# 11 FCR in Dimensions

The goal of this notebook is to analyze the FCR index data of a single journal based on the CSV reports from Dimensions<sup>[1]</sup>. We can get at most 500 entries from its search system, which suffices in our case without an extra step of search splitting and CSV joining (sadly, we couldn't download the full data from some journals due to that limit on the number of rows and due to the constrained ways os manually splitting the data in the interface).

*Note*: Be careful when downloading stuff from a single journal! As the Dimensions' web interface uses the journal name for filtering instead of its ISSN, sometimes we can grab a CSV from more than one journal because they happen to have the same name. As an example, *Topoi* can be either a Brazilian journal of history<sup>[2]</sup> and a Dutch journal of philosophy<sup>[3]</sup>, but these journals are mixed together in that interface.

There are two CSV formats available: a spreadsheet and a bibliometric mapping. Their first line in both formats is always a comment with some metadata regarding the downloaded CSV, including the date. The second line is the table header.

```
In [1]: import csv

In [2]: import matplotlib.pyplot as plt import numpy as np import pandas as pd

In [3]: %matplotlib inline
```

## 11.1 Analyzing the FCR from the spreadsheet file

There are 2 bibliometric indices: RCR and FCR. The former is probably useless for anything that isn't a health science publication regarding the research going on in the U.S.A., since its calculation is based on the number of citations from publications funded by the NIH<sup>[4]</sup> (*National Institutes of Health* in the U.S.A.). The latter is the *Field Citation Ratio*, which is somehow normalized by both year and Field of esearch<sup>[5]</sup>, and is the only one we're going to analyze here.

### 11.1.1 Loading the data

We should be explicit about the header line since the first line of the CSV files is a comment:

```
In [4]: for fname in ["nauplius.csv", "plant_physiology.csv"]:
    with open(fname) as f:
        cr = csv.reader(f)
        print(next(cr)[0])
```

About the data: Exported on Sep 21, 2018. Criteria: Source title is Nauplius. About the data: Exported on Sep 22, 2018. Criteria: Source title is Brazilian Journal of Plant Physiology.

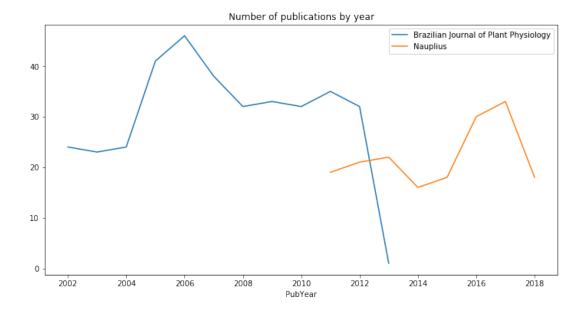
We're going to analyze the content from these two journals.

```
[1]https://app.dimensions.ai
[2]http://revistatopoi.org
[3]https://link.springer.com/journal/11245
[4]https://support.dimensions.ai/support/solutions/articles/13000045404-what-is-the-rcr-how-is-the-rcr-score-calculated-
[5]https://support.dimensions.ai/support/solutions/articles/13000045409-what-is-the-fcr-how-is-it-calculated-
```

We can see the number of publications by year:

Out [6]:

	Brazilian Journal of Plant Physiology	Nauplius
PubYear	, ,	•
2002	24	
2003	23	
2004	24	
2005	41	
2006	46	
2007	38	
2008	32	
2009	33	
2010	32	
2011	35	19
2012	32	21
2013	1	22
2014		16
2015		18
2016		30
2017		33
2018		18



Which shows that *Nauplius* is a quite new and currently active journal, whereas the *Brazilian Journal* of *Plant Physiology* is no longer publishing anything (actually, it had been renamed to *Theoretical and Experimental Plant Physiology*, with a new ISSN: 2197-0025).

Due to the way the FCR is calculated and normalized (by the publication year in the document level), its behavior is quite different in these two distinct journal contexts.

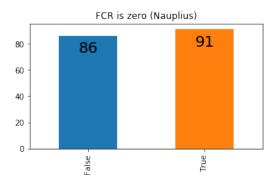
### 11.1.2 Proportion where the FCR is zero

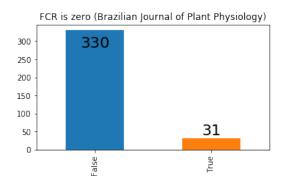
From the FCR explanation<sup>[6]</sup> page in the Dimensions support, we know that:

The FCR is calculated for all publications in Dimensions which are at least 2 years old and were published in 2000 or later.

FCR is zero when a document hadn't received any citation or when it was published in the last 2 years. That's a quite common case, surely for new papers, which deserves its own analysis.

 ${}^{[6]} https://support.dimensions.ai/support/solutions/articles/13000045409-what-is-the-fcr-how-is-it-calculated-}$ 



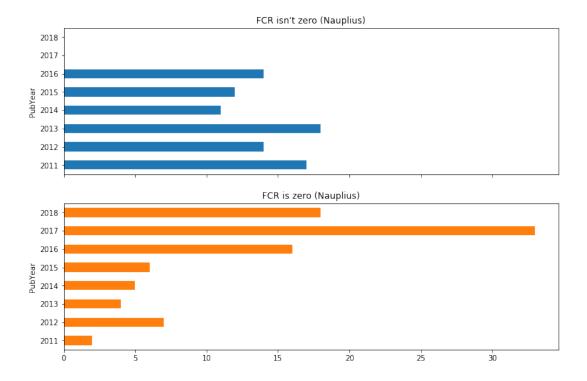


For a recent journal, more than half of the entries have zero as its FCR. The FCR mean for this journal as a whole would be tainted if we count these entries as equal. For a journal that is no longer publishing, the FCR can only increase.

Most entries with zeroed FCR values are for 2017 and 2018, years where all entries are zero.

Out [8]:

fcr_is_zero	False	True
PubYear		
2011	17	2
2012	14	7
2013	18	4
2014	11	5
2015	12	6
2016	14	16
2017	0	33
2018	0	18



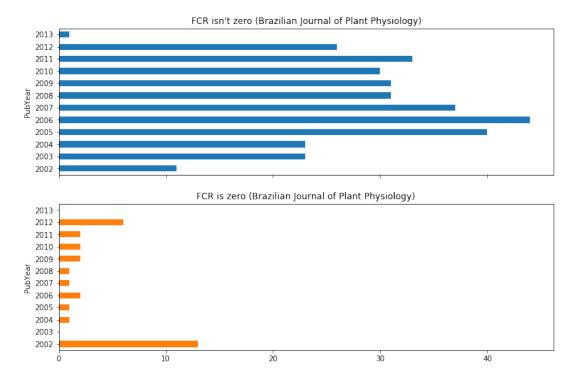
As 2017 was the publication peak for Nauplius, averaging the raw FCR number for every year is unfair. For the Brazilian Journal of Plant Physiology, these are the ones from 2002 have something different going on.

```
In [9]: | plantp_counts = pd.DataFrame(
           plantp
               .assign(fcr_is_zero=plantp["FCR"] == 0)
               .groupby(["fcr_is_zero", "PubYear"])
               .size()
               .rename("count")
               .unstack("fcr_is_zero")
               .fillna(0),
           dtype=int,
       plantp_counts.plot.barh(
           subplots=True,
           title=["FCR isn't zero (Brazilian Journal of Plant Physiology)",
                  "FCR is zero (Brazilian Journal of Plant Physiology)"],
           legend=False,
           figsize=(12, 8)
       plantp_counts
```

Out [9]:

fcr_is_zero PubYear	False	True	
2002	11	13	
2003	23	0	
2004	23	1	
2005	40	1	
Continued on next page			

fcr_is_zero PubYear	False	True
2006	44	2
2007	37	1
2008	31	1
2009	31	2
2010 2011	30 33	2
2012	26	6
2013	1	0



The reason is that the FCR can only be calculated if we know the *Field of Research* of every single document. However, from the same link as before,

Assigning FoR codes to publications in Dimensions is done automatically using machine learning emulations of the categorisation processes.

The FCR can't be negative, but when a document lacks its category, the FCR is zero.

```
In [10]: pd.DataFrame([
          nauplius["FOR (ANZSRC) Categories"].isna().sum(),
          plantp["FOR (ANZSRC) Categories"].isna().sum(),
], index=["Nauplius", "Brazilian Journal of Plant Physiology"],
          columns=["Entries lacking a field of research category"])
```

Out [10]:

	Entries lacking a field of research category
Nauplius	14
Brazilian Journal of Plant Physiology	26

As FCR  $\geq 0$  and  $\sum$  FCR<sub>i</sub> = 0, all these journals have FCR = 0.

```
In [11]: plantp[plantp["FOR (ANZSRC) Categories"].isna()]["FCR"].sum() + \
    nauplius[nauplius["FOR (ANZSRC) Categories"].isna()]["FCR"].sum()
```

Out [11]: 0.0

For the *Brazilian Journal of Plant Physiology*, it's clearly biased towards 2002 (half of the non-classified entries are from this year):

```
In [12]: plantp[plantp["FOR (ANZSRC) Categories"].isna()].groupby("PubYear").size()
```

```
Out [12]: PubYear
          2002
                   13
          2004
                    1
          2005
                    1
          2006
          2008
                    1
          2009
                    2
          2010
                    1
                    2
          2011
          2012
                    3
          dtype: int64
```

For Nauplius, it's less skewed.

```
In [13]: nauplius[nauplius["FOR (ANZSRC) Categories"].isna()].groupby("PubYear").size()
```

```
Out [13]: PubYear
2011 1
2012 2
2013 3
2015 2
2016 2
2017 1
2018 3
```

## 11.1.3 Data cleaning

dtype: int64

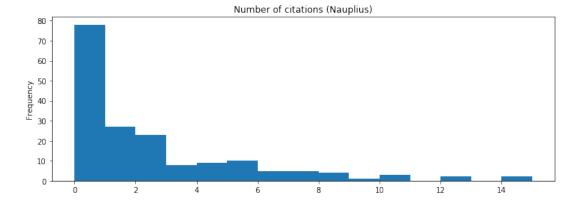
The cleaning we're sure that must be done in order to have meaningful entries for further analysis regarding the FCR is that we should only use data up to 2016 and get rid from entries without a main field of research.

In the CSV files, everything is an article, so we shouldn't remove any other row:

```
Out [15]: 0 article
Name: Publication Type, dtype: object
```

#### 11.1.4 Hirsch index

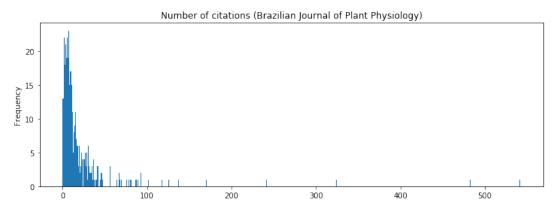
As the total number of citations each document received is given, we can calculate the Hirsch index for these two journals based on the entire data.



The Hirsch index for Nauplius is:

Out [17]: 8

```
In [18]: plantp["Times cited"].plot.hist(
    bins=plantp["Times cited"].max(),
    title="Number of citations (Brazilian Journal of Plant Physiology)",
    figsize=(12, 4),
);
```



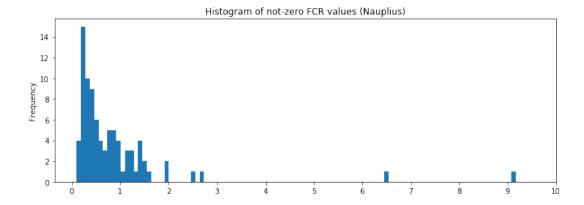
The Hirsch index for the Brazilian Journal of Plant Physiology is:

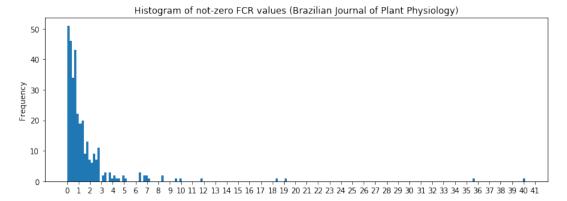
## Out [19]: 37

The above is based on all citations since the publication, which is something that might lean toward older publications.

## 11.1.5 Proportion where FCR isn't zero

```
In [20]: nauplius[nauplius["FCR"] != 0]["FCR"].plot.hist(
    bins=100,
    title="Histogram of not-zero FCR values (Nauplius)",
    figsize=(12, 4),
    xticks=range(int(nauplius["FCR"].max()) + 2),
);
```





All FCR values above 1 received more citations than the average for the year of publication and for the field of research. That normalization makes FCR more fit than the raw number of citations when we're looking to summary data without knowing when each publication had been made.

### **11.1.6** Average

Dimensions tells us the average FCR for Nauplius is 0.49. That means that the number of citations it received is, in average, about half of the average number of citations of its field of research area. For the Brazilian Journal of Plant Physiology, the average FCR is 1.07. Each of these are called *FCR Mean* in the Dimensions' web site.

The idea of *average* might be misleading here. As the mean value is highly influenced by extreme values, In the same link as before, Dimensions tells us they're using a shifted geometric mean with logarithmic formulation for everything regarding FCR. From their description, we know that:

geometric mean of 
$$FCR = \exp \left[\frac{1}{N} \sum_{i=1}^{N} \ln(FCR_i + 1)\right] - 1$$

And the same idea applies for the average number of citations (by year and field of research) that is used to calculate the FCR. We can easily implement the above formula using Numpy:

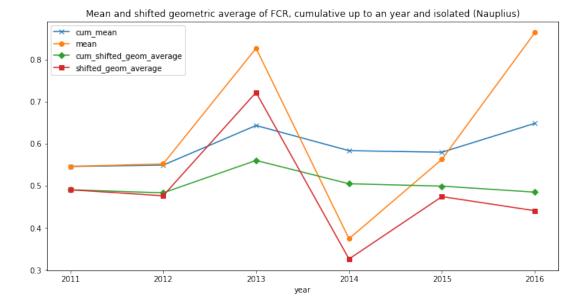
```
In [22]: def sgm_average(series):
    return np.exp(np.log(series.values + 1).mean()) - 1
```

## 11.2 Yearly mean and shifted geometric mean/average

Here we'll calculate a "cumulative" mean and shifted geometric average, which means the mean or shifted geometric average of *all publications up to the year in analysis*, in contrast with the year-by-year statistics.

Out [25]:

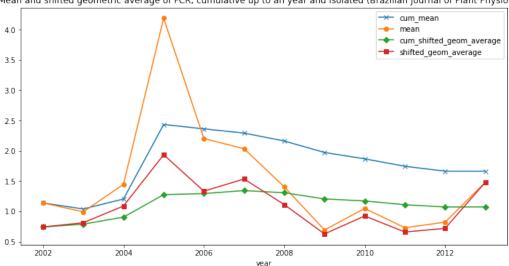
	cum_mean	mean	cum_shifted_geom_average	shifted_geom_average
year				
2016	0.647931	0.863571	0.484481	0.440366
2015	0.579318	0.562500	0.498798	0.473841
2014	0.583056	0.373750	0.504402	0.325564
2013	0.642857	0.826316	0.559795	0.721414
2012	0.548649	0.551579	0.482791	0.475847
2011	0.545556	0.545556	0.490157	0.490157



In [26]: plantp\_fcr\_year = get\_yearly\_stats(plantp\_valid)
 plot\_yearly\_stats(plantp\_fcr\_year, "Brazilian Journal of Plant Physiology")
 plantp\_fcr\_year

### Out [26]:

	cum_mean	mean	cum_shifted_geom_average	shifted_geom_average
year				
2013	1.663134	1.480000	1.072867	1.480000
2012	1.663683	0.821034	1.071754	0.718440
2011	1.743803	0.728182	1.108916	0.658116
2010	1.867022	1.048387	1.171355	0.923672
2009	1.972324	0.691613	1.205448	0.626536
2008	2.161381	1.404194	1.306837	1.111041
2007	2.292514	2.034211	1.342545	1.533903
2006	2.362128	2.202273	1.293493	1.333378
2005	2.434639	4.189500	1.275626	1.934488
2004	1.203158	1.445652	0.903729	1.088004
2003	1.039118	0.991739	0.788385	0.811272
2002	1.138182	1.138182	0.741460	0.741460



Mean and shifted geometric average of FCR, cumulative up to an year and isolated (Brazilian Journal of Plant Physiology)

#### 11.2.1 Let's talk about the FCR...

In [27]: # Nauplius

These values should be re-calculated by Dimensions to include the citations from new publications. We are just seeing a snapshot of this index.

As a side effect of the normalization, an article that is no longer cited will get a lower FCR for each other article from the same year and field of research that gets a citation.

Probably the most strange part of FCR is the "field of research" itself, which is found from some unknown "machine learning" algorithm and data. Do the fields make sense, at least?

```
nauplius.groupby("FOR (ANZSRC) Categories").size().sort_values()

Out [27]: FOR (ANZSRC) Categories
0604 Genetics; 0602 Ecology; 0502 Environmental Science and Management
1
1701 Psychology
1
0502 Environmental Science and Management; 0403 Geology; 0602 Ecology
1
1117 Public Health and Health Services
1
0502 Environmental Science and Management; 0602 Ecology; 0604 Genetics
1
0502 Environmental Science and Management; 0604 Genetics
1
0502 Environmental Science and Management; 0907 Environmental Engineering; 0602 Ecology; 0405 Oceanography
1108 Medical Microbiology
1
1103 Clinical Sciences
1
0602 Ecology; 0608 Zoology
1
1102 Cardiorespiratory Medicine and Haematology
```

```
1005 Communications Technologies
         2102 Curatorial and Related Studies
         0607 Plant Biology
         0608 Zoology
         0704 Fisheries Sciences
         0403 Geology
         2103 Historical Studies
         0603 Evolutionary Biology
         1114 Paediatrics and Reproductive Medicine
         0602 Ecology; 0502 Environmental Science and Management
         0502 Environmental Science and Management; 0602 Ecology
         0604 Genetics
         17
         0502 Environmental Science and Management
         51
         0602 Ecology
         57
         dtype: int64
 In [28]: # Brazilian Journal of Plant Physiology
         plantp.groupby("FOR (ANZSRC) Categories").size().sort_values()
Out [28]: FOR (ANZSRC) Categories
         0102 Applied Mathematics
         0912 Materials Engineering
         0904 Chemical Engineering
         0699 Other Biological Sciences; 0607 Plant Biology
         0607 Plant Biology; 0699 Other Biological Sciences; 0602 Ecology
         0607 Plant Biology; 0605 Microbiology
         0607 Plant Biology; 0602 Ecology; 0705 Forestry Sciences
         0607 Plant Biology; 0602 Ecology; 0699 Other Biological Sciences; 0705 Forestry
         Sciences
         0607 Plant Biology; 0601 Biochemistry and Cell Biology; 0604 Genetics; 0703 Crop and
        Pasture Production
         0607 Plant Biology; 0601 Biochemistry and Cell Biology; 0604 Genetics
         0607 Plant Biology; 0503 Soil Sciences; 0602 Ecology; 0703 Crop and Pasture Production
         0605 Microbiology
```

```
0604 Genetics; 0601 Biochemistry and Cell Biology
0604 Genetics; 0502 Environmental Science and Management; 0602 Ecology; 0603
Evolutionary Biology
0602 Ecology; 0705 Forestry Sciences; 0607 Plant Biology
1117 Public Health and Health Services; 0399 Other Chemical Sciences
0306 Physical Chemistry (incl. Structural)
0602 Ecology; 0607 Plant Biology; 0503 Soil Sciences; 0703 Crop and Pasture Production
0602 Ecology; 0607 Plant Biology
0104 Statistics
0202 Atomic, Molecular, Nuclear, Particle and Plasma Physics
0206 Quantum Physics
0601 Biochemistry and Cell Biology; 0607 Plant Biology
0601 Biochemistry and Cell Biology; 0604 Genetics; 0607 Plant Biology
0305 Organic Chemistry
0602 Ecology; 0607 Plant Biology; 0603 Evolutionary Biology
0907 Environmental Engineering
0703 Crop and Pasture Production; 0607 Plant Biology
0607 Plant Biology; 0703 Crop and Pasture Production; 0602 Ecology
0607 Plant Biology; 0703 Crop and Pasture Production; 0601 Biochemistry and Cell
Biology
0607 Plant Biology; 0604 Genetics
0607 Plant Biology; 0299 Other Physical Sciences
1103 Clinical Sciences
0604 Genetics; 0607 Plant Biology; 0601 Biochemistry and Cell Biology
0604 Genetics; 0607 Plant Biology
0607 Plant Biology; 0602 Ecology; 0699 Other Biological Sciences
0301 Analytical Chemistry
0607 Plant Biology; 0503 Soil Sciences
0703 Crop and Pasture Production
0602 Ecology
0302 Inorganic Chemistry
```

```
0607 Plant Biology; 0601 Biochemistry and Cell Biology
7
0607 Plant Biology; 0602 Ecology
10
0607 Plant Biology; 0703 Crop and Pasture Production
13
0604 Genetics
24
0601 Biochemistry and Cell Biology
40
0607 Plant Biology
176
dtype: int64
```

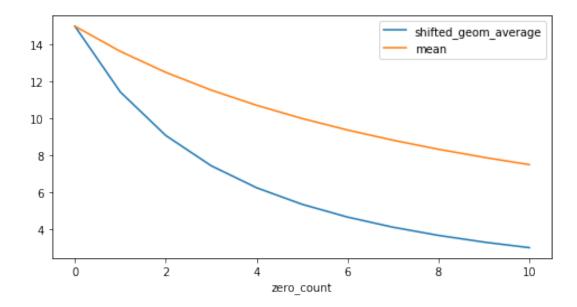
Multidisciplinary entries and misclassification regarding publications from this and other journals might be biasing the whole. The trustfulness and meaningfulness of the normalization procedure is rooted on the Dimensions' machine learning system.

The citation count for a document as used in the FCR calculation doesn't take into account *which* other document had cited it. Though the normalization helps on comparing publications from different years, the magnitude of this index might be influenced by stuff like self-citations and scattered never-cited [perhaps auto-generated] publications.

There's one important difference between the Hirsch index and the FCR average: not-cited publications are meaningless for the Hirsch index, yet they push down the FCR average, and faster than the common mean calculation because it's using a geometric mean instead. The geometric mean is less influenced by extreme values near to the maximum, but it's MORE influenced by extreme values near to the minimum. A single zero would weight hard on a journal with lots of highly cited documents. As a synthetic example:

#### Out [29]:

		shifted_geom_average	mean
fifteen_count	zero_count		
10	0	15.000000	15.000000
10	1	11.435250	13.636364
10	2	9.079368	12.500000
10	3	7.438129	11.538462
10	4	6.245789	10.714286
10	5	5.349604	10.000000
10	6	4.656854	9.375000
10	7	4.108647	8.823529
10	8	3.666116	8.333333
10	9	3.302762	7.894737
10	10	3.000000	7.500000



This geometric mean of zero and 15 is 3. With 3 zeros, even 10 entries having 15 wouldn't be enough to get 7.5 as the average result.

This effectively means that the FCR average favors journals with a small number of uniformly cited publications, heavily pushing down a journal with even a single publication with zero citations.

Due to that *pushing down* behavior of this alternative averaging calculation, FCR should be taken with a grain of salt when used to evaluate journals with recent publications.

# 11.3 Bibliometric mapping

Another file that can be downloaded from Dimensions is a bibliometric mapping CSV.

### 11.3.1 Loading the data

If follows a structure similar to the spreadsheet CSV file, like the metadata information in the first line.

```
In [30]: for fname in ["nauplius_bibmap.csv", "plant_physiology_bibmap.csv"]:
    with open(fname) as f:
        cr = csv.reader(f)
        print(next(cr)[0])
```

About the data: Exported on Sep 21, 2018. Criteria: Source title is Nauplius. About the data: Exported on Sep 22, 2018. Criteria: Source title is Brazilian Journal of Plant Physiology.

But have fewer columns:

Besides having less columns, the differences are:

- Authors Affiliations had been splitted into two fields;
- There's an extra *Publication IDs of cited references* field.

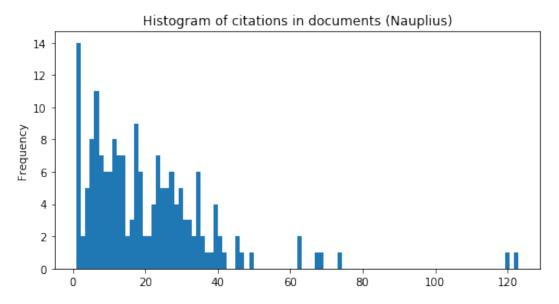
We don't have a field like *Publication IDs citing this entry*, just the other way around. That is, from the directed graph of citations, these bibliometric mapping files have a partition of the graph including the nodes/articles from a journal and the outcoming edges, but not the incoming edges. It has the number of incoming edges in the *Times cited* field, but not the citations themselves.

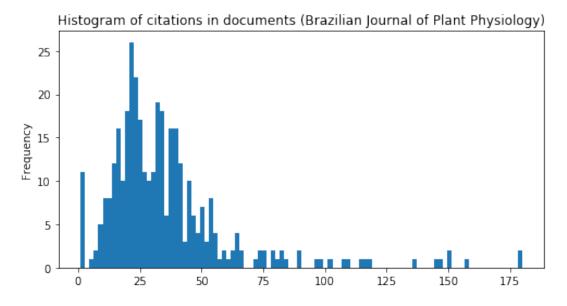
The citations in a document are joined by a semi-colon and a blank whitespace:

```
In [32]: | nauplius_bibmap["Publication IDs of cited references"].iloc[0].split("; ")
Out [32]: ['pub.1029197063',
           'pub.1002374214',
           'pub.1018747876',
           'pub.1051616960',
           'pub.1017805771'
           'pub.1014161638',
           'pub.1047379736',
           'pub.1029350483',
           'pub.1040183585',
           'pub.1084353864',
           'pub.1057031403',
           'pub.1000284258',
           'pub.1052431052',
           'pub.1046335329',
           'pub.1010113839',
           'pub.1090336053',
           'pub.1048696478',
           'pub.1005549826',
           'pub.1020510950',
           'pub.1035956564',
           'pub.1032912886',
           'pub.1049807368',
           'pub.1015284561',
           'pub.1093107594',
           'pub.1084353730']
```

From this, we can see an histogram of the overall number of citations of the papers:

```
figsize=(8, 4),
bins=100,
title="Histogram of citations in documents (Nauplius)",
);
```





As we have all the publication IDs, we can also see how many journal self-citation there are in these publications.

