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(54) Abstract Title: Method and apparatus for identifying changes in a road map

(57) A method of identifying changes in a road map comprises the steps of collecting position data for two different time periods from vehicles equipped with individual terminals (s1), drawing distribution maps for each time period (S2 & S3) (Figs 7a & 7b) and producing a differential distribution map (S4)(Fig 8) by comparing the two. The differential map is then analyzed to identify changes between the two maps (Fig 6a-6b). A change in the road map is then determined if the differential distribution satisfies a predetermined condition (S5) and the road map is updated. A change, such as a new road, is determined when a differential distribution is absent from the first map but is presenting the second map (Fig 6c). A closed road is identified when a distribution is present in the first map but not in the second map (Fig 6d).

FIG. 2

