

The World Land Speed Record

Task A: Question sheet

On 25 September 1924, Malcolm Campbell's Blue Bird reached an average speed of 146.16 m.p.h. This broke the world land speed record with an actual increase of 0.27 m.p.h. and a percentage increase of 0.19%.

On 21 July 1925 Malcolm Campbell increased this by 4.71 m.p.h. – a percentage increase of 3.22%.

In 1927 John Godfrey Parry-Thomas, driving Babs, increased the record by 12.68%, which was an actual increase of 19.13 m.p.h.

Study the data provided on the information sheet. This shows every world land speed record that has been set since 1898.

Find the lowest three actual increases in the record. Find also the lowest three percentage increases.

Repeat for the highest three actual and percentage increases.

Comment on your results.

You could use a spreadsheet to help with this task.

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Task A: Information sheet

Date	Location	Driver	Vehicle	Speed	
				mph	km/h
18 December 1898	Achères, Yvelines, France	Gaston de Chasseloup-Laubat	Jeantaud Duc	57.65	92.78
17 January 1899	Achères, Yvelines, France	Camille Jenatzy	La Jamais Contente	65.792	105.882
13 April 1902	Nice, France	Léon Serpollet	Easter Egg	75.06	120.80
5 August 1902	Albis-St. Arnoult, France	William K. Vanderbilt	Mors	76.08	122.438
12 January 1904	Lake St. Clair, USA	Henry Ford	Ford 999 Racer	91.37	147.05
26 January 1906	Ormond Beach, USA	Fred Marriott	Stanley Rocket	127.66	205.44
12 July 1924	France	Ernest Eldridge	FIAT Mephistopheles	145.89	234.98
25 September 1924	Pendine Sands, UK	Malcolm Campbell	Sunbeam 350HP	146.16	235.22
21 July 1925	Pendine Sands, UK	Malcolm Campbell	Sunbeam 350HP	150.87	242.8
28 April 1926	Pendine Sands, UK	J.G. Parry-Thomas	Babs	170	273.6
4 February 1927	Pendine Sands, UK	Malcolm Campbell	Blue Bird	174.88	281.44
29 March 1927	Daytona Beach, USA	Henry Segrave	Mystery (Sunbeam 1000 hp)	203.79	327.97
19 February 1928	Daytona Beach, USA	Malcolm Campbell	Blue Bird	206.956	333.048
22 April 1928	Daytona Beach, USA	Ray Keech	Triplex Special	207.552	334.007
11 March 1929	Daytona Beach, USA	Henry Segrave	Golden Arrow	231.446	372.459
5 February 1931	Verneuk Pan, South Africa	Malcolm Campbell	Blue Bird	246.09	396.025
24 February 1932	Daytona Beach, USA	Malcolm Campbell	Blue Bird	253.97	408.73
22 February 1933	Daytona Beach, USA	Malcolm Campbell	Blue Bird	272.46	438.48
7 March 1935	Daytona Beach, USA	Malcolm Campbell	Blue Bird	276.816	445.472

3 September 1935	Bonneville Salt Flats, USA	Malcolm Campbell	Blue Bird	301.129	484.598
19 November 1937	Bonneville Salt Flats, USA	George Eyston	Thunderbolt	311.42	501.16
27 August 1938	Bonneville Salt Flats, USA	George Eyston	Thunderbolt	345.4	556.012
15 September 1938	Bonneville Salt Flats, USA	John Cobb	Railton	350.2	563.566
16 September 1938	Bonneville Salt Flats, USA	George Eyston	Thunderbolt	357.5	575.314
23 August 1939	Bonneville Salt Flats, USA	John Cobb	Railton Special	369.74	595.04
16 September 1947	Bonneville Salt Flats, USA	John Cobb	Railton Mobil Special	394.196	634.397
17 July 1964	Lake Eyre, Australia	Donald Campbell	Bluebird CN7	403.10	644.96
2 October 1964	Bonneville Salt Flats, USA	Tom Green	Wingfoot Express	413.2	664.84
5 October 1964	Bonneville Salt Flats, USA	Art Arfons	Green Monster	434.03	698.35
2 November 1965	Bonneville Salt Flats, USA	Craig Breedlove	Spirit of America – Sonic 1	555.485	893.966
15 November 1965	Bonneville Salt Flats, USA	Craig Breedlove	Spirit of America – Sonic 1	600.601	966.37
23 October 1970	Bonneville Salt Flats, USA	Gary Gabelich	Blue Flame	622.407	1001.667
4 October 1983	Black Rock Desert, USA	Richard Noble	Thrust 2	633.47	1019.47
25 September 1997	Black Rock Desert, USA	Andy Green	Thrust SSC	714.144	1149.303
15 October 1997	Black Rock Desert, USA	Andy Green	Thrust SSC	763.035	1227.986

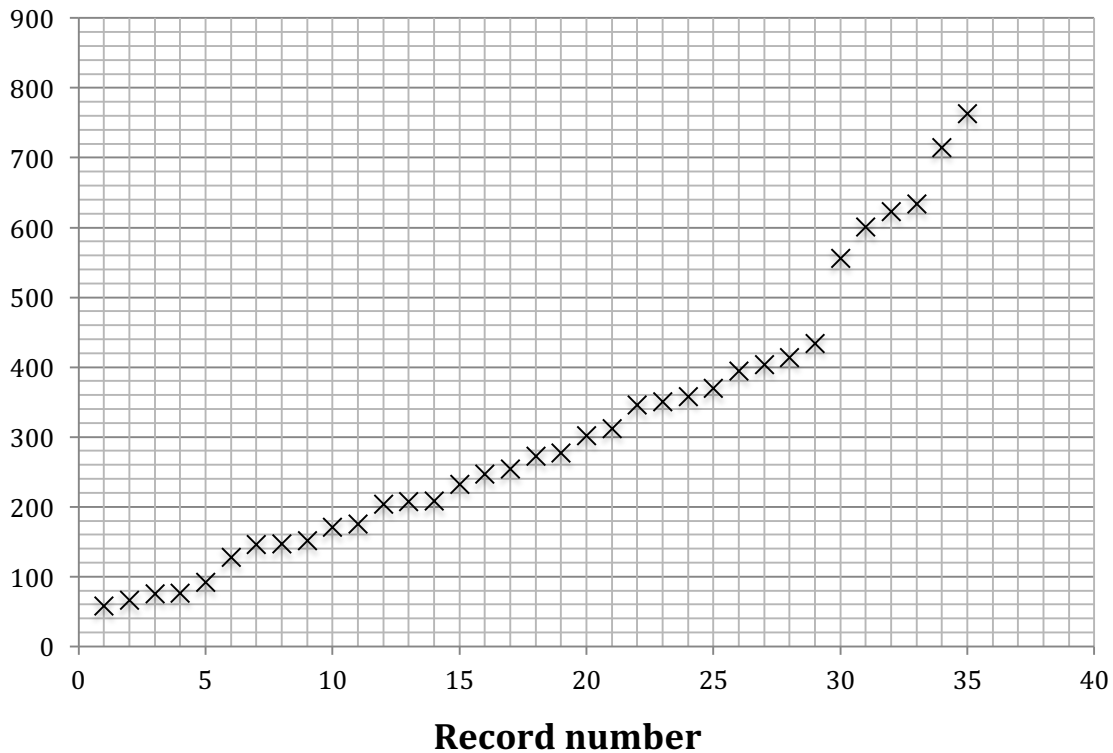
Source: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Land_speed_record

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Task B: Question sheet

Here is a scatter graph showing record number plotted against speed.

Speed (m.p.h.)



Describe what the graph tells you.

Is it possible to make any predictions about future land speed record attempts?

In what way is the graph misleading?

Plot a times series graph showing date against speed. Comment on your graph.