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Technometric Portrait of Sri Vinod Dham, an Indo-US Engineer, Father of Intel Pentium Process: A Quantitative Analysis

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Abstract

Vinod Dham is recognized as the 'Father of Pentium Chip' or 'Father of Intel Pentium Process' in the field of the computer industry, and as an Indo-American pioneer from Silicon Valley. He has contributed 10 research papers during 1982–1986, with an average of two papers per year. This study tries to analyze his contributions through a bibliometric study and draw his familiarity as a world-famous electronic technologist. Data has been collected from Google Scholar and some from Crossref, Scopus databases. In addition, his biographical information is taken from several offline and online sources. Using MS Word and Excel, data are tabulated and then analyzed, highlighting various scientometric indicators. Out of his 10 contributions, 8 papers are conference papers and 2 are journal articles. All are multi-authored papers in collaboration with 38 co-authors. Dham has received maximum number of citations 118 in Google Scholar, 112 in Scopus and 55 in Crossref from the paper "Electrical properties of nitrided-oxide systems for use in gate dielectrics and EEPROM", and got highest citation in patent, that is, 40 from the paper "High-voltage regulation and process considerations for high-density 5 V-only E/sup 2/PROM's", and some others scientometric indicators have been found from this study. If we go through past studies in bibliometric research, it will be observed that many bio-bibliometric studies were carried out by several librarians, bibliometricians, and information scientists on different specialists in a variety of disciplines. Despite a bibliometric study of Sri Vinod Dham, an influential personality of the computer industry, it is not seen there. Hence, this study is an original and important work.

Keywords: Vinod Dham, technometric portrait, scientometric, father of Pentium chip, venture capitalist, technologist, Pentium engineer, Intel's Pentium microprocessor

INTRODUCTION

Many Indian individuals have made significant contributions to technological advancements worldwide. Today, a person has been found from the information mining whose name we mostly do not remember. But we regularly use his outstanding innovations in the computer industry. This technometric episode is about an Indo-US technologist whose contributions to America as well as the whole world can never be forgotten. He is honorable Sri Vinod Kumar Dham, popularly known as Vinod Dham. He is considered to be the 'Father of the Pentium Chip' for his contribution to the advancement of Intel's highly successful Pentium microprocessor. His contribution revolutionized personal computing and brought him immense popularity. Dham is also known as 'Pentium Engineer' and as an Indian-American technology pioneer [1–5], which brought him immense popularity. His contributions are greatly

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appreciated and respected, as he is one of the rare Indian-Americans who have helped to change the face of America. Vinod Dham has also acted as an Indo-American pioneer from Silicon Valley. Dham is more well-known for his contribution to technology and business. So, he is generally known as an engineer, entrepreneur, and venture capitalist. As a mentor and advisor, he plays an active role on the boards of various companies, particularly promising startups funded by his India-based fund in the US Venture Partners, where he is the founding Managing Director [6]. He is more involved in all these activities, rather than publications in academic or technical journals.

Early Life and Education

Vinod Dham was born in 1950 in Pune to a Punjabi Hindu Kayastha family. His father was a member of the army's civilian department, and his mother was a homemaker. When India was partitioned, his father came to India from Rawalpindi, Punjab, Pakistan. He received his primary education in Pune. Dham obtained a BE degree in Electrical Engineering from Delhi College of Engineering, University of Delhi, in 1971. After working for four years in a Delhi-based US company, in 1975, he went to the University of Cincinnati, Ohio, for a Master's Degree in Electrical Engineering, focusing on Solid-State Electronics Technology. Then he had only $8 (i.e., INR 8.39) in his purse. His spouse is Sadhana Dham, and the couple has two sons. Vinod Dham has three brothers and sisters [7–10].

Works and Discoveries

After finishing a BE degree in 1971 at the age of 21, he went to Delhi and worked as an Engineer at a semiconductor company in Delhi called Continental Devices, India's only private silicon semiconductor company at the time, which collaborated with Teledyne Semiconductor Company, USA. After completing his master's degree in the USA in 1977, he joined NCR Corporation in Dayton, Ohio, where he did cutting-edge work in developing advanced non-volatile memories. His leading-edge work on Non-Volatile Memories helped NCR to get a patent in 1985 on a mixed dielectric process and non-volatile memory device. It is learned that Dham also started working on his PhD, and once he was presenting a research paper on non-volatile memory at an IEEE workshop in California, Bill Johnson, a director of Intel, was present there, and he was impressed with Vinod's work and offered him a job [11]. He then joined Intel Co. as an Engineer, where he played a significant role in developing the world-famous Pentium Processor. He is called the "Pentium Engineer" for his role in the development of the Pentium Microprocessor. He is also one of the co-inventors of Intel's first Flash Memory Technology (ETOX), and eventually he became the Vice-President of Micro-Processor Group at Intel Co. Later, he worked with earlier Intel micro-processor models, the 386 and 486, in a variety of roles. During the 1980s, PCs began to establish themselves as essential tools for improving productivity in the workplace. At the onset of the Pentium project, Intel faced significant competition from both established and emerging players in the PC industry. Notable contenders included the AIM consortium, which was spearheaded by Apple, IBM, and Motorola, as well as the ACE consortium, formed in 1991, that was led by Compaq, Microsoft, DEC, and MIPS Technologies. Additionally, Sun Microsystems had its own consortium, which included partners like Fujitsu, Philips, Tatung, and Amdahl, all leveraging advanced Reduced Instruction Set Computing (RISC) technology. These initiatives posed a substantial threat to Intel's market leadership. Dham attributes Intel's success in this competitive landscape to its strategic focus and execution capabilities, particularly its commitment to ensuring full compatibility with applications developed for previous-generation microprocessors. This approach allowed Intel to maintain a loyal customer base while innovating. In a cover story for Business Week discussing Intel's new processors, Dham was featured as the General Manager of the 586 processor group, which was Intel's designation for the project prior to its official launch as the Pentium. In 1995, he left Intel and joined an organization named NexGen, which was later acquired by AMD. He played a key role in the launch of K6, a powerful processor that competed with Intel's Pentium. At AMD, he served as the vice president of the Computation Products Group. Later, in 1998, he founded Silicon Spice, initially focusing on a VOIP Chip. He then sold the company to Broadcom in 2000. Subsequently, he started an incubator called New Path Ventures, aiming to utilize India's emerging chip design talent for R&D, co-founding several companies. In 2015, he co-founded Acadgild, an online

education platform, with Krishnan Ganesh and Meena Ganesh. Acadgild aims to teach a wide range of students regarding software programming relevant to the digital world, and mentor and give hands-on learning to prepare students for job-ready skills and make them more suitable for potential employers. Vinod Dham has also contributed to Teach AIDS, an initiative where researchers from various fields collaborate to develop effective, research-based applications for promoting HIV/AIDS prevention [12, 13].

Social Works

Vinod Dham has been involved in various social activities, particularly focusing on fostering entrepreneurship and education. He has been actively associated with The Indus Entrepreneurs, where he serves as a mentor, speaker, advisor, inspirer, and guide to the next generation of entrepreneurs. He has been involved in initiatives for promoting innovation and technological development. Dham has also been active in supporting and providing educational opportunities to underprivileged students in this digital environment. He has shown interest in social entrepreneurship for addressing societal issues like poverty, healthcare, and education. He supports and invests in social enterprises that have the potential to create significant social impact. He strongly advocates for education with science, engineering and technology, and mathematics, especially among youth in India and Indian migrants. He and his wife have notable evidence of social conscience. They are contributing significantly to charities both in the US and India. Dham has been a trustee of the American India Foundation (AIF) since 2001, with former President Bill Clinton serving as the honorary chair. In July 2006, Dham was appointed to the Board of Directors and took on the role of Chair of the Digital Equalizer (DE) Program. This initiative aims to improve educational opportunities for underprivileged children in India through digital technology. Under his leadership, the DE Program has seen substantial growth and impact. Dham's efforts in fundraising and strategic planning for the DE Program were recognized when he received the Visionary Award from Montek Singh Ahluwalia in 2010. In 2023, he has been focusing on advancing the "India Semiconductor Mission" to make India self-reliant in electronic systems and chip manufacturing. As part of this initiative, he, an alumnus of the 1971 batch in Electrical Engineering, has pledged a generous donation of Rs. 1 crore to create the Vinod Dham Centre for Semiconductor Research at Delhi Technological University.

Awards and Recognitions

Dham has received several awards and honors in various ways. Some of them are:

1993: Recognized as one of the Top 25 Executives in the US Computer Industry.
1999: Recognized as one of the top 100 Most Influential Asian Americans of the decade.
2000: Appointed to serve on the President's Advisory Commission on Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders.

Vinod Dham was appointed by then U.S. President Bill Clinton to the President's Advisory Commission on Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders

2000: Listing Dham among the Global Indian Achievers by India's premier magazine, India Today.
2007: Invited to the Pravasi Bhartiya Diwas, the Ministry of Overseas Affairs of the Government of India.
2007: Honoring Global Indian pioneers.
2007: Recognized as one of the 50 most Influential Indian Americans by India Abroad.
2007: Acknowledged as one of the Indian Role Models and Heroes by China Daily BBS.
2007: A Tribute to him amongst the great Indians of this Century and contributing today.
2009: NRI Achievement Award at the NRI Global Summit, the NRI Institute, New Delhi.
2009: Recognized as one of the first and notable Indian American Achievers by the Asian Pacific.

American Program

2010: Received the Visionary Award from Montek Singh Ahluwalia.
2011: People's Choice Award and Special Jury Award in the category of S&T by Times of India.

Group's 'Light of India Awards'; Recognizing Indian Achievers Abroad

2014: 'Lifetime Accomplishments Award' by VC Taskforce, a Silicon Valley-based organization, USA.

OBJECTIVES

The main objectives of this technometric study include:

1. To find the year-wise publications of Vinod Dham.
2. To determine his position as a main and joint author.
3. To calculate the collaborative index.
4. To list channel-wise Dham's publications.
5. To find the paper production by his age.
6. To observe his prominent collaborators.
7. To identify his research team and most productive collaborators.
8. To count his citations received and analyze them.
9. To examine the validation of Lotka's Law and Bradford's Law.

SCOPE AND METHODS

This study consists of 10 research articles by Vinod Dham during 1982–1986. Out of them, 8 are conference papers and only two are Journal articles. The bibliographic information of his publications was collected from the database Google Scholar. Other data has been taken from different sources. With the help of MS Excel and Word, data is tabulated under the required tables. To reach the target of this study through objectives, various scientometric indicators have been generated.

DATA ANALYSIS AND DISCUSSION

Year-Wise Publications and Status in Authorship

Table 1 shows 10 papers published by Vinod Dham during 1982–1986. His first paper was published in the year 1982, at the age of 32 years, and appeared in 7th position among 7 authors. His maximum number of papers was published in 1983, i.e., 6 along with 25 co-authors, when he was 33 years old. Besides, he has three papers that were published in 1984, 1985, and 1986. He has no single-authored papers during this period. Of multi-authored papers, he occupies 2nd position in the highest number of papers, i.e., 4. He appeared in 1st and 5th position in two papers each. He also authored 3rd and 7th in one paper each. His research team consists of 38 co-authors. Figure 1 represents age-wise contributions of Dham.

Collaborative Index (CI)

In this study, there are 10 papers by 48 authors (year-wise co-authors 38). So, CI= Total no. of authors/Total no. of papers = 48/10=4.8

Table 1. Year-wise publications.

Year	APC	CAPC	A's age	PP age	S-AP	M-ap	Authorship position (S)					CoA
							S_1	S_2	S_3	S_5	S_7	
1982	1	1	32	1	0	1					1	6
1983	6	7	33	2	0	6	1	3	1	1		25
1984	1	8	34	3	0	1				1		4
1985	1	9	35	4	0	1	1					1
1986	1	10	36	5	0	1		1				2
Total	10				0	10	02	04	01	02	01	38

Source: Self-made using data from Google Scholar.

Abbreviations:

PPAge= Paper Productive age; S-AP=Single-authored Paper; M-AP=Multi-authored Paper; S_1= First Position & so on; CoA=Co-authors

APC=Annual Paper Count; CAPC= Cumulative Annual Paper count; A's Age= Author's Age;

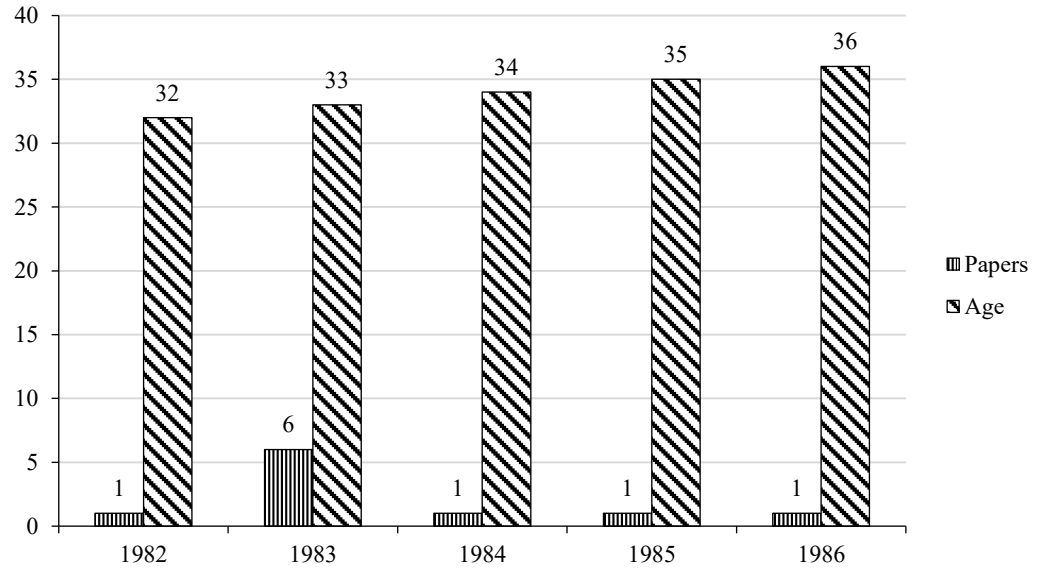

Figure 1. Age-wise publication of Dham.

Table 2. Pattern of authorship.

Number of authors	Sa	2a	3a	5a	7a	9a
Non-collaborative papers	0					
Collaborative papers		2	2	3	2	1
Time span (Total)	0	3	4	2	2	1
Duration		1983–1985	1983–1986	1983–1984	1982–1983	1983–1983

Source: Self-made using data from Google Scholar.
Abbreviations: Sa =single authored, 2a= Two authored, and so on.

Authorship Pattern

Table 2 shows the authorship pattern and time span of publication. All his papers are collaborative. Out of them, the highest numbers of papers, i.e., three are five-authored papers, followed by two-, three, and seven-authored papers, i.e., 2 each; and one nine-authored paper. Out of the total time span, he has taken 4 years for publishing 2 three-authored papers, and 3 years for 2 two-authored papers. Again, three five-authored papers have been published in a time span of 3 years. One nine-authored paper has come out in 1 year.

Name of First Author, Co-authors, and Leading Collaborators

From Table 3, it is observed that the highest number of papers, i.e., 5, has been published by D. J. Lee, the closest collaborator of Dham, with a yearly average of 2.5 papers, followed by S K Lai (4 papers), Y. W. Hu (3 papers, yearly 1.5). Apart, a group of 8 co-authors who have published two papers each, with an average of 2 papers per year with Dham, and another category of 10 co-authors has also published 1 paper each in collaboration with Dham. Figure 2 draws a mapping of publication trends with Dham.

Preferred Publication Channels

Table 4 represents rank-wise scattering of Dham's publications in five communication channels. His favorite communication channels are the International Electron Devices Meeting, Washington, DC, wherein he has published the highest number of papers, that is, 3, followed by the IEEE Journal of Solid-State Circuits (2 papers); the International Electron Devices Meeting, San Francisco, CA (2 papers); and the IEEE International Solid-State Circuits Conference, Digest of Technical Papers, New York, NY (2 papers). Only one paper has appeared in the International Electron Devices Meeting, Los Angeles, CA. During the short time, all his papers have emanated from the USA, and only two papers have been published in the journal "IEEE Journal of Solid-State Circuits" whose impact factor is 6.12.

Table 3. List of favorite collaborators.

Rank	Collaborator's name	Papers	FPY	LPY	P/Y
1	D.J. Lee	5	1982	1983	2.5
2	S.K. Lai	4	1982	1986	0.8
3	Y.W. Hu	3	1983	1984	1.5
4	A.L. Schlafly	2	1983	7983	2
4	D.H. Oto	2	1983	1983	2
4	G.S. Congwer	2	1983	1983	2
4	H.S. Jones	2	1982	1983	1
4	J.A. Skupnjak	2	1983	1983	2
4	J.F. Olund	2	1983	1983	2
4	K.H. Gudger	2	1983	1983	2
4	N.J. Becker	2	1983	1983	2
5	C.S. Jenq	1	1982	1982	1
5	D. Guterman	1	1986	1986	1
5	G.K. Lum	1	1984	1984	1
5	L. Walker	1	1985	1985	1
5	M.J. Reitsma	1	1983	1983	1
5	S. Nieh	1	1983	1983	1
5	S. Tam	1	1984	1984	1
5	S.T.K. Nieh	1	1983	1983	1
5	T.T.L. Chang	1	1982	1982	1
5	W.S. Johnson	1	1982	1982	1

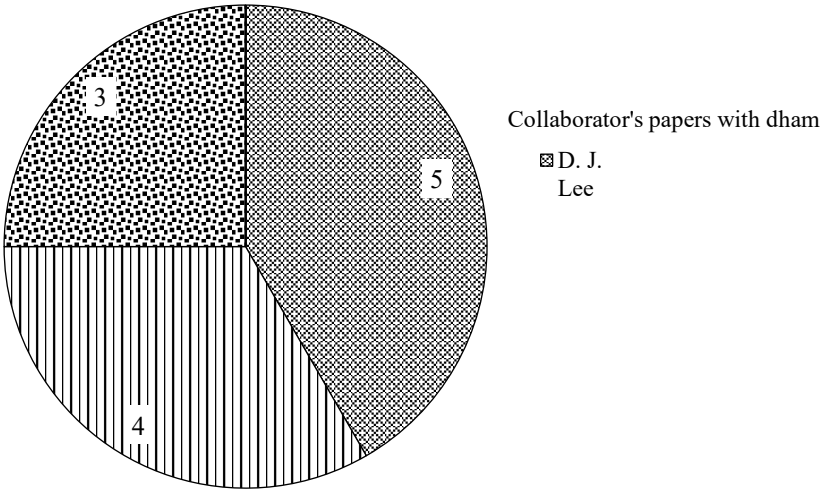

Figure 2. The top three collaborators of Dham.

Citation Analysis

Tables 5 and 6 shows the frequency of citation in papers as reflected in CrossRef (CR), Scopus (SCP), and Google Scholar (GS), and in patents, with the counting of citation growth rate of his nine papers. Dham has received the highest citation, i.e., 118 in GS, 112 in Scopus, and 54 in CrossRef, and Table 7 has counted the highest CGR value, which is 2.88 in GS, 2.37 in Scopus, and 1.32 in CR. The highest number of citations in Patent, i.e., 40, has been received from the paper High-voltage regulation and process considerations for high-density 5 V-only E/sup 2/PROM's, followed by 13 from Control logic and cell design for a 4K NVRAM. Overall, he has received more citations in GS, followed by SCP, which are graphically represented in Figure 3.

Table 4. Rank list of publication channels.

Rank	Name of publication: Channels	Form of documents	Total papers	FPY	LPY	Country
1	International Electron Devices Meeting, Washington, DC	Conference paper	3	1983	1985	USA
2	International Electron Devices Meeting, San Francisco, CA	Conference paper	2	1982	1984	USA
3	IEEE Journal of Solid-State Circuits (IF: 6.12)	Journal Article	2	1983	1983	USA
4	IEEE International Solid-State Circuits Conference. Digest of Technical Papers, New York, NY	Conference paper	2	1983	1983	USA
5	International Electron Devices Meeting, Los Angeles, CA	Conference paper	1	1986	1986	USA

Source: Self-made using data from Google Scholar.
Abbreviations: JA= Journal articles; CP= Conference papers; FD= Forms of documents; FPY=First publication Year; LPY= Last publication year.

Table 5. Citations received and citation growth rate.

S.N.	Title of paper	Communication channels (year)	Times cited (TC)				Ranks				PA in 2024	Citation growth Rate =TC/ PA			
			CIP			*CP*	*CR*	*SCP*	*GS*	*CP*		*CR*	*SCP*	*GS*	*CP*
			CR	*SCP*	*GS*										
01	Electrical properties of nitrided-oxide systems for use in gate dielectrics and EEPROM	International Electron Devices Meeting (1983)	54	112	118	1	1	1	1	5	41	1.32	2.37	2.88	0.02
02	High-voltage regulation and process considerations for high-density 5 V-only E/sup 2/PROM's	IEEE Journal of Solid-State Circuits (1983)	24	20	58	40	2	2	3	1	41	0.59	0.49	1.41	0.97
03	Oxidized-nitridized oxide (ONO) for high-performance EEPROMs	International Electron Devices Meeting (1982)	8	16	24	2	3	3	4	4	42	0.19	0.38	0.57	0.05
04	Comparison and trends in today's dominant E2technologies	International Electron Devices Meeting (1986)	8	0	66	0	3		2		38	0.21	0	1.57	0
05	A 5V-only 4K nonvolatile static RAM	IEEE International Solid-State Circuits Conference (1983)	5	0	7	4	4		9	3	41	0.12	0	0.17	0.09
06	Design of an E2PROM memory cell less than 100 square microns using 1 micron technology	International Electron Devices Meeting (1984)	4	0	9	0	5		7		40	0.1	0	0.23	0
07	Control logic and cell design for a 4K NVRAM	IEEE Journal of Solid-State Circuits (1983)	4	3	21	13	5	4	5	2	41	0.09	0.07	0.53	0.33
08	Design considerations for scaling FLOTOX E2PROM cell	International Electron Devices Meeting (1983)	3	0	8	0	6		8		41	0.07	0	0.19	0
09	A 5V-only E2 PROM using 1.5 µ lithography	IEEE International Solid-State Circuits Conference (1983)	3	0	14	0	6		6		41	0.73	0	0.34	0

Source: Self-made using data from Google Scholar.
Abbreviations: CIP = Citation in papers; CR= Crossref; SCP=Scopus; SG =Google Scholar; CP=Citation in patents; PA= age of papers

Citation Analysis

Tables 5 and 6 shows the frequency of citation in papers as reflected in CrossRef (CR), Scopus (SCP), and Google Scholar (GS), and in patents, with the counting of citation growth rate of his nine papers. Dham has received the highest citation, i.e., 118 in GS, 112 in Scopus, and 54 in CrossRef, and Table 7 has counted the highest CGR value, which is 2.88 in GS, 2.37 in Scopus, and 1.32 in CR. The highest number of citations in Patent, i.e., 40, has been received from the paper High-voltage regulation and process considerations for high-density 5 V-only E/sup 2/PROM's, followed by 13 from Control logic and cell design for a 4K NVRAM. Overall, he has received more citations in GS, followed by SCP, which are graphically represented in Figure 3.

Length of Papers

Table 6 shows the length of pages of his papers. Here, four papers cover 4 to 6 pages; 3 papers take 1 to 3 pages, and 2 papers have taken 7 to 9 pages. The length of pages for one paper could not be ascertained.

Length of References

Table 7 shows the frequency of the length of references appended at the end of his papers. The maximum number of papers, i.e., 4, has cited references in the range of 1 to 4, followed by 3 papers in the range of 9–12 references. One paper has cited 13 to 16 references, and similarly, another one has given a list of 17 to 20 references. References for one paper could not be found.

Keyword Frequency

Table 8 lists keywords found in the keywords section and titles of Dham's papers. Two keywords like Nonvolatile memory, have been used 5 times, and Dielectrics, EPROM, have occurred 4 times. A category of four keywords has appeared 3 times each, and another group of 39 key terms has appeared once each.

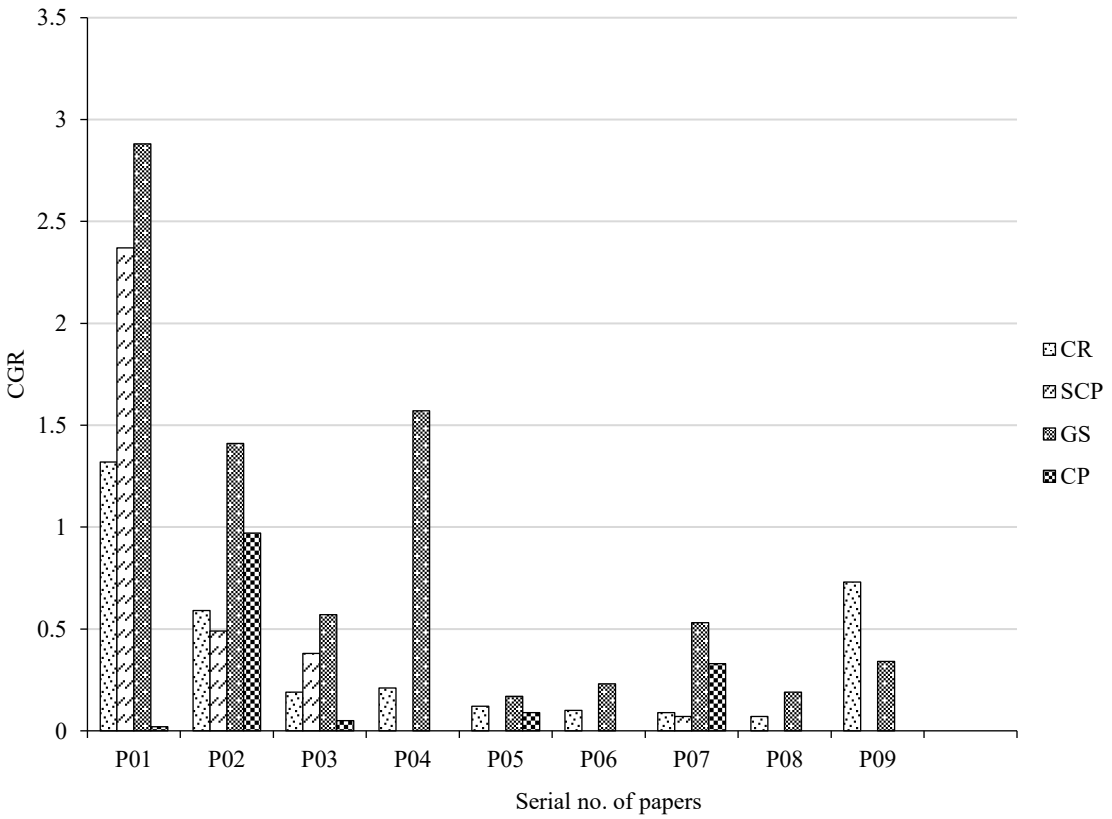

Figure 3. Showing citation growth rate.

Table 6. Length of papers according to pages.

Class	Frequency	%-age
1–3	03	30
4–6	04	40
7–9	02	20
Unknown	01	10
Total	10	100

Table 7. Length of references.

Class	Frequency	%-age
1–4	04	40
5–8	00	00
9–12	03	30
13–16	01	10
17–20	01	10
Unknown	01	10
Total	10	100

Table 8. Keywords frequency.

Keywords	Frequency
Nonvolatile memory; Voltage (02)	5 each
Dielectrics: EPROM (02)	4 each
Capacitance; PROM; Temperature; Voltage control (04)	3 each
Annealing; Circuits; Costs; DH-HEMTs; Electrons; Feedback circuits; Lithography; Random access memory; Silicon compounds; Stress; Tunneling (10)	2 each
Automatic generation control; Boron; Capacitance-voltage characteristics; Capacitors; Charge pumps; Degradation; Dielectric break down; Driver circuits; Dry etching; Electric breakdown; Electric resistance; Electric variables; Electron traps; Feedback loop; Indium tin oxide; Isolation technology; Latches; Logic design; Logic; Machine control; Maintenance; Manufacturing industries; Manufacturing processes; Non-volatile memory technology; Oxidation; Packaging; Parasitic capacitance; Power dissipation; Power supplies; Scalability; Semiconductor device manufacture; Semiconductor memory; Session 26 Integrated circuits; Solids; Standards development; Switched capacitor networks; Technology management; Temperature distribution; Tiles (39)	1 each
Total 58 keywords or key phrases	

CONCLUSION

Most of his time, Vinod Dham has been involved in entrepreneurship, business, and the supply of capital for new ventures. He has not been able to complete his PhD so far. Despite publications during a short period, he has proved himself a genius, and as a result of that, Dham has rewarded us with valuable gifts like Intel's Pentium Micro-Processor and Intel's first Flash Memory Technology (ETOX). He became the topmost executive in the computer industry and the most influential Asian Americans and Indians. He started his real life with $8 (then nearly Rs. 8), and now he is one of the top venture capitalists in the Indo-US high-technology-based electronic world. Vinod Dham is a notable Indian-American who has significantly influenced America's technological landscape. As a leading figure from Silicon Valley, he has been instrumental in shaping the high-tech industry in this renowned Northern California hub. It is a real truth that people live in the human heart forever through their works and services for mankind, irrespective of geographical boundaries.

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