

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

Guozhong Cao

Potential competing interests: No potential competing interests to declare.

The paper presents a methodology for reducing the number of false positives in patent search results through the creation of a classification network and network analysis. However, several aspects of the paper could benefit from further discussion or clarification:

1. It is crucial to have clear definitions of false positives and true positives in the search results. The current approach is suitable for excluding non-technology-related patents, but the paper does not address potential limitations when the search is intended for functionality or spans multiple domains.
2. The authors argue that the choice between IPC and CPC classifications hinges on the technological domain. Providing more specific guidelines or examples would assist readers in making this choice in their practice.
3. The authors recognize a limitation of the method, particularly in dense classification networks often found in chemistry-related fields. They propose the use of network reduction techniques such as minimum spanning trees. However, more specific instructions on how to carry out this reduction, or examples of successful applications of these techniques, would be beneficial.
4. The paper concludes with the suggestion that the method could be easily implemented in recommender systems and patent query systems, and potentially extended to semantic networks for retrieving other types of data. Delving deeper into this point, by discussing potential challenges or considerations for implementation, would be valuable.

Overall, while the paper is of high quality and the methodology is thoroughly described, providing more details or examples in certain areas could strengthen it further.