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676 [Map: Science's Family Tree](#)

discovermagazine.com — The bigger a node is, the more papers it contains. Heavily cited papers appear in more than one node. Black lines connect any nodes that contain the same papers; the darker a link is, the more papers the connected nodes have in common. These links create the structure of the map and tend to pull similar scientific disciplines closer to one another.

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LarianLeQuella on 10/11/2007
 That is actually pretty darn cool. Wish I could really zoom in on the picture and look at the words though. **+22 diggs**
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Sawta on 10/11/2007
 Seemed like a neat idea...I was imaging a much larger picture, but ah well. **+3 diggs**
 For some reason it feels vaguely similar to the maps and such that xkcd.com have been doing. [Reply](#)

mad05963 on 10/11/2007
 good to see social sciences were not forgotten and have a role in the mesh. **+5 diggs**
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M724 on 10/11/2007
 What's in the middle? I think someone out there needs to research the one central point that connects all of them. **+4 diggs**
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DinkyDink on 10/11/2007
 Where is philosophy? All the sciences sprang from Philosophy. **+1 digg**
[2 Replies](#) — best has 3 diggs [Reply](#)

on 10/11/2007

... interesting, but I doubt the map's accuracy. I work in neuro-radiology, probably falling under "Brain Research". A ton of physics and chemistry is involved. Where would neuro-radiology be without the physics of MRI or research of chemical ligands? On the map, a line connects to math, but not these other obvious, heavily-related disciplines. Also, fields like Central Nervous System and Virology overlap greatly with Chemistry, yet the authors portray Chemistry as isolated.

I'm also irritated that the article implies that citation rate defines a discipline's value. The article claims the map "can be used to determine which areas of science are most closely connected to one another, as well as which are the most—and least—intellectually vital and productive. Advances in mathematics are few. Medicine, on the other hand, dominates the lower half of the map." Math may have fewer advances, but when they occur, the impact can be profound. In addition, ALL sciences use math, but authors do not look up and cite the original discoverers of the math and statistics they apply on a daily basis.

[Reply](#)



Tyrsson

on 10/11/2007

Where are the biochemistry and molecular biology nodes?

+3 diggs

[4 Replies](#) — best has 2 diggs

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spootmonkey

on 10/11/2007

Yay Comp Sci...glad to see it up there

0 diggs

[Reply](#)



warmonger48

on 10/11/2007

I've got 2/5'ths covered. Biology and Computer Science. Yeah ME.

0 diggs

[Reply](#)



crashbang

on 10/11/2007

Hey whats up Organic chemistry? You all over on the other side of the room....What? Are you like too good for us social science types? We shall have a DDR-off to prove who has the more important discipline....GO!!!

0 diggs

[Reply](#)



umbrae

on 10/11/2007

Anyone else think it kinda looks like the Flying Spaghetti Monster?

+4 diggs

[Reply](#)



sonicprogress

on 10/11/2007

I was hoping this would provide me with the holy grail of mindmaps - but instead I find an image without any links to papers or information. It could be an artists impression for all I know.

+2 diggs

Useless.

[Reply](#)



ypoimla

on 07/11/2008

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