a neutral terminal **828** for connecting to a neutral wire, a line terminal **826**, and a load terminal **822**. As shown in FIG. 8, the voltage and current sensor(s) are coupled to the load line to detect changes in the voltage or current along the line carrying power to one or more light fixtures **824** connected to the lighting circuit (750). The base lighting control module **812** also includes a controller **840** communicably coupled to the controller **720**. The base lighting control module **812** also includes LED indicator lights **842** and **841** for indicating information regarding the status of the base lighting control module **812**. For example,

in some embodiments LED indicator light **841** can indicate if a neutral wire is connected while LED indicator light **842** can indicate if a 3 way connection is connected.

[0072] FIG. 9 is a flow diagram of a system for measuring power for a lighting control system. A system **900** may be implemented via a device such as the lighting control module **700** and may be initiated directly on the device or from a remote computing device. At **901**, the system **900** causes the lighting control module **700** to transmit electricity to a lighting circuit (such as circuit **750** or a lighting circuit including light fixture(s) **824**). The quantity of electricity transmitted may be configured so that substantially no visible illumination of a light bulb connected to the light fixture **824** is caused. The amount may be determined via a test protocol. The controller **840** (directly or pursuant to commands from controller **720**) can cause the transformer **818** to release power to a light circuit connected to the load terminal **822**. At **902**, a response of the light circuit to the transmission of the electricity is detected via a line **815** connected to the load terminal **822** and via one or more of a current and/or voltage sensor **816**. At **903** the actual or detected output/response of the light circuit detected by the current/voltage sensor **816** is compared to an expected output. The expected output may be based on output values stored in a lookup table accessible by one or more of controller **840** and **720**, which may be housed in the lighting control module **700**. The expected output may be an expected power. The measured power can be determined based on the combination of a current measurement and a voltage measurement on the line **815**. At **904**, a decision is made based on whether or not the detected signal is the same (or substantially the same) as the expected value. If it is, the protocol may be looped to continue to check that the expected power is maintained. If the output is different, then at **905** a power correction factor may be determined based on the combination of the current measurement and the voltage measure. The power correction factor can be determined based on the difference between the expected output and the measured output. Once the power correction factor is determined, at **906** the lighting control module **700** causes electricity to be transmitted at a new power to compensate for the difference in the measured value and the expected value.

[0073] Implementations of the subject matter and the operations described in this specification can be implemented by digital electronic circuitry, or via computer software, firmware, or hardware, including the structures disclosed in this specification and their structural equivalents, or in combinations of one or more of them. Implementations of the subject matter described in this specification can be implemented as one or more computer programs, i.e., one or more modules of computer program instructions, encoded on computer storage medium for execution by, or to control the operation of, data processing apparatus.

[0074] A computer storage medium can be, or be included in, a computer-readable storage device, a computer-readable storage substrate, a random or serial access memory array or device, or a combination of one or more of them. Moreover, while a computer storage medium is not a propagated signal, a computer storage medium can be a source or destination of computer program instructions encoded in an artificially generated propagated signal. The computer storage medium

can also be, or be included in, one or more separate physical components or media (e.g., multiple CDs, disks, or other storage devices).

[0075] The operations described in this specification can be implemented as operations performed by a data processing apparatus on data stored on one or more computer-readable storage devices or received from other sources.

[0076] The term “data processing apparatus” encompasses all kinds of apparatus, devices, and machines for processing data, including by way of example a programmable processor, a computer, a system on a chip, or multiple ones, or combinations, of the foregoing. The apparatus can include special purpose logic circuitry, e.g., an FPGA (field programmable gate array) or an ASIC (application specific integrated circuit). The apparatus can also include, in addition to hardware, code that creates an execution environment for the computer program in question, e.g., code that constitutes processor firmware, a protocol stack, a database management system, an operating system, a cross-platform runtime environment, a virtual machine, or a combination of one or more of them. The apparatus and execution environment can realize various different computing model infrastructures, such as web services, distributed computing and grid computing infrastructures.

[0077] A computer program (also known as a program, software, software application, script, or code) can be written in any form of programming language, including compiled or interpreted languages, declarative or procedural languages, and it can be deployed in any form, including as a stand-alone program or as a module, component, subroutine, object, or other unit suitable for use in a computing environment. A computer program may, but need not, correspond to a file in a file system. A program can be stored in a portion of a file that holds other programs or data (e.g., one or more scripts stored in a markup language document), in a single file dedicated to the program in question, or in multiple coordinated files (e.g., files that store one or more modules, sub programs, or portions of code). A computer program can be deployed to be executed on one computer or on multiple computers that are located at one site or distributed across multiple sites and interconnected by a communication network.

[0078] The processes and logic flows described in this specification can be performed by one or more programmable processors executing one or more computer programs to perform actions by operating on input data and generating output. The processes and logic flows can also be performed by, and apparatus can also be implemented as, special purpose logic circuitry, e.g., a FPGA (field programmable gate array) or an ASIC (application specific integrated circuit).

[0079] Processors suitable for the execution of a computer program include, by way of example, both general and special purpose microprocessors, and any one or more processors of any kind of digital computer. Generally, a processor will receive instructions and data from a read only memory or a random access memory or both. The essential elements of a computer are a processor for performing actions in accordance with instructions and one or more memory devices for storing instructions and data. Generally, a computer will also include, or be operatively coupled to receive data from or transfer data to, or both, one or more mass storage devices for storing data, e.g., magnetic, magneto optical disks, or optical disks. However, a computer

need not have such devices. Moreover, a computer can be embedded in another device, e.g., a mobile telephone, a personal digital assistant (PDA), a mobile audio or video player, a game console, a Global Positioning System (GPS) receiver, or a portable storage device (e.g., a universal serial bus (USB) flash drive), to name just a few. Devices suitable for storing computer program instructions and data include all forms of non-volatile memory, media and memory devices, including by way of example semiconductor memory devices, e.g., EPROM, EEPROM, and flash memory devices; magnetic disks, e.g., internal hard disks or removable disks; magneto optical disks; and CD ROM and DVD-ROM disks. The processor and the memory can be supplemented by, or incorporated in, special purpose logic circuitry.

[0080] To provide for interaction with a user, implementations of the subject matter described in this specification can be implemented on a computer having a display device, e.g., a CRT (cathode ray tube) or LCD (liquid crystal display) monitor, for displaying information to the user and a keyboard and a pointing device, e.g., a mouse or a trackball, by which the user can provide input to the computer. Other kinds of devices can be used to provide for interaction with a user as well; for example, feedback provided to the user can be any form of sensory feedback, e.g., visual feedback, auditory feedback, or tactile feedback; and input from the user can be received in any form, including acoustic, speech, or tactile input. In addition, a computer can interact with a user by sending documents to and receiving documents from a device that is used by the user; for example, by sending web pages to a web browser on a user's user device in response to requests received from the web browser.

[0081] Implementations of the subject matter described in this specification can be implemented in a computing system that includes a back end component, e.g., as a data server, or that includes a middleware component, e.g., an application server, or that includes a front end component, e.g., a user computer having a graphical display or a Web browser through which a user can interact with an implementation of the subject matter described in this specification, or any combination of one or more such back end, middleware, or front end components. The components of the system can be interconnected by any form or medium of digital data communication, e.g., a communication network. Examples of communication networks include a local area network ("LAN") and a wide area network ("WAN"), an inter-network (e.g., the Internet), and peer-to-peer networks (e.g., ad hoc peer-to-peer networks).

[0082] The computing system can include users and servers. A user and server are generally remote from each other and typically interact through a communication network. The relationship of user and server arises by virtue of computer programs running on the respective computers and having a user-server relationship to each other. In some implementations, a server transmits data (e.g., an HTML page) to a user device (e.g., for purposes of displaying data to and receiving user input from a user interacting with the user device). Data generated at the user device (e.g., a result of the user interaction) can be received from the user device at the server.

[0083] While this specification contains many specific implementation details, these should not be construed as limitations on the scope of any inventions or of what may be

claimed, but rather as descriptions of features specific to particular implementations of particular inventions. Certain features that are described in this specification in the context of separate implementations can also be implemented in combination in a single implementation. Conversely, various features that are described in the context of a single implementation can also be implemented in multiple implementations separately or in any suitable sub combination. Moreover, although features may be described above as acting in certain combinations and even initially claimed as such, one or more features from a claimed combination can in some cases be excised from the combination, and the claimed combination may be directed to a sub combination or variation of a sub combination.

[0084] For the purpose of this disclosure, the term "coupled" means the joining of two members directly or indirectly to one another. Such joining may be stationary or moveable in nature. Such joining may be achieved with the two members or the two members and any additional intermediate members being integrally formed as a single unitary body with one another or with the two members or the two members and any additional intermediate members being attached to one another. Such joining may be permanent in nature or may be removable or releasable in nature.

[0085] It should be noted that the orientation of various elements may differ according to other exemplary implementations, and that such variations are intended to be encompassed by the present disclosure. It is recognized that features of the disclosed implementations can be incorporated into other disclosed implementations.

[0086] While various inventive implementations have been described and illustrated herein, those of ordinary skill in the art will readily envision a variety of other means and/or structures for performing the function and/or obtaining the results and/or one or more of the advantages described herein, and each of such variations and/or modifications is deemed to be within the scope of the inventive implementations described herein. More generally, those skilled in the art will readily appreciate that all parameters, dimensions, materials, and configurations described herein are meant to be exemplary and that the actual parameters, dimensions, materials, and/or configurations will depend upon the specific application or applications for which the inventive teachings is/are used. Those skilled in the art will recognize, or be able to ascertain using no more than routine experimentation, many equivalents to the specific inventive implementations described herein. It is, therefore, to be understood that the foregoing implementations are presented by way of example only and that, within the scope of the appended claims and equivalents thereto, inventive implementations may be practiced otherwise than as specifically described and claimed. Inventive implementations of the present disclosure are directed to each individual feature, system, article, material, kit, and/or method described herein. In addition, any combination of two or more such features, systems, articles, materials, kits, and/or methods, if such features, systems, articles, materials, kits, and/or methods are not mutually inconsistent, is included within the inventive scope of the present disclosure.

[0087] Also, the technology described herein may be embodied as a method, of which at least one example has been provided. The acts performed as part of the method may be ordered in any suitable way. Accordingly, implementations may be constructed in which acts are performed

in an order different than illustrated, which may include performing some acts simultaneously, even though shown as sequential acts in illustrative implementations.

[0088] The claims should not be read as limited to the described order or elements unless stated to that effect. It should be understood that various changes in form and detail may be made by one of ordinary skill in the art without departing from the spirit and scope of the appended claims. All implementations that come within the spirit and scope of the following claims and equivalents thereto are claimed.

What is claimed is:

1. An apparatus for measuring power for a lighting control system, the apparatus comprising:
 - a lighting control module configured to cause a transmission of a quantity of electrical power to a lighting circuit of a light fixture electrically connected to the lighting control module;
 - a detector circuit positioned in the lighting control module, the detector circuit configured to measure a response of the lighting circuit to the transmission of the quantity of electrical power; and
 - a controller in electrical communication with the detector circuit, the controller specially programmed to correlate the quantity of electrical power transmitted to the lighting circuit to the response of the lighting circuit, the controller further programmed to determine a power correction factor based on the correlation between the quantity of electrical power, transmitted and the response, the power correction factor configured to alter the response of the lighting circuit to a predetermined value.
2. The apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the controller is configured to determine the power correction factor based on a current sensing measurement and a voltage sensing measurement of the response.
3. The apparatus according to claim 2, wherein the current sensing measurement and the voltage sensing measurement are measured along an electrical line connected to the lighting circuit.
4. The apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the response includes a measure of an electrical energy.
5. The apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the detector circuit includes at least one of a current sensor and a voltage sensor.
6. The apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the detector circuit includes an analog digital converter.
7. The apparatus according to claim 1, wherein where the detector circuit includes an optical sensor.
8. The apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the detector circuit is configured to measure a current consumption of the lighting circuit as the response.
9. The apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the detector circuit is configured to measure a wattage consumption as the response.
10. The apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the detector circuit is configured to measure a lumen output as the response.
11. The apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the power correction factor is configured to cause an estimated change in light output.
12. The apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the controller is further programmed to cause the lighting con-

trol module to deliver a second quantity of electrical power to the lighting circuit based on the power correction factor.

13. A method of measuring power for a lighting control system, the method comprising:

causing a lighting control module to cause a transmission of a quantity of electrical power to a lighting circuit of a light fixture electrically connected to the lighting control module;

measuring, via a detector circuit positioned in the lighting control module, a response of the lighting circuit to the transmission of the quantity of electrical power;

correlating, via a controller in electrical communication with the detector circuit positioned in the lighting control module, the quantity of electrical power transmitted to the lighting circuit to the response of the lighting circuit; and

determining a power correction factor based on the correlation between the quantity of electrical power transmitted to the lighting circuit and the response of the lighting circuit, the power correction factor configured to alter the response of the lighting circuit to a predetermined value.

14. The method according to claim 13, wherein measuring the response includes measuring an electrical energy.

15. The method according to claim 14, wherein measuring an electrical energy includes measuring a current along an electrical line coupled to the lighting circuit.

16. The method according to claim 14, wherein measuring an electrical energy includes measuring a voltage along an electrical line coupled to the lighting circuit.

17. The method according to claim 14, wherein measuring an electrical energy includes measuring a current along an electrical line coupled to the lighting circuit and measuring a voltage along the electrical line coupled to the lighting circuit.

18. The method according to claim 13, wherein measuring the response includes measuring a lumen output from a bulb connected to the light fixture.

19. The method according to claim 13, wherein determining the power correction factor includes determining the predetermined value that will cause a specific change in light output.

20. The method according to claim 13, further comprising causing the lighting control module to deliver a second quantity of electrical power to the lighting circuit based on the power correction factor.

21. The method according to claim 13, wherein the quantity of electrical power is a first quantity and further comprising causing a second transmission of a second quantity of electrical power to the lighting circuit based on the determination of the power correction factor, the second quantity distinct from the first quantity.

22. The method according to claim 21, wherein the second quantity of electrical power is greater than the first quantity of electrical power.

23. The method according to claim 21, wherein the second quantity of electrical power is less than the first quantity of electrical power.

24. The method according to claim 13, further comprising wirelessly receiving another correlation from another controller in another lighting control module positioned remote from the lighting control module.

* * * * *