

# 1 Introduction

## 1.1 Plagiarism chains by Wegman and/or his students

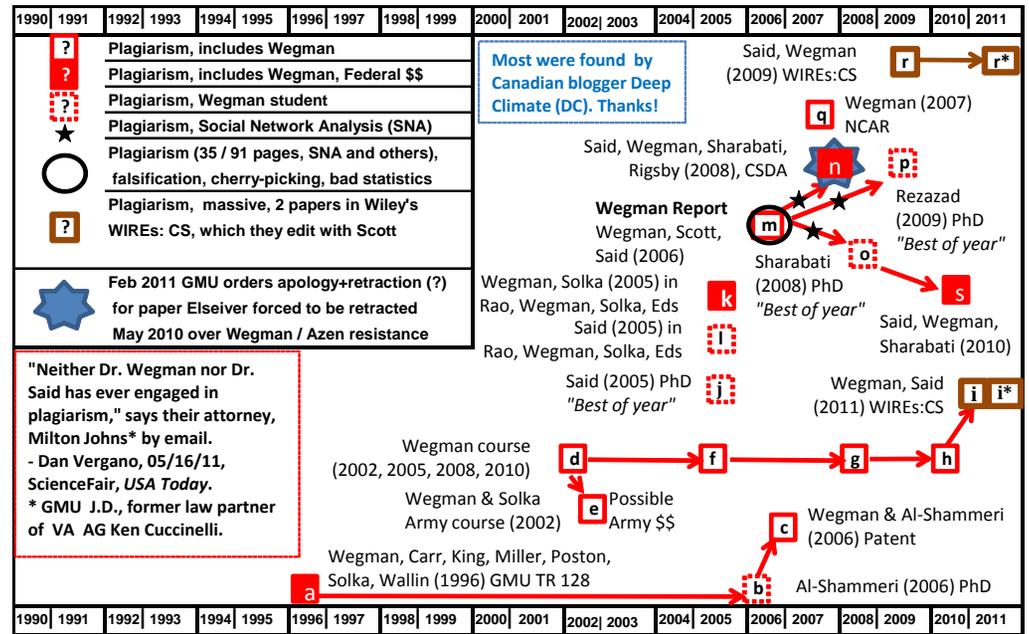
This chart alleges a long history of repeated plagiarism by Wegman and some of his students, totaling 80+ pages of text. Bradley sent an earlier revision of this chart to GMU 06/06/11, lacking only details of paper [r], called [n] in the earlier version.

Wegman and some of his students often “borrowed” text with poor or no attribution, then made trivial changes. Sometimes, unattributed Wikipedia text was copied, while adding some of its citations as disconnected references. Errors were often introduced, especially when departing from the original text.

§1.3 illustrates this plagiarism style.

Some parts of the WR seemed to show a kind of falsification, not by faking data, but by plagiarizing, then weakening or inverting expert conclusions without basis.

Wegman and his lawyer Milton Johns claim there has never been plagiarism. *Readers may assess that claim via §2, §3, §4.*



### Relevant summary sources, generally link back to sources of first identification

- a, b, c [deepclimate.org/2010/12/02/wegman-et-al-miscellany](http://deepclimate.org/2010/12/02/wegman-et-al-miscellany)
- a [www.dtic.mil/cgi-bin/GetTRDoc?AD=ADA313999&Location=U2&doc=GetTRDoc.pdf](http://www.dtic.mil/cgi-bin/GetTRDoc?AD=ADA313999&Location=U2&doc=GetTRDoc.pdf)
- d, e, f, g, h, i [deepclimate.org/2011/03/26/wegman-and-said-2011-dubious-scholarship-in-full-colour](http://deepclimate.org/2011/03/26/wegman-and-said-2011-dubious-scholarship-in-full-colour) and [deepclimate.org/2011/05/15/wegman-and-said-2011-part-2](http://deepclimate.org/2011/05/15/wegman-and-said-2011-part-2)
- j, o, p [deepclimate.org/2010/09/15/wegman-report-update-part-2-gmu-dissertation-review](http://deepclimate.org/2010/09/15/wegman-report-update-part-2-gmu-dissertation-review)
- m, n [deepclimate.org/2010/07/29/wegman-report-update-part-1-more-dubious-scholarship-in-full-colour](http://deepclimate.org/2010/07/29/wegman-report-update-part-1-more-dubious-scholarship-in-full-colour)
- m [deepclimate.org/2010/11/16/replication-and-due-diligence-wegman-style](http://deepclimate.org/2010/11/16/replication-and-due-diligence-wegman-style)
- q [deepclimate.files.wordpress.com/2010/09/strange-scholarship-v1-02.pdf](http://deepclimate.files.wordpress.com/2010/09/strange-scholarship-v1-02.pdf)
- m [www.desmogblog.com/wegman-report-not-just-plagiarism-misrepresentation](http://www.desmogblog.com/wegman-report-not-just-plagiarism-misrepresentation)
- k, l [deepclimate.org/2011/06/07/mining-new-depths-in-scholarship-part-1](http://deepclimate.org/2011/06/07/mining-new-depths-in-scholarship-part-1)
- r [deepclimate.org/2011/10/04/said-and-wegman-2009-suboptimal-scholarship](http://deepclimate.org/2011/10/04/said-and-wegman-2009-suboptimal-scholarship)
- s [deepclimate.files.wordpress.com/2011/06/strange-scholarship-w-5-7a.pdf](http://deepclimate.files.wordpress.com/2011/06/strange-scholarship-w-5-7a.pdf)
- \*l, \*r [deepclimate.org/2012/03/16/wiley-coverup-complete-wegman-and-said-redo-hides-plagiarism-and-errors](http://deepclimate.org/2012/03/16/wiley-coverup-complete-wegman-and-said-redo-hides-plagiarism-and-errors)

Earliest, 4<sup>th</sup> PhD  
 ARMY ARO  
 Successive iterations of course  
 Eventually → WIREs:CS color  
 Said, Sharabati, Rezazad PhDs  
 WR total: 10 pages  
 WR: +25 pages, total 35  
 Bad statistics, cherry-picking  
 MAS2010a p.70 slides (minor)  
 Alleged falsification  
 2 articles in famous series  
 WIREs: CS from Wikipedia  
 Sharabati PhD + new antecedents  
 Cover-up, see §5.3

### 1.3 Plagiarism by copy, paste and trivial change

Shown below is a sample of DC's earliest side-by-side presentations, followed by July 2010's color updates, **in the style used throughout.**

**Documents with alleged plagiarism always appear at left, the antecedent(s) at right, with similar cyan/yellow highlighting.**

This kind of plagiarism claims no invention or new ideas, but uses near-verbatim text to present an illusion of expertise and credibility.

#### Deep Climate Original presentation, December 2009, Wegman Report ← Bradley(1999)

Wegman – para 1

A cross section of a temperate forest tree shows variation of lighter and darker bands that are usually continuous around the circumference of the tree. *These bands are the so-called tree rings and are due to seasonal effects.* Each tree ring is composed of large thin-walled cells called early wood and smaller more densely packed thick walled cells called late wood. The average width of a tree ring is

Bradley – 10.2

A cross section of most temperate forest trees will show an alternation of lighter and darker bands, each of which is usually continuous around the tree circumference. *These are seasonal growth increments produced by meristematic tissues in the tree's cambium.* When viewed in detail (Fig. 10.1) it is clear that they are made up of sequences of large, thin-walled cells (earlywood) and more densely packed, thick-walled cells (latewood). *Collectively, each couplet of*

#### Deep Climate July 2010 presentation of same text

A cross section of a temperate forest tree shows variation of lighter and darker bands that are usually continuous around the circumference of the tree.

These bands are the so-called tree rings and are due to seasonal effects. Each tree ring is composed of large thin-walled cells called early wood and smaller more densely packed thick walled cells called late wood.

A cross section of most temperate forest trees will show an alternation of lighter and darker bands, each of which is usually continuous around the tree circumference.

*These are seasonal growth increments produced by meristematic tissues in the tree's cambium. When viewed in detail (Fig. 10.1) it is clear that they are made up of sequences of large, thin-walled cells (earlywood) and more densely packed, thick-walled cells (latewood). Collectively, each couplet of earlywood and latewood comprises an annual growth increment, more commonly called a tree ring.*

DC's early versions are clear enough with careful reading, but this copy-paste-trivial-change process is made rapidly visible by highlighting identical, mostly in-order words in cyan. Once readers accept the cyan's validity,<sup>28</sup> it can be ignored, making trivial changes obvious, yellow. The rest is paraphrasing (which DC often showed in *Italics*) or unidentifiable.

Of the WR's 91 pages, 35 were eventually found to follow this style, also found in other efforts by Wegman and/or his students, totaling 80+ pages. In many cases, ~50% of the words were marked cyan, 20-30% yellow. Trivial changes do not happen by accident. Making enough of them is a minimal-effort way to defeat simpler automated plagiarism checkers.

The next sections offer side-by-sides to back the claims of §1.1 They use the same style, except one that highlights alleged likely falsifications red. Cases are gathered into 3 groups, organized by dates by which GMU is known to have been formally notified:<sup>29</sup>

§2 Reported to GMU no later than May 2010.

Color versions appeared by July, were reported to GMU by October.

§3 Reported to GMU no later than October 2010

§4 Reported to GMU no later than June 2011

Wegman has consistently claimed there has been no plagiarism, and GMU mostly agreed. *Academics, especially, might read this and give opinions.*

<sup>29</sup> Many were discussed earlier at *Deep Climate*, which a diligent committee might have monitored. Formal complaints were made by various people.

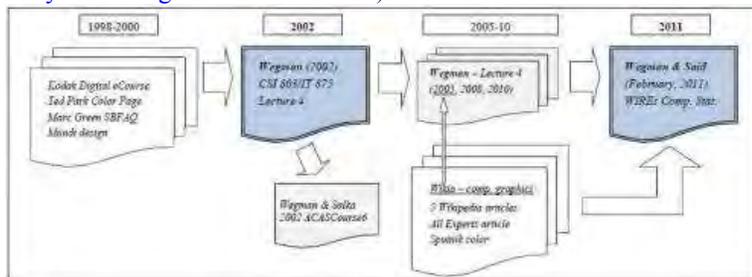
<sup>28</sup> Later, comparisons were made easier by reformatting texts to align cyan words.

#### 4.7 WIREs:CS Wegman and Said (2011) [d, e, f, g, h, i]

DC found<sup>88</sup> that a Wegman lecture on color [d, 2002] was derived from various antecedents, poorly referenced, used by him and Jeff Solka in a course for the Army [e, 2002]. The lecture evolved [f, 2005] → [g, 2008] → [h, 2010]. Then in 2011, this was converted to an article in Wiley's *WIREs: Computational Statistics*, (WIREs:CS), a "peer-reviewed" journal **edited by Wegman, Said and David Scott**.<sup>89</sup>

This plagiarism was far more complex than the others. DC's overview explained:<sup>90</sup>

'A recent article by Wegman and Said in WIREs Computational Statistics opens up a whole new avenue of inquiry – and reveals a remarkable pattern of "flow through" cut-and-paste that goes even beyond Said et al 2008. *Colour Design and Theory* (published online in February) is based largely on a 2002 course lecture by Wegman. However, this is no case of simple recycling of material, for most of the earlier lecture material came from obscure websites on colour theory and was simply copied verbatim without attribution. Now much of it has shown up, virtually unchanged, nine years later. And the old material has been augmented with figures and text from several more decidedly non-scholarly sources, including – wait for it – five different Wikipedia articles. This tangled web is probably best approached with a flow diagram showing the relationship of the two works in question, along with the main unattributed antecedents (taken from the introduction to [my detailed analysis of Wegman and Said 2011](#)).<sup>91</sup>



<sup>88</sup> [deepclimate.org/2011/03/26/wegman-and-said-2011-dubious-scholarship-in-full-colour](http://deepclimate.org/2011/03/26/wegman-and-said-2011-dubious-scholarship-in-full-colour)

<sup>89</sup> The WR authorship was Wegman, Scott and Said, although Scott is believed to have only written a few pages. He has remained silent about WR issues.

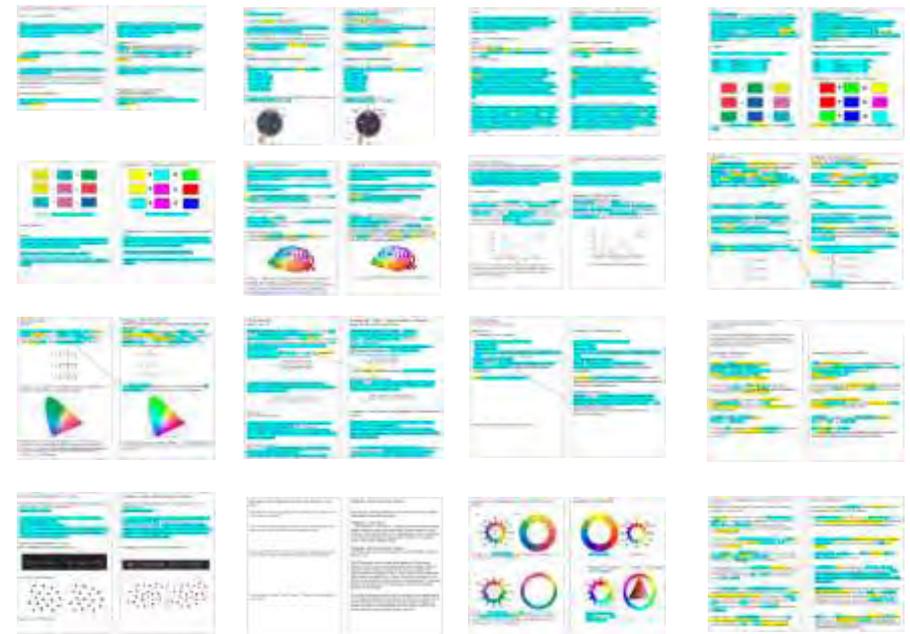
<sup>90</sup> [deepclimate.org/2011/03/26/wegman-and-said-2011-dubious-scholarship-in-full-colour](http://deepclimate.org/2011/03/26/wegman-and-said-2011-dubious-scholarship-in-full-colour)

<sup>91</sup> [deepclimate.files.wordpress.com/2011/03/wegman-said-color-theory-and-design-antecedents-v12.pdf](http://deepclimate.files.wordpress.com/2011/03/wegman-said-color-theory-and-design-antecedents-v12.pdf)

As seen in the above figure, the unattributed antecedents of Wegman and Said 2011 fall into two distinct groups:

1. **More than 90% pages of content in Wegman 2002 contain content identical to six online sources available at that time**, including a Kodak tutorial on digital colour and a web page on color theory by Ted Park. In turn, much of this material found its way into Wegman and Said 2011, again unattributed for the most part.

2. **Additional unattributed material in Wegman and Said 2011, both text and figures, can be traced to five different Wikipedia articles**, as well as other non-academic online sources, such as All Experts and Wiki Graphics. ' Read DC's detailed analysis for the real thing, but this is the general idea, as usual, with cyan highlight for identical text and yellow for trivial edits:



DC's further discussion<sup>92</sup> enumerated various additional problems and hinted at other issues with WIREs:CS that had been discovered.

On 06/06/11, this was reported to GMU.

**GMU verdict on Wegman and Said (2011) plagiarism: never mentioned.**

<sup>92</sup> [deepclimate.org/2011/05/15/wegman-and-said-2011-part-2](http://deepclimate.org/2011/05/15/wegman-and-said-2011-part-2)

#### 4.8 WIRES:CS Said and Wegman (2009) [r]

Although published earlier, this<sup>93</sup> was found later, in April 2011 and reported to Wiley then (as per next section), but not until October 4 did DC produce a complete public analysis.<sup>94</sup> DC summarized:

‘As the title implies, the article was meant to provide a broad overview of mathematical optimization and set the stage for subsequent articles detailing various optimization techniques. However my analysis, entitled *Suboptimal Scholarship: Antecedents of Said and Wegman 2009*,<sup>95</sup> demonstrates the highly problematic scholarship of the “Roadmap” article.

- No fewer than 15 likely online antecedent sources, all unattributed, have been identified, including 13 articles from Wikipedia and two others from Prof. Tom Ferguson and Wolfram MathWorld.
- Numerous errors have been identified, apparently arising from mistranscription, faulty rewording, or omission of key information.
- The scanty list of references appears to have been “carried along” from the unattributed antecedents; thus, these references may well constitute false citations.’

People expect review articles to be written by those who have at least demonstrated mastery of a field. Here, 2 of the Editors-in-Chief stitched together Wikipedia pages to create an error-plagued article,<sup>96</sup> whose “peer review” if any must surely have been managed by the remaining E-i-C. DC’s 34-page analysis explains many errors and problems beyond the pages at right.<sup>97</sup> Cyan highlights identical text, yellow trivial edits.

This issue was on the chart sent to GMU 06/06/11, and had they asked, early analyses were available. Dan Vergano inquired later about this.<sup>98</sup>

<sup>93</sup> Yasmin H. Said and Edward J. Wegman, “Roadmap for Optimization”, *Wiley Interdisciplinary Reviews: Computational Statistics [WIRES Comp Stat]*, Volume 1, Issue 1, pages 3-11, July/August 2009. Online July 13, 2009.

<sup>94</sup> [deepclimate.org/2011/10/04/said-and-wegman-2009-suboptimal-scholarship](http://deepclimate.org/2011/10/04/said-and-wegman-2009-suboptimal-scholarship)

<sup>95</sup> [deepclimate.files.wordpress.com/2011/10/said-wegman-2009-suboptimal-scholarship-v12.pdf](http://deepclimate.files.wordpress.com/2011/10/said-wegman-2009-suboptimal-scholarship-v12.pdf)

<sup>96</sup> *The quality of the Wikipedia pages was higher.*

<sup>97</sup> For DC’s detailed discussion of other problems, background in the relevant mathematics and computing topics is helpful or necessary. For example, experts might be surprised to find “iterative” and “recursive” treated as synonyms. Plagiarism is easier to see for domain non-experts.

<sup>98</sup> [content.usatoday.com/communities/sciencefair/post/2011/10/more-wikipedia-copying-from-climate-critics/1](http://content.usatoday.com/communities/sciencefair/post/2011/10/more-wikipedia-copying-from-climate-critics/1) Neither GMU nor Wegman replied to requests.

p.7 of DC analysis



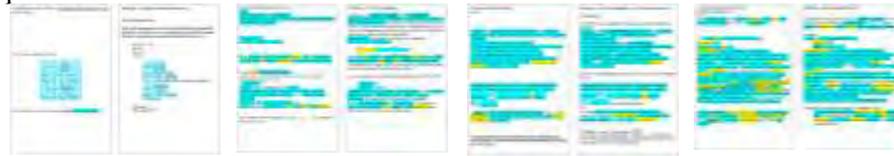
p.11



p.15



p.19



p.23



p.27



These 2 articles were reported to Wiley, as described shortly. As with GMU Rice (for Scott on WR) and Elsevier (*CSDA*), the reports were originally kept confidential to await reasonable progress in their handling. Rice and Elsevier did so expeditiously, Elsevier against strong resistance. **GMU verdict on Said and Wegman (2009): never asked for information.**

## 5.2 Reporting Editors' plagiarism to Wiley [i, r]

When substantial plagiarism is found in 2 articles by 2 Editors-in-Chief and third E-i-C is a long, close associate, the only recourse is the publisher, details in §A.3.

03/28/11 I sent email to Wiley, including:

"I am writing to report massive plagiarism in an article by Wegman and Said, "Color theory and design" in the recent issue of this journal they edit with long-time associate David Scott."

03/30/11 Wiley's Stephen Quigley<sup>109</sup> replied, copying Janet Bailey.<sup>110</sup>

"We are in receipt of your email dated March 28, 2011 regarding "substantial plagiarism by editors Wegman and Said."

04/24/11 I sent more issues to Quigley, including:

'I am afraid further problems have appeared, ...

1) Problem: Dr Yasmin Said's affiliations on WIRES:CS masthead are either false or obsolete.

2) Problem: Further plagiarism has been found in WIRES:CS Vol 1, Issue 1, Said and Wegman, "Roadmap for optimization."

04/26/11 Quigley replied, copying Bailey:

'Please be advised that we are in receipt of your second email on various issues dealing with the editors of WIRE: Computational Statistics. We are reviewing the facts. **Should any changes to the record be warranted, those will be made on the record.'**

05/09/11 Kirkpatrick sent Wiley more detailed analysis of Said and Wegman

05/15/11 I emailed to Quigley:

'1) Further information on the "Color article" is:  
[deepclimate.org/2011/05/15/wegman-and-said-2011-part-2/](http://deepclimate.org/2011/05/15/wegman-and-said-2011-part-2/)

09/08/11 I emailed Quigley:

'Now that it has been 5 months, might I assume that Wiley has determined that no changes to the record are warranted\*? ... \* That is:

1) Wegman and Said (2011)

2) Said and Wegman (2009), as documented in more detail by Ted Kirkpatrick

3) Said's claimed Professorship at Oklahoma State University. '

09/15/11 Quigley replied:

**'In response to your most recent email (of September 9), it is against Wiley policy to comment on editorial processes to third parties, but, rest assured that any changes to the record will be made on the record.'**

10/04/11 DC published the detailed analysis,<sup>111</sup> covered by Vergano.<sup>112</sup>

<sup>109</sup> Associate Publisher, Wiley-Blackwell, Marblehead, MA.

<sup>110</sup> I think she is/was Vice President and Publishing Director, Physical Sciences Books and References, Wiley, Hoboken, NJ. She was copied on email exchanges.

<sup>111</sup> [deepclimate.org/2011/10/04/said-and-wegman-2009-suboptimal-scholarship](http://deepclimate.org/2011/10/04/said-and-wegman-2009-suboptimal-scholarship)

## 5.3 Wegman, Said, Scott and Wiley [i\*, r\*]

DC just made another surprising discovery.<sup>113</sup> Wegman and Said quietly reworked their papers to reword copied text, include more citations and fix the errors enumerated by DC and others. The only comments were:

Wegman and Said, Color Theory and Design [i] → [i\*] PDF mod 01/03/12

'This article, first published online on February 4, 2011 in Wiley Online Library (<http://www.wileyonlinelibrary.com>), **has been revised at the request of the Editors-in-Chief and the Publisher.** References and links have been added to aid the reader interested in following up on any technique.' ...

'ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

**As with any overview article, this discussion was synthesized from many sources including the cited Wikipedia articles.** Early discussion in the sections on Human Visual System and Color Theory were based on Park2 and Eastman Kodak,<sup>5</sup> which are now no longer directly accessible. Much of the discussion in the section on 'Color Deficiencies in Human Vision' and the subsection on 'Hardwired Perception' is based on material in Green. The inspiration of Marc Green is hereby gratefully acknowledged.'

Said and Wegman, Roadmap for Optimization [r\*] PDF mod 01/10/12

'This article, first published online on July 13, 2009 in Wiley Online Library (<http://www.wileyonlinelibrary.com>), has been revised at the request of the Editors-in-Chief and the Publisher. References and links have been added to aid the reader interested in following up on any technique.' ...

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

**As with any overview article, this discussion was synthesized from many sources including the cited Wikipedia and Mathematica articles.** There is no intent in this article to claim that this article represents original research work on our part, but this article is offered with the intent of providing the Roadmap to the field. **We are grateful to the two external referees who reviewed this article and whose suggestions have much improved the discussion.'**

<sup>112</sup> [content.usatoday.com/communities/sciencefair/post/2011/10/more-wikipedia-copying-from-climate-critics/1](http://content.usatoday.com/communities/sciencefair/post/2011/10/more-wikipedia-copying-from-climate-critics/1)

<sup>113</sup> [deepclimate.org/2012/03/16/wiley-coverup-complete-wegman-and-said-redo-hides-plagiarism-and-errors](http://deepclimate.org/2012/03/16/wiley-coverup-complete-wegman-and-said-redo-hides-plagiarism-and-errors) (URL fixed) Since Wegman, Said and David Scott co-edit WIRES:CS, it seems Scott would have managed any peer review for articles by Wegman and Said. The E-i-C's have written at least 7 articles for WIRES:CS.

### A.3 Email exchanges with Wiley

When substantial plagiarism is found by 2 Editors-in-Chief and the 3<sup>rd</sup> is a long-time close associate of theirs, the only recourse is the publisher.<sup>134</sup>

A history of interactions with Wiley follows:

On **03/28/11**, I sent email to Wiley, including:

“I am writing to report massive plagiarism in an article by Wegman and Said, "Color theory and design" in the recent issue of this journal they edit with long-time associate David Scott.

[onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1002/wics.v3.2/issuetoc](http://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1002/wics.v3.2/issuetoc)

Normally, I would report such to the editors, but that didn't seem likely to be useful in this case.

If I need to send this elsewhere, please advise. ...

3) The plagiarism was discovered and exhaustively documented by Canadian blogger "Deep Climate," a fine investigator who prefers to remain anonymous. Of course, near-verbatim plagiarism is easily demonstrable, and he has done a detailed analysis, posted publicly at:

[deepclimate.org/2011/03/26/wegman-and-said-2011-dubious-scholarship-in-full-colour](http://deepclimate.org/2011/03/26/wegman-and-said-2011-dubious-scholarship-in-full-colour)

It includes a 22-page side-by-side analysis of the paper with the antecedent texts:

[deepclimate.files.wordpress.com/2011/03/wegman-said-color-theory-and-design-antecedents-v12.pdf](http://deepclimate.files.wordpress.com/2011/03/wegman-said-color-theory-and-design-antecedents-v12.pdf)

This plagiarism chain started in 2002, with material used in lectures, an Army ACAS course, and finally in Wegman and Said (2011). Commenters on that post have already identified Wegman/Said plagiarism in two more articles.

4) Wegman and his students now have a long history of using other people's work, usually via cut-and-paste with a little editing, with at-best vague and often zero citation. In addition to various articles and book chapters, the 2006

<sup>134</sup> In the *CSDA* case, E-i-C Stanley Azen was an old associate of Wegman's and wrote, MAS2011a, p.11:

‘So, I have two thoughts. The first thought is to have Ed's response reviewed by an expert (e.g. lawyer, or ethics person) at Elsevier, with the goal of helping Elsevier make the appropriate decision as to whether additional "punishment" (e.g., withdrawing the paper) is needed. The 2nd thought is that we agree that proper "punishment" has already occurred, and we go forward with Ed's recommendation of providing an errata sheet for publication in *CSDA*.’

There, Elsevier followed normal policy, drove the process and eventual retraction.

Wegman Report for Congress, this includes 4 PhD dissertations, including Said's.

5) That issue of the *WIRES* journal has 10 articles, of which:

3 are by Wegman's past students: Martinez, Moustafa, Chow

1 is the Wegman and Said article

1 is by Scott

1 is by a colleague of Scott's at Rice, Wickham

---

All this may be perfectly fine, but is somewhat disconcerting to see such a concentration of authors.”

On **03/30/11**, Wiley's Stephen Quigley<sup>135</sup> replied, copying Janet Bailey.<sup>136</sup>

“We are in receipt of your email dated March 28, 2011 regarding “substantial plagiarism by editors Wegman and Said.” Before we initiate an internal investigation, we need specific evidence of your claim since, as I am sure you are aware, we do not take such an allegation lightly.”

On **03/30/11**, I replied to Quigley, including:

“Sir: thank you for your prompt attention to a circumstance whose distressing nature I understand.

I suggest reading 2 recently-posted files:

[deepclimate.org/2011/03/26/wegman-and-said-2011-dubious-scholarship-in-full-colour/](http://deepclimate.org/2011/03/26/wegman-and-said-2011-dubious-scholarship-in-full-colour/)

That gives an overview, context and some examples and I would suggest reading that first.

Then see:

[deepclimate.files.wordpress.com/2011/03/wegman-said-color-theory-and-design-antecedents-v12.pdf](http://deepclimate.files.wordpress.com/2011/03/wegman-said-color-theory-and-design-antecedents-v12.pdf)

That is a 22-page detailed writeup, summarizing the various antecedents of Wegman&Said(2011), including 16 detailed pages of side-by-side comparison, using a color scheme that quickly shows the cut-and-paste/edit work, and that Deep Climate and I have employed in earlier analyses, including the one that led to:

[www.usatoday.com/weather/climate/globalwarming/2010-11-21-climate-report-questioned\\_N.htm](http://www.usatoday.com/weather/climate/globalwarming/2010-11-21-climate-report-questioned_N.htm)”

<sup>135</sup> Associate Publisher, Wiley-Blackwell, Marblehead, MA.

<sup>136</sup> I think she is/was Vice President and Publishing Director, Physical Sciences Books and References, Wiley, Hoboken, NJ. She was copied on all email exchanges after the first.

On **04/24/11**, I sent more issues to Quigley, including:

'I am afraid further problems have appeared, beyond the plagiarism reported to Wiley 03/28/10, detailed in:

[deepclimate.org/2011/03/26/wegman-and-said-2011-dubious-scholarship-in-full-colour/](http://deepclimate.org/2011/03/26/wegman-and-said-2011-dubious-scholarship-in-full-colour/)

I sympathize with the awkwardness of all this and I apologize for any errors, as this was assembled in some haste.

#### OVERVIEW

1) Problem: Dr Yasmin Said's affiliations on WIRES:CS masthead are either false or obsolete.

2) Problem: Further plagiarism has been found in WIRES:CS Vol 1, Issue 1, Said and Wegman, "Roadmap for optimization."

Much of it seems cut-and-paste from Wikipedia articles. ...

3) There are also some disquieting concerns, which may or may not rise to actual problems. Wiley may want to check the review processes at WIRES:CS and clarify how this really works, as there seems to be confusion. About 28% of the papers are authored by the Editors themselves or people with obvious close ties. The scope of WIRES:CS seems a bit broad for good review coverage, even understanding the interdisciplinary approach.

1) PROBLEM: DR YASMIN SAID'S AFFILIATIONS ARE EITHER FALSE OR OBSOLETE

[onlinelibrary.wiley.com/journal/10.1002/%28ISSN%291939-0068/homepage/EditorialBoard.html](http://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/journal/10.1002/%28ISSN%291939-0068/homepage/EditorialBoard.html)

[www.wiley.com/bw/editors.asp?ref=1939-5108&site=1](http://www.wiley.com/bw/editors.asp?ref=1939-5108&site=1) both show:

"Yasmin H. Said, Professor, Oklahoma State University, Ruth L. Kirschstein National Fellow, George Mason University"

a) Said has **\*never\*** been an employee of OSU and certainly not a Professor. She was offered an Assistant Professor job in March 2009, for Fall 2009. She later requested a lighter teaching load, granted by OSU. Then, around August, she asked to defer her arrival by a semester, which was not agreed, so she resigned that position. For a few months, both she and OSU did think she would be starting there in the Fall. For background, see Appendix A.6.5, "Odd loose ends at Wiley Interscience" p.83 of:

[deepclimate.files.wordpress.com/2010/09/strange-scholarship-v1-02.pdf](http://deepclimate.files.wordpress.com/2010/09/strange-scholarship-v1-02.pdf)

If confirmation is needed from OSU, I can provide relevant contacts. ...

2) PROBLEM: FURTHER PLAGIARISM: WIRES:CS Vol 1, Issue 1, Said and Wegman, "Roadmap for optimization" (SW2009)

[onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1002/wics.16/abstract](http://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1002/wics.16/abstract)

Part of this article seemed to have come from Wikipedia, but more has been found since:

[deepclimate.org/2011/03/26/wegman-and-said-2011-dubious-scholarship-in-full-colour/#comment-8486](http://deepclimate.org/2011/03/26/wegman-and-said-2011-dubious-scholarship-in-full-colour/#comment-8486)

I think a thorough comparison document will be prepared by an associate in next week or two, but a few hours' efforts sufficed to find Wikipedia pages, circa mid-2009, all of which have text with striking similarities, although SW2009 occasionally has extra errors.

[en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Karush%E2%80%93Kuhn%E2%80%93Tucker\\_conditions&oldid=303189545](http://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Karush%E2%80%93Kuhn%E2%80%93Tucker_conditions&oldid=303189545)

[en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Linear\\_programming&oldid=302228577](http://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Linear_programming&oldid=302228577)

[en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Simplex\\_algorithm&oldid=269565766](http://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Simplex_algorithm&oldid=269565766)

[en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Karmarkar%27s\\_algorithm&oldid=292855439](http://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Karmarkar%27s_algorithm&oldid=292855439)

[en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Simulated\\_annealing&oldid=301539847](http://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Simulated_annealing&oldid=301539847)

For example, here is a cut-and-paste with minimal trivial edits, a plagiarism style seen often involving Said:

Said and Wegman: p.9 Simulated annealing (zero citations)

"Simulated annealing is a probabilistic metaheuristic global optimization algorithm for locating a good approximation to the global minimum of a given function in a large search space. For many problems, simulated annealing may be more effective than exhaustive enumeration provided that the goal is to find an acceptably good solution in a fixed amount of time, rather than the best possible solution."

[en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Simulated\\_annealing&oldid=301539847](http://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Simulated_annealing&oldid=301539847) (July 2009)

" **Simulated annealing (SA)** is a generic **probabilistic metaheuristic** for the **global optimization** problem of **applied mathematics**, namely locating a good approximation to the **global minimum** of a given **function** in a large **search space**. ... For certain problems, simulated annealing may be more effective than **exhaustive enumeration** — provided that the goal is merely to find an acceptably good solution in a fixed amount of time, rather than the best possible solution."

One might ask if **anyone** actually reviewed this paper, as it has problems beyond plagiarism. The approach seems to take uncited Wikipedia pages, copy a few of the references found in Wikipedia, but often detached as "further reading" or equivalent. ...'

On **04/26/11**, Quigley replied, copying Bailey:

‘Please be advised that we are in receipt of your second email on various issues dealing with the editors of WIRE: Computational Statistics. We are reviewing the facts. Should any changes to the record be warranted, those will be made on the record.’

On **05/09/11**, Kirkpatrick sent Wiley a more detailed analysis of Said and Wegman(2009)

On **05/15/11**, I emailed to Quigley:

‘1) Further information on the “Color article” is:  
[deepclimate.org/2011/05/15/wegman-and-said-2011-part-2/](http://deepclimate.org/2011/05/15/wegman-and-said-2011-part-2/)  
 2) Also, while not involving Wiley, you may want to be aware of USA Today article:  
[www.usatoday.com/weather/climate/globalwarming/2011-05-15-climate-study-plagiarism-Wegman\\_n.htm](http://www.usatoday.com/weather/climate/globalwarming/2011-05-15-climate-study-plagiarism-Wegman_n.htm)  
 Said, Wegman, Sharabati, Rigsby(2008) to be retracted from Computational Science and Data Analysis.’

On **05/26/11**, I emailed Quigley, labeled “FYI, NO REPLY NEEDED”

‘Again, while not directly involved in the Wegman/Said issues with Wiley, additional context from the Elsevier case may be useful to you:  
 3) Followup to USA Today article, i.e., text for which there was insufficient room in print version.  
[content.usatoday.com/communities/sciencefair/post/2011/05/retracted-climate-critics-study-panned-by-expert-1](http://content.usatoday.com/communities/sciencefair/post/2011/05/retracted-climate-critics-study-panned-by-expert-1)  
 4) An annotated analysis of Wegman’s email to Elsevier that was mentioned in Vergano’s article.  
[www.desmogblog.com/sites/beta.desmogblog.com/files/strange%20tales%20v%201%202001.pdf](http://www.desmogblog.com/sites/beta.desmogblog.com/files/strange%20tales%20v%201%202001.pdf)  
 5) A related Editorial in Nature yesterday.  
[www.nature.com/nature/journal/v473/n7348/full/473419b.html](http://www.nature.com/nature/journal/v473/n7348/full/473419b.html)’

On **09/08/11**, I emailed Quigley:

‘Now that it has been 5 months, might I assume that Wiley has determined that no changes to the record are warranted\*? ...

\* That is:

1) Wegman and Said (2011)  
 2) Said and Wegman (2009), as documented in more detail by Ted Kirkpatrick  
 3) Said’s claimed Professorship at Oklahoma State University.  
[onlinelibrary.wiley.com/journal/10.1002/%28ISSN%291939-0068/homepage/EditorialBoard.html](http://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/journal/10.1002/%28ISSN%291939-0068/homepage/EditorialBoard.html) ‘

On **09/15/11**, Quigley replied:

‘In response to your most recent email (of September 9), it is against Wiley policy to comment on editorial processes to third parties, but, rest assured that any changes to the record will be made on the record.’

In early September, by **09/16/11**, the masthead changed Said’s identification from:  
 “Professor, Oklahoma State University” to:  
 “Professor, George Mason University” and then later to:  
 “Assistant Professor, George Mason University”<sup>137</sup>

On **10/04/11**, DC published the detailed analysis,<sup>138</sup> and as often occurred at *Deep Climate*, interesting comments added more data.

On **10/05/11**, Dan Vergano wrote on the topic,<sup>139</sup> noting:

‘Now, following work by Columbia University statistician Andrew Gelman<sup>140</sup> finding more botched copying of Wikipedia in a separate 2009 WIREs CompStats review article by Wegman, *Deep Climate* has released an analysis finding 13 blocks of copied Wikipedia text in the review article. Other text appears lifted from another researcher’s textbook and Wolfram MathWorld. (Wegman and Said are editors in chief of the journal in which the review article appears, incidentally.)  
 Wegman and his attorney, Milt Johns, have not replied to an e-mailed request for comment on the complaints about the *WIREs CompStat* article. Johns has previously denied any plagiarism by the researchers. ...  
 George Mason University, under fire for an 18-month investigation<sup>141</sup> into acknowledged copying in the retracted study, did not reply to a request for comment on the latest news. ...  
 All told, at least five published papers by Wegman and Said appear to suffer from plagiarism-related defects, summarizes the analysis. “It’s a dismal chronology,” concludes the *Deep Climate* blogpost.’

<sup>137</sup> She is a GMU Research Assistant Professor. She never took the job at OSU.

<sup>138</sup> [deepclimate.org/2011/10/04/said-and-wegman-2009-suboptimal-scholarship](http://deepclimate.org/2011/10/04/said-and-wegman-2009-suboptimal-scholarship)

<sup>139</sup> [content.usatoday.com/communities/sciencefair/post/2011/10/more-wikipedia-copying-from-climate-critics/1](http://content.usatoday.com/communities/sciencefair/post/2011/10/more-wikipedia-copying-from-climate-critics/1)

<sup>140</sup> [andrewgelman.com/2011/09/another-wegman-plagiarism-copying-without-attribution-and-further-discussion-of-why-scientists-cheat](http://andrewgelman.com/2011/09/another-wegman-plagiarism-copying-without-attribution-and-further-discussion-of-why-scientists-cheat)

<sup>141</sup> [www.nature.com/nature/journal/v473/n7348/full/473419b.html](http://www.nature.com/nature/journal/v473/n7348/full/473419b.html)