

## **An elaborate data set on human gait and the effect of mechanical perturbations**

Jason K Moore, Sandra K. Hnat, Antonie J. van den Bogert

Here we share a rich gait data set collected from fifteen subjects walking at three speeds on an instrumented treadmill. Each trial consists of 120 seconds of normal walking and 480 seconds of walking while being longitudinally perturbed during each stance phase with pseudo-random fluctuations in the speed of the treadmill belt. A total of approximately 1.5 hours of normal walking (>5000 gait cycles) and 6 hours of perturbed walking (>20,000 gait cycles) is included in the data set. We provide full body marker trajectories and ground reaction loads in addition to a presentation of processed data that includes gait events, 2D joint angles, angular rates, and joint torques along with the open source software used for the computations. The protocol is described in detail and supported with additional elaborate meta data for each trial. This data can likely be useful for validating or generating mathematical models that are capable of simulating normal periodic gait and non-periodic, perturbed gaits.

# An elaborate data set on human gait and the effect of mechanical perturbations

Jason K. Moore<sup>1</sup>, Sandra K. Hnat<sup>1</sup>, and Antonie J. van den Bogert<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Mechanical Engineering, Cleveland State University, Cleveland, Ohio, USA, 44115.  
j.k.moore19@csuohio.edu, s.hnat@vikes.csuohio.edu, a.vandenbogert@csuohio.edu

## ABSTRACT

Here we share a rich gait data set collected from fifteen subjects walking at three speeds on an instrumented treadmill. Each trial consists of 120 seconds of normal walking and 480 seconds of walking while being longitudinally perturbed during each stance phase with pseudo-random fluctuations in the speed of the treadmill belt. A total of approximately 1.5 hours of normal walking (> 5000 gait cycles) and 6 hours of perturbed walking (> 20,000 gait cycles) is included in the data set. We provide full body marker trajectories and ground reaction loads in addition to a presentation of processed data that includes gait events, 2D joint angles, angular rates, and joint torques along with the open source software used for the computations. The protocol is described in detail and supported with additional elaborate meta data for each trial. This data can likely be useful for validating or generating mathematical models that are capable of simulating normal periodic gait and non-periodic, perturbed gaits.

Keywords: gait, data, perturbation

## INTRODUCTION

The collection of dynamical data during human walking has a long history beginning with the first motion pictures and now with modern marker based motion capture techniques and high fidelity ground reaction load measurements. Even though years of data on thousands of subjects now exist, this data is not widely disseminated, well organized, nor available with few or no restrictions. David Winter's published normative gait data, Winter (1990), is widely used in biomechanical studies, yet it comes from few subjects and only a small number of gait cycles per subject. This small source has successfully enabled many other studies, such as powered prosthetic control design, Sup et al. (2008), but success in other research fields using large sets of data for discovery lead one to believe that more elaborate data sets may benefit the field of human motion studies. To enable such work, biomechanical data needs to be shared extensively, organized, and curated to enable future analysts.

There are some notable gait data sets and databases besides Winter's authoritative set that are publicly available. The International Society of Biomechanics has maintained a web page (<http://isbweb.org/data>) since approximately 1995 that includes data sets for download and mostly unencumbered use. For example, the kinematic and force plate measurements from several subjects from Vaughan et al. (1992) is available on the site. At another website, the CGA Normative Gait Database, Kirtley (2014) shares normative gait data from several studies and these files have influenced other studies, for example the average gait cycles from children used in van den Bogert

27 (2003).

28 Chester et al. (2007) report on a large gait database comparison where one database contained  
29 kinematic data of 409 gait cycles of children from 1 to 7 years old but the data does not seem  
30 to be publicly available. This is, unfortunately, typical. Tirosh et. al, recognized the need for  
31 a comprehensive data base for clinical gait data and created the Gaitabase, Tirosh et al. (2010).  
32 This database may contain a substantial amount of data but it is encumbered by a complicated and  
33 restrictive license and sharing scheme. However, there are examples of data with less restrictions.  
34 The University of Wisconsin at LaCrosse has an easily accessible normative gait data set, Willson  
35 and Kernozek (2014), from 25 subjects with lower extremity marker data from multiple gait cycles  
36 and force plate measurements from a single gait cycle.

37 More recent examples of biomechanists sharing their data alongside publications are: van den  
38 Bogert et al. (2013) which includes full body joint kinematics and kinetics from eleven subjects  
39 walking on an instrumented treadmill and Wang and Srinivasan (2014) who includes a larger set of  
40 data from ten subjects walking for five minutes each at three different speeds but only a small set of  
41 lower extremity markers are present. The second is notable because it publishes the data in Dryad, a  
42 modern citable data repository.

43 The amount of publicly available gait data is small compared to the number of gait studies that  
44 have been performed over the years. The data that is available generally suffers from limitations  
45 such as few subjects, few gait cycles, few markers, highly clinical, no raw data, limited force plate  
46 measurements, lack of meta data, non-standard formats, and restrictive licensing. To help with this  
47 situation we are making the data we collected for our research purposes publicly available and free  
48 of the previously mentioned deficiencies. Not only do we provide a larger set of normative gait data  
49 that has been previously available, we also include an even larger set of data in which the subject  
50 is being perturbed, something that does not currently exist. We believe both of these sets of data  
51 can serve a variety of use cases and hope that we can save time and effort for future researchers by  
52 sharing it.

53 Our use case for the data is centered around the need of bio-inspired control systems for emerging  
54 powered prosthetics and orthotics. Ideally, a powered prosthetic would behave in such a way that the  
55 user would feel like their limb was never disabled. There are a variety of approaches to developing  
56 bio-inspired control systems, some of which aim to mimic the reactions and motion of an able-  
57 bodied person. A modern gait lab is able to collect a variety of kinematic, kinetic, and physiological  
58 data from humans during gait. This data can potentially be used to drive the design of the human-  
59 mimicking controller. With a rich enough data set, one may be able to identify control mechanisms  
60 used during a human's natural gait and recovery from perturbations. We have collected data that is  
61 richer than previous gait data sets and may be rich enough for control identification. The data can  
62 also be used for verification purposes for controllers that have been designed in other manners.

63 With all of this in mind, we collected over seven and half hours of gait data from fifteen able  
64 bodied subjects which amounts to over 25,000 gait cycles. The subjects walked at three different  
65 speeds on an instrumented treadmill while we collected full body marker locations and ground  
66 reaction loads from a pair of force plates. The protocol for the majority of the trials included two  
67 minutes of normal walking and eight minutes of walking under the influence of pseudo-random belt  
68 speed fluctuations. The data has been organized complete with rich meta data and made available in  
69 the most unrestrictive form for other research uses following modern best practices in data sharing,  
70 White et al. (2013).

71 Furthermore, we include a small Apache licensed open source software library for basic gait

**Table 1.** Information about the 15 study participants. The final three columns provide the trial numbers associated with each nominal treadmill speed. The measured mass is computed from the mean total vertical ground reaction force just after the calibration pose event, if possible. If the mass is reported without an accompanying standard deviation, it is the subject's self-reported mass. Additional trials found in the data set with a subject identification number 0 are trials with no subject, i.e. unloaded trials that can be used for inertial compensation purposes, and are not shown in the table. Generated by `src/subject_table.py`.

Id	Gender	Age [yr]	Height [m]	Mass [kg]	0.8 m/s	1.2 m/s	1.6 m/s
1	male	25	1.87	101	NA	6, 7, 8	NA
3	female	32	1.62	$54 \pm 2$	46	47	48
4	male	30	1.76	74	12, 15	13	14
5	male	23	1.73	$71.2 \pm 0.9$	32	31	33
6	male	26	1.77	$86.8 \pm 0.6$	40	41	42
7	female	29	1.72	$64.5 \pm 0.8$	16	17	18
8	male	20	1.57	$74.9 \pm 0.9$	19	20	21
9	male	20	1.69	$67 \pm 2$	25	26	27
10	male	19	1.77	$92 \pm 2$	61	62	63
11	male	22	1.85	80	9	10	11
12	male	22	1.85	$74.2 \pm 0.5$	49	50	51
13	female	21	1.70	$58 \pm 2$	55	56	57
15	male	22	1.83	$80.5 \pm 0.8$	67	68	69
16	female	28	1.69	$56.2 \pm 0.6$	76	77	78
17	male	23	1.86	$88.3 \pm 0.8$	73	74	75

72 analysis and demonstrate its use in the paper. The combination of the open data and open software  
 73 allow the results presented within to be computationally reproducible and instructions are included  
 74 in the associated repository for doing so.

## 75 METHODS

### 76 Participants

77 Fifteen able bodied subjects including four females and eleven males with an average age of  $24 \pm 4$   
 78 years, height of  $1.75 \pm 0.09$  m, mass of  $74 \pm 13$  kg participated in the study. The study was approved  
 79 by the Institutional Review Board of Cleveland State University (# 29904-VAN-HS) and written  
 80 informed consent was obtained from all participants. The data has been anonymized with respect  
 81 to the participants' identities and a unique identification number was assigned to each subject. A  
 82 selection of the meta data collected for each subject is shown in Table 1.

### 83 Equipment

84 The data were collected in the Laboratory for Human Motion and Control at Cleveland State  
 85 University, using the following equipment:

- 86 • A R-Mill treadmill which has dual 6 degree of freedom force plates, independent belts for  
 87 each foot, and lateral/pitch motion capabilities (Forcelink, Culemborg, Netherlands).

- 88 • A 10 Osprey camera motion capture system paired with the Cortex 3.1.1.1290 software  
89 (Motion Analysis, Santa Rosa, CA, USA).
- 90 • USB-6255 data acquisition unit (National Instruments, Austin, Texas, USA).
- 91 • Four ADXL330 Triple Axis Accelerometer Breakout boards attached to the treadmill (Spark-  
92 fun, Niwot, Colorado, USA).
- 93 • D-Flow software (versions 3.16.1 to 3.16.2) and visual display system, (Motek Medical,  
94 Amsterdam, Netherlands).

95 The Cortex software delivers high accuracy 3D marker trajectories from the cameras along with  
96 data from force plates and analog sensors (EMG/Accelerometer) through a National Instruments  
97 USB-6255 data acquisition unit. D-Flow is required to collect data from any digital sensors and to  
98 control the treadmill's motion (lateral, pitch, and belts). D-Flow can process the data in real time  
99 and/or export data to file.

100 Our motion capture system's coordinate system is such that the X coordinate points to the right,  
101 the Y coordinate points upwards, and the Z coordinate follows from the right-hand-rule, i.e. points  
102 backwards with respect to the walking direction. The camera's coordinate system is aligned to an  
103 origin point on treadmill's surface during camera calibration. The same point is used as the origin of  
104 the ground reaction force measuring system. Figure 1 shows the layout of the equipment.

105 Early on, we discovered that the factory setup of the R-Link treadmill had a vibration mode as  
106 low as 5Hz that is detectable in the force measurements, likely due to the flexible undercarriage  
107 and pitch motion mechanism. Trials 6-8 are affected by this vibration mode. During trials 9-15  
108 the treadmill was stabilized with wooden blocks. During the remaining trials the treadmill was  
109 stabilized with metal supports. See the Data Limitations Section for more details.

110 The acceleration of the treadmill was measured during each trial by four ADXL330 accelerom-  
111 eters placed at the four corners of the machine. These accelerometers were intended to provide  
112 information for inertial compensation purposes when the treadmill moved laterally or in pitch, but  
113 are extraneous for trials greater than number 8 due to the treadmill being stabilized in those degrees  
114 of freedom.

## 115 Protocol

116 The experimental protocol consisted of both static measurements and walking on the treadmill for  
117 10 minutes under unperturbed and perturbed conditions. Before a set of trials on the same day, the  
118 motion capture system was calibrated using the manufacturer's recommended procedure. Before  
119 each subject's gait data were collected, the subject changed into athletic shoes, shorts, a sports bra, a  
120 baseball cap, and a rock climbing harness. All 47 markers were applied directly to the skin at the  
121 landmarks noted in Table 3 except for the heel, toe, and head markers, which were placed on the  
122 respective article of clothing.<sup>1</sup> Then the subject self-reported their age, gender, and mass. Finally,  
123 their height was measured by the experimentalist and four reference photographs (front, back, right,  
124 left) were taken of subject's marker locations.

125 After obtaining informed consent and a briefing by the experimentalist on the trial protocol, the  
126 subject followed the verbal instructions of the experimentalist and the on-screen instructions from  
127 the video display. The protocol for a single trial was as follows:

---

<sup>1</sup>The sacrum and rear pelvic markers may have been placed on the shorts for a small number of the subjects.



**Figure 1.** The treadmill with coordinate system, cameras (circled in orange), projection screen, and safety rope. The direction of travel is in the  $-z$  direction.

- 128 1. Subject stepped onto the treadmill and markers were identified with Cortex.
- 129 2. The safety rope was attached loosely to the rock climbing harness such that no undue forces  
130 were acting on the subject during walking, but that the harness would prevent a full fall.
- 131 3. The subject started by stepping on sides of treadmill so that feet did not touch the force plates  
132 and the force plate signals are zeroed. This corresponds to the “Force Plate Zeroing” event.
- 133 4. Once notified by the video display, the subject stood in the initialization pose: standing straight  
134 up, looking forward, arms out by their sides ( 45 degrees) and the event, “Calibration Pose”,  
135 was manually recorded by the operator.
- 136 5. A countdown to the first normal walking phase was displayed. At the end of the countdown  
137 the event “First Normal Walking” was recorded and the treadmill ramped up to the specified  
138 speed and the subject was instructed to walk normally, to focus on the “endless” road on the  
139 display, and not to look at their feet.
- 140 6. After 1 minute of normal walking, the longitudinal perturbation phase begun and was recorded  
141 as “Longitudinal Perturbation”.
- 142 7. After 8 minutes of walking under the influence of the perturbations, the second normal walking  
143 phase begun and was recorded as “Second Normal Walking”.
- 144 8. After 1 minute of normal walking, a countdown was shown on the display and the treadmill  
145 decelerated to a stop.
- 146 9. The subject was instructed to step off of the force plates for 10 seconds and the “Unloaded  
147 End” event was recorded.

148 10. The subject could then take a rest break before each additional trial.

149 Trials 6-8 included a calibration pose at the start of the trial but the event was not explicitly  
150 recorded. In those trials, the “TreadmillPerturbation” event marks the beginning of longitudinal  
151 perturbations and the “Both” event marks the beginning of combined longitudinal and lateral  
152 perturbations. The force plate zeroing at the end was also not explicitly recorded.

### 153 Perturbation Signals

154 As previously described, the protocol included a phase of normal walking, followed by longitudinal  
155 belt speed perturbations, and ended with a second segment of normal walking. Three pseudo-  
156 random belt speed control signals, with mean velocities of  $0.8 \text{ m s}^{-1}$ ,  $1.2 \text{ m s}^{-1}$  and  $1.6 \text{ m s}^{-1}$ , were  
157 pre-generated with MATLAB and Simulink (Mathworks, Natick, Massachusetts, USA). The same  
158 control signal was used for all trials at that given speed.

159 To create the signals, we started by generating random 100 Hz acceleration signals using the  
160 Simulink discrete-time Gaussian white noise block followed by a saturation block set at the maximum  
161 belt acceleration of  $15 \text{ m s}^{-2}$ . The signal was then integrated to obtain belt speed and high-pass  
162 filtered with a second-order Butterworth filter to eliminate drift. One of the three mean speeds  
163 were then added to the signal and limited between  $0 \text{ m s}^{-1}$  to  $3.6 \text{ m s}^{-1}$ . The cutoff frequencies  
164 of the high-pass filter, as well as the variance in the acceleration signal, were manually adjusted  
165 until acceptable standard deviations for each mean speed were obtained:  $0.06 \text{ m s}^{-1}$ ,  $0.12 \text{ m s}^{-1}$  and  
166  $0.21 \text{ m s}^{-1}$  for the three speeds, respectively. These ensured that the test subjects were sufficiently  
167 perturbed at each speed, while remaining within the limits of our equipment and testing protocol.

168 To ensure that the treadmill belts could accelerate to the desired values, the high performance  
169 mode in the D-Flow software was enabled. This had the side effect of enabling too rapid of  
170 accelerations when the belt speed changed to or from zero speed. To eliminate this, a suitable  
171 ramped acceleration and deceleration were generated for the speed transitions.

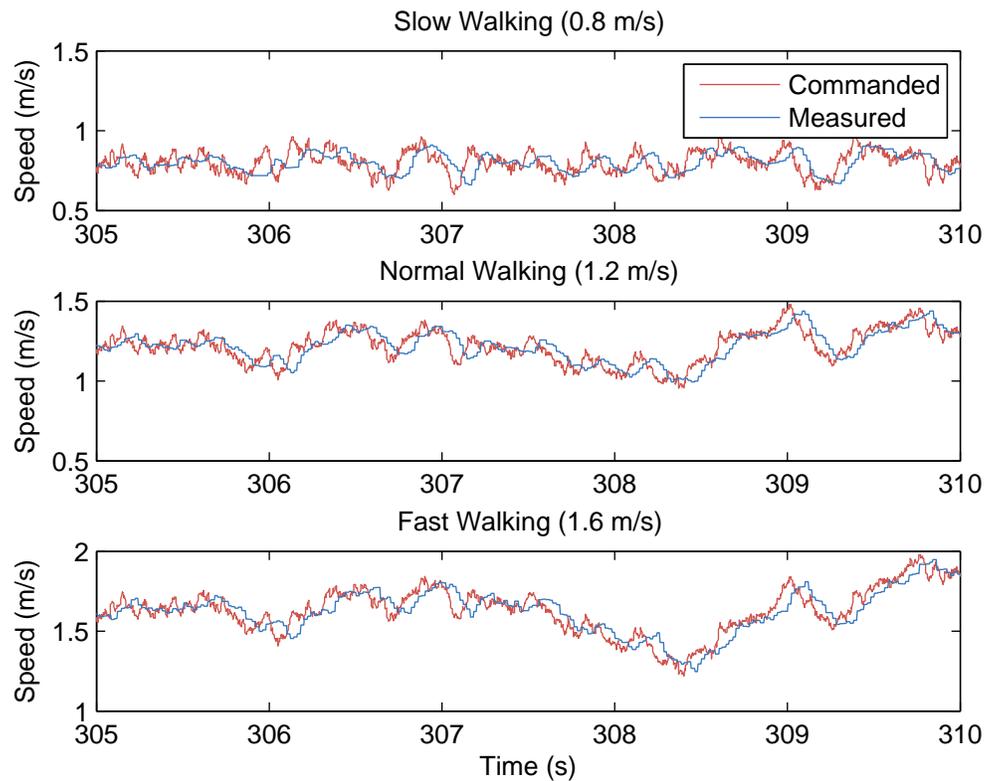
172 The MATLAB script and Simulink model produce a comma-delimited text file of five desired  
173 belt speed signals indexed by the time stamp. There are slow, normal, and fast walking speeds and  
174 slow and fast running speeds.<sup>2</sup> The measured speed of the treadmill belts from unloaded trials (79,  
175 80, 81) are compared to these commanded treadmill control input signals in Figure 2 to show the  
176 effect of the treadmill and controller dynamics. The system introduces a delay and seems to act as a  
177 low pass filter. The standard deviations of the measured speeds do not significantly differ from the  
178 desired values:  $0.05 \text{ m s}^{-1}$ ,  $0.12 \text{ m s}^{-1}$  and  $0.2 \text{ m s}^{-1}$  for the three speeds, respectively.

179 To show the effects of the treadmill dynamics and give an idea of the frequency content of  
180 the actual perturbations, spectral density plots were created by averaging a spectrogram of a  
181 twenty second Hamming window, shown in Figure 3. For all speeds, the frequency content of the  
182 commanded and measured time series show similarity below 4 Hz and attenuation in the measured  
183 spectral density above 4 Hz.

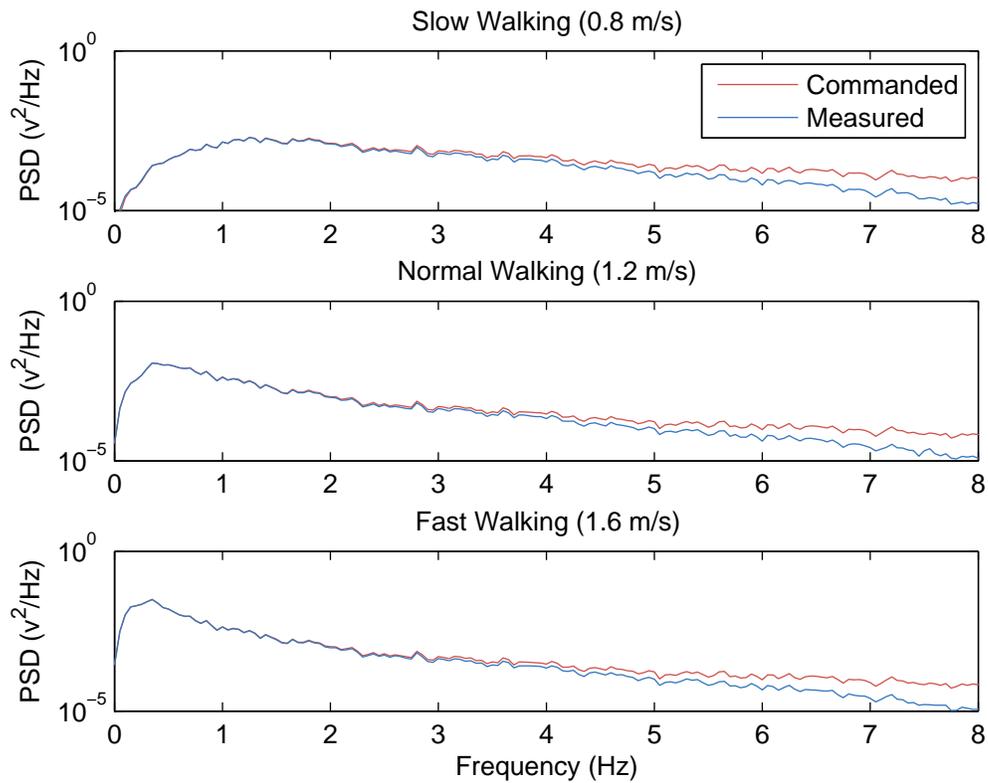
184 When belt speed is not constant, the inertia of the rollers and motor will induce error in the force  
185 plate  $x$  axis moment, and hence, the anterior-posterior coordinate ( $z$  axis) of the center of pressure  
186 that is measured by the instrumentation in the treadmill. If needed, this error can be compensated  
187 by a linear model as shown by Hnat and van den Bogert (2014). The model coefficients can be  
188 identified from the unloaded trials given in Table 2. The error due to inertia is random and does not

---

<sup>2</sup>The running signals were not used in the experiments presented in this paper.



**Figure 2.** Treadmill belt speed input signals (purple) and recorded output speeds (blue) for average belt speeds of  $0.8 \text{ m s}^{-1}$ ,  $1.2 \text{ m s}^{-1}$  and  $1.6 \text{ m s}^{-1}$ , respectively.



**Figure 3.** Frequency spectrum of the treadmill belt velocity input signal (purple) and the recorded output velocity (blue) for average belt speeds of 0.8, 1.2, and 1.6 m/s, respectively

**Table 2.** A list of unloaded trials collected for each speed. Each loaded trial includes a compensation file listed in its meta data which matches it to these unloaded trials. Generated by `src/subject_table.py`.

Speed	Trial Numbers
0.8 m/s	22, 30, 34, 43, 52, 58, 64, 70, 79
1.2 m/s	3, 4, 5, 23, 29, 35, 44, 53, 59, 65, 71, 80
1.6 m/s	24, 28, 36, 45, 54, 60, 66, 72, 81

189 affect the averaged joint moments presented in Figure 4. Compensation should, however, be done if  
190 joint moments from individual gait cycles are of interest rather than the ensemble average.

## 191 RESULTS

### 192 Raw Data

193 The raw data consists of a set of ASCII tab delimited text files output from both the “mocap” and  
194 “record” modules in D-Flow in addition to a manually generated YAML file that contains all of the  
195 necessary meta data for the given trial. These three files are stored in a hierarchy of directories with  
196 one trial per directory. The directories are named in the following fashion `T001/` where `T` stands  
197 for “trial” and the following three digits are provide a unique trial identification number.

#### 198 *mocap-xxx.txt*

199 The output from the D-Flow mocap module is stored in a tab separated value (TSV) file named  
200 `mocap-xxx.txt` where `xxx` represents the trial id number. The file contains a number of time  
201 series. The numerical values of the time series are provided in decimal fixed point notation with  
202 6 decimals of precision, e.g. `123456.123456`, regardless of the units. The first line of the file  
203 holds the header. The header includes time stamp column, frame number column, marker position  
204 columns, force plate force/moment columns, force plate center of pressure columns, and other  
205 analog columns. The columns are further described below:

206 **TimeStamp** The monotonically increasing computer clock time when D-Flow receives a frame  
207 from Cortex. These are recorded approximately at 100 Hz sampling rate and given in seconds.

208 **FrameNumber** Monotonically increasing positive integers that correspond to each frame received  
209 from Cortex.

210 **Marker Coordinates** Any column that ends in `.PosX`, `.PosY`, or `.PosZ` are marker coordinates  
211 expressed in Cortex’s Cartesian reference frame. The prefixes match the marker labels given  
212 in Table 3. These values are in meters.

213 **Ground Reaction Loads** There are three ground reaction forces and three ground reaction moments  
214 recorded by each of the two force plates in Newtons and Newton-Meters, respectively. The  
215 prefix for these columns is either `FP1` or `FP2` and represents either force plate 1 (left) or  
216 2 (right). The suffixes are either `.For[XYZ]`, `.Mom[XYZ]` for the forces and moments,  
217 respectively. The force plate voltages are sampled at a much higher frequency than the  
218 cameras, but delivered at the Cortex camera sample rate,  $\tilde{100}$  Hz through the D-Flow mocap

219 module. A force/moment calibration matrix stored in Cortex converts the voltages to forces  
 220 and moments before sending it to D-Flow. The software also computes the center of pressure  
 221 from the forces, moments, and force plate dimensions. These have the same prefixes for the  
 222 plate number, have the suffix `.Cop[XYZ]`, and are given in meters.

223 **Analog Channels** Several analog signals are recorded under column headers `Channel[1-99].Anlg.`  
 224 These correspond to analog signals sampled by Cortex and correspond to the 96 analog chan-  
 225 nels in the National Instruments USB-6255. The first twelve are the voltages from the force  
 226 plate load cells. We also record the acceleration of 4 points on the treadmill base in analog  
 227 channels 61-72 that were in place in case inertial compensation for the lateral treadmill  
 228 movement was required.

### 229 ***record-xxx.txt***

230 The record module also outputs a tab delimited ASCII text file with numerical values at six decimal  
 231 digits. It includes a `Time` column which records the D-Flow system time in seconds. This time  
 232 corresponds to the time recorded in the `TimeStamp` column in mocap module TSV file which is  
 233 necessary for time synchronization. There are two additional columns `RightBeltSpeed` and  
 234 `LeftBeltSpeed` which provide the independent belt speeds measured in meters per second by a  
 235 factory installed encoder in the treadmill.

236 Additionally, the record module is capable of recording the time at which various preprogrammed  
 237 events occur, as detected or set by D-Flow. It does this by inserting commented (`#`) lines in between  
 238 the rows when the event occurred. The record files have several events that delineate the different  
 239 phases of the protocol:

240 **A: Force Plate Zeroing** Marks the time at the beginning of the trial at which there is no load on  
 241 the force plates and when the force plate voltages were zeroed.

242 **B: Calibration Pose** Marks the time at which the person is in the calibration pose.

243 **C: First Normal Walking** Marks the time when the treadmill begins Phase 1: constant belt speed.

244 **D: Longitudinal Perturbation** Marks the time when the treadmill begins Phase 2: longitudinal  
 245 perturbations in the belt speed.

246 **E: Second Normal Walking** Marks the time when phase 3 starts: constant belt speed.

247 **F: Unloaded End** Marks the time at which there is no load on the force plates and the belts are  
 248 stationary.

### 249 ***meta-xxx.yml***

250 Each trial directory contains a meta data file in the YAML format named in the following style  
 251 `meta-xxx.yml` where `xxx` is the three digit trial identification number. There are three main  
 252 headings in the file: `study`, `subject`, and `trial`. An example meta data file is shown in Listing  
 253 1.

254 The `study` section contains identifying information for the overall study, an identification  
 255 number, name, and description. This is the same for all meta data files in the study. Details are given  
 256 below:

257 **id** An integer specifying a unique identification number of the study.

258 **name** A string giving the name of the study.

259 **description** A string with a basic description of the study.

260 The `subject` section provides key value pairs of information about the subject in that trial.  
 261 Each subject has a unique identification number along with basic anthropomorphic data. The  
 262 following details the possible meta data for the subject:

263 **age** An integer age in years of the subject at the time of the trial.

264 **ankle-width-left** A float specifying the width of the subjects left ankle.

265 **ankle-width-right** A float specifying the width of the subjects right ankle.

266 **ankle-width-units** A string giving the units of measurement of the ankle widths.

267 **id** An unique identification integer for the subject.

268 **gender** A string specifying the gender of the subject.

269 **height** A float specifying the measured height of the subject (with shoes and hat on) at the time of  
 270 the trial.

271 **height-units** A string giving the units of the height measurement.

272 **knee-width-left** A float specifying the width of the subjects left knee.

273 **knee-width-right** A float specifying the width of the subjects right knee.

274 **knee-width-units** A string giving the units of measurement of the knee widths.

275 **mass** A float specifying the self-reported mass of the subject.

276 **mass-units** A string specifying the units of the mass measurement.

277 The `trial` section contains the information about the particular trial. Each trial has a unique  
 278 identification number along with a variety of other information, detailed below:

279 **analog-channel-map** A mapping of the strings D-Flow assigns to signals emitted from the analog  
 280 channels of the NI USB-6255 to names the user desires.

281 **cortex-version** The version of Cortex used to record the trial.

282 **datetime** A date formatted string giving the date of the trial in the YYYY-MM-DD format.

283 **dflow-version** The version of D-Flow used to record the trial.

284 **events** A key value map which prescribes names to the alphabetic events recorded in the record file.

285 **files** A key value mapping of files associated with this trial where the key is the D-Flow file type  
 286 and the value is the path to the file relative to the meta file. The compensation file corresponds  
 287 to an unloaded trial collected on the same day that could be used for inertial compensation  
 288 purposes, if needed.

289 **hardware-settings** There are tons of settings for the hardware in both D-Flow, Cortex, and the  
 290 other software in the system. This contains any non-default settings.

291 **high-performance** A boolean value indicating whether the D-Flow high performance setting  
 292 was on (True) or off (False).

293 **id** An unique three digit integer identifier for the trial. All of the file names and directories associated  
 294 with this trial include this number.

295 **marker-map** A key value map which maps marker names in the mocap file to the user's desired  
 296 names for the markers.

297 **marker-set** Indicates the HBM van den Bogert et al. (2013) marker set used during the trial, either  
 298 full, lower, or NA.

299 **nominal-speed** A float representing the nominal desired treadmill speed during the trial.

300 **nominal-speed-units** A string providing the units of the nominal speed.

301 **notes** Any notes about the trial.

302 **pitch** A boolean that indicates if the treadmill pitch degree of freedom was actuated during the trial.

303 **stationary-platform** A boolean that indicates whether the treadmill sway or pitch motion was  
 304 actuated during the trial. If this flag is false, the measured ground reaction loads must be  
 305 compensated for the inertial affects and be expressed in the motion capture reference frame.

306 **subject-id** An integer corresponding to the subject in the trial.

307 **sway** A boolean that indicates if the treadmill lateral degree of freedom was actuated during the  
 308 trial.

### 309 **Markers**

310 We make use of the full body 47 marker set described in van den Bogert et al. (2013) and presented  
 311 in detail in Table 3. As with all camera based motion capture systems, the markers sometimes go  
 312 missing in the recording. When a marker goes missing, if the data was recorded in a D-Flow version  
 313 less than 3.16.2rc4, D-Flow continues to record the last non-missing value in all three axes until the  
 314 marker is visible again. In D-Flow versions greater than or equal to 3.16.2rc4, the missing markers  
 315 are indicated in the TSV file as either 0.000000 or -0.000000. The D-Flow version must be  
 316 provided in the meta data YAML file to be able to distinguish this detail.

**Table 3.** Descriptions of the 47 markers used in this study. The “Set” column indicates whether the marker exists in the lower and/or full body marker set. The label column matches the column headers in the mocap-xxx.txt files and/or the marker map in the meta-xxx.yml file.

Set	#	Label	Name	Description
F	1	LHEAD	Left head	Just above the ear, in the middle.
F	2	THEAD	Top head	On top of the head, in line with the LHEAD and RHEAD.
F	3	RHEAD	Right head	Just above the ear, in the middle.
F	4	FHEAD	Forehead	Between line LHEAD/RHEAD and THEAD a bit right from center.
L/F	5	C7	C7	On the 7th cervical vertebrae.
L/F	6	T10	T10	On the 10th thoracic vertebrae.
L/F	7	SACR	Sacrum bone	On the sacral bone.
L/F	8	NAVE	Navel	On the navel.
L/F	9	XYPH	Xiphoid process	Xiphoid process of the sternum.
F	10	STRN	Sternum	On the jugular notch of the sternum.
F	11	BBAC	Scapula	On the inferior angle fo the right scapular.
F	12	LSHO	Left shoulder	Left acromion.
F	13	LDEL	Left deltoid muscle	Apex of the deltoid muscle.
F	14	LLEE	Left lateral elbow	Left lateral epicondyle of the elbow. Upper one in the T-Pose.
F	15	LMEE	Left medial elbow	Left medial epicondyle of the elbow. Lower on in the T-Pose.
F	16	LFRM	Left forearm	On 2/3 on the line between the LLEE and LMW.
F	17	LMW	Left medial wrist	On styloid process radius, thumb side.
F	18	LLW	Left lateral wrist	On styloid process ulna, pinky side.
F	19	LFIN	Left fingers	Center of the hand. Caput metatarsal 3.
F	20	RSHO	Right shoulder	Right acromion.
F	21	RDEL	Right deltoid muscle	Apex of deltoid muscle.
F	22	RLEE	Right lateral elbow	Right lateral epicondyle of the elbow. Lower one in the T-pose.
F	23	RMEE	Right medial elbow	Right medial epicondyle of the elbow. Lower one in the T-pose.
F	24	RFRM	Right forearm	On 1/3 on the line between the RLEE and RMW.
F	25	RMW	Right medial wrist	On styloid process radius, thumb side.
F	26	RLW	Right lateral wrist	On styloid process ulna, pinky side.
F	27	RFIN	Right fingers	Center of the hand. Caput metatarsal 3.
L/F	28	LASIS	Pelvic bone left front	Left anterior superior iliac spine.
L/F	29	RASIS	Pelvic bone right front	Right anterior superior iliac spine.
L/F	30	LPSIS	Pelvic bone left back	Left posterior superio iliac spine.
L/F	31	RPSIS	Pelvic bone right back	Right posterior superior iliac spine.
L/F	32	LGTRO	Left greater trochanter of the femur	On the cetner of the left greater trochanter.
L/F	33	FLTHI	Left thigh	On 1/3 on the line between the LFTRO and LLEK.
L/F	34	LLEK	Left lateral epicondyle of the knee	On the lateral side of the joint axis.
L/F	35	LATI	Left anterior of the tibia	On 2/3 on the line between the LLEK and LLM.
L/F	36	LLM	Left lateral malleolus of the ankle	The center of the heel at the same height as the toe.
L/F	37	LHEE	Left heel	Center of the heel at the same height as the toe.
L/F	38	LTOE	Left toe	Tip of big toe.
L/F	39	LMT5	Left 5th metatarsal	Caput of the 5th metatarsal bone, on joint line midfoot/toes.
L/F	40	RGTRO	Right greater trochanter of the femur	On the cetner of the right greater trochanter.
L/F	41	FRTHI	Right thigh	On 2/3 on the line between the RFTRO and RLEK.
L/F	42	RLEK	Right lateral epicondyle of the knee	On the lateral side of the joint axis.
L/F	43	RATI	Right anterior of the tibia	On 1/3 on the line between the RLEK and RLM.
L/F	44	RLM	Right lateral malleolus of the ankle	The center of the heel at the same height as the toe.
L/F	45	RHEE	Right heel	Center of the heel at the same height as the toe.
L/F	46	RTOE	Right toe	Tip of big toe.
L/F	47	RMT5	Right 5th metatarsal	Caput of the 5th metatarsal bone, on joint line midfoot/toes.

## 317 Processed Data

318 We developed a toolkit for data processing, `GaitAnalysisToolKit` v0.1.2, Moore et al. (2014b), for  
319 common gait computations and provide an example processed trial to present the nature of the data.  
320 The tool was developed in Python, is dependent on the SciPy Stack (NumPy, SciPy, matplotlib,  
321 Pandas, etc) and Octave, and provides two main classes: one to do basic gait data cleaning from  
322 D-Flow's output files, `DFlowData`, and a second to compute common gait variables of interest,  
323 `GaitData`.

324 The `DFlowData` class collects and stores all the raw data presented in the previous section and  
325 applies several "cleaning" operations to transform the data into a usable form. The cleaning process  
326 follows these steps:

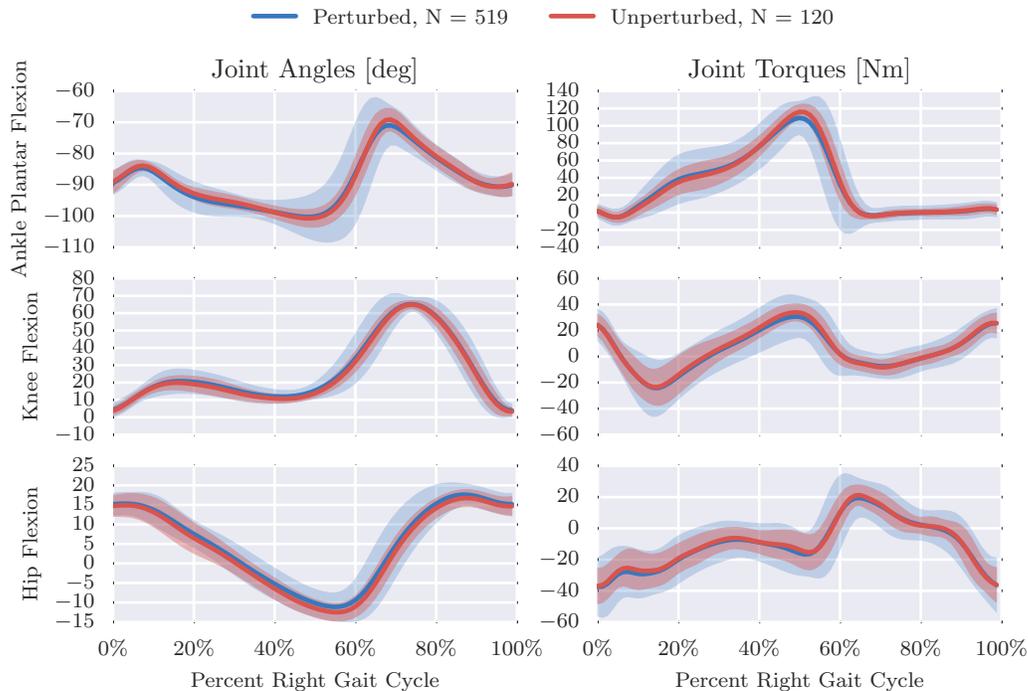
- 327 1. Load the meta data file into a Python dictionary.
- 328 2. Load the D-Flow mocap module TSV file into `Pandas DataFrame`.
- 329 3. Relabel the column headers to more meaningful names if this is specified in the meta data.
- 330 4. Optionally identify the missing values in the mocap marker data and replace them with  
331 `numpy.nan`.
- 332 5. Optionally interpolate the missing marker values and replaces them with interpolated estimates  
333 using a variety of interpolation methods.
- 334 6. Load the D-Flow record module TSV file into a `Pandas DataFrame`.
- 335 7. Extract the events and create a dictionary mapping the event names in the meta data to the  
336 events detected in the record module file.
- 337 8. Internally compensate the ground reaction loads based on whether the meta data indicates  
338 there was treadmill motion.
- 339 9. Merge the data from the mocap module and record module into one data frame at the maximum  
340 common constant sample rate.

341 Once the data is cleaned there are two methods that allow the user to extract the cleaned data:  
342 either extract sections of the data bounded by the events recorded in the `record-xxx.txt` file or  
343 save the cleaned data to disk. These operations are available as a command line application and as  
344 an application programming interface (API) in Python. An example of the `DFlowData` API in use  
345 is provided in Listing 2.

346 The `GaitData` class is then used to compute gait events (toe off and heel strike times), basic  
347 2D kinematics and inverse dynamics, and to store the data into a `Pandas Panel` with each gait cycle  
348 on the item axis at a specified sampling rate. This object can also be serialized to disk in HDF5  
349 format. An example of using the Python API is shown in Listing 3.

350 A similar work flow was used to produce Figure 4 which compares the mean and standard  
351 deviation of sagittal plane joint angles and torques from the perturbed gait cycles and the unperturbed  
352 gait cycles computed from trial 20. This gives an idea of the more highly variable dynamics required  
353 to walk while being longitudinally perturbed.

354 For more insight into the difference in the unperturbed and perturbed data, Figure 5 compares  
355 the distribution of a few gait cycle statistics. One can see that the perturbed strides have a much  
356 larger variation in frequency and length.

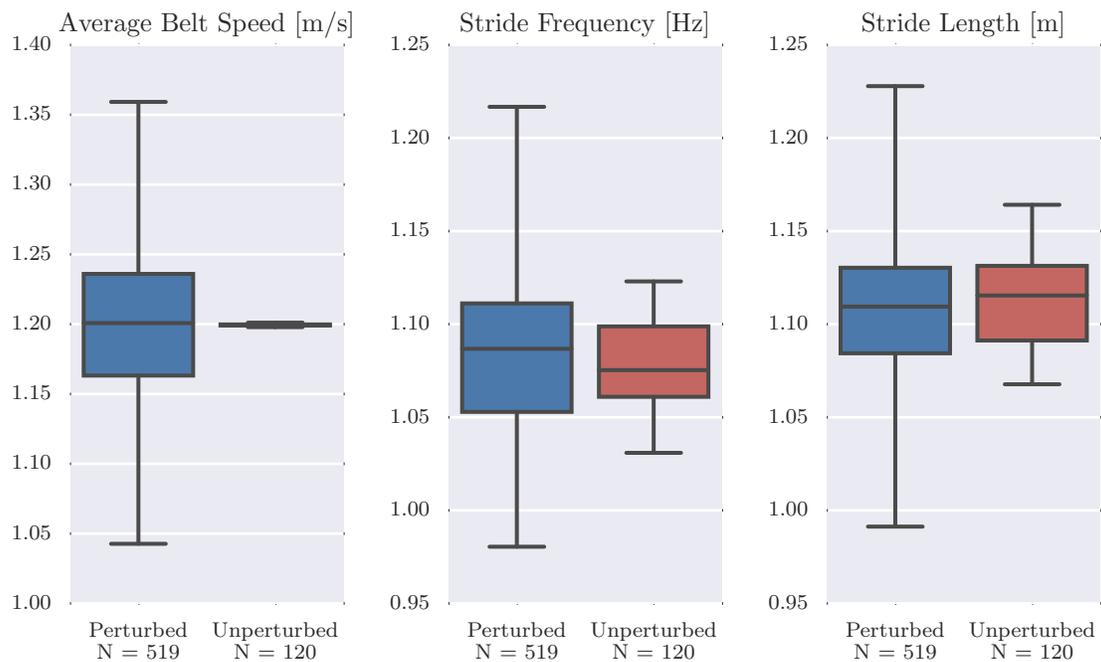


**Figure 4.** Right leg mean and  $3\sigma$  (shaded) joint angles and torques from both unperturbed (red) and perturbed (blue) gait cycles from trial 20. Produced by `src/unperturbed_perturbed_comparison.py`.

### Data Limitations

The data is provided in good faith with great attention to detail but as with all data there are anomalies that may affect the use and interpretation of results emanating from the data. The following list gives various notes and warnings about the data that should be taken into account when making use of it.

- Be sure to read the notes in each meta data file for details about possible anomalies in that particular trial. Things such as marker dropout, ghost markers, and marker movement are the more prominent notes. Details about variations in the equipment on the day of the trial are also mentioned.
- The subject identification number 0 stands for "no subject" and was used whenever data was collected from the system with no subject on the treadmill, for example during the trials that were intended to be used for inertial compensation purposes. These trials play through the exact protocol as those with a human subject and the matching trials are indicated in the meta data. Matching unloaded trials were recorded on the same day as the loaded trials and is noted in the `trial:files:compensation` section of the meta data file. See Table 2 for a list of all the compensation trials.
- Trials 1 and 2 were not recorded as part of this study. Those trial identification numbers were reserved for early data exploration from data collected in other studies.
- Trials 37, 38, and 39 do not exist. The numbers were accidentally skipped.



**Figure 5.** Box plots of the average belt speed, stride frequency, and stride length which compare unperturbed (purple) and perturbed (blue) gait cycles. The median is given with the box bounding the first and third quartiles and the whiskers bound the range of the data. Produced by `src/unperturbed_perturbed_comparison.py`.

- 375 ● Trials 9, 10, and 11 used a slightly different event definition where the calibration poses were  
376 not explicitly tagged by an event, yet the protocol was the identical to the following trials. The  
377 calibration pose will have to be determined manually.
  
- 378 ● Trials 6-15 have force measurements are affected by the treadmill vibration mode mentioned  
379 in the equipment section and the forces should be not be used. We include the trials because  
380 both the kinematic data is valid and trials 6-8 include lateral perturbations in addition to the  
381 longitudinal.
  
- 382 ● During trials 9-15 we used wooden blocks to fix the treadmill to the concrete floor to eliminate  
383 the treadmill's low vibration mode (approximately 5Hz). But these blocks seem to have  
384 corrupted the force plate measurements by imposing frictional stresses on the system. The  
385 force plate measurements should not be used from these trials, but the marker data is fine.
  
- 386 ● Trials 6-8 use an early experimental protocol which divided the perturbation sections into  
387 three sections: longitudinal perturbations, lateral perturbations, and a combination of each.  
388 We then learned the treadmill had a low vibrational mode which significantly affects the force  
389 plate measurements, requiring us to eliminate the lateral perturbation motions. The force  
390 measurements during these trials are corrupted by this vibrational mode and should be used  
391 with caution or not at all.
  
- 392 ● We did not record unloaded compensation trials for trials 9-15. Regardless, they would likely  
393 be useless due to the corruption from the wooden blocks.
  
- 394 ● Trials 6-8 use a only the lower body marker set. The remaining trials are full body.
  
- 395 ● The ankle joint torques computed from subject 9's data in trials 25-27 are abnormal and should  
396 be used with caution or not at all. We were not able to locate the source of the error, but it is  
397 likely related to the force calibration.

## 398 CONCLUSION

399 We have presented a rich and elaborate data set of motion and ground reaction loads from human  
400 subjects during both normal walking and when recovering from longitudinal perturbations. The raw  
401 data is provided for reuse with complete meta data. In addition to the data, we provide software that  
402 can process the data for both cleaning purposes and to produce typical sagittal plane gait variables  
403 of interest. Among other uses, we believe the dataset is ideally suited for control identification  
404 purposes. Many researchers are working on mathematical models for control in gait and this dataset  
405 provides both a way to validate these models and a source for generating them.

## 406 DATA AVAILABILITY

407 The data set, Moore et al. (2014a), is available via the Zenodo data repository. Two approximately  
408 1.2GB gzipped tar balls contain the data and a README file with a short description of the contents.  
409 The data is released under the Creative Commons CC0 license (<http://creativecommons.org/about/cc0>)  
410 following best practices for sharing scientific data.

## 411 SOFTWARE AVAILABILITY

412 The tables, figures, and the paper can be reproduced from the source repository shared on Github:  
413 <https://github.com/csu-hmc/perturbed-data-paper>. Along with the source code in the repository, the  
414 computations depend on version 0.1.2 of the GaitAnalysisToolKit, Moore et al. (2014b), which can  
415 be downloaded from Zenodo or the Python Package Index (<http://pypi.python.org>).

## 416 AUTHOR CONTRIBUTIONS

417 A.v.d.B. conceived of the experiments and protocol. J.K.M and S.K.H refined the protocol, ran  
418 the experiments, collected the data, developed the software, and analyzed the data. J.K.M was the  
419 primary author of the paper with significant contributions from S.K.H and A.v.d.B. All authors were  
420 involved in the revision of the draft manuscript and have agreed to the final content.

## 421 COMPETING INTERESTS

422 The authors have no financial, personal, or professional competing interests that could be construed  
423 to unduly influence the content of this article.

## 424 GRANT INFORMATION

425 The work was partially funded by the State of Ohio Third Frontier Commission through the Wright  
426 Center for Sensor Systems Engineering (WCSSE) and by the National Science Foundation under  
427 Grant No. 1344954.

## 428 ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

429 We thank Roman Boychuk and Obinna Nwanna for assistance with the experiments. We also  
430 thank Sabrina Abram, Brad Humphreys, and Anne Koelewijn for reviewing the preprint and being  
431 our guinea pigs on the software/data instructions. Dan Simon also gave valuable feedback on the  
432 preprint.

## 433 REFERENCES

- 434 Chester, V. L., Tingley, M., and Biden, E. N. (2007). Comparison of two normative paediatric gait  
435 databases. *Dynamic Medicine*, 6:8.
- 436 Hnat, S. and van den Bogert, A. J. (2014). Inertial compensation for belt acceleration in an  
437 instrumented treadmill. *Journal of Biomechanics*, 47(15):3758–3761.
- 438 Kirtley, C. (2014). CGA Normative Gait Database. <http://www.clinicalgaitanalysis.com/data/>.
- 439 Moore, J. K., Hnat, S., and van den Bogert, A. (2014a). An elaborate data set on human gait and the  
440 effect of mechanical perturbations. <http://dx.doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.13030>.
- 441 Moore, J. K., Nwanna, O., Hnat, S., and van den Bogert, A. (2014b). GaitAnalysisToolKit: Version  
442 0.1.2. <http://dx.doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.13159>.
- 443 Sup, F., Bohara, A., and Goldfarb, M. (2008). Design and control of a powered transfemoral  
444 prosthesis. *The International Journal of Robotics Research*, 27(2):263–273.
- 445 Tirosh, O., Baker, R., and McGinley, J. (2010). GaitaBase: Web-based repository system for gait  
446 analysis. *Computers in Biology and Medicine*, 40(2):201–207.

- 447 van den Bogert, A. J. (2003). Exotendons for assistance of human locomotion. *BioMedical*  
448 *Engineering OnLine*, 2(1):17.
- 449 van den Bogert, A. J., Geijtenbeek, T., Even-Zohar, O., Steenbrink, F., and Hardin, E. C. (2013). A  
450 real-time system for biomechanical analysis of human movement and muscle function. *Medical*  
451 *& Biological Engineering & Computing*, pages 1–9.
- 452 Vaughan, C., Davis, B., and O'Connor, J. (1992). *Dynamics of Human Gait*. Human Kinetics  
453 Publishers, 1st edition.
- 454 Wang, Y. and Srinivasan, M. (2014). Stepping in the direction of the fall: The next foot place-  
455 ment can be predicted from current upper body state in steady-state walking. *Biology Letters*,  
456 10(9):20140405.
- 457 White, E. P., Baldrige, E., Brym, Z. T., Locey, K. J., McGlinn, D. J., and Supp, S. R. (2013). Nine  
458 simple ways to make it easier to (re)use your data. *PeerJ PrePrints*, 1:e7v2.
- 459 Willson, J. D. and Kernozek, T. (2014). Gait data collected at University of Wisconsin-LaCrosse.  
460 <http://www.innsport.com/related-products/data-sets/uw-l-gait-data-set.aspx>.
- 461 Winter, A., D. (1990). *Biomechanics and Motor Control of Human Movement*. 2nd edition.

```

study:
  id: 1
  name: Gait Control Identification
  description: Perturb the subject during walking and running.
subject:
  id: 8
  age: 20
  mass: 70.0
  mass-units: kilograms
  height: 1.572
  height-units: meters
  knee-width-left: 107.43
  knee-width-right: 107.41
  knee-width-units: millimeters
  ankle-width-left: 70.52
  ankle-width-right: 67.66
  ankle-width-units: millimeters
  gender: male
trial:
  id: 58
  subject-id: 8
  datetime: 2014-03-28
  notes: >
    The subject did a somersault during this trial instead of following
    instructions to walk. Will have to use for another study.
  nominal-speed: 0.8
  nominal-speed-units: meters per second
  stationary-platform: True
  pitch: False
  sway: False
  hardware-settings:
    high-performance: True
  dflow-version: 3.16.1
  cortex-version: 3.1.1.1290
  marker-map:
    M1: LHEAD
    M2: THEAD
    M3: RHEAD
    M4: FHEAD
    M5: C7
  analog-channel-map:
    Channel1.Anlg: F1Y1
    Channel2.Anlg: F1Y2
    Channel3.Anlg: F1Y3
    Channel4.Anlg: F1X1
  events:
    A: Force Plate Zeroing
    B: Calibration Pose
    C: First Normal Walking
    D: Longitudinal Perturbation
    E: Second Normal Walking
    F: Unloaded End
  files:
    compensation: ../T057/mocap-057.txt
    mocap: mocap-058.txt
    record: record-058.txt
    meta: meta-058.yml

```

**Listing 1.** A fictitious example of a YAML formatted meta data file. All of the possible keys in the data set are shown.

```
>>> from gaitanalysis.motek import DFlowData
>>> data = DFlowData('mocap-020.txt', 'record-020.txt',
...                  'meta-020.yml')
>>> mass = data.meta['subject']['mass']
>>> data.clean_data()
>>> event_df = data.extract_processed_data(
...     event='Longitudinal Perturbation')
```

**Listing 2.** Python interpreter session showing how one could load a trial into memory, extract the subject's mass from the meta data, run the data cleaning process, and finally extract a Pandas DataFrame containing all of the time histories for a specific event in the trial.

```
>>> from gaitanalysis.gait import GaitData
>>> gdata = GaitData(event_df)
>>> gdata.inverse_dynamics_2d(left_markers, right_markers,
...                            left_loads, right_loads, mass, 6.0)
>>> gdata.grf_landmarks('Right Fy', 'Left Fy', threshold=20.0)
>>> gdata.split_at('right')
>>> gdata.plot_gait_cycles('Left Hip Joint Torque', mean=True)
>>> gdata.save('gait-data.h5')
```

**Listing 3.** Python interpreter session showing how one could use the GaitData class to load in the result of DFlowData and compute the inverse dynamics (joint angles and torques), identify the gait events (e.g. heel strikes), split the data with respect to the gait events into a Pandas Panel, plot the mean and standard deviation of one time history with respect to the gait cycles, and save the data to disk.