

A META-STUDY AND CONTENT ANALYSIS OF SCIENCE FICTION IN COMPUTER SCIENCE RESEARCH

DISSERTATION DEFENSE FROM PHILIPP JORDAN, CIS PH.D. PROGRAM

Dissertation Committee:

Scott Robertson (Chairperson)

Brent Auernheimer

Rich Gazan

Wayne Buente

Hyoung-June Park (University Representative)

Introduction

Science Fiction and Science Fiction Movies and Shows (SF / SFMS) can be powerful vehicles to showcase innovative, questionable or controversial forthcoming inventions, innovations and socio-technical futures — especially in domains of Computer Science (CS) and Human-computer Interaction (HCI)



Telephot — Hugo Gernsback's RALPH 124C 41+ (1925)

Television Triumphs in Its First Demonst

Continued from Page 1, Column 1.

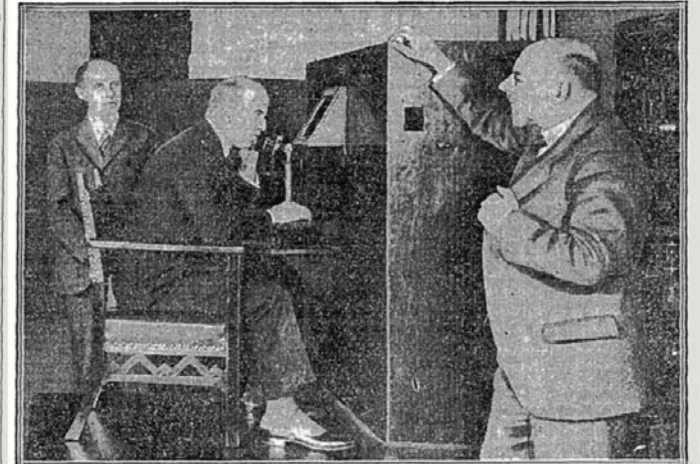
a motion picture appearance. He was seen as well as heard.

Phone Girl Is Seen, Too.

In the Washington part of the demonstration the telephone girl was visible. She appeared on the miniature screen and asked to whom the caller wished to talk. This one was a good-looking girl with fluffy hair, and as cool and efficient as if she had been at the television-telephone switchboard all her life.

A coincidence is that "Metropolis," the German film now showing what purports to be the New York of a century or centuries hence, has a make-believe screen in connection with the telephone—a case of a prophecy being fulfilled about as soon as it started.

The demonstration of combined telephone and television, in fact, is one that outruns the imagination of all the wizards of prophecy. It is one of the few things that Leonardo da Vinci, Roger Bacon, Jules Verne and other masters of forecasting failed utterly to anticipate. Even interpreters of the Bible are having trouble in finding a passage which forecast television. H. G. Wells did not rise to it in his earlier "Crystal-gazing." It is only within the last few years that prophets have been busy in this field. Science has moved ahead so rapidly in this particular line that one of the men, who played a major part in developing the television apparatus shown yesterday, was of the opinion four years ago that research on this subject was hopeless. More than twenty years ago, however, Dr. Alexander Graham Bell, the inventor of the telephone, predicted at a gathering in the tower of the Times building that the day would come when the man at the telephone would be able to see the distant person to whom he was speaking.



President Walter S. Gifford of the American Telephone and Telegraph Company in first public demonstration yesterday of television. Mr. Gifford is talking to Secretary Hoover in Washington and is able to see Mr. Hoover on the screen immediately in front of him. At right of picture, Dr. Herbert Ives, who superintended the development of television for the A. T. & T.

“Washington hails the Test: Operator There Puts Through the Calls as Scientists Watch”. In: New York Times (Apr. 1927)



Videophone system in METROPOLIS (1927) — ©Universum Film UFA

While SF—science is often discussed, little is actually known on the past usage, current challenges and future opportunities of SF in computer science and HCI research ...

XXV.2 March-April 2018
Page: 36
Digital Citation

FEATURESSPECIAL
TOPIC: DESIGN
FUTURES

CAN WE LOOK TO SCIENCE FICTION FOR INNOVATION IN HCI?

Authors:
Daniel Russell, Svetlana Yarosh

↑

We all want to invent the future. One approach to future invention is the notion that real design and science can be inspired by science fiction narratives, which define and illuminate user interaction issues [1]. Science fiction takes its future-facing ideas fairly seriously, and considerable ink has been spilled to argue for the ways in which science fiction gets the future right [2]. We commonly talk about a *Blade Runner* social dystopia and link current events and news about upcoming technologies as coming from, being derived from, or having been presciently predicted by science fiction. We may even aspire to emulate science fiction technologies by hosting competitions like Qualcomm's Tricorder XPRIZE, which aims to create a technology similar to the *Star Trek* tricorder device.



Daniel M. Russell and Svetlana Yarosh. 2018. Can we look to science fiction for innovation in HCI?. *Interactions* 25, 2 (February 2018), 36-40. DOI: <https://doi.org/10.1145/3178552>

Science fiction in particular offers students a way to cultivate their capacity for moral imagination.

BY EMANUELLE BURTON, JUDY GOLDSMITH,
AND NICHOLAS MATTEI

How to Teach Computer Ethics through Science Fiction

Emanuelle Burton, Judy Goldsmith, and Nicholas Mattei. 2018. How to teach computer ethics through science fiction. *Commun. ACM* 61, 8 (July 2018), 54-64. DOI: <https://doi.org/10.1145/3154485>



IMAGINATION, August 1958



Apollo 17 astronaut Jack Schmitt. Apollo 17 photograph AS17-134-20425 (1972)

To better understand the science fiction—science relationship, this dissertation presents a content analysis of SF in CS / HCI research communication

Research Rationale

Point of Departure

- **Little to no research** on SF / SFMS in CS / HCI research
- If any research, studies usually use a case study design, suffer from **selection bias** and do not target **SF / SFMS** and **CS / HCI**

Importance & Contribution

- Can **show gatekeepers**, e.g. which SF / SFMS link to CS / HCI research and vice-versa
- Can **uncover domains of utilization** of SF / SFMS in CS / HCI research
- Can **inform future CS / HCI research**

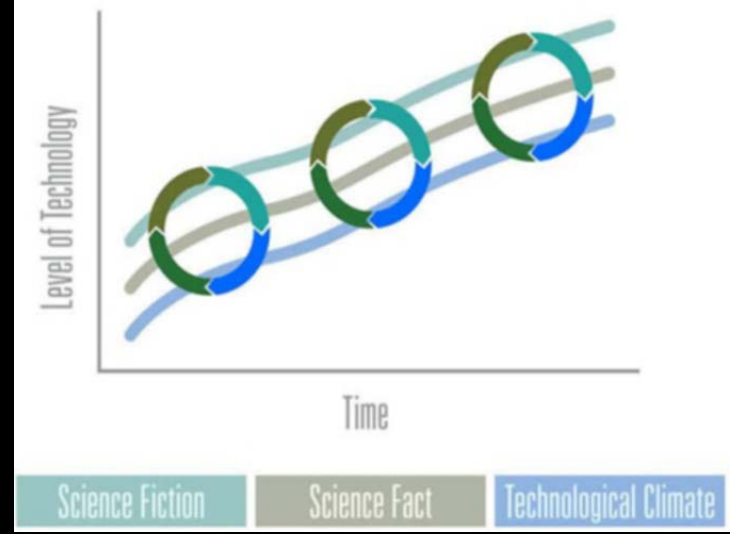
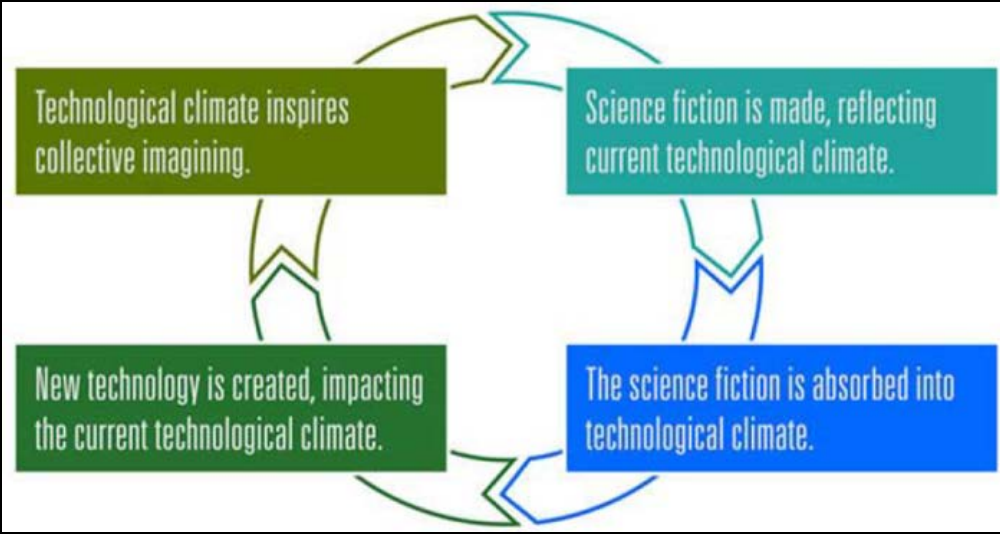
Research Questions

1. What are the **Metadata Characteristics** of Computer Science Publications which reference Science Fiction?
2. What **Science Fiction Particulars** co-occur in the Context of Computer Science Publications which reference Science Fiction?
3. What is the **Purpose of References** to Science Fiction, and **Science Fiction Particulars** which co-occur in the Context of Science Fiction References, in Computer Science Publications?

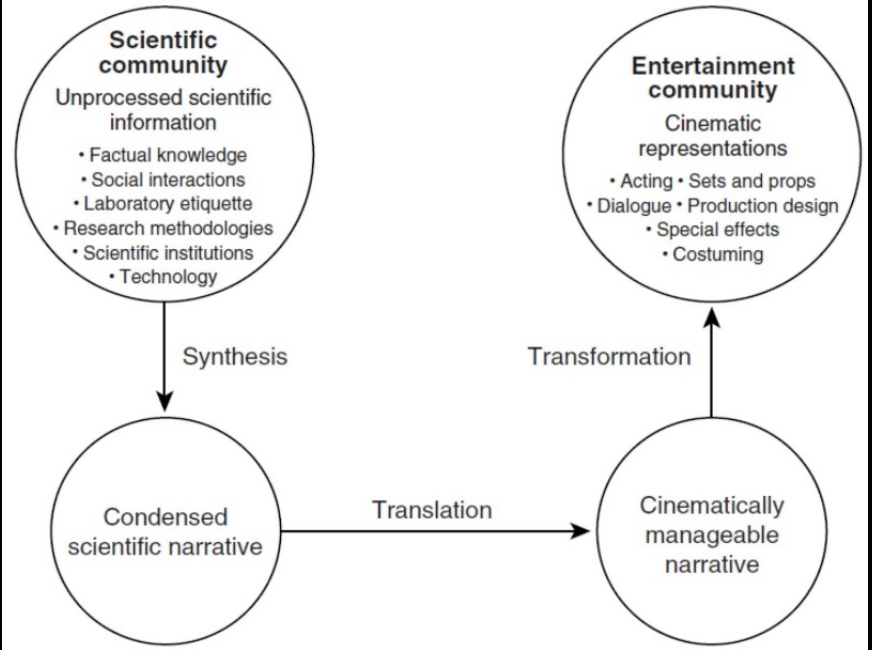
Background

Background

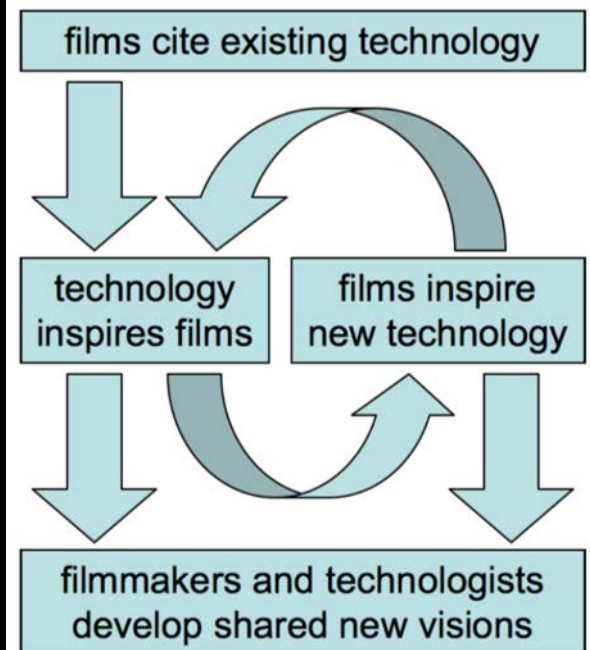
SF—Science Frameworks



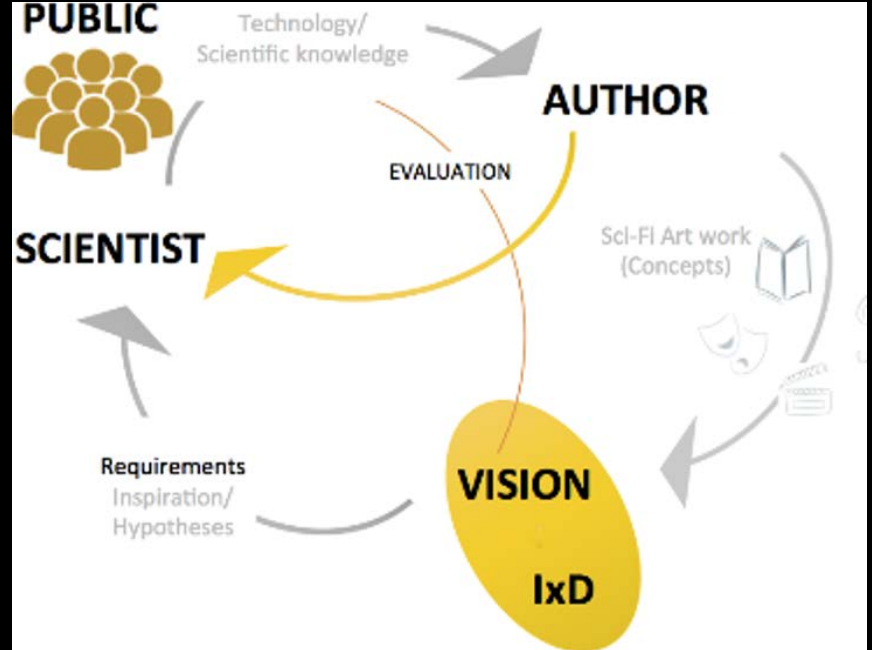
UXPA. "User Experience Magazine Issue 13.2". In: User Experience Magazine 13.2 (2013). url: <https://uxpa.org/article/user-experience-magazine-issue-132>



David A. Kirby. Lab coats in Hollywood: Science, scientists, and cinema. Cambridge, Mass.: MIT Press, 2010. isbn: 978-0262518703.



Michael Schmitz, Christoph Endres, and Andreas Butz. "A Survey of Human-computer Interaction Design in Science Fiction Movies". INTETAIN '08.



Omar Mubin et al. "Towards an Agenda for Sci-Fi Inspired HCI Research". ACE '16. Osaka, Japan: ACM, 2016, 10:1–10:6.. doi: 10.1145/3001773.3001786.

The Good

Frameworks **display the multi-dimensional relations** of SF and real-world science:

- recognition of the technological and political climate at the time;
- translation of technical, expert know-how into digestible narratives;
- the perception of the general public toward disruptive technologies;

The Bad

Frameworks based on small case studies, interview data, anecdotal evidence, theoretical deductions:

- No conceptualization of the transition of SF into scientific output;

Methodology

Method

- Exploratory content analysis of science communication
- Publications are retrieved for a full-text search for “*science fiction*” in the IEEE *Xplore* Digital Library
- 10 variables per record
- IRR of 2 interpretative variables between 2 raters for Cohen's κ / Krippendorff's α
- Tools: Atlas.TI, Excel, SPSS

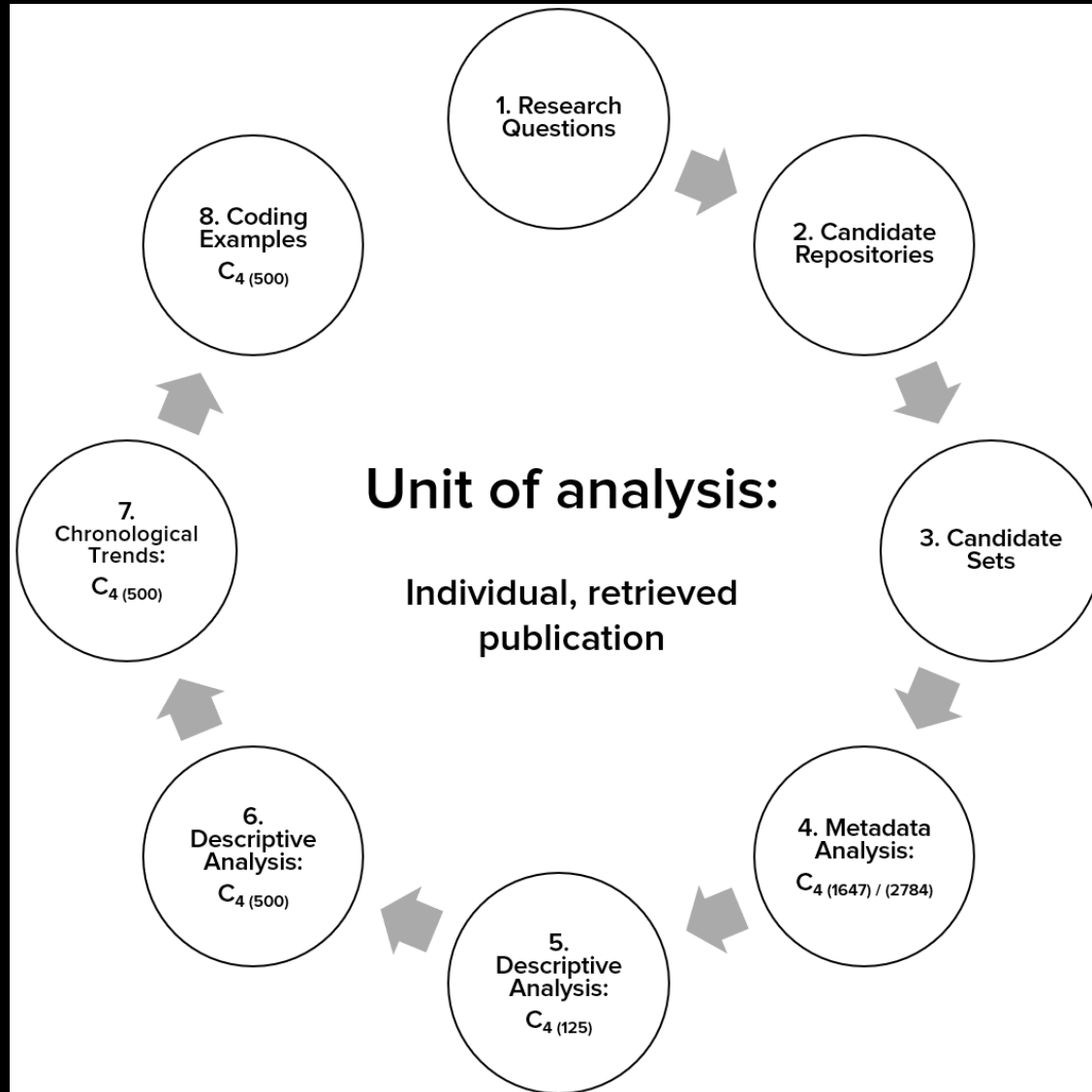
Timeline

- First position paper in Winter 2015
- Proposed the topic in Winter 2017
- Records retrieved in Spring 2018
- Records coded in Winter 2018

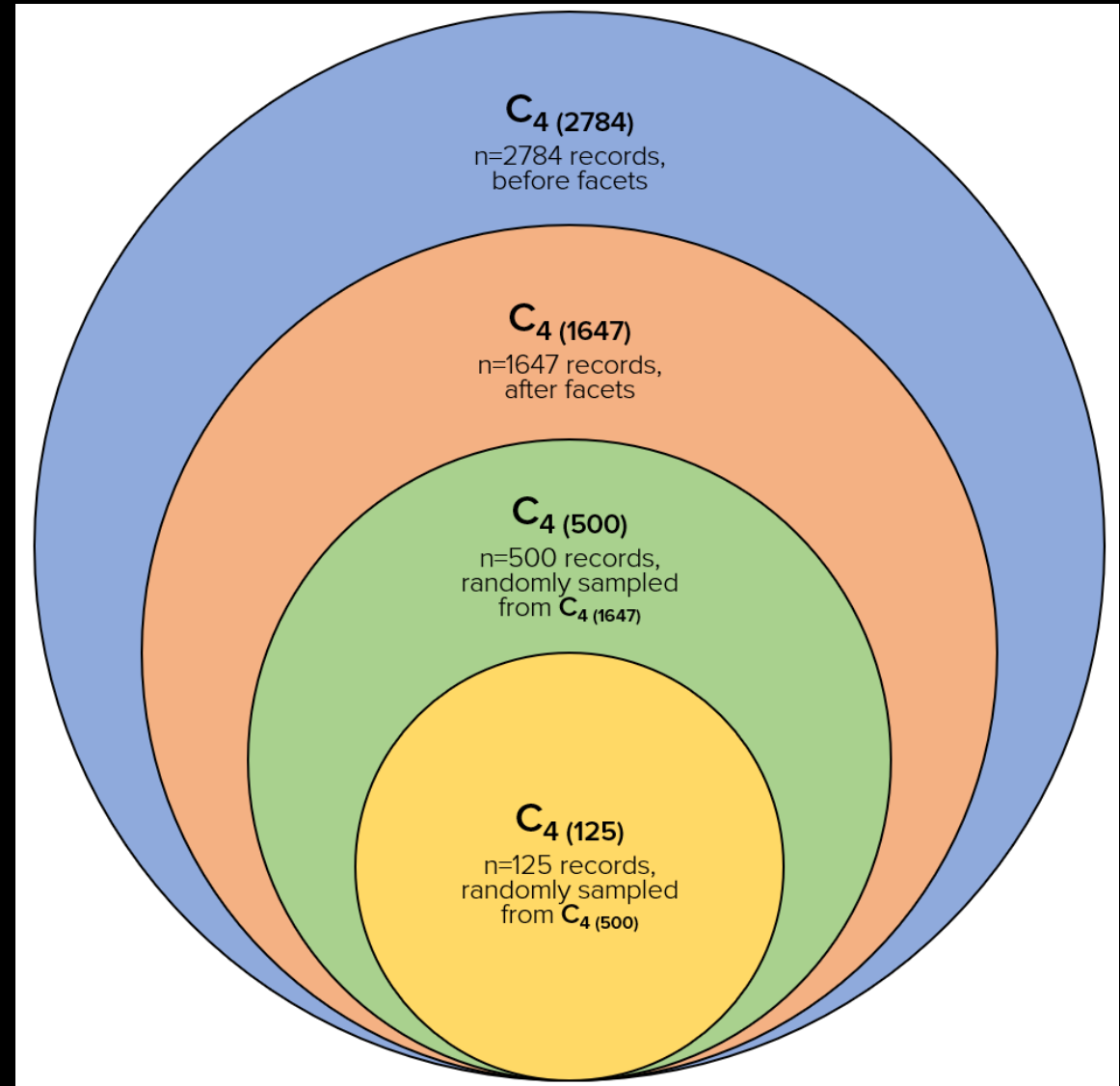
Outcomes

- 4 conference papers;
- 2 workshop / position papers;
- 1 journal article;
- 1 extramural grant;
- 1 dissertation fellowship;
- earned press in MIT Tech Review;
- wrote an ACM IX Blog post;

Research process



Sampling of C_4



Method and Data Collection

	Variable	Description	Scale Type	Attributes	Data Type	Coding	Mut. Exc.
1	SF_Freq	Frequency of the SF Referral(s)	Ratio	1,2,3,...	Quantitative	In vivo counting by R1	Yes
2	SF_Loc	Location of the SF Referral(s)	Nominal	T,A,B,F,R	Qualitative	In vivo counting by R1	No
3	Pub_Year	Publication Year	Interval	...,1988, 1989,...	Quantitative	In vivo counting by R1	Yes
4	SF_Cont	Contextual Usage of the SF Referral	Nominal	...refers a SF concept which inspired research...	Qualitative	Inter-rater validation between R1 and R2	Yes
5	Paper_Type	Type of Research Paper	Nominal	Artifact contribution, ...	Qualitative	Inter-rater validation between R1 and R2	Yes
6	SF_Auth	SF Authors	Nominal	H.G. Wells	Qualitative	In vivo counting by R1	No
7	SF_Books	SF Books, Novels, Short Stories,	Nominal	Neuromancer	Qualitative	In vivo counting by R1	No
8	SF_Vid	SF Movies or Shows	Nominal	Alien, Fantastic Voyage	Qualitative	In vivo counting by R1	No
9	SF_Tech	SF Devices, Technologies, Concepts	Nominal	Tricorder, Cyborgs, AI,...	Qualitative	In vivo counting by R1	No
10	SF_Char	SF Characters	Nominal	Mr. Data, HAL 9000, etc	Qualitative	In vivo counting by R1	No

2 interpretative variables

8 attributes for the research paper type

1. Empirical contributions
2. Artifact contributions
3. Methodological contributions
4. Theoretical contributions
5. Dataset contributions
6. Survey contributions
7. Opinion contributions
8. Other contributions

3 domains / 7 attributes for the contextual usage

-
1. SF referrals, with a **focus on drawing innovation from SF in the research paper**
 - (a) Coming from SF
 - (b) Making SF a Science Reality
 - (c) Unreal SF
 2. SF referrals, with a **focus on individuals, the scientific community and / or the general public**
 - a) SF and the Individual
 - b) SF and the Community or Public
 3. SF referrals, **integrated as part of the research paper**
 - (a) SF and the Paper Research
 - (b) SF in the References
-

Method and Data Collection

Working in SPSS

	Rater_1_PHL_PAPER_TYPE	Rater_2_PAULA_PAPER_TYPE	Rater_1_PHL_PAPER_CONTEXT	Rater_2_PAULA_PAPER_CONTEXT	VAR00001	PHI_Coming_M
1	Other	Other	Coming from SF	Coming from SF	Coming from SF	Coming from SF
2	Other	Other	SF and the Author or Researchers	SF and the Author or Researchers	SF and the Author or Researchers	SF and the Author or Researchers
3	Other	Other	SF and the Author or Researchers	SF and the Author or Researchers	SF and the Author or Researchers	SF and the Author or Researchers
4	Theoretical	Theoretical	Seen in SF but non-existent in the	Seen in SF but non-existent in the real world	Seen in SF but non-existent in the real world	Seen in SF but non-existent in the real world
5	Theoretical	Theoretical	SF and the Paper Research Method	SF and the Author or Researchers	SF and the Paper Research Method	SF and the Paper Research Method
6	Other	Other	Coming from SF	Seen in SF but non-existent in the real world	Coming from SF	Coming from SF
7	Other	Other	SF and the Author or Researchers	SF and the Author or Researchers	SF and the Author or Researchers	SF and the Author or Researchers
8	Opinion	Opinion	Seen in SF but non-existent in the	Seen in SF but non-existent in the real world	Seen in SF but non-existent in the real world	Seen in SF but non-existent in the real world
9	Opinion	Theoretical	Coming from SF	SF in the References	Coming from SF	Coming from SF
10	Methodological	Methodological	Coming from SF	Coming from SF	Coming from SF	Coming from SF
11	Empirical	Artifact	Making SF a Science Reality	Making SF a Science Reality	Coming from SF	Coming from SF
12	Survey	Survey	SF in the References	SF in the References	SF in the References	SF in the References
13	Artifact	Artifact	Making SF a Science Reality	Making SF a Science Reality	Coming from SF	Coming from SF
14	Other	Other	SF and the Author or Researchers	SF and the Author or Researchers	SF and the Author or Researchers	SF and the Author or Researchers
15	Artifact	Artifact	Making SF a Science Reality	Making SF a Science Reality	Coming from SF	Coming from SF
16	Empirical	Empirical	Making SF a Science Reality	Making SF a Science Reality	Coming from SF	Coming from SF
17	Theoretical	Theoretical	SF and the Paper Research Method	SF and the Paper Research Method	SF and the Paper Research Method	SF and the Paper Research Method
18	Opinion	Other	Seen in SF but non-existent in the	Seen in SF but non-existent in the real world	Seen in SF but non-existent in the real world	Seen in SF but non-existent in the real world
19	Opinion	Opinion	Making SF a Science Reality	Making SF a Science Reality	Coming from SF	Coming from SF
20	Opinion	Opinion	Seen in SF but non-existent in the	Making SF a Science Reality	Seen in SF but non-existent in the real world	Seen in SF but non-existent in the real world
21	Other	Other	SF and the Paper Research Method	SF and the Author or Researchers	SF and the Paper Research Method	SF and the Author or Researchers
22	Theoretical	Theoretical	SF and the Paper Research Method	SF and the Paper Research Method	SF and the Paper Research Method	SF and the Paper Research Method
23	Artifact	Artifact	Making SF a Science Reality	Making SF a Science Reality	Coming from SF	Coming from SF
24	Opinion	Opinion	Seen in SF but non-existent in the	SF and the Author or Researchers	Seen in SF but non-existent in the real world	SF and the Author or Researchers
25	Artifact	Artifact	Making SF a Science Reality	Making SF a Science Reality	Coming from SF	Coming from SF
26	Empirical	Empirical	SF in the References	SF in the References	SF in the References	SF in the References
27	Artifact	Artifact	SF in the References	SF in the References	SF in the References	SF in the References
28	Other	Other	SF and the Author or Researchers	SF and the Author or Researchers	SF and the Author or Researchers	SF and the Author or Researchers
29	Opinion	Opinion	Making SF a Science Reality	Seen in SF but non-existent in the real world	Coming from SF	Seen in SF but non-existent in the real world
30	Survey	Opinion	Making SF a Science Reality	Making SF a Science Reality	Coming from SF	Coming from SF
31	Opinion	Opinion	Coming from SF	Coming from SF	Coming from SF	Coming from SF
32	Artifact	Artifact	Coming from SF	Making SF a Science Reality	Coming from SF	Coming from SF
33	Artifact	Artifact	Coming from SF	Coming from SF	Coming from SF	Coming from SF
34	Opinion	Opinion	Coming from SF	SF and the Author or Researchers	Coming from SF	SF and the Author or Researchers
35	Survey	Survey	SF in the References	SF in the References	SF in the References	SF in the References
36	Survey	Theoretical	Coming from SF	Making SF a Science Reality	Coming from SF	Coming from SF
37	Survey	Survey	SF in the References	SF in the References	SF in the References	SF in the References
38	Artifact	Artifact	Coming from SF	Coming from SF	Coming from SF	Coming from SF
39	Empirical	Empirical	SF and the Author or Researchers	SF and the Author or Researchers	SF and the Author or Researchers	SF and the Author or Researchers
40	Opinion	Empirical	SF and the Author or Researchers	SF and the Author or Researchers	SF and the Author or Researchers	SF and the Author or Researchers
41	Opinion	Opinion	Making SF a Science Reality	Making SF a Science Reality	Coming from SF	Coming from SF
42	Survey	Survey	SF and the Paper Research Method	SF and the Paper Research Method	SF and the Paper Research Method	SF and the Paper Research Method

Case Processing Summary

	Cases					
	Valid		Missing		Total	
	N	Percent	N	Percent	N	Percent
Rater_1 * Rater_2	125	100.0%	0	0.0%	125	100.0%

Rater_1 * Rater_2 Crosstabulation

Count		Rater_2							Total
		Coming from SF	Making SF a Science Reality	Seen in SF but non-existent in the real world	SF and the Author or Researchers	SF and the Community or Public	SF and the Paper Research Method	SF in the References	
Rater_1	Coming from SF	15	3	2	4	2	0	1	27
	Making SF a Science Reality	3	22	5	0	2	0	0	32
	Seen in SF but non-existent in the real world	0	3	9	1	0	0	0	13
	SF and the Author or Researchers	1	0	0	9	0	0	0	10
	SF and the Community or Public	0	1	0	0	8	0	0	9
	SF and the Paper Research Method	2	1	0	2	4	14	0	23
	SF in the References	0	0	0	0	0	0	11	11
Total		21	30	16	16	16	14	12	125

Symmetric Measures

	Value	Asymp. Std. Error ^a	Approx. T ^b	Approx. Sig.
Measure of Agreement	Kappa .049	.049	17.156	.000
N of Valid Cases	125			

Krippendorff's Alpha Reliability Estimate

	Alpha	LL95%CI	UL95%CI	Units	Obsrvrs	Pairs
Nominal	.6832	.5881	.7782	125.0000	2.0000	125.0000

Probability (q) of failure to achieve an alpha of at least alphasmin:

alphamin	q
.9000	1.0000
.8000	.9958
.7000	.6173
.6700	.3716
.6000	.0623
.5000	.0003

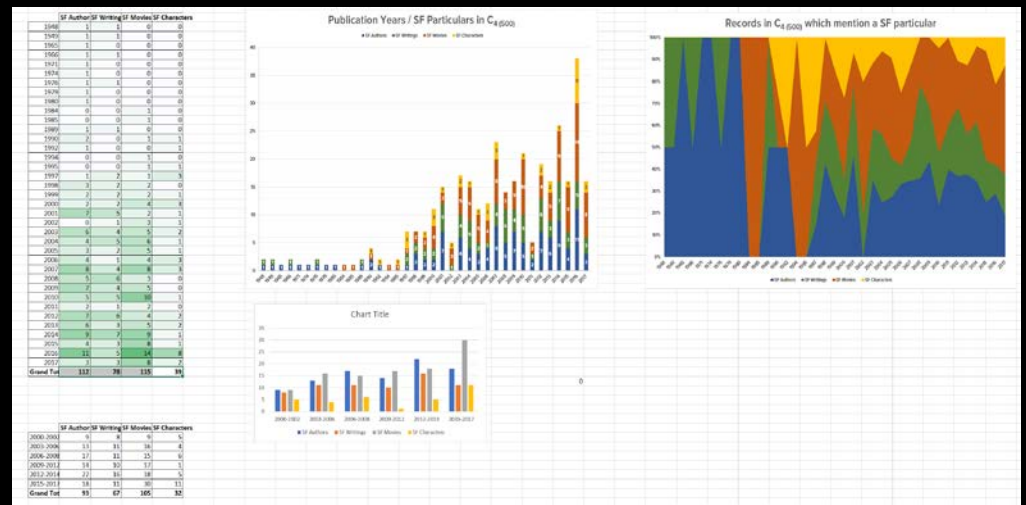
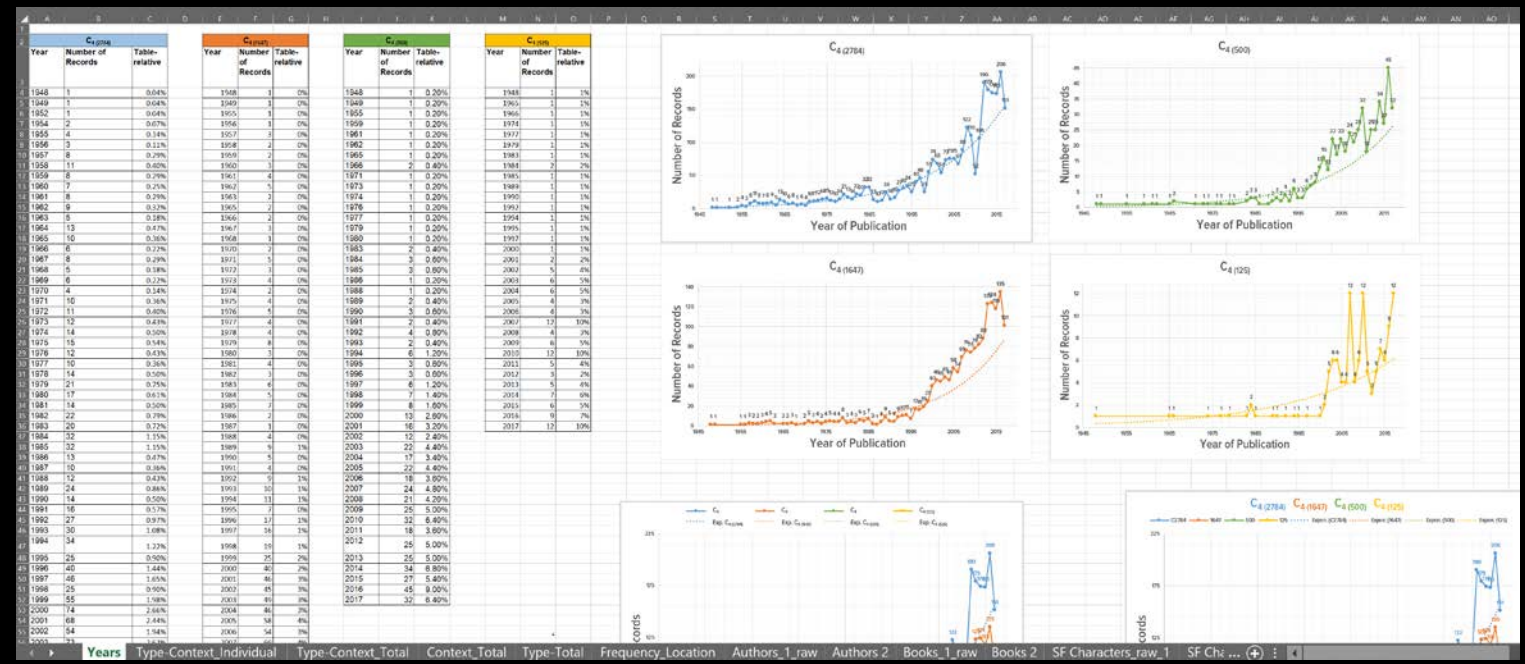
Number of bootstrap samples:
10000

Judges used in these computations:
Rater_1_Rater_2_

Method and Data Collection

Working in Excel

ABSOLUTE COUNTS							
YEAR	SF_Auth	SF_Char	SF_Book	SF_Mov	SF_Devi	Totals	
1	Personal	1948	2	0	1	0	3
2	IRE Peop	1949	1	0	1	0	2
3	Around t	1955	0	0	0	0	1
4	Poles an	1959	0	0	0	0	0
5	Some re	1961	0	0	0	2	2
6	News fro	1962	0	0	0	0	1
7	News of	1965	1	0	0	0	1
8	News of	1966	1	0	1	0	2
9	The cath	1966	0	0	0	0	1
10	Commur	1971	1	0	0	0	1
11	FocusGr	1973	0	0	0	0	1
12	Random	1974	2	0	0	0	2
13	Forum_1	1976	3	0	3	0	6
14	The crea	1977	0	0	0	0	0
15	Society r	1979	10	0	0	0	10
16	Optical C	1980	1	0	0	0	1
17	Comput	1983	0	0	0	0	1
18	Obituari	1983	0	0	0	0	0
19	Feedbac	1984	0	0	0	0	1
20	Robotics	1984	0	0	0	0	0
21	The Ope	1984	0	0	0	3	4
22	Informati	1985	0	0	0	0	1
23	Selectiv	1985	0	0	0	1	1
24	Youngst	1985	0	0	0	0	1
25	Meeting	1986	0	0	0	0	0
26	The futu	1988	0	0	0	0	2
27	Backpro	1989	0	0	0	0	1
28	Comput	1989	1	0	1	0	1
29	A visual	1990	2	0	0	0	3
30	Speech r	1990	0	1	0	1	3



Results

Inter-rater Reliability Analysis

C_4 (125)	Type of Paper	Context of SF referral
Cohen κ	0.71	0.65
Krippendorff α	0.71	0.68

Magnitudes of Cohen's κ and Krippendorff's α

Interpretation of κ	
κ	Interpretation
< 0	Less than chance agreement
0.01-0.20	Slight agreement
0.21-0.40	Fair agreement
0.61-0.80	Substantial agreement
0.81-0.99	Almost perfect agreement

Interpretation of α	
α	Interpretation
≥ 0.667	Tentative conclusions acceptable
≥ 0.8	Good reliability
1.00	Perfect agreement

Sources:

- Anthony J Viera and Joanne M. Garrett. "Understanding Interobserver Agreement: The Kappa Statistic". In: Family Medicine 37.5 (2005)
- Klaus Krippendorff. "Estimating the Reliability, Systematic Error and Random Error of Interval Data". In: Educational and Psychological Measurement 30.1 (1970)
- Klaus Krippendorff. "Reliability in Content Analysis." In: Human Communication Research 30.3 (July 2004)
- Klaus Krippendorff. Content Analysis: An Introduction to Its Methodology. SAGE Publications, Inc, 2012.

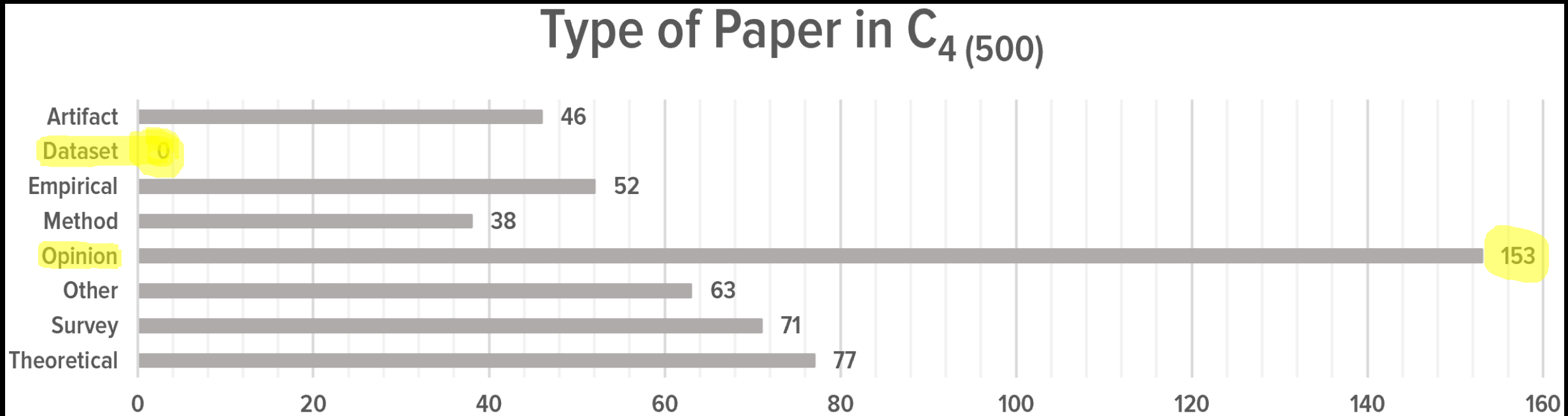
Most records mention SF one time

Referral frequency	Records	% of C4 (500)
1	380	76.0%
2	60	12.0%
3	21	4.2%
4	12	2.4%
5	9	1.8%
6	3	0.6%
7	2	0.4%
8	1	0.2%
10	2	0.4%
11	2	0.4%
12	2	0.4%
15	1	0.2%
20	1	0.2%
22	1	0.2%
24	1	0.2%
25	1	0.2%
31	1	0.2%
Total	500	100%

Most records mention SF in the body

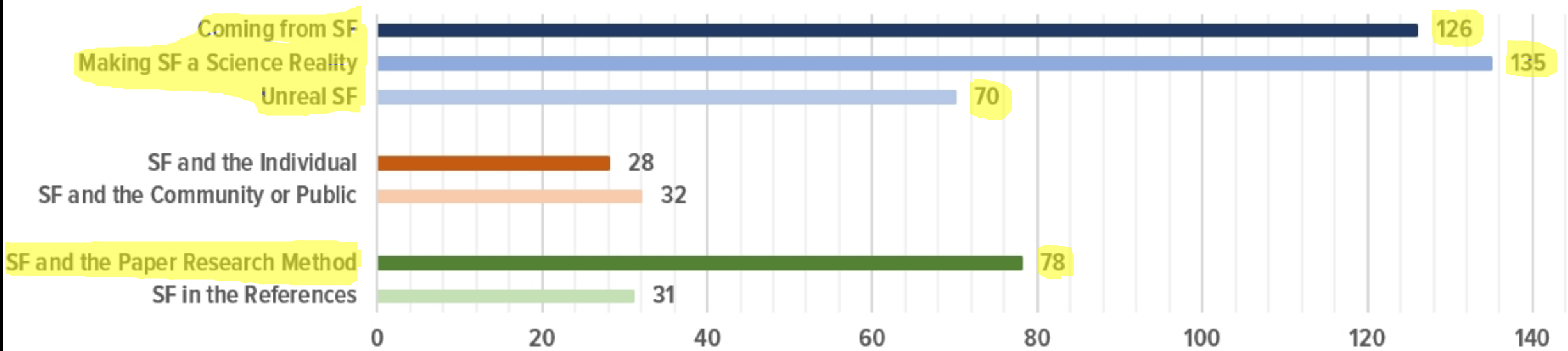
Referral location	Records	% of C4 (500)
Title	21	2.3%
Abstract	49	5.5%
Body	761	84.6%
Footnote	4	0.4%
References	64	7.1%
Total	899	100%

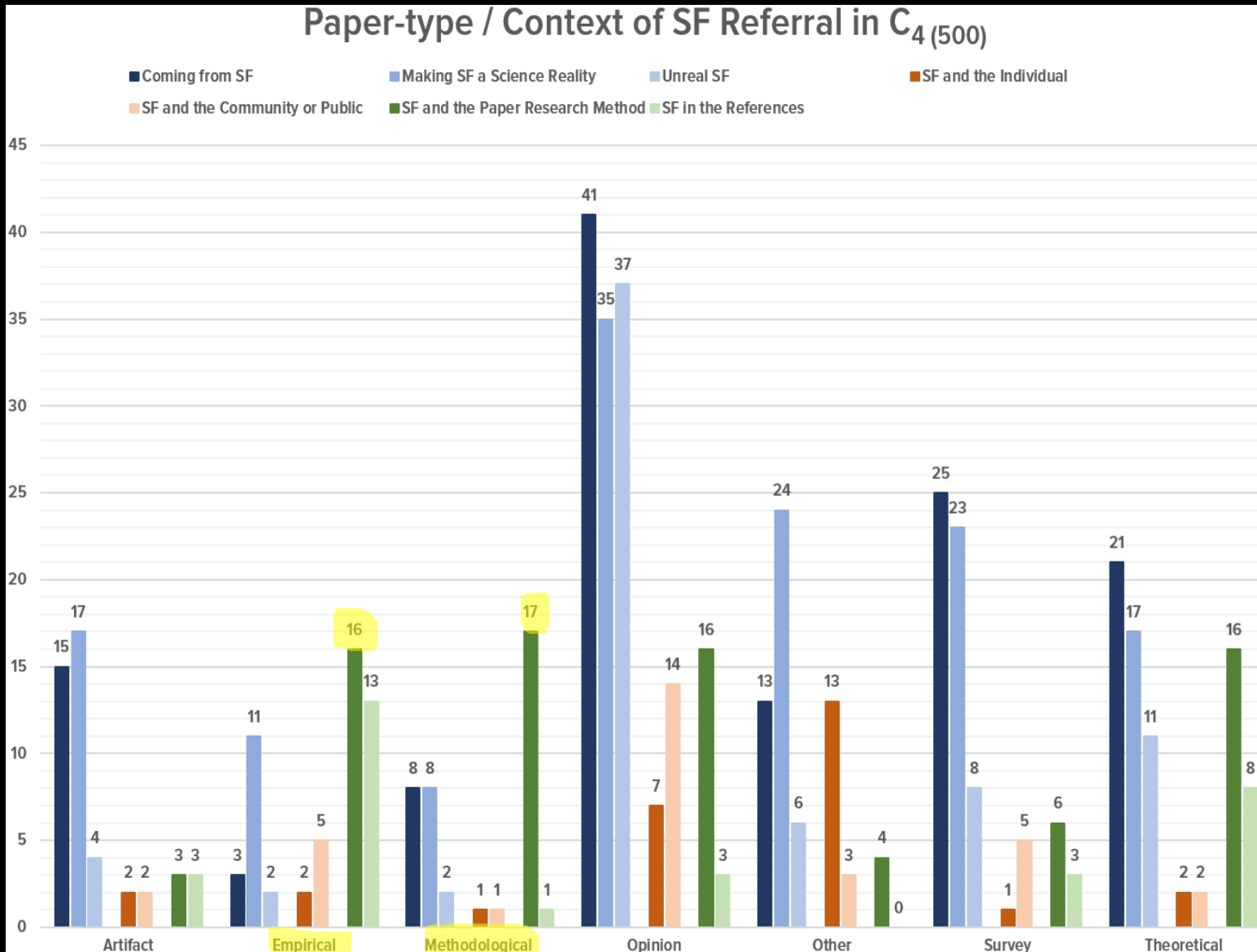
Opinionated research contributions dominate



Scientists use SF most often in the context of drawing inspiration and innovation into the research paper

Contextual SF referral in C_4 (500)





Empirical and methodological-type papers

→ SF as part of the Research Method

Remaining paper types

→ SF to draw inspiration and innovation into the research paper

	Author Name	bin. ref.	% of bin. ref.
1	Isaac Asimov	28	13.9%
2	Arthur C. Clarke	19	9.5%
3	William Gibson	15	7.5%
4	Robert Heinlein	9	4.5%
5	Jules Verne	7	3.5%

‘The big three’ of the first golden age of SF:

- Isaac Asimov**
- Arthur C. Clarke**
- Robert Heinlein**

	Books, Novels, Short Stories	bin. ref.	% of bin. ref.
1	Neuromancer	10	4.5%
2	Astounding Science Fiction	7	3.1%
3	Runaround	7	3.1%
4	Snow Crash	6	2.7%
5	Hitchhikers’ Guide to the Galaxy (novel)	4	1.8%

The works of the most prominent SF writers

	SF Movie, Show	bin. ref.	% of bin. ref.
1	Star Trek	28	13.7%
2	2001: A Space Odyssey (movie)	23	11.2%
3	The Terminator	13	6.3%
4	Minority Report	12	5.9%
5	Star Wars	11	5.4%

The `big SF franchises` and their characters

- Star Trek
- Terminator
- Star Wars

	SF Characters	bin. ref.	% of bin. ref.
1	HAL 9000	11	20.0%
2	R2-D2	3	5.5%
3	Dick Tracy	3	5.5%
4	Captain Kirk	2	3.6%
5	Borg	2	3.6%

- HAL 9000 stands out
- More `robots/AIs` than
`human characters`

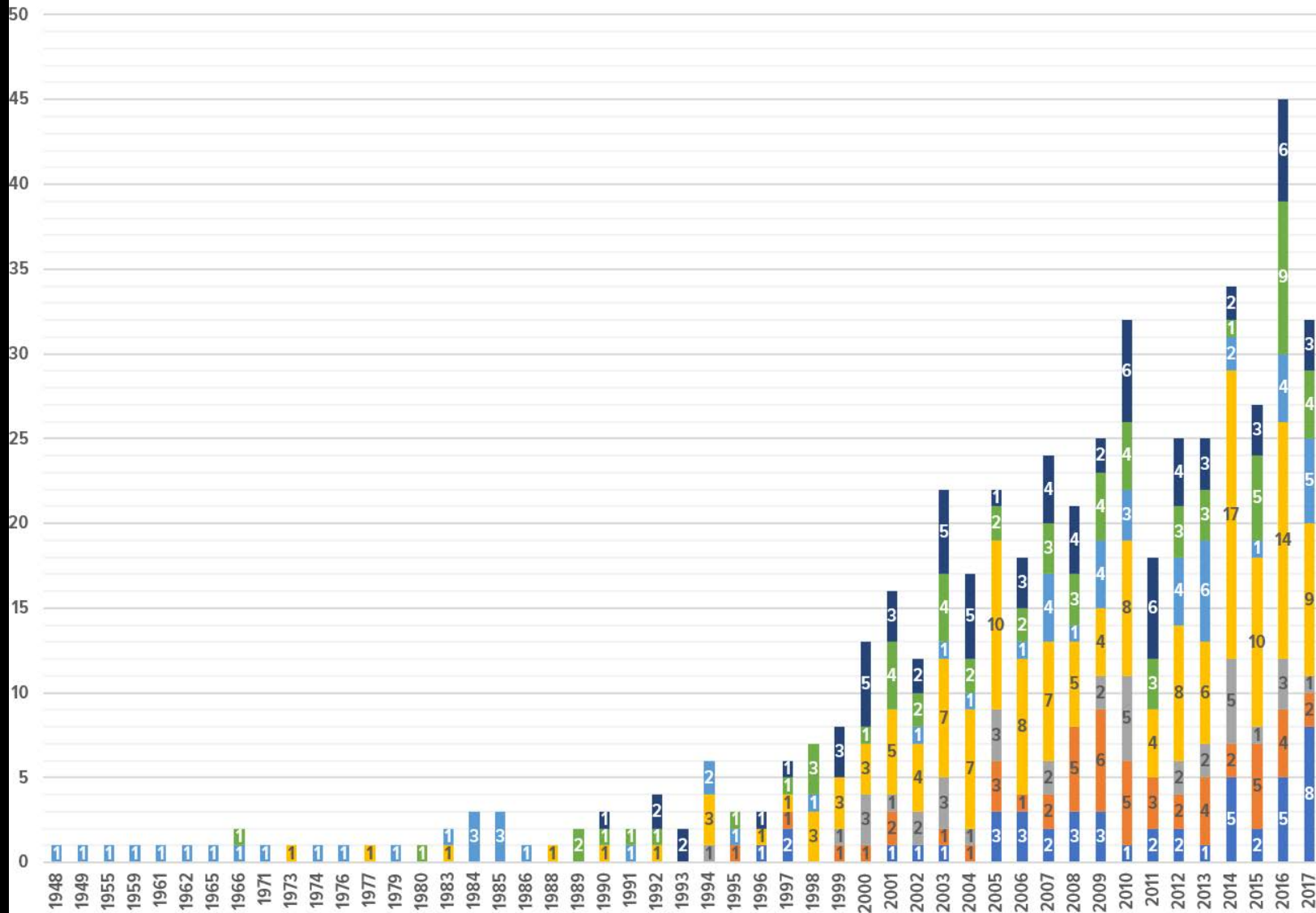
Unique SF Particulars in C_4 (500)	
SF Authors	112
SF Writings	78
SF Movies	115
SF Characters	39

Table 11b continued from previous page

	SF Movie, Show	abs. ref.	bin. ref.	% of bin. ref.
20	A.I.: Artificial Intelligence	3	2	1.0%
21	Conquest of Space	3	2	1.0%
22	E.T. the Extra-Terrestrial	3	2	1.0%
23	Knight Rider	3	2	1.0%
24	Transformers	3	2	1.0%
25	Aliens	2	2	1.0%
26	Avatar	2	2	1.0%
27	Doctor Who	2	2	1.0%
28	Ender's Game	2	2	1.0%
29	Harry Potter (movie)	2	2	1.0%
30	James Bond	2	2	1.0%
31	RoboCop	2	2	1.0%
32	Sleeper	2	2	1.0%
33	Stargate	2	2	1.0%
34	Starship Troopers	2	2	1.0%
35	The Man from U.N.C.L.E	2	2	1.0%
36	Total Recall	2	2	1.0%
37	Dark Star	8	1	0.5%
38	Self/Less	6	1	0.5%
39	Black Mirror	5	1	0.5%
40	Frankenstein (movie)	5	1	0.5%
41	Hollow Man	3	1	0.5%
42	Jurassic Park	3	1	0.5%
43	Men into Space	3	1	0.5%
44	Blake's 7	2	1	0.5%
45	Chrysalis	2	1	0.5%
46	Demon Seed	2	1	0.5%
47	The Abyss	2	1	0.5%
48	The Martian	2	1	0.5%
49	Wonder Woman	2	1	0.5%
50	2010: The Year We Make Contact	1	1	0.5%
51	Abre Los Ojos	1	1	0.5%
52	Airwolf	1	1	0.5%
53	Animatrix	1	1	0.5%

Publication Years / Paper Type in C₄ (500)

Artifact Empirical Method Opinion Other Survey Theoretical



— **1948 – 1986**

mostly other-type contributions

— **Until 1990**

only three types:
other / opinion / survey

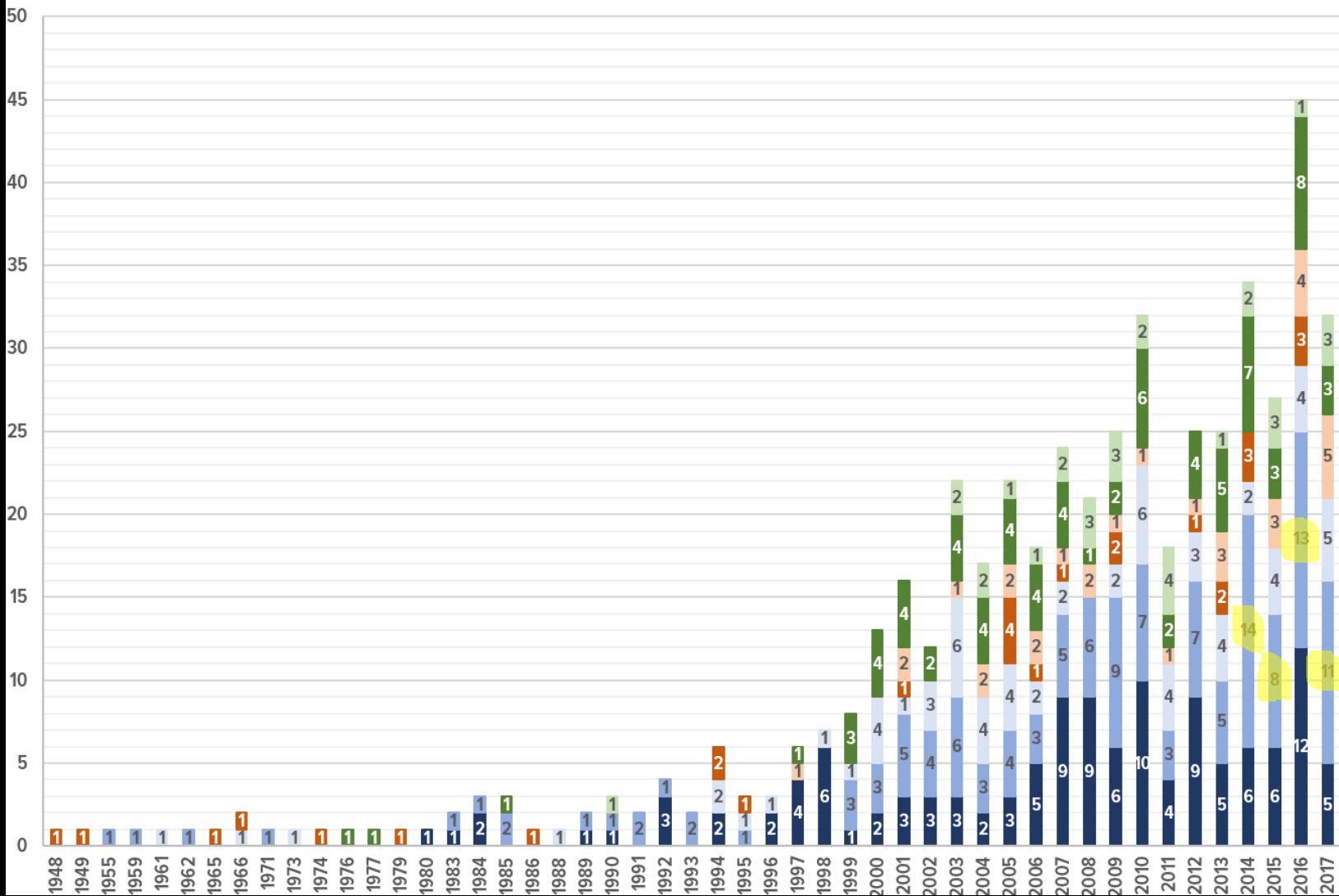
— **2000s–**

spread of SF referrals
across all paper types

→ **‘Diversification’ of the usage of SF over time**

Publication Years / Context of SF Referral in C_4 (500)

■ Coming from SF
 ■ Making SF a Science Reality
 ■ Unreal SF
 ■ SF and the Individual
■ SF and the Community or Public
 ■ SF and the Paper Research Method
 ■ SF in the References

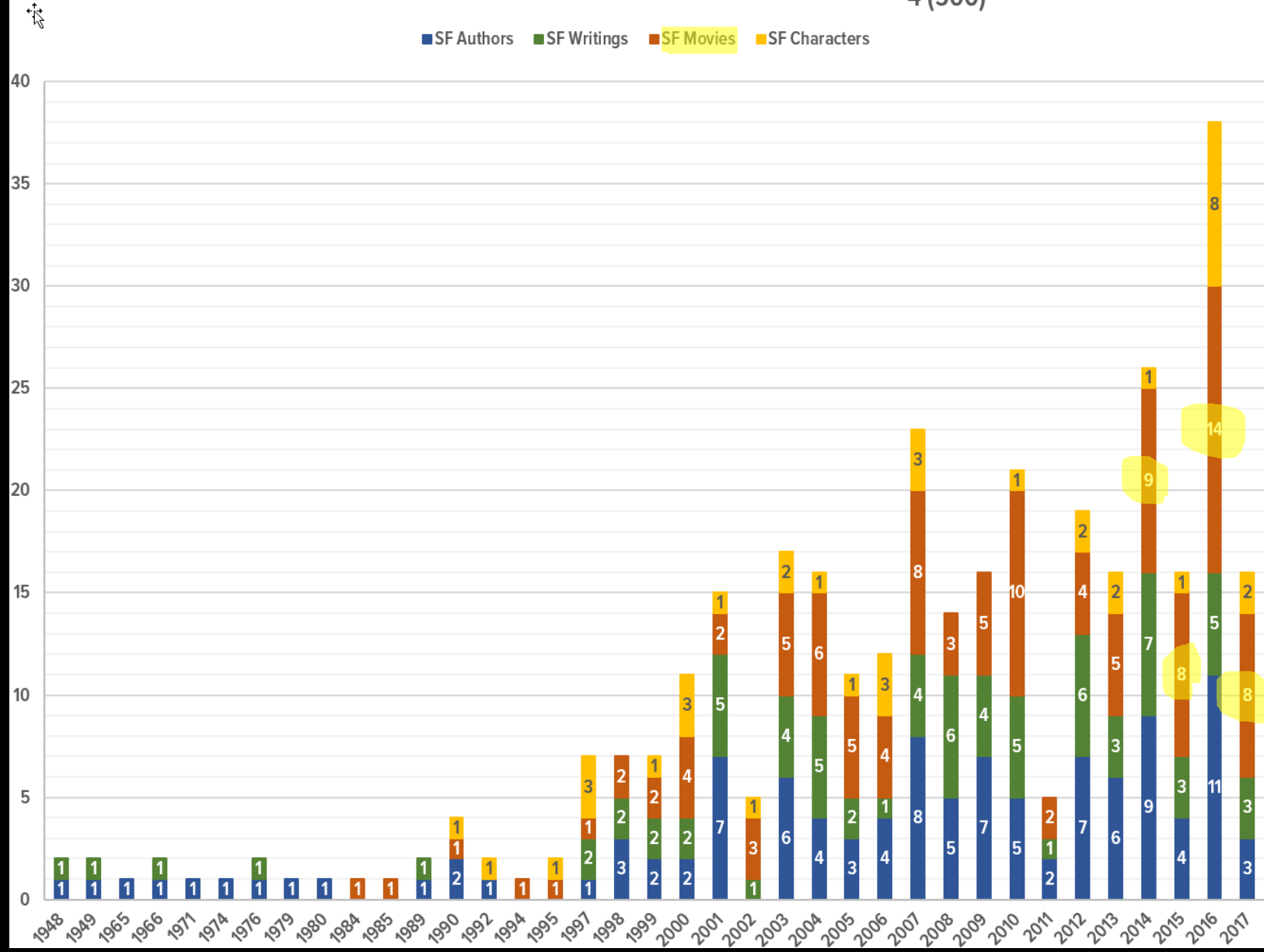


2014-2017

‘Making SF a Science Reality’ is the most often found attribute per year

→ Researchers approximate SF concepts more often toward a state realization instead of referring to them as sources of inspiration or unfeasible imaginations.

Publication Years / SF Particulars in C_4 (500)



1948-1980

Only SF authors and writings

1984

The first SF movie – Star Trek – is referenced in a other-type paper on CGI and special effects in

1990

the first SF character – James T. Kirk – is referenced in a paper on speech recognition in.

2014-2017

SF Movies appear the most often in records

→ Transition from written toward visual SF ?

Tracing a SF concept in real-world R&D

1988 S. B. Little. "The future of technical communication instruction".

*"...**natural language, vision processing, and voice**, researchers are providing solutions to problems that only a decade ago would have sounded like **science fiction** [...] current technology in these areas of human intelligence is limited [...] to small vocabularies, recognition of isolated words rather than continuous speech, and speaker dependency, where each user's voice must be stored."*

1994 L. V. Kirkland and J. S. Dean. "ATE enabling technologies: Present and future.

*"Being able to **talk interactively with a computer** has been a dream for decades and, until recently, has been considered **science fiction** [...] this capability may soon become science fact."*

2007 M. Muhlhauser. "Making Sense of Ubiquitous Media style

*"In fact, **natural language dialogues** are a high priority challenge as, e.g., a look at IT centric **science fiction** can tell: [...] Lately however, **NLP based techniques** for 'question answering' (as opposed to formal queries) improved considerably."*

2014 K. Ricanek. "Beyond Recognition: The Promise of Biometric Analytics".

*"The notion of **voice recognition**, and hence control, dates back to early **science fiction** [...] Systems are now being deployed that re-purpose the voice recognition process to better understand the speaker's emotional state, honesty, concentration level, and other attributes that define a person's character and personality."*

Discussion & Limitations

- Most often one (1) SF referral per record – 77% in C_4 (500)
- Most often one (1) SF referrals in the body – 85% in C_4 (500)
- Opinionated records represent the majority – 31% in C_4 (500)

- Most SF referrals to draw innovation in the paper – 66% in C_4 (500)
 - Coming from SF – 27% in C_4 (500)
 - Making SF a Science Reality – 25% in C_4 (500)
 - Unreal SF – 14% in C_4 (500)

- SF and the Research Paper Method – 16% in C_4 (500)
 - SF Prototyping, Technology Forecasting, design research (no Design Fiction)
 - SF in K12, summer programs, introductory CS courses

- SF Authors and Writings – The big three of the ‘Golden Age’ of SF
- SF Movies and Shows – The big franchises
- Sf Characters – HAL9000, mostly robots

- Unique referrals – 115 SF Movies versus 78 SF Writings (however, 112 SF Authors)
- IEEE *Xplore* in April 2019: 4.85 mil. - 3859 records for a FT search for “science fiction” - >0.1%

Qualitative research is subjective and prone to interpretation bias

→ Present quantitative (frequency analysis) and quality data (interpretative data)

Search and retrieval approach for one single term

→ Inclusive approach to retrieve as many records as possible

Dataset reduction from 2784 to 500 records.

→ Distribution patterns of all sets over the years re-ensemble each other

Inter-rater reliability

→ Values not as desired (e.g. α is not ≥ 0.8), but acceptable

Conclusions & Future Work

Conclusions & Future Work

In conclusion

- The story of SF in CS / HCI research is a niche, but rich, topic.
- A unique and differentiating factor in SF for CS / HCI are the stories and diegetic prototypes
- SF covers a broad range from technology ethics to interaction design, from device innovation to smart environments, AI, robots, AR, VR and medical device design.
- In addition, SF can play a role in CS / STEM education
- It seems SF deserves way more credit than it actually is granted in computer science communication, however, this might change in the future

Implications / Future Work

- Validation of the innovation of SF through empirical data (e.g. interviewing researchers)
- Extension / Creation of a framework which connects SF, Research and Science output
- Validation of the methodology and results through different searches, for example for the most popular SF Particulars
- Analysis and topic mapping of the SF technologies (not presented here)

Aloha. Thank you very much
Questions / Comments ?

Philipp Jordan

philippj@hawaii.edu