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Publication Stock Exchange (PSX)

After the historic epoch of science, after the secrets of all elementary particles and that of the dark matter were revealed with the help of the Equatorial Particle Accelerator circling about the globe, the main direction of research has shifted towards the development of artificial-intelligence-based publication writing and refereeing robots. In this way the more expensive and less reliable graduate students and postdocs – displaying some performance imbalance originating from their human traits – could be replaced by cheaper, more endurable, and more efficient automated systems. Scientific publication generation became a primary business, accounting for a mighty 7 percent of the world's GDP. The old fashioned research institutes, in which scientists were thinking, working in peace and contemplating on some fundamental questions became highly inefficient in terms of scientometric output, and were gradually replaced by highly effective business units of the thriving publication production industry. Publication engineering and publication generator operators became highly profitable mainstream occupations.

Due to the substantial involvement of intelligent, fully automated high-throughput publication generating algorithms, the empirical Moore's law for publication dynamics – expressing the exponential growth of paper production – still prevailed. In this way, the yearly number of publications reached ten billion, and typical journal impact factors were about one-hundred-thousand, with ten million scientific journals available in a highly networked, strict hierarchal arrangement. Besides publication flow engineering, journal engineering was also thriving. Successful journal names included "Ultimate Answers", "Biggest Discoveries Weekly", "Top Researcher of the Minute", "Highest Impact", "Citation Marketing", "Journal of Rejected Papers", *etc.*

In this automated, self-amplifying rush there was not enough time for reading scientific publications, the priority was put on their mass production. The average number of human-involved reading per paper dropped below 0.000001. The emphasis tacitly shifted from the content of the papers towards their citations and respective journal impact factors. From the constant threat of "publish or perish", many have sought temporal…

… relief in citation lottery, which became highly celebrated shortly after its introduction. For participants who purchased such citation tickets, a random number generator assigned and approved a certain number of citations. Besides citation lottery, citation prediction services as well as citation insurance and a highly advanced citation credit system were also developed. This latter feature credited a certain number of citations in return for a financial charge.

Citation management was taught already in primary school, making use of augmented reality devices. Scientific success engineering was one of the most highly sought jobs. In fact, PhD programs worldwide on success design were tremendously over-populated and fierce fights among candidates were taking place to get in.

For faster speed and higher efficiency, the journal names as well as the authors (robot identifiers) were later represented by binary numerical strings. This way, the entire publication industry became a gigantic, strongly correlated numerical matrix operation, running under the auspices of the Global Publication Matrix Agency (GLOPMA).

For a long time, the scientific output was accurately measured and characterized by the eigenvalue spectrum of an all-inclusive scientometric matrix (SciMa), surprisingly exhibiting an invariant trace of 42.

But then, as a scientometric breakthrough, the Profit Potential Index (the so-called PP-Index or PPI) was introduced and revolutionized the world of science at once. It rendered all scientific items (publications, citations, grant proposals, *etc.*) its estimated financial market potential, *i.e.* the most likely amount of profit they could produce. To simplify things further, and to make the system dynamics even more effective and free of ambiguities, potential instabilities, and free from the fallible/subjective nature of the human-based sluggish success assessments, scientific impact and scientific success became solely defined through the GLOPMA-assigned PPI.

This way the actual content of scientific items became fully irrelevant. There was no more need to carry out the actual scientific research, or to write and read publications. Proposal writing, scientific committees, and the unrewarding refereeing process became all obsolete. Time-consuming scientific thinking, doubts and word-based critics also lost their meanings. Everything was smoothly governed by the PPI-based GLOPMA and a perpetual exponential growth set in this way, constituting a highly celebrated sustainable avalanche.

This way science and economy fully merged into a "cross-profitizing", faultless unit: the worldwide Sciento-Economic Trading Association. Trading at the Publication Stock Exchange (PSX) was indeed lavishly thriving. The publication and citation exchange was mainly performed at a nanosecond base via trading robots. Bids on scientific commodities were placed making use of the PPI.

With the help of such superintelligent automation of the scientific and publication industry, the much awaited post-human era tacitly emerged. Science was pursued further at a perfected efficiency, without the presence of old fashioned, fallible humans: "the machine is running, the creator rests". ■