

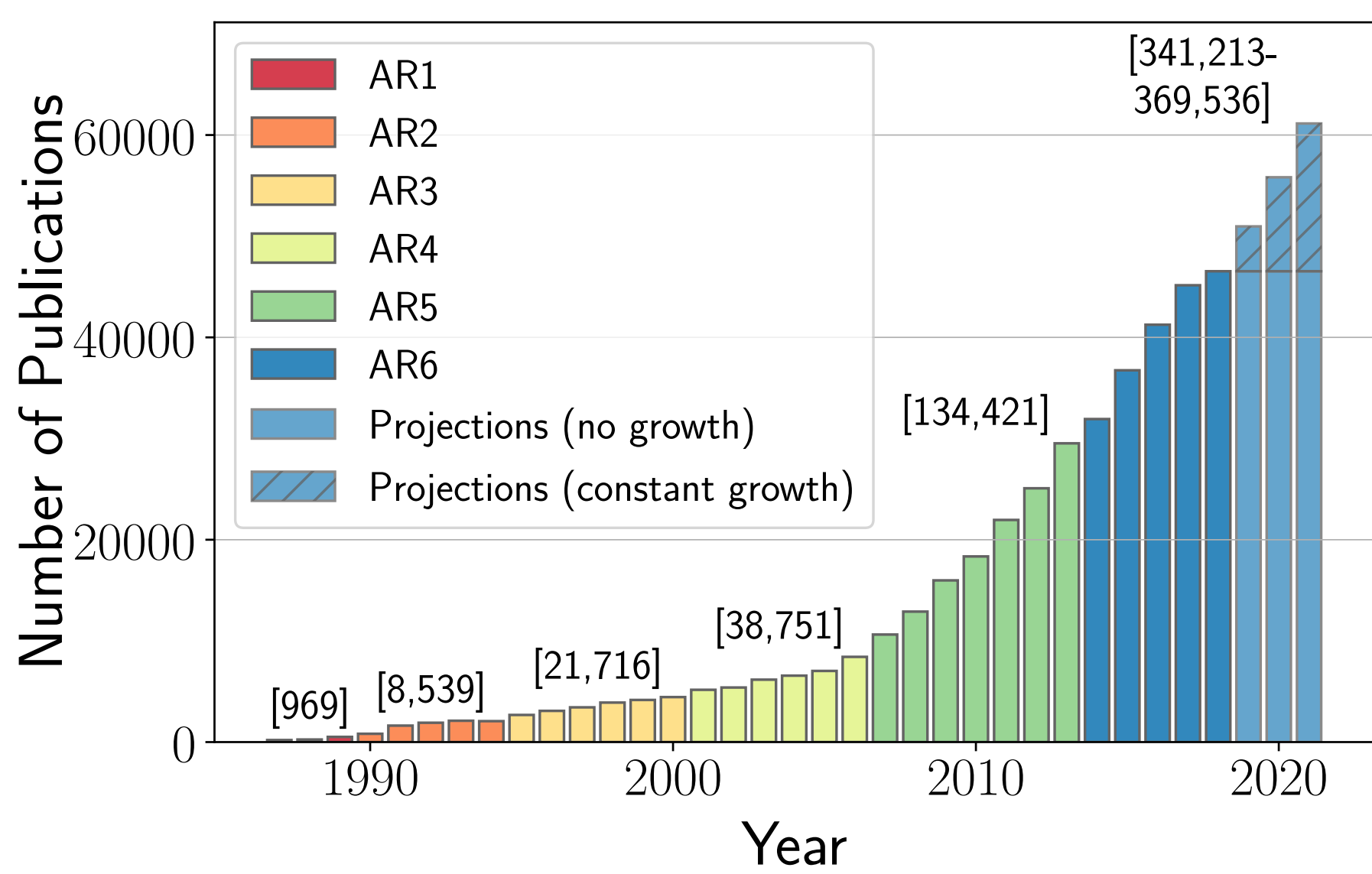
A Topography of Climate Change Research

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Max Callaghan
callaghan@mcc-berlin.net



Problem



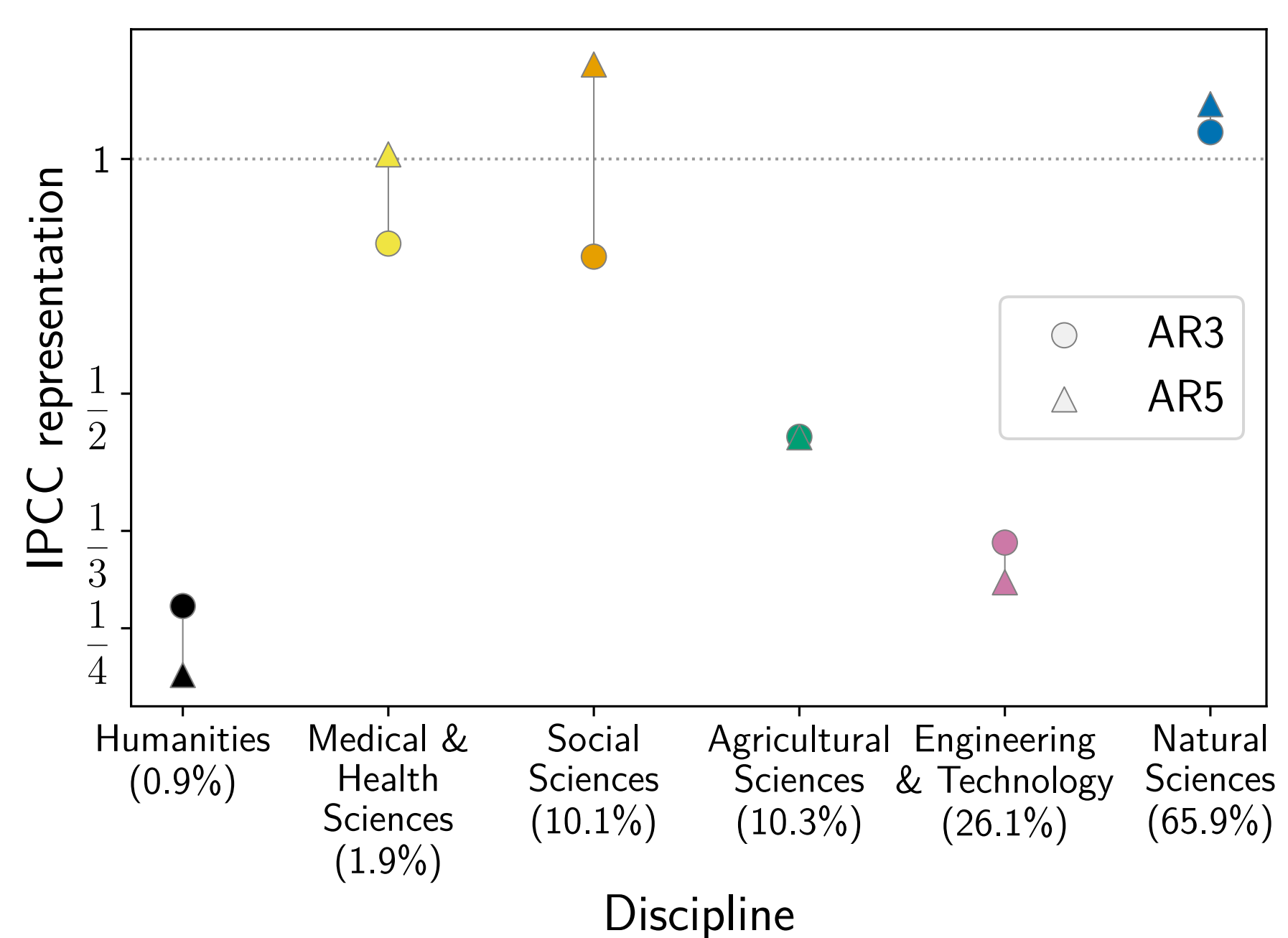
Massive growth of literature on climate change challenges IPCC [4]

New Concepts

	AR1	AR2	AR3	AR4	AR5	AR6
Years	1986-1989	1990-1994	1995-2000	2001-2006	2007-2013	2014-
Documents	1,167	8,539	21,716	38,750	134,413	201,606
Unique words	2,000	12,480	23,346	34,637	71,867	94,746
New words	change (560)	oil (287)	downscaling (217)	sres (234)	biochar (1,791)	mmms (313)
	climate (428)	deltac (283)	degreesc (187)	petm (95)	redd (1,113)	cop21 (234)
	co2 (318)	whole (256)	ncep (130)	amf (88)	cmip5 (679)	c3n4 (214)
	climatic (289)	tax (254)	fco (107)	sf5cf3 (86)	cmip3 (587)	sdg (187)
	model (288)	landscape (249)	pfc (98)	clc (81)	mofs (299)	zika (182)
	atmospheric (281)	alternative (243)	otcs (98)	embankment (81)	sdm (297)	ndcs (168)
	effect (280)	availability (242)	dtr (95)	cwd (79)	mof (275)	indc (164)
	global (224)	life (239)	nee (89)	etm (75)	biochars (252)	indcs (134)

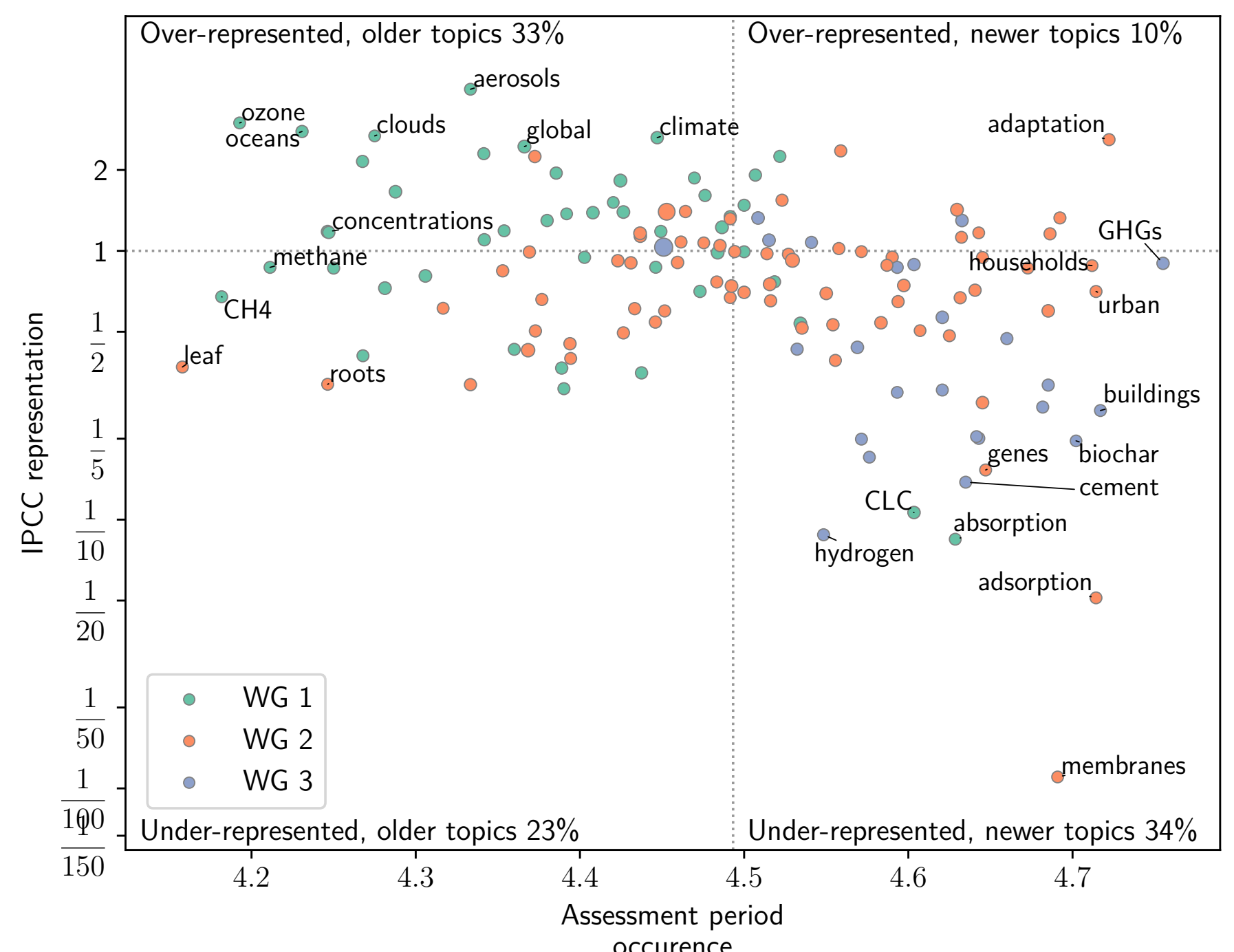
A simple analysis of the words in the documents about climate change shows us that not only are there more articles, they discuss **new concepts**. The **topic model** below [3] mobilises large patterns of words in documents to make broad conceptual developments and differences comprehensible.

Proportionality



Contrary to suggestions/previously [2, 1], the social sciences are over-represented in IPCC reports, engineering/agricultural sciences are under-represented

Supply/Demand of Solutions



Physical science topics are well represented and have been around longer. Solution-oriented topics, particularly in WGIII are newer and under-represented.

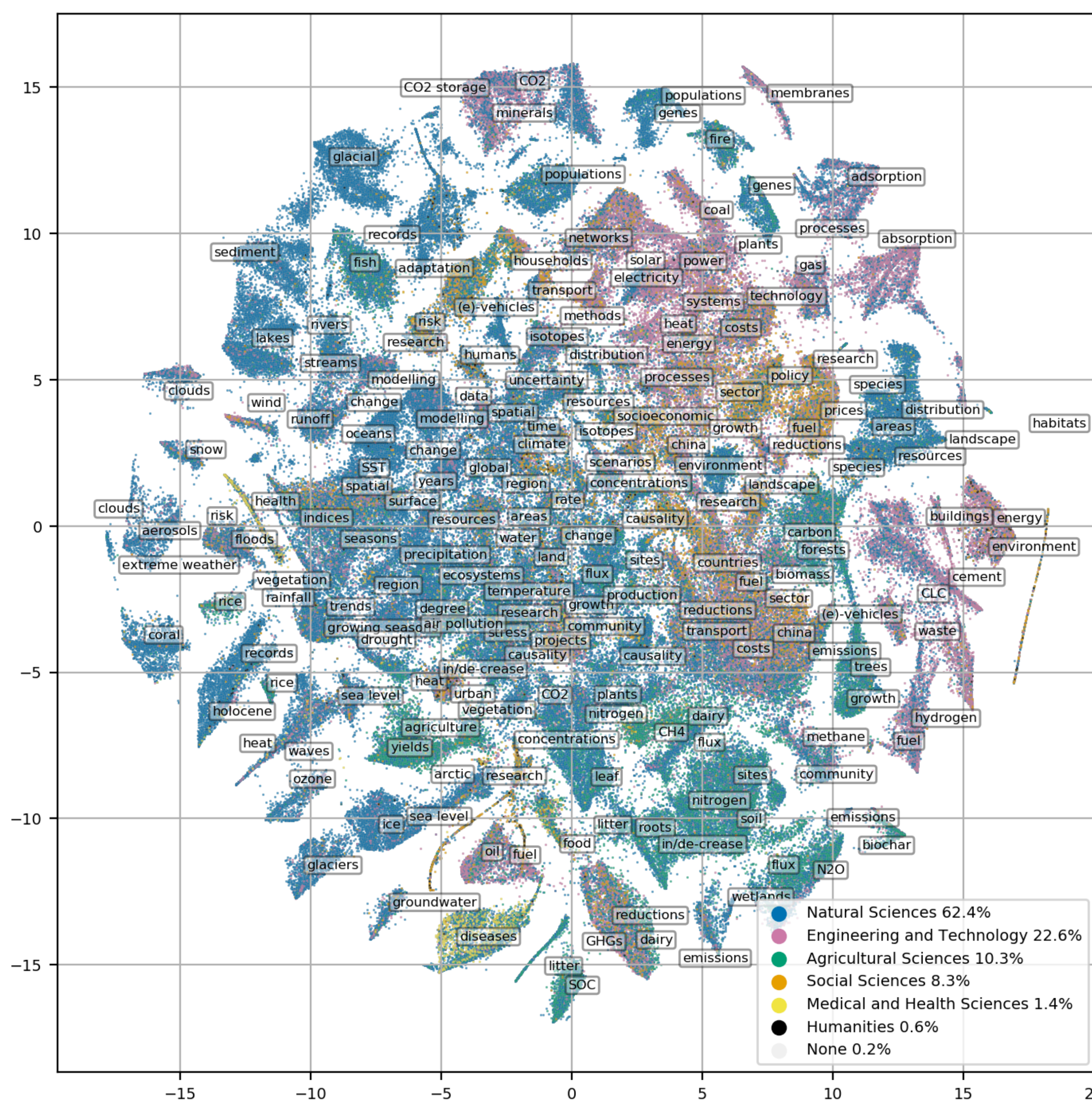
References

- [1] Andreas Bjurström and Merritt Polk. Physical and economic bias in climate change research: A scientometric study of IPCC Third Assessment Report. *Climatic Change*, 108(1):1–22, 2011.
- [2] David G. Victor. Embed the social sciences in climate policy - David Victor. *Nature*, 520:7–9, 2015.
- [3] D D Lee and H S Seung. Learning the parts of objects by non-negative matrix factorization. *Nature*, 401(6755):788–91, 1999.
- [4] Jan C. Minx, Max Callaghan, William F. Lamb, Jennifer Garard, and Ottmar Edenhofer. Learning about climate change solutions in the IPCC and beyond. *Environmental Science & Policy*, 2017.
- [5] Laurens van der Maaten and Geoffrey Hinton. Visualizing Data using t-SNE. *Journal of Machine Learning Research*, 9:2579–2605, 2008.

Acknowledgements

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A Topographic Map of 400,000 Climate Change Articles

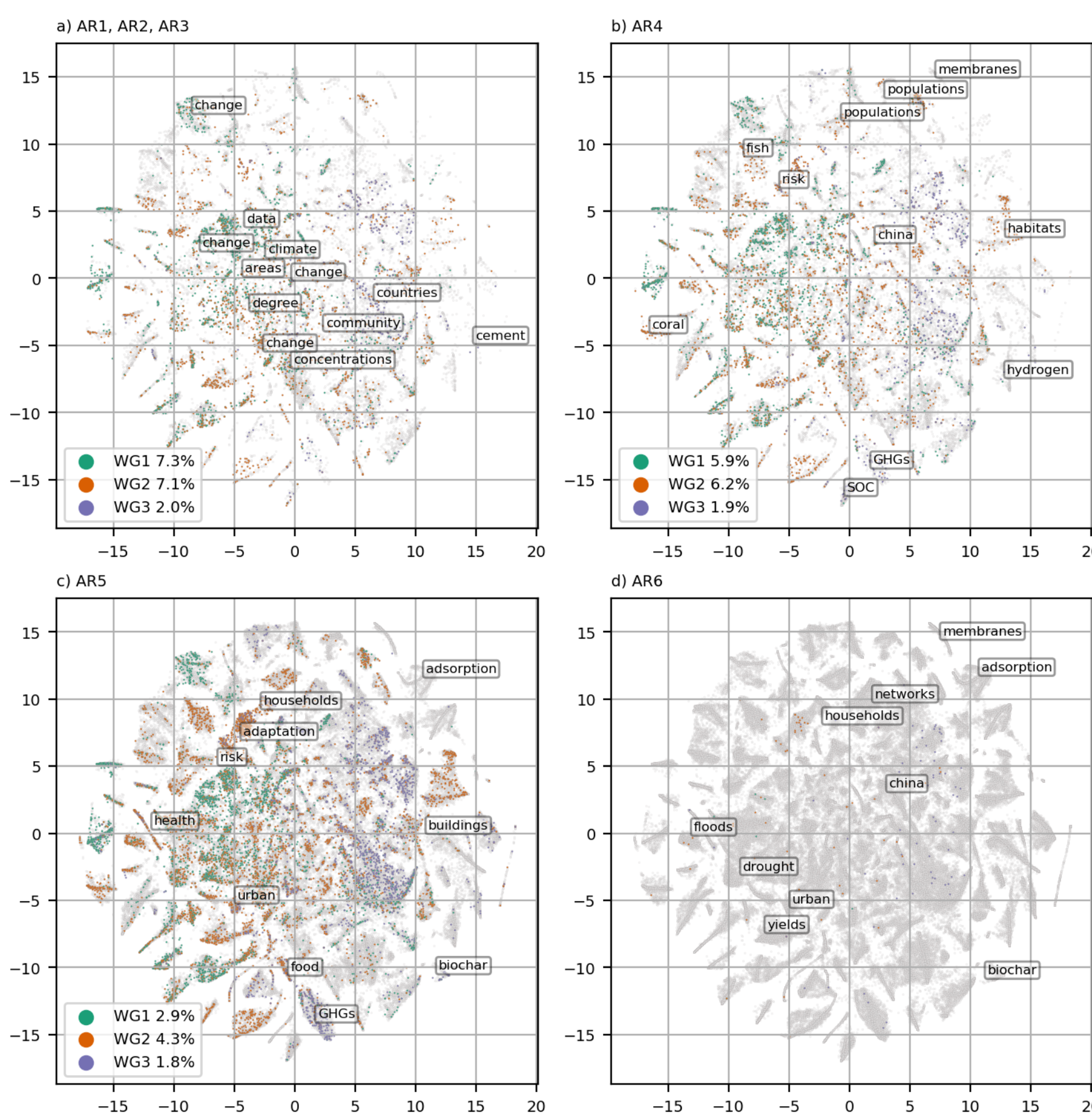


Using T-SNE [5], we can project each document into a 2D space such that documents with similar 100-dimensional topic vectors are close together.

Documents similar in topic tend to be from similar disciplines, with some cross-disciplinary work around the energy system, or on soils.

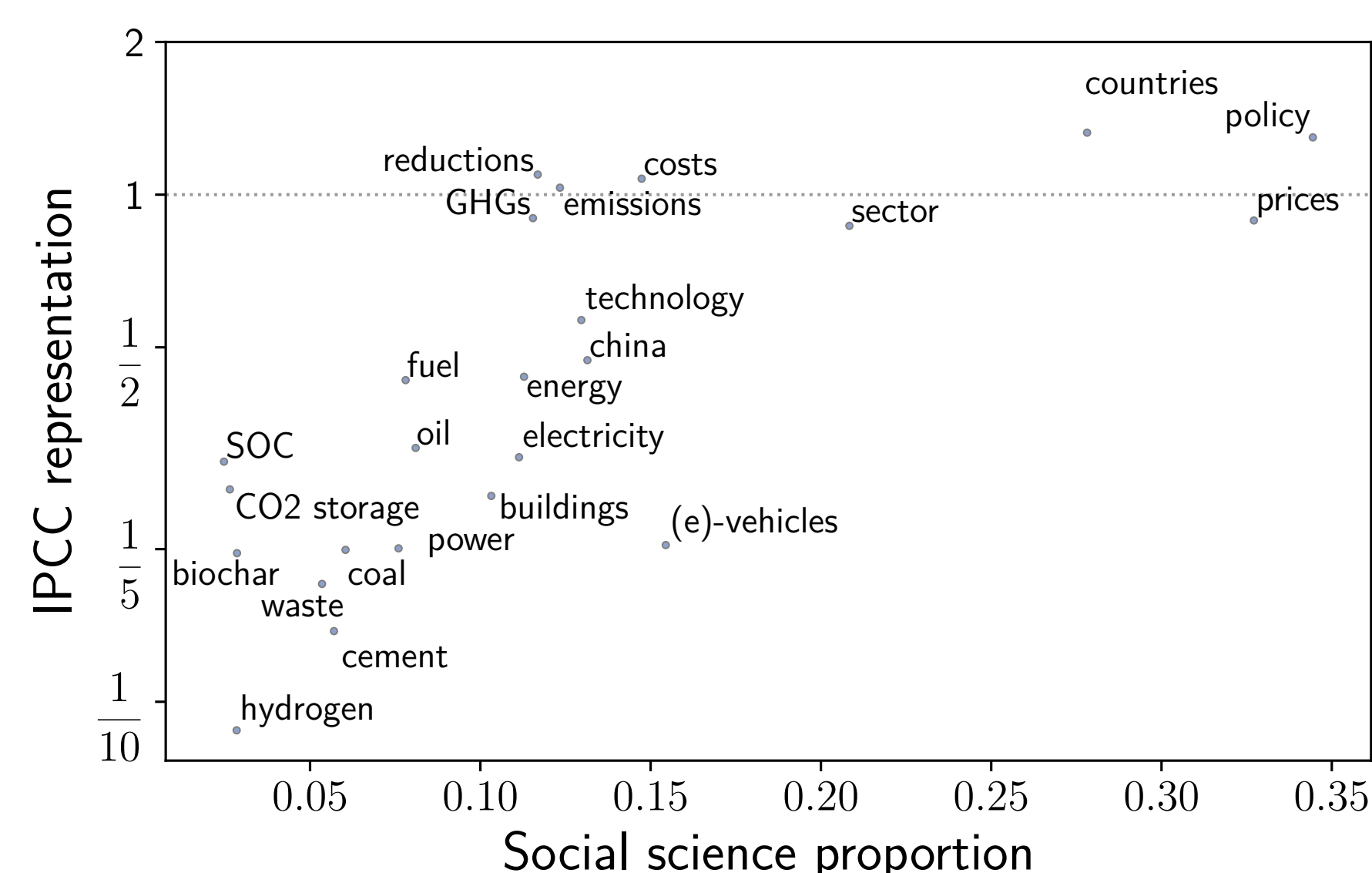
The majority of topics are from the natural sciences

Evolution



Solutions topics have grown fast in recent assessment reports, as have topics on impacts and vulnerability. New WGII topics are better covered by IPCC reports. We can also witness the emergence of new topics such as coral bleaching.

Social Science & Solutions



Those WGIII topics with a higher share of social science documents are better-represented in IPCC. Either the IPCC must engage with the social science literature, or the social sciences must cover solutions-topics.

Further work

Computer-assisted systematic map of climate impacts.
Robust Statistical Stopping Criteria for Automated Screening in Systematic Reviews