

# Epilogue

Everything created by humans has its beginning and its end. At the end of this book, we would like to say that this is just a first step towards a much deeper exposition of the topics discussed inside. First, because they are not treated with the completeness that we would like, and second, because there remain many examples in the physical world in which the elastica plays a principal role but which were not touched on here.

We concretely have in mind the free rotations of a rigid body about a fixed point, the Dubins problem concerning the flight of airplanes, trajectories of a material ball rolling in the plane, the three-dimensional elasticas, and probably many others which we do not suspect at this time.

We are, however, firmly convinced that glimpses of elastica are everywhere around us, and we have just to feel their presence and be struck again with admiration by this confluence of nature and geometry.

We will certainly be thankful to everyone who sends us comments, remarks or suggestions.