

# **Technology and Sports Biomechanics**

## **Trends in Research and Applications**

**Ian Harris Sujae (PhD)**

Senior Manager (ERGO Technology Centre)

Senior Lecturer (Sport and Exercise Science)

School of Sports Health and Leisure, Republic Polytechnic Singapore

3rd International Seminar of Sport for Development and Peace (ICSDP) 2021

Universitas Pendidikan Indonesia, Bandung, Indonesia.



# About Republic Polytechnic

- Established in 2002
- 7 schools & 3 centers
- Over 14,000 students
- About 1,000 staff
- Leverage Problem-Based Learning and Authentic Learning Modalities





# Background

---

- Sport Biomechanics
- Human Movement
- Sports and Exercise Science

**I AM STILL LEARNING**





# Overview

---

1. Sports Biomechanics and its Function in Sports
2. Technology Trends for Research and Applications in Biomechanics
3. Integrated Technology Solutions and Biomechanics
  - a. Wearable Technology
  - b. Adaptive Technology
  - c. AI and Machine Learning

# Biomechanics and Its Function is Sports



# Biomechanics and its Function in Sports

---

- The study of the structure and function of biological systems by means of the methods of mechanics and mathematics

(Hatze, 1974)

- Stems from two main disciplines:-
  - Physics
  - Biology

- Study and analyse human movement and sports performance

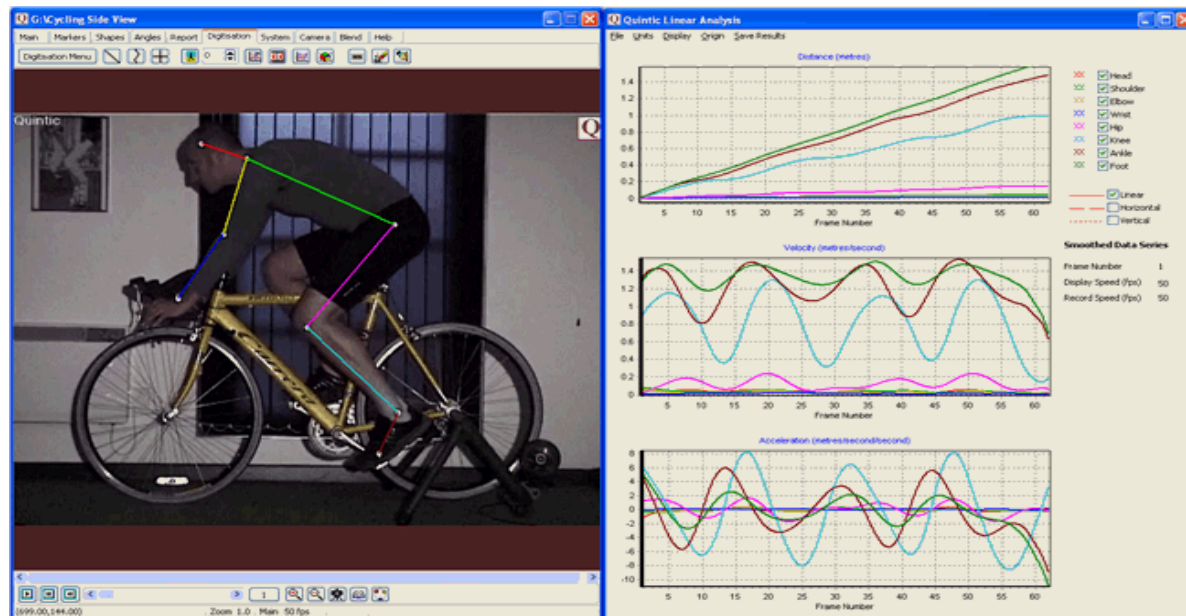
(Bartlett, 2007)



# Biomechanics and its Function in Sports

“Since both the human body and the implement are employed in physical activities, they have to follow the conventional laws of classic physics.

Therefore, it is important to understand the basic concepts of mechanics and how they are applied to human movement in order to coach effectively thereby enhancing performance.” (Rasch & Burke, 1978).







# Biomechanics and its Function in Sports

---

- Eliminates guessing what good technique is
- Understand the effect of training
- Match athlete with sport
- Assess efficacy of sports equipment
- Prevent injury
- Explain the cause and effects using concepts of mechanics and mathematics







# Biomechanics and its Function in Sports

## Force causes motion



<https://giphy.com/explore/free-kick>

## Force terminates motion



<https://gfycat.com/discover/goalkeeper-training-gifs>



<https://giphy.com/explore/goalkeeper-save>

## Force changes direction of motion



# Biomechanics and its Function in Sports

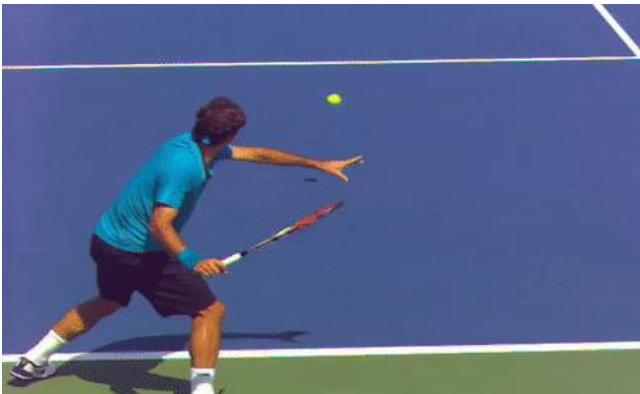
- The rate of change of momentum of a body is proportional to the force causing it and the change takes place in the direction in which the force acts.

$$\mathbf{F} = m \frac{\mathbf{v}_f - \mathbf{v}_i}{t} = m\mathbf{a},$$

where  $\mathbf{F}$  = force acting on a body (vector),  $m$  = mass of a body,

$\mathbf{v}_f$  = final velocity,  $\mathbf{v}_i$  = initial velocity,  $t$  = time duration between  $\mathbf{v}_f$  and

$\mathbf{v}_i$ ,  $\mathbf{a}$  = acceleration



<https://giphy.com/gifs/search/roger+federer+forehand>



$$F [N] = m [kg] \cdot a [m/s^2]$$

Unit of force

$$[N] = [kg] \cdot [m/s^2]$$



# Biomechanics and its Function in Sports

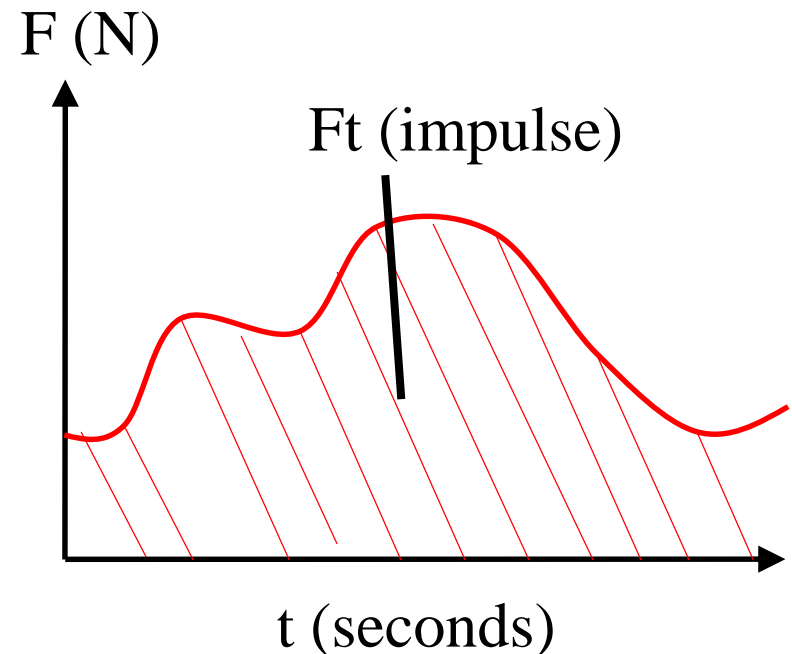
When a force is applied on a system for certain duration (impulse), the impulse is equal to the change of momentum that it produces.

$$\mathbf{F} = m\mathbf{a}$$

$$\rightarrow \mathbf{F} = m \frac{\mathbf{v}_f - \mathbf{v}_i}{t}$$

$$\rightarrow \mathbf{Ft} = m\mathbf{v}_f - m\mathbf{v}_i \text{ [Ns]}$$

where  $F$  = force,  $m$  = mass,  $a$  = acceleration,  $v_f$  = final velocity,  $v_i$  = initial velocity,  $t$  = time between  $v_f$  and  $v_i$





# Biomechanics and its Function in Sports

## Enhance Performance

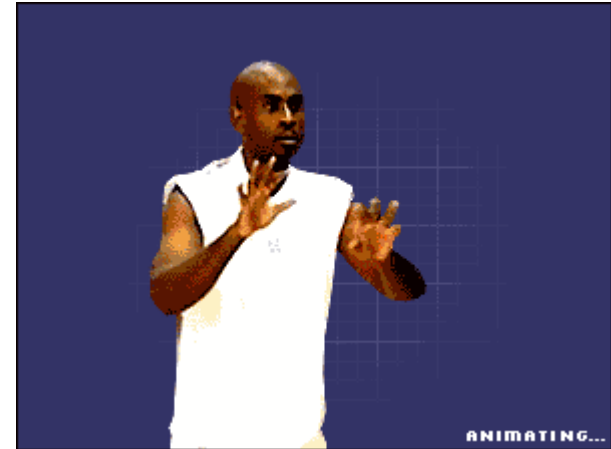


<https://bonnewshaiti.com/how-captchas-could-show-if-an-algorithms-getting-closer-to-agi/>

Time in contact with the ball longer (follow-through)

Time in contact with the ball longer  
dissipates force experience by joints  
((bending of arms))

## Injury Prevention



<http://myhobyisbasket.blogspot.com/2010/11/animation-drills-skills-basket-ball.html>

**Linear impulse – Momentum Relationship**

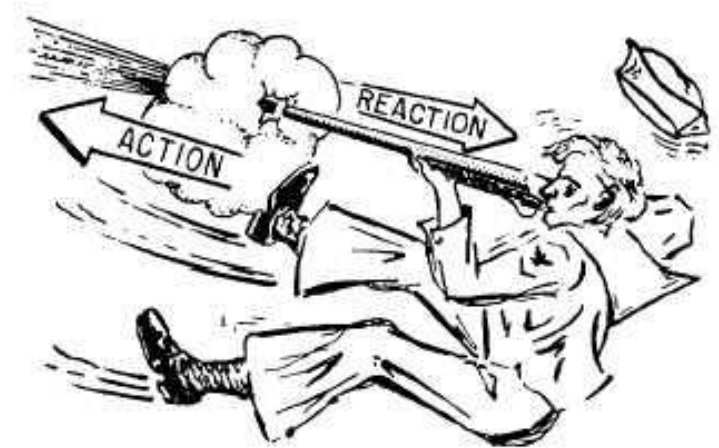




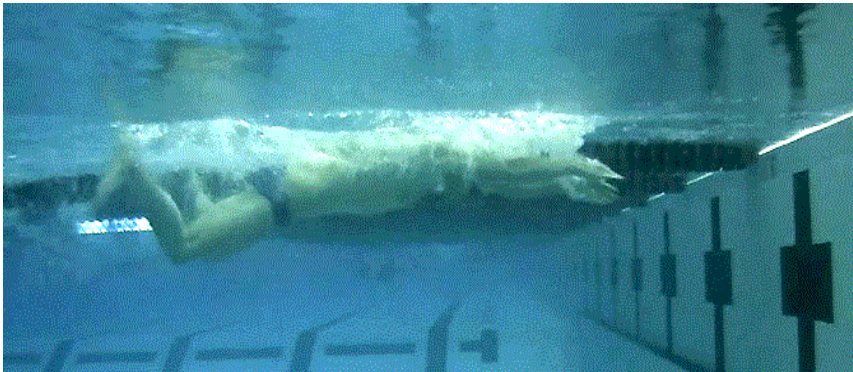
# Biomechanics and its Function in Sports



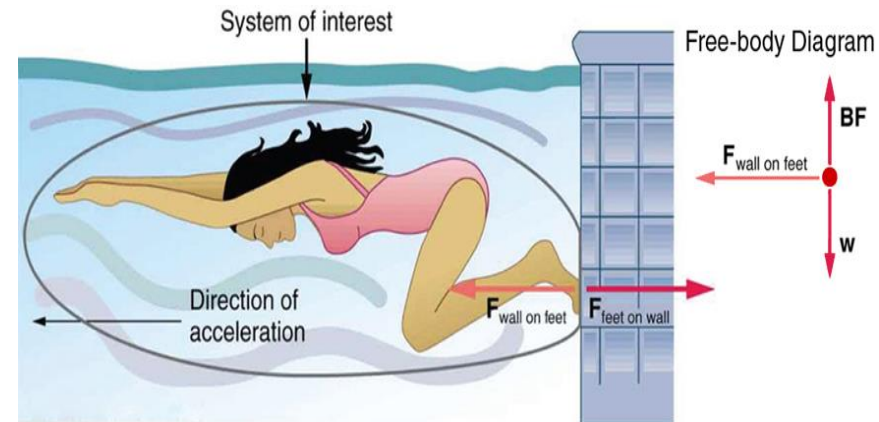
<https://giphy.com/explore/newtons-3rd-law>



<https://www.pinterest.com/pin/563231497123163440/>



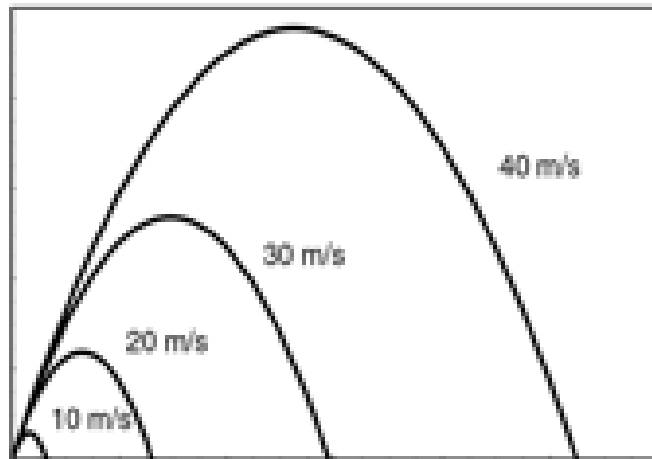
<https://coachsci.sdsu.edu/swim/champion/BS-BF%20Turn.htm>



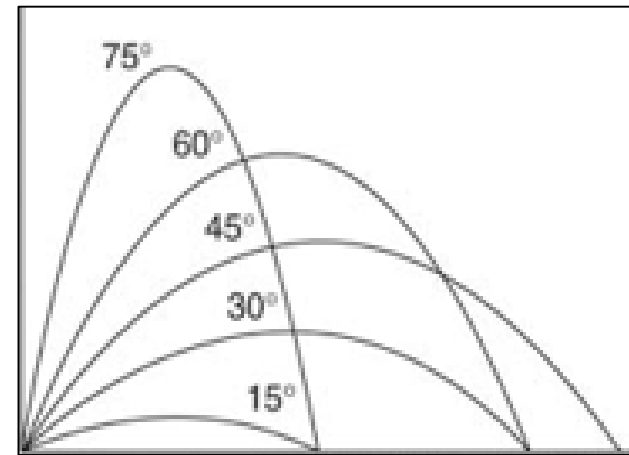
<https://nigerianscholars.com/tutorials/force-newtons-laws-motion/newtons-third-law-of-motion-symmetry-in-forces/>



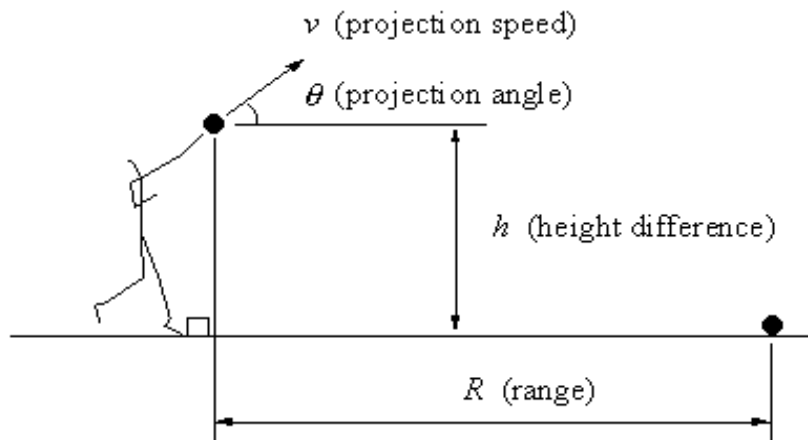
# Biomechanics and its Function in Sports



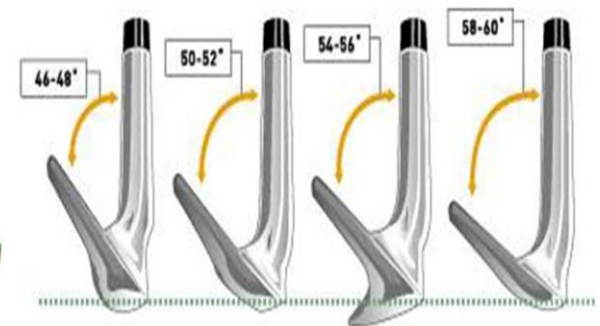
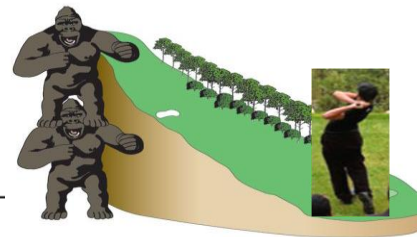
Release Velocity



Release Angle



Release Height

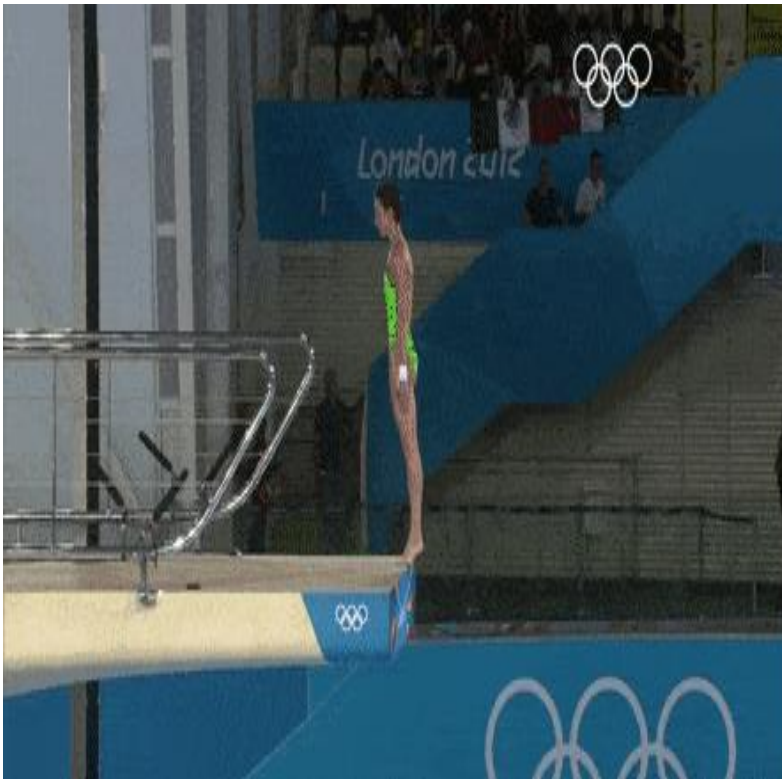




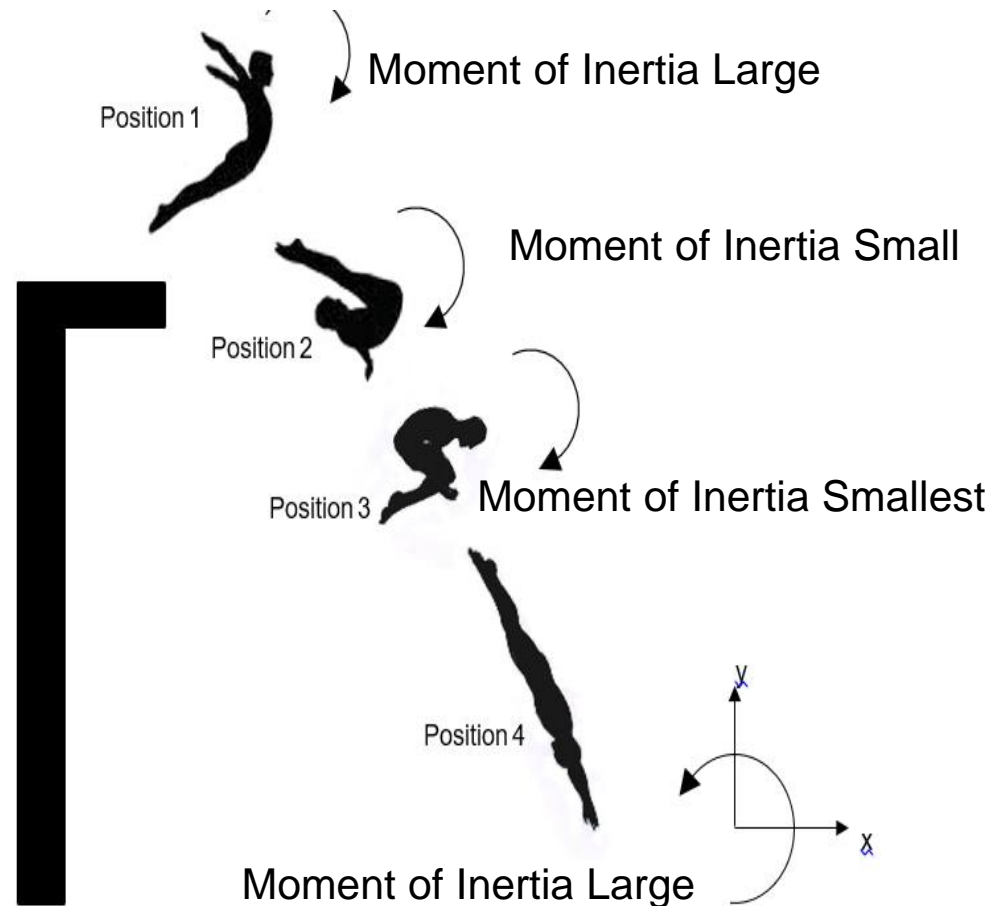
# Biomechanics and its Function in Sports

No External Forces to cause a change in direction to twist and turn in the air

Moment of Inertia small = rotation faster



<https://giphy.com/explore/olympic-diving>







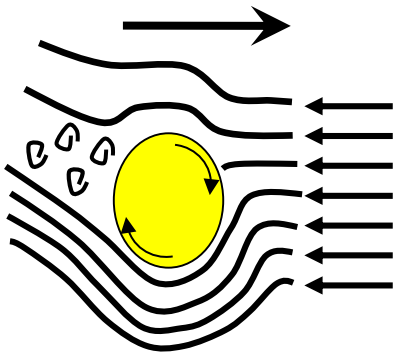
# Biomechanics and its Function in Sports



<https://giphy.com/gifs/tag/tiro>



<https://sports.orange.fr/videos/insolite/-la-splendide-amortie-revers-de-roger-federer-CNT0000018w8NV.html>



<https://phys.org/news/2021-06-sticky-baseballs-physics-latest-scandal.html>



**Magnus effect**

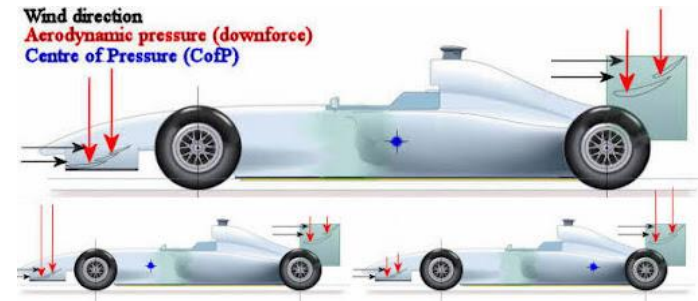


<https://tenor.com/view/benditlikebeckham-juicyjuicymangoes-gif-20064021>

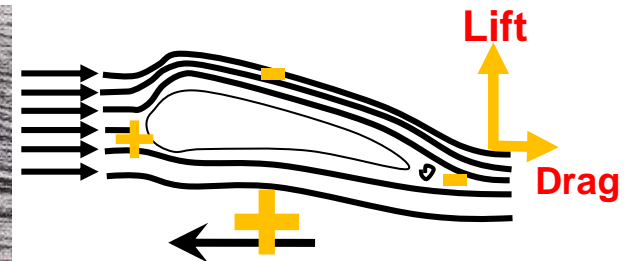


# Biomechanics and its Function in Sports

- Fluid Mechanics
- Athletes such as speed skaters, cyclists, swimmers, runners wear a tight uniform/suit to reduce the drag forces.
- The wing in the racing car, large lift forces in the vertically down direction act on the wings, so that the racing car avoid flipping over in fast speed.



The motion of wing



<https://www.reuters.com/article/idCNChina-1961820080810>

<https://www.nydailynews.com/new-york/city-cheers-homegrown-olympic-medalist-article-1.1134162>



## Let's Recap ...

- Eliminates guessing what good technique is
- Understand the effect of training
- Match athlete with sport
- Assess efficacy of sports equipment
- Prevent injury
- Explains cause and effects

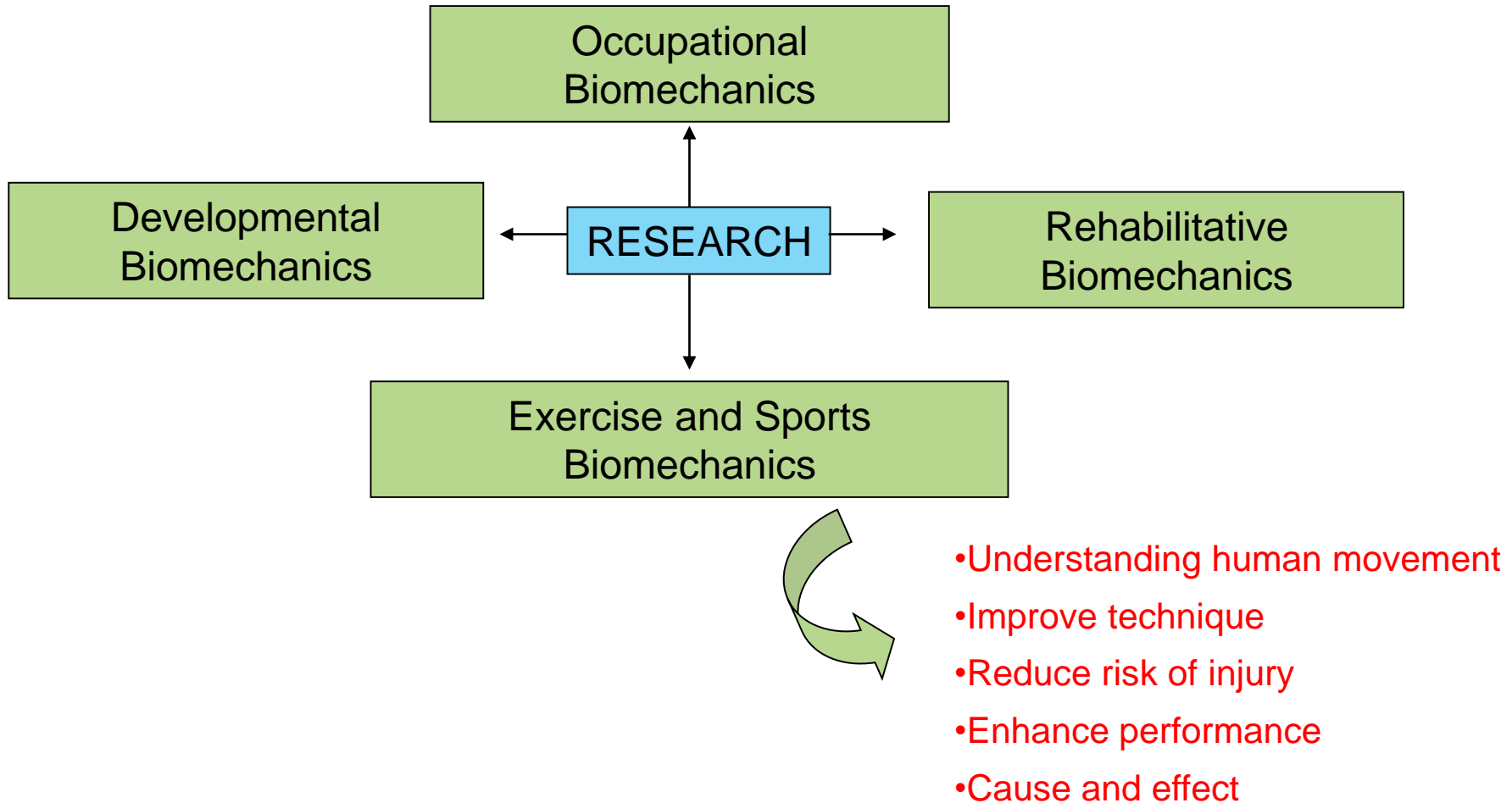


# Technology Trends for Research and Applications in Biomechanics





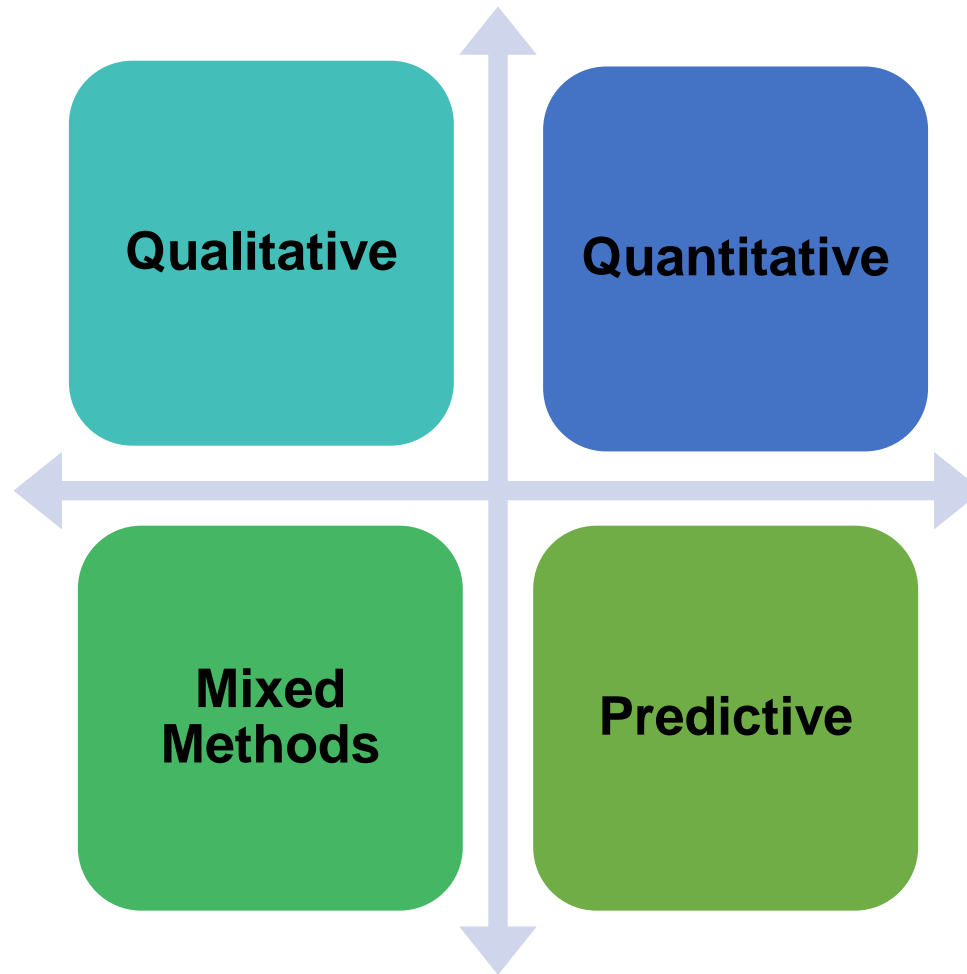
# Areas of Biomechanics Research





# Areas of Biomechanics Research

---



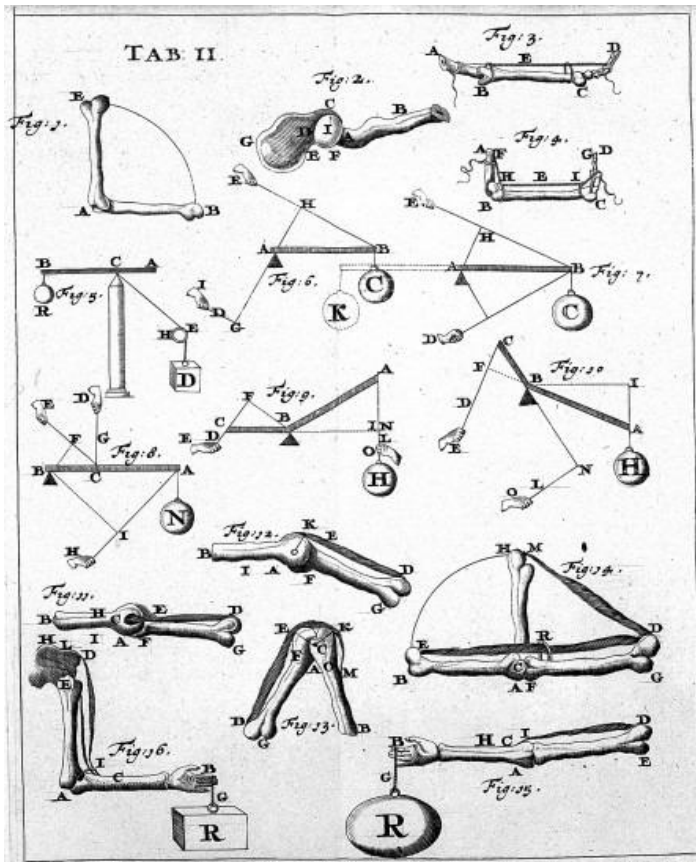








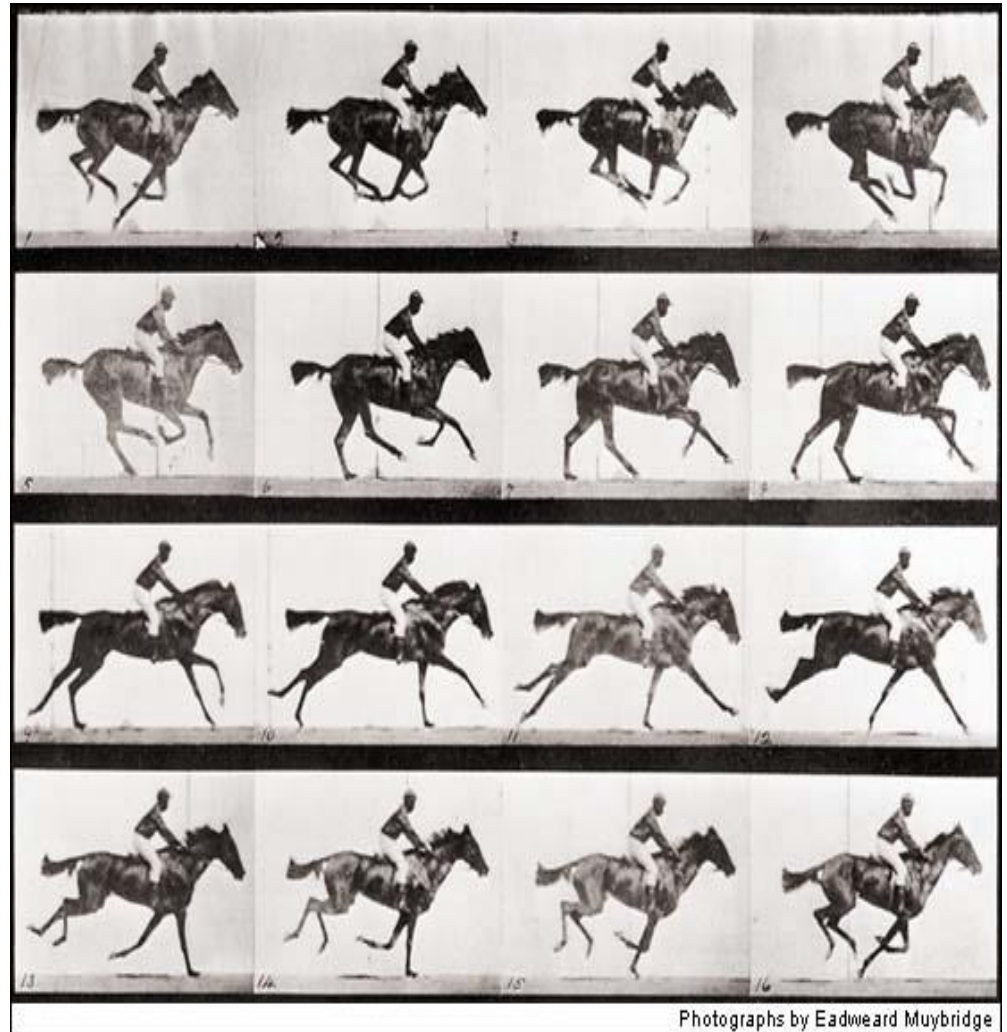
# Technology in Research and Applications



**Giovanni Alfonso Borelli**

“De Motu Animalium”

(28 January 1608 – 31 December 1679)

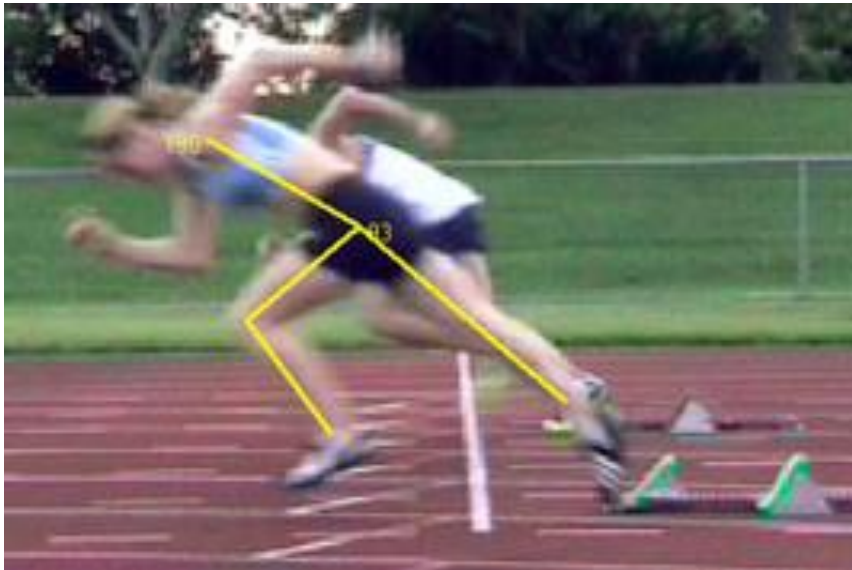


Photographs by Eadweard Muybridge

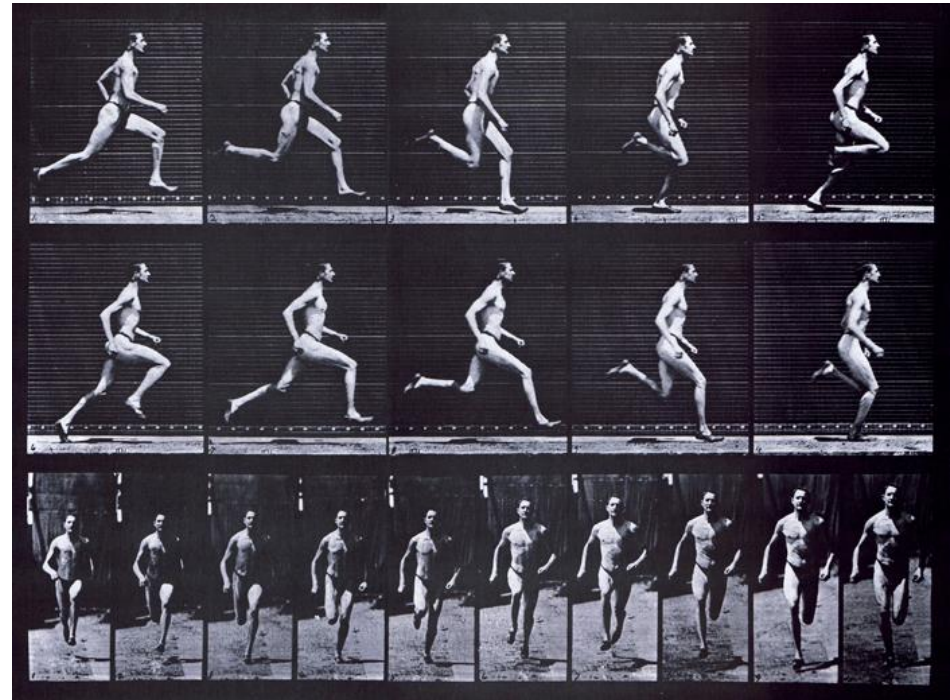


# Technology in Research and Applications

Sports Biomechanics is the study and analysis of human patterns in sport



**High-Speed Video  
Camera Technology**





# Technology in Research and Applications

## High-Speed Optical Motion Capture Technology

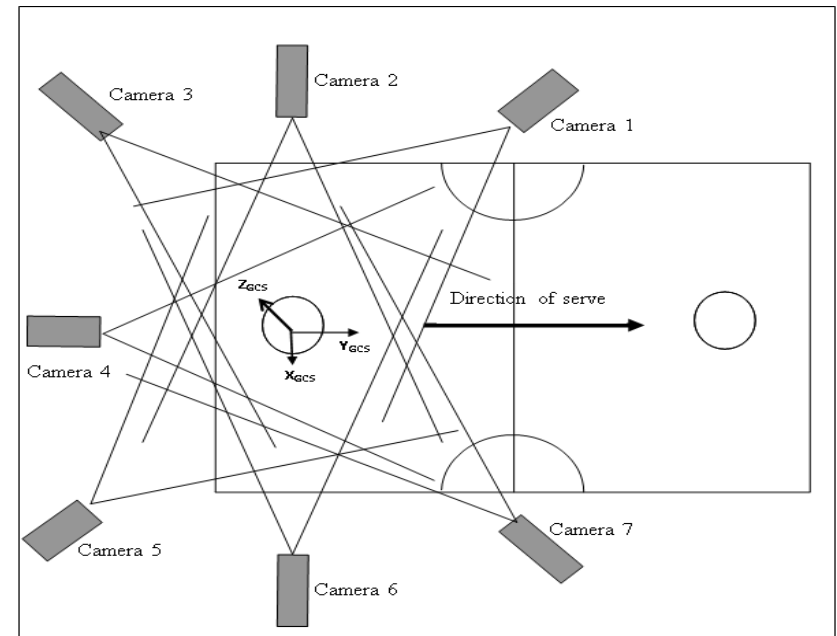
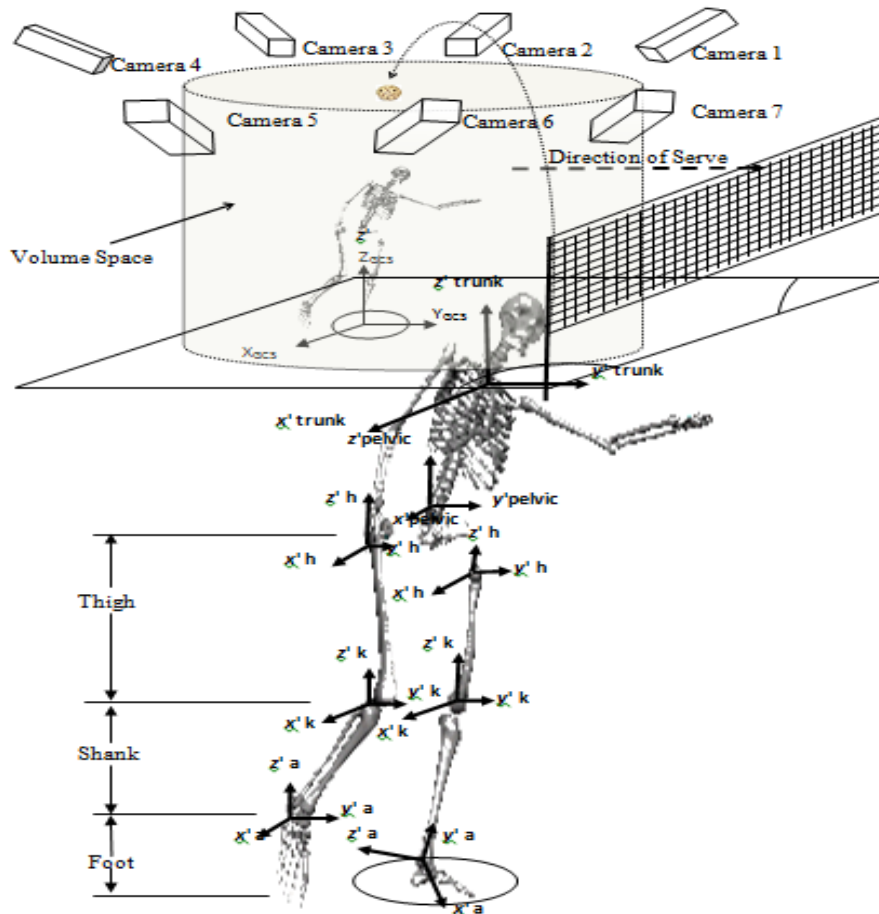
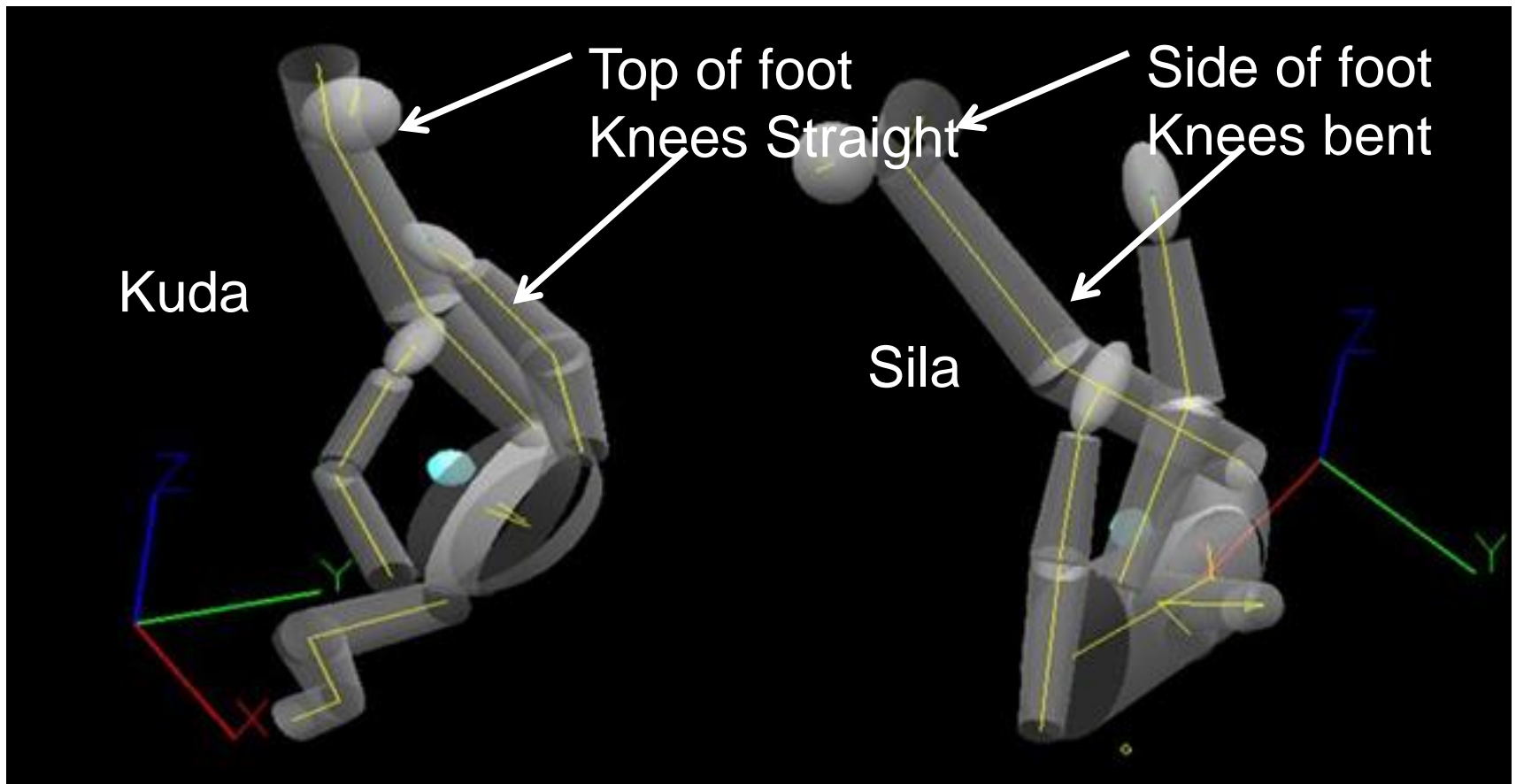


Figure 3.2 Seven camera placements for three-dimensional analysis of the *kuda* and *sila* serve kicking techniques. The serving circle (marked 'H') is within the calibrated three-dimensional volume space. The  $X_{GCS}$ -,  $Y_{GCS}$ - and  $Z_{GCS}$ -axes refers to the Global Cartesian Coordinate System (GCS) comprising of orthogonal planes with the Y-axis is the direction of the serve.



# Technology in Research and Applications

## Identifying Technique Difference

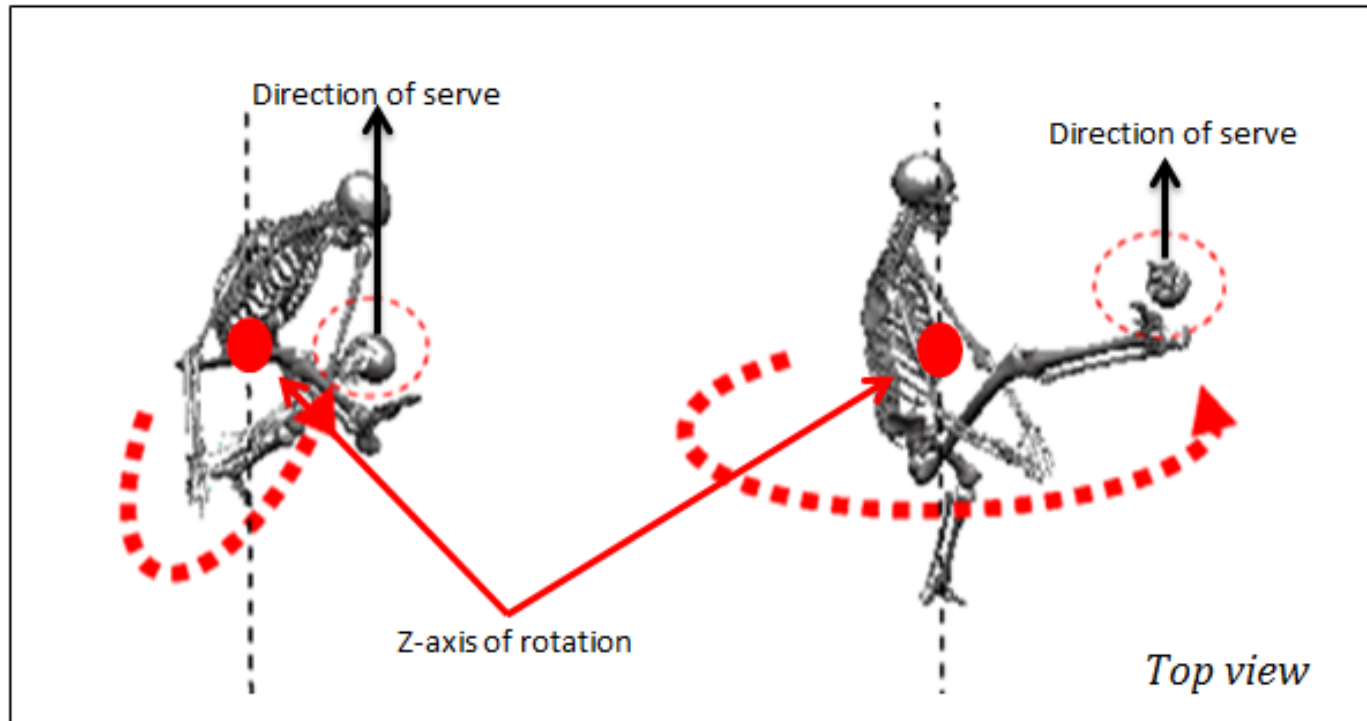






# Technology in Research and Applications

## Coaching Implications

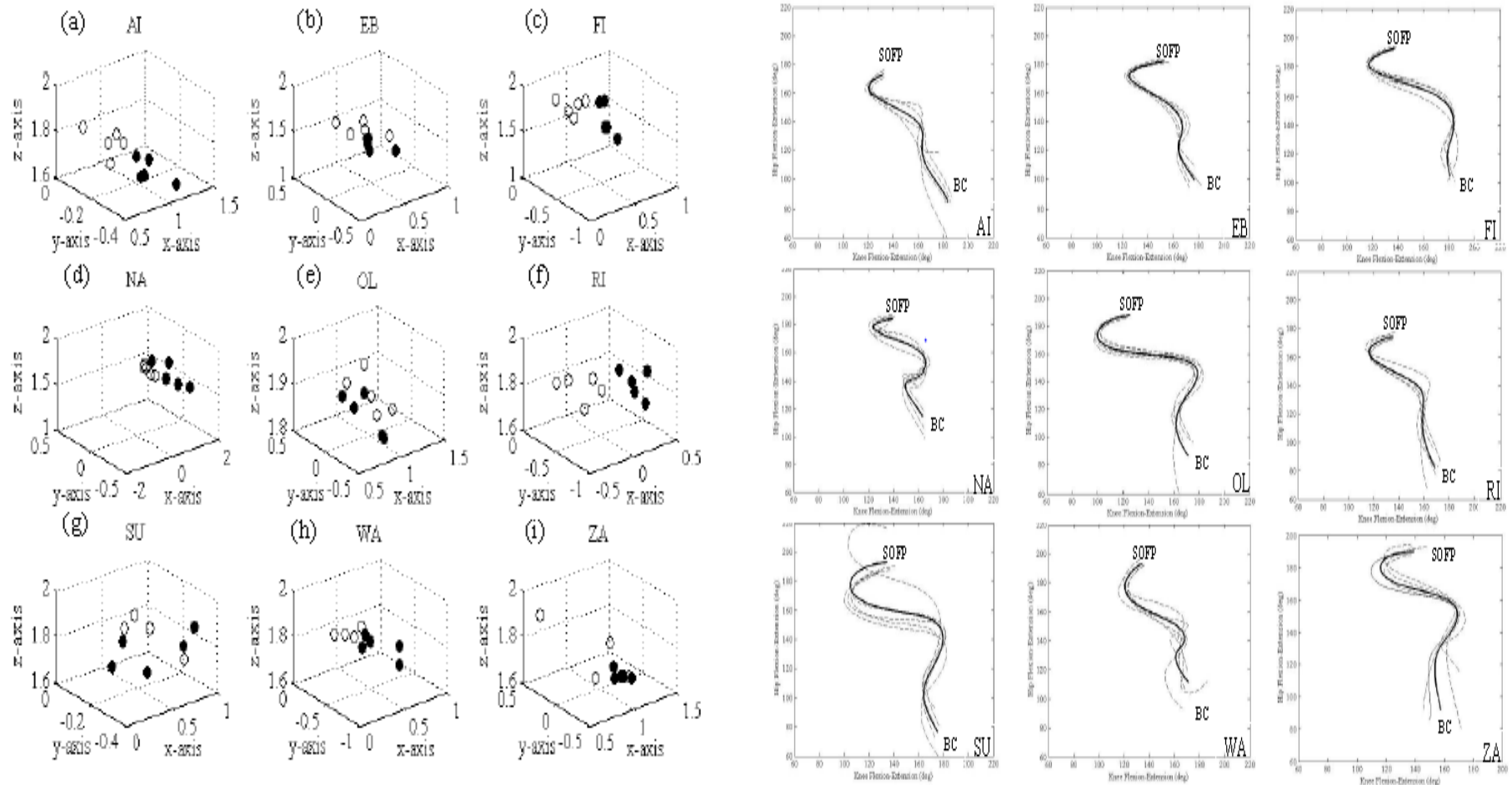


- Kicking with knees fully extended at point of impact (Single rigid kicking segment at impact) generates optimal impact speeds
- Training must include presence of perturbation



# Technology in Research and Applications

## Identifying Variability in Joint Coordination



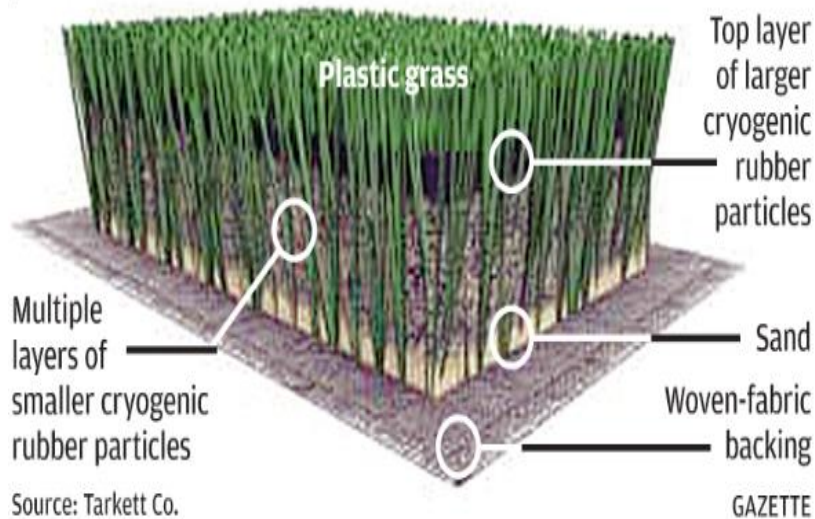
(Sujae, Koh & Hamill, 2012)



# Technology in Research and Applications

## What's in Field Turf?

An artificial turf field like FieldTurf is made up of plastic grass fibers held in place by up to 21 layers of different-sized cryogenic rubber particles and sand.



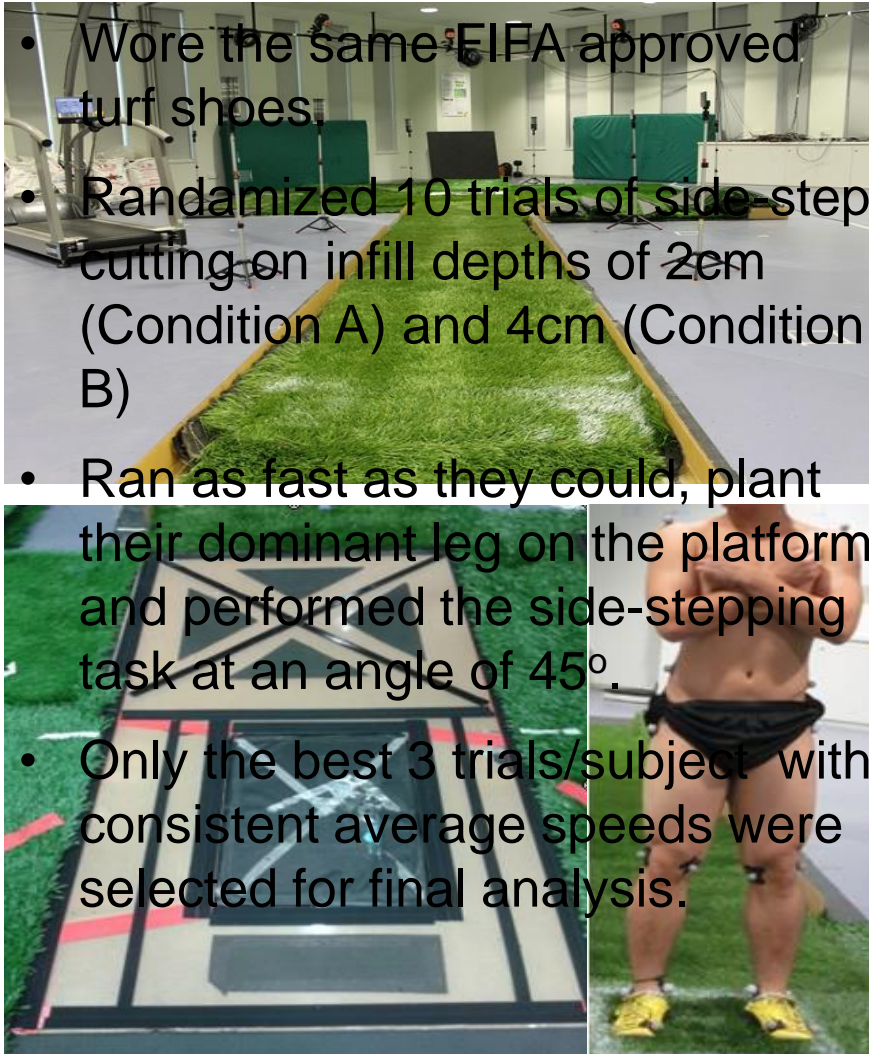
- Improved playability
- Grass turf characteristics
  - moisture
  - hardness
  - grass cover
  - root density
  - naps in the turf type
  - distribution and compaction of infill
- Sand and rubber infills
- A cushioning effect
- Associated with reductions in hardness of playing surface.



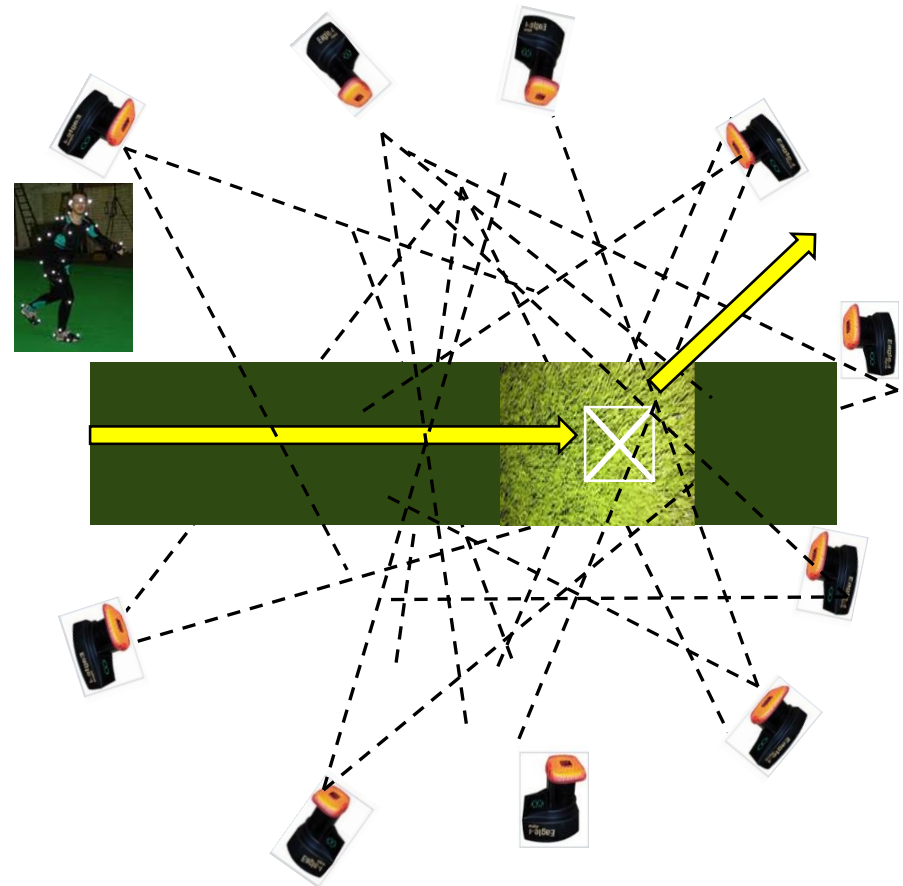


# Technology in Research and Applications

- Wore the same FIFA approved turf shoes.
- Randomized 10 trials of side-step cutting on infill depths of 2cm (Condition A) and 4cm (Condition B)
- Ran as fast as they could, plant their dominant leg on the platform and performed the side-stepping task at an angle of  $45^\circ$ .
- Only the best 3 trials/subject with consistent average speeds were selected for final analysis.



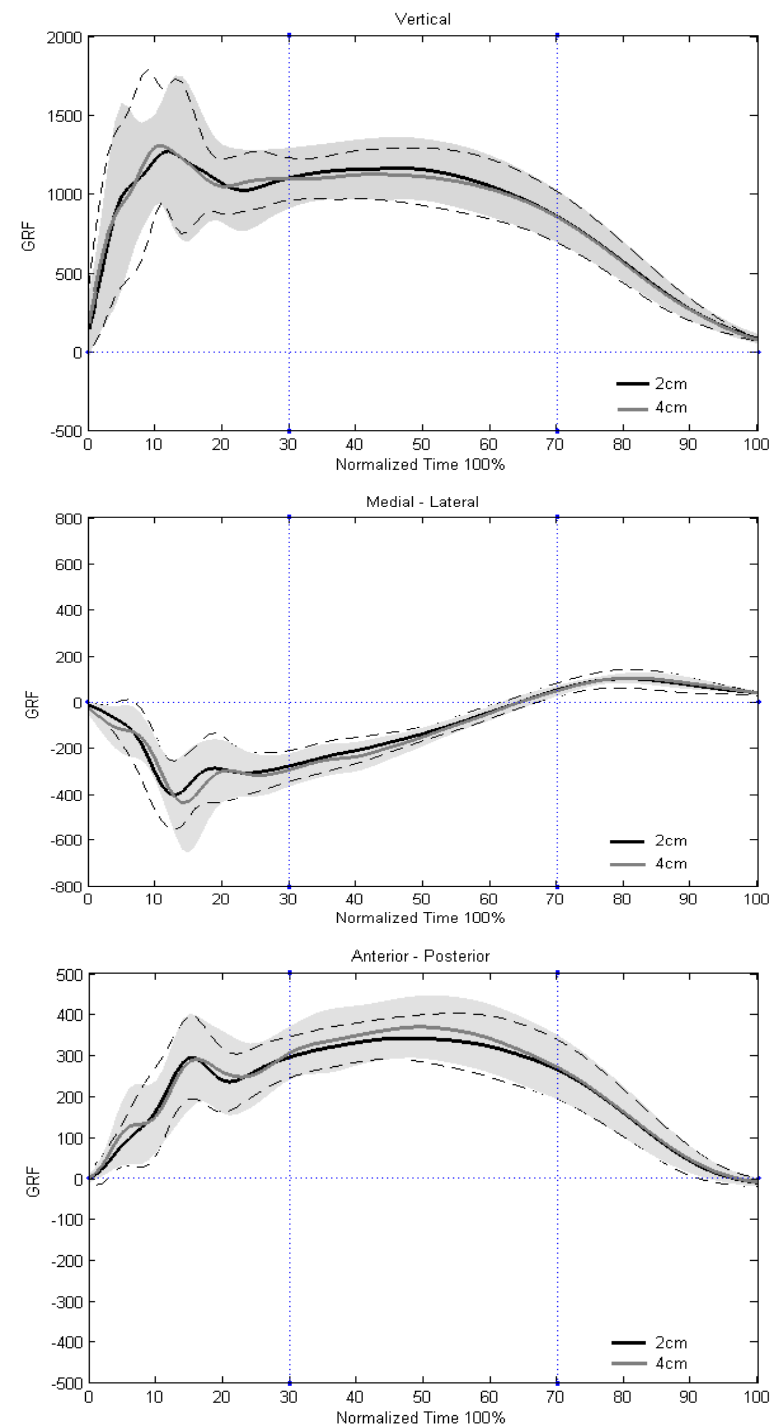
## High-Speed Optical Motion Capture + Force Platform Technology



# Technology in Research and Applications

- Greater infill depths increase surface hardness (less 'cushioning effect').
- Elicited greater joint loadings at the ankle, not knee joint.
- Players adopting a change in technique when performing the side-step manoeuvre on different infill depths.
- Lower extremity adaptations - associated with the ankle rather than the knee; hinting that the body posture adopted a change in technique
- It is possible that performing side-step on artificial grass turf with thicker infill depths may increase the risk of ligament injuries.

(Sujae, Jabbar, Ong & Hamill, 2019)





# Technology in Research and Applications

---

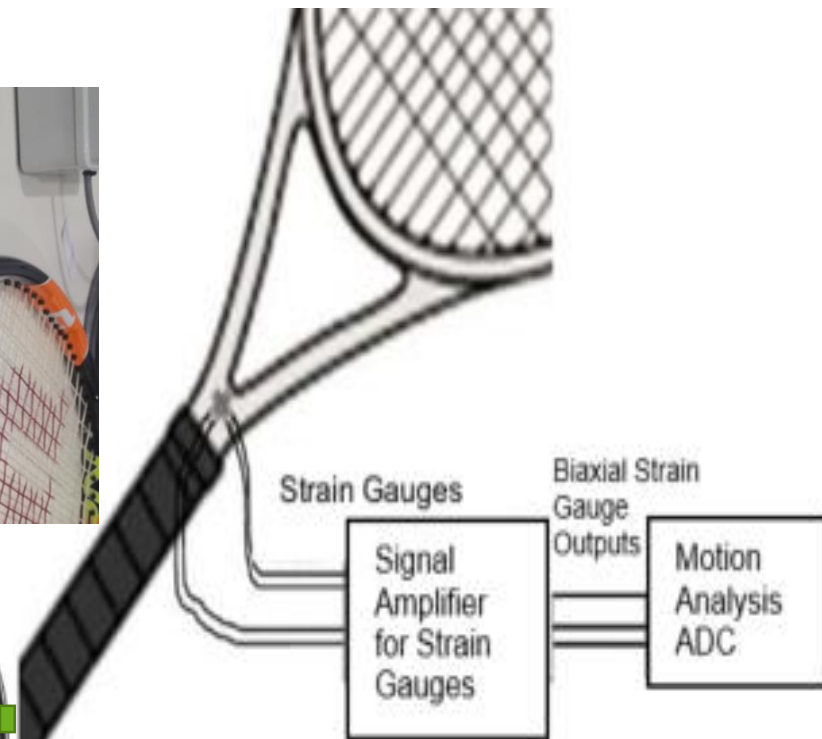
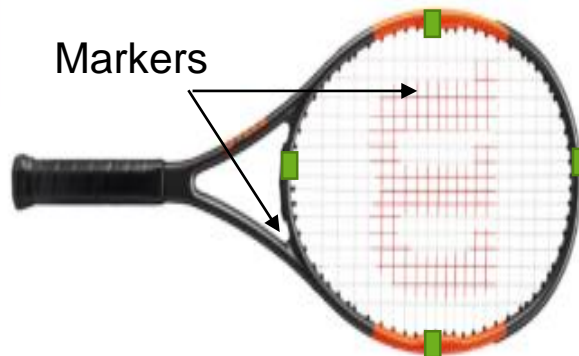
## **High-Speed Optical Motion Capture + Strain Gauges (Load Cells) Technology**

- One factor that could influence impact force may be string tension
- String tension changes after hitting the ball continuously with the same racket
- Several studies (under simulated laboratory conditions) have suggested how string tension affects rebound speeds (Brody & Knudson, 2000; Cross & Bower, 2001), but not impact force *per se*
- Existing means = high-speed camera using inverse dynamics
- Such means are not accessible for coaches/practitioners



# Technological Trends in Research and Applications

- Fabrication of Tennis Racket with Strain Gauges







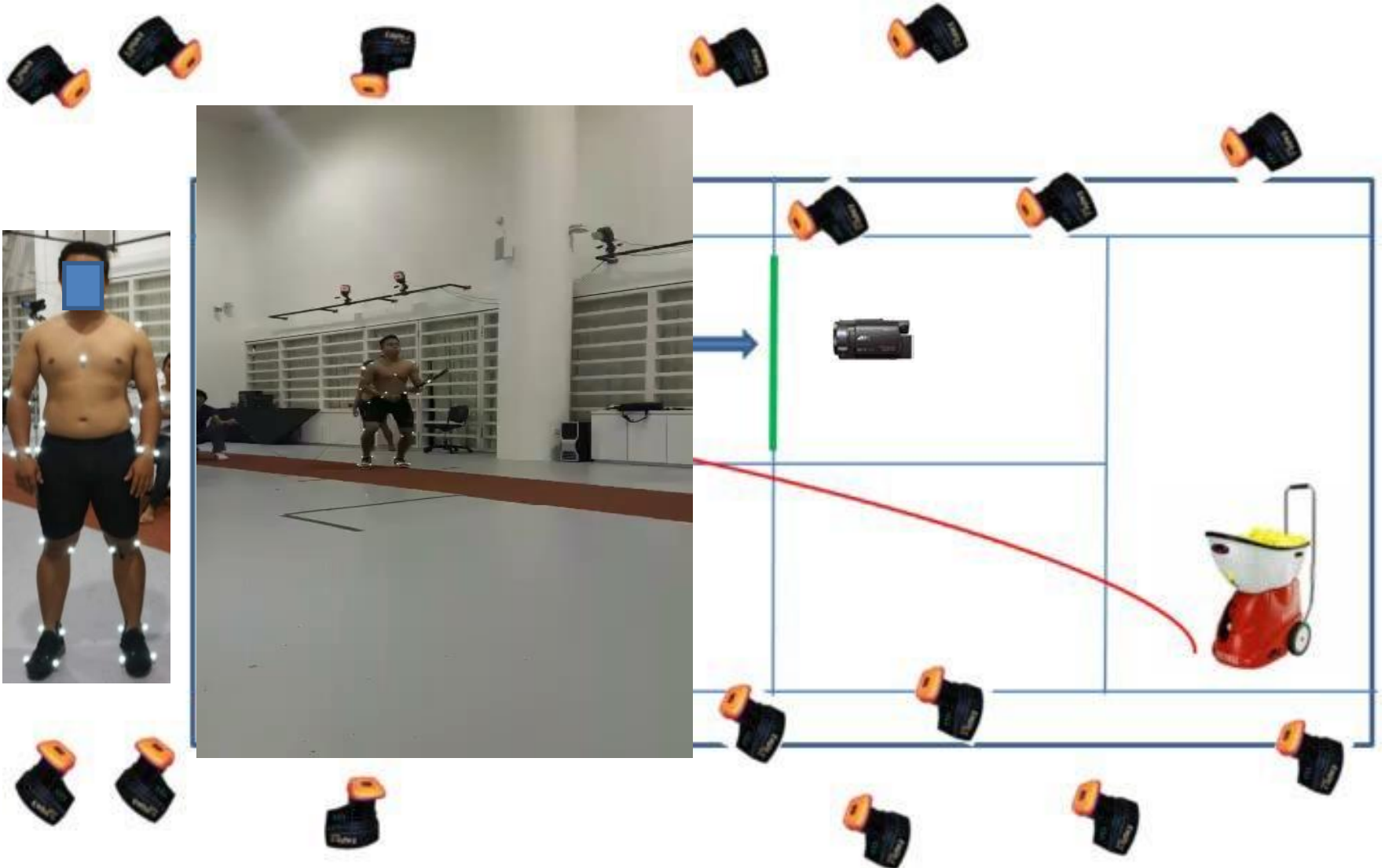
# Technology in Research and Applications

- Calibration of Strain Gauges



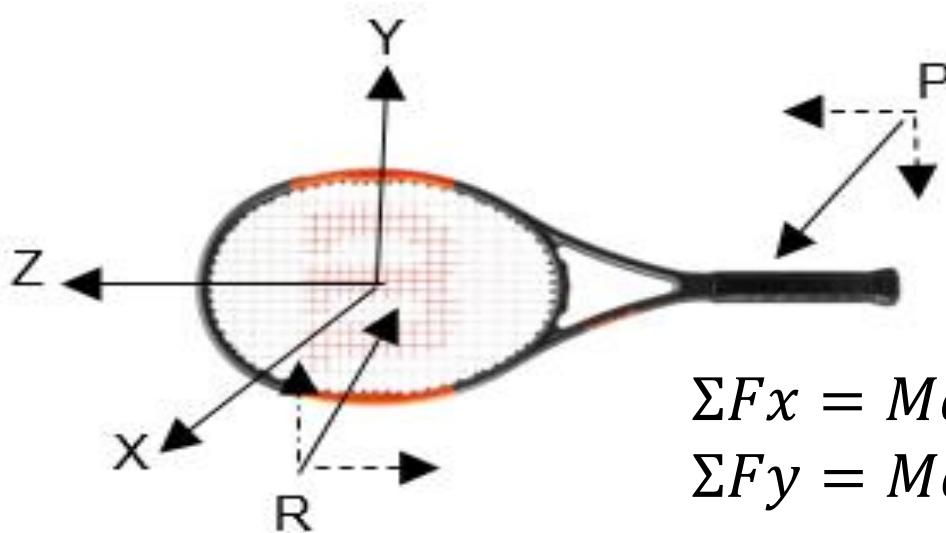


# Technology in Research and Applications





# Technology in Research and Applications



$$\Sigma F_x = M a_x = R_x + P_x \quad (1)$$

$$\Sigma F_y = M a_y = R_y + P_y + M g \quad (2)$$

- $M$  = mass of racket,  $a_x$  and  $a_y$  = acceleration,  $R_x$  and  $R_y$  = impact force,  $P_x$  and  $P_y$  = force measured from strain gauge,  $Mg$  is acceleration due to gravity
- Velocity and acceleration of the racket, expressed as  $x$ ,  $y$  and  $z$  were determined based on the local coordinate system of the marker position





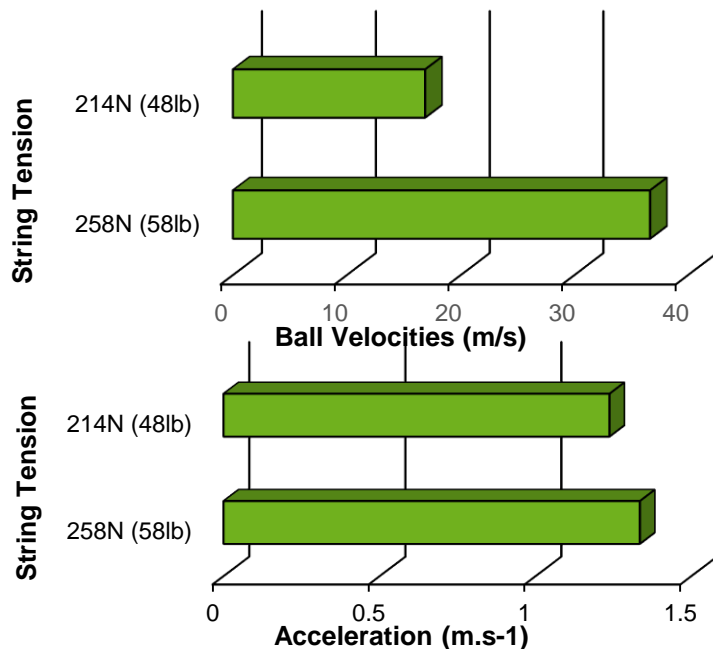
# Technological Trends in Research and Applications

## String Tension

214N  
(48lbs)      258N  
(58lbs)

Method

Resultant Force (N)      264N      392      Kinematic data + Strain Gauge data



- Larger peak resultant impact force for the 258N string tension than for 214N string tension
- Higher string tension, the lesser the string deforms at impact and the impact duration may be shorter
- The higher string tension racket gives more control at impact (Bower & Cross, 2005).



# Technology in Research and Applications

- Universitas Negeri Padang, Sumatra Barat, Indonesia
- Semi-Professional Tennis Players
- Biomechanics Team from Republic Polytechnic






## Let's Recap ...

---

- Technology have been used for research and application in biomechanics
- Type of technology used depends on research modalities
- Data measurement and analysis enhanced by using technology
- Provide a more comprehensive feedback for coaching implications

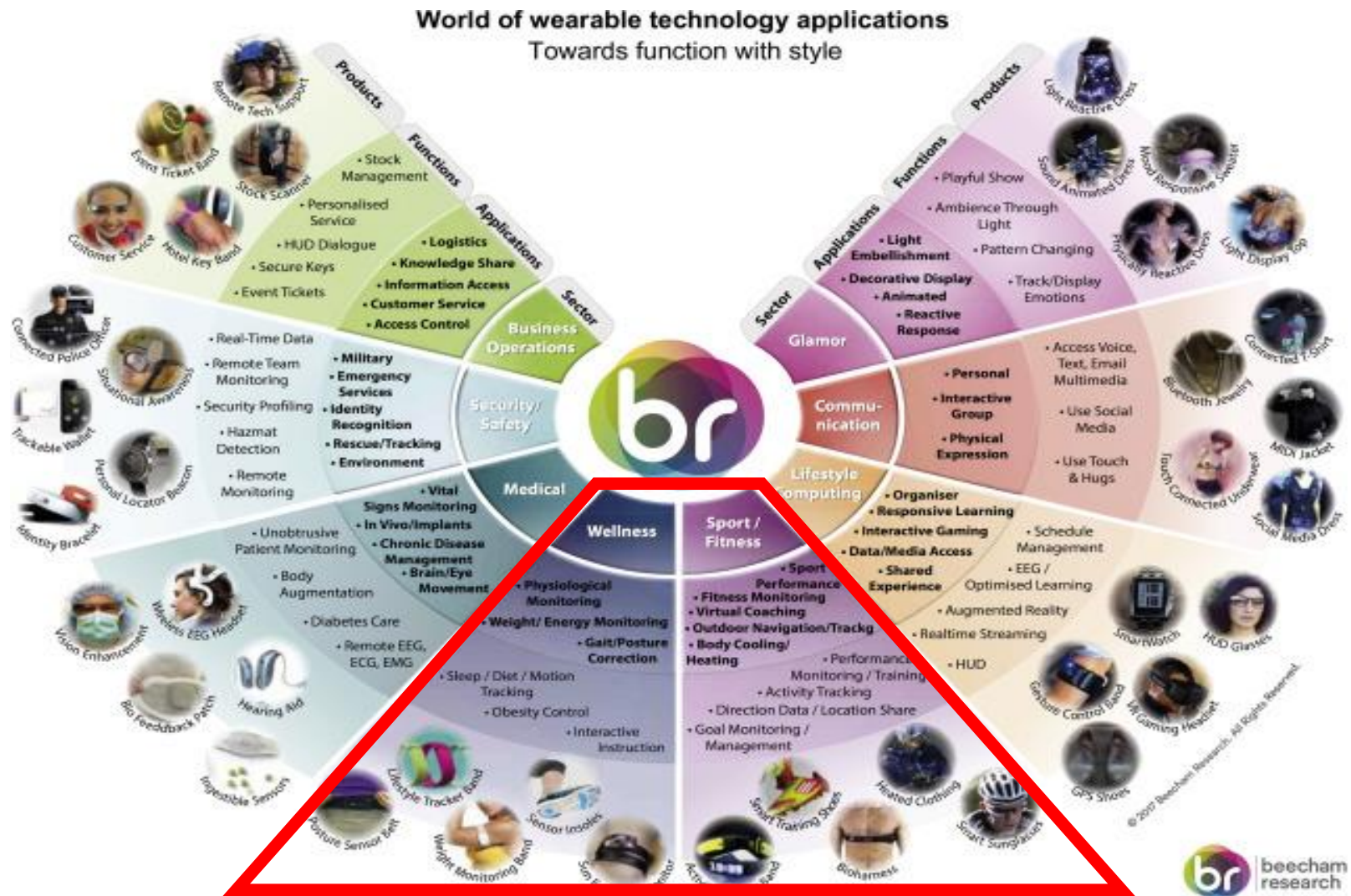
## Importance of Technology

# Integrated Technology Solutions and Biomechanics

A large, solid green curved shape that starts from the bottom left and sweeps upwards and to the right, ending at the top right corner of the slide. It has a smooth, organic, wave-like edge.



# Wearable Technology







# Wearable Technology and Biomechanics

---



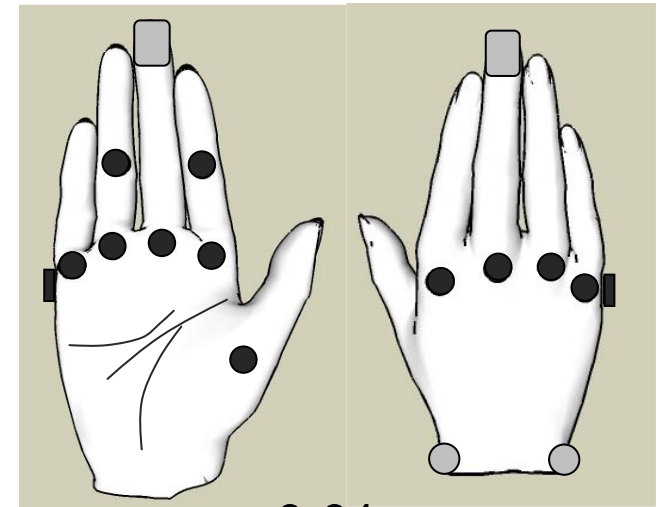
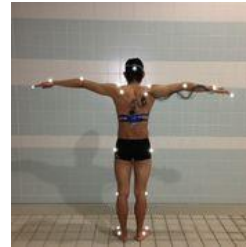
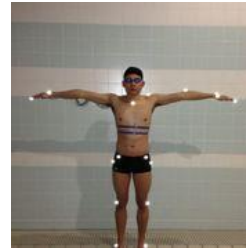
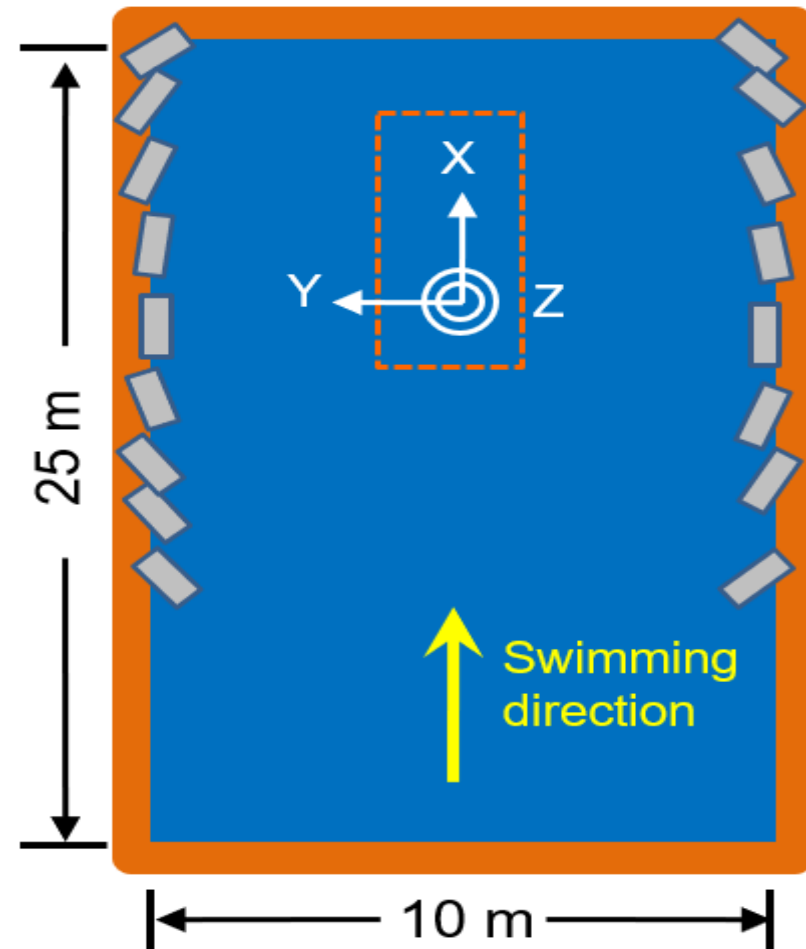
Changing Times in Sports Biomechanics:  
Baseball Pitching Injuries and Emerging  
Wearable Technology  
Glenn S. Fleisig, Ph.D.

Research has shown relations between amount of baseball pitching and overuse injuries, as well as between poor mechanics and high loads on the elbow and shoulder. However, overuse injuries continue to be a problem from youth to professional sports. Emerging wearable technology may enable players, parents, coaches, leagues, and clinicians to monitor biomechanics during competition and training, reducing the risk of serious injury.



# Wearable Technology and Biomechanics

## High-Speed Motion Camera Technology + Pressure Sensors



0.01 m

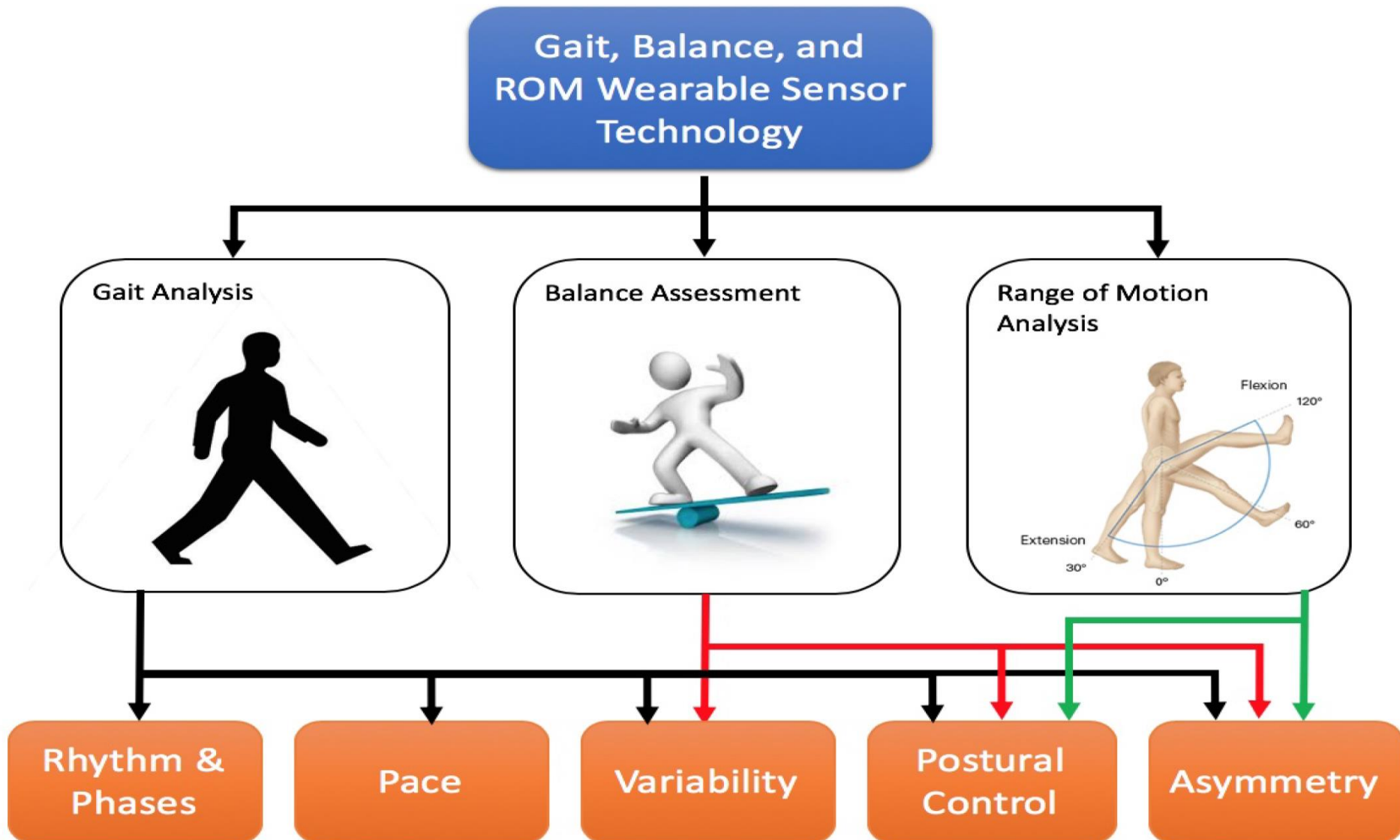


Data logger and pressure sensors (MMT, Japan)

(Kudo, Yanai, Wilson, Takagi & Vennell, 2008)



# Wearable Technology and Biomechanics

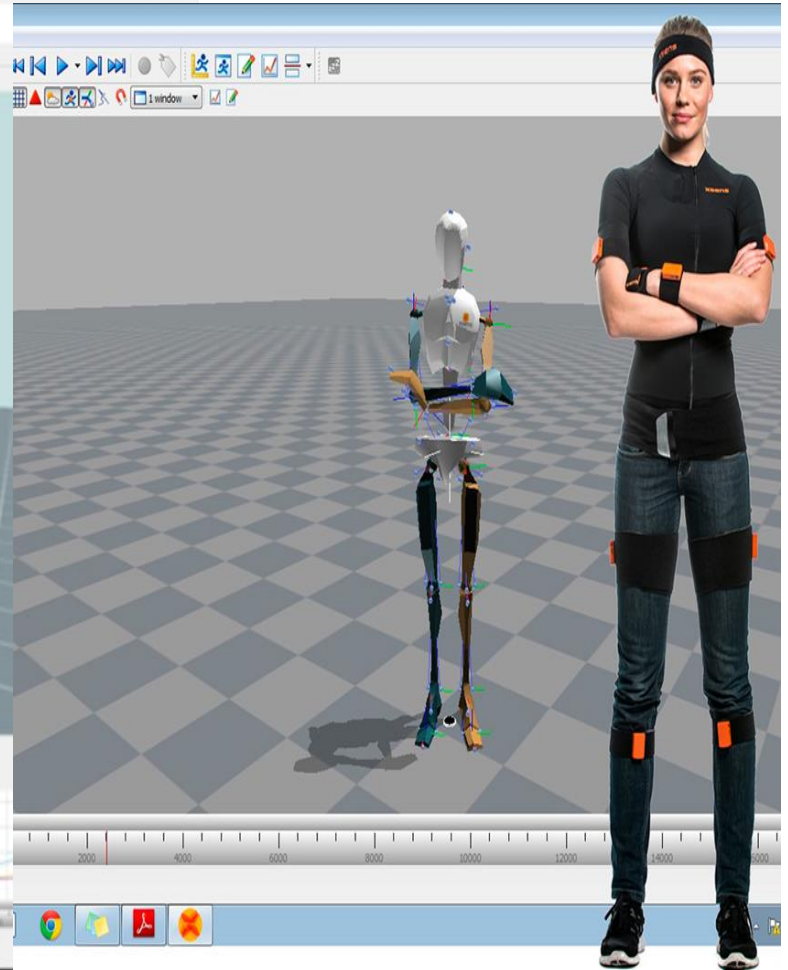
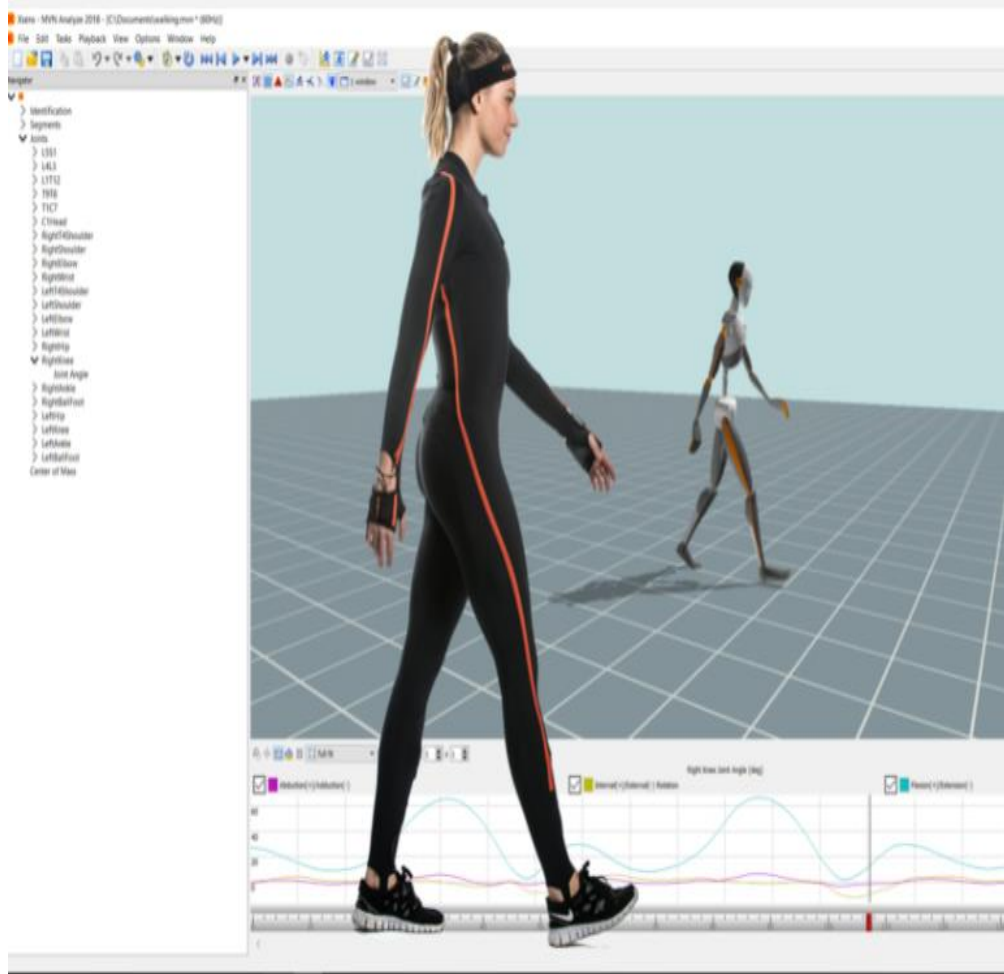




# Wearable Technology and Biomechanics

<https://www.indiamart.com/proddetail/3d-motion-capture-analysis-system-20811430962.html>

<https://www.sportsbe.es/en/technology/>



**Motion capture and analysis based on inertial technology**



# Wearable Technology and Biomechanics

---

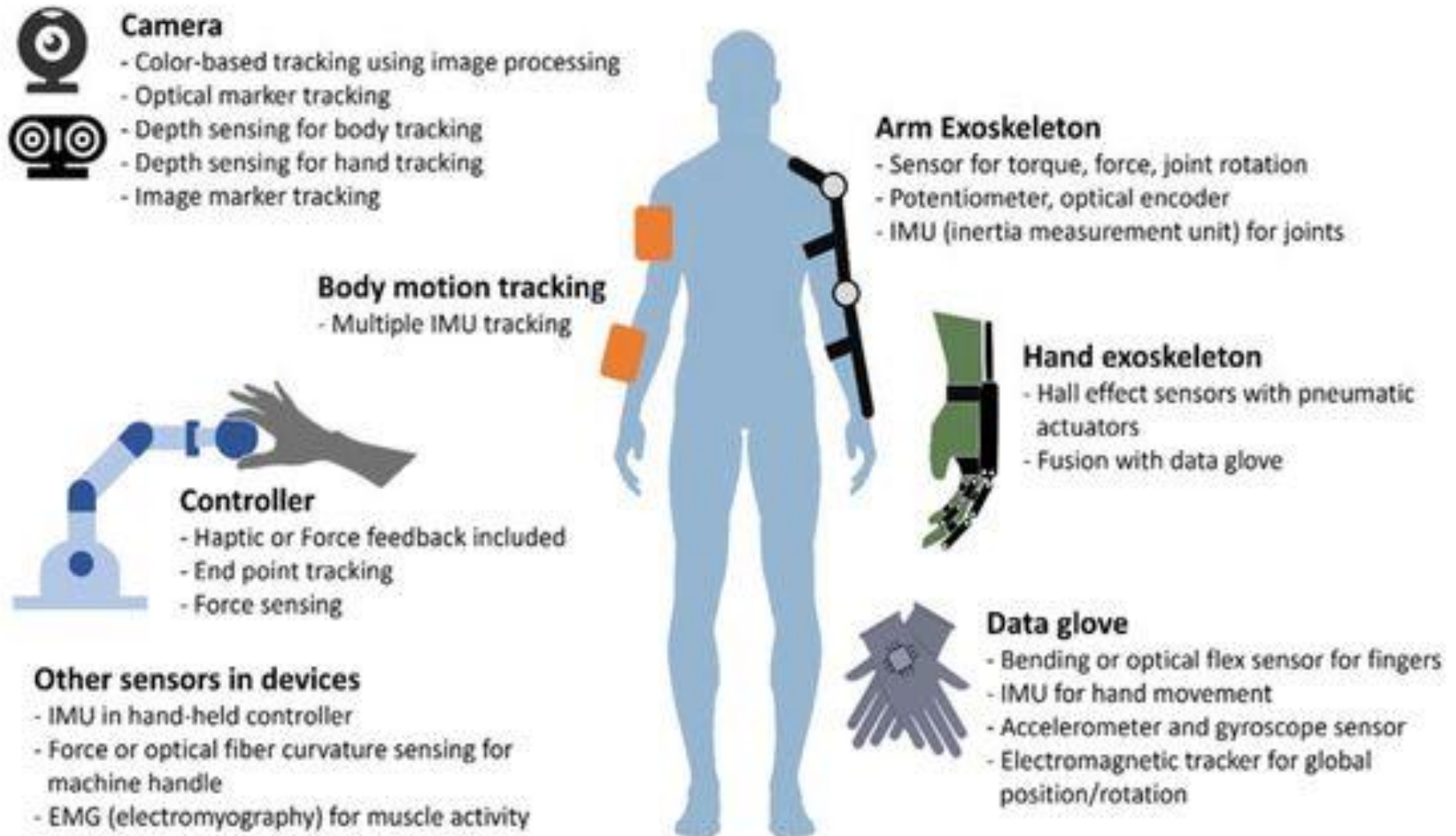


**Wireless Surface EMG**





# Wearable Technology and Biomechanics



## Neurorehabilitation

(Kim, Cho, Ku, Kim, Lee, Hwang & Paik, 2020)



# Adaptive Technology



## ASSISTIVE TECHNOLOGY

Any item, system, or product used to improve the functional capabilities of people with disabilities. Assistive technology can be bought off-the-shelf, modified, or custom-made.



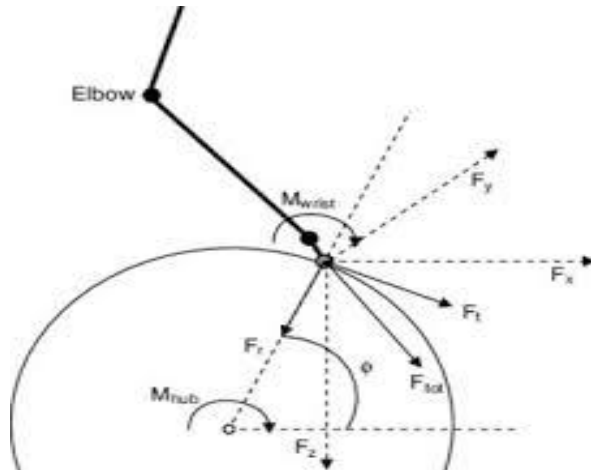
## ADAPTIVE EQUIPMENT

Adaptive equipment is a subcategory of assistive technology; it refers to something specifically designed for people with disabilities.



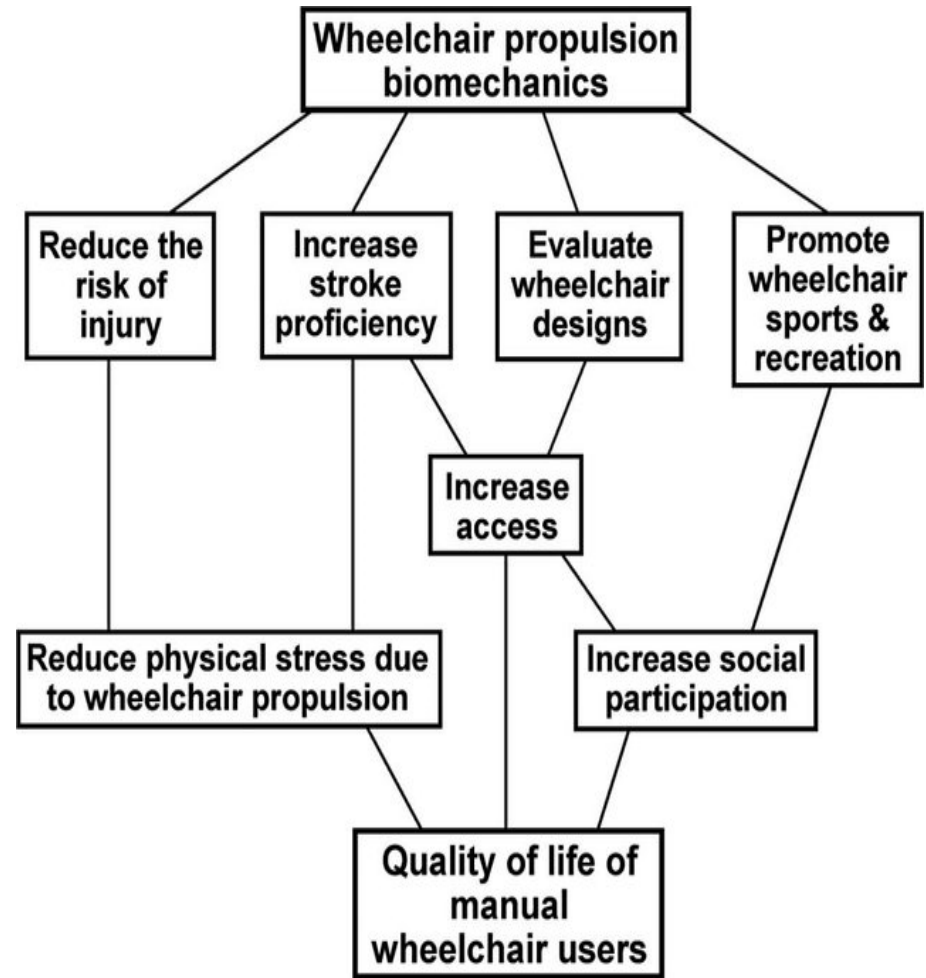


# Adaptive Technology and Biomechanics



(Vanlandewijck , Theisen &. Daly, 2001)

## Wheel Chair

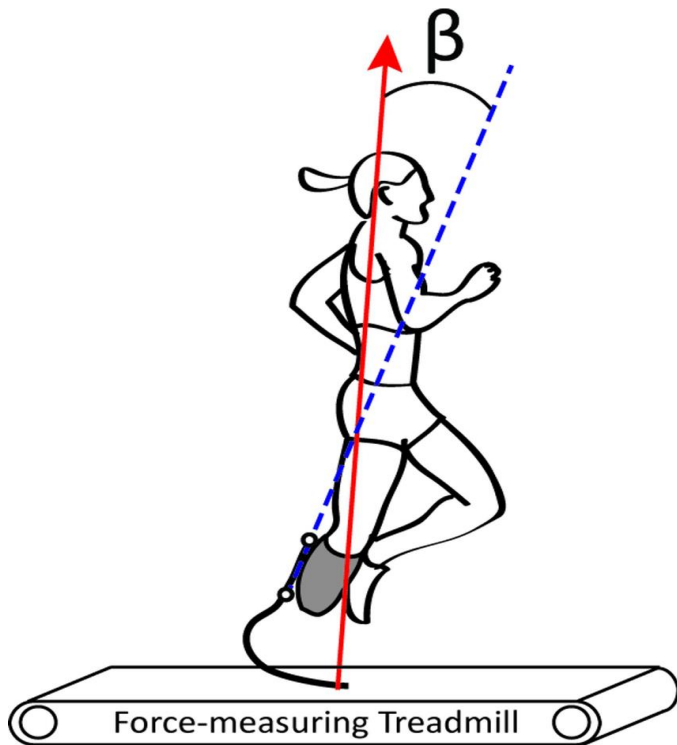


(Chow & Levy, 2010)



# Adaptive Technology and Biomechanics

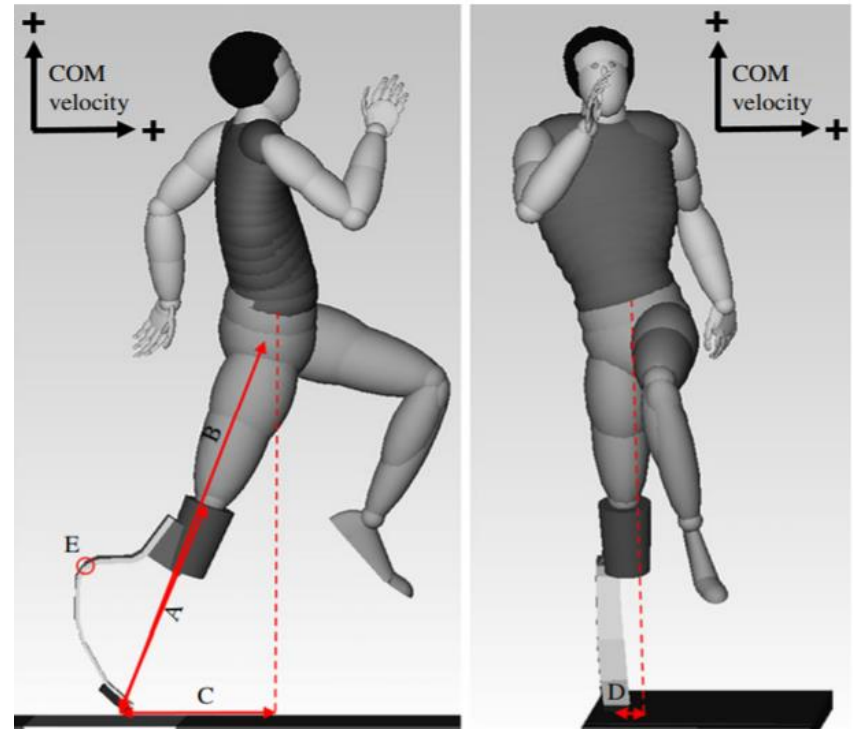
Running Gait



(Beck, Taboga &. Grabowski, 2016)

## Prosthetics

Long Jump

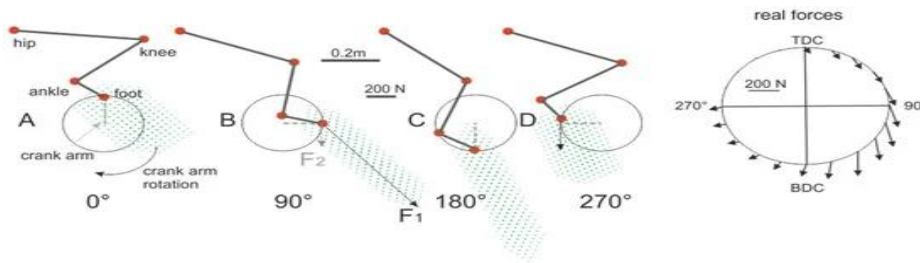


(Funken, Willwacher, Heinrich, Müller, Hobara, Grabowski & Potthast, 2019)



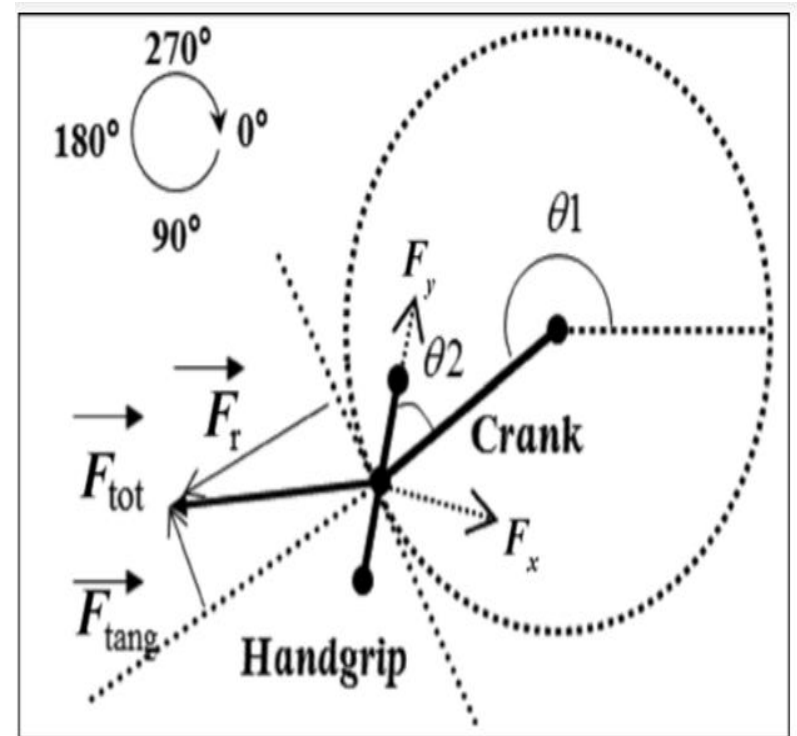


# Adaptive Technology and Biomechanics



(Turpin & Watier, 2020)

## Cycling



**Figure 4.**

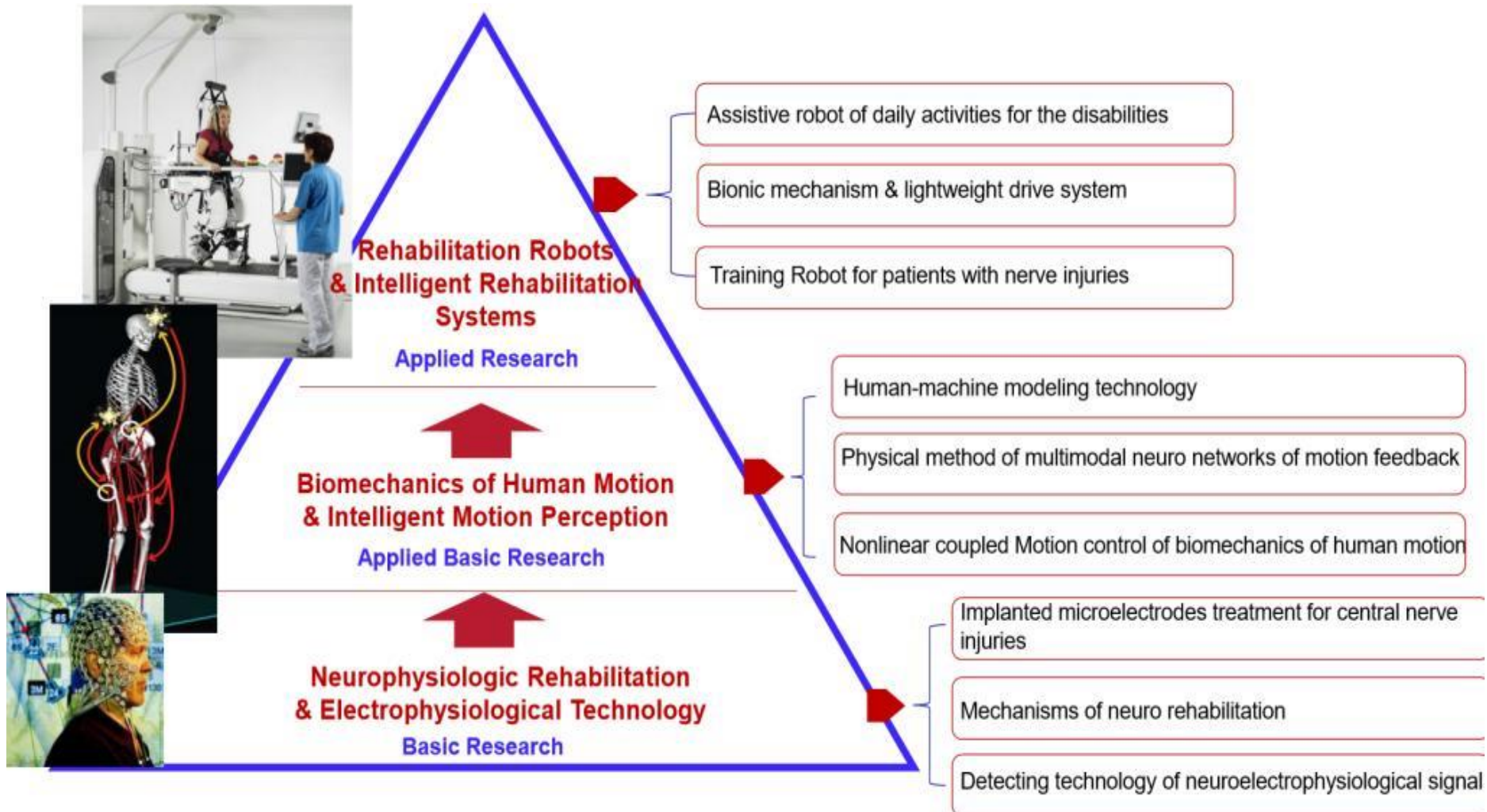
Schematic representation of force using two-dimensional dynamometric pedal (on right side). Total force ( $F_{tot}$ ), radial force ( $F_r$ ), and tangential force ( $F_{tang}$ ) were calculated from handgrip orientations ( $\theta_2$ ) and crank angle ( $\theta_1$ ) in global reference system.

(Faupin, Gorce & Meyer, 2011)





# Adaptive Technology and Biomechanics



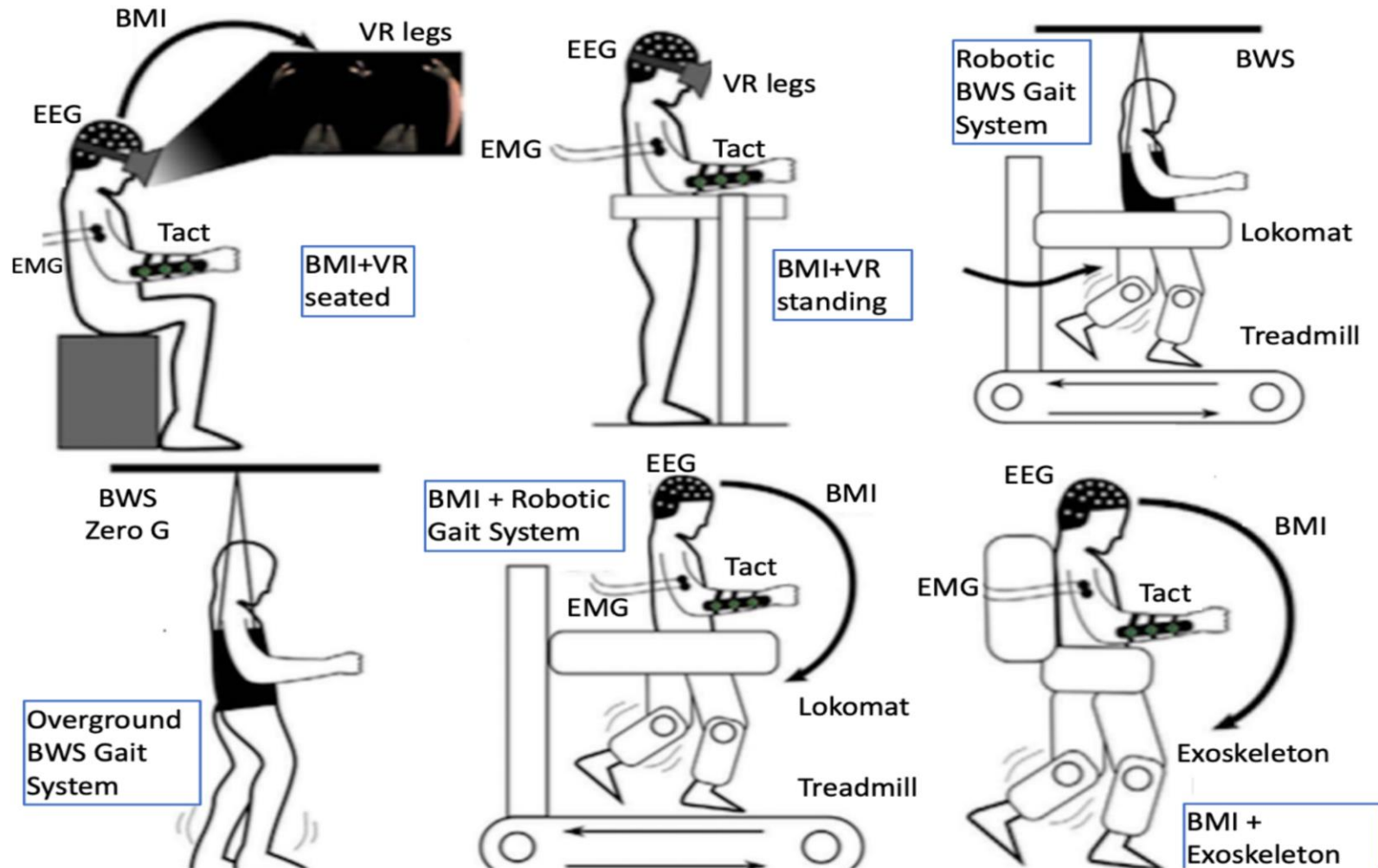
## Rehabilitation

[https://en.usst.edu.cn/Research/Institute\\_and\\_Center/Shanghai\\_Engineering\\_Research\\_Center\\_of\\_Assistiv1.htm](https://en.usst.edu.cn/Research/Institute_and_Center/Shanghai_Engineering_Research_Center_of_Assistiv1.htm)



# Adaptive Technology and Biomechanics

## Rehabilitation



(Nizamis, Athanasiou, Almpanti, Dimitrousis & Astaras, 2021; Donati et al. 2016)



# AI, ML and Biomechanics

---



Artificial Intelligence in Sports Biomechanics:  
New Dawn or False Hope?  
Roger Bartlett

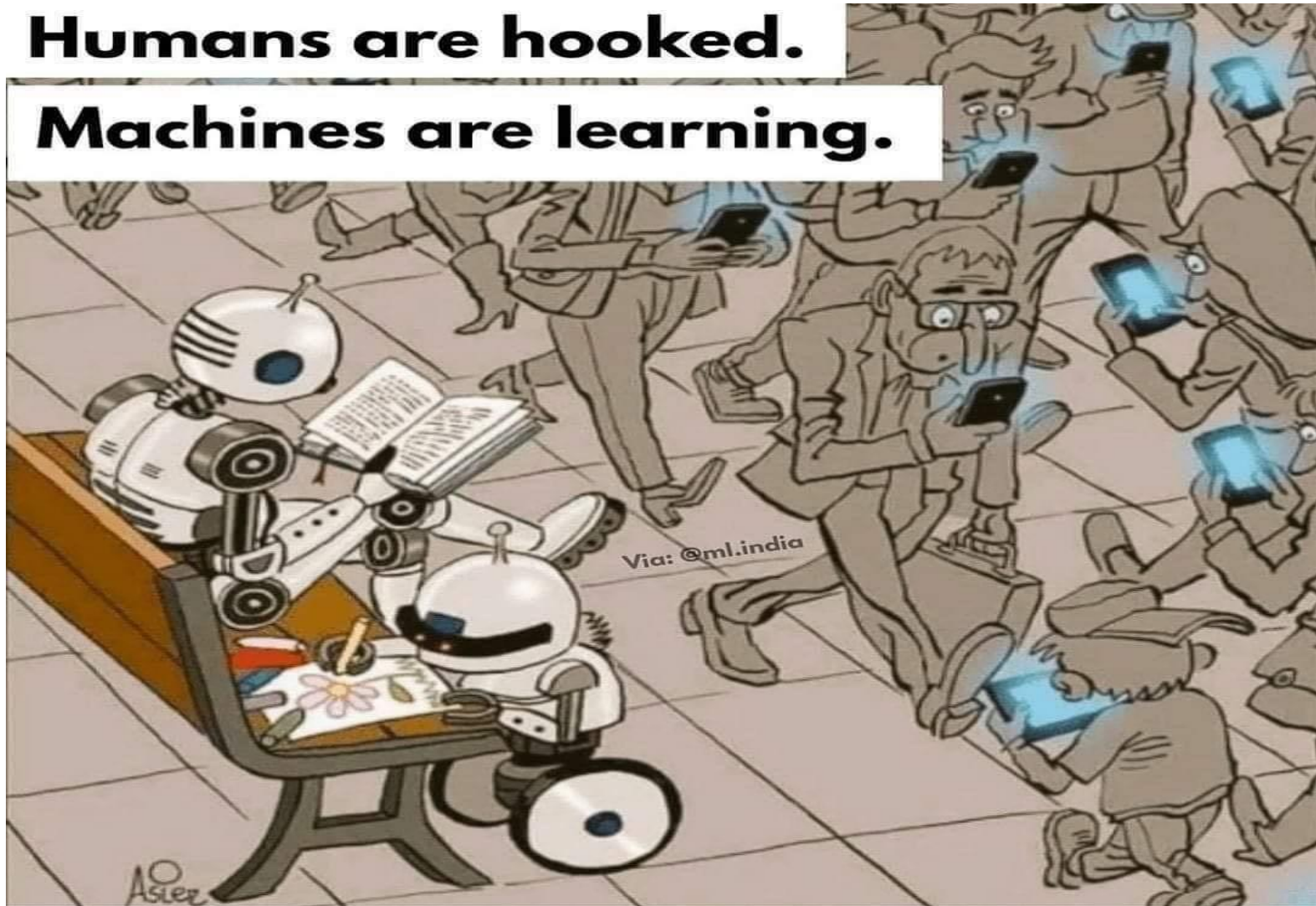
Automatic marker-tracking systems allow more, and more accurate, human movement data to be collected. This could lead to the use of fuzzy Expert Systems for diagnosis of faults in sports techniques, a substantial development of the rudimental.



# AI, ML and Biomechanics

**Humans are hooked.**

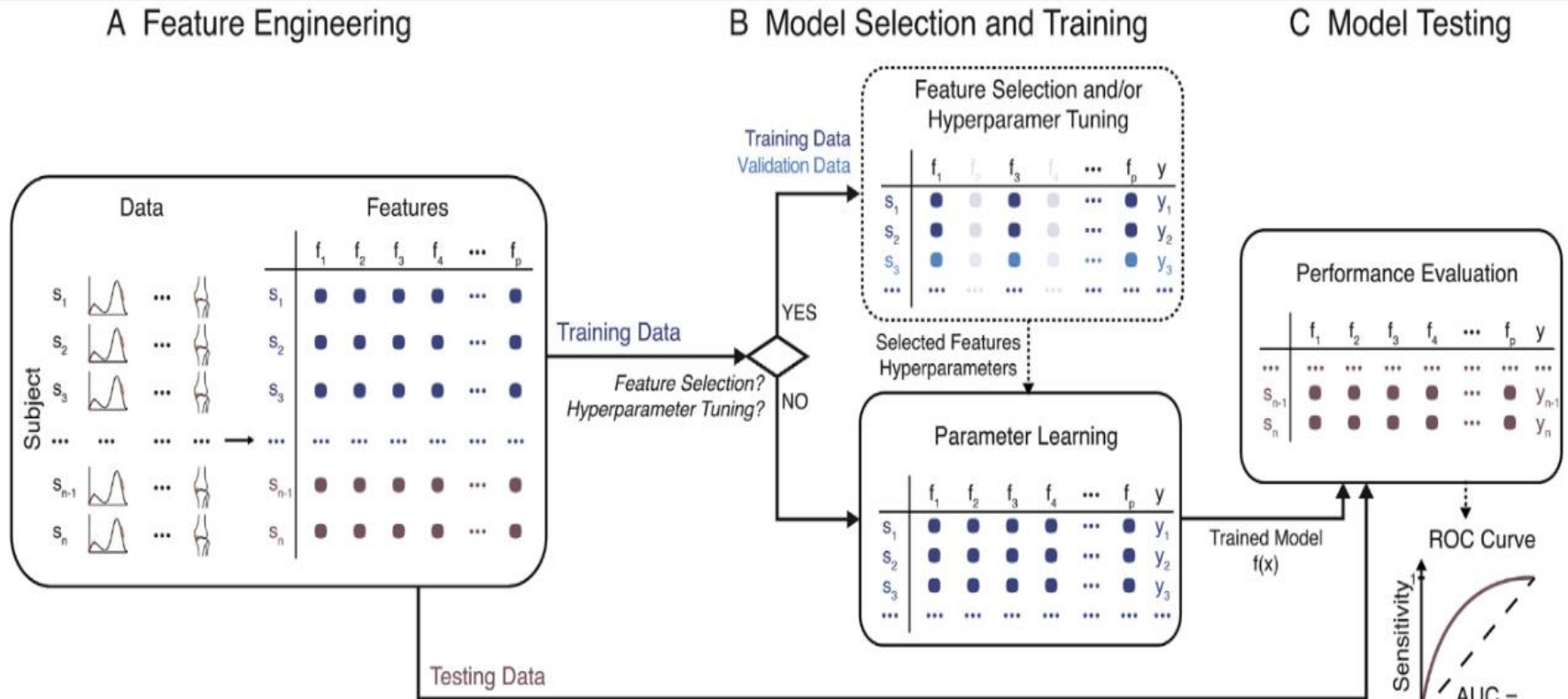
**Machines are learning.**







# AI, ML and Biomechanics



## Framework

(Halilaj , Rajagopal, Fiterau, Hicks, Hastie & Delp, 2018)





## Predicting athlete ground reaction forces and moments from motion capture

- 11 PLS Method and achieved average correlation coefficients of 0.9804 for GRFs and 0.9143 for GRMs
- The feasibility of predicting accurate GRF/Ms from raw motion capture trajectories in real-time

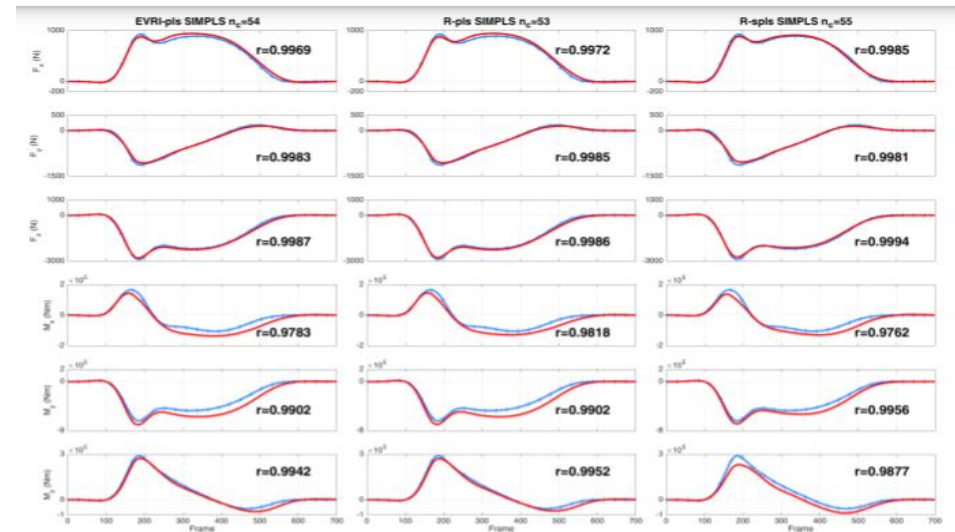
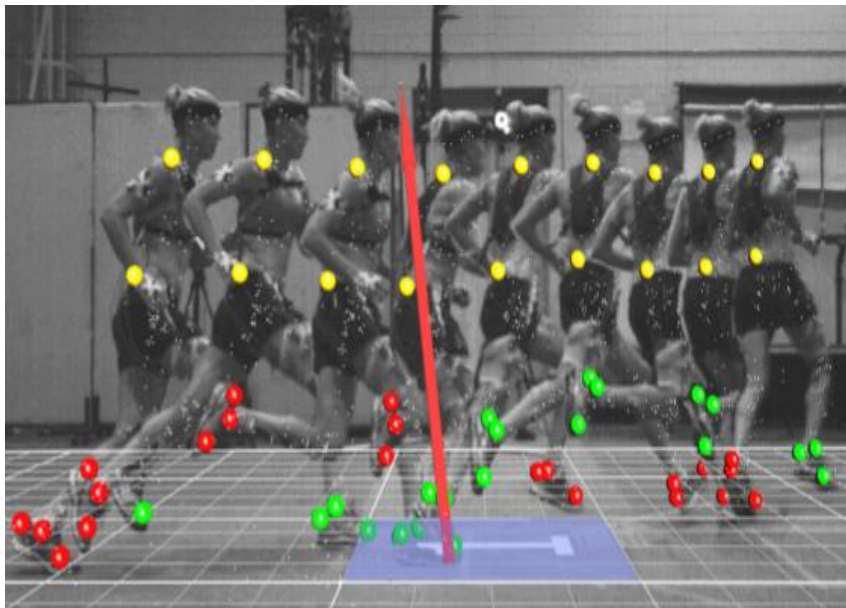


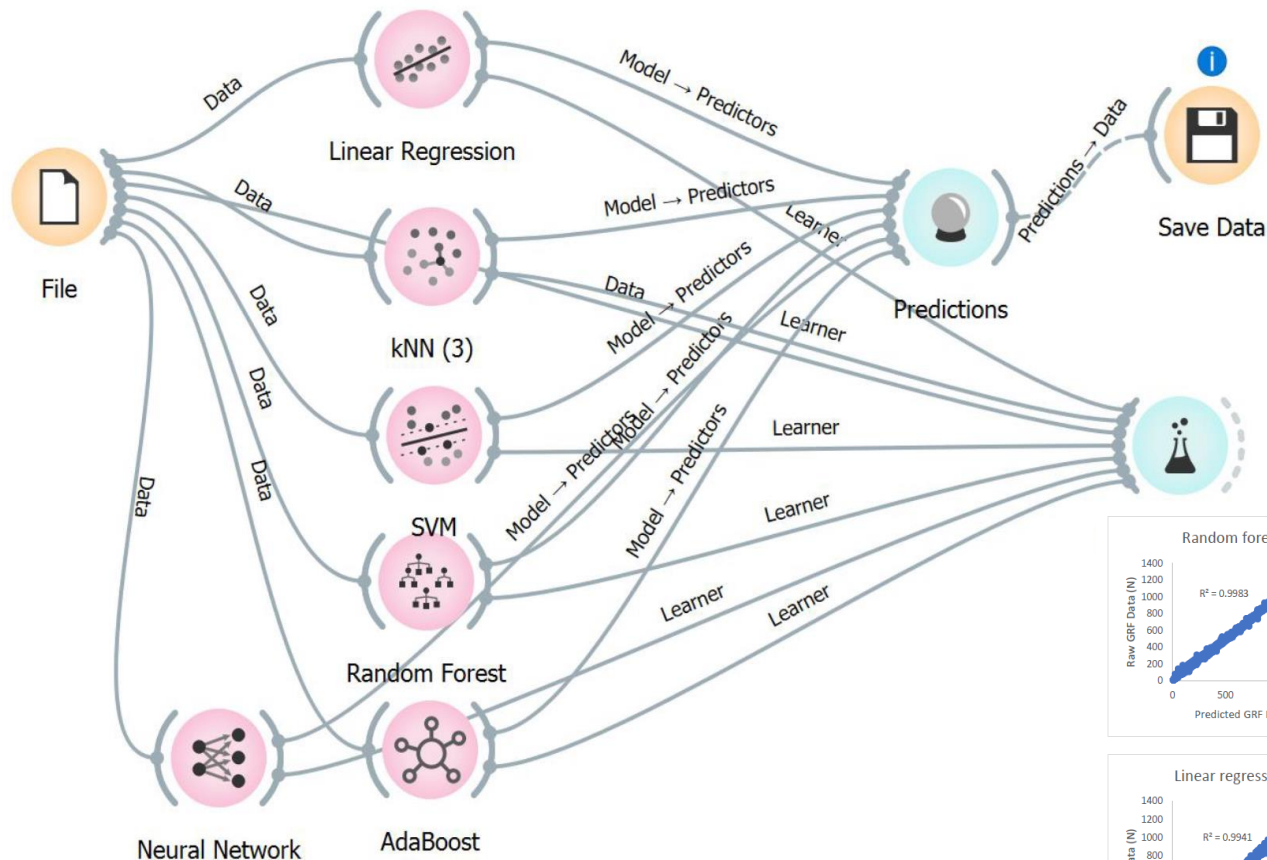
Fig. 10 Ground truth GRF/Ms (blue ticks) and predicted (red), plotted as  $F_x$ ,  $F_y$ ,  $F_z$ ,  $M_x$ ,  $M_y$  and  $M_z$  versus force plate frame for the same sample using each of the strongest PLS methods by package: EVRI-pls SIMPLS, R-pls SIMPLS and R-spls SIMPLS. The sample was selected for having the highest  $r(F_{mean})$  with R-spls SIMPLS.

(Johnson, Mian, Donnelly, Lloyd & Alderson 2018)



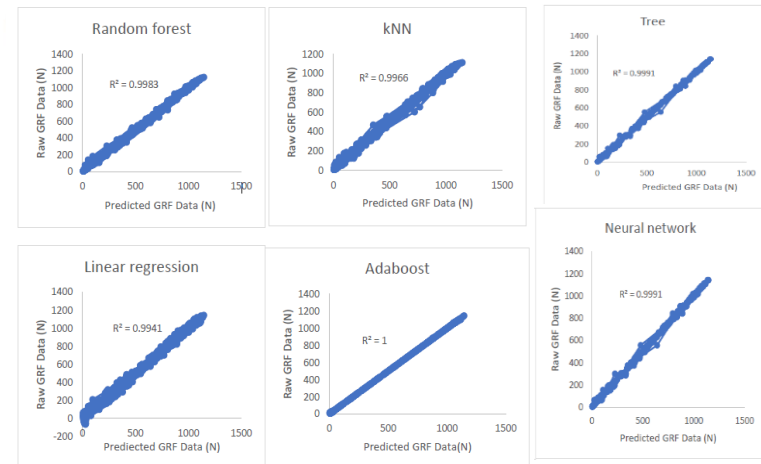
# AI, ML and Biomechanics

## Estimating Vertical Ground Reaction Forces (GRF) with Kinematic Data Using Machine Learning Approach



- The kinematic data
- of the pelvis, lower limbs
- vGRF

80 – 90% Accuracy



(Sujae & Alex, 2020)



# Let's Sum Up ...

---

Thanks to the advancement of technology:-

- Biomechanics has evolved from a qualitative/ descriptive to a highly quantitative model of research.
- This development to a more quantitative approach and analysis has resulted in many ways to increase the ability to measure and evaluate movement
- The data collection and analysis techniques have led to a more detailed characterization of movement patterns.



# The Labs and The Toys







# Thank you

---







# References

---

Vanlandewijck, Y., Theisen, D. and Daly, D. (2001). Wheelchair Propulsion Biomechanics Implications for Wheelchair Sports. *Sports Medicine*, 31 (5): 339-367

Clermont, C. A., Benson, L. C. and Edwards, W. B., Hettinga, B. A. and Ferber, R. (2018). New Considerations for Wearable Technology Data: Changes in Running Biomechanics During a Marathon. *Journal of Applied Biomechanics*, 35: Issue 6 DOI: <https://doi.org/10.1123/jab.2018-0453>

Gordon, Andrew H. MD, PhD<sup>1</sup>; De Luigi, Arthur Jason DO, MHSA<sup>2,3</sup> (2020). Adaptive Cycling Sports Medicine (SPECIAL COMMUNICATIONS) 19(7), p 266-271 DOI: <https://doi.org/10.1249/JSR.0000000000000728>

Chow, J. W. and Levy, C. E. (2010). Wheelchair propulsion biomechanics and wheelers' quality of life: An exploratory review. *Disability and rehabilitation: Assistive Technology* 6(5):365-77 DOI: <https://doi.org/10.3109/17483107.2010.525290>

Funken J., Willwacher S., Heinrich K., Müller R., Hobara H., Grabowski A. M, Potthast W. (2019). Long jumpers with and without a transtibial amputation have different three-dimensional centre of mass and joint take-off step kinematics. *R. Soc. Open Sci.* 6: 190107. <http://dx.doi.org/10.1098/rsos.190107>

Sujae, I. H. and Koh, M. (2008). Technique analysis of the kuda and sila serve in Sepaktakraw. *Sports Biomechanics*, 7(1), 72-87.



# References

---

- Faupin, A., Gorce, P. and Meyer, C. (2011). Effects of type and mode of propulsion on hand-cycling biomechanics in nondisabled subjects. *The Journal of Rehabilitation Research and Development*, <https://doi.org/10.1682/JRRD.2010.19.0199>
- Donati, A. R. C., Shokur, S., Morya, E., Campos, D. S. F., Moiola, R. C., Gitti, C. M., Augusto, P. B., Tripodi, S., Pires, C. G., Pereira, G. A. (2016). Long-Term Training with a Brain-Machine Interface-Based Gait Protocol Induces Partial Neurological Recovery. *Paraplegic Patients. Sci. Rep*, 6, p 303 - 314.
- Kim, W. S., Cho, S., Ku, J., Kim, Y., Lee, K., Hwang, H .J. and Paik, N. J. (2020). Clinical Application of Virtual Reality for Upper Limb Motor Rehabilitation in Stroke: Review of Technologies and Clinical Evidence. *Novel Technology Application for Clinical Neurorehabilitation*, 9(10), 3369  
<https://doi.org/10.3390/jcm9103369>
- Nizamis, K., Athanasiou, A., Almpiani, S., Dimitrousis, C. and Astaras , A. (2021). Converging Robotic Technologies in Targeted Neural Rehabilitation: A Review of Emerging Solutions and Challenges. *Rehabilitation Robots and Sensors*. 21(6), 2084; <https://doi.org/10.3390/s21062084>
- Halilaj, E., Rajagopal, A., Fiterau, M., Hicks, J. L., Hastie, T. J. and Delp, S. L. (2018). Machine learning in human movement biomechanics: Best practices, common pitfalls, and new opportunities. *Journal of Biomechanics*, 81, -11, <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jbiomech.2018.09.009>
- Bartlett, R. (2006), Artificial Intelligence in Sports Biomechanics: New Dawn or False Hope? *Journal of Sports Sci Med*, 5(4): 474–479.



# References

---

Sujae, I. H. Kim, C. G. Koh, M. (2008). Technology enhanced teaching and coaching of complex sport skills – An example of the acro-volley (Sepaktakraw) power smash (kuda) and normal relay (sila) serve techniques. *International Journal of Performance Analysis in Sport* 8(2), 82-93.

Abdul Jabbar, K., Sujae, I. H., Loke, M., Hamill, J. and Xingda, Q. (2015). Effects of neuromuscular fatigue on perceptual-cognitive skills between genders in the contribution to the knee joint loading during sidestepping tasks. *Journal of Sports Sciences*, 33 (13), 1322 – 1331.

Sujae, I. H., Abdul Jabbar, K., Ong, A. and Hamill, J. (2020). Differences in joint loading during a side-step cutting manoeuvre on different artificial turf infill depths. *Journal of Sports Biomechanics*, <https://doi.org/10.1080/14763141.2020.1713206>

Bakhtiar, S., Sujae, I. H., Wan Zakariah, W. R., Kudo, S., Ong, A. and Hamill, J. (2018). Establishing a method to determine impact force in tennis with different string tensions – a preliminary study. In *Proceedings of Oral Sessions for the 35th Symposium of the International Society of Biomechanics in Sports*. Auckland, New Zealand.

Kudo, S., Yanai, T., Wilson, B., Takagi, H., & Vennell, R. (2008). Prediction of fluid forces acting on a hand model in unsteady flow conditions. *Journal of Biomechanics*, 41, 1131-1136

Beck, O. N., Taboga, P. and Grabowski, A. M. (2016). Characterizing the Mechanical Properties of Running-Specific Prostheses

Johnson, W. R., Ajmal, M., Donnelly, C. J., Lloyd, D. and Alderson, J. (2018). Predicting athlete ground reaction forces and moments from motion capture. *Medical and Biological Engineering and Computing*. (56(1)). <https://doi.org/10.1007/s11517-018-1802-7>