

# Science & Cycling

29-30 June 2016, Caen, France



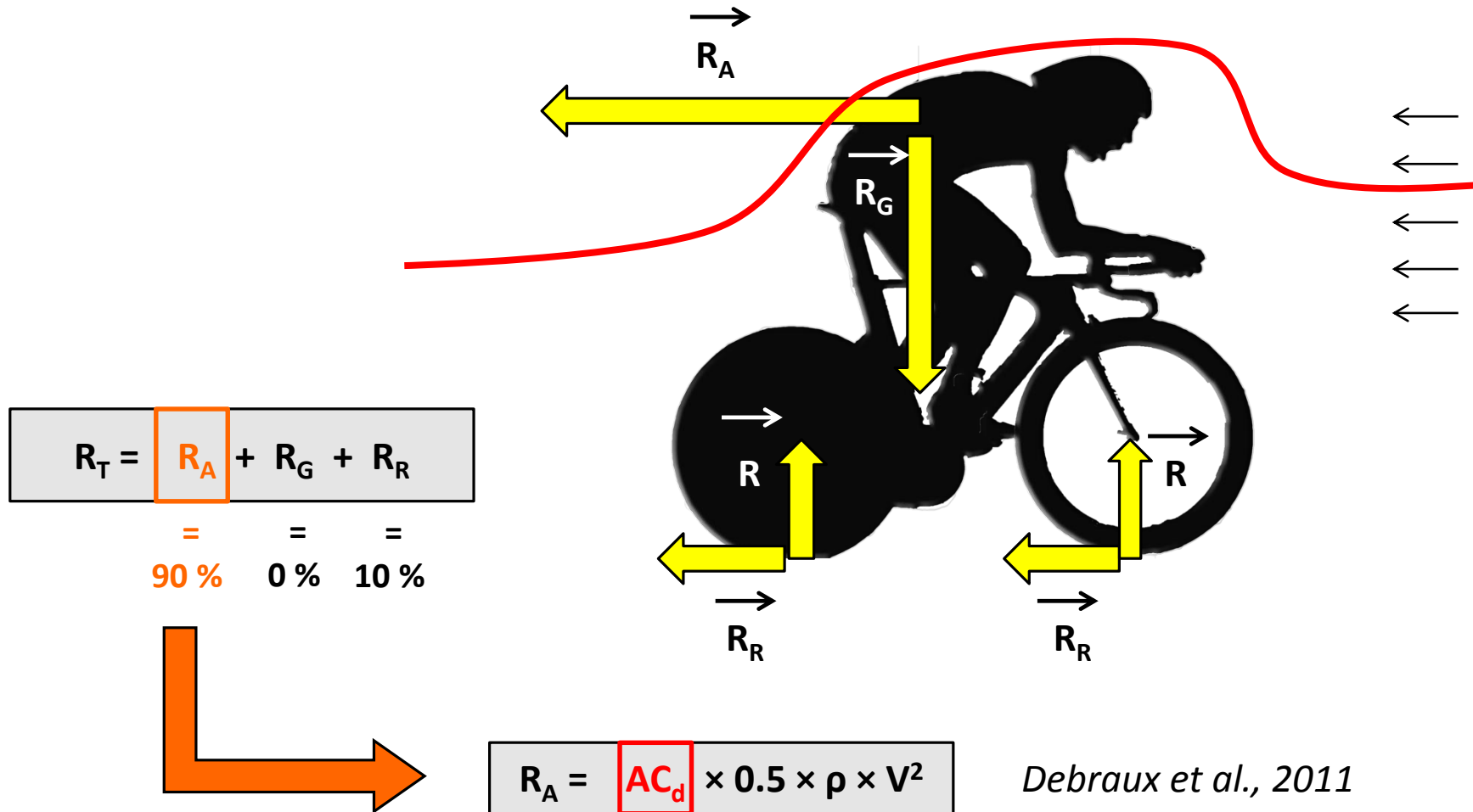
## The effect of time-trial duration on aerodynamic drag

A. Bouillod<sup>1,2,3</sup>, E. Brunet<sup>2</sup>, G. Soto-Romero<sup>3,4</sup>, L. Garbellotto<sup>3</sup>, G. Millour<sup>5</sup> & F. Grappe<sup>1,6</sup>



<sup>1</sup> EA4660, C3S Health - Sport Department, Sports University, Besancon, France; <sup>2</sup> French Cycling Federation, Saint Quentin en Yvelines, France; <sup>3</sup> LAAS-CNRS, Université de Toulouse, CNRS, Toulouse, France; <sup>4</sup> ISIFC, Université de Franche-Comté, France; <sup>5</sup> Laboratoire M2S, Université Rennes 2 – ENS Rennes, Rennes, France; <sup>6</sup> Professional Cycling Team FDJ, Mousy le vieux, France

## Total resistive forces opposing motion



ATHLETE = 70 %  $R_A$



Importance of cycling position

*Oggiano et al., 2008*



$R_A$



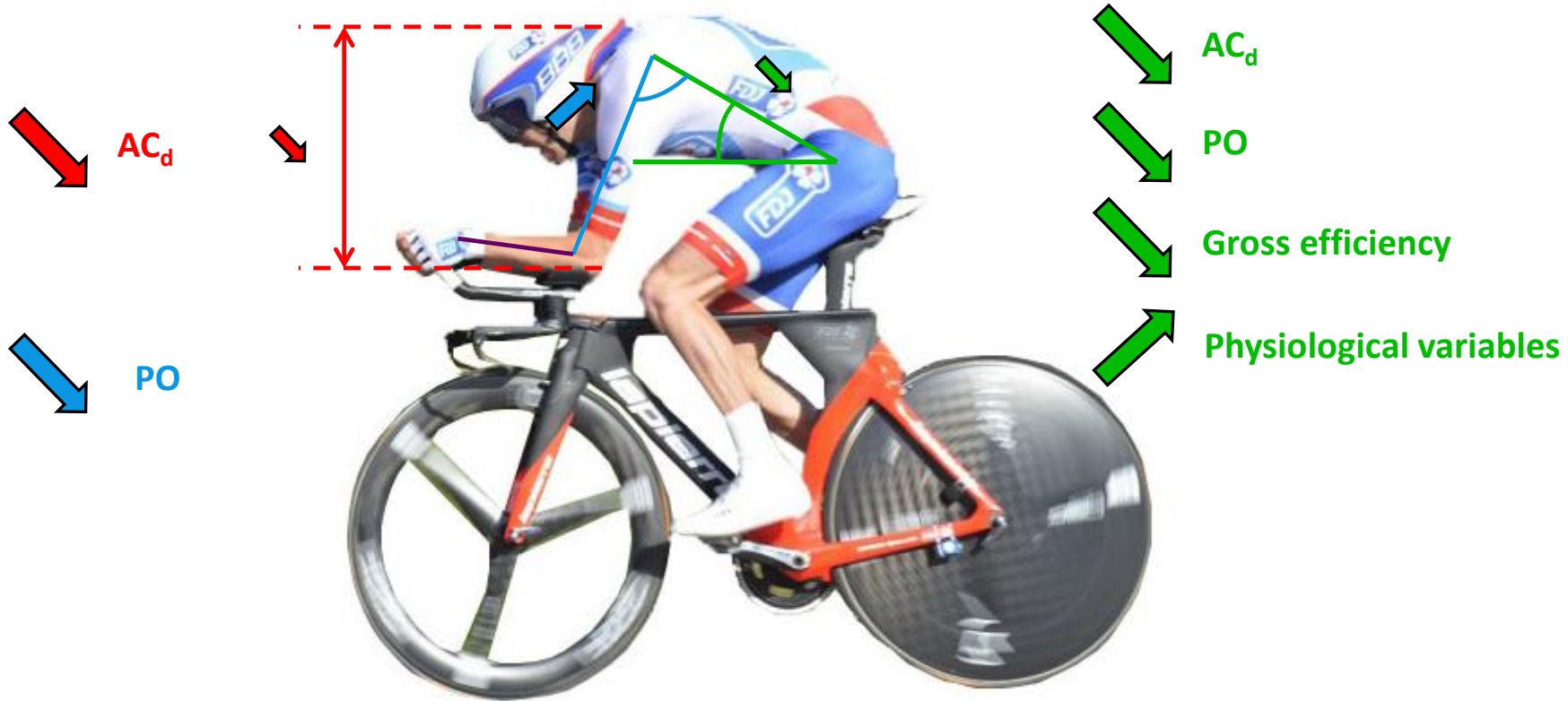
BICYCLE = 30 %  $R_A$



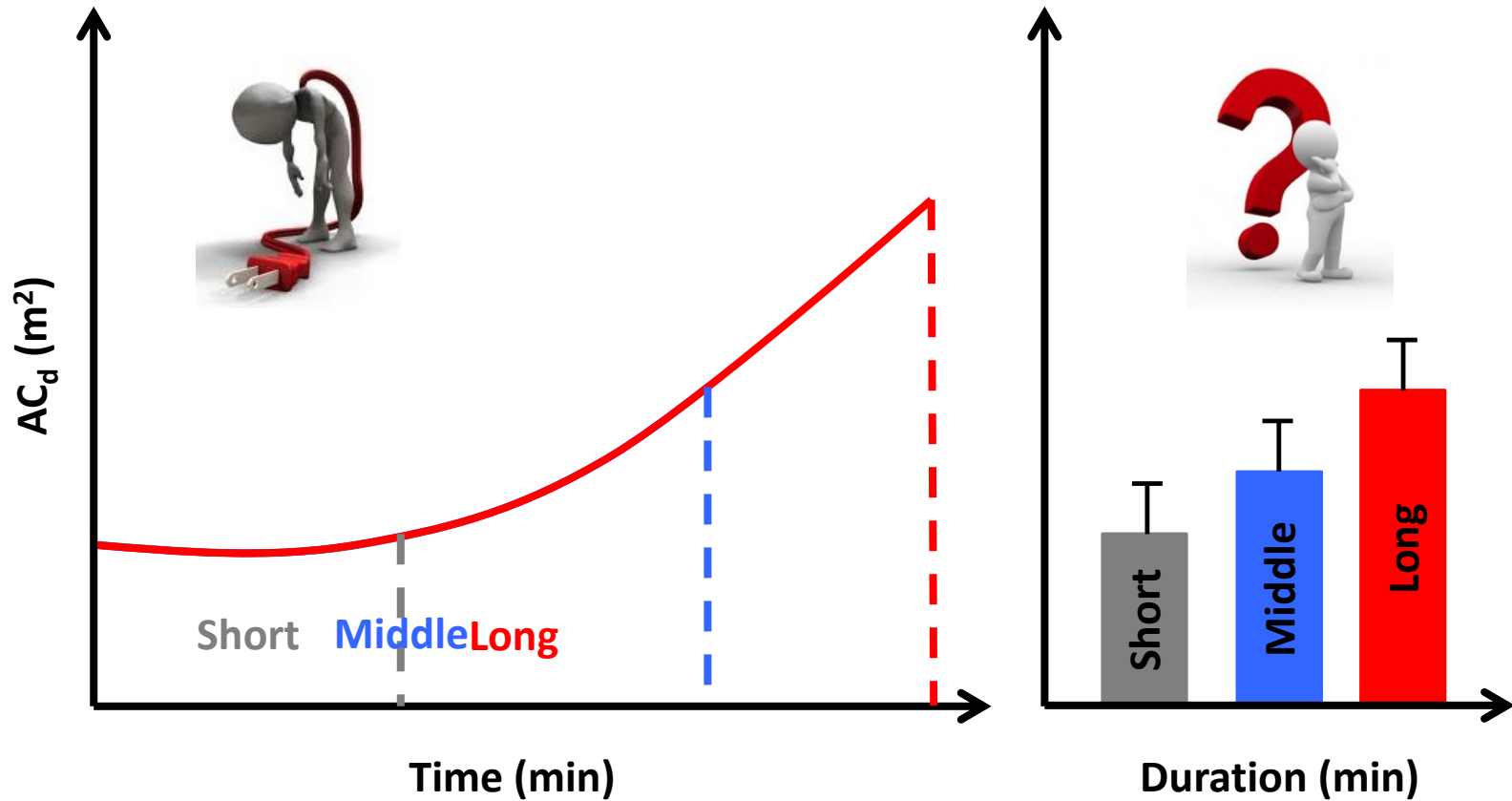
Relationship between body position and  $AC_d$

*Underwood et al., 2011*

*Fintelman et al., 2015*



Effect of time-trial duration on  $AC_d$



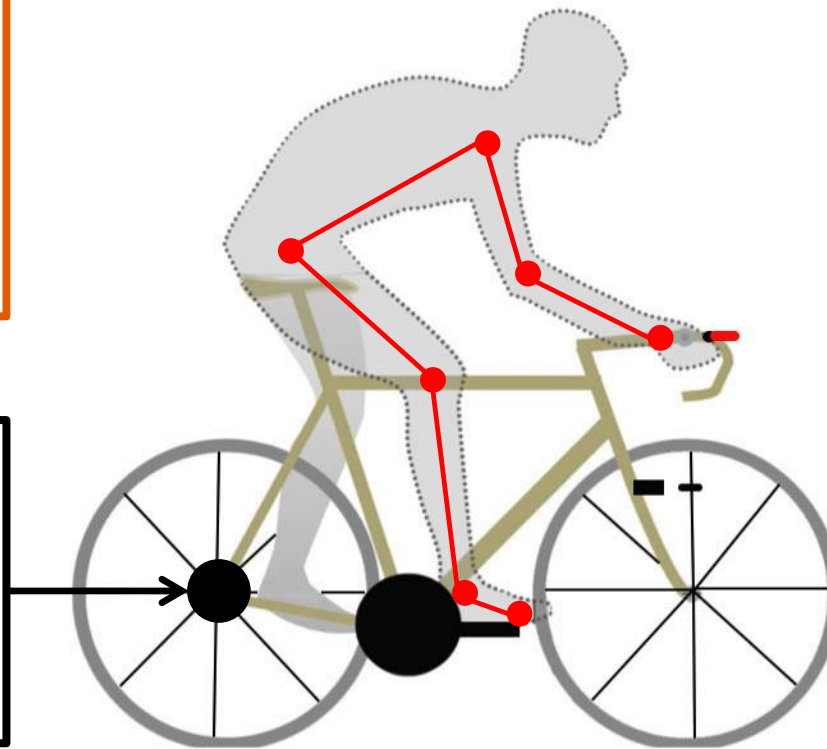
## Participants & materials

9 elite road cyclists

Kestrel



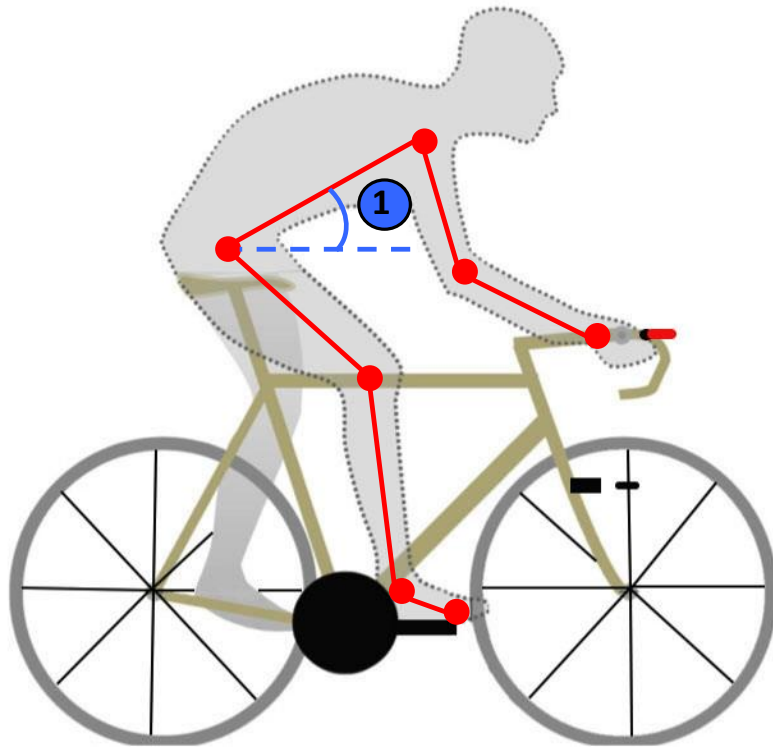
Powertap



Bikefitting



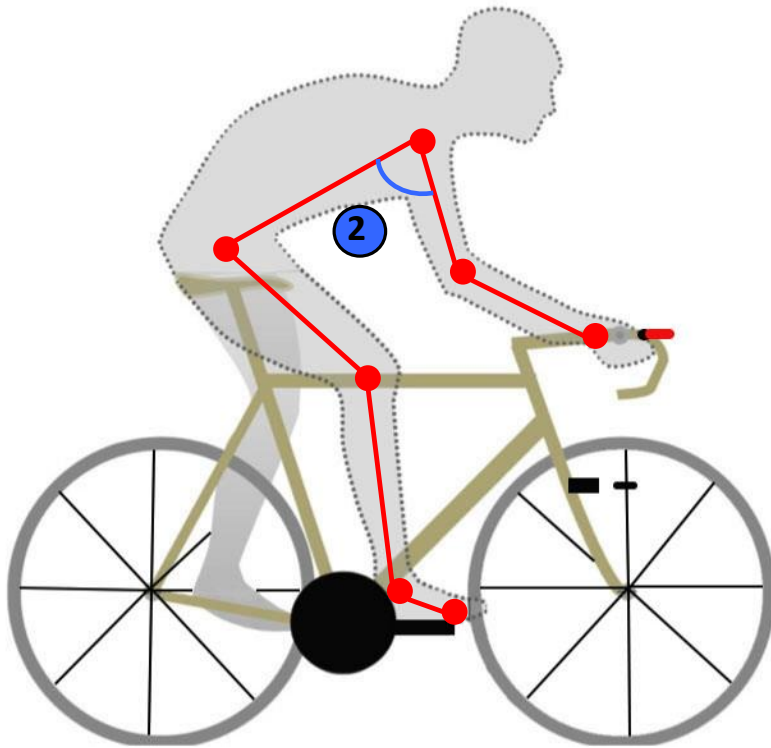
## Kinematic analysis



Kinematic variables ( $n = 9$ ) assessed in the participants' preferred time trial position. Values are reported as mean  $\pm$  SD

Variable	Value
<b>Torso angle (°)</b>	<b>15.7 <math>\pm</math> 2.3</b>
Shoulder angle (°)	79.3 $\pm$ 7.1
Elbow angle (°)	87.8 $\pm$ 10.0
Forearm angle (°)	13.4 $\pm$ 4.0
Hip angle extension (°)	84.0 $\pm$ 3.2
Hip angle flexion (°)	38.8 $\pm$ 3.6
Knee angle extension (°)	42.1 $\pm$ 4.5
Knee angle flexion (°)	113.4 $\pm$ 3.8
Ankle angle minimum (°)	74.4 $\pm$ 4.9
Ankle angle maximum (°)	100.7 $\pm$ 5.3

## Kinematic analysis

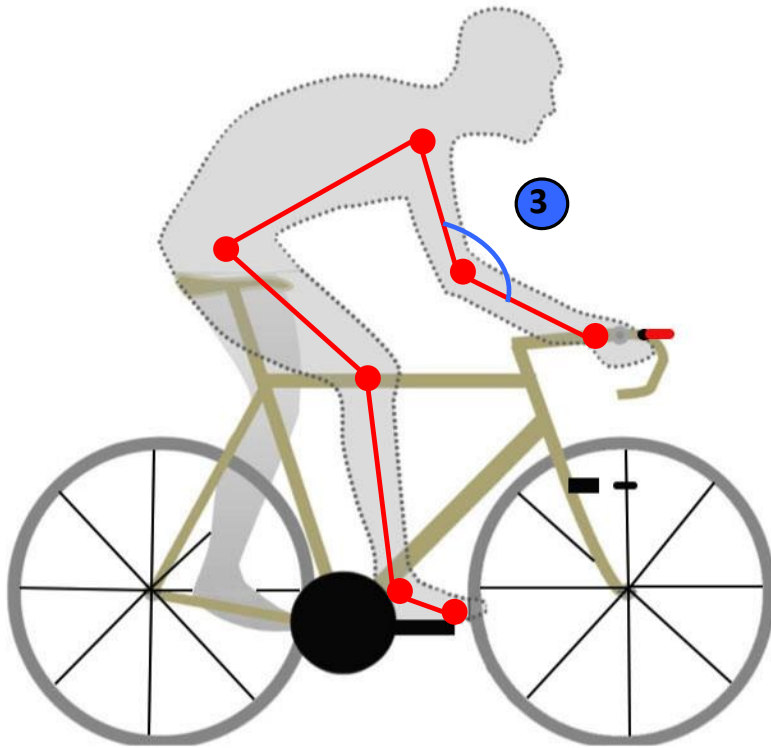


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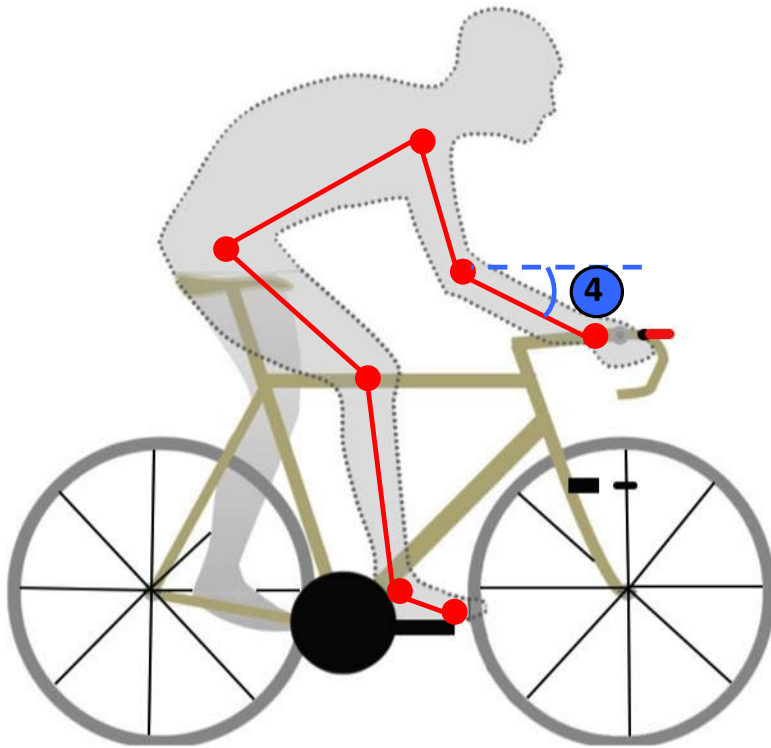
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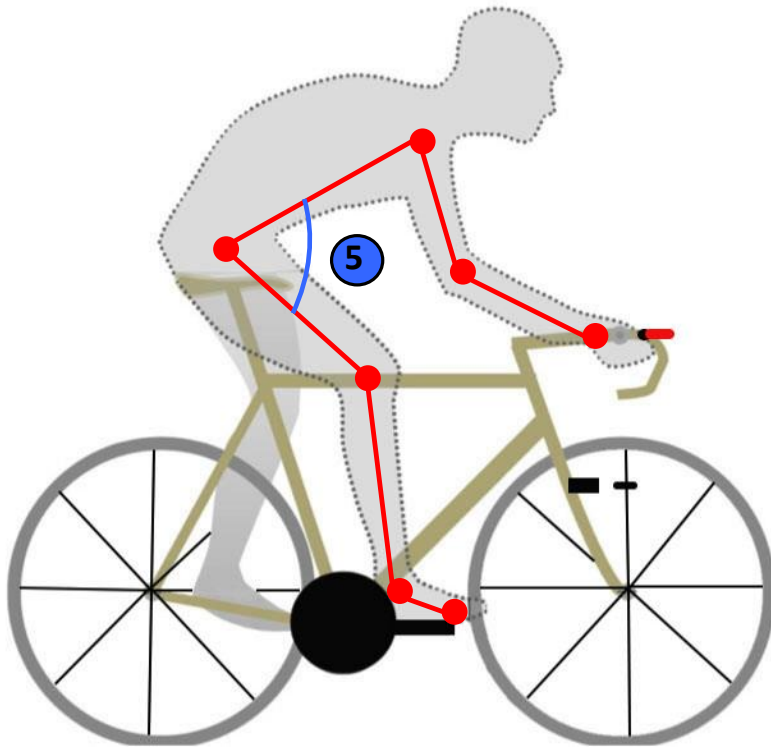
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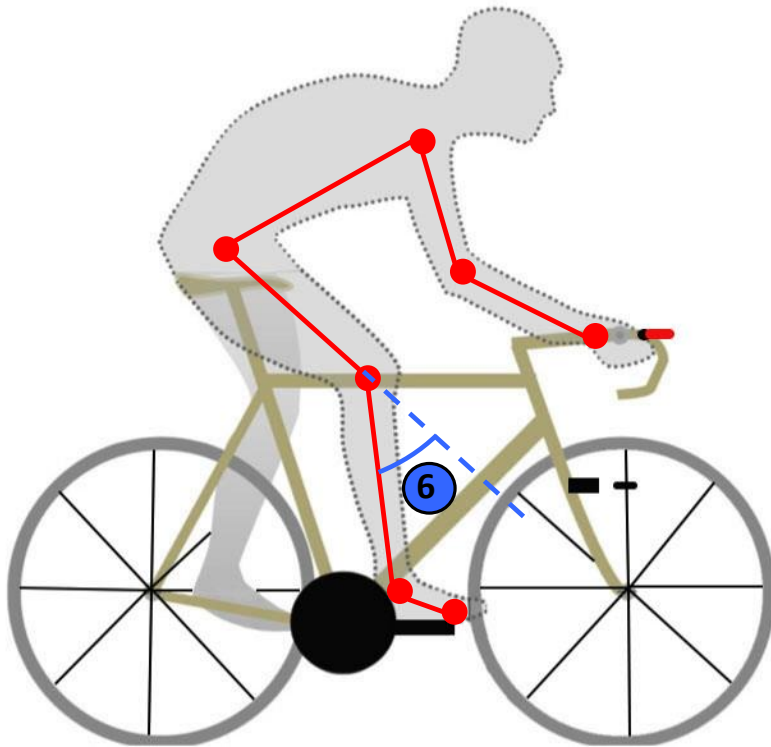
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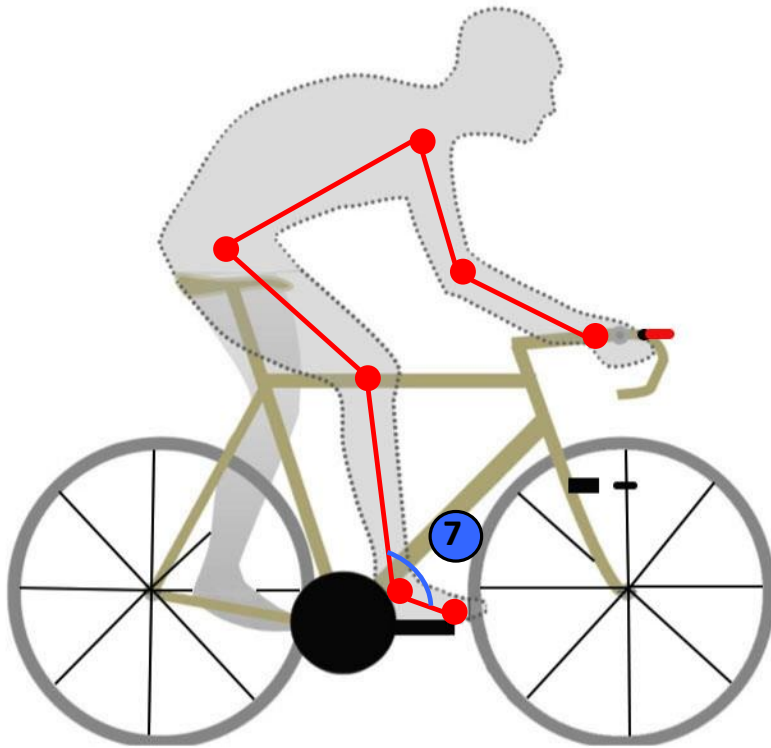
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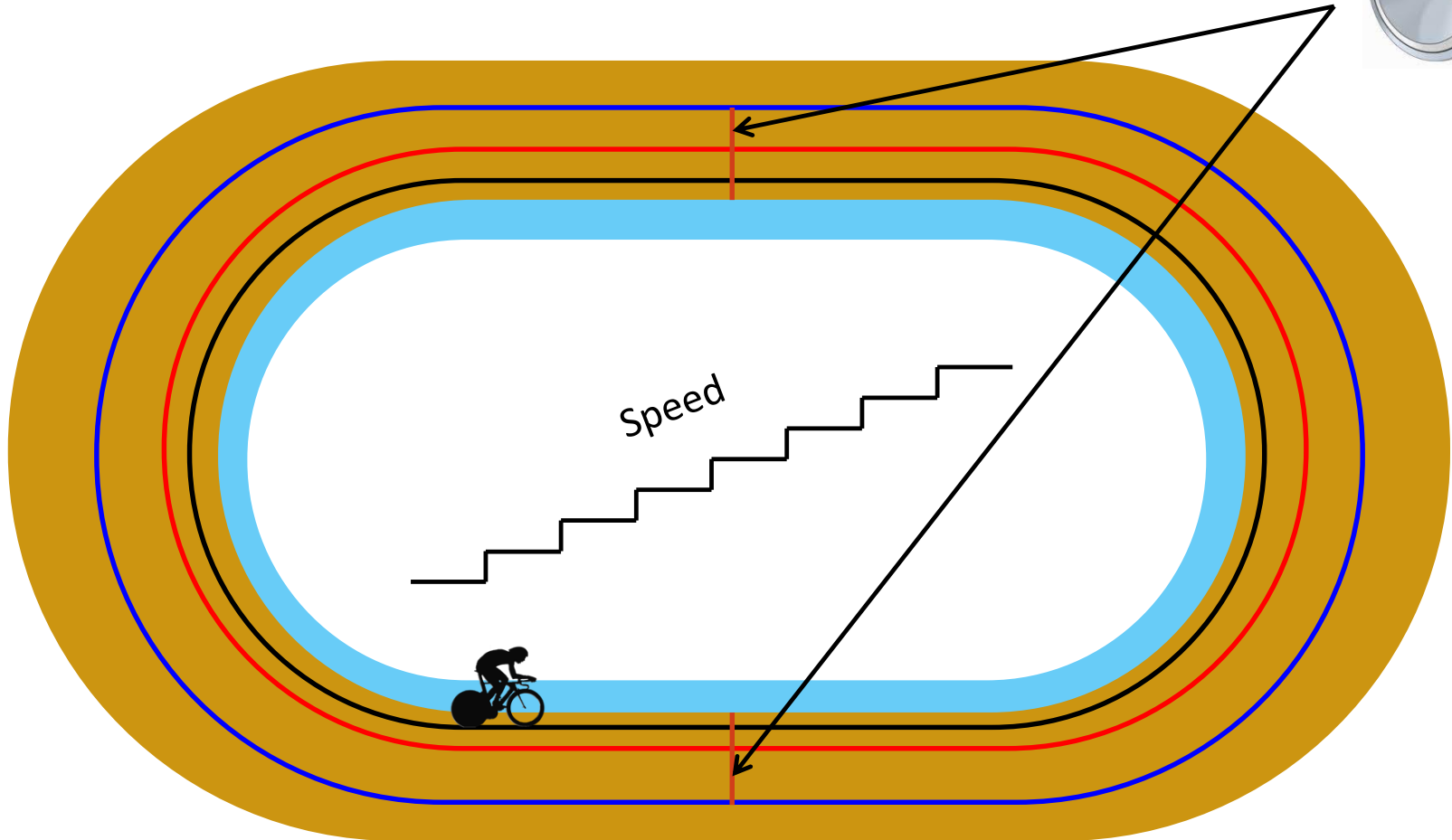
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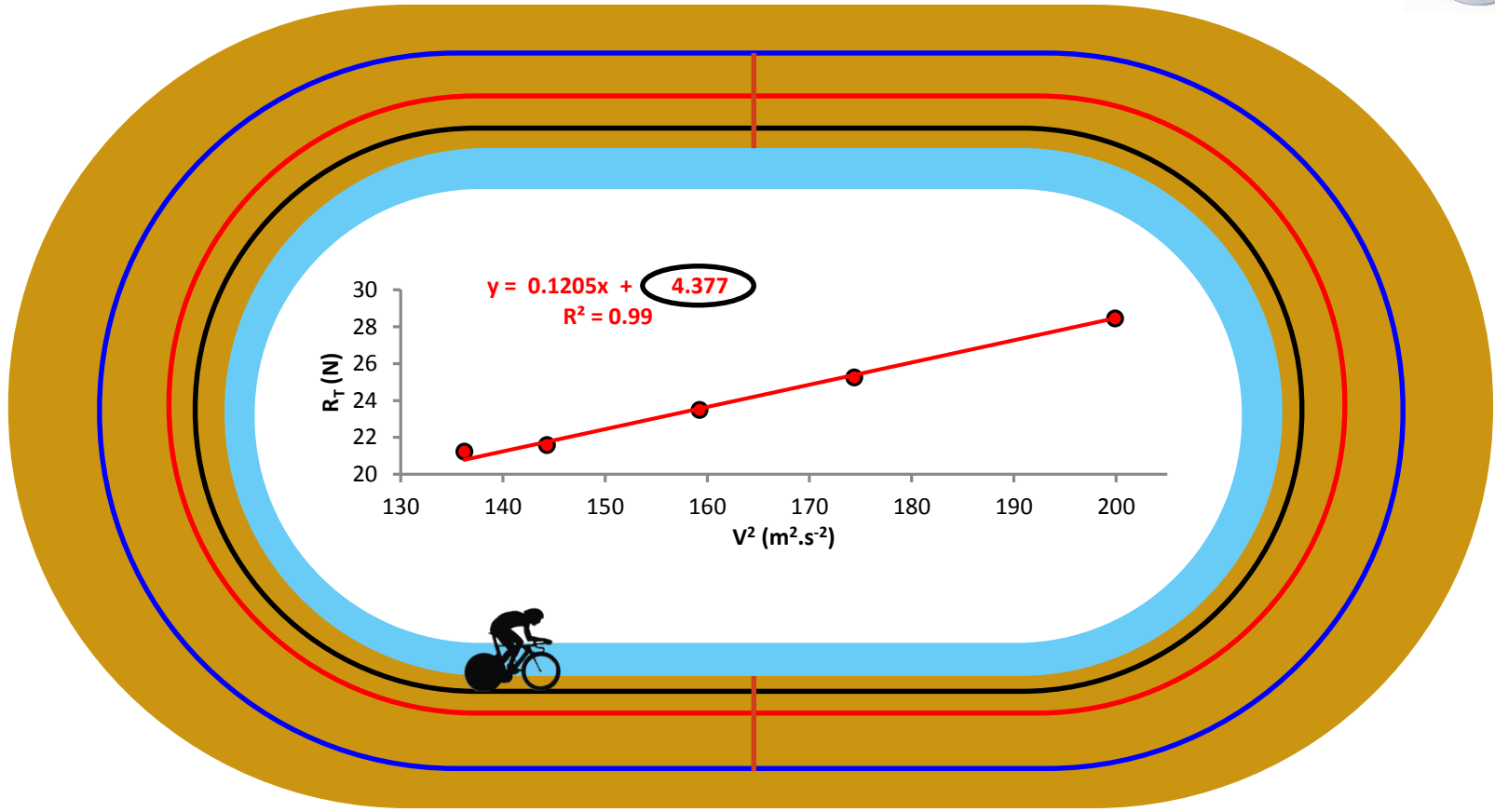
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## Discontinuous incremental exercise



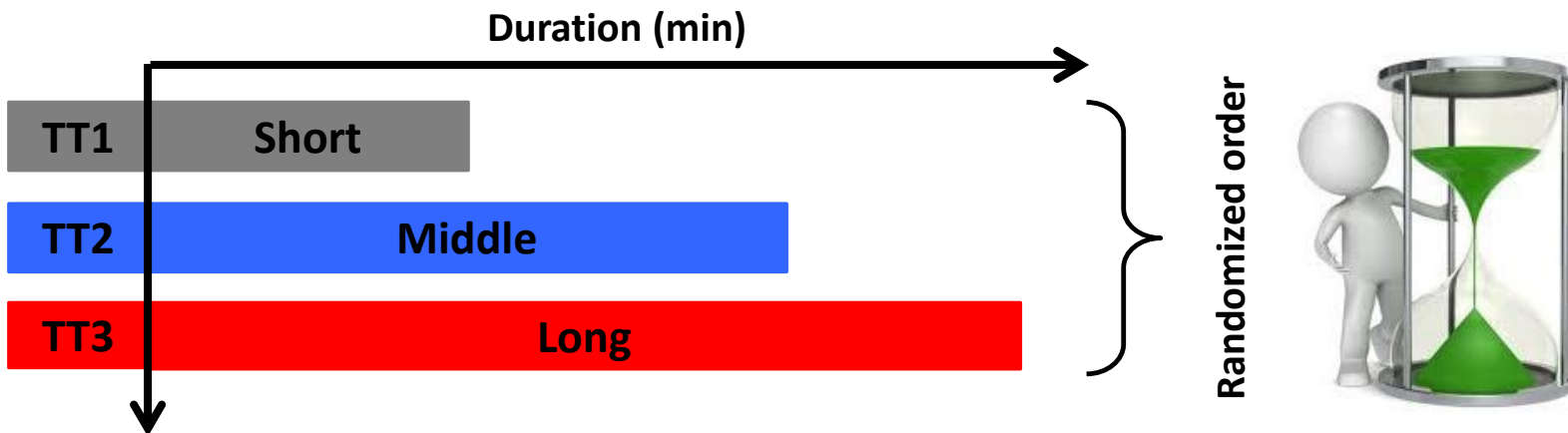
*Grappe et al., 1997*

# Discontinuous incremental exercise

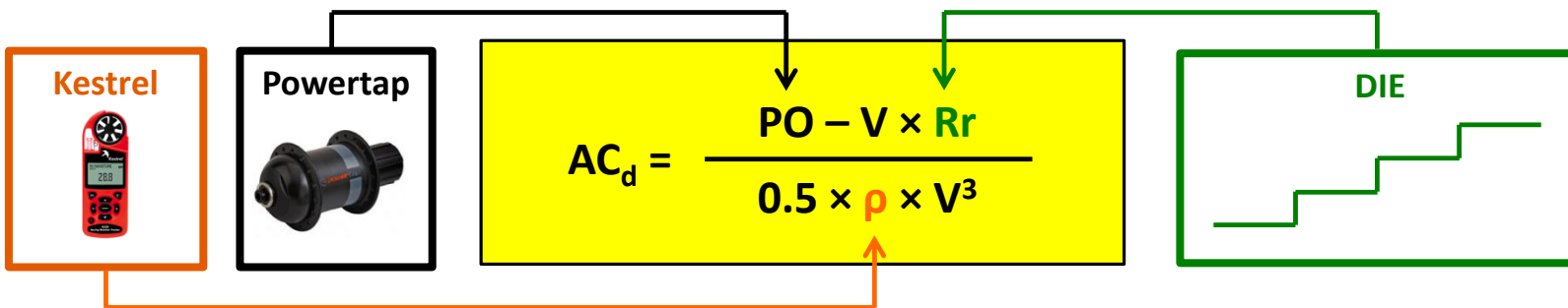


$$b = R_R$$

# TT tests

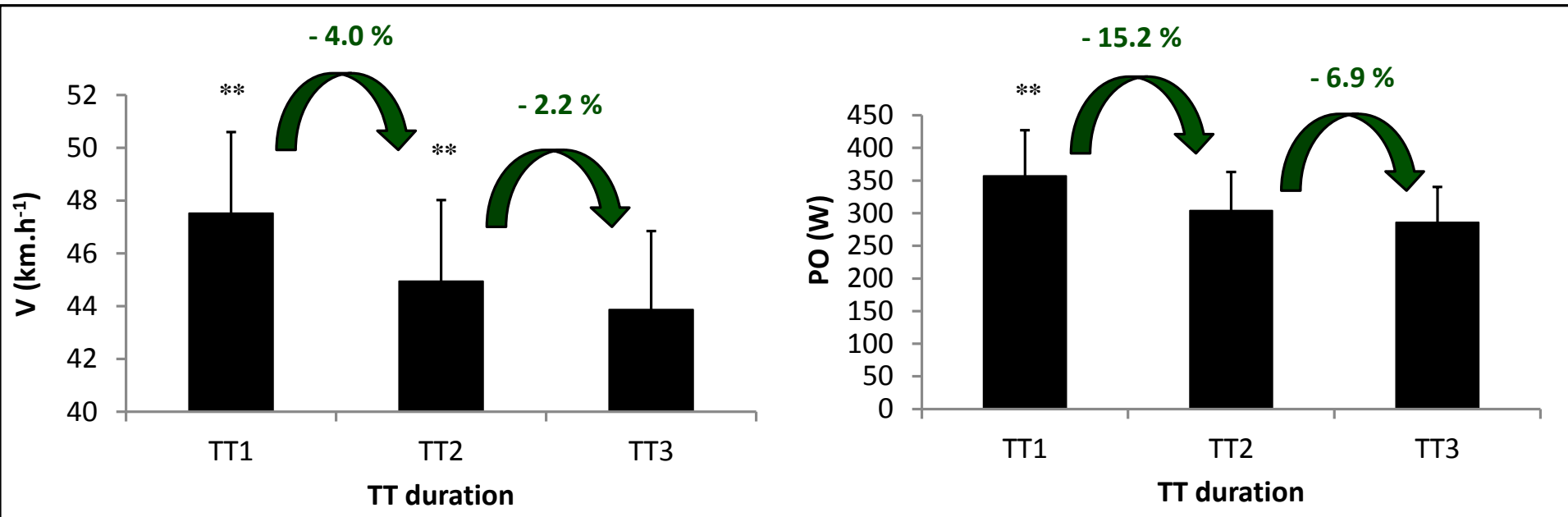


Categories	TT1	TT2	TT3
U17 Men / U19 Women	3	8	15
U19 Men / U23 Women	4	10	20
U23 + Elite Men / Elite Women	5	15	30



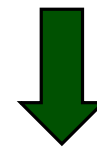
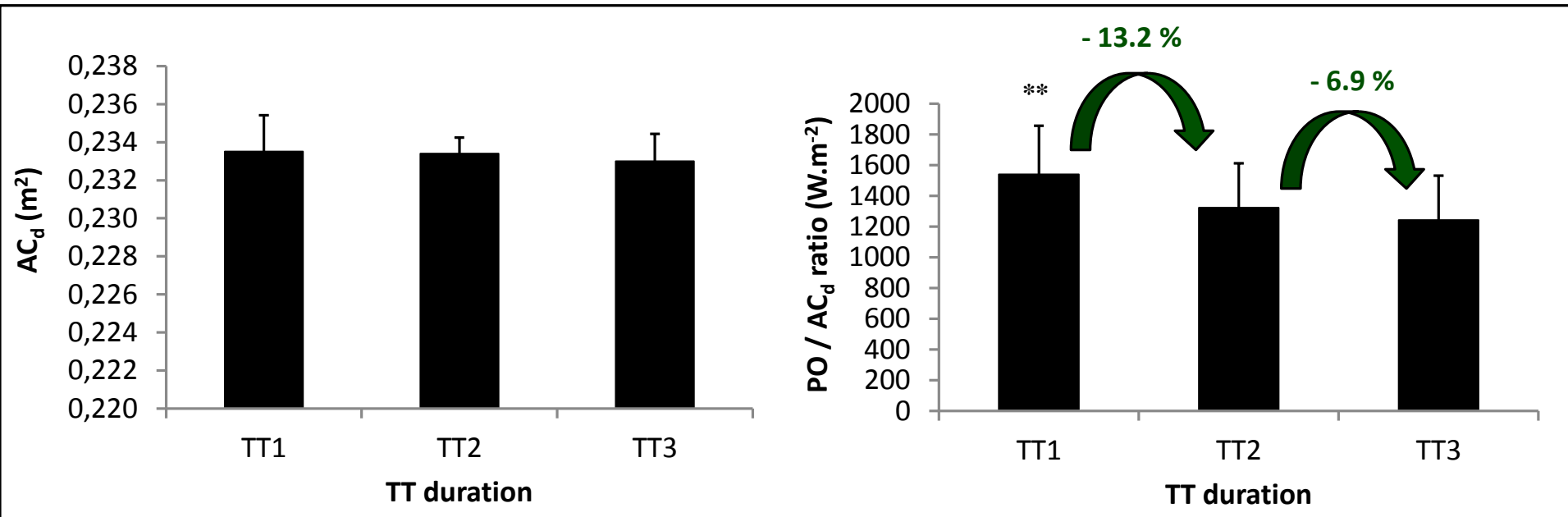


## Effect of duration



↓ in V and PO according to the TT duration

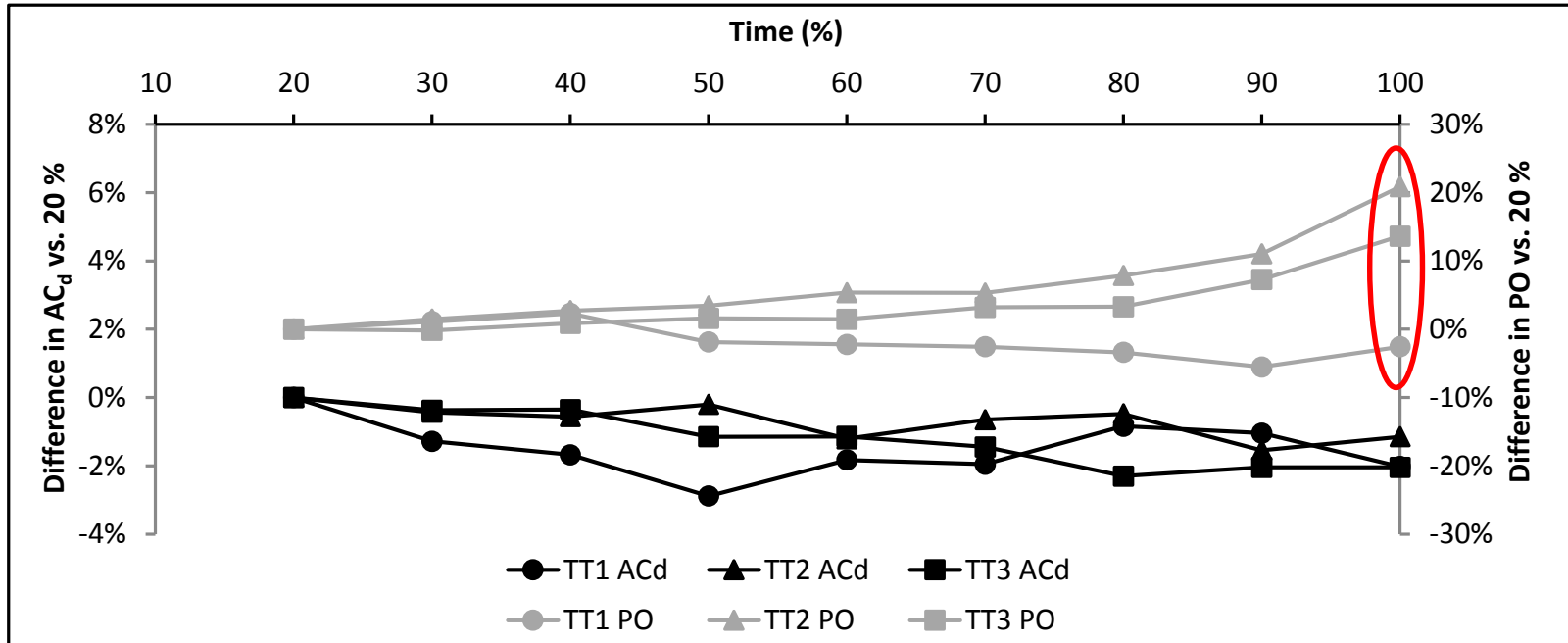
## Effect of duration



→ in  $AC_d$

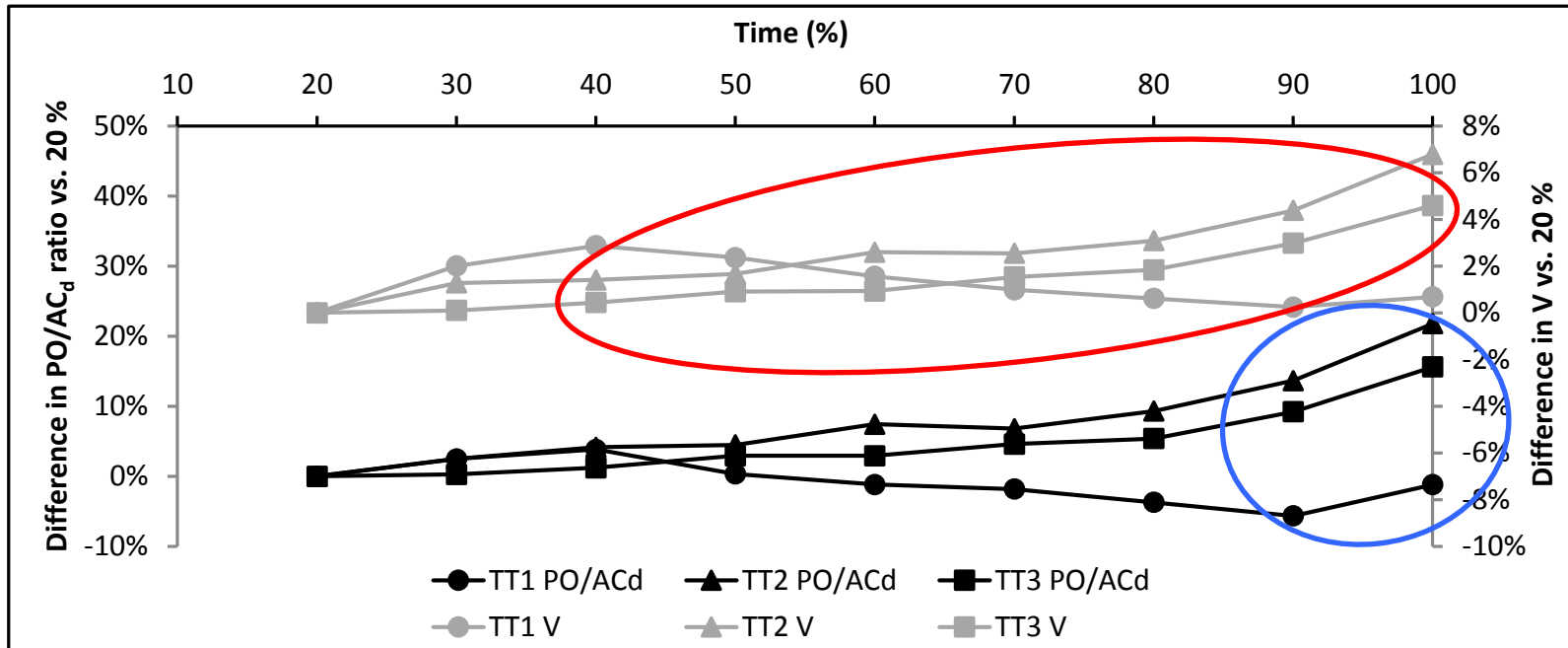
↘ in  $PO/AC_d$  ratio

# Effect of time



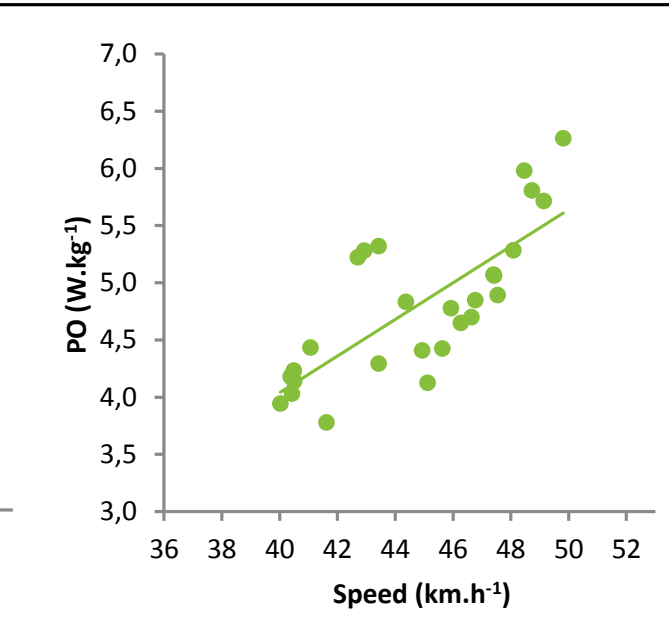
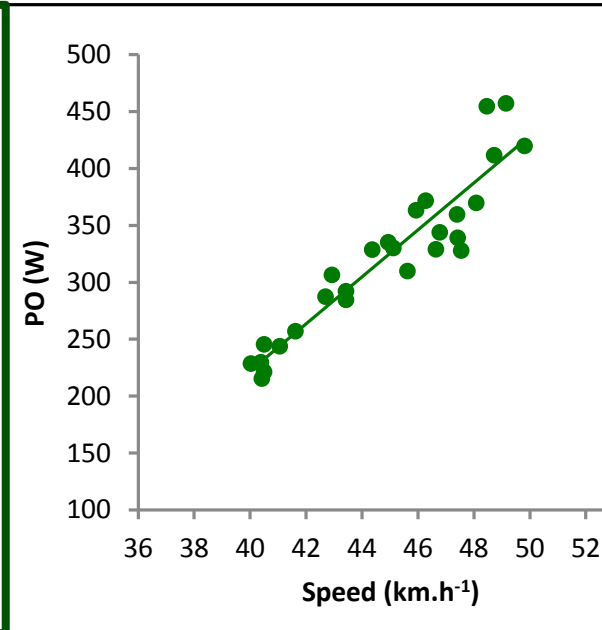
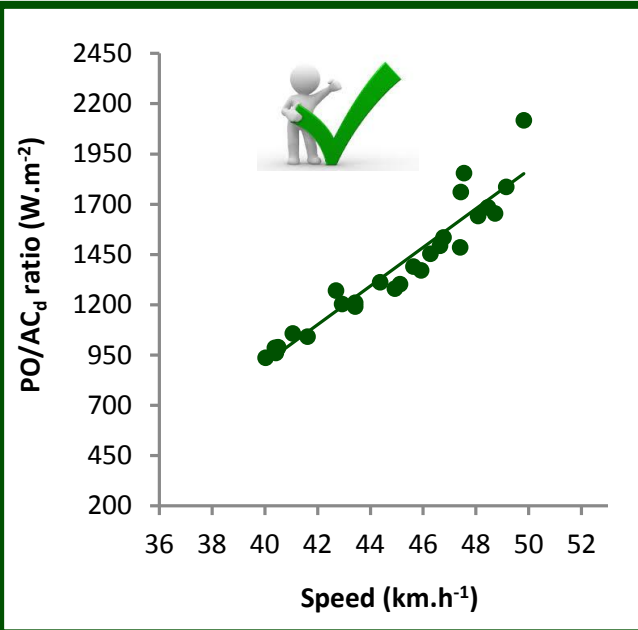
Variable	20%	30%	40%	50%	60%	70%	80%	90%	100%
PO (W)	310.5 ± 61.1	312.3 ± 61.6	314.9 ± 60.6	311.2 ± 61.7	312.2 ± 60.0	312.3 ± 56.5	314.2 ± 59.6	318.5 ± 65.4	336.3 ± 60.2
ES		-0.031	-0.076	-0.013	-0.031	-0.033	-0.065	-0.134	-0.452
<b>Interpretation</b>		Trivial	Trivial	Trivial	Trivial	Trivial	Trivial	Trivial	Small
AC <sub>d</sub> (m <sup>2</sup> )	0.235 ± 0.023	0.233 ± 0.022	0.233 ± 0.021	0.232 ± 0.021	0.232 ± 0.021	0.232 ± 0.020	0.232 ± 0.021	0.231 ± 0.021	0.231 ± 0.021
ES		0.092	0.118	0.176	0.177	0.173	0.153	0.183	0.190
<b>Interpretation</b>		Trivial	Trivial	Trivial	Trivial	Trivial	Trivial	Trivial	Trivial

# Effect of time



Variable	20%	30%	40%	50%	60%	70%	80%	90%	100%
V (km.h <sup>-1</sup> )	44.7 ± 2.9	45.2 ± 3.0	45.4 ± 3.1	45.4 ± 3.2	45.4 ± 3.1	45.4 ± 3.0	45.5 ± 3.0	45.8 ± 3.2	46.4 ± 2.9
ES		-0.186	-0.255	-0.262	-0.270	-0.269	-0.291	-0.386	-0.648
Interpretation		Trivial	Small	Small	Small	Small	Small	Small	Moderate
PO/AC <sub>d</sub> ratio (W.m <sup>-2</sup> )	1322.9 ± 259.4	1347.0 ± 290.7	1364.4 ± 302.3	1354.7 ± 302.5	1358.8 ± 300.6	1359.5 ± 294.2	1363.0 ± 295.7	1385.9 ± 314.7	1467.6 ± 304.3
ES		-0.092	-0.156	-0.119	-0.136	-0.140	-0.153	-0.231	-0.543
Interpretation		Trivial	Trivial	Trivial	Trivial	Trivial	Trivial	Small	Moderate

Relationship between speed and PO/AC<sub>d</sub> ratio, PO (W) and PO (W.kg<sup>-1</sup>)



PO/AC<sub>d</sub> ratio (W.m<sup>-2</sup>)

$$y = 96.157x - 2937.2$$

$$R^2 = 0.91 \text{ (} p < 0.001 \text{)}$$

PO (W)

$$y = 20.627x - 602.83$$

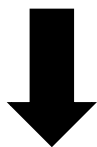
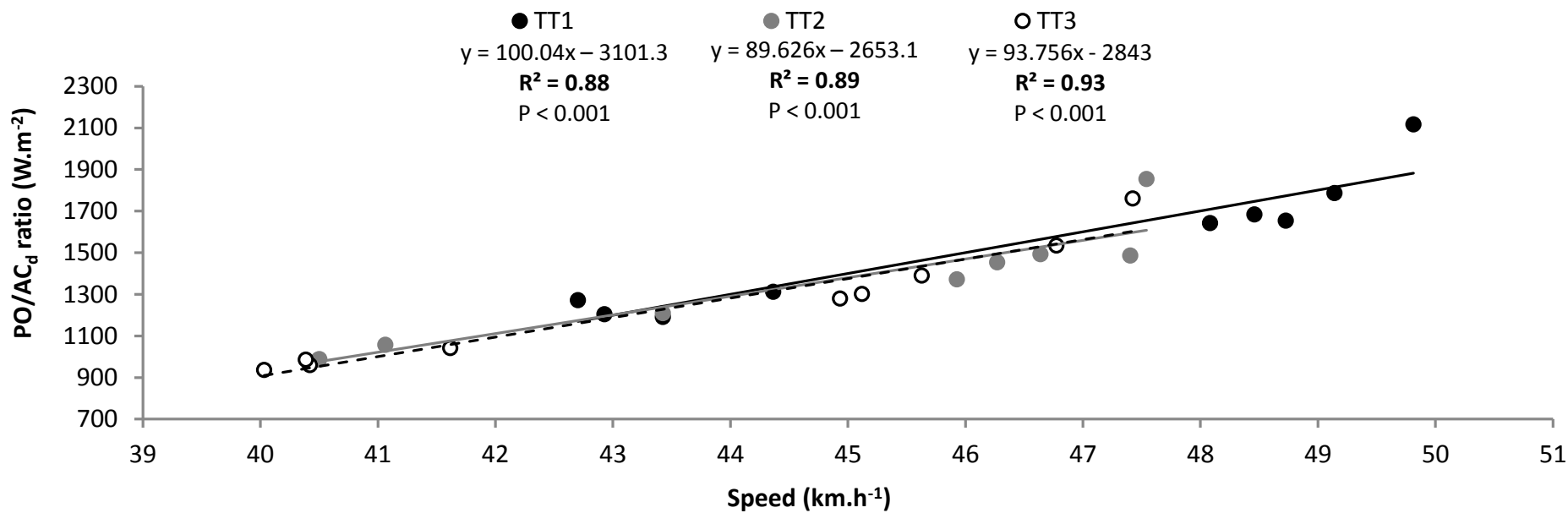
$$R^2 = 0.88 \text{ (} p < 0.001 \text{)}$$

PO (W.kg<sup>-1</sup>)

$$y = 0.1603x - 2.3746$$

$$R^2 = 0.58 \text{ (} p < 0.001 \text{)}$$

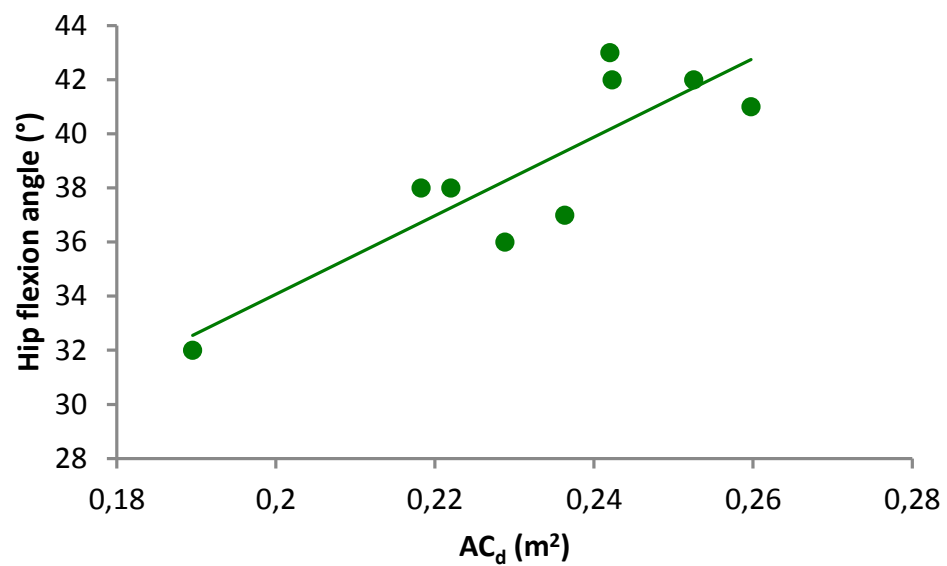
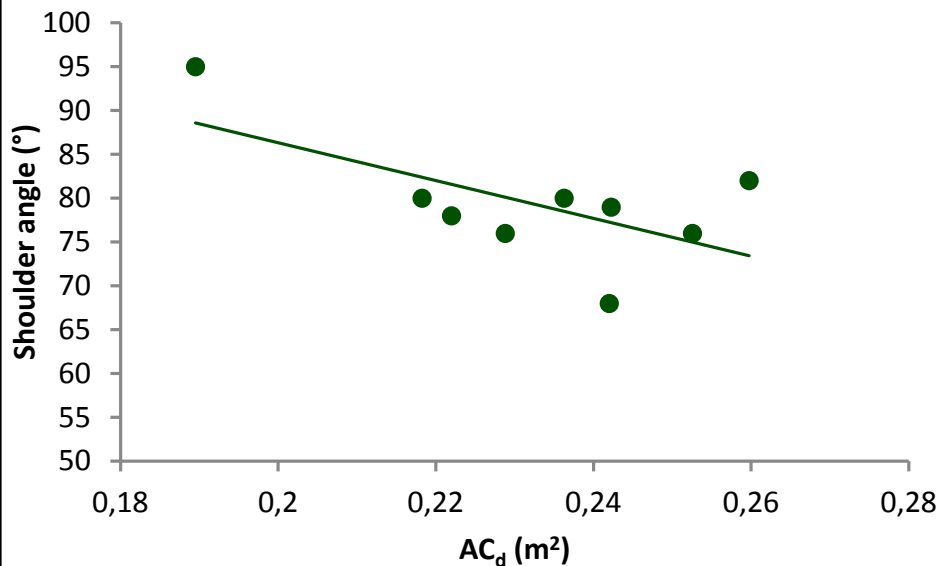
Relationship between speed and PO/AC<sub>d</sub> ratio in each TT



The more the duration is high the more the relationship is 💪



## Relationship between $AC_d$ and kinematic variables

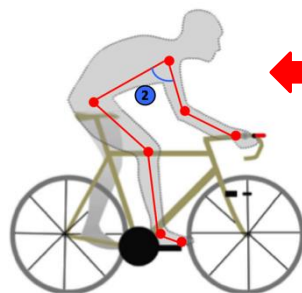


### Shoulder angle

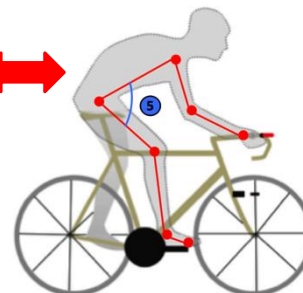
$$y = -215.82x + 129.49$$

$$R^2 = 0.40$$

$$P = 0.066$$



$\longleftrightarrow AC_d \longleftrightarrow$



### Hip flexion angle

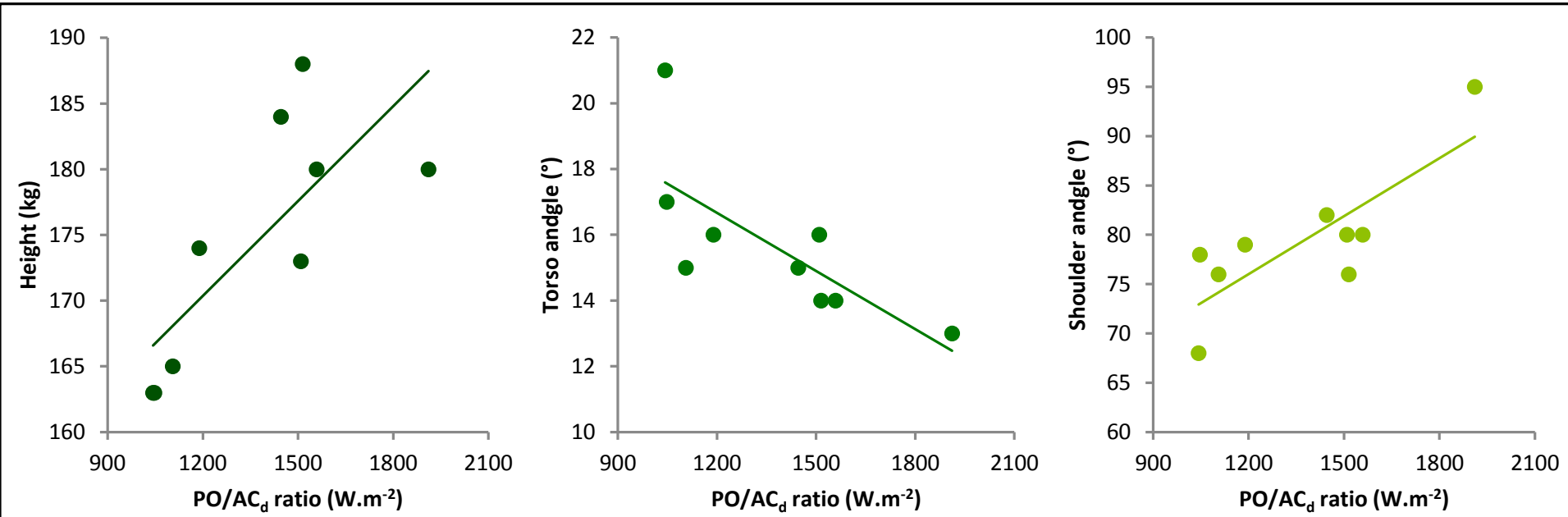
$$y = 145.19x + 5.0372$$

$$R^2 = 0.73$$

$$P < 0.05$$



## Relationship between PO/AC<sub>d</sub> ratio and both morphological and kinematic variables



Height :  $R^2 = 0.58$  ( $p < 0.05$ )

Torso angle :  $R^2 = 0.55$  ( $p < 0.05$ )

Shoulder angle :  $R^2 = 0.65$  ( $p < 0.05$ )

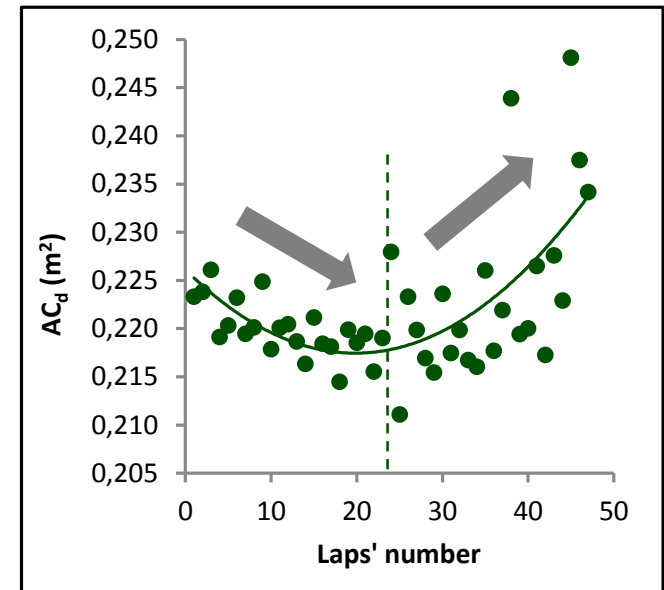
$$\text{PO/AC}_d \text{ ratio} = -4071.672 + (17.475 \times \text{Height}) + (17.036 \times \text{Torso angle}) + (26.793 \times \text{Shoulder angle})$$

$$R^2 = 0.85 \text{ (} p < 0.05 \text{)}$$



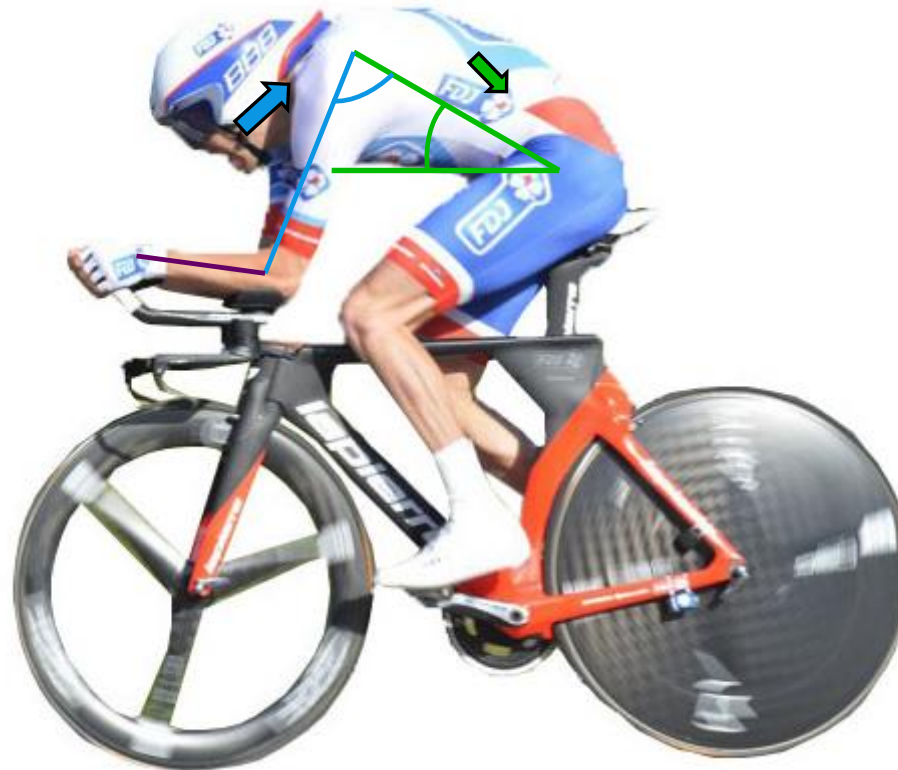
## Effects of duration and time

- $\searrow$  in  $V$  and  $PO$  in accordance with the literature
- Negative pacing strategy
- The  $AC_d$  remains relatively  $\rightarrow$  during the efforts
- Individual testing to identify the optimal position
- Strong correlations between  $V$  and  $PO/AC_d$  ratio
- $\nearrow$   $PO$  and  $\searrow$   $AC_d$  to  $\nearrow$  performance  
*Peterman et al. 2015*



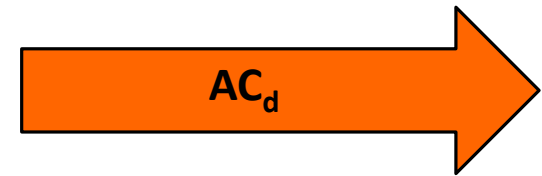
- $PO/AC_d$  ratio depends on the height ( $P < 0.05$ ), the torso angle ( $P < 0.001$ ) and the shoulder angle ( $P < 0.05$ )
- $AC_d$  depends on the shoulder angle ( $P = 0.066$ ) and hip flexion angle ( $P < 0.05$ )

Effect of torso and shoulder angles on  $AC_d$  during different TT durations



- ↘ Torso angle induces an ↗ in  $AC_d$  ?
- ↗ Shoulder angle induces an ↗ in  $AC_d$  ?

Measure  $AC_d$  in real cycling locomotion on the field



# THANKS FOR YOUR ATTENTION



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[@ABouillod](https://twitter.com/ABouillod)

1. Debraux P, Grappe F, Manolova AV, Bertucci W (2011) Aerodynamic drag in cycling: methods of assessment. Sports biomechanics / International Society of Biomechanics in Sports 10: 197-218
2. Fintelman DM, Sterling M, Hemida H, Li FX (2015) The effect of time trial cycling position on physiological and aerodynamic variables. Journal of sports sciences 33: 1730-1737
3. Grappe F, Candau R, Belli A, Rouillon JD (1997) Aerodynamic drag in field cycling with special reference to the Obree's position. Ergonomics 40: 1299-1311
4. Oggiano L, Leirdal S, Saetran L, Ettema G (2008) Aerodynamic optimization and energy saving of cycling postures for international elite level cyclists. ISEA Conference, Biarritz
5. Peterman JE, Lim AC, Ignatz RI, Edwards AG, Byrnes WC (2015) Field-measured drag area is a key correlate of level cycling time trial performance. PeerJ 3: e1144
6. Underwood L, Schumacher J, Burette-Pommay J, Jermy M (2011) Aerodynamic drag and biomechanical power of a track cyclist as a function of shoulder and torso angles. Sports Engineering 14: 147-154