

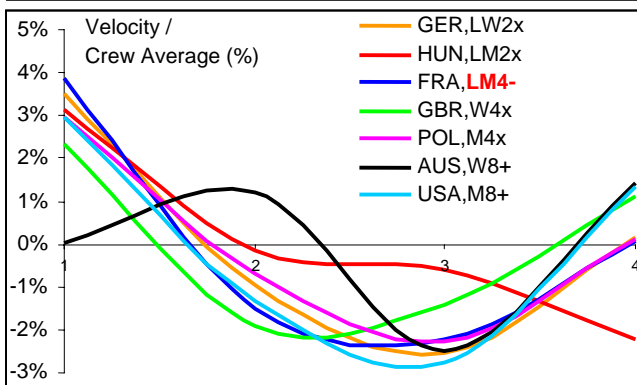
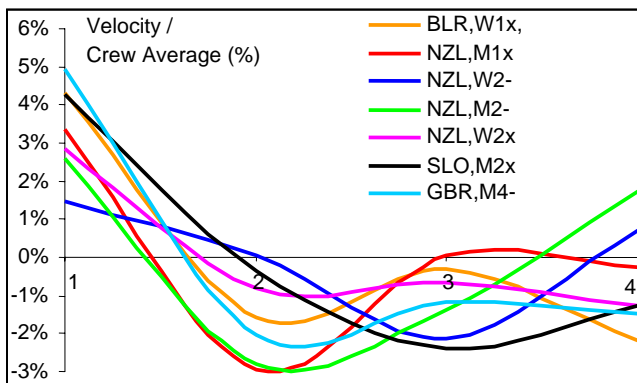
News

The 2005 World Rowing Championship have just finished in Gifu, Japan. Congratulations to all the winners! The most successful nations in Olympic boat types were: NZL (4 gold), GBR (2 gold), GER (1 gold, 1 silver, 2 bronze), AUS and USA (both 1 gold, 1 silver, 1 bronze).

Some very fast times were shown during the latest Worlds, but they were caused by water flow in the river. Therefore, we didn't consider the absolute boat speed, but analysed the race strategy and tactics (as we usually do) and trends in margins in recent years.

Facts. Did you know that...

✓ ...the average race strategy of the winners of the 2005 Worlds was: 3.0%, -0.6%, -1.9%, -0.3%. The two charts below show the strategy of each winning crew:



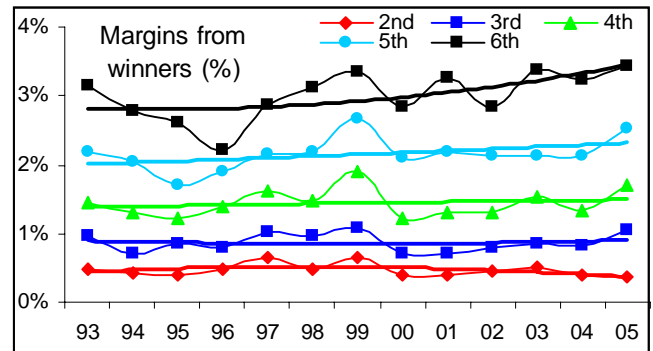
Most of the winners made their first 500m 2-4% faster than their average speed over 2000m. The exceptions were W2- (1.5%), M4- (5.0%) and W8+ (0.0%).

✓ ...analysis of the race tactics shows where the winners gain their advantage RELATIVE to other competitors. This time we made a comparison not with average speed of the race, but with the speed of the CLOSEST competitors. The table below shows a count of each of 12 tactics amongst the finalists.

2005 Tactics	Place						Total
	1 st	2 nd	3 rd	4 th	5 th	6 th	
1-2	3	1					4
1-3	1				1	2	4
1-4	5	1	6	1	1	4	18
2-1	1	1	1		1		4
2-3		2	1	1	1		5
2-4	1	1	1		1	1	5
3-1		2	1	3	1		7
3-2		1	1			1	3
3-4	1			1	1	5	8
4-1	1	3	1	5	2	1	13
4-2	1	1	1	1	1		5
4-3		1	1	2	4		8
Total	14	14	14	14	14	14	84

Once again we can see that the most of the winners (9 out of 14) concentrate their efforts on the first section of the race. Three out of five other tactics were used by winners from New Zealand.

✓ ...despite the commonly held view, there was no significant narrowing of the margins between medal winners found during the last 13 years. We found only a tiny (-0.01% per year) reduction of the margins between winners and silver medalists in Olympic boats. The margins between winners and bronze medalists didn't change at all, and the margins between winners and all other finalists increased: 4th place by 0.01% per year, 5th place by 0.03% and 6th place by 0.05%.



It is interesting to see the variations in phase with Olympic years. The average margins during the last three Olympiads were significantly narrower than in the years between:

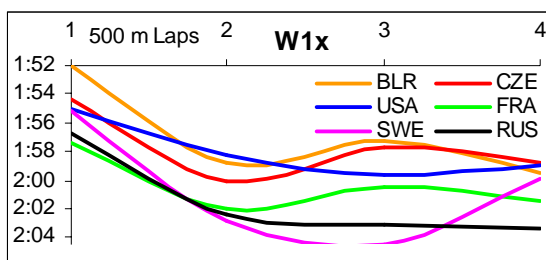
Margins:	2nd	3rd	4th	5th	6th
Olympics	0.43%	0.77%	1.31%	2.04%	2.76%
Worlds	0.49%	0.90%	1.48%	2.19%	3.08%

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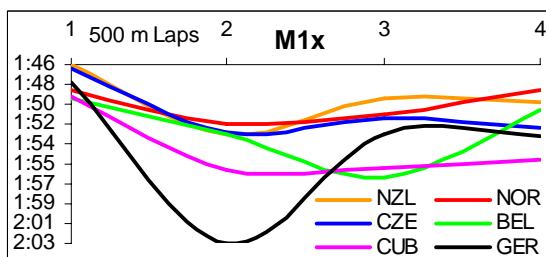
Race strategy and tactics in Finals A during 2005 World Championship in Gifu (Japan).

W1x



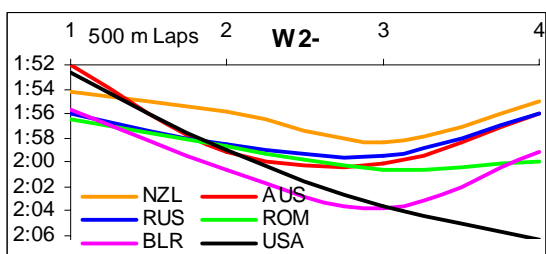
		Strategy				Var.	Tactics
1	BLR	4.3%	-1.6%	-0.3%	-2.2%	2.9%	1-4
2	CZE	2.9%	-1.9%	0.0%	-0.9%	2.1%	3-2
3	USA	2.5%	-0.2%	-1.4%	-0.8%	1.7%	2-3
4	FRA	2.5%	-1.4%	-0.1%	-0.9%	1.7%	3-1
5	SWE	4.6%	-1.8%	-3.1%	0.6%	3.4%	4-3
6	RUS	4.0%	-0.8%	-1.4%	-1.6%	2.7%	3-4

M1x



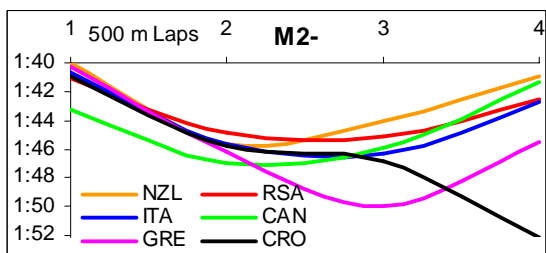
		Strategy				Var.	Tactics
1	NZL	3.3%	-3.0%	0.1%	-0.2%	2.6%	1-4
2	NOR	1.3%	-1.8%	-0.8%	1.4%	1.6%	4-1
3	CZE	4.1%	-1.8%	-0.6%	-1.5%	2.7%	1-4
4	BEL	2.9%	-0.3%	-4.1%	1.9%	3.1%	4-3
5	CUB	4.8%	-1.9%	-1.6%	-1.0%	3.1%	2-4
6	GER	6.2%	-7.7%	1.4%	1.1%	5.8%	3-2

W2-



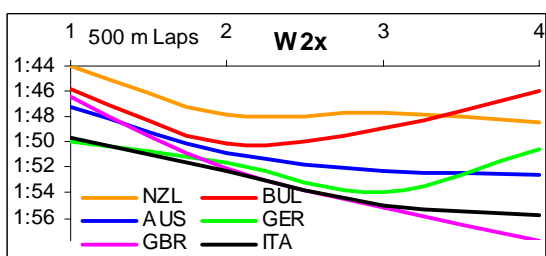
		Strategy				Var.	Tactics
1	NZL	1.5%	0.0%	-2.1%	0.7%	1.5%	2-1
2	AUS	4.3%	-2.0%	-2.8%	0.8%	3.2%	1-2
3	RUS	1.3%	-0.9%	-1.6%	1.2%	1.5%	4-1
4	ROM	2.1%	0.2%	-1.4%	-0.8%	1.5%	3-4
5	BLR	3.5%	-0.7%	-3.2%	0.6%	2.8%	4-2
6	USA	6.9%	1.2%	-2.6%	-4.7%	5.1%	1-4

M2-



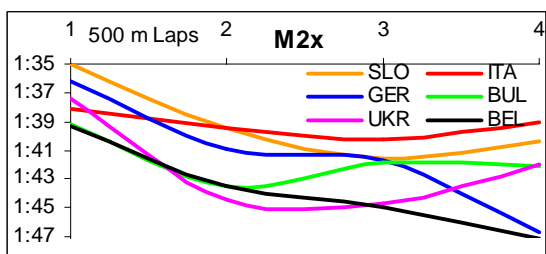
		Strategy				Var.	Tactics
1	NZL	2.6%	-2.8%	-1.4%	1.7%	2.5%	4-2
2	RSA	2.2%	-1.3%	-1.7%	0.9%	1.9%	2-1
3	ITA	3.1%	-1.7%	-2.3%	1.1%	2.5%	1-4
4	CAN	1.1%	-2.5%	-1.4%	3.0%	2.5%	4-1
5	GRE	5.1%	-0.7%	-4.1%	0.0%	3.8%	1-3
6	CRO	5.4%	0.6%	-0.4%	-5.0%	4.3%	3-4

W2x



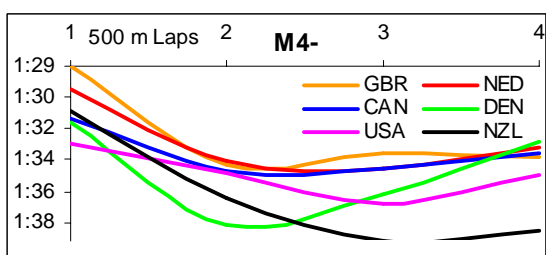
		Strategy				Var.	Tactics
1	NZL	2.9%	-0.8%	-0.7%	-1.3%	1.9%	2-4
2	BUL	1.7%	-2.1%	-1.1%	1.6%	1.9%	4-2
3	AUS	3.3%	-0.1%	-1.4%	-1.6%	2.2%	1-4
4	GER	1.4%	-0.1%	-2.1%	0.8%	1.5%	4-1
5	GBR	6.0%	0.7%	-2.0%	-4.2%	4.4%	1-4
6	ITA	3.2%	0.8%	-1.6%	-2.2%	2.5%	4-1

M2x



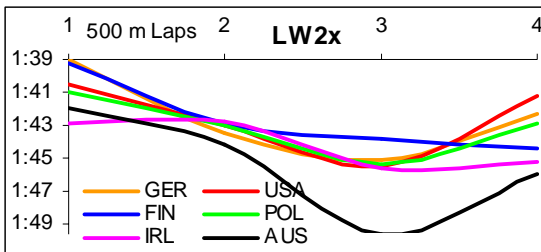
		Strategy				Var.	Tactics
1	SLO	4.3%	-0.4%	-2.4%	-1.2%	2.9%	1-4
2	ITA	1.1%	-0.3%	-1.0%	0.2%	0.9%	4-1
3	GER	5.3%	0.4%	-0.3%	-4.9%	4.2%	1-4
4	BUL	2.5%	-1.7%	-0.1%	-0.5%	1.8%	4-1
5	UKR	4.7%	-2.2%	-2.4%	0.2%	3.3%	4-3
6	BEL	4.3%	0.2%	-1.1%	-3.1%	3.2%	2-4

M4-



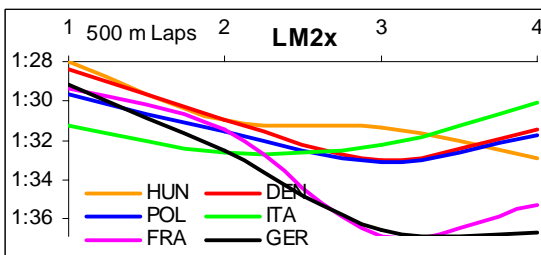
		Strategy				Var.	Tactics
1	GBR	5.0%	-2.0%	-1.2%	-1.5%	3.3%	1-4
2	NED	3.7%	-1.3%	-1.8%	-0.5%	2.5%	2-3
3	CAN	2.4%	-1.3%	-1.0%	0.0%	1.7%	2-1
4	DEN	3.4%	-3.5%	-1.5%	1.9%	3.1%	4-2
5	USA	2.1%	0.0%	-2.0%	-0.1%	1.7%	2-1
6	NZL	5.9%	-0.2%	-2.9%	-2.3%	4.0%	1-4

LW2x



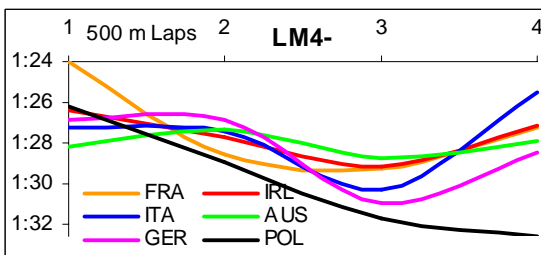
		Strategy				Var.	Tactics
1	GER	3.5%	-1.0%	-2.5%	0.2%	2.6%	1-4
2	USA	2.0%	-0.4%	-2.8%	1.3%	2.1%	4-1
3	FIN	3.4%	-0.3%	-1.2%	-1.8%	2.3%	1-4
4	POL	2.0%	0.1%	-2.2%	0.2%	1.7%	4-3
5	IRL	1.2%	1.3%	-1.4%	-1.1%	1.4%	3-1
6	AUS	3.5%	1.2%	-3.8%	-0.5%	3.1%	1-3

LM2x



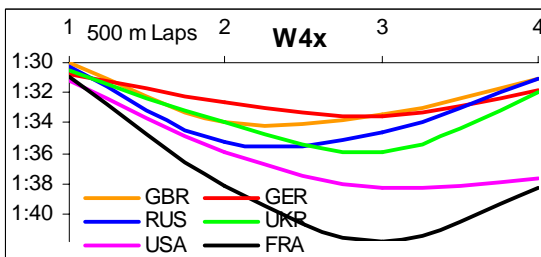
		Strategy				Var.	Tactics
1	HUN	3.2%	-0.2%	-0.6%	-2.2%	2.3%	3-4
2	DEN	2.9%	0.0%	-2.2%	-0.6%	2.1%	4-3
3	POL	2.0%	0.0%	-1.7%	-0.3%	1.5%	2-4
4	ITA	0.3%	-1.2%	-0.7%	1.6%	1.2%	4-1
5	FRA	4.3%	1.9%	-3.7%	-2.1%	3.6%	2-3
6	GER	5.0%	1.3%	-2.9%	-3.0%	3.8%	3-4

LM4-



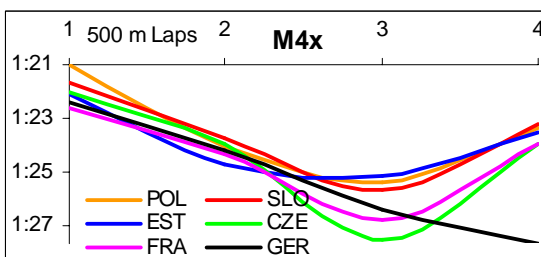
		Strategy				Var.	Tactics
1	FRA	3.9%	-1.5%	-2.3%	0.1%	2.7%	1-2
2	IRL	1.4%	-0.1%	-1.8%	0.5%	1.3%	3-1
3	ITA	0.5%	0.2%	-2.9%	2.4%	2.2%	4-3
4	AUS	-0.2%	0.8%	-0.8%	0.2%	0.7%	3-1
5	GER	1.7%	1.7%	-3.0%	-0.2%	2.2%	4-3
6	POL	4.2%	1.0%	-2.0%	-2.9%	3.3%	1-4

W4x



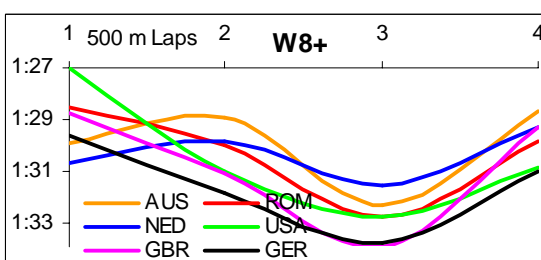
		Strategy				Var.	Tactics
1	GBR	2.3%	-1.9%	-1.4%	1.1%	2.0%	1-2
2	GER	1.6%	-0.4%	-1.5%	0.4%	1.3%	2-4
3	RUS	2.8%	-2.5%	-1.9%	1.9%	2.7%	4-2
4	UKR	2.8%	-1.0%	-2.9%	1.3%	2.5%	4-1
5	USA	5.0%	-0.2%	-2.6%	-1.8%	3.4%	3-4
6	FRA	6.9%	-0.9%	-4.4%	-0.9%	4.8%	1-3

M4x



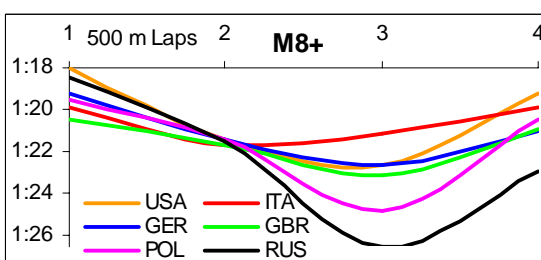
		Strategy				Var.	Tactics
1	POL	3.0%	-0.7%	-2.3%	0.1%	2.2%	1-2
2	SLO	2.3%	-0.2%	-2.4%	0.4%	2.0%	2-3
3	EST	2.1%	-1.0%	-1.5%	0.4%	1.6%	3-2
4	CZE	2.8%	0.5%	-3.6%	0.5%	2.7%	2-3
5	FRA	2.1%	0.1%	-2.7%	0.6%	2.0%	4-1
6	GER	3.3%	1.2%	-1.4%	-2.8%	2.7%	3-4

W8+



		Strategy				Var.	Tactics
1	AUS	0.0%	1.2%	-2.5%	1.4%	1.8%	4-1
2	ROM	2.0%	0.3%	-2.7%	0.5%	1.9%	1-4
3	NED	-0.4%	0.6%	-1.3%	1.2%	1.1%	3-1
4	USA	3.9%	-0.6%	-2.5%	-0.5%	2.7%	1-4
5	GBR	2.2%	-0.3%	-3.4%	1.6%	2.5%	4-3
6	GER	2.2%	-0.3%	-2.4%	0.6%	1.9%	3-4

M8+



		Strategy				Var.	Tactics
1	USA	3.0%	-1.3%	-2.8%	1.4%	2.6%	1-3
2	ITA	0.9%	-1.2%	-0.6%	0.9%	1.1%	3-1
3	GER	2.3%	-0.4%	-1.9%	0.0%	1.7%	1-4
4	GBR	1.3%	-0.2%	-1.9%	0.8%	1.4%	3-1
5	POL	2.5%	0.2%	-3.8%	1.3%	2.8%	4-1
6	RUS	4.9%	1.0%	-4.8%	-0.7%	4.0%	1-4