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RESEARCH ARTICLE

APPLICATION OF STATISTICAL MODELS TO THE COLLABORATIVE PUBLICATIONS IN BIOINFORMATICS

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ABSTRACT

This article deals with the growth and proportion of different types of co-authored publications in Bioinformatics. This study also explores the applicability of appropriate statistical model to the deterioration in the proportion of single-authored publication with during sample periods. Also studies the applicability of selected statistical models to the distribution of authorship in publications of bioinformatics during 1999 to 2013.

Keywords: Collaboration; Publications; Statistical models; Bioinformatics, authorship pattern

1. INTRODUCTION

Now a day, majority of science and social science research has come through collaborative pattern. According to Beaver and Rosen (1978), The first collaborated papers has published in 1655, since then the proportion of total collaborated papers has been increasing with time. It was during the 20th century that the professionalization in science had its maximum impact on the members of the scientific community. Because of this factor, there had been an increasing trend in the growth of collaborative publications in all disciplines of science and technology (S&T). However, the increase in the number and proportion of collaborative publications and their growth rates have been observed to vary from one subject to another, one branch to another, within the same subject, and from one country to another. Changes in the

growth rate of collaborative publications observed in subject disciplines are probably related to changes in the acknowledgement of teamwork, as an accepted practice in collaboration that simultaneously effect changes in the support of S&T.

2. OBJECTIVES

The main objectives of this study are:

(a) To study the growth in the number and proportion of collaborative publications in the field of Bioinformatics research with time;
(b) To study the applicability of a suitable mathematical model in the decline of the proportion of single-authored publications with time; and
(c) To study the applicability of selected probability distributions to the distribution of authorship with time for publications in the field of Bioinformatics.

3. DATABASE AND METHODOLOGY

The present study covers publication from 1999 to 2013. For studying the growth in the number and proportion of multi-authored publications in the field of theoretical population genetics, the entire data from the bibliography was used. This consists of 17318 publications, of which 15716 (90.23 %) of articles were produced by multi-authored. Bioinformatics research articles were downloaded from the database of Web of Science during the period 1999 to 2013, it includes the databases of SCI (Science Citation Index), SSCI (Social Science Citation Index) and AHCI (Arts and Humanities Citation Index)). The search key term has 'bioinformatics' has been used for the purpose of collection of data, required for the study. It covers different types of publications in the discipline of Bioinformatics during the sample periods. Further, the data was tabulated using by the software's of Histcite, VOS viewer and MS-Excel and further analyzed for the purpose of interpretation and discussion.

4. DISCUSSION AND RESULTS

4.1 Overall Collaboration Profile in Theoretical Population Genetics

(a) Proportion of Collaborated Publications

The growth in the number of total publications and collaborative publications have considered shown a consistent increasing trend with time since 1999. However, the proportion of collaborative publications in total publications has shown a reliable growth with slight fluctuations in certain periods.

(a) The proportion of single-authored publications has increased from 3.11 percent during 1999 to 6.11 percent during 2012. Single authored contribution has shown in declining trend.

(b) The proportion of multi-authored publications has increased from 0.48 percent during 1999 to 13.52 percent during 2012. Multi-authored contribution shows in continuous increasing trend.

Table 1: Total Publications and Collaborative Publications between 1999-2013

Year	No. of pub.	Single authored	Percent	Collaborative authored	Percent
1999	128 (0.73)	53	3.11	75	0.48
2000	259 (1.49)	95	5.58	164	1.04
2001	371 (2.13)	119	6.99	252	1.60
2002	547 (3.14)	134	7.87	413	2.63
2003	739 (4.24)	124	7.29	615	3.91
2004	975 (5.60)	128	7.52	847	5.39
2005	1162 (6.67)	155	9.11	1007	6.41
2006	1258 (7.22)	142	8.34	1116	7.10
2007	1310 (7.52)	118	6.93	1192	7.58
2008	1376 (7.90)	123	7.23	1253	7.97
2009	1537(8.82)	117	6.87	1420	9.04
2010	1778 (10.21)	114	6.70	1664	10.59
2011	1958 (11.24)	109	6.40	1849	11.77
2012	2229 (12.8)	104	6.11	2125	13.52
2013	1791 (10.28)	67	3.94	1727	10.99
Total	**17418**	**1702**	**9.83**	**15716**	**90.17**

4.2 Quantification of Publications by Number of Authors

In the total publication sample, 1702 (9.83 %) appeared as single-authored publications, 2722 (15.72 %) as two-authored publications, 2642 (15.26 %) as three authored publications, 2312 (13.35 %) as four-authored publications, 1848 (10.67 %) as five authored publications, 1585 (9.15 %) as six authored publications, 1122 (6.48 %) as seven authored articles, 869 (5.02 %) as eight authored publications, 668 (3.86 %) as nine authored publications, 464 (2.68 %) as ten authored publications and the rest 1384 (8.0%) as more than ten-authored publications. Analyzing the percentage contribution of individual types of co-authored publications, a

systematic increase is observed in all the categories of co-authored publications, although with different growth rates as described below:

5444 two-authored publications were 2722; followed by 7926 three authors team has published at 2642 articles; 9248 four authors team has published at 2312 articles; 9240 five authors team has published at 1848 articles; 9510 six authors team has published at 1585 articles; 7854 seven authors team has published at 1122 articles; 6952 eight authors team has published at 869 articles; 6012 nine authors team has published at 668 articles; 4640 ten authors team has published at 464 articles and 23127 more than ten authors team has published at 1384 articles for the entire period respectively. The below table 2 reveals that the maximum number of papers was two authored (15.72 %) when compared to three authored (15.26 %.); four authored (13.35 %); five authored (10.67 %); single authored (9.83 %); six authored (9.15 %) respectively. Followed by seven authored (6.48 %) and eight authored to more than ten authored teams' contributions are below 5 percent. Six authors team has been in highest number of contributors. Thus, this analysis indicating that very clearly the increased trend towards on multi-authored productivity in the field of Bioinformatics.

Table 2: Publications classified by number of authors in Bioinformatics research during 1999 – 2013

	1	**2**	**3**	**4**	**5**	**6**	**7**	**8**	**9**	**10 & more**
1999	53	24	18	12	8	5	2	2	-	4
2000	95	47	34	21	17	11	12	4	3	15
2001	119	68	41	43	32	20	11	11	7	19
2002	134	113	87	57	38	27	23	18	18	32
2003	124	165	105	92	61	48	40	25	15	64
2004	128	210	163	122	92	65	52	32	37	74
2005	155	250	188	159	112	75	65	49	26	83
2006	142	243	201	189	126	98	74	52	34	99
2007	118	219	221	196	152	116	79	49	42	118
2008	123	217	211	194	158	138	81	63	44	147
2009	117	212	257	223	149	162	117	67	72	161
2010	114	233	286	238	213	197	118	100	72	207
2011	109	246	308	253	236	195	141	113	96	261

2012	104	268	286	284	247	229	161	141	111	298
2013	67	207	236	229	207	199	146	143	91	266
No. of article	**1702**	**2722**	**2642**	**2312**	**1848**	**1585**	**1122**	**869**	**668**	**1848**
No. of authors	**1702**	**5444**	**7926**	**9248**	**9240**	**9510**	**7854**	**6952**	**6012**	**17767**

To obtain a representation of the relative growth of single-authored and multi-authored publications, data on co-authored publications was analyzed in terms of the relative frequency of publications by number of authors for different years. The relative frequency of individual types of coauthored publications by number of authors is calculated. The analysis indicates that the growth in the frequency of all types of co-authored publications by the number of authors increased in different proportion, as we move from single-authored to multi-authored publications. In single-authored publications the relative frequency has increased from 0.031 during 1999 to 0.061 during 2012, while in different types of multi-authored publications, it has increased from: 0.005 during 1999 to 0.135 during 2013 publications.

Table 3: Relative Frequency of Publications by Number of Authors during 1999 - 2013

Year	Relative frequency of publication by number of authors										
	Single authored	**Multi authored**	**2**	**3**	**4**	**5**	**6**	**7**	**8**	**9**	**10 & above**
1999	0.031	0.005	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
2000	0.056	0.010	0.02	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.00	0.00	0.01
2001	0.069	0.016	0.02	0.02	0.02	0.02	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.01
2002	0.080	0.026	0.04	0.03	0.02	0.02	0.02	0.02	0.02	0.03	0.02
2003	0.073	0.039	0.06	0.04	0.04	0.03	0.03	0.04	0.03	0.02	0.03
2004	0.075	0.054	0.08	0.06	0.05	0.05	0.04	0.05	0.04	0.06	0.04
2005	0.091	0.064	0.09	0.07	0.07	0.06	0.05	0.06	0.06	0.04	0.04
2006	0.083	0.071	0.09	0.08	0.08	0.07	0.06	0.07	0.06	0.05	0.05
2007	0.069	0.076	0.08	0.08	0.08	0.08	0.07	0.07	0.06	0.06	0.06
2008	0.072	0.080	0.08	0.08	0.08	0.09	0.09	0.07	0.07	0.07	0.08
2009	0.069	0.090	0.08	0.10	0.10	0.08	0.10	0.10	0.08	0.11	0.09

2010	0.067	0.160	0.09	0.11	0.10	0.12	0.12	0.11	0.12	0.11	0.11
2011	0.064	0.118	0.09	0.12	0.11	0.13	0.12	0.13	0.13	0.14	0.14
2012	0.061	0.135	0.10	0.11	0.12	0.13	0.14	0.14	0.16	0.17	0.16
2013	0.039	0.110	0.08	0.09	0.10	0.11	0.13	0.13	0.16	0.14	0.14
Total	**1702**	**15716**	**2722**	**2642**	**2312**	**1848**	**1585**	**1122**	**869**	**668**	**1848**

4.3 Indices of Collaboration

Some mathematical measures have been proposed by scholars in the past to study the extent and size of co-authorship, as reflected in publications. These measures are Degree of Collaboration (DC) first suggested by Subramanyam (1983), which takes the proportion of co-authored publications in total publications, Collaboration Index (CI), which takes the mean number of authors per publication, and Collaboration Coefficient (CC) first suggested by Ajiferuke, Burrell, and Tague (1988) that takes the proportional mean of the sum of publications and number of authors, and set the values between 0 and 1. In order to study the extent of collaboration in different period in Bioinformatics, the values of DC, CI, and CC were computed for publications and the results obtained are presented in Table 5.

As can be seen from Table 5, the mean number of authors per publication (as reflected in the value of CI) increased from 2.88 during 1999 to 6.37 during 2013. The growth in the proportion of collaborated publications and the proportional mean of the sum of the publications with each number of authors is clearly reflected in the decreasing value of CC (0.35 at 1999, while 0.16 at 2013) and the increasing value of DC (0.59 at 1999, while 0.96 at 2013)..

Table 5: Indices of Collaboration Obtained from Publications in during 1999-2013

Year	Degree of Collaboration	Collaborative Index	Collaborative Co efficient
1999	0.59	2.88	0.35
2000	0.63	3.49	0.29
2001	0.68	3.61	0.28
2002	0.76	3.90	0.26
2003	0.83	4.58	0.22
2004	0.87	4.69	0.21
2005	0.87	4.46	0.22

2006	0.89	4.61	0.22
2007	0.91	5.06	0.20
2008	0.91	5.31	0.19
2009	0.92	5.33	0.19
2010	0.94	5.56	0.18
2011	0.94	5.79	0.17
2012	0.95	5.71	0.18
2013	0.96	6.37	0.16

The trend in the computed values of CI, DC, and CC of different period blocks is almost consistent, reflecting the growing collaboration and pointing towards increasing professionalization in Bioinformatics with time.

4.4 Prolific authors

Out 91655 authors, 2310 authors were meet thoreshold contributing minimum number of documents 5 authors. For each of the 2310 authors, the number bibliographical coupling links will be calculated. The authors with the largest number of links will be selected. 2310 authors were selected. Using by the VOSviewer clustering map indicated the above information.the below table derived from VOSviewer for knowing the prolific authors and their contributions. Identifying from the below map and table, Katoh, M (276 articles, 91 h index, 4227 LCS, 6708 GCS and 340 colloaborative authors) is the most productive author in the field of Bioinformatics and dominated in first rank position, followed by Zhang, Y (76 articles, 101 LCS, 2277 GCS, 23 h index and 657 collaborative authors) and Wang, Y (74 articles, 38 LCS, 830 GCS, 19 h-index and 614 collaborative authors) were contributed in bioinformatics. Remaing authors were contributed below 70 articles. Figure 1 deals with the prolific authors productivity in bioinformatics research. Its shows the variotion in different colours along with authors name.

Table 6: Showing the prolific authors in Bioinformatics research output

Verify selected authors

Sel...	Author	Documents	Bib. coupling
☑	katoh, m	276	13603
☑	zhang, y	76	2873
☑	wang, y	74	2435
☑	wang, j	69	2348
☑	wang, l	66	2317
☑	li, y	65	1925
☑	zhang, j	61	2026
☑	li, j	59	2004
☑	chou, kc	58	2670
☑	[anonymous]	54	63
☑	martens, l	54	1582
☑	li, l	52	2206
☑	liu, y	51	1530
☑	apweiler, r	50	1153

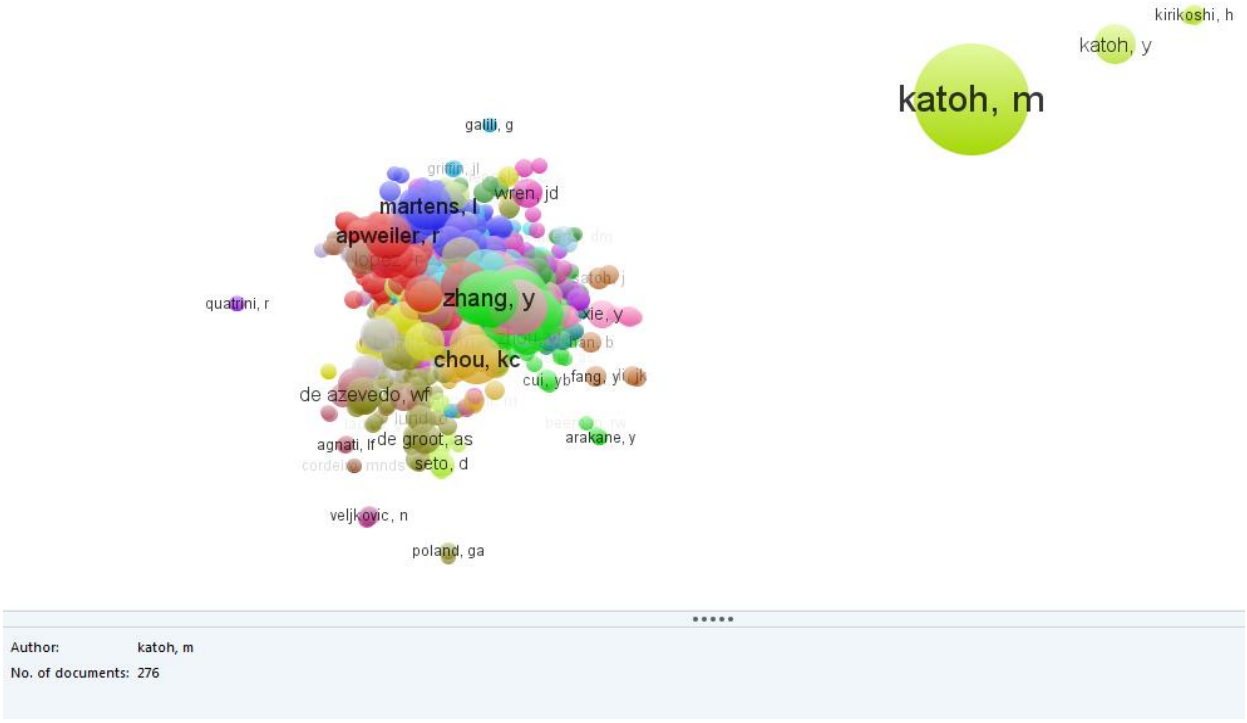

Figure 1: Scattering of Label view of prolific authors in bioinformatics research output

4.5 Historiography Analysis

The sample records were exported to HistCite software for data extracting to acquire a large list of 17418 articles written by 91,655 authors along with 761,464 times cited references during 1999 to 2013, and their local and global citation scores (LCS and GCS). It is found from this historiography map analysis 70 authors were contributed the selected 30 nodes out of 70 authors, only one author **(Katoh, M)** has contributed 24 times, four authors were participated only two times and remaining 65 authors were contributed each once in the research of bioinformatics. Totally 14 journals were been in the selected 30 nodes, among these the journal of 'International Journal of Molecular Medicine' has mapped in nine times, followed by the journals of 'International journal of oncology' and 'Nucleic acids research' were produced each 4 articles; the journals of 'Bioinformatics' and 'Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences of the united States of America' were produced each two articles; and the remaining nine journals were produced each one articles. The highest values of the selected 30 nodes, the Local cited reference is 40; the cited reference is 89; The Total Local Citation Scores is 281 and the Total Global Citation Scores is 5938 has measured from this analysis.

The article number of 1895th has written by the authors of "Katoh M, Katoh M" has published in the journal of "International Journal of Molecular Medicine" at the year of 2003 with 85 times cited references; 69 LCS and 110 GCS scaled and it having six links of quoted and cited. This article dominated in the value of LCR.

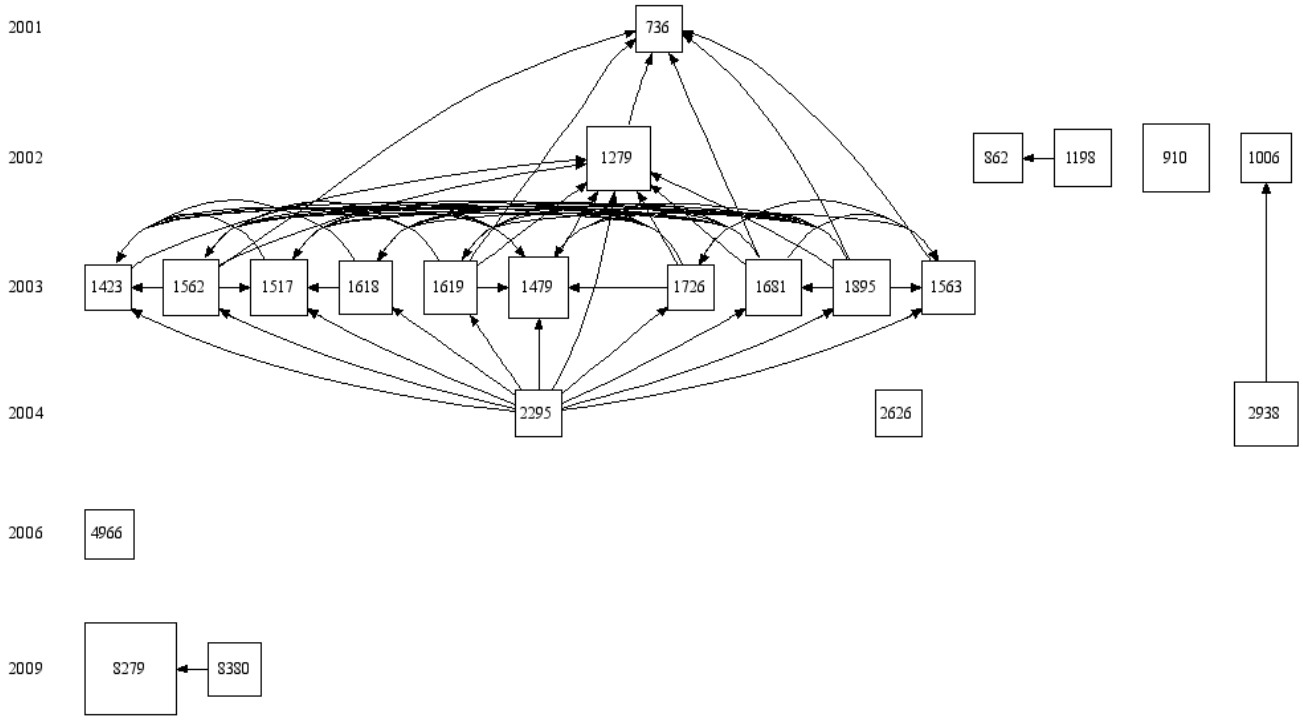

Figure 3: Historiographic mapping of top 30 nodes and LCS scales

The article number of 1279th has written by the authors of "Katoh M" has published in the journal of "International Journal of Molecular Medicine" at the year of 2002 with 89 times cited references; 135 LCS and 146 GCS scaled and it having nine links of quoted and cited. This article dominated the highest CR value. The article number of 121st has written by the authors of "Perkins DN, Pappin DJC, Creasy DM, Cottrell JS" has published in the journal of "Electrophoresis" at the year of 99 with 33 times cited references; 281 LCS and 3978 GCS scaled and it does not have any kind of links. This article dominated the highest LCS and GCS values. The article number of 2295th has written by the authors of "Katoh M, Katoh M" has published in the journal of "International Journal of Molecular Medicine" at the year of 2004 with 48 times cited references; 71 LCS and 77 GCS scaled and it having eleven links of quoted. This article dominated in the highest number of links in whole 63.

5. CONCLUSION

The article mainly dealt with the authorship pattern and collaborations in the area of Bioinformatics research output. In the field of science and technology, the studies have conventional the increased growth of multiple authorship and collaborative research. The following facts are derived from this analysis; **Katoh, M** has identified most productive author; The journal of '**bmc Bioinformatics**' has highest publications; 2012 having highest publications; the form of journal type doucment produced more number of articles and 90 percent of authors were contributed at collaborative produced. The proportion and extent of collaborative publications have shown a systematic increase with time along with the growth of total number of publications in the discipline of Bioinformatics. Of the total publications, 1702 articles were appeared as single-authored publications, 2722 articles were as two-authored publications, 2642 articles were as three-authored publications, 1848 articles were as four authored publication, 1585 articles were as five authored publication and so on respectively. The single-authored publications decreased from 1999 onwards and multi-authored publications increased gradually from 1999. Two authored articles were highest compared to other types of team work, but 9510 contributors were highest among the team work author wise, they published in six authored team.

The single authored publications are increasing 0.031 during 1999 to 0.61 during 2012 for Relative frequency of publication by number of authors. The multi authored publications are increasing 0.005 during 1999 to 0.135 during 2012. It is essential that in the sphere of Science and Technology large scale studies are carried out to identify the trends in the collaborative research.

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