

cessed by device 10. Various other applications 48 provide the operational controls to further process and log the communications. Communication subsystem 34 includes receiver 50, transmitter 52 and one or more antennas, illustrated as receive antenna 54 and transmit antenna 56. In addition, communication subsystem 34 also includes processing module, such as digital signal processor (DSP) 58 and local oscillators (LOs) 60. The specific design and implementation of communication subsystem 34 is dependent upon the communication network in which device 10 is intended to operate. For example, communication subsystem 34 of device 10 may be designed to work with one or more of a Mobitex (trade-mark) Radio Network (“Mobitex”) and the DataTAC (trade-mark) Radio Network (“DataTAC”). Voice-centric technologies for cellular device 10 include Personal Communication Systems (PCS) networks like Global System for Mobile Communications (GSM) and Time Division Multiple Access (TDMA) systems. Certain networks provide multiple systems. For example, dual-mode wireless networks include Code Division Multiple Access (CDMA) networks, General Packet Radio Service (GPRS) networks, and so-called third-generation (3G) networks, such as Enhanced Data rates for Global Evolution (EDGE) and Universal Mobile Telecommunications Systems (UMTS). Other network communication technologies that may be employed include, for example, Ultra Mobile Broadband (UMB), Evolution-Data Optimized (EV-DO), and High Speed Packet Access (HSPA), etc.

[0048] In addition to processing communication signals, DSP 58 provides control of receiver 50 and transmitter 52. For example, gains applied to communication signals in receiver 50 and transmitter 52 may be adaptively controlled through automatic gain control algorithms implemented in DSP 58.

[0049] In a data communication mode a received signal, such as a text message or web page download, is processed by the communication subsystem 34 and is provided as an input to microprocessor 30. The received signal is then further processed by microprocessor 30 which can then generate an output to display 14 or to an auxiliary I/O port 38. A user may also compose data items, such as e-mail messages, using keys 24, trackball 20, or a thumbwheel (not shown), and/or some other auxiliary I/O device connected to port 38, such as a keypad, a rocker key, a separate thumbwheel or some other input device. The composed data items may then be transmitted over communication network 68 via communication subsystem 34.

[0050] In a voice communication mode, overall operation of device 10 is substantially similar to the data communication mode, except that received signals are output to speaker 16, and signals for transmission are generated by microphone 28. Alternative voice or audio I/O subsystems, such as a voice message recording subsystem, may also be implemented on device 10.

[0051] Short-range communication subsystem 36 enables communication between device 10 and other proximate systems or devices, which need not necessarily be similar devices. For example, the short-range communication subsystem may include an infrared device and associated circuits and components, or a Bluetooth (trade-mark) communication module to provide for communication with similarly-enabled systems and devices.

[0052] Powering electronics of the mobile handheld communication device is power source 62 (shown in FIG. 2 as “battery”). Power source 62 may include one or more batter-

ies. Power source 62 may be a single battery pack, especially a rechargeable battery pack. A power switch (not shown) provides an “on/off” switch for device 10. Upon activation of the power switch an application 48 is initiated to turn on device 10. Upon deactivation of the power switch, an application 48 is initiated to turn off device 10. Power to device 10 may also be controlled by other devices and by internal software applications. Additional supplementary power may be provided by additional circuits (which may be referred to as modules) and components in device 10.

[0053] Device 10 is provided with tactile elements 70 which works with touchpad 24B to provide a tactile feedback sense as a user of device 10 is activation a region on touchpad 24B. Further detail on tactile elements 70 is provided below.

[0054] Touchpad 24B is an input device, which may be provided in portable electronic devices. Touchpad 24B provides a surface on which a user is meant to glide his finger, in order to provide input signals to move a cursor generated on a graphical user interface (GUI). Touchpad 24B has a series of sensors located underneath the surface to sense a capacitance of the finger or capacitance between sensors.

[0055] Touchpad 24B may be implement in one or more of several circuits. One circuit provides a series of conductors in a grid where a series of row conductors are separated from a series of column conductors by an insulator layer. A high frequency electrical signal is applied sequentially between pairs in the grid, and the current that passes between the nodes is proportional to the capacitance. A user’s finger provides a ground at points in the grid, resulting in a change in capacitance at that location. Alternatively, a capacitive shunt circuit may be provided to sense change in capacitance between a transmitter and receiver that are on opposite sides of the sensor. When a finger is placed between the transmitter and receiver, a ground is created which decreases the local capacitance, which can be detected as a position in touchpad 24B (FIG. 3). The touchpad surface may need to be contacted directly by an interfering body that will disrupt a sensing field in the touchpad circuitry. As such, using an insulated finger (e.g. a gloved finger) or a pencil to contact the surface of the touchpad 24B may not cause a registration of a signal in the circuitry. Another technology may use a series of conductive and resistive layers with a circuit provided within the layers. To register a sense on such a region of touchpad 24B, sufficiently pushing on the surface of touchpad 24 actuates the conductive and resistive layers. In other embodiments, a combination of resistive and capacitive senses may be provided. In other embodiments, touchpad 24B may have certain regions having one or more capacitive sense sections and one or more resistive sense sections. Each of the regions on touchpad 24 may be considered to be the first of two regions when analyzing user actions for an embodiment. A number of physical features 70 may be affixed to the surface of touchpad 24B at strategic locations on touchpad 24B. Each of the tactile elements may be considered to be the second of two regions for analyzing user actions. An input signal generator 74 may be provided with the touchpad 24B to control aspects of the input signals provided to touchpad 24B and amplify, modify, filter and/or process the raw signals generated from touchpad 24B into one or more signals that can be used by other modules or components in device 10. The term “controller” may be used as an equivalent term to “input signal generator”. Input signal generator 74 may be incorporated in whole or in part into touchpad 24B.