

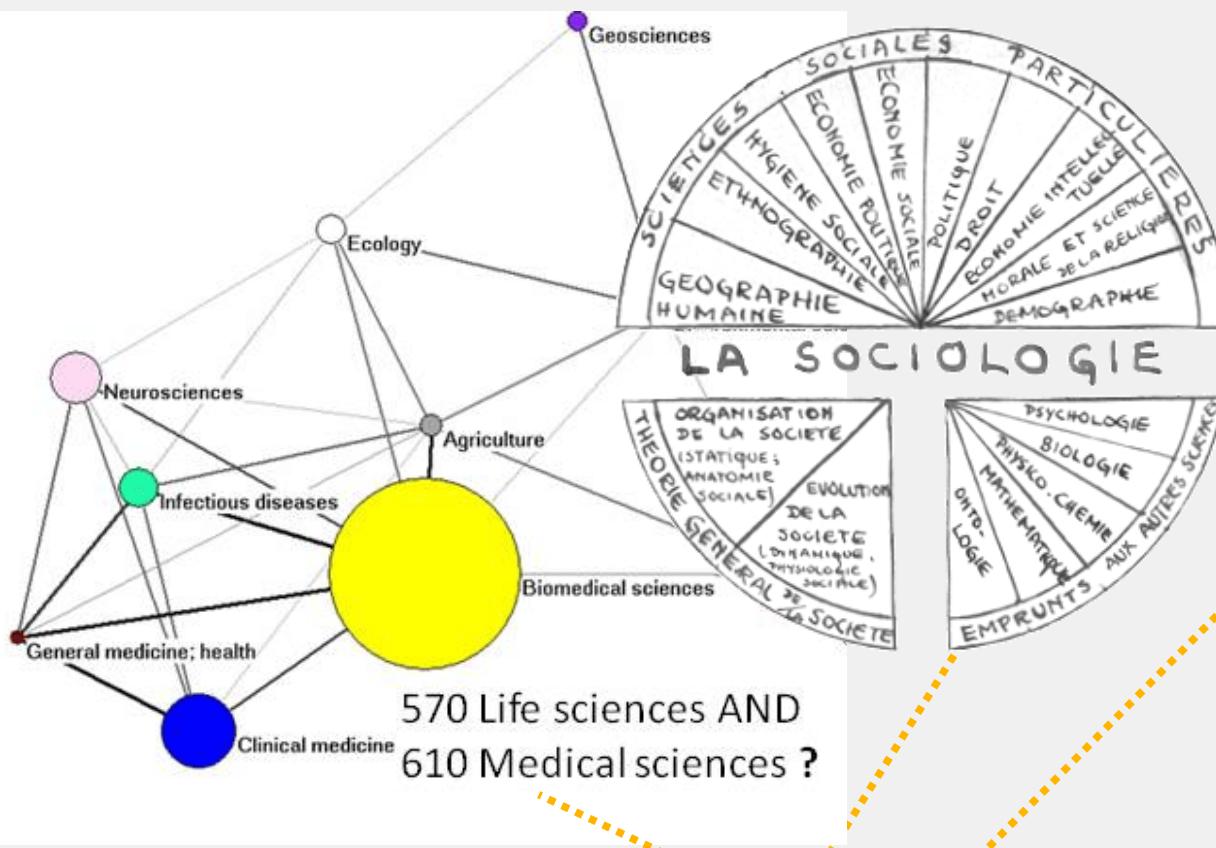
Evolution of Wikipedia Category Structure

Krzysztof Suchecki, Andrea Scharnhorst, Almila Akdag, Cheng Gao

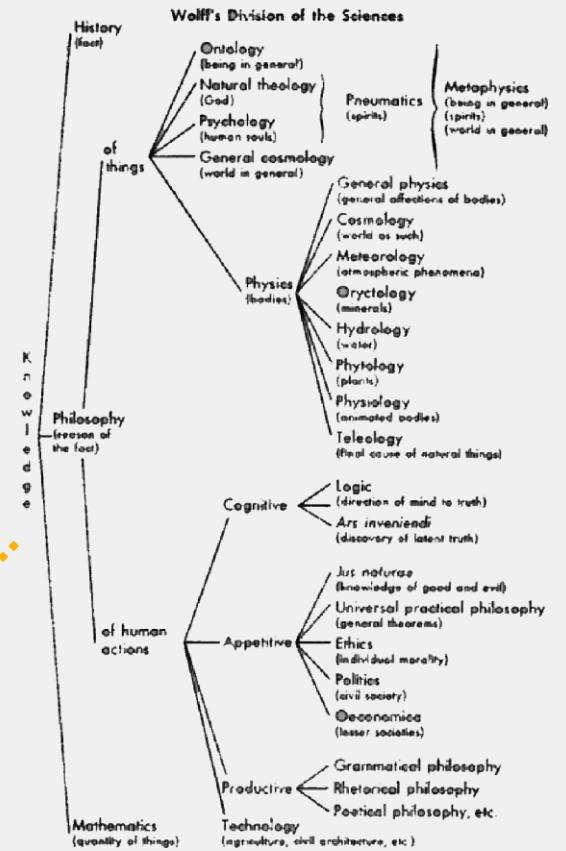


Royal Netherlands Academy of Arts and Sciences
Erasmus University Rotterdam

KSL: Representing Knowledge

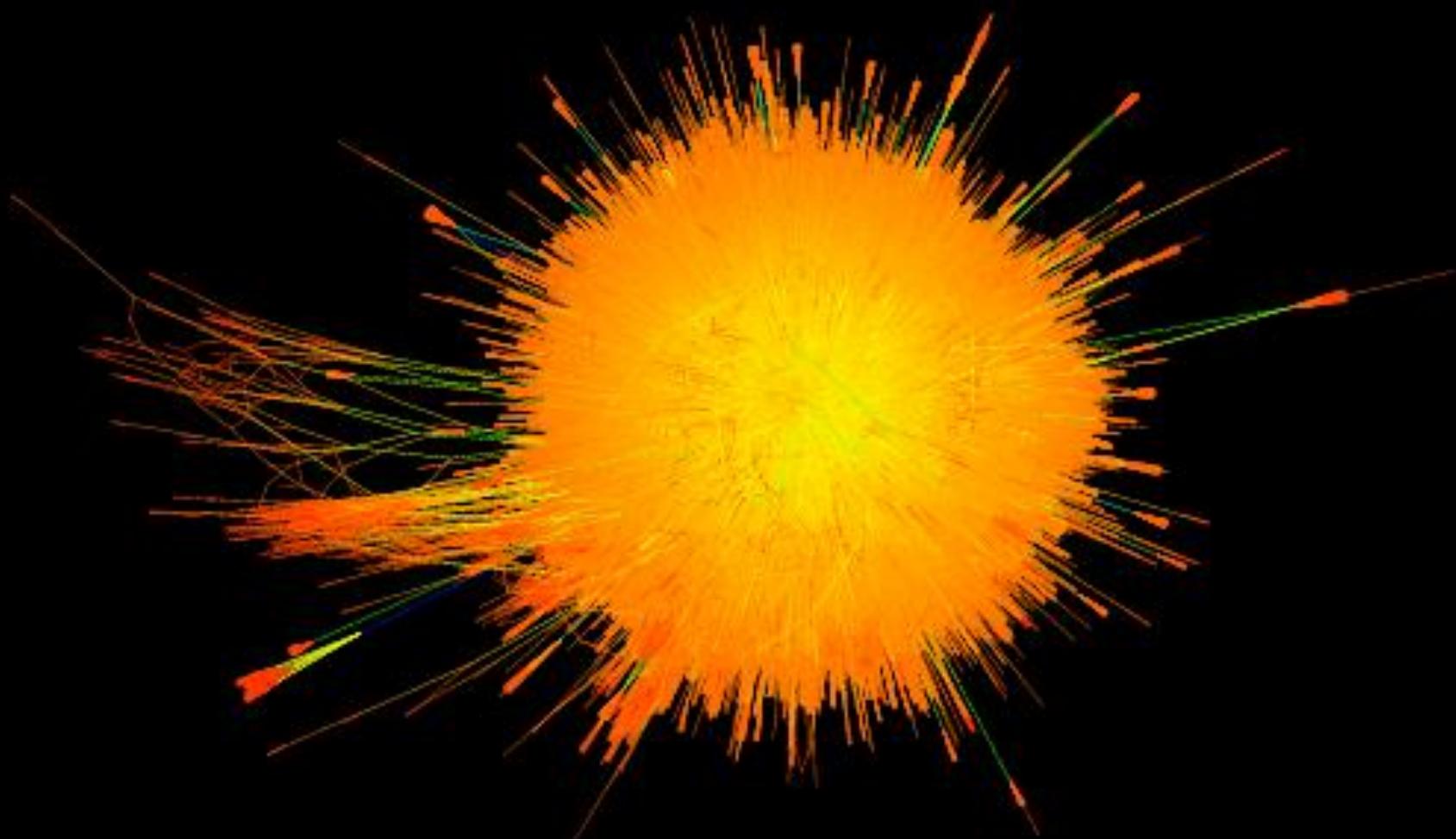


XII PRELIMINARY DISCOURSE ON PHILOSOPHY IN GENERAL



Different visualizations of scientific knowledge

Wikipedia network, full 2005



picture from <http://www.cise.ufl.edu/research/sparse/matrices/Gleich/wikipedia-20051105.html>

Gleich@wikipedia-20051105, 2672475 nodes, 19716499 edges.



Physics

Direct links to other articles, considered

This article is about the field of science. For other uses, see [Physics \(disambiguation\)](#).

Physics (from [Ancient Greek: φύσις physis](#) "nature") is a natural science that involves the study of [matter](#)^[1] and its [motion](#) through [spacetime](#), as well as all related concepts, including [energy](#) and [force](#).^[2] More broadly, it is the general analysis of [nature](#), conducted in order to understand how the [universe](#) behaves.^{[3][4][5]}

Physics is one of the oldest academic disciplines, perhaps the oldest through its inclusion of [astronomy](#).^[6] Over the last two millennia, physics was a part of natural philosophy along with [chemistry](#), certain branches of mathematics, and [biology](#), but during the [Scientific Revolution](#) in the 16th century, the natural sciences emerged as unique research programs in their own right.^[7] Certain research areas are interdisciplinary, such as [mathematical physics](#) and [quantum chemistry](#), which means that the boundaries of physics are not rigidly defined. In the nineteenth and twentieth centuries [physicalism](#) emerged as a major unifying feature of the [philosophy of science](#) as physics provides fundamental explanations for every observed natural [phenomenon](#). New ideas in physics often explain the fundamental mechanisms of other sciences, while opening to new research areas in mathematics and philosophy.

Physics is also significant and influential through advances in its understanding that have translated into new technologies. For example, advances in the understanding of [electromagnetism](#) or [nuclear physics](#) led directly to

Physics	
$E = mc^2$	
Mass-energy equivalence	
History of physics	
Branches	[show]
Research fields	[show]
Past experiments	[show]
Current experiments	[show]
Scientists	[show]

v·d·e

Main page
Contents
Featured content
Current events
Random article
Donate to Wikipedia
Interaction
Help
About Wikipedia
Community portal
Recent changes
Contact Wikipedia
Toolbox
Print/export
Languages
Afrikaans
Alemannisch

Navigation links and language links, not considered

- [AIP.org](#) – Website of the American Institute of Physics
- [APS.org](#) – Website of the American Physical Society
- [IOP.org](#) – Website of the Institute of Physics
- [PlanetPhysics.org](#) **External links, not considered**
- [Royal Society](#) – Although not exclusively a physics institution, it has a strong history of physics
- [SPS National](#) – Website of the Society of Physics Students

v·d·e	The Four Fundamental Interactions of Physics	[show]
v·d·e	General subfields within physics	[show]
v·d·e	Natural science	[hide]
Space sciences • Earth sciences • Life sciences • Chemistry • Physics		

Categories: Natural sciences | Physical sciences | Physics | Introductory physics | Fundamental physics concepts

Infoboxes, format not considered, content considered if article-specific

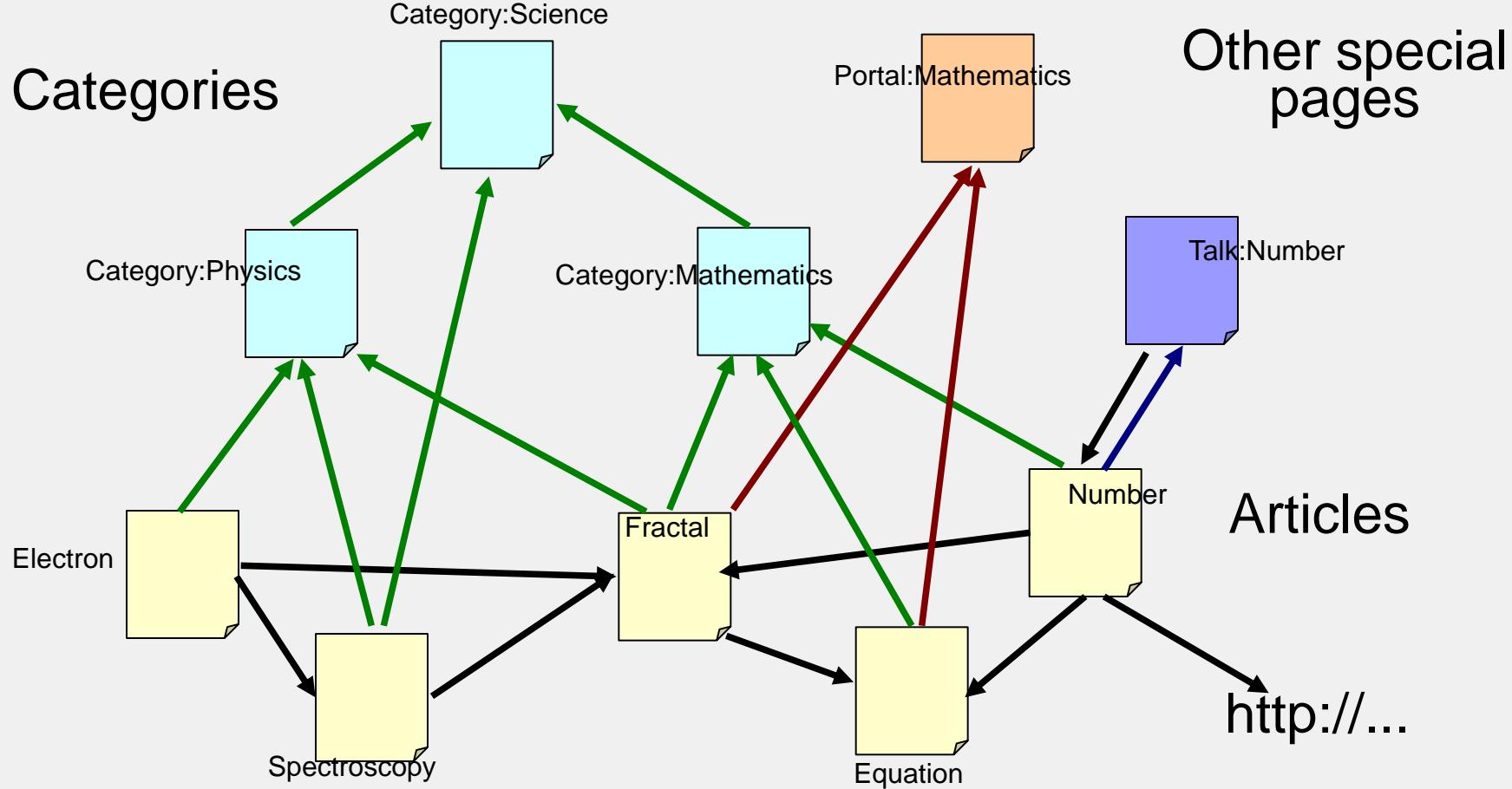
Generalized footers, not considered

Category links, considered

Wikipedia: Articles and Categories



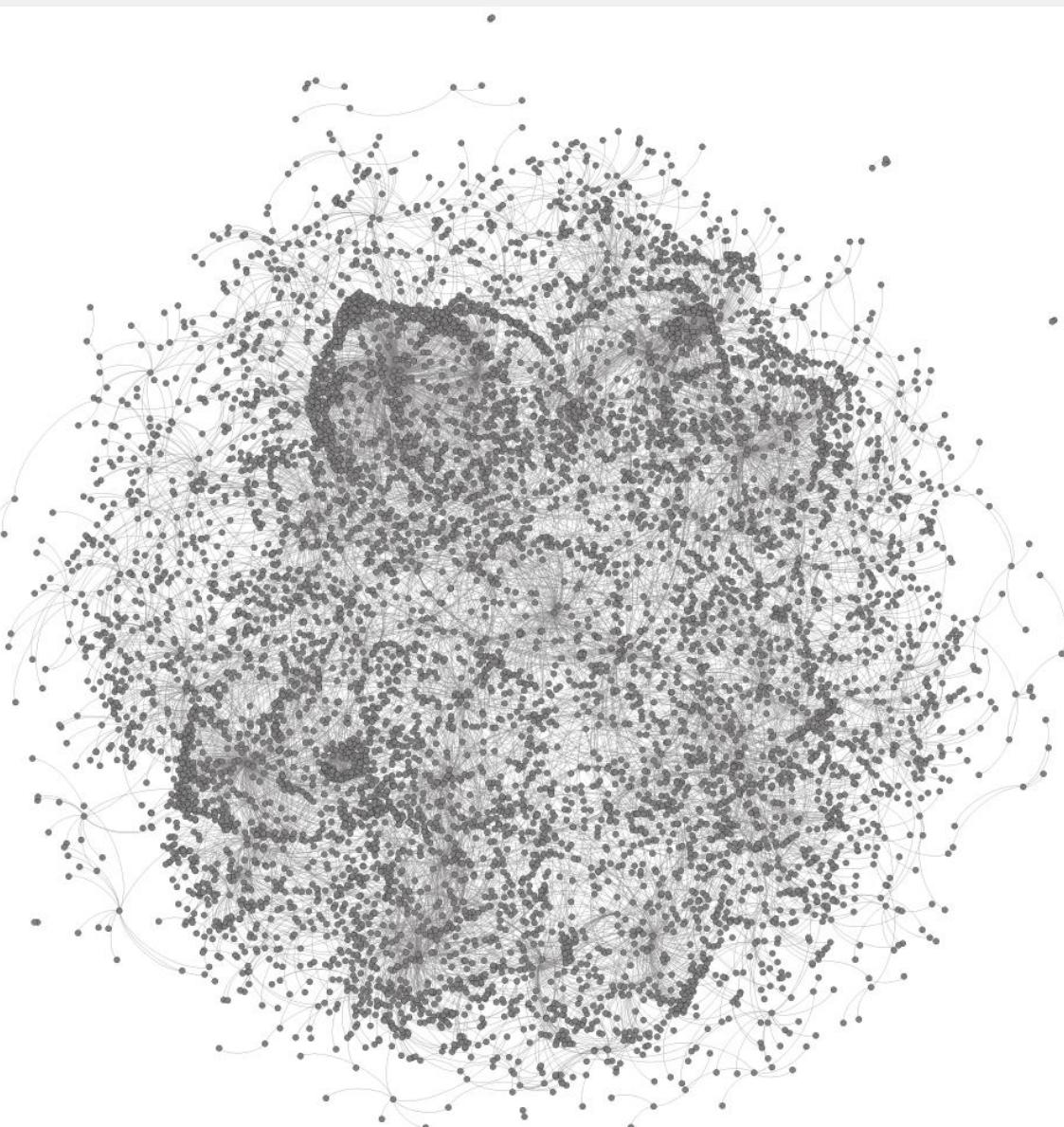
Categories



Other special pages

Articles

Wikipedia Content



Wikipedia
category structure
on 2004.06.01
(less than 2 days
after categories
were introduced)

The links do not
form a tree or
even hierarchical
structure.

How to compare
to traditional
hierarchy ?



UDC
Universal Decimal Classification Summary

TOP SIGNS AUXILIARIES 0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9

ABOUT GUIDE ABC INDEX EXPORTS MAPPINGS TRANSLATIONS

31 languages
English (English) [en]

expand all | collapse all

TOP

- COMMON AUXILIARY SIGNS
 - + Coordination. Addition (plus sign). Table 1a
 - / Consecutive extension (oblique stroke sign). Table 1a
 - Simple relation (colon sign). Table 1b
 - :: Order-fixing (double colon sign). Table 1b
 - [] Subgrouping (square brackets). Table 1b
 - * Introduces non-UDC notation (asterisk). Table 1h
 - A/Z Direct alphabetical specification. Table 1h
- COMMON AUXILIARY TABLES
 - =... Common auxiliaries of language. Table 1c
 - (0...) Common auxiliaries of form. Table 1d
 - (1/9) Common auxiliaries of place. Table 1e
 - (=...) Common auxiliaries of human ancestry, ethnic grouping and nations
 - "..." Common auxiliaries of time. Table 1g
 - 0... Common auxiliaries of general characteristics: Properties, Materials,
- MAIN TABLES
 - 0 SCIENCE AND KNOWLEDGE. ORGANIZATION. COMPUTER SCIENCE. INFO
 - 1 PHILOSOPHY. PSYCHOLOGY
 - 2 RELIGION. THEOLOGY
 - 3 SOCIAL SCIENCES. STATISTICS. POLITICS. ECONOMICS. TRADE. LAW. GOV
 - 5 MATHEMATICS. NATURAL SCIENCES
 - 6 APPLIED SCIENCES. MEDICINE. TECHNOLOGY
 - 7 THE ARTS. RECREATION. ENTERTAINMENT. SPORT
 - 8 LANGUAGE. LINGUISTICS. LITERATURE
 - 9 GEOGRAPHY. BIOGRAPHY. HISTORY

click on a class to the left to display records

A classification scheme for all fields of knowledge

First published (in French) between 1904 and 1907

Maintained in Master Reference File databases since 1993

Two kinds of tables:
Main tables
Auxiliary tables

More than 68,000 subdivisions

This UDC Summary (UDCS) provides a selection of around 2,000 classes from the whole scheme which comprises more than 68,000 entries. Please send questions and suggestions to udcs@udc.org

UDC
CONSORTIUM

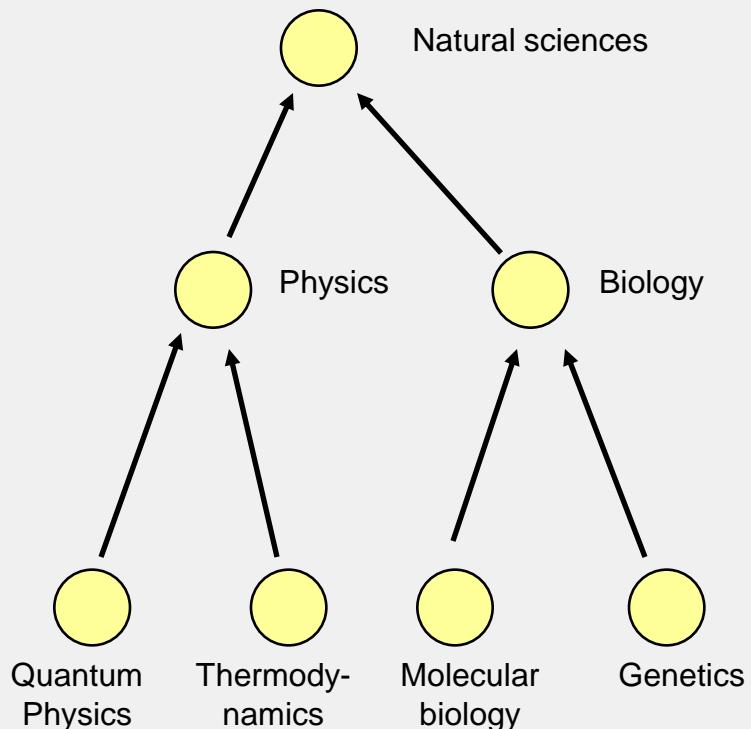


The data provided in this Summary is released under the Creative Commons Attribution Share Alike 3.0 license [more]

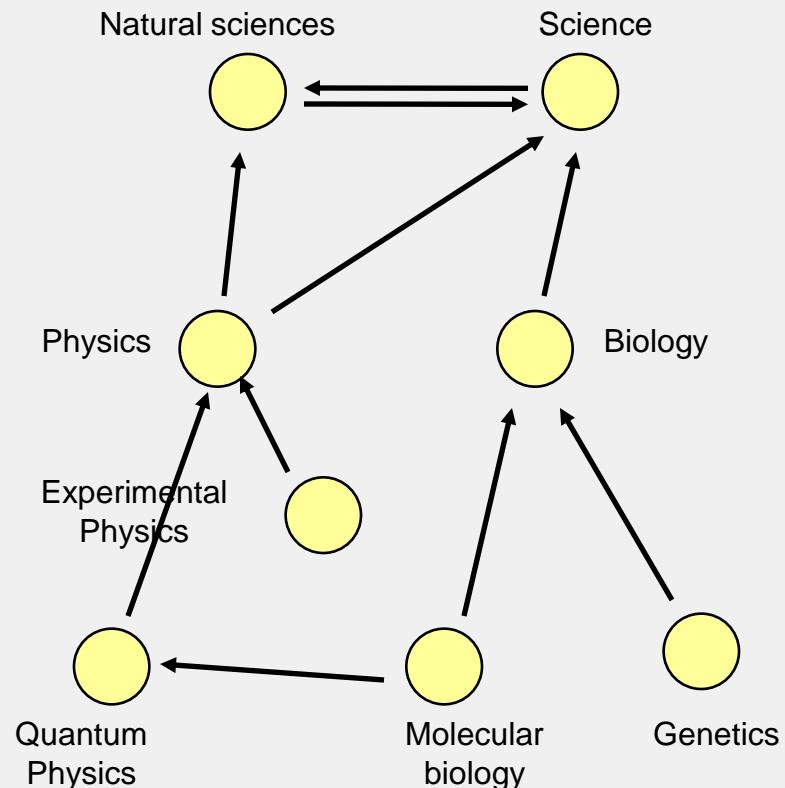
Hierarchy



Hierarchical system (UDC)



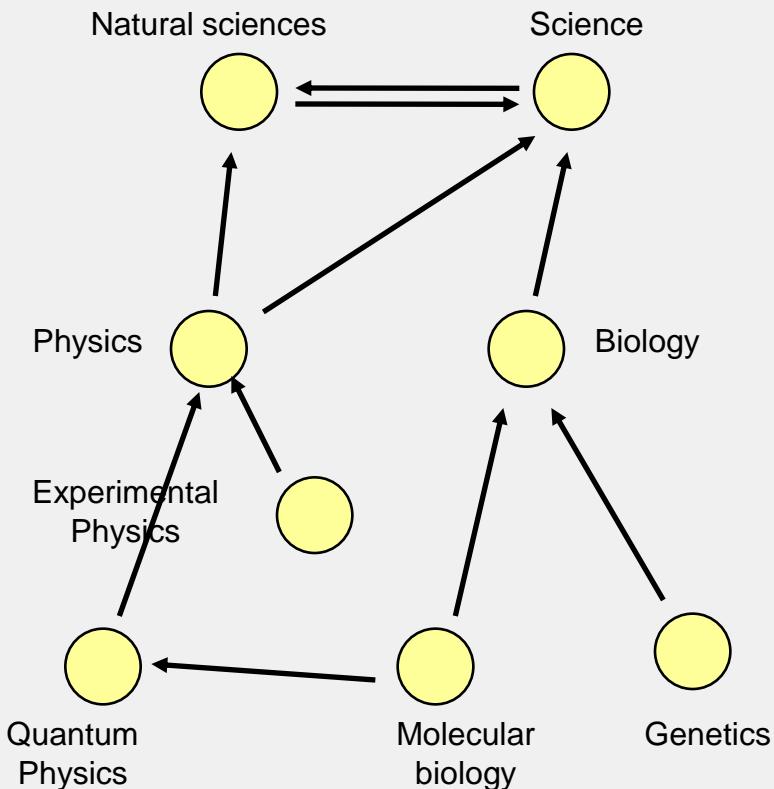
Wikipedia categories



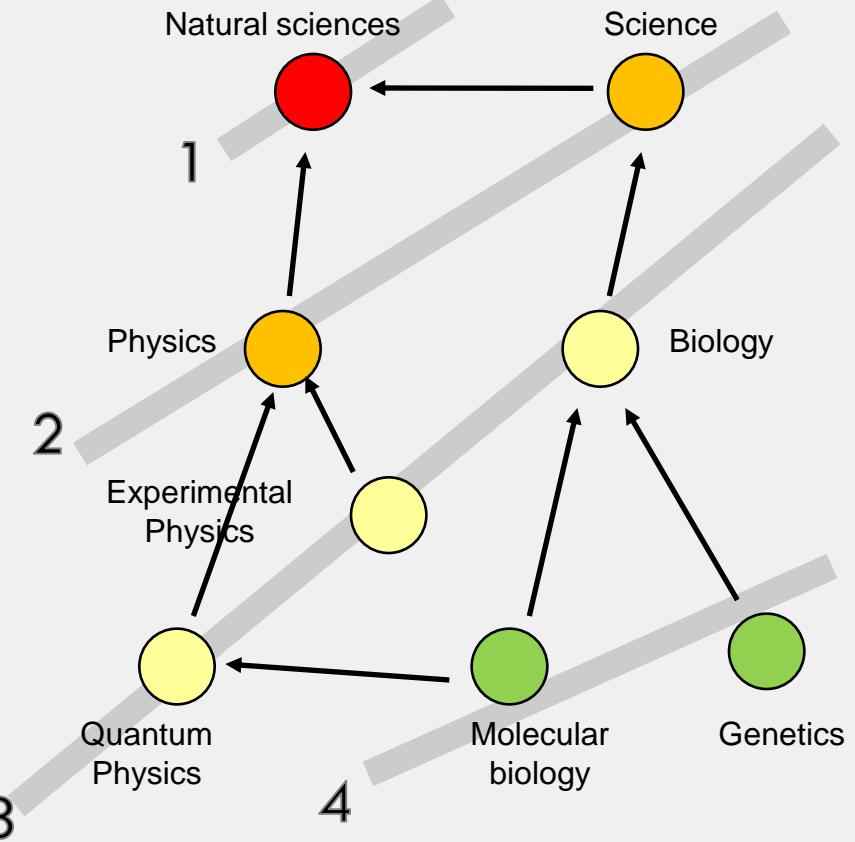
Hierarchy



raw



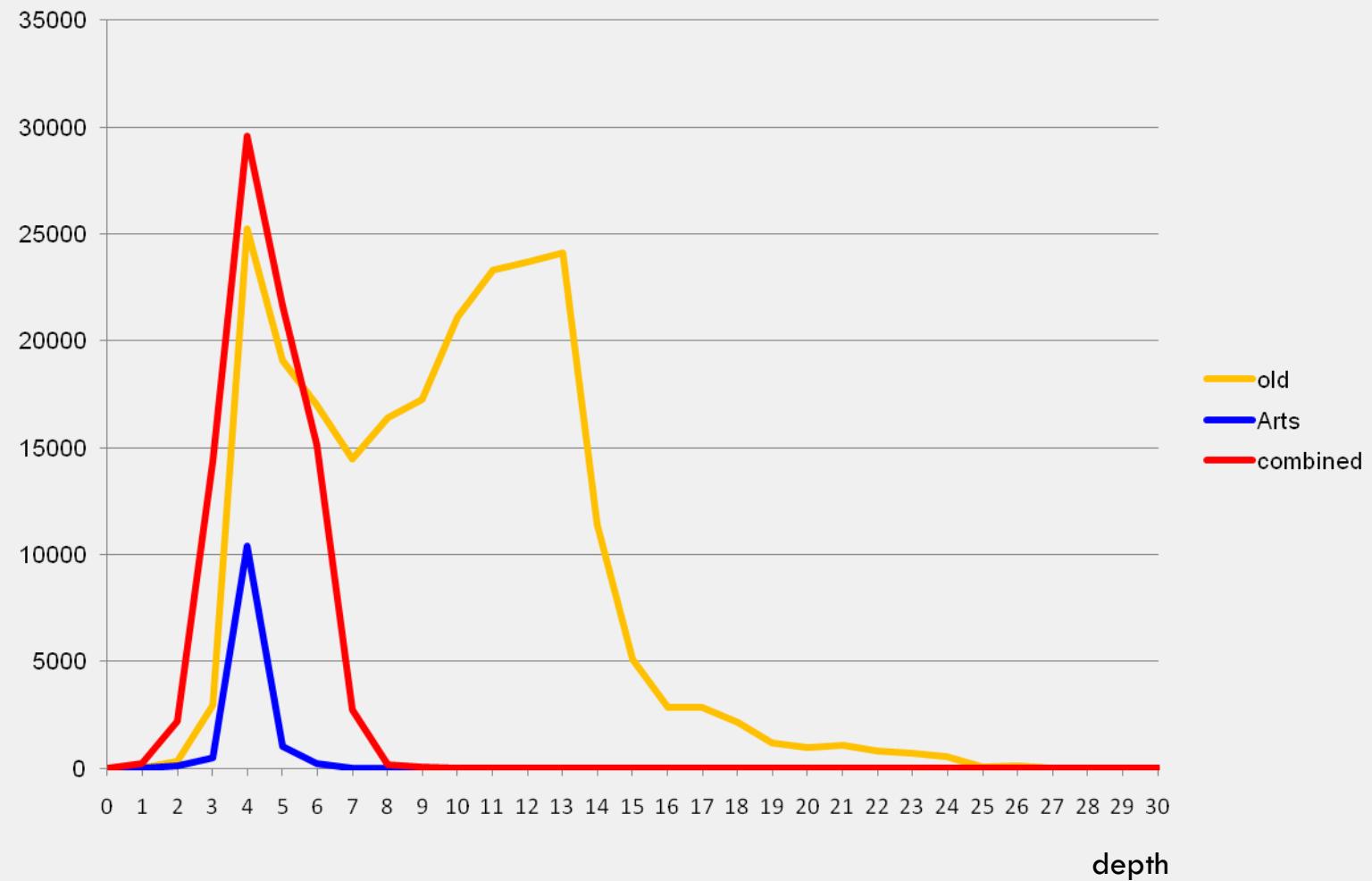
hierarchized



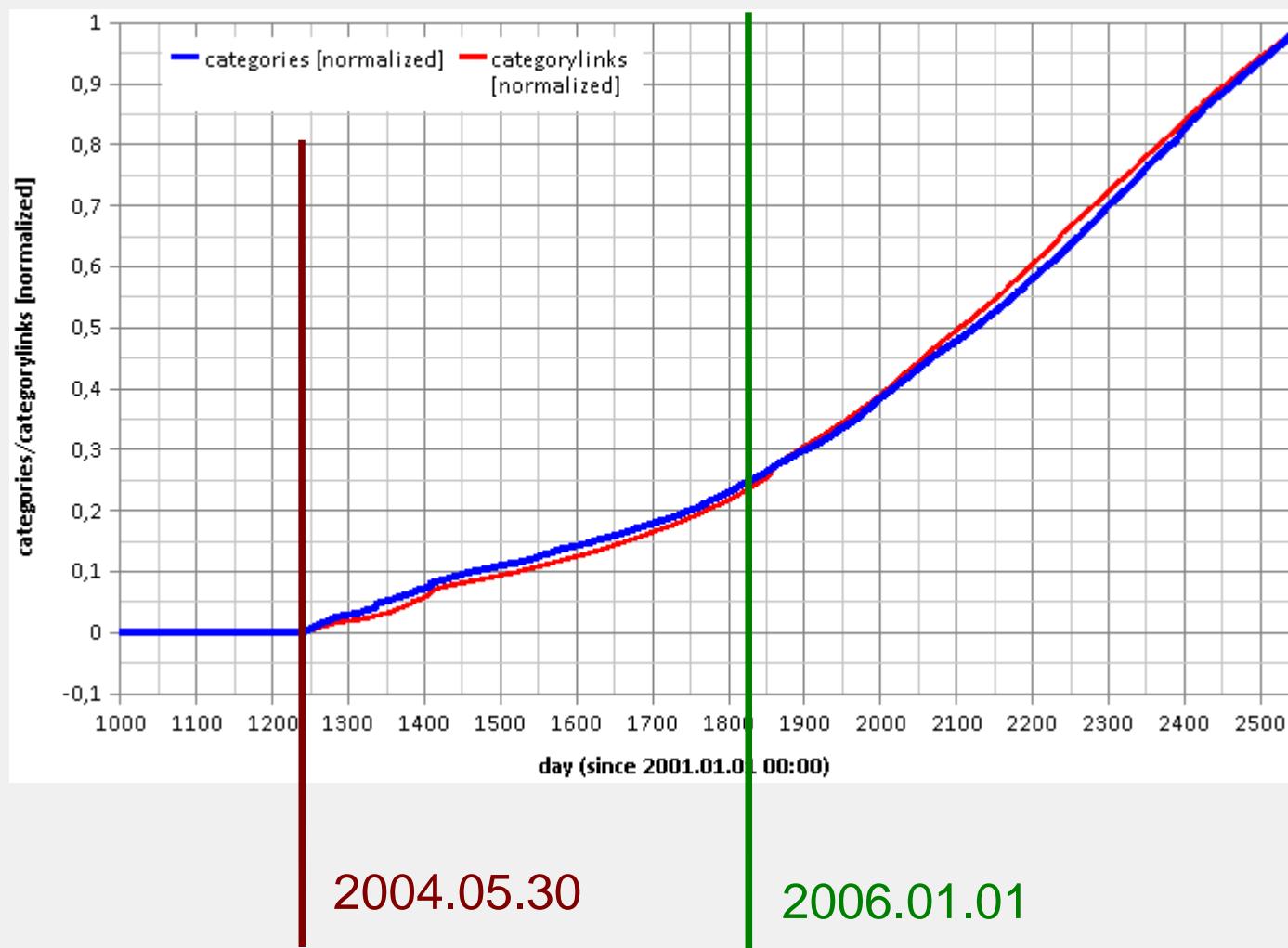
Hierarchy



Nr of categories



Hierarchy root



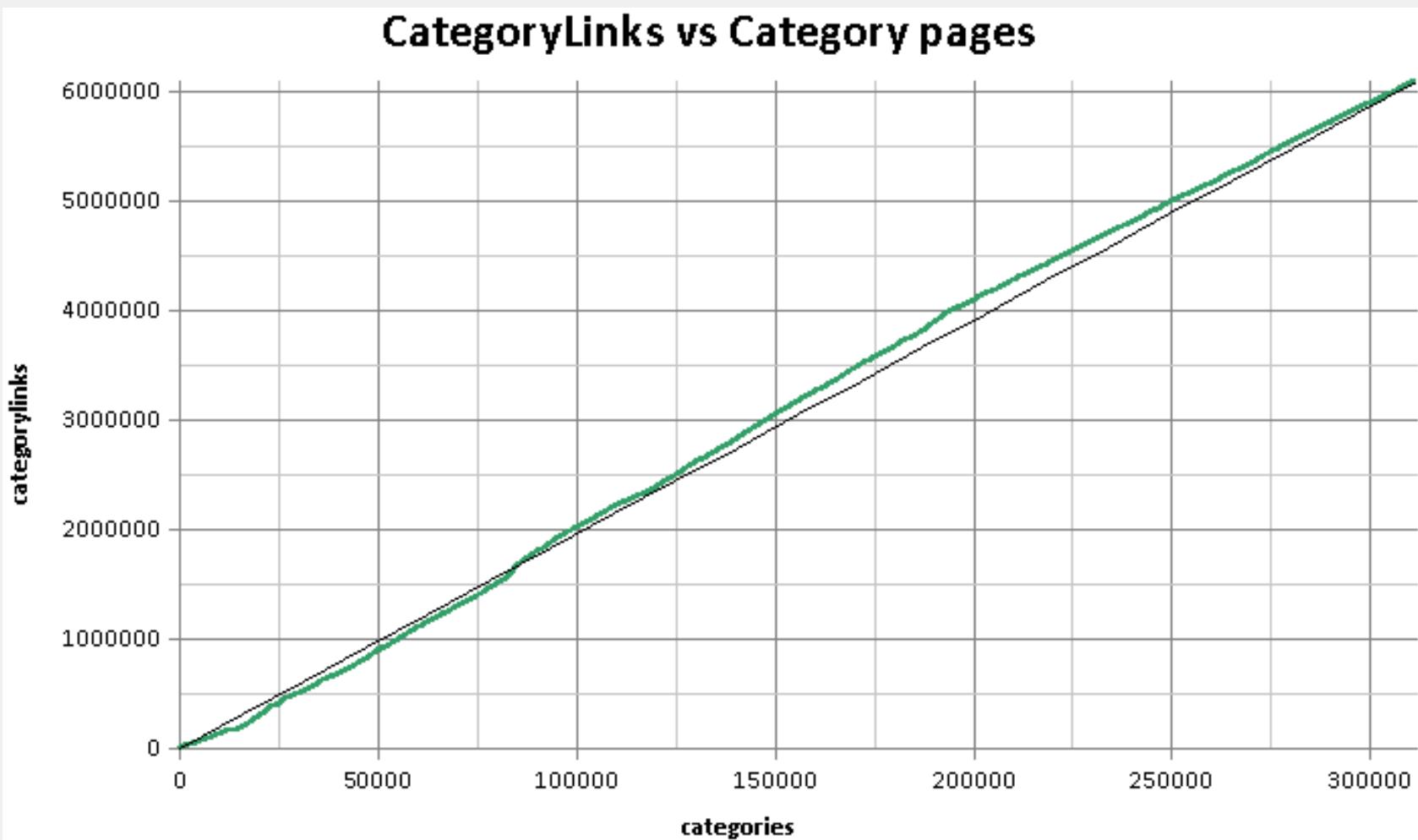
Total: 311842

Total: 6095236

~19,55
categorylinks
per category

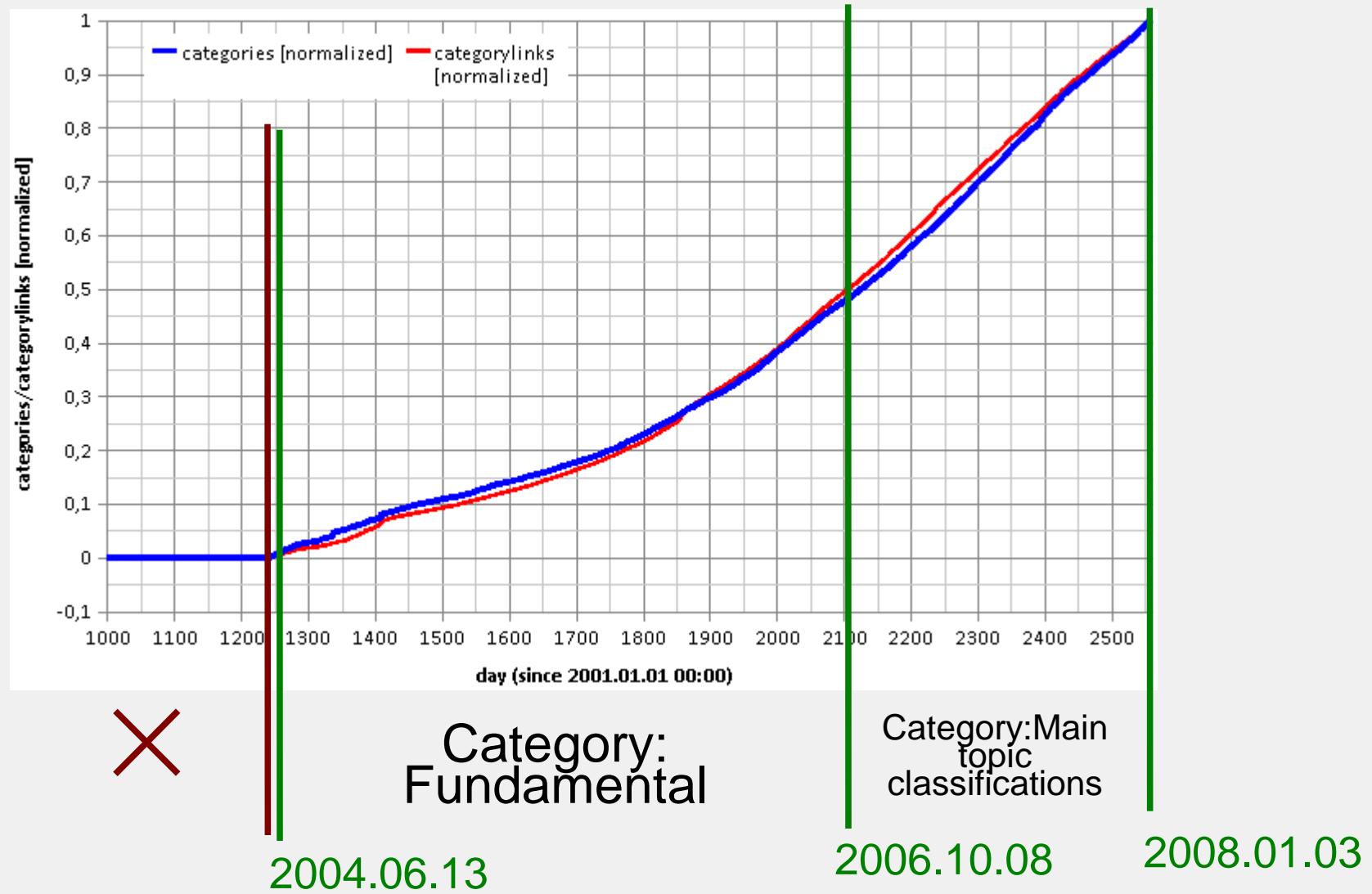


CategoryLinks vs Category pages





Hierarchy root





Hierarchy

2006.10.01

Category:Categories

Category:Fundamental

Category:Society

Category:Structure

Category:Thought

Category:Nature

Category:Information

Category:Categories

Category:Wikipedia_administration

Category:Fundamental

Category:Portals

Category:Categories_named_after_people

Category:Lists

Category:Categories_by_topic

2006.11.01

Category:Categories

Category:Main_topic_classifications

Category:Abstraction

Category:Science

Category:Geography

Category:Social_sciences

Category:History

Category:Nature

Category:Religion

Category:Applied_sciences

Category:Mathematics

Category:Society

Category:Natural_sciences

Category:Events

Category:Belief

Category:Arts

Category:Thought

Category:Philosophy

Category:Culture

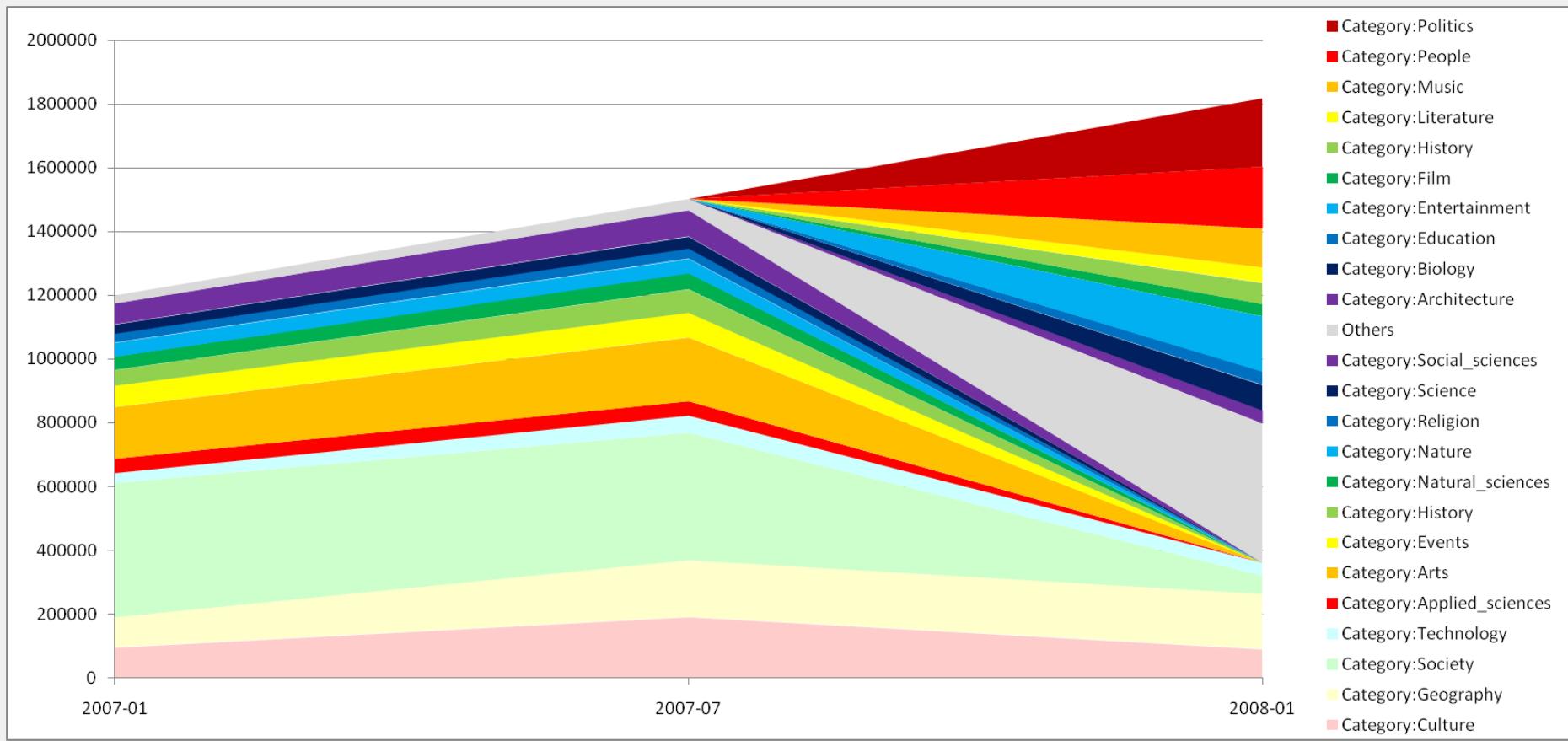
Category:Technology

Wikipedia top topical categories (2008)

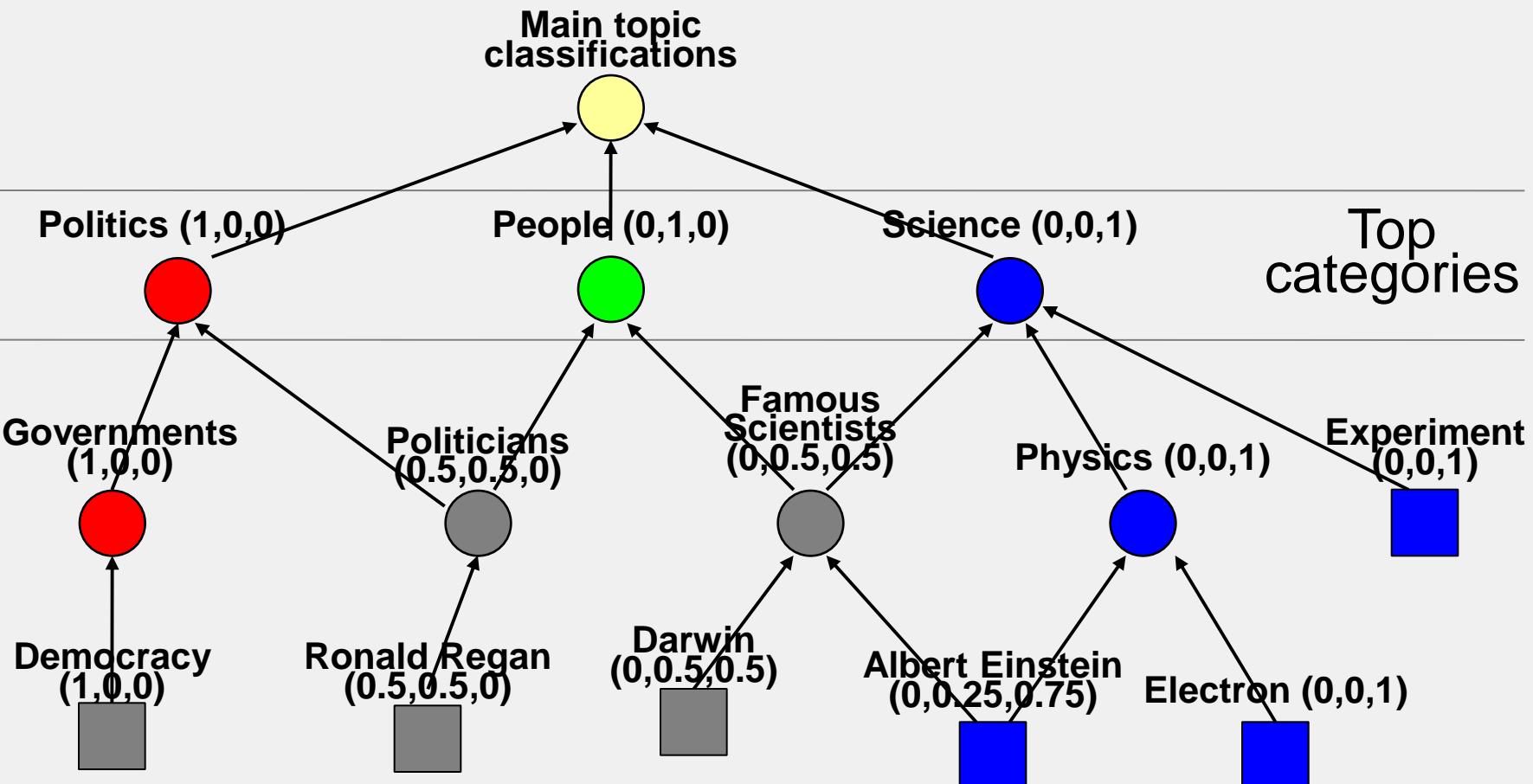


- Politics
- Geography
- Entertainment
- People
- Music
- Culture
- Biology
- History
- Society
- Literature
- Education
- Technology
- Architecture
- Film
- Computing
- Military
- Business
- Earth
- Arts
- Religion
- Visual_arts
- Environment
- Science
- Humans
- Events
- Information
- Medicine
- Chemistry
- Mathematics
- Health
- Economics
- Radio
- Agriculture
- Crafts
- Applied_sciences
- Structure
- Physics
- Nature
- Astronomy
- Archaeology
- Philosophy
- Psychology

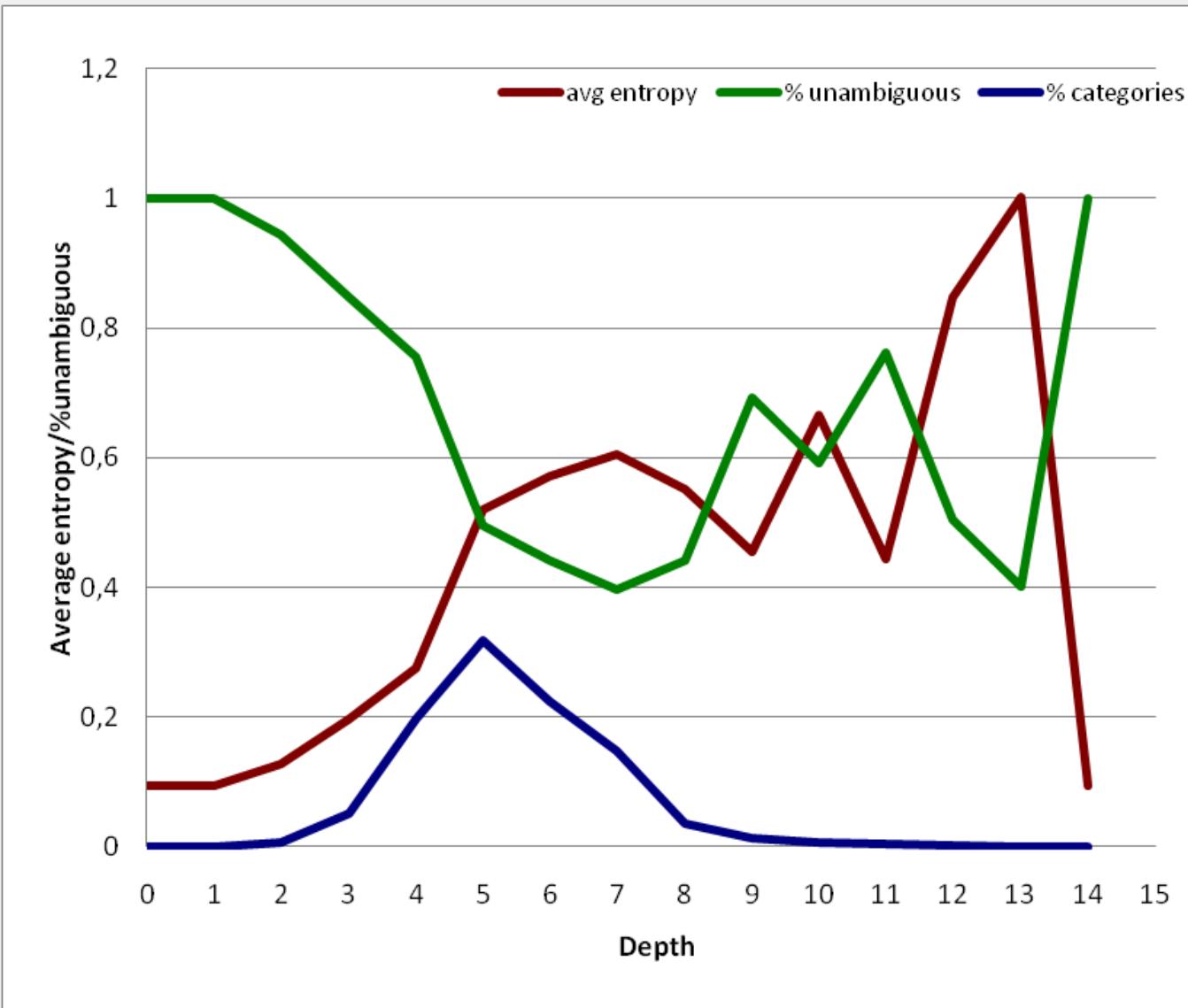
Evolution of categories



Ambiguity



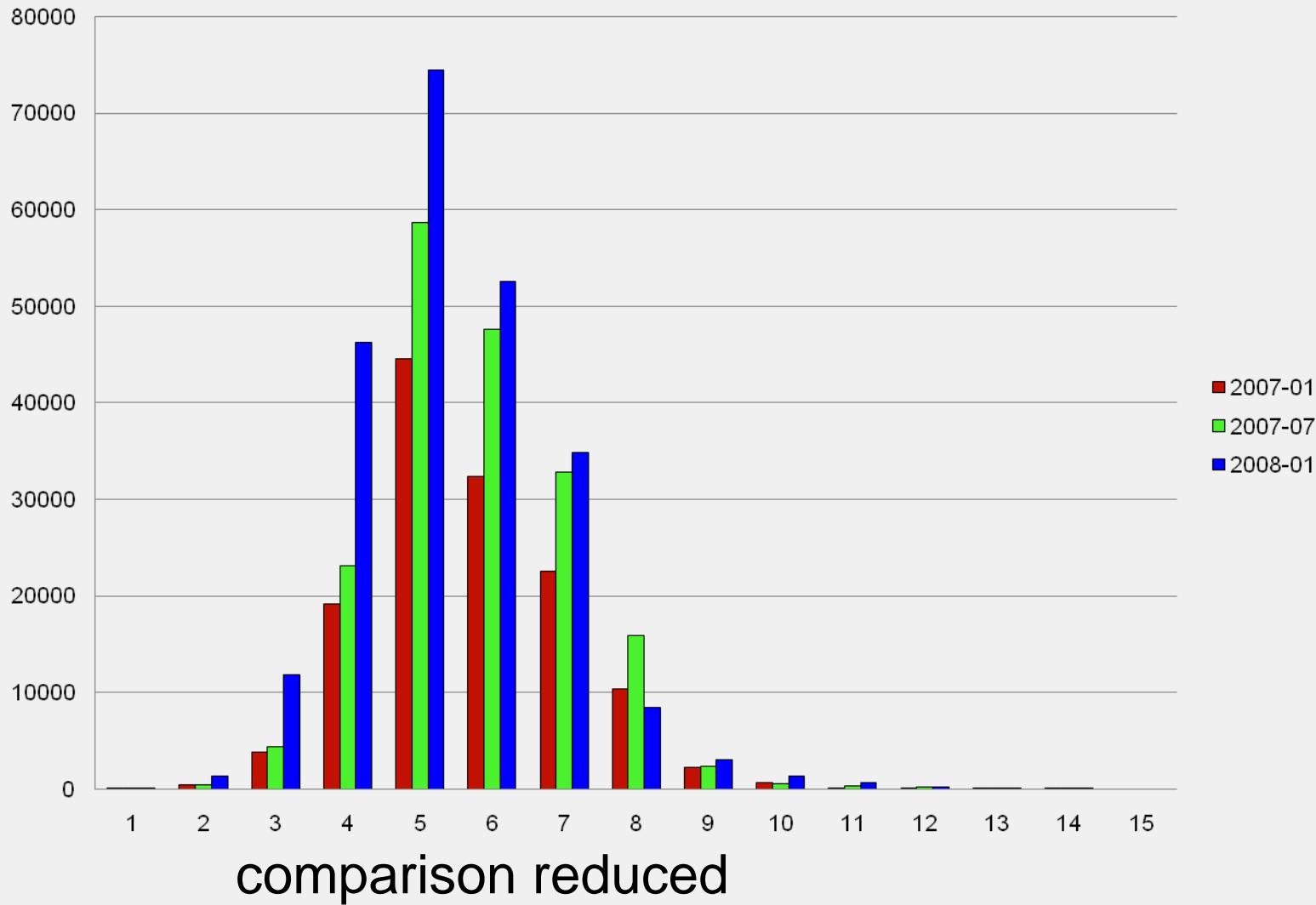
Entropy/Uncertainty



Wikipedia Category Pages



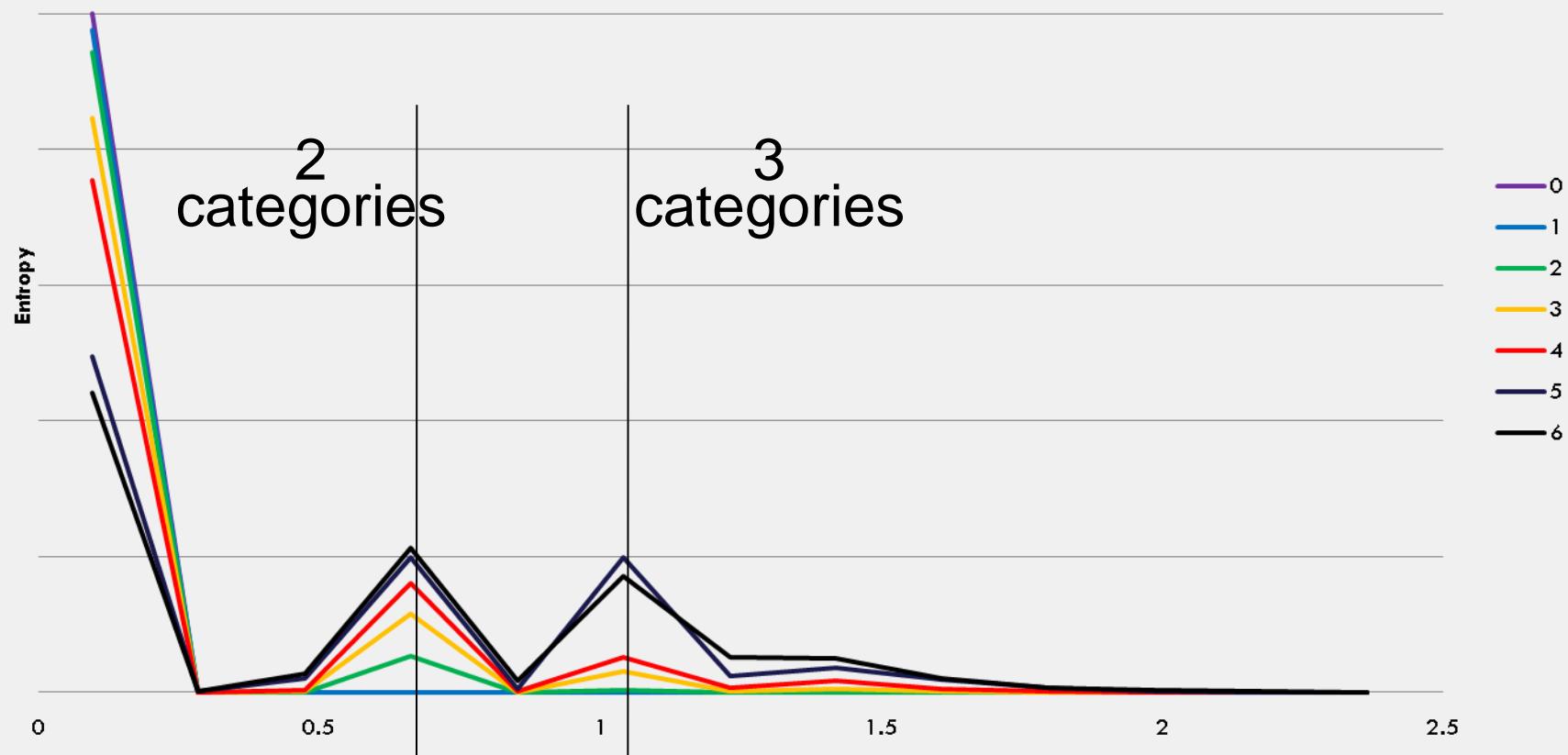
Category pages at depth



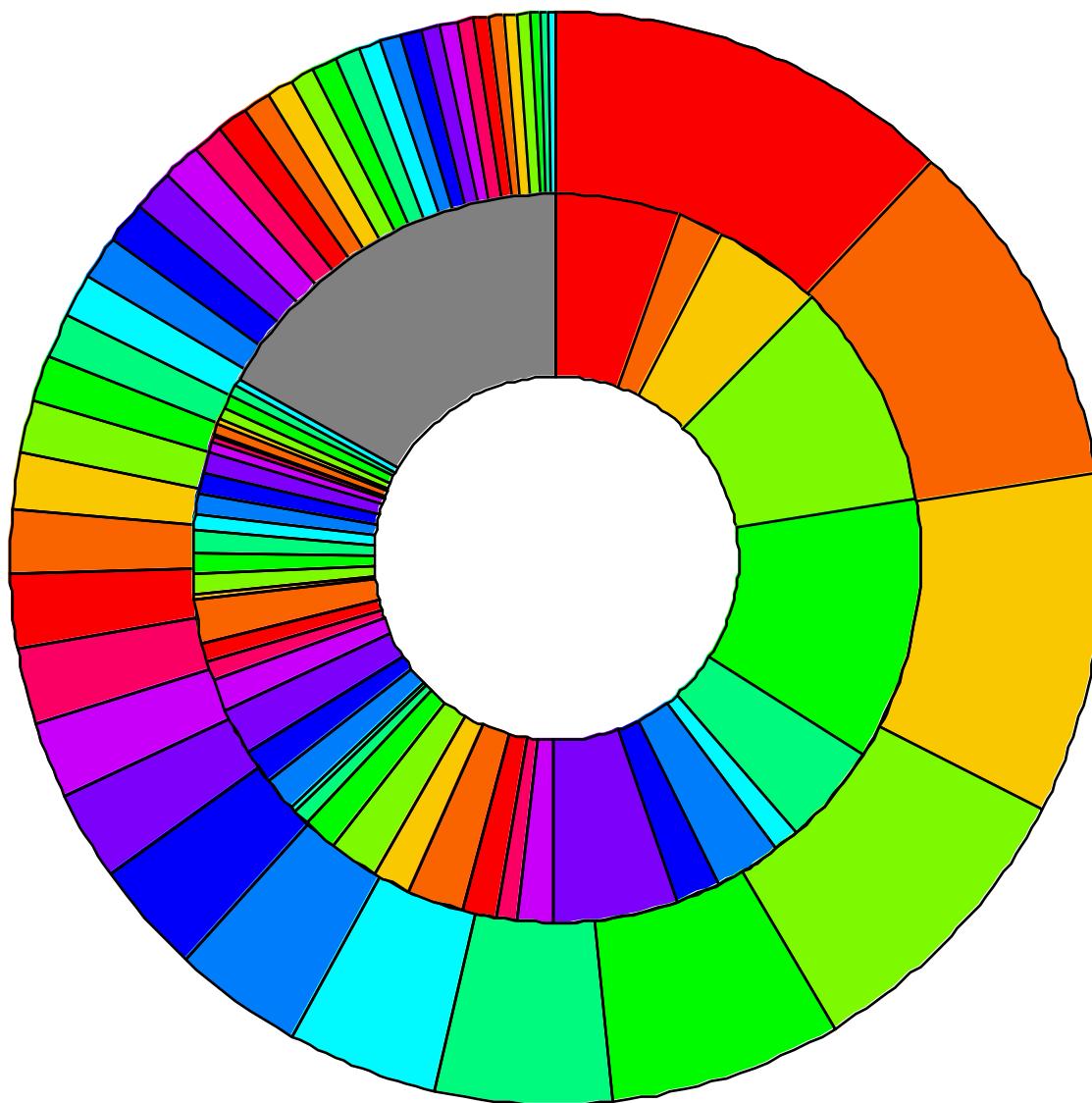
Entropy/Uncertainty



Entropy distributions on depth



Wikipedia subcategories (2008)

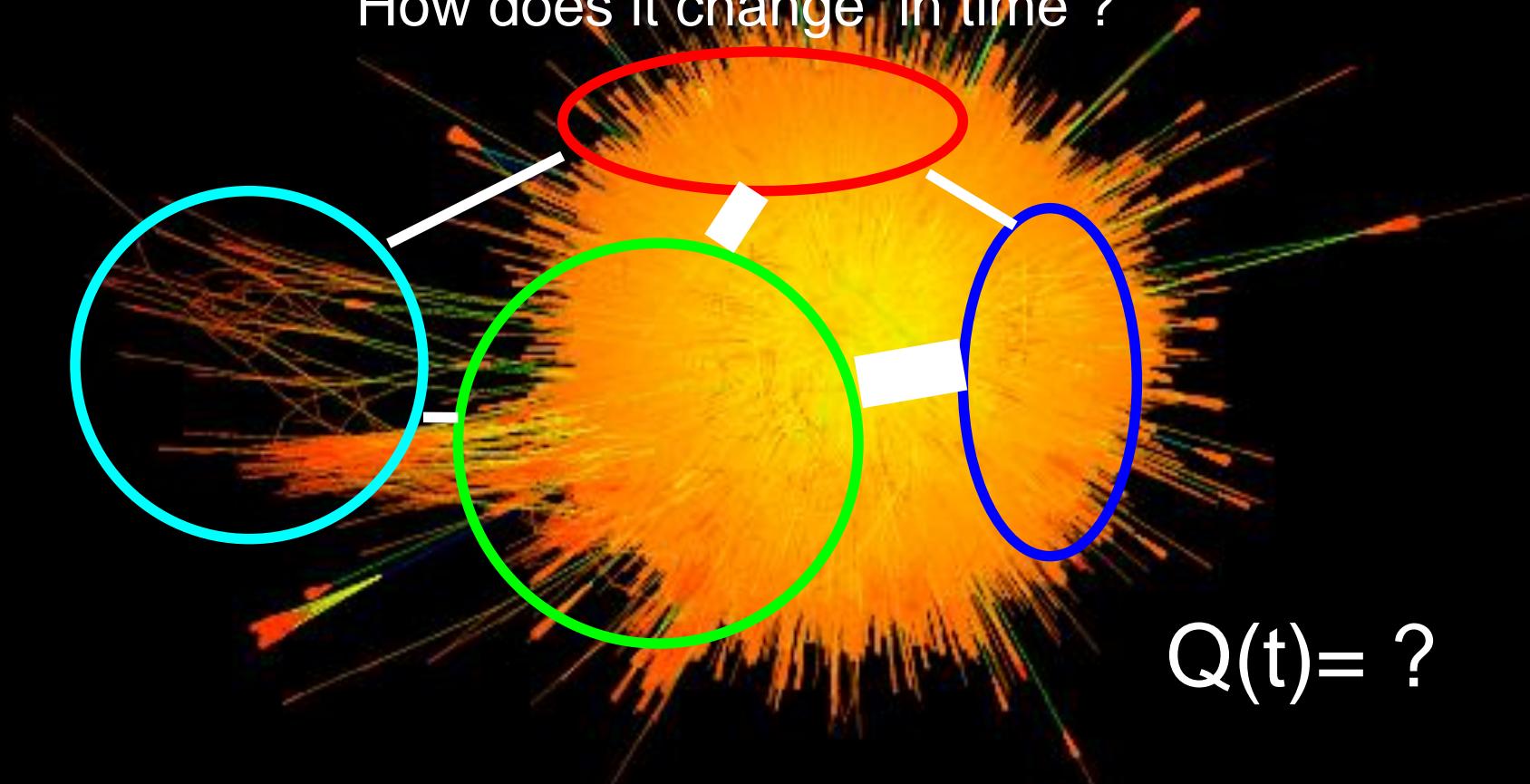


- Politics
- Environment
- Geography
- Science
- Entertainment
- Humans
- People
- Events
- Music
- Information
- Culture
- Medicine
- Biology
- Chemistry
- History
- Mathematics
- Society
- Health
- Literature
- Economics
- Education
- Radio
- Technology
- Agriculture
- Architecture
- Crafts
- Film
- Applied_sciences
- Computing
- Structure
- Military
- Physics
- Business
- Nature
- Earth
- Astronomy
- Arts
- Archaeology
- Religion
- Philosophy
- Visual_arts
- Psychology
- Law
- ambiguous

Compare category structure with direct links



How well category structure corresponds to direct link structure ? What's modularity of such arrangement ?
How does it change in time ?



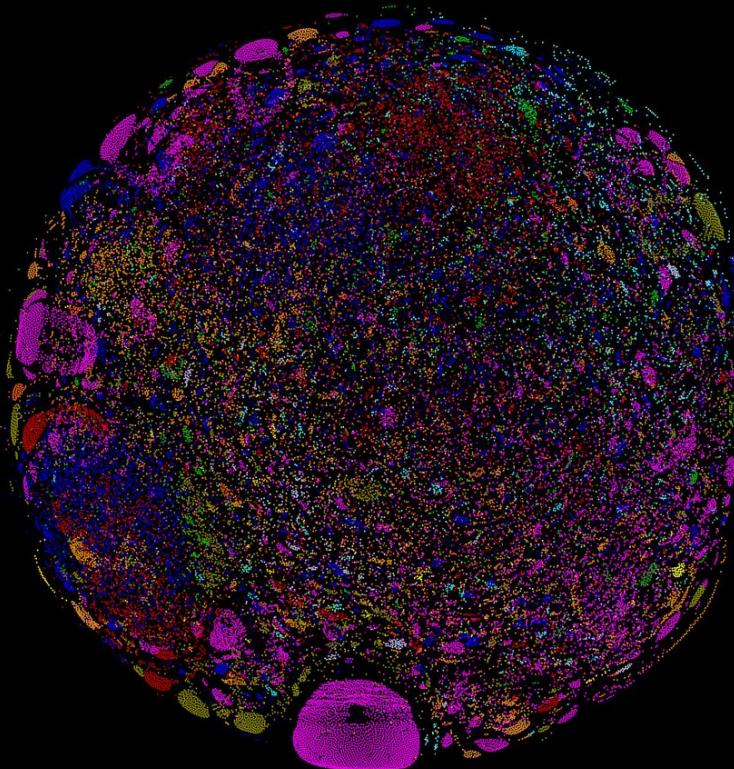
picture from <http://www.cise.ufl.edu/research/sparse/matrices/Gleich/wikipedia-20051105.html>

Gleich@wikipedia-20051105, 2672475 nodes, 19716499 edges.

Comparison to UDC



WIKIPEDIA'S CATEGORY STRUCTURE



1.COMPUTING
2.STRUCTURE
3.SCIENCE
4.INFORMATION
5.ROLE
6.EVENTS
7.HUMANITIES

8.PHILOSOPHY
9.PSYCHOLOGY

10.RELIGION

11.BUSINESS
12.ECONOMICS
13.LAW
14.POLITICS
15.SOCIETY
16.EDUCATION

17.ASTRONOMY
18.BIOLOGY
19.CHEMISTRY
20.MATHEMATICS
21.PHYSICS

22.AGRICULTURE
23.NATURE
24.TECHNOLOGY
25.MEDICINE
26.APPLIED SCIENCES
27.EARTH
28.HEALTH

29.ARTS
30.VISUAL ARTS
31.CRAFTS
32.ENTERTAINMENT
33.MUSIC
34.RADIO
35.FILM
36.ARCHITECTURE

37.CULTURE
38.ENVIRONMENT
39.LITERATURE

40.GEOGRAPHY
41.HISTORY
42.ARCHAEOLOGY
43.MILITARY

UNIVERSAL DECIMAL CLASSIFICATION

