

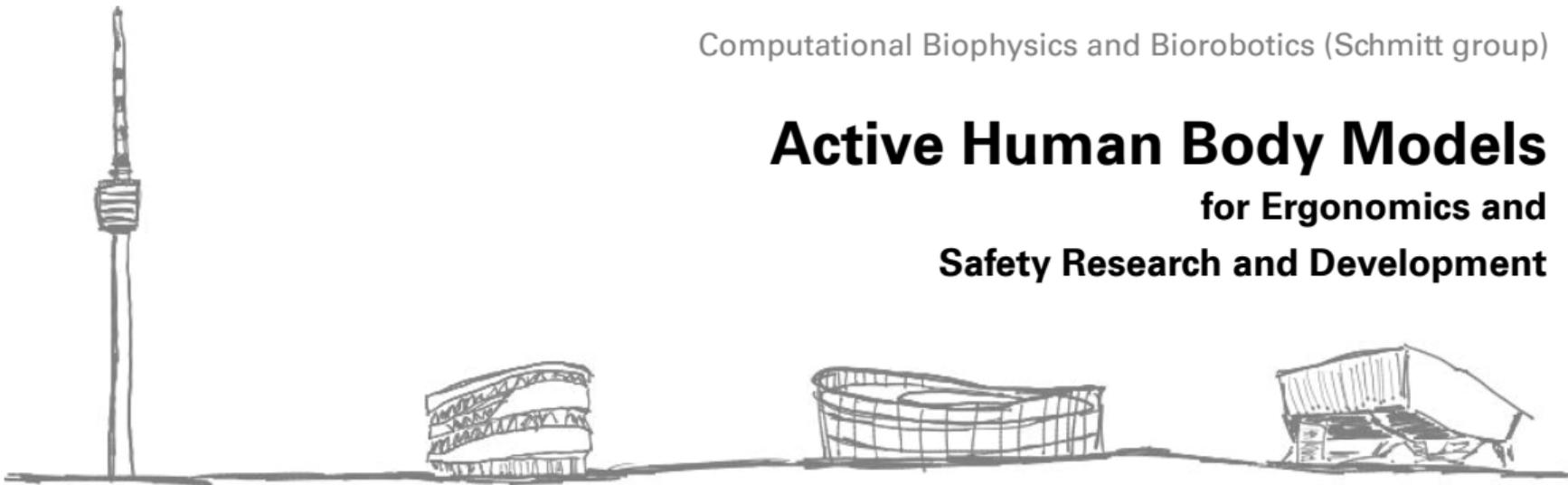


**University of Stuttgart**  
Institute for Modelling and Simulation  
of Biomechanical Systems

Computational Biophysics and Biorobotics (Schmitt group)

# Active Human Body Models

## for Ergonomics and Safety Research and Development



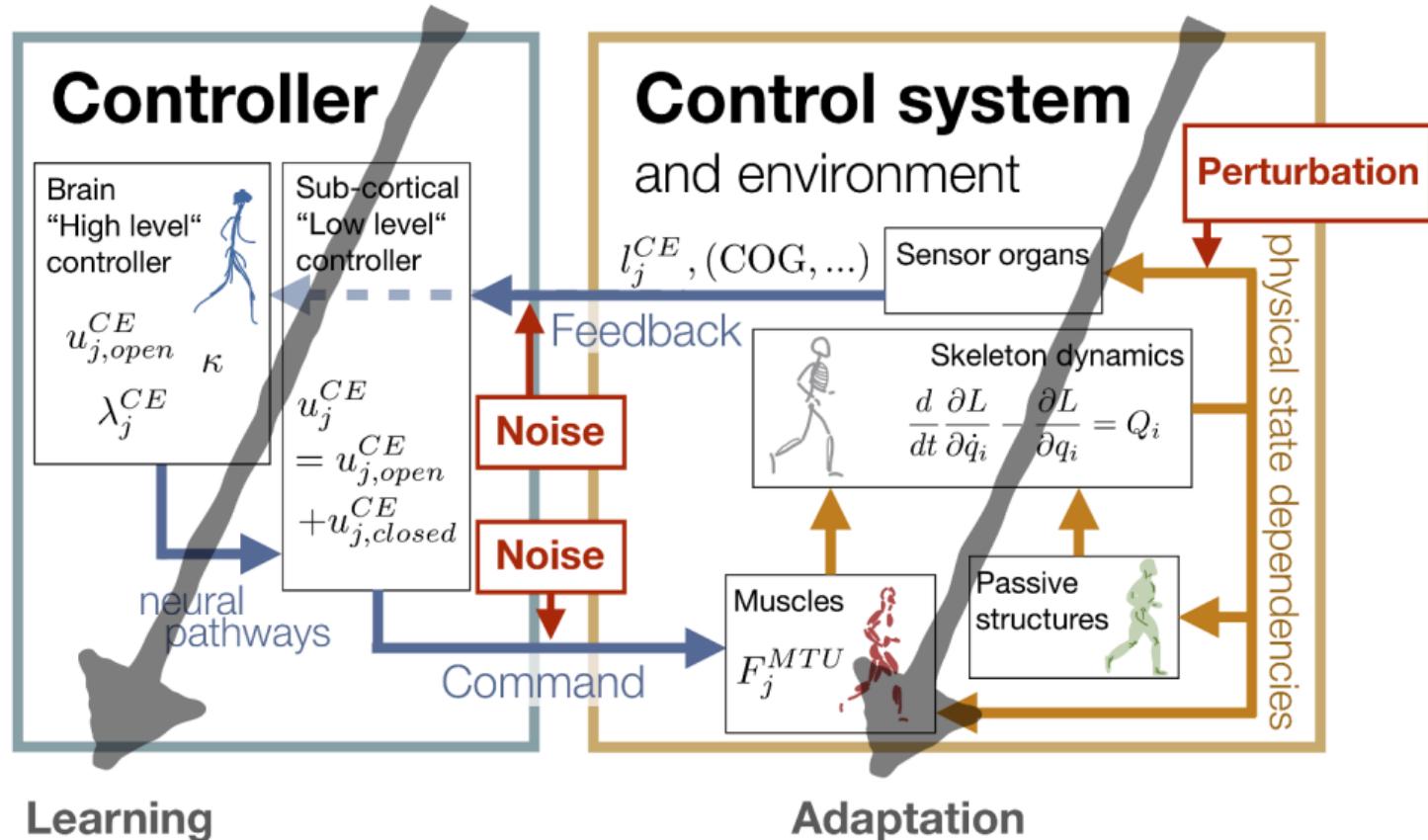
**cbb**

Computational  
Biophysics  
and Biorobotics

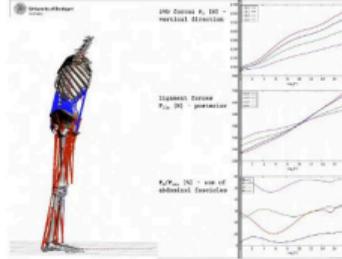


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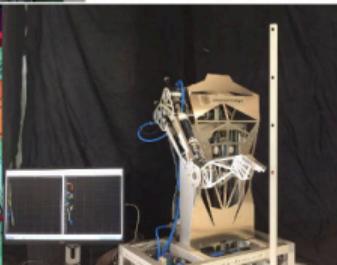
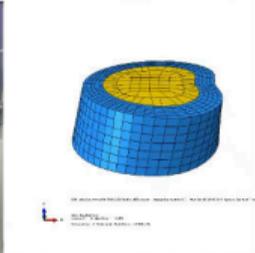
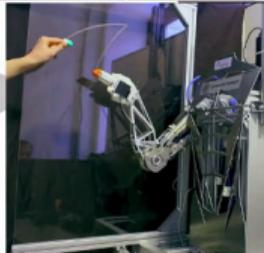
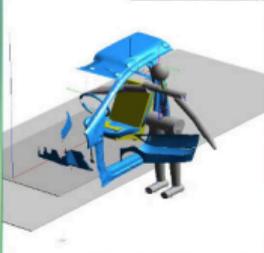
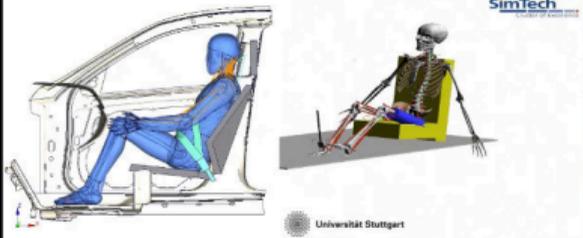
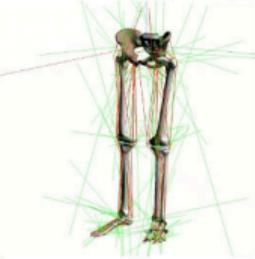
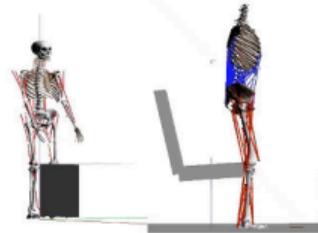
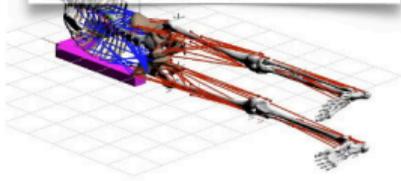
SimTech



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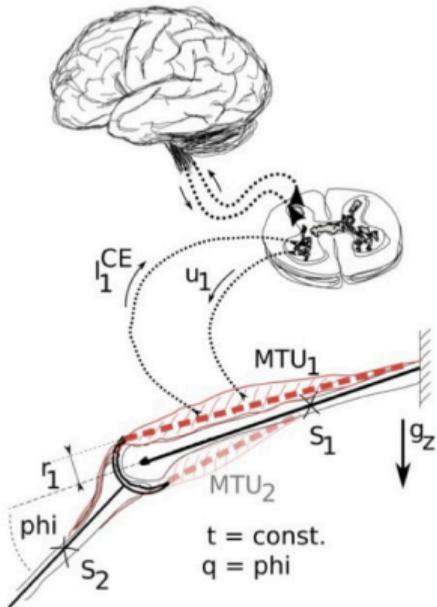


# Natural systems



**Goal:** generate human motion based on biological signals, purely synthetic but realistic

**Method:** Theory and computer simulation to combine neuroscience and biomechanics



Numerical solution

$$\vec{q}(t) = ?$$

**Models to account for:**

motor control (CNS)

sensor-actuator loop (muscles)

skeleton (bones and soft tissue)

**NOTE:**

**no** inverse calculation

**no** kinematic input data needed

AI heavily involved

similar to any other CAx method

# A window into the functioning of the central nervous system?

(Schmitt, Günther, and Häufle 2019)

## Model of high-level motor control

EP control  $\Lambda_i^{\text{move}} = \{\vec{\lambda}_1, \vec{\lambda}_2, \vec{\lambda}_3, \dots, \vec{\lambda}_n\}$

Joint space control  
 continuous vs. intermittent  
*model-based control*  
*learning-based control*

## Model of skeletal muscle

Hill-type model

$$F_j^{\text{MTU}} = f_f(l_j^{\text{MTU}}, \dot{l}_j^{\text{MTU}}, l_j^{\text{CE}}, a_j)$$

$$\dot{l}_j^{\text{CE}} = f_v(l_j^{\text{MTU}}, \dot{l}_j^{\text{MTU}}, l_j^{\text{CE}}, a_j)$$

$$\dot{a}_j = f_a(a_j, l_j^{\text{CE}}, u_j)$$

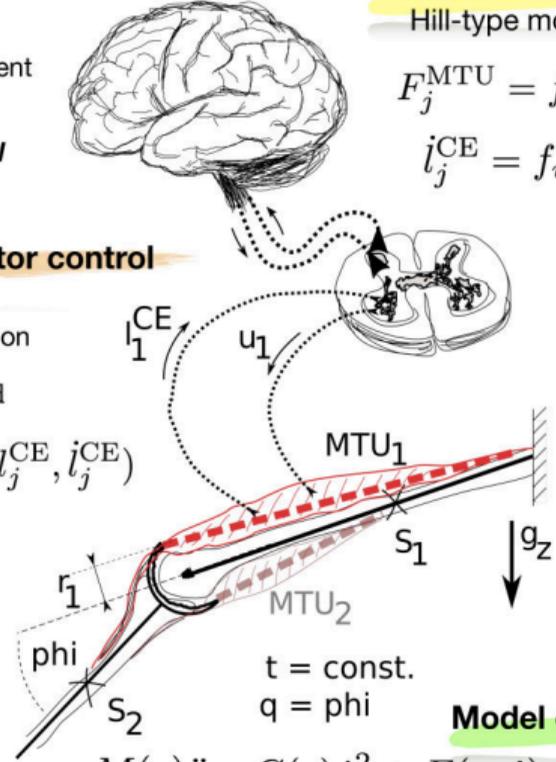
## Model of low-level motor control

monosynaptic reflex  
 alpha-gamma co-activation

$$u_j = u_j^{\text{open}} + u_j^{\text{closed}}$$

$$u_j^{\text{closed}} = f_n(\kappa, \lambda_j^{\text{CE}}, l_j^{\text{CE}}, \dot{l}_j^{\text{CE}})$$

Parameters  
 Initial conditions



Numerical solution

$$\vec{q}(t) = ?$$

## Model of skeletal structure

$$M(q)\ddot{q} = C(q)\dot{q}^2 + E(q, \dot{q}) + G(q) + R(q)F^{\text{MTU}}$$

# The elementary biological drive

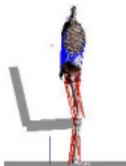
## Learning? **Maybe, a rather naive and simple approach!**

Given a specific control idea, learning is ...

- ▶ finding appropriate **muscle stimulation pattern**, time to **change pattern**, etc., using *trial and error* (heuristics) or *fmincon* (gradient-based methods)
- ▶ **optimising controller** gains using *Bayesian optimisation*,
- ▶ balancing **feedforward and feedback contributions** using *heuristics*,
- ▶ **autonomously learn** the control policy using an *artificial neural network* and *sequential quadratic programming*.



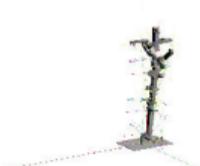
(Gunther & Ruder, 2003)



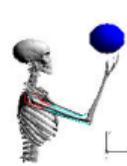
(Bayer, 2017)



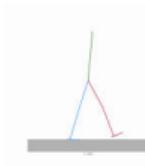
(Walter & Schmitt, 2012)



(Le Mouel, Martin et al., in prep)



(Suissa, 2018)



(Häufler et al., 2019)



(Driess et al., 2018)

# Vehicle safety assessment



University of Stuttgart

## Crash tests with ATDs vs virtual testing with HBMs

- HBMs – Human Body Models

- ATDs – Anthropomorphic Test Devices



**2025**

Corpulence and other body proportions, seating postures, muscle attenuation.

**2015**

Increased complexity: angled and lower severity test configurations, different occupant sizes

**2005**

Collinear and perpendicular test configurations



Biomechanics research    Product Development    Regulation & NCAP

Source:  
Toyota Central R&D Labs Inc.;  
[https://youtu.be/OanQCc\\_ObI4](https://youtu.be/OanQCc_ObI4)  
Daimler AG.

M. van Ratingen, Saving Lives with Safer Cars: The Past, Present and Future of Consumer Safety Ratings. Bertil Aldman Memorial Lecture, in: Proceedings of the IRCOBI Conference, Malaga, Spain, 2016. <https://prezi.com/rfo1donwal66/bertil-aldman-lecture-2016/>

# One of the possible solutions: Autonomous Cars

## A History of Autonomous Vehicles



Flying Carpet, 1880



**NO-HANDS DRIVING** is easy with wheel-less car—roadway groove holds it on course. Electronic controls would be needed only at junctions.

68 POPULAR SCIENCE AUGUST 1961



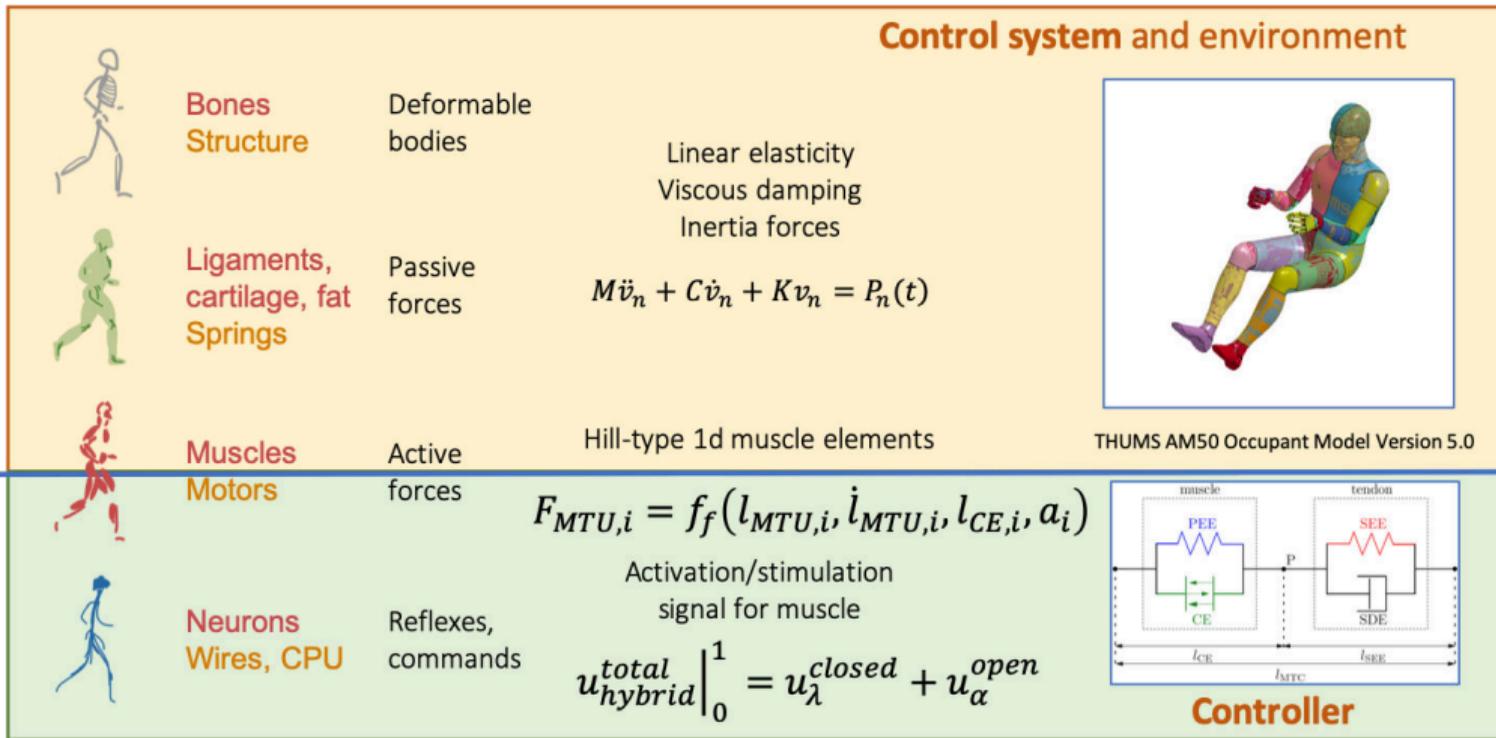
**BY BE THE DRIVER.** One day your car may speed along an electric super-highway, its speed and steering automatically controlled by electronics in the road. Travel will be more enjoyable. Highways will be made safe—by electricity! No traffic jams... no collisions... no driver fatigue.

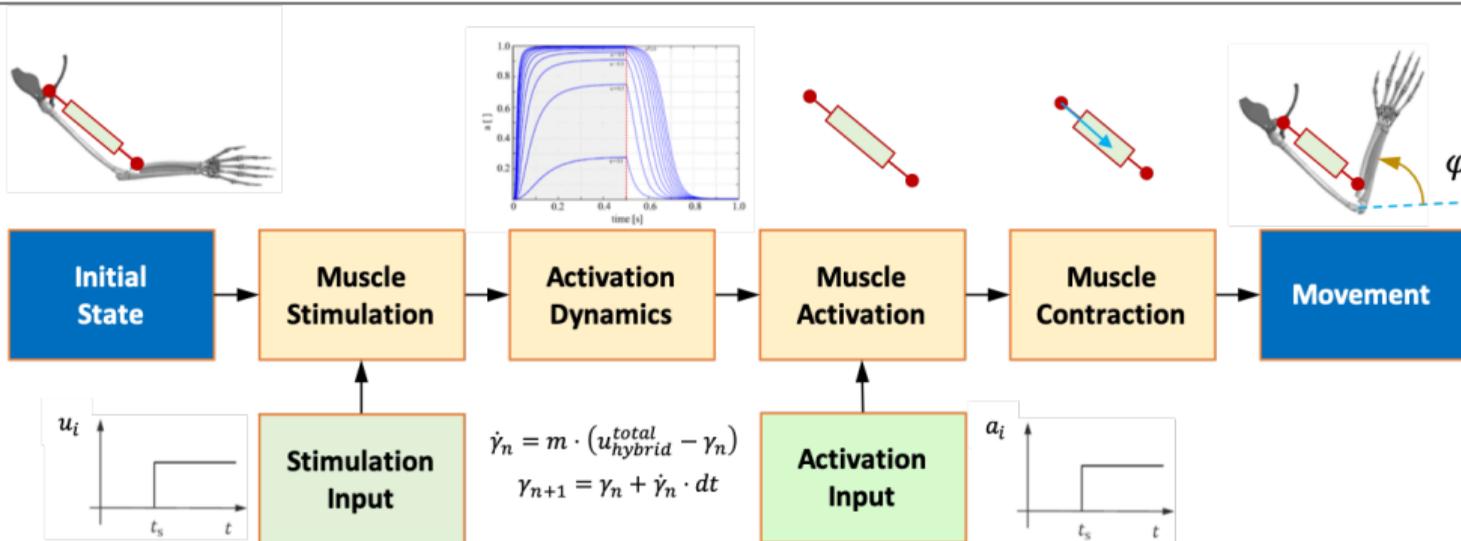
Driverless Cars of the Future, 1950s-60s



Mercedes van, Bundeswehr University Munich, 1986-2003

# aHBM: a finite element approach





## Possible Muscle Activation Schemes:

- Normalized EMG
- Engineering judgment
- Reflex activation (vestibular and spindle)
- PID controllers
- Optimization
- Reinforcement learning

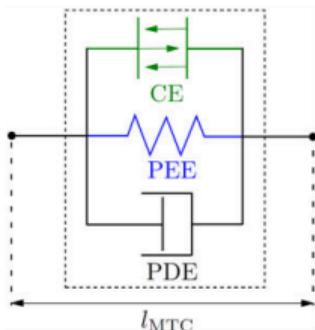


## MAT\_MUSCLE vs Extended Hill-type Muscle Model

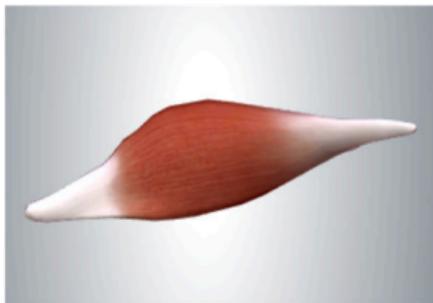
### Mechanics

- Full-text access: <http://rdcu.be/vw5G>
- DOI: [dx.doi.org/10.1186/s12938-017-0399-7](https://doi.org/10.1186/s12938-017-0399-7)
- Supplementary material: [dx.doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.826209](https://doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.826209)

#### \*MAT\_MUSCLE

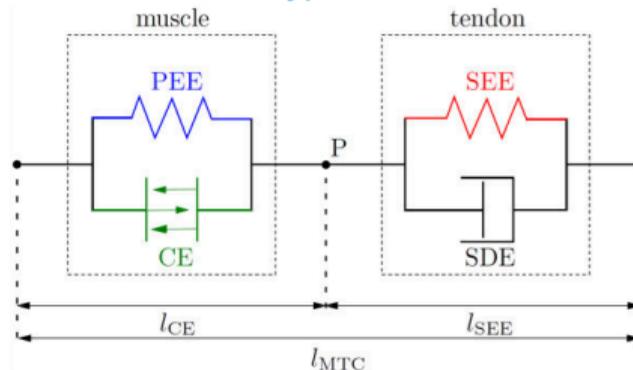


#### Real human muscle



Source: biodigital.com

#### Extended Hill-type muscle material



MartynenkoEtAl2017 IRCOBI, Kleinbach2017

Kleinbach et al. *BioMed Eng OnLine* (2017) 16:109  
DOI 10.1186/s12938-017-0399-7

BioMedical Engineering  
OnLine

SOFTWARE

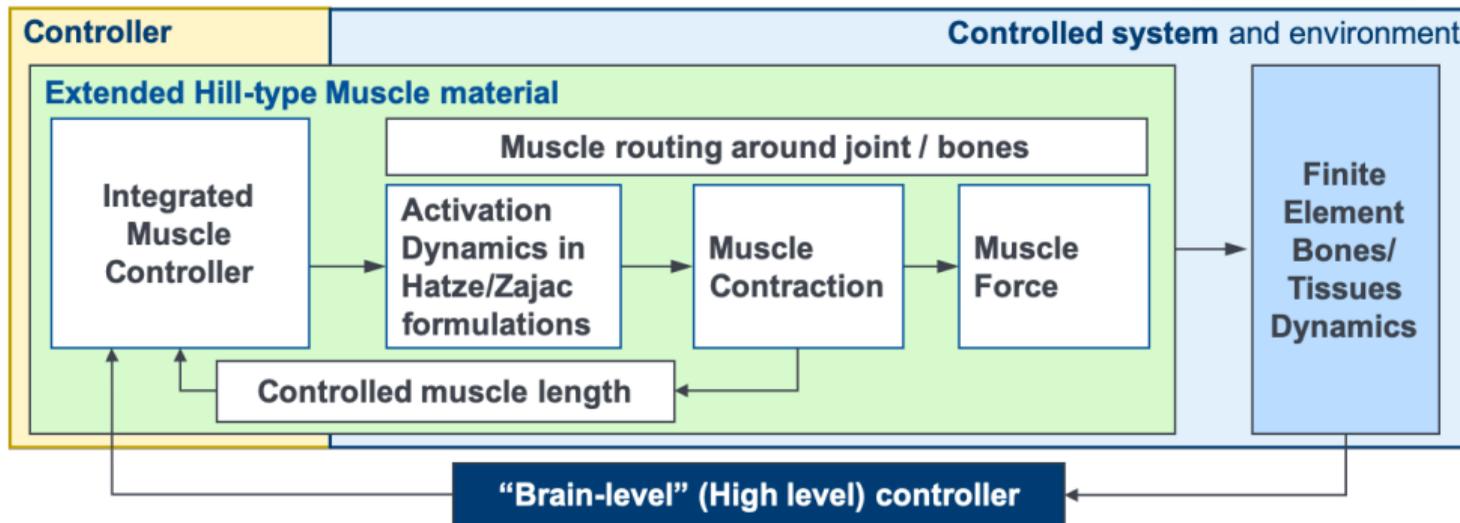
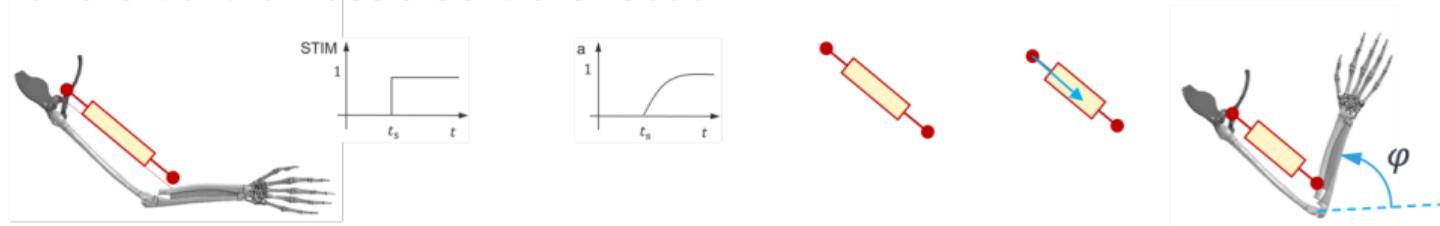
Open Access



Implementation and validation of the extended Hill-type muscle model with robust routing capabilities in LS-DYNA for active human body models

## Extended Hill-type Muscle Model with internal controller

### Flowchart of the Muscle Controller Code

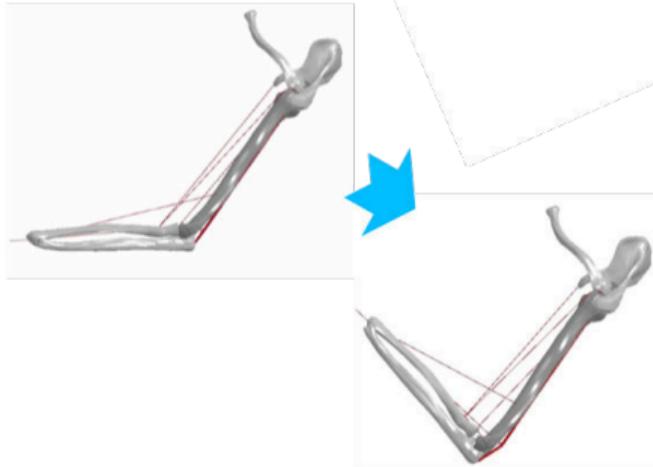


# Extended Hill-type Muscle Model example simulations

Changing angle for an arm with finite element multibody models

Movement simulation for ViVA arm model

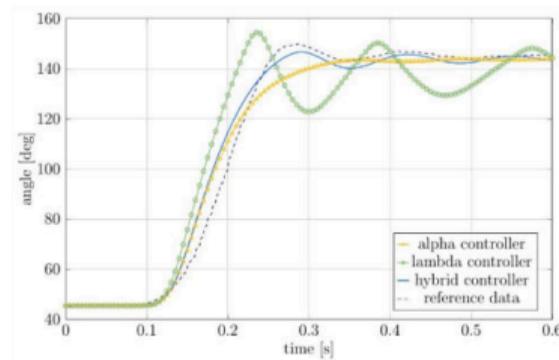
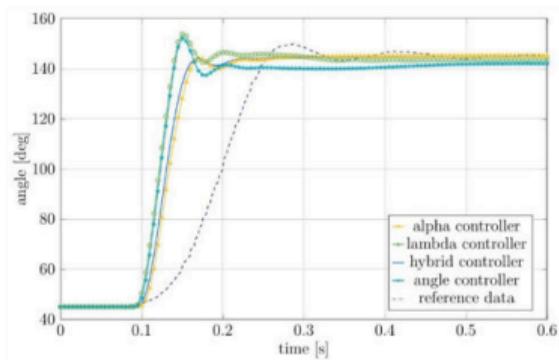
Movement simulation for THUMS3 arm model



# Extended Hill-type Muscle Model example simulations

## Comparison of different controllers with reference data

- Angle response for different controllers with the reference data from KistemakerEtAl2006 for \*MAT\_156 (left) and EHTM (right)

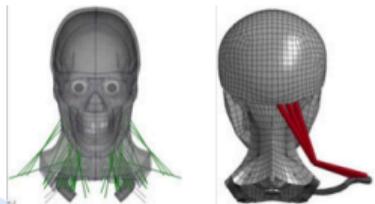


- CPU time in seconds for simulations with different models

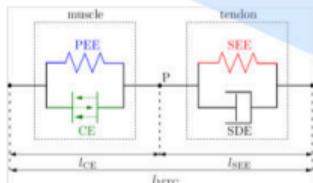
	$\alpha$ , EHTM	$\alpha$ , *MAT_156	$\lambda$ , EHTM	$\lambda$ , *MAT_156	Hybrid, EHTM	Hybrid, *MAT_156	Angle, *MAT_156
Element processing	0,719	6,386	0,724	6,751	0,748	6,729	6,808
Rigid Bodies	1,137	13,771	1,141	14,196	1,151	14,361	14,262
Time step size	2,010	23,521	2,004	23,638	2,006	24,061	23,709
Misc. 1	0,976	10,547	0,961	11,057	0,972	11,137	10,989
Misc. 4	2,797	33,255	2,781	33,965	2,786	34,478	33,886
Problem cycle	45001	517624	45001	549290	45001	548631	549303
Total CPU	9,021	97,897	8,987	100,650	9,074	101,730	100,490

# *a*HBM: development within our group

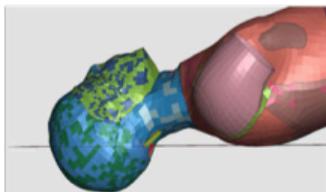
before 2016



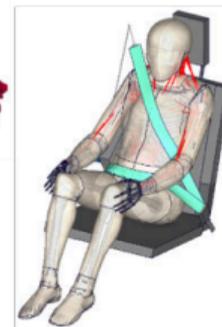
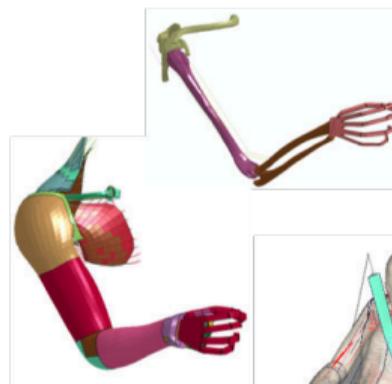
2017



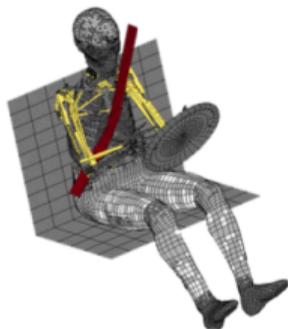
2018



2019



2020



## References: aHBM development within our group

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