

Example 4: Automobile Land Speed Records (GR 5-10)

In the first recorded automobile race in 1898, Count Gaston de Chasseloup-Laubat of Paris, France, drove 1 kilometer in 57 seconds for an average speed of 39.2 miles per hour (mph) or 63.1 kilometers per hour (kph). In 1904, Henry Ford drove his Ford Arrow across frozen Lake St. Clair, MI, at an average speed of 91.4 mph. Now, the North American Eagle is trying to break a land speed record of 800 mph. The Federation International de L'Automobile (FIA), the world's governing body for motor sport and land speed records, recorded the following land speed records. (Retrieved on February 5, 2006, from <http://www.landspeed.com/lsrinfo.asp>.)

Speed (mph)	Driver	Car	Engine	Date
407.447	Craig Breedlove	Spirit of America	GE J47	8/5/63
413.199	Tom Green	Wingfoot Express	WE J46	10/2/64
434.22	Art Arfons	Green Monster	GE J79	10/5/64
468.719	Craig Breedlove	Spirit of America	GE J79	10/13/64
526.277	Craig Breedlove	Spirit of America	GE J79	10/15/65
536.712	Art Arfons	Green Monster	GE J79	10/27/65
555.127	Craig Breedlove	Spirit of America, Sonic 1	GE J79	11/2/65
576.553	Art Arfons	Green Monster	GE J79	11/7/65
600.601	Craig Breedlove	Spirit of America, Sonic 1	GE J79	11/15/65
622.407	Gary Gabelich	Blue Flame	Rocket	10/23/70
633.468	Richard Noble	Thrust 2	RR RG 146	10/4/83
763.035	Andy Green	Thrust SSC	RR Spey	10/15/97

Example 5: Distance and Time (GR 8-10)

The following data were collected using a car with a water clock set to release a drop in a unit of time and a meter stick. The car rolled down an inclined plane. Three trials were run. Create a data table with an average distance column and an average velocity column, create an average distance-time graph, and draw the best-fit line or curve. Estimate the car's distance traveled and velocity at six drops of water. Describe the motion of the car. Is it going at a constant speed, accelerating, or decelerating? How do you know?

Time (drops of water)	Distance (cm)
1	10, 11, 9
2	29, 31, 30
3	59, 58, 61
4	102, 100, 98
5	122, 125, 127