

When decade-old functionality would be progress - the desolate state of our scholarly infrastructure

Björn Brembs

Universität Regensburg

<http://brembs.net>

Life



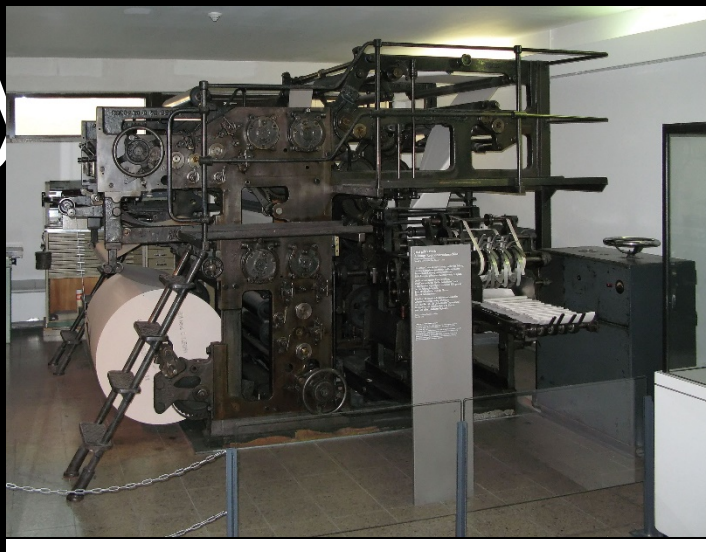
change

yesterday



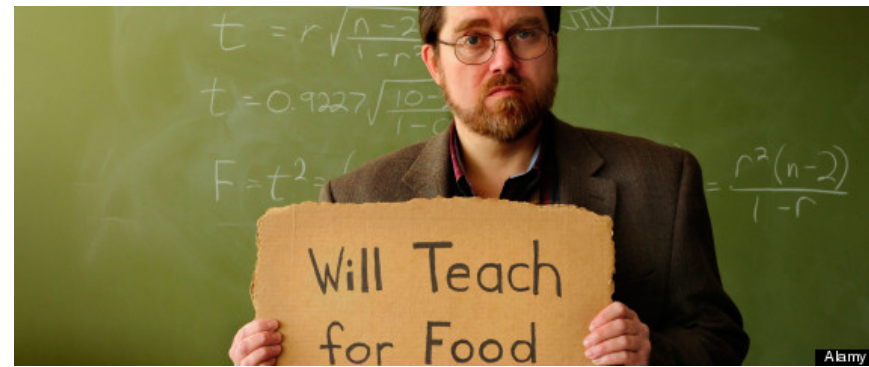
today

yesterday



today

SCHOLARSHIP



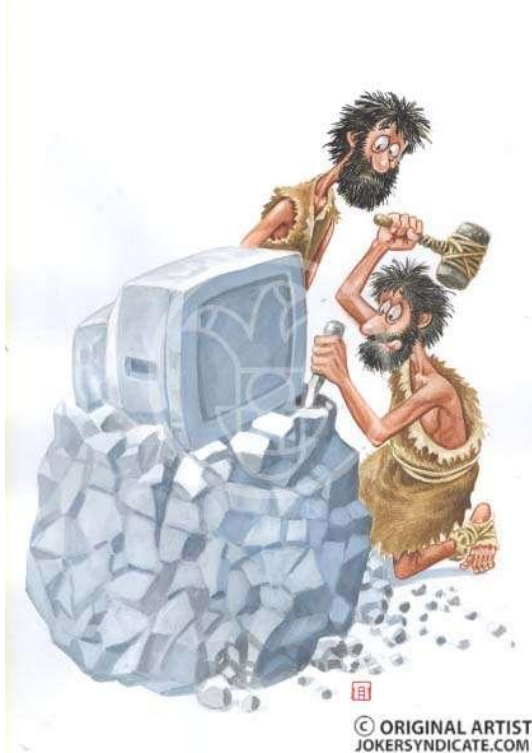
Institutions produce publications, data and software

CRISIS I



Dysfunctional scholarly literature

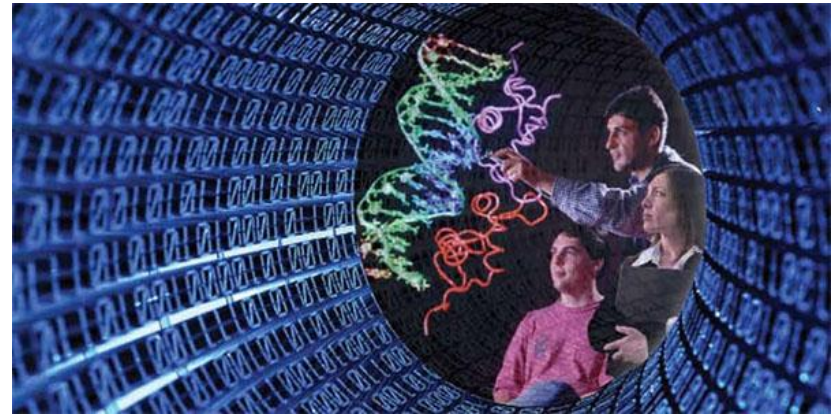
Literature



...it's like the
web in 1995!

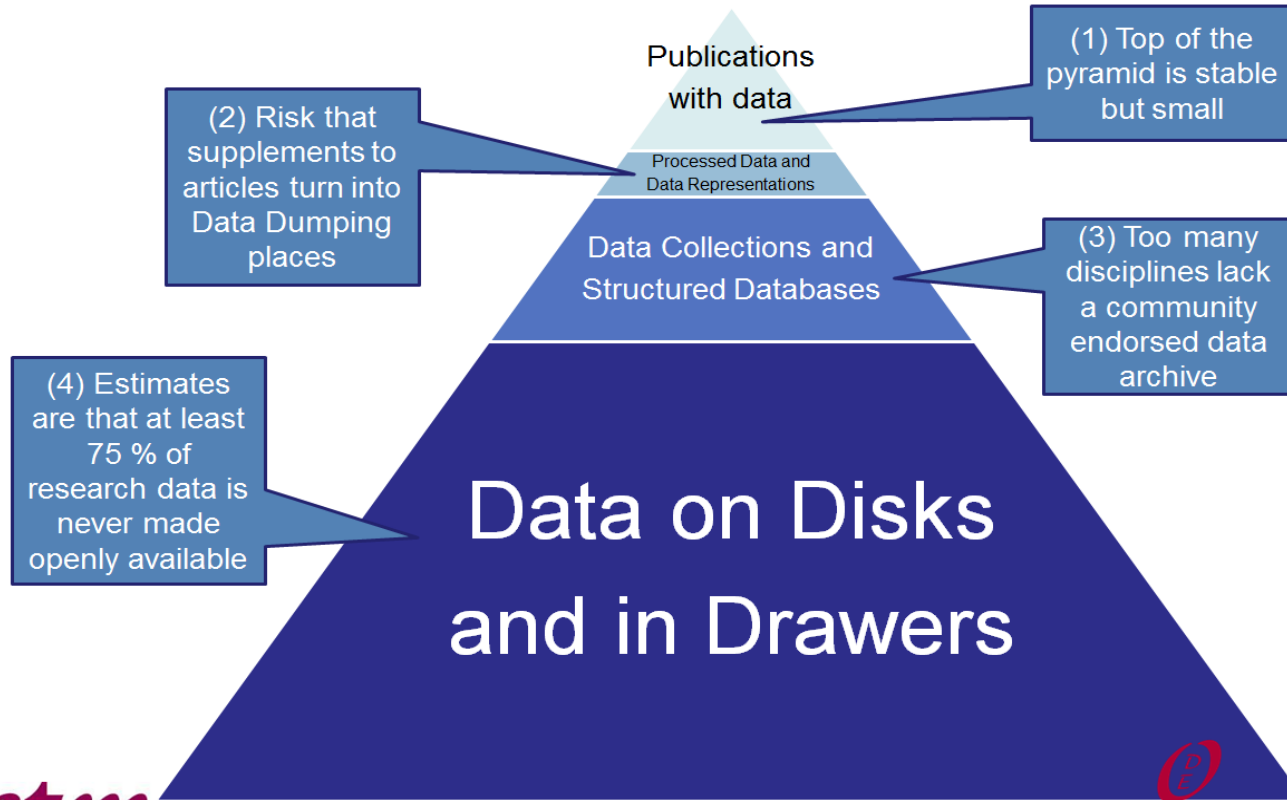
- Limited access
- No global search
- No functional hyperlinks
- No flexible data visualization
- No submission standards
- (Almost) no statistics
- No text/data-mining
- No effective way to sort, filter and discover
- No scientific impact analysis
- No networking feature
- etc.

CRISIS II



Scientific data in peril

Small Data – Long Tail



⚠ PubMed has been designated to be maintained with minimal staff during the lapse in government funding. The information on this website will be kept as up to date as possible, and the agency will attempt to respond to urgent operational inquiries during this period.

Updates regarding government operating status and resumption of normal operations can be found at <http://www.usa.gov>.

▶▶ [Commendations for *Nature* News & Comment in the 2012 Online Media Awards](#)

NATURE | NEWS

Databases fight funding cuts

Online tools are becoming ever more important to biology, but financial support is unstable.

Monya Baker

05 September 2012



Swiss Institute of
Bioinformatics



Search UniProtKB

for

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Clear

ExPASy Proteomics Server

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SWISS-PROT should have been 10 years old in July 1996, but it may disappear on June 30, 1996

Due to funding problems, SWISS-PROT as well as PROSITE, and the ENZYME nomenclature databases will disappear on June 30, 1996 if no solution is found before that date. The ExPASy WWW server and all services associated with it will also shut down. The distribution of the SWISS-2DPAGE database will also be discontinued. Other external databases, WWW services and software packages that depend on SWISS-PROT,



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TAIR Funding Updates and Discussion Forum

[Jump to Comments](#)

TAIR launches new corporate sponsorship program (7/23/2010)

Dear TAIR user community,

To help us through the **current funding crisis** we recently established a new TAIR corporate sponsorship program. We feel that this approach is preferable to implementing a subscription requirement for the private sector because it will allow us to keep TAIR open and free of login requirements, facilitating the free exploration of data by all scientists. Two companies (Dow AgroSciences and Syngenta) and one research organization (Gregor Mendel Institute) have already become TAIR sponsors. More information can be found on our [sponsorship page](#).

TAIR Funding Crisis (10/16/2009)

Dear TAIR user community,

About TAIR

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[Publications](#)

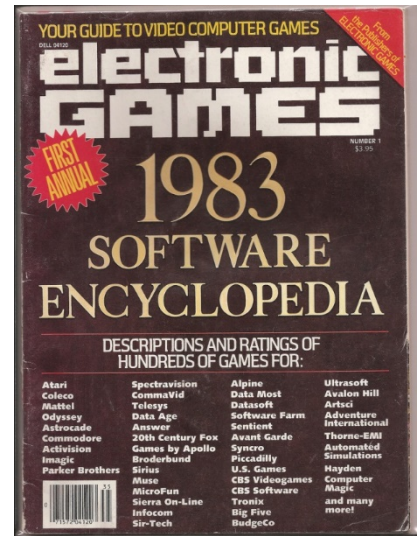
[TAIR Software](#)

[TAIR Database Statistics](#)

[TAIR Usage Statistics](#)

[TAIR Presentations \(ppt\)](#)

CRISIS III



Non-existent software archives

Article Views

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Science 2 December 2011:
Vol. 334 no. 6060 pp. 1226-1227
DOI: 10.1126/science.1213847

[◀ Prev](#) | [Table of Contents](#) | [Next ▶](#)[Leave a comment \(2\)](#)

PERSPECTIVE

Reproducible Research in Computational Science

Roger D. Peng

[±](#) Author AffiliationsTo whom correspondence should be addressed. E-mail: rpeng@jhsph.edu

ABSTRACT

Computational science has led to exciting new developments, but the nature of the work has exposed limitations in our ability to evaluate published findings. Reproducibility has the potential to serve as a minimum standard for judging scientific claims when full independent replication of a study is not possible.

The case for open computer programs

Darrel C. Ince, Leslie Hatton & John Graham-Cumming


[Affiliations](#) | [Contributions](#) | [Corresponding author](#)


Nature **482**, 485–488 (23 February 2012) | doi:10.1038/nature10836

Received 09 May 2011 | Accepted 05 January 2012 | Published online 22 February 2012

Scientific communication relies on evidence that cannot be entirely included in publications, but the rise of computational science has added a new layer of inaccessibility. Although it is now accepted that data should be made available on request, the current regulations regarding the availability of software are inconsistent. We argue that, with some exceptions, anything less than the release of source programs is intolerable for results that depend on computation. The vagaries of hardware, software and natural language will always ensure that exact reproducibility remains uncertain, but withholding code increases the chances that efforts to reproduce results will fail.

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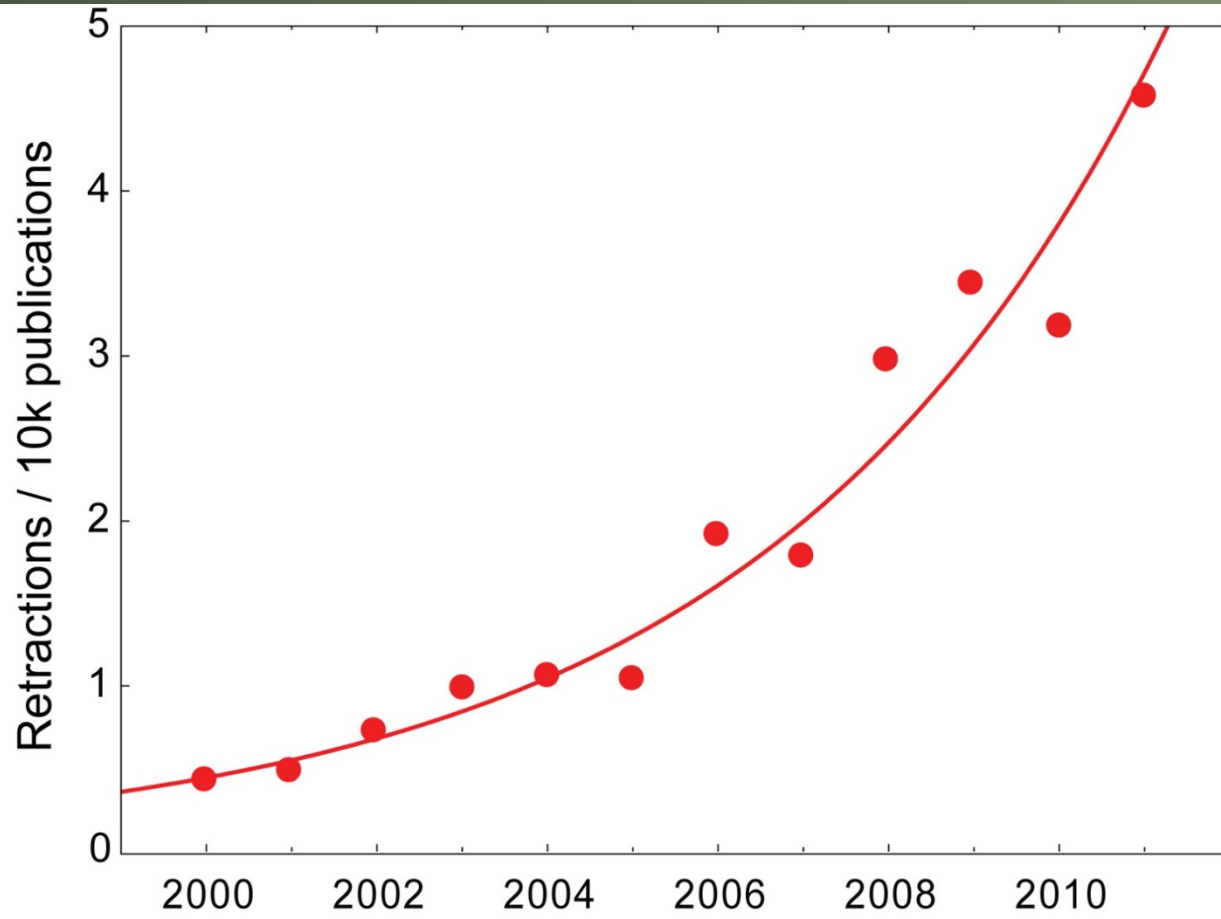
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Today's Digital Dystopia

- Institutional email
- Institutional webspace
- Institutional blog
- Library access card
- Open access repository
- No archiving of texts
- No archiving of code
- No archiving of data

Consequences?



Journal Rank

Only read publications from **high-ranking journals**



Journal Rank

Only publish in **high-ranking journals**



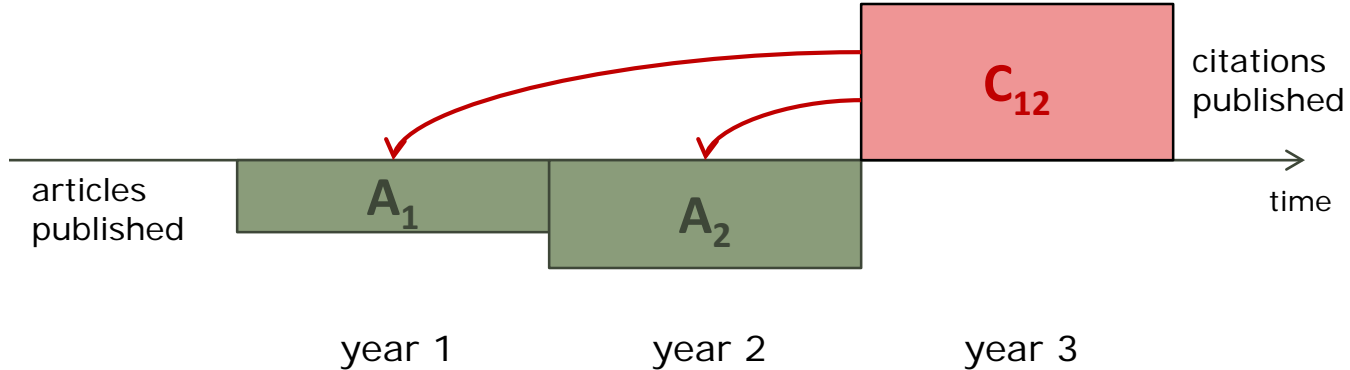
METRICS



Is journal rank like astrology?

The Impact Factor

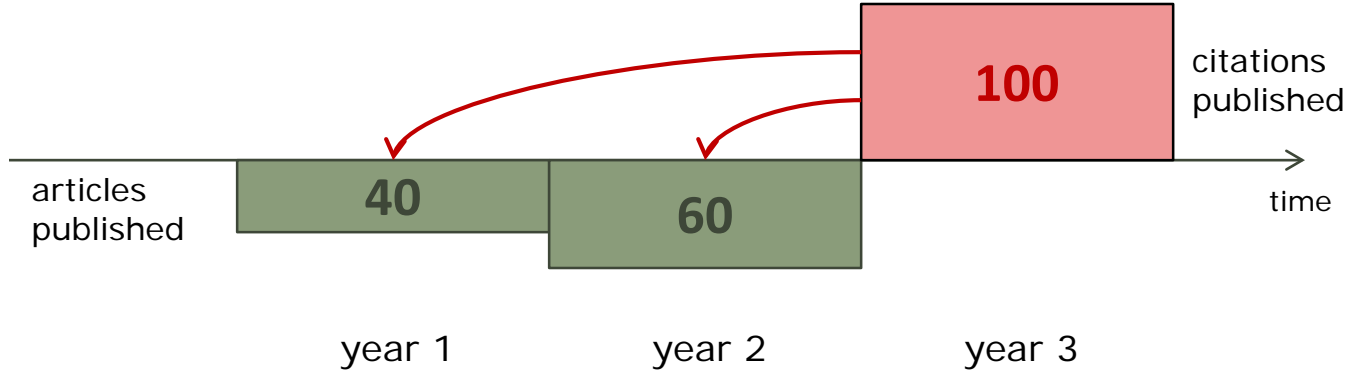
Introduced in 1950's by Eugene Garfield: ISI



$$IF(\text{year } 3) = \frac{C_{12}}{A_1 + A_2}$$

The Impact Factor

Introduced in 1950's by Eugene Garfield: ISI



$$\begin{aligned} IF(\text{year } 3) \\ &= \frac{100}{40+60} = 1 \end{aligned}$$

The Impact Factor

Journal X IF 2013=

All citations from TR indexed journals in 2013 to papers in journal X

Number of citable articles published in journal X in 2011/12



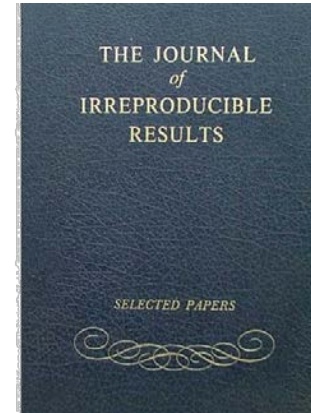
€30,000-130,000/year subscription rates
Covers ~11,500 journals (Scopus covers ~16,500)

Main Problems with the IF

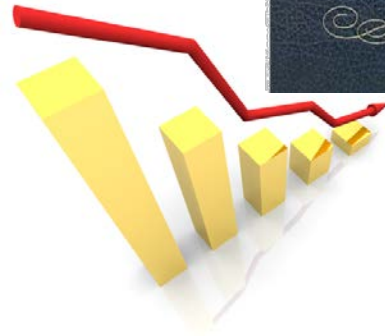
- Negotiable



- Irreproducible



- Mathematically unsound



Negotiable

- PLoS Medicine, IF 2-11 (8.4)
(The *PLoS Medicine* Editors (2006) The Impact Factor Game. *PLoS Med* 3(6): e291.
<http://www.plosmedicine.org/article/info:doi/10.1371%2Fjournal.pmed.0030291>)
- Current Biology IF from 7 to 11 in 2003
 - Bought by Cell Press (Elsevier) in 2001...

 Reed Elsevier



 THOMSON REUTERS

Journal: CURRENT BIOLOGY

Mark	Journal Title	ISSN	Total Cites	Impact Factor	Immediacy Index	Citable Items	Cited Half-life	Citing Half-life
<input type="checkbox"/>	CURR BIOL	0960-9822	20020	7.007	2.713	341	3.5	3.7
Cited Journal Citing Journal Source Data Journal Self Cites								

[CITED JOURNAL DATA](#)[CITING JOURNAL DATA](#)[IMPACT FACTOR TREND](#)

Journal Information



Full Journal Title: CURRENT BIOLOGY**ISO Abbrev. Title:** Curr. Biol.**JCR Abbrev. Title:** CURR BIOL**ISSN:** 0960-9822**Issues/Year:** 24**Language:** ENGLISH**Journal Country/Territory:** UNITED STATES**Publisher:** CELL PRESS**Publisher Address:** 1100 MASSACHUSETTS AVE, CAMBRIDGE, MA 02138**Subject Categories:** BIOCHEMISTRY & MOLECULAR BIOLOGY [VIEW JOURNAL SUMMARY LIST](#)**Journal Rank in Categories:** [JOURNAL RANKING](#)

Journal Impact Factor

Cites in 2002 to items published in: 2001 = 3314 Number of items published in: 2001 = 528
 2000 = 3917 2000 = 504
 Sum: 7231 Sum: 1032

Calculation: $\frac{\text{Cites to recent items}}{\text{Number of recent items}} = \frac{7231}{1032} = \mathbf{7.007}$

Journal: CURRENT BIOLOGY

Mark	Journal Title	ISSN	Total Cites	Impact Factor	Immediacy Index	Citable Items	Cited Half-life	Citing Half-life
<input type="checkbox"/>	CURR BIOL	0960-9822	20020	7.007	2.713	341	3.5	3.7
Cited Journal  Citing Journal  Source Data Journal Self Cites								

CITED JOURNAL DATA

CITING JOURNAL DATA



IMPACT FACTOR TREND

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<input type="checkbox"/>	CURR BIOL	0960-9822	22589	11.910	2.683	331	3.8	4.0
Cited Journal  Citing Journal  Source Data Journal Self Cites								

CITED JOURNAL DATA

CITING JOURNAL DATA

IMPACT FACTOR TREND

RELATED JOURNALS

Journal Impact Factor 

Cites in 2003 to items published in: 2002 = 3628 Number of items published in: 2002 = 334
 2001 = 3923 2001 = 300
 Sum: 7551 Sum: 634

Calculation: $\frac{\text{Cites to recent items}}{\text{Number of recent items}} = \frac{7551}{634} = 11.910$

Journal: CURRENT BIOLOGY

Mark	Journal Title	ISSN	Total Cites	Impact Factor	Immediacy Index	Citable Items	Cited Half-life	Citing Half-life
<input type="checkbox"/>	CURR BIOL	0960-9822	20020	7.007	2.713	341	3.5	3.7

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[Source Data](#)
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IMPACT FACTOR TREND

Journal Impact Factor ⓘ

Cites in 2002 to items published in: 2001 = 3314 Number of items published in: 2001 = 528
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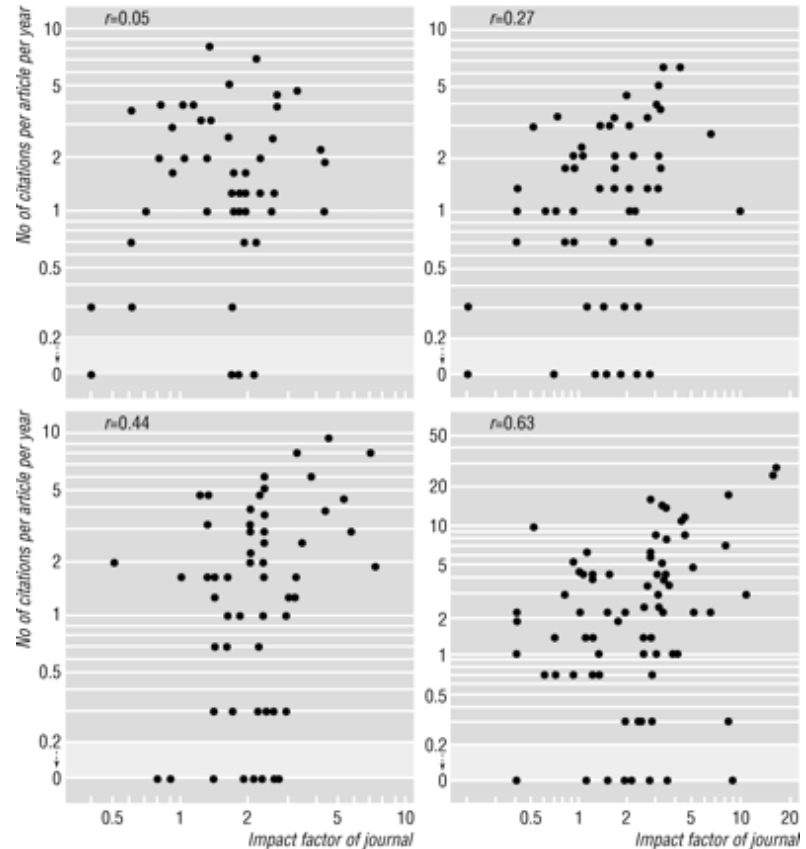
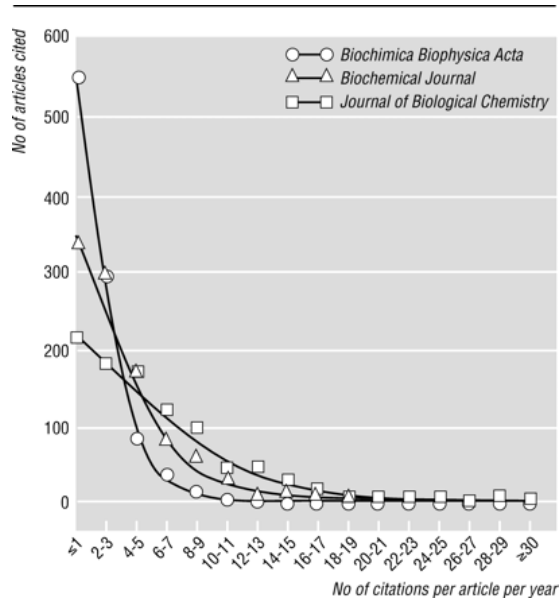
Not Reproducible

- Rockefeller University Press bought their data from Thomson Reuters
- Up to 19% deviation from published records
- Second dataset still not correct

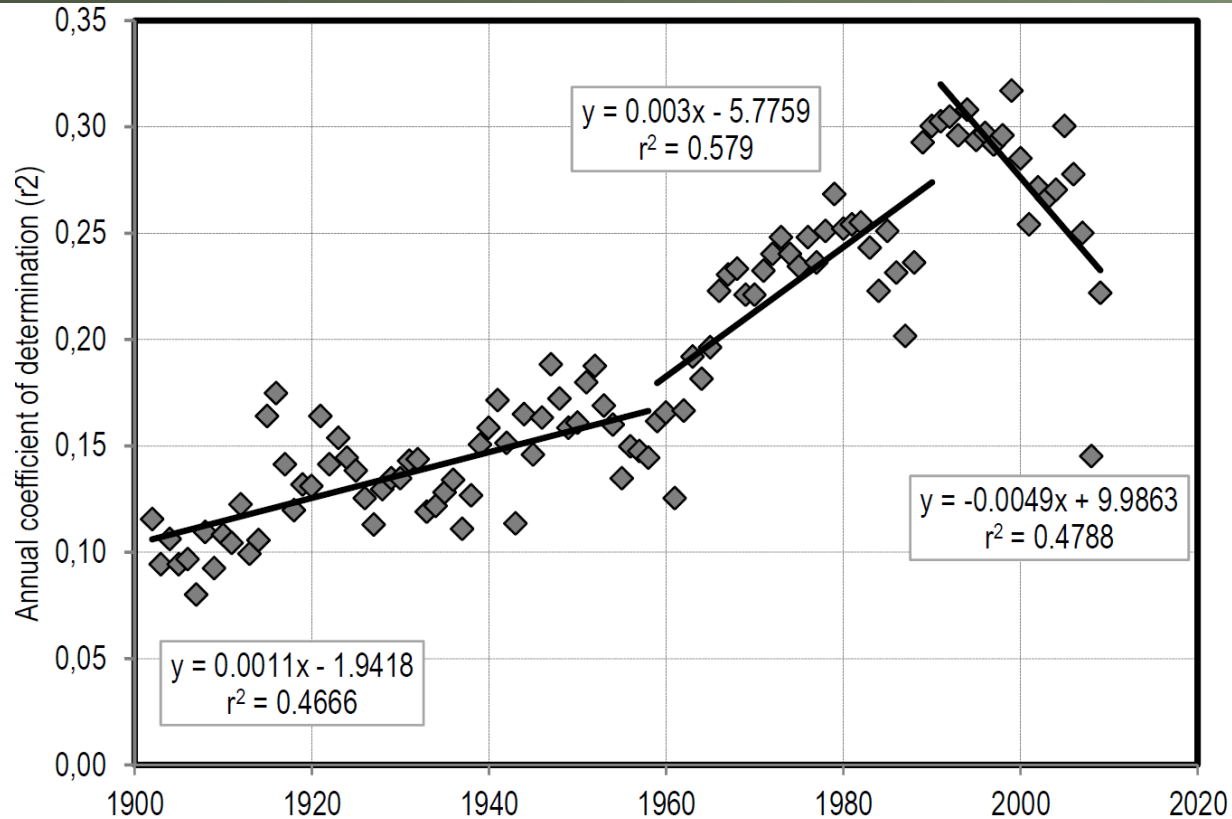


Not Mathematically Sound

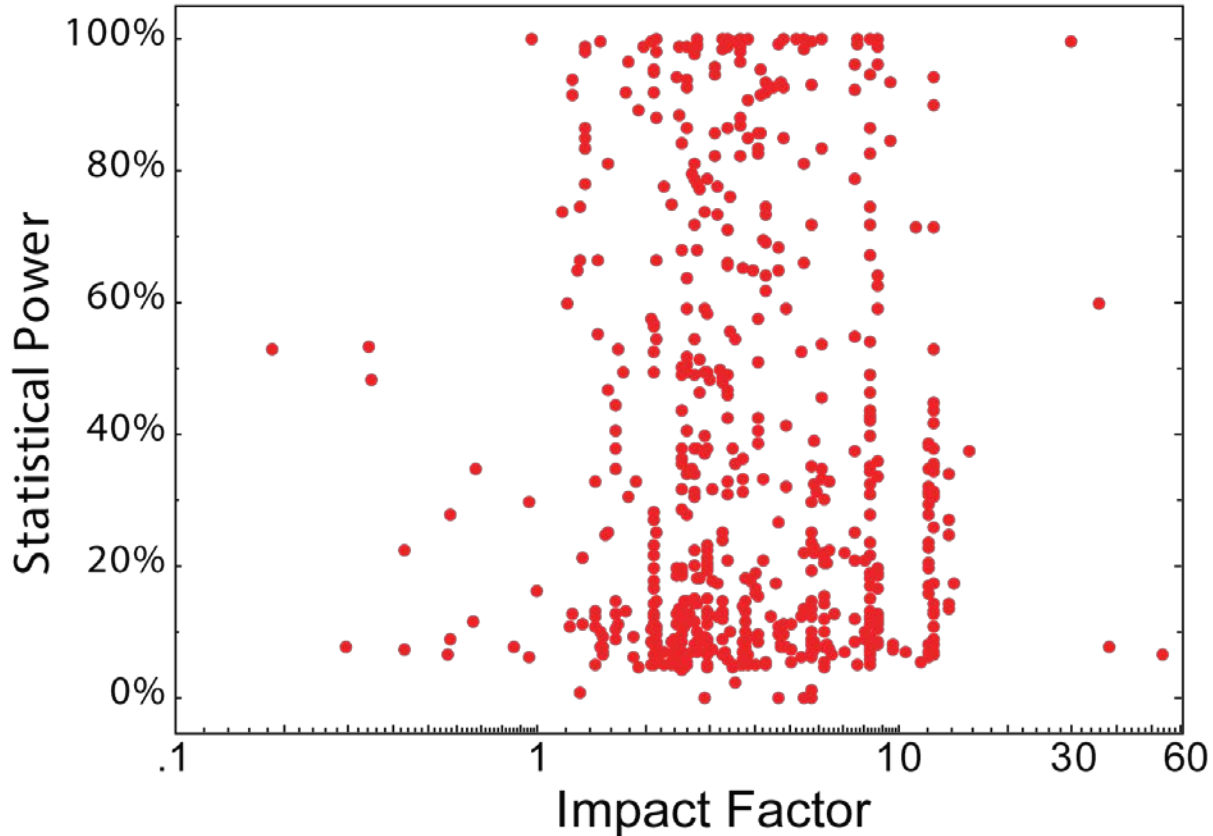
- Left-skewed distributions
- Weak correlation of individual article citation rate with journal IF



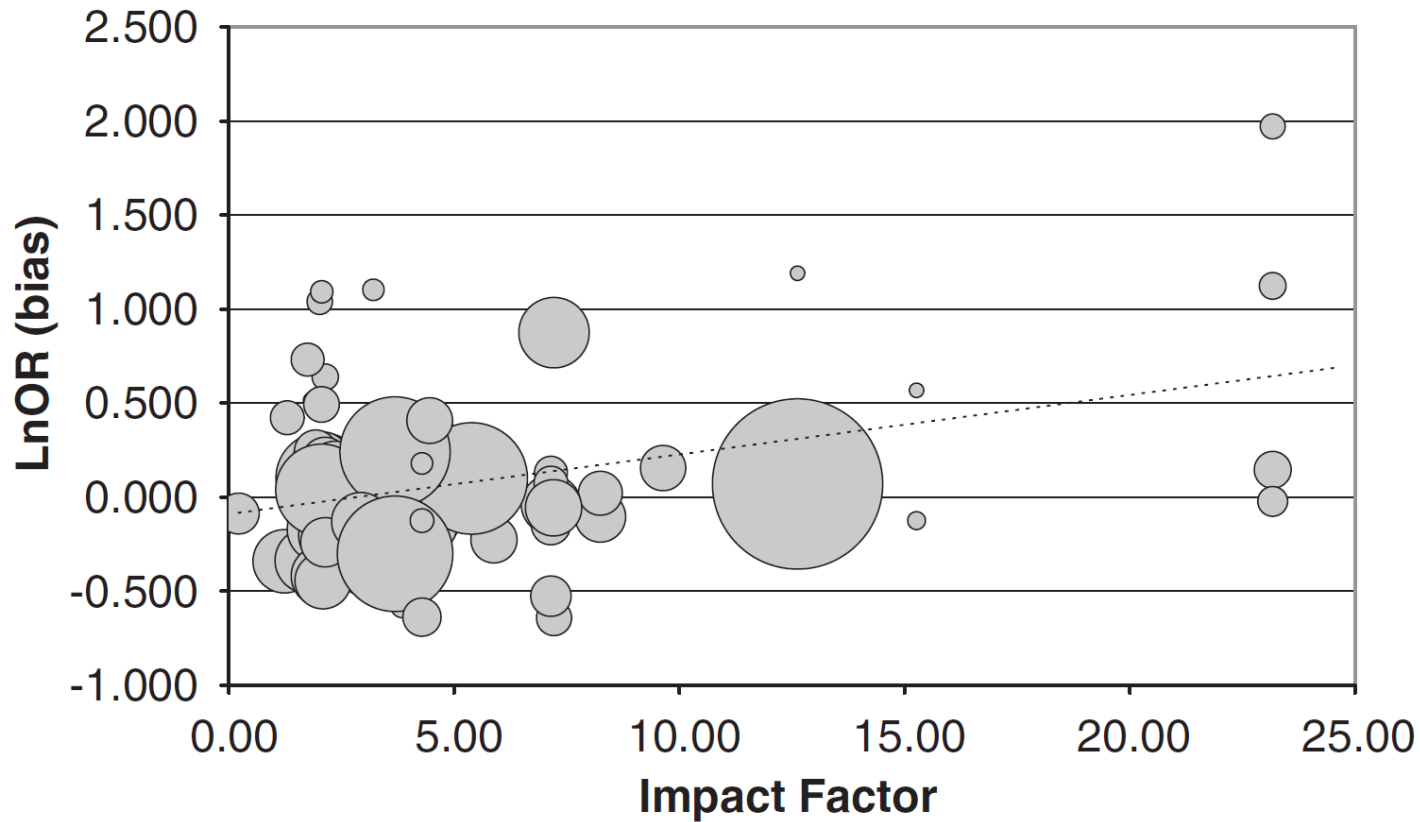
Journal rank and citations



Journal Rank and Methodology

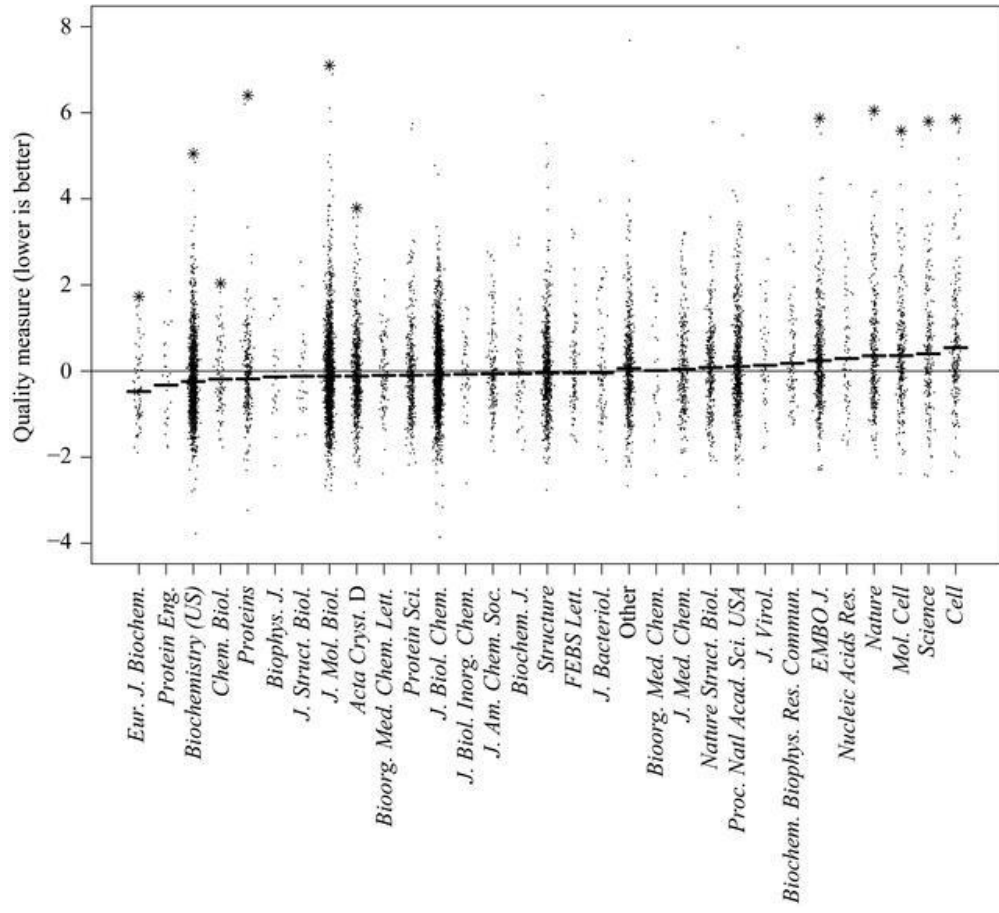


Journal Rank and Experimental Design



Munafò, M., Stothart, G., & Flint, J. (2009). Bias in genetic association studies and impact factor *Molecular Psychiatry*, 14 (2), 119-120 DOI: [10.1038/mp.2008.77](https://doi.org/10.1038/mp.2008.77)

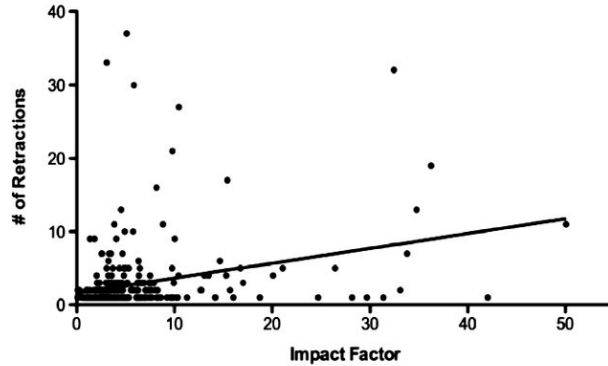
Journal Rank and Quality



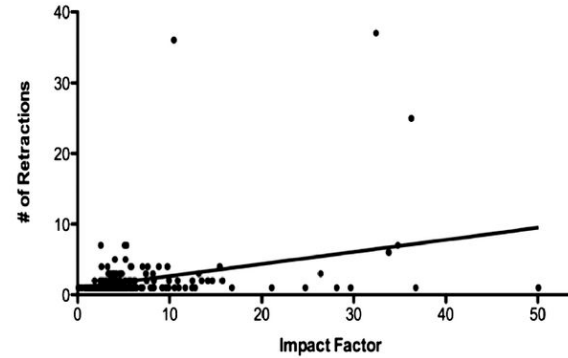
Brown, E. N., & Ramaswamy, S. (2007). Quality of protein crystal structures. *Acta Crystallographica Section D Biological Crystallography*, 63(9), 941–950. doi: 10.1107/S0907444907033847

Journal Rank and Fraud/Error

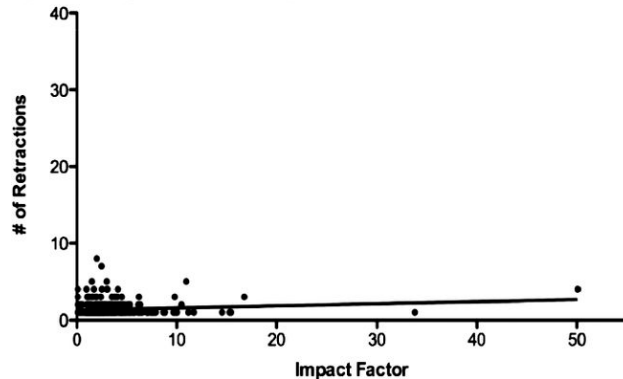
A Fraud or Suspected Fraud



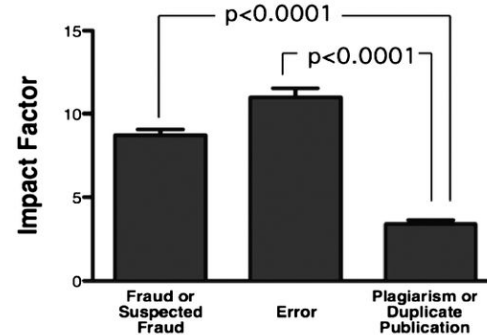
B Error



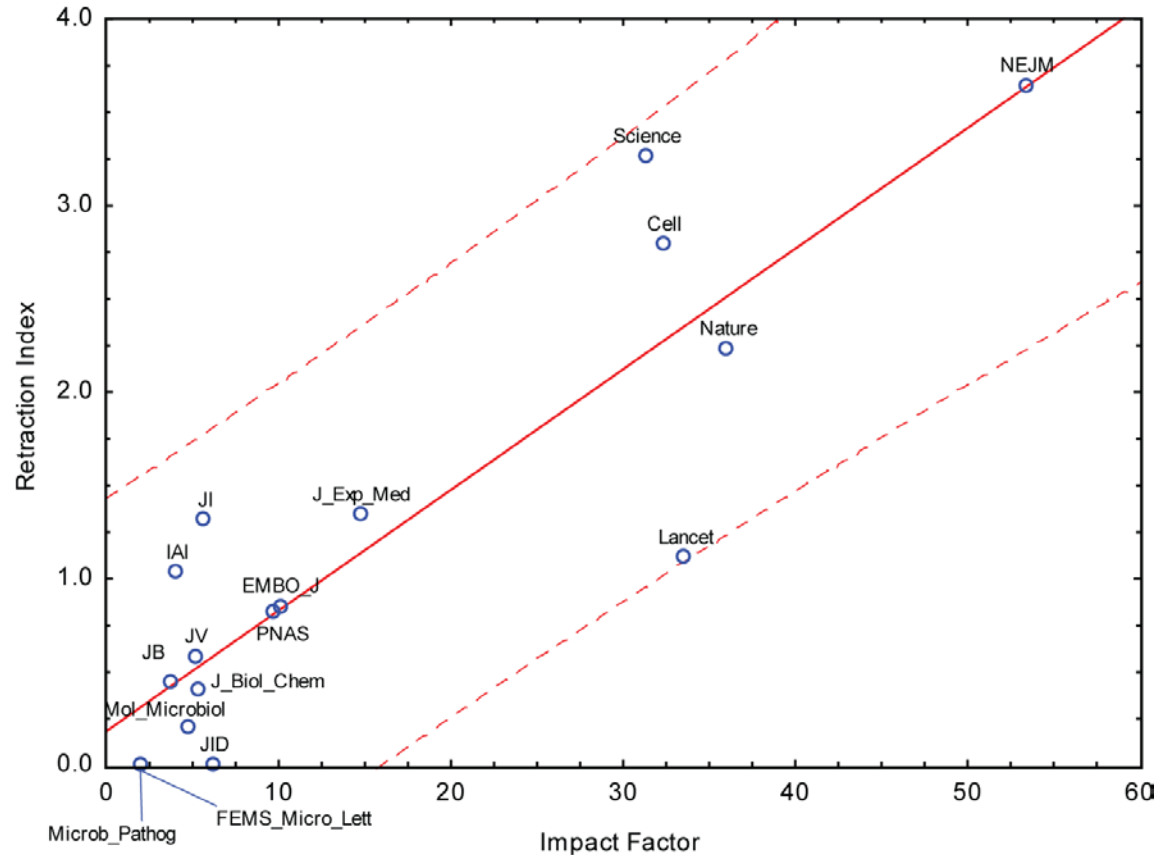
C Plagiarism or Duplicate Publication



D Mean IF by Cause



Journal Rank and Retractions



NO EVIDENCE



Journal rank is a figment of our imagination.

INCENTIVES



“High-Impact” journals attract the most unreliable research

**The
Economist**

OCTOBER 19TH - 25TH 2013

economist.com

Britain's angry white men

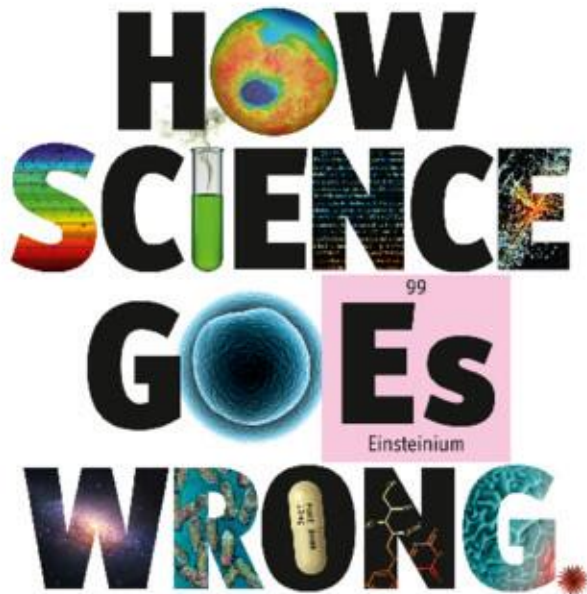
How to do a nuclear deal with Iran

Investment tips from Nobel economists

Junk bonds are back

The meaning of Sachin Tendulkar

HOW
SCIENCE
GOES
WRONG



The title 'HOW SCIENCE GOES WRONG' is rendered in large, bold, black letters. Each letter is filled with a different scientific illustration: 'H' is a globe, 'O' is a colorful topographical map, 'W' is a globe, 'S' is a rainbow spectrum, 'C' is a test tube with green liquid, 'I' is a test tube with green liquid, 'E' is a grid of numbers, 'N' is a colorful nebula, 'G' is a blue and white sphere, 'O' is a blue and white sphere, 'E' is a pink square containing the number '99' and the word 'Einsteinium', 'S' is a pink square containing the number '99' and the word 'Einsteinium', 'W' is a colorful nebula, 'R' is a colorful nebula, 'O' is a colorful nebula, 'N' is a colorful nebula, 'G' is a colorful nebula.

OCTOBER 19TH - 25TH 2013

Worldwide cover



“Do you trust scientists?”

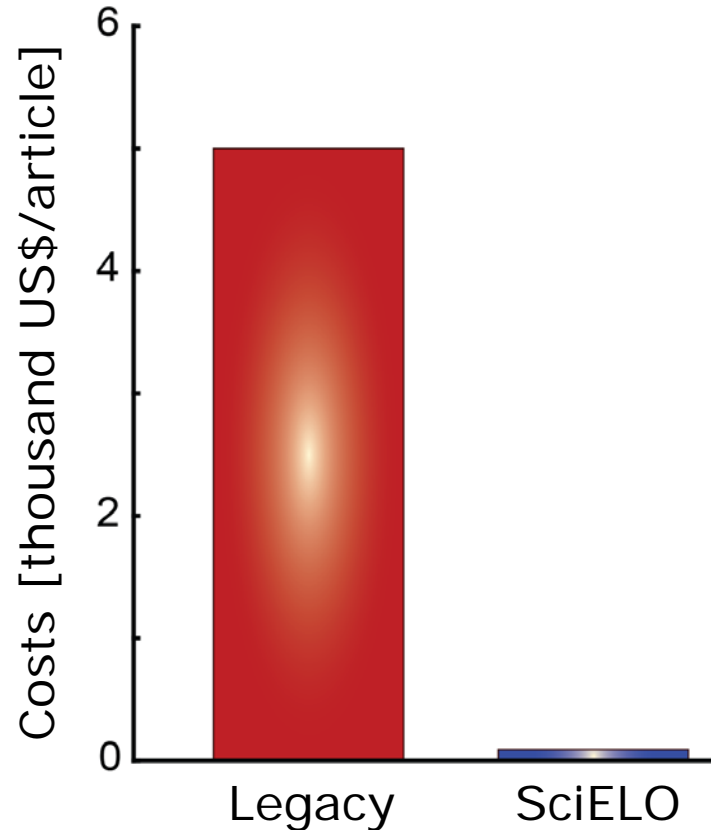


“Who can you trust these days?”



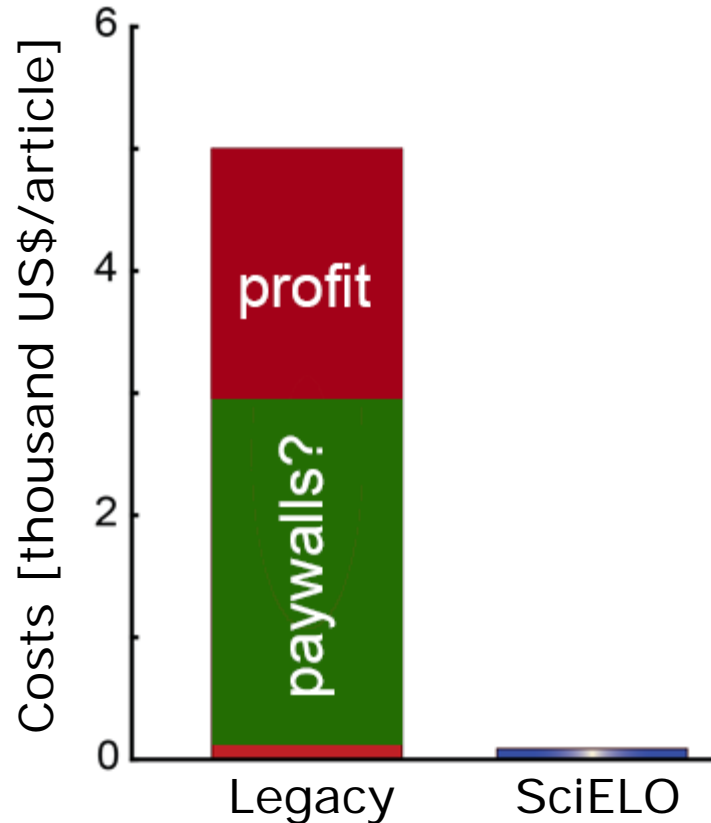
“Politicians? Financial experts? Realtors?”

The costs of legacy publishing



(Sources: Van Noorden, R. (2013). Open access: The true cost of science publishing. *Nature* 495, 426–9; Packer, A. L. (2010). The SciELO Open Access: A Gold Way from the South. *Can. J. High. Educ.* 39, 111–126)

The costs of legacy publishing



(Sources: Van Noorden, R. (2013). Open access: The true cost of science publishing. *Nature* 495, 426–9; Packer, A. L. (2010). The SciELO Open Access: A Gold Way from the South. *Can. J. High. Educ.* 39, 111–126)

Status Quo



Status Quo



Access?



SO MUCH FOR THAT



**The disaster that is our digital
infrastructure**

WHAT NOW?

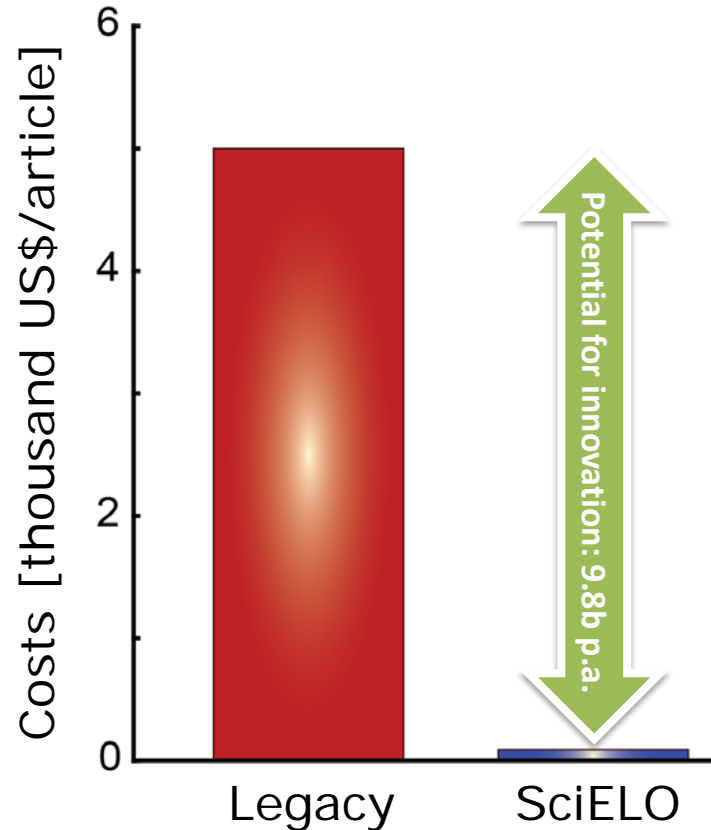


Science, tear down this paywall!



UTOPIA 8.535 km

Potential for innovation



(Sources: Van Noorden, R. (2013). Open access: The true cost of science publishing. *Nature* 495, 426–9; Packer, A. L. (2010). The SciELO Open Access: A Gold Way from the South. *Can. J. High. Educ.* 39, 111–126)

1. International Coordination



2. Hire software developers



3. Cancel all subscriptions



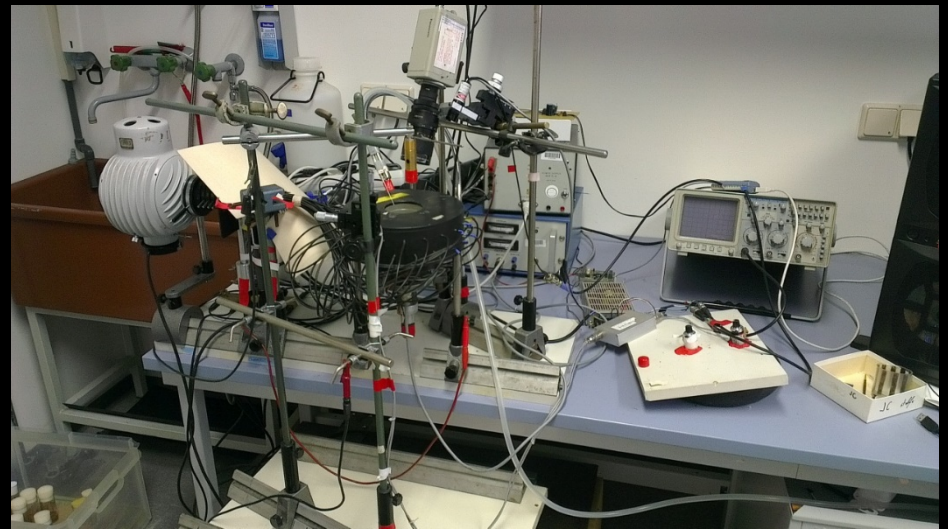
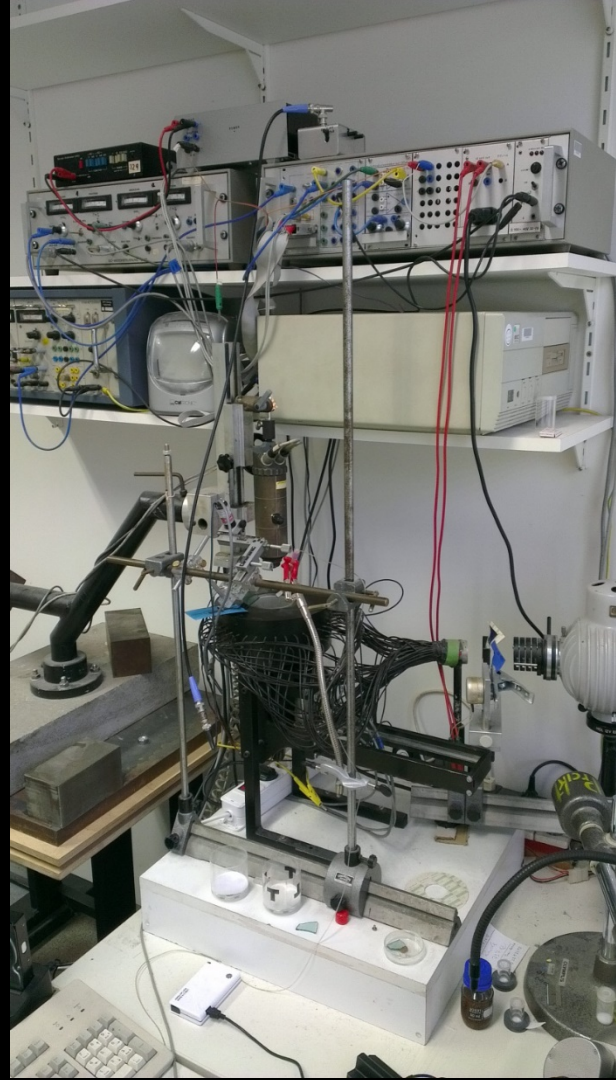
Superior Alternative

- Sustainable, global search and access for all literature, code and data
- Intelligent sort, filter and discover functionalities
- Scientific, evidence-based reputation system
- Authoring tools for collaborative writing and single-click submission
- Orders of magnitude cheaper: US\$90/paper (e.g. SciELO) vs. US\$5,000/paper (subscription)

JULIEN COLOMB

**One person is not an
institutional infrastructure**





Software to control the experiment and save the data

Software to analyze and visualize the data

buridan.sourceforge.net

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Tracker	2011-11-30		Stats
data examples	2011-04-11		Stats

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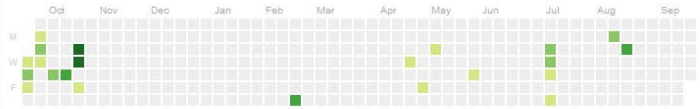
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- [CeTrAn](#)
CeTrAn is a R script to analyse and pub... 3 ★
- [Buridan_5CS](#)
data for burden F1000 paper 0 ★
- [CV](#)
this is my CV, which is now version cont... 0 ★
- [geierlein](#)
Elster USNA implementation in pure Ja... 0 ★
- [Latex-based-business-plan-t...](#)
Latex based business plan project 0 ★

Repositories contributed to

- [ropensci/figshare](#)
Programmatic interface for Figshare 19 ★
- [stesie/geierlein](#)
Elster USNA implementation in pure Ja... 79 ★

Public contributions



Summary of Pull Requests, issues opened, and commits. [Learn more.](#)

Less ■ ■ ■ ■ More

Year of contributions

41 total

Sep 25, 2013 – Sep 25, 2014

Longest streak

3 days

September 25 – September 27

Current streak

0 days

Rock – Hard Place

Contribution activity

Period: 1 week ▾

jcolomb has no activity during this period.

Scientific Code with Persistent Identifiers

sciforge



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Publication and Citation of Scientific Software with Persistent Identifiers

Software has become an integral part of science, yet software is not properly integrated into the scientific discourse. We will look at the requirements for software publication, code archives, and persistent identification of software.



Establish the missing link between papers and data publications.



Make software recognized as scientific achievement.



Leverage open access and open science.



Establish standard software engineering rules, best practices and processes in science.

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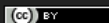
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Mouysset, S ; Zbib, H ; Stute, S ; Girault, JM; *et al*

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RESEARCH ARTICLE



Open Source Tracking and Analysis of Adult *Drosophila* Locomotion in Buridan's Paradigm with and without Visual Targets

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Julien Colomb^{1*}, Lutz Reiter¹, Jędrzej Blaszkiwicz¹, Jan Wessnitzer², Bjoern Brembs^{1,3}

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Abstract [Top](#)

Background

1 Insects have been among the most widely used model systems for studying the control of locomotion by nervous systems. In *Drosophila*, we implemented a simple test for locomotion: in Buridan's paradigm, flies walk back and forth between two inaccessible visual targets [1]. Until today, the lack of easily accessible tools for tracking the fly position and analyzing its trajectory has probably contributed to the slow acceptance of Buridan's paradigm.

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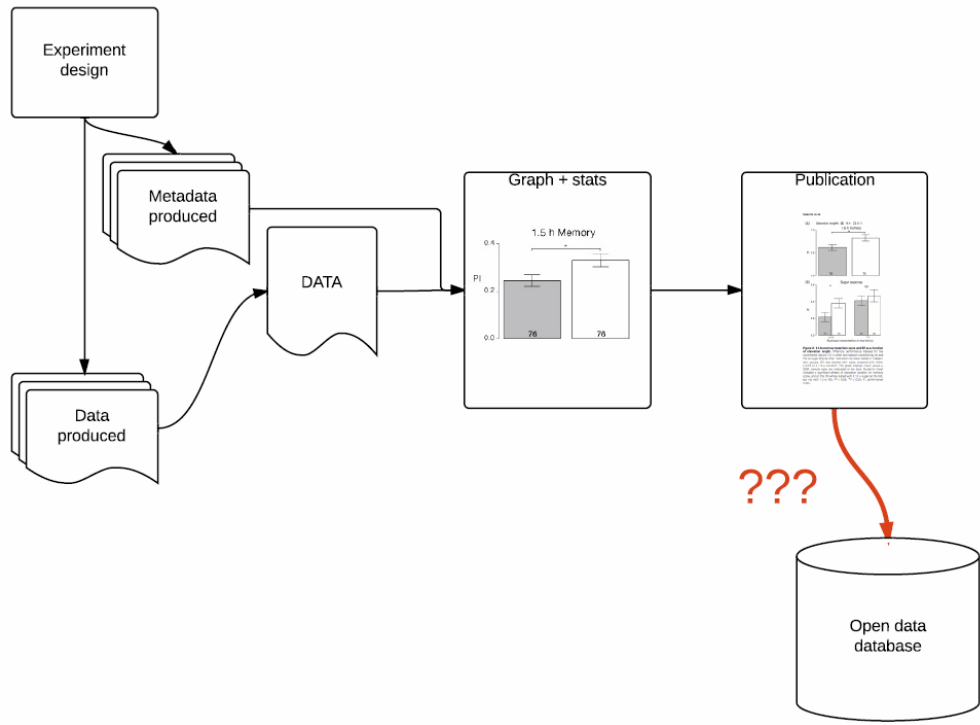
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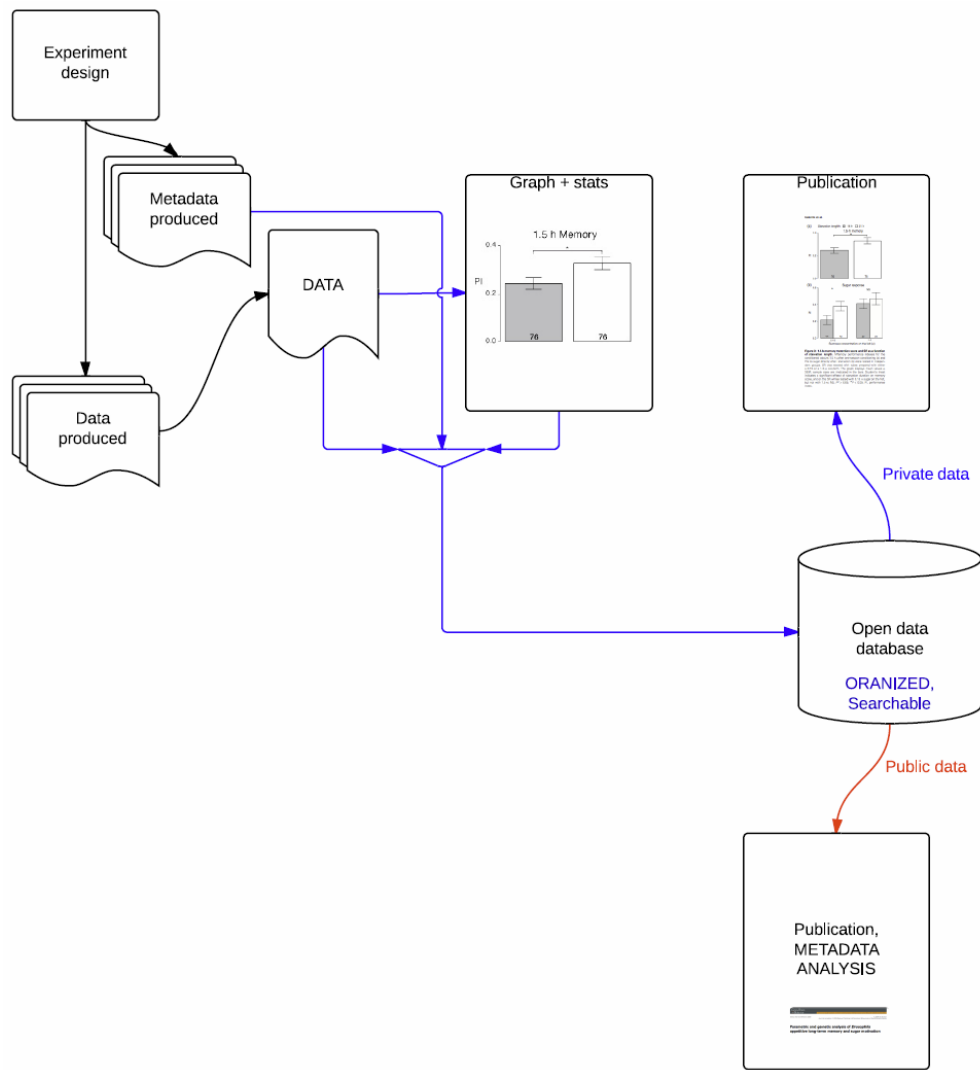
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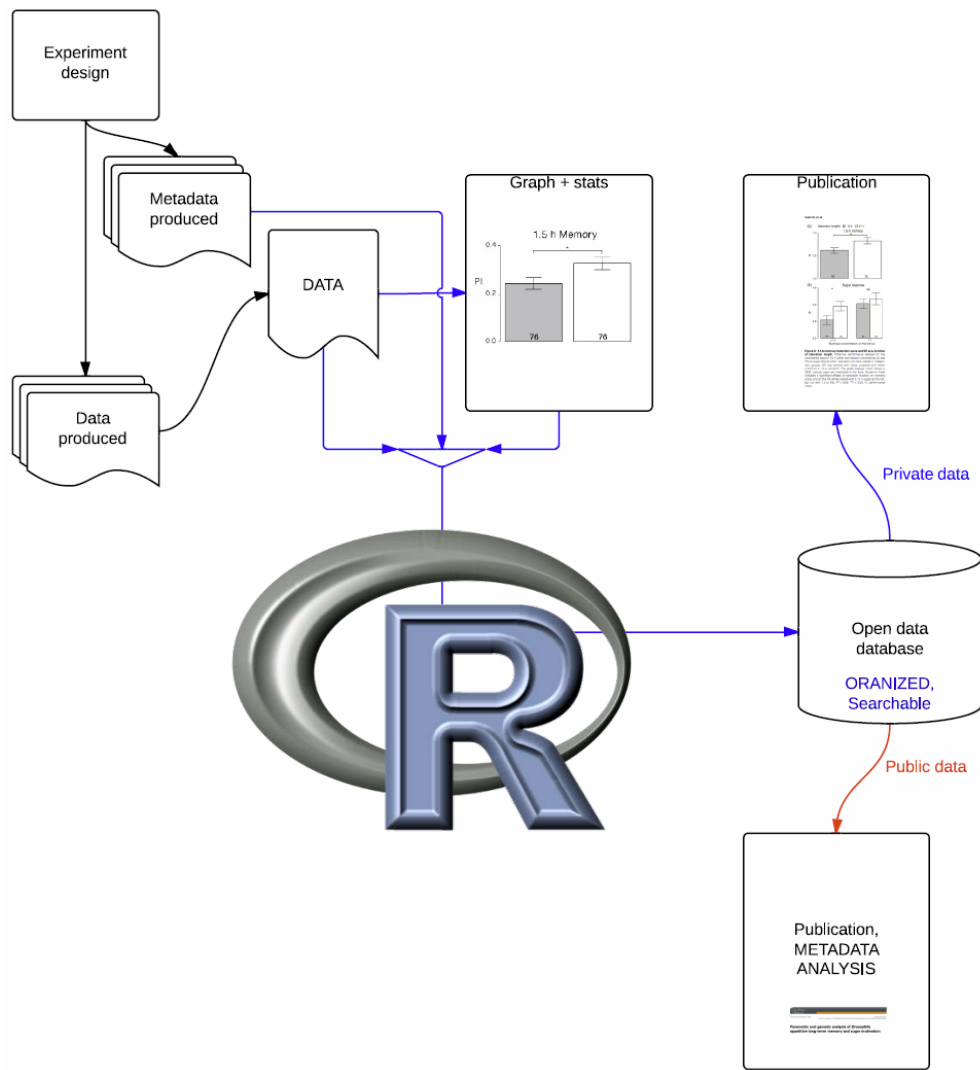
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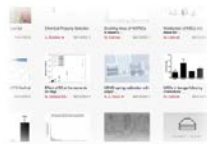


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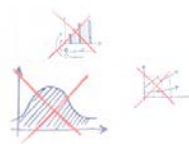
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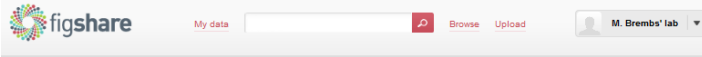
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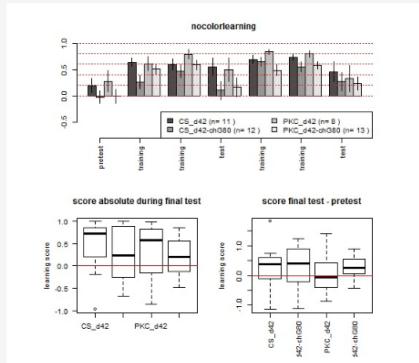
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67 - if (is.na(id_test)){
68 # article_title= "d42Ga14 UPKci experiment: with and without UASGFP and chaGal80"
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70 # article_type = "figure" #, "dataset" #, "media", "poster", "paper", "fileset"
71 # article_tags = c("self-learning", "genetics")
72 # article_categories="Neuroscience"
73 # article_files = "T:dataforfigshare.png"
74 # article_visibility= "draft" #"private" "public" #
75 # article_authors= c("julien colomb")
76 # article_links="http://lab.brembs.net"
77
78
79 id <- fs_new_article(title = article_title, description = article_description,
80 type = article_type, tags = article_tags, categories=article_categories ,
81 files = article_files, visibility= article_visibility, #authors = article_authors,
82 links=article_links)
83 ##add björn as author (the "o" leads to error on figshare at this time):
84 rfigshare:::fs_add_author(article_id = id_test, author_id = 96464)
85
86 id
87 - }else{
88 newfile= "T:dataforfigshare.png"
89 fs_upload(id_test, file =newfile)
90 }
91
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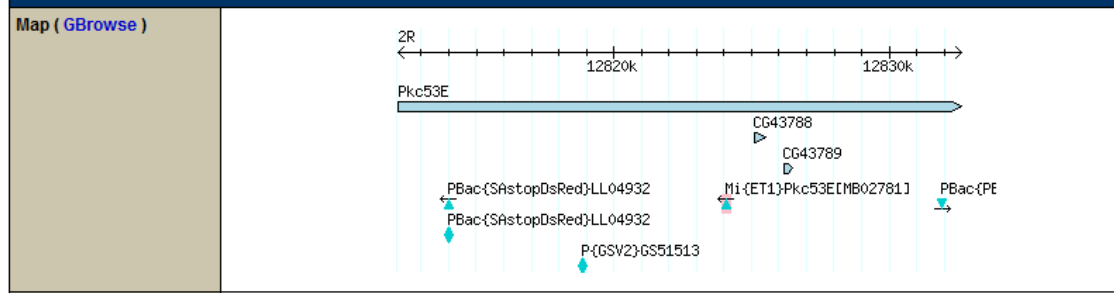
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General Information			
Symbol	DmellPkc53E ^{MB02781}	Species	<i>D. melanogaster</i>
Name		FlyBase ID	FBal0197029
Feature type	allele	Associated gene	DmellPkc53E



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Mutagen	

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RESEARCH ARTICLE

Sub-strains of *Drosophila* Canton-S differ markedly in their locomotor behavior [v1; ref status: indexed, <http://f1000r.es/3is>]

Julien Colomb¹, Björn Brembs²

Author affiliations

Grant information: The author(s) declared that no grants were involved in supporting this work.

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Abstract

We collected five sub-strains of the standard laboratory wild-type *Drosophila melanogaster* Canton Special (CS) and analyzed their walking behavior in Buridan's paradigm using the CeTrAn software. According to twelve different aspects of their behavior, the sub-strains fit into three groups. The group separation appeared not to be correlated with the origin of the stocks. We conclude that founder effects but not laboratory selection likely influenced the gene pool of the sub-strains. The flies' stripe fixation was the parameter that varied most. Our results suggest that differences in the genome of laboratory stocks can render comparisons between nominally identical wild-type stocks meaningless. A single source for control strains may settle this problem.

Corresponding author: Björn Brembs

How to cite: Colomb J and Brembs B. Sub-strains of *Drosophila* Canton-S differ markedly in their locomotor behavior [v1; ref status: indexed, <http://f1000r.es/3is>] *F1000Research* 2014, 3:176 (doi: [10.12688/f1000research.4263.1](https://doi.org/10.12688/f1000research.4263.1))

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Competing interests: No competing interests were disclosed.

First published: 30 Jul 2014, 3:176 (doi: [10.12688/f1000research.4263.1](https://doi.org/10.12688/f1000research.4263.1))

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Figure 3. The different sub-strains show a large spectrum of values for the stripe deviation parameter.



For every movement of the fly, the angle between its direction and the direction toward the stripes was calculated. The median of these angles was calculated for each fly, representing a quantification of stripe fixation by the fly. The value of each sub-strain in each session is depicted in boxplots: for each group, we represent the median, 25–75% quantiles and the total spread of the values (excluding outliers) as line, box and whiskers, respectively. The version of this figure on the *F1000Research* website is interactive, readers can define the type of whiskers displayed as either the 10th–90th percentiles (A) or Tukey whiskers (1.5 x IQR from 1st/3rd quartile; B). The text color code used for the genotypes is analogous to that used in Figure 2. The red horizontal line corresponds to the median value for random walks: 44°. Sample size is 11–12 for each boxplot. No statistical analysis was performed.

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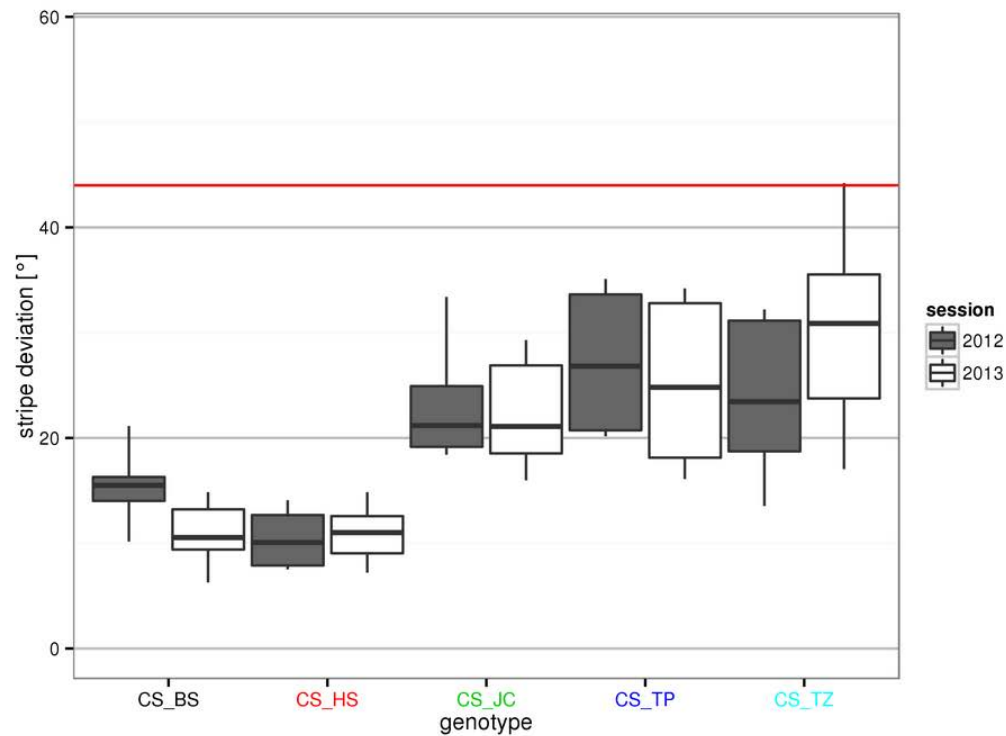


Figure 3. The different sub-strains show a large spectrum of values for the stripe deviation parameter.

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Re-Plot Figure

Define Whisker

10th-90th %tile

Whiskers extend to 10th/90th percentiles.

Dots are values below/above whiskers

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