



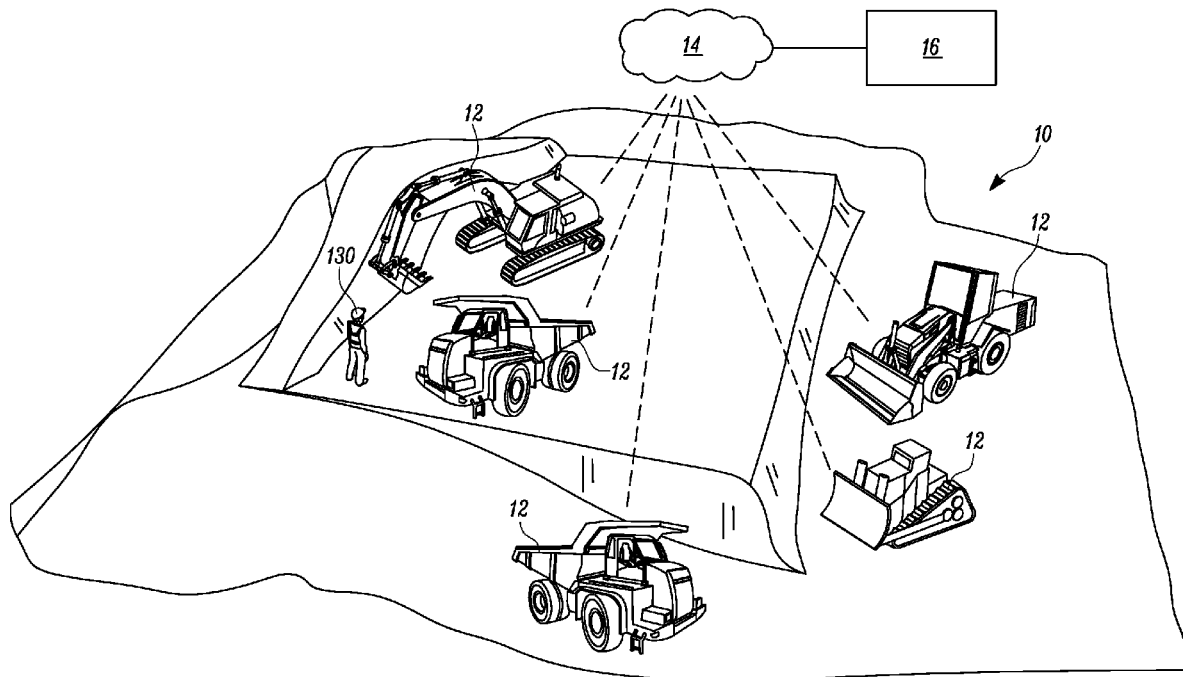
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(19) **United States**(12) **Patent Application Publication**
Chi et al.(10) **Pub. No.: US 2017/0314232 A1**(43) **Pub. Date: Nov. 2, 2017**(54) **METHOD OF CONTROLLING MACHINES
AT A WORKSITE****G05B 15/02** (2006.01)**G06F 17/30** (2006.01)**E02F 9/26** (2006.01)(71) Applicant: **Caterpillar Inc.**, Peoria, IL (US)(52) **U.S. Cl.**CPC **E02F 9/2054** (2013.01); **G06F 17/30477**
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ABSTRACT

A method of controlling machines for performing operations at a worksite is disclosed. The method includes receiving pre-construction terrain data, design terrain data, and resource data and then defining a plurality of constraints based on the data. Operations of the machines are simulated based on the data. The method includes estimating process variables associated with the operations and defining and scheduling tasks to be performed by the machines. The method includes collecting real time data from the worksite and updating the estimated process variables and the scheduled tasks of the machines based on the collected real time data. Instructions are then provided to the machines for executing the tasks.

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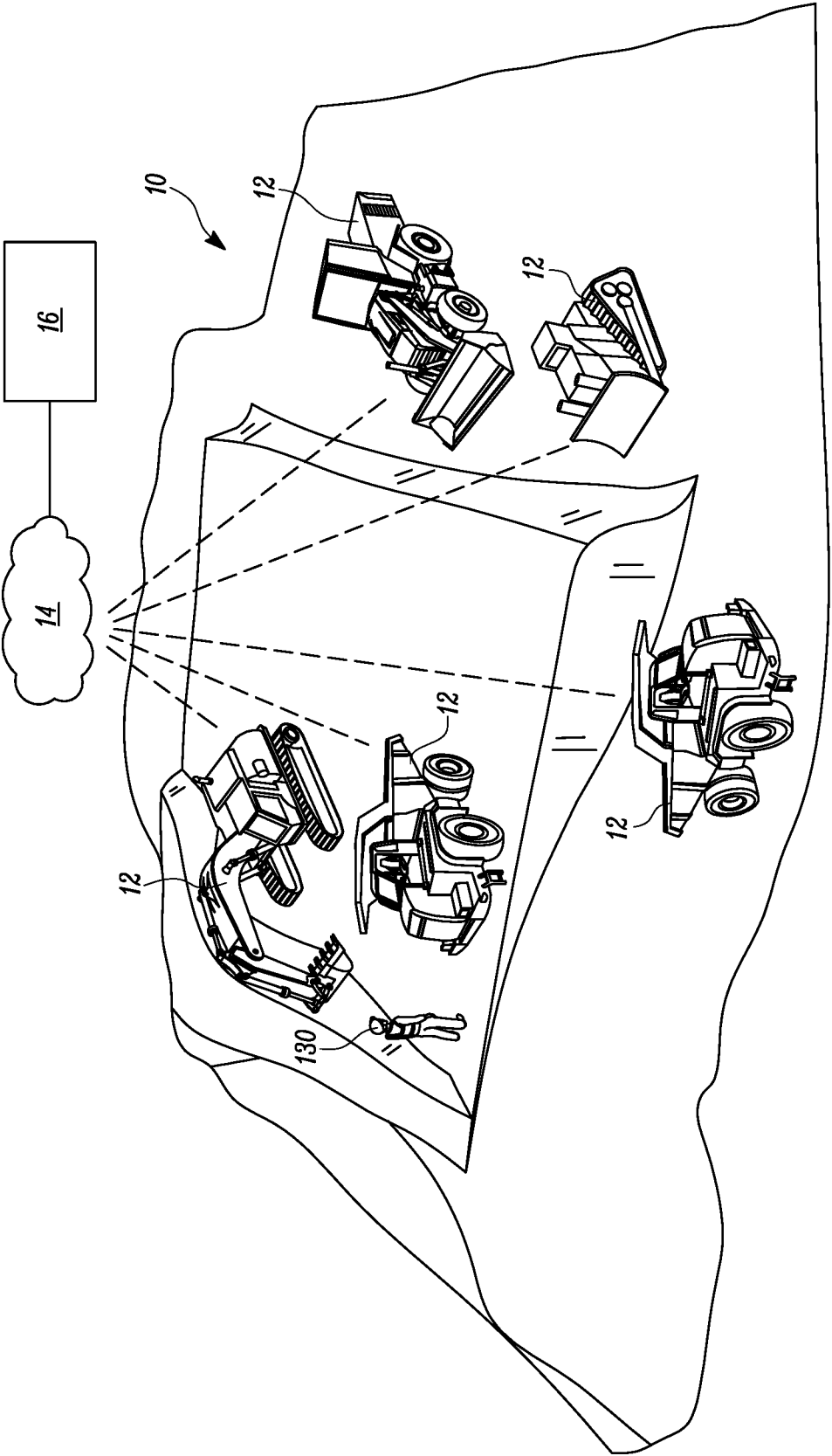


FIG. 1

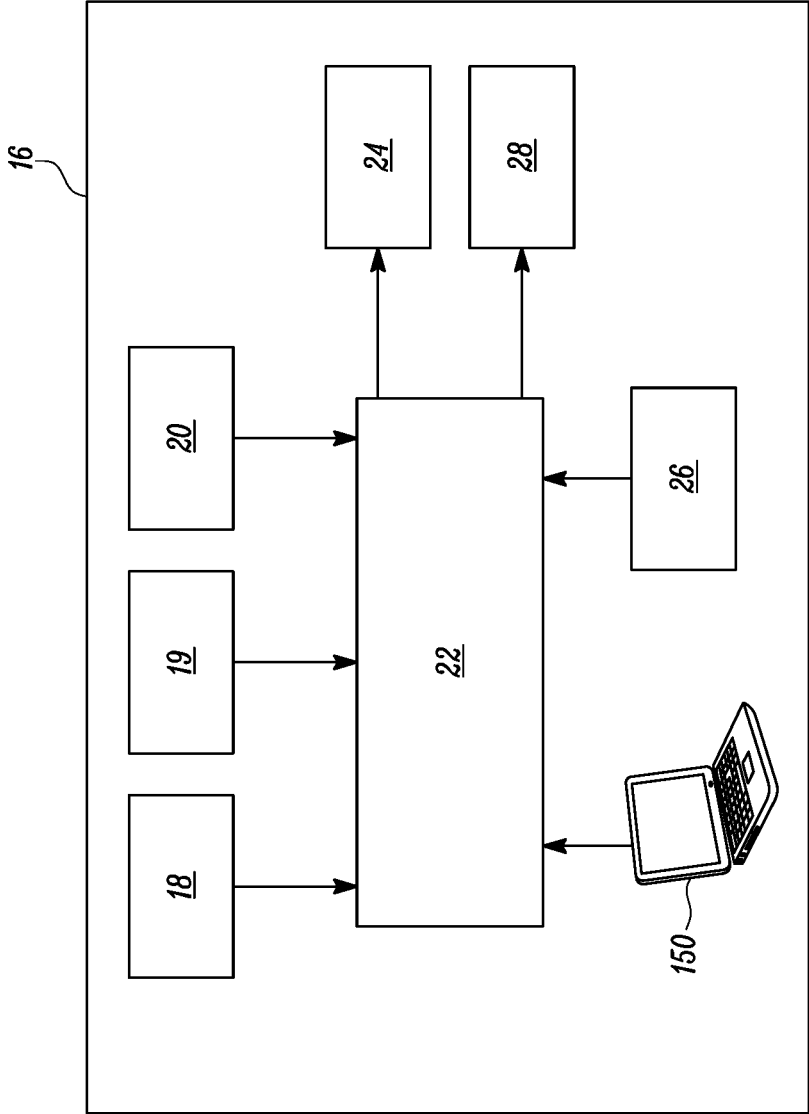


FIG. 2

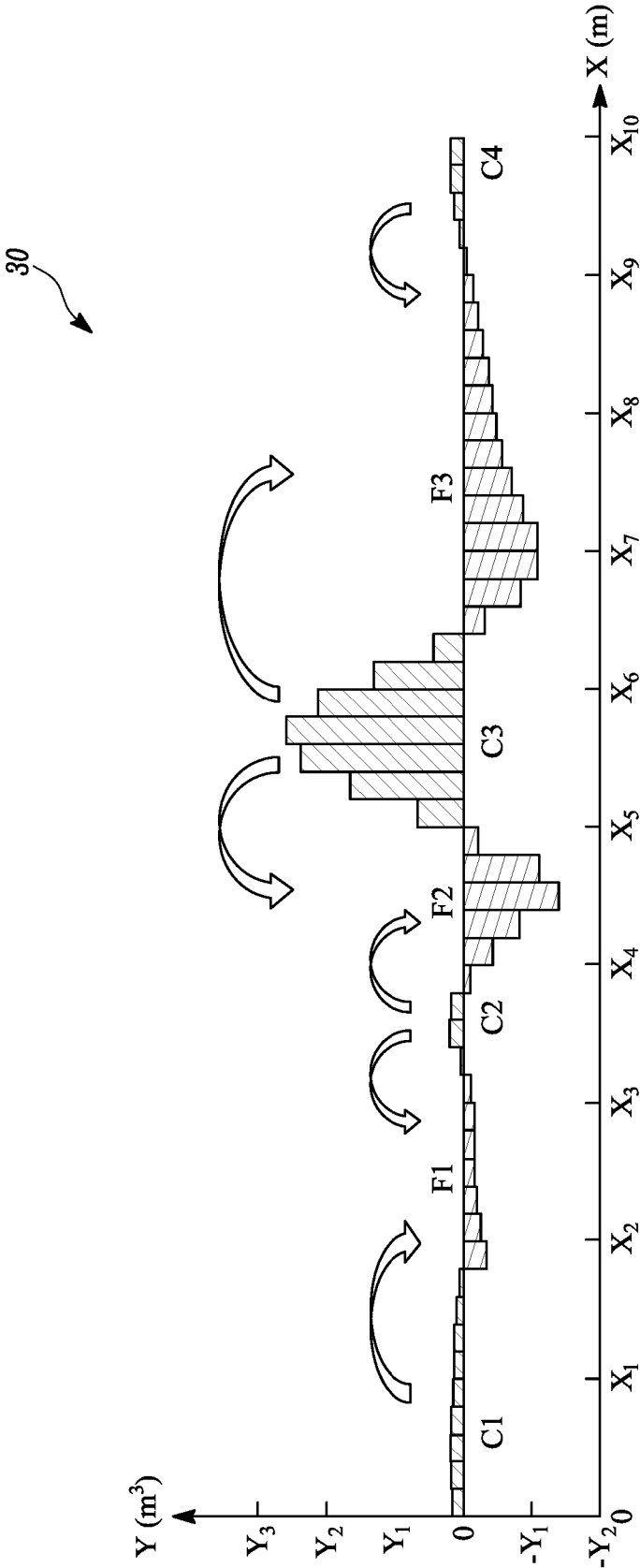


FIG. 3

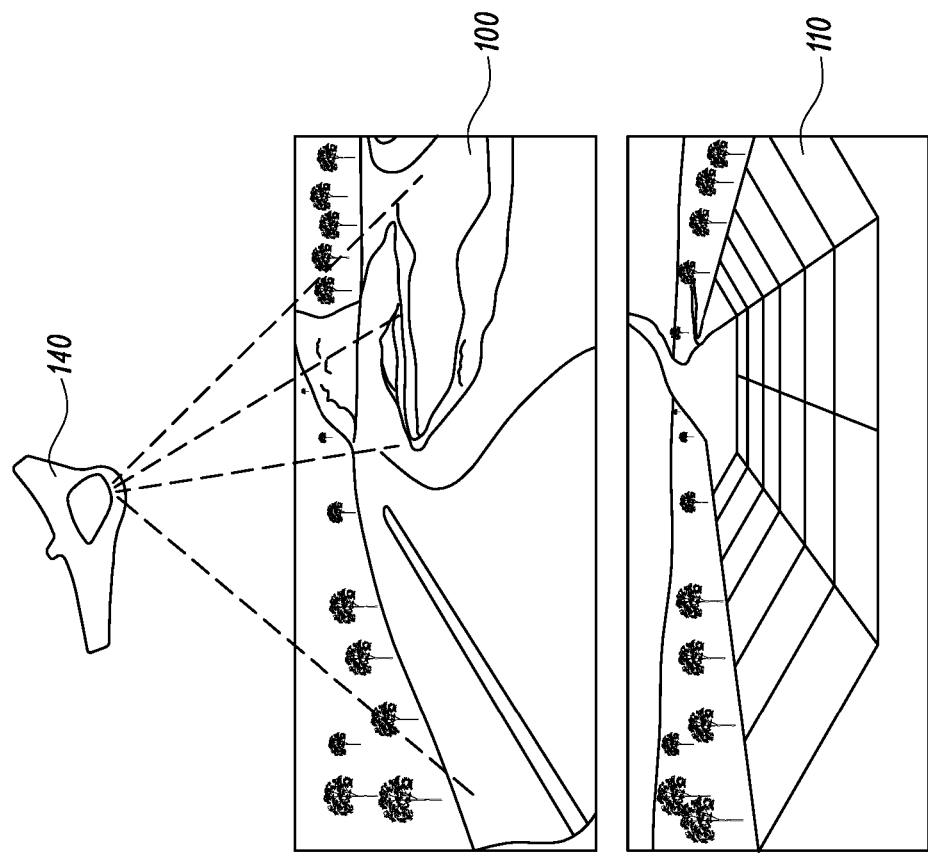


FIG. 4

32

Route Name	Source	Destination	Machine System	Hauling Distance (m)	Volume (m ³)	Unit Cost (\$)	Cost (\$)	Hourly Productivity	Working Hours	Fuel Use (gal)
19-20	Station 19	Station 20	D8T Tier 4f	20	217	\$0.0801	\$17.39	419.98	0.52	3.18
19-21	Station 19	Station 21	D8T Tier 4f	40	226	\$0.1345	\$30.46	250.19	0.92	5.58
26-24	Station 26	Station 24	D8T Tier 4f	40	1218	\$0.1377	\$167.79	244.83	4.98	30.77
26-25	Station 26	Station 25	D8T Tier 4f	20	458	\$0.0814	\$37.29	414.29	1.11	6.84
27-22	Station 27	Station 22	627K	100	1330	\$0.1864	\$247.79	336.61	3.95	69.65
27-23	Station 27	Station 23	627K	80	1675	\$0.1790	\$299.78	350.58	4.78	84.27
27-24	Station 27	Station 24	627K	60	983	\$0.1691	\$166.14	371.04	2.65	46.70

FIG. 5

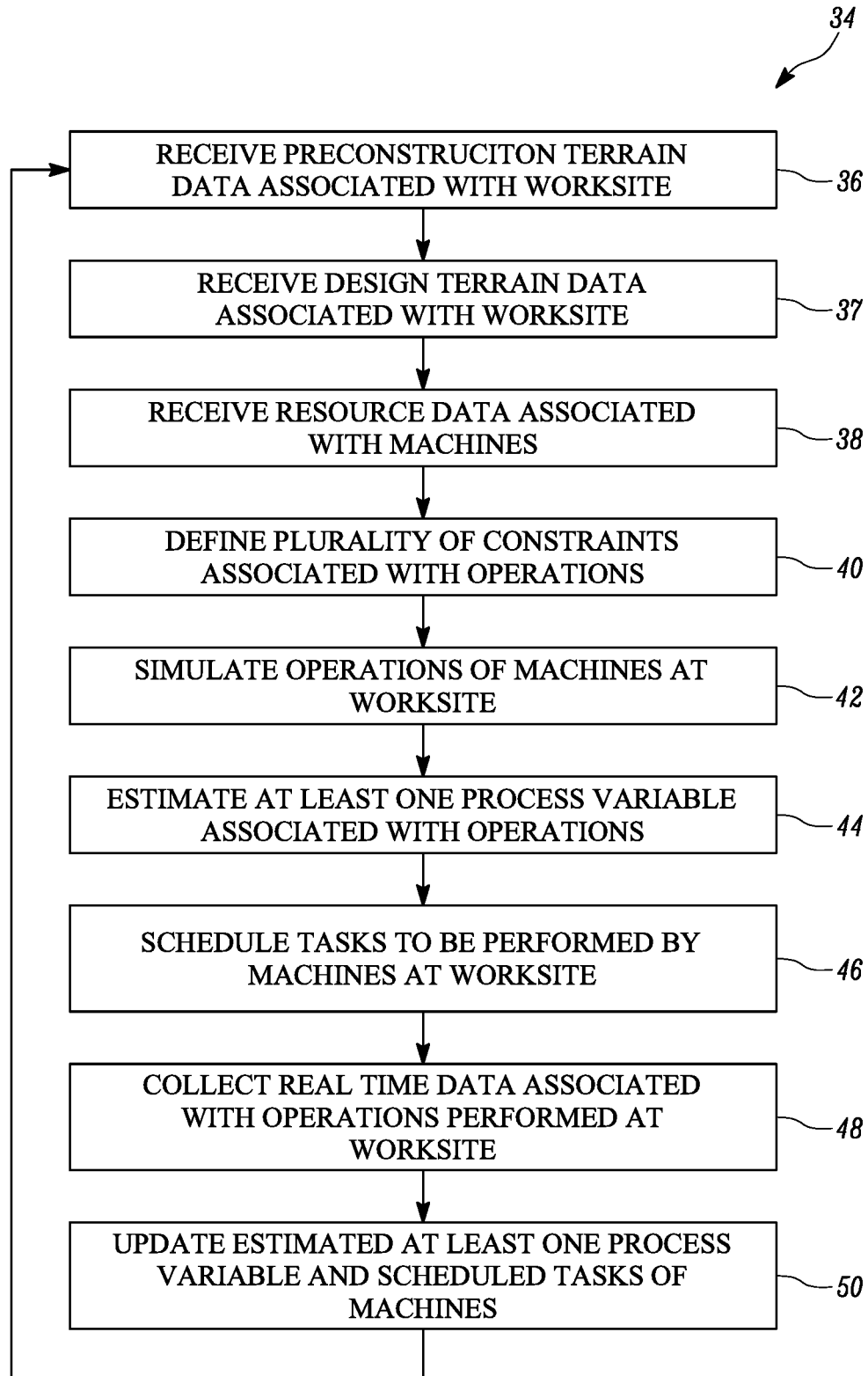


FIG. 6

METHOD OF CONTROLLING MACHINES AT A WORKSITE

TECHNICAL FIELD

[0001] The present disclosure relates to machines and more particularly to a method of controlling operations of the machines at a worksite.

BACKGROUND

[0002] Generally, earthmoving work at a worksite is carried out based on a planned profile prepared prior to execution of the construction work at the worksite. Further, during the execution of the construction work, a site profile of the construction work may be generated by monitoring the worksite using un-manned aerial systems. In conventional method, the site profile is subtracted from the planned profile to analyze the construction work at the worksite. The planned profile may be prepared based on the amount of material to be transferred at the worksite, routes of the machine involved in the construction works and the distance to be travelled by the machine, which may not be helpful in anticipating desired cost, productivity, and a turn-around time associated with the construction work.

[0003] U.S. Patent Publication Number 2013/0035978, hereinafter referred to as '978 publication discloses a computer implemented route determination system. The computer implemented route determination system includes a route generator, a cost scenario generator, and a report generator. The route generator is configured to define a plurality of routes on which move a material between a construction site and a destination site of a plurality of possible destination sites. The cost scenario generator is configured to determine cost scenarios associated with the plurality of routes. The report generator is configured to generate a report which identifies the routes and the cost scenarios for the destination site. However, the '978 publication does not disclose a method of controlling construction work at the worksite.

SUMMARY OF THE DISCLOSURE

[0004] A method of controlling machines for performing operations at a worksite is disclosed. The method comprises receiving pre-construction terrain data, design terrain data, and resource data associated with the worksite. The method defines a plurality of constraints associated with the operations based on the data, simulates operations of the machines at the worksite based on the data, and estimates process variables associated with the operations. Real time data is then collected from the machines and process variables are updated. Then instructions are provided to the machines to execute the scheduled tasks.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

[0005] FIG. 1 is a diagrammatic view showing a worksite and one or more machines operating at the worksite, according to an embodiment of the present disclosure;

[0006] FIG. 2 is a schematic block diagram of a control system 16 for controlling one or more machines for performing one or more operations at the worksite of FIG. 1;

[0007] FIG. 3 is a graphical representation showing scheduling of one or more tasks of the one or more machines for an exemplary earth moving operation at the worksite;

[0008] FIG. 4 is a 3D graphical representation of a pre-construction terrain model and a design terrain model;

[0009] FIG. 5 is an exemplary table representing process variables associated with the one or more operations; and

[0010] FIG. 6 is a flow chart of a method of controlling the one or more machines for performing the one or more operations at the worksite.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION

[0011] Wherever possible, the same reference numbers will be used throughout the drawings to refer to the same or the like parts. FIG. 1 is a diagrammatic view showing an exemplary worksite 10. The worksite 10 may be a construction site and/or a mining site. The worksite 10 includes one or more machines. The machines 12 may include mining trucks, haul trucks, on-highway trucks, off-highway trucks, articulated trucks, and any other machines used for performing earth moving operations at the worksite 10. The machines 12 may be deployed in the worksite 10 for performing one or more operations such as, transportation of material from one location to another location (i.e., hauling). The machines 12 also include loading machines, such as, conveyors, excavators, wheel loaders, track-type loaders, shovels, draglines, and any other machine used for performing excavation operation at the worksite 10. The one or more machines also include scrapers, track-type tractors, compactors, and motor graders to perform additional work site operations including dumping, spreading, compacting, site maintenance and upkeep, grading, etc. Therefore, the machines 12 can perform operations such as loading, hauling, dumping, filling, cutting, excavating, spreading, compacting, grading etc.

[0012] The machines 12 deployed at the worksite 10 may be communicated to each other and various systems via a communication medium 14. Examples of the communication medium 14 may include, but are not limited to, a Wide Area Network (WAN), a Local Area Network (LAN), an internet, an intranet, a cellular network, a satellite network, or any other known network for transmitting and receiving data. In various examples, the communication medium 14 may include a combination of two or more of the aforementioned networks and/or other types of networks known in the art. Further, the communication medium 14 may be implemented as a wired network, a wireless network, or a combination thereof. Further, data transmission may take place over the communication medium 14 with a network protocol such that the data transmission may be in an encrypted format or any other secure format, or in any of wide varieties of known manners. In one example, the one or more operations of the machines 12 are monitored using an unmanned aerial system (UAS) 140 (shown in FIG. 4). The UAS 140 may be controlled by a remote control unit (not shown). The unmanned aerial system collects data of the machines 12 deployed at the worksite 10.

[0013] The machines 12 are connected to a control system 16 via the communication medium 14 and the unmanned aerial system. The control system 16 could be located on any of the machines 12 at the worksite 10. The control system 16 is configured to perform earthmoving operations control and guidance. The control system 16 controls the one or more operations performed by the machines 12 at the worksite 10. The machines 12 may include hardware components and/or software components that enable sending informational and operational control data between the machines 12 and the

control system 16, and between the machines 12. Moreover, an operator of the machine 12 controls one or more operation tasks performed by the machine 12 using the hardware components and/or software components for manned and remote control operation. Completion of one or more operations at the worksite 10 includes a planning phase and an execution phase of the one or more operations.

[0014] The control system 16 is implemented in the planning phase and the execution phase. In planning phase, the one or more operations to be performed at the worksite 10 are planned by the control system 16. In the execution phase, the planning performed at the planning phase may be modified by a site supervisor or work director, and is updated by the control system 16. The hardware components and/or software components on board the machine may enhance task execution with additional application specific controls to improve operation. Constraints 160 may be weighted based on customer preferences inputted via a user interface module 150. The user interface module 150 may be a terminal, tablet, smart phone, touch display, and computer that is connected to portions of the control system 16 as is known in the art. For instance, one customer may prioritize cost while another customer may prioritize time. The control system 16 is explained in detail along with the planning and execution phase with reference to FIG. 2.

[0015] Referring to FIG. 2, a schematic block diagram of the control system 16 is disclosed. The control system 16 is communicably coupled to various databases and the user interface module 150. The control system 16 receives data from the databases and the user interface module 150. The data received by the control system 16 includes a pre-construction terrain data 100. The control system 16 receives the pre-construction terrain data 100 at a block 18. The data is related to the worksite 10. For example, the pre-construction terrain data 100 may be collected via a worksite survey. The pre-construction terrain data 100 may include two or three-dimensional surface and sub-surface data. The pre-construction terrain data 100 may be received from a database and/or the user interface module 150 connected to the control system 16. The user interface module 150 may have the Graphical User Interface (GUI) for enabling the operator interaction with the user interface module 150.

[0016] FIG. 4 is a graphical representation of three dimensional pre-construction terrain data 100 juxtaposed with three dimensional design terrain data 110. The three dimensional pre-construction terrain data 100 and the three dimensional design terrain data 110 are hereinafter referred to as the pre-construction terrain data 100 and the design terrain data 110, respectively. The pre-construction terrain data 100 may be collected via a worksite survey from the UAS 140, satellite, or other aircraft. The difference between the pre-construction terrain data 100 and the design terrain data 110 defines a volume of material 180 to be moved at the worksite 10.

[0017] The pre-construction terrain data 100 also includes material information. The material information include, but is not limited to, information related to soil at the worksite 10, type of materials involved in the one or more operation, and a cost of materials involved in the one or more operation. In one example, the information related to the soil may include a proprietary soil data, a test methodology used to test soil, compaction of the soil, swell/shrink factors of the soil, and data from a public soil database. The pre-construction terrain data 100 may also include a location of the

worksite 10, off-site locations for source and waste material, and predicted or historical weather data of the worksite 10. The pre-construction terrain data 100 can also include information regarding underground utilities, overhead utilities, structures, easements, and bodies of water.

[0018] At block 19, the control system 16 receives the design terrain data 110. The design terrain data 110 includes a three dimensional or two dimensional model of a design profile to be formed at the worksite 10, list of one or more operations to be performed at the worksite 10 to accomplish the design profile, impacts of the one or more operations to be performed at the worksite 10, schedule data (restrictions on hours of operation, and schedule deadlines and late completions cost penalties). In another aspect of the current disclosure, the design terrain data 110 could include a final road surface, a superstructure, footings, or any other build infrastructure to be included at the worksite 10.

[0019] At a block 20, the control system 16 receives resource data 120. The resource data 120 may include information associated with the machines 12. The resources data 120 could include the machines 12 or skilled labor 130, the UAS 140, or other robots. The resource data 120 may also include data regarding the cost of the skilled labor 130 and their associated skill level. The skilled labor 130 could include machine operators, laborers, inspectors, or surveyors. The resource data 120 may also include external materials that are added to the worksite 10 such as fill material, stabilizers, aggregate, etc.

[0020] The information associated with the machines 12 may include information of a fleet of the machines 12 available at the worksite 10 for performing the one or more operations. In one example, the information of the fleet of the machines 12 includes the number of machines 12 available at the worksite 10 and the type of the machines 12 available at the worksite 10. The information associated with the fleet may be received from the user interface module 150 in communication with the control system 16. In another example, the information associated with the fleet may be received from the database connected to the control system 16.

[0021] The resource data 120 further includes resource performance data. The resource performance data may include productivity and efficiency data associated with each of the machines 12 available in the fleet. The resource performance data may be collected from a manufacturer performance handbook or a database. In another example, the resource performance data may be collected from multiple productivity field tests conducted for each of the machines 12 or from historical operational data taken from previous work sites. Examples of information included in the resource data 120 are fuel consumption, payload, productivity, travel speed, cycle time, pass matching (how many times it takes a load operation to fill a hauling machine), dig depth, machine geometry, machine transport costs, generated noise, etc.

[0022] The control system 16 is implemented in the planning phase of one or more operations. At the planning phase, the control system 16 simulates the one or more operations to be performed at the worksite 10 at a block 22. In order to simulate the one or more operations, the control system 16 defines the constraints 160 associated with the worksite 10. The constraints 160 are defined based on the pre-construction terrain data 100, the design terrain data 110, and the resource data 120. In one example, the constraints 160 may

include project budget, project schedule, and available resources (such as available machines **12** or skilled labor **130**).

[0023] Further, the control system **16** simulates the one or more operations performed by the machines **12** at the worksite **10**. A simulation is performed based on the pre-construction terrain data **100**, the design terrain data **110**, and the resource data **120**. In one example, the simulation may consider information such as machine specific data, accurate terrain information of the worksite **10**, and an order of the one or more operations of the machines **12** to be performed at the worksite **10**. The simulation may be performed regarding the operations of the machines **12** required to move the volume of material **180**. The order of the one or more operations may be defined using an earth-work planner as is known in the art, without limiting the scope of present disclosure.

[0024] At a block **24**, the control system **16** estimates process variables **170** associated with the one or more operations. The process variables **170** are estimated based on the simulation of the one or more operations and the plurality of constraints **160**. The control system **16** implements methods known in the art, such as linear and mixed integer linear programming, discrete event simulation, agent-based modeling, along with proprietary simulation techniques, for estimating the process variables **170** based on the constraints **160**. The process variables **170** include tasks to be performed by the machines **12**, the order in which they are to be performed, (i.e. task schedule), and the types and number of resources required to perform the tasks.

[0025] At the block **24**, the control system **16** schedules one or more tasks to be performed by the machines **12** at the worksite **10**. The one or more tasks are scheduled based on the simulation of the one or more operations. Moreover, information such as, but is not limited to, the task to be implemented at the worksite **10**, and a set of subsequent tasks to be performed. In one example, the simulation of the one or more operations generates a set of instructions for controlling the machines **12** deployed at the worksite **10**. In one example, additional tasks are received from the user interface module **150**. Tasks may be at an operational level (move to a location, perform a cut, dump at a location, establish a certain grade, etc.) or may be more detailed instructions for the machine **12** to execute (engine fueling to 40%, lift implement to a certain height, shift to a specific gear, follow a specific path, etc.).

[0026] The task schedule is a list or collection of tasks that is sorted in the order in which they are to be performed. The task schedule may include types of resources (such as machines) and a scheduled time for the task to be performed. The process variables **170** may also include the types of machines needed to perform the simulated operations at the worksite **10**. For example, an output of the simulation may indicate that three excavators, eight hauling units, two track-type tractors, two wheel-tractor scrapers, two motor graders, and forty units of skilled labor will be required to perform the required operations at the worksite **10**. The types of resource may also be broken down to specific types of model (i.e. eight 320 excavators, one each of D5k and D6N track-type tractors, etc.).

[0027] In the exemplary worksite **10**, the one or more operations may include cutting operation and filling operation. The control system **16** may simulate the cutting operation and the filling operation based on the pre-construction

terrain data **100** and the resource data **120**. The control system **16** may receive the pre-construction terrain data **100** and the resource data **120** corresponding to the cutting operation and the filling operations from the databases and the user interface module **150**. Based on the simulation, the control system **16** estimates the process variables **170** and the schedule of one or more tasks. Further, the simulation also generates information required to coordinate the machines **12** such as the excavators, wheel loaders, the track-type loaders, and the shovels with the mining trucks, the haul trucks, the on-highway trucks for performing the cutting operation, and the filling operation.

[0028] The machines **12** deployed in the worksite **10** are enabled to determine the location of each other for completing the one or more operations. The machines **12** may be equipped with a location tracking device such as a GPS or GNSS device. An operator of the machine **12** may control the movement of the machine based on the determined locations. For instance, for completing the cutting operation and the filling operation, the truck communicates with digging machines to identify the GPS co-ordinates of the digging machines to determine the location of the digging machines. Further, the truck receives a new load and travels to a dump location via a hauling route.

[0029] The machines **12** may include hardware components and/or software components that determine and use locations of each other to coordinate operations and to control machine tasks. In another aspect of the current disclosure, the machine **12** may be configured to be operated from a remote location by the operator. Control commands may be issued over communication medium **14** or any other suitable communication network as is known in the art. Further, the machine **12** may be configured to operate autonomously according to a set of instructions. The set of instructions may be located on a controller onboard the machine **12**, a neighboring machine **12**, or may be issued by the control system **16** over the communication medium **14**.

[0030] The control system **16** is also implemented at the execution phase of the one or more operations at the worksite **10**. During the execution phase, the control system **16** monitors a progress of the one or more operations at the worksite **10**. At a block **26**, the control system **16** collects real time data from the worksite **10** during the execution phase. The real time data collected from the worksite **10** may include, but is not limited to, an amount of material transferred at the worksite **10**, performance details of each of the machines **12** deployed at the worksite **10**, operator inputs, information on productivity of the skilled labor **130**, and data obtained from a worksite survey. The control system **16** may collect the real time data via the communication medium **14**. The real time data may be used to define a current terrain model **124**.

[0031] In one example, the control system **16** may collect data directly from the machines **12** deployed at the worksite **10** via the communication medium **14**. In another example, the machines **12** deployed at the worksite **10** may be communicated to multiple source systems (not shown) such as terrain management system and fleet management system. The source systems may collect the data of the machines **12** and store in a data warehouse (not shown). The data warehouse is in communication with the source systems. The control system **16** may collect the real time data of the machines **12** from the data warehouse. The control system **16** collects operator inputs via the user interface

module 150 connected to the control system 16. An operator of the machines 12 may be enabled to provide the real time data of the worksite 10 to the control system 16 using the GUI of the user interface module 150.

[0032] Some of the real time data collected in the data warehouse may need preparation to be utilized by the simulation in the execution phase. Data preparation could include, but is not limited to; data cleansing to improve data accuracy and correct data discrepancies, data conversion to transform the real time data to be compatible in form and content with the original worksite and the resource data 120 and to provide improved site-specific data for the simulation in the execution phase. Data analytics and pre-simulation models may be used to cleanse and convert the real time data in the data warehouse.

[0033] In execution phase, the one or more operations at the worksite 10 are simulated by the control system 16 upon receiving the real time data, at the block 22. The simulation of the one or more operations during the execution phase is performed based on the real time data received at the block 26, the pre-construction terrain data 100 received at the block 18, the design terrain data 110 received at the block 19, and the resource data 120 received at the block 20.

[0034] At a block 28, the control system 16 updates the process variables 170 associated with the one or more operations estimated during the planning phase based on the real time data. The control system 16 updates the process variables 170 based on the simulation of the one or more operations at the execution phase. The updated process variables 170 may include, but is not limited to, a revised cost of the one or more operations, a revised time required for the one or more operations, and revised type and number of the machines 12 required for performing the one or more operations. The control system 16 also updates the identified and scheduled one or more tasks of the machines 12 based on the simulation of the one or more operations performed at the block 26. The control system 16 also generates a progress report of the one or more operations performed at the worksite 10 based on the real time data and the simulation of the one or more operations. The control system 16 may also generate a three dimensional model of the worksite 10 based on the real time data received from the worksite 10 via the user interface module 150. For example, if the machines 12 are deployed in a construction site, then the three dimensional model of the worksite 10 may be a built model of a building to be constructed at the construction site. The task and schedule updates generated by the simulation may be reviewed and modified by a site supervisor or work director and input using the user interface module 150. These modifications are used as new input data for the off-board system to update the simulation tasks and schedule. The updated process variables 170 are provided to the user interface module 150 for assessment.

[0035] In one example, based on the simulation of the one or more operations during the execution phase, a difference between the estimated process variables 170 at the execution phase and estimated process variables 170 at the planning phase are computed. The computed difference is added to the estimated process variables 170 to determine the updated process variables 170.

[0036] The control system 16 is exemplary and should not limit the scope of the present disclosure. The functionality of the control system 16 described herein is also exemplary. The control system 16 may additionally include other com-

ponents and capabilities not described herein. The worksite 10 may additionally include any number of the control system 16. The machines 12 may include a portion of the control system 16 to coordinate work tasks for their portion of the site operations. Further, architecture and capabilities of the control system 16 may vary without any limitation.

[0037] FIG. 3 is a graphical representation 30 showing scheduling of the one or more tasks of the machines 12 for an exemplary earth moving operation at the worksite 10. The earth moving operation shown in the graphical representation 30 includes the cutting operation and the filling operation. A length of the worksite 10 in meters (m) and a volume of material 180 to be cut and filled at the worksite 10 in m³ are plotted along an X-axis and a Y-axis, respectively. As illustrated in the FIG. 3, the worksite 10 includes multiple cut locations and multiple fill locations. A required level of the worksite 10 may be indicated at "0" in the Y axis. Material from a cut location 'C1' may be removed and filled at a fill location 'F1'. Material from a cut location 'C2' is removed and filled at fill locations 'F1' and 'F2'. Similarly, material from a cut location 'C3' is removed and filled at fill locations 'F2' and 'F3'. Material from a cut location 'C4' is removed and filled at the fill location 'F3'. The control system 16 selects an optimum operating path for multiple trucks employed at the worksite 10 for performing the cut operation and the fill operation as indicated in the graphical representation 30.

[0038] FIG. 5 is an exemplary table 32 representing process variables 170 associated with the one or one or more operations. The process variables 170 are estimated and tabulated for an exemplary cut and fill operation by the control system 16. The process variables 170 may include, but is not limited to, the operation path of the machines 12 at the worksite 10 named as route name, a source station, a destination station, multiple machine specifications, a hauling distance, volume of material 180, a unit cost associated with the operating path between the source station and the destination station, a hourly productivity, total working hours, and fuel usage. In one example, for a selected operating path 27-22, the source station may be a station number 27 and the destination station may be a station number 22. The hauling distance corresponding to the operating path 27-22 may be 100 meters. The volume of material 180 transferred at the operating path 27-22 may be 1330 cubic meters. The hourly productivity of the operating path 27-22 may be 336.61. The fuel usage of the machines 12 for the operating path 27-22 may be 69.65 Gallons.

[0039] In another embodiment, the machines 12 deployed on the worksites 10 may also include autonomous machines (not shown) and/or semi-autonomous machines (not shown). In such scenarios, the control system 16 may be implemented in the planning phase and the execution phase of the one or more operations to be performed at the worksite 10 as explained earlier. The autonomous machines may be in communication with the control system 16. The autonomous machines may include hardware components and/or software components that enable sending of data between the autonomous machines and the control system 16. The autonomous machines receive instructions from the control system 16. These instructions may include specific machine command and control software applications to be downloaded to the machine prior to or during the execution phase. The movement and/or operation of the autonomous

machines may also be regulated based on instructions from the control system 16 during the execution phase.

INDUSTRIAL APPLICABILITY

[0040] The control system 16 described in the present disclosure may be implemented in the planning phase and the execution phase of the one or more operations such as, but is not limited to, cutting operation, filling operation, construction works, quarrying, and mining operations performed at the worksite 10. The control system 16 identifies and schedules the one or more task to be performed by the machines 12. The scheduling of the one or more task of the machines 12 enables efficient implementation of the one or more operations at the worksite 10. Further, during the execution phase of the one or operations at the worksite 10, the control system 16 is in real time communication with the machines 12 deployed at the worksite 10. This enables the control system 16 to retrieve real time data from the machines 12. The real time data allows monitoring of a progress of the one or more operations at the worksite 10 efficiently. Further, the real time data is used for updating the process variables 170 and scheduling the one or more tasks of the machines 12. The turn around time of the one or more operations is reduced when the process variables 170 and the one or more tasks are updated in real time.

[0041] FIG. 6 is a flow chart of a method 34 of controlling the machines 12 for performing the one or more operations at the worksite 10. At step 36, the control system 16 receives the data associated with the worksite 10. At step 38, the control system 16 receives the resource data 120 associated with the machines 12. At step 40, the control system 16 defines the plurality of constraints 160 associated with the one or more operations based on the data and the resource data 120. At step 42, the control system 16 simulates the one or more operations of the machines 12 at the worksite 10 based on the data and the resource data 120. Based on the simulation and the plurality of constraints 160, the control system 16 estimates the process variables 170 associated with the one or more operations at step 44. The control system 16 also schedules one or more tasks to be performed by the machines 12 at the worksite 10, based on the simulation of the one or more operations at step 46. At step 48, the control system 16 collects the real time data associated with the one or more operations performed at the worksite 10 using the communication medium 14. Further, at step 50, the control system 16 updates the estimated process variables 170 associated with the one or more operations and the scheduled one or more tasks of the machines 12 based on the collected real time data.

1. A method of controlling machines for performing operations at a worksite, the method comprising:

- receiving, by a control system, pre-construction terrain data associated with the worksite;
- receiving, by the control system, design terrain data associated with the worksite;
- receiving, by the control system, resource data associated with the machines;
- defining a plurality of constraints associated with the operations based on the pre-construction terrain data, the design terrain data, and the resource data;
- simulating the operations of the machines at the worksite based on the pre-construction terrain data, the design terrain data, and the resource data;

estimating process variables associated with the operations based on the simulation of the operations and the plurality of constraints;

collecting real time data associated with the operations performed at the worksite using a communication medium, wherein the real time data is one of a an amount of material transferred at the worksite, performance details of each of the machines deployed at the worksite, and data obtained from a worksite survey;

updating the estimated process variables associated with the operations of the machines based on the collected real time data; and

providing, via a communication medium, instructions to the machines to execute scheduled tasks.

2. The method of claim 1, wherein the process variables include tasks, task schedule, and required resources.

3. The method of claim 1, wherein the constraints include one of a project budget, a project schedule, and available resources.

4. The method of claim 1, wherein the constraints are received from a user interface module.

5. The method of claim 1, wherein the constraints are weighted constraints.

6. The method of claim 1, wherein updated process variables are received from a user interface module.

7. The method of claim 1, wherein updated process variables are provided to a user interface module for assessment.

8. The method of claim 1, wherein additional tasks are received from a user interface module.

9. The method of claim 1, wherein the real time data is subject to data preparation before the estimated tasks and schedule are updated.

10. The method of claim 1, wherein the simulation is further based on a volume of material to be moved.

11. A system for controlling machines for performing operations at a worksite, the system comprising:

a control system configured to:

- receive said pre-construction terrain data from a database;
- receive said design terrain data from a database;
- receive resource data from a database;

define a plurality of constraints associated with the operations based on the pre-construction terrain data, the design terrain data, and the resource data;

simulate the operations of the machines at the worksite based on the pre-construction terrain data, the design terrain data, and the resource data;

estimate process variables associated with the operations based on the simulation of the operations and the plurality of constraints;

collect real time data associated with the operations performed at the worksite using a communication medium, wherein the real time data is one of a an amount of material transferred at the worksite, performance details of each of the machines deployed at the worksite, and data obtained from a worksite survey;

update the estimated process variables associated with the operations of the machines based on the collected real time data; and

provide instructions, via a communication medium, to the machines to execute scheduled tasks.

12. The system of claim 11, wherein the process variables include tasks, task schedule, and required resources.

13. The system of claim **11**, wherein the constraints include one of a project budget, a project schedule, and available resources.

14. The system of claim **11**, wherein the constraints are received from a user interface module.

15. The system of claim **11**, wherein the constraints are weighted constraints.

16. The system of claim **11**, wherein updated process variables are received from a user interface module.

17. The system of claim **11**, wherein updated process variables are provided to a user interface module for assessment.

18. The system of claim **11**, wherein additional tasks are received from a user interface module.

19. The system of claim **11**, wherein the real time data is subject to data preparation before the estimated tasks and schedule are updated.

20. The system of claim **11**, wherein the simulation is further based on a volume of material to be moved.

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