

Article

# Representation and Characterization of Nonstationary Processes by Dilation Operators and Induced Shape Space Manifolds

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**Abstract:** We proposed in this work the introduction of a new vision of stochastic processes through geometry induced by dilation. The dilation matrices of a given process are obtained by a composition of rotation matrices built in with respect to partial correlation coefficients. Particularly interesting is the fact that the obtention of dilation matrices is regardless of the stationarity of the underlying process. When the process is stationary, only one dilation matrix is obtained and it corresponds therefore to Naimark dilation. When the process is nonstationary, a set of dilation matrices is obtained. They correspond to Kolmogorov decomposition. In this work, the nonstationary class of periodically correlated processes was of interest. The underlying periodicity of correlation coefficients is then transmitted to the set of dilation matrices. Because this set lives on the Lie group of rotation matrices, we can see them as points of a closed curve on the Lie group. Geometrical aspects can then be investigated through the shape of the obtained curves, and to give a complete insight into the space of curves, a metric and the derived geodesic equations are provided. The general results are adapted to the more specific case where the base manifold is the Lie group of rotation matrices, and because the metric in the space of curve naturally extends to the space of shapes, this enables a comparison between curves' shapes and allows then the classification of processes' measure.

**Keywords:** nonstationary processes; spectral measure; differential geometry; shape manifold; square root velocity function; Lie group

## 1. Introduction

The analysis and/or the representation of nonstationary processes has been tackled for 4 or 5 decades now by time-scale/time-frequency analysis [4,21], by Fourier-like representation when the processes belong to the periodically correlated (PC) subclass [25,40], or by partial correlation coefficients (pacors) series [20,30], to cite a few. One of the advantages of dealing with parcors resides in their strong relation to the measure of the process by the one-to-one relation with correlation coefficients [18,55]. They consequently appear explicitly in the Orthogonal Polynomial on the Real Line/Unit Circle decomposition of the measure [11,47] and are the elements for the construction of dilation matrices that appear in the CMV/GGT [46], for the Schur flows problem with upper Hessenberg matrices [1] that are also seen in the literature as evolution operators [47] or shift operator [35], and finally appear in the state-space representation [15,17]. The dilation theory takes its roots from the operator theory [51], which bridges the process' measure and unitary operators. In its simplest version, the dilation theory corresponds to Naimark dilation [3,51], and states that given a sequence of correlation coefficients, there exists a unitary matrix  $W$  such that  $R_n \triangleq (1\ 0\ 0\ \dots)W^n(1\ 0\ 0\ \dots)^T$  where  $\cdot^T$  denotes the transposition. When the process is not stationary, its associated correlation matrix is no more Toeplitz structured, a set of matrices is required [15] and the previous expression becomes  $R_{i,j} \triangleq (1\ 0\ 0\ \dots)W_{i+1}W_{i+2}\dots W_j(1\ 0\ 0\ \dots)^T$ . The matrices  $W_i$  are theoretically understood as infinite rotation matrices, which become finite when the correlation coefficients sequence is itself

36 finite. In that particular case, the matrices  $W_i$  belong to  $SO(n)$  or  $SU(n)$ , the special orthogonal or  
 37 unitary group, respectively, and the process' measure is totally described by the set of  $W_i$ . As a  
 38 consequence, the measure of the process is beautifully characterised for the nonstationary case, by a  
 39 sampled trajectory induced by the dilation matrices on the appropriate Lie group. When the process is  
 40 periodically correlated, the sequence of parcors inherits the periodicity and the sequence of dilation  
 41 matrices becomes periodic as well, we consequently obtain a closed path as illustrated in Figure 1.  
 42 Characterising the time-varying measure of the process is now tackled by studying curves (or sampled  
 43 curves) on special groups.

44 Information geometry is now a fundamental approach to describing stochastic processes [34]. The  
 45 second-order statistical properties/moments may be analysed, characterised and compared [5,8] to  
 46 improve the estimation [39,50] or classification of different processes [28]. When dealing with density  
 47 estimation [26], the space of  $n \times n$  symmetric matrices  $Sym(n)$  is generally preferred, and many  
 48 developments have been proposed under the semi-positive-definite (SPD) assumption [14,41,42,48]  
 49 for which the set of SPD matrices constitute a convex half-cone in the vector space of matrices. This  
 50 leads to giving more insights into the Fisher information metric [14,26] or the Wasserstein metric [29]  
 51 and coping with optimal mass transportation problems [7]. Many efforts have also been made in the  
 52 last decade to exploit the hyperbolic geometry structure not of the correlation matrices directly but  
 53 of the related parcors when obtained in stationary conditions [2,6,16,19,55]. As the Kullback–Leibler  
 54 divergence let do, the comparison of stationary processes is then made by comparing curves, whose  
 55 sampled points are parcors sequences, defined on several copies of the Poincaré disk through geodesics  
 56 deformation. Treating the nonstationary case has not been tackled to our knowledge with the previous  
 57 mentioned approaches. In this paper, we hope to initiate interest in filling this gap by extending  
 58 the representation and the characterisation of processes' measure in nonstationary context, first in  
 59 using the dilation theory approach to give sampled points and then in giving the prescribed geodesics  
 60 equations used for curve or path comparisons in the Lie group.

61 To support the reader, some insights on dilation theory are given in Section 2. Practical implementations  
 62 of dilation matrices according to the operator theory approach [3,15] or the lattice filter structure  
 63 approach [27,44] are also discussed and the strong connection between parcors and the dilation  
 64 matrices is emphasised. Section 3 focuses on the geometry of the curves induced by the dilation on  
 65 particular manifolds. The general framework is first introduced by recalling concepts of distances and  
 66 shape of curves when the ambient space is not flat. Next, the square root velocity (SRV) functions are  
 67 developed and adapted to the Lie group, and a procedure to compare nonstationary processes through  
 68 their time evolution trajectory is presented. Finally, a conclusion is drawn in Section 4 and the reader  
 69 will find some technical tools in the Appendix section.

## 70 2. The structure of semi-positive-definite matrices and the dilation theory

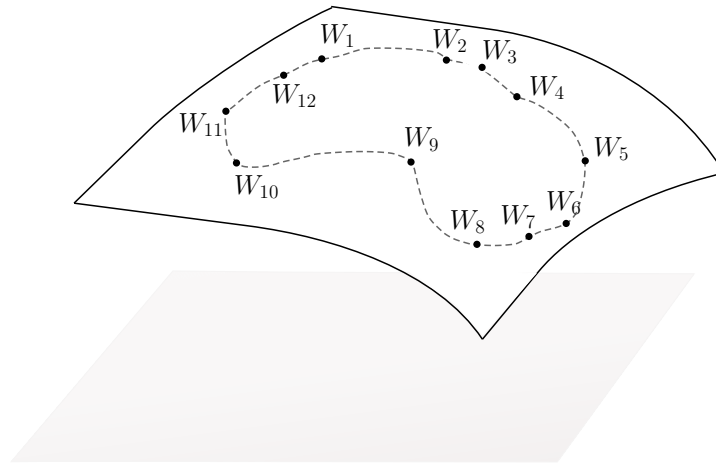
### 71 2.1. The theory of dilation and the interaction with

Let us give some insights into the dilation theory. In its fundamental definition, the dilation theory consists of a Hilbert space  $\mathcal{H}$  and an operator-valued function  $f$ , i.e. an  $\mathcal{L}(\mathcal{H})$ -valued function, to find a larger Hilbert space  $H$  and an other application  $\mathcal{F}$  such that  $f$  is the orthogonal projection of  $\mathcal{F}$ :

$$f(t) = P_{\mathcal{H}}\mathcal{F}(t), \quad t \in \mathbb{Z} \quad (1)$$

72 where  $P_{\mathcal{H}}$  denotes the orthogonal projection onto the Hilbert space  $\mathcal{H}$ . The ideas of the dilation  
 73 theory are :

- 74 • there exists a larger space from which the original function (or matrix) is deduced
- 75 • we can choose the "dilated" function to be simpler. For instance, when dealing with matrices,  
 76 each of its coefficients can be expressed as the projection of a larger unitary matrix. In this case,



**Figure 1.** Illustration of a sampled closed trajectory drawn in  $SO(n)$  or  $SU(n)$  that materialises the time varying of the PC measure for a stochastic process. Each  $W_i$  is a dilation matrix built through the parcors.

77 we obtain a unitary dilation. This approach has been for example developed in [33,36] and  
78 [37] for the stationary dilation of periodically-correlated processes.

#### 79 2.1.1. Dilation and rotation of contractions

For an operator  $T$  on a Hilbert space  $\mathcal{H}$ , we denote by  $T^*$  the adjoint operator, *i.e.* the operator on  $\mathcal{H}$  such that  $\langle Tx, y \rangle = \langle x, T^*y \rangle$  for all  $x, y \in \mathcal{H}$ . An operator  $T \in \mathcal{L}(\mathcal{H})$  is said to be a contraction if  $\|T\| \leq 1$  where  $\|\cdot\|$  is the operator norm. We deduce the expression for the defect operator  $D_T = (I - T^*T)^{1/2}$  and its adjoint  $D_{T^*} = (I - TT^*)^{1/2}$ .

One of the easiest results is that, given a contraction  $\Gamma$ , the aforementioned unitary Julia operator

$$J(\Gamma) = \begin{pmatrix} \Gamma & D_{\Gamma^*} \\ D_{\Gamma} & -\Gamma^* \end{pmatrix} \quad (2)$$

satisfies, for all  $n \in \mathbb{N}$

$$\Gamma^n = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 \end{pmatrix} J(\Gamma)^n \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 0 \end{pmatrix}. \quad (3)$$

80 In other words, the elementary rotation of a contraction, called consequently the Julia operator,  
81 also corresponds to the unitary dilation operator of the contraction. Note that the Julia operator is  
82 sometimes called the Halmos extension [35] of a contraction.

83

#### 84 2.1.2. Dilation and isometries

Following the idea and the formulation of Naimark, the dilation theory can be restated in terms of dilation of the sequence of operators or sequence of numbers when the dimension of the underlying Hilbert space is 1. Recall that a sequence of operators  $\{R_n\}_{n=1}^{\infty}$  acting on  $\mathcal{H}$  is said to be positive if

$$\sum_{i,j=0}^{+\infty} \langle R_{i-j} h_i, h_j \rangle \geq 0 \quad \text{for all } h_i \in \mathcal{H}_i. \quad (4)$$

Assuming now that  $R_n^* = R_{-n}$  and  $R_0 = I$ , leads to the following Toeplitz matrix:

$$R^{(m)} = \begin{pmatrix} I & R_1 & \cdots & R_{m-1} \\ R_1^* & I & \cdots & R_{m-2} \\ \cdot & \cdot & \cdots & \cdot \\ \cdot & \cdot & \cdots & \cdot \\ R_{m-1}^* & R_{m-2}^* & \cdots & I \end{pmatrix} \quad (5)$$

which is positive-definite. Remark that this matrix can be seen as the correlation matrix of a stationary process, as it is positive and Toeplitz [3,12,54]. Owing to this property, we obtain the following relation:

$$R_n = P_{\mathcal{H}} U^n |_{\mathcal{H}}, \quad \text{for all } n \geq 0 \text{ and } U \text{ an isometry on } \mathcal{K} \quad (6)$$

85 as a result of the Naimark dilation theorem. Furthermore, if  $\mathcal{K} = \bigvee_{n \geq 0} U^n \mathcal{H}$  then  $U$  is unique up to an  
86 isomorphism.

87

### 88 2.1.3. Dilation and measure

From Bochner's theorem, we know a matrix of type (5) can be seen as the Fourier coefficient of a given positive Borelian measure. This is also known as the moment or trigonometric problem [15]. Therefore, we can restate the dilation problem in terms of measure. If we denote by  $E_\lambda$  an operator-valued distribution function on  $[0, 2\pi[$ , then the function

$$R_n = \int_0^{2\pi} e^{in\lambda} dE_\lambda. \quad (7)$$

This function is positive-definite and shows the strong correspondence between the spectral measure and the dilation theory. There hence exists a unitary operator on a Hilbert space  $\mathcal{K}$  such that  $R_n = P_{\mathcal{H}} U(n)$  where  $P_{\mathcal{H}}$  stands for the orthogonal projection. With the spectral representation of unitary operators,  $U = \int_0^{2\pi} e^{i\lambda} dE_\lambda$  and we have

$$\int_0^{2\pi} e^{in\lambda} d\langle E_\lambda u, v \rangle = \int_0^{2\pi} e^{in\lambda} d\langle F_\lambda u, v \rangle \quad (8)$$

or, in an equivalent form :

$$E_\lambda = P_{\mathcal{H}} F_\lambda. \quad (9)$$

89 Note that the operator-valued measure  $F_\lambda$  is in fact an orthogonal projection-valued measure because  
90 all its increments are orthogonal.

91 With dilation matrices having been introduced, we give now in the next section a methodology to  
92 understand how they are obtained.

### 93 2.2. Construction of Dilation Matrices

94 As mentioned previously, given an SPD matrix  $R = (R_{i,j})_{i,j \in \mathbb{N}}$ , it is possible to build a sequence  
95 of matrices  $\{W_i\}_{i \in \mathbb{N}}$  such that  $R_{i,j} = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 & \cdots & 0 \end{pmatrix} W_i W_{i+1} \cdots W_{j-1} \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 & \cdots & 0 \end{pmatrix}^T$  by a  
96 two-step procedure. For the first step, the following theorem is needed [15] :

97 **Theorem 1** (Structure of a positive-definite block matrix). *Let  $X$  and  $Z$  be positive operators in  $\mathcal{L}(\mathcal{H}_X)$   
98 and  $\mathcal{L}(\mathcal{H}_Z)$  respectively. Then the following are equivalent :*

- 99 • The operator  $A = \begin{pmatrix} X & Y \\ Y^* & Z \end{pmatrix}$  is positive

- There exists a unique contraction  $\Gamma$  in  $\mathcal{L}(\mathcal{R}(Z), \mathcal{R}(X))$  such that

$$Y = X^{1/2}\Gamma Z^{1/2} \quad (10)$$

100 **Proof.** Annexe A  $\square$

Let us now apply this relation repeatedly on an SPD matrix. To fix ideas, let the  $3 \times 3$  (block-)matrix be

$$R = \begin{pmatrix} R_{1,1} & R_{1,2} & R_{1,3} \\ R_{1,2}^* & R_{2,2} & R_{2,3} \\ R_{1,3}^* & R_{2,3}^* & R_{3,3} \end{pmatrix} \quad (11)$$

and apply Theorem 1 to  $\begin{pmatrix} R_{1,1} & R_{1,2} \\ R_{1,2}^* & R_{2,2} \end{pmatrix}$ ,  $\begin{pmatrix} R_{2,2} & R_{2,3} \\ R_{2,3}^* & R_{3,3} \end{pmatrix}$  and finally to  $\begin{pmatrix} R_{1,2} & R_{1,3} \\ R_{1,3}^* & R_{2,3} \end{pmatrix}$ . Note that when a square root of a (block-)matrix has to be chosen, it is done according to the Schur decomposition given in Annexe A. At each step, a contraction  $\Gamma_{ij}$  is generated with respect to the indices of the upper and lower (block-)matrices of the main diagonal, e.g.  $\Gamma_{1,2}$  for the first  $\begin{pmatrix} R_{1,1} & R_{1,2} \\ R_{1,2}^* & R_{2,2} \end{pmatrix}$  (block-)matrix.

We thus obtain a one-to-one correspondence between the SPD matrix  $R$  and the set of contractions  $\{\Gamma_{ij}\}_{i=1,2}^{j=3}$ . Regarding the huge work of Constantinescu [15], we will call these contractions the Schur-Constantinescu parameters. Considering now unit variance and arbitrary size  $n \times n$  for the SPD matrix, allows us to write the correspondence as:

$$\begin{pmatrix} I & R_{1,2} & & R_{1,n} \\ R_{1,2}^* & I & \ddots & \\ & \ddots & \ddots & R_{n-1,n} \\ R_{1,n}^* & & R_{n-1,n}^* & I \end{pmatrix} \longleftrightarrow \begin{pmatrix} 0 & \Gamma_{1,2} & \Gamma_{1,3} & \cdots & \Gamma_{1,n} \\ 0 & 0 & \Gamma_{2,3} & \Gamma_{2,4} & \cdots & \Gamma_{2,n} \\ \vdots & & \ddots & \ddots & \ddots & \\ & & & & 0 & \Gamma_{n-2,n} \\ 0 & 0 & \cdots & & & 0 \end{pmatrix}. \quad (12)$$

Once (12) is established, each dilation matrix  $W_i$  is built-up as a product of Givens rotations of a sequence of Schur-Constantinescu parameters in the following way:

$$W_i = G(\Gamma_{i,i+1})G(\Gamma_{i,i+2}) \cdots G(\Gamma_{i,j}), \quad (13)$$

where  $G_{\Gamma_{i,i+l}}$  denotes the Givens rotation of  $\Gamma_{i,i+l}$  as follows:

$$G(\Gamma_{i,i+l}) = I \oplus \begin{pmatrix} \Gamma_{i,i+l} & D_{\Gamma_{i,i+l}}^* \\ D_{\Gamma_{i,i+l}} & -\Gamma_{i,i+l}^* \end{pmatrix} \oplus I. \quad (14)$$

When the SPD matrix is Toeplitz, which correspond to a stationary underlying process, then all dilation matrices  $W_i$  are identical and they take the form

$$W_i = U = \begin{pmatrix} \Gamma_1 & D_{\Gamma_1}^* \Gamma_2 & D_{\Gamma_1}^* D_{\Gamma_2}^* \Gamma_3 & D_{\Gamma_1}^* D_{\Gamma_2}^* D_{\Gamma_3}^* \Gamma_4 & \cdots \\ D_{\Gamma_1} & -\Gamma_1^* \Gamma_2 & -\Gamma_1^* D_{\Gamma_2}^* \Gamma_3 & -\Gamma_1^* D_{\Gamma_2}^* D_{\Gamma_3}^* \Gamma_4 & \cdots \\ 0 & D_{\Gamma_2} & -\Gamma_2^* \Gamma_3 & -\Gamma_2^* D_{\Gamma_3}^* \Gamma_4 & \cdots \\ 0 & 0 & D_{\Gamma_3} & -\Gamma_3^* \Gamma_4 & \cdots \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & D_{\Gamma_4} & \cdots \\ \vdots & \vdots & \vdots & \vdots & \cdots \\ \vdots & \vdots & \vdots & \vdots & \cdots \end{pmatrix} \quad (15)$$

101 which is nothing less than the Naimark dilation introduced in the first part, *i.e.*  $R_{i,j} = R_{j-1} =$   
 102  $[1 \ 0 \ 0 \ \dots] U^{j-i} [1 \ 0 \ 0 \ \dots]^T$ . For the sake of completeness, we give the correspondence between the  
 103 coefficients of the SPD matrix (the left-hand side of (12)) and the Schur-Constantinescu parameters:

104 **Theorem 2.** The matrix  $R^{(n)} = [R_{k,j}]_{k,j=1}^n$ , satisfying  $R_{j,k}^* = R_{k,j}$  is positive if and only if

- 105
- $R_{kk} \geq 0$  for all  $k$
  - there exists a family  $\{\Gamma_{k,j} \mid k, j = 1, \dots, n, k \leq j\}$  of contraction such that

$$R_{k,j} = B_{k,k}^* (L_{k,j-1} U_{k+1,j-1} C_{k+1,j} + D_{\Gamma_{k,k+1}^*} \cdots D_{\Gamma_{k,j-1}^*} \Gamma_{k,j} D_{\Gamma_{k+1,j}} \cdots D_{\Gamma_{j-1,j}}) B_{j,j} \quad (16)$$

106 where  $B_{k,k}$  is any square root of  $R_{k,k}$

and

$$L_{k,j} = [\Gamma_{k,k+1} \quad D_{\Gamma_{k,k+1}^*} \Gamma_{k,k+2} \quad \cdots \quad D_{\Gamma_{k,k+1}^*} \cdots D_{\Gamma_{k,j-1}^*} \Gamma_{k,j}] \quad (17)$$

a row contraction associated to the set of parameters  $\{\Gamma_{k,m} \mid k < m \leq j\}$ ,

$$C_{k,j} = [\Gamma_{j-1,j} \quad \Gamma_{j-2,j} D_{\Gamma_{j-1,j}} \quad \cdots \quad \Gamma_{k,j} D_{\Gamma_{k+1,j}} \cdots D_{\Gamma_{j-1,j}}]^T \quad (18)$$

a column contraction associated to the set of parameters  $\{\Gamma_{m,j} \mid m = j-1, \dots, k\}$ , and finally

$$U_{k,j} = G(\Gamma_{k,k+1}) G(\Gamma_{k,k+2}) \cdots G(\Gamma_{k,k+j}) (U_{k+1,j} \oplus I) \quad (19)$$

107 **Proof.** This theorem is proved in [15].  $\square$

108 A different approach leading to the same results can be found in [52], using directly the  
 109 Kolmogorov decomposition. In [27] the Naimark dilation is constructed using the lattice filter and  
 110 finally applications of this decomposition in quantum mechanics are to be found in [53,54] for example.

### 111 3. Analysis of curves on a manifold induced by the dilation

112 Parcours, composing dilation matrices, have already been given a geometrical point of view, as, for  
 113 example, in [55] where the sequence of parcours associated with a stationary process is seen as a point  
 114 onto the Poincaré polydisk  $\mathcal{P}^n$ , that is, the product of the Poincaré disk. To give geometrical settings, a  
 115 distance to characterise individual parcours is then proposed and discussed. In [31], a stochastic process  
 116 is studied under the local stationarity assumption. To each stationary slice of the process corresponds  
 117 a sequence of parcours, represented as a point in the Poincaré polydisk  $\mathcal{P}^n$  as well. A trajectory is then  
 118 generated on that space which materialises a curve on the manifold  $\mathcal{P}^n$ . The underlying computations  
 119 are quite intricate because of the product manifolds, and the question of nonstationarity arises. Based  
 120 on the works of Le Brigant [31,32], Celledoni *et al.* [13] and Zhang *et al.* [57], we propose then to  
 121 give a particular attention to this question. We first make use of the dilation theory introduced in  
 122 Section 2. When the process under study is nonstationary, a set of matrices  $W_i$  is obtained. The basic  
 123 idea for having geometric information on the nonstationary process is therefore to characterize the  
 124 trajectory formed by the set of dilation matrices. These matrices are theoretically operators of infinite  
 125 dimension, but as we dispose of only a finite set of parcours, the theoretical matrices of (15) are truncated.  
 126 Matrices respecting (15) are general rotation matrices that become perfect rotation operators belonging  
 127 to  $SO(n)$  for real processes and  $SU(n)$  when dealing with complex processes, when their dimensions  
 128 are reduced to  $n \times n$ . Our aim is finally to analyse those curves living on the Lie group of rotation  
 129 matrices and emphasise the geometry or, more precisely, the intrinsic geometry formulation of these  
 130 objects. For example, we aim at comparing different curves coming from different processes or at  
 131 resuming many realisations of a stochastic process (multiple measurements) through the computation  
 132 of the mean of the associated several curves. The question as to computation complexity still exists,

133 but many results have been proposed recently to overcome this difficulty and to propose closed-form  
 134 formulations. In particular, it is predicated to extract the shape of the trajectory for it contains the  
 135 essentials, in topologic sense, information.

136 To allow the curves comparison, we have based our development on the works of Le Brigrant [31] and  
 137 Celledoni *et al.* [13]. First, we define the manifold  $\mathcal{M}$  given by the set of all curves in the base manifold.  
 138 This leads to another space, the shape space, for which the manifold  $\mathcal{M}$  will be a fiber bundle. We  
 139 dispose then of a metric in  $\mathcal{M}$  from which a metric on the shape space is deduced. These steps are  
 140 now explained in the following.

### 141 3.1. Basic Outline of Geometry

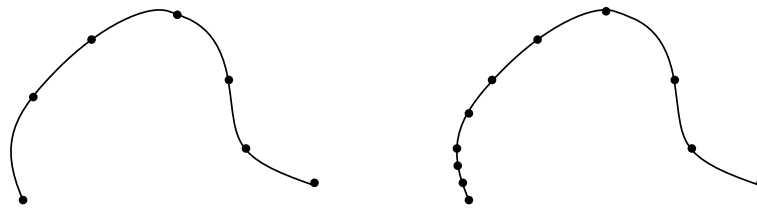
Curves of interest are those living in the Lie group of real rotation matrices; this yields  $c : [0, 1] \rightarrow SO(n)$ . For the sake of clarity, we suppose that  $c$  is continuous, we will come back to the case of discrete curves later. To study the geometrical features of such curves, we interest ourselves with the set of all curves lying in  $SO(n)$  (where  $SO(n)$  is seen as a manifold) with nonvanishing velocity, *i.e.*  $\mathcal{M} = \{c \in \mathcal{C}^\infty([0, 1], SO(n)) : c'(t) \neq 0 \forall t\}$ , this is in fact a sub-manifold of  $\mathcal{C}^\infty([0, 1], SO(n))$ . A curve  $c$  is thus a particular point in  $\mathcal{M}$ . The tangent space at a curve  $c$  is given by

$$T_c\mathcal{M} = \left\{ v \in \mathcal{C}^\infty([0, 1], TSO(n)) : v(t) \in T_{c(t)}SO(n) \right\} \quad (20)$$

where  $TSO(n)$  denotes the tangent bundle of the base manifold  $SO(n)$ . Note that a tangent vector is a curve in the tangent space of  $SO(n)$ . In this manifold, the expression of distances and, thus, geodesics depends on the chosen metric. When comparing two curves, it is natural that the distance between these two curves should remain the same if the curves are only reparametrised, that is, if we define other curves that pass through the same points than the original curves but at different speeds. When the curve is discretised as we will see in the sequel, doing a reparametrisation is equivalent to changing the chosen points (see Figure 2). A reparametrisation is represented by increasing diffeomorphism  $\phi \in \mathcal{D} : [0, 1] \rightarrow [0, 1]$  acting on the right of the curve by composition. In other words, we required that the Riemannian metric  $g$  on  $\mathcal{M}$  satisfies the following property:

$$g_{c \circ \phi}(u \circ \phi, v \circ \phi) = g_c(u, v) \quad (21)$$

for all  $c \in \mathcal{M}$ ,  $u, v \in T_c\mathcal{M}$  and  $\phi \in \mathcal{D}$ . This property is called reparametrisation invariance. We insist



**Figure 2.** Example of a reparametrisation of a curve. Here, it consists in changing the discretisation with nonlinear time sample.

on the fact that  $g$  is the metric on  $\mathcal{M}$ , the space of all curves on  $SO(n)$  and not on  $SO(n)$  itself. In terms of distances, this gives

$$d_{\mathcal{M}}(c_0 \circ \phi, c_1 \circ \phi) = d_{\mathcal{M}}(c_0, c_1) \quad (22)$$

where  $d_{\mathcal{M}}$  denote the distance on  $\mathcal{M}$  corresponding to the metric  $g$ . The reparametrisation introduced above induces an equivalence relation between points in  $\mathcal{M}$  such that

$$c_0 \sim c_1 \iff \exists \phi \in \mathcal{D} : c_0 = c_1 \circ \phi. \quad (23)$$



With this equivalence relation, a quotient space can be constructed as the collection of equivalence classes, it is named the shape space and has the following writing:

$$\mathcal{S} = \mathcal{M} / \sim, \text{ or } \mathcal{S} = \mathcal{M} / \mathcal{D}. \quad (24)$$

A distance function on the shape space is obtained from the distance on  $\mathcal{M}$  as follows:

$$d_{\mathcal{S}}([c_0], [c_1]) = \inf_{\phi \in \mathcal{D}} d_{\mathcal{M}}(c_0, c_1 \circ \phi) \quad (25)$$

where  $[c_0]$  and  $[c_1]$  are representatives of the equivalence classes of  $c_0$  and  $c_1$  respectively. It can be shown that this distance is independent of the choice of the representatives. It is in fact inherited from the fiber bundle structure  $\pi = \mathcal{M} \rightarrow \mathcal{S}$ . As closed curves are of main interest in this work, we can also define the set

$$\mathcal{M}^c = \{c \in \mathcal{C}([0, 1], SO(n)) : c'(t) \neq 0, c(0) = c(1)\}. \quad (26)$$

Basically, the closure of a curve just imposes the equality of the first and the last point of it, and not of their first derivative. Consequently,  $\mathcal{M}^c$  turns into

$$\mathcal{M}^{c+} = \{c \in \mathcal{C}([0, 1], SO(n)) : c'(t) \neq 0, c(0) = c(1), c'(0) = c'(1)\}. \quad (27)$$

We need now to introduce the Square Root Velocity function (SRV function) [49], in which a curve is represented by its starting point and its normalised velocity at each time  $t$ . There are several possibilities to define the SRV of a curve. The more general definition is the following

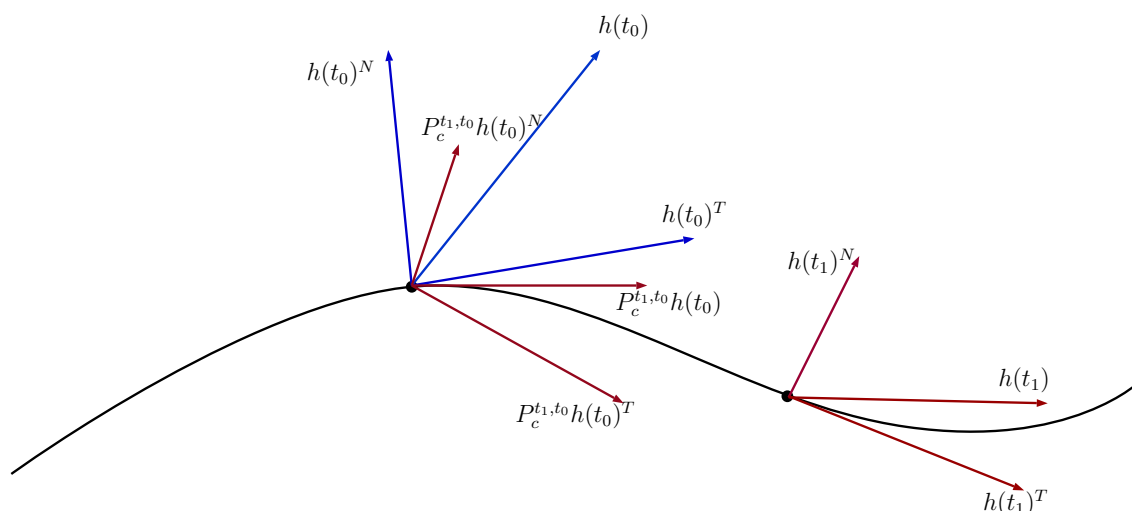
$$F : \mathcal{M} \rightarrow SO(n) \times T\mathcal{M} \\ c \rightarrow \left( c(0), q = \frac{c'}{\sqrt{\|c'\|}} \right). \quad (28)$$

However we can go further and benefit from the specific case of Lie group. In this section, we will denote the base manifold  $G = SO(n)$  to emphasise its group structure, and  $g$  an element of the group. As in [13], we consider only curves that start at the identity, this is because other curves can be reduced to this case by right or left translation. In these settings, it is interesting to turn the SRV function into the Transported SRV function (TSRV). This is basically the SRV that has been parallel transported to a reference point. Different versions have been given in [9], [13] or [57] which differ in the choice of their reference point. For our case of study, the identity is our natural curve starting point and is thus a particularly good choice for being the reference point. In a Lie group, a parallel transport operation can be defined, here again, by the right (or left) translation. This justifies that we can take, as suggested in [13] a TSRV function of the following form:

$$F_{Lie} : \mathcal{C}^\infty([0, 1], G) \longrightarrow SO(n) \times \{q \in \mathcal{C}^\infty([0, 1], \mathfrak{g}), q(t) \neq 0, \forall t \in [0, 1]\} \\ F_{Lie}(c)(t) = (c(0), q(t)) = \left( c(0), \frac{R_{c(t)^*}^{-1}(c'(t))}{\sqrt{\|c'(t)\|}} \right) = \left( c(0), \frac{T_c^{c(t) \rightarrow I}(c'(t))}{\sqrt{\|c'(t)\|}} \right), \quad (29)$$

142 where  $\mathfrak{g}$  is the Lie algebra,  $R$  is the right translation on the group,  $R_{g_1}(g_2) = g_2g_1$ ,  $R_{g^*} = T_eR_g$  is  
 143 tangent map at the identity,  $\|\cdot\|$  is a norm induced by a right-invariant metric on  $G$ , and  $T_c^{c(t) \rightarrow I}$   
 144 denotes the parallel transport from  $c(t)$  to the identity according to the curve  $c$ . A curve is now  
 145 represented as an element of the tangent bundle  $(c(0), q(t)) \in M \times TM$  (recall that  $q$  draws a curve in  
 146 the tangent bundle), and  $c(0)$  is the identity element of the Lie group. The inverse of the SRV function  
 147 is then straightforward: for every  $q \in \mathcal{C}^\infty([0, 1], T\mathcal{M})$ , there exists a unique curve  $c$  such that  $F(c_i) = q_i$   
 148 and  $c(t) = \int_0^t q(r) \|q(r)\| dr$  where  $\|\cdot\|$  is the norm in  $SO(n)$ .





**Figure 3.** The inner product measures the angle between a frame at a given point and the parallel transport version of this frame at a latter time.

149 3.2. Metric and distance over  $\mathcal{M}$  and  $\mathcal{S}$

We now give insights on a relevant metric that should be used on  $\mathcal{M}$  to compare different closed trajectories. The idea is to have a metric on  $\mathcal{M}$  that induced a "coherent" distance on the shape space  $\mathcal{S}$ . The following development and expression of metrics and distances can be found in [31]. The distance on the shape space is used to compare how the curves are intrinsically different. It has been seen in [38] that the simple  $L^2$  metric on  $\mathcal{M}$  given by

$$g_c^{L^2}(u, v) = \int \langle u, v \rangle \|c'(t)\| dt \tag{30}$$

where  $\langle \cdot, \cdot \rangle$  is the Riemannian metric on  $SO(n)$ , induced a vanishing metric on the shape space, that is, we can not differentiate shape with this metric. To overcome this difficulty, the family of *elastic metric*, derived from the Sobolev metric [10], [23], has been investigated for it is non-vanishing on the shape space. In the case of an Euclidean space  $\mathbb{R}^n$ , it admits the expression:

$$g_c^{a,b}(u, v) = \int \left( a^2 \langle D_1 u^N, D_1 v^N \rangle + b^2 \langle D_1 u^T, D_1 v^T \rangle \right) \|c'(t)\| dt, \tag{31}$$

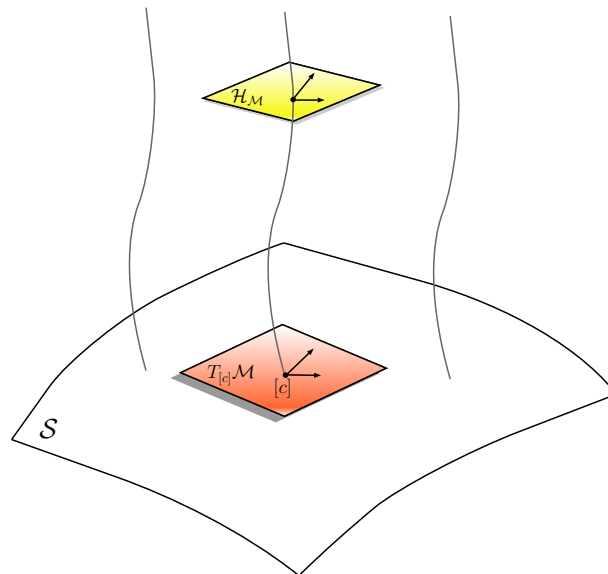
where  $D_1 u = h' / \|c'\|$ ,  $D_1 u^T = \langle D_1 u, w \rangle w$ , with  $w = c' / \|c'\|$  and  $D_1 u^N = D_1 u - D_1 u^T$  this way,  $(D_1 u^N, D_1 u^T)$  defines a mobile frame along the curve  $c$ , see Figure 3. Here, we are only interested in the special metric that has been proposed in [31], and which is an adaptation of the *elastic metric* for the Riemannian manifold:

$$g_c(u, v) = \langle u(0), v(0) \rangle + \int \left( \langle \nabla_1 u^N, \nabla_1 v^N \rangle + \frac{1}{4} \langle \nabla_1 u^T, \nabla_1 v^T \rangle \right) \|c'(t)\| dt, \tag{32}$$

With this metric, the starting point of the curves intervenes explicitly and the metric admits a quite simple form. With the SRV framework, the length of a path of a curve (and not the length of a curve in  $SO(n)$ ) becomes then

$$L(c) = \int_0^1 \sqrt{\|x(s)\|^2 + \int_0^1 \|\nabla_{\partial c / \partial s} q(s, t)\|^2 dt ds}. \tag{33}$$

Once geometry has been settled in  $\mathcal{M}$ , the geometry of the shape space can be derived from its quotient structure. Let Before the tangent bundle be decomposed into a vertical and a horizontal subspace:



**Figure 4.** The tangent space  $T_{[c]}\mathcal{M}$  at a point  $[c]$  in the shape space  $\mathcal{S}$  is isomorphic to the horizontal part  $\mathcal{H}_{\mathcal{M}}$  of the tangent space at a point on the associated fiber.

$T\mathcal{M} = \mathcal{H}_{\mathcal{M}} \oplus \mathcal{V}_{\mathcal{M}}$ , with  $\mathcal{V}_{\mathcal{M}} = \ker(T_c\pi)$  and  $T_c$  the tangent map,  $\pi : \mathcal{M} \rightarrow \mathcal{S}$  the fiber bundle, and  $\mathcal{H}_{\mathcal{M}} = (\mathcal{V}_{\mathcal{M}})^\perp$ . This metric is reparametrisation invariant, that is, constant along the fibers, hence we have

$$g_c(u_{\mathcal{H}}, v_{\mathcal{H}}) = [g]_{\pi(c)}(T_c\pi(u), T_c\pi(v)) \quad (34)$$

where  $[g]$  denotes the metric on the shape space. A similar result in a different (but still close) context is used in [56], lemma 1. In terms of distances, this can be understood in the following sense. The geodesic  $s \mapsto [c](s)$  between  $[c_0]$  and  $[c_1]$  in the shape space is the projection of the horizontal geodesic linking  $c_0$  to  $c_1$ . In fact, the horizontal geodesic between  $c_0$  of  $c_1$  intersects the fiber at  $c_1$  at the reparametrised version of  $c_1$ ,  $c_1 \circ \phi$  which gives the distance in the shape space:

$$[d]([c_0], [c_1]) = d_g(c_0, c_1 \circ \phi) \quad (35)$$

where  $[d]$  denotes the distance in  $\mathcal{S}$ , and  $d_g$  denotes the distance on the space of curves induced by the aforementioned Riemannian metric. In the TSRV formulation, the distance problem of eq. (35) yields an optimisation problem:

$$[d]([c_0], [c_1]) = \inf_{\phi \in \mathcal{D}} \left( \int_0^1 \|q_0(t) - q_1(\phi(t))\sqrt{\phi'(t)}\|^2 \right)^{1/2}, \quad (36)$$

which is solved by a traditional gradient descent algorithm or a dynamic linear programming [13]. Finally, we have to mention that in a practical situation, the above formula has to be discretised. This is the object of [32]. Formulae are essentially similar, but in this setting, a curve is now represented by a set of points  $c_{disc}(x_0, x_1, \dots, x_n)$  and the tangent space turns into

$$T_{disc}\mathcal{M} = \{v = (v_0, v_1, \dots, v_n), v_i \in T_{x_i}SO(n), \forall i\}. \quad (37)$$

Concerning the metric on the space of curves, it becomes

$$g_{c_{disc}}(u, v) = \langle u_0, v_0 \rangle + \frac{1}{n} \sum_{i=0}^{n-1} \langle \nabla_{\partial c / \partial s} q^u \left(0, \frac{k}{n}\right), \nabla_{\partial c / \partial s} q^v \left(0, \frac{k}{n}\right) \rangle \quad \forall u, v \in T_{disc}\mathcal{M} \quad (38)$$

150 where, as before, for a  $u \in T_{c_{disc}} \mathcal{M}$ , we define a path of piecewise geodesic curves  $(s, t) \mapsto c^u(s, t)$  such  
 151 that the following traditional initial conditions are fulfilled

$$\begin{aligned} c^u \left( 0, \frac{k}{n} \right) &= x_k, \text{ and} \\ (\partial c^u / \partial t) \left( 0, \frac{k}{n} \right) &= n \log_{x_k}(x_{k+1}). \end{aligned}$$

This is the discrete analogue of the tangent vector of a continuous curve at time  $t$ . The log function is the inverse of the exponential map on the base manifold,  $SO(n)$  for us, and here  $c^u(s, \cdot)$  must be a geodesic on  $SO(n)$  between  $x_{k/n}$  and  $x_{(k+1)/n}$ . The SRV function that appears in the formula refer to the SRV function of the piecewise geodesics  $c^u(s, \cdot)$ . Then, the discretised version of the SRV function,  $q_k = \sqrt{n} \log_{x_k}(x_{k+1}) / \sqrt{\| \log_{x_k}(x_{k+1}) \|^2}$  is such that

$$\nabla_{\partial c / \partial s} q \left( s, \frac{k}{n} \right) = \nabla_{\partial c / \partial s} q_k(s) \quad (39)$$

### 152 3.3. The geodesic equation in the Lie group case

Before giving the geodesic equation in the space of curves on a Lie group, we start with some preliminaries. We recall some useful facts about Lie group and Lie algebra, for those who are not familiar with these objects.

A metric  $\langle \cdot, \cdot \rangle$  on a Lie group is said to be left invariant if:

$$\langle u, v \rangle_b = \langle (dL_a)_b u, (dL_a)_b v \rangle_{ab} \quad (40)$$

153 where  $(dL_a)_b$  is the derivative in the manifold field sense (so the tangent map) of the left translation  $L_a$   
 154 at  $b$ . A left-invariant metric gives the same number whenever the vectors are translated on the left. It is  
 155 straightforward to adapt this definition to a right-invariant metric. A metric that is both left and right  
 156 invariant is called a bi-invariant metric. A Lie group endowed with a bi-invariant metric has plenty of  
 157 import properties that can be exploited for our study of curves on shape spaces. We list some of them  
 158 in the following.

- 159 • The geodesics through  $e$  (the identity element) are the integral curves  $t \mapsto \exp(tu)$ ,  $u \in \mathfrak{g}$ , that  
 160 is, the one-parameter groups. Also, because left and right are isometries and isometries maps  
 161 geodesics to geodesics, the geodesics through any point  $a \in G$  are the left (right) translates of  
 162 the geodesics through  $e$

$$\gamma(t) = L_a(\exp(tu)), \quad u \in \mathfrak{g}. \quad (41)$$

Of course, we have

$$\gamma'(0) = (dL_a)_e(u). \quad (42)$$

- 163 • The Levi-Civita connection is given by :  $\nabla_X Y = \frac{1}{2}[X, Y]$ ,  $\forall X, Y \in \mathfrak{g}$
- 164 • The curvature tensor is given by :  $R(u, v)w = \frac{1}{4}[[u, v], w]$

165 where  $[\cdot, \cdot]$  denotes the Lie bracket. We can now link these formulas to our based manifold  $SO(n)$ .  
 166 A Killing form,  $B$ , of a Lie algebra is a symmetric bilinear form  $B : \mathfrak{g} \times \mathfrak{g} \rightarrow \mathbb{C}$  given by  $B(u, v) =$   
 167  $tr(ad(u) \circ ad(v))$ , where  $tr$  denotes the trace operator and  $ad$  denotes the adjoint representation of the  
 168 group, namely, the map  $ad : G \rightarrow GL(\mathfrak{g})$  such that, for all  $a \in G$   $ad_a : \mathfrak{g} \rightarrow \mathfrak{g}$  is the *linear isomorphism*  
 169 defined by  $ad_a = d(R_a^{-1} \circ L_a)_e$ . If we now assume  $B$  to be negative-definite, then  $-B$  is an inner product  
 170 and is adjoint invariant. Thus, it is a classical result of the Lie theory that  $-B$  induces a bi-invariant  
 171 metric on  $G$ . Furthermore, the Ricci curvature is given by  $Ric(u, v) = -\frac{1}{4}B(u, v)$ .

172 The Lie algebra of  $SO(n)$  is the set of skew-symmetric matrices which verifies  $M^T = -M$ . The  
 173 Killing form on  $SO(n)$  is given by  $B_{so(n)} = (n-2)tr(XY)$ , and as a result of the skew symmetry,  
 174 we have  $-B_{so(n)} = (n-2)tr(XY^T)$ . Therefore, it induces a bi-invariant metric and the previous  
 175 formula can be plugged into the expression of the metric on the space of curves. To conclude these  
 176 preliminaries, we see that because of the simpler form of the parallel transportation and of the metric,  
 177 the distance equations (36) are now easier to handle.

178 It is now time to give the geodesic equation, relative to our chosen measure. As a result of the TSRV,  
 179 the geodesic equation takes a much simpler form than what can be found in [31] and [32]. The formula  
 180 can be found in [13]. For the sake of completeness, we give a reformulated proof in Annexe B. Recall  
 181 that a geodesic is a particular path of curves. A path of curve is a continuous set of curve  $s \mapsto c(s, \cdot)$   
 182 such that for each  $s$ ,  $c(s, \cdot)$  is a point in  $\mathcal{M}$ , or, equivalently, a curve in  $M$ , (see Figure ??). Thus, for  
 183 each curve of the path of curves, we can defined its TSRV function. Then for all  $s \in [0, 1]$ , we have (we  
 184 omit the letter 's' for clarity):  $q = \frac{\partial c / \partial t}{\sqrt{\|\partial c / \partial t\|}}$

**Theorem 3.** A path of curves  $[0, 1] \ni s \mapsto (c(s, 0), q(s, t))$  ( $t$  is the parameter of the curve  $c(s, \cdot)$ ) is a geodesic on  $\mathcal{M}$  if and only if

$$\nabla_{\partial c / \partial s} (\nabla_{\partial c / \partial s} q(s, t)) (s, t) = 0 \quad \forall s, t \quad (43)$$

185 **Proof.** Annexe B  $\square$

Thus, we have a quite familiar expression for the geodesic interpolation between two curves  $c_0$  and  $c_1$ , expressed in their TSRV domain:

$$F_{Lie}^{-1} ((1-s)F_{Lie}(c_0) + sF_{Lie}(c_1)) \quad (44)$$

for  $s \in [0, 1]$ . This expression is nothing but a linear interpolation on the transported tangent space. We have almost all the ingredients now to give the procedure for nonstationary processes characterization and comparison. We first adapt the example given in [13] for curves on  $SO(3)$  to give the piecewise geodesic as follows:

$$c(t) = \sum_{k=0}^{n-1} \chi_{k,k+1}(t) \exp((t-k) \log_{c_k}(c_{k+1})) c_k. \quad (45)$$

186 Notice that this geodesic is in the base manifold, and not in the space of curves. Thus, the geodesics  
 187 are expressed in terms of one-parameter groups. In order to have a curve at least  $\mathcal{C}^1$ , and also  
 188 because the distance between the  $W_i$  matrices can be quite high, we interpolate first. There are  
 189 many ways to interpolate on  $SO(n)$ , see [45] for example, but one of the simplest is to interpolate  
 190 in the tangent space, which is Euclidean, and to go back to the manifold via the exponential map [24,45].

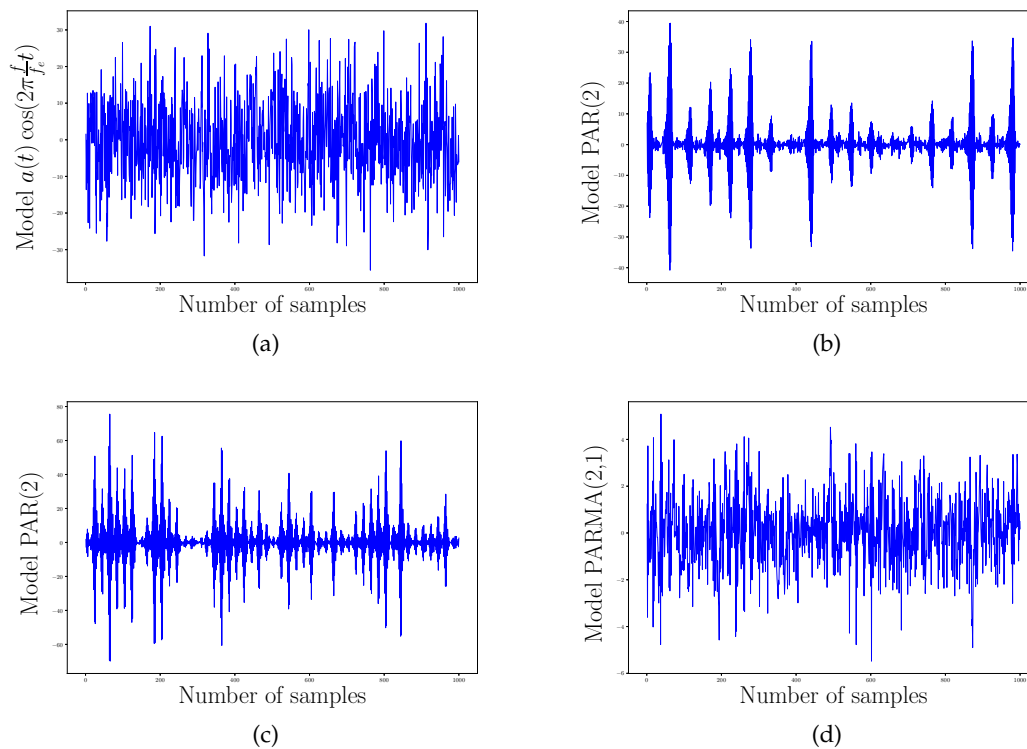
191  
 192 Finally, our procedure to compare closed curves associated with the time evolution of the spectral  
 193 measure for nonstationary process is the following

194

- 195 1. **Input** : a set of rotation matrices  $\{W_i\}_i$ , seen as a partial observation of a closed trajectory on  
 196  $SO(n)$ .
- 197 2. Interpolate with splines between matrices  $W_i$  [24,45].
- 198 3. Go back in the base manifold  $SO(n)$ .
- 199 4. Compute the distance defined by (36).
- 200 5. **Output** : distance between two curves in the manifold defined by the set of curves in  $SO(n)$ .

201 We note that geodesic shooting [31,43] or other path straightening methods could ne applied to  
 202 obtain a geodesic path *between two curves*, and between the shapes of the two curves.

203

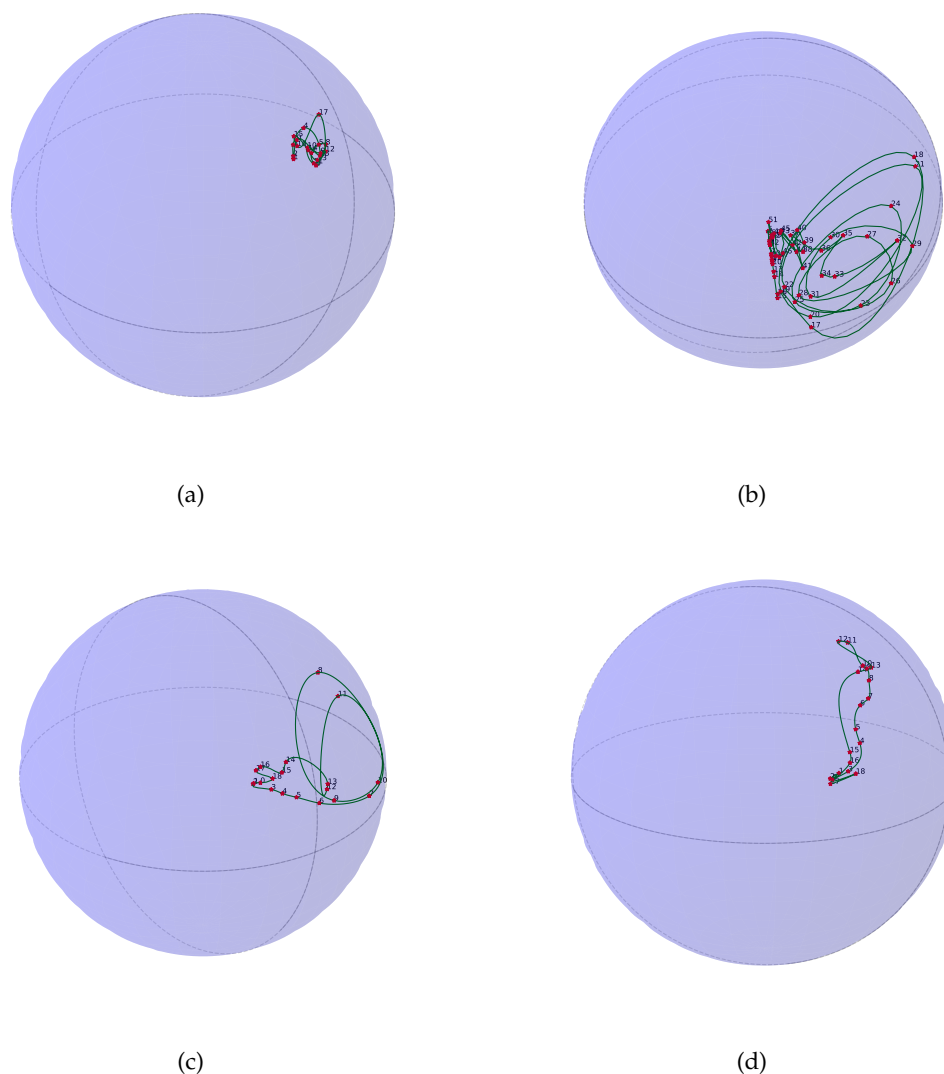


**Figure 5.** 1000 samples of PC processes generated by (a) a modulated zero mean and unit variance stationary random process  $a(t)$ , (b) a periodic AR(2) model with a period of 54 points, (c) a periodic AR(2) model with a period of 20 points, and (d) a periodic ARMA(2,1) model with a period of 20 points

#### 204 3.4. Results

205 In order to expose how the approach of this work gives interesting results for PC processes  
 206 understanding, we propose to compare four PC processes, displayed along with Figure 5. We also  
 207 bring their corresponding SO(3) representation on Figure 6. For this scenario we have generated four  
 208 PC processes with 1000 samples each. A classical amplitude modulated model  $a(t) \cos(2\pi f / f_e t)$   
 209 where  $a(t)$  is a zero mean and unit variance stationary random process with a period of 20 points, a  
 210 periodic AR(2) with a period of 20 points, a periodic AR(2) with a period of 54 points, and a periodic  
 211 ARMA(2,1) with a period of 20 points have been generated. We have used the R package PerARMA to  
 212 generate the periodic ARMA and AR signals and we finally used the PerPACF function of this package  
 213 to estimate the 20 (or 54) sequences of 3 parcors each. The analysis of Figure 5 with the Figure 6 shows  
 214 that the spectral measure of the amplitude modulated signal of Figure 5-(a) has dilation matrices  
 215 which do not spread a lot, we could think that this process is almost stationary due to the weak  
 216 distance between each matrices. A contrario, whereas the temporal form of the PARMA(2,1) signal of  
 217 Figure 5-(d) is quite identical to the amplitude modulated signal of Figure 5-(a), their representation  
 218 on SO(3) is very different. The spectral measure of the PARMA(2,1) signal spread much more. Lastly,  
 219 when we observe the Figure 5-(b) and Figure 5-(c) which are generated with the same model but with  
 220 a different period, we can see that the more the number of points per period is important, the more the  
 221 curve wraps.

222 To end this analysis by the example, we have computed the distance defined by (36) between  
 223 the PC process of Figure 7 and all the PC processes studied and displayed on Figure 5 and Figure 6.  
 224 The distances are reported inside the Table. 1. Clearly, the distances between the shapes of the curves  
 225 characterizing the spectral measure of each PC process, reveal some spectral proximity between the  
 226 PC processes benchmarked. The PAR(2) and PARMA(2,1) are the two models which are closed to the

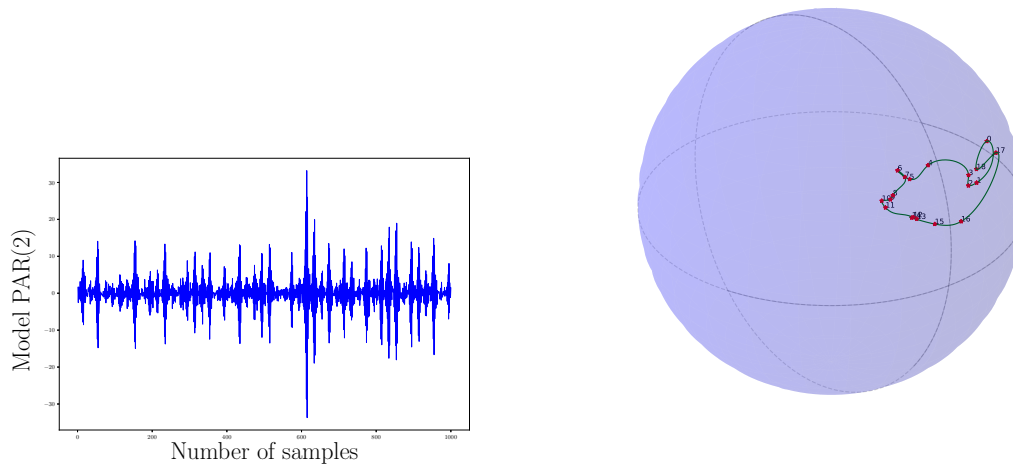


**Figure 6.** Representation inside the ball of radius  $\pi$  of the 4 PC processes drawn in Figure 5, arranged in the same order.

227 PAR(2) signal model of reference. Their spectral measure evolves consequently in a similar way with  
 228 one major loop and a second less important. These observations let open besides the question of the  
 229 topology of these curves and how it could be used for the classification.

#### 230 4. Conclusion

231 We have introduced a new vision of stochastic processes through geometry induced by dilation.  
 232 The dilation matrices of given processes were obtained by a composition of rotations whose angle  
 233 correspond to the well-known parcors, reflexion coefficients or Verblunski coefficients. The advantage  
 234 of working with these particular matrices is that they are strongly related to the stochastic measure of  
 235 the process, and thus, to its spectra. Furthermore, the dilation theory is independent of the stationarity  
 236 of the underlying process; when the signal is stationary, its dilation operator is related to the Naimark  
 237 dilation whereas when the signal is nonstationary, a set of dilation matrices is obtained and it is related  
 238 to the Kolmogorov decomposition. Rigorously, dilation matrices are infinite dimensional, although we  
 239 turn them into rotation matrices by truncation. Each of them belongs to the Special Orthogonal Group



**Figure 7.** A PAR(2) signal with a period of 20 points, 1000 samples were generated, and its corresponding  $SO(3)$  representation inside the ball of radius  $\pi$ .

**Table 1.** Table of the distances between all the PC processes of Figure 5 to the gold standard PC process of Figure 7 through the distance of their curves' shapes on  $SO(3)$ . We have applied here a DP to solve the optimization assignment problem.

Model of Signal displayed in Figure 5	Distance to the signal of Figure 7
(a)	8.97
(b)	9.11
(c)	5.12
(d)	3.92

240  $SO(n)$  or the Special Unitary Group  $SU(n)$  depending on the real- or complex-valued process under  
 241 study. We focused our attention on the Periodically Correlated (PC) class of nonstationary processes for  
 242 which a timely ordered set of dilation matrices describes the process measure. This set draws a closed  
 243 curve on the Lie group of rotation matrices, and describing or classifying the different PC processes is  
 244 made by curves comparison. We use for that the Square Root Velocity (SRV) function which represents  
 245 a curve by its starting point and by its normed velocity vector on the space or curves. The metric in the  
 246 space of curve naturally extends to the space of shapes. It is then possible to compare the shape of  
 247 curves when the metric is translated into the Lie algebra, achieving therefore a closed-form expression  
 248 and easy computation. Nonstationary processes are then characterized via their embedded curves.

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 250 Funding acquisition, Guillaume Bouleux and Eric Marcon; Investigation, Mael Dugast; Methodology, Guillaume  
 251 Bouleux; Supervision, Guillaume Bouleux and Eric Marcon; Writing – original draft, Mael Dugast; Writing –  
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## 255 Appendix A Defect operator, elementary rotation

256 Introducing the *defect operator* of a contraction  $T$  as being  $D_T = (I - T^*T)^{1/2}$ , we have the  
 257 following factorisation:



$$\begin{pmatrix} X & Y \\ Y^* & Z \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} X^{1/2} & 0 \\ Z^{1/2}\Gamma^* & Z^{1/2}D_\Gamma \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} X^{1/2} & \Gamma Z^{1/2} \\ 0 & D_\Gamma Z^{1/2} \end{pmatrix} \quad (\text{A1})$$

258 where  $X$  and  $Y$  are positive matrices. Note that this is a Cholesky factorisation-type result. This type of  
 259 decomposition is used as the square root of matrices in the construction of the dilation. A corollary is  
 260 that the operator  $\begin{pmatrix} I & T \\ T^* & I \end{pmatrix}$  is positive if and only if  $T$  is a contraction.

261 **Theorem 4.** *Let  $X$  and  $Y$  be operators in  $\mathcal{Z}$ . The following statements are equivalent :*

- 262 • There exists a contraction  $\Gamma$  in  $\mathcal{Z}$  such that  $X = \Gamma Y$ ,
- 263 •  $X^* X \leq Y^* Y$ .

264 **Proof.** This result can be proved by taking the contraction  $\Gamma$  with respect to  $\Gamma Xh = Yh$ . [53].  $\square$

265 As a corollary If,  $X^* X = Y^* Y$ , then there exists a partial isometry  $V$  such that  $VX = Y$ . It is easy  
 266 to see that we can choose  $V$  to be the contraction  $\Gamma$  defined above. Isometry  $V$  can also be assumed  
 267 unitary. For a positive operator  $A \in \mathcal{L}(\mathcal{H})$ , if we denote by  $A^{1/2}$  its unique positive square root, then  
 268 every  $L$  such that  $L^* L = A$  is related to  $A^{1/2}$  by  $A^{1/2} = VL$  (or  $A^{1/2} = L^* V^*$ ).

269 Let us state another theorem that intervene much in Constantinescu's factorisation of positive-definite  
 270 kernel. Note that in the following,  $\mathcal{R}(\Gamma)$  will denote the close range of the operator  $\Gamma$ . We first start  
 271 with a basic case:

**Theorem 5** (row contraction). *Let  $T = [T_1 \ T_2] \in \mathcal{L}(\mathcal{H}_1 \oplus \mathcal{H}_2, \mathcal{H})$ , then  $\|T\| \leq 1$  if and only if there exists contractions  $\Gamma_1 \in \mathcal{L}(\mathcal{H}_1, \mathcal{H})$  and  $\Gamma_2 \in \mathcal{L}(\mathcal{H}_2, \mathcal{H})$  such that*

$$T = [\Gamma_1 \ D_{\Gamma_1^*} \Gamma_2] \quad (\text{A2})$$

**Proof.** The proof is a simple application of Theorem 4. For the if part, it is obvious that we can take  $\Gamma_1$   
 to be  $T_1$ . Then  $\|T\| \leq 1$  implies

$$I - TT^* = I - \Gamma_1 \Gamma_1^* - T_2 T_2^* \geq 0 \quad (\text{A3})$$

272 with  $D_{\Gamma_1^*}^2 \geq T_2 T_2^*$ . Hence, there exists  $\Delta$  such that  $\Delta D_{\Gamma_1^*} = T_2^*$ . Choosing  $\Gamma_2 = \Delta^*$  finishes the  
 273 argument.  $\square$

In the same way as that of the Cholesky factorisation, we can write down the defect operator for  
 the whole contraction  $T = [T_1 \ T_2]$  [53] to be

$$D_T^2 = \begin{pmatrix} D_{\Gamma_1} & 0 \\ -\Gamma_2^* \Gamma_1 & D_{\Gamma_1} \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} D_{\Gamma_1} & -\Gamma_1^* \Gamma_2 \\ 0 & D_{\Gamma_1} \end{pmatrix} \quad (\text{A4})$$

Therefore, with Theorem 5, we have an operator  $\alpha$  such that

$$D_T = \begin{pmatrix} D_{\Gamma_1} & 0 \\ -\Gamma_2^* \Gamma_1 & D_{\Gamma_1} \end{pmatrix} \alpha \quad (\text{A5})$$

Similarly,

$$D_{T^*}^2 = (D_{\Gamma_1^*} D_{\Gamma_2^*} D_{\Gamma_2^*}^* D_{\Gamma_1^*}^*) \quad (\text{A6})$$

274 and the general case is

275 **Theorem 6** (Structure of row contraction). *The following are equivalent :*

- 276 • The operator  $T^n = [T_1 \ T_2 \ \dots \ T^n]$  in  $\mathcal{L}(\oplus_{k=1}^n \mathcal{H}_k, \mathcal{H}')$  is a contraction
- 277 •  $T_1 = \Gamma_1$  is a contraction and, for  $k > 2$ , there exists uniquely determined contractions  $\Gamma_k \in$
- 278  $\mathcal{L}(\mathcal{H}_k, \mathcal{R}(\gamma_k))$  such that  $T_k = D_{\Gamma_1^*} D_{\Gamma_2^*} \dots D_{\Gamma_{k-1}^*} \Gamma_k$ .

Furthermore, the defect operators of the whole contraction  $T$  are of the form

$$D_T^2 = \begin{pmatrix} D_{\Gamma_1} & 0 & \dots & 0 \\ -\Gamma_2^* \Gamma_1 & D_{\Gamma_2} & \dots & 0 \\ \vdots & \vdots & \ddots & \vdots \\ -\Gamma_n^* D_{\Gamma_{n-1}^*} \dots D_{\Gamma_2^*} & -\Gamma_n^* D_{\Gamma_{n-1}^*} \dots D_{\Gamma_3^*} \Gamma_2 & \dots & D_{\Gamma_n} \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} D_{\Gamma_1} & -\Gamma_1^* \Gamma_2 & \dots & -\Gamma_1^* D_{\Gamma_2^*} \dots D_{\Gamma_{n-1}^*} \Gamma_n \\ 0 & D_{\Gamma_2} & \dots & -\Gamma_2^* D_{\Gamma_3^*} \dots D_{\Gamma_{n-1}^*} \Gamma_n \\ \vdots & \vdots & \ddots & \vdots \\ 0 & 0 & \dots & D_{\Gamma_n} \end{pmatrix} \quad (A7)$$

and

$$D_{T^*}^2 = D_{\Gamma_1^*} \dots D_{\Gamma_n^*} D_{\Gamma_n^*} \dots D_{\Gamma_1^*} \quad (A8)$$

279 **Proof.** It can be proved straightforwardly by induction.  $\square$

280 This construction permits to understand the apparition of the operators  $\alpha$  and  $\beta$  in the publications  
 281 of Constantinescu which are used to identify the defect space of the components (the underlying  
 282 contractions of a row contraction) of a row contraction with the defect space of the row contraction

283 itself. Same results are readily obtained for a column contraction of the form  $T = \begin{pmatrix} T_1 \\ \vdots \\ T_2 \end{pmatrix}$ .

## 284 Appendix B Geodesic equation in the space of curve $\mathcal{M}$

285 To have a complete insight on the geodesic equation, we give the proof for a more general case  
 286 that arises when considering the SRV and not only the TSRV function of a curve, that is, the curves are  
 287 parametrised by their starting point and their velocity, but their starting points are not transported to  
 288 the identity.

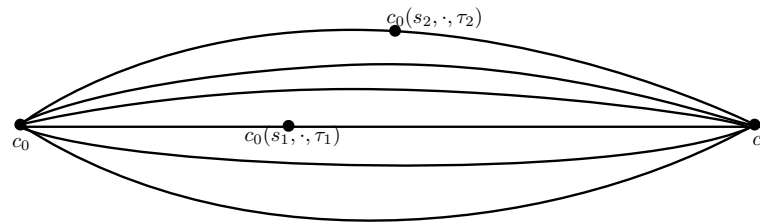
**Theorem 7.** A path of curves  $[0, 1] \ni s \mapsto (c(s, 0), q(s, t))$  ( $t$  is the parameter of the curve  $c(s, \cdot)$ ) is a geodesic on  $\mathcal{M}$  if and only if:

$$\nabla_{\partial c / \partial s} c(s, 0) + \int_0^1 \mathcal{R}(q(s, t), \nabla_{\partial c / \partial s} q(s, t))(c(s, 0)) dt = 0 \quad \forall s \quad (A9)$$

$$\nabla_{\partial c / \partial s} (\nabla_{\partial c / \partial s} q(s, t))(s, t) = 0 \quad \forall s, t \quad (A10)$$

Similarly to [31] and [57], we consider a variation of the path  $s \mapsto c(s, 0), q(s, t)$  starting and ending at the same points, we denote  $\{(c(s, 0, \tau), q(s, t, \tau))\}$ . In Figure (A1), to get a clear picture, we have represented a variation of a path of curves with fixed starting and ending points. Although similar, the situation here is a bit different because of the representation of the curve through its SRV function, which we can hardly represent. However, the process remains similar. We emphasise the subtle difference with [31]. Here, we work directly in the tangent space representation, via the SRV representation, and not with "the whole family" of curves  $c(s, t, \tau)$ . We denote  $\partial_\tau c(s, 0, \tau) = \frac{\partial c(s, 0, \tau)}{\partial \tau}$ , and similarly for  $\partial_s c(s, 0, \tau)$  and  $\partial_\tau c(s, 0, \tau)$ . The energy of the path indexed by  $\tau$  is

$$E(\tau) = \frac{1}{2} \int_0^1 \langle \partial_s c(s, 0, \tau), \partial_s c(s, 0, \tau) \rangle + \langle \nabla_{\partial c / \partial s} q(s, t, \tau), \nabla_{\partial c / \partial s} q(s, t, \tau) \rangle ds. \quad (A11)$$



**Figure A1.** we consider a beam of curves, which consists in a slight modification of the geodesic. The different curves are indexed by  $\tau$ . The idea is to find which of these curves gives the minimal energy to go from  $c_0$  to  $c_1$ .

Recall that the derivative of the inner product is given by  $\frac{d}{dx} \langle f(x), f(x) \rangle = 2 * \langle f(x), \frac{df}{dx} \rangle$ . Then

$$E'(0) = \int_0^1 \langle \nabla_{\partial_c / \partial \tau} \frac{\partial c}{\partial s}(s, 0, 0), \frac{\partial c}{\partial s}(s, 0, 0) \rangle + \langle \nabla_{\partial_c / \partial \tau} \nabla_{\partial_c / \partial s} q(s, t, 0), \nabla_{\partial_c / \partial s} q(s, t, 0) \rangle ds \quad (\text{A12})$$

with  $\nabla_{\partial_c / \partial s} (\partial_\tau c(s, 0, \tau)) = \nabla_{\partial_c / \partial \tau} (\partial_s c(s, 0, \tau))$  and owing to the curvature tensor  $\mathcal{R}(\partial_\tau c(s, 0, \tau), \partial_s c(s, 0, \tau))(q(s, t, \tau)) = \nabla_{\partial_c / \partial \tau} \nabla_{\partial_c / \partial s} (q(s, t, \tau)) - \nabla_{\partial_c / \partial s} \nabla_{\partial_c / \partial \tau} (q(s, t, \tau))$  we have

$$E'(0) = \int_0^1 \langle \nabla_{\partial_s c} \partial_\tau c(s, 0, \tau), \partial_s c(s, 0, \tau) \rangle + \langle \mathcal{R}(\partial_\tau c(s, 0, \tau), \partial_s c(s, 0, \tau)) q(s, t, \tau), \nabla_{\partial_s} q(s, t, \tau) \rangle + \langle \nabla_{\partial_s c} \nabla_{\partial_\tau c} q(s, t, 0), \nabla_{\partial_s c} q(s, t, 0) \rangle ds. \quad (\text{A13})$$

Integrating by parts now, allows to have

$$\int_0^1 \langle \nabla_{\partial_\tau c} \partial_s c(s, 0, \tau), \partial_s c(s, 0, \tau) \rangle ds = - \int_0^1 \langle \nabla_{\partial_s c} \partial_s c(s, 0, \tau), \partial_\tau c(s, 0, \tau) \rangle ds$$

$$\int_0^1 \langle \nabla_{\partial_s c} \nabla_{\partial_\tau c} (q(s, t, \tau)), \nabla_{\partial_s} q(s, t, \tau) \rangle = - \int_0^1 \langle \nabla_{\partial_s c} \nabla_{\partial_s c} (q(s, t, \tau)), \nabla_{\partial_\tau} q(s, t, \tau) \rangle$$

which yields to

$$E'(0) = \int_0^1 (-\langle \nabla_{\partial_s c} \partial_\tau c(s, 0, \tau), \partial_\tau c(s, 0, \tau) \rangle + \langle \mathcal{R}(\partial_\tau c(s, 0, \tau), \partial_s c(s, 0, \tau)) q(s, t, \tau), \nabla_{\partial_s} q(s, t, \tau) \rangle + (-\langle \nabla_{\partial_s c} \nabla_{\partial_s c} q(s, t, 0), \nabla_{\partial_\tau c} q(s, t, 0) \rangle) ds, \quad (\text{A14})$$

for any vector fields  $X, Y, Z, W$ ,  $\langle \mathcal{R}(X, Y)Z, W \rangle = -\langle \mathcal{R}(W), Z \rangle$ , we consequently obtain

$$E'(0) = - \int_0^1 \langle \nabla_{\partial_s c} \partial_\tau c(s, 0, \tau), \partial_s c(s, 0, \tau) \rangle + \langle \mathcal{R}(q(s, t, \tau), \nabla_{\partial_s} q(s, t, \tau)) (\partial_s c(s, 0, \tau)), \partial_\tau c(s, 0, \tau) \rangle + \langle \nabla_{\partial_c / \partial s} \nabla_{\partial_c / \partial \tau} q(s, t, 0), \nabla_{\partial_c / \partial s} q(s, t, 0) \rangle ds. \quad (\text{A15})$$

289 Geodesic corresponds to minimal energy. It means that every other path that starts and ends at the  
290 same points should require more energy to travel than the geodesic. We then have to solve  $E'(0) = 0$   
291 for every  $\partial_\tau c(s, 0, \tau)$  and every  $\nabla_{\partial_\tau} (q(s, t, \tau))$ . This gives the result.

292 Now when the framework is given by the TSRV and not by the SRV, only the second part of the  
293 geodesic equation remains as a result of the fixed starting point which corresponds to the identity  
294 element. This very much simplifies the equation, even though the derivation is the same.

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