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- (71) **Applicant:** TENCENT TECHNOLOGY (SHENZHEN) COMPANY LIMITED [CN/CN]; Room 403, East Block 2, SEG Park, Zhenxing Road, Futian, Shenzhen, Guangdong 518000 (CN).
- (72) **Inventor:** LIU, Qiuge; Room 403, East Block 2, SEG Park, Zhenxing Road, Futian, Shenzhen, Guangdong 518000 (CN).
- (74) **Agent:** BEIJING SAN GAO YONG XIN INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY AGENCY CO., LTD; A-1-102, He Jing Yuan, Ji Men Li, Xueyuan Road, Haidian, Beijing 100088 (CN).

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(54) **Title:** SYSTEM AND METHOD FOR LOAD BALANCING IN A SPEECH RECOGNITION SYSTEM

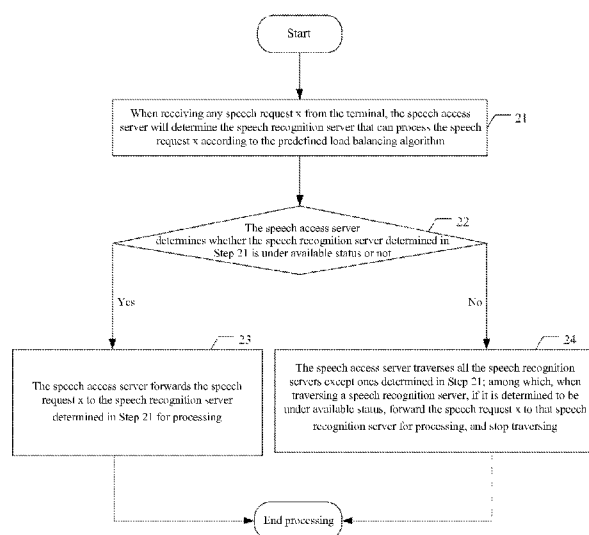


Figure 2

(57) **Abstract:** Systems, methods and/or devices used to enable load balancing in a speech recognition system are provided. The method includes, at a speech access server: (1) initializing the speech access server, (2) receiving a speech request from a terminal, (3) determining, in accordance with a predefined load balancing algorithm, a first speech recognition server to process the speech request, (4) determining whether the first speech recognition server is available for processing, (5) if the first speech recognition server is available, forwarding the speech request to the first speech recognition server for processing, and (6) if the first speech recognition server is not available: (a) determining whether other speech recognition servers are available for processing, and (b) if a second speech recognition server is available, forwarding the speech request to the second speech recognition server for processing.