Matheo Patent Software provides a desktop application that is designed to search, retrieve and analyze patent data from the USPTO and the Espacenet (EPO) databases.

The software has the following features

* Search by Keywords: title, summary, inventor, patent applicant, patent number, classification code.
* Requested information can be downloaded to the local databases. and contains information on bibliography, Abstract, Claims, Description, pictures & INPADOC (International Patent Documentation).
* For a given search, the “Patent Analysis” tab allows you to group the results based on technology, Country, Author , Date, pictures & INPADOC
* The downloaded patents can be categorized into different projects on your local machine, so that you may edit the patent and update it for missing information.
* A graphical representation allows for the patents to be grouped based on patent applicant, inventors, classification codes, countries etc.
* Allows for the project data to be exported in different formats like Excel, PDF, Word, images etc.

**Issues with the application**

* GUI: Matheo’s GUI is outdated and unwieldy. It looks and feels like a 90’s application. Often the modal windows generated by the application are too big, so much so that, unless you are crafty, the application becomes unusable.
* User Classes/Types : The features listed by the application are useful for a mature and experienced professional. The application lacks any innate intelligence.
* Patent Coverage: Matheo has coverage of the US and European patents but lacks coverage of patents created by the Asian countries. WIPO (world intellectual property organization drafted by U.N.) has coverage for Asian Patents as well.
* Search: Matheo does not have the search capability touted by some of their competitors such as
  + Metadata search: Patent filings can be searched using metadata such as classification codes, backward and forward citations, information about inventors, current and previous patent owners, and various dates. Each of these fields can be individually searched and grouped as desired.
  + Semantic or natural language: Since patent filings can use different terminology for the same technology, semantic search allows searching on the concepts within text, rather than specific keywords. This often enables finding "hidden patents" that are missed by using keywords.
  + Filtering (Faceted Search or search within search): the result set returned can be further filtered by patent owner, jurisdiction, patent status, date ranges, and many other data fields. Each filter shows the quantity of each option, allowing the user to see the most relevant options and to simply click on the chosen selections. Current application provides faceted search based on country, date, technology, author and many others.
* Building Search Strings: Searching for patents is often fraught with irrelevant results. This is because the user does not know how to construct the search string. Application will provide means to construct the search string using the WIPO manual and carefully constructed keywords. WIPO has an extensive method of classifying documents.

**Portfolio Creation**

Corporate citizens can create their own IP portfolios. Patent portfolios needs to be maintained and protected. Additionally they can create portfolios of their clients or competitors. Patents within these portfolios can be reproofed and corrected to standardize the data for research purposes.

**Intelligent Analysis**

The application provides the following features to achieve this *(IP Analytics*)

* **IP Audit:** Audit to catalogue IP Assets and chronicle the patent filing activities. This will help identify areas in the companies IP portfolio that needs to be bolstered.
* **Patent Landscaping:**  monitor and identify recent patent filing activities of competitors. Identify the emerging technology strategies of potential competitors to make an appropriate strategic response. It provide a snap-shot of the patent situation of a specific technology, either within a given country or region, or globally. They can inform policy discussions, strategic research planning or technology transfer.

The application also allows for intelligent searches based on the patent in question to identify

* **Novelty** :  To determine if the potential invention is patentable based on the published prior art
* **Validity:** The purpose of the search is either to validate the enforceability of a patent’s claims or to invalidate one or more claims of a patent, respectively.
* **Infringement:** Search seeks to confirm that a new product won’t infringe upon any in-force patents.
* **Clearance (freedom to operate):** searching for patents that you might infringe on.
* **State of the art :**  Identify the latest patents in the area of research

**Patent Databases**

As mentioned earlier Mateo uses the European and American databases, but there are many others available, some free, others are paid services.

The application can be made more useful by incorporating multiple databases for search. Commercial databases available are listed below

*Public Databases*

USPTO (for state of the art searches), ESPACENET, freepatentsonline.com, WIPO, google.com/patents

*Private Databases*

Delphion, micropatent

Most of the above databases provide API services to access the data.

The application can be deployed as a SAAS product, thus providing visibility to both corporate customers as well as patent offices (Patent search and IP analytics Firms).