

Patents and Universities

Some Reflections

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Relating Intellectual Property and Commons

Every use of Intellectual Property
depletes the Intellectual Commons

MORE IP = LESS COMMONS

Some comments

- Very seldom this well-known relationship is stated explicitly
- We tend to value Property and relegate the Commons to a second plan
- The Commons are essential for the maintenance of a rich and dynamic environment to build and evolve information and innovation
- The Commons has to be at the base of any Incremental process of Innovation
- Examples of rich and powerful use of the Commons abound:
see Yochai Benkler's "The Wealth of Networks"
and his concept and analysis of Social Production

This calls for the construction of a new language,
valuing the Commons and showing its great importance,
especially in a University environment

A Proposal for (Brazilian) Universities

IP is important, but so is the Commons

Give the same exposition, importance and support to building IP and to enriching the Commons

(Brazilian) Universities should help every group to produce knowledge according to its vocation, whether or not they produce registered IP

The baseline is:

We can not afford to close either of these channels!

Software Patents

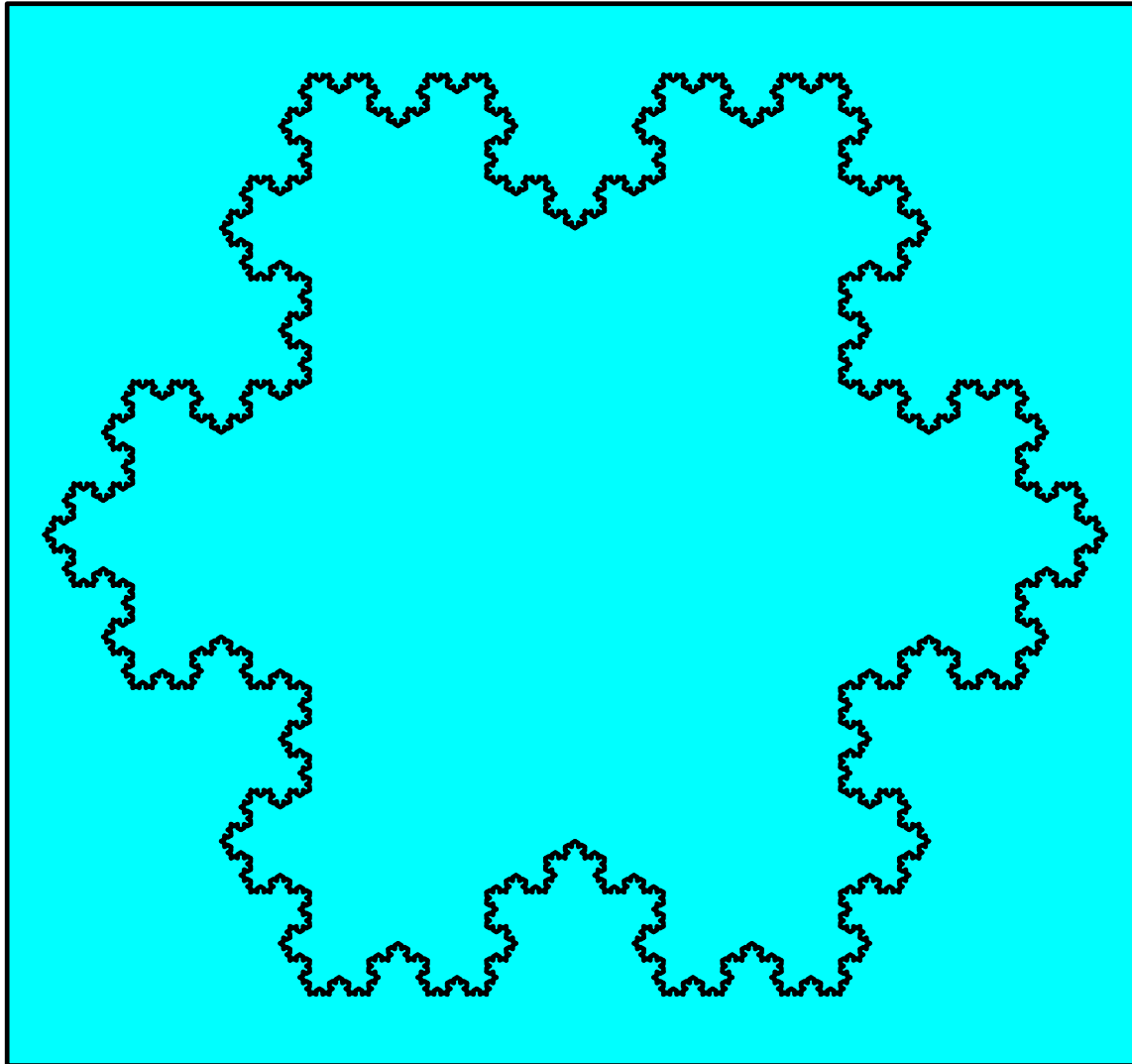
A particularly PERVERSE application of Intellectual Property

Please comment on Software Patents!

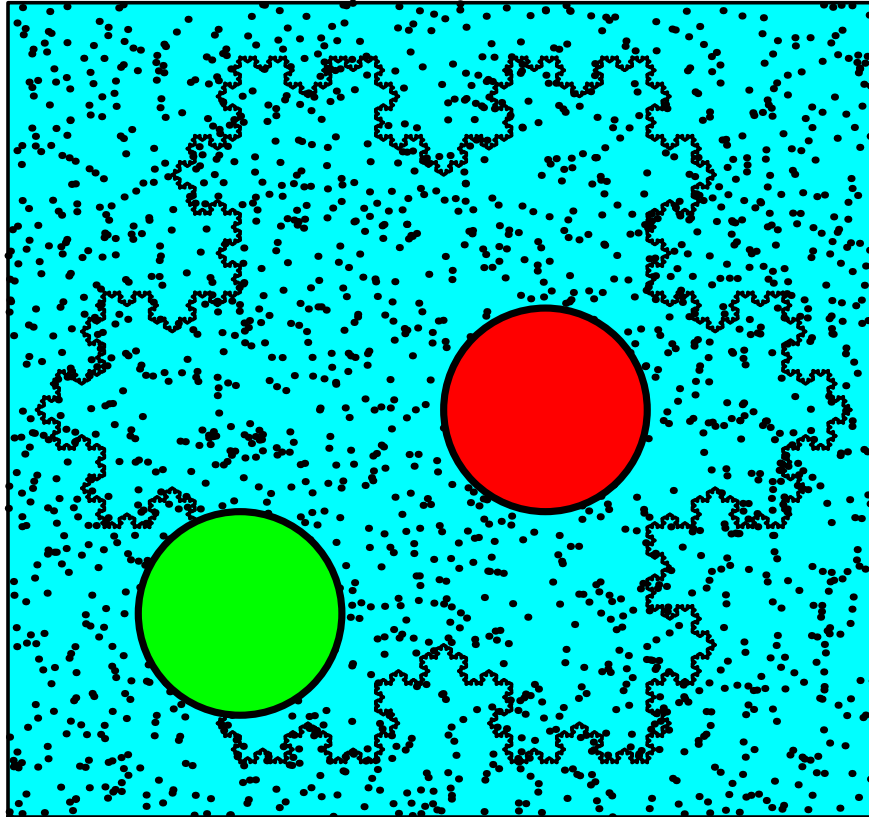
I would like to use a couple of minutes
to show why I think Software Patents are PERVERSE

(I apologize to those not familiar with computer programming)

The Noosphere with Freedom



The Noosphere with Software Patents



The Free Noosphere became a Mined Field!

16.000 CII patents are awarded annually in the USA (2004)

In a stable regime we will have at least

$20 \times 16.000 = 320.000$ mental mines to be avoided!

Annual cost of registration alone: 1.6BUS\$