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Response:

We appreciate the interest shown by Elango in our article and his comments. In response, we would like to highlight that our article presents an analysis of international research collaboration among the G-20 countries from 2001 to 2020 (ref. 1). The research publication data for the G-20 countries has been analysed to understand the collaboration patterns and trends. The article also provides a set of values for res-

earch publication counts for various countries, along with a calculation of compound annual growth rate (CAGR). CAGR is a commonly used metric for assessing the growth of quantities (which is research publications in the present case). Its calculation is based on the assumption that the series of values follows a geometric progression with common ratio (r) and holding period t (refs 2, 3). The formula for calculating CAGR, as provided in the relevant Wikipedia page⁴, which in turn has been taken from references 2 and 3 is as follows

$$\text{CAGR}(t_0, t_n) = \left(\frac{V(t_n)}{V(t_0)} \right)^{\frac{1}{t_n - t_0}} - 1, \quad (1)$$

where $V(t_0)$ is the publication count in starting year, $V(t_n)$ the publication count in last year and $t_n - t_0$ is the time period.

In our article¹, the value of t_n is 2020, and for t_0 , it is 2001. Thus, while the formula used for computing CAGR is correct, there has been an inadvertent error in taking the value of time interval (t) as 20 instead of 19. This error is regretted. However, the impact of this error is marginal and limited only to the computation of CAGR values, which will differ marginally, though the overall trend may remain the same. It does not affect any other part of our study, including the results obtained and the inferences drawn. As such, the

analysis presented in our article and its inferences stand valid and unchanged.

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