[title]

Examining Patent Examiners: Present Bias, Procrastination and Time Pressure

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[abstract]

This research studies present-biased procrastination of U.S. patent examiners. We describe patent examination work as a problem of intertemporal effort allocation by the agent who must complete a task in a fixed deadline, and adopt the standard two-parameter model ($\beta$-$\delta$ model) to characterize a conflict between short-run and long-run preferences. We apply the model to a large-scale administrative data from the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office with information on daily transaction history of patent applications in the field of Biotechnology and Organic Chemistry. The empirical results support evidence for procrastination by present-biased patent examiners.