

ICLR Points: How Many ICLR Publications Is One Paper in Each Area?

Zhongtang Luo
Purdue University

Methodology

We make the following two assumptions:

- An average faculty in each field spends the same amount of research effort per year.
- Most academic research effort is directed toward publications in top-tier conferences.

Then, by definition,

$$\frac{\text{(Average effort per paper)}}{\text{(Total effort in area)}} = \frac{\text{(# of publications in area)}}{\text{(# of faculty in area)}} = \frac{\text{(# of publications in area)}}{\text{(# of publications in area)}}$$

We use data from csrankings.org to count top-tier conferences and faculty in different areas.

We normalize the results so that publishing one paper in ICLR (top ML conferences) counts as one ICLR point.

From Ph.D. students on X:

We have 4 papers accepted at ICLR'25
8 papers accepted to ICLR 2025!
We have five papers accepted to ICLR25
Three papers accepted at NeurIPS 2024!

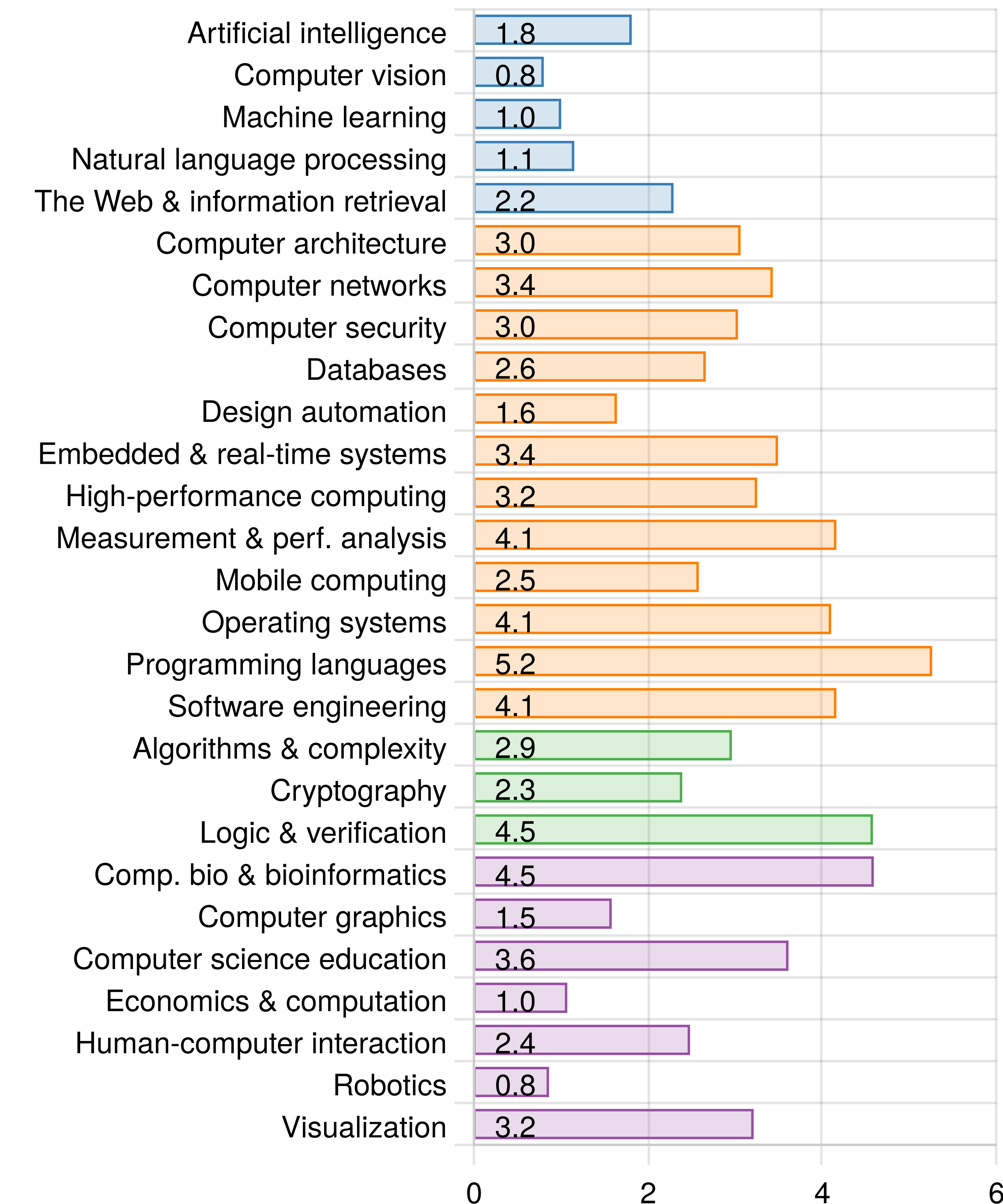
⋮

High publication counts are often used as effort signals,
but

***Do Ph.D. students in AI
work 3x harder than you?***

Let's measure a paper's average effort!

Results (2020–2024)



One systems paper may be
worth 3 ICLR papers!

Access full data and more at iclrlpoints.com.