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

Dr. Shah Khalid[1]

1 National University of Sciences & Technology (NUST)

Potential competing interests: No potential competing interests to declare.

I appreciate the author's efforts in highlighting the limitations of the current H-index and the ambiguity involved in valuing authors of scientific papers. Additionally, the author mentioned the opinion of the H-index creator, who believes that the index could have "severe unintended negative consequences" and "fail spectacularly" by favoring quantity over quality of scientific publications.

To utilize the proposed measure in the relevant area of study, the author may elaborate on the following points in light of the described limitations:

1. It would be beneficial to clarify how the proposed approach scores authors differently if it is not clear who the principal author is (i.e., the first, middle, or last author).
2. The author could explore the possibility of utilizing the citation network to intelligently identify the exact contribution of the author if it is not mentioned explicitly.
3. The author may consider how the proposed approach accounts for highly relevant and authoritative fresh citing papers.
4. The author could elaborate on how the linear score reduction for each subsequent author can be utilized in the formula as a qualitative measure if some authors contribute equally among the authors of the paper.

It is true that the H-index may not be able to qualitatively measure the involvement of authors, nor can it accurately measure academic achievement. Furthermore, its simplicity may no longer be effective in academia, as it equally values authors who may not be experts in the paper's topic. There is a pressing need for a new evaluation measure to effectively and efficiently consider all the desired attributes of academic achievement. In light of these requirements, the proposed evaluation measure highlights the inefficiency of the existing H-index and can be refined for better measurement, especially if it is adjusted to address the ambiguity of the target domain.