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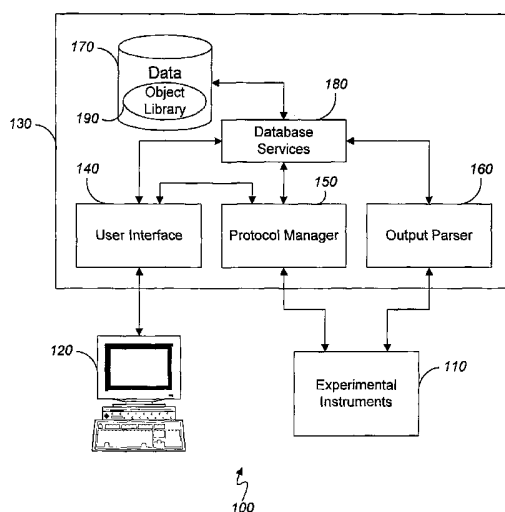
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(54) Title: AUTOMATED PROCESS CONTROL AND DATA MANAGEMENT SYSTEM AND METHODS



(57) Abstract: The invention provides methods, systems and apparatus, including computer program apparatus, implementing techniques for processing experimental data derived from a combinatorial library of materials. The techniques include providing an experiment protocol defining a program of actions to be carried out during a set of experiments and executing the program of actions. The protocol includes at least a first action linked to a library description of a combinatorial library. The library description includes data identifying a plurality of library positions corresponding to a plurality of members of the combinatorial library. Execution of the first action includes performing a method specified by the first action using the library description as an input.



For two-letter codes and other abbreviations, refer to the "Guidance Notes on Codes and Abbreviations" appearing at the beginning of each regular issue of the PCT Gazette.

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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) IPC 7 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 practical, search terms used) EPO-Internal		
C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT		
Category °	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
A	WO 98 15825 A (IRORI) 16 April 1998 (1998-04-16) page 74, line 13 -page 89, line 13 ---	1,22,38, 41,57
A	CARGILL J F ET AL: "AUTOMATED COMBINATIONAL CHEMISTRY ON SOLID PHASE" LABORATORY ROBOTICS AND AUTOMATION,US,VCH PUBLISHERS, NEW YORK, vol. 8, no. 3, 1 January 1996 (1996-01-01), pages 139-148, XP000617087 ISSN: 0895-7533 page 144, left-hand column, line 38 -page 146, right-hand column, last line; figures 5-8 --- -/--	1,22,38, 41,57
☒ Further documents are listed in the continuation of box C. ☒ Patent family members are listed in annex.		
° Special categories of cited documents :		
A document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance *E* earlier document but published on or after the international filing date *L* document which may throw doubts on priority claim(s) or which is cited to establish the publication date of another citation or other special reason (as specified) *O* document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or other means *P* document published prior to the international filing date but later than the priority date claimed *T* later document published after the international filing date or priority date and not in conflict with the application but cited to understand the principle or theory underlying the invention *X* 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 *Y* 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. *&* document member of the same patent family		
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Information on patent family members

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