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Supplementary materials for "How research programs come apart"

Lucas Gautheron · Elisa Omodei

S1 Data collection

Our goal was to collect the whole HEP literature from 1980 to 2020 from the public Inspire HEP API (Moskovic, 2021). For that, we collected metadata for all articles through automated search requests, category per category, and year per year. This strategy was intended to abide with the limitations of the API, in terms of matching entries per search request. However, it appeared that many articles in years 1990 to 1995 were not categorized, and therefore our collection strategy missed many HEP articles from this period. In order to recover these articles, we gathered all articles that were referenced in publications collected through the first batch but which were missing. This methods fails to recover articles that were not cited in any article from the first batch. More importantly, the lack of categories means that selecting all HEP papers during the problematic time period will require unlabeled articles to be manually or automatically classified. Although there are ways to circumvent these issues and to assess their potential implications, we have decided to narrow down several analyses to years 2001 onwards in the present work.

S2 Text-classifier performance stability

The categories (`Theory-HEP`, `Phenomenology-HEP` and `Experiment-HEP`) that we trained our classifier (3.2) to predict have been assigned in different ways in the Inspire HEP database. Although a majority were categorized based on arXiv's classification system, some papers were not, especially those published before arXix was introduced (in the early 1990s). It might seem unclear whether these classification procedures are consistent and revealing of distinct underlying cultures. In order to demonstrate that it is the case, in Figure S1, we show that the performance of the text-classifier is nonetheless roughly stable throughout the period considered (1980–2020). To this end, we subdivide this time-range in bins of five years and perform k-fold cross-validation using each five year bin for the validation set (and the papers from the other bins for the training set). Accuracy remains high and approximately stable over the years 1980 to 2020; therefore, these various classification procedures, and the underlying identity of each of these subcultures, must be rather consistent over this period.

S3 Topic model

S3.1 Data and vocabulary selection

The model is trained on $N = 120,000$ articles randomly sampled from those in the 1980-2020 period that belong to any of the categories `Theory-HEP`, `Phenomenology-HEP`, `Experiment-HEP`, and `Lattice`. Titles and abstracts of each papers are concatenated in order to maximize the textual content used for training. Very short texts (less than 100 characters) are removed.

Before applying the model, we performed a number of pre-processing steps on the abstracts with the goal of maximizing the amount of useful information in the training data. This procedure, largely inspired from Omodei 2014 and implemented with the use of the NLTK library (Bird et al., 2009), is as follows:

Address(es) of author(s) should be given

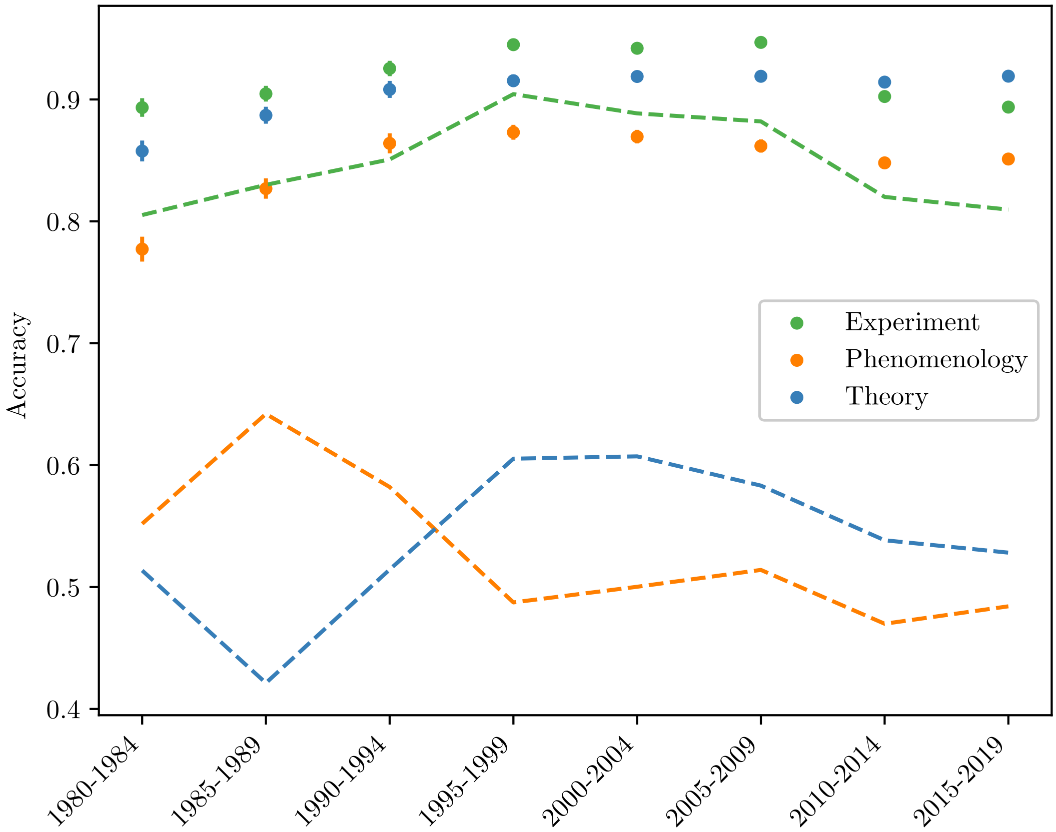

Fig. S1 Accuracy of the text-classifier from Section 3.2 as a function of the papers' years of publication. Error-bars represent the 95% confidence interval. Dashed lines show the accuracy of the baseline model (which may vary only due to variations in the frequency of each category, since the baseline model always predicts the most common class). The accuracy is roughly constant across time for each of the three categories, despite significant variations in the frequency of each class.

- Tokens (words separated by punctuation or spaces) are extracted from the text and transformed to lower-case.
- All single nouns and adjectives are retrieved from these tokens.
- We also retrieve all n-grams that match specific syntactic patterns (e.g. "adjective+noun+noun", such as "supersymmetric standard model", "effective field theory").
- Single words are lemmatized, i.e. they are normalized to their root (e.g. "symmetries" becomes "symmetry").
- Words and expressions that occur less than 20 times are removed.

First, these steps allow us to reduce noise by removing words that convey little to no information about the topics of the articles (such as stop words). Second, extracting n-grams that matching certain syntactic patterns allows us to preserve some information about the relative position of words within the abstracts – which CTM do not do otherwise – while taking advantage of our prior knowledge of the documents' language. For instance, the word "dark" may convey different meanings depending on whether it occurs immediately before the word "matter", or, alternatively, "energy"; similarly, the occurrence of the expression "dark matter" in a text conveys more information than the simultaneous occurrence of "dark" and "matter" without more knowledge about their relative position.

As a result of this procedure, the vocabulary contains $V = 18{,}658$ "words", with 58 words per article on average.

S3.2 Hyper-parameters

The implementation of the CTM by Tomotopy (Bab2min et al., 2021) has three hyper-parameters: the amount of topics k, an $\vec{\alpha}$ parameter that controls the sparsity of the document-topic distribution ($\theta_{d,i}$), and a $\vec{\eta}$ parameter that controls the sparsity of the topic-word distribution (the vocabulary associated to each topic). For choosing the amount of topics k, we considered three values that seemed acceptable in terms of interpretability and compliance with the values from the literature: 50, 75 and 100. We assumed $\vec{\alpha}$ and $\vec{\eta}$ to be symmetric, i.e. $\alpha_1 = \alpha_k = \alpha$ and $\eta_1 = ... = \eta_V = \eta$[1]. We considered $\alpha \in \{10^{-2}, 10^{-1}, 1\}$ and $\eta \in \{10^{-3}, 10^{-2}, 10^{-1}\}$, according to values encountered in the literature. We then trained the model for each triplet of k, α and η among the candidate values. We rejected all triplets that led to significant overfitting, by comparing the perplexity[2] obtained for the training corpus and that obtained by applying the trained model to a validation set of abstracts unseen during training. Although Chang et al. (2009) have shown that perplexity could be negatively correlated to human judgments about the interpretability of the topics recovered by topic models, we believe it is a suitable metric to discard models that fail to capture meaningful regularities in the data, which is the case of models that show overfitting. Among the remaining models, we then selected the two models with the highest normalized pointwise mutual information coherence, a coherence metric frequently used to assess the consistency of topic models (Hoyle et al., 2021). Topic coherence metrics in general, as stressed by Hoyle et al., are not very strongly correlated with human judgments about the quality of a model; however, we believe they may be useful to discard certain models in order to limit the amount of those that should be inspected manually (since manual inspection is time-consuming and quite subjective). We finally inspect manually the two models with the highest coherence measure, and choose the one with $k = 75$, $\alpha = 0.1$ and $\eta = 0.001$. Our preference for this model stemmed from the fact that it contained more topics than the other remaining model, and that these more numerous topics seemed reasonably consistent.

S3.3 Validation

Since the model infers document-topic distributions and topic-word distributions, we would like to assess the validity of these metrics, i.e. "their ability to measure what they purportedly measure" (Bannigan & Watson, 2009, p. 3240). In order to simultaneously assess both measures, we designed the following protocol. First, we derived the Physics and Astronomy Classification Scheme® (PACS) categories c that were the most correlated to each topic z (this approach is in a sense comparable to that employed in Griffiths and Steyvers 2004, who extracted the topics that were more strongly associated with PNAS categories). For that, we listed the categories c that maximize the pointwise mutual information with each topic z according to:

$$\mathrm{pmi}(z, c) = \log \frac{p(z|c)}{p(z)} \tag{1}$$

Where $p(z)$ is the marginal probability of the topic z, and $p(z|c)$ the probability that a word in a document belongs to a topic z given that the document was assigned the PACS category c. Thefore, $\mathrm{pmi}(z, c)$ measures the increase in probability of a given topic provided that a PACS category is present. The 5 categories most correlated to each topic are given in table S2, which helped inform our choice for each tpic label, in complement to their top-words.

Then, we submitted the lists of PACS categories thus constitued to a human task derived from the methodology of Bennett et al. (2021), as follows:

1. We draw at random a topic z_1 with a probability equal to its marginal probability
2. We draw at random 5 PACS categories $c_1, ..., c_5$ among the 10 most correlated to z_1, as described above.
3. Then, we do any of the following, with equal probability 1/2:
   (a) We draw at random another topic $z_2 \neq z_1$ with probability $\frac{p(z_2)}{1-p(z_1)}$, and we pick at random 5 PACS categories $c_6, ..., c_{10}$ among those most correlated with it.
   (b) Alternatively, we draw $c_6, ..., c_{10}$ from the 5 remaining PACS categories most associated to z_1
4. We submit $c_1, ..., c_5$ and $c_6, ..., c_{10}$ to an expert unaware of the model. The expert is asked to guess whether the two lists of 5 categories were drawn from one and same general topic, or whether they were drawn from two separate topics.
5. The procedure is repeated a certain amount of times. The final score is the fraction of correct responses.

[1] This is common in the literature, but this choice is disputable, cf. Wallach et al. 2009. One implication of symmetric priors is that topics must have comparable probabilities. This also has an impact on the meaning of topics.

[2] Perplexity is the exponential of the average log-likelihood per word, cf. Blei et al. 2003. It measures the improbability of a corpus according to a given model.

The rationale for this method is that good scores should only be achievable provided the topics are rather coherent, and that the document-topic distributions $\theta_{d,i}$ are reasonably accurate. The final average score is 0.74 for 100 guesses from two HEP PhD students, which is significantly better than a random baseline (0.5). This shows that, to some extent, the topic distributions derived for each article correlate with PACS categories that are rather coherent with each other.

S3.4 Topics

Table S1: Most frequent terms for each topic.

Topic (context)	Most frequent expressions
Algorithms and calculation techniques	simulation, carlo, monte, lattice, method, correlation, distribution, cluster, generator, statistical, study, function, scaling, size, event
Amplitude of scattering processes	amplitude, contribution, state, interaction, resonance, final, final state, process, exchange, reaction, tree, scattering, double, polarization, level
Amplitudes and Feynman Diagram	amplitude, function, loop, limit, pole, conformal, relation, integral, diagram, correlation, scattering, analytic, block, correlators, feynman
Analyses and measurements from colliders	data, measurement, event, result, detector, experiment, gev, algorithm, analysis, muon, experimental, energy, precision, fit, beam
Annihilation and scattering cross-sections	section, cross, annihilation, photon, energy, scattering, gev, production, total, elastic, process, pair, total cross section, total cross, elastic scattering
Astrophysics	star, wave, nuclear, matter, neutron, collision, gravitational waves, energy, nuclear matter, flow, density, gravitational, relativistic, heavy-ion, equation
Black holes	black, hole, black hole, black holes, horizon, entropy, extremal, radiation, schwarzschild, thermodynamics, black hole solutions, black hole entropy, hawking, charge, kerr
Boundary conditions/non-locality	boundary, condition, boundary conditions, state, tensor, entropy, entanglement, distance, case, surface, general, correlation, boundary condition, term, phys
CP violating processes	cp, asymmetry, violation, parameter, b^0, bound, direct cp, direct, mixing, penguin, decay, constraint, experimental, direct cp violation, effect
Chiral symmetry	chiral, quark, qcd, lattice, chiral symmetry, mass, chiral perturbation theory, chiral perturbation, pion, condensate, baryon, transition, perturbation, flavor, symmetry
Conformal Field Theory	conformal, string, algebra, theory, conformal field, conformal field theory, central, central charge, conformal field theories, charge, operator, open, superconformal, virasoro, representation
Cosmological sources	cosmic, spectrum, scale, energy, ray, universe, radiation, gravitational, cosmological, power, observation, cmb, background, cosmic ray, cosmic rays
Cosmology and gravity	cosmological, gravity, constant, axion, scale, lorentz, universe, cosmological constant, violation, problem, quantum, vacuum, cosmology, time, planck
Cross-sections in colliders	production, section, cross, collision, energy, lhc, rapidity, process, pair, pp, inclusive, differential, fusion, nuclear, gev
Dark matter (particles and direct searches)	dark matter, matter, dark, dm, particle, detection, direct detection, direct, wimp, relic, relic density, density, annihilation, search, candidate
Dark matter in the universe	dark, matter, dark matter, dark energy, model, abundance, energy, sector, constraint, density, candidate, galaxy, universe, cold, scenario
Decay measurements	decay, state, d, meson, stat, syst, $+/-$, $+-$, fraction, final, final state, width, ratio, $pi+$, final states
Detectors	detector, experiment, physic, beam, high, crystal, nuclear, liquid, performance, precision, resolution, high energy, search, target, chamber
Double-beta decay	mass, baryon, decay, scalar, beta, double beta decay, double, double beta, scale, light, neutrinoless, effective, glueball, gev, hierarchy
Early-universe and other cosmological data	constraint, big bang, big, galactic, signal, cosmic microwave, background, axion, bound, galaxy, bang, microwave, halo, detection, dm
Effective Field Theory	field, effective, theory, effective field theory, effective field, noncommutative, action, effective action, scalar, scalar field, potential, effective theory, effective potential, eft, non-commutative
Electromagnetism	magnetic, field, particle, magnetic field, electric, relativistic, electromagnetic, effect, plasma, moment, energy, medium, magnetic fields, external, electromagnetic field
Events in colliders (kinematics?)	production, collision, jet, tev, lhc, collider, event, transverse, large hadron collider, energy, large hadron, hadron, pair, pp, luminosity
Events in colliders (signatures?)	jet, event, lhc, tev, production, cm, pair, atlas, final state, final, collision, data, luminosity, channel, large hadron collider
Experimental investigation of the leptonic sector	decay, search, data, limit, gamma, collider, muon, gev, measurement, signal, experiment, detector, magnetic moment, event, upper
Experimental jargon	result, mass, effect, large, parameter, energy, value, analysis, small, order, region, current, due, contribution, present
Experiments on light	photon, electron, particle, experiment, mi, laser, compton, optical, mo, beam, light, atom, year, math, pulse
Field theory and gravity	scalar, field, scalar field, mode, gravity, massive, scalar fields, gravitational, potential, massless, perturbation, geodesic, background, metric, spacetime

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Table S1: Most frequent terms for each topic.

	Most frequent expressions
Topic (context)	
Flavor mixing	cp, violation, asymmetry, mixing, matrix, lepton, cp violation, flavor, standard model, model, quark, phase, standard, angle, mass
Flavour physics	mass, lepton, bound, flavour, flavor, decay, neutrino, heavy, scale, generation, violation, light, quark, coupling, number
Form factors	factor, form, nucleon, electromagnetic, pion, electromagnetic form, electromagnetic form factors, momentum, form factors, result, ratio, ^{2}, transfer, nn, form-factors
Gauge Theory	gauge, theory, action, invariance, field, lorentz, transformation, invariant, brst, yang-mills, symmetry, effective action, lattice gauge, massive, covariant
Gauge symmetry breaking/GUTs	symmetry, gauge, su, model, group, theory, breaking, anomaly, fermion, spontaneous, unification, representation, discrete, symmetric, grand
Gravitons and extra-dimensions	gravity, dimension, scalar, extra, field, constant, brane, cosmological, massive, cosmological constant, extra dimensions, scalar field, bulk, graviton, derivative
Hadronic zoo	state, resonance, d, gev, mev, b, channel, e^+e^-, charmonium, narrow, b, molecule, s1, reaction, e^+
Heavy quarks and ions	quark, heavy, hadron, distribution, collision, production, gluon, hadronic, qcd, heavy quark, heavy ion, charm, correlation, ion, heavy ion collisions
Higgs boson	higgs, boson, model, standard model, mass, standard, coupling, gauge, sector, sm, higgs mass, doublet, higgs boson, neutral, scalar
Higgs sector beyond the SM	higgs, model, standard model, standard, boson, electroweak, supersymmetric, lhc, minimal, supersymmetric standard model, collider, tev, mass, scalar, supersymmetric standard
High-energy source fluxes	energy, flux, source, high energy, spectrum, high, event, signal, emission, time, radiation, solar, information, gravitational wave, such
Holographic Principle and dualities	conformal, dual, holographic, boundary, entropy, cft, entanglement, ad, bulk, defect, theory, conformal field, correspondence, conformal field theory, entanglement entropy
Inflation	inflation, perturbation, universe, inflationary, field, scalar, cosmological, inflaton, cosmology, potential, scalar field, initial, evolution, fluctuation, curvature
Lattice calculation techniques	operator, lattice, matrix, fermion, loop, wilson, theory, element, gauge, function, action, calculation, continuum, expansion, method
Lepton/Meson decay	decay, branching, ratio, semileptonic, meson, fraction, asymmetry, mode, measurement, rate, br, nu, semileptonic decays, inclusive, lifetime
Lie algebra	algebra, space, integral, representation, function, group, operator, invariant, form, path, transformation, lie, differential, product, partition
Loops and higher order expansions in Feynman Diagrams	correction, order, one-loop, term, contribution, radiative corrections, approximation, qed, calculation, loop, radiative, logarithmic, effective, expansion, expression
M-theory and theories of everything	theory, gauge, duality, supergravity, string, dual, action, dimensional, type, background, m-theory, reduction, dimension, abelian, field
Matter in Yang-Mills theories	su, symmetry, fermion, gauge, chiral, mass, model, breaking, coupling, boson, flavor, color, composite, quark, dirac
Measurements and analysis of colliders data	data, measurement, uncertainty, experiment, analysis, experimental, fit, determination, systematic, first, theoretical, error, parameter, detector, current
Meson phenomenology	meson, state, resonance, vector, decay, mass, width, mev, pseudoscalar, pion, amplitude, experimental, channel, quark, wave
Neutrino physics	neutrino, oscillation, mass, experiment, majorana, neutrino mass, right-handed, neutrino oscillations, neutrino oscillation, flavor, interaction, supernova, antineutrino, seesaw, sterile
Non-abelian theories	gauge, field, spin, topological, theory, chern-simons, higher spin, abelian, vortex, non-abelian, gauge field, dirac, term, hall, fermion
Partons distributions	qcd, distribution, parton, next-to-leading order, order, function, nlo, gluon, jet, next-to-leading, correction, transverse, momentum, calculation, perturbative
Perturbative QCD	qcd, perturbative, factorization, anomalous, order, contribution, result, function, approach, perturbative qcd, calculation, anomalous dimension, coefficient, kernel, expansion
Phenomenological jargon	state, new, interaction, coupling, physic, strong, problem, particle, theory, recent, such, bound, model, approach, role
QCD calculation techniques	propagator, expansion, lattice, gluon, effective, finite, loop, theory, potential, qcd, numerical, gauge, perturbative, method, regularization
Quantum Chromodynamics (QCD)	rule, sum, qcd, wall, domain, qcd sum rules, viscosity, qcd sum, quark, heavy, shear viscosity, shear, vacuum, condensate, bubble
Quantum Field Theory	theory, field, quantum, equation, solution, classical, dimension, quantum field, class, quantum field theory, problem, space-time, dimensional, two-dimensional, arbitrary
Quantum Systems and Equations of motion	equation, hamiltonian, constraint, system, term, formalism, charge, monopole, dirac, solution, first, second, kinetic, nonlinear, part
Quantum systems and thermodynamics	system, energy, time, quantum, state, fluctuation, density, gas, dynamic, thermal, temperature, phase, casimir, force, surface
Renormalization	renormalization, group, flow, point, coupling, scale, fixed, uv, rg, ir, cutoff, infrared, fixed point, effective, ultraviolet
Scattering of composite particles	scattering, function, data, proton, structure, nucleon, inelastic, distribution, moment, deep, dipole, q^2, inelastic scattering, hera, target

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Table S1: Most frequent terms for each topic.

Topic (context)	Most frequent expressions
Search for BSM physics	physic, new, new physics, standard model, experiment, standard, neutral, search, tau, measurement, current, decay, future, lepton, rare
Sigma models (?)	model, symmetry, supersymmetric, supersymmetry, sigma, term, integrable, lagrangian, algebra, su, group, chiral, deformation, fermionic, sl
Solar neutrinos	neutrino, oscillation, solar, mixing, solar neutrino, angle, atmospheric, neutrino mass, sterile, atmospheric neutrino, experiment, hierarchy, sterile neutrinos, matrix, sterile neutrino
Space-time geometry and gravity	solution, gravity, spacetime, metric, gravitational, ad, geometry, space, flat, curvature, sitter, singularity, general, dilaton, einstein
Spin/angular momentum/polarization	momentum, polarization, asymmetry, angular, spin, distribution, angular momentum, polarized, reaction, transverse, cross, section, beam, production, photon
States of matter	phase, transition, critical, temperature, point, holographic, spectral, order, exponent, behavior, imaginary, critical point, finite temperature, finite, first order
String theory	string, solution, charge, soliton, branes, configuration, topological, type, monopoles, open, flux, bps, tachyon, background, vortex
Supergravity	supergravity, modulus, manifold, type, space, calabi-yau, supersymmetric, geometry, supersymmetry, moduli space, topological, bps, class, curve, iib
Supersymmetric particles	mass, susy, parameter, soft, neutralino, space, scale, mssm, squark, region, scenario, constraint, gluino, gaugino, large
Supersymmetric theories	theory, gauge, supersymmetric, yang-mills, supersymmetry, anomaly, supergravity, duality, chiral, $n = 4$, super, $n = 2$, super yang-mills, branch, su
Theoretical jargon	model, case, structure, limit, new, term, function, such, number, different, method, particular, property, spectrum, approach
Thermodynamics	phase, temperature, transition, potential, density, chemical, finite, finite temperature, matter, chemical potential, critical, high, thermal, order, first order
Top quark	quark, top, top quark, mass, decay, bound, standard model, top quark mass, coupling, new physics, lepton, top quarks, standard, chiral quark, physic
Topology	space, dimension, modulus, string, bundle, manifold, vacuum, extra, moduli space, heterotic, torus, instanton, singularity, compact, theory

Table S2: PACS categories most correlated to the topics derived with the unsupervised model. Correlation is measured as the mutual pointwise information (pmi).

topic	PACS category	pmi
Algorithms and calculation techniques	Lattice theory and statistics	1.39
	Lattice gauge theory	1.17
	Lattice QCD calculations	1.12
	Particle correlations and fluctuations	0.99
	Inelastic scattering: many-particle final states	0.80
Amplitude of scattering processes	Baryon resonances (S=C=B=0)	1.13
	Pion-baryon interactions	1.10
	Meson-meson interactions	1.03
	Nucleon-nucleon interactions	0.93
	Dispersion relations	0.92
Amplitudes and Feynman Diagram	Analytic properties of S matrix	1.66
	Properties of perturbation theory	1.57
	General properties of perturbation theory	1.39
	Dispersion relations	1.04
	Lattice theory and statistics	0.86
Analyses and measurements from colliders	Neutrino-induced reactions	0.96
	Muons	0.89
	Neutrino, muon, pion, and other elementary particle detectors; cosmic ray detectors	0.81
	Pion-baryon interactions	0.79
	Meson production	0.77
Annihilation and scattering cross-sections	Total cross sections	1.60
	Hadron production in e−e+ interactions	1.23
	Meson production	1.11
	Elastic and Compton scattering	1.07
	Electromagnetic processes and properties	1.03
Astrophysics	Collective flow	1.91
	Hydrodynamic models	1.74
	Particle correlations and fluctuations	1.52
	Relativistic heavy-ion collisions	1.38
	Particle and resonance production	1.35
Black holes	Black holes	2.64
	Quantum aspects of black holes, evaporation, thermodynamics	2.59
	Physics of black holes	2.57
	Classical black holes	2.55
	Higher-dimensional black holes, black strings, and related objects	2.38
Boundary conditions/non-locality	Entanglement and quantum nonlocality	1.18
	Theory of quantized fields	0.90
	Foundations of quantum mechanics; measurement theory	0.80
	Conformal field theory, algebraic structures	0.71
	Integrable systems	0.70
CP violating processes	Decays of bottom mesons	1.53
	Determination of Cabibbo-Kobayashi & Maskawa (CKM) matrix elements	1.48
	Bottom mesons (|B|>0)	1.34

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Table S2: PACS categories most correlated to the topics derived with the unsupervised model. Correlation is measured as the mutual pointwise information (pmi).

topic	PACS category	pmi
	Charge conjugation, parity, time reversal, and other discrete symmetries	1.30
	Decays of bottom mesons	1.19
Chiral symmetry	Chiral Lagrangians	1.55
	Chiral symmetries	1.54
	Lattice QCD calculations	1.48
	Light quarks	1.30
	Lattice gauge theory	1.21
Conformal Field Theory	Conformal field theory, algebraic structures	1.72
	Algebraic methods	1.34
	Nonperturbative techniques; string field theory	1.19
	Lattice theory and statistics	1.15
	M theory	0.99
Cosmological sources	Background radiations	1.86
	Observational cosmology (including Hubble constant, distance scale, cosmological constant, early Universe, etc)	1.55
	Neutrino, muon, pion, and other elementary particles; cosmic rays	1.49
	Dark energy	1.29
	Cosmology	1.21
Cosmology and gravity	Lorentz and Poincaré invariance	1.34
	Loop quantum gravity, quantum geometry, spin foams	1.32
	Axions and other Nambu-Goldstone bosons (Majorons, familons, etc.)	1.30
	Dark energy	1.28
	Quantum cosmology	1.26
Cross-sections in colliders	Total cross sections	1.57
	Inclusive production with identified hadrons	1.43
	Particle and resonance production	1.42
	Production	1.40
	Inclusive production with identified leptons, photons, or other nonhadronic particles	1.36
Dark matter (particles and direct searches)	Dark matter	2.36
	Elementary particle processes	1.94
	Neutrino, muon, pion, and other elementary particle detectors; cosmic ray detectors	1.40
	Neutrino, muon, pion, and other elementary particles; cosmic rays	1.18
	Supersymmetric partners of known particles	1.15
Dark matter in the universe	Dark matter	1.86
	Dark energy	1.69
	Elementary particle processes	1.44
	Observational cosmology (including Hubble constant, distance scale, cosmological constant, early Universe, etc)	1.36
	Cosmology	1.27
Decay measurements	Decays of charmed mesons	1.93
	Decays of bottom mesons	1.91
	Determination of Cabibbo-Kobayashi & Maskawa (CKM) matrix elements	1.83
	Decays of J/ , Υ, and other quarkonia	1.82
	Bottom mesons (|B|>0)	1.82
Detectors	Neutrino, muon, pion, and other elementary particle detectors; cosmic ray detectors	1.48
	Muons	0.99
	Ordinary neutrinos	0.98
	Neutrino interactions	0.91
	Solar neutrinos	0.87
Double-beta decay	Baryons	1.20
	Charmed baryons (|C|>0, B=0)	1.08
	Glueball and nonstandard multi-quark/gluon states	1.03
	Bottom baryons (|B|>0)	0.99
	Hadron mass models and calculations	0.97
Early-universe and other cosmological data	Background radiations	1.57
	Dark matter	1.38
	Axions and other Nambu-Goldstone bosons (Majorons, familons, etc.)	1.28
	Neutrino, muon, pion, and other elementary particles; cosmic rays	1.27
	Elementary particle processes	1.11
Effective Field Theory	Noncommutative field theory	1.89
	Noncommutative geometry	1.77
	Quantum mechanics	0.85
	Nonlinear or nonlocal theories and models	0.82
	Canonical quantization	0.81
Electromagnetis m	Hydrodynamic models	1.45
	Collective flow	1.31
	Electric and magnetic moments	1.16
	Relativistic heavy-ion collisions	1.11
	Relativistic wave equations	1.11
Events in colliders (kinematics?)	Limits on production of particles	1.71
	Production	1.60
	Inclusive production with identified leptons, photons, or other nonhadronic particles	1.57
	W bosons	1.53
	Jets in large-Q2 scattering	1.53
Events in colliders (signatures?)	Limits on production of particles	1.69
	Jets in large-Q2 scattering	1.56
	Production	1.45
	Inclusive production with identified leptons, photons, or other nonhadronic particles	1.37
	W bosons	1.35
Experimental investigation of the leptonic sector	Limits on production of particles	1.38
	Electromagnetic decays	1.30
	Decays of J/ , Υ, and other quarkonia	1.26
	Decays of J/ , Υ, and other quarkonia	1.19
	Muons	1.18
Experimental jargon	Electromagnetic corrections to strong- and weak-interaction processes	0.35
	Solar neutrinos	0.30
	Electroweak radiative corrections	0.30
	Nucleon-nucleon interactions	0.29
	Neutrino-induced reactions	0.25
Experiments on light	Specific calculations	1.31
	Elastic and Compton scattering	1.26

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Table S2: PACS categories most correlated to the topics derived with the unsupervised model. Correlation is measured as the mutual pointwise information (pmi).

topic	PACS category	pmi
	Electromagnetic processes and properties	1.09
	Axions and other Nambu-Goldstone bosons (Majorons, familons, etc.)	1.09
	Quantum electrodynamics	1.08
Field theory and gravity	Classical general relativity	1.10
	Modified theories of gravity	1.08
	Lower dimensional models; minisuperspace models	1.06
	Fundamental problems and general formalism	1.05
	Classical black holes	1.02
Flavor mixing	Quark and lepton masses and mixing	1.36
	Flavor symmetries	1.30
	Charge conjugation, parity, time reversal, and other discrete symmetries	1.28
	Determination of Cabibbo-Kobayashi & Maskawa (CKM) matrix elements	1.10
	Neutrino mass and mixing	1.06
Flavour physics	Global symmetries (e.g., baryon number, lepton number)	1.04
	Flavor symmetries	1.03
	Non-standard-model neutrinos, right-handed neutrinos, etc.	1.02
	Unification of couplings; mass relations	1.00
	Quark and lepton masses and mixing	0.99
Form factors	Electromagnetic form factors	1.97
	Relativistic quark model	1.34
	Protons and neutrons	1.33
	Hyperons	1.18
	Sum rules	1.18
Gauge Theory	Gauge field theories	1.20
	Lorentz and Poincaré invariance	1.16
	Canonical formalism, Lagrangians, and variational principles	1.10
	Lagrangian and Hamiltonian approach	1.09
	Noncommutative field theory	1.08
Gauge symmetry breaking/GUTs	Unified theories and models of strong and electroweak interactions	1.34
	Unification of couplings; mass relations	1.26
	Spontaneous breaking of gauge symmetries	1.15
	Unified field theories and models	1.14
	Spontaneous and radiative symmetry breaking	0.96
Gravitons and extra-dimensions	Higher-dimensional gravity and other theories of gravity	1.41
	Gravity in more than four dimensions, Kaluza-Klein theory, unified field theories; alternative theories of gravity	1.39
	Modified theories of gravity	1.34
	Lower dimensional models; minisuperspace models	1.08
	String and brane phenomenology	1.04
Hadronic zoo	Decays of J/ , Υ, and other quarkonia	1.92
	Heavy quarkonia	1.73
	Exotic mesons	1.71
	Decays of J/ , Υ, and other quarkonia	1.65
	Mesons with S=C=B=0, mass > 2.5 GeV (including quarkonia)	1.58
Heavy quarks and ions	Particle and resonance production	1.40
	Particle correlations and fluctuations	1.39
	Collective flow	1.38
	Relativistic heavy-ion collisions	1.37
	Fragmentation into hadrons	1.29
Higgs boson	Other neutral Higgs bosons	1.91
	Supersymmetric Higgs bosons	1.87
	Non-standard-model Higgs bosons	1.77
	Extensions of electroweak Higgs sector	1.73
	Standard-model Higgs bosons	1.69
Higgs sector beyond the SM	Other neutral Higgs bosons	1.65
	Supersymmetric Higgs bosons	1.64
	Non-standard-model Higgs bosons	1.60
	Extensions of electroweak Higgs sector	1.55
	Standard-model Higgs bosons	1.37
High-energy source fluxes	Neutrino, muon, pion, and other elementary particles; cosmic rays	1.39
	Neutrino, muon, pion, and other elementary particle detectors; cosmic ray detectors	1.33
	Solar neutrinos	1.28
	Background radiations	0.89
	Ordinary neutrinos	0.74
Holographic Principle and dualities	Entanglement and quantum nonlocality	1.89
	Gauge/string duality	1.53
	Conformal field theory, algebraic structures	1.43
	Higher-dimensional black holes, black strings, and related objects	1.06
	Quantum aspects of black holes, evaporation, thermodynamics	1.02
Inflation	Particle-theory and field-theory models of the early Universe (including cosmic pancakes, cosmic strings, chaotic phenomena, inflationary universe, etc.)	1.80
	Origin and formation of the Universe	1.78
	Observational cosmology (including Hubble constant, distance scale, cosmological constant, early Universe, etc)	1.76
	Background radiations	1.70
	Quantum cosmology	1.67
Lattice calculation techniques	Lattice QCD calculations	1.38
	Lattice gauge theory	1.36
	Lattice theory and statistics	0.80
	General properties of perturbation theory	0.76
	Renormalization	0.74
Lepton/Meson decay	Determination of Cabibbo-Kobayashi & Maskawa (CKM) matrix elements	1.97
	Decays of charmed mesons	1.94
	Decays of bottom mesons	1.89
	Decays of charmed mesons	1.86
	Bottom mesons (|B|>0)	1.81
Lie algebra	Algebraic methods	1.39
	Integrable systems	1.28
	Geometry, differential geometry, and topology	1.19
	Noncommutative geometry	1.03
	Quantum mechanics	0.94

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Table S2: PACS categories most correlated to the topics derived with the unsupervised model. Correlation is measured as the mutual pointwise information (pmi).

topic	PACS category	pmi
Loops and higher order expansions in Feynman Diagrams	Electromagnetic corrections to strong- and weak-interaction processes	1.32
	Electroweak radiative corrections	1.23
	Specific calculations	1.08
	Summation of perturbation theory	1.00
	General properties of perturbation theory	0.98
M-theory and theories of everything	M theory	1.63
	Supergravity	1.34
	Nonperturbative techniques; string field theory	1.27
	Compactification and four-dimensional models	1.22
	D branes	1.13
Matter in Yang-Mills theories	Technicolor models	1.23
	Unified theories and models of strong and electroweak interactions	1.06
	Unification of couplings; mass relations	0.99
	Composite models	0.94
	Spontaneous breaking of gauge symmetries	0.88
Measurements and analysis of colliders data	Determination of Cabibbo-Kobayashi & Maskawa (CKM) matrix elements	0.90
	Solar neutrinos	0.87
	Muons	0.84
	Neutrino, muon, pion, and other elementary particle detectors; cosmic ray detectors	0.75
	Decays of charmed mesons	0.73
Meson phenomenology	Other mesons with S=C=0, mass < 2.5 GeV	1.53
	Hadron mass models and calculations	1.48
	Meson-meson interactions	1.45
	Mesons	1.41
	Glueball and nonstandard multi-quark/gluon states	1.37
Neutrino physics	Ordinary neutrinos	2.04
	Solar neutrinos	1.98
	Non-standard-model neutrinos, right-handed neutrinos, etc.	1.97
	Neutrino mass and mixing	1.94
	Neutrino, muon, pion, and other elementary particles; cosmic rays	1.92
Non-abelian theories	Gauge field theories	1.04
	Magnetic monopoles	1.03
	Canonical formalism, Lagrangians, and variational principles	0.97
	Lagrangian and Hamiltonian approach	0.88
	Noncommutative field theory	0.87
Partons distributions	Summation of perturbation theory	1.62
	Factorization	1.49
	Production	1.46
	Jets in large-Q2 scattering	1.44
	Perturbative calculations	1.43
Perturbative QCD	Factorization	1.17
	Summation of perturbation theory	1.10
	Perturbative calculations	1.03
	Production	0.66
	Heavy quark effective theory	0.65
Phenomenologica l jargon	Foundations of quantum mechanics; measurement theory	0.34
	Axions and other Nambu-Goldstone bosons (Majorons, familons, etc.)	0.31
	Loop quantum gravity, quantum geometry, spin foams	0.30
	Experimental tests of gravitational theories	0.29
	Potential models	0.27
QCD calculation techniques	Gluons	1.29
	General properties of perturbation theory	1.02
	Renormalization	0.96
	General properties of QCD (dynamics, confinement, etc.)	0.94
	Lattice gauge theory	0.89
Quantum Chromodynamics (QCD)	Sum rules	2.24
	Other nonperturbative calculations	1.42
	Bottom baryons (|B|>0)	1.32
	Charmed baryons (|C|>0, B=0)	1.26
	Heavy quark effective theory	1.16
Quantum Field Theory	Foundations of quantum mechanics; measurement theory	1.32
	Quantum mechanics	1.15
	Algebraic methods	1.06
	Canonical quantization	0.97
	Theory of quantized fields	0.95
Quantum Systems and Equations of motion	Canonical formalism, Lagrangians, and variational principles	1.23
	Magnetic monopoles	1.15
	Lagrangian and Hamiltonian approach	1.11
	Relativistic wave equations	1.04
	Canonical quantization	1.00
Quantum systems and thermodynamics	Hydrodynamic models	1.21
	Theory of quantized fields	0.96
	Foundations of quantum mechanics; measurement theory	0.93
	Entanglement and quantum nonlocality	0.90
	Quark-gluon plasma	0.75
Renormalization	Renormalization group evolution of parameters	1.77
	Renormalization	1.46
	General properties of perturbation theory	0.85
	Technicolor models	0.85
	Other nonperturbative techniques	0.81
Scattering of composite particles	Total and inclusive cross sections (including deep-inelastic processes)	1.78
	Photon and charged-lepton interactions with hadrons	1.65
	Elastic and Compton scattering	1.49
	Regge theory, duality, absorptive/optical models	1.35
	Polarization in interactions and scattering	1.32
Search for BSM physics	Muons	1.12
	Decays of K mesons	1.09
	Decays of taus	1.09
	Neutrino, muon, pion, and other elementary particle detectors; cosmic ray detectors	1.07
	Neutral currents	1.05
Sigma models (?)	Integrable systems	1.74

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Table S2: PACS categories most correlated to the topics derived with the unsupervised model. Correlation is measured as the mutual pointwise information (pmi).

topic	PACS category	pmi
	Algebraic methods	1.23
	Supersymmetry	1.09
	Lattice theory and statistics	1.00
	Conformal field theory, algebraic structures	0.99
Solar neutrinos	Solar neutrinos	2.64
	Ordinary neutrinos	2.30
	Neutrino mass and mixing	2.13
	Non-standard-model neutrinos, right-handed neutrinos, etc.	1.98
	Neutrino, muon, pion, and other elementary particles; cosmic rays	1.89
Space-time geometry and gravity	Exact solutions	1.75
	Classical general relativity	1.57
	Einstein-Maxwell spacetimes, spacetimes with fluids, radiation or classical fields	1.53
	Classical black holes	1.51
	Higher-dimensional black holes, black strings, and related objects	1.51
Spin/angular mo mentum/polariza tion	Polarization in interactions and scattering	1.80
	Photon and charged-lepton interactions with hadrons	1.47
	Fragmentation into hadrons	1.41
	Inclusive production with identified hadrons	1.35
	Meson production	1.21
States of matter	Quark deconfinement, quark-gluon plasma production, and phase transitions	1.09
	Finite-temperature field theory	1.08
	Gauge/string duality	1.02
	Lattice theory and statistics	0.90
	Quark matter	0.84
String theory	D branes	1.86
	Magnetic monopoles	1.71
	Nonperturbative techniques; string field theory	1.67
	Extended classical solutions; cosmic strings, domain walls, texture	1.52
	Strings and branes	1.46
Supergravity	M theory	1.62
	Supergravity	1.58
	Compactification and four-dimensional models	1.51
	Nonperturbative techniques; string field theory	1.37
	Geometry, differential geometry, and topology	1.30
Supersymmetric particles	Supersymmetric partners of known particles	1.68
	Supersymmetric models	1.35
	Supersymmetric Higgs bosons	1.27
	Unification of couplings; mass relations	0.85
	Non-standard-model Higgs bosons	0.82
Supersymmetric theories	Supersymmetry	1.37
	M theory	1.35
	Supergravity	1.20
	Nonperturbative techniques; string field theory	1.05
	Gauge field theories	1.05
Theoretical jargon	Integrable systems	0.36
	Quantum mechanics	0.36
	Foundations of quantum mechanics; measurement theory	0.33
	Algebraic methods	0.31
	Fundamental problems and general formalism	0.28
Thermodynamics	Quark deconfinement, quark-gluon plasma production, and phase transitions	1.62
	Quark matter	1.61
	Finite-temperature field theory	1.57
	Quark-gluon plasma	1.35
	Other models for strong interactions	1.11
Top quark	Top quarks	1.96
	Neutral currents	1.20
	Limits on production of particles	1.07
	Other neutral Higgs bosons	0.98
	Other gauge bosons	0.97
Topology	Compactification and four-dimensional models	1.40
	Geometry, differential geometry, and topology	1.31
	Nonperturbative techniques; string field theory	1.20
	M theory	1.11
	Strings and branes	1.04

S3.5 Topics and their correlation with categories

Below, we evaluate how topics compare with the classification of the literature. For that, we generated a 2D representation of the semantic space by applying a t-SNE transformation (van der Maaten & Hinton, 2008) on the distance matrix $1 - R_{ij}$, where R_{ij} is the correlation matrix for the 75 topics from the CTM. The t-SNE transformation aims to reduce dimensionality (from 75 to 2) while preserving distances, such that highly correlated topics should appear close to each other on the resulting 2D map. We then colored each topic according to the category (among theory, phenomenology and experiment) that has the strongest association (normalized pointwise mutual information) with this topic. The graph was then rotated such that the x-axis would explain most of the variance in these three categories. Topics related to supersymmetry were emphasized and labeled. The resulting map is shown in Figure S2.

Although the t-SNE transformation does not yield very stable results, it generally appears (as in this figure) that topics most associated with a given category (e.g. theory) appear closer to each other, such that these three categories explain part of the variance in the semantic space. Second, in this representation, the distinction between phenomenological supersymmetry and theoretical supersymmetry is supported by the emergence of two separate clusters of supersymmetry-related topics.

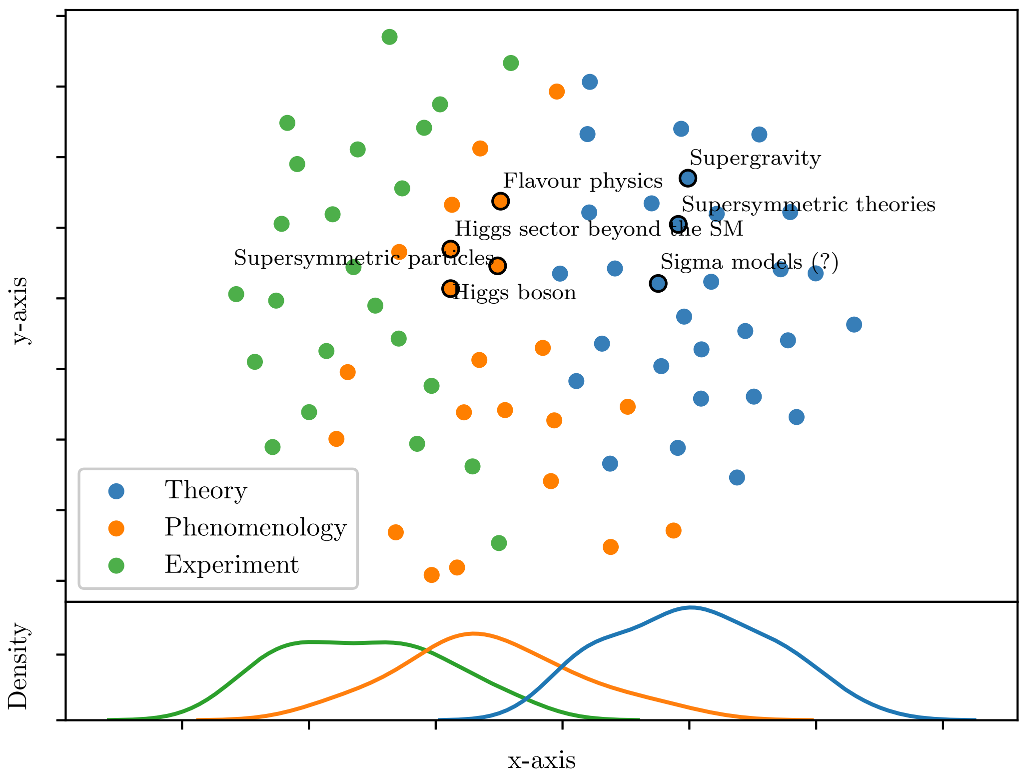

Fig. S2 Semantic map extracted from the topic model, after applying a t-SNE transformation. Each dot represents a topic. Each topic is assigned the category, among theory, phenomenology and experiment, that is most associated with it. Correlated topics appear closer to each other. For each category, the density of topics along the x-axis is shown in the lower plot.

S4 Validity of the citation network for exploring the trading zone

Below, we support the relevance of the citation network as a means of exploring trading zones between scientific cultures by showing it can be used to recover known facts, in particular i) that theory and experiment in HEP do not communicate directly and ii) that phenomenology channels most exchanges across them.

We build a citation network where each node is one paper of the literature and the edge between nodes x and y is assigned a weight $w_{x,y} = 1$ if x cites y and 0 otherwise. From this we can define the amount of citations of papers from the category i to a paper from the category j as:

$$n_{ij} = \sum_{x\in i, y\in j} \frac{w_{xy}}{(\sum_c \mathbb{1}_c(x))(\sum_c \mathbb{1}_c(y))} \tag{2}$$

Where $\mathbb{1}_c(x) = 1$ if x belongs to $c \in \{\text{Experiment, Phenomenology, Theory}\}$, and 0 otherwise. We then normalize n_{ij} by the amount of citations *from* category i, thus yielding the normalized matrix $\tilde{n}_{ij}$. By construction, $0 \leq \tilde{n}_{ij} \leq 1$ is the effective fraction of references from papers of category i to papers of category j. The matrix is built from the citation network between 2001 and 2019. We then verify that $\tilde{n}_{ii}$ is high (papers mostly cite papers from the same category); and that for cross-culture citations ($i \neq j$), $\tilde{n}_{ij} \ll 1$ unless i or j is “phenomenology”; i.e., “trading zones” in the field occur around phenomenology. Evaluating the fraction of citations from papers of a category i that target papers from a category j yields the matrix in Figure S3. In this matrix, borrowing the trade metaphor from Yan et al. (2013), non-diagonal elements represent “imports” (references to publications from other subcultures) and diagonal elements measure the “self-dependence” of each subculture. The results confirm that most citations occur within categories, emphasizing the relative autonomy of each of these subcultures including phenomenology – it is less obvious for experimental papers, which are much more scarce then the others, and cannot cite themselves as much. Moreover the results confirm that most trades involve phenomenology: cross-citations between purely theoretical and experimental papers are very rare (∼1% of their references). Overall, “theory” is highly self-reliant.

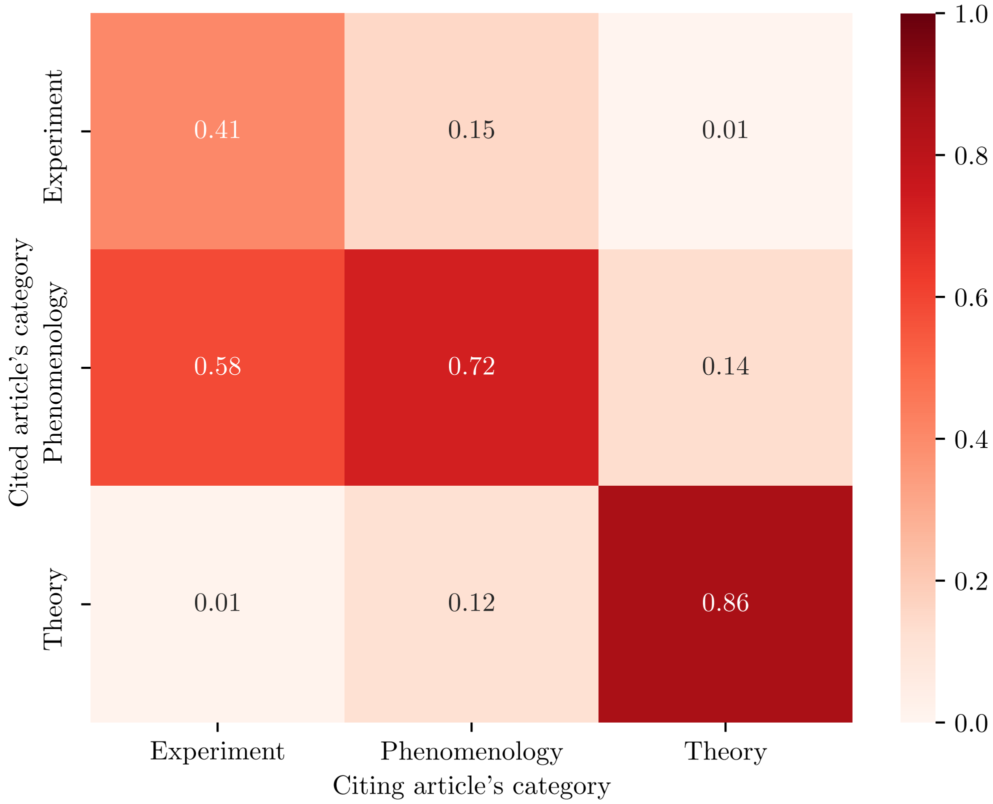

Fig. S3 Origin of the references (citations) in the HEP literature Each matrix element $\tilde{n}_{ij}$ represents the fraction of references from the x-axis category (columns) that target papers from the y-axis category (lines). For instance, 41% of references in experimental papers refer to experimental papers. 15% of citations from phenomenological papers refer to experimental papers. If these categories were completely hermetic, the matrix would equal the identity matrix, which is not the case.

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