Summary

Under this problem, we've constructed a series of accurate models which both give the pattern of physical and physiological patterns of different cyclists during a time trial, and plausible suggestions to the athletes participating in different types of competitions. In the essay, instead of answering the questions by sequence, we've chosen a more natural narrative order which best displays the development of the models.

In model A, we developed a differential model using motional, meteorological, and thermodynamic physics. After that, we separated the whole course into finite 'series' (parts that have similar physical attributes) of courses and performed our model on each individual 'series' based on recursion (initial values depend on the previous 'series'). In the end, we got the analytical solutions to almost all of the variables and those, after being plotted, fit well with the real-time data. At last, we used advanced mathematical tools to help scheme the distribution of energy, power, and velocity. By fitting our model on a self-designed course, we found that the cyclist's optimal strategy is to save energy (cycling purely with inertia) during the downhill slopes and find a compromising point between dashing with full force and maintaing high speed with minimum energy during the uphill slopes.

In model B, we took into consideration that the 'splicing' action of 'series' appears to be less accurate with real-life courses. In order to make sure that our model works more accurately with the two major time-trials in the world, we rendered the discrete part of it into continuous differential equations. What's more, in model B, we also considered various psychological and physiological factors, including but not limited to the 'fatigue index' and the 'capabilities' of a specific athlete, which allows us to quantify an individual cyclist with a vector.

model C

As relevant constants that appear in our models are not always accessible on the Internet, we adopted the method of fitting data into our model, which derived rather reasonable results. Another part of our model with deep insight is that, instead of attempting to establish a universal model which is able to effectively cope with all types of scenarios, we developed two models (Model A & B) which respectively excels in patterns with regular slopes and those with irregular ones. These two combined, therefore, actually results in a even more accurate model with computational convenience, accuracy and reality.

Contents

Section 1 Introduction

§ 1.1 Background

Individual time trial is a common type of bicycle road race and has gained popularity in recent years. In individual time trials, individuals will manage to complete their journey on a fixed trial course all by themselves in the shortest possible time and the one that uses the minimum of time seals the victory.

In cycling activities, each cyclist has a power curve which indicates the maximum power the rider can maintain in the races. Also, given a rider's power curve, cyclists must find the best way to minimize their power usage and maximize their recovering rate. In addition, there are many kinds of individual riders. Common types are time trial specialists, climbers, sprinters, rouleurs and puncheurs. They will act differently when facing various terrains and difficulties. Time trial specialists are good at solving every kinds of problems. The climbers can easily pass the long slopes while puncheurs perform well when facing cliffy slopes. Rouleurs can make good decisions based on different routes. Sprinters have strong explosive force. We will analyze their actions in the following passage.

Moreover, the trial course plays a vital role in the game. It will determine how the cyclists spend their energy and control their speed. It has to be mentioned that all the riders will ride a same course. In games, the condition of trials mostly depends on the type of game and what kind of event it is.

§ 1.2 Problem Restatement

To make sure that the riders can achieve their best score by using the best strategy (including when to get energy supply and recover) according to their body condition, we need to find out the relationship between these factors. Therefore, our work is divided into 4 parts:

- Analyze the power profile of two types if riders given their riding type.
- Build a model calculating their power profile and find out the result when it is applied to different trial courses and various weather conditions. Find out how sensitive the model is.
- Give suggestions to riders and their instructors generally on key turning points after determining how sensitive the model is.
- Extend model so that it can be applied to conditions where a team will take part in a time trial.

§ 1.3 General Assumptions

1. All the roads have the same rolling friction factors.

To help cyclists achieve better grades and prevent them from serious danger, race organizers usually build artificial tracks. Therefore we can assume that the material of tracks is the same, which means the rolling friction factor of the road is the same.

2. All the riders know the terrain of the course and can make their decisions.

In most cases, riders are informed of the road condition far earlier than the race actually begins. In addition, knowing this in our model can avoid unnecessary calculations.

3. The intake of metabolic energy can be stored.

If there is unconsumed energy during the riding process (e.g. breathing) , it will be stored. However, it will not exceed the maximum storage amount.

4. Riders' cycling condition will not change when turning.

Road turns mainly contribute to the distraction of athletes. However, because turnings account for a timy proportion of the total time trial, the amount of energy consumed during this process can be ignored.

5. Riders consume no energy while going downhill.

Top cyclists usually tend to conserve their energy for uphill rides, which are critical to the overall result of the race. What's more, while riding downhill, riders need almost no energy to keep balance, so we won't consider any extra energy consumed when a rider goes downhill.

6. Every rider pre-expects a finishing time, which affects the type of strategy he/she adopts.

According to the second assumption, all the riders know the whole course. Therefore, we rightly assume that the participants all know there expected range of result before the race begins.

Section 2 Model A: developing strategies for time trials

§ 2.1 Model Overview

In the first model, we will discuss the power curve of different types of cyclists. We will discuss the energy consumption of riders according their reactions towards different kinds of terrains and their body conditions. Considering basic energy cost such as breathing and processes of metabolism. We will calculate the power curve based on the maximum power a rider can reach in a certain time and how long he/she can maintain it. Finally, we will discuss the conditions where basic supplement is needed.

§ 2.2 Notation

$t_{\rm exp}$	expected completing time	S
$t_{ m actual}$	actual completing time	S
t	the time the game lasts for	s
$P(\mathbf{w})$	power of a cyclist	W
$\tau(p)$	time which the rider last for at a constant power $(P(w))$	s
m(t)	the maximum power in the whole process	W
m(b)	the maximum power of human body	W
σ	speed of metabolism	W
$E_{ m B}$	energy stored before the race	J
$E_{ m S}$	energy supplied during the race	J
$\tau(E_{ m S})$	time wasted when recovering	S
k	power restriction index	/
\overline{m}	weight of cyclist	kg
f	air resistance	N
v	speed of cyclist	m/s
C_D	air resistance index	/
$\rho_{ m air}$	air density	kg/m^3
S_{body}	cyclists' area exposed to air	m^2
$k_{\rm air}$	air condition index	/
D	distance	m
I	momentum gathered by wind	N
$E_{ m total}$	the total energy stored before the race	J
u	the rolling friction factor of the course	/
$d_{\mathrm{strategy}}\left(\theta\right)$	the changing point of strategy choice	m

§ 2.3 Calculating Energy Consumption

First, we need to consider the cyclist's energy source. We divide a rider's energy consumption into several parts. Considering human's basic physiological activities, energy spent by metabolism needs to be calculated. Therefore we use σ to describe human body's speed of metabolism, which is a constant of value 41.5. Moreover, the rider's physical fitness determines his/her total energy before the race which is defined as $E_{\rm total}$. Finally, cyclists can get energy before the race and energy supplied during the race through food consumption (which we define as $E_{\rm B}$ and $E_{\rm S}$).

We use P(t) to desribe the cyclist's power consumption pattern, E(t) for remaining energy, and v(t) for the velocity of each cyclist. All three functions change through time. However, many of the constants used in this model are not available on the Internet. Therefore, we chose the method of searching for more well-known

data such as the speed of athlete, etc., and then fit these data with our model, which in turn derives reasonable factors which can be used to further our calculations.

2.3.1 developing strategies on vanilla cases

The record speed of time time trial cycling on plain ground is 36.6 m/s [?], which will later be used to decide relative constants.

We define a **series**by meaning of a finite continuous sequence of only uphill slopes or plain ground. According to **assumption 5**, we can abstract the ride into finite uphill/flat rides followed by downhill slopes, meaning that the whole 'series' of **series**is an alternating combination of the two types. For the latter part, the functions can be calculated independent of the strategies. Therefore, we repeat the calculations on each **series**, and the following one can be calculated based on the previous one.

Through a brief qualitative analysis, we can devide the senario into two parts:

• For a part that is short enough for the athlete to dash with full force (which means that there will still be energy left at the end of this period), we simply adopt this strategy because obviously this is the fastest possible strategy. However, for this type of strategy, we always have a maximum distance $d_{\text{strategy}}\left(\theta\right)$ beyond which we can no longer use this approach.

Next, we will discuss the relationship between different variables. First, we do the force analysis on the cyclist and the bike as a whole:

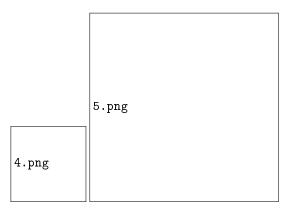


Fig. 1 and 2 A cyclist's condition on plain ground and uphill slopes

Since the cyclists will race against each other at a quick speed, the air resistance (f) can't be neglected. According to basic physical rules, we can calculate f with the following formula:

$$f = \frac{1}{2}C_D \cdot \rho_{\rm air} S_{\rm body} v^2$$

where $\mathcal{C}_{\mathcal{D}}$ represents the area facing the wind. To be clear, let

$$k_{\rm air} = \frac{1}{2} C_D \rho_{\rm air}$$

therefore rewriting the previous equation, we have:

$$f = k_{\rm air} \cdot v^2$$

After searching related data from academic literature, we find out that $C_D = 0.024$, $\rho_{\rm air} = 1.293 {\rm kg/m}^3$ and $S_{\rm body} = 0.209 m^2$. Based on these data, we can indicate that $k_{\rm air} \approx 0.0032$.

According to basic phycial rules (namely *Newton's second law of motion*), we listed the formulae related to motion (v(t), a(t), D = s(t)) below (restrictions are also given based on initial set values):

$$\begin{cases} D = \int_0^{t_{\text{actual}}} v(t) \cdot dt \\ m \cdot a(t) = m \cdot v(t) = F - f - mg \sin(\theta) = \frac{P(t)}{v} - \frac{1}{2} k_{\text{air}} v^2 - mg \sin(\theta) \\ v(0) = 0 \\ 0 \le P(t) \le m_b \end{cases}$$

As for the cyclist, the two variables that will alter his/her performance are mainly E(t) and P(t), which respectively indicates the remaining energy and current power at time t.

Referring to certain articles [?], several constants are given below: we define k as the index which describes the restriction of power.

$$\dot{P(t)} = -\frac{1}{k}P(t) \cdot \frac{1}{E(t)}$$

Which means, on a qualitative basis, means that the larger P(t) is (how hard he/she is riding), and the smaller E(t) is (how tired he/she is), the faster $\dot{P}(t)$ will be (he/she will be exhausted more quickly).

On the other hand, a formula is also needed to relate E(t) with the previously discussed motional variables. We notice that the derivative of E(t), or the instant power change, can be described as $P_{\text{intake}} - P_{\text{output}}$. The second term can be calculated as $\dot{E}_{\text{output}} = F \cdot \dot{D}(t) = Fv(t)$. Therefore, we get the following formulae (restrictions are also given based on initial set values):

$$\begin{cases} \dot{E(t)} = \sigma - \left(f + mg \sin \theta + \frac{mgu}{r_{\text{wheel}}} \right) \cdot v(t) \\ E(0) = E_{\text{total}} \\ E(t) \ge 0, \ \forall \ 0 \le t \le t_{\text{total}} \end{cases}$$

$$\Rightarrow E(t) = \left[\sigma - \left(f + mg\sin\theta + \frac{mgu}{r_{\text{wheel}}}\right) \cdot v(t)\right] \cdot t + E_{\text{total}}$$

We substitute the three equation sets above into one equation below:

$$E(t) = -\frac{P(t)}{k \cdot \dot{P(t)}} = -\frac{m\dot{v(t)} + \frac{1}{2}kv(t)^3}{m\dot{v(t)} \cdot \dot{v(t)} + \dot{v(t)}^2 + \frac{3}{2}kv(t)^2}$$

To increase reality and accuracy, we notice the fact that not all of the consumed energy can be converted into actual force. Therefore, we add a pre-factor ϵ before the $P_{\rm output}$. The factor will be calculated through comparations with real-life data. As mentioned before, we use world-record data to achieve this. (Notice that the formulae above also change with the emergece of ϵ)

$$-\frac{m\dot{v(t)} + \frac{1}{2}kv(t)^3}{m\dot{v(t)} \cdot v(t) + \dot{v(t)}^2 + \frac{3}{2}kv(t)^2} = \left[\sigma - \epsilon \cdot \left(f + mg\sin\theta + \frac{mgu}{r_{\text{wheel}}}\right) \cdot v(t)\right] \cdot t + E_{\text{total}}$$

Out of brevity concerns, we let

$$A = F_m - \frac{mgu}{r_{\text{wheel}}} - mg\sin\theta$$

and then by solving the differential equation above, we can get the expression of v(t) as follows:

$$v(t) = \frac{\sqrt{A} \tan h \left[\frac{(mC_1 + t)\sqrt{Ak}}{m} \right]}{\sqrt{k}}$$

After solving the differential equation above and calculating the appropriate ϵ , we plot the velocity function v(t) as follows:

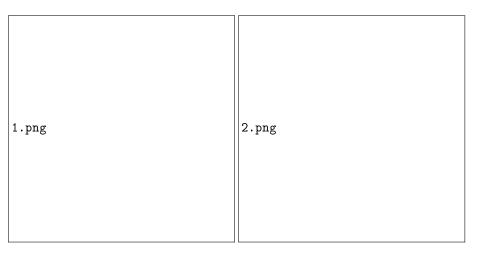


Fig. 4 and 5 Patterns of v(t) on different slopes

We also plot function E(t) as below:

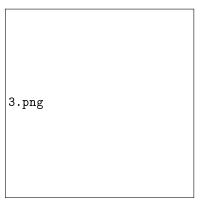


Fig. 6 Energy Pattern when dashing

We can find that if a cyclist starts dashing, his/her remaining energy will have a sharp decline. The transition point $(t_0,0)$ (the point where E(t)=0 represents the maximum time a rider can dash at full power before being exhausted. By observing the graph, we can find that t_0 equals 35.0 s. In addition, by integrating the velocity function, we can get the farthest that an athlete can go under this scenario:

$$D_{\text{first phase}} = \int_{0}^{t_{0}} v\left(t\right) dt$$

, giving that the maximum dashing distance is 788.3m.

• For a part that is longer than that $d_{\text{strategy}}(\theta)$, we choose another strategy: at first, we use a certain amount of energy to *push* the cyclist for a set period of time (which will be discussed later) before it enters the second phase, where the cyclist gradually depletes its energy till it reaches zero. In the end, the cyclist uses his/her remaining inertia to enter the next **series**(downhill course).

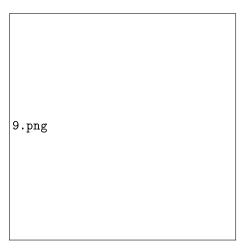


Fig. 7 Velocity pattern while dashing downhill

- For the downhill part, we define θ as the downhill slope. Therefore, we only need to change the sign before any $\sin(\theta)$ term. After altering the formulae, we get the plot above.
- We divide the rest of the *long* uphill slope (or plane) into three phases (speeding up; maintain a certain speed and dashing at E(t) = 0 with inertia).

Suppose the three phases respectively ends at t_1 , t_2 , and t_{actual} . We have the following inter-restrictions on our variables:

$$\begin{cases} E\left(t\right) = 0, \ \forall t_{2} \le t \le t_{\text{actual}} \\ v_{\text{sec ond phase}}\left(t\right) \equiv v_{\text{first phase}}\left(t_{1}\right) \end{cases}$$

1. $0 \le t \le t_1$ (the actual value of t_1 will be discussed later) In this phase, the whole process is just like what has been discussed in the *short course* part.

$$v_1(t) = \frac{\sqrt{A} \tan h \left[\frac{(mC_1 + t)\sqrt{Ak}}{m} \right]}{\sqrt{k}}, \ 0 \le t \le t_1$$

and with this formula, it's easy for us to get the velocity pattern before we turn into the next phase. But first let's see what'll happen during phase 3:

2. $t_2 \le t \le t_{\text{actual}}$ (the actual value of t_2 will be discussed later) We use the restriction $E_{\text{third phase}} \equiv 0$, and therefore:

$$0 = \dot{E(t)} = \sigma - \left(f + mg\sin\theta + \frac{mgu}{r_{\text{wheel}}}\right) \cdot v_3(t)$$

Substitute the derivative of $v_3(t)$ into $m \cdot \dot{v(t)} = \underbrace{\frac{P(t)}{v}}_{\text{which equals } 0} - \frac{1}{2} k_{\text{air}} v^2 - mg \sin{(\theta)}$, we solve that:

3. $t_1 \le t \le t_2$ We calculate the whole distance of the process using integral:

$$D(v(t)) = \int_0^{t_1} v_1(t)dt + v_2(t_2 - t_1) + \int_{v_2}^{t_{\text{actual}}} v_3(t)dt$$

2.3.2 splicing

Now that we've successfully developed a set of strategies that can be applied to a single slope or plain. To get the whole picture of v(t), we need to divide the whole course into several **series** as mentioned above. Therefore, a clear definition of a **turning point** needed.

After this, for a specic course plot, we connect all the adjacent **turning points** and apply our strategies to each of the connected segments, only with these two variables changed:

$$\left\{ \begin{array}{l} v\prime\left(0\right) = v_{\mathrm{end\ of\ last\ section}} \\ E\prime\left(0\right) = E_{\mathrm{end\ of\ last\ section}} \end{array} \right.$$

However, it's also important to note that the *splicing* only works well with relatively regular (especially, **linear**) changes in the slopes. Those with irregular courses will be discussed in the next model.

2.3.3 results on self-designed courses

Under the requirements in the problem, we first designed our own course. As different types of coursed are needed to respectively justify model A and B, we chose to create a more representative course that meets the *almost linear pattern of slopes* condition as mentioned above. Note that with this pattern, model A actually outperforms model B on both accuracy and calculation speed.

Below is given the *bird's-eye view* of the self-designed course (but instead of the horizontal distance one might see from a vertical perspective, the label of numbers on each **series**represents the actual length of that course):

8.png		

Section 3 Model B

§ 3.1 Model Overview

In this model, we will firstly discuss how to descibe rider's basic feature and their power curve in detail. Later, we will also take special factors such as climate ino consideration. Finally, we will apply our model into several world-famous time trial courses to justify our deductions. As mentioned above, model B is applicable to all patterns of slopes, making it more universal but also more complicated than model A.

§ 3.2 Assumptions

1. Raining is not considered in this model.

Many activities have been cancelled or delayed because of rainy days in the past few years. But if the trial's humidity is under the criteria. Roads' dynamic coefficient of friction won't be affected.

2. The change in air density and air pressure can be neglected

Unlike mountain bike races, the change in altitude is small enough ($\leq 200 \mathrm{m}$) to be neglected in the atmospherical scope.

§ 3.3 Notation

m(x)	weight of cyclist	kg
h(x)	height of cyclist	m
BMI(x)	body mass index of cyclist	/
$E_{\text{total}}(x)$	total energy of cyclist	J
$S_{\text{body}}(x)$	body measure	m^2
$t_{ m min}$	the least time spent to complete the game	S
$F_{ m wind}$	wind force	N
t	temperature of the trial	°C
K_b	the Boltzmann constant	/
L	the learning rate of an individual cyclist, or his/her adaptability to different terrains	/

§ 3.4 Individual Factors

In this part, we will mainly discuss the cyclist's total power based on his/her phisycal condition and the type of cyclist he/she is. The relative attributes of an individual cyclist are listed below:

First, we need to have a basic understanding of the cyclist's physical condition. Take Tour de France as an example [?]. Among the champions of this race in the past five years, their average height is 1.808m and their average weight is 68.58kg. Olympic cyclists have an average height of 1.80m and an average of around 68kg[?].

Next, we quantify the attributes of a cyclist with two indicator variables: L represents the cyclist's adaptability to new terrains, or the **learning rate**, which will later be introduced in the algorithms. The higher L is, the more quickly the rider will change his/her strategy during the course. Another indicator ϵ , which has already been mentioned before, measures the rider's capability of converting force into dynamics.

To achieve this, we used the neural networks algorithm to get these two indicators by fitting them into previous records. Relative calculations have already done in the physical analysis part in model A. The process is shown below:

neural networks.png

Fig. The working process of the neural network

Then we randomly pick the parameters and put it into practice using the formulae:

$$\boxed{\text{randomly choose parameters L and ϵ}} \to \boxed{\text{randomly put weights on two edges}}$$

 \rightarrow calculate the relavent variables (E.g v(t)) \rightarrow get the final result of time trial

We compare the standard difference $(r_{\rm exp}-r_{\rm act})^2$ between the expected value and the actual calculated one, and make renders to the parameters. In the end, we got the results when the parameters became relatively stable, as shown below:

		time trial specialist	climber	rouleur	sprinter	puncheur
1	\mathcal{L}	0.95	0.74	0.90	0.65	0.82
ϵ		0.85	0.91	0.90	0.70	1.00

In our model, we use a series of variables with (x) to describe the cyclist's features. These include m(x), h(x), etc. According to the BMI criteria, we can get the formula:

$$BMI(x) = \frac{m(x)}{h^2(x)}$$

Also, since where our body is exposed to air can be seen as a rectangle, we can approximately get that:

$$S_{\text{body}} \propto \text{BMI}(x) \cdot h(x)$$

$$\Rightarrow S_{\text{body}} = k \cdot \frac{m(x)}{h(x)}$$

The total energy can also be given by a weighted sum of the parameters listed:

$$E_{\text{total}} = -k_1 \cdot \text{Gender}(x) + k_2[m(x) - w_0]^2 + k_3 \cdot A \cdot [\text{Age}(x)] + k_4$$

where

$$A(x) = \begin{cases} k_5 \left\{ \sin \left[\frac{(x - 15.5)\pi}{31} \right] + 1 \right\}, & x \le 31 \\ -k_6 (x - 31)^2 + 2k_5, & x > 31 \end{cases}$$

and according to [?], $\max\{E_{\text{total}}\}\approx 2403.5 \text{J} \stackrel{\text{def}}{=\!=\!=} E_0$. By searching the internet [?], we can find that a person reaches his/her maximum energy at the age of 31.

$$\Rightarrow \begin{cases} \lim_{x \to 31^{+}} A(x) = \lim_{x \to 31^{-}} A(x) = E_{0} \\ A(60) = \frac{1}{2} E_{0} \end{cases}$$

Therefore,
$$k_5 = \frac{E_0}{2}$$
 and $k_6 = \frac{k_5}{841}$.

§ 3.5 Weather Conditions

Weather condition also plays a vital part in the cyclists's strategy. In this part, we will mianly discuss two kinds of weather condition: temperature and wind force.

3.5.1 Temperature

Temperature mainly has an impact on human's speed of metabolism. 20° to 30° is the the zone where human can complete phisical actions in the most comfortable way. If the environment's temperature is over or below whis number, speed of metabolsim will decline. The greater the difference is ,the more quickly the speed decline. Therefore we can get the following formula:

$$\sigma \propto e^{-\frac{E_{\rm total}}{K_b t}}$$

 $(K_b$ here refers to the Boltz constant which equals 1.38×10^-16 per degree calcius)

3.5.2 Wind Force

Secondly, we need to discuss the wind force. Since there is wind disturbing the cyclists, we can assume that air resistance no longer exists. This picture below shows the situation where a rider is facing the wind. So we can get the following formula:

$$F_{\text{wind}} = \rho_{\text{air}} \cdot S_{\text{body}} v^2$$

#this is a picture

§ 3.6 Recalculate Speed Function

After we have discussed the weather's impact on our model, we need to polish it so that it can be applied to special cases as well. Considering that there is no air resistance but wind force now, we need to recalculate the speed function.

If the momentum is a constant number (which we define as F(t)), we can get the following formulae:

$$m\dot{v(t)} = F(t) - f - F_f - mg\sin\theta = F(t) - k_{\text{air}}v(t)^2 - \frac{mgu}{r_{\text{wheel}}} - mg\sin\theta$$
$$v(0) = 0$$
$$0 \le F(t) \le F_m$$

and:

$$\dot{E}(t) = \sigma - F(t) \cdot v(t)$$

$$E(0) = E_{\text{total}}$$

$$E(t) > 0$$

To facilitate our calculation, we define *A*. The definition from ula is as follow:

$$\mathbf{A} = F_m - \frac{mgu}{\mathbf{r}_{\text{wheel}}} - mg\sin\theta$$

Finally, we combine all the factors together and get the formulae:

$$v(0) = \frac{\sqrt{A} \tan h \left(C_1 \sqrt{Ak} \right)}{\sqrt{k}}$$

By doing this we can get the result: $C_1 = 0$

$\S~3.7~$ Applying to Reallife Trials

6.png			

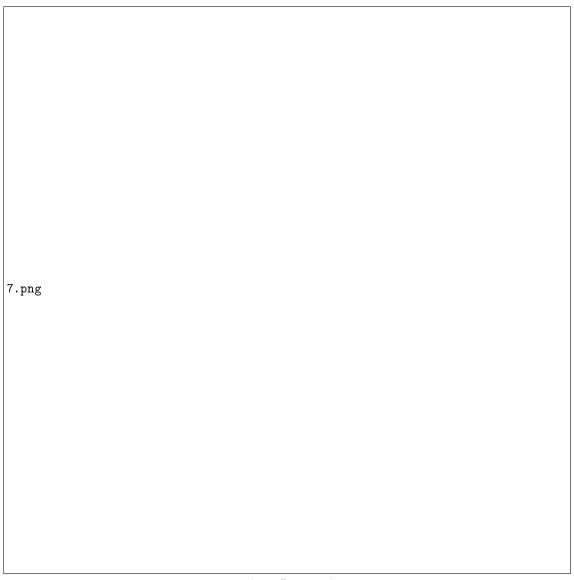


Fig. 6 and 7 Different trial courses

In addition to the two courses already given,

§ 3.8 Sensitivity Analysis

Section 4 Model C

§ 4.1 Model Overview

In this part, we will build a dynamic sytem based on the relationship between all of these factors.

§ 4.2 Notation

Section 5 Strengths and Weaknesses

Strengths

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Weaknesses

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Section 6 Letter To the Two Athletes

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