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(54) **MOOD-ACTUATED DEVICE**

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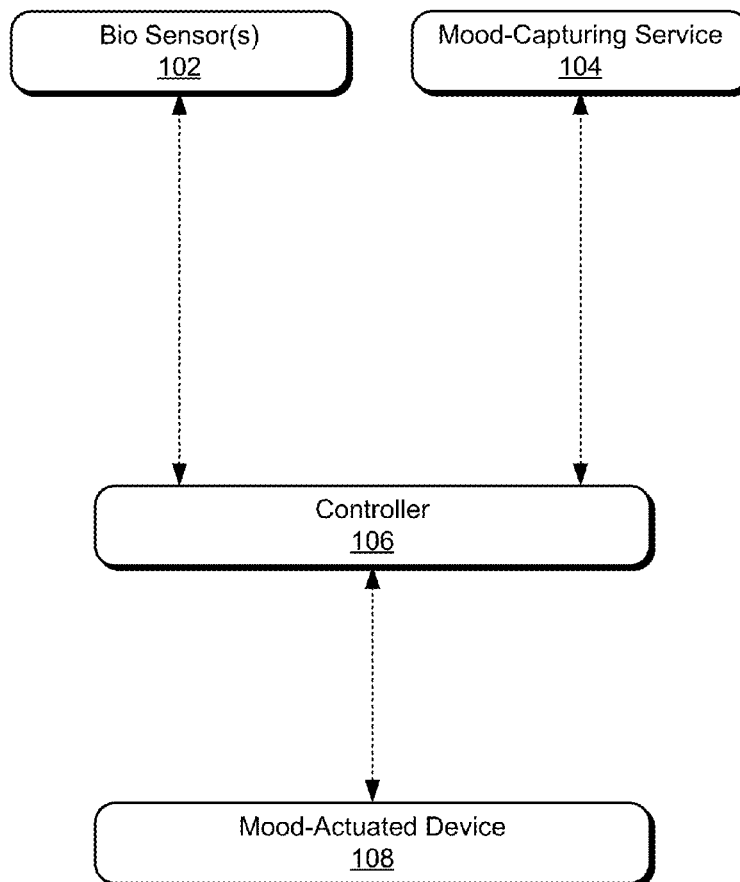
(57) **ABSTRACT**

This document describes techniques and apparatuses for implementing a mood-actuated device. In various embodiments, indicators of an emotional state of a user are sensed, and a mood-actuated device is controlled to react based on the emotional state of the user. In some embodiments, the mood-actuated device includes a mechanical component that is configured to react by moving based on the emotional state of the user.

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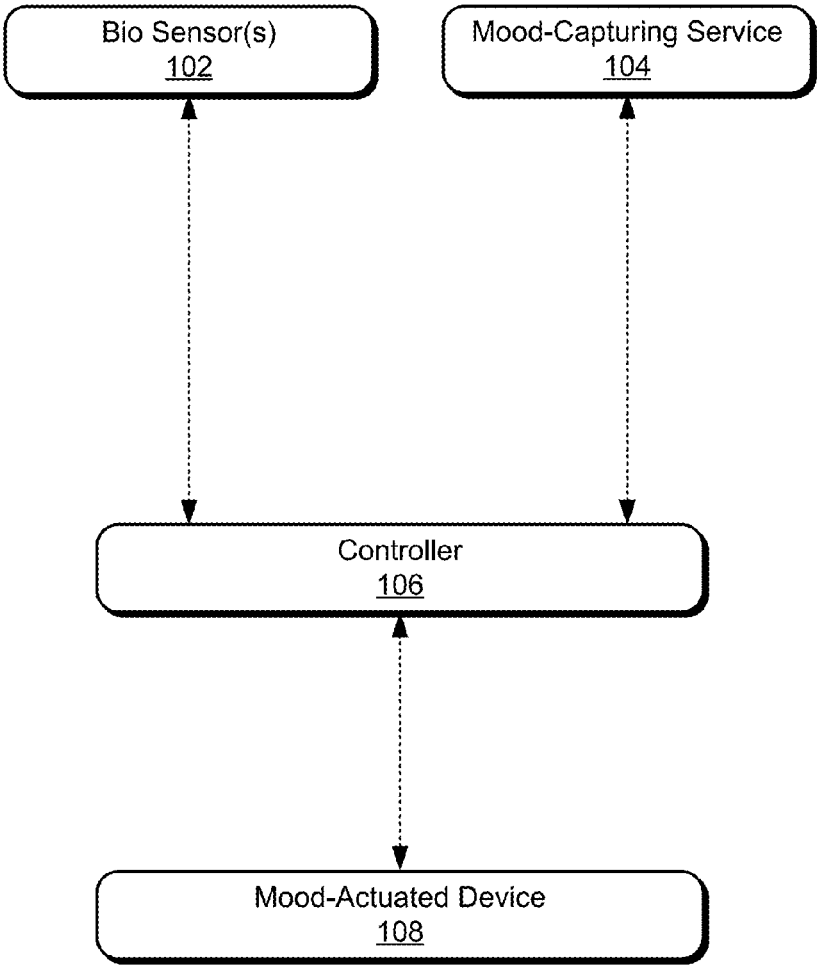


Fig. 1

200

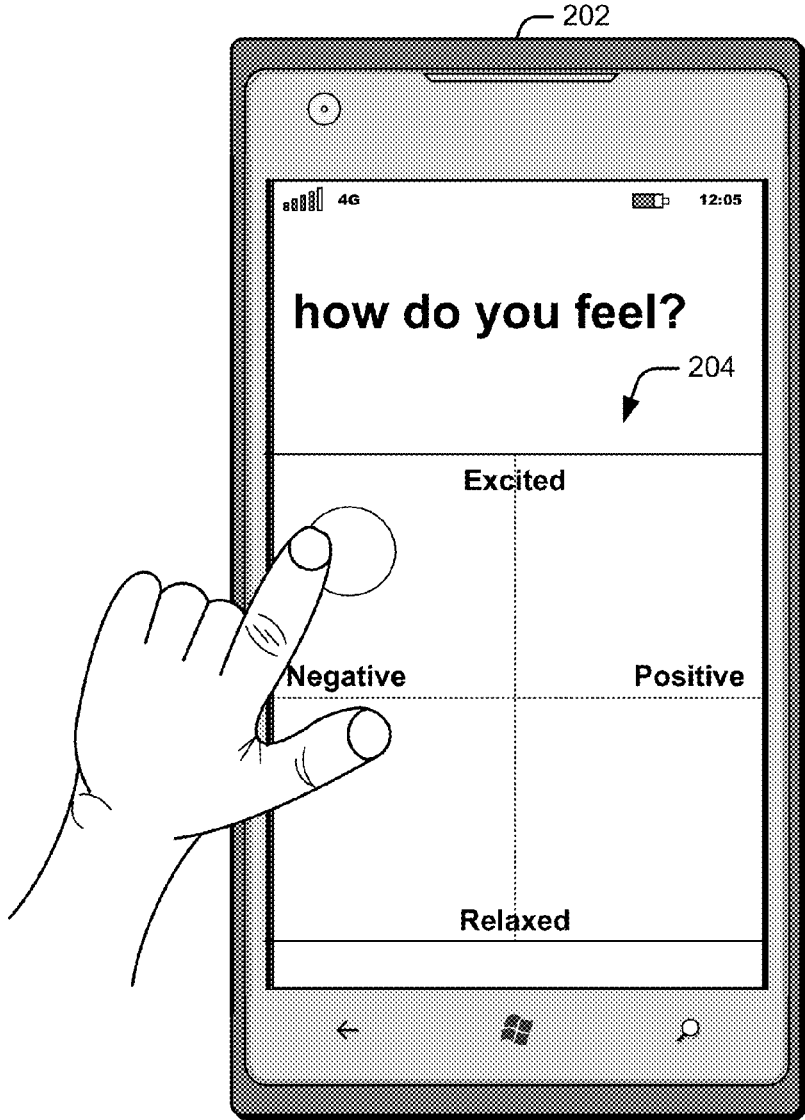


Fig. 2

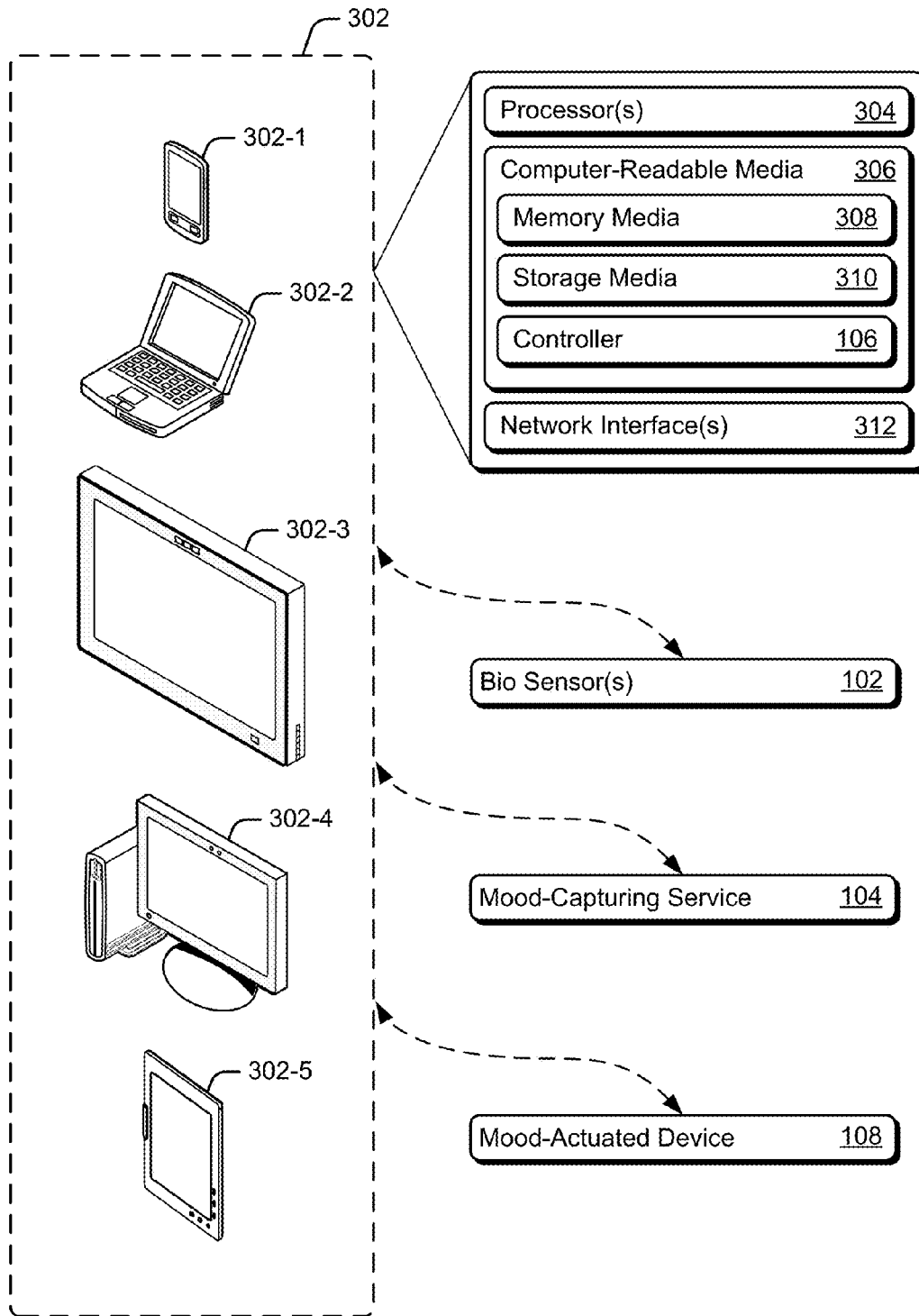


Fig. 3

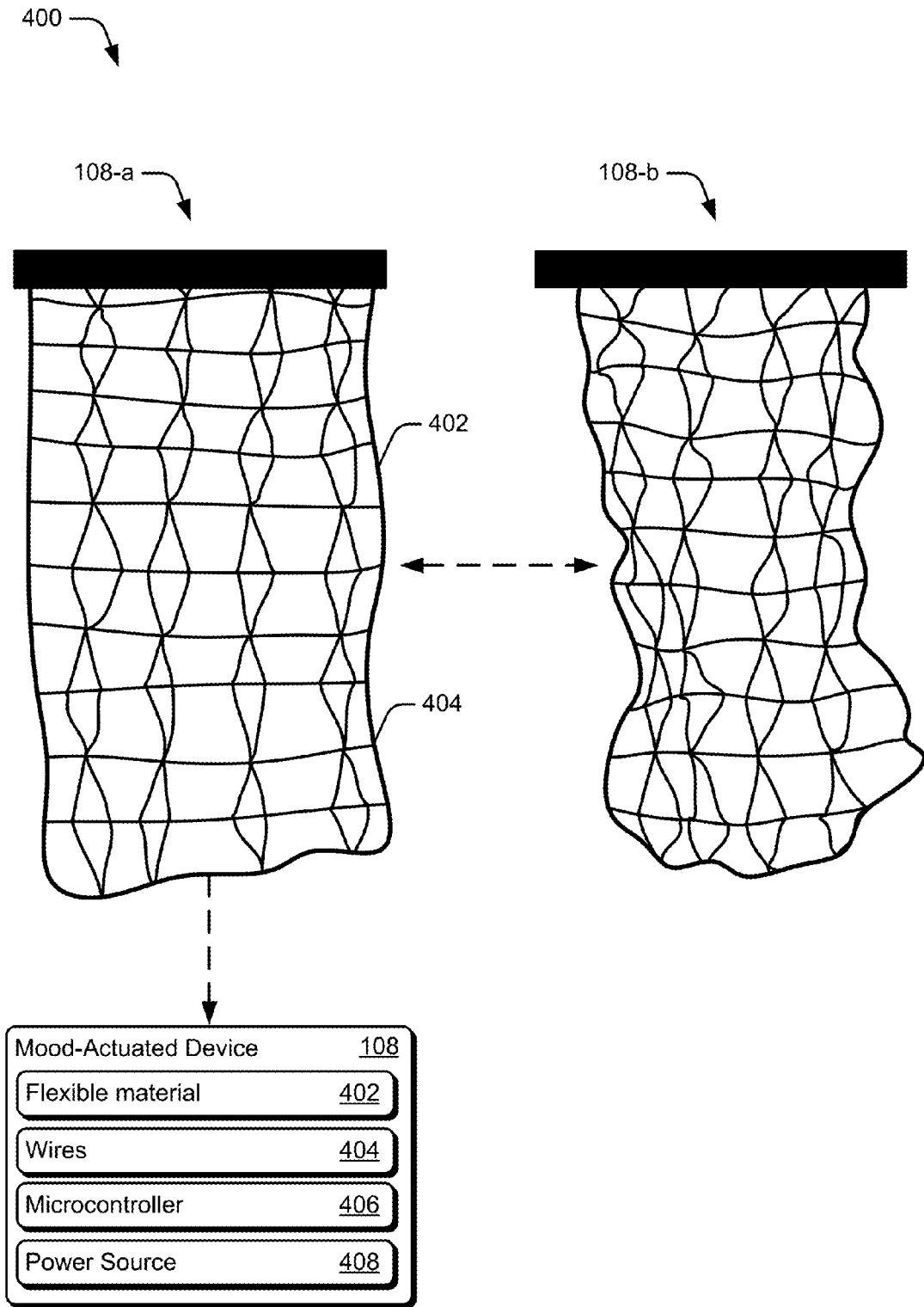


Fig. 4

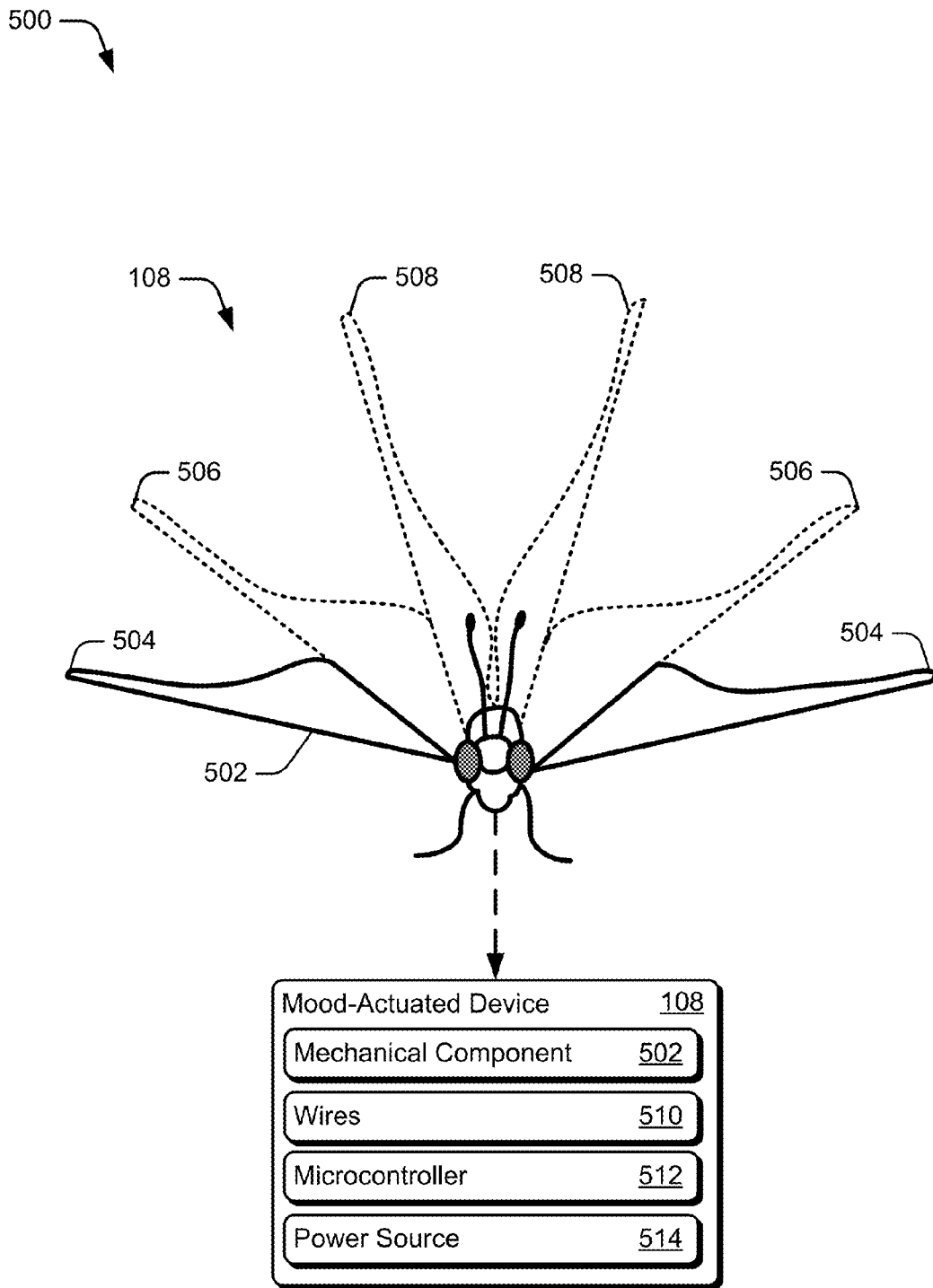


Fig. 5

600
↙

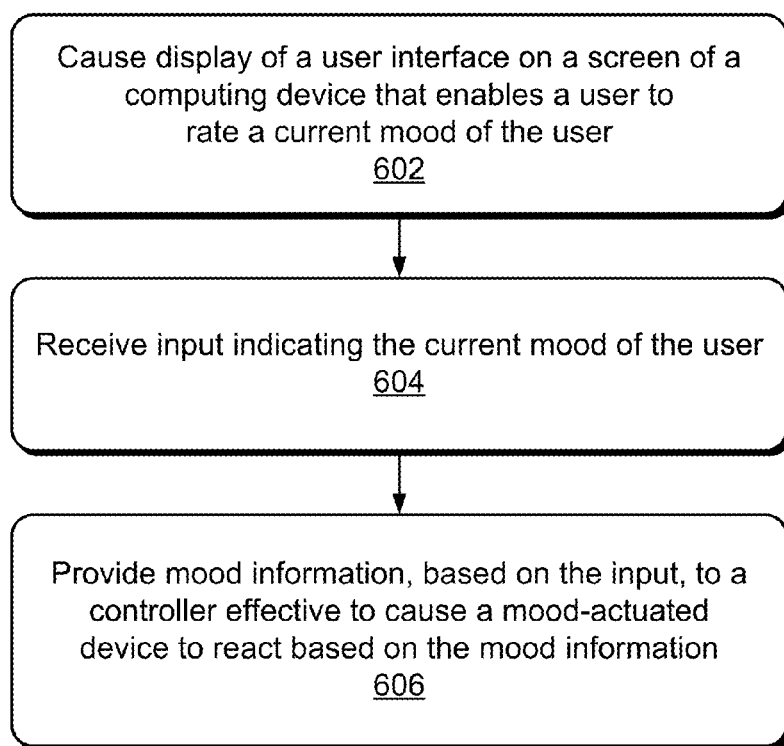


Fig. 6

700

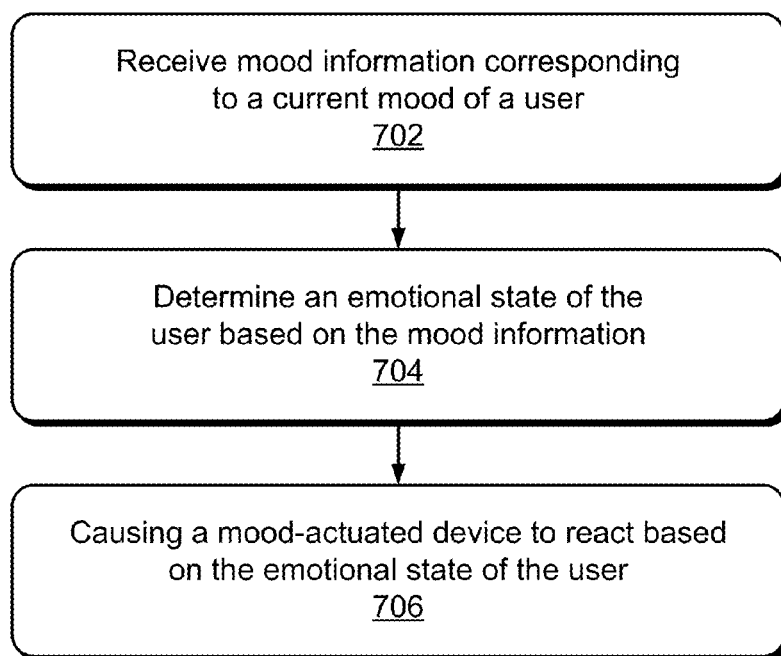
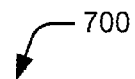


Fig. 7

800
↙

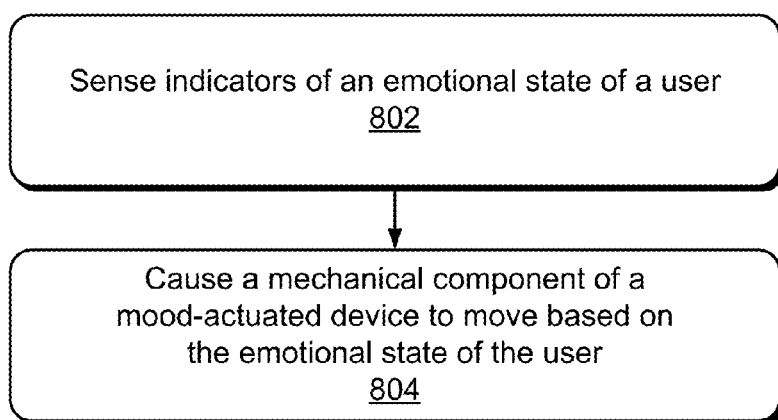


Fig. 8

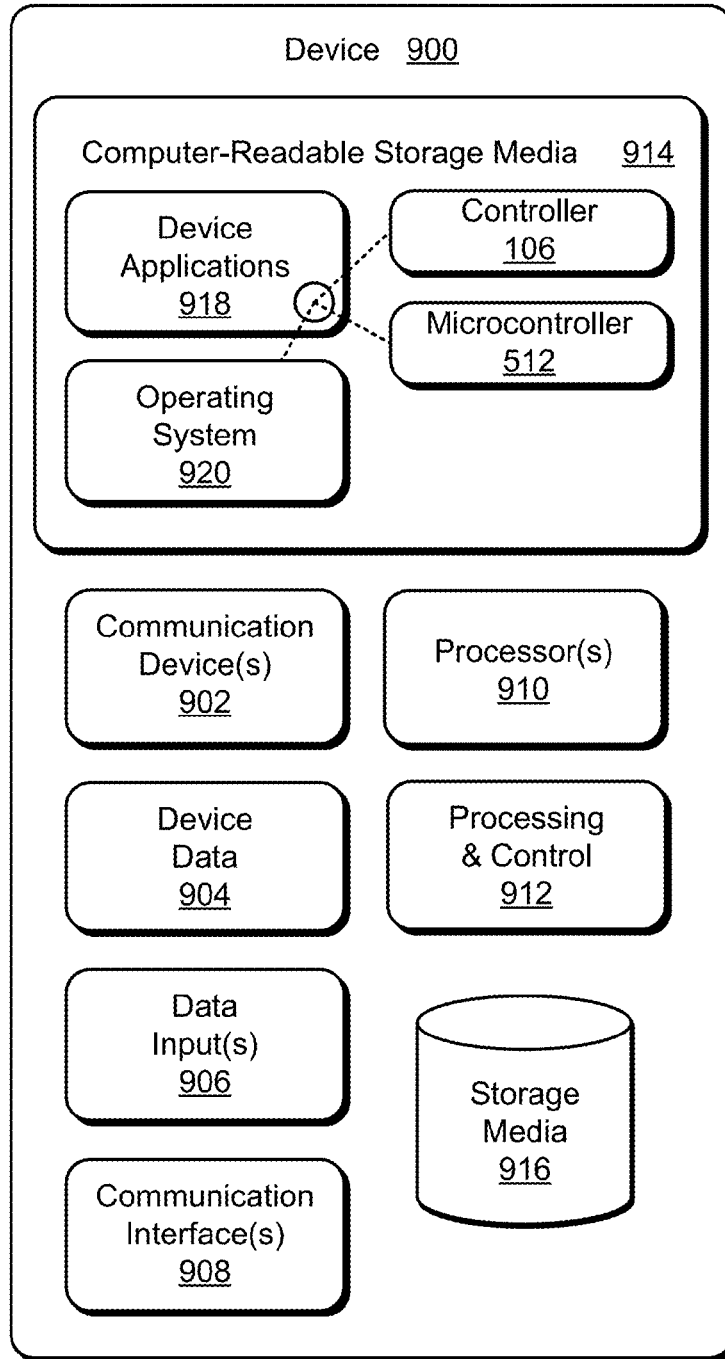


Fig. 9

MOOD-ACTUATED DEVICE

BACKGROUND

[0001] Stress has a wide range of negative impacts on people, ranging from declines in real-time task performance to development of chronic health conditions. Despite the increasing availability of sensors and methods for detecting stress, there are very few existing stress intervention applications. Further, gaps still exist between what a person perceives as stress, and what is actually going on in the person's body.

SUMMARY

[0002] This document describes techniques and apparatuses for implementing a mood-actuated device. In various embodiments, indicators of an emotional state of a user are sensed, and a mood-actuated device is controlled to react based on the emotional state of the user. In some embodiments, the mood-actuated device includes a mechanical component that is configured to react by moving based on the emotional state of the user.

[0003] This summary is provided to introduce simplified concepts in a simplified form that are further described below in the Detailed Description. This summary is not intended to identify essential features of the claimed subject matter, nor is it intended for use in determining the scope of the claimed subject matter.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

[0004] Embodiments of techniques and apparatuses for a mood-actuated device are described with reference to the following drawings. The same numbers are used throughout the drawings to reference like features and components:

[0005] FIG. 1 illustrates an example environment in which a mood-actuated device can be implemented.

[0006] FIG. 2 illustrates a detailed example of a mood-rating service.

[0007] FIG. 3 illustrates a computing device in which a controller may be embodied.

[0008] FIG. 4 illustrates a detailed example of a mood-actuated device that includes a flexible material.

[0009] FIG. 5 illustrates a detailed example of a mood-actuated device that includes a mechanical component.

[0010] FIG. 6 illustrates an example method implemented by a mood-rating service.

[0011] FIG. 7 illustrates an example method of controlling a mood-actuated device.

[0012] FIG. 8 illustrates an example method implemented by a mood-actuated device that includes a bio sensor.

[0013] FIG. 9 illustrates an example device in which techniques for a mood-actuated device can be implemented.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION

[0014] Overview

[0015] This document describes techniques and apparatuses for implementing a mood-actuated device. In various embodiments, a bio sensor senses indicators of an emotional state of a user, or a group of users. The bio sensor can be any type of sensor, such as a heart rate monitor, an electrocardiography monitor, or a galvanic skin response monitor. A microcontroller causes a mood-actuated device to react based on the emotional state of the user. In some embodiments, the

mood-actuated device includes a mechanical component that is configured to react by moving based on the emotional state of the user.

Example Environment

[0016] FIG. 1 is an illustration of an example environment 100 in which a mood-actuated device can be implemented. Environment 100 may include one or more bio sensors 102 and/or a mood-rating service 104. Both bio sensor 102 and mood-rating service 104 are configured to receive or sense indicators of a current mood, or emotional state, of a user, and provide mood information corresponding to the current mood or emotional state of the user to a controller 106. Environment 100 may include both bio sensor 102 and mood-rating service 104, only bio sensor 102, or only mood-rating service 104.

[0017] Bio sensor 102 can be any type of sensor configured to detect or sense indicators of a user's mood or emotional state. Bio sensor 102 can be implemented as a sensor that is configured to make physical contact with the user, such as a heart rate monitor that senses a user's heart rate, an electrocardiography monitor that senses the rate and regularity of a user's heartbeat, or a galvanic skin response monitor that senses the electrical conductance of the skin, to name just a few. Alternately, bio sensor 102 can be implemented as a sensor that does not make physical contact with the user, such as a camera or a microphone. For example, a camera sensor may be able to determine that a user is stressed based on the position of the user's eyebrows. Similarly, a microphone sensor may be able to determine that the user is stressed based on a tone of the user's voice. In some embodiments, bio sensor 102 can be configured to determine an emotional state of the user based on user interaction data received from social media, email, and/or chat applications.

[0018] After sensing the current mood of the user, bio sensor 102 provides mood information corresponding to the current mood of the user to controller 106 to enable the controller to determine an emotional state of the user. The mood information provided by bio sensor 102 may include indicators of the user's current mood or emotional state, such as changes in the user's skin temperature sensed by the galvanic skin response monitor, or changes in the user's heart rate sensed by the heart rate monitor. These indicators of the user's current mood or emotional state can then be used by controller 106 to determine the emotional state of the user. For example, an increase in the electrical conductance of a user's skin, as sensed by the galvanic skin response monitor, may be used by controller 106 to determine that the user is aroused or excited.

[0019] Mood-rating service 104 is configured to render a user interface on a display of a computing device that enables a user to rate the user's current mood or emotional state. For example, the user can rate the user's current emotional state as happy, sad, relaxed, or stressed. Mood-rating service 104 receives user-inputted data corresponding to the user's current mood via the user interface, and provides mood information corresponding to the current mood of the user to controller 106 to enable the controller to determine an emotional state of the user.

[0020] FIG. 2 illustrates a detailed example 200 of mood-rating service 104. In this example, mood-rating service 104 causes a computing device 202 to render a user interface 204 on a screen of the computing device. In this example, the screen is a touch-input display that is configured to receive touch-input from the user. Computing device 202 is illus-

trated as a mobile phone, but it is to be appreciated that computing device 202 may also be implemented as a tablet device, a communication device, an entertainment device, a gaming device, a navigation device, and/or other type of computing device. Computing device 202 can be implemented with various components, such as a processor and/or memory system to implement mood-rating service 104, as well as any number and combination of differing components as further described with reference to the example device shown in FIG. 9.

[0021] User interface 204 is configured to enable a user to rate the user's current mood. In various embodiments, the user interface includes a grid that enables the user to select between two opposite moods along a first axis, and two different opposite moods along a second axis that is perpendicular to the first axis. By way of example and not limitation, opposite moods can include happy and sad, calm and stressed, or relaxed and excited. In example 200, the user interface asks the user to respond to the question "how do you feel?" The user interface also includes a grid that enables the user to rate the user's current mood from negative valence (e.g., sad) to positive valence (e.g., happy) along a first axis (the x-axis in this example), and enables the user to rate the user's mood from excited to relaxed along a second axis (the y-axis in this example). In this example, the user has rated the user's current mood as mostly negative, and mostly excited. It is to be noted, of course, that this is just one example of a user interface that enables the user to rate the user's current mood. Mood-rating service 104 receives input indicating the current mood of the user, and provides mood information, based on the input, to controller 106 to enable the controller to determine an emotional state of the user.

[0022] Controller 106 receives mood information from bio sensor 102 and/or mood-rating service 104, and determines an emotional state of the user based at least in part on the mood information. Controller 106 can determine a variety of different emotional states of the user, such as the user being happy, sad, stressed, calm, excited, bored, or angry, to name just a few. In some embodiments, controller 106 may determine the emotional state of the user based on the received mood information and additional information, such as user history information or external information. For example, a certain heart rate value received from a heart rate monitor may indicate that a "normal" person is relaxed, but could indicate that a marathon runner, who generally has a lower resting heart rate, is stressed. Therefore, user history information corresponding to a specific user may enable controller 106 to more accurately determine the emotional state of the specific user. Additionally, external information, such as a current temperature, may be taken into account by controller 106 when determining the emotional state of the user. For example, information received from a galvanic skin response monitor indicating that the user's skin is hot may be less relevant if the temperature outside is over 90 degrees. As another example, information that the user's heart rate is high may be less relevant if external information is provided that indicates that the user is currently exercising.

[0023] After determining the emotional state of the user, controller 106 causes mood-actuated device 108 to react based on the emotional state of the user. Controller 106 can cause mood-actuated device 108 to react to correspond to a variety of different emotional states or moods of the user, including by way of example and not limitation, the user being happy, sad, stressed, calm, excited, bored, or angry. As

described in more detail below, mood-actuated device 108 can be controlled to react to the emotional state of the user in a variety of different ways, such as by changing shapes, moving, making sounds, or lighting up, to name just a few.

[0024] In some embodiments, controller 106 causes mood-actuated device 108 to react to indicate the emotional state of the user. For example, if the emotional state of the user is determined to be "stressed", controller 106 causes mood-actuated device 108 to reflect that the user is stressed. In other embodiments, mood-actuated device 108 is controlled to react to help change the emotional state of the user. For example, if the emotional state of the user is determined to be "stressed", controller 106 causes mood-actuated device 108 to react in a way that may help to calm the user.

[0025] FIG. 3 illustrates a device 302 in which controller 106 may be embodied. Device 302 is illustrated with various non-limiting example devices: smartphone 302-1, laptop 302-2, television 302-3, desktop 302-4, and tablet 302-5. Device 302 includes processor(s) 304 and computer-readable media 306, which includes memory media 308 and storage media 310. Applications and/or an operating system (not shown) embodied as computer-readable instructions on computer-readable media 306 can be executed by processor(s) 304 to provide some or all of the functionalities described herein. Computer-readable media 306 also includes controller 106.

[0026] Device 302 also includes, or is in communication with, one or more bio sensors 102 and/or mood-rating service 104, and mood-actuated device 108. Bio sensor 102 and mood-rating service 104 are configured to capture mood information as discussed above, and may be separate or integral with device 302. For example, in some embodiments, bio sensors 102 and/or mood-rating service 104 may be located at device 302 along with controller 106. In other embodiments, bio sensors 102 and/or mood-rating service 104 may communicate with device 302 and controller 106 over a network. Mood-actuated device 108 may also be separate or integral with device 302. For example, in some embodiments, device 302 is implemented as part of mood-actuated device 108. In other embodiments, mood-actuated device 108 may communicate with device 302 and controller 106 over a network.

[0027] Device 302 may also include network interface(s) 312 for communicating data over wired, wireless, or optical networks. Data communicated over such networks may include mood information communicated from bio sensors 102 and/or mood-rating service 104 to controller 106, as well as control signals communicated between controller 106 and mood-actuated device 108. By way of example and not limitation, network interface 312 may communicate data over a local-area-network (LAN), a wireless local-area-network (WLAN), a personal-area-network (PAN), a wide-area-network (WAN), an intranet, the Internet, a peer-to-peer network, point-to-point network, a mesh network, and the like.

[0028] Mood-Actuated Device with Flexible Material

[0029] In various embodiments, mood-actuated device 108 includes a flexible material that is controlled to react to an emotional state of a user by changing shapes or textures. The flexible material can be any type of material or fabric that can move and/or change shapes, including felt, cloth, plastic, or metal, to name just a few. In some embodiments, the flexible material is configured to hang on a wall, but it is to be appreciated that the flexible material can be designed in any size and/or shape.

[0030] FIG. 4 illustrates a detailed example 400 of mood-actuated device 108 that includes a flexible material 402. In this example, flexible material 402 of mood-actuated device 108 is controlled by controller 106 to react to a change in the emotional state of the user by changing shapes from a flat shape illustrated at 108-a to a crumpled or enfolded shape illustrated at 108-b. In some embodiments, controller 106 causes flexible material 402 of mood-actuated device 108 to react to indicate the emotional state of the user. For example, the flat shape of flexible material 402 at 108-a may indicate a first emotional state of the user, and the crumpled shape of flexible material 402 at 108-b may indicate a second emotional state of the user.

[0031] In various embodiments, flexible material 402 is controlled to indicate the emotional state of the user by changing to a shape that visually mirrors the emotional state of the user. As described herein, a shape of the flexible material visually mirrors an emotional state when characteristics of the shape represent characteristics of the emotional state. At 108-a, for example, the relaxed shape of flexible material 402 may visually mirror that the emotional state of the user is calm. In contrast, the tight winding up of flexible material 402 at 108-b may visually mirror that the user is stressed. It is to be noted, however, that mood-actuated device 108 can be configured or mapped to change to any shape responsive to any emotional state of the user. For example, flexible material 402 could be controlled to change to the crumpled shape to indicate that the user is calm, and to change to the flat shape to indicate that the user is stressed.

[0032] In an embodiment, flexible material 402 of mood-actuated device 108 is configured to react to four quadrants of high or low arousal, and negative or positive valence. For example, as described above, if the user is in a state of low arousal, or calm, flexible material 402 can be controlled to react as illustrated at 108-a, and if the user is in a state of high arousal, or stressed, the flexible material can react as illustrated at 108-b. In addition to these examples, however, flexible material 402 can be controlled to react to visually mirror happiness if the user is happy, such as by being controlled to react with rapid movements of air pockets running through the flexible material. Alternately, if the user is sad, flexible material 402 can be controlled to react to visually mirror sadness, such as by being controlled to droop. It is to be noted, however, that mood-actuated device 108 can be configured to move in any direction or change into any shape to indicate any emotional state of the user.

[0033] By changing shapes, flexible material 402 notifies the user of the user's emotional state, and enables the user to alter this state through awareness. Consider, for example, that the user is unaware of being stressed. In response to the user's stressful state, flexible material 402 is controlled to change to the crumpled shape illustrated at 108-b. This crumpled shape may cause awareness by the user that the user is stressed which enables the user to act to reduce this stress level, such as by taking a few deep breaths or going for a walk. If the user is successful in relaxing, flexible material 402 notifies the user that the user has calmed down by changing back to the flat shape. It is to be appreciated, that noticing flexible material 402 react by changing back to the flat shape at 108-a may help to reassure the user that the user's stress level has been reduced.

[0034] In some embodiments, flexible material 402 is configured to change to a shape that can help change the emotional state of the user. The shapes that can help change the

emotional state of the user can be based on studies that indicate that the user's emotional state is changed by watching or interacting with the shape of the flexible material. For example, if the emotional state of the user is "stressed", controller 106 can cause flexible material 402 to react in a way that may help to calm the user such, as by causing the flexible material to slowly unfurl. Watching flexible material 402 slowly unfurl may help relax the user, thereby changing the user's emotional state from stressed to calm.

[0035] In non-limiting example 400, mood-actuated device 108 further includes wires 404, a microcontroller 406, and a power source 408. Flexible material 402 is interlaced with wires 404, which can be any type of wire that is configured to contract when heated, such as Nitinol wire. When wires 404 heat and contract, they cause flexible material 402 to react by crumpling as illustrated at 108-b. As wires 404 cool, they cause flexible material 402 to unfold and return to its original flat state as illustrated at 108-a. It is to be noted that other mechanisms may be implemented to cause the flexible material to react, such as servo motors.

[0036] Microcontroller 406 is configured to receive control signals from controller 106, and responsively cause power from power source 408 to be fed through wires 404 causing the wires to heat up and contract. For example, microcontroller 406 can turn on power source 408 for a predetermined amount of time to heat wires 404 thereby causing flexible material 402 to change to the crumpled shape at 108-b. Similarly, microcontroller 406 can turn off power source 408 to cool the wires thereby causing flexible material 402 to change back to the flat shape illustrated at 108-a. In some embodiments, mood-actuated device 108 may further include one or more hanging weights that are attached to the lower end of flexible material 402. These hanging weights help to pull flexible material 402 back to the flat shape as wires 404 cool.

[0037] Mood-Actuated Device with Mechanical Component

[0038] In various embodiments, mood-actuated device 108 includes a mechanical component that is controlled to react by moving based on the emotional state of the user. In some embodiments, the mood-actuated device is configured to be wearable by the user, and the mechanical component can notify the user, and in some cases other people, of the emotional state of the user. In these embodiments, bio sensor 102 may be implemented as part of mood-actuated device 108 to sense indicators of an emotional state of a user that is wearing the mood-actuated device. Alternately, bio sensor 102 may be implemented separate from mood-actuated device 108 and configured to communicate with mood-actuated device 108 via a wired or wireless connection.

[0039] FIG. 5 illustrates a detailed example 500 of a mood-actuated device 108 that includes a mechanical component 502. In this example, mood-actuated device is implemented as a robotic butterfly, and mechanical component 502 is implemented as mechanical wings of the robotic butterfly. Mechanical component 502 of mood-actuated device 108 is controlled by controller 106 to react by moving based on the emotional state of the user.

[0040] Controller 106 can vary the speed and/or the amount of movement of mechanical component 502 to indicate the emotional state of the user. For example, at 504 controller 106 causes the wings of the robotic butterfly to move a small distance, resulting in a "gentle hover". At 506, controller 106 causes the wings of the robotic butterfly to move a greater distance than the distance moved at 504. At 508, controller

106 causes the wings of the robotic butterfly to move an even greater distance than the distance moved at **506**, resulting in a “large flap” of the wings. In some embodiments, controller **106** causes mechanical component **502** of mood-actuated device **108** to react to indicate the emotional state of the user. For example, the movement of the wings of the robotic butterfly illustrated at **504** may indicate a first emotional state of the user, the movement of the wings at **506** may indicate a second emotional state of the user, and the movement of the wings at **508** may indicate a third emotional state of the user.

[0041] In various embodiments, mechanical component **502** is controlled to indicate the emotional state of the user by moving to visually mirror the emotional state of the user. As described herein, a movement of the mechanical component visually mirrors an emotional state when characteristics of the movement represent characteristics of the emotional state. For example, the gentle hover of the mechanical wings at **504** may visually mirror that the emotional state of the user is calm or relaxed. In contrast, the large flap of the wings at **508** may visually mirror that the user is stressed, excited, and/or nervous. In some cases, controller **106** can also control the speed at which mechanical component **502** moves. For example, controller **106** can control a duration of time for the full wingtip-to-wingtip contraction of the large flap at **508** to represent different emotional states of the user. To do so, controller **106** causes the wings to move slowly to increase the duration of time for the full wingtip-to-wingtip contraction, or to move quickly to decrease the duration of time for the full wingtip-to-wingtip contraction. It is to be noted that mood-actuated device **108** can be configured or mapped to any type of movement responsive to any emotional state of the user. For example, the wings could be controlled to move in the large flap of **508** to indicate that the user is calm, and to gently hover at **504** to indicate that the user is stressed.

[0042] Mechanical component **502** notifies the user of the user’s emotional state through movement, and enables the user to alter this state through awareness. Consider, for example, that the user is unaware of being stressed. In response to the user’s stressful state, the wings of the robotic butterfly are controlled to move in the large flap as illustrated at **508**. This large flap may cause awareness by the user that the user is stressed, which enables the user to act to reduce this stress level, such as by taking a few deep breaths or going for a walk. If the user is successful in relaxing, the wings of the robotic butterfly notify the user that the user has calmed down by moving in the gentle hover as illustrated at **504**. It is to be appreciated, that noticing the wings move in the gentle hover may help to reassure the user that the user’s stress level has been reduced.

[0043] In some embodiments, mechanical component **502** is configured to move in a way that can help change the emotional state of the user. The movements that can help change the emotional state of the user can be based on studies that indicate that the user’s emotional state is changed by watching or interacting with the movement of the mechanical component. For example, if the emotional state of the user is “stressed”, controller **106** can cause mechanical component **502** to react in a way that may help to calm the user such, as by causing the wings of the robotic butterfly to move in the gentle hover. Watching the wings of the mechanical butterfly move in the gentle hover may help relax the user, thereby changing the user’s emotional state from stressed to calm.

[0044] In example **500**, mood-actuated device **108** further includes wires **510**, a microcontroller **512**, and a power source

514. In this example, the wings of the robotic butterfly are interlaced with wires **510** (not pictured), which can be any type of wire that is configured to contract when heated, such as Nitinol wire. When wires **510** are heated, they cause the wings of the robotic butterfly to close, and as wires **510** cool they cause the wings to open. Thus, microcontroller **512** causes the wings of the robotic butterfly to flap by causing power from power source **514** to be fed through wires **510** causing the wings to close, and reducing the power fed through wires **510** causing the wings to open. Microcontroller **512** can control the apex of the flap (e.g., how much the wings close) and/or the speed of the flap by modifying the voltage fed from power source **514** to wires **510**. It is to be noted that other mechanisms may be implemented to cause the wings of the robotic butterfly to move, such as servo motors.

[0045] In some cases, the mechanical component can be designed so as to notify other people of the user’s emotional state. For example, a mood-actuated device worn by a user could notify other people that the user is stressed by causing movement of the mechanical component. As an example, in a classroom environment, the mechanical component could notify the teacher whether or not each student is paying attention. In other embodiments, the mechanical component is configured to notify the user without notifying others of the user’s emotional state. For example, the mechanical component can vibrate or move in a way that is noticeable to the user but is not noticeable by others.

Example Methods

[0046] FIG. 6 is a flow diagram depicting an example method **600** implemented by mood-rating service **104**. Block **602** causes display of a user interface on a screen of a computing device that enables a user to rate a current mood of the user. For example, mood-rating service **104** causes a user interface **204** (FIG. 2) to be displayed on a screen of computing device **202** that enable a user to rate a current mood of the user.

[0047] Block **604** receives input indicating the current mood of the user, and block **606** provides mood information, based on the input, to a controller effective to cause a mood-actuated device to react based on the mood information. For example, mood-rating service **104** receives user input indicating the current mood of the user via user interface **204**. Mood-rating service **104** then provides mood information, that includes the user input, to controller **106** effective to cause mood-actuated device **108** to react based on the mood information.

[0048] FIG. 7 is a flow diagram depicting an example method **700** of controlling mood-actuated device **108**. Block **702** receives mood information corresponding to a current mood of a user. For example, controller **106** (FIG. 1) receives mood information corresponding to a current mood of the user from bio sensors **102** and/or mood-rating service **104**.

[0049] Block **704** determines an emotional state of the user based on the mood information. For example, controller **106** determines an emotional state of the user based on the mood information received from bio sensors **102** and/or mood-rating service **104**. Controller **106** can determine a variety of different emotional states of the user, such as the user being happy, sad, stressed, calm, excited, bored, or angry, to name just a few.

[0050] Block **706** causes a mood-actuated device to react based on the emotional state of the user. For example, controller **106** causes mood-actuated device **108** to react based on

the emotional state of the user. In some cases, mood-actuated device **108** includes a flexible material **402** that is configured to react by changing to a shape that corresponds to the emotional state of the user. In other embodiments, mood-actuated device **108** includes a mechanical component **502** that is configured to react by moving based on the emotional state of the user.

[0051] FIG. 8 is a flow diagram depicting an example method **800** implemented by a mood-actuated device that includes a bio sensor. Block **802** senses indicators of an emotional state of a user. For example, bio sensor **102** (FIG. 1) can be implemented as part of a wearable mood-actuated device **108**, such as the mechanical butterfly illustrated in FIG. 5. Bio sensor **102** can be any type of sensor configured to detect or sense indicators of a user's mood or emotional state. In this case, bio sensor **102** is implemented as a sensor that is configured to make physical contact with the user, such as a heart rate monitor, an electrocardiography monitor, or a galvanic skin response monitor.

[0052] Block **804** causes a mechanical component to move based on the emotional state of the user. For example, micro-controller **512** (FIG. 5) causes mechanical component **502** (illustrated as mechanical wings) to move based on the emotional state of the user sensed by bio sensor **102**.

Example Device

[0053] FIG. 9 illustrates various components of example device **900** that can be implemented as any type of client, server, and/or display device as described with reference to the previous FIGS. 1-8 to implement techniques enabling a mood-actuated device. In embodiments, device **900** can be implemented as one or a combination of a wired and/or wireless device, as a form of flat panel display, television, television client device (e.g., television set-top box, digital video recorder (DVR), etc.), consumer device, computer device, server device, portable computer device, user device, communication device, video processing and/or rendering device, appliance device, gaming device, electronic device, and/or as another type of device. Device **900** may also be associated with a viewer (e.g., a person or user) and/or an entity that operates the device such that a device describes logical devices that include users, software, firmware, and/or a combination of devices.

[0054] Device **900** includes communication devices **902** that enable wired and/or wireless communication of device data **904** (e.g., received data, data that is being received, data scheduled for broadcast, data packets of the data, etc.). The device data **904** or other device content can include configuration settings of the device, media content stored on the device, and/or information associated with a user of the device. Media content stored on device **900** can include any type of audio, video, and/or image data. Device **900** includes one or more data inputs **906** via which any type of data, media content, and/or inputs can be received, such as user-selectable inputs, messages, music, television media content, recorded video content, and any other type of audio, video, and/or image data received from any content and/or data source.

[0055] Device **900** also includes communication interfaces **908**, which can be implemented as any one or more of a serial and/or parallel interface, a wireless interface, any type of network interface, a modem, and as any other type of communication interface. The communication interfaces **908** provide a connection and/or communication links between

device **900** and a communication network by which other electronic, computing, and communication devices communicate data with device **900**.

[0056] Device **900** includes one or more processors **910** (e.g., any of microprocessors, controllers, and the like), which process various computer-executable instructions to control the operation of device **900** and to enable techniques for implementing a transparent display device. Alternatively or in addition, device **900** can be implemented with any one or combination of hardware, firmware, a system-on-chip (SoC), or fixed logic circuitry that is implemented in connection with processing and control circuits which are generally identified at **912**. Although not shown, device **900** can include a system bus or data transfer system that couples the various components within the device. A system bus can include any one or combination of different bus structures, such as a memory bus or memory controller, a peripheral bus, a universal serial bus, and/or a processor or local bus that utilizes any of a variety of bus architectures.

[0057] Device **900** also includes computer-readable storage media **914**, such as one or more memory devices that enable persistent and/or non-transitory data storage (i.e., in contrast to mere signal transmission), examples of which include random access memory (RAM), non-volatile memory (e.g., any one or more of a read-only memory (ROM), non-volatile RAM (NVRAM), flash memory, EPROM, EEPROM, etc.), and a disk storage device. A disk storage device may be implemented as any type of magnetic or optical storage device, such as a hard disk drive, a recordable and/or rewriteable compact disc (CD), any type of a digital versatile disc (DVD), and the like. Device **900** can also include a mass storage media device **916**.

[0058] Computer-readable storage media **914** provides data storage mechanisms to store the device data **904**, as well as various device applications **918** and any other types of information and/or data related to operational aspects of device **900**. For example, an operating system **920** can be maintained as a computer application with the computer-readable storage media **914** and executed on processors **910**. The device applications **918** may include a device manager, such as any form of a control application, software application, signal-processing and control module, code that is native to a particular device, a hardware abstraction layer for a particular device, and so on.

[0059] The device applications **918** also include any system components or modules to implement techniques using or enabling a mood-actuated device. In this example, the device applications **918** can include controller **106** and/or microcontroller **512** for controlling a mood-actuated device.

CONCLUSION

[0060] This document describes various apparatuses and techniques for implementing a mood-actuated device. Although the invention has been described in language specific to structural features and/or methodological acts, it is to be understood that the invention defined in the appended claims is not necessarily limited to the specific features or acts described. Rather, the specific features and acts are disclosed as example forms of implementing the claimed invention.

What is claimed is:

1. A robotic butterfly, comprising:

one or more bio sensors configured to sense indicators of an emotional state of a user;

- mechanical wings configured to react based on the emotional state of the user; and
a microcontroller configured to cause the mechanical wings to move in a way that visually mirrors the emotional state of the user.
2. The robotic butterfly as recited in claim 1, wherein the mechanical wings are interlaced with wires that contract when heated, and wherein the microcontroller is configured to cause the mechanical wings to move by causing the wires to be heated or cooled.
3. The robotic butterfly as recited in claim 1, wherein the microcontroller is configured to cause the mechanical wings of the robotic butterfly to move in a gentle hover to indicate a first emotional state of the user, and to move in a large flap to indicate a second emotional state of the user.
4. The robotic butterfly as recited in claim 1, wherein the microcontroller is configured to cause the mechanical wings of the robotic butterfly to move at a first speed to indicate a first emotional state of the user, and to move at a second speed to indicate a second emotional state of the user.
5. A mood-actuated device, comprising:
a bio sensor configured to sense indicators of an emotional state of a user; and
a mechanical component configured to move based on the emotional state of the user.
6. The mood-actuated device as recited in claim 5, wherein mood-actuated device comprises a robotic butterfly, and wherein the mechanical component comprises wings of the robotic butterfly.
7. The mood-actuated device as recited in claim 5, wherein the mechanical component is configured to move based on the emotional state of the user by moving in a way that indicates the emotional state of the user.
8. The mood-actuated device as recited in claim 5, wherein the mechanical component is configured to move based on the emotional state of the user by moving in a way that visually mirrors the emotional state of the user.
9. The mood-actuated device as recited in claim 5, wherein the mechanical component is configured to move based on the emotional state of the user by moving in a way that can help change the emotional state of the user.

10. The mood-actuated device as recited in claim 5, wherein the mood-actuated device is wearable by the user.
11. The mood-actuated device as recited in claim 5, wherein the bio sensor is configured to make physical contact with the user.
12. The mood-actuated device as recited in claim 5, wherein the bio sensor comprises at least one of a heart rate monitor, an electrocardiography monitor, or a galvanic skin response monitor.
13. A method, comprising:
sensing indicators of an emotional state of a user; and
causing a mechanical component of a mood-actuated device to move based on the emotional state of the user.
14. The method as recited in claim 13, wherein the mood-actuated device comprises a robotic butterfly, and wherein the mechanical component comprises wings of the robotic butterfly.
15. The method as recited in claim 14, wherein the causing comprises causing the wings of the robotic butterfly to move in a gentle hover to indicate a first emotional state of the user, and to move in a large flap to indicate a second emotional state of the user.
16. The method as recited in claim 15, wherein first emotional state of the user comprises a relaxed state, and wherein the second emotional state of the user comprises a stressed state.
17. The method as recited in claim 14, wherein the causing comprises causing the wings of the robotic butterfly to move at a first speed to indicate a first emotional state of the user, and to move at a second speed to indicate a second emotional state of the user.
18. The method as recited in claim 13, wherein the mechanical component moves in a way that indicates the emotional state of the user.
19. The method as recited in claim 13, wherein the mechanical component moves in a way that visually mirrors the emotional state of the user.
20. The method as recited in claim 13, wherein the mechanical component moves in a way that is configured to help change the emotional state of the user.

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