class, etc.) TSE return all available travel opportunities currently left, sorted by ascending fare values, so that the customer can quickly pick the best value for his/her trip.

Interline travel offers that may appear in such a display quote, like any other offers, the total price of the trip, i.e., what client has actually to pay to have the corresponding ticket issued by the validating airline. However, as explained here above, this by no means represents the actual revenue of the validating airline since; in case of interline ticketing, a proration takes place and part of the revenue is retrofitted to the participating airline(s).

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

In a first aspect of the invention, there is provided a data processing system for producing a display of travel recommendations made by a predetermined travel carrier matching an itinerary and search criteria, said system configured to display interlining travel recommendations made of a plurality of travel segments operated by a plurality of travel carriers including the predetermined travel carrier, comprising:

a travel search and booking engine configured for building interlining travel recommendations matching the itinerary and search criteria;

a proration module configured to determine, for each interlining travel recommendation, an expected revenue for each travel segment operated by the predetermined travel carrier, wherein, for the interlining travel recommendations, a sum of the expected revenues of the pre-determined travel carrier is different from the sum of expected revenues for all segments of the said interlining travel recommendation;

a ranking module configured to determine, for each interlining travel recommendation, a weight based on the expected revenues of said pre-determined travel carrier and rules set by the predetermined travel carrier and to sort the travel recommendations by decreasing order of weights; and

a coordinator in communication with the proration module, and the travel search and booking engine, said coordinator configured to generate

display data of at least a set of the interlining travel recommendations by decreasing order of said weights.

In a second aspect of the invention, there is provided a method of processing data for generating a display of travel recommendations made by a predetermined travel carrier matching an itinerary and search criteria, said travel recommendations including interlining travel recommendations made of a plurality of travel segments operated by a plurality of travel carriers including the predetermined travel carrier, the method comprising:

receiving at a remote travel search and booking engine, from a computer device, a travel search request comprising the itinerary and search criteria;

at the travel search and booking engine, building interlining travel recommendations matching the itinerary and search criteria;

for each travel recommendation, determining an expected revenue for each travel segment operated by the predetermined travel carrier, wherein, for the interlining travel recommendations, a sum of the expected revenues of the pre-determined travel carrier is different from the sum of expected revenues for all segments of the said interlining travel recommendation;

for each travel recommendation, determining a weight based on the expected revenues of said pre-determined travel carrier; wherein the weight is one of:

(i) the sum of expected revenues for all segments operated by the pre-determined travel carrier; and

(ii) the sum of expected revenues for all segments operated by the pre-determined travel carrier and of expected revenues for all segments operated by at least another travel carrier partner of said pre-determined travel carrier; and

sorting and generating display data of at least a set of the travel recommendations by decreasing order of said weights.

In a third aspect, there is provided a method of generating a display of travel recommendations made by a predetermined travel carrier matching an itinerary and search criteria, said travel recommendations including interlining travel recommendations made of a plurality of travel segments operated by a plurality of travel carriers including the predetermined travel carrier, the method comprising:

sending a travel search request comprising the itinerary and search criteria to a remote travel search and booking engine;

receiving display data wherein said display data describe travel recommendations comprising at least one interlining travel recommendation, a weight being assigned to each travel recommendation based on expected revenues for all travel segments operated by a pre-determined travel carrier where, for the at least one interlining travel recommendation, the sum of the expected revenues of the pre-determined travel carrier is different from the sum of expected revenues for all segments of the said interlining travel recommendation; and

displaying the travel recommendations by decreasing order of weights.

~~It is therefore the object of the invention to describe a method of processing data for producing a display of travel recommendations matching an itinerary, said method being adapted to the display of interlining travel recommendations made of a plurality of travel segments operated by a plurality of travel carriers. The method is characterized in that it comprises the following steps:~~

~~- From a computer device, sending a travel search request comprising search criteria to a remote travel search and booking engine;~~

~~- At the travel search and booking engine, building available travel recommendations matching the search criteria and;~~

~~- For each available travel recommendation:~~

~~Determining an expected revenue for each travel segment operated by a travel carrier involved in the travel recommendation;~~

~~Determining a weight based on said expected revenue of said travel carrier;~~

~~Sorting and generating display data of at least a set of the travel recommendations by decreasing order of said weights;~~

~~returning the display data to the computer device and displaying the available travel recommendations.~~

~~The method of the invention may also comprise following optional features:~~

~~The determination of an expected revenue is done on the basis of a proration of the total price of the corresponding travel recommendation.~~

~~The proration is optionally done on the basis of the mileage flown per segment.~~

~~The proration is optionally done on the basis of published prorate factors.~~

~~The proration is optionally amended according to provisos agreed upon between airlines operating flights of the travel itinerary.~~

~~The proration is optionally amended according to bilateral agreements between airlines.~~

~~The weight is the sum of expected revenue of one or more segments operated by said travel carrier.~~

~~The weight further includes expected revenue of one or more segments operated by airlines partner of said travel carrier.~~

~~The weight is the sum of expected revenues of one or more segments operated by said travel carrier divided by the mileage flown or a function thereof.~~

~~The weight further includes expected revenue divided by the mileage flown or a function thereof of one or more segments operated by airlines partner of said travel carrier.~~

~~The given travel carrier is the airline issuing the travel tickets.~~

~~The sorting of the travel recommendations is optionally done on the basis of business rules set by the airline issuing the travel tickets.~~

~~The invention also describes a data processing system for producing a display of travel recommendations matching an itinerary, said system being adapted to the display of interlining travel recommendations made of a plurality of travel segments operated by a plurality of travel carriers, characterized in that it comprises:~~

~~A computer device having means for inputting search criteria, communications means for sending a travel search request comprising the search criteria and display means;~~

~~A travel search and booking engine in communication with the computer device and having means for building travel recommendations matching the search criteria of and;~~

~~Computing means configured to, for each travel recommendation:~~

~~Determine an expected revenue for each travel segment operated by a given travel carrier involved in the travel recommendation;~~

~~Determine a weight based on said expected revenue of said travel carrier;~~

~~Sort and generate display data of at least a set of the travel recommendations by decreasing order of said weight;~~

~~Return the display data to the computer device.~~

~~In a preferred embodiment, the system is such that the computing means comprises:~~

~~a proration module for determining the expected revenue for each travel segment operated by a given travel carrier involved in the travel recommendation;~~

~~a ranking module for sorting the travel recommendations by decreasing order of weights based on said expected revenue of said travel carrier;~~

~~a coordinator in communication with the proration module, the routing module, the computer device and the travel search and booking engine.~~

The invention also includes a computer program product stored on a computer readable storage medium, comprising computer readable code means for causing at least one computer to operate any of the above method

according to the second or third aspect. ~~of sorting and displaying travel recommendations.~~

Further objects, features and advantages of the present invention will become apparent to the ones skilled in the art upon examination of the following description in reference to the accompanying drawings. It is intended that any additional advantages be incorporated herein.