

# TO G OR NOT TO G: THAT IS THE QUESTION

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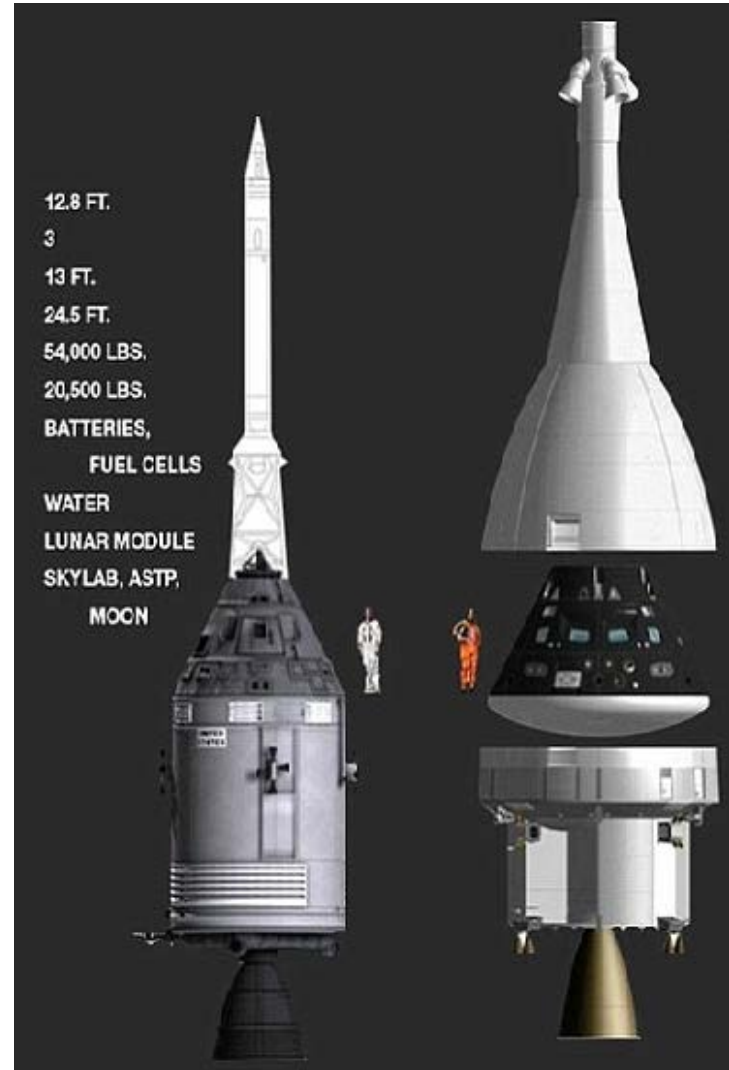
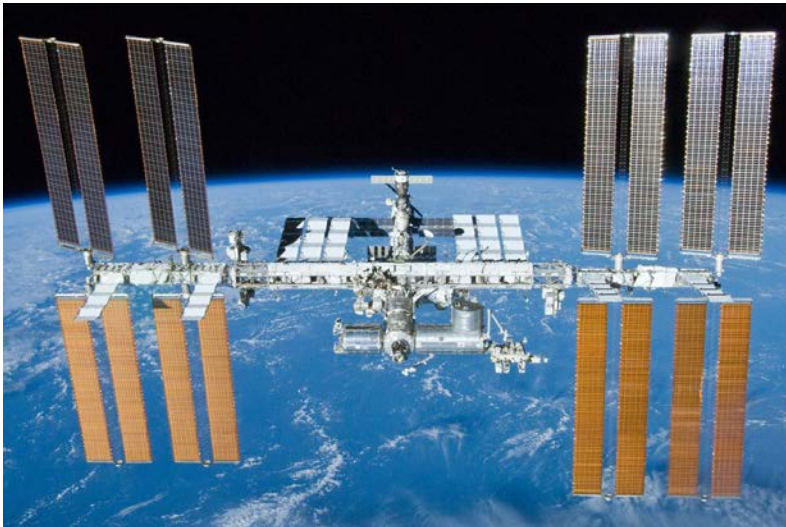


Accomplishments of the  
US Space Program have  
been ...

Out of this world ☺

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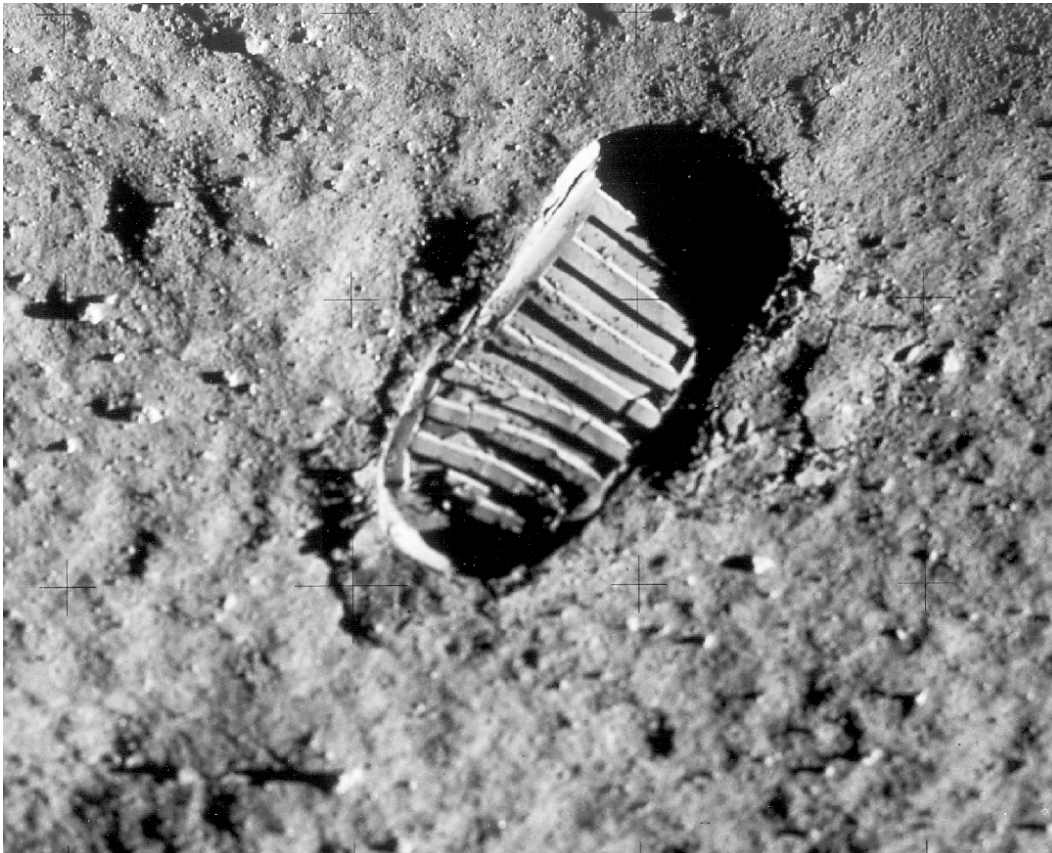




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## SO MANY GREAT IMAGES OF SPACE EXPLORATION



But there is one singular image that best captures the achievement of the space program...

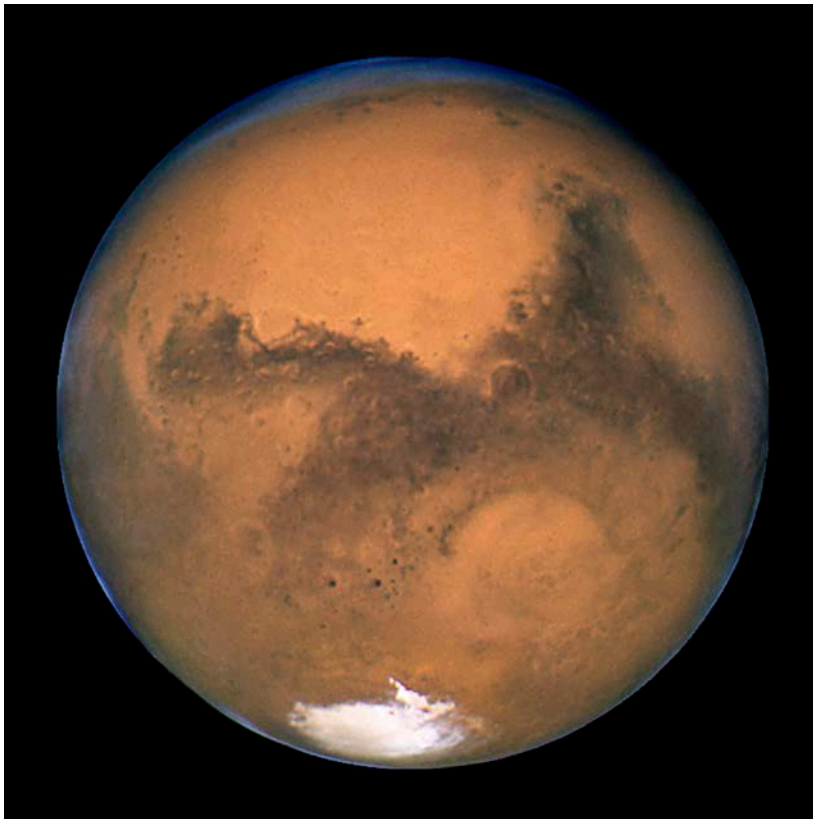
Man's desire to explore

50 years ago come  
July 20, 2019

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THE JOURNEY FROM EARTH TO MARS WILL BE EQUALLY  
HISTORICAL

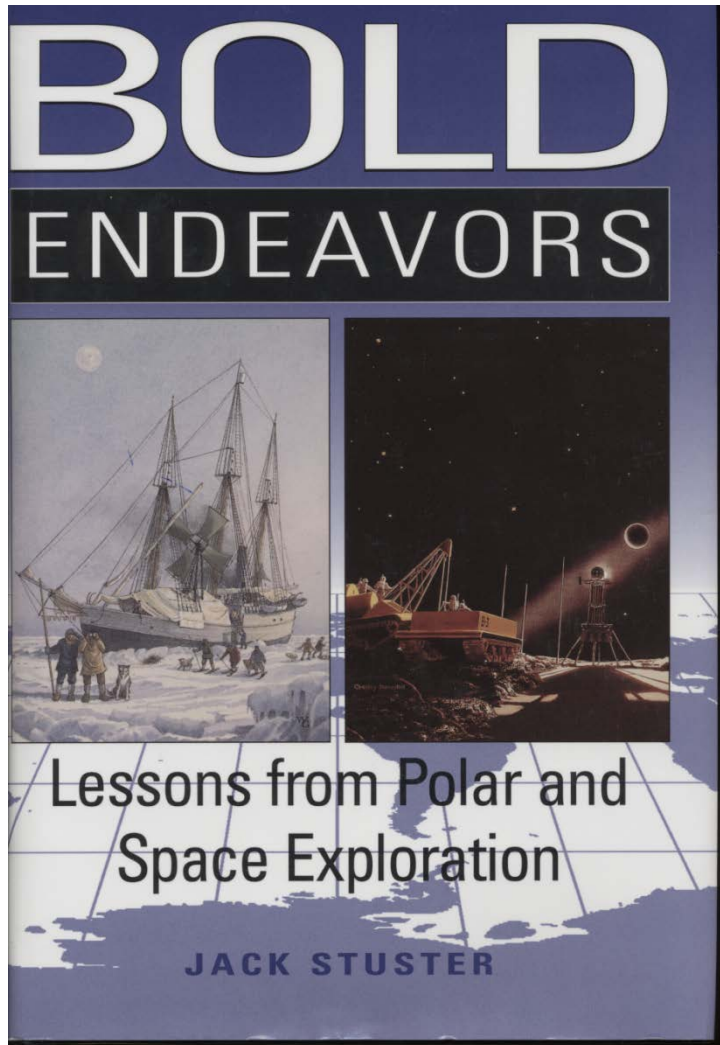


“We choose to go to the **moon** in this decade and do the other things, not because they are easy, but because they are hard.”

But the challenges will be profoundly greater!

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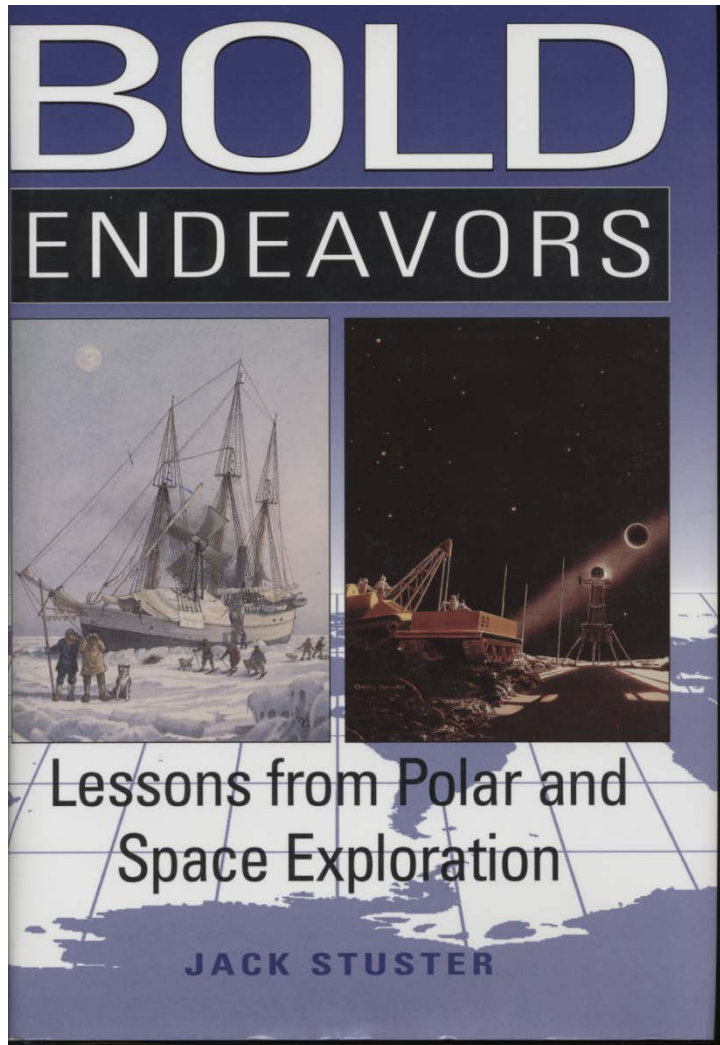


“Men wanted for hazardous journey. Small wages, bitter cold, long months of complete darkness, constant danger, safe return doubtful. Honour and recognition in case of success.”

Sir Ernest Henry Shackleton

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Exploration even within the solar system poses unique and formidable challenges never experienced during human evolution!

- space radiation
- vacuum and cold of space
- staggering distances and time
- the absence of gravity

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## Profound Physiological Deconditioning/Alterations

- Vestibular System
- Cardiovascular System
- Skeletal System
- Muscle
- Intracranial Hypertension



# SPACE FITNESS: NEWTON'S FOURTH LAW

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## Three Laws of Motion

First Law – Uniform motion

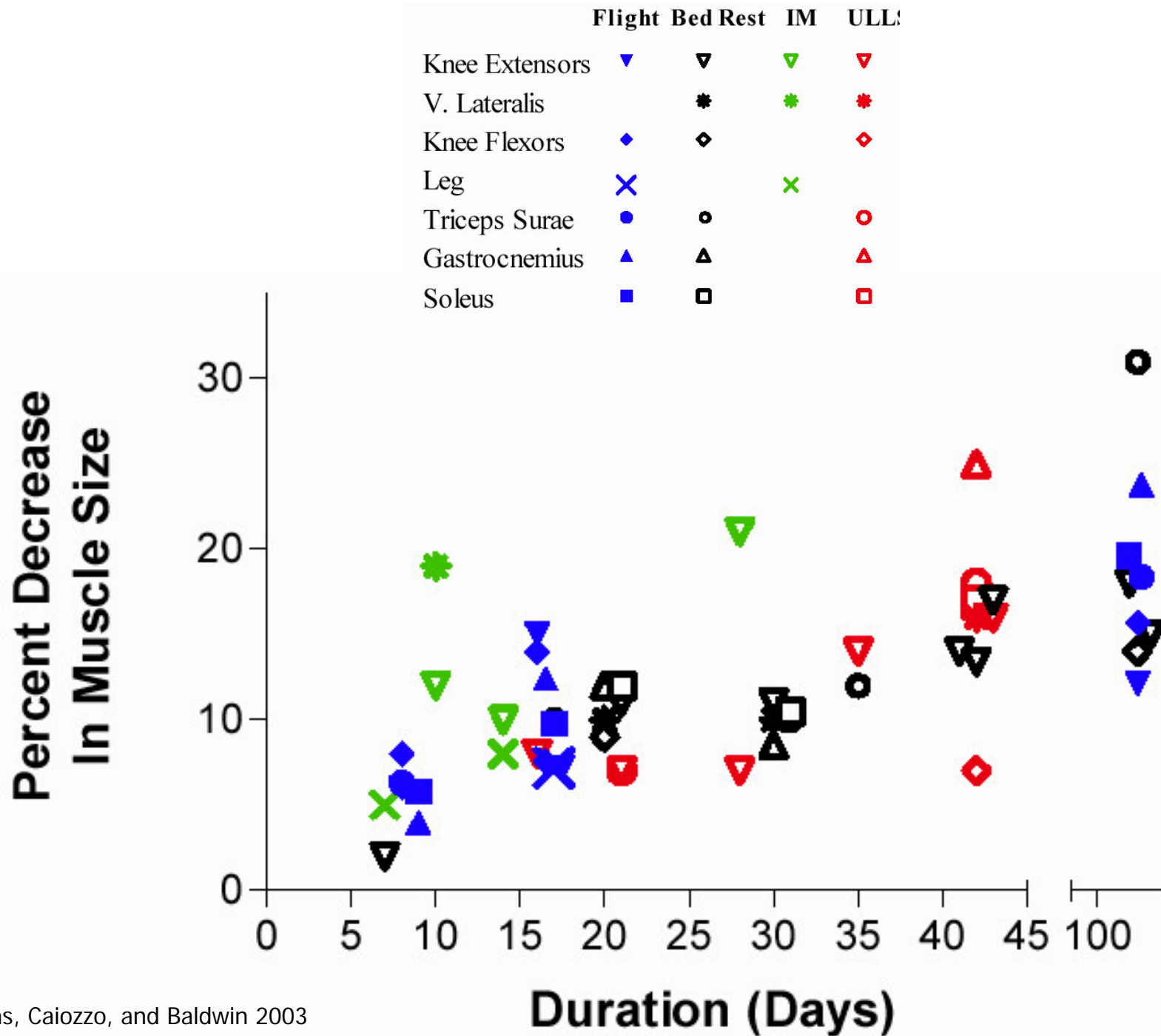
Second Law –  $F = MA$

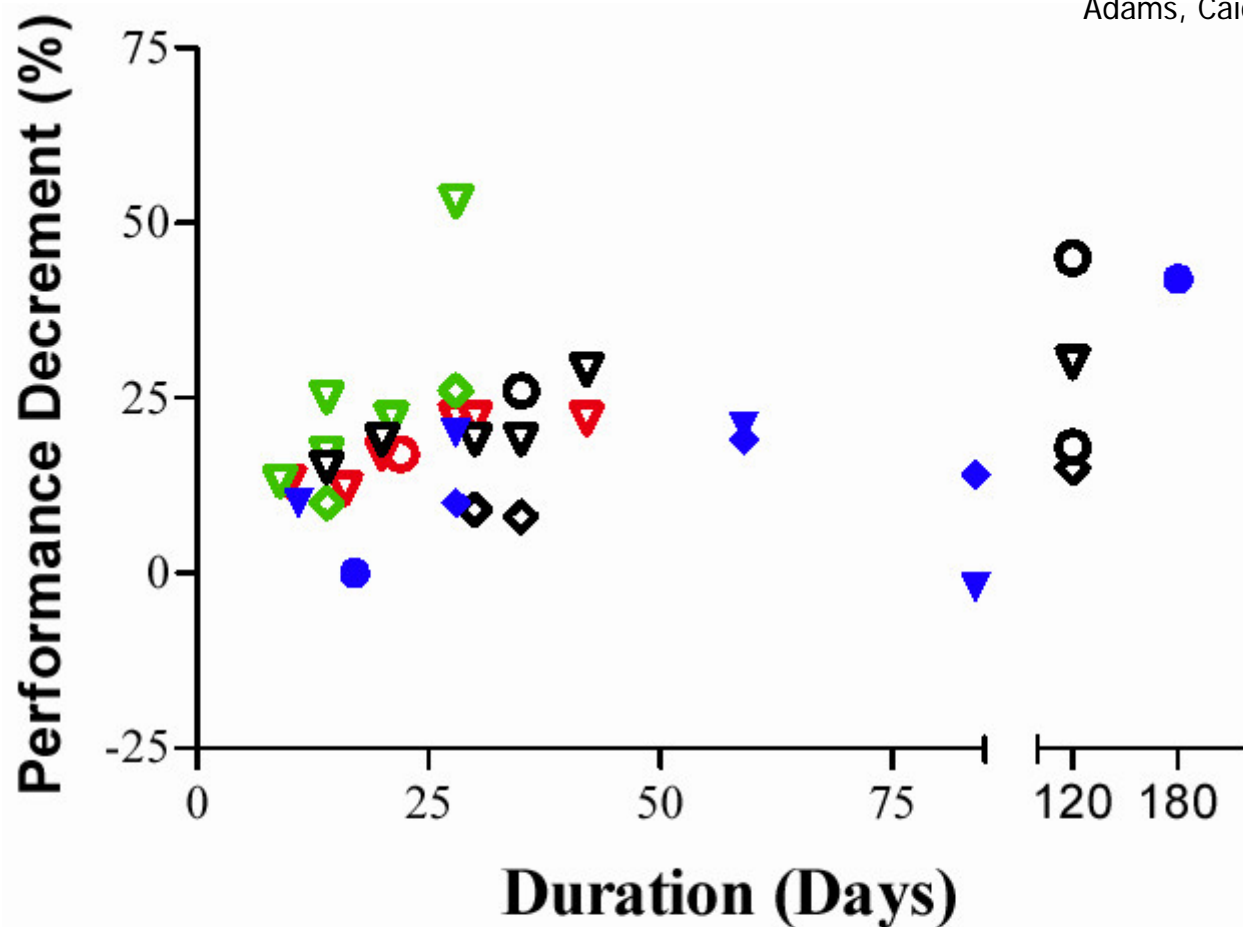
Third Law – Action-reaction

So what is the Fourth Law?

It is the law of physiological plasticity and is analogous to the Third Law.

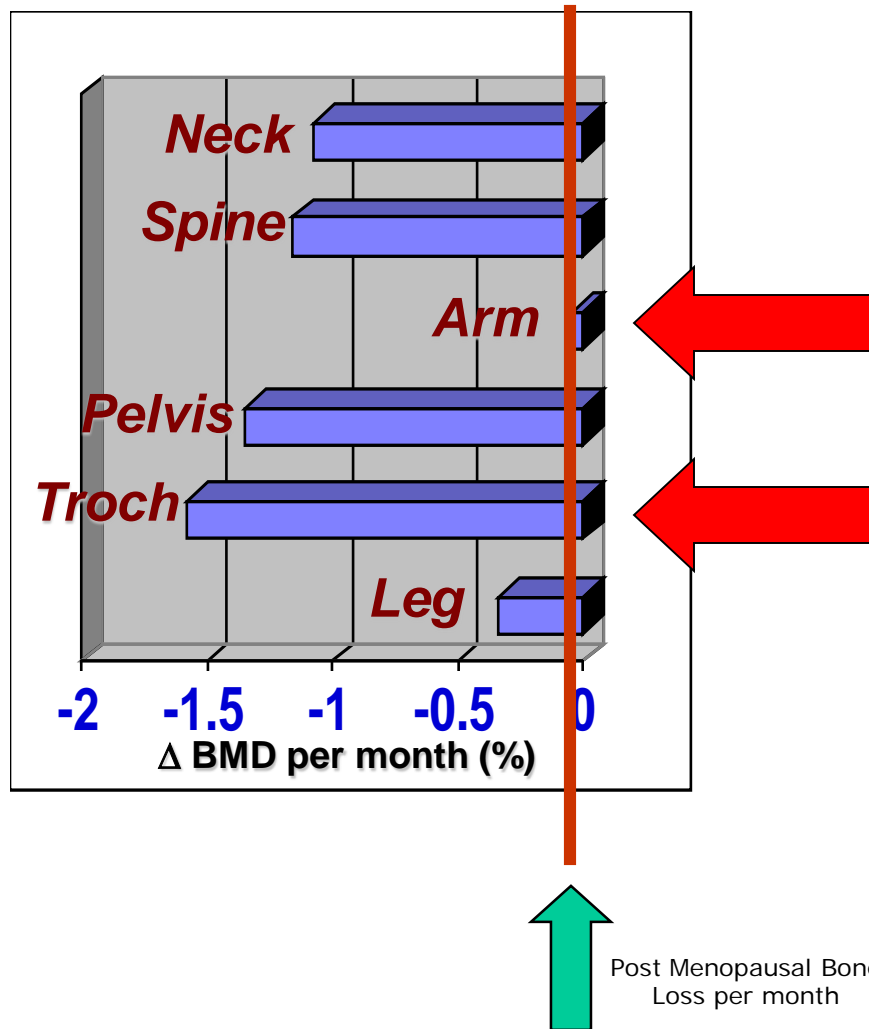
Look at a couple of examples with direct relevance to space flight





	Flight	Bed Rest	IM	ULLS
Knee Extensors	▼	▼	▼	▼
Knee Flexors	◆	◆	◆	
Triceps Surae	●	○		○

# SPACE FITNESS: NEWTON'S FOURTH LAW



## Bone Loss on MIR

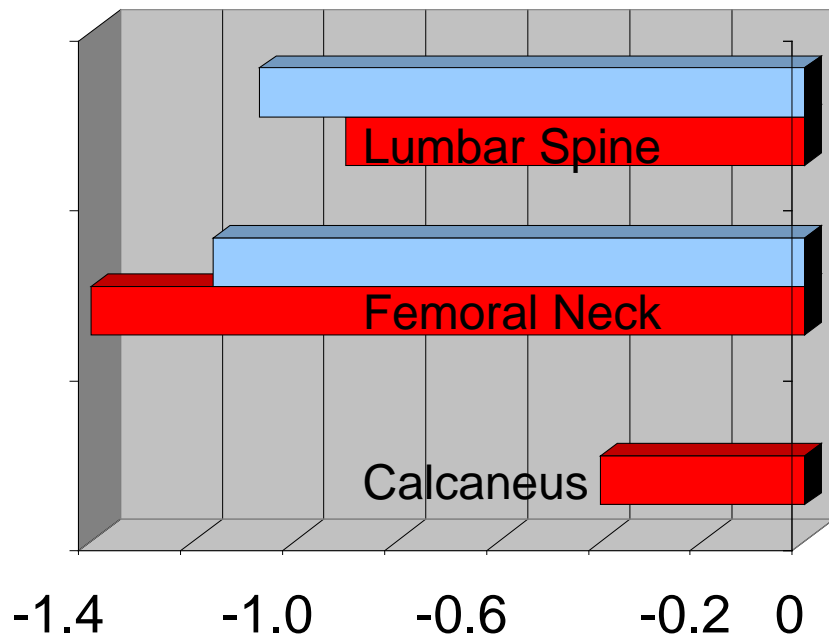


LeBlanc et al. 1996



# SPACE FITNESS: NEWTON'S FOURTH LAW

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■ ISS (n = 14)

■ MIR (n = 18)

## Bone Loss on MIR

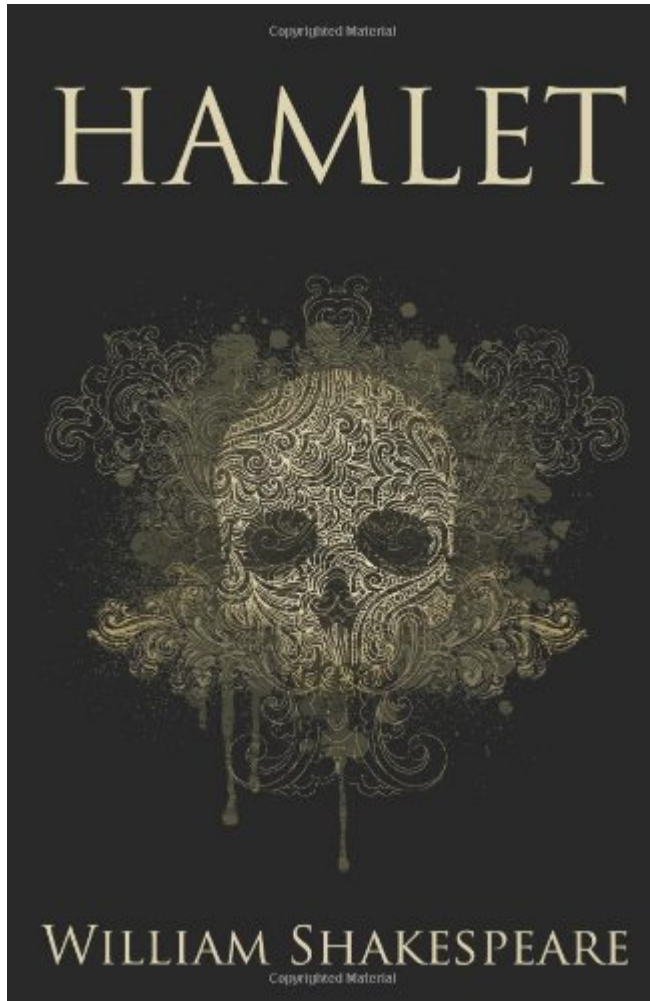


Lang et al. 2004



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## Hamlet – Scene I

“To be, or not to be: that is the question”

How does that apply to the topic of this presentation?

“To G, or not to G: that is the question”



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## WHY SHOULD WE BE INTERESTED IN THIS TOPIC?

### The Space Cycle



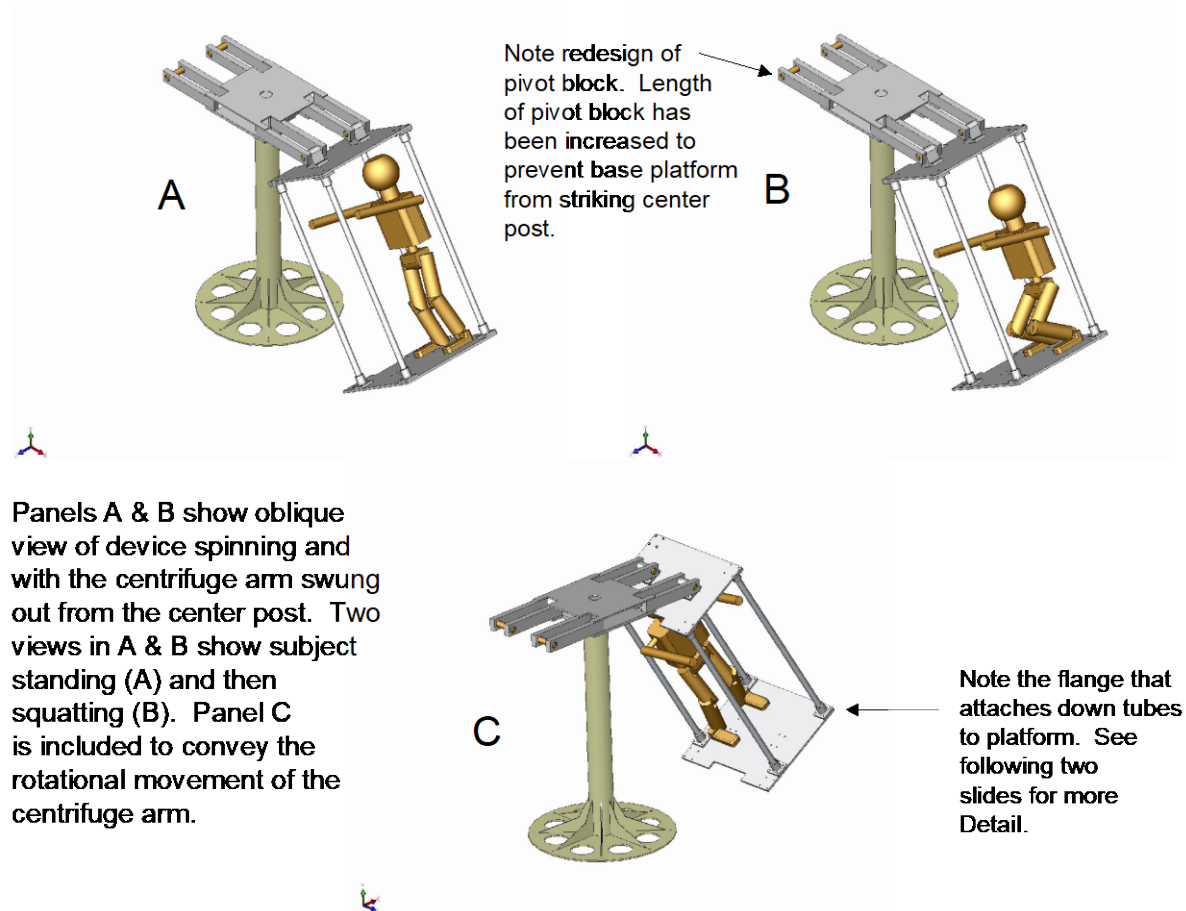
### Unique Attributes

- Load skeletal muscle
- Load bone
- Provide gravitational challenge to cardiovascular system
- Vestibular challenge
- May be effective in mitigating intracranial hypertension



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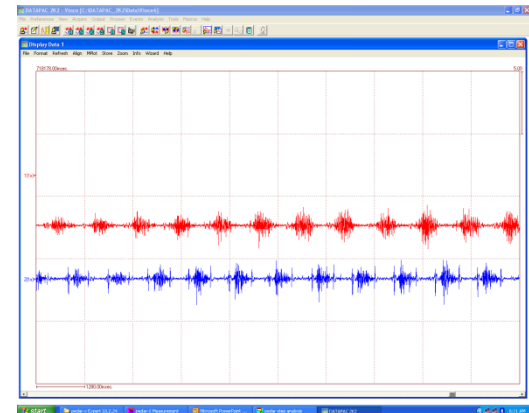
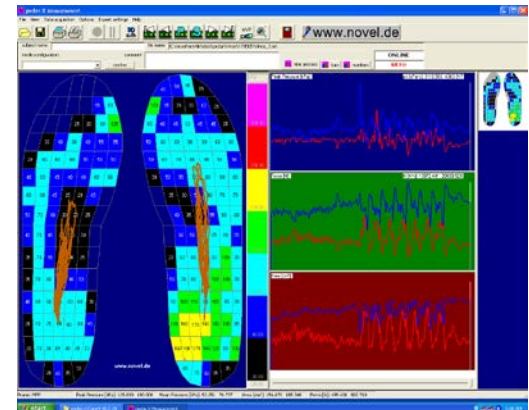
## STRATEGIES FOR LOADING MUSCLE AND BONE: HYPERGRAVITY RESISTANCE TRAINING



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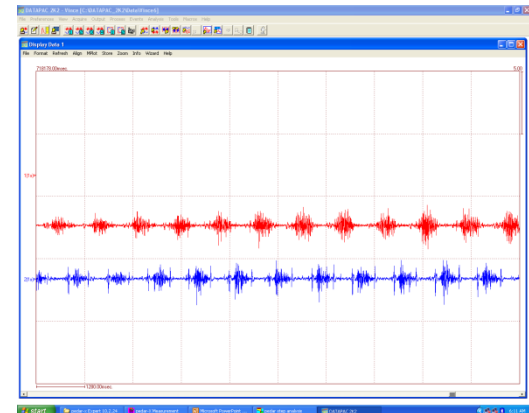
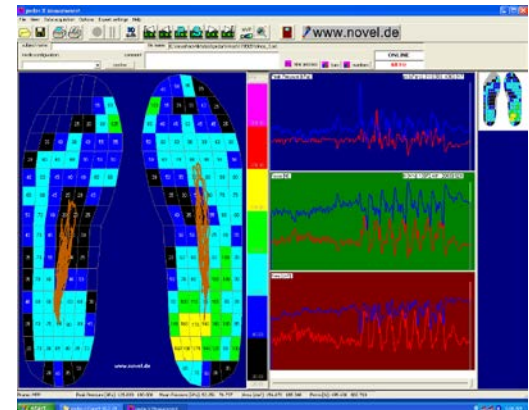
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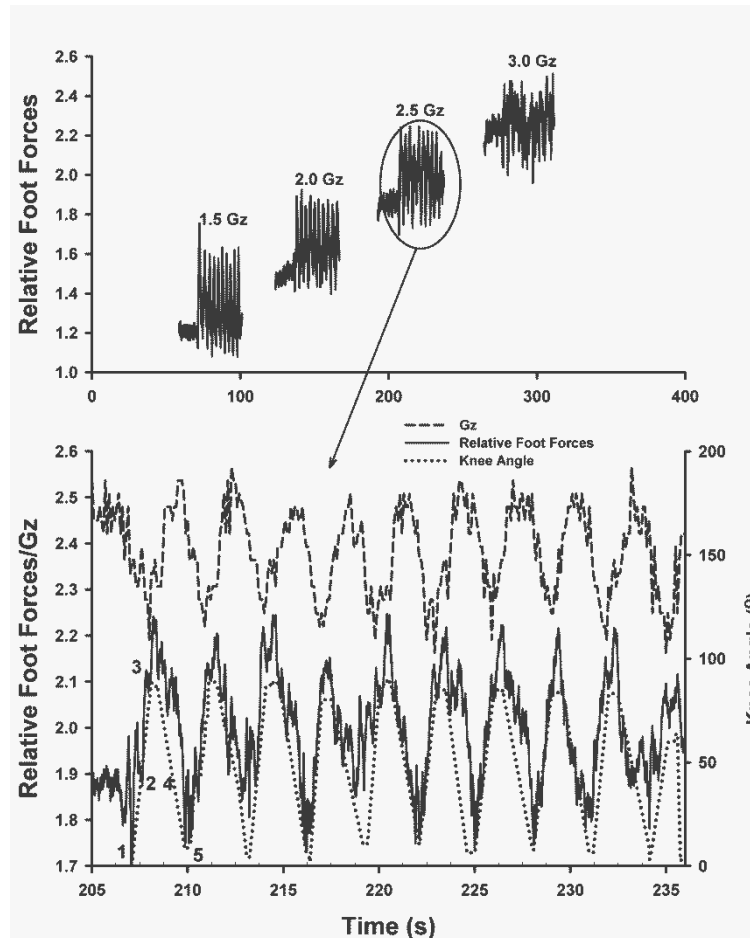
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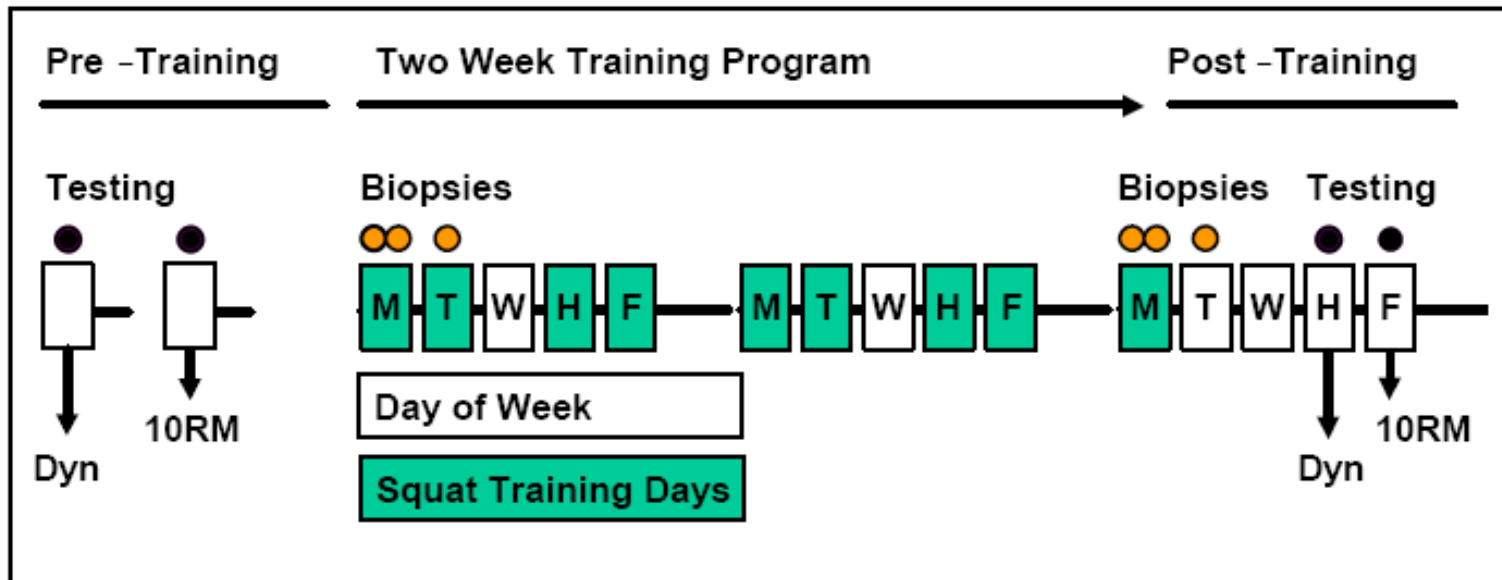
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## Hypergravity Resistance Training Hypotheses

AG can be used to create hypergravity-loading conditions that result in muscle adaptations similar to those seen when performing resistance training in a normal 1 G environment.

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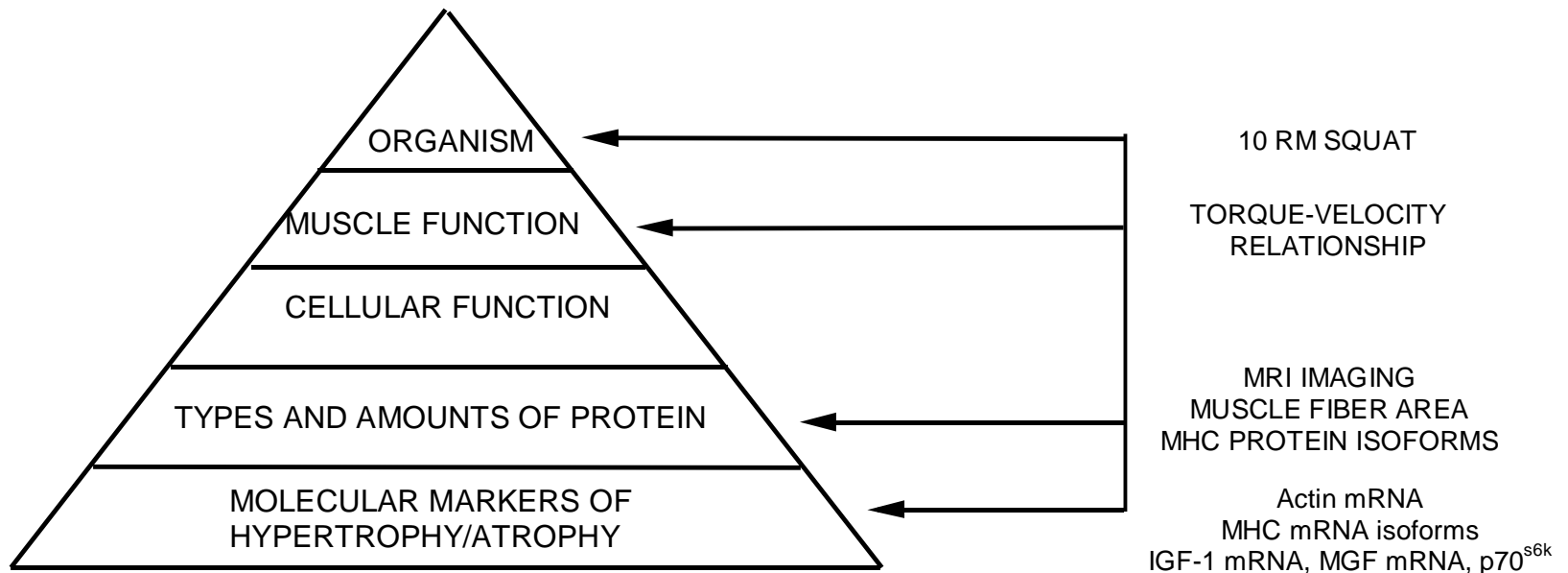
## Proof-of-Principle Study Design



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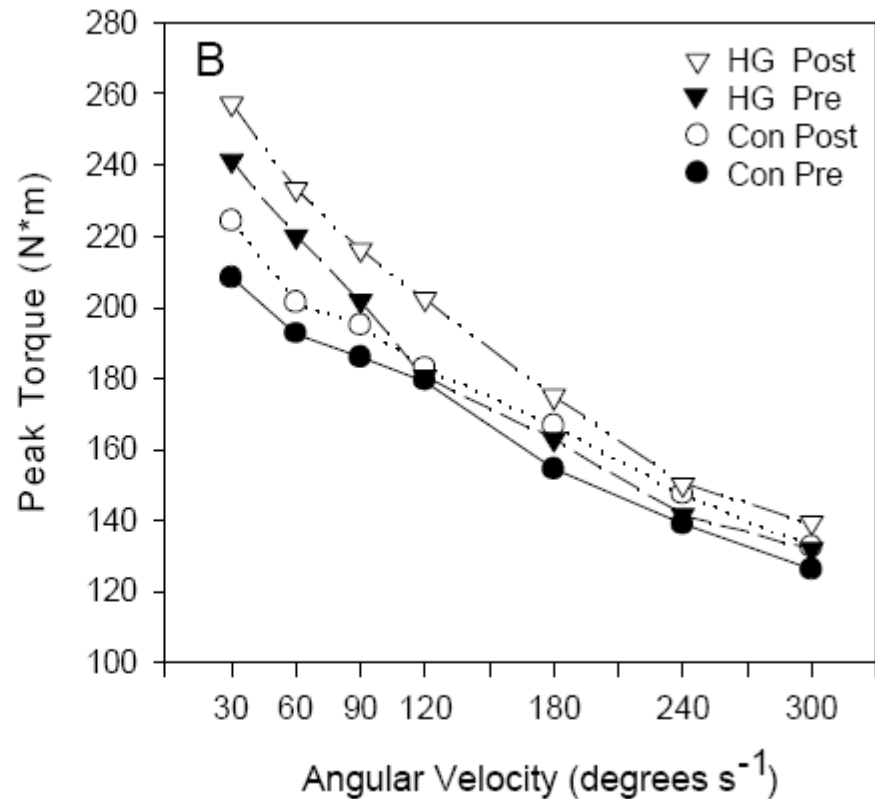
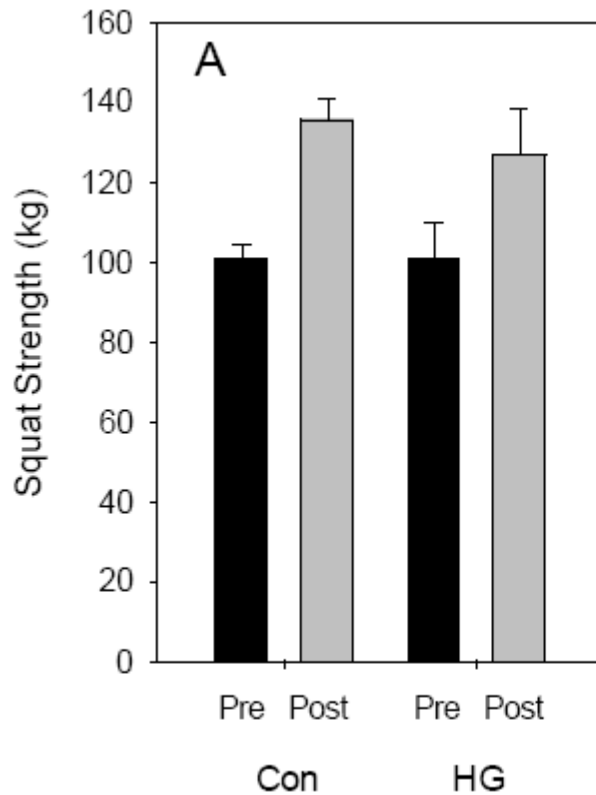
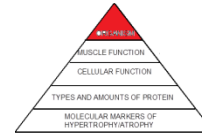
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## Molecules-to-Function Paradigm: A Play on Structure-Function Relationships



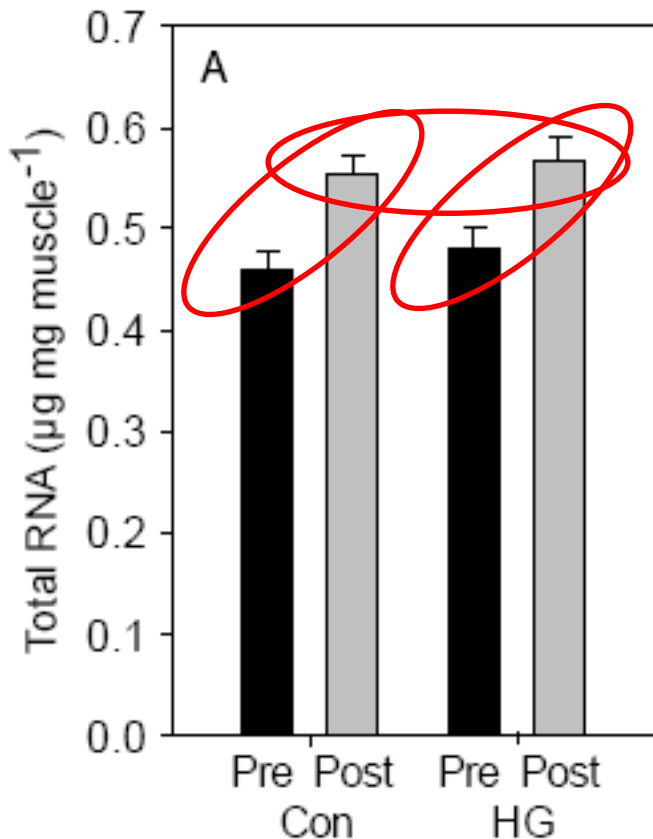
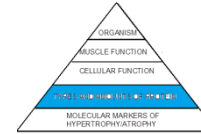
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## Muscle Strength



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## Protein Synthesis – Total RNA



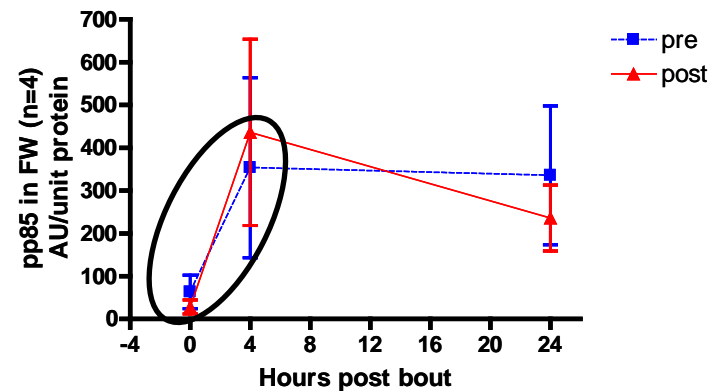
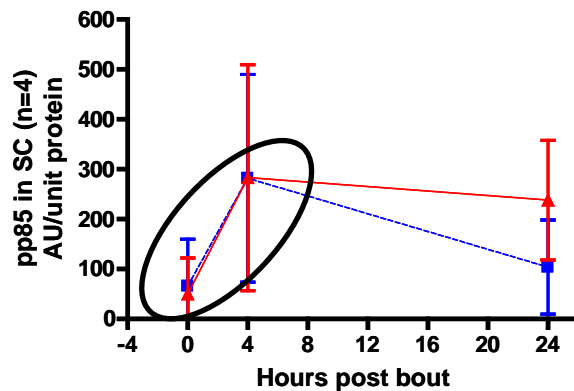
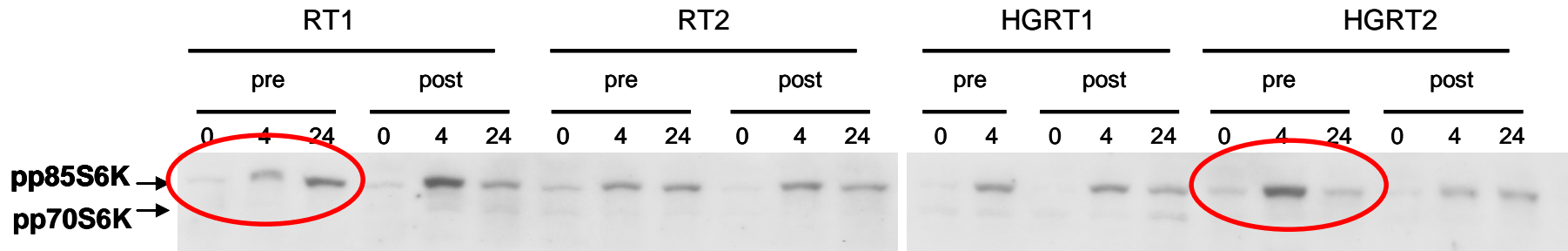
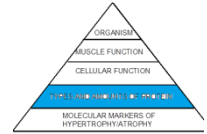
Note that both groups had significant increases in total RNA.

Also, note that the increases for both Groups were very similar.



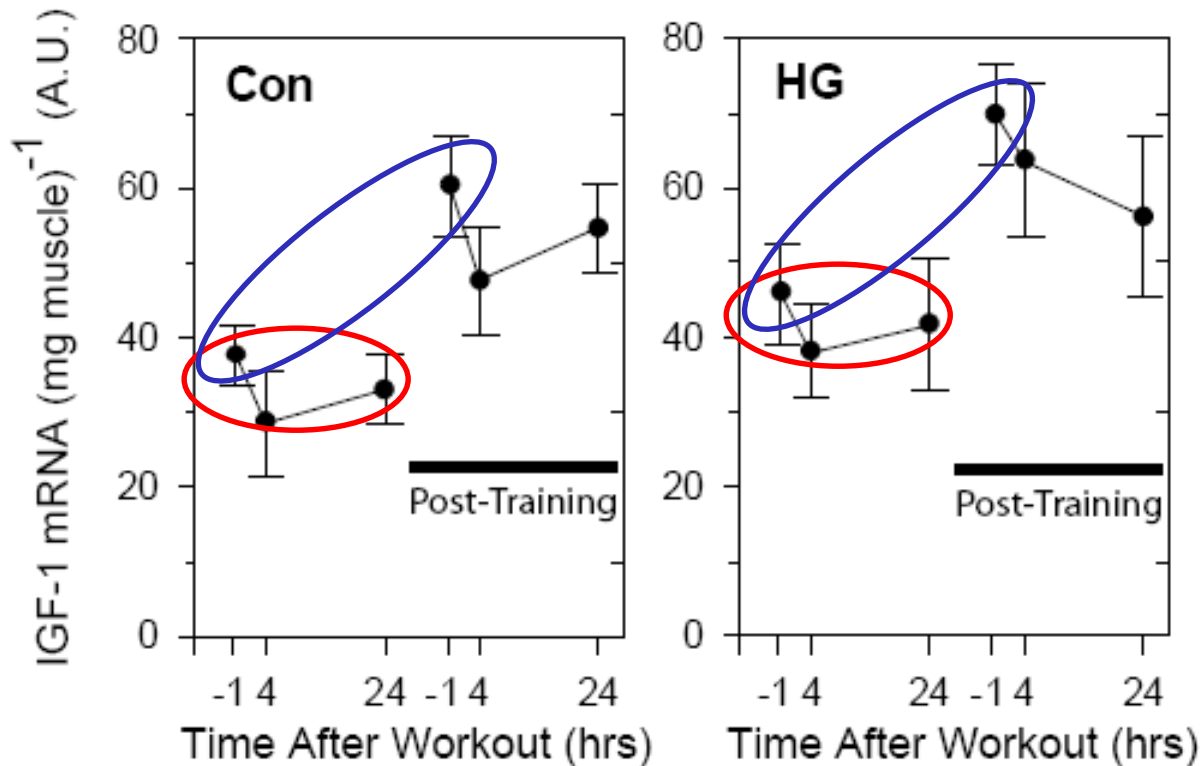
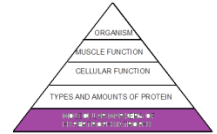
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## Protein Synthesis – Translational Control



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## Molecular Marker of Muscle Hypertrophy

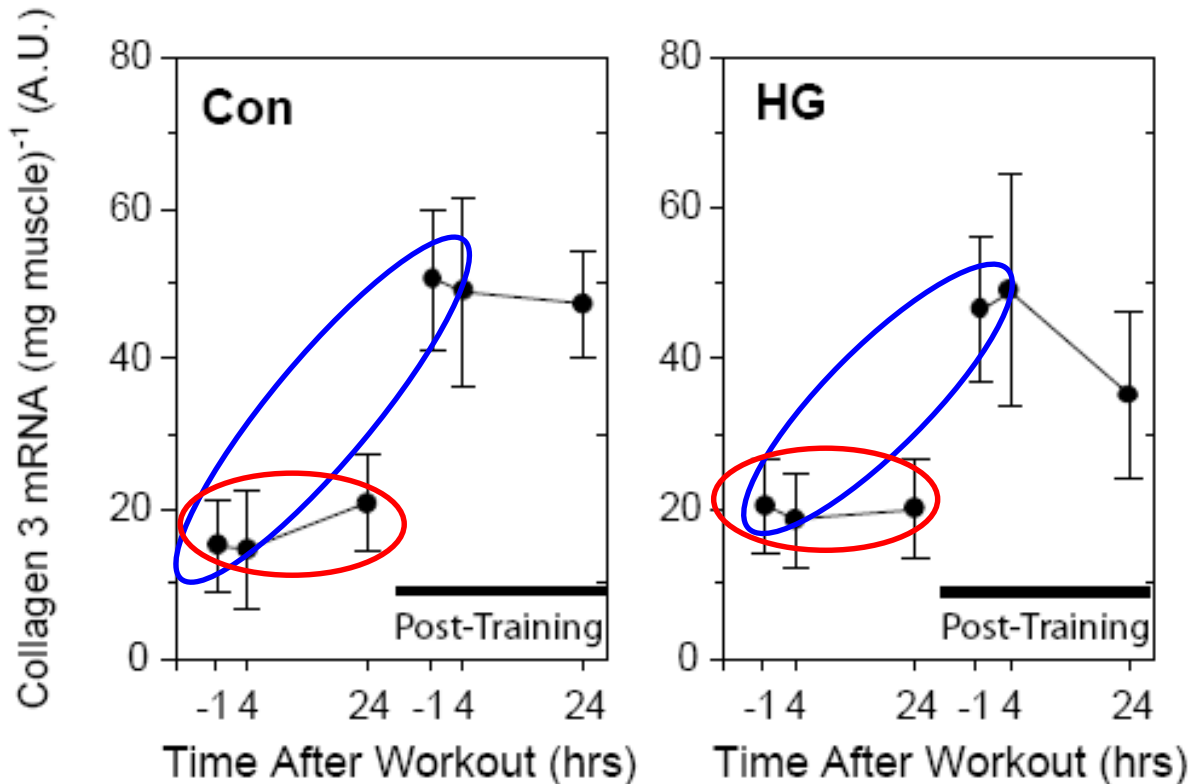
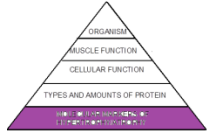


Note similarity in acute responses.

Note that both types of resistance training programs produced similar chronic elevation.

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## Molecular Marker of Extracellular Matrix Remodeling



Note similarity in acute responses.

Note that both types of resistance training programs produced similar chronic elevation.

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## Where Do We Go From Here?



So in taking Mother Earth to Mars, can we forget about taking Earth's gravitational environment?

We need to answer this fundamental question!

Consider that Earth's gravitational field was probably one of the most important evolutionary pressures!

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## Where Do We Go From Here?



Artificial gravity has the potential to mimic Earth's gravitational field and load every element of the human body, which is not possible with other countermeasure devices.

Simply stated, artificial gravity can provide Earth-like challenges to muscle, skeletal, cardiovascular, and vestibular systems during a single session something that no other countermeasure can achieve.



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## Where Do We Go From Here?



Need a sustained gravitational biology program that addresses this fundamental question if we are to ensure the health and safety of our astronauts.

Data clearly demonstrate that hypergravity resistance training produces adaptations very similar to 1g squat resistance training.

Good initial set of data that should stimulate additional studies on the effectiveness of artificial gravity.

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## FUNDING

**National Aeronautical Space Administration (NASA)  
Hypergravity Resistance Training: Countermeasure to Microgravity  
MA00403 2004-2008**

**National Institutes of Health  
U.C. Irvine General Clinical Research Center  
GCRC MO1RR00827-S1 2000-2005**

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