

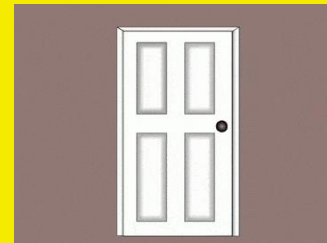


How strong is strong enough – torque demands across cycling disciplines.

**Chris Peden, John Wakefield and Peter Leo**



@ChrisPeden82, @Pelotrain, @peter\_\_leo





**Chris Peden**



@ChrisPeden82



# How Strong is Strong Enough?

Honestly?  
WE JUST DON'T KNOW





# What do we know about S&C?

- Peak Power (Wingate & 6s Sprint) ✓
- Time Trial Performance ✓
- Power at OBLA ( $4 \text{ mmol.L}^{-1}$ ) ✓
- Detraining effect within 4-8 weeks ✗
- Maintenance is key ✓

(Aagaard et al., 2011; Rønnestad et al., 2015, 2016, 2017; Gil-Cabrera et al., 2021; Valenzuela et al., 2021; Rønnestad, 2022)





# My approach to S&C

- Working with a mix of UCI WTW and UCI CTW riders
- Research to Practice
- Communication with coach and rider and planning accordingly around races
- Exercise Selection
- Volume (Sets & Reps)
- Range of Motion
- RPE/RIR (subjective feedback)
- Injury management

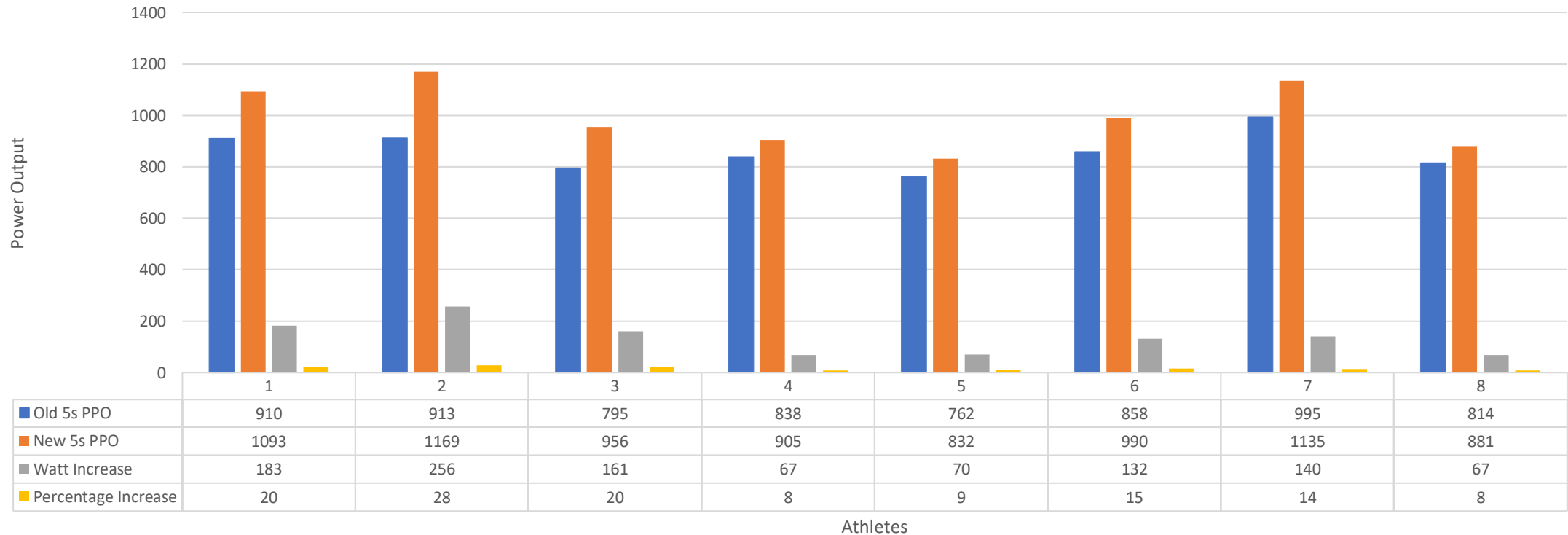




# What am I seeing?

5s Peak Power Output

Old 5s PPO   New 5s PPO   Watt Increase   Percentage Increase



Average Watt Increase: 135w ± 67w Average Percentage Increase: 15% ± 7%



## Final thoughts...

- Develop athletic qualities that cycling doesn't provide
- $\uparrow$  Strength =  $\uparrow$  Torque
- In-Season S&C is hard to manage but not impossible





## What do we know about S&C?

- Scan the QR code to read my review on The Benefits of Strength Training on Cycling Performance and its usefulness for Elite Male and Female Professional Cyclists.







**John Wakefield**

 @Pelotrain

A cyclist wearing a BORA team jersey and a helmet is riding a mountain bike on a rocky trail. The cyclist is wearing sunglasses and has a focused expression. The background is a blurred, rocky landscape.

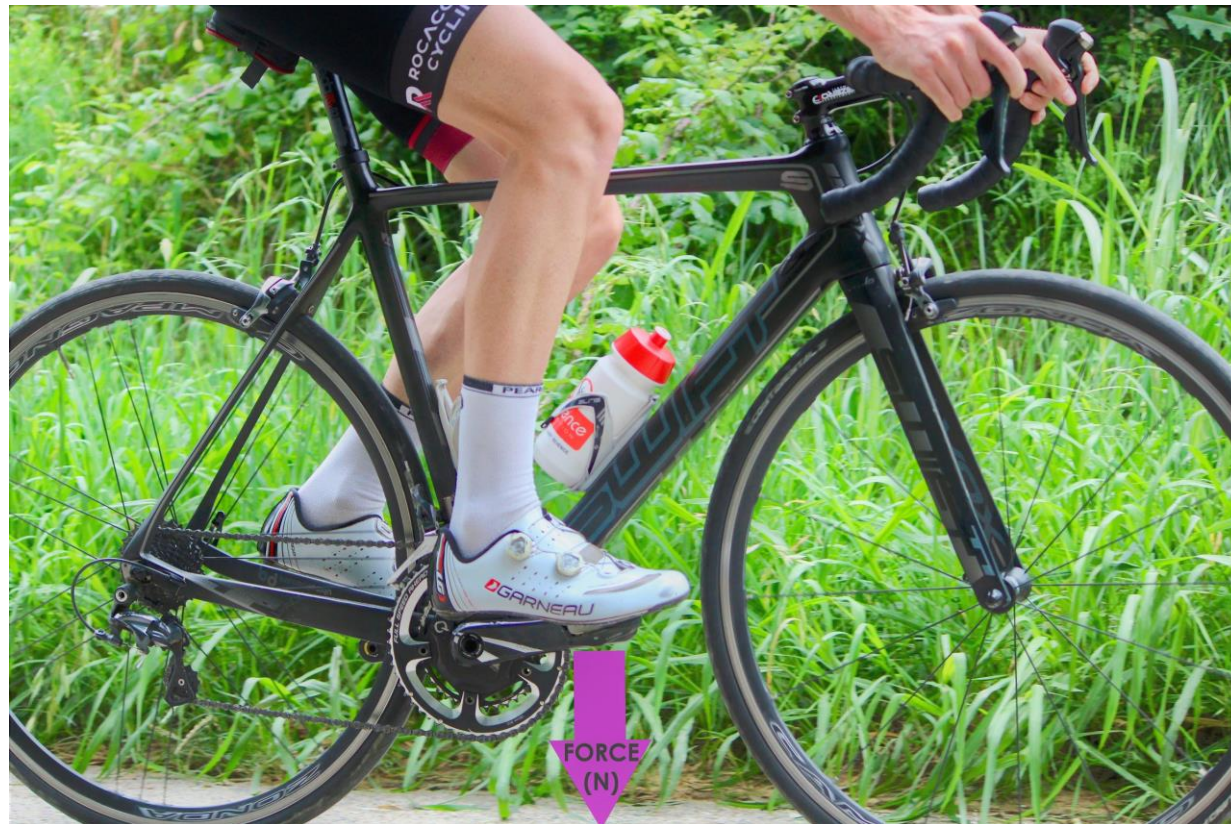
## How road and MTB XC athletes can benefit from “on-bike” strength training

- What is torque?
- How do we measure it?
- What do we know?
- What do we see in real world implementation with athletes?

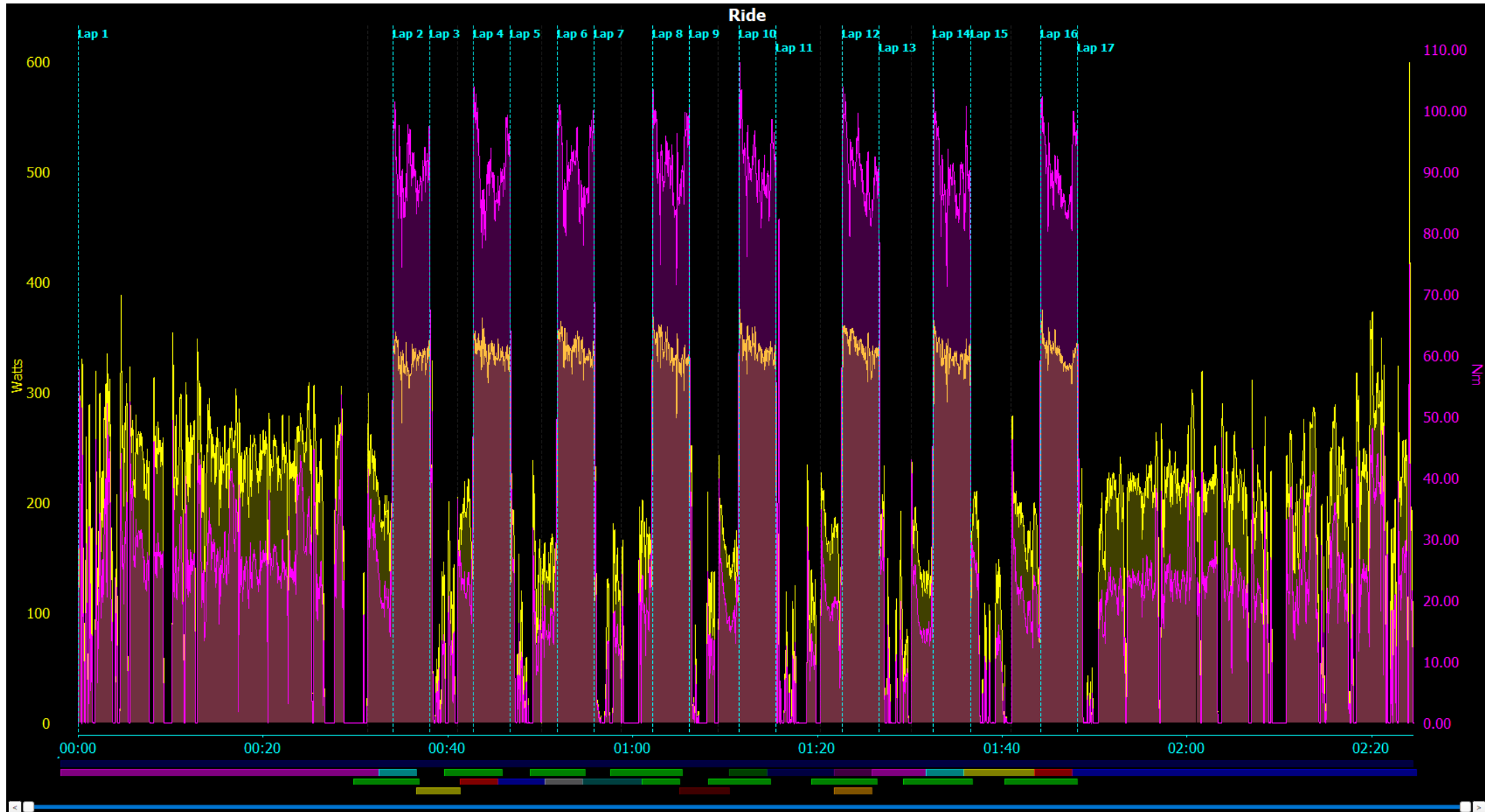
# What is Torque?

Torque is the rotational force applied to the pedals during each pedal stroke.

It is calculated by multiplying the force applied to the pedals, by the crank length (lever arm). Crank length will be constant, so torque is really an indicator of the force applied to the pedal.



# How do we measure it?



# What do we know?

No studies have conclusively shown that low cadence work improves performance – Why?

Probably methodology related:

- Need to use really low cadence (maybe fear of injuring the cyclist)
- Measuring performance in terms of recent advances – durability instead of  $VO_{2max}$  or PPO

Recent study highlights importance of torque

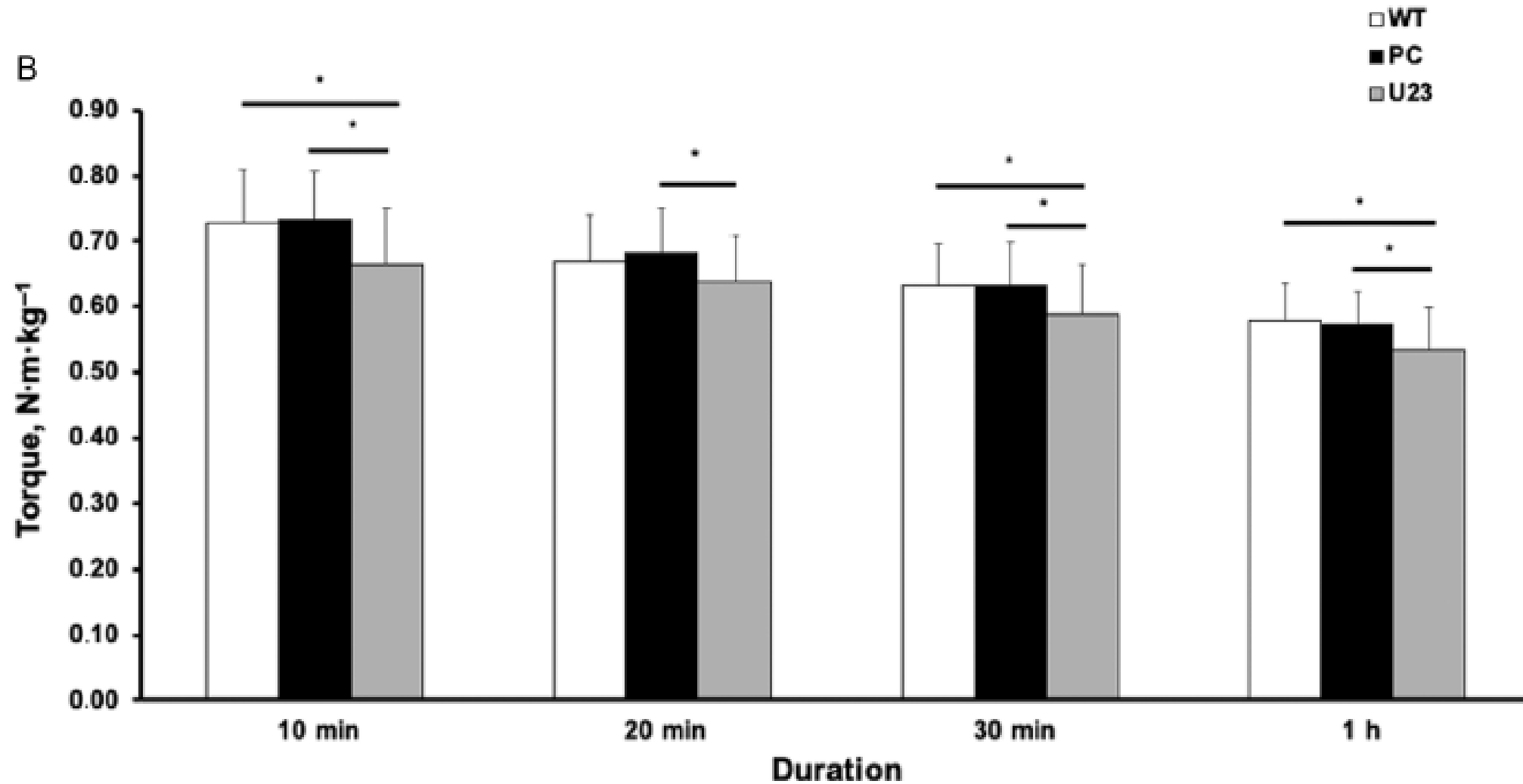
*International Journal of Sports Physiology and Performance, (Ahead of Print)*  
<https://doi.org/10.1123/ij spp.2022-0233>  
© 2022 Human Kinetics, Inc.  
First Published Online: Dec. 5, 2022

Human Kinetics   
ORIGINAL INVESTIGATION

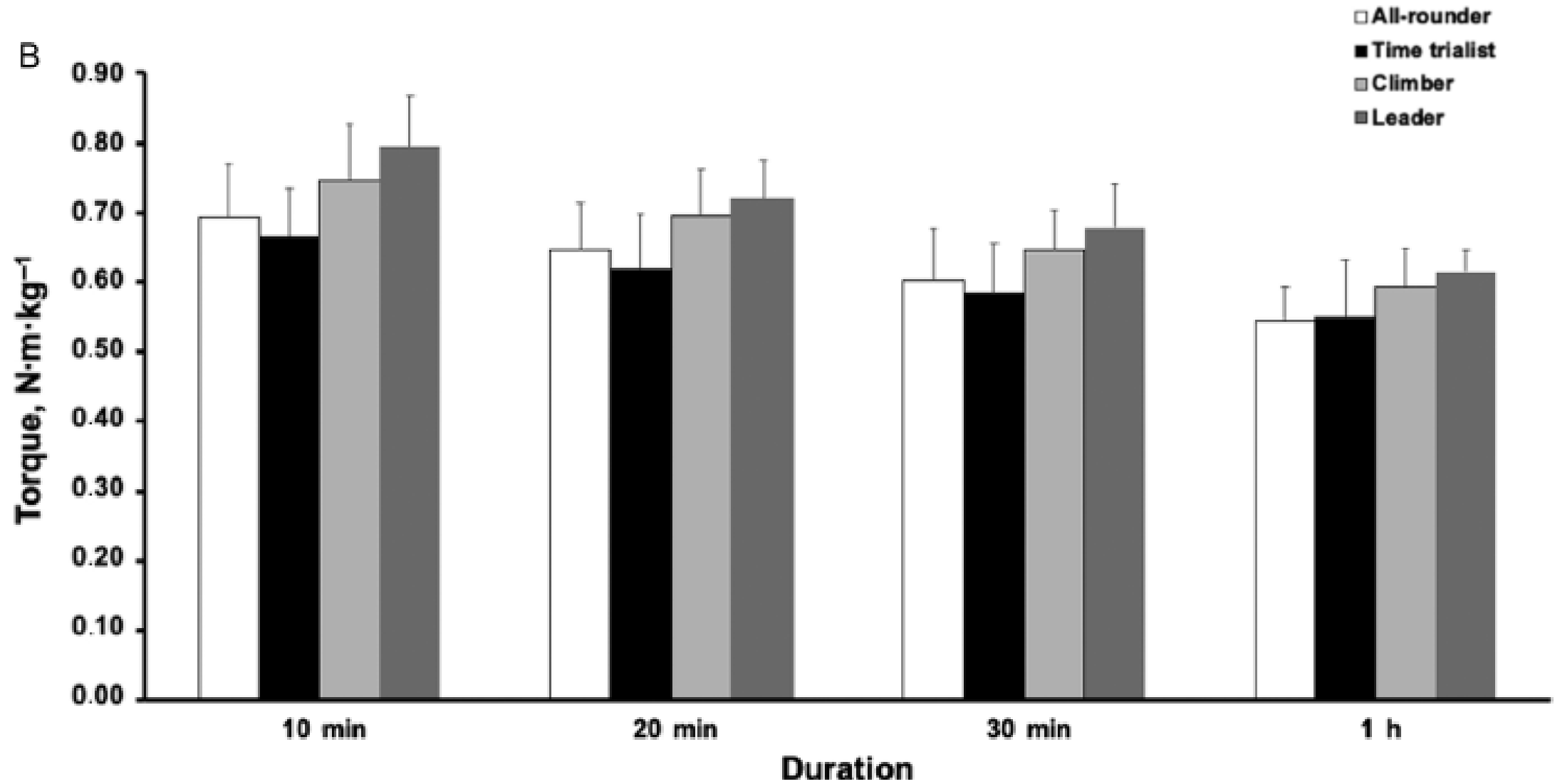
## **Influence of Torque and Cadence on Power Output Production in Cyclists**

Peter Leo,<sup>1</sup> Manuel Mateo-March,<sup>2,3</sup> Pedro L. Valenzuela,<sup>4,5</sup> Xabier Muriel,<sup>6</sup> Alexis Gandía-Soriano,<sup>7</sup>  
Andrea Giorgi,<sup>8,9</sup> Mikel Zabala,<sup>10</sup> David Barranco-Gil,<sup>2</sup> Iñigo Mujika,<sup>11,12</sup> Jesús G. Pallarés,<sup>5</sup>  
and Alejandro Lucia<sup>2,4</sup>

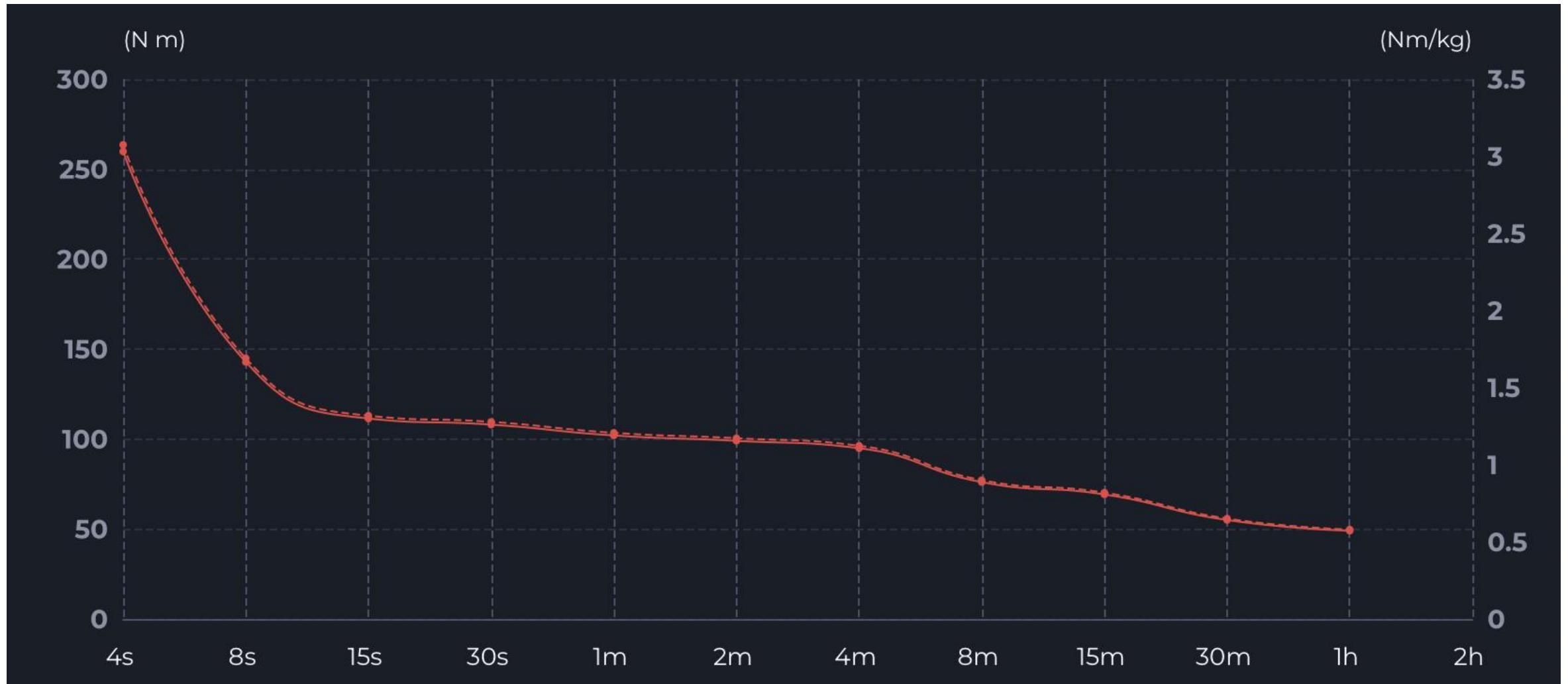
# What do we know?



# What do we know?

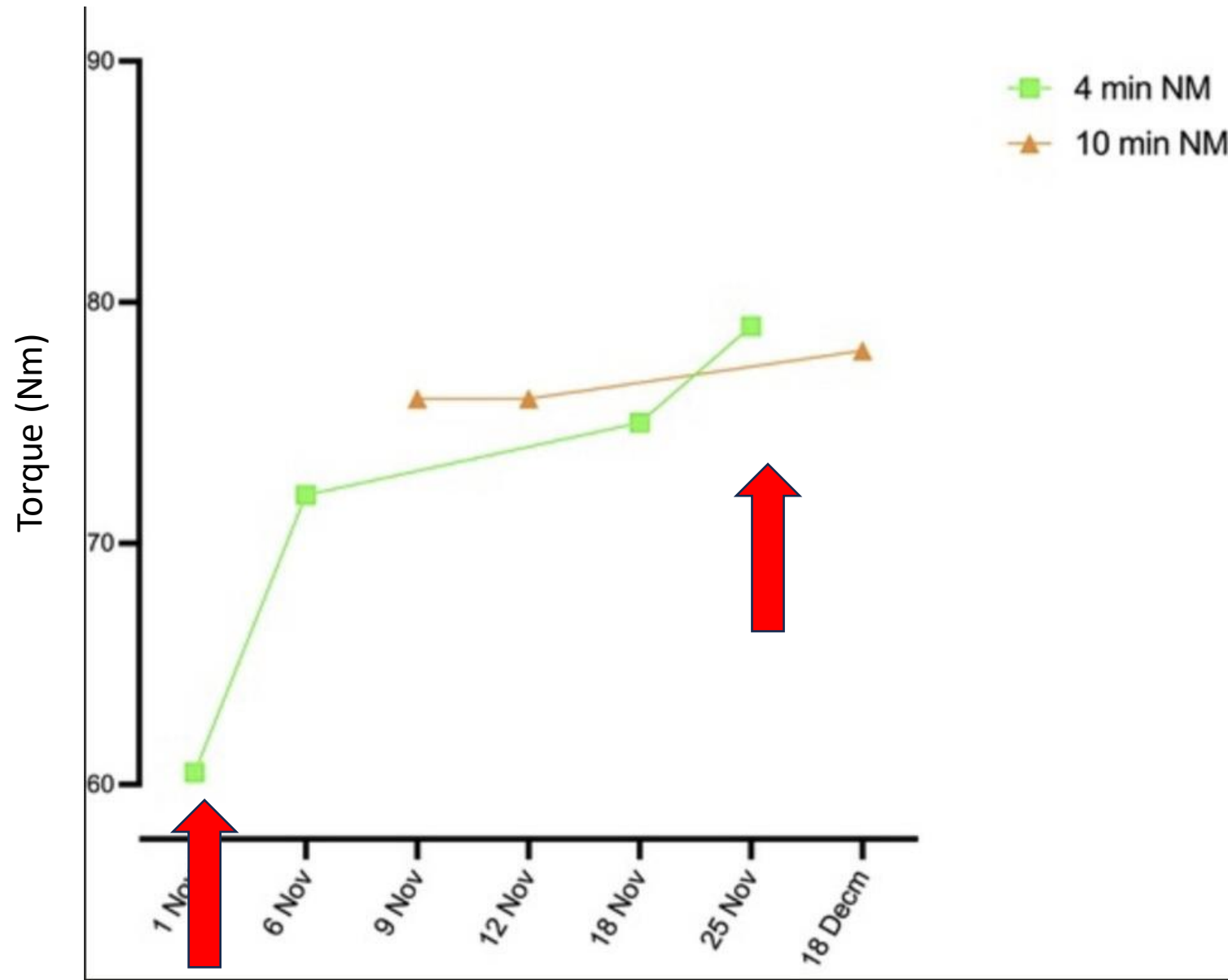


# What am I seeing/doing working with athletes



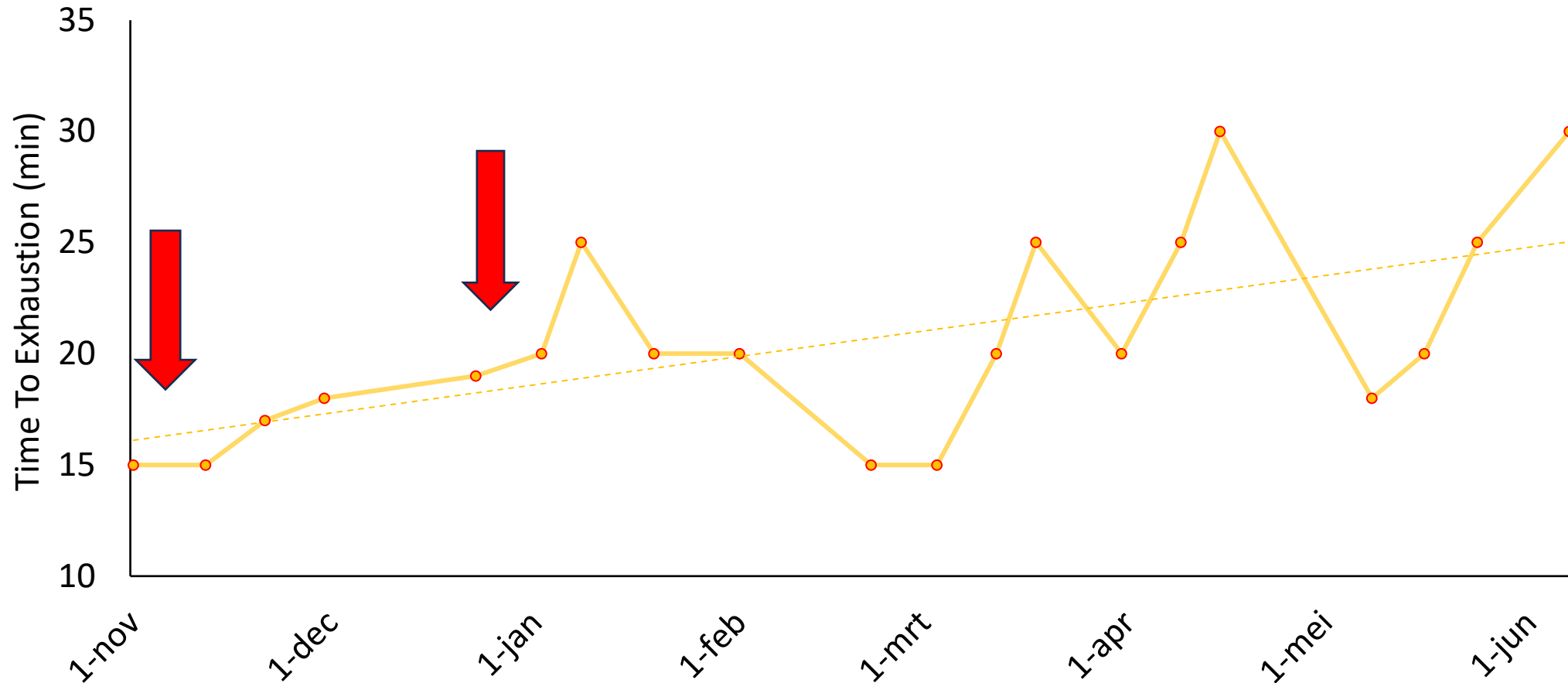


# What am I seeing/doing working with athletes

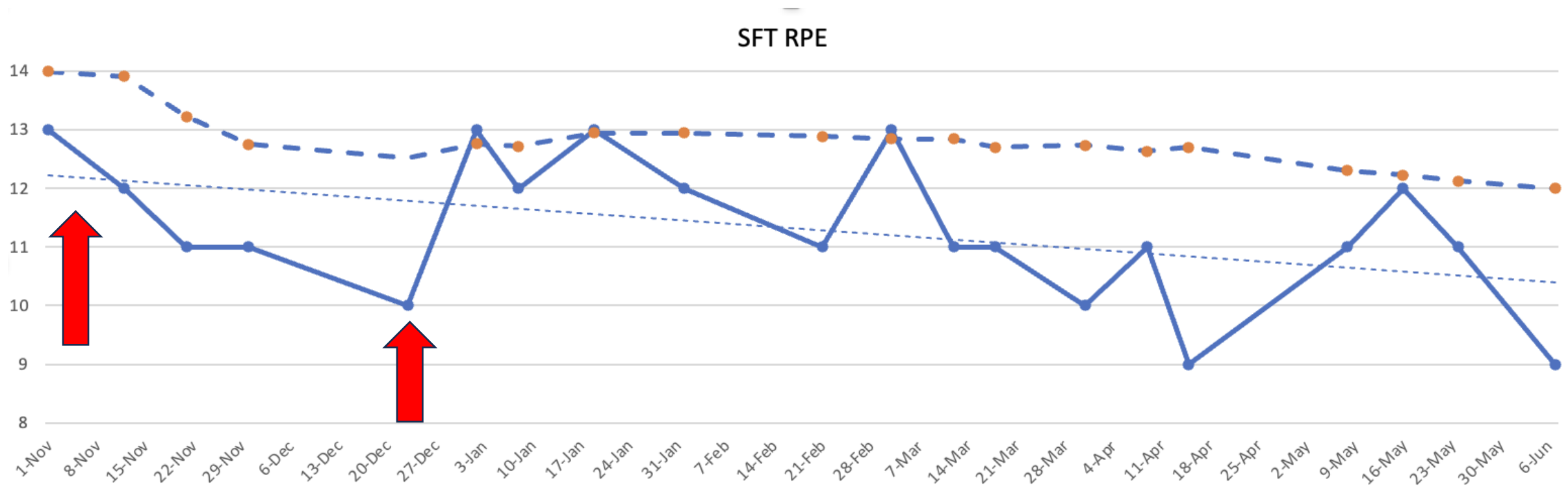


# What am I seeing/doing working with athletes

## Submaximal Fatigue Test & Time To Exhaustion



# What am I seeing/doing working with athletes





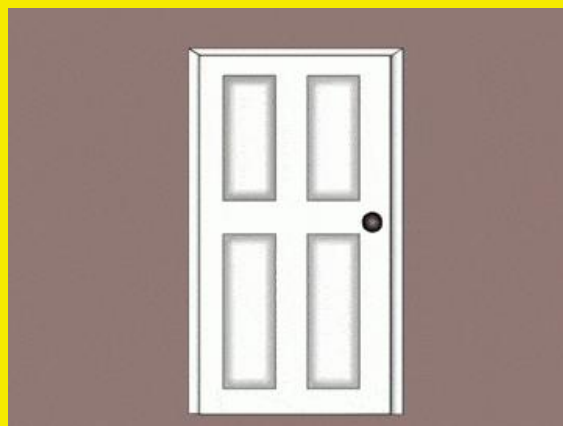
**Peter Leo**



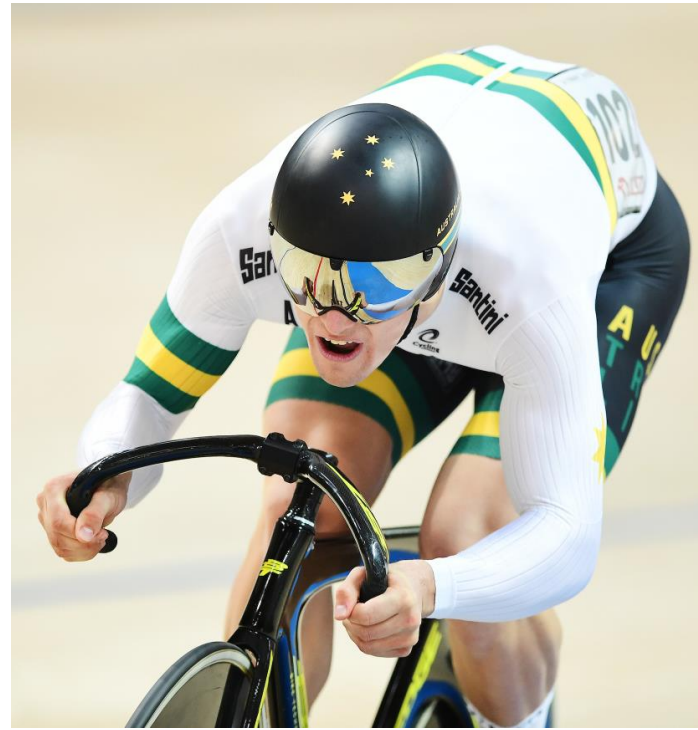
@peter\_\_leo



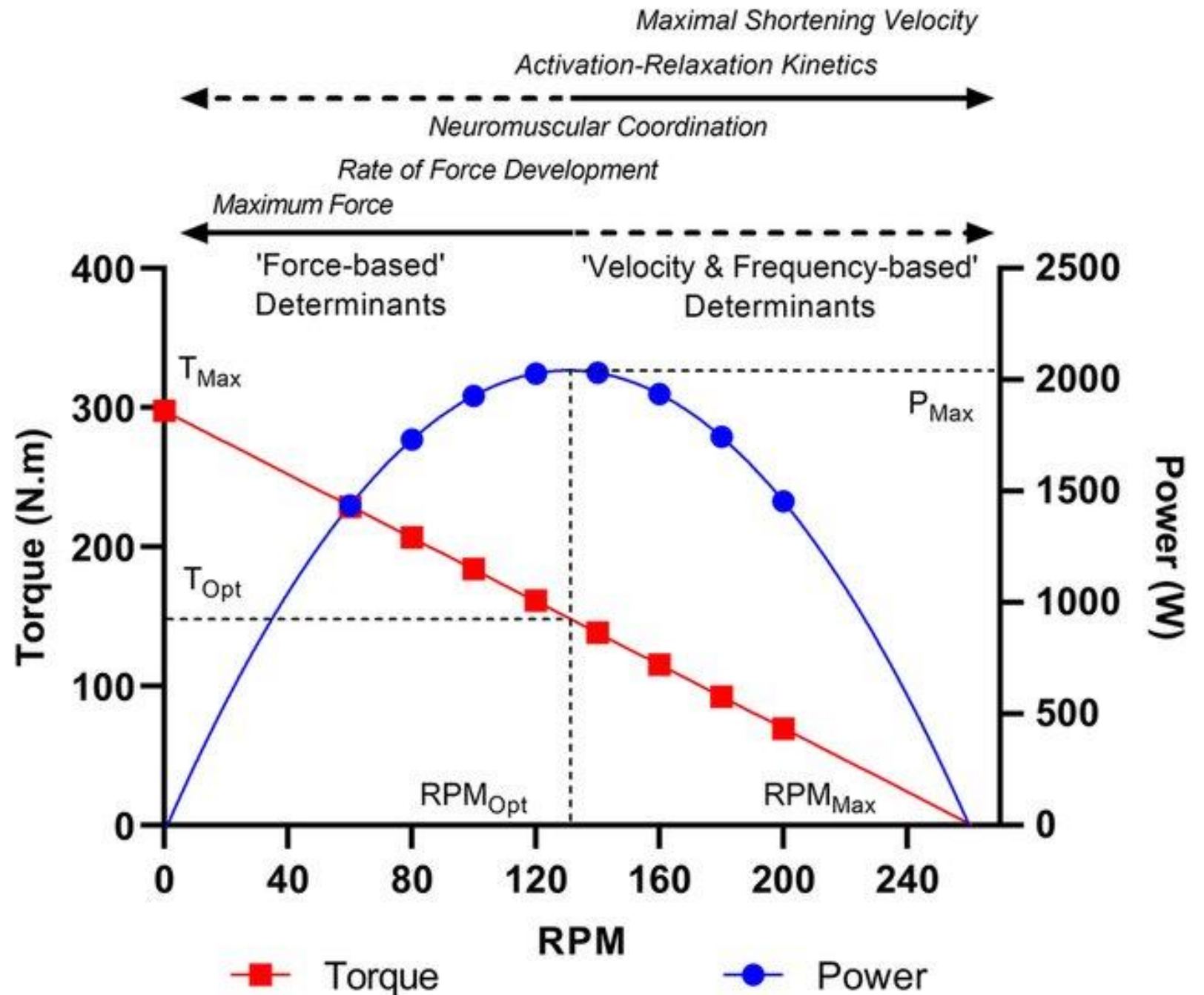
@Peter-Leo



# Torque development for BMX and track cyclists

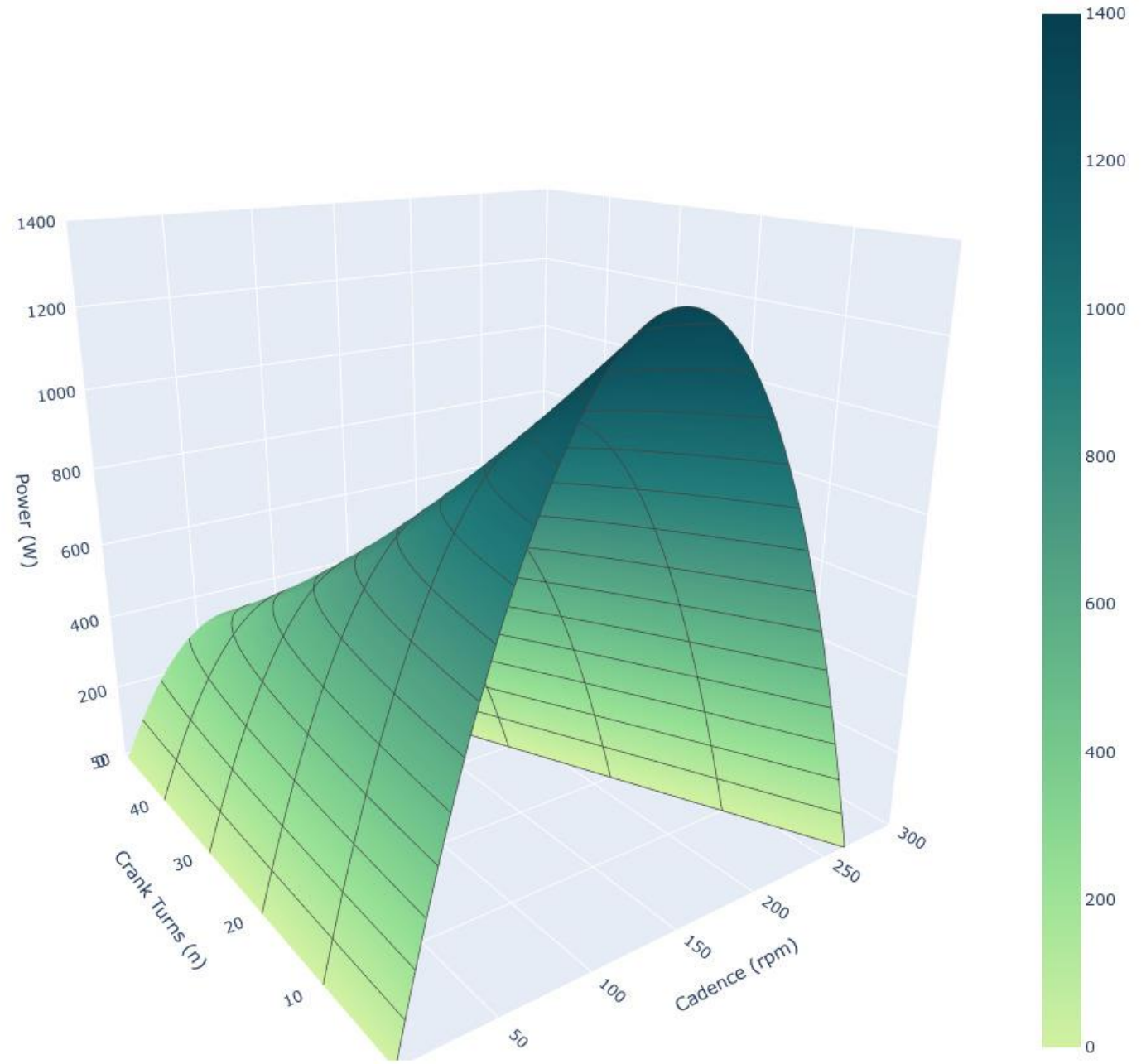


# Torque Cadence Power Relationship



(Gardner et al., 2007; Douglas et al., 2021; Kordi et al., 2020)

# Torque Cadence Power Relationship

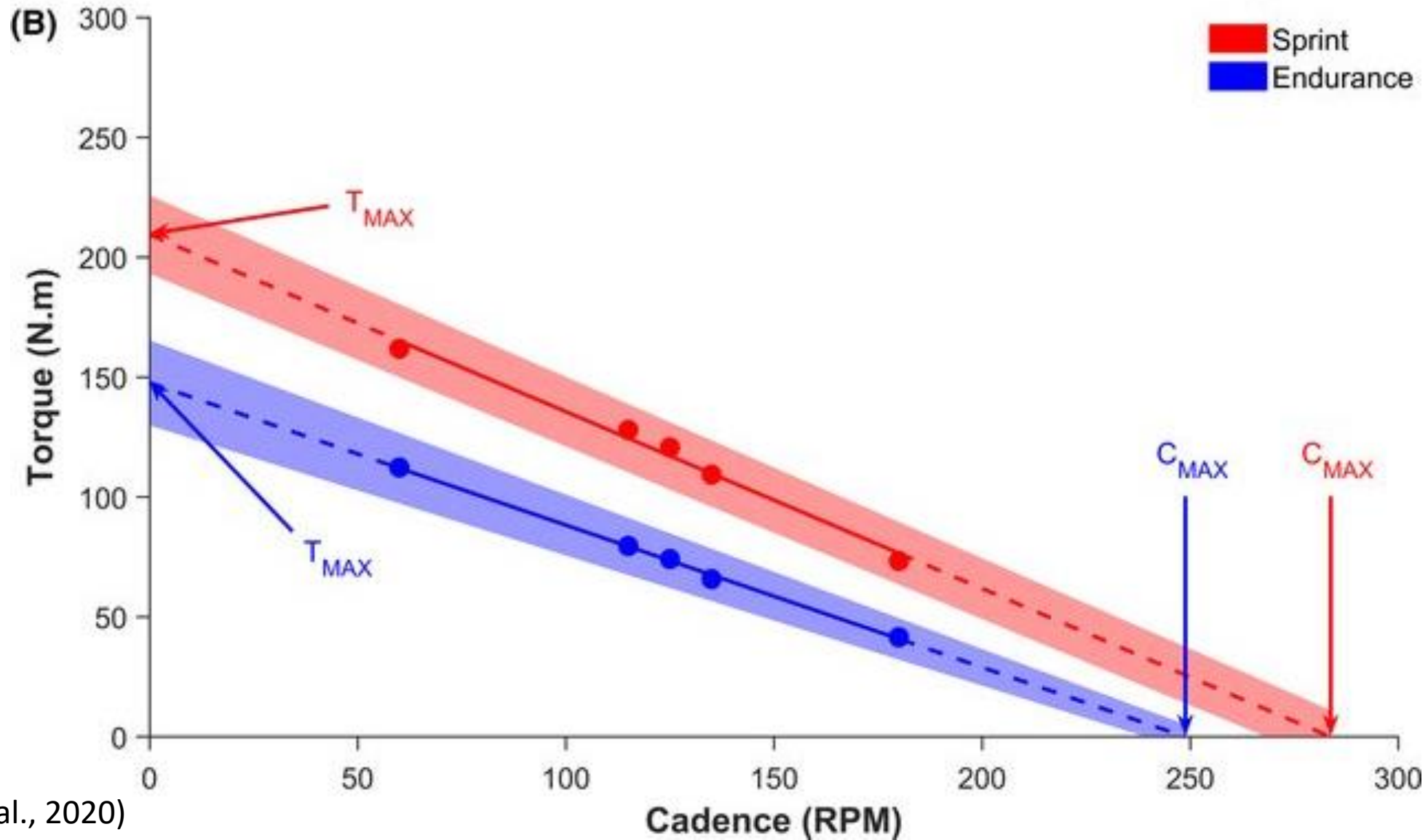


(Leo et al., 2023, unpublished)

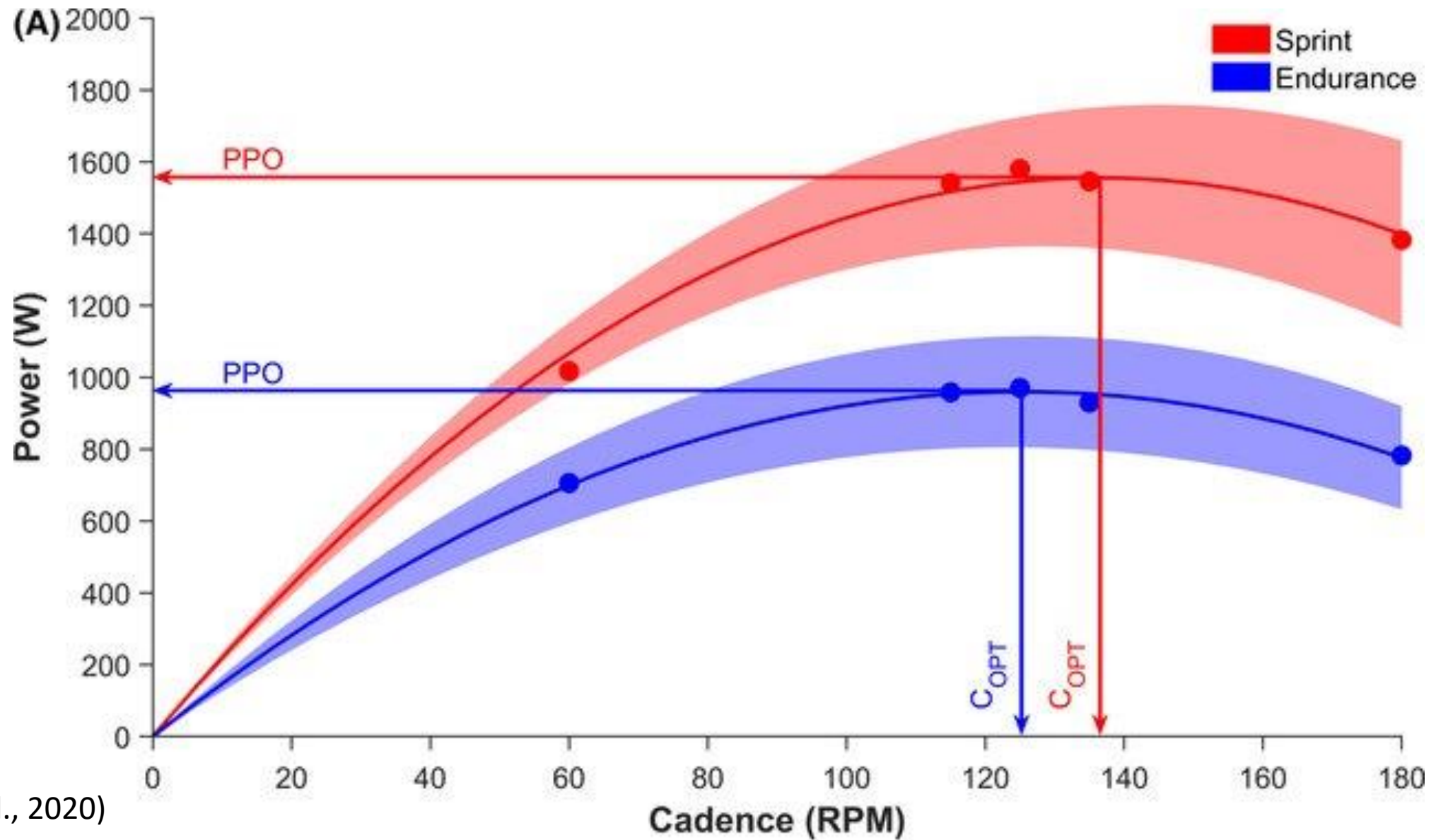




# Track Sprint/BMX vs. Track Endurance

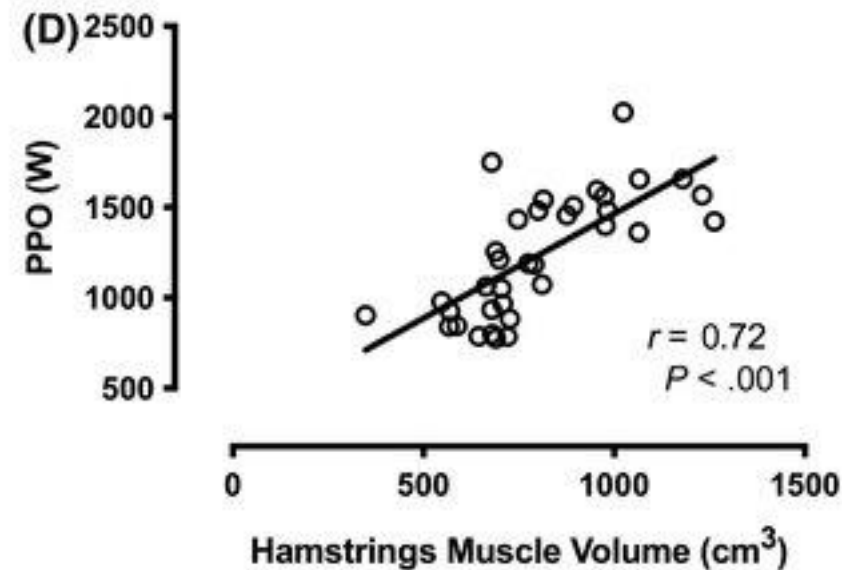
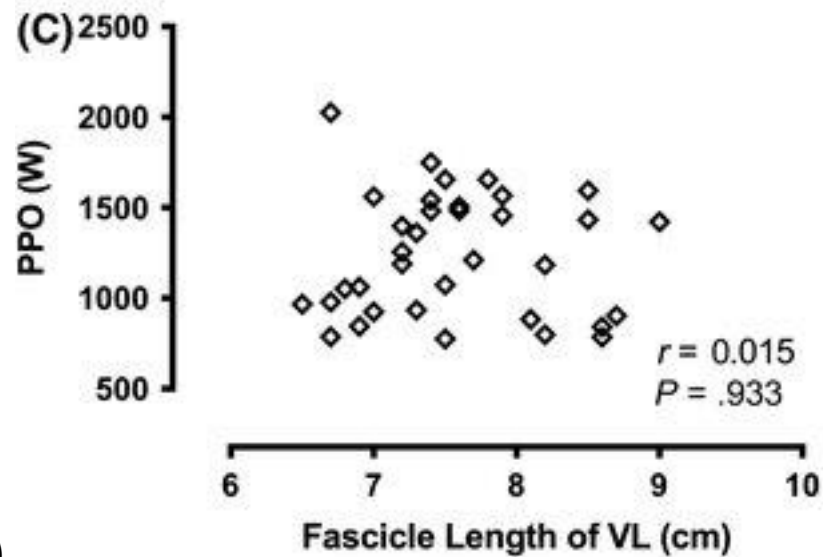
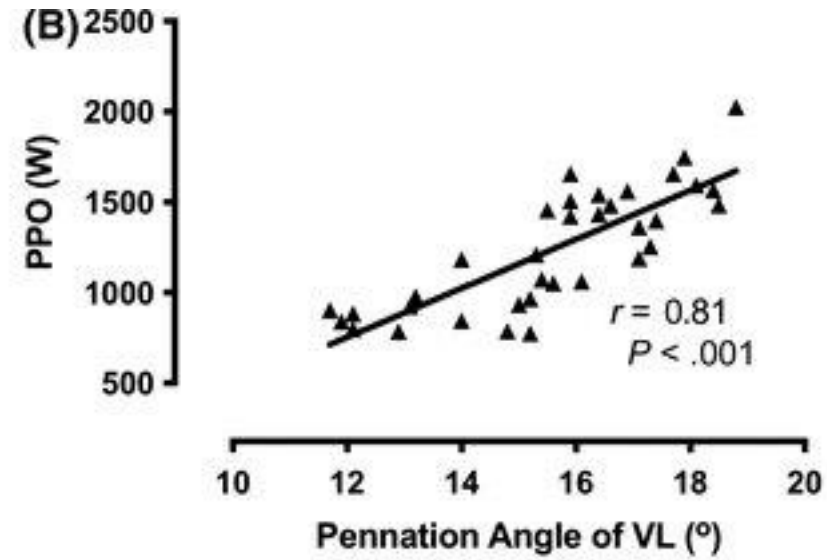
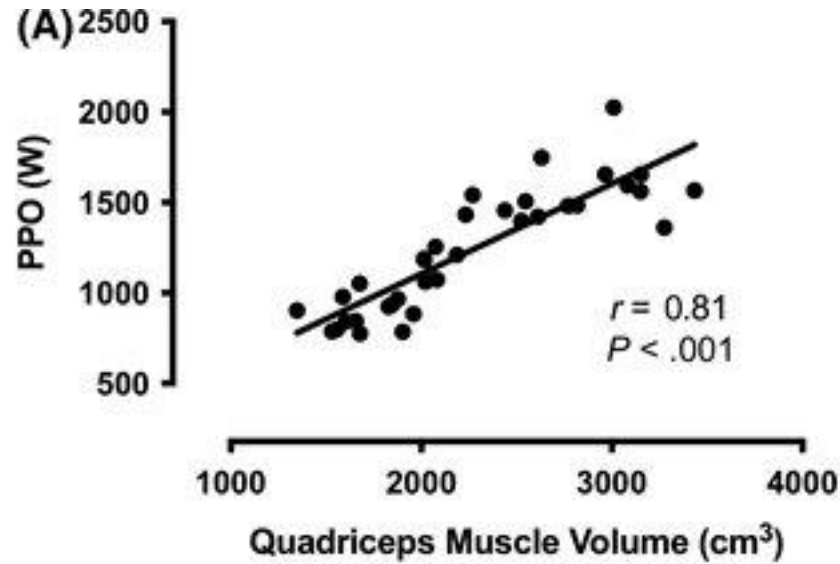


# Track Sprint/BMX vs. Track Endurance

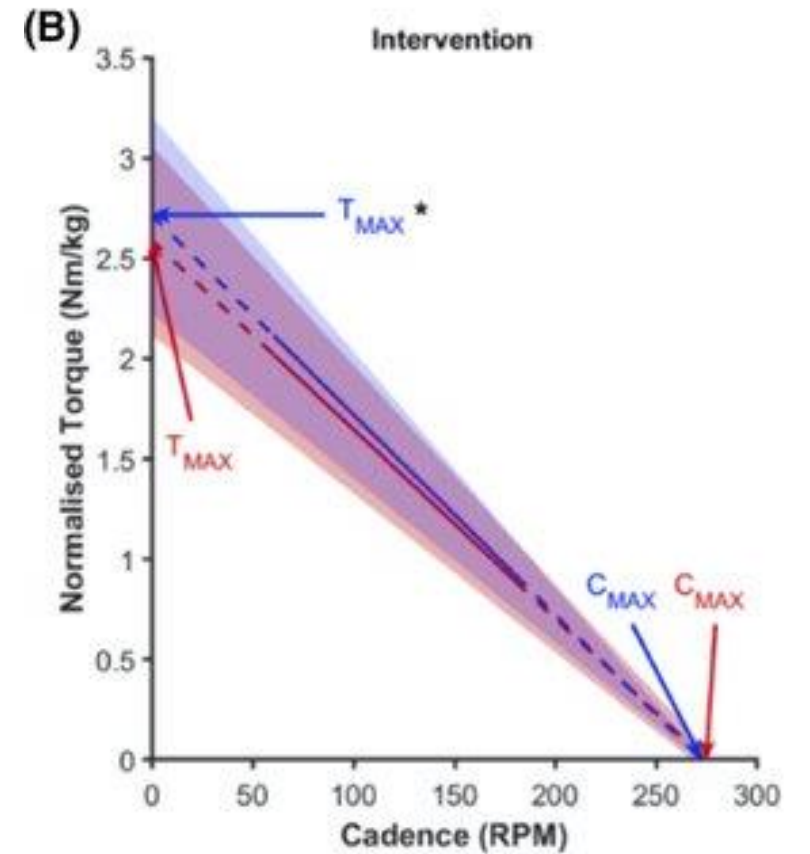
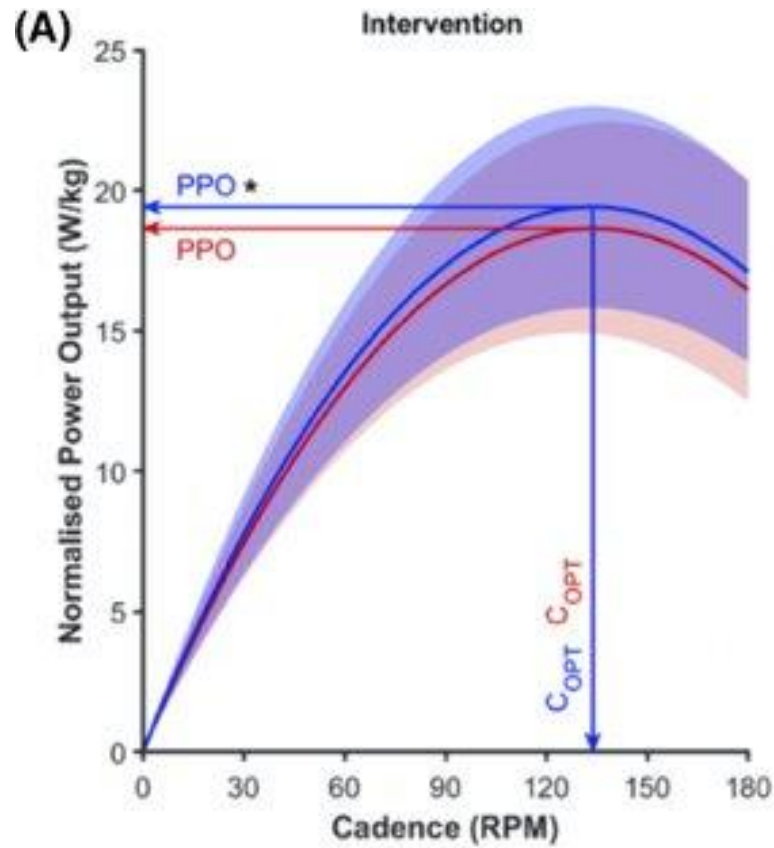


(Kordi et al., 2020)

# Morphological Adaptations to Peak Power

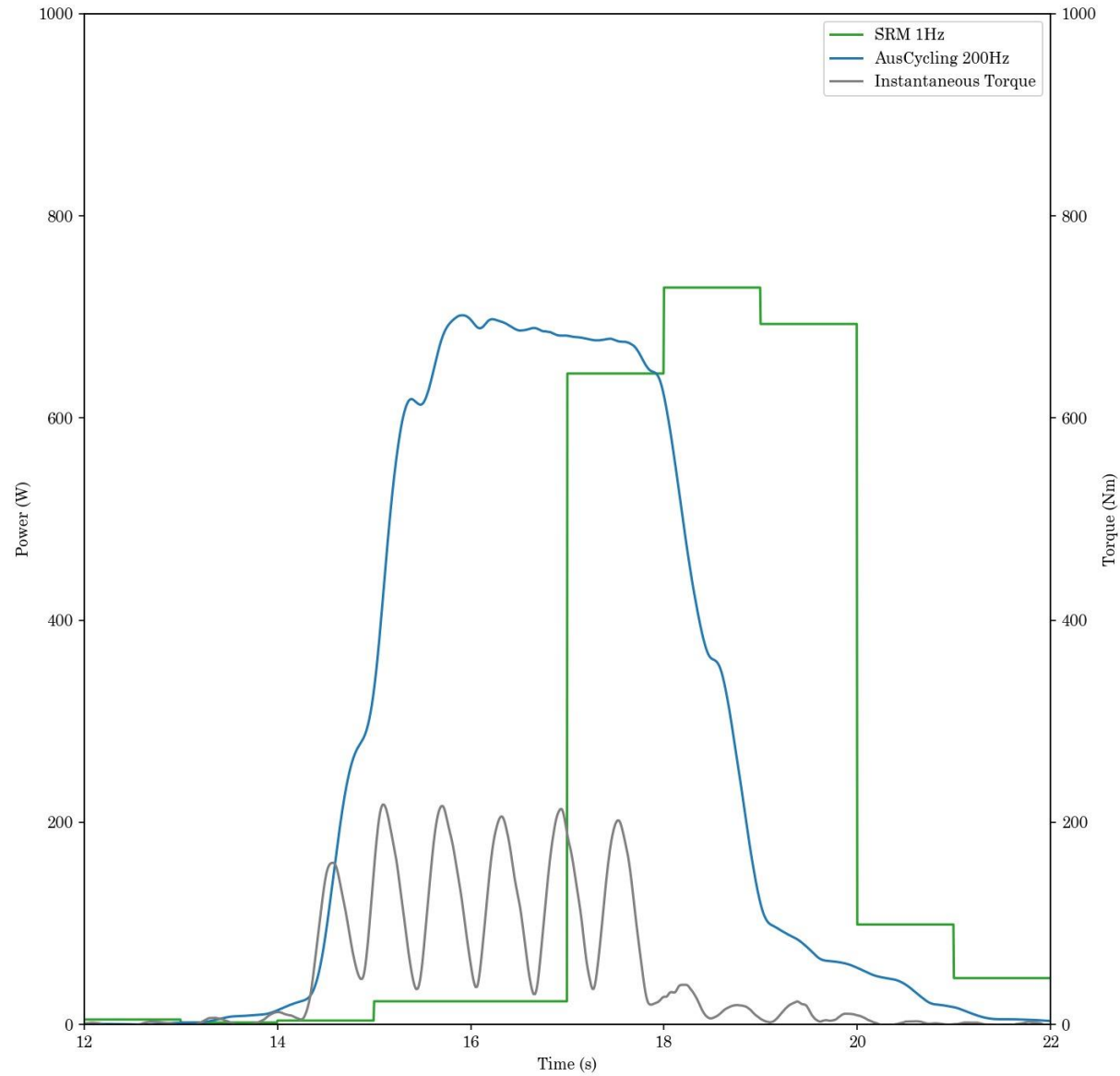


# "On Bike" Isometric Strength



# Mind the Sampling Rate

Comparison of Stroke Averaged Power: SRM 1Hz vs AusCycling 200Hz Continuous



(Leo et al., 2023, unpublished)

# Kudos to: Toby Edwards, Scott Gardner and Jim Martin

**“ Ultimately, we are concerned with an athlete’s expression of power on the bike and not the expression of power in the Olympic lifts, their derivatives or any other gym lift for that matter ”**

***@tobyedwards\_phd***





Thank you.

Let's Discuss!