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Steinberg et al.

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(54) **SYSTEM AND METHOD FOR CALCULATING THE THERMAL MASS OF A BUILDING**(75) Inventors: **John Douglas Steinberg**, Millbrae, CA (US); **Scott Douglas Hublou**, Redwood City, CA (US)(73) Assignee: **EcoFactor, Inc.**, Millbrae, CA (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.: **12/959,225**(22) Filed: **Dec. 2, 2010**(65) **Prior Publication Data**

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**Related U.S. Application Data**

(63) Continuation of application No. 12/211,733, filed on Sep. 16, 2008, now Pat. No. 7,848,900.

(60) Provisional application No. 60/994,011, filed on Sep. 17, 2007.

(51) **Int. Cl.****G01K 9/00** (2006.01)(52) **U.S. Cl.** ..... **702/130; 702/182**(58) **Field of Classification Search** ..... **702/130, 702/182; 700/276, 277, 278; 236/91 D; 165/58, 200, 287**

See application file for complete search history.

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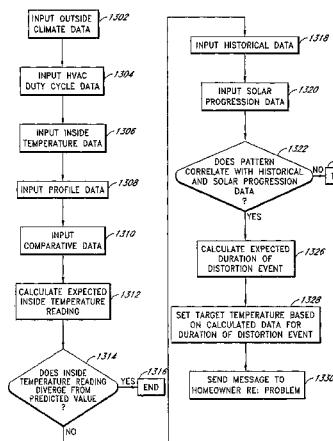
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*Primary Examiner* — Edward Raymond*Assistant Examiner* — Elias Desta(74) *Attorney, Agent, or Firm* — Knobbe, Martens, Olson & Bear, LLP**ABSTRACT**

The invention comprises a system for calculating a value for the effective thermal mass of a building. The climate control system obtains temperature measurements from at least a first location conditioned by the climate system. One or more processors receive measurements of outside temperatures from at least one source other than the control system and compare the temperature measurements from the first location with expected temperature measurements. The expected temperature measurements are based at least in part upon past temperature measurements obtained by said HVAC control system and said outside temperature measurements. The processors then calculate one or more rates of change in temperature at said first location.

**12 Claims, 13 Drawing Sheets**

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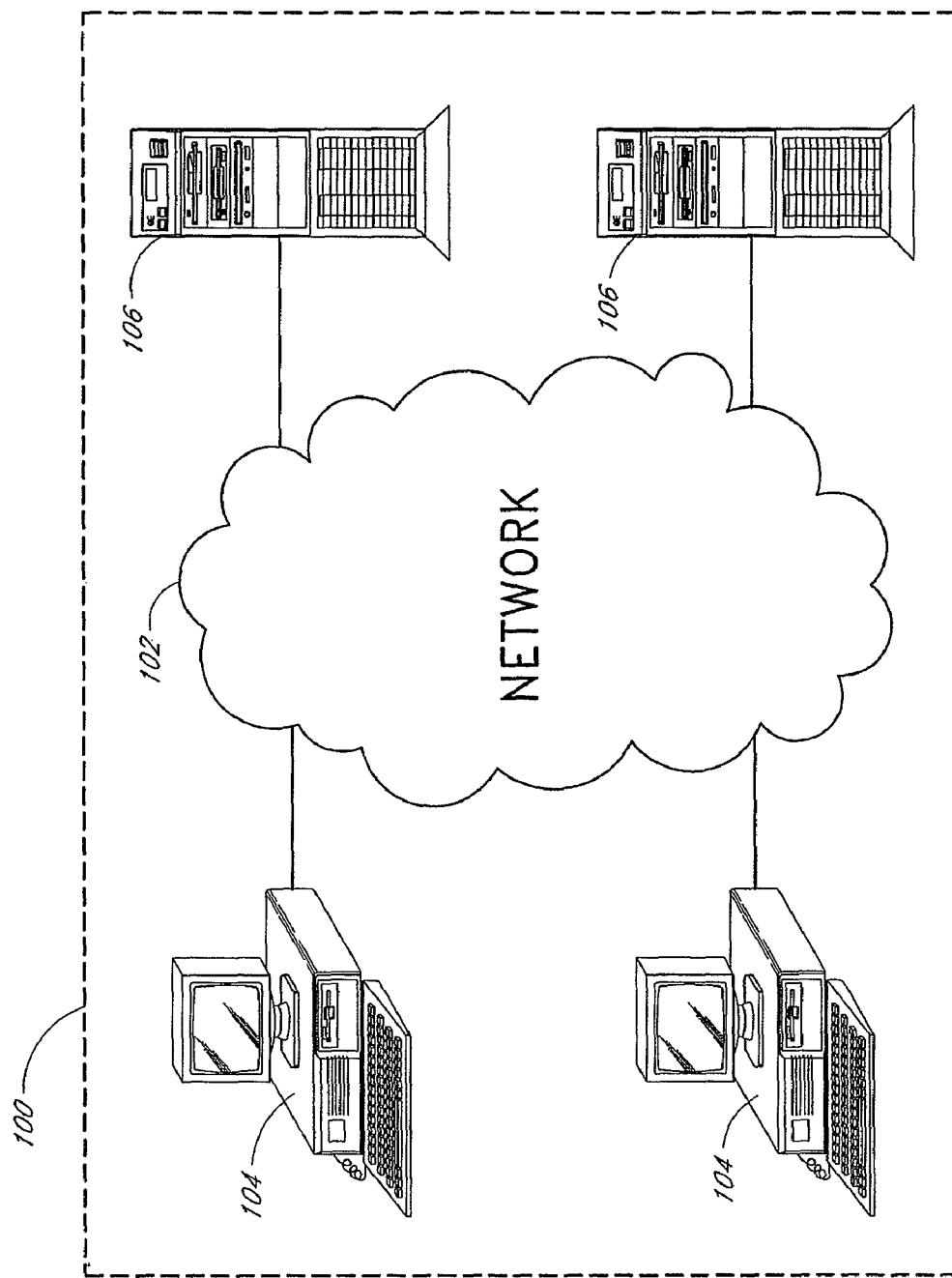


FIG. 1

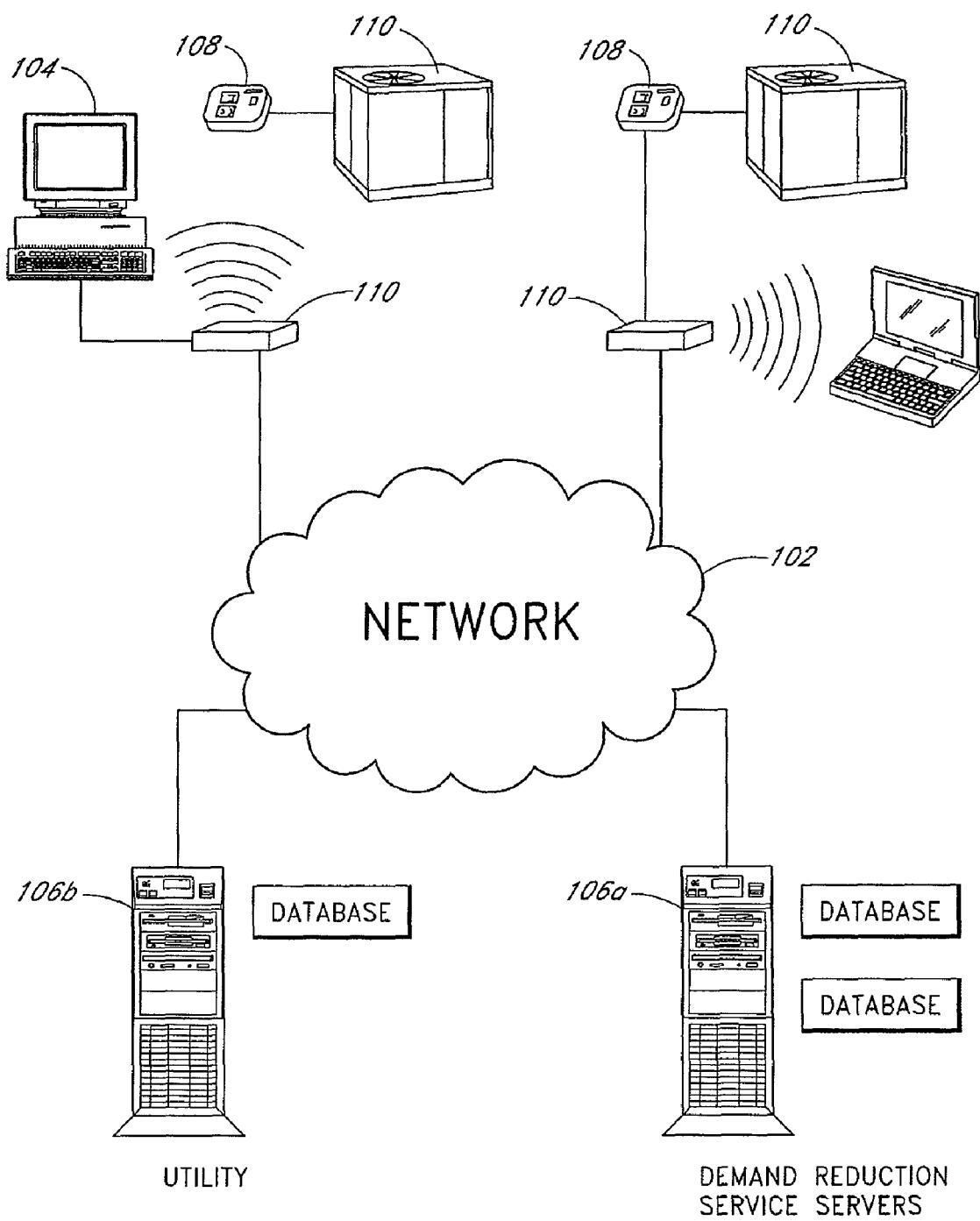


FIG. 2

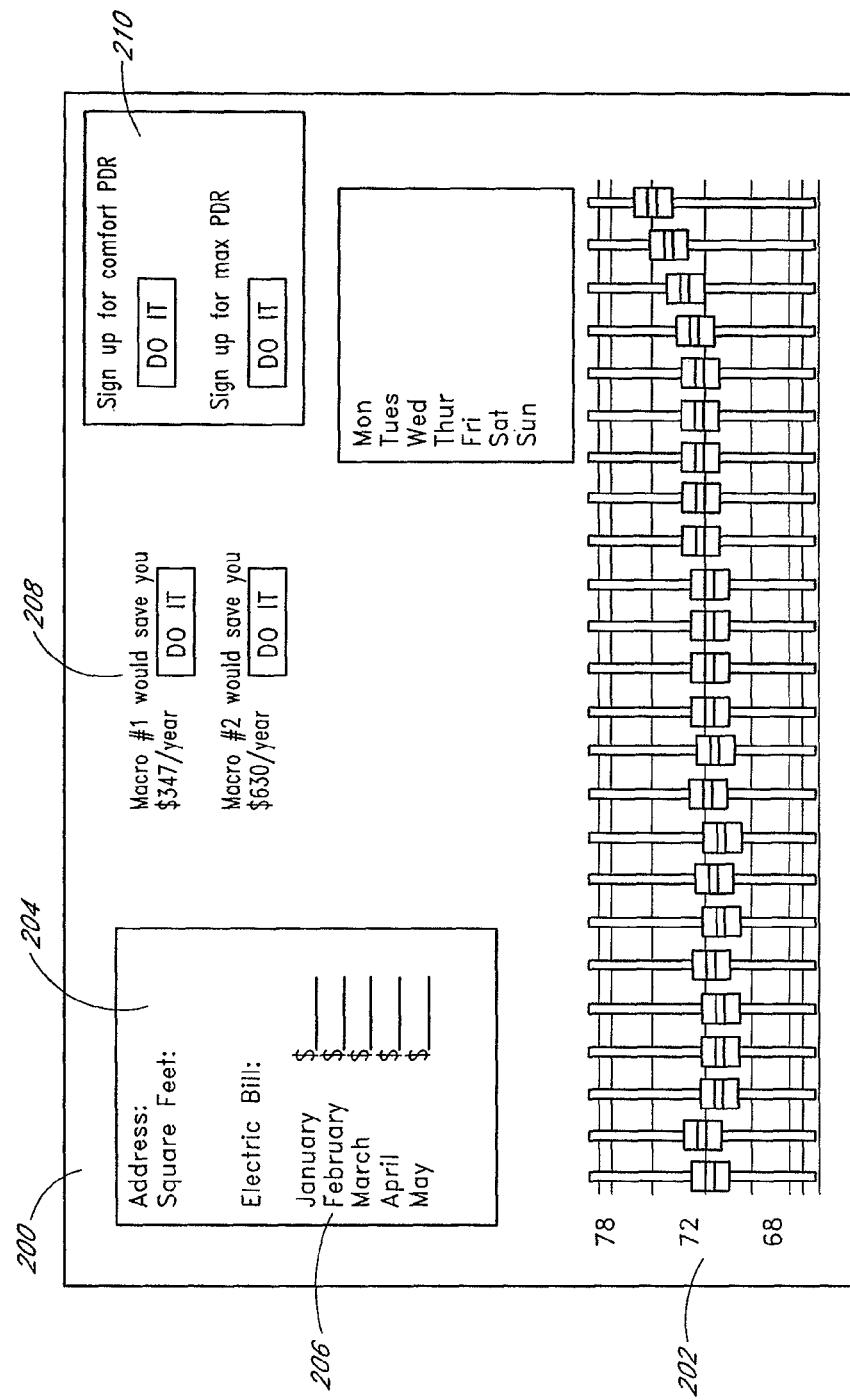


FIG. 3

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