

BIOENG-404 - Homework 2: OpenSim

Nathan Girard SV - Neurocomputational

Titouan Renard MT - Robotics

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1 Overview

2 Generic Model

1. How many bodies (segments) does model_generic have?
2. How many coordinates (degrees of freedom) does model_generic have?
3. Which two bodies are connected by the hip_r joint?
4. Which coordinate represents right ankle flexion? In this model, is dorsiflexion described as a positive or negative angle?
5. What is the maximum isometric force that the soleus muscle can produce?
6. Some muscles in the model are represented by multiple muscle-tendon actuators. For example, the gluteus medius muscle is split into glut_med1, glut_med2, and glut_med3. Which other muscles in the model are divided into multiple compartments? Why do you think these muscles are represented this way?

3 Tools for analyzing models and data

7. Are the ankle flexion moment arms of the gastrocnemius and soleus muscles plotted as positive or negative? Given the muscles' geometric paths and the sign convention for the ankle_angle_r coordinate as defined in model_generic, does your answer make sense?
8. Your plot shows the muscles' moment arms about the ankle with the knee fully extended. Do you think the muscles' moment arms about the ankle will change if the knee is flexed?
9. Open the task.c3d file located in tutorial/experimental_data with Mokka.
 - (a) Report the subject's height, weight, age, and sex by inspecting the metadata
 - (b) How does the coordinate system of the experiment (lab) differ from the coordinate system in OpenSim?
 - (c) Visualize the ground reaction forces (Analog channels, then drag and drop the component into an analog type plot). What do you observe in terms of the quality of the signal?
 - (d) Calculate the linear envelop (Tools -> Analog -> Smooth / Linear Envelope) of the right tibialis anterior's EMG. What is the linear envelop?
10. Preview the markers (task.trc) and ground reaction forces (task_grf.mot) in the OpenSim GUI by synchronizing them. Check if the forces are correctly applied to the foot. Which labels in the ground reaction force data correspond to the left and right leg?

11. What is the function of the Adjust Model Markers option in the Scaling tool?
12. What is the scale factor for the left talus, calcaneus, and toes?
13. In the metadata of the task.c3d file in Mokka (View -> Metadata -> SUBJECTS), there exist direct segment length measurements. Compare the left and right foot length and the one reported by the Scaling tool (check the message window after running the tool, where the length is reported in meters).
14. For the model shown on the right, which coordinate(s) need to be adjusted to create a model pose that “best matches” the experimental markers shown at the beginning of the swing phase?
15. For the model poses and experimental markers shown below, which combination of pose and markers has the minimum marker errors?
16. In theory, experimental markers on the thigh and shank could have more skin movement artifacts compared with the foot markers; which of the following scenarios would be most appropriate for the weighted least squares minimization solved by the Inverse Kinematics Tool?
17. What is the root-mean-squared (RMS) marker error from the last frame of the motion? Does this seem reasonable?
18. Plot the hip flexion-extension, knee flexion-extension, and ankle plantar flexion-dorsiflexion angles of the left leg on a single graph. Search through the internet and compare the shape of these curves for a healthy gait. Do they seem normal?
19. For the model shown on the right, what is the value (θ) of the knee coordinate (Note: extension is +)?
20. Given that the model shown on the right is at rest, what is the knee’s velocity?
21. For the model poses shown below at rest and with gravity (g) as the only force acting on the model, which pose requires the largest torque at the knee joint?
22. Plot the hip flexion-extension, knee flexion-extension, and ankle plantar flexion-dorsiflexion moments of the left leg on a single graph. Search through the internet and compare the shape of these curves for a healthy gait. Do they seem normal?
23. Why does the force-length curve of the contractile element of the muscle have a bell shape? Please elaborate.
24. What is the meaning of the force-velocity shape of the contractile element, and how does it relates to physiology?
25. After executing SO, the muscle activations task_StaticOptimization_activation.sto are exported in the static_optimization folder. The EMG envelop emg_env.sto was extracted and saved in the experimental_data folder. Compare the activations predicted by SO with the EMG for the following muscles: lat_gas_l, tib_ant_l, rect_fem_l. Please comment.
26. What is the difference between muscle excitation and activation? What does the EMG measure? How can we compare measured EMG and predicted muscle activity from OpenSim?
27. Is the cost function used in SO appropriate for studying pathological conditions such as Cerebral palsy or Parkinson’s disease?