## **NRI: INT: Wearable Robots for the Community: Personalized Assistance using Human-in-the-loop Optimization**



NSF Award #CMMI- 1925085

Conor Walsh, Louis Awad, Terry Ellis, Scott Kuindersma



HARVARD John A. Paulson School of Engineering and Applied Sciences









## **Optimization of Hip Flexion Assistance (Methods)**





- 8 healthy subjects
- 3 parameters optimization (CMA-ES)
  - Peak timing; Offset timing; Peak force

(Zhang, 2017; Ding, 2018)

## **Optimization of Hip Flexion Assistance (Findings)**

**Finding #1:** For 6 out of 8 subjects having a medium force level was found to be optimal as it avoided causing a marching gait



**Finding #2:** The optimal profile found performed better on average in reducing metabolic cost compared to other commonly used assistive profiles



**Finding #3:** The optimization was validated in one dimension (max force), further supporting the idea that there is a sweet spot for hip flexion assistance



## Monitoring of gait improvements in community settings

- Participant walked around 150 m loop
- Sensors detected significant changes in stride length



Assistance

Stride number

Arens, P., Siviy, C., Bae, J., Choe, D., Karavas, N., Baker, T., Ellis, T., Awad, L., Walsh, C. Real-time gait metric estimation for everyday gait training with wearable devices in people poststroke. *Wearable Technologies (in press)*.