



Operational Strength and Conditioning

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<https://thefitnessformula.training/workshop-resources> 



Presentation Outline



Training Philosophy
and guiding
principles



Needs Analysis



Strength and power
training



Aerobic training and
Repeat sprint ability



Injury prevention



Programming and
Periodisation

Training Philosophy

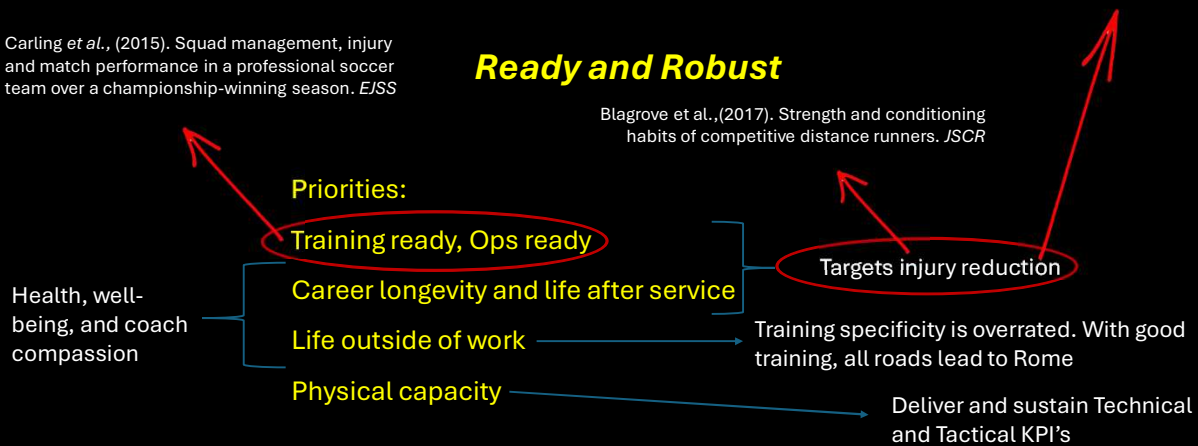
- ❑ Defines your beliefs, values and training principles, which drive your actions.
- ❑ Helps you maintain focus and direction and describes why and how you coach.

Abbott et al., (2019). A season long investigation into the effects of injury, match selection and training load on mental wellbeing in professional under 23 soccer players: A team case study. *EJSS*

Carling et al., (2015). Squad management, injury and match performance in a professional soccer team over a championship-winning season. *EJSS*

Ready and Robust

Blagrove et al.,(2017). Strength and conditioning habits of competitive distance runners. *JSCR*



My Advice before you start...

- If you have been in the military (or collected the data) and understand their demands, then feel free to use various stats to describe their role.
- If not, *collectively* make links to typical demands and exercises
 - Ask questions, you are a civilian, they know you need help connecting the dots.
 - The Military has only recently started to employ civilian SMEs, so training is still largely based on tradition, emphasising aerobic training over strength training – your job is to justify change and create buy-in
- Be good at training large groups with minimal equipment (this need also explains the previous point)
- Some do not like to be referred to athletes. And never again use the term “in the trenches” when referring to coaches or athletes!

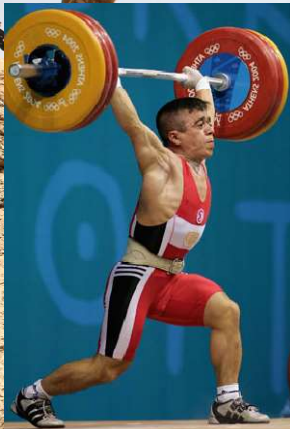


Needs Analysis

Start by asking what they believe are the fundamental physical characteristics of a good soldier

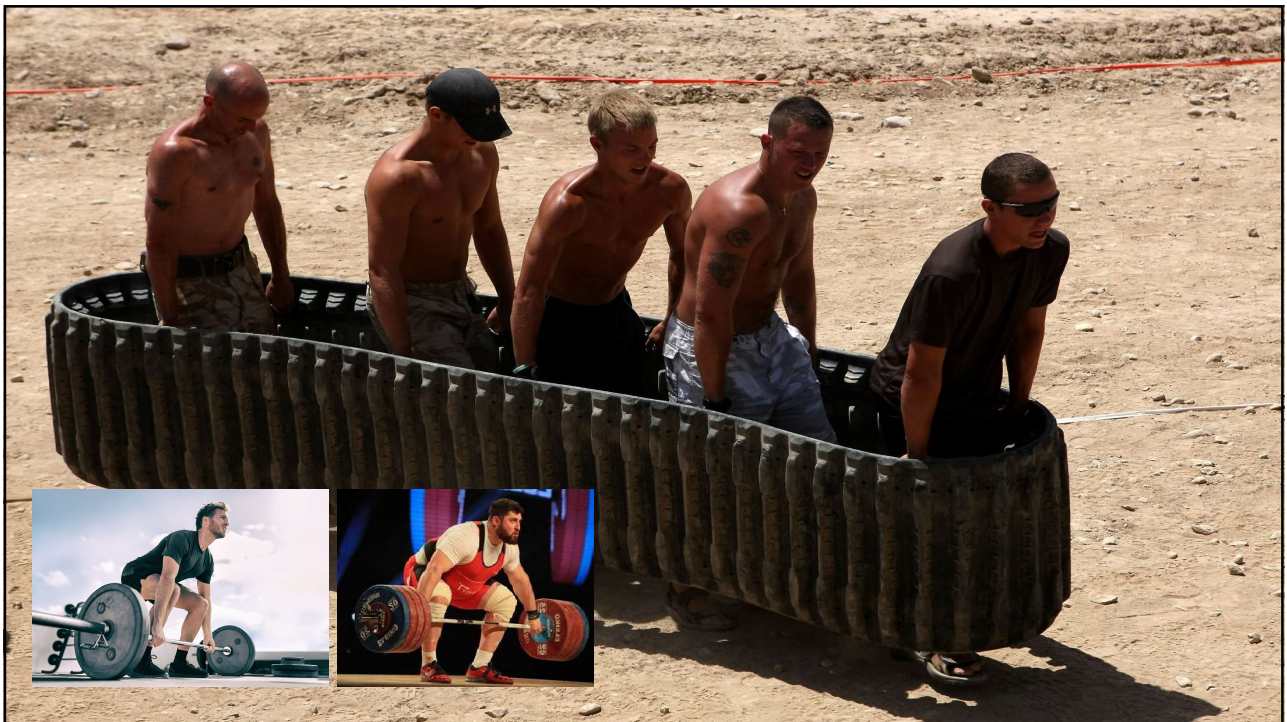
- ✓ Strength
- ✓ Speed
- ✓ Power
- ✓ Agility
- ✓ Repeat Sprint Ability (Anaerobic endurance)
- ✓ Aerobic Capacity
- ✓ Mobility
- ✓ Robustness











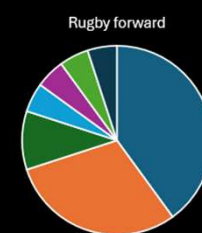
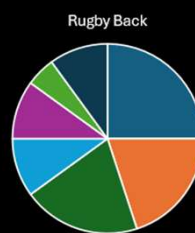
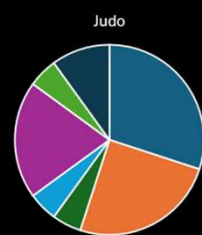
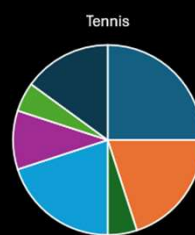
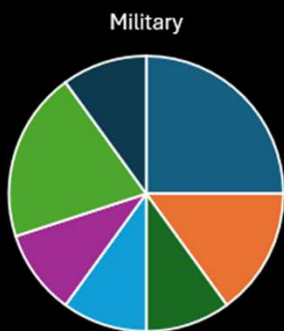


% of each type of training delivered by the S&C coach (Hypothetical/totally made-up!)

May change with each op, or role of soldier.

Ask what they feel are important physical components

■ Strength	■ Power	■ Speed
■ Agility	■ Plyometrics	■ Aerobic capacity
■ Repeat sprint ability		

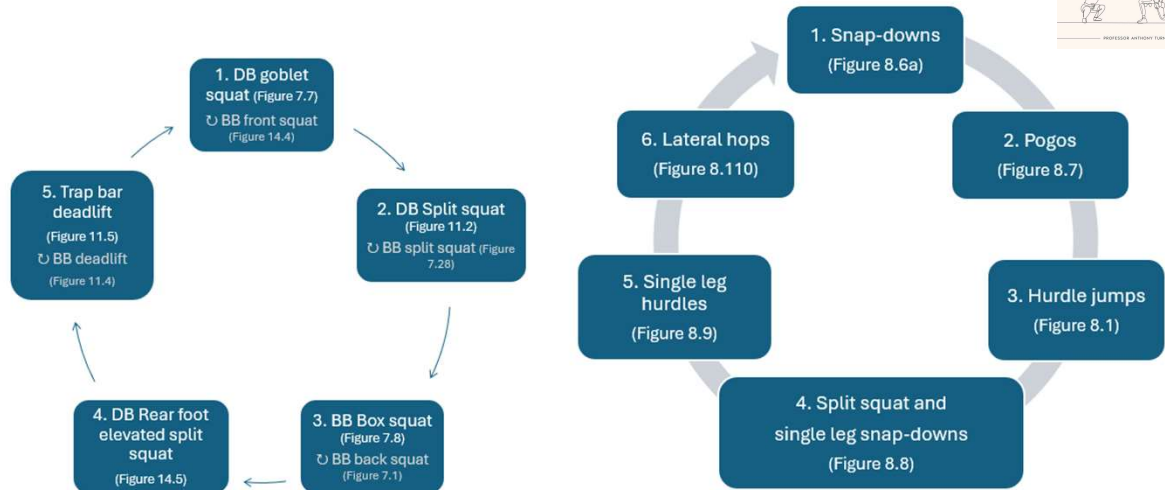


Can you be too sport/demand specific!?

Focus on the stimulus not the movement
(kinetics and physiological adaptations are key)



Irrespective of demand, I have a preferred coaching progression (a best guess plan to get going with)



But of course, you adapt to the individual and no plan survives first contact!

Question...

- Is running 1.5 miles the same as tabbing 1.5 miles?
- Can some people complete the tab but not the run?
- Which is a better predictor of on-ops performance?





The military has an absolute Demand.

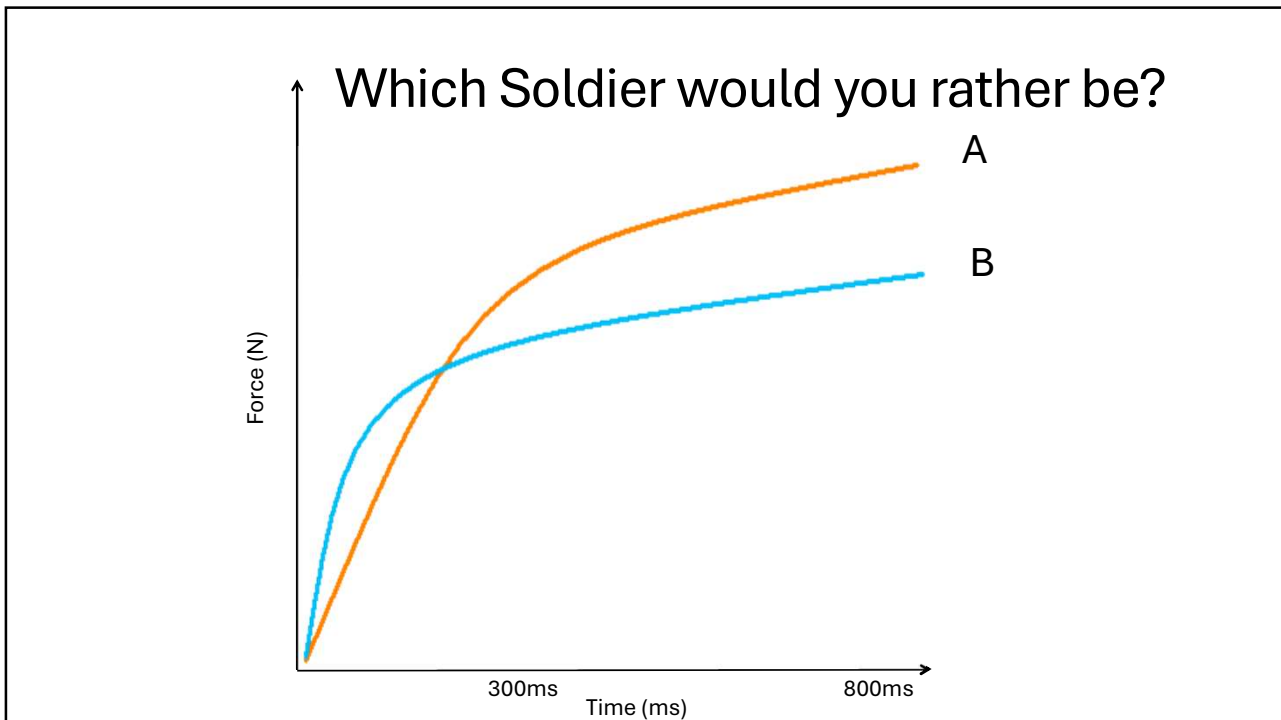
How heavy is a Bergen to you?

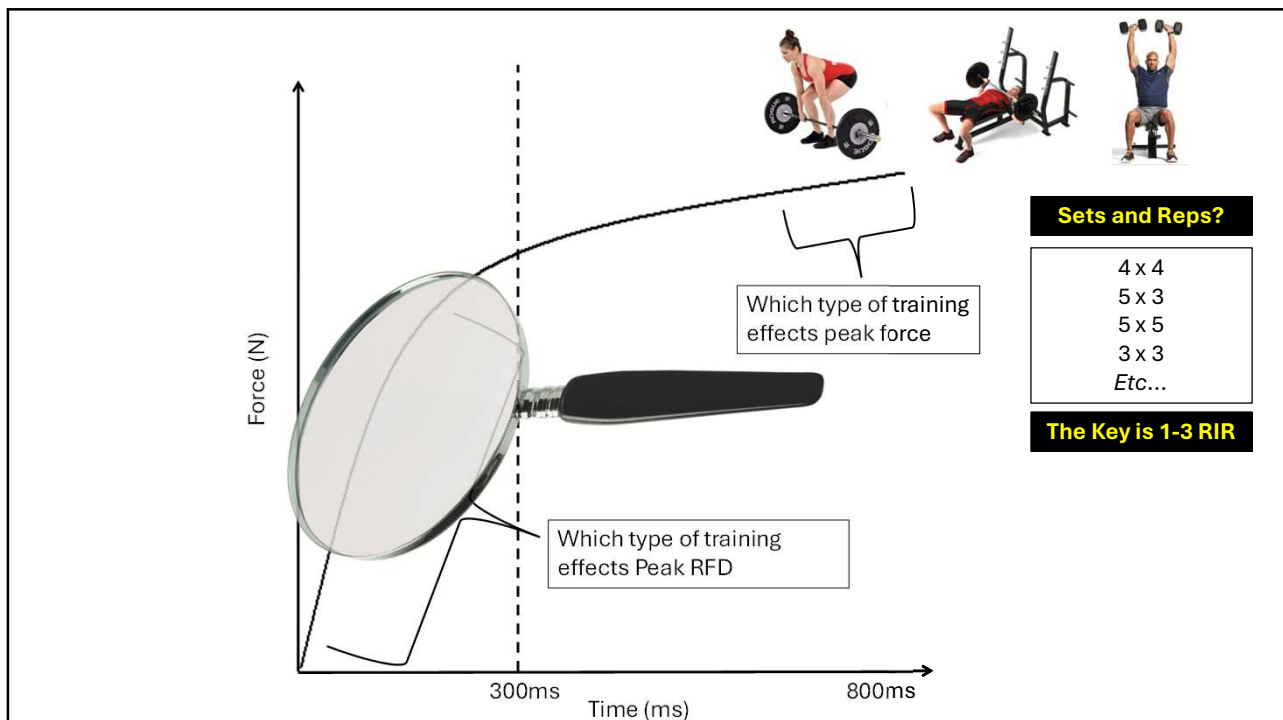
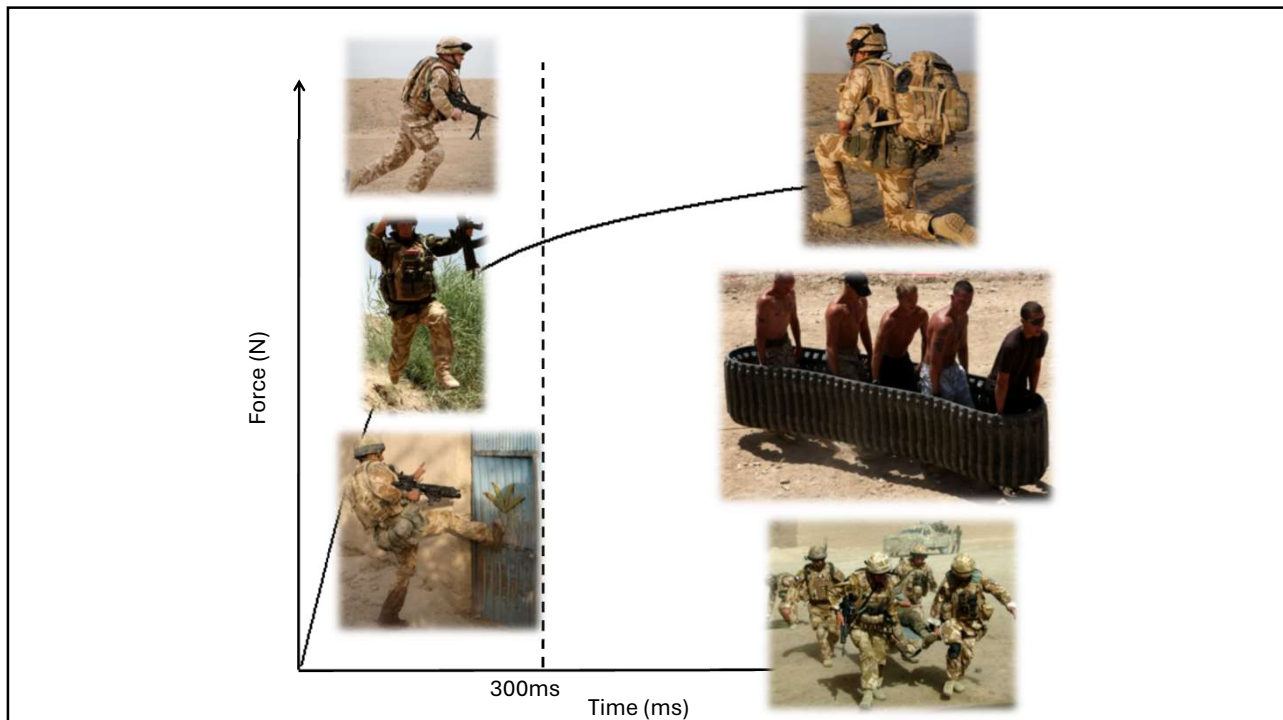


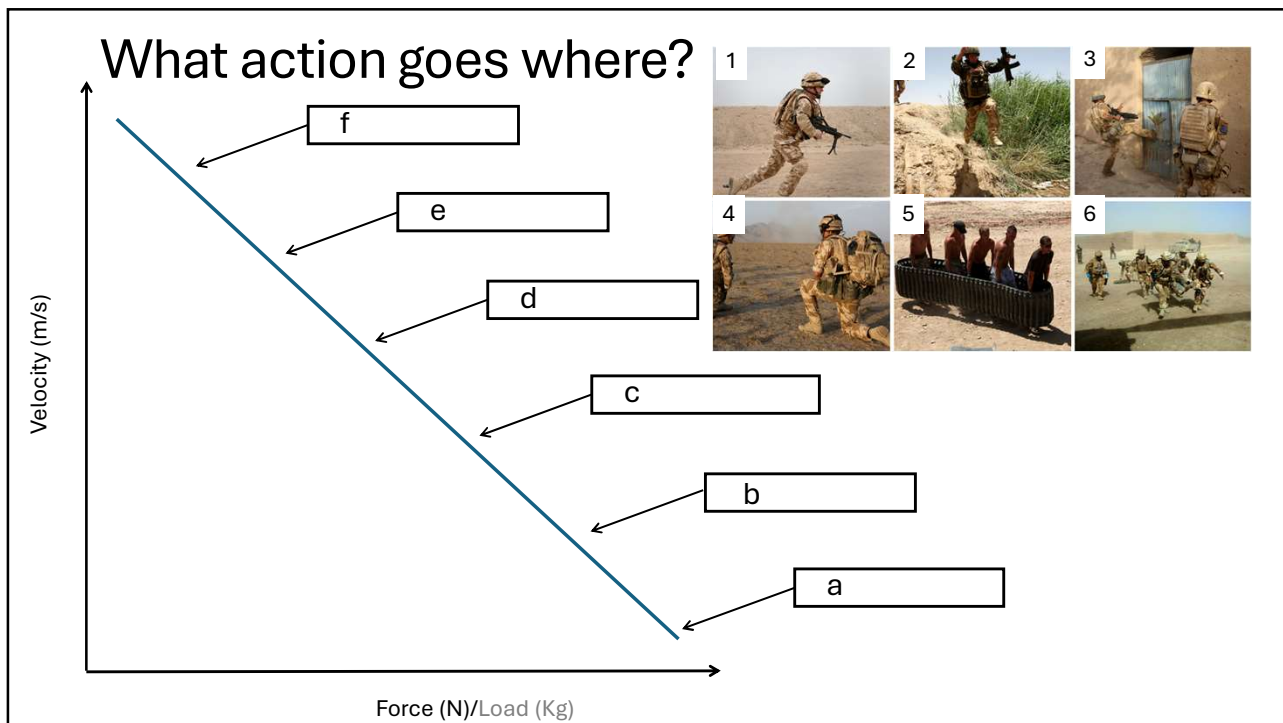
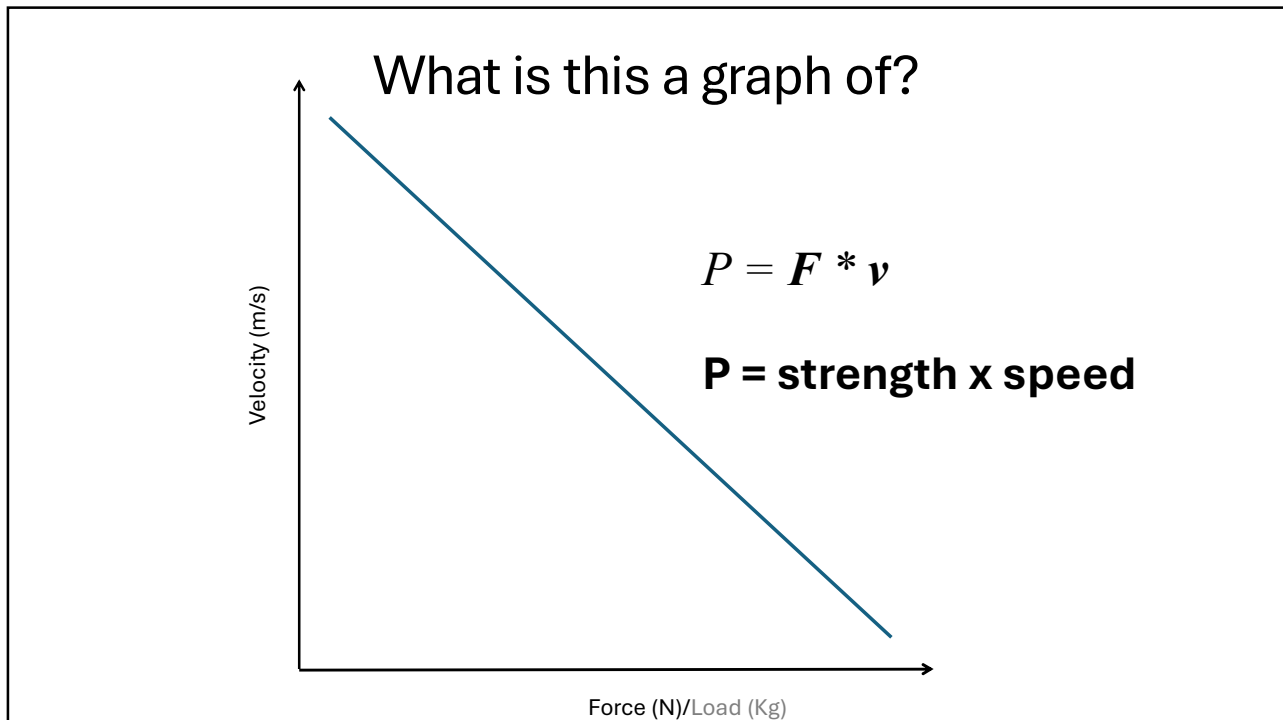
1 - 10 Borg Rating of Perceived Exertion Scale	
0	Rest
1	Really Easy
2	Easy
3	Moderate
4	Sort of Hard
5	Hard
6	
7	Really Hard
8	
9	Really, Really, Hard
10	Maximal: Just like my hardest race

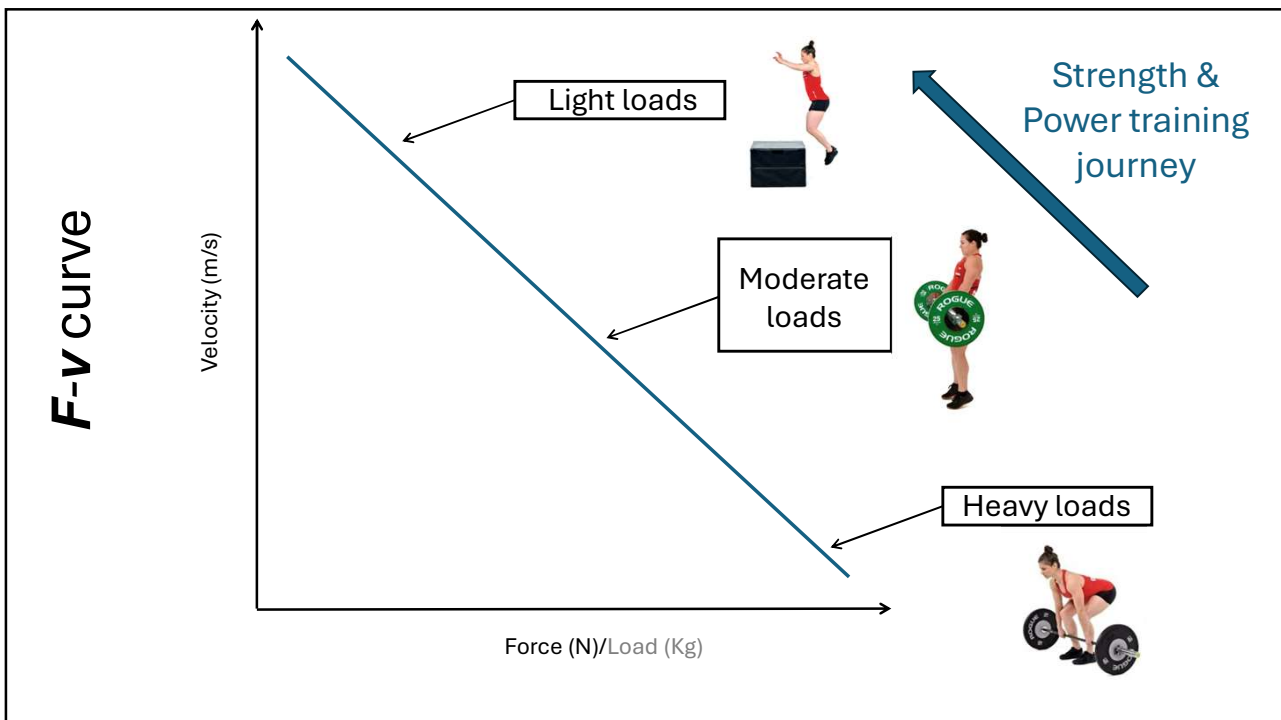
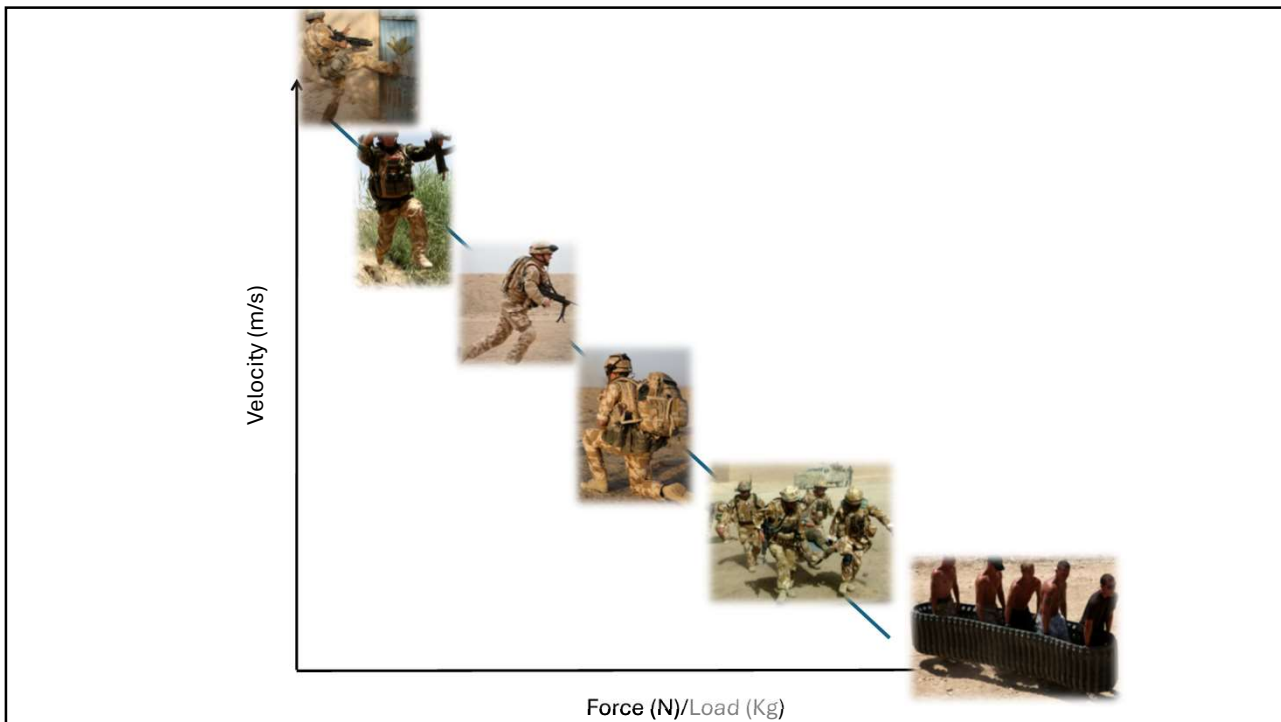
Based on a load carriage of 50kg, the data below represents this load as percentage of a soldier's 1RM in the back squat; the data is also represented graphically. One would assume that the less this load taxes your 1RM, the greater muscle mass and energy reserves you have for subsequent tasks.

Soldier	A	B	C	D	E
1RM squat	140kg	120kg	100kg	80kg	60kg
Load/RM %	36%	42%	50%	62%	83%



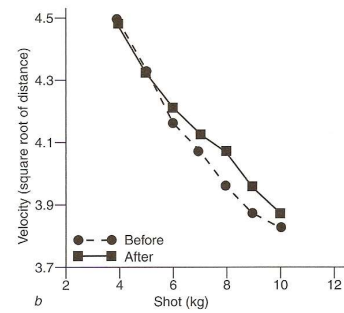
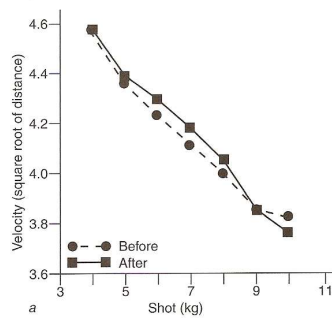
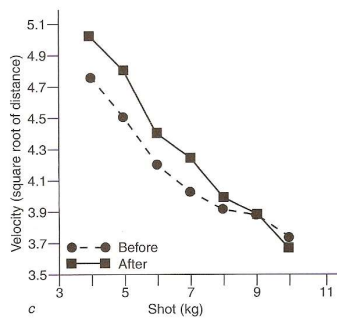




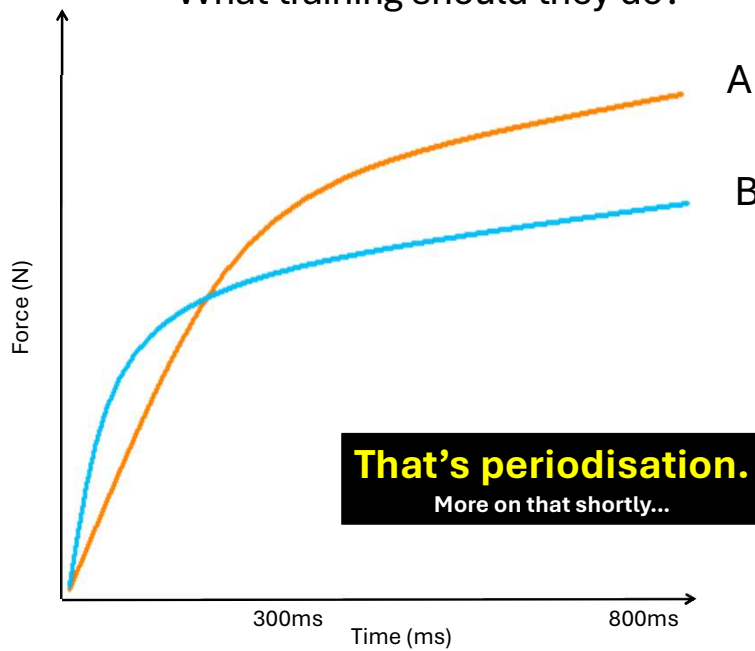


Shot Put

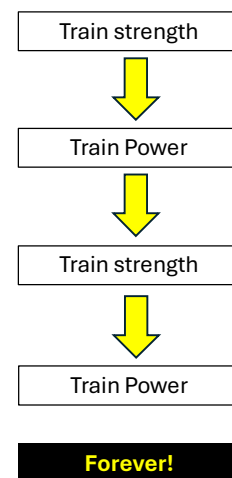
Which graph is which: heavy, light or standard?

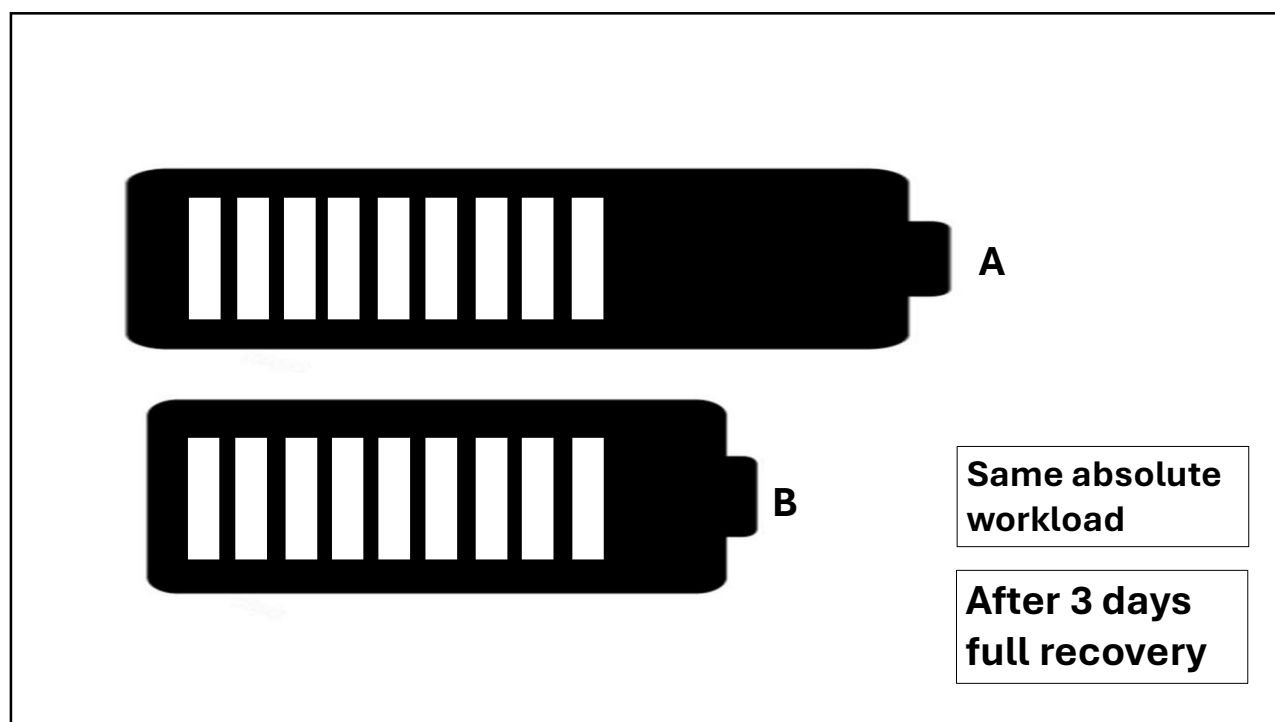


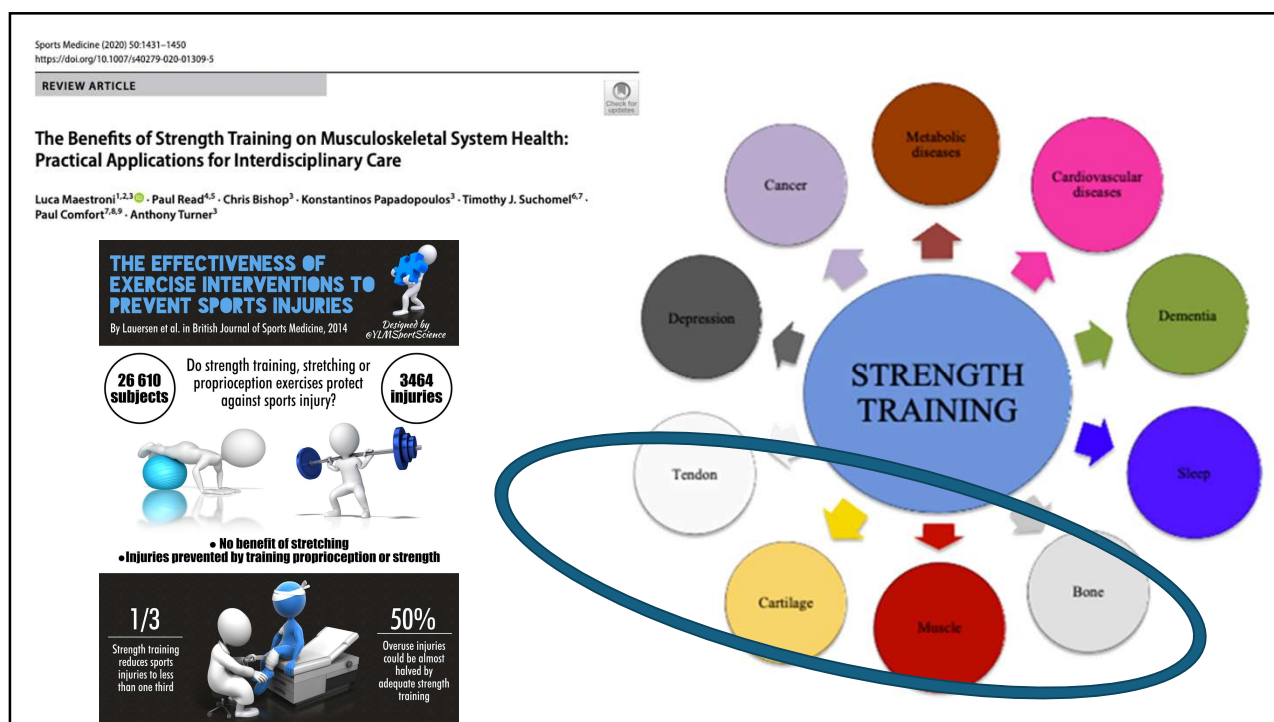
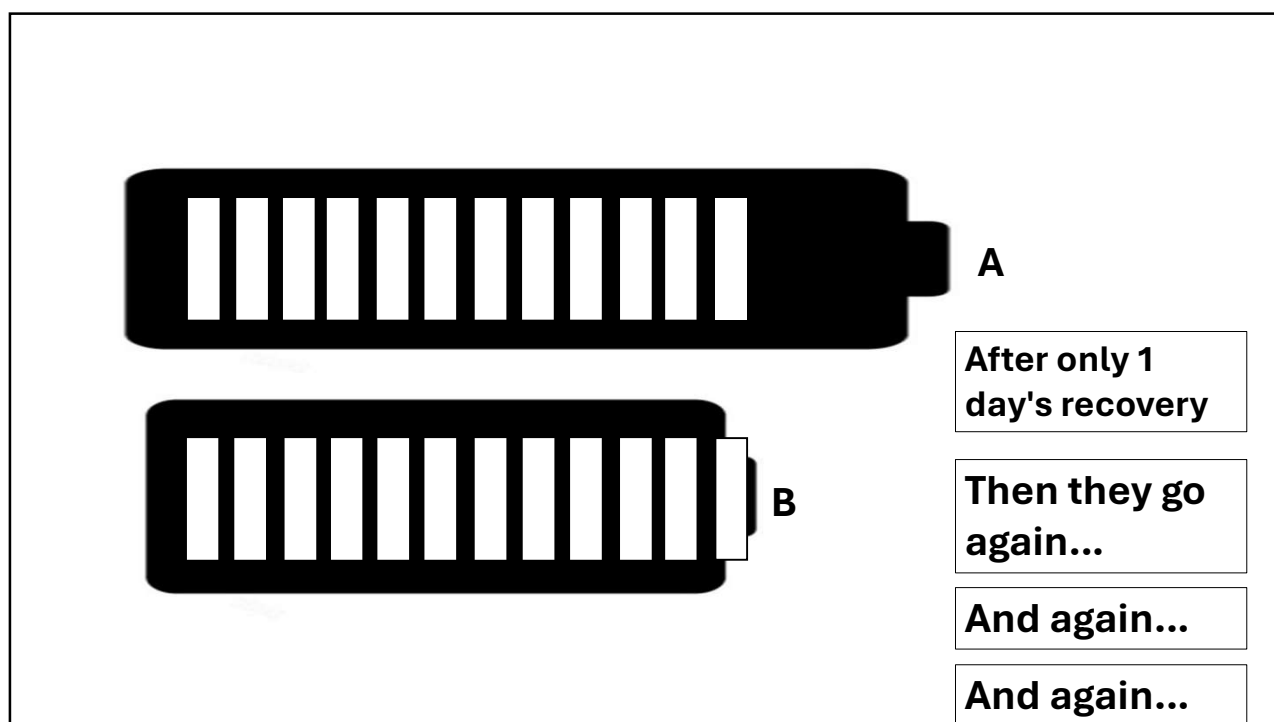
What training should they do?



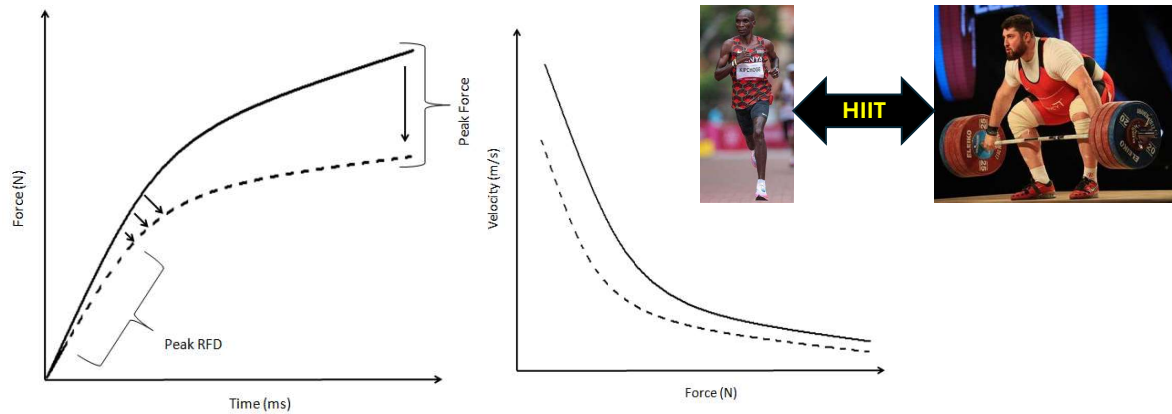
Strength sets the upper limit







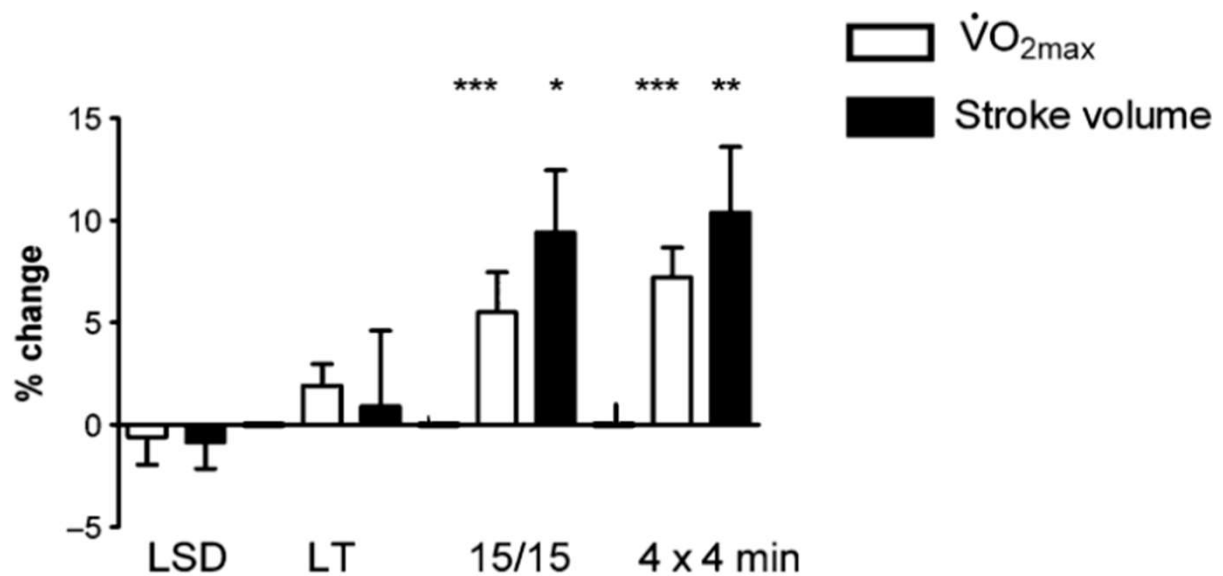
What type of training causes the dash?



Aerobic High-Intensity Intervals Improve $\dot{V}O_{2\max}$ More Than Moderate Training

JAN HELGERUD^{1,2}, KJETILL HØYDAL¹, EIVIND WANG¹, TRINE KARLSEN¹, PÁLR BERG¹, MARIUS BJERKAAS¹, THOMAS SIMONSEN¹, CECILIES HELGESEN¹, NINAL HJORTH¹, RAGNHILD BACH¹, and JAN HOFF^{1,3}

Training Group	Protocol	Training Intensity	Pre-training $\dot{V}O_{2\max}$	Post-Training $\dot{V}O_{2\max}$
Long slow distance running (LSD)	continuous run at 70% HRmax for 45 min.	Low	55.8 ± 6.6 (ml/kg/min)	56.8 ± 6.3 (ml/kg/min)
Lactate threshold running (LT)	continuous run at lactate threshold (85% HRmax) for 24.25 min.	Moderate	59.6 ± 7.6 (ml/kg/min)	60.8 ± 7.1 (ml/kg/min)
15/15 interval running (15/15)	47 repetitions of 15-s intervals at 90–95% HRmax with 15-s of active resting periods at warm-up velocity, corresponding to 70% HRmax between.	High	60.5 ± 5.4 (ml/kg/min)	64.4 ± 4.4 (ml/kg/min) 5.5% increase*
4 x 4-min interval running (4 x 4 min)	4 x 4-min interval training at 90–95% HRmax with 3 min of active resting periods at 70% HRmax between each interval.	High	55.5 ± 7.4 (ml/kg/min)	60.4 ± 7.3 (ml/kg/min) 7.3% increase*



J Hoff, U Wisløff, L C Engen, O J Kemi, J Helgerud

Diagram illustrating the layout of a 30 m obstacle course. The course is divided into three 10 m segments. The layout includes hurdles (H) and cones (Δ) arranged in a grid. The total length is 30 m, and the width is 10 m. The layout is divided into three 10 m segments. The first segment has a hurdle and a cone. The second segment has a hurdle and a cone. The third segment has a hurdle and a cone. The course ends at a 'FINISH' line.



Short-term sprint interval *versus* traditional endurance training: similar initial adaptations in human skeletal muscle and exercise performance

Martin J. Gibala¹, Jonathan P. Little¹, Martin van Essen¹, Geoffrey P. Wilkin¹, Kirsten A. Burgomaster¹, Adeel Safdar², Sandeep Raha² and Mark A. Tarnopolsky²

6 training sessions over 14 days

Table 2. Training protocols

Parameter	SIT group	ET group
Work intensity	'All out' supramaximal (~700 W)	65% $\dot{V}O_{2peak}$ (~175 W)
Exercise protocol (per session)	30 s × 4–6 repeats, 4 min recovery	90–120 min of continuous exercise
Total exercise/training time commitment per session	2–3 min (intervals only) 18–27 min (incl. recovery)	90–120 min
Total exercise/training time commitment over 2 weeks	15 min (intervals only) 135 min (incl. recovery)	630 min
Total exercise volume ¹ over 2 weeks	~630 kJ (intervals only) ~950 kJ (incl. recovery) ²	~6500 kJ

SIT, sprint interval training; ET, endurance training; $\dot{V}O_{2peak}$, peak oxygen uptake.

¹Based on average workloads sustained during training and ²assuming subjects cycled at the highest workload permitted during recovery (30 W) for the maximum duration (4 min) after every interval performed during training (total of 30 intervals over 2 weeks).

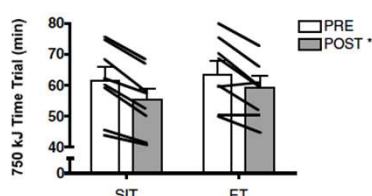


Figure 1. 750 kJ cycling time trial performance before (PRE) and after (POST) 6 sessions of sprint interval training (SIT) or endurance training (ET) over 2 weeks

* $P \leq 0.05$ versus pre-training (main effect for time). Lines denote individual data for 8 subjects in each group.

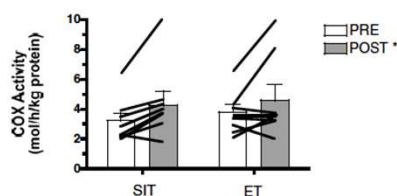


Figure 2. Maximal activity of COX measured in resting muscle biopsy samples obtained before (PRE) and after (POST) 6 sessions of sprint interval training (SIT) or endurance training (ET) over 2 weeks

* $P \leq 0.05$ versus pre-training (main effect for time). Lines denote individual data for 8 subjects in each group.

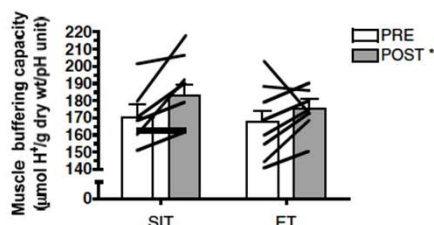


Figure 4. Skeletal muscle buffering capacity measured in resting muscle biopsy samples before (PRE) and after (POST) 6 sessions of sprint interval training (SIT) or endurance training (ET) over 2 weeks

* $P \leq 0.05$ versus pre-training (main effect for time). Lines denote individual data for 8 subjects in each group.

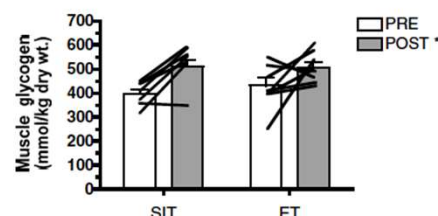


Figure 5. Resting muscle glycogen content before (PRE) and after (POST) 6 sessions of sprint interval training (SIT) or endurance training (ET) over 2 weeks

* $P \leq 0.05$ versus pre-training (main effect for time). Lines denote individual data for 7 subjects in SIT group and 8 subjects in ET group.

Similar metabolic adaptations during exercise after low volume sprint interval and traditional endurance training in humans

Kirsten A. Burgomaster¹, Krista R. Howarth¹, Stuart M. Phillips¹, Mark Rakobowchuk¹, Maureen J. MacDonald¹, Sean L. McGee² and Martin J. Gibala¹

Over 6 weeks

Table 2. Summary of sprint interval training (SIT) and endurance training (ET) protocols

Variable	SIT Group (n = 10)	ET Group (n = 10)
Protocol	30 s × 4–6 repeats, 4.5 min rest (3 × per week)	40–60 min cycling (5 × per week)
Training intensity (workload)	'All out' maximal effort (~500 W)	65% of $\dot{V}O_{2peak}$ (~150 W)
Weekly training time commitment	~10 min (~1.5 h including rest)	~4.5 h
Weekly training volume	~225 kJ	~2250 kJ

$\dot{V}O_{2peak}$, peak oxygen uptake.

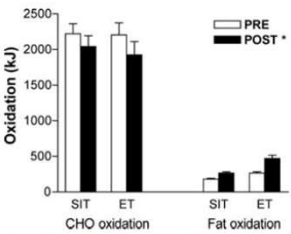


Figure 1. Whole-body carbohydrate and fat oxidation during exercise that consisted of 60 min at 65% $\dot{V}O_{2peak}$ before (PRE) and after (POST) 6 weeks of sprint interval training (SIT) or 6 weeks of endurance training (ET). Values are means \pm S.E.M. ($n = 10$ per group). *Main effect for condition ($P < 0.05$), such that carbohydrate and fat oxidation PRE and POST are different.

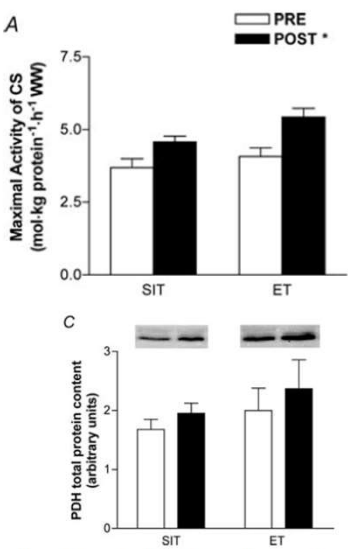
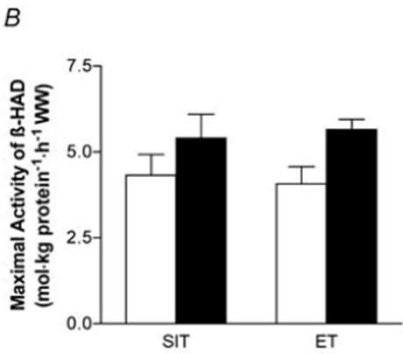


Figure 2. Maximal activity or total protein content of mitochondrial enzymes citrate synthase (CS; A), 3-hydroxyacyl CoA dehydrogenase (β -HAD; B) and pyruvate dehydrogenase (PDH; C) measured in biopsy samples obtained before (PRE) and after (POST) 6 weeks of sprint interval training (SIT) or 6 weeks of endurance training (ET). Values are means \pm S.E.M. ($n = 10$ per group); WW, wet weight. *Main effect for condition ($P < 0.05$), such that post-training (POST) > pretraining (PRE).

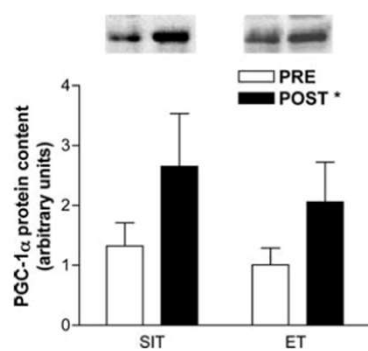
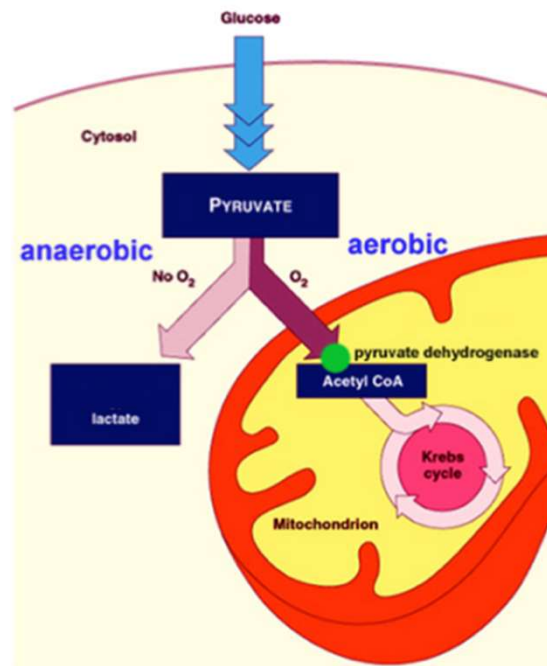


Figure 3. Total protein content of PGC-1α measured in biopsy samples obtained before (PRE) and after (POST) 6 weeks of sprint interval training (SIT) or 6 weeks of endurance training (ET). Values are means \pm S.E.M. ($n = 10$ per group); WW, wet weight. *Main effect for condition ($P < 0.05$), such that post-training (POST) > pretraining (PRE).

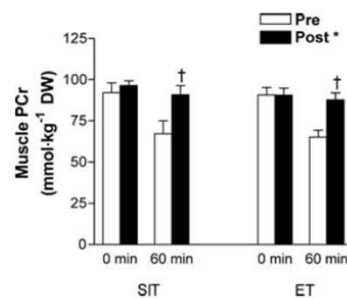
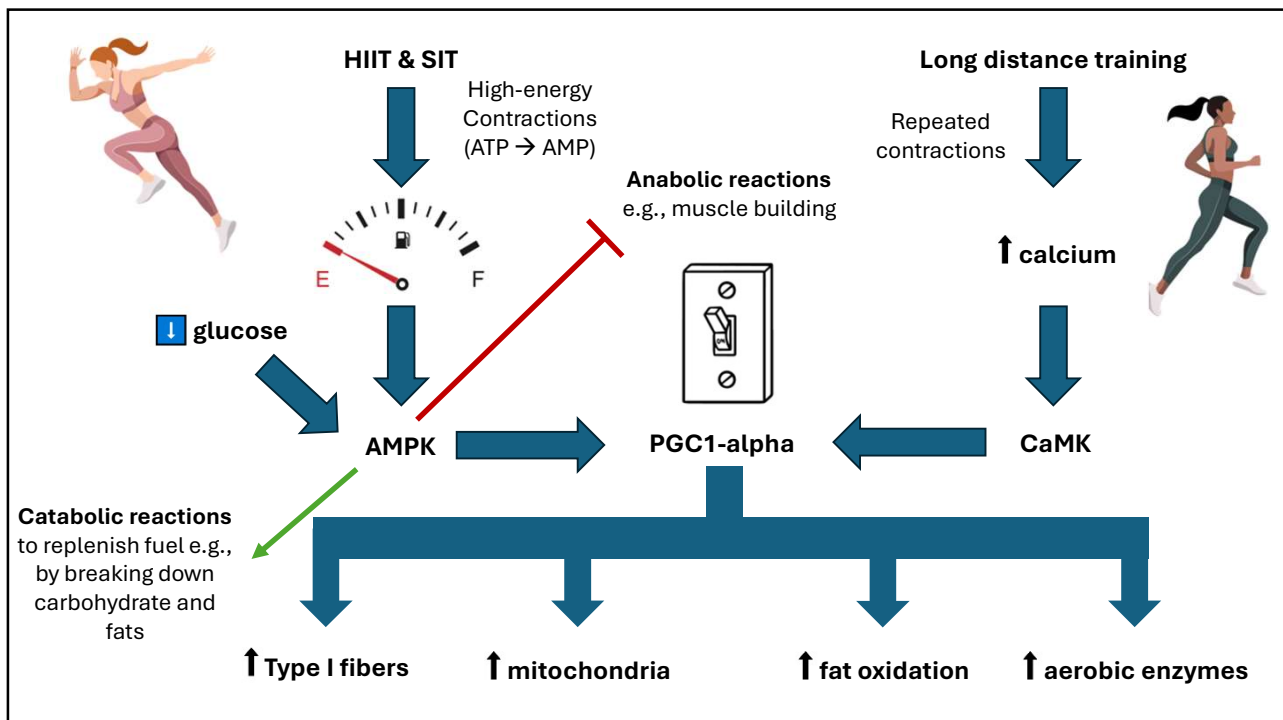
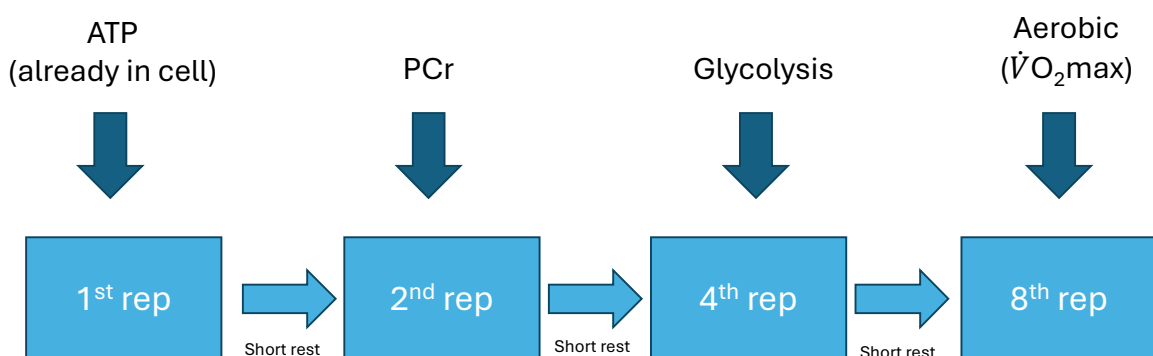


Figure 5. Muscle phosphocreatine (PCr) concentration measured at rest and during cycling exercise that consisted of 60 min at 65% $\dot{V}_{O_{2peak}}$ before (Pre) and after (Post) 6 weeks of sprint interval training (SIT) or 6 weeks of endurance training (ET). Values are means \pm S.E.M. ($n = 10$ per group); DW, dry weight. *Main effect for condition ($P < 0.05$), such that post-training (Post) > pretraining (Pre). †Condition (Pre and Post) \times time (0 and 60 min) interaction ($P < 0.05$), such that Post 60 min > Pre 60 min in both groups.



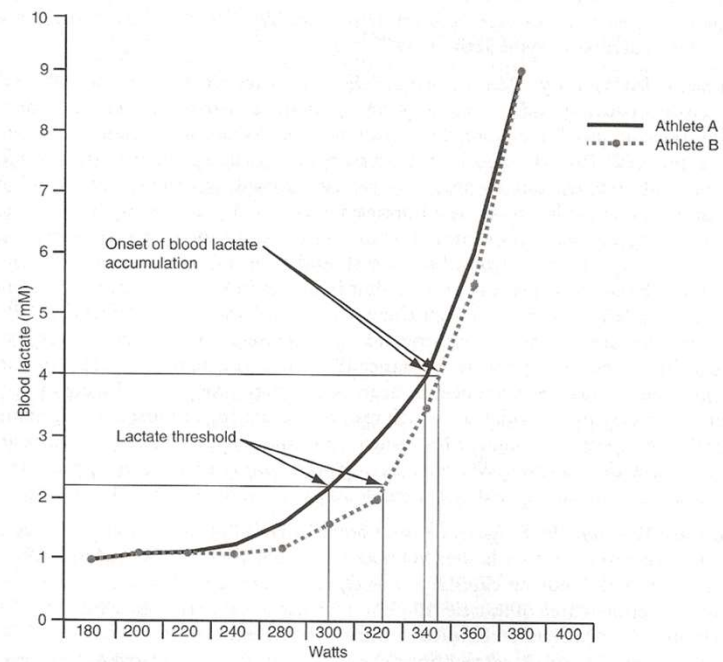
Really Crude Continuum



Training Focus	Training plan	Rationale
Phosphocreatine System	Gym based strength and power	Increase initial sprint speed
	Track based max speed and acceleration	May increase PCr stores by virtue of increased type II fiber concentration
	Repeated bouts (6 – 12) of ~ 4-s, with ~ 30-s rest ≥ 2-min intervals, separated by relatively shorter rest periods e.g., 1 min, and ≥ 4 reps	Reduced effort through increases in strength, power (including RFD and SSC mechanics) and technical proficiency
	4 x 4, MAS training and SIT	Increases in aerobic capacity and thus creatine shuttle efficiency
Anaerobic Glycolysis	Maximal intensity 30-s intervals, separated by > 4 min to ensure subsequent intervals are again maximally utilizing anaerobic glycolytic enzymes	Maximally activate and thus adapt key enzymes, e.g., PFK and phosphorylase
Muscle buffer capacity	Repeated bouts (~ 6) of 30 – 60-s intervals, with work to rest ratio of 1:1. Utilise a passive recovery	Increase and accumulation of H ⁺ and thus buffer capacity. Increases PDH and vOBLA
Aerobic system	Longer duration (≥ 2-min) intervals (at ~ VO ₂ max), separated by relatively shorter rest periods, and ≥ 4-reps 4 x 4, MAS and SIT	Improve PCr resynthesis via the creatine shuttle, mitochondrial biogenesis, and enhanced blood flow (SV).

Lactate Threshold

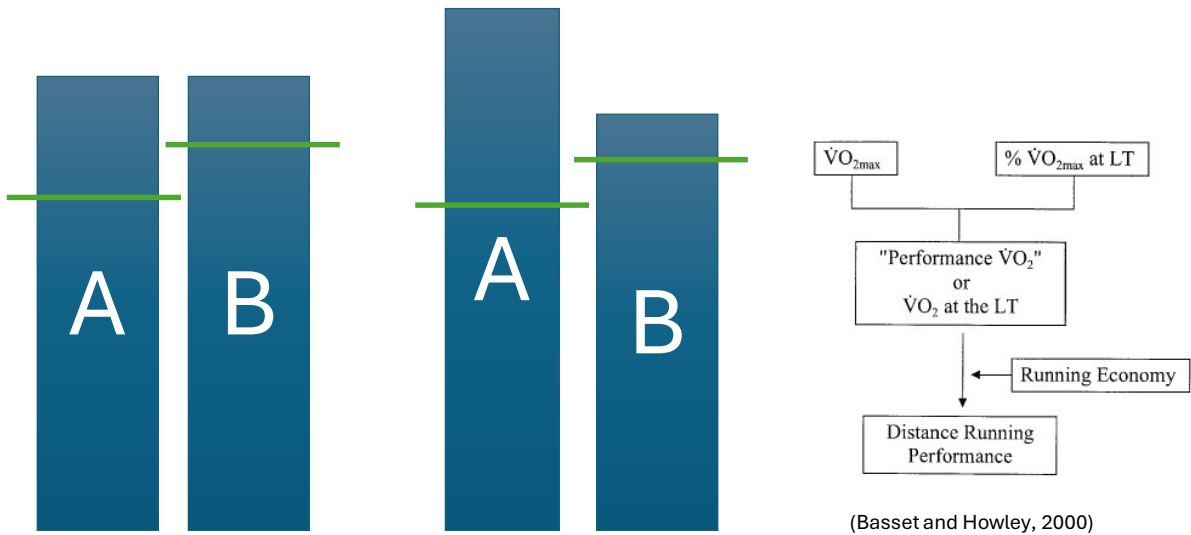




LT

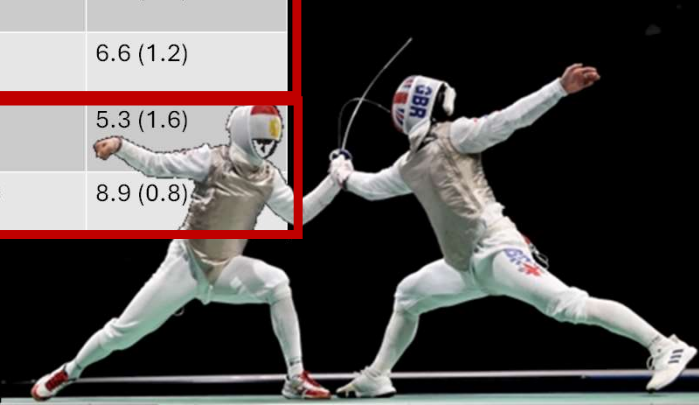
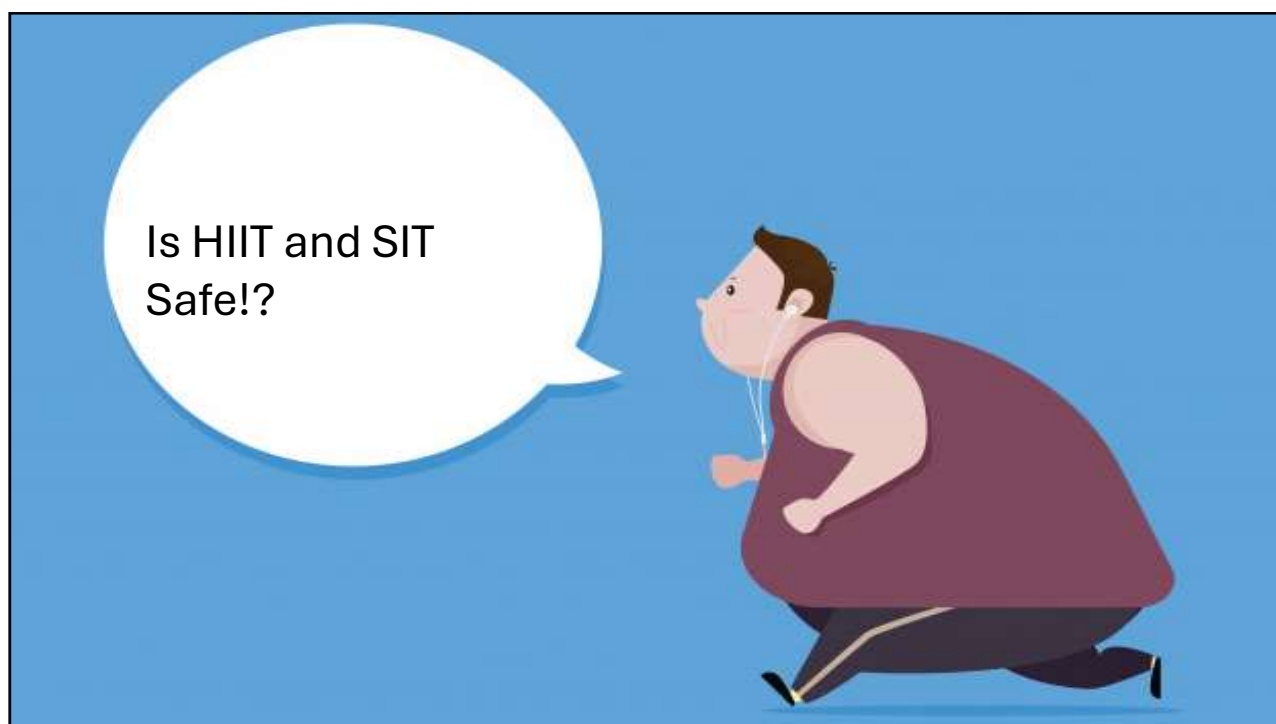
- Narrow range of $\dot{V}O_2\text{max}$ within elite athletes
- Therefore, unlikely to differentiate performance
- $\downarrow \dot{V}O_2\text{max}$ may be compensated by ability to work at a \uparrow %
- Therefore 'performance $\dot{V}O_2$ '

Who Will Win the Race?



Off-feet or speed and agility-based conditioning

Mode	%Time > 80% HRmax	Blood Lactate (mmol/L)	sRPE (10 pt)
Pool (5 hits)	68	3.1 (1.3)	5.7 (1.3)
Elimination (15 hits)	74	3.6 (1.0)	8.5 (1.3)
Sparring (5 hits)	34	2.2 (1.8)	6.0 (0.9)
Sparring 15 hits	40	2.8 (1.6)	6.6 (1.2)
Sport Specific drill	32	2.1 (1.1)	5.3 (1.6)
30-30-6	83	12.6 (2.2)	8.9 (0.8)

12 weeks, 3/wk
SIT: 3 x 20 @ max
MICT: 45 min @ 70% HRmax

RESEARCH ARTICLE

Twelve Weeks of Sprint Interval Training Improves Indices of Cardiometabolic Health Similar to Traditional Endurance Training despite a Five-Fold Lower Exercise Volume and Time Commitment

Jenna B. Gillen¹, Brian J. Martin¹, Martin J. Macinnis¹, Lauren E. Skelly¹, Mark A. Tarnopolsky^{1,2}, Martin J. Gibala^{1*}

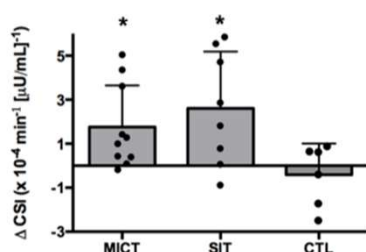


Fig 2. Effect of SIT and MICT on insulin sensitivity. The change in insulin sensitivity (CSI) over the 12-week intervention, measured from a 50-minute IVGTT in MICT, SIT and CTL. Closed circles denote individual responses. Values are means \pm S.D. * $p < 0.05$, PRE vs. POST.

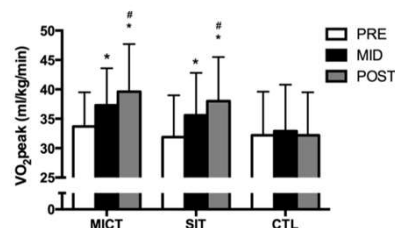
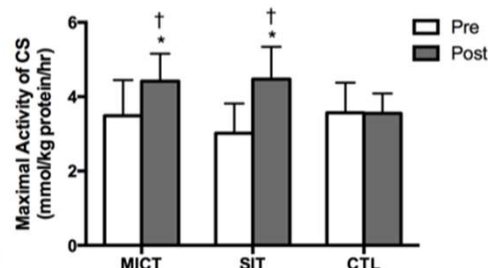
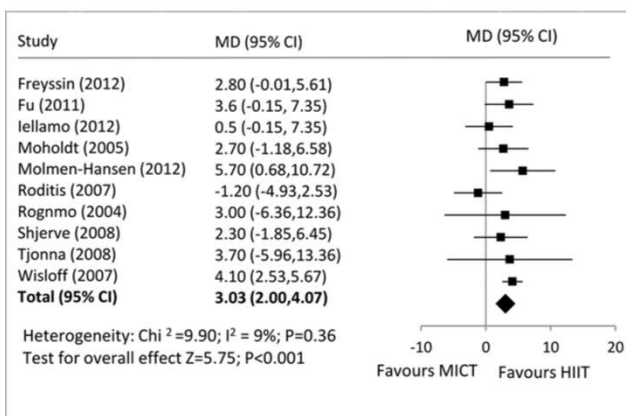


Fig 1. Effect of SIT and MICT on VO₂ peak. Measured at baseline (PRE), 6 weeks (MID), and 12 weeks (POST) in MICT, SIT and CTL. Values are means \pm S.D. * $p < 0.05$, vs. same group at PRE; # $p < 0.05$, vs. same group at MID.



High-intensity interval training in patients with lifestyle-induced cardiometabolic disease: a systematic review and meta-analysis

Kassia S Weston,¹ Ulrik Wisloff,² Jeff S Coombes¹



Box 1 Adaptations occurring significantly more with HIIT compared to MICT

- ▶ \uparrow VO₂ peak
 - ▶ \downarrow Systolic and diastolic blood pressure
 - ▶ \uparrow High density lipoproteins
 - ▶ \downarrow Triglycerides and fasting glucose
 - ▶ \downarrow Oxidative stress and inflammation
 - ▶ \downarrow FATP-1 and FAS
 - ▶ \uparrow Adiponectin, insulin sensitivity and β -cell function
 - ▶ \uparrow PGC-1 α
 - ▶ \uparrow Maximal rate of Ca²⁺ reuptake
 - ▶ \uparrow Availability of nitric oxide
 - ▶ \uparrow Cardiac function
 - ▶ \uparrow Enjoyment of exercise
 - ▶ \uparrow Quality of life
- FATP-1, fatty acid transport protein 1; FAS, fatty acid synthase; HIIT, high-intensity interval training; MICT, moderate-intensity continuous training

Table 2 Protocol recommendations for HIIT

Frequency	3x/Week
Duration	40 min
Modality	Treadmill/hill, cycle ergometer. Increasing speed or incline
Intensity	Interval=85–95% PHR Rest=passive–70% PHR
Interval times	4x4 min intervals 3x3 min recovery
Warm-up	10 min at 60% PHR
Cool-down	5 min at 50% PHR

HIIT, homeostasis model assessment-insulin resistance; PHR, peak heart rate.

Exercise Physiology

Cardiovascular Risk of High- Versus Moderate-Intensity Aerobic Exercise in Coronary Heart Disease Patients

Øivind Rognmo, PhD; Trine Moholdt, PhD; Hilde Bakken, BSc; Torstein Hole, MD, PhD; Per Mølsted, MD, PhD; Nils Erling Myhr, BSc; Jostein Grimsmo, MD, PhD; Ulrik Wisløff, PhD

Table 1. The Number of Patients, Exercise-Hours, and the Corresponding Number of Cardiovascular Events Associated With Moderate- and High-Intensity Exercise, Respectively

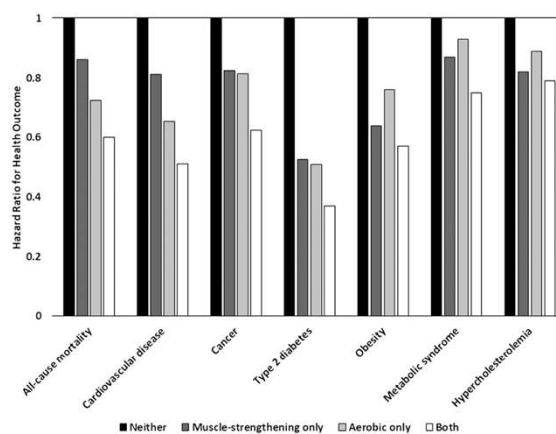
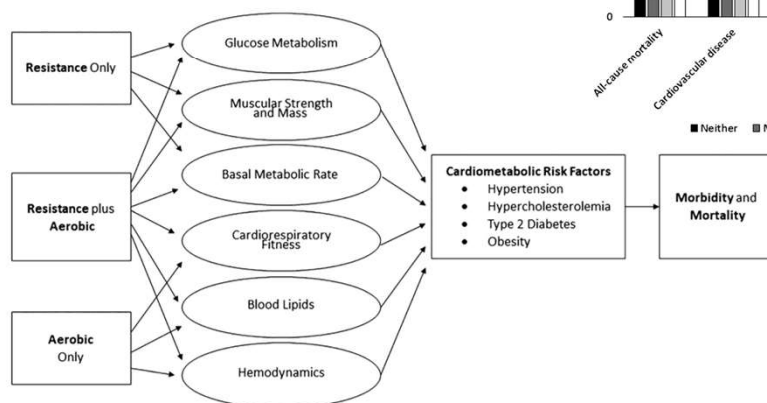
Center	Patients, n	Total Training, h	Moderate Intensity, h	High Intensity, h
Ålesund	775	25 720 (1)	15 232	10 488 (1)
Feiring	2629	85 208 (2)	63 032 (1)	22 176 (1)
Røros	1442	64 892	51 192	13 700
Total	4846	175 820	129 456	46 364
Event rates				
Cardiac arrest, fatal			1	0
Cardiac arrest, nonfatal			0	2
Myocardial infarction			0	0
Risk of events		1/58 607	1/129 456	1/23 182

The numbers in parentheses indicate the number of events in each center according to intensity.

EXERCISE IS MEDICINE

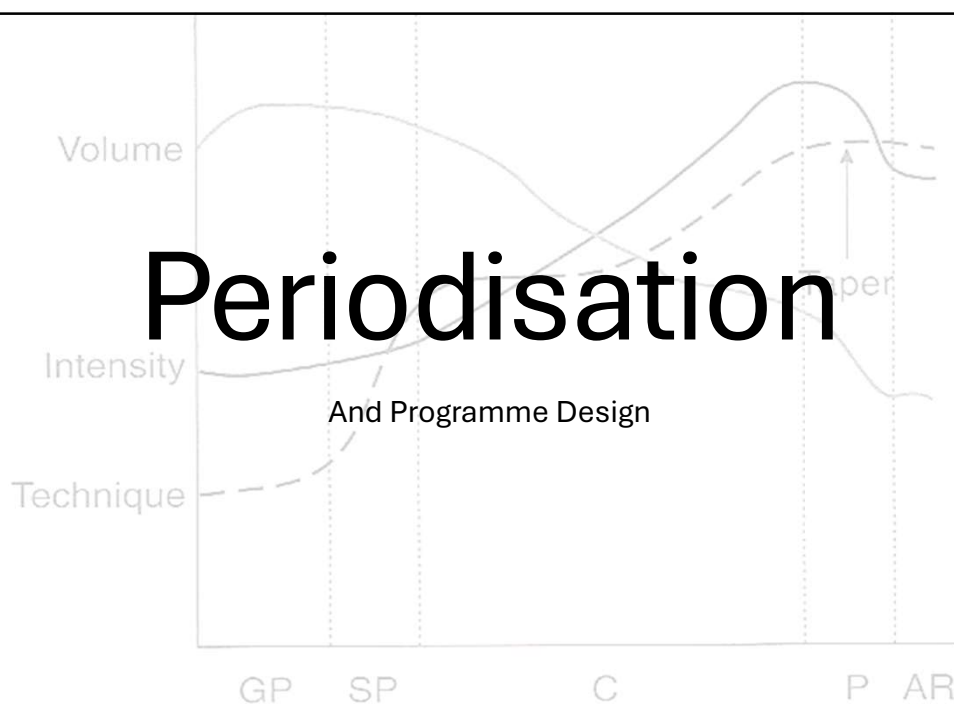
Aerobic or Muscle-Strengthening Physical Activity: Which Is Better for Health?

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Periodisation

And Programme Design



Example non-traditional periodisation strategy

Session	1	2	3
Volume load	Strength	Power	ASAP & HIIT

Session	1	2	3
Volume load	Upper (STR & POW)	Lower (STR & POW)	ASAP & HIIT

Session	1	2	3
Volume load	Push (STR & POW)	Pull (STR & POW)	ASAP & HIIT

Session	1	2	3
Volume load	Upper (STR & POW, + SIT)	Lower (STR & POW, + SIT)	Sport/hobby- based practice

The Programme

Lower Body	Upper Body
Strength	Chest
Power	Back
Plyo	Overhead push
Hamstrings	Overhead pull
Lower Prehab	Core
Conditioning	Upper Prehab

While I have a preferred order of exercises, soldiers can simply choose from a list.

They can stick with the same exercises or change from session to session.

	Conditioning	6	HIIT/SIT: choose one	On (s)	Off (s)	reps	Notes e.g., average m or W
		SIT	Cycling	5	25	6	
		HIIT	Cycling	30	30	3	
		SIT	Battle ropes	10	20	6	
		HIIT	Rowing	30	30	3	
		SIT	Sled push	10 meters	30	6	
		HIIT	Elliptical/Treadmill	30	30	3	
		SIT	Linear/CoD sprints	10 - 20 meters	30	6	
		HIIT	Ski erg	30	30	3	

If you have the means, each session, switch between a 'HIIT' and a 'SIT' conditioning exercise. Remember, the mode does not matter, it's all about intensity!

If you decide to use linear and CoD sprints as part of your conditioning, I suggest you precede your chosen drill with one or two warm-up sets to groove the movement pattern and ensure you hit biomechanically sound shapes when you go at high intensity. Equally, consider progressing the drills as

Thank you for Listening :-)
Any Questions?

