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(54) **SYSTEM AND METHOD FOR MANAGING VIRTUAL STORAGE**

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(57) **ABSTRACT**

Preferred embodiments of the present invention provide a system and method for the management of virtual storage. The system and method include an object-oriented computer hardware/software model that can be presented, for example, via a management interface (e.g., via graphical user interfaces, command line interfaces, application programming interfaces, etc.). In some preferred embodiments, the model separates physical storage management from virtual disks presented to hosts and management can be automated such that the user (e.g., customer, manager and/or administrator) specifies goals rather than means-enhancing ease of use while maintaining flexible deployment of storage resources.

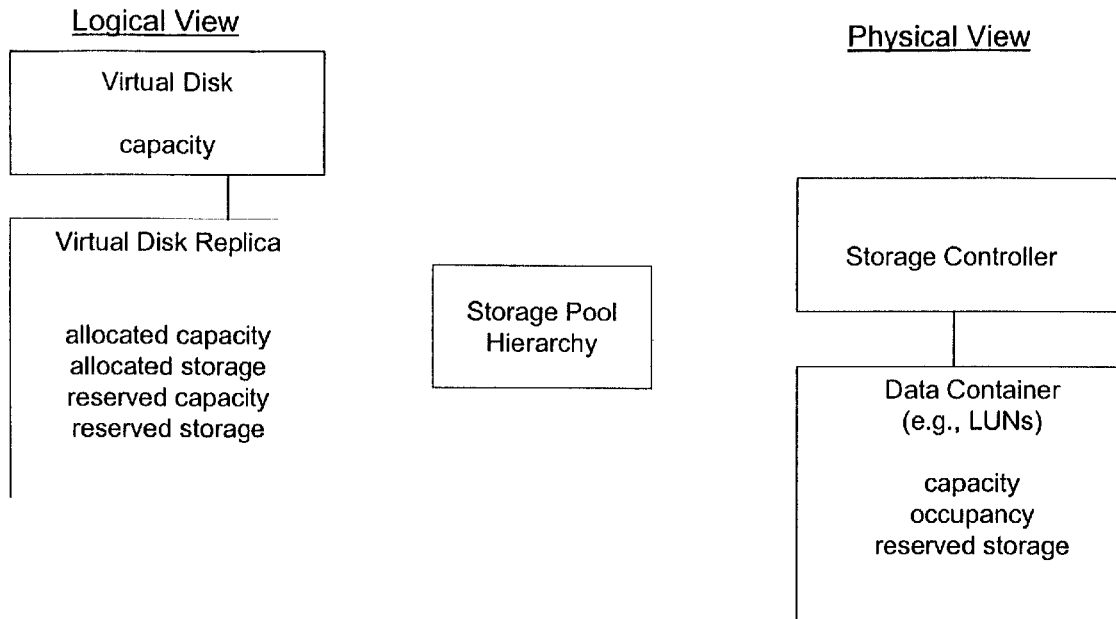
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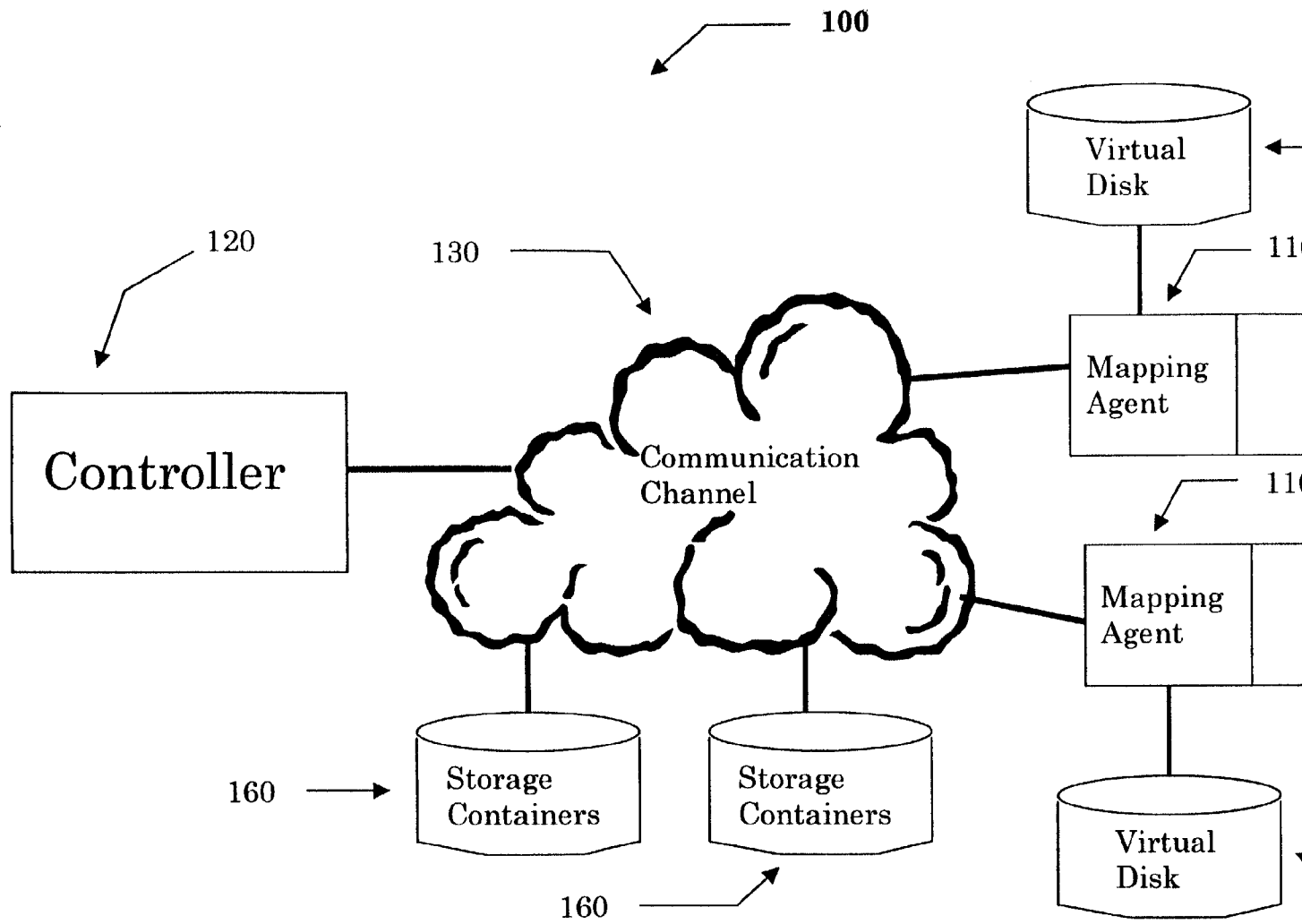


FIG. 1

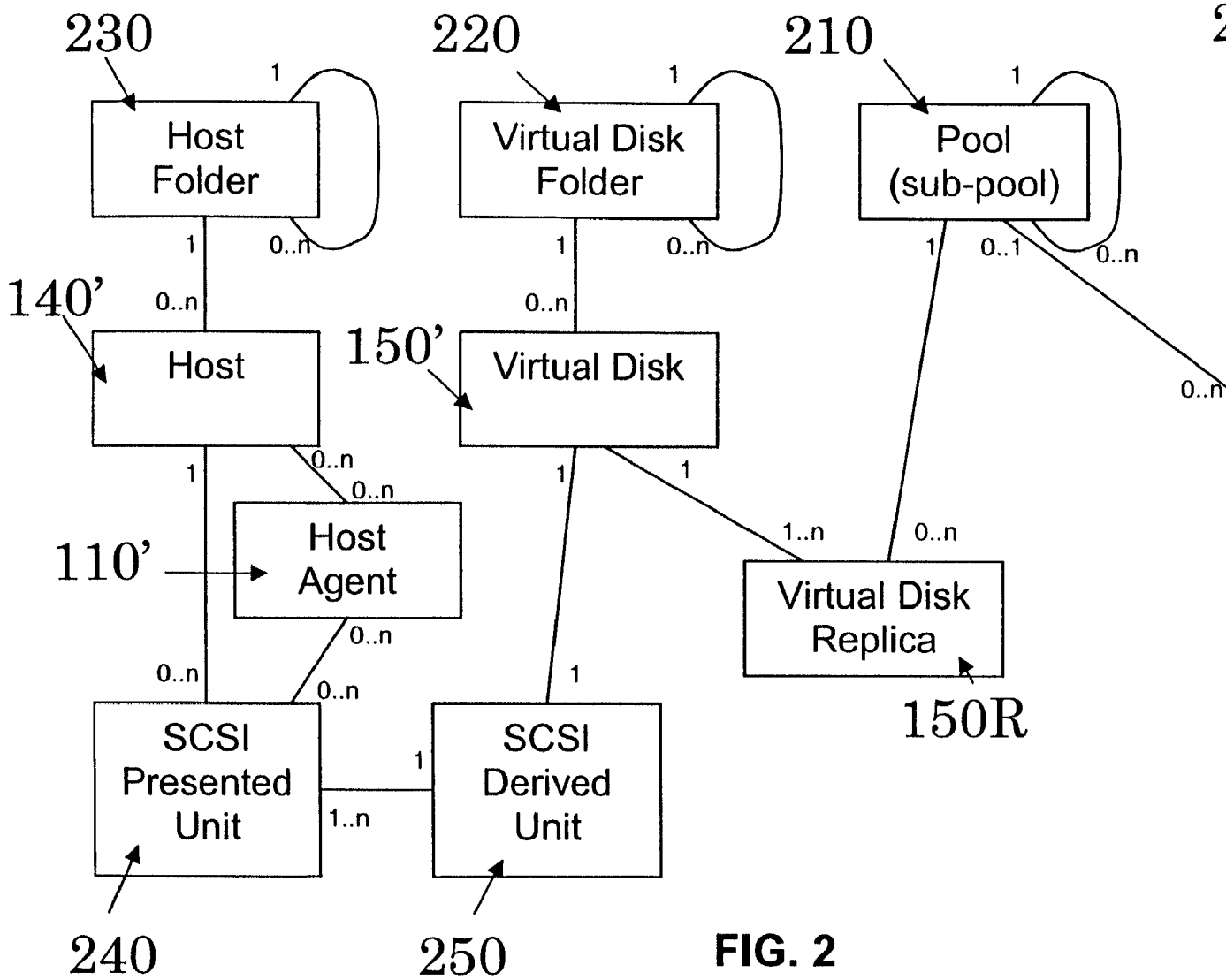


FIG. 2

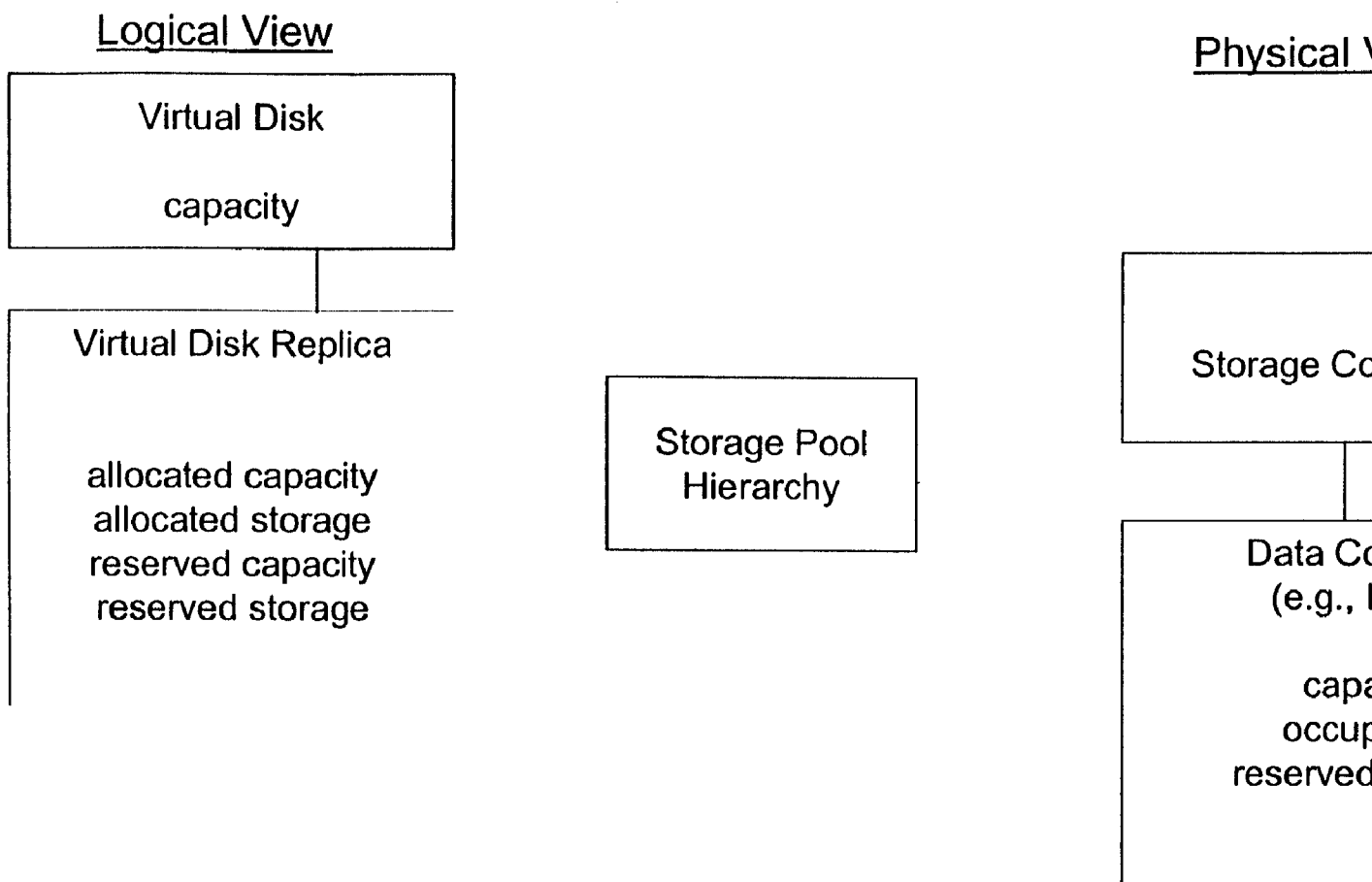
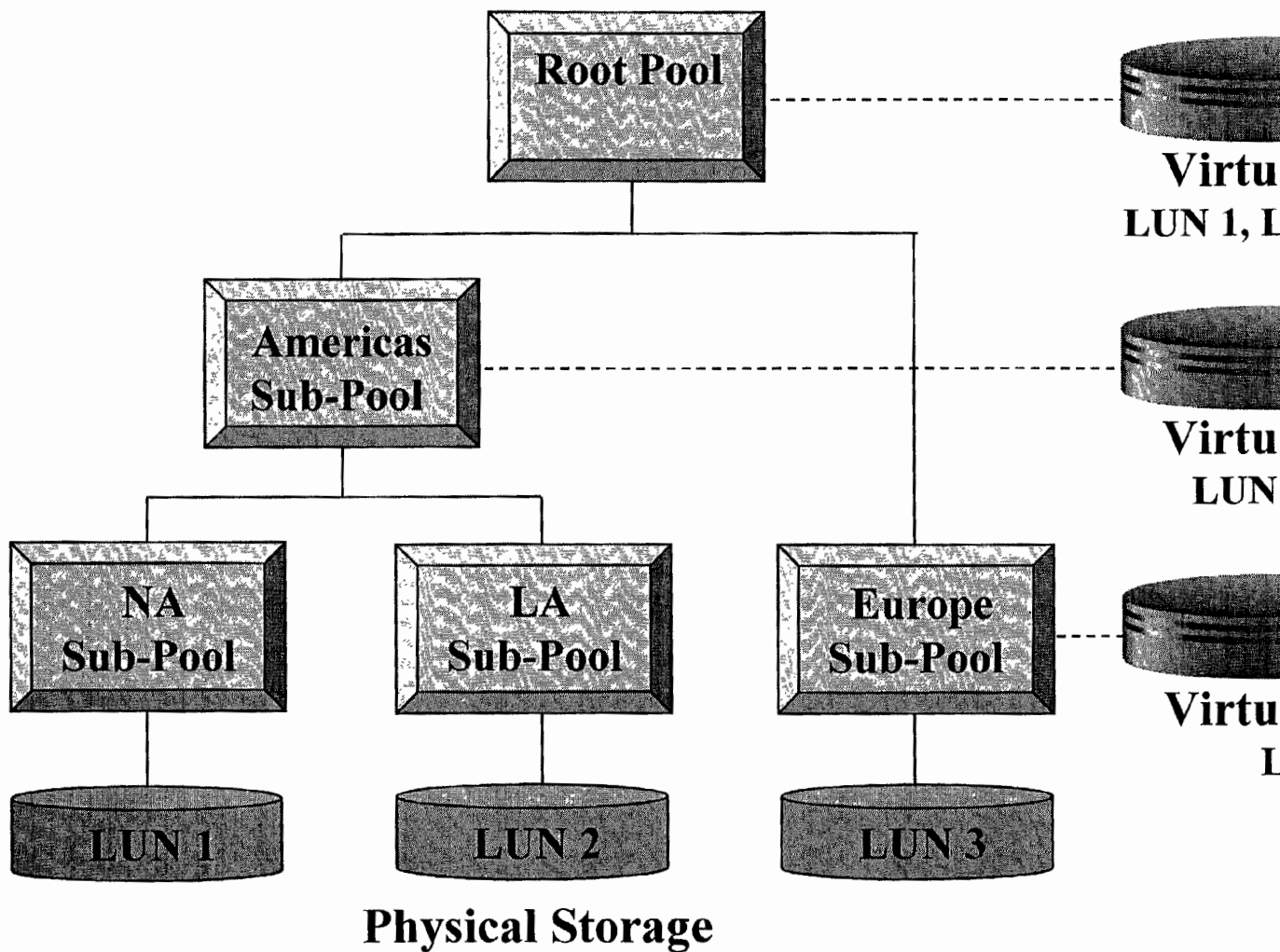


FIG. 3

FIG. 4



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