

obtain from the candidate word one or more lookup variants using one or more of said deletion, insertion, replacement, and transposition operations;

evaluate one or more of said candidate word and said lookup variants against said at least one variant dictionary hash table; and

indicate a candidate correction if there is at least one match in the at least one variant dictionary hash table.

24. An article of manufacture for correcting spelling of at least one candidate word, comprising a machine readable medium containing one or more programs which when executed implement the steps of:

obtaining at least one variant dictionary hash table based on variants of a set of known correctly spelled words,

wherein said variants are obtained by applying one or more of a deletion, insertion, replacement, and transposition operation on said correctly spelled words;

obtaining from the candidate word one or more lookup variants using one or more of said deletion, insertion, replacement, and transposition operations;

evaluating one or more of said candidate word and said lookup variants against said at least one variant dictionary hash table; and

indicating a candidate correction if there is at least one match in the at least one variant dictionary hash table.

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