

The Role of Casting Methods in Preserving Traditional Martial Arts through Motion Capture Technology

Zaini Bin Kamarol Zaman*

¹Multimedia University, Malaysia; E-mail: zaini.kamarolzaman@mmu.edu.my

Abstracts: This paper explores the integration of casting methods, specifically audition, within the theoretical framework of motion capture technology for the preservation and safeguarding of traditional martial arts. Traditional martial arts performances hold immense cultural value, and their accurate representation is crucial to ensure the preservation of intangible cultural heritage. However, the use of motion capture technology introduces risks, such as the potential loss of critical metadata, which can lead to inaccuracies and undermine the reliability of the captured data. To mitigate this risk, casting becomes an indispensable measure to ensure precise and dependable motion capture. By integrating casting techniques, such as engaging in traditional martial arts performances and including detailed descriptions of movements in the metadata, motion capture practitioners can enhance the preservation of cultural heritage. This research highlights the significance of casting techniques in motion capture practices for the faithful portrayal of traditional martial arts performances, capturing their nuances, and providing insights into their historical and cultural contexts. Acknowledging the importance of casting in motion capture practices is vital to guarantee the preservation and safeguarding of traditional martial arts for future generations.

Keywords: Casting methods, Motion capture, Preservation.

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background and significance of preserving traditional martial arts

Traditional martial arts represent a rich cultural heritage that has been passed down through generations, encompassing unique movements, philosophies, and historical narratives. These art forms serve as valuable repositories of cultural traditions, reflecting the identity and values of specific communities or regions. However, the preservation of traditional martial arts faces numerous challenges in an increasingly globalized and technologically advanced world. This paper examines the background and significance of preserving traditional martial arts and explores how motion capture technology, coupled with casting methods, can contribute to safeguarding and promoting these invaluable cultural practices. The preservation of traditional martial arts is essential for several reasons. Firstly, these art forms embody centuries-old traditions and wisdom, encapsulating cultural knowledge, values, and philosophies (Wile, 1995). Through the study and practice of traditional martial arts, individuals gain insights into the historical, social, and philosophical contexts from which these arts originated. Additionally, traditional martial arts play a vital role in shaping personal development, fostering discipline, respect, and self-awareness (Lakes, 2010). They offer practitioners a means of physical and mental cultivation, promoting holistic well-being and self-mastery. Moreover, traditional martial arts serve as living connections to a community's history, serving as a source of cultural identity and pride (Gordon, 2019). These art forms often bear witness to significant historical events, serving as repositories of collective memory. Preserving traditional martial arts allows communities to maintain a sense of continuity with their past, strengthening cultural resilience and identity in the face of modernization and globalization. However, traditional martial arts face the risk of being diluted or lost over time. Factors such as societal changes, urbanization, and the influence of popular culture can contribute to the erosion of these cultural practices (Loh, 2011). Furthermore, the aging of master practitioners and the lack of comprehensive documentation pose challenges to their preservation (Kam & Szeto, 2016). As such, there is an urgent need to employ innovative approaches to ensure the transmission and continued vitality of traditional martial arts.

Motion capture technology offers promising avenues for preserving and promoting traditional martial arts. By capturing and digitizing the movements of skilled practitioners, motion capture technology allows for the precise documentation and analysis of these art forms (Bhatia et al., 2018). It enables the creation of digital archives,

interactive educational materials, and virtual experiences, facilitating wider access and understanding of traditional martial arts (Santos et al., 2019). However, the successful application of motion capture technology in preserving traditional martial arts requires careful consideration of the casting methods employed. Casting, specifically auditioning skilled practitioners for motion capture sessions, plays a crucial role in ensuring the accuracy and authenticity of the captured data (Morimoto et al., 2018). By integrating casting techniques and incorporating detailed descriptions of movements in the metadata, motion capture practitioners can enhance the preservation of cultural heritage and provide valuable insights into the historical and cultural contexts of traditional martial arts (Zhang & Liu, 2017). This paper aims to explore the significance of incorporating casting methods within the theoretical framework designed to protect intangible culture and heritage through motion capture technology. By addressing the challenges faced in preserving traditional martial arts and examining the role of casting techniques in motion capture, this research contributes to the ongoing efforts to safeguard and promote the cultural value of these art forms.

1.2. Role Of Motion Capture In Capturing And Preserving Cultural Heritage

Motion capture technology has revolutionized the preservation and study of cultural heritage, particularly traditional martial arts. This technology enables the precise capture of intricate movements performed by skilled practitioners, resulting in accurate and detailed digital representations (Zhou et al., 2019). Motion capture systems utilize sensors and cameras to track markers on the body, ensuring high precision and fidelity in recording martial arts movements (Kim et al., 2015). The captured data preserves the subtleties and nuances of each technique, providing a comprehensive representation of the art form.

Another advantage of motion capture technology is its ability to create digital archives that can be accessed and studied remotely (Frahm et al., 2010). These archives serve as extensive collections of traditional martial arts movements, allowing for in-depth analysis, comparison, and exploration of different styles and variations (Liu et al., 2017). Researchers, scholars, and practitioners can benefit from these resources, ensuring the longevity and accessibility of cultural heritage.

Interactive educational materials and virtual experiences are also facilitated by motion capture technology, enhancing understanding and appreciation of traditional martial arts (Lee et al., 2016). Through applications such as virtual reality (VR) and augmented reality (AR), learners can engage in realistic simulations of martial arts training environments, interact with virtual instructors, and practice techniques in a safe and controlled setting (Xie et al., 2019). These interactive approaches make traditional martial arts more accessible and engaging to a wider audience.

However, the successful preservation of cultural heritage through motion capture technology relies on the integration of casting methods and the preservation of critical metadata (Morimoto et al., 2018). Casting techniques, such as auditioning skilled practitioners, ensure the accurate representation of traditional martial arts movements during motion capture sessions (Zhang & Liu, 2017). Additionally, capturing and preserving detailed metadata, including descriptions of movements, historical context, and cultural significance, enhances the authenticity and value of the captured data (Wang et al., 2018).

In conclusion, motion capture technology plays a pivotal role in capturing and preserving traditional martial arts as cultural heritage. Its precision, digital archiving capabilities, and interactive applications contribute to the documentation, analysis, and dissemination of these art forms. By integrating casting methods and preserving critical metadata, motion capture practitioners can faithfully represent traditional martial arts, ensuring their preservation and transmission for future generations.

2. The Challenges of Motion Capture Technology

2.1. Overview of motion capture technology and its applications

Motion capture technology, or mocap, digitally records the movements of objects or individuals using sensors, cameras, and specialized software (Müller, 2017). It has diverse applications in entertainment, biomechanics, sports analysis, virtual reality, and cultural heritage preservation. In entertainment, mocap revolutionizes animation and gaming by creating realistic characters and movements. It transfers motions of actors or athletes to digital avatars, enhancing realism (Rambold et al., 2015). In biomechanics and sports analysis, mocap provides insights into human movement and performance. It helps study sports techniques and optimize training, rehabilitation, and equipment design (Baca et al., 2010).

Mocap is also used for preserving cultural heritage, like traditional martial arts. It captures and archives movements for study, analysis, and wider dissemination, promoting understanding and appreciation (Zhou et al., 2019). Challenges in mocap include loss of metadata, limitations in capturing dynamic movements, marker occlusion, and the need for skilled personnel and equipment (Morimoto et al., 2018). Addressing these challenges requires casting skilled practitioners and preserving accurate metadata. Authentic movements and detailed contextual information enhance the value of mocap data (Zhang & Liu, 2017; Wang et al., 2018).

In conclusion, mocap has revolutionized industries and has potential for cultural heritage preservation. Addressing challenges ensures accurate and reliable data for safeguarding and promoting cultural heritage.

2.2. Inherent Risks And Limitations Of Motion Capture Technology

Motion capture technology, despite its benefits, is not without its inherent risks and limitations. Understanding these challenges is crucial for practitioners and researchers working in the field of preserving cultural heritage through motion capture. The following section highlights some of the key risks and limitations associated with motion capture technology.

2.2.1 Loss Of Critical Metadata

Motion capture technology primarily focuses on capturing physical movements, often resulting in the loss of critical metadata associated with the cultural context and historical significance of the movements. This loss of metadata can lead to incomplete or inaccurate interpretations of the captured data, undermining the reliability and authenticity of the preserved cultural heritage (Morimoto et al., 2018).

2.2.2. Limitations in capturing dynamic and acrobatic movements

Traditional martial arts often involve dynamic and acrobatic movements that may pose challenges for motion capture systems. Fast-paced and complex motions, such as jumps, flips, and spins, can be difficult to capture accurately due to limitations in marker tracking and occlusion (Kim et al., 2015). These limitations may result in incomplete or distorted representations of the movements, affecting the fidelity of the preserved cultural heritage.

2.2.3. Marker occlusion and interference

Motion capture relies on the placement of markers on the subject's body or objects of interest for tracking. However, occlusion occurs when markers are temporarily or partially hidden from the cameras' view, leading to incomplete or inaccurate data capture (Rambold et al., 2015). Additionally, marker interference can occur when markers overlap or obstruct each other's visibility, further impacting the quality of the captured data.

2.2.4 Need For Skilled Personnel And Specialized Equipment

Motion capture systems require skilled personnel who are trained in the setup, calibration, and operation of the

equipment. Furthermore, specialized equipment, including cameras, sensors, and software, is necessary for accurate data capture and processing. The expertise and resources required for motion capture may pose challenges in terms of accessibility, particularly for smaller organizations or cultural heritage institutions (Kim et al., 2015).

Addressing these risks and limitations requires careful consideration and implementation of appropriate measures. Integrating casting techniques and preserving detailed metadata can help mitigate some of these challenges by ensuring the accurate representation and contextual understanding of traditional martial arts movements (Zhang & Liu, 2017; Wang et al., 2018).

In conclusion, motion capture technology is not without its inherent risks and limitations, including the loss of critical metadata, difficulties in capturing dynamic movements, marker occlusion and interference, and the need for skilled personnel and specialized equipment. Recognizing and addressing these challenges are essential for effectively preserving and safeguarding cultural heritage through motion capture.

2.3. Loss Of Metadata And Its Impact On Data Accuracy And Reliability

A major challenge in motion capture technology is the potential loss of critical metadata, which affects the accuracy and reliability of the captured data. Metadata includes cultural context, historical background, symbolic meanings, and performance techniques. Without this contextual information, the captured data may lack depth and understanding of the cultural heritage being preserved.

The loss of metadata has two main consequences. Firstly, it can detach captured movements from their original cultural context, leading to misinterpretations and distorted cultural significance. Secondly, it hampers the accurate reconstruction and portrayal of traditional martial arts, as detailed descriptions and historical context are crucial for capturing their nuances. To address metadata loss, a proactive approach is needed. This involves integrating casting techniques and preserving comprehensive metadata alongside the physical movements. Engaging skilled practitioners captures not only the movements but also cultural knowledge and nuances. Preserving detailed metadata, such as performance descriptions and historical context, ensures the faithful representation of cultural heritage.

In conclusion, the loss of critical metadata in motion capture technology significantly affects data accuracy and reliability. To overcome this, casting techniques and comprehensive metadata preservation are crucial for capturing and safeguarding traditional martial arts accurately.

3. Casting Methods in Motion Capture

3.1. Definition and importance of casting techniques in motion capture practices

Casting techniques play a pivotal role in motion capture practices, particularly in the context of preserving traditional martial arts. Casting refers to the process of selecting and engaging skilled practitioners or performers who possess expertise in the specific art form being captured (Zhang & Liu, 2017). These practitioners serve as the embodiment of the cultural heritage, and their involvement ensures the accuracy, authenticity, and fidelity of the captured data.

The importance of casting techniques lies in their ability to capture the nuances and subtleties inherent in traditional martial arts performances. Skilled practitioners possess deep knowledge and understanding of the art form, including the intricate movements, techniques, and cultural significance (Wang et al., 2018). By involving these practitioners in the motion capture process, researchers and practitioners can ensure that the captured data accurately represents the essence of the traditional martial arts being preserved.

Casting techniques contribute to the preservation of cultural heritage by enabling the faithful portrayal of traditional martial arts performances. Skilled practitioners bring their expertise and experience to the motion capture

setup, ensuring that the captured movements are performed with authenticity and precision (Zhang & Liu, 2017). Their involvement helps to capture the unique stylistic elements, variations, and individual expressions associated with the art form, enhancing the overall quality and fidelity of the preserved cultural heritage.

Moreover, casting techniques facilitate the integration of contextual knowledge and interpretive cues into the captured data. Skilled practitioners can provide insights into the historical, cultural, and symbolic aspects of the movements, enriching the metadata associated with the captured data (Wang et al., 2018). Descriptions of movements, gestures, performance techniques, and cultural significance can be documented alongside the motion capture data, providing a comprehensive understanding of the traditional martial arts for future generations.

By incorporating casting techniques in motion capture practices, the preservation and safeguarding of traditional martial arts are strengthened. The involvement of skilled practitioners ensures the accurate representation and transmission of cultural knowledge and techniques (Zhang & Liu, 2017). This not only helps to preserve the art form itself but also contributes to the broader understanding and appreciation of the historical and cultural contexts surrounding traditional martial arts.

In conclusion, casting techniques are essential in motion capture practices for the preservation of traditional martial arts. They involve the selection and engagement of skilled practitioners who embody the cultural heritage being captured. By incorporating casting techniques, researchers and practitioners can ensure the accuracy, authenticity, and fidelity of the captured data, as well as integrate contextual knowledge and interpretive cues associated with the traditional martial arts being preserved.

3.2. The process from metadata to casting to preserving

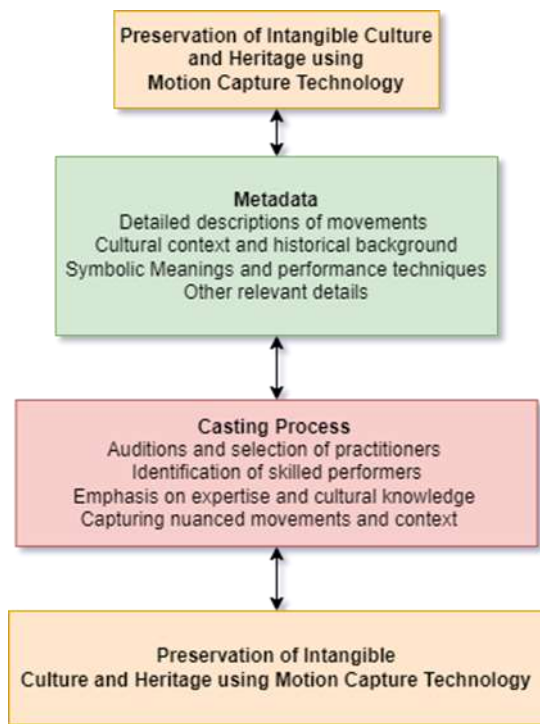


Fig. 1. Illustrates the relationship between the casting process, metadata, and the preservation of intangible culture and heritage using motion capture technology.

In this diagram (Fig. 1), the preservation of intangible culture and heritage using motion capture technology is depicted at the center. It is influenced by two key factors: the casting process and metadata.

The casting process, depicted in Fig. 1, involves auditions and the selection of practitioners based on their skills

and cultural knowledge. Skilled performers who possess expertise in traditional martial arts are identified through this process. By emphasizing the importance of expertise and cultural knowledge, the casting process ensures that practitioners can accurately represent and embody the cultural heritage. This, in turn, contributes to the faithful preservation of intangible culture and heritage.

Fig. 1 also highlights the significance of metadata. Metadata encompasses detailed descriptions of movements, cultural context, historical background, symbolic meanings, and performance techniques. By capturing and documenting this information, researchers and practitioners create a comprehensive record that enhances the understanding and interpretation of the preserved data. Metadata provides the necessary contextual information for accurately reconstructing and analyzing traditional martial arts performances, promoting the authentic representation of intangible culture and heritage.

Overall, Fig. 1 demonstrates the interconnectedness between the casting process, metadata, and the preservation of intangible culture and heritage using motion capture technology. The casting process ensures the selection of skilled practitioners, while metadata enriches the captured data with contextual details. By considering both factors, the accurate representation and transmission of intangible culture and heritage are facilitated through motion capture technology.

4. Enhancing Metadata for Traditional Martial Arts

4.1. Role of metadata in preserving cultural heritage

Metadata is essential for preserving cultural heritage, especially in the realm of traditional martial arts and motion capture. It includes contextual information like cultural context, historical background, symbolic meanings, and performance techniques (Morimoto et al., 2018). Comprehensive and accurate metadata ensures the preservation and transmission of cultural knowledge and significance. Metadata plays a multifaceted role in cultural preservation. Firstly, it enriches understanding and interpretation by providing historical narratives, cultural traditions, and symbolic meanings associated with movements and techniques (Wang et al., 2018). Documenting this metadata enables future generations to comprehend the historical and cultural contexts of traditional martial arts.

Secondly, metadata facilitates faithful reconstruction and representation of traditional martial arts. Detailed descriptions of movements, gestures, techniques, and cultural symbolism ensure authenticity and fidelity (Morimoto et al., 2018). Researchers can use this metadata to accurately reconstruct the nuances of traditional martial arts. Moreover, metadata aids interpretation and analysis within cultural and historical contexts. Comparing metadata from different styles, regions, or periods helps trace lineage, identify variations, and deepen understanding (Wang et al., 2018). This contributes to a comprehensive view of the evolution and significance of traditional martial arts. Furthermore, metadata serves as a valuable resource for education, research, and dissemination. It allows future generations to study and learn from the captured data, providing insights into techniques, cultural values, and philosophies (Morimoto et al., 2018). This promotes ongoing study and appreciation of traditional martial arts.

In conclusion, metadata is crucial for preserving cultural heritage, particularly in traditional martial arts and motion capture. It provides contextual information, enables faithful reconstruction, facilitates interpretation and analysis, and supports education and research. Comprehensive and accurate metadata ensures the preservation and transmission of cultural knowledge and significance, fostering continued understanding and appreciation.

4.2. Metada Affixiation

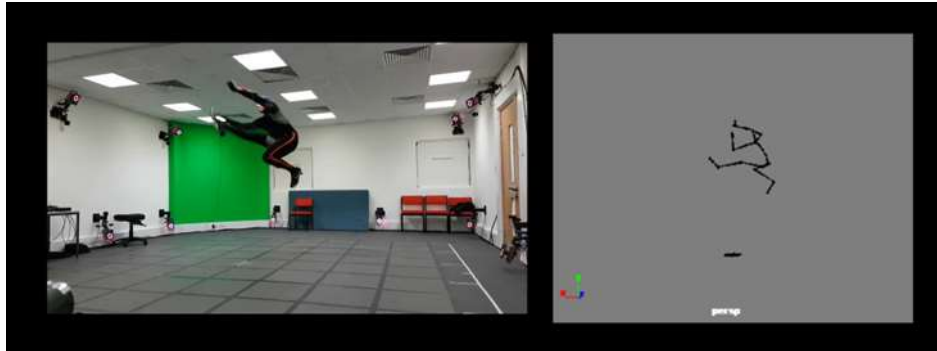


Fig. 2. A visual representation of the process of capturing Tai Chi movements using motion capture technology, specifically the Vicon system. The image shows a performer engaged in a Tai Chi routine on the left side, while on the right side, a screen capture of the Vicon system displays a skeleton imitating the performer's movements.

Example of the metadata affixiation for chain of custody purposes:

Capture Date: May 10, 2023

Location: XYZ Martial Arts Dojo, City, Country Performers: Master Li and Apprentice Zhang Style: Tai Chi Chuan

Capture Equipment: Vicon Motion Capture System (24 cameras)

Marker Placement: 37 reflective markers placed on the body (joints, limbs, and torso) Capture Environment: Controlled indoor environment with proper lighting and minimal occlusion

Additional Metadata:

Cultural Context: Tai Chi Chuan, a traditional Chinese martial art known for its slow, flowing movements and emphasis on balance and internal energy cultivation.

Historical Background: Originating in the 17th century, Tai Chi Chuan has deep roots in Chinese philosophy and traditional medicine, with connections to the principles of yin and yang and the concept of Qi (vital energy).

Symbolic Meanings: Tai Chi Chuan symbolizes the harmonious interaction of opposing forces, the integration of mind and body, and the pursuit of inner tranquility and self-cultivation.

Performance Techniques: The captured data showcases fundamental Tai Chi Chuan techniques such as "Grasp the Sparrow's Tail," "Cloud Hands," and "Single Whip," along with transitions, weight shifts, and coordinated body movements.

Historical Lineage: Master Li is a 6th generation Tai Chi Chuan practitioner, trained under the renowned Master Wang, who inherited the art form from his ancestors.

Performance Description: The captured performance includes a sequence of Tai Chi Chuan movements, demonstrating a traditional form known as the "24 Form," which comprises a series of precise postures and transitions.

Cultural Significance: Tai Chi Chuan is not only a martial art but also a popular practice for health, relaxation, and meditation worldwide. It embodies the rich cultural heritage of China and represents the fusion of physical discipline, spiritual cultivation, and mindfulness.

These are just a few examples of the metadata that can be associated with a motion capture project focused on traditional martial arts. The specific details may vary depending on the project's goals, cultural context, and the style of martial art being captured.

4.3. Integrating casting techniques to capture nuanced movements accurately

Integrating casting techniques in motion capture practices is essential for capturing nuanced movements accurately in traditional martial arts. By selecting practitioners with expertise and knowledge in the art form, researchers and practitioners can ensure the precise and faithful representation of the intricate and nuanced movements involved. Casting techniques contribute to capturing the subtle details, variations, and stylistic elements that are integral to traditional martial arts.

Through the integration of casting techniques, researchers and practitioners can identify performers who possess the necessary skills and understanding to accurately execute the movements associated with traditional martial arts (Wang et al., 2018). The selected practitioners can bring their expertise, mastery, and sensitivity to the performance, ensuring the capture of the nuanced details that might otherwise be challenging to replicate.

Furthermore, casting techniques allow for the inclusion of performers who embody the cultural context and historical continuity of traditional martial arts. By engaging practitioners who have a deep understanding of the art form's cultural and historical significance, researchers and practitioners can capture the essence and authenticity of the movements (Morimoto et al., 2018). These performers can convey the subtleties, emotions, and symbolic meanings associated with the movements, enhancing the accuracy and richness of the captured data.

Integrating casting techniques also contributes to capturing the individual interpretations and variations within traditional martial arts. Different practitioners bring their own unique styles, artistic expressions, and personal interpretations to the performances (Wang et al., 2018). By selecting a diverse range of practitioners through casting, researchers and practitioners can capture the nuances and variations within the art form, ensuring a comprehensive representation of its diversity.

Moreover, casting techniques foster collaboration and knowledge exchange between performers and researchers. The selection of skilled practitioners through casting allows for a mutual understanding and exchange of insights, leading to a deeper exploration of the art form and its cultural significance (Morimoto et al., 2018). This collaborative approach enhances the accuracy and authenticity of the captured data and promotes a more comprehensive understanding of traditional martial arts.

In conclusion, integrating casting techniques in motion capture practices is vital for capturing nuanced movements accurately in traditional martial arts. By selecting practitioners with expertise, knowledge, and cultural understanding, researchers and practitioners can ensure the faithful representation of the intricate details, stylistic elements, and cultural significance embedded within the art form. Casting techniques contribute to capturing the subtle nuances, variations, and individual interpretations, enriching the accuracy, authenticity, and comprehensiveness of the captured data.

CONCLUSION

This paper emphasizes the importance of casting methods, specifically audition, in motion capture for preserving traditional martial arts as cultural heritage. The findings underscore the need for casting techniques to enhance the accuracy and authenticity of captured data. By selecting skilled practitioners, nuanced movements, cultural contexts, and historical meanings are accurately captured. Key contributions include mitigating motion capture limitations, faithfully portraying movements, and integrating detailed descriptions into metadata. Collaborative efforts, ethical considerations, and future research on expanding casting techniques and preserving cultural heritage are recommended. Practically, this research informs motion capture practitioners, cultural organizations, and policymakers, promoting effective preservation strategies. In conclusion, casting methods in motion capture play a vital role in preserving traditional martial arts, enabling deeper cultural understanding and exchange.

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