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AMADEUS s.a.s. [FR/FR]; 485 route du Pin Montard -,
SOPHIA ANTIPOLIS, F-06410 Biot (FR).

(72) Inventors; and

(75) Inventors/Applicants (for US only): **PAUCHET, David**
[FR/FR]; 11 Rue des petits ponts, F-06250 Mougins (FR).
JANIN, Benoît [FR/FR]; 497 Avenue des Pins, F-06410
Biot (FR). **DANIELLO, Rudy** [FR/FR]; Domaine Terre
d'Azur, V8 113 Corniche Fleurie, F-06200 Nice (FR). **DU-**
FRESNE, Thierry [FR/FR]; Domaine de Poudeirac, 17
Chemin de Poudeirac, F-06650 Opio (FR). **PATOUR-**
EAUX, Marc [FR/FR]; 273 Route de Saint-Mathieu, F-
06130 Grasse (FR).(74) Agent: **DECOBERT, Jean-Pascal**; Cabinet Hautier, 20
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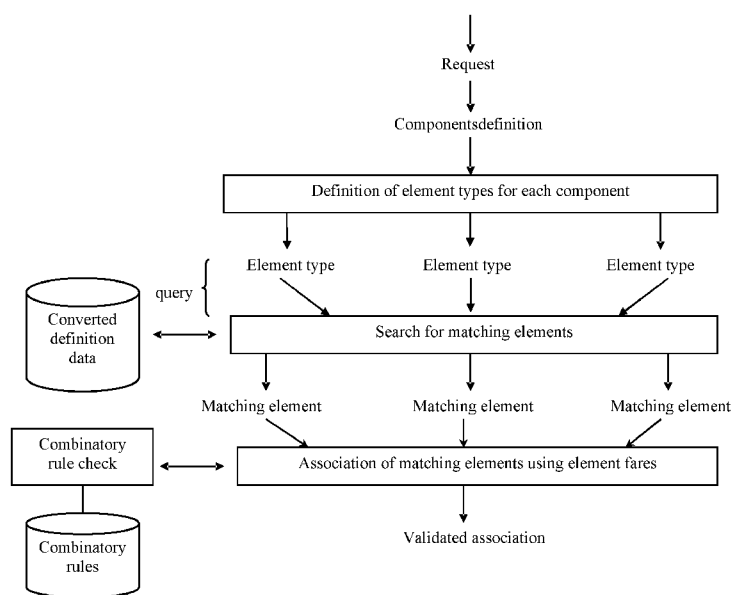


Fig. 4

(57) Abstract: The invention relates to a method and system for processing complex queries each corresponding to a plurality of components to be combined. Elements corresponding to these components are searched. The elements are of different element types and are originally described by definition data having heterogeneous data structures. A conversion step transforms the heterogeneous definition data into converted definition data of one single format. An engine then retrieves elements and builds associations of elements matching the query parameters based on the converted definition data, thereby providing with a reply to the query in an optimized manner.

