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ABSTRACT

For high-velocity running or swimming, the relationship between velocity (v) and its sustainable duration (t) can be described by a hyperbolic relationship: $(v - V_{crit}) \cdot t = D'$, where V_{crit} is termed critical velocity, and D' is defined as a curvature constant of the hyperbolic curve. The purposes of this study were to examine whether the V_{crit} could be applied to evaluate short-distance breaststroke swimming performance and to evaluate the relative contribution of D' in shortdistance swimming performance. Eleven male swimmers performed a series of time trials corresponding to 75, 100, and 150-m in an indoor 50-m swimming pool. The observed records were calculated into average velocities of each event to determine $V_{crit} \, \text{and} \, D' \,$. After the determination of V_{crit} and D' , all subjects performed 50-m time trial on another day. A maximal anaerobic power test using cycle ergometer was also performed in the laboratory. The average velocity of the 50-m time trial significantly correlated with the obtained V_{crit}, but not with D'. D' was significantly correlated with the residual error, calculated from the regression analysis for the relationship between V_{crit} and the average velocities of 50-m time trial. A cluster analysis showed that most of the subjects were classified as V_{crit} dependency when performing 50-m time trial. Those results indicated that V_{crit} could be applied to evaluate short-distance swimming performance, and it determined around 80% of the short-distance breaststroke swimming performance.

Key words: Critical swimming velocity, D', hyperbolic curve, cluster analysis

Key Points

- For high-velocity running or swimming, the relationship between velocity (v) and its sustainable duration (t) can be described by a hyperbolic relationship: (v V)·t = D', where V is termed critical velocity, and D' is defined as a curvature constant of the hyperbolic curve. The D' contributed only around 20% of the breaststroke swimming performance even in a short-distance event.
- Critical velocity determined around 80% of 50-m breaststroke swimming performance, and it could be a useful tool for evaluating short-distance swimming performance.
- Most of the swimmers showed characteristics for critical velocity dependent physical fitness even in short-distance swimming event.

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