

Searching with proximity operators in PatBase

In order to make searching as simple as possible in PatBase, a space will search for keywords/terms appearing next to each other, it is therefore not necessary to include proximity operators when searching for phrases, e.g. FT=(rotation of the piston), will only retrieve records in which "rotation of the piston" occur.

Hyphens "-", Full=stops ".", commas "," or other punctuation characters are treated identically as a space. Therefore, searching PA=(New-York Uni.) is the same as searching PA=(New York Uni).

To broaden a keywords search, use Proximity operators.

Wn and WFn connectors

Use the Wn connector in a search request to specify that one word must occur within n words of the other in any order. Use WFn to only search forward.

For example, apple w5 pear would retrieve any document that contained apple within 5 words of pear in any order.

Apple wf5 pear would retrieve records where apple appears first, and pear will appear within 5 words after apple.

Other proximity operators

WF4	located within 4 words in this order	golf WF4 glove
near	near each other (within 5 words)	ski near boot
W1	adjacent in either order	motor W1 engine
[space]	adjacent in this order	fishing rod
Wp	within the same paragraph	diving wp oxygen

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SP= searches the full-text for words within SP=(diving and oxygen) the same paragraph

It is also possible to use not in front of proximity operators WFn and Wp. E.g.

TAC=(apple notWF5 pie) will find patent families where apple appears anywhere in the TAC, but not if it is within 5 words of pie.

TAC=(3D print* notwo laser) will find patent families where 3D print* appears anywhere in the TAC, but not if it is within the same paragraph as laser.

Proximity Rule

Wn/wfn where n is the number of keywords/terms from the term before it in the query.

Example 1

TA=(planar w1 resist)

Finds: both words next to each other in any order:

o 1 producing a planar resist structure

 $\frac{0}{1}$ frictionally resist planar movement

Example 2

TA=(planar w2 resist)

Finds the same as Example 1 but also search terms separated by one additional word, i.e. within 2 words of each other:

012parts resist relative, planar separation

 $\frac{0}{2}$ the non-planar photo-resist surface

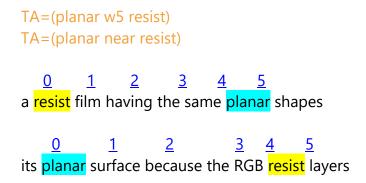
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Finds the same as Example 1 but also search terms separated by up to two additional words, i.e. within 3 words of each other:

Example 4

Finds the same as Example 1 but also search terms separated by up to four additional words, i.e. within 5 words of each other:



Searching multiple terms in proximity

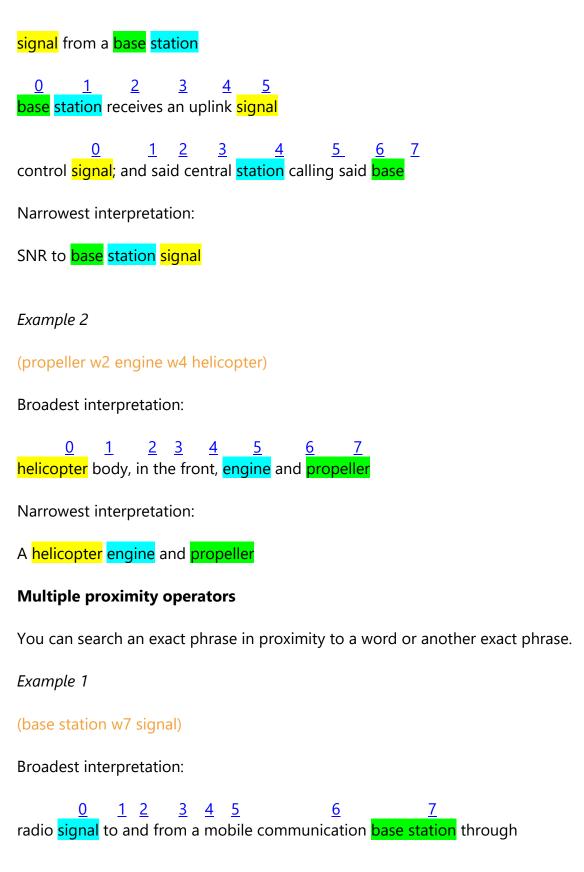
If you would like to combine additional Wn connectors, each proximity operator refers to the proximity to the term preceding the operator.

Example 1

(base w3 station w5 signal)

Broadest interpretation:

0 1 2 3 4

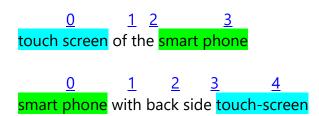


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 $\underline{0}$ $\underline{1}$ $\underline{2}$ $\underline{3}$ $\underline{4}$ $\underline{5}$ $\underline{6}$ $\underline{7}$ base station, in some embodiments, changes its pilot signal generation

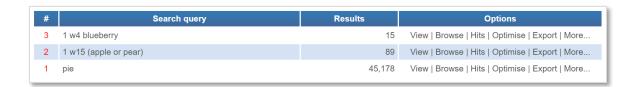
Example 2

(smart phone w4 touch screen)



Proximity operators with search query numbers

It is possible to combine previous search steps with proximity operators or a previous search step with new keywords/terms:



Contact us

If you have any queries about searching with proximity operators in PatBase, please contact support@minesoft.com, or call us on +44 (0)20 8404 0651.