

# Model Based Computations

Visual3D can be used to extract basic motion data such as the positions of the pelvis and foot during gait, knee flexion and extension, and knee joint moments and powers. To do this we will define segment angles, joint angles, joint moments, and joint powers. We will also be reporting on basic attributes such as stride length and other fundamental gait characteristics.

## Objectives

1. Create a report with basic gait information.
  2. Calculate joint angles to measure left and right knee flexion/extension.
  3. Add the computed signals to a report.
- The objective of this tutorial is to present **Model Based Calculations**. These are calculations that only make sense relative to rigid segments.

## Preparation

If you have a Ph.D. in Kinesiology or Biomechanics, or you are an M.D. or researcher – do not skim lightly or jump completely over these sections. This tutorial is written without as much jargon as possible to address a very broad customer base. However, the interfaces and techniques described are the same as those used by the most sophisticated analyses.

- **Tutorial7-MBC-Start.cmz**: Starting point of tutorial. CMZ file containing **Lower Body Static Trial/1.c3d** as the static/calibration file and **Walking Trial/1.c3d** as the motion file.
- **Tutorial7-MBC-End.cmz**: Final result of tutorial containing the model based computation definitions added throughout.

If you would like to follow along with a Youtube video tutorial based on this tutorial, please select the link here: [Visual3D Tutorial Video 7: Model Based Computations](#). Click on the **Signal and Event Processing** Tab to visualize the animation of the model based on the movement data and the model that was applied to it. If the animation doesn't appear in the 3D Animation viewer, check the active file combo box on the toolbar. It should read 'Walking Trial 1.c3d' rather than ALL-FILES

## Computing Joint Angles

Joint angles are defined as the orientation of one segment relative to another segment. Because we are dealing with 3D space, there are a series of rotational transformations involved in the calculation. A joint angle is not the same as a 3-point or 4-point angle in which there are projections, but no transformations (more on this later).

Visual3D lets you pick any 2 segments in which to measure a joint angle. They do not have to be connected – or even be near each other. In practice, joint angles are calculated as the transformation from one segment (A) to another segment (B) using the local coordinate system of segment B as the frame of reference.

It is essential that you select the proper Cardan sequence based on a complete understanding of what you are trying to measure. It is beyond the scope of this document to explain the concepts behind the 3D order of rotations/transformations that go into calculating joint angles.

In Visual3D, you can choose the Cardan sequence you want. The default Cardan sequence used by Visual3D is the ordered sequence of rotations (x, y, z) that assumes that the Z axis is in the up/down/Axial direction and the Y axis is Anterior/Posterior, or the direction of travel. (Yeadon, 1990; Davis et al., 1991; Kadaba et al., 1990), where:

X = flexion/extension

Y = abduction/adduction

Z = longitudinal rotation

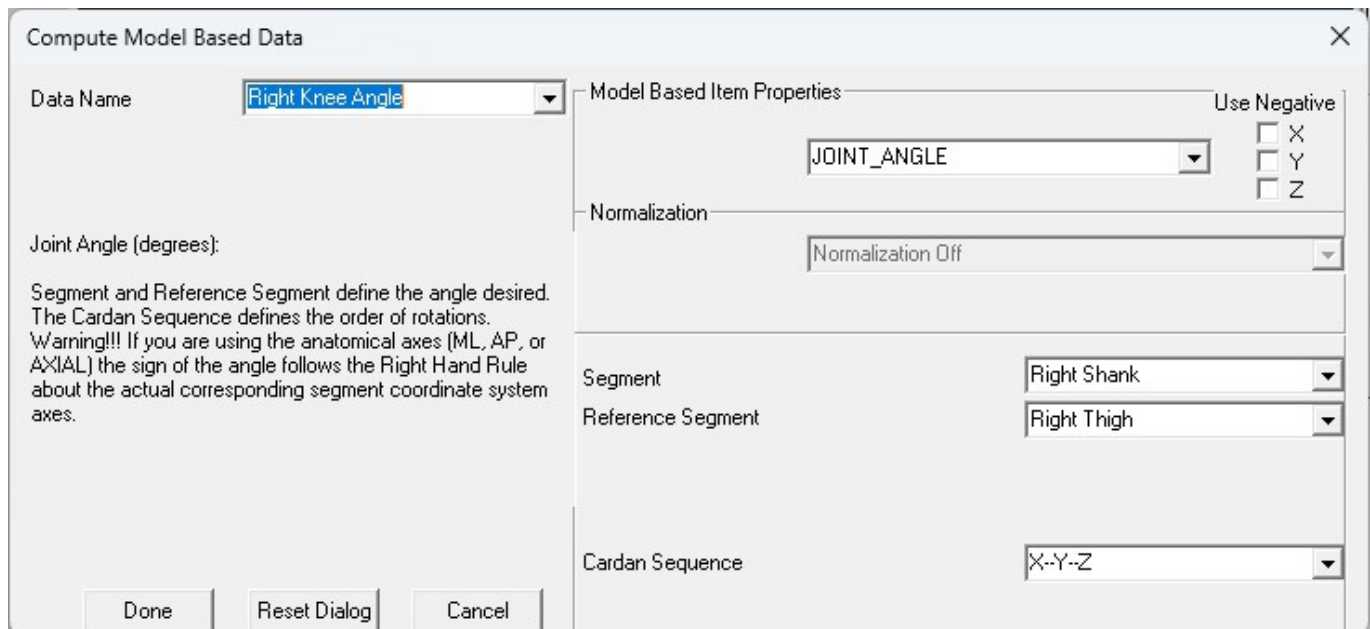
One of the options for joint angles is to select normalization (not generally recommended). Normalization means that when the segments in the movement trial are in the same relative posture as the same segments in the standing trial, the joint angle is considered zero. The problem with the calculation of a normalized angle (as we have done it) is that the standing posture and the movement trial should both be aligned with the laboratory axis. Getting a patient to stand oriented relative to the lab may not be possible. An alternative approach is to create Virtual Segments that define the desired angle in the standing posture. For example, See [here](#), or [here](#).

## Create a joint angles for the right knee

In Visual3D, from MODEL in the main menu bar, select Compute Model Based Data to get the following dialog box.

The screenshot shows the 'Compute Model Based Data' dialog box. It features a 'Data Name' input field on the left. The right side is divided into several sections: 'Model Based Item Properties' with a dropdown menu and 'Use Negative' checkboxes for X, Y, and Z; 'Normalization' with a dropdown menu currently set to 'Normalization Off'; and a list of properties including 'Segment', 'Reference Segment' (set to 'LAB'), 'Resolution', and 'Coordinate System' (set to 'LAB'). At the bottom of the dialog are three buttons: 'Done', 'Reset Dialog', and 'Cancel'.

Create a joint angle called 'Right Knee Angle' (i.e. its Data Name). The link model based property is a Joint Angle. The segment will be the right shank and the reference segment is the right thigh. Select the Cardan sequence XYZ, which for these segment coordinate systems is the equivalent of the Joint Coordinate System. Then press the **Create** button.



**Compute Model Based Data**

Data Name: **Right Knee Angle**

Model Based Item Properties: **JOINT\_ANGLE**

Use Negative: ☐ X ☐ Y ☐ Z

Normalization: **Normalization Off**

Segment: **Right Shank**

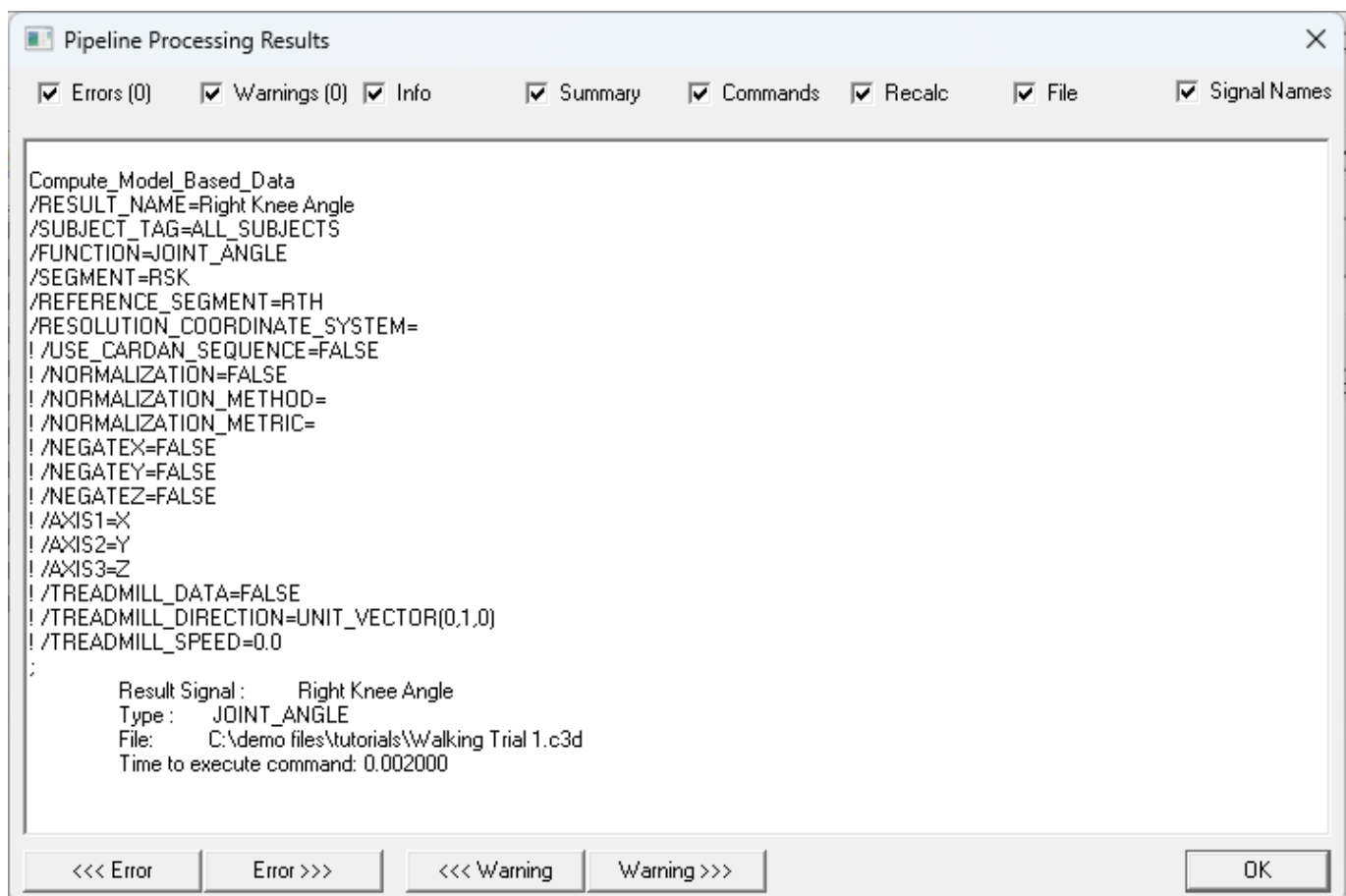
Reference Segment: **Right Thigh**

Cardan Sequence: **X-Y-Z**

Joint Angle (degrees):  
Segment and Reference Segment define the angle desired. The Cardan Sequence defines the order of rotations. Warning!!! If you are using the anatomical axes (ML, AP, or AXIAL) the sign of the angle follows the Right Hand Rule about the actual corresponding segment coordinate system axes.

Done Reset Dialog Cancel

The joint angle is created and a processing dialog shows if any errors were encountered. Note that the dialog also contains which files were processed. It is important to note this because signals are only created for the active files.



**Pipeline Processing Results**

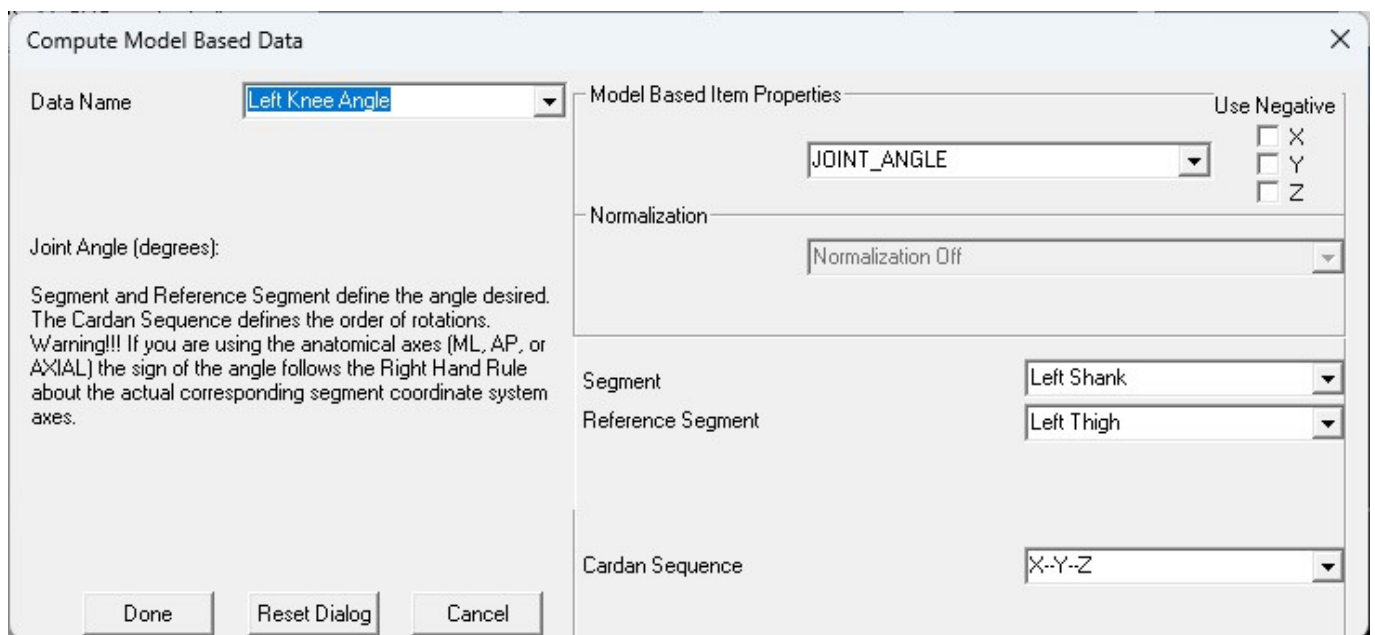
☒ Errors (0) ☒ Warnings (0) ☒ Info ☒ Summary ☒ Commands ☒ Recalc ☒ File ☒ Signal Names

```

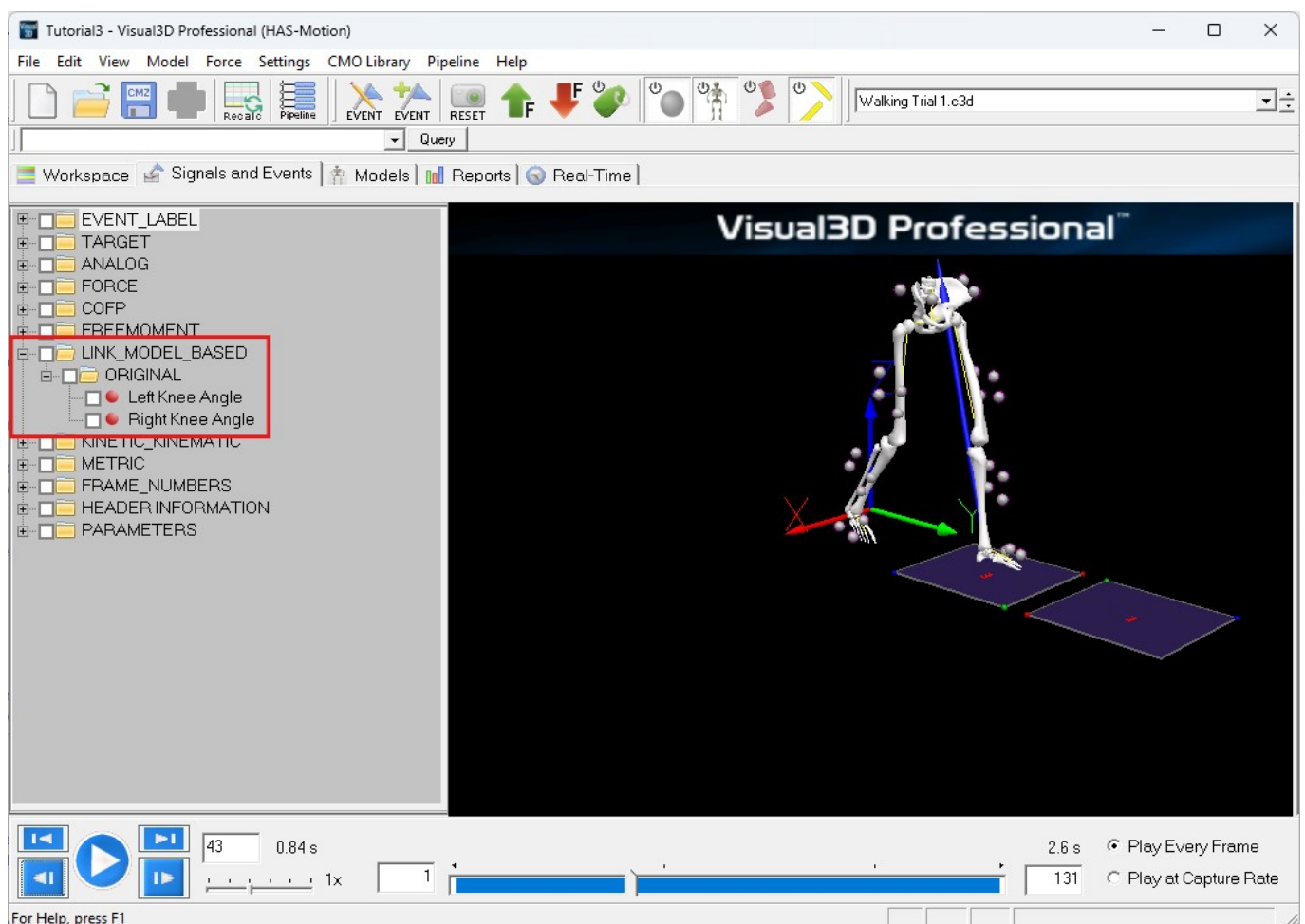
Compute_Model_Based_Data
/RESULT_NAME=Right Knee Angle
/SUBJECT_TAG=ALL_SUBJECTS
/FUNCTION=JOINT_ANGLE
/SEGMENT=RSK
/REFERENCE_SEGMENT=RTH
/RESOLUTION_COORDINATE_SYSTEM=
! /USE_CARDAN_SEQUENCE=FALSE
! /NORMALIZATION=FALSE
! /NORMALIZATION_METHOD=
! /NORMALIZATION_METRIC=
! /NEGATEX=FALSE
! /NEGATEY=FALSE
! /NEGATEZ=FALSE
! /AXIS1=X
! /AXIS2=Y
! /AXIS3=Z
! /TREADMILL_DATA=FALSE
! /TREADMILL_DIRECTION=UNIT_VECTOR(0,1,0)
! /TREADMILL_SPEED=0.0
;
Result Signal :    Right Knee Angle
Type :    JOINT_ANGLE
File:    C:\demo files\tutorials\Walking Trial 1.c3d
Time to execute command: 0.002000
  
```

<<< Error Error >>> <<< Warning Warning >>> OK

Create a joint angle called Left Knee Angle as follows:

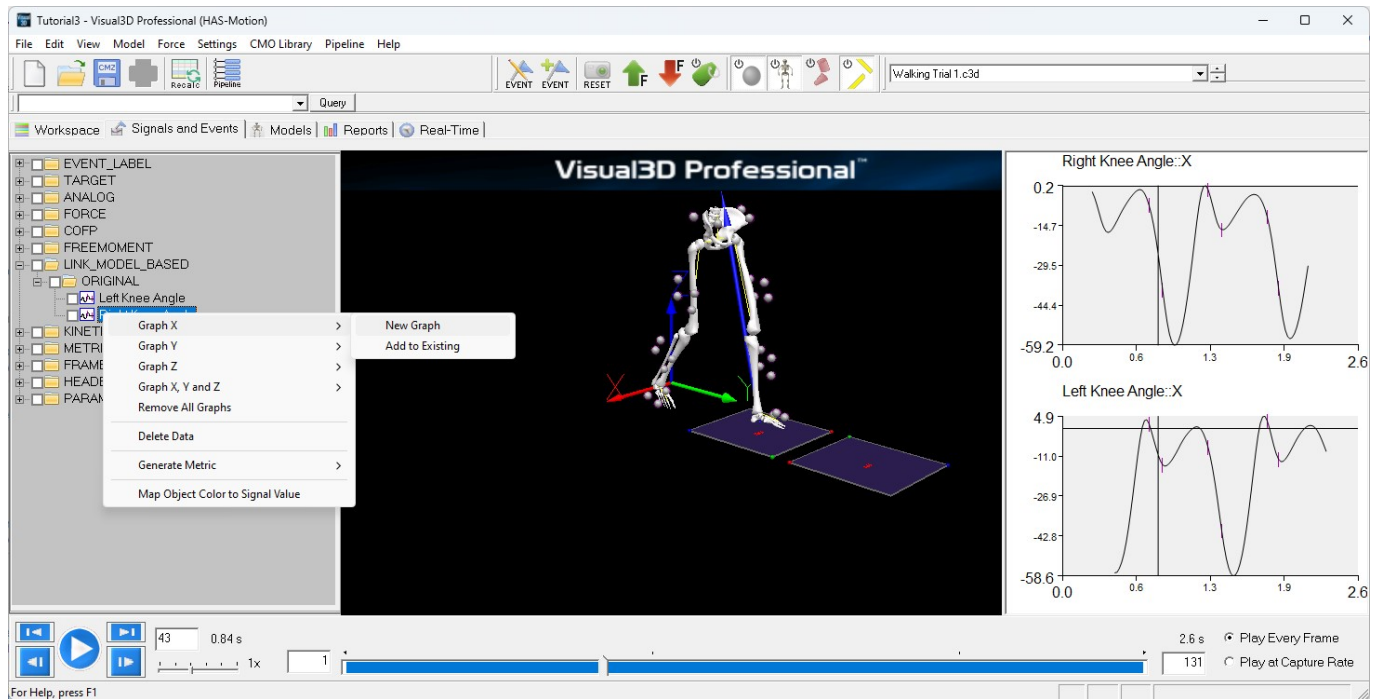


Notice that a new folder is created in the Data Tree for LINK-MODEL-BASED calculations. This folder now contains the Left Knee Angle and Right Knee Angle Signals.



## Understanding the Knee Angle Signal

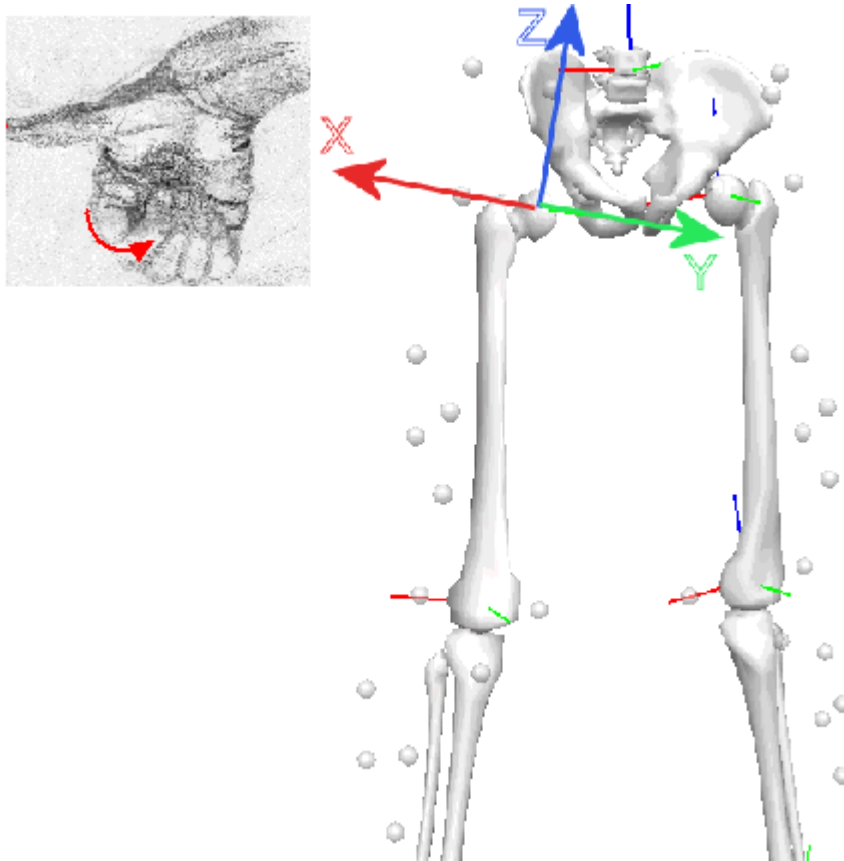
Graph the **X-Component** of the **Right Knee Angle** and **Left Knee Angle** signals.



For this segment coordinate system (z-up, y-anterior) rotation about the x-axis represents flexion/extension. Visual3D always computes all signals based on the Right Hand Rule.

For example, if you point your thumb in the direction of the x-axis of the hip (shown in Red in the animation viewer) pointing laterally to the right. Knee extension will be zero when the **thigh segment coordinate system** and the **shank segment coordinate system** are aligned. Knee flexion will be seen as a negative angle.

Note that the x-axis for both the left and right thigh segment coordinate systems points laterally to the right. In the figure below the thumb is pointing in the direction of the x-axis, the fingers are curled in the direction of shank extension (relative to the thigh), so knee extension is a positive angle.



Using the same schema adduction of the knee is positive rotation about the y-axis for the right leg and negative rotation about the y-axis for the left leg. Inward axial rotation of the shank is a positive rotation about the z-axis for the right leg and negative rotation about the z-axis for the left leg.

This reflection of the data anatomically from right to left is a result of applying the right hand rule rigidly within Visual3D. When presenting data it is quite common for Visual3D users to negate the y and z terms for the left knee angle.

Compute Model Based Data

Data Name

Left Knee Angle

Joint Angle (degrees):

Segment and Reference Segment define the angle desired. The Cardan Sequence defines the order of rotations. Warning!!! If you are using the anatomical axes (ML, AP, or AXIAL) the sign of the angle follows the Right Hand Rule about the actual corresponding segment coordinate system axes.

Done

Reset Dialog

Cancel

Model Based Item Properties

JOINT\_ANGLE

Use Negative

☐ X
 ☒ Y
 ☒ Z

Normalization

Normalization Off

Segment

Left Shank

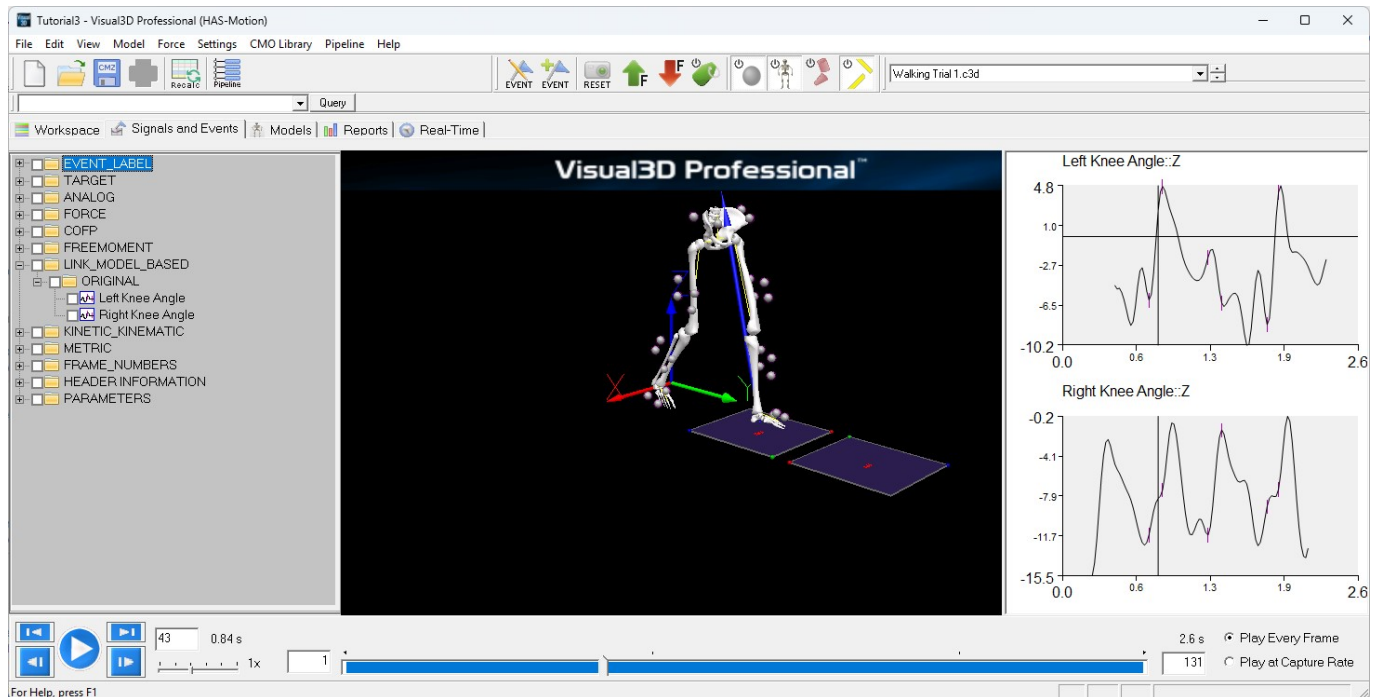
Reference Segment

Left Thigh

Cardan Sequence

X-Y-Z

The resulting knee rotations about the z-axis (inward/outward) are positive in the same direction.



Note the difference in the median value of the left and right legs. The likely cause of this offset is a slight misalignment of the segment coordinate systems for one of the legs (although it could be real for this subject).

## Computing Joint Angles for the Legs

Create the following joint angles for the lower body.

**Data Name**= Right Hip Angle  
**Folder**= ORIGINAL  
**Model Based Item Properties**= JOINT\_ANGLE  
**Negate X, Y, Z**= All Unchecked  
**Normalization**= Normalization Off  
**Segment**= Right Thigh  
**Reference Segment**= Pelvis  
**Cardan Sequence**= X-Y-Z

**Data Name**= Right Knee Angle  
**Folder**= ORIGINAL  
**Model Based Item Properties**= JOINT\_ANGLE  
**Negate X, Y, Z**= All Unchecked  
**Normalization**= Normalization Off  
**Segment**= Right Shank  
**Reference Segment**= Right Thigh  
**Cardan Sequence**= X-Y-Z

**Data Name**= Right Ankle Angle  
**Folder**= ORIGINAL  
**Model Based Item Properties**= JOINT\_ANGLE

**Negate X, Y, Z**= All Unchecked  
**Normalization**= Normalization Off  
**Segment**= Right Foot  
**Reference Segment**= Right Shank  
**Cardan Sequence**= X-Y-Z

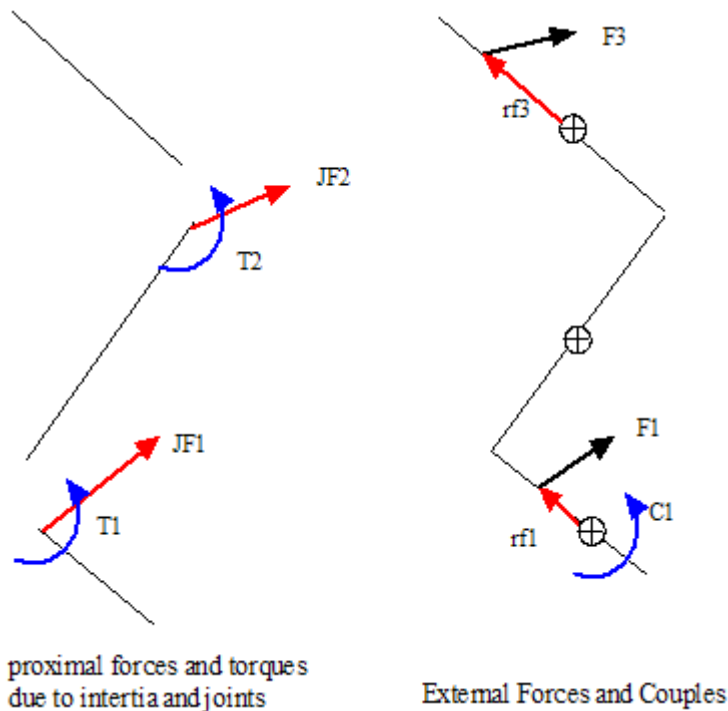
**Data Name**= Left Hip Angle  
**Folder**= ORIGINAL  
**Model Based Item Properties**= JOINT\_ANGLE  
**Negate X, Y, Z**= All Unchecked  
**Normalization**= Normalization Off  
**Segment**= Left Thigh  
**Reference Segment**= Pelvis  
**Cardan Sequence**= X-Y-Z

**Data Name**= Left Knee Angle  
**Folder**= ORIGINAL  
**Model Based Item Properties**= JOINT\_ANGLE  
**Negate X, Y, Z**= All Unchecked  
**Normalization**= Normalization Off  
**Segment**= Left Shank  
**Reference Segment**= Left Thigh  
**Cardan Sequence**= X-Y-Z

**Data Name**= Left Ankle Angle  
**Folder**= ORIGINAL  
**Model Based Item Properties**= JOINT\_ANGLE  
**Negate X, Y, Z**= All Unchecked  
**Normalization**= Normalization Off  
**Segment**= Left Foot  
**Reference Segment**= Left Shank  
**Cardan Sequence**= X-Y-Z

## Computing Joint Moments

A free body diagram of two segments, showing the traditional assumptions for inverse dynamics analysis.



The Joint Force is the reaction force between adjacent segments.

- It is assumed that the joint forces are equal and opposite about the joint.
- It is assumed that joint moments are equal and opposite about the joint.
- The distal end of one segment is not assumed to be at the same point as the proximal end of the next segment. This allows movement in the "r;joint". Regardless of the position of the proximal end of the distal segment, we translate the force to the distal end of the proximal segment for the inverse dynamics calculations.

**Note: Visual3D calculates the Net Internal Moment.**

The **external moment** is balanced by the **net internal moment** produced by the muscles and ligaments. For example, a **net internal moment** dominated by the quadriceps muscles would be needed to balance an **net external moment** created by the Ground Reaction Force.

Mathematically, the external moment is equal and opposite to the internal moment, but the user is cautioned to reference the term if it is used in an article.

**Note: The external moment is a term that is not commonly used.**

Create the Net Joint Moment for the Right Knee. The following image contains one definition of the Right Knee Moment.

**Compute Model Based Data**

Data Name: **RKNEE\_MOMENT**

Model Based Item Properties: **JOINT\_MOMENT**

Use Negative: ☐ X, ☒ Y, ☒ Z

Normalization: **Normalize using default normalization**

Joint: **RKNEE**

Resolution Coordinate System: **Right Thigh**

Use Cardan Sequence: ☐

Done, Reset Dialog, Cancel

The *Joint* **RKNEE** is the proximal end of the Shank Segment; This is a default joint name.

The **Resolution Coordinate System** is usually the segment proximal to the *Joint*, so in this case the Right Knee Moment is resolved in the Segment Coordinate System of the Right Thigh.

The default normalization (selected in this image) is to divide the Joint Moment by the Subject Mass.

**Note: that any metric value can be used for normalization.**

There are four options for normalizing the Joint Moment model based signal.

Normalization Off Normalize using default normalization

Normalization is by subject mass. Normalize to local metric value

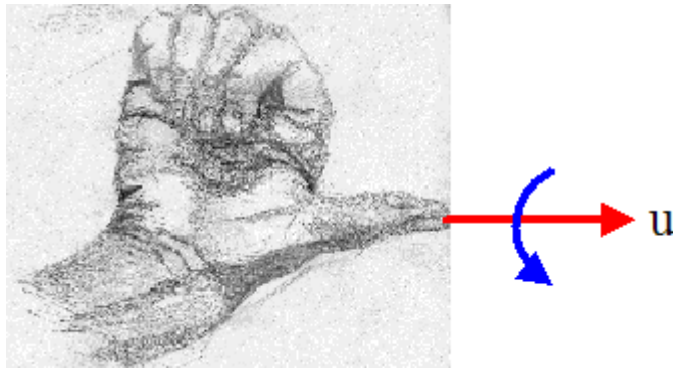
For example, a metric could be created containing the Mass\*Height of the subject using the following command.

```
Multiply_Signals
/SIGNAL_TYPES=METRIC+METRIC
/SIGNAL_NAMES=MASS+HEIGHT
/SIGNAL_FOLDER=PROCESSED+PROCESSED
/RESULT_NAME=MxH
! /RESULT_FOLDER=PROCESSED
```

In the Compute Model Based Dialog selecting this normalization will cause a combo box to appear to allow you to select the Metric. Normalize to GLOBAL metric value

This is similar to 3 except that the METRIC signal is assumed to be a GLOBAL signal.

## Interpreting the Joint Moment Signal



Visual3D always follows the right hand rule. The direction of positive rotation about the axis **u** (red arrow aligned with the right thumb) in the above figure is in the direction of curl of the fingers (blue arrow)

In order to determine the sign of the joint moment, the user must visualize the segment coordinate system that the moment is resolved into, then follow the right hand rule. For example, consider the knee moment. The typical knee moment is defined as the shank with respect to the thigh. The default segment coordinate system in Visual3D is x-lateral, y-anterior, z-axial. Therefore, knee extension moment is positive, knee adduction moment is positive, and internal rotation is positive.

The buttons for negating the signal are available for users that don't want to use the Visual3D Right Hand Rule convention. For example, some users prefer that flexion of the hip, knee, and ankle have the same sign; the Right Hand Rule would dictate that the Knee Flexion is opposite in sign to the Hip and Ankle Flexion. Selecting to negate the x-component of the Joint Moment will cause the flexion moment to have a consistent sign.

## Computations based on PROCESSED signals

As presented in a previous tutorial, it is straightforward to **process** the target, analog, or force signals.

It is also possible to create several processed versions of a signal, so Visual3D needs a rule for determining which signals are used to create the model based signals.

If you have selected the [settings](#) option to use PROCESSED targets, the PROCESSED targets and PROCESSED FORCE, COFP, and FREEMOMENT are used for computing the model based items. If the PROCESSED signal doesn't exist, Visual3D uses the ORIGINAL folder.

### Using PROCESSED Signals

The model based signals that are computed from the PROCESSED signal are still defined as ORIGINAL model based signals.

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