

Unil

UNIL | Université de Lausanne

Institut des sciences du sport
de l'Université de Lausanne



A single field test evaluation for the assessment of the Record Power Profile in cycling

Màrius Pujol, MSc

Institute of Sport Science, University of Lausanne, Switzerland
marius.pujol@unil.ch

Raphaël Faiss, PhD

Research & Expertise in antiDoping sciences (REDs), University of Lausanne, Switzerland
raphael.faiss@unil.ch

Power meters

Fundamental and powerful tool providing instant valuable information about the amount of mechanical production (Vogt et al., 2006; Weber et al., 2005)



Measure
Validity



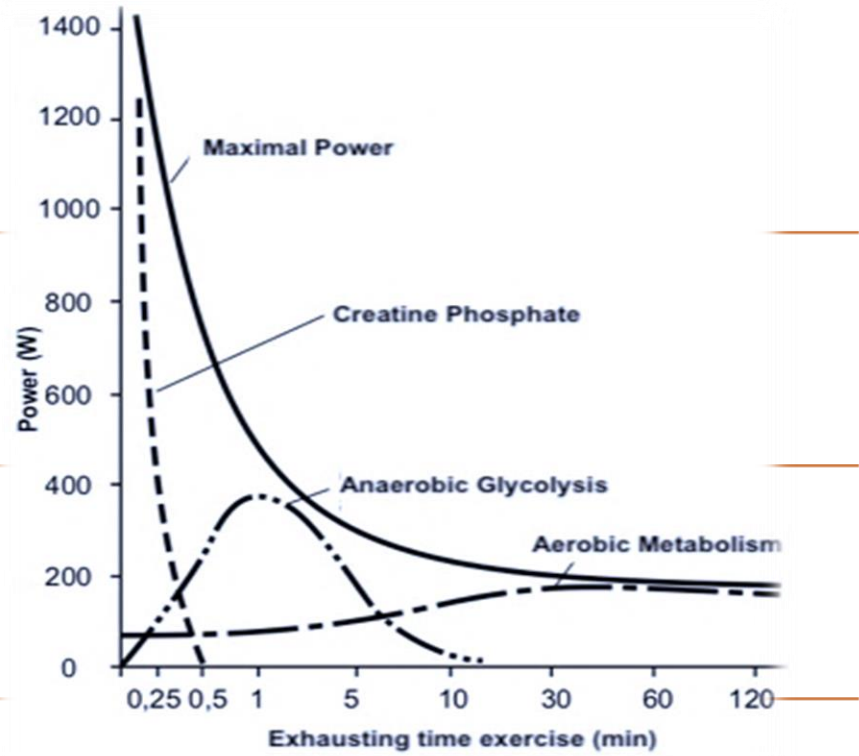
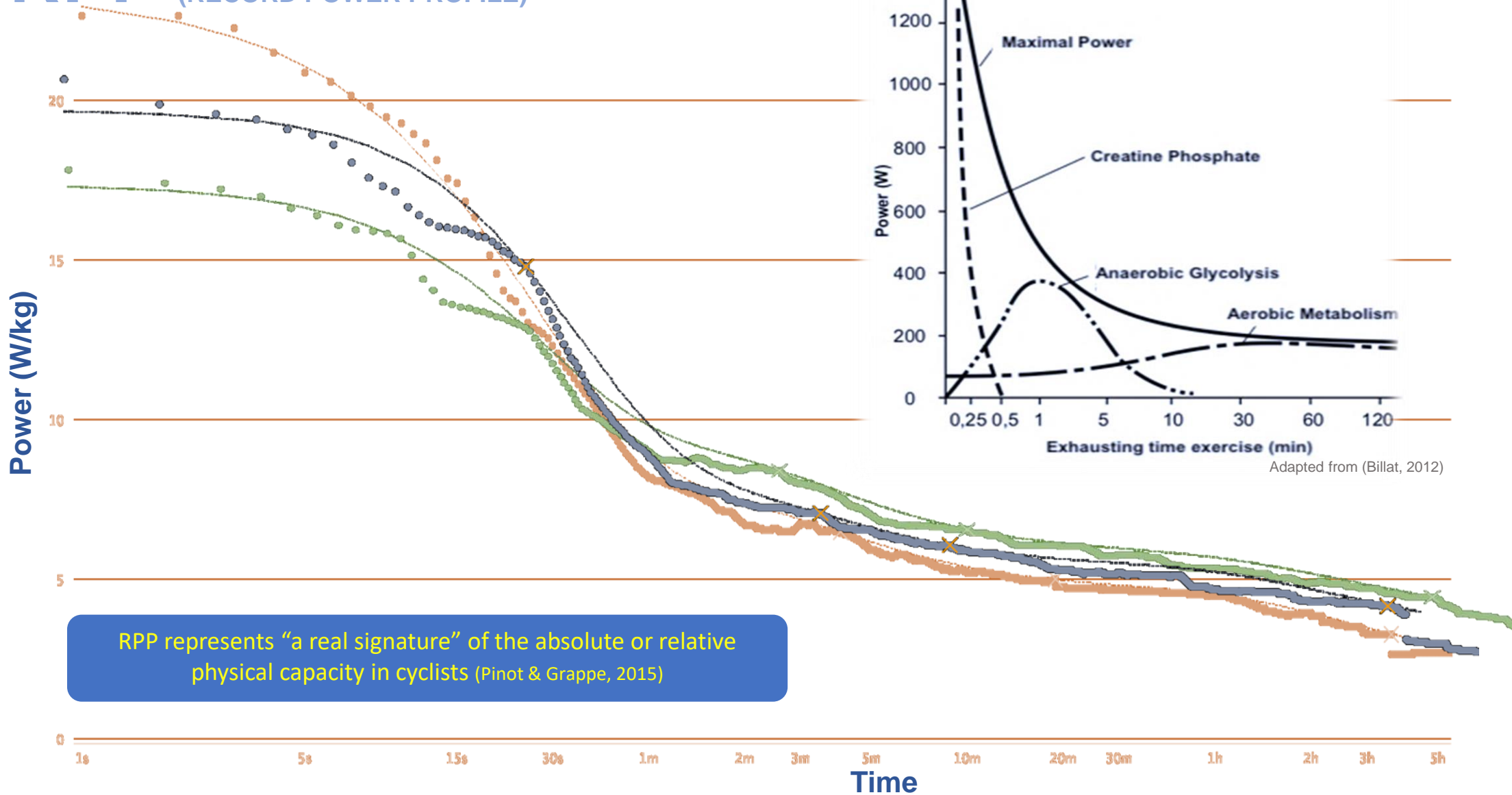
Accuracy

· Maier et al., 2014, 2017



Picture: @GrahamWatson

RPP (RECORD POWER PROFILE)



Adapted from (Billat, 2012)

RPP represents "a real signature" of the absolute or relative physical capacity in cyclists (Pinot & Grappe, 2015)



CLIMBER
58kg



TT
76kg



SPRINTER
73kg



“Building” a PP (Power Profile)

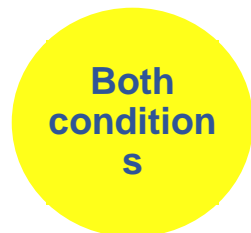
Hyperbolic relationship between maximal PO sustained as a function of the effort duration (Allen & Coggan, 2010; Hill, 1993)



- Quod et al., (2010)
- Gonzalez Tablas et al., (2016)



- Allen & Coggan (proposed in Cheung & Zabala, 2017)
- Deutsch et al., (2011) (unpublished data)



- Grappe, et al., (2012) (on development according the authors)
- Allen & Coggan (2010)

Preliminary RPP test



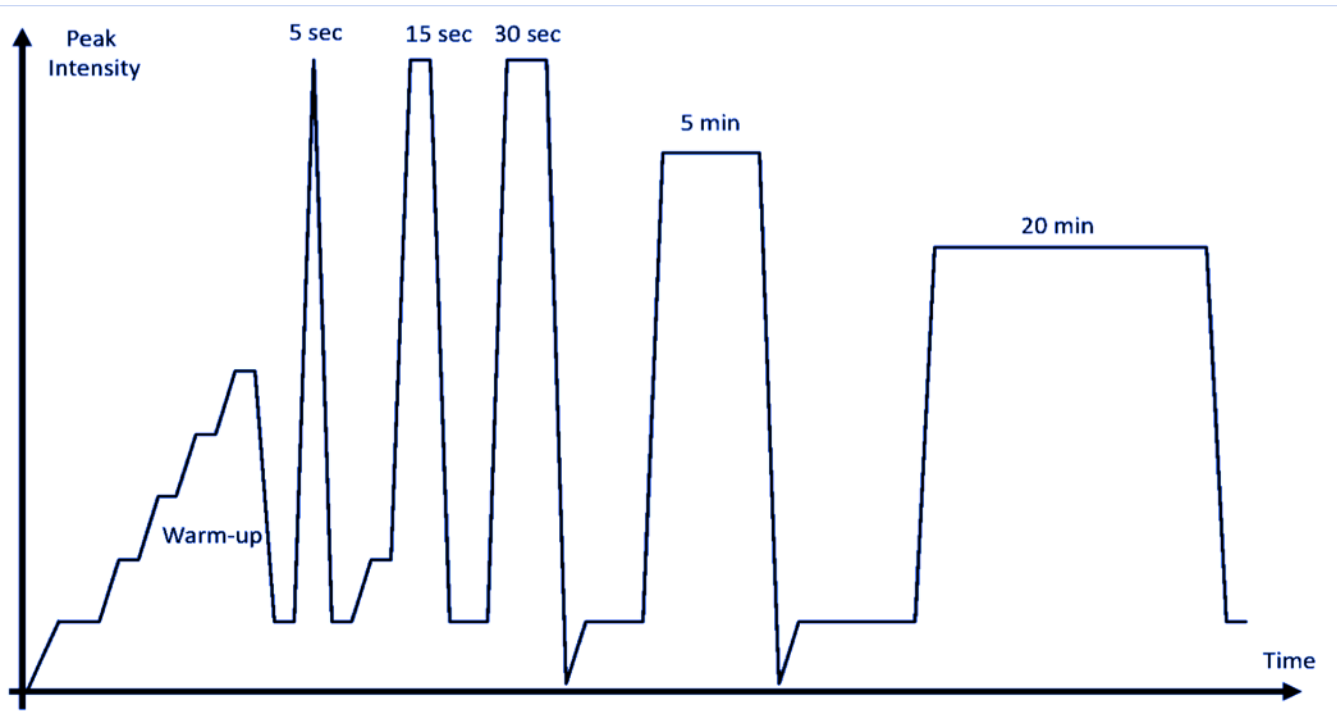
A specific one single field test with successive efforts allowing to obtain a reliable PP

PP would match closely calculated from training and competition data

Aim of this study:

To test the validity of a single field test to establish a valid **record power profile** in elite cyclists

Peak Power Profile



5 successive bouts to define a hyperbolic profile of the maximal power sustained over 5, 15, 30, 300 and 1200 s



Performance determinants to reflect the different energetic metabolism pathways in cycling



Cyclists were **not** instructed about how to manage the efforts and recoveries of the PPP test.



Sunny day, in windless conditions and at an adequate temperature on quiet uphill roads



The average power output for each effort was recorded

Study Design



Methods

8 MALE ELITE CYCLISTS *

MAP estimated and extracted from RPP (Pinot & Grappe, 2014)

Age (years)

Mass (kg)

Height (cm)

MAP (W/kg⁻¹)

MAP: Maximal Aerobic Power

23.8 ± 4

66.6 ± 5.8

180 ± 4.9

6.8 ± 0.4



Own bike & SRM (Professional Training Systems, Schoberer Rad Messtechnik, Jülich, Germany)

Training Peaks coach version (Peakware, CO, USA) & GoldenCheetah v.3.5

PPP-test effort management. Mean (SD)

Efforts	% Road gradient	Duration (s) between efforts	PO during recovery (W)
Warm-up	-	1648±470	201±19
5 s	1.2±1.7	363±82	186±32
12 s	1.0±0.8	470±81	190±45
30 s	2.7±0.9	872±101	156±36
5 min	7.5±0.6	1464±217	160±49
20 min	6.6±1.7	-	-

No significant difference for the duration and intensity of the recovery phases and the self-selected slope of the road. P<0.05

* UCI Elite International license in track cycling, mountain-bike and road cycling

Results

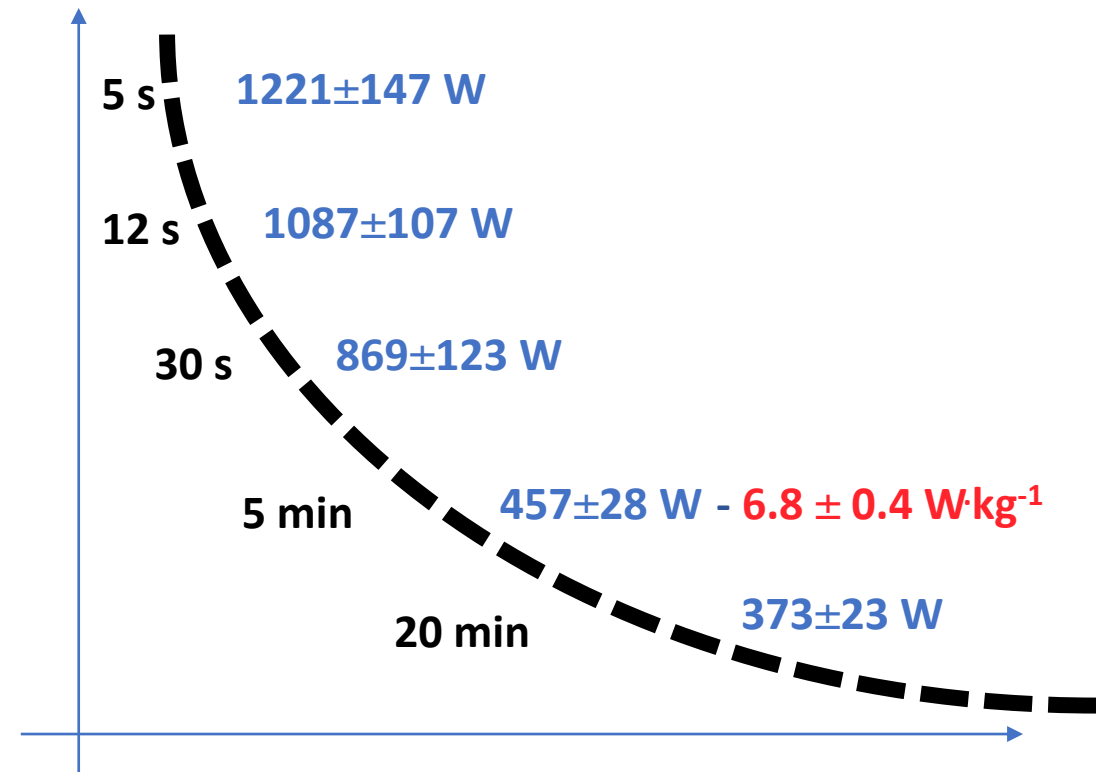
2500 files/sessions

Positive correlation* between maximal PO obtained during the PPP-test and **training** ($R^2= 0.97$) and **competition** values ($R^2= 0.91$)



* Pearson's correlation coefficients were calculated to assess the relationship between PPP test values with competition and training PO

Maximal Power Outputs





Average record PO of PPP-test, training and competition.

	Effort	PPP-test	Training	Competition	p < 0.05 PPP-test / Training	p < 0.05 PPP-test / Competition	p < 0.05 Training / Competition
PO (W) POW·kg ⁻¹	5 s	1163±159 17.5±2	1221±147 18.3±1.5	1102±189 16.5±2	0.09	0.16	0.007 *
PO (W) PO W·kg ⁻¹	12 s	1065±147 16±2	1087±107 16.3±0.9	955±14 14.3±1	0.46	0.04 *	0.008 *
PO (W) PO W·kg ⁻¹	30 s	869±123 13±1	857±119 12.8±1	756±13 11.3±1	0.63	0.02 *	0.02 *
PO (W) PO W·kg ⁻¹	5 min	439±2 6.6±0.4	457±28 6.8±0.4	433±30 6.5±0.3	0.03 *	0.54	0.03 *
PO (W) PO W·kg ⁻¹	20 min	359±2 5.4±0.4	373±23 5.6±0.4	360±12 5.4±0.3	0.02 *	0.88	0.08

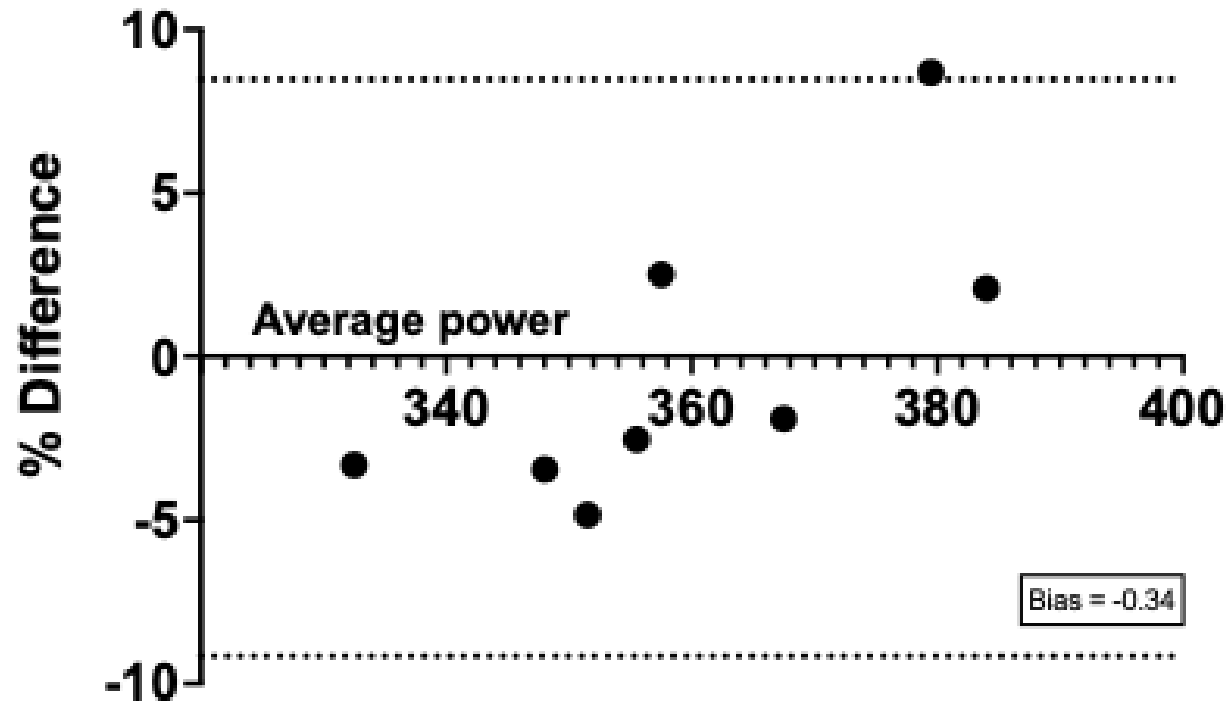
3.2 % lower
during the PPP
test compared
to training

5.5 % higher
during the PPP
test compared
to competitions

Differences between
(Competition, Training, PPP-test)
Paired design Student's t-test
Null hypothesis was rejected for P<0.05 (two tailed)



Difference between 20' efforts during the field test vs. in competition



Bland–Altman plots PPP-test vs. Competition.

Difference in % are represented as function of the average power recorded with the 95% limits of agreement (dotted lines)

Discussion



Ecological alternative

Ability to perform in their optimal conditions



May help to increase the performance
(Zeidenitz et al., 2007)

Competition 17.5 %
vs.
Training 55%



Role as teammate

Impact on their aptitude to maximally perform
(Menaspà et al., 2015)

4% (14 W)
difference
PPP-test vs.
Training

20 min maximal may
alter the previous 5 min



de Koning et al., 1999
Hettinga et al., 2006

A single field test evaluation yields sufficiently high-power outputs to allow a valid peak power profile to be established

RPP match



Pinot & Grappe
Deutsch et. al (2011)



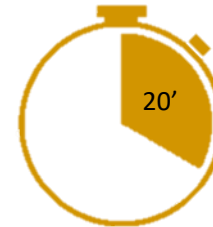
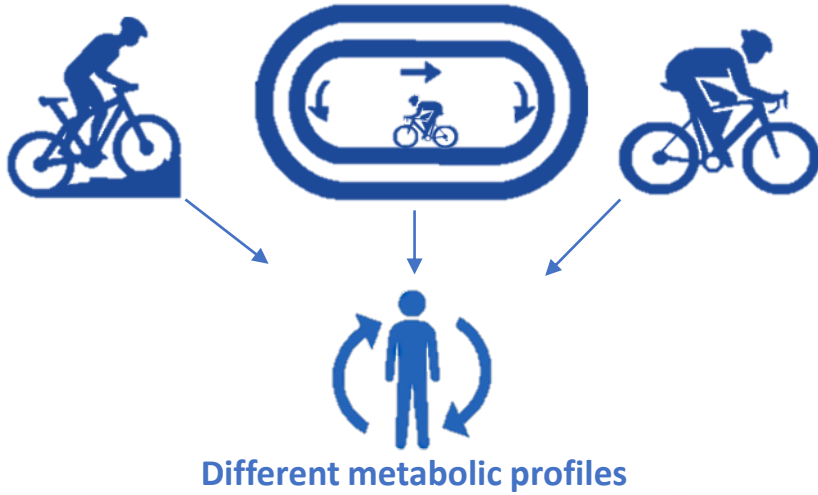
Practical Application



PPP-test as a reliable tool for cyclists and trainers to define training regimens and target power zones

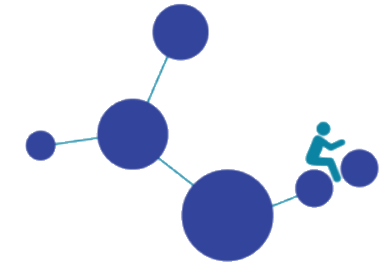


To objectively assess if improvements occur with racing and training



PPP-test to predict sustainable power in competition when fatigue is accumulated





1 Original Article

2 **A single field test evaluation for the assessment of**
3 **the Record Power Profile in cycling**

4 **Màrius Pujol¹ & Raphaël Faiss^{1,2,*}**

5 ¹ Institute of Sports Science, University of Lausanne, Switzerland marius.pujol@unil.ch

6 ² Research & Expertise in antiDoping sciences (REDs), University of Lausanne, Switzerland

7

* Correspondence: Raphaël Faiss. raphael.faiss@unil.ch
Received: date; Accepted: date; Published: date

8

9 **Abstract** The validity of a single field test to produce a Record Power Profile (RPP) has
10 not been investigated thoroughly in comparison with a RPP obtained during a full
11 cycling season. We hypothesized that the values obtained from a single field test would
12 match those of the values obtained during the season to define a RPP, and that cyclists
13 would use the same power outputs (PO) during training sessions rather than in
14 competition. The PO of eight male elite cyclists (maximal aerobic power 6.8±0.4 W/kg)
15 was recorded during 6 months. They completed a Peak Power Profile test (PPP)
16 during a competition season including all-out efforts of 5 s, 12 s, and 30 s followed by
17 5 and 20 min. They were required to self-select their itinerary, pace, warm-up strategy
18 and recovery efforts. An overall significant positive correlation was found between
19 maximal power outputs obtained during the successive efforts during the PPP and
20 i) during training sessions ($R^2 = 0.97$) and ii) in competition ($R^2 = 0.91$). Conversely, peak
21 power outputs were lower in competition than in training for short efforts (≤ 30 s).
22 The most common situation to achieve a record PO (55%) was during a warm-up
23 period. This study reveals the importance for a cyclist to perform a
24 warm-up period to reach their potential values obtained during
25 competition (longer efforts). The warm-up period and self-selected warm-up
26 period by cyclists illustrates a good reliability of the test. The
27 underpinning strong motivation needed to reach ones peak PO over successive
28 durations during one single field test may limit its validity over longer durations so
29 that the 20 min peak power output may ideally be obtained from a separate field test..

30 **Keywords:** Performance, Training, Elite, Cyclist

31

@ marius.pujol@unil.ch
@ raphael.faiss@unil.ch

@MarioPujol
 @wattsnow



Statistical Analysis

Differences were assessed using a one-way general linear model repeated-measures ANOVA with all pairwise comparison (Holm-Sidak method)

The null hypothesis was rejected for $P < 0.05$ (two-tailed)

Pearson's correlation coefficients were calculated to assess the relationship between PPP test values with competition and training PO



XLSTAT data analysis (XLSTAT, 2017 Paris, France) add-on for the Excel software (Microsoft, Richmond, USA)