

NOTEWORTHY, PHILOSOPHY

# PROGRAMMERS, PROFESSORS, AND PARASITES

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This is the title of a [2009 Stanford academic paper](#) by Justin Solomon that analyzes the history of credit and co-authorship in computer science. The paper argues for a more consistent publishing standard in the field by addressing issues of inconsistent co-authorship, where some contributors may receive credit for minimal work, leading to potential accountability problems.

in fact, the 1993 Ig Nobel prize for “improbable research” in literature was awarded to “E. Topol, R. Califf, F. Van de Werf, P.W. Armstrong, and their 972 coauthors, for publishing a medical research paper which has one hundred times as many authors as pages

Well, and their Fig 4 was only the beginning of the “gaming the system” enterprise...

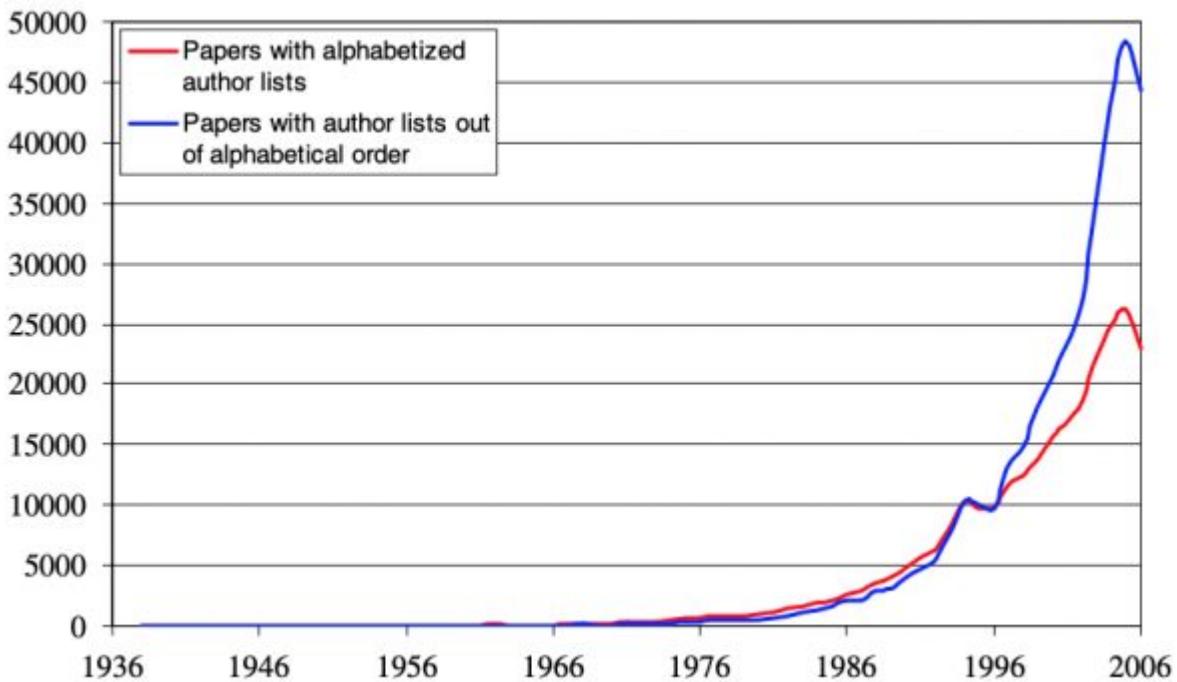


Fig. 4 Trends in author list alphabetization in computer science papers (data gathered from the DBLP Computer Science Bibliography) by Solomon 2009

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