

# Geometric morphometrics

## Introduction

Manuel F. G. Weinkauf

Univerzita Karlova, Prague, Czech Republic

26–27 August 2022



## Section 1

Who am I and why do I teach this?

# My way in life

2003–2010	Dipl.-Geol.: Freie Universität Berlin, Germany
2011–2015	Dr. rer. nat.: Eberhard–Karls Universität Tübingen, Germany
2015	Postdoctoral researcher: Universität Bremen, Germany
2015–2019	Research Associate: Université de Genève, Switzerland
since 2020	Academic Researcher: Univerzita Karlova, Czech Republic



# My work in applied morphometrics

**frontiers in  
ECOLOGY AND EVOLUTION**

**ORIGINAL RESEARCH ARTICLE**  
published: 14 October 2014  
doi: 10.3389/fevo.2014.00054

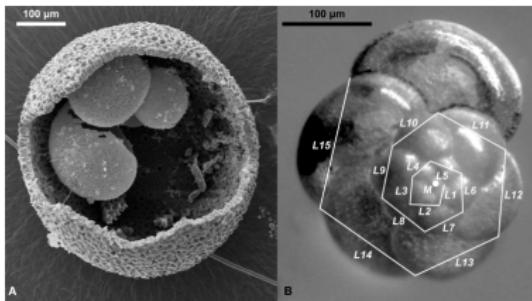


**Disruptive selection and bet-hedging in planktonic Foraminifera: shell morphology as predictor of extinctions**

**Manuel F. G. Weinkauf<sup>1,2\*</sup>, Tobias Moller<sup>1</sup>, Mirjam C. Koch<sup>1</sup> and Michal Kučera<sup>2</sup>**

<sup>1</sup> Micropaleontology, Department of Geosciences, Eberhard-Karls University, Tübingen, Germany

<sup>2</sup> Center for Marine Environmental Sciences, Micropaleontology-Paleoceanography, University Bremen, Bremen, Germany



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**Disruptive selection and bet-hedging in planktonic Foraminifera: shell morphology as predictor of extinctions**

Manuel F. G. Weinkauf<sup>1,2,3\*</sup>, Fabian G. W. Bonitz<sup>1\*</sup>, Rossana Martini<sup>3</sup>, Michal Kučera<sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Department of Geosciences, Eberhard-Karls Universität Tübingen, Tübingen, Germany, <sup>2</sup> Center for Marine Environmental Sciences (MARUM), Universität Bremen, Bremen, Germany, <sup>3</sup> Department of Earth Sciences, Université de Genève, Genève, Switzerland

\* Current address: Norwegian Research Centre, Bjerknes Centre for Climate Research, Bergen, Norway  
\* Manuel.Weinkauf@unige.ch

**RESEARCH ARTICLE**

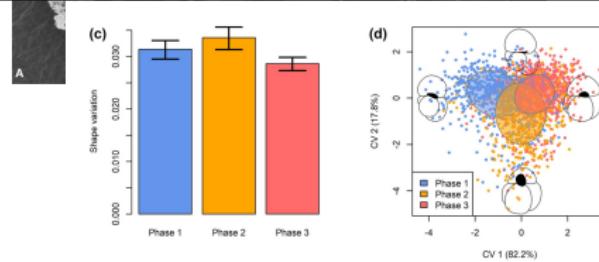
An extinction event in planktonic Foraminifera preceded by stabilizing selection



(c) Shape variation

Phase	Shape variation
Phase 1	~0.030
Phase 2	~0.032
Phase 3	~0.025

(d) PCA plot showing CV 1 (117.8%) vs CV 1 (82.2%). Data points are colored by phase: Phase 1 (blue), Phase 2 (orange), and Phase 3 (red). Ellipses represent confidence intervals.



# My work in applied morphometrics

**frontiers in  
ECOLOGY AND EVOLUTION**

**Disruptive selection and bet-hedging in  
Foraminifera shell morphology as prece**

**PLOS ONE**

**RESEARCH ARTICLE**

**An extinction event  
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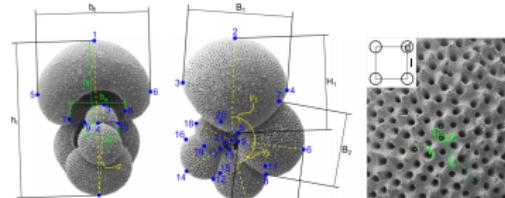
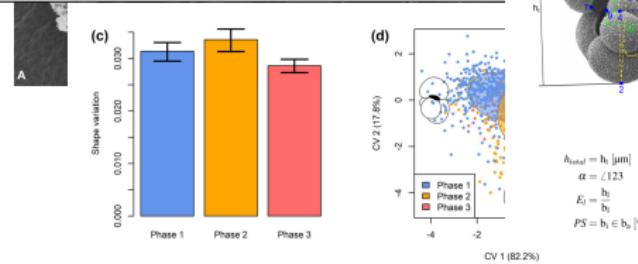
**Marine Micropaleontology 114 (2015) 10–35**

**Contents lists available at ScienceDirect**

**Marine Micropaleontology**

**journal homepage: [www.elsevier.com/locate/marmicro](http://www.elsevier.com/locate/marmicro)**

**CrossMark**



$$\begin{aligned} h_{total} &= h_i [\mu\text{m}] \\ \alpha &= 123 \\ E_i &= \frac{h_i}{b_i} \\ PS &= b_1 \in b_0 [\%] \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned} E &= \frac{\sum_{i=1}^n h_i}{n} \\ E_L &= \frac{H_1}{B_1} \\ d &= \frac{\sum_{i=1}^n d_i}{n} \\ P &= \frac{\pi}{4} \times d^2 \\ \bar{f} &= \frac{\sum_{i=1}^n f_{i,i}}{n} \end{aligned}$$

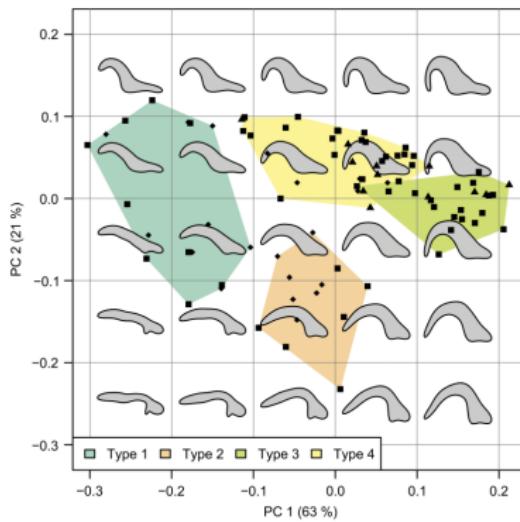
# My work in applied morphometrics

*Paleobiology*, 43(2), 2017, pp. 304–320  
DOI: 10.1017/pab.2016.44



## Grasping the shape of belemnoid arm hooks—a quantitative approach

René Hoffmann, Manuel F. G. Weinkauf, and Dirk Fuchs

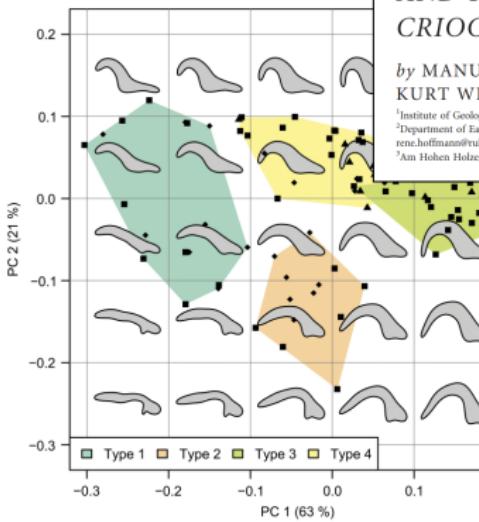


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PAL

[Papers in Palaeontology, Vol. 7, Part 4, 2021, pp. 2113–2139]

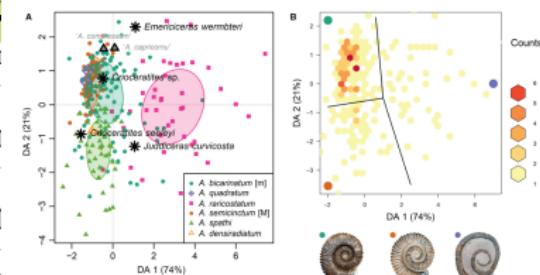
## EVOLUTIONARY-PHYLOGENETIC PATHWAY OF THE CRETACEOUS AMMONITE GENUS AEGOCRIOCERAS AND ITS RELATIONSHIP TO *JUDDICERAS* spp. AND *CRIOCERATITES* spp.

by MANUEL F. G. WEINKAUF<sup>1</sup> , RENÉ HOFFMANN<sup>2</sup> and KURT WIEDENROTH<sup>3</sup>

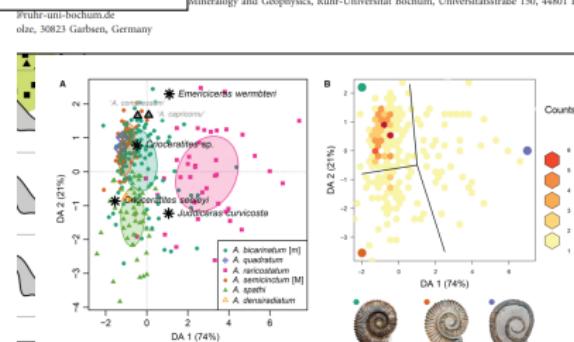
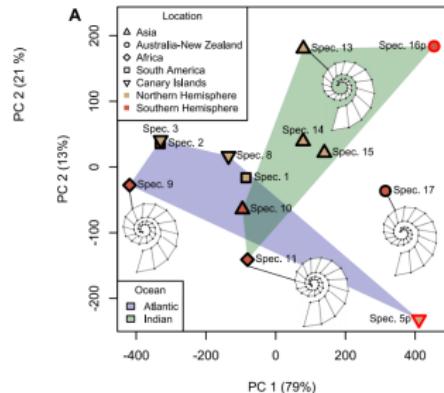
<sup>1</sup>Institute of Geology and Palaeontology, Universita Karlova, Albertov 2038/6, 128 43 Praha, Czech Republic; weinckau@natur.cuni.cz

<sup>2</sup>Institute of Earth Sciences, Institute of Geology, Mineralogy and Geochemistry, University Bochum, D-4480 Bochum, FRG; Institut für Geochemie und Petrologie, Universität Bochum, D-4480 Bochum, FRG; Institut für Geochemie und Petrologie, Universität Bochum, D-4480 Bochum, FRG; Institut für Geochemie und Petrologie, Universität Bochum, D-4480 Bochum, FRG

[rene.hoffmann@ruhr-uni-bochum.de](mailto:rene.hoffmann@ruhr-uni-bochum.de)



# My work in applied morphometrics



1 pp. 2113-2139

## PHYLOGENETIC PATHWAY OF THE IMONITE GENUS AEGOCRIOCERAS OWNSHIP TO *JUDDICERAS* spp. AND spp.

AUF<sup>1</sup>  RENÉ HOFFMANN<sup>2</sup>  and

Carlova, Albertov 2038/6, 128 43 Praha, Czech Republic; weinkaum@natur.cuni.cz  
Mineralogy and Geophysics, Ruhr-Universität Bochum, Universitätsstraße 150, 44801 Bochum, Germany;

## Section 2

A brief history and applicability of  
morphometrics

# Earliest stages

Size and shape for information transfer

- In art from the Middle Ages, size and shape was used to symbolize importance and rank

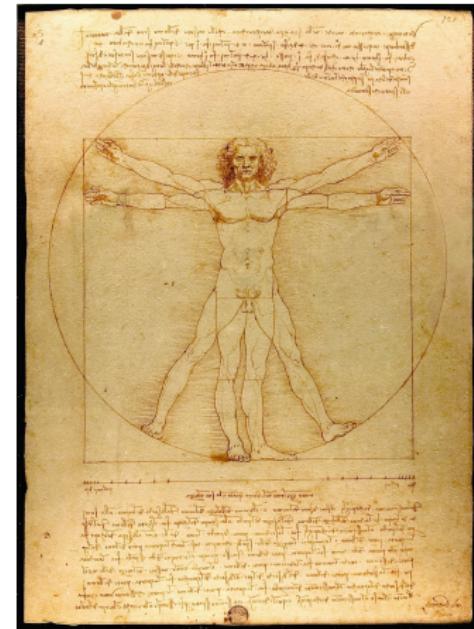


Maksymiszyn (2013) Medieval Art (<https://michalsgraphicblog.blogspot.com>)

## Earliest stages

Size and shape for information transfer

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- In the Renaissance, a more scientific approach was adopted that tried to understand proportions in organisms

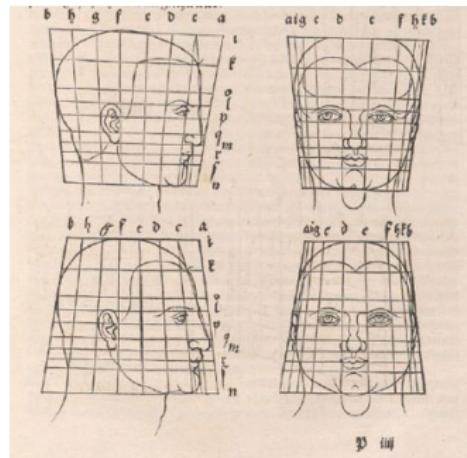


da Vinci (c.1490) *Le proporzioni del corpo umano secondo Vitruvio*

# Earliest stages

Size and shape for information transfer

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- In the Renaissance, a more scientific approach was adopted that tried to understand proportions in organisms
- This culminated in early experiments with deformation grids by Albrecht Dürer

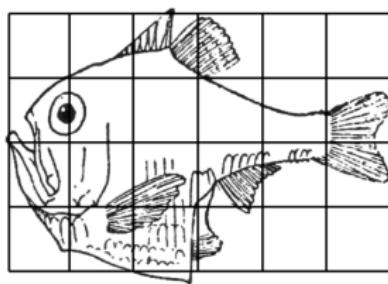


Dürer (1528) Vier Bücher von menschlicher Proportion

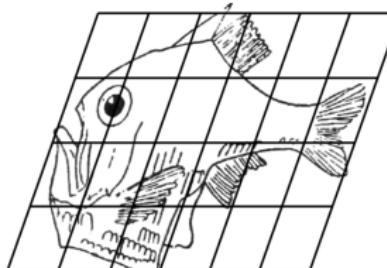
# Deformationists vs. statisticians

## Deformation: The school of D'Arcy Wentworth Thompson

- Biological shape can be constructed by the deformation of corresponding or topologically homologous points
- Complex morphological transformations are result of simple geometric deformations ⇒ **evolutionary approach**



*Argyroplectus*



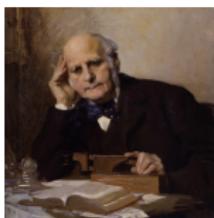
*Sternopyx*

Thompson (1917) *On Growth and Form* (Cambridge University Press: Cambridge)

# Deformationists vs. statisticians

## Description: The statistician's school

- Quantification of biological shape provides information about mean values and variation in populations and taxa
- Morphological data can be interpreted as statistical summaries of form similarity and difference ⇒ **descriptive approach**



Sir Francis Galton  
\* 1822, † 1911



Karl Pearson  
\* 1857, † 1936



Sir Ronald A. Fisher  
\* 1890, † 1962



Calyampudi R. Rao  
\* 1920

## Coining the term ‘Morphometrics’

- ‘Morphometrics’ was first used by Robert E. Blackith in **1957** during his work on polymorphism in locusts

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- The term was widely established in **1971** by the book ‘Multivariate Morphometrics’ by R. E. Blackith and R. A. Reymert
- Since the **late 80s/early 90s**, the field of morphometrics is rapidly expanding and advancing

## What is morphometrics good for?

- Offer an **objective** and **quantitative** (reproducible) assessment of morphology of populations and species to
  - 1 Objectively distinguish taxa and ecophenotypes (**systematics and ecology**)

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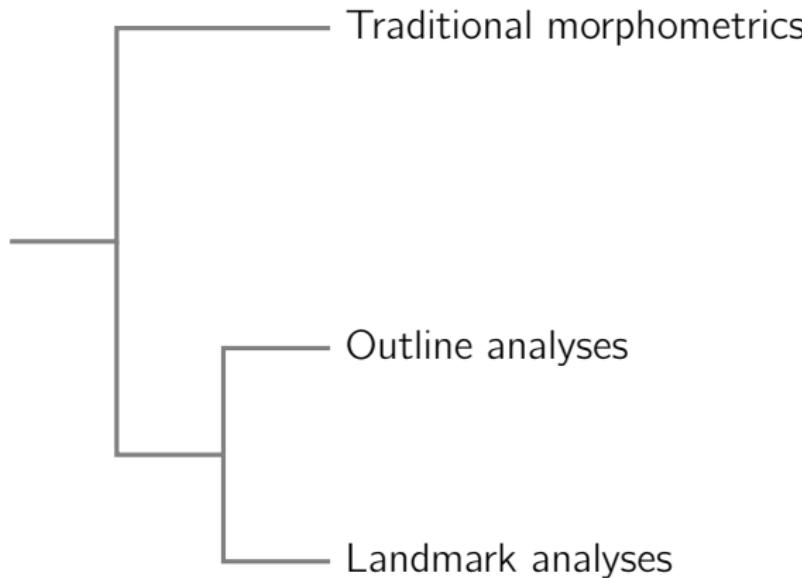
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  - 1 Objectively distinguish taxa and ecophenotypes (**systematics and ecology**)
  - 2 Evaluate the impact of the environment on morphological developments during growth (**evo-devo**)
  - 3 Reconstruct morphological changes during phylogeny (**evolution**)

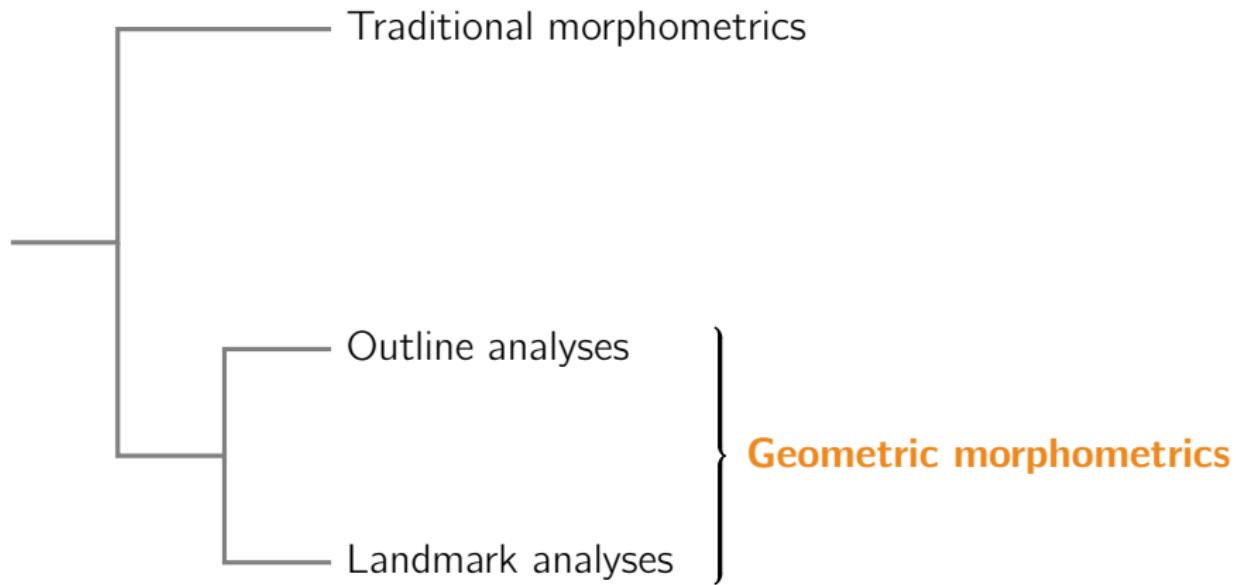
# The systematics of morphometrics

Traditional morphometrics

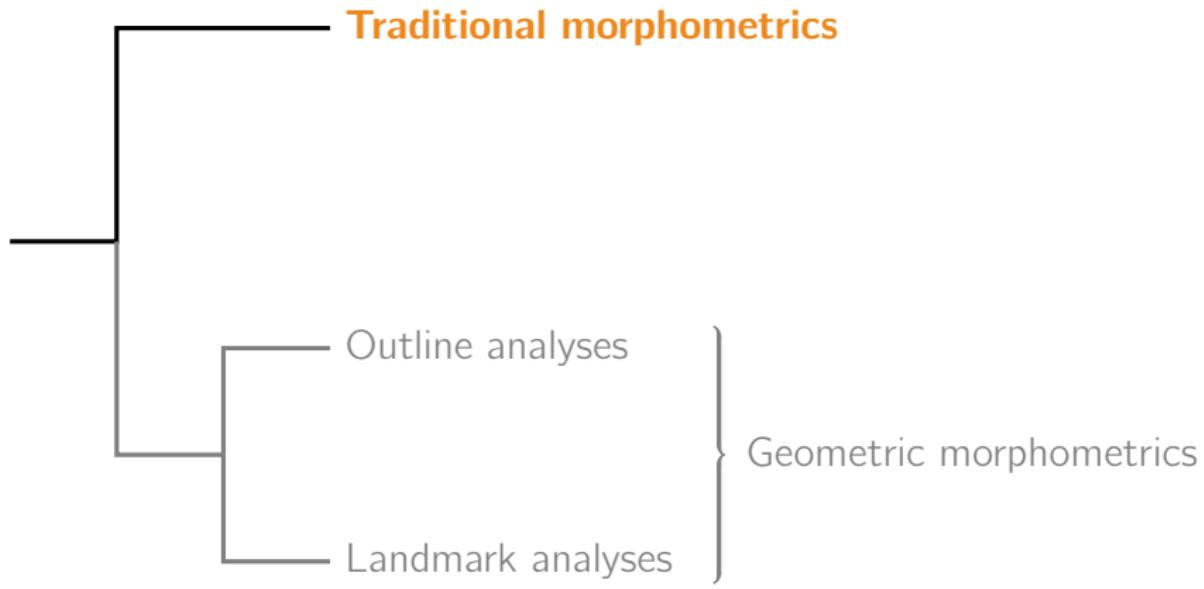
# The systematics of morphometrics



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# The systematics of morphometrics



# Traditional morphometrics

A set of individual, linear measurements



# Traditional morphometrics

A set of individual, linear measurements



Skull length = 34 cm

# Traditional morphometrics

A set of individual, linear measurements

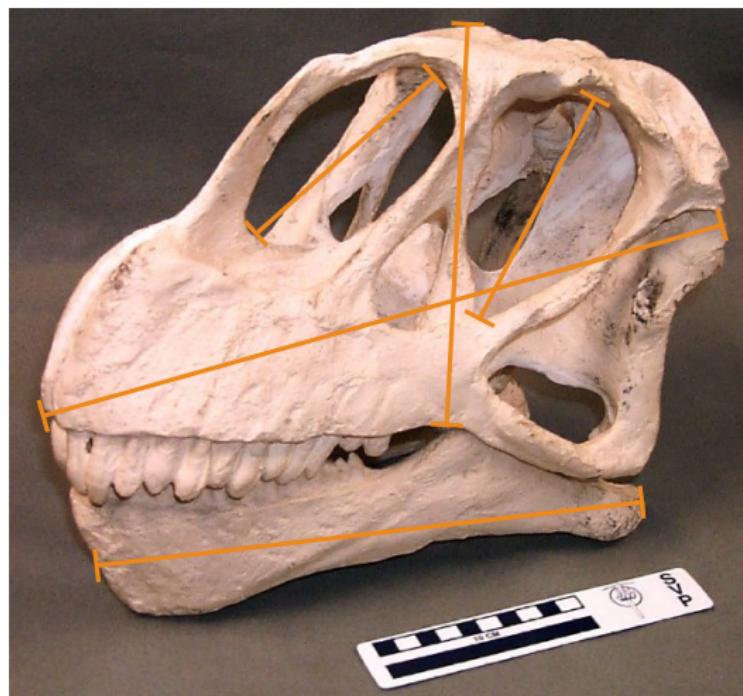


Skull length = 34 cm

Jaw length = 26 cm

# Traditional morphometrics

A set of individual, linear measurements



Skull length = 34 cm

Jaw length = 26 cm

Skull height = 19 cm

Nose height = 12 cm

Eye height = 12 cm

# Traditional morphometrics

A set of individual, linear measurements



Skull length = 34 cm

Jaw length = 26 cm

Skull height = 19 cm

Nose height = 12 cm

Eye height = 12 cm

We end up with  
a set of univari-  
ate morphological  
measurements

# Traditional morphometrics

## Pros and cons

### Pros

- Easy to measure
  - Just a linear length
- Easy to store
  - Simple tabular data
- Easy to understand
  - Intuitive quantity with direct meaning

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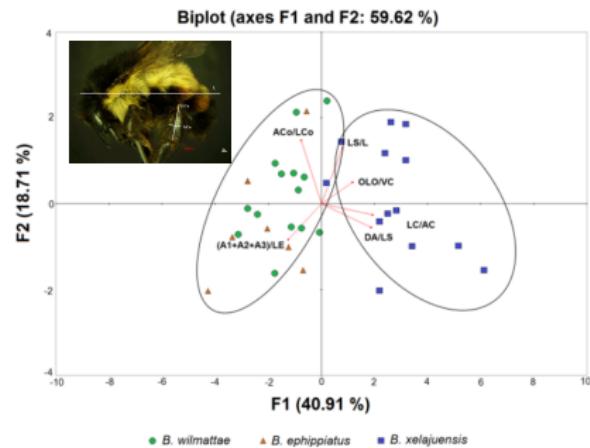
### Cons

- Measures only sizes
  - Just a linear length
- Derived shape parameters
  - Shape from e.g. ratios
- Shape and size intermingled
  - How to separate size from shape?

# Traditional morphometrics

## Multivariate solutions

- Multivariate analyses are often employed to separate size and shape information

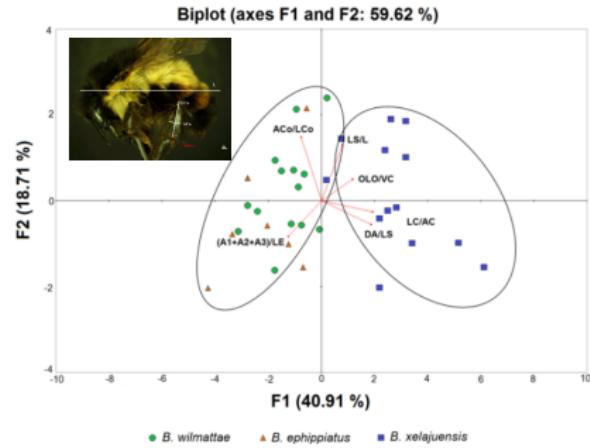


Dardón et al. (2020) *Int. J. Sci. Res. Biol. Sci.* 7 (2): Article 114

# Traditional morphometrics

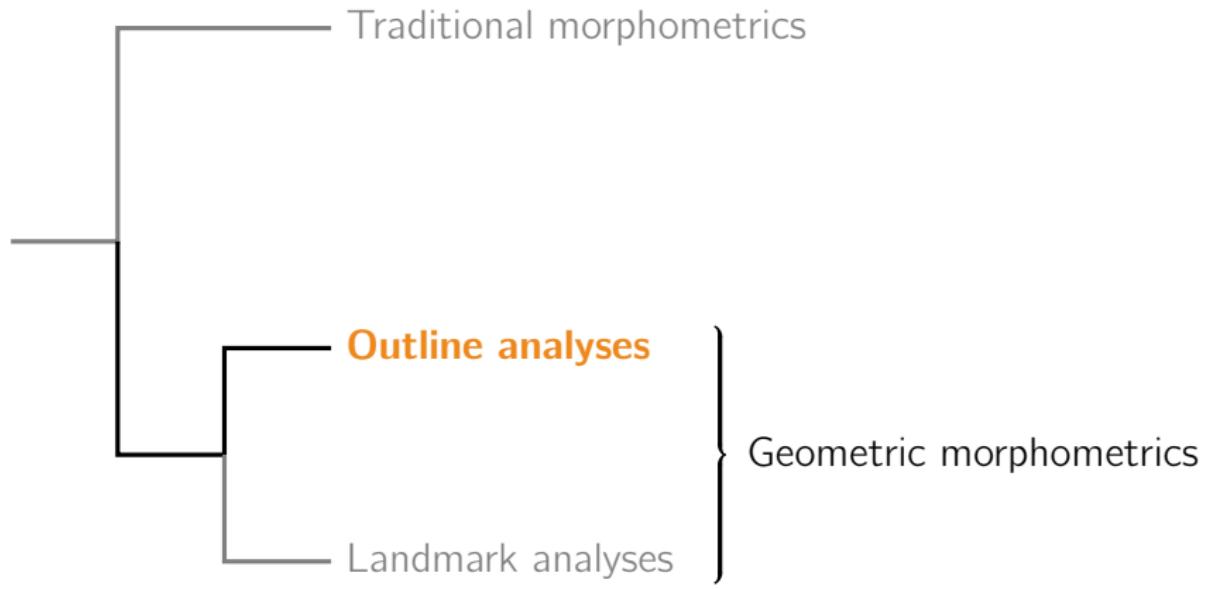
## Multivariate solutions

- Multivariate analyses are often employed to separate size and shape information
- **Caution:** This is only true under very specific circumstances
- Adaptations of principal component analysis where devised to deal with this problem, e.g. Somers (1986) *Syst. Zool.* 35 (3): 359–368



Dardón et al. (2020) *Int. J. Sci. Res. Biol. Sci.* 7 (2): Article 114

# The systematics of morphometrics



# Outline analyses

A mathematical description of the structure's perimeter

*Carcharodontosaurus saharicus*



<http://www.fossilmall.com>

## Outline analyses

A mathematical description of the structure's perimeter

## *Carcharodontosaurus saharicus*

- Ideal for structures with little internal characteristics
  - Identify the object of interest in the image



# Outline analyses

A mathematical description of the structure's perimeter

- Ideal for structures with little internal characteristics
- Identify the object of interest in the image
- Extract x- and y coordinates along outline
- The first outline point is mostly a **well defined homologue structure**

*Carcharodontosaurus saharicus*



# Outline analyses

## Pros and cons

### Pros

- Automated extraction
  - Outline is well defined and computer-findable
- Pure shape data
  - Size is eliminated by mathematical transformation
- Easy to analyse
  - Standard statistics work without modification

# Outline analyses

## Pros and cons

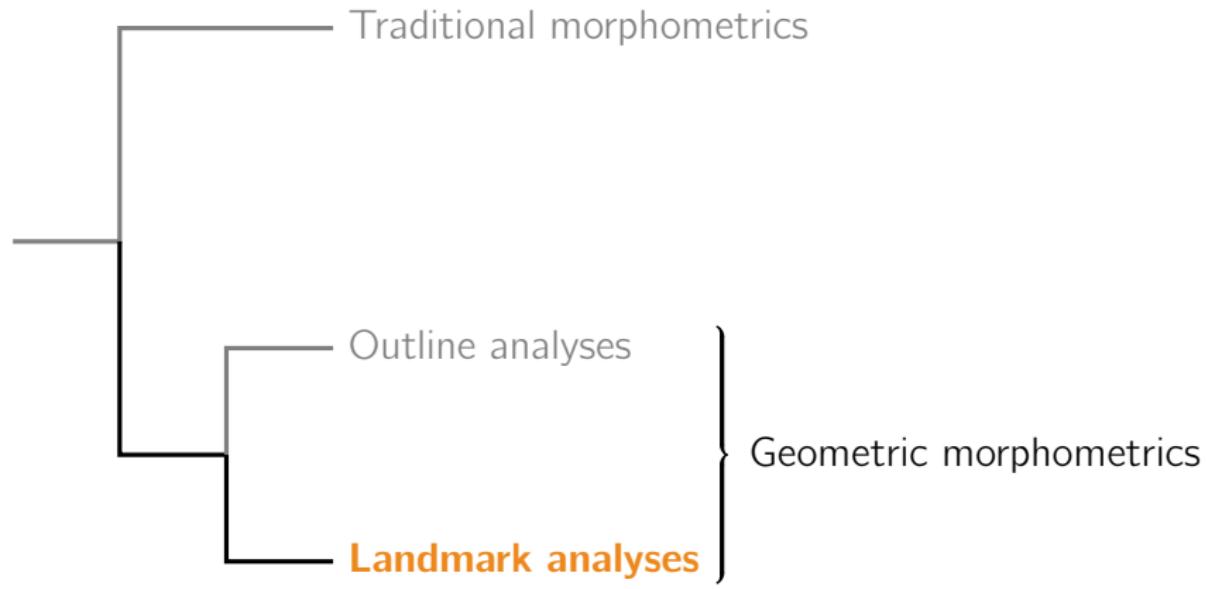
### Pros

- Automated extraction
  - Outline is well defined and computer-findable
- Pure shape data
  - Size is eliminated by mathematical transformation
- Easy to analyse
  - Standard statistics work without modification

### Cons

- Difficult to analyse
  - Only starting point is comparable
- Derived shape parameters
  - Complex mathematical re-description of shape information
- Limited information
  - No structure-internal information

# The systematics of morphometrics



# Landmark analyses

The relative position of homologous structures



# Landmark analyses

The relative position of homologous structures



# Landmark analyses

The relative position of homologous structures



# Landmark analyses

The relative position of homologous structures



# Landmark analyses

## Pros and cons

### Pros

- Pure shape data
  - Size is eliminated by superimposition
- Easy to understand
  - Landmark coordinates have direct meaning
- Detailed information
  - Structure-internal information provided

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### Pros

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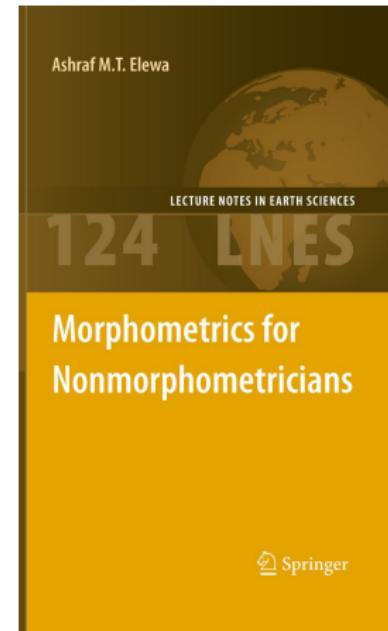
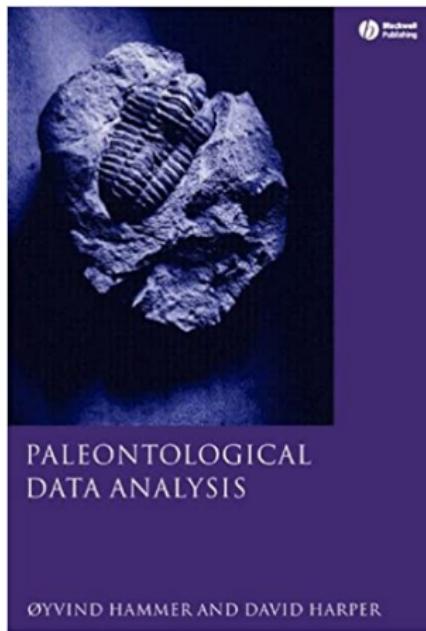
### Cons

- Difficult to extract
  - Manual or using machine learning
- Difficult to analyse
  - Standard statistics must be modified
- Limited applicability
  - Requires homologous morpho-structures

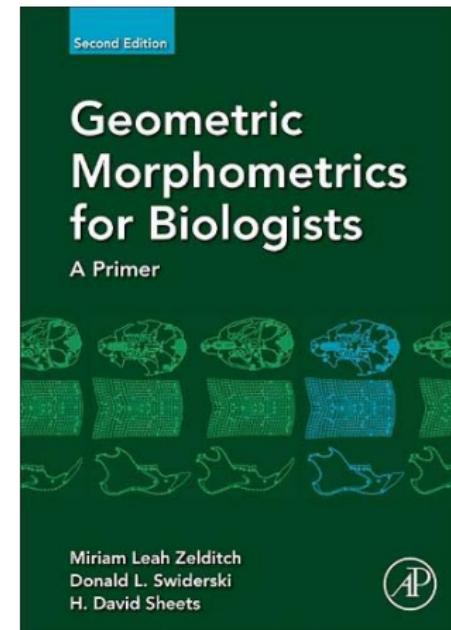
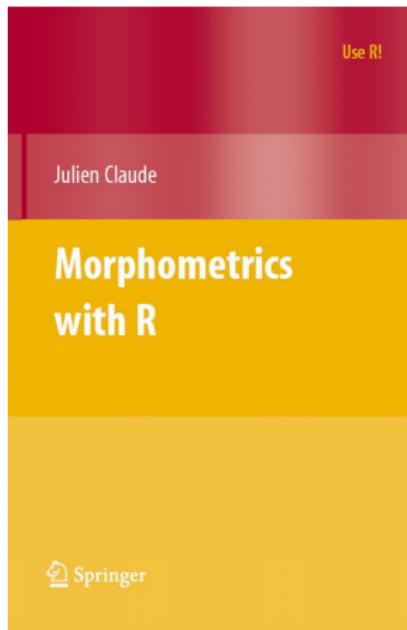
## Section 3

Literature and tools

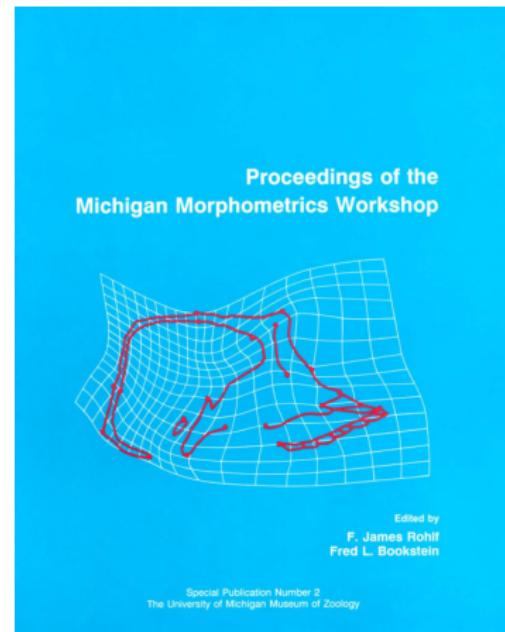
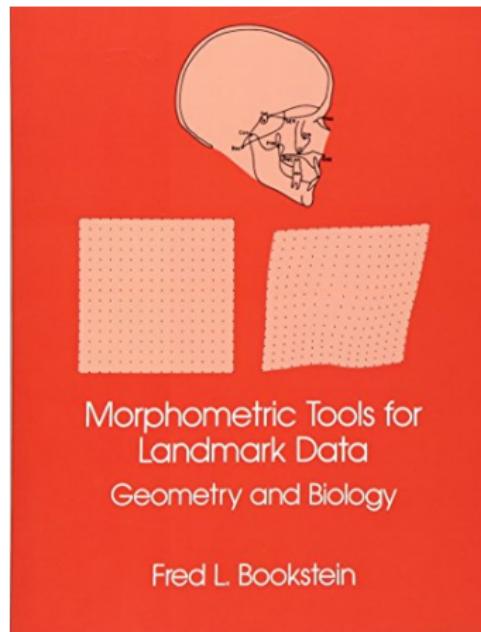
# Light introductory literature



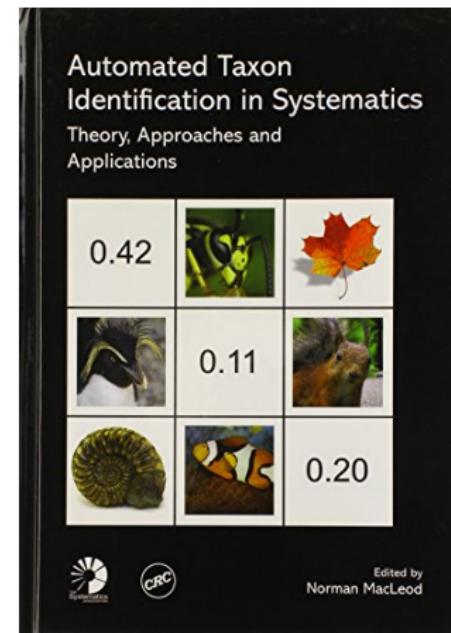
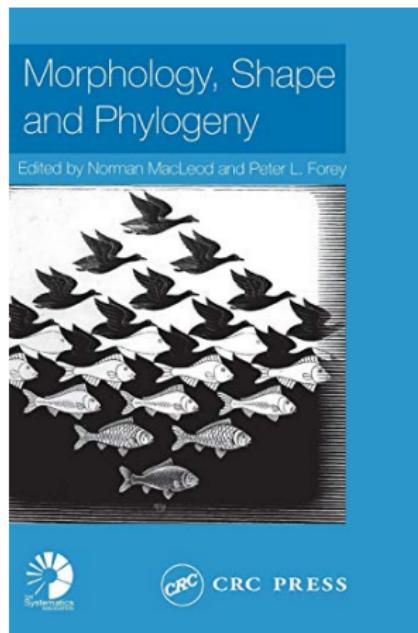
# Practical hands-on guides



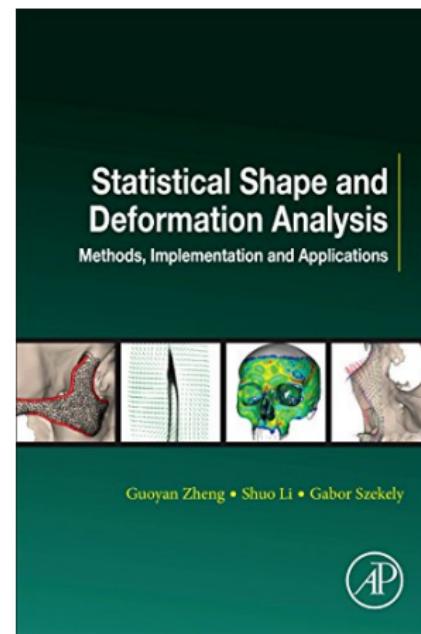
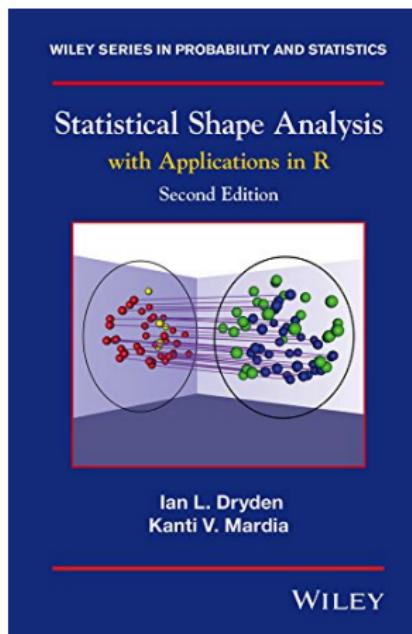
# In-depth methodological books



# In-depth methodological books



# In-depth methodological books



# Hardware



Camera

# Hardware



Camera



Microscope

# Hardware



Camera



Microscope



Surface laser scanner



CT scanner

# Software

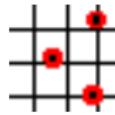
## Data extraction



Fiji

*Scientific image analysis program*

<https://imagej.net/software/fiji/>



tpsDig 2

*Geometric morphometrics program*

<http://sbmorphometrics.org/soft-dataacq.html>

# Software

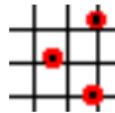
## Data extraction



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*Scientific image analysis program*

<https://imagej.net/software/fiji/>



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<http://sbmorphometrics.org/soft-dataacq.html>

## Data analysis



PAST

*General statistics program*

<https://tinyurl.com/52ema3f4>



MorphoJ

*Landmark analysis program*

[https://morphometrics.uk/MorphoJ\\_page.html](https://morphometrics.uk/MorphoJ_page.html)

# Software

- Integrated work environment in R
- Allows data extraction and advanced data analysis in a unified framework
- Several available packages:
  - **geomorph**: 2D/3D landmark extraction, manipulation, and analysis
  - **shapes**: Landmark analysis
  - **Momocs**: 2D morphometrics (traditional, outlines, landmarks)
  - **Morpho**: Morphometric deformation analyses
  - **hangler**: Fast Fourier Transform for outline analyses

