

An Introduction to Biomechanics

Solids and Fluids, Analysis and Design

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An Introduction to Biomechanics

Solids and Fluids, Analysis and Design

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*To my daughters,
Kaitlyn Leigh and Sarah Elizabeth,
I am so proud of you.*
J.D. Humphrey



*To my loving parents, Stephen and Mary O'Rourke,
and sister, Shelly O'Rourke,
for giving meaning and purpose to my life.*
S.L. O'Rourke



Preface to the Second Edition

We have very much appreciated the overwhelmingly positive response to this book by professors and students alike at universities across the USA and abroad. The goals and approach of this Second Edition thus remain as originally presented: to motivate the need for continuum biomechanics across diverse areas of study, to present a consistent introductory approach to the biomechanics of solids and fluids and their interactions, and to illustrate this general approach via numerous Examples and Exercises. This Second Edition has allowed us, however, to add new “Observations” that highlight further implications of mechanics within biology and medicine, to add a new Appendix, to update the references, to include additional Exercises, and to correct some typographical errors. Perhaps most importantly, this Second Edition has allowed us to add at the end of each chapter a “Chapter Summary” to help emphasize general points of importance as well as to reinforce the consistency of the big picture ideas across chapters.

It was just over a decade ago that we wrote this book with great excitement and we are very pleased to report that research and training in biomechanics continues to be universally recognized as both exciting and vitally important. Traditional areas of research within biomechanics continue to contribute to basic science as well as translational research and development whereas new areas continue to emerge with great promise. For example, the US National Committee on Biomechanics (*USNCB*) recently sponsored three Frontiers Meetings that highlighted special opportunities for biomechanics in areas ranging from developmental biology to the fight against cancer and infections. Since the first printing of this book, the National Science Foundation has added another funding program entitled, Biomechanics and Mechanobiology, and a Federal Interagency Modeling and Analysis Group (IMAG), led by Grace Peng, Ph.D., has been established to emphasize across many funding agencies the importance of multiscale mathematical modeling in biology and medicine, which prominently includes biomechanics. Hence, in areas new and old alike, we continue to see the importance of the fundamentals of biomechanics in the

formulation and solution of diverse biological and medical problems of importance. We thus continue to encourage the reader to focus on learning the fundamentals well and, of course, to enjoy the journey.

Jay D. Humphrey
New Haven, CT, USA

Preface to the First Edition

Biomechanics aims to explain the mechanics of life and living. From molecules to organisms, everything must obey the laws of mechanics.

—Y.C. Fung (1990)

It is purported that Leonardo da Vinci once said, “by means of this [mechanics], all animated bodies that have movement perform all their actions.” Although this assertion is obviously overstated, it serves to remind us that scientists have long thought that mechanics plays an extremely important role in governing biological as well as physical actions. Indeed, perhaps one of the most exciting recent discoveries in cell biology is that of mechanotransduction. It is now known that many cell types express different genes (i.e., perform different functions) in response to even small changes in their mechanical environment. Because cells are the fundamental structural and functional units of all living things, the importance of mechanics in biology and medicine is thereby far reaching! One goal of this book is to serve as an introduction to a few of the many, many applications of biomechanics—one of the cornerstones of biomedical engineering. Before proceeding, however, a few words on the scope and philosophy of approach.

There are five general areas of mechanics: discrete, continuum, statistical, quantum, and relativistic. Each is important, but this text focuses on biomechanics from a continuum perspective, which we will see embraces many aspects of biomedical engineering at various length and time scales.

Introductory textbooks on mechanics sometimes give the wrong impression that the subject is primarily a collection of solutions to individual problems—nothing could be further from the truth. As a branch of classical physics, continuum mechanics is a deductive science founded upon a few basic postulates and concepts through which all problems must be formulated and then solved. Mechanics should be recognized, therefore, as a consistent, focused approach to the solution of classes of problems rather than as a collection of special results. Another goal of this textbook is to introduce the student to biosolid and biofluid mechanics such that it is the underlying, consistent

approach that is learned and reinforced throughout. Indeed, the ultimate goal here is to enable the reader to formulate and solve real-life problems, many of which have yet to be identified. In other words, the primary goal of a student should not be to learn how to solve the specific problems (illustrative examples and exercises) in this text; we, as a community, already know their solution. Textbook problems should be used simply as a means to practice the underlying *approach of mechanics*, to gain confidence in formulating and solving problems, and to develop intuition.

Although this philosophy of learning the fundamentals is as old as mechanics itself, it has at no time in our history been more important. With continued advances in computer technology and engineering software, the biomechanicist will have increasingly remarkable experimental, computational, and design tools at his/her disposal to address the incredibly complex real-life problems of biomechanics. The only way to ensure that these tools are used well, rather than misused, is to understand the underlying general approach as well as the specific assumptions (with associated limitations) within a given formulation. For example, a finite element program should not be treated as a black box capable of finding any solution of interest; rather, it should be used cautiously as a tool only by one who understands how the program actually works. Toward this end, note one caveat. It has been appropriately said that undergraduates should be told the truth, nothing but the truth, but *not* the whole truth. Why not the whole truth? From a purist perspective, we do not know the whole truth, scientific knowledge being relative to current advances. From a practical perspective, however, continuum biomechanics has tremendous breadth and depth and it is impossible in an introductory course to scratch the surface of the whole truth. Therefore the interested student is strongly encouraged to pursue intermediate and advanced study in biomechanics, which will successively reveal more and more of the beauty and, indeed, the power of biomechanics. Biomechanics is a lifelong pursuit, one with many rewards.

Whereas graduate courses on biomechanics are often best taught using a problem-based paradigm, we suggest that an introductory course on biomechanics should be taught using a traditional discipline-based paradigm; that is, graduate courses are often best taught by focusing on a particular tissue, organ, or system, or, alternatively, on a specific disease or treatment modality, and then by bringing to bear all tools (experimental, computational, theoretical, biological) that aid in the solution of that class of problems. An introduction to biomechanics should be different, however. To see the overall approach used in mechanics, it is best to introduce all of the general tools (e.g., concept of stress, strain, and equilibrium) and then to illustrate their use via multiple similar problems that build in complexity but continually reinforce the same approach. Hence, this book is divided according to approach (e.g., via chapters on beam theory and Navier–Stokes solutions), not according to areas of research such as cardiovascular, musculoskeletal, pulmonary, or cell

mechanics. Therefore, we employ illustrative problems from various fields of study, often within single chapters.

As a first course in biomechanics, the primary prerequisites are the sequence of courses on calculus for engineers (including vectors, which are reviewed in Chap. 7) and some basic biology (reviewed in Chap. 1); many students will likely have had a course in engineering statics (briefly reviewed in Chap. 1), which will help but it is not necessary. Although a course on differential equations would also be helpful (briefly reviewed in Chap. 8), related methods needed herein will be reviewed at the appropriate time. Given the availability of personal computers and useful software packages, the student will be asked to obtain numerical solutions to many exercises.

I would like to close with a quote from the 1998 Bioengineering Consortium (BECON) Report of the National Institutes of Health:

The success of reductionist and molecular approaches in modern medical science has led to an explosion of information, but progress in integrating information has lagged . . . Mathematical models provide a rational approach for integrating this ocean of data, as well as providing deep insight into biological processes.

Biomechanics provides us with a means to model mathematically many biological behaviors and processes; thus biomechanics will continue to play a central role in both basic and applied research. The key, therefore, is to learn well the basic approaches.

Jay D. Humphrey
College Station, TX, USA

Comments from a Student to a Student

Although one tends to teach the way he or she was taught, this textbook is designed to be different. For example, rather than introduce biomechanics through a sequence of increasingly more involved and detailed problems, with each illustrating new foundational concepts, we choose to introduce the basic concepts first and then to illustrate and reinforce the use of these concepts through the consideration of increasing more complex problems. In addition, rather than have two professors coauthor the book from their two perspectives, we chose to have a professor and student coauthor the book from their two perspectives—teacher and learner. Ms. O’Rourke completed a sequence of three biomechanics courses at Texas A&M University (BMEN 302 Biosolid Mechanics, BMEN 421 Biofluid Mechanics, and BMEN 689 Cardiovascular Mechanics) offered by Professor Humphrey. The goal of this joint effort, therefore, is to present the material in a way that a professor feels is most beneficial and yet in a way that a student feels is most easily assimilated. Here, therefore, consider comments from a student to a student.

When taking my first course from Professor Humphrey “Biosolid Mechanics,” he explained mechanics in such a way that made sense to me. He introduced the idea of a continuum and that classes of problems that fall within the realm of continuum mechanics, whether it be solid or fluid mechanics, are governed by the same fundamental relations. The backbone of mechanics was revealed and the basic/fundamental equations were derived from a single perspective. This introductory text introduces these basic concepts, which are essential to all problems in biomechanics. It presents a unified approach that helps the student to understand and learn the basic concepts and allows one to build upon these concepts to formulate and solve problems of increasing difficulty.

The concepts introduced in Part II of this text are reinforced in Part III, as we apply the same governing equations to different classes of problems, again deriving necessary equations as we move along. As a student, I found the course in “Biofluid Mechanics” to be easier than “Biosolid Mechanics” partly because

I had already learned the general approach to formulating and solving problems. In these ways, I feel that this book reflects the positive aspects from my learning experiences at Texas A&M.

All in all, as a student, I appreciated having a unified problem-solving process presented to me and reinforced throughout each course as well as knowing from where the basic/fundamental equations were derived. I also appreciated reference to real-life problems for motivation, and derivations that skipped very few steps. This book reflects these ideas, upon which one can build.

Sherry L. O'Rourke
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Acknowledgments

First Edition

We especially thank two Texas A&M University undergraduate students, Anne Price and Elizabeth Wang, who worked diligently for many months to help type much of the manuscript, compose the figures, and proofread the text. Some of the figures are reprinted from an earlier book, *Cardiovascular Solid Mechanics*, and were drawn by another undergraduate student, William Rogers. Numerous graduate students (G. David, C. Farley, R. Gleason, M. Heistand, J. Hu, S. Na, and P. Wells) proofread portions of the text, which is gratefully acknowledged, and Professor Larry A. Taber from Washington University read portions of the text and provided valuable input. JDH would also like to thank daughters Kaitlyn and Sarah, and wife Rita, for continued understanding and support. We also thank Dr. John H. Linehan and The Whitaker Foundation for providing partial financial support to complete this first edition through their Teaching Materials Program. The American Heart Association, Army Research Office, National Institutes of Health, National Science Foundation, Texas Advanced Research Program, and The Whitaker Foundation funded numerous research projects from which some of the material was taken. Finally, we thank Paula M. Callaghan, Senior Life Sciences Editor at Springer New York, for wonderful encouragement, suggestions, and support throughout.

Second Edition

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Summary of Observations

In each chapter, we attempt (1) to motivate further the need for biomechanics via the identification of illustrative biological and clinical problems, (2) to provide a consistent approach to the formulation and solution of diverse biomechanical problems that is easily remembered, and (3) to illustrate such needs and approaches via numerous Examples and Exercises. In addition, we intersperse throughout Chaps. 2–11 various “Observations” to encourage the reader to pause and think about further topics within mechanics and biology that are not addressed in detail but are nevertheless important to biomechanics. Indeed, we hope that the reader develops a habit of pausing at other times to consider additional areas where biomechanics can and should be applied or other aspects of the mechanics that can and should be developed or extended to address better the diversity of problems that arise in biology and medicine. Toward this end, note the following *Observations*:

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