



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

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

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* notwp 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:

producing a ⁰planar ¹resist structure

frictionally ⁰resist ¹planar 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:

parts ⁰resist ¹relative, ²planar separation

the non-⁰planar ¹photo-²resist surface

Example 3

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:

TA=(planar w3 resist)

the electrophoretic 0 resist. The non-1 2 3 planar surface

fluid, 0 planar 1 fins that 2 3 resist the flow

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:

TA=(planar w5 resist)

TA=(planar near resist)

a 0 resist 1 film having the same 2 3 4 5 planar shapes

its 0 planar 1 surface because the RGB 2 3 4 5 resist layers

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

signal from a base station

0 1 2 3 4 5
base station receives an uplink signal

0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7
control signal; and said central station calling said base

Narrowest interpretation:

SNR to base station signal

Example 2

(propeller w2 engine w4 helicopter)

Broadest interpretation:

0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7
helicopter body, in the front, engine and propeller

Narrowest interpretation:

A helicopter engine and propeller

Multiple proximity operators

You can search an exact phrase in proximity to a word or another exact phrase.

Example 1

(base station w7 signal)

Broadest interpretation:

0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7
radio signal to and from a mobile communication base station through

0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7
base station, in some embodiments, changes its pilot signal generation

Example 2

(smart phone w4 touch screen)

0 1 2 3
touch screen of the smart phone

0 1 2 3 4
smart phone with back side 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:

#	Search query	Results	Options
3	1 w4 blueberry	15	View Browse Hits Optimise Export More...
2	1 w15 (apple or pear)	89	View Browse Hits Optimise Export More...
1	pie	45,178	View Browse Hits Optimise Export More...

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.