

Physics of the Human Body

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1st ed. 2007. Corr. 2nd printing 2008. Buch. xx, 860 S. Hardcover

ISBN 978 3 540 29603 4

Format (B x L): 15,5 x 23,5 cm

Gewicht: 1478 g

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Terminology, the Standard Human, and Scaling

Several concepts will appear throughout our discussion of the human body: medical terminology, the characteristics of a “typical” human, and how body properties and responses scale with parameters. Much of the problem we have in comprehending specialists in any field is in understanding their jargon, and not in understanding their ideas. This is particularly true for medicine. Much of medical jargon of interest to us is the terminology used in anatomy, and much of that in anatomy relates to directions and positions. To make things clearer for people who think in more physics-type terms, we will relate some of the anatomical coordinate systems used in medicine to coordinate systems that would be used by physicists to describe any physical system. We will also extend this terminology to describe the degrees of freedom of rotational motion about the joints needed for human motion. In all of our discussions we will examine a typical human. To be able to do this, we will define and characterize the concept of a standard human. The final concept in this introductory chapter will be that of scaling relationships. We will examine how the properties of a standard human scale with body mass and how the perception level of our senses varies with the level of external stimulus.

1.1 Anatomical Terminology

The first series of anatomical “coordinate systems” relate to direction, and the first set of these we encounter is right vs. left. With the xyz coordinate system of the body shown in Fig.1.1, we see that *right* means $y < 0$ and *left* means $y > 0$. Right and left, as well as all other anatomical terms, are always from the “patient’s” point of view. This was made perfectly clear to the author during a visit to his son’s ophthalmologist. When he tried to discuss what he thought was his son’s right eye, it was pointed out to the author in no uncertain terms that he was really referring to the patient’s left eye and that he was doing so in an improper manner. Case closed! (Stages in theaters have a similar convention, with stage left and stage right referring to the left and right sides of an actor on stage facing the audience. This was evident in

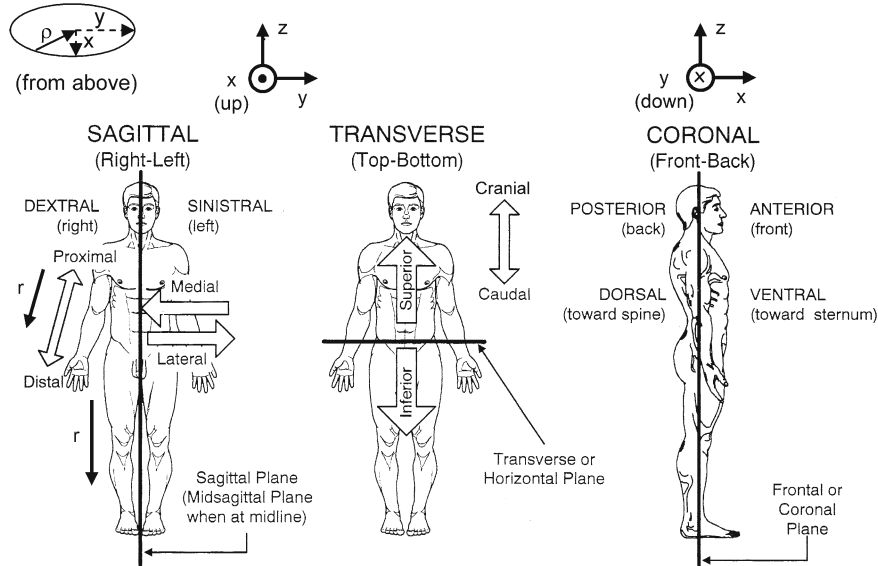


Fig. 1.1. Directions, orientations, and planes used to describe the body in anatomy, along with common coordinate systems described in the text. We will assume both terms in the following pairs mean the same: superior/cranial, inferior/caudal, anterior/ventral, and posterior/dorsal, even though there may be fine distinctions in what they mean, as is depicted here. (From [43], with additions. Used with permission)

a funny scene in the movie **Tootsie** when a stagehand was told to focus on the right side of the face of Dorothy Michaels, aka Michael Dorsey, aka Dustin Hoffman – and Dorothy heard this and then turned her (i.e., his) head so the camera would be focusing on the left side of her (i.e., his) face. A comical debate then ensued concerning whose “right” was correct, that of a person on stage or one facing the stage.)

The second direction is *superior* (or *cranial*), which means towards the head or above, i.e., to larger z . *Inferior* (or *caudal* (kaw’-dul)) means away from the head, i.e., to smaller z – in an algebraic sense, so more and more inferior means smaller positive numbers and then more highly negative values of z . (This is relative to a defined $z = 0$ plane. We could choose to define the origin of the coordinate system at the center of mass of the body.) So, the head is superior to the feet, which are inferior to the head. After supplying the body with oxygen, blood returns to the heart through two major veins, the superior and inferior vena cava (vee’-nuh cave’-uh), which collect blood from above and below the heart, respectively. (As you see, words that the author has trouble pronouncing are also presented more or less phonetically, with an apostrophe after the accented syllable.)

Anterior (or *ventral*) means towards or from the front of the body, i.e., to larger x . *Posterior* (or *dorsal*) means towards or from the back, corresponding

to smaller algebraic x . The nose is anterior to the ears, which is posterior to the nose.

There is another pair of terms that relate to the y coordinate, specifically to its magnitude. *Medial* means nearer the midline of the body, i.e., towards smaller $|y|$. *Lateral* means further from the midline, i.e., towards larger $|y|$.

Other anatomical terms require other types of coordinate systems. One set describes the distance from the point of attachment of any of the two arms and two legs from the trunk. Figure 1.1 depicts this with the coordinate r , where $r = 0$ at the trunk. r is never negative. *Proximal* means near the point of attachment, i.e., to smaller r . *Distal* means further from the point of attachment, or larger r .

The last series of directional terms relates to the local surface of the body. This can be depicted by the coordinate ρ (inset in Fig. 1.1), which is related to x and y in an $x - y$ plane. $\rho = 0$ on the local surface of the body. *Superficial* means towards or on the surface of the body, or to smaller ρ . *Deep* means away from the surface, or towards larger ρ .

These directional terms can refer to any locality of the body. Regional terms designate a specific region in the body (Tables 1.1 and 1.2). This is illustrated by an example we will use several times later. The region between the shoulder and elbow joints is called the brachium (brae'-kee-um). The adjective used to describe this region in anatomical terms is brachial (brae'-kee-al). The muscles in our arms that we usually call the biceps are really the brachial biceps or biceps brachii, while our triceps are really our brachial triceps or triceps brachii. The terms biceps and triceps refer to any muscles with two or three points of origin, respectively (as we will see) – and not necessarily to those in our arms.

The final set of terms describes two-dimensional planes, cuts or sections of the body. They are illustrated in Fig. 1.1. A *transverse* or *horizontal* section separates the body into superior and inferior sections. Such planes have constant z . *Sagittal* sections separate the body into right and left sections, and are planes with constant y . The *midsagittal* section is special; it occurs at the midline and is a plane with $y = 0$. The *frontal* or *coronal* section separates the body into anterior and posterior portions, as described by planes with constant x .

Much of our outright confusion concerning medical descriptions is alleviated with the knowledge of these three categories of anatomical terminology. There is actually a fourth set of anatomical terms that relates to types of motion. These are discussed in Sect. 1.2.

1.2 Motion in the Human Machine

Anatomical terms refer to the body locally whether it is at rest or in motion. Since we are also concerned with how we move, we need to address human motion [32]. We will describe how we move by examining the *degrees of freedom*

Table 1.1. Anatomical terms in anterior regions

anatomical term	common term
abdominal	abdomen
antebrachial	forearm
axillary	armpit
brachial	upper arm
buccal	cheek
carpal	wrist
cephalic	head
cervical	neck
coxal	hip
crural	front of leg
digital	finger or toe
frontal	forehead
inguinal	groin
lingual	tongue
mammary	breast
mental	chin
nasal	nose
oral	mouth
palmar	palm
pedal	foot
sternal	breastbone
tarsal	ankle
thoracic	chest
umbilical	navel

of our motion and the means for providing such motion by our joints. We will see that our arms and legs are constructed in a very clever manner. Because joints involve motion between bones, we will need to refer to the anatomy of the skeletal system, as in Fig. 1.2.

Table 1.2. Anatomical terms in posterior regions

anatomical term	common term
acromial	top of shoulder
femoral	thigh
gluteal	buttock
occipital	back of head
plantar	sole of foot
popliteal	back of knee
sacral	between hips
sural	back of leg
vertebral	spinal column

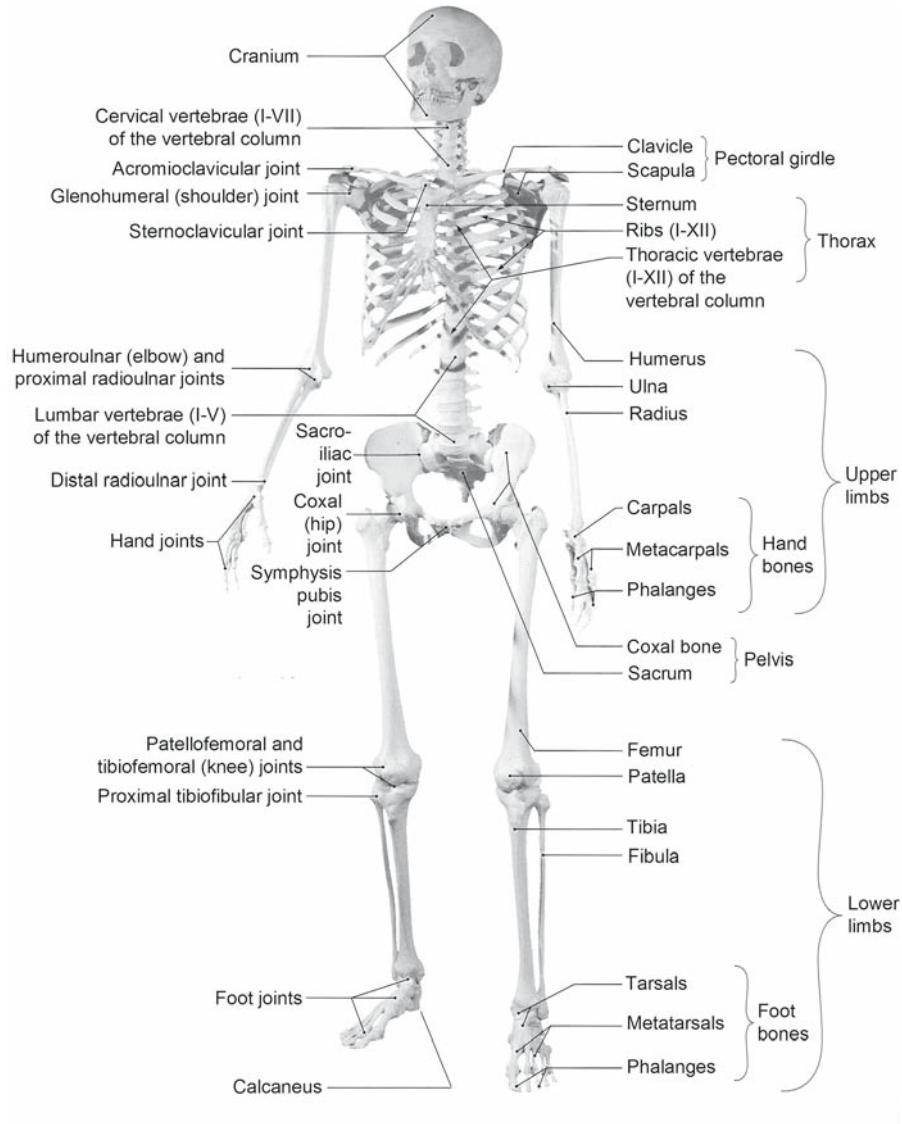


Fig. 1.2. Anatomy of the skeletal system, anterior view, with major bones and joints listed. (From [59])

Think of a degree of freedom (DOF) of motion as a coordinate needed to describe that type of motion. If you want to relocate an object, you are generally interested in changing its center of mass and its angular orientation. You may want to change its center of mass from an (x, y, z) of $(0, 0, 0)$ to (a, b, c) . Because three coordinates are needed to describe this change, there are three

“translational” degrees of freedom. Similarly, you can change the angular orientation of the object about the x , y , and z axes, by changing the angles this object can be rotated about these three axes: θ_x , θ_y , and θ_z , respectively. So, there are also three rotational degrees of freedom. (Sometimes, these three independent rotations are defined differently, by the three Eulerian angles, which will not be introduced here.)

These six (three plus three) degrees of freedom are independent of each other. Keeping your fingers rigid as a fist, you should be able to change independently either the x , y , z , θ_x , θ_y , and θ_z of your fist by moving your arms in different ways. You should try to change the x , y , and z of your fist, while keeping θ_x , θ_y , and θ_z fixed. Also, try changing the θ_x , θ_y , and θ_z of your fist, while keeping its x , y , and z constant.

We would like each of our arms and legs to have these six degrees of freedom. *How does the body do it?* It does it with joints, also known as *articulations*. Two types of articulations, fibrous (bones joined by connective tissue) and cartilaginous (bones joined by cartilage) joints, can bend only very little. There is a joint cavity between the articulating bones in synovial joints. Only these synovial joints have the large degree of angular motion needed for motion. As seen in Fig. 1.3, in synovial joints cartilage on the ends of opposing bones are contained in a sac containing synovial fluid. The coefficient of friction in such joints is lower than any joints made by mankind. (More on this later.)

There are several types of synovial joints in the body, each with either one, two, or three degrees of angular motion. Each has an analog with physical objects, as seen in Fig. 1.4. For example, a common door hinge is a model of one degree of angular freedom. Universal joints, which connect each axle to a wheel in a car, have two angular degrees of freedom. A ball-and-socket joint has three independent degrees of angular motion. The water faucet in a shower is a ball-and-socket joint. The balls and sockets in these joints are spherical. Condylod or ellipsoidal joints are ball-and-socket joints with ellipsoidal balls and sockets. They have only two degrees of freedom because rotation is not possible about the axis emanating from the balls. A saddle joint, which looks like two saddles meshing into one another, also has two degrees of angular motion. Other examples are shown in Fig. 1.4.

Now back to our limbs. Consider a leg with rigid toes. The upper leg bone (femur) is connected to the hip as a ball-and-socket joint (three DOFs) (as in the song “Dry Bones” aka “Them Bones” in which “The hip bone is connected to the thigh bones, . . .” The knee is a hinge (one DOF). The ankle is a saddle joint (two DOFs). This means that each leg has six degrees of angular motion, as needed for complete location of the foot. Of course, several of these degrees of freedom have only limited angular motion.

Now consider each arm, with all fingers rigid. The upper arm (humerus) fits into the shoulder as a ball-and-socket joint (three DOFs). The elbow is a hinge (one DOF). The wrist is an ellipsoidal joint (two DOFs). That makes

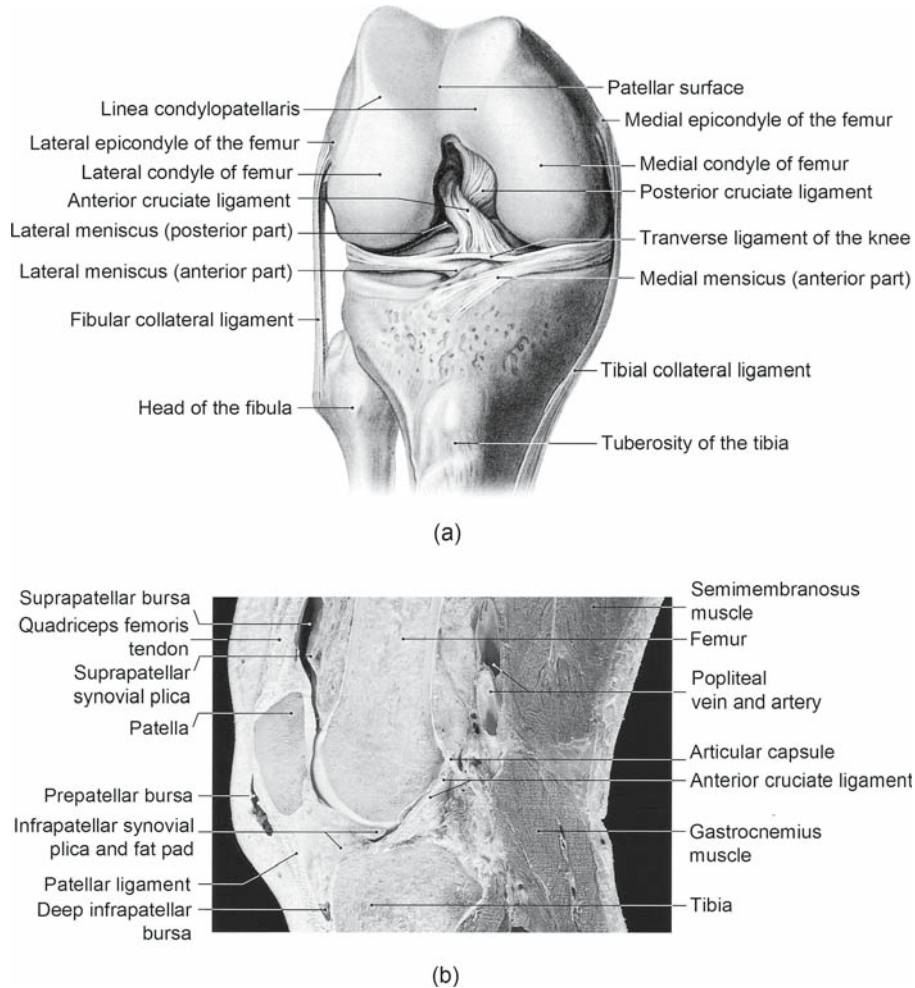


Fig. 1.3. The right knee synovial joint, with (a) anterior view with the kneecap (patella) removed and (b) in sagittal section (photo). Also see Fig. 3.2e. (From [59])

six DOFs. The leg has these six DOFs, but the arm has one additional DOF, for a total of seven. This additional DOF is the screwdriver type motion of the radius rolling on the ulna (Figs. 1.2, 2.7, and 2.8), which is a pivot with 1 DOF. With only six DOFs you would be able to move your hand to a given $x, y, z, \theta_x, \theta_y, \theta_z$ position in only one way. With the additional DOF you can do it in many ways, as is seen for the person sitting in a chair in Fig. 1.5. There are many more degrees of freedom available in the hand, which enable the complex operations we perform, such as holding a ball. Figure 1.6 shows the bones of the hand, and the associated articulations and degrees of freedom associated with the motion of each finger.

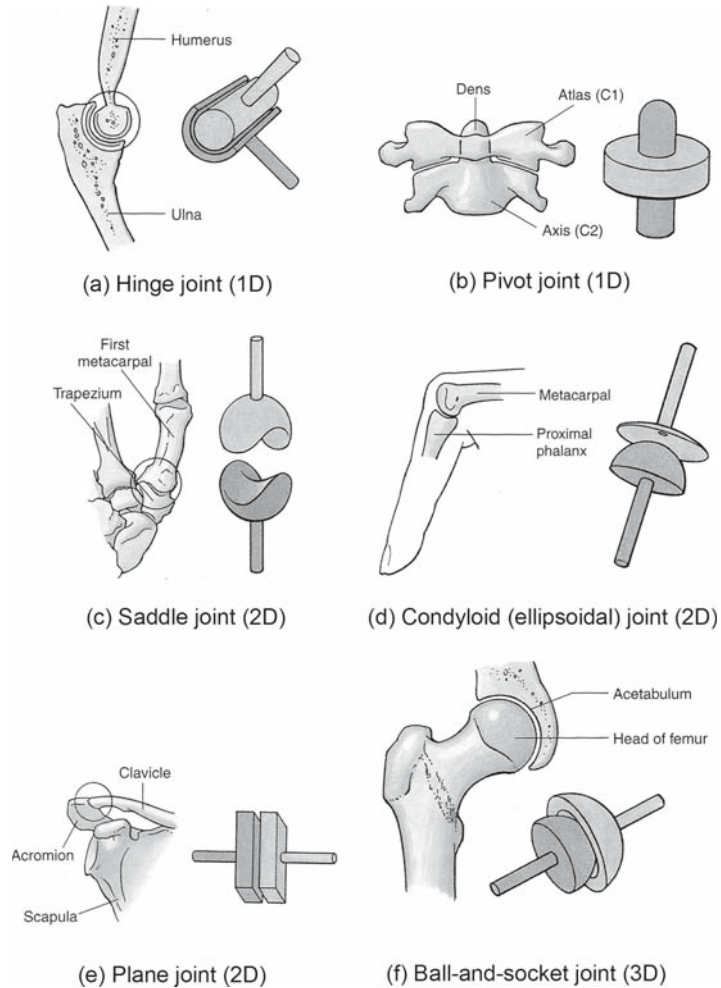


Fig. 1.4. Six types of synovial joints, including a: **(a)** hinge joint (1D joint), as in the elbow joint for flexion and extension, **(b)** pivot joint (1D joint), as in the atlantoaxial joint in the spinal cord for rotation, **(c)** saddle joint (2D), which is both concave and convex where the bones articulate, as in the joint between the first metacarpal and the trapezium in the hand, **(d)** condyloid or ellipsoidal joint (2D), as in the metacarpophalangeal (knuckle) joint between the metacarpal and proximal phalanx for flexion and extension, abduction and adduction, and circumduction, **(e)** plane joint (2D), as in the acromioclavicular joint in the shoulder for gliding or sliding, and **(f)** ball-and-socket joint (3D), as in the hip joint (and the shoulder joint) for flexion and extension, abduction and adduction, and medial and lateral rotation. See Figs. 1.9 and 1.10 for definitions of the terms describing the types of motion about joints and the diagrams in Fig. 1.11 for more information about synovial joints. (From [49]. Used with permission)

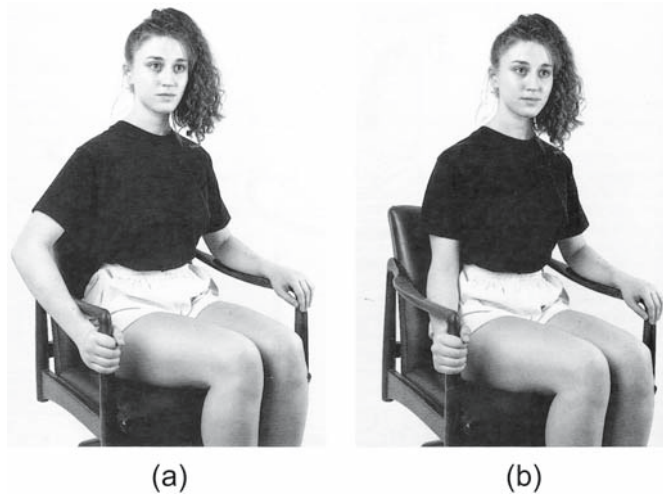


Fig. 1.5. Nonunique way of positioning the right arm. This is demonstrated by grasping the armrest while sitting, with the six coordinates of the hand (three for position and three for angle) being the same in both arm positions. This is possible because the arm can use its seven degrees of freedom to determine these six coordinates. (From [32]. Copyright 1992 Columbia University Press. Reprinted with the permission of the press)

We can also see why it is clever and good engineering that the knee hinge divides the leg into two nearly equal sections and the elbow hinge divides the arm into two nearly equal sections. In the two-dimensional world of Fig.1.7 this enables a greater area (volume for 3D) to be covered than with unequal sections.

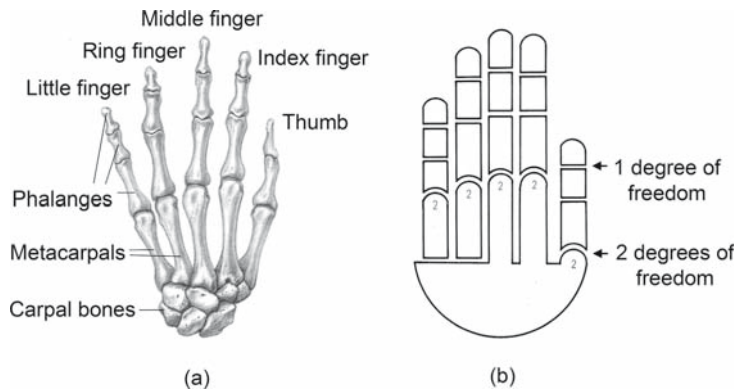


Fig. 1.6. (a) Anatomy of the hand and (b) the degrees of freedom of the hand and fingers, with joints (spaces) having one (spaces with flat terminations) or two (curved terminations, with a “2” below the joint) degrees of freedom. (From [32]. Copyright 1992 Columbia University Press. Reprinted with the permission of the press)

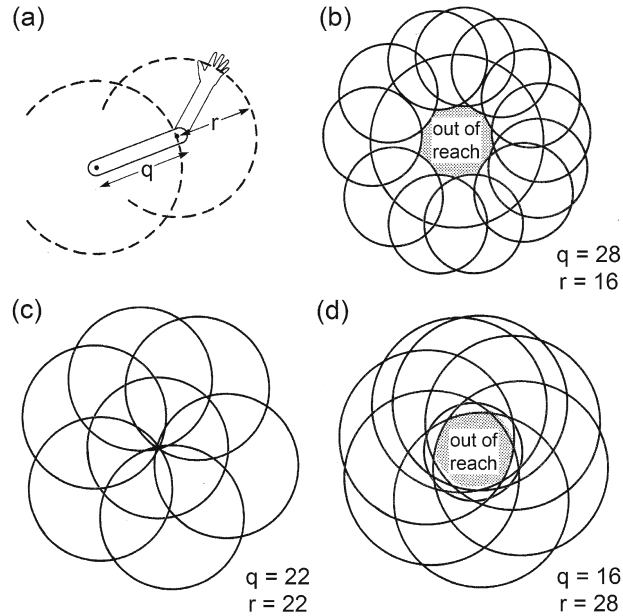


Fig. 1.7. Range of hand motion in two dimensions for different lengths of the upper and lower arms. (From [32]. Copyright 1992 Columbia University Press. Reprinted with the permission of the press)

In preparation for our discussion of statics and motion of the body, we should consider the building blocks of human motion. There are four types of components: *bones*, *ligaments*, *muscles*, and *tendons*. Each has a very different function and mechanical properties. Bones are often lined with hyaline (high'u-lun) articular cartilage at the synovial joints. Ligaments hold bones together. Muscles, in particular skeletal muscles, are the motors that move the bones about the joints. (There is also cardiac muscle – the heart – and smooth muscle – of the digestive and other organs.) Tendons connect muscles to bones. Muscles are connected at *points of origin and insertion* via tendons; the points of insertion are where the “action” is. Figure 1.8 shows several of the larger muscles in the body, along with some of the tendons.

Muscles work by contraction only, i.e., only by getting shorter. Consequently, to be able to move your arms one way and then back in the opposite direction, you need pairs of muscles on the same body part for each opposing motion. Such opposing pairs, known as “antagonists,” are very common in the body.

We now return to our brief review of terminology, this time to describe the angular motion of joints. It is not surprising that these come in opposing pairs (Figs. 1.9 and 1.10) as supplied by antagonist muscles. When the angle of a 1D hinge, such as the elbow, increases it is called *extension* and when it decreases it is *flexion*. When you rotate your leg away from the midline of your body, it

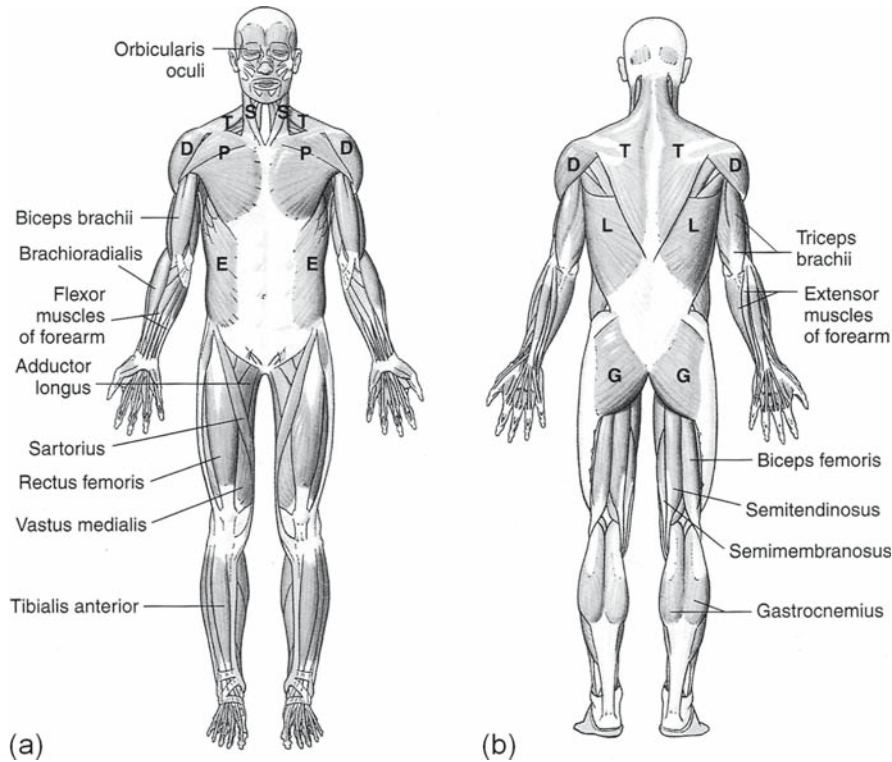


Fig. 1.8. (a) Anterior and (b) posterior views of some of the larger skeletal muscles in the body. Several muscles are labeled: S, sternocleidomastoid; T, trapezius; D, deltoid; P, pectoralis major; E, external oblique; L, latissimus dorsi; G, gluteus maximus. In (b), the broad-banded tendon extending from the gastrocnemius and soleus (deep to the gastrocnemius, not shown) muscles to the ankle (calcaneus) is the calcaneal (or Achilles) tendon. (From [49]. Used with permission)

is *abduction*, and when you bring it closer to the midline, it is *adduction*. When you rotate a body part about its long axis it is called *rotation*. The screwdriver motion in the arm is *pronation* (a front-facing hand rotates towards the body) or *supination* (away from the body), and so supination is the motion of a right hand screwing in a right-handed screw (clockwise looking from the shoulder distally) and pronation is that of a right hand unscrewing a right-handed screw (counterclockwise looking from the shoulder distally). Examples of the rotation axes for the synovial joints used in these opposing motions are given in Fig. 1.11.

One example of opposing motion is the motion of the arm (Fig. 1.12). The biceps brachii have two points of origin and are inserted on the radius (as shown in Fig. 2.10 below). When they contract, the radius undergoes flexion about the pivot point in the elbow. The triceps brachii have three points of origin, and a point of insertion on the ulna. They are relaxed during flexion.

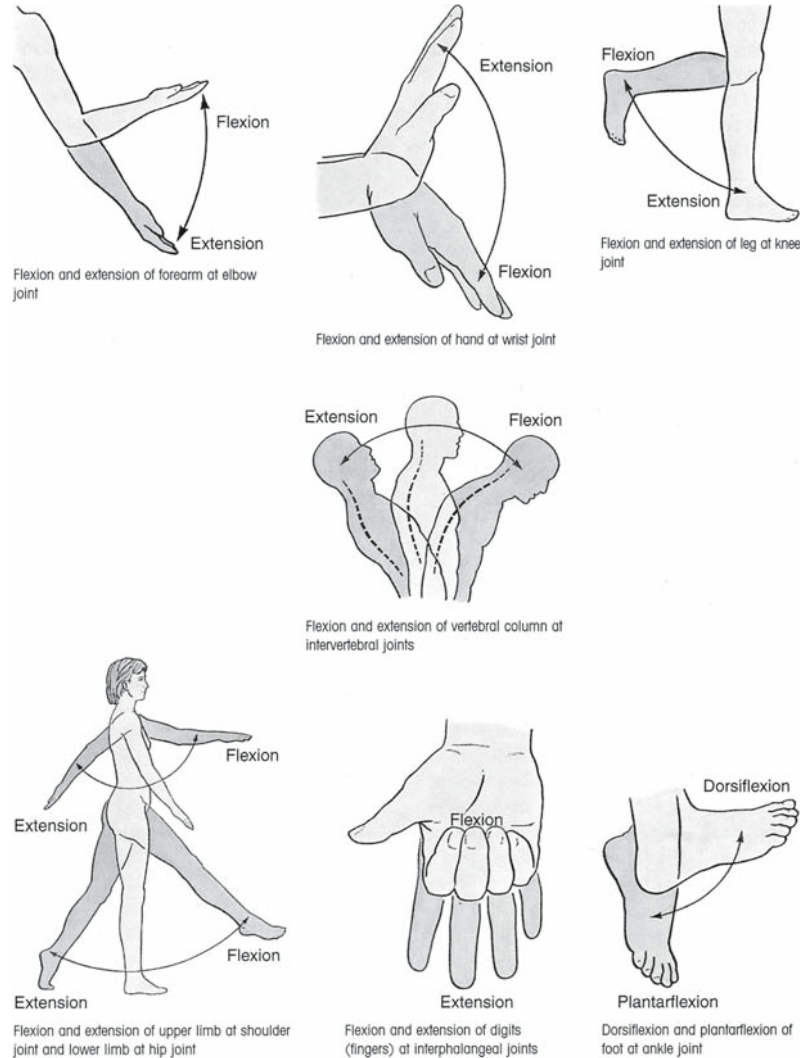


Fig. 1.9. Several antagonistic motions allowed by synovial joints. See other motions in Fig. 1.10. (From [49]. Used with permission)

During extension they contract, while the biceps brachii are relaxed. This is an example of a lever system about a pivot point. (This is really a pivot axis normal to the plane of the arm, as is illustrated in Fig. 1.11a for a hinge joint.)

A second place where there is such opposing motion is the eye. The three types of opposite motion in each eye (monocular rotations) are shown in Fig. 1.13. During *adduction* the eye turns in to the midline, while during *abduction* it turns out. The eyeball can also undergo *elevation* (eye rotating

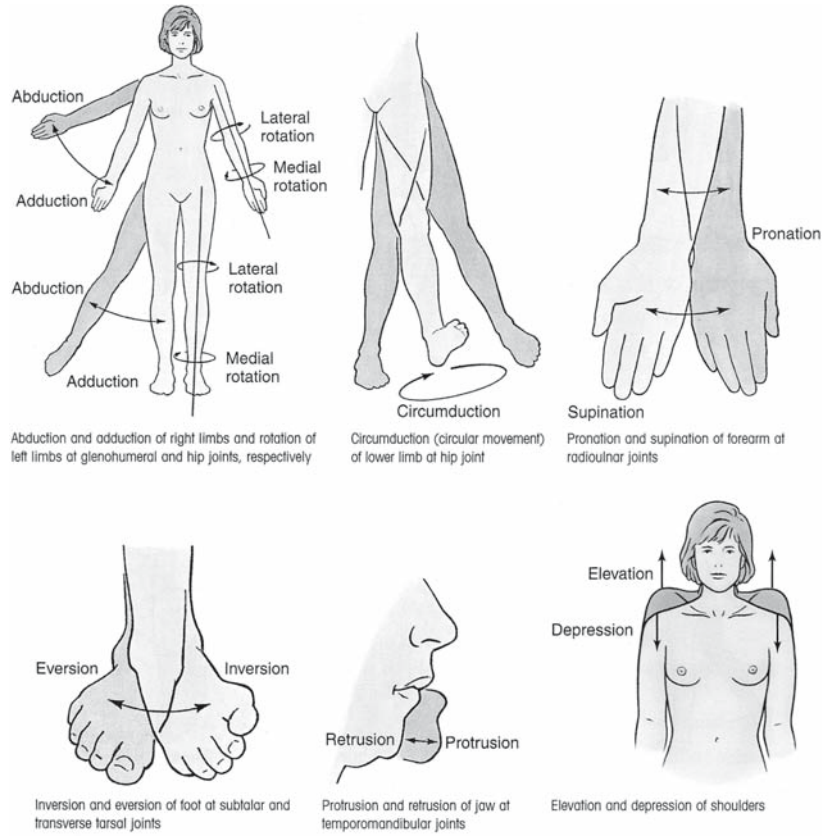


Fig. 1.10. More antagonistic motions allowed by synovial joints. See other motions in Fig. 1.9. (From [49]. Used with permission)

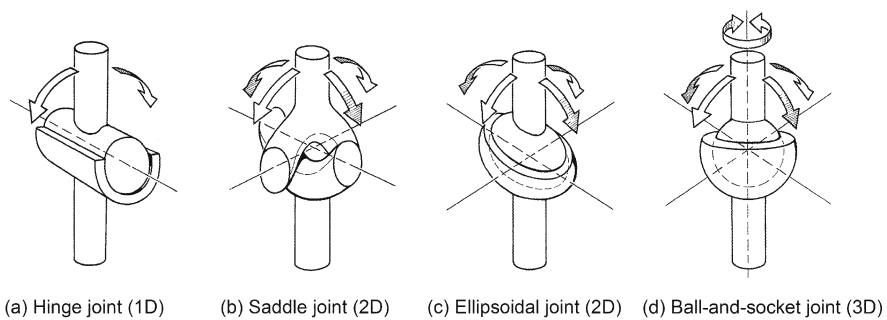


Fig. 1.11. Rotation axes for four types of synovial joints are shown for each depicted rotation direction: (a) one axis for a hinge joint (1D joint), (b) two axes for a saddle joint (2D), (c) two axes for an ellipsoidal joint (2D), and (d) three axes for a ball-and-socket joint (3D). (From [54])

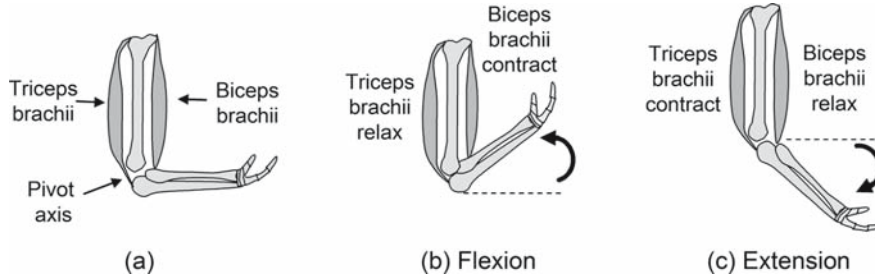


Fig. 1.12. Opposing motions of the lower arm with antagonist muscles, with flexion by contraction of the biceps brachii and extension by the contraction of the triceps brachii. The axis of rotation is seen in Fig. 1.11a

upward, or *supraduction*) or *depression* (eyeball rotating downward, or *infra-duction*). Less common is the rotation of the eyeball about an axis normal to the iris, in opposing *intorsion* (*incycloduction*) or *extorsion* (*excycloduction*) motions. There are three pairs of opposing muscles per eye, each attached to the skull behind the eye, that control these motions (Fig. 1.14, Table 1.3). However, of these three pairs, only one is cleanly associated with only one of these pairs of opposing motions. Adduction occurs with the contraction of the medial rectus muscle, while abduction occurs when the lateral rectus contracts. The primary action of the superior rectus is elevation, while that of the opposing inferior rectus is depression. The primary action of the superior oblique is also depression, while that of the opposing inferior oblique is also elevation. These last two pairs of muscles have secondary actions in adduction/abduction and intorsion/extorsion that depend on the position of the eye. Binocular vision requires coordinated motion of the three opposing muscle pairs in both eyes, as described in Table 1.4.

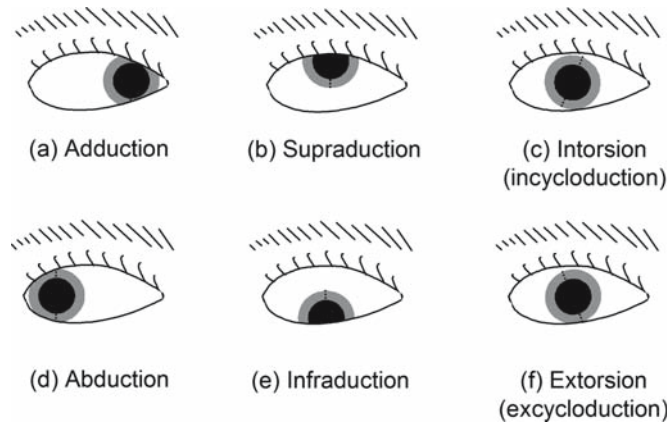


Fig. 1.13. Rotations of the right eye. A dashed line has been added across the iris to help view the rotations. (Based on [60])

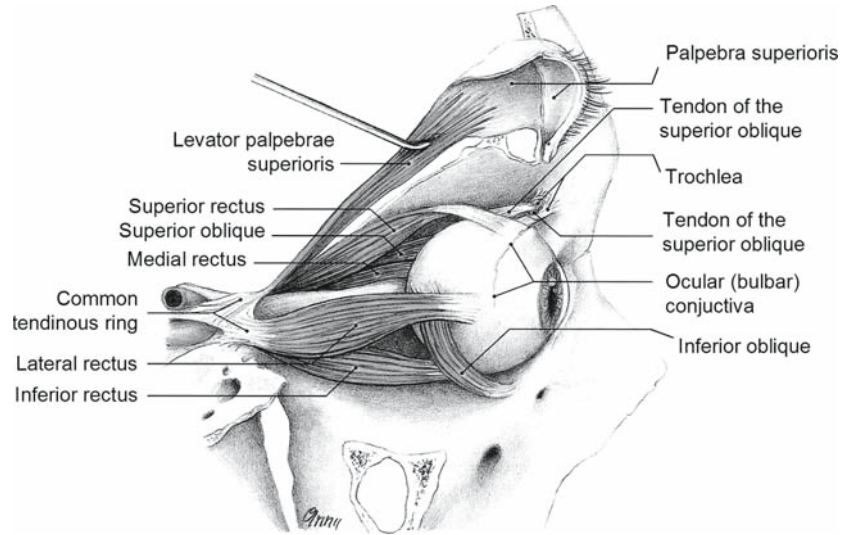


Fig. 1.14. Ocular muscles, with the eyelid (palpebra) pulled up as shown. The tendon of the superior oblique muscle (marked in two regions) passes through the trochlea loop. (From [59])

Table 1.3. Ocular muscle functions. (Based on [60])

muscle	primary action	secondary action
lateral rectus	abduction	none
medial rectus	adduction	none
superior rectus	elevation	adduction, intorsion
inferior rectus	depression	abduction, extorsion
superior oblique	depression	intorsion, abduction
inferior oblique	elevation	extorsion, abduction

Table 1.4. Muscle combinations of both eyes for gaze directions. (Based on [60])

direction of gaze	right eye muscle	left eye muscle
eyes up, right	superior rectus	inferior oblique
eyes right	lateral rectus	medial rectus
eyes down, right	inferior rectus	superior oblique
eyes down, left	superior oblique	inferior rectus
eyes left	medial rectus	lateral rectus
eyes up, left	inferior oblique	superior rectus

1.3 The Standard Human

We will often, but not always, model humans assuming numerical values for mass, height, etc. of a “standard” human, a 70 kg man with parameters similar to those in Table 1.5.

We will need details of human anatomy in some cases, and these are provided now and in subsequent chapters as needed. We will also need to use the

Table 1.5. A description of the “Standard Man”. (Using data from [37, 44])

age	30 yr
height	1.72 m (5 ft 8 in)
mass	70 kg
weight	690 N (154 lb)
surface area	1.85 m ²
body core temperature	37.0°C
body skin temperature	34.0°C
heat capacity	0.83 kcal/kg-°C (3.5 kJ/kg-°C)
basal metabolic rate	70 kcal/h (1,680 kcal/day, 38 kcal/m ² -h, 44 W/m ²)
body fat	15%
subcutaneous fat layer	5 mm
body fluids volume	51 L
body fluids composition	53% intracellular; 40% interstitial, lymph; 7% plasma
heart rate	65 beats/min
blood volume	5.2 L
blood hematocrit	0.43
cardiac output (at rest)	5.0 L/min
cardiac output (in general)	3.0 + 8 × O ₂ consumption (in L/min) L/min
systolic blood pressure	120 mmHg (16.0 kPa)
diastolic blood pressure	80 mmHg (10.7 kPa)
breathing rate	15/min
O ₂ consumption	0.26 L/min
CO ₂ production	0.21 L/min
total lung capacity	6.0 L
vital capacity	4.8 L
tidal volume	0.5 L
lung dead space	0.15 L
lung mass transfer area	90 m ²
mechanical work efficiency	0-25%

There are wide variations about these typical values for body parameters. Also, these values are different for different regions; the ones in the table typify American males in the mid-1970s. Values for women are different than for men; for example, their typical heights and weights are lower and their percentage of body fat is higher.

Table 1.6. Body segment lengths. Also see Fig. 1.15. (Using data from [63])

segment	segment length ^a / body height H
head height	0.130
neck height	0.052
shoulder width	0.259
upper arm	0.186
lower arm	0.146
hand	0.108
shoulder width	0.259
chest width	0.174
hip width/leg separation	0.191
upper leg (thigh)	0.245
lower leg (calf)	0.246
ankle to bottom of foot	0.039
foot breadth	0.055
foot length	0.152

^aUnless otherwise specified.

findings of *anthropometry*, which involves the measurement of the size, weight, and proportions of the human body. Of particular use will be anthropometric data, such as those in Table 1.6 and Fig. 1.15, which provide the lengths of different anatomical segments of the “average” body as a fraction of the body height H .

Table 1.7 gives the masses (or weights) of different anatomical parts of the body as fractions of total body mass m_b (or equivalently, total body weight

Table 1.7. Masses and mass densities of body segments. (Using data from [63])

segment	segment mass/ total body mass m_b	mass density (g/cm^3)
hand	0.006	1.16
forearm	0.016	1.13
upper arm	0.028	1.07
forearm and hand	0.022	1.14
total arm	0.050	1.11
foot	0.0145	1.10
lower leg (calf)	0.0465	1.09
upper leg (thigh)	0.100	1.05
foot and lower leg	0.061	1.09
total leg	0.161	1.06
head and neck	0.081	1.11
trunk	0.497	1.03

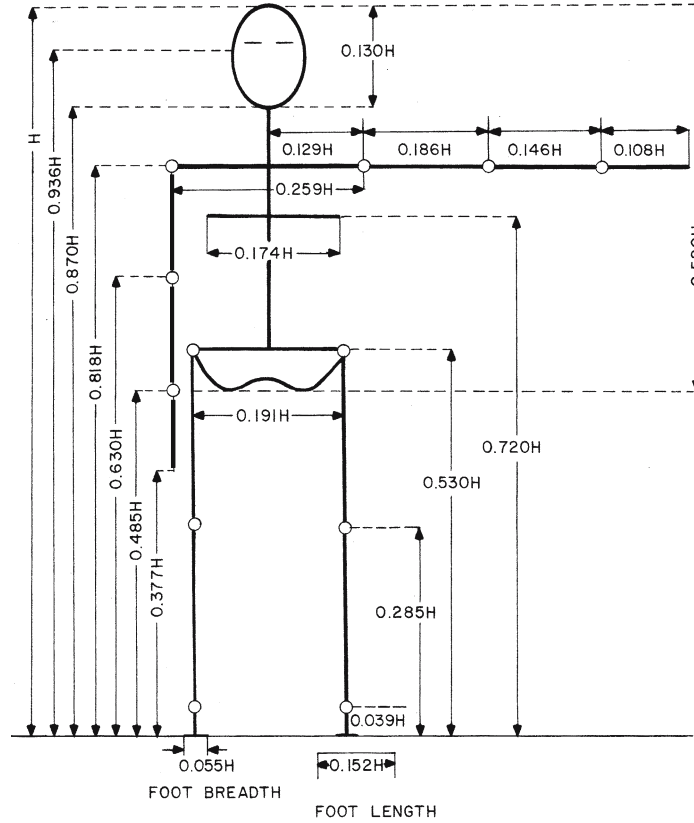


Fig. 1.15. Body segments length, relative to body height H . (From [38], as from [53]. Reprinted with permission of Wiley)

W_b). The mass and volume of body segments are determined on cadaver body segments, respectively by weighing them and by measuring the volume of water displaced for segments immersed in water. (This last measurement uses Archimedes' Principle, described in Chap. 7.) The average density of different body segments can then be determined, as in Table 1.7. The volumes of body segments of live humans can be measured by water displacement (Problem 1.37) and then their masses can be estimated quite well by using these cadaver densities. Whole body densities of live humans can be measured using underwater weighing, as is described in Problem 1.40. A relation for average body density is given below in (1.3). This is closely related to determining the percentage of body fat, as is presented below in (1.4) and (1.5).

The normalized distances of the segment center of mass from both the proximal and distal ends of a body segment are given in Table 1.8. (Problems 1.42 and 1.43 explain how to determine the center of mass of the body and its limbs.) The normalized radius of gyration of segments about the center of mass, the proximal end, and the distal end are presented in Table 1.9.

Table 1.8. Distance of the center of mass from either segment end, normalized by the segment length. (Using data from [63])

segment	center of mass from	
	proximal	distal
hand	0.506	0.494
forearm	0.430	0.570
upper arm	0.436	0.564
forearm and hand	0.682	0.318
total arm	0.530	0.470
foot	0.50	0.50
lower leg (calf)	0.433	0.567
upper leg (thigh)	0.433	0.567
foot and lower leg	0.606	0.394
total leg	0.447	0.553
head and neck	1.00	–
trunk	0.50	0.50

(The radius of gyration provides a measure of the distribution of mass about an axis, as described in (3.28) and Fig. 3.23b). Problem 3.9 describes how the radii of gyration in Table 1.9 are related.)

Note that all of the data in these different tables are not always consistent with each other because of the variations of sources and the different ranges of subjects and methods used for each table.

We have a tremendous range of mobility in our articular joints, but not as much as in the idealized joints in Fig. 1.4. The average ranges of mobility in people are given in Table 1.10 for the motions depicted in Fig. 1.16, along

Table 1.9. Radius of gyration of a segment, about the center of mass and either end, normalized by the segment length. (Using data from [63])

segment	radius of gyration about		
	C of M	proximal	distal
hand	0.297	0.587	0.577
forearm	0.303	0.526	0.647
upper arm	0.322	0.542	0.645
forearm and hand	0.468	0.827	0.565
total arm	0.368	0.645	0.596
foot	0.475	0.690	0.690
lower leg (calf)	0.302	0.528	0.643
upper leg (thigh)	0.323	0.540	0.653
foot and lower leg	0.416	0.735	0.572
total leg	0.326	0.560	0.650
head and neck	0.495	0.116	–

Table 1.10. Range of joint mobility for opposing movements, with mean and standard deviation (SD) in degrees. (Using data from [39], as from [33, 61])

opposing movements	mean	SD
shoulder flexion/extension	188/61	12/14
shoulder abduction/adduction	134/48	17/9
shoulder medial/lateral rotation	97/34	22/13
elbow flexion	142	10
forearm supination/pronation	113/77	22/24
wrist flexion/extension	90/99	12/13
wrist abduction/adduction	27/47	9/7
hip flexion	113	13
hip abduction/adduction	53/31	12/12
hip medial/lateral rotation (prone)	39/34	10/10
hip medial/lateral rotation (sitting)	31/30	9/9
knee flexion (prone) – voluntary, arm assist	125,144	10,9
knee flexion – voluntary (standing), forced (kneeling)	113,159	13,9
knee medial/lateral rotation (sitting)	35/43	12/12
ankle flexion/extension	35/38	7/12
foot inversion/eversion	24/23	9/7

The subjects were college-age males. Also see Fig. 1.16.

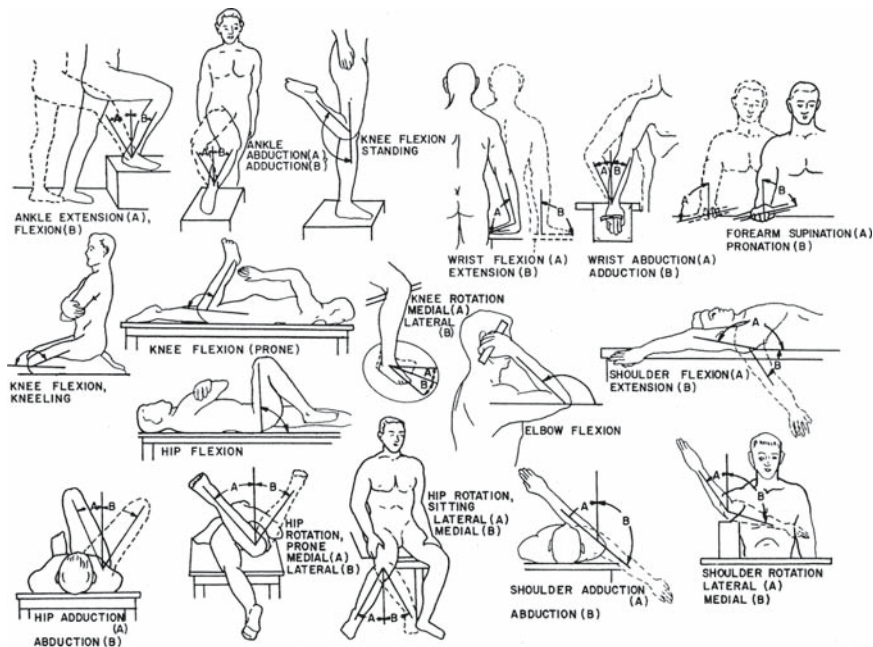


Fig. 1.16. Postures used for Table 1.10, for range of opposing motions. (From [38]. Reprinted with permission of Wiley. Also see [33, 61])

with the standard deviations about these values. (For normal or Gaussian distributions with an average, A , and standard deviation, SD , about 68% of all values are between $A - SD$ and $A + SD$.) Three degrees of freedom are given for the shoulder and hip, two for the wrist and the foot (listed separately as foot and ankle), and one each for the elbow and forearm. The knee, as idealized above, has one DOF, but two are listed here: the flexion in a 1 D hinge and also some rotation of the upper and lower leg about the knee.

Table 1.11 gives the mass and volumes of different systems and parts of the body. The components of a typical human cell are given in Table 1.12. Although, most of our discussion will not concern these components of a cell,

Table 1.11. Mass and volume of the organs of the human body. (Using data from [42])

fluid, tissue, organ, or system	total mass (g)	total volume (cm ³)
adult male body	70,000	60,000
muscle	30,000	23,000
fat	10,500	12,000
skin	2,000	1,800
subcutaneous tissue	4,100	3,700
skeleton	10,000	6,875
gastrointestinal track	2,000	1,800
contents (chyme/feces)	~2,000	~2,000
blood vessels	1,800	1,700
contents (blood)	5,600	5,400
liver	1,650	1,470
brain	1,400	1,350
lungs (2)	825	775
contents (air)	~7.7	~6,000
heart	330	300
chamber volume	–	450
kidneys (2)	300	270
urinary bladder	150	140
contents (urine)	~500	~500
digestive fluids	~150	~150
pancreas	110	100
salivary glands (6)	50	48
synovial fluid	~50	~50
teeth (32)	42	14
eyes (2)	30	27
hair (average haircut)	21	16
gall bladder	7	7
contents (bile)	~50	~50
finger nails and toenails (20)	1.1	0.9

Table 1.12. Estimated gross molecular contents of a typical 20- μm human cell. (Using data from [42])

molecule	mass	molecular weight (amu, daltons)	number of molecules	number of molecular entities
water	65	18	1.74×10^{14}	1
other inorganic	1.5	55	1.31×10^{12}	20
lipid (fat)	12	700	8.4×10^{11}	50
other organic	0.4	250	7.7×10^{10}	~ 200
protein	20	50,000	1.9×10^{10}	$\sim 5,000$
RNA	1.0	1×10^6	5×10^7	–
DNA	0.1	1×10^{11}	46	–

this listing is instructive because it provides a quantitative assessment of these components.

So far we have considered only the physical specifications of a typical person. In subsequent chapters, we will address the physical aspects of how a typical person responds to a wide range of physical conditions, for healthy and unhealthy people, and under normal and extreme conditions. The prospect of space exploration motivated extensive studies of how people respond to a wide range of extreme physical conditions, such as extreme pressures, temperatures, linear and rotary accelerations, collisions, vibrations, weightlessness, and sound [50].

We will also see that many processes can be described in terms of characteristic times or distances, such as the time needed for a muscle activation to decay or a molecule to diffuse in a cell. There are also more general characteristic times within the human body. Your heart beats and you breathe roughly once every second. Your blood flows throughout your body roughly once every minute, and each ATP molecule (the molecule which is the ultimate form of energy usage in your body) is used and then regenerated roughly once every minute.

1.4 Scaling Relationships

In human and animal biology there are diverse ranges of properties that scale with either a property, such as mass or length, or a physical or chemical input. We summarize them here; they relate to many concepts developed and used in subsequent chapters.

1.4.1 Allometric Rules

Some properties scale with body mass in a fairly predictable way, and are characterized by scaling relationships called *allometric rules*. For a property

Table 1.13. Allometric parameters (1.1) for mammals. (Using data from [31, 55])

parameter	a	α
basal metabolic rate (BMR), in W	4.1	0.75
body surface area, in m^2	0.11	0.65
brain mass in man, in kg	0.085	0.66
brain mass in nonprimates, in kg	0.01	0.7
breathing rate, in Hz	0.892	-0.26
energy cost of running, in J/m-kg	7	-0.33
energy cost of swimming, in J/m-kg	0.6	-0.33
effective lung volume, in m^2	5.67×10^{-5}	1.03
heart beat rate, in Hz	4.02	-0.25
heart mass, in kg	5.8×10^{-3}	0.97
lifetime, in y	11.89	0.20
muscle mass, in kg	0.45	1.0
skeletal mass (terrestrial), in kg	0.068	1.08
speed of flying, in m/s	15	0.167
speed of walking, in m/s	0.5	0.167

f for animals with body mass m_b (in kg), an allometric relation has the form

$$f(\text{in a given set of units}) = am_b^\alpha. \quad (1.1)$$

Technically, the relationship is allometric if $\alpha \neq 1$. Some examples are given in Table 1.13. By the way, *allometric* means “by a different measure” from the Greek *alloios*, which means “different” – so how body height scales with body mass is an allometric relationship. *Isometric* means “by the same measure” – so how leg mass scales with body mass is an example of an isometric relationship. For a delightful discussion on allometry and scaling see [46]. Other equally intriguing discussions have been presented in [31, 35, 36, 45, 47, 55, 56].

These relationships can hold for many species of a given type, such as land-based mammals, etc. Some are also valid within a species, such as for man – and as such would be called anthropometric relationships. Sometimes they apply only to adults in a species, and not across all age groups. See Problems 1.54 and 1.55 for more on this.

The “predicted” values from a scaling relation would be the expected average values only if the parameters for all species follow the relation *exactly* – and there is no reason why this must be so. Moreover, there is always a spread, or dispersion, about these average values. Some of these allometric relationships are empirical, and others can be derived, or at least rationalized, as we will see for Kleiber’s Law of basal (6.19) (i.e., minimum) metabolic rates (BMRs) in Chap. 6.

One obvious example of such scaling is that the legs of bigger mammals tend to be wider in proportion to their overall linear dimension L (and mass m_b) than those for smaller mammals, and this is reflected in the larger ratio

of the width of their long skeletal bones, w_{bone} , to the length, L_{bone} , for larger m_{b} . Such bones need to support their body weight or mass, which are proportional to their volume $\sim L^3$ because the mass densities are very nearly the same for all mammals. Such long bones in the different mammals can withstand approximately the same force per unit cross-sectional area, which means that they have the same ultimate compressive stress or UCS. (The UCS is a measure of fracture conditions that will be discussed more in Chap. 4.) If this maximum force is a fixed multiple of the weight, so it is $\propto L^3$, and the cross-sectional area is $\sim w_{\text{bone}}^2$, then $w^2 \propto L^3$ or $w \propto L^{3/2}$. Because the bone length $L_{\text{bone}} \propto L$, we see that $w/L_{\text{bone}} \propto L^{1/2} \propto m_{\text{b}}^{1/6}$. Body mass m_{b} increases by 10^4 from rat to elephant, and so this ratio increases by $10^{2/3} \sim 4$. This means that the body shapes and the bones themselves are not geometrically similar.

In some cases more accurate scaling relations necessitate the use of parameters in addition to the body mass. One example is the scaling of the surface area of a person A (in m^2), which is empirically seen to depend on height H (in m), as well as body mass m_{b} (in kg):

$$A = 0.202m_{\text{b}}^{0.425}H^{0.725}. \quad (1.2)$$

Accurate scaling relationships often involve the index W_{b}/H^p (or equivalently m_{b}/H^p) with p ranging from 1.0 to 3.0. (Sometimes the reciprocal or square root or cube root of this parameter is used. Complicating matters further, different sets of units are commonly used for these parameters.) One such index is the specific stature or ponderal index $S = H/m_{\text{b}}^{1/3}$ (for which $p = 3$), which is used in the Harris–Benedict versions of Kleiber’s Law specialized for people (6.30–6.31). It is also used in the expression for the average human density

$$\rho \text{ (in kg/L or g/cm}^3\text{)} = 0.69 + 0.9S \quad (1.3)$$

where within S the units of H are m and those of m_{b} are kg. Another scaling parameter is Quételet’s index or the body mass index (BMI), $Q = m_{\text{b}}/H^2$ (for which $p = 2.0$). It is often considered the best index for epidemiological studies. For example, with m_{b} in kg and H in m, the average fat content of the body increases with this index:

$$\text{Men: fat (\% of body weight)} = 1.28Q - 10.1 \quad (1.4)$$

$$\text{Women: fat (\% of body weight)} = 1.48Q - 7.0. \quad (1.5)$$

Normal or ideal body fat is 14–20% in men and 21–27% in women. Not coincidentally, mortality increases as this index Q increases.

Some properties do not scale with mass. From mouse to elephant, a mass range of over 10,000, the maximum jumping height (of the center of mass) of most every mammal is within a factor of 2 of 2/3 m. Similarly, the maximum running speed of most mammals is within a factor of 2 of 7 m/s (15 mph).

Table 1.14. Size-independent dimensionless groups in mammals. (Using data from [46])

parameter	a	α
breathing flow rate/blood flow rate ^a	2.0	0.00
mass of blood/mass of heart	8.3	0.01
time for 50% of growth/lifespan in captivity	0.03	0.05
gestation period/lifespan in captivity	0.015	0.05
breathing cycle/lifespan in captivity	3×10^{-9}	0.06
cardiac cycle/lifespan in captivity	6.8×10^{-10}	0.05
half-life of drug ^b /lifespan in captivity	0.95×10^{-5}	0.01

The value of a in (1.1) is that for a 1 kg mammal. Also see Chaps. 8 and 9.

^a(tidal volume/breath time)/(heart stroke volume/pulse time).

^bMethotrexate.

The main reason behind these two relationships is that the force a muscle can exert is proportional to its cross-sectional area and therefore it varies as the square of the characteristic linear dimension, such as height H . This is explored in Problems 3.28, 3.29, and 3.41 in Chap. 3. The dimensionless ratios of some physical and physiological properties are noteworthy in that they are essentially independent of size (and mass), as is seen in Table 1.14.

1.4.2 Scaling in the Senses

A very different type of scaling is exhibited by Stevens' Law, which characterizes how the perceived strength P of a sense varies with the intensity of a stimulus S for a given sensation. This scaling is

$$P = K(S - S_0)^n \quad (1.6)$$

above a threshold S_0 [57, 58]. As seen in Table 1.15, sometimes the perception of a sense, called the *psychoperception*, is sublinear with the strength of the

Table 1.15. Exponent n for perceived strength (P) of a stimulus (S) above a threshold S_0 , with $P = K(S - S_0)^n$ in Steven's Law. (Using data from [57, 58])

psychoperception	n	stimulus
brightness	0.33, 0.5	5° target, point source – dark adapted eye
loudness	0.54, 0.60	monoaural, binaural
smell	0.55, 0.60	coffee odor, heptane
vibration	0.6, 0.95	250 Hz, 60 Hz – on finger
taste	0.8, 1.3, 1.3	saccharine, sucrose, salt
temperature	1.0, 1.6	cold, warm – on arm
pressure on palm	1.1	static force on skin
heaviness	1.45	lifted weights
electric shock	3.5	60 Hz through fingers

stimulus and sometime it is superlinear. Three of the senses involve very significant physical aspects: hearing (Chap. 10, loudness) and seeing (Chap. 11), which we will examine in detail, and touch (Chap. 2, vibration, temperature, pressure on palm, heaviness; Chap. 12, electric shock), which we will study in less detail. These three also have very important chemical and biological origins. The senses of taste and smell are essentially solely chemical and biological in basis and will not be discussed any further, except for a brief discussion of the electrical properties of the membranes of the taste and smell sensory neurons in Chap. 12. For these three other senses, we will concentrate mostly on the physical input and the beginning of the sensation process (detection). The nonlinearities inherent in Stevens' Law are due in part to the detection process. The final parts of detection process are the generation and transmission of neural signals sent to the brain – which we will cover – and the processing in the brain – which we will cover only briefly. There are approximately 12 orders of magnitude sensitivity in hearing and vision.

1.5 Summary

Much about the body can be understood by learning the terminology of directions and local regions in the body. Much about the motion of the body can be explained by examining the rotation about bones about joints. In analyzing the physics of the body, reference can be made to anthropometric data on body parts for a standard human. Many phenomena concerning anatomy and physiology can be characterized and understood by using scaling relations.

Problems

Body Terminology

- 1.1. (a) Is the heart superior or inferior to the large intestine?
(b) Is the large intestine superior or inferior to the heart?
- 1.2. (a) Is the navel posterior or anterior to the spine?
(b) Is the spine posterior or anterior to the navel?
- 1.3. Is the nose lateral or medial to the ears?
- 1.4. Are the eyes lateral or medial to the nose?
- 1.5. Is the foot proximal or distal to the knee?
- 1.6. Is the elbow proximal or distal to the wrist?
- 1.7. Is the skeleton superficial or deep to the skin?

1.8. The blind spot in the eye retina is said to be nasal to the fovea (center of the retina). What does this mean?

1.9. What would you expect the term *cephalid* to mean? What would be an equivalent term?

1.10. Which is the anterior part of the heart in Fig. 8.7? Is this a superior or inferior view of the heart?

1.11. Consider the directional terms *ipsilateral* and *contralateral*. One means on the same side of the body, while the other means on opposite sides of the body. Which is which?

1.12. The directional term *intermediate* means “in between.” What is intermediate between the upper and lower legs?

1.13. Encephalitis is the inflammation, i.e., “itis”, of what?

1.14. *Presbyopia* refers to disorders in vision due to old age, such as lack of accommodation in the crystalline lens (see Chap. 11). *Presbycusis* refers to old age-related auditory impairments (see Chap. 10.) What parts of these two terms mean old age, vision, and hearing?

1.15. The three tiny bones in the middle ear, the malleus, incus, and stapes are interconnected by the incudomalleolar articulation and the incudostapedial joint. Describe the origin of the names of these connections.

1.16. The quadriceps muscles in the upper leg attach to the kneecap (patella) through the quadriceps tendon. The kneecap is connected to the tibia by connective tissue that is sometimes called the patellar tendon and sometimes the patellar ligament. Explain why both designations have merit and why neither designation completely describes the linkage perfectly well by itself.

1.17. Consider the drawing of the hand skeleton and the schematic of a hand showing joints with one or (labeled 2) two degrees of freedom in Fig. 1.6.

(a) How many degrees of freedom does each hand have? (Ignore the wrist joint.)

(b) Do we need so many degrees of freedom? Why? (There is no right or wrong answer to this part. Just think about what a human hand should be able to do (in clutching, etc.) and try to express your conclusions in terms of degrees of freedom.)

1.18. Estimate the angle of each of the joints in the hand for each of the following functions [52]. (Define the angle of each joint as shown in the left hand in Fig. 1.6b to be 0° . Define rotations into the paper and clockwise motions in the plane of the paper as being positive.)

(a) lifting a pail (a hook grip)

(b) holding a cigarette (a scissors grip)

- (c) lifting a coaster (a five-jaw chuck)
- (d) holding a pencil (a three-jaw chuck)
- (e) threading a needle (a two-jaw pad-to-pad chuck)
- (f) turning a key (a two-jaw pad-to-side chuck)
- (g) holding a hammer (a squeeze grip)
- (h) opening a jar (a disc grip)
- (i) holding a ball (a spherical grip)

1.19. We said that the seven DOFs available for arm motion enabled nonunique positioning of the hand, but analogous nonunique positioning of the foot is not possible because the leg has only six DOFs. Use Table 1.10 to explain why this is not exactly correct.

1.20. Use Table 1.3 to show that the coordinated eye motions in Table 1.4 use the muscles listed for primary motion.

1.21. Consider a limb, of length L , composed of upper and lower limbs with respective lengths r_1 and r_2 , with $L = r_1 + r_2$. There is a total range of motion in the angles the upper limb makes with the torso and the lower limb makes with the upper limb. Assume motion only in two dimensions (see Fig. 1.7.)

- (a) What area is subtended by the end of the lower limb (hand or foot) when $r_1 = r_2$?
- (b) What area is subtended by the end of the lower limb when $r_1 > r_2$? What fraction of that in (a) is this?
- (c) What area is subtended by the end of the lower limb when $r_1 < r_2$? What fraction of that in (a) is this?

1.22. Redo Problem 1.21 in three dimensions, finding the volume subtended by the end of the lower limb in each case.

The Standard Human

1.23. Qualitatively explain the differences of density in Table 1.7 in the different segments of the body. The average densities of blood, bone, muscle, fat, and air (in the lungs) can be determined from Table 1.11.

1.24. (a) Use Table 1.7 to determine the average density of the body.
 (b) Use this to determine the average volume of a 70 kg body.
 Your answers will be a bit different from the rough volume estimate given in Table 1.11.

1.25. (a) Calculate the range of segment masses alternatively using Tables 1.7 and 1.16, for each type of segment listed in the latter table, for people with masses in the range 40–100 kg.
 (b) Give several reasons why these ranges seem to be different.

Table 1.16. An alternative set of relations of weights of body segments (all in lb). (Using data from [48], which used unpublished data by [40])

segment	segment weight
head	$0.028W_b + 6.354$
trunk	$0.552W_b - 6.417$
upper arms	$0.059W_b + 0.862$
forearms	$0.026W_b + 0.85$
hands	$0.009W_b + 0.53$
upper legs	$0.239W_b - 4.844$
lower legs	$0.067W_b + 2.846$
feet	$0.016W_b + 1.826$

1.26. (a) Show that (1.3) becomes

$$\rho(\text{in kg/L or g/cm}^3) = 0.69 + 0.0297S, \quad (1.7)$$

when $S = H/W_b^{1/3}$ is expressed with H in inches and W_b in lb.

(b) Show that the average density for an adult of height 5 ft 10 in and weight 170 lb is 1.065 g/cm^3 , with $S = 12.64$.

(c) Show that the average density for an adult of height 1.78 m and mass 77.3 kg is 1.066 g/cm^3 , with $S = 0.418$.

1.27. What percentage of body mass is fat, skin, the skeleton, blood, liver, the brain, the lungs, heart, kidneys, and eyes?

1.28. Use Table 1.11 to determine the mass density of blood, skin, the lungs, the air in the lungs, fat, liver, hair, eyes, and blood vessels.

1.29. In modeling heat loss in Chap. 6, a typical man is modeled as a cylinder that is 1.65 m high with a 0.234 m diameter. If the human density is 1.1 g/cm^3 , what is the mass (in kg) and weight (in N and lb) of this man?

1.30. (a) If a man has a mass of 70 kg and an average density of 1.1 g/cm^3 , find the man's volume.

(b) If this man is modeled as a sphere, find his radius and diameter.

(c) If this man is 1.72 m high, and is modeled as a right circular cylinder, find the radius and diameter of this cylinder.

(d) Now model a man of this height and mass as a rectangular solid with square cross-section, and find the length of the square.

(e) Repeat this for a constant rectangular cross-section, and determine the sizes if the long and short rectangle dimensions have a ratio of either 2:1, 3:1, or 4:1.

(f) In each above case calculate his surface area and compare it to that predicted by (1.2) for a 1.72-m tall man. Which of the above models seems best?

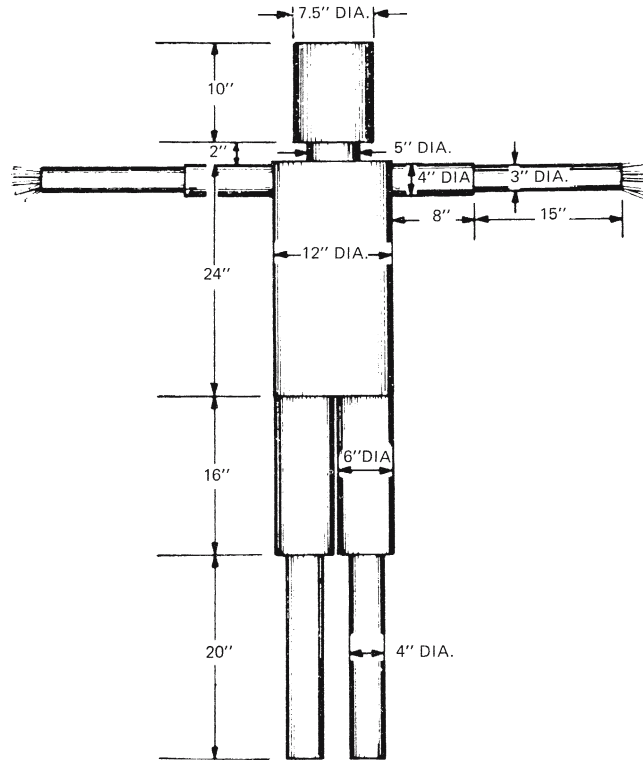


Fig. 1.17. Cylindrical model of a man used in studies of convective cooling. (From [34], adapted from [51])

1.31. The cylindrical model of a man in Fig. 1.17 was once used in studies of convective cooling. What are the volume, mass, and exposed surface area (including the bottom of the lower limb) for this person? Assume each finger is 3.5 in long and has a diameter of 0.875 in and that the mass density of all components is 1.05 g/cm^3 .

1.32. How much heavier is someone with a totally full stomach, small intestine, large intestine and rectum, than when each system is empty? Assume the mass density of the contents is 1 g/cm^3 . Express your answer in mass (kg) and weight (N and lb). (Use Table 7.4.)

1.33. Use the anthropometric data to determine the average cross-sectional area and diameter of an arm and a leg of a 70 kg man. Assume the cross section of each is circular.

1.34. Compare the surface area of the standard man given in Table 1.5, alternatively as predicted by (1.1) and (1.2). Use the data given in Table 1.13.