

A Practical Guide to Statistical Shape Models Featuring Hands-on Examples in CONRAD

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<https://www5.cs.fau.de/conrad/>



Outline

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 - a) Alignment and Scaling
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Why SSMs?

Statistical Shape Models (SSMs) can express a range of expected, evidence-based **variation** on top of a **mean shape** derived from a cohort or population.

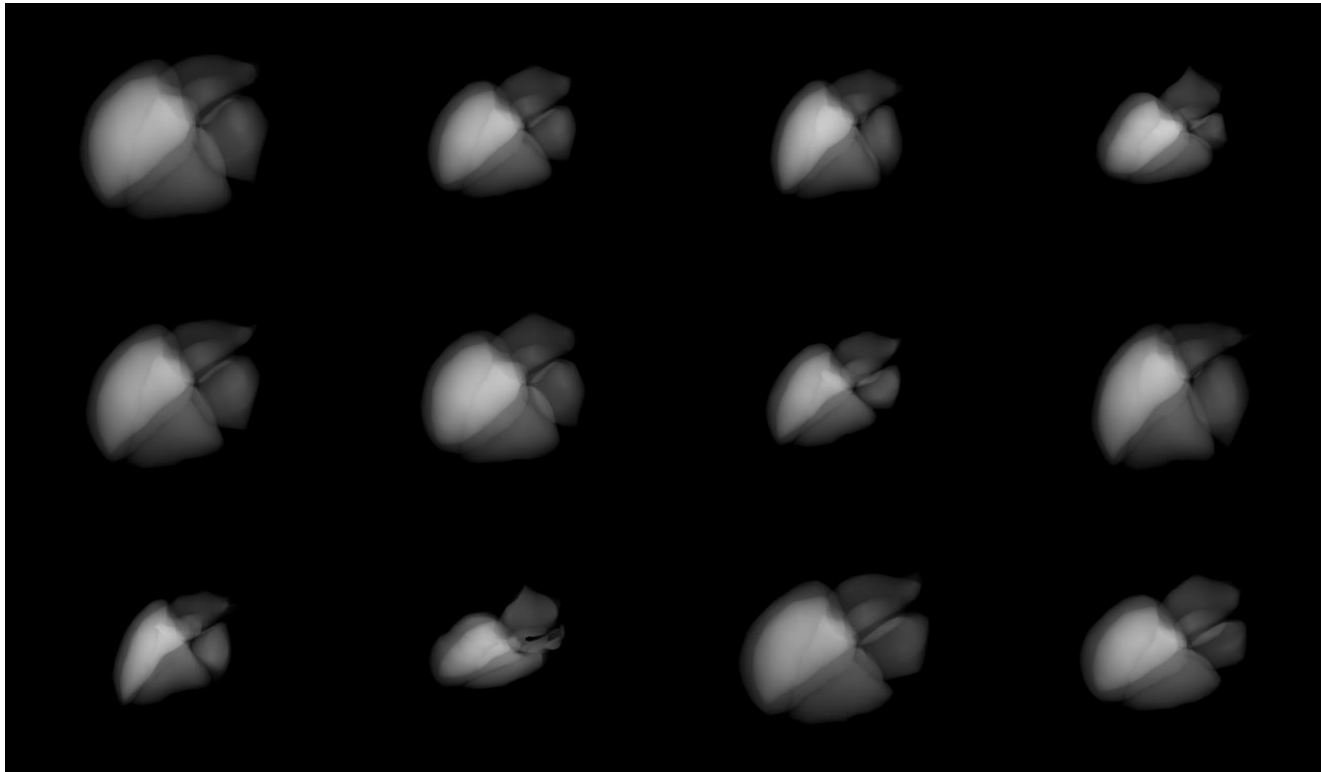


Figure 1: Training set of cardiac model variations

Why SSMs?

Mean Shape:
Knowledge about the
general shape

Variation:
Knowledge about how
much the shape can differ
between subjects

This can be used in different applications of SSMs:

- Classification
- Segmentation
- Phantom generation

Applications of SSMs

Classification:

Use the variation to differentiate between classes

Segmentation:

Use prior knowledge about the shape to segment images

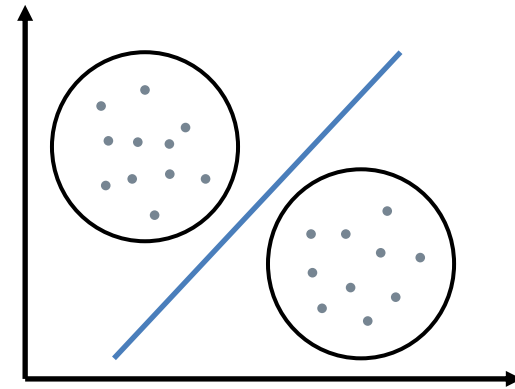


Figure 2: Two variation clusters

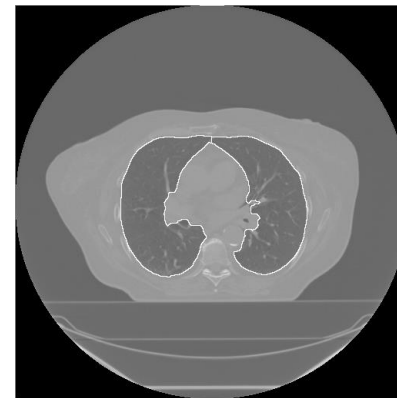


Figure 3: Segmented lung contour in a CT slice

Applications of SSMs

Phantom Creation:
Use shape extrapolation to
create realistic
representations within
given variation

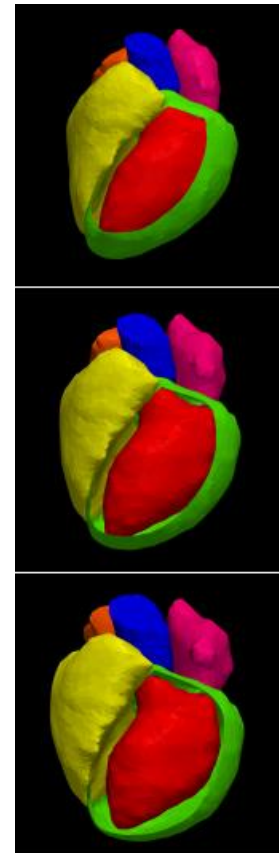
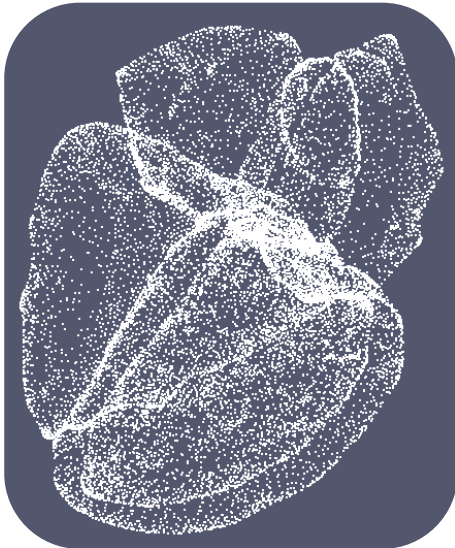


Figure 4: Different heart shapes¹

¹M. Unberath et al. (2015-July), "[Open-source 4D statistical shape model of the heart for x-ray projection imaging](#)". Proc ISBI 2017, pp. 739–742

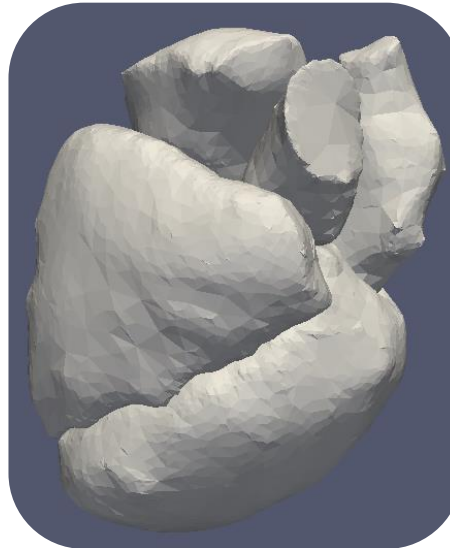
Data Representation

Point Cloud



Set of K 3-D points
 $\mathbf{p}_i \in \mathbb{R}^3, i \in \{1, \dots, K\}$

Mesh



...with connectivity
information (edges)

...

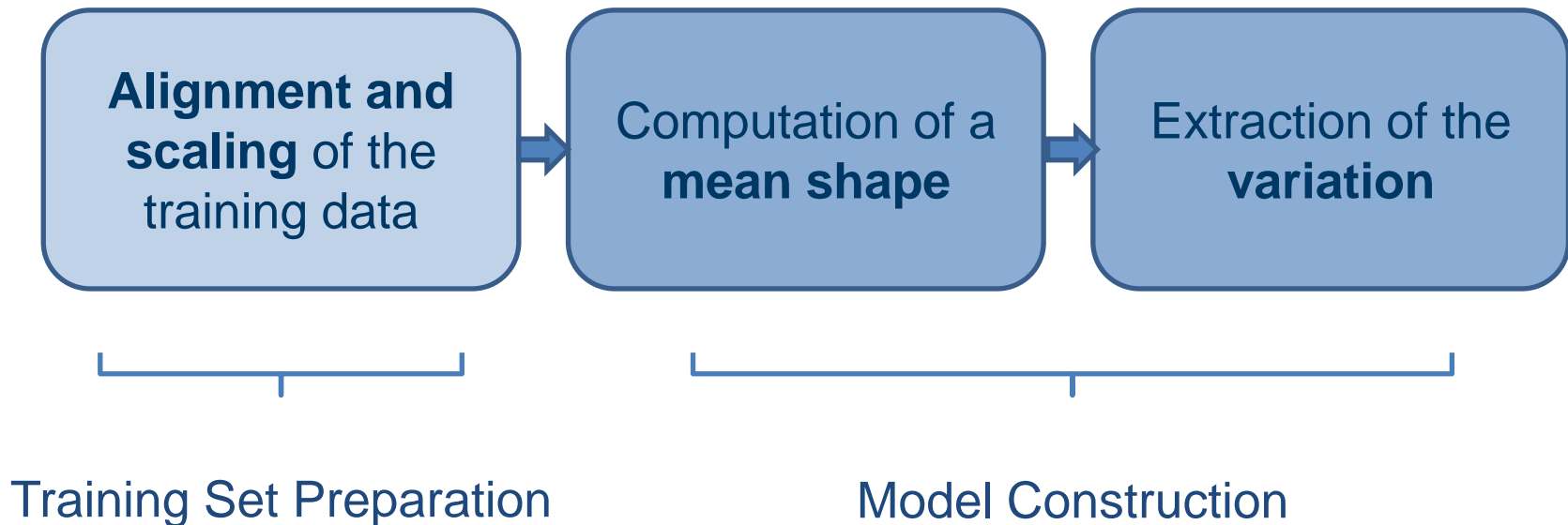
- B-splines
- NURBS
- Segmented volumetric images

Point correspondence
or ways to establish it
are crucial.²

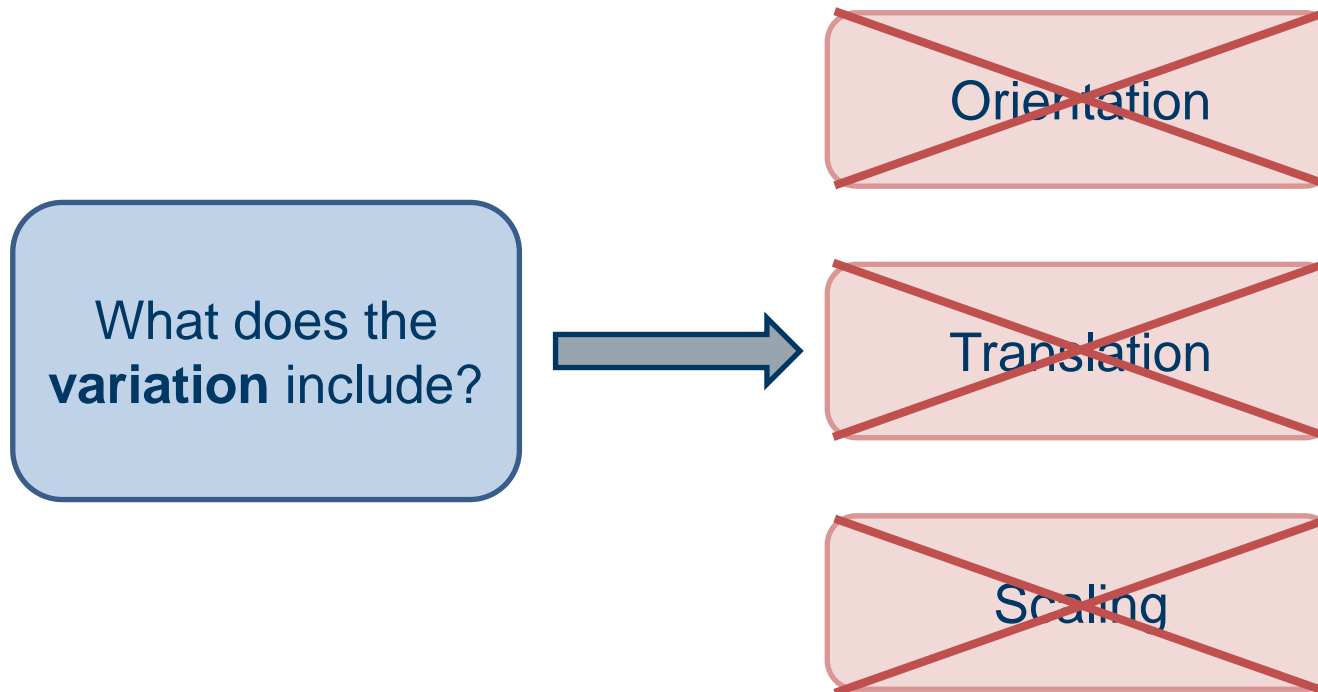
²A. Sinha et al. (2017-February), „Simultaneous segmentation and correspondence improvement using statistical modes“, Med Imag: Imag Proc, vol. 10133, p. 101331B

Model Creation Pipeline

To create a statistical shape model, representative **training data** of shapes within a given **population** is needed. This data is used in the following pipeline:



Alignment and Scaling



Any variation that is not supposed to be modeled needs to be removed prior to model construction.

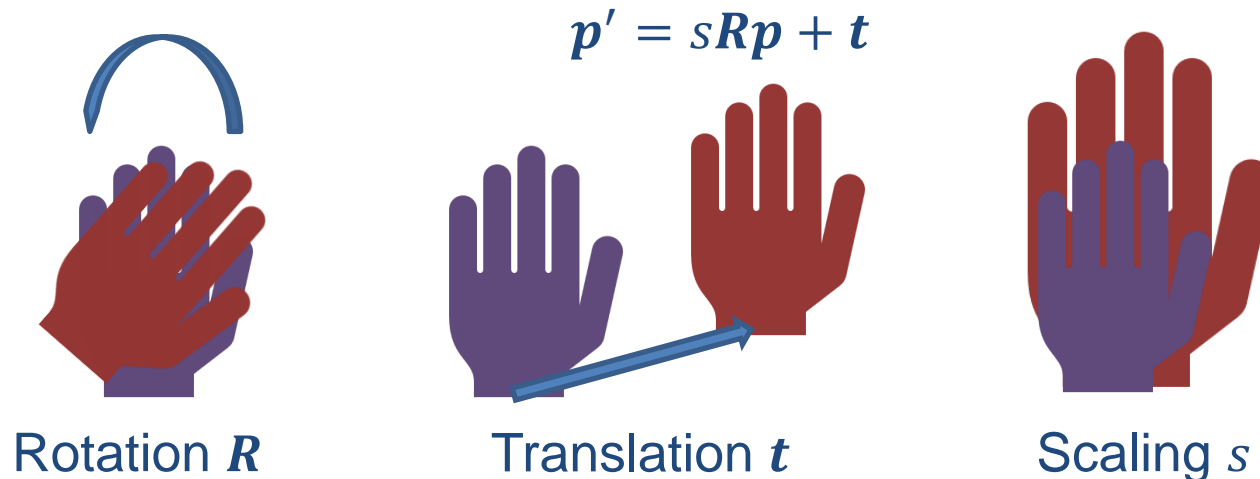
Alignment and Scaling

What does the **variation** include?

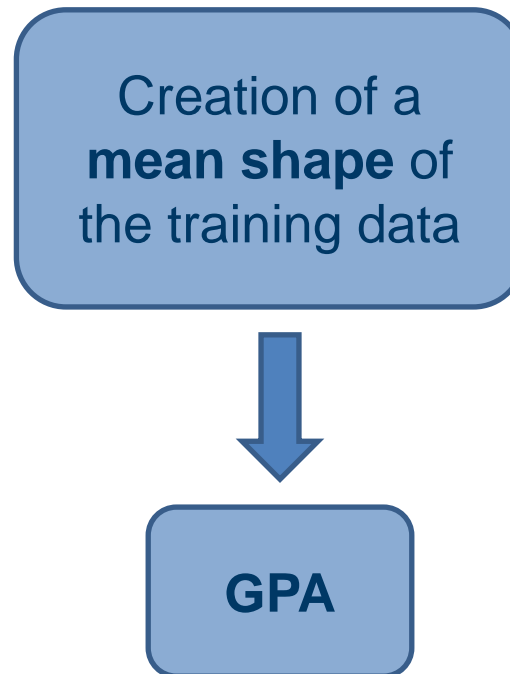


Only actual differences between the shapes.

Remove rotation, translation and scaling from the training data!



Computation of a Mean Shape



Generalized Procrustes Analysis (GPA)³ is used to iteratively determine a mean shape to which all shapes in the training set have minimal distance (includes alignment and scaling).

³J. C. Gower et al. (1975), "Generalized Procrustes Analysis", Psychometrika, vol. 40, pp. 33–51

Extraction of Variation

Principal Component Analysis (PCA)



Eigenvectors of the
covariance matrix of the
training data

The idea of **Principal Component Analysis (PCA)** is to extract the principal modes of variation by computing the eigenvectors of the covariance matrix.

Principal Component Analysis (PCA)

Training
data matrix

$$Y = (\mathbf{x}_1, \mathbf{x}_2, \dots, \mathbf{x}_N) \in \mathbb{R}^{3K \times N}$$

with zero-
centered
samples

$$\mathbf{x}_i \in \mathbb{R}^{3K}$$

Covariance
matrix

$$C = \frac{1}{N-1} \mathbf{Y}\mathbf{Y}^T \in \mathbb{R}^{3K \times 3K}$$

Principal Component Analysis (PCA)

Eigen-
equation

$$C\Phi_j = \lambda_j\Phi_j$$

The **eigenvectors** Φ_j corresponding to the **eigenvalues** λ_j of the covariation matrix C represent the directions of variation present in the data. To get the **principal modes of variation** of the statistical shape model, the first M eigenvectors are chosen.

What is M ?

Principal Component Analysis (PCA)

Cumulative
variance

$$\text{var}(M) = \frac{\sum_{j=1}^M \lambda_j}{\sum_{k=1}^{3K} \lambda_k}$$

The **number of components** M is determined by the **cumulative variance** exceeding a certain threshold, e.g. 90 %. This means that **90 % of the variation** in the training data can be explained by the first M eigenvectors.

(Truncated)
basis of
eigenvectors

$$\Phi = [\Phi_1, \dots, \Phi_M] \in \mathbb{R}^{3K \times M}$$

PCA Using Singular Value Decomposition

Diagonalized
covariance
matrix

$$C = ULU^T$$

The covariance matrix is symmetric and can be diagonalized with $U \in \mathbb{R}^{3K \times 3K}$, a **matrix of eigenvectors**, and $L \in \mathbb{R}^{3K \times 3K}$, a **diagonal matrix of the eigenvalues** in decreasing order.

SVD of the
data matrix Y

$$Y = USV^T$$

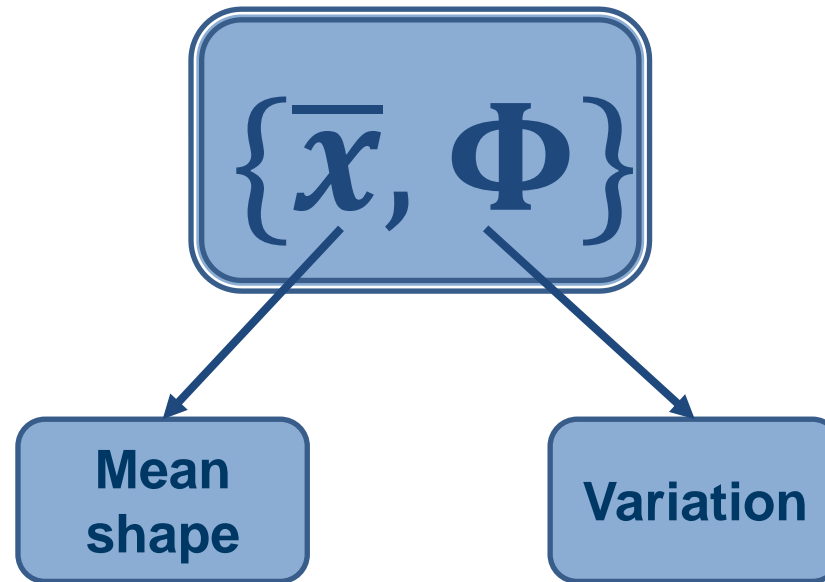
$U \in \mathbb{R}^{3K \times 3K}$ and $V \in \mathbb{R}^{N \times N}$ are **unitary matrices** and $S \in \mathbb{R}^{3K \times N}$ contains the **singular values** on the diagonal.

PCA Using Singular Value Decomposition

$$\begin{aligned} C &= \frac{1}{N-1} (USV^T)(USV^T)^T \\ &= \frac{1}{N-1} USV^T V S U^T \\ &= U \frac{S^2}{N-1} U^T \end{aligned}$$

This shows that the **singular values of the data matrix** are related to the **eigenvalues of the covariance matrix** via $\lambda_i = \frac{s_i^2}{N-1}$.

Trained SSM



$$x_i = \bar{x} + \Phi w_i + \epsilon$$

$$w_i \in \mathbb{R}^M, \epsilon \in \mathbb{R}^{3K}$$

Shapes can be expressed as a linear combination of eigenvectors given the **feature weights** w_i .
 ϵ is the **residual error** due to variance not explained by the model.

SSM: Functionality

reconstructShape (weights \mathbf{w})

Reconstruct a shape $\mathbf{x}(\mathbf{w})$ from the model, given a set of feature weights $\mathbf{w} \in \mathbb{R}^M$:

$$\mathbf{x}(\mathbf{w}) = \bar{\mathbf{x}} + \Phi \mathbf{w}$$

reduceDim (shape \mathbf{x})

A corresponding, scaled and aligned shape $\mathbf{x} \in \mathbb{R}^{3K}$ can be projected onto the model basis directly to obtain low-dimensional feature representation:

$$\mathbf{w}_x = \Phi^T (\mathbf{x} - \bar{\mathbf{x}})$$

SSM: Functionality

fitModel (shape \mathbf{y})

A scaled and aligned shape $\mathbf{y} \in \mathbb{R}^{3L \times 1}$ of different size without known point correspondence requires fitting by iteratively optimizing:

$$\min_{\mathbf{w}} \|\mathbf{f}(\mathbf{y}, \mathbf{x}(\mathbf{w})) - \mathbf{x}(\mathbf{w})\|^2$$

with

- $\mathbf{x}(\mathbf{w}) = \bar{\mathbf{x}} + \Phi \mathbf{w}$,
- and $\mathbf{f}(\mathbf{y}, \mathbf{x})$ being a matching operator (e.g. k-d tree) which yields a corresponding point in point cloud \mathbf{y} to each point in \mathbf{x} .

Weight Restriction

Weights are usually restricted to only allow “reasonable” shapes to be constructed.

Assuming the data follows a normal distribution*, feature weights w_j are bounded within a certain range of the standard deviation $\sqrt{\lambda_j}$.

$$-3\sqrt{\lambda_j} \leq w_j \leq 3\sqrt{\lambda_j},$$

$$j \in \{1, \dots, M\}$$

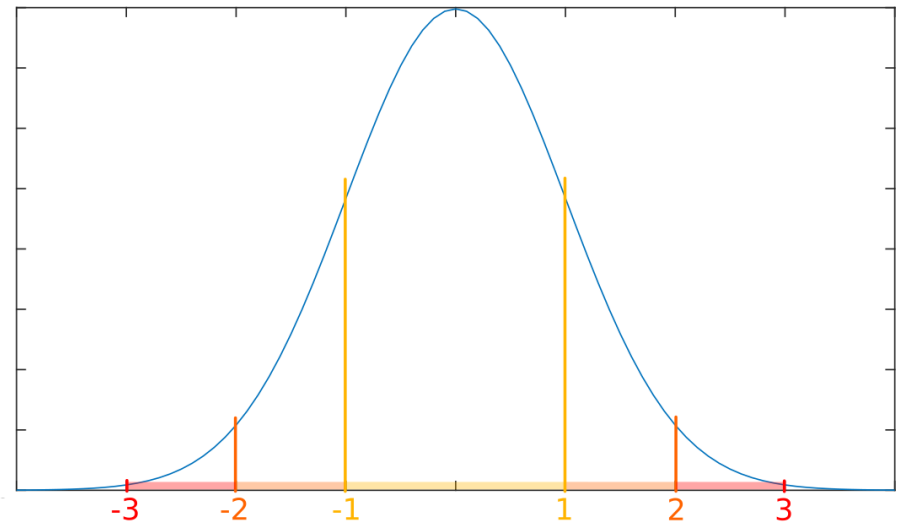
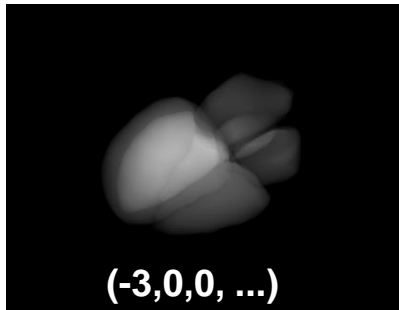


Figure 5: Gaussian bell curve with multiples of the standard deviation

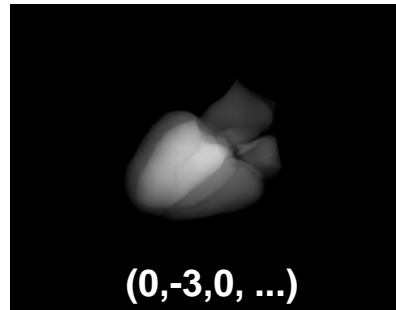
* This, again, illustrates the need for many training data sets.

Main Modes of the Cardiac Model

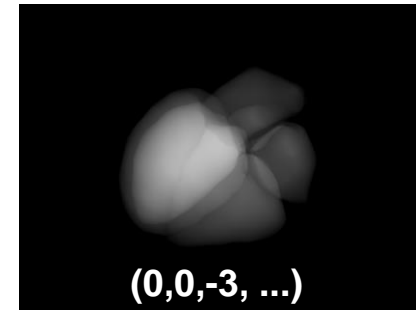
$$\sqrt{\lambda_1}$$



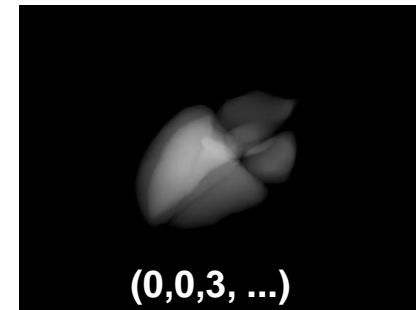
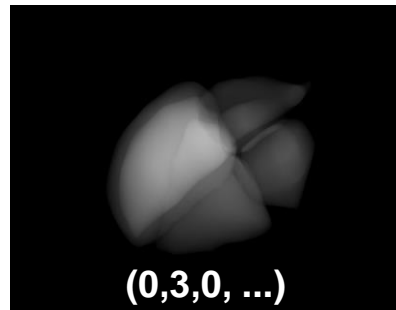
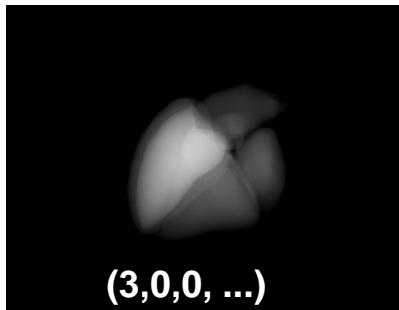
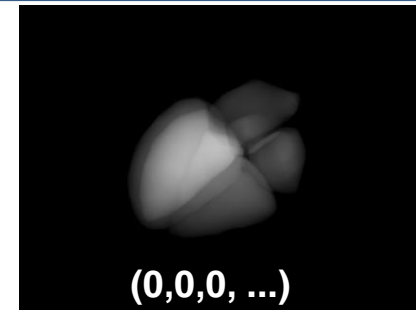
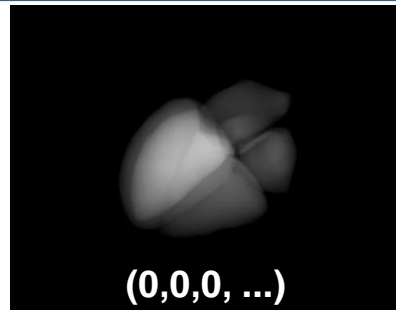
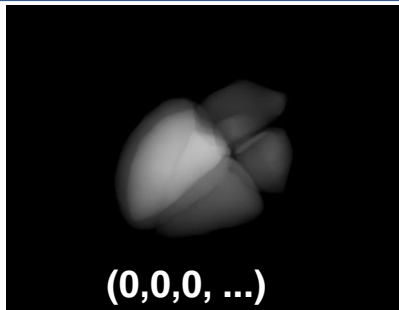
$$\sqrt{\lambda_2}$$



$$\sqrt{\lambda_3}$$



Mean shape



Tutorial Code

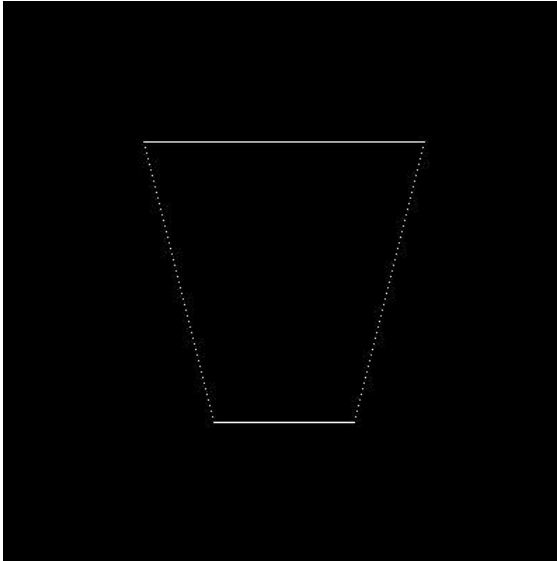


Figure 6: Shape 1

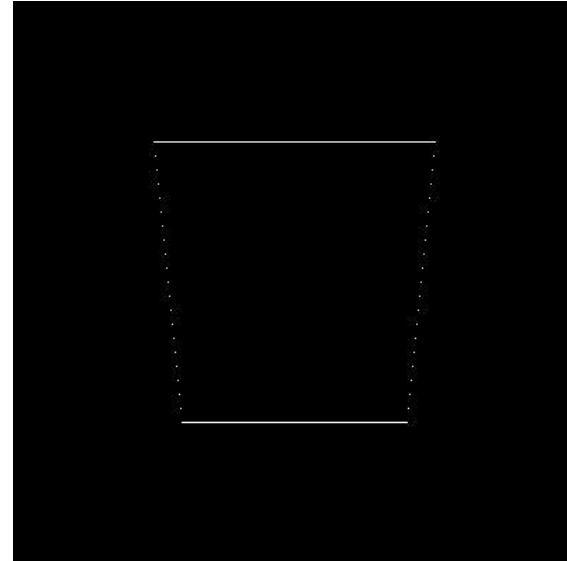


Figure 7: Shape 2

The tutorial code uses shape 1 and shape 2 to create a simple **Statistical Shape Model**.^{**}

^{**} In reality, much larger data sets are needed for training.

Tutorial Code

First, **GPA** is used to create the **mean shape (consensus)**:

```
GPA gpa = new GPA(2);  
gpa.addElement(0, shape1);  
gpa.addElement(1, shape2);  
gpa.runGPA();  
SimpleMatrix consensus = gpa.getScaledAndShiftedConsensus();
```

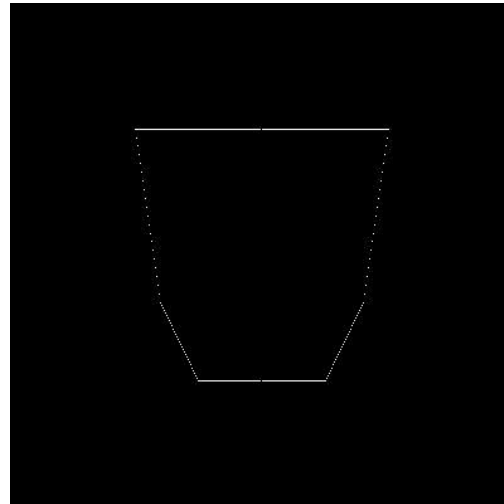


Figure 8: Mean shape

Tutorial Code

Then the **PCA** is run on the data matrix:

```
DataMatrix datam = new DataMatrix(gpa);  
PCA pca = new PCA(datam);  
pca.run();
```

And the **statistical shape model** is created:

```
ActiveShapeModel asm = new ActiveShapeModel(pca);
```

Tutorial Code

Now, **different weights** can be used to create new shapes:

```
double[] weights = {1, 0};  
Mesh mesh1 = asm.getModel(weights);  
SimpleMatrix shape3 = mesh1.getPoints();
```

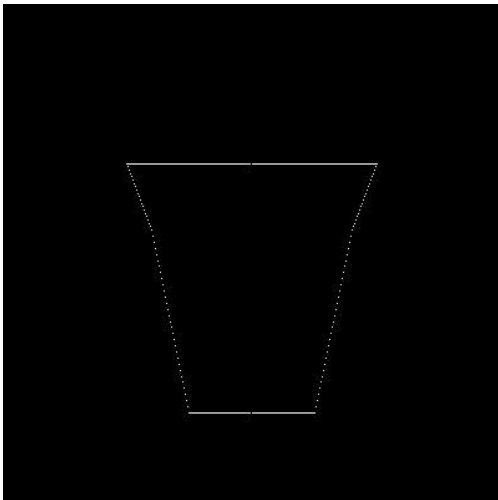


Figure 9: (1, 0)

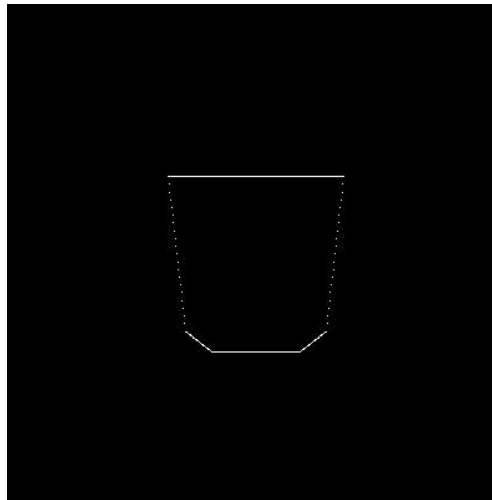


Figure 10: (0, 200)

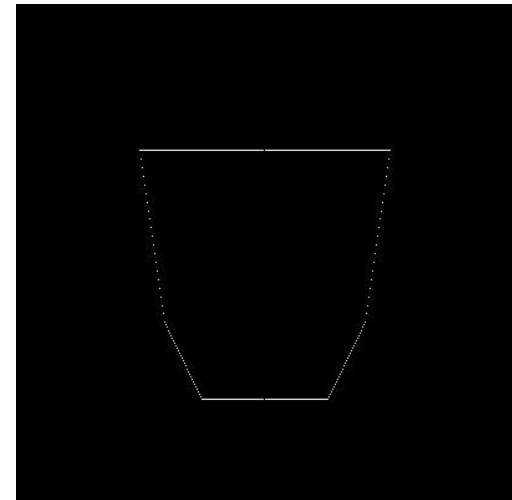


Figure 11: (0, 0)

Limitations of SSMs

- It requires a large population of representative training samples.
- Point correspondences need to be established...
 - ...during preprocessing between samples in the training set.
 - ...during model fit between mean shape and the new shape.
- *Many similarities to point set registration*
- Model fit requires initial guess and is susceptible to misalignments.

References and Further Readings

- M. Unberath et al. (2015-July), “Open-Source 4D Statistical Shape Model of the Heart for X-ray Projection Imaging”, Proc. ISBI 2015, pp. 739–742
- T. Cootes (2000), “An Introduction to Active Shape Models”, in Model-based Methods in Analysis of Biomedical Images (Oxford Univ Press) Chap. 7, pp. 223–248
- T. Heimann, H. Meinzer (2009), “Statistical Shape Models for 3D Medical Image Segmentation: A Review”, Medical Image Analysis, vol.13, pp. 543–563
- J. C. Gower et al. (1975), “Generalized Procrustes Analysis”, Psychometrika, vol. **40**, pp. 33–51
- A. Sinha et al. (2017-February), „Simultaneous segmentation and correspondence improvement using statistical modes“, in Medical Imaging: Image Processing, vol. 10133, p. 101331B