

WHERE IS OUR JOURNAL RIGHT NOW? UP-TO-DATE BIBLIOMETRICS AND PROGRESS OF REVISTA CUBANA DE FÍSICA

¿DÓNDE ESTÁ NUESTRA REVISTA EN ESTOS MOMENTOS? BIBLIOMETRÍA ACTUALIZADA Y PROGRESO DE LA REVISTA CUBANA DE FÍSICA

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As the Cuban Physical Society flagship publication, the Revista Cubana de Física (RCF) serves the local and foreign physicists with original articles, communications, reviews and comments. The RCF publishes physics articles in both English and Spanish and provides a platform that serves the ibero-american and other scientific communities, processing submissions from all continents, with prominent presence from Hispanic countries.

After thirty years of almost uninterrupted publishing, 2011 marked an inflexion point in the pathway of RCF, with renewed efforts in the style, types of articles, inclusion of new sections, and formal applications for indexing in a set of worldwide recognized science databases. As a result, in recent years RCF was indexed by Scopus, the Emerging Sources Citation Index (ESCI)/Web of Science (WoS) of Clarivate Analytics (formerly Thompson Reuters), Scimago Journal Ranking, DOAJ, REDIB, ROAD, Latindex, ResearchGate and Google Scholar. Of these, mainly Scopus, Scimago and WoS provide verifiable bibliometrics of the journal evolution and progress. We hereby provide an up-to-date analysis of RCF and check its activity and performance relative to national physics publications from foreign communities.

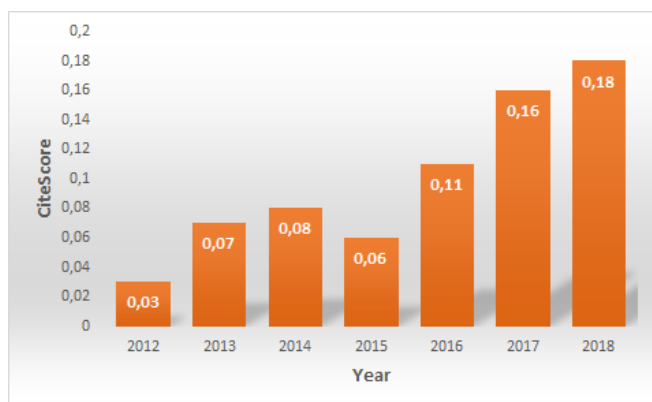


Figure 1. CiteScore progression over the last seven years. Data extracted from Scopus database.

Since 2011 RCF content and metadata are indexed in Scopus—the search engine powered by Elsevier—and bibliometric data is regularly calculated. After an in-depth look into

this set of information, we offer a global view of where we currently are and what we foresee as a potential future for our journal as a venue for professional physics content. Scopus quantifies the quality of a journal using its CiteScore, a statistical descriptor of the performance of a given publication. It is determined by the sum of citations received in a given year for papers published in the previous three years divided by the number of published papers in the preceding three years. RCF received its first CiteScore quantification in 2012 and reached a maximum yearly-calculated value in 2018. The last update of the CiteScore Tracker 2019 reaches 0.09 as of July 8th, 2019 with 10 citations this year for papers from 2016-2018. The CiteScore evolution for the period 2012-2018 is presented in Fig. 1, and it clearly evidences the progress of the journal, tripling by now the score it held in 2015. This positive progression, in other words, is a quantification of how RCF is now more cited with respect to the number of articles that are published in the preceding three years.

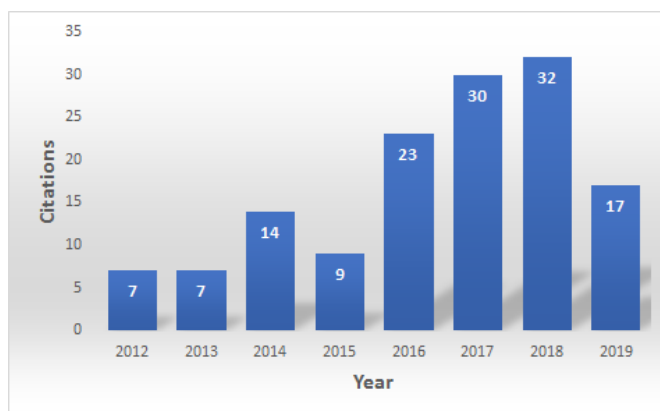


Figure 2. Citations received by RCF articles within the last 8 years. Data extracted from Scopus database.

Still, this indicator is low for a wide-scope physics journal as RCF is and it's critical to ensure that the peer-review process yields accepted papers based, above all, on their significance. Our editorial processes must be focused on assessing deeply the novelty and significance of each submitted manuscript, as these two features will increase the number of citations the journal receives in the years following the publication online.

But we must keep the delicate balance between significance and rejection rate.

As mentioned above, RCF is also part of the large collection Emerging Sources Citation Index powered by Clarivate Analytics. This is a first step in the direction of having an impact factor assigned and a inclusion in the Science Citation Index Expanded database. While being in the ESCI, RCF is currently contributing to other journals' impact factor.

The visibility of the journal is now guaranteed as RCF migrated to the Open Journal System and every article is accessible online in final form with citable information (even when authors are not charged for publication). This is a step ahead in making sure that the content published is read and assessed upon publication and has a chance to be considered by authors in this or other journals.

Increasing the number of citations is crucial to increase every indicator of the journal, its CiteScore and potential future impact factor. The evolution of the citations since 2012 is presented in Fig. 2, with updated data from July 8th, 2019. The number of cited papers in the first half of 2019 seems to reach a similar tendency for a third consecutive year.

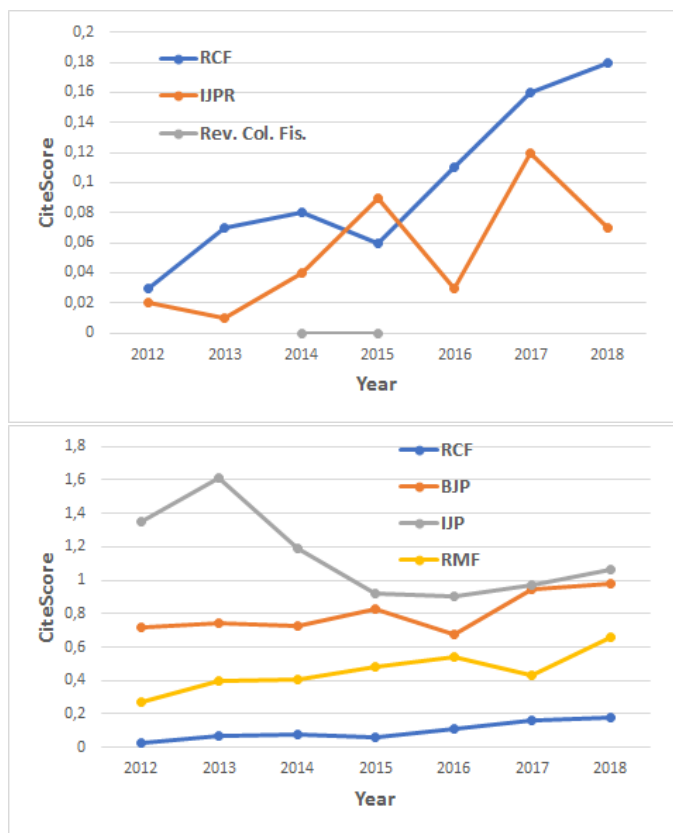


Figure 3. Comparison of CiteScore for multiple physics journals and their evolution from 2012 to 2018 (RCF, IJPR, Rev. Col. Fis, BJP, IJP and RMF stand for Revista Cubana de Física, Iranian Journal of Physics Research, Revista Colombiana de Física, Brazilian Journal of Physics, Indian Journal of Physics and Revista Mexicana de Física, respectively).

Compared to other physics-related journals, RCF outperforms the score of other “national” sister publications in terms of ranking provided by Scopus, including the Iranian Journal of Physics Research and the Revista Colombiana de Física, but still falls short in ranking as compared to the Brazilian Journal of Physics (BJP), the Revista Mexicana de Física (RMF) and the Indian Journal of Physics (IJP), which represent much larger physical societies. Figure 3 shows the evolution of a set of journals serving local and foreign physics communities around the world.

The editorial board has been diversified from 2011, with strong presence of international researchers. RCF's editorial team has taken measures to ensure that accepted papers hold sufficient novelty and significance in all domains. As reflected in Fig. 4, the rejection rate increased in 2018 markedly with respect to the previous five years. In addition, the number of articles published in English has a positive tendency and we expect to maintain this indicator with a continued presence in future volumes published by the journal. In addition, as a sign of diversification, we find more papers submitted and accepted from foreign contributors.

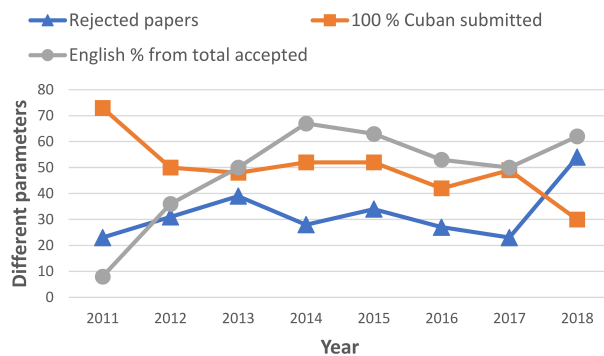


Figure 4. RCF operation statistics from 2011 to 2018. Note that 100 % refer to papers with authors belonging to Cuban institutions.

The editorial board finds imperative to increase the number of papers submitted in English, as they become relevant for the whole physics community –even when our bilingual policy is maintained. We encourage the authors to write and submit their manuscripts in professionally written English, regardless if they come from Spanish-speaking countries. In any case, the abstracts of the original articles will continue to appear in both languages.

In addition, the journal must get visibility in other media, always highlighting the impact of the most influent research presented in each published issue. Our science divulgation venues must also contribute to spreading the knowledge published in RCF.

We expect that in the years to come RCF will gain further impact, visibility and will become an archival journal for publishing relevant physics.