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(54) **COST EVALUATION AND PREDICTION**

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(57)　　　　　　**ABSTRACT**

A mechanism is provided for enabling prediction of a cost between an origin and a destination even in the case of insufficient past route information. Data D, which includes an origin, a destination, and information on cost between these points, is prepared as well as a subroutine for calculating cost c_e along an arbitrary link e on the basis of the set along with a variable denoted by f_e. In the first step, the minimum cost route is found from the current $\{f_e\}$ with respect to all pairs of the origin and the destination included in the data D, thereby forming transformed data D'. $\{f_e\}$ is recalculated by using the above subroutine from D' by computer processing and then compared with $\{f_e\}$ calculated last time. If a change is equal to or greater than a threshold, control returns to finding the minimum cost route. Otherwise, $\{f_e\}$ is fixed.

13 Claims, 6 Drawing Sheets