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(54) Title: METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR OPTIMIZING QUERY GENERATION BY SELECTIVELY UTILIZING ATTRIBUTES OR KEY VALUES

(57) Abstract

A method of joining two or more sets of data in a database (6) is provided wherein certain dimension (12) in the fact data are designed as being forced dimensions, and wherein for each forced dimension, a set of entries is created in the fact data each with the same key values in all of the dimensions other than the forced dimension, and each with a different member of the set of values existing in the fact data for that dimension, if and only if at least one entry exists in the fact data with the same set of key values in the dimensions other than the forced dimension.