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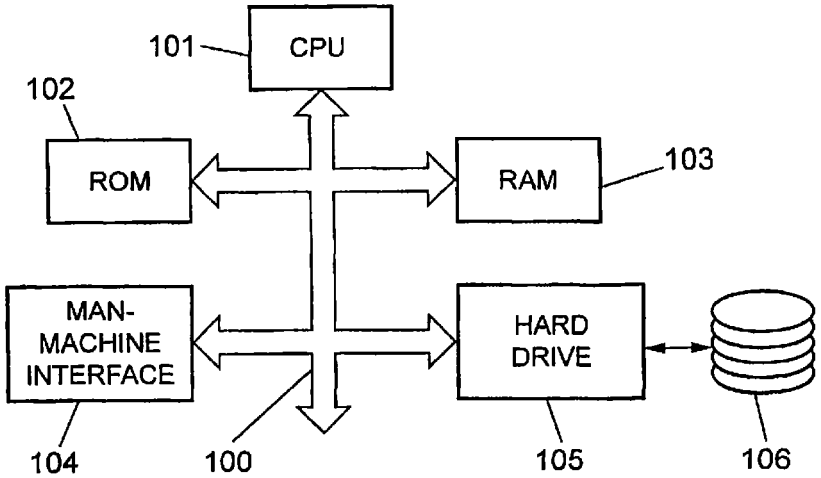
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(54) Title: METHODS OF ORGANIZING DATA AND PROCESSING QUERIES IN A DATABASE SYSTEM, AND DATABASE SYSTEM AND SOFTWARE PRODUCT FOR IMPLEMENTING SUCH METHODS



(57) Abstract: A reference table has columns associated with data attributes and rows containing related words assigned to those attributes in a collection of data, those words coming from different data tables having independent numbers of records. The stored data include word thesauruses associated with the attributes, and reference table row identifier lists respectively associated with thesaurus entries. Each word thesaurus associated with an attribute has a respective entry for each word assigned to this data attribute in the collection of data. The reference table, which may be a virtual table, defines a unified algebraic framework for the entries of all the thesauruses. Query criteria can be examined with reference to the relevant thesauruses to obtain a row-ID list or bitmap vector which represents all the reference table rows matching the query criteria, if any. The results can then be delivered through the original data tables, or preferably, by means of the thesauruses.

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