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# Mathematics Library News 12

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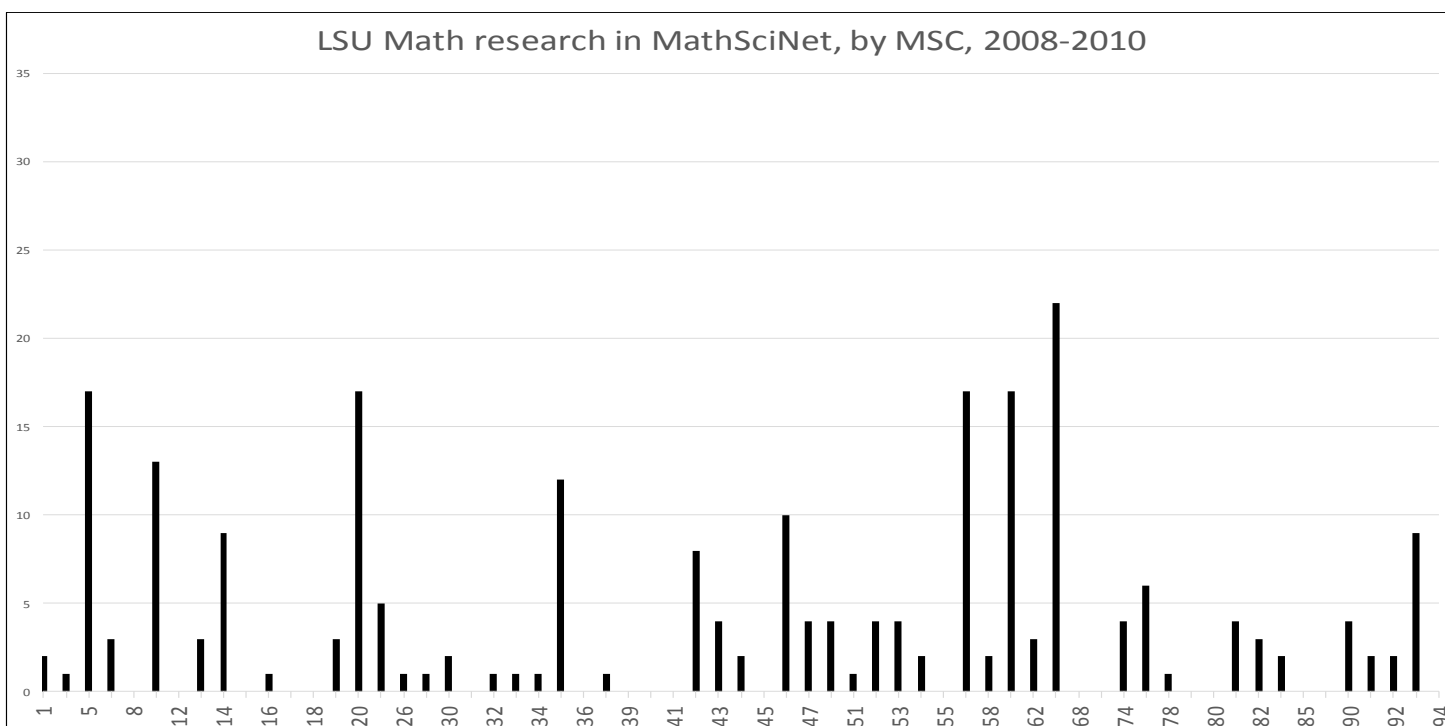
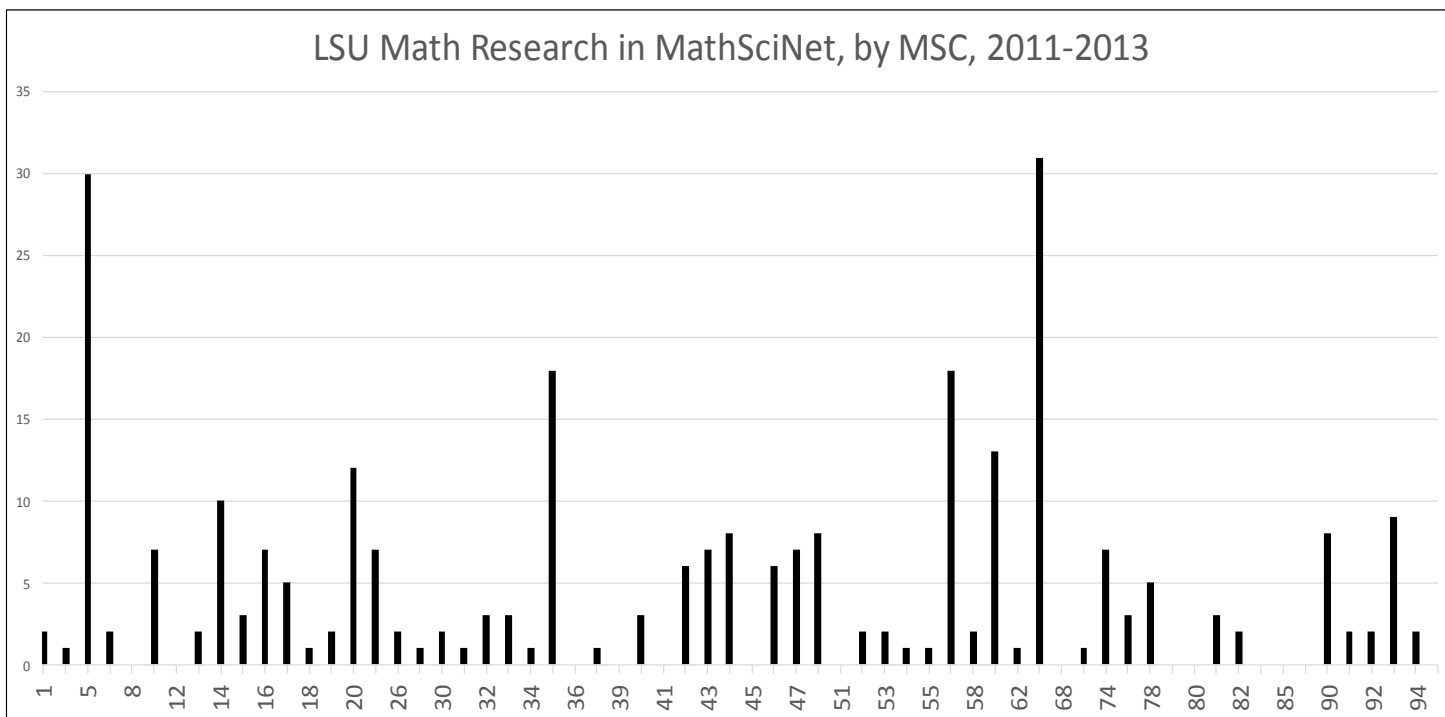
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# Mathematics library news 12 November 2014

Below are distributions by Primary Mathematical Subject Category of LSU-affiliated Mathematics research published 2011-2013 and 2008-2010 and indexed in MathSciNet as of November 17, 2014. For 2008-2010, there 235 articles and books with a primary MSC, and 9 unclassified items. In 2011-2013 there were 283 with a primary MSC, and 1 unclassified item.



For comments, questions, or requests, contact Aaron Lercher at [alерcher1@lsu.edu](mailto:alерcher1@lsu.edu)

# Cited Half Lives

The increasing portion of citations that are being made to literature older than 10 years made news recently in a *Science* magazine blog: <http://news.sciencemag.org/scientific-community/2014/11/older-papers-are-increasingly-remembered-and-cited>

One measure of the rate of use of older literature is the cited half life: the median age of articles (in a particular journal or set of articles) cited by articles (in some large database) published in a given year. Cited half lives are published in the *Journal Citation Reports*, based on *Web of Science* data. But the highest value listed is “>10.” Many mathematics journals have cited half lives greater than 10 years.

What are the cited half lives of mathematics journals? Have these half lives been increasing?

Below are cited half lives for two journals, at different citing years (citations were made). *Annals of Mathematics* and *Mathematische Annalen* are among the six mathematics journals indexed in *Web of Science* back to 1900. The steady increase is clear, and the trend predates digital availability, which is one factor among others. Another factor is simply that the number of mathematics articles each publication year in *WoS* greatly increases over time, from 1215 in 1963 to 25,723 in 2013.

	1963	1973	1983	1993	2003	2013
<i>Annals of Mathematics</i>	9	15	19	23	27	30
<i>Mathematische Annalen</i>	8	8	10	14	19	25

The first two charts are for *Annals of Mathematics*, showing the citation distributions over cited years, for citing years 1983, left and 2013, right. Below these are two similar charts for *Mathematische Annalen*, again showing the citation distributions over cited years for citing years 1983, left and 2013 right. The charts are small, but they show the shape of the distribution.

