

# Learning Shape Trends: Parameter Estimation in Diffusions on Shape Manifolds

Valentina Staneva

eScience Institute,  
University of Washington

Joint work with Laurent Younes, Johns Hopkins University

July 21, 2017



Alfred P. Sloan  
FOUNDATION

# Motivation



- 100 years of mathematical study of shapes and their evolution
- Few statistical methods for learning stochastic processes of shapes

# Learning Stochastic Models

## Goal:

- to learn stochastic models of deforming shapes from training data

## Challenges:

- shapes are high-dimensional objects in a nonlinear space
- traditional time series methods fail to capture the geometry

## Approach:

- define diffusion processes on the space of deformable landmarks
- estimate missing parameters based on likelihood-ratio techniques

# Stochastic Shape Processes Through History

- “The diffusion of Shape” (Kendall'77) introduces Brownian motion on the space of landmarks [6]
- extensions to an Ornstein - Uhlenbeck process (Ball'08) [2]
- modeling biological growth by diffeomorphisms (Grenander'06) [5]
- stochastic diffeomorphic flows for shapes (Vialard'12) [9]
- noise estimation in diffusions (Sommer'15, Arnaudon'16)[1],[?]

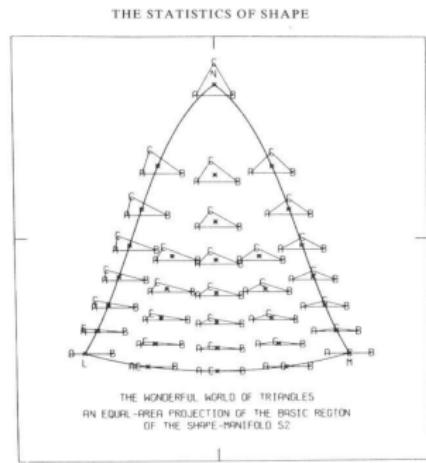


Figure 5.1 The spherical blackboard, showing 32 triangles located according to their shapes

# Stochastic Shape Processes Through History

- “The diffusion of Shape” (Kendall’77) introduces Brownian motion on the space of landmarks [6]
- extensions to an Ornstein - Uhlenbeck process (Ball’08) [2]
- modeling biological growth by diffeomorphisms (Grenander’06) [5]
- stochastic diffeomorphic flows for shapes (Vialard’12) [9]
- noise estimation in diffusions (Sommer’15, Arnaudon’16)[1],[?]

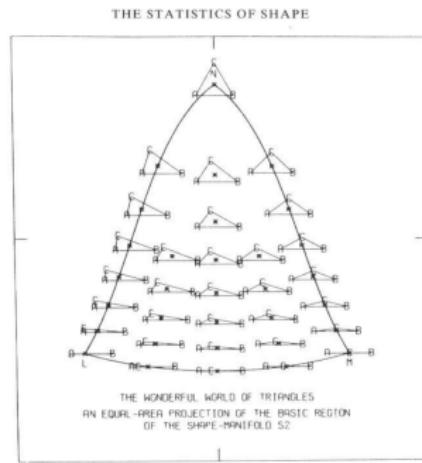
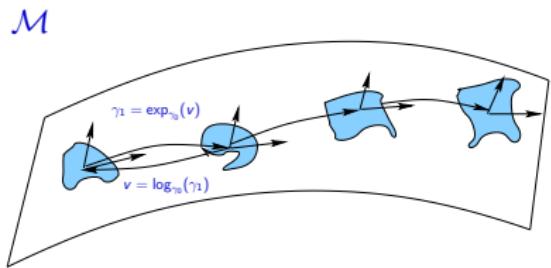


Figure 5.1 The spherical blackboard, showing 32 triangles located according to their shapes

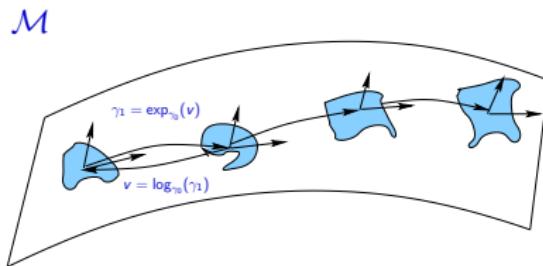
We focus on learning trends in diffusion processes on the Riemannian manifold of deformable landmarks.

# The Shape Manifold



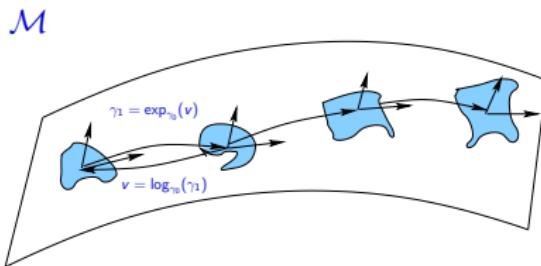
- The *shape manifold*  $\mathcal{M}$  consists of simple closed plane curves  $\gamma$ 
  - here  $\gamma = \{x_1, \dots, x_m \in \mathbb{R}^2, x_i \neq x_j \text{ when } i \neq j\}$

# The Shape Manifold



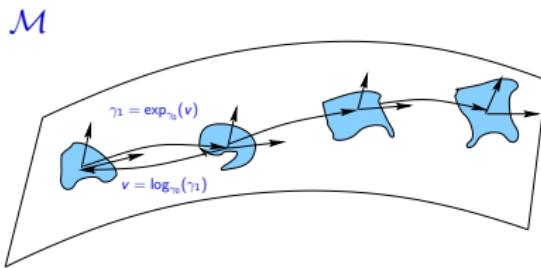
- The *shape manifold*  $\mathcal{M}$  consists of simple closed plane curves  $\gamma$ 
  - here  $\gamma = \{x_1, \dots, x_m \in \mathbb{R}^2, x_i \neq x_j \text{ when } i \neq j\}$
- The *tangent space*  $\mathcal{T}\mathcal{M}$  contains collections of 2D vectors -
  - $v = \{v_1, \dots, v_m \in \mathbb{R}^2\}$

# The Shape Manifold



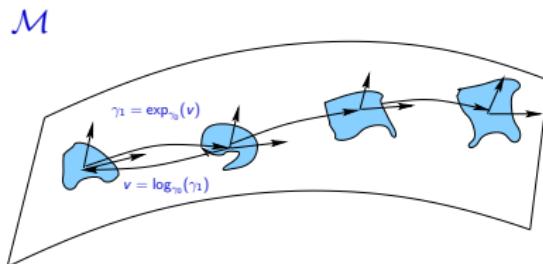
- The *shape manifold*  $\mathcal{M}$  consists of simple closed plane curves  $\gamma$ 
  - here  $\gamma = \{x_1, \dots, x_m \in \mathbb{R}^2, x_i \neq x_j \text{ when } i \neq j\}$
- The *tangent space*  $\mathcal{T}\mathcal{M}$  contains collections of 2D vectors -  
 $v = \{v_1, \dots, v_m \in \mathbb{R}^2\}$
- *Riemannian metric:*  $\|v\|_\gamma = v \mathbf{K}(\gamma)^{-1} v$ 
  - $K(x_i, x_j) = \exp(-\|x_i - x_j\|^2 / 2\sigma^2)$

# The Shape Manifold



- The *shape manifold*  $\mathcal{M}$  consists of simple closed plane curves  $\gamma$ 
  - here  $\gamma = \{x_1, \dots, x_m \in \mathbb{R}^2, x_i \neq x_j \text{ when } i \neq j\}$
- The *tangent space*  $\mathcal{T}\mathcal{M}$  contains collections of 2D vectors -  
 $\mathbf{v} = \{v_1, \dots, v_m \in \mathbb{R}^2\}$
- *Riemannian metric:*  $\|\mathbf{v}\|_\gamma = \mathbf{v} \mathbf{K}(\gamma)^{-1} \mathbf{v}$ 
  - $K(x_i, x_j) = \exp(-\|x_i - x_j\|^2 / 2\sigma^2)$
- *Exponential map:*  $\gamma_1 = \exp_{\gamma_0}(\mathbf{v})$ 
  - can be computed by solving a system of ODE's

# The Shape Manifold



- The *shape manifold*  $\mathcal{M}$  consists of simple closed plane curves  $\gamma$ 
  - here  $\gamma = \{x_1, \dots, x_m \in \mathbb{R}^2, x_i \neq x_j \text{ when } i \neq j\}$
- The *tangent space*  $\mathcal{T}\mathcal{M}$  contains collections of 2D vectors -
  - $v = \{v_1, \dots, v_m \in \mathbb{R}^2\}$
- *Riemannian metric:*  $\|v\|_\gamma = v \mathbf{K}(\gamma)^{-1} v$ 
  - $K(x_i, x_j) = \exp(-\|x_i - x_j\|^2 / 2\sigma^2)$
- *Exponential map:*  $\gamma_1 = \exp_{\gamma_0}(v)$ 
  - can be computed by solving a system of ODE's
- *Logarithm map:*  $v = \log_{\gamma_0}(\gamma_1)$ 
  - we assume it exists locally

# Diffusion Models

Noise Models:

Random perturbations → random walk → Brownian motion

Brownian motion is not informative!

We want to discover the '**trend**' of the deformation.

# Diffusion Models

Noise Models:

Random perturbations → random walk → Brownian motion

Brownian motion is not informative!

We want to discover the '**trend**' of the deformation.

# Diffusion Models

Noise Models:

Random perturbations → random walk → Brownian motion

Brownian motion is not informative!

We want to discover the '**trend**' of the deformation.

Diffusion Models:

$$d\gamma_t = \underbrace{A(\gamma_t, \theta) dt}_{drift} + \underbrace{B(\gamma_t) dW_t}_{noise}$$

*unknown parameters*

↙

# Stratonovich Equations on Manifolds

Let  $\{A, B_1, \dots, B_n\}$  be vector fields on  $\mathcal{M}$ .

## Stratonovich Equations on $\mathcal{M}$

The solution is a process  $X_t$  on  $\mathcal{M}$ , which satisfies for any smooth compactly supported  $f$

$$f(X_T) - f(X_0) = \int_0^T Af(X_t)dt + \int_0^T \sum_{k=1}^n B_k f(X_t) \circ dw_k(t)$$

# Stratonovich Equations on Manifolds

Let  $\{A, B_1, \dots, B_n\}$  be vector fields on  $\mathcal{M}$ .

## Stratonovich Equations on $\mathcal{M}$

The solution is a process  $X_t$  on  $\mathcal{M}$ , which satisfies for any smooth compactly supported  $f$

$$f(X_T) - f(X_0) = \int_0^T Af(X_t)dt + \int_0^T \sum_{k=1}^n B_k f(X_t) \circ dw_k(t)$$

**Note:** Stratonovich equations transform as tangent vectors!

# Itô Equations on a Manifold

Itô equations transform according to Itô's Rule, not as tangent vectors.

# Itô Equations on a Manifold

Itô equations transform according to Itô's Rule, not as tangent vectors.

$$f(X_T) - f(X_0) = \int_0^T \cancel{Af(X_t)} dt + \int_0^T \sum_{k=1}^n B_k f(X_t) \cdot dw_k(t)$$

# Itô Equations on a Manifold

Itô equations transform according to Itô's Rule, not as tangent vectors.

$$f(X_T) - f(X_0) = \int_0^T \cancel{Af(X_t)} dt + \int_0^T \sum_{k=1}^n B_k f(X_t) \cdot dw_k(t)$$

Instead we can define them through the exponential map.

Itô Equations in Belopolskaya-Daletsky form [3]:

$$dX_t = \exp_{X_t}(A(X_t, \theta)dt + \sum_{k=1}^n B_k \cdot dw_k(t)),$$

# Generating Diffusions

Consider a set of orthonormal vector fields:  $E_1, \dots, E_n$ .

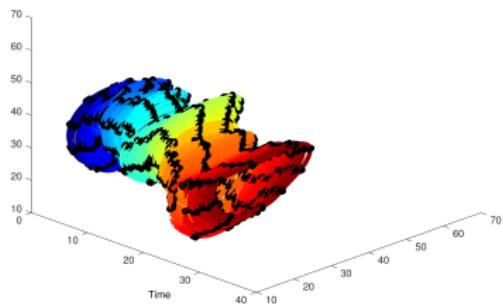
Generating Brownian motion on  $\mathcal{M}$

$$\gamma_{t+dt} = \exp_{\gamma_t} \left( \sqrt{dt} \sum_{k=1}^n E_k(\gamma_t) \varepsilon_k \right),$$

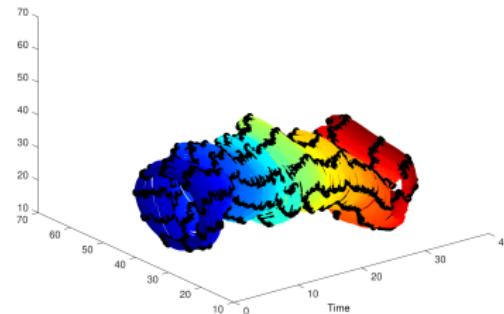
where  $\{\varepsilon_k\}_{k=1}^n \sim \mathcal{N}(\mathbf{0}, \mathbf{I}_n)$ .

# Driftless Diffusion

Brownian Motion



Brownian Motion



# Constant drift

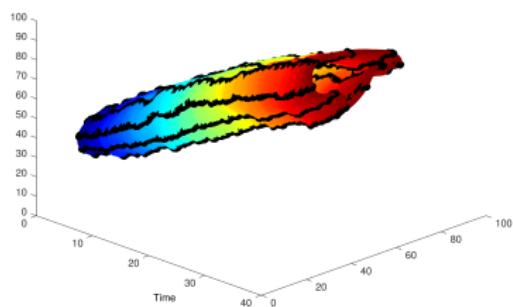
Constant with respect to the  $\mathbf{K}$  basis

$$d\gamma_t = \sum_{k=1}^n \theta_k K(x_k, \gamma_t) dt + dW_t$$

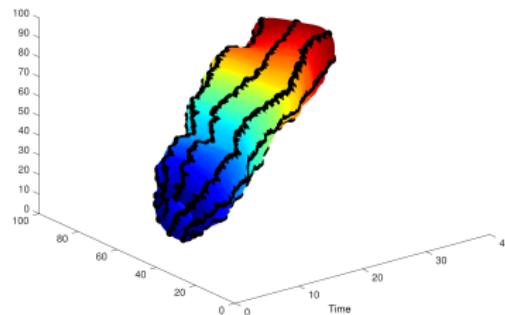
**Note:** the drift will not be constant wrt to other bases.

# Constant Drift Diffusion

Constant Drift



Constant Drift



# Mean-reverting Drift

Ornstein-Uhlenbeck process on  $\mathbb{R}^n$

$$dX_t = -\theta \nabla_{X_t} [(X_t - \mu)^2] + dW_t$$

Let  $\mu$  be a template shape.

Mean-reverting process on  $\mathcal{M}$

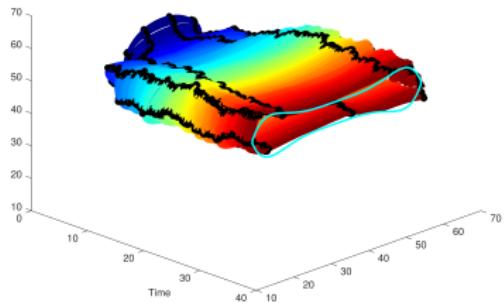
$$d\gamma_t = -\theta \nabla_{\gamma_t} dist(\gamma_t, \mu) + dW_t$$

Instead of Riemannian distance we use:

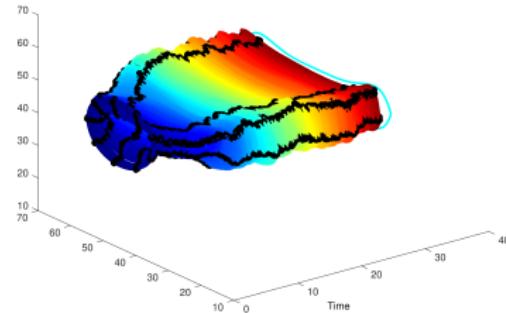
$$dist(X_t, \mu) = \text{area of mismatch of the two shapes}$$

# Mean-reverting drift diffusion

Ornstein-Uhlenbeck Drift



Ornstein-Uhlenbeck Drift



# Length-Area Drift

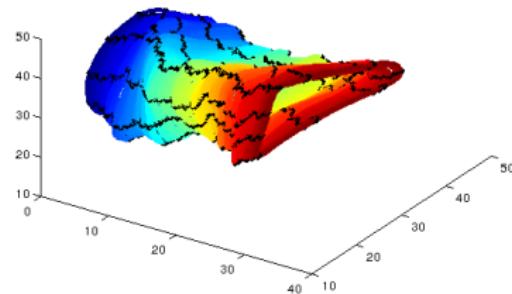
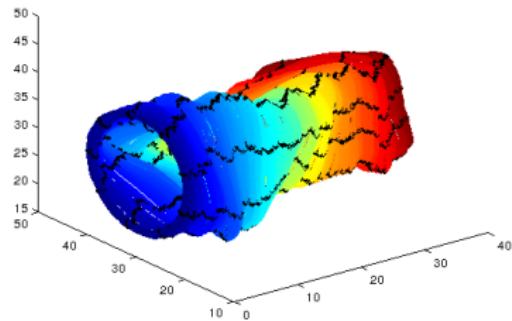
Suppose we don't have  $\mu$  but only estimates for its length  $L_\mu$  and area  $A_\mu$ .

## Shape process

$$dX_t = -\frac{1}{2}\theta_1 \nabla_{\gamma_t} |L_{\gamma_t} - L_\mu|^2 - \frac{1}{2}\theta_2 \nabla_{\gamma_t} |A_{\gamma_t} - A_\mu|^2 + dW_t$$

The above gradients can be explicitly computed.

# Length-Area drift diffusion



# Parameter Estimation in Diffusion Models

We are given a sequence of observations:  $\gamma_{t_0}, \dots, \gamma_{t_n}$ .

We would like to maximize the joint likelihood:

$$p_\theta(\gamma_{t_1}, \dots, \gamma_{t_n}) = p_\theta(\gamma_{t_n} | \gamma_{t_{n-1}}) p_\theta(\gamma_{t_{n-1}} | \gamma_{t_{n-2}}) \dots p_\theta(\gamma_{t_1} | \gamma_{t_0}) p(\gamma_{t_0})$$

We do not have a closed form for the transition probability  $p_\theta(\gamma_{t_i} | \gamma_{t_{i-1}})$ .

# Likelihood-ratio Parameter Estimation [7, 8]

Idea:

- ➊ pick a base process which does not depend on the parameters
  - driftless process

# Likelihood-ratio Parameter Estimation [7, 8]

Idea:

- ① pick a base process which does not depend on the parameters
  - driftless process
- ② calculate the likelihood ratio of the diffusion with respect to the base process
  - Girsanov formula

# Likelihood-ratio Parameter Estimation [7, 8]

Idea:

- ① pick a base process which does not depend on the parameters
  - driftless process
- ② calculate the likelihood ratio of the diffusion with respect to the base process
  - Girsanov formula
- ③ estimate  $\theta$  by maximizing the likelihood ratio
  - when the drift is linear wrt to  $\theta$  the estimate has a closed form

# Parameter Estimation in Diffusions on $\mathbb{R}^n$

Let  $X_t$  be a diffusion process on  $\mathbb{R}^n$ :

$$\begin{aligned}\mu_X : dX_t &= A(X_t, \theta)dt + dW_t \\ \mu_Y : dY_t &= \quad \quad \quad dW_t\end{aligned}$$

## Girsanov Theorem:

Under some boundedness conditions on  $A(X_t, \theta)$  we have  $\mu_X \sim \mu_Y$  and

$$\frac{d\mu_X}{d\mu_Y}(X_t) = \exp \left( \int_0^T A(X_t, \theta)^T \cdot dX_t - \frac{1}{2} \int_0^T A(X_t, \theta)^T A(X_t, \theta) dt \right).$$

Parameter estimate of  $\theta$  can be obtained by maximizing  $\frac{d\mu_X}{d\mu_Y}(X_t)$  wrt  $\theta$ .

## Girsanov Theorem on Manifolds (Elworthy'82 [4] )

$$\frac{d\mu_X}{d\mu_Y}(X_t) = \exp \left( \int_0^T \langle A(X_t, \theta), \cdot dX_t \rangle_{X_t} - \frac{1}{2} \int_0^T \langle A(X_t, \theta), A(X_t, \theta) \rangle_{X_t} dt \right),$$

where  $\cdot dX_t$  should be interpreted as  $\log_{X_t}(X_{t+dt})$

# Likelihood-ratio Estimators

- Constant Drift

$$\hat{\theta} = \frac{1}{Ndt} \sum_{i=1}^{N-1} K_{\gamma_i}^{-1/2} \log(\gamma_i, \gamma_{i+1})$$

- Mean-Reverting Drift

$$\hat{\theta} = \frac{\sum_{i=1}^{N-1} \langle \nabla dist(\gamma_i, \mu), \log(\gamma_i, \gamma_{i+1}) \rangle}{\sum_{i=1}^N \| \nabla dist(\gamma_i, \mu) \|^2 dt}$$

- Shape-Gradient Drift

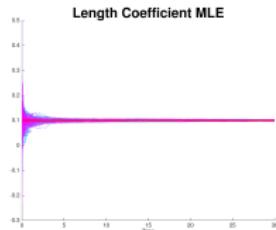
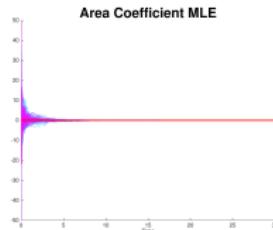
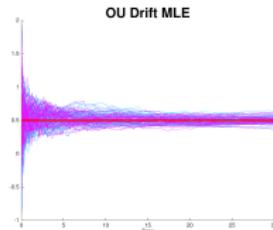
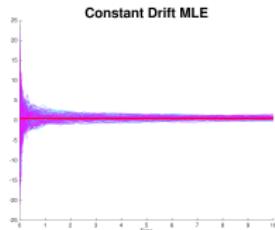
$$\begin{bmatrix} \hat{\theta}_1 \\ \hat{\theta}_2 \end{bmatrix} = \left( \sum_{i=1}^{N-1} M_i dt \right)^{-1} b,$$

where  $M_i$  - the Grammian matrix of  $\nabla|L(\gamma_i) - L|^2$  and  $\nabla|A(\gamma_i) - A|^2$ , and

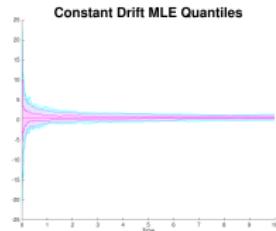
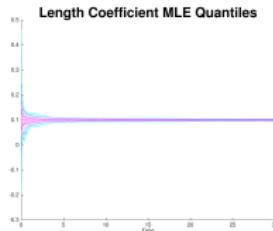
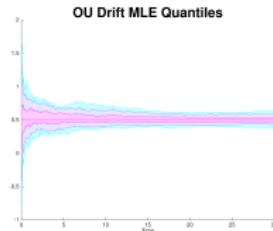
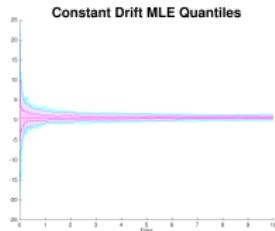
$$b = \begin{bmatrix} \sum_{i=1}^{N-1} \langle \nabla|L(\gamma_i) - L|^2, \log(\gamma_i, \gamma_{i+1}) \rangle \\ \sum_{i=1}^{N-1} \langle \nabla|A(\gamma_i) - A|^2, \log(\gamma_i, \gamma_{i+1}) \rangle \end{bmatrix}.$$

# Likelihood-ratio Estimates

## Independent ML Estimates



MLE Quantiles  
(0.01, 0.05, 0.25, 0.75, 0.95, 0.99)



# Future Directions and Open Problems

## Applications:

- parameter estimation from sparse observations
  - EM formulation to treat the missing observations
  - importance sampling approximation of the expectation step
- including higher order shape terms: e.g. curvature, torsion
- considering the distance to several template shapes - regression
- testing for different model parameters
- classification of time series

## Theory:

- properties of diffusion models
  - long-term behavior
  - ergodicity
- extension to infinite dimensions: curves and surfaces
- properties of the estimators

-  Alexis Arnaudon, Darryl D. Holm, Akshay Pai, and Stefan Sommer.  
A stochastic large deformation model for computational anatomy.  
*arXiv:1612.05323*, 2016.
-  FrankG. Ball, IanL. Dryden, and Mousa Golalizadeh.  
Brownian motion and Ornstein-Uhlenbeck processes in planar shape space.  
*Methodology and Computing in Applied Probability*, 10(1):1–22, 2008.
-  Ya. I. Belopolskaya and Yu. L. Dalecky.  
*Stochastic Equations and Differential Geometry*.  
Springer, 1990.
-  K.D. Elworthy.  
*Stochastic Differential Equations on Manifolds*.  
Cambridge University Press, 1982.
-  Ulf Grenander, Anuj Srivastava, and Sanjay Saini.  
Characterization of biological growth using iterated diffeomorphisms.  
*IEEE International Symposium on Biological Imaging*, pages 1136–1139, 2006.
-  D.G. Kendall.  
The diffusion of shape.  
*Advances in Applied Probability*, 9(3):428–430, 1977.
-  R. S. Lipster and A. N. Shiryaev.  
*Statistics of Random Processes I. General Theory*.  
Springer-Verlag, 1977.
-  R. S. Lipster and A. N. Shiryaev.  
*Statistics of Random Processes II. Applications*.  
Springer-Verlag, 1977.
-  Franois-Xavier Vialard.  
Extension to infinite dimensions of a stochastic second-order model associated with shape splines.  
*Stochastic Processes and their Applications*, 123(6):2110 – 2157, 2013.