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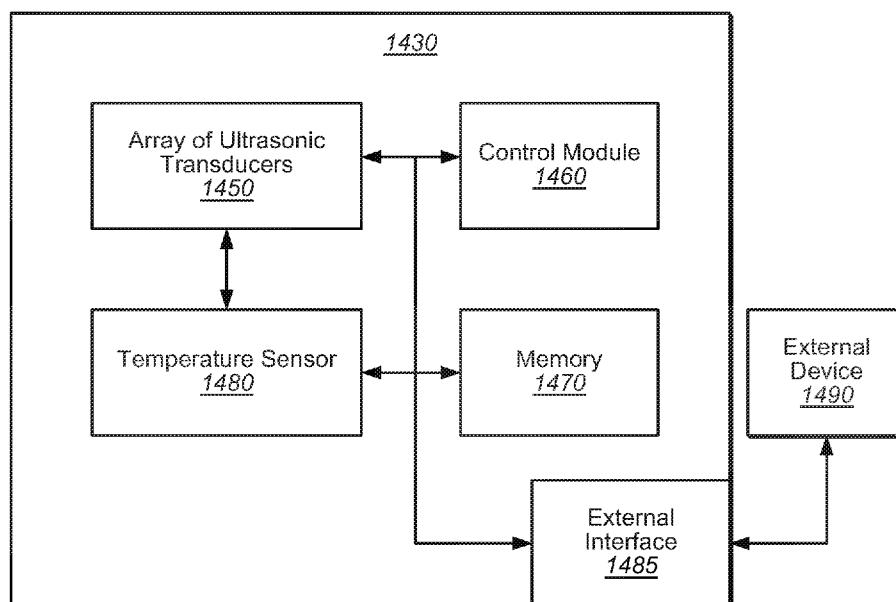


FIG. 14B

(57) Abstract: An electronic device including an array of ultrasonic transducers, a temperature sensor for determining a temperature of the array of ultrasonic transducers, and a control module communicatively coupled to the array of ultrasonic devices and the temperature sensor. The control module is for receiving the temperature and for controlling operation of the array of ultrasonic transducers based at least in part on the temperature.

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A SENSING DEVICE WITH A TEMPERATURE SENSOR

RELATED APPLICATIONS

[0001] This application claims priority to and the benefit of co-pending U.S. Provisional Patent Application 62/334,413, filed on May 10, 2016, entitled "SUPPLEMENTAL SENSOR MODES AND SYSTEMS FOR ULTRASONIC TRANSDUCERS," by Daneman, having Attorney Docket No. IVS-689.PR, and assigned to the assignee of the present application, which is incorporated herein by reference in its entirety.

[0002] This application is also a continuation of, and claims priority to, co-pending U.S. Patent Application No. 15/424,720, filed on February 3, 2017, entitled "SENSING DEVICE WITH A TEMPERATURE SENSOR" by Apte et al., having Attorney Docket No. IVS-683, and assigned to the assignee of the present application, which is incorporated herein by reference in its entirety.

BACKGROUND

[0003] Conventional fingerprint sensing solutions are available and deployed in consumer products, such as smartphones and other type of mobile devices. Common fingerprint sensor technologies generally rely on (1) a sensor and (2) a processing element. When the sensor is turned on, the sensor can take or can direct the device to take an image, which is digitized (e.g., level of brightness is encoded into a digital format), and send the image to the processing element. However, finger print sensors typically consume substantial amount of power (e.g., hundreds of μ Watts to several mWatts) and, therefore, may present a considerable drain on power resources of the mobile device by rapidly draining the battery of the mobile device.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

[0004] The accompanying drawings, which are incorporated in and form a part of the Description of Embodiments, illustrate various embodiments of the subject matter and, together with the Description of Embodiments, serve to explain principles of the subject matter discussed below. Unless specifically noted, the drawings referred to in this Brief Description of Drawings should be understood as not being drawn to scale. Herein, like items are labeled with like item numbers.

[0005] FIG. 1 is a diagram illustrating a PMUT device having a center pinned membrane, according to some embodiments.

[0006] FIG. 2 is a diagram illustrating an example of membrane movement during activation of a PMUT device, according to some embodiments.

[0007] FIG. 3 is a top view of the PMUT device of FIG. 1, according to some embodiments.

[0008] FIG. 4 is a simulated map illustrating maximum vertical displacement of the membrane of the PMUT device shown in FIGs. 1-3, according to some embodiments.

[0009] FIG. 5 is a top view of an example PMUT device having a circular shape, according to some embodiments.

[0010] FIG. 6 is a top view of an example PMUT device having a hexagonal shape, according to some embodiments.

[0011] FIG. 7 illustrates an example array of circular-shaped PMUT devices, according to some embodiments.

[0012] FIG. 8 illustrates an example array of square-shaped PMUT devices, according to some embodiments.

[0013] FIG. 9 illustrates an example array of hexagonal-shaped PMUT devices, according to some embodiments.

[0014] FIG. 10 illustrates an example pair of PMUT devices in a PMUT array, with each PMUT having differing electrode patterning, according to some embodiments.

[0015] FIGs. 11A, 11B, 11C, and 11D illustrate alternative examples of interior support structures, according to various embodiments.

[0016] FIG. 12 illustrates a PMUT array used in an ultrasonic fingerprint sensing system, according to some embodiments.

[0017] FIG. 13 illustrates an integrated fingerprint sensor formed by wafer bonding a CMOS logic wafer and a microelectromechanical (MEMS) wafer defining PMUT devices, according to some embodiments.

[0018] FIG. 14A illustrates an example of an operational environment for sensing of human touch, according to some embodiments.

[0019] FIG. 14B illustrates an example sensing device including a temperature sensor, in accordance with various embodiments.

[0020] FIG. 15 illustrates an example transmit path architecture of a two-dimensional array of ultrasonic transducers, according to some embodiments.

[0021] FIG. 16 illustrates an example receive path architecture of a two-dimensional array of ultrasonic transducers, according to some embodiments.

[0022] FIG. 17 illustrates a flow diagram of an example method for operating a fingerprint sensor comprised of ultrasonic transducers and a temperature sensor, according to various embodiments.

DESCRIPTION OF EMBODIMENTS

[0023] The following Description of Embodiments is merely provided by way of example and not of limitation. Furthermore, there is no intention to be bound by any expressed or implied theory presented in the preceding background or in the following Description of Embodiments.

[0024] Reference will now be made in detail to various embodiments of the subject matter, examples of which are illustrated in the accompanying drawings. While various embodiments are discussed herein, it will be understood that they are not intended to limit to these embodiments. On the contrary, the presented embodiments are intended to cover alternatives, modifications and equivalents, which may be included within the spirit and scope the various embodiments as defined by the appended claims. Furthermore, in this Description of Embodiments, numerous specific details are set forth in order to provide a thorough understanding of embodiments of the present subject matter. However, embodiments may be practiced without these specific details. In other instances, well known methods, procedures, components, and circuits have not been described in detail as not to unnecessarily obscure aspects of the described embodiments.

Notation and Nomenclature

[0025] Some portions of the detailed descriptions which follow are presented in terms of procedures, logic blocks, processing and other symbolic representations of operations on data within an electrical device. These descriptions and representations are the means used by those skilled in the data processing arts to most effectively convey the substance of their work to others skilled in the art. In the present application, a procedure, logic block, process, or the like, is conceived to be one or more self-consistent procedures or instructions leading to a desired result. The procedures are those requiring physical manipulations of physical quantities. Usually, although not necessarily, these quantities take the form of acoustic (e.g., ultrasonic) signals capable of being transmitted and received by an electronic device and/or electrical or magnetic signals capable of being stored, transferred, combined, compared, and otherwise manipulated in an electrical device.

[0026] 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 following discussions, it is appreciated that throughout the description of embodiments, discussions utilizing terms such as “adjusting” “determining,” “controlling,” “activating,” “detecting,” “interacting,” “capturing,” “sensing,” “generating,” “imaging,” “performing,” “comparing,” “updating,” “transmitting,” “entering,” or the like, refer to the actions and processes of an electronic device such as an electrical device.

[0027] Embodiments described herein may be discussed in the general context of processor-executable instructions residing on some form of non-transitory processor-readable medium, such as program modules, executed by one or more computers or other devices. Generally, program modules include routines, programs, objects, components, data structures, etc., that perform particular tasks or implement particular abstract data types. The functionality of the program modules may be combined or distributed as desired in various embodiments.

[0028] In the figures, a single block may be described as performing a function or functions; however, in actual practice, the function or functions performed by that block may be performed in a single component or across multiple components, and/or may be performed using hardware, using software, or using a combination of hardware and software. To clearly illustrate this interchangeability of hardware and software, various illustrative components, blocks, modules, logic, circuits, and steps have been described generally in terms of their functionality. Whether such functionality is implemented as hardware or software depends upon the particular application and design constraints imposed on the overall system. Skilled artisans may implement the described functionality in varying ways for each particular application, but such implementation decisions should not be interpreted as causing a departure from the scope of the present disclosure. Also, the example fingerprint sensing system and/or mobile electronic device described herein may include components other than those shown, including well-known components.

[0029] Various techniques described herein may be implemented in hardware, software, firmware, or any combination thereof, unless specifically described as being implemented in a specific manner. Any features described as modules or components may also be implemented together in an integrated logic device or separately as discrete but interoperable logic devices. If implemented in software, the techniques may be realized at least in part by a non-transitory processor-readable storage medium comprising instructions that, when executed, perform one or more of the methods described herein. The non-transitory processor-readable data storage medium may form part of a computer program product, which may include packaging materials.

[0030] The non-transitory processor-readable storage medium may comprise random access memory (RAM) such as synchronous dynamic random access memory (SDRAM), read only memory (ROM), non-volatile random access memory (NVRAM), electrically erasable programmable read-only memory (EEPROM), FLASH memory, other known storage media, and the like. The techniques additionally, or alternatively, may be realized at least in part by a processor-readable communication medium that carries or communicates code in the form of instructions or data structures and that can be accessed, read, and/or executed by a computer or other processor.

[0031] Various embodiments described herein may be executed by one or more processors, such as one or more motion processing units (MPUs), sensor processing units (SPUs), host processor(s) or core(s) thereof, digital signal processors (DSPs), general purpose microprocessors, application specific integrated circuits (ASICs), application specific instruction set processors (ASIPs), field programmable gate arrays (FPGAs), a programmable logic controller (PLC), a complex programmable logic device (CPLD), a discrete gate or transistor logic, discrete hardware components, or any combination thereof designed to perform the functions described herein, or other equivalent integrated or discrete logic circuitry. The term “processor,” as used herein may refer to any of the foregoing structures or any other structure suitable for implementation of the techniques described herein. As it employed in the subject specification, the term “processor” can refer to substantially any computing processing unit or device comprising, but not limited to comprising, single-core processors; single-processors with software multithread execution capability; multi-core processors; multi-core processors with software multithread execution capability; multi-core processors with hardware multithread technology; parallel platforms; and parallel platforms with distributed shared memory. Moreover, processors can exploit nano-scale architectures such as, but not limited to, molecular and quantum-dot based transistors, switches and gates, in order to optimize space usage or enhance performance of user equipment. A processor may also be implemented as a combination of computing processing units.

[0032] In addition, in some aspects, the functionality described herein may be provided within dedicated software modules or hardware modules configured as described herein. Also, the techniques could be fully implemented in one or more circuits or logic elements. A general purpose processor may be a microprocessor, but in the alternative, the processor may be any conventional processor, controller, microcontroller, or state machine. A processor may also be implemented as a combination of computing devices, e.g., a combination of an SPU/MPU and a microprocessor, a plurality of microprocessors, one or more microprocessors in conjunction with an SPU core, MPU core, or any other such configuration.

Overview of Discussion

[0033] Discussion begins with a description of an example piezoelectric micromachined ultrasonic transducer (PMUT), in accordance with various embodiments. Example arrays including PMUT devices are then described. Example operations of example arrays of ultrasonic transducers (e.g., PMUT devices) are then further described. Examples of a sensing device including a temperature sensor, and operations pertaining to the use of a fingerprint sensor using a temperature, are then described.

[0034] Embodiments described herein relate to a method of operating a two-dimensional array of ultrasonic transducers. When an ultrasonic transducer, such as a PMUT device, transmits an ultrasonic signal, the ultrasonic signal typically does not transmit as a straight line. Rather, the ultrasonic signal will transmit to a wider area. For instance, when traveling through a transmission medium, the ultrasonic signal will diffract, thus transmitting to a wide area.

[0035] Embodiments described herein provide fingerprint sensing system including an array of ultrasonic transducers for sensing the fingerprint. In order to accurately sense a fingerprint, it is desirable to sense a high resolution image of the fingerprint. Using multiple ultrasonic transducers, some of which are time delayed with respect to other ultrasonic transducers, embodiments described herein provide for focusing a transmit beam (e.g., forming a beam) of an ultrasonic signal to a desired point, allowing for high resolution sensing of a fingerprint, or other object. For instance, transmitting an ultrasonic signal from multiple PMUTs, where some PMUTs transmit at a time delay relative to other PMUTs, provides for focusing the ultrasonic beam to a contact point of a fingerprint sensing system (e.g., a top of a platen layer) for sensing a high resolution image of a pixel associated with the transmitting PMUTs.

[0036] Embodiments described herein further provide for control of the operation of a sensing device, such as a fingerprint sensor, based at least in part on a temperature of the sensing device. In one embodiment, a receive window for receiving ultrasonic signals is dynamically adjusted based at least in part on the temperature. In various embodiments, the electronic device includes a drive circuit for driving transmission of ultrasonic signals from at least one ultrasonic transducer of the array of ultrasonic transducers. In one embodiment, the gain and/or phase of the drive circuit is dynamically adjusted based at least in part on the temperature. In one embodiment, the electronic device includes a receive circuit for receiving reflected ultrasonic signals from at least one ultrasonic transducer of the array of ultrasonic transducers. In one embodiment, the gain and/or phase of the receive circuit is dynamically adjusted based at least in part on the temperature. In one embodiment, a finger interacting with the array of ultrasonic transducers is detected based at least in part on the temperature.

Piezoelectric Micromachined Ultrasonic Transducer (PMUT)

[0037] Systems and methods disclosed herein, in one or more aspects provide efficient structures for an acoustic transducer (e.g., a piezoelectric micromachined actuated transducer or PMUT). One or more embodiments are now described with reference to the drawings, wherein like reference numerals are used to refer to like elements throughout. In the following description, for purposes of explanation, numerous specific details are set forth in order to provide a thorough understanding of the various embodiments. It may be evident, however, that the various embodiments can be practiced without these specific details. In other instances,

well-known structures and devices are shown in block diagram form in order to facilitate describing the embodiments in additional detail.

[0038] As used in this application, the term “or” is intended to mean an inclusive “or” rather than an exclusive “or”. That is, unless specified otherwise, or clear from context, “X employs A or B” is intended to mean any of the natural inclusive permutations. That is, if X employs A; X employs B; or X employs both A and B, then “X employs A or B” is satisfied under any of the foregoing instances. In addition, the articles “a” and “an” as used in this application and the appended claims should generally be construed to mean “one or more” unless specified otherwise or clear from context to be directed to a singular form. In addition, the word “coupled” is used herein to mean direct or indirect electrical or mechanical coupling. In addition, the word “example” is used herein to mean serving as an example, instance, or illustration.

[0039] FIG. 1 is a diagram illustrating a PMUT device 100 having a center pinned membrane, according to some embodiments. PMUT device 100 includes an interior pinned membrane 120 positioned over a substrate 140 to define a cavity 130. In one embodiment, membrane 120 is attached both to a surrounding edge support 102 and interior support 104. In one embodiment, edge support 102 is connected to an electric potential. Edge support 102 and interior support 104 may be made of electrically conducting materials, such as and without limitation, aluminum, molybdenum, or titanium. Edge support 102 and interior support 104 may also be made of dielectric materials, such as silicon dioxide, silicon nitride or aluminum oxide that have electrical connections on the sides or in vias through edge support 102 or interior support 104, electrically coupling lower electrode 106 to electrical wiring in substrate 140.

[0040] In one embodiment, both edge support 102 and interior support 104 are attached to a substrate 140. In various embodiments, substrate 140 may include at least one of, and without limitation, silicon or silicon nitride. It should be appreciated that substrate 140 may include electrical wirings and connection, such as aluminum or copper. In one embodiment, substrate 140 includes a CMOS logic wafer bonded to edge support 102 and interior support 104. In one embodiment, the membrane 120 comprises multiple layers. In an example embodiment, the membrane 120 includes lower electrode 106, piezoelectric layer 110, and upper electrode 108, where lower electrode 106 and upper electrode 108 are coupled to opposing sides of piezoelectric layer 110. As shown, lower electrode 106 is coupled to a lower surface of piezoelectric layer 110 and upper electrode 108 is coupled to an upper surface of piezoelectric layer 110. It should be appreciated that, in various embodiments, PMUT device 100 is a microelectromechanical (MEMS) device.

[0041] In one embodiment, membrane 120 also includes a mechanical support layer 112 (e.g., stiffening layer) to mechanically stiffen the layers. In various embodiments, mechanical support layer 112 may include at least one of, and without limitation, silicon, silicon oxide, silicon nitride, aluminum, molybdenum, titanium, etc. In one embodiment, PMUT device 100 also includes an acoustic coupling layer 114 above membrane 120 for supporting transmission of acoustic signals. It should be appreciated that acoustic coupling layer can include air, liquid, gel-like materials, epoxy, or other materials for supporting transmission of acoustic signals. In one embodiment, PMUT device 100 also includes platen layer 116 above acoustic coupling layer 114 for containing acoustic coupling layer 114 and providing a contact surface for a finger or other sensed object with PMUT device 100. It should be appreciated that, in various embodiments, acoustic coupling layer 114 provides a contact surface, such that platen layer 116 is optional. Moreover, it should be appreciated that acoustic coupling layer 114 and/or platen layer 116 may be included with or used in conjunction with multiple PMUT devices. For example, an array of PMUT devices may be coupled with a single acoustic coupling layer 114 and/or platen layer 116.

[0042] FIG. 2 is a diagram illustrating an example of membrane movement during activation of PMUT device 100, according to some embodiments. As illustrated with respect to FIG. 2, in operation, responsive to an object proximate platen layer 116, the electrodes 106 and 108 deliver a high frequency electric charge to the piezoelectric layer 110, causing those portions of the membrane 120 not pinned to the surrounding edge support 102 or interior support 104 to be displaced upward into the acoustic coupling layer 114. This generates a pressure wave that can be used for signal probing of the object. Return echoes can be detected as pressure waves causing movement of the membrane, with compression of the piezoelectric material in the membrane causing an electrical signal proportional to amplitude of the pressure wave.

[0043] The described PMUT device 100 can be used with almost any electrical device that converts a pressure wave into mechanical vibrations and/or electrical signals. In one aspect, the PMUT device 100 can comprise an acoustic sensing element (e.g., a piezoelectric element) that generates and senses ultrasonic sound waves. An object in a path of the generated sound waves can create a disturbance (e.g., changes in frequency or phase, reflection signal, echoes, etc.) that can then be sensed. The interference can be analyzed to determine physical parameters such as (but not limited to) distance, density and/or speed of the object. As an example, the PMUT device 100 can be utilized in various applications, such as, but not limited to, fingerprint or physiologic sensors suitable for wireless devices, industrial systems, automotive systems, robotics, telecommunications, security, medical devices, etc. For example, the PMUT device 100 can be part of a sensor array comprising a plurality of ultrasonic transducers deposited on a wafer, along with various logic, control and communication

electronics. A sensor array may comprise homogenous or identical PMUT devices 100, or a number of different or heterogenous device structures.

[0044] In various embodiments, the PMUT device 100 employs a piezoelectric layer 110, comprised of materials such as, but not limited to, Aluminum nitride (AlN), lead zirconate titanate (PZT), quartz, polyvinylidene fluoride (PVDF), and/or zinc oxide, to facilitate both acoustic signal production and sensing. The piezoelectric layer 110 can generate electric charges under mechanical stress and conversely experience a mechanical strain in the presence of an electric field. For example, the piezoelectric layer 110 can sense mechanical vibrations caused by an ultrasonic signal and produce an electrical charge at the frequency (e.g., ultrasonic frequency) of the vibrations. Additionally, the piezoelectric layer 110 can generate an ultrasonic wave by vibrating in an oscillatory fashion that might be at the same frequency (e.g., ultrasonic frequency) as an input current generated by an alternating current (AC) voltage applied across the piezoelectric layer 110. It should be appreciated that the piezoelectric layer 110 can include almost any material (or combination of materials) that exhibits piezoelectric properties, such that the structure of the material does not have a center of symmetry and a tensile or compressive stress applied to the material alters the separation between positive and negative charge sites in a cell causing a polarization at the surface of the material. The polarization is directly proportional to the applied stress and is direction dependent so that compressive and tensile stresses results in electric fields of opposite polarizations.

[0045] Further, the PMUT device 100 comprises electrodes 106 and 108 that supply and/or collect the electrical charge to/from the piezoelectric layer 110. It should be appreciated that electrodes 106 and 108 can be continuous and/or patterned electrodes (e.g., in a continuous layer and/or a patterned layer). For example, as illustrated, electrode 106 is a patterned electrode and electrode 108 is a continuous electrode. As an example, electrodes 106 and 108 can be comprised of almost any metal layers, such as, but not limited to, Aluminum (Al)/Titanium (Ti), Molybdenum (Mo), etc., which are coupled with and on opposing sides of the piezoelectric layer 110. In one embodiment, PMUT device also includes a third electrode, as illustrated in FIG. 10 and described below.

[0046] According to an embodiment, the acoustic impedance of acoustic coupling layer 114 is selected to be similar to the acoustic impedance of the platen layer 116, such that the acoustic wave is efficiently propagated to/from the membrane 120 through acoustic coupling layer 114 and platen layer 116. As an example, the platen layer 116 can comprise various materials having an acoustic impedance in the range between 0.8 to 4 MRayl, such as, but not limited to, plastic, resin, rubber, Teflon, epoxy, etc. In another example, the platen layer 116 can comprise various materials having a high acoustic impedance (e.g., an acoustic impedance greater than

10 MRayl), such as, but not limited to, glass, aluminum-based alloys, sapphire, etc. Typically, the platen layer 116 can be selected based on an application of the sensor. For instance, in fingerprinting applications, platen layer 116 can have an acoustic impedance that matches (e.g., exactly or approximately) the acoustic impedance of human skin (e.g., 1.6×10^6 Rayl). Further, in one aspect, the platen layer 116 can further include a thin layer of anti-scratch material. In various embodiments, the anti-scratch layer of the platen layer 116 is less than the wavelength of the acoustic wave that is to be generated and/or sensed to provide minimum interference during propagation of the acoustic wave. As an example, the anti-scratch layer can comprise various hard and scratch-resistant materials (e.g., having a Mohs hardness of over 7 on the Mohs scale), such as, but not limited to sapphire, glass, MN, Titanium nitride (TiN), Silicon carbide (SiC), diamond, etc. As an example, PMUT device 100 can operate at 20 MHz and accordingly, the wavelength of the acoustic wave propagating through the acoustic coupling layer 114 and platen layer 116 can be 70-150 microns. In this example scenario, insertion loss can be reduced and acoustic wave propagation efficiency can be improved by utilizing an anti-scratch layer having a thickness of 1 micron and the platen layer 116 as a whole having a thickness of 1-2 millimeters. It is noted that the term "anti-scratch material" as used herein relates to a material that is resistant to scratches and/or scratch-proof and provides substantial protection against scratch marks.

[0047] In accordance with various embodiments, the PMUT device 100 can include metal layers (e.g., Aluminum (Al)/Titanium (Ti), Molybdenum (Mo), etc.) patterned to form electrode 106 in particular shapes (e.g., ring, circle, square, octagon, hexagon, etc.) that are defined in-plane with the membrane 120. Electrodes can be placed at a maximum strain area of the membrane 120 or placed at close to either or both the surrounding edge support 102 and interior support 104. Furthermore, in one example, electrode 108 can be formed as a continuous layer providing a ground plane in contact with mechanical support layer 112, which can be formed from silicon or other suitable mechanical stiffening material. In still other embodiments, the electrode 106 can be routed along the interior support 104, advantageously reducing parasitic capacitance as compared to routing along the edge support 102.

[0048] For example, when actuation voltage is applied to the electrodes, the membrane 120 will deform and move out of plane. The motion then pushes the acoustic coupling layer 114 it is in contact with and an acoustic (ultrasonic) wave is generated. Oftentimes, vacuum is present inside the cavity 130 and therefore damping contributed from the media within the cavity 130 can be ignored. However, the acoustic coupling layer 114 on the other side of the membrane 120 can substantially change the damping of the PMUT device 100. For example, a quality factor greater than 20 can be observed when the PMUT device 100 is operating in air with

atmosphere pressure (e.g., acoustic coupling layer 114 is air) and can decrease lower than 2 if the PMUT device 100 is operating in water (e.g., acoustic coupling layer 114 is water).

[0049] FIG. 3 is a top view of the PMUT device 100 of FIG. 1 having a substantially square shape, which corresponds in part to a cross section along dotted line 101 in FIG. 3. Layout of surrounding edge support 102, interior support 104, and lower electrode 106 are illustrated, with other continuous layers not shown. It should be appreciated that the term “substantially” in “substantially square shape” is intended to convey that a PMUT device 100 is generally square-shaped, with allowances for variations due to manufacturing processes and tolerances, and that slight deviation from a square shape (e.g., rounded corners, slightly wavering lines, deviations from perfectly orthogonal corners or intersections, etc.) may be present in a manufactured device. While a generally square arrangement PMUT device is shown, alternative embodiments including rectangular, hexagon, octagonal, circular, or elliptical are contemplated. In other embodiments, more complex electrode or PMUT device shapes can be used, including irregular and non-symmetric layouts such as chevrons or pentagons for edge support and electrodes.

[0050] FIG. 4 is a simulated topographic map 400 illustrating maximum vertical displacement of the membrane 120 of the PMUT device 100 shown in FIGs. 1-3. As indicated, maximum displacement generally occurs along a center axis of the lower electrode, with corner regions having the greatest displacement. As with the other figures, FIG. 4 is not drawn to scale with the vertical displacement exaggerated for illustrative purposes, and the maximum vertical displacement is a fraction of the horizontal surface area comprising the PMUT device 100. In an example PMUT device 100, maximum vertical displacement may be measured in nanometers, while surface area of an individual PMUT device 100 may be measured in square microns.

[0051] FIG. 5 is a top view of another example of the PMUT device 100 of FIG. 1 having a substantially circular shape, which corresponds in part to a cross section along dotted line 101 in FIG. 5. Layout of surrounding edge support 102, interior support 104, and lower electrode 106 are illustrated, with other continuous layers not shown. It should be appreciated that the term “substantially” in “substantially circular shape” is intended to convey that a PMUT device 100 is generally circle-shaped, with allowances for variations due to manufacturing processes and tolerances, and that slight deviation from a circle shape (e.g., slight deviations on radial distance from center, etc.) may be present in a manufactured device.

[0052] FIG. 6 is a top view of another example of the PMUT device 100 of FIG. 1 having a substantially hexagonal shape, which corresponds in part to a cross section along dotted line

101 in FIG. 6. Layout of surrounding edge support 102, interior support 104, and lower electrode 106 are illustrated, with other continuous layers not shown. It should be appreciated that the term “substantially” in “substantially hexagonal shape” is intended to convey that a PMUT device 100 is generally hexagon-shaped, with allowances for variations due to manufacturing processes and tolerances, and that slight deviation from a hexagon shape (e.g., rounded corners, slightly wavering lines, deviations from perfectly orthogonal corners or intersections, etc.) may be present in a manufactured device.

[0053] FIG. 7 illustrates an example two-dimensional array 700 of circular-shaped PMUT devices 701 formed from PMUT devices having a substantially circular shape similar to that discussed in conjunction with FIGs. 1, 2 and 5. Layout of circular surrounding edge support 702, interior support 704, and annular or ring shaped lower electrode 706 surrounding the interior support 704 are illustrated, while other continuous layers are not shown for clarity. As illustrated, array 700 includes columns of circular-shaped PMUT devices 701 that are offset. It should be appreciated that the circular-shaped PMUT devices 701 may be closer together, such that edges of the columns of circular-shaped PMUT devices 701 overlap. Moreover, it should be appreciated that circular-shaped PMUT devices 701 may contact each other. In various embodiments, adjacent circular-shaped PMUT devices 701 are electrically isolated. In other embodiments, groups of adjacent circular-shaped PMUT devices 701 are electrically connected, where the groups of adjacent circular-shaped PMUT devices 701 are electrically isolated.

[0054] FIG. 8 illustrates an example two-dimensional array 800 of square-shaped PMUT devices 801 formed from PMUT devices having a substantially square shape similar to that discussed in conjunction with FIGs. 1, 2 and 3. Layout of square surrounding edge support 802, interior support 804, and square-shaped lower electrode 806 surrounding the interior support 804 are illustrated, while other continuous layers are not shown for clarity. As illustrated, array 800 includes columns of square-shaped PMUT devices 801 that are in rows and columns. It should be appreciated that rows or columns of the square-shaped PMUT devices 801 may be offset. Moreover, it should be appreciated that square-shaped PMUT devices 801 may contact each other or be spaced apart. In various embodiments, adjacent square-shaped PMUT devices 801 are electrically isolated. In other embodiments, groups of adjacent square-shaped PMUT devices 801 are electrically connected, where the groups of adjacent square-shaped PMUT devices 801 are electrically isolated.

[0055] FIG. 9 illustrates an example two-dimensional array 900 of hexagon-shaped PMUT devices 901 formed from PMUT devices having a substantially hexagon shape similar to that discussed in conjunction with FIGs. 1, 2 and 6. Layout of hexagon-shaped surrounding edge support 902, interior support 904, and hexagon-shaped lower electrode 906 surrounding the

interior support 904 are illustrated, while other continuous layers are not shown for clarity. It should be appreciated that rows or columns of the hexagon-shaped PMUT devices 901 may be offset. Moreover, it should be appreciated that hexagon-shaped PMUT devices 901 may contact each other or be spaced apart. In various embodiments, adjacent hexagon-shaped PMUT devices 901 are electrically isolated. In other embodiments, groups of adjacent hexagon-shaped PMUT devices 901 are electrically connected, where the groups of adjacent hexagon-shaped PMUT devices 901 are electrically isolated. While FIGs. 7, 8 and 9 illustrate example layouts of PMUT devices having different shapes, it should be appreciated that many different layouts are available. Moreover, in accordance with various embodiments, arrays of PMUT devices are included within a MEMS layer.

[0056] In operation, during transmission, selected sets of PMUT devices in the two-dimensional array can transmit an acoustic signal (e.g., a short ultrasonic pulse) and during sensing, the set of active PMUT devices in the two-dimensional array can detect an interference of the acoustic signal with an object (in the path of the acoustic wave). The received interference signal (e.g., generated based on reflections, echoes, etc. of the acoustic signal from the object) can then be analyzed. As an example, an image of the object, a distance of the object from the sensing component, a density of the object, a motion of the object, etc., can all be determined based on comparing a frequency and/or phase of the interference signal with a frequency and/or phase of the acoustic signal. Moreover, results generated can be further analyzed or presented to a user via a display device (not shown).

[0057] FIG. 10 illustrates a pair of example PMUT devices 1000 in a PMUT array, with each PMUT sharing at least one common edge support 1002. As illustrated, the PMUT devices have two sets of independent lower electrode labeled as 1006 and 1026. These differing electrode patterns enable antiphase operation of the PMUT devices 1000, and increase flexibility of device operation. In one embodiment, the pair of PMUTs may be identical, but the two electrodes could drive different parts of the same PMUT antiphase (one contracting, and one extending), such that the PMUT displacement becomes larger. While other continuous layers are not shown for clarity, each PMUT also includes an upper electrode (e.g., upper electrode 108 of FIG. 1). Accordingly, in various embodiments, a PMUT device may include at least three electrodes.

[0058] FIGs. 11A, 11B, 11C, and 11D illustrate alternative examples of interior support structures, in accordance with various embodiments. Interior supports structures may also be referred to as “pinning structures,” as they operate to pin the membrane to the substrate. It should be appreciated that interior support structures may be positioned anywhere within a cavity of a PMUT device, and may have any type of shape (or variety of shapes), and that there

may be more than one interior support structure within a PMUT device. While FIGs. 11A, 11B, 11C, and 11D illustrate alternative examples of interior support structures, it should be appreciated that these examples are for illustrative purposes, and are not intended to limit the number, position, or type of interior support structures of PMUT devices.

[0059] For example, interior supports structures do not have to be centrally located with a PMUT device area, but can be non-centrally positioned within the cavity. As illustrated in FIG. 11A, interior support 1104a is positioned in a non-central, off-axis position with respect to edge support 1102. In other embodiments such as seen in FIG. 11B, multiple interior supports 1104b can be used. In this embodiment, one interior support is centrally located with respect to edge support 1102, while the multiple, differently shaped and sized interior supports surround the centrally located support. In still other embodiments, such as seen with respect to Figs. 11C and 11D, the interior supports (respectively 1104c and 1104d) can contact a common edge support 1102. In the embodiment illustrated in FIG. 11D, the interior supports 1104d can effectively divide the PMUT device into subpixels. This would allow, for example, activation of smaller areas to generate high frequency ultrasonic waves, and sensing a returning ultrasonic echo with larger areas of the PMUT device. It will be appreciated that the individual pinning structures can be combined into arrays.

[0060] FIG. 12 illustrates an embodiment of a PMUT array used in an ultrasonic fingerprint sensing system 1250. The fingerprint sensing system 1250 can include a platen 1216 onto which a human finger 1252 may make contact. Ultrasonic signals are generated and received by a PMUT device array 1200, and travel back and forth through acoustic coupling layer 1214 and platen 1216. Signal analysis is conducted using processing logic module 1240 (e.g., control logic) directly attached (via wafer bonding or other suitable techniques) to the PMUT device array 1200. It will be appreciated that the size of platen 1216 and the other elements illustrated in FIG. 12 may be much larger (e.g., the size of a handprint) or much smaller (e.g., just a fingertip) than as shown in the illustration, depending on the particular application.

[0061] In this example for fingerprinting applications, the human finger 1252 and the processing logic module 1240 can determine, based on a difference in interference of the acoustic signal with valleys and/or ridges of the skin on the finger, an image depicting epi-dermis and/or dermis layers of the finger. Further, the processing logic module 1240 can compare the image with a set of known fingerprint images to facilitate identification and/or authentication. Moreover, in one example, if a match (or substantial match) is found, the identity of user can be verified. In another example, if a match (or substantial match) is found, a command/operation can be performed based on an authorization rights assigned to the identified user. In yet another

example, the identified user can be granted access to a physical location and/or network/computer resources (e.g., documents, files, applications, etc.)

[0062] In another example, for finger-based applications, the movement of the finger can be used for cursor tracking/movement applications. In such embodiments, a pointer or cursor on a display screen can be moved in response to finger movement. It is noted that processing logic module 1240 can include or be connected to one or more processors configured to confer at least in part the functionality of system 1250. To that end, the one or more processors can execute code instructions stored in memory, for example, volatile memory and/or nonvolatile memory.

[0063] FIG. 13 illustrates an integrated fingerprint sensor 1300 formed by wafer bonding a CMOS logic wafer and a MEMS wafer defining PMUT devices, according to some embodiments. FIG. 13 illustrates in partial cross section one embodiment of an integrated fingerprint sensor formed by wafer bonding a substrate 1340 CMOS logic wafer and a MEMS wafer defining PMUT devices having a common edge support 1302 and separate interior support 1304. For example, the MEMS wafer may be bonded to the CMOS logic wafer using aluminum and germanium eutectic alloys, as described in U.S. Patent No. 7,442,570. PMUT device 1300 has an interior pinned membrane 1320 formed over a cavity 1330. The membrane 1320 is attached both to a surrounding edge support 1302 and interior support 1304. The membrane 1320 is formed from multiple layers. In one embodiment, integrated fingerprint sensor 1300 includes temperature sensor 1350 in the CMOS logic wafer. In one embodiment, the CMOS logic wafer includes at least one drive circuit for driving transmission of ultrasonic signals from ultrasonic transducers of the array of ultrasonic transducers and at least one receive circuit for receiving reflected ultrasonic signals from ultrasonic transducers of the array of ultrasonic transducers.

Example Sensing Device with a Temperature Sensor

[0064] Devices and methods disclosed herein, in one or more aspects provide for the operation of a two-dimensional array of ultrasonic transducers (e.g., an array of piezoelectric micromachined actuated transducers or PMUTs) based at least in part of a temperature sensor. One or more embodiments are now described with reference to the drawings, wherein like reference numerals are used to refer to like elements throughout. In the following description, for purposes of explanation, numerous specific details are set forth in order to provide a thorough understanding of the various embodiments. It may be evident, however, that the various embodiments can be practiced without these specific details. In other instances, well-known structures and devices are shown in block diagram form in order to facilitate describing the embodiments in additional detail.

[0065] Piezoelectric materials facilitate conversion between mechanical energy and electrical energy. Moreover, a piezoelectric material can generate an electrical signal when subjected to mechanical stress, and can vibrate when subjected to an electrical voltage. Piezoelectric materials may be utilized in piezoelectric ultrasonic transducers to generate acoustic waves based on an actuation voltage applied to electrodes of the piezoelectric ultrasonic transducer.

[0066] A piezoelectric ultrasonic transducer able to generate and detect pressure waves can include a membrane with the piezoelectric material, a supporting layer, and electrodes combined with a cavity beneath the electrodes. Miniaturized versions known as Piezoelectric Micromachined Ultrasonic Transducers (PMUTs), have been developed for a variety of medical and other ultrasound application.

[0067] PMUTs can be arranged into physical blocks with separately timed ultrasonic wave emission and detection. This advantageously reduces crosstalk issues and simplifies signal processing. In addition, because the fabrication of a PMUT through the Micro Electro Mechanical Systems (MEMS) process allows for repeatable variations of the hardware circuitry, supplemental modes may be supported through hardware. Supplemental modes may be supported through operation of the hardware in different modes through computer program code.

[0068] The systems described herein, in one or more embodiments thereof, relate to a PMUT array for ultrasonic wave generation and sensing. The PMUT devices include edge support structures and a membrane attached to the edge support structure to allow movement at ultrasonic frequencies. The membrane includes a piezoelectric layer, first and second electrodes at least partially attached to opposing sides of the piezoelectric layer. The membrane may optionally include an interior support structure connected to the piezoelectric layer within an area defined by the edge support structures. The PMUT devices can be arranged to form various virtual transmit and receive blocks on the two dimensional array.

[0069] In one embodiment, the PMUT array may be used in a substantially passive listening mode. In a typical active operational mode for fingerprint recognition, the PMUT elements are activated during a transmit phase in which an acoustic signal is generated. The reflected signal or echo is then received during a receive phase. The timing of the received reflection is used to construct a fingerprint image. Alternatively, in the presence of ambient external energy of suitable frequency, the PMUT array may be placed in a low-power listen mode that is substantially passive. Ambient signals are then received during a receive phase without the

need to generate an acoustic signal during a transmit phase. This allows the device to consume substantially less power and to provide sensing capabilities other than ultrasonic fingerprint recognition.

[0070] In another embodiment, the PMUT device includes temperature measurement. In various embodiments, the temperature measurement is achieved in a MEMS circuit through inclusion of certain circuitry or calibration through existing circuitry. By providing temperature, the PMUT device can generate dependable frequencies. In this way, in some embodiments, the PMUT device can become clockless, not requiring a separate input from a high-power quartz oscillator or other external clock-generation circuit. This makes the PMUT device more standalone, sustains timing for driving the various virtual transmit and receive blocks on the array, and improves signal compensation and conditioning. In certain embodiments, signals representing the temperature or a reference clock frequency may be provided externally from the PMUT device.

[0071] These systems can be used for analysis of acoustically sensed data in various applications, such as, but not limited to, medical applications, security systems, biometric systems (e.g., fingerprint sensors and/or motion/gesture recognition sensors), mobile communication systems, industrial automation systems, consumer electronic devices, robotics, etc. In one aspect, system can include a PMUT device that can facilitate ultrasonic signal generation and sensing (transducer). Moreover, the sensing component can include a silicon wafer having a two-dimensional (or one-dimensional) array of ultrasonic transducers.

[0072] Various embodiments described herein provide a sensing device with a temperature sensor. In one embodiment, an electronic device includes an array of ultrasonic transducers, a temperature sensor for determining a temperature of the array of ultrasonic transducers, and a control module communicatively coupled to the array of ultrasonic devices and the temperature sensor. The control module is for receiving the temperature and for controlling operation of the array of ultrasonic transducers based at least in part on the temperature.

[0073] In one embodiment, the electronic device further includes an external interface, and an external device communicatively coupled to the control module via the external interface. In one embodiment, the external device comprises an integrated circuit. In one embodiment, the electronic device further includes a CMOS control layer, wherein the array of ultrasonic transducers is coupled to the CMOS control layer, and wherein the temperature sensor is disposed within the CMOS control layer.

[0074] In various embodiments, the ultrasonic transducers comprise PMUT devices. In various embodiments, the ultrasonic transducers comprise Capacitive Micromachined Ultrasonic Transducer (CMUT) devices. In various embodiments, the control module comprises a processor. In one embodiment, the control module is for detecting a finger interacting with the array of ultrasonic transducers based at least in part on the temperature.

[0075] In one embodiment, the control module is for dynamically adjusting a receive window for receiving ultrasonic signals based at least in part on the temperature. In various embodiments, the electronic device includes a drive circuit for driving transmission of ultrasonic signals from at least one ultrasonic transducer of the array of ultrasonic transducers. In one embodiment, the control module is for dynamically adjusting a gain of the drive circuit based at least in part on the temperature. In one embodiment, the control module is for dynamically adjusting a phase of the drive circuit based at least in part on the temperature.

[0076] In one embodiment, the electronic device includes a receive circuit for receiving reflected ultrasonic signals from at least one ultrasonic transducer of the array of ultrasonic transducers. In one embodiment, the control module is for dynamically adjusting a gain of the receive circuit based at least in part on the temperature. In one embodiment, the control module is for dynamically adjusting a phase of the receive circuit based at least in part on the temperature.

[0077] Various embodiments described herein provide a sensing device (e.g., a fingerprint sensor) including a temperature sensor. The temperature sensor is operable to determine a temperature of associated with the sensing device (e.g., a two-dimensional array of ultrasonic transducers). Based on the temperature reading, various operations of the sensing device can be controlled.

[0078] In one embodiment, a receive window may be more accurately set according to the temperature. Ultrasonic transducers operate by emitting pulses which reflects of an object being sensed and return to the ultrasonic transducers. The ultrasonic pulse travels through a material (e.g., an acoustic coupling material such as epoxy) whose acoustic properties may be impacted according to temperature. For example, sensing devices described herein may utilize a subset of ultrasonic transducers to emit a pulse and a different subset of ultrasonic transducers to receive the reflected signal. If the temperature of the array of transducers is known, the receive window can be set according to the temperature, allowing for fine-tuned control of the receive window. For instance, if the temperature is not known, the receive

window will need to be set to account for any possible temperature, and thus require the array to be powered on for a longer period of time.

[0079] In other embodiments, the gain and/or phase of the drive and/or receive circuit can be set to account for variations caused by changes in temperature. Ultrasonic transducers may perform differently depending on the temperature of the array of ultrasonic transducers. Knowing the temperature allows for fine-tuned control of the drive and/or receive circuits. Dynamically controlling a gain and/or phase of a drive and/or receive circuit of the sensing device improves the performance of the sensing device.

[0080] The disclosure recognizes and addresses, in at least certain embodiments, the issue of controlling the operation of a two-dimensional array of ultrasonic transducers based at least in part on a temperature of the array. To that end, embodiments described herein permit or otherwise facilitate improved control of the array.

[0081] With reference to the drawings, FIG. 14A illustrates an example of an operational environment 1400 for sensing of human touch in accordance with one or more embodiments of the disclosure. As illustrated, a device 1410 includes a fingerprint sensor 1430 or other type of surface sensitive to touch. In one embodiment, fingerprint sensor 1430 is disposed beneath a touch-screen display device 1415 of device 1410. In another embodiment, fingerprint sensor 1430 is disposed adjacent or close to a touch-screen display device 1415 of device 1410. In another embodiment, fingerprint sensor 1430 is comprised within a touch-screen display device 1415 of device 1410. It should be appreciated that device 1410 includes a fingerprint sensor 1430 for sensing a fingerprint of a finger interacting with device 1410.

[0082] In one embodiment, a human finger (represented by a hand 1420), can touch or interact with a specific area of device 1410 proximate fingerprint sensor 1430. In various embodiments, fingerprint sensor 1430 can be hard and need not include movable parts, such as a sensor button configured to detect human touch or otherwise cause the device 1410 to respond to human touch. The device 1410 can include circuitry that can operate in response to touch (human or otherwise) of the touch-screen display device and/or fingerprint sensor 1430 (or, in some embodiments, another type of touch sensitive surface).

[0083] In accordance with the described embodiments, device 1410 includes sensing device 1430 and system circuitry 1440. It should be appreciated that components of sensing device 1430 and system circuitry 1440 might be disposed within the same componentry, and are conceptually distinguished herein such that fingerprint sensor 1430 includes components that

are always-on, or mostly always-on, and system circuitry 1440 includes components that are powered off until they are powered on, for example, in response to an activation signal received from sensing device 1430. For example, such circuitry can be operatively coupled (e.g., electrically coupled, communicative coupled, etc.) via a bus architecture 1435 (or bus 1435) or conductive conduits configured to permit the exchange of signals between the sensing device 1430 and the system circuitry 1440. In some embodiments, a printed circuit board (PCB) placed behind a touch-screen display device can include the sensing device 1430, the system circuitry 1440, and the bus 1435. In one embodiment, the sensing device 1430 and the system circuitry 1440 can be configured or otherwise arranged in a single semiconductor die. In another embodiment, the sensing device 1430 can be configured or otherwise arranged in a first semiconductor die and the system circuitry 1440 can be configured or otherwise arranged in a second semiconductor die. In addition, in some embodiments, the bus 1435 can be embodied in or can include a dedicated conducting wire or a dedicated data line that connects the sensing device 1430 and the system circuitry 1440.

[0084] The sensing device 1430 can operate as sensor for human touch and the system circuitry 1440, or a portion thereof, can permit or otherwise facilitate analysis of the human touch. As described herein, sensing device 1430 includes fingerprint sensor 1430. For example, responsive to capturing an image of a fingerprint, fingerprint sensor 1430 can transmit the captured image to system circuitry for analysis.

[0085] The analysis can include fingerprint recognition or other types of biometric evaluations. The sensing device 1430 can be energized or otherwise power-on continuously or nearly continuously and can be configured to monitor touch of sensing device 1430. In addition, in response to human touch (e.g., touch by a human finger or other human body part), the sensing device 1430 can be further configured to trigger detection and/or another type of analysis of elements of the human touch or a human body associated therewith.

[0086] FIG. 14B illustrates an example sensing device 1430, in accordance with various embodiments. In one embodiment, sensing device 1430 includes an array 1450 of ultrasonic transducers (e.g., PMUT devices), a control module 1460, a memory 1470, a temperature sensor 1480, and an external interface 1485. In various embodiments, control module 1460 performs certain operations in accordance with instructions stored within memory 1470. It should be appreciated that components of sensing device 1430 are examples, and that certain components, such as control module 1460 and/or memory 1470 may not be located within sensing device 1430 (e.g., control module 1460 and/or memory 1470 may reside within system

circuitry 1440). For example, sensing device 1430 or system circuitry 1440 may include a processor and/or memory for performing certain operations.

[0087] In one embodiment, sensing device 1430 includes control module 1460 for performing the pixel capture. In other embodiments, control module 1460 can perform thresholding to determine whether an object has interacted with fingerprint sensor 1430. In other embodiments, control module 1460 can analyze captured pixels and determine whether the object is a finger. In other embodiments, control module 1460 can capture an image of the fingerprint and forward it to a processor of system circuitry 1440 for further analysis.

[0088] While the embodiment of FIG. 14B includes control module 1460 and memory 1470, as described above, it should be appreciated that various functions of control module 1460 and memory 1470 may reside in other components of device 1410 (e.g., within sensing device 1430 or system circuitry 1440). Moreover, it should be appreciated that control module 1460 may be any type of processor for performing any portion of the described functionality (e.g., custom digital logic).

[0089] In various embodiments, fingerprint sensor 1430 can include ultrasonic transducers (e.g., PMUTs or capacitive micromachined ultrasonic transducers (CMUTs)) able to generate and detect pressure waves. Examples of PMUT devices and arrays of PMUT devices are described in accordance with FIGs. 1-13 above. In embodiments, a device 1410 includes sensing device 1430 comprised of an array of PMUT devices that can facilitate ultrasonic signal generation and sensing (transducer). For example, sensing device 1430 can include a silicon wafer having a two-dimensional (or one-dimensional) array of ultrasonic transducers.

[0090] Temperature sensor 1480 includes circuitry for temperature measurement. Control module 1460 receives temperature sensor information from temperature sensor 1480. Among other things, control module 1460 may adjust for changes in expected ultrasonic signal travel time based on the measured temperature. For example, timing signals from control module 1460 may be used to drive array 1450.

[0091] There are a number of ways known in the art to provide temperature sensor 1480. In an embodiment, temperature sensor 1480 is an integrated silicon thermistor that can be incorporated in the MEMS manufacturing process with PMUT array 1450. In another embodiment, temperature sensor 1480 is a MEMS structure different from PMUT array 1450 but compatible with the MEMS manufacturing process for PMUT array 1450. In another embodiment, temperature sensor is comprised within a CMOS control layer of the array 1450

(e.g., temperature sensor 1350 of FIG. 13). In another embodiment, temperature sensor 1480 is circuitry that determines temperature by associating a known temperature dependency with the quality factor (Q) of some or all of the resonators that comprise the PMUT array 1450. In another embodiment, temperature sensor 1480 and a portion of control module 1460 together comprise a MEMS oscillator manufactured with a process compatible with PMUT array 1450 from which a frequency stable clock may be directly derived over a broad operating temperature range.

[0092] In one embodiment, a receive window may be more accurately set according to the temperature. Control module 1460 is operable to dynamically adjust a size of the receive window based on the temperature. For example, an acoustic coupling layer overlying the PMUT array 1450 has known acoustic properties, and the impact temperature has on the acoustic properties. Upon detection of the temperature of the array of transducers, the receive window can be set according to the temperature, allowing for fine-tuned control of the receive window.

[0093] In one embodiment, control module 1460 is for dynamically adjusting a receive window for receiving ultrasonic signals based at least in part on the temperature. In various embodiments, PMUT array 1450 includes a drive circuit for driving transmission of ultrasonic signals from at least one ultrasonic transducer of the array of ultrasonic transducers. In one embodiment, control module 1460 is for dynamically adjusting a gain of the drive circuit based at least in part on the temperature. In one embodiment, control module 1460 is for dynamically adjusting a phase of the drive circuit based at least in part on the temperature.

[0094] In one embodiment, PMUT array 1450 includes a receive circuit for receiving reflected ultrasonic signals from at least one ultrasonic transducer of the array of ultrasonic transducers. In one embodiment, control module 1460 is for dynamically adjusting a gain of the receive circuit based at least in part on the temperature. In one embodiment, control module 1460 is for dynamically adjusting a phase of the receive circuit based at least in part on the temperature.

[0095] In one embodiment, a finger interacting with the PMUT array 1450 is detected based at least in part on the temperature. For example, if the temperature exceeds a threshold value in response to an interaction with the PMUT array 1450, it may be determined that a human finger is interacting with sensing device 1430. This embodiment helps to address a concern of spoofing a fingerprint by utilizing a temperature to verify that an actual live human finger is interacting with the sensing device 1430. It should be appreciated that temperature may be one

of a number of factors utilized in determining whether an actual finger is interacting with sensing device 1430.

[0096] By providing temperature sensor information, the PMUT device can generate dependable frequencies. In one embodiment, the PMUT device can be clockless, not requiring a separate input from an external clock. This simplifies the design process for an engineer incorporating the sensing device 1430 into a design. An external oscillator or clock signal is not needed, eliminating a part and associated routing. In the case of a typical quartz oscillator used for an external clock-generation circuit, there may also be an efficiency gain as quartz devices typically consume more power than MEMS-based clocks. Having the timing signals generated on chip further enables improved signal compensation and conditioning.

[0097] The temperature or reference clock may optionally be shared outside of sensing device 1430. Optional external interface 1485 in communication with temperature sensor 1480 and/or control module 1460 may provide signals to an external device 1490. Signals communicated to external device may represent measured temperature or a reference clock frequency from the sensing device 1430. Optional external device 1490 may include another integrated circuit device, or a data or system bus. External interface 1485 may also provide an interface for communicative coupling to system circuitry 1440. Other blocks and signals may be introduced into sensing device 1430, provided that an external clock signal is not used to generate timing signals.

[0098] FIG. 15 illustrates an example transmit path architecture 1500 of a two-dimensional array of ultrasonic transducers, according to some embodiments. Achieving two-dimensional beamforming with high image resolution under glass uses relatively high ultrasonic frequencies and precise timing. Electronics to support a PMUT array with a resonant frequency of 50MHz and a beamforming timing resolution of 1 nanosecond can be used. The 50MHz frequency can be generated by an on-chip RC oscillator that can be trimmed for sufficient accuracy by an off-chip clock source. The beamforming resolution can be set by an on-chip PLL that outputs several timing phases that correspond to ~3 cycles of 50MHz frequency and are appropriately delayed with respect to each other. These phases can be routed to each PMUT according to the sel_{ph_map} signals shown in the FIG. 15. In accordance with various embodiments, these phases can be selected and/or adjusted dynamically based on the temperature of the array (e.g., as determined by temperature sensor 1480).

[0099] FIG. 16 illustrates an example receive path architecture 1600 of a two-dimensional array of ultrasonic transducers, according to some embodiments. The select lines 1610 correspond to

rxColsel[k] for receive, and the select lines 1620 correspond to rxRowsel[k] for receive. Multiple PMUTs can be selected together for receiving the signal. The signal from the PMUTs is fed into a front end receiver. The signal is then filtered to reduce noise outside of the signal bandwidth. The filtered signal is then integrated and digitized with an ADC. In some embodiments, the PMUT and receiver layout allow straightforward extension of the PMUT array size, since different applications can require different sensor array areas. The number of receiver slices will be determined by the desired PMUT array size and minimum ultrasonic transducer separation between transmit beams. For example, in one embodiment, a 20 ultrasonic transducer minimum separation between adjacent sets of active ultrasonic transducers reduces crosstalk. In accordance with various embodiments, gain can be adjusted dynamically based on the temperature of the array (e.g., as determined by temperature sensor 1480).

[00100] FIG. 17 illustrates a flow diagram of an example method for operating a fingerprint sensor comprised of ultrasonic transducers and a temperature sensor, according to various embodiments. Procedures of this method will be described with reference to elements and/or components of various figures described herein. It is appreciated that in some embodiments, the procedures may be performed in a different order than described, that some of the described procedures may not be performed, and/or that one or more additional procedures to those described may be performed. The flow diagram includes some procedures that, in various embodiments, are carried out by one or more processors under the control of computer-readable and computer-executable instructions that are stored on non-transitory computer-readable storage media. It is further appreciated that one or more procedures described in the flow diagrams may be implemented in hardware, or a combination of hardware with firmware and/or software.

[00101] With reference to FIG. 17, at procedure 1710 of flow diagram 1700, a temperature of the fingerprint sensor (e.g., sensing device 1430) at the temperature sensor is determined. At procedure 1720, operation of the array of ultrasonic transducers is controlled based at least in part on the temperature. It should be appreciated that the temperature of the fingerprint sensor may be used to control the operation of the fingerprint sensor in many different ways. Examples of how the operation can be controlled are described in accordance with procedures 1730 through 1780.

[00102] In one embodiment, as shown at procedure 1730, a receive window for receiving ultrasonic signals is dynamically adjusted based at least in part on the temperature. In one embodiment, as shown at procedure 1740, a gain of a drive circuit of the fingerprint sensor is dynamically adjusted based at least in part on the temperature. In one embodiment, as shown

at procedure 1750, a phase of a drive circuit of the fingerprint sensor is dynamically adjusted based at least in part on the temperature. In one embodiment, as shown at procedure 1760, a gain of a receive circuit of the fingerprint sensor is dynamically adjusted based at least in part on the temperature. In one embodiment, as shown at procedure 1770, a phase of a receive circuit of the fingerprint sensor is dynamically adjusted based at least in part on the temperature. In one embodiment, as shown at procedure 1780, a finger interacting with the array of ultrasonic transducers is detected based at least in part on the temperature. It should be appreciated that procedures 1730 through 1780 include a non-exhaustive listing of examples. It should also be appreciated that any of procedures 1730 through 1780 may be performed concurrently, in accordance with various embodiments.

[00103] As short summaries, this writing has disclosed at least the following broad concepts:

Concept 1. An electronic device comprising:
an array of ultrasonic transducers;
a temperature sensor for determining a temperature of the array of ultrasonic transducers; and

a control module communicatively coupled to the array of ultrasonic devices and the temperature sensor, the control module for receiving the temperature and for controlling operation of the array of ultrasonic transducers based at least in part on the temperature.

Concept 2. The electronic device of Concept 1, wherein the ultrasonic transducers comprise Piezoelectric Micromachined Ultrasonic Transducer (PMUT) devices.

Concept 3. The electronic device of Concept 1, wherein the ultrasonic transducers comprise Capacitive Micromachined Ultrasonic Transducer (CMUT) devices.

Concept 4. The electronic device of Concept 1, wherein the control module comprises a processor.

Concept 5. The electronic device of Concept 1, wherein the control module is for dynamically adjusting a receive window for receiving ultrasonic signals based at least in part on the temperature.

Concept 6. The electronic device of Concept 1 further comprising a drive circuit for driving transmission of ultrasonic signals from at least one ultrasonic transducer of the array of ultrasonic transducers, wherein the control module is for dynamically adjusting a gain of the drive circuit based at least in part on the temperature.

Concept 7. The electronic device of Concept 1 further comprising a drive circuit for driving transmission of ultrasonic signals from at least one ultrasonic transducer of the array of ultrasonic transducers, wherein the control module is for dynamically adjusting a phase of the drive circuit based at least in part on the temperature.

Concept 8. The electronic device of Concept 1 further comprising a receive circuit for receiving reflected ultrasonic signals from at least one ultrasonic transducer of the array of ultrasonic transducers, wherein the control module is for dynamically adjusting a gain of the receive circuit based at least in part on the temperature.

Concept 9. The electronic device of Concept 1 further comprising a receive circuit for receiving reflected ultrasonic signals from at least one ultrasonic transducer of the array of ultrasonic transducers, wherein the control module is for dynamically adjusting a phase of the receive circuit based at least in part on the temperature.

Concept 10. The electronic device of Concept 1, wherein the control module is for detecting a finger interacting with the array of ultrasonic transducers based at least in part on the temperature.

Concept 11. The electronic device of Concept 1, further comprising:
an external interface, and
an external device communicatively coupled to the control module via the external interface.

Concept 12. The electronic device of Concept 11, wherein the external device comprises an integrated circuit.

Concept 13. The electronic device of Claim 1, further comprising:
a CMOS control layer, wherein the array of ultrasonic transducers is coupled to the CMOS control layer, and wherein the temperature sensor is disposed within the CMOS control layer.

Concept 14. An electronic device comprising:
an array of ultrasonic transducers for generating and receiving ultrasonic signals;
a CMOS control layer coupled to the array of ultrasonic transducers, the CMOS control layer comprising:

a plurality of drive circuits for driving transmission of ultrasonic signals from ultrasonic transducers of the array of ultrasonic transducers; and
a plurality of receive circuits for receiving reflected ultrasonic signals from ultrasonic transducers of the array of ultrasonic transducers;
an acoustic coupling layer overlying the array of ultrasonic transducers, wherein the ultrasonic signals are propagated through the acoustic coupling layer;
a temperature sensor for determining a temperature of at least one of the array of ultrasonic transducers and the acoustic coupling layer; and

a control module communicatively coupled to the array of ultrasonic devices and the temperature sensor, the control module for receiving the temperature and for controlling operation of the array of ultrasonic transducers based at least in part on the temperature.

Concept 15. The electronic device of Concept 14, wherein the ultrasonic transducers comprise Piezoelectric Micromachined Ultrasonic Transducer (PMUT) devices.

Concept 16. The electronic device of Concept 14, wherein the ultrasonic transducers comprise Capacitive Micromachined Ultrasonic Transducer (CMUT) devices.

Concept 17. The electronic device of Concept 14, wherein the control module is for dynamically adjusting a receive window for receiving ultrasonic signals based at least in part on the temperature and an acoustic impedance of the acoustic coupling layer.

Concept 18. The electronic device of Concept 14, wherein the control module is for dynamically adjusting a gain of the drive circuit based at least in part on the temperature.

Concept 19. The electronic device of Concept 14, wherein the control module is for dynamically adjusting a phase of the drive circuit based at least in part on the temperature.

Concept 20. The electronic device of Concept 14, wherein the control module is for dynamically adjusting a gain of the receive circuit based at least in part on the temperature.

Concept 21. The electronic device of Concept 14, wherein the control module is for dynamically adjusting a phase of the receive circuit based at least in part on the temperature.

Concept 22. The electronic device of Concept 14, wherein the control module is for detecting a finger interacting with the array of ultrasonic transducers based at least in part on the temperature.

Concept 23. The electronic device of Concept 14, wherein the temperature sensor is disposed within the CMOS control layer.

Concept 24. A method for operating a fingerprint sensor comprising an array of ultrasonic transducers and a temperature sensor, the method comprising:
determining a temperature of the fingerprint sensor at the temperature sensor; and
controlling operation of the array of ultrasonic transducers based at least in part on the temperature.

Concept 25. The method of Concept 24, wherein the controlling the operation of the array of ultrasonic transducers at least in part on the temperature comprises:

dynamically adjusting a receive window for receiving ultrasonic signals based at least in part on the temperature.

Concept 26. The method of Concept 24, wherein the controlling the operation of the array of ultrasonic transducers at least in part on the temperature comprises:

dynamically adjusting a gain of a drive circuit of the fingerprint sensor based at least in part on the temperature.

Concept 27. The method of Concept 24, wherein the controlling the operation of the array of ultrasonic transducers at least in part on the temperature comprises:

dynamically adjusting a phase of a drive circuit of the fingerprint sensor based at least in part on the temperature.

Concept 28. The method of Concept 24, wherein the controlling the operation of the array of ultrasonic transducers at least in part on the temperature comprises:

dynamically adjusting a gain of a receive circuit of the fingerprint sensor based at least in part on the temperature.

Concept 29. The method of Concept 24, wherein the controlling the operation of the array of ultrasonic transducers at least in part on the temperature comprises:

dynamically adjusting a phase of a receive circuit of the fingerprint sensor based at least in part on the temperature.

Concept 30. The method of Concept 24, wherein the controlling the operation of the array of ultrasonic transducers at least in part on the temperature comprises:

detecting a finger interacting with the array of ultrasonic transducers based at least in part on the temperature.

[00104] What has been described above includes examples of the subject disclosure. It is, of course, not possible to describe every conceivable combination of components or methodologies for purposes of describing the subject matter, but it is to be appreciated that many further combinations and permutations of the subject disclosure are possible. Accordingly, the claimed subject matter is intended to embrace all such alterations, modifications, and variations that fall within the spirit and scope of the appended claims.

[00105] In particular and in regard to the various functions performed by the above described components, devices, circuits, systems and the like, the terms (including a reference to a "means") used to describe such components are intended to correspond, unless otherwise indicated, to any component which performs the specified function of the described component (e.g., a functional equivalent), even though not structurally equivalent to the disclosed structure, which performs the function in the herein illustrated exemplary aspects of the claimed subject matter.

[00106] The aforementioned systems and components have been described with respect to interaction between several components. It can be appreciated that such systems and components can include those components or specified sub-components, some of the specified components or sub-components, and/or additional components, and according to various permutations and combinations of the foregoing. Sub-components can also be implemented as components communicatively coupled to other components rather than included within parent components (hierarchical). Additionally, it should be noted that one or more components may be combined into a single component providing aggregate functionality or divided into several separate sub-components. Any components described herein may also interact with one or more other components not specifically described herein.

[00107] In addition, while a particular feature of the subject innovation may have been disclosed with respect to only one of several implementations, such feature may be combined with one or more other features of the other implementations as may be desired and advantageous for any given or particular application. Furthermore, to the extent that the terms “includes,” “including,” “has,” “contains,” variants thereof, and other similar words are used in either the detailed description or the claims, these terms are intended to be inclusive in a manner similar to the term “comprising” as an open transition word without precluding any additional or other elements.

[00108] Thus, the embodiments and examples set forth herein were presented in order to best explain various selected embodiments of the present invention and its particular application and to thereby enable those skilled in the art to make and use embodiments of the invention. However, those skilled in the art will recognize that the foregoing description and examples have been presented for the purposes of illustration and example only. The description as set forth is not intended to be exhaustive or to limit the embodiments of the invention to the precise form disclosed.

CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1. An electronic device comprising:
an array of ultrasonic transducers;
a temperature sensor for determining a temperature of the array of ultrasonic transducers; and
a control module communicatively coupled to the array of ultrasonic devices and the temperature sensor, the control module for receiving the temperature and for controlling operation of the array of ultrasonic transducers based at least in part on the temperature.
2. The electronic device of Claim 1, wherein the ultrasonic transducers comprise Piezoelectric Micromachined Ultrasonic Transducer (PMUT) devices.
3. The electronic device of Claim 1, wherein the ultrasonic transducers comprise Capacitive Micromachined Ultrasonic Transducer (CMUT) devices.
4. The electronic device of Claim 1, wherein the control module comprises a processor.
5. The electronic device of Claim 1, wherein the control module is for dynamically adjusting a receive window for receiving ultrasonic signals based at least in part on the temperature.
6. The electronic device of Claim 1 further comprising a drive circuit for driving transmission of ultrasonic signals from at least one ultrasonic transducer of the array of ultrasonic transducers, wherein the control module is for dynamically adjusting a gain of the drive circuit based at least in part on the temperature.
7. The electronic device of Claim 1 further comprising a drive circuit for driving transmission of ultrasonic signals from at least one ultrasonic transducer of the array of ultrasonic transducers, wherein the control module is for dynamically adjusting a phase of the drive circuit based at least in part on the temperature.
8. The electronic device of Claim 1 further comprising a receive circuit for receiving reflected ultrasonic signals from at least one ultrasonic transducer of the array of ultrasonic transducers, wherein the control module is for dynamically adjusting a gain of the receive circuit based at least in part on the temperature.

9. The electronic device of Claim 1 further comprising a receive circuit for receiving reflected ultrasonic signals from at least one ultrasonic transducer of the array of ultrasonic transducers, wherein the control module is for dynamically adjusting a phase of the receive circuit based at least in part on the temperature.

10. The electronic device of Claim 1, wherein the control module is for detecting a finger interacting with the array of ultrasonic transducers based at least in part on the temperature.

11. The electronic device of Claim 1, further comprising:
an external interface, and
an external device communicatively coupled to the control module via the external interface.

12. The electronic device of Claim 11, wherein the external device comprises an integrated circuit.

13. The electronic device of Claim 1, further comprising:
a CMOS control layer, wherein the array of ultrasonic transducers is coupled to the CMOS control layer, and wherein the temperature sensor is disposed within the CMOS control layer.

14. An electronic device comprising:
an array of ultrasonic transducers for generating and receiving ultrasonic signals;
a CMOS control layer coupled to the array of ultrasonic transducers, the CMOS control layer comprising:

a plurality of drive circuits for driving transmission of ultrasonic signals from ultrasonic transducers of the array of ultrasonic transducers; and

a plurality of receive circuits for receiving reflected ultrasonic signals from ultrasonic transducers of the array of ultrasonic transducers;

an acoustic coupling layer overlying the array of ultrasonic transducers, wherein the ultrasonic signals are propagated through the acoustic coupling layer;

a temperature sensor for determining a temperature of at least one of the array of ultrasonic transducers and the acoustic coupling layer; and

a control module communicatively coupled to the array of ultrasonic devices and the temperature sensor, the control module for receiving the temperature and for controlling operation of the array of ultrasonic transducers based at least in part on the temperature.

15. The electronic device of Claim 14, wherein the ultrasonic transducers comprise Piezoelectric Micromachined Ultrasonic Transducer (PMUT) devices.

16. The electronic device of Claim 14, wherein the ultrasonic transducers comprise Capacitive Micromachined Ultrasonic Transducer (CMUT) devices.

17. The electronic device of Claim 14, wherein the control module is for dynamically adjusting a receive window for receiving ultrasonic signals based at least in part on the temperature and an acoustic impedance of the acoustic coupling layer.

18. The electronic device of Claim 14, wherein the control module is for dynamically adjusting a gain of the drive circuit based at least in part on the temperature.

19. The electronic device of Claim 14, wherein the control module is for dynamically adjusting a phase of the drive circuit based at least in part on the temperature.

20. The electronic device of Claim 14, wherein the control module is for dynamically adjusting a gain of the receive circuit based at least in part on the temperature.

21. The electronic device of Claim 14, wherein the control module is for dynamically adjusting a phase of the receive circuit based at least in part on the temperature.

22. The electronic device of Claim 14, wherein the control module is for detecting a finger interacting with the array of ultrasonic transducers based at least in part on the temperature.

23. The electronic device of Claim 14, wherein the temperature sensor is disposed within the CMOS control layer.

24. A method for operating a fingerprint sensor comprising an array of ultrasonic transducers and a temperature sensor, the method comprising:
determining a temperature of the fingerprint sensor at the temperature sensor; and
controlling operation of the array of ultrasonic transducers based at least in part on the temperature.

25. The method of Claim 24, wherein the controlling the operation of the array of ultrasonic transducers at least in part on the temperature comprises:

dynamically adjusting a receive window for receiving ultrasonic signals based at least in part on the temperature.

26. The method of Claim 24, wherein the controlling the operation of the array of ultrasonic transducers at least in part on the temperature comprises:

dynamically adjusting a gain of a drive circuit of the fingerprint sensor based at least in part on the temperature.

27. The method of Claim 24, wherein the controlling the operation of the array of ultrasonic transducers at least in part on the temperature comprises:

dynamically adjusting a phase of a drive circuit of the fingerprint sensor based at least in part on the temperature.

28. The method of Claim 24, wherein the controlling the operation of the array of ultrasonic transducers at least in part on the temperature comprises:

dynamically adjusting a gain of a receive circuit of the fingerprint sensor based at least in part on the temperature.

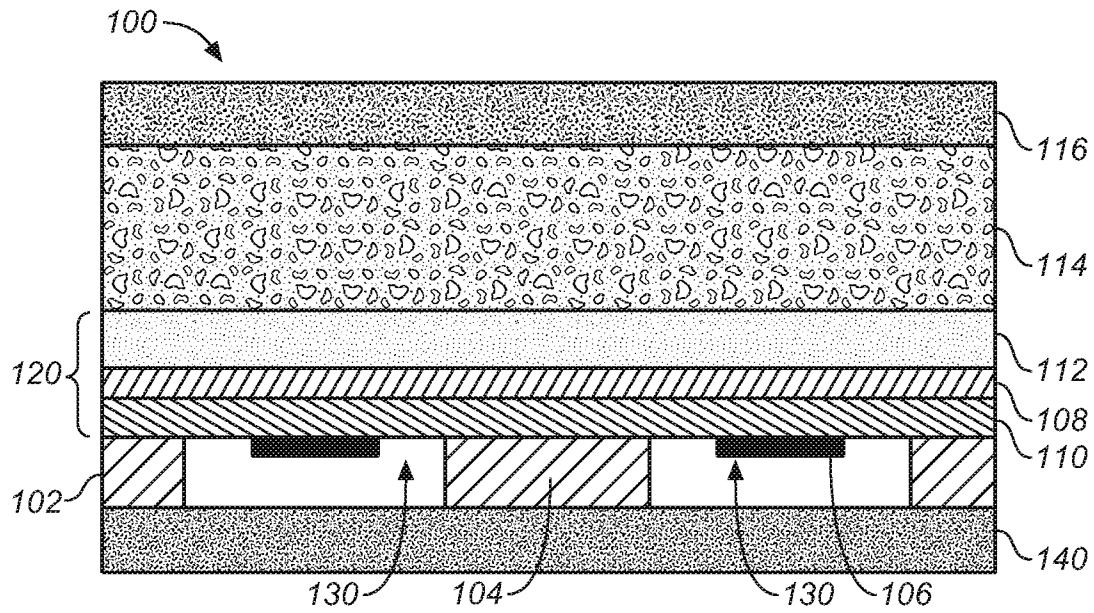
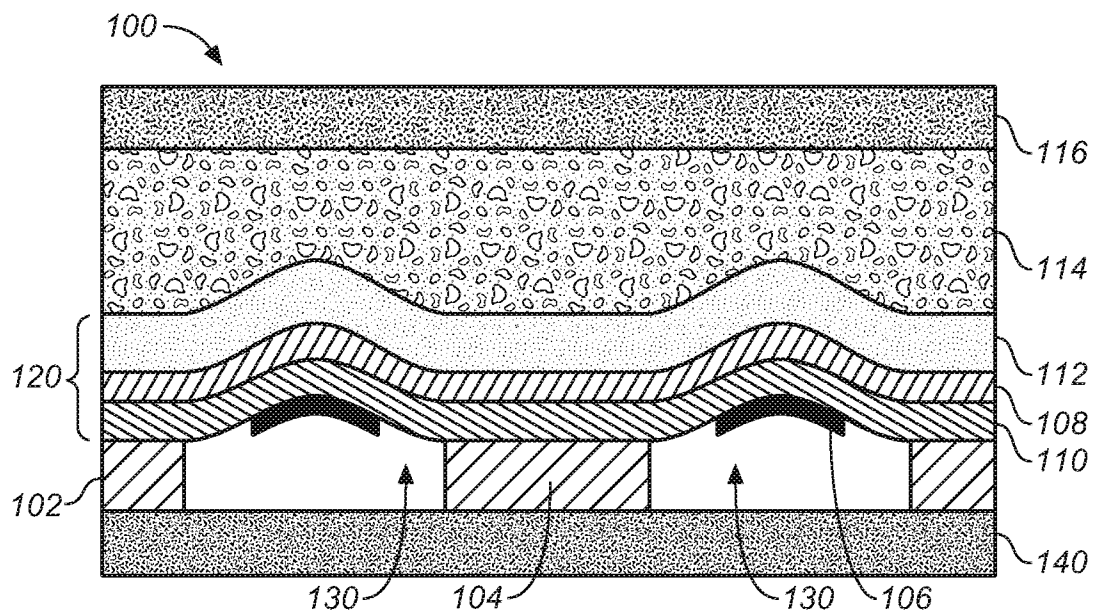
29. The method of Claim 24, wherein the controlling the operation of the array of ultrasonic transducers at least in part on the temperature comprises:

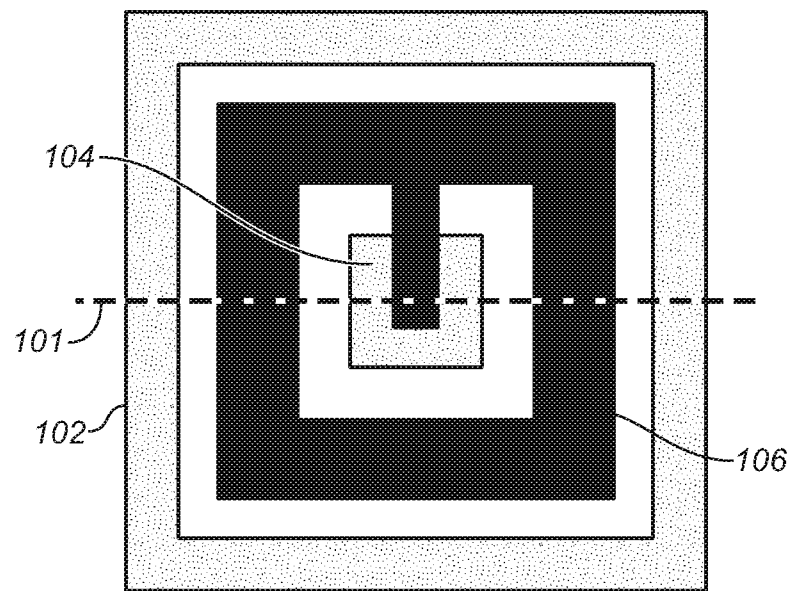
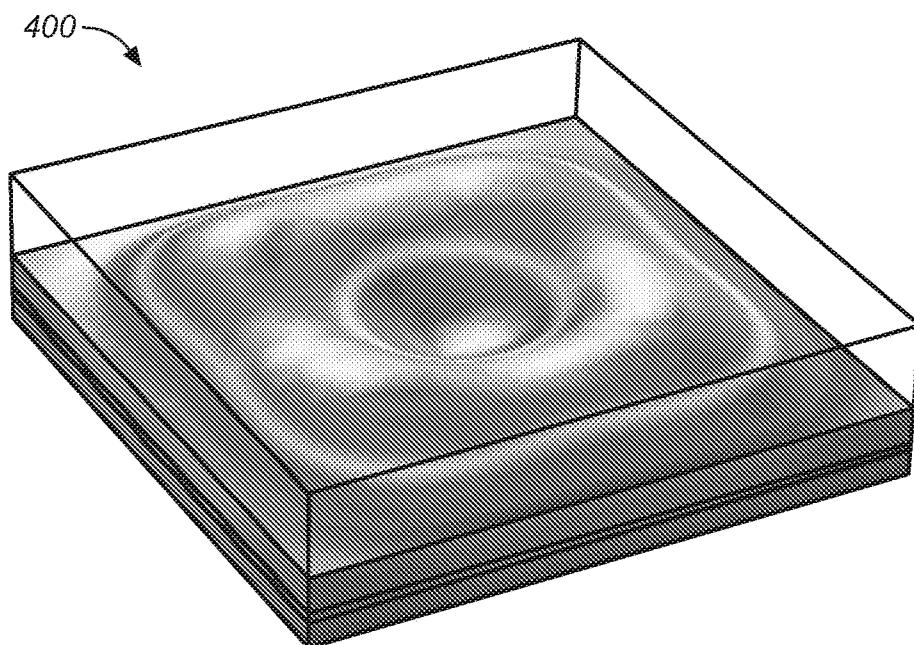
dynamically adjusting a phase of a receive circuit of the fingerprint sensor based at least in part on the temperature.

30. The method of Claim 24, wherein the controlling the operation of the array of ultrasonic transducers at least in part on the temperature comprises:

detecting a finger interacting with the array of ultrasonic transducers based at least in part on the temperature.

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**FIG. 1****FIG. 2**

**FIG. 3****FIG. 4**

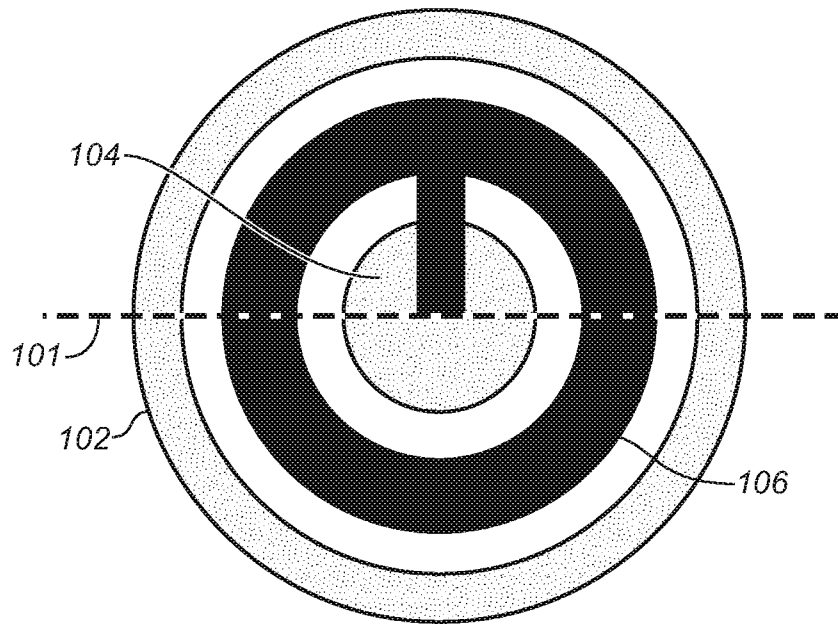


FIG. 5

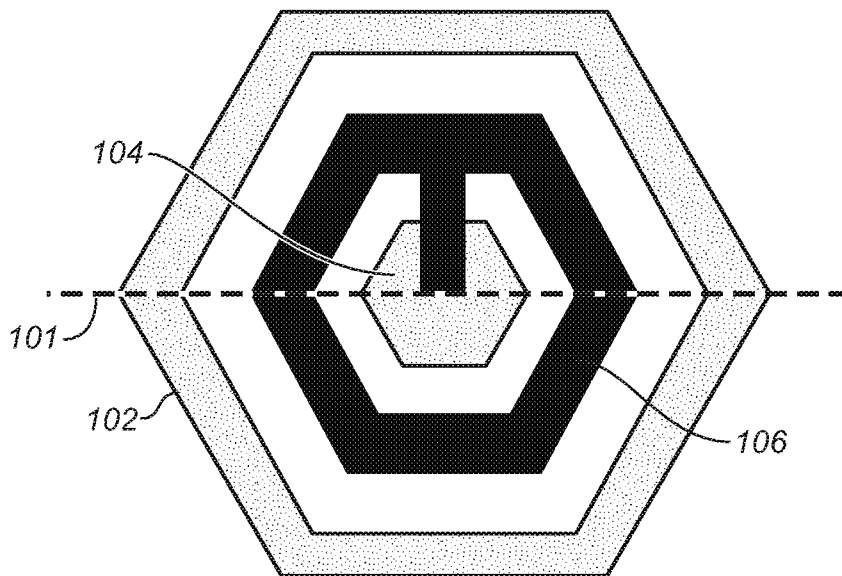
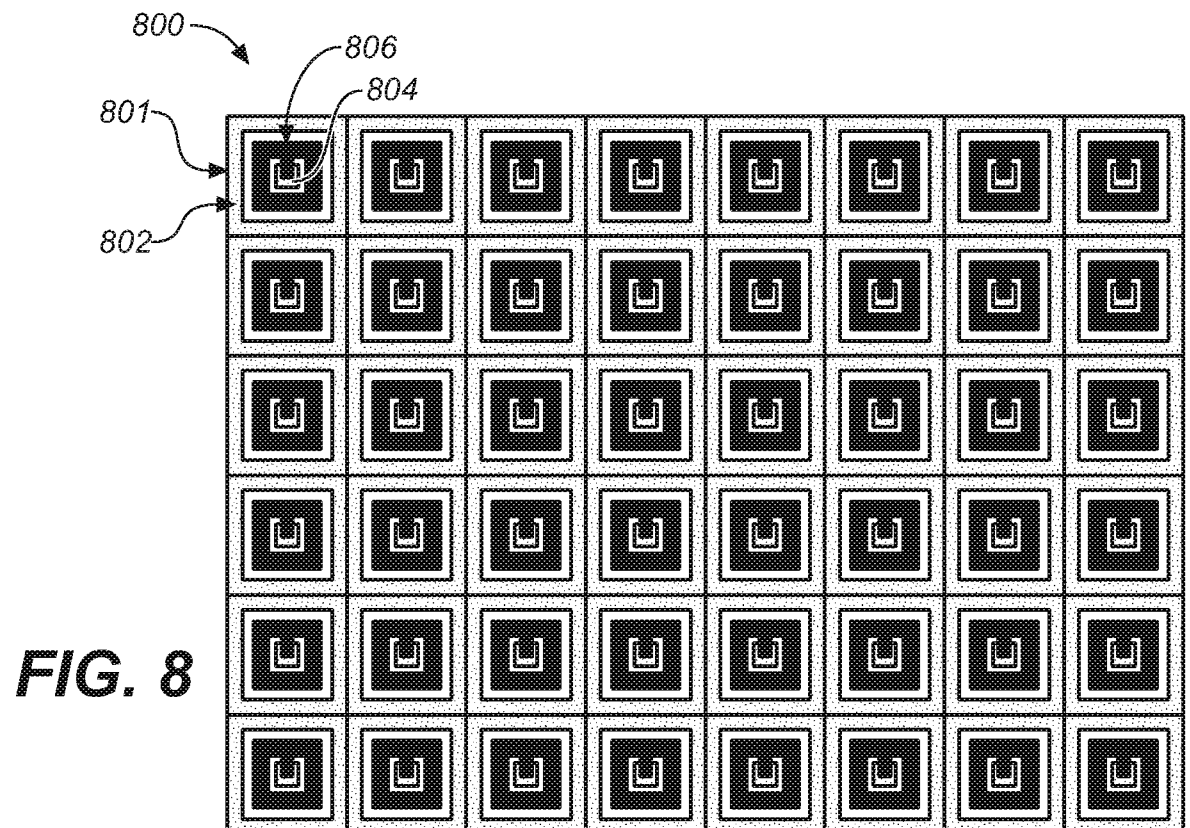
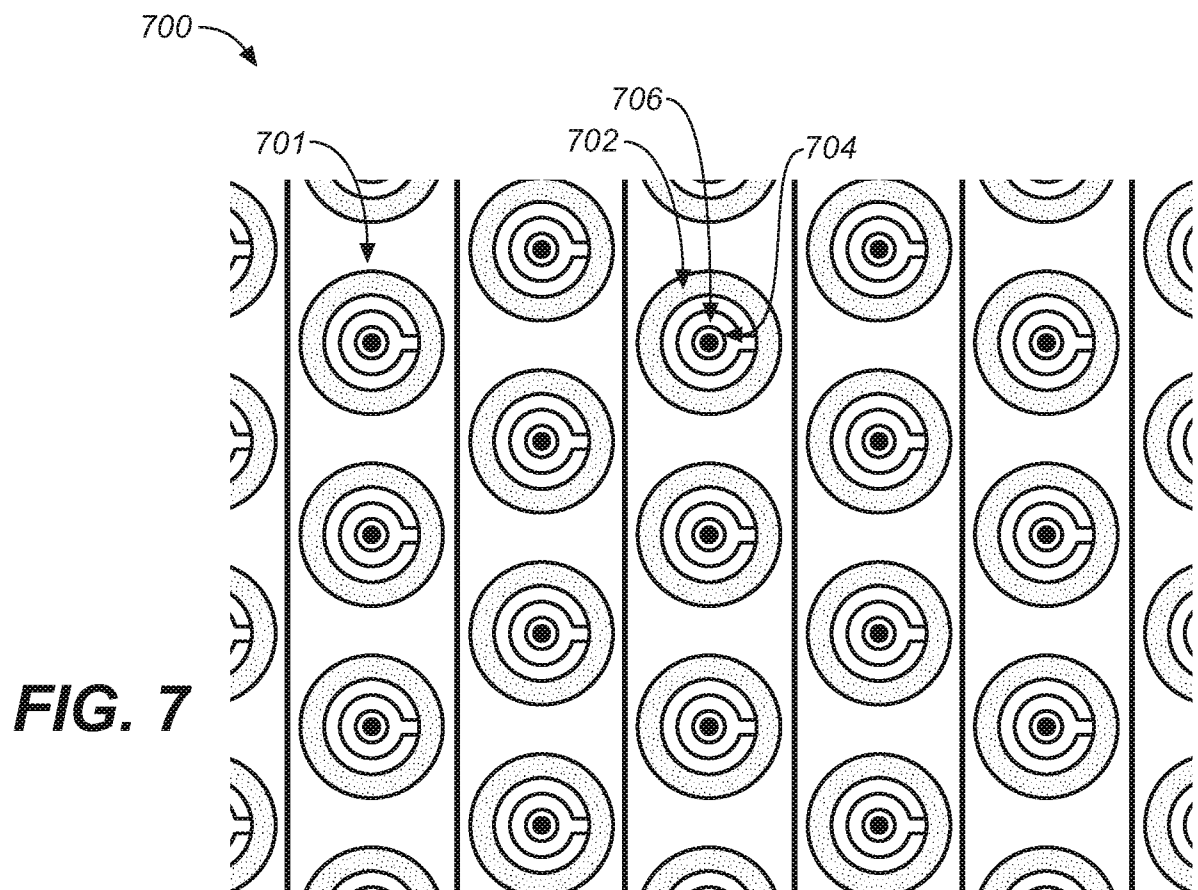


FIG. 6



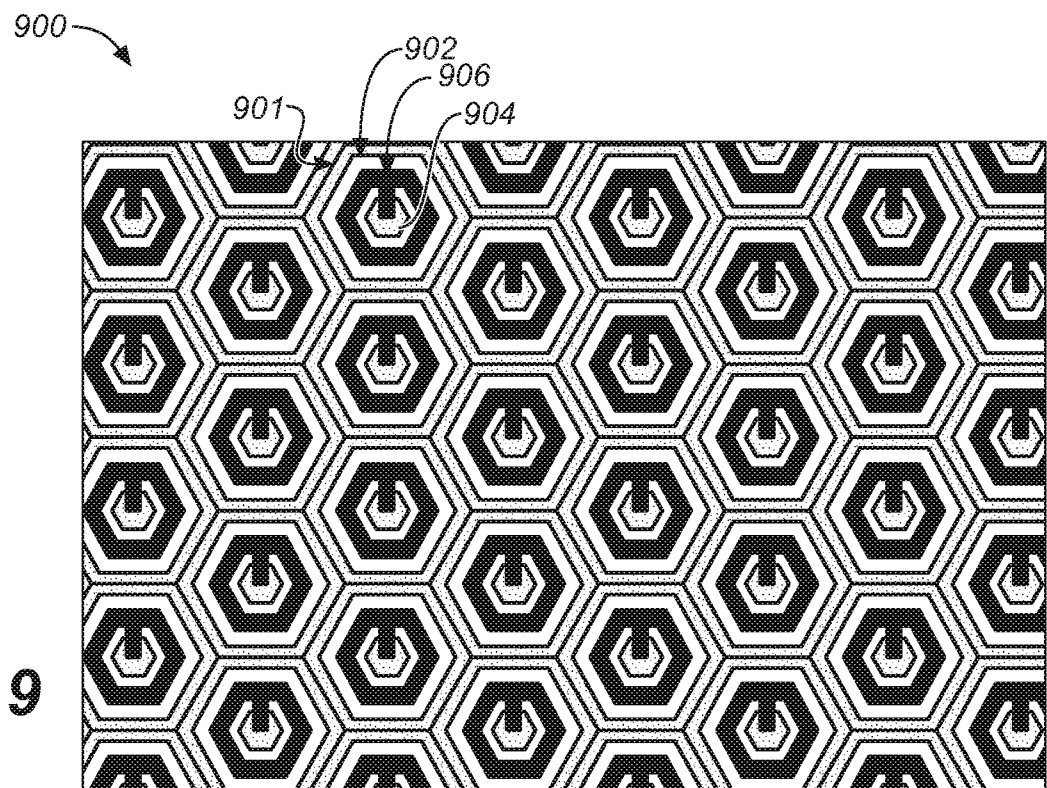
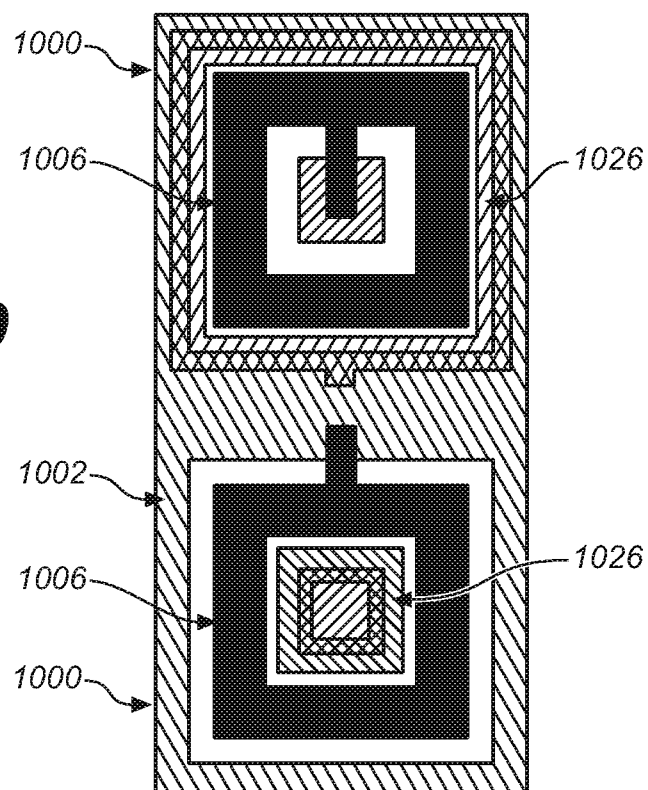


FIG. 10



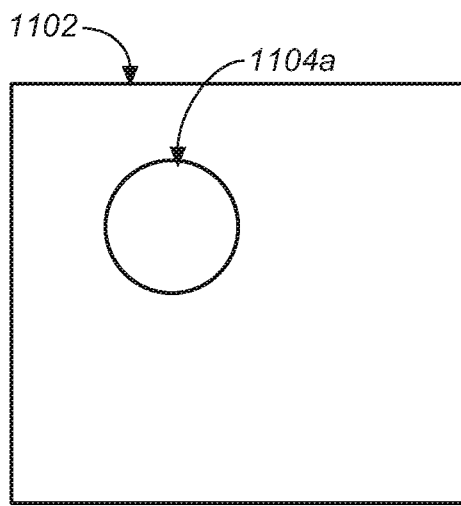


FIG. 11A

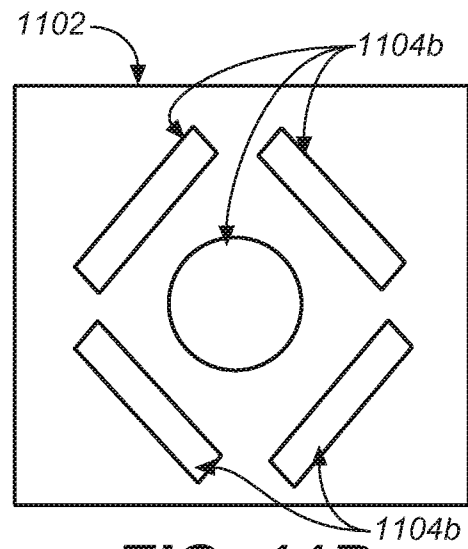


FIG. 11B

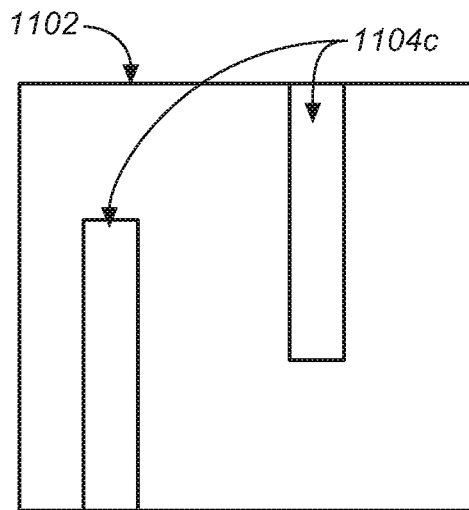


FIG. 11C

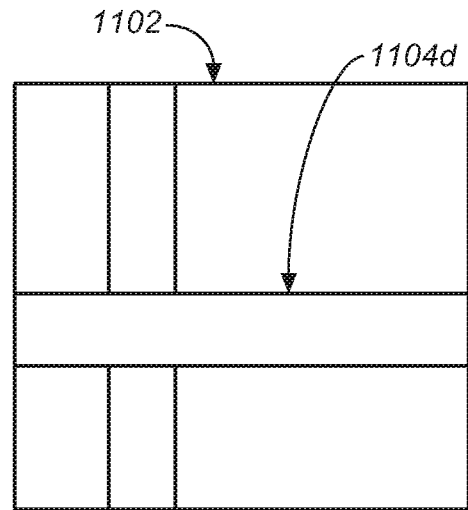
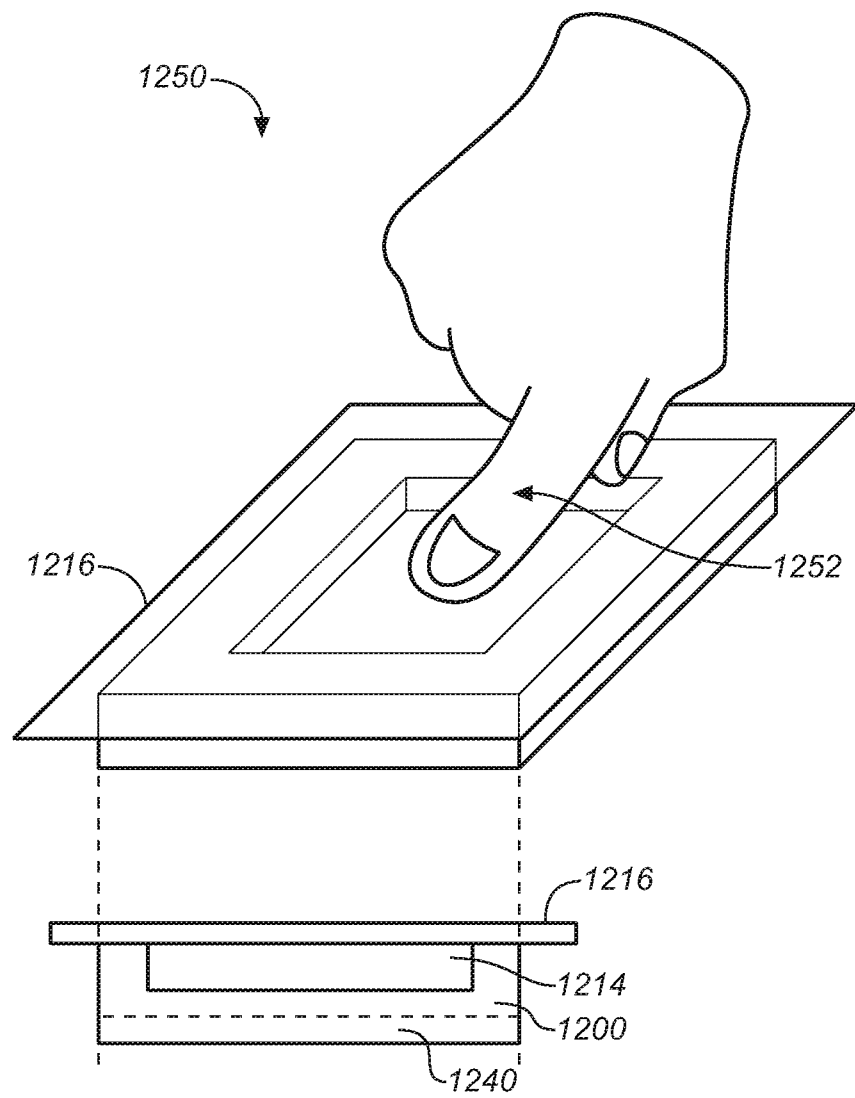


FIG. 11D

**FIG. 12**

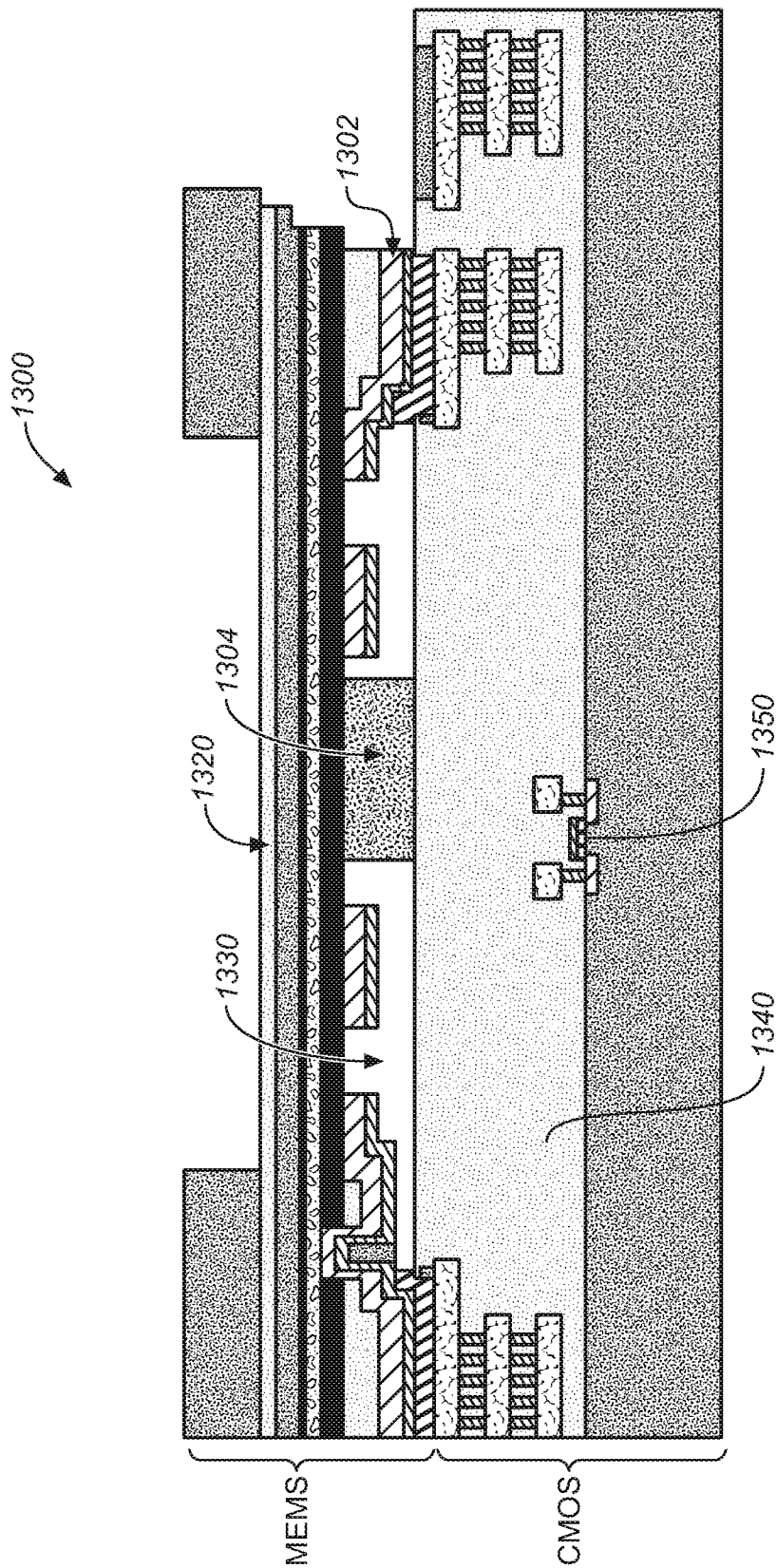
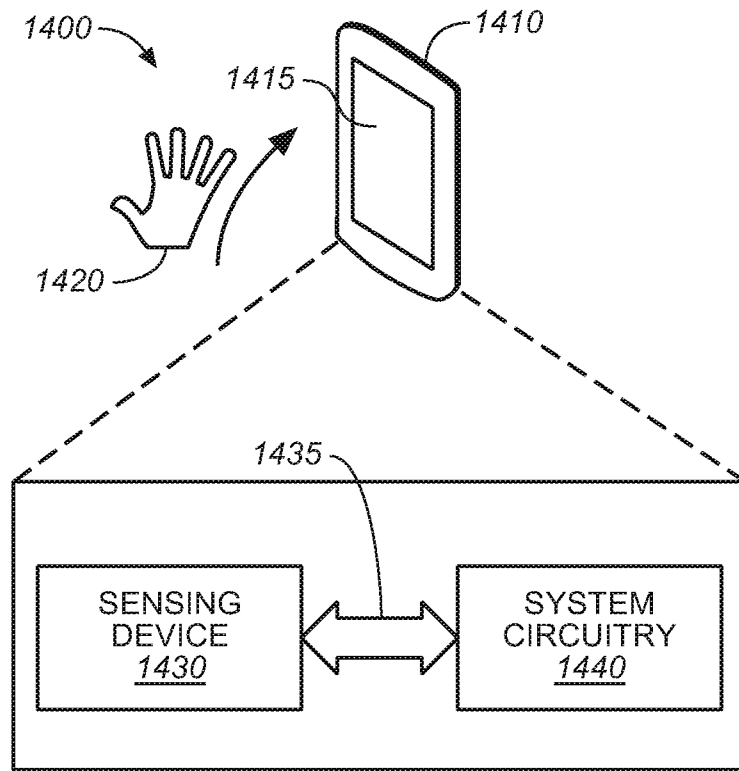
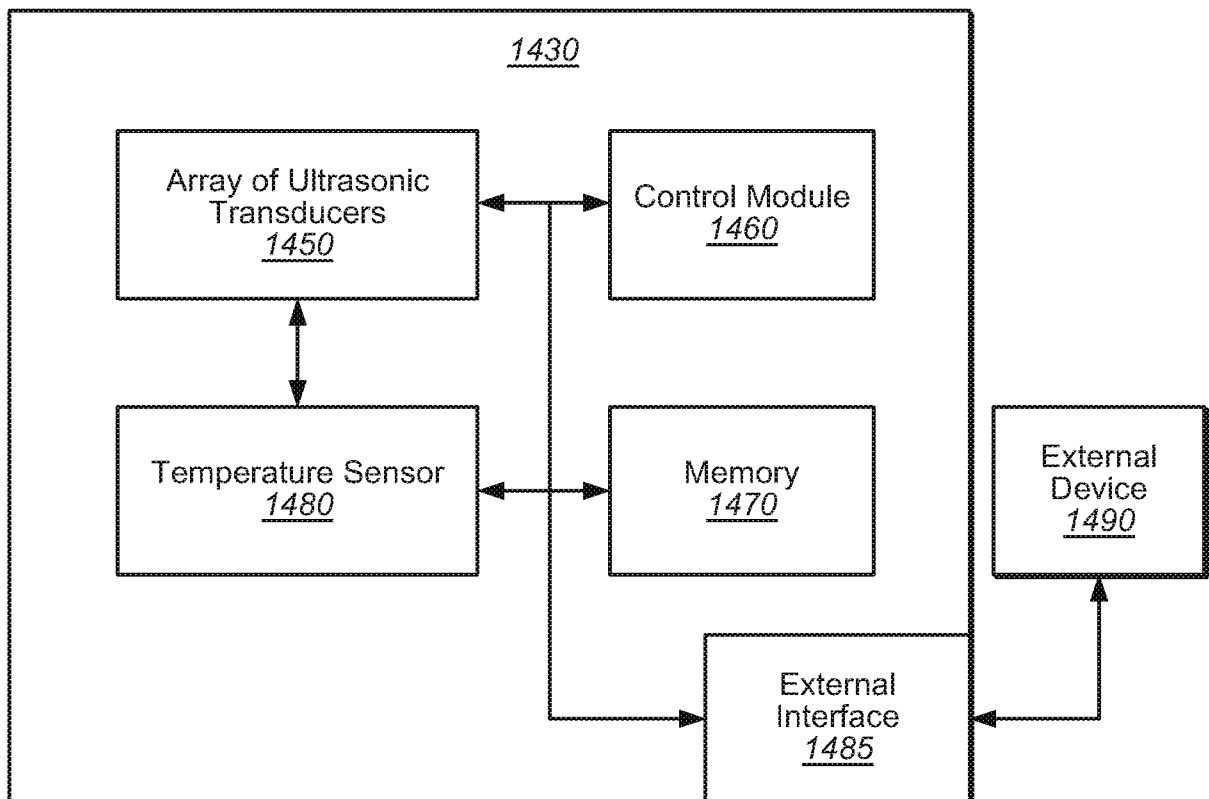


FIG. 13

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**FIG. 14A****FIG. 14B**

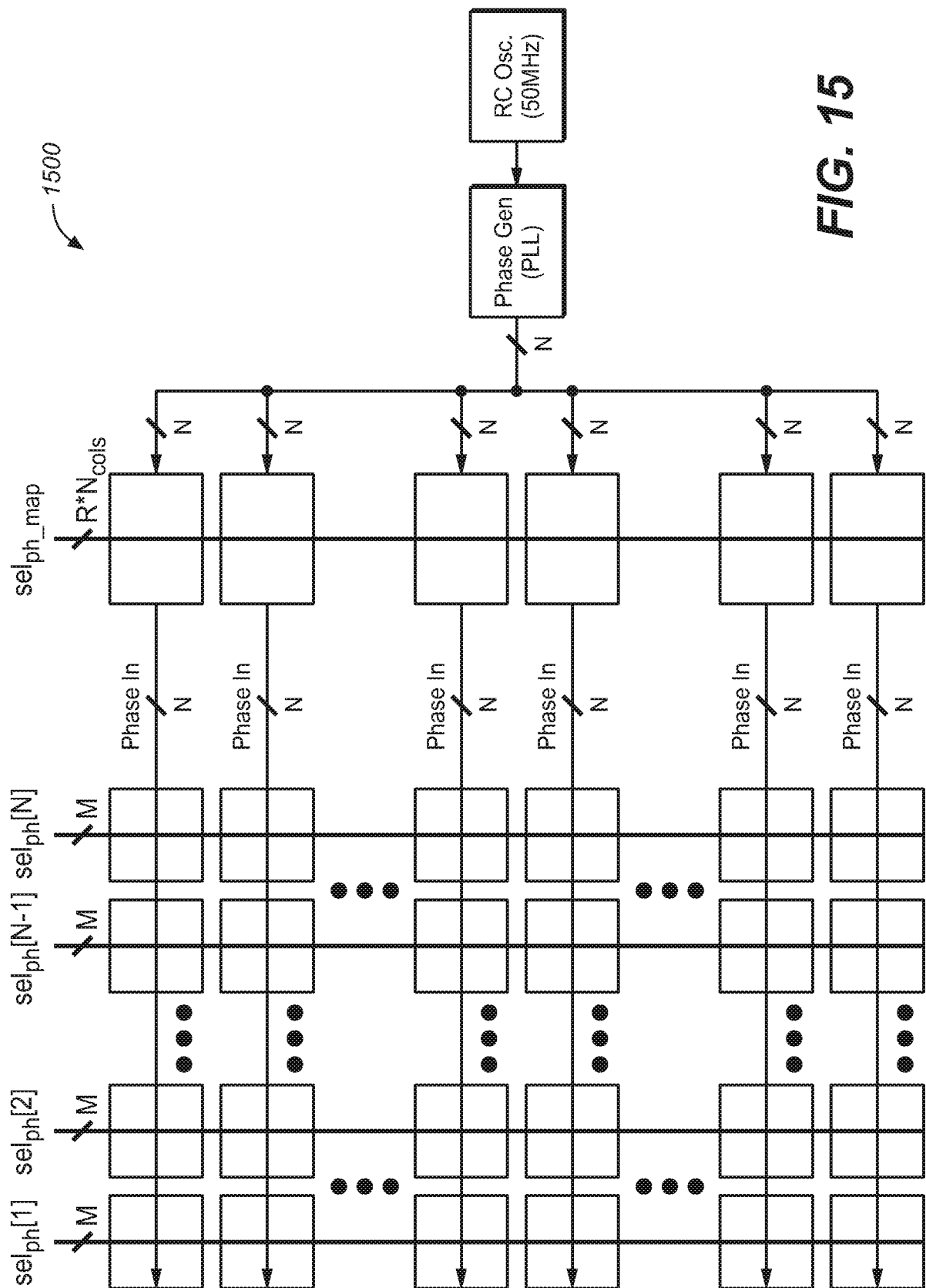


FIG. 15

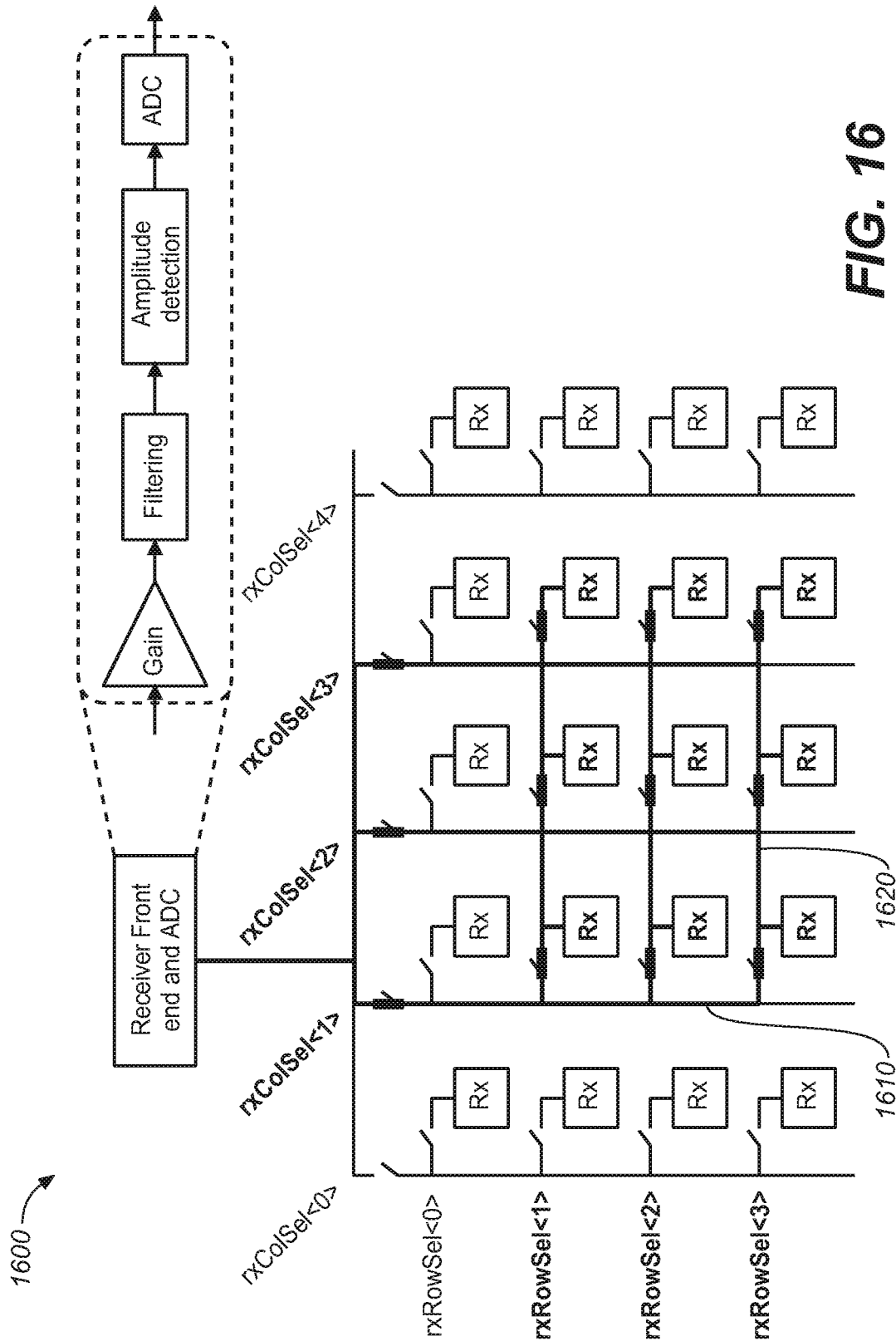
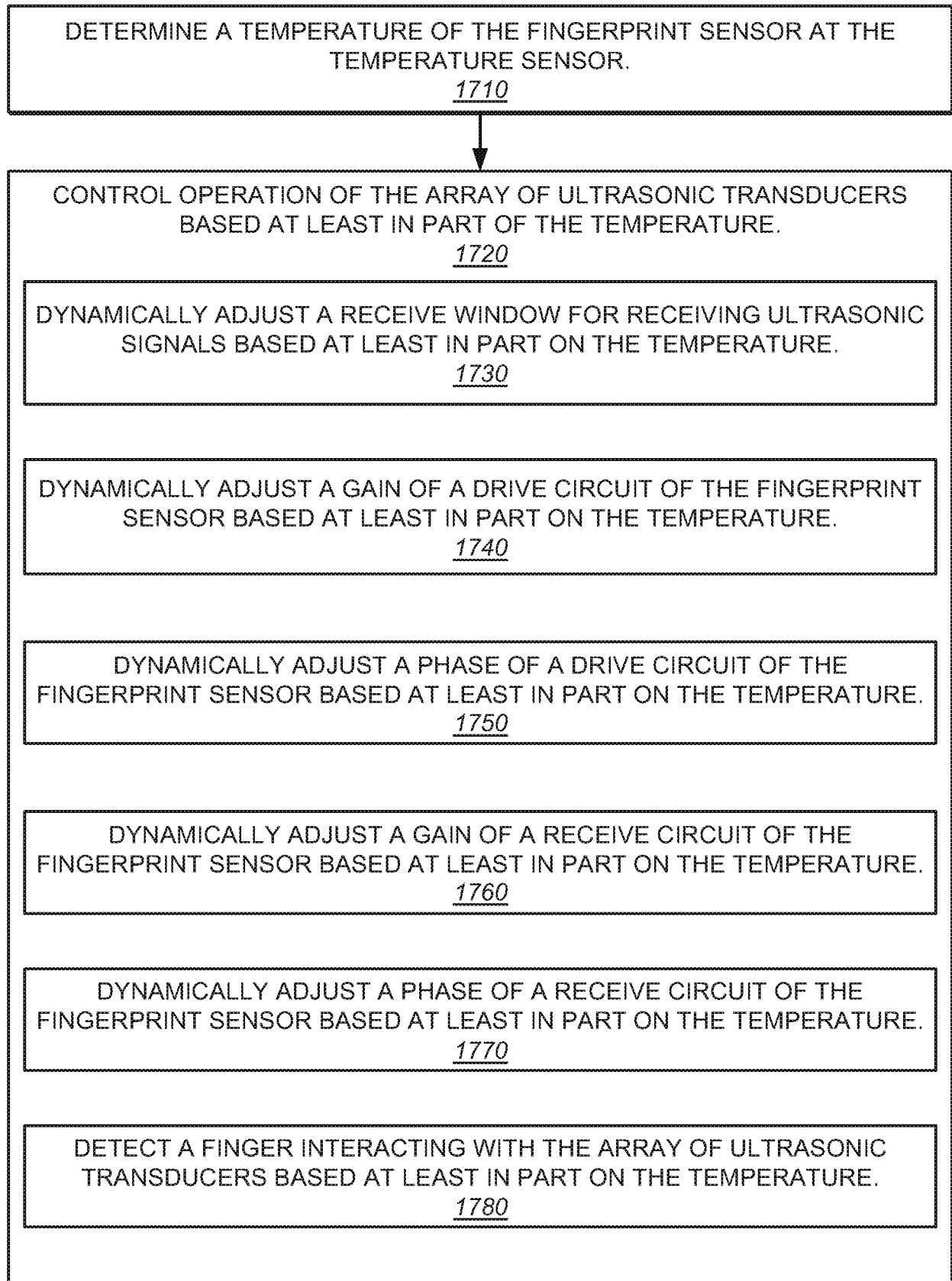


FIG. 16

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1700**FIG. 17**

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No
PCT/US2017/031434

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER

INV. B06B1/02 B06B1/06 G01S7/521 G06F3/043
ADD.

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

B. FIELDS SEARCHED

Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)

G10K B06B G06F G06K H01L G01S

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

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

EPO-Internal, WPI Data

C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

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X Y	US 2012/232396 A1 (TANABE TSUYOSHI [JP]) 13 September 2012 (2012-09-13) paragraphs [0001], [0116] - [0126], [0130] - [0138], [0159], [0160], [0164] - [0171]; figures 1,3 -----	1,4,5, 11,12 17
X Y	US 5 684 243 A (GURURAJA TURUVEKERE R [US] ET AL) 4 November 1997 (1997-11-04) columns 1,4-6; figure 6 ----- -/-	1,3,4, 6-9 18-21



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

19 June 2017

Date of mailing of the international search report

26/06/2017

Name and mailing address of the ISA/

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Authorized officer

Bream, Philip

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No

PCT/US2017/031434

C(Continuation). DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT		
Category*	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
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Y	paragraphs [0017], [0019], [0023], [0024], [0028]; figure 3 -----	10,22, 24,30
Y	WO 2016/040333 A2 (INVENSENSE INC [US]) 17 March 2016 (2016-03-17)	10,22, 24,30
A	paragraphs [0006] - [0009] -----	25-29

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

Information on patent family members

International application No

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WO 2016040333	A2	17-03-2016	NONE