

## Objectives

1. Understand mechanical work and its relationship to various forms of mechanical energy: kinetic, potential gravitational, and potential strain
2. Understand the difference between positive and negative work within a biomechanics context
3. Understand mechanical power

## Summary

- Mechanical work (U) is a quantity describing the extent to which a force can move an object:  $U = F \cdot d$
- Mechanical energy (E) is the ability to perform work; work results a change in energy:  $U = F \cdot d = \Delta E$
- In this context, three forms of mechanical energy are considered: kinetic, potential gravitational, and potential strain  
 $KE = \frac{1}{2} \cdot m \cdot v^2$ ;  $GE = wt \cdot ht$ ;  $SE = \frac{1}{2} \cdot k \cdot x^2$
- Mechanical power is the rate of change of work; work that can be performed in a certain amount of time.

## Work, Energy, & Power

Another way of describing the effect of a force:

- Mechanical work (U) is done on an object when a force causes a change in position
- Work done on a body by a force equals average force multiplied by displacement

$$U = F \cdot d$$

- Units of measurement:  
Nm or Joule (J)



## Work, Energy, & Power

A relatively simple example:

Lifting a 22 N barbell 0.4 m,

Lowering a 22 N barbell the same displacement...

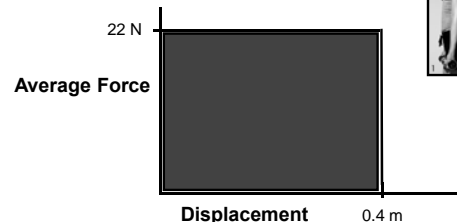


Positive Work is often associated with concentric muscle action, while Negative Work is often associated with eccentric muscle action

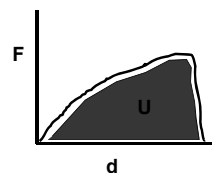
## Work, Energy, & Power

Another way to view mechanical work performed on the barbell...  $U = \text{Area under the force—displacement curve}$

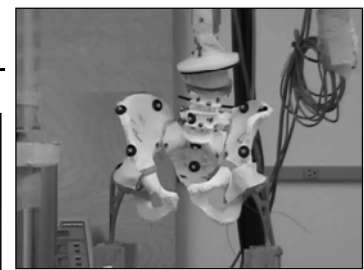
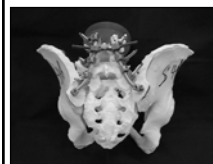
22 N barbell 0.4 m from the floor



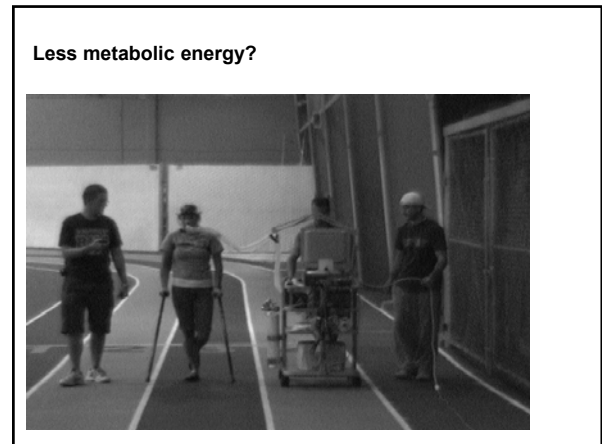
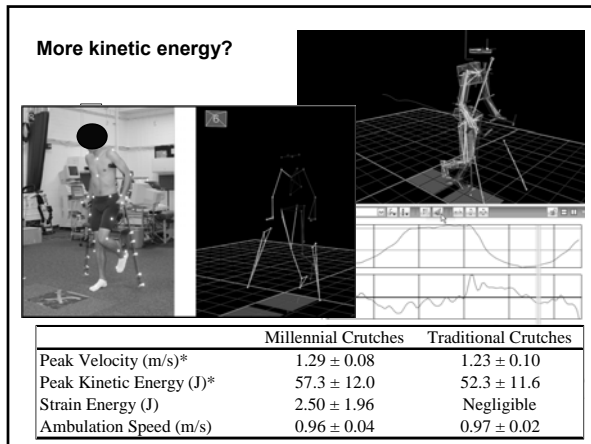
## Work, Energy, & Power



$$U = F \cdot d$$







**Work–Energy Relationship**

When a force other than gravity does work on an object, there is a change in total mechanical energy

This work is equal to the change in total energy that it produces on the object

$$U = \Delta KE + \Delta GE + \Delta SE + \Delta TE + \Delta ME$$

Note: Energy sources other than KE and GE are more difficult to measure and will be excluded from our analyses.

**Work–Energy Relationship**

$$U = \Delta KE + \Delta GE$$

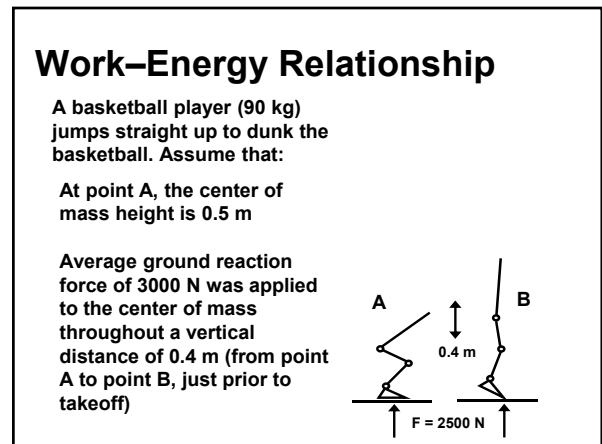
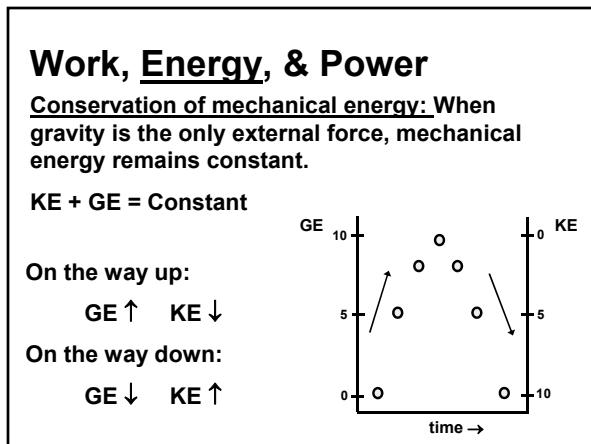
Consider the barbell we discussed previously: prior to the lift, what was the barbell's energy?

No velocity, no height, no energy.

After the lift, what was the barbell's energy?

No velocity, but some height and some energy.

The change in energy equals the work done.



## Work–Energy Relationship

1. How much work was performed?
2. How much total mechanical energy did the athlete have 1-ms after leaving the ground? How about at 100 ms?
3. Comparing these times (from 1 ms to 100 ms), did KE and GE increase or decrease?
4. Using conservation of energy, how high was the center of mass raised?
5. Check your answer using the projectile motion equations from Chapter 2.



## Work, Energy, & Power

Power is the rate at which work is performed

$$\text{power} = \frac{\text{work}}{\text{change in time}} = \frac{U}{\Delta t}$$

$$\text{power} = \frac{\text{force} \times \text{distance}}{\text{change in time}} = \frac{F \cdot d}{\Delta t}$$

$$\text{Since } v = \frac{d}{\Delta t}, \quad \text{power} = F \cdot v$$

Units of measurement: J/s or Watts      1 Watt = 1 J/s

## Work, Energy, & Power

Back to the stair climbing example (see slide 7)

$$W = 3500 \text{ J} \quad \text{Case 1: } t = 20 \text{ s}$$

$$\text{Case 2: } t = 5 \text{ s}$$

What is the power?

$$\text{Case 1: } P = \frac{3500 \text{ J}}{20 \text{ s}} = 175 \text{ J/s} = 175 \text{ W}$$

$$\text{Case 2: } P = \frac{3500 \text{ J}}{5 \text{ s}} = 700 \text{ J/s} = 700 \text{ W}$$

Power is an indicator of the intensity of the task.

## Work, Energy, & Power

Components of human power production:

strength (force producing ability) and speed of muscle contraction

What does it mean to be “powerful“?

- Cars - main advantage of high hp engine is not in producing a high top speed, but high acceleration (e.g., 0-60 mph in short time)
- Human sprinter - high power output capability is especially important to success
  - tied to ability to accelerate to top speed
  - capability of producing high muscle forces with relatively high speeds of muscle shortening

## Work, Energy, & Power

Power is important as we seek the ideal balance between force and speed.

Force × Velocity Relationship: as speed increases, maximal force production capability decreases (think of pedaling a multi-speed bicycle)

What is best?

It likely depends most upon the nature of the task, and especially the duration, of the task. Somewhere in the middle is often best.



## Summary

- Mechanical work (U) is a quantity describing the extent to which a force can move an object:  $U = F \cdot d$
- Mechanical energy (E) is the ability to perform work; work requires a change in energy:  $U = \Delta E$
- In biomechanics, we often most concerned with kinetic energy, and potential energy related to height and deformation
  - $KE = \frac{1}{2} \cdot m \cdot v^2$ ;     $GE = wt \cdot ht$ ;     $SE = \frac{1}{2} \cdot k \cdot x^2$
- Power is the rate of change of work, or the amount of work that can be performed in a certain amount of time