

## Analysis and Visualisation of Research Trends in Carbon Nano Tubes: A General Review

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**Abstract:** Carbon nanotubes are made up of carbon atoms, with each carbon atom covalently bonded to three other carbon atoms. The bibliometric analysis had been conducted to understand the active authors, organizations, journals, and countries involved in the research domain of “Carbon Nanotubes”. All published articles related to “Carbon Nanotubes” from “Scopus”, were analyzed using the VOS viewer to develop analysis tables and visualization maps. This article had set the objective to consolidate the scientific literature regarding the “Carbon Nanotubes” and also to find out the trends related to the same. The most active journals in this research domain were Journal of Computational and Theoretical Nano Science; Journal of Physical Society of Japan and Journal of Power Sources with the highest publications, citations, and co-authorship links. The most active countries were India and Japan. The leading organizations were the Chinese Academy of Sciences, China, and the Islamic Azad University of Iran. The most active authors who had made valuable contributions related to Nanomaterial were Li X, Ajiki H, and Ando T.

**Keywords:** Carbon Nanotubes, Bibliometric analysis, VOS viewer,

### 1. Introduction

Nanotechnology and Nanomaterials had revolutionized the production, manufacturing, and construction sectors across the globe. Nanomaterials are the material possessing a minimum, one external dimension measuring 1-100nm. Carbon Nanotubes (CNTs), also called “bucky tubes” was an innovative product based on Nanotechnology, discovered in 1991 [1]. Carbon nanotubes are made up of carbon atoms, with each carbon atom covalently bonded to three other carbon atoms. CNTs would be in the shape of cylinders. Carbon nanotubes have diameters as small as 1 nm and lengths up to several centimeters. CNTs can be either single-walled or multi-walled. A single-walled CNT would have a diameter less than 1nm and a multi-walled CNT would have a diameter of more than 100nm [2], [3]. CNTs had the features of high strength, lightweight, high thermal, and electric conductive properties. Nanocarbon tubes have some disadvantages and the main disadvantage is connected with health, as some studies pointed out the health hazards of using Nanocarbon tubes [4]. CNT has some toxic properties and further research is required to get a holistic picture regarding human safety in using CNTs.

#### 1.1 Research Objectives

- a) To consolidate the literature regarding the Carbon Nanotubes
- b) To find out the trends related to research in the Carbon Nanotubes

The following research questions are framed for conducting bibliometric analysis systematically.

#### 1.2 Research Questions

- a) Who are the active researchers working on the Carbon Nanotubes?
- b) Which are the main organizations and countries working on Carbon Nanotubes?
- c) Which are the main journals related to Carbon Nanotubes?

#### 1.3 Significance of this research

Carbon Nanotubes is an important research niche in material engineering. This article points out the need for future research regarding Nanotechnology and Carbon Nanotubes [5]. This bibliometric analysis will be a useful platform for future researchers by realizing the top researchers, organizations, and countries involved in research regarding Carbon Nanotubes. This bibliometric article is arranged in four sections. The first section is the introduction, followed by the discussion of the methodology by which the research was conducted. The third section deals with results and discussion. The fourth section deals with the conclusion.

### 2. Research Methodology

Scopus files had been used for this article. For the article selection, the Boolean used was TITLE (“Carbon Nanotubes”) on 04/01/2020. All the tables in this paper were created by using Microsoft Excel and VOS Viewer. Grammarly was used for spelling and grammar checks. Mendeley was used for article review and citation. This paper had been inspired by bibliometric analysis in its presentation style, analysis, and methodology from the works.[6]–[8]

### 3. Results and discussion

#### 3.1 Results

This first round of search produced an outcome of 577 documents, in seven languages, out of which 517 documents were in English. The classification of document categories is shown in Figure 1. For improving the quality of the analysis, we had selected only the peer-reviewed articles and all other documents had not been considered. Thus after using filters “Article” and “English” the second round search produced an outcome of 296 English articles (both open access and others) and had been used to conduct bibliometric analysis and visualization using VOS Viewer. The English research articles in this domain since 1992 had been shown in Figure 2.

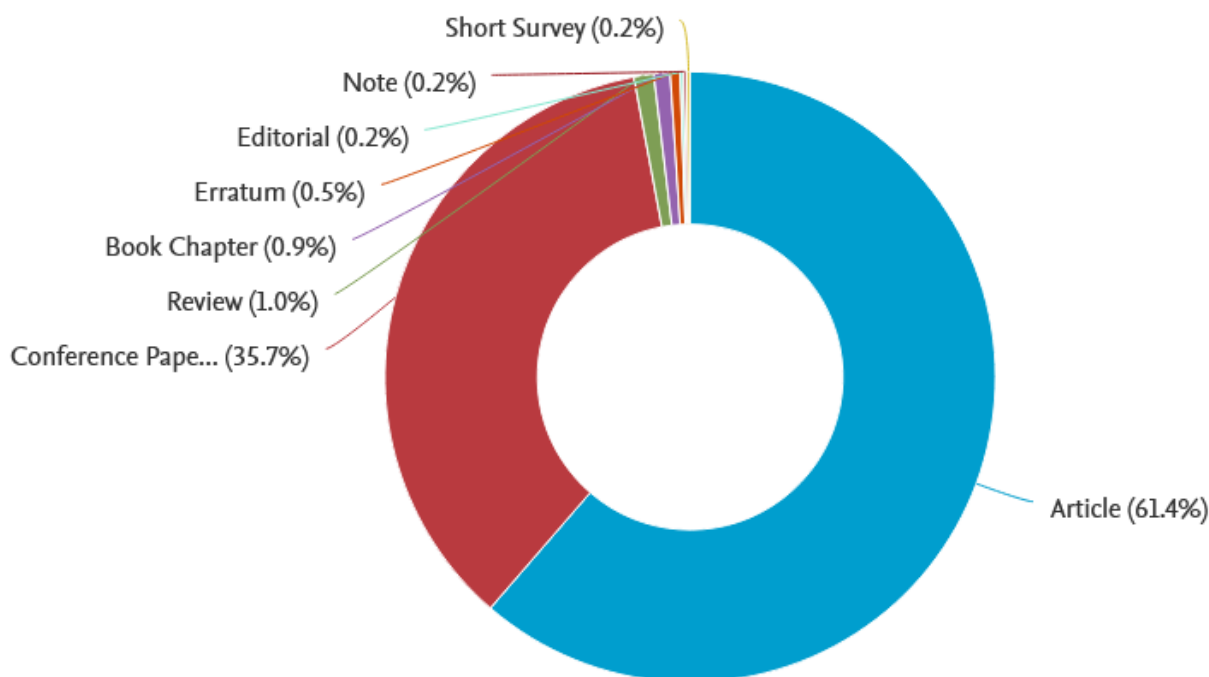


Figure 1: Classification of the documents on “Carbon Nanotubes”, Source: www.scopus.com

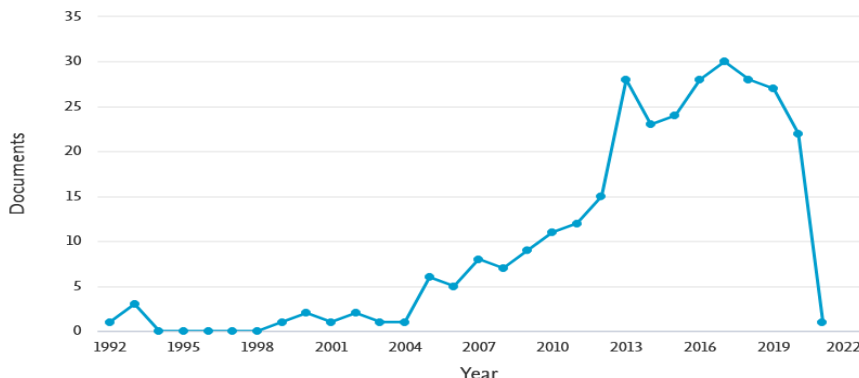


Figure 2: Period wise publication of articles, Source: WWW.scopus.com

Co-authorship analysis of top authors had been shown in figure 3. For a better presentation of the analysis, the parameters used were the minimum number of documents of an author as three and the minimum number of citations of authors as one. This combination plotted the map of 30 authors, in 10 clusters. The overlay visualization map of co-authorship analysis plotted in Figure 3, points out the major researchers with their strong co-authorship linkages and clusters involved.

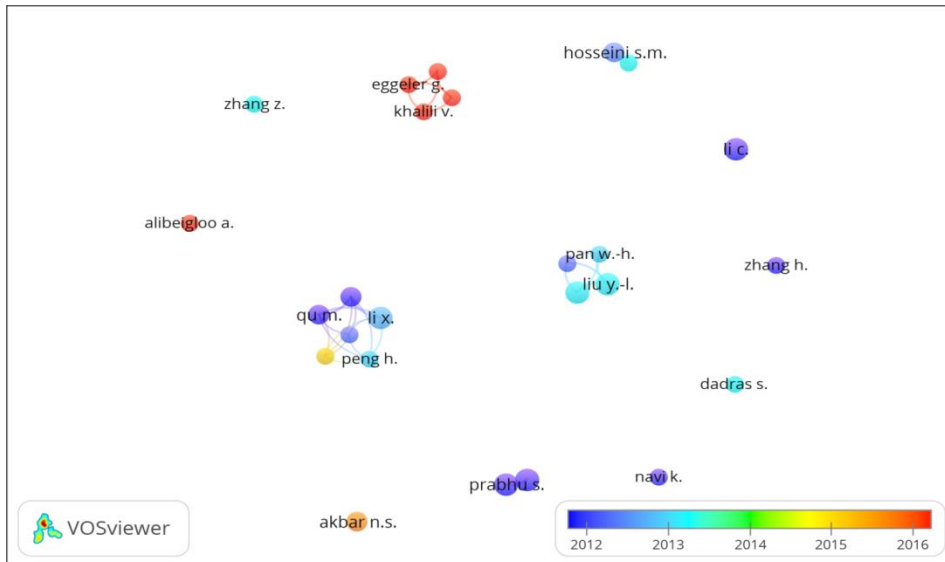


Figure 3: Co-authorship analysis on basis of authors

The citation analysis of top authors had been shown in table 1, along with co-authorship links. For the citation analysis, the parameters used were the minimum number of documents of an author as one and the minimum citations of an author as one.

Table 1: Highlights of most active authors

Description	Authors	Documents	Citations	Average citations per documents	Link strength
Authors with the highest publication co-authorship links	Li X	5	235	47	29
Authors with the highest citation	Ajiki H	1	605	605	1
	Ando T	1	605	605	1

In Co-occurrence analysis, we had used all keyword analyses, by keeping the minimum number of occurrences of a keyword as 10. This combination plotted the map of 31 thresholds, in five clusters. The overlay visualization of co-occurrence analysis of keywords has been shown in Figure 4.

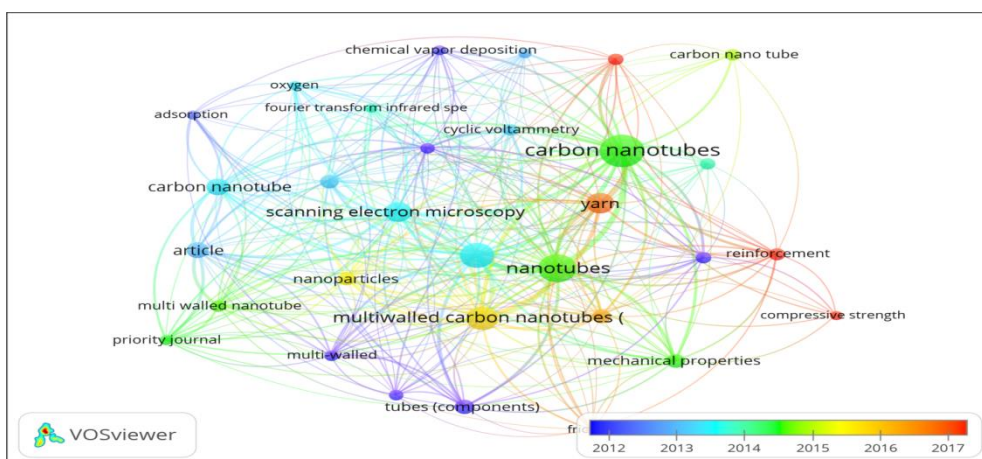


Figure 4: Co-occurrence analysis on basis of all keywords

The leading organizations engaged in research on “Carbon Nanotubes” had been found out by the volume of publications and citation analysis, the parameters used are the minimum number of documents of an organization as one and the minimum number of citations of organizations as one. This combination plotted the map of 462 organizations, in 229 clusters.

The leading organization in the research regarding “Carbon Nanotubes”, with the highest number of publications and citations, were the Chinese Academy of Sciences of China and the Islamic Azad University of Iran (Refer to table 2).

Table 2: Highlights of the most active organization

Organizations	Country	Documents	Citations	Average Citations per document
Chinese Academy of Sciences	China	8	276	34.5
Islamic Azad University	Iran	10	56	5.6

Co-authorship analysis of the countries engaged in the research on “Carbon Nanotubes” had been shown in Figure 5. For a better presentation of the analysis, the parameters used were the minimum number of documents of an author as three and the minimum number of citations of authors as one. This combination plotted the map of 18 countries, seven clusters. The overlay visualization map of co-authorship analysis plotted in Figure 5, points out the main countries with their strong co-authorship linkages and clusters involved.

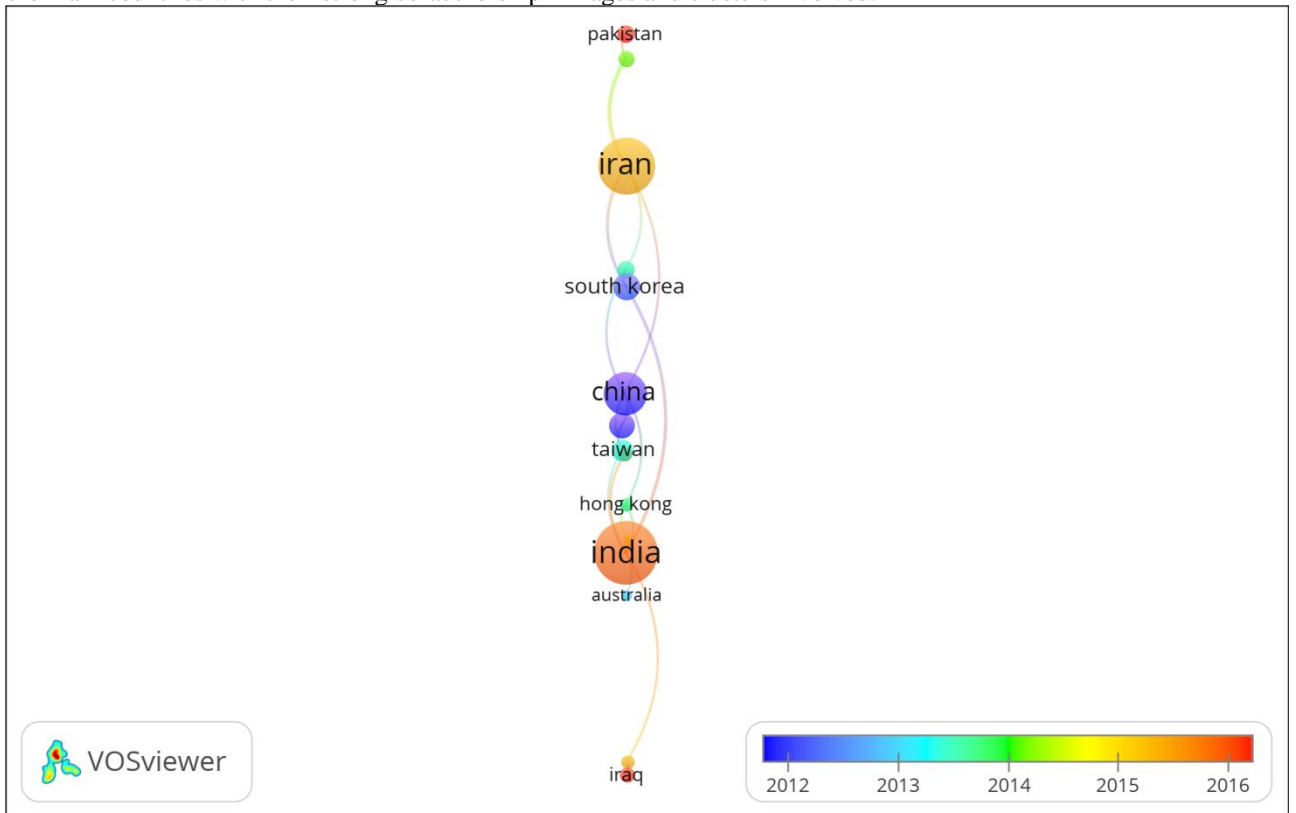


Figure 5: Co-authorship analysis on basis of countries

The citation analysis of top countries had been shown in table 3, along with co-authorship links. For the citation analysis, the parameters used were the minimum number of documents of a country as one and the minimum citations of the country as one.

Table 3: Highlights of Active Countries

Description	Country	Documents	Citations	Average citations per documents	Link strength
The country with the highest publication and co-authorship links	India	89	813	9.1	11

The country with the highest citation	Japan	15	1103	73.5	2
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The most active countries in this research domain were India and Japan with the highest number of publications, citations, and co-authorship links.

1.

2. Link analysis and citation analysis were used to identify the most active journal in this research domain. We have taken the minimum number of documents of a journal as one and the minimum number of citations of a journal as one for the citation analysis. Highlights of the most active and relevant journals related to the “Carbon Nanotubes” are shown in table 4. The journal activity of this research domain through parameters of publication volume, citations, and co-authorship links. Computational and Theoretical Nano Science; Journal of Physical Society of Japan and Journal of Power Sources were the journal with the highest publications, citations, and co-authorship links respectively.

3. Table 4: Analysis of journal activity

4. Description	5. Journal details	6. Documents	7. Citations	8. Average citations per documents
10. Journal with the highest publications	11. Journal of Computational and Theoretical Nano Science	12. 7	13. 59	14. 8.4
16. Journal with the highest citation	17. Journal of Physical Society of Japan	18. 1	19. 605	20. 605
22. Journal with the highest co-authorship links	23. Journal of Power Sources	24. 6	25. 240	26. 40

28. From the above discussion regarding the bibliometric patterns in the research regarding the Carbon Nanotubes, this research shows a gradual increase in research interest regarding the Carbon Nanotubes from the starting of the millennium and the more positively. This points out the relevance and potential of this research domain (Refer to Figure 2). The most active authors in this domain were Li X, Ajiki H, and Ando T. with the highest publication, citations, and co-authorship links (Refer to table 4). The analysis of top countries researching Carbon Nanotubes [9]–[11] indicates that India and Japan were the leading countries regarding Carbon Nanotubes (Refer to figure 5). The top journals of this research domain were identified as Journal of Computational and Theoretical Nano Science; Journal of Physical Society of Japan and Journal of Power Sources with the highest publications, citations, and co-authorship links. From these wide sources of information, researchers can focus on top journals where they can identify and highly cited articles regarding Carbon Nanotubes.

### 29. Conclusion

30. The Carbon Nanotubes is an interesting research domain and the most active journals related to this research domain are Computational and Theoretical Nano Science; Journal of Physical Society of Japan and Journal of Power Sources with the highest publications, citations, and co-authorship links. The most active countries were India and Japan. The leading organizations in research regarding Carbon Nanotubes were the Chinese Academy of Sciences, China, and the Islamic Azad University. The most active authors who had made valuable contributions related to Carbon Nanotubes were Li X, Ajiki H, and Ando T. This research offers a new avenue for researchers, and the future research can be on Carbon Nanotubes and techniques and systems.

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