

Review of: "A method to reduce false positives in a patent query"

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Potential competing interests: No potential competing interests to declare.

This manuscript demonstrate an network-based attempt to eliminate false positive results from patent searches, without requiring the searcher to be an expert in the search field. The methods employed are apparently those used for many othe rnetwork-based approaches, e.g., in network medicine and network pharmacology.

In what seems to be the methods section (3.1, Creating a classification network) it is not described which software was used to build the networks. For those in Fig. 3 it was Intellixir according to the figure legend; was this also the case with Fig. 4? The WIPO offers the IPCCAT tool for this purpose.

Section 4.1 says, "...figure 3 has eight components: the seven components on the top right and the large component next to it." This does not seem to describe what Fig. 3 shows.

In Fig. 4, the unconnected community "urinals" is not placed on the upper left (as mentioned in the text), but on the right.

#IPCs are used as the core classifiers. The discussion does not mention the highly important fact that IPCs are fluid; the IPC Revision Working Group issues a new version at the beginning of every calendar year. While many of these revisions are extensions of the system, some are reclassifications. This means that results of an IPC-based search across a period of many years are not fully comparable; only snapshots are.