

OpenAlex / Sources

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Conclusions

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# Bibliometric analysis of a scientific journal based on OpenAlex data

Vladimir Batagelj IMFM, UP IAM, FMF

**Applied statistics** 

Koper, 21-23. september 2025



#### Outline

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Vladimir Batagelj: vladimir.batagelj@fmf.uni-lj.si

Current version of slides (September 21, 2025 at 02:11): slides PDF

https://github.com/bavla/OpenAlex



# OpenAlex2Pajek

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OpenAlex is a fully open catalog of the global research system. It's named after the ancient Library of Alexandria and was made by the nonprofit OurResearch. OpenAlex launched in January 2022 with a free API and data snapshot [1]. It is a free alternative to commercial bibliographic services such as Web of Science and Scopus. Through its API, it provides programming access to bibliographic data and enables complex analyses and the development of higher-order bibliographic services.

We are developing an R package, <code>OpenAlex2Pajek</code>, for creating bibliographic networks from the OpenAlex database. The basic package version supports the collection of data on selected topics.

Usually, the first step is to prepare a list of interesting works. In the second step, we create corresponding bibliographic networks for the works from this list. We continue with the analysis of the obtained networks.



# OpenAlex

#### Types of bibliographic units

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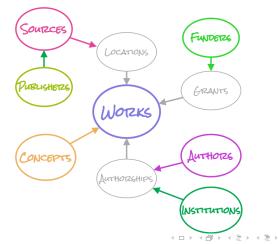
....

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OpenAlex is based on 7 types of units (entities):  $\mathbf{W}(\text{ork})$ ,  $\mathbf{A}(\text{uthor})$ ,  $\mathbf{S}(\text{ource})$ ,  $\mathbf{I}(\text{nstitution})$ ,  $\mathbf{C}(\text{oncept})$ ,  $\mathbf{P}(\text{ublisher})$ , or  $\mathbf{F}(\text{under})$ 





# OpenAlex

#### Comments

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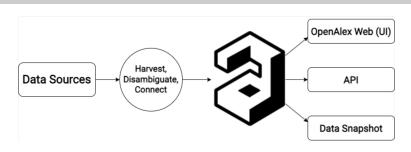
Sources

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OpenAlex solves several important questions for the analysis of bibliographic data:

- 1 identification of bibliographic units (IDs, disambiguation)
- 2) free access (share derived data, Download to your machine)
- 3 improving content through user participation (Submit a request)



# OpenAlex2Pajek / Sources

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In this contribution, we present an extension, the function OpenAlexSources, that creates networks related to a selected journal (all papers published by the chosen journal and all works citing/cited by these papers). Since in networks the units (works, authors, sources, keywords, etc.) are identified by their OpenAlex IDs, another function, unitsInfo, provides the user with additional information about the units appearing in the results of analyses.

We applied the new functions to create bibliographic networks for the journals Metodološki zvezki – Advances in Methodology and Statistics (\$4210169332, AMS) and Ars Mathematica Contemporanea (\$61442588, AMC).



# Collecting works

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References

If you open these examples in a web browser, they will look much better if you have a browser plug-in such as JSONVue installed.

**A**. List of works published by a given source (journal) (call) – in a single line

https://api.openalex.org/works? filter=primary\_location.source.id:S4210169332& select=id,title,type,cited\_by\_count,publication\_year

**B**. List of citing works of a given work (call)

https://api.openalex.org/works?filter=cites:W4206962290&select=id,title,type,cited\_by\_count,publication\_year&per\_page=200&page=1

C. List of works cited by a given work (call)

https://api.openalex.org/works?filter=openalex: W4205437711|W4206962290|W2096252182|W4206003933& select=id,title,publication\_year,referenced\_works



## Collecting works

#### Creating the set of relevant works W and networks

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**D**. Let j be the selected source (journal). Determine (**A**) the set  $W_i$ of works published in the journal j. Now we can determine

- the set  $W_{in}$  of works citing some work from  $W_i$  for each  $k \in W_i$  determine (**B**) the set  $W_k$  of works citing the work k. The set  $W_{in}$  is the union of all  $W_k$ s.
- the set  $W_{out}$  of works cited from some work from  $W_i$  for each  $k \in W_i$  determine (**C**) the set  $W_k$  of works cited by the work k. The set  $W_{out}$  is the union of all  $W_k$ s.
- the set of relevant works is  $W = W_{in} \cup W_i \cup W_{out}$ . To get networks, apply the procedure OpenAlex2PajekAll on W.

Note that for sources different from j only the citations from/to j are complete. Other citations consider only cases where at least one end-node is related to a work from the source j. The obtained networks can be used to determine the set of important sources J.



# Collecting works Creating the set of relevant works W and networks

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**E**. For each important source j from J, we determine (**D**) the corresponding set of relevant works. The union of these sets  $W_J$  is used in the procedure OpenAlex2PajekAll to create networks. Now, the citation data are complete for all sources from J (but not for the other sources).

The size of the set  $W_J$  can be very large. To reduce it, we can consider some restrictions, such as the interval of considered years of publication, the type of publication, etc.

The programming of support for the collection of the selected source data resulted in two functions OpenAlexSources and unitsInfo.



## Collecting works

#### Creating the set of relevant works W and networks

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```
To build networks for a selected source sID is now simple. First, we create a vector R of all works from sID, works citing them, and works cited by them. -
```

```
> setwd(wdir <- "C:/test/OpenAlex/sources")
> library(httr); library(jsonlite)
> source("https://raw.githubusercontent.com/bavla/Rnet/master/R/Pajek.R")
> source("https://raw.githubusercontent.com/bavla/OpenAlex/main/code/OpenAlex2Pajek.R")
> source("https://raw.githubusercontent.com/bavla/OpenAlex/main/code/OpenAlex2Pajek.R")
> sup <- "s4210233660"
> R <- OpenAlexSources(sID, step=250)
OpenAlex2Pajek / Sources Tue May 6 19:32:47 2025
...
2522 source s4210233660 works collected Tue May 6 19:32:50 2025
...
4092 citing works collected Tue May 6 19:38:59 2025
...
14515 cited works collected Tue May 6 19:39:10 2025
17642 different works Tue May 6 19:39:10 2025
```

We save the vector R in a file.

```
> csv <- file("worksTest.csv","w",encoding="UTF-8")
> write(R,sep="\n",file=csv)
> close(csv)
```

To get the networks, we apply 'OpenAlex2PajekAll' to R



## Collecting works and creating networks

#### Metodološki zvezki – Advances in Methodology and Statistics

```
OpenAlex /
             > setwd(wdir <- "C:/Users/vlado/docs/papers/2025/AS/MZ")</pre>
  Sources
             > library(httr); library(jsonlite)
             > source("https://raw.githubusercontent.com/bavla/Rnet/master/R/Pajek.R"
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             > source("https://raw.githubusercontent.com/bavla/OpenAlex/main/code/Ope
             > sID <- "S4210169332"
             > R <- OpenAlexSources(sID, step=250)
             OpenAlex2Pajek / Sources Mon May 26 05:08:49 2025
               238 source S4210169332 works collected Mon May 26 05:08:50 2025
MZ-AMS
              1423 citing works collected Mon May 26 05:10:29 2025
              4490 cited works collected Mon May 26 05:10:31 2025
AMC.
              5323 different works Mon May 26 05:10:31 2025
             > csv <- file("worksMZ.csv", "w", encoding="UTF-8")</pre>
             > write(R,sep="\n",file=csv)
             > close(csv)
             > OpenAlex2PajekAll(NULL,name="MZ",listF="worksMZ.csv")
             OpenAlex2Pajek / All - Start Mon May 26 05:12:37 2025
             *** OpenAlex2Pajek / All - Process Mon May 26 05:12:37 2025
             *** OpenAlex2Pajek / All - Data Collected Mon May 26 05:46:36 2025
             hits: 5323 works: 157256 authors: 10268 anon: 120 sources: 1776
             >>> Citation Cite
             >>> publication year, type of publication, language of publication
             >>> cited by count, countries distinct count, referenced works
             >>> Authorship WA, Sources WJ, Countries WC, Keywords WK
             *** OpenAlex2Pajek / All - Stop Mon May 26 05:47:50 2025
```



Works citing/cited\_by the journal MZ

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References

We first clean the networks Ci, WA, WJ,..., removing multiple links and loops.

Network/Create new network/Transform/Remove/Multiple lines [Single line] Network/Create new network/Transform/Remove/Loops [No]

 $|W| = 157256, |J| = 1776, |A| = 10268, ..., m_{Ci} = 233191,$  $m_{WJ} = 5294$ ,  $m_{WA} = 13491$ ,... Initially, in the citation network, there were 1481615 arcs.

The product  $\mathbf{u} = \mathbf{A} \cdot \mathbf{v}$  of the network  $\mathbf{A}$  with the vector  $\mathbf{v}$  is defined as

$$u_i = \sum_{j:(i,j)\in L} A_{ij} \cdot v_j$$

We need the index j of the node representing MZ in the set of journals J. We can get it from  $\mathbf{J}\mathbf{W} = \mathbf{W}\mathbf{J}^T$ 

select W.I as the First network Network/2-mode/Transpose File/Network/Change label [JW]



#### Works citing/cited\_by the journal MZ

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We apply the command Info/Vertex label -> Vertex number [S4210169332] on the network **JW**. We get j=142 - the index of the node representing MZ.

We start with the set  $W_j$  of all works published by the journal j.

$$W_j = \{w : WJ[w,j] > 0\}$$

Let  $\mathbf{w}_j$  be its characteristic vector. Then  $\mathbf{w}_j = \mathbf{WJ} \cdot [j]$  where [j] is a vector over J having 1 at the jth place. We create the vector [j]

```
Vector/Create constant vector [1776, 0]
using vector editor (magnifying glass icon for vectors),
change the 142nd value to 1
File/Vector/Change label [[j]]
select WJ as the First network
Operations/Network+Vector/Network*Vector
File/Vector/Change Label [Wj]
```



Works citing/cited\_by the journal MZ

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Next, for the set  $W_i$ , we determine the set  $W_i$  of citing works and the set  $W_O$  of cited works.

$$W_I = \{ w : \exists z \in W_j : Ci[w, z] > 0 \}$$
 an

$$W_O = \{w : \exists z \in W_j : Ci[z, w] > 0\}$$

The vectors  $\mathbf{d}_I = \mathbf{Ci} \cdot \mathbf{w}_i$  and  $\mathbf{d}_O = \mathbf{Ci}^T \cdot \mathbf{w}_i$ 

$$d_I(i) = \sum_k Ci[i, k] \cdot w_j(k)$$
 and

$$d_O(i) = \sum_k Ci^T[i,k] \cdot w_j(k) = \sum_k Ci[k,i] \cdot w_j(k)$$

count:  $d_i(i)$  - how many works from  $W_i$  are cited by the work i; and  $d_O(i)$  - how many works from  $W_i$  are citing the work i.

select Ci as the First network select Wi as the First vector Operations/Network+Vector/Network\*Vector File/Vector/Change Label [dI]

4 D > 4 A > 4 B > 4 B > B



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Inspect the vector dI. We list the largest 20 nodes [+20]. Extract the selected top lines and copy them in a text file in TextPad. Remove the Rank and Vertex columns. We get a table 4.0000 W2995900225

Save it to a CSV file dI.csv. We will collect in R from OpenAlex the additional information about the selected works.

It turns out that the authors' names are not directly accessible as a data field - they are contained inside the field authorships. To extract them, we use the function

```
authors <- function(L) {
 A <- L$authorships; k <- length(A); N <- rep("",k)
 for (i in 1:k) N[i] <-
   paste(A[i][[1]]$author$display_name,collapse=", ")
 return(N)
```



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```
Now we are ready to get the information about the selected works. Some data (authors and title) can be very long. To get a readable report we truncate them.
```



# The top works citing the journal MZ

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```
id cdc cbv dI vear
                                                authors title
                     3 4 2019
                                  C Nordlund, A Žiberna Blockmodeling of Valued Networks
   W2995900225
                                   T Kogovšek, V Hlebec Stability of typologies produced on the
  W2184576020
                       4 2009
  W2240460603
                    15 4 2015
                                     L Prota, P Doreian Finding roles in sparse economic hierard
  W2185659002
                     2 4 2012
                                V Hlebec, T Kogovšek, + Measurement quality of social support su
  W4205564009
                     0 4 2012
                                            A Znidaršič Impact of fixed choice design on blockmo
                     2 3 2008
  W4205097511
                                   T Kogovšek, V Hlebec Measuring ego-centered social networks
  W2807932250
                       3 2018 JHP Hoffmeyer-Zlotnik, + Introduction, Problem, and Research Ques
                     0 3 2024
                                R González, E Aedo-Muño Nonresponse in name generators across co
  W4400362431
                       3 2010
                                 T Kogovšek, M Mrzel, + "Please name the first two people you wo
 W4206030688
10 W3129803968
                        3 2021
                                M Cugmas, A Ferligoj, + Global structures and local network mech
11 W2498378275
                       3 2011
                                   V Hlebec, M Mrzel, + The Comparability of Event-Related and (
12 W2166296097
                        3 2011
                                   V Hlebec, M Mrzel, + Assessing social support networks in cro
13 W2071989778
                        3 2008
                                 V Vehovar, KL Manfreda Measuring ego-centered social networks
14 W4206130755
                        3 2011
                                   V Hlebec, T Kogovšek How (not) to measure social support netv
15 W2083653613
                 1 114
                        3 2014
                                DE Eagle, RJ Proeschold Methodological considerations in the use
                        3 2012
16 W2024234381
                                   V Hlebec, T Kogovšek Different approaches to measure ego-cent
                       2 2019 A
17 W2995396414
                                 Žnidaršič, P Doreian, + An Treating Missing Network Data Before
18 W2335008118
                       2 2016
                 1 189
                                    A Mrvar, V Batagelj Analysis and visualization of large netw
19 W2741577583
                       2 2017
                                   D Döring, BE Haberla Consistency in behavior: Evaluation of b
                       2 2014
20 W2308243582
                                            Selvarangam SELECTING PERFECT INTERESTINGNESS MEASUR
```



#### Works citing/cited\_by the journal MZ

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1412 / (141

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Some improvements: add source; in names, use only the last name, or initials + last name; ...

We can check selected works - for example W3129803968.

Network/Create new network/Transform/Transpose [yes] File/Network/Change label [CiT] select Wj as the First vector Operations/Network+Vector/Network\*Vector File/Vector/Change Label [d0]

Using the same approach as for  $d_I$  we get



### The top works cited by the journal MZ

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Concidiion

```
id cdc
                      cbv dO vear
                                                    authors title
                 0 303929 19 2014
                                                R Core Team R: A language and environment for st
   W2582743722
                                       S Wasserman, K Faust Social Network Analysis: Methods and
  W2061901927
                    18568 10 1994
 W4285719527
                        0 9 1955
                                                            Deleted Work
  W977705565
                      473 9 2004
                                   P Doreian, V Batageli, + Generalized Blockmodeling
  W2023723604
                          9 1992 V Batagelj, A Ferligoj, + Direct and indirect methods for stru
 W2116814842
                          8 2002 T Kogovšek, A Ferligoj, + Estimating the reliability and valid
  W1987455866
                      258
                          7 1973
                                    PW Holland, S Leinhardt The structural implications of measu
                          7 1971
  W2017099446
                     1642
                                        F Lorrain, HC White Structural equivalence of individual
 W2001947224
                     105 7 1992
                                   V Batagelj, P Doreian, + An optimizational approach to regula
10 W4205589890
                          6 2004
                                    K L Manfreda, V Vehovar Collecting ego-centred network data
11 W2182840202
                       15 6 2005
                                       V Hlebec, T Kogovšek Hypothetical versus actual support p
12 W2186748749
                       16 6 2006
                                      P Ziherl, H Iglič, + Research Groups' Social Capital: A C
                       14 6 2006
                                           L Coromina Soler Social networks and performance in b
13 W1893868194
14 W2151243887
                       82 6 2006
                                                  A Žiberna Generalized blockmodeling of valued
15 W2054720216
                      112 6 1999
                                       A Ferligoi, V Hlebec Evaluation of social network measure
                     1120 6 1989
16 W1556604050
                                                     A Vaux Social support: theory, research, an
17 W2133011836
                     361 6 1983
                                          DR White, K Reitz Graph and semigroup homomorphisms or
18 W1981385379
                          6 2004
                     201
                                   P Doreian, V Batagelj, + Generalized blockmodeling of two-mod
19 W2109278577
                     1404
                          6 1999
                                        V Batagelj, A Mrvar Pajek - Program for Large Network Ar
20 W1873057782
                     4378 5 2000
                                   R Tourangeau, LJ Rips, + The Psychology of Survey Response
```



# The top authors by the number of works in the journal $\ensuremath{\mathsf{MZ}}$

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$$\mathbf{a}_j = \mathbf{WA}^T \cdot \mathbf{w}_j$$

 $a_i(a) = \#$  of works in the journal j co-authored by the author a.

```
id
                              orcid
                                           cbc papers
                                                                                  name
   A5038897789 0000-0002-3691-7959
                                     160
                                          2391
                                                    18
                                                                     Valentina Hlebec
   A5049753566 0009-0001-4355-8608
                                           642
                                                    14
                                                                         Tina Kogovšek
  A5029499420 0000-0002-3682-6854
                                          2740
                                     139
                                                                       Anuška Ferligoj
                                          3696
  A5039511070 0000-0002-5204-6882
                                     153
                                                                        Germà Coenders
                                          2024
   A5040950908
                               <NA>
                                      65
                                                                     Katarina Košmeli
   A5083575454 0000-0002-3253-7959
                                     145
                                          4129
                                                                         Vasia Vehovar
   A5023248667
                               <NA>
                                           217
                                                                            Hwe Warner
   A5010863389 0000-0003-1534-6971
                                           443
                                                                          Aleš Žiberna
                                          3063
                                                                 Katia Lozar Manfreda
   A5068940001
                               <NA>
10 A5025019965 0000-0001-6461-3007
                                           661
                                                                   Rosalia Castellano
                                           678
11 A5002890522 0000-0001-7851-6216
                                     109
                                                                             Jana Mali
                                          1179
12 A5044693419 0000-0003-0769-0633
                                                                        Lluís Coromina
                                          3835
13 A5019207040 0000-0002-2564-8781
                                                                           Janez Stare
14 A5033311124 0000-0001-8557-4692
                                     100
                                          8835
                                                                          Andrej Mrvar
15 A5001676164 0000-0002-0240-9446
                                     271 13374
                                                                     Vladimir Batageli
                                                                      Irena Ograjenšek
16 A5046373528 0000-0002-2248-1517
                                            376
17 A5041301436 0000-0003-3069-9863
                                           743
                                                                         Nataša Keižar
                                          1316
                                                       Jürgen H. P. Hoffmever-Zlotnik
18 A5022627222
                                     160
19 A5052875930 0000-0001-7906-0580
                                    1024 13664
                                                                         Darío Gregori
20 A5102781233 0000-0002-5550-7007
                                     131
                                           401
                                                                   Malgorzata Graczyk
21 A5025045918 0000-0002-5395-1593
                                     113
                                           280
                                                                    Bronislaw Ceranka
22 A5011534481
                               <NA>
                                      28
                                           102
                                                                        Anton Cedilnik
                                          5385
23 A5065490876 0000-0002-3301-7840
                                     182
                                                                       Patrick Doreian
24 A5055592225 0000-0001-6861-9553
                                           579
                                                                         Gennaro Punzo
25 A5084724910 0000-0003-4261-8928
                                          1241
                                                                   Giuseppe Scandurra
                                                          4 D > 4 A > 4 B > 4 B >
```



[2-4]

Citations between authors (and journals)

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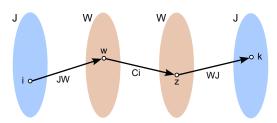
AMC

Conclusions

Referenc

#### $ACiA = WA^T \cdot Ci \cdot WA$

ACiA[a, b] = # of times author a cites author  $b \equiv \#$  of citations of a work of author a to a work of author b.



$$JJ = WJ^T \cdot Ci \cdot WJ$$

JJ[i,k] = # of times journal i cites journal  $k \equiv \#$  of citations of a work from journal i to a work from journal  $k \equiv \#$ 



#### Citations between authors (and journals)

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select Ci as the First network
Network/Create new network/Transform/1-mode to 2-mode
select WA as the First network
Network/2-mode/Transpose
File/Network/Change label [AW]
select 2-mode Ci as the Second network
Networks/Multiply networks
select WA as the Second network
Networks/Multiply networks [yes]
File/Network/Change label [ACiA]

 $n_{ACiA}=10268$ ,  $m_{ACiA}^A=119301$ , and 701 loops. Using Network/Info/Line values we select the threshold t=15. We make a link cut at level t

For journals we get  $n_{JJ}=1776$ ,  $m_{JJ}^A=8382$ , and 141 loops. Using Network/Info/Line values we select the threshold t=30. We make a

Using Network/Info/Line values we select the threshold t=30. We make a link cut at level t.



#### MZ citations between authors

#### link cut at level 15, loops removed

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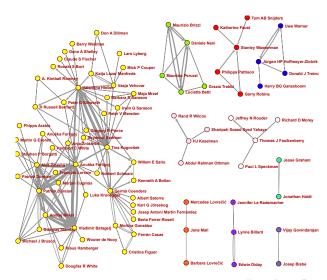
Sources

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# MZ citations between journals

link cut at level 30, Sunknown removed

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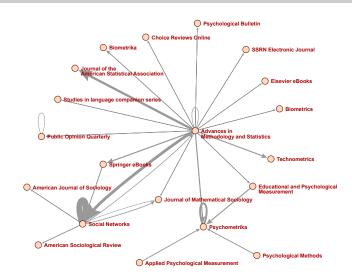
Sources

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# Creating networks

#### AMC – Ars Mathematica Contemporanea

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References

```
> OpenAlex2PajekAll(NULL,name="AMC",listF="worksAMC.csv")
OpenAlex2Pajek / All - Start Mon May 26 06:10:05 2025
*** OpenAlex2Pajek / All - Process Mon May 26 06:10:05 2025
```

\*\*\* OpenAlex2Pajek / All - Data Collected Mon May 26 07:20:44 202 hits: 12758 works: 137751 authors: 10849 anon: 185 sources: 1192 \*\*\* OpenAlex2Pajek / All - Stop Mon May 26 07:21:54 2025



## The top works citing the journal AMC

#### OpenAlex / Sources

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```
id cdc cbv dI vear
                                                  authors title
                        7 2023
                                     A Pasotti, JH Dinitz A Survey of Heffter Arrays
  W4395099390
                       6 2015 D Cvetković, P Rowlinson + Graphs with least eigenvalue -2: Ten y
  W1082115497
3 W1846554597
                        6 2015
                                        A Malnič, R Požar On the split structure of lifted group
  W2894294252
                        6 2022
                                            X Liu, S Zhou Eigenvalues of Cavley Graphs
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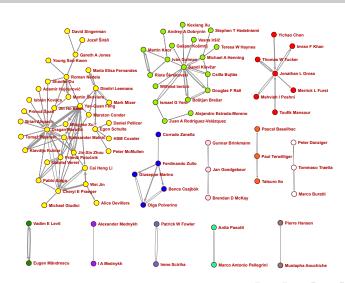
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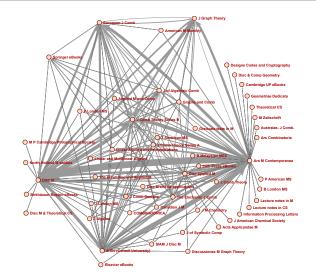
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- 1 The data in the OpenAlex database is not completely error-free. Most errors can be considered as noise important units will float to the surface.
- 2 If the error is serious and is reflected in the final result, we correct it accordingly and repeat the analysis.
- 3 We can also contribute to the quality of the data in the OpenAlex database by informing the database maintainers about errors.



# Acknowledgments

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The computational work reported in this paper was performed using the R [5] package OpenAlex2Pajek and the program Pajek for analysis of large networks [6]. The code and data are available at Github/Bavla/ OpenAlex.

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