

# W' in the Critical Power model

The role of W' reconstitution in sports performance

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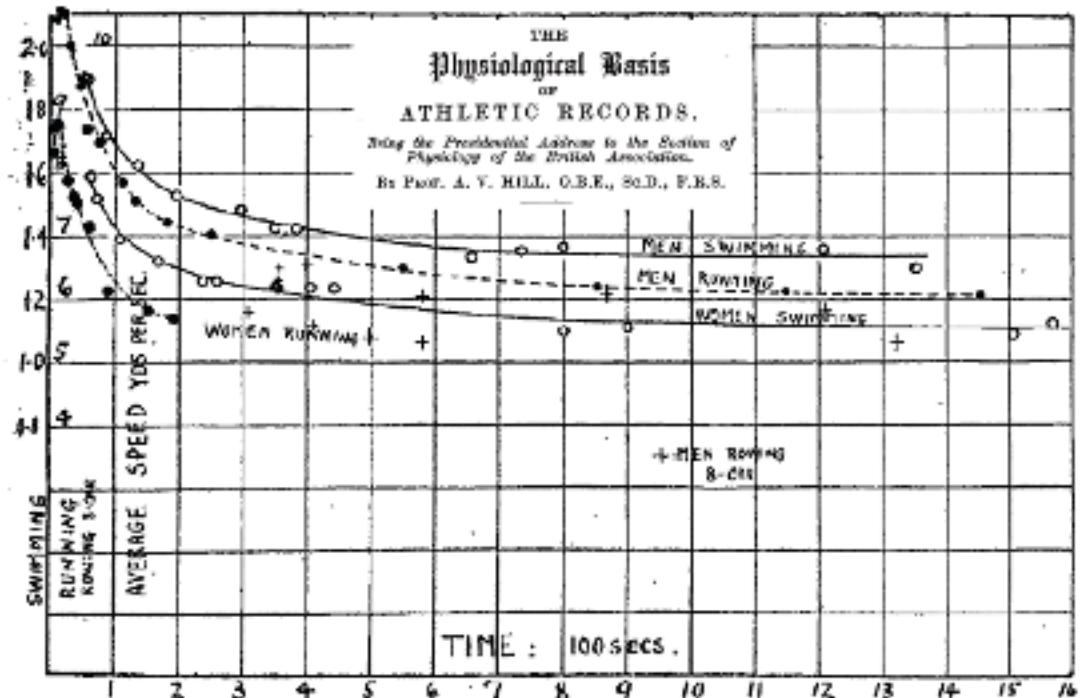
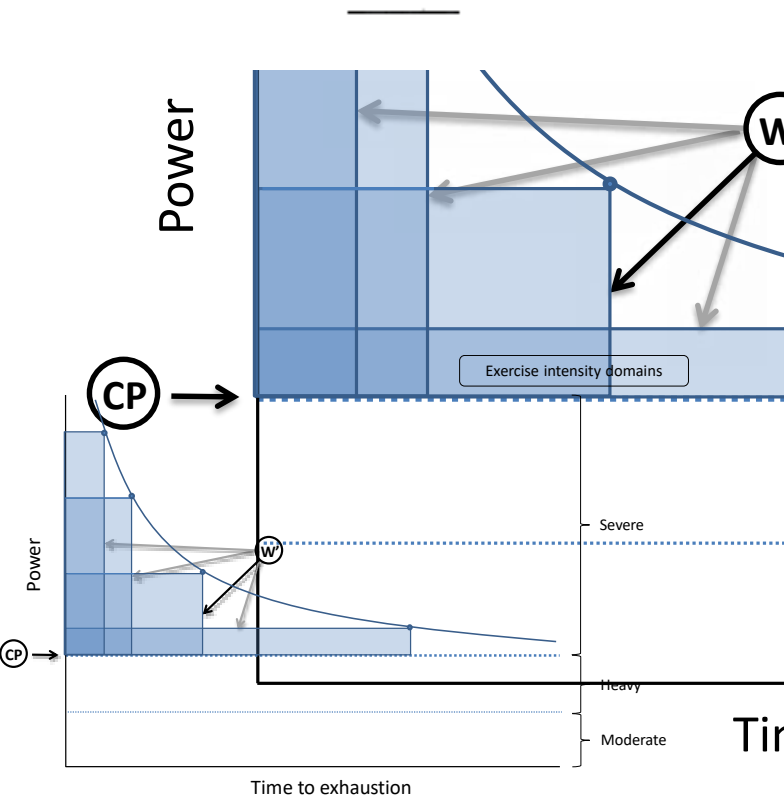
# Introduction

Exercise intensity domains

## THE Physiological Basis OF ATHLETIC RECORDS.

Being the Presidential Address to the Section of  
Physiology of the British Association.

BY PROF. A. V. HULL, O.B.E., Sc.D., F.R.S.



World's records for men and women swimming and running; average speed in yards per second against time in seconds. Note.—The scale for swimming is five times as great as for running. The observations for men rowing on eight oar boat are on the same scale as running and are referred to later in the text.

# Introduction

## THE WORK CAPACITY OF A SYNERGIC MUSCULAR GROUP

Exercise intensity domains

By H. MONOD and J. SCHERRER

Laboratoire de Physiologie du Travail du C.N.R.S., Paris

A new conception of dynamic or static muscular work tests is presented. The authors define the *critical power* of a muscular work from the notions of *maximum work* and *maximum time of work*. The work capacity is then considered in the case of dynamic work, and of continuous or intermittent static work. From the data presented it is possible to define the maximum amount of work that can be performed in a given time as well as the conditions of work performed without fatigue.

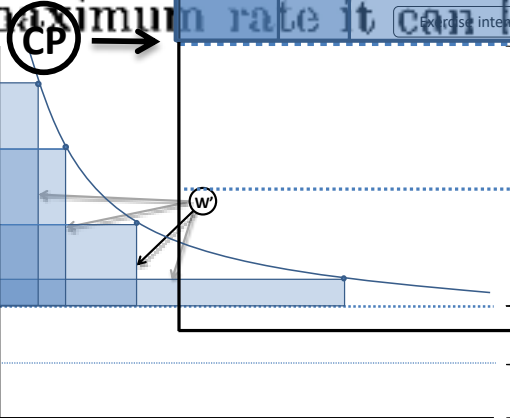
Severe

Power

W'

The *critical power* of a muscle (or a muscular group) corresponds to the maximum rate it can keep up for a very long time without fatigue.

Exercise intensity domains



Heavy

Moderate

Severe

Heavy

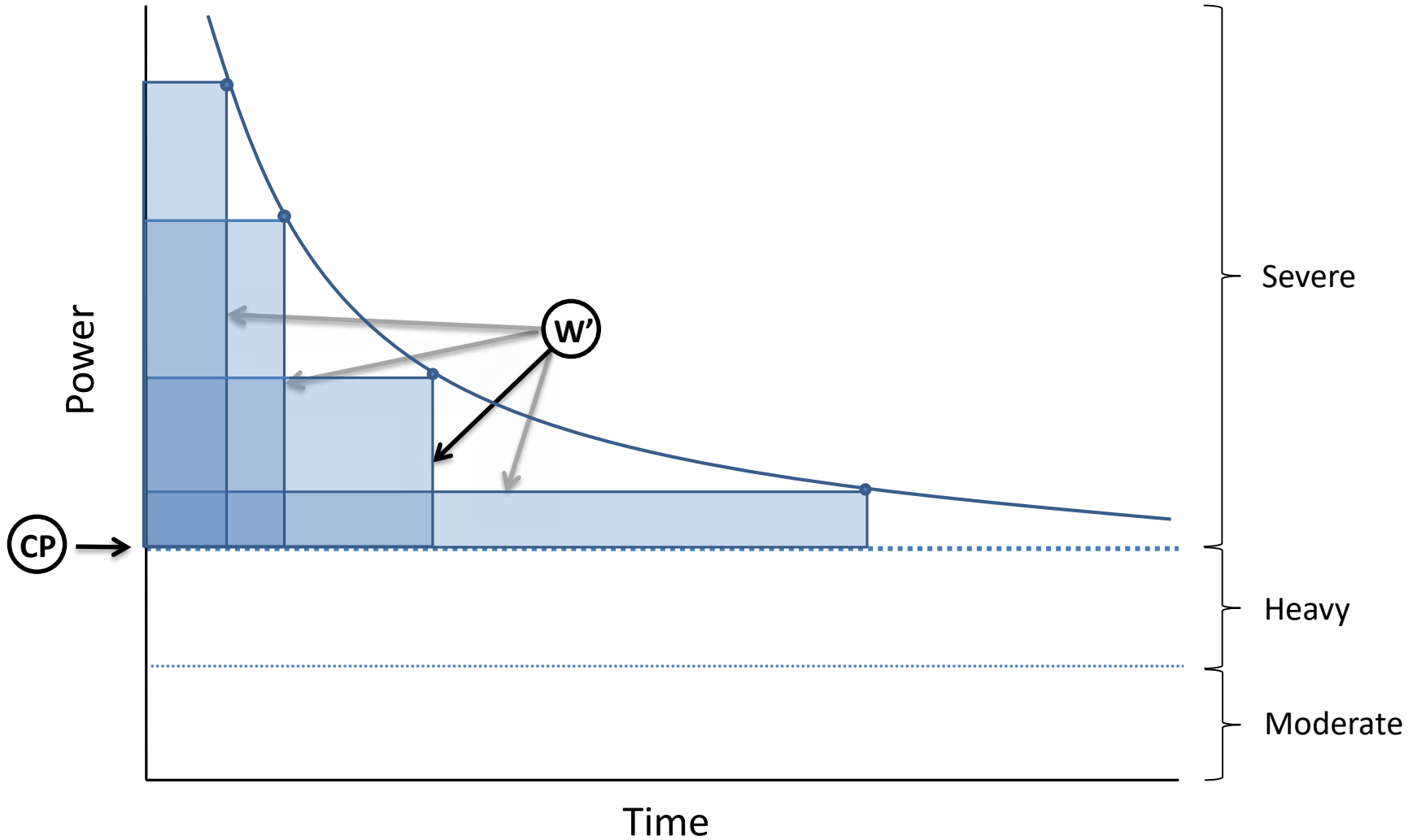
Moderate

Time to exhaustion

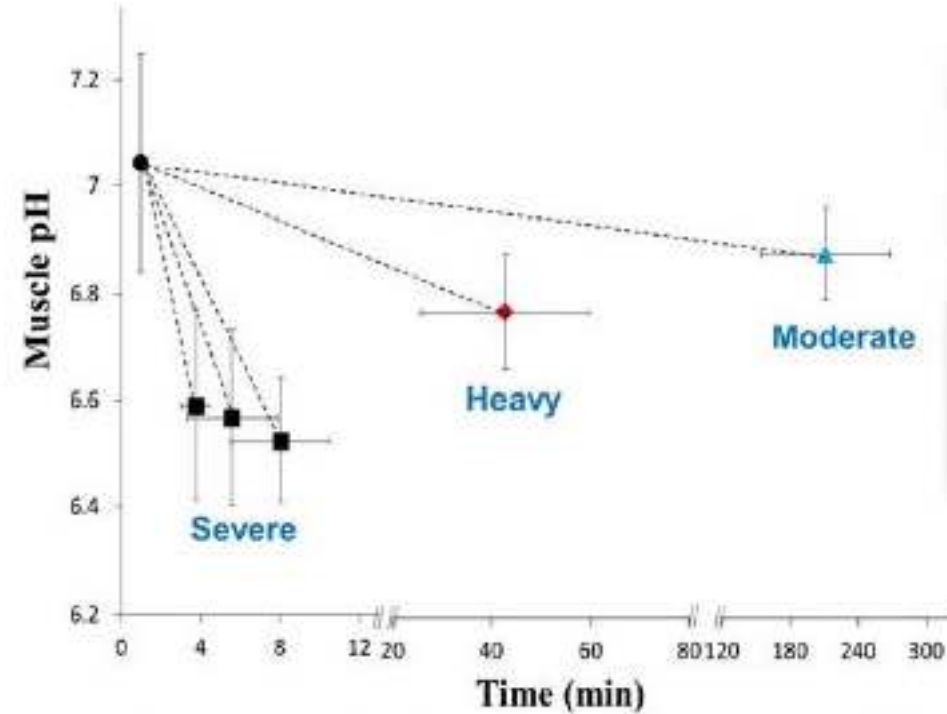
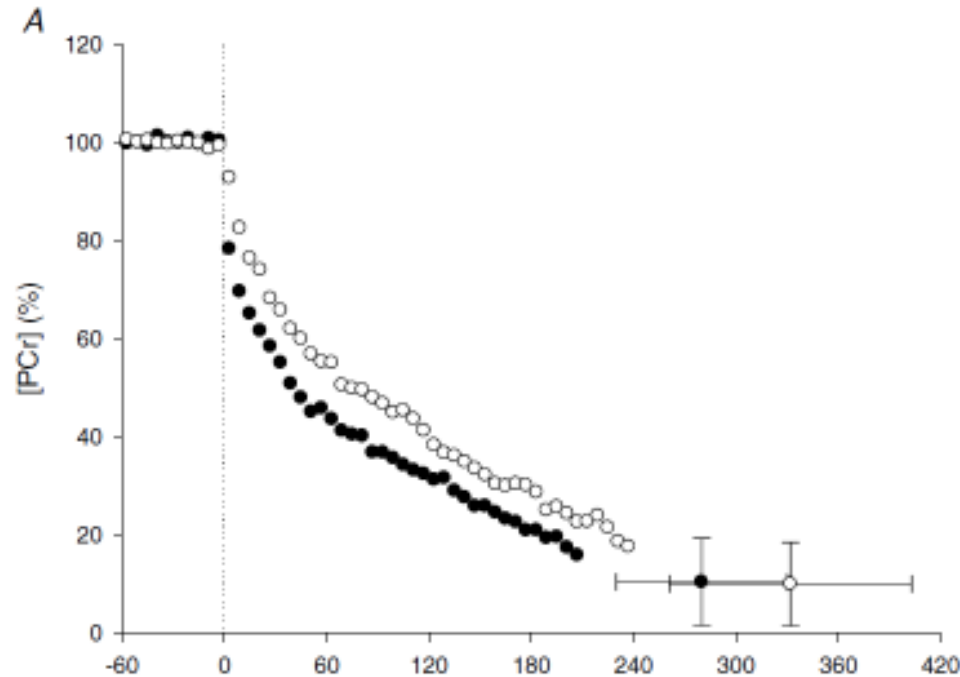
Time to exhaustion

# Introduction

Exercise intensity domains



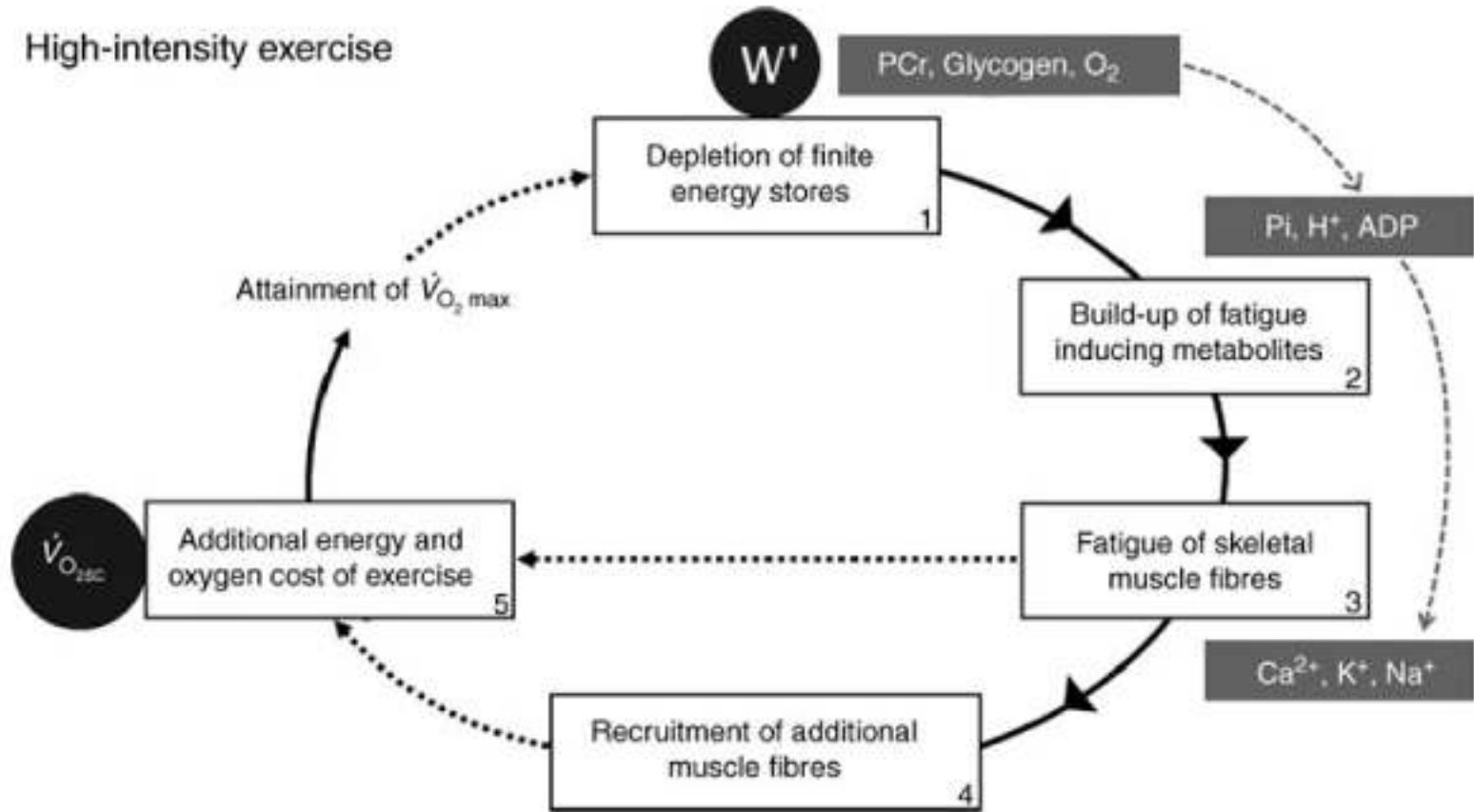
# W': definitions



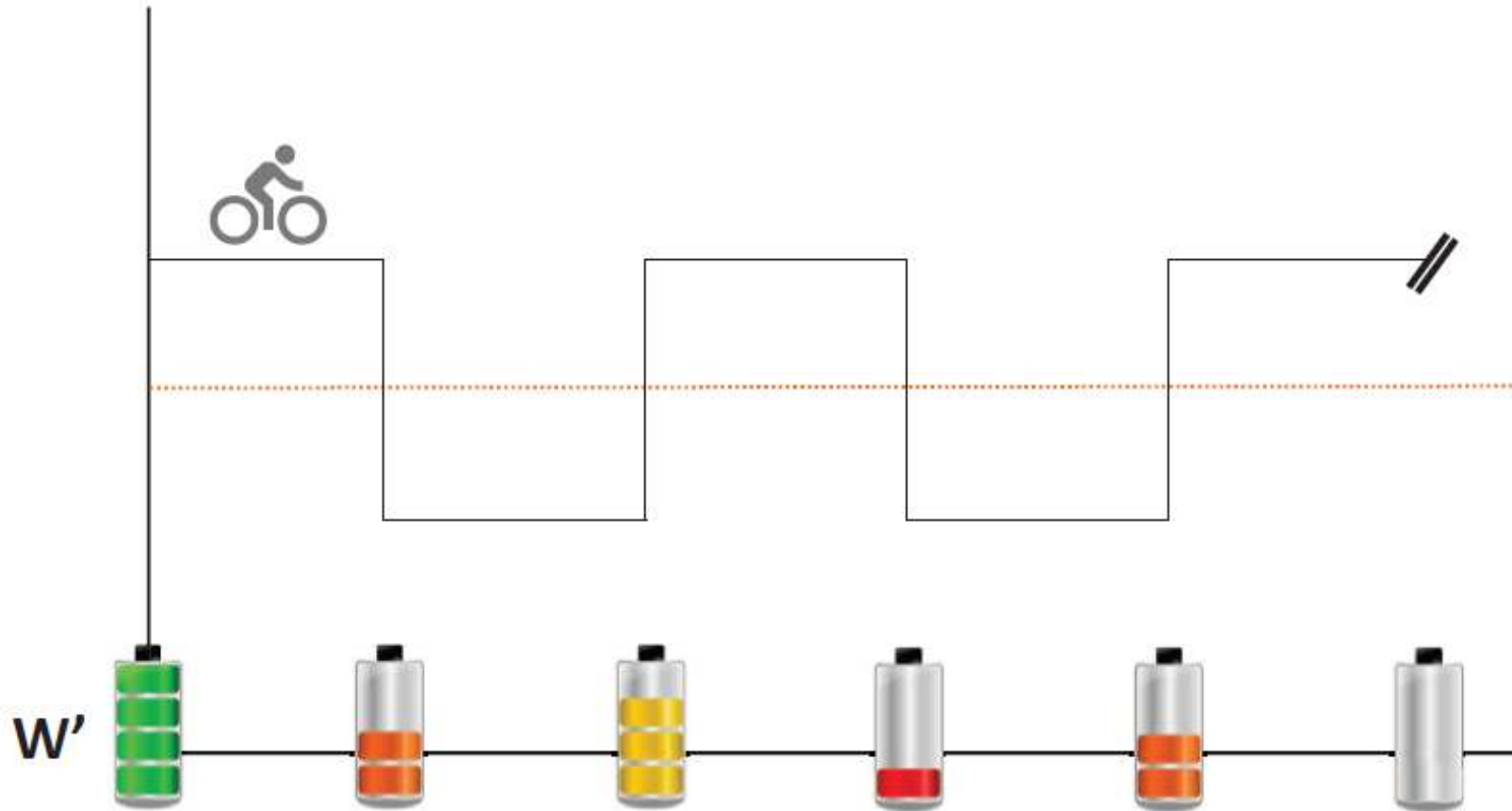
W' size ~ attainment of critical value intramuscular substrates and/of fatigue related metabolites

# W': definitions

High-intensity exercise



# $W'$ : definitions



# CP and $W'$ : performance prediction



# Constant Load Exercise

Gradual depleted =>  $W' = 0$  at finish

$$T_{\text{lim}} = W' / (P - CP)$$



Time Trial



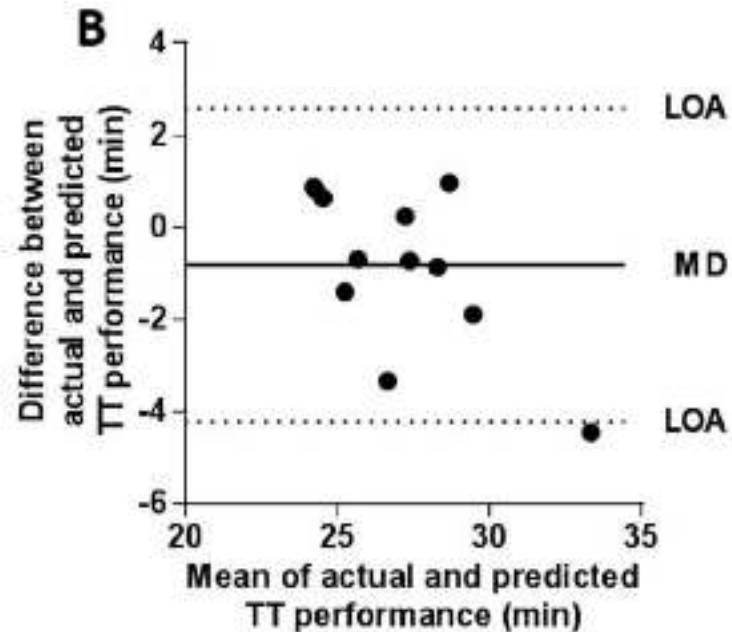
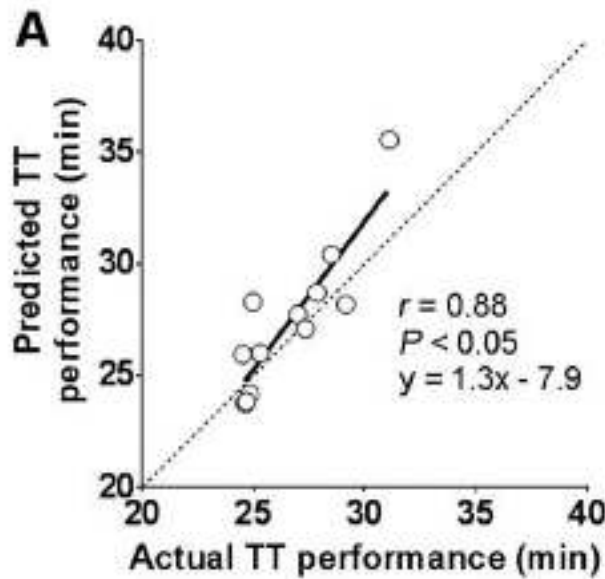
Individual Pursuit



(World Hour Record)

# Constant Load Exercise

$$T_{lim} = W' / (P - CP)$$



Fairly accurate performance prediction

# Intermittent Exercise

Depleted  $> CP$       Reconstituted  $< CP$

$$T_{lim} = W' / (P - CP)$$



**Team Pursuit**



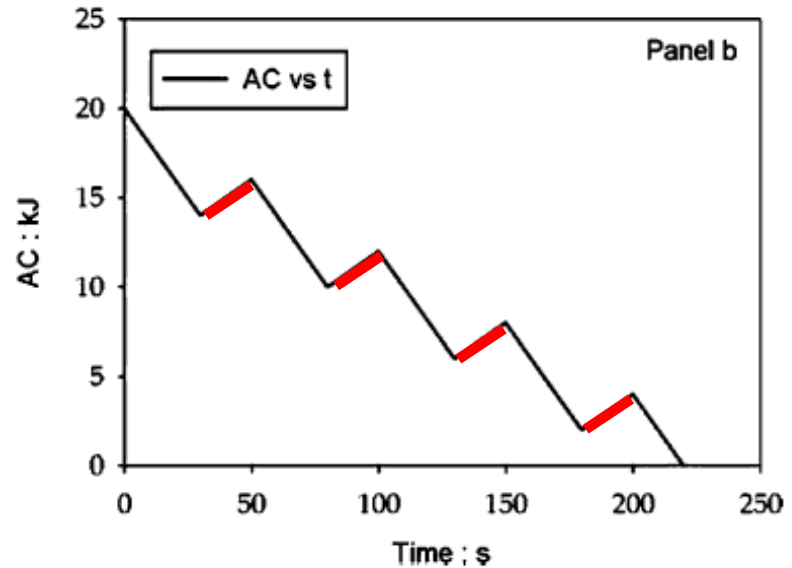
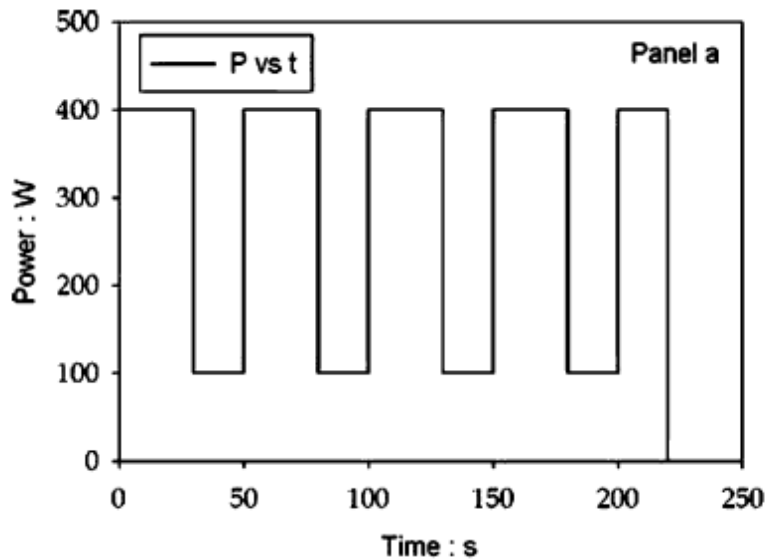
**Madison**



**Road Cycling**

# Intermittent Exercise

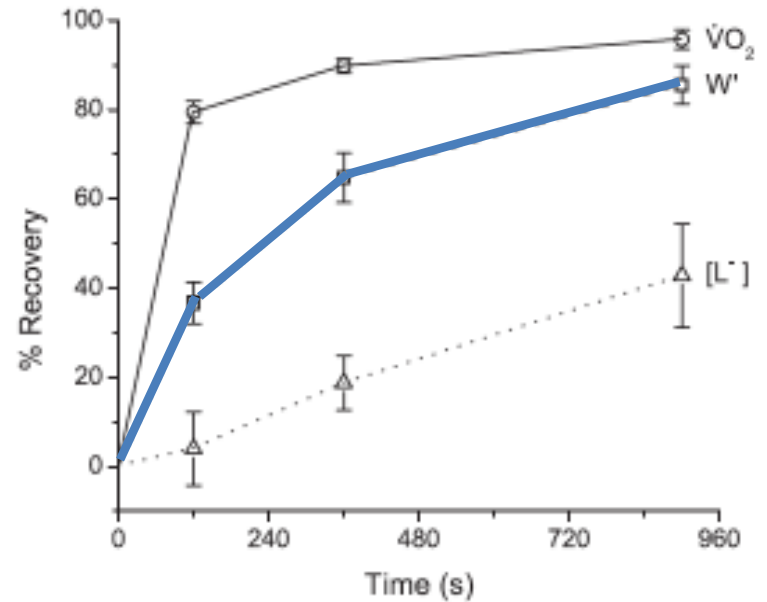
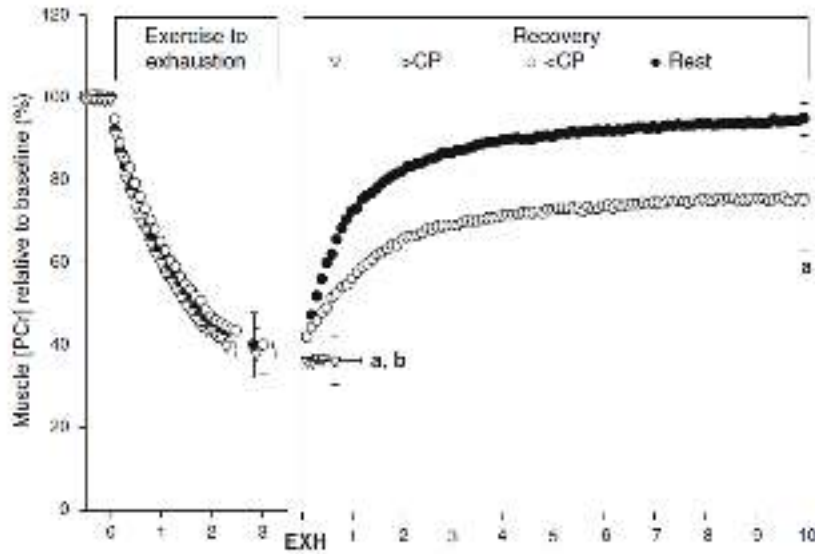
How do the reconstitution kinetics of  $W'$  look like?



$$t = n(D_W + D_R) + [W' - n((P_W - CP)D_W - (CP - P_R)D_R)] / (P_W - CP)$$

# 2. Intermittent Exercise

How do the reconstitution kinetics of  $W'$  look like?

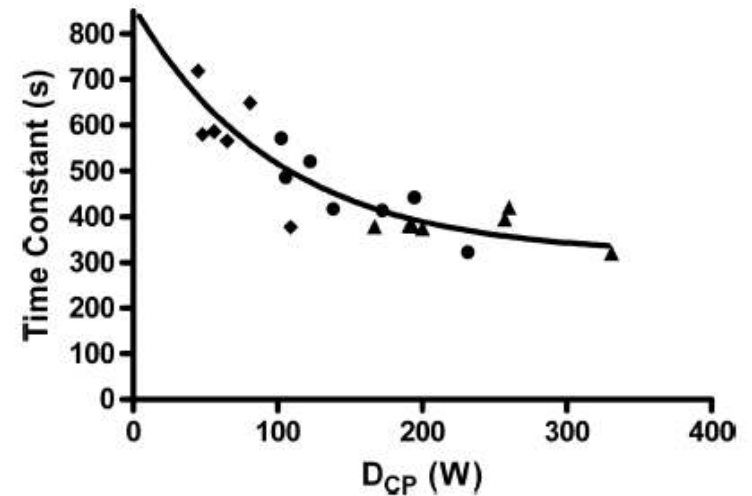


# Intermittent Exercise

How do the reconstitution kinetics of  $W'$  look like?

$$W'_{\text{bal}} = W' - \int_0^t (W'_{\text{exp}}) (e^{-(t-u) / \tau_{W'}}) \cdot du$$

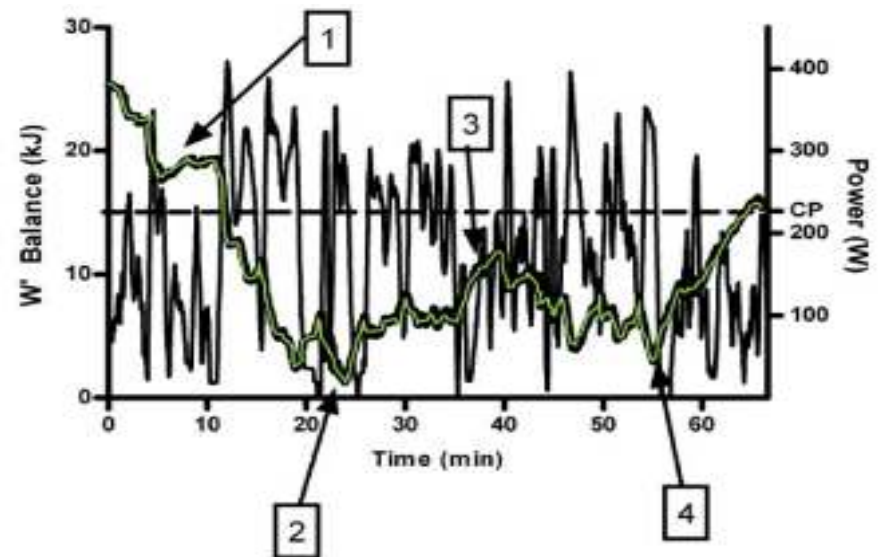
$$\tau_{W'} = 546e^{(-0.01D_{\text{CP}})} + 316$$



- Exponential recovery
- Speed of recovery ( $\tau_{W'}$ )  $\sim$  distance between recovery power output and critical power ( $D_{\text{CP}}$ )

# Intermittent Exercise

How do the reconstitution kinetics of  $W'$  look like?



# Intermittent Exercise

Is the  $W'_{BAL}$  correct?

What about individual characteristics?

Are CP and  $W'$  invariable and constant?



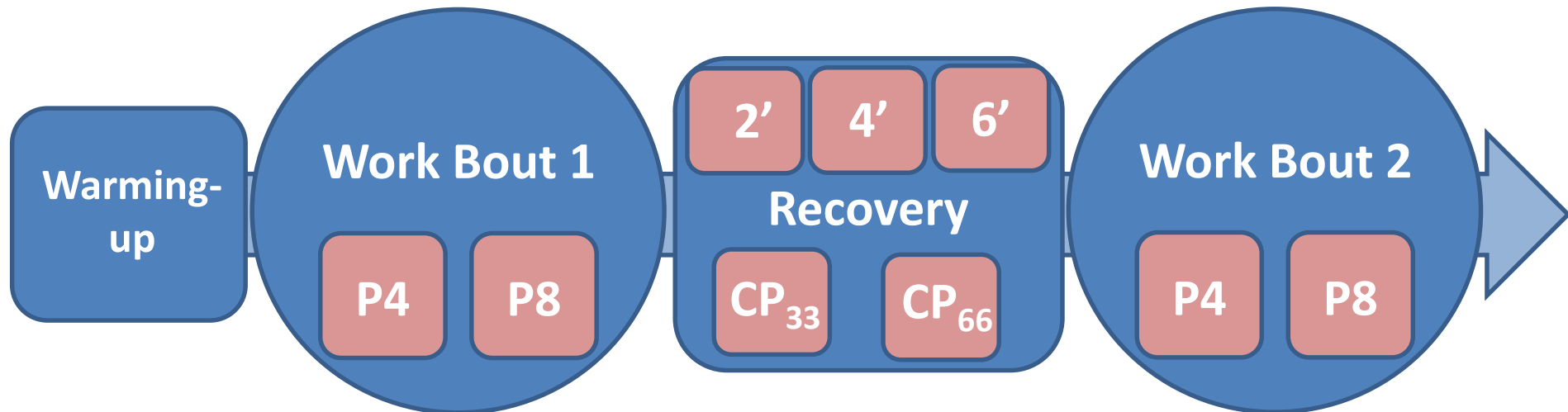
# Intermittent Exercise

## 1. Is the $W'_{BAL}$ model correct?



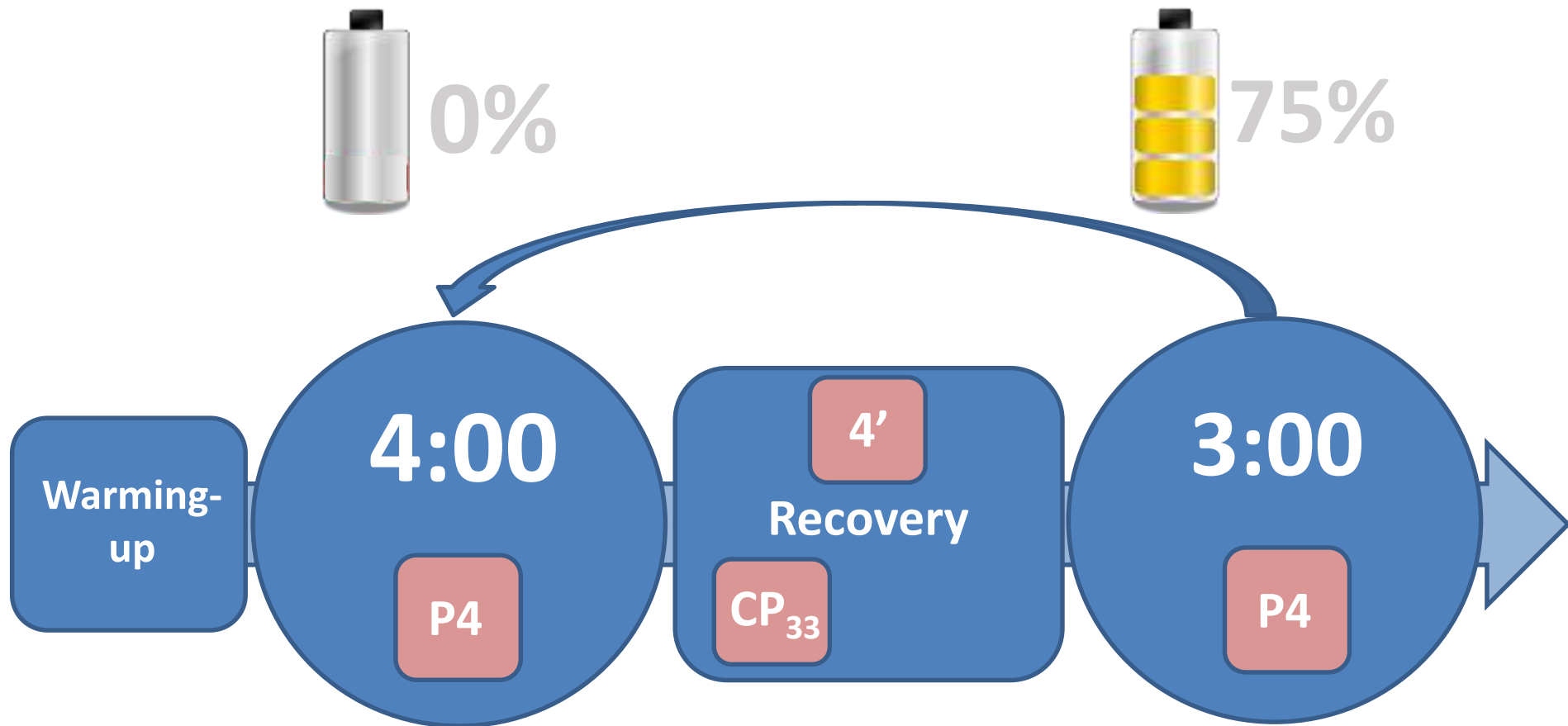
n = 11 PE students

- Incremental ramp test
- Critical Power test
- Experimental test



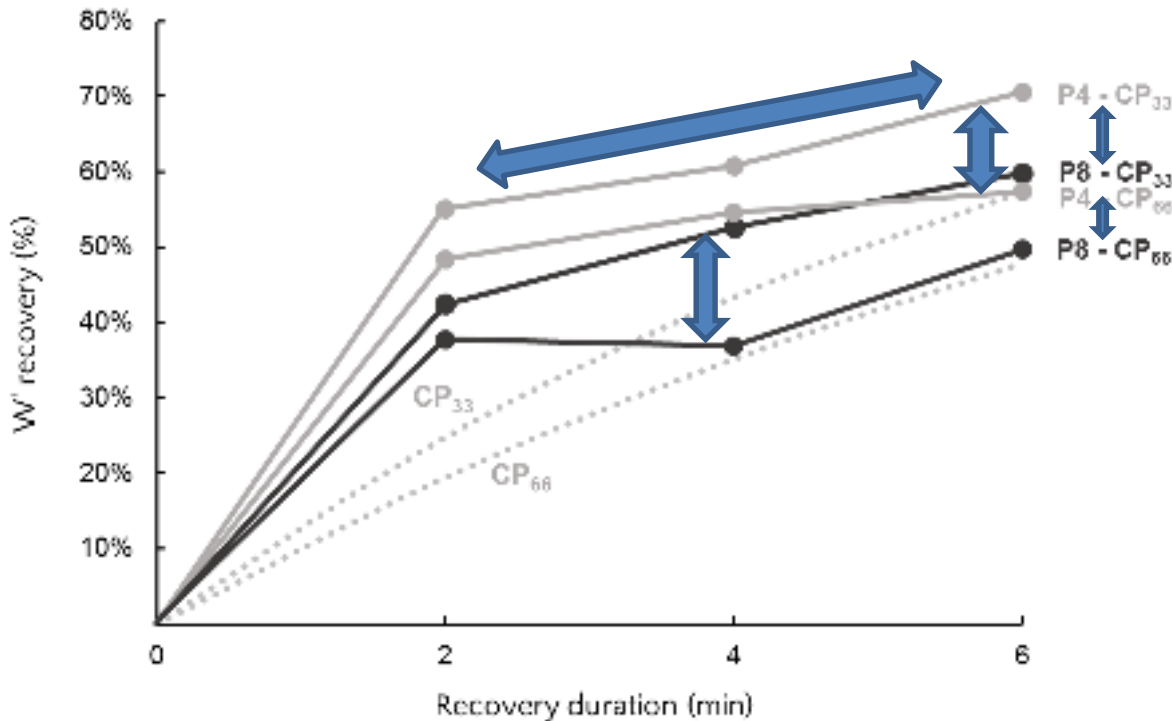
# Intermittent Exercise

## 1. Is the $W'_{BAL}$ model correct?



# Intermittent Exercise

## 1. Is the $W'_{BAL}$ model correct?



**RECOVERY DURATION**  
13.4% difference  
(6 min > 2 min)

**RECOVERY INTENSITY**  
9.4% difference  
(33%CP > 66%CP)

**WORK DURATION**  
11.4% difference  
(P4 > P8)

$W'$  reconstitution kinetics are dependent on the rate of  $W'$  expenditure (i.e. work above CP)

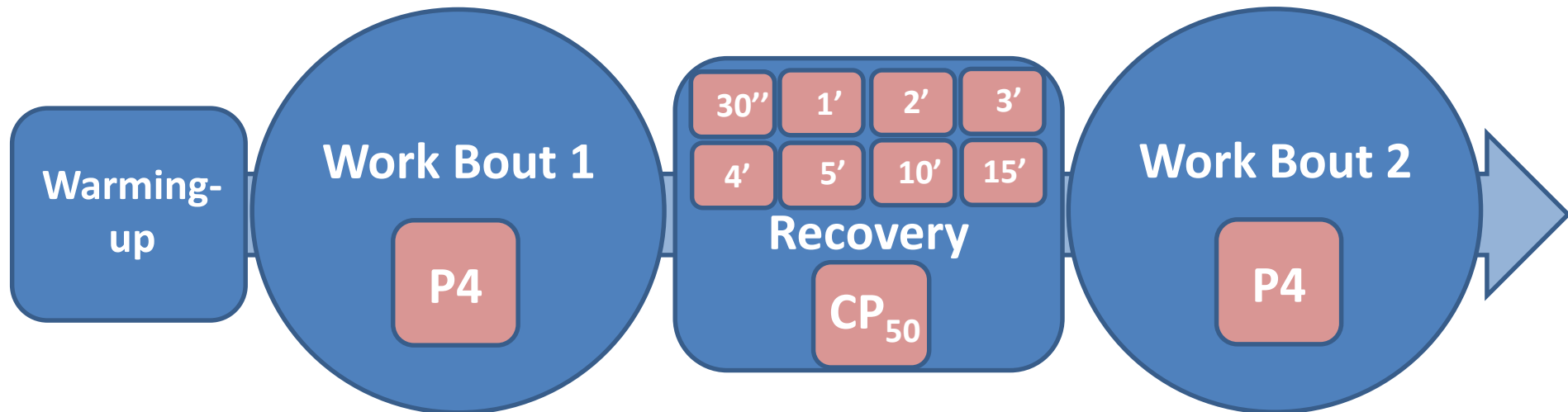
# Intermittent Exercise

## 1. Is the $W'_{BAL}$ model correct?



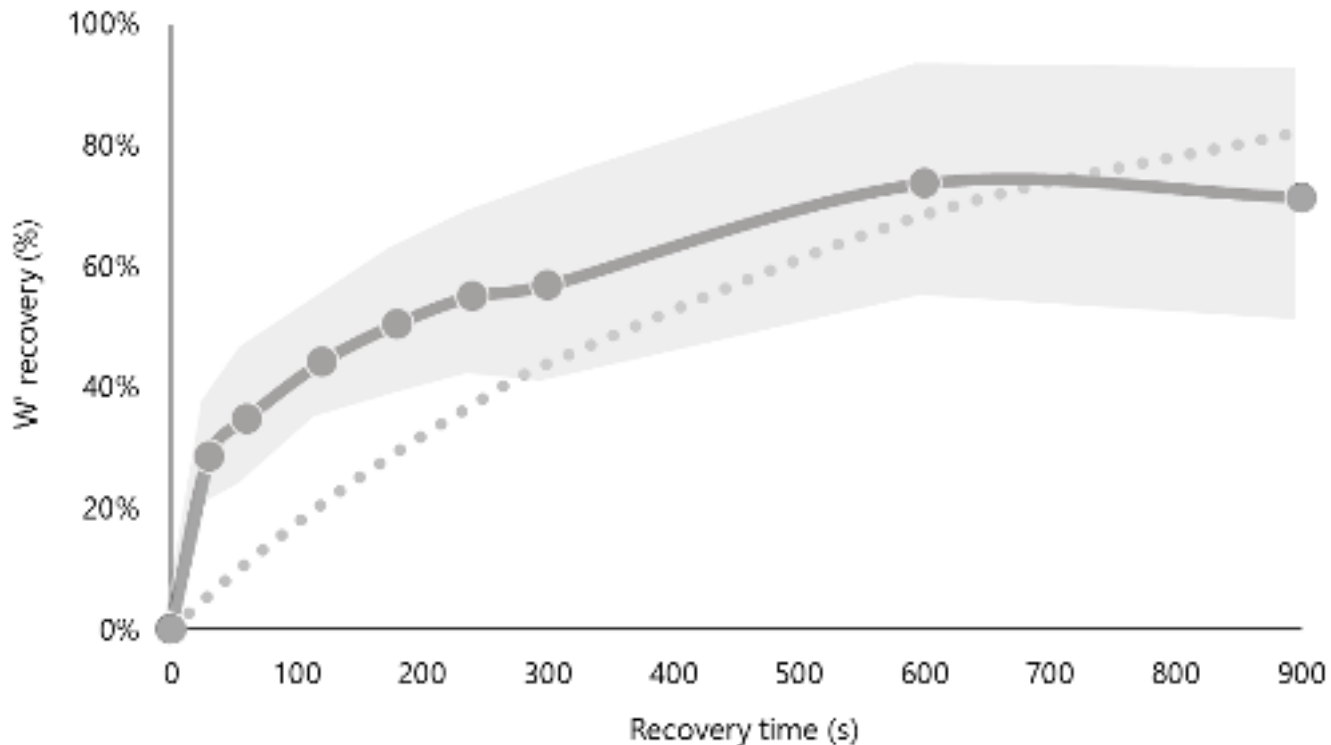
n = 21 PE students

- Incremental ramp test
- Critical Power test
- Muscle Biopsy
- Experimental test



# Intermittent Exercise

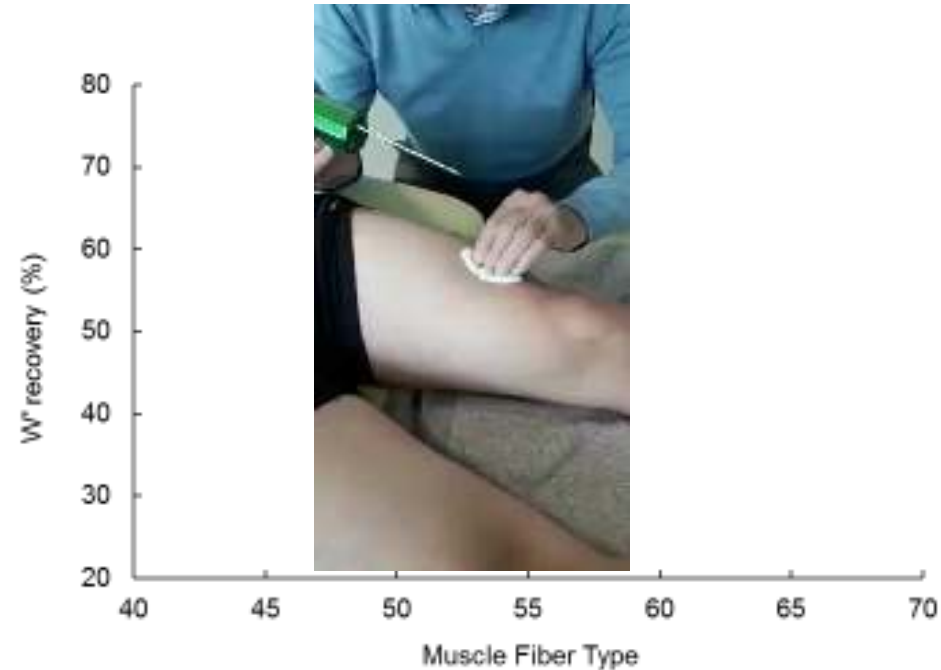
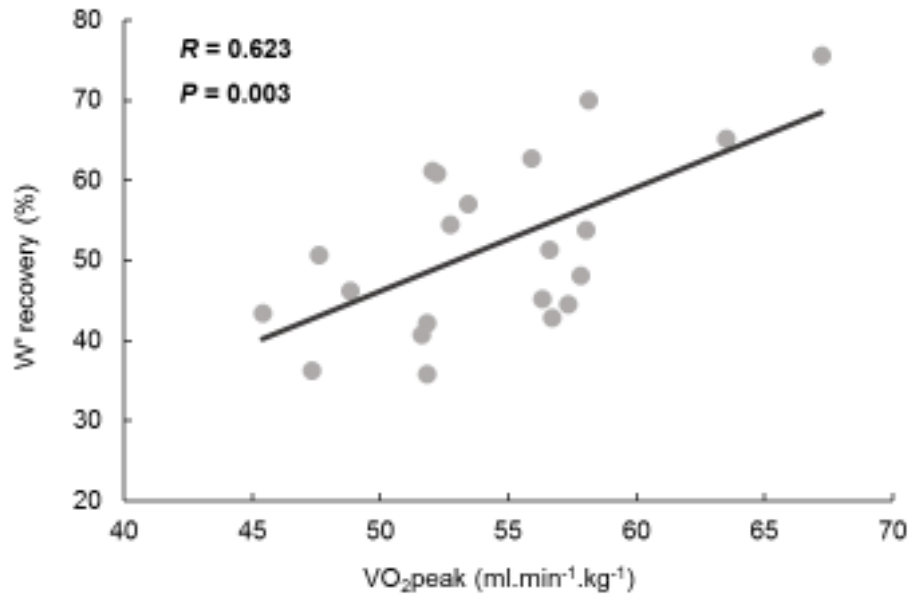
## 1. Is the $W'_{BAL}$ model correct ?



$W'_{BAL}$  underestimates the  $W'$  reconstitution when short recovery durations (<4 min) are used!

# Intermittent Exercise

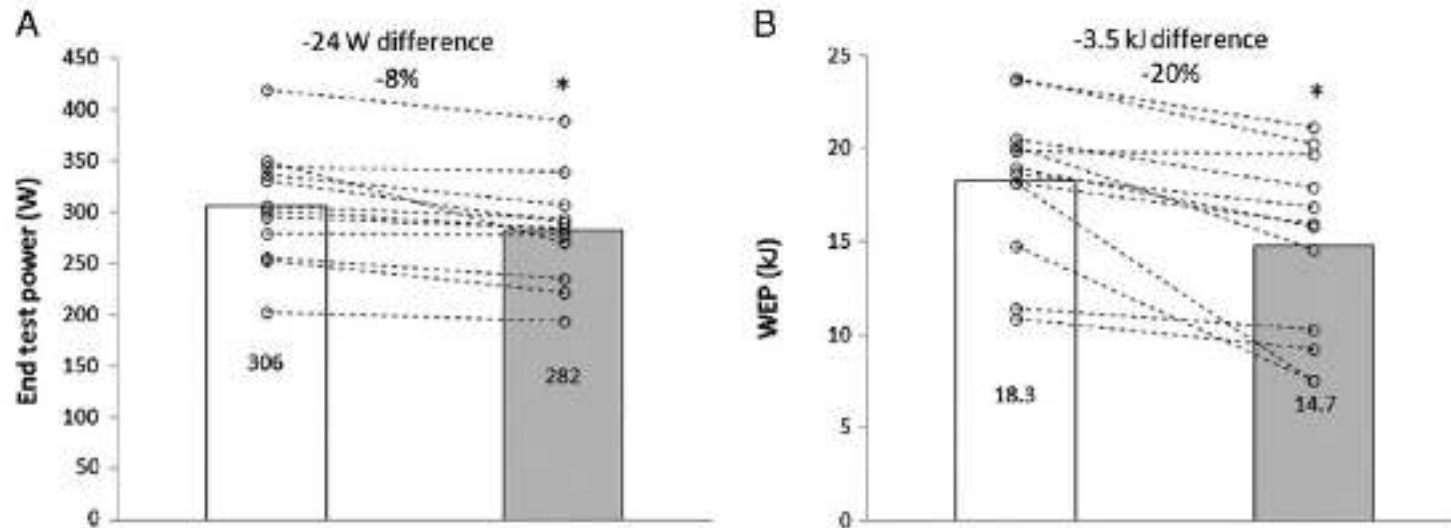
## 2. What about the individual characteristics?



Higher  $VO_{2peak}$  result in a speeding of the  $W'$  recovery kinetics.

# Intermittent Exercise

## 3. Are CP and W' invariable and constant?



W' and CP decrease with prolonged exercise.

# Conclusions

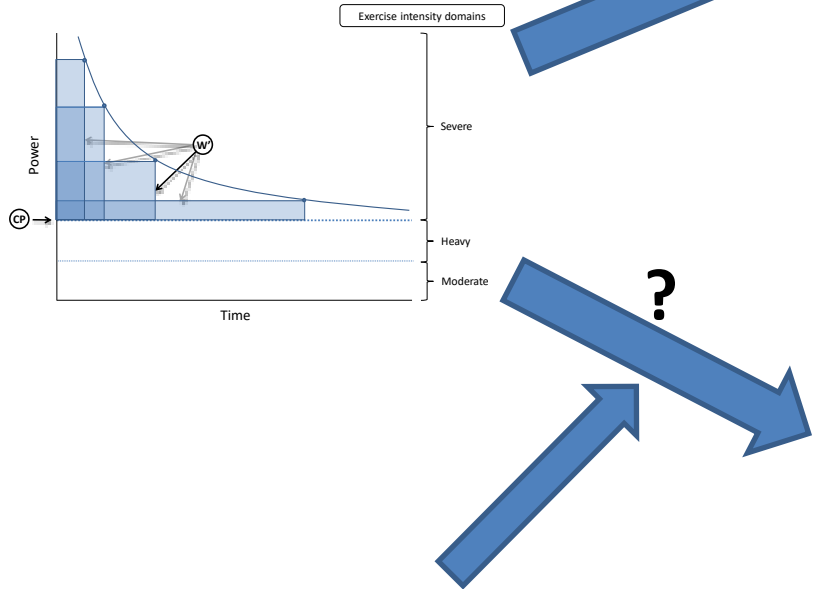
## Constant load exercise



## Intermittent exercise



**W'** reconstitution kinetics





# Thank you!



## CONTACT

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