# Body segment parameter estimation using Hatze's geometric model 

## Will Robertson, School of Mechanical Engineering



## Introduction

Body segment parameter models are used to estimate mass, centroid, moment of inertia, etc., for musculoskeletal modelling. Regression models and geometric models are widely used, with simple regressions most commonly used. However, these are only suitable for specific populations, and geometric models permit greater flexibility.

> Drillis (1964) Havanan (1964) Yeadon (1990)

Hatze's geometric model (1979) is notable for such features as: individual shoulder segments, detailed trunk segments, variable density along segments, and a subcutaneous fat scaling factor. The model requires 242 anthropometric measurements.

| Segment | $M, \mathrm{~kg}$ |  |  | $\bar{z}, \mathrm{~mm}$ |  |  | $I_{x}, \mathrm{~g} \mathrm{~m}^{2}$ |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | Calc | Hatze | Err, \% | Calc | Hatze | Err, \% | Calc | Hatze | Err, \% |
| Abdo-thoracic | 18.487 | 18.487 | 0.00 | 203 | 203 | 0.00 | 331.265 | 331.264 | 0.00 |
| Head-neck | 5.187 | 5.187 | 0.00 | 137 | 137 | 0.00 | 32.585 | 32.585 | 0.00 |
| Left shoulder | 1.656 | 1.628 | 1.84 | 151 | 153 | 0.00 | 5.310 | 5.280 | 0.57 |
| Left arm | 2.315 | 2.320 | 0.00 | -131 | -131 | 0.00 | 19.624 | 19.671 | -0.25 |
| Left forearm | 1.157 | 1.177 | -1.69 | -112 | -112 | 0.00 | 7.096 | 7.228 | -1.80 |
| Left hand | 0.539 | 0.542 | 0.00 | -61 | -61 | 0.00 | 0.567 | 0.578 | -1.72 |
| Right shoulder | 2.105 | 2.076 | 0.96 | 157 | 158 | 0.00 | 7.634 | 7.601 | 0.39 |
| Right arm | 2.357 | 2.362 | 0.00 | -129 | -129 | 0.00 | 19.800 | 19.906 | -0.55 |
| Right forearm | 1.310 | 1.343 | -2.24 | -114 | -114 | 0.00 | 8.024 | 8.281 | -3.14 |
| Right hand | 0.524 | 0.529 | -1.89 | -63 | -63 | 0.00 | 0.570 | 0.562 | 1.79 |
| Abdo-pelvic | 9.255 | 9.479 | -2.43 | -78 | -79 | 0.00 | 45.270 | 46.296 | -2.22 |
| Left thigh | 8.962 | 8.938 | 0.22 | -217 | -217 | 0.00 | 150.404 | 150.227 | 0.11 |
| Left leg | 3.994 | 3.997 | $-0.25$ | -186 | -186 | 0.00 | 61.709 | 61.723 | -0.02 |
| Left foot | 1.098 | 1.098 | 0.00 | -39 | -39 | 0.00 | 4.709 | 4.711 | 0.00 |
| Right thigh | 8.937 | 8.915 | 0.34 | -208 | -208 | 0.00 | 141.638 | 141.516 | 0.08 |
| Right leg | 4.088 | 4.089 | 0.00 | -194 | -194 | 0.00 | 68.200 | 68.201 | 0.00 |
| Right foot | 1.109 | 1.109 | 0.00 | -38 | -38 | 0.00 | 4.698 | 4.700 | 0.00 |

## Aim

To reimplement Hatze's body model in Matlab from his extant publications.
Results and analysis
The reimplementation of Hatze's model achieves close to $100 \%$ accuracy comparing to reference data (see example tabulation). Improvements have been identified that would allow generality of the model:

- segment densities more accurately collected;
- feet, hands, and neck could be multi-segmental;
- joints could be modelled specially to avoid overlap and discontinuity.


[^0]
## Interpolation

The model has been extended to permit a varying number of slices per segment; this is useful both when taking fewer manual measurements or when taking many data points using 3D scans.

Results below show average percentage error when fewer measurements are taken for calculations of forearm mass, volume, centroid, and moments of inertia. Interpolation increases accuracy; fewer than ten slices per segment is justified.


## Conclusion

Hatze's complete body segment parameter model has not been widely used partially due to its complexity, and this work makes it available to the biomechanics community. The model can be downloaded from: github.com/wspr/hatze-biomech/
Sources for Hatze's model

1. H. Hatze (1979) 'A model for the computational determination of parameter values of anthropomorphic segments', Technical
Report TWISK 79, CSIR Pretoria.
2. 'Determination of anthropomorphic segment parameter values - Data collection procedures and computer program', BIOMLIB

User Reference Manual TR-79-UM-003, 1979.


[^0]:    Left: comparison of reference to calculated data.

