CLAIMS

1. A simulation system configured to repeat the steps of: reading a file comprising one or more spreadsheets each having a plurality of cells, each of at least a part of the cells containing one of a numerical value and a mathematical formula each capable of serving as an index for a quantitative plan simulation; selecting one of the one or more spreadsheets from the file; scanning the cells in the selected spreadsheet; and identifying respective contents of the scanned cells, until there is no longer any spreadsheet selectable from the file, to thereby exhaustively scan all of the cells in the one or more spreadsheets,

wherein, in the step of identifying respective contents of the scanned cells, the simulation system is operable, when the content of the scanned cell is a numerical value, and the numerical value is used in calculation, to identify the scanned cell as an assumption data cell and then store the numerical value, and further operable, when the content of the scanned cell is a mathematical formula, and the mathematical formula is not used in any additional calculation, to identify the scanned cell as a calculation result cell and then store the mathematical formula, and, when the content of the scanned cell is a mathematical formula, and the mathematical formula is used in an additional calculation, to identify the scanned cell as a calculation cell and then store the mathematical formula,

and wherein the numerical values and the mathematical formulas are associated with respective pieces of information indicative of the corresponding cells each identified as any one of the assumption data cell, the calculation result cell and the calculation cell, and formed as a data set based on a reference relationship among the cells, and the data set is stored in a data base, together with respective names representing the numerical values and the mathematical formulas,

and wherein the simulation system is operable, based on the names of the numerical values and the mathematical formulas contained in the data set stored in the database, to display, as a list of one or more candidate names, a list of respective names of one or more indexes each capable of serving as a goal of the quantitative plan

simulation, on a selection screen for allowing a user to select the goal, and further operable, when one of the one or more candidate names is selected as the goal, to: extract, from the database, the data set which contains the calculation result cell corresponding to the selected goal; read, as one or more assumptions, the contents of the one or more assumption data cells or calculation cells contained in the extracted data set; display a list of the one or more read assumptions on an assumption adjustment screen, together with a slide bar for adjusting a value of each of the one or more assumptions; and, based on the numerical values and the mathematical formulas, to perform the quantitative plan simulation.

2. The simulation system as recited in claim 1, which is operable, based on the scanning of the cells in the selected spreadsheet, to count at least one of the number of scanned spreadsheets, the number of scanned cells, the number of scanned assumption data cells, the number of scanned calculation cells and the number of scanned calculation result cells, and to sequentially display the resulting counted numbers.

3. The simulation system as recited in claim 1 or 2, which is operable to graphically form and display a calculation structure composed of the numerical values and the mathematical formulas contained in the data set stored in the database, in a tree shape.

4. The simulation system as recited in any one of claims 1 to 3, wherein

the quantitative plan simulation is continuously run, and

the value of each of the one or more assumptions is changed according to a displacement of the slide bar,

wherein the simulation system is operable to give a changed value of the assumption to the quantitative plan simulation being continuously run, as an input, to thereby obtain a result of the quantitative plan simulation in real time.

5. The simulation system as recited in any one of claims 1 to 3 and 4, which is operable, when one of the one or more assumptions is selected, to display a detailed information

display screen for presenting related information regarding the selected assumption, between an item of the selected assumption and an item of another assumption located just below the item of the selected assumption, in the displayed list.

6. A simulation method which is performed in a simulation system, comprising:

a reading step of reading a file comprising one or more spreadsheets each having a plurality of cells, each of at least a part of the cells containing one of a numerical value and a mathematical formula each capable of serving as an index for a quantitative plan simulation;

a selecting step of selecting one of the one or more spreadsheets from the file;

a scanning step of scanning the cells in the selected spreadsheet; and

an identifying step of identifying respective contents of the scanned cells,

wherein the selecting step, the scanning step and the identifying step are repeated until there is no longer any spreadsheet selectable from the file, to thereby exhaustively scan all of the cells in the one or more spreadsheets,

and wherein the identifying step includes: when the content of the scanned cell is a numerical value, and the numerical value is used in calculation, identifying the scanned cell as an assumption data cell and then storing the numerical value; when the content of the scanned cell is a mathematical formula, and the mathematical formula is not used in any additional calculation, identifying the scanned cell as a calculation result cell and then storing the mathematical formula; and, when the content of the scanned cell is a mathematical formula, and the mathematical formula is used in an additional calculation, identifying the scanned cell as a calculation cell and then storing the mathematical formula,

and wherein the numerical values and the mathematical formulas are associated with respective pieces of information indicative of the corresponding cells each identified as any one of the assumption data cell, the calculation result cell and the calculation cell, and formed as a data set based on a reference relationship among the cells, and the data set is stored in a data base, together with respective names representing the numerical values and the mathematical formulas,

and wherein the simulation method comprises, based on the names of the numerical values and the mathematical formulas contained in the data set stored in the database, displaying, as a list of one or more candidate names, a list of respective names of one or more indexes each capable of serving as a goal of the quantitative plan simulation, on a selection screen for allowing a user to select the goal, and further comprises, when one of the one or more candidate names is selected as the goal: extracting, from the database, the data set which contains the calculation result cell corresponding to the selected goal; reading, as one or more assumptions, the contents of the one or more assumption data cells or calculation cells contained in the extracted data set; displaying a list of the one or more read assumptions on an assumption adjustment screen, together with a slide bar for adjusting a value of each of the one or more assumptions; and, based on the numerical values and the mathematical formulas, performing the quantitative plan simulation.

7. A program for causing a computer to perform a procedure comprising:

a reading step of reading a file comprising one or more spreadsheets each having a plurality of cells, each of at least a part of the cells containing one of a numerical value and a mathematical formula each capable of serving as an index for a quantitative plan simulation;

a selecting step of selecting one of the one or more spreadsheets from the file;

a scanning step of scanning the cells in the selected spreadsheet; and

an identifying step of identifying respective contents of the scanned cells,

wherein the selecting step, the scanning step and the identifying step are repeated until there is no longer any spreadsheet selectable from the file, to thereby exhaustively scan all of the cells in the one or more spreadsheets,

and wherein the identifying step includes: when the content of the scanned cell is a numerical value, and the numerical value is used in calculation, identifying the scanned cell as an assumption data cell and then storing the numerical value; when the content of the scanned cell is a mathematical formula, and the mathematical formula is not used in any additional calculation, identifying the scanned cell as a calculation result

cell and then storing the mathematical formula; and, when the content of the scanned cell is a mathematical formula, and the mathematical formula is used in an additional calculation, identifying the scanned cell as a calculation cell and then storing the mathematical formula,

and wherein the numerical values and the mathematical formulas are associated with respective pieces of information indicative of the corresponding cells each identified as any one of the assumption data cell, the calculation result cell and the calculation cell, and formed as a data set, based on a reference relationship among the cells, and the data set is stored in a data base, together with respective names representing the numerical values and the mathematical formulas.

and wherein the procedure comprises, based on the names of the numerical values and the mathematical formulas contained in the data set stored in the database, to display, as a list of one or more candidate names, a list of respective names of one or more indexes each capable of serving as a goal of the quantitative plan simulation, on a selection screen for allowing a user to select the goal, and further comprises, when one of the one or more candidate names is selected as the goal: extracting, from the database, the data set which contains the calculation result cell corresponding to the selected goal; reading, as one or more assumptions, the contents of the one or more assumption data cells or calculation cells contained in the extracted data set; displaying a list of the one or more read assumptions on an assumption adjustment screen, together with a slide bar for adjusting a value of each of the one or more assumptions; and, based on the numerical values and the mathematical formulas, performing the quantitative plan simulation.

8 A computer-readable recording medium recording thereon the program recited in claim 7.