



The IEEE International Conference on  
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# Locating the Key Competitors: A New Tool for Technology Manager

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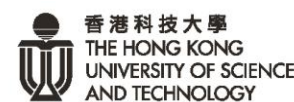
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## Issue to Address

- To enter a new or unfamiliar market segment,
- If given only limited time and resource,
- If only the bibliometric information contained in patent databases is available,
- can we effectively and efficiently locate the *key players* in the market segment?

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# A Common Scenario

- Some keywords are applied to the patent databases and a set of patents are collected.
- The collected patents' bibliometric information is extracted and fed to some off-the-shelf analysis tool.
- Finally, a number of charts or tables are produced.

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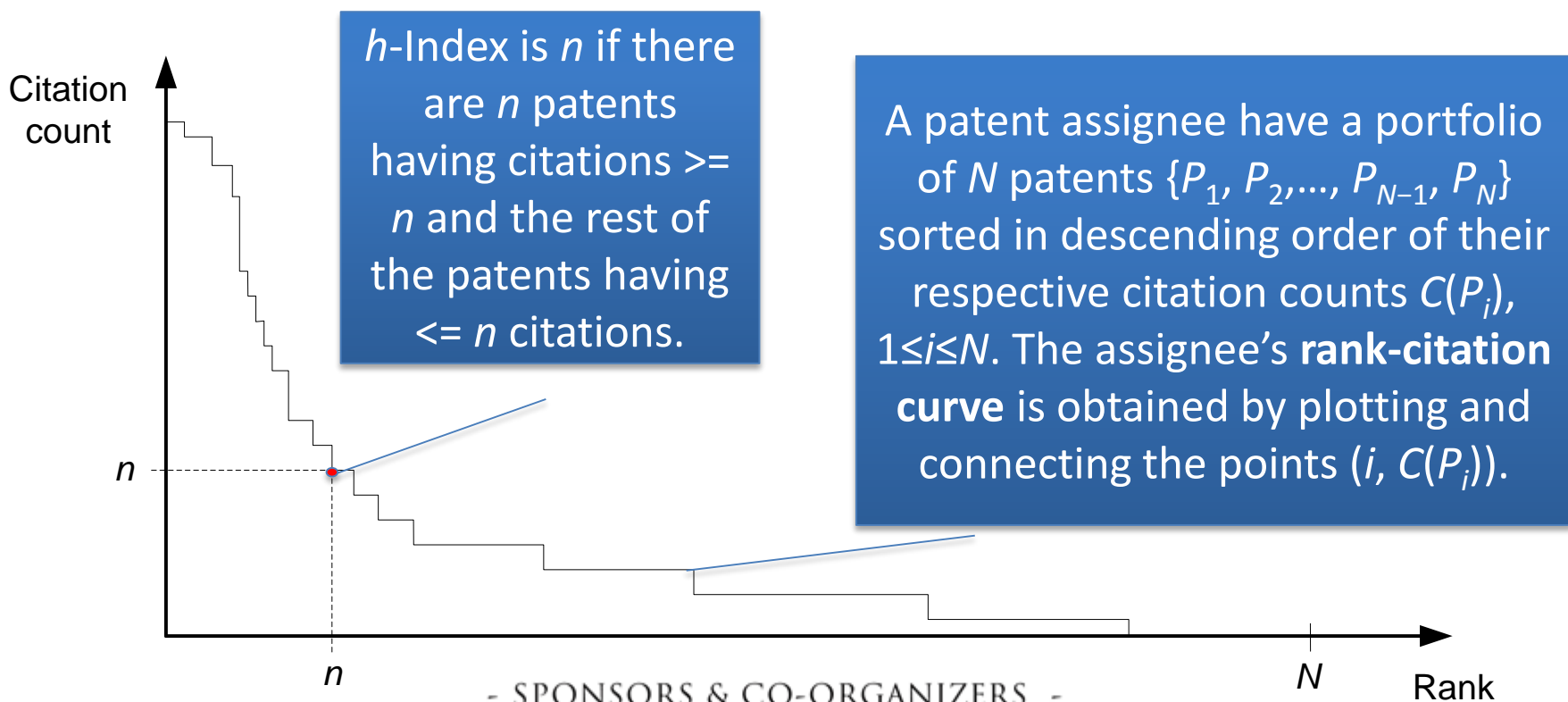
# Assumptions and Limitations

- We evaluate a player only by its number of patents and the citations received by the patents
- The number of citations to a patent is assumed to be an indication to the patent's value or quality
- The validity of a patent and the remaining life of a valid patent are ignored for simplicity's sake.

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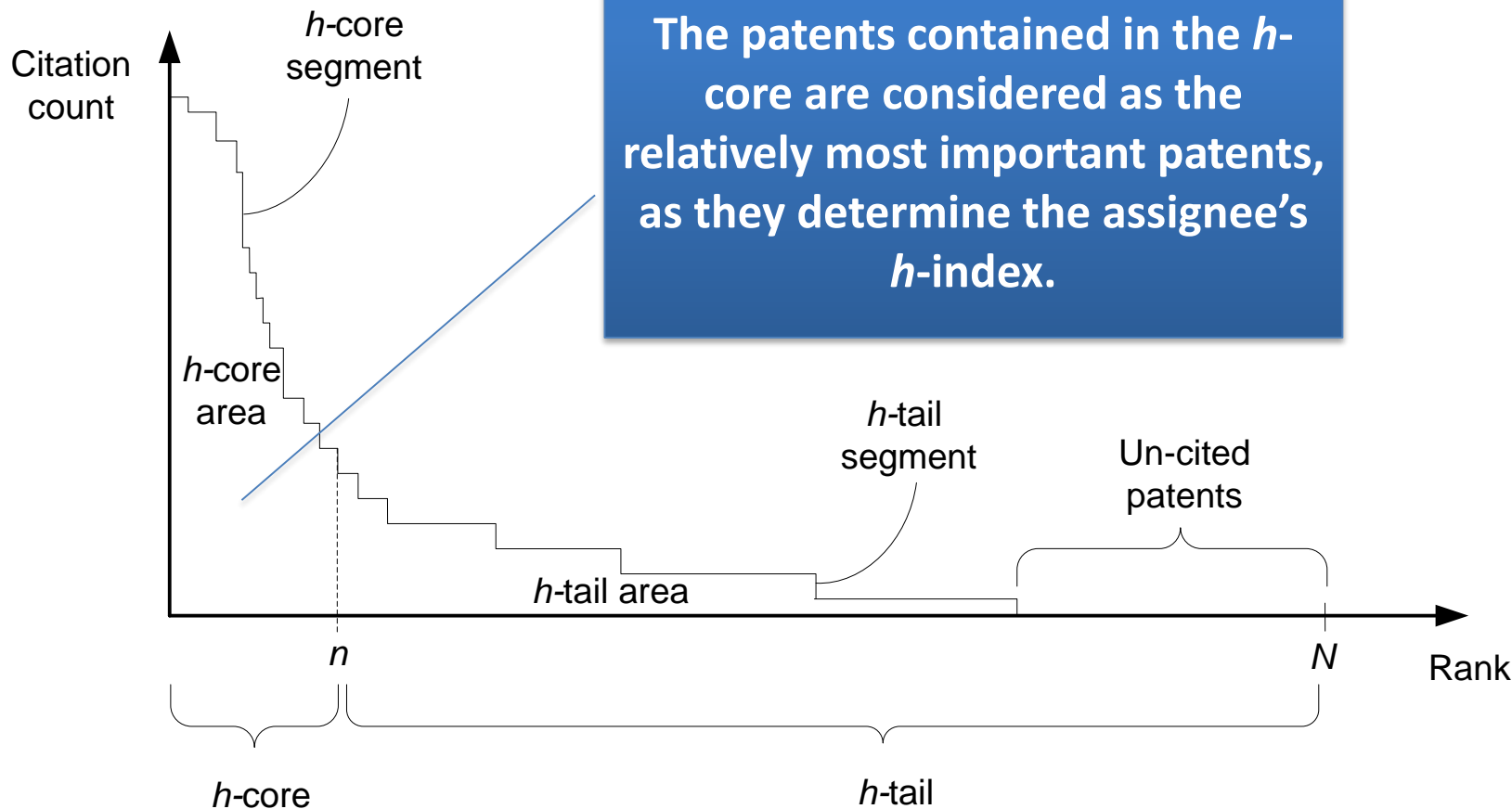
# Methodology



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The patents contained in the *h*-core are considered as the relatively most important patents, as they determine the assignee's *h*-index.

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# Further Assumptions

- We use a patent assignee's  $h$ -core to represent its IP performance.
- However, the  $h$ -index does not give us the full story.
  - Greater  $h$ -index does not guarantee greater accumulation of citations.
- We need something more.

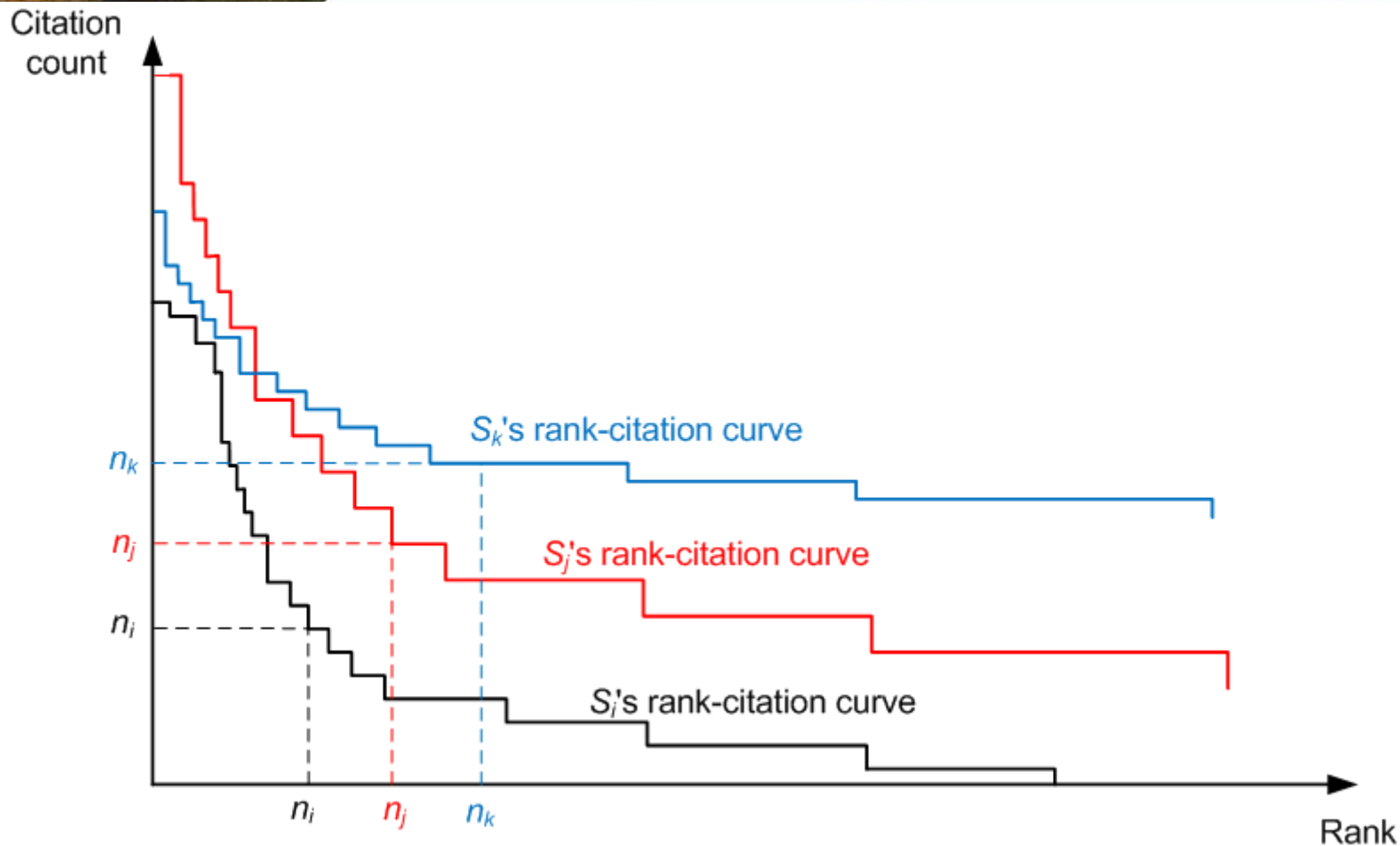
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$$c - \text{descriptor} = \sum_{i=1}^n C(P_i) \left( \frac{C(P_i)}{A_c} \right) = \frac{\sum_{i=1}^n C(P_i)^2}{\sum_{i=1}^n C(P_i)}.$$

$$\text{Core Value} = h - \text{index} \cdot c - \text{descriptor} = n \cdot \frac{\sum_{i=1}^n C(P_i)^2}{\sum_{i=1}^n C(P_i)}.$$

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# Empirical Data

- The proposed approach is applied to the 100 assignees having the greatest numbers of U.S. patents granted in the year 2009
- These assignees' U.S. patents issued between 1976 and 2009 are collected.
- This is not an ideal set of data but is used for illustration purpose.

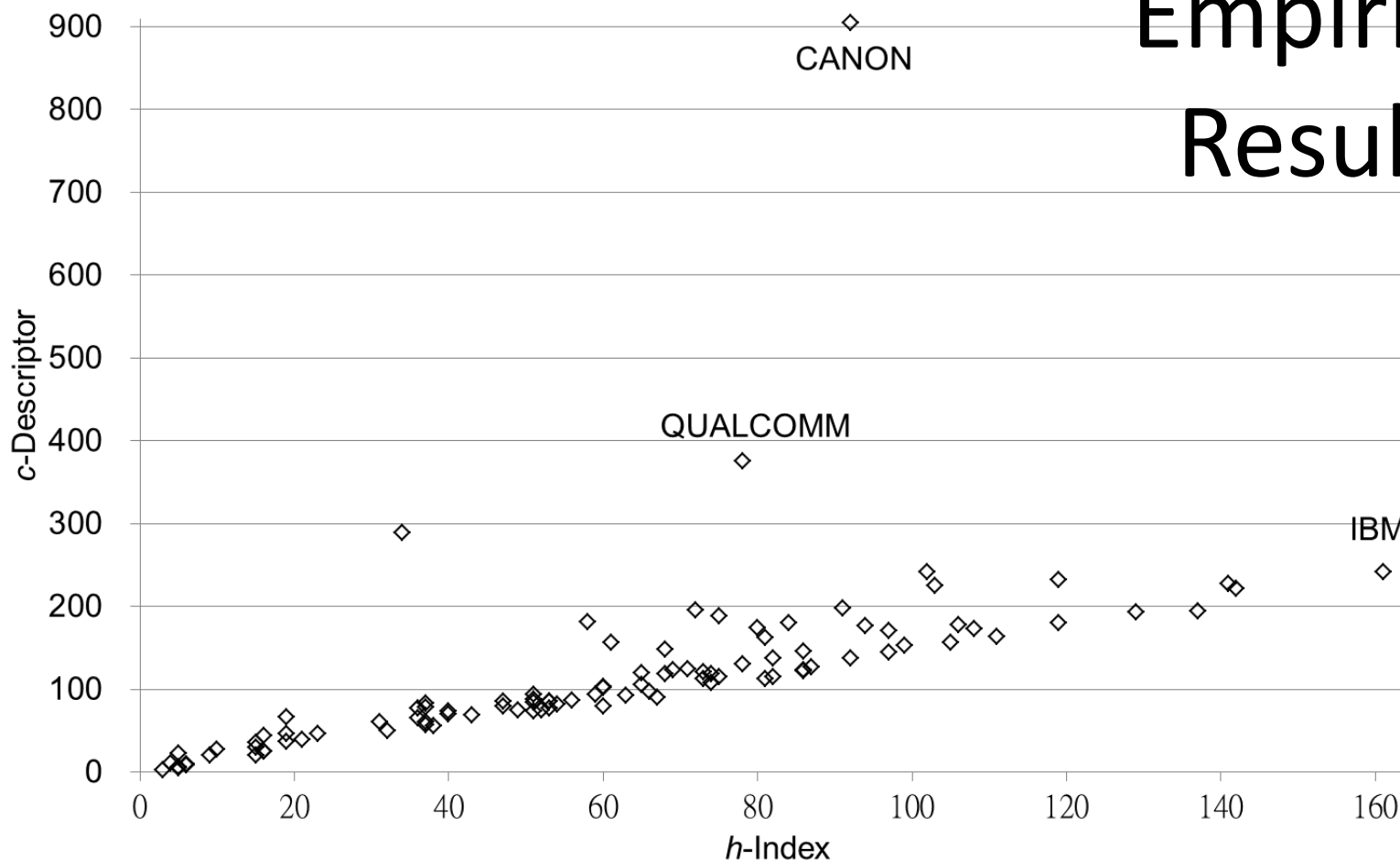
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## Empirical Results



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Assignee	Rank by Core Value	Core Value	Rank by <i>h</i> -Index	<i>h</i> - Index	$A_c$
CANON	1	83,260	18	92	22,371
IBM	2	38,962	1	161	35,636
TEXAS INSTRUMENTS	3	32,148	3	141	29,274
AT&T CORP.	4	31,524	2	142	27,957
QUALCOMM	5	29,328	31	78	13,874
XEROX	6	27,608	6	119	22,526
MICRON	7	26,578	4	137	25,135
MOTOROLA	8	24,897	5	129	22,597
SEMICON. ENERGY LAB.	9	24,684	13	102	19,148
MEDTRONIC	10	23,175	12	103	17,861

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## Summary

- We proposed a new index called *Core Value* to characterize a patent assignee's *h*-core performance in terms of both quantity and quality.
- The *c*-descriptor and Core Value can be easily obtained as by-products when determining the assignee's *h*-index.

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# Thank You

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