

# **Over Travel ~ Under Travel Fo/Skr & N/No' Limits**

**Sucker Rod Pumping Workshop; Wyndham Hotel, Houston, Texas;  
September 11 – 14, 2007**

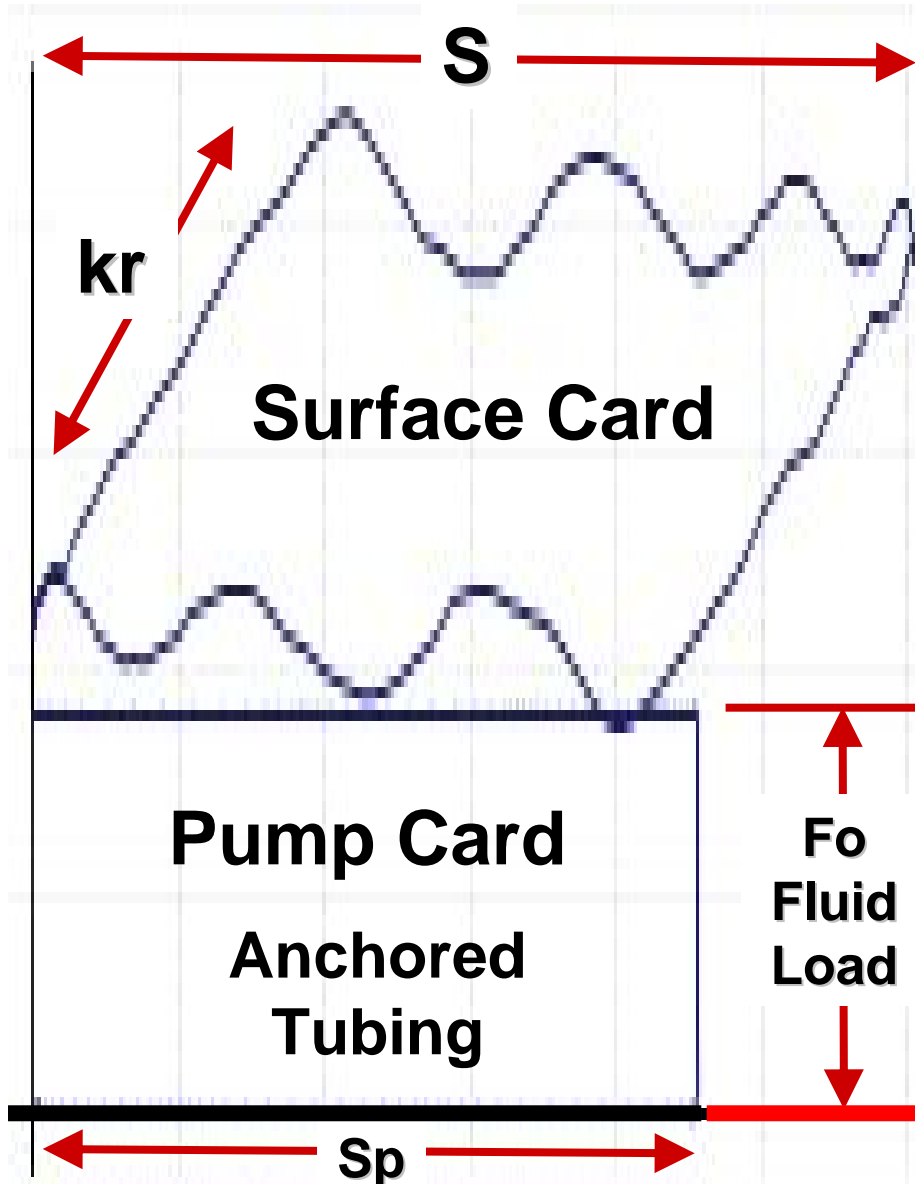
# Introduction

1. API RP 11L - Figures
2. Discuss Properties of Dynamometer Surface and Pump Card
3. Define Fo/Skr & N/No'
4. Discuss How Increased SPM increases Overtravel
5. Does Fo/Skr & N/No' Limits Impact Rod Failures
6. Discuss ALEOC Failure Frequency Plot

# Rod String Design Background

- Originally static loads; Mills formula (1939)
- Dynamics considered by Midwest Research Institute in 1954 via support Sucker Rod Pumping Research, Inc.
- Industry accepted results and adopted the technique into API RP 11L
- Advent of Wave Equation applied to rod string design allowed for other equipment, configurations, and pumping applications
- Personal computer availability and use has made it easy to run designs but detailed understanding of design relationships appears to have been lost.

# Normal Pump Card Fluid Load, Fo



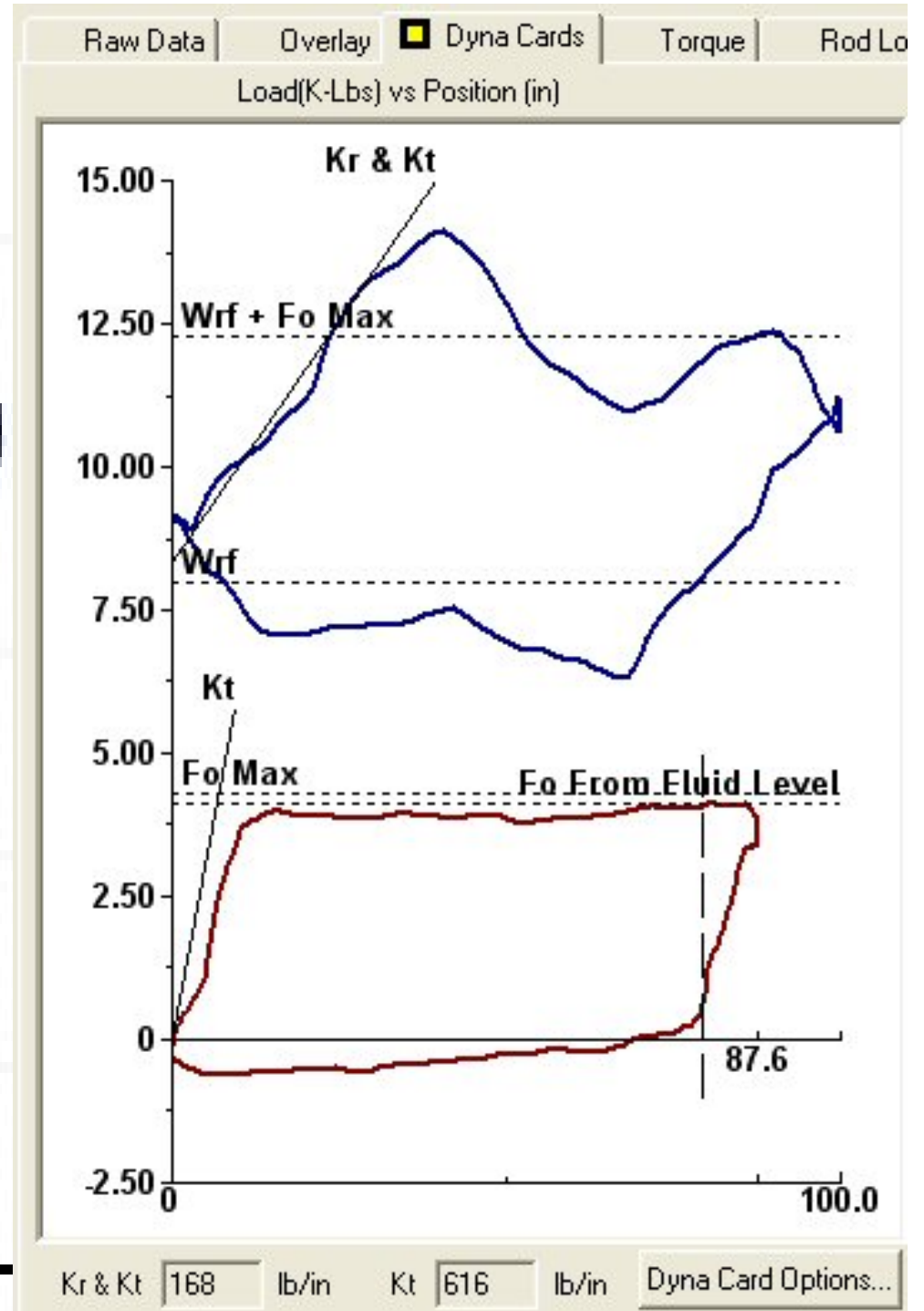
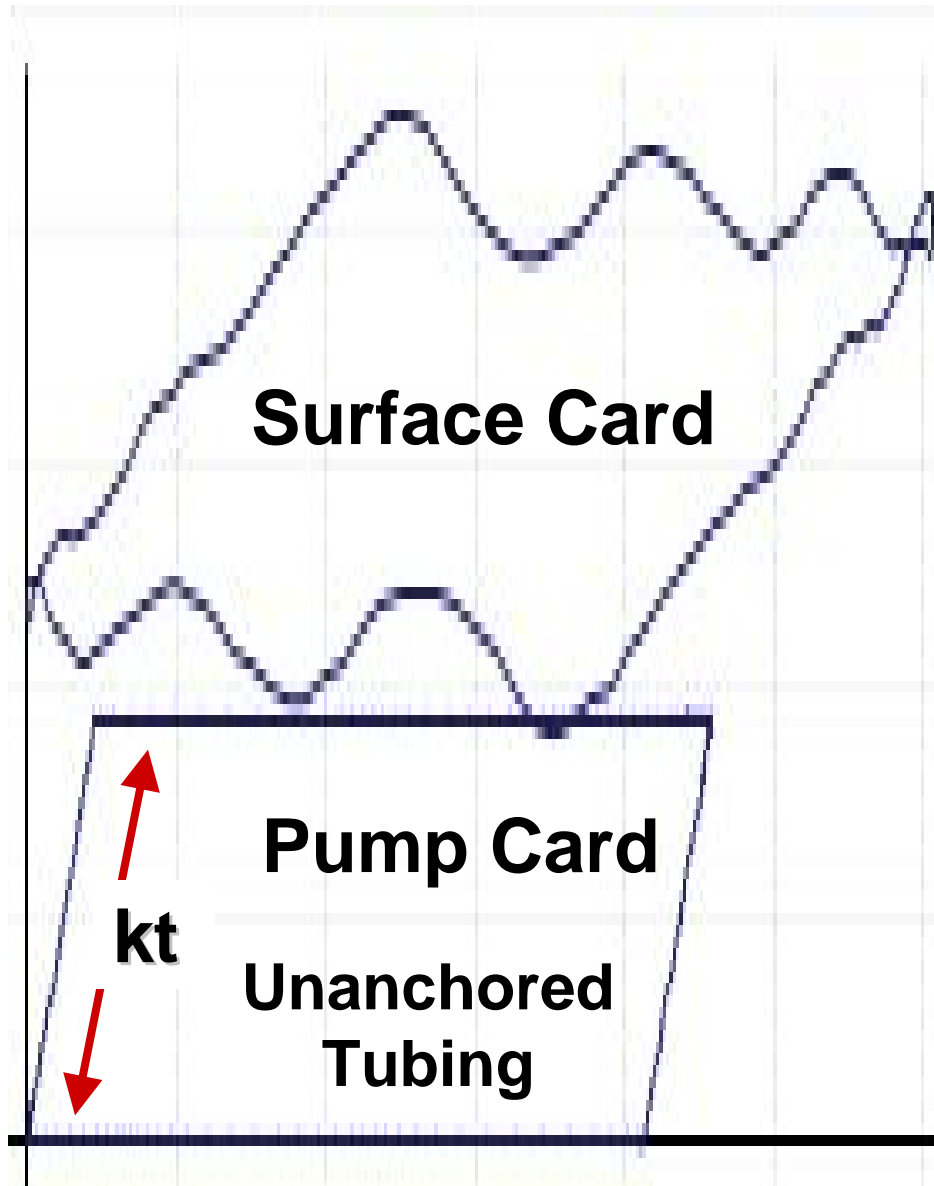
**Fo** – Fluid Load the Pump Applies to Rod String and caused by the differential pressure ( $P_{dis} - P_{intk}$ ) acting across the pump plunger.

$P_{dis}$  - Pump Discharge Pressure  
 $P_{intk}$  – Pump Intake Pressure  
 $A_p$  – Area of the Plunger

**SV Open Upstroke:**  
 $F_o = (P_{dis} - P_{intk}) * A_p$

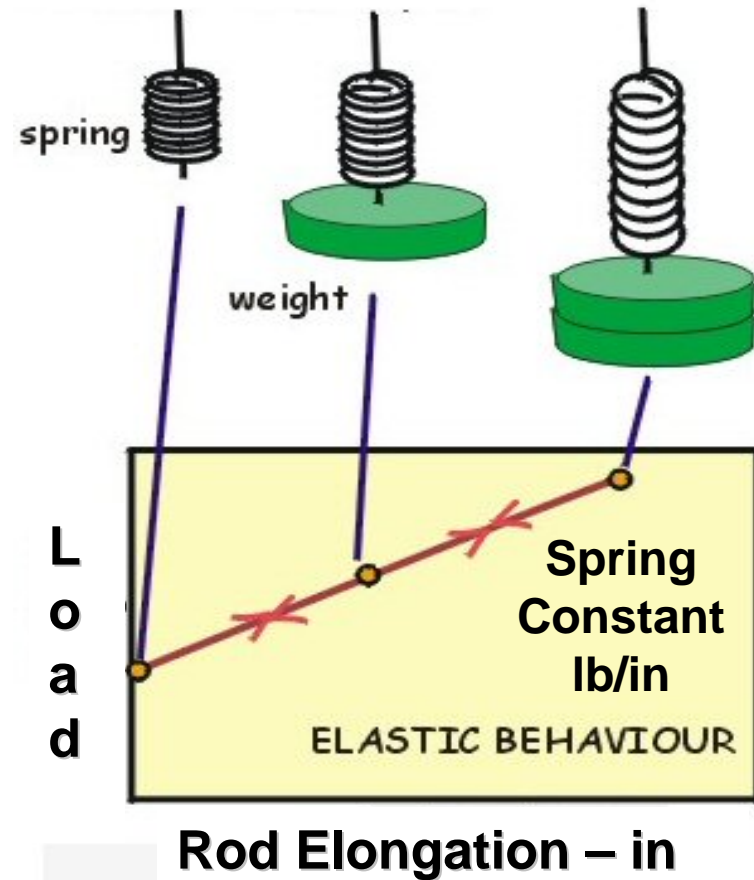
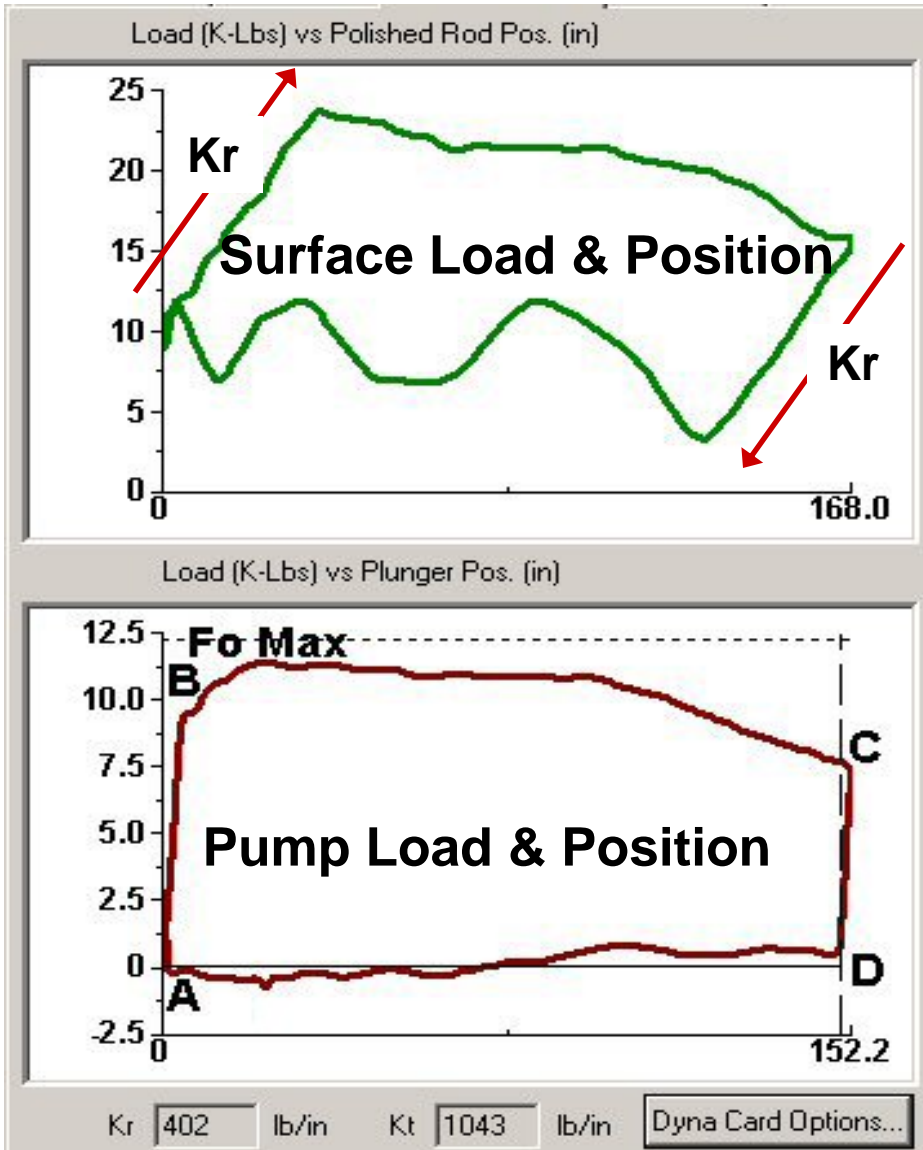
**TV Open Downstroke:**  
 $F_o = 0$

# Kr & Kt



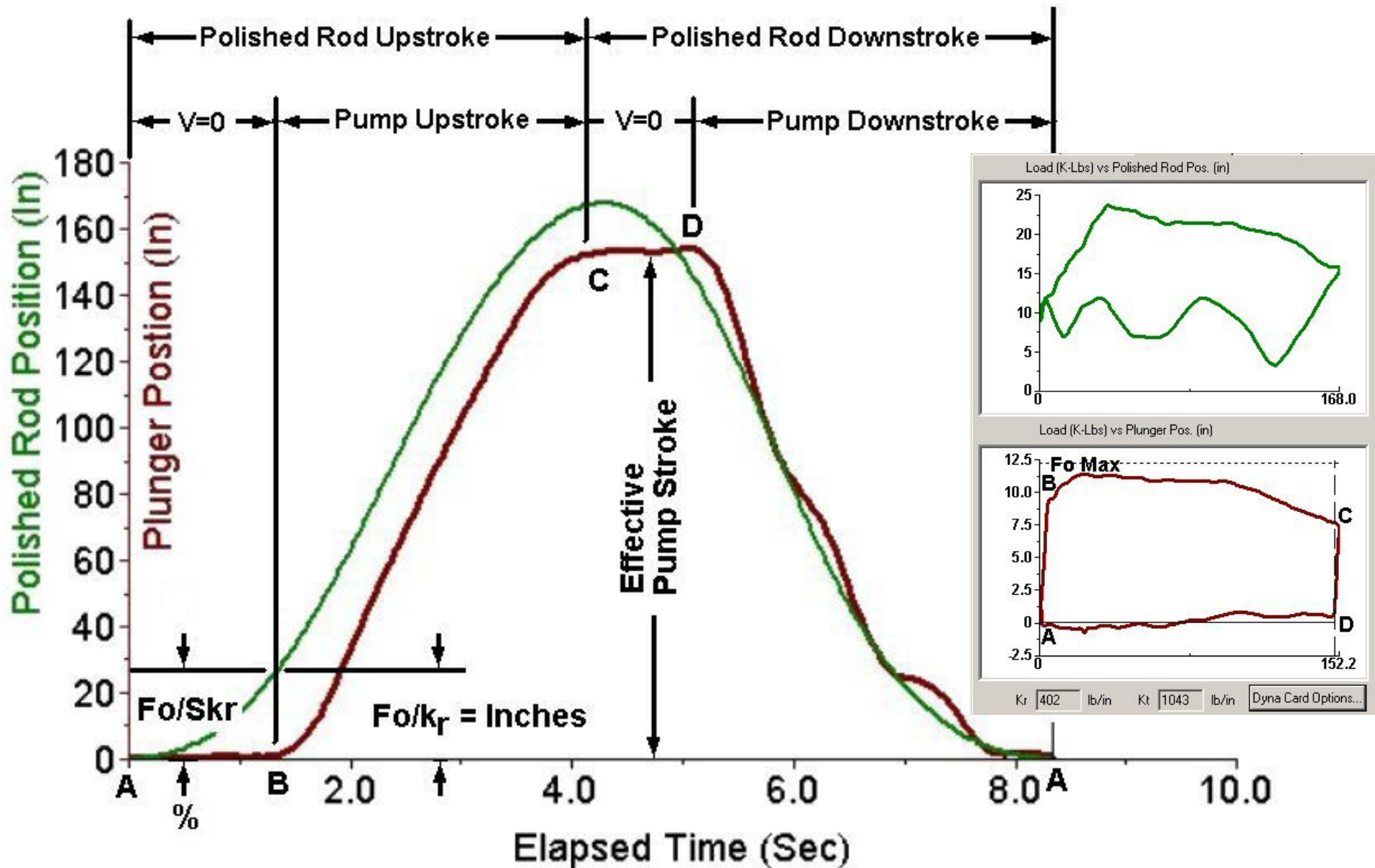
# Rod Stretch = $S \times F_o / SKr$

Rods Elastically Stretch to Pick Up Fluid Load

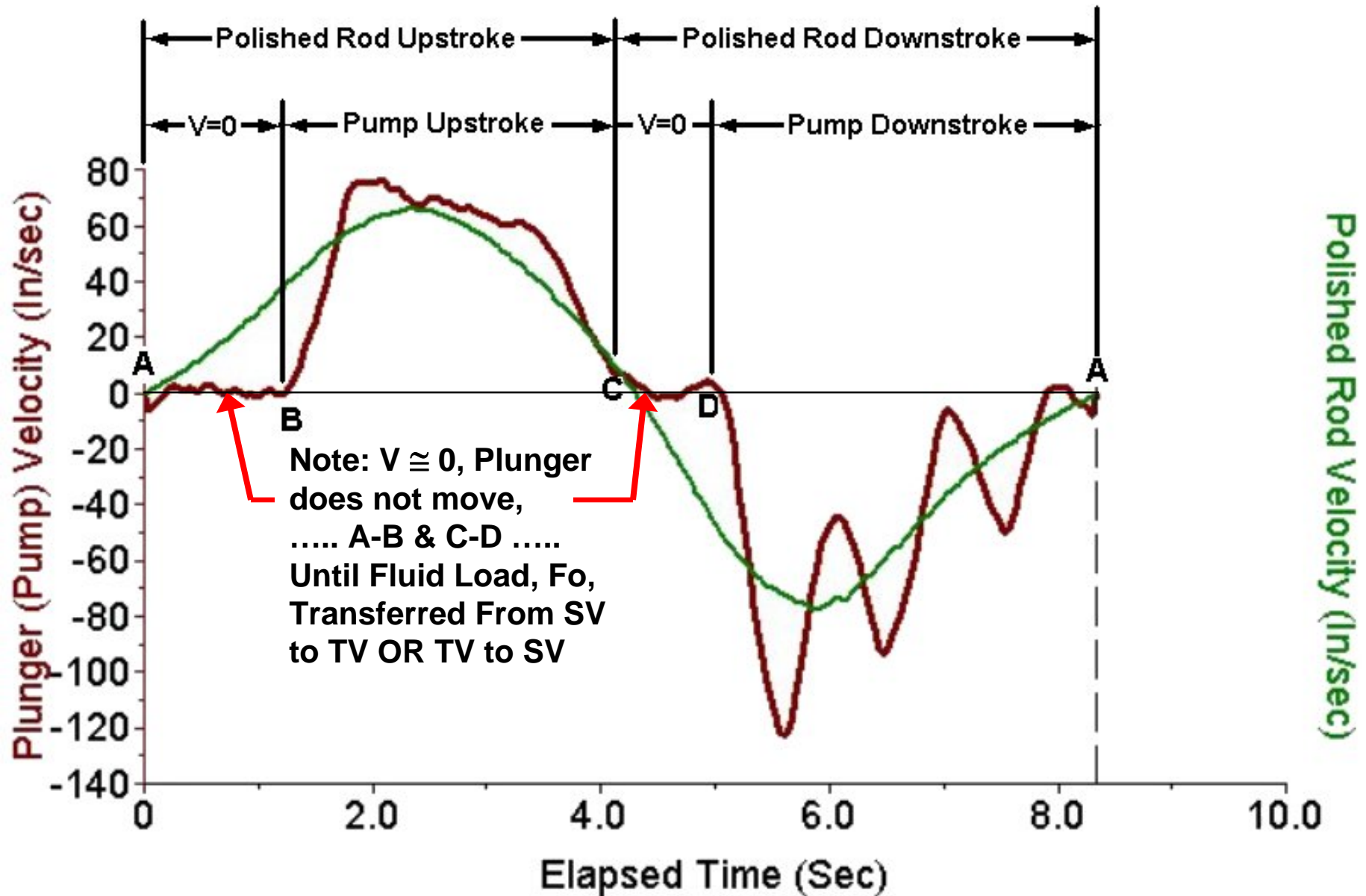


Rods Elastically Stretch to Pick Up  $F_o$  from A-B & Un-stretch to Release  $F_o$  from C-D

# Compare Polished Rod Position to Pump Plunger Position - Anchored Tubing



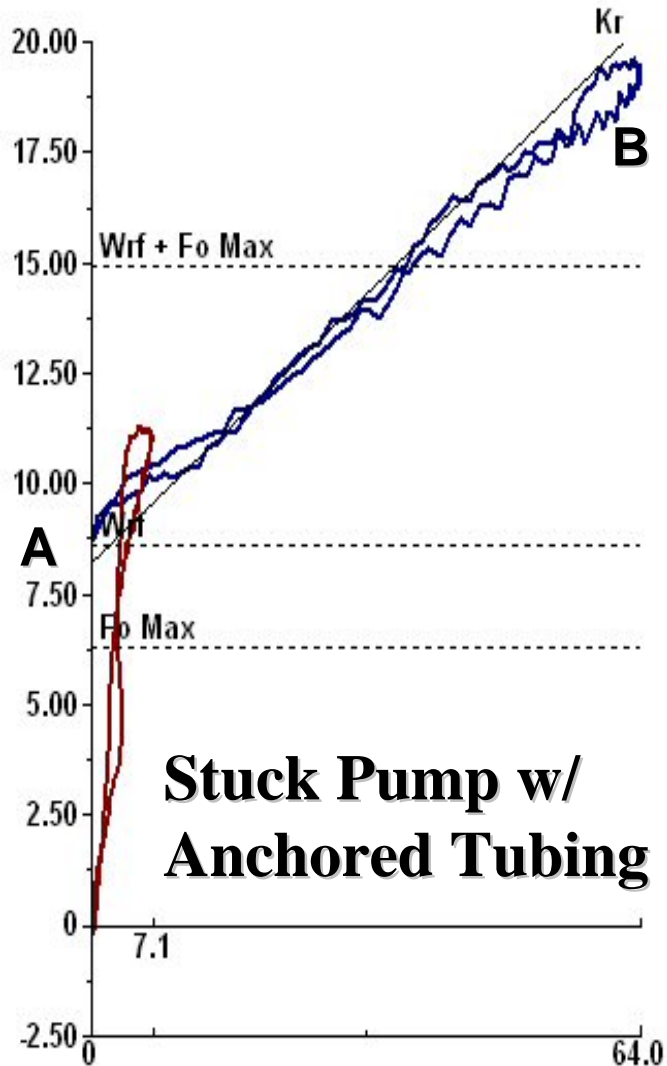
# Compare Polished Rod Velocity to Pump Plunger Velocity (Anchored Tubing)





# From A to B Rods Stretch to Pickup Load

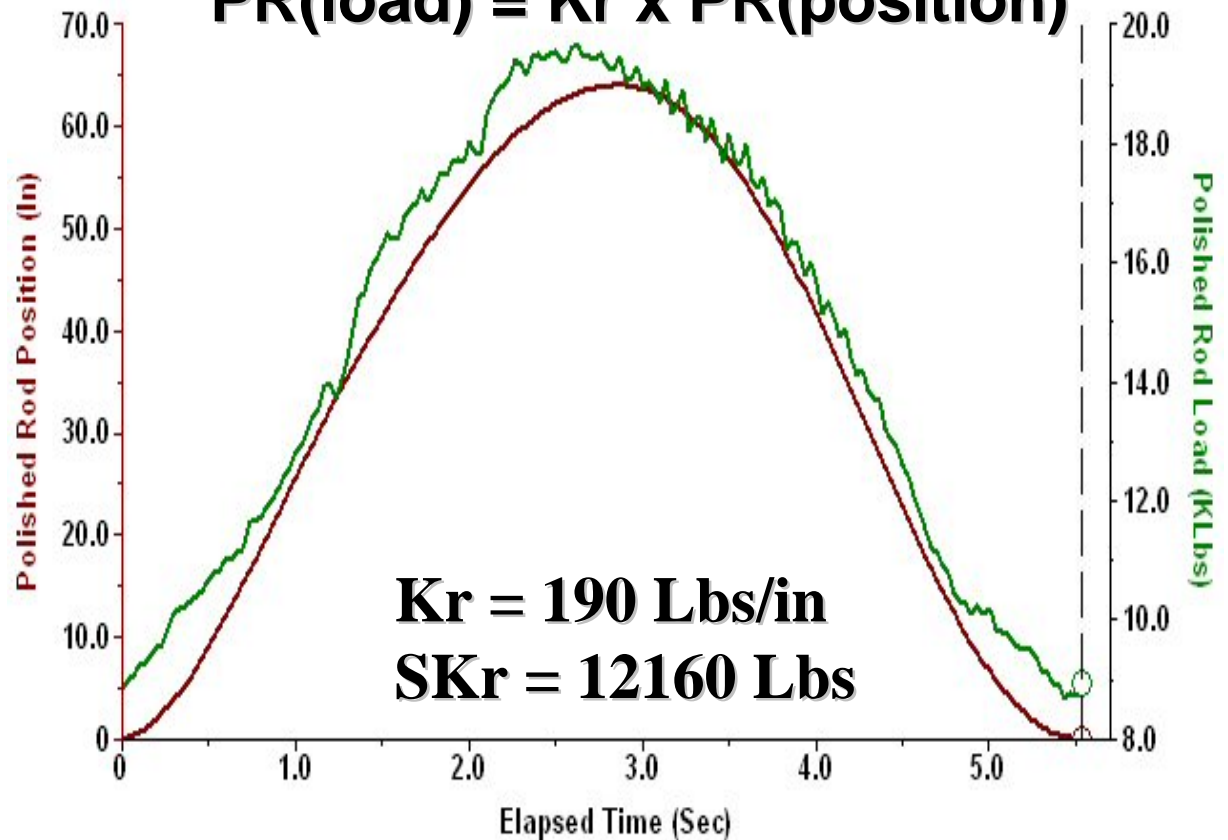
**Kr: Change in Load Proportional to Change in Position**



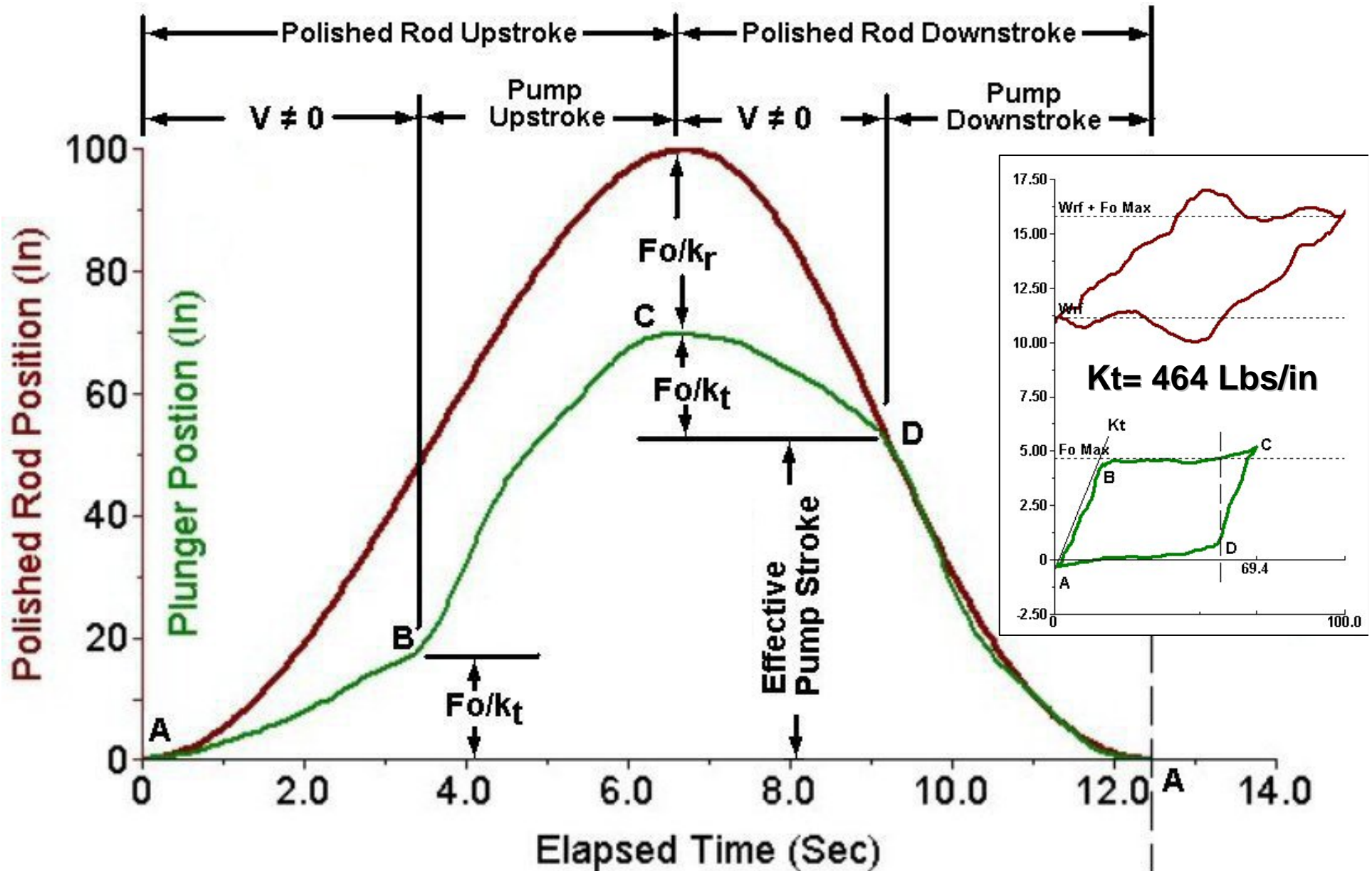
## Illustrate Spring Constant - Kr:

**A Stuck Pump causes the Change in Polished Rod Load to be proportional to Change in Polished Rod Position**

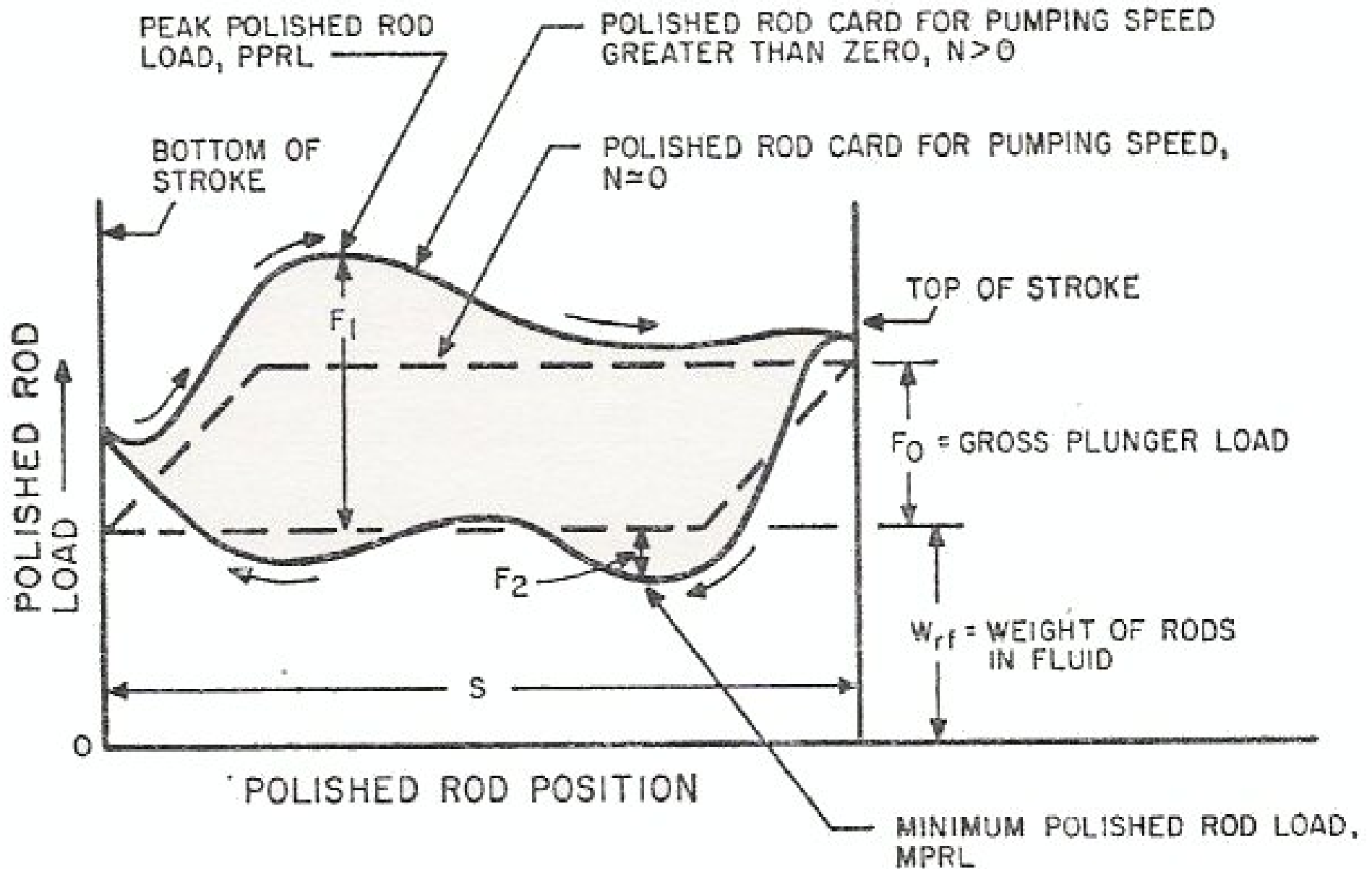
$$PR(\text{load}) = Kr \times PR(\text{position})$$

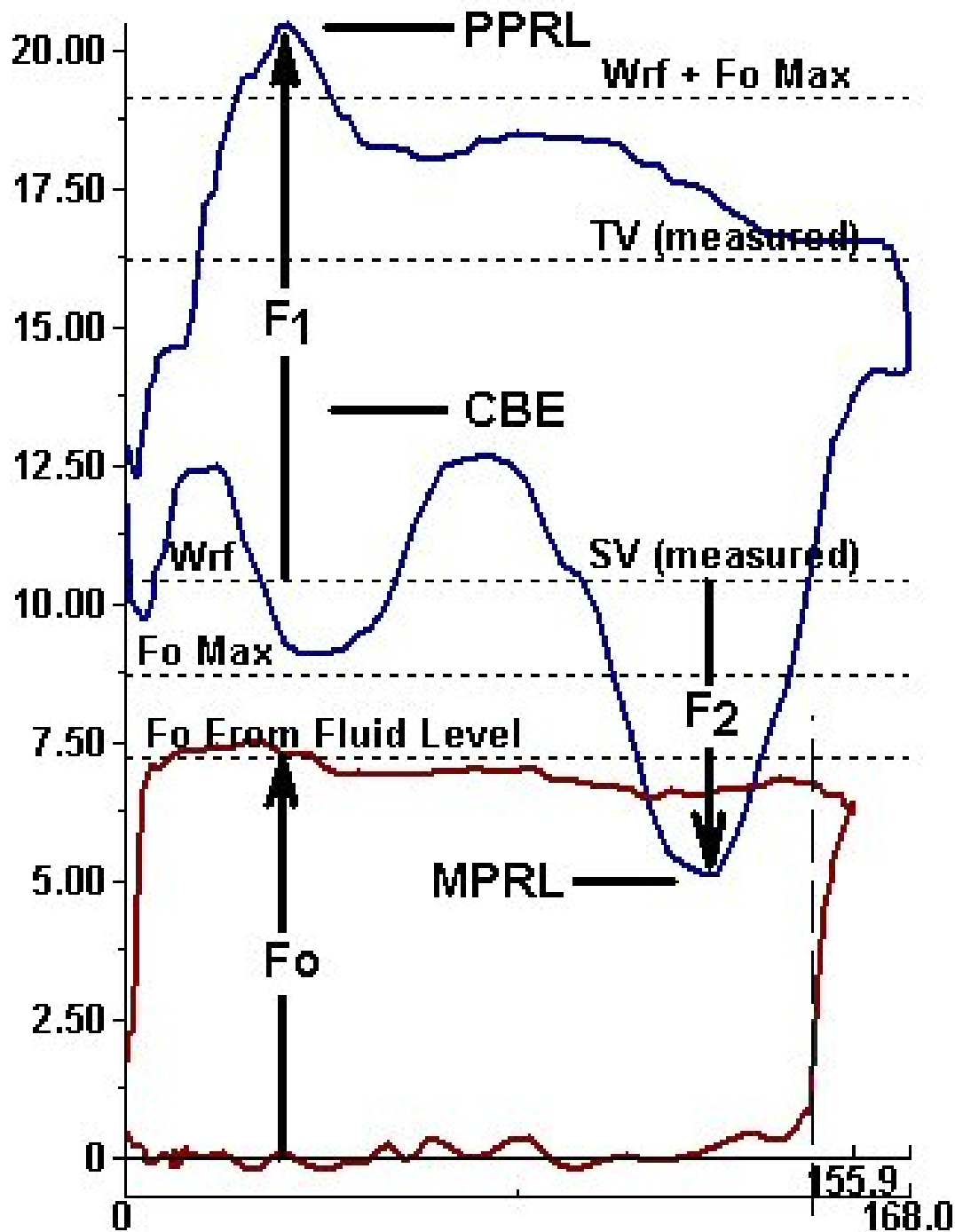


# Compare Polished Rod to Pump Plunger Position (Un-anchored Tubing)



# API RP 11L Figure





**TV** Weight of Rods in Fluid,  $W_{rf}$ , plus the Fluid Load,  $F_o$ , plunger is applying to the rods.

**W<sub>ra</sub>** weight of the rod string suspended in air.

**W<sub>rf</sub> = W<sub>ra</sub> - Buoyancy**

**F<sub>o</sub>** fluid load the pump applies to the rod string.

**F<sub>1</sub>** dynamic force required at the surface to apply a static force  $F_o$  at the pump..

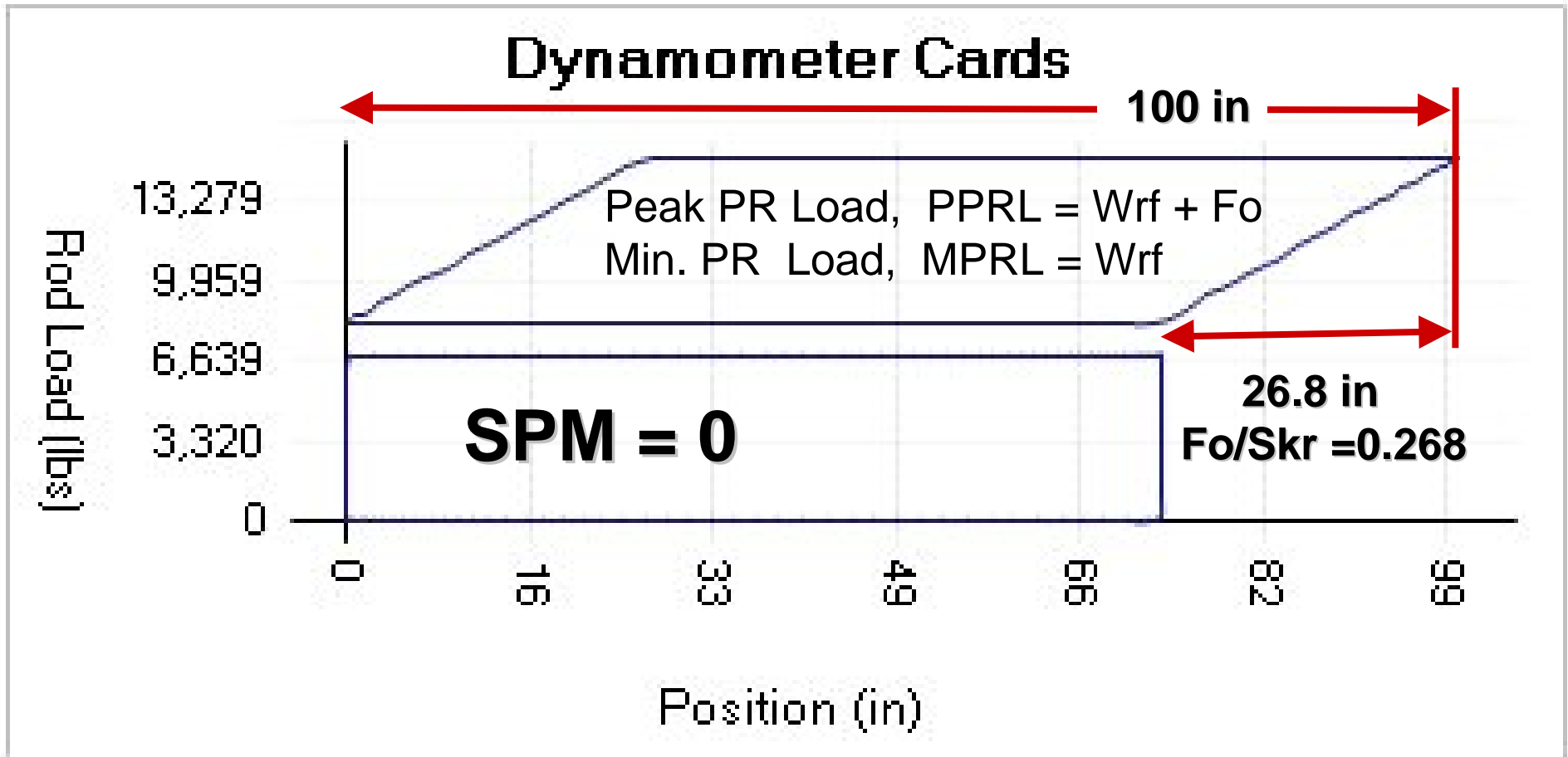
**F<sub>2</sub>** dynamic surface force due to transferring the  $F_o$  carried by the traveling valve to the standing valve.

# Example Well

1. 5000 ft pump depth, 100 in surface stroke (s), 50 psi tubing and pump intake pressure
2. 2 inch diameter plunger with anchored tubing
  - a) Fluid Load 6802 lbs
3. Tubing Fluid Gradient 0.433 psi/ft
4. 76 API Designation rod string
  - a) 41.2% - 7/8" and 58.8% - 3/4" rods
  - b) Weight Rods in Fluid – 8,288 Lbs
  - c)  $K_r = 254 \text{ lb/in}$  &  $S_{K_r} = 25400 \text{ lb}$
  - d)  $F_o/S_{K_r} = 0.268$  with 26.8 in of Stroke lost to Stretch

# Example Well

Dynamometer Cards at Pumping Speed of approximately 0



PPRL 15,089 lbs

Pump Stroke 73.2 in

$F_o/Skr$  0.268

MPRL 8,288 lbs

Static Stretch 26.8 in

$K_r$  254 lb/in

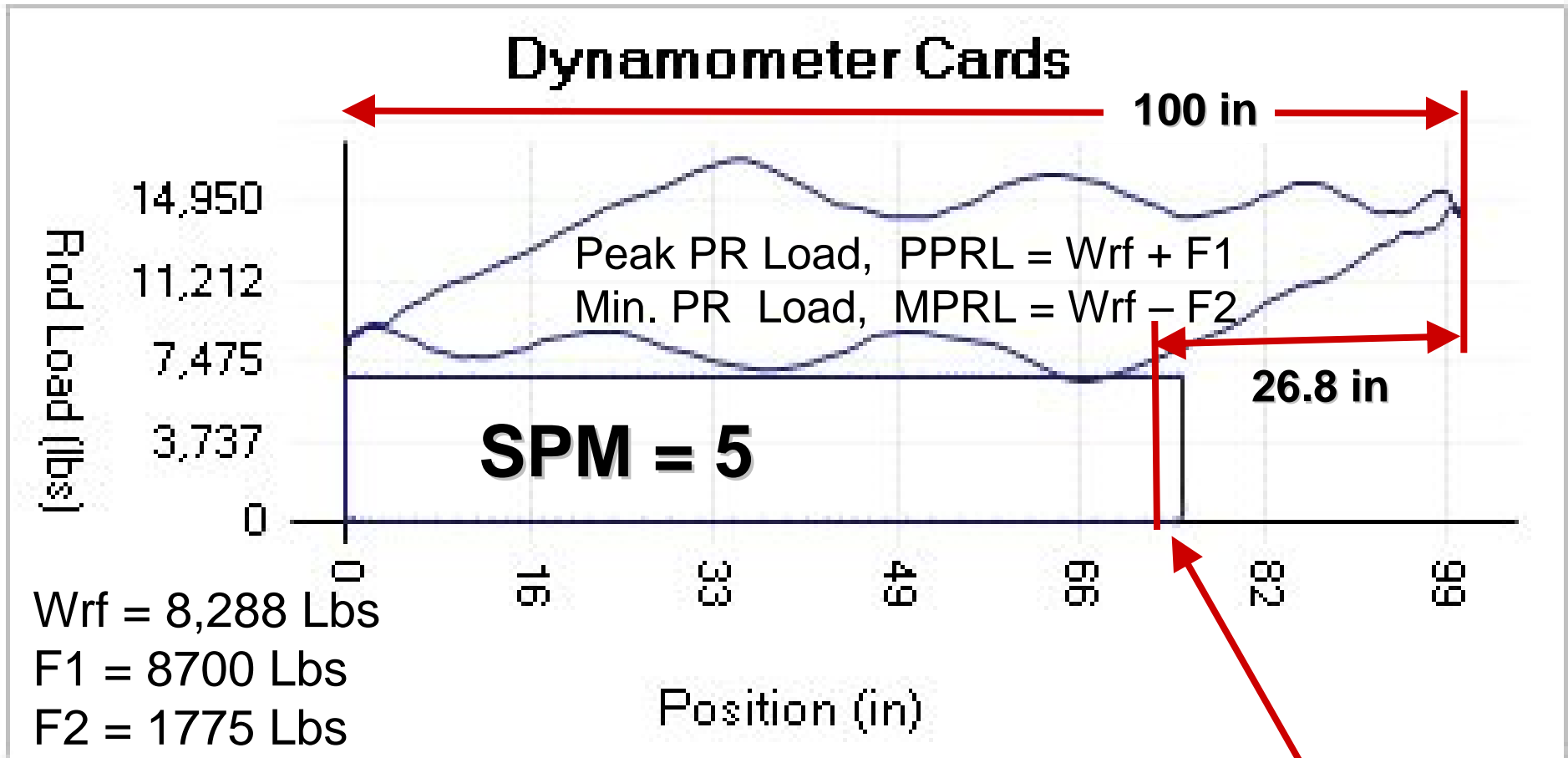
$F_o$  6,802 lbs

Overtravel 0.0 in

$K_t$  894 lb/in

# Example Well

Dynamometer Cards at Pumping Speed of approximately 5 SPM

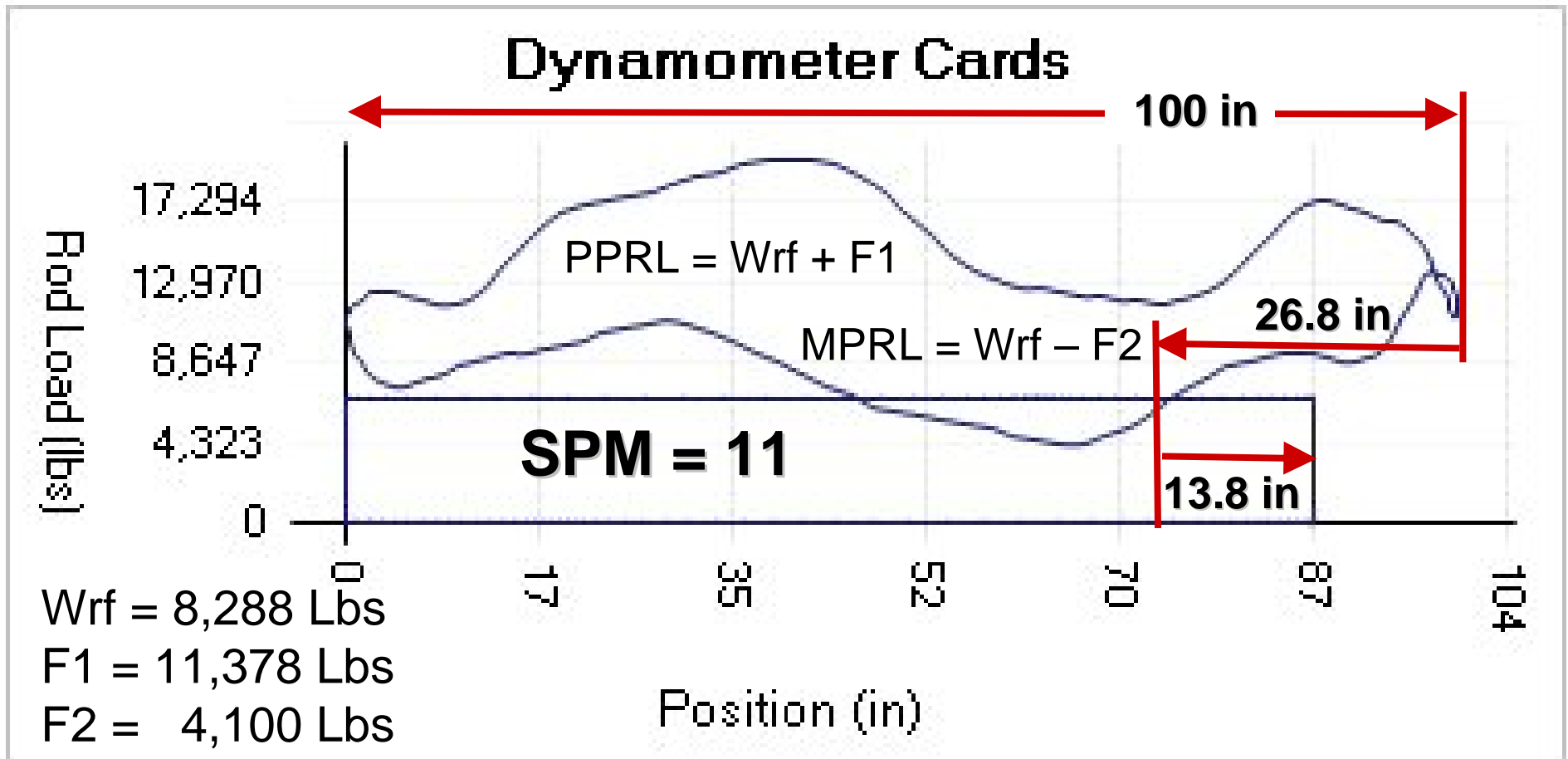


PPRL 16,988 lbs  
Pump Stroke 75.0 in  
 $F_o/S_{kr} = 0.268$

MPRL 6,513 lbs  
Static Stretch 26.8 in  
 $K_r = 254$  lb/in

$F_o = 6,802$  lbs  
Overtravel 1.7 in  
 $K_t = 894$  lb/in

# Rod String 76 Design loaded to 100% of the Allowable Modified Goodman Stress



PPRL 19,666 lbs

Pump Stroke 87.1 in

$F_o/S_{kr} = 0.268$

MPRL 4,188 lbs

Static Stretch 26.8 in

$K_r = 254$  lb/in

$F_o = 6,802$  lbs

Overtravel 13.8 in

$K_t = 894$  lb/in



# No - Undamped Natural Frequency

## Synchronous Speed of Straight Uniform Sucker Rod String



$$N_o = 15 v_s / L$$

$$N_o = 15 \times 16300 / 5000 = 48.9$$

$N_o$  – Undamped natural frequency , SPM

$v_s$  – Velocity of Sound in Steel, ft/sec

$v_s = 16,300$  ft/sec

$L$  – Length of Rod String, Ft

$N$  – Current Pumping Speed, SPM

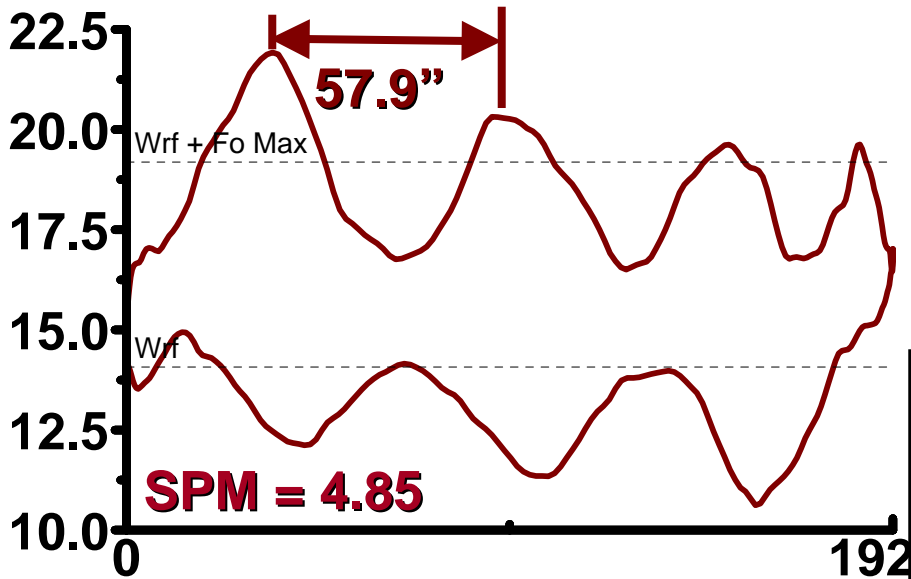
$N_o'$  – Natural Frequency adjusted for Taper –  $F_c \times N_o$

$$F_c = 1.093$$

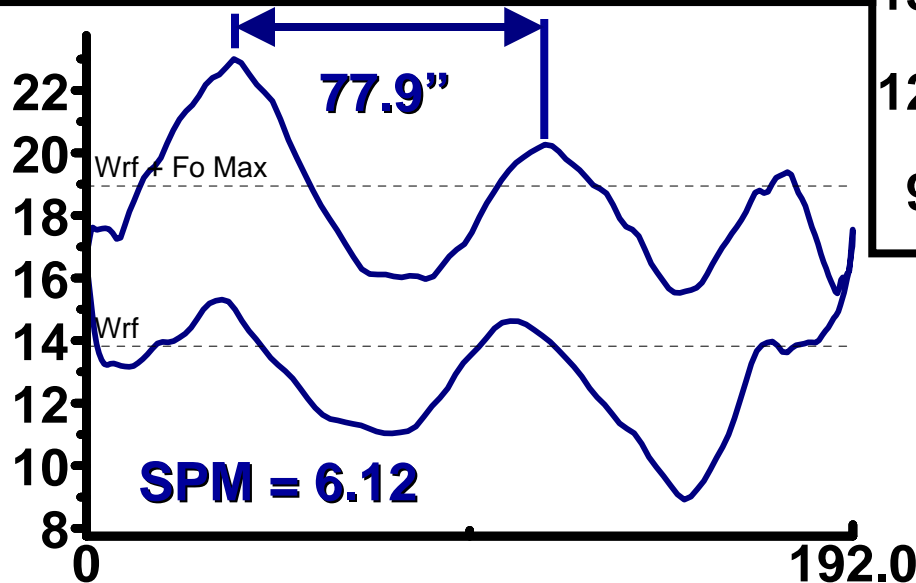
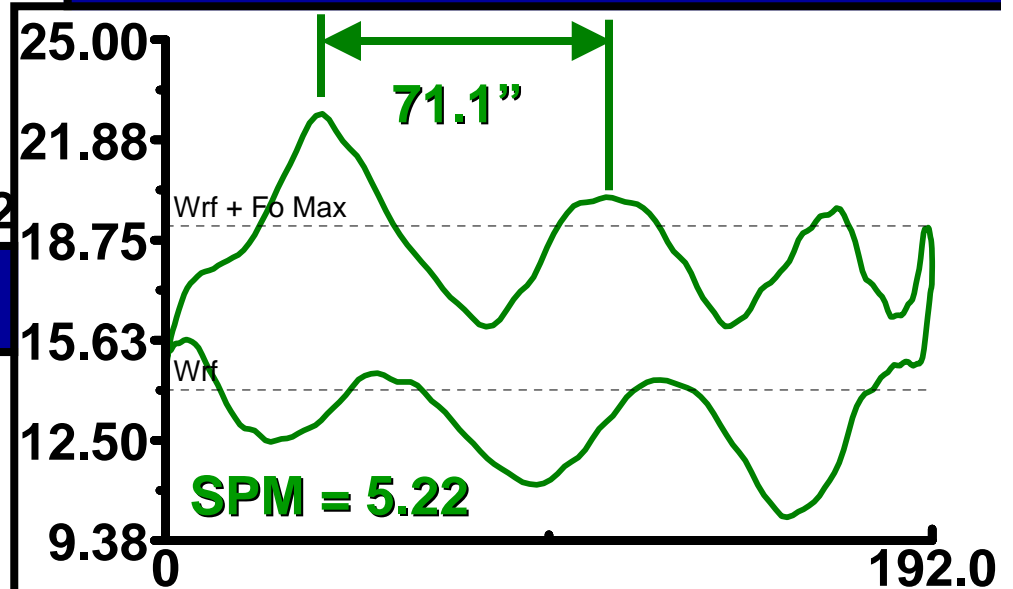
$$N_o' = 1.093 \times 48.9 = 53.4$$

$N/N_o'$  - Dimensionless Speed Ratio

# Increase SPM from 4.85 to 6.12



Natural Frequency  
adjusted for Taper =  
45.88 SPM



Elapsed Time Between  
Repeating Load Peaks  
= 1.31 Seconds

# Equal Time From Load Peak to Peak

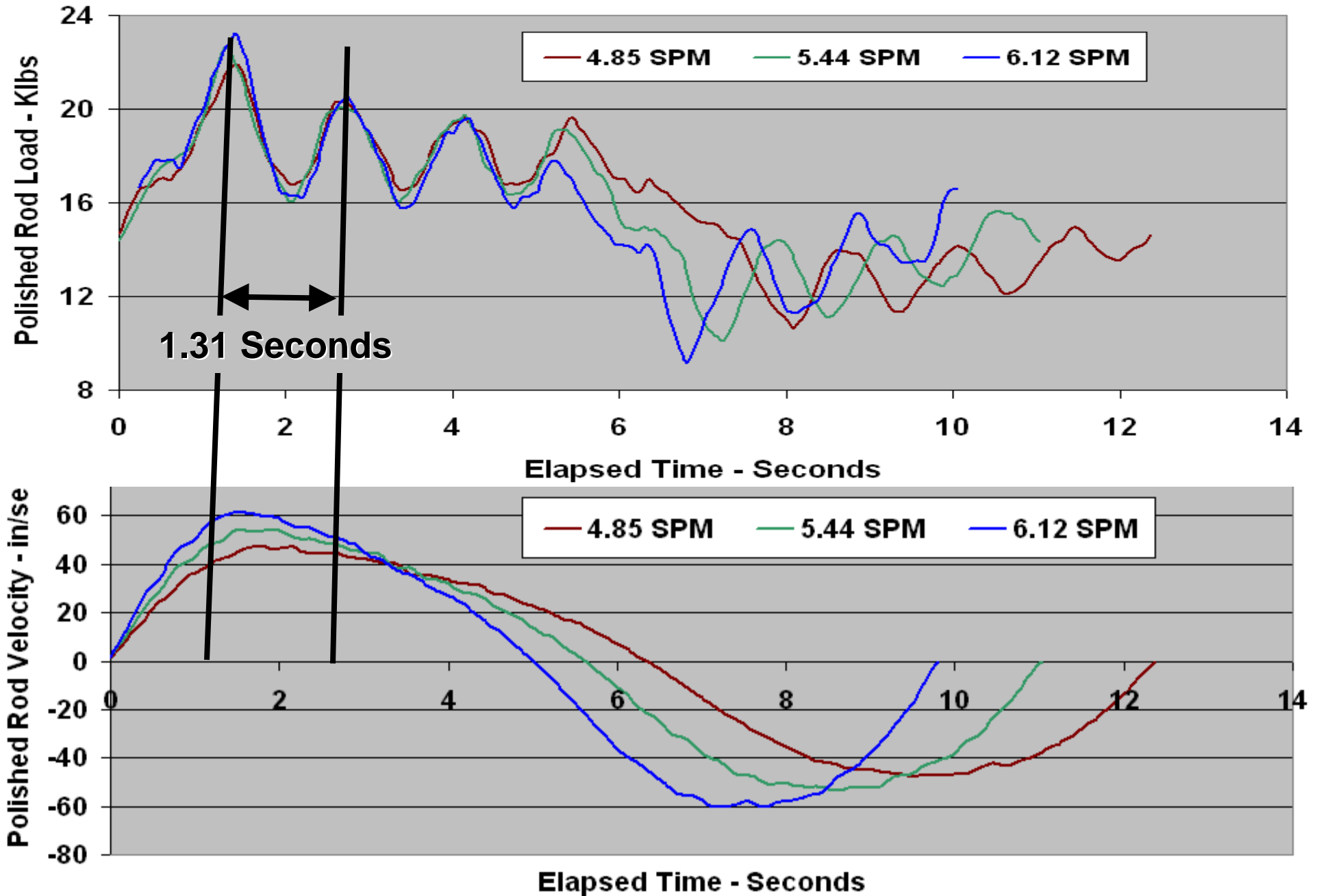
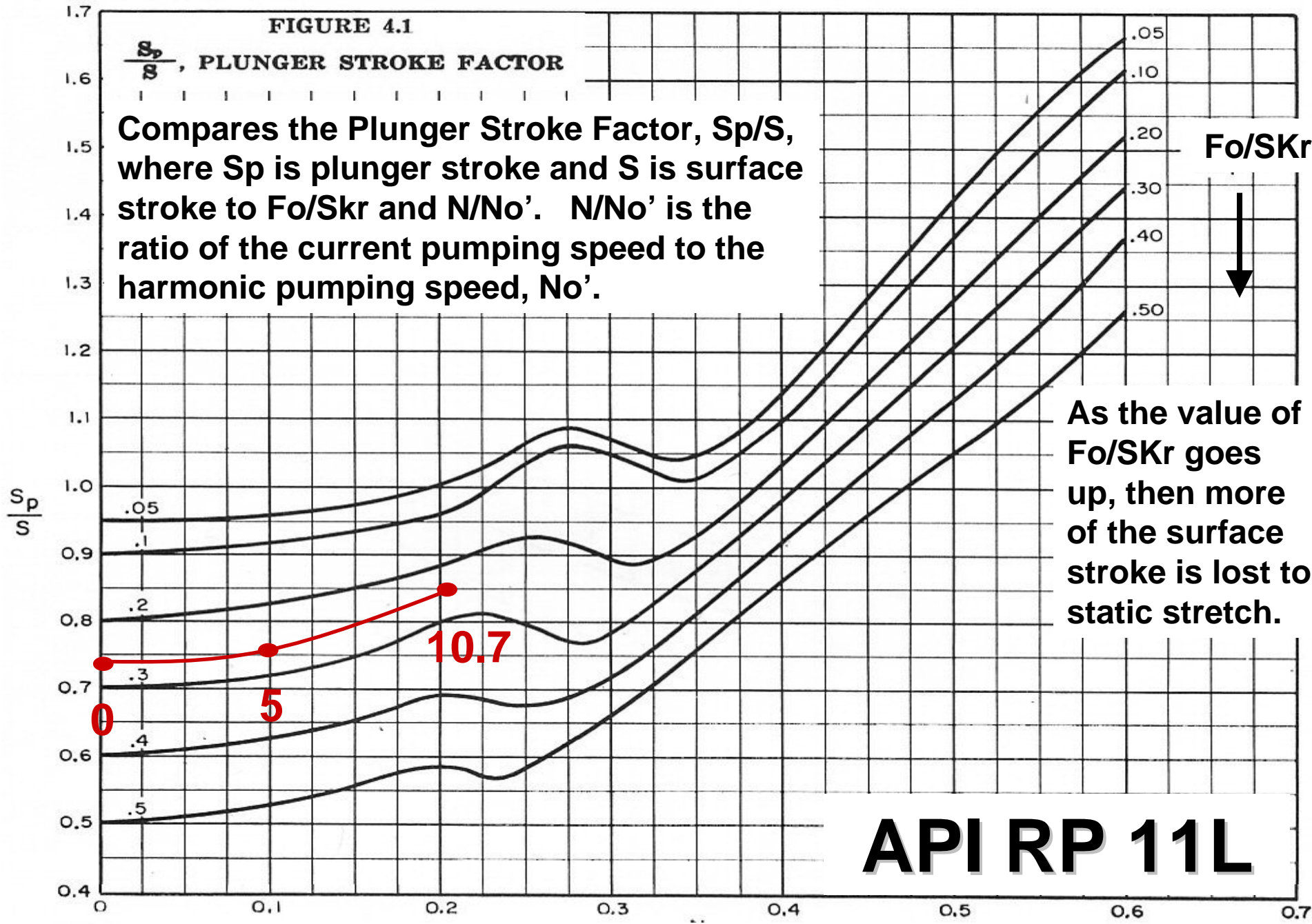


FIGURE 4.1

$\frac{S_p}{S}$ , PLUNGER STROKE FACTOR

Compares the Plunger Stroke Factor,  $S_p/S$ , where  $S_p$  is plunger stroke and  $S$  is surface stroke to  $F_o/Skr$  and  $N/No'$ .  $N/No'$  is the ratio of the current pumping speed to the harmonic pumping speed,  $No'$ .



As the value of  $F_o/Skr$  goes up, then more of the surface stroke is lost to static stretch.

API RP 11L

As  $N/No'$  increases, then more overtravel occurs

# Company J

Note: The analog computer dynamometer cards on this exhibit were conceived by Sucker Rod Pumping Research, Inc., and publication is made possible by cooperation of the American Petroleum Institute.

Do Not Design Rods Here Due to Overtravel

BAD

Do Not Design Rods Here Due to Undertravel

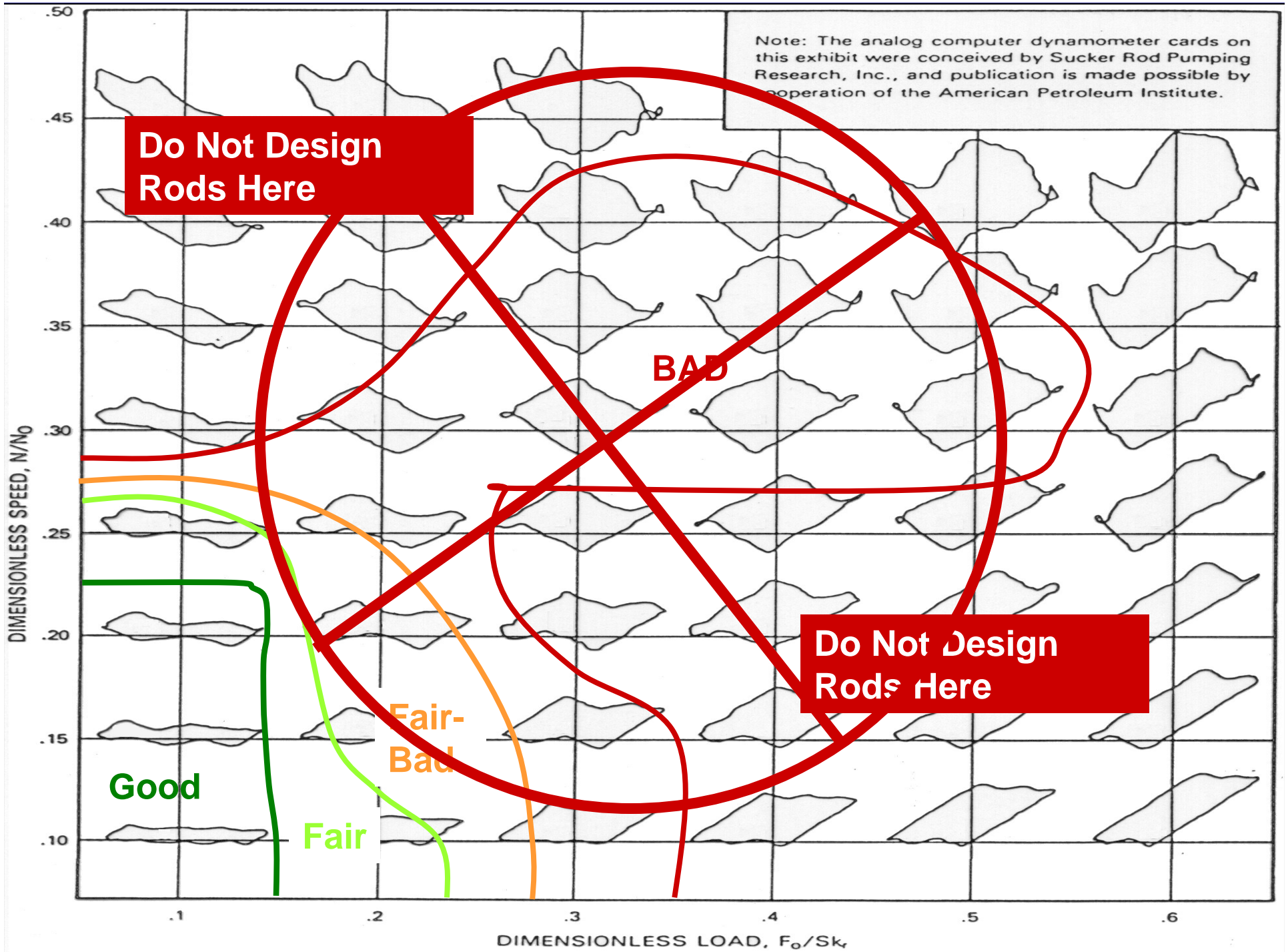
DIMENSIONLESS SPEED,  $N/N_0$

DIMENSIONLESS LOAD,  $F_0/Sk_r$

Good

Fair

Fair-Bad



Note: The analog computer dynamometer cards on this exhibit were conceived by Sucker Rod Pumping Research, Inc., and publication is made possible by cooperation of the American Petroleum Institute.

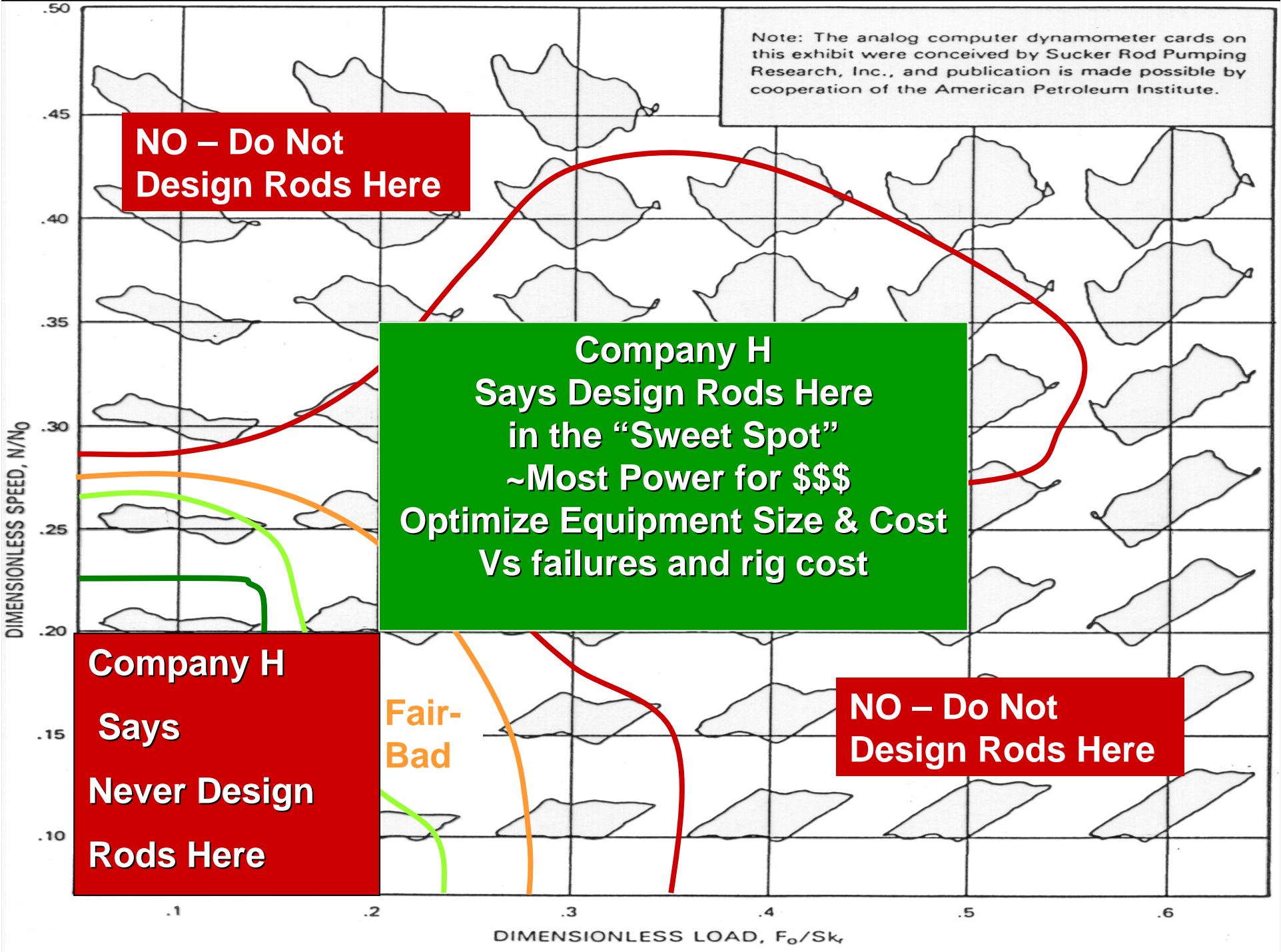
**NO – Do Not Design Rods Here**

**Company H Says Design Rods Here in the “Sweet Spot” ~Most Power for \$\$\$ Optimize Equipment Size & Cost Vs failures and rig cost**

**Company H Says Never Design Rods Here**

**Fair-Bad**

**NO – Do Not Design Rods Here**



# **Fo/Skr & N/No' Rod Design Practice**

**1st company's rod design practice  
where:**

**$Fo/SKr < 0.2$  and  $N/No' < 0.2$  Maximum**

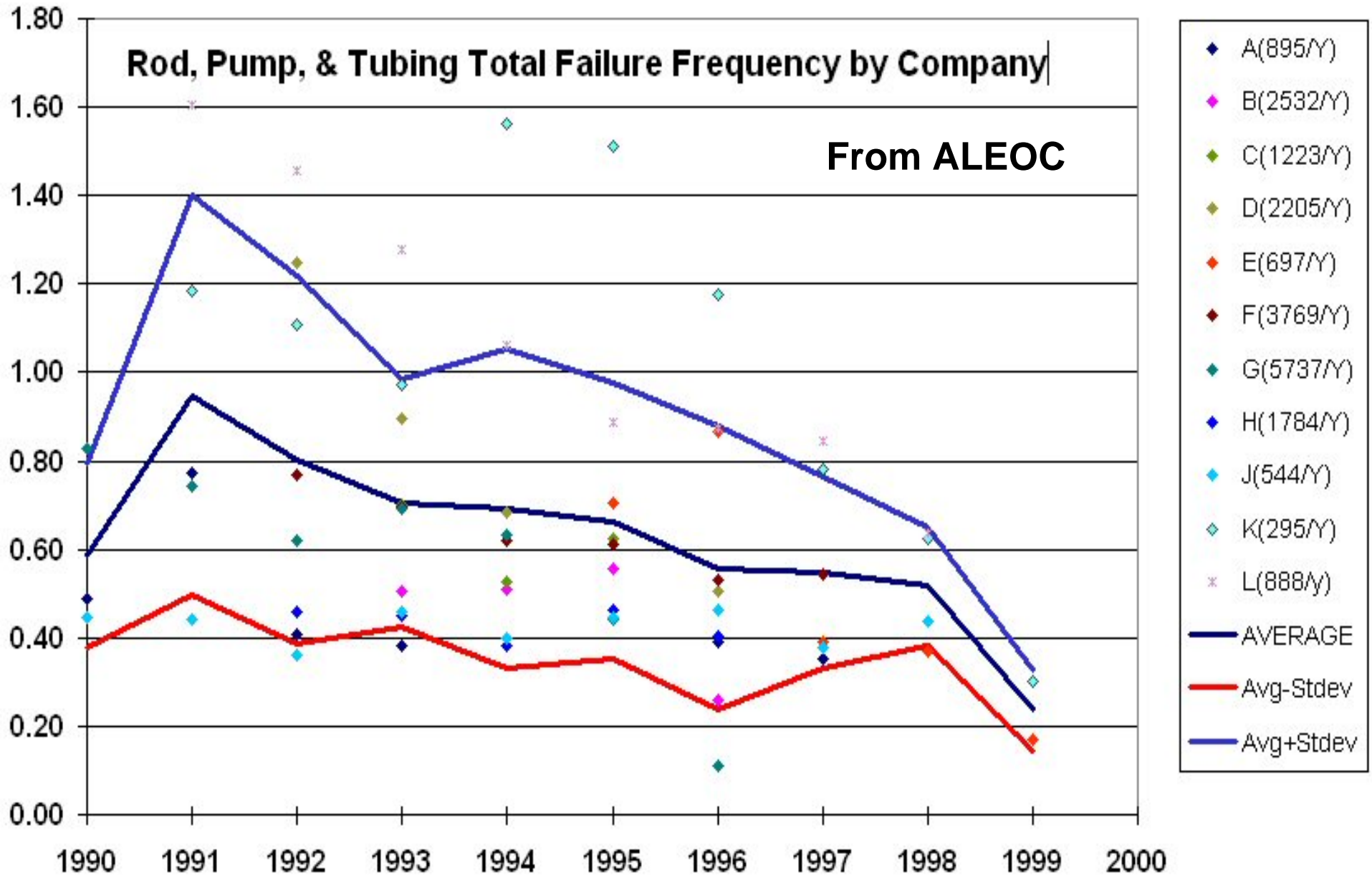
**2<sup>nd</sup> company designed rod strings  
where:**

**$Fo/SKr > 0.2$  and  $N/No' > 0.2$  Minimum**

**Did design practice impact failure Rates?**



# Both had 0.4 Failure Frequency.



# **What did Companies have in Common?**

- 1. Active Program where Technicians:**
  - a) Acquired Data**
  - b) Analyzed Problems**
  - c) Followed-up Recommendations**
- 2. Practiced a “Company” Methodology to Analyze, Optimize, and Trouble Shoot Wells**
- 3. Tracked Cause and Condition of Failed Downhole Equipment in a Failure Data Base**
- 4. Determined to investigate Root Cause of Failure and Correct the Problem.**

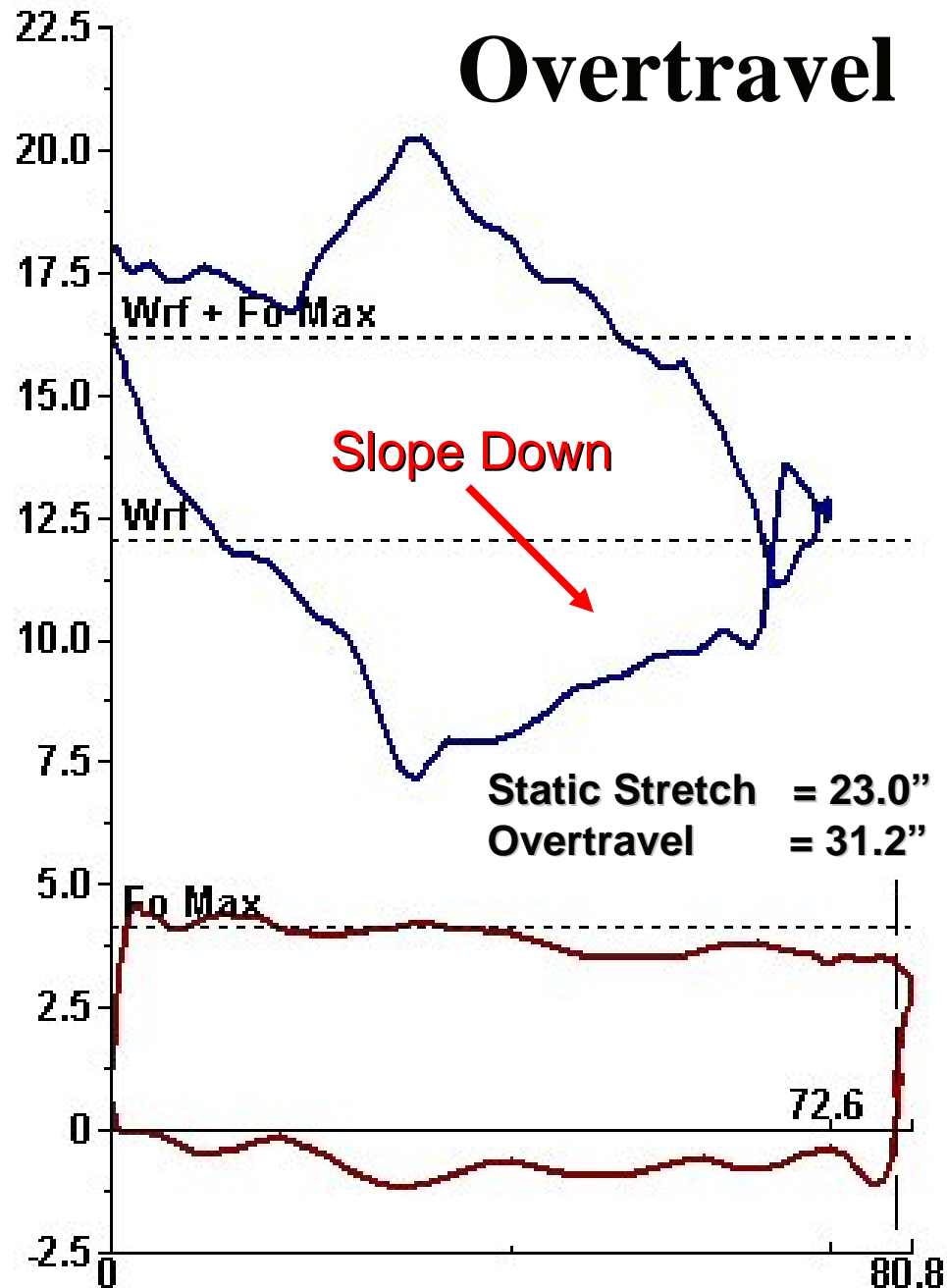
# What does the ALEOC Failure Data Show?

1. Making an effort to analyze the well's operation and taking action to fix problems discovered is the MOST important requirement
2. Everyone in the study group recognized their performance could be improved and they took action to reduce failures
3. Their different actions with-in their individual companies resulted in a reduction of failures for all companies in the study group
4. Expect a 0.4 Failure Frequency in Your Field

# Is Overtravel Good or Bad?

1. Good because Pump Displacement Increases with Increase in SPM
2. Bad because Failures “tend” to increase with increased SPM
3. Operating within a pumping speed 5-10 SPM range is common practice and failures rates should not increase when pumping within this speed range.

# Overtravel



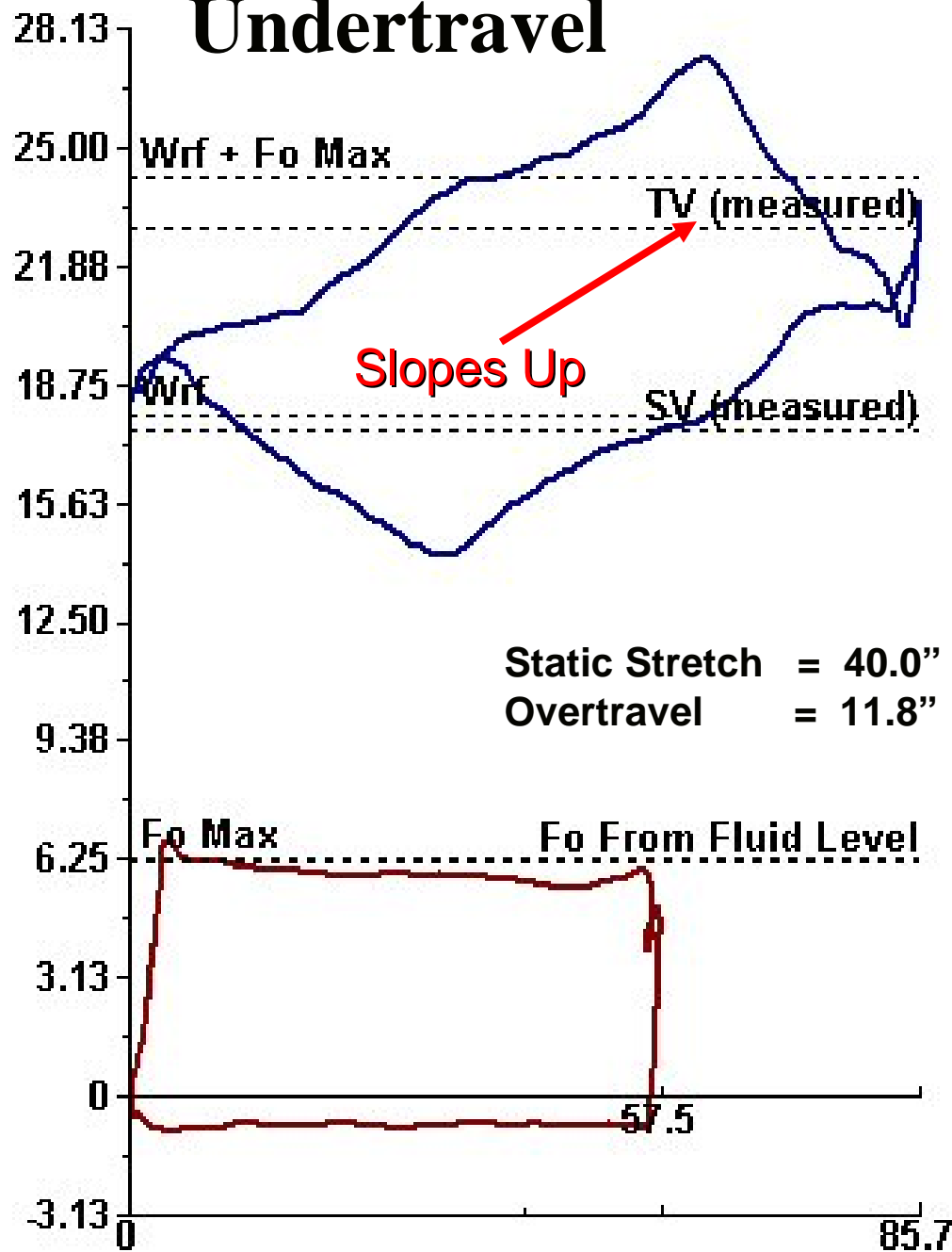
Overtravel Plunger stroke is longer than PR stroke. Surface card slopes downward from left to right.

Example: The 80.8" plunger stroke is *more* than the 72.6" polished rod stroke. The surface stroke is reduced by 23" of rod stretch required to lift the fluid load. The 13.74 SPM adds momentum to the rods increasing stroke by 31.2" inches.

Overtravel cards include: parted rods, flowing wells, unseated pumps, gas locks, worn pumps, fiberglass rod strings or pumping at a very fast SPM.

76 Rod String + 250' Wt. Bars  
1.25 " Diameter Plunger  
7054 Pump Depth

# Undertravel



Undertravel Surface card slopes upward from left to right. The pump plunger moves *less* than the plunger stroke. Undertravel is due to rod stretch from fluid load, downhole friction or other reasons. Undertravel cards include: stuck pumps, *plunger is too large for the rod string*, sand or scale problems, too tight stuffing box and/or paraffin.

## Example

86 Rod String + 150 WT Bars  
1.5 " Diameter Plunger  
9317 Pump Depth  
6.69 SPM

# Summary

- **The following minimum rod string design results should be provided from the design program**
  - PPRL
  - MPRL
  - SVL
  - TVL
  - PRHP
  - PT
- **Excessive overtravel or undertravel should be avoided for optimum design and equipment life**
- **Properly analyzing failures, redesigning equipment , repairing and optimizing wells should be conducted if low operating costs, optimum production and maximum well and field value are important**