

Ben Bleichrodt
Don't Rock the Boat

This summer I will be whale watching. I have heard that people get sea sick when they are whale watching, so I wanted to find out which boat bottom is the most stable. My procedure was to make four different boats with two different shaped bottoms; two with a bilge keel and two without. I put the boats in a pool, and pulled them to their side so that they rock back and forth (oscillate). Next, I counted the number of oscillations and time it took to stop oscillating. My hypothesis was that the flat bottom boat with the bilge keel will be the most stable. My data shows that the flat bottom boat with the bilge keel is the most stable; it has 0.5 oscillations per second. My conclusion is that my hypothesis was proven. This summer I hope that I am on a flat bottom boat with a bilge keel when we go whale watching.