

(21) Application No:	1919436.4			(51) INT CL:	G06F 16/00 (2019.01)	
(22) Date of Filing:	31.05.2018			(56) Documents Cited:	EP 2479687 A2 EP 1832987 A1	
Date Lodged:	30.12.2019			(58) Field of Search:	INT CL G06F Other: EPO-Internal, INSPEC, WPI Data	
(30) Priority Data:						
(31) 1708771	(32) 01.06.2017	(33) GB				
(86) International Application Data:						
PCT/GB2018/051496 En 31.05.2018						
(87) International Publication Data:						
WO2018/220387 En 06.12.2018						
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(continued on next page)						

(54) Title of the Invention: **Improved method and system for searching**
Abstract Title: **Improved method and system for searching**

(57) Aspects of the present invention relate to a method and system for searching a real-estate property database, the database comprising a plurality of database entries, each entry being associated with a different real-estate property. The method comprises the steps of: receiving a natural-language search string from a remotely located terminal, the natural-language search string specifying, in natural-language, a query for a real-estate property having a desired property characteristic associated with a real-estate property feature; analysing the received natural-language search string and identifying within the string a geographical identifier, and the desired property characteristic; determining if an indefinite descriptor is associated with the desired property characteristic; identifying two or more database entries relating to real-estate properties each comprising the real-estate property feature, in dependence on the geographical identifier; calculating a numerical reference threshold associated with the real-estate property feature, in dependence on a value of the property feature associated with each one of the two or more identified database entries; representing the indefinite descriptor in terms of a mathematical relationship, the mathematical relationship being expressed with respect to the calculated numerical reference threshold; amending the received natural-language search string by replacing the indefinite descriptor with the mathematical relationship; and searching the real-estate property database using the amended search string.

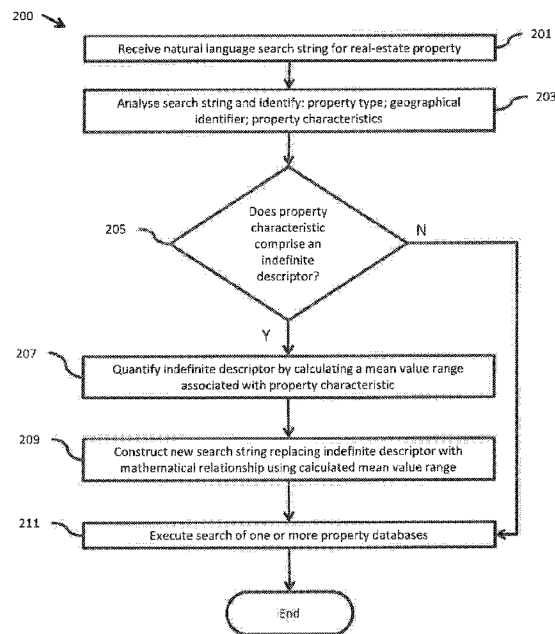


Figure 2

GB 2577458 A continuation

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