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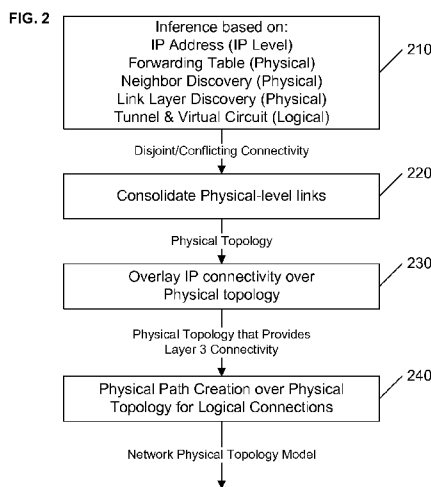
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(54) **Title:** INFERRING CONNECTIVITY IN THE PRESENCE OF CONFLICTING NETWORK DATA



(57) **Abstract:** The connectivity information provided by a variety of inference engines is integrated to provide a set of inferred links within a network. A consolidation is performed among inference engines that operate at a base level of connectivity detail to create a model of the network at this base level. The connectivity information provided by inference engines at each subsequent higher level of connectivity abstraction is then overlaid on the base level connectivity. By separately consolidating the connectivity information at each level of abstraction, the rules for dealing with conflicts can be simplified and/or better focused to resolve the conflict. By assuming that the more detailed lower level information is likely to be more accurate, rules can be developed to modify the connectivity models produced by the higher level techniques to conform to the lower level connectivity details while still maintaining the integrity of the higher level connectivity models.



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INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

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A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER
INV. H04L12/24

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)
H04L

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 practical, search terms used)

EPO-Internal, COMPENDEX, INSPEC, IBM-TDB, WPI Data

C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category*	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
Y	US 2003/046427 A1 (GORINGE CHRISTOPHER M [AU] ET AL) 6 March 2003 (2003-03-06) abstract paragraph [0004] - paragraph [0013] paragraph [0040] - paragraph [0055] paragraph [0067] - paragraph [0082]	1-31
Y	US 6 377 987 B1 (KRACHT JAMES E [US]) 23 April 2002 (2002-04-23) abstract column 1, line 8 - column 5, line 7 column 5, line 61 - column 17, line 32	1-31

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INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

Information on patent family members

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