

CITATION MATTERS

Situation as of July-August 2010

SR had published 27 papers by 1984, 63 by 1995, and 127 by 2009; his first papers go back to 1973-74, and were already quoted by 1976, excluding self-citations; no less than 9 papers by SR were still cited 10 or more years after publication, again excluding self-citations.

The ISI Web of Science data base to which Pavia University currently subscribes covers the scientific literature since 1985, but also gives some information for previous years; it was found that earlier sections of the archive consider(ed) the first author only; moreover, for recent citing papers authored by four or more people, author names following the third one are just collapsed into "et al."

The ISI data base also contains misspelt or variant citations, typically where the journal name is abbreviated in a different way, or there is some error in volume number, page number, or year; as far as we could check, there is no simple and unique procedure for correcting, although this can be done "by hand"; actually, the only (tedious and time-consuming) procedure we could envisage for ISI Web of Science involved checking each item in our list of publication by its first author, and printing out a lot of web pages. We found 1891 citations of SR's papers, and calculated the value 23 for the h-index; there was no simple procedure for excluding self-citations.

The SCOPUS data base covers the scientific literature since 1996; 82 papers by SR are quoted in it: there were 631 citations of them, which yielded the value 13 for the h-index; after excluding all self-citations, there remained 398 citations, and the resulting h-index was 10.