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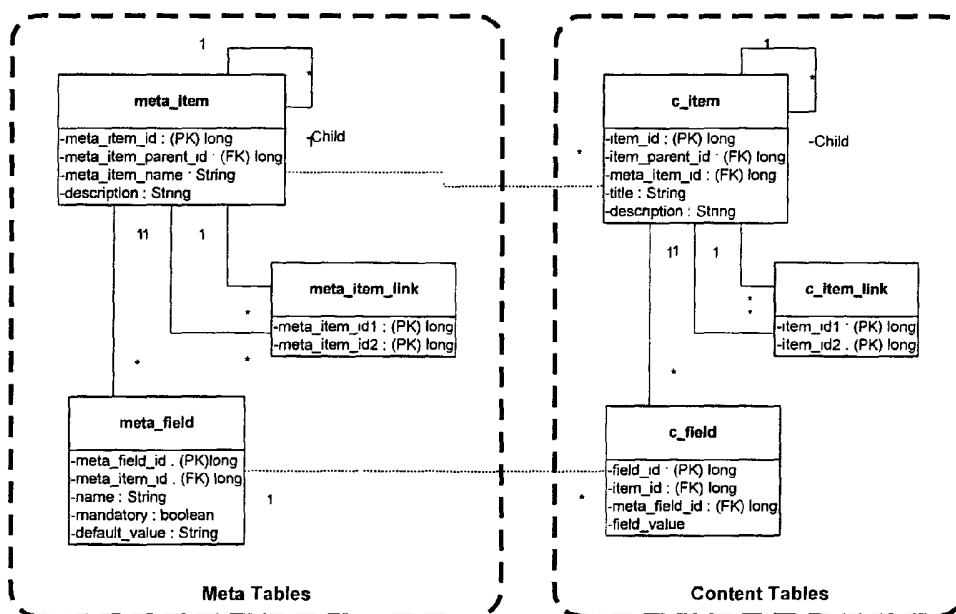
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(54) Title: DATABASE SYSTEM, PARTICULARLY FOR MULTIMEDIA OBJECTS



(57) Abstract: A database system stores data relating to media objects and includes a primary metadata table, a supplementary metadata table, a primary content data table, a supplementary content data table, each supplementary content data record being linked to a supplementary metadata record and to a content data record. An object type link table links together records in the primary metadata table, and a content data link table links together records in the primary content data table. An information retrieval system analyses the tables and provides, for a selected instance of an object, information about that object's attributes and relationships with other objects in a hierarchical form.



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patent (AM, AZ, BY, KG, KZ, MD, RU, TJ, TM), European patent (AT, BE, CH, CY, DE, DK, ES, FI, FR, GB, GR, IE, IT, LU, MC, NL, PT, SE, TR), OAPI patent (BF, BJ, CF, CG, CI, CM, GA, GN, GW, ML, MR, NE, SN, TD, TG).

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INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International Application No

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A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER

IPC 7 G06F17/30

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)

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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, WPI Data, PAJ, INSPEC, IBM-TDB

C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category °	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
A	US 6 047 291 A (ANDERSON MATTHEW PAUL ET AL) 4 April 2000 (2000-04-04) column 5, line 46 -column 8, line 27; figures 1-5	1,13,19, 22
A	WO 97 15018 A (BELL COMMUNICATIONS RES) 24 April 1997 (1997-04-24) page 9, line 4 -page 14, line 24; figures 1-3	1,13,19, 22
A	US 5 557 790 A (BINGHAM RONALD E ET AL) 17 September 1996 (1996-09-17) column 3, line 49 -column 5, line 41; figure 1	1,13,19, 22

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Patent family members are listed in annex.

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# INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

Information on patent family members

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