A. Trevor was limited by physiological threshold
Notice how much more yellow (threshold zone) appears in his heat maps. On both climbs, his average power stayed in that zone.

B. Trevor struggled with gradient variability
Notice the frequent drops in his power in the variable part of the Flagstaff climb.

C. Trevor was the most consistent across time trials regardless of grade or length
While Sepp was the most consistent within efforts, Trevor was the most consistent across efforts. He averaged the exact same power on Flagstaff and Lefthand (106.3% of threshold).

D. Trevor paid for above-threshold efforts
On the steepest pitch of Flagstaff, he went above threshold. Once the climb leveled off, he experienced a significant drop in power and heart rate showing signs that he had blown up.

E. By varying their efforts, the climbers rode uneven climbs well above threshold
On Flagstaff, Sepp and I averaged 117.5% and 115.6% of threshold respectively, an average that is outside of our threshold zone.

F. Climbers struggle more on consistent grades
On the steadier Lefthand climb, Sepp and I averaged 113.5% and 109.6% of threshold yet our lactates were 9.8 and 9.4 mmol/L respectively. We were riding at lower average powers but struggling more physiologically.

G. Climbers can produce “bursts” of power without paying a price
Sepp and I had extended periods of power well above threshold. We were then able to quickly return to steady threshold intensities without blowing up.

H. Sepp was the best pacer
Notice how little variability there is in Sepp’s power. He was also the only one to approach any of the climbs starting out easier and ramping up his effort later (Lefthand).

I. Elite riders have a better sense of their limits
Sepp’s power and cadence trendlines are amazingly flat. This suggests that despite these bursts of power, he had an innate sense of his limits and was able to find a good pace even when varying his power.

J. Sepp pushed over steeps
All of us had points where we pushed well above threshold, but Trevor and I tended to push on the steeps. Sepp kept the steep parts steady and then pushed over the top.