

Evaluating and Comparing Publication Output Across Scientific Fields

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Universiteit Leiden
The Netherlands



This lecture presents the state-of-the-art of an advanced bibliometric methodology, fine-tuned to the specific demands of the evaluation of academic research

Construction of Indicators

*Acceptable, Valid, Robust, Reliable, Transparent
Measures of Research Impact*

*Comprehensiveness Across the Science-Based
Disciplines*

Identifying High Quality Research

*Distribution of impact within a department or
institute: 'quality profile'*

Basic Concept: How do we focus on 'quality'?

Scientific performance relates to achieved quality in the contribution to the increase of our knowledge ('scientific progress')

(1) as perceived by others: peer review

(2) as measured by advanced bibliometric analysis

(1) and (2) correlate (very) well at group level

Citing Publications

From other disciplines

From emerging fields

From research devoted to societal, economical and technological problems

From industry

From international top-groups

These all f(t)!! > Sleeping Beauties

Weight?

Cited Publications

- Very Large Databases (Morgan Kaufmann Publishers, San Francisco, 1997); A. Broder *et al.*, *Comput. Netw.* **33**, 309 (2000); P. L. Krapivsky, S. Redner, and F. Leyvraz, *Phys. Rev. Lett.* **85**, 4629 (2000); S. N. Dorogovtsev, J. F. F. Mendes, and A. N. Samukhin, *ibid.* **85**, 4633 (2000); A. Vazquez, *Europhys. Lett.* **54**, 430 (2001).
- [6] M. Faloutsos, P. Faloutsos, and C. Faloutsos, *Commun. Rev.* **29**, 251 (1999); G. Caldarelli, R. Marchetti, and L. Pietronero, *Europhys. Lett.* **52**, 386 (2000); A. Medina, I. Matta, and J. Byers, *Comput. Netw.* **30**, 18 (2000); R. Pastor-Satorras, A. Vazquez, and A. Vespignani, *cond-mat/0105161*; L. A. Adamic *et al.*, *Phys. Rev. E* **64**, 046135 (2001).
- [7] F. B. Reid, *A Short Course on Computer Viruses* (Wiley, New York, 1994); R. Pastor-Satorras and A. Vespignani, *Phys. Rev. Lett.* **86**, 103 (2001); *Phys. Rev. E* **63**, 066117 (2001).
- [8] F. Lillo, G. Caldarelli, L. A. Nunes Amaral, S. V. Buldyrev, and Y. A. Izrael (London) **411**, 907 (2001).
- [9] A.-L. Barabási and R. Albert, *Science* **286**, 509 (1999).
- [10] Y. Ijiri and H. A. Simon, *Sleeping Beauties and the Sizes of Business Firms* (North-Holland, Amsterdam, 1977).
- [11] G. Bianconi and A.-L. Barabasi, *Europhys. Lett.* **54**, 436 (2001).
- [12] A. F. J. Van Raan, *Scientometrics* **47**, 347 (2000).
- [13] We consider a modification to the network growth rule described earlier in the paper: at each time step t , the new node establishes m new links, where m is drawn from a power law distribution with exponent γ .
- [14] For $n(l) = \text{const}$, one recovers the scale-free model of Ref. [9].
- [15] It is known [11] that, for an exponential or fat-tailed distribution of fitness, the structure of the network becomes much more complex; in particular, the in-degree distribution is no longer a power law. Hence, we do not consider in this manuscript other shapes of the fitness distribution.
- [16] L. A. N. Amaral, A. Scala, M. Barthélémy, and H. E. Stanley, *Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. U.S.A.* **97**, 11 149 (2000).
- [17] H. A. Simon, *Models of Bounded Rationality: Empirically Grounded Economic Reason* (MIT Press, Cambridge, 1997).

No self-citations!

What do citations measure?

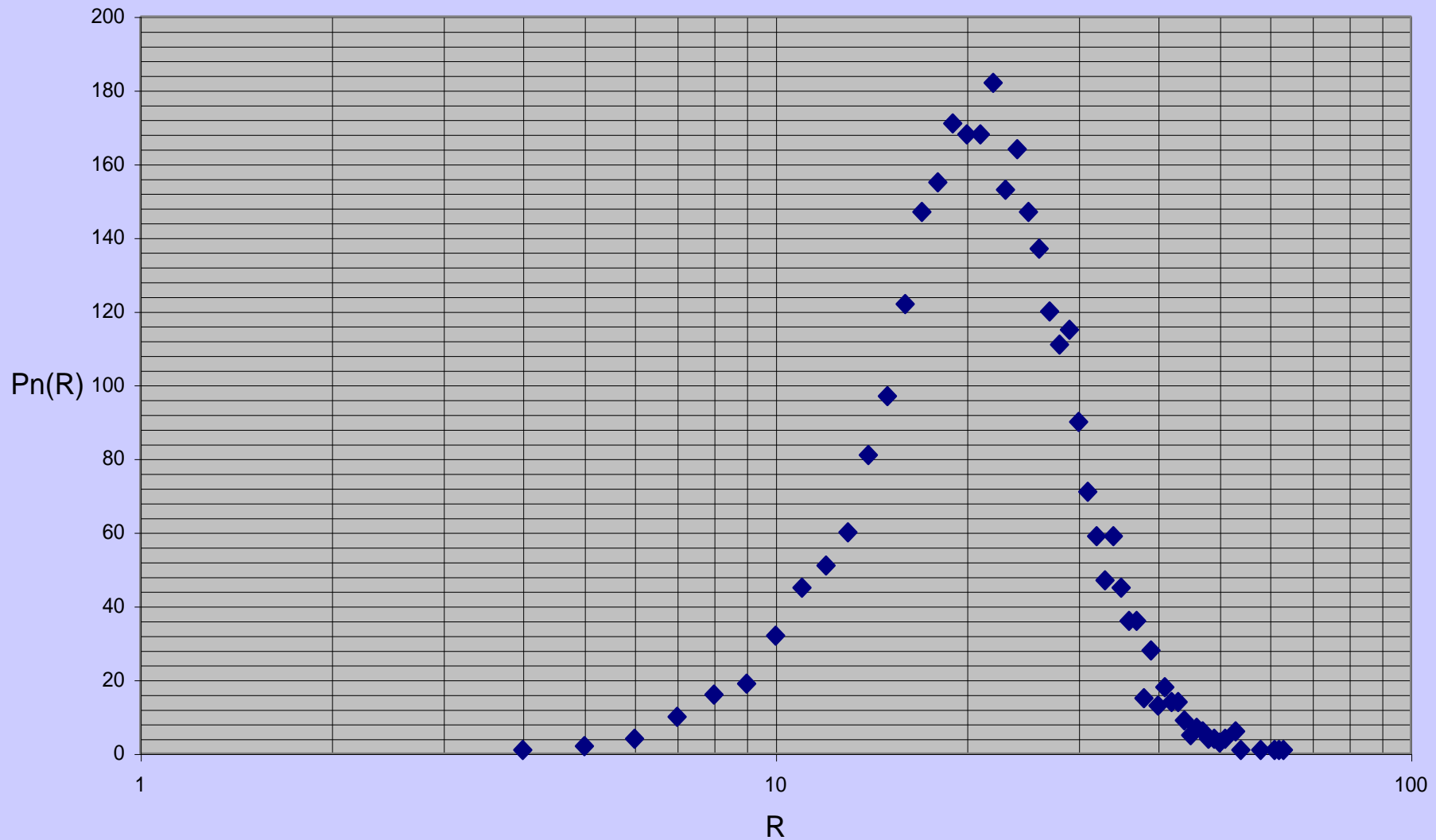
- Many studies show positive correlations between citations and qualitative judgments
- In principle it is valid to interpret citations in terms of intellectual influence which is an important aspect of scientific quality
- Thus, the concepts of citation impact and scientific quality do not coincide 'automatically'

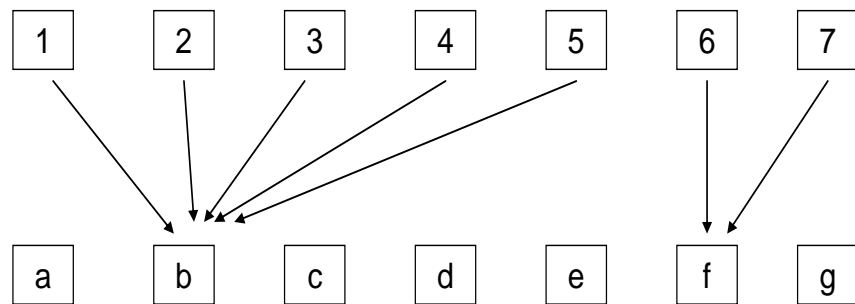
Qualitative versus quantitative assessment

peer review reputation may have strong influence
includes 'tacit knowledge' (e.g., instrument building)
includes credits: expectations, we believe that..., ahead of time...
takes products other than journals papers into account
fashion and hypes perhaps less influential

bibliometric analysis reputation much less influential
only 'codified knowledge'
no credits: only past performance, evidence-based
products other than journal papers less important
fashion and hypes perhaps more influential on the short term

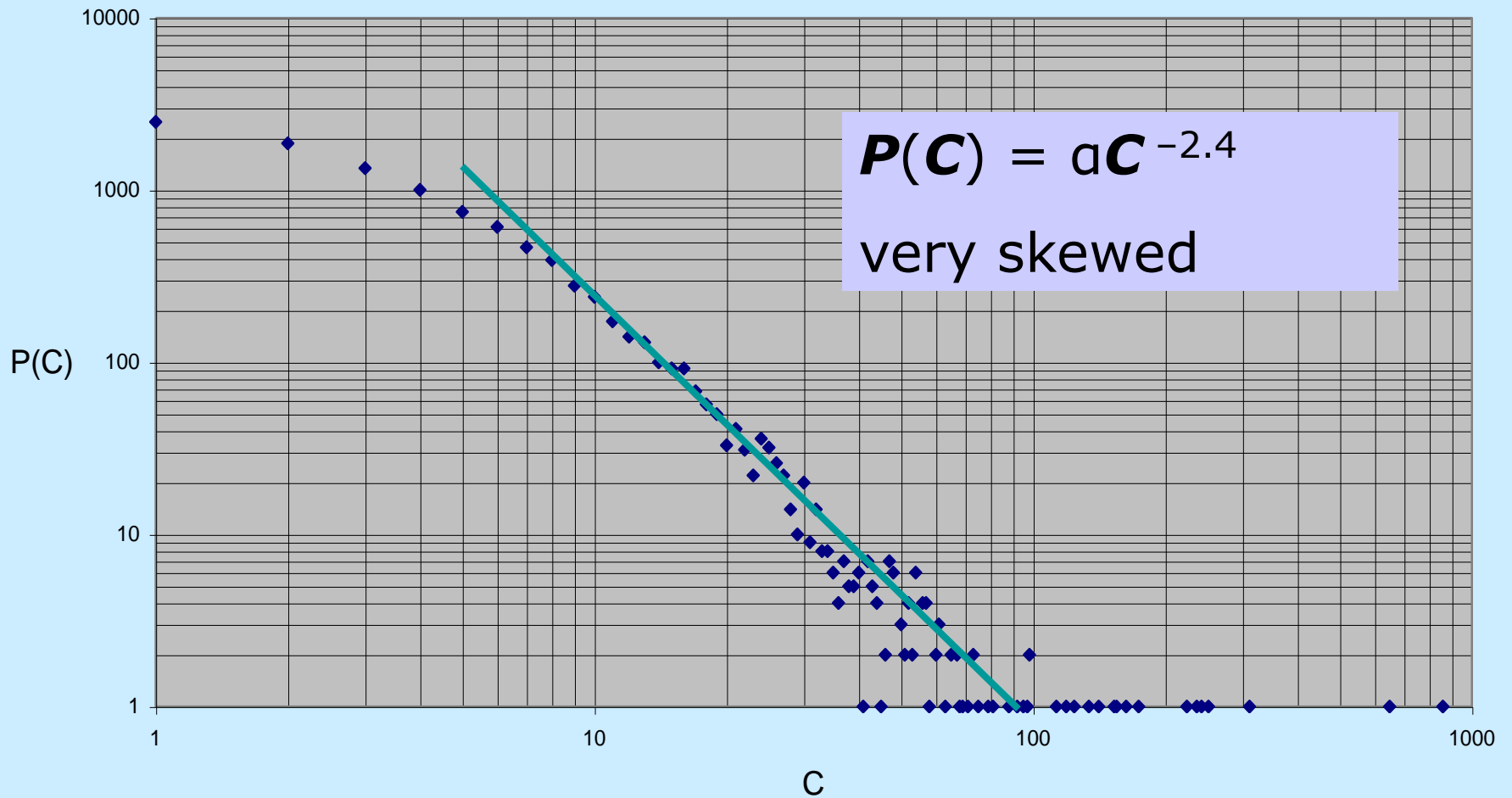
Number of publications with R refs
'normal' articles, total: 3,076, *Phys.Rev.Lett.* 2003





Citing and cited publications

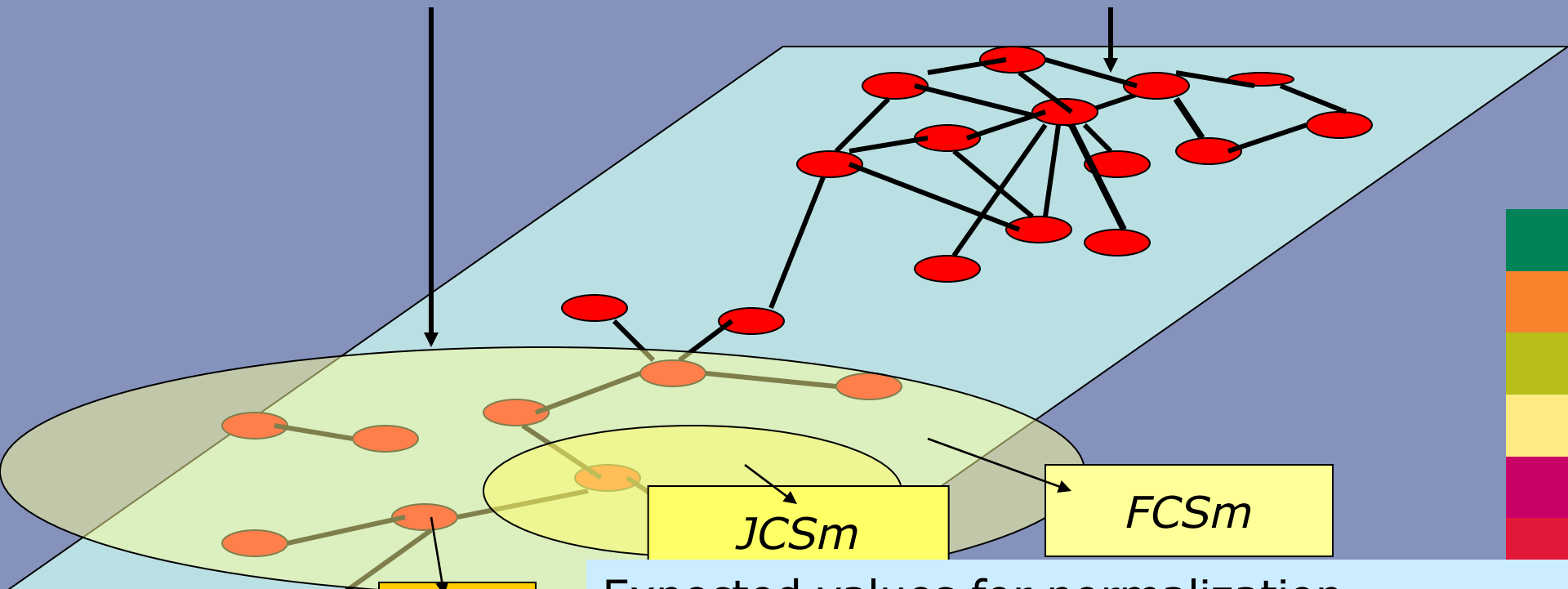
Number of publications with C citations: $P(C)$



Network of publications (nodes) linked by citations (edges)

Lower citation-density
*e.g., applied research,
social sciences*

Higher citation-density
*e.g., basic natural
medical research*



CPP

JCSm

FCSm

Expected values for normalization
Absolutely necessary but.....are they
appropriate?

Total publ universe

on-WoS publ:

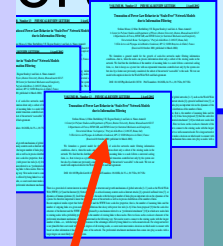
Books

Book chapters

on proc.

orts

lied
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*CWTS h
Reuters (Google Scholar, Google Book
*CWTS c Search

WoS cov
*CWTS b
to

within 5 years leading player?

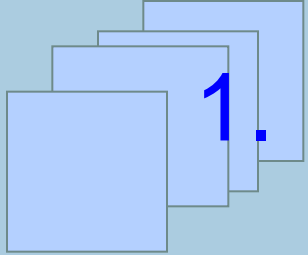
7/SIS

Example: Leiden University 2000-2005

INTERNAL COVERAGE OF THE CITATION INDEX BY MAIN FIELD							
<i>Main Field</i>	<i>P 00-05</i>	<i>Avg Nr Refs</i>	<i>Refs <1980</i>	<i>%Refs <1980</i>	<i>Refs Non-CI</i>	<i>Refs CI</i>	<i>%Refs CI</i>
CLINICAL MEDICINE	3,893	33.3	6,950	5%	11,637	110,945	91%
BIOL SCI: HUMANS	2,421	39.0	4,449	5%	6,447	83,588	93%
BIOL SCI: ANIMALS & PLANTS	754	41.2	5,638	18%	6,611	18,805	74%
MOLECULAR BIOLOGY & BIOCHEM	1,257	40.5	2,930	6%	3,968	44,001	92%
PHYSICS AND ASTRONOMY	1,492	36.7	4,898	9%	7,555	42,320	85%
CHEMISTRY	871	34.5	3,608	12%	3,717	22,693	86%
MATHEMATICS	233	21.5	957	19%	1,680	2,375	59%
GEOSCIENCES	134	40.4	578	11%	2,169	2,673	55%
APPLIED PHYSICS AND CHEMISTRY	514	24.7	1,382	11%	2,081	9,256	82%
ENGINEERING	373	21.5	686	9%	3,151	4,185	57%
MULTIDISCIPLINARY	126	30.5	215	6%	339	3,291	91%
ECONOMICS	35	38.9	160	12%	593	608	51%
PSYCHOLOGY, PSYCHIATRY & BEHAV SC	633	40.3	2,789	11%	7,296	15,406	68%
SOCIAL SCIENCES RELATED TO MEDICINE	292	28.9	597	7%	2,153	5,698	73%
OTHER SOCIAL SCIENCES	291	34.9	1,469	14%	5,649	3,047	35%
HUMANITIES & ARTS	220	38.7	2,477	29%	5,063	973	16%

CWTS applies three types of field definitions:

Journal



1.

Field = set of journals

'established fields'

scientific medium-grained structure

+ reference-based re-definition
(expansion) of fields

Main field: Medical & Life Sciences

Major field

BIOMEDICAL SCIENCES

ANATOMY & MORPHOLOGY
IMMUNOLOGY
INTEGRATIVE & COMPLEMENTARY MEDICINE
MEDICAL LABORATORY TECHNOLOGY
MEDICINE, RESEARCH & EXPERIMENTAL
NEUROIMAGING
NEUROSCIENCES
PHARMACOLOGY & PHARMACY
PHYSIOLOGY
RADIOLOGY, NUCLEAR MEDICINE & MEDICAL IMAGING
TOXICOLOGY
VIROLOGY

fields

journals

ANNALS OF THE NEW YORK ACADEMY OF SCIENCES
ANNALS DE GENETIQUE
ANNALES DE GENETIQUE ET DE SELECTION ANIMALE
ANNALS OF HUMAN GENETICS
ATTI ASSOCIAZIONE GENETICA ITALIANA
BEHAVIOR GENETICS
BIOCHEMICAL GENETICS
CANADIAN JOURNAL OF GENETICS AND CYTOLOGY
CANCER GENETICS AND CYTOGENETICS
CARYOLOGIA
CHROMOSOMA
CLINICAL GENETICS
CURRENT GENETICS
CYTOGENETICS AND CELL GENETICS
CYTOLOGIA
DEVELOPMENTAL GENETICS
ENVIRONMENTAL MUTAGENESIS
EVOLUTION
GENE
GENETICA
GENETICA POLONICA
GENETICAL RESEARCH
GENETICS
GENETIKA
HEREDITAS
HEREDITY
HUMAN BIOLOGY
HUMAN GENETICS
HUMAN HEREDITY
IMMUNOGENETICS
INDIAN JOURNAL OF GENETICS AND PLANT BREEDING
JAPANESE JOURNAL OF GENETICS
JAPANESE JOURNAL OF HUMAN GENETICS
JOURNAL DE GENETIQUE HUMAINE
JOURNAL OF HEREDITY
JOURNAL OF IMMUNOGENETICS
JOURNAL OF MEDICAL GENETICS
JOURNAL OF MENTAL DEFICIENCY RESEARCH
JOURNAL OF MOLECULAR EVOLUTION
MOLECULAR & GENERAL GENETICS
MUTATION RESEARCH
PLASMID
SILVAE GENETICA
THEORETICAL AND APPLIED GENETICS
THEORETICAL POPULATION BIOLOGY
EGYPTIAN JOURNAL OF GENETICS AND CYTOLOGY
REVISTA BRASILEIRA DE GENETICA
ANNUAL REVIEW OF GENETICS
JOURNAL OF CRANIOFACIAL GENETICS AND DEVELOPMENTAL BIOLOGY
JOURNAL OF INHERITED METABOLIC DISEASE
PRENATAL DIAGNOSIS
ADVANCES IN GENETICS INCORPORATING MOLECULAR GENETIC MEDICINE
CHEMICAL MUTAGENS-PRINCIPLES AND METHODS FOR THEIR DETECTION
DNA-A JOURNAL OF MOLECULAR & CELLULAR BIOLOGY
EVOLUTIONARY BIOLOGY
TERATOGENESIS CARCINOGENESIS AND MUTAGENESIS
TSITOLOGIA I GENETIKA
ADVANCES IN HUMAN GENETICS
PROGRESS IN MEDICAL GENETICS
GENETICS SELECTION EVOLUTION
MOLECULAR BIOLOGY AND EVOLUTION
SOMATIC CELL AND MOLECULAR GENETICS
BIOTECHNOLOGY & GENETIC ENGINEERING REVIEWS
EXPERIMENTAL AND CLINICAL IMMUNOGENETICS
GENE ANALYSIS TECHNIQUES
JOURNAL OF MOLECULAR AND APPLIED GENETICS
JOURNAL OF NEUROGENETICS
TRENDS IN GENETICS
DISEASE MARKERS
ANIMAL GENETICS
GENETIC EPIDEMIOLOGY
JOURNAL OF GENETICS



File Find VOS Options

File

Open map...

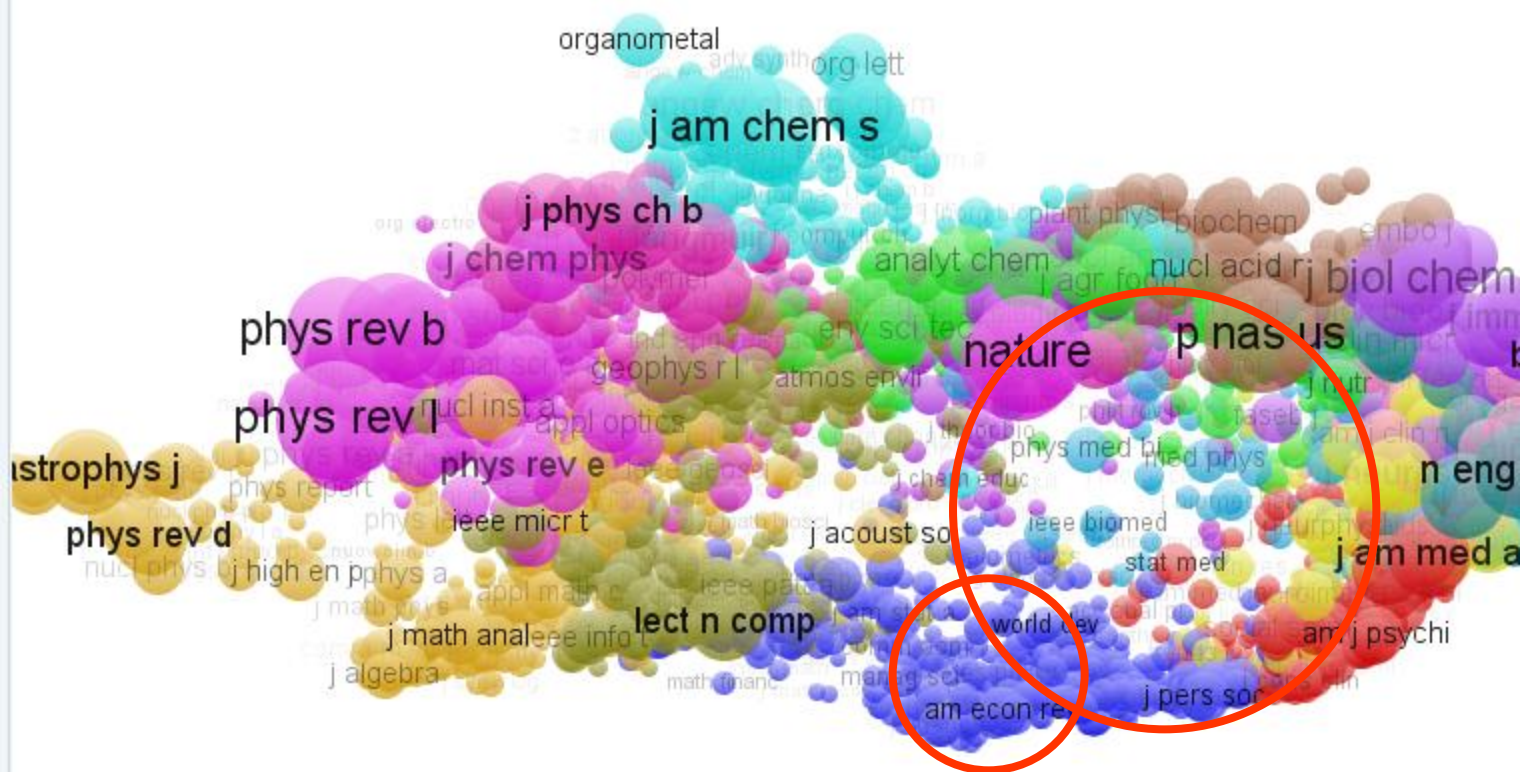
Save similarities...

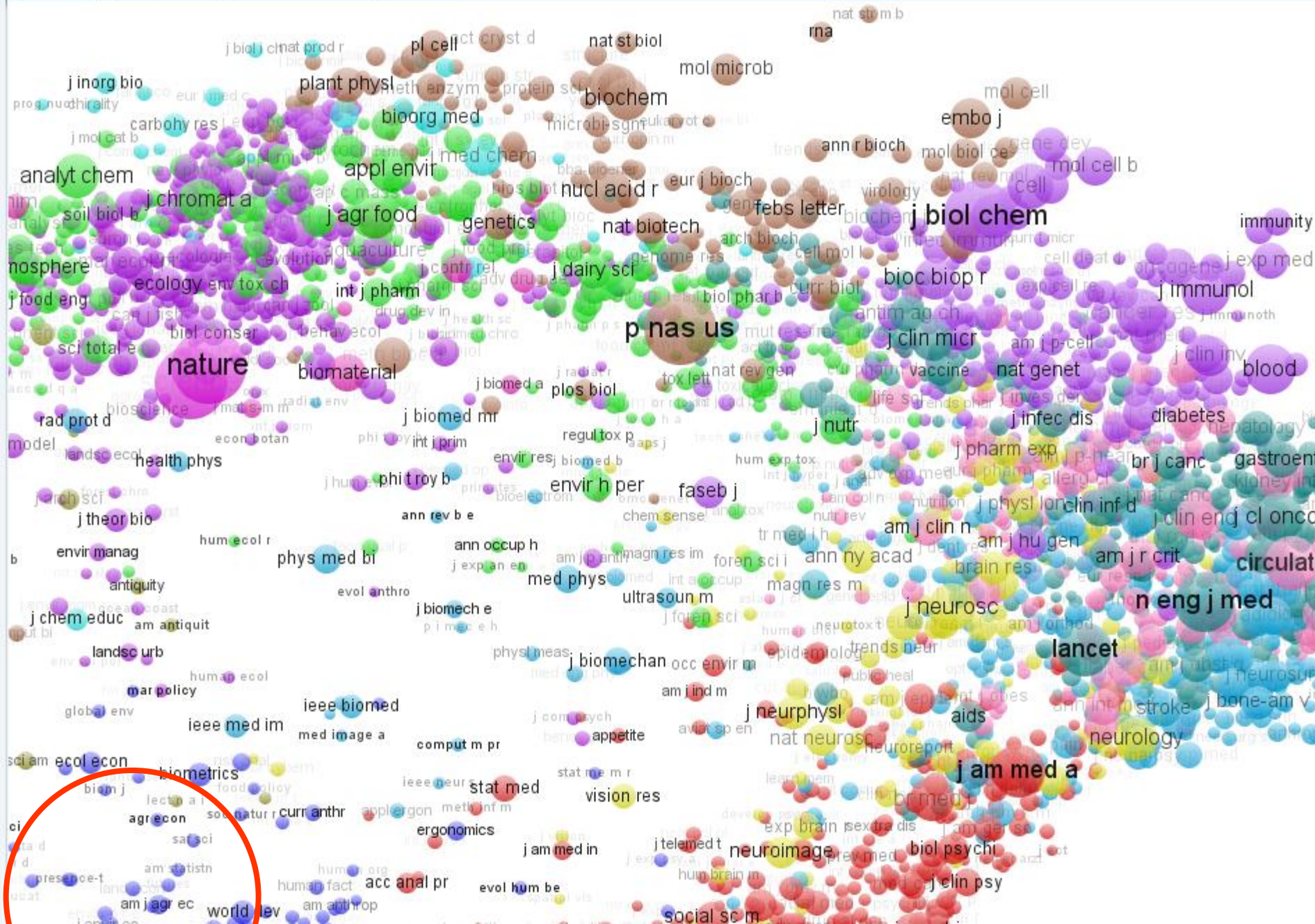
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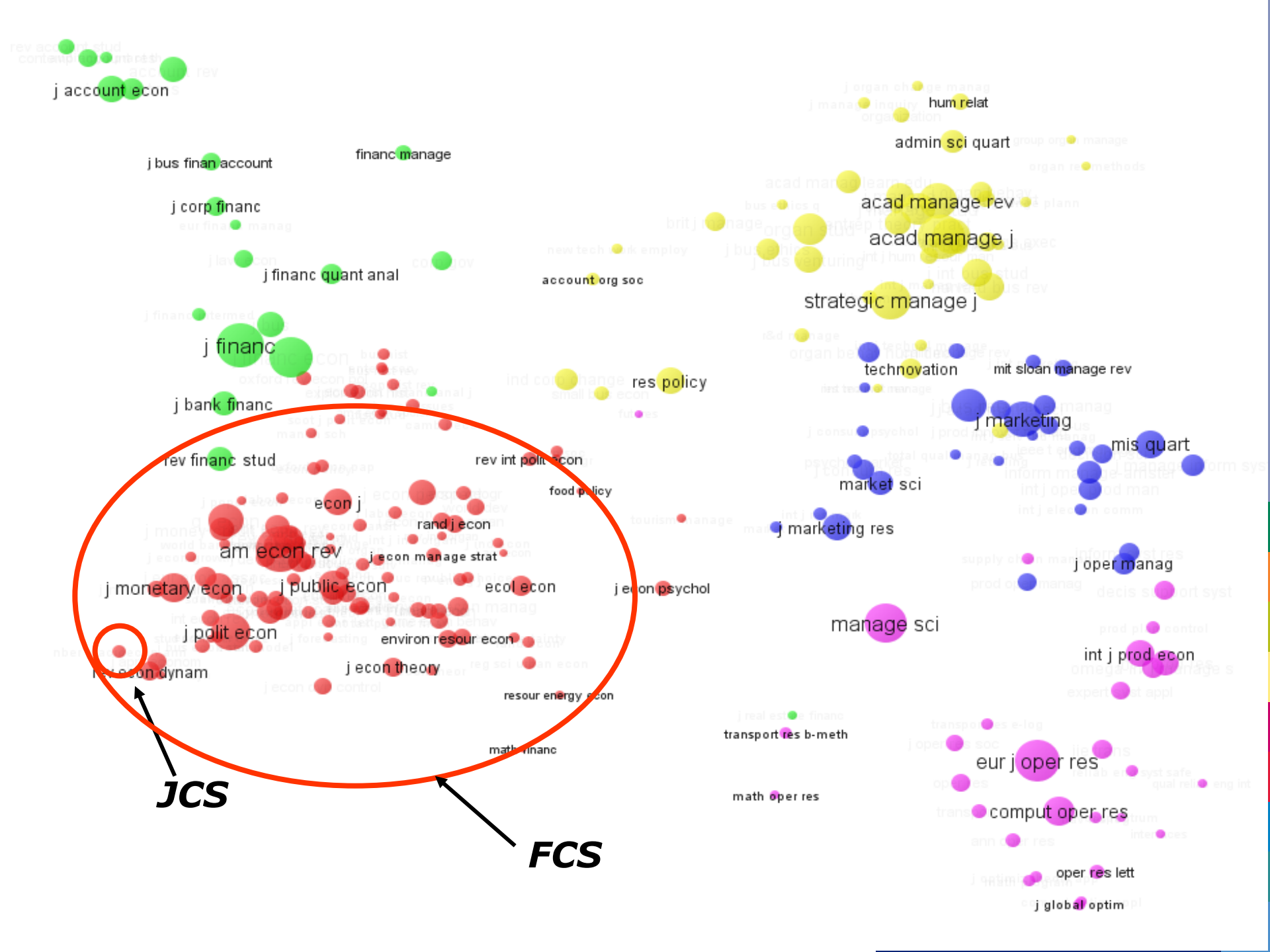
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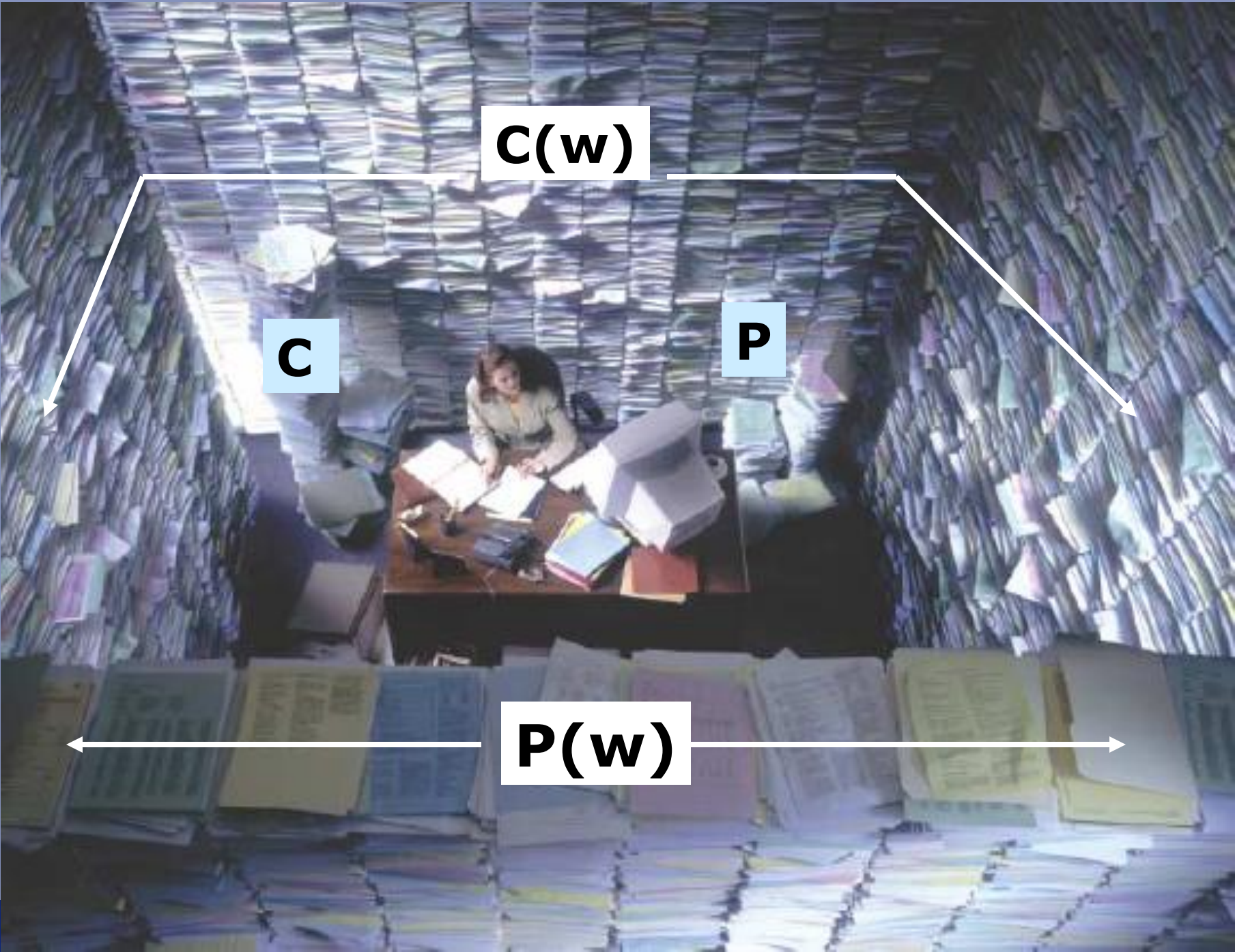
About VOSviewer

Exit









C(w)

C

P

P(w)

Citing publications

Field-specific normalization

$C(A)/P(A)$

----- = $CPP/FCSm$

$C(f)/P(f)$

+ *doc. type normalization*

+ *no self-citations, also not in $C(f)$!*

Cited publications

FCS

Basic Performance Indicators

- ***P*** **Output**: Number of publications in internationally refereed CI-covered journals
- ***C*** **Absolute Impact**: Number of (self-ex) citations to these publications
- ***H*** Hirsch-index
- ***CPP*** **Output-normalized Impact**: Average number of cits/pub of the institute
- ***JCSm*** Average number of **cits/pub of the journal set** used by the institute
- ***FCSm*** Average number of **cits/pub of all journals of a specific field** in which the institute is active (*FCSm*)
- ***p0*** Percentage of **not-cited** publications

CWTS Key Research Performance Indicators:

- **JCS_m/FCS_m** Relative impact of the used journal set
- **CPP/JCS_m** Internat. journal-normalized impact
- **CPP/FCS_m** Internat. field & doc-normalized impact

- **P_t/Π_t** Contribution to the top-5, 10, 20,..%
- **P^*CPP/FCS_m** Size & Impact Together: Brute Force

Application of Thomson-ISI Impact Factors for research performance evaluation is **irresponsible**

- * Much too short 'Citation window'
- * No Field-specific Normalization
- * No distinction between document types
- * Calculation errors/inconsistencies
nominator/denominator
- * Underlying citation distribution is very skew:
IF-value heavily determined by a few very highly cited papers

Basic res



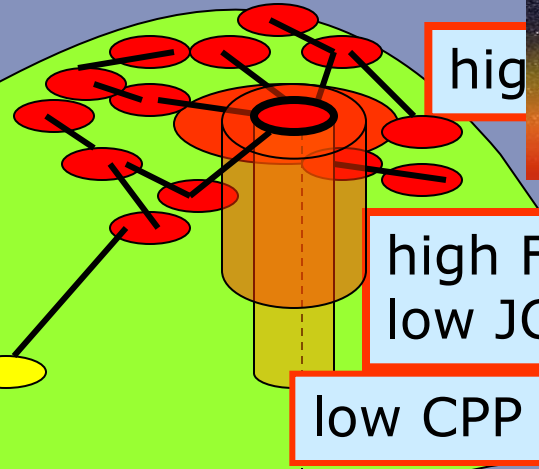
SCIENCEPHOTOLIBRARY

High CPP

low FCSm, but high JCSm

low FCSm

Applied research, engineering



high

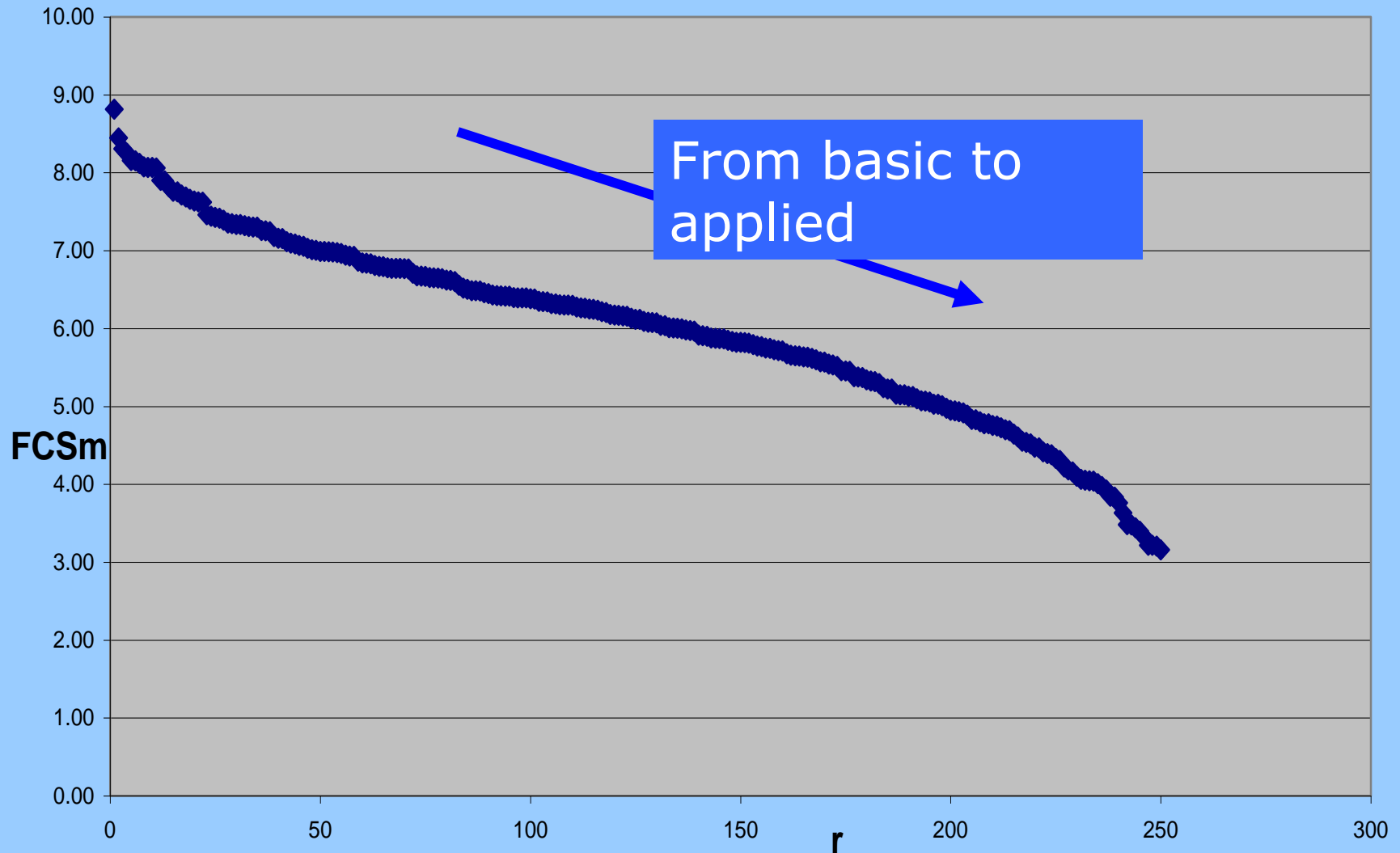
high FCSm, but low JCSm

low CPP

Up to factor ~20



Ranking of the 250 largest European universities by FCSm



Field normalization

$CPP \gg CPP/FCSm$ is absolutely necessary
but

CPP: is as it is.....

FCSm: do we apply the right field-specific normalization?

Problems: size of the field, appropriateness of the WoS-category, role of underlying distribution function (>small non-linearity)?

..and on the basis of the 30,000,000 grammatically parsed publication abstracts (1980-2008):

2. Field = clusters of concept-related publications

new, emerging often interdisc. Fields
scientific fine-grained structure

CI2 label 1

Now **specific sub-field CPP/FCSm values** can be calculated, e.g.,
the normalized citation impact for research on **genetic algorithms**
instead of normalization based on much larger fields such as
Computer Science

But, obviously, the finer grained, the more 'noisy'

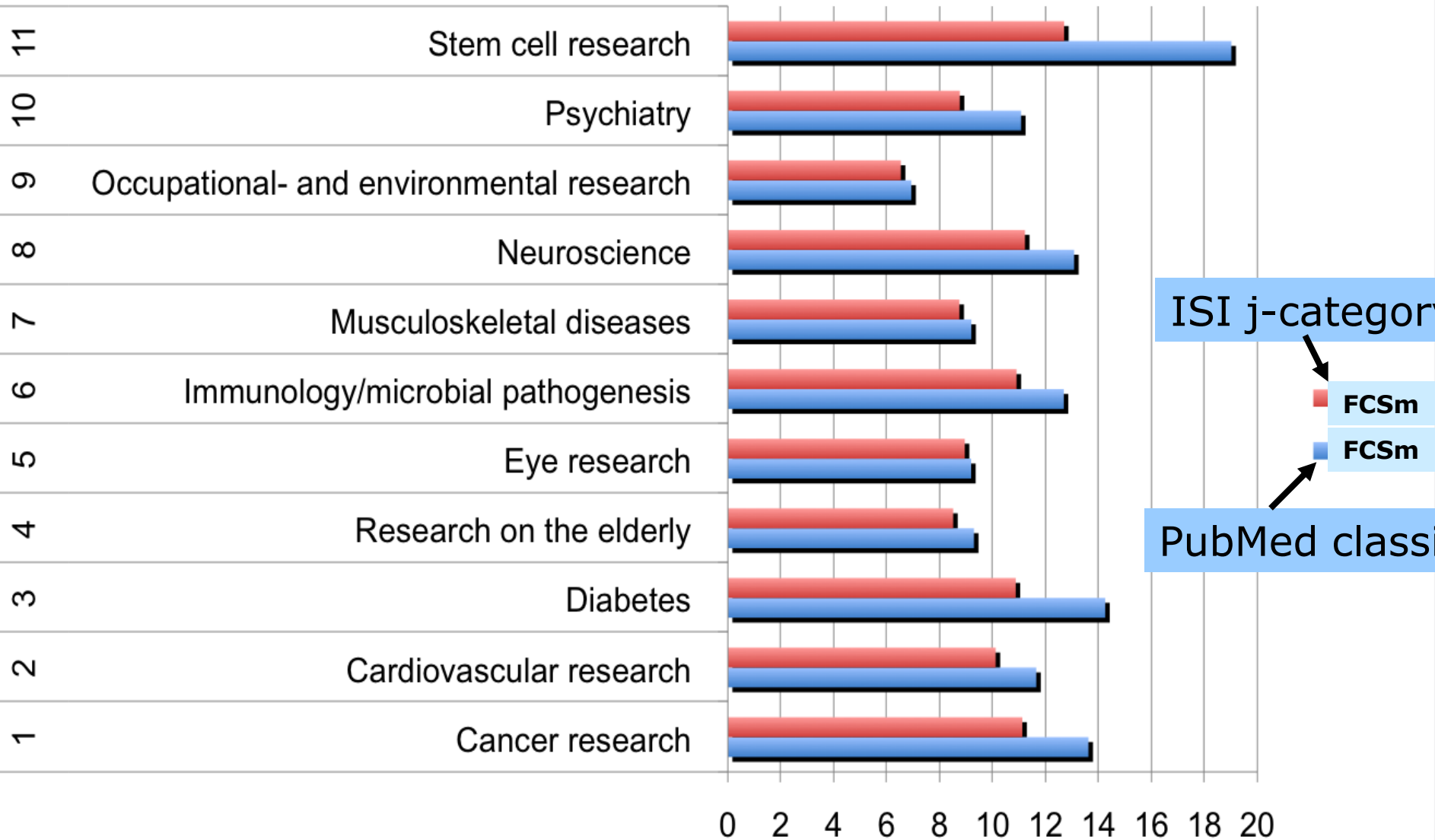
linear mat

fuzzy con

gorithm

3. Field = set of publications with
thematic/field-specific classification codes
e.g., from PubMed
again for new, emerging often interdisc. fields
scientific fine-grained structure

Problem of the 'right' FCSm.....

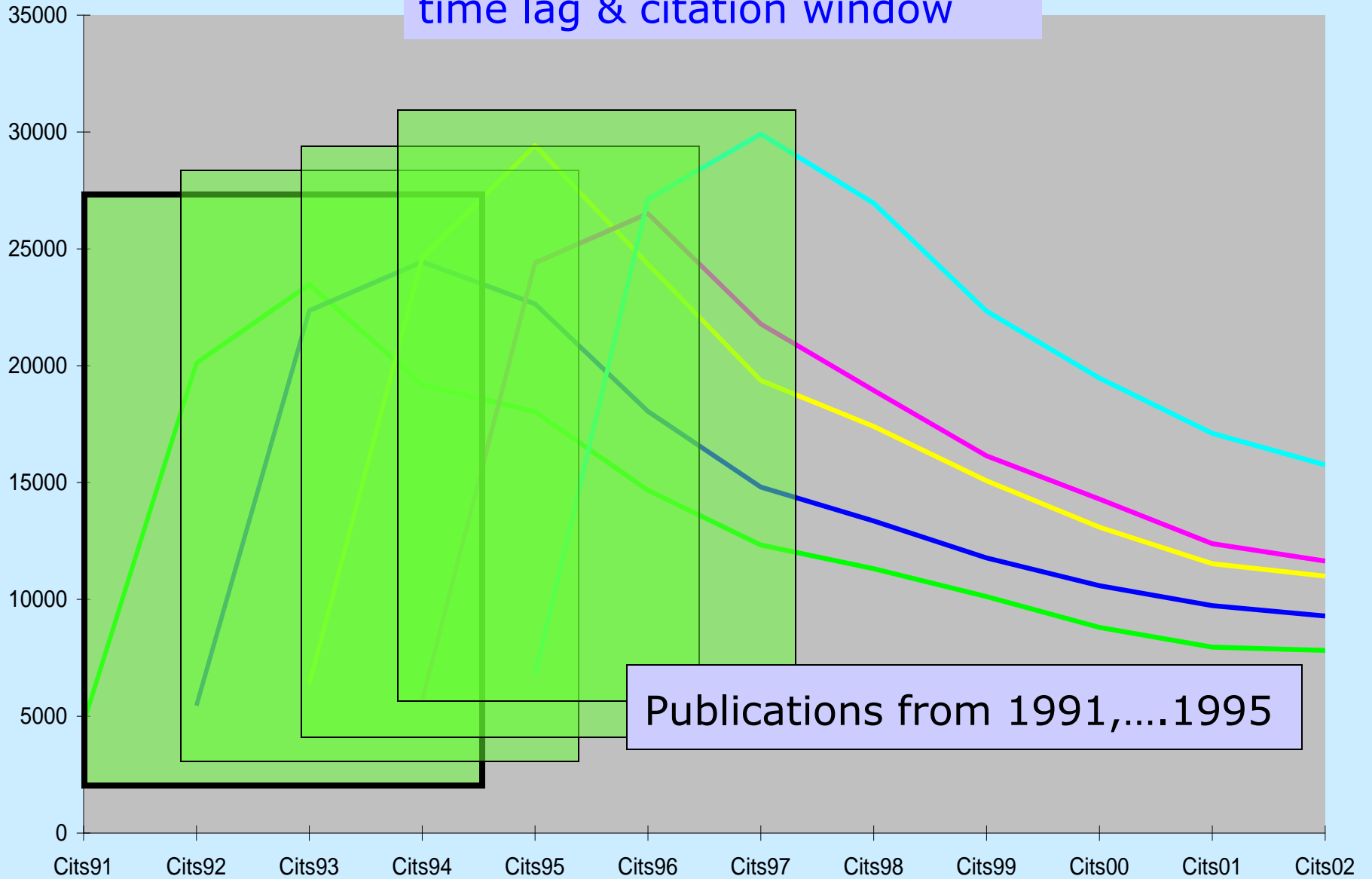


Physics 1997-2006					
			CPP/	CPP/	JCSm/
	P	CPP	FCSm(RCUK)	FCSm(WoS)	FCSm(WoS)
Canada	42,791	7.97	1.29	1.42	1.37
France	107,183	6.67	1.08	1.23	1.18
Germany	157,615	7.77	1.26	1.37	1.26
Japan	173,344	5.40	0.87	1.04	1.12
Netherlands	29,743	9.32	1.51	1.63	1.39
UK	103,885	8.09	1.31	1.39	1.25
USA	381,338	10.09	1.63	1.73	1.48

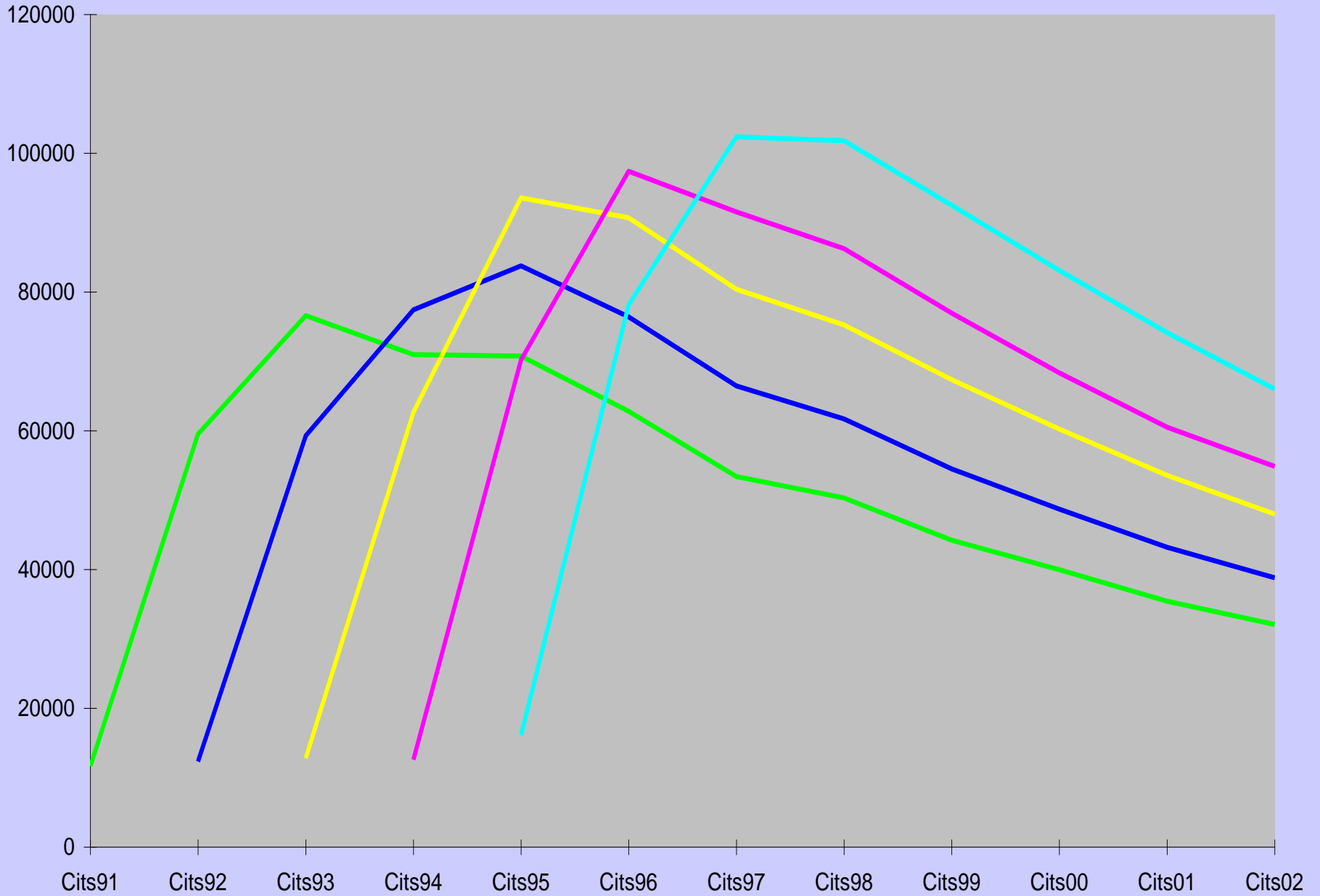
Physics papers in <i>Nature</i> & <i>Science</i> 1997-2006					
			CPP/ FCSm(RCUK)	CPP/ FCSm(WoS)	JCSm/ FCSm(WoS)
	P	CPP			
Canada	66	55.20	8.94	1.56	3.09
France	199	57.04	9.23	2.07	3.09
Germany	281	64.57	10.45	2.25	3.11
Japan	231	82.21	13.31	2.77	3.12
Netherlands	136	101.85	16.49	3.29	3.19
UK	233	76.63	12.41	2.59	3.22
USA	1,710	79.60	12.89	2.55	3.14

PHYSICS

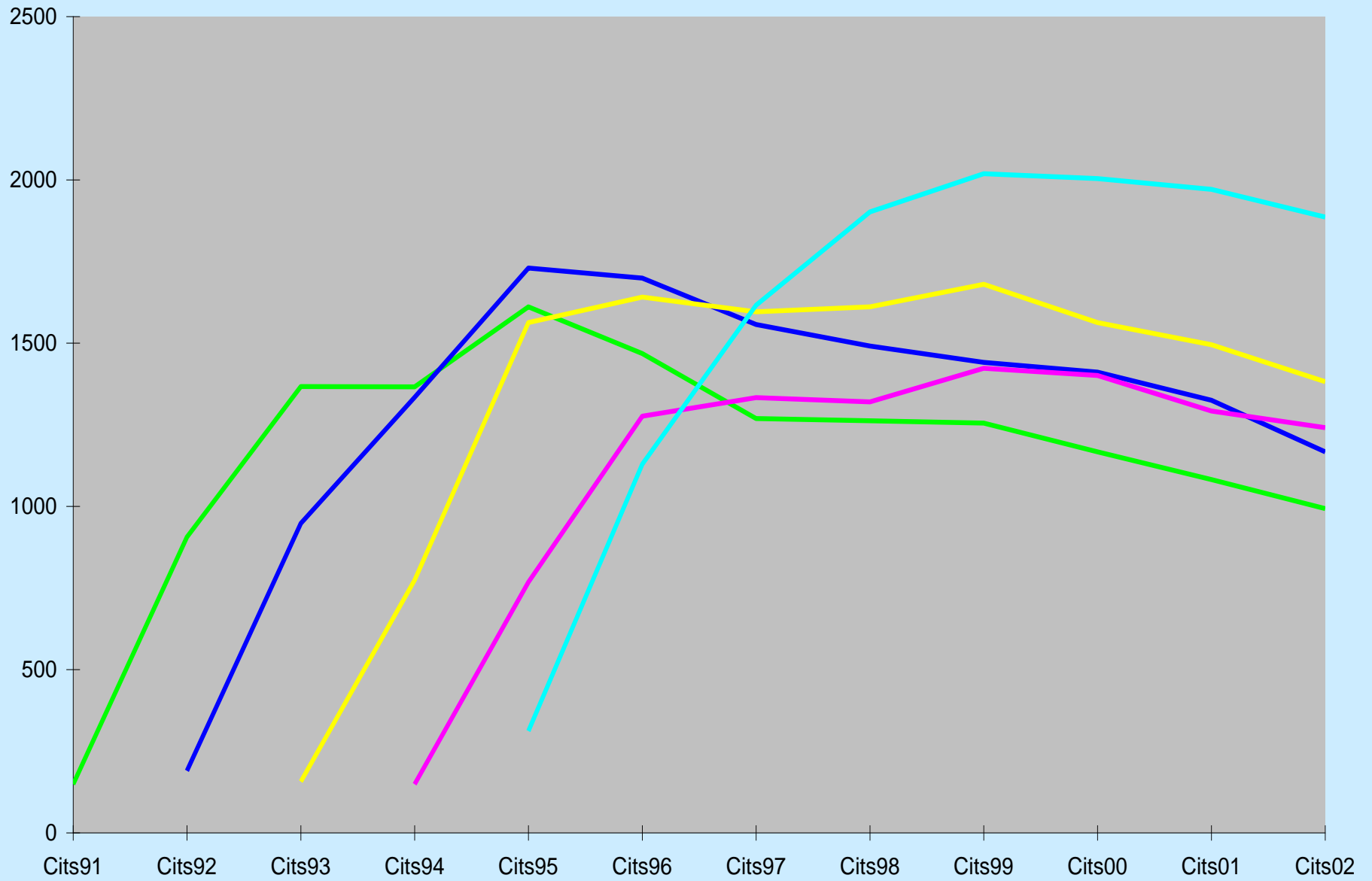
time lag & citation window



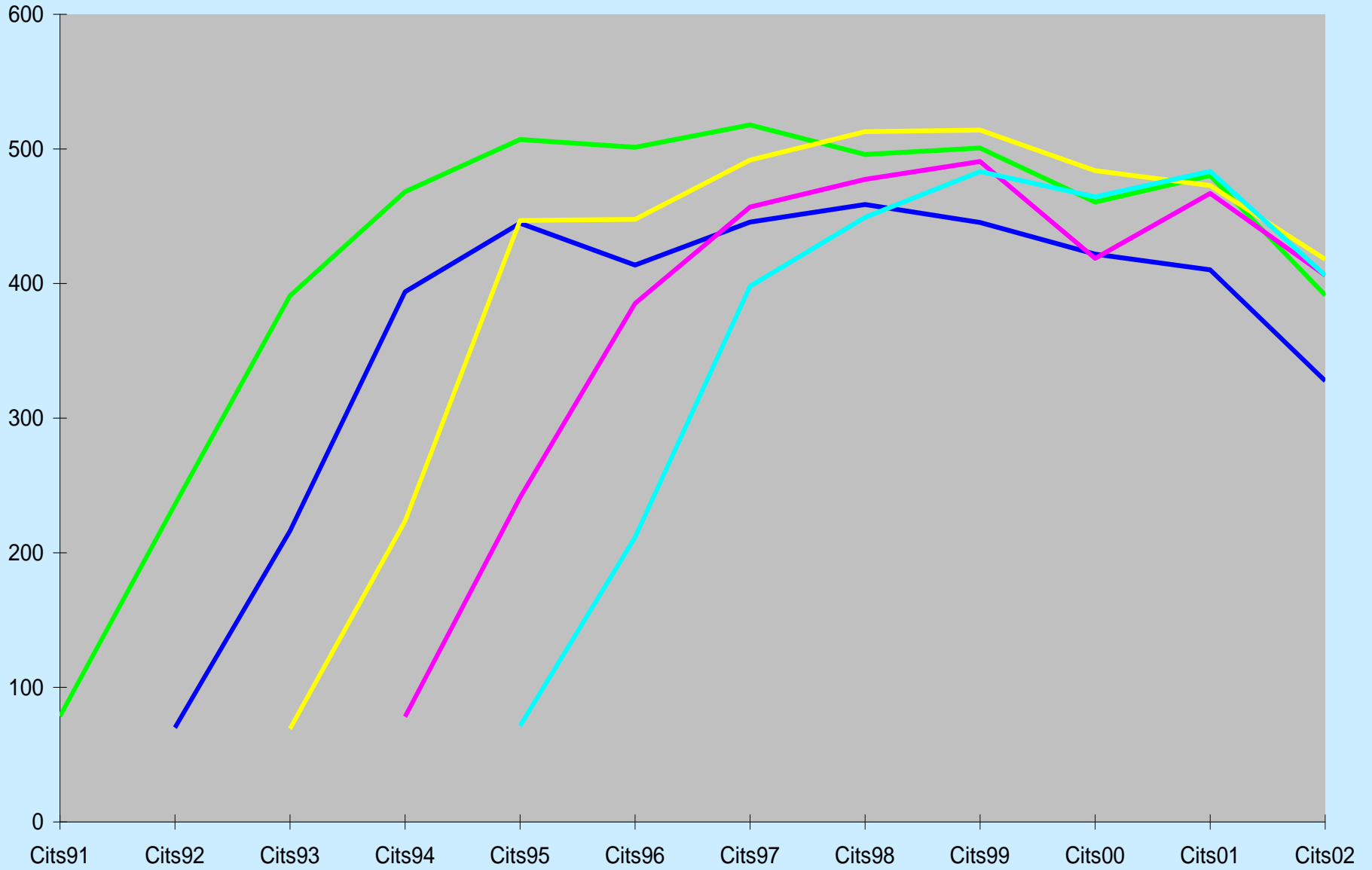
BIOCH & MOL BIOL



*** SOCIOLOGY**



*** LANGUAGE&LING**



**Bibliometric standard indicators
trend-analysis, institute as a whole, 1999-2008**

	P	C	CPP	Pnc	CPP/ JCSm	CPP/ FCSm	JCSm/ FCSm	Self- Cit
1999 - 2008	1,643	23,990	14.6	14%	1.08	1.34	1.24	20%
1999 - 2002	625	2,882	4.61	34%	1.16	1.38	1.19	26%
2000 - 2003	610	2,971	4.87	34%	1.13	1.40	1.24	25%
2001 - 2004	615	3,038	4.94	35%	1.14	1.33	1.17	26%
2002 - 2005	632	3,010	4.76	33%	1.09	1.27	1.15	27%
2003 - 2006	646	3,220	4.98	30%	1.01	1.27	1.25	27%
2004 - 2007	677	3,397	5.02	31%	1.04	1.29	1.24	27%
2005 - 2008	718	4,134	5.76	27%	1.05	1.40	1.33	26%

FIGURE 1 :
TREND IN IMPACT PER PUBLICATION
COMPARED TO WORLD SUBFIELD AVERAGE

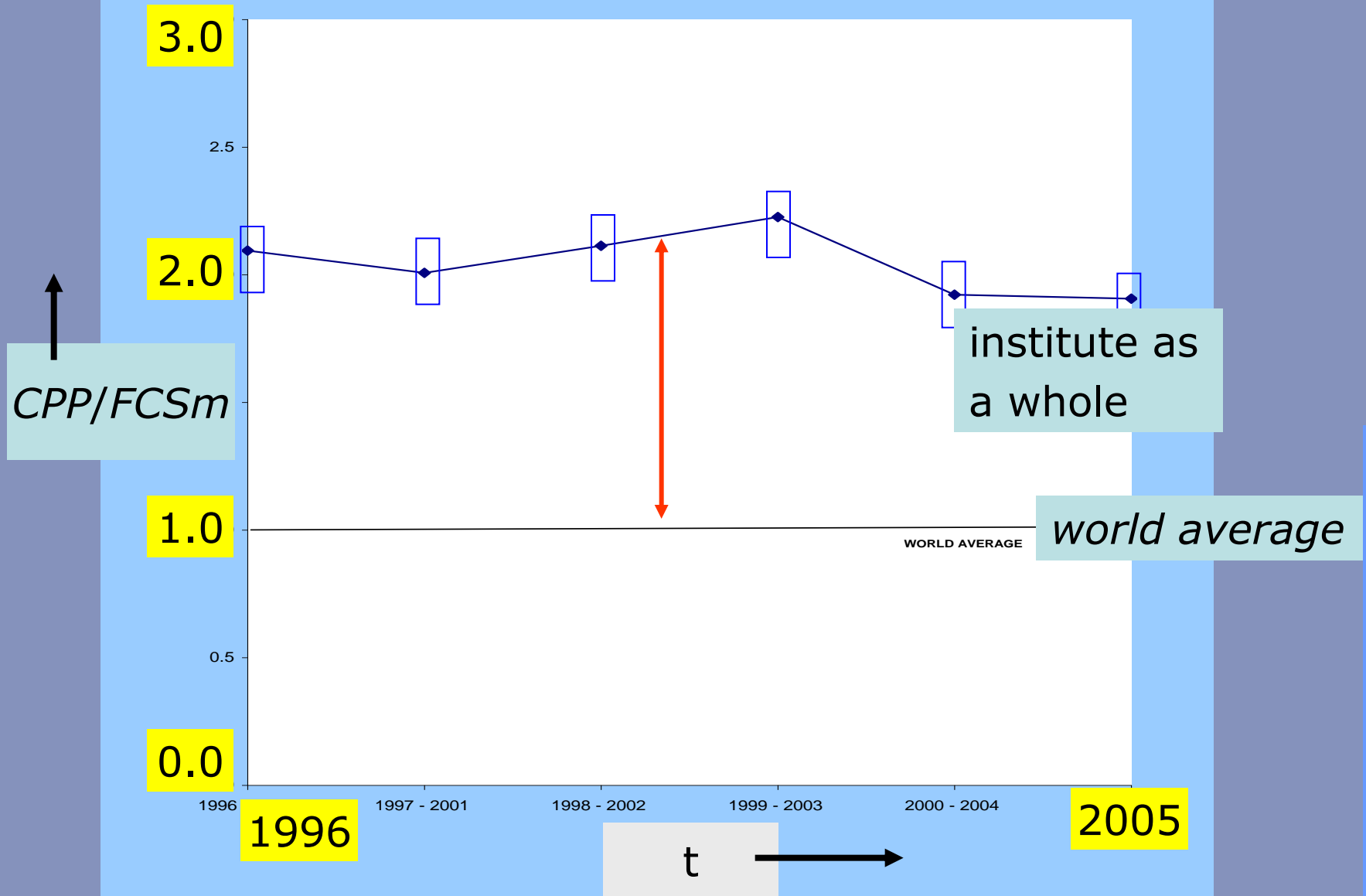
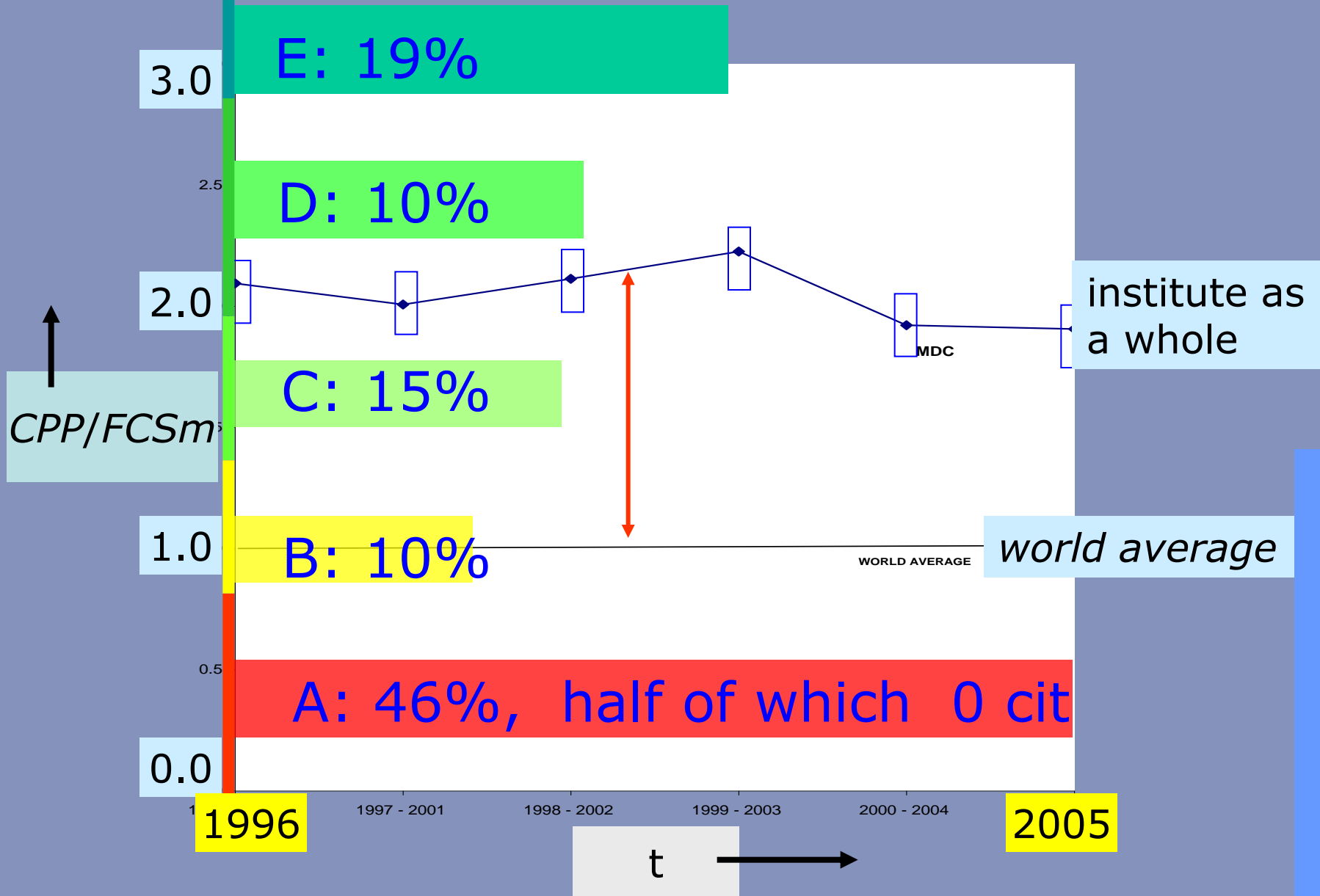
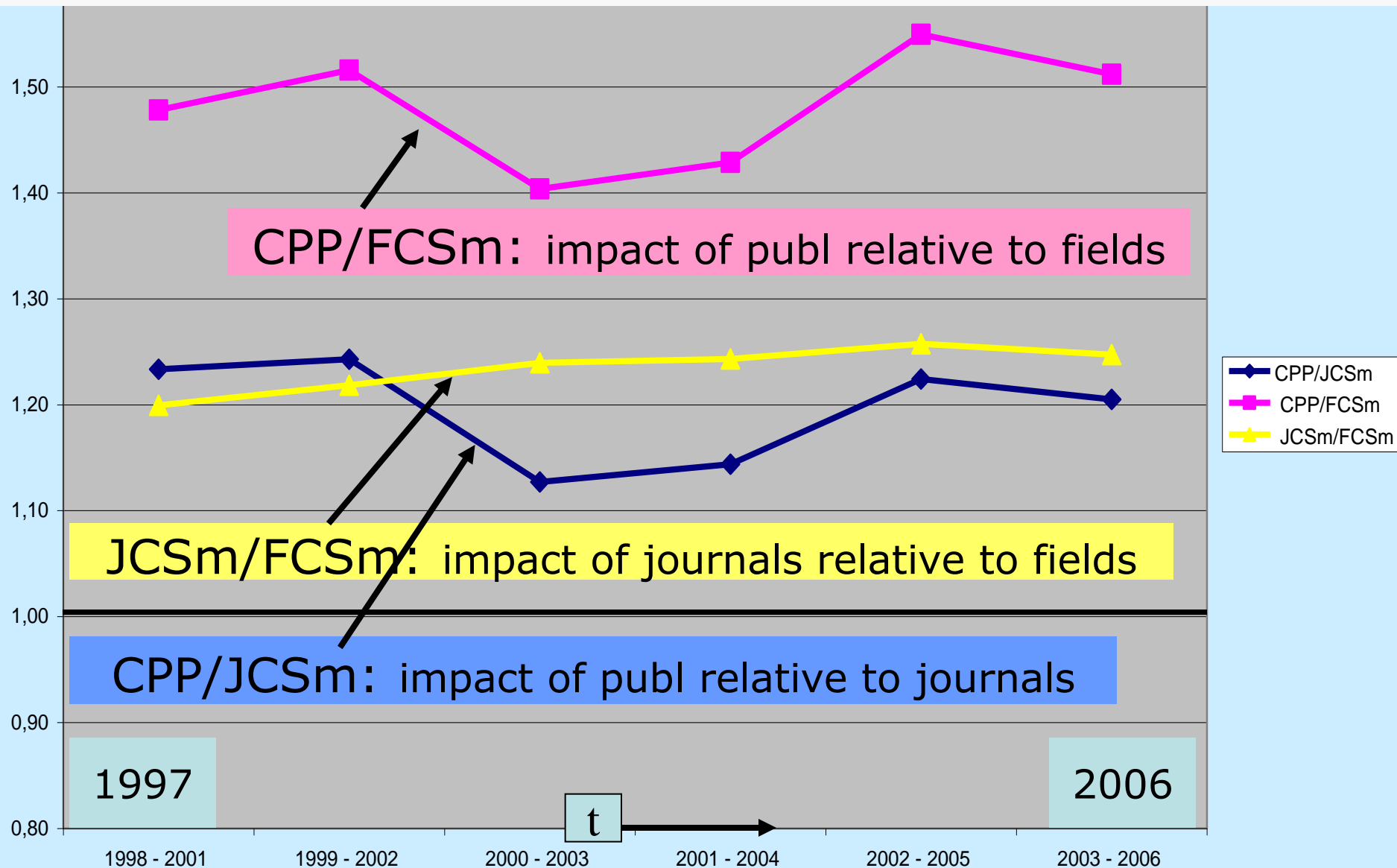


FIGURE 1 :
TREND IN IMPACT PER PUBLICATION
COMPARED TO WORLD SUBFIELD AVERAGE



International impact of VUMC publications 1997-2006



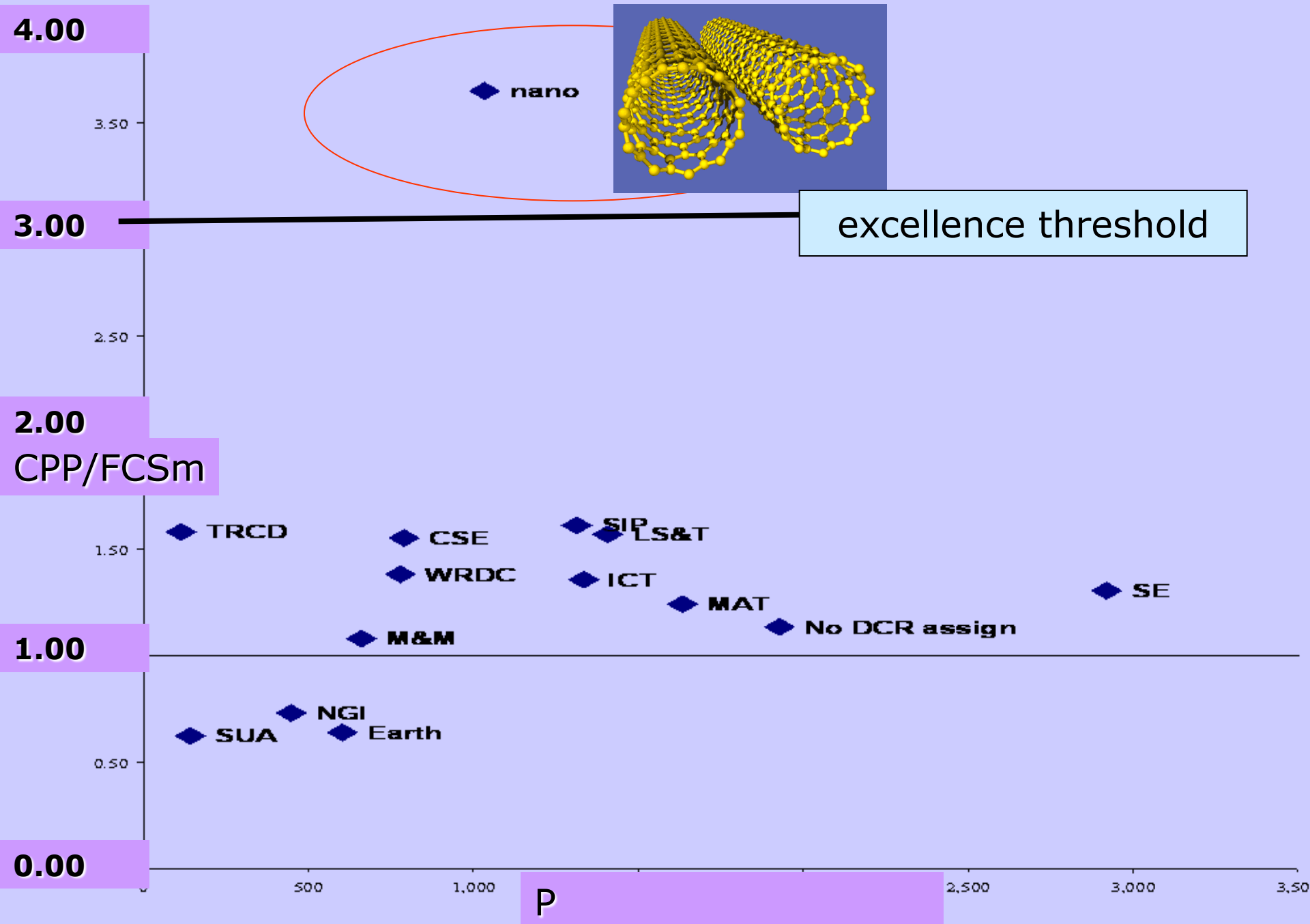
Departments

'bottom-up' analysis: input data (assignment of researchers to departments) necessary;
> *Detailed research performance analysis of a university by department*

University

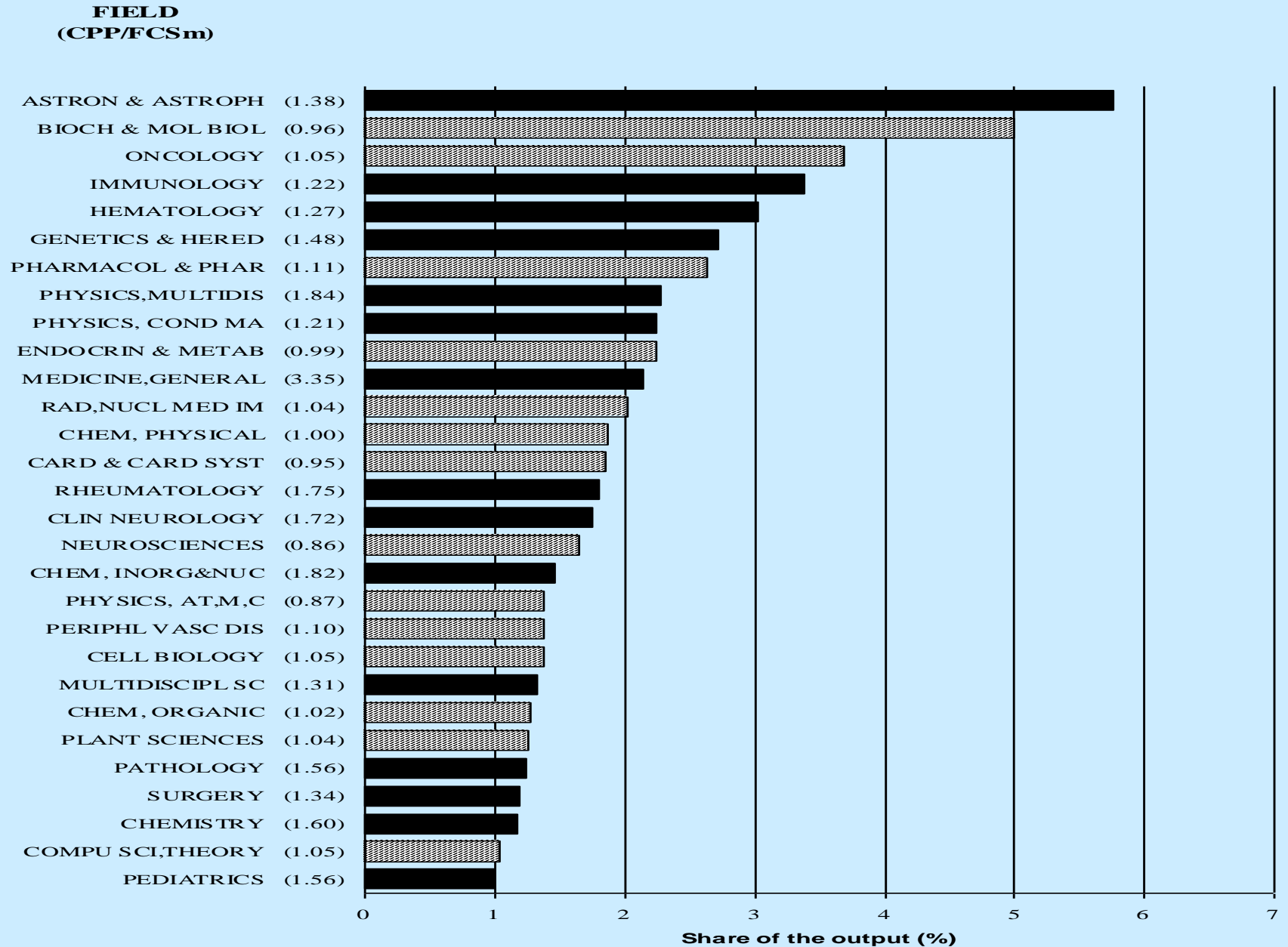
Fields

'top-down' analysis: field-structure is imposed to university;
> *Broad overview analysis of a university by field*



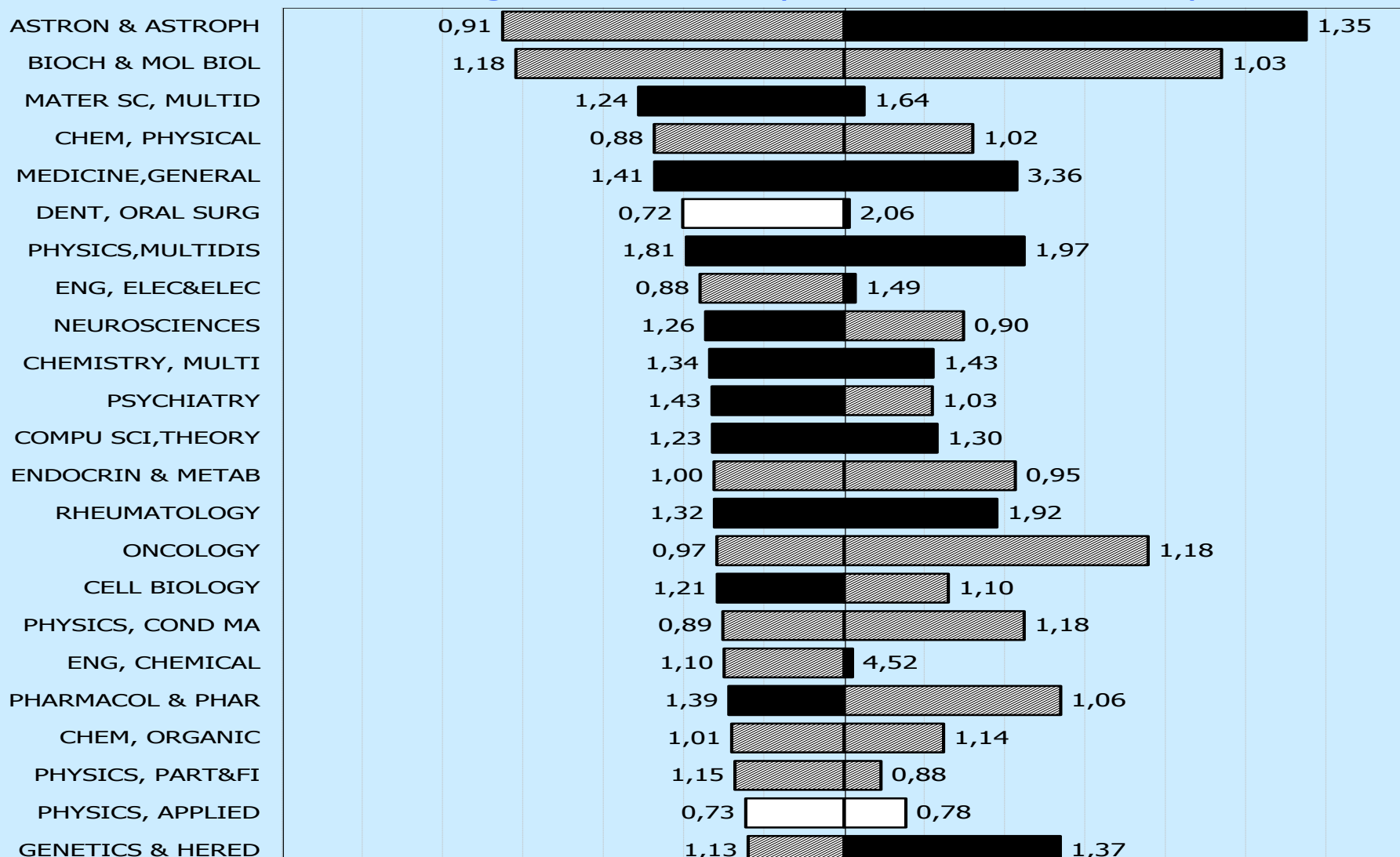
Output and impact per field 2000 - 2003

Leiden University



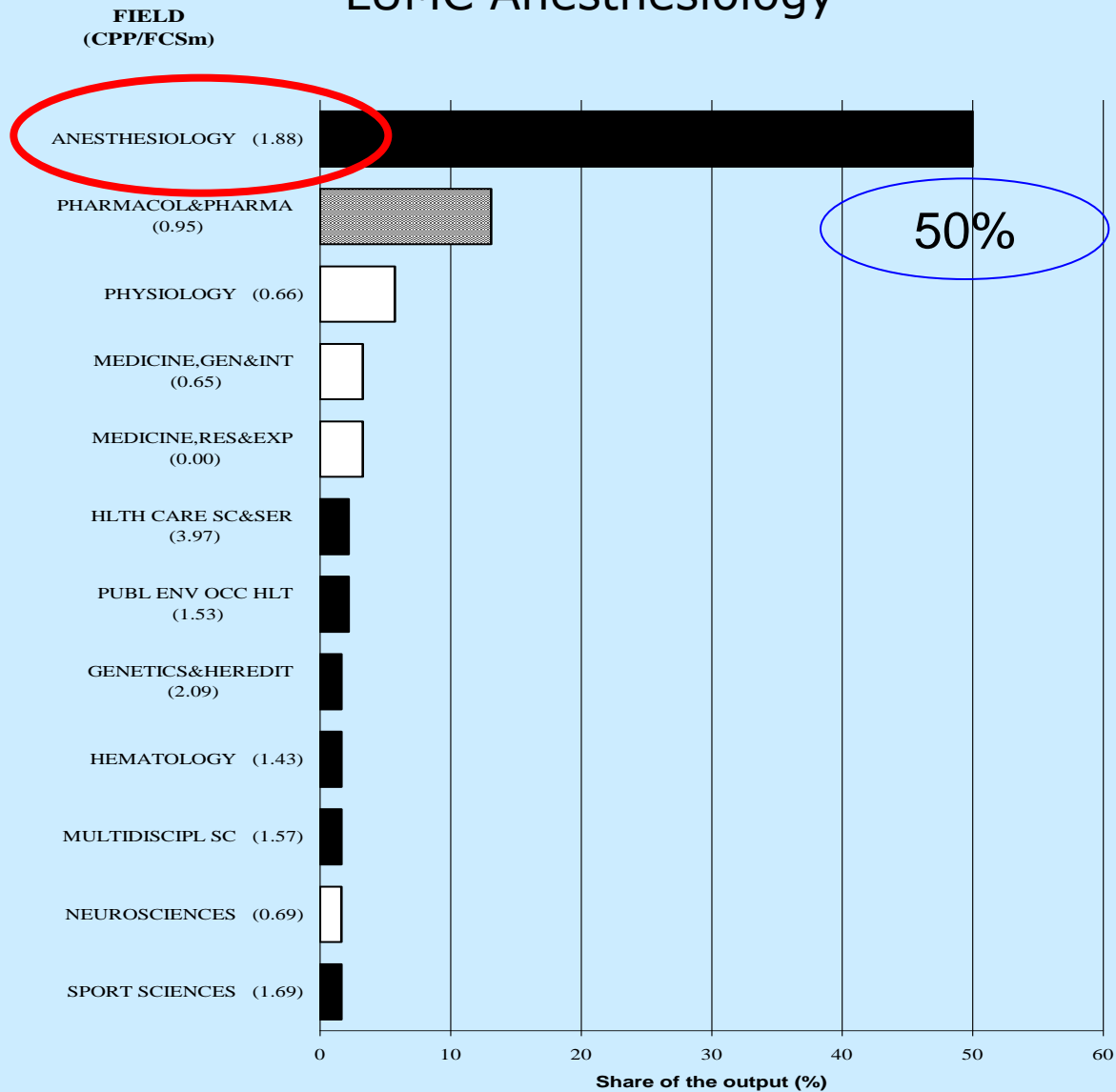
RESEARCH AND IMPACT PROFILE COMPARISON 2000 - 2005

Large UK University vs. Leiden University



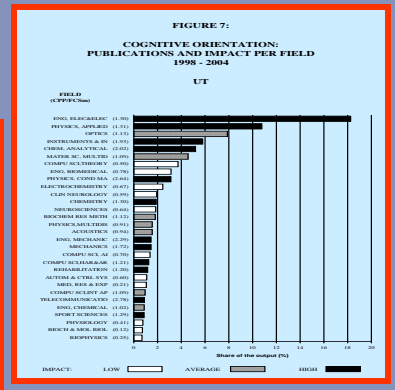
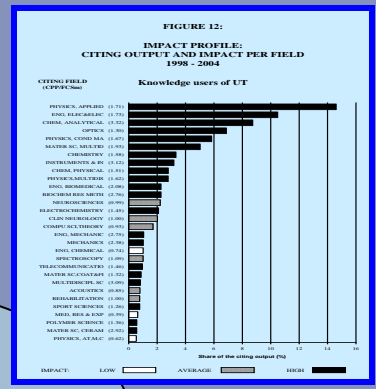
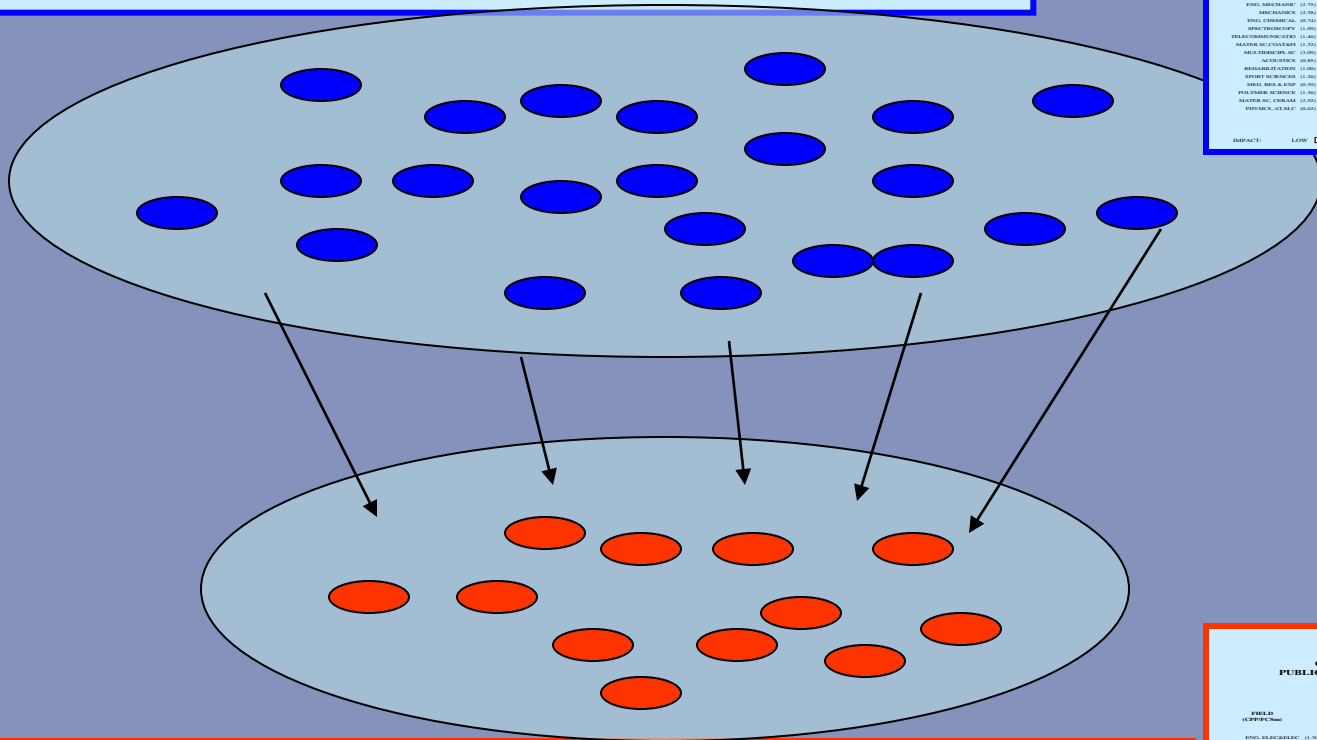
**RESEARCH PROFILE
OUTPUT AND IMPACT PER FIELD
2003 - 2007**

LUMC Anesthesiology



IMPACT: LOW AVERAGE HIGH

Citing Publications: Knowledge users with field-specific profile

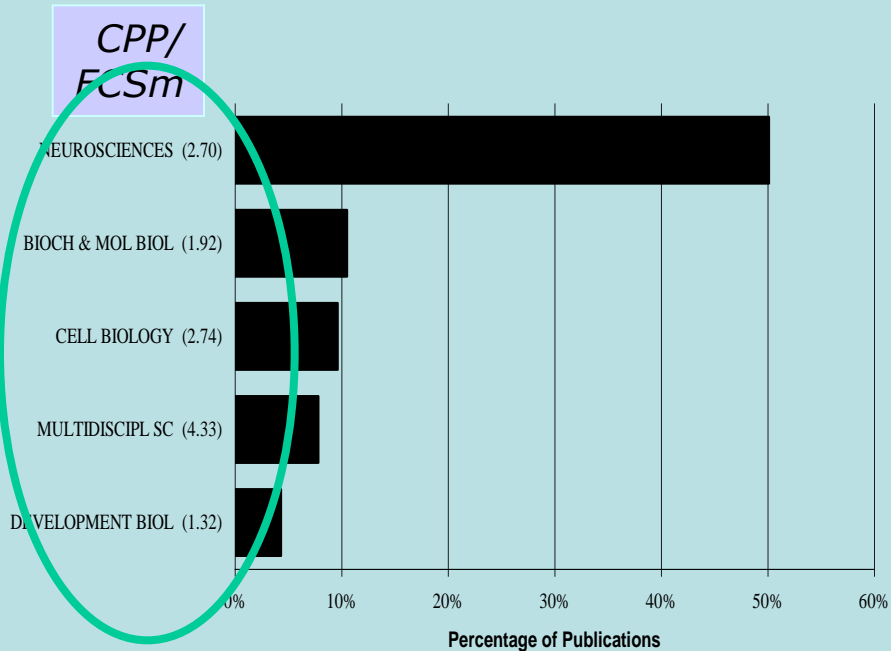


Cited Publications: Knowledge producers with field-specific profile

Diseases of the Neurosystem

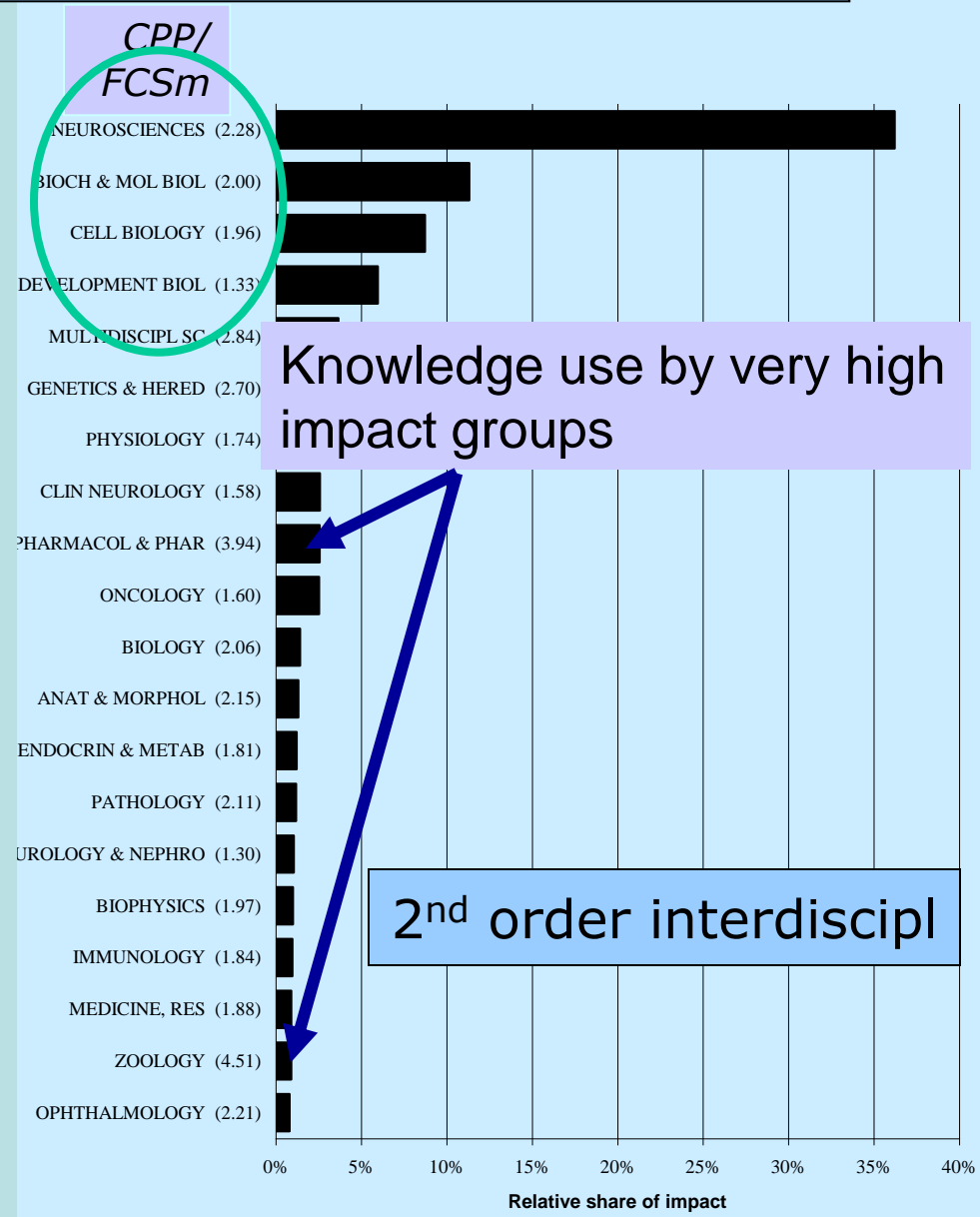
Dept Output in Fields

Dept Impact from Fields



1st order interdiscipl

IMPACT: LOW [white box] AVERAGE [hatched box] HIGH [black box]



Knowledge use by very high impact groups

2nd order interdiscipl

IMPACT: LOW [white box] AVERAGE [hatched box] HIGH [black box]

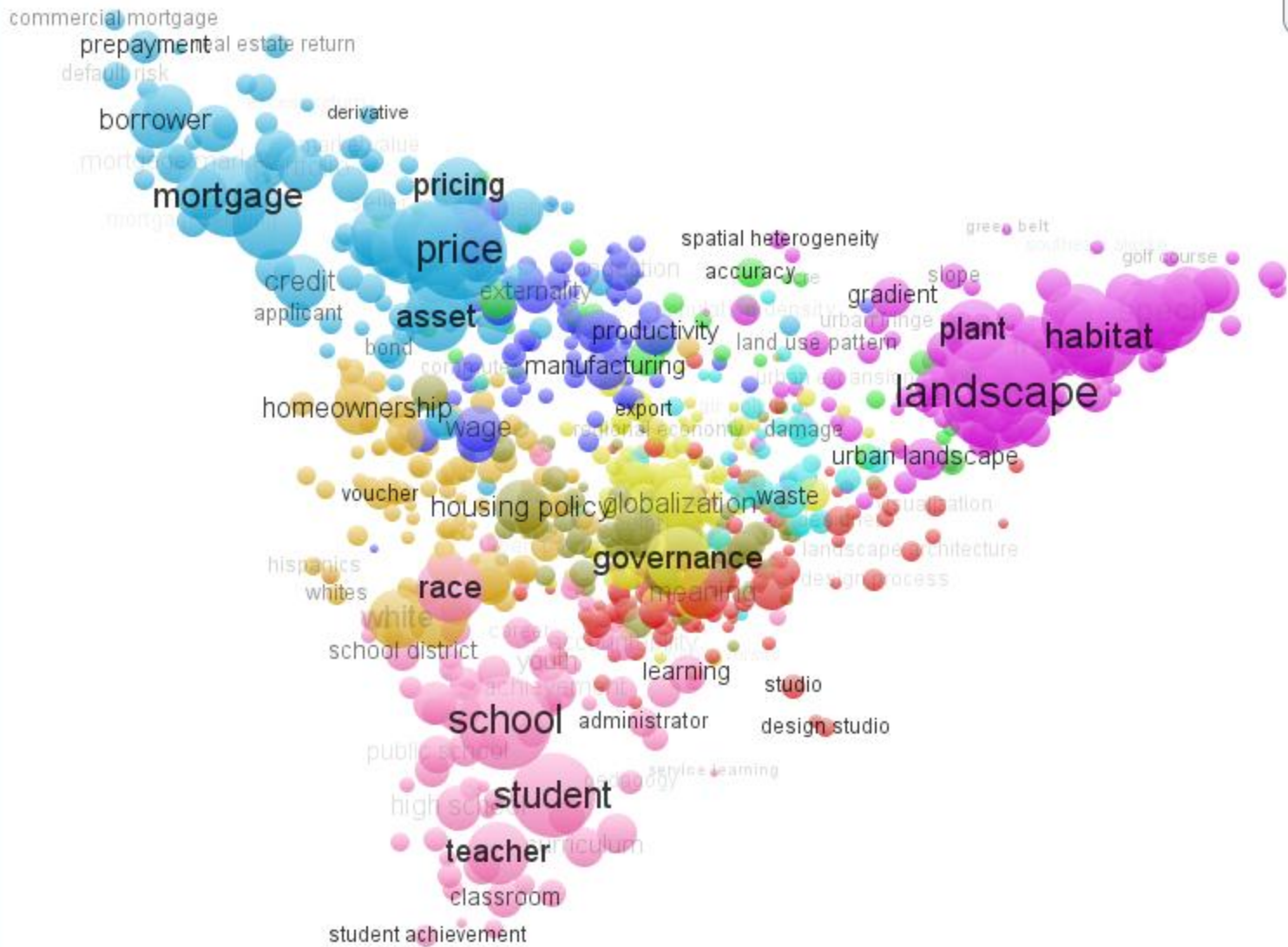
Label View Density View Cluster Density View Scatter View

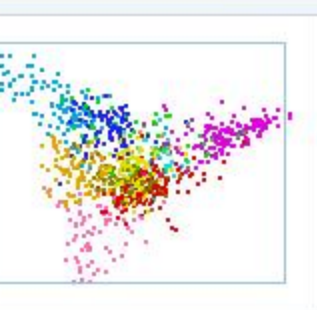


Find VOS Options

- Open map...
- Save similarities...
- Save coordinates...
- Save screenshot...

- VOSviewer manual
- About VOSviewer





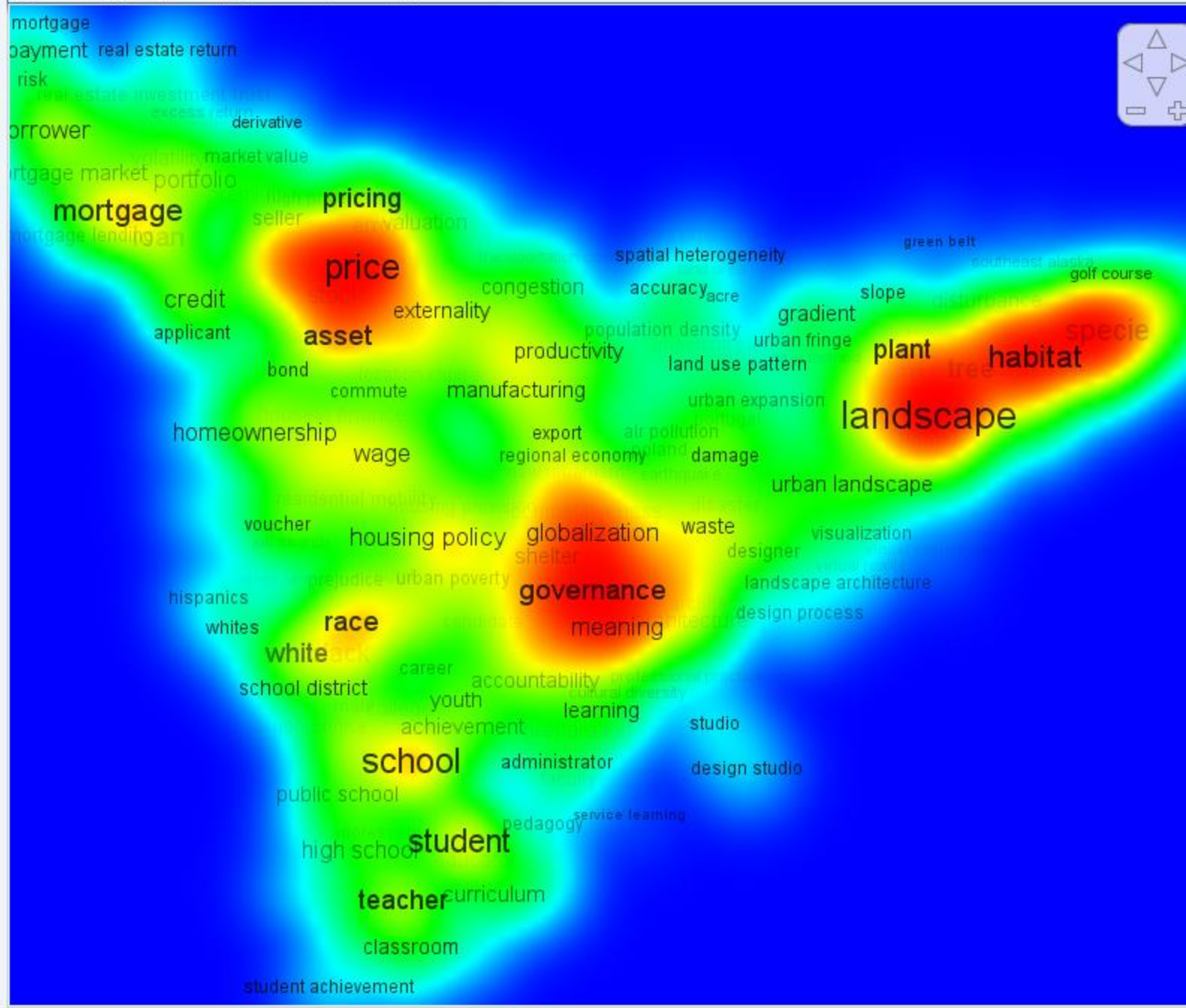
Label View Density View Cluster Density View Scatter View

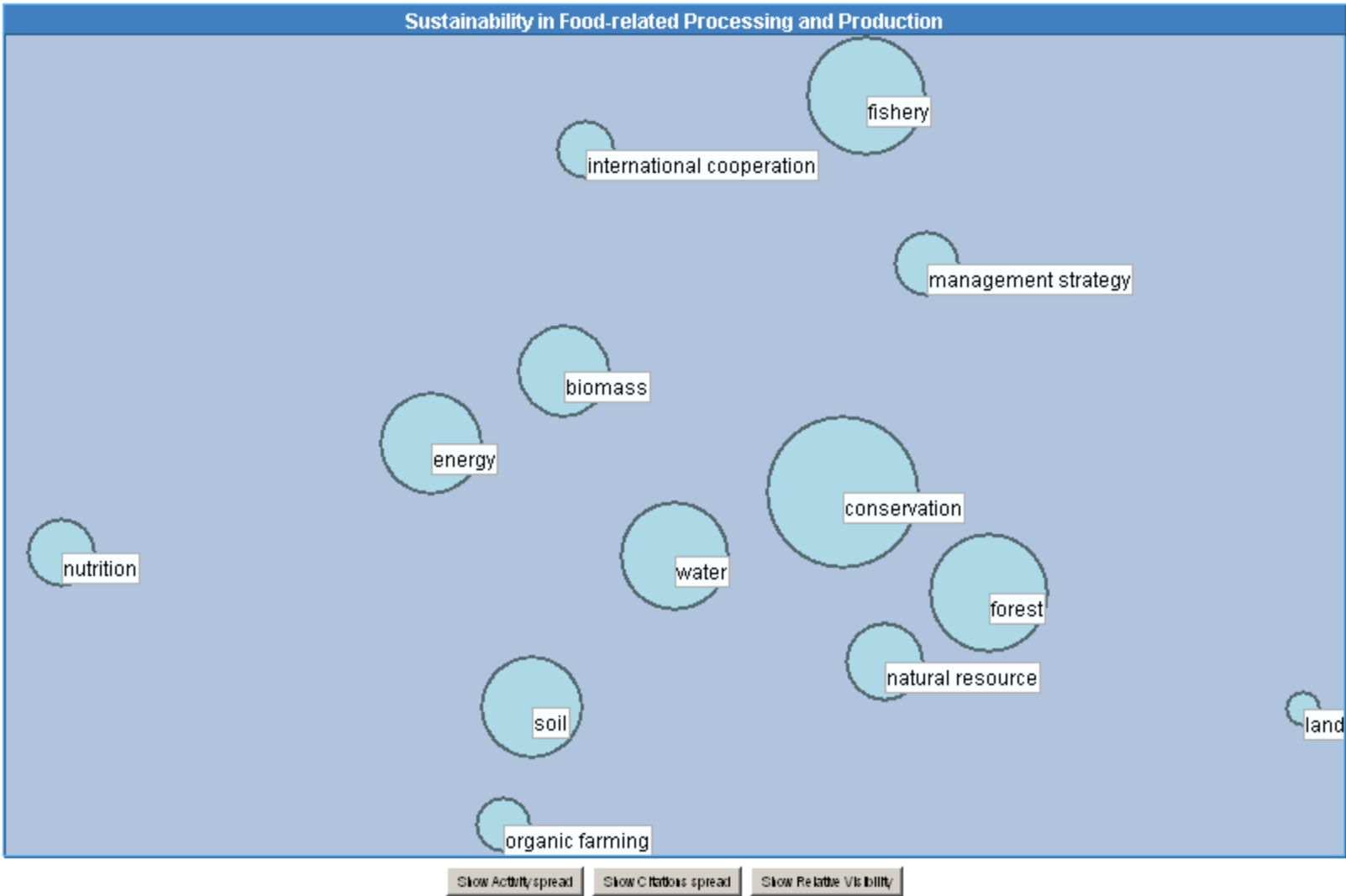


Find VOS Options

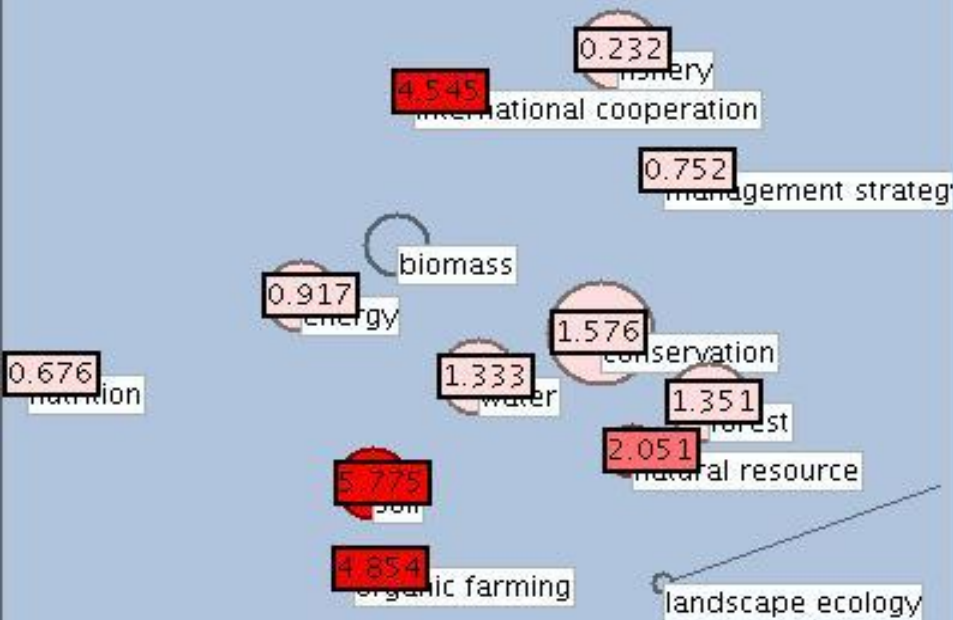
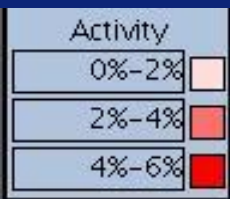
- Open map...
- Save similarities...
- Save coordinates...
- Save screenshot...

- VOSviewer manual
- About VOSviewer

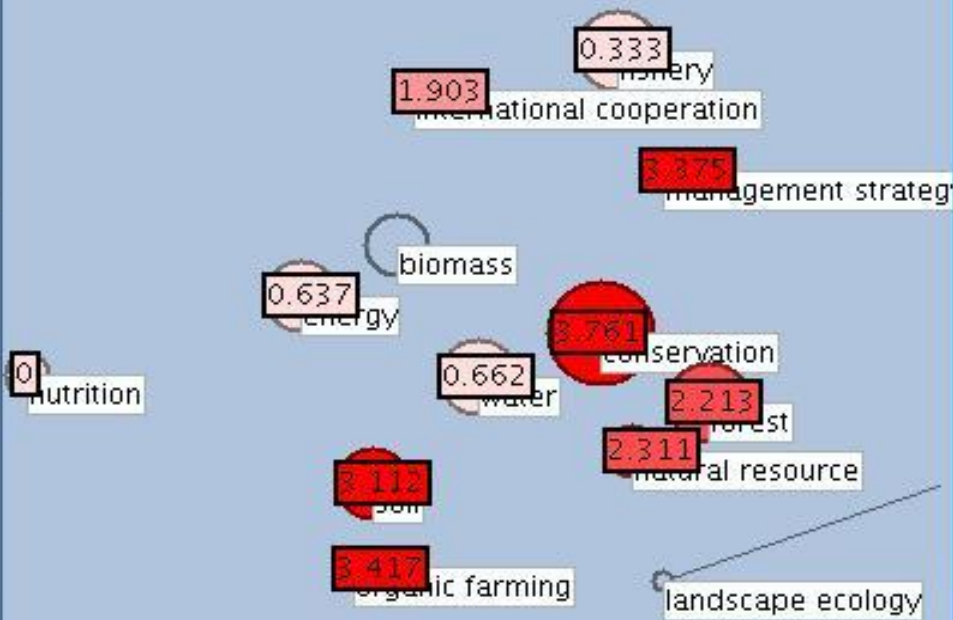
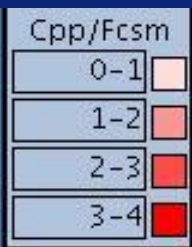




Thematic Performance Wageningen University Sustainability-Food



Remove Charts



Remove Charts

Conclusion

Advanced bibliometric analysis is a powerful tool to make research assessment more objective, transparent and effective, particularly in the natural science and medical fields, and in several of the engineering and social science fields -but never use it as a stand-alone tool;

It is also an effective instrument for measuring interdisciplinarity, knowledge flows and knowledge diffusion, participation in solving societal/technological/economic problems

A scientist has index h
if h of his/her N papers have at least h
citations each
and the other $(N-h)$ papers have no more
than h citations each

Search Results -- Summary

U=(vanraan A*)

DocType=All document types; Language=All languages; Databases=SCI-EXPANDED, SSCI, A&HCI; Timespan=1945-2006

Search within results: [Enter]

Refine your results

[Subject Categories](#) | [Source Titles](#) | [Document Types](#) | [Authors](#) | [Publication Years](#)

62 results found (Set #2)

Go to Page: of 7

Records 1 -- 10

Navigation icons: back, forward, search, etc.

Use the checkboxes to select records for output. See the sidebar for options.

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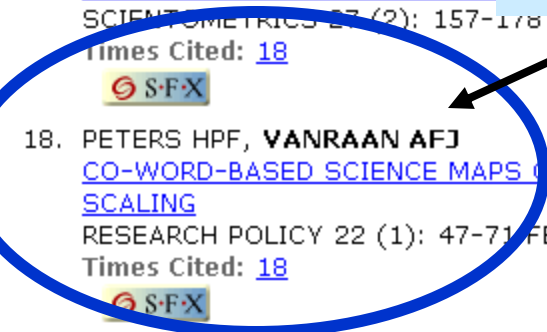
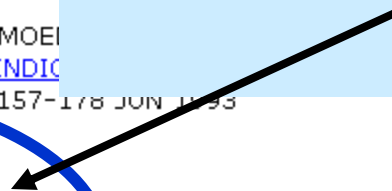
[A COMPARATIVE-STUDY OF BIBLIOMETRIC PAST PERFORMANCE ANALYSIS AND PEER JUDGMENT](#)

SCIENTOMETRICS 8 (3-4): 149-159 1985

Times Cited: [17](#)

Hirsch (h-) index AFJ van Raan =

18



A has **6** publ: **5** are cited 5 times, 1 is not cited
 $H = 5$

B has **6** publ: 4 are cited 4 times, **2 are cited 5 times**
 $H = 4$

$$r(B) < r(A)$$

This is unnatural and very difficult to justify.

We call this an inconsistent indicator.

Group **A**, 5 res, each res 5 publ, each publ 5 cit >>
each res $H=5$, there are 25 publ with 5 cit ($C=125$)

Group **B**, 5 res, each res 2 publ with 10 cit
and 3 publ uncited >> each res $H=2$, there are 10 publ
with 10 cit ($C=100$)

Each res in group **A** outperforms **each** res in group **B**

Thus, clearly group **A** outperforms group **B**.

According to Hirsch this is NOT the case:

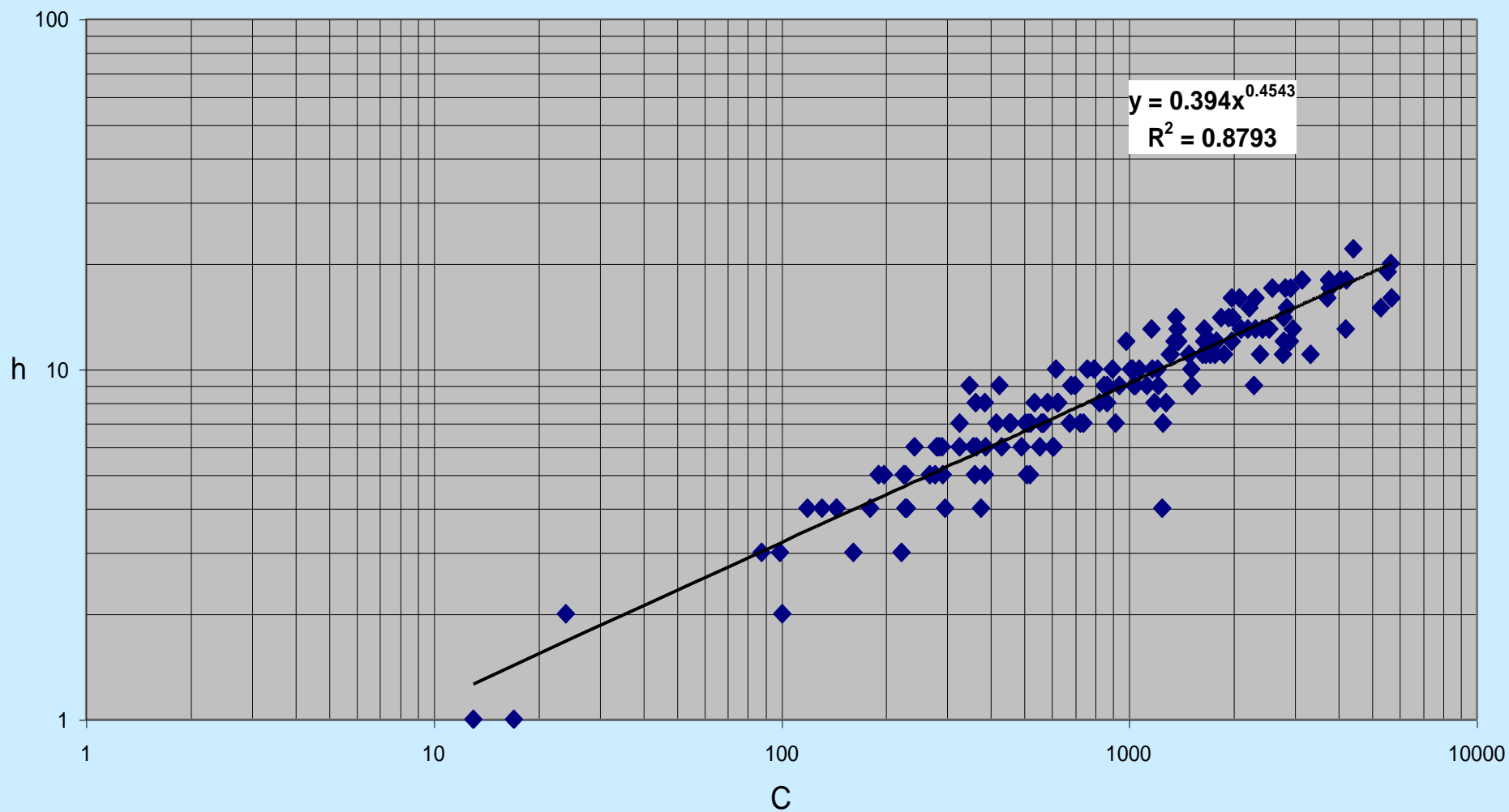
Group **A**: $H=5$, Group **B**: $H=10$

The H-index calculated at the level of research groups completely contradicts the *same* measure at the level of the individual researchers in the *same* groups

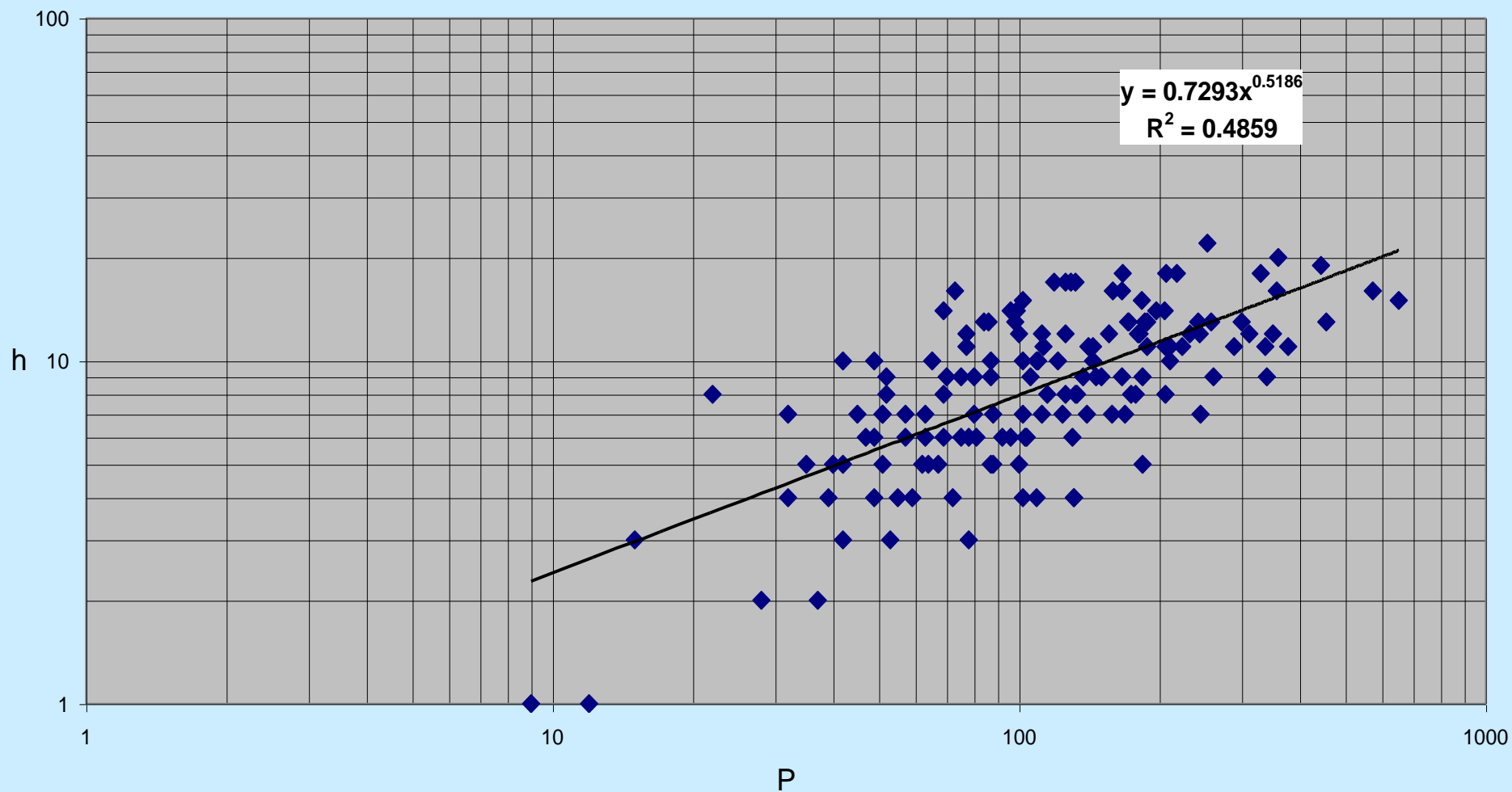
This is a rather odd result

Again: the H-index is inconsistent

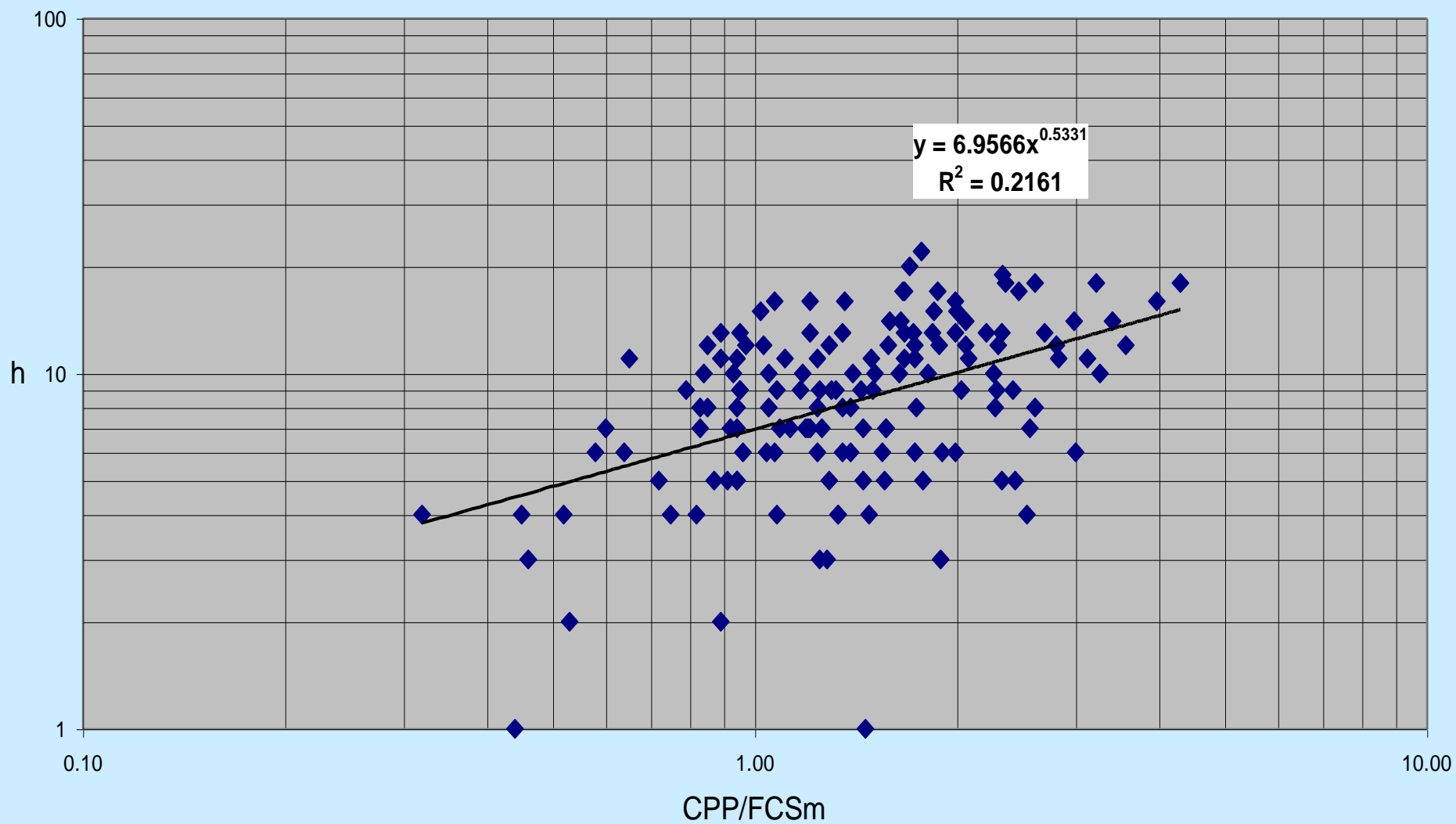
Correlation of h-index (h) with number of citations (C)
for all chemistry groups in the Netherlands



Correlation of h-index (h) with number of publications (P)
for all chemistry groups in the Netherlands



Correlation of h-index (h) with CPP/FCSm *for all chemistry groups in the Netherlands*





Thank you for your attention

