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(12) **United States Patent**  
**Barney**

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(54) **METHOD AND SYSTEM FOR PROBABILISTICALLY QUANTIFYING AND VISUALIZING RELEVANCE BETWEEN TWO OR MORE CITATIONALLY OR CONTEXTUALLY RELATED DATA OBJECTS**

USPC ..... 707/705, 722, 726, 728, 731, 923, 930, 707/933, 937, 999.1  
See application file for complete search history.

(71) Applicant: **PatentRatings, LLC**, Irvine, CA (US)

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(72) Inventor: **Jonathan A. Barney**, Newport Beach, CA (US)

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(73) Assignee: **PATENTRATINGS, LLC**, Irvine, CA (US)

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(\* ) Notice: Subject to any disclaimer, the term of this patent is extended or adjusted under 35 U.S.C. 154(b) by 0 days.

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This patent is subject to a terminal disclaimer.

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*Primary Examiner* — Hares Jami

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(74) *Attorney, Agent, or Firm* — Knobbe, Martens, Olson & Bear, LLP

(65) **Prior Publication Data**

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(57) **ABSTRACT**

**Related U.S. Application Data**

(60) Continuation of application No. 13/958,386, filed on Aug. 2, 2013, now Pat. No. 8,818,996, which is a continuation of application No. 13/411,441, filed on Mar. 2, 2012, now Pat. No. 8,504,560, which is a

In one embodiment a method for probabilistically quantifying a degree of relevance between two or more citationally or contextually related data objects, such as patent documents, non-patent documents, web pages, personal and corporate contacts information, product information, consumer to behavior, technical or scientific information, address information, and the like is provided. In another embodiment a method for visualizing and displaying relevance between two or more citationally or contextually related data objects is provided. In another embodiment a search input/output interface that utilizes an iterative self-organizing mapping technique to automatically generate a visual map of relevant patents and/or other related documents desired to be explored, searched or analyzed is provided. In another embodiment, a search input/output interface that displays and/or communicates search input criteria and corresponding search results in a way that facilitates intuitive understanding and visualization of the logical relationships between two or more related concepts being searched is provided.

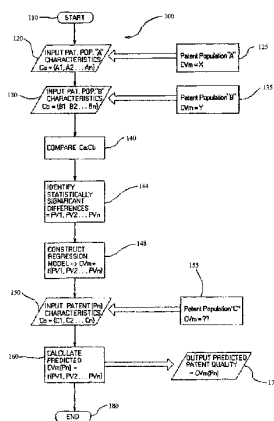
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**G06F 17/30** (2006.01)

(52) **U.S. Cl.**  
CPC ..... **G06F 17/3053** (2013.01); **G06F 17/30675** (2013.01); **G06F 17/30716** (2013.01);  
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(58) **Field of Classification Search**  
CPC ..... G06F 17/30728; G06F 17/30861;  
G06F 17/30011; G06F 17/30014; G06F 17/30722; G06F 17/3053; G06F 17/30675;  
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**20 Claims, 12 Drawing Sheets**



**Related U.S. Application Data**

division of application No. 12/749,381, filed on Mar. 29, 2010, now Pat. No. 8,131,701, which is a division of application No. 11/236,965, filed on Sep. 27, 2005, now Pat. No. 7,716,226.

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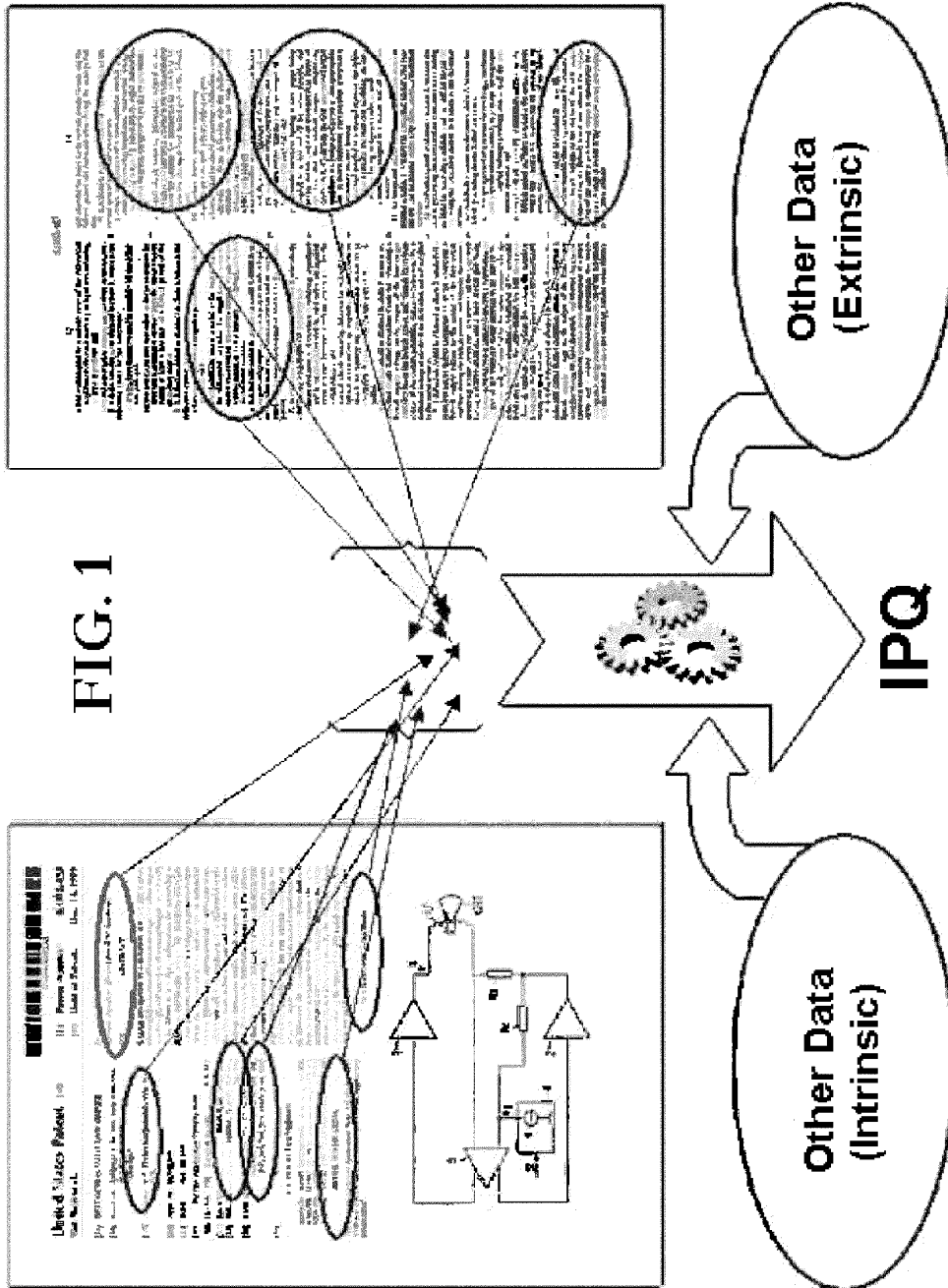
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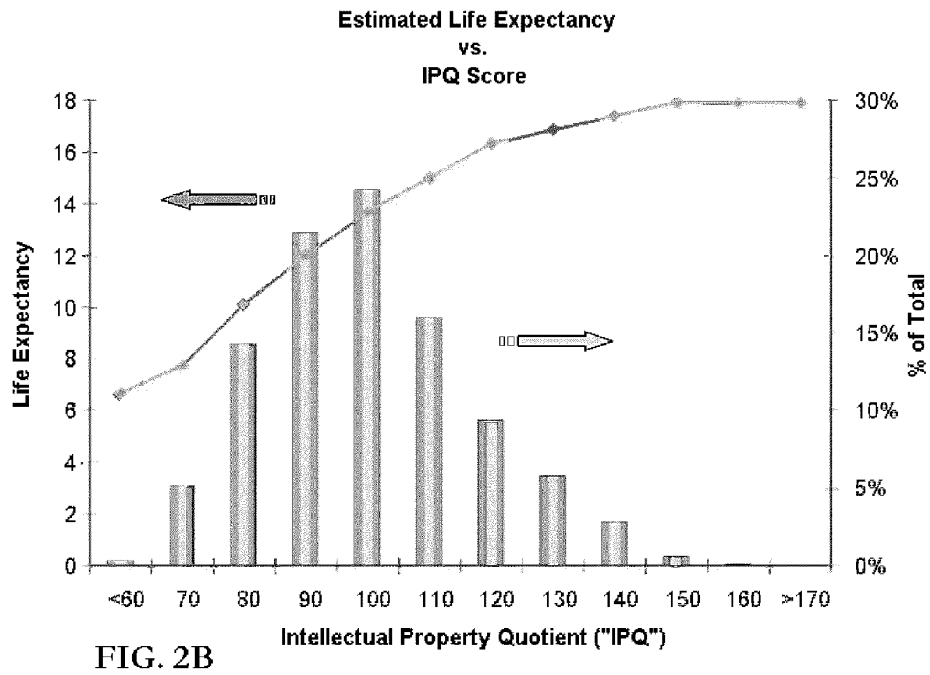
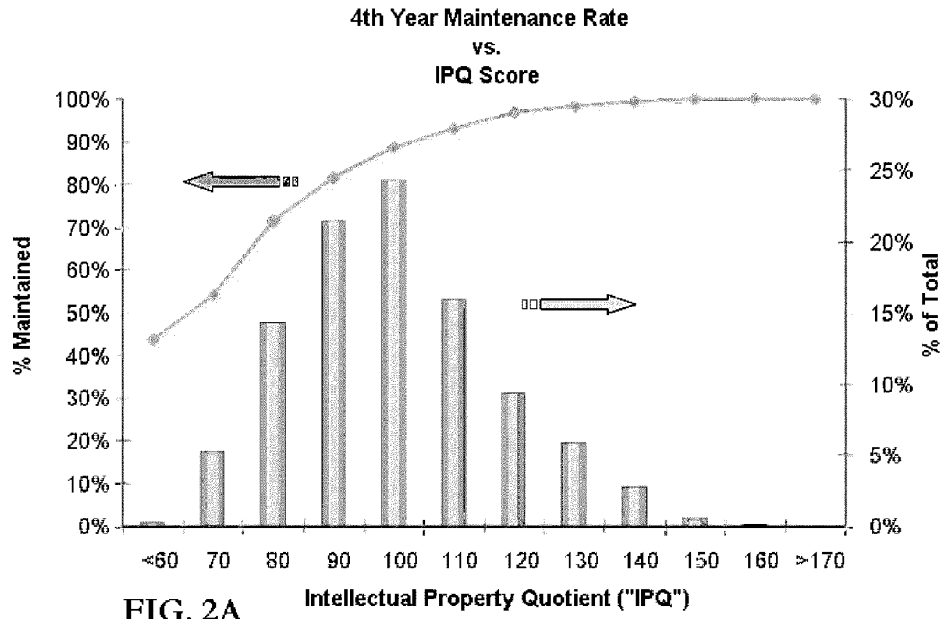
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