

Geographical Proximity of Inter-Organizational Collaboration *

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Abstract

The purpose of this paper is to understand how the geographical distances related to inter-organizational collaboration, which causes knowledge spillover and force of agglomeration. Using the Japanese patent database, proximity of collaboration is examined through two distance-based methods, one of which gives a statistical test of proximity tendency and the other gives an extent of tendency, comparing realized collaborators with the potential ones. The results are followings. First, proximity of collaboration is found to be significant in 5% level. Second, the distances of collaboration are much shorter than those of patent citation which is often used to measure the knowledge spillover. Third, the extent of proximity tendency is not weakened during these two decades despite the prevalence of the internet technology. These results suggest that the implicit knowledge spillover is one of the important factors forcing agglomerations if we assume that collaboration causes implicit knowledge spillover while patent citation causes explicit one.

Key words: Knowledge spillover; Agglomeration; Collaboration Network

JEL codes: R11

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