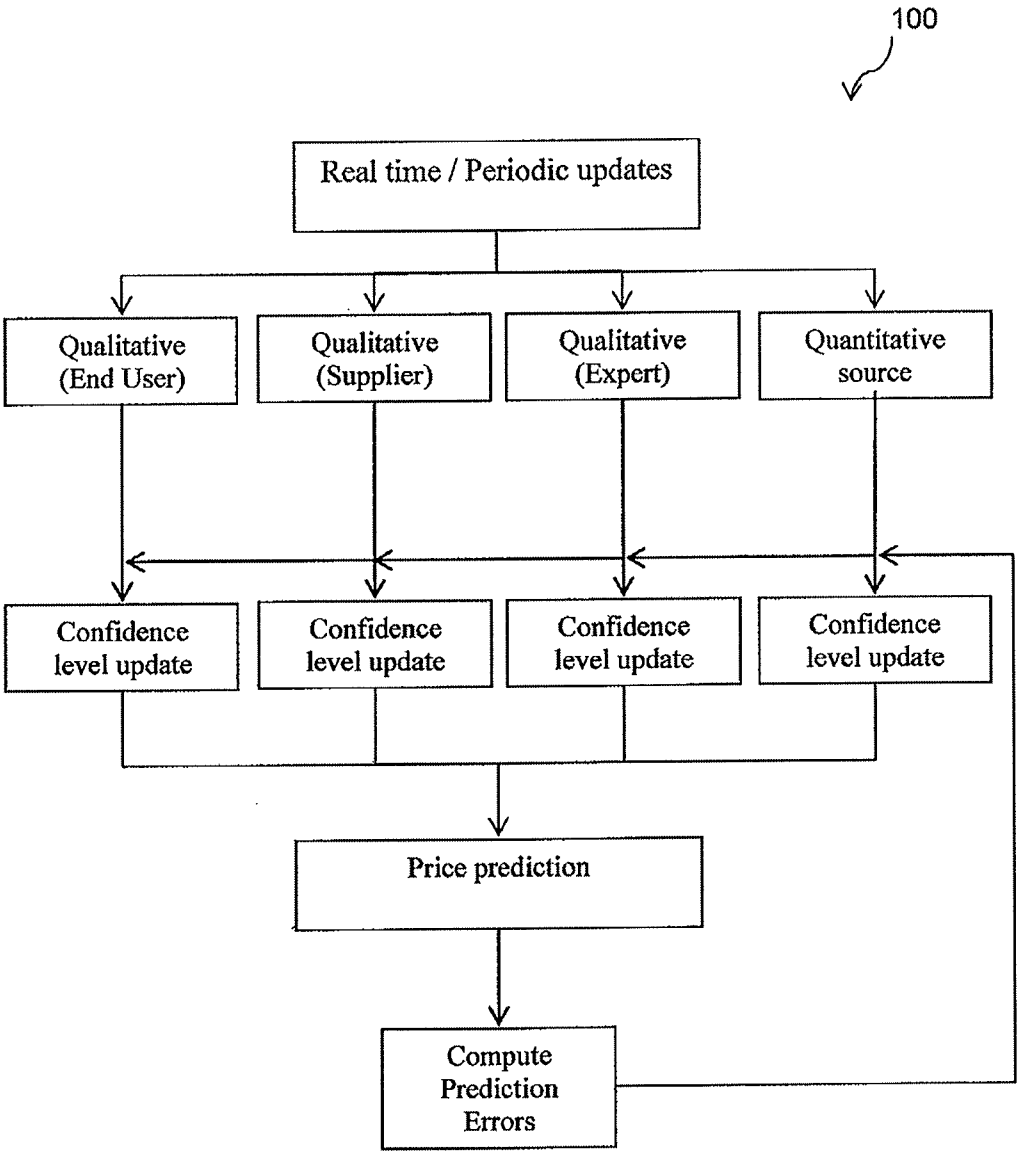

100
Real time / Periodic updates
Qualitative (End User)
Qualitative (Supplier)
Qualitative (Expert)
Quantitative source
Confidence level update
Confidence level update
Confidence level update
Confidence level update
Price prediction
Compute Prediction Errors

Figure 1

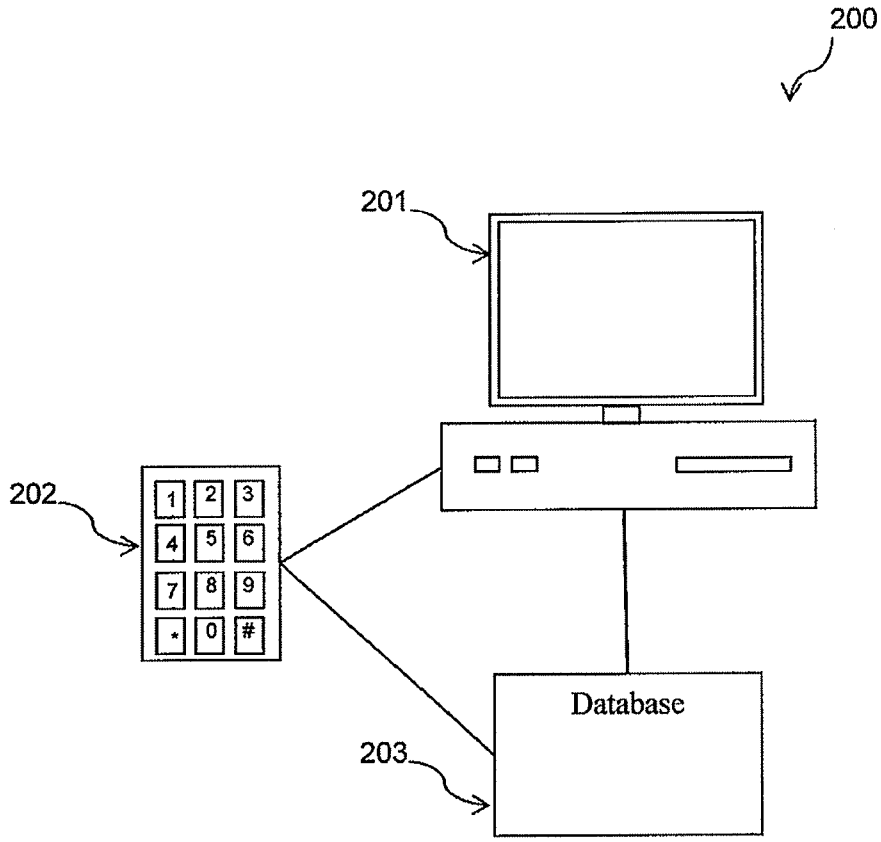



Figure 2

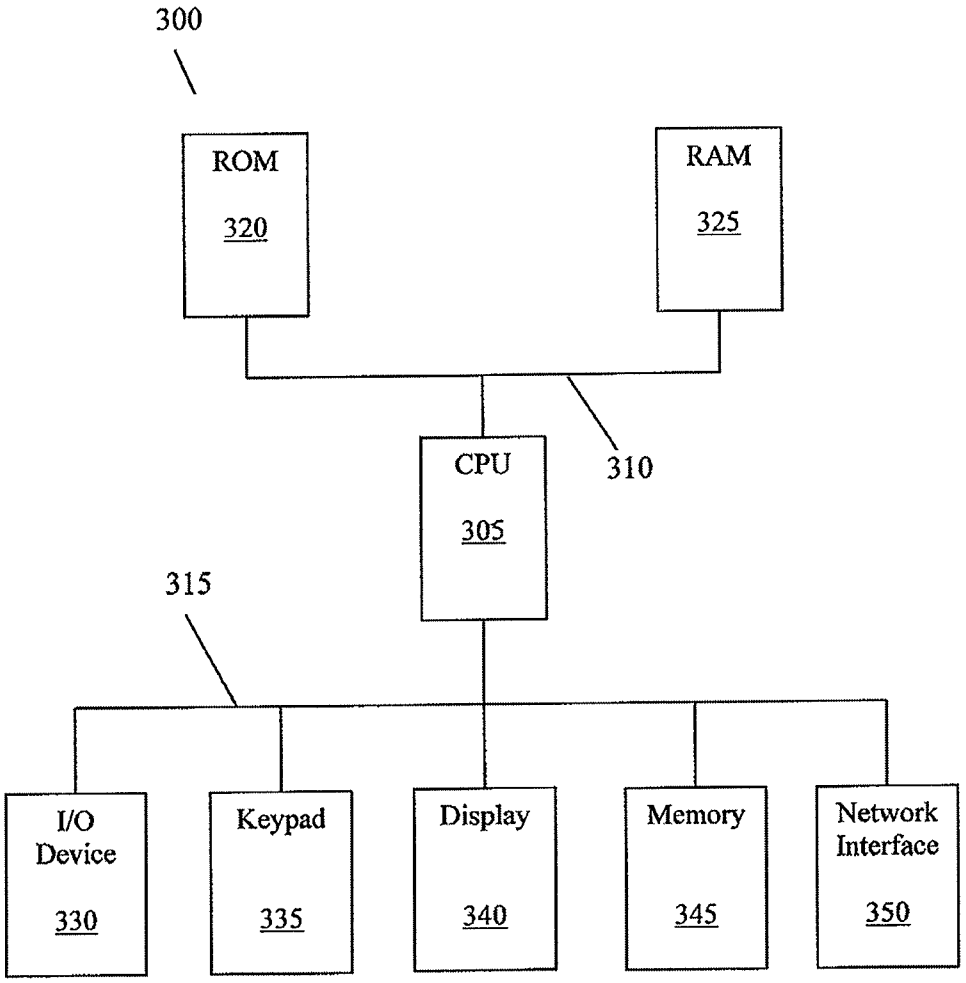

300
ROM
320
RAM
325
CPU
305
310
315
I/O
Device
330
Keypad
335
Display
340
Memory
345
Network
Interface
350

Figure 3

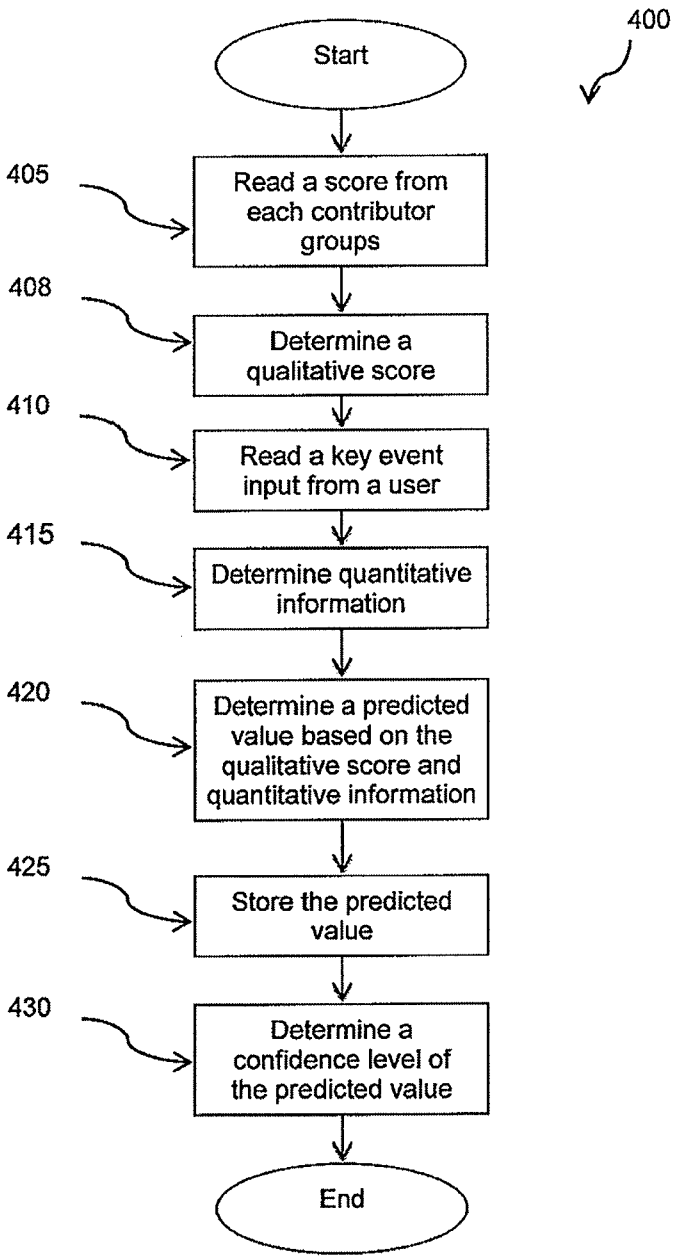

400
Start
405
Read a score from each contributor groups
408
Determine a qualitative score
410
Read a key event input from a user
415
Determine quantitative information
420
Determine a predicted value based on the qualitative score and quantitative information
425
Store the predicted value
430
Determine a confidence level of the predicted value
End

Figure 4

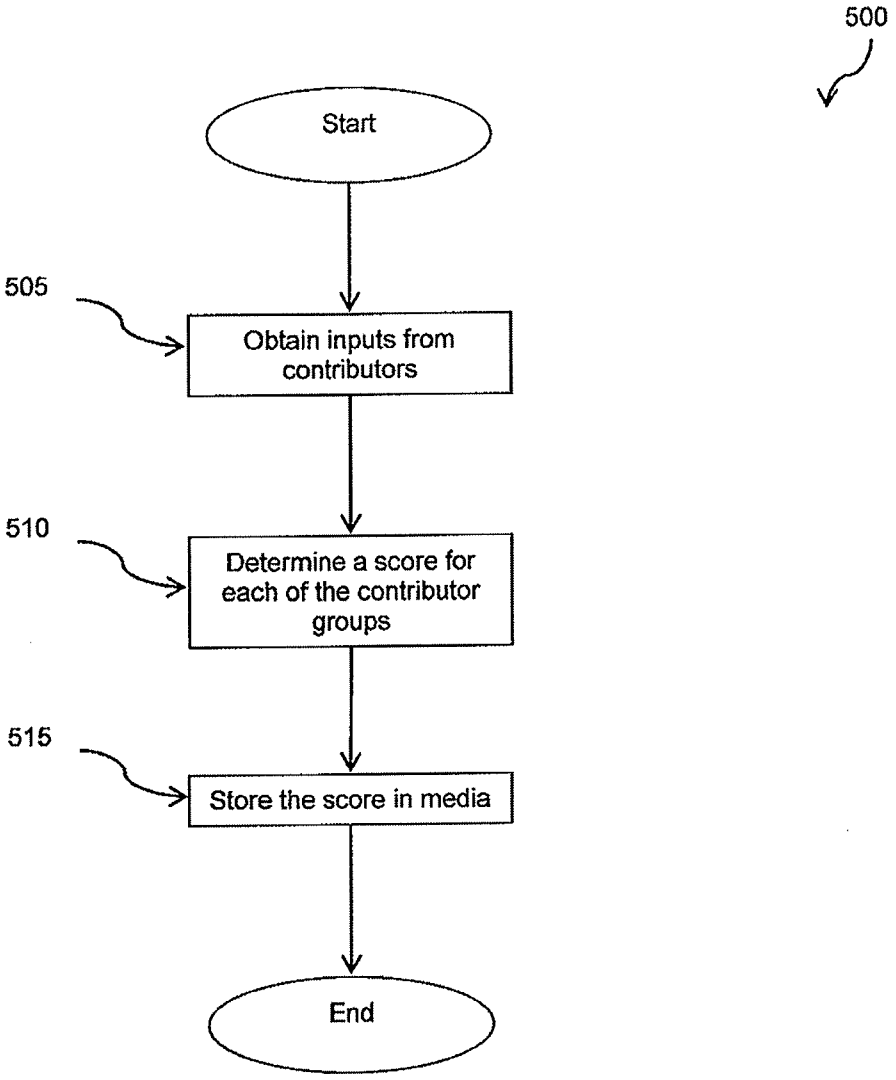

500
Start
505
Obtain inputs from contributors
510
Determine a score for each of the contributor groups
515
Store the score in media
End

Figure 5

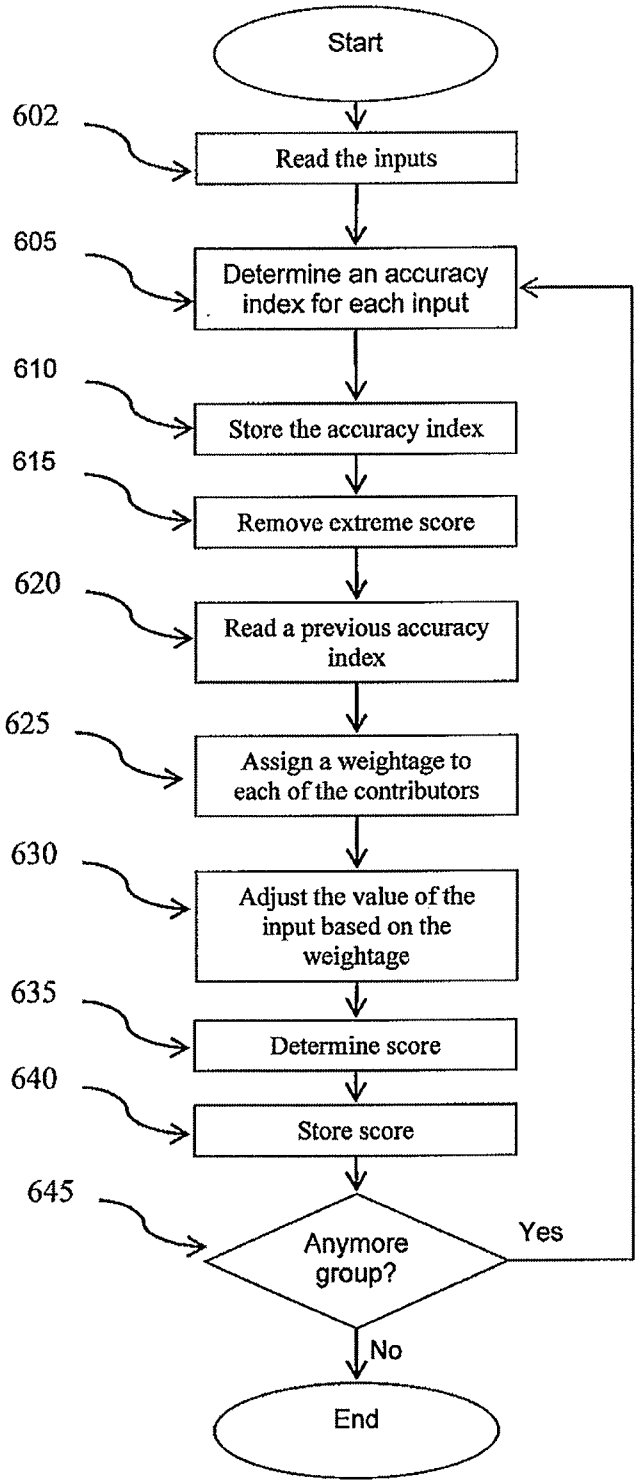

600
Start
602
Read the inputs
605
Determine an accuracy index for each input
610
Store the accuracy index
615
Remove extreme score
620
Read a previous accuracy index
625
Assign a weightage to each of the contributors
630
Adjust the value of the input based on the weightage
635
Determine score
640
Store score
645
Anymore group?
Yes
No
End

Figure 6

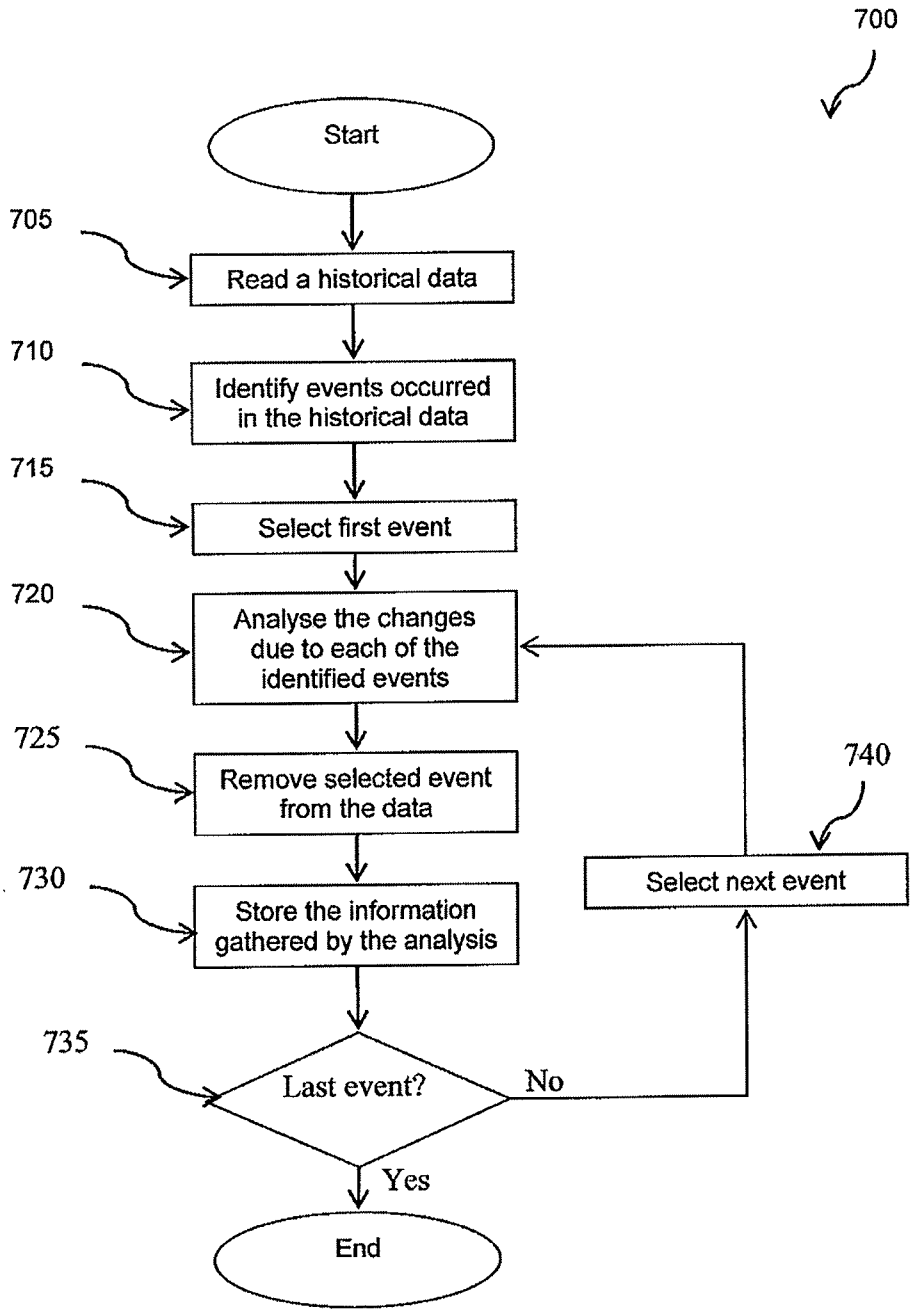

700
Start
705
Read a historical data
710
Identify events occurred in the historical data
715
Select first event
720
Analyse the changes due to each of the identified events
725
Remove selected event from the data
730
Store the information gathered by the analysis
735
Last event?
No
Yes
740
Select next event
End

Figure 7

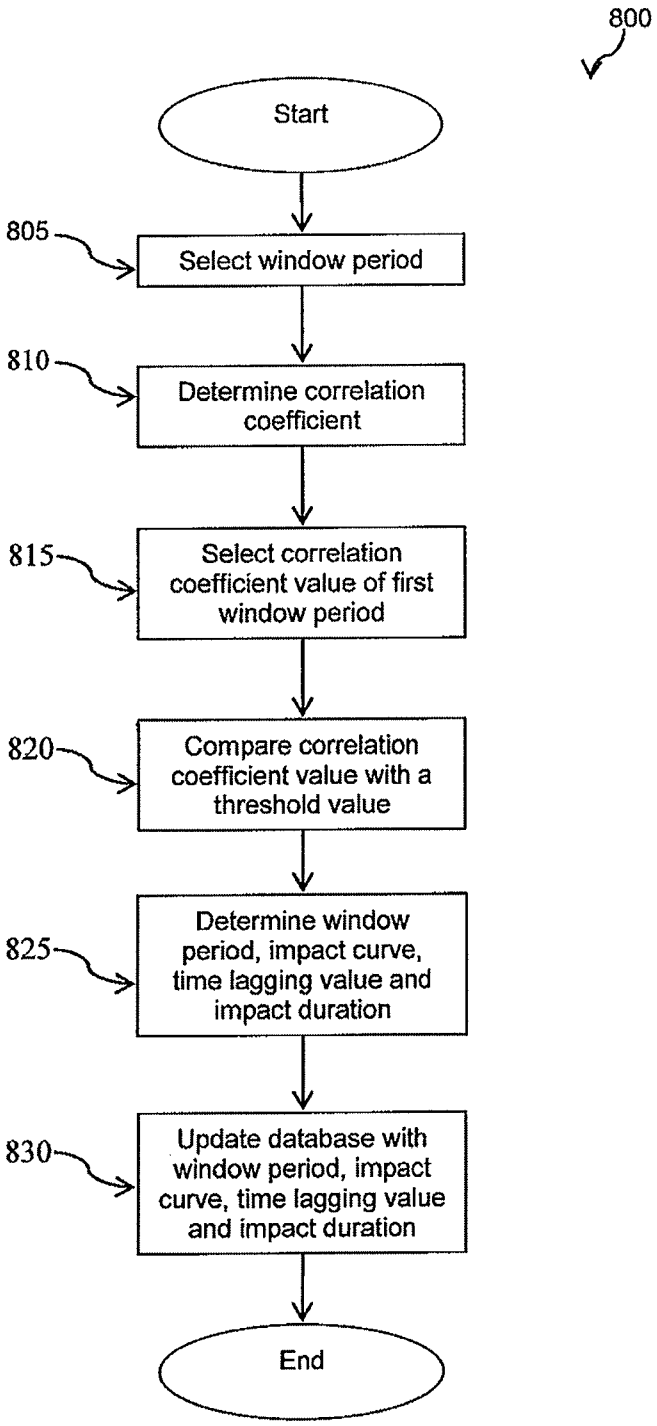

800
Start
805
Select window period
810
Determine correlation coefficient
815
Select correlation coefficient value of first window period
820
Compare correlation coefficient value with a threshold value
825
Determine window period, impact curve, time lagging value and impact duration
830
Update database with window period, impact curve, time lagging value and impact duration
End

Figure 8

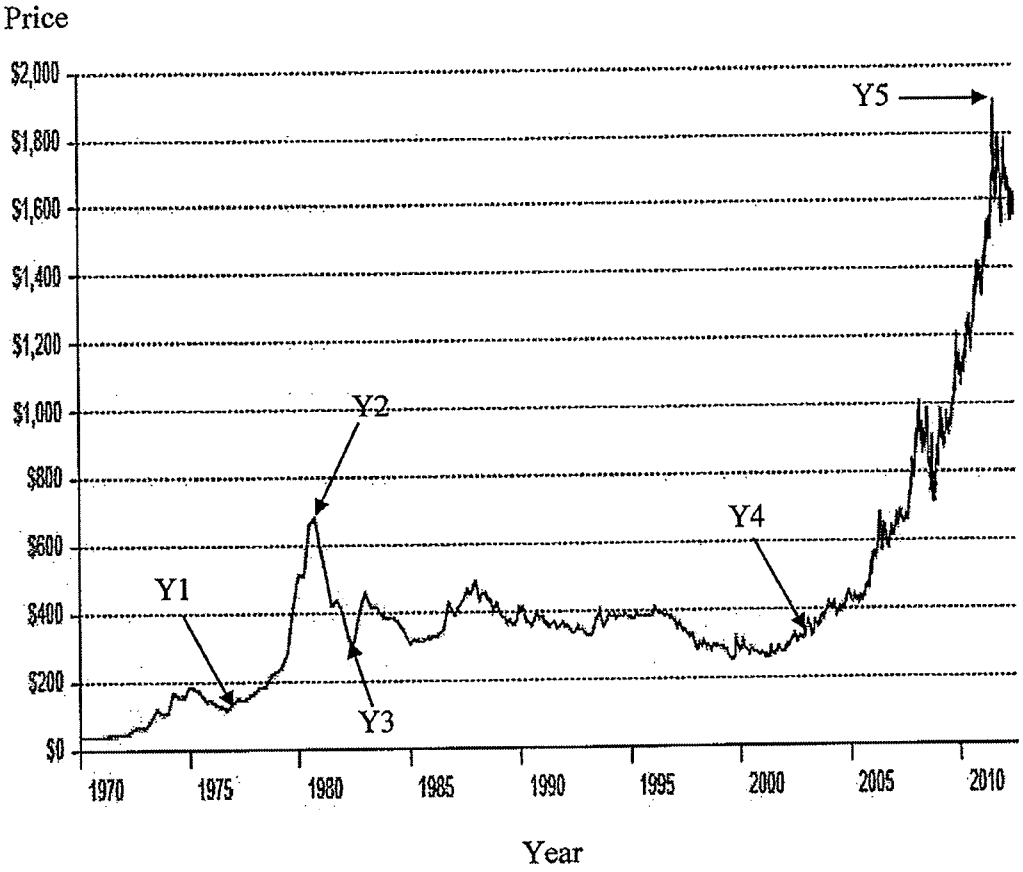

Price
$2,000
$1,800
$1,600
$1,400
$1,200
$1,000
$800
$600
$400
$200
$0
Y1
Y2
Y3
Y4
Y5
1970
1975
1980
1985
1990
1995
2000
2005
2010
Year

Figure 9

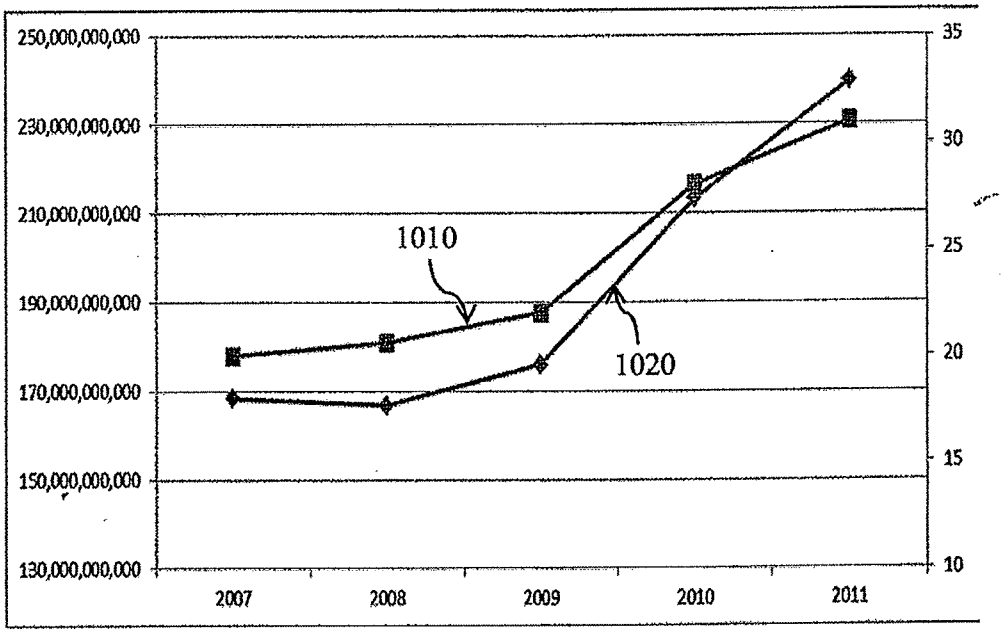



Figure 10a

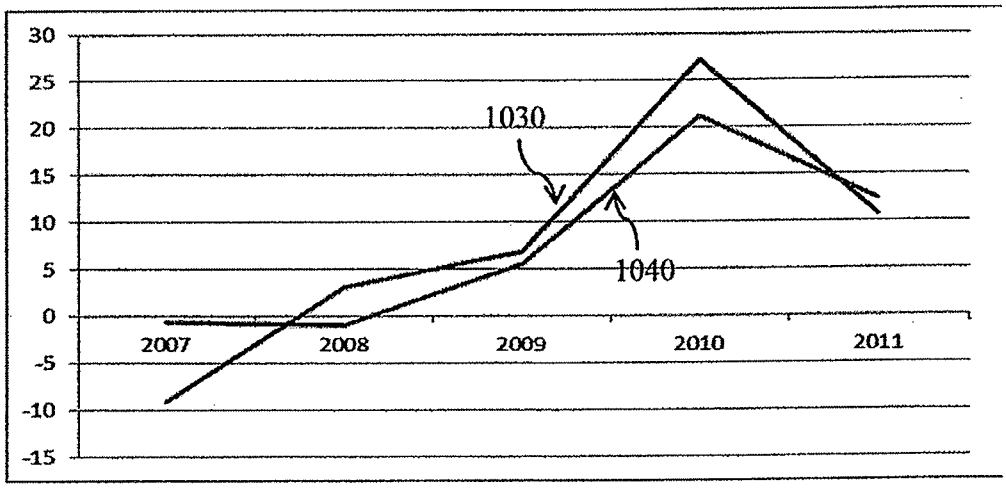



Figure 10b

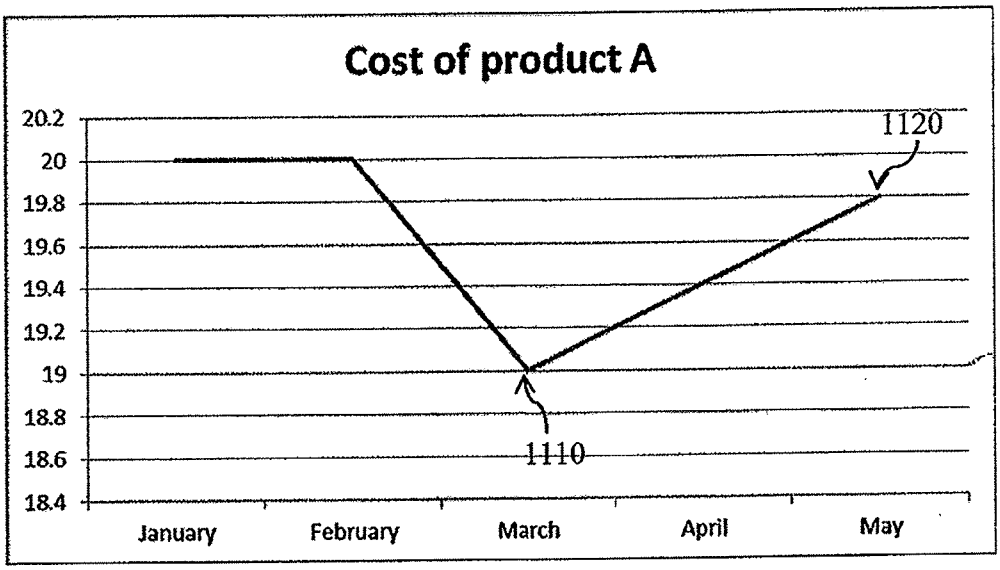



Figure 11

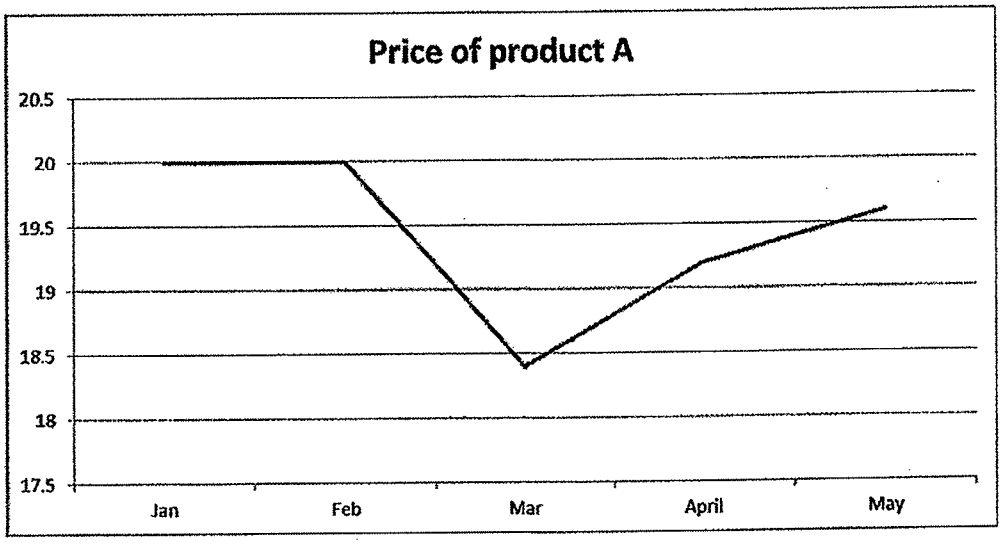



Figure 12

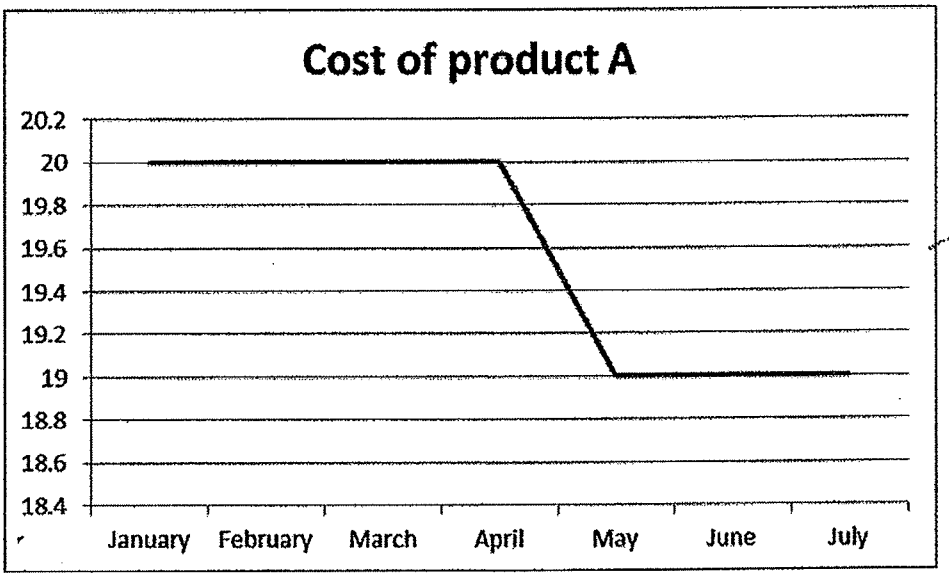

Cost of product A
20.2
20
19.8
19.6
19.4
19.2
19
18.8
18.6
18.4
January
February
March
April
May
June
July

Figure 13

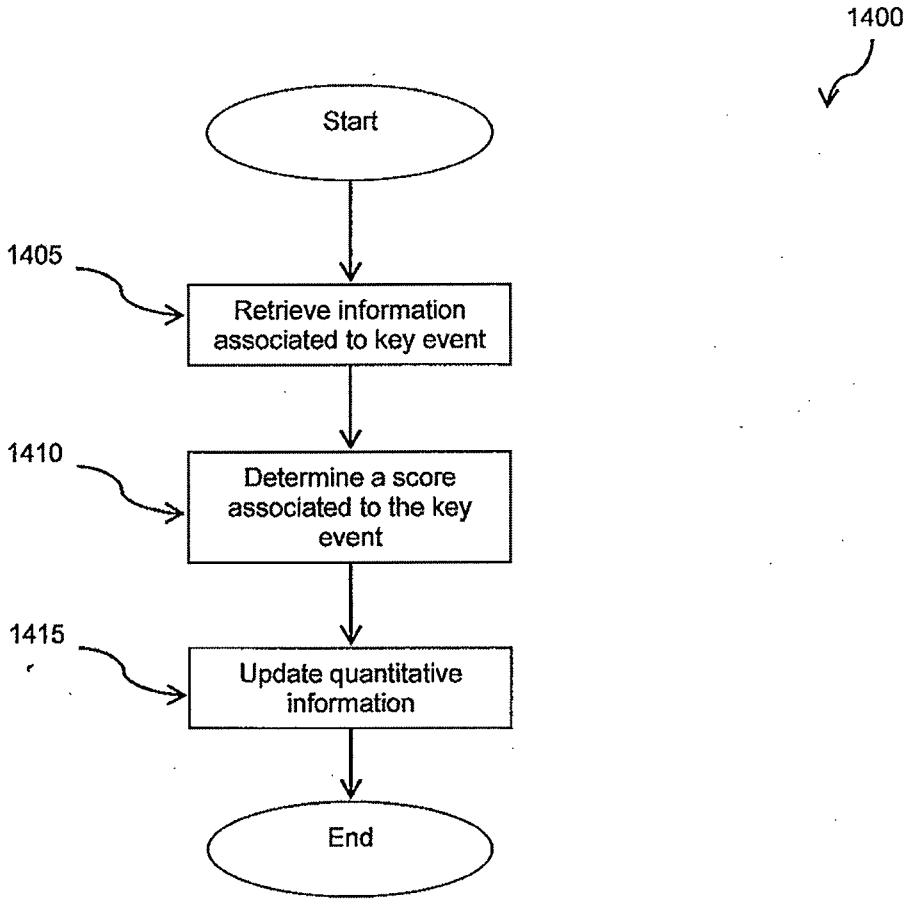

1400
Start
1405
Retrieve information associated to key event
1410
Determine a score associated to the key event
1415
Update quantitative information
End

Figure 14