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- (71) **Applicant:** BEIJING ZHIGU RUI TUO TECH CO., LTD [CN/CN]; No.33 Shang Di Xiao Ying West Road, Hai Dian District, Beijing 100085 (CN).
- (72) **Inventors:** XU, Ran; No.33 Shang Di Xiao Ying West Road, Haidian District, Beijing 100085 (CN). DU, Lin; 2-301, No.4 Wen Hui Yuan North Road, Hai Dian District, Beijing 100080 (CN).
- (74) **Agent:** PATENTSINO IP FIRM; Suite 413, Shang Fang Building, No. 27 Middle Road of North Third Ring Road, Xicheng District, Beijing 100029 (CN).

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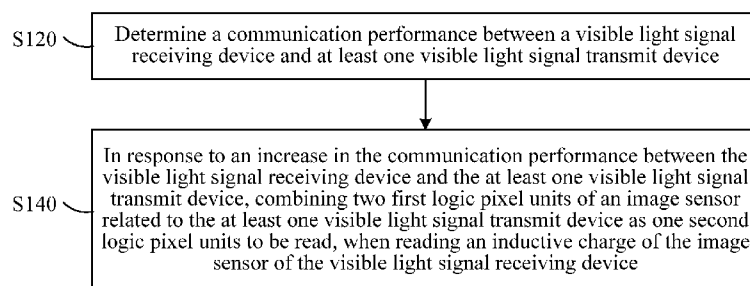


FIG. 1

(57) **Abstract:** Embodiments of the present application provide a visible light signal receiving and control method, a control apparatus, and a receiving device. The method comprises: determining a communication performance between a visible light signal receiving device and at least one visible light signal transmit device; and in response to an increase in the communication performance between the visible light signal receiving device and the at least one visible light signal transmit device, combining two first logic pixel units of an image sensor related to the at least one visible light signal transmit device as one second logic pixel unit to be read, when reading an inductive charge of the image sensor of the visible light signal receiving device. The method, apparatus, and device of the embodiments of the present application are capable of reducing power consumption of a visible light signal receiving device by changing the charge readout mode of an image sensor of the visible light signal receiving device in response to a change in the communication performance, and are more suitable for visible light communications in complicated mobile scenarios.

VISIBLE LIGHT SIGNAL RECEIVING AND CONTROL METHOD, CONTROL APPARATUS, AND RECEIVING DEVICE

Related Application

The present application claims the priority to Chinese Patent Application No. 5 201410645942.5 filed with the Chinese Patent Office on November 14, 2014 and entitled "VISIBLE LIGHT SIGNAL RECEIVING AND CONTROL METHOD, CONTROL APPARATUS, AND RECEIVING DEVICE," which is incorporated herein by reference in its entirety.

Technical Field

10 All embodiments of the present application relate to the field of visible communications technologies, and in particular, to a visible light signal receiving and control method, a control apparatus, and a receiving device.

Background

Visible light communications (VLC) refer to wireless light communication 15 technologies that use light in the visible light wave band as a carrier of information transmission and transmit information by using high-speed, light-and-shade flashing light signals emitted by a light source and imperceptible to naked eyes. It has advantages of high transmit power, no electromagnetic interference, no spectrum authentication, green and environmentally-friendly, can effectively ease the problem that radio spectrum frequency 20 resources become exhausted, and gain more and more attention in recent years.

With the development of mobile communications technologies, more and more visible light communications technologies are applied in mobile scenarios. Because visible light sending and receiving devices are all likely to move and because of a complicated transmission environment of mobile communications, performances of communications 25 among visible light sending and receiving devices in the mobile scenarios are likely to be affected.

SUMMARY

In view of the above, one example, of no-limiting objective of embodiments of the present application is to provide a visible light communications solution in a mobile scenario.

5 To achieve the foregoing objective, in a first aspect of the embodiments of the present application, provided is a visible light signal receiving and control method, comprising:

determining a communication performance between a visible light signal receiving device and at least one visible light signal transmit device;

10 in response to an increase in the communication performance between the visible light signal receiving device and the at least one visible light signal transmit device, combining two first logic pixel units of an image sensor related to the at least one visible light signal transmit device as one second logic pixel units to be read, when reading an inductive charge of the image sensor of the visible light signal receiving device, each of the first logic pixel units comprising at least one physical pixel unit of the image sensor.

15 In a second aspect of the embodiments of the present application, provided is a visible light signal receiving and control apparatus, comprising:

a determining module, configured to determine a communication performance between a visible light signal receiving device and at least one visible light signal transmit device;

20 a control module, configured to, in response to an increase in the communication performance between the visible light signal receiving device and the at least one visible light signal transmit device, combining two first logic pixel units of an image sensor related to the at least one visible light signal transmit device as one second logic pixel units to be read, when reading an inductive charge of the image sensor of the visible light signal receiving device, each of the first logic pixel units comprising at least one physical pixel
25 unit of the image sensor.

In a third aspect of the embodiments of the present application, provided is a visible light signal receiving device, wherein the device comprises the visible light signal receiving

and control apparatus of the second aspect of the embodiments of the present application.

In a fourth aspect of the embodiments of the present application, provided is a computer readable storage device, comprising at least one executable instruction, which, in response to execution, causes a system comprising a processor to perform operations, comprising:

determining a communication performance between a visible light signal receiving device and at least one visible light signal transmit device;

in response to an increase in the communication performance between the visible light signal receiving device and the at least one visible light signal transmit device, combining two first logic pixel units of an image sensor related to the at least one visible light signal transmit device as one second logic pixel units to be read, when reading an inductive charge of the image sensor of the visible light signal receiving device, each of the first logic pixel unit comprising at least one physical pixel unit of the image sensor.

In a fifth aspect of the embodiments of the present application, provided is a device for visible light signal receiving and control comprising a processor and memory, wherein the memory storing a computer executable instruction, the processor being connected with the memory via a communication bus, and when the device is operating, the processor executes or facilitates execution of the executable instructions stored by the memory:

determining a communication performance between a visible light signal receiving device and at least one visible light signal transmit device;

in response to an increase in the communication performance between the visible light signal receiving device and the at least one visible light signal transmit device, combining two first logic pixel units of an image sensor related to the at least one visible light signal transmit device as one second logic pixel units to be read when reading an inductive charge of the image sensor of the visible light signal receiving device, each of the first logic pixel unit comprising at least one physical pixel unit of the image sensor.

The method, apparatus, and device of the embodiments of the present application are capable of reducing power consumption of a visible light signal receiving device by

changing the charge readout mode of an image sensor of the visible light signal receiving device in response to a change in a communication performance, and are more suitable for visible light communications in complicated mobile scenarios.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

5 FIG. 1 is an example flowchart of a visible light signal receiving and control method of an embodiment of the present application;

FIG. 2(a) to FIG. 2(e) are example schematic diagrams of principles for changing the charge readout mode of an image sensor of a visible light signal receiving device according to an embodiment of the present application;

10 FIG. 3(a) to FIG. 3(h) are example block diagrams of a plurality of implementation manners for a visible light signal receiving and control apparatus of the embodiments of the present application;

FIG. 4 is an example block diagram of a visible light signal receiving device of the embodiments of the present application; and

15 FIG. 5 is an example structural block diagram of a visible light signal receiving and control apparatus of another embodiment of the present application.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION

Specific implementations of the present application are further described in detail below with reference to the accompanying drawings and embodiments. The following
20 embodiments are intended to describe the present application, but not to limit the scope of the present application.

It should be understood by a person skilled in the art that the terms such as "first" and "second" in the present application are only used for distinguishing different devices, modules, or parameters, and they neither represent any specific technical meanings, nor
25 represent a necessary logic sequence of the devices, modules, or parameters.

The visible light communications technologies use light in the visible light wave band as an information carrier and are physically implemented in two parts, namely, a visible

light signal transmitting part and visible light signal receiving part. The visible light signal transmitting part, that is, the visible light signal transmit device in the embodiments of the present application, comprises: an input and processing circuit that converts a to-be-sent signal into an electric signal suitable for being transmitted by a light channel and a visible-light light source driving and modulating circuit that modulates an electric signal change into the strength change of a light carrier wave. The visible light signal receiving part, that is, the visible light signal receiving device in the embodiments of the present application, comprises: an optics system that is capable of implementing optical receiving of a signal light source, a light-electric conversion part that reverts a light signal to an electric signal and a front-end amplifying circuit, and a signal processing and output circuit that converts an electric signal into a signal capable of being identified by a terminal. In the embodiments of the present application, the light-electric conversion part of the visible light signal receiving device is an image sensor (also referred to as a photosensitive element, such as a Charge Coupled Device (CCD), or a Complementary Metal-Oxide Semiconductor (CMOS)). The image sensor converts light into inductive charges upon receiving light irradiation, is capable of simultaneously receiving light from light sources of a plurality of visible light signal transmit device, and has a stronger anti-interference capability. The image sensor consists of a plurality of pixels, which is referred to as "physical pixel units" in the embodiments of the present application and is a minimal physical unit of the image sensor.

As shown in FIG. 1, the visible light signal receiving and control method of the embodiments of the present application comprises:

S120: Determine a communication performance between a visible light signal receiving device and at least one visible light signal transmit device.

The visible light signal receiving device simultaneously receives visible light signals from a plurality of visible light signal transmit devices through an image sensor, which as shown in FIG. 2(a), is an exemplary image sensor 200. The image sensor 200 consists of a plurality of physical pixel units 220. As shown in FIG. 2(a), areas 240, 260, and 280 indicated by three dashed boxes are configured to receive visible light signals from three

visible light signal transmit device, respectively. During communication, the communication performance may be influenced by the movement of any party or change in transmission environment. For example, a change in the communication distance between sending and receiving devices, the change in interferences between visible light signal
5 transmit devices, or the like may likely cause a change in the communication performance between sending and receiving devices. The visible light signal receiving device may be adjusted accordingly in response to the increase in the communication performance so as to reduce device power consumption.

S140: In response to an increase in the communication performance between the
10 visible light signal receiving device and the at least one visible light signal transmit device, combining two first logic pixel units of an image sensor related to the at least one visible light signal transmit device as one second logic pixel units to be read, when reading an inductive charge of the image sensor of the visible light signal receiving device.

In the method of the embodiments of the present application, in response to the
15 increase in the communication performance between visible light sending and receiving devices, receiving power of a received signal is improved by changing the current charge readout mode of the image sensor of the visible light signal receiving device, that is, by changing the charge readout mode of at least two first logic pixel units related to the visible light signal transmit device corresponding to the increased communication performance
20 (the at least two first logic pixel units related comprise two or more first logic pixel units that receive light signals of the visible light signal transmit device corresponding to the increased communication performance, for example, at least some of first logic pixel units of the image sensor of two or more first logic pixel units that receive light signals of the visible light signal transmit device corresponding to the increased communication
25 performance), so as to increase receiving power of received signals and reduce power consumption of the receiving device. When the readout mode of a plurality of first logic pixel units is changed, the changed readout mode may be the same or different. Each of the first logic pixel units comprises at least one physical pixel unit of the image sensor. For example, as shown in FIG. 2(a), the current charge readout mode of the image sensor is

combining each two physical pixel units as one first logic pixel unit to be read. According to the method of the embodiments of the present application, if the communication performance between the visible light signal receiving device and one visible light signal transmit device increases and first logic pixel units related to the visible light signal

5 transmit device are four first logic pixel units in the area 260 (each of the first logic pixel units comprises one physical pixel unit), the current charge readout modes of all the first logic pixel units or of only the four first logic pixel units in the area 260 of the image sensor may be changed. For example, as shown in FIG. 2(b), at a next time, the four first logic pixel units in the area 260 are combined as two second logic pixel units for reading charges,

10 and each second logic pixel unit comprises two physical pixel units. Or, as shown in FIG. 2(c), at a next time, the four first logic pixel units in the area 260 are combined as one second logic pixel unit for reading charges in combination, and each second logic pixel unit comprises four physical pixel units. If the charge readout modes of a plurality of first logic pixel units are changed simultaneously, the changed charge readout modes of the second

15 logic pixel units may be the same or different, as shown in FIG. 2(d).

To sum up, the method of the embodiments of the present application is capable of reducing power consumption of a visible light signal receiving device by changing the charge readout mode of an image sensor of the visible light signal receiving device in response to a change in the communication performance, and is more suitable for visible

20 light communications in complicated mobile scenarios.

In the method of the embodiments of the present application, the communication performance between the visible light signal receiving device and the at least one visible light signal transmit device may be determined by various ways. For example, in a possible implementation, the communication performance may be acquired from a device to which

25 the communication performance between the visible light sending and receiving devices is known or which is able to determine the communication performance. Correspondingly, step S120 may comprise:

S122: Acquire the communication performance between the visible light signal receiving device and the at least one visible light signal transmit device.

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In another possible implementation, the communication performance may also be determined according to the received visible light signal by the main body executing the method of the embodiments of the present application. Correspondingly, step S120 may comprise:

- 5 S124: Determine, at least according to a visible light signal received by each first logic pixel unit of the image sensor, the communication performance between the visible light signal receiving device and the at least one visible light signal transmit device.

For example, determining the received light signals are from the same visible light signal transmit device according to whether the strength of the received light signals is the same or not. Alternatively, determining the received light signals are from the same visible
10 light signal transmit device according to whether modulating signals capable of being obtained by demodulating the received light signals are the same or not. Correspondingly, step S124 may further comprise:

- 15 S1242: Demodulate the visible light signal received by each first logic pixel unit of the image sensor.

S1244: Determine a visible light signal from the at least one visible light signal transmit device according to a modulating signal and determine the communication performance between the visible light signal receiving device and the at least one visible light signal transmit device according to the determined visible light signal.

- 20 According to the method of the embodiments of the present application, the communication performance between current sending and receiving devices is determined according to a received signal. Taking that the charge readout mode of the image sensor is taking the first logic pixel unit as a unit to be read as an example, a modulating signal transmitted by the visible light signal transmit device may be obtained by the demodulating
25 after each first logic pixel unit being readout and performing analog-to-digital conversion on the inductive charge. The modulating signal is information sent from the visible light signal transmit device to the visible light signal receiving device by using visible light as a carrier signal. The visible light signal received by the visible light signal receiving device is

a modulated signal that is modulated with the modulating signal. It should be noted that some of the charges sensed by the image sensor may be from ambient light. To demodulate the modulating signal better, influences of the ambient light should be removed first. For example, a suitable threshold is set during charge reading to filter out the influences of the ambient light. Alternatively, through distinguishing an area corresponding to the light signal from the visible light signal transmit device from an area corresponding to the ambient light signal based on the strength of the received light signals, and processing to the related area that only receives an ambient light signal is skipped.

As shown in FIG. 2(a), light signals received by all first logic pixel units related to the at least one visible light signal transmit device are demodulated. All first logic pixel units that receive signals from the same visible light signal transmit device can be found according to whether the modulating signals are the same or not, so as to determine a visible light signal from the at least one visible light signal transmit device. For example, as shown in FIG. 2(a), signals obtained by demodulating signals received by the four first logic pixel units in the area 260 should be the same. The corresponding communication performance can be determined according to the determined visible light signal of each visible light signal transmit device. It should be noted that other suitable modes may also be used in addition to determining visible light signals from the same visible light signal transmit device by determining whether the strength of the received light signals is the same or not, or according to whether the modulating signals are the same or not.

After the communication performance between the visible light signal receiving device and the at least one visible light signal transmit device is determined according to the received light signals, in step S140, the related at least two first logic pixel units of which the charge readout mode is changed may be two or more first logic pixel units that receive a light signal from the visible light signal transmit device corresponding to the increased communication performance, for example, at least some first logic pixel units of the image sensor comprising the two or more first logic pixel units that receive a light signal from the visible light signal transmit device corresponding to the increased communication performance, and the related at least two first logic pixel unit may also be determined

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according to the light signal received by each first logic pixel unit. That is, step S140 may comprise:

5 S142: Determine two first logic pixel units of the image sensor related to the at least one visible light signal transmit device at least according to the visible light signal received by each first logic pixel unit of the image sensor.

In combination with similar description in step S124, two first logic pixel units of image sensor related to the at least one visible light signal transmit device may be determined at least according to whether the strength of the received light signals is the same or not, or according to whether the modulating signals capable of being obtained by
10 demodulating the light signals received are the same or not. However, the present application is not limited thereto. Taking a modulating signal obtained by the demodulating as an example, step S142 may further comprise:

S1422: Determine the first logic pixel units of the image sensor related to the at least one visible light signal transmit device according to the visible light signal determined in
15 step S1244.

In addition, in the method of the embodiments of the present application, the communication performance can be determined by using a plurality of possible evaluation indicators. Step S1244 may also further comprise:

S101: Determine at least one evaluation indicator of the communication performance
20 at least according to the determined visible light signal.

S102: Determine the communication performance between the visible light signal receiving device and the at least one visible light signal transmit device at least according to the evaluation indicator.

In one possible implementation, the evaluation indicator comprises: the size of a light
25 spot projected by the at least one visible light signal transmit device on the image sensor. The size of the light spot is related to the distance and the angle between the visible light signal transmit device and the visible light signal receiving device and may reflect a level of the communication performance to some extent. In the implementation, the size of the

corresponding light spot may be determined according to the determined visible light signal from the visible light signal transmit device in step S101. For example, the total area of areas corresponding to all first logic pixel units related to a determined visible light signal of one visible light signal transmit device is the size of the light spot projected by the visible light signal transmit device on the image sensor. In step S102, the increase in the communication performance can be determined in response to that the size of the light spot increases, or an increment of the size of the light spot exceeds a first threshold, or the size of the light spot exceeds a second threshold. The first threshold and the second threshold both can be determined according to the communication demand and/or historical communication information. For example, the first threshold is set to such a value that power consumption of the visible light signal receiving device may increase significantly if the increment of the size of the light spot exceeds the first threshold. The second threshold is set to such a value that power consumption of the visible light signal receiving device may increase significantly if the light spot increases to exceed the second threshold. For example, as shown in FIG. 2(e), the size of a light spot 210 at a previous time corresponds to one first logic pixel unit. In response to that the size of the light spot 210 at a current time increases, or an increment of the size of the light spot 210 exceeds the first threshold (for example, exceeds one physical pixel unit), or the size of the light spot 210 exceeds a second threshold (for example, exceeds two physical pixel units), the increase in the communication performance between the visible light signal receiving device and the visible light signal transmit device corresponding to the light spot 210 is determined. Further, through step S140, the four first logic pixel units related to (near) the light spot 210 may be combined as one second logic pixel unit to be read when reading an inductive charge of the image sensor of the visible light signal receiving device.

In another possible implementation, the evaluation indicator may comprise: the signal-to-noise ratio of the visible light signal transmitted by the at least one visible light signal transmit device and received by the visible light signal receiving device. The value of the signal-to-noise ratio may reflect the level of the communication performance to some extent. To determine the signal-to-noise ratio according to a received signal is a mature

existing technology in the art. In such the implementation, the increase in the communication performance may be determined in response to that the signal-to-noise ratio increases, or an increment of the signal-to-noise ratio exceeds a third threshold, or the signal-to-noise ratio exceeds a fourth threshold. The third threshold and the fourth threshold
5 both can be determined according to the communication demand and/or historical communication information. For example, the third threshold is set to such a value that the power consumption of the visible light signal receiving device may be reduced significantly without influencing communications if the increment of the signal-to-noise ratio exceeds the third threshold. The fourth threshold is set to such a value that the power consumption
10 of the visible light signal receiving device may be reduced significantly without influencing communications if the signal-to-noise ratio increases to exceed the fourth threshold. In step S140, at least two first logic pixels are combined into one second logic pixel unit to be read when reading a charge.

In another possible implementation, the evaluation indicator may comprise: the bit
15 error ratio of the visible light signal transmitted by the at least one visible light signal transmit device and received by the visible light signal receiving device. The value of the bit error ratio may reflect the level of the communication performance to some extent. To determine the bit error ratio according to a received signal is a mature existing technology in the art. In this implementation, in step S102, the increase in the communication
20 performance may be determined in response to that the bit error ratio decreases, or a reduction amount of the bit error ratio exceeds a fifth threshold, or the bit error ratio is less than a sixth threshold. The fifth threshold and the sixth threshold both can be determined according to the communication demand and/or historical communication information. For example, the fifth threshold is set to such a value that the power consumption of the visible
25 light signal receiving device may be reduced significantly without influencing communications if the reduction amount of the bit error ratio exceeds the fifth threshold. The sixth threshold is set to such a value that the power consumption of the visible light signal receiving device may be reduced significantly without influencing communications if the bit error ratio decreases to be less than the sixth threshold. Through step S140, at least

two first logic pixels are combined into one second logic pixel unit to be read when reading a charge.

In a further possible implementation, the communication performance may not be determined directly by using a received signal, and the communication performance between sending and receiving devices is determined directly according to a change in the distance between the sending and receiving devices. The value of the distance between the sending and receiving devices may reflect the level of the communication performances to some extent. For example, reduction of the distance may cause increase in the communication performance. In this implementation, step S120 may further comprise:

10 S124: Determine the distance between the visible light receiving device and the at least one visible light signal transmit device. For example, the position of a visible light signal transmit device may be determined in a method such as GPS positioning, to further determine the distance between the visible light signal transmit device and the visible light signal receiving device, or the distance may be acquired through direct communications
15 with the visible light signal transmit device.

S126: Determine the increase in the communication performance in response to that the distance decreases, or a reduction amount of the distance exceeds a seventh threshold, or the distance is less than an eighth threshold. The seventh threshold and the eighth threshold both can be determined according to the communication demand and/or historical
20 communication information. For example, the seventh threshold is set to such a value that the power consumption of the visible light signal receiving device may be reduced significantly without influencing communications if the reduction amount of the distance exceeds the seventh threshold. The eighth threshold is set to such a value that the power consumption of the visible light signal receiving device may be reduced significantly
25 without influencing communications if the distance decreases to be less than the eighth threshold.

In such the implementation, the at least two related first logic pixel units of the image sensor may still be determined according to the description in step S142, or each two of all first logic pixels are directly controlled to be combined into one second logic pixel unit to

be read when reading a charge.

It should be noted that the communication performance may be determined by comprehensively considering all the aforementioned evaluation indicators in the method of the embodiments of the present application. For example, the reduction in the communication distance may not probably cause the increase in the communication performance, and for example, the signal-to-noise ratio of the received signal may be considered comprehensively. In addition to the aforementioned evaluation indicators, other indicators for evaluating the communication quality may further be considered in the method of the embodiments of the present application, for example, a channel estimation value, a system throughput, and any indicator that can be easily conceived by a person of ordinary skill in the art.

In view of the above, the method of the embodiments of the present application is capable of adjusting the charge readout mode of the image sensor in response to a change in the communications quality.

It should be understood that in various embodiments of the present application, the value of the serial number of each step described above does not mean an execution sequence, and the execution sequence of each step should be determined according to the function and internal logic thereof, and should not be any limitation on the implementation procedure of the embodiments of the present application.

In addition, the embodiments of the present application further provide a computer readable medium, which comprises computer readable instructions that perform the following operations upon execution: operations of all steps in the method of the implementation manner shown in FIG. 1.

The embodiments of the present application further provide a visible light signal receiving and control apparatus for executing the aforementioned visible light signal receiving and control method. The apparatus may be an apparatus independent from the visible light signal receiving device, or may belong to the visible light signal receiving device. Alternatively, the apparatus is the visible light signal receiving device. When the

apparatus is the visible light signal receiving device, in addition to all the components to be described below, the apparatus may also further comprise other necessary components of the visible light signal receiving device. In addition, according to the needs of the aforementioned different execution roles, in addition to all the components described below, 5 the apparatus may further comprise a communication module that can implement communications with any device outside the apparatus according as necessary. As shown in FIG. 3(a), a visible light signal receiving and control apparatus 300 of the embodiments of the present application comprises a determining module 320 and a control module 340.

The determining module 320 is configured to communication performance between a 10 visible light signal receiving device and at least one visible light signal transmit device.

The visible light signal receiving device simultaneously receives visible light signals from a plurality of visible light signal transmit devices through an image sensor, which as shown in FIG. 2(a), is an exemplary image sensor 200. The image sensor 200 consists of a plurality of physical pixel units 220. As shown in FIG. 2(a), areas 240, 260, and 280 15 indicated by three dashed boxes are configured to receive visible light signals from three visible light signal transmit device, respectively. During communications, the communication performance may be influenced the movement of any party or change in transmission environment. For example, the change in the communication distance between sending and receiving devices, a change in interferences between visible light signal 20 transmit devices, or the like may likely cause a change in the communication performance between sending and receiving devices. The visible light signal receiving device may be adjusted accordingly in response to the increase in the communication performance so as to reduce device power consumption.

The control module 340 is configured to, in response to an increase in the 25 communication performance between the visible light signal receiving device and the at least one visible light signal transmit device, combine two first logic pixel units of an image sensor related to the at least one visible light signal transmit device as one second logic pixel units to be read, when reading an inductive charge of the image sensor of the visible light signal receiving device.

In the apparatus of the embodiments of the present application, in response to the increase in a communication performance between visible light sending and receiving devices, the control module 340 improves receiving power of a received signal by changing the charge readout mode of the image sensor of the current visible light signal receiving device, that is, by changing the charge readout mode of at least two first logic pixel units related to the visible light signal transmit device corresponding to the increased communication performance (the at least two first logic pixel units related comprise two or more first logic pixel units that receive light signals of the visible light signal transmit device corresponding to the increased communication performance, for example, at least some of first logic pixel units that receive the image sensor of two or more first logic pixel units of light signals of the visible light signal transmit device corresponding to the increased communication performance), so as to increase receiving power of received signals and reduce power consumption of the receiving device. When the readout mode of a plurality of first logic pixel units is changed, the changed readout mode may be the same or different. Each of the first logic pixel units comprises at least one physical pixel unit of the image sensor. For example, as shown in FIG. 2(a), the current charge readout mode of the image sensor is combining each two physical pixel units as one first logic pixel unit to be read. According to the method of the embodiments of the present application, if the communication performance between the visible light signal receiving device and one visible light signal transmit device increases and first logic pixel units related to the visible light signal transmit device are four first logic pixel units in the area 260 (each of the first logic pixel units comprises one physical pixel unit), the current charge readout modes of all the first logic pixel units or of only the four first logic pixel units in the area 260 of the image sensor may be changed. For example, as shown in FIG. 2(b), at a next time, the four first logic pixel units in the area 260 are combined as two second logic pixel units for reading charges, and each second logic pixel unit comprises two physical pixel units. Or, as shown in FIG. 2(c), at a next time, the four first logic pixel units in the area 260 are combined as one second logic pixel unit to be read, and each second logic pixel unit comprises four physical pixel units. If the charge readout mode of a plurality of first logic pixel units is changed simultaneously, the changed charge readout modes of the second

logic pixel units may be the same or different, as shown in FIG. 2(d).

To sum up, the apparatus of the embodiments of the present application is capable of reducing power consumption of a visible light signal receiving device by changing the charge readout mode of an image sensor of the visible light signal receiving device in
5 response to a change in the communication performance, and is more suitable for visible light communications in complicated mobile scenarios.

In the apparatus of the embodiments of the present application, the communication performance between the visible light signal receiving device and the at least one visible light signal transmit device may be determined by various ways. For example, in a possible
10 implementation manner, the communication performance may be acquired from a device to which the communication performance between the visible light sending and receiving devices is known or which is able to determine the communication performance. Correspondingly, as shown in FIG. 3(b), the determining module 320 may comprise: an acquiring submodule 322.

15 The acquiring submodule 322 is configured to acquire the communication performance between the visible light signal receiving device and the at least one visible light signal transmit device.

In another possible implementation, the communication performance may also be determined according to the received visible light signal by the apparatus of the present
20 application. Correspondingly, as shown in FIG. 3(c), the determining module 320 may comprise a first determining submodule 324.

The first determining submodule 324 is configured to determine, at least according to a visible light signal received by each first logic pixel unit of the image sensor, the communication performance between the visible light signal receiving device and the at
25 least one visible light signal transmit device.

For example, determining the received light signals are from the same visible light signal transmit device according to whether the strength of the received light signals is the same not. Alternatively, determining the received light signals are from the same visible

light signal transmit device is determined according to whether modulating signals capable of being obtained by demodulating the received light signals are the same or not. As shown in FIG. 3(d), the first determining submodule 324 may further comprise: a demodulating unit 3242 and a first determining unit 3244.

- 5 The demodulating unit 3242 is configured to demodulate the visible light signal received by each first logic pixel unit of the image sensor. The demodulating unit 3242 may be one part of the visible light receiving device.

10 The first determining unit 3244 is configured to determine a visible light signal from the at least one visible light signal transmit device at least according to a modulating signal and determine the communication performance between the visible light signal receiving device and the at least one visible light signal transmit device according to the determined visible light signal.

15 According to the apparatus of the embodiments of the present application, the determining module 320 needs to determine the communication performance between the current sending and receiving devices according to the received signal. Taking that the charge readout mode of the image sensor is taking the first logic pixel unit as a unit to be read as an example, a modulating signal transmitted by the visible light signal transmit device may be obtained by the demodulating after each first logic pixel unit being readout and performing analog-to-digital conversion on the inductive charge. The modulating signal is information sent from the visible light signal transmit device to the visible light signal receiving device by using visible light as a carrier signal. The visible light signal received by the visible light signal receiving device is a modulated signal that is modulated with the modulating signal. It should be noted that some of the charges sensed by the image sensor may be from ambient light. To demodulate the modulating signal better, influences of the ambient light should be removed first. For example, a suitable threshold is set during charge reading to filter out the influences of the ambient light. Alternatively, through distinguishing an area corresponding to the light signal from the visible light signal transmit device is distinguished an area corresponding to the ambient light signal based on the strength of the received light signals, and processing to the related area that only receives

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an ambient light signal is skipped.

As shown in FIG. 2(a), light signals received by all first logic pixel units related to the at least one visible light signal transmit device are demodulated. All first logic pixel units that receive signals from the same visible light signal transmit device can be found according to whether the modulating signals are the same or not, so as to determine a visible light signal from the at least one visible light signal transmit device. For example, as shown in FIG. 2(a), signals obtained by demodulating signals received by the four first logic pixel units in the area 260 should be the same. The corresponding communication performance can be determined according to the determined visible light signal of each visible light signal transmit device. Apart from determining visible light signals from the same visible light signal transmit device according to whether demodulating signals are the same, other suitable methods may also be used to determine visible light signals from the same visible light signal transmit device, for example, by referring to the strength of received signals. It should be noted that other suitable modes may also be used in addition to determining visible light signals from the same visible light signal transmit device by determining whether the strength of the received light signals is the same or not, or according to whether the modulating signals are the same or not.

After the communication performance between the visible light signal receiving device and the at least one visible light signal transmit device is determined according to the received light signals, the related at least two first logic pixel units of which the charge readout mode is changed by the control module 340 may be two or more first logic pixel units that receive a light signal from the visible light signal transmit device corresponding to the increased communication performance, for example, at least some first logic pixel units of the image sensor comprising the two or more first logic pixel units that receive a light signal from the visible light signal transmit device corresponding to the increased communication performance, and the related at least two first logic pixel unit may also be determined according to the light signal received by each first logic pixel unit. That is, as shown in FIG. 3(e), the control module 340 may comprise: a second determining submodule 342.

The second determining submodule 342 is configured to determine two first logic pixel units of the image sensor related to the at least one visible light signal transmit device at least according to the visible light signal received by each first logic pixel unit of the image sensor.

5 In combination with similar description for the first determining submodule 324, two first logic pixel units of image sensor related to the at least one visible light signal transmit device may be determined at least according to whether the strength of the received light signals is the same or not, or according to whether modulating signals capable of being obtained by demodulating the light signals are the same or not. However, the present
10 application is not limited thereto. Using a demodulated modulating signal as an example, as shown in FIG. 3(f), the second determining submodule 342 may further comprise: a second determining unit 3422.

 The second determining unit 3422 is configured to determine the first logic pixel units of the image sensor related to the at least one visible light signal transmit device at least
15 according to the visible light signal determined by the first determining unit 3244.

 In addition, in the apparatus of the embodiments of the present application, the determining module 320 may determine a communication performance by using a plurality of possible evaluation indicators. As shown in FIG. 3(g), the first determining unit 3244 may further comprise: a first determining subunit 301 and a second determining subunit
20 302.

 The first determining subunit 301 is configured to determine at least one evaluation indicator of the communication performance at least according to the visible light signal.

 The second determining subunit 302 is configured to determine the communication performance between the visible light signal receiving device and the at least one visible
25 light signal transmit device according to the evaluation indicator.

 In one possible implementation, the evaluation indicator comprises: the size of a light spot projected by the at least one visible light signal transmit device on the image sensor. The size of the light spot is related to the distance and the angle between the visible light

signal transmit device and the visible light signal receiving device and may reflect a level of the communication performance to some extent. In the implementation, the first determining subunit 301 may determine the size of the corresponding light spot according to the determined visible light signal from the visible light signal transmit device. For example, the total area of areas corresponding to all first logic pixel units related to a determined visible light signal of one visible light signal transmit device is the size of the light spot projected by the visible light signal transmit device on the image sensor. The second determining subunit 302 may determine the increase in the communication performance in response to that the size of the light spot increases, or an increment of the size of the light spot exceeds a first threshold, or the size of the light spot exceeds a second threshold. The first threshold and the second threshold both can be determined according to the communication demand and/or historical communication information. For example, the first threshold is set to such a value that power consumption of the visible light signal receiving device may increase significantly if the increment of the size of the light spot exceeds the first threshold. The second threshold is set to such a value that power consumption of the visible light signal receiving device may increase significantly if the light spot increases to exceed the second threshold. For example, as shown in FIG. 2(e), the size of a light spot 210 at a previous time corresponds to one first logic pixel unit. In response to that the size of the light spot 210 at a current time increases, or an increment of the size of the light spot 210 exceeds the first threshold (for example, exceeds one physical pixel unit), or the size of the light spot 210 exceeds a second threshold (for example, exceeds two physical pixel units), the increase in the communication performance between the visible light signal receiving device and the visible light signal transmit device corresponding to the light spot 210 is determined. Further, by using the control module 340, the four first logic pixel units related to (near) the light spot 210 may be combined as one second logic pixel unit to be read when reading an inductive charge of the image sensor of the visible light signal receiving device.

In another possible implementation, the evaluation indicator may comprise: the signal-to-noise ratio of the visible light signal transmitted by the at least one visible light

signal transmit device and received by the visible light signal receiving device. The value of the signal-to-noise ratio may reflect the level of the communication performance to some extent. To determine a signal-to-noise ratio according to a received signal is a mature existing technology in the art. In such the implementation, the second determining subunit 5 302 may determine the increase in the communication performance in response to that the signal-to-noise ratio increases, an increment of the signal-to-noise ratio exceeds a third threshold, or the signal-to-noise ratio exceeds a fourth threshold. The third threshold and the fourth threshold both can be determined according to the communication demand and/or historical communication information. For example, the third threshold is set to such 10 a value that the power consumption of the visible light signal receiving device may be reduced significantly without influencing communications if the increment of the signal-to-noise ratio exceeds the third threshold. The second threshold is set to such a value that the power consumption of the visible light signal receiving device may be reduced significantly without influencing communications if the signal-to-noise ratio increases to 15 exceed the fourth threshold. By using the control module 340, at least two first logic pixels are combined into one second logic pixel unit for reading when reading a charge.

In another possible implementation, the evaluation indicator may comprise: the bit error ratio of the visible light signal transmitted by the at least one visible light signal transmit device and received by the visible light signal receiving device. The value of the 20 bit error ratio may reflect the level of the communication performance to some extent. To determine a bit error ratio according to a received signal is a mature existing technology in the art. In such the implementation, the second determining subunit 302 may determine the increase in the communication performance in response to that the bit error ratio decreases, or a reduction amount of the bit error ratio exceeds a fifth threshold, or the bit error ratio is 25 less than a sixth threshold. The fifth threshold and the sixth threshold both can be determined according to the communication demand and/or historical communication information. For example, the fifth threshold is set to such a value that the power consumption of the visible light signal receiving device may be reduced significantly without influencing communications if the reduction amount of the bit error ratio exceeds

the fifth threshold. The sixth threshold is set to such a value that the power consumption of the visible light signal receiving device may be reduced significantly without influencing communications if the bit error ratio decreases to be less than the sixth threshold. By using the control module 340, at least two first logic pixels are combined into one second logic pixel unit to be read when reading a charge.

In a further possible implementation, the communication performance may not be determined directly by using a received signal, and the communication performance between sending and receiving devices is determined directly according to a change in the distance between the sending and receiving devices. The value of the distance between the sending and receiving devices may reflect the level of the communication performances to some extent. For example, reduction of the distance may cause increase in the communication performance. In such the implementation, as shown in FIG. 3(h), the determining module 320 may further comprise a third determining submodule 326 and a fourth determining submodule 328.

The third determining submodule 326 is configured to determine the distance between the visible light receiving device and the at least one visible light signal transmit device. For example, the position of a visible light signal transmit device may be determined in a method such as GPS positioning, to further determine the distance between the visible light signal transmit device and the visible light signal receiving device, or the distance may be acquired through direct communications with the visible light signal transmit device.

The fourth determining submodule 328 is configured to determine increase in the communication performance in response to that the distance decreases, or a reduction amount of the distance exceeds a seventh threshold, or the distance is less than an eighth threshold. The seventh threshold and the eighth threshold both can be determined according to the communication demand and/or historical communication information. For example, the seventh threshold is set to such a value that the power consumption of the visible light signal receiving device may be reduced significantly without influencing communications if the reduction amount of the distance exceeds the seventh threshold. The eighth threshold is set to such a value that the power consumption of the visible light signal receiving device

may be reduced significantly without influencing communications if the distance decreases to be less than the eighth threshold.

In such the implementation, the at least two related first logic pixel units of the image sensor may still be determined in combination with the description of the second control
5 submodule 342, or each two of all first logic pixels are directly controlled to be combined into one second logic pixel unit to be read when reading a charge.

It should be noted that the communication performance may be determined by comprehensively considering all the aforementioned evaluation indicators in the method of the embodiments of the present application. For example, the reduction in the
10 communication distance may not probably cause the increase in the communication performance, and for example, the signal-to-noise ratio of the received signal may be considered comprehensively. In addition to the aforementioned evaluation indicators, other indicators for evaluating the communications quality may further be considered in the method of the embodiments of the present application, for example, a channel estimation
15 value, a system throughput, and any indicator that can be easily conceived by a person of ordinary skill in the art.

In view of the above, the apparatus of the embodiments of the present application is capable of adjusting the charge readout mode of the image sensor in response to a change in the communications quality.

As shown in FIG. 4, the embodiments of the present application further provide a
20 visible light signal receiving device 400. The device 400 comprises the visible light signal receiving and control apparatuses 300, as shown in FIG. 3(a) to FIG. 3(h), and in addition, further comprises an image sensor 420, a signal processing module 440, or the like. The signal processing module 440 is configured to read an inductive charge of the image sensor
25 420 and perform analog-to-digital conversion, demodulation, or the like on the inductive charge under the control of the apparatus 300.

FIG. 5 is a schematic structural diagram of a visible light signal receiving and control apparatus 500 provided by the embodiments of the present application. The specific

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embodiments of the present application do not specifically limit the visible light signal receiving and control apparatus 500. As shown in FIG. 5, the visible light signal receiving and control apparatus 500 may comprise:

5 a processor 510, a communications interface 520, a memory 530, and a communications bus 540.

The processor 510, the communications interface 520, and the memory 530 communicate with each other by using the communications bus 540.

The communications interface 520 is configured to communicate with a network element such as a client.

10 The processor 510 is configured to execute programs 532 and may specifically implement related functions of the visible light signal receiving and control apparatus in the apparatus embodiment in FIG. 3(a).

Specifically, the program 532 may comprise a program code, where the program code comprises a computer operation instruction.

15 The processor 510 may be a central processing unit (CPU), an application specific integrated circuit (ASIC), or one or more integrated circuits configured to implement the embodiments of the present application. The program 532 may specifically execute the following steps by using the visible light signal receiving and control apparatus 500:

20 determining a communication performance between a visible light signal receiving device and at least one visible light signal transmit device; and

in response to an increase in the communication performance between the visible light signal receiving device and the at least one visible light signal transmit device, combining two first logic pixel units of an image sensor related to the at least one visible light signal transmit device as one second logic pixel units to be read, when reading an inductive charge
25 of the image sensor of the visible light signal receiving device.

Each of the first logic pixel unit comprises at least one physical pixel unit of the image sensor.

For the specific implementation of the steps in the program 532, refer to the corresponding descriptions of corresponding steps and units in the foregoing embodiments, which are not described herein again. It may be clearly understood by a person skilled in the art that, for the purpose of convenient and brief description, reference may be made to the description of corresponding procedures in the foregoing method embodiments for detailed working procedures of the foregoing devices and modules, and details are not described herein again.

It may be clearly understood by a person skilled in the art that, for the purpose of convenient and brief description, reference may be made to the corresponding description in the foregoing apparatus embodiments for detailed working procedures of the foregoing devices and modules, and details are not described herein again.

Although the invention is described herein in the general context of program modules that execute in conjunction with an application program that runs on an operating system on a computer system, a person skilled in the art will recognize that the invention may also be implemented in combination with other types of program modules. Generally, program modules comprise routines, programs, components, data structures and other types of structures that perform particular tasks or implement particular abstract data types. It can be understood by a person skilled in the art that the invention described herein may be practiced with other computer system configurations, comprising handheld devices, multiprocessor systems, microprocessor-based or programmable consumer electronics, minicomputers, mainframe computers, and so on, and may also be practiced in distributed computing environments where tasks are performed by remote processing devices linked through a communications network. In a distributed computing environment, program modules may be located in both local and remote memory storage devices.

A person of ordinary skill in the art may be aware that, in combination with the examples described in the embodiments disclosed in this specification, units and method steps may be implemented by electronic hardware or a combination of computer software and electronic hardware. Whether the functions are performed by hardware or software depends on particular applications and design constraint conditions of the technical

solutions. A person skilled in the art may use different methods to implement the described functions for each particular application, but it should not be considered that the implementation goes beyond the scope of the present application.

When the functions are implemented in a form of a software functional unit and sold or
5 used as an independent product, the functions may be stored in a computer-readable storage medium. Based on such an understanding, the technical solutions of the present application essentially, or the part contributing to the existing art, or all or a part of the technical solutions may be implemented in the form of a software product. The software product is stored in a storage medium and comprises several instructions for instructing a computer
10 device (which may be a personal computer, a server, or a network device) or a processor to perform all or a part of the steps of the methods in the embodiments of the present application. The foregoing computer-readable storage medium comprises physical volatile and non-volatile, removable and non-removable mediums that are implemented in any method or technology for storage of information such as computer-readable instructions,
15 data structures, program modules or other data. The computer-readable storage medium may specifically comprise, but is not limited to, a U flash drive, a removable hard disk, a read-only memory (ROM), a random access memory (RAM), an erasable programmable read only memory (EPROM), an electrically erasable and programmable read-only memory (EEPROM), a flash memory or other solid-state memory device, a CD-ROM, a digital
20 versatile disc (DVD), an HD-DVD, Blue-Ray or other optical storage devices, a magnetic tape, disk storage or other magnetic storage devices, or any other medium that can store needed information and may be accessed by computers.

The above implementations are only used to describe the present application, rather than limit the present application; various alterations and variants can be made by those of
25 ordinary skill in the art without departing from the spirit and scope of the present application, so all equivalent technical solutions also belong to the scope of the present application, and the scope of patent protection of the present application should be defined by claims.

CLAIMSWhat is claimed is:

1. A visible light signal receiving and control method, wherein the method comprises:

5 determining a communication performance between a visible light signal receiving device and at least one visible light signal transmit device; and

in response to an increase in the communication performance between the visible light signal receiving device and the at least one visible light signal transmit device, combining two first logic pixel units of an image sensor related to the at least one visible light signal
10 transmit device as one second logic pixel units to be read, when reading an inductive charge of the image sensor of the visible light signal receiving device, each of the first logic pixel unit comprising at least one physical pixel unit of the image sensor.

2. The method of claim 1, wherein determining the communication performance between the visible light signal receiving device and the at least one visible light signal
15 transmit device comprises:

determining, at least according to a visible light signal received by each first logic pixel unit of the image sensor, the communication performance between the visible light signal receiving device and the at least one visible light signal transmit device.

3. The method of claim 2, wherein determining, at least according to the visible
20 light signal received by each first logic pixel unit of the image sensor, the communication performance between the visible light signal receiving device and the at least one visible light signal transmit device comprises:

demodulating the visible light signal received by each first logic pixel unit of the image sensor; and

25 determining a visible light signal from the at least one visible light signal transmit device according to a modulating signal obtained by the demodulating, and determining the communication performance between the visible light signal receiving device and the at

least one visible light signal transmit device at least according to the determined visible light signal.

4. The method of claim 3, wherein determining the communication performance between the visible light signal receiving device and the at least one visible light signal transmit device at least according to the determined visible light signal comprises:

determining at least one evaluation indicator of the communication performance at least according to the determined visible light signal; and

- determining the communication performance between the visible light signal receiving device and the at least one visible light signal transmit device at least according to the evaluation indicator.

5. The method of claim 4, wherein the evaluation indicator comprises: the size of a light spot projected by the at least one visible light signal transmit device on the image sensor; and

- determining the communication performance between the visible light signal receiving device and the at least one visible light signal transmit device at least according to the evaluation indicator comprises:

determining the increase in the communication performance in response to that the size of the light spot increases, or an increment of the size of the light spot exceeds a first threshold, or the size of the light spot exceeds a second threshold.

6. The method of claim 4 or 5, wherein the evaluation indicator comprises: the signal-to-noise ratio of the visible light signal received by the visible light signal receiving device from the at least one visible light signal transmit device; and

- determining the communication performance between the visible light signal receiving device and the at least one visible light signal transmit device at least according to the evaluation indicator comprises:

determining the increase in the communication performance in response to that the signal-to-noise ratio increases, the increment of the signal-to-noise ratio exceeds a third

threshold, or the signal-to-noise ratio exceeds a fourth threshold.

7. The method of any one of claims 4 to 6, wherein the evaluation indicator comprises: the bit error ratio of the visible light signal that is transmitted by the at least one visible light signal transmit device and received by the visible light signal receiving device;

5 and

determining the communication performance between the visible light signal receiving device and the at least one visible light signal transmit device at least according to the evaluation indicator comprises:

determining the increase in the communication performance in response to that the bit
10 error ratio is reduced, or a reduction amount of the bit error ratio exceeds a fifth threshold, or the bit error ratio is less than a sixth threshold.

8. The method of claim 1, wherein determining the communication performance between the visible light signal receiving device and the at least one visible light signal transmit device comprises:

15 determining the distance between the visible light receiving device and the at least one visible light signal transmit device; and

determining the increase in the communication performance in response to that the distance decreases, or a reduction amount of the distance exceeds a seventh threshold, or the distance is less than an eighth threshold.

20 9. The method of claim 1, wherein determining the communication performance between the visible light signal receiving device and the at least one visible light signal transmit device comprises:

acquiring the communication performance between the visible light signal receiving device and the at least one visible light signal transmit device.

25 10. The method of claim 3, wherein combining the two first logic pixel units of an image sensor related to the at least one visible light signal transmit device as one second logic pixel units to be read comprises:

determining the two first logic pixel units of the image sensor related to the at least one visible light signal transmit device at least according to the visible light signal received by each first logic pixel unit of the image sensor.

11. The method of claim 10, wherein determining the two first logic pixel unit of the
5 image sensor related to the at least one visible light signal transmit device at least according to the visible light signal received by each first logic pixel unit of the image sensor comprises:

determining the first logic pixel units of the image sensor related to the at least one visible light signal transmit device at least according to the determined visible light signal.

12. A visible light signal receiving and control apparatus, wherein the apparatus
10 comprises:

a determining module, configured to determine a communication performance between a visible light signal receiving device and at least one visible light signal transmit device;

- 15 a control module, configured to, in response to an increase in the communication performance between the visible light signal receiving device and the at least one visible light signal transmit device, combining two first logic pixel units of an image sensor related to the at least one visible light signal transmit device as one second logic pixel units to be read, when reading an inductive charge of the image sensor of the visible light signal
20 receiving device, each of the first logic pixel unit comprising at least one physical pixel unit of the image sensor.

13. The apparatus of claim 12, wherein the determining module comprises:

- a first determining submodule, configured to determine, at least according to a visible light signal received by each first logic pixel unit of the image sensor, the communication
25 performance between the visible light signal receiving device and the at least one visible light signal transmit device.

14. The apparatus of claim 13, wherein the first determining submodule comprises:

a demodulating unit, configured to demodulate the visible light signal received by each first logic pixel unit of the image sensor; and

a first determining unit, configured to determine a visible light signal from the at least one visible light signal transmit device at least according to a demodulated modulating
5 signal obtained by the demodulating, and determine the communication performance between the visible light signal receiving device and the at least one visible light signal transmit device according to the determined visible light signal.

15. The apparatus of claim 14, wherein the first determining unit comprises:

a first determining subunit, configured to determine at least one evaluation indicator of
10 the communication performance at least according to the visible light signal; and

a second determining subunit, configured to determine the communication performance between the visible light signal receiving device and the at least one visible light signal transmit device at least according to the evaluation indicator.

16. The apparatus of claim 15, wherein the evaluation indicator comprises: the size of
15 a light spot projected by the at least one visible light signal transmit device on the image sensor; and

the second determining subunit is configured to determine the increase in the communication performance in response to that the size of the light spot increases, or an increment of the size of the light spot exceeds a first threshold, or the size of the light spot
20 exceeds a second threshold.

17. The apparatus of claim 15 or 16, wherein the evaluation indicator comprises: the signal-to-noise ratio of the visible light signal received by the visible light signal receiving device from the at least one visible light signal transmit device; and

the second determining subunit is configured to determine the increase in the
25 communication performance in response to that the signal-to-noise ratio increases, the increment of the signal-to-noise ratio exceeds a third threshold, or the signal-to-noise ratio exceeds a fourth threshold.

18. The apparatus of any one of claims 15 to 17, wherein the evaluation indicator comprises: the bit error ratio of the visible light signal that is transmitted by the at least one visible light signal transmit device and received by the visible light signal receiving device; and

5 the second determining subunit is configured to determine the increase in the communication performance in response to that the bit error ratio is reduced, or a reduction amount of the bit error ratio exceeds a fifth threshold, or the bit error ratio is less than a sixth threshold.

19. The apparatus of claim 12, wherein the determining module comprises:

10 a third determining submodule, configured to determine the distance between the visible light receiving device and the at least one visible light signal transmit device; and

 a fourth determining submodule, configured to determine the increase in the communication performance in response to that the distance decreases, or a reduction amount of the distance exceeds a seventh threshold, or the distance is less than an eighth
15 threshold.

20. The apparatus of claim 12, wherein the determining module comprises:

 an acquiring submodule, configured to acquire the communication performance between the visible light signal receiving device and the at least one visible light signal transmit device.

20 21. The apparatus of claim 14, wherein the control module comprises:

 a second determining submodule, configured to determine two first logic pixel units of the image sensor related to the at least one visible light signal transmit device at least according to the visible light signal received by each first logic pixel unit of the image sensor.

25 22. The apparatus of claim 21, wherein the second determining submodule comprises:

 a second determining unit, configure to determine the first logic pixel units of the

image sensor related to the at least one visible light signal transmit device at least according to the visible light signal determined by the first determining unit.

23. A visible light signal receiving device, wherein the device comprises the visible light signal receiving and control apparatus of any one of claims 12 to 22.

5 24. The device of claim 23, wherein the device further comprises:

an image sensor; and

a signal processing module, configured to read an inductive charge of the image sensor under control of the visible light signal receiving and control apparatus.

25. A computer readable storage device, comprising at least one executable instruction,
10 which, in response to execution, causes a system comprising a processor to perform operations, comprising:

determining a communication performance between a visible light signal receiving device and at least one visible light signal transmit device; and

15 in response to an increase in the communication performance between the visible light signal receiving device and the at least one visible light signal transmit device, combining two first logic pixel units of an image sensor related to the at least one visible light signal transmit device as one second logic pixel units to be read when reading an inductive charge of the image sensor of the visible light signal receiving device,

20 each of the first logic pixel unit comprising at least one physical pixel unit of the image sensor.

26. A device for transmission control comprising a processor and memory, wherein the memory storing a computer executable instruction, the processor being connected with the memory via a communication bus, and when the device is operating, the processor executes or facilitates execution of the executable instructions stored by the memory:

25 determining a communication performance between a visible light signal receiving device and at least one visible light signal transmit device; and

in response to an increase in the communication performance between the visible light

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signal receiving device and the at least one visible light signal transmit device, combining two first logic pixel units of an image sensor related to the at least one visible light signal transmit device as one second logic pixel units to be read, when reading an inductive charge of the image sensor of the visible light signal receiving device, each of the first logic pixel
5 unit comprising at least one physical pixel unit of the image sensor.

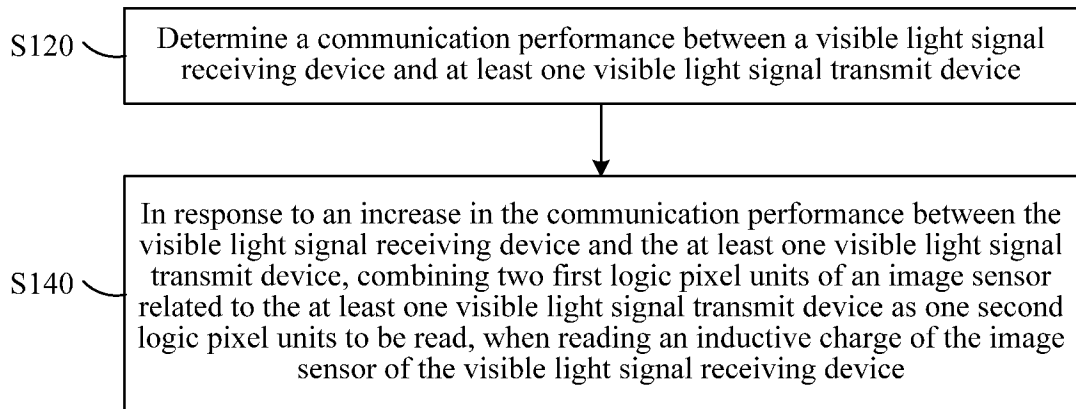


FIG. 1

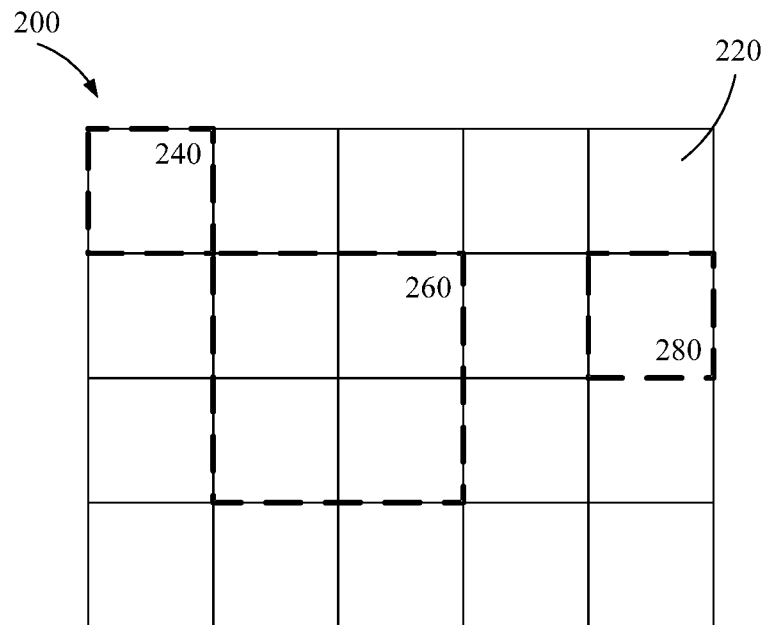


FIG. 2(a)

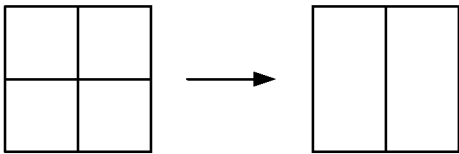


FIG. 2(b)

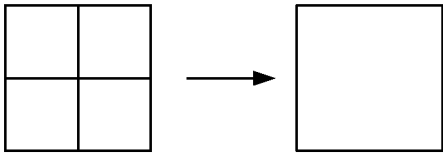


FIG. 2(c)

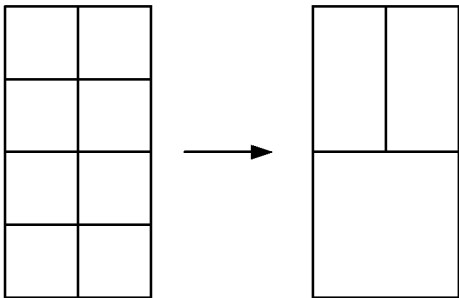


FIG. 2(d)

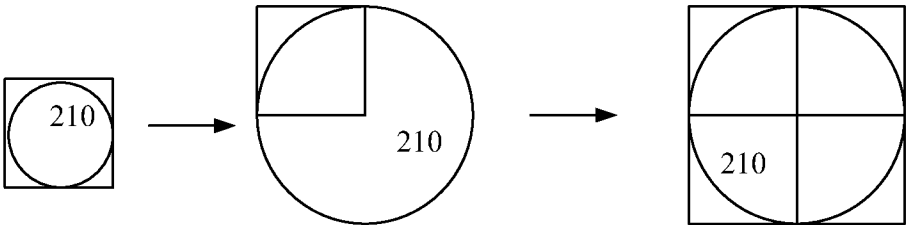


FIG. 2(e)

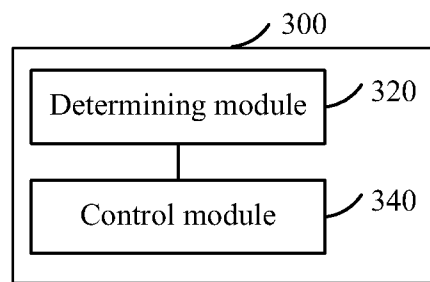


FIG. 3(a)

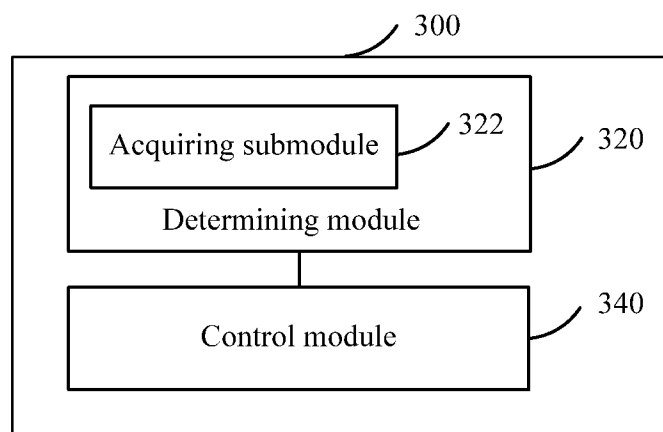


FIG. 3(b)

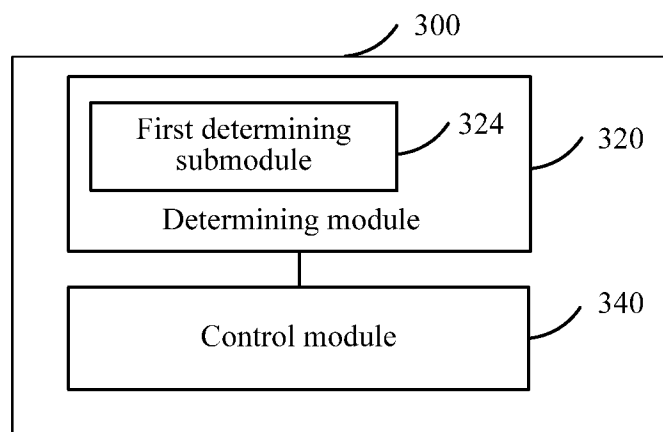


FIG. 3(c)

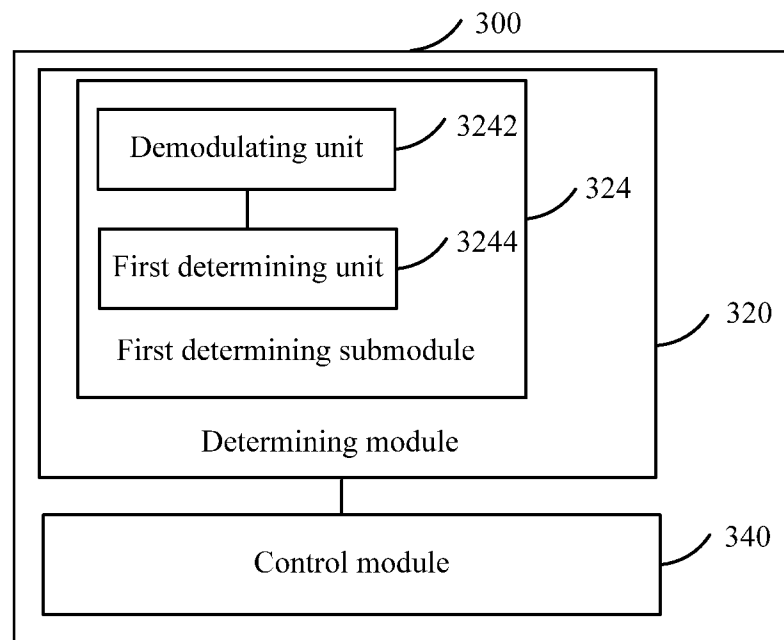


FIG. 3(d)

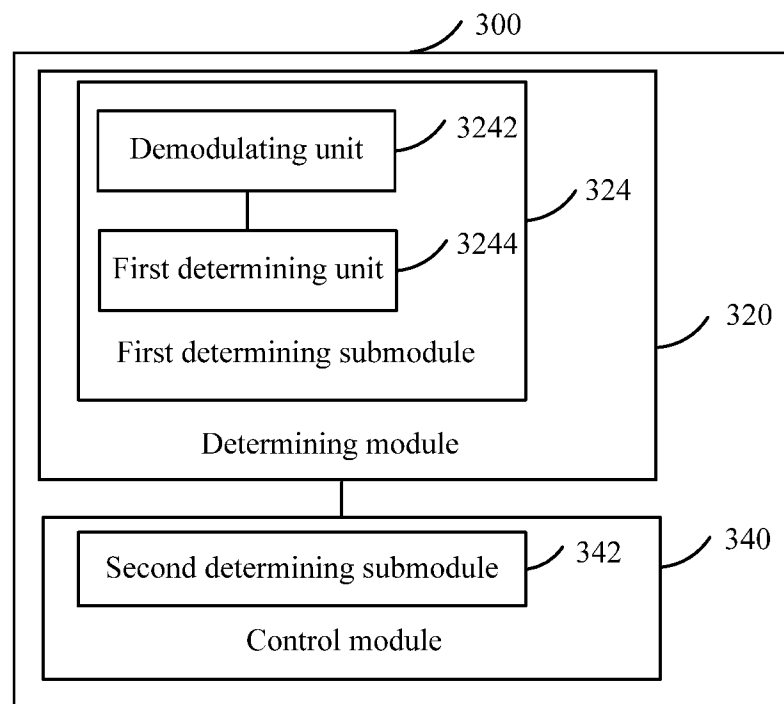


FIG. 3(e)

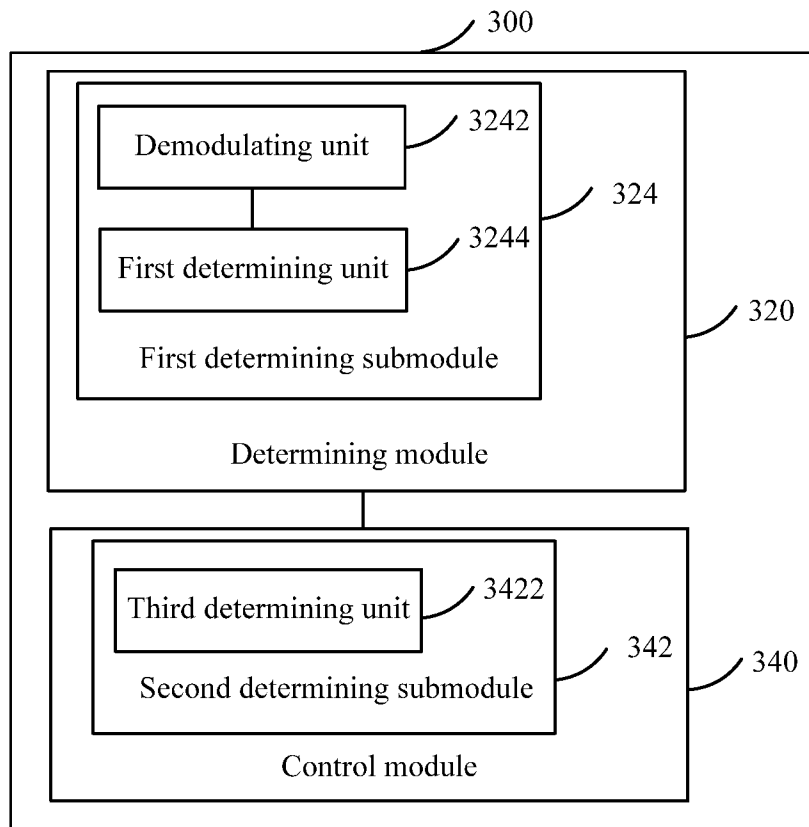


FIG. 3(f)

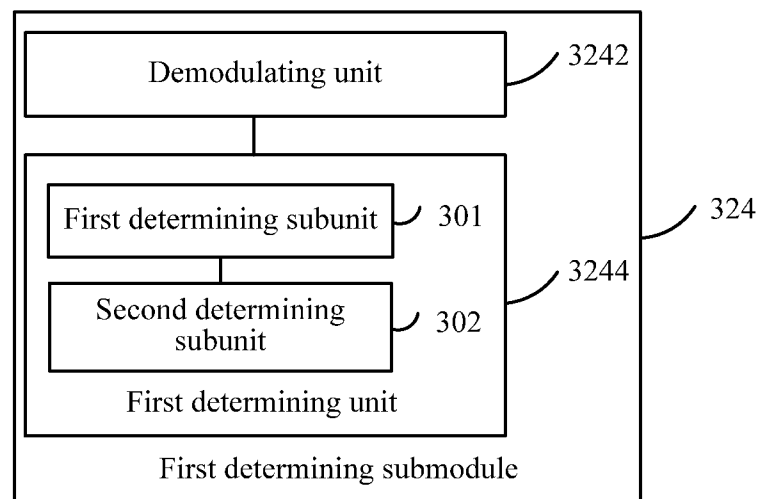


FIG. 3(g)

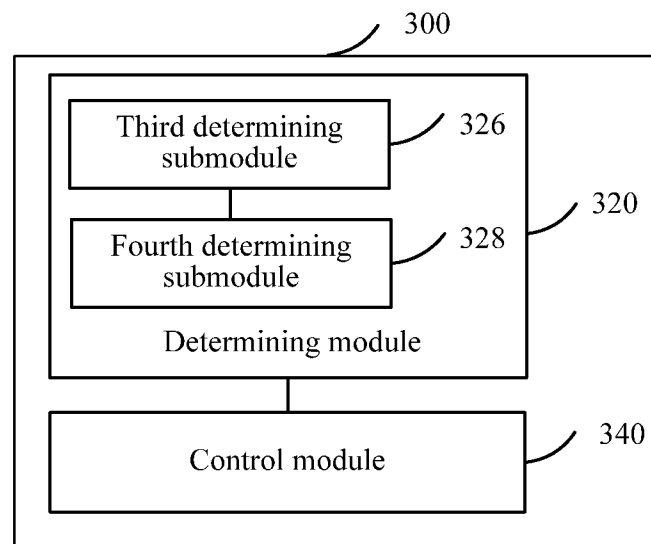


FIG. 3(h)

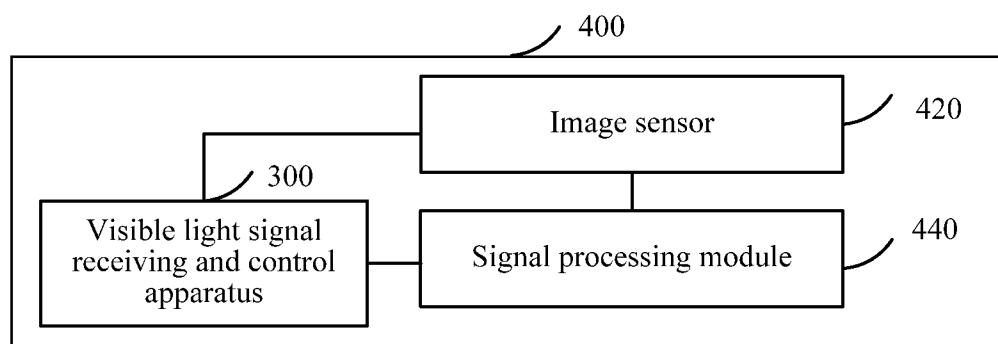


FIG. 4

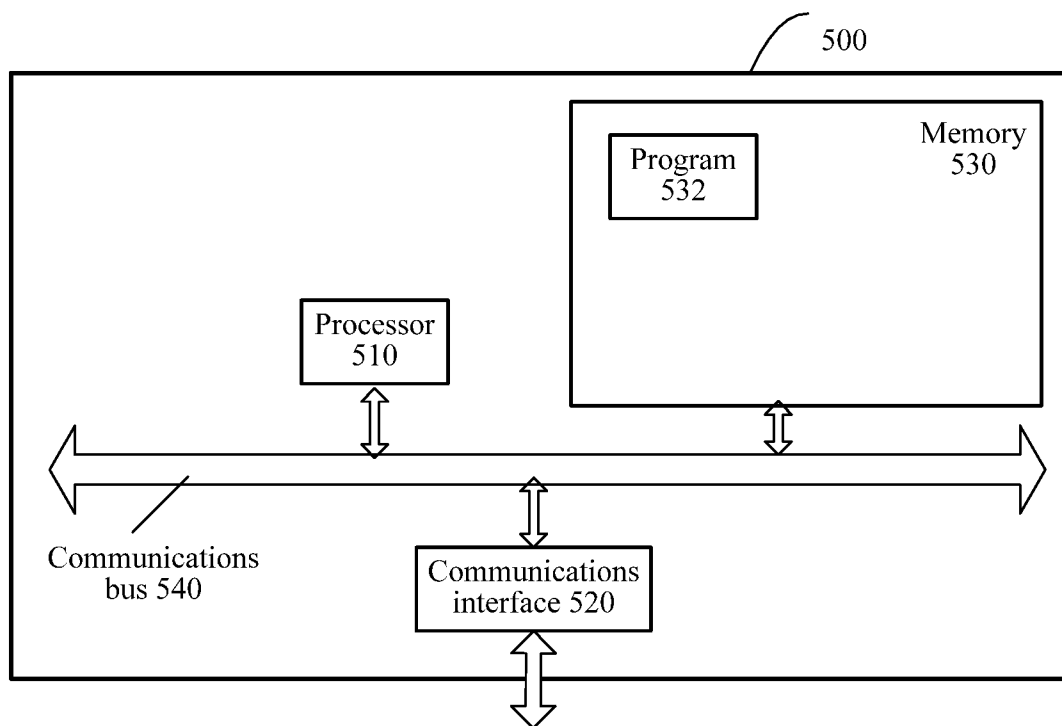


FIG. 5

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No.

PCT/CN2015/091616

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER

H04B 10/60(2013.01)i; H04B 10/116(2013.01)i

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; H04N

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)

CNTXT;CNABS;CNKI;VEN: visible light, pixel, combin+, bin+, spot size, snr, signal noise ratio, error rate, distance, decod+ speed, image sensor

C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category*	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
PX	CN 104348557 A (BEIJING ZHIGU RUITUO TECHNOLOGY SERVICES CO., LTD.) 11 February 2015 (2015-02-11) description, paragraphs [0005] to [0065]	1-24
X	US 2010147956 A1 (HAND HELD PRODUCTS INC.) 17 June 2010 (2010-06-17) description, paragraph [0016], figures 2 and 4	1-24
A	CN 103888679 A (BEIJING ZHIGU RUITUO TECHNOLOGY SERVICES CO., LTD.) 25 June 2014 (2014-06-25) the whole document	1-24
A	US 2006011724 A1 (JOSEPH EUGENE ET AL.) 19 January 2006 (2006-01-19) the whole document	1-24



Further documents are listed in the continuation of Box C.



See patent family annex.

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Date of the actual completion of the international search

28 December 2015

Date of mailing of the international search report

15 January 2016

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STATE INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY OFFICE OF THE
P.R.CHINA
6, Xitucheng Rd., Jimen Bridge, Haidian District, Beijing
100088, China

Authorized officer

LIU,Jia

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INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT
Information on patent family members

International application No.

PCT/CN2015/091616

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				EP	2202666	A3	04 August 2010
				JP	5592643	B2	17 September 2014
				EP	2202666	A2	30 June 2010
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				WO	2006019847	A1	23 February 2006