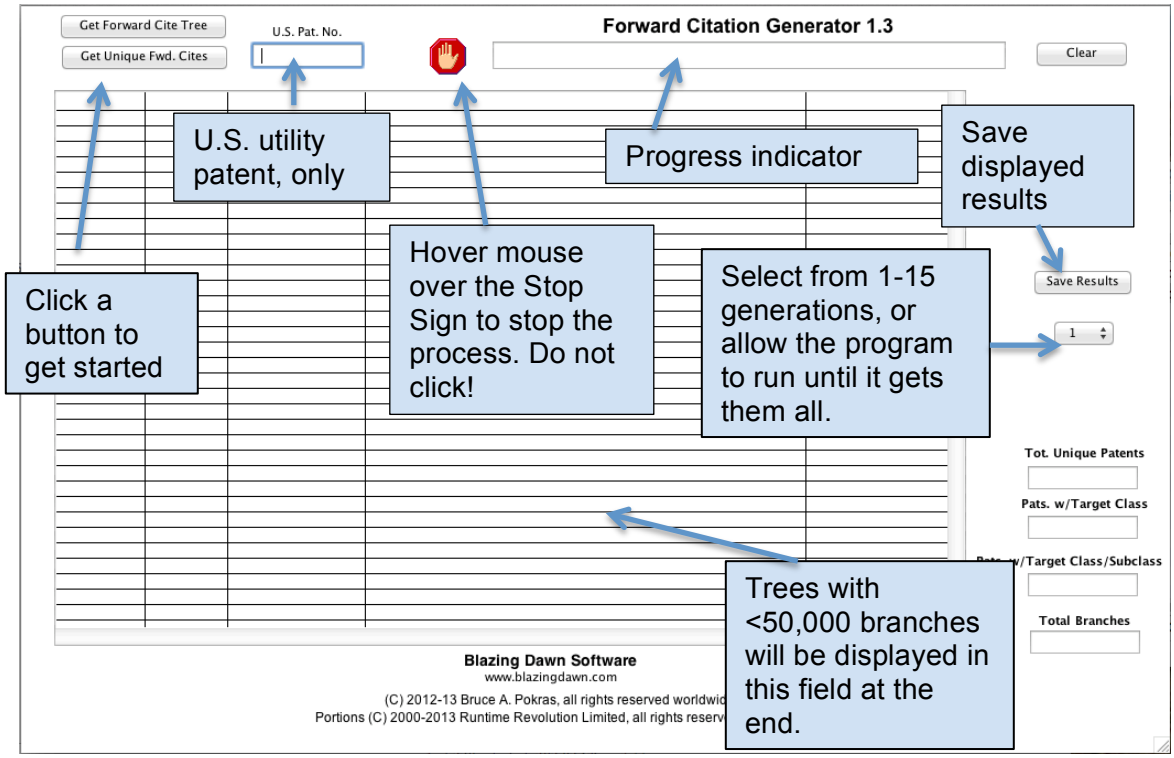
Forward Citation Generator 1.3

By
Bruce A. Pokras
Blazing Dawn Software
www.blazingdawn.com

Generating the forward citation tree

The Forward Citation Generator application runs very simply, as follows:



The “Forward Citation Tree” and the “Unique Forward Citations” are processed the same, but are displayed differently.

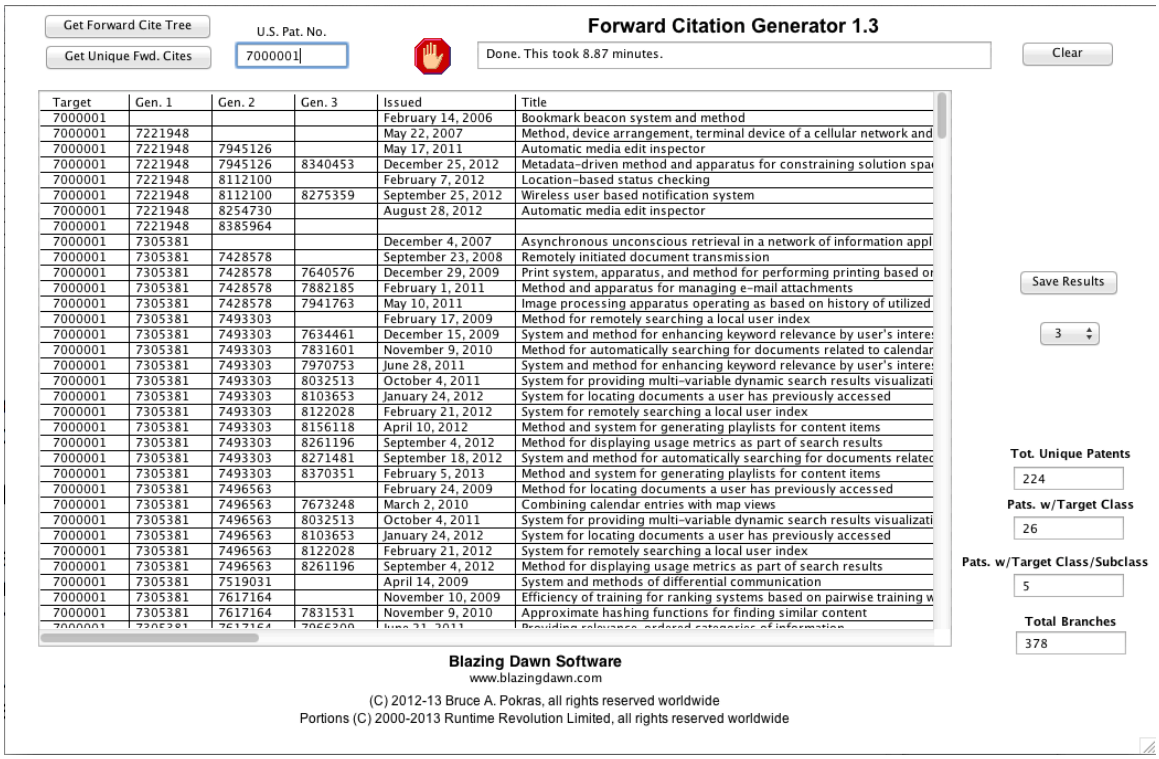
Once started, there are two steps to the process:

1) forward citations for the target patent and for all of the patents in each succeeding generation of forward citations are obtained; and
2) the full text of every patent is downloaded and the basic bibliographic data is extracted.

Each forward citation will include its patent number, issue date, title, assignee, and a full description of the main class/subclass (make sure that a text file called “Patent Grabber US Class Table.txt” is in the same folder as the Forward Citation Generator).

Forward Citation Tree

If there are less than 50,000 branches in the forward citation tree, you will see something like the following:



Target	Gen. 1	Gen. 2	Gen. 3	Issued	Title
7000001				February 14, 2006	Bookmark beacon system and method
7000001	7221948			May 22, 2007	Method, device arrangement, terminal device of a cellular network and
7000001	7221948	7945126		May 17, 2011	Automatic media edit inspector
7000001	7221948	7945126	8340453	December 25, 2012	Metadata-driven method and apparatus for constraining solution spa
7000001	7221948	8112100		February 7, 2012	Location-based status checking
7000001	7221948	8112100	8275359	September 25, 2012	Wireless user based notification system
7000001	7221948	8254730		August 28, 2012	Automatic media edit inspector
7000001	7221948	8385964			
7000001	7305381			December 4, 2007	Asynchronous unconscious retrieval in a network of information appl
7000001	7305381	7428578		September 23, 2008	Remotely initiated document transmission
7000001	7305381	7428578	7640576	December 29, 2009	Print system, apparatus, and method for performing printing based or
7000001	7305381	7428578	7882185	February 1, 2011	Method and apparatus for managing e-mail attachments
7000001	7305381	7428578	7941763	May 10, 2011	Image processing apparatus operating as based on history of utilized
7000001	7305381	7493303		February 17, 2009	Method for remotely searching a local user index
7000001	7305381	7493303	7634461	December 15, 2009	System and method for enhancing keyword relevance by user's interes
7000001	7305381	7493303	7831601	November 9, 2010	Method for automatically searching for documents related to calendar
7000001	7305381	7493303	7970753	June 28, 2011	System and method for enhancing keyword relevance by user's interes
7000001	7305381	7493303	8032513	October 4, 2011	System for providing multi-variable dynamic search results visualizati
7000001	7305381	7493303	8103653	January 24, 2012	System for locating documents a user has previously accessed
7000001	7305381	7493303	8122028	February 21, 2012	System for remotely searching a local user index
7000001	7305381	7493303	8156118	April 10, 2012	Method and system for generating playlists for content items
7000001	7305381	7493303	8261196	September 4, 2012	Method for displaying usage metrics as part of search results
7000001	7305381	7493303	8271481	September 18, 2012	System and method for automatically searching for documents relatec
7000001	7305381	7493303	8370351	February 5, 2013	Method and system for generating playlists for content items
7000001	7305381	7496563		February 24, 2009	Method for locating documents a user has previously accessed
7000001	7305381	7496563	7673248	March 2, 2010	Combining calendar entries with map views
7000001	7305381	7496563	8032513	October 4, 2011	System for providing multi-variable dynamic search results visualizati
7000001	7305381	7496563	8103653	January 24, 2012	System for locating documents a user has previously accessed
7000001	7305381	7496563	8122028	February 21, 2012	System for remotely searching a local user index
7000001	7305381	7496563	8261196	September 4, 2012	Method for displaying usage metrics as part of search results
7000001	7305381	7519031		April 14, 2009	System and methods of differential communication
7000001	7305381	7617164		November 10, 2009	Efficiency of training for ranking systems based on pairwise training w
7000001	7305381	7617164	7831531	November 9, 2010	Approximate hashing functions for finding similar content

The columns cannot be resized. They are only for your initial review. You can scroll to the right to see the columns that are not currently visible. Save the results as a text file by clicking the “Save Results” button.

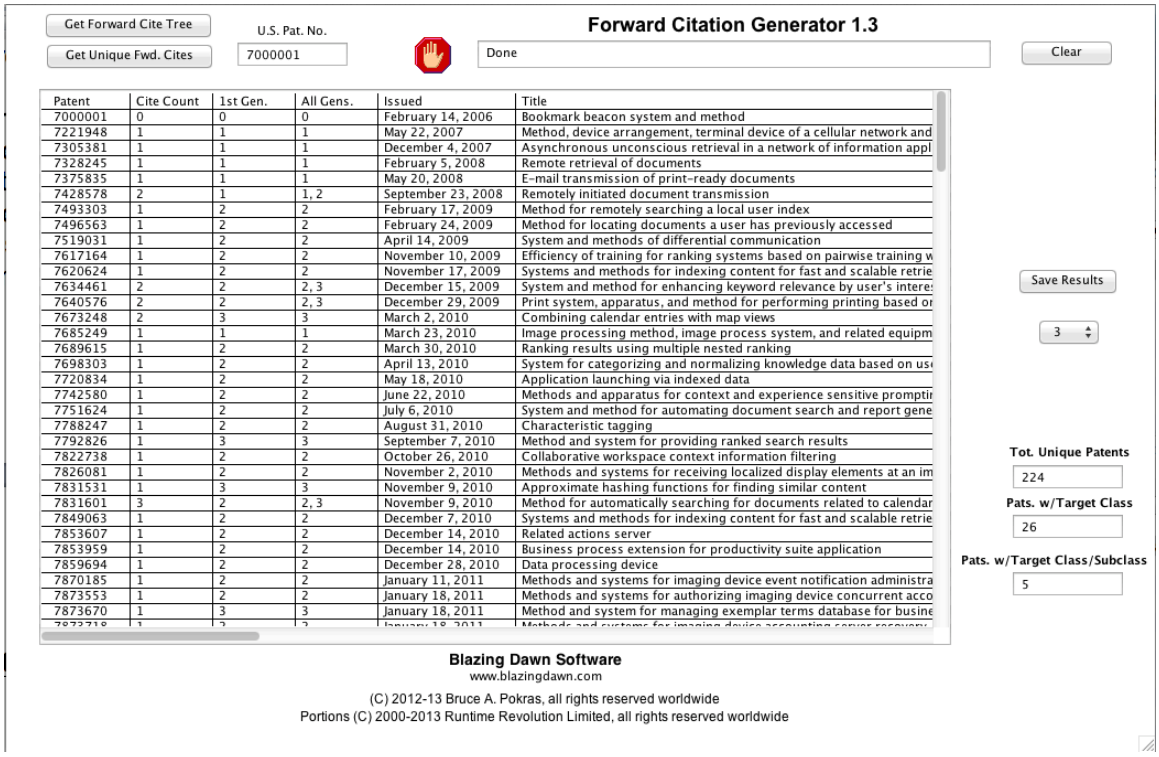
If there are more than 50,000 branches in the forward citation tree, the results will not be displayed in the field. Instead, you will be offered the option of directly saving the results as a text file. The default file name will be “[patent number] forward cites.txt” and the default location will be in your “Documents” folder (Mac) or “My Documents” folder (Windows). However, you may change the file name and location to whatever you wish.

There are statistical data fields provided to the right of the results field. Those will always be filled in regardless of the number of branches. Those fields are:

- total number of unique patents in the tree
- the number of unique patents in the tree that are in the same main class as the target patent
- the number of unique patents in the tree that are in the same main class/subclass as the target patent
- the total number of branches in the entire forward citation tree

Unique Forward Citations

The results will look like the following:



Patent	Cite Count	1st Gen.	All Gens.	Issued	Title
7000001	0	0	0	February 14, 2006	Bookmark beacon system and method
7221948	1	1	1	May 22, 2007	Method, device arrangement, terminal device of a cellular network and
7305381	1	1	1	December 4, 2007	Asynchronous unconscious retrieval in a network of information appl
7328245	1	1	1	February 5, 2008	Remote retrieval of documents
7375835	1	1	1	May 20, 2008	E-mail transmission of print-ready documents
7428578	2	1	1, 2	September 23, 2008	Remotely initiated document transmission
7493303	1	2	2	February 17, 2009	Method for remotely searching a local user index
7496563	1	2	2	February 24, 2009	Method for locating documents a user has previously accessed
7519031	1	2	2	April 14, 2009	System and methods of differential communication
7617164	1	2	2	November 10, 2009	Efficiency of training for ranking systems based on pairwise training w
7620624	1	2	2	November 17, 2009	Systems and methods for indexing content for fast and scalable retrie
7634461	2	2	2, 3	December 15, 2009	System and method for enhancing keyword relevance by user's interes
7640576	2	2	2, 3	December 29, 2009	Print system, apparatus, and method for performing printing based or
7673248	2	3	3	March 2, 2010	Combining calendar entries with map views
7685249	1	1	1	March 23, 2010	Image processing method, image process system, and related equipm
7689615	1	2	2	March 30, 2010	Ranking results using multiple nested ranking
7698303	1	2	2	April 13, 2010	System for categorizing and normalizing knowledge data based on use
7720834	1	2	2	May 18, 2010	Application launching via indexed data
7742580	1	2	2	June 22, 2010	Methods and apparatus for context and experience sensitive promptir
7751624	1	2	2	July 6, 2010	System and method for automating document search and report gene
7788247	1	2	2	August 31, 2010	Characteristic tagging
7792826	1	3	3	September 7, 2010	Method and system for providing ranked search results
7822738	1	2	2	October 26, 2010	Collaborative workspace context information filtering
7826081	1	2	2	November 2, 2010	Methods and systems for receiving localized display elements at an im
7831531	1	3	3	November 9, 2010	Approximate hashing functions for finding similar content
7831601	3	2	2, 3	November 9, 2010	Method for automatically searching for documents related to calendar
7849063	1	2	2	December 7, 2010	Systems and methods for indexing content for fast and scalable retrie
7853607	1	2	2	December 14, 2010	Related actions server
7853959	1	2	2	December 14, 2010	Business process extension for productivity suite application
7859694	1	2	2	December 28, 2010	Data processing device
7870185	1	2	2	January 11, 2011	Methods and systems for imaging device event notification administra
7873553	1	2	2	January 18, 2011	Methods and systems for authorizing imaging device concurrent acco
7873670	1	3	3	January 18, 2011	Method and system for managing exemplar terms database for busine

The main class/subclass and its full description are not visible in the graphic, but can be shown by scrolling to the right.

In this format, the “Patent” column only contains the unique patents that would be in the “tree” format. The “Cite Count” column shows the number of times that a patent would appear in the “tree” format. The “1st Gen. column shows the generation in which the patent would first appear in the “tree” format. That allows you to filter and sort the list by generation number in a spreadsheet.

The “All Gens.” column shows all of the generation numbers in which the patent would appear in the “tree” format. The “Total Branches” are not calculated when using the Unique Forward Cites feature.

Working with a Spreadsheet

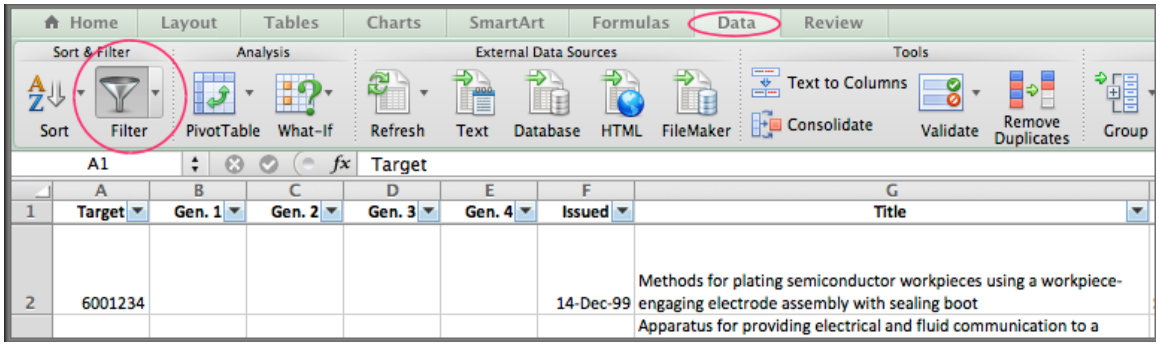
This is an example of using a spreadsheet with the results of the “Forward Citation Tree” function. You can import and work with the results of the “Unique Forward Citations” function in a similar manner.

Start EXCEL (or another spreadsheet application) and use it to open the text file that you saved. For EXCEL on Windows, make sure the “Files of type” dropdown says either “All Files” or “Text Files”. Otherwise, you will not see your text file. On a Mac, make sure the “Enable” dropdown says either “All readable documents” or “Text files.”

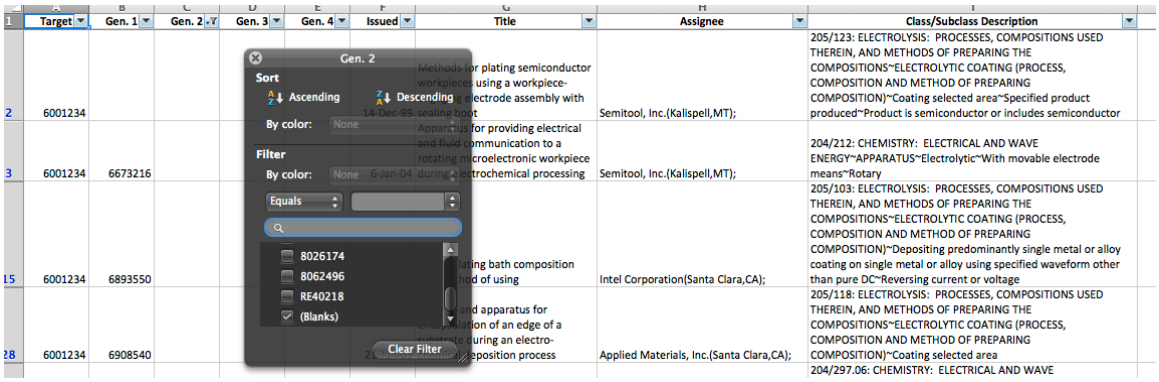
When you select your text file, you will be presented with a Text Import wizard. Make sure that the “Delimited” radio button is highlighted and click “Next.” On the next screen, make sure that “Tab Delimited” is checked. Your data should be shown as being lined up in columns. At this point you can click “Finish” since none of the other options that you would be presented with are necessary.

Adjust your column widths and wrap the text in the fields that have a lot of text, such as the title and class/subclass columns. Now you are ready to play with your results.

One thing you can do is to filter your results so that you can study the data in small pieces. To do that, select the “Data” tab at the top of the screen and click on “Filter” as shown below (the graphic is from a Mac, but the same options are available under Windows). That creates little dropdown menus at the top of each column as shown in the graphic.



To show only Generation 1, filter Generation 2 to show only blanks by clicking on the dropdown menu at the top of the Generation 2 column, uncheck “Select All”, scroll to the bottom of the list of checkboxes and check “(Blanks)” as shown below.



That shows only Generation 1. To add in the Generation 2 data, click the “Clear Filter” button that is at the lower-left corner of the Generation 2 filter, and then filter Generation 3 to show only blanks. In this way you can add one generation at a time and see how the tree develops.

Alternatively, you can look at the forward citation trees for each Generation 1 patent individually. Make sure that you have cleared any existing filters. Then bring up the Generation 1 filter, uncheck “Select All” and check the checkbox next to the one patent whose tree you wish to see. After reviewing that tree, uncheck the checkbox next to that first patent and choose another.

<u>What is this application good for?</u>

The number of Generation 1 forward citations has been suggested to be a rough measure of the importance of an invention. But what about the succeeding generations? Is that data useful for anything? That is why I am releasing the Forward Citation Generator for free, to see if anyone can find a use for such information.

The license requires you to provide attribution to the Forward Citation Generator if you provide the data that it generates to others, or if you provide opinions or conclusions that you develop from using the Forward Citation Generator to others. While not required by the license, I would be very grateful if you could provide me with a link to or a copy of anything that you publish based upon your use of the Forward Citation Generator.

Thanks very much,

Bruce A. Pokras