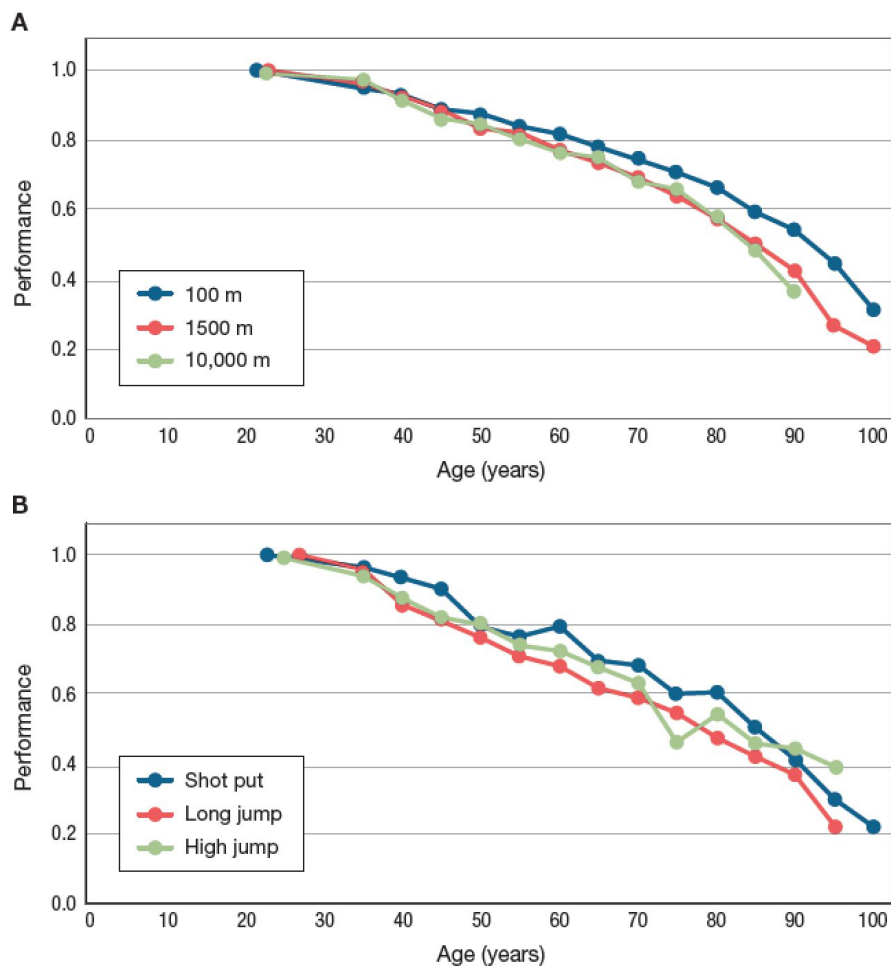


World records as measures of senescence

In a section of the book *Evolutions* ([Bergstrom and Dugatkin \(2016\)](#)) that deals with the evolution of senescence, authors note that not only does mortality increase and fertility decrease with age, but individuals undergo a decline in physical performance with age as well. In an attempt to illustrate this point, they provided graphs of world record performances in six track and field events, for different age groups. In these visualizations, reproduced below, performance is scaled relative to the world record for any age. In track events, performance is quantified as average speed; in field events, performance is quantified as distance or height.



In this exercise, your goal is to critique the premise that the curves plotted here are good representations of the physical decline humans undergo with age.