

JOKE, PHILOSOPHY

IS THE NOBEL PRIZE PREDICTABLE?

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To be a Nobel candidate may be predictable if I am reading correctly a [paper on archiv.org](#). The “traditional” impact factor is largely useless

as it ignores the importance of citing papers: a citation from an obscure paper is given the same weight as a citation from a ground-breaking and highly cited work

It may be, however, that the (PageRank derived) CiteRank is holding some promises – giving weight by whom you are cited. In this case, even a 100 citation paper can lead to a Nobel prize.

But is it predictable to get a Nobel prize candidate? Certainly not. I agree with a [news feature](#) about a science manager who

recently read Outliers, a book in which Malcolm Gladwell makes the case that

exceptional people get where they are partly because of the exceptional circumstances in which they find themselves, rather than through exceptional ability or sheer hard work.

Yea, yea.