

BENCHMARKING ITALIAN UNIVERSITIES IN THE RANKING WEB (WEBOMETRICS) OF UNIVERSITIES

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SAPIENZA
UNIVERSITÀ DI ROMA



Agenda

- **Rankings, a personal view**
 - *Background and a few historical facts*
 - *Global context and relevance*
 - *Main stakeholders, a biased scenario?*
- **Ranking Web**
 - *A model based on webometrics analysis*
 - *Main advantages and results*
- **Italy, Sapienza in Webometrics**
 - *Empirical results with comments*
 - *Some recent evidence after visiting websites*
 - *A few suggestions*
- **Open forum**

International students mobility

- **How many students study abroad?**
 - *In 2010, more than 4.1 million tertiary students were enrolled outside their country of citizenship*
 - *83% of students who study abroad do so in G20 countries, 77% globally in OECD countries*
 - *The largest numbers of international students came from **China**, India and Korea. Asians account for 52% of all international students*
- **Where do students go to study abroad?**
 - *Six countries – Australia, Canada, France, Germany, the United Kingdom and the United States – hosted more than half of the world's students who studied abroad in 2009.*
 - *The United States saw a significant drop as a preferred destination of foreign students, falling from about 23% (2000) to 18% (2009)*
 - *On the contrary the number of university foreign students has more than doubled since 2005 in Brazil, Chile, Estonia, Iceland, Indonesia, Ireland, Korea, Luxembourg, Saudi Arabia, the Slovak Republic and Spain*

OECD Education at a Glance 2012

Since 2003, Global Rankings

- **What are the main foreign universities (for Chinese students)?**
 - *In 2003 a research team of the Shanghai Jiao Tong University develop a tool for providing such info for a group of 500 (world-class) universities*
 - *Two main innovations: A simple **composite indicator** mainly focused on excellence and a plain friendly **website** for disseminating the ranking*
 - *Impact was extraordinary (French rectors and politicians were shocked!)*
 - *ARWU (Shanghai Ranking) is very popular among students and parents but also it has been relevant in the development of institutional strategies and national higher education policies worldwide*
- **And then ...**
 - *Bibliometrics is re-discovered (QS for THES start to use WoS in 2004, then change to Scopus in 2008)*
 - *Surveys become the most popular indicator. Contributions by world experts in bibliometrics (starting late, 2008) are largely set aside*
 - *Stability becomes a key issue. Significant mistakes and biases are ignored for allowing inter-year comparability*
 - *Surprisingly the correlation among the different rankings is very high for the top universities*

Politics, Economics, Rankings

- **One example: UK**

- *Britain attracts around one in 10 foreign undergraduates and postgraduates who study outside their home country*
- *Those international students generates around £8bn a year for the UK in tuition fees and other investments*

universitiesuk.ac.uk, 2012

- **What are the best universities?**

- *According to QS (a British company) four of the Top 6 are British universities*
- *THE, another British company, decreases the number to only three in the Top 8*
- *For the Shanghai ranking the number is two among the Top 20*

topuniversities.com, 2012

timeshighereducation.co.uk, 2012

shanghairanking.com, 2012

Rankings, a subjective point of view

RANKING	AUTHORSHIP	COUNTRY	FIRST YEAR	UNIVS. RANKED	MAIN CRITERIA	MAIN LIMITATIONS
ARWU	Private Company	PR CHINA	2003	500	Prizes/Awards Bibliometrics (WoS)	Data deficient beyond top universities
QS (THES-QS)	Private Company	UK	2010 (2004)	700+	Prestige (Survey) Bibliometrics (Scopus)	Survey biases
THE (THES-QS)	Private Company (Magazine)	UK	2010 (2004)	400	Prestige (Survey) Bibliometrics (WoS)	Survey biases Bibliometric analysis
WEBOMETRICS	Public Research Center research group	SPAIN	2004	20 000	Web impact Bibliometrics (Scopus)	Web policies strong penalties
NTU (HEEACT)	Public University research group	TAIWAN	2007	500	Bibliometrics (WoS)	Research mission only Bibliometric model
LEIDEN	Public University research group	NETHERLANDS	2008	500	Bibliometrics (WoS)	Research mission only many rankings
SCIMAGO	Public consortium of research groups	SPAIN	2009	~3 000	Bibliometrics (Scopus)	Research mission only many rankings
URAP	Public University research group	TURKEY	2011	2 000	Bibliometrics (WoS)	Research mission only Bibliometric model

What about U-Multirank?

THE Times Higher Education

Considering studying in the UK? idp open your world

HOME | CONTACT | COMMENT | NEWS | CULTURE | RANKINGS | EXTRAS | ADVERTISE

Peers call for U-Multirank U-turn after failing to discern its value

Me gusta 0

22 March 2012
By [Jack Grove](#)

House of Lords report advises Europe to 'prioritise other activities'. Jack Grove writes

Plans for a new global university ranking system have committee examining higher education in Europe.

U-Multirank may be a waste of taxpayers' money

Me gusta 0

11

22 March 2012

By [Phil Baty](#)

Caution: Rankings!

Inter-annual stability

1

In several rankings the stability between editions means that methodological, technical and even doctrinal mistakes are preserved along the time. There are new data sources, others are improving their results, but older figures are used for allowing (false) comparative analysis

Inclusion/Exclusion criteria

2

The presence or absence of certain universities depend of opaque criteria: Exclusions can be due to lack of data (undisclosed) and the long queue in a ranking consists of “randomly” selected universities not even close to their true position

Political (and economic) interferences

3

Interpretation of several indicators is open to interpretation and even manipulation. A Nobel prize or highly cited researcher can be associated to a university only after a brief visit. Different bodies (university, hospital, business park) can be combined for obtaining a better rank

Prestige and popularity

4

Popular rankings with strong marketing campaigns have achieved a status of prestige without a true academic support or even frequent disqualifications in the scientific literature. There are even prestigious initiatives that still have not produced any ranking at all

Empirical results, by country

MAIN GLOBAL RANKINGS (2012 EDITIONS)

COUNTRIES	ARWU		SCIMAGO		URAP		WEBOMETRICS		QS		TIMES	
	200	500	200	500	200	500	200	500	200	500	200	400
USA	86	158	86	153	67	129	86	151	54	99	76	111
CANADA	7	22	10	22	10	20	11	22	9	20	8	19
UNITED KINGDOM	19	39	21	42	17	35	10	33	30	50	31	48
GERMANY	14	36	16	44	16	40	15	46	11	39	11	25
FRANCE	8	19	9	31	5	15		7	4	22	7	12
ITALY	4	20	5	29	8	25	4	12	1	14		14
NETHERLANDS	8	13	11	13	9	12	5	11	11	14	12	13
SWEDEN	5	11	4	10	5	10	5	9	5	8	5	10
SWITZERLAND	6	7	5	7	6	7	4	6	7	8	7	8
CHINA	4	29	3	18	11	34	4	19	7	19	2	9
JAPAN	9	21	4	14	8	18	3	12	10	20	5	13
KOREA	1	7	1	8	4	16	2	5	6	13	4	6
TAIWAN	1	8	1	5	2	10	3	10	2	11	1	7
AUSTRALIA	7	18	6	17	7	16	6	15	8	25	8	19
BRAZIL	1	6	1	2	1	7	6	11	1	5	1	2

The Ranking Web of Universities

- **Background**

- *Cybermetrics Lab* started to use quantitative indicators derived from the Web since mid-nineties, producing scientific papers published in international peer review journals
- In 2004 inspired by the publication of the Shanghai ranking the previous year, a composite indicator using web data was developed and the first edition of the ranking Web of universities were published
- Since 2008 the ranking is published two times (January & July) per year and it provides the largest directory of higher education institutions (HEIs) of the world, the current figure exceeding **20 000** different web domains

- **What are the advantages of the Ranking Web?**

- The Ranking Web provides an integrated overview of the universities, taking into account **all the academic missions** (teaching, researching, knowledge and technology transferring, community engagement and internationalization) and the global performance of the whole institution
- The Ranking Web is the only one providing this information for most of the **developing and emerging countries**
- Data suggests there is a **strong correlation** with other rankings, but Web indicators are easier to understand and more useful for the design of feasible short and mid-term strategies
- A specially valuable advantage is the Ranking promotes internal **democracy and transparency (openness)** in the institutions governance

Objectives of the Ranking Web



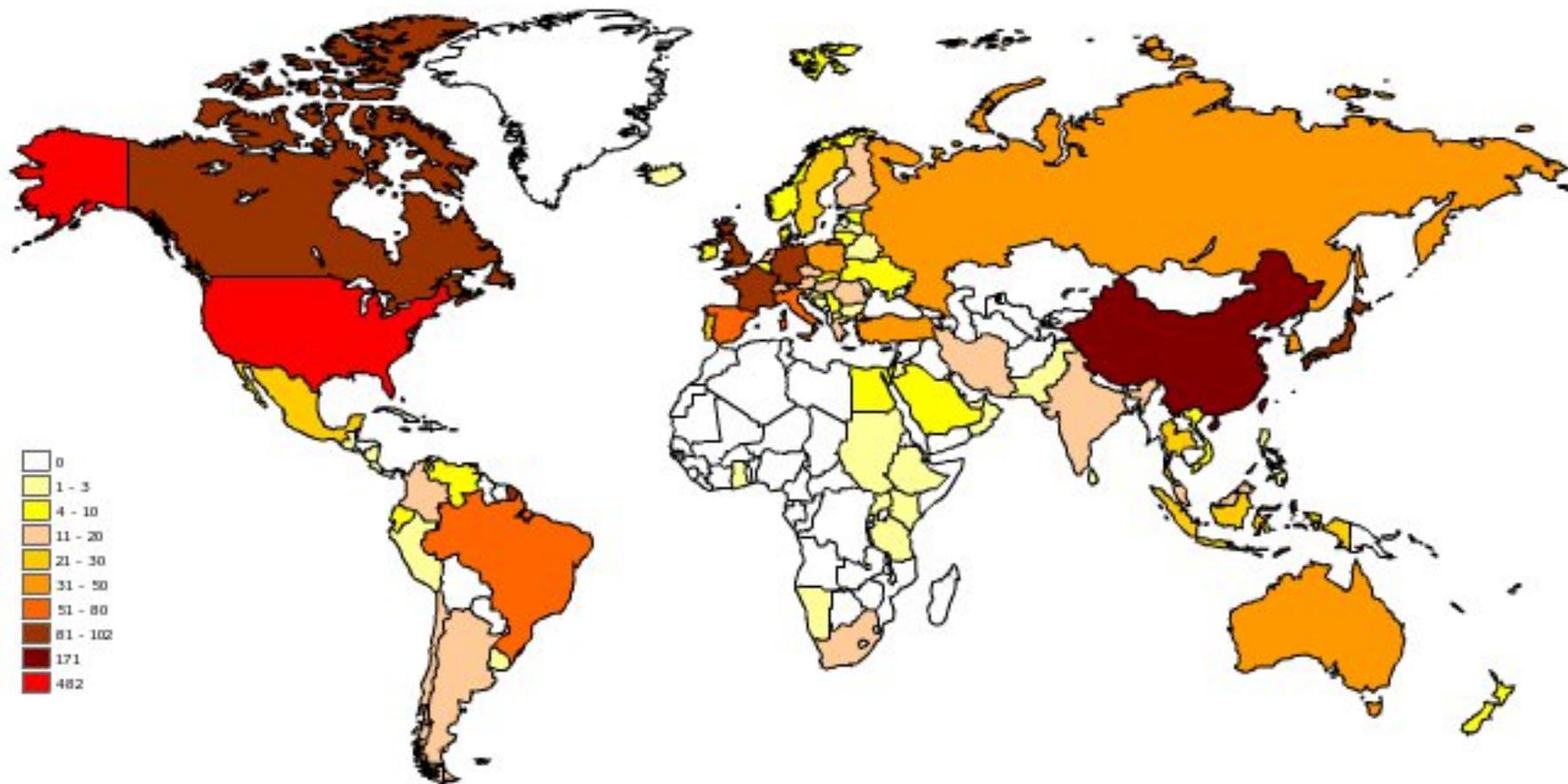
Ranking Web (Webometrics)

The screenshot shows the 'Ranking Web of Universities' website interface. At the top, there are navigation buttons for 'Repositories', 'Hospitals', 'Business Schools', and 'Research Centers'. Below these is a search bar with a 'SEARCH' button and flags for the UK and Spain. A horizontal menu contains 'HOME', 'NORTH AMERICA', 'LATIN AMERICA', 'EUROPE', 'ASIA', 'AFRICA', 'ARAB WORLD', 'OCEANIA', and 'RANKING BY AREAS'. The 'EUROPE' tab is selected, and the page title is 'Europe'. On the left, there are sections for 'About Us', 'About the Ranking', and 'Resources'. The main content is a table of university rankings for Europe.

ranking	World Rank ▲	University	Det.	Country	Presence Rank*	Impact Rank*	Openness Rank*	Excellence Rank*
1	20	University of Cambridge	10		43	35	94	12
2	25	University of Oxford	10		109	37	64	13
3	29	Eidgenössische Technische Hochschule ETH Zürich / Swiss Federal Institute of Technology Zurich	10		63	87	1	41
4	43	University College London	10		120	86	126	8
5	57	Utrecht University / Universiteit Utrecht	10		274	182	15	33
6	61	Università di Bologna	10		61	133	99	121

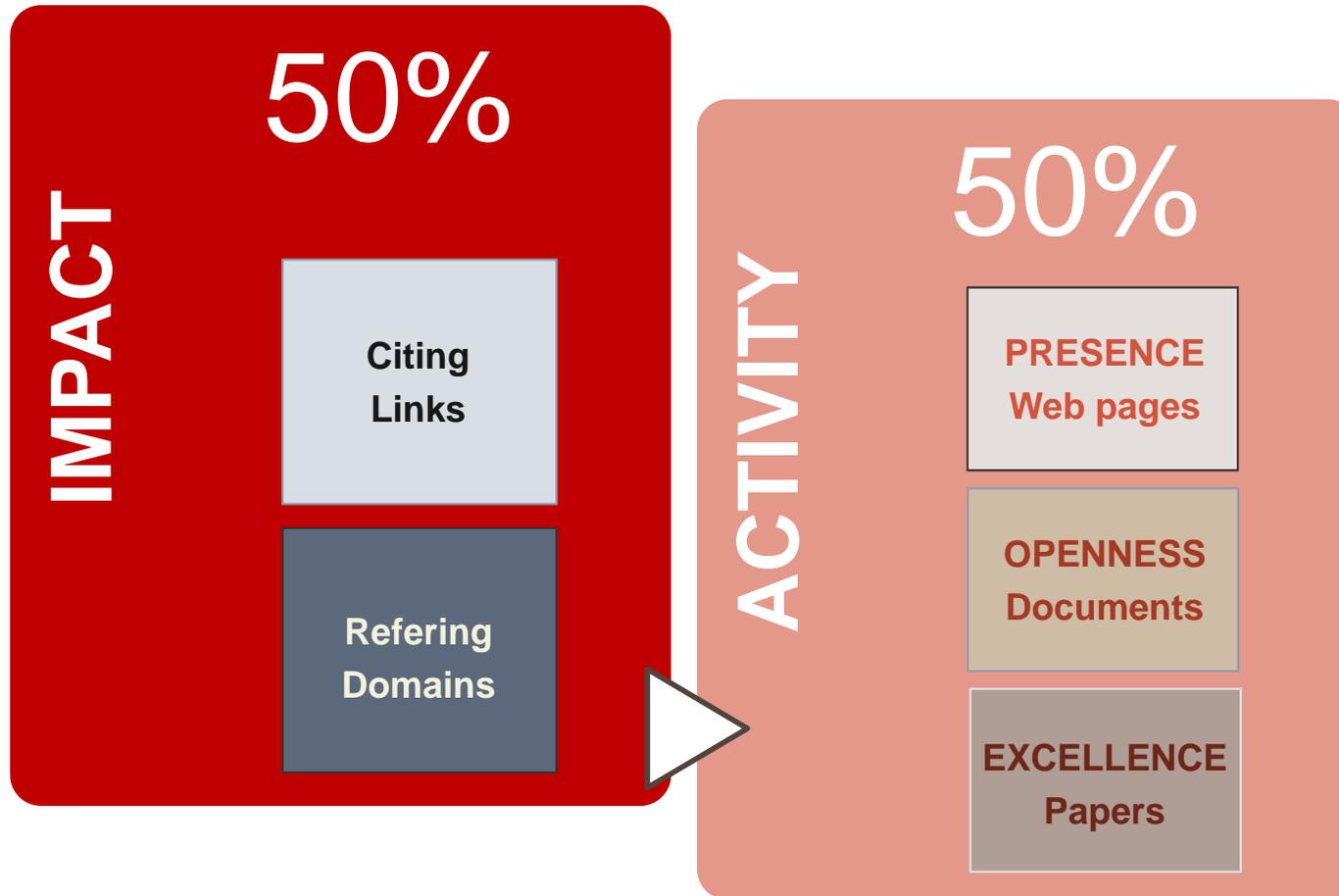
www.webometrics.info, July 2012

Geographical coverage



Top 2000 Universities
www.webometrics.info, July 2012

Webometrics Composite Indicator



Italian Ranking

Italy

ranking	World Rank ▲	University	Det.	Presence Rank*	Impact Rank*	Openness Rank*	Excellence Rank*
1	61	Università di Bologna	39	61	133	99	121
2	175	Università degli Studi di Padova	39	400	478	95	118
3	192	Università di Pisa	39	369	302	267	218
4	200	Università degli Studi di Roma La Sapienza	39	424	503	170	101
5	296	Politecnico di Milano	39	485	555	277	312
6	301	Università degli Studi di Firenze	39	2123	412	198	192
7	312	Università degli Studi di Napoli Federico II	39	741	832	159	183
8	350	Università degli Studi di Torino	39	465	854	388	193
9	355	Università degli Studi di Milano	39	800	852	410	116
10	370	(1) Università degli Studi di Pavia	39	1022	548	409	326
11	458	Università degli Studi di Siena	39	1460	706	498	396
12	488	(1) Università degli Studi di Roma Tor Vergata	39	1141	828	836	294
13	523	Politecnico di Torino	39	663	1261	583	387
14	540	Università degli Studi di Genova	39	1198	1245	627	305
15	546	Università degli Studi di Trento	39	1253	1073	490	464

Preliminary diagnostics

- **Positive aspects**

- *Four in the Top 200 of the World; **Seven** when considering the indicator of Research Excellence (top 10% more cited papers)*
- *Two universities among the largest 100 providers of **Open Access** contents*

- **Indicators to be improved**

- *Thirteen higher education institutions with several central webdomains, a bad practice that penalizes **web visibility***
- *Low performance regarding web presence, not everybody is involved in transferring knowledge, activities, results ...*
- *International impact very limited: Perhaps due to the lack of quality (academic repository) and international (English) contents*

Out of the domain

The image displays three overlapping web browser screenshots, all from Sapienza University of Rome. The top screenshot shows the 'COMUNICLAB.IT' website, which is a magazine of communication and media from the Department of Communication and Social Research. The middle screenshot shows the 'EMATOLOGIA' website, the department of Cellular and Hematology Biotechnologies, featuring a search bar and a 'RESERVED AREA' button. The bottom screenshot shows the 'www.architetturavallegiulia.it' website, the Faculty of Architecture's 'CESMA' (Center for Multimedia Services for Architecture), which includes a search bar, navigation menu, and a description of its institutional role.

COMUNICLAB.IT
Magazine di comunicazione e media
Dipartimento di Comunicazione e Ricerca Sociale

EMATOLOGIA
DIPARTIMENTO DI BIOTECNOLOGIE CELLULARI ED EMATOLOGIA

www.architetturavallegiulia.it
STUDENTI | DOCENTI | PERSONALE
FACOLTÀ DI ARCHITETTURA
CESMA
SERVIZI MULTIMEDIALI PER L'ARCHITETTURA

Good practices

CONTENTS: A lot of!

Involving EVERYBODY

All the faculty members, technicians, librarians, post-graduate students are candidate web editors

The whole structure of the university, organization, activities, knowledge and technological results should be reflected in the websites, mainly by the persons in charge of each mission

Personal or group web pages should be encouraged and supported

Quality CONTENTS

Research results in OPEN ACCESS

Research is the most prestigious mission, the key for achieving World-class status

All the academic papers, scientific monographs, thesis and dissertations, conference proceedings and similar publications should be available from the institutional Open Access repository

Education objects are needed for distance and off-campus learning, the future!

International CONTENTS

ENGLISH AND local language

English is “lingua franca” of scholarly communication, but useful also for most of the postgraduate schools and the internationally oriented information

But English is not recommended instead of local language but besides it. Internet audiences are huge and global and the multilingualism usage is a strong mandate for web presence

Contents: Everybody contributing!

MISSIONS	WEBCONTENTS	
GOVERNANCE	Long-term Strategy	Policies, priorities, resources mentioned in the Web
	Internal Organization	Reflected in the web hierarchy & structure (subdomains/directories) CMS responsibilities and rules
	Quality Assurance & Transparency	Open public reporting
	Attraction of Talent	Web showcase: Info for future students & candidate faculty members
	End-user oriented policies	General info: Mission, Vision, History, Community, Facts & Statistics News, Highlights, Publications, Emergency info
EDUCATION	Schools & Academics	Departments & Disciplines: Degrees, People, Courses, Programs, Labs, Requirements, Calendars, Events Supporting material: Learning Guides; Multimedia
	Library	Repository of teaching objects Digital library
	Distance/Online Education	Interactive Resources: Learning platforms
	Social Media	Web 2.0 networks & tools
RESEARCH	Basic & Applied Research	Research groups webpages Personal webpages Projects; Resources; Funding, Services, Super-sites IT & Computing
	Library	Repository of academic papers/thesis & dissertations Other repositories
THIRD MISSION	Community Engagement	University-City-Region Portals Third parties web hosting: Health (Hospitals), Arts & Culture (Museums), NGOs, Sports Social, Environmental Responsibilities: Declarations & Actions
	Technology transfer	Networks, Consortia, Resources, Technological Parks, Spin-offs
	Knowledge transfer	Consulting services, foundations
	Internationalization	Strategies & business model, Global networking, other activities

Personal pages

Carlos da Silva dos Santos

PhD Candidate on the Computer Science Department (DCC) of Institute of Mathematics and Statistics (IME), University of São Paulo (USP)

M: C.V. Lattes (Portuguese)
<http://lattes.cnpq.br/5712121497893132>

Research Interests
 Computer vision, medical image processing, machine learning, statistics, visualization

Publications

Conference Papers

- Two-stage binary image operator design: an approach based on interaction information C.S. Santos, N.S.T. Heita, R. Heita Junior Brazilian Symposium on Computer Graphics and Image Processing (SIGRAPH)
- Implementation of a fault-tolerant PACS over a grid architecture, M.A. Gutierrez, C.S. Santos, R.A. Moreno, L.O.M. Kobayashi, S.S. Farin, S.M. Freire, D.B. Floriano, C.S. Oliveira, M. João Junior, G. Gomsek, Proceedings of SPIE - Medical Imaging 2009
- Using Independent Subspace Analysis for Selecting Filters Used in Texture Processing, C.S. Santos, J.E. Koehler Jr., E.D.M. Hernandez, International Conference on Image Processing (ICIP) 2003
- Graphic simulation for virtual prototyping with Java3D, F.R. Miranda, C.S. Santos, J.E. Koehler Jr. 377 Brazilian Symposium on Computer Graphics and Image Processing (SIGRAPH), 2003.

Conference Abstracts

- Exploring window selection strategies for two-level binary image operator design C.S. Santos, R. Heita Junior International Symposium on Mathematical Morphology (ISMM) 2007

Contact
 Replace usernames with username in the line below:

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 Professor associado, Universidade de São Paulo
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 Telephone: 3091 6177

Ensino - Teaching	Research - Pesquisa
<p>Curso ministrado nesse semestre:</p> <p>MAT 3210 Cálculo II - Bacharelado de Geociências</p> <p>MAT 5751 Geometria diferencial - Pós-Graduação de Matemática</p> <p>Horário de atendimento:</p> <p>Quinta-feira, 10h00, sala 138, Bloco 13</p> <p>Mailing address: Instituto de Matemática e Estatística Rua do Matão, 138, Bloco 13 05508-090, BRAZIL</p>	<p>The seminar of geometry.</p> <p>Next session: October 5th</p> <p>14h00 - Andrew Clarke (IME-USP)</p> <p><i>Instantons nas variedades de Bryant e Salamon</i></p>

Marcelo Martinelli [English](#)

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[Anelamento Multicor \(Aula 5\)](#)

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[Parte 4](#)

Alessandro S. Villar

Português | English

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 Department of Physics of the Center of Exact and Natural Sciences (CCEN),
 Federal University of Pernambuco (UFPE),
 in Recife, Brazil

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 Tel: +55 81 xxxxx-xxxx

If you think education is expensive, try ignorance.
 --Derek Bok

Research interests (mainly experimental)

- Quantum information
- Entanglement
- Continuous variables
- Quantum properties of light and matter

Brief CV

- since 2012: Assistant Professor at the Department of Physics / Federal University of Pernambuco
- 2011-2012: Post-doctoral research at the Laboratory for the Coherent Manipulation of Light
- 2008-2011: Post-doctoral research at the Max Planck Institute for the Science of Light, Berlin
- 2007-2008: Post-doctoral research at the Quantum Optics and Quantum Information Laboratory, University of São Paulo
- 2004-2007: Doctor degree at the University of São Paulo, advised by Paulo Nussenzveig
- 2002-2004: Master degree at the University of São Paulo, advised by Paulo Nussenzveig
- 1998-2001: Bachelor degree in Physics at the University of São Paulo

Dr. Linilson R. Padovese

Associate Professor at Department of Mechanical Engineering, Polytechnic School, University of São Paulo

B.E. (Mechanical, 1983) University of São Paulo (USP), Brazil.
 M.Sc. (Mechanical, 1989) University of São Paulo (USP), Brazil.
 D.E.A. (Mechanical, 1990) Institut National Polytechnique de Grenoble, France
 Ph.D. (Mechanical, 1992) University Joseph Fourier, France.

"Livre Docente", 2002, University of São Paulo (USP), Brazil

Visiting academic at Cranfield University, UK (2002-2003)

Research Activities

Head of the Laboratory of Dynamic and Instrumentation (LADIN) of the Department of Mechanical Engineering (USP)

The current main researches themes are:

- Fault detection and classification in rotating machinery
- Analysis of gearbox fault by time-frequency methods
- Automatic Diagnostic systems based on neural networks, fuzzy, neuro-fuzzy and paraconsistent logic;
- Lubricant deterioration and contamination detection by vibration analysis;
- Influence of lubricant contamination in rolling bearing and gearboxes dynamical behavior
- Monitoring of lubricant film collapse in journal bearing by vibration and acoustic emission;
- Leakage detection in pressurized vessel and pipelines by array of acoustic emission sensors and HOSA techniques (joint project with IPEN);
- Use MEM's sensors for distributed monitoring in industrial plants

Presence, Openness

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AB Carroll - Business horizons, 1991 - w3.uniroma1.it
For the better part of 30 years now, corporate executives have struggled with the issue of the firm's responsibility to its society. Early on it was argued by some that the corporation's sole responsibility was to provide a maximum financial return to shareholders. It became ...
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M Lenzerini - Symposium on Principles of Database Systems: ..., 2002 - dis.uniroma1.it
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[PDF] [Astroglia induce neurogenesis from adult neural stem cells](#)
H Song, CF Stevens, FH Gage - Nature, 2002 - medicina1.uniroma1.it
During an investigation of the mechanisms through which the local environment controls the fate specification of adult neural stem cells, we discovered that adult astrocytes from hippocampus are capable of regulating neurogenesis by instructing the stem cells to ...
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RANKING WEB OF REPOSITORIES

Italy

ranking	World Rank	Instituto	Size	Visibility	Files Rich	scholar
1	114	Università di Pisa Electronic Theses	1319	191	48	76
2	131	Research in Atmosphere, Crvosphere, Hydrosphere and Solid Earth Fields	733	131	383	232
3	159	Università degli Studi di Padova Thesis	403	323	296	106
4	160	Università degli Studi di Milano Institutional Archive of Research	836	417	550	26
5	186	Cadmus European University Institute Institutional Repository	535	245	421	196
6	221	University of Trento ePrints	1172	105	561	530
7	247	Università di Trieste Openstarts	166	397	302	322
8	249	Università degli Studi di Padova Padua Research	1055	350	423	178
9	317	Università degli Studi di Napoli Federico II Open Archive	983	624	300	140
10	333	Università di Boloqna AMS Tesi di Dottorato	698	394	391	417
11	371	Università degli Studi della Tuscia DSpace	258	517	532	437
12	402	University of Sassari Institutional Repository	1017	614	406	299
13	418	LUISS Guido Carli University Research Archive LUISSearch	1132	963	184	87
14	544	International School for Advanced Studies SISSA Digital Repository	327	736	337	710
15	624	Pubblicazioni Aperte Digitali Interateneo Sapienza Università degli Studi di Roma La Sapienza	755	831	645	617

Sapienza Repository



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Data di pubblicazione	Titolo	Autore/i	Tutor e altri contribuiti	Skills
21-giu-1991	COMPORTAMENTO DI TERRENI COSTIPATI NON SATURI A PICCOLE, MEDIE E GRANDI DEFORMAZIONI	Vassallo, Roberto	Vinale, Filippo	-
21-giu-1991	INFLUENZA DELLA MICROFESSIONAZIONE TERMICA SULLE CARATTERISTICHE DI DEFORMABILITA' E RESISTENZA DELLE ROCCE	Rotonda, Tatiana	Ribacchi, Renato	-
1-lug-1992	MISURA IN SITO DELLE PROPRIETÀ DEI TERRENI MEDIANTE PROVE DINAMICHE	Mancuso, Claudio	Vinale, Filippo	-
24-ott-1995	ASPETTI TERMODINAMICI E DI SCAMBIO TERMICO NEL FUNZIONAMENTO DELLE MACCHINE FRIGORIFERE AD ASSORBIMENTO - POSSIBILITÀ DI SVILUPPO DI MACCHINE INNOVATIVE AD ACQUA-AMMONIACA	Boccaletti, Chiara	Naviglio, Antonio	-
29-ott-1996	COMPORTAMENTO DI UN LIMO SABBIOSO ED ARGILLOSO COSTIPATO ED ADDIZIONATO CON BENTONITE	Santucci De Magistris, Filippo	Vinale, Filippo	-
16-apr-1998	EFFETTI DEL GRADO DI SATURAZIONE SUL COMPORTAMENTO DI UNA POZZOLANA DEL NAPOLETANO	Nicotera, Marco Valerio	Evangelista, Aldo	-

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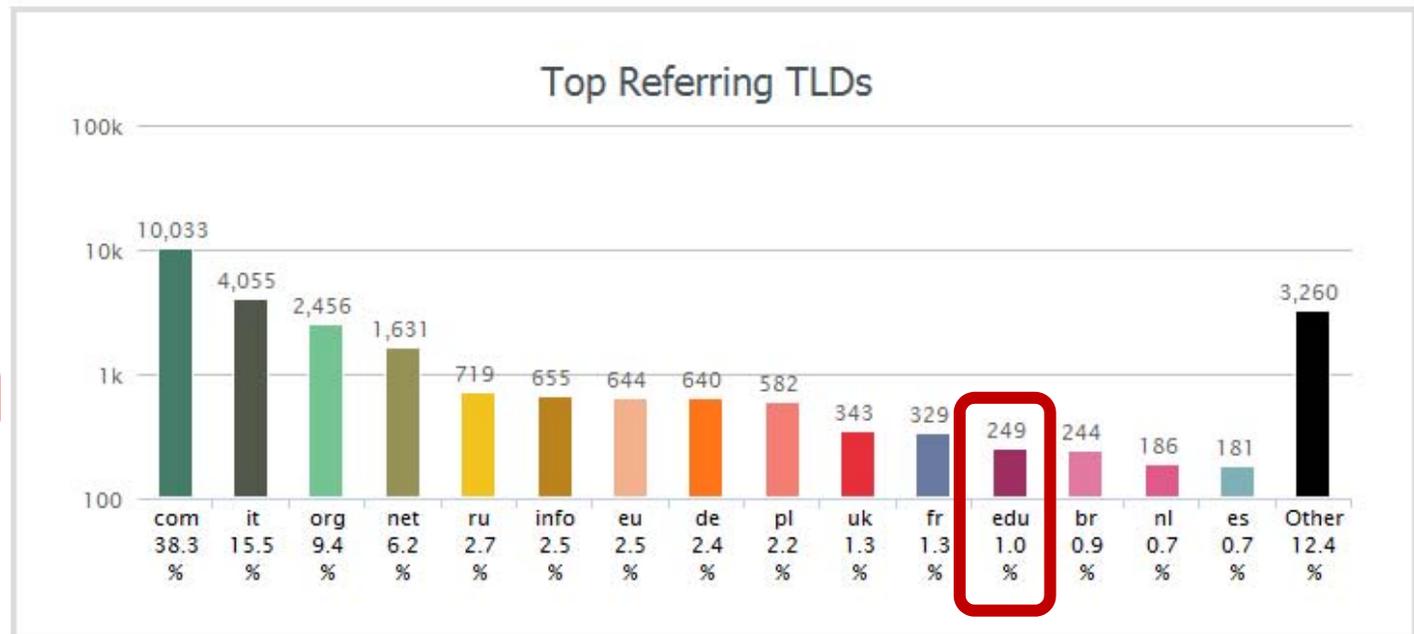
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uniroma1.it [Explore links](#)

History URL domain/* *.domain/*

URL Rank: **79** Ahrefs Domain Rank: **792** Backlinks: **1.1 M** Referring domains: **26 K**

0 0 159 504

Referring pages	691,911
Total Backlinks	1,069,347
Referring IPs	21,506
Referring subnets	14,153
Referring domains	26,207
.gov	8
.edu	249
.com	10,033
.net	1,631
.org	2,456



Final comments

- **Regarding rankings and the Ranking Web**
 - *Overall criticism of World Rankings is a nonsense, but non-academic approaches, mistakes, and unjustified biases should be pointed out*
 - *Web is more important that many scholars are ready to recognize. The Ranking Web is reflecting the performance and the impact of the universities*
 - *Most of the “discrepancies” are explained because of the lack of web polices or bad web practices*
- **Ranking Web and Sapienza**
 - *Sapienza is not performing very well in the Ranking Web, mostly due to the lack of quality international contents*
 - *Open access is mostly focus on thesis and dissertations, the scientific production repository should include a large number of the papers signed by Sapienza authors*
 - *Personal pages are very few and with rustic basic interfaces, providing a limited amount of information*
 - *International impact measured through link visibility shows a limited impact, probably due to the non-availability of contents in other languages*

Mille grazie!

Questions? ...

Chinese Proverb

"When a *finger* points to the *moon*, the imbecile looks at the *finger*"



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