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[Continued on next page]

(54) Title: A DECISION-SUPPORT APPLICATION AND SYSTEM FOR MEDICAL DIFFERENTIAL-DIAGNOSIS AND TREATMENT USING A QUESTION-ANSWERING SYSTEM

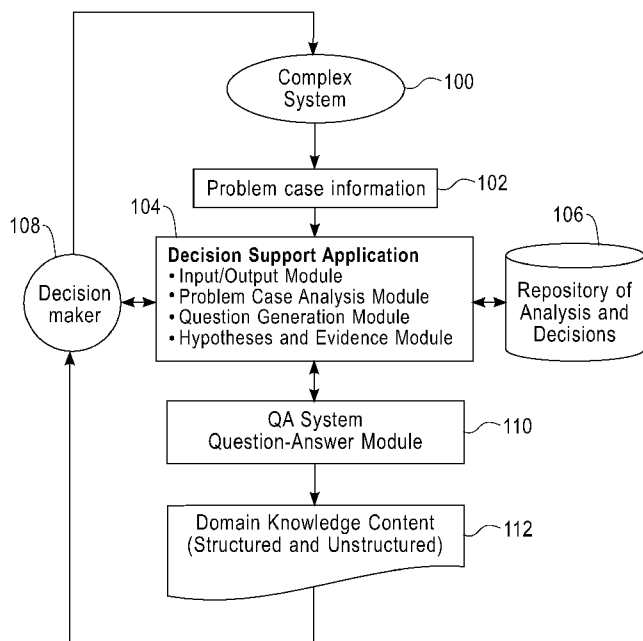


FIG. 1

(57) Abstract: A decision-support system for medical diagnosis and treatment comprises software modules embodied on a computer readable medium, and the software modules comprise an input/output module and a question-answering module. The method receives patient case information using the input/output module, and generates a medical diagnosis or treatment query based on the patient case information and also generates a plurality of medical diagnosis or treatment answers for the query using the question-answering module. The method also calculates numerical values for multiple medical evidence dimensions from medical evidence sources for each of the answers using the question-answering module and also calculates a corresponding confidence value for each of the answers based on the numerical value of each evidence dimension using the question-answering module. The method further outputs the medical diagnosis or treatment answers, the corresponding confidence values, and the numerical values of each medical evidence dimension for one or more selected medical diagnosis or treatment answers using the input/output module.

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B. FIELDS SEARCHED
Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)
G06F
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)
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C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category*	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
X	US 2004/122702 A1 (SABOL JOHN M [US] ET AL) 24 June 2004 (2004-06-24) page 0061 - page 0441 claim 1 figure 1 -----	1-23

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See patent family annex.

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INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

Information on patent family members

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Patent document cited in search report	Publication date	Patent family member(s)	Publication date
US 2004122702	A1	NONE	24-06-2004