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## Introduction and Motivation

## Motivation

- Evolutionary Computation (EC) techniques have been frequently used in the context of computational creativity.
  - Various techniques have been used in the context of music and art (see EvoMusArt conference and DETA track at GECCO).
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## Motivation

- Evolutionary algorithms have been frequently used to optimize complex objective functions.
  - This makes them well suitable for generative art where fitness functions are often hard to optimize.
  - Furthermore, objective functions are often subjective to the user.
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## Motivation

- In terms of novel design, evolutionary computation techniques can be used to explore new solutions in terms of different characteristics.
  - Evolutionary algorithms are able to adapt to changing environments.
  - This makes them well suited to be used in the context of artistic work where the desired characteristics may change over time.
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## This Tutorial

- Summary of results in the areas of
    - 2D and 3D artifacts
    - Animations
  - Overview on our recent work to create unique generative art using evolutionary computation to carry out
    - Image transition and animation
    - Image composition
    - Diversity optimization for images
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## Outline

- Introduction and Motivation
  - Evolving 2D and 3D Artifacts
  - Aesthetic Features
  - Evolutionary Image Transition
  - Quasi-random Image Animation
  - Evolutionary Image Composition
  - Evolutionary Image Diversity Optimization
  - Discrepancy-Based Evolutionary Diversity Optimization for Images
  - Conclusions
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## Evolving 2D and 3D Artifacts

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## Evolving 2D and 3D Artifacts

- *Blind Watchmaker* (Dawkins, 1986) evolved 2D biomorph graphical objects from sets of genetic parameters (combined with Darwinism theory).
  - Latham (1985) created *Black Form Synth*. These are hand-drawn “evolutionary trees of complex *forms*” using a set of transformation rules.
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## Evolving 2D and 3D Artifacts

- In 1991, Sims published his seminal SIGGRAPH paper.
  - He introduced the expression-based approach of evolving images.
  - He created images, solid textures, and animations using mutations of symbolic lisp expressions.
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## Evolving 2D and 3D Artifacts

- The mathematical expression is represented as a tree graph structure and used as the genotype.
  - The tree graph consists of mathematical functions and operators at the nodes, and constants/variables at the leaves (similar to genetic programming).
  - The resulting image is the phenotype.
  - To evolve sets of images, it uses crossover and mutation.
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### Evolving 2D and 3D Artifacts (Sims, 1997)

- *In Galápagos* (Sims, 1997) created an interactive evolution of virtual "organisms" based on Darwinian theory.
  - Several computers simulate the growth and characteristic behaviours of a population of abstract organisms.
  - The results are displayed on computer screens.
- 

### Evolutionary Process (Sims, 1997)

- The offspring are copies and combinations of their parents.
  - In addition, their genes are altered by random mutations.
  - During evolutionary cycle of reproduction and selection, new organisms are created.
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### EC System (Sims, 1997)

- The EC system allows users to express their preferences by selecting their preferred display by standing on step sensors in front of those displays.
  - The selected display is used for reproduction using mutation/crossover. The other solutions are removed when the new offspring is created.
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### Evolving 2D and 3D Artifacts (Latham, Todd, 1992)

- Latham, Todd (1992) introduced *Mutator* to generate art and evolve new biomorphic forms.
  - The Mutator creates complex branching organic forms through the process of "surreal" evolution.
  - At each iteration the artist selects phenotypes that are "breed and growth", and the solutions co-interact.
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## Other Selected Contributions

- Unemi (1999) developed *SBART*. This is a design support tool to create 2-D images based on user selection.
  - Takagi (2001) describes in the survey research on interactive evolutionary computation (IEC) which categorises different application areas.
  - Machado and Cardoso (2002) introduced *NEuAr*. This is an evolutionary art tool, using genetic programming and automatic fitness assignment.
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## Other Selective Contributions

- Draves (2005) introduced *Electric Sheep*. The system allows a user to approve or disapprove phenotypes.
  - Hart (2009) evolved different expression-based images with a focus on colours and forms.
  - Kowaliw, Dorin, McCormack (2012) explore a definition of creative novelty for generative art.
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## Image Morphing (Banzhaf, Graf 1995)

- Banzhaf and Graf (1995) used interactive evolution to help determine parameters for image morphing.
  - They combine IEC with the concepts of warping and morphing from computer graphics to evolve images.
  - They used recombination of two bitmap images through image interpolation.
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Aesthetic Measures

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## Aesthetic Measures

- Computational aesthetic is a subfield of artificial intelligence dealing with the computational assessment of aesthetic forms of visual art.
  - Some general image features that have been used are:
    - Hue
    - Saturation
    - Symmetry
    - Smoothness
- 

## Aesthetic Measures

- Examples of aesthetic measurements:
    - Benford's Law
    - Global Contrast Factor
    - Information Theory
    - Reflectional Symmetry
    - Colorfulness
- 

## Aesthetic Measures (den Heijer, Eiben 2014)

- den Heijer and Eiben (2014) investigated aesthetic measures for unsupervised evolutionary art.
  - Their Art Habitat System uses genetic programming and evolutionary multi-objective optimization.
  - They compared aesthetic measurements and gave insights into the correlation of aesthetic scores.
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Evolutionary Image Transition

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## Evolutionary Image Transition

- The main idea comprises of using well-known evolutionary processes and adapting these in an artistic way to create an innovative sequence of images (video).
- The evolutionary image transition starts from given image **S** and evolves it towards a target image **T**
- Our goal is to maximise the fitness function where we count the number of the pixels matching those of the target image.

## Evolutionary Image Transition

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**Algorithm 1** Evolutionary algorithm for image transition

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- Let  $S$  be the starting image and  $T$  be the target image.
- Set  $X := S$ .
- Evaluate  $f(X, T)$ .
- while (not termination condition)
  - Obtain image  $Y$  from  $X$  by mutation.
  - Evaluate  $f(Y, T)$
  - If  $f(Y, T) \geq f(X, T)$ , set  $X := Y$ .

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**Fitness function:**  $f(X, T) = |\{X_{ij} \in X \mid X_{ij} = T_{ij}\}|$ .

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## Asymmetric Mutation

- We consider a simple evolutionary algorithm that has been well studied in the area of runtime analysis, namely variants of (1+1) EA.
- We adapt an asymmetric mutation operator used in Neumann, Wegener (2007) and Jansen, Sudholt (2010).



## Asymmetric Mutation

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**Algorithm 2** Asymmetric mutation

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- Obtain  $Y$  from  $X$  by flipping each pixel  $X_{ij}$  of  $X$  independently of the others with probability  $c_s/(2|X|_S)$  if  $X_{ij} = S_{ij}$ , and flip  $X_{ij}$  with probability  $c_t/(2|X|_T)$  if  $X_{ij} = T_{ij}$ , where  $c_s \geq 1$  and  $c_t \geq 1$  are constants, we consider  $m = n$ .
- 
- for our experiments we set  $c_s = 100$  and  $c_t = 50$ .
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## Example Images



Starting image S (Yellow-Red-Blue, 1925 by Wassily Kandinsky) and target image T (Soft Hard, 1027 by Wassily Kandinsky)

## Video: Asymmetric Mutation



## Uniform Random Walk

- A *Uniform Random Walk* - the classical random walk chooses an element  $X_{kl} \in N(X_{ij})$  uniformly at random.
- We define the neighbourhood  $N(X_{ij})$  of  $X_{ij}$  as

$$N(X_{ij}) = \{X_{(i-1)j}, X_{(i+1)j}, X_{i(j-1)}, X_{i(j+1)}\}$$



## Uniform Random Walk

### Algorithm 3 Uniform Random Walk

- Choose the starting pixel  $X_{ij} \in X$  uniformly at random.
- Set  $X_{ij} := T_{ij}$ .
- while (not termination condition)
  - Choose  $X_{kl} \in N(X_{ij})$  uniformly at random.
  - Set  $i := k, j := l$  and  $X_{ij} := T_{ij}$ .
- Return  $X$ .

## Video – Uniform Random Walk



## Biased Random Walk

- A *Biased Random Walk* - the probability of choosing the element  $X_{kl}$  is dependent on the difference in RGB-values for  $T_{ij}$  and  $T_{kl}$ .



## Biased Random Walk

### Algorithm 4 Biased Random Walk

- Choose the starting pixel  $X_{ij} \in X$  uniformly at random.
- Set  $X_{ij} := T_{ij}$ .
- while (not termination condition)
  - Choose  $X_{kl} \in N(X_{ij})$  according to probabilities  $p(X_{kl})$ .
  - Set  $i := k, j := l$  and  $X_{ij} := T_{ij}$ .
- Return  $X$ .

## Biased Random Walk

We denote by  $T_{ij}^r, 1 \leq r \leq 3$ , the  $r$ th RGB value of  $T_{ij}$  and define

$$\gamma(X_{kl}) = \max \left\{ \sum_{r=1}^3 |T_{kl}^r - T_{ij}^r|, 1 \right\}$$

$$p(X_{kl}) = \frac{(1/\gamma(X_{kl}))}{\sum_{X_{st} \in N(X_{ij})} (1/\gamma(X_{st}))}.$$

## Mutation Based on Random Walks

- We use the random walk algorithms as part of our mutation operators.
- Each mutation picks a random pixel and runs the (biased) random walk for  $t_{\max}$  steps.
- For our experiments we use 200x200 images and set  $t_{\max}=100$ .

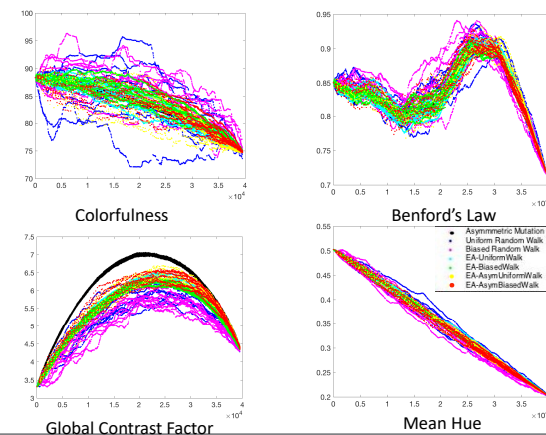
## Random Walk Mutation and Biased Random Walk Mutation



## Videos - Biased Random Walk Evolutionary Algorithm



## Feature Values During Transition:



## SALA 2016 – Art Exhibition, Australia



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## SALA 2016 – Adelaide, Australia



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## Quasi-random Transition and Animation

## Quasi-random Walks

- So far: Random walks as main operators for mutation and transition process
- Quasi-random walks give a (deterministic) alternative which is easy to control by a user.

## Quasi-random Transition and Animation

General setting:

- There are  $k$  agents each of them painting their own image  $I^k$  through a quasi random walk. Quasi-random walk is determined by the sequence that the agent uses.
- Process starts with a common image  $X$ .
- All agents paint on this image overriding  $X$  and previous painting of other agents.
- This leads to complex animation processes.
- Image transition is a special case where all agents paint the same image  $I$ .

## Agent Moves

Move of an agent:

- Each pixel has a sequence of directions out of from  $\{\text{left, right, up, down}\}$ .
- At each iteration, the agent moves from its current pixel  $p$  to the neighbor pixel  $p'$  determined by the current position in the sequence at  $p$ .
- It paints pixel  $p'$  with the current pixel in its sequence and increases the position counter at  $p$  by 1 (modulo sequence length).

## Algorithm

### Algorithm 1 QUASI-RANDOM ANIMATION

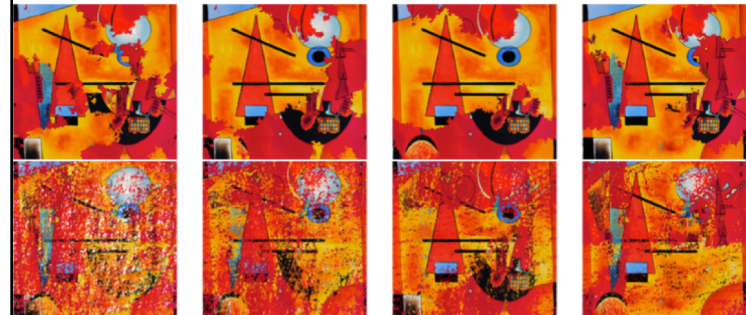
**Require:** Start image  $Y$  of size  $m \times n$ . For each agent  $k$ ,  $1 \leq k \leq r$ , an image  $I^k$  of size  $m \times n$ , sequence  $S^k$  and position counters  $c^k(i, j) \in \{0, \dots, |S^k|\}$ ,  $1 \leq i \leq m$ ,  $1 \leq j \leq n$ .

```

1:  $X \leftarrow Y$ 
2: for each agent  $k$ ,  $1 \leq k \leq r$  do
3:   choose  $P^k \in m \times n$  and set  $X(P^k) := I^k(P^k)$ .
4: end for
5:  $t \leftarrow 1$ 
6: while ( $t \leq t_{\max}$ ) do
7:   for each agent  $k$ ,  $1 \leq k \leq r$  do
8:     Choose  $\tilde{P}^k \in N(P^k)$  according to  $S_k(c(P^k))$ .
9:      $X(\tilde{P}^k) \leftarrow I^k(\tilde{P}^k)$ 
10:     $c^k(P^k) \leftarrow (c^k(P^k) + 1) \bmod |S^k|$ .
11:     $P^k \leftarrow \tilde{P}^k$ .
12:   end for
13:    $t \leftarrow t + 1$ 
14: end while

```

## 2 Agents Symmetric and Asymmetric Sequences



### Example Video: 4 Agents Symmetric Sequences



### Example Video: 4 Agents Asymmetric Sequences



### Evolutionary Image Composition

### Key Idea

- Create a composition of two images using a region covariance descriptor.
- Incorporate region covariance descriptors into fitness function.
- Use Evolutionary algorithms to optimize the fitness such that a composition of the given two images based on the considered features is obtained.

## Image Composition



## Evolutionary Image Composition Using Feature Covariance Matrices

- Evolutionary algorithms that create new images based on a fitness function that incorporates feature covariance matrices associated with different parts of the images.
- Population-based evolutionary algorithm with mutation and crossover operators based on random walks.

### Algorithm 1 ( $\mu + 1$ ) GA for evolutionary image composition

**Require:**  $S$  and  $T$  are images

```

1: Initialise population  $\mathcal{P} = \{P_1, \dots, P_\mu\}$ 
2: while not termination condition do
3:   Select an individual  $P_i \in \mathcal{P}$  uniformly at random
4:   if  $\text{rand}() < p_c$  then ▷ Crossover
5:     Select  $P_j \in \mathcal{P} \setminus P_i$  uniformly at random
6:     if  $\text{rand}() < 0.5$  then ▷ See Section 4.2 for  $t_{cr}$ 
7:        $Y \leftarrow \text{RANDOMWALKMUTATION}(X, Z, t_{cr})$ 
8:     else
9:        $Y \leftarrow \text{RECTANGULARCROSSOVER}(P_i, P_j)$ 
10:     $P_i \leftarrow \text{SELECTION}(P_i, Y)$ 
11:   else ▷ Mutation
12:     if  $\text{rand}() < 0.5$  then
13:        $Y \leftarrow \text{RANDOMWALKMUTATION}(P_i, S, t_{max})$ 
14:     else
15:        $Y \leftarrow \text{RANDOMWALKMUTATION}(P_i, T, t_{max})$ 
16:      $P_i \leftarrow \text{SELECTION}(P_i, Y)$ 
17:     Adapt  $t_{max}$  ▷ See Section 4.1.
18: return  $\mathcal{P}$  ▷ Result is a population of evolved images.

```

## #3 square region of interest



$$\mathcal{G} = \left\{ (c, d) \mid \begin{array}{l} c = (l+1) + pl, p = 0, 1, \dots, \left\lfloor \frac{m-l}{l} \right\rfloor - 1 \\ d = (l+1) + ql, q = 0, 1, \dots, \left\lfloor \frac{n-l}{l} \right\rfloor - 1 \end{array} \right\}$$

## #4 saliency mask



## #5 set of features

**Set 1:**  $\left[ i, j, r, g, b, \sqrt{\left(\frac{\partial I}{\partial i}\right)^2 + \left(\frac{\partial I}{\partial j}\right)^2}, \tan^{-1} \left( \left| \frac{\partial I}{\partial i} \right| / \left| \frac{\partial I}{\partial j} \right| \right) \right]^T$ ;  
**Set 2:**  $[i, j, h, s, v]^T$ ;  
**Set 3:**  $\left[ h, s, v, \sqrt{\left(\frac{\partial I}{\partial i}\right)^2 + \left(\frac{\partial I}{\partial j}\right)^2}, \tan^{-1} \left( \left| \frac{\partial I}{\partial i} \right| / \left| \frac{\partial I}{\partial j} \right| \right) \right]^T$ .

## #6

$$f(X, S, T) = \sum_{(c, d) \in \mathcal{G}} \left( w_{(c, d)}^S \text{dist} \left( \Lambda_{\mathcal{R}(c, d)}^X, \Lambda_{\mathcal{R}(c, d)}^S \right) + w_{(c, d)}^T \text{dist} \left( \Lambda_{\mathcal{R}(c, d)}^X, \Lambda_{\mathcal{R}(c, d)}^T \right) \right),$$

covariance-based fitness function

### Impact of Different Features



Image composition with different features. Rows 1, 2 and 3 correspond to Feature Sets 1, 2 and 3, respectively.

### Impact of Different Weightings



Rows 1, 2 and 3 correspond to  $w_{(c, d)}^S$  set to \$0.25\$, \$0.5\$ and \$0.75\$ and  $w_{(c, d)}^T$  set to \$0.75\$, \$0.5\$ and \$0.25\$, respectively. In the last row the weights were set using an image saliency algorithm. The saliency algorithm strikes a consistent balance between notable regions in both images.

### Impact of Distance Metrics



Rows 1, 2 and 3 correspond to distance metrics  $dist_E$ ,  $dist_A$  and  $dist_L$ , respectively.

### Variants of Image Composition

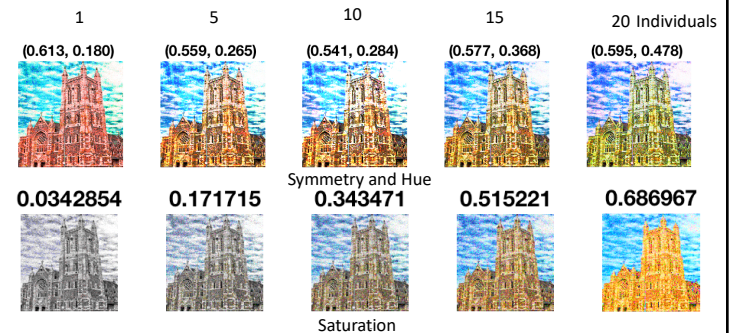


Image composition with Feature Set 1, saliency-based weighting and a Log-Euclidean distance measure.

### Evolutionary Diversity Optimisation for Images

### Key Idea

- Produce diverse image sets using evolutionary computation methods.
- Use the  $(\mu + \lambda)$ -EA<sub>D</sub> for evolving image instances
- Select the individuals based on their contribution to diversity of the image.



## Evolution of Artistic Image Variants Through Feature Based Diversity Optimisation

- We use  $(\mu + \lambda)$ -EA<sub>D</sub> to evolve diverse image instances.
- Knowledge on how we can combine different image features to produce interesting image effects.
- Study how different combinations of image features correlate when images are evolved to maximise diversity.

**Algorithm 1** The  $(\mu + \lambda)$ -EA<sub>D</sub> algorithm     $\mu = 20$  and  $\lambda = 10$

```

1: input: an image  $S$ .
2: output: a population  $P = \{I_1, \dots, I_\mu\}$  of image variants.
   {Initialise with  $\mu$  mutated copies of source image}
3:  $P = \{\text{mutate}(S), \dots, \text{mutate}(S)\}$ 
4: repeat
5:   randomly select  $C \subseteq P$  where  $|C| = \lambda$ 
6:   for  $I \in C$  do
7:     produce  $I' = \text{mutate}(I)$ 
8:     if  $\text{valid}(I')$  then
9:       add  $I'$  to  $P$ 
10:    end if
11:  end for
12:  while  $|P| > \mu$  do
13:    remove an individual  $I = \arg \min_{J \in P} d(J, P)$ 
14:  end while
15: until Termination condition reached
  
```



#1  
starting image

#2  
pixel-based mutation

#3  
image validity check

Image has mean squared error to starting image less than 10

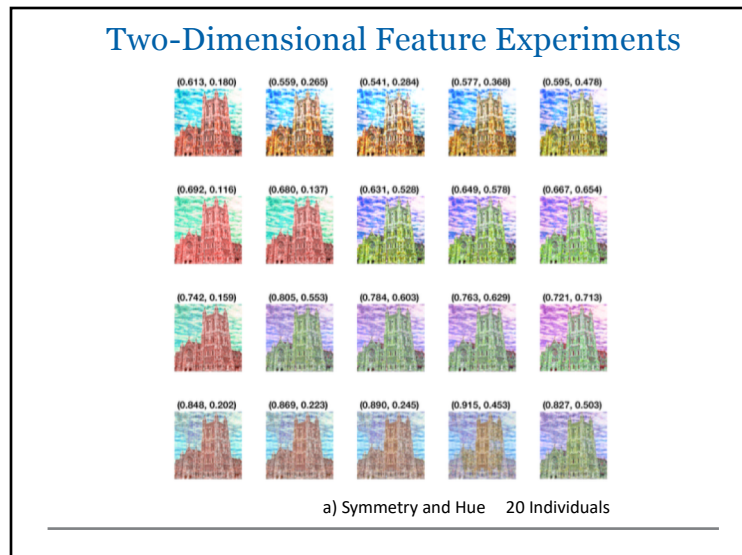
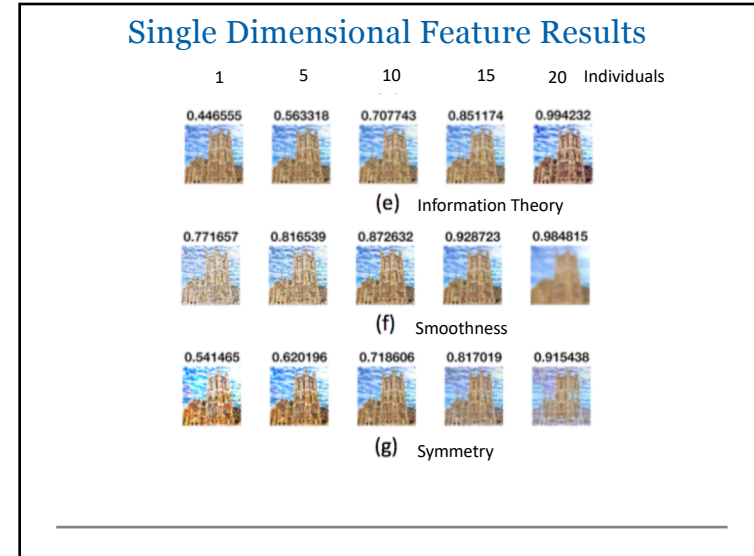
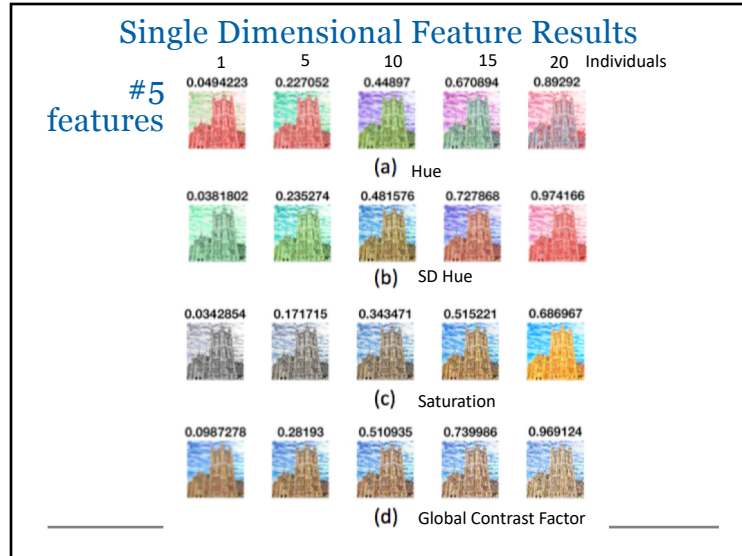
#4  
feature diversity measure

$$f(I_1) \leq f(I_2) \leq \dots \leq f(I_k), f(I_i) \neq f(I_1) \neq f(I_k)$$

$$d_{f_i}(I_i, P) = (f(I_i) - f(I_{i-1})) \times (f(I_{i+1}) - f(I_i))$$

$$d'(I, P) = \sum_{i=1}^k (w_i \times d_{f_i}(I, P))$$

[Gao, Nallaperuma, F. Neumann, PPSN 2016, arxiv2016]



Discrepancy-Based Evolutionary Diversity Optimization  
for Images

## Discrepancy-Based Evolutionary Diversity Optimization

- New approach for discrepancy-based evolutionary diversity optimization
- Investigate the use of the star discrepancy measure for diversity optimization for images and TSP instances
- Introduce an adaptive random walk mutation operator based on random walks
- Compared the previously approach for images and TSP instances [Alexander, Kortman, A. Neumann, GECCO 2017]

## Discrepancy-Based Evolutionary Diversity Optimization for Images



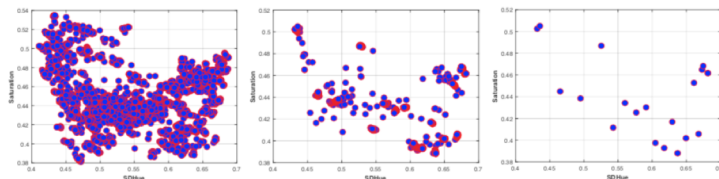
#1

Start Image

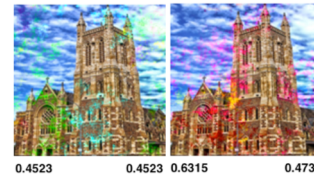
#2

Features

#2  
Features



## Discrepancy-Based Evolutionary Diversity Optimization for Images

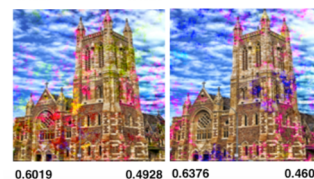


#4

Experimental  
settings

#5

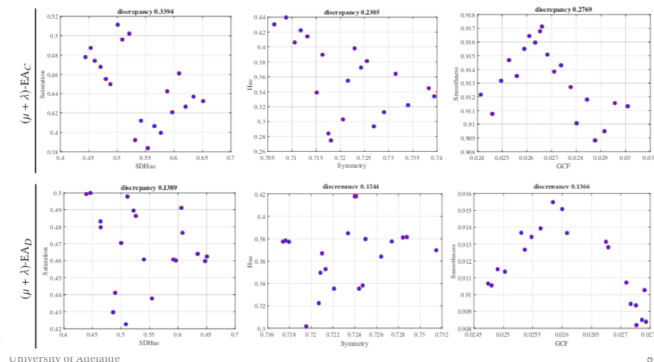
Results



# Discrepancy-Based Evolutionary Diversity Optimization for Images

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## Results



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# Discrepancy-Based Evolutionary Diversity Optimization for Images

#5

## Results

	$(\mu + \lambda) \cdot EA_C(1)$				$(\mu + \lambda) \cdot EA_D(2)$				$(\mu + \lambda) \cdot EA_T(3)$			
	min	mean	std	stat	min	mean	std	stat	min	mean	std	stat
(f1, f2)	0.2014	0.3234	0.0595	$2^{(-)}3^{(-)}$	0.1272	0.2038	0.1157	$1^{(+)}$	0.1119	0.1530	0.0269	$1^{(+)}$
(f3, f4)	0.1964	0.2945	0.0497	$2^{(-)}3^{(-)}$	0.1574	0.2280	0.0592	$1^{(+)}, 3^{(-)}$	0.1051	0.1417	0.0179	$1^{(+)}, 2^{(+)}$
(f5, f6)	0.1997	0.2769	0.0344	$2^{(-)}3^{(-)}$	0.1363	0.2025	0.0538	$1^{(+)}$	0.1457	0.1800	0.0234	$1^{(+)}$
(f1, f2, f3)	0.3389	0.4327	0.0613	$2^{(-)}3^{(-)}$	0.1513	0.3335	0.1062	$1^{(+)}$	0.2253	0.2814	0.0422	$1^{(+)}$
(f1, f4, f3)	0.2754	0.3395	0.0483	$2^{(-)}3^{(-)}$	0.2100	0.3118	0.1309	$1^{(+)}$	0.2224	0.2600	0.0123	$1^{(+)}$
(f5, f4, f2)	0.4775	0.6488	0.0841	$2^{(-)}3^{(-)}$	0.2021	0.3007	0.1467	$1^{(+)}$	0.1983	0.2229	0.0125	$1^{(+)}$

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