



Problem of the Week

Problem B

A Whale of a Shark!

Whale-sharks are relatively friendly fish on whom divers have been known to hitch rides. They are ‘filter-feeders’ with some 300 rows of teeth, and travel long distances at a leisurely 5 km per hour, or 120 km per day.

The website <http://www.conservation.org/projects/Pages/Track-Whale-Sharks.aspx> contains much information about tagged whale-sharks.

When they are tagged, their lengths are measured and they are fitted with an electronic tracking device. It transmits their locations each time they surface, and records the distance from where they last surfaced.

In the table are the names of eleven of the whale-sharks being tracked (these may change over time, so replace any that are no longer available). The entries for Susi have been completed for you.



Name	Length	Distance	Days
Susi	6.2 m	19.1 km	
Hula			
Nexus			
Mr. Casper			
Barack			
Yoda			
Cheggers			
Dipsy			
Kaimana			
Sebastian			
Giti			

Go to the website <http://www.conservation.org/projects/Pages/Track-Whale-Sharks.aspx> and fill in the lengths and most recent distances for the whale-sharks in the table.

- Find the mean, median, mode, and range of the lengths of the 11 fish.
- Find the mean, median, mode, and range of the distances travelled by the 11 whale-sharks since their previous transmissions.
- Why do you think the distances travelled vary so much, whereas the lengths of the whale-sharks do not?
- Determine the number of days of travel for each whale-shark which travelled more than 100 km since its previous transmission. (Recall the average speed of 120 km/day.)

