

# Introduction to Walsh Analysis

*Alternative Views of the Genetic Algorithm*

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# Outline of Discussion

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- Part I: Overview of the Walsh Transform ←
- Part II: Walsh Analysis of Fitness
- Part III: Walsh Analysis of Mixing Matrices
- Part IV: Conclusions

# What is Walsh Analysis?

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- Analysis (of a GA) using *Walsh Transform*
- Historically mainly for landscape analysis
  - Way of “measuring where the energy/information content in a landscape is”
  - Helps define notions such as “building block” and “deception” more formally
- Recently applied to analysis of variation
  - Used in Vose dynamical systems model of SGA
  - Exposes properties of the *mixing matrix* in the SGA model

# What is a Basis?

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A set of linearly independent vectors in a vector space such that each vector in the space is a linear combination of vectors from the set.

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## For Example:

Suppose  $U$  is the unit basis for  $\mathbb{R}^2$

$$U_1 = \langle 1 \ 0 \rangle$$

$$U_2 = \langle 0 \ 1 \rangle$$

$$\vec{y} \in \mathbb{R}^2$$

$$\vec{y} = 2.0U_1 - 3.1U_2$$

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A basis can be seen as a type of *viewpoint* or *perspective*

## Basis Transformations

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- Takes a space and expresses it under a new / different basis
- $\vec{x} \mapsto W \vec{x}$  (assuming all objects are real)
- Change in viewpoint or perspective

# What is the Walsh Transform?

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- Discrete analog of the Fourier transform
- Transformation into the *Walsh basis*
- Change in viewpoint:
  - For landscape analysis: to help see schema more clearly
  - For variation analysis: to help expose certain mathematical properties of the mixing matrix



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- Discrete analog of the Fourier transform
- Transformation into the *Walsh basis*
- Change in viewpoint:
  - For landscape analysis: to help see schema more clearly
  - For variation analysis: to help expose certain mathematical properties of the mixing matrix

**For example:**

**Before:** see points in landscape residing in implied partitions

**Now:** see schemata in landscape explicitly and points are implied by construction.

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# Fitness & the Standard Basis

(Assuming binary representation)

- Individ. are fixed-length bin. str.

$$x \in \{0, 1\}^\ell$$

- We can enumerate points and associated fitness values
- There is an *implied* basis:

$$f(j) = \sum_{i=00\dots0}^{11\dots1} f_i \delta_{ij}$$

- Where  $\delta_{ij} = 1$  when  $i = j$  and 0 otherwise

**Example:**

3-bit landscape

| Point | Fitness   |
|-------|-----------|
| 000   | $f_{000}$ |
| 001   | $f_{001}$ |
| ⋮     | ⋮         |
| 111   | $f_{111}$ |

# Overview of Schema

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- Schemata are sets of search points sharing some “syntactic feature”

$$s \in \{0, 1, *\}^\ell$$

$$x \in s, \text{ iff } \forall i (x_i = s_i) \vee (s_i = *)$$

For example:

| Schema | Members |
|--------|---------|
|        | 1000    |
| 1**0   | 1010    |
|        | 1100    |
|        | 1110    |

“\*”  $\Leftrightarrow$  “Don’t care”

# Walsh Functions (1)

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Let's define some functions for convenience...

$$\alpha(s_i) = \begin{cases} 0, & \text{if } s_i = * \\ 1, & \text{if } s_i = 0, 1 \end{cases}$$

A "0" indicates an undefined position, while a "1" indicates one that is defined.

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$$j_p(s) = \sum_{i=1}^{\ell} \alpha(s_i) 2^{i-1}$$

Defines the partition number of a schema. E.g.,  $j_p(* * *) = 0$ ,  
 $j_p(* * f) = 1, \dots, j_p(f f f) = 7$ .

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$$y_i = (-1)^{x_i}$$

Define auxiliary string, where  $1 \mapsto -1$  and  $0 \mapsto 1$ . Multiplication can now act as XOR.

## Walsh Functions (2)

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Define **Walsh Functions**, which provide the set of  $2^\ell$  monomials of aux string variables:

$$\psi_j(y) = \prod_{k=1}^{\ell} y_k^{j_k}$$

Here  $j$  is treated like a binary string, and is indexed by  $k$ .



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### For example:

Notice how  $j$  determines which  $y_i$  values are included in the product.

| Partition | $\alpha(s)$ | $j(s)$ | $\psi_j(y)$   |
|-----------|-------------|--------|---------------|
| * * *     | 000         | 0      | 1             |
| * * $f$   | 001         | 1      | $y_1$         |
| * $f$ *   | 010         | 2      | $y_2$         |
| * $f f$   | 011         | 3      | $y_1 y_2$     |
| $f$ * *   | 100         | 4      | $y_3$         |
| $f$ * $f$ | 101         | 5      | $y_1 y_3$     |
| $f f$ *   | 110         | 6      | $y_2 y_3$     |
| $f f f$   | 111         | 7      | $y_1 y_2 y_3$ |

## Walsh Functions (3)

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A brief segue (we'll come back to this later)...

- Note that we only care about values of  $y_k$  which are -1 (or when  $x_k = 1$ )
- In fact, we only care about the *number* of such factors included in the product
- This number is simply the number of positions  $k$  that both  $x$  and  $j$  contain a 1 ( $x^T j$ )
- We could re-write the Walsh Function as follows:  
$$\psi_j(x) = (-1)^{(x^T j)}$$
- Rather than see this as a set of functions that produce vectors, we could see it as a *matrix*:  $\psi_{xj}$

# Walsh Functions (4)

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## Things of note about Walsh Functions:

- Since  $y_i \in \{-1, +1\}$ , exponents  $> 1$  are redundant
- Number in bit-reversed order (trad. in Walsh lit.)
- $\psi_j$  defines a basis over some real vector ( $\vec{w}$ ), just as the delta function did earlier over  $\vec{f}$ :

$$f(x) = \sum_{j=00\dots 0}^{11\dots 1} w_j \psi_j(y(x))$$

- The  $\psi_j$  basis is orthogonal:

$$\sum_{x=00\dots 0}^{11\dots 1} \psi_i(y(x)) \psi_j(y(x)) = \begin{cases} 2^\ell, & \text{if } i = j \\ 0, & \text{if } i \neq j \end{cases}$$

## Walsh Coefficients & Schema Avg (1)

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- We call  $w_j$  a **Walsh Coefficient**
- We might calculate these as follows:

$$w_j = \frac{1}{2^\ell} \sum_{x=00\dots0}^{11\dots1} f(x) \psi_j(y(x))$$

- However, there exists a **Fast Walsh Transform**, similar to the Fast Fourier Transform
- Once obtained, we can use them in linear summations to produce schema averages

## Walsh Coefficients & Schema Avg (2)

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The relationship between the Walsh coefficients and schema averages can be obtained as follows:

$$\begin{aligned} f(s) &= \frac{1}{|s|} \sum_{x \in s} f(x) \\ &= \frac{1}{|s|} \sum_{x \in s} \sum_{j=00\dots0}^{11\dots1} w_j \psi_j(y(x)) \\ &= \frac{1}{|s|} \sum_{j=00\dots0}^{11\dots1} w_j \sum_{x \in s} \psi_j(y(x)) \\ &= \frac{1}{|s|} \sum_{j=00\dots0}^{11\dots1} w_j \sum_{x \in s} \prod_{i=1}^{\ell} (y_i(x_i))^{j_i} \end{aligned}$$

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Each term must be  $\pm 1$ .  
The sum is bounded by  $\pm |s|$ .

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$$\therefore f(s) = \sum_j \text{sign}(s) w_j$$



# Walsh Coefficients & Schema Avg (3)

Now we consider schema averages as the partial sum of signed Walsh coefficients:

| Partition  | Average Fitness   |
|------------|---|
| ***        | $w_0$   |
| **f        | $w_0 \pm w_1$   |
| *f*        | $w_0 \pm w_2$   |
| <b>*ff</b> | $w_0 \pm w_1 \pm w_2 \pm w_3$                                 |
| f**        | $w_0 \pm w_4$   |
| f*f        | $w_0 \pm w_1 \pm w_4 \pm w_5$                                 |
| ff*        | $w_0 \pm w_2 \pm w_4 \pm w_6$                                 |
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**For example:**

$$f(*01) = w_0 - w_1 + w_2 - w_3$$

Coefficients represent the contributions linear & non-linear components of a given schema have on fitness.

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Coefficients represent the contributions linear & non-linear components of a given schema have on fitness.

**Notice:** Low order schema require very few Walsh coefficients

# Example Fitness Function (1)

---

$$OneMax(x) = \sum_{i=0}^{\ell} x_i$$

| $x$ | $f(x)$ | $j$ | Part      | $w_j$ |
|-----|--------|-----|-----------|-------|
| 000 | 0.0    | 0   | * * *     | +1.50 |
| 001 | 1.0    | 1   | * * $f$   | -0.50 |
| 010 | 1.0    | 2   | * $f$ *   | -0.50 |
| 011 | 2.0    | 3   | * $f f$   | 0     |
| 100 | 1.0    | 4   | $f$ * *   | -0.50 |
| 101 | 2.0    | 5   | $f$ * $f$ | 0     |
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Order 1 (and 0) schema are the only contributions.

## Example Fitness Function (2)

---

An arbitrary bitwise linear function:

$$f(x) = 10 + 5x_1 - 10x_2 + 0.1x_3$$

| $x$ | $f(x)$ | $j$ | Part      | $w_j$ |
|-----|--------|-----|-----------|-------|
| 000 | 10.0   | 0   | * * *     | +7.55 |
| 001 | 15.0   | 1   | * * $f$   | -2.50 |
| 010 | 0.0    | 2   | * $f$ *   | +5.00 |
| 011 | 5.0    | 3   | * $f f$   | 0     |
| 100 | 10.1   | 4   | $f$ * *   | -0.05 |
| 101 | 15.1   | 5   | $f$ * $f$ | 0     |
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This is true of all 1-separable fitness landscapes.

# Example Fitness Function (3)

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$$\text{LeadingOnes}(x) = \sum_{i=1}^{\ell} \prod_{j=1}^i x_j$$

| $x$ | $f(x)$ | $j$ | Part      | $w_j$  |
|-----|--------|-----|-----------|--------|
| 000 | 0.0    | 0   | * * *     | +0.875 |
| 001 | 0.0    | 1   | * * $f$   | -0.125 |
| 010 | 0.0    | 2   | * $f$ *   | -0.375 |
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**Question:**

Can we use lower order coeff. to approximate the opt.,  $x = 111$ ?

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“In some sense GAs stochastically hillclimb in the space of schemata rather than in the space of binary strings”  
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0<sup>th</sup> order:  $w_0 = 0.875$

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0<sup>th</sup> order:  $w_0 = 0.875$

1<sup>st</sup> order:  $w_0 - w_1 - w_2 - w_4 = 2.25$

“In some sense GAs stochastically hillclimb in the space of schemata rather than in the space of binary strings”  
(Rana et al., 1998)

# Example Fitness Function (3)

$$\text{LeadingOnes}(x) = \sum_{i=1}^{\ell} \prod_{j=1}^i x_j$$

**Question:**

Can we use lower order coeff. to approximate the opt.,  $x = 111$ ?

| $x$ | $f(x)$ | $j$ | Part      | $w_j$  |
|-----|--------|-----|-----------|--------|
| 000 | 0.0    | 0   | * * *     | +0.875 |
| 001 | 0.0    | 1   | * * $f$   | -0.125 |
| 010 | 0.0    | 2   | * $f$ *   | -0.375 |
| 011 | 0.0    | 3   | * $f f$   | +0.125 |
| 100 | 1.0    | 4   | $f$ * *   | -0.875 |
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Lower order building blocks correctly predict optimum

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# Constructing Deception (1)

---

- Traditional view of GA demands that low order walsh coefficients “predict” higher order ones
- Now it is easy to see how a deceptive function can be constructed:
  - When low order estimates fail to predict the optimum
  - E.g., For two bit problem where
$$f(11) > f(00), f(01), f(10) \quad \text{but}$$
$$f(*0) > f(*1) \text{ or } f(0*) > f(1*)$$
  - Here  $w_1 > 0$  or  $w_2 > 0$  permit this

## Constructing Deception (2)

---

Let's construct a fully deceptive, 3-bit problem:

To be deceptive, we need:

$$w_1 + w_3 > 0, w_2 + w_3 > 0, \text{ and } w_1 + w_2 > 0$$

$$w_1 + w_5 > 0, w_4 + w_5 > 0, \text{ and } w_1 + w_4 > 0$$

$$w_6 + w_4 > 0, w_6 + w_2 > 0, \text{ and } w_2 + w_4 > 0$$

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To preserve optimality:

$$-(w_1 + w_2 + w_4) > w_7$$

$$w_3 + w_5 > w_2 + w_7$$

$$w_3 + w_6 > w_1 + w_7$$

$$w_5 + w_3 > w_2 + w_4$$

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A fully deceptive 3-bit fitness landscape:

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| 000 | 13.0   | 0   | * * *     | 0     |
| 001 | 11.0   | 1   | * * $f$   | +1.0  |
| 010 | 7.0    | 2   | * $f$ *   | +2.0  |
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$0^{th}$  order: 0  
 $1^{st}$  order:  $0 - 7 = -7$   
 $2^{nd}$  order:  $-7 + 14 = 7$   
 Exact:  $7 - (-8) = 15$



# Constructing Deception (3)

A fully deceptive 3-bit fitness landscape:

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| 100 | -1.0   | 4   | $f$ * *   | +4.0  | Exact: $7 - (-8) = 15$        |
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| 110 | -15.0  | 6   | $f f$ *   | +6.0  |                               |
| 111 | 15.0   | 7   | $f f f$   | -8.0  |                               |

The lower order blocks *do not* correctly predict the optimum

# Operator-Adjusted Fitness

---

- Traditional schema theorem:

$$m(s, t + 1) \geq m(s, t) \frac{f(s)}{\bar{f}} \left[ 1 - p_c \frac{\delta(s)}{\ell - 1} - p_m o(s) \right]$$

- Can think in terms of “operator-adjusted” fitness:

$$m(s, t + 1) \geq m(s, t) \frac{f'(s)}{\bar{f}}$$

- Can formulate operator-adjusted Walsh coefficients, and obtain  $f'(s)$  this way, as well

$$w'_j = w_j \left[ 1 - p_c \frac{\delta(j)}{\ell - 1} - 2p_m o(j) \right]$$

- Can compute  $f'$  in terms of  $w'$ , as we did for  $f$  and  $w$

# Defining Deception

---

(Denote the true optimum as  $f^*$ )

- **Near Optimal Set:**  $N = \{x : f^* - f(x) \leq \epsilon\}$
- **Op-Adj. Near Optimal Set:**  $N' = \{x : f'^* - f'(x) \leq \epsilon'\}$ ,  
where  $\epsilon' = \frac{f'^* - w_0}{f^* - w_0} \epsilon$
- **Statically Deceptive:**  $N - N' \neq \emptyset$
- **Statically Easy:**  $N - N' = \emptyset$
- **Strictly Statically Easy:**  $N = N'$

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**Idea:** Will a population stay “near” the global optimum under the influence of the genetic operators once it is there?

**A flaw:** Goldberg calls this “convergence point” an *attractor*. In fact, it is not necessarily one. The definition of stable fixed point and attracting fixed point are not the same.

# What has been learned?

---

- Analysis of deception

Measures the degree of deception in terms of the *potential shift* of points in  $N'$  due to changes in  $f'$ .

- Sensitivity analysis of deception

Measures the degree to which small changes in post-operator fitness affect the degree of deception (Goldberg, 1989b).

- Signal to noise analysis

Measures the ratio of information provided by schema helpful for convergence, versus information which is harmful (Rudnick, 1991).

- Walsh coefficients are insufficient to infer optima

NP hard problems exist for which all non-zero Walsh coefficients can be computed in linear time.  $\therefore$  either  $P = NP$  or the exact linear and non-linear interactions of a function is insufficient to infer the global optimum in polynomial time (Rana, 1998).

# Criticism of Walsh Analysis

---

- Deception  $\neq$  difficult

There are problems that meet “deceptive” criteria that are easy for a GA, as well as the reverse (Grefenstette, 1993) .

- Walsh analysis does not necessarily agree with intuitive notions of “deception”

Deception is not necessarily correlated with high order Walsh coefficients (Goldberg, 1990).

- Relies on hypotheses of *Schema Theory* (e.g, BBH)

Not everyone is convinced of ST’s utility or correctness in terms of dynamical prediction (Vose, 1993).

- Misses the fundamental “useful” connection between the Walsh basis and a GA

The Walsh transform’s real power lies in its ability to simplify and expose underlying properties of transformations performed by the steps in a GA generation, not in the analysis of fitness landscapes (Vose, t.r.).

# Outline of Discussion

---

- Part I: Overview of the Walsh Transform ✓
- Part II: Walsh Analysis of Fitness ✓
- Part III: Walsh Analysis of Mixing Matrices ←
- Part IV: Conclusions



# Overview of the Vose SGA & Mixing (1)

---

- Representation of individuals are discrete, fixed-length strings using alphabets of arbitrary cardinality (we focus on binary)
- Populations are infinite in size
- Model the effects of selection and variation in a generation as a discrete time dynamical system
- Interested in analyzing the *expected* dynamical behavior in a real GA

## Overview of the Vose SGA & Mixing (2)

---

- Population state represented as a vector of proportions of each genotype in population:

$$\Delta^n = \{\vec{x} : x_i \in \mathbb{R}, x_i \geq 0, \sum_i x_i = 1\}$$

- Dynamical map is a composition of steps in a GA generation:

$$\mathcal{G} = \mathcal{M} \circ \mathcal{S} \circ \mathcal{F}$$

- $\mathcal{F}$  assigns fitness,  $\mathcal{F} : \Delta^n \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^n$
  - $\mathcal{S}$  redistributes proportions due to selection,  $\mathcal{S} : \mathbb{R}^n \rightarrow \Delta^n$
  - $\mathcal{M}$  applies mutation and recombination effects,  $\mathcal{M} : \Delta^n \rightarrow \Delta^n$
- Our interest is in studying mixing, so let's simplify things:
    - $\vec{x}' = \mathcal{S}(\mathcal{F}(\vec{x}))$
    - $\vec{x}'' = \mathcal{M}(\vec{x}')$

# The Mixing Matrix

---

Let  $\sigma_k$  be the  $k$  permutation matrix and  $\oplus$  mean XOR

- Define a mixing probabilities matrix  $M^{(0)}$ , or just  $M$ :

$$M = Pr[\text{parent } i \times \text{parent } j \rightarrow \text{child } 0]$$

- We obtain  $M^{(k)}$  generally by permuting  $M$ :

$$M^{(k)} = M_{i \oplus k, j \oplus k}, \quad \forall i, j$$

$$\text{So, } \mathcal{M}_k = (\vec{x}')^T M^{(k)} \vec{x}'$$

- Equivalently, we can permute population vectors:

$$\mathcal{M}_k = (\sigma_k \vec{x}')^T M (\sigma_k \vec{x}')$$

$$\text{Or, } \vec{x}'' = \sum_{i,j} x_i x_j M_{i \oplus k, j \oplus k}$$

# From Fourier to Walsh (1)

---

- We can use linear algebra methods to performing Fourier transforms
- Define a **Fourier Matrix** for alphabets of arbitrary cardinality,  $c$

$$W_{ij} = \frac{1}{\sqrt{n}} e^{\frac{2\pi\sqrt{-1}(i^T j)}{c}}$$

- Now the Fourier transform is the mapping  $\vec{x} \mapsto W\vec{x}^C$   
( $C$  represents complex conjugate)
- For simplicity, we write:

$$\begin{aligned}\hat{A} &= WA^C W^C \\ \hat{x} &= W\vec{x}^C\end{aligned}$$

# From Fourier to Walsh (2)

- In the binary case ( $c = 2$ ), we eliminate conjugation:

$$W_{ij} = \frac{1}{\sqrt{n}} e^{\frac{2\pi\sqrt{-1}(i^T j)}{c}} = \frac{1}{\sqrt{n}} e^{\pi\sqrt{-1}(i^T j)}$$

$$e^{z\sqrt{-1}} = \cos(z) + \sqrt{-1} \sin(z) \quad \text{but here } i^T j \text{ must be a whole number}$$

$$\therefore \sqrt{-1} \sin(\pi(i^T j)) = 0 \quad \text{and} \quad \cos(\pi(i^T j)) = \pm 1$$

$$W_{ij} = \frac{1}{\sqrt{n}} (-1)^{(i^T j)}$$

$$\hat{x} = \frac{1}{\sqrt{n}} W' \vec{x}$$

- From **Part II** we have:

$$w_j = \frac{1}{2^\ell} \sum_x f(x) \psi_j(y(x)) = \frac{1}{n} \sum_x f(x) (-1)^{(x^T j)} = \frac{1}{n} \sum_x f(x) \psi_{xj}$$

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In fact, the Walsh transform is the Fourier transform, when  $c = 2$

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# Fun with Matrices

---

- Define the *twist*  $A^*$  of a  $n \times n$  matrix  $A$  by
 
$$(A^*)_{i,j} = A_{j \oplus i, -i}$$
- Define the *conjugate transpose* as the transpose of the complex conjugate of a matrix, denoted  $A^H$
- $\{H, \wedge, *\}$  are interrelated operators. For example:

$$\begin{aligned} \widehat{A}^H &= \widehat{A^H} \\ ((A^H)^*)^H &= (A^*)^* = \widehat{\widehat{A}}^* \\ (A^H)^H &= \widehat{\widehat{A}} = ((A^*)^*)^* = \text{identity} \end{aligned}$$

- **The point:** complicated sequences of these operations can be simplified

# Applying the Walsh Transform to $\mathcal{M}$

---

- A mixing matrix is dense under positive mutation, but has a sparse Fourier transform
- If mutation is zero,  $M = \widehat{M}$
- $\widehat{M}^*$  is lower triangular
- If mutation is zero,  $M^*$  is upper triangular



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## Why do we care?

Because these are ways to simplify  $M$  for the general case, such that more complicated analysis may be more tractable.

# What has been learned?

---

- We can use the twist to more easily obtain the differential of mixing:

$$d\mathcal{M}_x = 2 \sum_u \sigma_u^T M^* \sigma_u x_u$$

- Some mathematical properties can be elicited from transformed mixing matrix:
  - Access to the *spectrum* of  $M$  obtained through  $M^*$
  - Types of invariances under mixing exposed by Walsh transform
  - If mutation is positive, largest eigenvalue is 2 and all other eigenvalues are *inside* the unit disk
- Efficiency improvement in calculating infinite population model from  $O(c^{3\ell})$  to  $O(c^{\ell \lg 3})$
- Walsh provides a way to elicit model of inverse GA
- YADGE - Yet Another Derivation of Geiringer's Equation

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## What is “Walsh Analysis”?

---

- Analysis (of a GA) using Walsh Transform
- Analysis from perspective of the Walsh basis
- It is really just a different *viewpoint*
  - Might facilitate analysis by changing the viewpoint s.t. our intuitional ideas are exposed for deeper exploration (e.g., Goldberg)
  - Might facilitate analysis by changing the viewpoint s.t. certain types of mathematical derivations become more tractable (e.g., Vose)

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Walsh Analysis is a tool to be used in conjunction with other methods, like a pair of work goggles.

## Is Walsh Analysis Useful?

---

- Not a fair question...depends on the context of the analysis being done
  - Is analysis of schemata and building blocks helpful? Then perhaps Walsh Analysis is helpful for studying schema theory.
  - Is understanding the properties of a dynamical systems model of a GA helpful? Then perhaps Walsh Analysis is helpful for uncovering such properties.
- There may very well be other uses of this “lens” in other contexts
- Seems powerful, but is limited by limitations of existing theory which uses it

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