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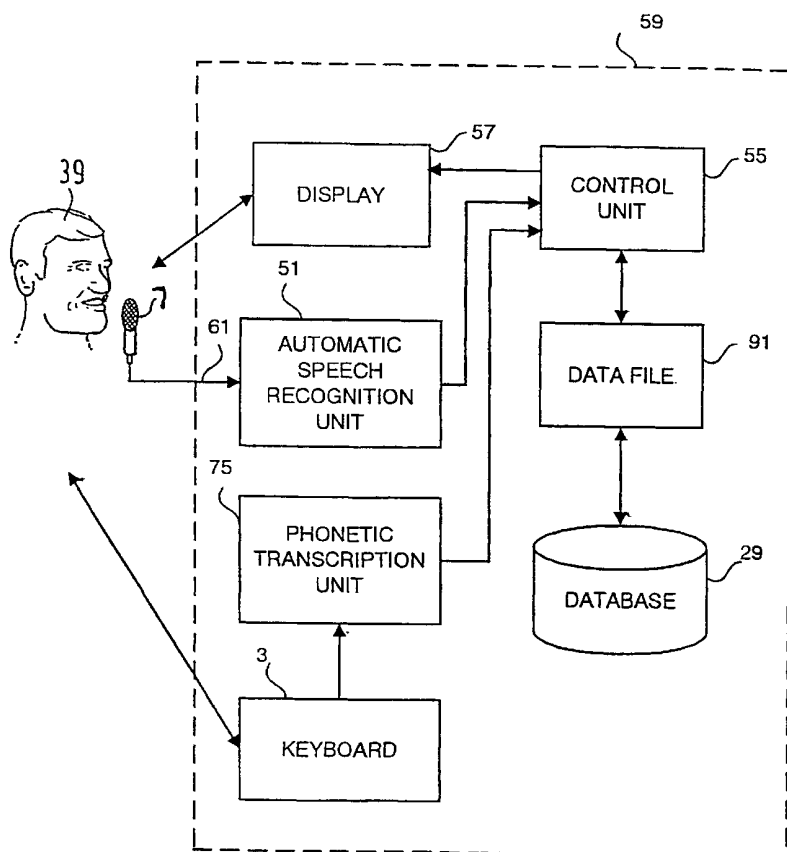
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(54) Title: PATTERN MATCHING METHOD AND APPARATUS



(57) Abstract: A system is provided for matching two or more sequences of phonemes both or all of which may be generated from text or speech. A dynamic programming matching technique is preferably used having constraints which depend upon whether or not the two sequences are generated from text or speech and in which the scoring of the dynamic programming paths is weighted by phoneme confusion scores, phoneme insertion scores and phoneme deletion scores where appropriate.



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B. FIELDS SEARCHED

Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)

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Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched

Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practical, search terms used)

INSPEC, EPO-Internal, IBM-TDB

C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category °	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
Y A	<p>GB 2 331 816 A (IMARKET INC) 2 June 1999 (1999-06-02)</p> <p>page 6, line 15 -page 9, line 3 page 11, line 12 -page 12, line 11 page 17, line 2 -page 19, line 6 page 35, line 16 -page 37, line 28 claims</p> <p style="text-align: center;">---</p> <p style="text-align: center;">-/--</p>	<p>1-4, 40, 54-57 5-39, 48, 49, 52-79, 84-93, 96-103, 105, 110-116, 118, 119, 121-123</p>

Further documents are listed in the continuation of box C.

Patent family members are listed in annex.

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Category °	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
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