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3 **Aerodynamic analysis of human walking, running and sprinting by**  
4 **numerical simulations**

5 Pedro Forte<sup>1,2,3\*</sup>, Nuno Sousa<sup>4</sup>, José E. Teixeira<sup>2,3,5</sup>, Daniel A. Marinho<sup>3,6</sup>, António M.  
6 Monteiro<sup>2,3</sup>, José A. Bragada<sup>2,3</sup>, Jorge E. Morais<sup>2,3</sup>, Tiago M. Barbosa<sup>2,3</sup>

7  
8 <sup>1</sup>Department of Sports, Instituto Superior de Ciências Educativas do Douro, Penafiel,  
9 Portugal;

10 <sup>2</sup>Department of Sports Sciences, Instituto Politécnico de Bragança, Bragança, Portugal;

11 <sup>3</sup>Research Center in Sports, Health and Human Development (CIDESD), Covilhã,  
12 Portugal;

13 <sup>4</sup>Department of Arts and Multimedia, Instituto Superior de Ciências Educativas do Douro,  
14 Penafiel, Portugal;

15 Portugal;

16 <sup>5</sup>Department of Sports, Exercise and Health Sciences, University of Trás-os-Montes and  
17 Alto Douro, Vila Real, Portugal;

18 <sup>6</sup>Department of Sports Sciences, University of Beira Interior, Covilhã, Portugal.

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20 \*Corresponding author: Pedro Forte, Research Centre in Sports Sciences, Health and  
21 Human Development (CIDESD), Quinta de Prados, 5000-801, Vila Real, Portugal, email  
22 address: zeteixeira1991@gmail.com

23  
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35 **Abstract**

36 The drag in walking, running, and sprinting locomotion can be assessed by analytical  
37 procedures and experimental techniques. However, assessing the drag variations by these  
38 three main locomotion's (i.e., walking, running, and sprinting) were not found using  
39 computational fluid dynamics. (CFD). Thus, the aim of this study was two-fold: (1) to  
40 assess the aerodynamics of human walking, running, and sprinting by CFD technique; 2)  
41 compare such aerodynamic characteristics between walking and running. Three 3D  
42 models were produced depicting the walking, running, and sprinting locomotion  
43 techniques, converted to computer aided design models and meshed. The drag varied with  
44 locomotion type. Walking had the lowest drag, followed-up by running and then  
45 sprinting. At the same velocities, the drag was larger in walking than in running and  
46 increased with velocity. In conclusion, drag varied with locomotion type. Walking had  
47 the lowest drag, followed-up by running and then sprinting. At the same velocities, the  
48 drag was larger in walking than in running and increased with velocity.

49 **Keywords:** Locomotion; CFD; Drag; Comparison; Aerodynamics.

## 50 **Introduction**

51 Human locomotion is one of the main topics of research in biomechanics [13]. Higher  
52 ability to walking and running [11], and jumping or squatting enhances a subject's  
53 physical capacity [36]. Generally, walking is used to move at low speed and running is  
54 used for faster movement. The "natural" walking speed in adults is close to 1.4 m/s [9].  
55 In the speed range between 1.38 and 2.22 m/s the transition to running usually occurs  
56 [9,36]. However, walking competitions may be up to 4.17 m/s in elite athletes.

57 Walking is generally distinguished from running in that only one foot at a time  
58 leaves contact with the ground and there is a period of double-support [40]. In contrast,  
59 running begins when both feet are off the ground with each step. Running can be used  
60 over a huge speed range; sprinting usually refers to running at maximum speed, which  
61 consequently can only be used over very short periods of time [21,40]. The average speed  
62 of the current 100m running world record is 10.43 m/s [38]. Fukuchi et al. [38] in a  
63 systematic review found "that speed affected the gait patterns of different populations  
64 with respect to the amplitude of spatiotemporal parameters, joint kinematics, joint  
65 kinetics, and ground reaction forces. Specifically, most of the values analyzed decreased  
66 at slower speeds and increased at faster speeds".

67 It has been reported that human running activity is more economical (i.e., leads to  
68 less energy expenditure) in comparison to walking at a given velocity [29]. Upon that, it  
69 is important to better understand the human locomotion. Scientists and analysts seek as  
70 much information as possible [30]. In literature, it is possible to find forecasts and  
71 comparisons between high-performance athletes [1], running efficiency analysis [34],  
72 physiological stress assessment [26], kinematic [13] and kinetic analyses [10]. That said,  
73 it is important to describe the factors that may explain the differences of land human  
74 locomotion techniques.

75 Over time, research was keen on assessing the resistance acting on an athlete  
76 during a race [6]. Drag ( $F_d$ ) is considered as one of the mechanical determinants  
77 underlying the human locomotion performance [1], [25], [26], [34]. It may contribute  
78 between 3% and 16% to the runner resistance and/or energy cost [25]. Nevertheless, it is  
79 important to improve the data information about land human locomotion, about drag  
80 variations for walking, running, and sprinting. That will allow to explain the differences  
81 between human locomotion regarding economy and performance.

82 The drag is typically dependent of velocity (drag: equation 1), the surface area,  
83 and the coefficient of drag (equation 2) is the variable that characterize the aerodynamic  
84 profile [17].

$$85 \quad F_d = \frac{1}{2} \rho A C_d v^2 \quad (1)$$

$$86 \quad C_d = \frac{F_d}{\frac{1}{2} \rho A C_d v^2} \quad (2)$$

87 Where,  $F_d$  is the drag,  $\rho$  is the air density,  $A$  is the surface area,  $C_d$  is the drag coefficient  
88 and  $v$  is the velocity.

89 Moreover, the coefficient of drag is dependent of Reynolds number (Re: equation  
90 3). Finally,  $R_e$  (equation 4) is dependent of the body length ( $L$ ), fluid flow velocity ( $U$ ),  
91 air density ( $\rho$ ) and fluid dynamic viscosity ( $\mu$ ).

$$92 \quad C_d = f(R_e) \quad (3)$$

$$93 \quad R_e = \frac{\rho L U}{\mu} \quad (4)$$

94 Based on equations 1 to 4 the body positions will affect the surface area, body  
95 length and fluid flow. These variations have already been studied in parasports [14], [19],  
96 [20], and cycling [16], [21]. Drag is expected to increase with speed and the variations  
97 will depend of the human locomotion type. Walking is performed at lower speeds than  
98 running and sprinting (being sprinting the fastest). Thus, it is expected that the drag will  
99 be lower at walking, followed by running and sprinting. However, it is possible to walk  
100 or run for a short range of velocities (2.22 m/s and 4.17 m/s) and no study was found  
101 comparing the drag variations for these two conditions. Analysing the drag variations by  
102 locomotion type and velocities will allow to better understand the locomotion economy  
103 and its possible contribution to sportsmen performance [25]. That said, describing the  
104 drag variations by locomotion type and velocity will be a highly valued topic to scientific  
105 community.

106 The drag in different types of locomotion can be assessed by analytical procedures  
107 [10], experimental techniques, such as wind tunnel [25] and numerical simulations [4].  
108 However, assessing the drag variations by these three main locomotion's (i.e., walking,  
109 running, and sprinting) were not found. In wind tunnel analysis, only drag coefficient was  
110 reported [25]. The estimations by analytical procedures do not control individual and  
111 environmental factors [6]. At least one study was founded assessing an athlete's drag by  
112 numerical simulations [4]. However, the authors only reported the pressure maps and  
113 pressure coefficients at 5.88 m/s. No study was founded assessing an athlete's drag at

114 different speeds. On top of that, to author's best knowledge, no study was founded  
115 assessing pressure, viscous and total drag in walking condition.

116 The numerical simulations by computer fluid dynamics (CFD) are presented as a  
117 valid and precise method in different sports such as cycling [4], [6], [16], [21], [39], ski-  
118 jumping [24] and wheelchair [22], [27]. The CFD presented concordant data in  
119 comparison with both analytical procedures and experimental testing [3], [18]. This  
120 methodology allows to assess the fluid flow behaviour around an athlete and control  
121 environmental conditions such as temperature and/or wind conditions [22]. Moreover,  
122 CFD allow to output data such as pressure, viscous and total drag [17]. The pressure drag  
123 is given by the pressure differences between the athlete front and back boundaries and in  
124 different sports has presented a higher contribution to total drag [21]. The viscous drag  
125 results from the interaction between the athlete and the fluid, where the fluid gets dragged  
126 to the athlete body, as less the fluid dragged to the athlete, less the viscous drag [3], [17].  
127 This methodology has been used with scanned participants into 3D models as the  
128 abovementioned studies. However, recent methodologies have created three dimensional  
129 geometries, representative of the real objects [18]. To the authors' best knowledge, this  
130 will be the first study with a human body three-dimensional created geometry.

131 Therefore, the aim of this study was to: (1) assess an athlete's aerodynamic  
132 characteristics in walking, running, and sprinting at different velocities, and; (2) compare  
133 such aerodynamic characteristics between walking and running. It was hypothesized that  
134 drag increases with speed, by human locomotion type, and that the walking drag would  
135 present higher values in comparison to running for the same velocities.

136

## 137 **Methods**

### 138 *Participant*

139 A recreational male runner was recruited to participate in this research. The subject had  
140 78 kg of mass, 1.83 m of height and 8 years of background in running. He was a  
141 recreational runner competing at local and national events such as mini, half and full  
142 marathons. An informed written consent was obtained beforehand. All the procedures  
143 were in accordance with Helsinki's declaration regarding research with human beings.  
144 The scientific committee of the Douro Higher Institute of Educational Sciences approved  
145 this research.

146

147

148 *3D model*

149 A male human representative 3D model was created with Blender (Blender 2.92, Blender  
150 Foundation, Amsterdam, Netherlands) based on the participant anthropometrics. A static  
151 walking position (Figure 1, left panel) was created. The geometry was exported as a  
152 stereolithography (.stl) file. The stl file was then imported to Geomagic Studio (3D  
153 System, Rock Hill, SC, USA) and corrections such as pikes reduction, smoothing and  
154 correct self-intercept faces were made. Upon that, the geometry was exported as a  
155 computer-aided design (CAD) model.

156 Based on the walking 3D geometry, a running (Figure 1, middle panel) and  
157 sprinting (Figure 1, right panel) models were created on Blender software (Blender  
158 Foundation 2.91.0, Amsterdam, Netherlands). The geometries were created in the mid-  
159 stance [3]. The walking participant CAD model was re-converted and exported to object  
160 (.obj) on Geomagic Studio (2013, 3D System, Rock Hill, SC, USA). This procedure was  
161 conducted because the original file was edited and corrected, then to obtain the final CAD  
162 model was obtained. The blender software allowed to create a skeleton for the arms, legs  
163 and torso. Thereafter, the shoulders, elbows, hips, knees and ankles were rotated. Thus  
164 the running model was obtained by changing the joints relative angles. Then, the  
165 geometry was exported as .stl, imported into Geomagic Studio where, after correction a  
166 CAD model of the running participant was created.



167

168 Figure 1. Walking, running and sprinting participant 3D geometries.

169

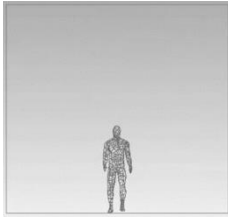
### 170 *Boundary Conditions*

171 On Ansys Design Module software (Ansys Workbench 16.0, Ansys Inc., Pennsylvania,  
172 PA, US), an enclosure (domain) was created with 4 m length, 4 m width and 4 m heigh.  
173 The geometry was placed at 1 m of distance from the inlet portion of the domain (Figure  
174 2). Then, the Boolean option subtracted the geometry from the domain, and the void was  
175 considered as a wall. After this procedure, the process was carried out on Ansys Meshing  
176 Module.

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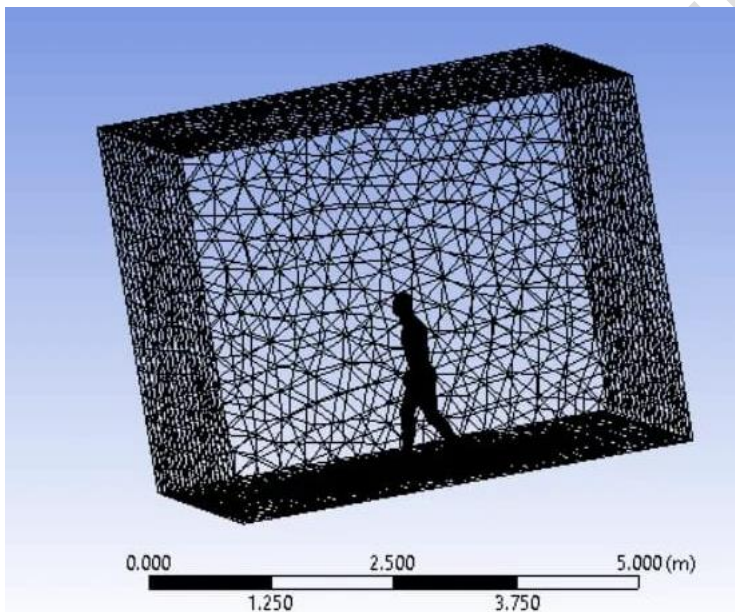


180

181 Figure 2. Domain around the geometry of the walking participant.

182

183 The surface area of the current computational domain has considered the CFD's  
184 criteria of the practice guidelines [8], [33] (figure 3). The domain was meshed with more  
185 than 42 million elements to represent the fluid as mentioned in previous reports [21]. The  
186 elements were prismatic and tetrahedral with cell size near  $25.72 \mu\text{m}$ . The cyclist  
187 geometry was at 2.5 m from the inlet portion for each simulation.



188

189 Figure 3. Projected surface area of the participant 3D model

190

191 The Ansys Meshing Module, enabled to generate a mesh/grid on the domain to  
192 represent the fluid around the runner. The domain was split with 4 million of prismatic  
193 and pyramidal elements. Near the runner boundaries a refined mesh was created based on  
194 automatic mesh settings. The final grid was chosen based on skewness, orthogonal  
195 quality, amount of elements and  $Y^+$  wall turbulence values. The mesh was fine near the  
196 athlete and coarser farther away from the model. That allowed to obtain accurate flow  
197 results near the athlete. The “proximity” and “curvature” options were selected for the  
198 grid generation. The best quality mesh was created with the “proximity and curvature”

199 option. The high ‘smoothing’ and a program-controlled ‘inflation’ setting were defined  
200 on the mesh generation.

201

### 202 *Numerical Simulations*

203 The Ansys Fluent Module (Ansys Workbench 16.0, Ansys Inc., Pennsylvania, PA, US)  
204 enables to solve the Reynolds-Average-Navier-Stokes equations. The Fluent CFD code,  
205 allows to transform instantaneous values into means by the finite volume method,  
206 introducing new variables from the turbulence models [18], [35]. In Fluent the available  
207 turbulence models are the standard k-epsilon, realizable k-epsilon, RNG and RST. In the  
208 present study the realizable k-epsilon turbulence model was chosen due to the  
209 computation economy provided [15]. At speeds below 2.22 m/s the laminar fluid flow  
210 was used. Realizable k-epsilon turbulence model was proceed using a RANS model based  
211 on previous cycling studies [18], [21]. Moreover, the Realizable k-epsilon showed higher  
212 computation economy in comparison to Standard k-epsilon, RST and RNG k-epsilon  
213 models [17], [19], [31].

214 The numerical simulations to assess drag were run between 0.28 m/s and 11.11  
215 m/s, with increments of 0.28 m/s. Typically, during sprinting events, athletes may reach  
216 the top speeds selected in this study [1]. At the inlet portion of the domain (-z direction),  
217 each speed was selected for the numerical simulations. The turbulence intensity was set  
218 as  $1 \times 10^{-6}\%$ , and the athlete was set with the scalable walls function [27]. The walking  
219 condition drag was assessed up to 4.17 m/s, the running condition between 4.17 m/s and  
220 6.39 m/s and, sprinting between 6.67 m/s and 11.11 m/s. The turbulence intensity was  
221 used based on previous studies [15], [37].

222 The SIMPLE algorithm was used for pressure-velocity coupling [15]. The  
223 convection terms, pressure and viscosity were defined as second order and the least  
224 squares cell-based technique computed the gradients [15], [31]. The moment and pressure  
225 were computed as first and second orders, respectively. The turbulent kinetic energy was  
226 set as first order upwind.

227

### 228 *Outputs*

229 After each simulation at a given velocity, drag (pressure drag, viscous drag and total drag)  
230 was extracted from the Ansys Fluent Software (Ansys Fluent 16.0, Ansys Inc.,  
231 Pennsylvania, USA). The coefficient of drag (pressure, viscous and total) was also  
232 extracted from the software [21].



233 The pressure drag ( $F_{dp}$ ) and the viscous drag ( $F_{dv}$ ) are expressed as:

234 
$$F_{dp} = \frac{1}{2}\rho AC_{dp}v^2 \quad (5)$$

235 
$$F_{dv} = \frac{1}{2}\rho AC_{dv}v^2 \quad (6)$$

236 Total drag was the sum of pressure and viscous drag components.

237 The pressure and viscous coefficient of drag are expressed as:

238 
$$C_{dp} = \frac{0.5pAv^2}{F_{dp}} \quad (7)$$

239 
$$C_{dv} = \frac{0.5pAv^2}{F_{dv}} \quad (8)$$

240 The total coefficient of drag was the sum of pressure and viscous coefficients.

241

### 242 *Statistical analysis*

243 Descriptive statistics, Shapiro-Wilk and Levene's tests were selected to assess normality  
244 and homogeneity. The drag value between running and walking for the 8 velocities  
245 (between 2.22 m/s and 4.17 m/s with increments of 0.28 m/s). Power curve estimation  
246 models for each condition were computed to determine the total drag trendline. Effect  
247 sizes were set as very weak if  $R^2 < 0.04$ , weak if  $0.04 \leq R^2 < 0.16$ , moderate if  $0.16 \leq R^2$   
248  $< 0.49$ , high if  $0.49 \leq R^2 < 0.81$  and very high if  $0.81 \leq R^2 < 1.0$  [27]. For all the tests, the  
249 statistical significance was set at 5%.

250

251

## 252 **Results**

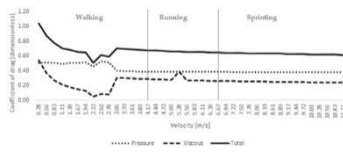
253 The results are presented for descriptive analysis of drag coefficients (pressure, viscous  
254 and total) and drag variations and contributions (pressure and viscous drag contribution  
255 to total drag by locomotion technique and across the different velocities. Afterwards, the  
256 drag coefficients and drag force comparisons between walking and running are presented.

257

### 258 *Drag coefficients and drag forces descriptive analyses*

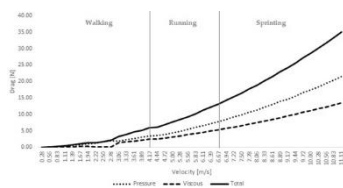
259 Figure 4 depicts the drag coefficients (pressure, viscous and total) at different velocities  
260 in the three human locomotion techniques. The drag coefficients varied between 0.61 and  
261 1.04, decreasing with velocity. It is possible to note that drag coefficient was prone to  
262 firstly drop (from 0.28 m/s to 2.5 m/s) and afterwards raised and kept reasonably constant  
263 (from 0.61 to 0.70). The pressure component varied between 0.38 and 0.52 and the  
264 viscous between 0.05 and 0.54. In the walking condition, the total drag coefficient ranged

265 between 0.51 and 1.04, running between 0.65 and 0.68 and, sprinting from 0.61 to 0.64.  
 266 Thus, overall the drag coefficients decreased with velocity.



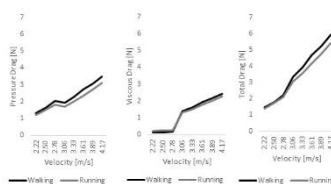
267  
 268 Figure 4. Pressure, viscous and total drag coefficient from 0.28 m/s to 11.11 m/s for the  
 269 three locomotion techniques (walking: 0.28 – 4.17 m/s; running: 4.17 – 6.39 m/s;  
 270 sprinting: 6.67 – 11.11 m/s).

271  
 272  
 273 Figure 5 depicts the drag variations at different velocities in the three types of locomotion  
 274 analysed. As expected, drag increased with velocity. The total drag varied between 0.50  
 275 and 34.97 N, The pressure drag component between 0.02 N and 21.47 N, and the viscous  
 276 drag component between 0.02 and 13.50 N. The pressure drag presented a higher  
 277 contribution in comparison to the viscous drag at the selected velocities for the three types  
 278 of human locomotion.



279  
 280 Figure 5. Pressure, viscous and total drag variations from 0.28 m/s to 11.11 m/s in the  
 281 three locomotion techniques (walking: 0.28 – 4.17 m/s; running: 4.17 – 6.39 m/s; and  
 282 sprinting: 6.67 – 11.11 m/s).

283  
 284  
 285 Regarding the possibility of walking or running at velocities between 2.22 m/s and 4.17  
 286 m/s. Comparing walking and running between 2.2 m/s and 4.17 m/s, walking presented  
 287 higher pressure and total drag in comparison to running (Figure 6). Also, walking had  
 288 lower viscous drag for speeds slower than 2.78 m/s; whereas, running showed lower  
 289 viscous drag at velocities faster than 3.08 m/s. The differences between running and  
 290 walking across different velocities ranged between 8% and 11% for pressure drag, 7%  
 291 and 37% for viscous drag, and 2% and 11% for total drag.

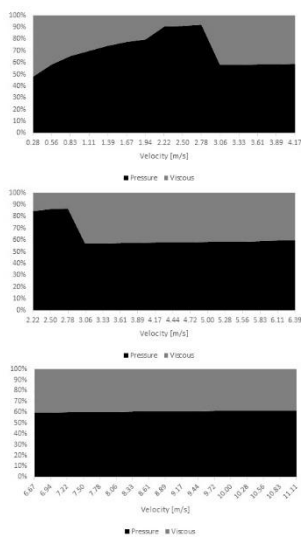


292

293 Figure 6. Pressure (left panel), viscous (middle panel) total drag (right panel) between  
294 2.22 m/s and 4.17 m/s when walking and running.

295

296 The contribution of pressure drag to total drag varied between 50% and 90%, and in the  
297 case of viscous drag between 10% and 50% in the walking condition (Figure 7, top panel).  
298 In the running condition, pressure drag contribution ranged from 60% to 90% (Figure 7,  
299 middle panel). As far as sprinting is concerned, pressure drag contribution was about 60%  
300 (Figure 7, bottom panel). Thus, the viscous drag contributions were between 10% and  
301 50% when walking, 10% and 40% running, and 40% sprinting. Therefore, the pressure  
302 drag was the components presenting the highest contribution to total drag.



303

304 Figure 7. Contribution of pressure and viscous drag to total drag at the selected  
305 velocities for walking (top panel), running (middle panel) and sprinting (bottom panel).

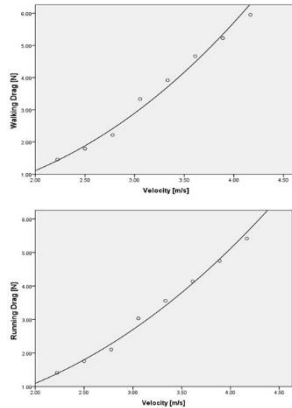
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307

308

### 309 *Walking and running comparisons*

310 Power models presented significant relation and very high effect sizes with velocity for  
311 walking ( $R^2 = 0.986$ ;  $p < 0.001$ ) and running ( $R^2 = 0.990$ ;  $p < 0.001$ ). The powerline for  
312 walking (Figure 7, top panel) and running (Figure 8, bottom panel) are presented in Figure  
313 8.



314

315 Figure 8. Trend lines (solid line) for drag variations and with velocity for walking (top  
316 panel) and running (bottom panel).

317

318 The drag variations equations for walking and running are presented in equations 4 and  
319 5, respectively:

320 
$$Y = 0.216 + x^{2.326} \tag{4}$$

321 
$$Y = 0.235 + x^{2.223} \tag{5}$$

322 As noted in the equations, the walking locomotion type is prone to increase more  
323 in comparison to running; where, the exponent is 0.103 higher for walking. That is only  
324 observed for the range of velocities between 2.22 and 4.17 m/s; where, the drag presents  
325 a power increasing with velocity.

326

327 **Discussion**

328 The aim of this study was to assess the pressure, viscous and total drag that acts on an  
329 athlete at different velocities by locomotion type and that the walking demanded higher  
330 drag in comparison to running for the same velocities. It was hypothesized that the  
331 pressure drag differs from the viscous drag and the drag increases with velocity and that  
332 running present higher drag in comparison to walking.

333 The numerical simulations by CFD were used to assess the drag. This  
334 methodology has been used in different sports [16], [18] and athletics [4], [5], [32]. The  
335 wind tunnel is the gold standard method to assess aerodynamics [25]. However, the CFD  
336 allow to breakdown the drag into pressure and viscous drag [17]. This is the first study  
337 assessing athlete's drag by CFD with a human body geometry created with 3D software's.  
338 Most of the studies have scanned the participants [2], [7], [17], [18], [28]. This study can

339 help to predict athlete's performance without the need to evaluate for data acquisition in  
340 real-time and face-to-face.

341 The coefficient of drag varied between 0.61 and 1.04 and mostly decreased with  
342 velocity. This is the first study reporting an athlete coefficient of drag variations by  
343 velocity and locomotion type (walking, running, and sprinting). The coefficient of drag  
344 variations was about 41%. We failed to find any study in running assessing coefficient of  
345 drag. However, in cycling it is possible to present Cd variations about 37% [21]. In a  
346 cylinder, the coefficient of drag is possible to vary about 69% [35]. That said, regarding  
347 the different geometries of the walking, running, and sprinting and in comparison, to  
348 cyclists and a cylinder, the variations of 41% are in agreement with literature.  
349 Additionally, for velocities between 2.22 m/s and 3.33 m/s the coefficient of drag varied  
350 (decreased, increased, decreased and increased) till reach a trend to diminish with  
351 velocity. This is possible to explain by the drag crisis phenomenon where is possible to  
352 note variations in coefficient of drag at different velocities [21].

353 The drag varied between 0.05 N and 5.95 N for walking and 1.41 N and 39.97 N  
354 for running. The pressure drag varied from 0.02 and 3.50 for walking and 1.19 N to 21.47  
355 N for running. For the viscous drag, for walking varied between 0.02 N and 2.45 N and  
356 0.21 N and 13.49 for running. The pressure drag had a higher contribution in comparison  
357 to viscous drag for the selected velocities. The drag for elite runners is about 0.5 N/Kg  
358 [1]. That said, considering the participant of the current study, for a participant with 78  
359 Kg, the drag may be about 39 N. The results are in accordance with the current study. In  
360 another study [4], the authors presented a drag area for one runner of 0.272 m<sup>2</sup> at 5.88  
361 m/s. Assuming this drag area for the current study settings, the drag estimation vary  
362 between 0.01 N and 21.69 N. However, for the same condition (5.88 m/s) the estimations  
363 are 6.08 N. In the present study, at 5.83 m/s the drag was 10.25 N. The results were  
364 slightly above the literature. That can be explained by: (i) the inter-individual differences  
365 between participants; (ii) different turbulence models; (iii) numerical simulations inputs  
366 (velocity and temperature).

367 The pressure drag contribution for total drag were between 50% and 90% across  
368 different speeds. The pressure drag contribution increased with speed. This is supported  
369 with literature in different sports. In wheelchair racing, the pressure drag contribution to  
370 total drag was about 55% [17]. Also in cycling [15], pressure drag contribution to total  
371 drag is higher than 75% at typical mean speed (11.11 m/s). To the authors' best  
372 knowledge, no study assessed total, pressure and viscous drag in running or walking

373 athletes. However, the higher contribution of pressure drag was expected based on sports  
374 aerodynamics literature.

375 Finally, in the present study, the running condition presented lower drag in  
376 comparison to the walking condition. This was also supported by the power curve models,  
377 where the equation exponent was higher for walking. That is possible to explain by a more  
378 vertical position during the walking when comparison to running [12]. Moreover, the  
379 exponential values were in agreement with theoretical model where drag is dependent of  
380 the squared velocity ( $F_d = 0.5\rho AC_d v^2$ ) and the power curves were 2.362 and 2.223  
381 exponentials for walking and running [38]. However, less drag may result in runners  
382 lower energy cost and the literature reported that running is more economic than walking  
383 at specific speed [29].

384 Altogether, this is the first trial assessing walking and running aerodynamics by  
385 CFD. It was noted that, for the same range of velocities (2.22 m/s – 4.17 m/s) typically  
386 reached by athletes, the drag was higher for walking. The results of this study allow to  
387 support that, regarding aerodynamics, running is a more economic human locomotion in  
388 comparison to walking. Several studies in sports sciences [5], [28] focus more on drag  
389 analysis precisely because it is more useful for analysts, coaches and runners [5]. Since  
390 this work is more directed to sports scientists, information related to pressure maps,  
391 coefficients, streamlines are of higher importance to physics and mechanical engineering  
392 researcher [17], [18]. Based on our study, coaches may estimate more training variables  
393 such as power or energy cost [21]. That may also support the reason why running is  
394 considered a more economic locomotion in comparison to walking [29]. Upon that, long  
395 distance athletes may use running for sessions' volume (i.e., time) based trainings for  
396 lesser aerodynamic resistance. However, this study has some limitation: (i) only one  
397 participant of his competition level was recruited; (ii) only one environmental condition  
398 (temperature was tested); (iii) the mechanical loads were not estimated; (iv) the energy  
399 cost was not controlled. That said, this paper is specially an aerodynamics approach.  
400 Despite the criteria for the definition of the turbulence model, it is pertinent to emphasize  
401 that the results are in accordance with what could be expected from the literature [26],  
402 [35]. Additionally, as no wind tunnel comparisons were made, the parameters related to  
403 the numerical simulations may have different results with different turbulence models and  
404 different inputs to the numerical simulation [15], [16]. Saying also that it is necessary,  
405 perform comparisons between different turbulence models and in this study were not done  
406 [3], [21]. Moreover, this was the first analysis without the need for face-to-face real-time

407 evaluations. Further studies are needed to clarify the turbulence model used or the size of  
408 the computational domain using numerical methodology in this gait analysis context.

409

#### 410 **Conclusion**

411 This study allowed to conclude that the drag increased with velocity for walking, running  
412 and sprinting. The walking presented for the selected range of velocities lower drag,  
413 followed by running and sprinting. Additionally, the pressure drag presented a higher  
414 contribution to total drag in comparison to the viscous drag. Regarding the comparison  
415 between walking and running, the running presented lower total, pressure and viscous  
416 drag in comparison to walking for the selected speeds. Finally, based on aerodynamics  
417 (total drag), it is possible to argue that, the running is a more economic human locomotion  
418 type in comparison to walking up to 11%. Drag analysis was a useful numerical  
419 simulation for analysts, coaches and runners.

ACCEPTED

420 **References**

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