



Quantitative analysis of power output in the field performance of wheel-sports athletes.

Ryuji Hiramatsu, Ph.D

UTokyo Sports Science Initiative, The University of Tokyo

Katsuyuki Kakinoki, Ph.D

Blue Wych LTD.

Outline:

1

Power analysis in Cycling

2

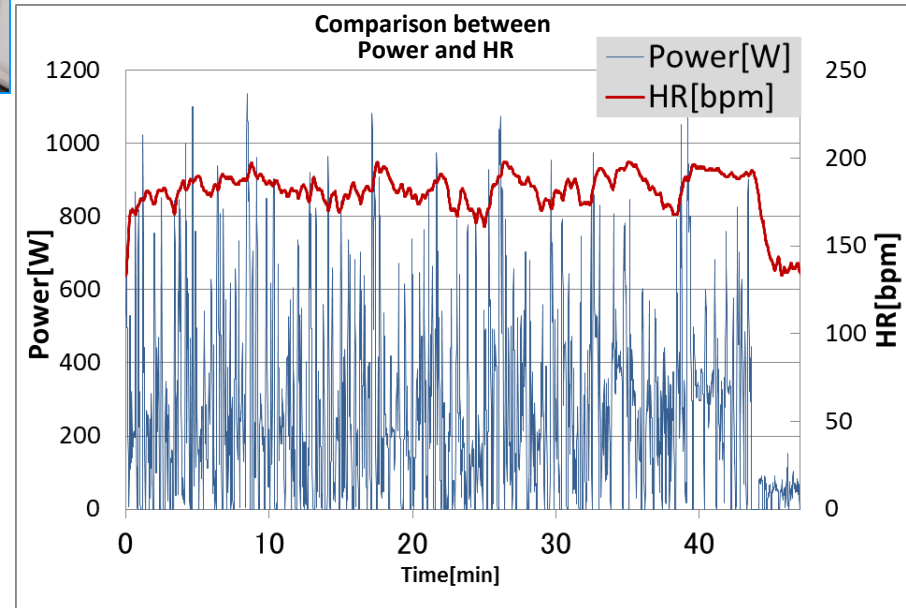
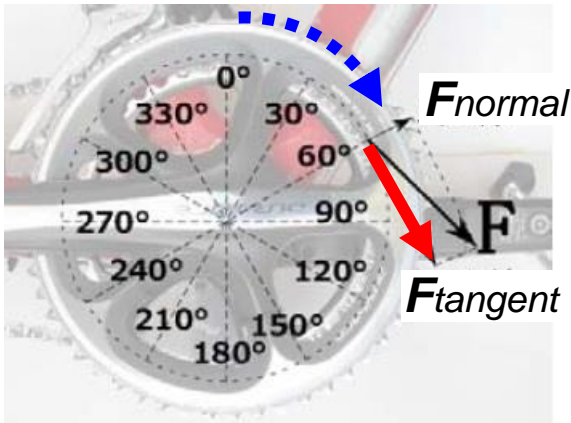
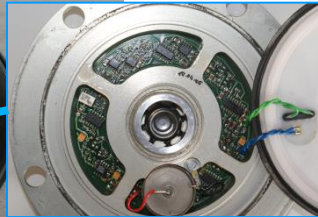
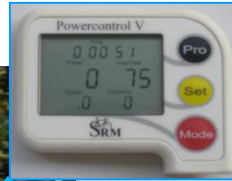
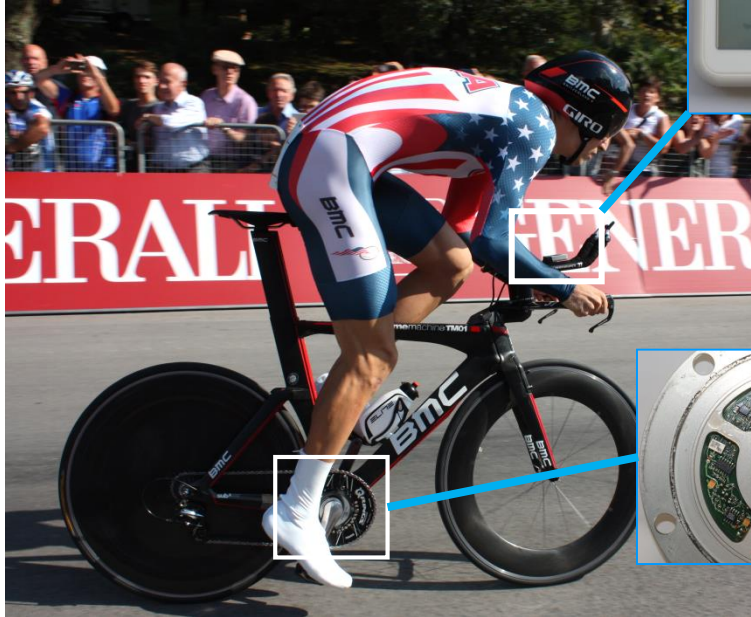
Application of Power analysis
to Para-cycling

3

Application of Power analysis
to Wheelchair racing

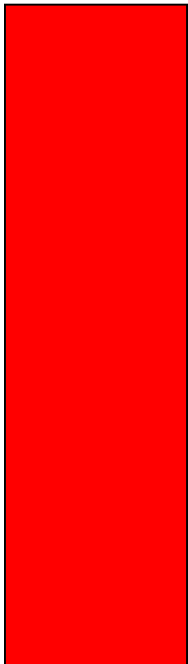
Powermeter: a tool for quantifying the power

- This tool can quantify the power/force output of a rider by measuring the torque coming from the legs with strain gauges in the crank and cadence of pedaling.
- Measured data is recorded in the data logger on handle.



Utilizing the powermeter as "wearable sensor" on bicycle

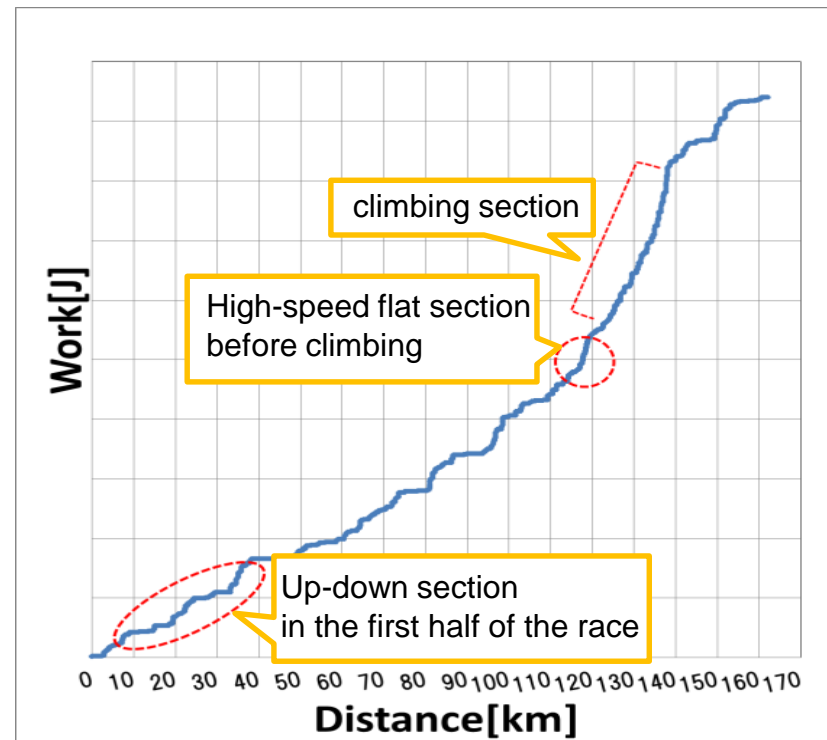
① How much capacity is required in the target race?



① Quantification of "Goal"

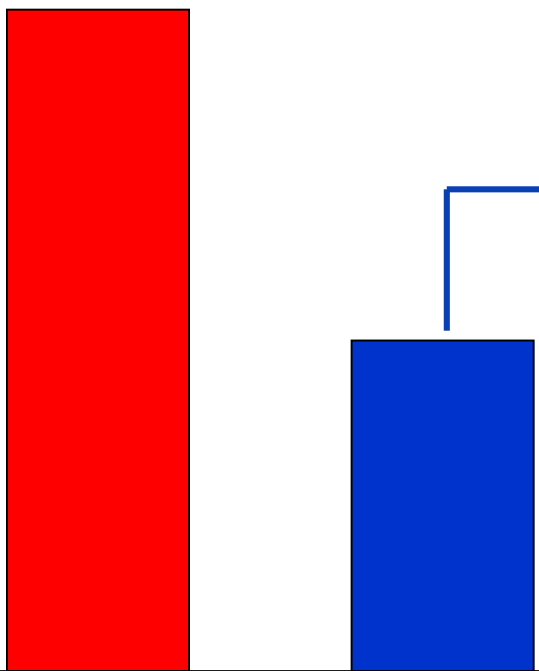
Measuring temporal changing work

⇒ Grasping the performance process in the race
Grasping the related matters with the capacity of a rider in the race



Utilizing the powermeter as "wearable sensor" on the bicycle

① Required capacity



② Quantification of "Rider's capacity"

Identifying the lactate threshold, the predictor of potential race performance, with the incremental load test

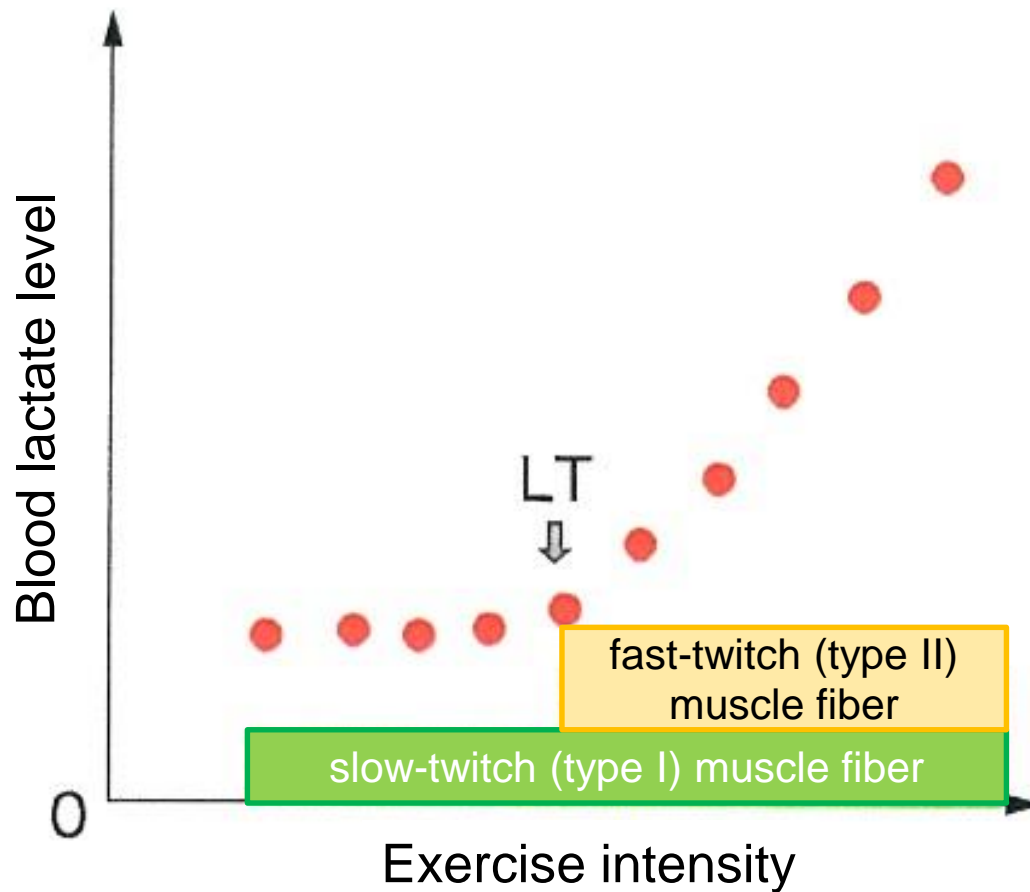
The graph, titled "Lactate Curve", plots blood lactate level [mmol/l] on the y-axis (0 to 14) against Power [W] on the x-axis (100 to 360). A pink line with square markers represents "AthleteB". The curve shows a low, relatively flat lactate level until approximately 270W, after which it rises sharply. A vertical red line marks the "lactate threshold" at approximately 275W. A horizontal dashed line is drawn at a lactate level of 1 mmol/l, and a vertical double-headed arrow indicates the distance from this line to the curve at the threshold power.

Power [W]	Blood lactate level [mmol/l]
110	1.0
140	1.2
180	1.5
220	1.8
260	2.5
275 (Threshold)	3.5
300	6.0
350	12.0

② How much is the current capacity of a rider? (fundamental ability, technique, tactics ...)

LT (Lactate Threshold)

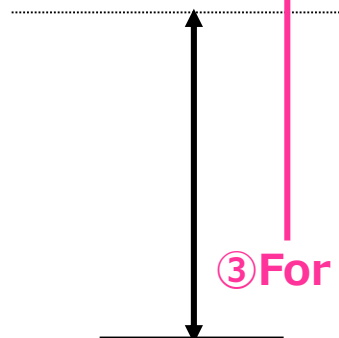
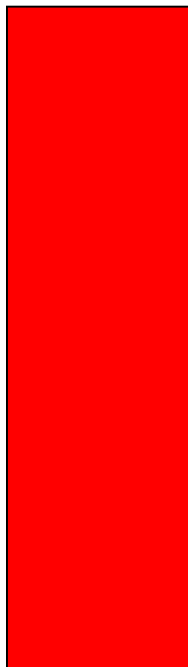
: Exercise intensity at a sharp increasing of glucose utilization



From LT, fast-twitch muscle fiber is mobilized.

Utilizing the powermeter as "wearable sensor" on the bicycle

① Required capacity

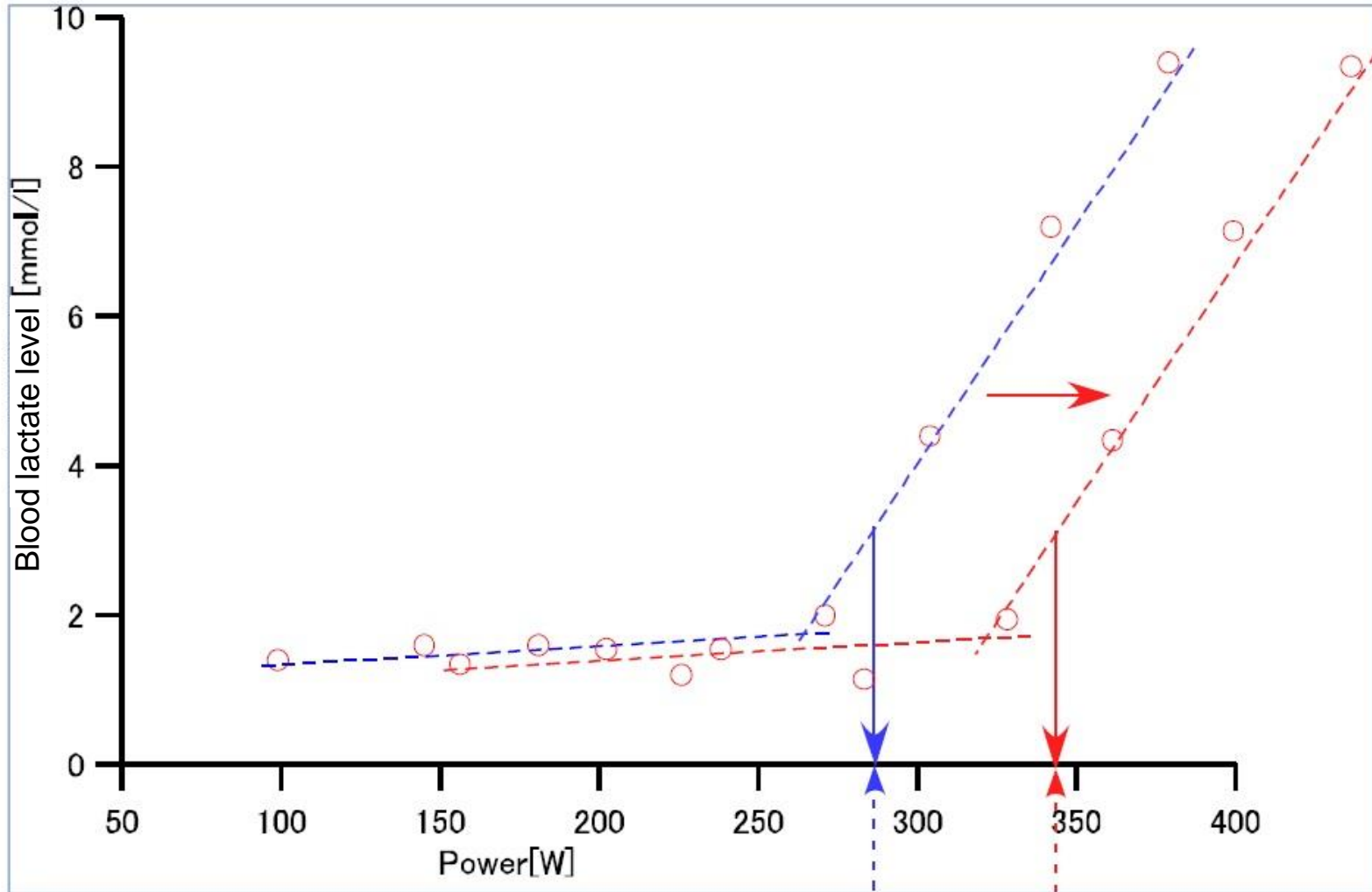


③ For closing this gap, how does a rider train?

② Current capacity of a rider



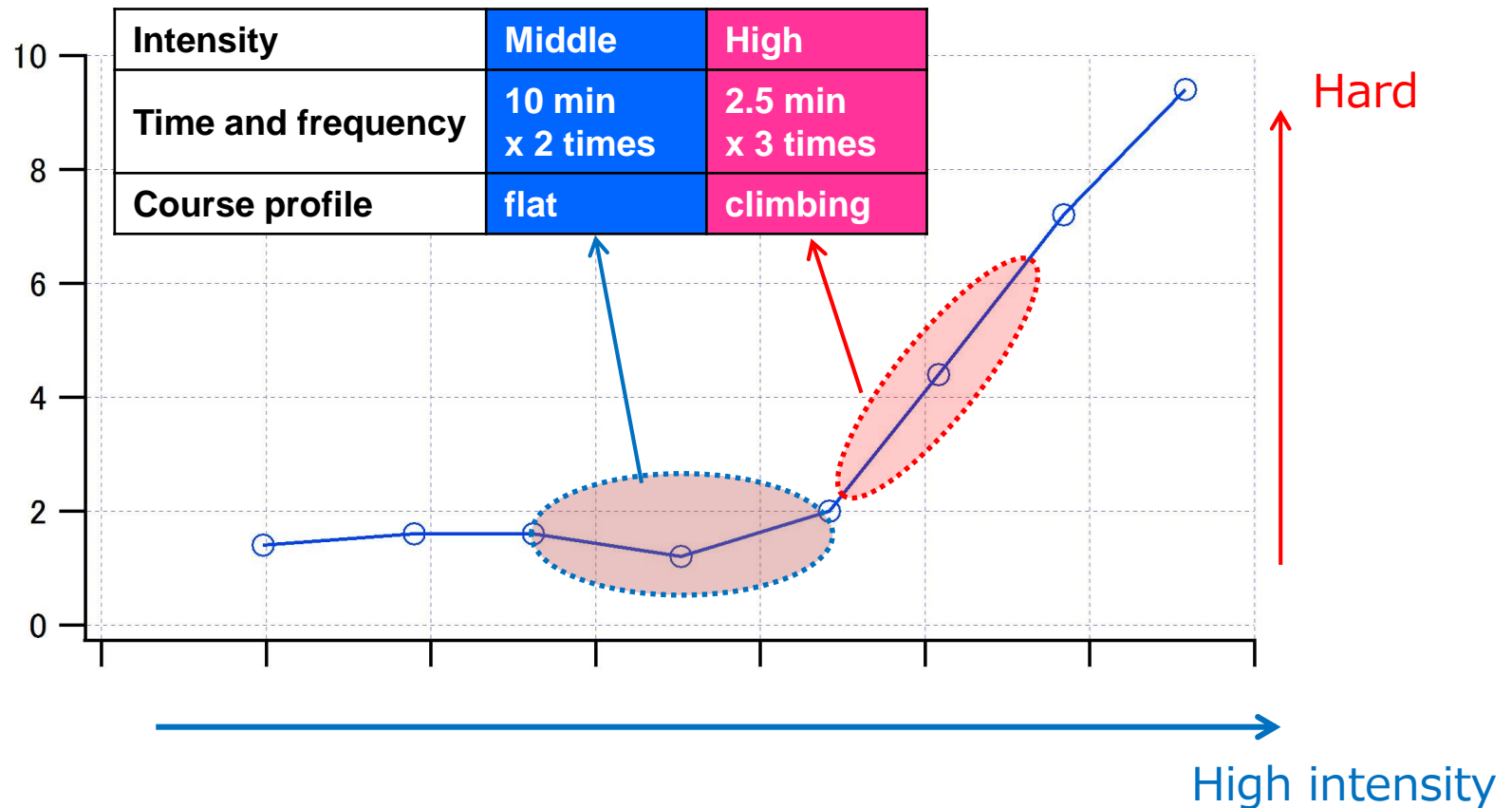
Right-shift of Lactate curve = Improvement of the endurance capacity



Carrying the Power-training combined with utilizing power meter and measuring LT

An example of training composition at a day

(The intensity of each training menu is shown on the lactate curve schematically)



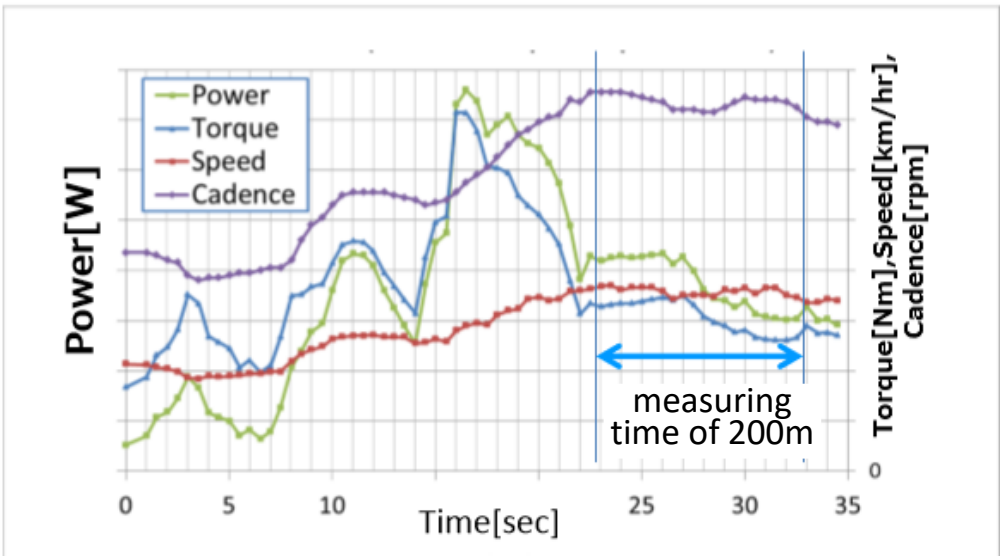
Indicator for evaluating sprint performance

200m Flying Time Trial : The performance period is the shortest.
The acceleration force is the major element.



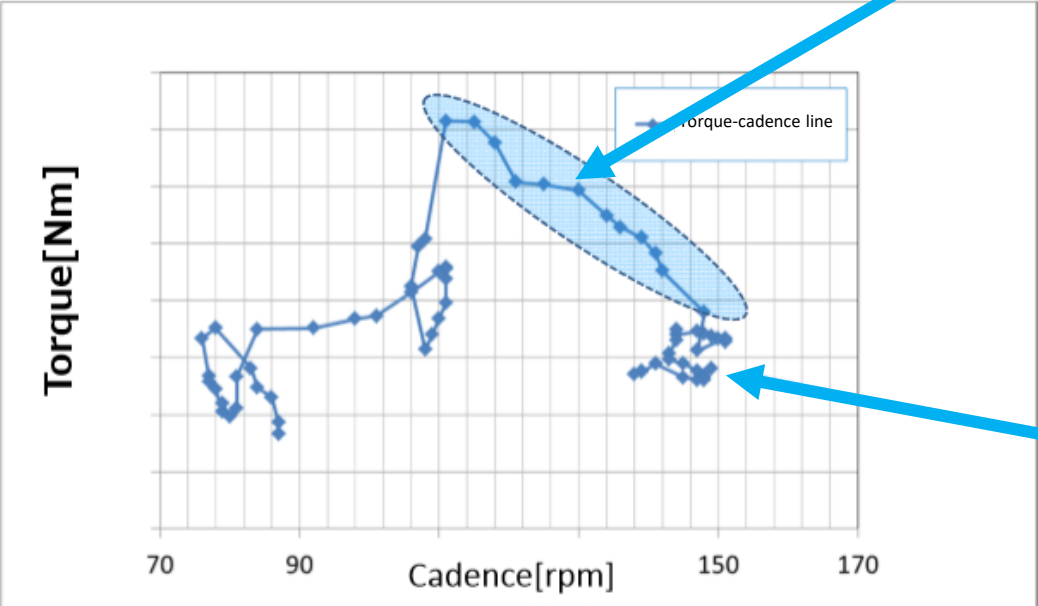
Evaluating with power, torque, and cadence during flying.

1. Power analysis in Cycling



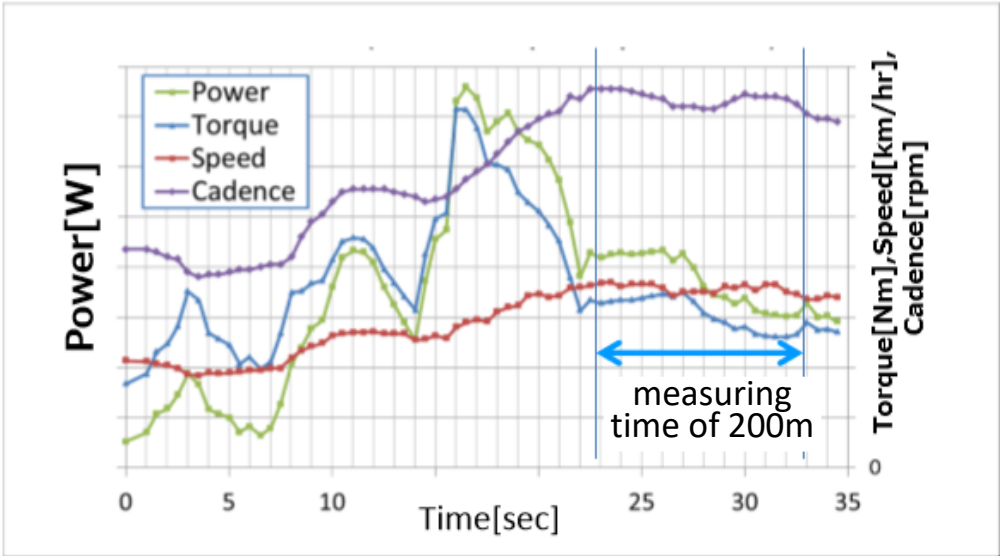
Torque and cadence of pedaling are in a linear relationship during acceleration.

Anthony J. et al., J Appl. Physiol. 51(5):1175,1981
A. Scott Gardner et al., Eur. J. Appl. Physiol. 101:287,2007



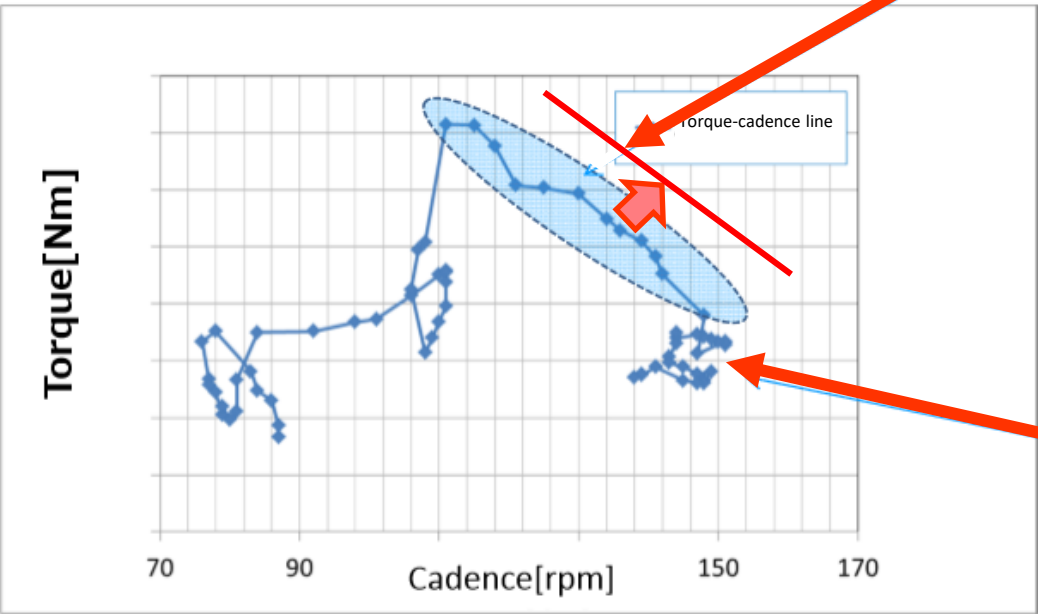
During 200m (approx. 10 sec), and the rider endures exerting the sufficient torque in the peak cadence (142~152 rpm) to keep the speed.

1. Power analysis in Cycling



Track bike: fixed gear

Shifting torque-cadence line to the upper-right

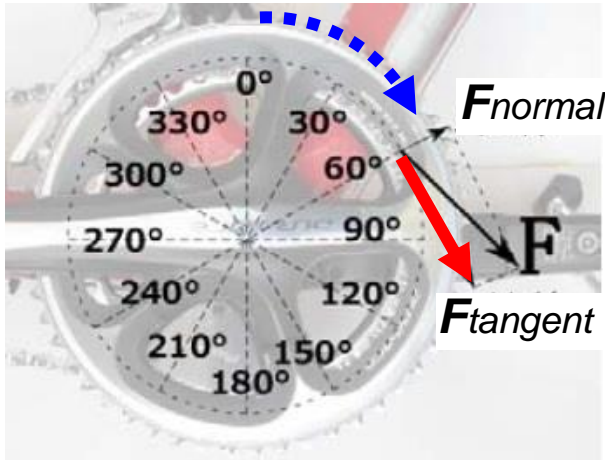


Increasing the peak cadence

Extracting the moment of sprint performance with power analysis

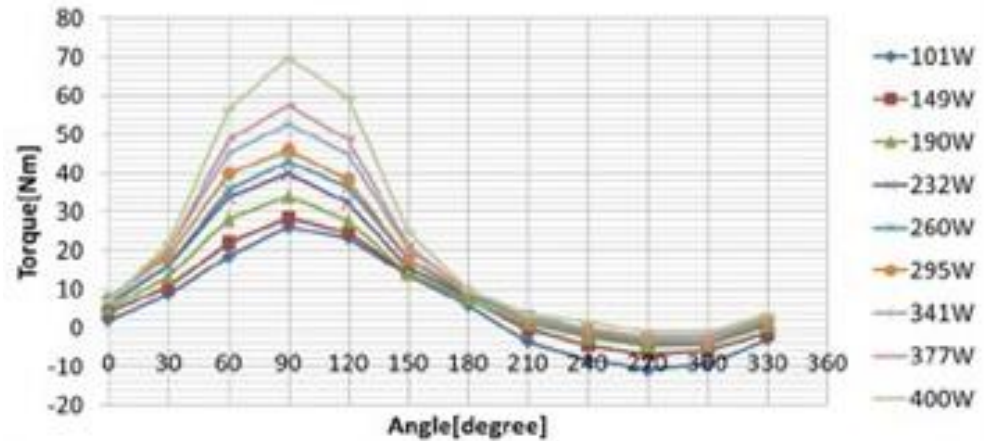
1. Power analysis in Cycling

Torque distribution

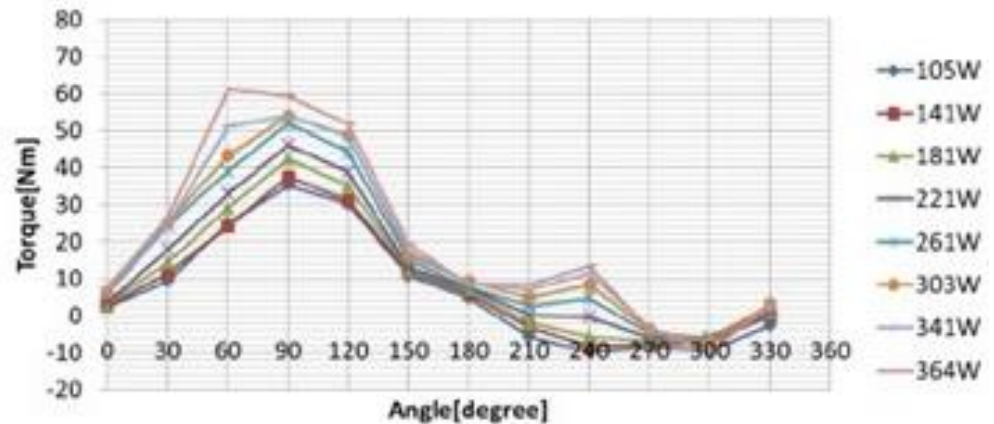


with POWERMETER
(PIONEER Co., Japan)

Professional rider



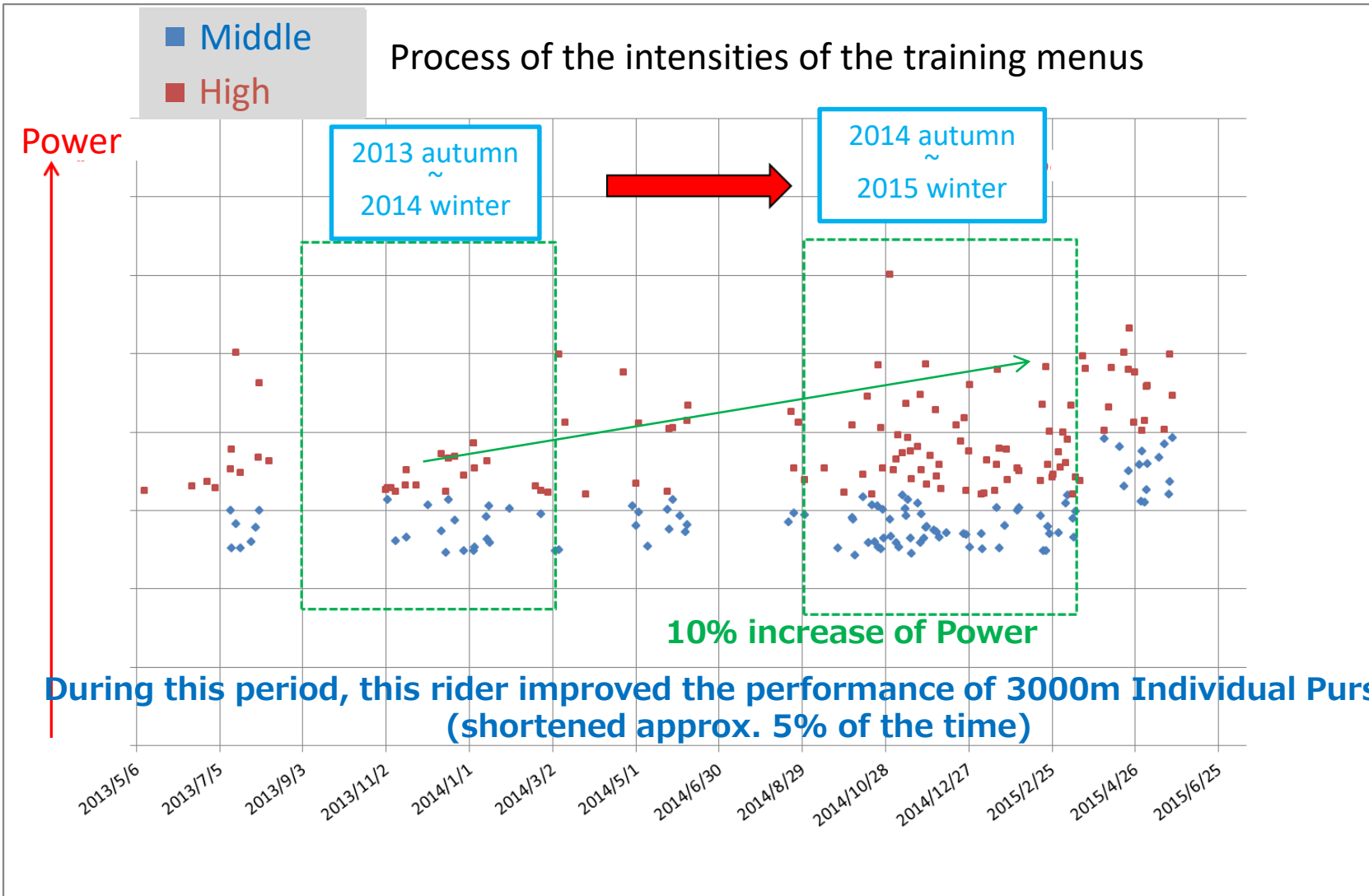
Amateur rider



Extracting the technique of pedaling with power analysis

2. Application of Power analysis to Para-cycling

Power training is effective for the paracycling riders to improve the performance



Application of power analysis to developing the prostheses for double below-knee amputated rider



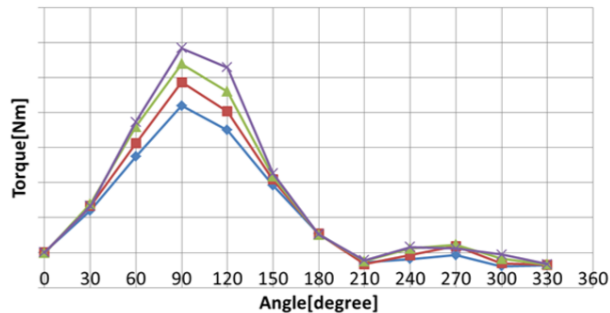
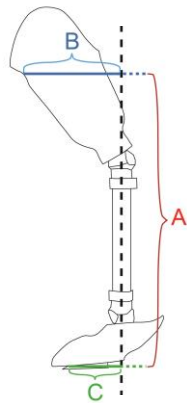
Requirements

- All equipments must meet UCI equipment regulations.
- No energy storage or assistance mechanism is integrated into a prosthesis.

Both legs below knees are amputated.
⇒ Is the limitation loose or severe?

What is the optimized form/alignment of the prosthesis?

Adjustment of the alignment of the prostheses for maximizing the rider's potential through the power and motion analysis



Compare the parameters regarding the power (torque distribution, LR ratio, efficiency etc)

Fabricating endoskeletal prostheses for measurements



Power and motion analysis
Rider's subjective evaluation



Confirmation of the optimized design



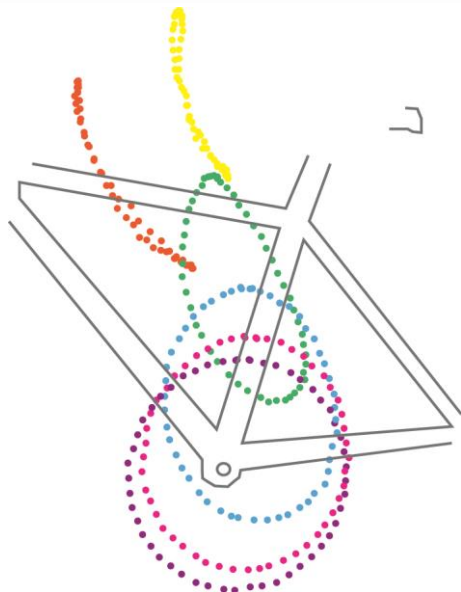
Fabricating exoskeletal prostheses for competitions

Slight modification of the length can affect the pedaling movement

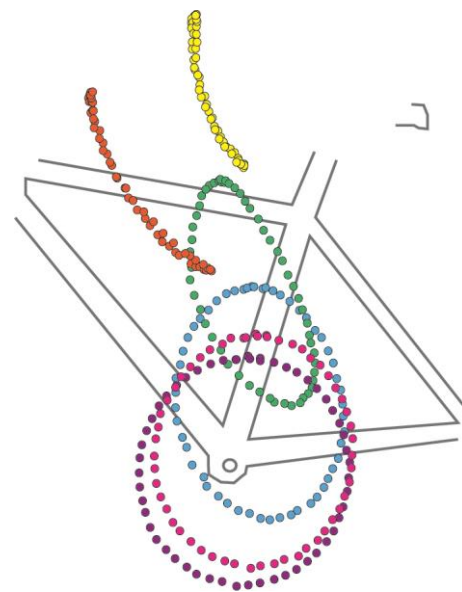
Before change of the length After change of the length



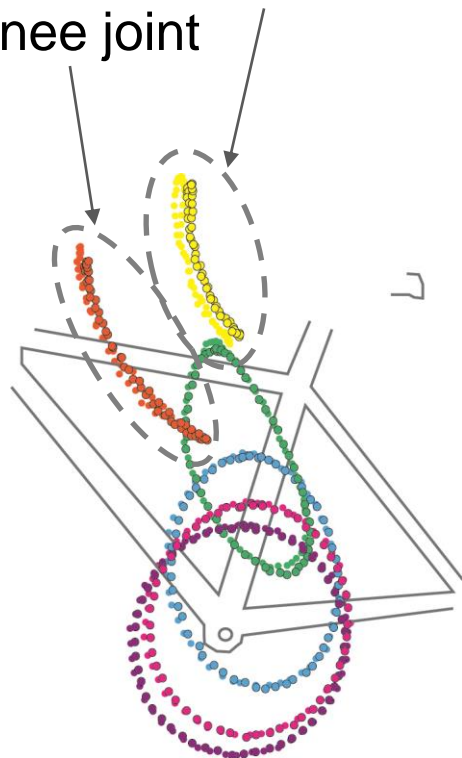
femur
knee joint



Before change



After change



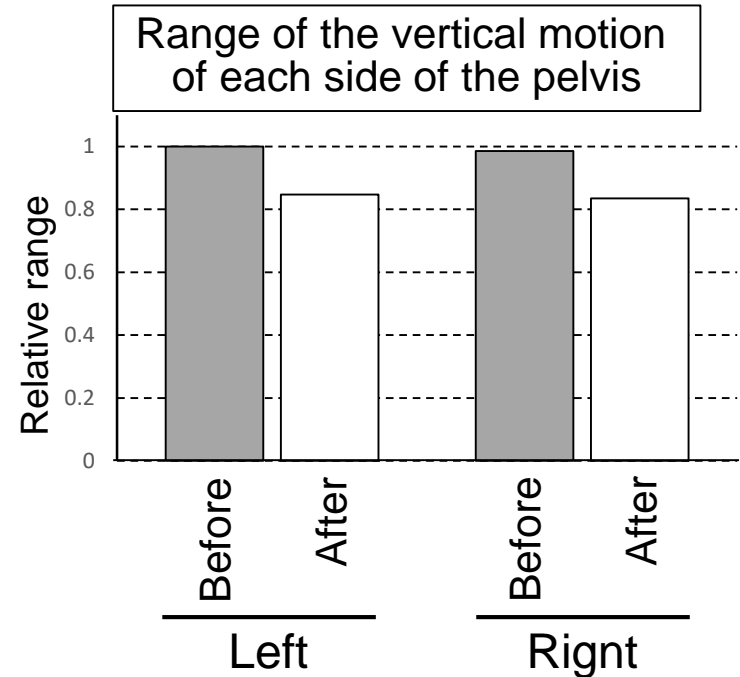
Merged

The modification of the length of the prosthesis can affected to the movement of the hip joint

Before change



After change



The vertical motion of the pelvis was reduced



Improved the stability

The alignment of cycling prosthesis may have a severe limitation



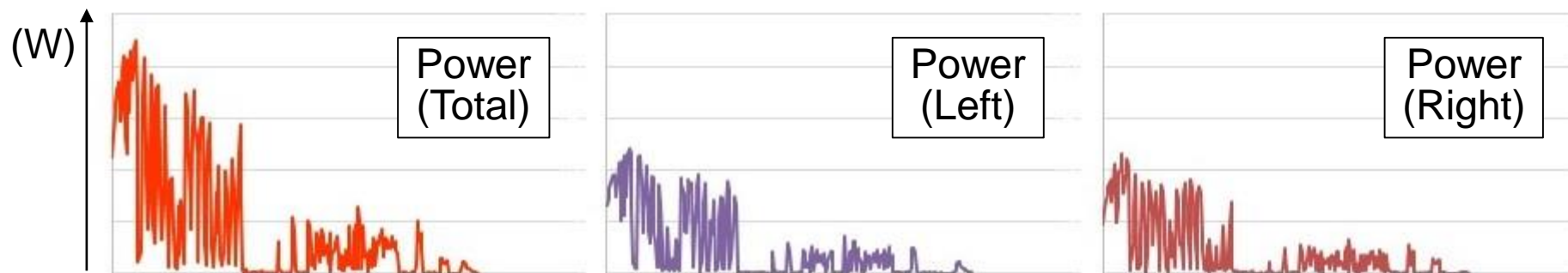
Even if the length and angle are modified slightly, pedaling performance can be affected.

It is assumed that the limitation is defined by the rider's physical characteristics and riding position.

3. Application of Power analysis to Wheelchair racing

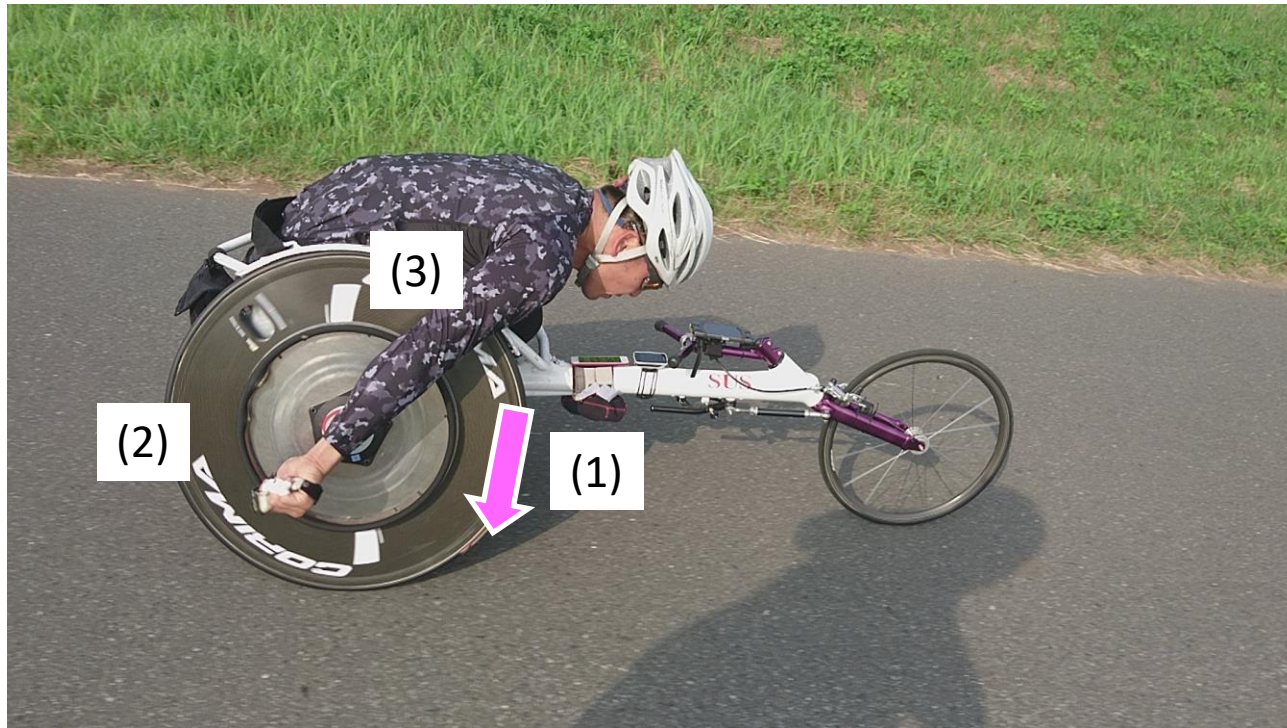
Developing a wheel to measure the power output during running in the field

Attachment of SRM power meter to wheelchair racer wheel



3. Application of Power analysis to Wheelchair racing

$$\text{Power (W)} = \text{Torque loading on a handrim (N}\cdot\text{m)} \times \text{cadence of a handrim (rad/s)}$$

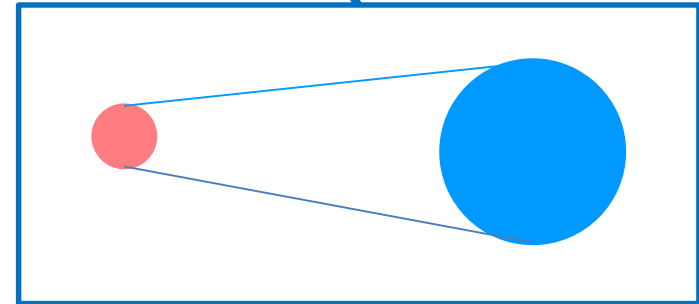
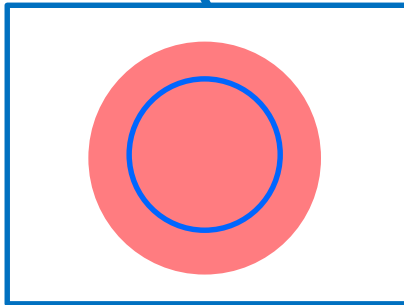
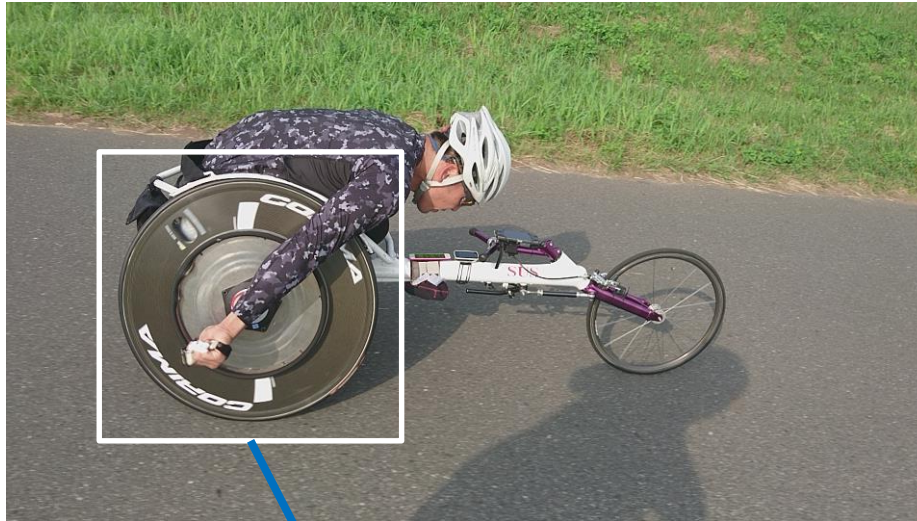


(1) Force along the tangent line of a handrim

(2) Cadence of a handrim

(3) Pitch of an arm

3. Application of Power analysis to Wheelchair racing



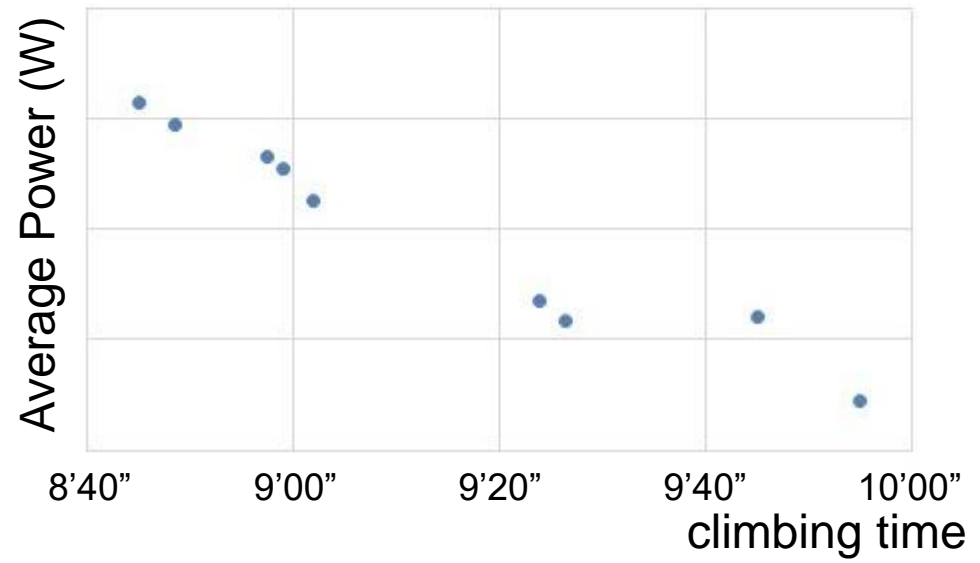
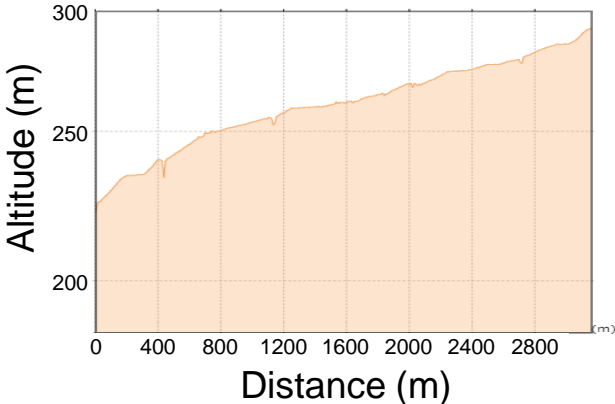
In either vehicle, the loading point from the limbs (handrim or pedal) is connected to rear wheel to generate forward movement.

Otherwhile, a leg is fixed to a pedal, but an arm is not fixed to a handrim.

3. Application of Power analysis to Wheelchair racing

An example of the training data

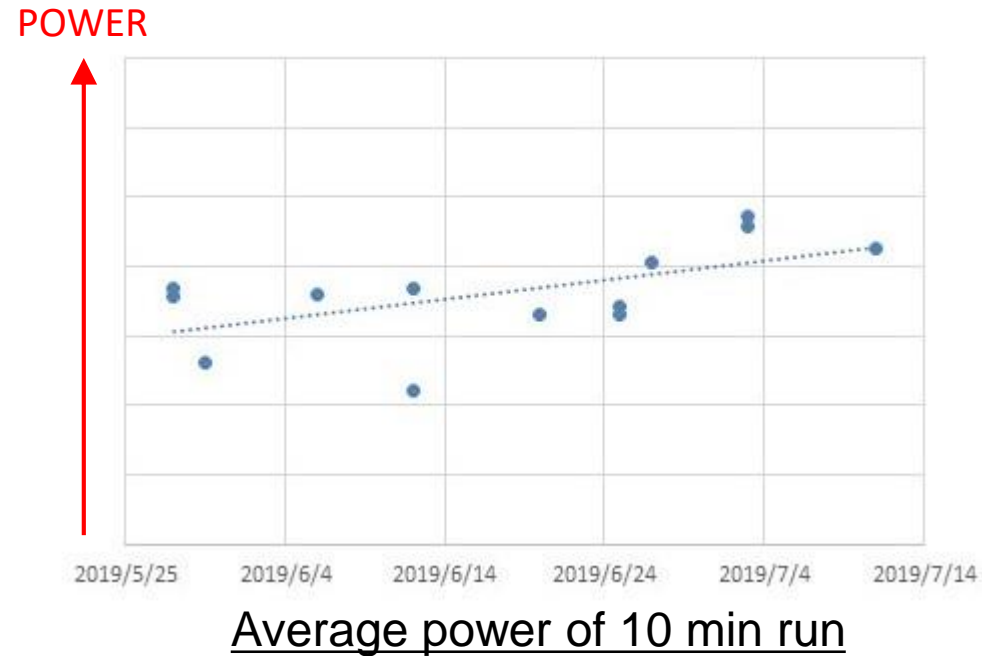
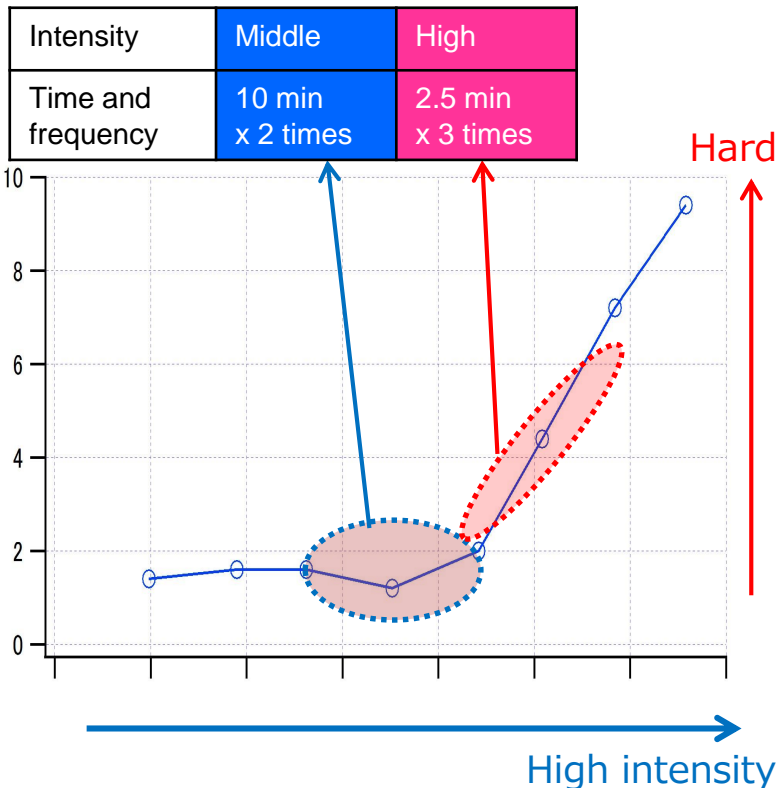
< Course profile >
Tokyo, rural region
Distance: 3160m
Average slope: 1.9%



Negative correlation between the average power and the climbing time.

3. Application of Power analysis to Wheelchair racing

The progress of wheelchair runner's performance by carrying out power training (case rep.)



apprx. 5% increase of Av. Power during 2months training

Concluding Remarks:

- Power analysis can extract various elements of cycle sport performance, and can evaluate the rider's abilities and characteristics quantitatively.
- Power analysis can provide the effective training for improving the rider's endurance capacity with the physiological parameters like lactate threshold, and can monitor the progress of the athlete.
- Power training method can be adapted to the cycling athlete with the impairment, furthermore, be applied to developing the optimizing equipment which is specific for the impairment.
- Many elements of wheelchair running performance are common with that of cycling performance, otherwise, there are also the different elements between these sports. Defining and extracting these elements are effective to provide more optimized training, and the power analysis may be a strong approach to investigate.

Our Team and Collaborators

The University of Tokyo

Ryuji Hiramatsu

Fuji Construction Co., Ltd.

Masaki Fujita

The University of Tokyo

Hideo Hatta

Naoya Takei

Kimitaka Nakazawa

Blue Wych LTD.

Katsuyuki Kankinoki

Amanda Sports

Yozo Chiba

Japan Sport Council

Taisuke Kinugasa

Junichi Kawai

Sho Hatanaka

Yuzaburo Kojima