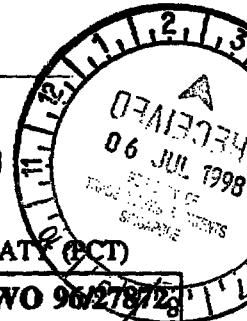


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(57) Abstract

A recogniser is provided with *a priori* probability values (e.g. from some previous recognition) indicating how likely the various words of the recogniser's vocabulary are to occur in the particular context, and recognition "scores" are weighted by these values before a result (or results) is chosen. The recogniser also employs "pruning" whereby low-scoring partial results are discarded, so as to speed the recognition process. To avoid premature pruning of the more likely words, probability values are applied before the pruning decisions are made. A method of applying these probability values is described.

