

The flow of ideas from the non-patent literature to the patent literature

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How long does it take an idea in the non-patent literature (e.g., scholarly literature) to be recognized in the patent literature? Is this time delay increasing or decreasing over the last several decades? For which fields of technology and citation type is this increasing or decreasing? This project aims to answer these questions in hopes of gaining a better understanding of technology transfer from research to commercialization in the broader economy. To answer this question, 92 million patent citations and 18 million non-patent citations were extracted from the US patent citation graph. For non-patent citations, the time delay is increasing monotonically over time. For patent citations, the time delay is more complicated and actually decreases in the most recent decades.