Expired Patents

Saurabh Vishnubhokat

This paper presents a comprehensive empirical description of the public domain of technologies that have recently passed out of patent protection. From a new dataset of over 200,000 patents that expired during the 2008–2013 period, the study examines technological, geographical, and procedural traits of newly public inventions as a basis for describing the social value associated with their competitive use. Moreover, comparing these inventions to inventions newly patented during the same period enables more specific discussion of how the balance of innovation in the U.S. has changed in recent years.