



Stature Estimation from the Hand Length: Testing Cross-Population Methods

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ODHAD VÝŠKY POSTAVY Z DÉLKY RUKY: TESTOVÁNÍ TRANSPOPULAČNÍCH METOD

ABSTRAKT Délka ruky je vhodným tělesným rozměrem pro odhad výšky postavy ve forenzní antropologii. Takový odhad výšky postavy je však vždy ohrožen populační specifičností běžně užívaných regresních rovnic vypočítaných metodou nejmenších čtverců. Na základě dříve publikovaných statistických parametrů (průměrné hodnoty délky ruky a výšky postavy, regresní koeficienty) z 87 publikovaných studií (212 populačních vzorků) jsme metodami průměrování regresních koeficientů a redukované hlavní osy vytvořili soubor nových transpopulačních rovnic pro odhad výšky postavy z délky ruky. Následně jsme ověřovali přesnost odhadů z těchto nových rovnic na pěti referenčních vzorcích z české, slovenské a bosenské populace a porovnali jejich výsledky s výsledky modelu metody nejmenších čtverců, vyvinuté na českém vzorku. Výsledky ukázaly, že navržené transpopulační rovnice nejsou vhodné pro odhad výšky postavy z délky ruky, pokud nejsou omezeny např. na geograficky užší populační skupinu (v naší studii Evropané slovanského původu). Principiálně obdobné konsekvence doporučujeme zvážit také u odhadů u délek kostí při hodnocení výšky postavy na základě forenzních nálezů skeletu.

KLÍČOVÁ SLOVA délka ruky; výška postavy; odhad výšky postavy; regresní rovnice; regresní metoda redukované hlavní osy; průměrné regresní koeficienty

ABSTRACT It has been established that hand length is a suitable parameter for stature estimation in forensic anthropology. However, such estimation is always compromised by population specificity of ordinary regression equations. Based on previously published statistical parameters (average values, regression coefficients) from 87 studies (212 different samples) available in literature, we developed a set of new cross-population equations for estimation of body height from the hand length (Reduced Major Axis Models, Average Regression Models). Subsequently, we tested the accuracy and preciseness of these new equations on five testing samples of primary measurements originating from Czech, Slovak and Bosnian populations and compared the height estimates with the results of traditional Least Squares methods developed on a Czech sample. The results showed that cross-population based models are not suitable for body height estimation from hand length unless they are limited to a narrower geographically confined population group (in our study Europeans of Slavic origin). We propose considering principally similar consequences when estimating the body height from a bone length in forensic skeletal cases.

KEY WORDS hand length; body height; stature estimation; regression equations; Reduced Major Axis regression method; average regression coefficients

Supplementary file containing all numerical results of testing procedures is [available at this page](#).

INTRODUCTION

Stature estimation represents an important part of biological profiling in the process of anthropological analysis in forensic identification (Jasuja – Singh 2004; Krishan – Sharma 2007; Goswami et al. 2016) or other osteological applications (Bedić et al. 2013; Polcerová – Králík 2016). In forensic investigation, occasionally, except for hand prints (Krishan et al. 2015; Paulis 2015; Zulkifly et al. 2018), body height might be estimated from amputated limbs or their parts (hands, fingers, feet) obtained after natural disasters (earthquake, tsunami), terroristic attacks, accidents (airplane crash, wars), murders etc. (Jasuja – Singh 2004; Chikhalkar et al. 2010; Krishan et al. 2010; Pal et al. 2016).

Stature estimation is usually based on known relation between body height and size of a body part used for estimation (Özaslan et al. 2012; Nor et al. 2013; Rexhepi – Brestovci 2015; Ahmed and Taha 2016; Mahakizadeh et al. 2016; Brits et al. 2017; Kyllonen et al. 2017; Torimitsu et al. 2017; Howley et al. 2018; Reynolds et al. 2018) including hands found for example on a crime scene. Within the hand measurements, hand width and hand length are the most used parameters for estimation of body height (Krishan – Sharma 2007; Agnihotri et al. 2008; Rastogi et al. 2008; Chikhalkar et al. 2010; Özaslan et al. 2012; Ahmed 2013; Jee – Yun 2015; Paulis 2015; Uhrová et al. 2015). Various length measurements of the hand are more reliable for stature estimation than hand width measurements and circumferences (Akhlaghi et al. 2012; Özaslan et al. 2012; Ahmed 2013; Jee – Yun 2015; Pal et al. 2016). Jee and Yun (2015) stated that the most relevant for body height estimation is hand length. From the most frequently measured hand dimensions the hand length correlates the most with body height (Özaslan et al. 2006, 2012; Krishan – Sharma 2007; Habib – Kamal 2010; Akhlaghi et al. 2012; Ishak et al. 2012; Ahmed 2013; Paulis 2015; Uhrová et al. 2015; Jee and Yun 2016; Pal et al. 2016). Standard error of estimate (SEE) of equations for stature estimation from hand length is mostly lower than SEE of other dimensions of the hand (Krishan – Sharma 2007; Rastogi et al. 2008; Habib – Kamal 2010; Ishak et al. 2012; Özaslan et al. 2012; Ahmed 2013; Jee – Yun 2015; Uhrová et al. 2015; Pal et al. 2016). SEEs from the hand measurements are comparable or only slightly higher with SEEs computed from long bones that are obviously used in forensic anthropology (Dayal et al. 2008; Mahakkanukrauh et al. 2011), and comparable with errors of estimates from other body measurements (Özaslan et al. 2003, 2006; Mahakizadeh et al. 2016). It follows that hand length is a suitable parameter for estimation of body height.

Sometimes the hand length cannot be measured due to damage to the hand or missing fingers. Then, other hand measurements are used for estimation of body height, e.g. the width of the wrist (Özaslan et al. 2012; Ahmed 2013; Jee – Yun 2015), finger length (Akhlaghi et al. 2012; Ishak et al. 2012; Krishan et al. 2012; Sen et al. 2014; Jee – Yun 2015; Pal et al. 2016), length of individual phalanges (Jasuja – Singh 2004; Habib – Kamal 2010; Jee – Yun 2015; Paulis 2015), palm length (Ishak et al. 2012; Jee – Yun 2015; Pal et al. 2016), circumference of

fingers, wrist circumference, and palm circumference (Jee – Yun 2015). Estimation of body height from these measurements is less accurate than estimation from the hand length. Therefore, when different hand measures are available for estimation of body height, hand length is the preferred option (Jee – Yun 2015).

We can add that also whole handprints, fingerprints (Ishak et al. 2012; Paulis 2015; Moorthy – Yin 2016) and epidermal ridge breadth or ridge density from fingerprints were used for stature estimation (Cummins et al. 1941; Kamp et al. 1999; Mundorff et al. 2014). For the sake of completeness, relationships of the body height with some hand proportions have been found, e.g. ratio between the length of the 2nd and 4th finger, but correlations are low and differ between studies (Rahman et al. 2005; Ibegbu et al. 2012; Ranson et al. 2015). From the methodological point of view, the most frequently applied approach to the stature estimation from the body parts was a simple linear regression based on the least squares (LS) criterion for minimizing residual variance. The estimated variable (dependent variable plotted on y-axis) is usually the height and it is estimated from the independent variable (plotted on the x-axis) which is a measurement on a body part (here mostly hand length). This procedure represents the most accurate unbiased linear estimation of the dependent variable (body height). This is true, however, only when applied just to the original sample, i.e. the one on which the linear regression equation was calculated. Any application to another sample can be seriously flawed and the estimates might be practically inapplicable since errors can reach tens of centimeters (Sjøvold 1990; Malina 1994; Özaslan et al. 2006, 2012; Raxter et al. 2008; Duyar – Pelin 2010; Zeman – Králík 2012a; Uhrová et al. 2015).

In skeletal samples, a cross-population method for stature estimation was developed by Sjøvold (1990), who applied the method of Reduced Major Axis (“organic correlation”) to population mean values (Rösing 1988) and the resulting regression equations were relatively “population-free” (Zeman – Králík 2012b). The resulting estimates are more accurate when applied to any case regardless of population, however, at the cost of lower precision comparing to a LS regression equation based on an appropriate population sample. Since population origins can be rarely known in cases of separated body parts similar population-free method might be probably useful also for the stature estimations from the hand measurements. To our best knowledge, so far, no such method has been developed.

GOALS OF THE STUDY

The main objectives of the study were to develop a cross-population method(s) for the estimation of human stature from the hand length by combining published data, test the method(s) to several empirically recorded samples of the European populations and to compare the estimates with estimates based on traditional LS regression methods.

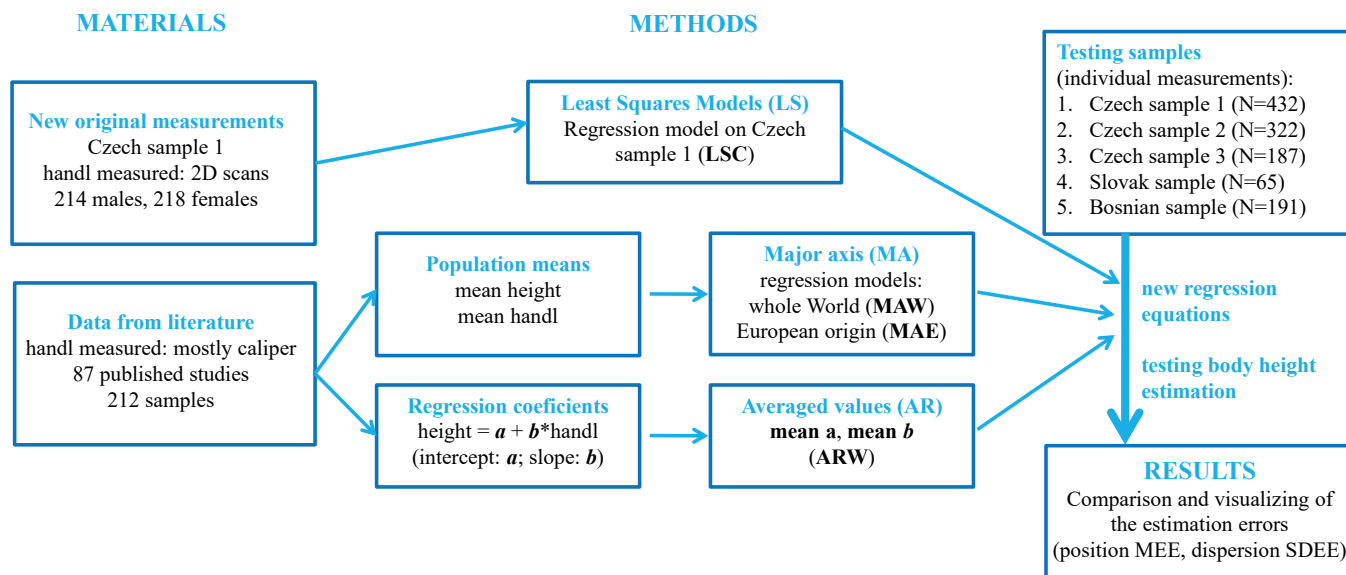


Fig. 1 Scheme of the study; height – body height, handl – hand length

MATERIALS AND METHODS

The testing strategy of our study (Fig. 1) was based on the following procedures. The first was searching literature for studies focused on stature estimation from the hand length and with secondary data (mean values and/or regression parameters) available for our computations of cross-population methods. The second were new original measurements for development of new population specific method. The third was testing new methods on testing samples (newly measured data or re-used from previous studies).

Resources for this study included several types of data:

A. Published literature sources

The first data source represented published studies addressing the relationship between the hand length and body height. Literature resources were searched in scientific portals, databases and repositories, including Science Direct, NCBI, ResearchGate, Google Scholar and others. We collected 87 published studies with 212 different samples included (when divided by sex and body side). From these studies we extracted population statistical parameters for *mean values* of the body height and the hand length. In the majority of the studies, body height was measured by means of standard anthropometric devices (anthropometer) and the hand length was mostly measured directly on hands by means of sliding calipers. At the same time, values for regression coefficients of the body height on the hand length were recorded, specifically *intercept* and *slope* of the regression line (LS regression). Some of the samples offered mean values, some offered population parameters and some both types of the secondary data. Since different measurement units were used in some studies, we also converted units of all studies to millimeters. Secondary data of

published population parameters were used for constructing/developing cross-population models/equations for stature estimation from the hand length. The whole table of the applied population samples is available in the Appendix 1 and 2, including references.

B. Czech population sample – new measurements

The second source of data represented individual data of body height and hand length measured anew on a Czech population sample collected in years 2012 – 2016. This sample included 432 healthy young adults (214 males, 218 females, mostly university students) ranging from 17 to 35 years of age. Hand length was measured on images from a 2D desktop document scanner. A part of the sample was previously used in studies of the main authors (Ingrová et al. 2017). Czech sample 1 simultaneously represents *testing sample 1* (see below). We used this sample for constructing new Least Squares regression models for stature estimation from the hand length.

C. Testing samples

The testing samples represented measured body height and hand length data acquired from 5 samples of different nationalities:

Testing sample 1: Czech sample 1 was described above (B).

Testing sample 2: Czech sample 2 included 322 young adults (161 males and 161 females) from Brno Growth Study (Bouchalová 1987) conducted in years 1961 – 1980 and ranging from 15.5 to 26 years of age. Hand length (on the right hands only) was measured directly on hands by means of caliper.

Testing sample 3: Czech sample 3 was represented by 187 secondary school students (90 males and 97 females) ranging from 15.6 to 19.9 years of age. Research took

Testing sample	sex	N	age (years)				height (mm)				right hand length (mm)				left hand length (mm)			
			mean	min	max	SD	mean	min	max	SD	mean	min	max	SD	mean	min	max	SD
1 Czech sample 1	m	214	21.55	17.00	35.00	3.84	1808	1642	2017	68	192.8	167.9	224.2	9.9	193.2	169.2	224.8	9.7
	f	218	21.25	17.00	33.00	3.35	1673	1523	1830	60	175.3	158.6	202.0	8.1	174.9	157.9	201.6	8.2
2 Czech sample 2	m	161	22.19	15.50	26.00	2.50	1809	1660	1975	64	197.4	173	220	8.3	NA	NA	NA	NA
	f	161	21.70	16.00	25.00	2.36	1669	1505	1850	65	180.2	160	202	7.7	NA	NA	NA	NA
3 Czech sample 3	m	90	17.40	15.58	19.83	1.01	1780	1636	1933	66	186.0	162.9	206.7	8.2	187.2	162.6	218.7	9.5
	f	97	17.45	15.67	19.92	0.94	1668	1515	1844	64	171.5	155.2	190.4	8.0	172.0	155.5	191.8	8.3
4 Slovak sample	m	30	22.27	19.00	31.00	3.14	1813	1668	1921	64	192.1	177.9	206.7	7.7	193.0	177.4	212.2	8.0
	f	35	22.00	18.00	27.00	2.13	1658	1530	1835	57	172.9	161.9	195.4	7.9	172.2	159.3	193.7	8.1
5 Bosnian sample	m	100	17.49	16.00	18.00	0.59	1826	1639	2015	64	196.6	177.6	217.4	8.2	196.4	175.3	218.8	8.1
	f	91	17.64	17.00	19.00	0.53	1683	1545	1898	60	179.6	159.0	218.3	8.3	179.1	158.9	220.1	8.3

Table 1 Descriptive statistics of testing samples

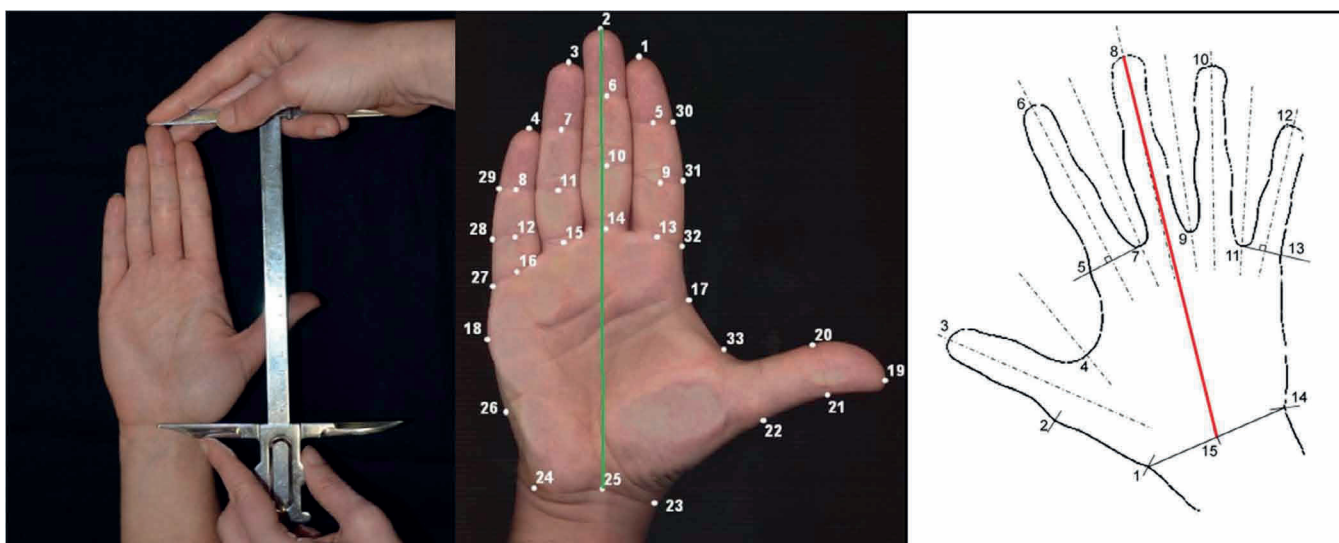


Fig. 2 Three methods of the hand length measurement used in this study. Direct measurement by using of sliding caliper (left), digital measurement on an image recorded by a 2D scanner (middle), and digital measurement on scanned hand contour on paper (right).

place in the year 2002. Hand length was measured on contours on paper.

Testing sample 4: Slovak sample was collected during present study organized in years 2012 – 2016. This sample included 65 healthy young adults (30 males and 35 females, mostly university students) ranging from 18 to 31 years of age. Hand length was measured on images from 2D scanner. A part of the sample was previously used in studies of the main authors (Ingrová et al. 2017).

Testing sample 5: Bosnian sample included 191 high school students (100 males and 91 females measured in year 2016) ranging from 16 to 19 years of age. This research was part of the study by Grasgruber et al. (2017) and the hand length was measured on images from a 2D scanner.

Descriptive statistics of testing samples are shown in Table 1. Data of Czech sample 2 and 3 were available from the Archive of the Department of Anthropology, Faculty of Science, Masaryk University, Kotlářská 2, 611 37 Brno, Czech Republic. Czech sample 1, Slovak and Bosnian samples were part of the project titled *Size and Proportional Relationships of Hand*

Morphology and the Human Body which was approved in 2012 by the Ethics Committee of Masaryk University in Brno. Participation in the research was anonymous and all participants signed informed consent. All data were expressed in millimeters. When the original published data used different units, we transferred the values also to millimeters to be comparable throughout the study.

Methods for the Czech sample and testing samples

Height measurements

Body height was measured in a standard position using a calibrated anthropometer with the precision of 1 mm according to Prokopec (1967).

Hand measurements

Hand length was measured using three methods: on the images from a 2D scanner, by means of a sliding caliper and on hand contours on paper (Fig. 2).

A. *The caliper measurement:* Hand length (on the right

hand) was measured as the distance between the anthropometric landmarks *interstylion* and *dactylion* of the third finger by means of sliding caliper with the precision of 1 mm (Prokopec 1967). This method was used on the Czech sample 2.

B. Images from a 2D scanner: both hands of each participant were scanned using the desktop scanner Canon CanoScan 4400F. Hands were scanned from palmar view in specific position: the fingers were pulled together with the thumb extended to its natural maximum. In these images, 33 landmarks were digitized in the *tpsDig2* program (Rohlf 2013). From these landmarks were chosen landmarks 2 – a point corresponding to projection of *dactylion* of the third finger and landmark 25 – a point on a carpal flexion crease approximately in the middle of the wrist) were selected. From these two landmarks, the hand length was calculated in the PAST software (Hammer et al. 2001). This method was used in the Czech sample 1, Slovak and Bosnian samples.

C. Contours of hands: Hand shapes were recorded by outlining each hand with a regular pencil on a sheet of white paper. Contours were scanned by a 2D scanner and on the image landmarks were digitized in the computer program *tpsDig2* (Rohlf, 2013). The hand length was measured as a distance between points 8 (cross-section between axis of the 3rd finger and its distal contour) and 15 (midpoint between landmarks 1 and 14, landmark 1 represents the highest curvature of the contour corresponding to the space between *processus styloideus radii* and *os trapezium*, landmark 14 represents the highest curvature of the contour corresponding to the space between the proximal end of the 5th metacarpal bone, *os hamatum* and *os triquetrum*. This method was used in the Czech sample 3.

Computation of the newly developed equations

Reduced Major Axis Models (MA)

For the first type of models, population mean values for stature and the hand length were used. Model II simple linear regression of the mean stature on the mean hand length was computed using the major axis method in the *lmodel2* R-package (Legendre 2014), analogously to Sjøvold's approach (Sjøvold 1990). The only difference was that we did not weight the average values from literature by the number of cases in the source original studies. The models were computed for each body side (right, left) and sex (males, females) separately, additionally also for males and females combined. Two versions of the MA model were developed: one for all samples available from the whole World (MAW model), and the second from the samples originated from Europe only (MAE model). Since all our *testing* samples originated from Europe, we were wondering if the estimates from MAE models will be better than those from MAW model. MAE models were based only on the previously published samples whereas our testing samples were not included within the source samples for the models.

Average Regression Models (AR)

Average Regression Models were computed from population values of intercept and slope of the Ordinary Least Square models for the relationship between body height and the hand length. It represented a simple way of meta-analysis of the regression parameters. Mean values were computed from all intercepts and all slopes from available studies. We computed the models from the data from the whole World (ARW model). Low number of samples from Europe did not allow us to develop separate model for Europe like in the case of the MA method. Then we used these averaged regression parameters for stature estimations of the testing samples. Since some published studies computed their regression models on mixed body sides or other specific combinations of hands (e.g. only dominant hands, i.e. mostly right but in a part left), along with the separate models for the right and left hands we also included groups computed from equations based on mixed hands. So, the models were computed for each sex (males, females) and body side (right, left, and mixed) separately, and also for the sexes combined.

Least Squares Models (LSC)

On the Czech sample 1 we computed a model II simple linear regression of the stature on the hand length using the Ordinary Least Squares method in the R-package *lmodel2* (Legendre 2014). The models (LSC model) were computed separately for each sex and body side, as well as for sexes combined.

Testing procedures

The newly proposed equations/models were tested on the testing samples specified above. We computed the estimation of body height for each subject included in the testing samples and, subsequently, calculated the differences between true (recorded/documentated) heights and the estimates – errors of estimates (see Note below). Each single/individual error of estimate (EE) represented a difference between estimated and true height for an individual, i.e. an estimate minus the respective true value. Then, a positive value of EE signified an overestimation and the negative value of the EE signified an underestimation. For each combination of a model/method and a testing sample we calculated mean error of estimates (MEE) representing systematic average difference from zero (systematic shift of all values to positive or negative side) and standard deviation of errors of estimate (SDEE) representing an indicator of dispersion of individual estimates around MEE. The differences in errors between the methods were visualized, analyzed and discussed. Technical note: usually standard error of estimate is used for expression of the “quality” of a prediction from a regression model. The disadvantage of SEE is that it is based on the sum of squared differences between true and predicted values which lead to removing the sign of disagreement, i.e. overestimations are mixed with underestimations. Therefore, we worked directly with the differences (EE) and their basic descriptive statistics.

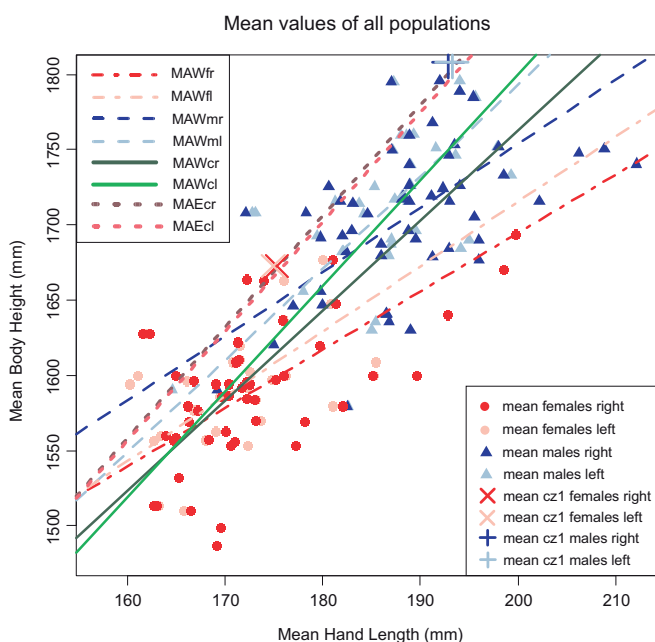


Fig. 3 Mean values the hand length and body height of published population samples and MA (MAW and MAE) regression models developed from them and used for testing. Crosses represent mean values for the Czech sample 1 for a comparison.

RESULTS

Literature-extracted mean values of the hand length and body height used for construction of the MA models and the literature extracted LS regression equations used for the AR models are show in Fig. 3 and 4, respectively. New regression equations (MAW, MAE, ARW and LSC models) for estimation of stature from the hand length are given in the Table 2. Detailed computational results of all new models are available in the Supplementary materials. In all studied relationships between the hand length and body height correlation coefficients were high and highly statistically significant. This applies also for all regression models.

From Table 2 it is evident that the three groups of models differ systematically in values both of their slopes and intercepts. MA models derived separately for males and females and AR models have relatively low slopes and relatively high intercepts, whereas the MA models for combined sexes have relatively high slopes and low intercepts. The LSC models based on the Czech 1 sample are somewhere in between the MA and AR model.

Crosses in the Fig. 3 and 4 (representing mean values for the Czech sample 1, equal to red and blue dots in the upper left plot in Fig. 5) show that the Czech sample 1 is localized (both for males and females) at the top comparing to the worldwide diversity of published mean values of the human populations for the body height and also for the hand length it is at a relatively high position. Positions of all developed models in relation with the testing samples are presented in the Fig. 5. The majority of individual cases of all five testing samples evi-

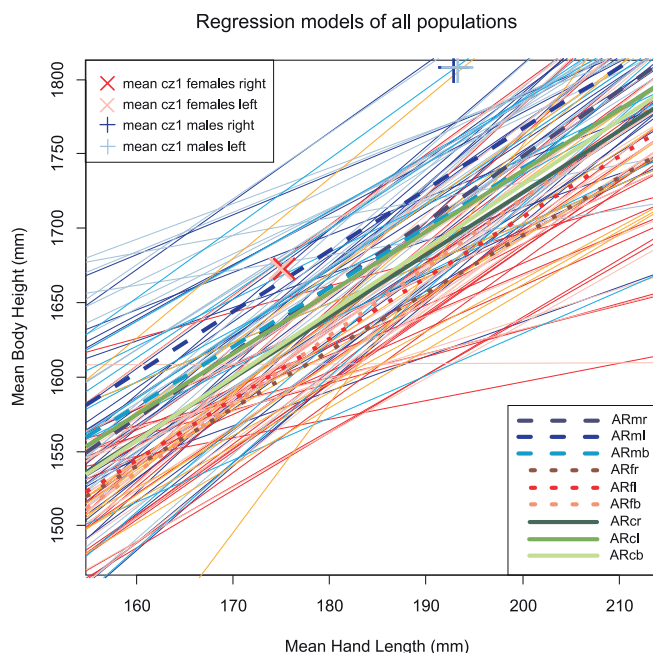


Fig. 4 Regression equations extracted from published literature (thin lines, blue tones – males, red tones – females, others – both, mixed) augmented with ARW models (thick lines) computed from them. Crosses represent mean values for the Czech sample 1 for a comparison. Various tones of blue thin lines represent equations for males, various tones of red thin lines represent females' equations extracted from literature.

Model	sex	side	abbreviation	K or N	intercept	slope	
MA	MAW (World)	males	right	1 MAWmr	53	902.0333	4.258204
		males	left	2 MAWml	37	571.499	6.109978
		females	right	3 MAWfr	49	918.2339	3.881678
		females	left	4 MAWfl	39	853.8375	4.308734
		combined	right	5 MAWcr	102	564.9036	5.989944
		combined	left	6 MAWcl	76	393.0398	7.036905
	MAE (Europe)	combined	right	7 MAEcr	6	375.944	7.388543
		combined	left	8 MAEcl	6	388.1184	7.300245
AR	ARW (World)	males	right	9 ARmr	29	867.3586	4.405117
		males	left	10 ARml	26	943.9245	4.117142
		males	both,mixed	11 ARmb	11	940.614	3.998627
		females	right	12 ARfr	25	919.4021	3.878396
		females	left	13 ARfl	24	890.306	4.085875
		females	both,mixed	14 ARfb	12	798.6924	4.603992
		combined	right	15 ARcr	54	891.4528	4.161265
		combined	left	16 ARcl	50	918.1876	4.102134
		combined	both,mixed	17 ARcb	23	866.5679	4.31447
		LS	LSC (Czechs)	males	right	18 LSCmr	214
males	left			19 LSCml	214	763.521	5.405782
females	right			20 LSCfr	218	774.1495	5.125686
females	left			21 LSCfl	218	798.8308	4.995619
combined	right			22 LSCcr	432	553.1552	6.449626
combined	left			23 LSCcl	432	572.977	6.34143

Table 2 Newly developed regression models subsequently tested on the testing samples. Legend: K – number of included population samples (for MA and AR models), N – number of measured individuals (for LS models). In the abbreviations of models' names: m – males, f – females, c – combined sexes, r – right hand, l – left hand, b – hands of both sides in a combination in original studies. When computing estimates from the models, hand length should be in millimeters and so are the resulting body height estimates. Also in AR models, published coefficients of regression models were converted from different units to millimeters if necessary (both for the hand length and stature) before computing these AR averages.

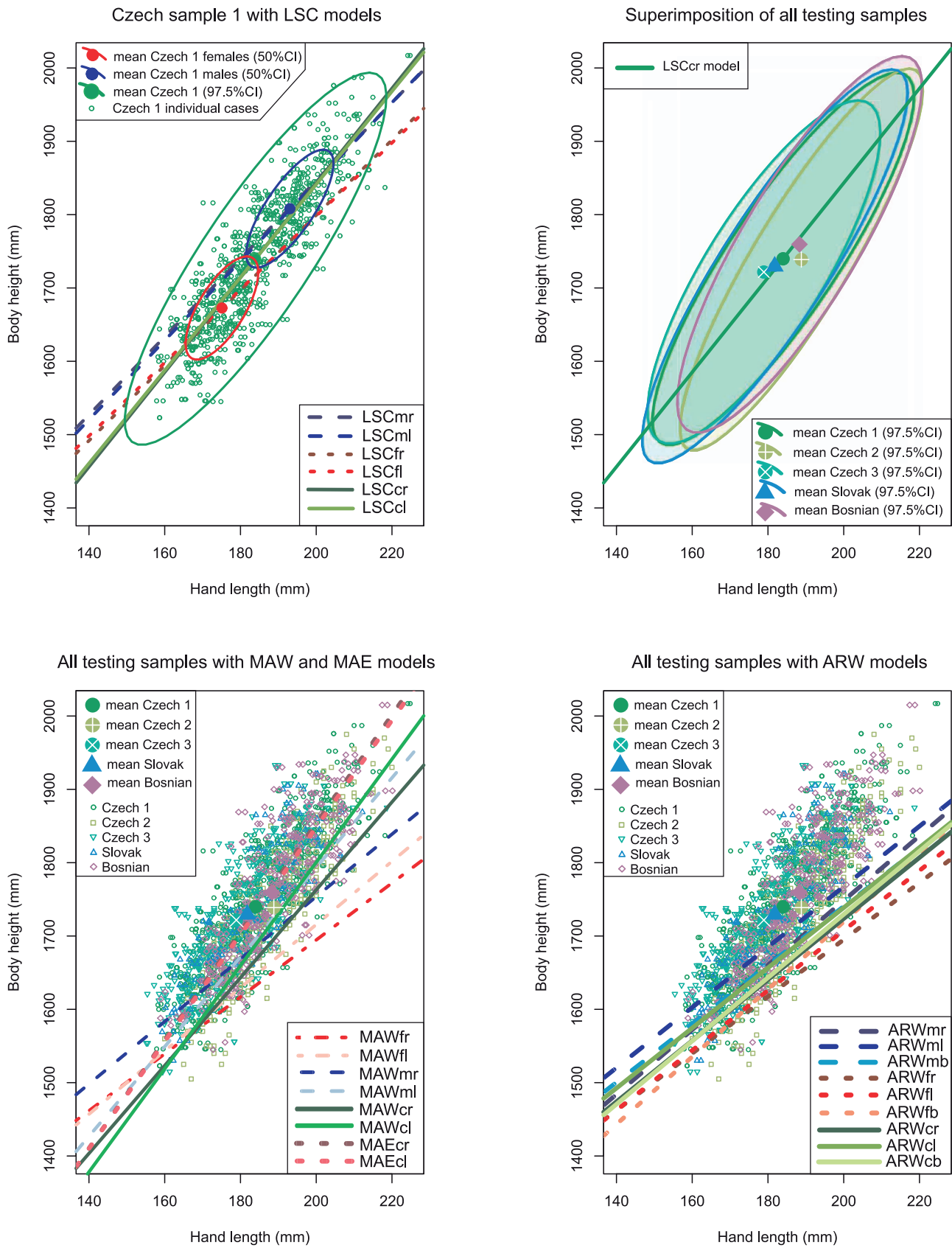


Fig. 5 Testing samples with different views and superimposition with newly developed models (LS, MA and AR).

dently lie above the course of the tested MA and AR models (except for MAE models). In other words, our testing population samples have substantially higher values both in the hand length and the body height than average whole-World models.

Errors of estimates

Mean errors of estimates (MEE) and standard deviations of errors of estimates (SDEE) for all combinations of tested equations and testing samples are presented in the Supplementary materials. Fig. 6 shows scatterplots with MEE and SDEE, grouped by different categories that can influence accuracy (i.e. MEE - difference from true body height represented here by the difference from zero error of estimate to both sides) and precision of estimates represented here by the difference of SDEE from the minimum possible standard deviation given by SDEE in LS model applied to the source sample itself; in our case: SDEE of the LSC model (developed from the Czech sample 1) applied to the same data of the Czech sample 1 (horizontal dashed line).

As can be seen from the plots (Fig. 6, Table 3), the errors of estimates were localized mostly in the negative part of the x axis which means that most of the models underestimated the height of the testing samples comparing to the true body height, though very differently for different models. The largest differences, however, were found among the estimates derived from different methods. As expected, the LSC models yielded the best outputs. Their MEEs were localized almost symmetrically around zero and reached relatively lowest SDEEs. At the same time, different testing samples did not differ very much in overall accuracy (MEE) but some differences can be seen in the precision (SDEE) of estimates. This means that belonging to one or the other testing sample did not crucially affect the systematic shift from true height but can affect the dispersion of estimates. While in all three Czech testing samples all methods were relatively close to each other (though in a different position in the SDEE axis), the estimates of Bosnian and Slovak testing samples by different methods were relatively more disperse in the range of the SDEE values. The estimates of females were substantially better (generally lower MEE and SDEE) than those of males and the estimates for samples of combined sexes were somewhere in between in MEE but have higher SDEEs. The body side of the measured hand (both the source samples and testing samples) evidently did not affect the estimates except the estimates in nonstandard combinations of hands (both hands) in the source sample – these estimates underestimated the body height more than estimates from models made strictly on right or left hands. MAW models seriously underestimated body height. The errors of MAW models reached the highest diversity of mean values that ranged from +55.3 to -148.7mm, as well as the highest diversity in SDEEs that reached the maximum at almost 61.7 mm (same with the ARW models). On the contrary, MAE models – the equations constructed on the selection of six European samples only – yielded results close to those of

	MEE (mm)			SDEE (mm)		
	median	min	max	median	min	max
MAW	-64.8	-148.7	55.3	48.7	35.4	61.7
MAE	-7.8	-34.1	38.9	47.9	37.7	59.5
ARW	-74.4	-148.2	17.3	51.0	36.2	61.7
LSC	0.0	-54.1	72.5	48.6	35.4	56.7

Table 3 Basic descriptive statistics of MEEs and SDEEs grouped by estimation methods.

	LSC models					
	MEE (mm)			SDEE (mm)		
	median	min	max	median	min	max
Czech sample 1	0.0	-46.0	42.2	44.5	42.9	49.5
Czech sample 2	29.9	-24.0	72.5	43.1	41.9	50.9
Czech sample 3	-11.5	-52.5	29.9	50.2	45.4	53.3
Slovak sample	-3.7	-54.1	43.7	49.4	35.4	53.9
Bosnian sample	5.6	-47.9	54.6	53.4	38.4	56.7

	MAE models					
	MEE (mm)			SDEE (mm)		
	median	min	max	median	min	max
Czech sample 1	-6.2	-12.3	-1.5	47.6	46.4	48.3
Czech sample 2	30.0	20.3	38.9	43.4	43.0	43.8
Czech sample 3	-24.8	-34.1	-20.6	52.2	47.9	56.3
Slovak sample	-11.8	-22.1	-5.0	47.0	37.7	56.4
Bosnian sample	5.6	-6.1	19.9	52.0	41.0	59.5

Table 4 Basic descriptive statistics of MEEs and SDEEs for LSC and MAE models grouped by testing samples.

LSC models. The majority of ARW models underestimated body height, their SDEEs were comparable with those of MAE models but their MEEs ranged from +17.3 to -148.2mm, so the ARW models were as unsuitable for our testing samples as the MAW models.

To take a closer look at the results, we focused on the two methods that gave the best results (LSC, MAE) and additionally divided the plots according to the congruence or incongruence of sex and body side between source and testing samples (source – the sample from which the model was computed). From the results (Fig. 7, Table 4) it is evident that MAE models provided similar result as LSC models and in both methods the median MEE represented at most several centimeters (Table 4). Moreover, the dispersion of MEE in different MAE models is even closer than for LSC models. At this level, the highest differences spread from different testing samples when MEE values of the Czech sample 1 (from definition), Slovak sample and Bosnian sample spread approximately along zero vertical line (Fig. 7), while Czech sample 2 mostly overestimated the body height and Czech sample 3 mostly underestimated the body height. Congruence in body side between the source and testing sample has no effect on the estimates. However, congruence in sex was very important since it decreased both the range of MEEs and SDEEs.

DISCUSSION

In this study, equations for stature estimation were developed (side and sex-specific equations) from the hand length using three different types of regression methods: Least Squares

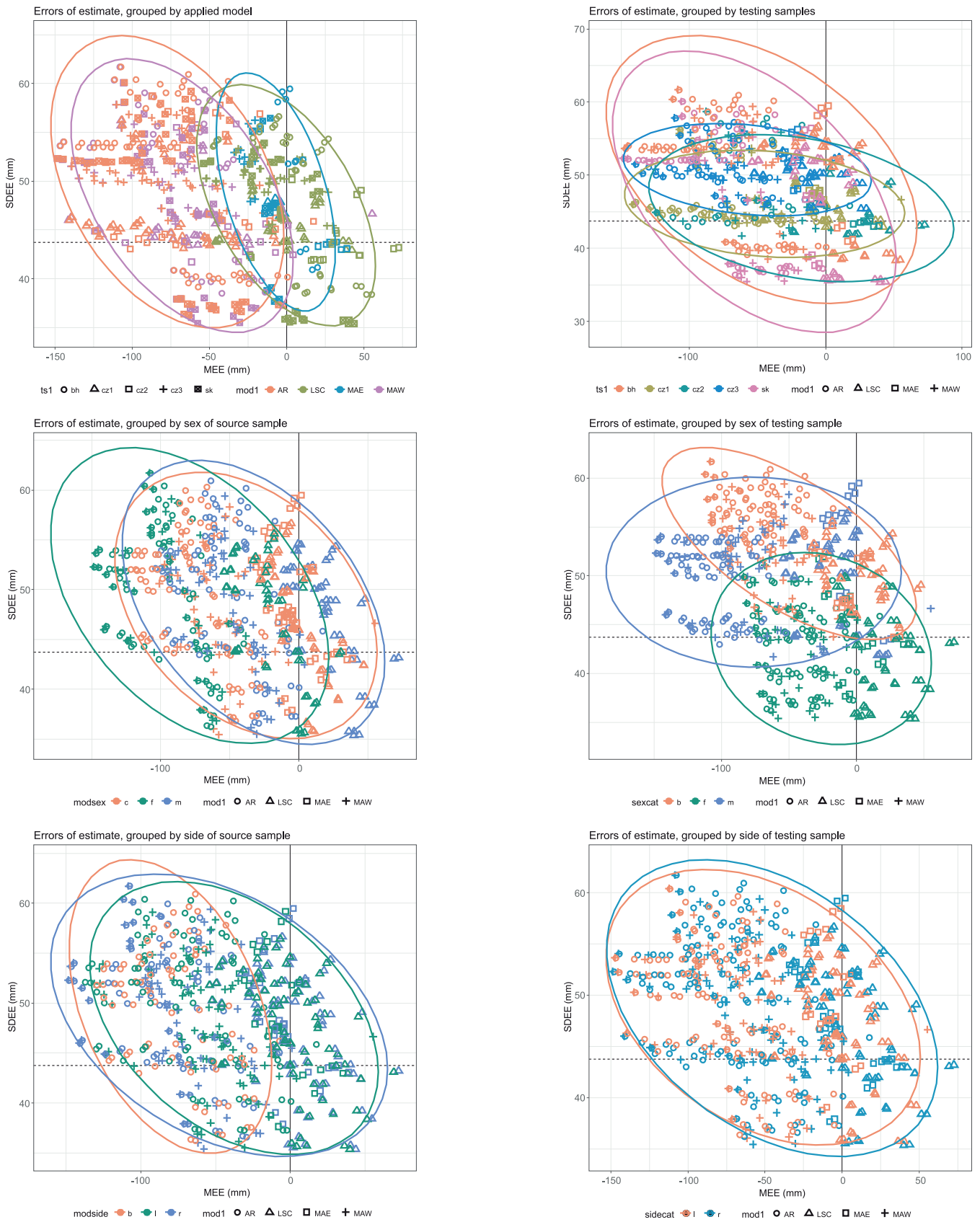


Fig. 6 Comparison of estimation errors (Mean Error of Estimate vs. Standard Deviation of Errors of Estimates) of all tested models grouped by different categories. Dashed horizontal line represents SDEE for LSC model derived from right hands of males of the Czech sample 1 applied to the same sample (SDEE=43.7 mm, MEE=0.00 mm). Ellipses represent 95% confidence zone.

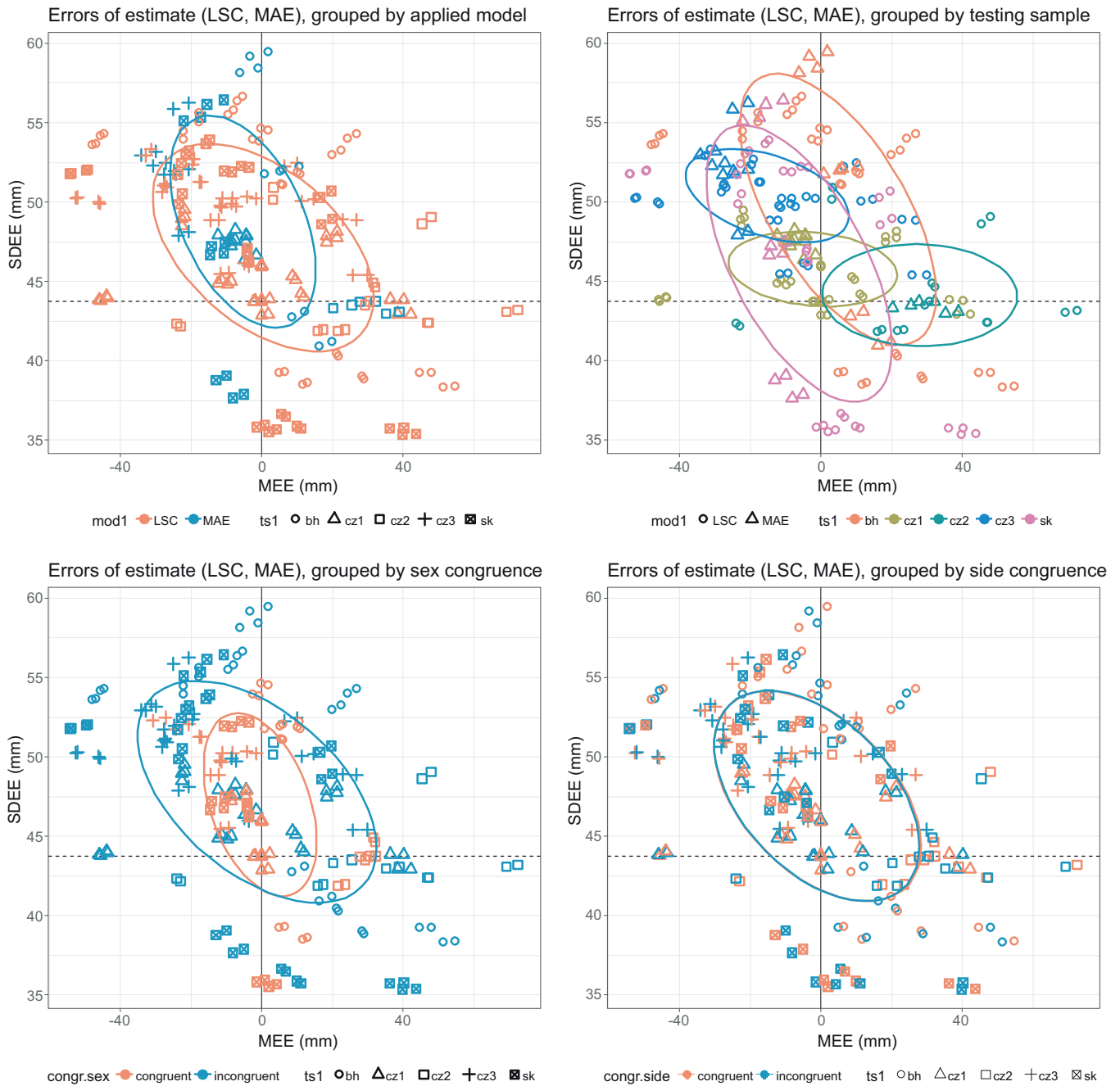


Fig. 7 Comparison of estimation errors (Mean Error of Estimate vs. Standard Deviation of Errors of Estimates) of the LSC and MAE models grouped by different categories. Dashed horizontal line represents SDEE for LSC model derived from right hands of males of the Czech sample 1 applied to the same sample (SDEE=43.7 mm). Ellipses represent 50% confidence zone.

Models, Average Regression Models and Reduced Major Axis Models. LS models were developed based on our primary data and only for the sample of Czech origin (Europe) whereas AR models were developed only from the whole World data. Only MA models were developed for European origin populations as well as for world-wide populations.

The results indicate that our newly developed “worldwide” equations (neither those created using Reduced Major Axis interposition through the world populations average values

nor those created using averaged values of regression coefficients) do not permit making practically usable body height estimations based on hand length in any of our five testing samples. We must therefore discuss the result in comparison to Sjøvold’s (1990) method on long bones (the analogies of which are our MA models). When comparing the population sources for Sjøvold’s and our models, the difference in samples from various parts of the world is clearly apparent. While in the source data of Sjøvold’s organic correlation model, out

of 44 samples 32 were of European origins (about 26 samples from Europe and additional 6 samples from US of European origin), our “W” (“worldwide”) models only contains 6 samples of European origin (3 male and 3 female samples) and the rest is non-European, mainly Asian (See Appendix 1 and 2). Both the European samples we collected in literature (6 samples) and the samples we collected empirically (10 samples) can be all found at the very upper boundary of the worldwide population cluster (Fig. 3). On one hand, our MAW models represent/cover the “whole world” much better than Sjøvold’s 44 population sample selection. His data, from the perspective of origin range, are limited and therefore the organization/location of his central tendency values is significantly narrower. Given the degree of diversity among the source populations, Sjøvold’s model is therefore, by nature, closer to our MAE model than to our MAW model). (Moreover, in Sjøvold’s data there are not only more samples of European origin than non-European samples, but also more male than female samples, therefore his equations for stature estimation using bone lengths will be more suitable for males and for individuals of European origin. On the contrary, our equations will be probably more suitable for samples of Asian origin. In the future, it would be possible and suitable to create Reduced Major Axis Models from separated large groups of Asian populations similarly to our MAE models. On the other hand, an equation based on our “world-wide” selection is a source of lower accuracy for populations located farther from the population cloud axis and body height estimates generated with such equation are practically useless as estimation error can reach up to tens of centimeters and also estimation inaccuracy is rising.

It needs to be made clear that our MAE model (which was only based on 6 mean values) is only based on Slavic origin populations and the same is true for our testing samples. Therefore, a question remains – what would be the stature estimate outcomes provided by the MAE model, if these were tested on original data of European, but not Slavic origin (these data, however, were not available to us).

Despite the similarity of all five testing samples (and their sex and laterality sub-groups), differences come to light under a closer look. These differences can result from (a) true differences in body size and thus different position of population means towards a common tested regression equation and (b) real differences in hand to height proportions (and their size dependence – allometry) among the five testing samples, i. e. population differences (Czechs vs. Slovaks vs. Bosnians) and generation (Czechs 1 and Czechs 3 vs. Czechs 2). The similarity (narrow dispersion of SDEEs) of all three Czech testing samples (regardless of measuring methods) comparing to Bosnian and Slovak samples (with wide dispersion of SDEEs) might be an evidence for some true biological differences. It is possible, however, that also (c) different modes of measuring hand length can have an effect. It is worthy of notice that the Slovak and Bosnian samples are nearer in the estimation results to the Czech sample 1 (i.e. the samples where data was collected using a desktop scanner and measured on 2D hand

images) while the two remaining Czech samples are localized further from the zero line in the plot, and in addition, both in different direction. It is possible that there were mild differences between the three modes of measurement and this should be experimentally tested by comparing all the three methods in one sample. However, simultaneous influence of both mechanisms (true average differences and measurement differences) on recorded differences of estimations between testing samples can’t be ruled out.

CONCLUSION

It is evident from the performed testing that cross-population based models are not suitable for body height estimation from hand length as the systematic shift compared to the particular population can be so significant that the resulting estimates might be practically pointless. In case that the cross-population model is limited to a narrower geographically confined population group (in our case European), the universal model estimates can near in their accuracy and preciseness the estimates based on a population-specific model calculated using the Least Squares method. As an output, we can recommend, if possible, (a) using population specific LS model (chosen from our list in Appendix 2 or other literature sources) or (2) developing ad hoc a new Reduced Major Axis model from population means (our Appendix 1) for a narrower geographically limited set of populations.

Although an application of stature estimation from separated hand might not be very frequent, the principles tested in the study apply for any stature estimations from various partial body length measurements. Therefore, we propose considering similar consequences also when estimating the body height from a bone length in forensic skeletal cases.

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Stature Estimation from the Hand Length: Testing Cross-Population Methods

Appendix 1

Tab. 1. Complete table of applied population samples – hand and height measurements.

Study	state	measuring instruments (H/HL)	age	sex	N	height		hand length		
						mean	sd	mean	sd	side
Geetha et al.(2015)	India	A/a	20-30	m	100	1579.5	64.2	182.5	10.9	R
				f	100	1487.0	75.7	182.6	11.0	L
Uhrová et al. (2015)	Slovakia	A/a	18-24	m	120	1795.0	64.6	187.0	8.9	R
				f	130	1663.8	61.8	187.3	9.2	L
Pal et al. (2016)	India	A/a	20-40	f ¹	693	1513.6	44.6	162.7	8.1	R
				f	896	1513.7	48.0	162.7	8.0	L
Mahakizadeh et al. (2016)	Iran	E/e	18-25	m	146	1740.4	58.1	212.1	12.1	R
Paulis (2015)	Egypt	A/d	18-67	m	100	1678.9	58.6	191.2	9.1	R
				f	91	1569.6	66.4	178.2	15.7	R
Jee and Yun (2015)	South Korea	E/a	20-70	m	167	1696.0	63.5	183.0	9.0	R
			20-83	f	154	1556.0	65.0	171.0	8.0	R
Numan et al. (2013)	Nigeria ²	B/a	18-35	m	70	1747.9	72.0	206.2	10.9	R
				f	64	1670.3	83.2	198.5	14.4	R
	m			70	1715.8	102.9	202.2	12.5	R	
	f			68	1694.0	60.2	199.7	8.2	R	
Nigeria ⁴	m	70	1705.3	83.7	195.5	6.7	R			
	f	65	1640.5	64.5	192.7	10.5	R			
Ahmed (2013)	Sudan	A/a	25-30	m	100	1751.1	62.2	191.6	11.2	L
				f	100	1602.5	57.1	172.5	8.7	L
Özaslan et al. (2012)	Turkey	A/c	20-51	m	224	1724.4	68.7	192.3	9.3	R
				f	132	1620.1	64.2	179.6	7.0	R
Krishan et al. (2012)	India	E/e	17-20	m	123	1682.0	65.0	182.0	9.0	L
				f	123	1557.0	52.0	168.0	8.0	L

M – male, f – female, N- number of individuals, NA – not available, side – side of hand: R – right, L – left, B – both hands. Measuring instruments H (height): A – stadiometer; anthropometer; B – standing height measuring instrument and unspecified tool from anthropometric sets/kits; C – other tools: measuring tape, meter gauge, body meter, meter rule, metal tape; D – verbal information; E – NA. Measuring instruments HL (hand length): a – caliper, sliding caliper, Vernier caliper, digital caliper, spreading caliper, anthropometric rod Compass, segmometer, small metallic anthropometer, L - shaped scale; b – unspecified tool from anthropometric sets; c - standard measuring tape, calibrated non stretch tape; d – hand length was measured from: hand prints, outlines of the hand, 2D scans (flatbed scanner), 3D scans (3D digitizer ISOTRAK II); e – NA. ¹ – control group, ² – ethnicity Hausa, ³ – ethnicity Igbo, ⁴ – ethnicity Yoruba, ⁵ – north Indians, ⁶ – south Indians, ⁷ – Jat Sikh: a peasant tribe or caste of northern India and erstwhile Punjab now part of Pakistan, ⁸ – south Indians, ⁹ – north Indians, ¹⁰ – volleyball players, ¹¹ – control group, ¹² – Bengali, ¹³ – lower-southern, ¹⁴ – southern, ¹⁵ – Right-motor-sidedness, ¹⁶ – Left-motor-sidedness, ¹⁷ – study A, ¹⁸ – study B, ¹⁹ – Americans of Vietnamese origin, ²⁰ – hand prints, ²¹ – athletes, ²² – non-athletes, ²³ – Centro Hospitalar do Porto in Portugal: Caucasian, dev. sample, ²⁴ – Centro Hospitalar do Porto in Portugal, Caucasian, ²⁵ – Chinese sub-group, ²⁶ – workers in the maquiladora industry along the border of Mexico and the United States (US), ²⁷ – college students, ²⁸ – ICE (Institute of Consumer Ergonomics), 1983. Seating for elderly and disabled people. Report No. 2. Anthropometric survey. Institute for Consumer Ergonomics, Loughborough, UK.

Tab. 1. Complete table of applied population samples – hand and height measurements (continued).

Study	state	measuring instruments (H/HL)	age	sex	N	height		hand length		
						mean	sd	mean	sd	side
Ishak et al. (2012)	Australia	A/a	19-68	m	91	1785.0	70.5	195.4	9.3	R
			18-63	f	110	1637.0	71.4	195.6	9.2	L
Akhlaghi et al. (2012)	Iran	E/a	21-26	m	50	1760.0	60.0	189.3	14.2	L
				f	50	1620.0	60.0	171.5	9.2	L
Krishan et al. (2010)	India	E/e	18-30	m	967	1725.4	66.8	180.6	9.4	R
Habib and Kamal (2010)	Egypt	A/a	18-25	m	82	1746.1	73.4	192.9	8.4	R
				f	77	1600.0	54.5	193.6	8.6	L
Rastogi et al. (2008)	India ⁵	A/a	20-30	m	120	1716.0	66.2	188.9	9.1	R
				f	100	1586.6	60.6	188.7	9.1	L
	India ⁶			m	110	1719.5	70.5	170.3	9.4	R
				f	170	1585.7	51.0	170.1	9.5	L
Agnihotri et al. (2008)	Mauritius	A/a	18-30	m	125	1739.9	61.3	188.9	8.8	R
				f	125	1595.6	62.5	189.0	8.7	L
Krishan and Sharma (2007)	India	A/a	17-20	m	123	1682.4	65.0	172.2	9.2	R
				f	123	1557.2	51.8	182.4	9.0	R
Jasuja and Singh (2004)	India/Pakistan ⁷	A/a	18-60	m	30	1752.0	52.4	182.1	9.1	L
				f	30	1597.0	51.7	168.3	8.0	R
Patel et al. (2014)	India	E/a	18-22	m	72	1759.5	59.2	174.7	8.0	L
				f	78	1608.6	56.0	188.9	11.2	R
Jaiswal (N. D.)	India	A/a	18-31	m	112	1726.5	72.5	188.6	11.2	L
				f	103	1584.6	68.5	171.1	10.3	R
Laulathaphol et al. (2013)	Thailand	A/a	18-26	m	50	1715.8	44.1	172.2	9.2	R
				f	50	1596.3	52.8	172.2	9.3	L
Kaur et al. (2013)	India	A/a	17-25	m	200	1759.8	67.6	181.8	8.7	L
				f	200	1609.1	57.5	189.0	8.7	L
Goswami et al. (2016)	India	C/a	22-86	m	250	1635.4	52.2	172.2	9.2	R
				f	250	1556.9	101.3	172.2	9.3	L
			22-70	m	250	1635.4	52.2	181.8	8.7	R
				f	250	1556.9	101.3	181.3	8.0	L

Tab. 1. Complete table of applied population samples – hand and height measurements (continued).

Study	state	measuring instruments (H/HL)	age	sex	N	height		hand length		
						mean	sd	mean	sd	side
Wakode et al. (2015)	India	A/a	17-25	m	94	1714.6	57.9	183.1	8.7	R
								183.7	9.4	L
								183.4	9.0	B
								167.2	7.7	R
				f	106	1576.6	53.7	166.8	7.7	L
								167.0	7.7	B
								179.8	9.5	R
								178.0	9.8	L
Varu et al. (2015)	India	C/a	over 20	m	100	1655.7	65.9	166.5	8.4	R
				f	100	1510.2	56.9	165.7	8.7	L
Chandra et al. (2015)	India	A/a	18-62	m	1540	1640.8	73.1	186.5	8.1	R
Kavyashree et al. (2015)	India ⁸	A/a	20-22	m	109	1717.3	68.2	188.1	11.2	R
								187.4	14.7	L
	f			129	1592.5	62.1	171.7	9.3	R	
							172.1	9.0	L	
	India ⁹			m	33	1690.4	54.9	189.5	13.2	R
				f	33	1584.2	52.0	187.0	21.3	L
						173.0	10.6	R		
						173.1	10.5	L		
Sanli et al. (2005)	Turkey	B/a	17-23	m	80	1750.6	61.3	208.8	9.2	R
				f	75	1599.6	49.2	189.6	9.3	R
Sunil et al. (2005)	India	A/a	18-22	m	75	1690.0	78.0	196.0	13.0	R
								195.0	12.0	L
				f	75	1580.0	58.0	182.0	10.0	R
								181.0	10.0	L
Saxena (1984)	Nigeria	A/e	20-30	m	100	1684.5	76.3	192.9	6.6	R
								194.1	7.4	L
Koley and Kaur (2011)	India	A/a	18-25	f ¹⁰	101	1647.8	40.0	181.3	8.0	R
								180.8	8.0	L
				f ¹¹	100	1594.1	48.2	170.3	6.8	R
								170.3	6.7	L
Barut et al. (2014)	Turkey	C/a	20-41	m	187	1750.0	60.0	187.1	8.3	R
								187.2	9.3	L
				f	198	1610.0	60.0	171.4	8.0	R
								171.5	7.9	L
Supare et al. (2015)	India	A/a	18-24	m	219	1707.5	94.7	184.6	11.3	R
								184.2	11.4	L
				f	181	1594.6	76.6	172.5	10.5	R
								172.2	10.6	L
Danborno and Elukpo (2008)	Nigeria	A/a	mean 24,50 (sd 2,82)	m	250	1733.0	71.3	198.5	8.6	R
								199.3	9.3	L
			mean 22,22 (sd 2,00)	f	150	1600.0	62.2	185.1	6.6	R
								185.2	7.7	L
Waghmare et al. (2010)	India	A/a	over 25	m	200	1590.1	67.8	169.2	9.1	R
								164.6	9.3	L
Nagesh et al. (2014)	India	A/e	NA	m	50	1679.4	75.7	186.0	6.4	R
								186.8	7.7	L
				f	50	1553.3	53.2	170.5	8.9	R
								172.3	7.7	L
Laila et al. (2009)	India ¹²	A/a	25-30	f	150	1560.2	61.3	163.9	7.9	R
								163.4	8.0	L
Mohamed (2013)	Egypt	E/a	25-30	m	100	1693.0	10.0	182.0	19.0	R
								179.4	5.0	L
				f	100	1594.0	53.0	169.0	7.9	R
								160.2	7.6	L
Chandra et al. (2013)	India	A/a	18-62	m	1540	1641.0	73.1	186.5	8.1	R

Tab. 1. Complete table of applied population samples – hand and height measurements (continued).

Study	state	measuring instruments (H/HL)	age	sex	N	height		hand length		
						mean	sd	mean	sd	side
Moorthy and Zulkifly (2014)	Malaysia	C/a	18-60	m	100	1687.0	60.0	186.0	9.0	R
				f	100	1563.0	60.0	187.0	9.0	L
Bouabdallah (2012)	Algeria	A/a	66-81	m	60	1716.0	76.0	193.0	14.0	R
Mandahawi et al. (2008)	Jordan	E/a	18-59	m	115	1767.8	73.9	191.2	10.2	R
				f	120	1621.9	52.0	171.3	7.4	R
Klamklay et al. (2008)	Thailand ¹³	B/b	18-25	m	50	1691.7	56.0	179.8	14.6	R
	Thailand ¹⁴			f	50	1569.0	48.5	166.3	7.2	R
				m	100	1719.4	51.5	191.1	71.6	R
				f	100	1579.4	53.2	166.1	7.3	R
Mohammad (2005)	Jordan	E/a	31,23 (sd 6,7)	m ¹⁵	200/100	1708.0	54.0	178.3	6.4	R
				f ¹⁵	200/100	1628.0	89.0	162.3	5.4	R
				m ¹⁶	200/100	1708.0	54.0	172.1	3.7	R
				f ¹⁶	200/100	1628.0	89.0	172.8	5.3	L
Dewangan et al. (2008)	India	A/a	18-60	f	400	1532.5	55.0	165.3	7.3	R
Eksioglu (2004)	NA	E/e	21-33	m	12	1753.5	54.2	193.5	6.7	R
Mokdad (2002)	Algeria	A/a	15-75	m	514	1726.0	76.0	194.0	14.0	R
Vyavahare and Kallurkar (2016)	India	A/a	18-60	m	303	1647.0	60.0	180.0	9.0	R
				f	67	1789.0	62.0	194.0	9.0	R
Hanson et al. (2009)	Sweden ¹⁷	C/c?	18-65	f	201	1677.0	68.0	194.0	9.0	L
	Sweden ¹⁸			m	38	1796.0	83.0	181.0	9.0	R
				m	38	1796.0	83.0	180.0	9.0	L
				f	61	1663.0	66.0	192.0	10.0	R
Khadem and Islam (2014)	Bangladesh	A/a	15-64	m	470	1677.0	52.5	194.0	10.0	L
Dewangan et al. (2010)	India	B/b	18-60	m	800	1620.0	60.0	175.0	10.0	R
Imrhan et al. (1993)	USA ¹⁹	E/a	17-56,1	m	41	1646.0	53.6	177.0	12.0	R
				f	30	1559.0	61.0	165.0	9.0	R
Saengchaiya and Bunternghit (2004)	Thailand	E/d	25,1 (sd 5,4)	f	150	1553.0	56.0	177.2	7.0	R
Nag et al. (2003)	India	E/a	16-58	f	95	1498.8	62.8	169.6	9.4	R
Subashri and Thenmozhi (2016)	India	E/e	18-23	m	40	1630.0	51.0	189.0	31.0	R
				f	60	1600.0	58.0	185.0	30.0	L
Ilayperuma et al. (2009)	Sri Lanka	B/a	20-23	m	140	1701.4	52.2	190.1	8.6	B
				f	118	1575.5	57.5	176.2	9.3	B
Kornieieva and Elelemi (2016)	Saudi Arabia ²⁰	A/d	18-26	m	100	1715.0	51.0	181.0	10.2	B
				f	100	1593.0	63.6	170.6	7.2	B
				m	100	1715.0	51.0	173.3	8.2	B
				f	100	1593.0	63.6	163.1	7.6	B
Oria et al. (2016)	Nigeria	C/a	18-45	m	540	1684.9	55.3	194.7	20.0	B
				f	510	1629.9	59.1	183.5	10.3	B

Tab. 1. Complete table of applied population samples – hand and height measurements (continued).

Study	state	measuring instruments (H/HL)	age	sex	N	height		hand length		
						mean	sd	mean	sd	side
Häger-Ross and Rösblad (2002)	Sweden	E/d	16	m	22	1799.0	55.0	196.0	10.0	B
				f	16	1672.0	50.0	176.0	8.0	B
Visnapuu and Jürimäe (2007)	Estonia	A/d	16-17	m	21	1766.0	77.0	200.0	10.0	B
Fallahi and Jadidian (2011)	NA	A/d	19-29	m ²¹	40	1820.0	101.2	202.1	13.5	B
				m ²²	40	1770.4	69.0	193.3	9.5	B
Guerra et al. (2014)	Portugal ²³	C/a	19-91	m	173	1698.0	79.0	183.0	9.0	B
				f	138	1567.0	71.0	169.0	9.0	B
	Posrtugal ²⁴			m	87	1693.0	68.0	183.0	8.0	B
				f	67	1562.0	69.0	168.0	8.0	B
Ugbem et al. (2016)	Nigeria	B/a	18-45	m	121	1705.0	60.7	185.9	9.7	B
				f	117	1622.0	61.1	177.4	11.6	B
Hamid et al. (2015)	India	A/c	17-23	m	50	1736.0	50.0	192.4	8.0	B
Tandon et al. (2016)	India	A/a	18-30	m	238	1727.4	61.1	193.6	11.0	B
				f	259	1572.0	62.4	173.3	10.0	B
Karmegan et al. (2011)	Malaysia	E/e	18-24	m	50	1785.7	29.6	199.8	13.3	B
				f	50	1533.0	95.4	169.5	11.9	B
	China			m	50	1693.8	59.1	182.2	13.3	B
				f	50	1585.8	51.4	171.7	11.3	B
	India			m	50	1681.0	76.8	185.1	13.1	B
				f	50	1568.3	67.9	173.1	11.8	B
Molenbroek (1987)	Netherlands	A/a	50-100	m	152/ 197	1656.0	82.0	184.0	12.0	B
				f	457/ 621	1543.0	72.0	172.0	10.0	B
Chuan et al. (2010)	Indonesia	A/b	18-45	m	245	1720.0	62.3	190.0	16.4	B
				f	132	1590.0	57.6	180.0	17.2	B
	Indonesia ²⁵			m	88	1710.0	48.1	190.0	24.2	B
				f	54	1590.0	50.6	180.0	21.6	B
	Singapore			m	138	1740.0	51.7	190.0	33.4	B
				f	57	1620.0	36.6	170.0	5.5	B
Singapore ²⁵	m	104	1730.0	54.5	190.0	27.3	B			
	f	47	1620.0	36.9	170.0	5.7	B			
García-Cáceres et al. (2012)	Colombia	E/a	mean 41,2 (sd 8,3)	f	120	1546.0	96.0	167.3	8.0	B
Del Prado-Lu (2007)	Philippines	A/e	below 30 years (77%)	m	843	1670.1	80.3	197.5	78.2	B
				f	962	1539.2	82.8	179.5	34.4	B
Liu et al. (1999)	Mexico/ USA ²⁶	B/b	17-39	f	110	1535.0	57.7	169.0	8.9	B
Bolstad et al. (2001)	Norway	A/a	20-39	m	200	1796.0	66.0	195.0	10.0	B
				f	199	1661.0	61.0	177.0	8.0	B
			20-29	m	NA	1793.0	64.0	194.0	10.0	B
				f	NA	1663.0	61.0	177.0	9.0	B
			30-39	m	NA	1799.0	68.0	195.0	10.0	B
				f	NA	1660.0	61.0	177.0	8.0	B
Imrhan (2003)	Texas ²⁷	E/e	22-32	m	17	1732.0	70.0	189.0	12.0	B
Imrhan (1999)	Texas ²⁷	E/e	21,1- 50,3	f	19	1618.0	90.0	172.0	7.7	B
Bylund and Burström (2006)	Sweden	D/a	20-23 20-28	m	20	1800.0	55.0	178.0	10.0	B
				f	20	1670.0	53.0	161.0	8.0	B

Tab. 1. Complete table of applied population samples – hand and height measurements (continued).

Study	state	measuring instruments (H/HL)	age	sex	N	height		hand length		
						mean	sd	mean	sd	side
Sadeghi et al. (2015)	Iran	B/b	20-65	m	2969	1720.0	76.3	188.0	11.7	B
				f	751	1585.0	63.2	173.0	9.7	B
				m	420	1715.0	NA	192.0	NA	B
				f	100	1579.0	NA	176.0	NA	B
				m	22	1742.0	NA	192.0	NA	B
				f	20	1576.0	NA	177.0	NA	B
				m	1682	1730.0	NA	189.0	NA	B
				f	340	1584.0	NA	171.0	NA	B
				m	80	1711.0	NA	190.0	NA	B
				f	30	1608.0	NA	176.0	NA	B
				m	105	1739.0	NA	191.0	NA	B
				f	27	1578.0	NA	177.0	NA	B
				m	660	1693.0	NA	183.0	NA	B
				f	234	1590.0	NA	170.0	NA	B
Shahida et al. (2015)	Malaysia	B/b	60-79	m	56	1611.0	5.0	183.0	1.0	B
			60-82	f	56	1499.0	5.3	170.0	0.8	B
Ali and Arslan (2009)	Turkey	E/e	over 20	m	2263	1708.0	81.0	189.0	14.0	B
				f	1942	1598.0	76.0	167.0	10.0	B
Hu et al. (2007)	China	A/a	65,2-85,1	m	50	1655.0	54.3	179.0	8.1	B
			65-80,7	f	58	1526.0	69.3	168.0	8.1	B
Motamedzade et al. (2007)	Iran	E/a	15-82	m	224	1590.0	87.0	182.0	9.0	B
				f	638			171.0	9.0	B
Kothiyal and Tettey (2000)	Australia	A/e	65-92	m	33	1658.0	79.0	184.0	10.0	B
			65-93	f	138	1521.0	70.0	170.0	10.0	B
	UK ²⁸	E/e	NA	m	NA	1640.0	77.0	180.0	11.0	B
				f	NA	1515.0	70.0	165.0	10.0	B
Mamansari and Salokhe (1996)	Thailand	A/e	20-52	m	10	1645.2	48.2	184.5	8.1	B
			25-55	f	10	1519.3	67.8	151.5	11.2	B
Bures et al. (2015)	Czech Republic	A/a	18-25	m	221	1825.0	76.2	191.0	10.3	B
				f	101	1689.0	68.6	175.0	8.9	B
			26-40	m	168	1825.0	78.2	194.0	10.4	B
				f	91	1681.0	62.1	177.0	7.7	B
			41-60	m	166	1791.0	66.1	193.0	8.0	B
				f	179	1651.0	55.8	176.0	7.3	B
			61-65	m	19	1768.0	42.7	189.0	8.8	B
				f	50	1634.0	67.5	173.0	9.0	B
Lin et al. (2004)	China	E/e	18-60	m	11164	1678.0	NA	183.0	NA	B
			18-55	f	11150	1570.0	NA	171.0	NA	B
	Japan		18-59	m	12100	1690.0	NA	182.0	NA	B
			f	8600	1569.0	NA	168.0	NA	B	
	Korea		18-59	m	2090	1707.0	NA	189.0	NA	B
			f	2014	1588.0	NA	175.0	NA	B	
	Taiwan		18-65	m	1322	1699.0	NA	192.0	NA	B
			f	799	1573.0	NA	174.0	NA	B	

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Stature Estimation from the Hand Length: Testing Cross-Population Methods

Appendix 2

Tab. 1. Complete table of applied population samples – intercepts and slopes.

study	state	measuring instruments (H/HL)	age	sex	N	a	b	side
Geetha et al. (2015)	India	A/a	20-30	m	100	1063.06	2.83	B
				f	100	14.54	8.71	B
Uhrová et al. (2015)	Slovakia	A/a	18-24	m	120	931.10	4.63	R
				f	130	963.10	4.45	L
				f	130	846.90	4.75	R
Pal et al. (2016)	India	A/a	20-40	f	896	881.00	3.88	B
Mahakizadeh et al. (2016)	Iran	E/e	18-25	m	146	948.11	3.74	R
Paulis (2015)	Egypt	A/d	18-67	m	100	1095.33	3.02	R
				f	91	1345.16	1.26	R
Jee and Yun (2015)	South Korea	E/a	20-70	m	167	880.51	4.45	R
			20-83	f	154	789.92	4.48	R
Numan et al. (2013)	Nigeria ¹	B/a	18-35	m	70	784.20	4.67	R
				f	64	727.90	4.75	R
	m			70	631.10	5.36	R	
	f			68	1342.80	1.77	R	
	m			70	1169.20	2.34	R	
	f			65	1085.20	2.88	R	
Ahmed (2013)	Sudan	A/a	25-30	m	100	1111.70	3.34	L
				f	100	905.50	4.04	L
Ozaslan et al. (2012)	Turkey	A/c	20-51	m	224	922.01	4.15	R
				f	132	1116.56	2.80	R
Krishan et al. (2012)	India	E/e	17-20	m	123	873.32	4.45	L
				f	123	845.39	4.24	L
Ishak et al. (2012)	Australia	A/a	19-68	m	91	697.23	5.57	R
			18-63	f	110	667.28	5.71	L
				f	110	571.35	6.06	R
Akhlaghi et al. (2012)	Iran	E/a	21-26	m	50	1159.96	3.15	L
				f	50	762.79	5.01	L
Krishan et al. (2010)	India	E/e	18-30	m	967	1056.32	3.64	R
					967	1162.43	3.06	L
Habib and Kamal (2010)	Egypt	A/a	18-25	m	82	577.00	6.06	R
					82	634.90	5.74	L
				f	77	1011.30	3.39	R
Ilayperuma et al. (2009)	Sri Lanka	B/a	20-23	m	140	1037.32	3.49	B
			20-23	f	118	936.89	3.63	B

Overview of used studies. M – male, f – female, N – number of individuals, NA – not available, side – side of hand: R – right, L – left, B – both hands. Measuring instruments H (height): A – stadiometer; anthropometer; B – standing height measuring instrument and unspecified tool from anthropometric sets/kits; C – other tools: measuring tape, meter gauge, body meter, meter rule, metal tape; D – verbal information; E – NA. Measuring instruments HL (hand length): a – caliper, sliding caliper, Vernier caliper, digital caliper, spreading caliper, anthropometric rod Compass, segmometer, small metallic anthropometer, L – shaped scale; b – unspecified tool from anthropometric sets; c – standard measuring tape, calibrated non stretch tape; d – hand length was measured from: hand prints, outlines of the hand, 2D scans (flatbed scanner), 3D scans (3D digitizer ISOTRAK II); e – NA. ¹ – ethnicity Hausa, ² – ethnicity Igbo, ³ – ethnicity Yoruba, ⁴ – north Indians, ⁵ – south Indians, ⁶ – Jat Sikh: a peasant tribe or caste of northern India and erstwhile Punjab now part of Pakistan, ⁷ – south Indians, ⁸ – north Indians, ⁹ – hand prints.

Tab. 1. Complete table of applied population samples – intercepts and slopes (continued).

study	state	measuring instruments (H/HL)	age	sex	N	a	b	side
Rastogi et al. (2008)	India ⁴	A/a	20-30	m	120	813.43	4.78	R
						802.41	4.84	L
				f	100	802.00	4.61	R
					833.56	4.43	L	
	India ⁵			m	110	690.06	5.47	R
				f	170	743.80	5.19	L
Agnihotri et al. (2008)	Mauritius	A/a	18-30	m	125	830.44	4.45	R
				f	125	844.32	4.37	L
Krishan and Sharma (2007)	India	A/a	17-20	m		896.30	4.31	R
						886.30	4.37	L
						882.43	4.39	B
				f		812.20	4.43	R
						845.40	4.24	L
		813.14	4.42	B				
Jasuja and Singh (2004)	India/Pakistan ⁶	A/a	18-60	m	30	695.13	5.22	R
						847.42	4.49	L
				f	30	1309.54	1.61	R
	1300.35	1.66	L					
Patel et al. (2014)	India	E/a	18-22	m	72	1251.50	2.69	R
						1256.70	2.67	L
				f	78	1106.40	2.95	R
	1106.90	2.95	L					
Jaiswal (N. D.)	India	A/a	18-31	m	112	948.35	4.19	L
				f	103	744.04	4.95	L
Laulathaphol et al. (2013)	Thailand	A/a	18-26	m	50	1094.65	3.42	R
						1048.19	3.68	L
				f	50	845.87	4.50	R
	913.18	4.12	L					
Chikhalkar et al. (2010)	India	B/e	19-23	m	147	1168.93	2.67	B
Kaur et al. (2013)	India	A/a	17-25	m	200	1309.00	2.398	L
				f	200	1604.10	0.027	L
Goswami et al. (2016)	India	C/a	22-86	m		575.44	5.67	R
						580.37	5.69	L
						557.19	5.80	B (avg.)
				f		597.11	5.83	R
						651.29	5.56	L
		763.25	5.39	B (avg.)				
Oria et al. (2016)	Nigeria	C/a	18-45	m	540	1064.63	3.19	B
				f	510	918.79	3.88	B
Wakode et al. (2015)	India	A/a	17-25	m		856.64	4.68	R
						970.14	4.05	L
						916.34	4.35	B (avg.)
				f		767.27	4.84	R
						810.02	4.54	L
		793.77	4.69	B (avg.)				
Varu et al. (2015)	India	C/a	over 20	m	100	855.17	4.45	R
						929.72	4.08	L
				f	100	864.30	3.88	R
	904.32	3.66	L					

Tab. 1. Complete table of applied population samples – intercepts and slopes (continued).

study	state	measuring instruments (H/HL)	age	sex	N	a	b	side
Chandra et al. (2015)	India	A/a	18-62	m	1540	681.51	5.16	R
				f	109	1241.80	2.52	R
Kavyashree et al. (2015)	India ⁷	A/a	20-22	f	129	1494.70	1.18	L
				f	129	1124.90	2.72	R
	m			33	1126.10	2.71	L	
	m			33	1264.10	2.25	R	
	India ⁸			f	33	1498.70	1.02	L
				f	33	1271.50	1.80	R
Jethva et al. (2013)	India	A/a	18-25	m	258	767.37	4.92	R
				f	252	747.97	5.00	L
				f	252	727.63	4.87	R
				f	252	750.30	4.72	L
Khanapurkar and Radke (2012)	India	B/a	19-22	m	536	597.00	5.70	B
				f	464	849.00	4.30	B
Sanli et al. (2005)	Turkey	B/a	17-23	m	80	747.19	4.81	R
				f	75	890.01	3.74	R
Sunil et al. (2005)	India	A/a	18-22	m	75	869.30	4.25	R
				f	75	858.40	4.32	L
				f	75	774.20	4.56	R
				f	75	809.40	4.40	L
Kornicieva and Elelemi (2016)	Saudi Arabia	A/d	18-26	m	100	1044.28	3.71	B
				f	100	651.50	5.51	B
	Saudi Arabia ⁹			m	100	900.58	4.70	B
				f	100	828.90	4.67	B
Saxena (1984)	Nigeria	A/e	20-30	m	100	922.41	3.95	R
				f	100	702.43	5.06	L
Supare et al. (2015)	India	A/a	18-24	m	219	686.90	5.52	R
				f	181	690.90	5.52	L
				f	181	652.20	5.46	R
				f	181	669.00	5.37	L
Nagesh et al. (2014)	India	A/e	NA	m	50	552.40	6.06	R
				f	50	705.50	5.21	L
				f	50	772.40	4.58	R
				f	50	654.90	5.21	L
Tandon et al. (2016)	India	A/a	18-30	m	238	1115.00	3.16	B
				f	259	964.60	3.50	B

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