US010650285B1

(12) **United States Patent**
Okazaki

(10) **Patent No.: US 10,650,285 B1**
(45) **Date of Patent: *May 12, 2020**

(54) **PLATFORM, SYSTEMS, AND METHODS FOR IDENTIFYING PROPERTY CHARACTERISTICS AND PROPERTY FEATURE CONDITIONS THROUGH AERIAL IMAGERY ANALYSIS**

(71) Applicant: **Aon Benfield Inc.**, Chicago, IL (US)

(72) Inventor: **Takeshi Okazaki**, Tokyo (JP)

(73) Assignee: **Aon Benfield Inc.**, Chicago, IL (US)

(*) Notice: Subject to any disclaimer, the term of this patent is extended or adjusted under 35 U.S.C. 154(b) by 0 days.

This patent is subject to a terminal disclaimer.

(21) Appl. No.: **16/733,888**

(22) Filed: **Jan. 3, 2020**

Related U.S. Application Data

(63) Continuation-in-part of application No. 15/714,376, filed on Sep. 25, 2017, now Pat. No. 10,529,029.
(Continued)

(51) **Int. Cl.**

G06Q 40/00	(2012.01)
G06K 9/62	(2006.01)
G06K 9/00	(2006.01)
G06N 20/20	(2019.01)
G06T 7/00	(2017.01)
G06N 3/08	(2006.01)
G06K 9/46	(2006.01)

(52) **U.S. Cl.**
CPC ***G06K 9/6268*** (2013.01); ***G06K 9/0063*** (2013.01); ***G06K 9/4671*** (2013.01); ***G06N 3/08*** (2013.01); ***G06N 20/20*** (2019.01); ***G06T 7/0002*** (2013.01)

(58) **Field of Classification Search**
USPC 705/4, 5, 39, 37, 38, 40, 26.81, 12, 27.2; 235/375, 386; 709/225; 707/734
See application file for complete search history.

(56) **References Cited**

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

6,732,120 B1 * 5/2004 Du G01C 21/20 715/764
8,078,436 B2 12/2011 Pershing et al.
(Continued)

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

WO 2012054239 A2 4/2012
WO 2012054239 A3 4/2012
(Continued)

OTHER PUBLICATIONS

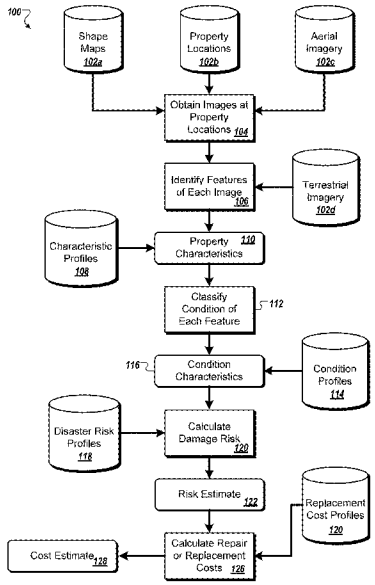
Systems and Methods for Insurers to Monitor Continuously Structural Status of Insured Homes, IP.com No. IPCOM000177511D, Dec. 16, 2008. (Year: 2008).*
(Continued)

Primary Examiner — Tien C Nguyen
(74) *Attorney, Agent, or Firm* — Gardella Grace P.A.

(57) **ABSTRACT**

In an illustrative embodiment, methods and systems for automatically categorizing a condition of a property characteristic may include obtaining aerial imagery of a geographic region including the property, identifying features of the aerial imagery corresponding to the property characteristic, analyzing the features to determine a property characteristic classification, and analyzing a region of the aerial imagery including the property characteristic to determine a condition classification.

22 Claims, 15 Drawing Sheets



Related U.S. Application Data

(60) Provisional application No. 62/398,665, filed on Sep. 23, 2016.

(56) **References Cited**

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

8,145,578 B2 3/2012 Pershing et al.
8,170,840 B2 5/2012 Pershing
8,209,152 B2 6/2012 Pershing
8,346,578 B1 * 1/2013 Hopkins, III G06Q 40/00 382/100
8,401,222 B2 3/2013 Thornberry et al.
8,515,125 B2 8/2013 Thornberry et al.
8,542,880 B2 9/2013 Thornberry et al.
8,670,961 B2 3/2014 Pershing et al.
8,682,079 B1 3/2014 Ouzounis
8,731,234 B1 * 5/2014 Ciarcia G06K 9/00637 382/100
8,775,219 B2 * 7/2014 Swanson G06Q 50/16 705/4
8,818,770 B2 8/2014 Pershing
8,825,454 B2 9/2014 Pershing
8,873,842 B2 10/2014 Robinson et al.
8,977,520 B2 3/2015 Stephens et al.
8,995,757 B1 3/2015 Ciarcia et al.
9,031,325 B2 5/2015 Ouzounis
9,070,018 B1 6/2015 Ciarcia et al.
9,129,376 B2 9/2015 Pershing
9,135,737 B2 9/2015 Pershing
9,141,872 B2 9/2015 Marchisio et al.
9,147,132 B2 9/2015 Marchisio et al.
9,152,863 B1 10/2015 Grant
9,183,538 B2 11/2015 Thornberry et al.
9,230,168 B2 1/2016 Gueguen
9,244,589 B2 1/2016 Thornberry et al.
9,329,749 B2 5/2016 Thornberry et al.
9,330,494 B2 5/2016 Schultz
9,495,618 B1 11/2016 Tabb
9,501,700 B2 11/2016 Loveland et al.
9,514,568 B2 12/2016 Pershing et al.
9,569,690 B2 2/2017 Marchisio et al.
9,589,210 B1 3/2017 Estrada et al.
9,619,734 B2 4/2017 Marchisio et al.
9,639,960 B1 5/2017 Loveland et al.
9,679,227 B2 6/2017 Taylor et al.
9,767,565 B2 9/2017 Estrada et al.
9,846,915 B2 * 12/2017 Howe G06Q 40/08
9,858,645 B2 1/2018 Malitz
9,875,509 B1 1/2018 Harvey et al.
9,904,849 B2 2/2018 Estrada et al.
9,928,553 B1 3/2018 Harvey et al.
9,933,254 B2 4/2018 Thornberry et al.
9,959,667 B2 5/2018 Schultz
10,013,774 B2 7/2018 Estrada et al.
10,102,589 B1 10/2018 Tofte et al.
10,134,092 B1 11/2018 Harvey et al.
10,137,984 B1 11/2018 Flick
10,157,479 B2 12/2018 Estrada et al.
10,163,164 B1 12/2018 Tofte et al.
10,173,773 B1 1/2019 Flick
10,178,303 B2 1/2019 Castillo et al.
10,198,857 B2 2/2019 Schultz
10,217,207 B2 2/2019 Marra et al.
10,275,833 B1 4/2019 Christopulos et al.
10,311,302 B2 6/2019 Kottenstette et al.
10,346,687 B2 7/2019 Pestun et al.
10,346,935 B2 7/2019 Thornberry et al.
10,366,288 B1 7/2019 Kottenstette et al.
10,402,676 B2 9/2019 Wang et al.
10,410,289 B1 9/2019 Tofte et al.
10,453,147 B1 10/2019 Davis
2005/0063563 A1 * 3/2005 Soliman H04N 1/00204 382/104
2009/0265193 A1 * 10/2009 Collins G06Q 30/0185 705/4
2010/0179787 A2 * 7/2010 Pershing G06Q 50/16 702/156
2010/0215212 A1 * 8/2010 Flakes, Jr. G01M 5/0025 382/100
2012/0209782 A1 8/2012 Pershing et al.
2013/0226667 A1 * 8/2013 Terrazas G06Q 30/0205 705/7.34
2013/0311240 A1 11/2013 Pershing et al.
2014/0019166 A1 1/2014 Swanson et al.
2014/0032433 A1 * 1/2014 Eick G06Q 50/163 705/314
2014/0237430 A1 8/2014 Thornberry et al.
2014/0245165 A1 8/2014 Battcher et al.
2014/0245210 A1 8/2014 Battcher et al.
2014/0278697 A1 9/2014 Thornberry et al.
2014/0316614 A1 10/2014 Newman
2015/0025914 A1 1/2015 Lekas
2015/0178416 A1 6/2015 Stephens et al.
2015/0302529 A1 10/2015 Jagannathan
2015/0310557 A1 * 10/2015 Engelhorn G08G 5/0026 701/29.3
2015/0310558 A1 * 10/2015 Cuttell G06Q 40/08 705/4
2015/0317740 A1 11/2015 Emison et al.
2015/0325064 A1 * 11/2015 Downey G08G 5/0026 701/29.3
2015/0363717 A1 12/2015 Lim
2015/0370928 A1 12/2015 Pershing
2016/0063642 A1 3/2016 Luciani et al.
2016/0086285 A1 * 3/2016 Jordan Peters G06Q 40/08 705/4
2016/0155097 A1 6/2016 Venkatesha
2016/0259994 A1 9/2016 Ravindran et al.
2016/0350907 A1 12/2016 Simula et al.
2017/0053436 A1 2/2017 Pershing et al.
2017/0154131 A1 6/2017 Loveland et al.
2017/0161559 A1 6/2017 Du et al.
2017/0277980 A1 9/2017 Taylor et al.
2017/0330032 A1 11/2017 Du et al.
2018/0247416 A1 8/2018 Ruda et al.

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

WO 2013123354 A1 8/2013
WO 2013142406 A1 9/2013
WO 2014151122 A1 9/2014
WO 2015009798 A1 1/2015
WO 2015017366 A1 2/2015
WO 2015017855 A1 2/2015
WO 2015038358 A1 3/2015
WO 2016053791 A1 4/2016
WO 2016198873 12/2016
WO 2017040691 A1 3/2017
WO 2017142788 A1 8/2017
WO 2017151673 A1 9/2017
WO 2017186515 A1 11/2017
WO 2018058044 A1 3/2018

OTHER PUBLICATIONS

Recognizing picture-taking environment from satellite images: A feasibility study; 2008 19th International Conference on Pattern Recognition (pp. 1-4); J. Luo, W. Hao, D. McIntyre, Dec. 1, 2008. (Year: 2008).*
Kerle, et al., Urban Structural Damage Assessment With Oblique UAV Imagery, Object-Based Image Analysis and Semantic Reasoning, 35th Asian Conference on Remote Sensing, Oct. 27, 2014.
Nia, et al., Building Damage Assessment Using Deep Learning and Ground-Level Image Data, 2017 14th Conference on Computer and Robot Vision (CRV), May 16, 2017, pp. 95-102.
Rakha, et al., Review of Unmanned Aerial System (UAS) Applications in the Built Environment: Towards Automated Building Inspection Procedures Using Drones, Automation in Constructions 93, Sep. 1, 2018, pp. 252-264.
Pierdicca, et al., Deep Convolutional Neural Network for Automatic Detection of Damaged Photovoltaic Cells, The International Archives

(56) **References Cited**

OTHER PUBLICATIONS

of the Photogrammetry, Remote Sensing and Spetial Information Sciences, vol. 42—No. 2, May 30, 2018.
Thiele, et al., Building Recognition From Multi-Aspect High-Resolution InSAR Data in Urban Areas, IEEE Transactions on Geoscience and Remote Sensing, vol. 45, Issue 11, Oct. 29, 2007, pp. 3583-3593.
Buscombe, et al., Landscape Classification With Deep Neural Networks, Geosciences, vol. 8, Issue 7, Jul. 2018, p. 244.
Sheppard, et al., Real-Time Scene Understanding for UAV Imagery Based on Deep Convolutional Neural Networks, 2017 IEEE International Geoscience and Remote Sensing Symposium (IGARSS), Jul. 23, 2017, pp. 2243-2246.
"Drones Above: Meet the Flying Superintendent!" BuildWorlds. Accessed on Jan. 16, 2020. 6 pages. <https://builtworlds.com/news/drones-meet-flying-superintendent/>.
Zhang, et al., Thermal Infrared Inspection of Roof Insulation Using Unmanned Aerial Vehicles, The International Archives of the Photogrammetry, Remote Sensing and Spatial Informational Sciences, vol. 40—No. 1, Sep. 2, 2015.
Ham, et al., Visual Monitoring of Civil Infrastructure Systems via Camera-Equipped Unmanned Aerial Vehicles (UAVs): A Review of Related Works, Visualization in Engineering 4, Article 1 (2016), Dec. 2016.
Ye, et al., Automated Detection of Damaged Areas After Hurricane Sandy Using Aerial Color Images, Computing in Civil and Building Engineering, Jun. 17, 2014, pp. 1796-1803.
International Search Report and Written Opinion issued in International Application No. PCT/US2017/053265 dated Dec. 11, 2017. (Previously submitted in related U.S. Appl. No. 15/714,376).
International Patent Report on Patentability issued in International Application No. PCT/US2017/053265 dated Mar. 26, 2019. (Previously submitted in related U.S. Appl. No. 15/714,376).
Lin, et al., Network in Network, International Conference on Learning Representations, 2014, pp. 10. (Previously submitted in related U.S. Appl. No. 15/714,376).
Krizhevsky, et al., ImageNet Classification with Deep Convolutional Neural Networks, Advances in neural information processing systems, 2012, pp. 9. (Previously submitted in related U.S. Appl. No. 15/714,376).
Non-Final Office Action mailed in U.S. Appl. No. 15/714,376, dated Mar. 21, 2019. (Submitted herewith).
Notice of Allowance mailed in U.S. Appl. No. 15/714,376, dated Aug. 7, 2019. (Submitted herewith).
Notice of Allowance mailed in U.S. Appl. No. 15/714,376, dated Nov. 20, 2019. (Submitted herewith).
Systems and Methods for Insurers to Monitor Continuously Structural Status of Insured Homes, IP.com No. IPCOM000177511D, Dec. 16, 2008. (Year: 2008) (Previously submitted in related U.S. Appl. No. 15/714,376 by Examiner).

* cited by examiner

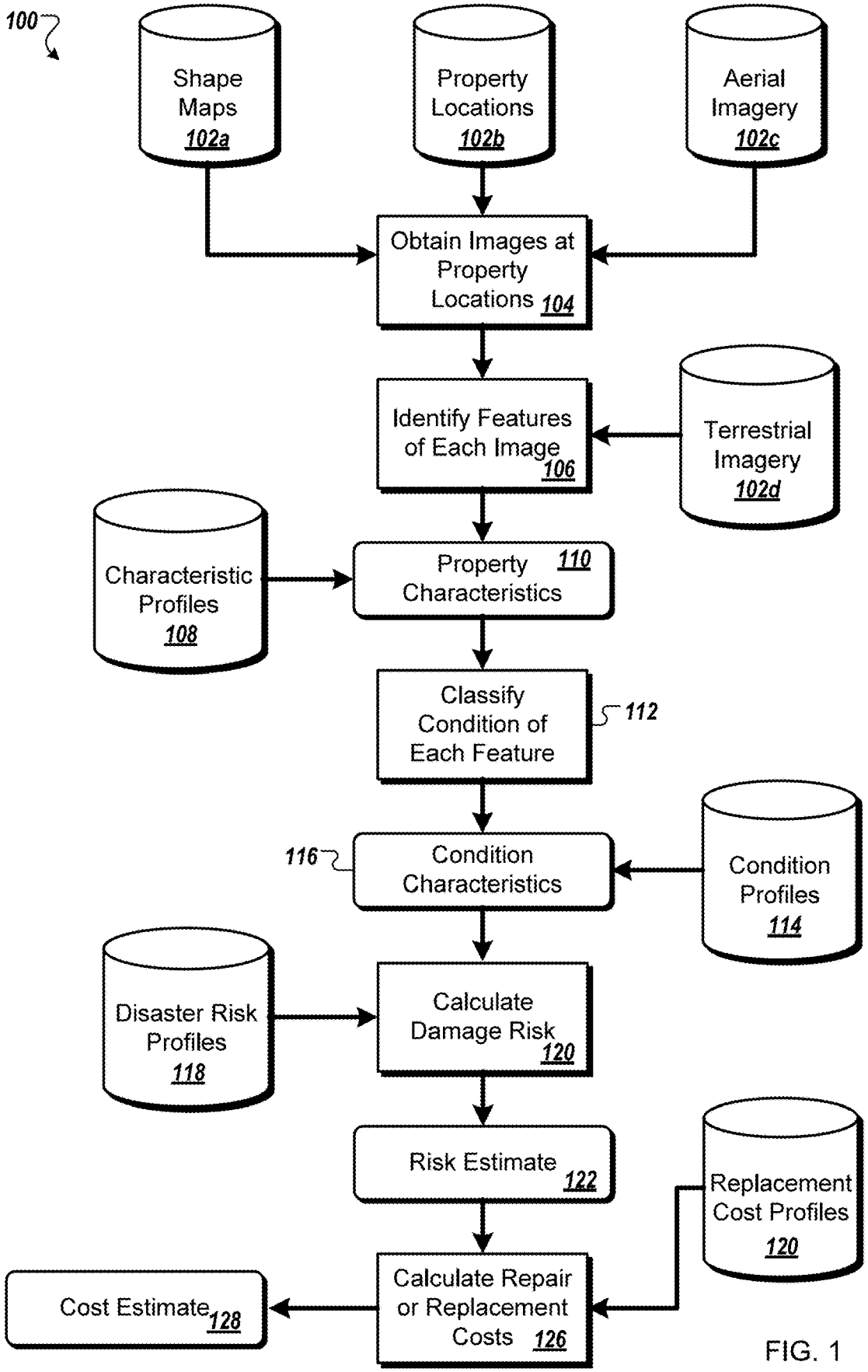

100
Shape Maps 102a
Property Locations 102b
Aerial Imagery 102c
Obtain Images at Property Locations 104
Identify Features of Each Image 106
Terrestrial Imagery 102d
Characteristic Profiles 108
Property Characteristics 110
Classify Condition of Each Feature
112
116
Condition Characteristics
Condition Profiles 114
Disaster Risk Profiles 118
Calculate Damage Risk 120
Risk Estimate 122
Replacement Cost Profiles 120
Cost Estimate 128
Calculate Repair or Replacement Costs 126

FIG. 1

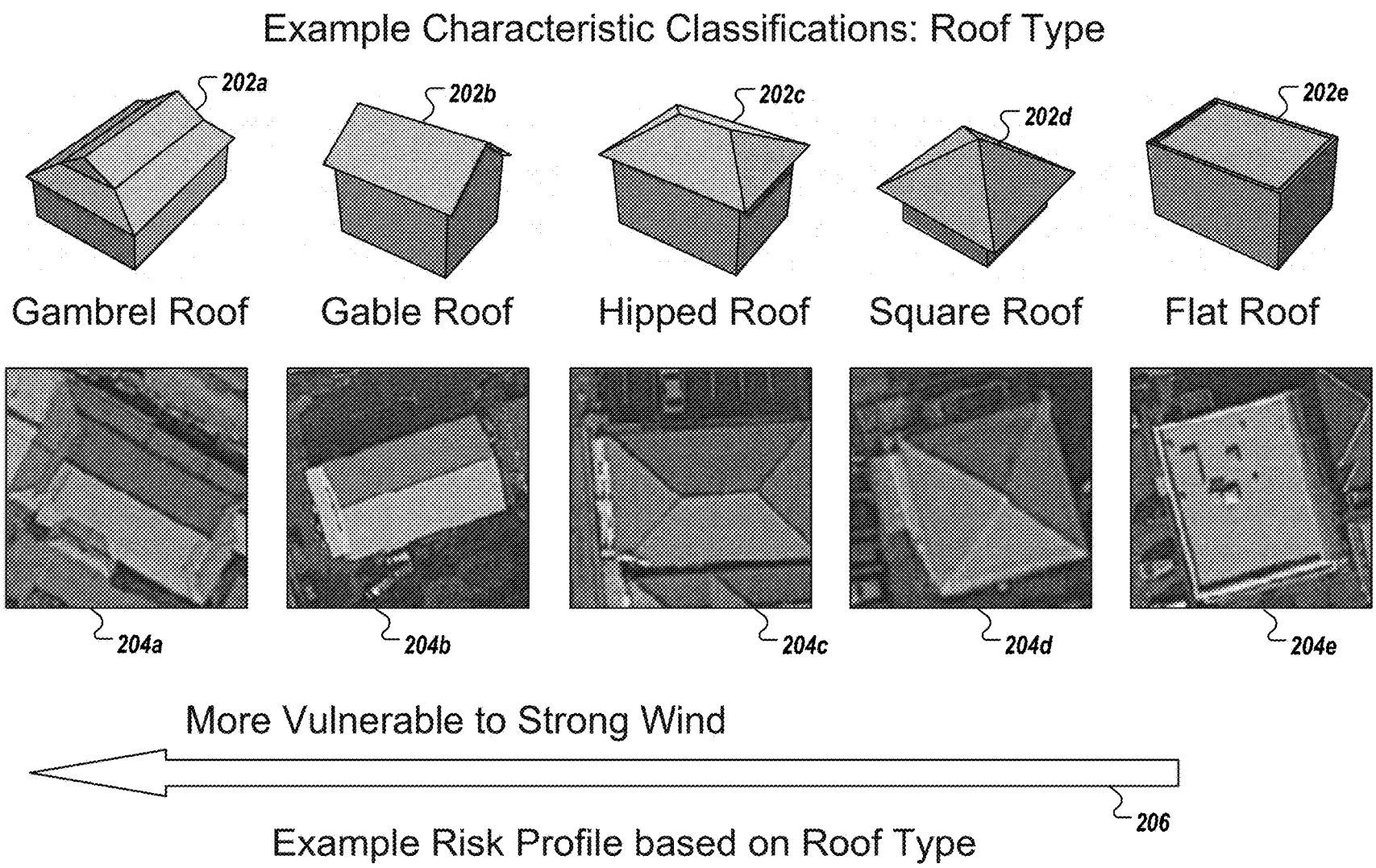

Example Characteristic Classifications: Roof Type
202a
202b
202c
202d
202e
Gambrel Roof
Gable Roof
Hipped Roof
Square Roof
Flat Roof
204a
204b
204c
204d
204e
More Vulnerable to Strong Wind
206
Example Risk Profile based on Roof Type

FIG. 2A

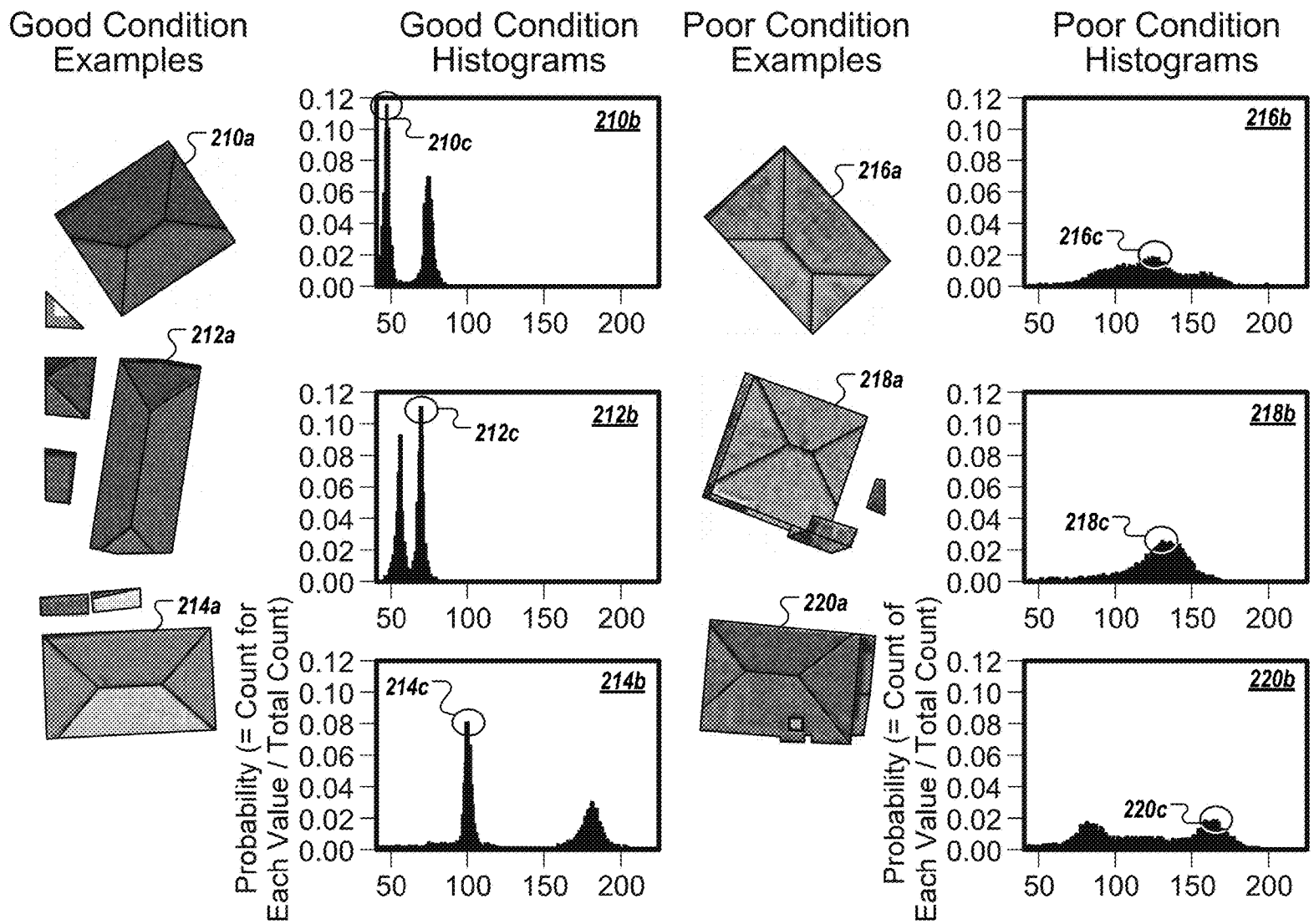

Good Condition Examples
Good Condition Histograms
Poor Condition Examples
Poor Condition Histograms
210a
210b
210c
212a
212b
212c
214a
214b
214c
216a
216b
216c
218a
218b
218c
220a
220b
220c
Probability (= Count for Each Value / Total Count)
Probability (= Count of Each Value / Total Count)
0.12
0.10
0.08
0.06
0.04
0.02
0.00
50
100
150
200

FIG. 2B

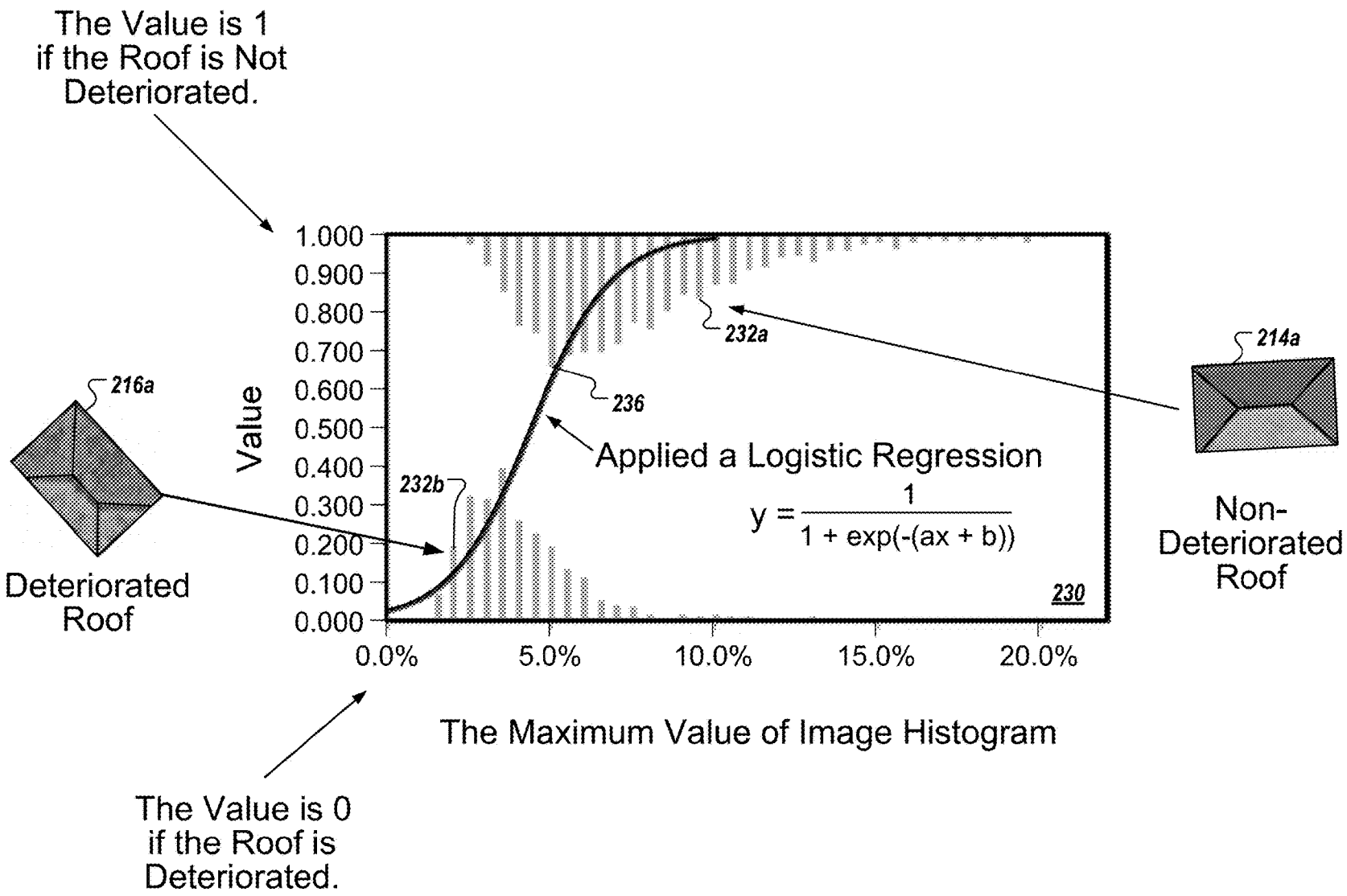

The Value is 1 if the Roof is Not Deteriorated.
1.000
0.900
0.800
0.700
0.600
0.500
0.400
0.300
0.200
0.100
0.000
Value
0.0%
5.0%
10.0%
15.0%
20.0%
The Maximum Value of Image Histogram
232a
236
232b
Applied a Logistic Regression
$y = \frac{1}{1 + \exp(-(ax + b))}$
230
214a
Non-Deteriorated Roof
216a
Deteriorated Roof
The Value is 0 if the Roof is Deteriorated.

FIG. 2C

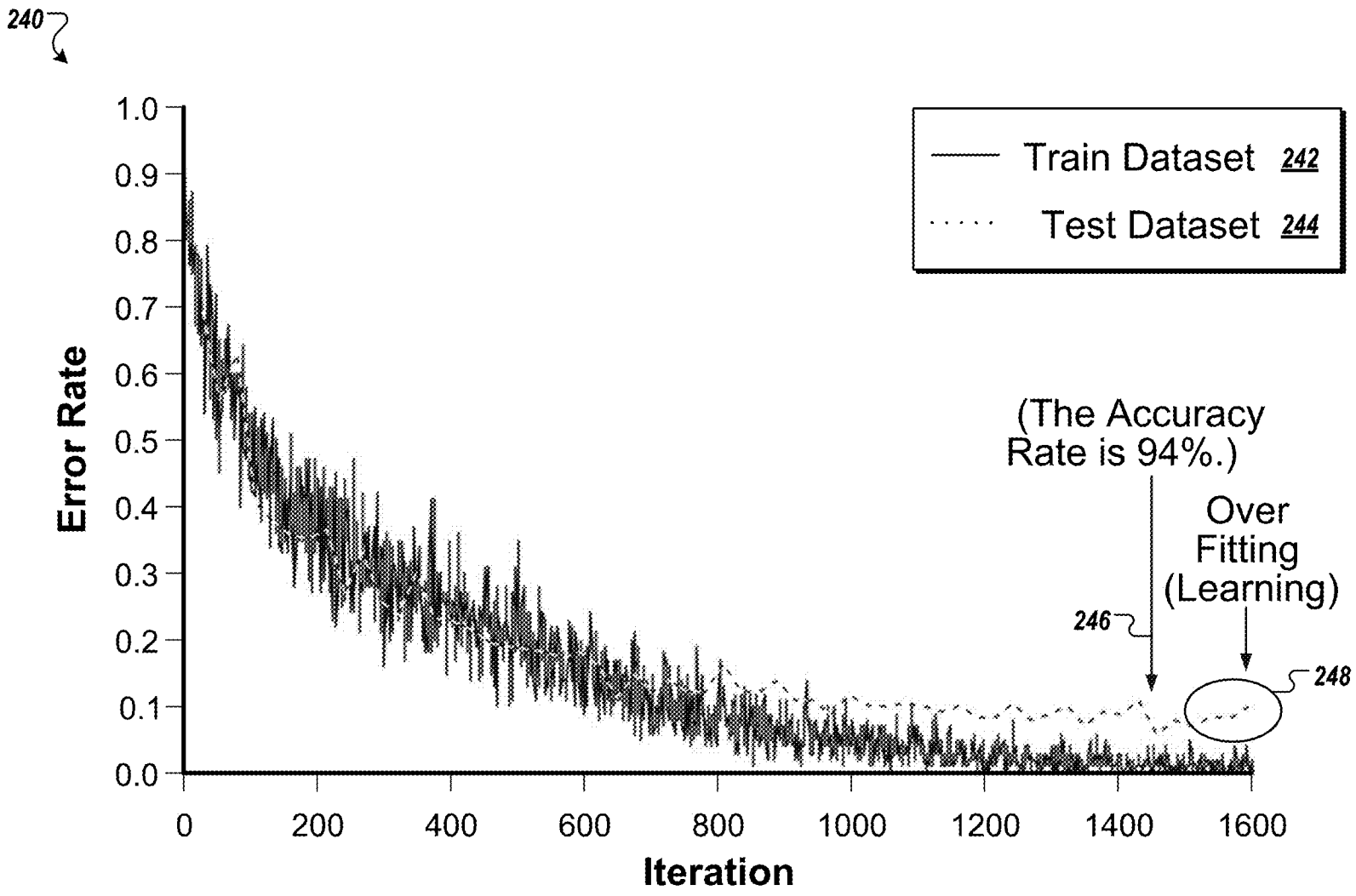

240
Train Dataset 242
Test Dataset 244
(The Accuracy Rate is 94%.)
Over Fitting (Learning)
246
248
Error Rate
1.0
0.9
0.8
0.7
0.6
0.5
0.4
0.3
0.2
0.1
0.0
0
200
400
600
800
1000
1200
1400
1600
Iteration

FIG. 2D

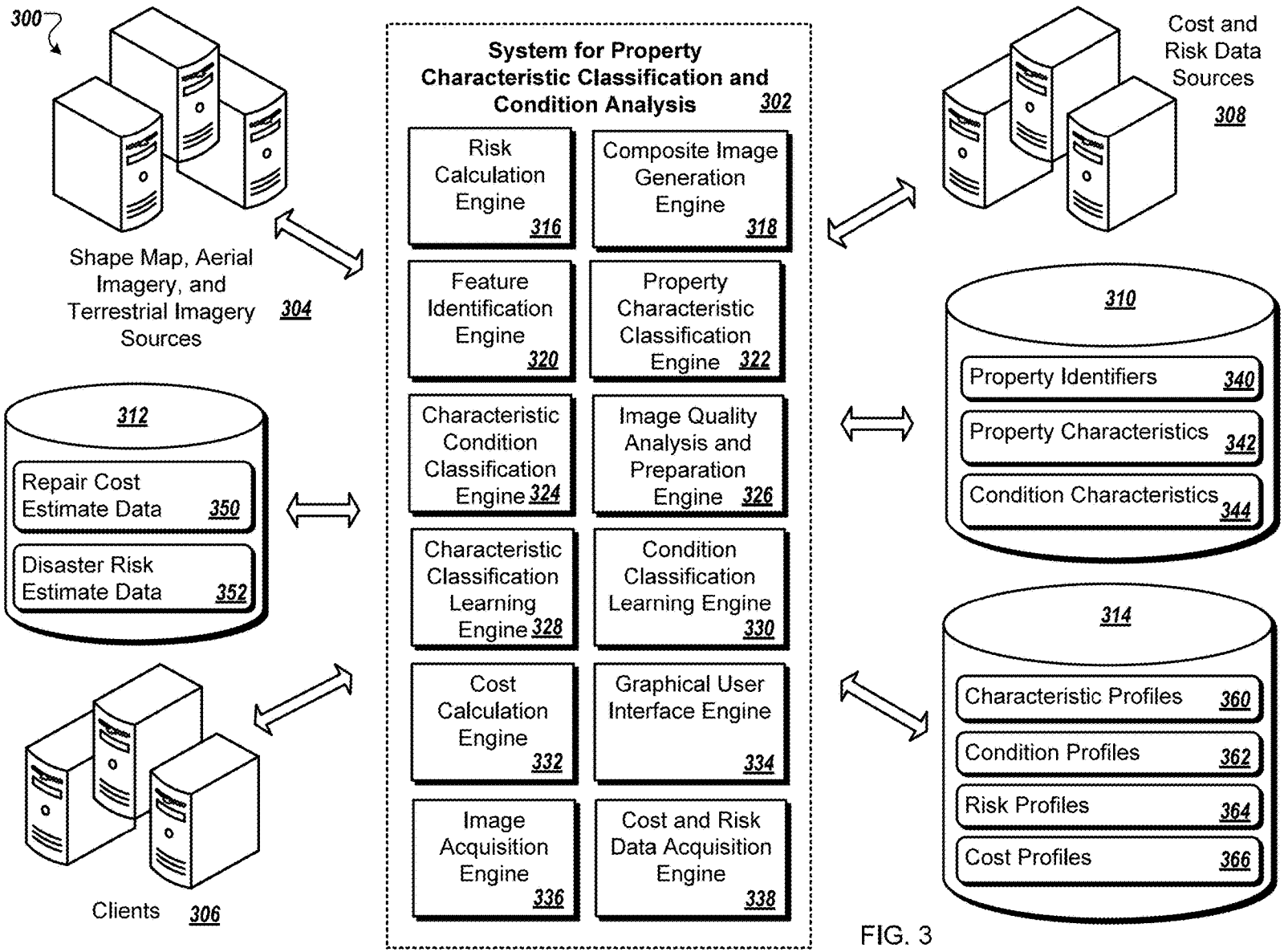

300
Shape Map, Aerial Imagery, and Terrestrial Imagery Sources 304
312
Repair Cost Estimate Data 350
Disaster Risk Estimate Data 352
Clients 306
System for Property Characteristic Classification and Condition Analysis 302
Risk Calculation Engine 316
Composite Image Generation Engine 318
Feature Identification Engine 320
Property Characteristic Classification Engine 322
Characteristic Condition Classification Engine 324
Image Quality Analysis and Preparation Engine 326
Characteristic Classification Learning Engine 328
Condition Classification Learning Engine 330
Cost Calculation Engine 332
Graphical User Interface Engine 334
Image Acquisition Engine 336
Cost and Risk Data Acquisition Engine 338
Cost and Risk Data Sources 308
310
Property Identifiers 340
Property Characteristics 342
Condition Characteristics 344
314
Characteristic Profiles 360
Condition Profiles 362
Risk Profiles 364
Cost Profiles 366

FIG. 3

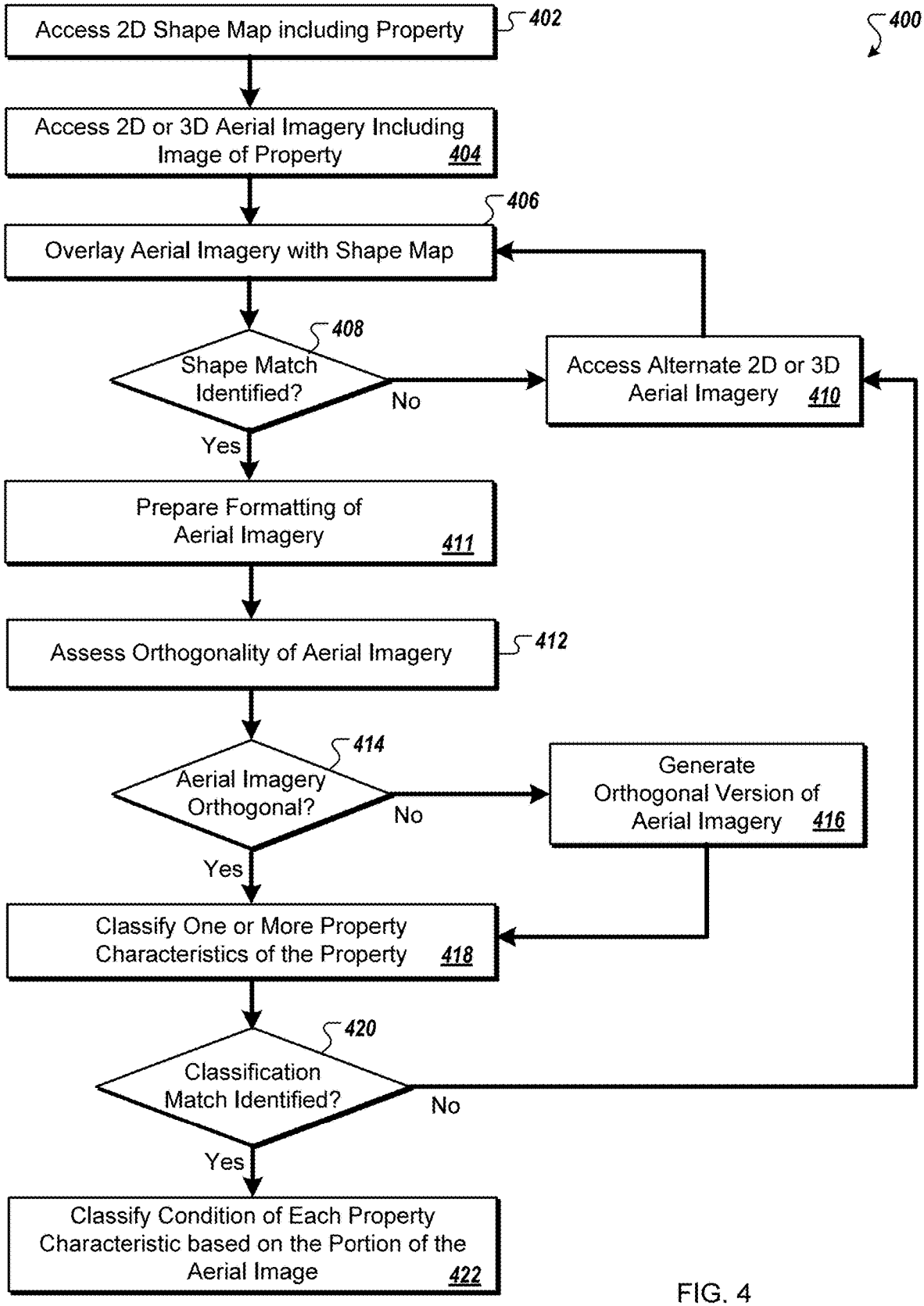
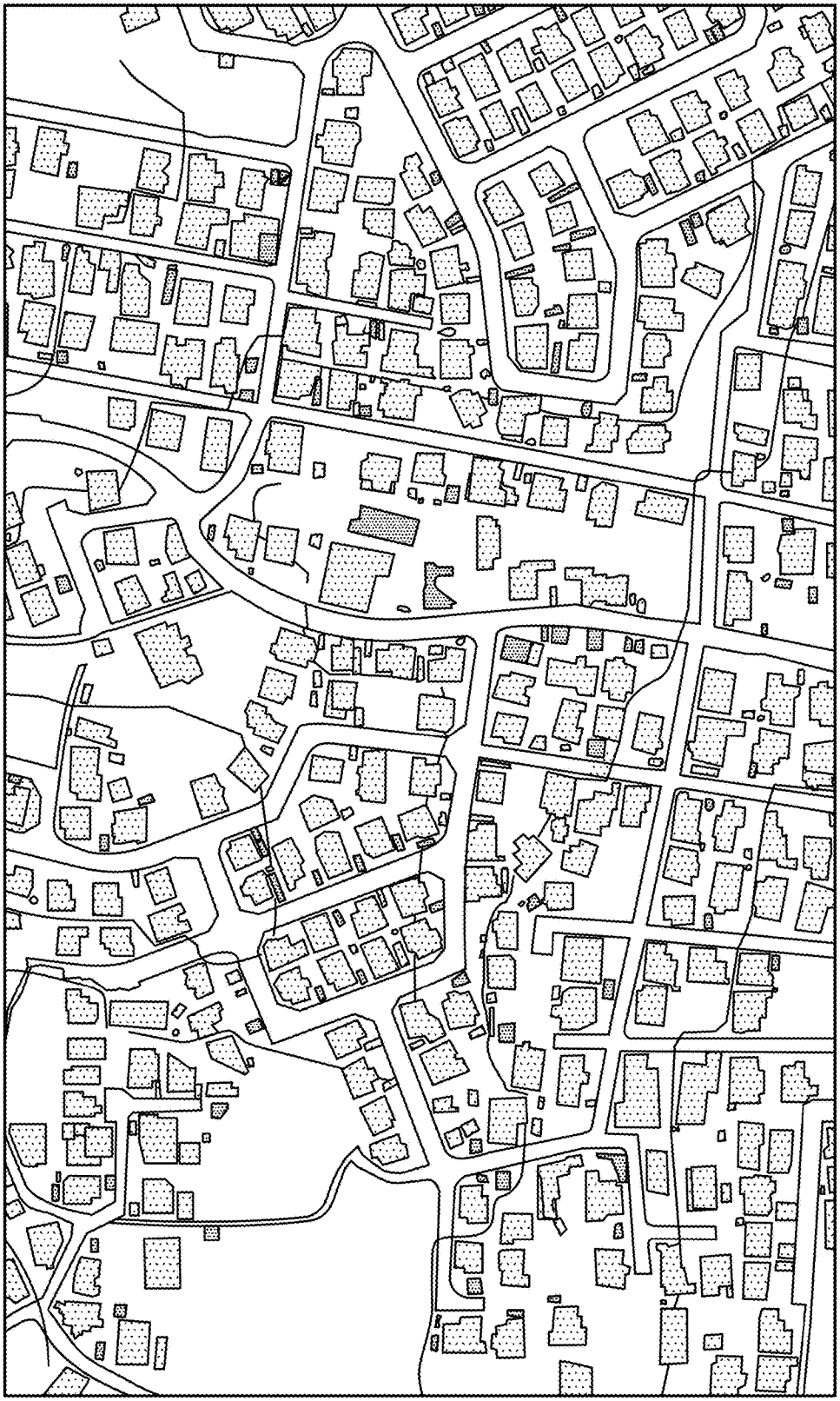

400
Access 2D Shape Map including Property
402
Access 2D or 3D Aerial Imagery Including Image of Property
404
Overlay Aerial Imagery with Shape Map
406
Shape Match Identified?
408
No
Yes
Access Alternate 2D or 3D Aerial Imagery
410
Prepare Formatting of Aerial Imagery
411
Assess Orthogonality of Aerial Imagery
412
Aerial Imagery Orthogonal?
414
No
Yes
Generate Orthogonal Version of Aerial Imagery
416
Classify One or More Property Characteristics of the Property
418
Classification Match Identified?
420
No
Yes
Classify Condition of Each Property Characteristic based on the Portion of the Aerial Image
422

FIG. 4



500

FIG. 5A

510

FIG. 5B

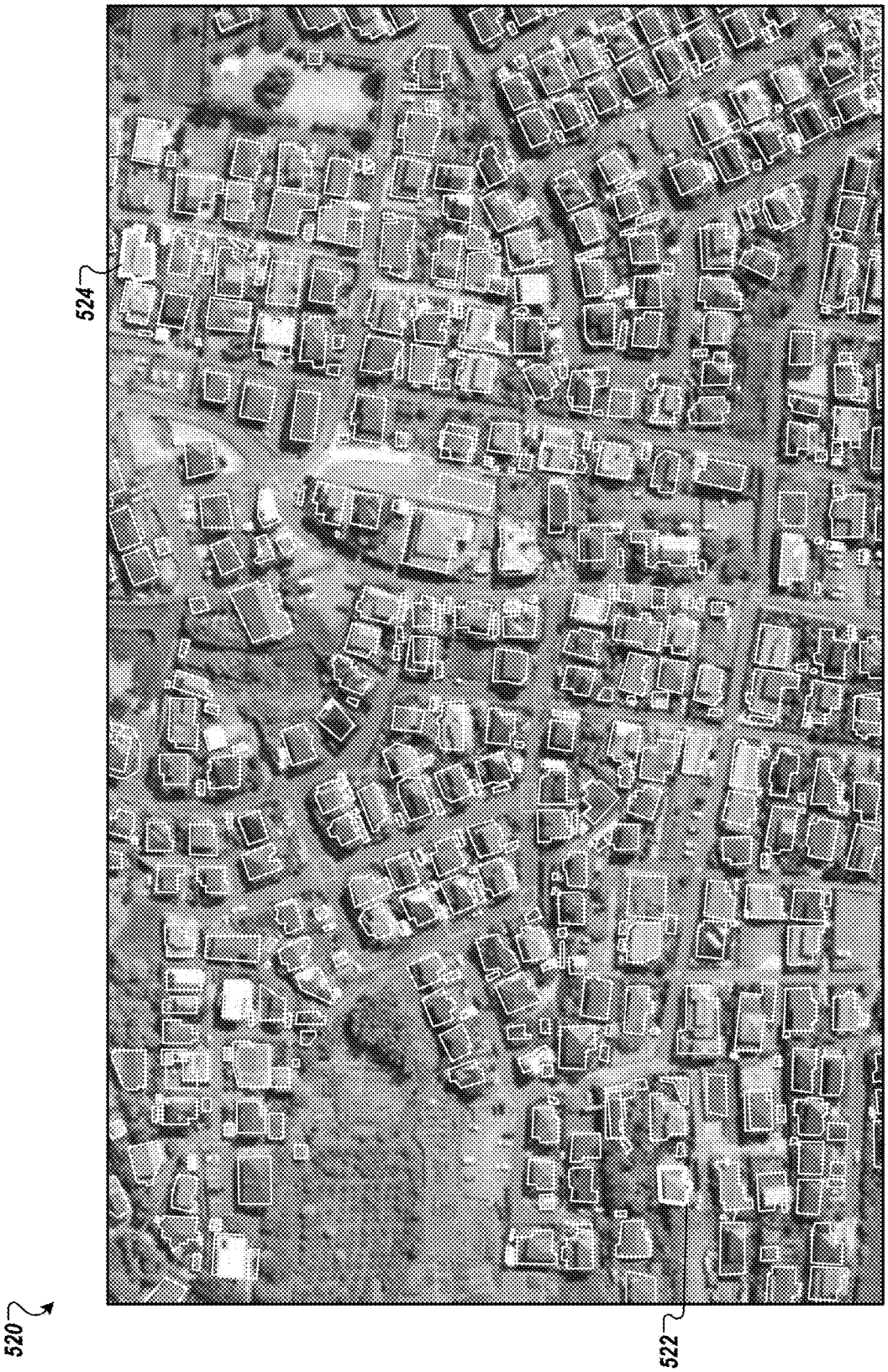


FIG. 5C

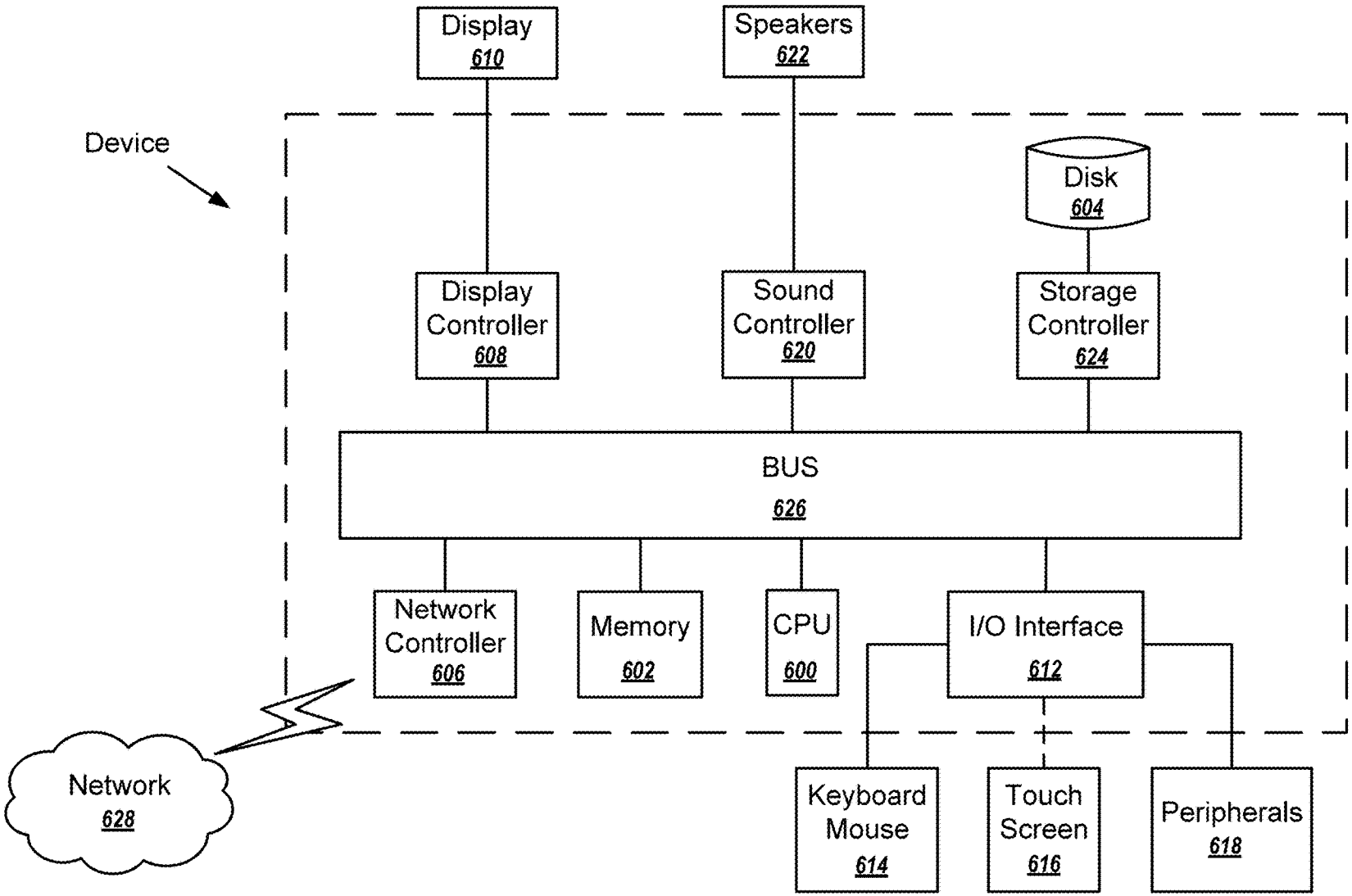

Display
610
Speakers
622
Device
Disk
604
Display
Controller
608
Sound
Controller
620
Storage
Controller
624
BUS
626
Network
Controller
606
Memory
602
CPU
600
I/O Interface
612
Network
628
Keyboard
Mouse
614
Touch
Screen
616
Peripherals
618

FIG. 6

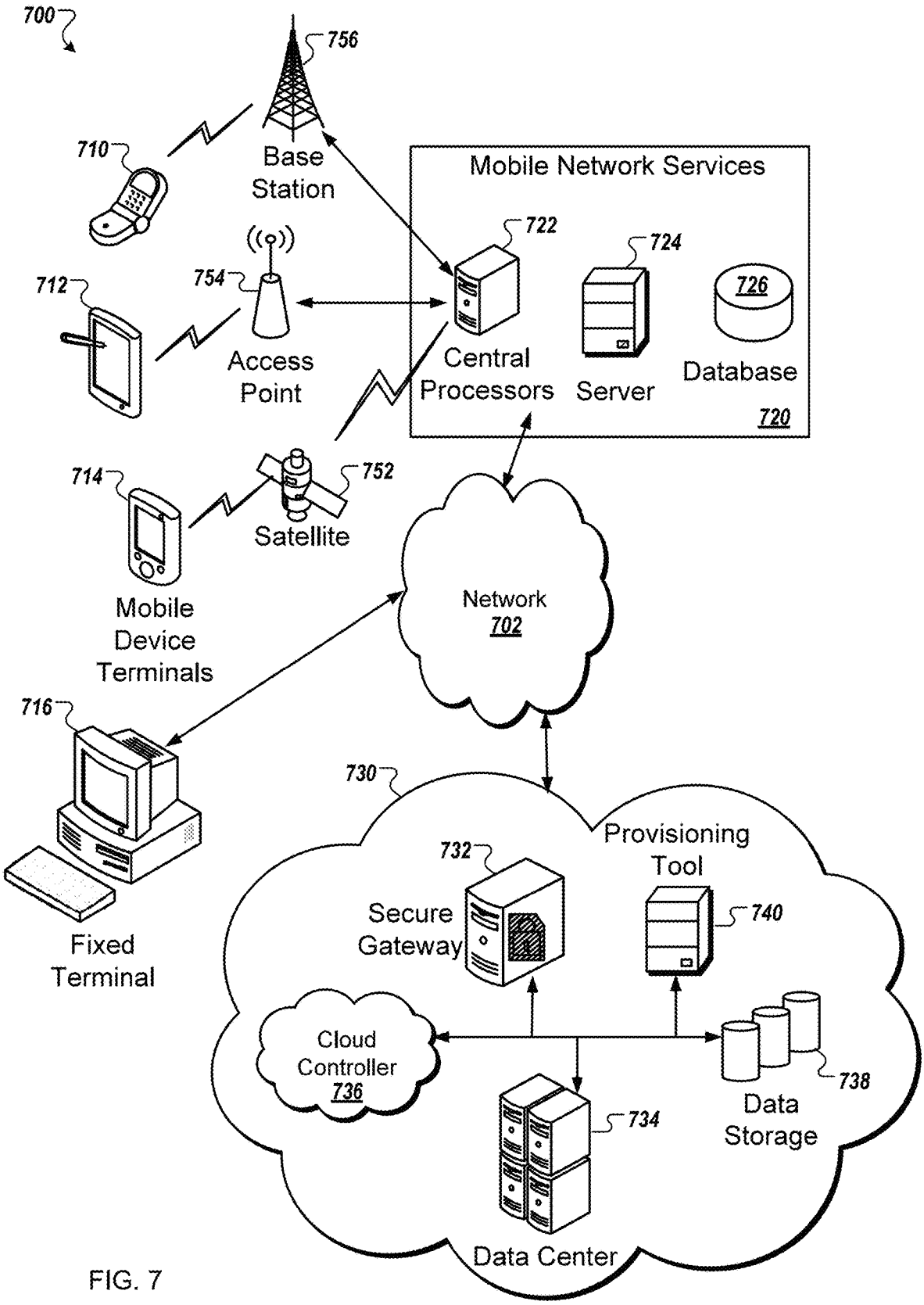

700
756
Base Station
710
Mobile Network Services
722
724
726
712
754
Access Point
Central Processors
Server
Database
720
714
752
Satellite
Mobile Device Terminals
Network
702
716
730
Provisioning Tool
732
Secure Gateway
740
Fixed Terminal
Cloud Controller
736
738
Data Storage
734
Data Center

FIG. 7

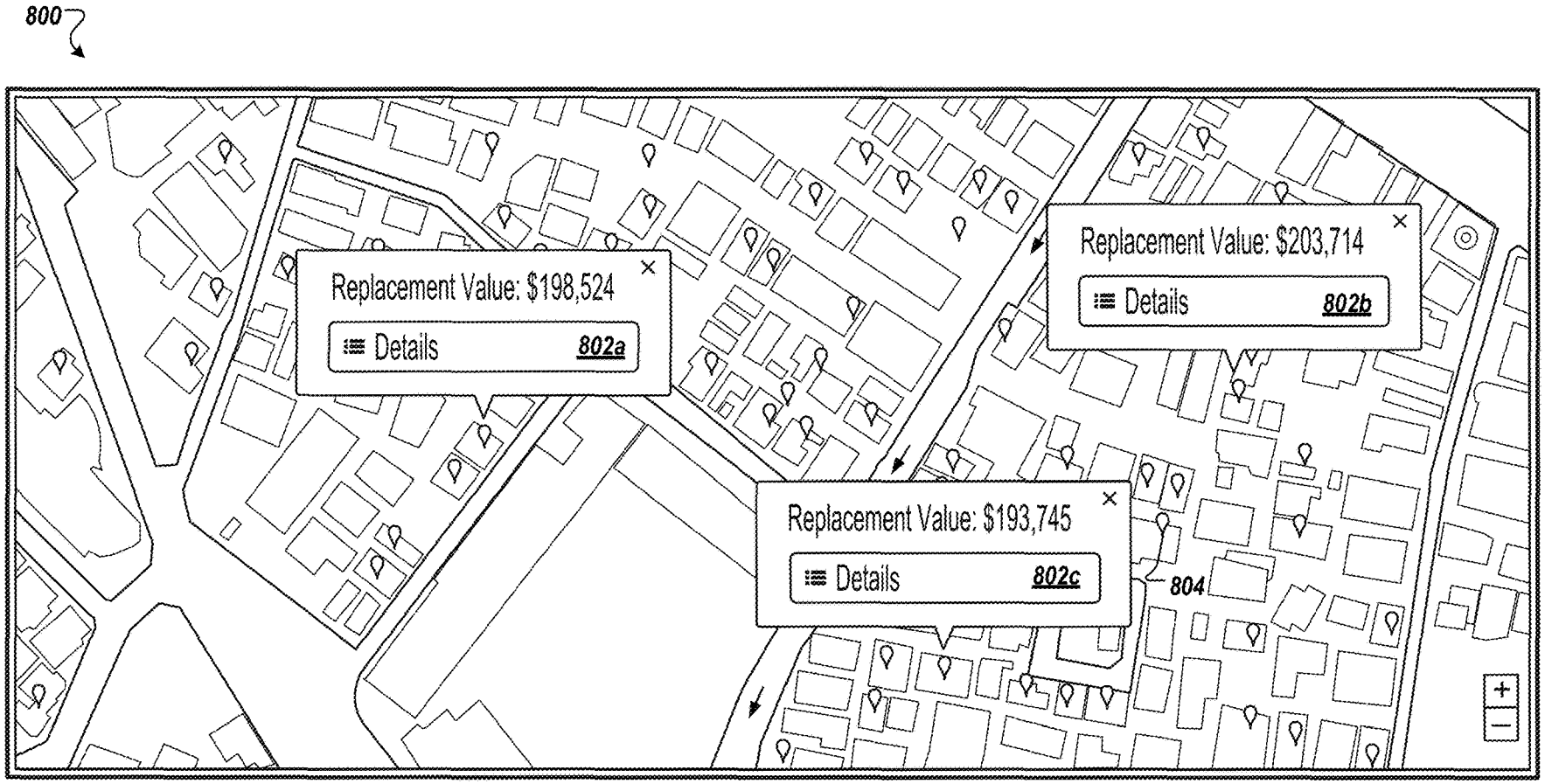

800
Replacement Value: $198,524
Details
802a
Replacement Value: $203,714
Details
802b
Replacement Value: $193,745
Details
802c
804

FIG. 8A

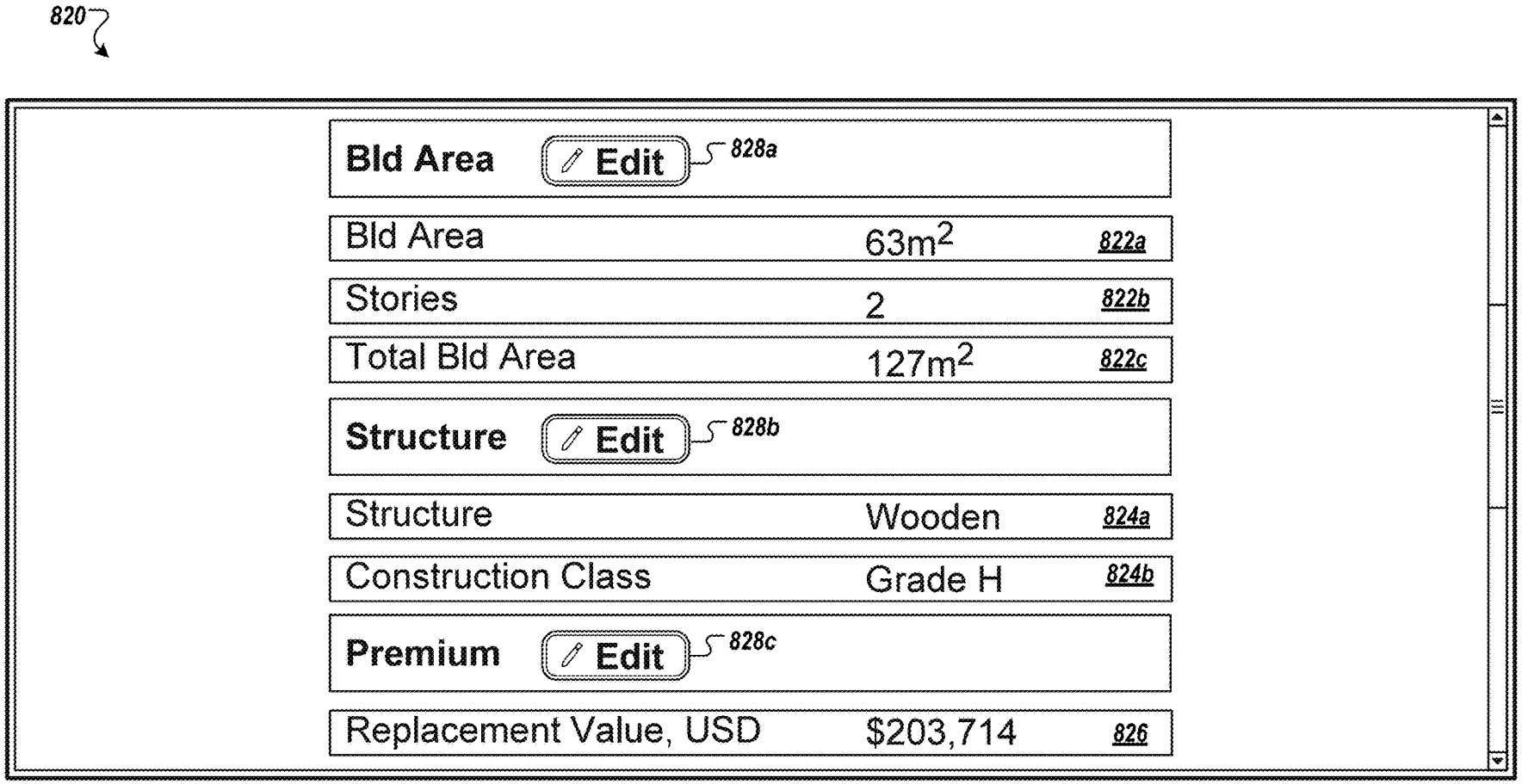

820
Bld Area
Edit
828a
Bld Area
63m2
822a
Stories
2
822b
Total Bld Area
127m2
822c
Structure
Edit
828b
Structure
Wooden
824a
Construction Class
Grade H
824b
Premium
Edit
828c
Replacement Value, USD
$203,714
826

FIG. 8B

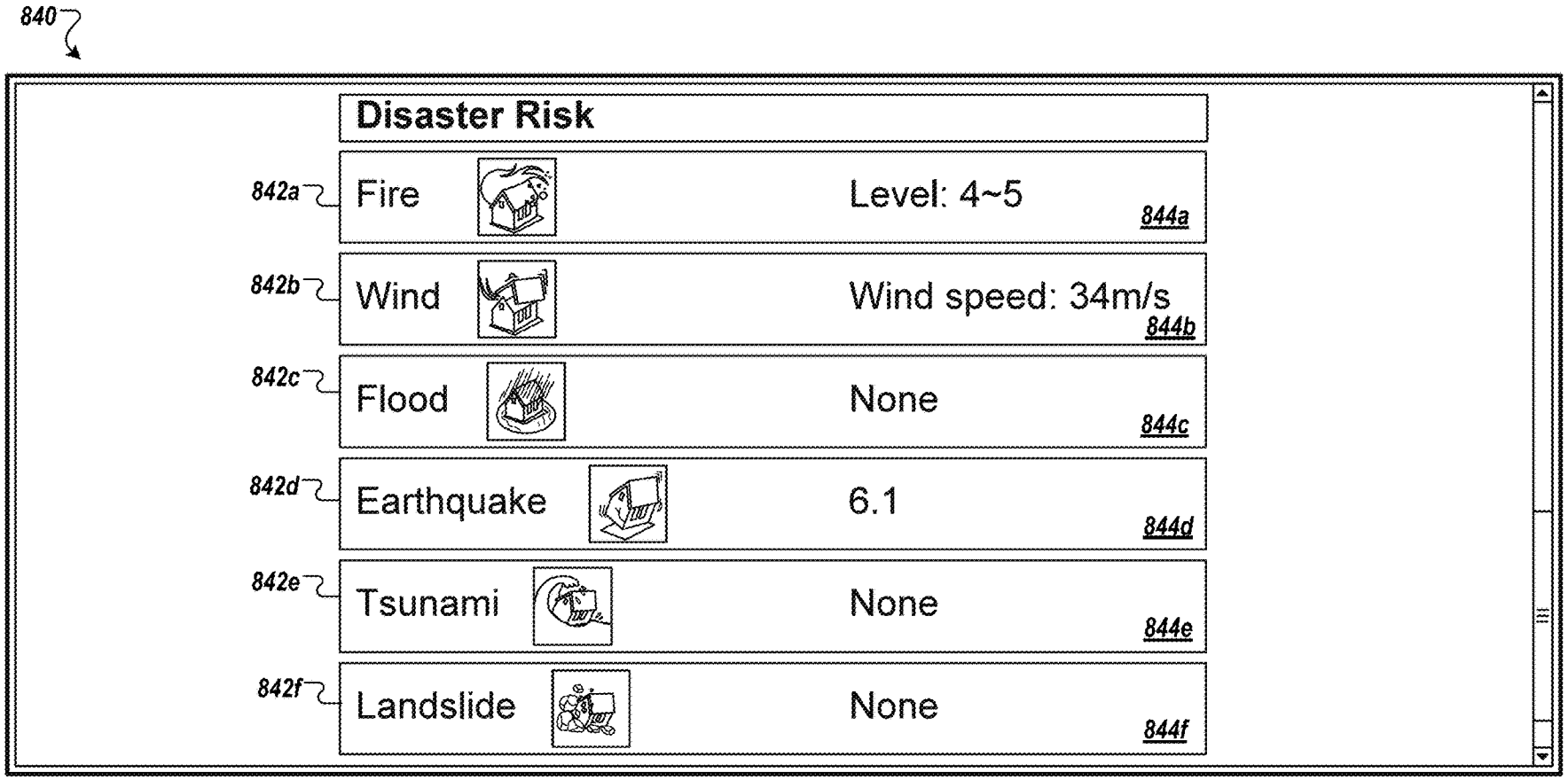

840
Disaster Risk
842a
Fire
Level: 4~5
844a
842b
Wind
Wind speed: 34m/s
844b
842c
Flood
None
844c
842d
Earthquake
6.1
844d
842e
Tsunami
None
844e
842f
Landslide
None
844f

FIG. 8C

PLATFORM, SYSTEMS, AND METHODS FOR IDENTIFYING PROPERTY CHARACTERISTICS AND PROPERTY FEATURE CONDITIONS THROUGH AERIAL IMAGERY ANALYSIS

RELATED APPLICATIONS

This application is a continuation-in-part of and claims priority to U.S. patent application Ser. No. 15/714,376 entitled "Platform, Systems, and Methods for Identifying Property Characteristics and Property Feature Maintenance Through Aerial Imagery Analysis" and filed Sep. 25, 2017, which claims priority to U.S. Provisional Patent Application Ser. No. 62/398,665, entitled "Platform, Systems, and Methods for Identifying Property Characteristics and Property Feature Maintenance Through Aerial Imagery Analysis," filed Sep. 23, 2016. All above identified applications are hereby incorporated by reference in their entireties.

BACKGROUND

A risk exposure database contains a compilation of as many building properties or characteristics relevant to insurance as possible. These properties can include characteristics like location coordinates, address, slope, and elevation, Other characteristics include construction type, occupancy type, year built and/or year of renovation, building height, soft stories, number of stories, and floor area. Further characteristics can include roof condition, roof shape, roof covering, roof anchors, roof equipment, cladding, and pounding (distance to closest building). Some of these characteristics can only be assessed by on-site inspections or by official documentation, but others can be measured using visual imagery.

Characteristics addressed in this disclosure include roof shape and roof condition. In one example, roof shapes can be broken into five categories: gambrel roof, gable roof, hipped roof, square roof, and flat roof. Each roof shape has a unique response and damage vulnerability to different natural perils like earthquake or wind.

Deep learning involves computational models composed of multiple processing layers to learn representations of data with multiple levels of abstractions. These models can be thought of as a way to automate predictive analytics. Representation learning is a set of methods that allows a machine to be fed with raw data and to automatically discover the representations needed for detection or classification. Use cases for deep learning include voice recognition, motion detection, translation, and medical diagnosis. By using deep learning algorithms and sample datasets, computers can learn to distinguish and classify a wide range of characteristics to high levels of accuracy, often surpassing the recognition levels of human beings.

One model used for deep learning is the Network in Network model described in the paper "Network In Network" by M. Lin et al. and published in the International Conference on Learning Representations, 2014 (arXiv: 1409.1556), the contents of which are hereby incorporated by reference in its entirety. Using the Network in Network model, a number of layers of artificial perception outcomes are generated using micro neural networks with complex structures. The artificial perception outcomes are then stacked and averaged to generate a single global average pooling layer for classification.

When applied to visual recognition, deep learning algorithms can break down an observation (e.g., an image) in a number of different ways to characterize features of the observation. In some examples, deep learning algorithms can be applied to review images as a set of intensity values per pixel, or in a more abstract way as a set of edges, regions of particular shape, etc. Some representations may demonstrate superior performance to others based upon the particular learning task. One of the promises of deep learning is replacing human identification of features with efficient algorithms for unsupervised or semi-supervised feature learning and hierarchical feature extraction.

The inventors recognized that deep learning methodology could be applied to risk exposure database population to analyze aerial imagery and automatically extract characteristics of individual properties, providing fast and efficient automated classification of building styles and repair conditions. In combining location-based vulnerabilities with individual property vulnerabilities identified in part through classification of repair conditions of one or more property features, risk of damage due to disaster can be more accurately estimated.

SUMMARY OF ILLUSTRATIVE EMBODIMENTS

The forgoing general description of the illustrative implementations and the following detailed description thereof are merely exemplary aspects of the teachings of this disclosure, and are not restrictive.

Systems, methods, and computing system platforms described herein support matching aerial image features of one or more properties to corresponding property conditions (e.g., maintenance levels of property features, including structural features, manmade features included within a vicinity of a structure (e.g., on a property lot, within a property parcel, or a geographic region of the property), and/or natural features included within the vicinity of the structure) through machine learning analysis. In a preferred application, the property condition analysis may be used in estimating damage risk in light of one or more disaster conditions, such as severe storms. The analysis may further aid in estimating costs of repair or replacement of each property, in one example, should a disaster cause the estimated damage. In another example, the analysis may be used to confirm that a property has been repaired.

In one aspect, the present disclosure relates to a method for automatically categorizing a repair condition or maintenance condition of a property characteristic, including obtaining an aerial image of a geographic region including the property; identifying features of the aerial image corresponding to the property characteristic; analyzing the features to determine a property characteristic classification; analyzing a region of the aerial image including the property characteristic to determine a condition classification; and determining, using the property characteristic classification and the condition classification, a risk estimate of damage to the property due to one or more disasters. The property characteristic of a structure such as a house, factory, or barn, in some examples, can include a rooftop, porch, chimney, or skylights. Property characteristics of manmade structures within a property location, in some examples, can include a deck, swimming pool, shed, gazebo, detached garage, tennis court, fence, retaining wall, dock, playground equipment, equipment or vehicles, or greenhouse. Property characteristics of natural features within a property location, in some examples, include trees, ponds, marshes, rivers, lakes, grasses, cliffs, or ocean shore. Further, property characteristic classifications can include shapes, materials, size

(breadth and/or height, relative or actual), and/or distance of the property characteristic from other features. In some embodiments, the property characteristic classification may include existing versus not existing (e.g., in the event of determining replacement or removal of a manmade feature at a property location such as a fence). The property characteristic classification, in a particular illustration, may be a rooftop shape. Analyzing the features to determine a property characteristic may include applying a deep learning analysis model to the features. The deep learning analysis model may be NIN.

In some embodiments, analyzing the region of the aerial image including the property characteristic to determine the condition classification includes applying a machine learning analysis model to image pixels within the region. The machine learning analysis model may include a color histogram analysis model. The condition classification may encompass classifications good and bad. Determining the risk estimate may include applying a disaster risk profile corresponding to a first disaster of the at least one disaster and the property characteristic.

In one aspect, the present disclosure relates to a system for automatically categorizing a repair condition of a property characteristic, the system including processing circuitry and a non-transitory computer-readable medium having instructions stored thereon. In some embodiments, the instructions, when executed by the processing circuitry, cause the processing circuitry to obtain an aerial image of a geographic region including the property; identify features of the aerial image corresponding to the property characteristic; analyze the features to determine a property characteristic classification; analyze a region of the aerial image including the property characteristic to determine a condition classification; and determine, using the property characteristic classification and the condition classification, a replacement cost for replacing the property characteristic. The aerial image may be a two-dimensional aerial image.

In some embodiments, the instructions, when executed by the processing circuitry, cause the processing circuitry to, prior to identifying the features, obtain a shape map image including the property; overlay the aerial image with the shape map image; and determine whether a boundary of the property as identified by the shape map matches a boundary of the property as illustrated in the aerial image. The instructions, when executed by the processing circuitry, may cause the processing circuitry to, upon determining that the shape map does not match the boundary of the corresponding property, obtain an alternate aerial image of the property. The instructions, when executed by the processing circuitry, may cause the processing circuitry to, prior to identifying the features, assess orthogonality of the aerial imagery. The property may be a single family home.

In one aspect, the present disclosure relates to a non-transitory computer readable medium having instructions stored thereon, where the instructions, when executed by processing circuitry, cause the processing circuitry to receive identification of a property and at least one property characteristic; obtain an aerial image of a geographic region including the property; and identify respective features of the aerial image corresponding to each property characteristic of the at least one property characteristic. In some embodiments, the instructions, when executed by the processing circuitry, cause the processing circuitry to, for each property characteristic, analyze the corresponding features to determine a respective property characteristic classification, and analyze a region of the aerial image including the respective property characteristic to determine a respective condition classification. The instructions, when executed by the processing circuitry, may cause the processing circuitry to determine, using the property characteristic classification of each property characteristic and the condition classification of each property characteristic, at least one risk estimate representing risk of damage due to disaster.

In some embodiments, the instructions, when executed by the processing circuitry, cause the processing circuitry to, prior to obtaining the aerial image of the geographic region, determine, based upon the at least one property characteristic, a preferred image type corresponding to each property characteristic of the at least one property characteristic. The at least one property characteristic may include two or more property characteristics. The instructions, when executed by the processing circuitry, may cause the processing circuitry to, responsive to determining the preferred image type corresponding to a first property characteristic of the at least one property characteristic is a terrestrial image, obtain a terrestrial image of the geographic region including the property.

In some embodiments, the instructions, when executed by the processing circuitry, cause the processing circuitry to access one or more known property characteristics. Determining the at least one risk estimate may include determining the at least one risk estimate further based on the one or more known property characteristics. The one or more known property characteristics may include at least one of a property age, a property elevation, a property slope, a year built, a year renovated, and a building height.

In some embodiments, receiving identification of the property and the at least one property characteristic includes receiving, via a network from a remote computing device, the identification of the property. The instructions, when executed by the processing circuitry, may cause the processing circuitry to provide, via the network to the remote computing device in real-time responsive to receiving the at least one property characteristic, the at least one risk estimate.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

The accompanying drawings, which are incorporated in and constitute a part of the specification, illustrate one or more embodiments and, together with the description, explain these embodiments. The accompanying drawings have not necessarily been drawn to scale. Any values dimensions illustrated in the accompanying graphs and figures are for illustration purposes only and may or may not represent actual or preferred values or dimensions. Where applicable, some or all features may not be illustrated to assist in the description of underlying features. In the drawings:

FIG. **1** is a flow diagram of an example system operational flow for matching aerial image features to corresponding property maintenance levels;

FIG. **2**A illustrates example characteristic classifications and corresponding risk profile data;

FIG. **2**B illustrates examples of condition characteristics and corresponding example histograms;

FIG. **2**C illustrates an example condition profile corresponding to an example property characteristic type;

FIG. **2**D is an example error rate graph comparing training data with test data in conducting matching aerial image features to corresponding rooftop shapes;

FIG. **3** is a block diagram of an example environment for matching aerial image topographical features to corresponding property maintenance levels;

FIG. **4** is a flow chart of an example method for classifying condition characteristics of a property based on aerial image analysis;

FIG. **5**A illustrates an example structure shape map of a geographic area;

FIG. **5**B illustrates an example two-dimensional aerial image of the geographic area of FIG. **5**A;

FIG. **5**C illustrates an example overlay map image of a section of the structure shape map of FIG. **5**A overlaying a corresponding section of the aerial image of FIG. **5**B;

FIG. **6** is a block diagram of an example computing system;

FIG. **7** is a block diagram of an example distributing computing environment including a cloud computing environment; and

FIGS. **8**A through **8**C illustrate a series of example user interface screen shots for reviewing property characteristic and maintenance level information.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF ILLUSTRATIVE EMBODIMENTS

The description set forth below in connection with the appended drawings is intended to be a description of various, illustrative embodiments of the disclosed subject matter. Specific features and functionalities are described in connection with each illustrative embodiment; however, it will be apparent to those skilled in the art that the disclosed embodiments may be practiced without each of those specific features and functionalities.

Reference throughout the specification to "one embodiment" or "an embodiment" means that a particular feature, structure, or characteristic described in connection with an embodiment is included in at least one embodiment of the subject matter disclosed. Thus, the appearance of the phrases "in one embodiment" or "in an embodiment" in various places throughout the specification is not necessarily referring to the same embodiment. Further, the particular features, structures or characteristics may be combined in any suitable manner in one or more embodiments. Further, it is intended that embodiments of the disclosed subject matter cover modifications and variations thereof.

It must be noted that, as used in the specification and the appended claims, the singular forms "a," "an," and "the" include plural referents unless the context expressly dictates otherwise. That is, unless expressly specified otherwise, as used herein the words "a," "an," "the," and the like carry the meaning of "one or more." Additionally, it is to be understood that terms such as "left," "right," "top," "bottom," "front," "rear," "side," "height," "length," "width," "upper," "lower," "interior," "exterior," "inner," "outer," and the like that may be used herein merely describe points of reference and do not necessarily limit embodiments of the present disclosure to any particular orientation or configuration. Furthermore, terms such as "first," "second," "third," etc., merely identify one of a number of portions, components, steps, operations, functions, and/or points of reference as disclosed herein, and likewise do not necessarily limit embodiments of the present disclosure to any particular configuration or orientation.

Furthermore, the terms "approximately," "about," "proximate," "minor variation," and similar terms generally refer to ranges that include the identified value within a margin of 20%, 10% or preferably 5% in certain embodiments, and any values therebetween.

All of the functionalities described in connection with one embodiment are intended to be applicable to the additional embodiments described below except where expressly stated or where the feature or function is incompatible with the additional embodiments. For example, where a given feature or function is expressly described in connection with one embodiment but not expressly mentioned in connection with an alternative embodiment, it should be understood that the inventors intend that that feature or function may be deployed, utilized or implemented in connection with the alternative embodiment unless the feature or function is incompatible with the alternative embodiment.

Turning to FIG. **1**, a flow diagram of an example system operational flow **100** for matching aerial image features to corresponding property maintenance levels obtains images (**104**) at property locations **102***b* is illustrated. In some implementations, commencement of at least a portion of the operational flow **100** by the system may be triggered by a property classification request submitted by a user, such as an insurance carrier or real estate investment broker at a dashboard interface screen on a computing device connected to the system via a network. For example, as illustrated in FIG. **8**A, a particular property or, alternatively, a neighborhood of properties, may be selected within a map view user interface **800**. The operational flow **100** may be used to analyze the condition of features of each property at each property location **102***b* based on aerial imagery **102***c*. In some implementations, the operational flow **100** may aid in estimating costs of repair or replacement of each property characteristic detected in the aerial images, for example. In another example, the operational flow **100** may be used to confirm that a property location **102***b* has been repaired.

The property locations **102***b* may represent, in some examples, locations of properties insured by a particular insurer, locations of properties recently affected by a disaster such as a tornado, hurricane, earthquake, fire, storm surge, or explosion, locations of properties held in an investment portfolio, or locations of properties considered for addition to an investment portfolio. The property locations **102***b* may be identified, in some examples, by a street address, global positioning system coordinates, or other geographic coordinates.

In some implementations, the operational flow **100** obtains images (**104**) at each property location **102***b*. The images can include aerial imagery **102***c* stored by the system or accessed by the system from a remote networked location. The aerial imagery **102***c*, for example, may include a three-dimensional or two-dimensional image of a geographic location including at least one of the property locations **102***b*. In one example, based upon street address or geographic coordinates, the system may query a remote database to obtain recent aerial imagery **102***c* including an image of at least one of the property locations **102***b*. The remote database, in some examples, can include private industry databases such as Google® Earth images by Google, Inc. of Mountain View, Calif. or NTT Geospace Corporation of Japan. In other examples, the remote database can include one or more databases of publicly owned organizations such as the Geospatial Information Authority (GSI) of Japan, the United States Geological Survey, or the Federal Agency for Cartography and Geodesy of Germany. Aerial imagery can be collected from one or more remote network locations, in some embodiments, using an Open Source Geographic Information System (GIS) such as QGIS by the Open Source Geospatial Foundation (OSGeo). The format for the images of the property locations **102***b*, in some embodiments, depends upon the format accepted by the various sources

available for aerial imagery **102***c*. An example aerial image **510** of multiple property locations **102***b* is illustrated in FIG. **5**B.

In some embodiments, the system may be configured to query multiple remote database systems to obtain at least two aerial images of a given property location **102***b*. The aerial images available at the various databases, for example, may differ in resolution and recency of capture. Through collecting two or more images of a particular property, for example, the system may analyze each image to determine a best quality image for use in condition analysis. The condition analysis can include balancing of multiple factors such as, in some examples, clarity, completeness, and recency.

Further, in some embodiments, the system may be configured to query multiple remote database systems to obtain both a two-dimensional aerial image and a three-dimensional aerial image. Different property characteristics may be discerned based upon whether the aerial image is captured in two-dimensional or three-dimensional format. Two-dimensional aerial images, in some examples, can be used to determine location coordinates of the property, street name, occupancy type, floor area, existence of skylights, existence of chimneys, roof condition, roof shape, roof covering, roof anchors, roof equipment, and/or pounding. Three-dimensional aerial images, in comparison, can be used to determine location coordinates, street name, construction type, occupancy type, year built, building height, soft stories, number of stories, roof condition, roof shape, roof covering, roof anchors, roof equipment, cladding, and pounding. Where there is an overlap in characteristics identifiable using either a two-dimensional image or a three-dimensional image, in some embodiments, machine learning analysis of both images can be combined to provide increase confidence in identification of the individual characteristics.

In some implementations, the system obtains (**104**) shape map images **102***a* of each of the property locations **102***b*. The shape map images **102***a*, for example, include a block shape layout of existing properties in a municipality, such as urban planning maps used in urban planning and development. The shape map images **102***a*, in another example, can include block shape layout maps used in presenting information to a user of a computer-based navigation system. The shape map images **102***a*, in one example, can be obtained from Geospatial Information Authority of Japan or Zenrin Co. Ltd. of Japan. An example of an urban planning map **500** is illustrated in FIG. **5**A (image obtained from the Geospatial Information Authority of Japan, Digital Map 2500 (Spatial Data Framework)).

The shape map images **102***a*, in some embodiments, are used to confirm location of a particular property. The shape map image **102***a* of a geographical area, for example, can be overlaid with a corresponding aerial image **102***c* to match properties with images. An example overlaid image **520** of planning map image **500** of FIG. **5**A with aerial image **510** of FIG. **5**B is illustrated in FIG. **5**C. In some embodiments, the shape map image **102***a* may not match in shape or location with the aerial image **102***c*. As illustrated in FIG. **5**C, for example, a shape map outline (illustrated in a thickened line) for a location **522** may not be rectangular, while a rooftop shape beneath the outline may be rectangular in shape. In some embodiments, analyzing multiple aerial images **102***c* to determine the best quality image may include identifying one or more aerial images **102***c* that substantially align with the corresponding shape map image **102***a*. The overlay of the aerial image **102***c* with the shape map image **102***a*, further, can be used in aiding in cropping the aerial image **102***c* to focus analysis on a particular property location **102***b*. For example, turning to FIG. **5**C, property location **524** is substantially aligning with the corresponding planning map image, and the general outline can be used in aiding in cropping of the property location **524**. In some examples, the property location **524** may be identified within the overlaid image **520** when the property location **524** aligns with a property in the overlaid image **520** within a predetermined tolerance in order to account for renovations that may have been made to the property **524**, such as property additions that may alter an overall shape of the property.

Returning to FIG. **1**, in some embodiments, the shape map images **102***a* may be used to correct or compensate for alignment errors or inconsistencies of the corresponding two-dimensional aerial images **102***c*. For example, an aerial image representing a normal orthophoto angle may not be directly centered upon the planning map block. Using the planning map block as a guide, for example, the aerial image can be geometrically corrected to obtain a true orthophoto version of the aerial image.

As illustrated in FIG. **1**, in some implementations, the system identifies (**106**) features of each aerial image **102***c* to classify property characteristics. Using machine learning for analysis, for example, the system can extract features of the aerial image of a particular property location **102***b*. Groupings of extracted features, such as angles, outlines, substantially homogenous fields, etc. can be used to identify property features such as rooftop, swimming pool, chimney, and sky lights. The groupings of extracted features, for example, may include pixel groupings obtained through filtering, cropping, or otherwise adjusting the original image. Upon extracting image-related features identifiable as a property feature (e.g., rooftop), the extracted features may be analyzed to determine one or more property characteristics of that feature (e.g., type of rooftop). In one example, a swimming pool may be identified as the property feature of a pool (e.g., various shapes of outlines of a particular size or greater bordering a substantially homogenous field of blue), then characterized as a particular shape (e.g., rectangular, round, or kidney bean, etc.), type (e.g., above ground or in-ground), and/or size (e.g., approximate area). The machine learning classifier used in the machine learning analysis, in some embodiments, includes a convolutional neural network (CNN) to preprocess the aerial image **102***c* of the particular property location **102***b* and to classify the property features as property characteristics **110**. Using CNN technology, for example, the biological process of visually reviewing and identifying an object or feature of an object is mimicked through a feed-forward artificial neural network where multilayer artificial perception minimizes preprocessing. CNN is a well-established and popular machine-learning methodology. An example of a CNN processing model is Alexnet. (See Krizhevksy et al. "ImageNet Classification with Deep Convolutional Neural Networks", Advances in neural information processing systems. 2012, the entire contents of which has been incorporated herein by reference). In other embodiments, the machine learning classifier may include a Network in Network (NIN) where a number of layers of artificial perception outcomes are generated using micro neural networks with complex structures. The artificial perception outcomes are then stacked and averaged to generate a single global average pooling layer for classification. NIN has demonstrated superior performance outcome to conventional CNN processing. Additionally, NIN processing is less storage-intensive than CNN processing.

In some implementations, property characteristic profiles **108** are used in classifying property features. The property characteristic profiles **108**, for example, may be developed through training the machine learning algorithms using aerial images (and, in some embodiments, terrestrial images **102***d*) of known property characteristics. Each property feature, for example, may be broken down into multiple classifications. In an illustrative example involving a classification of terrestrial images, cladding can include stone, brick, stucco, shingles, vertical boards, horizontal boards, or metal. The machine learning algorithms, for example, may generate a percentage confidence in a match between a new aerial image **102***c* including a gambrel rooftop and the characteristic profile **108** of gambrel rooftops.

In an illustrative example, turning to FIG. **2**A, extracted angular and outline features of aerial images **204** may be used to classify a roof shape **202** of the particular property location **102***b*. In a first example, a gable roof **202***b* includes a central peak upon a generally rectangular outline, as depicted in corresponding aerial image **204***b*. A gambrel roof **202***a* includes these features of the gable roof **202***b* but, as illustrated in aerial image **204***a*, the gambrel roof additionally includes a "skirt" region surrounding the central gable-shaped portion. The "skirt" region can be identified, in part, based upon its corner edges extending from the four corners of the gable-shaped portion. A hipped roof **202***c*, as shown in aerial image **204***c*, includes a central peak and two opposing triangular ends extending from either end of the central peak. The central peak forms a top edge of two trapezoidal sections. A square roof **202***d*, in contrast, has no central peak. Instead, as illustrated in aerial image **204***d*, the square roof includes four triangular portions meeting at a central point. Finally, a flat roof **202***e*, as shown in aerial image **204***e*, is represented by a substantially flat surface outlined by a rectangle.

Turning to FIG. **2**D, an example error rate graph **240** compares training data **242** with accuracy of matching test data **244** in matching aerial image rooftop characteristics to corresponding rooftop type (e.g., shape). A test was conducted using NIN deep learning algorithms to classify rooftop shape in two-dimensional aerial images including a mix of gambrel, gable, hipped, square, and flat roof shapes of assorted colors. Further tests involved differing image sizes and mini-batch sizes. In particular, images were scaled using a formula of $y=w*(x-100)+z$, where x represents a property size (e.g., building with a small border surrounding the area of the rooftop), y represents pixel size, w ranged from 0.33 to 0.40 and z ranged from 90 to 110. The error rates ranged, among initial test cases involving mini batches from 5 to 20, from about 4.3% to about 10%. As shown by the error rate graph **240**, in a test situation involving 2,250 sample images in a training dataset and 250 test images in a test dataset, the minimum error rate in determining rooftop condition was 6%, corresponding to an accuracy rate of 94%.

To improve accuracy rate, in some implementations, the image can be cropped and/or resized prior to analyzing. For example, the image may be cropped to include the property of interest, or the property of interest plus a portion of its surroundings (e.g., the lot containing the property and/or a portion of the proximate neighborhood in which the property resides). Resizing to a standard image size, in another example, can contribute to accuracy improvement.

Further to roof shape, in some embodiments, feature analysis can be used to discern additional roof features such as, in some examples, roof covering, roof anchors, roof equipment, skylights, widow's walks, turrets, towers, dormers, and/or chimneys. Furthermore, upon identifying the outline of the roof, a footprint of the property location **102***b* (e.g., size of the roof) can be calculated based upon a scale of the aerial image **102***c*.

Returning to FIG. **1**, rather than exclusively analyzing the particular property locations **102***b* individually, in some implementations, the particular property locations **102***b* are each classified based in part upon nearby structures. For example, based upon property location **102***b* dimensions, which may include lot dimensions, machine learning can be used to identify additional structures at the property location **102***b* such as, in some examples, a deck, swimming pool, shed, gazebo, detached garage, tennis court, fence, retaining wall, dock, playground equipment, or greenhouse. Further, the particular property locations **102***b* may be classified in part based upon distance from neighboring structures and/or natural features (e.g., pounding).

In some implementations, terrestrial images **102***d* may be used to classify features difficult to recognize using aerial imagery **102***c*. The terrestrial images **102***d*, in some examples, can include street view images obtained from a street view service or real estate listing. In some examples, street view images including a street-facing view of the property location **102***b* may be obtained from Google® Street View by Google, Inc., Bing® Maps Streetside by Microsoft Corp. of Redmond, Wash., or Mapillary by Mapillary AB of Sweden. Using a terrestrial image, for example, the system can identify features such as construction type, cladding, building height, number of soft stories, number of floors, location coordinates, street name, slope, elevation, year built, and/or occupancy type. Where the characteristics identifiable via the terrestrial imagery **102***d* overlap with characteristics identifiable via two-dimensional or three-dimensional aerial imagery **102***c*, analysis of terrestrial imagery **102***d* can be combined with analysis of aerial imagery, in some embodiments, to increase confidence in identification of the particular characteristic(s). For example, house siding features may be more easily detected in terrestrial imagery **102***d* and/or three-dimensional aerial imagery **120***c* than in two-dimensional aerial imagery **102***c*.

In some implementations, a condition of each property feature may be classified (**112**) as a corresponding condition characteristic **116**. New properties are in good condition, but property feature conditions can deteriorate over time due to normal wear-and-tear on the property. Further, property features can suffer damage due to external forces such as storms and natural disasters. Eventually, conditions of housing features can deteriorate to the point where repair and/or replacement may be necessary. As with property characteristics described above at block **106**, machine learning algorithms can be used to classify a present condition of individual detected property features. Using machine learning for analysis, for example, the system can extract pixel intensity distributions of previously identified property features of the aerial image of the particular property location **102***b*. In some examples, newly constructed property features generally have sharp contrast and well-defined features in machine learning image analysis. Conversely, weathered or damaged property features can have softened edges, blurred contrasts, and asymmetrical patches of wear. The machine learning classifier used in the machine learning condition analysis, in some embodiments, includes a machine learning analysis to process the aerial image **102***c* of the particular property location **102***b* and to classify the condition of previously identified property characteristics **110** as condition characteristics **116**. The machine learning analysis, in some examples, can include two-dimensional

color histogram analysis or three-dimensional color histogram analysis. In other embodiments, the machine learning analysis may be performed using pattern recognition algorithms (e.g., determining missing fence posts or missing/misaligned rooftop shingles). In other embodiments, the machine learning classifier includes deep learning analysis such as CNN or NIN. For example, CNN analysis may leverage feature maps created during the training process to assess the condition through extracting meaningful features within a given image through convolution and pooling layers. Other machine learning models and algorithms are possible.

In an illustrative example, turning to FIG. **2**B, examples of condition characteristics of aerial images of hipped rooftops and corresponding example histograms generated through machine learning analysis of pixel intensity are presented. For example, a set of good condition aerial images **210***a* through **214***a*, are presented alongside corresponding good condition histograms **210***b* through **214***b*. The good condition histograms **210***b* through **214***b*, in an illustrative embodiment, illustrate probability metrics of grayscale color distribution, where a respective maximum value **210***c* through **214***c* demonstrates the peak probability of grayscale color distribution of a good condition roof. The values, for example, can range from 0 (total black) to 255 (total white).

Conversely, a set of poor condition aerial images **216***a* through **220***a*, are presented alongside corresponding poor condition histograms **216***b* through **220***b*. The poor condition histograms **216***b* through **220***b*, in an illustrative embodiment, illustrate probability metrics of grayscale color distribution, where a respective maximum value **216***c* through **220***c* demonstrates the peak probability of grayscale color distribution of a good condition roof. The maximum values **216***c* through **220***c* corresponding to the poor condition rooftops **216***a* through **220***a* are markedly lower than corresponding maximum values **210***c* through **214***c* of good condition rooftops **210***a* through **214***a*. In addition, a width of the distributions of the poor condition histograms **216***b* through **220***b* may be markedly wider than a width of the distributions of the good condition histograms **210***b* through **214***b*. As can be seen of the aerial images of the poor condition rooftops **216***a* through **220***a*, the color distribution is patchy and bleached out, while the edges of the rooftops have lost their crisp lines. Conversely, looking to the aerial images of the good condition rooftops **210***a* through **214***a*, the rooftops are more substantially uniform in color with crisp lines on the edges.

Turning to FIG. **2**C, a condition profile **230** for a rooftop condition is illustrated. In some implementations, pixel value distribution histograms such as the histograms **210***b* through **220***b*, in some implementations, can be combined to generate an example condition profile **230** corresponding to rooftop condition. The condition profile **230**, for example, may be included as one of the condition profiles **114** of FIG. **1**. Example reference bars **232***a*, **232***b* on the condition profile **230** illustrate values corresponding to a non-deteriorated hipped roof **214***a* and the deteriorated hipped roof **216***a*, respectively. In some examples, the closer the value of a reference bar **232** comes to 1 on the Y-axis, the better the condition of the roof, while values close to 0 represent poor condition rooftops. In one example, the reference bars **232** of the example condition profile **230** correspond to a test conditions sample data set including 2,500 images). The reference bars **232** can be combined, in some embodiments, in a logistic regression to generate a roof condition profile graph **236**. The accuracy rate of the image histogram is 80% based on some validation.

Although illustrated as a single condition profile **230** corresponding to different types of rooftops (e.g., at least the hipped rooftop **216***a* and the gable rooftop **234**), in other embodiments, individual condition profiles **114** can be generated for each property characteristic (e.g., profiles specific to gabled, gambrel, flat, hipped, square, etc.). In further refinements, in certain embodiments, individual condition profiles **114** can be generated for combinations of property characteristics (e.g., a gabled, shingled roof, a gabled, clay tiled roof, a gabled, metal roof, etc.) to increase accuracy rate based upon pixel densities corresponding to the combined characteristics. Many combinations of characteristics of property features may be used singly or in combination to generate a condition profile **114** designed to accurately identify the condition of the corresponding property feature.

Returning to FIG. **1**, in some implementations, the property characteristics **110** and/or condition characteristics **116** may be analyzed to calculate (**120**) a risk estimate **122** corresponding to a risk of damage based upon one or more types of disasters. The types of disasters can include, in some examples, earthquake, hurricane, tornado, storm surge, fire, straight line winds, or explosion. The types and estimated severity of disasters, in some embodiments, may depend upon the particular property location **102***b*. For example, properties near active fault lines may be more susceptible to earthquakes, while coastal properties may be more susceptible to storm surge damage. The risk estimate **122**, in some examples, can include an actuarial percentage indicating a likelihood of damage based upon the particular property characteristics. Different property characteristics, for example, may be more susceptible than others to certain types of damage. For example, flatter rooftops may be more susceptible to damage from excessive snow build-up, while peaked rooftops may be more vulnerable to strong winds.

In some embodiments, in calculating damage risk, one or more disaster risk profiles **118** can be applied based upon property characteristics. Vulnerability to damage due to disaster can vary, in some examples, by location, altitude, slope, rooftop shape, rooftop condition, cladding type, cladding condition, and/or pounding. In a particular example, as shown in FIG. **2**A, a graphical risk profile **206** ranks types of rooftops by their vulnerability to strong winds. Vulnerability to wind damage increases from lowest vulnerability (flat rooftop **202***e*) to square roof **202***d*, to hipped roof **202***c*, to gable roof **202***b*, with the greatest wind damage vulnerability in gambrel roofs **202***a*. Vulnerability may be mathematically modeled based upon statistical information built from past damage results due to varying types and/or severity of disaster. In combining location-based vulnerabilities with individual property characteristic-based vulnerabilities, risk of damage due to disaster can be more accurately estimated.

Referring back to FIG. **1**, the risk estimates **122**, in some embodiments, can be used in insurance assessments. For example, the risk estimate **122** may be used in determining whether a property is adequately insured against potential damage. Further, when tracking an impending natural disaster, an insurance company may use the risk estimates **122** to estimate claims based upon the forecast path and severity of the storm. Additionally, the risk estimates **122** may be applied by investors when selecting investment properties for an investment portfolio.

In some implementations, repair or replacement costs can be calculated (**126**) to determine a cost estimate **128** to place

one or more property characteristics in good or "like new" condition. The cost estimates **128**, in some embodiments, can be based in part on one or more replacement cost profiles **120**. Replacement costs, in some examples, may vary based upon type of materials (e.g., rooftop materials, cladding materials, etc.), size of the job (e.g., estimated area of the roof, estimated length of fence, etc.), and/or additional property characteristics (e.g., contributing to the complexity of the work). The replacement profiles **120**, in further examples, may be based in part on location (e.g., varying costs of material and labor regionally). In some implementations, the cost estimates **128** for repair or replacement of the property characteristics may be output to a dashboard interface screen at a remote computing device of a requester, such as an insurance carrier or real estate investment broker.

In some embodiments, cost estimates **128** can be used in automatically analyzing insurance claims. The cost estimate **128**, further, may be combined with the risk estimate **122** in analyzing adequacy of insurance coverage for a particular property location **102***b*. Further, the cost estimates **128** may be used by investors in determining cost of maintaining/upgrading a particular investment property.

Although the operational flow is illustrated as a series of computational stages, in other implementations, more or fewer computational stages may be included. For example, aerial imagery **102***c* may be analyzed after an insurance claim has been paid to verify that the insured property has been repaired and/or to upgrade the estimated value of the property (e.g., in the circumstance where the owner upgraded the property rather than applying a straight repair/replacement of the damaged property characteristics.

Additionally, in other implementations, certain computational stages may be performed in a different order. For example, cost estimates **128** may be calculated prior to risk estimates **122**. Other modifications of the operational flow **100** are possible.

FIG. **3** is a block diagram of an example environment **300** for matching aerial image topographical features to corresponding property maintenance levels. The example environment **300**, for example, can be used to implement the operational flow **100** described in relation to FIG. **1**. The example environment **300** includes a property characteristic classification and condition analysis system **302** in communication with client computing system(s) **306**, a number of cost data and/or risk data source computing system(s) **308**, and a number of shape map, aerial imagery, and/or terrestrial imagery source computing system(s) **304**. The communication connection may be wired or wireless, over a variety of network types. In a general overview, the system **302** obtains property identifier(s) **340** from client computing system(s) **306**, accesses images of a property identified by the property identifier **340** from the imagery source computing system(s) **304**, and analyzes the images to determine property characteristic(s) **342** and condition characteristic(s) **344**. Using cost and/or risk data obtained from cost and risk data source computing system(s) **308**, the system **302** may determine replacement cost estimate data **350** and/or disaster risk estimate data **352** based upon the property characteristics and their condition.

In some implementations, a user of a particular client computing system **306** submits a request to the system **302** through a graphical user interface supplied by a graphical user interface engine **334**. The request, for example, may include at least one property identifier **340** as well as one or more property characteristics **342** and/or identification of at least one of a replacement or repair cost estimate, a disaster risk estimate, and a confirmation of repair assessment. The property identifier **340**, in some examples, may include location information (e.g., address, geolocation coordinates, lot boundaries, etc.). The location information, for example, may conform with property location information **102***b* described in relation to FIG. **1**. In other embodiments, the property identifier **340** may be a unique property identifier (e.g., number or string) used to look up property location information in a data store **310**. In another embodiment, rather than submitting a property identifier, the user may submit a unique user identifier used to look up one or more properties associated with the user (e.g., properties insured by an insurance client, properties held by an investment client, etc.).

In one example, turning to FIG. **8**A, a user may identify locations of one or more properties by selecting the properties within a graphical map interface **800**. A number of properties are identified within the map view user interface **800** as indicated with an associated pin, such as pin **804**. The pins, in some examples, may indicate properties insured by a particular insurance carrier, a type of property (e.g., commercial, industrial, residential, etc.), and/or properties of a value range (e.g., within a range, above a threshold, etc.). The pins, for example, may be displayed based upon filtering options supplied by the user or otherwise associated with a user profile (e.g., insurance carrier identification). In a particular example, a user may select three properties associated with three dialogue bubbles **802**. As illustrated, each dialogue bubble identifies a replacement value associated with the property and invites the user to review details regarding the selected property via a details control.

In some implementations, the user enters property characteristics associated with each selected property. In other implementations, the characteristics may be accessed upon identification of the property (e.g., selection of a pin identifying a property, as illustrated in FIG. **8**A). For example, the property characteristics **342** may be obtained from the data store **310**, as illustrated in FIG. **3**. Turning to FIG. **8**B, an example property characteristics user interface **820** presents building area characteristics **822** (e.g., building area **822***a*, stories **822***b*, and total building area **824***c*) and structure characteristics **824** (e.g., structure material **824***a*, construction class **824***b*). As described within, different or additional characteristics may vary per implementation. In some embodiments, the user may be provided the ability via the user interface **820** to edit the building area characteristics **822** and/or the structure characteristics **824**, for example via an edit control **828***a* or **828***b*. For example, in the circumstance of recent development or renovation (e.g., construction of an addition), the user may modify previously stored characteristics values. The property characteristics user interface **820**, for example, may be presented to a user upon selection of a details control of one of the dialogue bubbles **802** illustrated in the user interface of FIG. **8**A.

The user interface **820** further presents, in some implementations, premium characteristics **826** such as a replacement value. The premium information, for example, may relate to an insurance policy purchased for the property or parameters for insuring the property (e.g., based upon upgraded or new characteristics). The user, in some embodiments, may be provided to update the premium information via an edit control **828***c*.

In some implementations, upon identification of property location information, the system **302** accesses imagery of the property from the imagery source computing system(s) **304** using an image acquisition engine **336**. The images can include, in some examples, a shape map (e.g., such as the shape maps **102***a* described in relation to FIG. **1**), two-

dimensional aerial imagery (e.g., such as the aerial imagery **102***c* described in relation to FIG. **1**), three-dimensional aerial imagery (e.g., such as the aerial imagery **102***c* described in relation to FIG. **1**), and/or terrestrial imagery (e.g., such as the terrestrial imagery **102***d* described in relation to FIG. **1**). The images obtained by the image acquisition engine **336**, in some embodiments, depend upon the property characteristic(s) identified by the user. For example, certain types of images are preferred for analyzing certain types of property characteristics. Housing siding, for example, is more easily perceived from a terrestrial image or three-dimensional aerial image than from a two-dimensional aerial image.

In some implementations, an image quality analysis and preparation engine **326** analyzes the acquired image(s) to confirm the acquired image(s) contains an adequately clear and detailed image of the property identified by the property identifier **340**. In some embodiments, the image quality analysis and preparation engine **326** crops and/or resizes the acquired image(s). For example, the image quality analysis and preparation engine **326** may extract a portion of an acquired image based upon the property (e.g., building size). In some implementations, the image quality analysis and preparation engine **326** resizes each acquired image to a standard size. The standard size, in a particular example, may be 256 by 256 pixels per image. Resizing to a standard size, for example, may increase accuracy in later classification analysis. The image quality analysis and preparation engine **326**, in some embodiments, may be configured to apply corrections to the acquired image(s). For example, the image quality analysis and preparation engine **326** may be configured to adjust an aerial image from a normal orthophoto angle, to a true orthophoto version as described above.

In some implementations, the image quality analysis and preparation engine **326** uses shape outlines as part of the analysis. For example, a composite image generation engine **318** may overlay an aerial image with a shape map image, as described in relation to FIG. **5**C. Using the resultant composite image, the image quality analysis and preparation engine **326** may confirm the aerial image conforms with an urban planning map or other property placement guide (e.g., navigational map data, etc.). Further, the image quality analysis and preparation engine **326** may use the overlaid shape map as a guide in determining whether an aerial image requires correction to a true orthophoto angle and/or how closely to crop the image to capture the property (and, optionally, its immediate surroundings such as its lot or a portion of the proximate neighborhood).

In some implementations, if the image quality analysis and preparation engine **326** determines that the acquired image is insufficient, the image quality analysis and preparation engine **326** may request a replacement image from the image acquisition engine **336**. For example, the image acquisition engine **336** may obtain images based upon a variety of factors including, in some examples, recency of capture, resolution, cost, and/or applicability to a particular property characteristic analysis. Upon determination by the image quality analysis and preparation engine **326** that the first obtained image is insufficient, for example, the image acquisition engine **336** may determine a next best source for obtaining an image of the property.

In some implementations, once an image has been approved (and, optionally, prepared and/or corrected) by the image quality analysis and preparation engine **326**, a feature identification engine **320** extracts features from the property image(s) related to the identified property characteristics **342**. In the circumstance of a fence, for example, the feature identification engine **320** may identify a perimeter enclosure or partial perimeter enclosure abutting and extending from the property as indicative of a fence.

In some implementations, upon identification of features by the feature identification engine **320**, a property characteristic classification engine **322** classifies the property characteristic. For example, the features may be classified using one or more machine learning techniques as described in relation to computational stage **106** (classify features of each image) of FIG. **1**. The property characteristic classification engine **322**, for example, may generate property characteristics **342** representing a grouping, type, or other characterization of a particular property feature. Continuing with the particular example of a fence, the extracted features may be analyzed and classified in relation to height and/or material. Upon classifying the property characteristics, the property characteristic classifications may be stored in the data store **310** as property characteristics **342** (e.g., similar to property characteristics **110** of FIG. **1**).

In some implementations, the property characteristic classification engine **322** uses characteristic profile(s) **360** in classifying property characteristics. The property characteristic classification engine **322**, for example, may obtain, for each property characteristic being analyzed, a particular characteristic profile **360** from a profile data store **314**. The characteristic profiles, for example, may be similar to the characteristic profiles **108** described in relation to FIG. **1**.

In some implementations, the property characteristic profiles **360** are generated by a characteristic classification learning engine **328**. The characteristic classification learning engine **328**, for example, may generate characteristic profiles **360** through a sample data set and learning process as described, generally, in relation to FIG. **2**A. In a particular example, the characteristic classification learning engine **328** may analyze JPG (lossy compression digital image standard developed by the Joint Photographic Experts Group) to recognize varying rooftop shapes.

While certain property characteristic classifications are done by analysis, in some implementations, one or more feature classifications may be obtained from previously stored property characteristics **342**. For example, based upon tax records, real estate records, etc. some basic materials and structure information regarding a property may be readily available through local and/or remote database system(s). In other examples, the previously stored property characteristics **342** may also be obtained from previous condition assessments performed for a property location by the system **302**.

In some implementations, once the property characteristic classification engine **322** has classified the property characteristic(s), a characteristic condition classification engine **324** classifies the condition of each property characteristic. For example, the property characteristics may be classified as described in relation to computational stage **112** (classify condition of each feature) of FIG. **1**. The characteristic condition classification engine **324**, for example, may generate condition characteristics **344** representing a rating, qualification, or ranking of the condition of the particular characteristic. In some examples, the characteristic condition classification engine **324** may qualify a characteristic as a) "good" or "bad", b) "like new", "acceptable", "needs repair", or "needs replacement", c) rated on a numeric scale such as a scale from 1 to 5 where **5** may correspond to "like new" and **1** may correspond to "needs replacement." In other implementations, particular problems may be identified by the characteristic condition classification engine **324** such

as, in some examples, a fence feature is partially fallen, or a roof feature shows signs of structural damage.

In some implementations, the characteristic condition classification engine **324** uses condition profile(s) **362** in classifying property characteristic conditions. The characteristic condition classification engine **324**, for example, may obtain, for each property characteristic being analyzed, a particular condition profile **362** from the profile data store **314**. The condition profiles **362**, for example, may be similar to the condition profiles **114** described in relation to FIG. **1**.

In some implementations, the condition profiles **362** are generated by a condition classification learning engine **330**. The condition classification learning engine **330**, for example, may generate condition profiles **362** through a sample data set and learning process as described, generally, in relation to FIG. **2**B. In a particular example, color histogram analysis may be used to identify peak pixel values of the images in gray scale. Using the group of calculated peak pixel values, the learning engine can classify property condition into certain categories.

In some implementations, based upon the output of the property characteristic classification engine **322** and/or the characteristic condition classification engine **324**, a risk calculation engine **316** may estimate risk of damage based upon one or more types of disaster. For example, the disaster risk estimate data **352** may be calculated as described in relation to computational stage **120** (calculate damage risk) of FIG. **1**. The disaster risk estimate data **350**, in one example, can include a percentage likelihood of damage due to each particular type of risk based upon the particular property characteristics and/or property conditions, as described in relation to the risk estimates **122** of FIG. **1**. Further, in some embodiments, the disaster risk estimate data **350** may include a set of risk estimates based upon, in some examples, a number of severities of disaster, a particular path of disaster, and/or hazard intensity of disaster. The disaster seventies, in some examples, may correspond to the Richter scale of seismic activity magnitude or the Saffir-Simpson Hurricane Wind Scale category. The path of the disaster, in some examples, can include geographical direction such as northeasterly, etc. or angle of impact with respect to the property characteristic(s). The hazard intensity of disaster, in some examples, can relate to wind speed or rainfall amount. Repair costs, for example, may be more accurately estimated when the roof condition is known. Due to poor condition of a rooftop in one particular example, the roof may be more vulnerable to damage requiring replacement. In another particular example, due to a poor condition rooftop, the likelihood for interior property damage (e.g., water damage due to breach of the roof) may increase at a set level of severity of disaster and above.

In some embodiments, the risk calculation engine **316** accesses one or more risk profiles **364** from the data store **314** based upon property characteristics and/or condition characteristics. The risk profiles, for example, may be similar to the disaster risk profiles **118** described in relation to FIG. **1**. The risk profiles **364**, for example, may be obtained from one or more risk data sources **306** by a cost and risk data acquisition engine **338**. In other embodiments, the system **302** may generate risk profiles **364** (e.g., using risk data obtained from one or more cost and risk data sources **306** and a risk data analysis engine (not illustrated)).

The risk estimate data **352**, in some embodiments, is shared with one or more clients **306**. For example, an insurance carrier client **306** may use risk estimate data in making insurance assessments. In another example, a real estate investment broker or firm client **306** may apply risk estimate data **352** when selecting investment properties for an investment portfolio.

Turning to FIG. **8**C, an example disaster risk user interface **840** presents risk assessment information based upon risk profiles **364** related to the selected property (e.g., one of the properties identified via the dialogue bubbles **802***c* of FIG. **8**A). The user interface **840**, for example, may be accessed by scrolling downward from the user interface **820**. The user interface **840** illustrates a number of disaster risk factors **842** and associated risk estimate data **844** for the selected property. As illustrated, the disaster risk factors **842** include a fire factor **842***a*, a wind factor **842***b*, a flood factor **842***c*, an earthquake factor **842***d*, a tsunami factor **842***e*, and a landslide factor **842***f* In some embodiments, only a subset of the risk estimate data is determined via risk assessment techniques described herein. For example, flood data **844***c* may be generated based upon governmental flood map evaluation rather than via aerial imaging assessment, while fire risk **844***a* may be determined at least in part based upon proximity to neighboring properties as derived via imaging analysis and/or construction properties derived via image analysis. Further, wind risk data **842***b* may be derived via rooftop analysis as described in greater detail herein.

In some implementations, based upon the output of the property characteristic classification engine **322** and/or the characteristic condition classification engine **324**, a cost calculation engine **336** calculates repair or replacement costs for improving problems identified by the characteristic condition classification engine **324** and generates replacement cost estimate data **350**. For example, the replacement cost estimate data **352** may be calculated as described in relation to computational stage **126** (calculate repair or replacement costs) of FIG. **1**. The replacement cost estimate data **350**, for example, may be similar to the cost estimates **128** described in relation to FIG. **1**.

In some implementations, the cost calculation engine **336** based calculations in part on one or more cost profiles **366** (e.g., similar to the cost profiles **120** of FIG. **1**). In some embodiments, the cost calculation engine **336** accesses one or more cost profiles **366** from the data store **314** based upon property characteristics and/or condition characteristics. The cost profiles **366**, in some embodiments, are obtained from one or more cost data sources **306** by the cost and risk data acquisition engine **338**. In other embodiments, the system **302** may generate cost profiles **366** (e.g., by a cost data analysis engine (not illustrated) using cost data obtained from one or more cost and risk data sources **306**).

The cost estimate data **350**, in some embodiments, is shared with one or more clients **306**. For example, an insurance carrier client **306** may use cost estimate data in determining adequacy of insurance coverage for a particular property. In another example, a real estate investment broker or real estate investment firm client **306** may apply cost estimate data **350** in determining cost of maintaining/upgrading a particular investment property.

In some implementations, the cost estimate data **350** and/or risk estimate data **352** is provided to a requesting client **306**, responsive to receiving identification of one or more properties, in real-time or near real-time. For example, a client **306** accessing a dashboard interface, may format a request for a risk estimate or cost estimate related to an identified property within a dashboard interface and submit the request via a network to the system **302**. Responsive to the request, the system **302** may conduct the analysis described generally above and respond, in real time or near-real time to the client **306** with a risk analysis or cost

analysis. For example, risk analysis information is presented in user interface **840** of FIG. **8**C.

In some implementations, the system may identify, through updated meteorological data, one or more properties within a client real estate portfolio affected by a disaster. The system, further to identification of the affected properties, may proactively prepare a repair estimate to provide to the client corresponding to the real estate portfolio shortly after the disaster took effect. In one example, the Japan Meteorological Agency may update observation data via a web site interface within an hour or so of observation. In this example, the system may provide repair cost estimates to clients between one and two hours after a disaster has taken place.

Rather than sharing cost estimate data **350** and/or risk estimate data **352** directly with the clients **306**, in other embodiments, the system **302** may include a report generation engine (not illustrated) that prepares reports regarding condition, damage, and risk assessments of one or more properties. Further, in some embodiments, the system **302** may compare a current condition characteristic **344** to a historic condition characteristic **344** to confirm whether a property owner made repairs to a property (e.g., based upon payment of an insurance claim), replaced one or more features of a property, or removed one or more features of a property (e.g., removed a hazardous collapsing structure, cut back brush encroaching a fire risk distance to a home, etc.). In another illustration, the system **302** may compare a current condition characteristic **344** to a historic condition characteristic **344** to determine whether a repair or replacement is an upgrade (e.g., replacement using superior materials) or a downgrade (e.g., replacing an in-ground pool with an above-ground pool) to the property characteristic. Other modifications of the system **302** are possible.

FIG. **4** is a flow chart of an example method **400** for classifying condition characteristics of a property based on aerial image analysis. The flow chart, for example, may represent computational stages **104** through **112** as described in relation to FIG. **1**. The method **400** may be performed, for example, by the system **302** of FIG. **3**.

In some implementations, the method **400** begins with accessing a two-dimensional shape map including the shape of a property (**402**). The shape map, for example, may be accessed by the image acquisition engine **336** from a shape map imagery source **304**, as described in relation to FIG. **3**. The two-dimensional shape map, for example, may take a form of any of the shape maps **102***a* described in relation to FIG. **1**. In a particular example, the shape map may be in a form similar to the shape map **500** described in relation to FIG. **5**A.

In some implementations, two-dimensional and/or three-dimensional aerial imagery including an image of the property is accessed (**404**). The two-dimensional and/or three-dimensional aerial imagery, for example, may be accessed by the image acquisition engine **336** from an aerial imagery source **304**, as described in relation to FIG. **3**. The two-dimensional and/or three-dimensional aerial imagery, for example, may take a form of any of the aerial imagery **102***c* described in relation to FIG. **1**. In a particular example, the two-dimensional aerial imagery may be in a form similar to the aerial image **510** described in relation to FIG. **5**B.

In some implementations, the aerial imagery is overlaid with the shape map (**406**). The composite image generation engine **318** of FIG. **3**, for example, may overlay the aerial imagery with the shape map to generate a composite image. The composite image, for example, may be in a form similar to the composite image **520** described in relation to FIG. **5**C.

If a shape match is not identified (**408**), in some implementations, the method **400** accesses alternate two-dimensional or three-dimensional aerial imagery (**410**). In some embodiments, the image quality analysis and preparation engine **326** of FIG. **3** determines whether the composite image presents an adequate shape match of the property(s) of interest. Upon determining the image does not match, the image acquisition engine **336** of FIG. **3**, for example, may obtain an alternative two-dimensional or three-dimensional aerial image from the aerial imagery source(s) **304**. As described in relation to FIG. **3**, for example, For the image acquisition engine **336** may determine a next best source for obtaining an image of the property based upon one or more factors. Conversely, the method **400**, in other implementations (not illustrated), could proceed without matching the shape map to the aerial imagery.

If a shape match is identified (**408**), in some implementations, the formatting of the aerial imagery is prepared (**411**). In some embodiments, the image is cropped to include the property of interest or the property of interest plus a portion of its surroundings (e.g., the lot containing the property and/or a portion of the proximate neighborhood in which the property resides). Cropping may be based, for example, on the correlation of the shape map to the property. In illustration, the image may be cropped to include the shape map outline of the property plus a border region. In some embodiments, cropping may include cropping to a set shape (e.g., X by X pixels square, X by Y pixels rectangle, etc.). In some embodiments, in addition to cropping the image, the image may be resized. For example, depending upon the resolution of the aerial imagery, the image resolution may be reduced, for example, to fit within an X by X pixels square or an X by Y pixels rectangle. Resizing to a standard image size, for example, can contribute to analysis consistency and improvement in classification accuracy. In further embodiments, the color depth and/or color mapping of the aerial imagery may be adjusted. For consistent color histogram analysis of the imagery, for example, the color depth and color mapping may be made consistent across analyzed images. In a particular example, color images may be converted to grayscale for grayscale image analysis. Adjustments to the imagery, for example, may be effected by the image quality analysis and preparation engine **326**, described in relation to FIG. **3**.

In some implementations, orthogonality of the aerial imagery is assessed (**412**). For example, the image quality analysis and preparation engine **326** may assess orthogonality of the aerial imagery. The image quality analysis and preparation engine **326**, in one example, may determine that orthogonality correction is desired. In another example, if the image represents a normal orthophoto rather than a true orthophoto, the image quality analysis and preparation engine **326** may notify further modules which may compensate for the angle of capture of the aerial image. In other implementations (not illustrated), orthogonality may be assessed without use of an overlaid shape map.

Returning to FIG. **4**, in some implementations, if the aerial imagery is not orthogonal (**414**), an orthogonal version of the aerial imagery is generated (**416**). The image quality analysis and preparation engine **326** of FIG. **3**, for example, may correct a normal orthophoto form to generate a true orthophoto form. The true orthophoto form, for example, may better match the shape map overly.

In some implementations, one or more property characteristics of the property are classified (**418**). The property, in some embodiments, is analyzed based on the portion of the aerial image substantially bounded by the shape map of the

property. In other embodiments, the property analysis encompasses a surrounding of the property (e.g., features proximate the property upon the property lot, nearby properties, etc.). The property characteristic(s), for example, may be classified by the property characteristic classification engine **322**, as described in relation to FIG. **3**. In a particular example, a rooftop property feature may be classified as one of a variety of rooftop shapes, as illustrated in FIG. **2**A.

In some implementations, if a property characteristic classification is identified (**420**), a condition of each of the property characteristics can be classified (**422**). The property characteristic condition(s), for example, may be classified by the characteristic condition classification engine **324**, as described in relation to FIG. **3**. In a particular example, a hipped classification of the rooftop feature may be classified as one of a good condition and a poor condition, as illustrated in FIG. **2**B. In some implementations, the classifications of the condition of each of the property characteristics may by output to a computing device of a requester (**424**) via a dashboard interface screen. In some examples, in addition to providing the condition classification for the property characteristics, the dashboard interface screen may include replacement costs for replacing the property characteristics, risk cost estimates due to damage from natural disasters, or confirmation of whether or not repairs have been made to the property characteristics.

If, instead, a classification match was not identified (**420**), in some implementations, alternate two-dimensional or three-dimensional aerial imagery is accessed (**410**) and the method **400** restarts with overlaying the replacement aerial imagery with the shape map (**406**). Alternatively, in some embodiments, even if a classification match is not identified, condition may be assessed based upon a default profile associated with the property feature (not illustrated). For example, if the rooftop shape does not match one of the shapes trained into the system, the condition of the rooftop may still be assessed based upon a general condition profile trained with a variety of rooftop shapes. In some examples, the condition of the rooftop may be assessed by comparing the current rooftop conditions to stored historic condition characteristics for the property from a previous condition assessment.

Although the method **400** is illustrated as a series of steps, in other implementations, more or fewer steps may be included. For example, in some implementations, terrestrial images are obtained and used to classify the same and/or different property characteristics, as described in relation to the operational flow **100** of FIG. **1**.

Additionally, in other implementations, certain steps may be performed in a different order. For example, in some implementations, property characteristics and condition characteristics may be classified (**418**, **422**) in parallel. Other modifications of the operational flow **100** are possible.

Aspects of the present disclosure may be directed to computing systems for categorizing a repair condition of a property characteristic in order to provide dynamic, real-time property condition assessments in response to requests received from users such as insurance carriers or real estate investment brokers using aerial imagery. The implementations described herein improve upon conventional methodologies by applying deep learning analysis models to detected property characteristics of the obtained imagery in order to assess whether a condition of the property characteristics is degraded to a point of needing repair or replacement and determine an amount of risk exposure of the property due to the detected condition of the property characteristics. The implementations described herein improve processing efficiency of the system to reduce an amount of time it takes to perform the condition assessments and automate a condition assessment process.

Next, a hardware description of the computing device, mobile computing device, or server according to exemplary embodiments is described with reference to FIG. **6**. In FIG. **6**, the computing device, mobile computing device, or server includes a CPU **600** which performs the processes described above. The process data and instructions may be stored in memory **602**. These processes and instructions may also be stored on a storage medium disk **604** such as a hard drive (HDD) or portable storage medium or may be stored remotely. Further, the claimed advancements are not limited by the form of the computer-readable media on which the instructions of the inventive process are stored. For example, the instructions may be stored on CDs, DVDs, in FLASH memory, RAM, ROM, PROM, EPROM, EEPROM, hard disk or any other information processing device with which the computing device, mobile computing device, or server communicates, such as a server or computer.

Further, a portion of the claimed advancements may be provided as a utility application, background daemon, or component of an operating system, or combination thereof, executing in conjunction with CPU **600** and an operating system such as Microsoft Windows 6, UNIX, Solaris, LINUX, Apple MAC-OS and other systems known to those skilled in the art.

CPU **600** may be a Xenon or Core processor from Intel of America or an Opteron processor from AMD of America, or may be other processor types that would be recognized by one of ordinary skill in the art. Alternatively, the CPU **600** may be implemented on an FPGA, ASIC, PLD or using discrete logic circuits, as one of ordinary skill in the art would recognize. Further, CPU **600** may be implemented as multiple processors cooperatively working in parallel to perform the instructions of the inventive processes described above.

The computing device, mobile computing device, or server in FIG. **6** also includes a network controller **606**, such as an Intel Ethernet PRO network interface card from Intel Corporation of America, for interfacing with network **6**X. As can be appreciated, the network **628** can be a public network, such as the Internet, or a private network such as an LAN or WAN network, or any combination thereof and can also include PSTN or ISDN sub-networks. The network **628** can also be wired, such as an Ethernet network, or can be wireless such as a cellular network including EDGE, 3G and 4G wireless cellular systems. The wireless network can also be Wi-Fi, Bluetooth, or any other wireless form of communication that is known.

The computing device, mobile computing device, or server further includes a display controller **608**, such as a NVIDIA GeForce GTX or Quadro graphics adaptor from NVIDIA Corporation of America for interfacing with display **610**, such as a Hewlett Packard HPL2445w LCD monitor. A general purpose I/O interface **612** interfaces with a keyboard and/or mouse **614** as well as a touch screen panel **616** on or separate from display **610**. General purpose I/O interface also connects to a variety of peripherals **618** including printers and scanners, such as an OfficeJet or DeskJet from Hewlett Packard.

A sound controller **620** is also provided in the computing device, mobile computing device, or server, such as Sound Blaster X-Fi Titanium from Creative, to interface with speakers/microphone **622** thereby providing sounds and/or music.

The general purpose storage controller **624** connects the storage medium disk **604** with communication bus **626**, which may be an ISA, EISA, VESA, PCI, or similar, for interconnecting all of the components of the computing device, mobile computing device, or server. A description of the general features and functionality of the display **610**, keyboard and/or mouse **614**, as well as the display controller **608**, storage controller **624**, network controller **606**, sound controller **620**, and general purpose I/O interface **612** is omitted herein for brevity as these features are known.

One or more processors can be utilized to implement various functions and/or algorithms described herein, unless explicitly stated otherwise. Additionally, any functions and/or algorithms described herein, unless explicitly stated otherwise, can be performed upon one or more virtual processors, for example on one or more physical computing systems such as a computer farm or a cloud drive.

Reference has been made to flowchart illustrations and block diagrams of methods, systems and computer program products according to implementations of this disclosure. Aspects thereof are implemented by computer program instructions. These computer program instructions may be provided to a processor of a general purpose computer, special purpose computer, or other programmable data processing apparatus to produce a machine, such that the instructions, which execute via the processor of the computer or other programmable data processing apparatus, create means for implementing the functions/acts specified in the flowchart and/or block diagram block or blocks.

These computer program instructions may also be stored in a computer-readable medium that can direct a computer or other programmable data processing apparatus to function in a particular manner, such that the instructions stored in the computer-readable medium produce an article of manufacture including instruction means which implement the function/act specified in the flowchart and/or block diagram block or blocks.

The computer program instructions may also be loaded onto a computer or other programmable data processing apparatus to cause a series of operational steps to be performed on the computer or other programmable apparatus to produce a computer implemented process such that the instructions which execute on the computer or other programmable apparatus provide processes for implementing the functions/acts specified in the flowchart and/or block diagram block or blocks.

Moreover, the present disclosure is not limited to the specific circuit elements described herein, nor is the present disclosure limited to the specific sizing and classification of these elements. For example, the skilled artisan will appreciate that the circuitry described herein may be adapted based on changes on battery sizing and chemistry, or based on the requirements of the intended back-up load to be powered.

The functions and features described herein may also be executed by various distributed components of a system. For example, one or more processors may execute these system functions, where the processors are distributed across multiple components communicating in a network. The distributed components may include one or more client and server machines, which may share processing, as shown on FIG. **8**, in addition to various human interface and communication devices (e.g., display monitors, smart phones, tablets, personal digital assistants (PDAs)). The network may be a private network, such as a LAN or WAN, or may be a public network, such as the Internet. Input to the system may be received via direct user input and received remotely either in real-time or as a batch process. Additionally, some implementations may be performed on modules or hardware not identical to those described. Accordingly, other implementations are within the scope that may be claimed.

In some implementations, as illustrated in FIG. **7**, the innovations described herein may interface with a cloud computing environment **730**, such as Google Cloud Platform™ to perform at least portions of methods or algorithms detailed above. The processes associated with the methods described herein can be executed on a computation processor, such as the Google Compute Engine by data center **734**. The data center **734**, for example, can also include an application processor, such as the Google App Engine, that can be used as the interface with the systems described herein to receive data and output corresponding information. The cloud computing environment **730** may also include one or more databases **738** or other data storage, such as cloud storage and a query database. In some implementations, the cloud storage database **738**, such as the Google Cloud Storage, may store processed and unprocessed data supplied by systems described herein.

The systems described herein may communicate with the cloud computing environment **730** through a secure gateway **732**. In some implementations, the secure gateway **732** includes a database querying interface, such as the Google BigQuery platform.

The cloud computing environment **102** may include a provisioning tool **740** for resource management. The provisioning tool **740** may be connected to the computing devices of a data center **734** to facilitate the provision of computing resources of the data center **734**. The provisioning tool **740** may receive a request for a computing resource via the secure gateway **732** or a cloud controller **736**. The provisioning tool **740** may facilitate a connection to a particular computing device of the data center **734**.

A network **702** represents one or more networks, such as the Internet, connecting the cloud environment **730** to a number of client devices such as, in some examples, a cellular telephone **710**, a tablet computer **712**, a mobile computing device **714**, and a desktop computing device **716**. The network **702** can also communicate via wireless networks using a variety of mobile network services **720** such as Wi-Fi, Bluetooth, cellular networks including EDGE, 3G and 4G wireless cellular systems, or any other wireless form of communication that is known. In some embodiments, the network **702** is agnostic to local interfaces and networks associated with the client devices to allow for integration of the local interfaces and networks configured to perform the processes described herein.

While certain embodiments have been described, these embodiments have been presented by way of example only, and are not intended to limit the scope of the present disclosures. Indeed, the novel methods, apparatuses and systems described herein can be embodied in a variety of other forms; furthermore, various omissions, substitutions and changes in the form of the methods, apparatuses and systems described herein can be made without departing from the spirit of the present disclosures. The accompanying claims and their equivalents are intended to cover such forms or modifications as would fall within the scope and spirit of the present disclosures.

What is claimed is:

1. A method for automatically categorizing a condition of a characteristic of a property, the method comprising:

obtaining, by processing circuitry, an aerial image of a geographic region including the property;

extracting, by the processing circuitry, one or more features of a plurality of features from the aerial image, wherein

the one or more features are each represented by a set of pixel groupings, and

the one or more features represent the characteristic of the property, wherein

each pixel grouping of the set of pixel groupings comprises at least one of angles, outlines, or substantially homogenous pixel fields;

applying, by the processing circuitry, a first portion of the set of pixel groupings to a first machine learning classifier to determine a characteristic classification of the characteristic from a plurality of potential classifications of the characteristic, wherein

the first machine learning classifier is trained to identify at least a portion of the one or more features from the first portion of the set of pixel groupings; and

applying, by the processing circuitry, a second portion of the set of pixel groupings to a second machine learning classifier to determine a condition classification of the characteristic from a plurality of potential condition classifications of the characteristic, wherein

the second machine learning classifier is trained to identify, from the second portion of the set of pixel groupings, property characteristic conditions of the characteristic having the characteristic classification.

2. The method of claim **1**, further comprising comparing, by the processing circuitry, the condition classification to a historic condition classification to identify a change in condition of the characteristic of the property.

3. The method of claim **1**, further comprising preparing, by the processing circuitry for presentation to a user, a graphical report comprising condition information regarding the condition classification.

4. The method of claim **3**, wherein the preparing comprises preparing the graphical report as an interactive user interface.

5. The method of claim **1**, wherein at least one of the first machine learning classifier or the second machine learning classifier comprises a convolutional neural network (CNN) model.

6. The method of claim **1**, wherein the plurality of potential condition classifications comprises a numeric scale of condition classifications ranging between a needs replacement condition and a like new condition.

7. The method of claim **1**, further comprising determining, by the processing circuitry based in part on the characteristic classification and the condition classification, a cost for repair or replacement of the characteristic of the property.

8. The method of claim **1**, further comprising determining, by the processing circuitry based in part on the characteristic classification and the condition classification, a risk estimate of damage to the characteristic of the property due to one or more disasters.

9. A system for automatically categorizing a condition of a property feature of a property, the system comprising:

a non-transitory computer readable storage region storing

a first machine learning analysis model trained to identify one or more property characteristics, and

a second machine learning analysis model trained to identify one or more property conditions;

processing circuitry; and

a non-transitory computer readable medium having instructions stored thereon;

wherein the instructions, when executed by the processing circuitry, cause the processing circuitry to

extract a set of image-related features from an aerial image, wherein the set of image-related features represent the property feature;

apply a first portion of the set of image-related features to the first machine learning analysis model to determine a characteristic classification of the property feature from a plurality of potential characteristic classifications of the property feature; and

apply a second portion of the image-related features to the second machine learning analysis model to determine a condition classification of the property feature from a plurality of potential condition classifications of the property feature, wherein

the second machine learning analysis model is trained to identify, from the second portion of the set of image-related features, property characteristic conditions of the property feature having the characteristic classification.

10. The system of claim **9**, wherein each image-related feature of the set of image-related features comprises at least one of angles, outlines, or substantially homogenous pixel fields.

11. The system of claim **9**, wherein the instructions, when executed by the processing circuitry, cause the processing circuitry to, prior to extracting the set of image-related features, assess orthogonality of the aerial image.

12. The system of claim **11**, wherein the instructions, when executed by the processing circuitry, cause the processing circuitry to, responsive to assessing that the orthogonality of the aerial image does not correspond to a true orthophoto form, cause correction of the aerial image to the true orthophoto form.

13. The system of claim **9**, wherein the instructions, when executed by the processing circuitry, cause the processing circuitry to obtain, via a network from a remote computing system, the aerial image of the geographic area.

14. The system of claim **13**, wherein the instructions, when executed by the processing circuitry, cause the processing circuitry to, prior to obtaining the aerial image, determine, based at least in part on the property feature, a preferred image type corresponding to the property feature.

15. The system of claim **9**, wherein the plurality of potential characteristic classifications comprises at least one of a plurality of potential sizes, a plurality of potential shapes, or a plurality of potential materials of the property feature.

16. A non-transitory computer readable medium having instructions stored thereon, wherein the instructions, when executed by processing circuitry, cause the processing circuitry to:

obtain aerial and/or terrestrial imagery including a property;

extract a plurality of pixel groupings from the aerial and/or terrestrial imagery, wherein

the plurality of pixel groupings includes a respective set of pixel groupings representative of each feature of one or more features of the property, wherein

each pixel grouping of the set of pixel groupings comprises at least one of angles, outlines, or substantially homogenous pixel fields; and

determine at least one characteristic and at least one condition of the property, wherein determining comprises, for each feature of the one or more features of the property,

apply at least a portion of the one or more sets of pixel groupings corresponding to the respective feature to

one or more first machine learning classifiers trained to identify one or more characteristics of the respective feature, and

apply at least a portion of the one or more sets of pixel groupings corresponding to the respective feature to one or more second machine learning classifiers trained to identify a condition of the respective feature in view of at least a first characteristic of the one or more characteristics.

17. The non-transitory computer readable medium of claim **16**, further comprising using the at least one characteristic and the at least one condition to determine one or more of a risk estimate, a repair estimate, or a replacement estimate.

18. The non-transitory computer readable medium of claim **17**, wherein

the instructions, when executed by the processing circuitry, cause the processing circuitry to access one or more known property characteristics, wherein

determining the one or more of the damage risk estimate, the repair estimate, or the replacement estimate comprises applying, to the determining, the one or more known property characteristics.

19. The non-transitory computer readable medium of claim **16**, wherein the one or more characteristics of a first feature of the one or more features comprises a shape characteristic and a material characteristic.

20. The non-transitory computer readable medium of claim **16**, wherein extracting the plurality of pixel groupings from the aerial and/or terrestrial imagery comprises extracting a first set of pixel groupings from an aerial image and a second set of pixel groupings from a terrestrial image.

21. The non-transitory computer readable medium of claim **16**, wherein a first feature of the one or more features comprises a rooftop of a house, and a second feature of the one or more features comprises a structure adjacent to the house.

22. The non-transitory computer readable medium of claim **16**, wherein the aerial and/or terrestrial imagery comprises a three-dimensional (3D) aerial image.

* * * * *