PATENTS AND THE DIFFUSION OF TECHNICAL INFORMATION

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Abstract

Does the disclosure requirement of the patent system encourage the diffusion of inventions? This paper builds a simple model where firms choose between patents and trade secrecy to protect inventions. Diffusion is not necessarily more likely with a patent system nor is the "market for technology" necessarily greater.

Keywords: Patents, Innovation, Diffusion, Trade Secrecy

JEL Codes: K3, L5, O3

The complete paper may be obtained at: