

Progress in Wavelet Algorithms and Applications

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ABSTRACT

Wavelet and wavelet packet transforms are presently used for image compression and denoising. There has been recent progress on three fronts: implementing multiplication operations in wavelet bases, estimating compressibility by wavelet packet transform coding, and designing wavelet packets to control frequency spreading and pointwise convergence. Some open problems are mentioned.

Keywords: Wavelet transforms, wavelet packets, nonlinear approximation, rate-distortion, frequency spreading

1. INTRODUCTION

Wavelets and *wavelet packets* are special functions having three useful properties:

- They are almost as well localized in both time and frequency as the Heisenberg uncertainty inequality allows;
- They form orthogonal bases;
- They come equipped with fast, well-conditioned transforms: to compute N expansion coefficients of a function costs only $O(N \log N)$ operations.

A simple almost-example of wavelets, which lacks only adequate frequency localization, is the Haar basis¹ generated by the compactly-supported “mother” function $\psi = \psi(x) = \mathbf{1}(2x) - \mathbf{1}(2x - 1)$, where $\mathbf{1}(x)$ is the characteristic or indicator function of the interval $[0, 1)$. The linear span of the following orthogonal unit vectors is dense in $L^2(\mathbf{R})$:

$$\{\psi_{sn}(x) \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} 2^{-s/2}\psi(2^{-s}x - n) : s, n \in \mathbf{Z}\}. \quad (1)$$

This generalizes to Walsh functions, which are almost wavelet packets. Fix the initial functions $w_0 = \mathbf{1}$ and $w_1 = \psi$ in $L^2(\mathbf{R})$, and for each integer $n > 0$ define

$$w_{2n}(x) = w_n(2x) + w_n(2x - 1); \quad w_{2n+1}(x) = w_n(2x) - w_n(2x - 1).$$

Putting $w_{n,k}(x) \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} w_n(x - k)$ gives an orthonormal basis $\{w_{n,k} : n \in \mathbf{N}, k \in \mathbf{Z}\}$ for $L^2(\mathbf{R})$.

Daubechies’ famous smooth generalization² of Haar’s basis is constructed using the *two-scale equations*:

$$\phi(x) = \sum_k h_k \sqrt{2}\phi(2x - k) \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} H\phi(x); \quad \psi(x) = \sum_k g_k \sqrt{2}\phi(2x - k) \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} G\phi(x). \quad (2)$$

where $h = \{h_k : k \in \mathbf{Z}\}$ and $g_k = (-1)^{1-k}h_{1-k}$ are finitely-supported sequences satisfying the following conditions for all integers n, m :

$$\sum_k h_k h_{k+2n} = \delta(n); \quad \sum_k [h_{n+2k} h_{m+2k} + g_{n+2k} g_{m+2k}] = \delta(n - m). \quad (3)$$

Here δ is the Kronecker symbol; $\delta(0) = 1$, but $\delta(n) = 0$ if $n \neq 0$. Sequences h, g satisfying these conditions are called (*orthogonal*) *conjugate quadrature filters*, or CQFs. One nontrivial example is the ‘‘Coifman 12’’ (C12) filters.³ Here $h_k = 0$ if $k < 0$ or $k \geq 12$, and $\{h_k : 0 \leq k < 12\}$ is the following table of values:

$$\begin{array}{lll} \{1.6387336463179785 \times 10^{-2}, & -4.1464936781966485 \times 10^{-2}, & -6.7372554722299874 \times 10^{-2}, \\ 3.8611006682309290 \times 10^{-1}, & 8.1272363544960613 \times 10^{-1}, & 4.1700518442377760 \times 10^{-1}, \\ -7.6488599078264594 \times 10^{-2}, & -5.9434418646471240 \times 10^{-2}, & 2.3680171946876750 \times 10^{-2}, \\ 5.6114348193659885 \times 10^{-3}, & -1.8232088709100992 \times 10^{-3}, & -7.2054944536811512 \times 10^{-4}\} \end{array} \quad (4)$$

The conjugate filter is $g_k = (-1)^{1-k}h_{11-k}$, shifted by 12, so that like h it is nonzero only at indices $0, \dots, 11$.

Similarly, wavelet packets are smooth generalized Walsh functions. Let $w_0 = \phi$ and $w_1 = \psi$ be the scaling function and mother wavelet, respectively, of an orthonormal wavelet basis, with operators H, G defined by CQFs h, g , and put

$$w_{2n}(x) = Hw_n(x), \quad w_{2n+1}(x) = Gw_n(x), \quad (5)$$

for each $n = 1, 2, \dots$. *Shannon wavelets and wavelet packets* can also be obtained by this recursion, if the condition that h and g be finitely supported is removed. Take

$$h_k = \frac{\sin \left[\frac{\pi}{2} \left(k - \frac{1}{2} \right) \right]}{\frac{\pi}{2} \left(k - \frac{1}{2} \right)}; \quad g_k = (-1)^k h_{1-k} = (-1)^k \frac{\sin \left[\frac{\pi}{2} \left(k - \frac{1}{2} \right) \right]}{\frac{\pi}{2} \left(k - \frac{1}{2} \right)}, \quad (6)$$

to define H and G , and

$$\phi(x) = \frac{\sin \left[\pi \left(x - \frac{1}{2} \right) \right]}{\pi \left(x - \frac{1}{2} \right)}; \quad \psi(x) = \frac{\sin \left[2\pi \left(x - \frac{1}{2} \right) \right] - \sin \left[\pi \left(x - \frac{1}{2} \right) \right]}{\pi \left(x - \frac{1}{2} \right)}, \quad (7)$$

for the initial functions.

This overview paper will describe recent progress and open problems in three areas: multiplication of functions given their wavelet approximations; estimation of source coding efficiency, or compressibility, from wavelet packet coefficient distributions; and control of frequency spreading and convergence in wavelet packet bases.

2. COMPUTATION WITH ADAPTED WAVELET BASES

Speedups in numerical simulations have been obtained by representing solutions to complicated problems as superpositions of relatively few wavelet packets. This approximation scheme is nonlinear, keeping only a short series of those component functions with significant amplitudes; the others are discarded. Making this choice to minimize a description length or information cost criterion is called a *best basis* algorithm.⁴

Computed simulations of fully-developed turbulence in the two-dimensional Navier–Stokes equation (2D-NSE) provide an example.^{5, 6} 2D-NSE simulations on 10^4 to 10^6 grid points indicate that 10% of the components suffice for deterministic predictability for short, and 1% suffice statistical predictability such as estimates of the vorticity power spectrum. Turbulence simulations are thus an example ‘‘compressible’’ high-dimensional problem.

After reduction, all of the numerical computations are done in wavelet packet coordinates. Some of the known algorithms are matrix-vector and matrix-matrix multiplication,^{7, 8} numerical differentiation,^{9–11} multiplication,^{12, 13} and certain integral operators.^{14, 15} The multiplication algorithm is key to solving nonlinear equations and is sketched here.

Given two functions approximable with short wavelet packet series, their sum is evidently approximable by another short wavelet series. If the wavelets are smooth and have vanishing moments, then the same is true for products. The short wavelet series representing their product may be found by pre-calculating the *connection coefficients* which express the product of two wavelets or scaling functions as a wavelet series. A method suggested by Daubechies and also used by Dahmen, *et al.*, allows rapid computation of these coefficients

by matrix fixed-point iteration. The complexity of the multiplication algorithm is bounded by the number of nonnegligible connection coefficients.

Only compactly-supported wavelets of Daubechies and Mallat^{2,16} are considered here, rather than the more general wavelet packets. These are *refinable functions*, expressible as short linear combinations of dilated and translated versions of themselves. Refinable functions have a cross-scale self-similarity that can be used to compute integrals of their products, and thus to find connection coefficients.

The algebraic properties of refinable functions are well known, and have been heavily exploited in recent papers on wavelets and numerical analysis. Dahmen and Micchelli¹² considered the problem of evaluating integrals of products of refinable functions and their derivatives. Kunoth¹⁷ later implemented the algorithms described in that paper. Latto, Resnikoff, and Tenenbaum¹⁸ also derived a linear system of equations for connection coefficients involving two-scale equations for refinable functions.

Suppose that $\{e_k : k \in \mathbf{Z}\}$ is an orthonormal basis for $L^2(\mathbf{R})$ consisting of bounded functions. Then the triple product $e_j e_k e_l$ is defined and integrable over \mathbf{R} , so the abstract *connection coefficients* of this basis may be defined as the following integrals:

$$\Gamma_{jkl} = \langle e_j, e_k e_l \rangle \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} \int_{\mathbf{R}} \bar{e}_j(t) e_k(t) e_l(t) dt. \quad (8)$$

These coefficients are used to find the expansion of a product. If $u(t) = \sum_k u_k e_k(t)$ and $v(t) = \sum_l v_l e_l(t)$, then

$$u(t)v(t) = \sum_j \left(\sum_{k,l} \Gamma_{jkl} u_k v_l \right) e_j(t). \quad (9)$$

An example simpler than $L^2(\mathbf{R})$ is the space of sequences ℓ^2 with the *Kronecker basis* $e_k(n) = \delta(n - k)$, where $\delta(x)$ is the Kronecker symbol which is 1 if $x = 0$ and 0 otherwise. The inner product in Equation 8 is a sum rather than an integral, and we see that $\Gamma_{jkl} = \delta(j - k)\delta(j - l)$. The inner summation of Equation 9 simplifies into the pointwise multiplication formula $\sum_{k,l} \Gamma_{jkl} u_k v_l = u_j v_j$.

Another simple example is the Fourier basis $e_k(t) = e^{2\pi k t}$, $k \in \mathbf{Z}$, for $L^2([0, 1])$. This basis is both orthonormal and closed under multiplication, so $\Gamma_{jkl} = \delta(k + l - j)$. A change of variables in the inner summation of Equation 9 gives the usual convolution formula $\sum_{k,l} \Gamma_{jkl} u_k v_l = \sum_k u_k v_{j-k}$.

A less simple example is the Haar basis of Equation 1. Its basis functions are indexed by a pair of integers, so their connection coefficients require six integer indices:

$$\Gamma_{nmk}^{str} \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} \int_{\mathbf{R}} \psi_{sn}(x) \psi_{tm}(x) \psi_{rk}(x) dx \quad (10)$$

The integral may be evaluated explicitly, since the Haar functions are almost closed under multiplication. The product of two Haar functions ψ_{sn} and ψ_{tm} is either zero (if their support intervals are disjoint), or $2^{-s} \mathbf{1}(2^{-s}x - n)$ (if they are equal, as when $s = t$ and $n = m$), or $\pm 2^{-\frac{s+t}{2}} \psi_{tm}$ (if their support intervals intersect, and $s > t$). Reordering so that $s \geq t \geq r$ gives

$$\Gamma_{nmk}^{str} = \begin{cases} 2^{-s/2}, & \text{if } s > t = r \text{ and } m = k \in 2^{s-t}[n, n + \frac{1}{2}) \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} \mathcal{L}(s-t, n); \\ -2^{-s/2}, & \text{if } s > t = r \text{ and } m = k \in 2^{s-t}[n + \frac{1}{2}, n + 1) \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} \mathcal{R}(s-t, n); \\ 0, & \text{otherwise, with } s \geq t \geq r. \end{cases} \quad (11)$$

Now $n \in \mathcal{L}(a, j) \iff 2^{-a}n - \frac{1}{2} < j \leq 2^{-a}n$ and $n \in \mathcal{R}(a, j) \iff 2^{-a}n - 1 < j \leq 2^{-a}n - \frac{1}{2}$. For fixed n and $a > 0$ exactly one of these inequalities will have a solution $j \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} \mathcal{M}(a, n)$, and that solution will be

unique. Putting $\mathcal{S}(a, n) = +1$ if $n \in \mathcal{L}(a, \mathcal{M}(a, n))$ and $\mathcal{S}(a, n) = -1$ if $n \in \mathcal{R}(a, \mathcal{M}(a, n))$ yields the following multiplication formula:

$$\begin{aligned} \sum_{t,m,r,k} \Gamma_{nmk}^{str} u_{tm} v_{rk} &= 2^{-s/2} \sum_{t=-\infty}^{s-1} \left[\sum_{m \in \mathcal{L}(s-t, n)} u_{tm} v_{tm} - \sum_{m \in \mathcal{R}(s-t, n)} u_{tm} v_{tm} \right] \\ &+ \sum_{t=s+1}^{\infty} 2^{-t/2} \mathcal{S}(t-s, n) [u_{t, \mathcal{M}(t-s, n)} v_{sn} + u_{sn} v_{t, \mathcal{M}(t-s, n)}]. \end{aligned} \quad (12)$$

Finally, consider orthonormal wavelets.² The two-scale equations produce the connection coefficients through iteration and filtering. As in the Haar case, there are six indices: Γ_{nmk}^{str} . One starts with the coefficients derived from the scaling functions:

$$A_{nmk}^{str} \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} \int_{\mathbf{R}} \phi_{sn}(x) \phi_{tm}(x) \phi_{rk}(x) dx \quad (13)$$

One may suppose without loss that $s \geq t \geq r$. Also, changing variables gives

$$A_{nmk}^{str} = 2^{-\frac{r}{2}} A_{nmk}^{s-r, t-r, 0} = 2^{-\frac{r}{2}} A_{0, m-2^{s-t}n, k-2^{s-r}n}^{s-r, t-r, 0}, \quad \text{for } n, m, k \in \mathbf{Z} \text{ and } s \geq t \geq r \in \mathbf{Z}. \quad (14)$$

Thus, to obtain A_{nmk}^{str} it suffices to compute $A_{mk}^{ij} \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} A_{0mk}^{ij0}$ for $m, k \in \mathbf{Z}$ and $i \geq j \in \mathbf{Z}$. These values are themselves computed by fixed point iteration. For all triplets (n, m, k) of integers, define

$$A_{nmk} \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} A_{nmk}^{000} = \int_{\mathbf{R}} \phi(x-n) \phi(x-m) \phi(x-k) dx, \quad (15)$$

This quantity will vanish whenever the triplet is so large that the scaling function factors have disjoint support. It also satisfies $A_{nmk} = A_{n-k, m-k, 0}$, so it suffices to compute the simpler quantity:

$$A(n, m) \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} A_{nm0} = \int_{\mathbf{R}} \phi(x-n) \phi(x-m) \phi(x) dx \quad (16)$$

But this matrix satisfies its own two-scale equation¹³:

THEOREM 2.1. *Suppose that $h_k = 0$ unless $0 \leq k < L$. Then $A(n, m) = 0$ unless $-L < n < L$ and $-L < m < L$. Also, A satisfies the homogeneous fixed-point equation*

$$A(n, m) = \sum_{p, q} \alpha(p, q) A(2n-p, 2m-q), \quad -L < n, m < L,$$

where

$$\alpha(p, q) \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} \sqrt{2} \sum_{k=0}^L h_{k-p} h_{k-q} h_k, \quad -L < p, q < L.$$

The complete set of connection coefficients Γ_{nmk}^{str} may be obtained from the following numbers, which must be computed for all $m, k \in \mathbf{Z}$ and for all $i \geq j \in \mathbf{Z}$:

$$\Gamma_{mk}^{ij} \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} 2^{-\frac{i+j}{2}} \int_{\mathbf{R}} \psi(2^{-i}x) \psi(2^{-j}x-m) \psi(x-k) dx; \quad \Gamma_{nmk}^{str} = 2^{-\frac{r}{2}} \Gamma_{m-2^{s-t}n, k-2^{s-r}n}^{s-r, t-r}. \quad (17)$$

Γ_{\dots}^{ij} comes from A_{\dots}^{ij} by filtering:

$$\Gamma_{nmk}^{ij} = \sqrt{2} \sum_{n', m', k'} g_n' g_m' g_k' A_{2n+n', 2m+m', 2k+k'}^{ij} \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} \sqrt{2} G_1 G_2 G_3 A_{n, m, k}^{ij}, \quad (18)$$

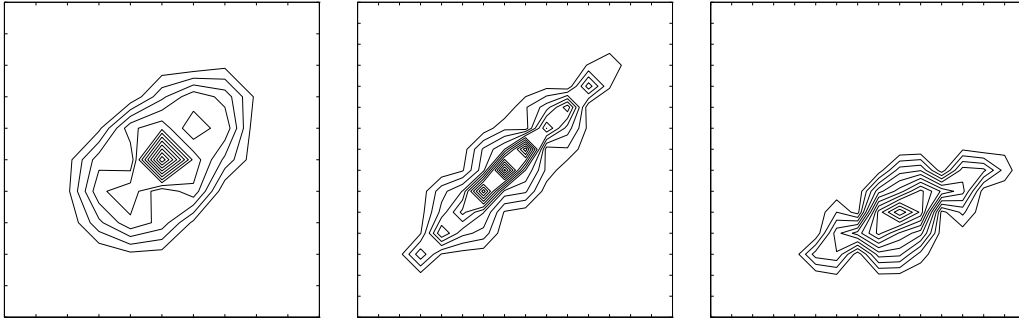


Figure 1: A , $A^{1,0}$ and $A^{1,1}$ for C12 filters.

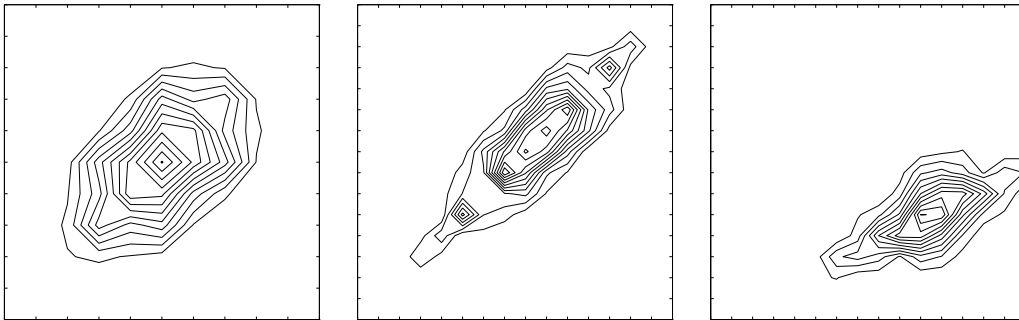


Figure 2: Γ , $\Gamma^{1,0}$ and $\Gamma^{1,1}$ for C12 filters.

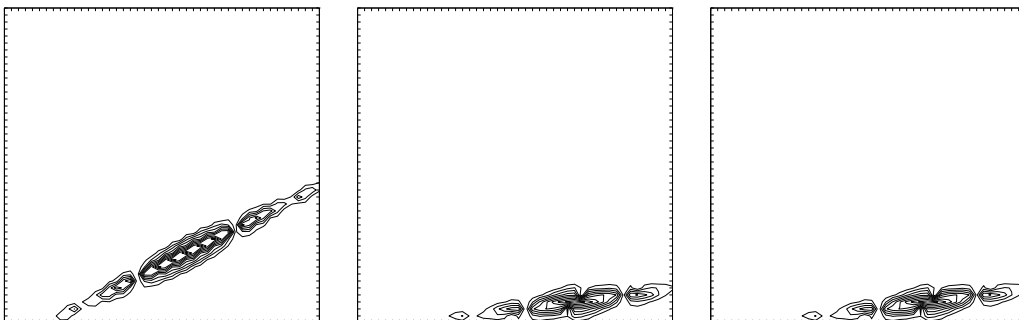


Figure 3: $A^{3,1}$, $A^{3,2}$, and $A^{3,3}$ for C12 filters.

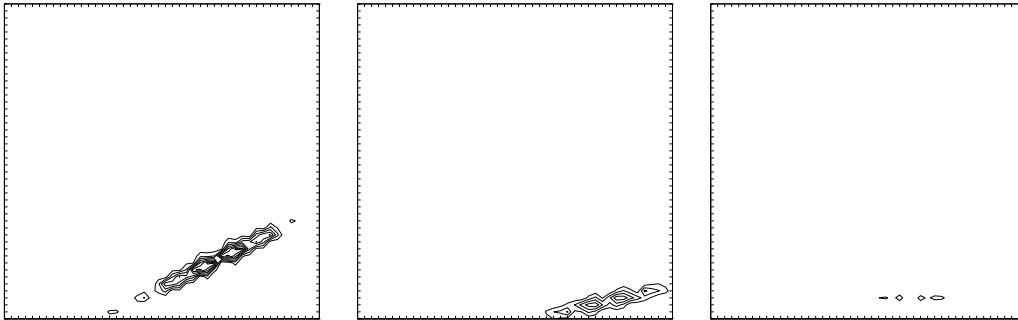


Figure 4: $\Gamma^{3,1}$, $\Gamma^{3,2}$, and $\Gamma^{3,3}$ for C12 filters.

3. ENTROPY OF WAVELET PACKET COEFFICIENTS

Having a choice of transforms for data compression suggests choosing one that optimizes coding efficiency. If the transform coefficients are independent random variables, then the Shannon–Weaver entropy¹⁹ of the sequence determines the minimum bit rate needed to transmit them. This entropy cannot be calculated before the transform is chosen and all the coefficients are known, but if large coefficient values are very sparse, as is commonly observed in practice, then the entropy is equal to the logarithm of the *theoretical dimension* of the coefficient sequence, which can be computed on pieces of the signal to guide the transform choice. The result is a *best-basis* algorithm⁴ that minimizes theoretical dimension over a library of transformations, choosing the transformation that yields best compression and also giving an estimate of the compression rate.

Transform output coefficients $\{x_m : m = 1, 2, \dots\}$ are modeled by independent Bernoulli trials of a random variable with a fixed probability density function $\rho = \rho(t)$. For technical reasons, assume that ρ is continuous and strictly positive on $(0, 1)$. It defines a *probability* $P\{E\} \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} \int_E \rho(t) dt$ for each measurable $E \subset [0, 1]$.

For fixed $1 \ll N < \infty$, (*uniform*) *quantization* to N values is defined by the formula $Q_N(x) \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} \lfloor Nx \rfloor / N$. If $x \in [0, 1)$ then $Q_N(x) \in \{0, \frac{1}{N}, \frac{2}{N}, \dots, \frac{N-1}{N}\}$. For coding or transmission, $\{x_n\}$ is replaced by a quantized version of itself, namely $\{Q_N(x_m) : m = 1, 2, \dots\}$.

After quantization, the root-mean-square error, or *distortion*, per sequence element will have the following expected value:

$$D_N \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} (E\{|x_m - Q_N(x_m)|^2\})^{1/2} = \left(\int_0^1 |t - Q_N(t)|^2 \rho(t) dt \right)^{1/2}. \quad (22)$$

Since the terms in the sequence are independent and identically distributed random variables, the distortion is independent of m . Each quantized value x_m will have the following discrete probability density function, independent of m :

$$p_n \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} P \left\{ Q_N(x_m) = \frac{n-1}{N} \right\} = \int_{\frac{n-1}{N}}^{\frac{n}{N}} \rho(t) dt; \quad n = 1, 2, \dots, N. \quad (23)$$

Shannon’s theorem¹⁹ states that the expected number of bits per element required to encode this quantized sequence cannot be less than, but can be made arbitrarily close to, the entropy of the distribution, defined below:

$$H_N \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} - \sum_{n=1}^N p_n \log_2 p_n \quad (24)$$

Huffman coding²⁰ is one way to achieve this efficiency.

A simple rate-distortion curve for this combination of quantization and coding is obtained by plotting $10 \log_{10} D_N$ against H_N , so that the units are decibels of distortion versus bits per coefficient. The number of quantization intervals N parameterizes the curve. H_N and D_N can be estimated from ρ .

For H_N , write $p_n = \frac{1}{N} \rho(\xi_n)$ for some $\xi_n \in (\frac{n-1}{N}, \frac{n}{N})$. Then

$$H_N = - \sum_{n=1}^N \frac{1}{N} \rho(\xi_n) \log_2 \left[\frac{1}{N} \rho(\xi_n) \right] = \log_2 N - \sum_{n=1}^N \frac{1}{N} \rho(\xi_n) \log_2 \rho(\xi_n) \quad (25)$$

The second term is a Riemann sum approximating $-\int_0^1 \rho(t) \log_2 \rho(t) dt$, which may be called the *source entropy* $\mathcal{H}(\rho)$. The $\log_2 N$ term is present because at super fine quantizations the less significant digits contain most of the information even though they have almost no connection with ρ .

Now D_N , if ρ is continuous, has the following asymptotic behavior as $N \rightarrow \infty$:

$$\lim_{N \rightarrow \infty} N^2 D_N^2 = N^3 \int_0^{1/N} t^2 dt = \frac{1}{3} \Rightarrow D_N \sim \frac{1}{\sqrt{3} N}. \quad (26)$$

Combining Equations 25 and 26 shows that

$$10 \log_{10} D_N \sim -10 \log_{10} N - 5 \log_{10} 3 \sim -AH_N + B\mathcal{H}(\rho) - C, \quad \text{as } N \rightarrow \infty, \quad (27)$$

where A, B, C are positive constants. Thus the rate-distortion curve is asymptotic to a line of negative slope with an intercept at $B\mathcal{H}(\rho) - C$. Shifting the curve to the left improves the rate-distortion relationship in the sense that the same transmission quality is obtained at a lower bit rate. Such a shift is accomplished by reducing $\mathcal{H}(\rho)$, or equivalently by transforming the sequence $\{x_m\}$ so that it appears to come from a lower-entropy source.

Fix $1 \ll M < \infty$, let $\{x_1, \dots, x_M\}$ be a sequence of M Bernoulli trials of the random variable with density ρ , and let $\{x_1^*, \dots, x_M^*\}$ be the decreasing rearrangement: $x_0^* \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} 1 \geq x_1^* \geq x_2^* \geq \dots \geq x_M^* \geq 0 \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} x_{M+1}^*$. Let $x^* = x^*(t)$ be defined on the interval $[0, 1]$ as follows:

$$x^*(t) = x_m^*, \quad \text{if } \frac{m-1}{M} < t \leq \frac{m}{M}; \quad x^*(0) = 1. \quad (28)$$

This is a decreasing step function. The same sequence determines another step function as follows:

$$y(s) = \frac{m}{M}, \quad \text{if } x_{m+1}^* < s \leq x_m^*; \quad y(1) = 0. \quad (29)$$

These two step functions y and x^* are approximate inverses: $y(x^*(t)) = Q_M(t)$, while $x^*(y(s)) = \max\{x_m^* : x_m^* \leq s\} \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} Q_x(s)$. Thus y inverts x^* up to the precision of the M -bin uniform quantization, while x^* inverts y up to the precision of the generally nonuniform quantization defined by the monotonic sequence $\{x_m^*\}$.

Now $y(s)$ is the fraction of values of $m \in \{1, 2, \dots, M\}$ for which $x_m \geq s$. Since the x_m 's are independent, this expectation depends only on ρ , not on M :

$$Ey(s) = \int_s^1 \rho(t) dt. \quad (30)$$

Thus $\frac{d}{ds} Ey(s) = -\rho(s)$, so $Ey(s)$ is strictly decreasing and continuously differentiable. Hence Ey has a differentiable inverse function $z = z(t)$, and the source entropy may be written in terms of z' :

$$\mathcal{H}(\rho) = - \int_0^1 \rho(s) \log \rho(s) ds = \int_0^1 \left[\frac{1}{z'(Ey(s))} \right] \log \left[\frac{-1}{z'(Ey(s))} \right] ds = \int_0^1 \log [-z'(t)] dt. \quad (31)$$

But since y is the approximate inverse of x^* , while z is the inverse of Ey , one may approximate $z \approx x^*$ and

$$\int_0^1 \log [-z'(t)] dt \approx \sum_{m=1}^M \log [-\Delta x_m^*], \quad (32)$$

where $\Delta x_m^* \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} x_m^* - x_{m-1}^*$ for $m = 1, 2, \dots, M$. If x_1, \dots, x_m are so concentrated near 0 that x^* decreases exponentially, then $-\Delta x_m^* \approx b x_m^*$ for some constant $b > 0$, and

$$\mathcal{H}(\rho) \approx M \log b + \sum_{m=1}^M \log |x_m^*| = M \log b + \sum_{m=1}^M \log |x_m|, \quad (33)$$

since the right-hand sum is independent of the order of summation.

Finally, note that $I(x) = \sum_{m=1}^M \log [x_m]$ is an additive information cost function.²¹ In the best-basis method with I , a transform T is chosen for a signal u such that $I(Tu)$ is minimized. If the minimizing coefficient sequence $x = Tu$ has an exponentially decreasing rearrangement, then it will appear to come from a source whose entropy is approximately $I(x)$.

4. WAVELET PACKET SPREADING

Wavelet packets defined by a single filter pair have uncontrolled size and basis properties, in general. By substituting different filters at different scales according to a rule, these can be controlled. One can obtain Schauder bases of uniformly bounded, uniformly compactly supported wavelet packets. By controlling size and support, one can apply the Carleson–Hunt theorem to show that certain wavelet packet Fourier series of a continuous function converges almost everywhere.

With the definitions $F_0 \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} H$ and $F_1 \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} G$, it is possible to write the *filter formulation* of wavelet packets:

$$w_n = F_{n_1} F_{n_2} \cdots F_{n_J} w_0, \quad (34)$$

where $2^{J-1} \leq n < 2^J$ is written in binary as $n = \sum_{j=1}^J n_j 2^{j-1}$, $n_j \in \{0, 1\}$. The numbering is chosen so that n_1 is the least significant bit and n_J is the most significant bit of the J -bit expansion of n . The restriction $2^{J-1} \leq n < 2^J$ implies that $n_J = 1$.

But operators H and G also act as Fourier multipliers:

$$\hat{w}_{2n}(\xi) = \frac{1}{2} m_0 \left(\frac{\xi}{2} \right) \hat{w}_n \left(\frac{\xi}{2} \right); \quad \hat{w}_{2n+1}(\xi) = \frac{1}{2} m_1 \left(\frac{\xi}{2} \right) \hat{w}_n \left(\frac{\xi}{2} \right), \quad (35)$$

where $m_0(\xi) = \sum_k h_k e^{-2\pi i k \xi}$ and $m_1(\xi) = \sum_k g_k e^{-2\pi i k \xi}$ are 1-periodic functions. They are trigonometric polynomials whenever h and g are finitely supported, as in the Walsh example where $m_0(\xi) = 1 + e^{2\pi i \xi} = 2e^{\pi i \xi} \cos \pi \xi$, and $m_1(\xi) = 1 - e^{2\pi i \xi} = -2ie^{\pi i \xi} \sin \pi \xi$. Hence, there is also a *multiplier formulation* of wavelet packets:

$$\hat{w}_n(\xi) = \frac{1}{2^J} \hat{w}_0 \left(\frac{\xi}{2^J} \right) m_{n_J} \left(\frac{\xi}{2^J} \right) m_{n_{J-1}} \left(\frac{\xi}{2^{J-1}} \right) \cdots m_{n_2} \left(\frac{\xi}{2^2} \right) m_{n_1} \left(\frac{\xi}{2} \right). \quad (36)$$

For every positive integer $N > 1$ there is a Daubechies wavelet supported in $[0, 2N - 1]$ which belongs to the smoothness class C^d for $d \approx N/5$.² Since Daubechies' wavelets form an orthonormal basis, the associated wavelet packets $\{w_{n,k} : n \in \mathbf{N}, k \in \mathbf{Z}\}$ form an orthonormal basis for $L^2(\mathbf{R})$, and they are just as smooth as the mother wavelet and scaling function, because the filters are finitely supported. Unfortunately, though they are smooth, these wavelet packets are not uniformly bounded²²:

THEOREM 4.1. *For any orthogonal CQFs (h, g) for which $m_0(\xi) \neq 0$ on $-\frac{\pi}{2} \leq \xi \leq \frac{\pi}{2}$, the wavelet packets $\{w_n\}$ satisfy*

$$\limsup_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{1}{n} (\|\hat{w}_0\|_1 + \cdots + \|\hat{w}_n\|_1) = \infty.$$

The nonvanishing condition on m_0 is satisfied by Daubechies' filters. If in addition m_0 is nonnegative, then $\|\hat{w}_n\|_1$ and $\|w_n\|_\infty$ will be equivalent, so

$$\limsup_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{1}{n} (\|w_0\|_\infty + \cdots + \|w_n\|_\infty) = \infty.$$

Thus, such wavelet packets are not bounded on average, as the frequency index increases. This result was refined by M. Nielsen²³:

THEOREM 4.2. *For Daubechies' filters of length $L = 4$ through $L = 20$, there exist $p_{\min} < \infty$, $C > 0$, and $r > 1$, all depending on L , such that $\|w_{2^n-1}\|_p > Cr^n$, for all $p > p_{\min}$.*

In particular, the theorem holds for $p = \infty$. In the $L = 4$ case, $p_{\min} = 2$ is the smallest possible value, and the same result holds for some other well-known CQFs, but the sharp lower bound is not known in general. There is numerical evidence that the wavelet packets with frequency index $2^n - 1$ have the fastest growth as $n \rightarrow \infty$, while those with frequency index 2^n seem to be uniformly bounded. It is not known whether Daubechies' wavelet packets have the almost everywhere convergence property.

N. Hess-Nielsen^{24,25} originally introduced the idea of building wavelet packet bases with more than one CQF pair in order to design a single short CQF pair with the same frequency localization as longer CQFs. Given a desired depth J of wavelet packet decomposition, this resulted in a savings of approximately half the arithmetic operations in subband decompositions. The algorithm is based on two generalizations of Equations 34 and 36. Let $\{(h^J, g^J : J = 1, 2, \dots)\}$ be a family of orthogonal CQF pairs, fix w_0 , and for $J \geq 2$ and $2^{J-1} \leq n < 2^J$ define *nonstationary* wavelet packets by

$$w_n(x) = F_{n_1}^1 F_{n_2}^2 \cdots F_{n_J}^J w_0(x), \quad (37)$$

or alternatively, in the multiplier formulation, by

$$\hat{w}_n(x) = \frac{1}{2^J} w_0\left(\frac{\xi}{2^J}\right) m_{n_J}^J\left(\frac{\xi}{2^J}\right) \cdots m_{n_2}^2\left(\frac{\xi}{2^2}\right) m_{n_1}^1\left(\frac{\xi}{2}\right). \quad (38)$$

The superscript indicates which pair of CQFs defines the filter operator or multiplier. The idea is to change the filters used to generate wavelet packets as their frequency increases. The associated transforms are as fast as ordinary wavelet packet transforms, but the new functions are better behaved. They may be designed to have the almost everywhere convergence property, or else to have uniform size, independent of frequency.

For example, (h^J, g^J) might be the Walsh CQF pair for all sufficiently large $J \geq J_0$. The resulting wavelet packets are called *Walsh-type*. Likewise, if (h^J, g^J) is the Shannon CQF pair of Equation 6 for all sufficiently large $J \geq J_0$, then the resulting wavelet packets are called *Shannon-type*. M. Nielsen²³ proved:

THEOREM 4.3. *Both Walsh-type and Shannon-type wavelet packet series converge pointwise almost everywhere.*

These theorems are direct consequences of the Carleson–Hunt theorem²⁶ for Walsh series and Shannon series. Generalizing a result of Y. Meyer, M. Nielsen showed that for each Walsh-type wavelet packet basis and each $1 < p < \infty$, there is an isomorphism of L^p that maps the basis onto Walsh functions. The L^p boundedness of the Carleson operator follows. Similarly, each Shannon-type wavelet packet basis is an L^p isomorphic image of the Shannon basis functions.

One can also use nonstationary wavelet packets to control the growth of $\|w_n\|_p$ for large p , as $n \rightarrow \infty$, using lengthening filters. the idea is to get a uniform bound from $\|w_n\|_\infty \leq \|\hat{w}_n\|_1$ by controlling frequency spreading $\|\hat{w}_n\|_1$. A. Cohen and E. Séré²⁷ showed the following:

THEOREM 4.4. *Suppose (h^J, g^J) is a family of orthogonal CQFs whose length function $L = L(J)$ satisfies $L(J) \geq cJ^{3+\epsilon}$ for some $c > 0$ and $\epsilon > 0$. Then the associated nonstationary wavelet packets $\{w_n\}$ satisfy*

$$2^{-J} (\|\hat{w}_0\|_1 + \cdots + \|\hat{w}_{2^J-1}\|_1) \leq B,$$

for some $B < \infty$ and all $J \geq 0$. Thus,

$$2^{-J} (\|w_0\|_\infty + \cdots + \|w_{2^J-1}\|_\infty) \leq B,$$

as well.

M. Nielsen²³ refined this result in the special case where h^J, g^J are the Daubechies orthogonal CQFs of length $L(J)$. It is necessary to redo the entire recursion for each new level. Let

$$\{(h^{J,J}, g^{J,J}), \dots, (h^{J,1}, g^{J,1}) : J = 1, 2, \dots\},$$

be a family of sequences of orthogonal CQF pairs. Fix w_0 , and for $J \geq 2$ and $2^{J-1} \leq n < 2^J$ define *highly nonstationary* wavelet packets by

$$w_n(x) = F_{n_1}^{J,1} F_{n_2}^{J,2} \dots F_{n_J}^{J,J} w_0(x), \quad (39)$$

or alternatively, in the multiplier formulation, by

$$\hat{w}_n(x) = \frac{1}{2^J} w_0 \left(\frac{\xi}{2^J} \right) m_{n_J}^{J,J} \left(\frac{\xi}{2^J} \right) \dots m_{n_2}^{J,2} \left(\frac{\xi}{2^2} \right) m_{n_1}^{J,1} \left(\frac{\xi}{2} \right). \quad (40)$$

Here the superscripts indicate which pair of which sequence of CQFs defines the filter operator or multiplier. In fact, $h^{J,j} \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} h^J$ and $g^{J,j} \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} g^J$ for all $j = 1, 2, \dots, J$. One may suppose that w_0 is any scaling function that generates an orthonormal basis, not necessarily a Daubechies scaling function. One must suppose, however, that w_0 is smooth enough so that $|\hat{w}_0(\xi)| = O(1/|\xi|^{1+\epsilon})$ for some $\epsilon > 0$. One first obtains a basic result, part of which was also shown in²⁷:

THEOREM 4.5. *For any length function $L = L(J)$, the nonstationary wavelet packets derived from $\{h^J, g^J\}$ and the highly nonstationary wavelet packets derived from $\{h^{J,j}, g^{J,j}\}$ form an orthonormal basis for $L^2(\mathbf{R})$.*

The additional properties of Daubechies' CQFs give a better growth result:

THEOREM 4.6. *If the length function satisfies $L(J) \geq cJ^{2+\epsilon}$ for some $c > 0$ and $\epsilon > 0$, then the nonstationary wavelet packets derived from Daubechies' filters $\{h^J, g^J\}$ are uniformly bounded functions.*

The support diameter of the nonstationary wavelet packet w_n grows without bound as $n \rightarrow \infty$, if $L(J) \rightarrow \infty$ as $J \rightarrow \infty$. This is overcome, strangely enough, by backing up and introducing longer filters earlier in the highly nonstationary wavelet packet algorithm²³:

THEOREM 4.7. *If the length function satisfies $cJ^{2+\epsilon} \leq L(J) \leq \frac{2^J}{cJ^{1+\epsilon}}$ for some $c > 0$ and $\epsilon > 0$, and w_1 has compact support, then the highly nonstationary wavelet packets $\{w_n\}$ derived from Daubechies' filters $\{h^{J,j}, g^{J,j}\}$ are uniformly bounded and have uniform compact support in a fixed interval independent of n .*

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