

Abstract

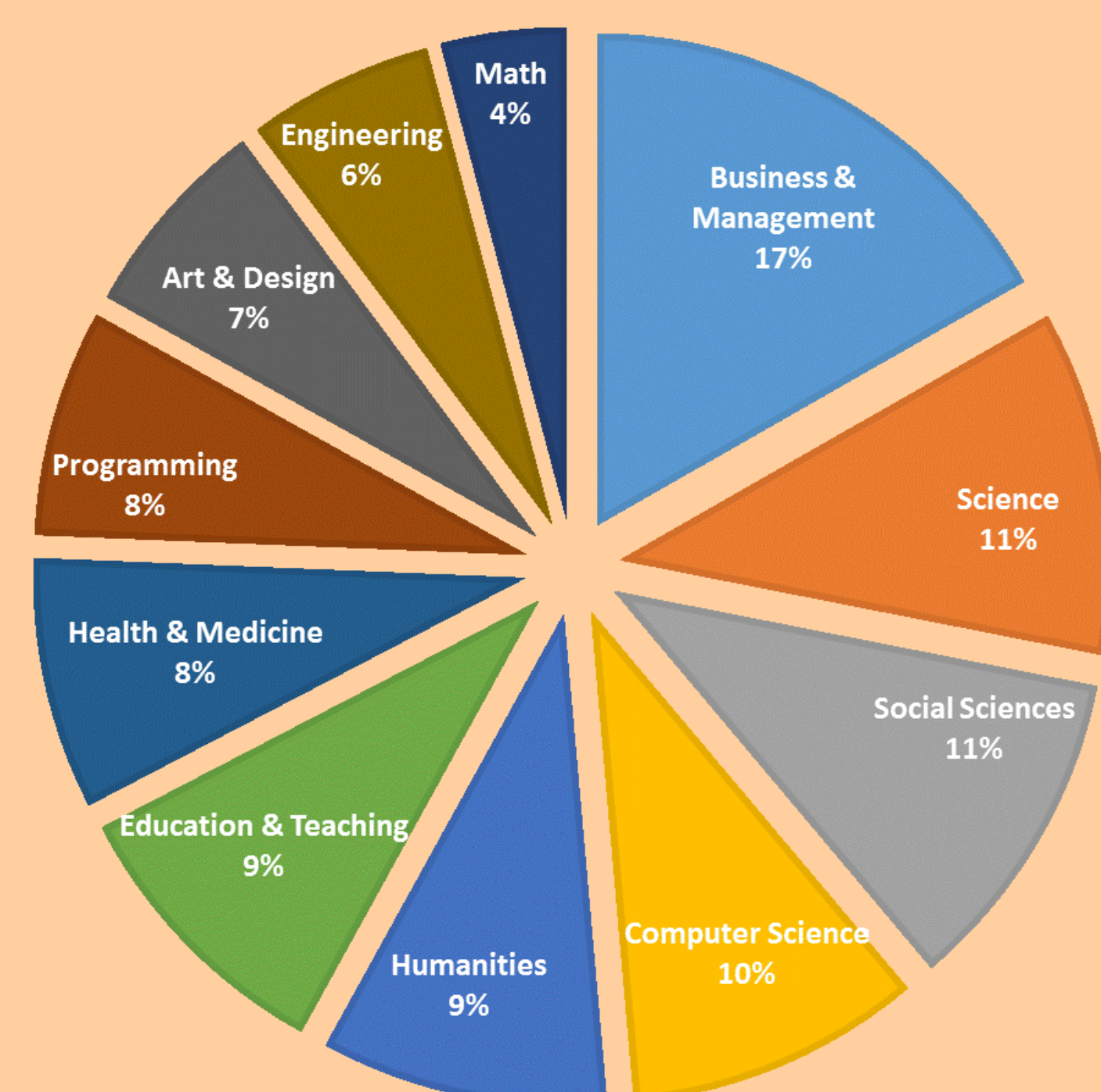
Contrary to popular belief, the University of Phoenix and other for-profit providers represent only a small fraction of online education. Recently, prestigious non-profit universities have begun offering free courses as well as inexpensive online degree programs. We show that these courses provide new educational opportunities to non-traditional demographics including driven children, curious grandparents, and working professionals. Moreover, these courses transcend geographic boundaries reaching developing countries and refugee camps.

Why do MOOCs Matter?

Massive Online Open Courses (MOOCs)

- Are provided by some of the biggest names in higher education
- Are only limited by internet access
- Cover an enormous range of topics
- Reach a wide array of demographics in developing and developed countries alike

COURSE DISTRIBUTION BY SUBJECTS



<https://www.class-central.com/report/moocs-2015-stats/>

Concerns About MOOCs

All online education is provided by large for profit universities

- This is a complete misconception as over 70% of online education is offered by nonprofit providers

MOOCs are unengaging as few people finish

- Many people that start a MOOC do not finish, but they likely had no intention to
- People can take the course to pass or simply explore the topic

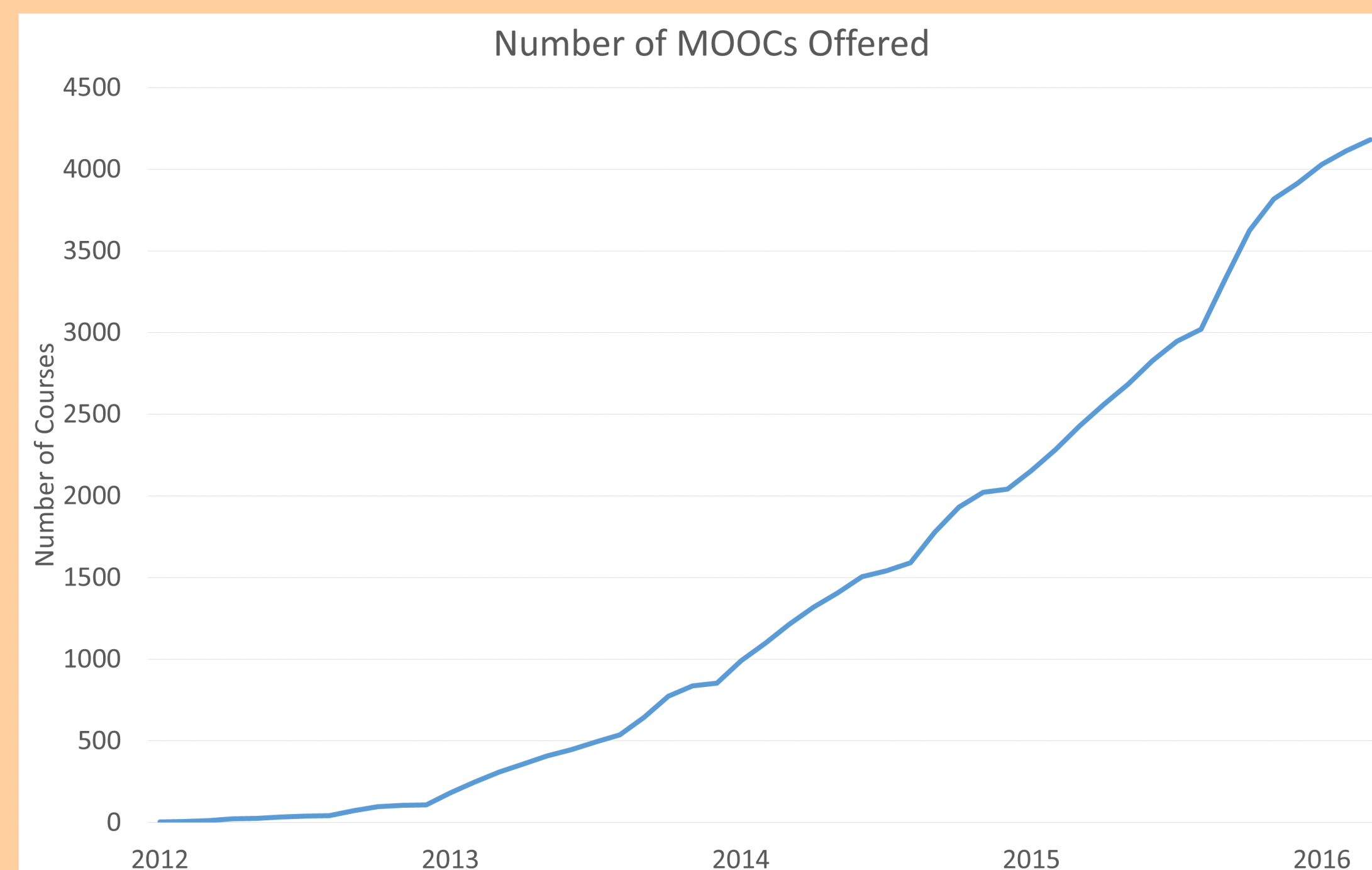
Findings

Traditional undergraduates benefit

- From the ability to watch the lectures multiple times
- From the ability to watch the lectures when they are mentally alert

Older professionals are able to

- Stay up to date on advancements in their fields
- Watch the lectures when they have time in their busy schedules.



Findings (cont.)

Children have the opportunity to

- Explore their interests before going to college
- Further learn about topics taught to them in school

Online master's degree programs provide

- An unmatched opportunity for mid-career professionals to get education
- A way to get education without leaving one's job or family

Those geographically isolated from education benefit

- From access to education they previously did not have
- From learning skills that help them become integrate into society

Conclusion

Online courses provide superior education to many people due to

- The time flexibility of the courses
- The ability to take multiple weeks of class in one week
- The ability to take the classes at any time of day
- The ability to take the classes without leaving their homes

The online education industry is growing rapidly and it is no longer a question of if online courses will become a large part of education, it's a question of how soon and to how many.