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[Continued on next page]

(54) Title: IMPROVED ONLINE FORECASTING SYSTEM AND METHOD

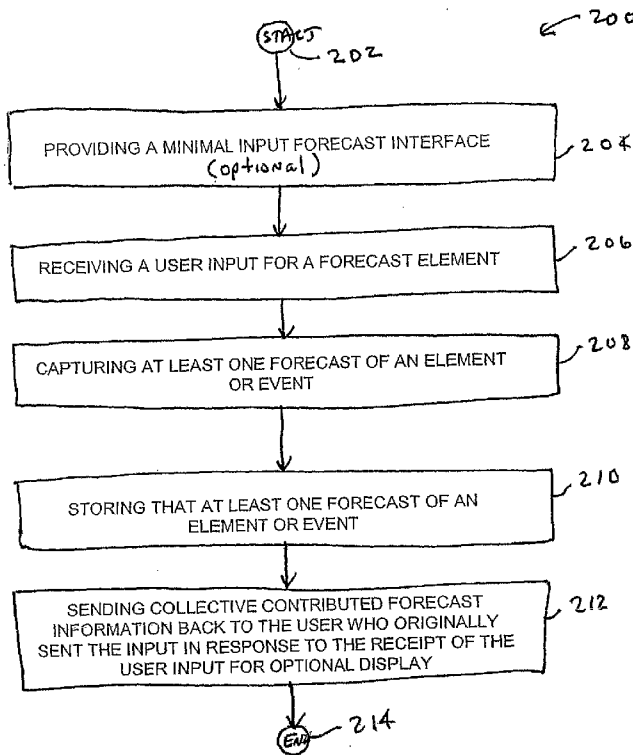


FIG. 4

(57) Abstract: System and method for real-time on-line interactive forecasting of an element, the method comprising: receiving a user input for a forecast element; and capturing at least one forecast of an element or event, storing that at least one forecast of an element or event, and sending collective contributed forecast information back to the user who originally sent the input in response to the receipt of the user input for optional display. The method may optionally also include either or both of providing a minimal input forecast interface, and/or pre-queuing a list of elements for fast forecasting; receiving a user input for a forecast element. Computer program product for execution on a single computer or plurality of computers to implement the inventive method and system.



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A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER
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USPC -705/10
According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC

B. FIELDS SEARCHED

Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)
USPC -705/10

Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched
USPC -705/1, 8, 10; 715/748, 753, 756; 700/90, 91

Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practicable, search terms used)
Electronic database: PubWEST(USPT,PGPB,EPAB,JPAB); DialogPRO(Engineering); Google Scholar
Search Terms Used: user, input, receive, forecast, predict, Internet, online, click, store, event, collaboration etc.

C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category*	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
X	US 2005/0120009 A1 (AKER) 02 June 2005 (02.06.2005), entire document (especially para [0011], para [0078], para [0058], para [0037], para [0078], para [0038], para [0032], para [0080], para [0072], para [0008], abstract, para [0076], para [0036], para [0010])	1-25
A	US 2003/0176931 A1 (PEDNAULT et al.) 18 September 2003 (18.09.2003)	1-25
A	US 2002/0103630 A1 (ALDRED et al.) 01 August 2002 (01.08.2002)	1-25

Further documents are listed in the continuation of Box C.

* Special categories of cited documents:

"A" document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance	"T" later document published after the international filing date or priority date and not in conflict with the application but cited to understand the principle or theory underlying the invention
"E" earlier application or patent but published on or after the international filing date	"X" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered novel or cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is taken alone
"L" document which may throw doubts on priority claim(s) or which is cited to establish the publication date of another citation or other special reason (as specified)	"Y" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is combined with one or more other such documents, such combination being obvious to a person skilled in the art
"O" document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or other means	"&" document member of the same patent family
"P" document published prior to the international filing date but later than the priority date claimed	

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