

The webcast will begin shortly...

# Musculoskeletal modeling of manual materials handling in the Danish supermarket sector

July 28<sup>th</sup>, 2020



# Outline

- General introduction to the AnyBody Modeling System
- Presentation by Sebastian Laigaard Skals
  - Musculoskeletal modeling of manual materials handling in the Danish supermarket sector
- Question and answer session



#### **Presenter**:

National Research Centre for the Working Environment

Sebastian Laigaard Skals Ph.D. student at the National Research Centre for the Working Environment (NRCWE) / Aalborg University, Denmark

AALBORG UNIVERSITET



Host: Kristoffer Iversen R&D Engineer AnyBody Technology



# Control Panel

The Control Panel appears on the right side of your screen.

Submit questions and comments via the Questions panel.

Questions will be addressed at the end of the presentation. If your question is not addressed, we will do so by email.





# **Musculoskeletal Simulation**

Motion Data Kinematics and Forces







#### **Body Loads**

- Joint moments
- Muscle forces
- Joint reaction forces

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Product optimization design

**ANYBODY** Modeling System



ANY BODY

Sports





Orthopedics and rehab



# AnyBody Modelling System





# Musculoskeletal modeling of manual materials handling in the Danish supermarket sector

By Sebastian Laigaard Skals, Ph.D. student at NRCWE / Aalborg University, Denmark











Sebastian Skals Ph.D. student 28/7 - 2020

# Musculoskeletal modeling of manual materials handling in the Danish supermarket sector

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## Introduction

Musculoskeletal disorders in the supermarket sector

Work-related musculoskeletal disorders (WRMD) are highly prevalent in the supermarket sector<sup>1,2</sup>

- Lower back
- Shoulders
- Wrists

Majority of workers are primarily engaged in the receiving, stocking and re-arranging of groceries

Not much is known about the biomechanical loads these workers are subjected to during their daily work

However, it is well-documented that manual materials handling (MMH) is associated with the development of WRMD, particularly to the lower back



# Introduction

#### Assessing the risk of injury during MMH

Task-based analysis of MMH has involved many different approaches

- Self-reports
- Observational methods
- Direct measurements (e.g. EMG or motion analysis)
- Biomechanical models

Several ergonomic tools have been developed to assess injury risks during MMH, as for instance:

- NIOSH Lifting Equation<sup>3</sup>
- Snook Lifting Tables<sup>4</sup>

...many of which apply biomechanical models to estimate joint loads





# Introduction

Limitations of biomechanical models and recent advances

Simplified exposure and biomechanical models (static or quasi-static):

- Loads are only known for idealized lifting situations
- Considerable underestimation of loads compared with dynamic models

**Musculoskeletal modelling** may be the tool to overcome these challenges:

- Prediction of ground reaction forces
- Inertial motion capture (Xsens Technologies B.V.)

#### AIM:

Identify work tasks and ergonomic exposures that may pose a risk for the development of WRMD in the supermarket sector based on state-of-the art methods for inertial-based motion analysis and musculoskeletal modelling.





## **Methods** Evaluate methodology against silver standard



See previous webcast (<u>https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QwA1hnqpqXgor</u>) or journal paper<sup>5</sup> for more information.





### **Methods** Experimental procedures

17 healthy full-time workers from two supermarkets were recruited

12 common MMH tasks were included in the study, e.g. the handling of

- Bananas
- Milk crates
- Cucumbers

Multiple start and end postions were included

- 50 lifting conditions
- 4 repetitions per condition





### **Methods** Experimental procedures

#### Full-body kinematics obatained using the Xsens MVN Awinda wireless motion-tracker





## Methods Musculoskeletal modelling

Models developed in The AnyBody Modeling System 7.2 based on the BVH\_Xsens template from AMMR 2.2.3

- Scaling based on manual measurements
- Kinematics solved using concept of virtual markers<sup>6</sup>
- GRFs predicted using embedded tool in AnyBody<sup>7</sup>
- Box kinematics driven by position of hands
- Hand-box contact modelled with muscle-like contact elements







#### Milk-LowToLow



#### Milk-HighToHigh





#### Bread-LowToLow

#### Bread-HighToHigh















	L5-S1 axial com	pression force	L5-S1 anteroposterior force		
Rank	Task	Newton	Task	Newton	
1	Bananas-LowToLow	3961 (3734 – 4188)	Bananas-LowToLow	1114 (1036 – 1191)	
2	Bananas-HighToLow	3862 (3635 – 4088)	Milk-LowToLow	1035 (958 – 1113)	
3	Milk-LowToLow	3627 (3401 - 3854)	Bananas-HighToLow	1020 (942 – 1097)	
4	Milk-LowToMid	3584 (3357 - 3811)	Milk-LowToMid	992 (915 – 1069)	
5	Milk-LowToHigh	3548 (3322 – 3775)	Milk-LowToHigh	985 (908 - 1062)	
6	Milk-HighToLow	3516 (3289 – 3742)	Milk-HighToLow	964 (887 - 1041)	
7	Milk-HighToMid	3350 (3123 – 3577)	Cucumbers-LowToHigh	901 (824 – 978)	
8	Cucumbers-LowToHigh	3215 (2988 – 3442)	Cucumbers-LowToMid	888 (810 - 966)	
9	Cucumbers-LowToMid	3170 (2942 – 3398)	Bread-LowToLow	858 (781 – 935)	
10	Bread-LowToLow	3060 (2833 – 3287)	Bread-MidToLow	848 (770 – 925)	

Compression tolerance limit: 3400 N<sup>3,8</sup>

Anteroposterior shear tolerance limit: 1000 N<sup>9,10</sup>





- First study to estimate dynamic spinal loading based on field measurements
- Spinal loads exceed tolerance limits for bananas (20.2 kg), milk (17.3 kg) and cucumbers (10.2 kg)
- Weight, start and end position all had considerable influence on spinal forces
- Lifting cucumbers (10.2 kg) to high shelves resulted in the highest shoulder forces
- The weight of the merchandise was the main predictor of high knee forces





- Handling of milk crates and bananas should be avoided
- Bread (7.9 kg) and cucumbers (10.2 kg) should only be placed below shoulder height or stocked individually
- Highest shelves should be lowered to avoid working above shoulder height
- Technical assistive devices are adviced to limit hazardous exposures
- Individual factors (age, sex and health) should be considered in relation to job demands



## Discussion

#### Limitations and future applications

- Trunk forward flexion angle and anteroposterior shear force underestimated considerably
- Very time-consuming approach that require specialized skills
- Only estimates acute loading, but accumulated loads are important
- Errors in kinematic data led to the exclusion of a large proportion of the collected trials

- Estimating dynamic joint loads based on field measurements is a great leap forward
- Abundance of information providing valuable reference material for industrial stakeholders



# **References** ... and thank you for your time!

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# AnyBody Modelling System





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Updated model repository AMMR v. 2.3

- A large-scale gait MoCap example
- A new faster experimental wrapping algorithm, 5-100 faster than the previous
  - Inspired by the work of Lloyd, Stavness and Fels (2019).
- General faster load and simulation times
  - Load time for models is reduced by 25%
  - Simulation time is also faster in all models which includes tri-axial ellipsoids.
- New improved model view performance
- New class list
- New reference manual

See more: <a href="https://forum.anyscript.org/t/anybody-modeling-system-v-7-3-0-released/5706">https://forum.anyscript.org/t/anybody-modeling-system-v-7-3-0-released/5706</a>



# Time for questions:



