



(51) International Patent Classification:

G01C 21/00 (2006.01) G06N 99/00 (2010.01)
G01C 3/00 (2006.01) H04N 3/15 (2006.01)
G06N 3/08 (2006.01)

(21) International Application Number:

PCT/US2017/033923

(22) International Filing Date:

23 May 2017 (23.05.2017)

(25) Filing Language:

English

(26) Publication Language:

English

(30) Priority Data:

15/379,345 14 December 2016 (14.12.2016) US

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(81) Designated States (unless otherwise indicated, for every kind of national protection available): AE, AG, AL, AM, AO, AT, AU, AZ, BA, BB, BG, BH, BN, BR, BW, BY, BZ, CA, CH, CL, CN, CO, CR, CU, CZ, DE, DJ, DK, DM, DO, DZ, EC, EE, EG, ES, FI, GB, GD, GE, GH, GM, GT, HN, HR, HU, ID, IL, IN, IR, IS, JP, KE, KG, KH, KN, KP, KR,

(54) Title: SPEED CONTROL PARAMETER ESTIMATION METHOD FOR AUTONOMOUS DRIVING VEHICLES

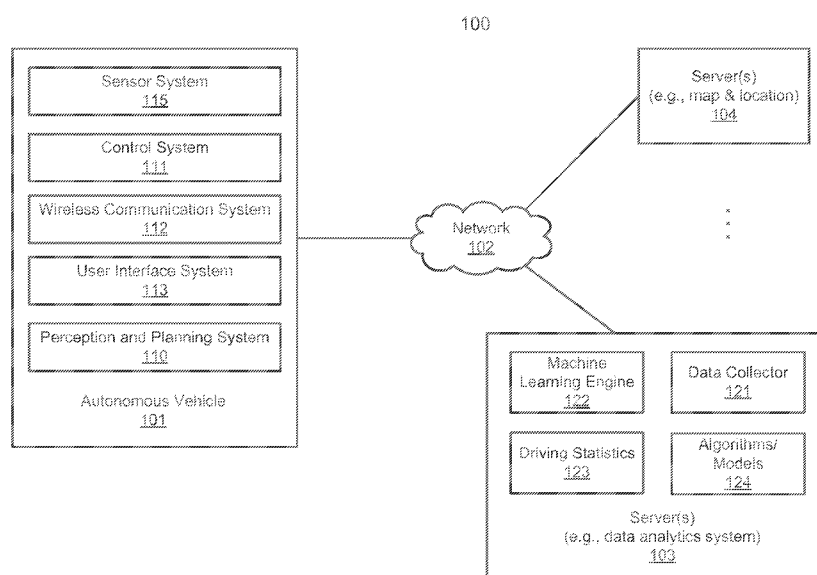


FIG. 1

(57) Abstract: In one embodiment, when speed control command (e.g., throttle, brake commands) is issued based on a target speed, a first feedback parameters is determined based on an expected speed and an actual speed of the ADV in response to the speed control command. A second feedback parameter is determined by applying a speed control parameter adjustment (SCPA) model to a set of input parameters that are captured or measured at the point in time. The set of input parameters represents a driving environment of the ADV at the point in time. One or more control parameters of a speed controller of the ADV is adjusted based on the first feedback parameter and the second feedback parameter, where the speed controller is configured to generate and issue speed control commands. Subsequent speed control commands can be generated based on the adjusted speed control parameters of the speed controller.

KW, KZ, LA, LC, LK, LR, LS, LU, LY, MA, MD, ME, MG, MK, MN, MW, MX, MY, MZ, NA, NG, NI, NO, NZ, OM, PA, PE, PG, PH, PL, PT, QA, RO, RS, RU, RW, SA, SC, SD, SE, SG, SK, SL, SM, ST, SV, SY, TH, TJ, TM, TN, TR, TT, TZ, UA, UG, US, UZ, VC, VN, ZA, ZM, ZW.

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

Published:

— with international search report (Art. 21(3))

SPEED CONTROL PARAMETER ESTIMATION METHOD FOR AUTONOMOUS DRIVING VEHICLES

TECHNICAL FIELD

[0001] Embodiments of the present invention relate generally to operating autonomous vehicles. More particularly, embodiments of the invention relate to estimating parameters for speed control of an autonomous driving vehicle.

BACKGROUND

[0002] Vehicles operating in an autonomous mode (e.g., driverless) can relieve occupants, especially the driver, from some driving-related responsibilities. When operating in an autonomous mode, the vehicle can navigate to various locations using onboard sensors, allowing the vehicle to travel with minimal human interaction or in some cases without any passengers.

[0003] Motion planning and control are critical operations in autonomous driving. However, conventional motion planning operations estimate the difficulty of completing a given path mainly from its curvature and speed, without considering the differences in features for different types of vehicles. Same motion planning and control is applied to all types of vehicles, which may not be accurate and smooth under some circumstances.

[0004] Speed control (e.g., throttle, brake) dynamic model is critical in increasing the vehicle path tracking accuracy in autonomous driving. However, due to the complex nature of speed control mechanics, it is difficult to accurately model the speed control dynamics utilizing a standard modeling method.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

[0005] Embodiments of the invention are illustrated by way of example and not limitation in the figures of the accompanying drawings in which like references indicate similar elements.

[0006] Figure 1 is a block diagram illustrating a networked system according to one embodiment of the invention.

[0007] Figure 2 is a block diagram illustrating an example of an autonomous vehicle according to one embodiment of the invention.

[0008] Figure 3 is a block diagram illustrating an example of a perception and planning system used with an autonomous vehicle according to one embodiment of the invention.

[0009] Figure 4 is a processing diagram illustrating a speed controller according to one embodiment of the invention.

[0010] Figure 5 is a block diagram illustrating an example of a speed control parameter adjustment model according to one embodiment of the invention.

[0011] Figure 6 is a flow diagram illustrating a process of adjusting a speed control parameter of a speed controller for operating an autonomous driving vehicle according to one embodiment of the invention.

[0012] Figure 7 is a block diagram illustrating a data processing system according to one embodiment.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION

[0013] Various embodiments and aspects of the inventions will be described with reference to details discussed below, and the accompanying drawings will illustrate the various embodiments. The following description and drawings are illustrative of the invention and are not to be construed as limiting the invention. Numerous specific details are described to provide a thorough understanding of various embodiments of the present invention. However, in certain instances, well-known or conventional details are not described in order to provide a concise discussion of embodiments of the present inventions.

[0014] Reference in the specification to “one embodiment” or “an embodiment” means that a particular feature, structure, or characteristic described in conjunction with the embodiment can be included in at least one embodiment of the invention. The appearances of the phrase “in one embodiment” in various places in the specification do not necessarily all refer to the same embodiment.

[0015] According to some embodiments, a speed control parameter modeling mechanism is utilized to increase the speed control modeling accuracy utilizing a machine learning modeling method and an empirical modeling method. The vehicle throttle model parameters are usually estimated offline with no parameter adjustment, while the system model would always change as the vehicle deteriorates. In one embodiment, the system utilizes a method that uses the empirical method (e.g., target speed vs. actual speed) to estimate the nominal speed control model parameters. In addition, the system also utilizes a machine learning method to adjust the speed

control model online to adapt the vehicle difference and deterioration based on a variety of factors or input parameters captured at real-time.

[0016] Initially, parameters are identified offline for a nominal speed control model based on driving statistics of an autonomous driving vehicle (ADV) or type of ADVs. The driving statistics may include vehicle speeds, vehicle accelerations, and/or road friction, etc. captured at different points in time and under various driving conditions. At runtime (e.g., online), the vehicle will first be operated with a nominal controller gain and a powertrain reference model which are determined offline. When the vehicle is moving on the road, information such as weather, map/road condition, vehicle net weight, tire pressure, driver driving behaviors are collected at real-time as input to a machine learning model. The output of the machine learning model is used to fine tune the speed control parameters of a speed controller of the ADV for generating subsequent speed control commands (e.g., throttle, brake commands).

[0017] In one embodiment, when speed control command (e.g., throttle, brake commands) is issued based on a target speed, a first feedback parameters is determined based on an expected speed and an actual speed of the ADV in response to the speed control command. A second feedback parameter is determined by applying a machine learning model, referred to as a speed control parameter adjustment (SCPA) model, to a set of input parameters that are captured or measured at the point in time. The set of input parameters represents a driving environment of the ADV at the point in time. One or more control parameters (e.g., coefficients, gains) of a speed controller of the ADV is adjusted based on the first feedback parameter and the second feedback parameter, where the speed controller is configured to generate and issue speed control commands. Subsequent speed control commands can be generated based on the adjusted speed control parameters of the speed controller. The SCPA model may be created and trained offline based on a large amount of driving statistics captured from a variety of vehicles (e.g., similar vehicles).

[0018] Figure 1 is a block diagram illustrating an autonomous vehicle network configuration according to one embodiment of the invention. Referring to Figure 1, network configuration 100 includes autonomous vehicle 101 that may be communicatively coupled to one or more servers 103-104 over a network 102. Although there is one autonomous vehicle shown, multiple autonomous vehicles can be coupled to each other and/or coupled to servers 103-104 over network 102. Network 102 may be any type of networks such as a local area network (LAN), a wide area network (WAN) such as the Internet, a cellular network, a satellite network, or a combination thereof, wired or wireless. Server(s) 103-104 may be any kind of servers or a cluster of servers, such as Web or cloud servers, application servers, backend servers, or a combination thereof.

Servers 103-104 may be data analytics servers, content servers, traffic information servers, map and point of interest (MPOI) servers, or location servers, etc.

[0019] An autonomous vehicle refers to a vehicle that can be configured to in an autonomous mode in which the vehicle navigates through an environment with little or no input from a driver. Such an autonomous vehicle can include a sensor system having one or more sensors that are configured to detect information about the environment in which the vehicle operates. The vehicle and its associated controller(s) use the detected information to navigate through the environment. Autonomous vehicle 101 can operate in a manual mode, a full autonomous mode, or a partial autonomous mode.

[0020] In one embodiment, autonomous vehicle 101 includes, but is not limited to, perception and planning system 110, vehicle control system 111, wireless communication system 112, user interface system 113, infotainment system 114, and sensor system 115. Autonomous vehicle 101 may further include certain common components included in ordinary vehicles, such as, an engine, wheels, steering wheel, transmission, etc., which may be controlled by vehicle control system 111 and/or perception and planning system 110 using a variety of communication signals and/or commands, such as, for example, acceleration signals or commands, deceleration signals or commands, steering signals or commands, braking signals or commands, etc.

[0021] Components 110-115 may be communicatively coupled to each other via an interconnect, a bus, a network, or a combination thereof. For example, components 110-115 may be communicatively coupled to each other via a controller area network (CAN) bus. A CAN bus is a vehicle bus standard designed to allow microcontrollers and devices to communicate with each other in applications without a host computer. It is a message-based protocol, designed originally for multiplex electrical wiring within automobiles, but is also used in many other contexts.

[0022] Referring now to Figure 2, in one embodiment, sensor system 115 includes, but it is not limited to, one or more cameras 211, global positioning system (GPS) unit 212, inertial measurement unit (IMU) 213, radar unit 214, and a light detection and range (LIDAR) unit 215. GPS system 212 may include a transceiver operable to provide information regarding the position of the autonomous vehicle. IMU unit 213 may sense position and orientation changes of the autonomous vehicle based on inertial acceleration. Radar unit 214 may represent a system that utilizes radio signals to sense objects within the local environment of the autonomous vehicle. In some embodiments, in addition to sensing objects, radar unit 214 may additionally sense the speed and/or heading of the objects. LIDAR unit 215 may sense objects in the environment in which the autonomous vehicle is located using lasers. LIDAR unit 215 could include one or more laser sources, a laser scanner, and one or more detectors, among other system components. Cameras 211

may include one or more devices to capture images of the environment surrounding the autonomous vehicle. Cameras 211 may be still cameras and/or video cameras. A camera may be mechanically movable, for example, by mounting the camera on a rotating and/or tilting a platform.

[0023] Sensor system 115 may further include other sensors, such as, a sonar sensor, an infrared sensor, a steering sensor, a throttle sensor, a braking sensor, and an audio sensor (e.g., microphone). An audio sensor may be configured to capture sound from the environment surrounding the autonomous vehicle. A steering sensor may be configured to sense the steering angle of a steering wheel, wheels of the vehicle, or a combination thereof. A throttle sensor and a braking sensor sense the throttle position and braking position of the vehicle, respectively. In some situations, a throttle sensor and a braking sensor may be integrated as an integrated throttle/braking sensor.

[0024] In one embodiment, vehicle control system 111 includes, but is not limited to, steering unit 201, throttle unit 202 (also referred to as an acceleration unit), and braking unit 203. Steering unit 201 is to adjust the direction or heading of the vehicle. Throttle unit 202 is to control the speed of the motor or engine that in turn control the speed and acceleration of the vehicle. Braking unit 203 is to decelerate the vehicle by providing friction to slow the wheels or tires of the vehicle. Note that the components as shown in Figure 2 may be implemented in hardware, software, or a combination thereof.

[0025] Referring back to Figure 1, wireless communication system 112 is to allow communication between autonomous vehicle 101 and external systems, such as devices, sensors, other vehicles, etc. For example, wireless communication system 112 can wirelessly communicate with one or more devices directly or via a communication network, such as servers 103-104 over network 102. Wireless communication system 112 can use any cellular communication network or a wireless local area network (WLAN), e.g., using WiFi to communicate with another component or system. Wireless communication system 112 could communicate directly with a device (e.g., a mobile device of a passenger, a display device, a speaker within vehicle 101), for example, using an infrared link, Bluetooth, etc. User interface system 113 may be part of peripheral devices implemented within vehicle 101 including, for example, a keyword, a touch screen display device, a microphone, and a speaker, etc.

[0026] Some or all of the functions of autonomous vehicle 101 may be controlled or managed by perception and planning system 110, especially when operating in an autonomous driving mode. Perception and planning system 110 includes the necessary hardware (e.g., processor(s), memory, storage) and software (e.g., operating system, planning and routing programs) to receive

information from sensor system 115, control system 111, wireless communication system 112, and/or user interface system 113, process the received information, plan a route or path from a starting point to a destination point, and then drive vehicle 101 based on the planning and control information. Alternatively, perception and planning system 110 may be integrated with vehicle control system 111.

[0027] For example, a user as a passenger may specify a starting location and a destination of a trip, for example, via a user interface. Perception and planning system 110 obtains the trip related data. For example, perception and planning system 110 may obtain location and route information from an MPOI server, which may be a part of servers 103-104. The location server provides location services and the MPOI server provides map services and the POIs of certain locations. Alternatively, such location and MPOI information may be cached locally in a persistent storage device of perception and planning system 110.

[0028] While autonomous vehicle 101 is moving along the route, perception and planning system 110 may also obtain real-time traffic information from a traffic information system or server (TIS). Note that servers 103-104 may be operated by a third party entity. Alternatively, the functionalities of servers 103-104 may be integrated with perception and planning system 110. Based on the real-time traffic information, MPOI information, and location information, as well as real-time local environment data detected or sensed by sensor system 115 (e.g., obstacles, objects, nearby vehicles), perception and planning system 110 can plan an optimal route and drive vehicle 101, for example, via control system 111, according to the planned route to reach the specified destination safely and efficiently.

[0029] Server 103 may be a data analytics system to perform data analytics services for a variety of clients. In one embodiment, data analytics system 103 includes data collector 121 and machine learning engine 122. Data collector 121 collects driving statistics 123 from a variety of vehicles, either autonomous vehicles or regular vehicles driven by human drivers. Driving statistics 123 include information indicating the driving commands (e.g., throttle, brake, steering commands) issued and responses of the vehicles (e.g., speeds, accelerations, decelerations, directions) captured by sensors of the vehicles at different points in time. Driving statistics 123 may further include information describing the driving environments at different points in time, such as, for example, routes (including starting and destination locations), MPOIs, road conditions, weather conditions, etc.

[0030] Based on driving statistics 123, machine learning engine 122 performs or trains a set of rules, algorithms, and/or predictive models 124 for a variety of purposes. In one embodiment, algorithms/models 124 may include a set of speed control parameters or gains for controlling the

speed of an autonomous vehicle. Algorithms/models 124 may further include a powertrain reference model associated with a particular type of vehicles. Algorithms/models 124 may further include a machine learning model or models (e.g., SCPA models) to be utilized online to generate a feedback parameter for dynamically adjusting a speed control parameter of a speed controller based on a set of input parameters that are dynamically captured at real-time. Machine learning engine may further generate a user profile of a user driving an ADV based on the driving statistics of the user. A user profile of a user may include information representing driving preferences of the user under different driving circumstances. Algorithms/models 124 and user profiles may then be uploaded onto the ADVs to be utilized online, especially for dynamically adjusting one or more speed control parameters of the ADVs.

[0031] Figure 3 is a block diagram illustrating an example of a perception and planning system used with an autonomous vehicle according to one embodiment of the invention. System 300 may be implemented as a part of autonomous vehicle 101 of Figure 1 including, but is not limited to, perception and planning system 110, control system 111, and sensor system 115. Referring to Figure 3, perception and planning system 110 includes, but is not limited to, localization module 301, perception module 302, decision module 303, planning module 304, and control module 305.

[0032] Some or all of modules 301-305 may be implemented in software, hardware, or a combination thereof. For example, these modules may be installed in persistent storage device 352, loaded into memory 351, and executed by one or more processors (not shown). Note that some or all of these modules may be communicatively coupled to or integrated with some or all modules of vehicle control system 111 of Figure 2. Some of modules 301-305 may be integrated together as an integrated module.

[0033] Localization module 301 (also referred to as a map and route module) manages any data related to a trip or route of a user. A user may log in and specify a starting location and a destination of a trip, for example, via a user interface. Localization module 301 communicates with other components of autonomous vehicle 300, such as map and route information 311, to obtain the trip related data. For example, localization module 301 may obtain location and route information from a location server and a map and POI (MPOI) server. A location server provides location services and an MPOI server provides map services and the POIs of certain locations, which may be cached as part of map and route information 311. While autonomous vehicle 300 is moving along the route, localization module 301 may also obtain real-time traffic information from a traffic information system or server.

[0034] Based on the sensor data provided by sensor system 115 and localization information obtained by localization module 301, a perception of the surrounding environment is determined

by perception module 302. The perception information may represent what an ordinary driver would perceive surrounding a vehicle in which the driver is driving. The perception can include the lane configuration (e.g., straight or curve lanes), traffic light signals, a relative position of another vehicle, a pedestrian, a building, crosswalk, or other traffic related signs (e.g., stop signs, yield signs), etc., for example, in a form of an object.

[0035] Perception module 302 may include a computer vision system or functionalities of a computer vision system to process and analyze images captured by one or more cameras in order to identify objects and/or features in the environment of autonomous vehicle. The objects can include traffic signals, road way boundaries, other vehicles, pedestrians, and/or obstacles, etc. The computer vision system may use an object recognition algorithm, video tracking, and other computer vision techniques. In some embodiments, the computer vision system can map an environment, track objects, and estimate the speed of objects, etc. Perception module 302 can also detect objects based on other sensors data provided by other sensors such as a radar and/or LIDAR.

[0036] For each of the objects, decision module 303 makes a decision regarding how to handle the object. For example, for a particular object (e.g., another vehicle in a crossing route) as well as its metadata describing the object (e.g., a speed, direction, turning angle), decision module 303 decides how to encounter the object (e.g., overtake, yield, stop, pass). Decision module 303 may make such decisions according to a set of rules such as traffic rules or driving rules 312, which may be stored in persistent storage device 352.

[0037] Based on a decision for each of the objects perceived, planning module 304 plans a path or route for the autonomous vehicle, as well as driving parameters (e.g., distance, speed, and/or turning angle). That is, for a given object, decision module 303 decides what to do with the object, while planning module 304 determines how to do it. For example, for a given object, decision module 303 may decide to pass the object, while planning module 304 may determine whether to pass on the left side or right side of the object. Planning and control data is generated by planning module 304 including information describing how vehicle 300 would move in a next moving cycle (e.g., next route/path segment). For example, the planning and control data may instruct vehicle 300 to move 10 meters at a speed of 30 mile per hour (mph), then change to a right lane at the speed of 25 mph.

[0038] Based on the planning and control data, control module 305 controls and drives the autonomous vehicle, by sending proper commands or signals to vehicle control system 111, according to a route or path defined by the planning and control data. The planning and control data include sufficient information to drive the vehicle from a first point to a second point of a

route or path using appropriate vehicle settings or driving parameters (e.g., throttle, braking, and turning commands) at different points in time along the path or route.

[0039] Note that decision module 303 and planning module 304 may be integrated as an integrated module. Decision module 303/planning module 304 may include a navigation system or functionalities of a navigation system to determine a driving path for the autonomous vehicle. For example, the navigation system may determine a series of speeds and directional headings to effect movement of the autonomous vehicle along a path that substantially avoids perceived obstacles while generally advancing the autonomous vehicle along a roadway-based path leading to an ultimate destination. The destination may be set according to user inputs via user interface system 113. The navigation system may update the driving path dynamically while the autonomous vehicle is in operation. The navigation system can incorporate data from a GPS system and one or more maps so as to determine the driving path for the autonomous vehicle.

[0040] Decision module 303/planning module 304 may further include a collision avoidance system or functionalities of a collision avoidance system to identify, evaluate, and avoid or otherwise negotiate potential obstacles in the environment of the autonomous vehicle. For example, the collision avoidance system may effect changes in the navigation of the autonomous vehicle by operating one or more subsystems in control system 111 to undertake swerving maneuvers, turning maneuvers, braking maneuvers, etc. The collision avoidance system may automatically determine feasible obstacle avoidance maneuvers on the basis of surrounding traffic patterns, road conditions, etc. The collision avoidance system may be configured such that a swerving maneuver is not undertaken when other sensor systems detect vehicles, construction barriers, etc. in the region adjacent the autonomous vehicle that would be swerved into. The collision avoidance system may automatically select the maneuver that is both available and maximizes safety of occupants of the autonomous vehicle. The collision avoidance system may select an avoidance maneuver predicted to cause the least amount of acceleration in a passenger cabin of the autonomous vehicle.

[0041] In one embodiment, control module 305 includes speed controller 306 and parameter adaption module 307. Speed controller 306 is configured to generate speed control commands based on planning and control data provided by planning module 304. A speed control command can be a throttle command or a brake command. A throttle command may include data indicating a percentage of a maximum throttle value representing a maximum acceleration rate, also referred to as a throttle percentage. Similarly, a brake command may be represented by a brake percentage of a maximum brake value representing a maximum brake rate, also referred to as a brake percentage.

[0042] Parameter adaption module 307 is configured to adapt feedback information from a variety of sources. The feedback information may include an expected speed of the ADV based on a powertrain reference model 314 and the actual speed of the ADV in response to a speed control command in view of a target speed as planned by planning module 304. SCPA model(s) 313 and powertrain model(s) 314 may be created offline based on the driving statistics of the vehicle or type of the vehicles. For example, SCPA models 313 and powertrain models 314 may be created and trained by data analytics system 103. The feedback information or parameters may further include a feedback parameter generated by applying SCPA model 313 to a set of input parameters that are captured at real-time. The set of input parameters may include weather condition, road condition, wind resistance, map and point of interest, net weight, and/or tire pressure of the vehicle, etc. The set of input parameters may further include user driving preferences derived from user profile 315 associated with a passenger. User profile 315 may be compiled offline based on the prior driving statistics or behaviors of a particular user or type of users.

[0043] Based on the feedback parameter or data provided by parameter adaption module 307, a control parameter of speed controller 306 is adjusted and subsequent speed control commands may be generated by speed controller 306 using the adjusted speed control parameter. A speed control parameter may be a coefficient or gain of a controller within speed controller 306. For example, speed controller 306 may be modeled or implemented based on a proportional-integral-derivative (PID) controller. The PID controller may be modeled by proportional, integral, and derivative coefficients. These coefficients may be initially configured offline by a data analytics system based on a large amount of driving statistics, such as, for example data analytics system or server 103, as follows:

$$u(t) = K_p e(t) + K_i \int_0^t e(t) dt + K_d \frac{de(t)}{dt}$$

where K_p , K_i , and K_d are the proportional, integral, and derivative coefficients of the PID controller.

[0044] A PID is a control loop feedback mechanism (controller) commonly used in industrial control systems. A PID controller continuously calculates an error value as the difference between a desired set point and a measured process variable and applies a correction based on proportional (K_p), integral (K_i), and derivative (K_d) terms. A PID controller continuously calculates an error value as the difference between a desired set point and a measured process variable and applies a correction based on proportional, integral, and derivative terms. The controller attempts to minimize the error over time by adjustment of a control variable to a new value determined by a

weighted sum. In one embodiment, the output of the parameter adaption module 307 is used to adjust at least one of K_p , K_i , and K_d of the PID controller dynamically online.

[0045] Figure 4 is a processing diagram illustrating a speed controller according to one embodiment of the invention. Referring to Figure 4, based on decision data provided by a decision module, planning module 304 generates planning and control data, including a target speed (R). The target speed is provided to speed controller 306. Based on the target speed from planning module 304, speed controller 306 generates and issues a speed control command (U), in this example, a throttle command represented by a throttle percentage, to vehicle platform 320. The actual speed (Y) of the vehicle is measured in response to the speed control command. In addition, an expected speed (Y_m) is calculated using powertrain reference model 314 based on the target speed (R).

[0046] Powertrain reference model 314 may be generated offline based on the engine, transmission, driveline data of the corresponding vehicle. It is a vehicle specific model based on the design characteristics of the vehicle. Powertrain reference model 314 provides an expected speed given the target speed in view of the vehicle specific design. The difference (E) between the actual speed (Y) and expected speed (Y_m), i.e., $E = |Y - Y_m|$, is fed back to parameter adaption module 307 as a first input, referred to as a first feedback parameter.

[0047] In addition, a set of input parameters 325 are captured or measured at run time, also referred to as dynamic input parameters. The input parameters 325 may include the weather condition, road condition, current traffic condition, wind resistance, map location and/or point of interest, weight of the vehicle, tire pressure of the wheels, etc. The input parameters 325 may further include user driving preferences of a user who currently is a passenger of the vehicle. The user driving preferences may be determined based on the prior driving statistics of the user as part of a user profile. Driving preferences may include averaged speed for turning, turning radius, speed and distance of lane changing, route selection preferences. The set of input parameters is fed to SCPA model 313 which produces a second feedback parameter. SCPA model 313 is a machine-learning model that has been created and modeled based on prior driving statistics offline as shown in Figure 5. The second feedback parameter is provided to parameter adaption module 307 as a second input.

[0048] Further, the actual speed command (e.g., throttle percentage or brake percentage) is also provided as a third input to parameter adaption module 307. The actual speed command is utilized as a prior speed control command for the prior command cycle for the purpose of determining a speed control command for the current/next command cycle. Based on the first feedback parameter (e), the second feedback parameter (output of SCPA model), and the third

feedback parameter (actual speed command), parameter adaption module 307 generates an adaption data representing an adjustment of one or more speed control parameters (e.g., K_p , K_i , and/or K_d of a PID controller). The adjustment may be determined using a predetermined weighted formula based on the first, second, and/or third feedback parameters. Each of the feedback parameters may be associated with a specific weight factor or weight coefficient, which may be determined or modeled offline by data analytics system 103. The adjustment is then utilized by speed controller 306 to adjust or modify one or more speed control parameters. Thereafter, speed controller 306 generates subsequent speed control commands using the adjusted speed control parameter(s).

[0049] Figure 6 is a flow diagram illustrating a process of adjusting a speed control parameter of a speed controller for operating an autonomous driving vehicle according to one embodiment of the invention. Process 600 may be performed by processing logic which may include software, hardware, or a combination thereof. For example, process 600 may be performed by control module 305 of Figure 3. Referring to Figure 6, in operation 601, processing logic determines a first feedback parameter based on an expected speed and an actual speed of an ADV in response to a speed control command that was issued based on a target speed. In operation 602, processing logic determines a second feedback parameter by applying an SPCA model to a set of input parameters that are obtained in real-time. The set of input parameters represents a driving environment of the ADV at the point in time (e.g., weather condition, road condition, wind resistance, map and point of interest, tire pressure). In operation 603, processing logic dynamically adjusts one or more control parameters (e.g., coefficients, gains) of a speed controller that issues the speed control command based on the first and second feedback parameters. In operation 604, processing logic generates a subsequent speed control command based on the adjusted control parameter(s) of the speed controller.

[0050] Note that some or all of the components as shown and described above may be implemented in software, hardware, or a combination thereof. For example, such components can be implemented as software installed and stored in a persistent storage device, which can be loaded and executed in a memory by a processor (not shown) to carry out the processes or operations described throughout this application. Alternatively, such components can be implemented as executable code programmed or embedded into dedicated hardware such as an integrated circuit (e.g., an application specific IC or ASIC), a digital signal processor (DSP), or a field programmable gate array (FPGA), which can be accessed via a corresponding driver and/or operating system from an application. Furthermore, such components can be implemented as

specific hardware logic in a processor or processor core as part of an instruction set accessible by a software component via one or more specific instructions.

[0051] Figure 7 is a block diagram illustrating an example of a data processing system which may be used with one embodiment of the invention. For example, system 1500 may represent any of data processing systems described above performing any of the processes or methods described above, such as, for example, perception and planning system 110 or any of servers 103-104 of Figure 1. System 1500 can include many different components. These components can be implemented as integrated circuits (ICs), portions thereof, discrete electronic devices, or other modules adapted to a circuit board such as a motherboard or add-in card of the computer system, or as components otherwise incorporated within a chassis of the computer system.

[0052] Note also that system 1500 is intended to show a high level view of many components of the computer system. However, it is to be understood that additional components may be present in certain implementations and furthermore, different arrangement of the components shown may occur in other implementations. System 1500 may represent a desktop, a laptop, a tablet, a server, a mobile phone, a media player, a personal digital assistant (PDA), a Smartwatch, a personal communicator, a gaming device, a network router or hub, a wireless access point (AP) or repeater, a set-top box, or a combination thereof. Further, while only a single machine or system is illustrated, the term “machine” or “system” shall also be taken to include any collection of machines or systems that individually or jointly execute a set (or multiple sets) of instructions to perform any one or more of the methodologies discussed herein.

[0053] In one embodiment, system 1500 includes processor 1501, memory 1503, and devices 1505-1508 via a bus or an interconnect 1510. Processor 1501 may represent a single processor or multiple processors with a single processor core or multiple processor cores included therein. Processor 1501 may represent one or more general-purpose processors such as a microprocessor, a central processing unit (CPU), or the like. More particularly, processor 1501 may be a complex instruction set computing (CISC) microprocessor, reduced instruction set computing (RISC) microprocessor, very long instruction word (VLIW) microprocessor, or processor implementing other instruction sets, or processors implementing a combination of instruction sets. Processor 1501 may also be one or more special-purpose processors such as an application specific integrated circuit (ASIC), a cellular or baseband processor, a field programmable gate array (FPGA), a digital signal processor (DSP), a network processor, a graphics processor, a network processor, a communications processor, a cryptographic processor, a co-processor, an embedded processor, or any other type of logic capable of processing instructions.

[0054] Processor 1501, which may be a low power multi-core processor socket such as an ultra-low voltage processor, may act as a main processing unit and central hub for communication with the various components of the system. Such processor can be implemented as a system on chip (SoC). Processor 1501 is configured to execute instructions for performing the operations and steps discussed herein. System 1500 may further include a graphics interface that communicates with optional graphics subsystem 1504, which may include a display controller, a graphics processor, and/or a display device.

[0055] Processor 1501 may communicate with memory 1503, which in one embodiment can be implemented via multiple memory devices to provide for a given amount of system memory. Memory 1503 may include one or more volatile storage (or memory) devices such as random access memory (RAM), dynamic RAM (DRAM), synchronous DRAM (SDRAM), static RAM (SRAM), or other types of storage devices. Memory 1503 may store information including sequences of instructions that are executed by processor 1501, or any other device. For example, executable code and/or data of a variety of operating systems, device drivers, firmware (e.g., input output basic system or BIOS), and/or applications can be loaded in memory 1503 and executed by processor 1501. An operating system can be any kind of operating systems, such as, for example, Robot Operating System (ROS), Windows[®] operating system from Microsoft[®], Mac OS[®]/iOS[®] from Apple, Android[®] from Google[®], LINUX, UNIX, or other real-time or embedded operating systems.

[0056] System 1500 may further include IO devices such as devices 1505-1508, including network interface device(s) 1505, optional input device(s) 1506, and other optional IO device(s) 1507. Network interface device 1505 may include a wireless transceiver and/or a network interface card (NIC). The wireless transceiver may be a WiFi transceiver, an infrared transceiver, a Bluetooth transceiver, a WiMax transceiver, a wireless cellular telephony transceiver, a satellite transceiver (e.g., a global positioning system (GPS) transceiver), or other radio frequency (RF) transceivers, or a combination thereof. The NIC may be an Ethernet card.

[0057] Input device(s) 1506 may include a mouse, a touch pad, a touch sensitive screen (which may be integrated with display device 1504), a pointer device such as a stylus, and/or a keyboard (e.g., physical keyboard or a virtual keyboard displayed as part of a touch sensitive screen). For example, input device 1506 may include a touch screen controller coupled to a touch screen. The touch screen and touch screen controller can, for example, detect contact and movement or break thereof using any of a plurality of touch sensitivity technologies, including but not limited to capacitive, resistive, infrared, and surface acoustic wave technologies, as well as other proximity

sensor arrays or other elements for determining one or more points of contact with the touch screen.

[0058] IO devices 1507 may include an audio device. An audio device may include a speaker and/or a microphone to facilitate voice-enabled functions, such as voice recognition, voice replication, digital recording, and/or telephony functions. Other IO devices 1507 may further include universal serial bus (USB) port(s), parallel port(s), serial port(s), a printer, a network interface, a bus bridge (e.g., a PCI-PCI bridge), sensor(s) (e.g., a motion sensor such as an accelerometer, gyroscope, a magnetometer, a light sensor, compass, a proximity sensor, etc.), or a combination thereof. Devices 1507 may further include an imaging processing subsystem (e.g., a camera), which may include an optical sensor, such as a charged coupled device (CCD) or a complementary metal-oxide semiconductor (CMOS) optical sensor, utilized to facilitate camera functions, such as recording photographs and video clips. Certain sensors may be coupled to interconnect 1510 via a sensor hub (not shown), while other devices such as a keyboard or thermal sensor may be controlled by an embedded controller (not shown), dependent upon the specific configuration or design of system 1500.

[0059] To provide for persistent storage of information such as data, applications, one or more operating systems and so forth, a mass storage (not shown) may also couple to processor 1501. In various embodiments, to enable a thinner and lighter system design as well as to improve system responsiveness, this mass storage may be implemented via a solid state device (SSD). However in other embodiments, the mass storage may primarily be implemented using a hard disk drive (HDD) with a smaller amount of SSD storage to act as a SSD cache to enable non-volatile storage of context state and other such information during power down events so that a fast power up can occur on re-initiation of system activities. Also a flash device may be coupled to processor 1501, e.g., via a serial peripheral interface (SPI). This flash device may provide for non-volatile storage of system software, including BIOS as well as other firmware of the system.

[0060] Storage device 1508 may include computer-accessible storage medium 1509 (also known as a machine-readable storage medium or a computer-readable medium) on which is stored one or more sets of instructions or software (e.g., module, unit, and/or logic 1528) embodying any one or more of the methodologies or functions described herein. Processing module/unit/logic 1528 may represent any of the components described above, such as, for example, planning module 304 and/or control module 305. Processing module/unit/logic 1528 may also reside, completely or at least partially, within memory 1503 and/or within processor 1501 during execution thereof by data processing system 1500, memory 1503 and processor 1501 also

constituting machine-accessible storage media. Processing module/unit/logic 1528 may further be transmitted or received over a network via network interface device 1505.

[0061] Computer-readable storage medium 1509 may also be used to store the some software functionalities described above persistently. While computer-readable storage medium 1509 is shown in an exemplary embodiment to be a single medium, the term “computer-readable storage medium” should be taken to include a single medium or multiple media (e.g., a centralized or distributed database, and/or associated caches and servers) that store the one or more sets of instructions. The terms “computer-readable storage medium” shall also be taken to include any medium that is capable of storing or encoding a set of instructions for execution by the machine and that cause the machine to perform any one or more of the methodologies of the present invention. The term “computer-readable storage medium” shall accordingly be taken to include, but not be limited to, solid-state memories, and optical and magnetic media, or any other non-transitory machine-readable medium.

[0062] Processing module/unit/logic 1528, components and other features described herein can be implemented as discrete hardware components or integrated in the functionality of hardware components such as ASICS, FPGAs, DSPs or similar devices. In addition, processing module/unit/logic 1528 can be implemented as firmware or functional circuitry within hardware devices. Further, processing module/unit/logic 1528 can be implemented in any combination hardware devices and software components.

[0063] Note that while system 1500 is illustrated with various components of a data processing system, it is not intended to represent any particular architecture or manner of interconnecting the components; as such details are not germane to embodiments of the present invention. It will also be appreciated that network computers, handheld computers, mobile phones, servers, and/or other data processing systems which have fewer components or perhaps more components may also be used with embodiments of the invention.

[0064] Some portions of the preceding detailed descriptions have been presented in terms of algorithms and symbolic representations of operations on data bits within a computer memory. These algorithmic descriptions and representations are the ways used by those skilled in the data processing arts to most effectively convey the substance of their work to others skilled in the art. An algorithm is here, and generally, conceived to be a self-consistent sequence of operations leading to a desired result. The operations are those requiring physical manipulations of physical quantities.

[0065] It should be borne in mind, however, that all of these and similar terms are to be associated with the appropriate physical quantities and are merely convenient labels applied to

these quantities. Unless specifically stated otherwise as apparent from the above discussion, it is appreciated that throughout the description, discussions utilizing terms such as those set forth in the claims below, refer to the action and processes of a computer system, or similar electronic computing device, that manipulates and transforms data represented as physical (electronic) quantities within the computer system's registers and memories into other data similarly represented as physical quantities within the computer system memories or registers or other such information storage, transmission or display devices.

[0066] Embodiments of the invention also relate to an apparatus for performing the operations herein. Such a computer program is stored in a non-transitory computer readable medium. A machine-readable medium includes any mechanism for storing information in a form readable by a machine (e.g., a computer). For example, a machine-readable (e.g., computer-readable) medium includes a machine (e.g., a computer) readable storage medium (e.g., read only memory (“ROM”), random access memory (“RAM”), magnetic disk storage media, optical storage media, flash memory devices).

[0067] The processes or methods depicted in the preceding figures may be performed by processing logic that comprises hardware (e.g. circuitry, dedicated logic, etc.), software (e.g., embodied on a non-transitory computer readable medium), or a combination of both. Although the processes or methods are described above in terms of some sequential operations, it should be appreciated that some of the operations described may be performed in a different order. Moreover, some operations may be performed in parallel rather than sequentially.

[0068] Embodiments of the present invention are not described with reference to any particular programming language. It will be appreciated that a variety of programming languages may be used to implement the teachings of embodiments of the invention as described herein.

[0069] In the foregoing specification, embodiments of the invention have been described with reference to specific exemplary embodiments thereof. It will be evident that various modifications may be made thereto without departing from the broader spirit and scope of the invention as set forth in the following claims. The specification and drawings are, accordingly, to be regarded in an illustrative sense rather than a restrictive sense.

CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1. A computer-implemented method for operating an autonomous driving vehicle (ADV), the method comprising:
 - determining a first feedback parameter based on an expected speed and an actual speed of the ADV in response to a speed control command issued based on a target speed;
 - determining a second feedback parameter by applying a speed control parameter adjustment (SCPA) model to a set of input parameters that are obtained in real-time, the set of input parameters representing a driving environment of the ADV at a point in time;
 - dynamically adjusting a control parameter of a speed controller that issued the speed control command based on the first feedback parameter and the second feedback parameter; and
 - generating a subsequent speed control command based on the adjusted control parameter of the speed controller for a subsequent command cycle.
2. The method of claim 1, wherein the control parameter of the speed controller is adjusted further based on the speed control command as a third feedback parameter representing a prior speed control command of a prior command cycle for a next speed control command of a next command cycle.
3. The method of claim 2, wherein the control parameter of the speed controller is adjusted using a predetermined weighted algorithm based on the first, second, and third feedback parameters, wherein each of the first, second, and third feedback parameters is associated with an individual weight factor.
4. The method of claim 2, wherein the speed control command comprises a throttle percentage of a maximum throttle command value.
5. The method of claim 1, further comprising determining the expected speed using a powertrain reference model associated with the ADV based on the target speed.

6. The method of claim 5, wherein the powertrain reference model was created based on engine, transmission, and driveline parameters associated with the ADV.
7. The method of claim 1, wherein the set of input parameters comprises at least one of a weather condition, road condition, wind resistance, map location, vehicle weight, or tire pressure measured at the point in time.
8. The method of claim 7, wherein the set of input parameters further comprises a user driving preference of a passenger riding in the ADV at the point in time.
9. A non-transitory machine-readable medium having instructions stored therein, which when executed by a processor, cause the processor to perform operations, the operations comprising:
 - determining a first feedback parameter based on an expected speed and an actual speed of the ADV in response to a speed control command issued based on a target speed;
 - determining a second feedback parameter by applying a speed control parameter adjustment (SCPA) model to a set of input parameters that are obtained in real-time, the set of input parameters representing a driving environment of the ADV at a point in time;
 - dynamically adjusting a control parameter of a speed controller that issued the speed control command based on the first feedback parameter and the second feedback parameter; and
 - generating a subsequent speed control command based on the adjusted control parameter of the speed controller for a subsequent command cycle.
10. The machine-readable medium of claim 9, wherein the control parameter of the speed controller is adjusted further based on the speed control command as a third feedback parameter representing a prior speed control command of a prior command cycle for a next speed control command of a next command cycle.
11. The machine-readable medium of claim 10, wherein the control parameter of the speed controller is adjusted using a predetermined weighted algorithm based on the first, second, and third feedback parameters, wherein each of the first, second, and third feedback parameters is associated with an individual weight factor.

12. The machine-readable medium of claim 10, wherein the speed control command comprises a throttle percentage of a maximum throttle command value.
13. The machine-readable medium of claim 9, wherein the operations further comprise determining the expected speed using a powertrain reference model associated with the ADV based on the target speed.
14. The machine-readable medium of claim 13, wherein the powertrain reference model was created based on engine, transmission, and driveline parameters associated with the ADV.
15. The machine-readable medium of claim 9, wherein the set of input parameters comprises at least one of a weather condition, road condition, wind resistance, map location, vehicle weight, or tire pressure measured at the point in time.
16. The machine-readable medium of claim 15, wherein the set of input parameters further comprises a user driving preference of a passenger riding in the ADV at the point in time.
17. A data processing system, comprising:
 - a processor; and
 - a memory coupled to the processor to store instructions, which when executed by the processor, cause the processor to perform operations, the operations including
 - determining a first feedback parameter based on an expected speed and an actual speed of the ADV in response to a speed control command issued based on a target speed,
 - determining a second feedback parameter by applying a speed control parameter adjustment (SCPA) model to a set of input parameters that are obtained in real-time, the set of input parameters representing a driving environment of the ADV at a point in time,
 - dynamically adjusting a control parameter of a speed controller that issued the speed control command based on the first feedback parameter and the second feedback parameter, and
 - generating a subsequent speed control command based on the adjusted control parameter of the speed controller for a subsequent command cycle.

18. The system of claim 17, wherein the control parameter of the speed controller is adjusted further based on the speed control command as a third feedback parameter representing a prior speed control command of a prior command cycle for a next speed control command of a next command cycle.
19. The system of claim 18, wherein the control parameter of the speed controller is adjusted using a predetermined weighted algorithm based on the first, second, and third feedback parameters, wherein each of the first, second, and third feedback parameters is associated with an individual weight factor.
20. The system of claim 18, wherein the speed control command comprises a throttle percentage of a maximum throttle command value.
21. The system of claim 17, wherein the operations further comprise determining the expected speed using a powertrain reference model associated with the ADV based on the target speed.
22. The system of claim 21, wherein the powertrain reference model was created based on engine, transmission, and driveline parameters associated with the ADV.
23. The system of claim 17, wherein the set of input parameters comprises at least one of a weather condition, road condition, wind resistance, map location, vehicle weight, or tire pressure measured at the point in time.
24. The system of claim 23, wherein the set of input parameters further comprises a user driving preference of a passenger riding in the ADV at the point in time.

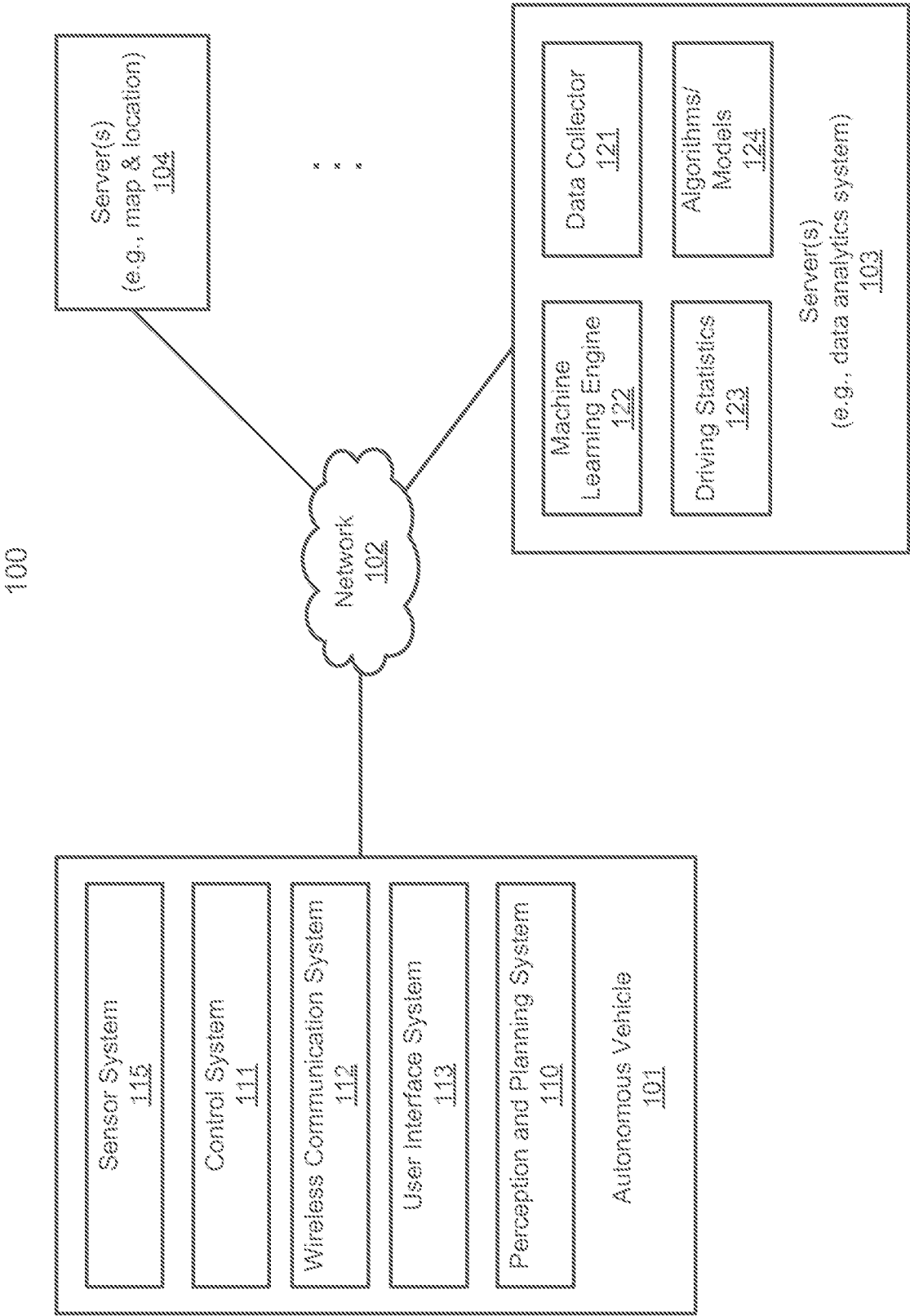


FIG. 1

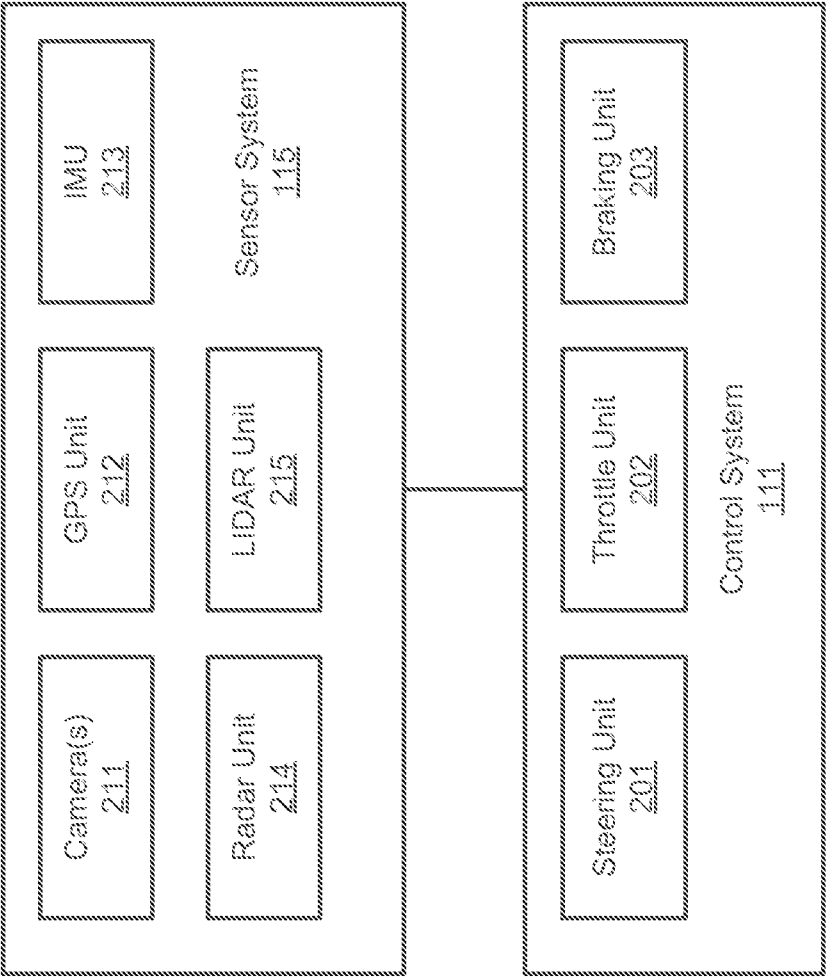


FIG. 2

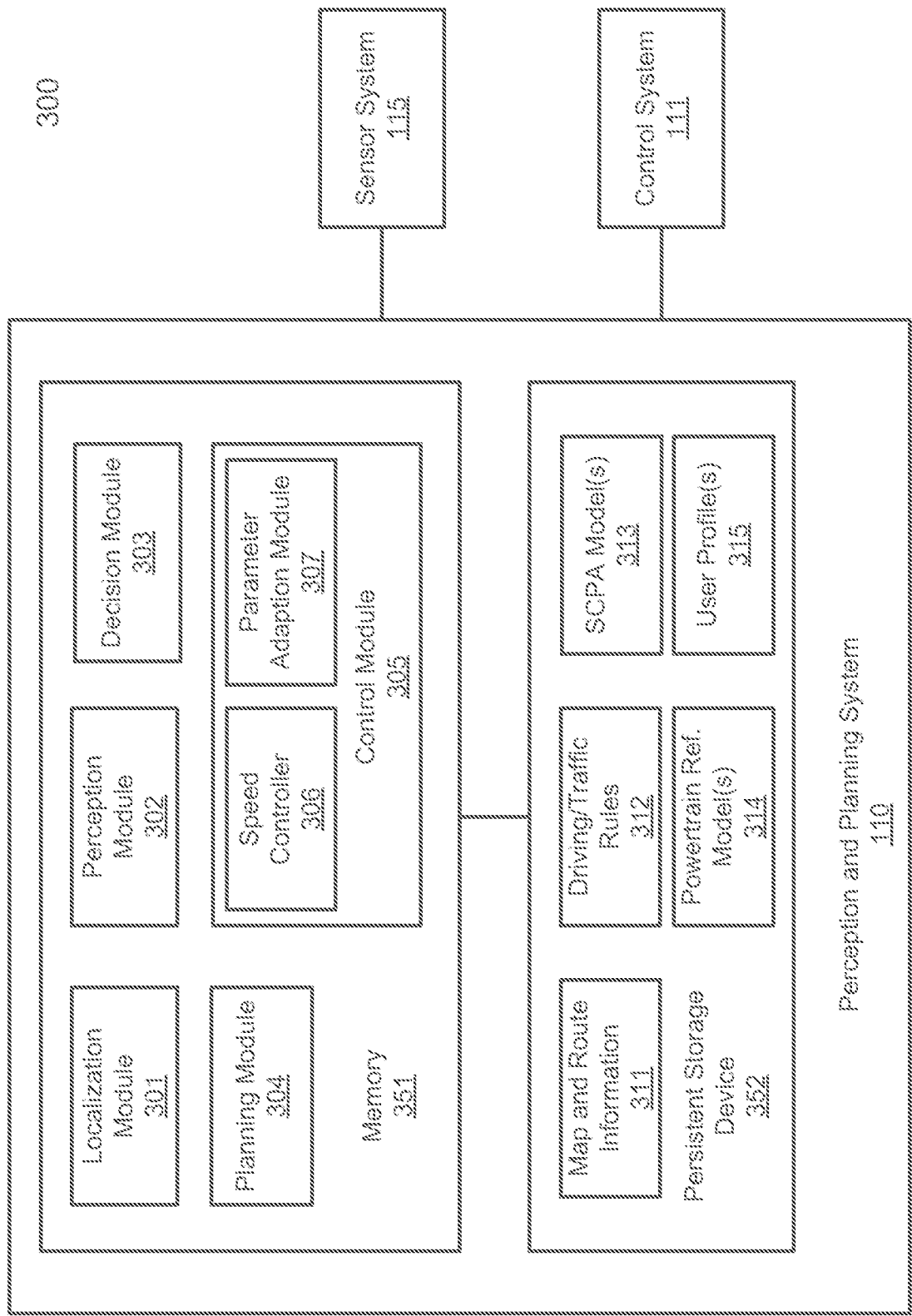


FIG. 3

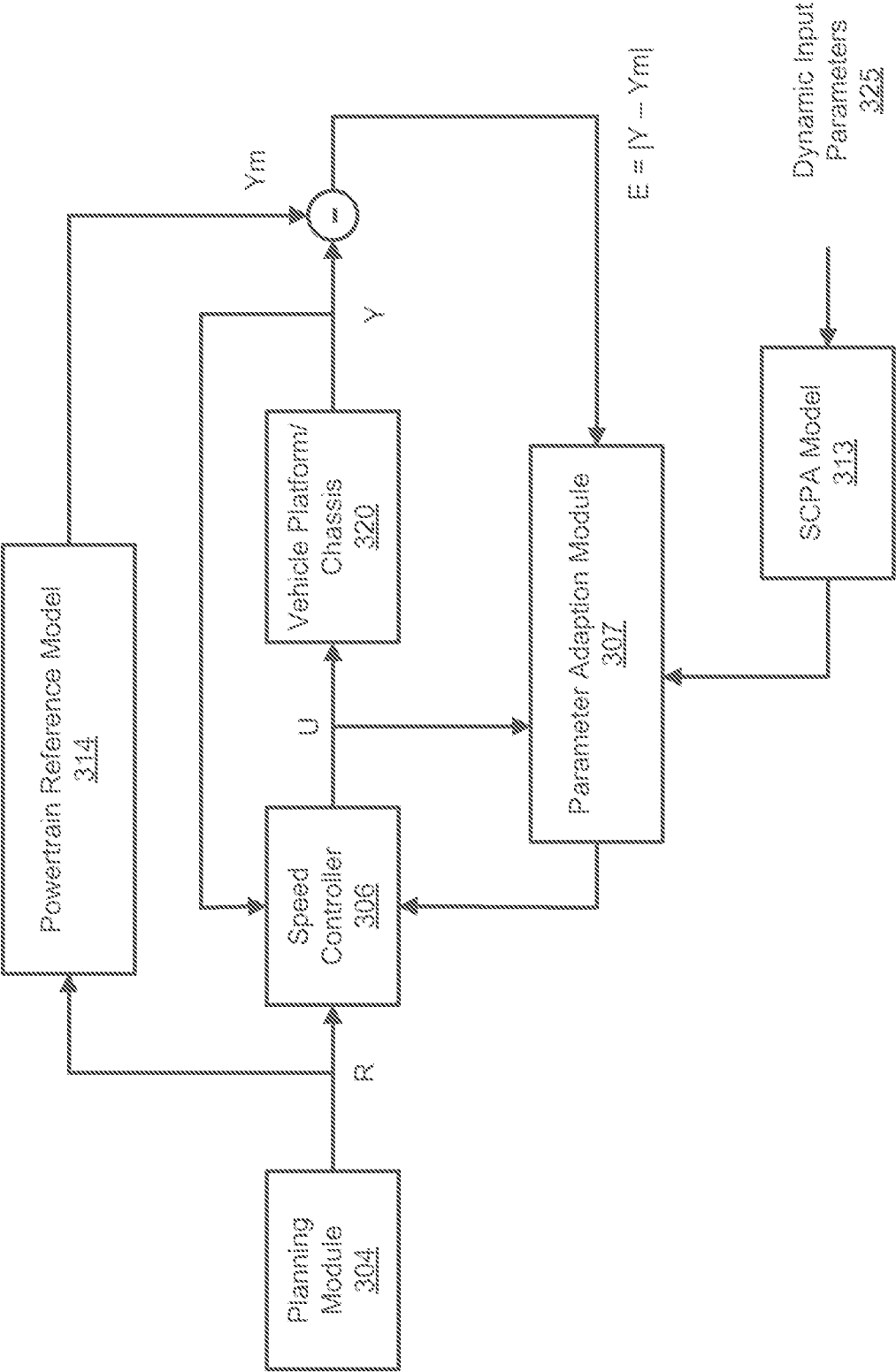


FIG. 4

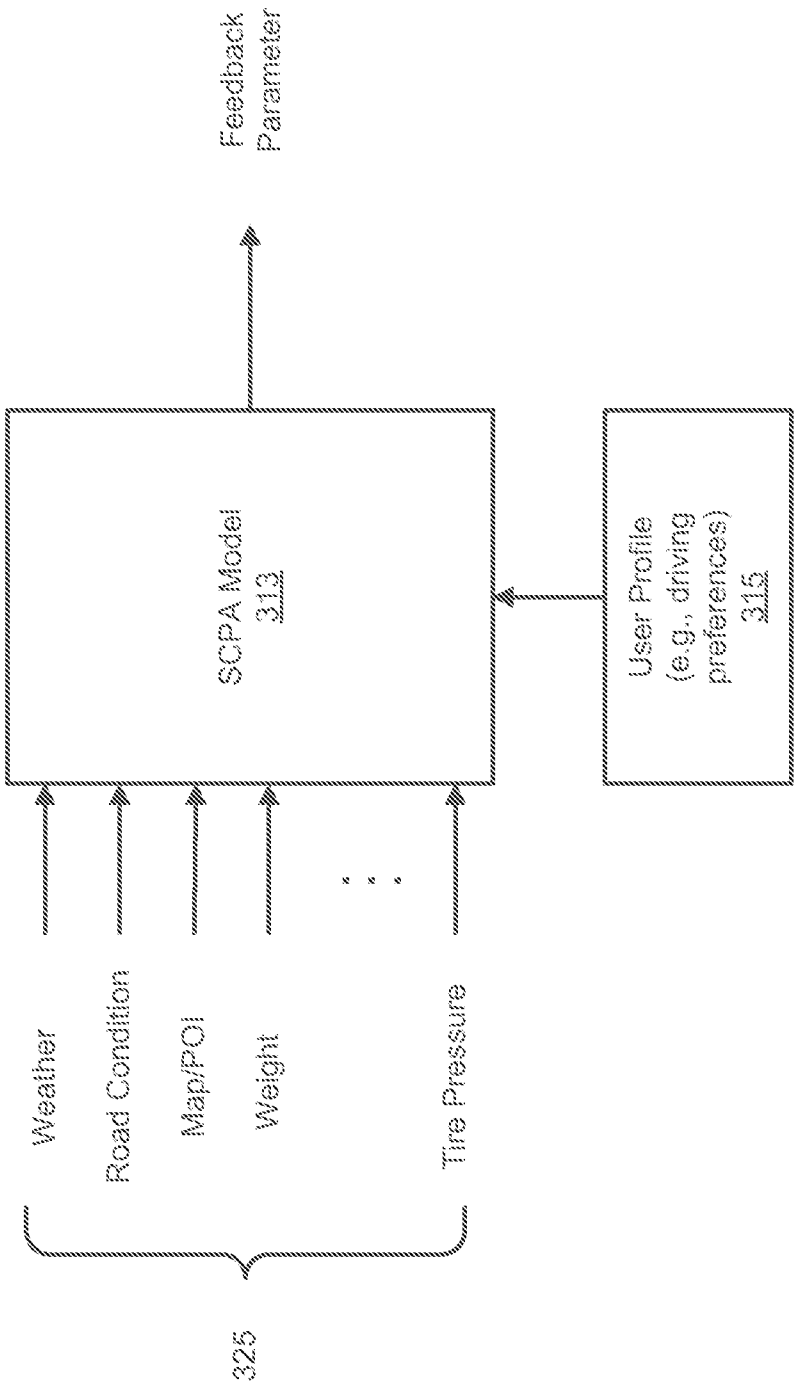


FIG. 5

600

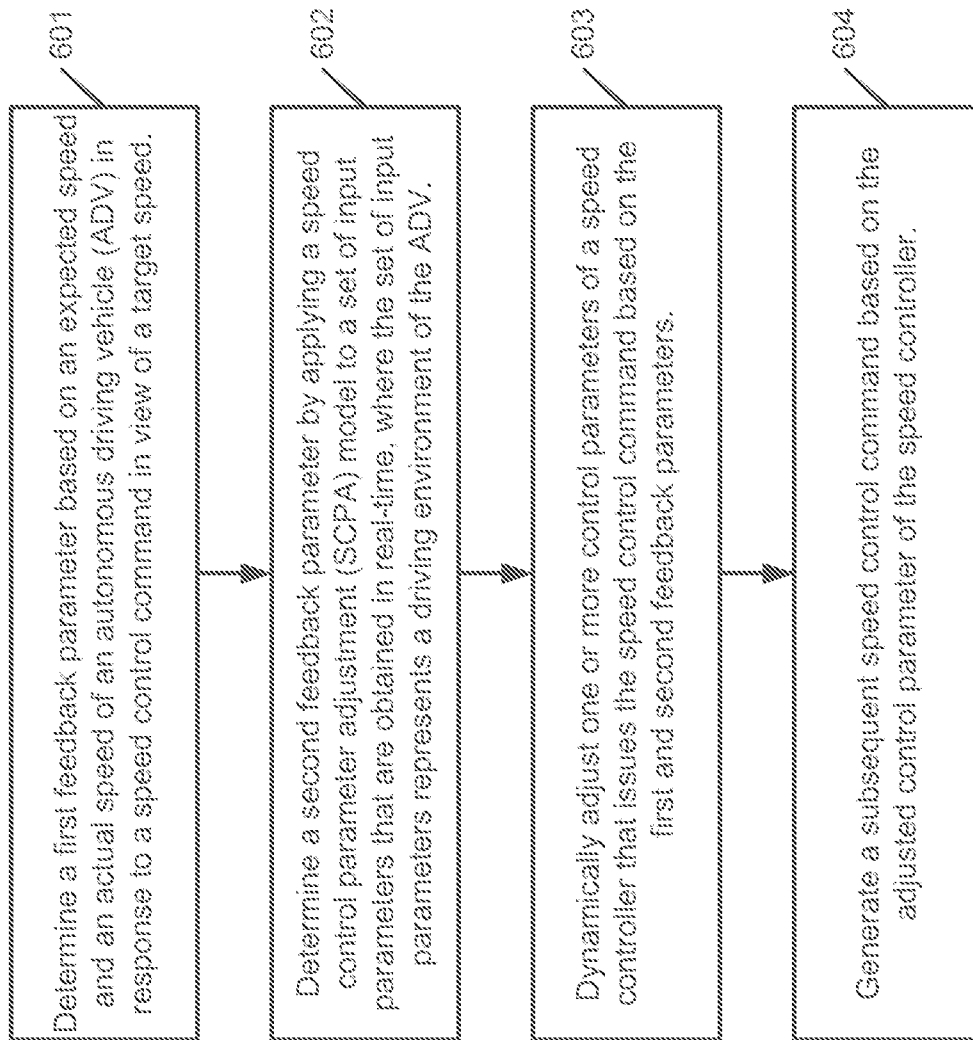


FIG. 6

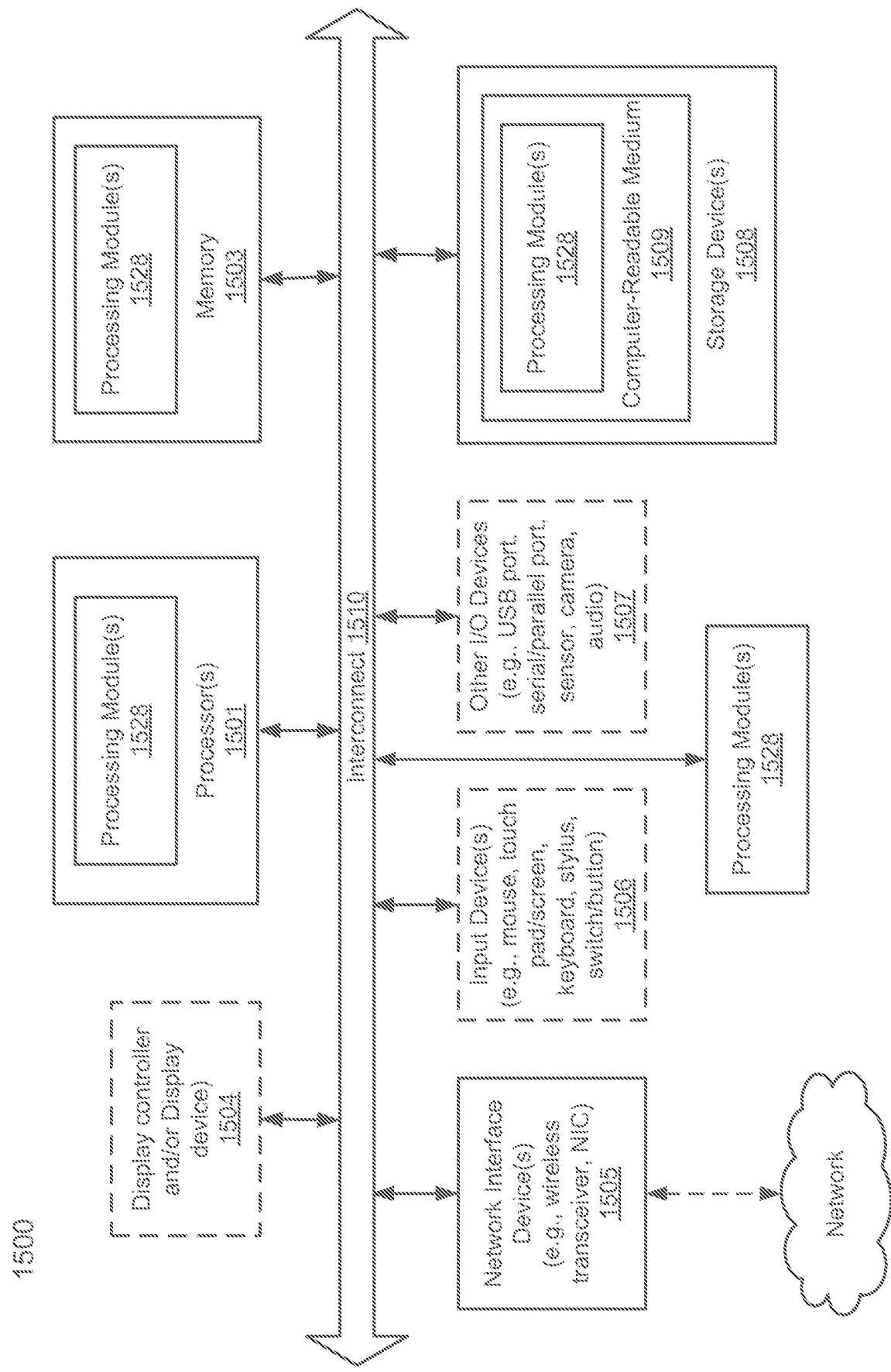


FIG. 7

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No.

PCT/US2017/033923

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER

IPC(8) - G01C 21/00; G01C 3/00; G06N 3/08; G06N 99/00; H04N 3/15 (2017.01)

CPC - G05D 1/024; G05D 1/027; G01S 17/023; G01S 17/936; G05D 1/0214; G05D 1/0246; G05D 1/0248; G05D 1/0274; G05D 1/0278; G05D 2201/0213; G06N 3/08; G06N 99/005; G08G 1/16; H04N 3/1562 (2017.02)

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)

See Search History document

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

USPC - 701/301; 180/167; 701/28; 701/523; 706/25 (keyword delimited)

Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practicable, search terms used)

See Search History document

C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Catégorie*	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
X	US 8,280,623 B2 (TREPAGNIER et al) 02 October 2012 (02.10.2012) entire document	1-24
A	US 9,015,092 B2 (SINYAVSKIY et al) 21 April 2015 (21.04.2015) entire document	1-24
A	US 20130325775 A1 (SINYAVSKIY et al) 05 December 2013 (05.12.2013) entire document	1-24
A	WO 2001/038825 A1 (YANG et al.) 31 May 2001 (31.05.2001) entire document	1-24

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

* Special categories of cited documents:

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"P" document published prior to the international filing date but later than the priority date claimed

"T" later document published after the international filing date or priority date and not in conflict with the application but cited to understand the principle or theory underlying the invention

"X" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered novel or cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is taken alone

"Y" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is combined with one or more other such documents, such combination being obvious to a person skilled in the art

"&" document member of the same patent family

Date of the actual completion of the international search

12 July 2017

Date of mailing of the international search report

04 AUG 2017

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