

**NAVAL AEROSPACE MEDICAL RESEARCH LABORATORY
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**DIGITAL ANTHROPOMETRIC VIDEO-IMAGING DEVICE (DAVID)
VERSUS ANTHROPOMETRIC MEASUREMENTS**

J.L. Saxton, C.L. Lords, and F.R. Patterson

ABSTRACT

Anthropometric data are essential in the development and design of items in industry, transportation, and housing. Anthropometry is particularly important in military aviation due to restrictive environments found in cockpits and the limited range of motion allowed for safe operation of controls. Methods of obtaining anthropometric measurements are varied. They range from manual techniques, such as tape measures and calipers to three-dimensional whole-body scanners. In addition to these methods, a computer-based technique called the digital anthropometric video-imaging device (DAVID) has been developed at the Naval Aerospace Medical Research Laboratory, in Pensacola, Florida. The DAVID provides a means to capture and measure a person's digital image using off-the-shelf hardware and software. A study comparing 6 anthropometric measurements (sitting height, sitting eye height, sitting acromial height, thigh clearance, buttock-knee length, and sitting knee height) was completed on 236 aviation candidates (200 males and 36 females) using both the DAVID and manual (anthropometer) measurement methods. The mean data measurements compared favorably with data reported in previous anthropometric surveys. The results of this study indicate the DAVID technology provides comparative results to standard manual methods for the measurements tested.

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INTRODUCTION

Accurate, reproducible anthropometric data are critical in many areas of our lives including the garment industry, transportation, furniture design, housing, and the workplace. The digital anthropometric video-imaging device (DAVID) was developed as an alternative to existing anthropometric measuring methods. Historically, anthropometric survey data were acquired using manual methods that required tape measures, anthropometers (calipers), and assorted devices (1,5-11,14,16,21). Recent developments include the use of laser or visible light technologies (2-4,12,13,15,17,20) to produce three-dimensional (3-D) scans of part or all of the subject. Another method used by the U.S. Navy to screen aviation candidates is a chair device, called the integrated anthropometric device (IAD), which permits measurement of linear anthropometric distances important to naval aviation (19).

The DAVID uses off-the-shelf software and hardware to digitally acquire and measure a subject's image. Compared with manual techniques, most of the DAVID's advantages are because it is computer based. These advantages include electronic storage of the images/measurements, electronic transfer of the data into other software packages (motion analysis, database, etc.), and file retrieval for quality control review.

We compared measurements using the DAVID and a standard manual technique incorporating anthropometers. The measurements evaluated in this study were sitting height, sitting eye height, sitting acromial height, thigh clearance, buttock-knee length, and knee height. Subjects were placed in a standard pose for each respective measurement. During this positioning, DAVID images were acquired and manual measurements were completed.

Direct comparison of the DAVID method with an accepted manual method is important because previous anthropometric surveys were completed using these standardized manual techniques (1,5,6,8-10,16). Design of current military aircraft is based on anthropometric data from these surveys.

METHODS

Volunteer subjects were recruited from a pool of medically screened aviation candidates awaiting training. The pool was made up of individuals from Officer Candidate School, the Naval Academy or Air Force Academy, Reserve Officer Training Corps (ROTC), and current active duty military personnel redesignated from other fields. We measured 200 males and 36 females.

Subjects reported in physical training gear (shirt, shorts, and shoes). For anthropometric measurements, subjects removed their shoes. To enhance the sitting acromial height measurement, male subjects removed their shirts and females rolled up their sleeves to expose their shoulders. Subjects were also asked to smooth out excess material in the legs of their shorts to improve the ability to delineate limits for the thigh clearance measurement. Although weight was not one of the parameters evaluated in this study, a Pelouze[®] Model 4040 platform balance (Evanston, IL) was used to obtain each subject's weight; values were recorded manually.

Manual measurements were based on procedures used for previously reported anthropometric surveys (1,5,6,8-10,16) as detailed in the appendix. The order of manual measurements was sitting height, sitting eye height, acromial height, thigh clearance, buttock-knee length, and knee height. All manual measurements were taken with GPM anthropometers (Seritex, Inc. Carlstadt, NJ). These instruments were graduated to 0.1 cm with major marks at each 0.5-cm increment. All six people taking measurements had completed formal anthropometric measurement training¹ or received on-the-job training. Each measurement trial was under the supervision of someone who had received formal training.

The DAVID consisted of a computer, camera, image acquisition hardware/software, and digitizing software. The computer system was a Gateway[®] P5-200 (Gateway 2000, North Sioux City, SD), with miroVideo[®] DC30 capture board (miro Computer Products, Inc., Palo Alto, CA), and Corel Draw[®] (Corel Corporation, Ottawa, Ontario, Canada) digitizing software. Digital images were integrated using JVC[®] model TK1070U (JVC Corp., Elmwood Park, NJ) color video cameras (with black-and-white mode selected).

¹ A Short Course in Anthropometry, Anthropology Research Project, Yellow Springs, Ohio, continuously offered.

The DAVID method involved acquiring and importing a seated side-view image into the analysis software. Due to the number of measurements necessary, a duplicate of the image was created to enhance the ability to discriminate each measurement. The first copy was used for sitting height, sitting eye height, acromial height, and thigh clearance measurements, while buttock-knee length and knee height were completed on the second copy. A template was designed to reflect this format on the final report/file. As an image was acquired, it was copied simultaneously into the appropriate location of the template. The final file contained completed measurements overlaid on the images.

The subject-to-camera distance was calibrated by adjusting the "world distance" of the Corel Draw[®] software. This calibration procedure involved placing an anthropometer, set to a known dimension, at a predetermined distance from the camera. The calibrated distance was equivalent to the distance from the camera to the right shoulder and thigh. The world distance value was set to give the same value as on the anthropometer.

Subjects sat on a table of sufficient height so their feet did not touch the floor. A height-adjustable footstool was used to position the subject's feet at the proper height. Subjects were also seated with their backs against a 6-in high "backboard" installed on the table. A piece of tape on the top of the table identified the plane used for the calibration. Subjects were seated such that their 1) right leg was in the calibration plane, 2) head was placed in a Frankfort plane position (see the appendix for definition), 3) arms were hanging naturally from their shoulders, 4) elbows were bent at 90 deg, 5) legs were perpendicular to the table, and 6) thigh axis was parallel to the floor. After positioning, the anthropometer arm was placed at the top of the subject's head. The DAVID image was acquired and stored (for later analysis), and manual measurements were then completed.

The image was saved with a numeric-sequence file name that included an assigned three-digit subject number and age. Additionally, the file name included numerical codes for sex, branch of service, student status, and aviation classification. The measurements were either completed immediately or at a later time by retrieving the appropriate file containing the stored images.

The procedure for completing measurements involved delineating the specific area to be measured using mouse operations. Body landmarks (see appendix) were used to define the measurements for the DAVID. To complete each measurement, DAVID operators placed a mouse cursor at one of the landmarks for the measurement; the left mouse button was depressed to mark the beginning of the measurement. The cursor was then moved to the opposite limit of the distance to be measured. Again, the left mouse button was depressed, and the software drew a line representing the distance of the measurement. The Corel Draw[®] software (using the world distance as a calibration factor) automatically calculated the linear distance of the line and placed a numeric value on the image adjacent to the line. Corresponding manual measurement values were unknown to DAVID operators.

The data reported for sitting height and sitting eye height were offset by a constant calibration value that corrected for the difference between the calibration plane and the plane in which the measurement was made. For example, the camera was calibrated for the lens-to-subject distance for the subject's right leg (right shoulder). The distances to the right side of the face for sitting eye height and the center of the head for sitting height measurements were greater than calibration distance at the right shoulder. Offset values were derived empirically by comparing the difference between means of the first 100 DAVID measurements with means of the manual measurements. The values derived were used for the remaining DAVID measurements.

RESULTS

Tables 1 and 2 (males and females, respectively) list the mean, standard deviation, minimum, and maximum values for both DAVID and manual measurements. All values are reported with the English system first and the metric values in parenthesis. Paired *t* tests were completed for each measurement comparing the manual and DAVID data.

Tables 3 and 4 compare data obtained in this study with that of previous anthropometric surveys (6,8,10,11) using manual measurement techniques. Raw data were not available for these surveys, but the results appear to be comparable with this study.

Table 1. DAVID/manual mean, standard deviation, minimum and maximum value comparison for males ($n = 200$). Weight in pounds (kg in parentheses), all other measurements are in inches with centimeters in parentheses.

Measurement	DAVID /Manual	Mean	Standard Deviation	Minimum	Maximum
Weight		175.5 (79.7)	21.2 (9.7)	120.2 (54.6)	238.3 (108.2)
Sitting height	D	36.1 (91.7)	1.2 (3.1)	32.9 (83.5)	39.5 (100.4)
	M	36.1 (91.7)	1.3 (3.2)	32.5 (82.6)	39.7 (100.9)
Sitting eye height	D	31.3 (79.6)	1.1 (2.9)	28.2 (71.6)	34.6 (88.0)
	M	31.3 (79.5)	1.1 (2.8)	28.3 (71.9)	34.6 (88.0)
Acromial height	D	23.7 (60.2)	1.1 (2.8)	20.6 (52.3)	27.0 (68.6)
	M	23.7 (60.3)	1.1 (2.8)	20.9 (53.2)	26.8 (68.1)
Thigh clearance	D	6.9 (17.4)	0.5 (1.3)	8.1 (12.7)	7.8 (20.5)
	M	6.9 (17.6)	0.4 (1.1)	5.4 (13.7)	8.1 (20.7)
Buttock-knee length	D	24.3 (61.7)	1.1 (2.9)	20.9 (53.1)	27.9 (69.6)
	M	24.4 (61.9)	1.1 (2.8)	21.0 (53.4)	27.4 (69.6)
Knee height	D	21.5 (54.5)	1.1 (2.8)	18.7 (47.6)	24.4 (62.1)
	M	21.6 (54.8)	1.1 (2.7)	18.9 (48.1)	24.8 (62.9)

Table 2. DAVID/manual mean, standard deviation, minimum and maximum value comparison for females ($n = 36$). Weight in pounds (kg in parentheses), all other measurements are in inches with centimeters in parentheses.

Measurement	DAVID /Manual	Mean	Standard Deviation	Minimum	Maximum
Weight		135.4 (61.5)	13.9 (6.3)	109.2 (49.6)	171.3 (77.8)
Sitting height	D	34.2 (86.8)	1.2 (3.0)	31.5 (80.0)	35.9 (91.2)
	M	34.2 (86.9)	1.3 (3.2)	31.6 (80.3)	36.1 (91.8)
Sitting eye height	D	29.7 (75.4)	1.3 (3.2)	26.8 (68.1)	31.6 (80.2)
	M	29.6 (75.3)	1.3 (3.3)	26.8 (68.1)	32.0 (81.4)
Acromial height	D	22.6 (57.5)	1.1 (2.8)	20.6 (52.3)	24.7 (62.7)
	M	22.9 (58.1)	1.1 (2.8)	20.7 (52.5)	24.7 (62.8)
Thigh clearance	D	6.2 (15.8)	0.4 (1.0)	5.3 (13.4)	7.3 (18.6)
	M	6.3 (15.9)	0.4 (1.0)	5.3 (13.5)	7.3 (18.5)
Buttock-knee length	D	22.6 (57.3)	0.8 (2.0)	20.8 (52.8)	24.3 (61.7)
	M	22.8 (58.0)	0.9 (2.3)	21.3 (54.0)	24.9 (63.3)
Knee height	D	19.6 (49.9)	0.9 (2.3)	17.6 (44.8)	21.3 (54.1)
	M	19.8 (50.2)	0.9 (2.2)	17.7 (45.0)	21.5 (54.6)

Table 3. Male anthropometric measurement comparison of 50th percentiles (weight in lbs; all other measurements in inches).

Measurement	NAMRL		Previous Data ^a		
	DAVID <i>n</i> = 200	Manual <i>n</i> = 200	1950 <i>n</i> = 4060	1964 <i>n</i> = 1549	1988 <i>n</i> = 1774
Sitting height	35.0	36.2	36.0	36.3	36.0
Sitting eye height	31.2	31.3	31.5	31.5	31.2
Sitting acromial height	23.6	23.7	23.3	23.8	23.5
Thigh clearance	6.8	6.9	5.6	^b	6.6
Buttock-knee length	24.7	24.3	23.6	24.1	24.2
Sitting knee height	21.1	21.6	21.7	21.8	22.0
Weight	173.9	173.9	161.9	171.1	171.3

^a From references 11,8,and 10

^b Measurement not included in study

Table 4. Female anthropometric comparison of 50th percentiles (weight in lbs; all other measurements in inches).

Measurement	NAMRL		Previous Data ^a	
	DAVID <i>n</i> = 36	Manual <i>n</i> = 36	1977 <i>n</i> = 1331	1988 <i>n</i> = 2208
Sitting height	33.0	34.4	32.7	33.5
Sitting eye height	29.0	29.6	29.0	29.1
Sitting acromial height	22.9	23.1	^b	21.9
Thigh clearance	6.2	6.2	6.1	6.2
Buttock-knee Length	22.5	22.6	22.7	23.1
Sitting knee height	19.7	19.7	20.6	20.3
Weight	135.9	135.9	^b	135.0

^a From references 16 and 10

^b Measurement not included in study

DISCUSSION

The manual method was chosen for comparison because it was the technique employed in previous anthropometric surveys (1,5,6,8-10,16). It has proven to be an accurate method for obtaining anthropometric measurements when collected by well-trained technicians: Training must include instruction in positioning of the subject, identifying specific anatomical areas to be measured, aligning the anthropometer properly, and applying the correct amount of pressure while making the measurement. Accurate, reproducible measurements require constant attention to each of these areas by the technician completing the measurements.

The DAVID system is the result of several developmental evolutions. One of the most important improvements prior to this study was using Corel Draw[®] to complete the measurement. By a series of operations using the mouse, the operator could delineate the distance to be measured, and a calibrated distance with lines showing the limits of

the measurement would be overlaid on the image. Corel Draw[®] enabled an automated method for obtaining measurements.

The comparative data indicate the DAVID technology is capable of completing anthropometric measurements important in aviation as accurately as those obtained using an existing manual method. Because the DAVID is computer-based, the potential for improving anthropometric screening of naval aviation candidates is substantial. The only requirement to complete anthropometric measurements using the DAVID is to capture the subject's image; the measurement can be completed directly on the image. The results of the DAVID measurements can be imported electronically into other modeling, analysis, or database software and used to generate a report. One of the advantages of the DAVID data format is the file contains not only the measurements, but also exactly how the person was positioned and how each measurement was made. This file format facilitates review of files for quality control, mishap investigation, or any other reason.

Since this study, the DAVID system has been further improved by image acquisition hardware/software capable of software-selectable multiple camera inputs and image-analysis. The new software allows calibration of each measurement in both horizontal and vertical planes. Additionally, different cameras with zoom lenses have greatly improved the quality of the images. These refinements have enhanced the resolution, image quality, and measurement accuracy compared to the system described in this study. Even so, the overall concept of the DAVID remains the same.

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APPENDIX

Definitions of Anthropometric Measurements²

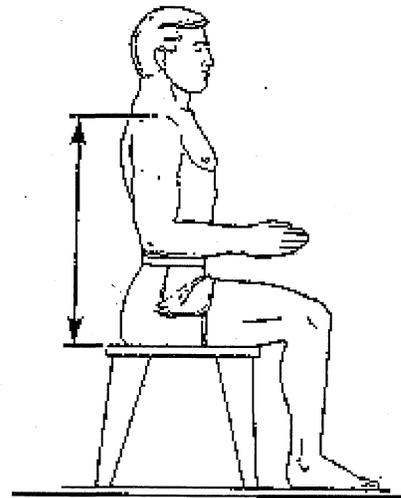
² From: Gordon CC, Churchill T, Clauser CE, Bradtmiller B, McConville JT, Tebbetts I, and Walker R. 1988 *Anthropometric Survey of U.S. Army Personnel: Methods and Summary Statistics*, Yellow Springs, OH: Anthropology Research Project, Inc.; 1989 Sep, Report No. NATICK/TR-89/044.

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ACROMIAL HEIGHT, SITTING

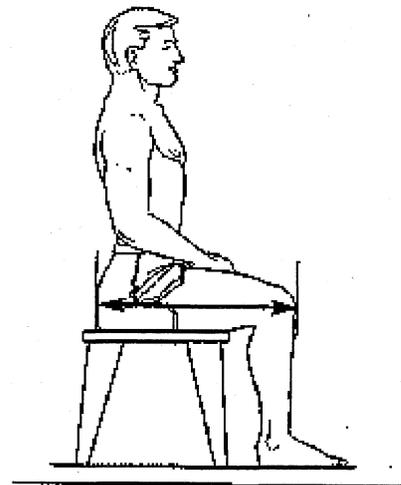
The vertical distance between a sitting surface and the acromion^a landmark on the tip of the right shoulder is measured with an anthropometer. The subject sits erect looking straight ahead. The shoulders and upper arms are relaxed, and the forearms and hands are extended forward horizontally with the palms facing each other. The thighs are parallel, and the knees are flexed 90 deg with the feet in line with the thighs. The measurement is made at the maximum point of quiet respiration.

^a Defined as the point of intersection of the lateral border of the acromial process and a line running down the middle of the shoulder from the neck to the tip of the shoulder.



BUTTOCK-KNEE LENGTH

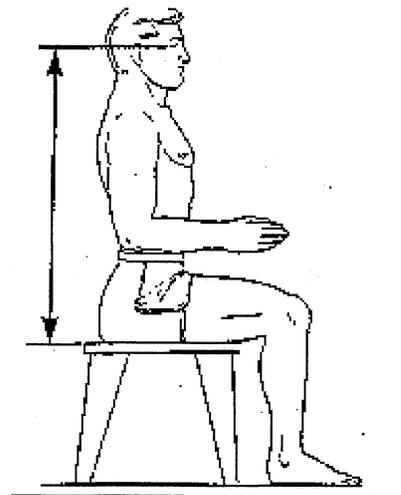
The horizontal distance between a buttock plate placed at the most posterior point on the buttock and the anterior point of the right knee is measured with an anthropometer. The subject sits erect. The thighs are parallel, and the knees flexed 90 deg with the feet in line with the thighs.



EYE HEIGHT, SITTING

The vertical distance between a sitting surface and the ectocanthus^b landmark on the outer corner of the right eye is measured with an anthropometer. The shoulders and upper arms are relaxed, and the forearms and hands are extended forward horizontally with the palms facing each other. The thighs are parallel and the knees are flexed 90 deg with the feet in line with the thighs. The measurement is made at the maximum point of quiet respiration.

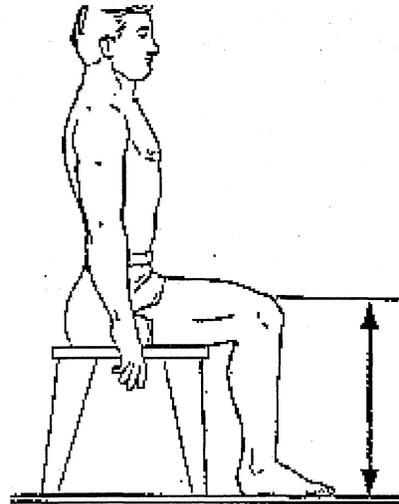
^b Defined as the outside corner of the right eye formed by the meeting of the upper and lower eyelids.



KNEE HEIGHT

The vertical distance between a footrest surface and the suprapatella^c landmark at the top of the right knee (located and drawn while the subject stands) is measured with an anthropometer. The subject sits with the thighs parallel, the knees flexed at 90 deg, and the feet in line with the thighs.

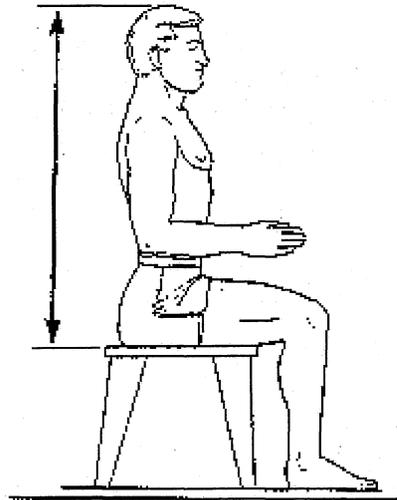
^c Defined as the superior point of the right patella (kneecap).



SITTING HEIGHT

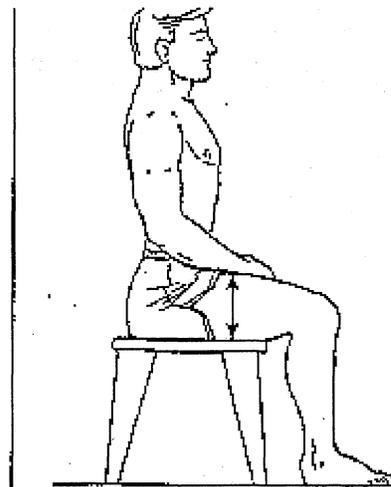
The vertical distance between a sitting surface and the top of the head is measured with an anthropometer. The subject sits erect with the head in the Frankfort Plane^d. The shoulders and upper arms are relaxed, and the forearms and hands are extended forward horizontally with the palms facing each other. The thighs are parallel, and the knees are flexed 90 deg with the feet in line with the thighs. The measurement is made at the maximum point of quiet respiration.

^d Defined as the standard horizontal plane or orientation of the head. The plane is established by a line passing through the right tragion (approximate ear hole) and the lowest point of the right orbit (eye socket).



THIGH CLEARANCE

The vertical distance between a sitting surface and the highest point on the top of the right thigh is measured with an anthropometer. The subject sits with the thighs parallel, the knees flexed 90 deg, and the feet in line with the thighs.



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