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OCE’s artificial intelligence (AI) report and patent dataset

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Background

- AI has progressed rapidly in recent years, generating considerable interest among academic researchers and policymakers.
- Empirical evidence on the determinants and impacts of AI inventions is still limited (Raj and Seamans 2018; Felten et al. 2021).
- The Office of the Chief Economist, in collaboration with other USPTO business units, released two new resources:
  1. An “Inventing AI” report (October 2020) describing the diffusion of AI as seen through U.S. patent documents
  2. A new public dataset (June 2021) identifying AI patents and pre-grant publications that contain AI from among 13.2 million total patent documents
Artificial intelligence (AI) is increasingly important for invention, diffusing broadly across technologies, inventor-patentees, organizations, and geography.

In the 16 years from 2002 to 2018, annual AI patent applications increased by more than 100%, rising from 30,000 to more than 60,000 annually. Over the same period, the share of all patent applications that contain AI grew from 9% to nearly 16%.

Patents containing AI appeared in about 9% of all technology subclasses used by the USPTO in 1976 and spread to more than 42% by 2018.

The full report is available at: https://www.uspto.gov/ip-policy/economic-research/publications/featured-ip-infographic
AIPD highlights

- Used “AI to find AI” – a machine learning (ML) model was built to identify AI in patent documents
- Examiners with expertise in AI evaluated a random sample to validate the predictions
- Artificial intelligence (AI) is increasingly important for invention, diffusing broadly across technologies, inventor-patentees, organizations, and geography
- OCE’s ML approach achieved superior overall performance relative to a variety of benchmarks from the academic and policy literatures
- Both the set of patent documents predicted to contain AI and the training data were released to facilitate replication and follow-on work
Thank you!

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