

# GPS Study

Scott Mingay

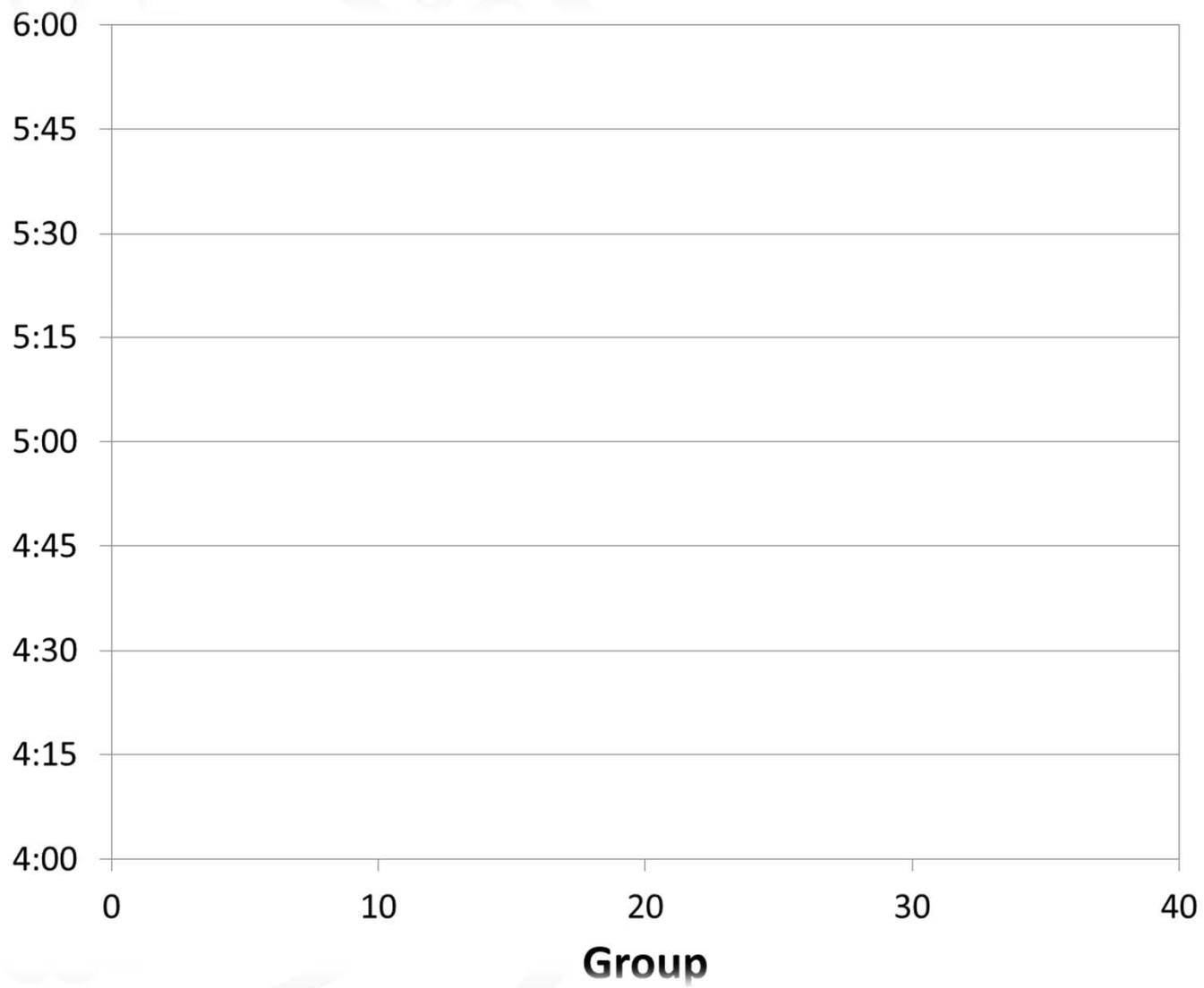
Research Engineer, USGA

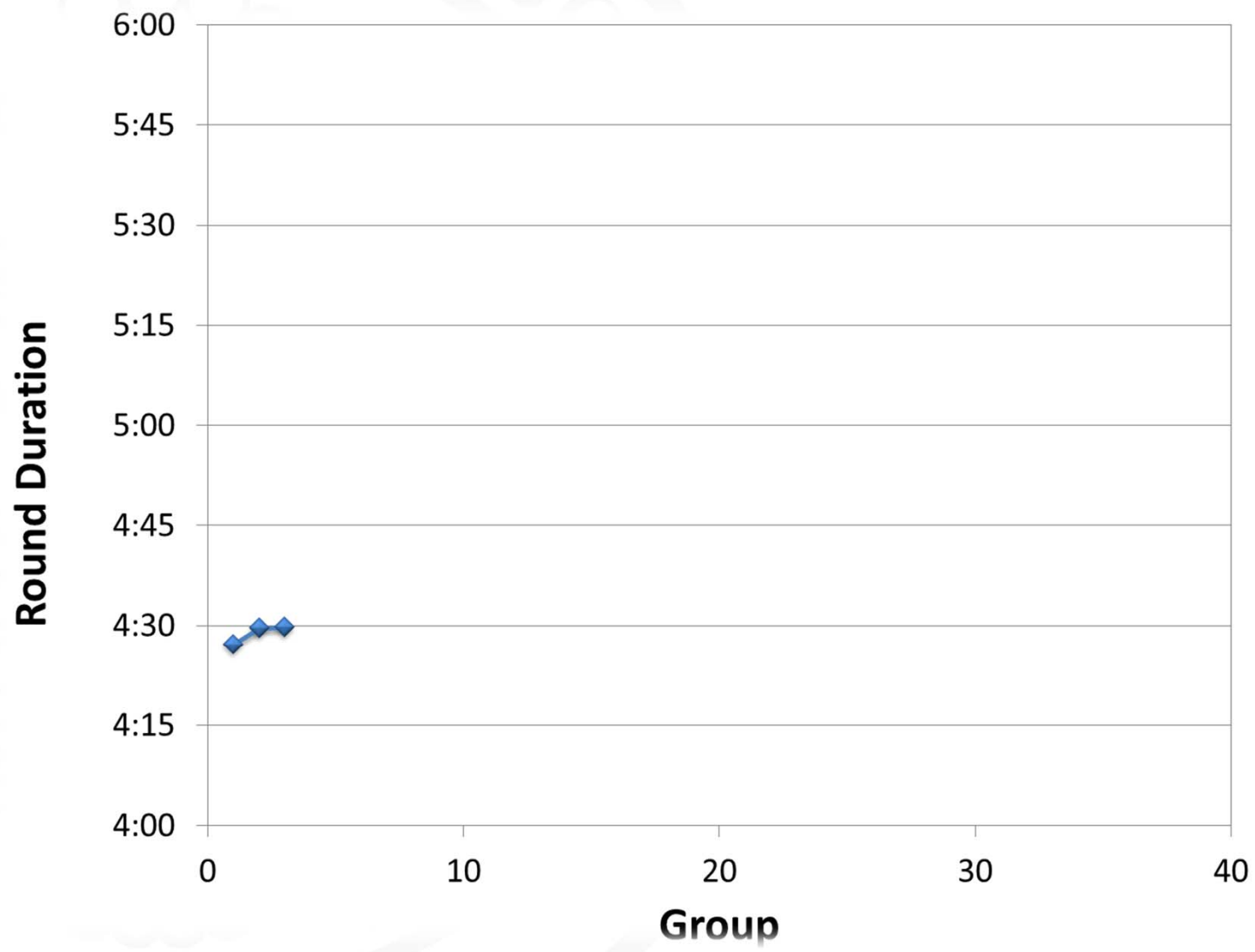
Matt Pringle

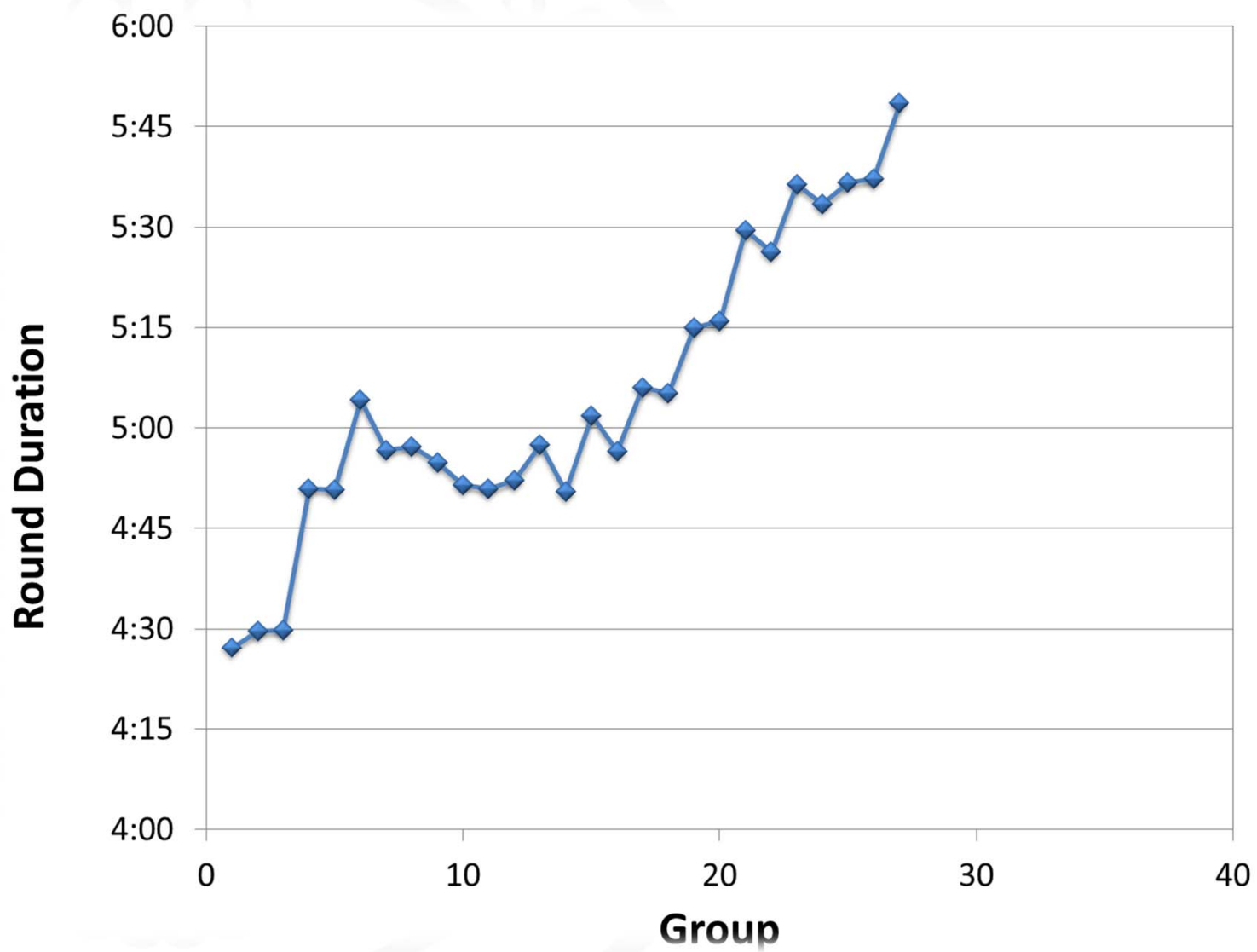
Technical Director, USGA

PRESENTED BY THE **USGA** 

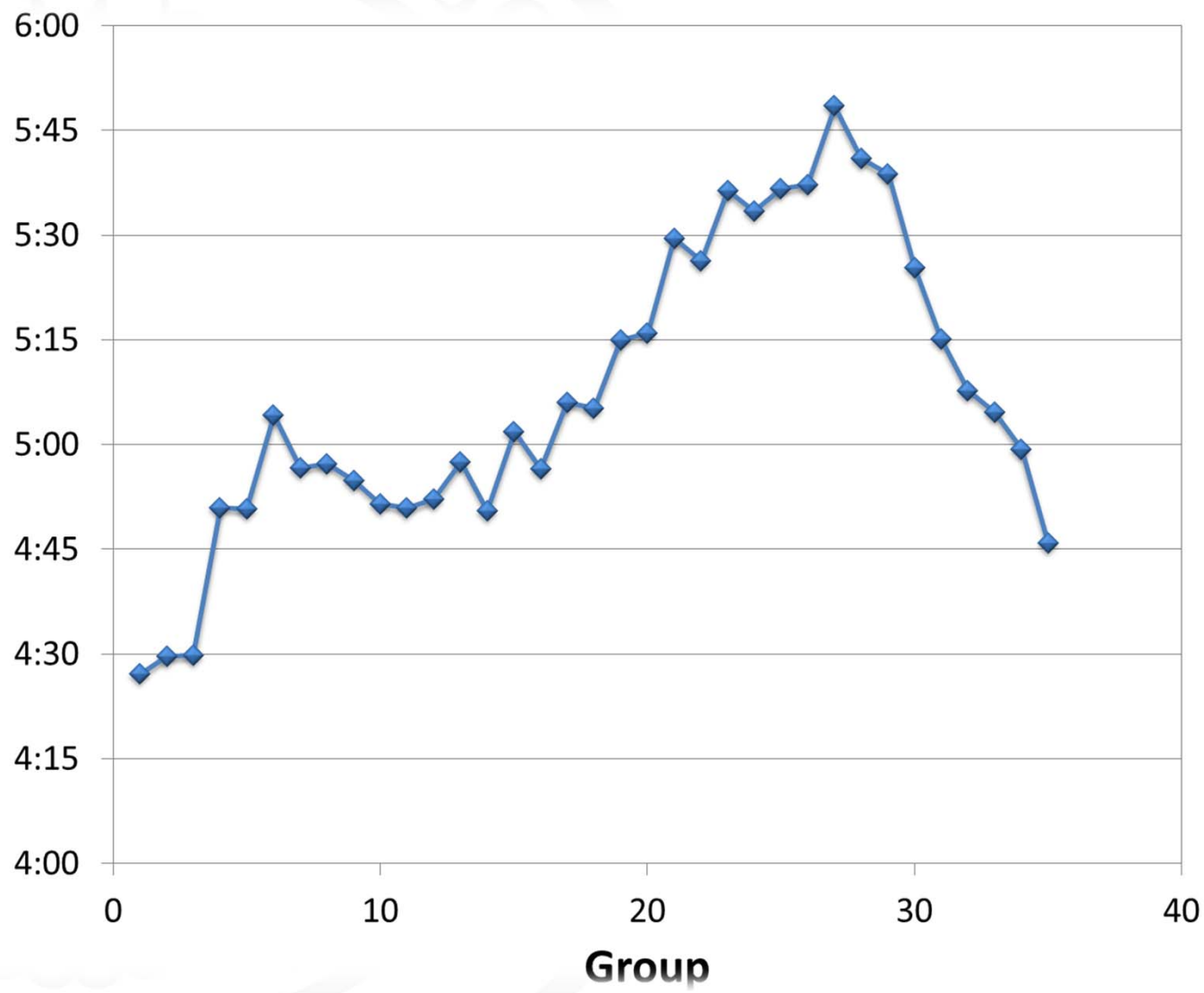
**Round Duration**





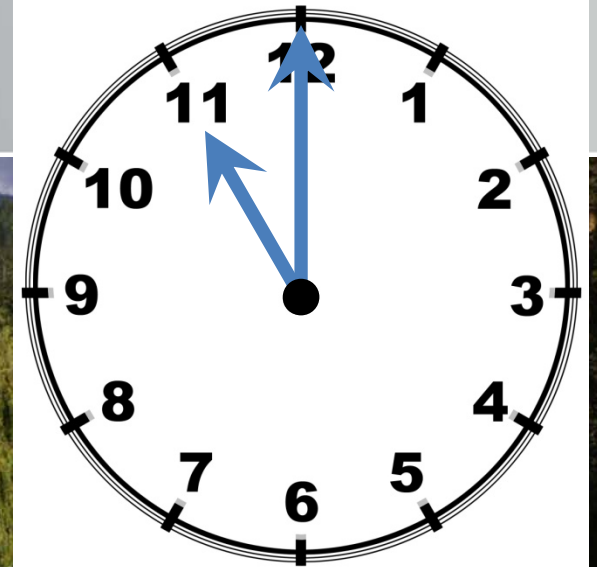
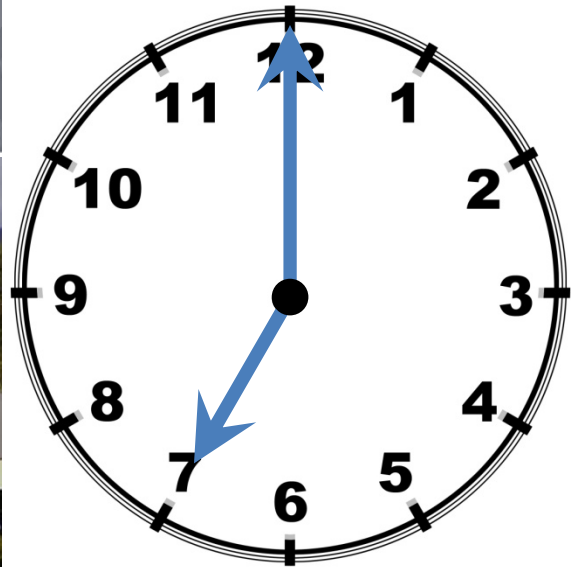


Round Duration



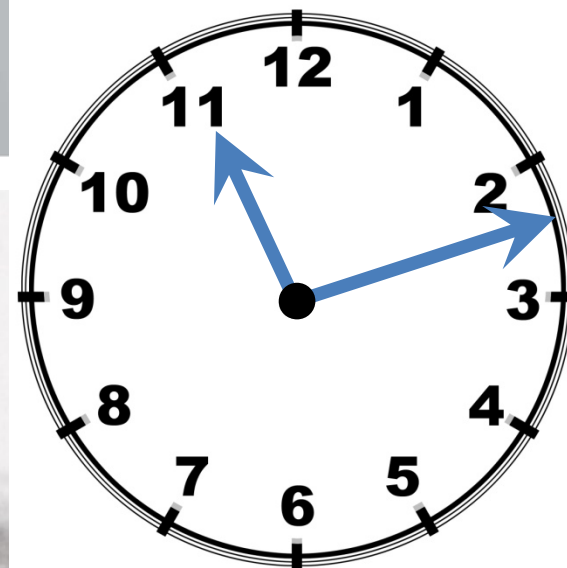
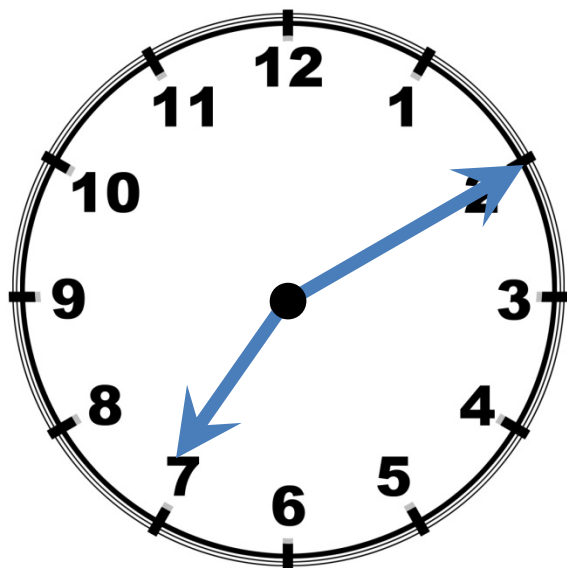




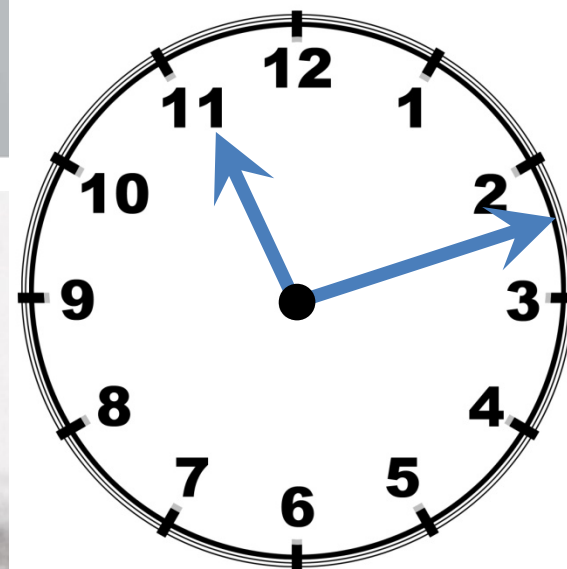
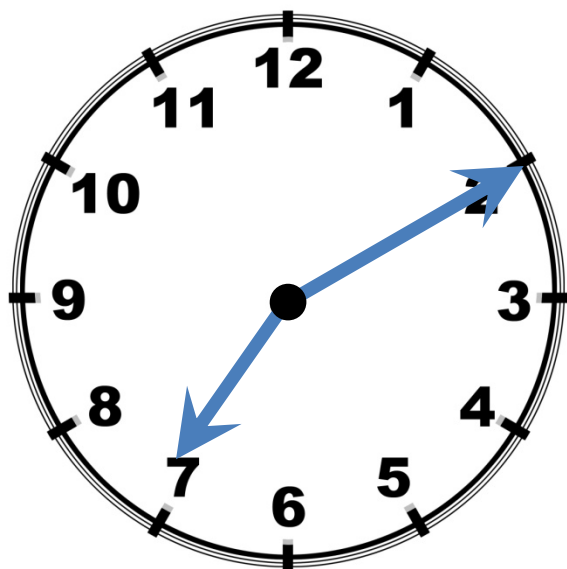


*$T_{round} = 4:10:00 \text{ hours } 00$*





$$T_{round} = 4:10:22 - 7:10$$



$$T_{round} = 4:00 + 0:12 - 0:10$$



Flow Out

$$T_{round}^i = T_{round}^{i-1} + \Delta T_{finish}^i - \Delta T_{tee}^i$$

Flow In

# Cycle Time

$$T_{round}^i = T_{round}^{i-1} + \Delta T_{finish}^i - \Delta T_{tee}^i$$

Tee  
Interval

$$T_{round}^6 = T_{round}^1 + \Delta T_{finish}^6 - 5\Delta T_{tee}$$

Cycle  
Time

$$+ \Delta T_{finish}^5$$

$$+ \Delta T_{finish}^4$$

$$+ \Delta T_{finish}^3$$

$$+ \Delta T_{finish}^2$$

**Recommendation #1:** In order to have control over pace of play, we must be measuring and controlling the relevant parameters



Understanding  
the  
Fundamentals

```
graph TD; A[Understanding the Fundamentals] --> B[Build Predictive Tools]; A --> C[Collect Data]; B --> D[Provide Tools for Improvement]; C --> D;
```

The diagram is a flowchart with four rounded rectangular boxes. The top box is red and contains the text 'Understanding the Fundamentals'. Two arrows point down from this box to two blue boxes: 'Build Predictive Tools' on the left and 'Collect Data' on the right. Arrows from both blue boxes point down to a single green box at the bottom containing the text 'Provide Tools for Improvement'. The background features a faint, large circular seal with the words 'UNITED STATES GOLF ASSOCIATION' and a central emblem with stars.

Build  
Predictive  
Tools

Collect Data

Provide Tools  
for  
Improvement

Understanding  
the  
Fundamentals

```
graph TD; A[Understanding the Fundamentals] --> B[Build Predictive Tools]; A --> C[Collect Data]; B --> D[Provide Tools for Improvement]; C --> D;
```

The diagram is a flowchart with four main steps. The first step, 'Understanding the Fundamentals', is in a grey box at the top. It branches into two parallel steps: 'Build Predictive Tools' and 'Collect Data', both in blue boxes. These two steps then converge into a final step, 'Provide Tools for Improvement', which is in a grey box at the bottom. The background features a faint, large watermark of the USGA seal.

Build  
Predictive  
Tools

Collect Data

Provide Tools  
for  
Improvement

# Intro

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- *About our GAME* Intern Program
- Data Collection Process
- Software Development
- Data Analysis
- Next Steps

# Intern Program

- Summer intern program supported by Chevron STEM
- Had interns placed at 8 different regions around the United States
- Visited golf courses 2 – 3 times per week
- Each had 75 GPS loggers to record data
- They collected information about golfers (Handicap, Rounds Played, Drive Distance, etc...)





# Intern Locations



# Notable Courses Visited



- Chambers Bay, University Place, Wash.
- Rustic Canyon Golf Club, Moorpark, Calif.
- Colonial Country Club, Ft. Worth, Texas
- CommonGround Golf Course, Aurora, Colo.
- The Glen Club, Glenview, Ill.
- The Pines Course, Joint Base Langley-Eustis, Va.
- Huntingdon Valley (Pa.) Country Club

# Data Collection

- Each golfer is handed a small GPS device
- GPS records position and time every 5 seconds on course
- Use of data sheets to collect additional information on golfers



# Data Collection

USGA Pace Data Research - Golf Course Data									
Course Name:									
Address:									
Course Type:		<input type="radio"/> Public		<input type="radio"/> Private		<input type="radio"/> Resort			
		<input type="radio"/> Municipal		<input type="radio"/> Military					
Starter?:		<input type="radio"/> Yes		<input type="radio"/> No					
Pace Policy?:		<input type="radio"/> Yes		<input type="radio"/> No					
Scorecard Data									
Hole	Tee:		Tee:		Tee:		Tee:		
	Rating	Slope	Rating	Slope	Rating	Slope	Rating	Slope	
	Par	Yards	Par	Yards	Par	Yards	Par	Yards	
1									
2									
3									
4									
5									
6									
7									
8									
9									
10									
11									
12									
13									
14									
15									
16									
17									
18									
Total									

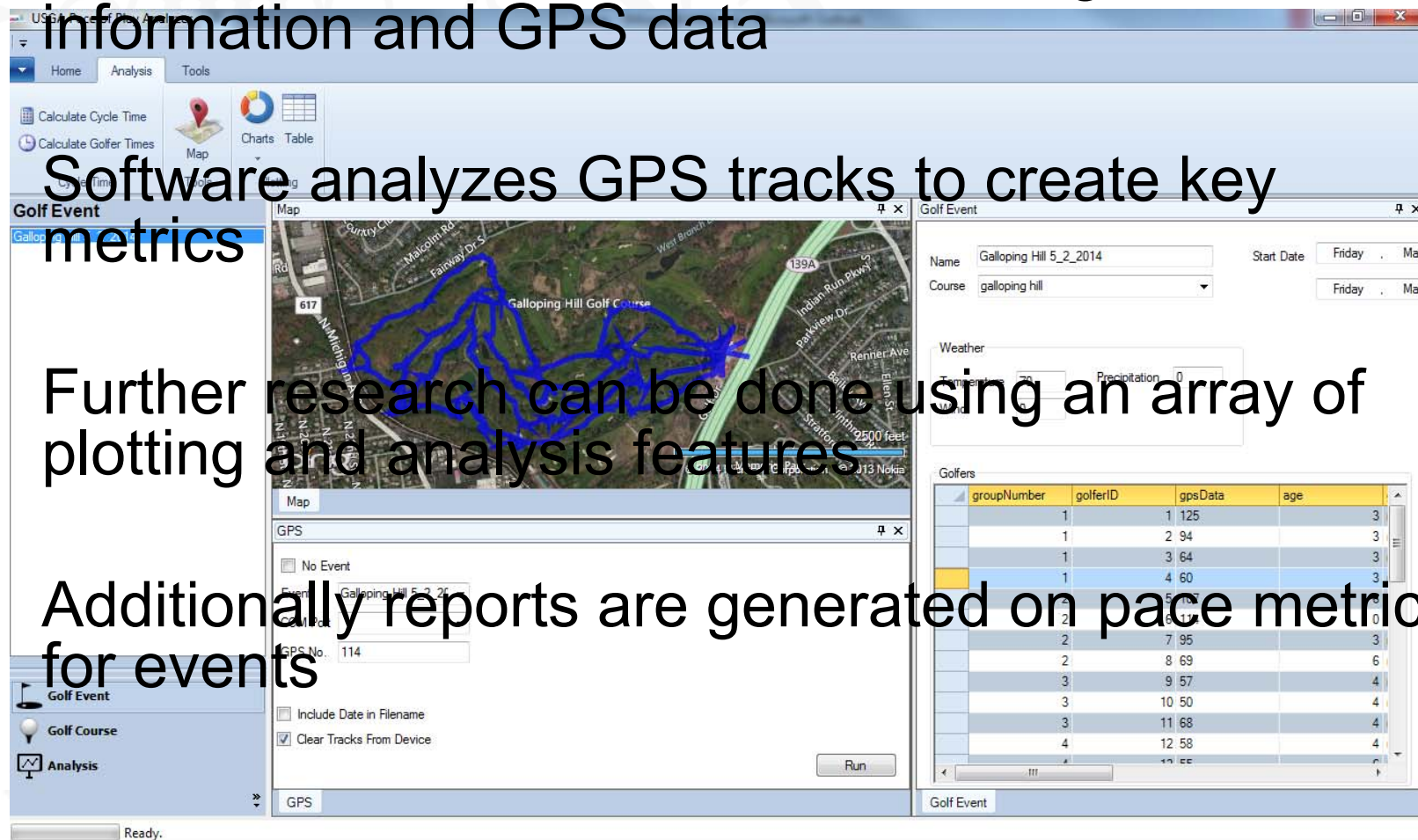
USGA Pace Data Research - Event Data									
Event Type:		<input type="radio"/> Regular Play		<input type="radio"/> Tournament					
Format:		<input type="radio"/> Stroke		<input type="radio"/> Match		<input type="radio"/> Stableford			
Tee Format:		<input type="radio"/> Straight		<input type="radio"/> Split		<input type="radio"/> Resort			
Starting Tees:									
Green Fee:									
Carts:		<input type="radio"/> Yes		<input type="radio"/> 90 Degree		<input type="radio"/> Cartpath			
Weather Info									
<input type="radio"/> Sunny		<input type="radio"/> Partly Sunny		<input type="radio"/> Cloudy		<input type="radio"/> Overcast			
<input type="radio"/> Drizzle		<input type="radio"/> Rain		<input type="radio"/> Heavy Rain		<input type="radio"/> Fog			
Temperature:		°F		Humidity:		%			
Windspeed:		mph		Direction:					
Course Setup									
Green Speed:									
Firmness:		<input type="radio"/> Firm		<input type="radio"/> Medium		<input type="radio"/> Soft			
Cut Heights:		Fairway:		Rough:		Green:		in	
Turfgrass:		Fairway:		Rough:		Green:			
Hole	Hole Location		Difficulty		Fairway Width		Water		
	L/R	F/B			200	250	?		
1			<input type="radio"/> Easy	<input type="radio"/> Med	<input type="radio"/> Hard				
2			<input type="radio"/> Easy	<input type="radio"/> Med	<input type="radio"/> Hard				
3			<input type="radio"/> Easy	<input type="radio"/> Med	<input type="radio"/> Hard				
4			<input type="radio"/> Easy	<input type="radio"/> Med	<input type="radio"/> Hard				
5			<input type="radio"/> Easy	<input type="radio"/> Med	<input type="radio"/> Hard				
6			<input type="radio"/> Easy	<input type="radio"/> Med	<input type="radio"/> Hard				
7			<input type="radio"/> Easy	<input type="radio"/> Med	<input type="radio"/> Hard				
8			<input type="radio"/> Easy	<input type="radio"/> Med	<input type="radio"/> Hard				
9			<input type="radio"/> Easy	<input type="radio"/> Med	<input type="radio"/> Hard				

USGA Pace Data Research - Golfer Data					
Group #:		Tee Time:		Cart #:	
<input type="radio"/> Riding	<input type="radio"/> Walking	<input type="radio"/> Caddie	<input type="radio"/> Forecaddie	Last Hole:	
Golfer	1	2	3	4	
GPS #					
Tee					
Handicap					
Driver Dist	y	y	y	y	y
9-Iron Dist	y	y	y	y	y
Rounds Last Year	(1) Under 10; (2) 10 - 19; (3) 20 - 29; (4) 30 - 39; (5) Over 39				
Age Category	(1) Under 25; (2) 25 - 34; (3) 35 - 44; (4) 45 - 54; (5) 55 - 64; (6) 65 - 74; (7) Over 74				
Gender					
Group #:		Tee Time:		Cart #:	
<input type="radio"/> Riding	<input type="radio"/> Walking	<input type="radio"/> Caddie	<input type="radio"/> Forecaddie	Last Hole:	
Golfer	1	2	3	4	
GPS #					
Tee					
Handicap					
Driver Dist					
9-Iron					
Rounds Last Year	(1) Under 10; (2) 10 - 19; (3) 20 - 29; (4) 30 - 39; (5) Over 39				
Age Category	(1) Under 25; (2) 25 - 34; (3) 35 - 44; (4) 45 - 54; (5) 55 - 64; (6) 65 - 74; (7) Over 74				
Gender					



# Software - Database

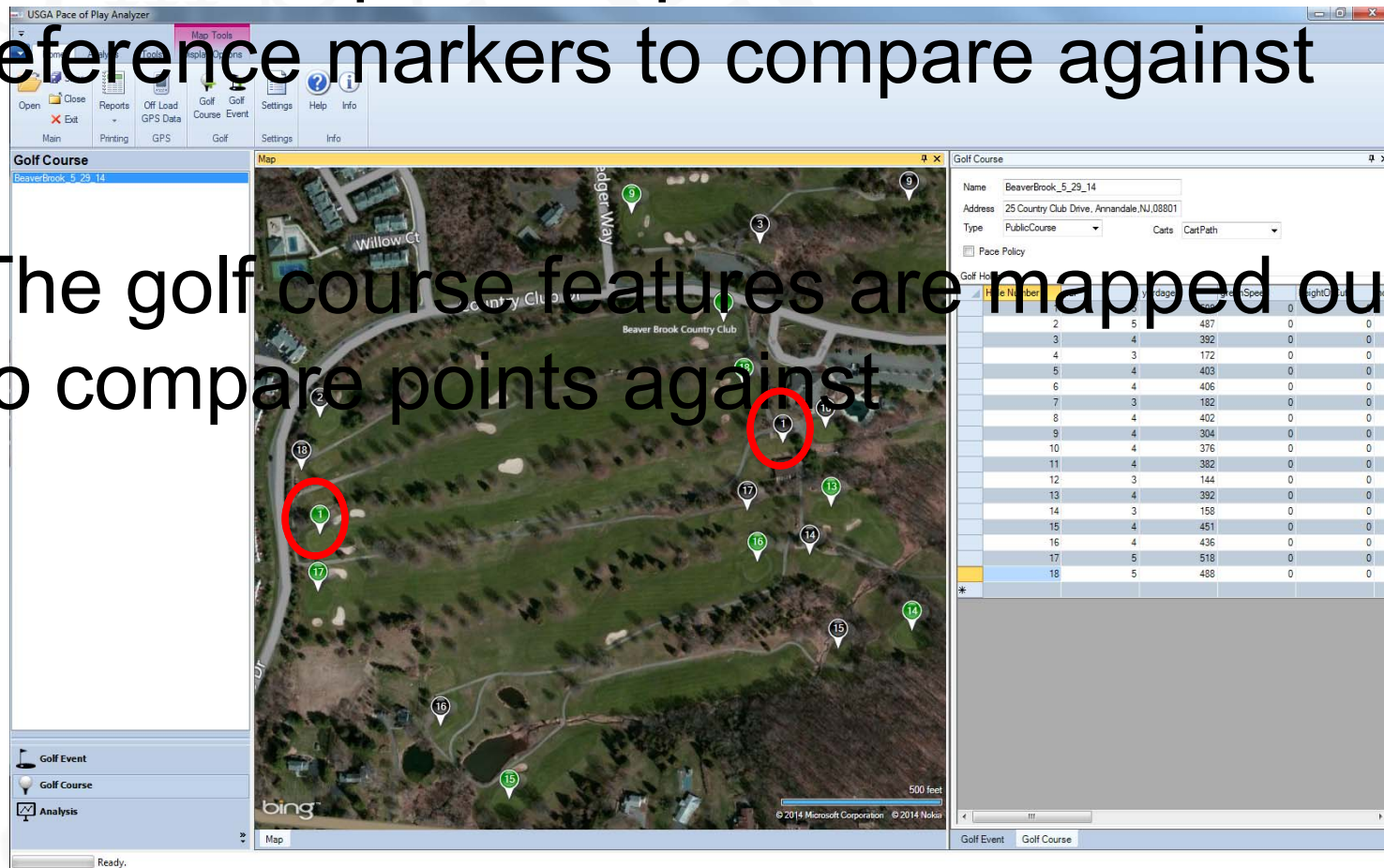
- USGA created software to database golfer information and GPS data
- Software analyzes GPS tracks to create key metrics
- Further research can be done using an array of plotting and analysis features
- Additionally reports are generated on pace metrics for events



# Software - Algorithm

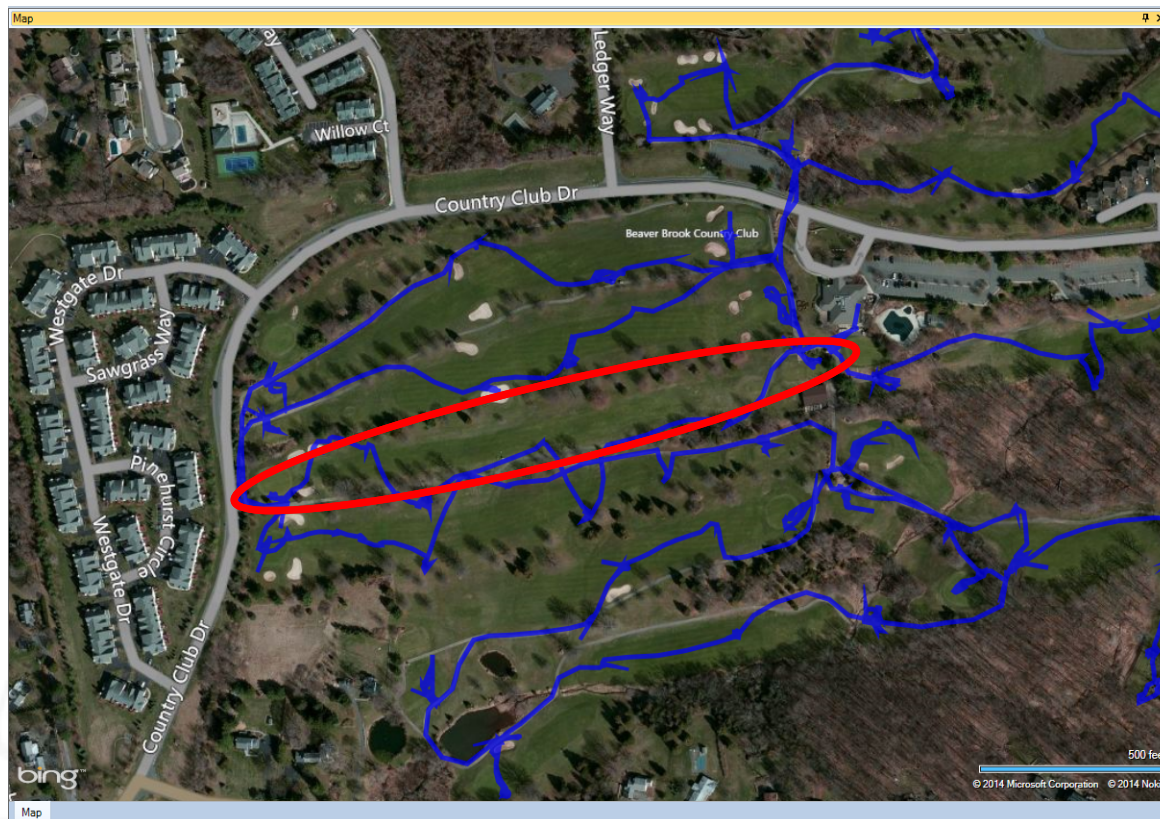
- In order to process pace data we need reference markers to compare against

- The golf course features are mapped out to compare points against



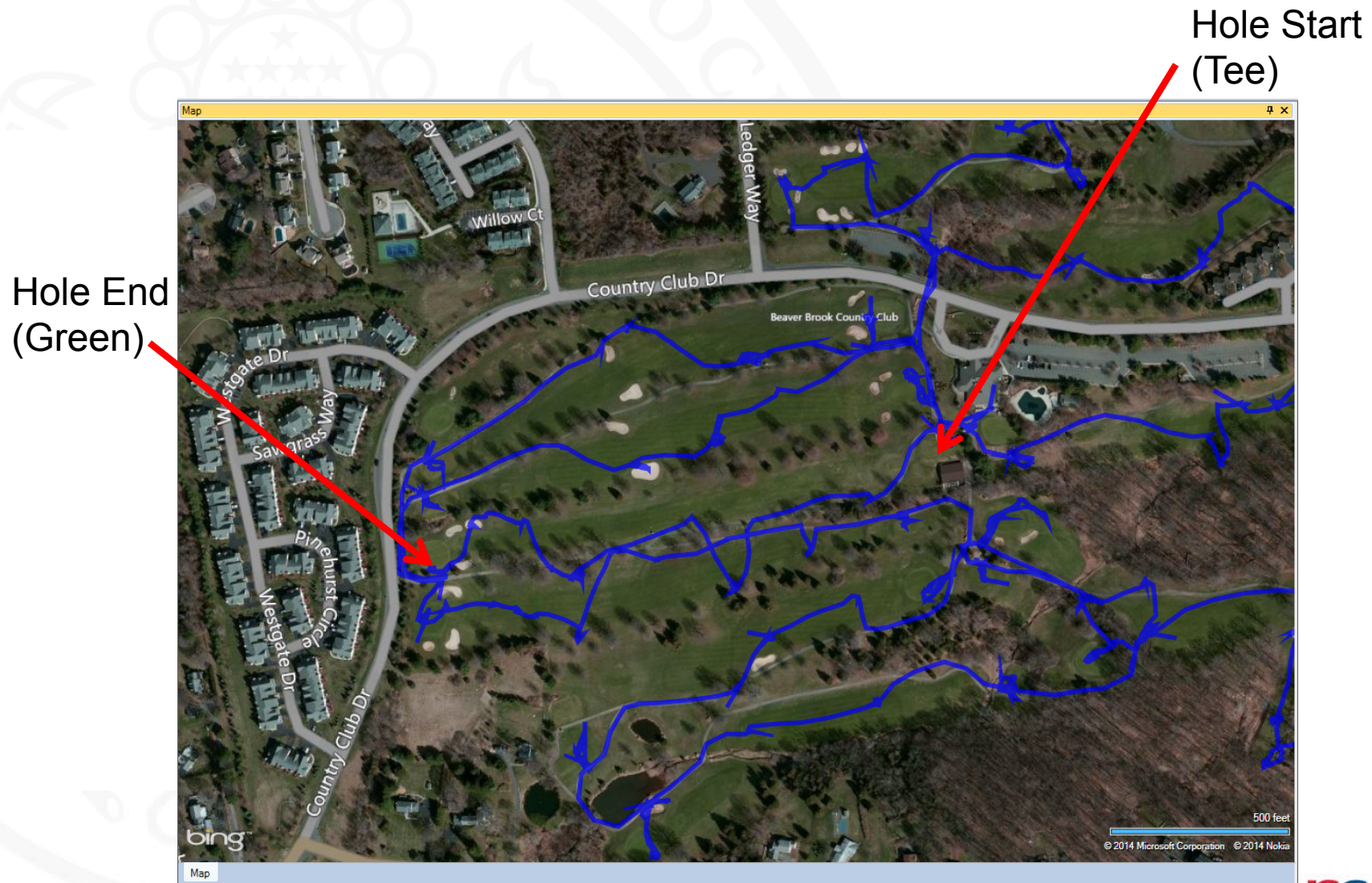
# Software - Algorithm

- Algorithm developed to divide GPS into segments by hole or other features





# Software - Algorithm



# Software - Algorithm

End Point  
Identified  
• Hole Time



Start Point  
Identified  
• Tee Time

# Software - Algorithm

- Once the start and end points are determined on each hole for every golfer we can calculate our metrics

- Pace

$$\text{Pace}(\text{Hole } n) = \text{Hole Time}(\text{Hole } n) - \text{Tee Time}(\text{Hole } n)$$

- Cycle Time

$$\text{Cycle Time}(\text{Group } n) = \text{Hole Time}(\text{Group } n + 1) - \text{Tee Time}(\text{Group } n)$$



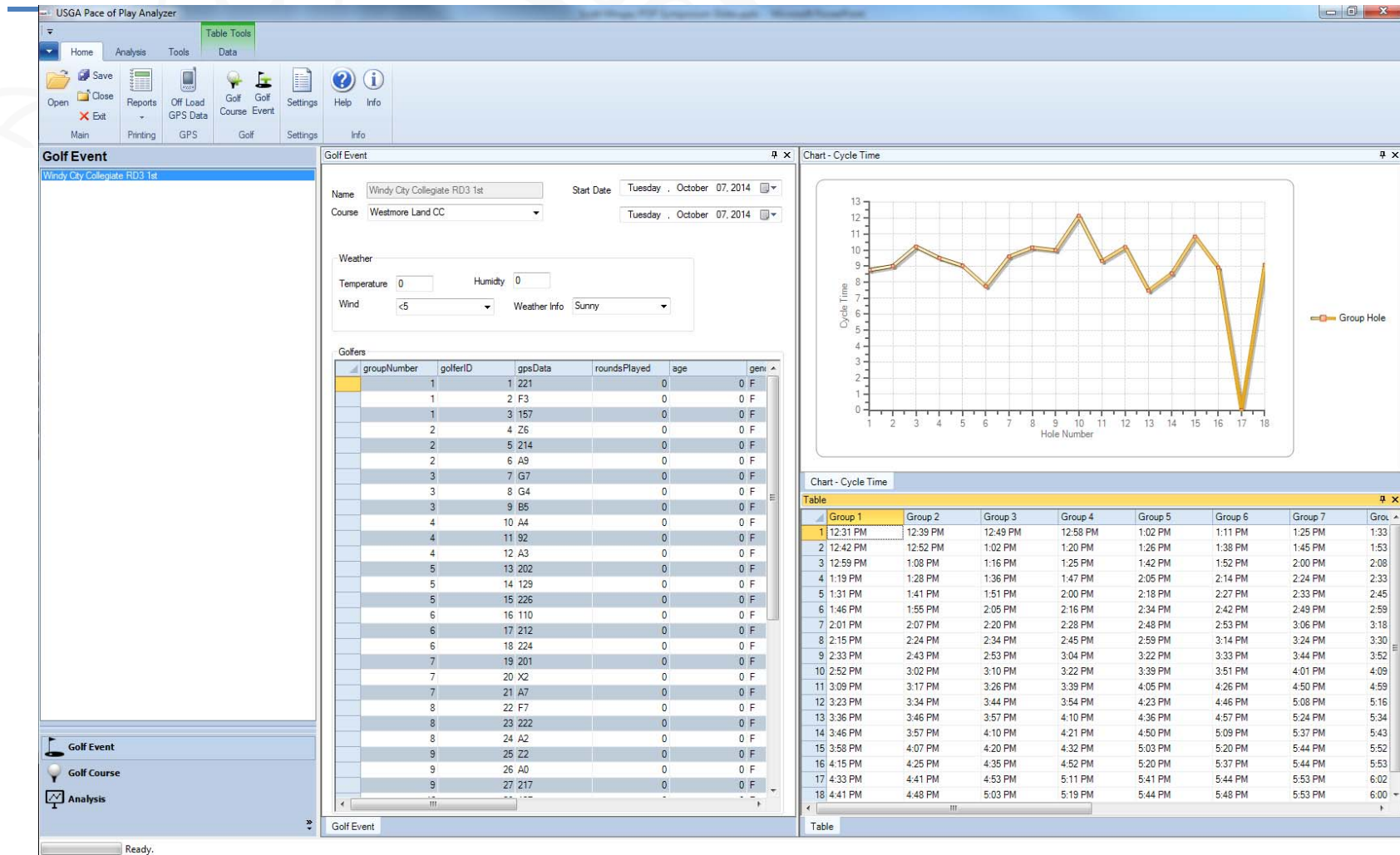
# Metrics Generated

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- Cycle Time
- Pace
- Tee Time
- Hole Time
- Round Times
- Time from X distance to green



# Software - Algorithm



# Software Report

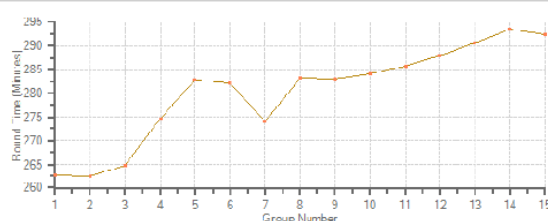
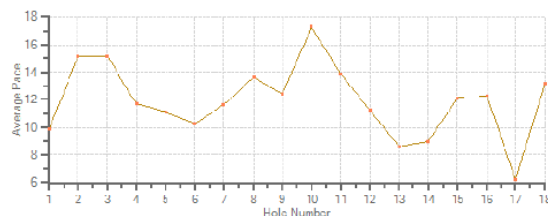
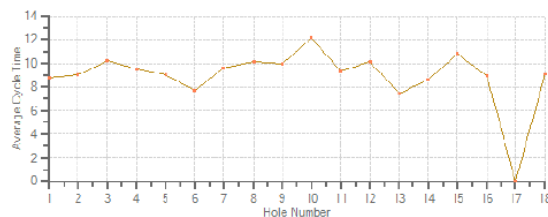


## USGA Pace of Play Report



Name: Windy City Collegiate RD3 1st  
Course: Westmore Land CC  
Date: 10/7/2014 9:08:05 AM

Weather Info: Sunny      Wind: 0 - 5  
Temperature: 0          Humidity: 0



# Program Statistics

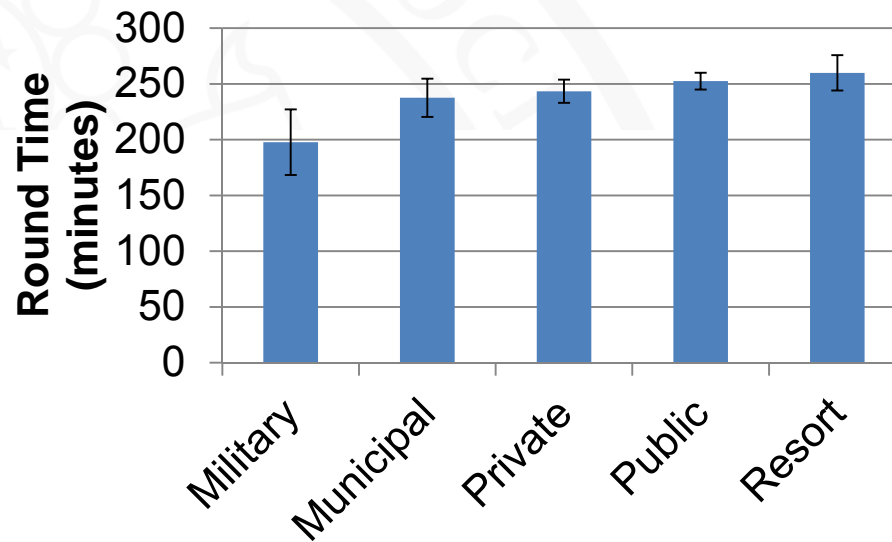
Number of Events	135
Total Golfers	5396
Average Golfer Per Event	40
Men	4355
Women	642

# Data Analysis – Cycle and Round Times

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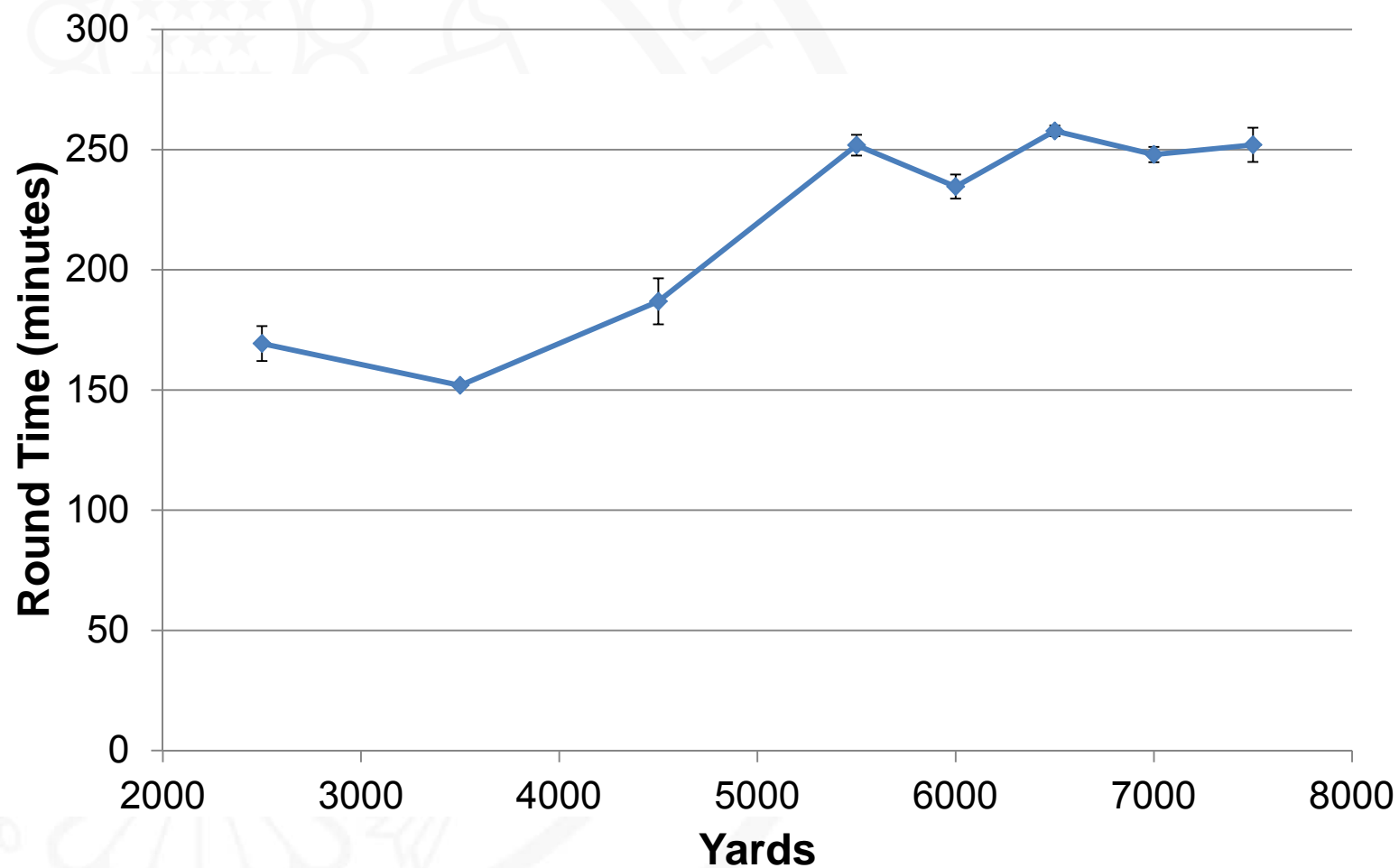
- Visited multiple different courses types ranging from Military to Resort
- Average Tee Start Interval -10.4 minutes
- Average Round time – 4:09
- Longest Round Time – 5:48
- Average difference from first to last round – 29 minutes

# Data Analysis – Cycle and Round Times



Par	Cycle Time Average (Min)
3	10.5
4	10.3
5	10.1

# Data Analysis – Round Times by Yardage



# Data Analysis – Cycle Time by Par Yardage

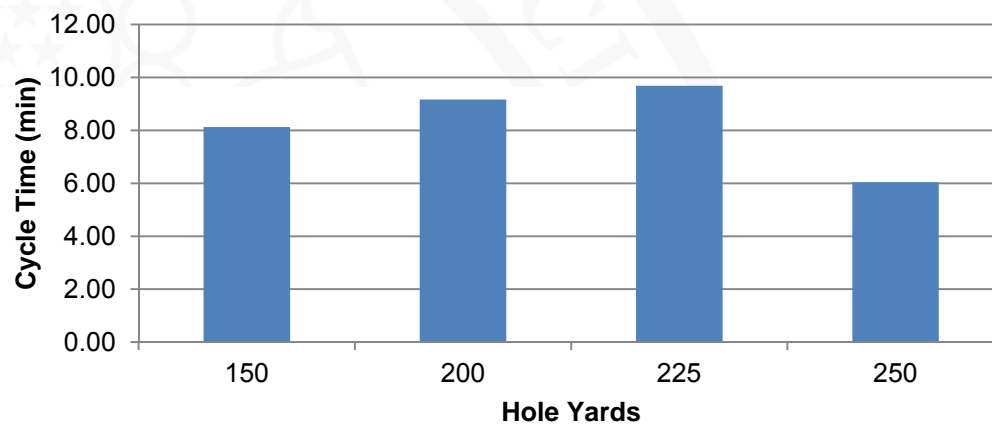
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- Group Par 3 and Par 4 by yardage
- Performed theoretical analysis of how cycle time would vary with distance
- Compared theory to collected data

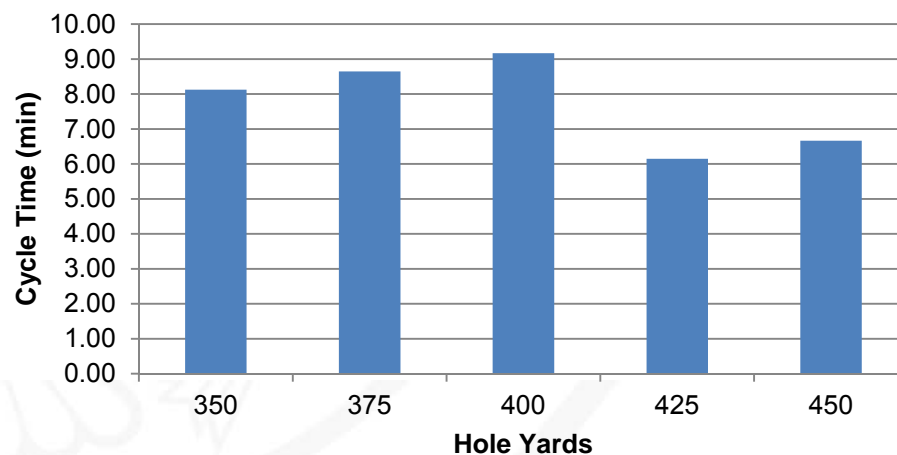


# Data Analysis – Cycle Time by Par Yardage

## Par 3

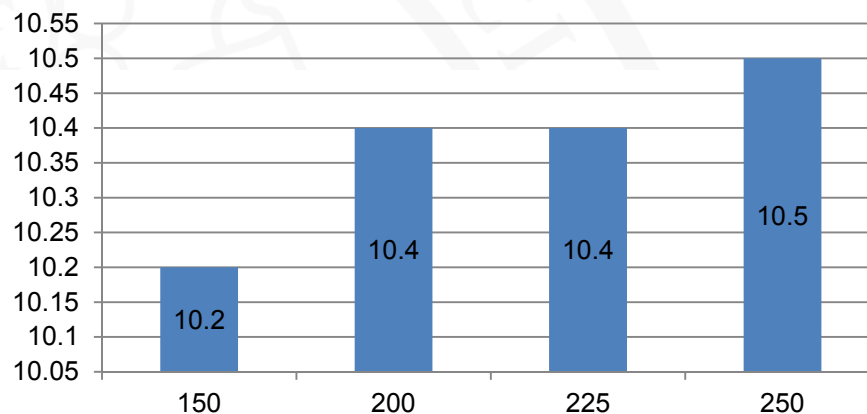


## Par 4

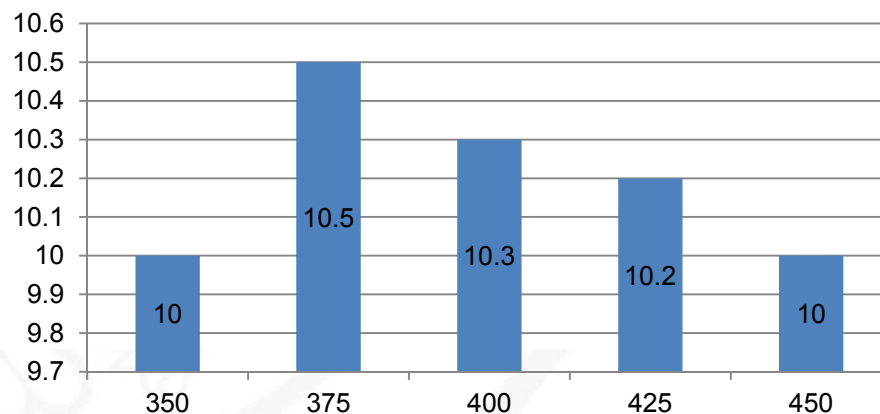


# Data Analysis – Cycle Time by Par Yardage

**Par 3**



**Par 4**

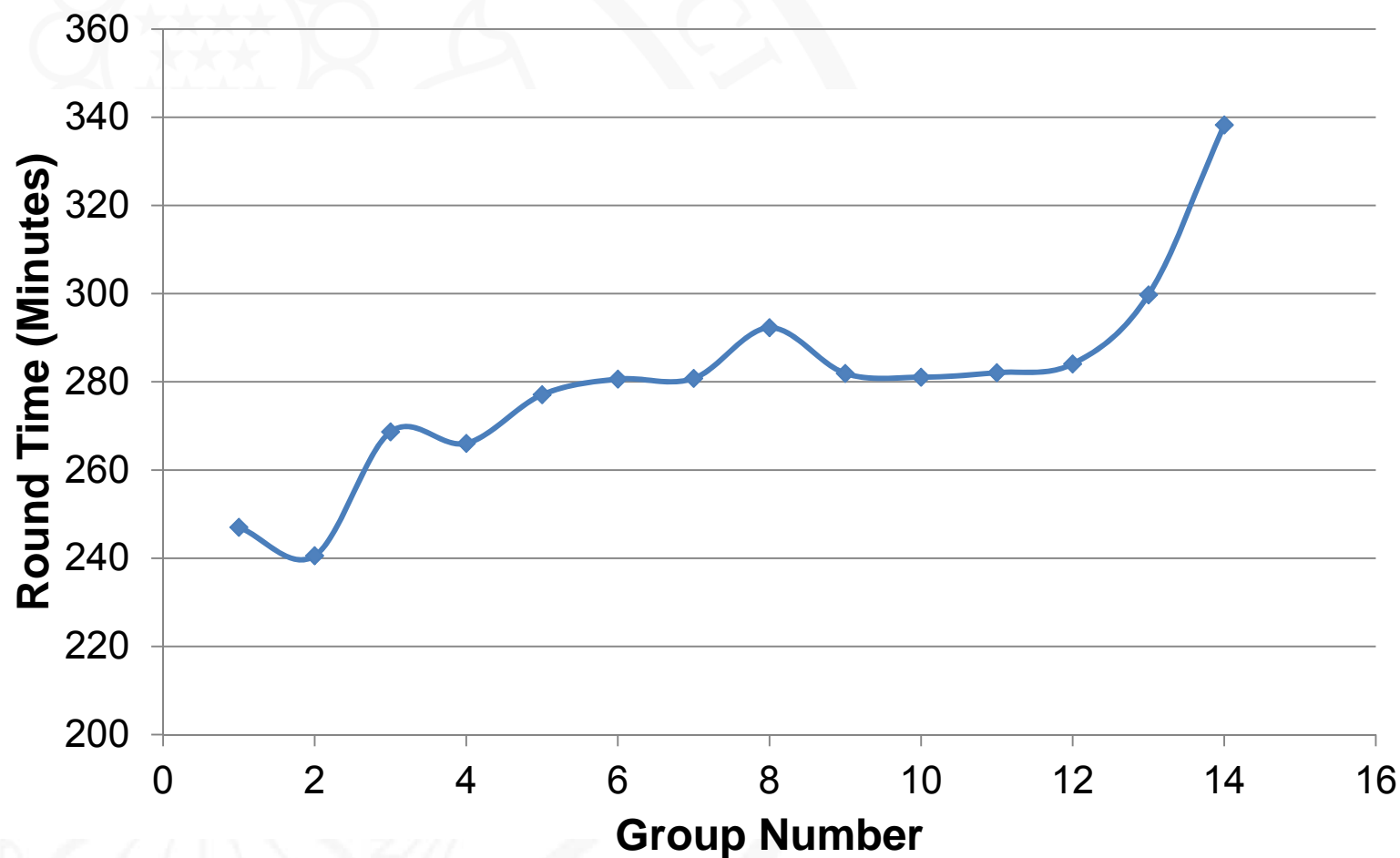


# Data Analysis – Sample Golf Course

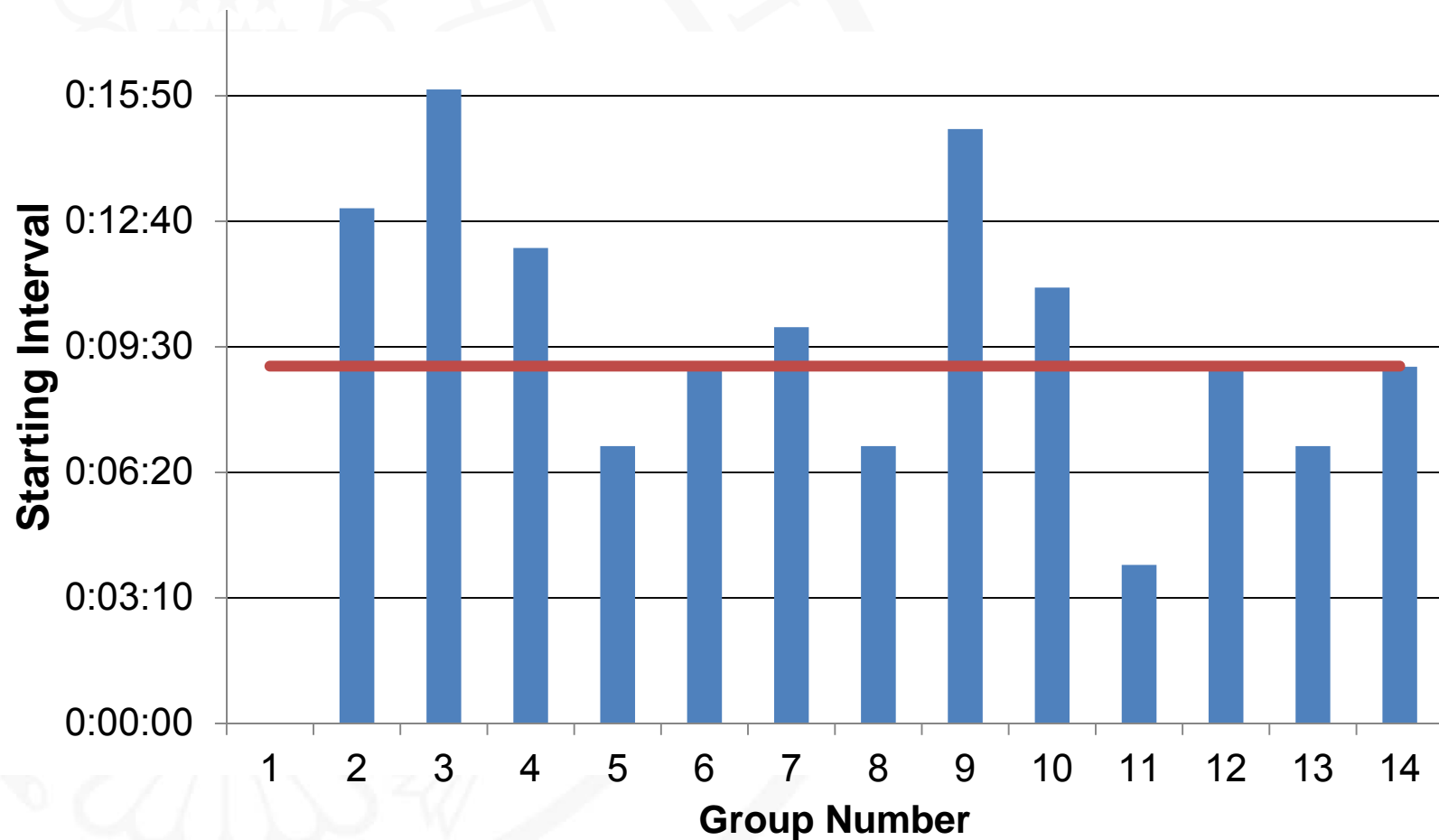
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- The data presented is a course that we visited this summer
- The average cycle time for a hole on this course is 9.1 minutes
- The first group plays in 4:06 and the last group plays in 5:37

# Data Analysis – Sample Golf Course



# Data Analysis – Sample Golf Course



# Data Analysis – Sample Golf Course

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- Last group studied takes 1:30 longer to play than first group
- Relative stable periods when tee interval is above cycle time
- When tee interval is below cycle time we see sudden spikes in round time

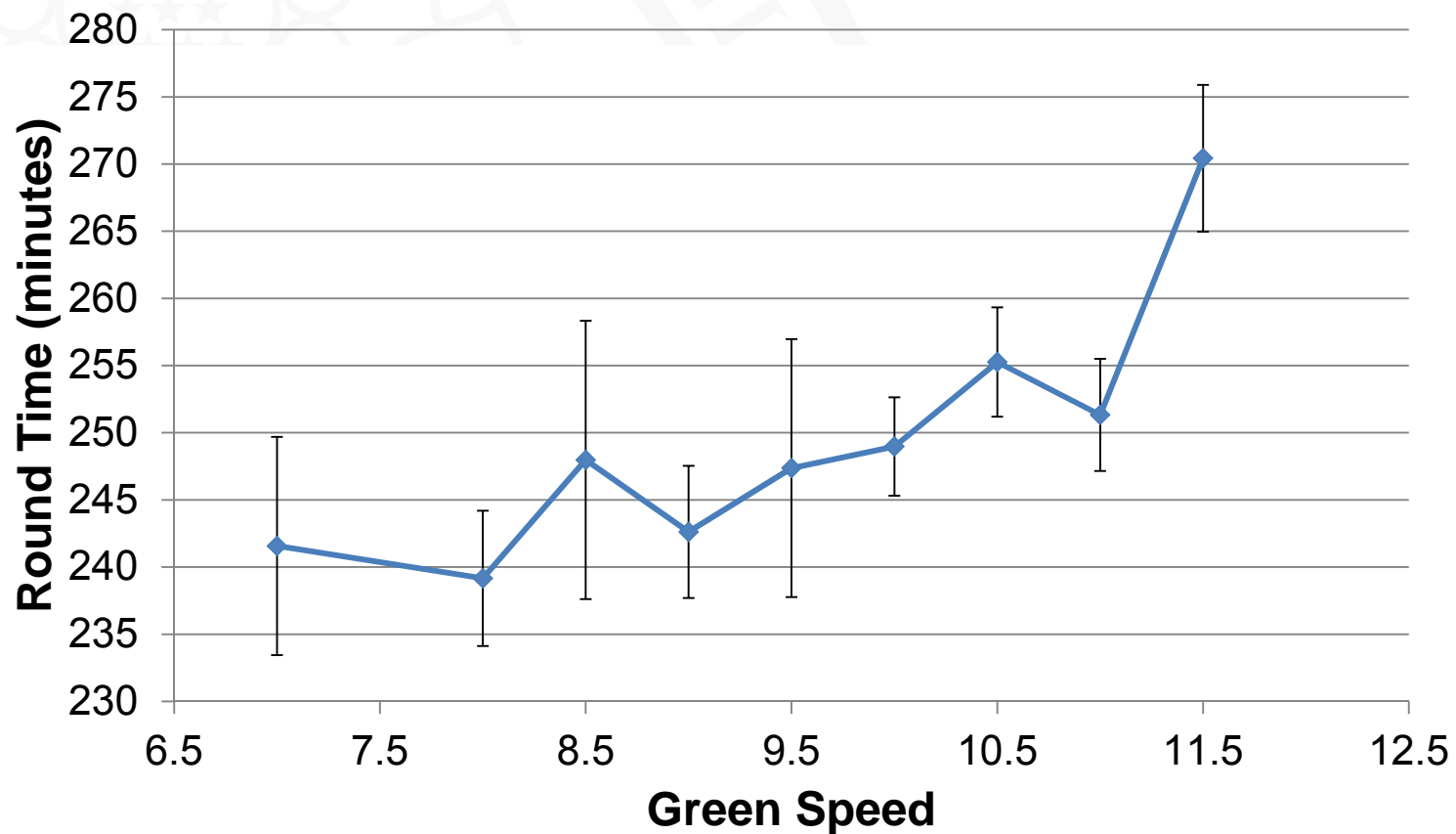


# Data Analysis – Green Speed

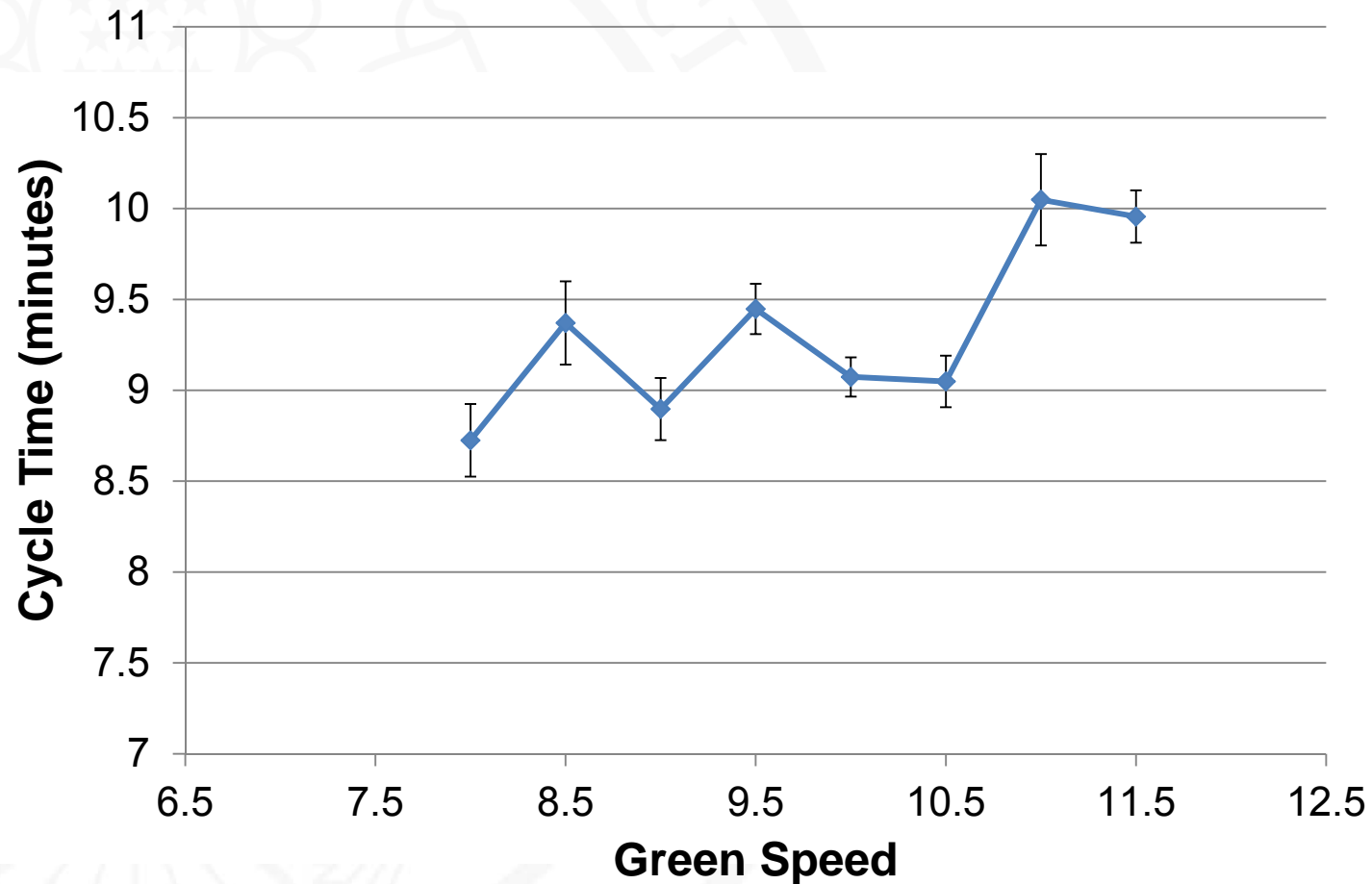
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- Green speeds were collected for each round of golf
- Range of speeds collected from 7 – 11.5
- We look at the average round times for each bracket of green speed
- Note that some values are reported green speeds

# Data Analysis – Green Speed



# Data Analysis – Green Speed



# Next Steps

- Continually adding events to the data set
- Studying other factors that may influence pace of play
- Use of L1 Technologies mapping database to study additional geographical and course design features
- Run more controlled studies at Robert Trent Jones Golf Trail in Alabama

