

Figure 1

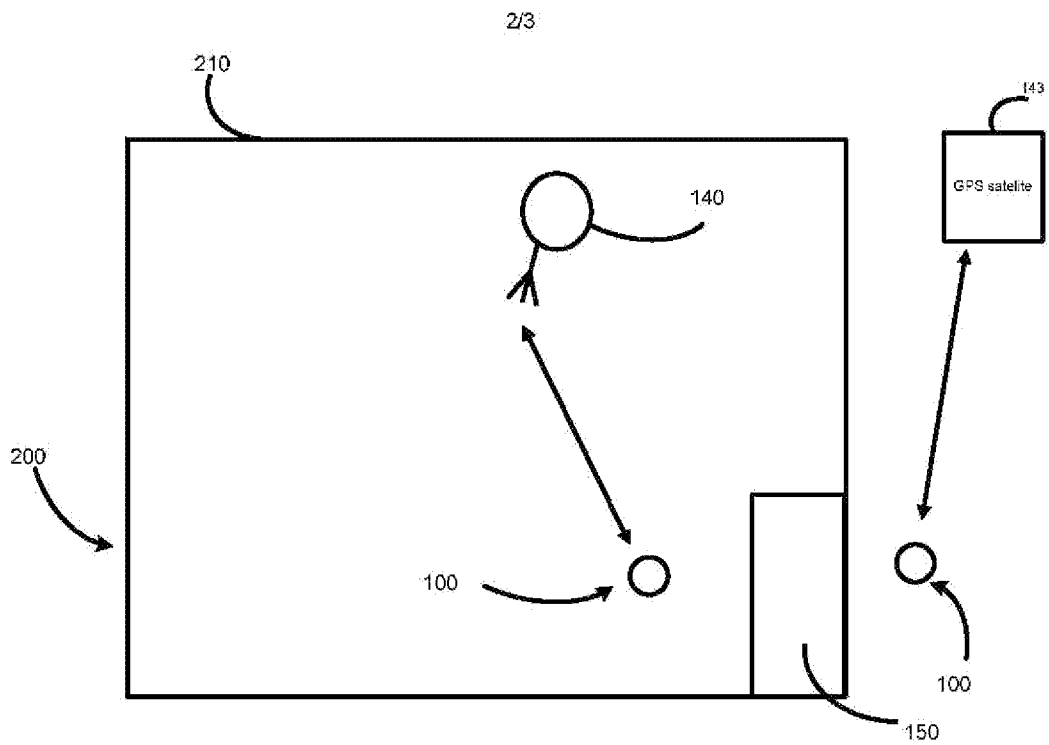


Figure 2

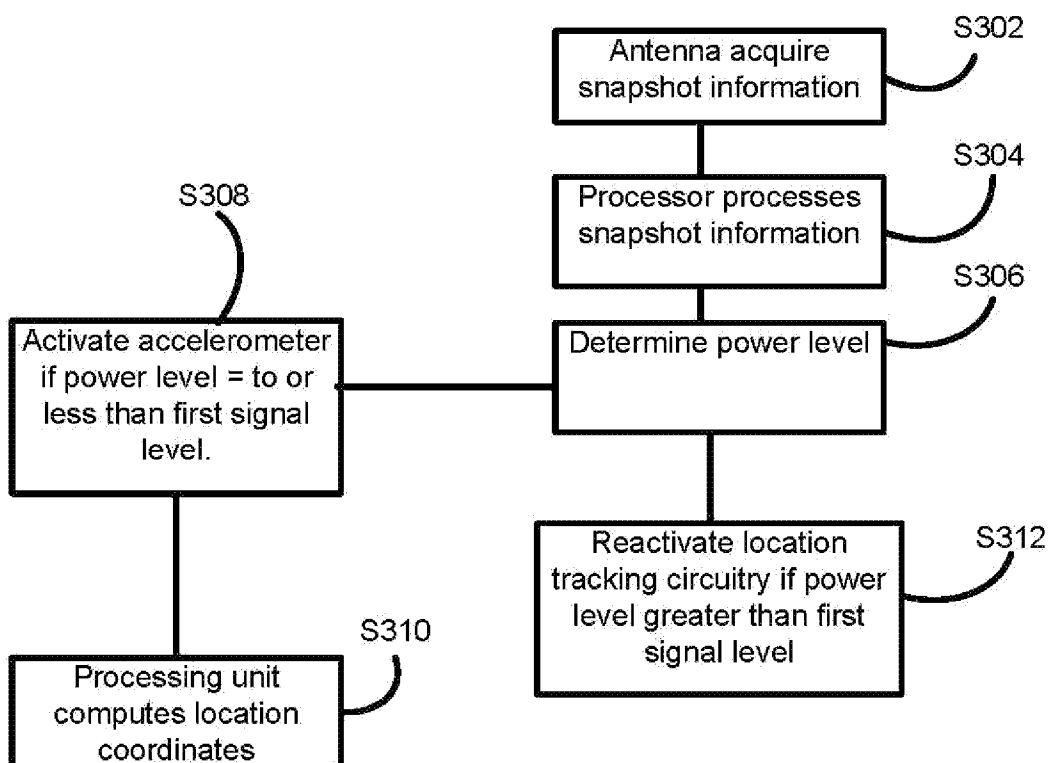


Figure 3

APPARATUS AND METHOD FOR DETERMINING LOCATION AND TRACKING COORDINATES OF A TRACKING DEVICE

Related Applications

[0001] This application is a Divisional of, claims priority to, and herein incorporates in its entirety US patent application Serial No. 11/969,905 filed January 6, 2008.

[0002] This application also incorporates by reference in their entirety: U.S. patent application Serial No. 11/753,979 filed on May 25, 2007, entitled "Apparatus and Method for Providing Location Information on Individuals and Objects Using Tracking Devices"; US patent application Serial No. 11/933,024 filed on October 31, 2007, entitled "Apparatus and Method for Manufacturing an Electronic Package", US patent application Serial No. 11/784,400 filed on April 5, 2007, entitled "Communication System and Method Including Dual Mode Capability"; US patent application Serial No. 11/784,318 filed on April 5, 2007, entitled "Communication System and Method Including Communication Billing Options"; and US patent application Serial No. 11/935, 901 filed on November 6, 2007, entitled "System and Method for Creating and Managing a Personalized Web Interface for Monitoring Location Information on Individuals and Objects Using Tracking Devices."

Background of the Invention

Field of the Invention

[0003] The invention relates generally to the field of location and tracking communication systems. More particularly, the present invention relates in one embodiment

to an accelerometer incorporated as part of portable electronic tracking device for individuals and objects to improve monitoring by a wireless location and tracking system and/or wireless communication system (WCS).

Description of Related Technology

[0004] Accelerometers are conventionally integrated into electronics systems that are part of a vehicle, vessel, and airplane to detect, measure, and monitor deflections, vibrations, and acceleration. Accelerometers, for example, may include one or more Micro Electro-Mechanical System (MEMS) devices. In particular, MEMS devices include one or more suspended cantilever beams (e.g., single-axis, dual-axis, and three-axis models), as well as deflection sensing circuitry. Accelerometers are utilized by a multitude of electronics manufacturers.

[0005] For instance, electronics gaming manufacturers exploit an accelerometer's deflection sensing capability, for instance, to measure device tilt and control game functionality. In another instance, consumer electronics manufacturers, e.g., Apple, Ericsson, and Nike, incorporate accelerometers in personal electronic devices, e.g., Apple iPhone, to provide a changeable screen display orientation that toggles between portrait and landscape layout window settings; to manage human inputs through a human interface, e.g., Apple iPod® touch screen interface; and to measure game movement and tilt, e.g., Wii gaming remotes. Still others including automobile electronics circuitry manufacturers utilize MEMS accelerometers to initiate airbag deployment in accordance with a detected collision severity level by measuring negative vehicle acceleration.

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