

TYPE OF INFRASTRUCTURES	REFERENCE	ORIGIN/CITY	TARGETED INDIVIDUALS	AIM / OBJECTIVES / HYPOTHESES	JUSTIFICATION	PARTICIPANTS	METHODOLOGY / SET UP	RESEARCH TOOLS	VARIABLES / INDICATORS STUDIED	ANALYSIS / INTERPRETATION	RESULTS	STATED LIMITS	CONCLUSION (THE BEST INFRASTRUCTURE/PRACTICE)	QUALITY
	Brubecker, C. & McLaurin, C. (1990). Effects of side slope on wheelchair performance. <i>Journal of Rehabilitation Research and Development</i> , 23(3): 50-57.	Charlottesville, Virginia, United States	Mobility impaired, self-propelling wheelchair users	To identify and quantify the factors affecting direction stability of manual wheelchairs on uneven and sloping surfaces and to recommend potential means of correcting wheelchairs.	One nearly universal problem is the downhill turning tendency on sloping surfaces. The results from the characteristic mass distribution of a wheelchair and its occupant relative to the wheel orientation and the fact that nearly all outdoor, improved surfaces (e.g., streets and sidewalks) are sloped for drainage.	n=1. The subject was an athletic 20-year old male paraplegic (T12, L1).	Not presented		Angle of the sidewalk Speed Drag (N) Power (W)  Strokes per minute	The factors that produce the downhill turning effect are: the slope, the moment arm of the center of gravity about the downhill wheel, the mass of the wheelchair and occupant and the distance between the wheels at the surface.  A statistic analysis of the 2° slope condition was made to determine the downhill turning moment to provide a basis for comparison with the results of the drag tests. Not described.	Drag was approximately 12% higher for the standard wheelchair. Drag was both for the 4 km/h condition on the level surface, but was higher for the 3 km/h condition on the sloped surface for both models. Drag was roughly two times as large for both chairs at both speeds on the sloped surface as it was on the level surface.		The higher mechanical efficiency obtained for the side-slope conditions may be attributed to the more favorable conditions of support for the force-vector of the muscles and also to the fact that only one arm was used for propulsion. The significance of the latter lies in that a result of having only one arm active in the recovery phase. The recovery phase typically accounts for 75% of the stroke time and consumes metabolic energy but does not produce any work. Two potential design suggestions to eliminate the side-slope effect are the center-of-gravity (c.g.) wheelchair and "steerable" casters. Although a properly balanced c.g. wheelchair minimizes side-sloping, it does not eliminate the directional stability or tracking tendency of the wheelchair and, therefore, requires nearly constant steering corrections. Differences in drag brokes between level and slope conditions.	24
	Cooper, R.A., Molinari, A.M., Souza, A., Collins, D.M., Karmakar, A., Tedeschi, E., & Spomer, M. (2012). Effects of cross slopes and varying surface characteristics on the mobility of manual wheelchair users. <i>Assistive Technology: The Official Journal of RESNA</i> , 24(2): 102-109.	Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, United States	Mobility impaired, self-propelling wheelchair users	To identify the difficulty that cross slopes present to manual wheelchair users as compared with other driving obstacles such as curbs, doors and gravel, and second to evaluate how and to what degree cross-slope surface characteristics impact the mobility of MVC users. A goal of this study was to identify the common cross-slope related pathway characteristics that MVC users reported to be the most troublesome or hazardous for the design of a future biomechanical and workload study.	Surface and obstacles, including cross-slopes, that require the individual to push harder and more often, may increase the risk of negative strain injuries by overloading the arms, which are already at increased risk of injury due to the stresses of wheelchair use. Upper extremity injuries due to repetitive strain of individuals who rely on manual wheelchairs for their mobility have been shown to be related to wheelchair set-up, technique, activity, and pathway characteristics. The Americans with Disabilities Act Accessibility Guidelines states that for access routes and ramps, the cross slopes should not exceed 2%. These standards, however, apply specifically to routes that allow access to, and inside of, buildings. In addition to the running slope (i.e., slope parallel to the path of travel) and cross-slopes, many attributes of the pathway including weather condition, surface type, integrity, and surface roughness may influence the degree of difficulty experienced by the user.	<b>Phase 1.</b> n=500 manual wheelchair users (primary means of mobility) >18 years of age who are enrolled in the Human Engineering Research Laboratories (HERL) Wheelchair Users Registry. They were sent a letter along with a recruitment flyer inviting them to participate in the study. n=107 participated (70 men, 29 women, 25-85 years old, mean age of 40.64 ± 11.08 years, average time of wheelchair use 13.93 ± 12.26 years). Variety of different diagnoses (spinal cord injury (75.7%), progressive disease (14.9%) and other diagnoses such as cerebral palsy, spinal infarct, and amputation (8.4%).  <b>Phase 2.</b> Those respondents who reported cross slopes as harder than the other obstacles in Phase 1 were invited to participate in a web-based survey. n=78 participants completed the web survey.	<b>Phase 1 of this research surveyed MVC users to identify cross slope scenarios that they reported to be more difficult to traverse than other common driving obstacles. A questionnaire was used.</b>  <b>Phase 2</b> focused on identifying the responses (e.g., avoid, explore alternative, experience a sense of insecurity, no effect) that people had when viewing pictures of various cross slopes (e.g., narrow slope, compound angles, extreme weather) that wheelchair users encounter. Data were collected via a secure web server.	Weather condition (rain, snow, ice)  Cross slope angle  Cross slope angle  Paving surface  Weather condition (rain, snow, ice)  Surface roughness  Path width  Combination of the most severe characteristics	Across all 66 scenarios, regardless of cross slope angle or other factors, cross slopes were considered more difficult to traverse than manual doors (n = 11, 16.65%) and narrow doors (n = 9, 13.6%). The 65 scenarios presented to study participants were then separated into three categories based on the severity of the cross slope angle. 34 questions (51.5%) presented mild cross slope angles, 9 (13.6%) showed moderate cross slope angles, and 23 (34.8%) pictured severe cross slope angles. In 23 cases the cross slope, with a median score of 4 or 5, was reported to be harder to traverse than at least one other wheelchair mobility activity or obstacle. These 23 occasions represented 11 different cross slope conditions that were rated by participants as being more difficult to negotiate than the other wheelchair mobility activities or obstacles.  24 of the 65 scenarios presented a weather condition such as rain, snow, or ice that may make traversing the cross slope more difficult. 10 of the scenarios with difficult weather had a mild cross slope angle, 1 scenario had a moderate cross slope, and 13 had a severe cross slope condition. In these scenarios, participants rated the cross slope to be more difficult than a narrow door in 6 instances (25%) and more difficult than a manual door in 7 cases (23.1%).  26 of the 65 scenarios presented rough surfaces. 13 of them had a mild cross slope angle, 3 had a moderate cross slope angle and 10 had a severe cross slope angle. Participants rate surfaces with cross-slopes in combination with rough surfaces such as curbs, debris, rocks, and raised areas as more difficult to traverse than other wheelchair mobility activities or obstacles. In these scenarios, participants rated the cross slope to be more difficult to traverse than a narrow door in 5 cases (19.2%) and more difficult than a manual door in 6 cases (23%).  Compound cross slopes, with a severe turning slope and a severe cross slope angle, were also reported to present a greater challenge to participants. 23 of the 65 scenarios presented compound cross slopes. These were rated as more difficult to traverse than a narrow door in 8 cases (34.8%), followed by gravel in 2 instances (8.7%) and more difficult than a 4 in. curb in 1 case (4.3%).  8 images were rated by respondents most frequently to be avoided or as difficult to negotiate, all of which had similar characteristics as determined by the investigators. All but one image had a cross-slope angle with a "severe" rating. The exception was rated "moderate" but other characteristics such as rocks, raised surface areas and a narrow pathway were present. 5 images had a "severe" slope angle, 3 images had a "mild" slope angle.  6 images were "concrete" surface types. 1 was "brick" a pathway and 1 pathway had sections of broken concrete or had sections of gravel. 2 of the images depicted surfaces covered with "snow." 1 depicted a surface covered with "ice" and 1 depicted a surface with "dry" conditions. Smooth was the surface characteristic in 3 of the images, cracks in the pedestrian pathway were visible in 2 of the images, and pedestrian pathways with raised areas and gravel were each in 1 image. 2 were "mud" were "adequate" and the remaining 4 were "wide." Adequate was defined as the standard ADA compliant pedestrian pathway.  Severe cross slope angle, severe slope angle, snow, concrete on curbs, and a narrow pathway.	The presentation of the various scenarios and scoring may have been confusing to some participants.  Phase 1 results indicate that cross slopes with severe angles were likely to be rated as more difficult than the obstacles presented for comparison, manual and narrow doors. In particular, Participants often rated cross slopes with severe angles and compound angles to be more difficult to traverse compared to other obstacles. Cross slopes with compound angles and paved surface conditions were frequently rated as more difficult to negotiate than other common wheelchair mobility activities. Improved surface qualities traversed by wheelchair users would not only decrease frequency of propulsion, but would also decrease propulsion power and possibly repetitive strain injuries of manual wheelchair users.  The design of the questionnaire used in Phase 1 made it difficult to determine which individual factor (e.g., weather condition, cross slope angle, severe weather, surface integrity, etc.) made the cross slope more difficult to traverse.	45			
Crossfall	Holloway, K. & Tyler, N. (2013) A micro-level approach to measuring the accessibility of footways for wheelchair users using the Capability Model. <i>Transportation Planning &amp; Technology</i> , 36 (7): 636-649.	United Kingdom	Mobility impaired, self-propelling wheelchair users	Measure the accessibility of footways in relationship with the characteristics of their crossfall. A crossfall is the traverse gradient used to aid drainage. This study considers only the self-propelling wheelchair users, depending on the proportion between the capabilities of the user, the type of wheelchair they are using, the weight of the wheelchair system, and the design of the footway. Hypothesis: There is an additional capability provided by people as they push a wheelchair over a footway with a 2.5% and 4% crossfall compared with one which has a 0% crossfall.	An essential component of footway design is the crossfall. It affects every user of the footway, and is a particular issue for wheelchair users. A crossfall will naturally turn any wheeled device downwards because of the gravity. Current UK footway guidelines state that the crossfall gradient should not exceed 2.5% because a steeper gradient could hinder the accessibility of wheelchair users and others with mobility impairments. UK Highway Agency states that crossfall greater than 3% can be uncomfortable to walk on. They recommended a crossfall of between 2% and 3.3%, with an absolute minimum of 1.5% and a maximum of 7%. The Americans with Disabilities Act Accessibility Guidelines (US Access Board, 1994) states that a maximum crossfall gradient of 2% must be maintained on footways to ensure their accessibility for wheelchair users.	n = 12 able-bodied people were recruited along with 2 regular wheelchair users (12 males, 3 females). This gender imbalance was not designed in the experiment. Average weight: 69.08kg, standard deviation of 16.86kg. Average age: 34.6 ± 9.0 years, 11/14 were right-handed.	n = 12 able-bodied people were recruited along with 2 regular wheelchair users (12 males, 3 females). This gender imbalance was not designed in the experiment. Average weight: 69.08kg, standard deviation of 16.86kg. Average age: 34.6 ± 9.0 years, 11/14 were right-handed.	A SmartWheel was installed on each wheelchair, measuring three dimensional forces and moments applied to its hand rim, as well as the velocity.	Mass of the user  Mass of the wheelchair	Work made by the user (tangential force with respect to distance travelled over each contact period)  The data were trimmed to exclude the first and last push which were responsible for starting and stopping the wheelchair. Contacts with the handrim were identified by finding local maxima peaks and local minima peaks of tangential force. An inside-out search was then used to find where the tangential force dropped below or rose above 0 N. These times were recorded and the work done was calculated for each contact. The 2 capabilities (work done and force difference between each side) were calculated by summing successive runs (an upstroke and a downstroke) on the same surface to get the "sum of work". The values for the sum of work and the difference of work were checked for normality using the Shapiro-Wilk test and then analyzed using multiple linear regression analyses with occupant mass and crossfall gradient regressors. A Bonferroni adjustment was applied to the significance level, which resulted in a significance level of $\alpha=0.017$ .	The regression model for the sum of work was a very poor fit (R <sup>2</sup> =0.03, R <sup>2</sup> adj=0.047), and although the relationship is weak, the model did have predictive ability. It only captured approximately 5% of the variance recorded in the sum of work and it is not a generally useful model. The regression model for the effect of crossfall on the difference of work shows a good degree of fit (R <sup>2</sup> =0.605, R <sup>2</sup> adj=0.663), and was significant at explaining the variation in the data (F(2,12)=388.614, $p<0.0001$ ). When the individual analyses are examined with the aid of a t-test both crossfall and occupant mass are significant. Crossfall was positively correlated with the work difference.  The coupling strategies employed by people when applying a difference of work while continuing to provide the work necessary to move the wheelchair ranged from those who simply reduced the magnitude of force on the upstroke side to those who had to apply frequent braking forces to the upstroke side while increasing the magnitude of their pushes on the downstroke side.  1) Participants were mostly inexperienced wheelchair users. 2) The way the individuals applied additional forces is beyond the scope of this study. 3) Further studies should consider other surfaces, longer distances, and experienced wheelchair users.	Crossfalls present a barrier to wheelchair users who necessitate them to provide increased forces. During their study, cadence (pushes per minute) was noted to change significantly as crossfall increased. This research has showed a linear increase of the difference of work provided by people as crossfall gradient increases, and the necessity for all users to use at least one break in lieu of a push on the downstroke side.	39	
	Kochman, K., Zhao, Y. & Bickelham-Zimmerman, C. (2011). Modeling the effect of ADA sidewalk cross-slope design. <i>Journal of Rehabilitation Research &amp; Development</i> , 38(1): 101-110.	Austin, Texas, United States	Mobility impaired	The ADA Accessibility Guidelines (ADAAG) clearly state that accessible sidewalks require limited cross slope (Uniformity), existing infrastructure and terrain conditions, restricted right-of-way (ROW), and city ordinances often prevent these agencies from achieving the standard of a 2% cross-slope at all of the corners of an accessible route. Currently, one primary area of concern is maintaining the prescribed cross-slope where sidewalks intersect with driveways. No research has been undertaken as to the effect of cross-slope on the accessibility of sidewalks to persons with disabilities. Prior research is insufficient to support the ADA's 2% cross-slope requirement. Existing studies have used fairly homogeneous populations of young males with good upper-body strength and stamina as their test subjects. Because of these deficiencies, the validity of existing requirements for less physically capable users and users with different mobility aids may be questioned. A reasonable maximum slope standard is urgently needed for design standards and construction cost estimation.	The ADA Accessibility Guidelines (ADAAG) clearly state that accessible sidewalks require limited cross slope (Uniformity), existing infrastructure and terrain conditions, restricted right-of-way (ROW), and city ordinances often prevent these agencies from achieving the standard of a 2% cross-slope at all of the corners of an accessible route. Currently, one primary area of concern is maintaining the prescribed cross-slope where sidewalks intersect with driveways. 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Respondents to the field survey, n=19 (10 women, 9 men, range: 27-59 years, 4 manual wheelchair users, 8 electrically powered wheelchair users, one used both, one scooter user, 2 cane users, 1 crutches user, 1 not specified).	2 field surveys were used: one where participants stated their perceptions of ease of sidewalk use before and after crossing various slopes and attributes. Participants were instructed to traverse the sidewalk sections at a comfortable pace, pausing as needed and simulating the way they would typically use a device. Before and after each section, the participants' heart rates, and the participants' subjective assessments of the sidewalk, were recorded.	Cross-slope  Primary slope  Width  Length  Setback distance	Linear regression with Weighted Least Squares (LWRLS) It involves the heart rate changes of subjects after having traversed distinct sidewalk sections. The change in heart rate is an important indicator of energy consumption as a result of crossing a sidewalk section.  Likelihood ratio index (LRI) is a goodness-of-fit measure very similar to an R <sup>2</sup> -adj. 0.10. Thus, the model specification is useful for predicting user assessment, the effects of primary slope and cross-slope are positive, suggesting an increase in traversing difficulty as the primary slope and/or cross-slope increase. The relative magnitudes of the coefficients suggest that the effect of the primary slope is larger than that of the cross-slope. <b>ORPFA:</b> Coefficient: 0.15, sd: 0.03, t-statistic: 4.99 (significant). The effects of primary slope and cross-slope are positive, suggesting an increase in traversing difficulty as the primary slope and/or cross-slope increase. The relative magnitudes of the coefficients suggest that the effect of the primary slope is larger than that of the cross-slope.  Likelihood ratio index (LRI) is a goodness-of-fit measure very similar to an R <sup>2</sup> -adj. 0.10. Thus, the model specification is useful for predicting user assessment. The variance of distance traversed was statistically insignificant. The heart rates may have stabilized before the completion of most, if not all, of the sections. The negative coefficient of gender suggests that a male will feel more comfortable crossing a sidewalk section than will a female. The mobility aid variable has positive effects, suggesting that traversing sidewalks will be more difficult for people with manual wheelchairs than for people with this model's default mobility aid type: cane/crutch.  LWRLS Coefficient: 0.51, sd: 0.12, t-statistic: 4.17 (significant) suggesting that heart rates may have stabilized before the completion of most, if not all, of the sections. The coefficient of distance suggests that the average heart-rate change will increase if the sidewalk section distance increases. ORPFA: no statistically significant heart rates may have stabilized before the completion of most of, if not all, of the sections).	The weighted and adjusted R <sup>2</sup> value is rather high (0.78), indicating that the explanatory variables in the model explain much of the variation in recorded heart-rate changes.  <b>LWRLS</b> Coefficient: 13.41, sd: 7.75, t-statistic: 0.23. <b>ORPFA:</b> Coefficient: 0.11, sd: 0.02, t-statistic: 5.84 (significant).  <b>LWRLS</b> Coefficient: 1.42, sd: 6.04, t-statistic: 0.23. Likelihood ratio index (LRI) is a goodness-of-fit measure very similar to an R <sup>2</sup> -adj. 0.10. Thus, the model specification is useful for predicting user assessment, the effects of primary slope and cross-slope are positive, suggesting an increase in traversing difficulty as the primary slope and/or cross-slope increase. The relative magnitudes of the coefficients suggest that the effect of the primary slope is larger than that of the cross-slope. <b>ORPFA:</b> Coefficient: 0.15, sd: 0.03, t-statistic: 4.99 (significant). The effects of primary slope and cross-slope are positive, suggesting an increase in traversing difficulty as the primary slope and/or cross-slope increase. The relative magnitudes of the coefficients suggest that the effect of the primary slope is larger than that of the cross-slope.  Likelihood ratio index (LRI) is a goodness-of-fit measure very similar to an R <sup>2</sup> -adj. 0.10. Thus, the model specification is useful for predicting user assessment. The variance of distance traversed was statistically insignificant. The heart rates may have stabilized before the completion of most, if not all, of the sections. The negative coefficient of gender suggests that a male will feel more comfortable crossing a sidewalk section than will a female. 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Physical fitness level: <b>LWRLS</b> Coefficient: -29.34, sd: 5.29, t-statistic: -5.54 (significant). Heart rate increases in a linear fashion as physical fitness increases, and the measurement is therefore an appropriate proxy for physical fitness. The least correlation between perceived and actual effort. The effect of physical fitness level suggests that the higher the level of physical fitness, the less the heart rate increases in response to cross slopes. <b>ORPFA:</b> Coefficient: -0.20, sd: 0.10, t-statistic: -1.93 (significant). The heart rate target zone for physical training is defined as between 65% and 85% of one's maximum heart rate. While 75% may be an acceptable target zone for training or exercise, it may be higher than acceptable for persons negotiating sidewalks simply for reasons of access and activities.  <b>ORPFA</b> gender: Coefficient: -0.98, sd: 0.17, t-statistic: -5.64 (significant). The negative coefficient suggests that a male will feel more comfortable crossing a sidewalk section than will a female. <b>ORPFA:</b> The mobility aid variable has positive effects, suggesting that traversing sidewalks will be more difficult for people with manual wheelchairs than with people with this model's default mobility aid type: cane/crutch. <b>LWRLS:</b> The related magnitudes of the parameters imply that people using cane/crutches consume more energy than do people using other aid types. <b>ORPFA:</b> coefficient: 1.91, sd: 1.27, t-statistic: 2.00 (significant), which suggests that older users may experience greater change in heart rate than will younger users.	Results suggest that the critical cross slope for 60-year-old manual wheelchair users is about 2.2 % when the primary slope of the sidewalk is 0% and 6% and 9% when the main grade of the sidewalk is 0%. Considering that the average age of the test sample is 40 years (with a standard deviation of about 10), the resulting critical cross-slopes for 0% and 5% main grades are 12.1% and 5.3%, respectively. ADA-based 2% maximum cross-slopes may be too conservative for most disabled users, particularly in relatively short sections where terrain and/or other conditions do not permit such gradual slopes. While many of those with disabilities who were sampled here are able to traverse sidewalks having up to a 20% cross slope, many users are not. In recognition of the tradeoff between construct reliability and construct validity, a 10% maximum cross-slope may be recommended, based on this research. Such a slope is estimated to preclude the use of those who describe themselves as being in very poor physical shape. However, anecdotal evidence gathered in this study suggests that persons in this category often do not rely on sidewalks to meet their daily travel needs or do not normally rely on their own propulsion when traveling on sidewalks. In order to accommodate the largest number of possible users, a 4% maximum cross-slope is recommended. Where a 4% maximum is not feasible and the primary slope is too high, a 2% maximum cross-slope appears to be very reasonable. The most easily accessible sidewalks are those where cross-slope is minimized, and width is maximized. The demonstrated relationship between the increase in heart rate and the increase in cross-slope further supports this recommendation.	43
See also "Descriptive Comprehensive"	Laakso, M., Sarjakoski, T., & Sarjakoski, L. T. (2011). Improving accessibility information in pedestrian maps and databases. <i>Cartographica</i> , 46(2), 101-108.													