

Establishing Acceptable Manual Forces in the Proactive Ergonomics Process: Development and Implementation of the Arm Force Field Method

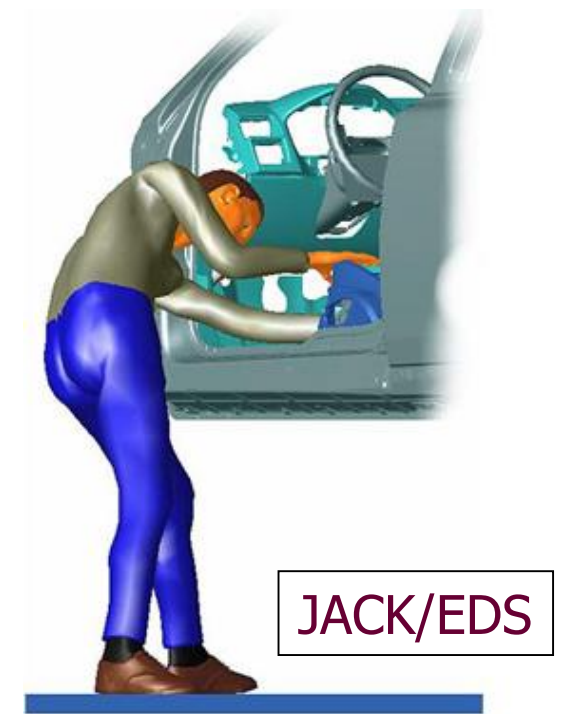
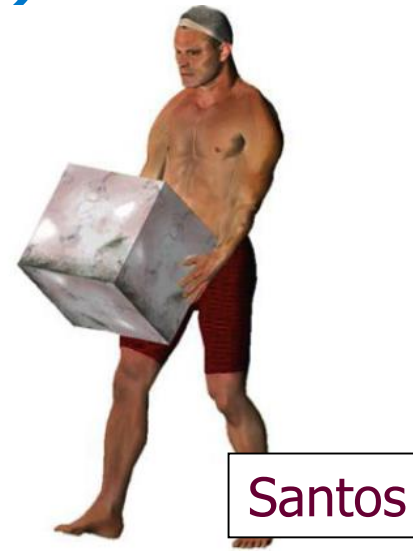
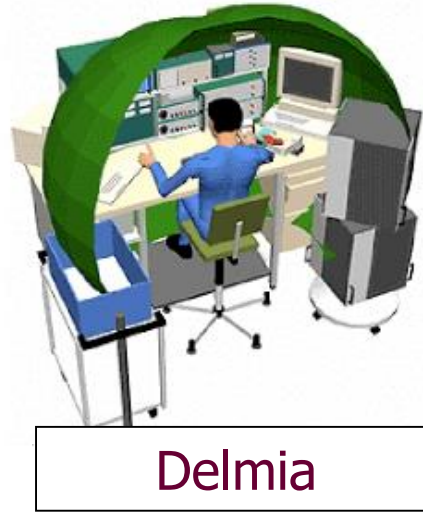
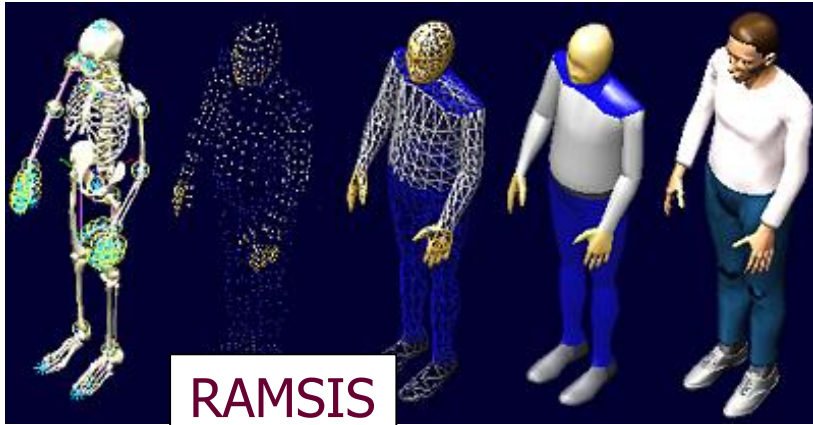


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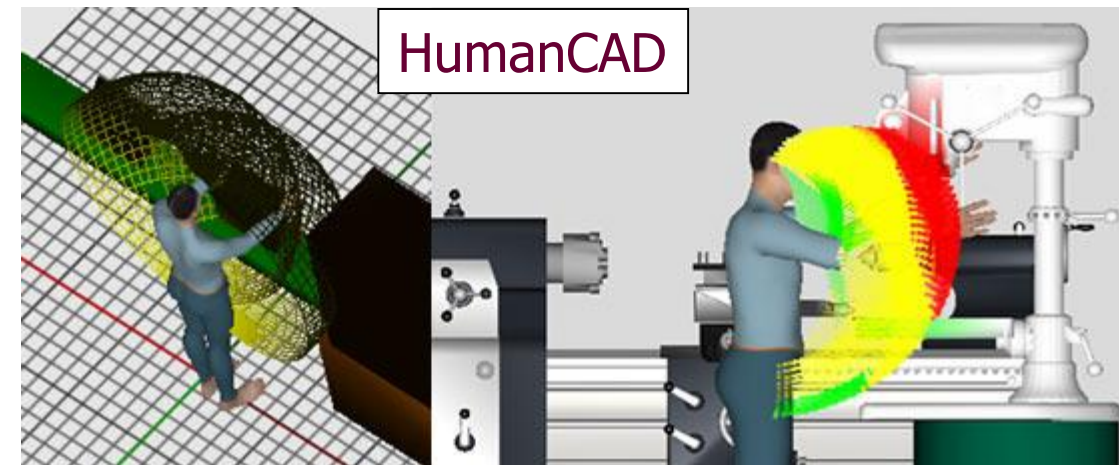
Presentation Order

1. Digital Human Models in Ergonomics
 - Background and utilization
 - Estimating acceptable hand loads
2. Evaluation of traditional strength prediction approaches
3. The Arm Force Field (AFF) Method
 - Theoretical development
 - Validation
 - Implementation within DHM
4. Using AFF to determine acceptable hand loads

Digital Human Models (DHMs)

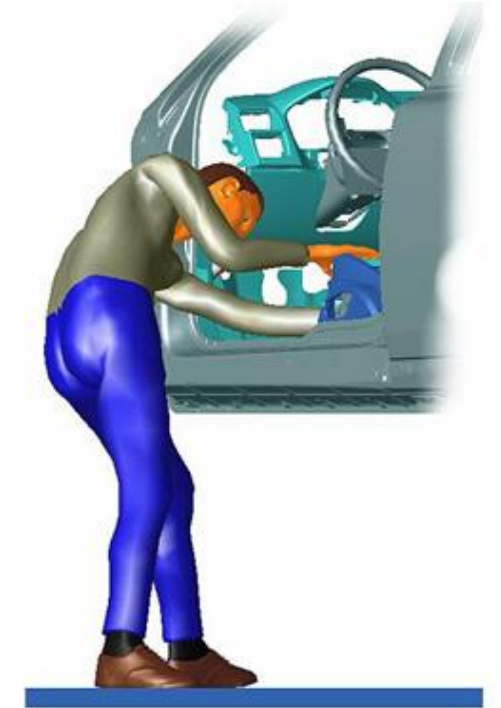
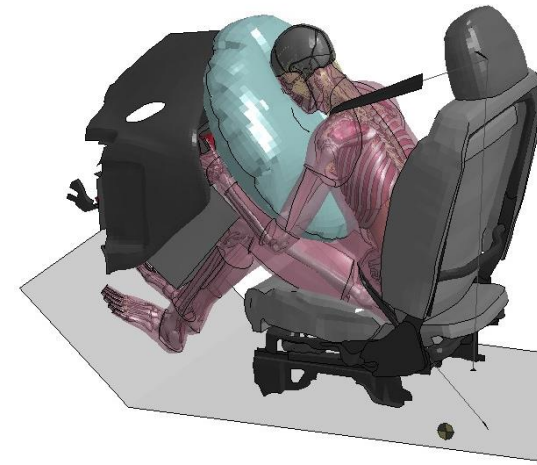


- **As a technology:**
 - Provides a means to create, control and manipulate human representations in a digital environment
- **As a fundamental area of study:**
 - Development of mathematical models that predict the biomechanics, physiology and behaviour of humans



Why use DHMs

- Analysis of disorders, impairments, surgical techniques
 - Integration and interaction of biomechanical models
- Injury analysis
 - Crash testing, impacts, falls
- Product & Method Testing
- **Work simulation & Process Design**
 - Anthropometric considerations
 - Reach envelopes
 - Hand clearance
 - Tooling
 - Vision requirements
- **Ergonomics/Human Factors**
 - Posture Prediction
 - Strength demands
 - Fatigue estimation



Proactive vs. Reactive Ergonomics

PROACTIVE

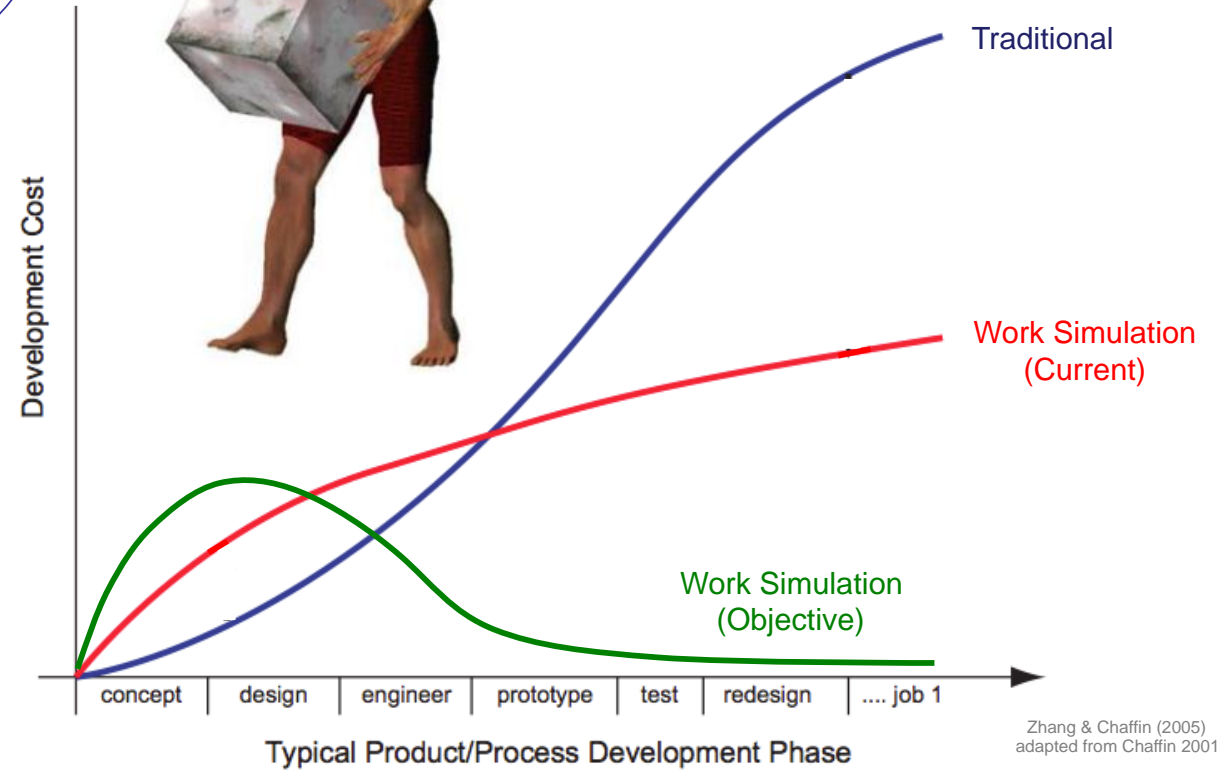
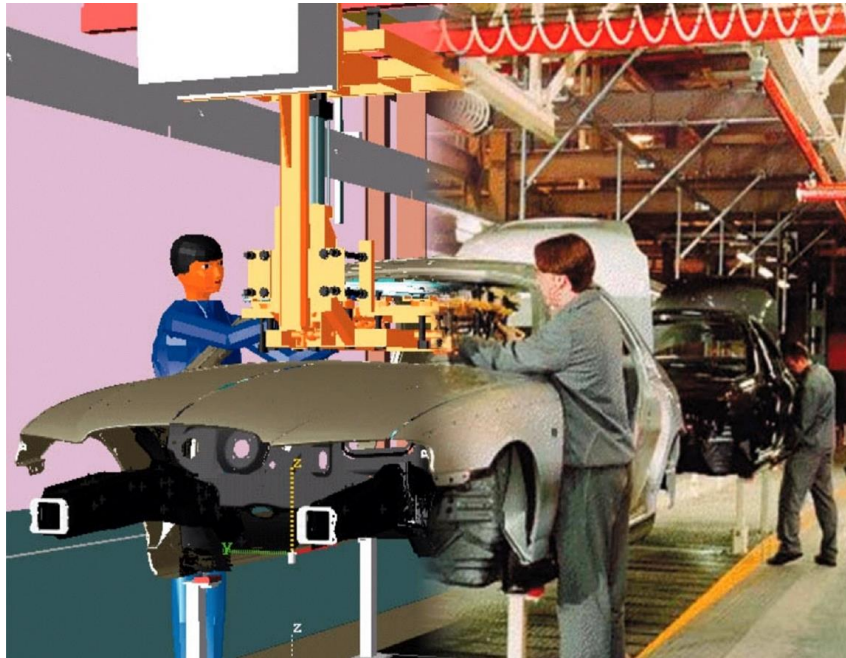
REACTIVE

During Initial Design Process

After the Job has been Installed but before any Sign of Injury

After Complaints have been made

After Compensable Injuries have Occurred

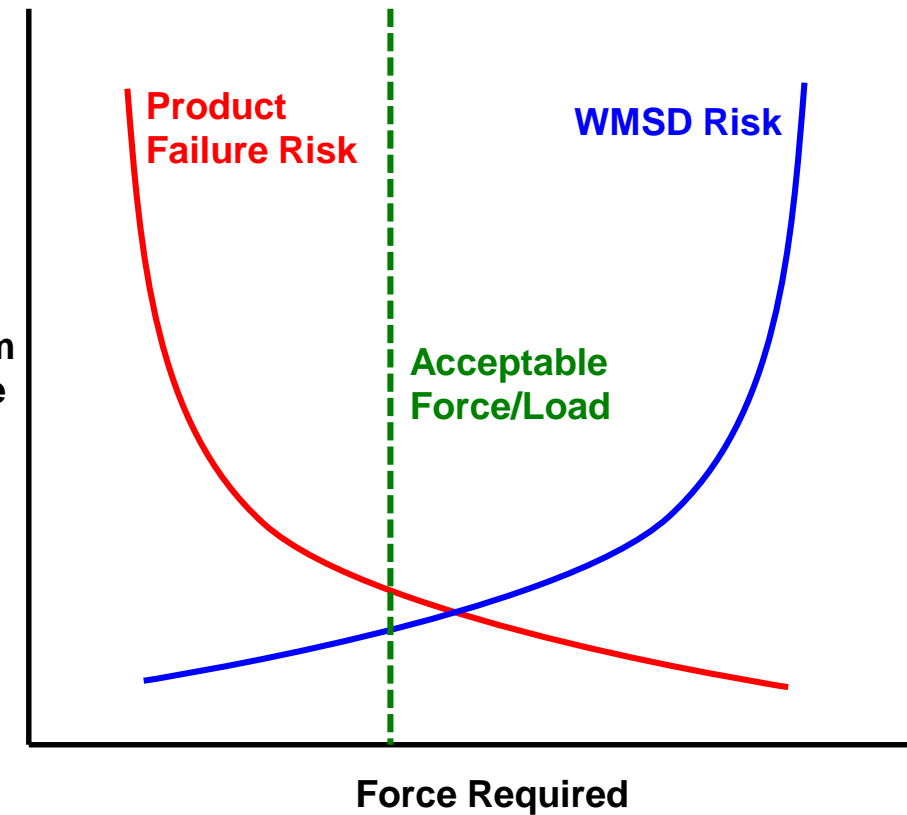


Zhang & Chaffin (2005)
adapted from Chaffin 2001

Strength Demands & Capacity



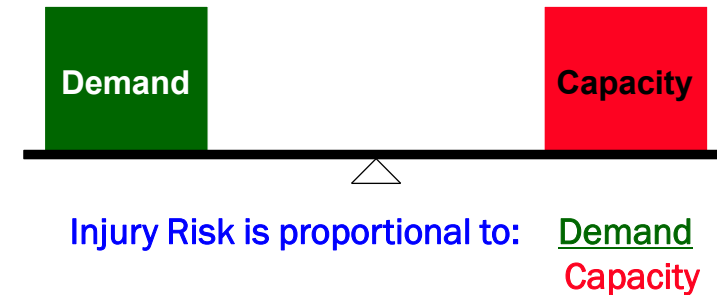
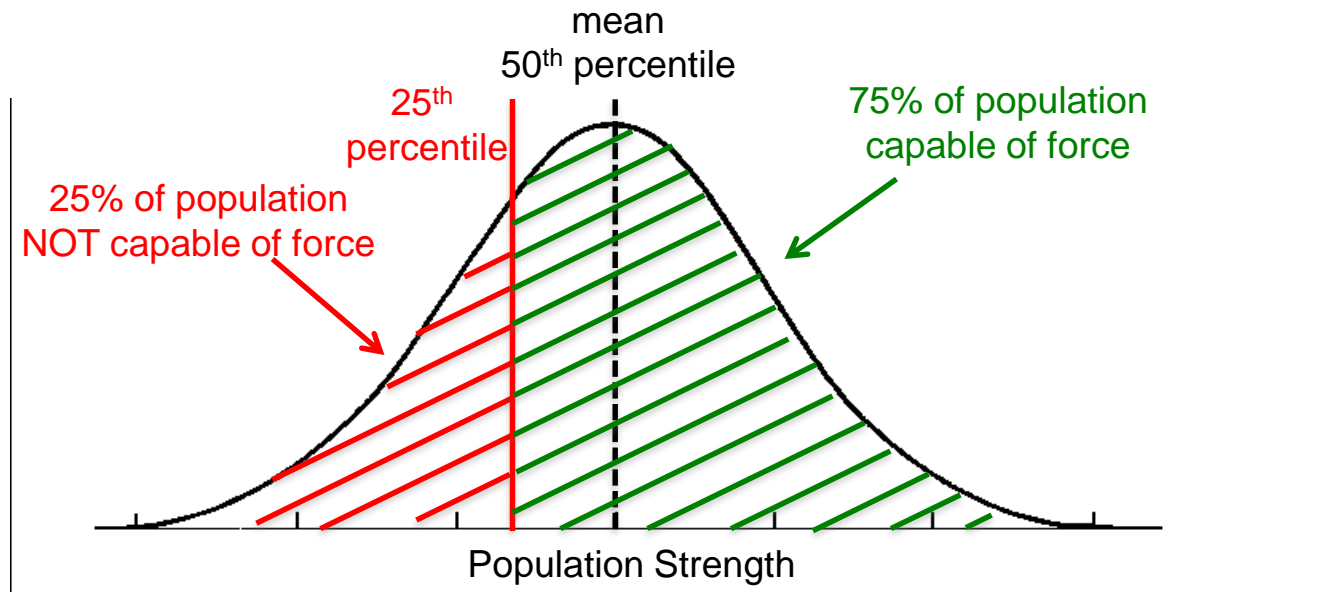
System Failure



- Most types of jobs: require force/torque production
- So... make required forces as low as possible... problem solved??
 - quality/safety issues for end user of product (and expensive)
- So... make required forces as high as possible...
 - WMSD risk will increase

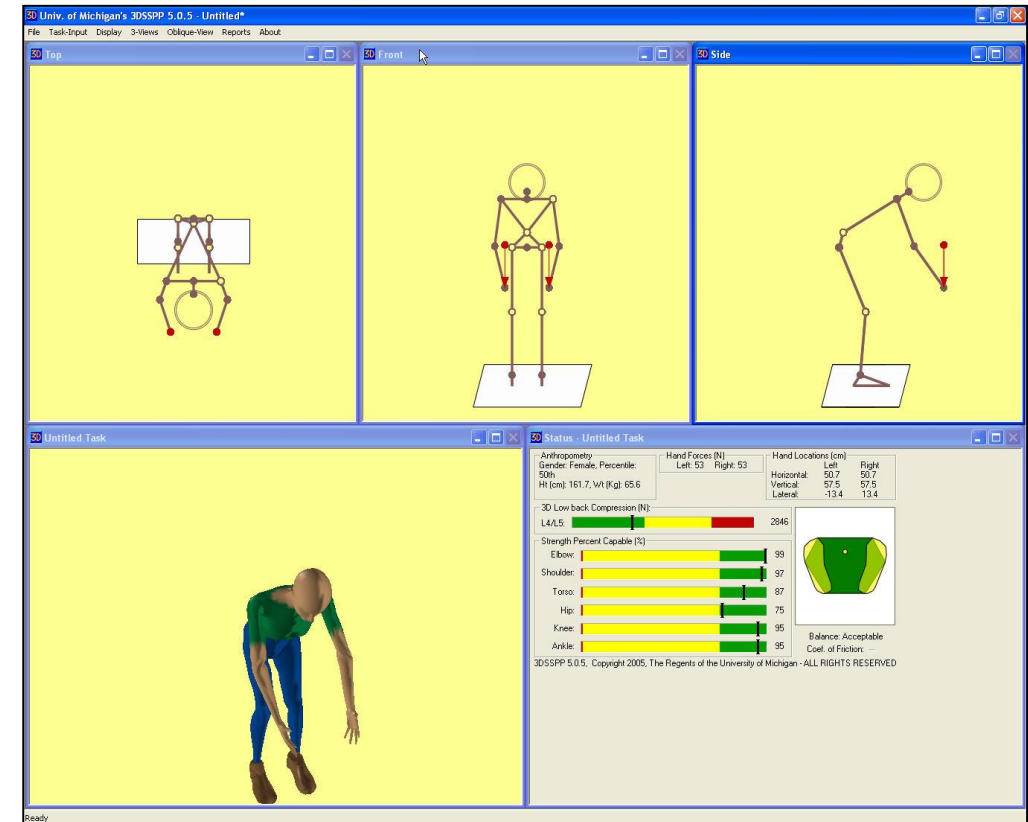
Determining acceptable loads

- **How do we set force levels so that people do not get hurt?**
 - Design for the strength capability of 75% of females
 - “a worker is three times more susceptible to low back injury if performing a manual handling task that is acceptable to less than 75% of the working population”
 - Snook 1978

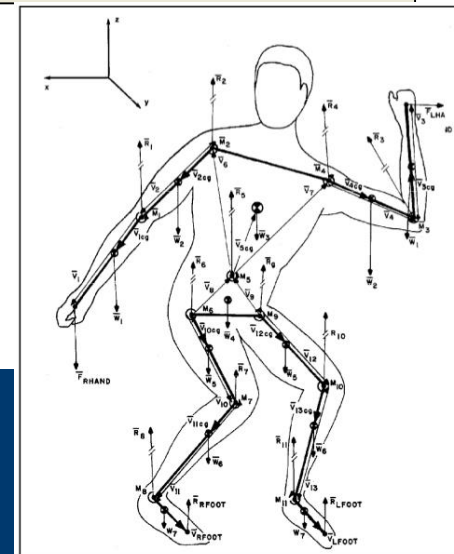
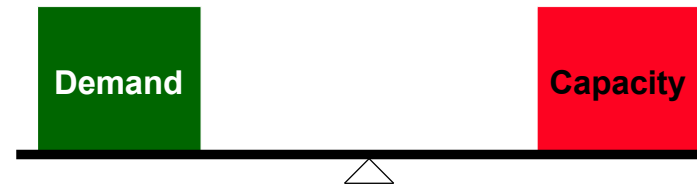


Strength Prediction in DHMs

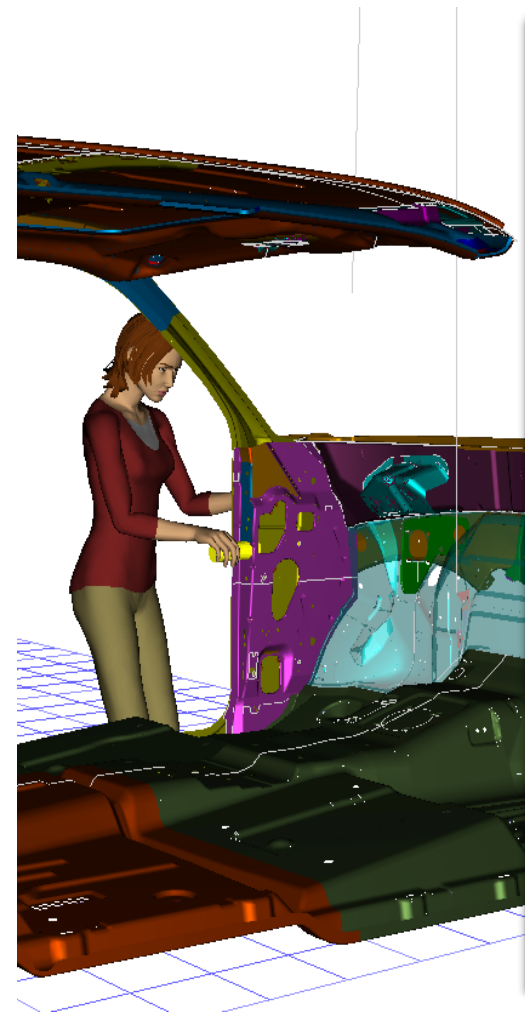
- Linked-segment biomechanical models
 - determine moment demand on each joint
 - given posture & external force
- Compare joint **demand** to joint strength **capacity**
 - estimated from equations



3DSSPP (University of Michigan)



Strength Prediction in DHMs



ForceSolver

Human: human

Forces

Left hand
Site: palm.palmcenter | 1.0 N
X: 0.0 | Y: -1.0 | Z: 0.0

Right hand
Site: palm.palmcenter | 21.66 N
X: 0.0 | Y: 0.0 | Z: -1.0

Clear all figure loads

Support

Force distribution strategy: two feet

Supporting Hand: none

External Support: none

Frequency and Duration

Use frequency/duration compensation

Frequency: 1.0 | Cycle time (sec): 60.0

Freq/min: 1.0 | Duration: t < 0.2 sec

Limits

Percent capable threshold: 75.0

L4/L5 Compression limit (N): 3400.0

L4/L5 AP shear limit (N): 1000.0

L4/L5 Lateral shear limit (N): 1000.0

Ergonomic Analysis

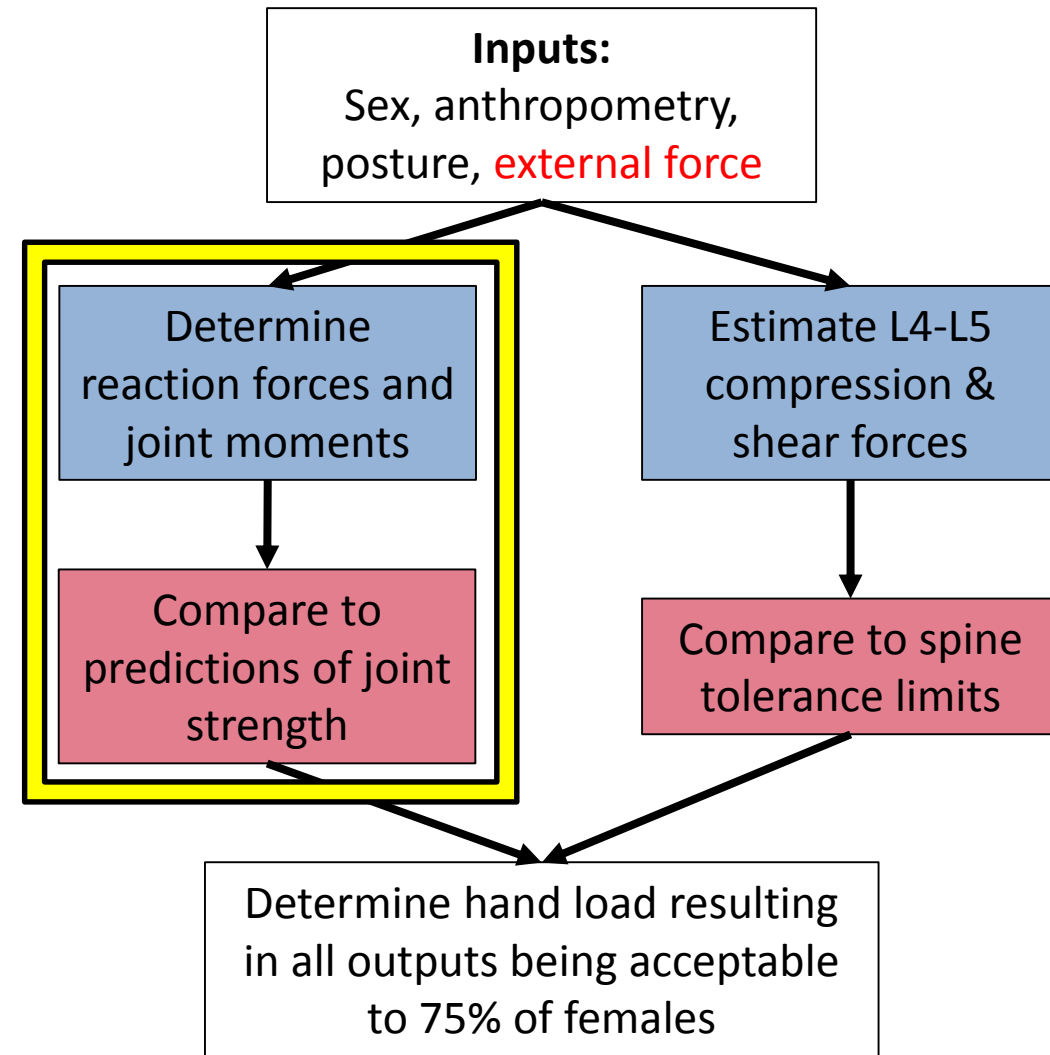
Sort by: Joint | Angle convention: Jack

Joint/Axis	% Capable	Use	Moment (Nm)	Muscle Effect	Angle (deg)	Strength Mean (Nm)	Strd Std (N)
R Wrist Flx	100	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	-0.1	--	12.4	--	--
L Wrist Flx	100	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	0.0	--	67.1	--	--
R Wrist Dev	74	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	-1.1	RAD	41.4	1.4	0.4
L Wrist Dev	100	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	-0.1	--	18.7	--	--
R Wr SuPr	100	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	0.2	--	-60.4	--	--
L Wr SuPr	100	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	0.0	--	-40.5	--	--
R Elbow	100	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	-2.6	FLXN	65.9	39.1	10.3
L Elbow	100	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	-0.9	FLXN	78.9	36.5	9.6
R Sh AbAd	100	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	-2.2	ABD	15.0	38.8	10.2
L Sh AbAd	100	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	-2.3	ABD	15.0	35.1	9.2
R Sh FwBk	99	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	-8.6	FWD	0.0	49.3	16.8
L Sh FwBk	100	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	-0.8	FWD	0.0	44.3	15.1
R Sh Hmrl	99	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	2.5	MED	0.0	26.1	9.7
L Sh Hmrl	100	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	-0.3	--	0.0	--	--
Trunk Flx	100	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	-9.0	FLXN	0.0	163.1	56.3
Trunk Bend	100	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	-0.4	--	0.0	--	--
Trunk Twst	100	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	-7.4	CW	0.0	50.5	15.3
R Hip	100	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	-0.6	EXTN	14.1	103.6	39.1
L Hip	99	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	-4.5	EXTN	14.1	103.6	39.1
R Knee	99	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	14.4	EXTN	23.0	95.9	33.2
L Knee	99	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	18.7	EXTN	23.2	96.0	33.2
R Ankle	100	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	4.1	FLXN	8.4	90.7	24.8
L Ankle	100	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	6.6	FLXN	8.8	91.1	25.0
L4/L5 Comp	50.5	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>					

Solver

Solve | Starting Load (N): 10.0 | Maximum Load (N): 300.0

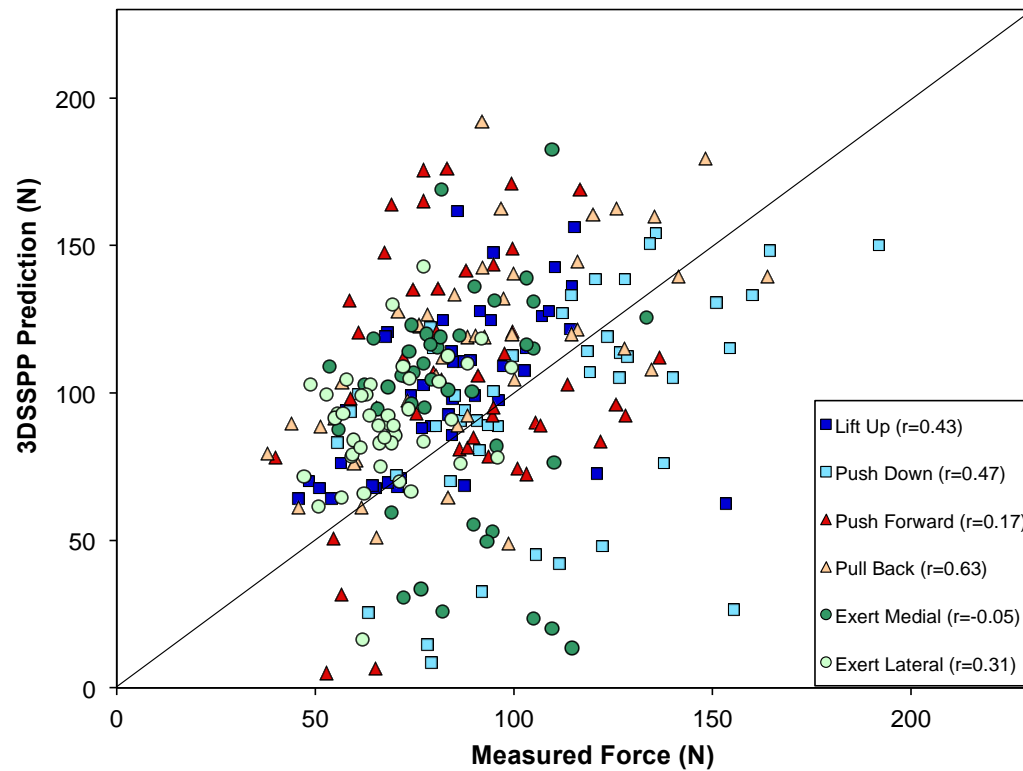
Usage | Reset | Dismiss



Testing Strength Prediction Approaches

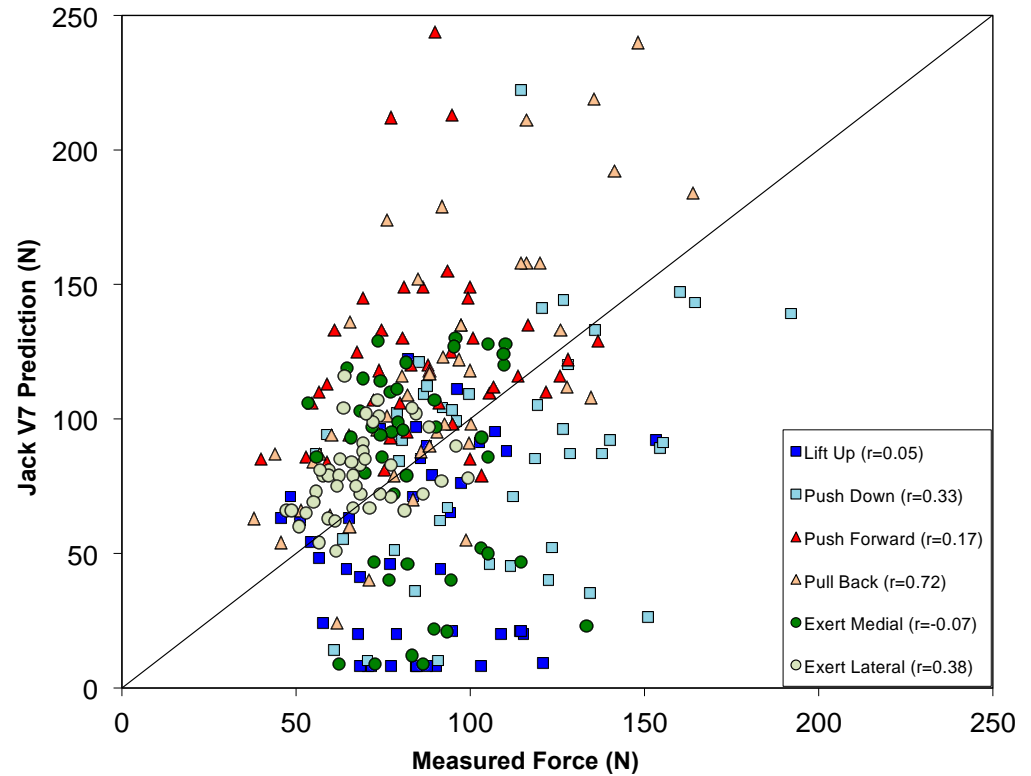
3DSSPP vs. Empirical Data Means

n=264
 $r^2=9.3\%$
RMSD=39 N



Jack vs. Empirical Data Means

n=264
 $R^2=7.8\%$
RMSD=45 N



Testing Current MAS Predictions

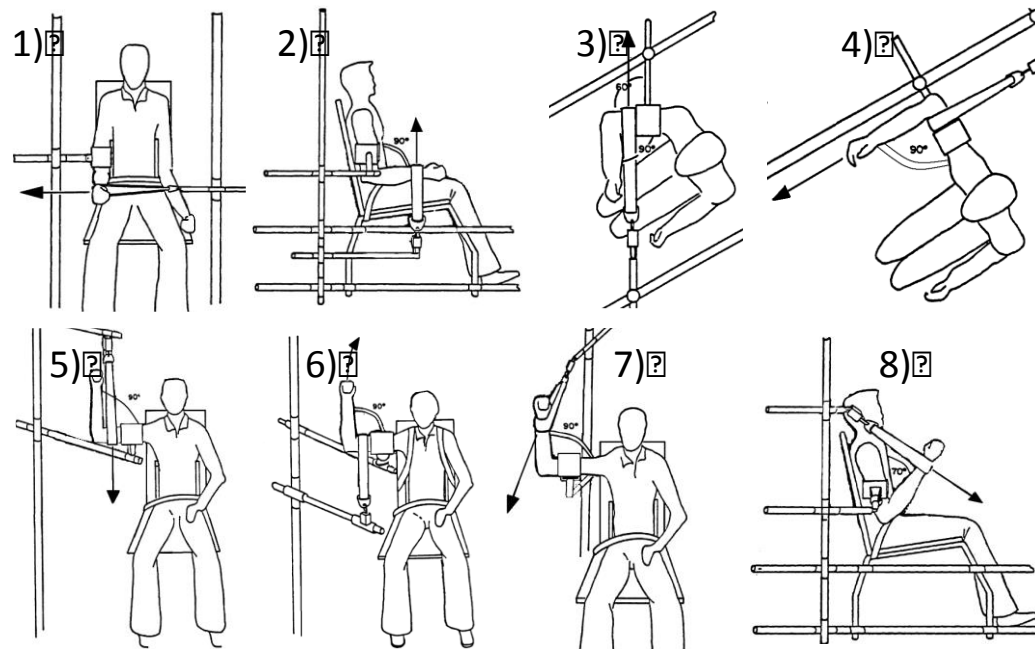
CSB/SCB 2016

July 19-22, 2016
Hamilton, ON

ERGONOMICS SOFTWARE PACKAGES DO NOT ACCURATELY ESTIMATE
MANUAL ARM STRENGTH FOR ERGONOMICS ASSESSMENTS

Andrew D. Hall¹, Nicholas J. La Delfa² & Jim R. Potvin¹

¹Department of Kinesiology, McMaster University, Hamilton, Ontario, Canada. Email: potvinj@mcmaster.ca



Stobbe, 1982

- Andrew Hall M.Sc. Thesis
 - 15 female participants
 - 4 hand locations x 6 directions
 - 24 conditions
 - Removed wrist from strength
 - Measure Stobbe strengths on individual participants
 - Used 3DSSPP method to predict strength
 - Correct for arm posture
 - Compare measured MAS to that estimated with 3DSSPP method
 - Using actual subject strength (not population mean)
- *Represented absolute best chance of this method to accurately predict MAS*

Testing Current MAS Predictions

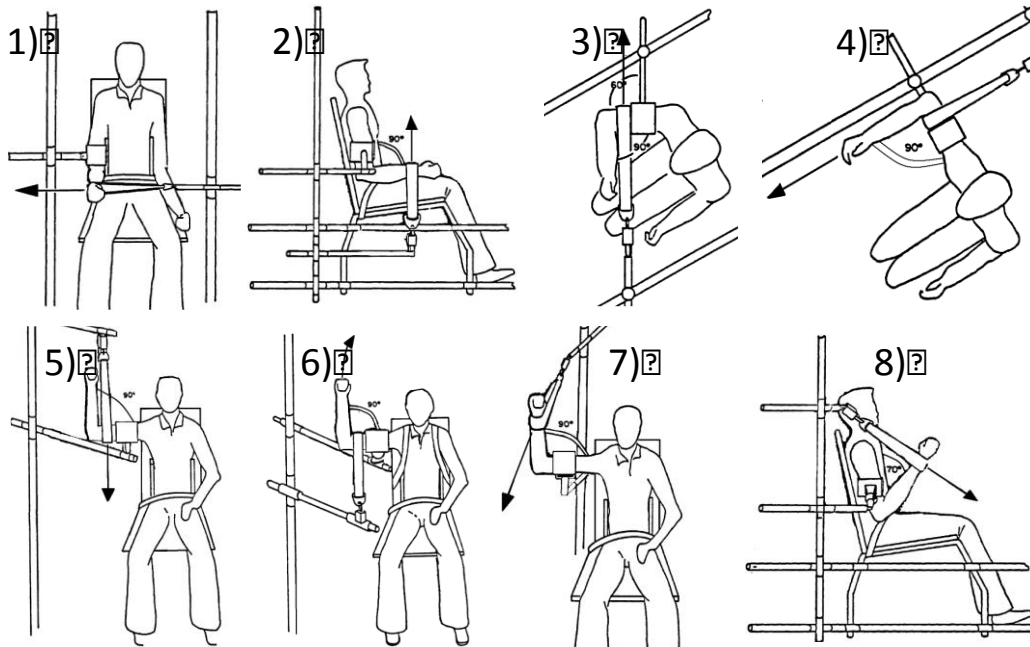
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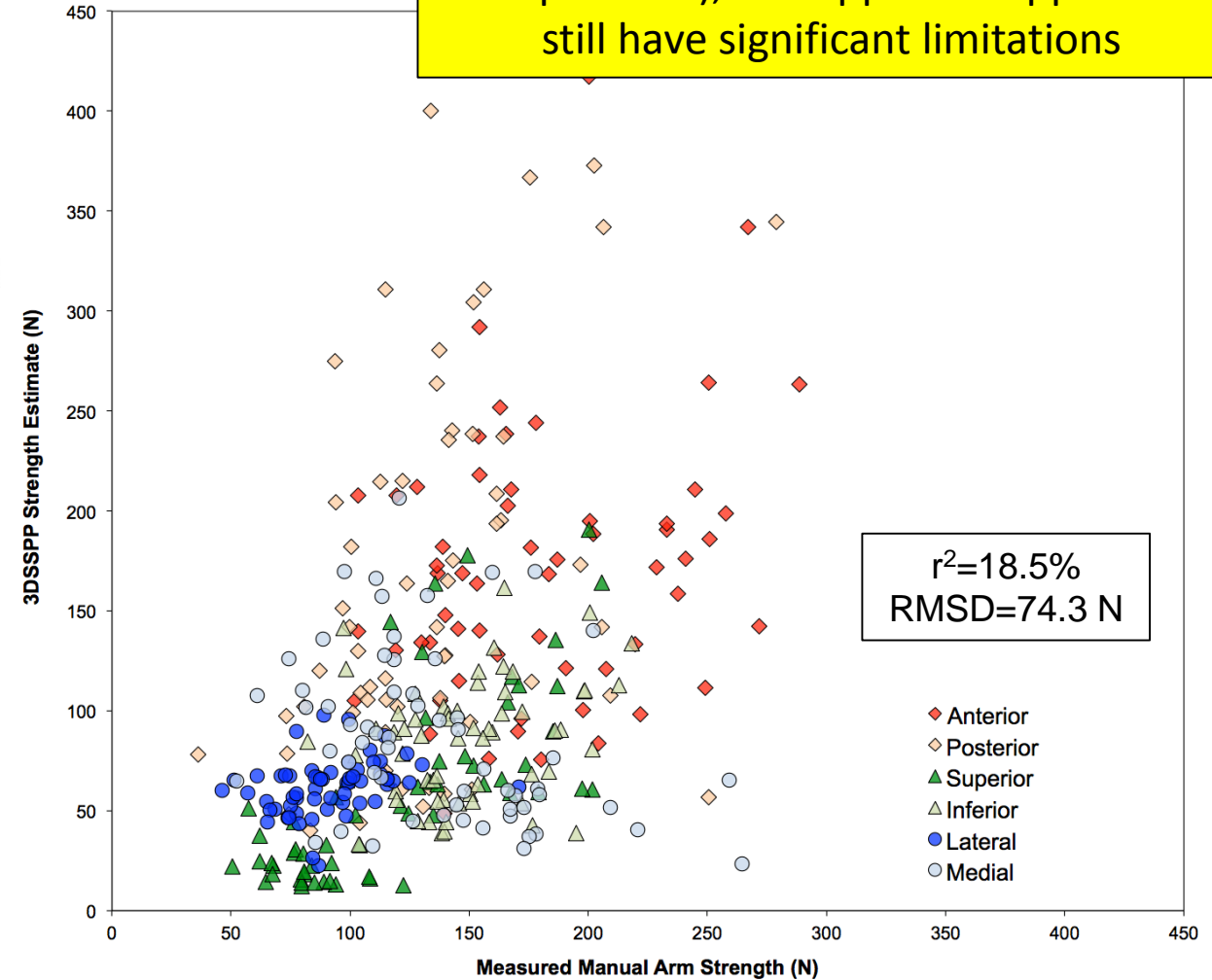
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Stobbe, 1982

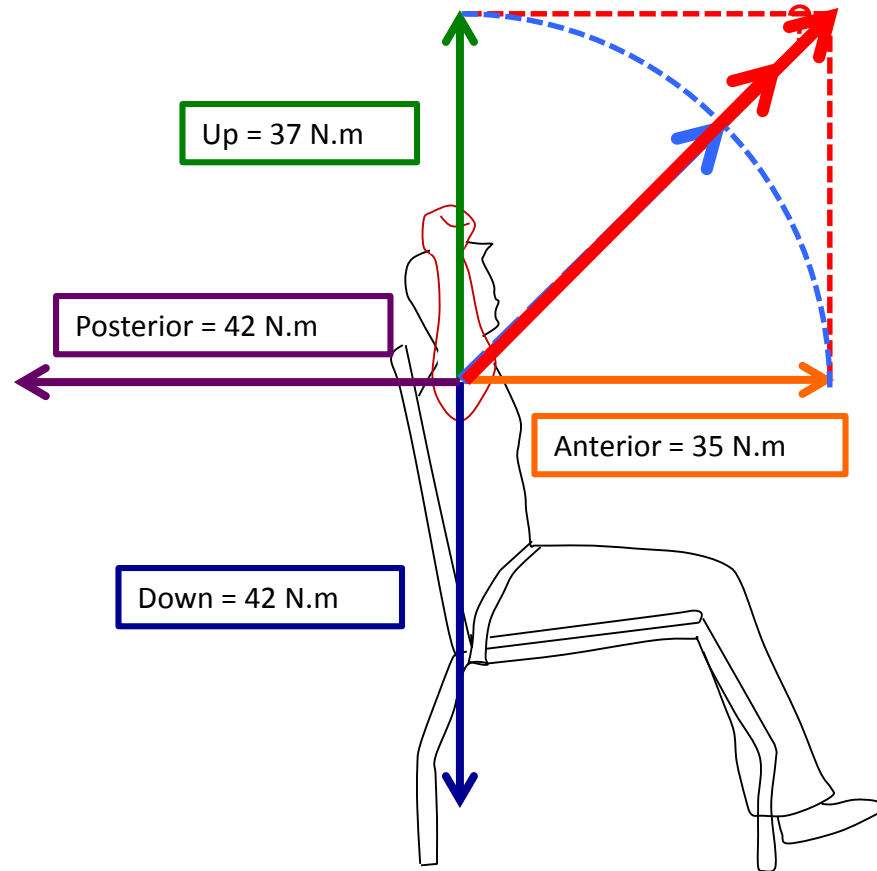
Given absolute best chance (individual rather than population-based comparisons), this approach appears to still have significant limitations



What are the issues?

1. Out-dated & limited strength data
 - Stobbe (1982)
 - ~37 years old
 - Changes in anthropometry/strength of population since?
2. Up to 7 joint strength predictions to estimate manual arm strength
 - Accumulation of errors?
3. Assumes independence of joint strength axes
 - Shoulder (Hodder et al., 2015),

Strength between orthopedic axes



What about Up & Anterior?

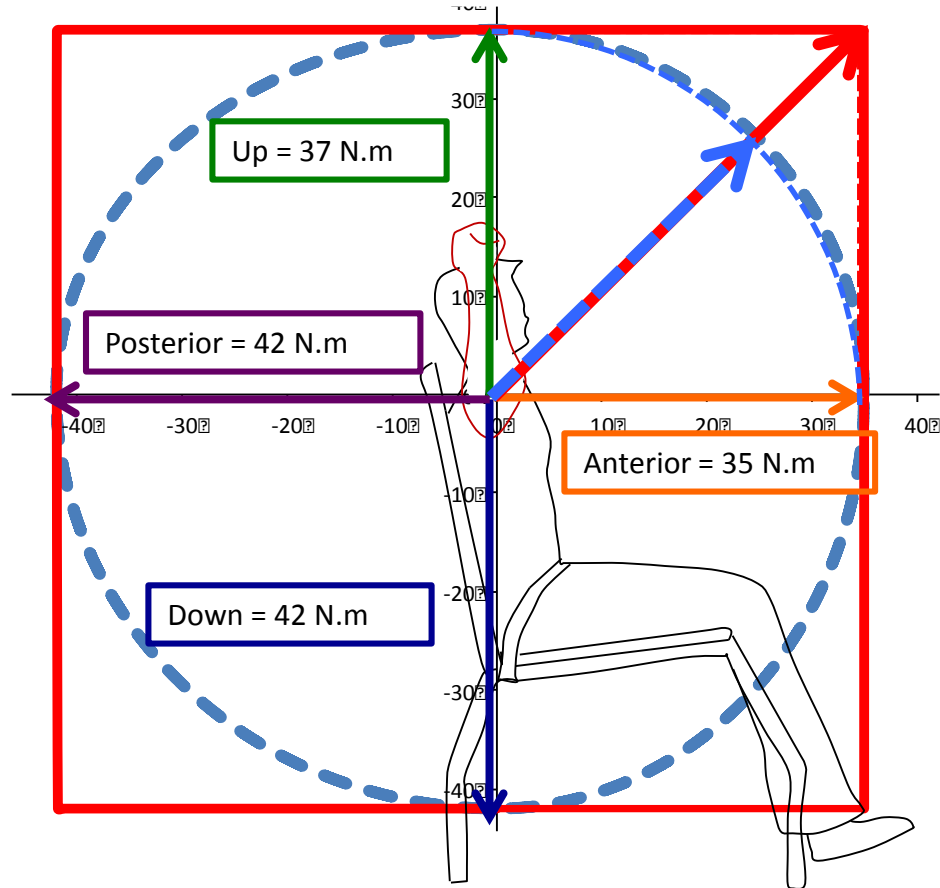
Independent Axis Approach (IAA)

- Currently used in DHMs

Weighted Average Approach (WAA)

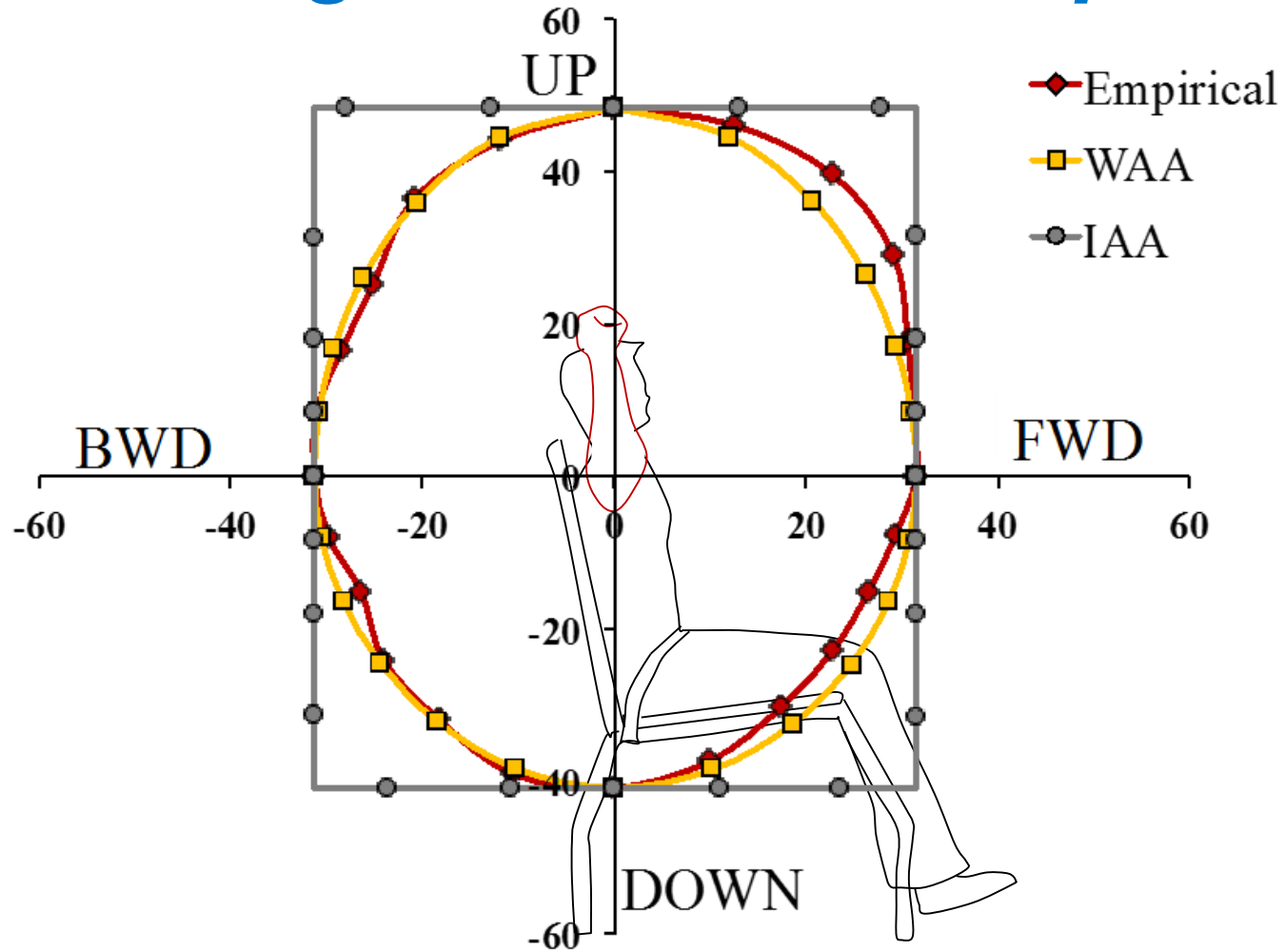
- Weighted average of two orthopedic axis strengths

Strength between orthopedic axes



- Hodder, La Delfa & Potvin (2015)
 - Is the WAA a better predictor of strength between orthopedic axes than the IAA?
 - 15 female subjects
 - dynamic strength about 360 deg

Strength between orthopedic axes



- Hodder, La Delfa & Potvin (2015)
 - Is the WAA a better predictor of strength between orthopedic axes than the IAA?
 - 15 female subjects
 - dynamic strength about 360 deg

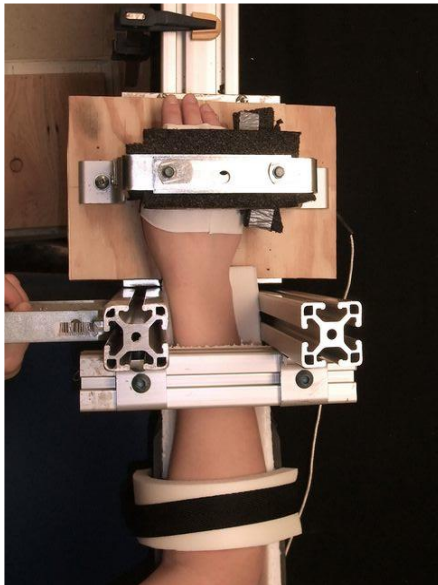
What are the issues?

1. Out-dated & limited strength data
 - Stobbe (1982)
 - ~37 years old
 - Changes in anthropometry/strength of population since?
2. Up to 7 joint strength predictions to estimate manual arm strength
 - Accumulation of errors?
3. Assumes independence of joint strength axes
 - Shoulder (Hodder et al., 2015)
4. Assumes no interaction effects between joint strength axes
 - Wrist (Plewa et al., 2015; La Delfa et al., 2015; La Delfa & Potvin, 2017)
 - Wrist flexion strength does not depend on Radial/Ulnar deviation angle

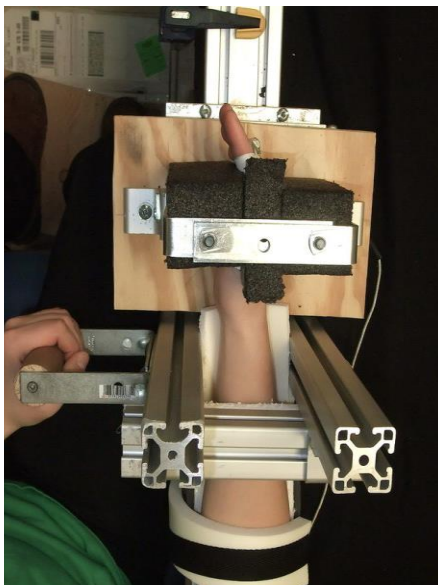
Wrist strengths not accurately represented in current software...

Study 1: Empirical data collection

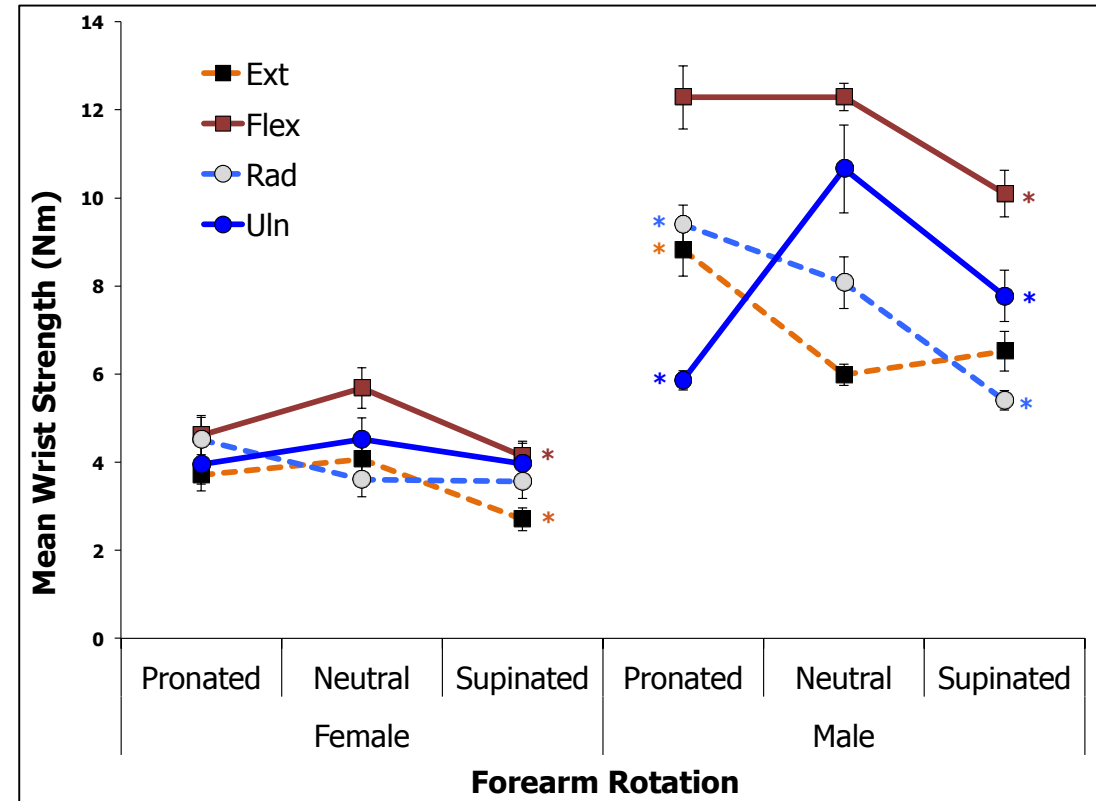
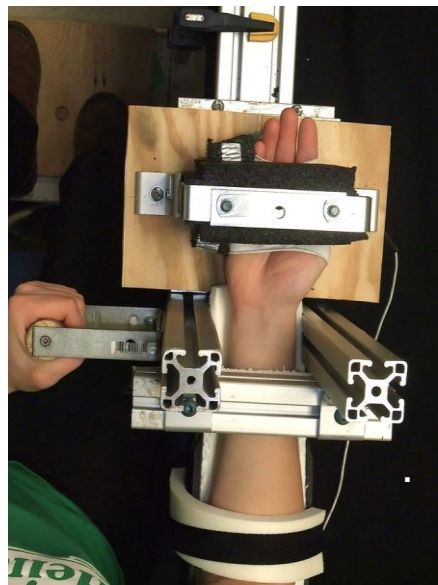
Pronation



Neutral

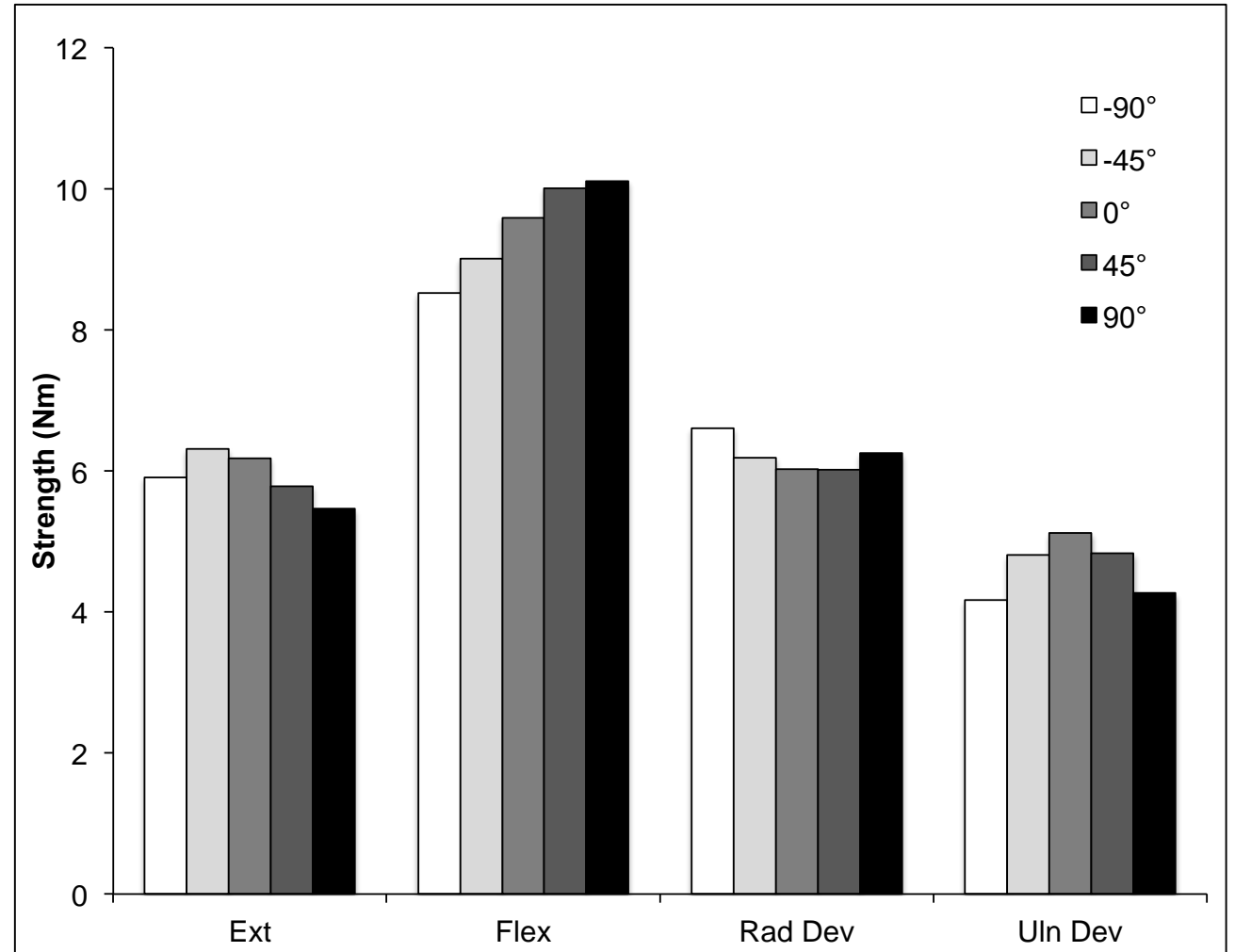
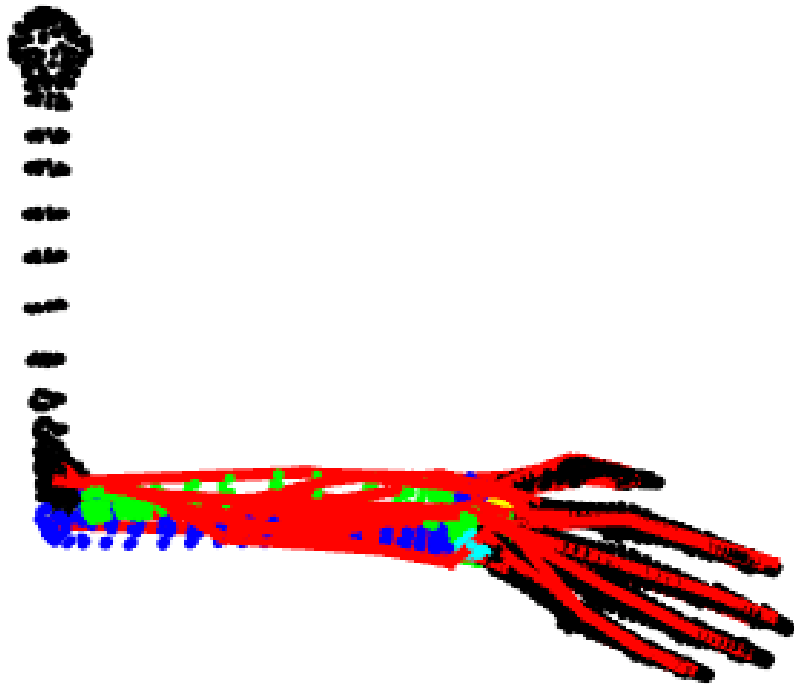


Supination



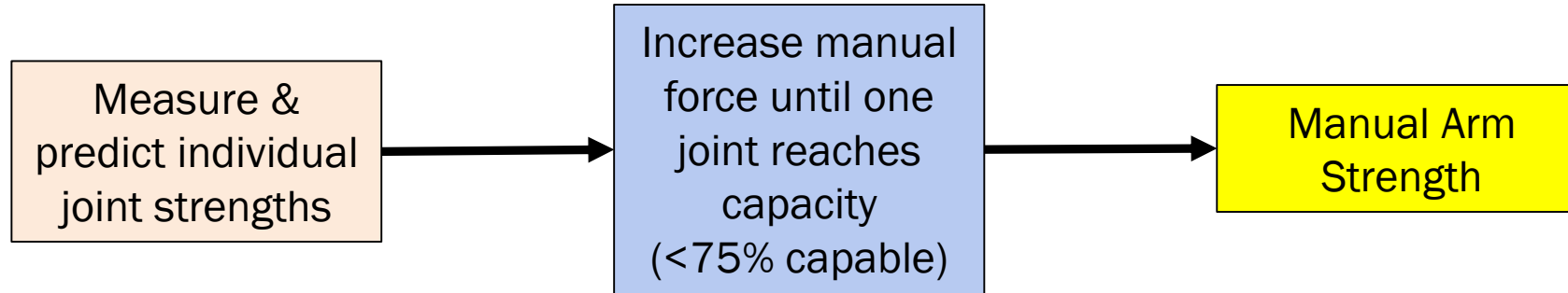
Wrist strengths not accurately represented in current software...

Study 2: Musculoskeletal Modeling

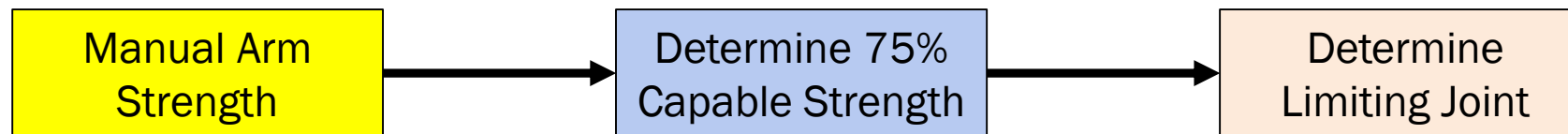


There's got to be a better way...

Traditional Approach:



Proposed Approach:



Proof in Principle

Ergonomics, 2014

<http://dx.doi.org/10.1080/00140139.2014.885588>



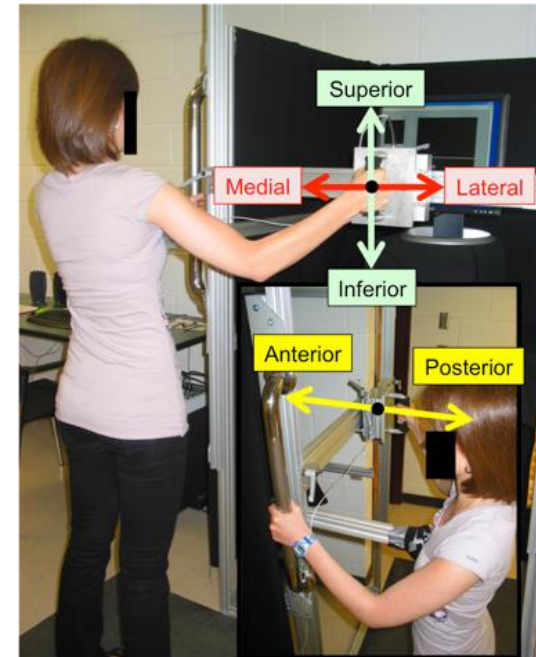
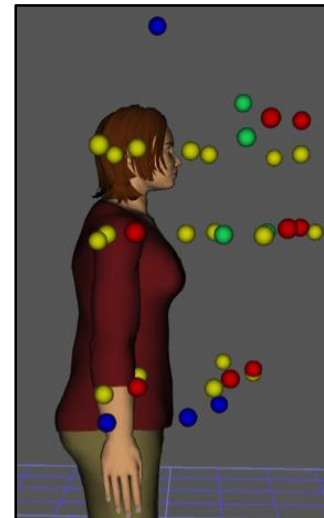
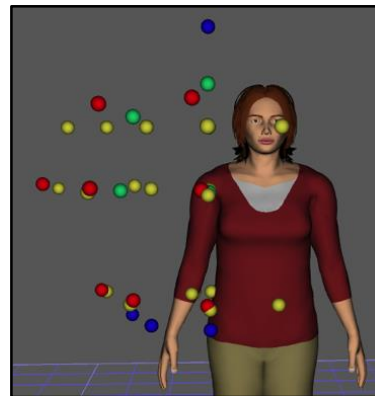
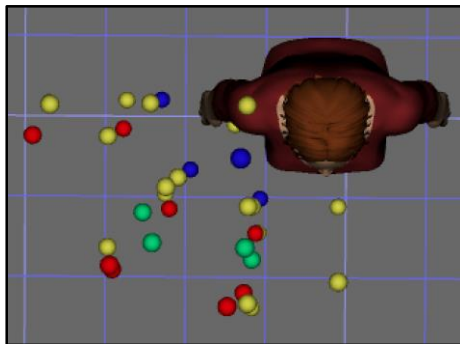
Equations to predict female manual arm strength based on hand location relative to the shoulder

Nicholas J. La Delfa^a, Christopher C. Freeman^b, Cassandra Petruzzi^a and Jim R. Potvin^{a*}

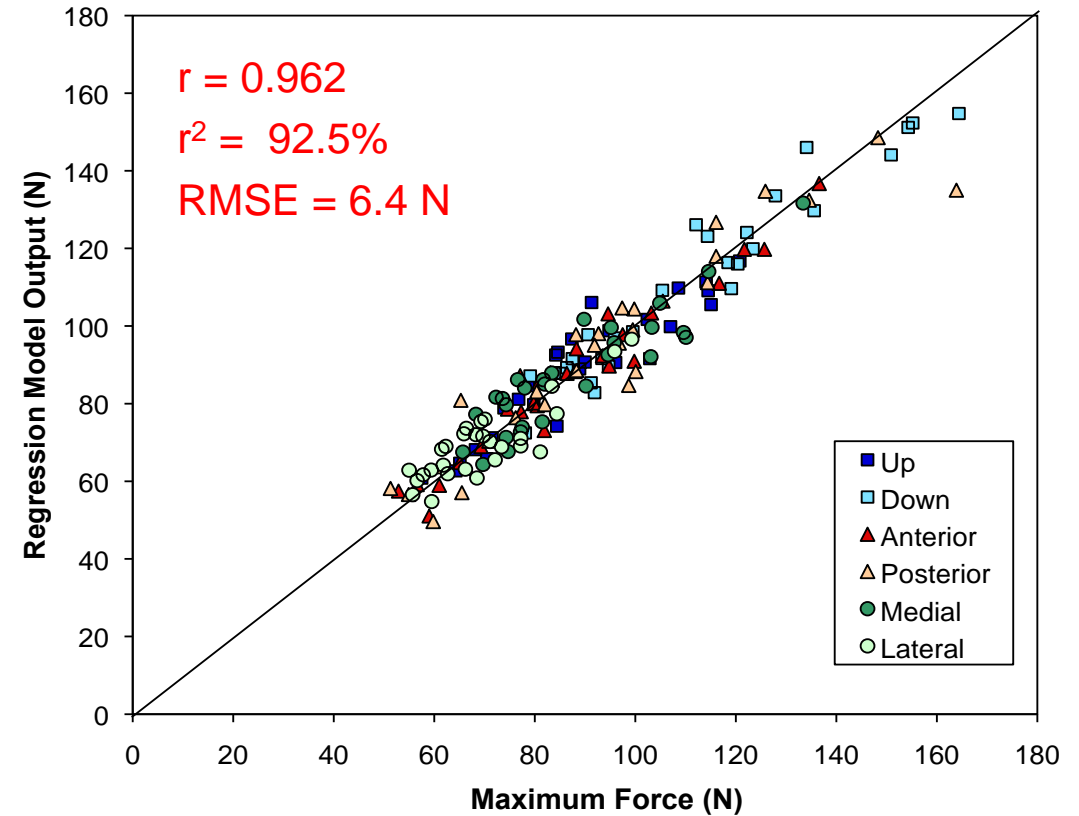
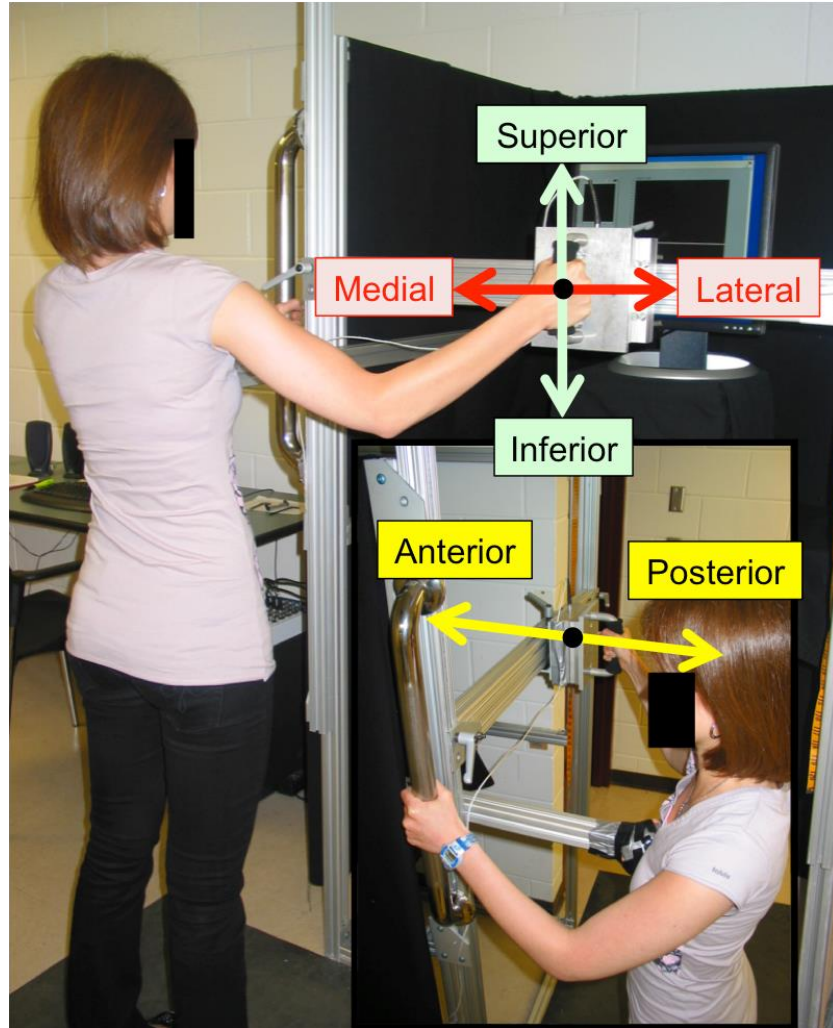
^aDepartment of Kinesiology, McMaster University, Hamilton, Ontario, L8S 4K1 Canada; ^bDepartment of Kinesiology, University of Windsor, Windsor, Canada

(Received 10 April 2013; accepted 19 December 2013)

-71 females
-28 hand locations



Proof in Principle



- However, still some limitations...
 - Only applicable to 6 directions
 - Limited by upright torso
 - Not validated with external data

Purpose of my PhD Dissertation

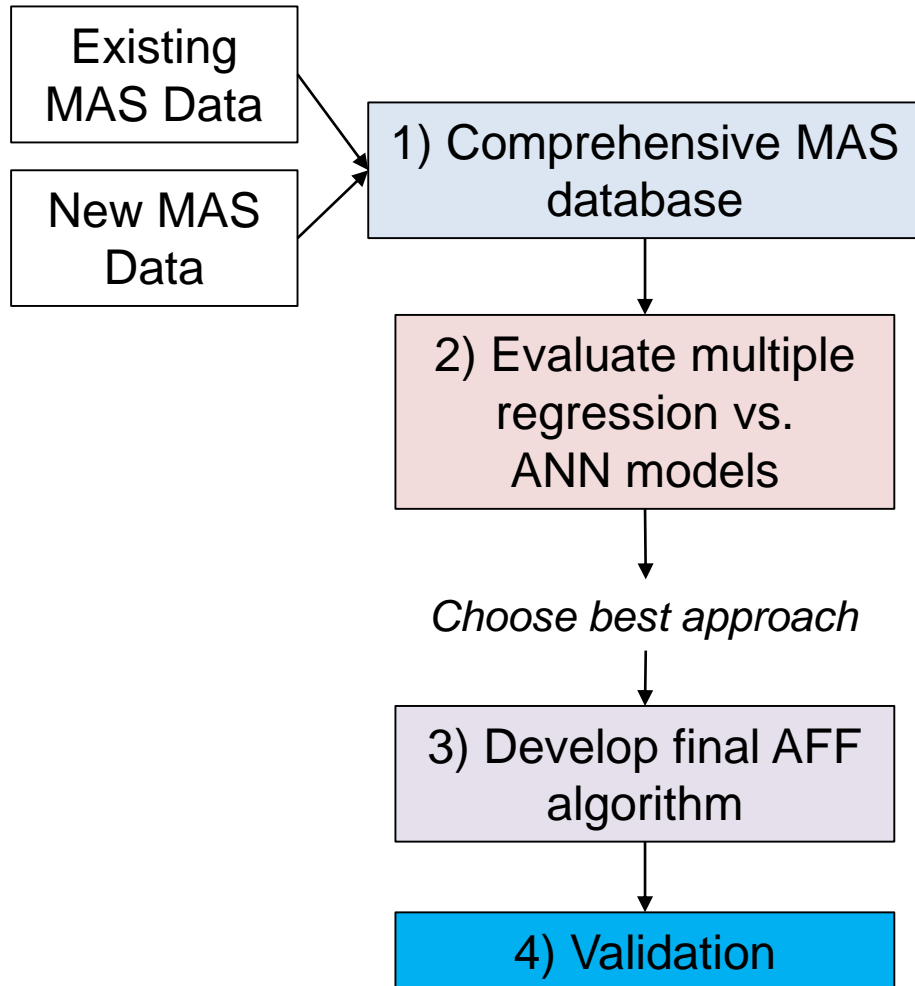
General Purpose:

- To improve the estimations of acceptable hand forces that are currently being made in digital human models.

Specific Purpose:

- To develop, validate and implement a novel ergonomics tool for manual arm strength prediction, given any combination of hand location, force direction and torso orientation.

Theoretical Development of Arm Force Field Method



4 phases of development

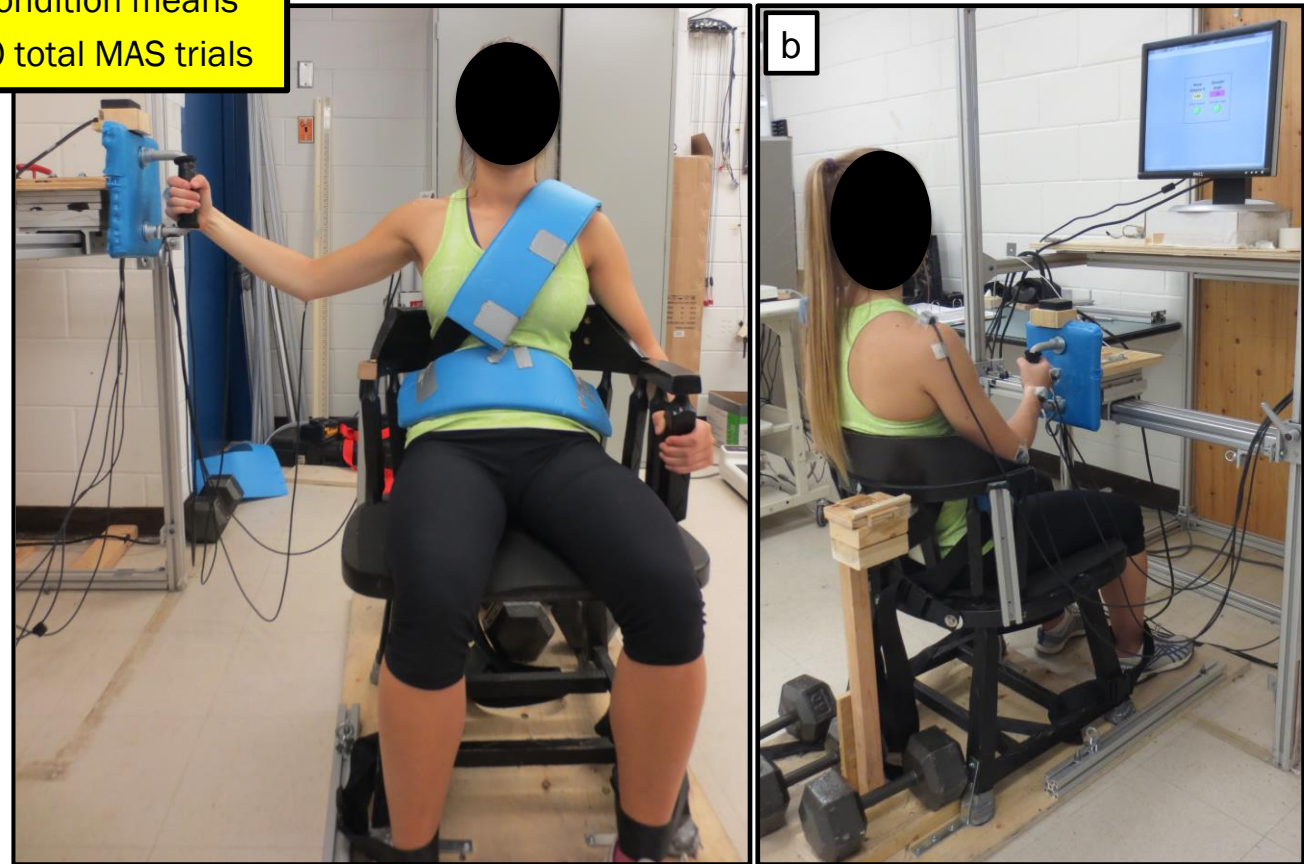
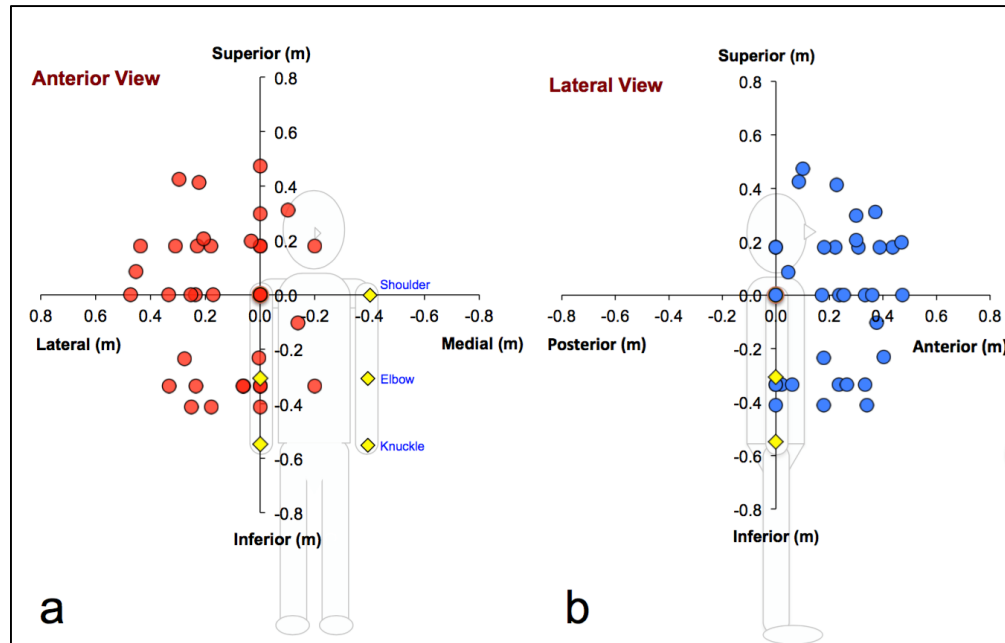
Theoretical Development of Arm Force Field Method

Existing MAS Data

New MAS Data

1) Comprehensive MAS database

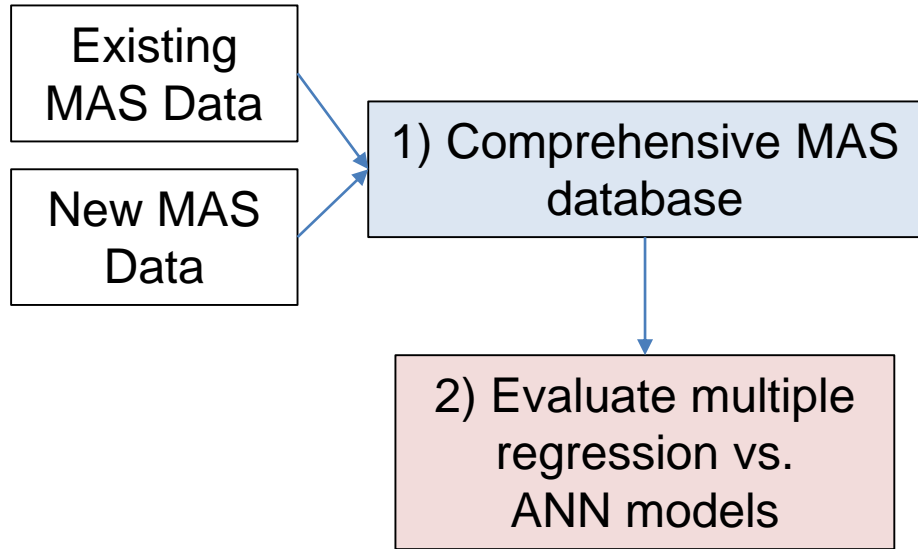
95 participants
36 hand locations
536 condition means
13,460 total MAS trials



Theoretical Development of Arm Force Field Method

Study	Hand Location Characteristics Hand Coordinates (m)							Directions																										Mean
								1D						2D												3D								
								1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	
								Sup	Inf	Ant	Post	Med	Lat	Sup	Sup	Sup	Sup	Inf	Inf	Inf	Inf	Ant	Ant	Post	Post	Sup	Sup	Sup	Sup	Inf	Inf	Inf	Inf	
Height	Angle	Reach	Posture	S/I	A/P	L/M	Ant	Post	Med	Lat	Ant	Post	Med	Lat	Med	Lat	Med	Lat	Ant	Ant	Post	Post	Ant	Ant	Post	Post								
3	Overhead	0°	80%	Stand	0.473	0.100	0.000	122.8	153.2	55.4	71.4	69.7	61.8	139.7	74.4	100.7	103.6	91.9	161.5	136.9	96.1	67.0	78.2	86.9	82.5	129.4	126.4	81.7	77.1	106.6	80.4	172.3	135.4	102.4
4	Overhead	90°	80%	Sit	0.425	0.086	0.296	126.1	150.3	56.0	53.8	84.7	65.9	84.9	57.4	75.0	105.8	78.7	84.9	140.5	61.6	70.8	57.7	68.2	51.5	84.7	129.7	62.0	69.9	102.8	59.2	116.8	72.7	83.5
4	Overhead	45°	80%	Sit	0.414	0.226	0.222	131.4	178.2	69.2	74.8	84.9	62.8	135.9	63.2	86.0	87.0	75.5	149.1	136.1	85.3	71.5	70.1	83.9	66.2	100.1	135.9	64.4	68.8	88.5	73.6	142.8	89.8	95.2
4	Stature	-20°	80%	Sit	0.312	0.371	-0.102	83.6	161.6	143.4	128.3	85.0	80.2	166.7	71.0	96.3	65.1	89.9	217.0	79.1	119.3	119.4	69.3	87.2	102.8	176.2	83.1	76.9	74.7	89.8	87.2	120.0	185.9	110.0
2	Stature	0°	70%	Stand	0.297	0.299	0.000	99.9	123.1	82.5	110.5	77.2	69.7	145.7	76.4	94.6	76.4	74.6	164.2	107.6	86.1	80.8	77.5	98.8	90.9	135.9	141.3	88.9	77.7	79.3	80.9	181.0	159.9	103.1
2	Eye	45°	70%	Stand	0.207	0.300	0.207	90.8	98.1	74.4	94.8	86.0	66.6	128.0	74.0	85.2	98.2	61.2	138.6	124.2	72.7	74.4	89.8	121.7	73.4	100.5	152.9	94.0	72.2	80.8	75.6	180.8	106.3	96.7
4	Eye	0°	80%	Sit	0.198	0.470	0.033	84.3	123.4	166.4	177.0	87.1	57.4	156.9	78.3	88.1	66.5	91.6	215.2	97.7	77.5	102.5	78.6	117.1	85.7	121.6	102.6	85.0	73.6	99.0	78.9	161.0	129.9	107.8
1	Stature	90°	40%	Stand	0.180	0.000	0.229	103.9	137.8	69.3	70.9	96.4	56.3																					89.1
1	Stature	90°	80%	Stand	0.180	0.000	0.436	99.4	103.5	59.0	59.8	111.1	89.7																					87.1
1	Stature	45°	40%	Stand	0.180	0.180	0.180	100.6	134.5	72.3	88.6	86.2	58.2																					90.1
1	Stature	0°	40%	Stand	0.180	0.222	0.000	101.1	147.9	74.9	110.8	81.7	77.2																					98.9
1	Stature	45°	80%	Stand	0.180	0.308	0.308	86.5	104.1	70.2	86.4	78.0	57.9																					80.5
1	Stature	-20°	80%	Stand	0.180	0.388	-0.200	85.5	112.9	97.7	119.9	65.5	68.7																					91.7
1	Stature	0°	80%	Stand	0.180	0.436	0.000	83.2	108.4	115.5	122.3	65.7	59.4																					92.4
4	Shoulder	90°	80%	Sit	0.087	0.046	0.454	90.7	85.3	62.9	44.9	197.7	170.3	82.4	66.0	98.0	111.3	61.1	63.1	148.9	80.4	87.2	91.7	87.3	60.0	98.2	106.2	87.0	82.5	102.8	79.0	112.5	69.8	93.4
1	Shoulder	90°	40%	Stand	0.000	0.000	0.236	105.6	98.8	77.3	76.2	103.3	70.1																					88.6
1	Shoulder	90°	80%	Stand	0.000	0.000	0.472	72.3	64.3	52.9	51.3	133.4	99.3																					78.9
1	Shoulder	45°	40%	Stand	0.000	0.172	0.172	111.6	106.7	94.8	91.9	95.8	68.3																					94.9
1	Shoulder	0°	40%	Stand	0.000	0.237	0.000	118.5	120.0	105.5	116.1	103.1	81.1																					107.4
2	Shoulder	45°	60%	Stand	0.000	0.253	0.253	86.8	91.4	86.4	96.8	110.1	77.2	118.3	94.0	98.5	93.8	75.1	117.9	123.6	78.4	91.5	111.3	137.2	74.0	106.0	133.1	119.3	78.0	90.0	93.3	172.6	97.4	102.0
1	Shoulder	45°	80%	Stand	0.000	0.334	0.334	79.1	79.9	88.0	92.7	95.2	66.2																					83.5
2	Shoulder	0°	60%	Stand	0.000	0.360	0.000	93.8	106.4	128.5	163.9	90.2	72.1	126.0	108.9	103.9	72.6	86.4	168.4	98.8	93.0	101.9	94.9	135.7	102.4	133.4	118.6	124.9	100.4	98.8	88.6	183.3	145.5	113.1
1	Shoulder	0°	80%	Stand	0.000	0.472	0.000	79.9	84.7	136.6	148.3	74.3	59.5																					97.2
4	Sternum	-20°	80%	Sit	-0.102	0.377	-0.138	111.7	103.6	183.9	223.3	107.2	73.0	115.5	144.9	103.5	79.4	128.8	125.2	86.5	90.0	152.6	69.1	98.0	142.7	139.6	64.8	132.2	144.3	154.1	89.2	86.5	146.3	119.1
4	Umbilicus	0°	80%	Sit	-0.231	0.403	0.005	126.2	101.6	170.4	174.1	87.2	58.6	104.7	157.2	109.1	87.7	156.1	107.8	89.9	72.1	115.5	78.6	97.7	99.2	114.6	82.2	149.0	132.3	136.0	114.0	91.3	91.9	111.7
4	Umbilicus	60°	80%	Sit	-0.234	0.179	0.277	115.6	106.7	105.5	66.2	127.4	96.0	98.6	85.1	133.0	78.0	111.4	71.4	80.6	98.6	84.4	124.7	123.3	57.5	122.4	111.3	167.3	67.4	93.0	144.6	89.3	74.0	101.3
1	Waist	90°	40%	Stand	-0.335	0.000	0.062	112.9	86.6	77.1	65.3	90.8	59.7																					82.1
1	Waist	90°	80%	Stand	-0.335	0.000	0.333	82.7	74.1	56.6	54.9	110.5	87.5																					77.7
1	Waist	0°	40%	Stand	-0.335	0.021	0.000	113.4	87.1	88.7	109.8	72.3	55.7																					87.8
1	Waist	45°	40%	Stand	-0.335	0.061	0.061	106.7	89.4	78.0	88.6	81.7	49.9																					82.4
1	Waist	45°	80%	Stand	-0.335	0.235	0.235	98.2	79.9	82.7	85.3	86.9	64.4																					82.9
1	Waist	-20°	80%	Stand	-0.335	0.266	-0.200	106.4	87.2	100.7	96.6	77.1	60.3																					88.1
1	Waist	0°	80%	Stand	-0.335	0.333	0.000	111.0	89.4	120.8	121.8	74.3	57.8																					95.9
3	Waist	45°	80%	Stand	-0.411	0.178	0.179	116.7	94.4	83.5	98.5	93.0	75.0	93.8	127.8	123.7	86.2	84.0	82.7	83.6	90.1	84.1	92.0	116.8	65.8	120.5	106.1	161.7	98.1	98.8	116.5	107.0	84.5	99.4
3	Waist	90°	80%	Stand	-0.411	0.000	0.251	96.4	90.3	61.0	65.5	107.3	86.7	83.9	99.8	137.9	81.2	84.1	78.1	76.3	105.7	88.1	87.9	114.7	60.4	123.7	88.2	155.3	76.5	87.8	111.4	96.6	85.5	93.5
3	Waist	0°	80%	Stand	-0.411	0.339	0.000	95.4	86.5	99.6	129.6	77.5	56.6	99.9	171.4	107.7	82.3	114.0	89.4	87.7	76.4	88.5	85.7	124.7	80.1	110.8	94.5	158.6	132.4	109.8	114.6	92.8	77.7	101.7
	Mean							100.9	107.0	93.0	100.9	93.2	71.6	117.5	96.9	102.6	85.9	91.5	127.2	106.1	86.5	92.5	84.8	106.2	80.9	119.8	111.0	113.0	89.1	101.1	92.9	131.7	109.5	99.1

Theoretical Development of Arm Force Field Method



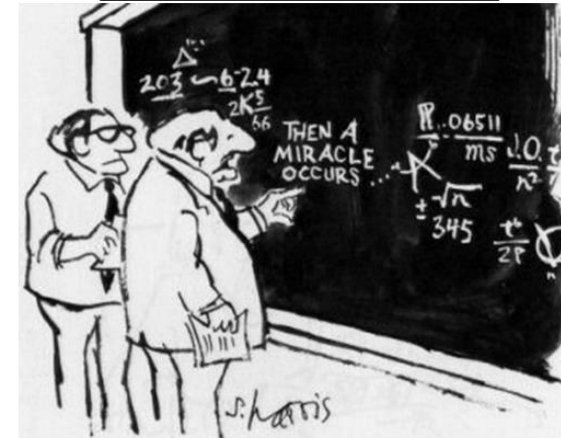
Inputs to Equation:



Some statistical prediction tool

Output of Equation:

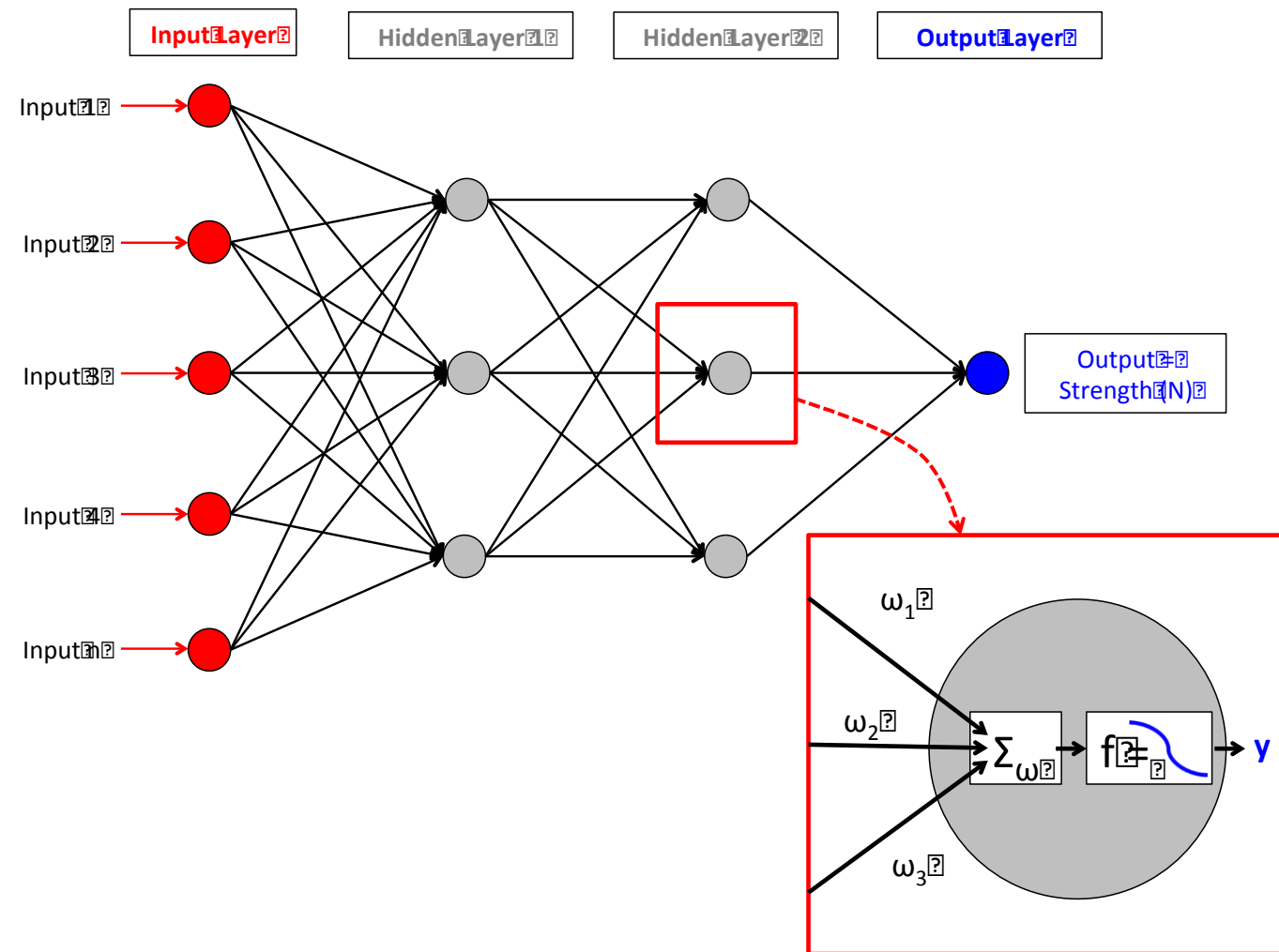
Predicted arm strength for the given inputs



"I think you should be more explicit here in step two."

Artificial Neural Network (ANN) Background

	Input Variables
Directions	Direction cosine (Up/Down)
	Direction cosine (Ant/Post)
	Direction cosine (Med/Lat)
Hand Locations	Horizontal (H, H^2, H^3)
	Vertical (V, V^2, V^3)
	Lateral (L, L^2, L^3)
	Interaction ($H \times V$)
	Interaction ($H \times L$)
Kinematics	Interaction ($V \times L$)
	Shoulder DDMA



- Multi-layered, feed-forward, fully-connected
- Trained using back-propagation algorithm
 - Equilibrates at global minimum for RMSE

Theoretical Development of Arm Force Field Method

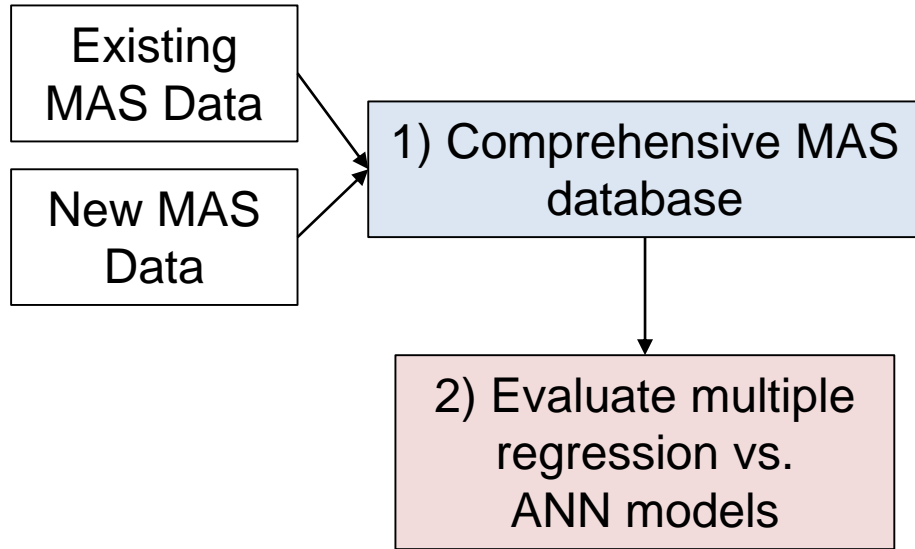


Table 3
Results of regression and ANN model performance.

Model	Data type	Correlation	Explained variance (%)	RMSD (N)
Regression	Development	0.815	66.5	17.24
	Validation	0.808	65.3	18.57
	All	0.814	66.3	17.45
ANN	Development	0.950	90.2	9.34
	Validation	0.886	78.6	15.12
	All	0.938	88.1	10.40

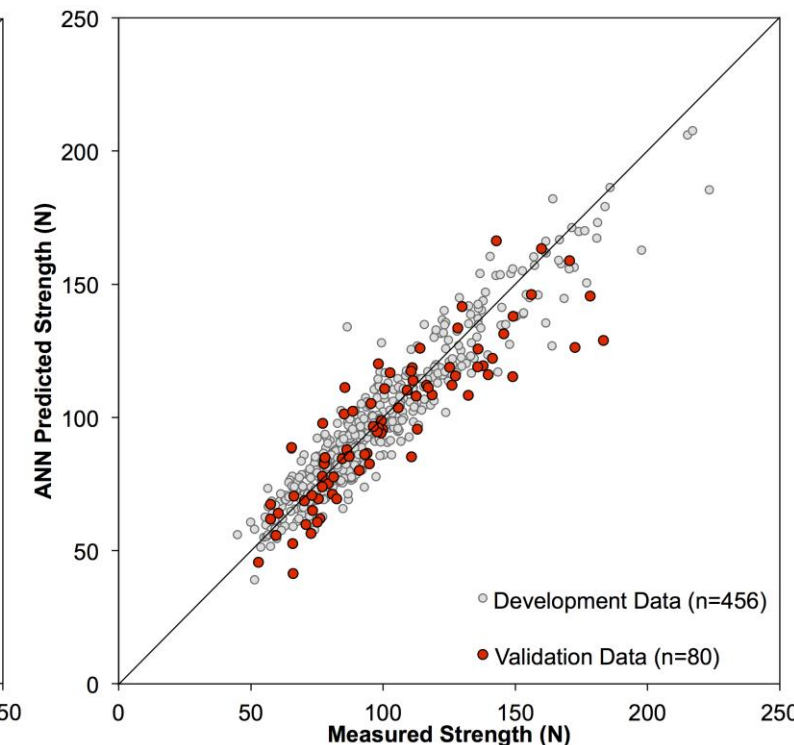
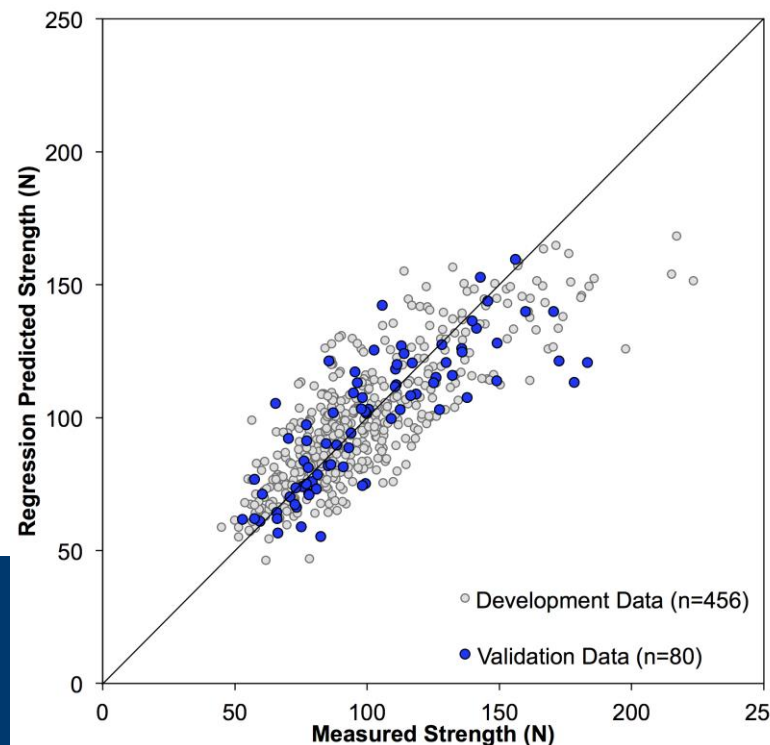


Short communication

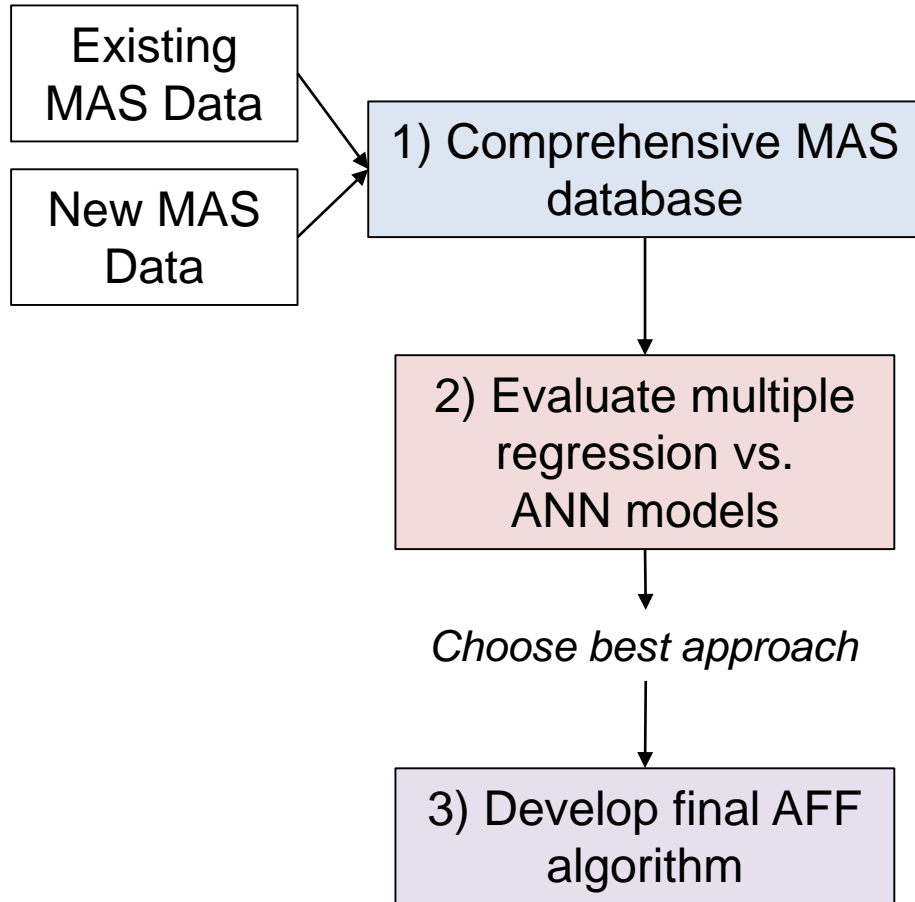
Predicting manual arm strength: A direct comparison between artificial neural network and multiple regression approaches



Nicholas J. La Delfa^{a,*}, Jim R. Potvin^b



Theoretical Development of Arm Force Field Method



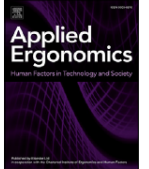
Applied Ergonomics 59 (2017) 410–421



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journal homepage: www.elsevier.com/locate/apergo



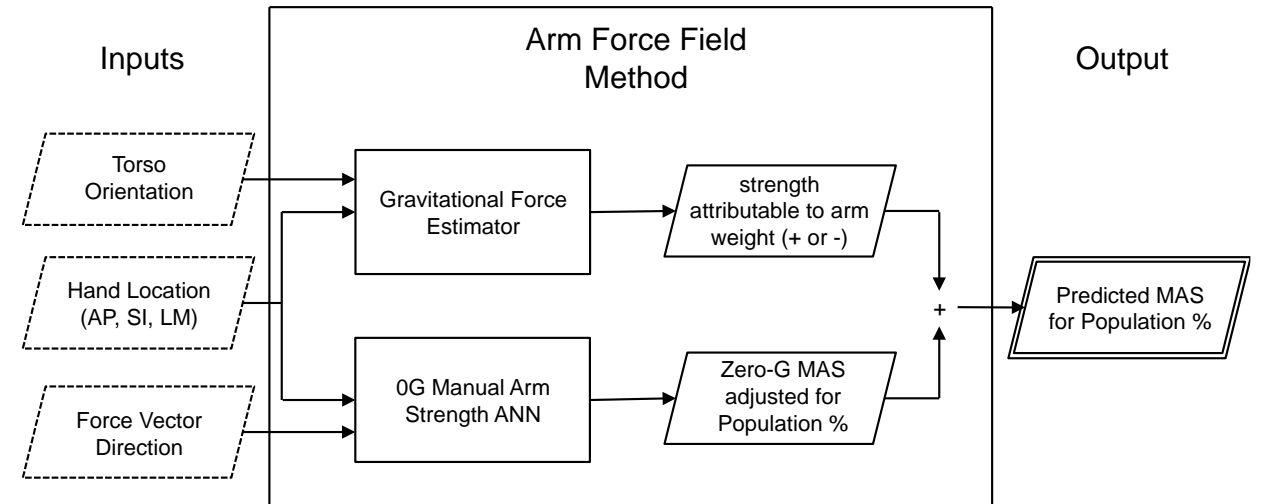
The 'Arm Force Field' method to predict manual arm strength based on only hand location and force direction



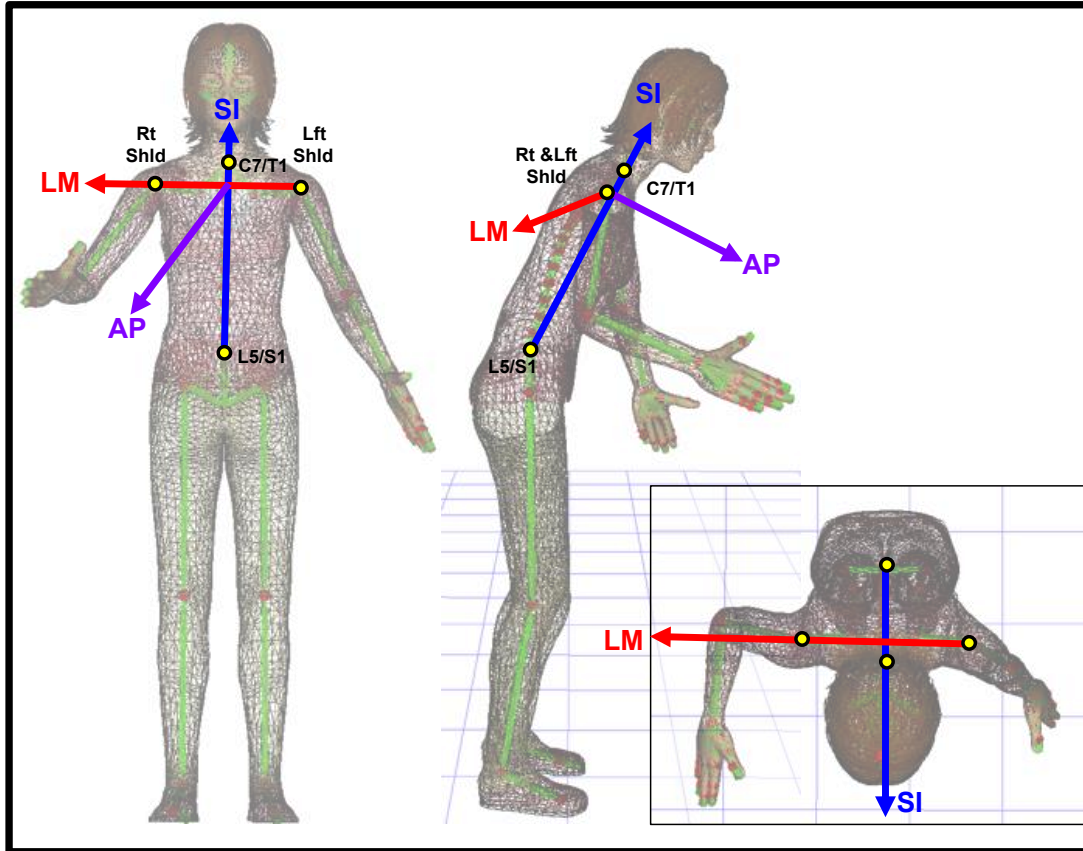
Nicholas J. La Delfa ^a, Jim R. Potvin ^{b,*}

^a Department of Kinesiology, University of Waterloo, Waterloo, Ontario, Canada

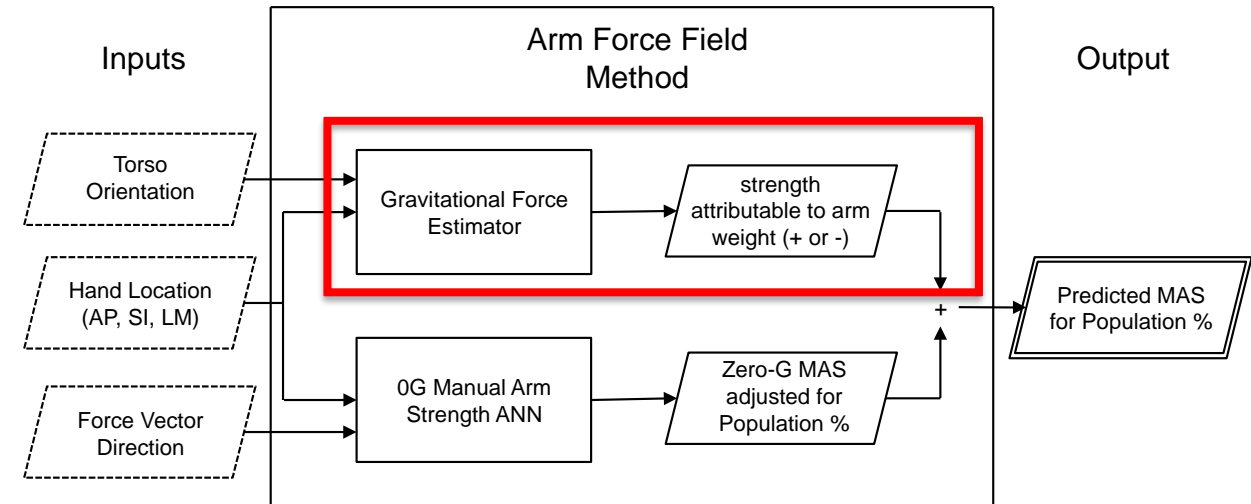
^b Department of Kinesiology, McMaster University, Hamilton, Ontario, Canada



The Arm Force Field Method



- All data collected with upright torso
- Solution:
 - estimate strength attributable to arm weight in intended direction (+ or -)
 - Shoulder Joint Coordinate System
 - Based on standard anthropometrics



The Arm Force Field Method

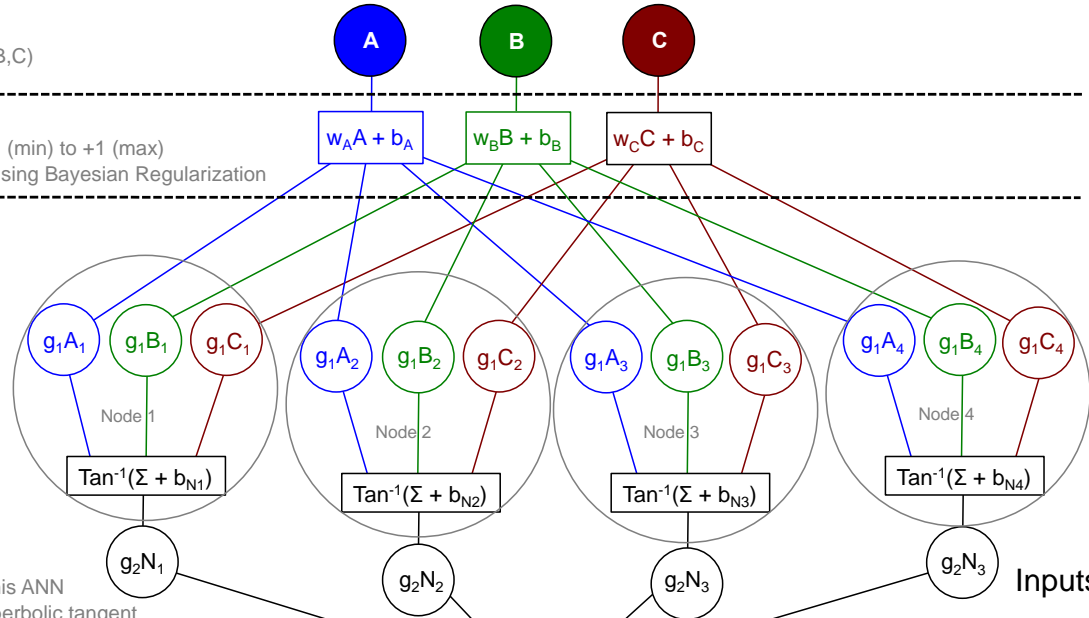
Inputs

-3 inputs in this ANN (A,B,C)

Input Layer

-inputs squeezed from -1 (min) to +1 (max)

-b coefficients adjusted using Bayesian Regularization



Hidden Layer

-consists of 4 nodes in this ANN

-activation function = hyperbolic tangent

Output Layer

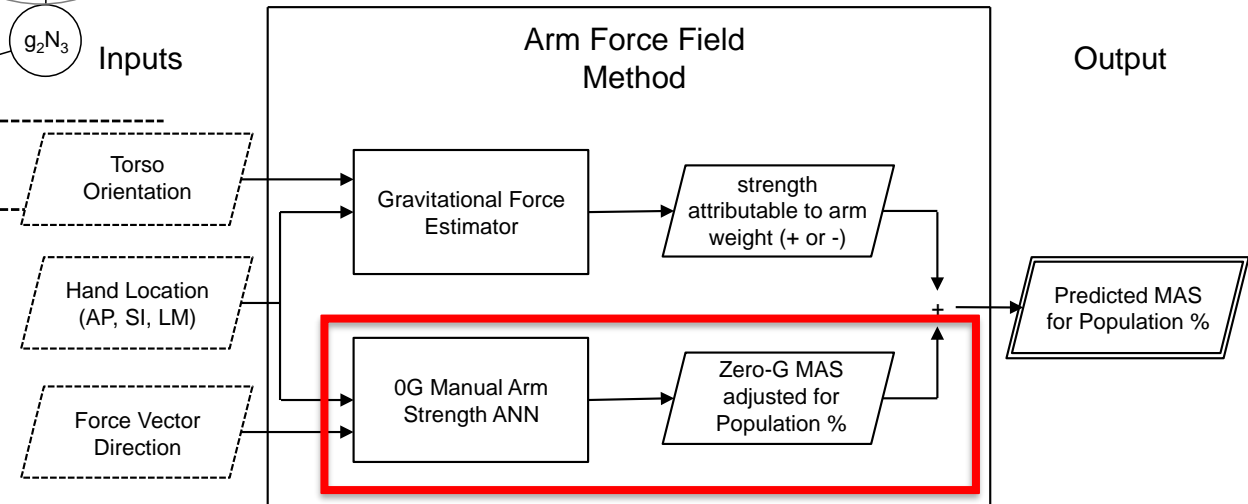
-b coefficients adjusted using Bayesian Regularization

Final Output

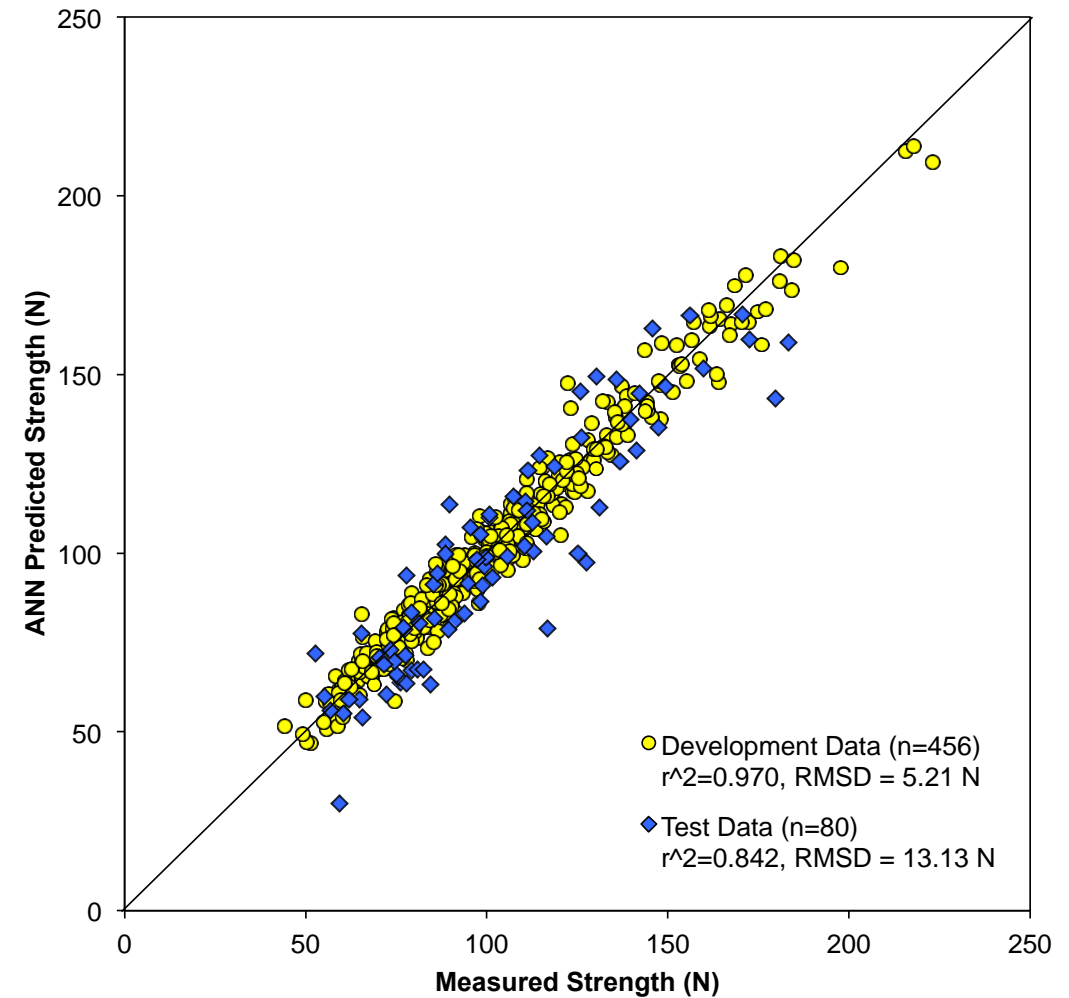
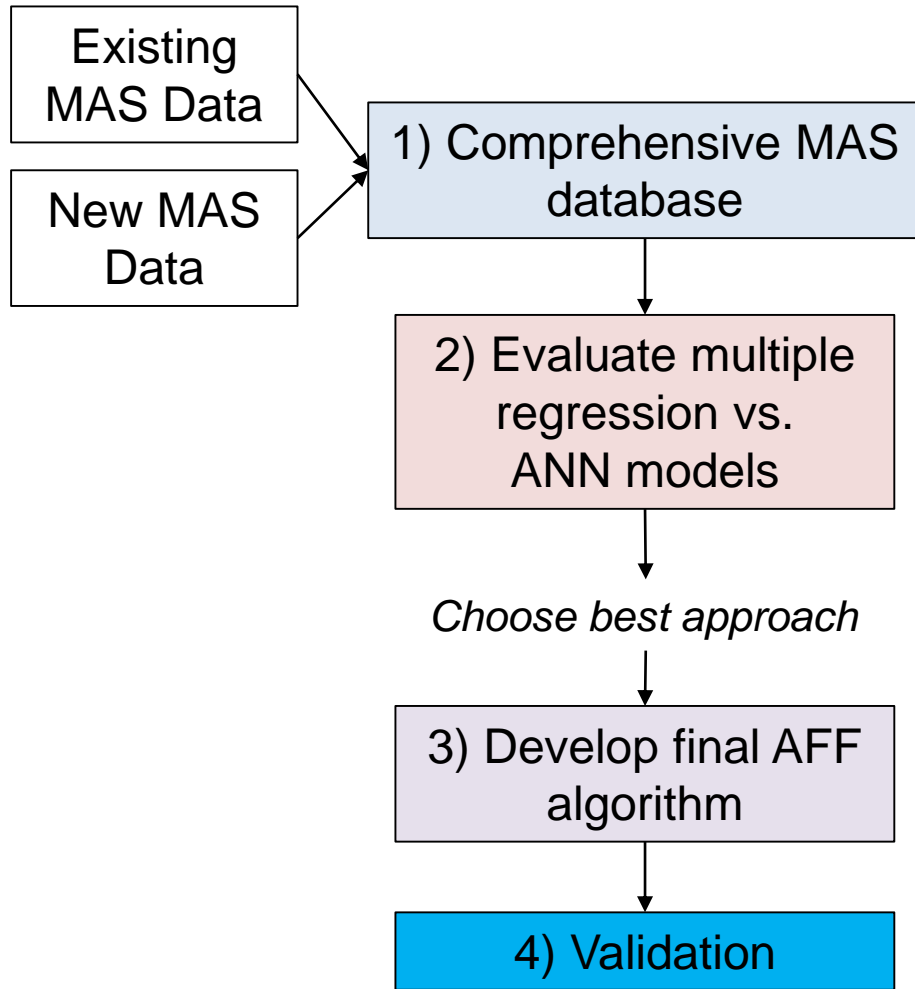
-output mapped back to original min & max (in Newtons)

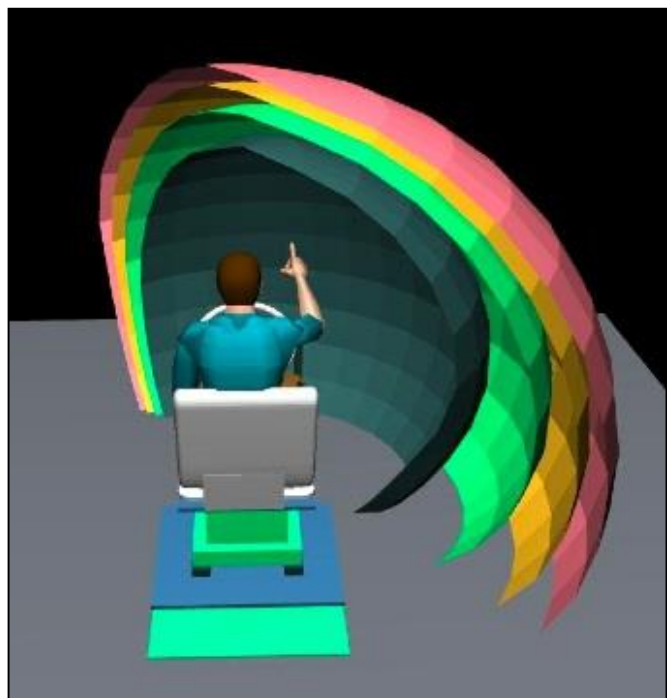
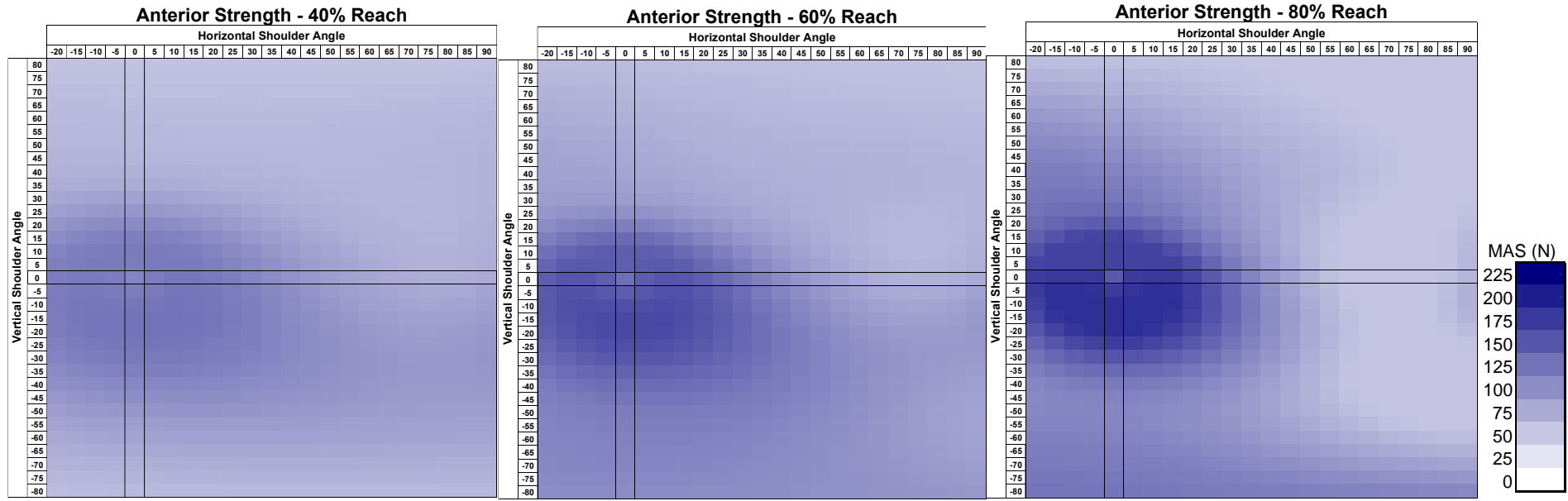
$$\text{Output} = w_O(K + 1) + b_O$$

- Underwent rigorous process to determine optimal architecture
 - Decided upon model with 13 nodes and 18 inputs related to hand location and force direction

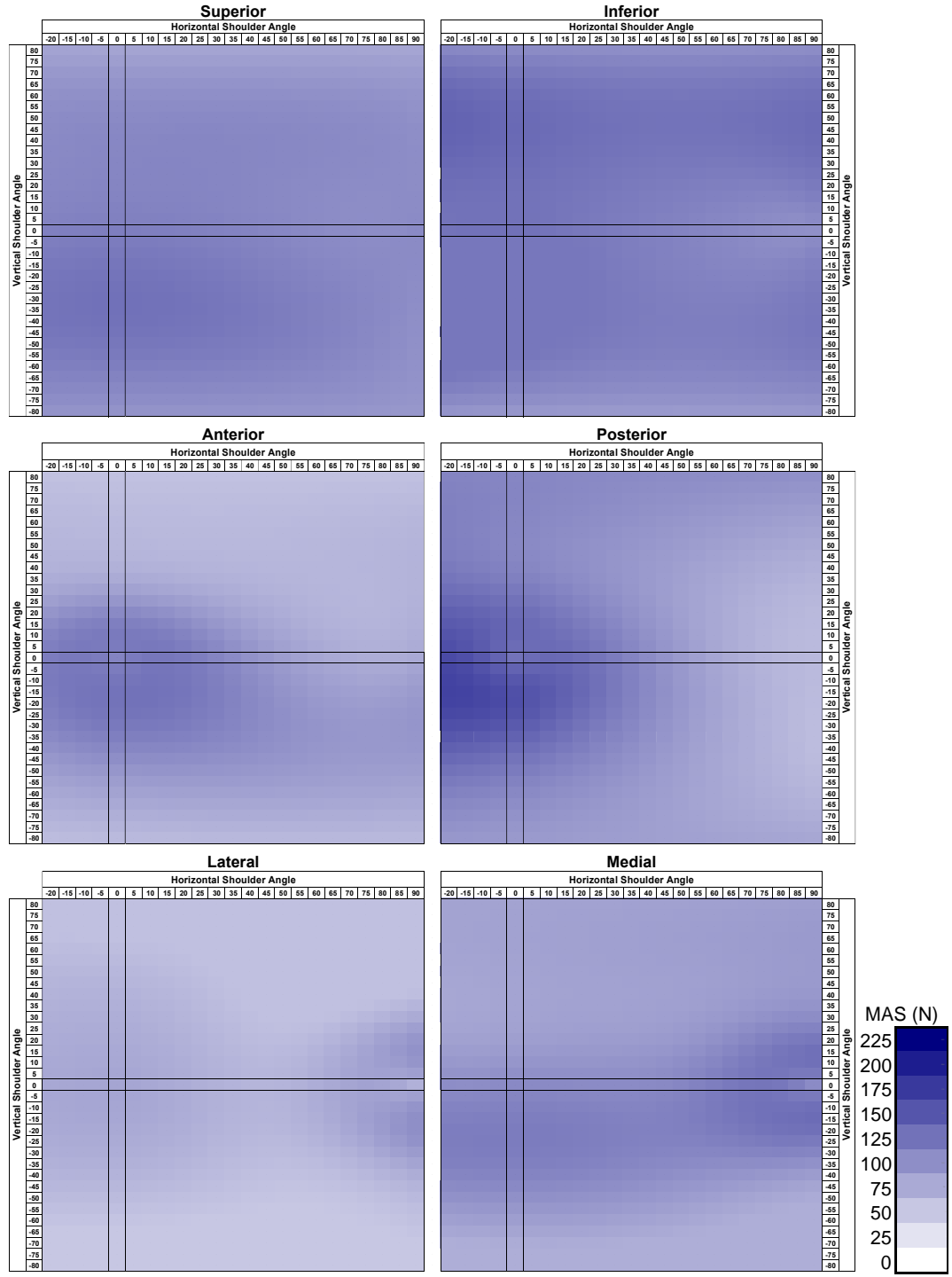
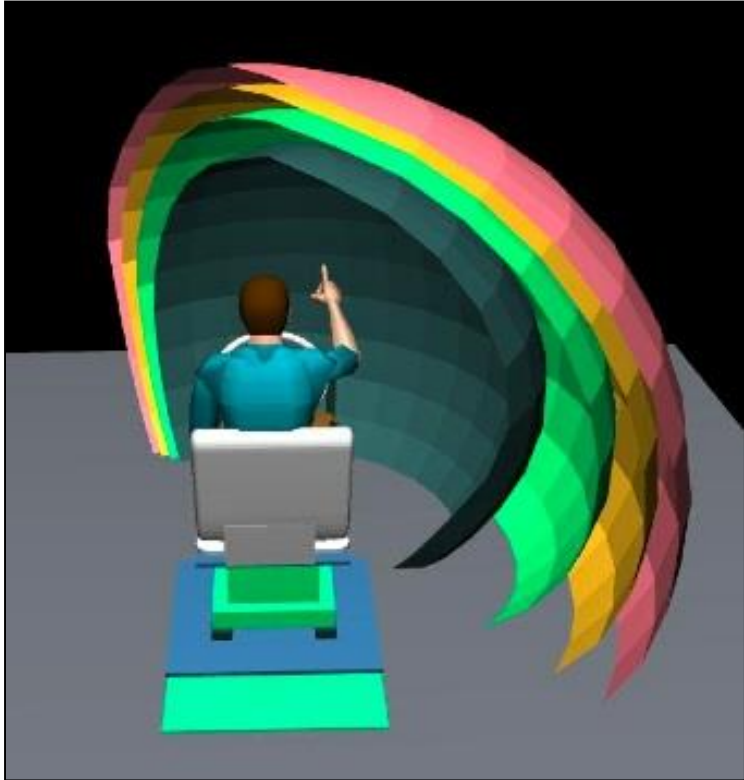


The Arm Force Field Method: Validation

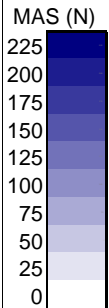
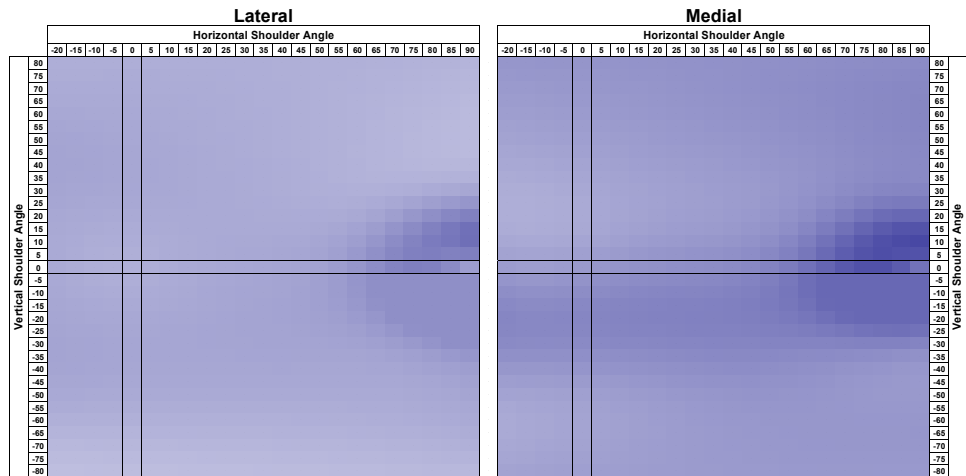
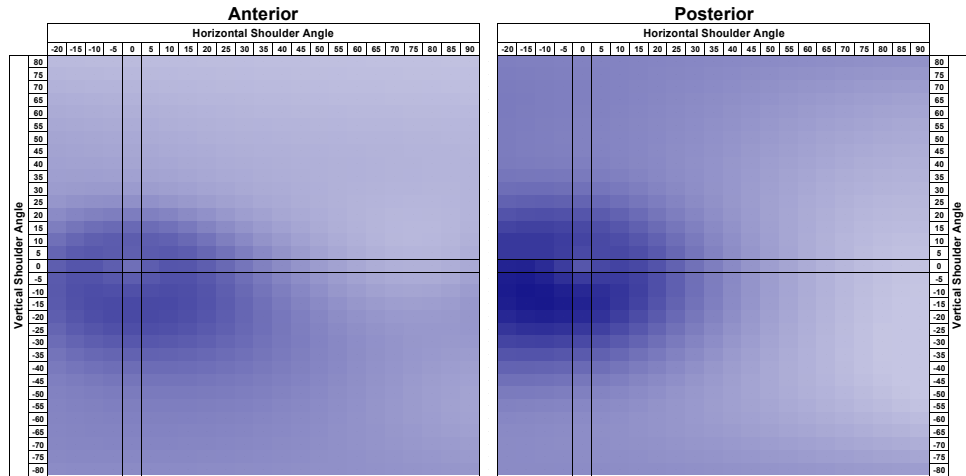
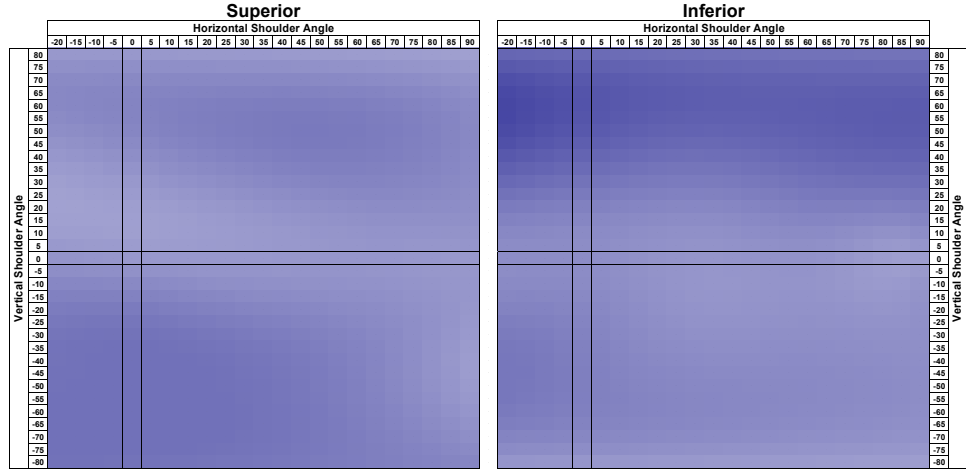
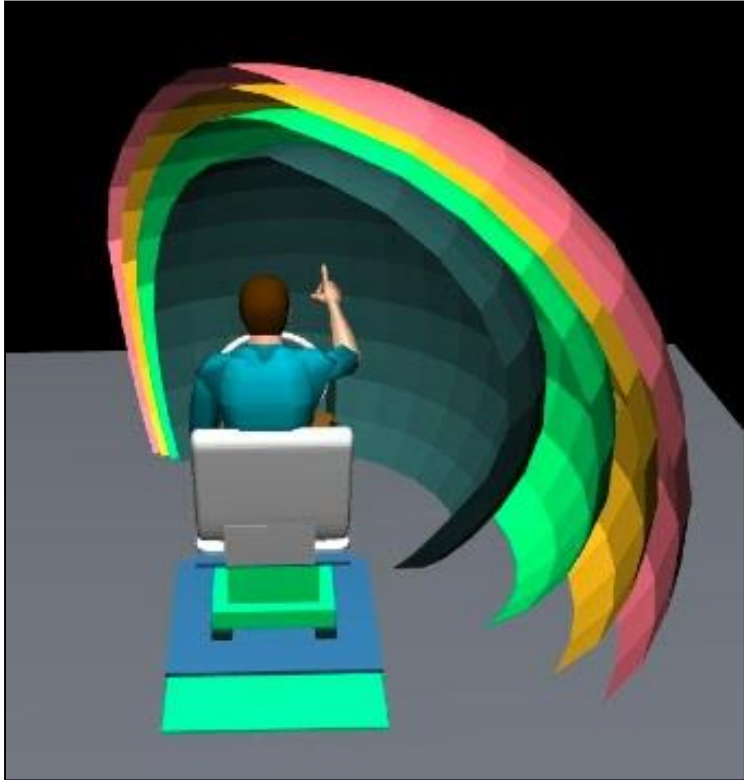




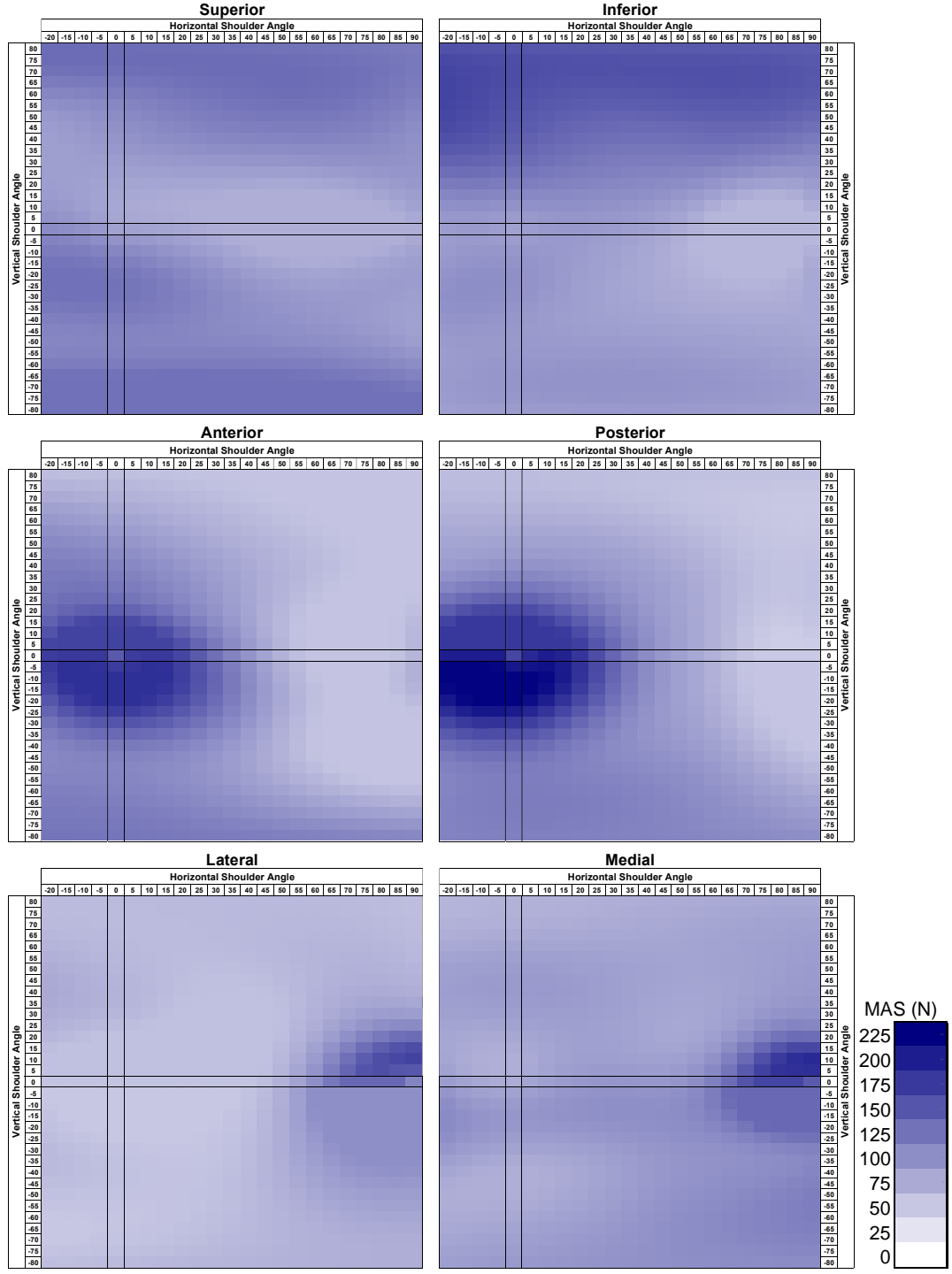
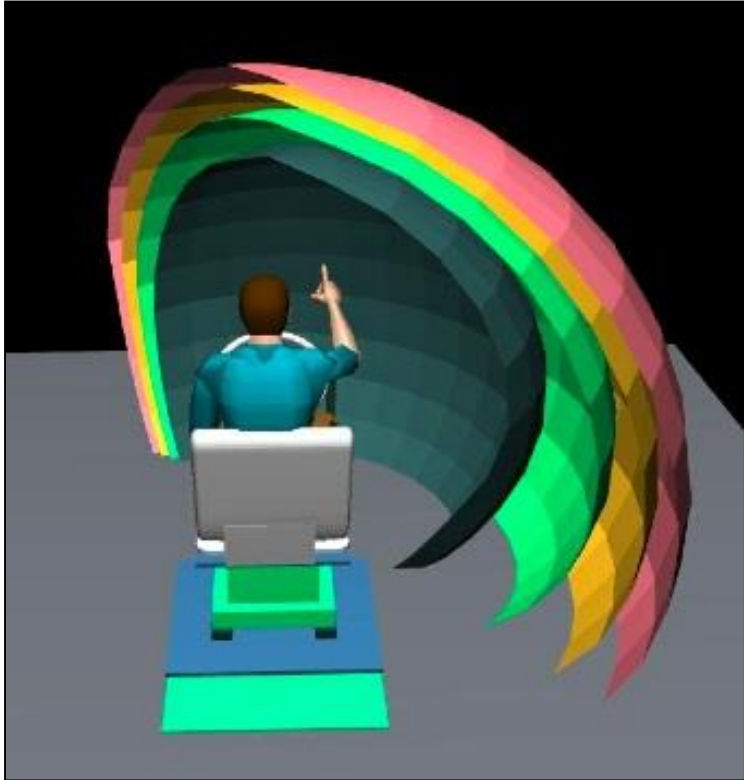
40% reach



60% reach

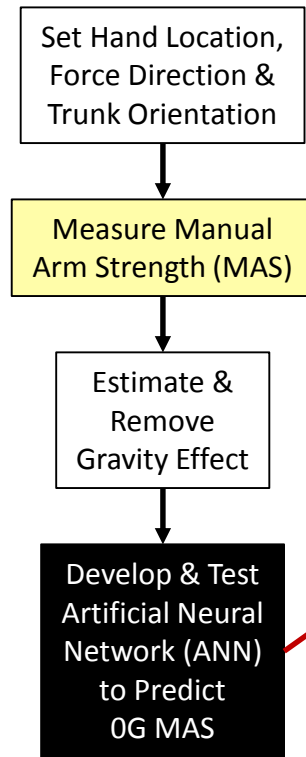


80% reach

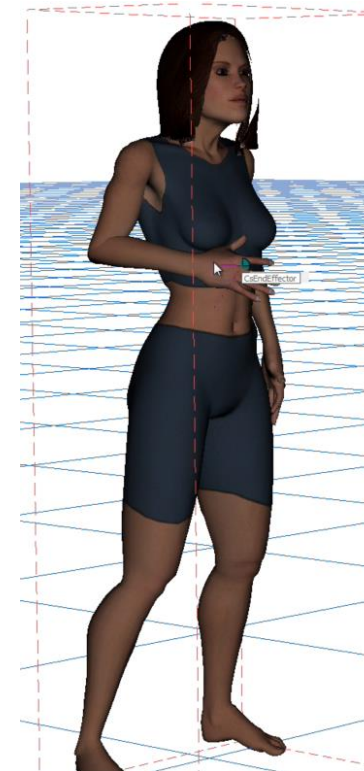
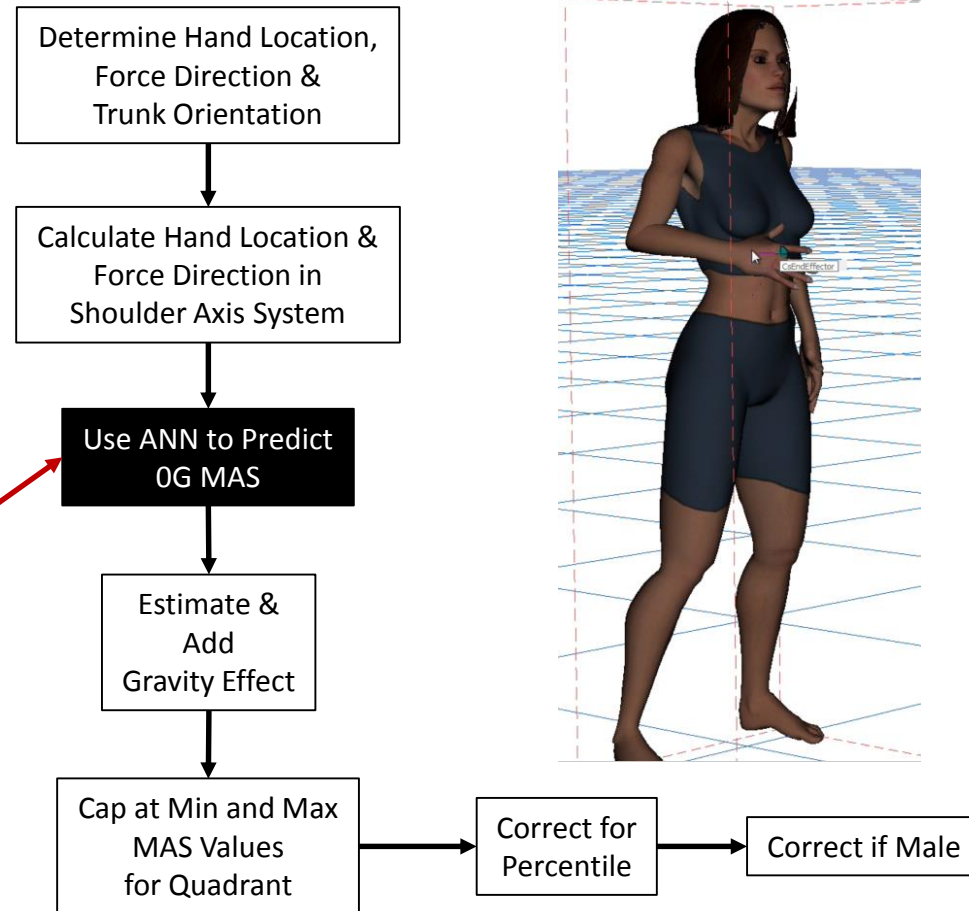


Summary of Arm Force Field Method

AFF Development & Validation



DHM Implementation



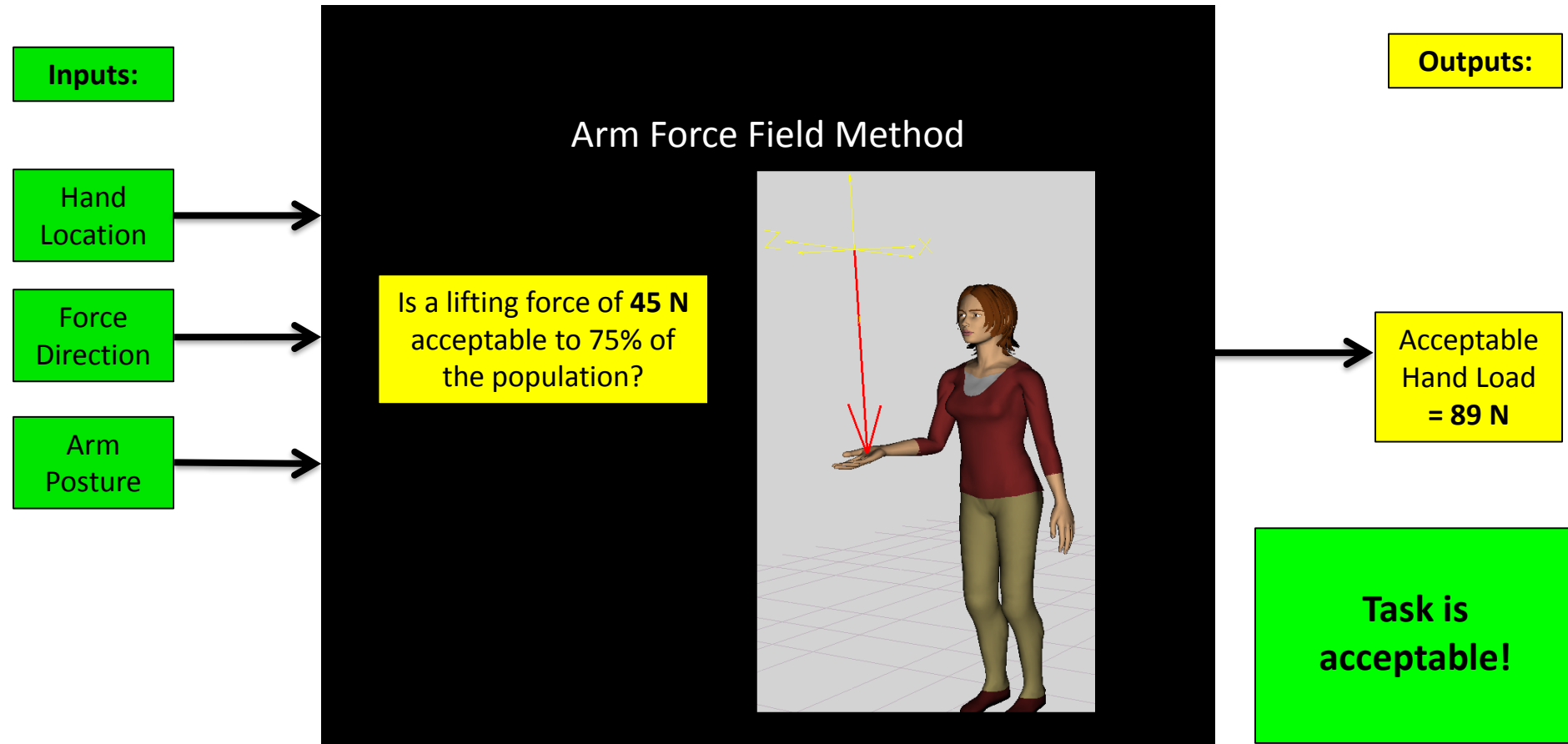
Summary of Arm Force Field Method

- 8+ researchers
 - Potvin, La Delfa, Hodder, Hall, Ibrahim, Evans, Petruzzi, Freeman
 - Primary focus of: 1 PhD thesis, 2 MSc theses, 3 UG theses
- 6-8 peer-reviewed publications related to AFF
 - 2 in prep
- 12+ conference presentations
 - ACE, PREMUS, CSB, ISB, Applied Ergo
- Integration within DHMs:
 - SantosHuman, Jack, HumanCAD

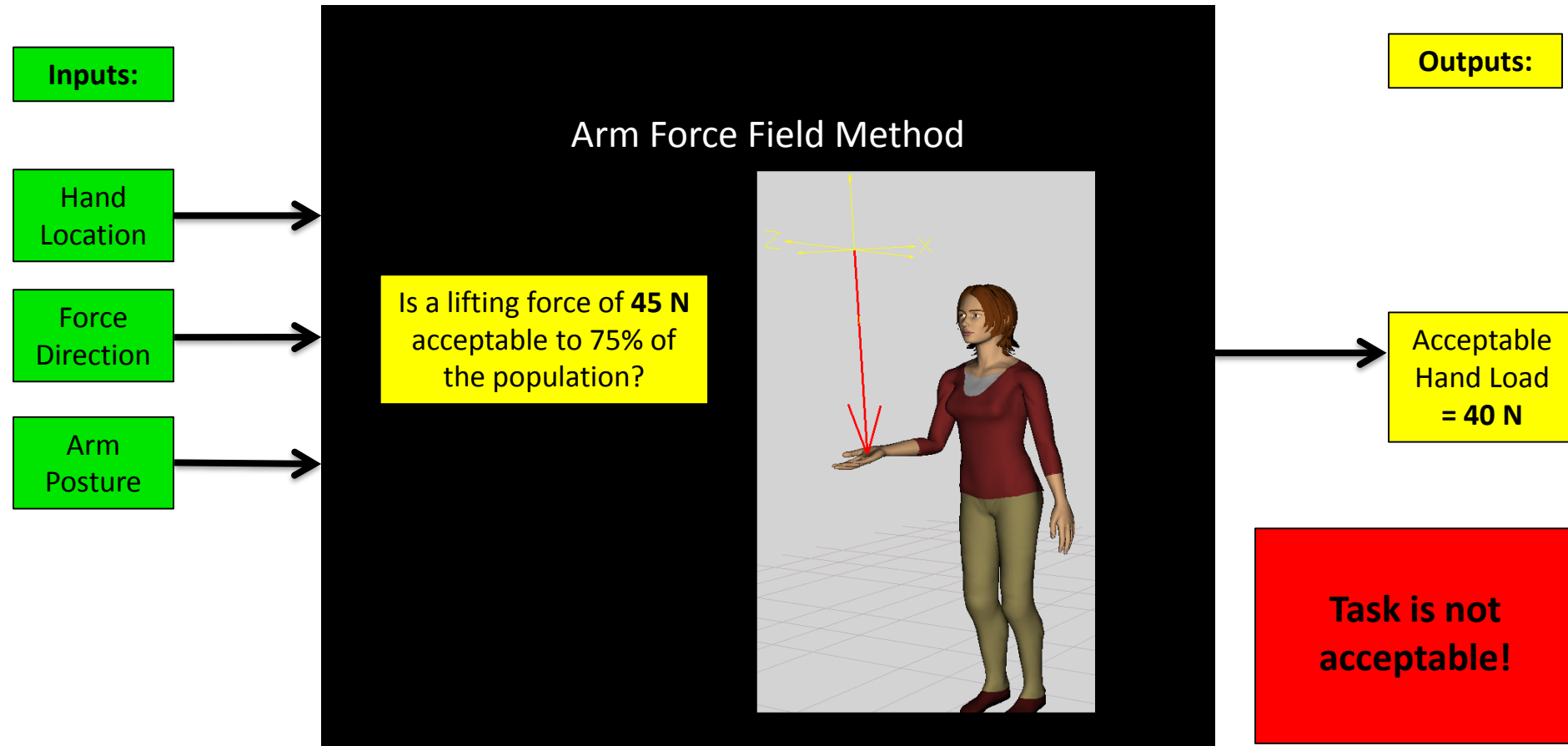
Current Limitations of AFF Method

- Only considers arm strength capability
 - Does not consider some other biomechanical limiters of MAS:
 - Balance
 - Torso/lower extremity strength
 - Hand strength
 - Grip orientation
 - La Delfa, Evans & Potvin (2019) *Applied Ergo*
 - Most DHM software can handle these analyses

Using the Arm Force Field Method



Using the Arm Force Field Method



Arm Force Field in DHM software (e.g. SantosHuman)

The screenshot displays the 'Arm Force Field' window in the SantosHuman software. The 'Inputs' section is configured with a Cycle Time of 8 Hours, a Frequency of 1, and a Duration Range of 0.2. The 'Enter Applied Force Magnitudes' section shows a force of 45 N applied to the Right Arm. The 'Estimate Maximum Acceptable Forces' section shows a predicted 1 RM strength of 89.1 N for the Right Arm. The 'Estimate Percent Capable' section shows that the task is acceptable to 97.7% of females.

Parameter	Value
RelativeDirection	False
Force	45
Name	CsPointLoad
Joint	FingerMiddle_Right1_1
Position	(-1.1894, 0.6365, -0.4329)
Rotation	(127.4383, 14.9772, -11.1243)

Section	Parameter	Value
Inputs	Cycle Time	8 Hours
	Frequency	1
	Duration Range	0.2
Enter Applied Force Magnitudes	Left Arm	8 N
	Right Arm	45 N
Estimate Maximum Acceptable Forces	Left Arm	80.8
	Right Arm	89.1
Estimate Percent Capable	Left Arm	100
	Right Arm	97.7

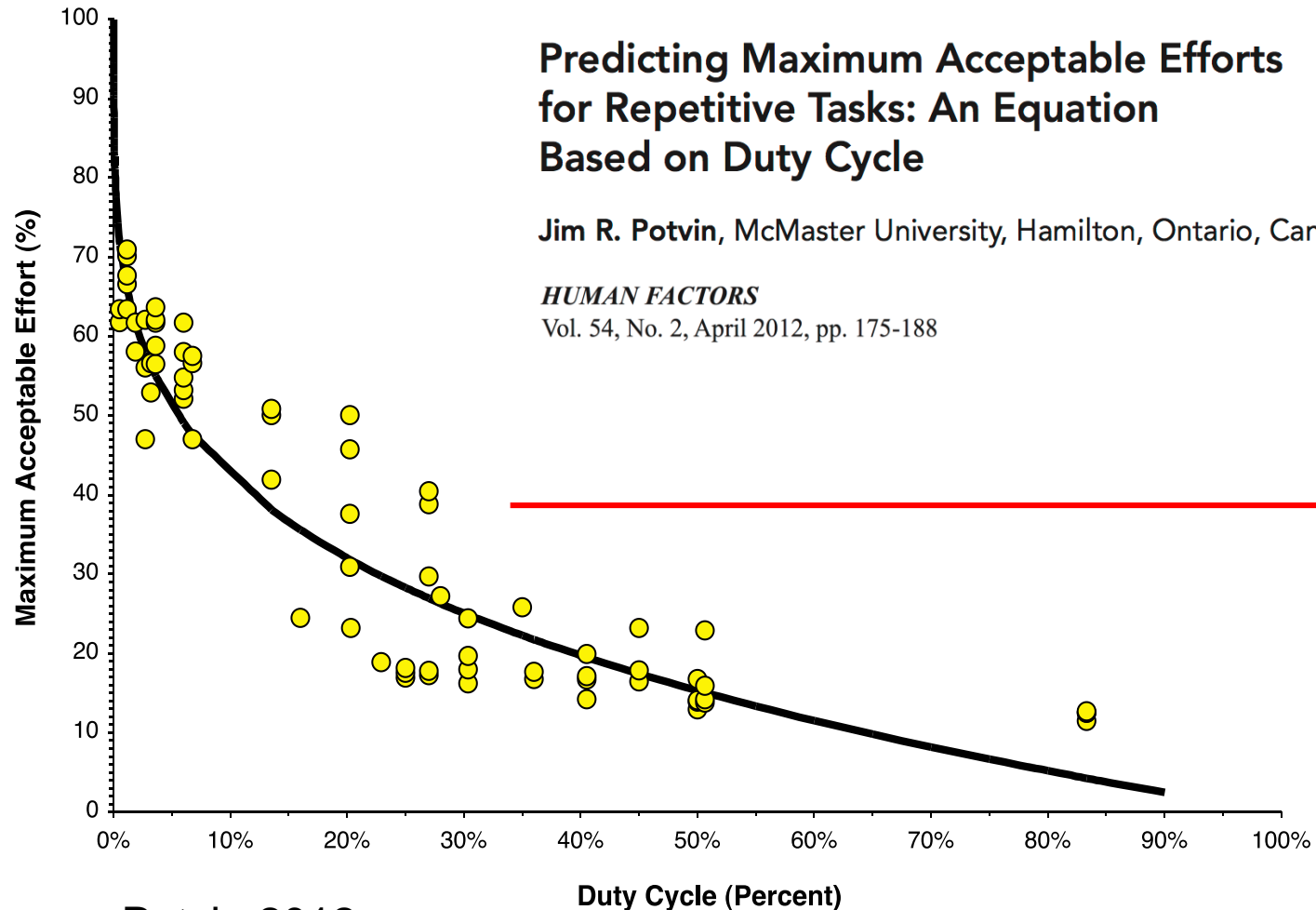
45 N force

But, what if task is repetitive?
Example:
Frequency = 12 efforts/min
Duration effort = 0.7 seconds

AFF predicts 1 RM strength of 89.1 N

Given task demand of 45 N, this is **acceptable** to 97.7% of females

Accounting for duty cycle



Potvin 2012

Arm Force Field

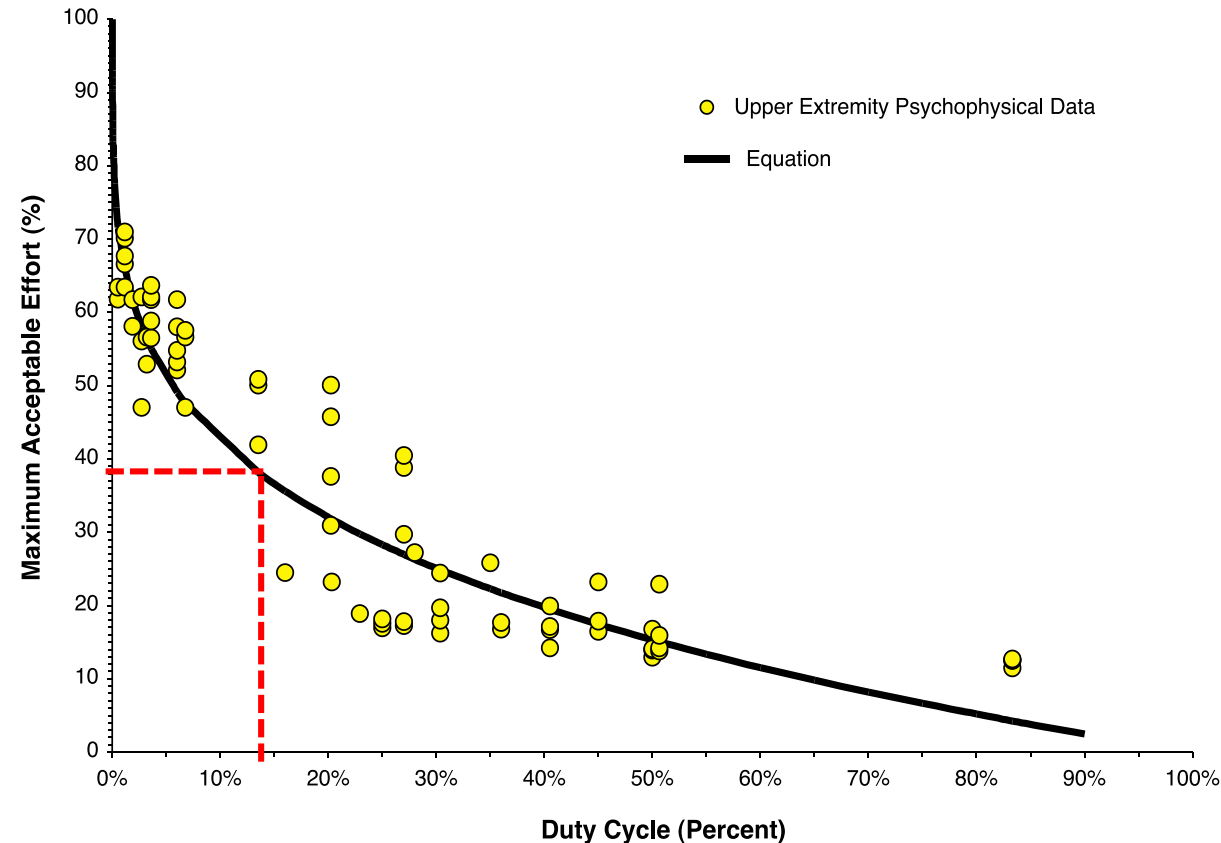
Determine Strength
1 RM for 75% female
 $f=0.002/\text{min}$, low duration

Apply MAE Correction
 $\text{AFF Strength} \times \text{MAE correction}$

Acceptable force corrected for
repetition/duration

Accounting for duty cycle

- What if task has following parameters:
 - Frequency = 12 efforts/min
 - Duration effort = 0.7 s
- $DC = (12 \times 0.7)/60 = 0.14$ (14%)
- $MAE = 1 - (0.14 - 0.000035)^{0.24} = 0.38$ (38%)



Arm Force Field in DHM software (e.g. SantosHuman)

The screenshot displays the 'Arm Force Field' configuration window in DHM software. The window is divided into several sections:

- Asset:** A table showing properties for the 'CsPointLoad' asset.

RelativeDirection	False
Force	45
Common	
Name	CsPointLoad
Joint	FingerMiddle_Right1_1
Position	(-1.1894, 0.6365, -0.4329)
Rotation	(127.4383, 14.9772, -11.1243)
- Inputs:** Fields for Cycle Time (1 Minutes), Frequency (12), Duration Range (0.7), and Maximum Acceptable Effort (%) (38). The 38% value is highlighted with a red box.
- Enter Applied Force Magnitudes:** Fields for Left Arm (8 N) and Right Arm (45 N). The 45 N value is highlighted with a red box.
- Estimate Percent Capable:** A table showing capabilities for Left and Right arms.

Left Arm	100	Right Arm	97.7
Force Applied (N):			45
- Estimate Maximum Acceptable Forces:** A table showing estimated forces for Left and Right arms.

Left Arm	30.4	Right Arm	33.5
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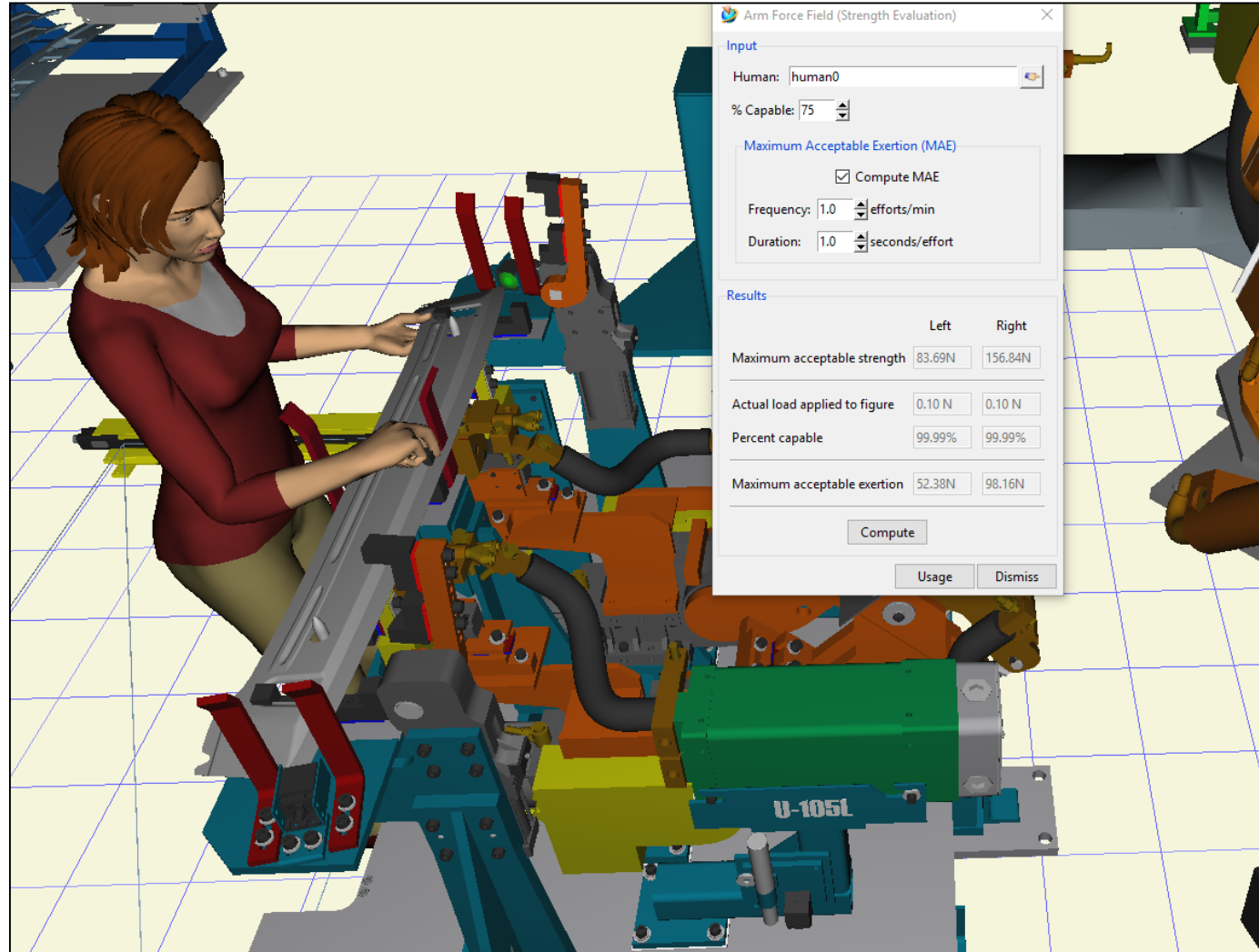
The 33.5 N value is highlighted with a red box.

Annotations and calculations:

- A red arrow points from the '45 N force' box to the '45' value in the 'Right Arm' field.
- A red arrow points from the 'MAE corr. = 38%' box to the '38' value in the 'Maximum Acceptable Effort (%)' field.
- A red arrow points from the '33.5' value in the 'Estimate Maximum Acceptable Forces' table to the calculation box.

AFF corrected for DC = strength x MAE
= 89.1 N x (0.38)
= ~34 N (now below 45 N)
Therefore, unacceptable at current duty cycle

Arm Force Field in Jack



Others ways to utilize the AFF: Lookup Tables

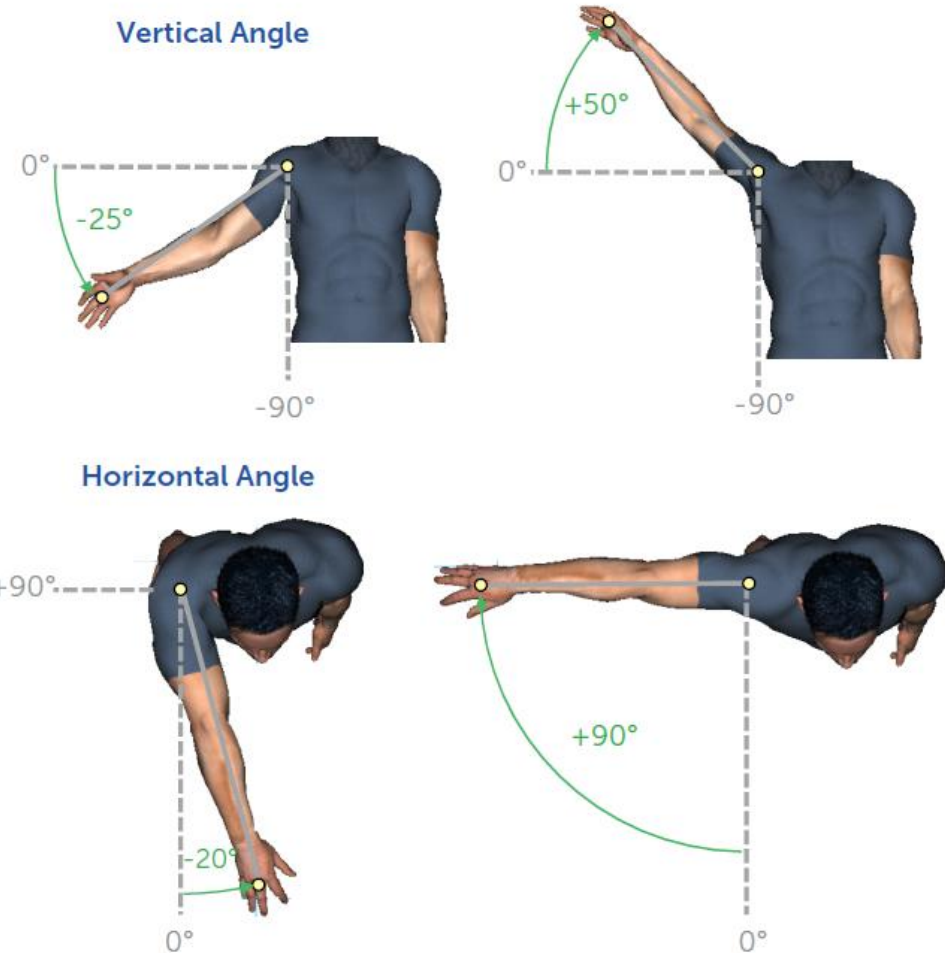
PREMUS 2016 Abstract

Lookup Tables for Manual Arm Strength

Nicholas La Delfa, PhD
nladelfa@gmail.com

Jim Potvin, PhD
jim.potvin@gmail.com
PotvinBiomechanics.com

July 1, 2016



Others ways to utilize the AFF: Lookup Tables

Female - 25th Percentile Manual Arm Strength (N)

25 cm Reach

Superior

		Horizontal Angle				
		-20	0	30	60	90
Vertical Angle	75	69	69	69	69	67
	50	82	83	84	83	79
	25	84	86	86	83	81
	0	90	92	89	83	83
	-25	98	100	96	88	81
	-50	96	97	95	89	79
-75	81	81	80	79	75	

Anterior

		Horizontal Angle				
		-20	0	30	60	90
Vertical Angle	75	47	46	46	47	47
	50	53	52	51	52	54
	25	70	76	64	54	56
	0	94	89	88	65	62
	-25	92	100	92	76	76
	-50	71	76	76	72	71
-75	52	54	56	56	55	

Lateral

		Horizontal Angle				
		-20	0	30	60	90
Vertical Angle	75	46	46	46	46	46
	50	52	52	46	46	46
	25	59	60	51	48	69
	0	63	65	56	59	56
	-25	60	61	54	54	78
	-50	49	49	45	42	50
-75	41	41	41	41	41	

Inferior

		Horizontal Angle				
		-20	0	30	60	90
Vertical Angle	75	96	93	89	89	91
	50	114	109	103	102	107
	25	107	105	100	96	100
	0	102	104	96	88	81
	-25	99	99	97	92	97
	-50	99	99	96	94	98
-70	87	84	80	80	82	

Posterior

		Horizontal Angle				
		-20	0	30	60	90
Vertical Angle	75	90	88	84	80	77
	50	92	86	78	69	62
	25	109	101	81	63	52
	0	130	101	94	65	50
	-25	132	124	94	66	48
	-50	102	95	80	64	51
-75	78	76	71	66	61	

Medial

		Horizontal Angle				
		-20	0	30	60	90
Vertical Angle	75	67	67	68	70	72
	50	65	66	68	70	73
	25	66	67	69	76	89
	0	82	85	83	93	84
	-25	94	95	92	91	96
	-50	79	80	77	69	61
-75	59	59	59	59	59	

37.5 cm Reach

Superior

		Horizontal Angle				
		-20	0	30	60	90
Vertical Angle	75	78	78	78	76	71
	50	79	84	92	93	83
	25	66	69	77	83	80
	0	74	72	72	73	72
	-25	95	96	90	83	72
	-50	99	100	98	89	70
-75	100	100	98	91	82	

Anterior

		Horizontal Angle				
		-20	0	30	60	90
Vertical Angle	75	53	51	49	47	46
	50	65	62	57	54	53
	25	76	80	65	55	54
	0	116	104	99	63	61
	-25	111	127	109	81	75
	-50	90	95	93	80	67
-75	85	86	84	79	73	

Lateral

		Horizontal Angle				
		-20	0	30	60	90
Vertical Angle	75	59	60	59	56	53
	50	65	63	60	55	50
	25	64	63	61	59	76
	0	61	57	63	76	70
	-25	65	64	65	69	81
	-50	62	61	61	61	65
-75	49	50	51	52	54	

Inferior

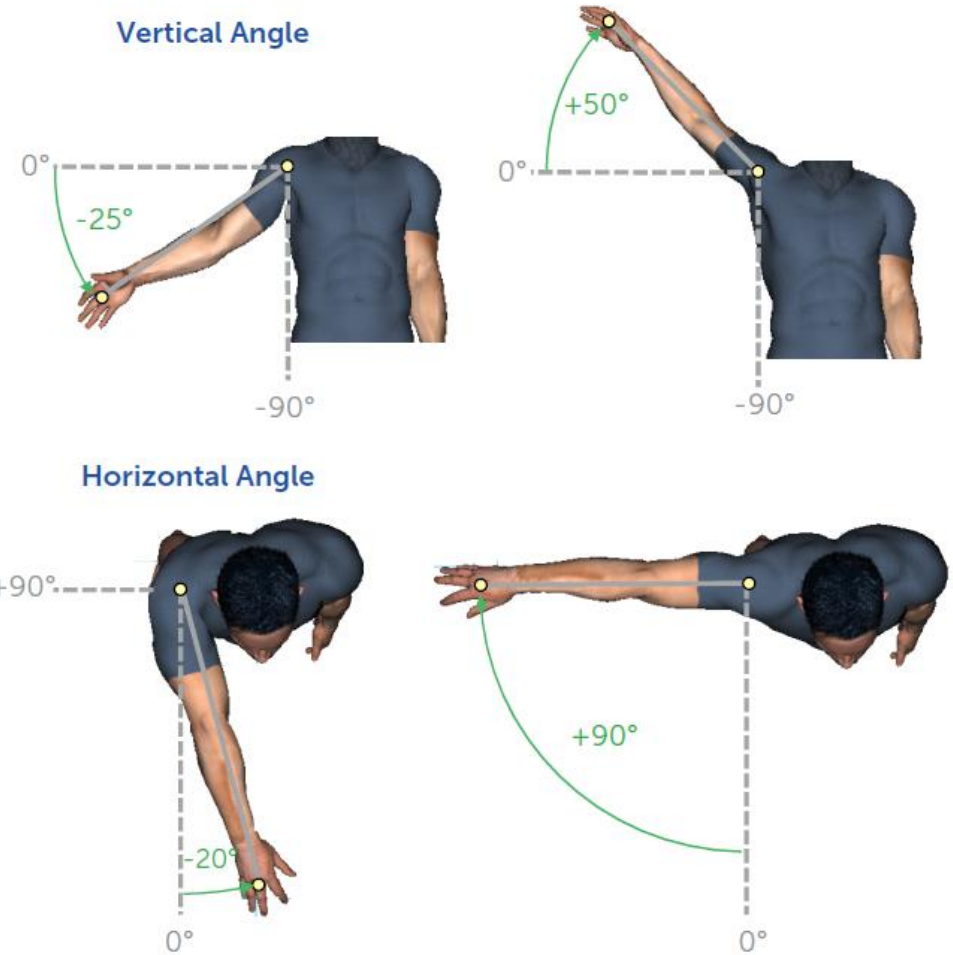
		Horizontal Angle				
		-20	0	30	60	90
Vertical Angle	75	122	118	113	111	110
	50	133	123	115	117	120
	25	104	99	93	99	101
	0	85	86	79	81	73
	-25	95	91	82	82	83
	-50	100	95	89	88	85
-70	86	85	82	80	78	

Posterior

		Horizontal Angle				
		-20	0	30	60	90
Vertical Angle	75	94	91	86	79	74
	50	94	90	81	69	60
	25	113	112	84	62	52
	0	158	121	103	60	44
	-25	146	144	94	58	42
	-50	95	91	74	57	42
-75	84	82	78	71	64	

Medial

		Horizontal Angle				
		-20	0	30	60	90
Vertical Angle	75	74	76	78	82	85
	50	66	69	74	80	86
	25	59	62	69	79	95
	0	71	74	81	102	102
	-25	87	87	90	94	102
	-50	66	69	75	76	74
-75	64	68	72	74	74	



Others ways to utilize the AFF: Matlab

```
1  % Arm Force Field Method
2  % code copyright to Jim Potvin (2016)
3  % last updated 2016-05-29
4
5  clear
6  clc
7  %clf('reset')           % clears all graphics
8  format short
9
10 CV = 0.277;             % coefficient of variation for strength
11 bm = 65.0;              % body mass (kg)
12 ht = 1.600;            % stature (m)
13 pc = 75;                % percent capable
14 Antro = [bm, ht, pc]
15 GravityG = [0, -1, 0]; % gravity in Global Axis System
16
17
18 UAcogR = 0.436;         % CofG distance ratios (from Chaffin, Andersson, Martin, 1999)
19 FAcogR = 0.430;
20 HcogR = 0.740;
21
22 UAmassR = 0.028;        % Body mass ratios (from Chaffin, Andersson, Martin, 1999)
23 FAmassR = 0.017;
24 HmassR = 0.006;
25
26 % use to determine % capable of MAC predicted
```


Others ways to utilize the AFF: Excel Spreadsheet

Body Mass (kg)	72.1	note: skeleton is 50th female
Stature (m)	1.628	
% Capable	75	
Sex	Female	

Arm Force Field

La Delfa & Potvin (2017)

		Hand		Hand locations wrt Shoulder
Axis Directions		Left	Right	
Right/Left	+ Right / - Left	0	0	
Anterior/Posterior	+ Ant / - Post	0	45	
Up/Down	+ Up / - Down	-50	-30	

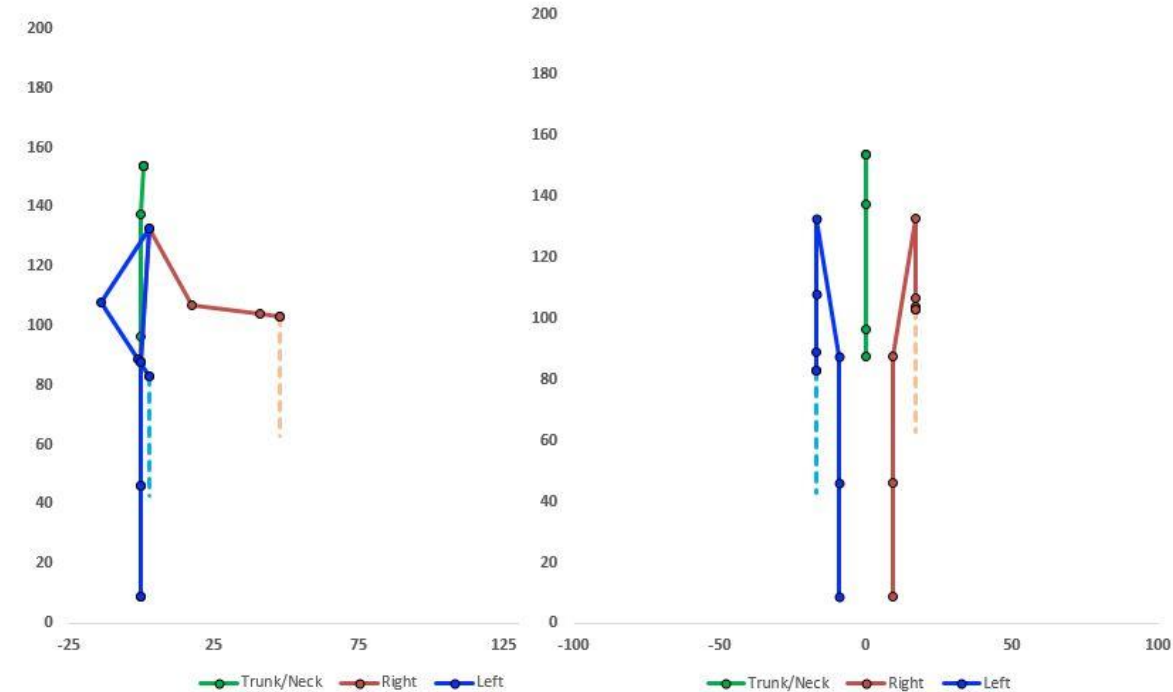
all in cm

Enter the Direction of the Force acting on the hand (from -1.000 to +1.000)	Left Force Vector (in Global)		
	X	Y	Z
	0	0	-1
Direction polarity	+ is Right	+ is Ant	+is Sup
Hand Effort Direction			Up

Enter the Direction of the Force acting on the hand (from -1.000 to +1.000)	Right Force Vector (in Global)		
	X	Y	Z
	0	0	-1
Direction polarity	+ is Right	+ is Ant	+is Sup
Hand Effort Direction			Up

Hand Force (N)	0	
Manual Arm Strength	59.7 N	75 %Cap
%Capable	100 %Capable	

Hand Force (N)	58
Manual Arm Strength	90.9 N
%Capable	97 %Capable



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Conclusions

- The traditional way of estimating manual strength and acceptable forces were problematic
- The Arm Force Field method represents an approach to estimate strength capability for the population at the hand
- DHM software provide most complete utilization, but other methods to access AFF outputs are still possible

Establishing Acceptable Manual Forces in the Proactive Ergonomics Process: Development and Implementation of the Arm Force Field Method



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