Review of: "Measuring researchers' success more fairly: going beyond the H-index"

Juan Carlos Ruiz Garcia[1]

1 Universidad Politécnica de Valencia

Potential competing interests: No potential competing interests to declare.

As undelined by authors, H-index is today one of the major indexes used to evaluate the scientific relevance of a researcher, thus conditioning his/her ability to manage a project or request for funding.

Beyond briefly introducing the current limits of the h-index, the author basically proposes a measure for quantifying the success of researchers in a more fairly way. The index is basically a summation of values related each one to a particular author publication. The value attributed to each author for a paper varies attending to the number of authors, the position of each contributor in the list of authors, the number of citations received by the publication, and the importance of such citations. There is also a bonus factor that is introduced in order to benefit the first authors and avoid a situation of equal subdivision of the article score among them.

PROS

- Overall, the proposal makes sense and copes with its definition goals: easy to understand, compute and automate.

CONS

- The brevity of the contribution also limits its ability to address some design aspects that may limit the usefulness of the proposal, such as the definition of the x (linear reduction of score) and b (bonus) factors.
- Another point to address is whether the impact factor of publications affecting factor z (number of citations) must be weigthed per categories of publications (A+, A, B, etc.) or must be directly a number, such as the JCR index for journals. The problem is that conferences are not usually indexed with number but they are rather ranked, so which is the weight to use?
- Finally, the paper is too brief that it fails in positioning the proposal against other ones that are however enumerated in the introduction. This is something that must be fixed to really understand the novelty of the proposal.