Contents

1 Introduction **1**
1.1 Objectives 6
1.1.1 Secondary objectives 6
1.2 Main contributions 8
1.3 Outline 9

2 Background literature **13**
2.1 Finite Elements in Footwear 13
2.1.1 Two-Dimensional Models 13
2.1.2 Three-Dimensional Models 20
2.1.3 Summary of developments in footwear FE models . 30
2.2 Artificial Neural Networks in Biomechanics 31

3 Simucal. A footwear simulator for virtual assessment of footwear **37**
3.1 Introduction 38
3.2 Methods 39
3.2.1 Description of the application 39
3.2.2 Physical model for the shoe upper behavior 41
3.2.3 Description of the simulation 63
3.3 Results 70
3.3.1 Validation of the numerical model 70

3.3.2 Behavior of the materials 76
3.3.3 Simulation 79
3.4 Discussion 82
3.5 Summary 84

4 Foot animation **87**
4.1 Introduction 88
4.2 Obtaining the foot animation 89
4.2.1 Static 3D foot form 91
4.2.2 Foot movement record 91
4.3 Dorsal Pressures 93
4.4 Discussion 99
4.5 Summary 104

5 Behavior of the shoe upper material in gait **107**
5.1 Introduction 108
5.2 Materials and methods 109
5.2.1 Uniaxial tensile tests 113
5.2.2 Resistance to damage on lasting 114
5.2.3 Simulation of the shoe forming process using lasts . 117
5.3 Results and analysis 120
5.3.1 Uniaxial tensile tests 120
5.3.2 Resistance to damage on lasting 135
5.3.3 Last forming tests 138
5.4 Discussion 141
5.5 Summary 145

6 Artificial Neural Networks for modeling flexibility tests **147**
6.1 Introduction 147
6.2 Artificial Neural Networks 150
6.2.1 The Multilayer Perceptron 152

6.2.2 Backpropagation algorithm 157
6.3 Materials and methods 167
6.4 Results 172
6.5 Discussion 175
6.6 Summary 177

7 Artificial Neural Networks for predicting dorsal pressures over the foot surface 179
7.1 Introduction 180
7.2 Materials and methods 181
7.3 Results of the neural prediction 183
7.4 Discussion 187
7.5 Summary 190

8 Conclusions 193
8.1 Virtual Reality and Finite Element Methods 193
8.2 Artificial Neural Networks 194
8.3 Final conclusions 196
8.4 Future work 197

9 Conclusiones 199
9.1 Realidad Virtual y Elementos Finitos 199
9.2 Redes Neuronales Artificiales 200
9.3 Conclusiones finales 202
9.4 Trabajos futuros 203

Appendix I: The Lin & Hayhurst model. UMAT subroutine 205

Glossary 229