Reports

This page is currently being updated

Purpose

The CalTester function in Visual3D estimates the optimal position and orientation of a force platform, instrumented treadmill, or instrumented stair within the 3D motion capture volume based on a set of experimental trials using a standard MTD-2 CalTester Rod.

The Mechanical Testing Device (MTD-2) is manufactured and supported by Motion Lab Systems, Inc. The MTD-2 is a precision-machined calibration-testing tool that can be assembled in less than a minute to create a calibration-testing object suitable for a number of 3D biomechanics laboratory tests.

This simple test takes only a few minutes, could be performed prior to any data collection, and provides reassurance that your data collection is sound.

CalTester is an essential tool for laboratories that:

- Move cameras and/or Move force platforms regularly
- Have amplifier switches that can be easily bumped
- Have settings that are regularly changed
- Have students or unsupervised visitors in the laboratory

Controls

The CalTester tab automatically uses the file or files that have been loaded into the Visual3D workspace. CalTester can then be controlled using the tool bar at the top of the screen or the controller at the bottom of the screen.

Tool Bar

View CalTester Report Summary Page 1 - This button helps to control the right side of the screen. When selected, the right side of the screen displays page 1 of the CalTester report, which contains a summary of the full report.

View CalTester Report Graphs Page 2 - This button helps to control the right side of the screen. When selected, the right side of the screen displays page 2 of the CalTester report, which contains graphs for the Ground Reaction Force Magnitude, the CoP Error (X, Y & Z), and the CalTester Rod Orientation Error.

View CalTester Report Graphs Page 3 - This button helps to control the right side of the screen. When selected, the right side of the screen displays page 3 of the CalTester report, which contains graphs for the CalTester Segment Residual, and Marker Residuals (Top Left, Top Right, Middle Left, Bottom Left, and Bottom Right).

Zoom in on the report - This button allows the user to zoom in on the page of the report that is shown on the right side of the screen.

Zoom out of the report - This button allows the user to zoom out on the page of the report that is shown on the right side of the screen.

Modify CalTester Rod Dimensions - This button opens the Rod Dimensions dialogue box. Further details on the function of the dialogue box can be found here.

Modify Force Platform Parameters - This button opens the Modify Force Platform Parameters dialogue box. Further details on the function of the dialogue box can be found here.

Modify Force Structures - This button opens the Modify Force Structure Parameters dialogue box. Further details on the function of the dialogue box can be found here.

Force Platform Locator - This button opens the Force Plate Location dialogue box. Further details on the function of the dialogue box can be found here.

Controller

The controller allows the user to run through the 3D animation. On the left hand side of the controller there are five blue buttons which allow the user to play/pause, jump to the beginning/end, and jump forward/back one frame at a time. The text box to the right of the play buttons tells the user which frame the 3D view is on, with the corresponding time next to it. The slider beneath the frame box allows the user to increase or decrease the speed of the playback from 0.5 to 5 times its normal rate. The blue slider indicates where in the c3d file the 3D view is; it can also be used to control scrolling through the file. The radio button at the far right allow the user to switch between playing the 3D view at its capture rate and every frame.

Understanding the Report

In order for a report to be created the files must be loaded into Visual3D while the CalTester tab is being used.

Page 1

The Laboratory Calibration Test Report includes the mean, standard deviation, and range (minimum and maximum) of the four report variables. These are provided on graphs and with numerical values.

(1) The background on the file: the top of the report contains the summary of the c3d file being used. This includes the number of frames used, the minimum force settings (for CalTester and Visual3D), and the dates the c3d file was collected and when the report was created.

(2) The report format: the second section of the report provides an overview of how the information on the rest of the page will be organized.

(3) The Difference in Force Orientation Error: this is the angle (in degrees) between the applied force reaction vector (i.e., the ground reaction force minus the weight of the calibration-testing rod) and the orientation of the long axis of the rod, as determined from the target data.

Note: The force orientation variable is calculated from the dot product of this predicted unit vector and the vector along the axis of the rod as determined with the motion capture system.

(4) The differences in CoP (for x, y, and z): these are the components of the displacement vector between the CoP location measured by the force platform and the endpoint of the calibration-testing rod (adjusted for the specified vertical height above the force platform).

Differences can be due to many different factors, including errors in the force platform configuration (analog scale factors, force platform origin specification), the force platform interface (channel connections and assignments), or the force platform alignment (corner locations, which are used to transform force platform data into the laboratory coordinate system). Differences due to the kinematic system are related to uncorrected camera non-linearities, poor 3D calibration, and target image distortions.

If CalTester detects large differences, additional data collection trials may be helpful in identifying the source(s) of the differences. The additional tests may include separate data collection trials using movement arcs in only one of the vertical planes, or a circular movement arc. Tests in each of the four quadrants of the force platform may also be helpful. The significance of the measured differences is a professional judgment that must be made by each laboratory in light of its specific applications. (Keep in mind that the measurement resolution of laboratory systems will limit how small one can reasonably expect the differences to be.) Also, the CalTester technique is sensitive to a great many parameters, but the process of identifying the parameter(s) that most contributes to differences will likely require a thorough understanding of the measurement systems by the user.

If CalTester detects an inconsistent value for the location of the origin of the force platform, it assumes that the data file was generated from a VICON system and indicates that beside the filename on the report.

Page 2

The magnitude of the force vector and the error signals are displayed in the Graphs tab of the Report.

The CalTester Center of Pressure error is measured and graphed for the X, Y and Z directions for each of the frames of data.

The orientation of the rod with regards to the vertical is graphed as well as the error of the orientation.

From this view the user can select the range of data to be processed. This will allow the user to eliminate anomalous data from the calibration calculations. To select the range, left click and drag the mouse on the Ground Reaction Force Magnitude graph. A green highlighted section will appear on the graph and all of the graphs will be limited to this range. To return to the original range, left click on the Ground Reaction Force Magnitude graph and the full range will return to all of the graphs.

Page 3

The third page of the report has six graphs. The first graph is the CalTester Segment Residual Graph. This graph shows the residual of the whole CalTester Segment during the trials that were used.

The final five graphs show the residuals for the individual markers. For the sample shown below the markers that are used are: C1, C2, C5, C3, and C4.

Tutorials

The following sections have step-by-step instructions on how to use the CalTester Tab.

Collecting Static Trials (click to expand)

In order to use the CalTesterPlus program you need a set of properly collected data for each force platform you wish to calibrate. To collect a useful static trial for CalTester follow the following process.

- Set up your capture volume making sure that all force platforms and cameras are in the positions that they will remain in for following data collections.
- Place the CalTester base plate on the force platform before you begining the collecting the trial.
- Zero the force platform so that it will not record the force produced by the CalTester base.
- Begin the trial with the CalTester Rod on the CalTester base plate OFF the force platform.
- Press down firmly on the Rod with a load of at least 200 N.
- Keep the Rod aligned vertically and motionless during the trial.
- The trial needs to be at least 1 second long.
- There should be a minimum of three trial collected per force platform. Ideally there should be 8 or more, with at least one near each corner of the force platform and one near the center of the force platform.

Collecting Dynamic Trials (click to expand)

In order to use the CalTesterPlus program you need a set of properly collected data for each force platform you wish to calibrate. To collect a useful motion trial for the report mode follow the following process.

* Each example motion trial that is downloaded with the CalTesterPlus program meets these criteria.

- Set up your capture volume making sure that all force platforms and cameras are in the positions that they will remain in for following data collections.
- Before you begin collecting the trial place the CalTester base plate on the force platform.
- Zero the force platform so that it will not record the force produced by the CalTester base.
- Begin the data capture with the CalTester Rod not in contact with the force platform.
- After a second place the CalTester Rod in one of the CalTester base platform's divots, from this point on the CalTester should be the only thing that comes in contact with the force platform.
- Press down on the rod with a load of at least 200 N.
- Move the rod in either the frontal or sagittal direction:
- Keeping the end of the rod on the force platform stationary move the upper portion of the rod from vertical to 30 degrees from vertical, back to vertical and then 30 degrees in the opposite direction. This movement should take no less than 3 seconds and the force applied should be equal to or greater than 200 N.
- Each trial does not need to be more than 3 seconds long.
- There should be a minimum of three trials collected per force platform. Ideally there should be 5, one near each corner of the force platform and one near the center of the force platform.

Creating a Report (click to expand)

The report capabilities of the CalTester tab creates an error report based on collection trials.

1. Add C3D files

In order to open a C3d file for use in the CalTester tab you must first navigate to the CalTester tab and leave it active. The C3D files are then opened by clicking on the open button. This will open a standard file navigation window which you can use to select the files you wish to include in the report.

2. Check Report

Once the files are loaded the right side of the CalTester tab will show the first page of the CalTester report. You can navigate between the three report pages by using the page buttons in the tool bar.

3. Print Report

The report that has been generated on the right side of the screen can be saved as a pdf document by using the file drop down menu and selecting Print or by using the Ctrl + P short cut.

4. Understanding the Report

A detailed explanation of how to understand the report that CalTester produces can be found here.

Note:

If there appears to be errors or discrepancies in the report or the 3D-view check that the markers have been identified correctly and that the rod dimensions are correct using the Modify CalTester Rod Dimensions button.

Determining the Force Plate Location (click to expand)

The CalTester tab can be used to determine the location of a force plate relative to the cameras and the coordinate system if a jig is also present in the file. It will produce a written report detailing the force platform's exact location in your lab. This report can be saved as a text file and the values can be inputted into the data collection software that you use.

- Load the files into Visual3D while the CalTester tab is active.
- Click on the Force Platform Locator button in order to open the Force Platform Locator dialogue box.
- Make sure that the FPLoc tab is selected.
- In the Select Force Platform section, select the Force Plate you whish to locate using the drop down box.
- In the Define Force Platform Dimension section, check that the FP Length and FP Width are correct. If they are, make sure that the Use Current Dimension radio box is selected. If they are not, select Use New Dimension radio box and change the FP Length and FP Width to the correct values.
- In the file list at the bottom of the box, select the C3D files that have both the force plate and the jig in the same location. At least 3 files must be used, but it is recommended that at least 8 be used.
- Click on the Compute Optimal Configuration button.
- Wait for Visual3D to calculate the configuration. This may take a few seconds.
- The CalTester Results window will open and present the following: the output for the force platform, the corrected location (in mm), the force platform center, the rotation matrix (into lab space), the cardan angles to rotate from lab to force platform, the cardan angles to rotate from force platform to lab space, the nexus orientation parameters, and the Visual3D command.
- If you wish to save the output you can click on the Export to text button at the bottom left of the results dialogue box.

A sample of the output that should be created is provided below:

Output for force platform 1 :

======== Corrected Locations (in mm): ========

Corner 1: -624.8758, 685.1889, 1.5064

Corner 2: -17.5759, 687.8662, 1.6895

Corner 3: -14.8988, 80.5641, 2.1519

Corner 4: -622.1987, 77.8868, 1.9688

Force platform Center:

-319.8873, 382.8765, 1.8292

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Rotation Matrix (into lab space):

-0.999990 -0.004408 0.000305

-0.004408 0.999990 -0.000760

-0.000302 -0.000761 -1.000000

Cardan angles to rotate from lab to force platform

Angle 1 (x): 179.956451

Angle 2 (y): 0.017473

Angle 3 (z): 179.747421

Cardan angles to rotate from force platform to lab space

Angle 1 (x): 179.956375

Angle 2 (y): -0.017281

Angle 3 (z): 179.747406

Nexus orientation parameters:

-0.043584

-0.017377

0.252580

Visual3D Command

Modify_One_Force_Platform

/FP_SELECTED= 1

/FP_CORNER1= -624.8758 + 685.1889 + 1.5064

/FP_CORNER2= -17.5759 + 687.8662 + 1.6895

/FP_CORNER3= -14.8988 + 80.5641 + 2.1519

/FP_CORNER4= -622.1987 + 77.8868 + 1.9688

Defining a Jig (click to expand)

By creating a jig the user can identify the location of a force plate without having to repeating the entire CalTesterPlus platform protocol each time. In order to use this function you need to have a set of permanent markers (i.e. a template or a jig) which have a consistent position relative to the force platform.

- Load the files into Visual3D while the CalTester tab is active.
- Click on the Force Platform Locator button in order to open the Force Platform Locator dialogue box.
- Make sure that the Define Jig tab is selected.
- In the Select Jig section, click the Add New Jig button.
- In the Define Jig Targets section, use the drop down menu at the left of the section to select the targets that are included in the jig and click Add Targets. Do this until all of the targets that are in the jig are listed in the Target list to the right of the section.
- In the Force Platform section, select from the FP drop down menu that you wish to locate with the Jig.
- In the Define Force Platform Dimension section, check that the FP Length and FP Width are correct. If they are, make sure that the Use Current Dimension radio box is selected. If they are not, select Use New Dimension radio box and change the FP Length and FP Width to the correct values.
- In the file list at the bottom of the box, select the C3D files that have both the force plate and the jig. A minimum of 3 C3D files must be used to create the Jig File.
- Click on the Calculate Results button in order to produce the CalTester Results window. This window can be exported by using the Export to text button in the bottom left of the screen.

A sample of the output that should be created is provided below:

==== Fixed marker locations in force platform space (MKS units) ====

/JIG_NAME = Jig_1

/FP_TESTED = 1

/USE_FP_DIMENSIONS = FALSE

Locating the Force Plate with a Jig (click to expand)

The CalTester tab can define the location of the Force Plates in lab coordinate system based on the location of the Jig (how to define the location of the Jig is described above).

- Load the files into Visual3D while the CalTester tab is active.
- Click on the Force Platform Locator button in order to open the Force Platform Locator dialogue box.
- Make sure that the FP Loc (Jig) tab is selected.
- In the Select Jig section, if the Jig you wish to use is already listed in the text box, select it, otherwise click on the Load Jig File button and select the Jig File that you created using the Defining a Jig tutorial above.
- At the bottom of the dialogue box, select the C3D files that should be updated using the selected jig.
- Click on the Calculate Results button.

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