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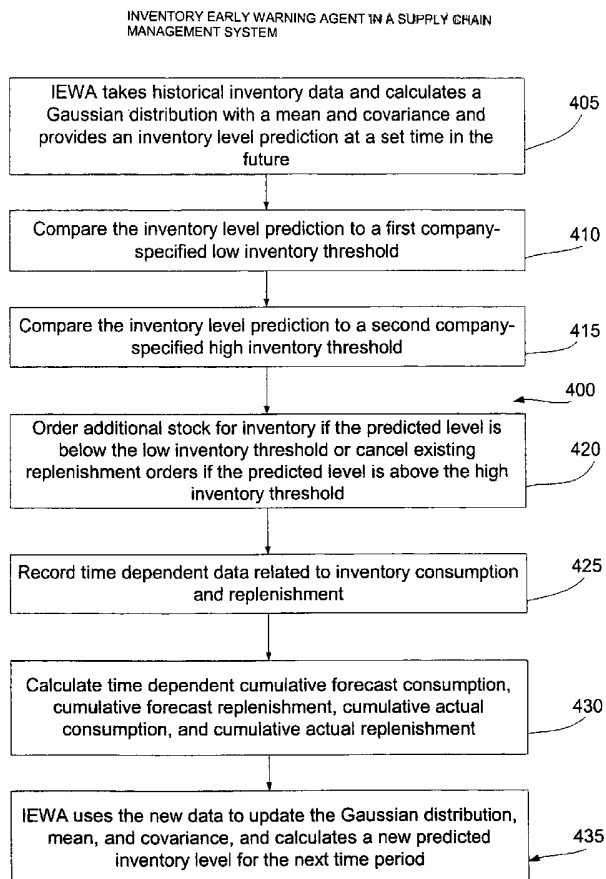
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(54) Title: INVENTORY EARLY WARNING AGENT



(57) Abstract: An inventory agent operating on software includes instructions operable to cause a programmable processor to receive inventory data relating to stock in an inventory (405), apply the inventory data to a conditional probabilistic predictive statistical algorithm (405), calculate a predicted inventory level (405), and use the calculated predicted inventory level to determine whether to order additional stock for the inventory (410,415,420). The statistical algorithm uses a conditional probabilistic model to process the data. The inventory agent may be implemented in a supply chain management system.

WO 03/042791 A3



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# INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No.

PCT/US02/36704

## A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER

IPC(7) : G06F 17/60

US CL : 705/28

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)

U.S. : 705/7-10, 22, 28

Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched

Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practicable, search terms used)  
BRS

## C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category *	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
X	US 6,144,945 A (GARG et al) 07 November 2000 (07.11.2000), column 3, lines 30-44 and column 6.	1-28
A	US 6,182,070 B1 (MEGIDDO et al.) 30 January 2001 (30.01.2001), columns 5-12.	1-28
A	US 5,819,232 A (SHIPMAN) 06 October 1998 (06.10.1998), columns 6-23.	1-28



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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

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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

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