Evolutionary Computation Models

from

Population Genetics: Part 2:

An Historical Toolbox

Lee Altenberg, Ph.D.
Information and Computer Sciences
University of Hawai‘i at Mānoa

http://dynamics.org/~altenber/
The Framework for Evolutionary Algorithms:

**Operators**, (mutation, crossover, inversion, conversion, etc.) acting on the

**Representations** of the search space (genotypes, strings, programs, designs, etc.), generate a

**Transmission function**, the probability distribution of offspring types from any combination (one, two, etc., sometimes the whole population) of parent types.

**The relationship** between the transmission function and the fitness function is the main determinant the performance of the evolutionary algorithm.
The Two Elements of Darwinian Dynamics:

**SELECTION**

\[ x_i \rightarrow w_i x_i \]

**TRANSFORMATION**

\[ \sum_j T_{ij} x_j \rightarrow x_i \]

Where:

- \( i \) is an individual's type,

- \( x_i \) is the frequency of type \( i \) in the population,

- \( w_i \) is the fitness coefficient of type \( i \), and

- \( T_{i \rightarrow j} \) is the probability that type \( j \) produces offspring of type \( i \) (i.e., transformation—mutation, recombination, migration, permutation, etc.).

- \( T_{i \rightarrow j, k} \) is when there are two parents, types \( j \) and \( k \).
A population geneticist encounters evolutionary computation:

“Fitness proportionate selection” sounds like

“Velocity proportionate speed”
“Temperature proportionate heat”
“Mass proportionate weight”
“Length proportionate distance”

In other words, in evolutionary biology,

‘Fitness’ is the measure of selection.

Objective function (phenotype) \( \neq \) Fitness

A better term: ‘Proportional Fitness’

The selection operator can be expressed as:

\[
x_i' = \frac{w_i x_i}{\bar{w}}, \text{ where } \bar{w} = \sum_{i=1}^{n} w_i x_i,
\]

or in vector form:

\[
\bar{w} \bar{x}' = \bar{W} \bar{x}, \text{ where } \bar{W} = \text{diag}[w_i].
\]
Q. Isn’t $\overline{w} x' = W x$ only for ‘proportional selection’?

A. No: the coefficient $w_i$ needn’t be constant:

In fact $\{w_i\}$ can be functions of:

- the frequencies of types in the population,
- location,
- time,
- other species, agents, etc.—coevolution,
- or be a random variable.
Other biological components of Selection:

Fitness Components:
- Viability (survival rate)
- Fecundity (offspring number)
- Fertility (offspring number of particular mating types)

When multi-parameter fitness coefficients may be required:
- Survivorship curves — age dependent survival
- Fecundity curves — age dependent reproduction
- Gene × Environment interactions
A Classification of Selection:

**SELECTION**

\[
x'_i = \frac{w_i x_i}{\sum w_i x_i}
\]

Frequency \((x)\) dependent?

---

**NO**

- Constant selection coefficients, \(w_i\)
  - **Cases:**
    - *Fitness proportional to objective function, \(w_i = c u_i\)*
    - *Fitness a function of objective function, \(w_i = G(u_i)\), e.g. Linear Scaling*

---

**YES**

- Pairwise Interactions
- Whole Pop.

\[
w_i = G_i(U, x)
\]

Symmetric \(u_{ij} = u_{ji}\)?

---

**YES**

- **Games**
  - **Tournament:**
    \[
    u_{ij} = \begin{cases} 
    0 & \text{if } u_i < u_j \\
    1 & \text{if } u_i > u_j \\
    1/2 & \text{if } u_i = u_j 
    \end{cases}
    \]

---

**NO**

\[
w_i = \sum u_{ij} x_j
\]

\[
Q: \text{Suppose there is an evolutionary game being played between the types in a population. Will the evolutionarily stable strategies (ESS) be the same whether you use constant (‘proportional’) selection, or truncation selection?}

A: No! Illustrates the hazard of calling \(u_{ij}\) the ‘fitnesses’.\]
Models of Canonical Evolutionary Algorithms:


**Asexual:**

\[ x_i' = \sum_{j=1}^{n} T(i \leftarrow j) \cdot w_j \cdot x_j / \bar{w}, \]

or in vector form:

\[ \bar{w} \cdot x' = T \cdot W \cdot x, \]

where

- \( x_i \) = frequency of genotype \( x_i \) in the population, and \( x_i' \) = frequency in the next generation;

- \( w_i \) = fitness of genotype \( i \);

- \( T(i \leftarrow j) \) = probability that genetic operators produce offspring \( i \) from parent \( j \); and

- \( \bar{w} = \sum_{i=1}^{n} w_i x_i \) = mean fitness of the population.
Sexual

\[ x_i' = \sum_{j,k=1}^{n} T(i \leftarrow j, k) \frac{w_{j,k} x_j x_k}{w}, \]

or in vector form:

\[ \bar{w} x' = T \bar{W} (x \otimes x) \]

(a quadratic operator—\( x(t) \) not tractable in general), where

\( \otimes \) is the tensor product (see below);

\( w_{ij} \) is the fitness of the parental pair \((i, j)\)

\( \bar{W} \) is the \( n^2 \) by \( n^2 \) diagonal matrix of coefficients \( w_{i_1i_2}; \)

\( T(i \leftarrow j, k) = \) probability that genetic operators produce offspring from parents \( j \) and \( k, \)

\[ \sum_{i=1}^{n} T(i \leftarrow j, k) = 1; \]

\( T \) in this case is the \( n \) by \( n^2 \) matrix of transmission probabilities;

For haploid selection, \( w_{i_1i_2} = w_{i_1} w_{i_2} \) or \( \bar{W} = \bar{W}_H \otimes \bar{W}_H, \) hence:

\[ \bar{w} x' = T(\bar{W}_H x \otimes \bar{W}_H x). \]
Solution for generic mutation and constant selection:

$$\overline{w}(t) x(t) = (TW)^t x(0)$$

Q. What is the limit as $t \to \infty$?

A. For generic mutation and selection: One attractor, not multiple peaks.

Result 1  Suppose a mutation operator is ergodic: i.e. repeated application of the operator can mutate any genotype into any other genotype. Then, under an algorithm of constant selection and mutation, there is only one domain of attraction of the system—i.e. one ‘fitness peak’.
Perron-Frobenius Theory

How is this result derived?

**Theorem 1 (Perron 1907, Frobenius)** If a matrix $M$, or some power $M^k$, has all positive entries, then:

1. The eigenvalue of $M$ with the largest magnitude, $\rho(M)$ (the ‘spectral radius’), is always real and positive, and strictly larger in magnitude that all other eigenvalues of $M$.
2. The eigenvector, $x(M)$, corresponding to eigenvalue $\rho(M)$, is positive.

**Theorem 2 (Frobenius)** If $M$ is non-negative and irreducible (i.e. for each $i, j$ there exists some power $k$ such that $[M^k]_{i,j} > 0$), then:

1. The eigenvalue of $M$ with the largest magnitude, $\rho(M)$ (the ‘spectral radius’), is always real and positive.
2. The eigenvector, $x(M)$, corresponding to eigenvalue $\rho(M)$, is positive.
Example: Deceptive 1-Max Problem

There is only one attractor at each value $\mu$, but an ‘error catastrophe’ is evident for $\mu^* \approx 0.5$. 
Finite Populations

- So why do evolutionary algorithms with ergodic mutation seem to get trapped on ‘local fitness peaks’? e.g. Kauffman’s NK Landscapes?

- Answer: finite population size causing genetic drift: small random samples have stochastic variation, and types with few copies tend to go extinct rather than grow exponentially.

Fisher’s Result on the Survival of a Fitter Mutant


Result 2 Suppose that,

- in a large population of individuals that produce an average of 1 offspring each,

- a new mutant appears that produces a average of $1 + s$ offspring,

- with variance $\sigma^2$, and where $s$ is small.

The probability that the fitter mutant will not eventually go extinct is $2s / \sigma^2$. 

13
The Wright-Fisher Model of Finite Populations


How can an evolutionary algorithm with finite population size be modelled? Wright and Fisher had the same idea for modelling for finite populations.
Wright-Fisher Model

Suppose that each individual of the next generation be created by independent application of selection and genetic operators to the population.

Let:

- $N$ be the population size;
- $\nu$ be a vector of the number of individuals of each type $i$ in the population;
- $y_i(\nu)$ be the probability a new individual of type $i$ is generated by selection and genetic operators acting on the population $\nu$.

Then the chance $\phi(\nu_i')$ that there are $\nu_i'$ individuals of type $i$ in next generation is:

$$\phi(\nu_i') = \binom{N}{\nu_i} y_i^{\nu_i} (1 - y_i)^{N - \nu_i}.$$  

The Wright-Fisher model forms a Markov chain. Wright and Fisher analyzed many of the properties of this Markov system, including probabilities of fixation, time to fixation, and stationary distributions of allele frequencies.

The theory of Wright and Fisher is known in the Evolutionary Computation community as the ‘Nix and Vose model’:

Karlin’s Theorem on Genetic Operator Intensity


Result 3  Consider an evolutionary algorithm consisting of

- constant selection, and

- asexual genetic operators.

The mean fitness of the population at an attractor is a decreasing function of the probability of the genetic operator acting.

How is this obtained? Let the asexual genetic operator be represented by the Markov matrix $M$, and let $\mu$ is the probability of applying the operator. Then the transmission matrix for the algorithm is:

$$ T = (1 - \mu)I + \mu M, $$

and the recursion is:

$$ \bar{w} x' = [(1 - \mu)I + \mu M] W x $$
**Karlin’s Theorem**, continued.

Samuel Karlin developed a theorem to determine when alleles introduced into a multi-deme population would increase in number.

**Theorem 3 (Karlin, 1982)** Let $T(\mu) = (1 - \mu)I + \mu M$, where $M$ is an irreducible Markov matrix, and let $W \neq I$ be a strictly positive diagonal matrix. Then the spectral radius $\rho(T(\mu)W)$ is strictly decreasing in $\mu$:

$$\frac{d}{d\mu} \rho(T(\mu)W) < 0, \text{ for } 0 \leq \mu \leq 1.$$ 

For the global attractor, $\hat{x}$, which is the leading eigenvector of $TW$, we have:

$$[(1 - \mu)I + \mu M] W \hat{x} = T W \hat{x} = \hat{x} \rho(TW) = \hat{x} \bar{w}.$$ 

Hence the mean fitness of the global attractor,

$$\hat{w} = \rho(T(\mu)W),$$

is a decreasing function of the operator probability $\mu$. 

17
Karlin’s Theorem illustrated with the Deceptive Function

POPULATION AVERAGE FITNESS AT ATTRACTOR

$\mu = \text{OPERATOR INTENSITY}$
Tensor (Kronecker) Products


Useful for:

- Multiple Loci

- Sexual Reproduction

- Compound types: genotype $\otimes$ phenotype $\otimes$ deme

- Compound operators: mutation $\otimes$ recombination $\otimes$ migration
Tensor Products, continued

Let

\[ A = \begin{bmatrix} a_{11} & a_{12} & a_{13} \\ a_{21} & a_{22} & a_{23} \end{bmatrix}, \]

and

\[ B = \begin{bmatrix} b_{11} & b_{12} \\ b_{21} & b_{22} \\ b_{31} & b_{32} \\ b_{41} & b_{42} \end{bmatrix}, \]

Then the tensor product is:

\[ A \otimes B = \begin{bmatrix} a_{11}B & a_{12}B & a_{13}B \\ a_{21}B & a_{22}B & a_{23}B \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} a_{11}b_{11} & a_{11}b_{12} & a_{12}b_{11} & a_{12}b_{12} & a_{13}b_{11} & a_{13}b_{12} \\ a_{11}b_{21} & a_{11}b_{22} & a_{12}b_{21} & a_{12}b_{22} & a_{13}b_{21} & a_{13}b_{22} \\ a_{11}b_{31} & a_{11}b_{32} & a_{12}b_{31} & a_{12}b_{32} & a_{13}b_{31} & a_{13}b_{32} \\ a_{11}b_{41} & a_{11}b_{42} & a_{12}b_{41} & a_{12}b_{42} & a_{13}b_{41} & a_{13}b_{42} \\ a_{21}b_{11} & a_{21}b_{12} & a_{22}b_{11} & a_{22}b_{12} & a_{23}b_{11} & a_{23}b_{12} \\ a_{21}b_{21} & a_{21}b_{22} & a_{22}b_{21} & a_{22}b_{22} & a_{23}b_{21} & a_{23}b_{22} \\ a_{21}b_{31} & a_{21}b_{32} & a_{22}b_{31} & a_{22}b_{32} & a_{23}b_{31} & a_{23}b_{32} \\ a_{21}b_{41} & a_{21}b_{42} & a_{22}b_{41} & a_{22}b_{42} & a_{23}b_{41} & a_{23}b_{42} \end{bmatrix}. \]

In general,

\[ A \otimes B = \left[ a_{i_1,j_1}b_{i_2,j_2} \right]_{i_1 = 1 \ldots n_1, \ j_1 = 1 \ldots m_1, \ i_2 = 1 \ldots n_2, \ j_2 = 1 \ldots m_2} \]
Tensor Products for Compound States

Frequency Vector of Multiple Loci in Linkage Equilibrium, i.e. no allele associations between loci:

$$ x = x_1 \otimes x_2 \otimes \ldots \otimes x_L $$

Frequency Vector of Genotypes Randomly Spread over Multiple Demes

$$ p = x \otimes \nu, $$

where $x$ is the vector of genotype frequencies and $\nu$ is the vector of deme sizes (as fractions of the whole meta-population).
Tensor Products for Compound Operators

When multiple independent operators are acting on the types in the population, the compound operator can be represented by tensor products.

Mutation at Multiple Loci

Suppose locus $k$ mutates with transition probabilities

$$T_k = (1 - \mu_k)I + \mu_k M_k.$$  

Then the mutation operator acting on the entire genotype of $L$ loci is:

$$T_M = T_1 \otimes T_2 \otimes \ldots \otimes T_L.$$  

Mutation + Recombination

When both recombination and mutation act independently on the genotype, the transmission function can be represented as ($R =$recombination, $M =$mutation, $D =$migration):

$$T = T_R(T_M \otimes T_M)$$

Mutation + Recombination + Migration

$$T = T_D \otimes T_R(T_M \otimes T_M)$$

Generalized Nonepistatic Fitnesses (Karlin and Liberman 1979)

$$W = \sum_{\kappa \in \{0, 1\}^L} c(\kappa) W_1^{\kappa_1} \otimes W_2^{\kappa_2} \otimes \ldots \otimes W_L^{\kappa_L}$$

22
Selection and Transformation Commute:

Does the order Mutation $\rightarrow$ Selection vs. Selection $\rightarrow$ Mutation produce different evolutionary outcomes?

Assume frequency-independent selection:

**Asexual:**
\[ x' = TWx/w, \]

Clearly, $TW \neq WT$. However, make a change of variables: let $y = Wx$, and $y' = Wx'$. Then:
\[ y' = Wx' = WTWx/w \]
\[ = WTy/w. \]

So the operators $TW$ and $WT$ produce the same trajectories with mapping between variables $y = Wx$.

**Sexual:**
\[ x' = T(Wx \otimes Wx)/w^2 \]
\[ \quad (\text{Selection} \rightarrow \text{Random Mating} \rightarrow \text{Transformation}), \]

Again let $y = Wx$, and $y' = Wx'$.
\[ y' = Wx' = WT(Wx \otimes Wx)/w^2 \]
\[ = WT(y \otimes y)/w^2 \]
\[ \quad (\text{Random Mating} \rightarrow \text{Transformation} \rightarrow \text{Selection}) \]
Selection on both Parents and Offspring:

What is the effect of applying selection to the choice of parents, and then applying selection again to the offspring?

Selection → Random Mating → Transformation → Selection

\[ x' = WT(Wx \otimes Wx)/\|w\|^2 \]

Now, make a change of variables: let \( y = W^{-1}x \), and \( y' = W^{-1}x' \).

\[
y' = W^{-1}x' = W^{-1}WT(Wx \otimes Wx)/\|w\|^2 \\
   = T(W^2y \otimes W^2y)/\|w\|^2
\]

Hence

Random Mating → Selection → Transformation → Selection

is equivalent to:

Random Mating → Selection² → Transformation.
Gieringer’s Representation of ‘all possible’ Crossover operators


Geiringer (1944) developed a way to represent all possible recombination operators acting on two parents. This includes single point, multiple point, and uniform crossover. She considered which genes get transmitted together into an offspring.
Gieringer, continued

- All the genes transmitted from one parent can be marked with a 0, and
- all the genes transmitted from the other parent can be marked with a 1.
- Hence a particular recombinant offspring can be represented as a binary string, e.g. \((0, 1, 1, 0, 1, 1, 0, 0, 0)\).
- Hence, the recombination operation corresponds to a mask
  \[ c \in \{0, 1\}^L. \]
- There are \(2^L = \|\{0, 1\}^L\|\) possible such recombination operations.
- What defines a crossover operator is the probability of performing a particular recombination operation.
- Thus, a crossover operator can be defined as a probability distribution over the set of masks:
  \[ \mathcal{R} : \{0, 1\}^L \mapsto [0, 1] : \sum_{c \in \{0, 1\}^L} \mathcal{R}(c) = 1 \]
- Since every recombination event can produce an offspring with the genes from the reversed parents, we have the symmetry constraint that:
  \[ \mathcal{R}(c_1, c_2, \ldots, c_L) = \mathcal{R}(1 - c_1, 1 - c_2, \ldots, 1 - c_L) \]
Representing the Mult-locus, Multi-Allele Model with Nonepistatic Selection and Arbitrary Crossover


\[
\overline{w}x' = \sum_c R(c) (W_{c1} \otimes \ldots \otimes W_{c_L}) x \circ (W_{1}^{1-c_1} \otimes \ldots \otimes W_{L}^{1-c_L}) x,
\]

where each \( W = [w_{ij}] \) is a diploid fitness matrix.

- Note: Haploidy is the special case where:

\[
W = w w^T, \quad w = \begin{bmatrix} w_1 \\ \vdots \\ w_L \end{bmatrix}.
\]

- Analytical solutions for the existence and stability of polymorphisms have been found for the general non-epistatic model.

- Generalized non-epistasis is a highly non-generic space of fitness functions.

- Trajectories and equilibria of the general epistatic model are unsolved in closed form.
Takeover Times


Goldberg and Deb use a ‘pseudo finite population’ analysis:

- Let $i$ be the fittest type;

- Calculate, in terms of $n$, the time for an infinite population to go from $x_i = 1/n$ to $x_i = 1 - 1/n$ under selection alone.

- Problem: method does not take into account genetic drift in finite populations.
‘Takeover Times’ known in Population Genetics as Fixation Times

Keywords:

**Fixation:** When only one variant remains in the population.

**Polymorphism:** When more than one variant exists in the population.

**Fixation Time:** Time until the population goes from polymorphism to fixation.

**Conditional Fixation Time:** Time until fixation, given that the population fixes on specific genotype.

**Takeover Time:** Time until the fittest type goes to fixation, given that the population fixes on it.
Literature on Fixation Times


Conditional Fixation Time
of a Fitter Allele


\[
T\left(\frac{1}{2N} \to 1\right) = \\
\frac{2}{s(1 - e^{-2Ns})} \int_{\frac{1}{2N}}^{1} \left(e^{2Nsx} - 1\right) \left(e^{-2Nsx} - e^{-2Ns}\right) \frac{dx}{x(1 - x)} + \\
\frac{e^{-s} - e^{-2Ns}}{1 - e^{-s}} \int_{0}^{\frac{1}{2N}} \left(e^{2NSx} - 1\right) \left(1 - e^{-2NSx}\right) \frac{dx}{x(1 - x)}
\]