CALIFORNIA SCIENCE & ENGINEERING FAIR
2019 PROJECT SUMMARY

Name(s)

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Project Number

J2008

Project Title

How Do Various Types of Table Tennis Balls Differ in Bounce Height?

Abstract

Objectives

The objective is to measure how various types and brands of professional table tennis balls differ in bounce height.

Methods

Different types and brands of table tennis balls, camera, ball dropper, and measuring backboard. I dropped each type of five times using the ball dropper and recorded with slow motion video. By watching the video I determine the bounce height.

Results

I recorded the bounce heights of each type of ball by watching the videos. I calculated the average and the median bounce height for each type of ball.

Conclusions

The types of balls that are played more often in international competition bounce lower, than some of other 40+mm plastic balls. The new plastic balls were similar in bounce height as the 40mm celluloid balls.

Summary Statement

My project is important because table tennis players can use this ball bounce height information to adjust their playing style in competitions.

Help Received

I designed and built the ball dropper myself. My dad helped with the slow motion camera, and my teacher helped review my research report.