Using Microsoft Excel to predict the Olympic High Jump Record

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Abstract

Sport is a marvellous tool for teaching statistical techniques and can turn an otherwise uninteresting subject for some into an exciting and challenging experience. This paper reviews the predictions made for the Sydney 2000 Olympic event in high jump and makes further predictions for the Athens 2004 games. A simple mathematical model is derived based on previous Olympic data, enabling the prediction of the likely outcome for the next Olympic high jump competition for both men and women.