ABOUT WAVELAB

BY

JONATHAN BUCKHEIT, SHAOBING CHEN,
DAVID DONOHO, IAIN JOHNSTONE,
AND JEFFREY SCARGLE

TECHNICAL REPORT NO. 491

NOVEMBER 1995

PREPARED UNDER THE AUSPICES

OF

NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION GRANTS
DMS92-09130 AND DMS95-05151

DEPARTMENT OF STATISTICS

STANFORD UNIVERSITY

STANFORD, CALIFORNIA
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Department of Statistics
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About WaveLab

ftp://playfair.stanford.edu/pub/wavelab
http://playfair.stanford.edu/~wavelab

Jonathan Buckheit, Shaobing Chen,
David Donoho, Iain Johnstone
Stanford University
&
Jeffrey Scargle
NASA-Ames Research Center

Version 0.700
November, 1995

Abstract

WAVELAB is a library of MATLAB routines for wavelet analysis, wavelet-packet analysis,
cosine-packet analysis and matching pursuit. The library is available free of charge over the
Internet. Versions are provided for Macintosh, UNIX and Windows machines. Downloading
and installation instructions are given here.

WAVELAB has over 800 .m files which are documented, indexed and cross-referenced in
various ways. In this document we suggest several ways to get started using WAVELAB:
(a) trying out a point-and-click browser, which allows one to interactively select datasets
and compute their wavelet transforms; (b) running various demonstrations, which illustrate
topics ranging from the visual appearance of various wavelets to the wavelet compression
of certain images, and (c) browsing the extensive collection of source files, which are self-
documenting.

WAVELAB makes available, in one package, all the code to reproduce all the figures in our
published wavelet articles. The interested reader can inspect the source code to see exactly
what algorithms were used, and how parameters were set in producing our figures, and can
then modify the source to produce variations on our results. WAVELAB has been developed,
in part, because of exhortations by Jon Claerbout of Stanford that computational scientists
should engage in "really reproducible" research.

This document helps with installation and getting started, as well as describing the
philosophy, limitations and rules of the road for this software.

Acknowledgment of Support. This work was partially supported by NSF DMS 92-09130
and 95-05151 (Stanford), by the NASA Astrophysics Data Program (through NASA-Ames Grant
NCC2-5100), and by other sponsors.
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1 Introduction

WAVELAB is a library of MATLAB routines for wavelet analysis, wavelet-packet analysis, cosine-packet analysis and matching pursuit. This library has been used in teaching courses on the Wavelet Transform and related Time-Frequency transforms at Berkeley and at Stanford. The library is also the basis for wavelet research by the authors, and may be used to reproduce the figures in their published articles, and to redo those figures with variations in the parameters.

The library is available free of charge over the Internet by FTP and WWW access; instructions are given below. The material is, however, copyrighted, so that advance permission is required for any commercial use.

The package agrees in philosophy with the "orthogonal wavelet transforms" school, and with associated orthogonal time-frequency transforms, such as wavelet packets and cosine packets. The less-mathematically inclined reader is encouraged to study Y. Meyer's book recently published by SIAM in English [28]; this will give the reader a conceptual background for the whole package. Other references for the philosophy expressed here include the book of Ingrid Daubechies [14] (for background on orthogonal wavelet transforms), the papers of Coifman, Meyer and Wickerhauser [12] (for background on wavelet and cosine packets and adaptive choice of time-frequency bases), the book of Wickerhauser [29] and the paper by S. Mallat and S. Zhang on matching pursuit [27].

In addition to routines implementing basic wavelet transforms for finite data sets (both periodic transforms and boundary-corrected transforms), wavelet-packet analysis, cosine-packet analysis (≡ local cosine analysis of Coifman and Meyer) and matching pursuit, the library contains scripts which give a quick guide to wavelets, wavelet packets, cosine packets, matching pursuit and related concepts and which perform elementary data compression and de-noising tasks. We believe that by studying these scripts one can quickly learn the practical aspects of wavelet analysis and one can learn how to use the WAVELAB software library.

In this guide we give information which will help you access and install the software on your machine and get started in exploring the resources contained in the WAVELAB distribution. We also explain the philosophy which underlies our distribution of the software, and some of the fine print associated with the software.

There are other resources for obtaining information about WAVELAB. First, there is the WaveLab Reference, a rather long document giving details about all the functions and scripts contained in the package. Second, there is a WaveLab Architecture guide which gives details about how WAVELAB is constructed and maintained.

This body of software is under continuous development by a team of researchers supported by a grant from the NASA Astrophysics Data program, and from other sponsors. The main aim is research — to develop specific tools for specific goals in adaptive wavelet analysis. We conduct our research with the idea, from the beginning, that we will implement our tools in WAVELAB. We believe that the discipline this entails makes our research of a higher quality than otherwise possible.

We welcome your suggestions for further enhancements, and any contributions you might make.
2 Access and Installation

The WAVELAB library contains .m files (MATLAB code), .mex files (compiled dynamically loadable code), datasets, documentation, scripts and workouts (both also .m files) for reproducing the figures in articles by the authors.

The whole library consists of over 800 files and 30 subdirectories. It requires more than 2 Mb and less than 4.5 Mb space on disk once it is downloaded, decompressed and installed.

This documentation refers to Version 0.700 of WAVELAB.

2.1 Platform-Specific Information

WAVELAB is available for use in MATLAB 4.X on three different platforms: MS-Windows 3.X, UNIX and Macintosh. The package is made available as a compressed archive, in a format suitable for the machine in question: .zip for MS-Windows, .tar.Z for UNIX and .sea.hqx for Macintosh. By and large the versions are the same, with the following differences:

- Under MS-Windows 3.X filenames can only be eight characters long. MATLAB 4.X abides by this inane restriction. WAVELAB routines which on other platforms have names exceeding eight characters have names on MS-Windows version of at most eight characters. (It is hoped that this interplatform difference will soon go away, that Windows '95 will allow 19-character filenames and that MATLAB on that platform will also; then WAVELAB routines will have the same names across all platforms).

- .mex files (i.e. dynamically loaded compiled algorithms) are different on different platforms. Since the Unix version of WAVELAB can run on as many as seven different hardware platforms, Unix users compile their .mex files as part of the installation process.

- Pathname conventions are different on different platforms. This only affects the files startup.m and WavePath.m.

Other than this, the code is the same across platforms. By accessing the version for your platform, you never have to know about all this.

You do have to know about one convention used in the documentation. We always use the UNIX pathname conventions rather than PC or Macintosh, e.g. Matlab/Toolbox/WaveLab/ rather than matlab\toolbox\waveLab or Matlab:Toolbox:WaveLab. You have to transliterate what we say into the version appropriate for your platform.

PC Users: If you are using an MS-DOS-based file system, you also have to figure out DOS 8-character equivalents for some of the names, by looking at the file dosdifs.txt in waveLab/doc.

2.2 FTP Access

The archives may be accessed by anonymous FTP to ftp://playfair.stanford.edu/pub/wavelab. The filenames are:

WaveLab0700.sea.hqx (for Mac)
WaveLab0700.tar.Z (for UNIX)
wlab0700.zip (for MS-Windows)

Here is an example how to access them:

tukey> ftp playfair.stanford.edu
Connected to playfair.stanford.edu.
Name (playfair.stanford.edu:wavelab): anonymous
331 Guest login ok, send ident as password.
Password:
230 Guest login ok, access restrictions apply.
ftp> cd pub/wavelab
250 CWD command successful.
ftp> ls
200 PORT command successful.
150 Opening data connection for /bin/ls (ascii mode) (0 bytes).
FILES
INSTALLATION
README
WaveLab0700.sea.hqx
WaveLab0700.tar.Z
wlab0700.zip
226 Transfer complete.
122 bytes received in 0.055 seconds (2.2 Kbytes/s)
ftp> binary
200 Type set to I.
ftp> get WaveLab0700.tar.Z
200 PORT command successful.
150 Opening data connection for WaveLab0700.tar.Z (binary mode) (1287920 bytes).
226 Transfer complete.
local: WaveLab0700.tar.Z remote: WaveLab0700.tar.Z
1287920 bytes received in 18 seconds (70 Kbytes/s)
ftp> quit
221 Goodbye.

2.3 Installation

In this section we first describe the installation process in narrative form, and later give a step-by-step checklist.

Once the appropriate compressed archive has been transferred to your machine, it should be decompressed and installed. On a PC you will need pkunzip to do this; on a Mac, Stuffit, BinHex or some other tool which can de-binhex a file; and on UNIX, uncompress and tar.

On a personal computer (Macintosh or Windows), the archives should be decompressed and installed as a subdirectory of the Toolbox directory inside the matlab folder. On a UNIX workstation or server, the archives could either be installed in the systemwide matlab directory, if you have permission to do this, or in your own personal matlab directory, if you do not.

Once the actual files are installed, you should have a number of files and subdirectories in the directory WaveLab/. If you look in the files Contents.m inside of the WaveLab/ directory, you will see a plan of what is inside:

% WaveLab Main Directory, Version .700
% This is the main directory of the WaveLab package; the full package
% contains over 800 files, consisting of .m files, .mex files and datasets.
% .m files in this directory
% Contents.m - This file
% startup.m - Sample Startup file
% WavePath.m - Sets up global variables and pathnames
% Subdirectories
Make an actual directory listing to see if your hard disk actually has these files and subdirectories.

2.4 Pathnames

MATLAB can automatically, at startup time, make all the Wavelab software available. The
script `WavePath.m` is provided as part of WAVELAB to enable this feature. It should be invoked from the user's `startup.m` file.

PC `startup.m` is located in the `matlab/bin` directory on MS-Windows. Insert the line `WavePath` in that file, and put a copy of `WavePath.m` in that directory.

Mac `startup.m` may be located anywhere inside the `Matlab` directory on Macintosh. Insert the line `WavePath` in that file. Since WAVELAB contains a `startup.m` file, if you have no other `startup.m` file, there is nothing to do once WAVELAB is installed.

Unix This file is located in the `matlab` subdirectory of your home directory on UNIX. If you don’t have such a subdirectory, use `mkdir ~/matlab` to make one. Create a file named `startup.m` and insert the line `WavePath` in that file. Then put a copy of `WavePath.m` in that directory.

Check the file `WavePath.m` in the `WaveLab/` main directory, and edit it to reflect the actual pathname situation on your computer, e.g. the full pathname of the directory where WAVELAB is actually resident, etc.

2.5 Checklists

To reinforce the above points, we furnish here step-by-step installation checklists.

2.5.1 UNIX Checklist

1. Binary Download the archive to, for example, `/tmp`

2. Uncompress the archive: `uncompress WaveLab0700.tar.Z`

3. Decide where you want the WAVELAB directory to reside. It will have a number of subdirectories and occupy at least 2 Mb MB disk space.

4. `cd` to the place you want the directory to reside

5. `tar xvf <WaveLabTarFile>`, where `<WaveLabTarFile>` should be the absolute pathname of the `WaveLab0700.tar` archive, for example with the `/tmp` prefix if necessary.

6. After you de-tar the file for your machine, you should have the following directory structure:

```
WaveLab
   WaveLab/Browsers/One-D
   WaveLab/Continuous
   WaveLab/Datasets
   WaveLab/DeNoising
   WaveLab/Documentation
   WaveLab/FastAlgorithms
   WaveLab/Interpolating
   WaveLab/Meyer
   WaveLab/Orthogonal
   WaveLab/Packets
   WaveLab/Packets2
   WaveLab/Papers
   WaveLab/Papers/Adapt
   WaveLab/Papers/Asympt
   WaveLab/Papers/Blocky
   WaveLab/Papers/Ideal
   WaveLab/Papers/MinEntSeg
```
WaveLab/Papers/ShortCourse
WaveLab/Papers/SpinCycle
WaveLab/Papers/Tour
WaveLab/Papers/VillardDeLans
WaveLab/Pursuit
WaveLab/Stationary
WaveLab/Symmetric
WaveLab/Utilities
WaveLab/Wigner
WaveLab/Workouts
WaveLab/Workouts/BestOrthoBasis
WaveLab/Workouts/MatchingPursuit
WaveLab/Workouts/MultiFractal
WaveLab/Workouts/Toons

7. Edit the file WavePath.m, put the lines

    if strcmp(Friend,'<YourMachineType>'),
        WAVELABPATH = '"<AbsolutePathNameForWaveLabMainDirectory>' ;
        PATHNAMESEPARATOR = '"<YourMachine&gt;PathSeparator>' ;
    end

in the appropriate place (this will be evident). Here Friend has been predefined by the
MATLAB command Friend = computer;

8. In the matlab subdirectory of your home directory, put a copy of the files startup.m and
WavePath.m, both from the WaveLab/ directory.

9. cd to WaveLab/MEXSource

10. Type installMEX to compile and install the .mex files. If you have an older version of
MATLAB, this command may yield compilation errors; in this case try "installMEX.old"
instead.

Trouble-Shooting UNIX: Compare the output of ls -r WaveLab with Documentation/WLFiles
to see if you have all the files. Compare the output of the MATLAB command path with the list
above to see if you have all the directories in your path.

2.5.2 Macintosh Checklist

1. Binary Download the file WaveLab0700.sea.hqx to your Macintosh.

2. un-BinHex the file, creating a self-extracting archive WaveLab0700.sea.

3. Double-click on the self-extracting archive and install it in the Toolbox folder of your
Matlab folder.

4. Using Find File from the Mac Finder, determine if you have any files named startup.m
(besides the one contained in WaveLab/) in the hierarchy rooted at Matlab. If you don't,
skip to step 6.

5. If you do have more than one startup.m file, copy the contents of the startup.m in
Matlab/Toolbox/WaveLab to the startup.m, and rename the one in Matlab/Toolbox/WaveLab.

6. Edit WavePath.m if your Matlab directory has a different pathname reference than the one
supplied at the top of this file.

8
2.5.3 PC Checklist

1. Binary download the file wlab0700.zip to your PC.

2. cd to your toolbox folder in the matlab folder.

3. pkuunzip -d <PREFIX>wlab0700.zip, where <PREFIX> is the prefix making <PREFIX>wlab0700.zip an absolute pathname reference.

   After you unzip you should have the following subdirectory structure:

   `wavelab`
   `wavelab\browsers\one-d`
   `wavelab\cont`
   `wavelab\datasets`
   `wavelab\denoise`
   `wavelab\doc`
   `wavelab\fastalg`
   `wavelab\interp`
   `wavelab\meyer`
   `wavelab\ortho`
   `wavelab\packets`
   `wavelab\packets2`
   `wavelab\papers`
   `wavelab\papers\adapt`
   `wavelab\papers\asym`
   `wavelab\papers\blocky`
   `wavelab\papers\ideal`
   `wavelab\papers\mentseg`
   `wavelab\papers\shortcrs`
   `wavelab\papers\spincycl`
   `wavelab\papers\tour`
   `wavelab\papers\vd1`
   `wavelab\pursuit`
   `wavelab\station`
   `wavelab\symm`
   `wavelab\util`
   `wavelab\wigner`
   `wavelab\workouts`
   `wavelab\workouts\bob`
   `wavelab\workouts\mp`
   `wavelab\workouts\multfrac`
   `wavelab\workouts\toons`

4. copy c:\matlab\toolbox\wavelab\wlpath.m c:\matlab\bin

5. Create a startup file in c:\matlab\bin which runs wavepath at startup time.

4/5*. (Alternate Steps 4-5) Edit matlabrc.m to insert in the path all the directories referenced in wavepath.m.

   Trouble-Shooting DOS: To check that you have every file that you should, look at doc\wllfiles.txt; see if everything is there! Check that while in MATLAB, the path function returns a list that looks like the one under item 3 above.
2.6 Success

When you have a successful installation, you should see something like the following when you invoke MATLAB:

Commands to get started: intro, demo, help help
Commands for more information: help, whatsnew, info, subscribe

Welcome to WaveLab v .700
Setting Global Variables
Setting Matlab Path
Pathnames Successfully Set
global WAVELABPATH = "/afs/ir.stanford.edu/users/j/o/jon/WaveLab/"
global PATHNAMESEPARATOR = ";"; global MATLABVERSION = 4
global PREFERIMAGEGRAPHICS = 1
WaveLab v .700 Setup Complete

Available Demos - Figures from the following papers:
AdaptDemo - 'Adapting to Unknown Smoothness via Wavelet Shrinkage'
AsympDemo - 'Wavelet Shrinkage: Asymptopia?'
BlockyDemo - 'Smooth Wavelet Decompositions with Blocky Coefficient Kernels'
IdealDemo - 'Ideal Spatial Adaptation via Wavelet Shrinkage'
MESDemo - 'Minimum Entropy Segmentation'
SCDemo - 'Nonlinear Wavelet Methods for Recovery of Signals, Densities and Spectra from Indirect and Noisy Data'
TDemo - 'Translation-Invariant De-Noising'
TourDemo - 'Wavelet Shrinkage and W.V.D. -- A Ten-Minute Tour'
VdLDemo - 'WaveLab and Reproducible Research'

Available Workouts:
BBWorkout - Workouts for Best Basis
MPWorkout - Workouts for Matching Pursuit
MultiFrac - Workouts for Continuous Wavelet Transform
Toons - The Cartoon Guide to Wavelets

3 Getting Started

There are several ways to get started with WaveLab. First, you can snoop around the directory structure to see what's there. Second, you can try running some of the demos to see what they do. Third, you can try the Browser to do some point-and-click wavelet operations on "canned" signals. Fourth, you can run the 'Toons to get individual figures.

3.1 Snooping

If you just snoop around in the WaveLab file structure, you will notice many directories and a great range of different information about the system itself and what it can do. We list here some basic facts.

3.1.1 Contents Files

Each directory has a Contents.m file, which explains the contents and purpose of that directory. The directory Orthogonal contains the central wavelet transform tools; its Contents.m file looks as follows:
% Orthogonal:Contents  v.700 -- Orthogonal Wavelet Transform Tools
%
% The routines in this directory perform periodic- and boundary-corrected
% wavelet analysis of 1-d and 2-d signals. The main tools for all-purpose
% use are FWT_PO and IWT_PO.
%
% Wavelet Transforms
%
% FWT_PO    - Forward Wavelet Transform, Periodized, Orthogonal
% IWT_PO    - Inverse Wavelet Transform, Periodized, Orthogonal
%
% FWT_CDJV  - Forward Wavelet Transform, Boundary-Corrected
% IWT_CDJV  - Inverse Wavelet Transform, Boundary-Corrected
%
% FWT2_PO   - Forward Wavelet Transform, 2-d MRA, Periodized,
%             Orthogonal
% IWT2_PO   - Inverse Wavelet Transform, 2-d MRA, Periodized,
%             Orthogonal
%
% FTWT2_PO  - Forward Wavelet Transform, 2-d Tensor, Periodized,
%             Orthogonal
% ITWT2_PO  - Inverse Wavelet Transform, 2-d Tensor, Periodized,
%             Orthogonal
%
% Wavelet Transform Displays
%
% ContourMultiRes - Multi-Resolution Mesh Display of 1-d Wavelet Transform
% DisplayMultiRes - Mesh, Contour or Image Plot of Multi-Resolution
% DisplayWaveCoeff - Mesh, Contour or Image Plot of Wavelet Coefficients
% PlotMultiRes  - Display Mallat-style Multi-resolution Decomposition
% PlotWaveCoeff - Spike Plot of Wavelet Coefficients
%
% Filter and Wavelet Generators
%
% MakeCDJVFilter - Generate Filters for CDJV Boundary-Corrected Transform
% MakeONFilter  - Generate Filters for Daubechies, Coiflets, Symmlets, Haarlets
% MakeWavelet   - Make periodized orthogonal wavelet
% Make2dWavelet - Make 2-d wavelet
%
% Two-Scale Operators
%
% UpDyadHi    - Upsampling Hi Pass operator (used in IWT_PO)
% UpDyadLo    - Upsampling Lo Pass operator (used in IWT_PO)
% DownDyadHi  - Downsampling Hi Pass operator (used in FWT_PO)
% DownDyadLo  - Downsampling Lo Pass operator (used in FWT_PO)
% CDJVDown    - Downsampling operator (used in FWT_CDJV)
% CDJVUp      - Upsampling operator (used in IWT_CDJV)
%
% Utilities
%
% aconv       - Filtering by periodic convolution of x with
%                 time reverse of f
% iconv       - Filtering by periodic convolution of x with f
% dyad          - Access entire j-th dyad of 1-d transform
% dyad2ix      - Convert (j,k) index to linear index
% dyadlength   - Length and Dyadic Length of 1-d array
% quad2ix      - Convert (j,k) index to linear index
% quadlength   - Length and Dyadic Length of 2-d array
% rshift       - Circulant right shift
% lshift       - Circulant left shift
% MirrorFilt   - Apply (-1)^t modulation
% reverse      - Reverse order of samples
% UpSample     - Interpolate zeros between samples
% PlotSpikes   - Plot an array as as spikes on baseline
% UpDyadHi     - Hi-Pass Upsampling operator; periodized
% UpDyadLo     - Lo-Pass Upsampling operator; periodized
%

3.1.2 Help for Functions

Each function in WAVELAB has help documentation. For example, FWT_PO is a basic wavelet transform routine. If you are in MATLAB and type help FWT_PO, MATLAB will type out the following documentation:

FWT_PO -- Forward Wavelet Transform (periodized, orthogonal)
Usage
   wc = FWT_PO(x,L,qmf)
Inputs
   x  1-d signal; length(x) = 2^J
   L  Coarsest Level of V_0; L << J
   qmf quadrature mirror filter (orthonormal)
Outputs
   wc 1-d wavelet transform of x.

Description
1. qmf filter may be obtained from MakeQNFilte
2. usually, length(qmf) < 2^(L+1)
3. To reconstruct use IWT_PO

See Also
   IWT_PO, MakeQNFilte

3.1.3 Source Browsing

All the algorithms in WAVELAB are available for inspection – even those that are actually implemented by fast compiled C code as .mex files. For example, if you are in MATLAB and type FWT_PO you get the following documentation:

function wccoef = FWT_PO(x,L,qmf)
% FWT_PO -- Forward Wavelet Transform (periodized, orthogonal)
% Usage
%    wc = FWT_PO(x,L,qmf)
% Inputs
%    x  1-d signal; length(x) = 2^J
%    L  Coarsest Level of V_0; L << J
%    qmf quadrature mirror filter (orthonormal)
% Outputs
% wc  1-d wavelet transform of x.
%
% Description
% 1. qmf filter may be obtained from MakeONFilter
% 2. usually, length(qmf) < 2^(L+1)
% 3. To reconstruct use IWT_PO
%
% See Also
% IWT_PO, MakeONFilter
%
[n,J] = dyadlength(x);
wcoef = zeros(1,n);
beta = ShapeAsRow(x);  %take samples at finest scale as beta-coeffts
for j=J-1:-1:1:
    alfa = DownDyadHi(beta,qmf);
    wcoef(dyad(j)) = alfa;
    beta = DownDyadLo(beta,qmf);
end
wcoef(1:(2^L)) = beta;
wcoef = ShapeLike(wcoef,x);

%
% Copyright (c) 1993. Iain M. Johnstone
%
%
% Part of WaveLab Version .700
% Built Thursday, November 9, 1995 8:24:54 PM
% This is Copyrighted Material
% For Copying permissions see COPYING.m
% Comments? e-mail wavelab@playfair.stanford.edu
%

Notice that the source contains information about the author and date of compilation, as well as copyright, of the routine. Also, the help information is built in as the first thing following the function header. Notice also that the wavelet transform routine depends on other routines, such as DownDyadHi and dyad, which are also part of Wavelab and can also be inspected at source level.

3.1.4 Documentation Directory

The Wavelab system also has extensive built-in documentation about the system itself. If you look in the directory Documentation, you will find several files of general interest:

WIAHHelpListing  -  all help files arranged by function name
WIAHSynopsisListing - one-line synopses arranged by function name
WLContentsListing  -  all Contents.m files
WLFFiles -  listing of all Wavelab files arranged by directory
WLHelpHeaders.m -  listing of all first lines of help headers
WLLHelpListing -  all help files arranged by directory

Two extracts:
WLAlphaSynopsisListing: This file is helpful for quick reference when writing code – when you know what function to use, and can’t remember exactly the calling sequence. Part of the file near the letter “C”:

```plaintext
% sqtree = Calc2dStatTree(TFType, img,D,TFFar,ent[,EntPar])
% heights = Calc2dTreeHeight(stree,D)
% Ent = CalcEntropy(object,ent[,par])
% stree = CalcStatTree(pkt,ent[,par])
% [maxheight, cost] = CalcTreeHeight(stree,D)
% CalcWPLocation(d,b,k,qmf,n)
% blo = CDJVDyadDown(bhi,F,LEF,REF)
% bhi = CDJVDyadUp(blo,F,LEF,REF)
% bestlev = CompareStdBases(stree,D)
% PlotMultiRes(wc,L,scal,qmf)
% [bb,stats,coef] = CP2dTour(img,MaxDeep,titlestr)
% sig = CPAtomicSynthesis(atoms,cp,bell)
% [clean,bb,st] = CPDeNoise(x,D,bell)
% dcp = CPImpulse(cp,d,b,k,bell)
% atomic = CP3Dpursuit(x,D,bell,natom,frac,show)
% atomic = CP3DpursuitBF(x,D,bell,natom,frac,show)
% [cp, btree] = CP3DpursuitTour(Format,x,D,ball[,natom,title])
```

WLHelpHeaders.m: This lists the first line of each help file in the system. It is handy for browsing when you don’t know what you need and are searching for a handle. Here is a segment dealing with the Utilities directory.

```plaintext
*** WaveLab:Utilities ***
% Utilities: Contents v.700: Utilities for Writing Scripts
% AutoImage -- image display of object assuming arbitrary values
% CutDyad -- Truncate signal to Dyadic length
% GrayImage -- standard gray-scale image display
% HitAnyKey -- Tool for pausing in scripts
% LockAxes -- Version-independent axis command
% PadDyad -- Zero-fill signal to Dyadic length
% MakeTiledfigures -- Tile the screen with figures
% RegisterPlot -- add legend with file name, date, flag
% ShapeAsRow -- Make signal a row vector
% ShapeLike -- Make 1-d signal with given shape
% UnlockAxes -- version-independent axis command
% versaplot -- version-independent plot routine
% WaitUntil -- Burn up CPU cycles until sec seconds elapse from oldclock
% WhiteNoise -- Version-independent white noise generator
```

3.1.5 Dataset Documentation

Datasets are also documented. If you look in the directory Datasets, you will find that each dataset (.raw or .asc) is accompanied by a .doc file. The dataset daubechies.raw is accompanied by the file daubechies.doc, which contains the following:

daubechies.raw -- Gray-scale image of Ingrid Daubechies

Access

```plaintext
Ingrid = ReadImage('Daubechies');
```

Size
Gray Levels
256

Description
Ingrid Daubechies is a very active researcher in the field of wavelet analysis and author of the book "Ten Lectures on Wavelets", SIAM, 1992. She is inventor of smooth orthonormal wavelets of compact support.

Source
Photograph of Ingrid Daubechies at the 1993 AMS winter meetings in San Antonio, Texas. Taken by David Donoho with Canon XapShot video still frame camera.

3.2 Demos

After browsing around to see what files WaveLab contains, it's time to see what WaveLab can do!

The subdirectory WaveLab/Papers itself contains several subdirectories; each one of these contains scripts that were used to produce figures in our published articles.

As new articles are written by members of our group, we will add new subdirectories.

Each subdirectory contains a "demo" file (e.g. SCDemo.m in directory ShortCourse, TourDemo.m in directory Tour) end so on. This file allows you to reproduce the figures in the corresponding article.

When you invoke that file in MATLAB by typing its name (without the .m extension), a menu bar will appear on the screen. If you mouse-click on the menu item Show All Figures you will see, in sequence, each figure in the corresponding article. As each figure appears in MATLAB's figure window, the command window will contain narrative explaining what you see in the figure window.

3.2.1 Short Course Demo

For example, in SCDemo, one gets the figures from a short course presented at the American Mathematical Society. When one runs SCDemo, the following banner appears in the command window:

SCIntro -- Info for SCDemo

The .m files in this directory can reproduce the figures in the article

Nonlinear wavelet methods for recovery of Signals, Densities and Spectra from Indirect and Noisy Data
by
David L. Donoho


These figures illustrate the application of thresholding in the wavelet, wavelet packet and cosine packet domains to recovery
of objects from noisy and incomplete data. References are given to recent work of Donoho, Johnstone, Kerkyacharian, Picard, Gao and researchers in other groups.

All in all, this Demo consists of 29 figures. Here is a sort of table of contents, made by extracting from the file Documentation/WLHelpHeaders.m:

*scfig01:* Short Course 01 -- De-Noising of NMR Signal  
*scfig02:* Short Course 02 -- Noisy Deconvolution  
*scfig03:* Short Course 03 -- Comparison of Wavelet and Packet DeNoising  
*scfig04:* Short Course 04 -- Four Spatially Inhomogeneous Signals  
*scfig05:* Short Course 05 -- Noisy Versions of Four Signals  
*scfig06:* Short Course 06 -- Wavelet Shrinkage of the Four Noisy Signals  
*scfig07:* Short Course 07 -- AutoSpline Reconstructions from Noisy Data  
*scfig08:* Short Course 08 -- AutoTrunc Truncated Fourier Reconstructions  
*scfig09:* Short Course 09 -- WaveShrink of object yBlocks in Haar Basis  
*scfig10:* Short Course 10 -- Comparing Compression Abilities  
*scfig11:* Short Course 11 -- Compare Wavelet and DCT Partial Reconstructions  
*scfig12:* Short Course 12 -- DeNoising a 2-d object  
*scfig13:* Short Course 13 -- Smoothing Counts data by square roots -- ESCA data  
*scfig14:* Short Course 14 -- Estimating Time Series Spectrum  
*scfig15:* Short Course 15 -- Noisy Differentiation by WVD  
*scfig16:* Short Course 16 -- Noisy Differentiation by WVD in Wavelet Domain  
*scfig17:* Short Course 17 -- Noisy Differentiation by Ideal Fourier Damping  
*scfig18:* Short Course 18 -- Depict Deconvolution in Wavelet Domain  
*scfig19:* Short Course 19 -- Display Vaguelette Kernels  
*scfig20:* Short Course 20 -- Four Time-Frequency test signals  
*scfig21:* Short Course 21 -- Four Noisy Time-Frequency test signals  
*scfig22:* Short Course 22 -- Wavelet Packet DeNoising  
*scfig23:* Short Course 23 -- Compare Four DeNoising methods  
*scfig24:* Short Course 24 -- Compare Segmented and Ordinary Refinement  
*scfig25:* Short Course 25 -- DeNoising a segmented transform  
*scfig26:* Short Course 26 -- Sine signal with Cauchy Contamination  
*scfig27:* Short Course 27 -- Linear Smoothing of Cauchy Noise  
*scfig28:* Short Course 28 -- Robust De-Noising
The first figure to appear is as follows:

![Figure 1: First Figure of Short Course](image)

As this figure appears, the following text appears in the command window:

```matlab
scfig01: Short Course 01 -- De-Noising of NMR Signal

Here a noisy NMR signal is denoised by a simple three-step recipe:

1. Transform to Wavelet Domain.
2. Apply thresholding to set coefficients "at the noise level" to zero
3. Return to the original domain.

Evidently, the noise is suppressed without broadening the peaks. More traditional smoothing methods either suppress the noise and broaden peaks or don't suppress the noise and leave peaks narrow.

These data were kindly supplied by Chris Raphael, an NSF postdoctoral fellow in the Statistics Department at Stanford.

Note that if you ever become interested in how a certain effect is achieved, this is available simply by inspecting the code at source level. An extract from the output given by MATLAB in response to `type scfig01`:

```matlab
nmsignal = ReadSignal('RaphaelNMR');
QMFS = MakeGWNFilter('Symmlet',8);
scalednms = NormNoise(nmsignal,QMFS);
[xh,wcoef] = WaveShrink(y,'Visu',5,QMFS);
tnmr = 1:length(nmsignal);
%
clg;
versaplot(211,tnmr,y,[],' 1 (a) NMR Spectrum',[],[])
versaplot(212,tnmr,xh,[],' 1 (b) Wavelet Shrinkage De-Noising',[],[])
```
```
This code fragment reads in a dataset, normalizes it, calls \texttt{WaveShrink} to de-noise it and then displays, in two panels, the result.

### 3.2.2 Demo Inventory

Here is an up-to-date listing of demos in version 0.700, and the articles to which they correspond:

- \texttt{AdaptDemo} "Adapting to Unknown Smoothness via Wavelet Shrinkage"
- \texttt{AsymDemo} "Wavelet Shrinkage: Asymptopia?"
- \texttt{BlocklyDemo} "Smooth Wavelet Decompositions with Blocky Coefficient Kernels"
- \texttt{IdealDemo} "Ideal Spatial Adaptation via Wavelet Shrinkage"
- \texttt{NEStDemo} "On Minimum Entropy Segmentation"
- \texttt{SCDemo} "Nonlinear Wavelet Methods for Recovery of Signals, Densities, Spectra and Images from Incomplete and Noisy Data"
- \texttt{SpinDemo} "Translation-Invariant De-Noising"
- \texttt{TourDemo} "Wavelet Shrinkage and W.V.D. -- A Ten-Minute Tour"
- \texttt{VdLDemo} "WaveLab and Reproducible Research"

### 3.2.3 Obtaining Articles

We suggest obtaining the articles corresponding to these demos, then reading through them and inspecting the figures in hardcopy form. Then ask yourself questions: what would happen if I changed the parameters in this algorithm, etc. Then delve into the scripts, creating slightly modified ones that recreate the figures with modified parameters.

To get the corresponding articles, you have two options:

- **FTP** Anonymously FTP to \texttt{playfair.stanford.edu}, \texttt{cd pub/reports/author}, where \texttt{author} is the last name of the first author of the paper, \texttt{ls} to get a listing of available articles, then \texttt{get filename.ps} to get the corresponding postscript file, then print that postscript file locally.

- **WWW** Use your WWW browser to open the URL \texttt{http://playfair.stanford.edu}. The Stanford University Department of Statistics home page will appear, containing pointers to technical reports. Follow your nose, until you get to wavelet articles; click on the article name you are interested in. Your browser will spawn a postscript viewer and you will be able to read the article on screen, even print it if you like.

### 3.3 Browser

Now you might be interested in interacting with wavelets a bit. For this purpose, consider the 1-d signal browser \texttt{WLBROWSER}.

The \texttt{Contents.m} file for directory \texttt{Browsers/One-D} says:  
"The routines in this directory implement a point-and-click browser that allows the user to select signals, select wavelet, wavelet packet, discrete cosine transforms, etc. Some of the options, including WTCmpress, WPCmpress and CPCmpress, contain other possibilities for interaction, such as interactive wavelet thresholding – changing a threshold interactively and watching the effects upon reconstruction."

Invoke this browser by simply typing \texttt{WLBROWSER} at the \texttt{MATLAB} prompt. After the browser is initialized, you will see four new figure windows tiling the screen, and you will see several menu items at the top of the window at the upper left of the screen:

- **File**
- **Edit**
- **Window**
- **Data**
- **Signal**
- **Transform**
- **Options**
- **Action**

The starred items are new items installed by the browser. If you click the mouse button while pointing at the \texttt{Data} item, a pull-down menu will appear with the names of datasets which can be accessed by the Browser.

At the same time, documentary text will scroll by in the command window:
This WaveLab MATLAB program lets you try out standard Wavelet Analysis techniques on standard or synthetic data sets.

Here is a summary of how to use the menus:

Data: Load data from WaveLab's standard data sets:
      (Caruso, Laser, Sunspots, Seismic, ESCA, HochWNR, RaphaelWNR)

Signals: Use a built-in artificial signal
         (Bumps, Blocks, LinChirp, TwoChirp, ...)

Xforms:
       Sqrt - square root transformation
       Log - log transformation
       Anscombe - square root transformation
       Wahba - log transformation of periodogram
       Pgram - periodogram
       Add Noise - apply the currently defined noise to the data & plot
       Normalize - apply the WaveLab routine 'NormNoise' to the data and plot it.

Actions:
       Plot_WT - Plot Wavelet Transforms
       Plot_MRA - Plot Multi-Resolution Analysis
       Plot_DCT - Plot Discrete Cosine Transforms
       WPTour - Wavelet Packet & Best Basis Analysis
       CPTour - Cosine Packets & Best Basis Analysis
       WTCompress - Wavelet Compression
       WTDeNoise - Wavelet DeNoising
       WPCompress - Wavelet Packet Compression
       CPCompress - Cosine Packet Compression

Params:
       Wavelet - Select the wavelet for the wavelet transform
       Bell - Select the bell to be used in cosine packets
       Nonlinearity - type of thresholding to use in denoising
       Threshold Selector - method of selecting the threshold
       Noise Type - type of noise to use when adding noise
       Noise Level - amplitude of noise when adding noise
       Signal Length - signal length when fabricating artificial signal

KEEP THIS TEXT WINDOW HANDY AND YOU WILL SEE COMMENTS
AND THE MATLAB COMMANDS DISPLAYED AS THEY ARE EXECUTING,
FROM TIME TIME TO TIME YOU WILL HAVE TO ENTER DATA HERE.

This gives a sketch of the functions available in the Browser.
3.3.1 Example: De-Noising

Try pulling down the *Data menu, and selecting RaphaelNMR. In the upper left window of the screen, you will then see a display of some noisy NMR data; these are the same data that appeared earlier, in our example scfig01.

The window has a scroll bar at the bottom and several clickable buttons. Those have little use in this example.

In the command window, documentation about the data will scroll by.

Hold down the mouse button while pointing at the *Actions item; a pull-down menu will appear, with the names of actions. Try selecting WTDeNoise. In the ‘#3’ window at the lower left of the screen, you will see a display of the wavelet transform of the noisy data, and a display of the transform after thresholding.

In the ‘#2’ window at the upper right of the screen, you will see a display of the noisy data, and of the inverse transform of the thresholded coefficients. The display shows that a considerable amount of noise has been removed:

![Figure 2: Denoising NMR Data](image)

The ‘#4’ window at the lower right displays the power spectra of the data and the reconstruction.

The blocky appearance of the bottom pane in window ‘#2’ is due to the default wavelet used by the system – the Haar Wavelet. You can change the default wavelet by pulling down the *Params menu and selecting Wavelet>Symlet. That will generate a display comparable to that of scfig01.

3.3.2 Example: Thresholding Caruso

Try pulling down the *Data menu, and selecting Caruso. In the upper left window of the screen, you will then see a display of some data obtained by digitizing a Caruso recording (Figure 3). The dataset, as loaded by the Browser, has 32,768 samples. The window displays a segment of length 4096.

The window has a scroll bar at the bottom and several clickable buttons. If you click Play, and you are on a machine that supports sound, the visible segment is played. The speech was sampled at 8192 Hz, so you’ll hear only a half a second of sound. Try clicking *2. This will
cause the visible segment of data to double in length, to 8192 samples. If you now click Play, you will hear the phrase *La Bella.*

![Caruso Signal](image)

**Figure 3: Caruso Signal**

Hold down the mouse button while pointing at the *Actions* item; a pull-down menu will appear, with the names of actions. Try selecting WPCompress. In the ‘#3’ window at the lower left of the screen, you will see a display of the wavelet packet coefficients of the signal, and a display of the coefficients after thresholding (Figure 4).

![WP Best Basis Coefficients; Caruso](image)
![Coefficients above Threshold 8221.62](image)

**Figure 4: WP Coefficients, Caruso Signal**

In the ‘#2’ window at the upper right of the screen, you will see a display of the signal, and of the inverse wavelet packet transform of the thresholded coefficients. The display shows that a considerable amount of noise has been removed (Figure 5).
The ‘#4’ window at the lower right displays the sorted wavelet packet coefficients and two slider bars (Figure 6).

By adjusting the sliders, you change the height of the threshold, or equivalently, the number of coefficients discarded. Each change is followed by an automatic update of the other windows. In this way you can interactively set the threshold level and inspect the results.

### 3.4 Toons

The [Workouts/Toons](#) directory contains more than 100 scripts which exercise various features of Wavelab. These range from toon0131 which depicts wavelets at various scales, to toon0541-toon0548, which compare 2-d wavelet transforms and 2-d Fourier transforms as methods of image compression, to toon1611-toon1613 which illustrate fingerprint compression.

We again point out that one can not only view the figures that these scripts generate; one can inspect and modify the underlying code.

#### 3.4.1 Outline of Toons

Underlying the production of Toons is a topic outline, currently located in the Contents.m file in the [Workouts/Toons](#) directory. For each topic in this outline, there are (or will ultimately be) one or several .m files which generate figures illustrating the given topic.

1.0 Wavelets
   1.1 Types of Wavelets
   1.2 Gender of Wavelets
   1.3 Scale Families of Wavelets
   1.4 Daubechies D4 Wavelets
   1.5 Wavelet Analysis of Functions
   1.6 MRA Analysis of Functions
   1.7 Smoothness of Wavelets
   1.8 Frequency Content of Wavelets
2.0 2-d Wavelets
Figure 6: Threshold Selection, Caruso Signal

2.1 Mesh Plots of Four Wavelets
2.2 Image Plots of Four Wavelets
2.3 2-d Wavelet Analysis of Synthetic Objects
3.0 Wavelet Analysis
  3.1 Analysis of Smooth Signals
  3.2 Analysis of Piecewise Polynomials
  3.3 Analysis of Singularities
  3.4 Comparison of Wavelet Types
4.0 Wavelet Synthesis
  4.1 Partial Reconstructions
  4.2 Comparison of Two Wavelets
  4.3 Compression Number
  4.4 Comparison with Other Transforms
  4.5 Unconditional Basis Property
5.0 Applications
  5.1 Data Expansion
  5.2 Progressive Transmission
  5.3 Data Compression 1-d
  5.4 Data Compression 2-d Ingrid Image
  5.5 De-Noising
  5.6 Fast Algorithms

<skipping...>

16.0 Applications of 2-d Wavelet Packet Analysis
16.1 FBI Fingerprint
  16.1.1 Display fingerprint and basis tree
  16.1.2 First- and best- 5% reconstructions
  16.1.3 First- and best- 10% reconstructions
For example, in the above list, associated with topic 1.1 are four files `toon0111.m`–`toon0114` which show graphically the various types of wavelets. By extracting from the file `WLHelpHeaders.m`, we get the following:

```
% toon0111 -- Wavelet Families
% toon0112 -- Interpolating Wavelets
% toon0113 -- Average Interpolating Wavelets
% toon0114 -- Meyer Wavelets
% toon0121 -- Wavelets Come in Genders
% toon0131 -- Scale Families of Wavelets
% toon0132 -- Wavelets come at all different scales and positions
% toon0140 -- Illustrating Boundary Wavelets
% toon0141 -- Illustrating Boundary Wavelets
% toon0142 -- Illustrating Boundary Wavelets
% toon0151 -- Visualize wavelet decomposition of ramp.
% toon0152 -- Visualize wavelet decomposition of Doppler.
% toon0161 -- Visualize multi-resolution decomposition
% toon0171 -- Illustrate smoothness of wavelets
```

This shows that associated with topic 1.1 there are four figures, with topic 1.2 only one, with topic 1.4 there are three figures, etc. In general, the association of topic numbers to figures is in the scheme topic number AA.B → AABN, where N ranges from 1 to 9.

Most figures in toons are stand-alone figures, meaning they can be run independently of all other figures. However, in some cases they belong to sequences of figures that should be run all in a row. For example, `toon0541`–`toon0548` make up a sequence of eight figures that should be run consecutively.

### 3.4.2 Example: Plotting Wavelets

We now consider a few simple examples of what the toons contain. The file `toon0111` contains the following help header, accessible by typing `help toon0111`

```
% toon0111 -- Wavelet Families
%
% Wavelet analysis begins by choosing a specific family of wavelets
% to work with.
%
% The family is specified by a father and a mother wavelet, and
% these generate a basis by translation and dilation.
%
% Here we illustrate four specific Mother wavelets
%
% Haar -- the first wavelet; a square-wave wavelet
%
% Daubechies D4 -- the first continuous, compactly supported
% orthonormal wavelet family
%
% Coiflet C3 -- orthonormal wavelets system where both father and
% mother have special vanishing moments properties
%
% Symmlet S8 -- nearly-symmetric orthogonal wavelet of
% compact support with 8 vanishing moments.
```

When we run this `.m` file, by typing `toon0111` at the MATLAB prompt, we get the following figure. The figure displays wavelets of compact support with various degrees of smoothness:
Inspecting the source of this figure reveals how it was made:

```matlab
wave = MakeWavelet(4,8,'Haar',[],'Mother',1024);
subplot(221);
t = (1:1024)/1024;
plot(t(300:800),wave(300:800)); title('Haar Wavelet ');

wave = MakeWavelet(4,8,'Daubechies',4,'Mother',1024);
subplot(222);
plot(t(300:800),wave(300:800)); title('D4 Wavelet ');

wave = MakeWavelet(4,8,'Coiflet',3,'Mother',1024);
subplot(223);
plot(t(300:800),wave(300:800)); title('C3 Coiflet ');

wave = MakeWavelet(4,8,'Symmlet',8,'Mother',1024);
subplot(224);
plot(t(300:800),wave(300:800)); title('S8 Symmlet ');
```

The secret: use of the `MakeWavelet` routine, along with some standard plotting commands.

3.4.3 Example: Looking at a 2-d Wavelet Transform

The file `toon0231` is associated with the outline segment

2.3 2-d wavelet analysis of synthetic objects

2.3.1 Stick Figure

The file contains the following help header, accessible by typing `help toon0231`:

```matlab
% toon0231 -- Visualize Wavelet Xform
%
% Here we display a 2-d image (a stick figure)
```
% and its 2-d wavelet transform.
%

When we run this .m file, by typing toon0231 at the MATLAB prompt, we get the following figure:

![Figure 8: Toon 0231](image)

Inspecting the source of this figure reveals how it was made:

```matlab
stick = Make2dSignal('StickFigure', 128);
% clg; subplot(121);
AutoImage(stick);
title('Skinny');
% Q = MakeONFilter('Coiflet',2);
wstick = FWT2_P0(stick,3,Q);
% subplot(122);
zmat = sqrt(abs(wstick));
zmat = 256-3.8*zmat;
AutoImage(zmat);
title('WT2[Skinny]');
```

The secret: use of the Make2dSignal routine to access the StickFigure image, use of FWT2_P0 to calculate the 2d wavelet transform and use of AutoImage to display the images on the screen.

### 3.4.4 Example: 2-d Compression Methods

The file toon0548 is associated with the outline segment

5.4 Data Compression 2-d Ingrid image
- 2-d Ingrid Image toon0541
- FWT Ingrid Image toon0542
- Nonzero Patterns toon0543
- Co/Dec 95% FWT toon0544
- Co/Dec 95% DCT toon0545
- Compression Numbers toon0546
- Error Comparisons toon0547
- Side-by-Side toon0548

All eight files should be accessed in sequence. The file toon0548 contains the following help header, accessible by typing help toon0548:
When we run this .m file by typing toon0548 at the MATLAB prompt, we get the following figure:

![Figure 9: Compression of Ingrid Daubechies](image)

Inspecting the source of this figure reveals how it was made:

```matlab
subplot(121);
GrayImage(icw_ingrid,256);
title('a) 95% Wavelet Compression of Ingrid');

subplot(122)
GrayImage(icf_ingrid,256);
title('b) 95% Fourier Compression of Ingrid');
```

The secret, in this case, is hidden, because this file only uses the results of earlier calculations. To track down the earlier calculations, we have to inspect the source of other figures in the sequence. The command type toon0542 shows how the image is transformed into the wavelet domain using FWT2_P0:

```matlab
% toon0542 -- Data Compression of Ingrid Daubechies
%
% Take Ingrid into the Wavelet Domain.
%
qmf = MakeONFilter('Coiflet',2);
wingrid = FWT2_P0(ingrid,3,qmf);
%
zmat = abs(wingrid);
AutoImage(zmat);
title('Wavelet Transform of Ingrid Daubechies');
```

The command type toon0543 reveals how the wavelet-domain object is operated upon, setting 95% of the coefficients to zero (ellipses indicate omissions):

```matlab
% toon0543 -- Data Compression of Ingrid Daubechies
%
% Investigate Sparsity in the Wavelet Transform of Daubechies.
% wcsort = sort(abs(wingrid(:)));
...  
% Sparsify Image
% wthresh = wcsort(floor(.95*65536));
cw_ingrid = wingrid .* (abs(wingrid) > wthresh);
...  

The command type toon0544 reveals how the sparse object is then transformed back into
the original domain, using IWT2_PD:

% toon0544 -- Data Compression of Ingrid Daubechies
% % Reconstruct Daubechies from 5% of her coefficients.
% icw_ingrid = IWT2_PD(cw_ingrid,3,qmf);
AutoImage(icw_ingrid);
title('95% Wavelet Co-Dec of Daubechies');

In this case, then, figuring out "the secret" may require following the flow of MATLAB exe-
cution across several .m files.
4 Philosophy

We briefly describe in this section some underlying philosophical ideas which have guided us in the construction of this software library.

4.1 Reproducible Research

Jon Claerbout, a distinguished exploration geophysicist at Stanford, has in recent years championed the concept of really reproducible research in the "Computational Sciences."

The "Computational Sciences" he has in mind are fields in which mathematical and computer science heuristics may suggest algorithms to be tried on scientific signal processing and imaging problems, but mathematical analysis alone is not able to predict fully the behavior and suitability of algorithms for specific datasets. Therefore experiments are necessary and such experiments ought, in principle, to be reproducible, just as experiments in other fields of science.

Some background information may help the reader. Suppose we are working in an area like exploration seismology where the goal is an image of the subsurface, and computational science aims to produce better images. However, the deliverable is not an image itself, but instead the software environment that, applied in the right way, produces the image, and which, hopefully, could be applied to other datasets to produce equally nice images. The scientific findings may turn out to be a knowledge of parameter settings for this complex software environment that seem to lead to good results on real datasets.

With this as background, reproducibility of experiments requires having the complete software environment available in other laboratories and the full source code available for inspection, modification, and application under varied parameter settings.

Reducing this to a slogan: *An article about computational science in a scientific publication is not the scholarship itself; it is merely advertising of the scholarship. The actual scholarship is the complete software development environment and the complete set of instructions which generated the figures.*

The advantage of reproducibility for the progress of the discipline is clear. When a really good idea is found, everyone else can be using it right away. When a mistaken finding is reported, it is rooted out almost immediately, etc.

The barriers to sharing complete software environments are also clear: if you are the developer of a nice piece of software, you may not want to give other people the benefit of your investment of time simply for the benefit of an abstract principle such as scientific progress. Even if you are altruistic enough to make your work available to others in this way, it’s a lot of extra work to generate code clean enough for others to look at; most people prefer to make the figures for their articles using quick-and-dirty undocumented code, and move on to the next project.

Claerbout and his colleagues have developed a discipline for building their own software, so that from the start, they expect it to be made available to others as part of the publication of their work. Specifically, they publish CD-ROMs (available from Stanford University Press) which contain the text of their books along with a special viewer that makes those books interactive documents, where as one reads the document, each figure is accompanied by the possibility of pop-up windows which allow one to interact with the code that generated the figure, to “burn” the illustration (i.e., erase the postscript file supplied with the distribution), and to rebuild the figure from scratch on one’s own machine. By following the discipline of planning to publish in this way from the beginning, they maintain all their work in a form which is easy to make available to others at any point in time.

Why do we think this concept is significant for the wavelet community? It is our perception that as we approach specific applications using wavelets, we are becoming a computational science like seismic imaging. Arguments over data compression have everything to do with specifics: exactly what was done (which wavelets, which coders, which corpus of data was compressed) with exactly what parameters. In this setting, publishing figures or results without the complete software environment could be compared to publishing an announcement of a mathematical theorem without giving the proof.
With the recent rapid spread of Internet facilities worldwide and the standardization of scientific computing on about five machine architectures, most of which are UNIX-based, it becomes feasible and timely to actually experiment with protocols implementing the goal of reproducible research. We may forget that in other sciences, the canonical form for scientific articles was arrived at incrementally. For example, it has been said that Pasteur introduced the notion of publishing a full description of methods, materials and laboratory procedures.

The publication of WAVELAB is a modest step in this direction. Partly to indicate our esteem for the work of Claerbout and the Stanford Exploration Project, we are making available code which will allow the interested Internet-nik to reproduce the figures in our articles and to study the exact parameter settings and algorithms which were used in those articles. This arrangement does not, at the moment, conform to the Stanford Exploration Project’s idea of interactive document, in which a special TeX viewer is tied to special code resources that can rebuild and vary the figures in a paper. However, at a primitive level, it provides the interested researcher with the TeX files of the documents and everything necessary (sauf MATLAB) to rebuild and modify the figures in those articles.

We hope to publish code in this way for several forthcoming articles and also to learn more about the concepts of Interactive Document and reproducible research.

4.2 Freeware

Richard Stallman and others associated with the GNU project have pioneered the idea of free software – software that can freely be redistributed by users. (This does not mean free of cost; it means the rights any one person has over the software are the same as those of any other). We have been influenced by this, but obviously cannot completely follow them since we require of users that they have MATLAB, which is not freely redistributable. In fact, Richard Stallman told one of us that making our software available in MATLAB was the worst thing we could do, as this might encourage people to buy MATLAB!

In our opinion, the Freeware concept is useful and has had a major impact. However, the Freeware concept has limits, and the MATLAB example shows this clearly. Modern scientific computing depends on quantitative programming environments like MATLAB, S-PLUS, Mathematica, X-Math, IDL and so on. These are widely available, widely understood high-level languages in which key concepts of scientific discourse (Fast Fourier Transform, etc.) are available as built-in, easily usable features. At the moment, a complete Freeware implementation of one’s computational experiments requires, more or less, emulating Jon Claerbout’s example and writing all one’s tools from scratch in C or Fortran. Claerbout is forced to do this because of the massive size of the datasets he uses, which exceed the bounds of MATLAB or other QPE’s. Most working scientists have smaller-scale datasets than Claerbout, and so they can use modern QPE’s. Moreover they are busy, and view scientific computing only as a sideline. They cannot be expected to start from scratch and develop all their code in C when they can get, much more quickly and reliably, the same results in a very high-level language. Thus the temptation to work in a QPE is almost irresistible.

Stallman might retort that there are now freeware QPE’s. Octave is a MATLAB work-alike in many ways, developed by John Eaton at the University of Texas Chemical Engineering department. Octave is developed strictly within the GNU philosophy, and so makes available a Stallman-acceptable QPE. In the latest release, version 1.1, it comes close to MATLAB 4.x in many key ways, so that a large fraction of what we do will run under Octave. Perhaps one day an Octave port of WAVELAB will be feasible.

But where does a working scientist spend his/her effort? On ports to noncommercial systems that will satisfy the urges towards binary liberation? Perhaps, but only with a lower priority than other activities. It is our impression that, at the moment, there are relatively few scientists who would complain about lack of access to WAVELAB due to the cost of MATLAB, and far fewer who would complain that we fall short of full reproducibility by our dependence on a commercial tool at one stage. Sorry to let you down, Richard.
5 Fine Print

In making available our software, the authors have tried to follow some simple guidelines. We spell them out in this section to avoid misunderstandings about what we are offering, why we are offering it, what rights we give you and what rights we retain for ourselves.

The directory WaveLab/Documentation contains the following files:

- ADDINGNEWFEATURES - How to Add New Features to WaveLab
- BUGREPORT - How to report bugs about WaveLab
- COPYING - WaveLab Copying Permissions
- DATASTRUCTURES - Basic data structures in WaveLab
- FEEDBACK - Give feedback about WaveLab
- GETTINGSTARTED - Ideas for getting started with WaveLab
- INSTALLATION - Installation of WaveLab
- LIMITATIONS - WaveLab known limitations
- PAYMENT - No Charge for WaveLab Software
- READING - Sources for further reading about wavelets
- REGISTRATION - WaveLab Registration
- SUPPORT - WaveLab Support
- THANKS - Thanks to contributors
- VERSION - Part of WaveLab Version v$VERSION$
- WARRANTY - No Warranty on WaveLab software

These describe the philosophy and limitations of our package. The key points are summarized here, by reprinting the contents of some of those files.

5.1 Dependence on MATLAB

MATLAB is a product of The Mathworks, a successful company based in Natick, Massachusetts. Their product is expensive. You need it to run our software. We do not offer it. You must get it from them. You need version 4.X or later. We have no connection with them. They have no connection with us.

5.2 Registration - WAVELAB Registration

(from file REGISTRATION.m)

Please Register yourself as a user of WAVELAB so that we can send you e-mail about upgrades and enhancements. To Register: e-mail wavelab@playfair.stanford.edu with the subject line "registration." If you like, please include information about the version of MATLAB you are using and about the type of machine you are using.

5.3 Limitations

This package has been designed to reproduce the figures in our research. Accordingly, it may not solve the problems you have in mind. Please see the file LIMITATIONS.m before complaining. Perhaps we are already aware of the problem you have and are seeking to fix it!

5.4 Support

(from file SUPPORT.m)

This software has been developed as part of the research effort of the authors under various federally supported grants. If you find that it does not work correctly, please e-mail a notification of your problem to WAVELAB. Use the format indicated in the file BUGREPORTS.m.

To the extent that we can isolate the problem and develop a solution, and to the extent that it fits in with our schedule with releasing a new version, we will attempt to fix the problem.

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5.5 No Charge – No Charge for WAVELAB Software

(From file PAYMENT.m)

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This software was developed with partial support of the National Science Foundation Grant DMS 92-09130 and of NASA Astrophysics Data Program, and of other sponsors. Contributors to this effort include Jonathan Buckheit, Shaobing Chen, David Donoho, Iain Johnstone, and Eric Kolaczyk, all from Stanford and Jeffrey Scargle, from NASA-Ames.

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5.8 Thanks – Thanks to contributors

(from file THANKS.m)

This software was developed with support of the National Science Foundation grant DMS 92-09130. It will be further developed with support of National Aeronautics and Space Administration, Astrophysics Data Program. Contributors to this software include Jonathan Buckheit, Stanford; Shaobing Chen, Stanford; David Donoho, Stanford; Hong-ye Gao, Berkeley (now at Statistical Science); Iain Johnstone, Stanford; Eric Kolaczyk, Stanford (now at Chicago); Jeffrey Scargle, NASA-Ames; and Thomas Yu, Stanford.

Further contributions are welcome, for info e-mail wavelab@playfair.stanford.edu.

Students: We would like to thank students enrolled in Statistics 319, Stanford University, Fall 1992; Statistics 260, University of California, Berkeley, Fall 1993; Statistics 371, Stanford University, Spring 1994; Statistics 343, Stanford University, Fall 1995.

Contributors of Data: The following have contributed data which is part of our system.
Jean-Paul Biberian, Université de Marselle, Luminy; Chris Brislawn, Los Alamos National Labs; R.R. Coifman, Yale University; Ingrid Daubechies, AT&T Bell Labs; Paul Donoho, Chevron; Jeffrey Hoch, Rowland Institute; Doug Jones, Univ. Illinois; Jitendra Malik, UC Berkeley; Stephane Mallat, Courant Institute; Adrian Maudsley, VA Medical Center, San Francisco; Chris Raphael, Stanford University; Jan-Olov Stromberg, University of Tromso; and Zhifeng Zhang, Courant Institute.

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