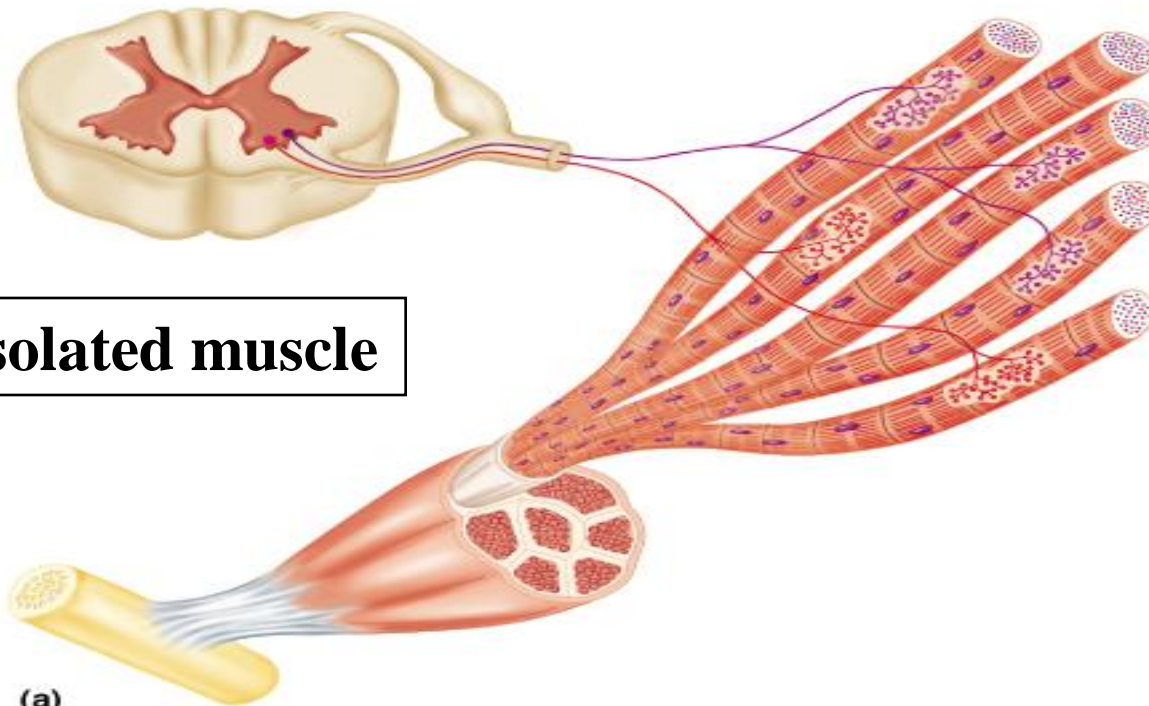


# Skeletal Muscle Physio.

*in vivo* - living organism

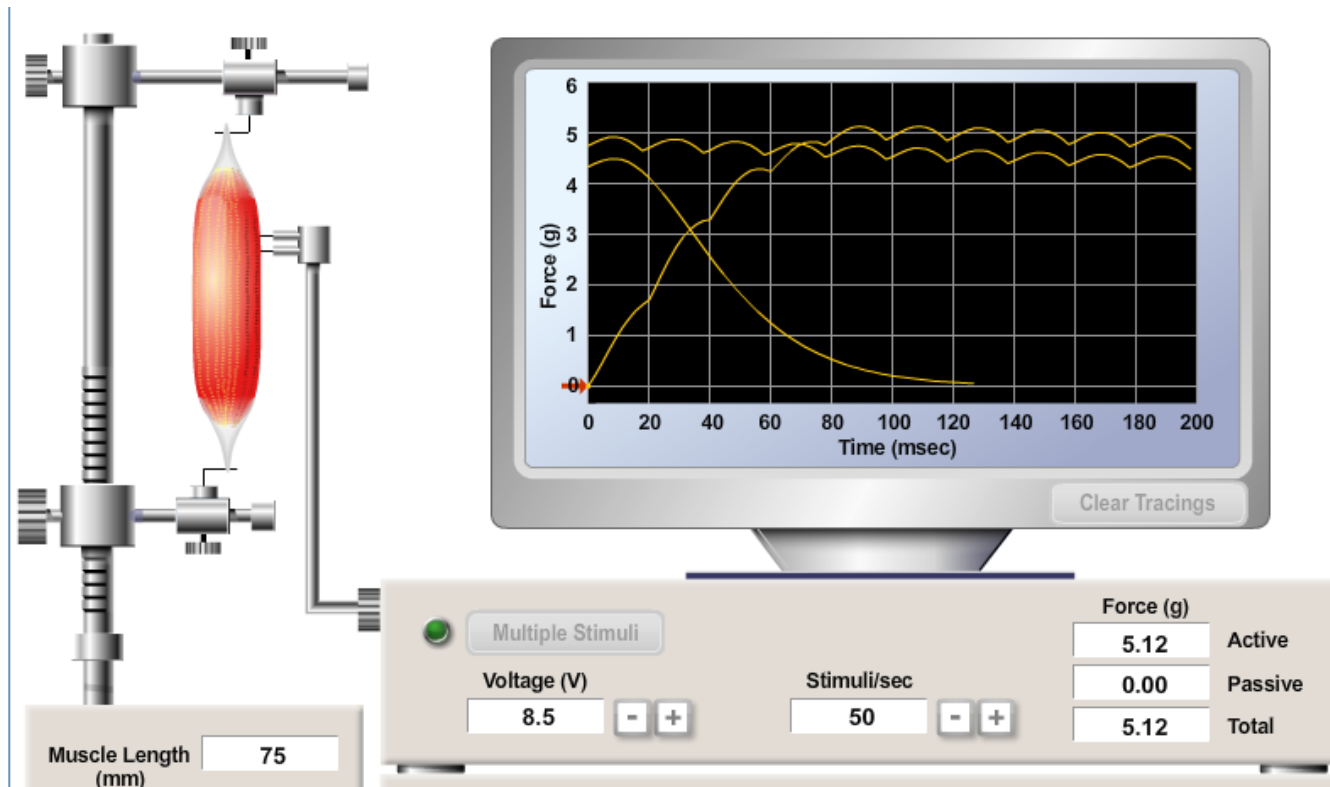
*in vitro* - isolated muscle



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# Lab Setup

- 1) biological material:
  - a) pithed frog - exposed muscle or b) isolated skeletal muscle
- 2) oscilloscope : stimulating & recording electrodes



# Lab Results Summary

## 1) single stimulus:

- ↑ stimulus intensity -> stronger muscle twitches

## 2) multiple stimuli:

↑ stimulus frequency -> graded muscle resp.

## 3) isometric contractions (muscle length changes)

a) shortened & stretched muscles -> less force

b) natural length muscles -> most force

## 4) isotonic contractions (weight changes)

a) lighter weights – faster & longer pickup

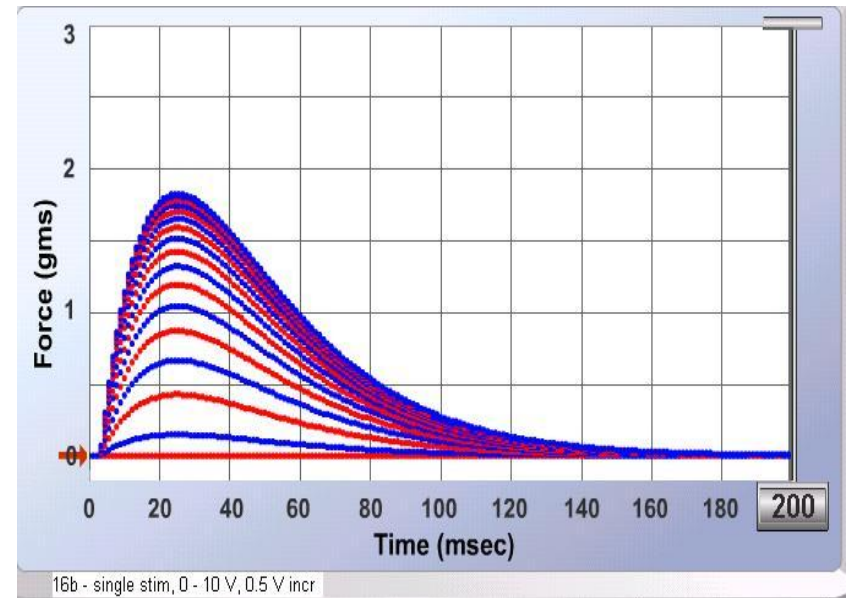
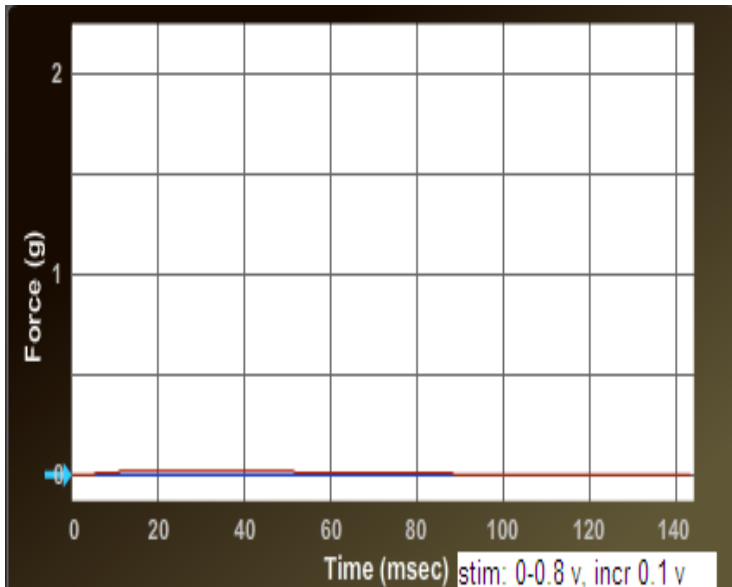
b) heavier weights – slower & shorter pickup

# Stimulus Strength $\Delta$

$\uparrow$  stimulus strength  $\rightarrow$  stronger muscle twitches

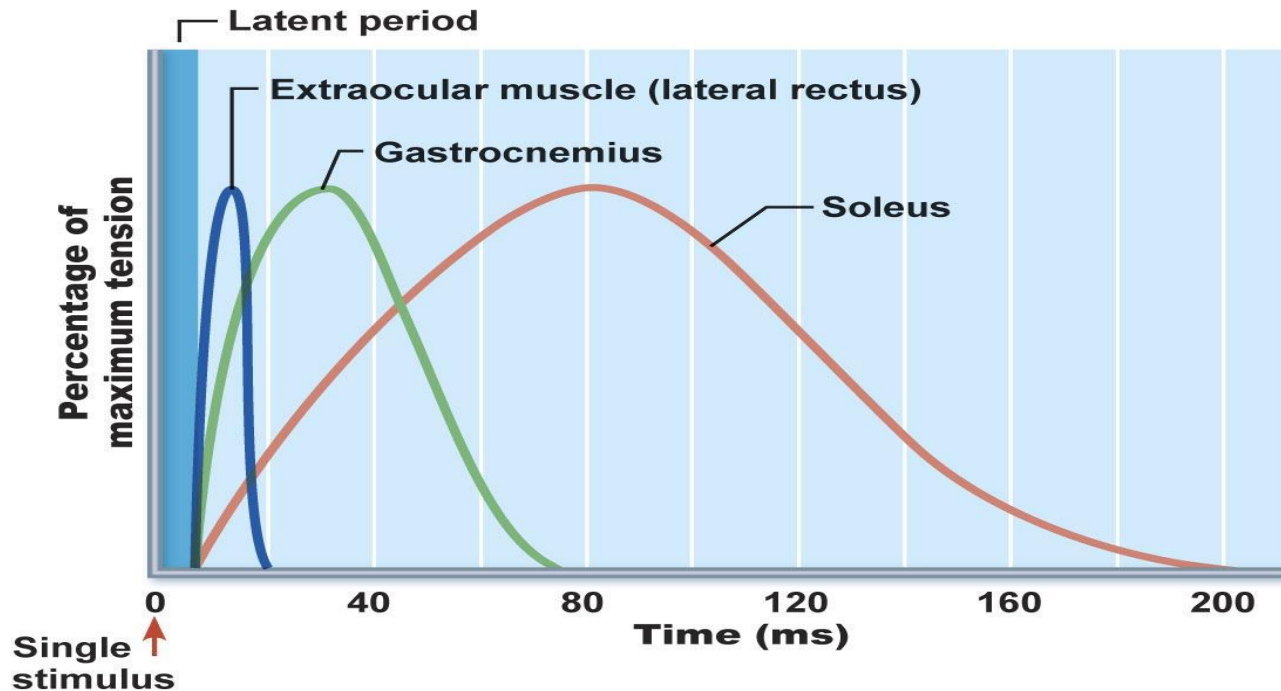
**Stimulus Range:**  
**below threshold**  
**- no twitch**

**threshold to maximal**  
**- stronger twitch, to limit**



# Twitch Duration & Speed (1)

3 muscle fibers: fast glycolytic, fast oxidative, slow oxidative



(b) Comparison of the relative duration of twitch responses of three muscles

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note:  $y = \% \text{ max. tension, not muscle force (g)}$

## **Twitch Duration & Speed (2)**

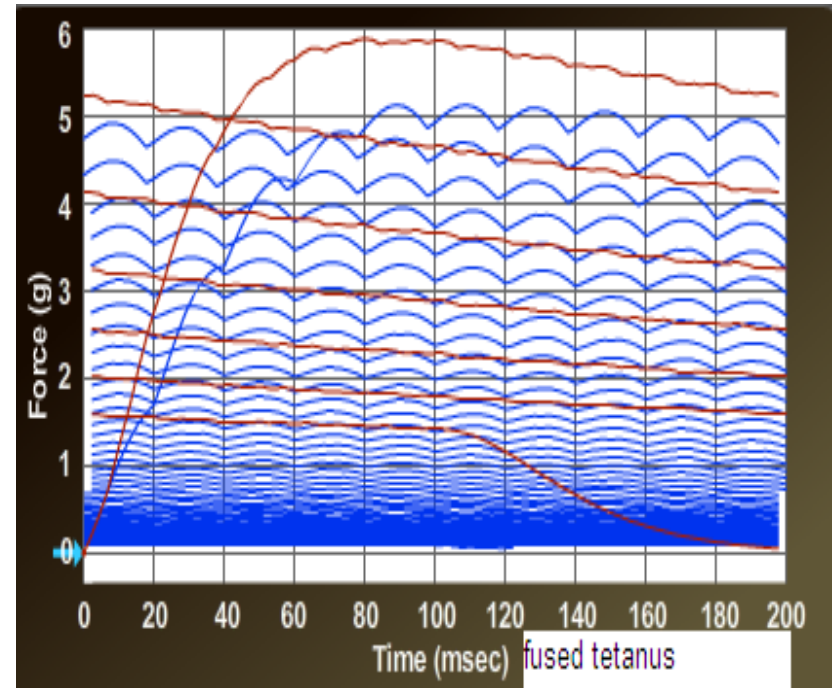
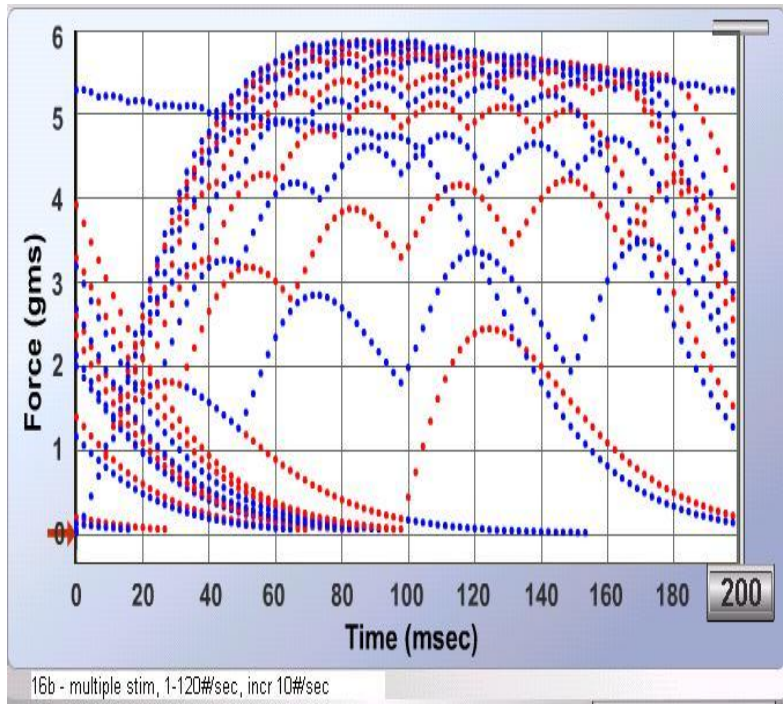
- 1) extra-ocular muscle: short and fast twitch**
    - move and rotate eyeball**
    - mostly fast glycolytic fibers (white)**
  
  - 2) gastrocnemius (calf): in-between twitch**
    - flex foot and knee**
    - mostly fast oxidative fibers (pink)**
  
  - 3) soleus (calf): long and slow twitch**
    - flex foot, posture in running**
    - mostly slow oxidative fibers (red)**
- \* each muscle: diff. distrib. of 3 muscle fibers**

# Muscle Fiber Types (1)

| <b>feature</b>      | <b>red</b>                | <b>pink</b>               | <b>white</b>               |
|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|----------------------------|
| <b>1) metab.</b>    | <b>slow<br/>oxidative</b> | <b>fast<br/>oxidative</b> | <b>fast<br/>glycolytic</b> |
| <b>2) capillary</b> | <b>extensive</b>          | <b>medium</b>             | <b>sparse</b>              |
| <b>3) ATP</b>       | <b>aerobic</b>            | <b>aerobic</b>            | <b>anaerobic</b>           |
| <b>4) fatigue</b>   | <b>slowly</b>             | <b>medium</b>             | <b>quickly</b>             |
| <b>5) site</b>      | <b>trunk, calf</b>        | <b>legs</b>               | <b>arms</b>                |
| <b>6) activity</b>  | <b>run, posture</b>       | <b>walk</b>               | <b>lift, spring</b>        |

# Stimulus Frequency $\Delta$

- ↑ stimulus frequency  $\rightarrow$  graded muscle resp.
- wave summation graphs: treppe, unfused and fused tetanus, fatigue

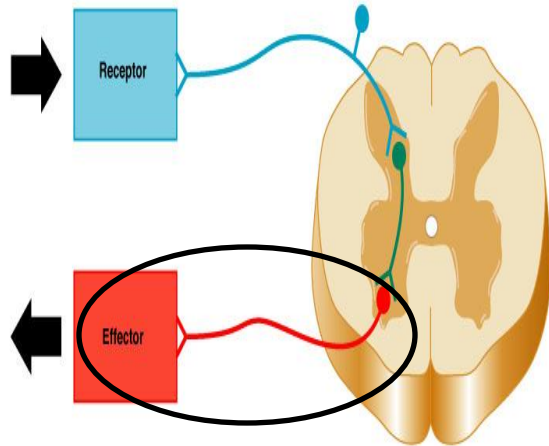




# Neural Circuit - Muscle Response

CNS: motor cortex, descending tract

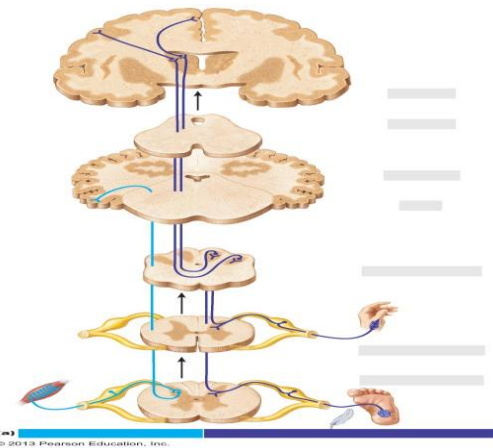
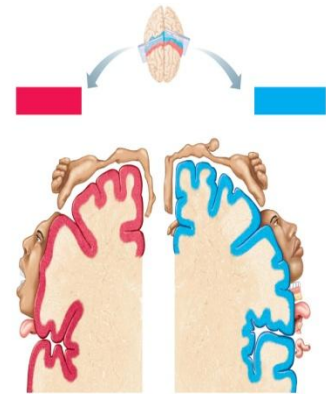
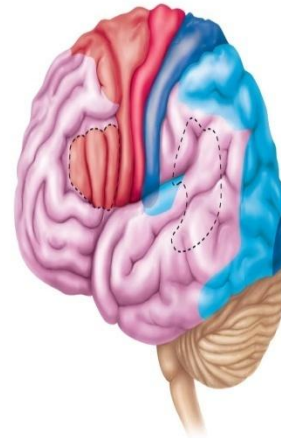
Stimulus



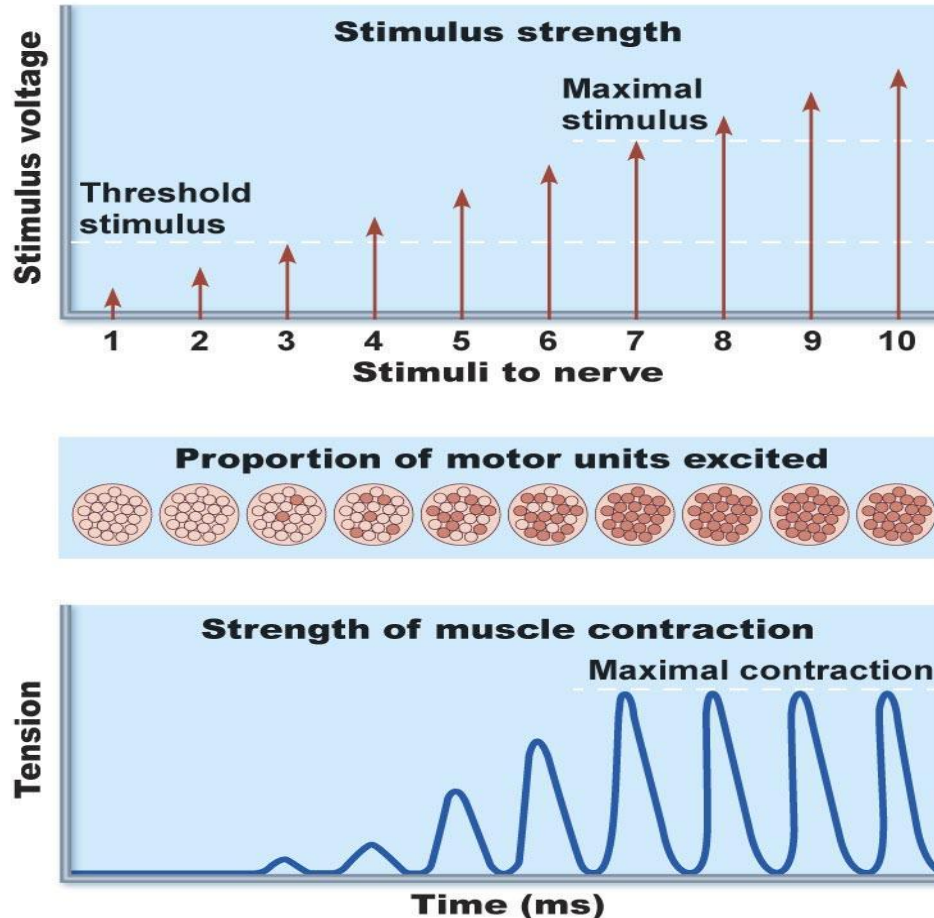
Response  
(muscle contracts)

(motor unit)

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# Recruitment (motor unit summation)



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**stimulus range:**  
threshold ->  
maximal

**recruitment:**  
↑ stim. intensity  
-> ↑ #motor units  
-> ↑ tension  
(max # units =  
max. force limit)

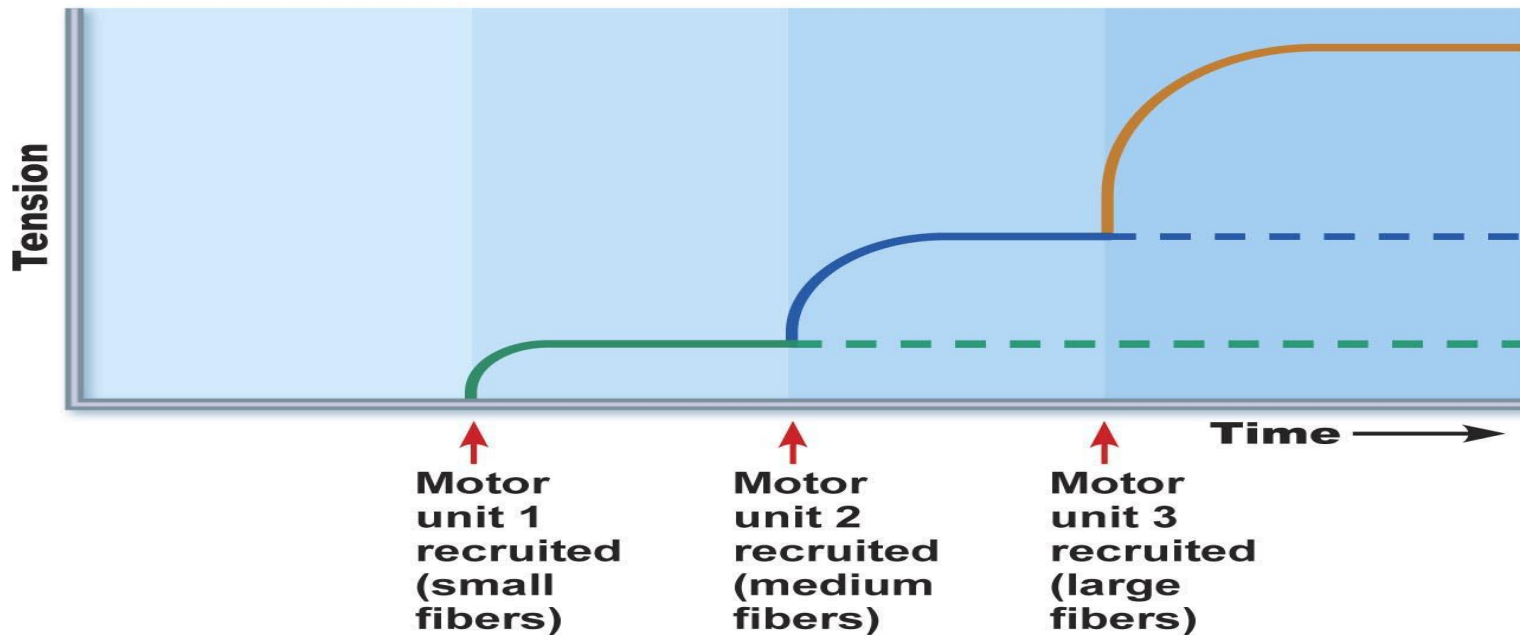
# Recruitment (motor unit size)

**recruitment sequence:**

**smallest (least force & fatigue) -> largest (most)**

**- muscles have all 3 motor unit sizes**

**- energy conservation; reduce fatigue**



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# Terms (1)

## 1) twitch

- one stimulus
- one sized contraction
- explosive build-up
- prod.  $\uparrow$  force by  $\uparrow$ # motor units
- due to  $\uparrow$ stimulus intensity

## 2) wave summation

- multiple stimulus
  - many, diff. sized contractions
  - slow build-up
  - prod.  $\uparrow$  force from same motor units
  - due to  $\uparrow$  stimulus freq. (rate)
- = temporal summation (added in time)

## Terms (2)

### 3) tetanus

- **example of wave summation**
- **tetanus - incl. uninterrupted, sustained contractions**
- **incomplete or unfused tetanus - prior to tetanus**
- **needed in “work”: muscle contraction force > load**
- **prod. from same # motor units**

### 4) motor unit summation

- **recruit: prod. ↑force from ↑ # motor units**
- **stimulus range: (↑ stimulus intensity; muscle limits)**
  - a) threshold = min. stim. intensity for response**
  - b) max. stimulus = max. stim. intensity for response**
    - **no stronger response as all motor units recruited**

# Muscle Force

## **muscle contractions**

→ **muscle force to hold or move weights**

### **1) isometric contractions**

- **hold weights in position**

  - **posture (body weight)**

    - eg pitching position, push wall**

  - **stationary load**

    - eg hold dumb bell**

### **2) isotonic contractions**

- **move weights a distance**

  - **lift weight eg move baby up or down**

# **Muscle Length**

## **muscle contractions**

**→ muscle length change or not,  
which affects if a load is moved or not**

### **1) isometric contractions**

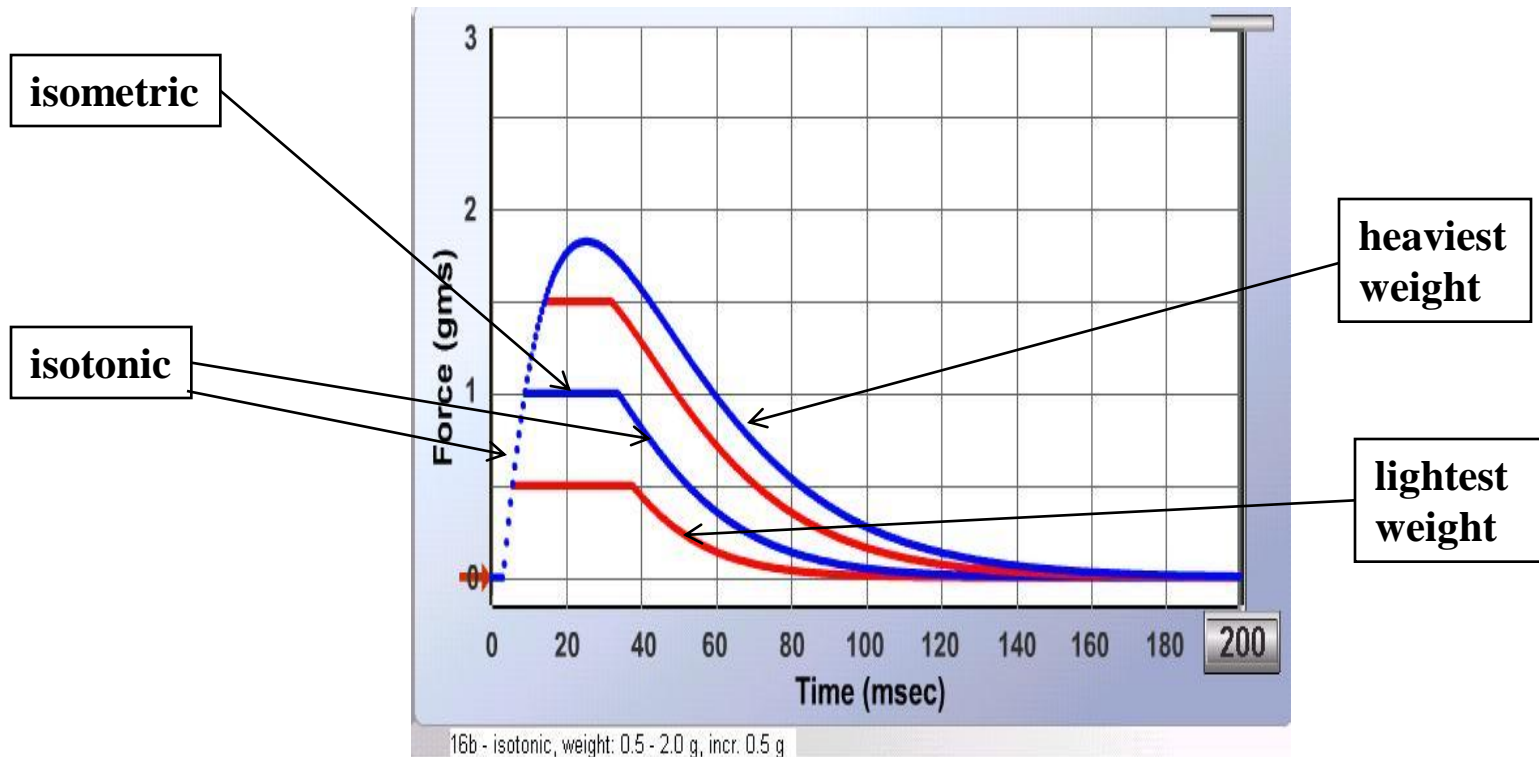
- load is not moved**
- muscle length - does not change**

### **2) isotonic contractions**

- load is moved**
- muscle length does change**  
**(concentric - shortens, eccentric - lengthens)**

# Isotonic & Isometric Combined

- a) 3 phases: isotonic → isometric → isotonic
- b) isotonic: lift & put down weight
- c) isometric: hold weight
  - longest time with the lightest weight
  - moment only with heaviest weight

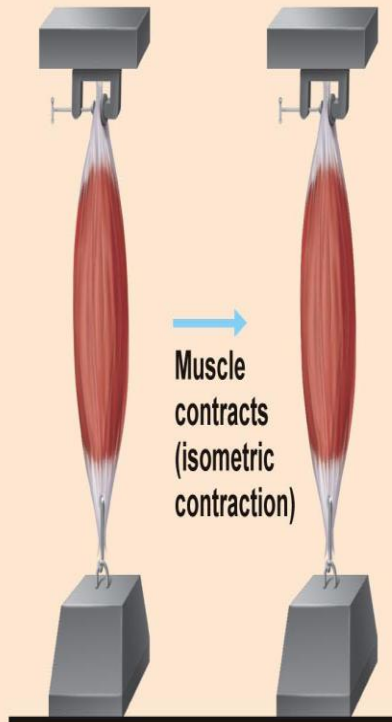




# Isometric Contractions

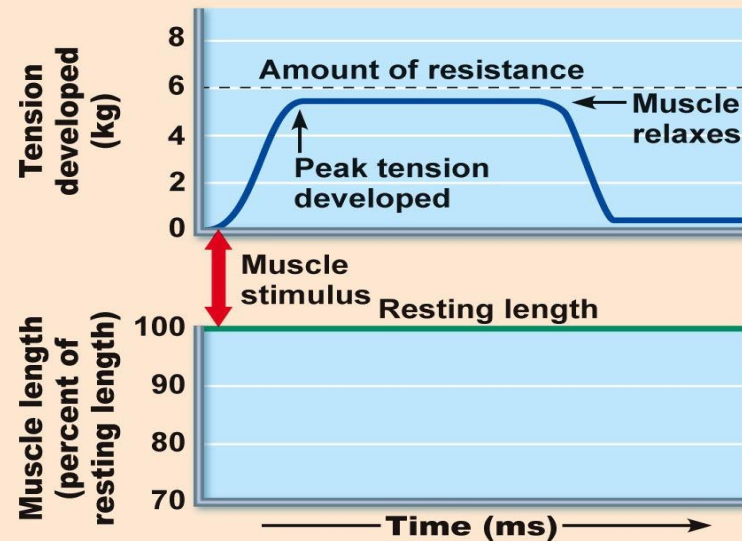
## (b) Isometric contraction

Muscle is attached to a weight that exceeds the muscle's peak tension-developing capabilities. When stimulated, the tension increases to the muscle's peak tension-developing capability, but the muscle does not shorten.



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## (b) Isometric contraction



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force does not match load  
length remains the same  
load is not moved; no work

# Muscle Length $\Delta$

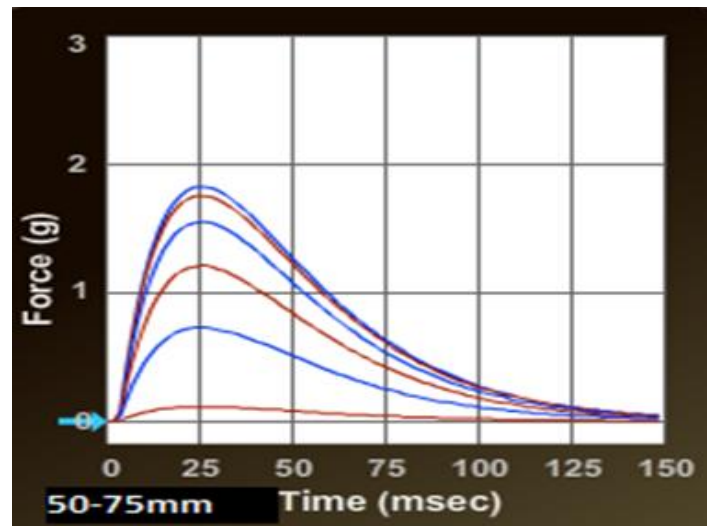
- **isometric contractions\***

a) **shortened to natural muscle length: force increases**

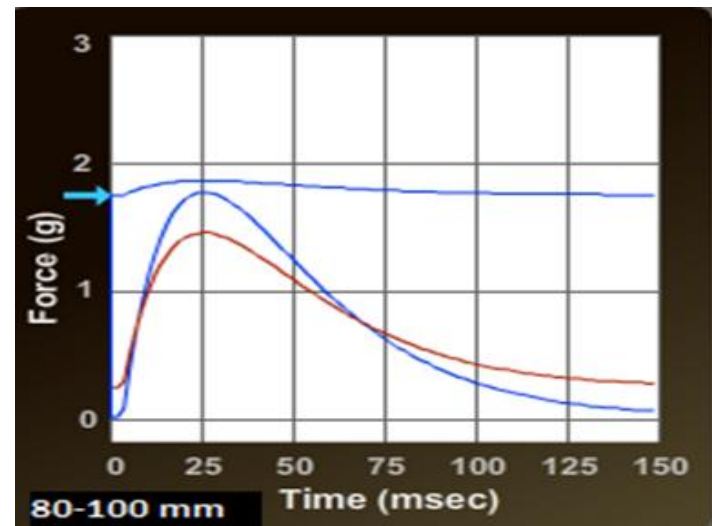
b) **natural to stretched muscle length: force decreases**

**\* work is not performed**

**50–75 mm: force increase**

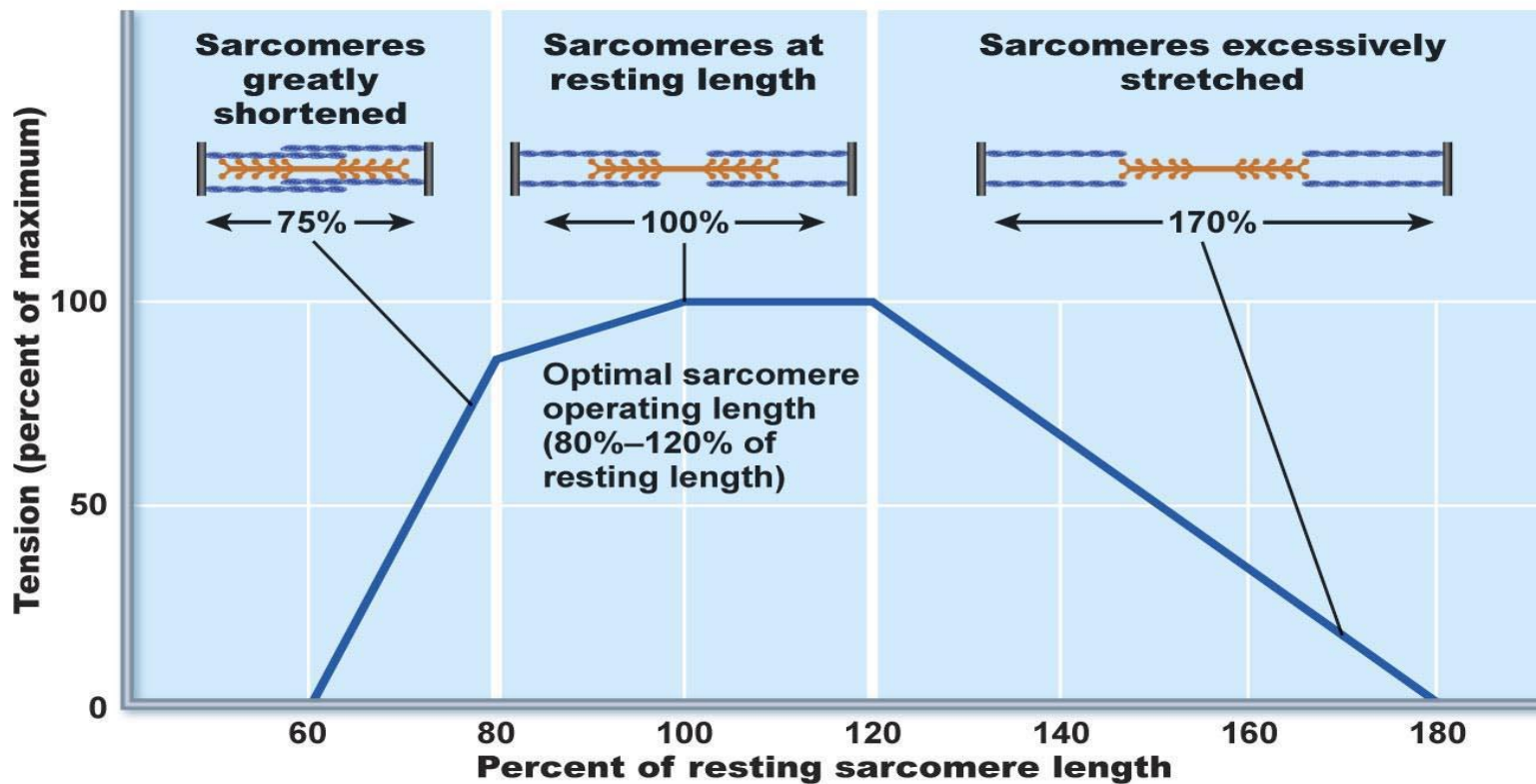


**80–100 mm: force decrease**



# Length - Tension (1)

relaxed (resting length) muscle: most force



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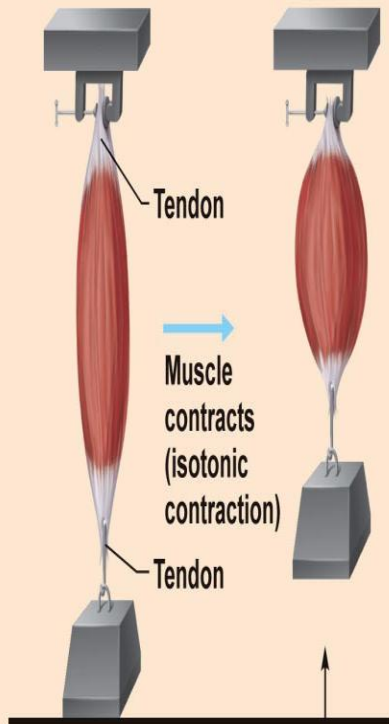
## Length - Tension (2)

- a) cramped muscle (shortened length, 60-80%)**
  - prod 0-80% force
  - eg handcuffs, arthritis
  
- b) relaxed muscle (natural length, 80-120% )**
  - prod 80-100% force
  - eg stretch before workout
  
- c) stretched muscle (pulled length, 120-180%)**
  - prod 100-0% force
  - eg strait jacket

# Isotonic Contractions

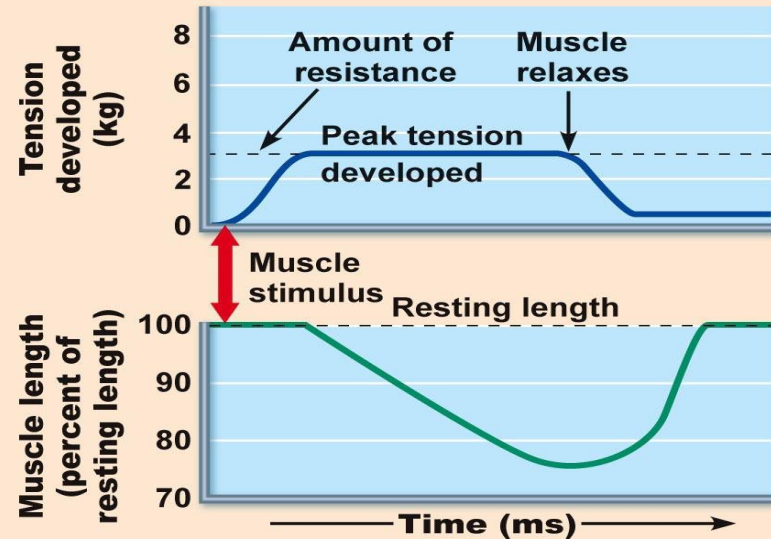
## (a) Concentric isotonic contraction

On stimulation, muscle develops enough tension (force) to lift the load (weight). Once the resistance is overcome, the muscle shortens, and the tension remains constant for the rest of the contraction.



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## (a) Concentric isotonic contraction



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force matches the load  
length changes (shortens)  
load is moved; work occurs

# Muscle Length Changes

## Isotonic contraction: muscle **length** changes

### a) concentric changes (towards center)

- muscles shorten during contraction
- eg lift baby up (biceps shorten)

### b) eccentric changes (away from center)

- muscles lengthen during contraction
- eg put baby down (biceps lengthen)

## Isometric contraction: no muscle length change

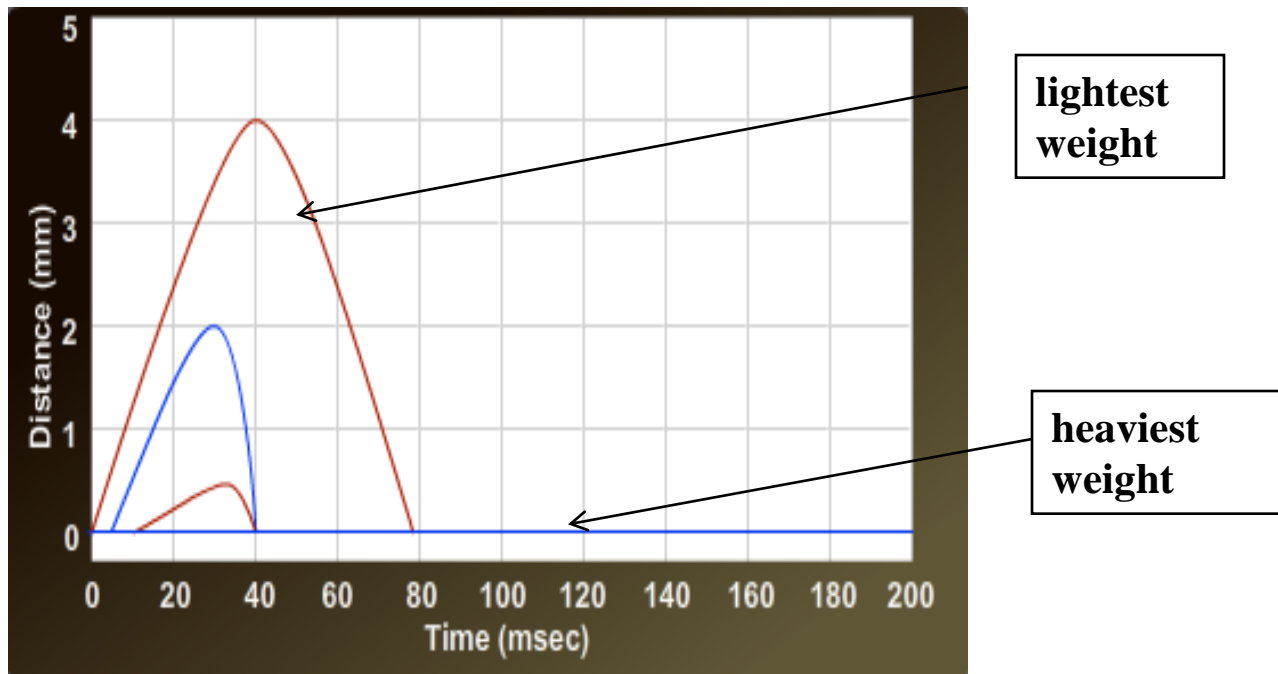
- muscle length remains the same length
- eg keep holding baby (biceps remain same length)

# Isotonic - Work

**work is performed: load is moved a distance**

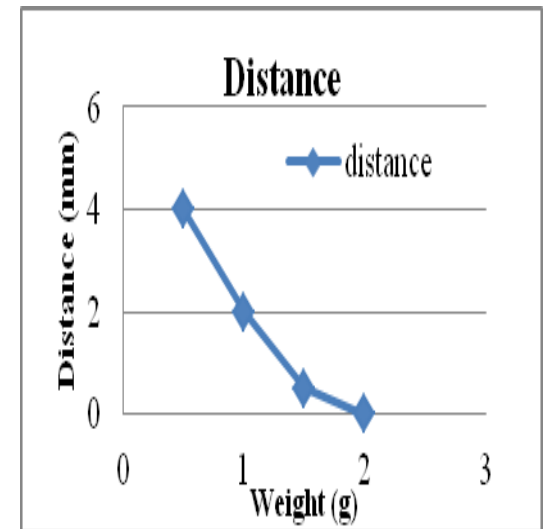
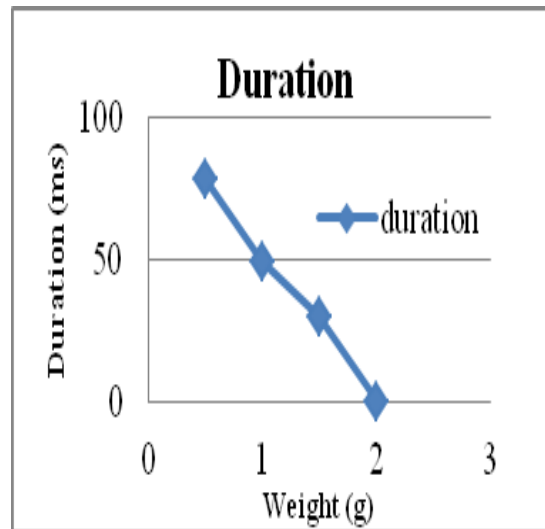
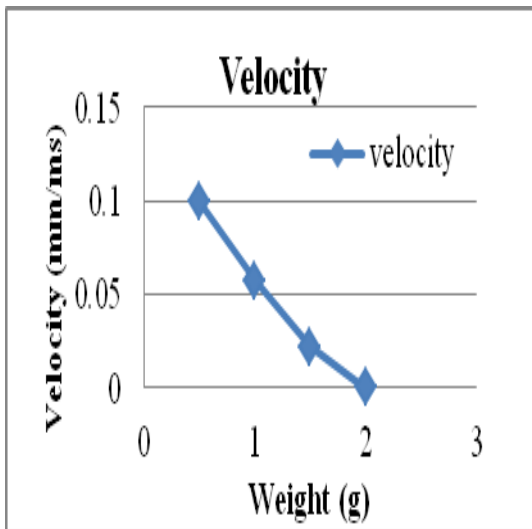
**a) lightest weight pickup – ↑ distance & time**

**b) heaviest weight pickup – ↓ " & "**



# Isotonic Only - 3 factors

- a) lightest weight pickup – fastest speed, ↑ distance & time  
b) heaviest weight pickup – slowest " , ↓ " & "





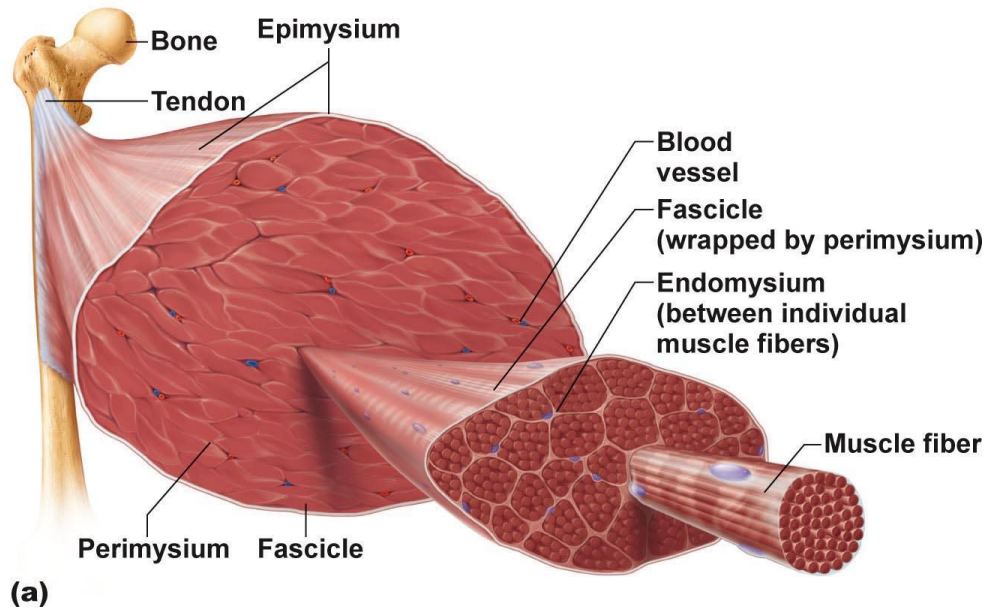
# Isotonic vs Isometric

| <b>Feature</b>        | <b>Isotonic</b>             | <b>Isometric</b>           |
|-----------------------|-----------------------------|----------------------------|
| <b>1) force gen.</b>  | <b>yes</b>                  | <b>yes</b>                 |
| <b>2) changes in</b>  | <b>length</b>               | <b>force</b>               |
| <b>3) work occur</b>  | <b>yes</b>                  | <b>no</b>                  |
| <b>4) muscle dev.</b> | <b>strength &amp; flex.</b> | <b>strength &amp; mass</b> |
| <b>5) activities</b>  | <b>aerobics</b>             | <b>body bldg/yoga</b>      |

# Muscle Contraction Factors

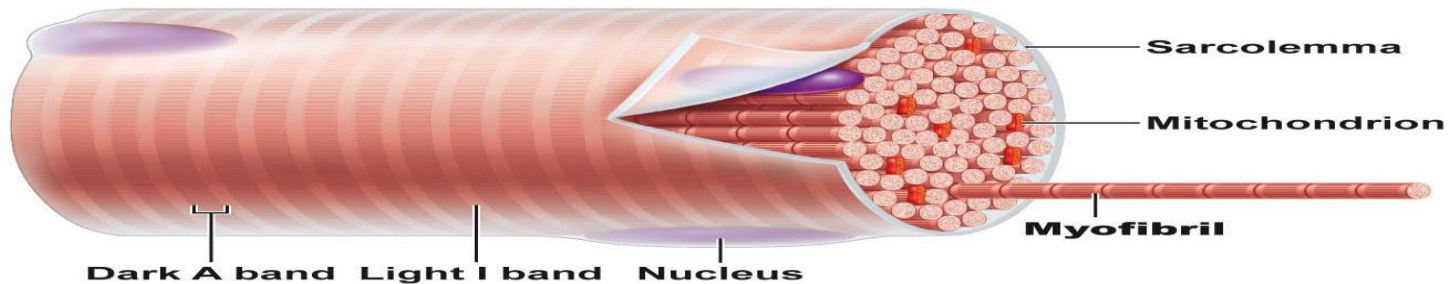
- 1) **force/tension (contractile force)**
  - a) # muscle fibers stimulated
  - b) size of muscle fibers stimulated
  - c) frequency of stimulation
  - d) degree of muscle stretch
    - **length-tension relationship**
    - **isometric contractions**
  
- 2 & 3) **velocity, duration**
  - e) muscle fiber type
  - f) load – **isotonic contractions**
  - g) recruitment

# Skel. Muscle Levels



- 5 levels:**
- 1) muscle**
  - 2) fasciculus**
  - 3) fiber**
  - 4) myofibril  
(sarcomere)**
  - 5) myo-  
filament**

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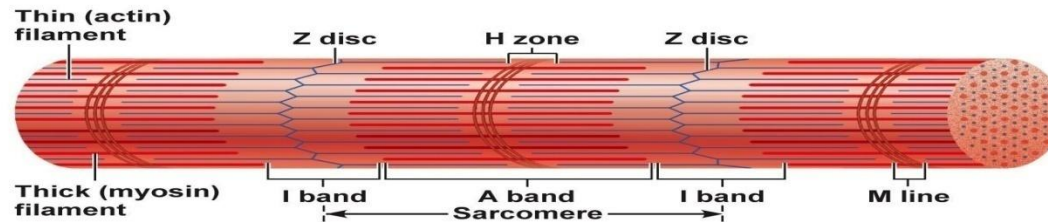


**(b) Diagram of part of a muscle fiber showing the myofibrils. One myofibril is extended from the cut end of the fiber.**

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# Sarcomere

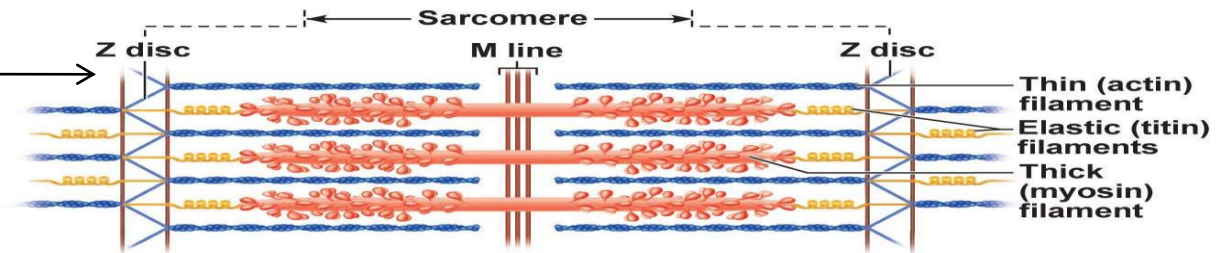
myofibril



(c) Small part of one myofibril enlarged to show the myofilaments responsible for the banding pattern. Each sarcomere extends from one Z disc to the next.

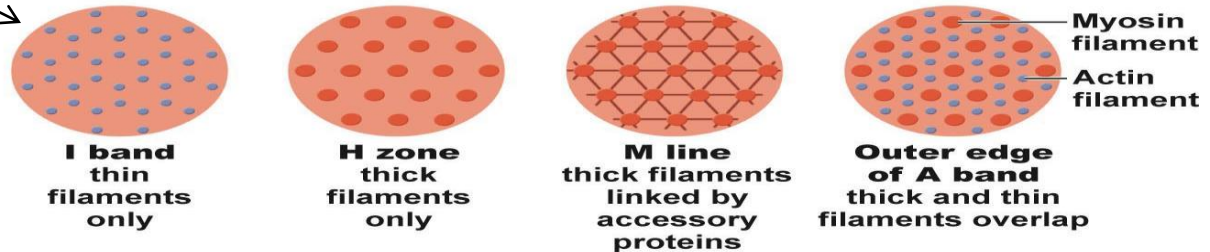
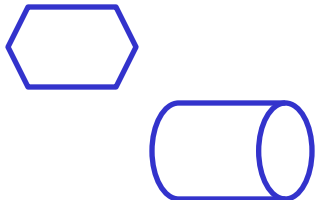
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sarcomere  
note:  
hexagon  
shape



(d) Enlargement of one sarcomere (sectioned lengthwise). Notice the myosin heads on the thick filaments.

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(e) Cross-sectional view of a sarcomere cut through in different locations.

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# Parts of the Sarcomere

## a) components:

- 1) 2 bands: light (I) & dark (A) bands
- 2) 3 filaments: myosin, actin, titin
- 3) zone: H zone
- 4) line: Z line/disc, M line

## b) striations:

- 1) dark: A band (myosin, H zone, part of actin)
- 2) light: I band ( part of actin, Z line)

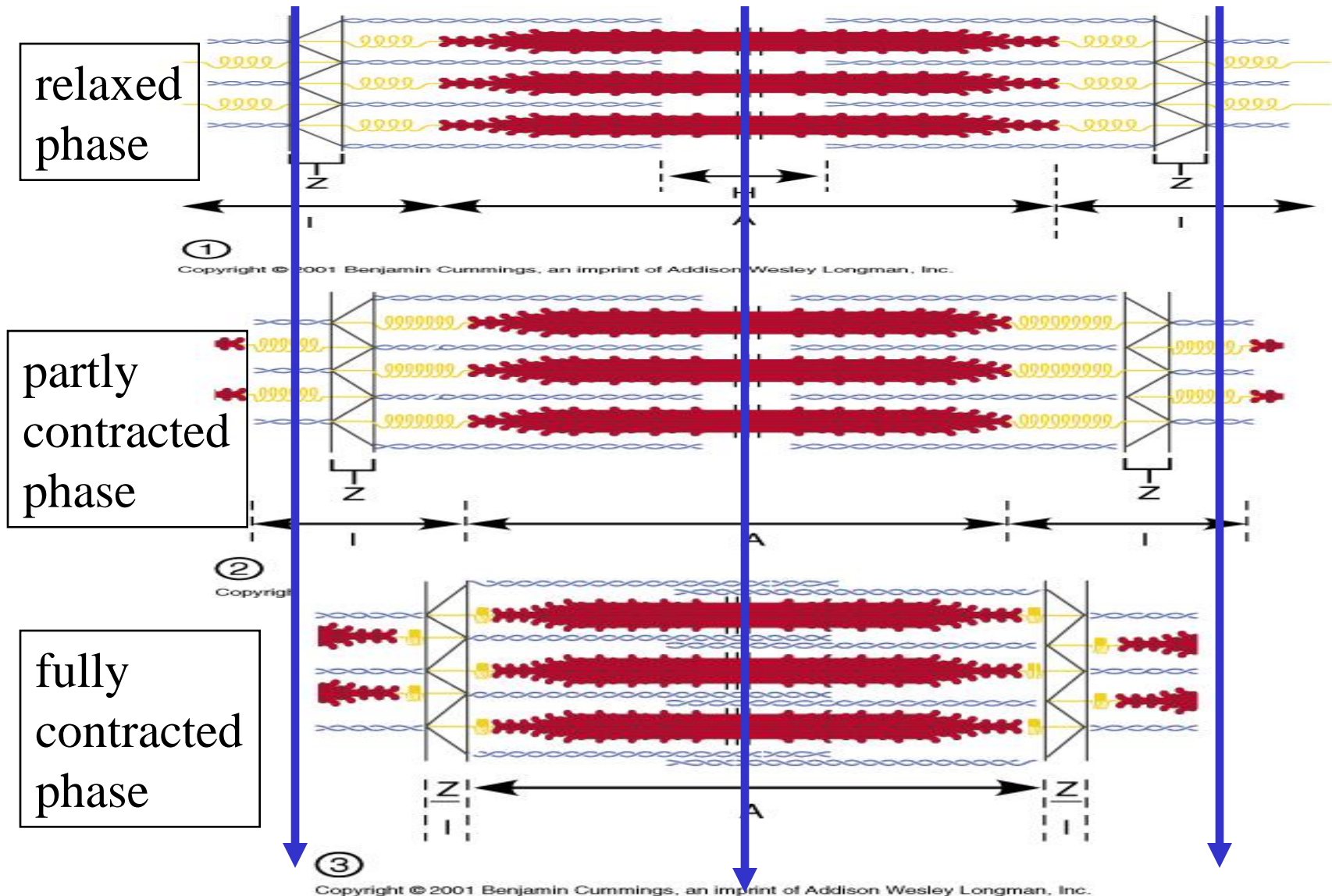
## c) hexagonal shape: 1 thick to 6 thin filaments

## d) zig-zag fit of indiv. sarcomeres

## e) contraction phases:

- relaxed, partially contracted, fully contracted

# Sarcomere Contractions (2)



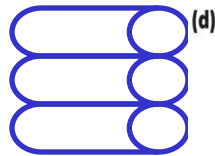
# Sarcomere Contraction (3)

| <b>Phase</b>                      | <b>Dark (A) band</b> |              |               | <b>Light (I) band</b> |               |                  |
|-----------------------------------|----------------------|--------------|---------------|-----------------------|---------------|------------------|
|                                   | <b>myos.</b>         | <b>actin</b> | <b>H zone</b> | <b>actin</b>          | <b>Z line</b> | <b>titin</b>     |
| <b>1) relaxed phase</b>           | same                 | apart        | open          | visible with space    | relaxed,      | long             |
| <b>2) partly contracted phase</b> | same                 | closer       | part closed   | less visible          | less space    | tighter, shorter |
| <b>3) fully contracted phase</b>  | same                 | over-lap     | over-closed   | not visible           | little space  | tight, short     |

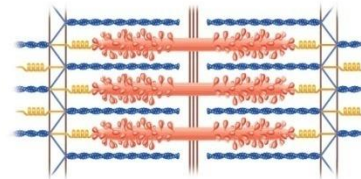
# Sarcomere Hexagon (1)

**hexagon shape: 6 actin myo-filaments**  
**- zigzag fit of indiv. sarcomeres**

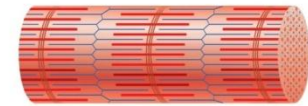
**length  
wise  
view**



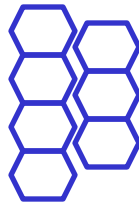
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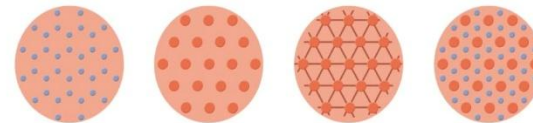
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**cross-  
section  
view**



(e)



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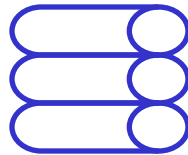


# Sarcomere Hexagon (2)

hexagon shape: 6 actin myo-filaments  
- zigzag fit of indiv. sarcomeres

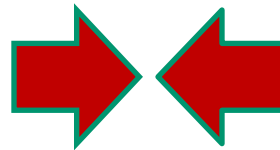


length  
wise  
view

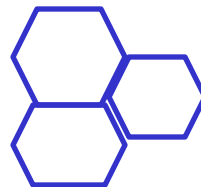
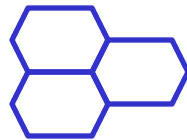


concentric

eccentric



cross-  
section  
view



shorter, thicker  
sarcomere

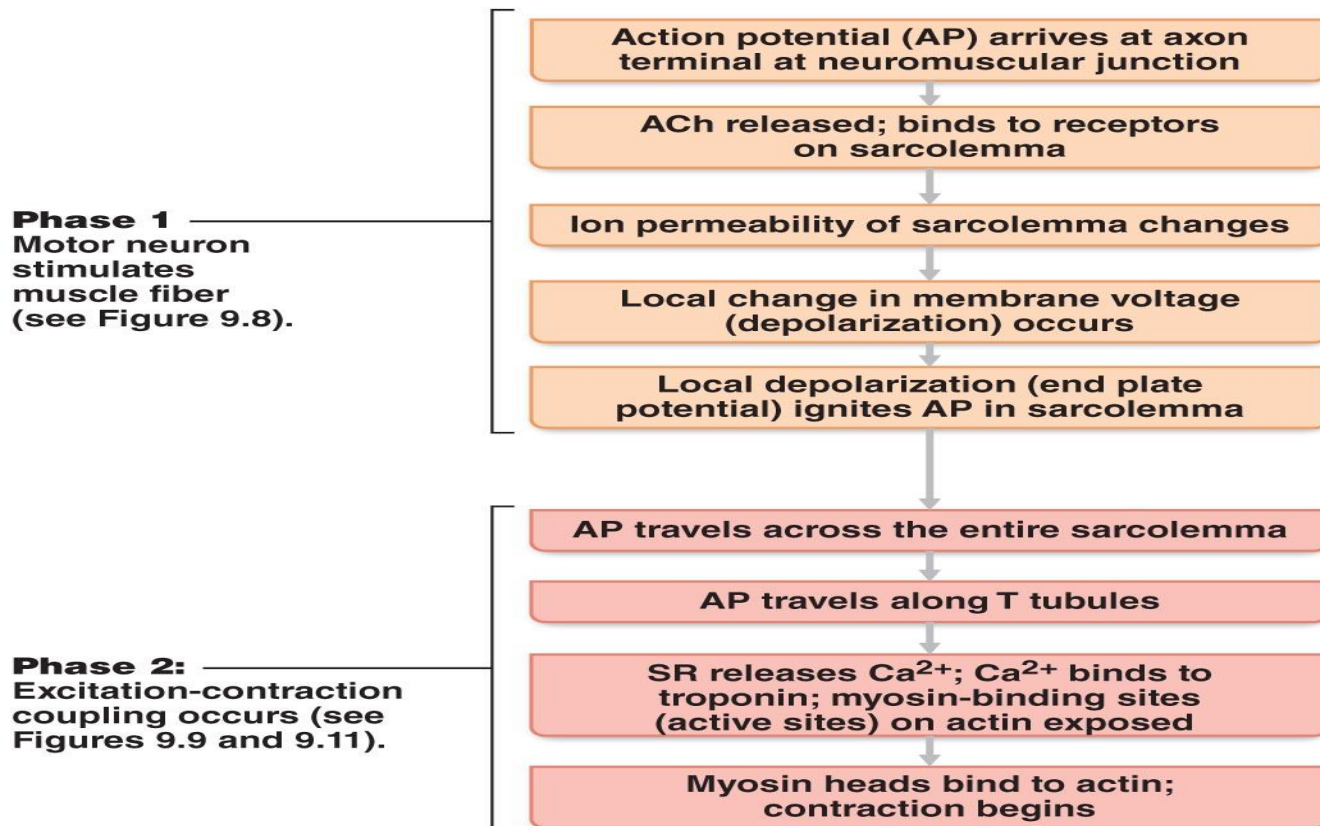
longer, thinner  
sarcomere

# Nerve-Muscle Interface

**Phase 1: neural excitation**

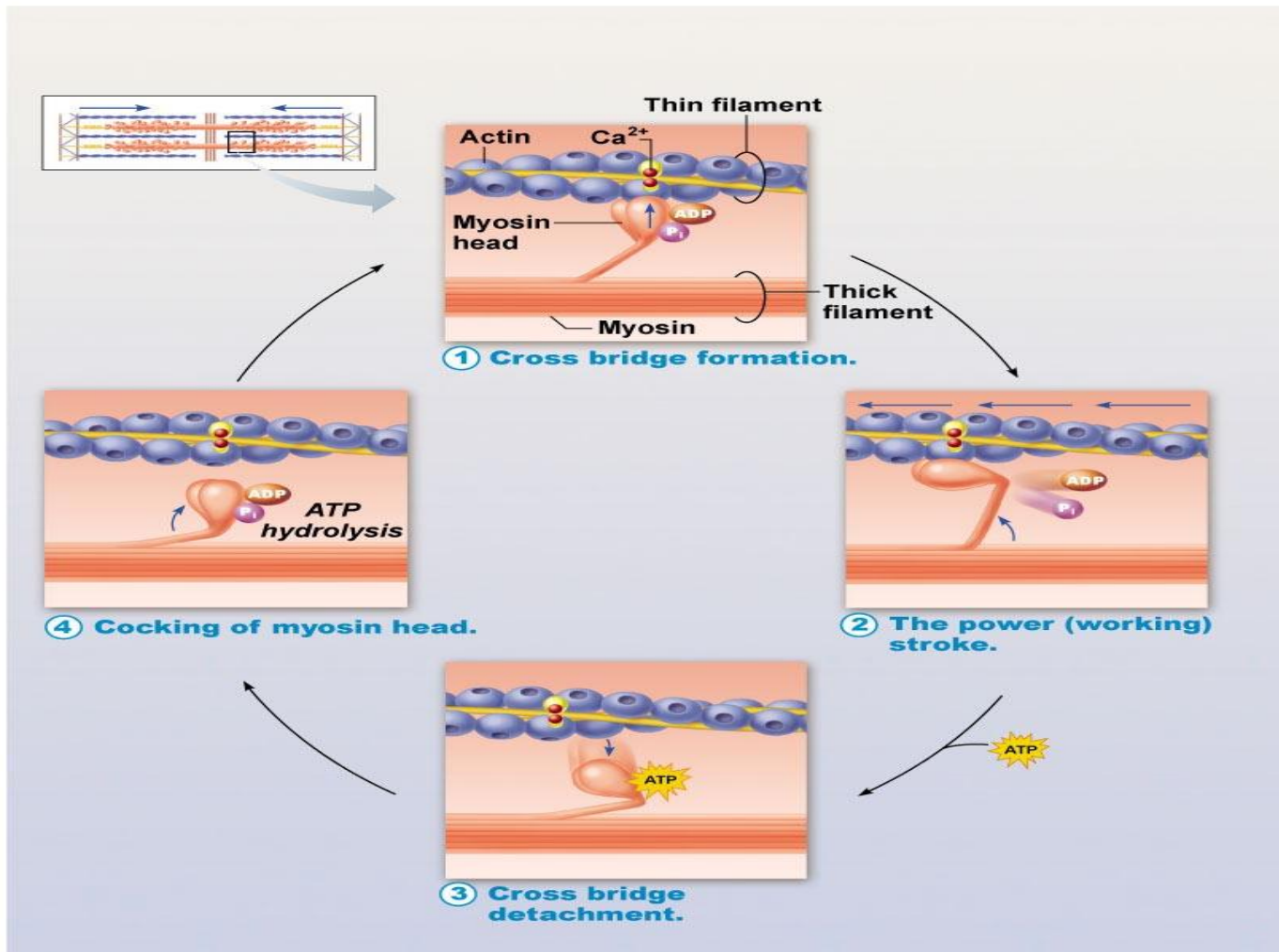
**Phase 2: excitation-contraction**

**(neural excitation -> muscle contraction)**



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# Cross-Bridge Cycle (1)



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## Cross-Bridge Cycle (2)

| <b>Action</b>            | <b>Actin<br/>Position</b>        | <b>Myosin<br/>Head</b>             | <b>Sarcomere<br/>Size *</b>  |
|--------------------------|----------------------------------|------------------------------------|------------------------------|
| <b>1) attach</b>         | <b>stationary</b>                | <b>to troponin</b>                 | <b>original</b>              |
| <b>2) working stroke</b> | <b>a) slides<br/>to center</b>   | <b>pulls actin<br/>to center</b>   | <b>shorten,<br/>thicker</b>  |
|                          | <b>b) slides<br/>from center</b> | <b>pulls actin<br/>from center</b> | <b>lengthen,<br/>thinner</b> |
| <b>3) detach</b>         | <b>a) slides<br/>from center</b> | <b>pulls actin<br/>from center</b> | <b>lengthen,<br/>thinner</b> |
|                          | <b>b) slides<br/>to center</b>   | <b>pulls actin<br/>to center</b>   | <b>shorten,<br/>thicker</b>  |
| <b>4) cock</b>           | <b>stationary</b>                | <b>to troponin</b>                 | <b>original</b>              |

**\*note: concentric & eccentric muscles**