

Visualizing Healthy Human Walking

Sift can be used to explore publicly available data sets such as the [Healthy Human Walking](#) data set, This tutorial will show you how to use [Visual3D](#) to process the [.c3d](#) files from this data set, and then how to clean and visualize the data using Sift.

Data

This tutorial uses publicly available data from the paper [A biomechanics dataset of healthy human walking at various speeds, step lengths and step widths](#), which provides an overview of how the data was collected, processed, and stored. Briefly, force plate data and marker-based motion capture data were collected for 10 different participants over 33 walking trials each, with various step lengths, step widths, step frequencies, and speeds. Ground reaction force data were sampled at 1200 Hz and motion capture data were sampled at 120 Hz.

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A biomechanics dataset of healthy human walking at various speeds, step lengths and step widths

[Tim J. van der Zee](#) , [Emily M. Munding](#) & [Arthur D. Kuo](#)

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We are interested in the [.c3d](#) files that can be downloaded [here](#).

Also necessary are the Visual3D pipeline scripts, model templates, and Sift query definitions that can be downloaded [here](#).

- **Create_CMO.v3s**: Script for creating a participant's CMZ file from the data set's C3D files.
- **CleanForceAssignments**: Folder of scripts called by **Create_CMO.v3s** to clean force assignments.
- **HealthyHumanWalking_ModelTemplate.mdh**: [Visual3D model](#) for the C3D files.
- **HealthyHumanWalking-ReportTemplate.rgt**: [Report template](#) for the CMZ file.
- **HealthyHumanWalking-GRF.q3d**: Query definitions for the three components of both the left and right ground reaction forces.
- **HealthyHumanWalking-XComponent.q3d**: Query definitions for the X component of all signals of interest, with signals not combined across sides of the body.
- **HealthyHumanWalking-LeftRight.xml**: Color palette matching the colours used in Figure 3 to denote the left and right sides of the body.

Creating CMZ files in Visual3D



Our first step is to process each participant's .c3d files into a [CMZ](#) file with the necessary signals and events. 1. Open Visual3D and click on the **Pipeline** toolbar option.

2. **Open Pipeline**, select the Create_CMOs.v3s pipeline script associated with this tutorial, and then **Execute Pipeline**.

The Create_CMOs script loads a static trial and a model template for a set of dynamic trials, modifies force platform parameters in line with Visual3D's recommendations, cleans force assignments, computes gait events, and produces a report for the signals of interest. For this data set we want one CMZ per participant, so the following steps would need to be performed for each Participant separately.

1. To create Participant 1's CMZ file, choose p1_c3dfiles/p1_standing_1.c3d file as the static calibration file.
2. Choose Model_Template_CMotion_v2.mdh as the model file.
3. Set Participant 1's weight, height, and foot width according to the [anthropometric information](#) included in the paper.
4. Choose the remaining 33 .c3d files in the p1_c3dfiles folder as the dynamic trials.
5. Choose Sample_Report_Template.rgt as the report template.



6. Save the results as Participant_1.cmz.

Only Participant 1's CMZ file is needed for this tutorial, so you can close Visual3D and continue on to the next section once these steps are complete.

Cleaning the data set in Sift



The processing done in Visual3D allows us to extract signal traces from all of our desired gait sequences from the .c3d files, but not all of these are suitable for further analysis. The number of traces involved makes it impractical to clean this data set in Visual3D, there are more than 3000 traces for Participant 1 alone, but Sift gives us the ability to visualize the ground reaction forces and make inclusion/exclusion decisions for each trace. A detailed explanation of this process can be found in the [Clean your data](#) tutorial.

1. Load **Participant_1.cmz** into the library.



2. Open the **Query Builder** dialog and apply the GRF.q3d query definitions to compute

three groups, one for each component of the ground reaction force.

3. Navigate to the [Explore Page](#).
4. Select the GRF_Z group and **Plot all sequences**.
5. In the plot, iteratively select traces that look anomalous and exclude them. The end result should look like the figure on the right.



6. Open the **Update CMZs** dialog from the toolbar, select **Update Force Assignments...**, and then **Update CMOs**.
7. Plot all sequences for each GRF component in turn, verifying that there are no included traces that should be excluded. If there are any bad traces left, repeat steps 4 and 5 as necessary until you are satisfied with the remaining traces.

Visualizing the data

Now that Participant 1's CMZ file has been cleaned of any unwanted traces, we are ready to perform some preliminary analysis and visualize the data set. Our goal in this section is to reproduce [Figure 3](#) in the paper.



1. Open the **Show Options** dialog, and set both **Graph Rows** and **Graph Columns** to 3. This will create a 3×3 layout of grids in the plot area.

 Sift ✕

Selection options

☒ Highlight all data when Refresh is selected

☐ Highlight all data in group

☐ Highlight data across groups

☐ Show excluded data

☐ Exclude selected data for all groups

☐ Use short C3D file names on selection

Transparency for unselected data (0-100%)

65

Display type for excluded data

Percent

Plotting options

☐ Refresh plot on selection change

☐ Show instances where "data not found"

☒ Use selected workspaces when calculate group means

☐ Show vertical line for video and animations

Transparency for dispersion measures (0-100%)

65

Graph Rows 1

Graph Columns 1

Plot view type

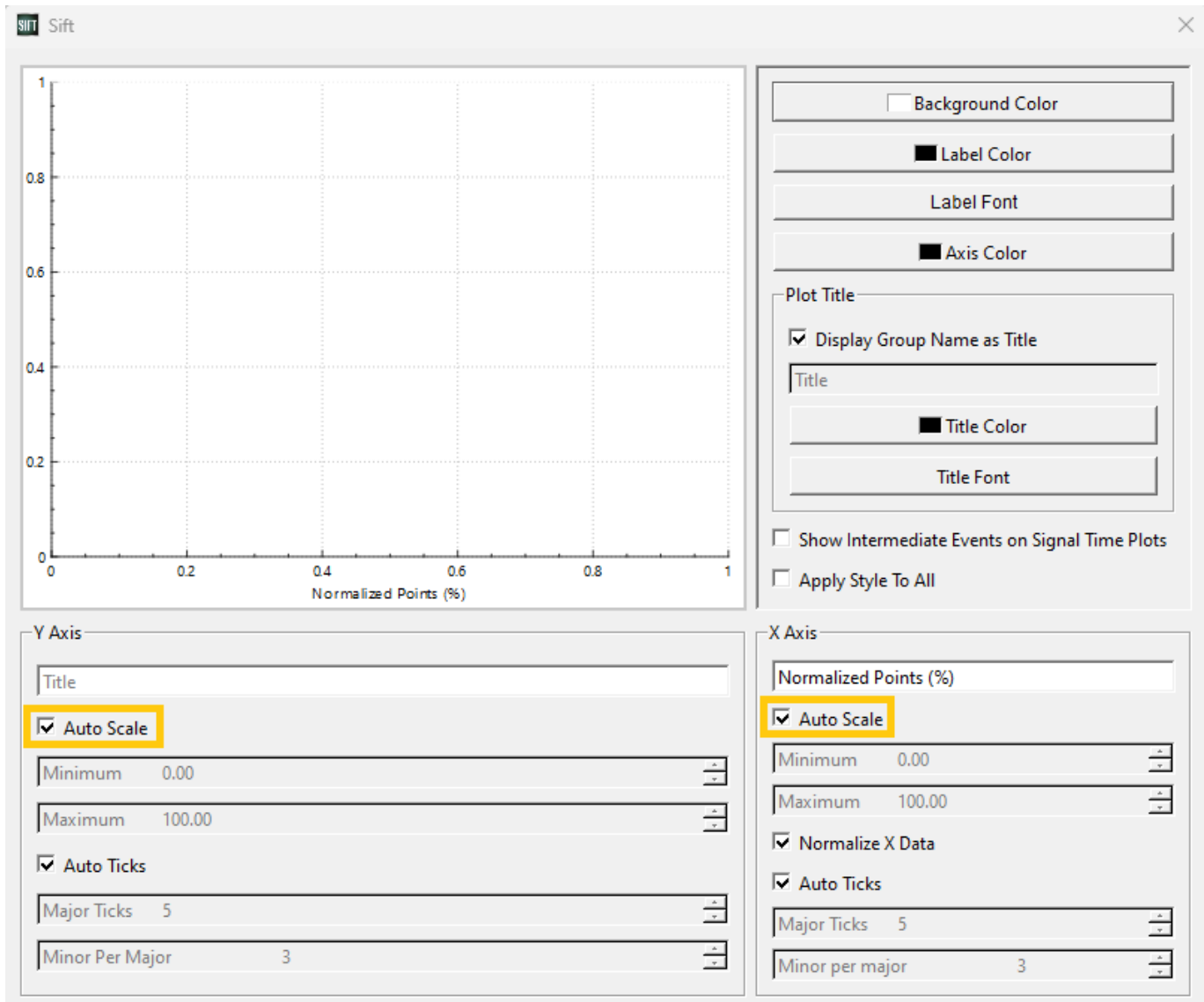
Single

Graph View Count 1

1. Open the  Plot Options dialog, and deselect auto-scaling for the X and Y axis

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1. Open color prefs dialog via the [Data Options Dialog](#) and load the palette "HealthyHumanWalking-LeftRight.xml"



2. Open the **Query Builder** dialog and apply the HealthyHumanWalking-X.q3d query definitions. This extracts the X-component for all signals in the library without combining signals across the left and right sides of the body.
3. Make sure that the top left graph (1,1) is active, indicated by the grey border. Select the RAnkleAngle_X LAnkleAngle_X groups and plot the Group Means.
4. Repeat Step 3 for the remaining graphs with the following groups:
 - Top centre (1,2) - RKneeAngle_X and LKneeAngle_X
 - Top right (1,3) - RHipAngle_X and LHipAngle_X
 - Middle left (2,1) - RAnkleMoment_X and LAnkleMoment_X
 - Middle centre (2,2) - RKneeMoment_X and LKneeMoment_X
 - Middle right (2,3) - RHipMoment_X and LHipMoment_X
 - Bottom left (3,1) - RAnklePower_X and LAnklePower_X
 - Bottom centre (3,2) - RKneePower_X and LKneePower_X
 - Bottom right (3,3) - RHipPower_X and LHipPower_X
5. With the group means plotted for each of our signals, all that remains is to assign the



appropriate graph and axis titles. To do this, open the **Plot Styles** dialog and for the top left graph (1,1), provide the following input:

- Deselect **Display Group Name as Title**
- Use the title “Ankle”, set the Title Font to Bold and Size 24.
- Use the X Axis title “% Gait cycle”, deselect **Auto Ticks**, and choose 2 Major Ticks and 0 Minor per major.
- Use the Y Axis title “Angle (deg)”, set the axis limits to -70 and 30, and choose 5 Major Ticks and 0 Minor per major.
- Click **Apply Style to All**

6. Repeat Step 5 for the remaining graphs using the titles from Figure 3.



Recap

In this tutorial you learned how Sift, along with Visual3D, can be used to explore and analyse public data sets. You learned how to take the raw data found in the Healthy Human Walking data set's .c3d files and reproduce Figure 3 from the associated paper.

References

Paper van der Zee, T.J., Mundinger, E.M. & Kuo, A.D. A biomechanics dataset of healthy human walking at various speeds, step lengths and step widths. Sci Data 9, 704 (2022). [DOI](#)

Data set van der Zee, T.J., Mundinger, E.M. & Kuo, A.D. A biomechanics dataset of healthy human walking at various speeds, step lengths and step widths. figshare. Collection. (2022). [DOI](#)

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