

Models of scientific growth. (Trying to judge quality)

① Assume constant effort.

Accumulation of knowledge builds tools < material history of detected artefacts
base of knowledge.

- If new horizons are unlimited, then the working capital should increase with new discovery. And this should follow a compound interest law!

②

Base of knowledge is a maintainable fabric, i.e. it costs to keep pace. Upkeep of libraries; failure of memory and of understanding; transmission to another generation; constant distribution and reinterpretation as the rest of the world changes. Poirier and Senns point.

Usable base cannot enlarge very fast; its quality can improve. Each generation can forget selectively.

③

Output can only be measured as

1. Impact of effort. = Cost of science (Total)

2. Volume of output = papers

(or # of paper-writers)

3. Cost of output = investment in sci. commun.
may be a fixed fraction of 1.

[As publication gets relatively cheaper this argument fails].

4. May be relatively immaterial to the significance of the output.
Horizons may be
limited in a field
actively expanding in relation to our perceptions

Delay does imply that a specific area is relatively neglected.

∴ organizational efforts in availability of knowledge and attractiveness of problems.

Not a stochastic dispersion over possible targets.

First order model assumes this to illustrate the deviations.

"What's interesting" is a social question:

E.g. Tetanus problem. Literature on atoxic strains
.... / Cf. Salmonella: tools for epidemiological
tracing.

↳ 1893 —

new?

of consequences?