





ISI SPECIAL INTEREST GROUP ON SPORTS STATISTICS

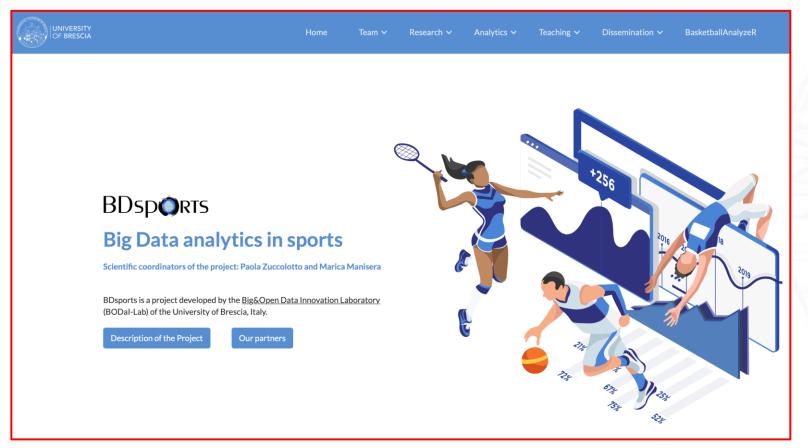


Ambra Macis



Big Data analytics in sports

bdsports.unibs.it

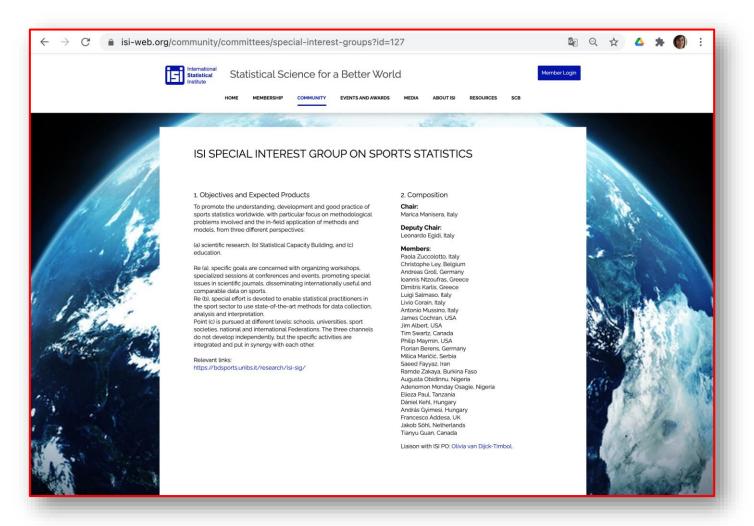






ISI Special Interest Group on SPORTS STATISTICS

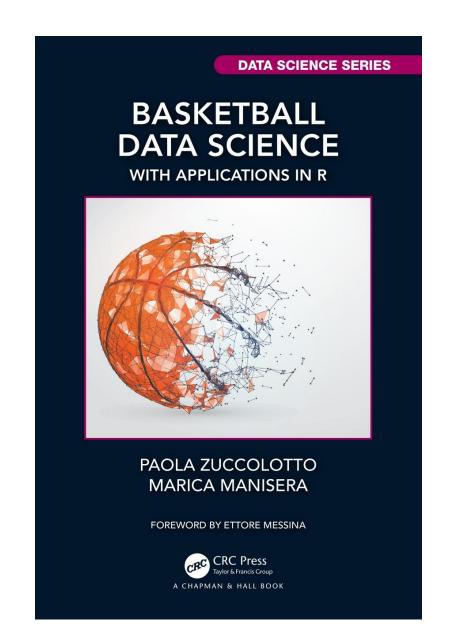
https://www.isi-web.org/community/committees/special-interest-groups?id=127







The Book











Agenda

- 1. Data Science in basketball
- 2. Basketball analytics: state of the art
- 3. Basketball data
- 4. Introduction to the R package BasketballAnalyzeR





1 - Data Science in Basketball





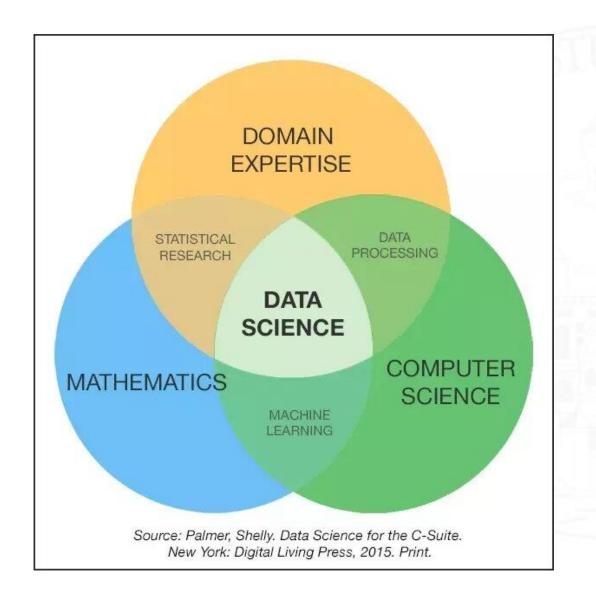
What is Data Science?

Discipline aimed at extracting knowledge from data in various forms

Multidisciplinary

Applicable to a wide range of fields







Data Science...

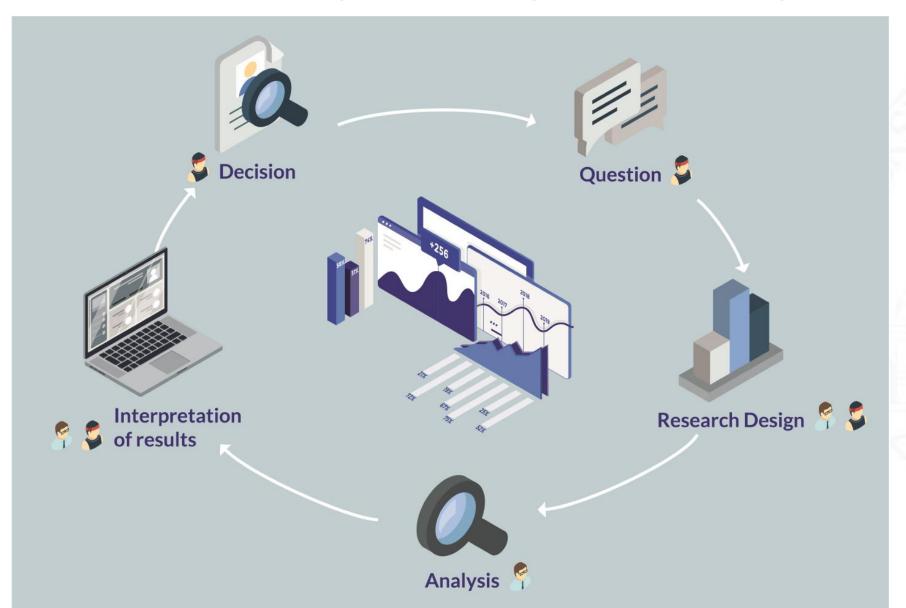
- ... aims at extracting knowledge from the data (interpretation of results is extremely delicate)
- ... can deal with any field of human knowledge
- · ... can potentially answer any question, if it has the right data
- ... will never be able to describe everything
- ... is not a crystal ball
- ... does not provide decisions, but support for decisions

Basketball data science has no ambition to replace basketball experts, but to support them in their decisions





The virtuous cycle of Sports Analytics







Anatomy of a decision







Are stats killing the game of basketball?

MARC GASOL SAYS: 'STATS ARE KILLING THE GAME OF BASKETBALL' (2017)

True:

- If people keep thinking that Statistics is merely PPG, AST, REB, ...
- If people don't learn how
 Stats have to be interpreted
 ("Do not put your faith in
 what statistics say until you
 have carefully considered
 what they do not say."

W. W. Watt)





tats have always been important to players, coaches, the media, and fans; this year in particular, we've been closely watching Russell Westbrook as he made triple-double history. Memphis Grizzlies center Marc Gasol made history as well, becoming the first center to record 300 assists, 100 threes and 100 blocks in a season, but he doesn't want to discuss stats, in fact, he says they're killing the game.

Gasol was asked about point guard Mike Conley's breakout season statistically and initially responded with this take:

"We've got 43 wins. If we win (tonight), we'll have 44. That's the only number you guys (media) should care about," Gasol said. "Stats are great, but wins and losses matter. Stats are killing the game of basketball. Basketball is a subjective game. A lot of things happen that you cannot measure in stats. Different things matter. To me, the most important things in basketball are not measured by stats."

False:

- If modern approaches to basketball analytics are used
- If we are able to integrate analytics and technical experience
- If we are able to spread the culture of Statistics







Are stats killing the game of basketball?



Marc Gasol considers data very important and beneficial for winning

World champion and NBA basketball player Marc Gasol brought some stardust to proceedings at the Sports Tomorrow Congress (WOM+N) 2021 on Thursday

(2021)



"...the confidence of the person who showed me the data convinced me about them. We were used to seeing of games, but they images transformed those images into numbers. Once you have the data, they help you make better decisions".... [they should] "educate players on the importance and benefits of data. The best thing they can do is make the most of them to squeeze as much as possible out of games, as data is very important and beneficial for winning"



2 – Basketball Analytics: state of the art







Sport Analytics
Services













Official Statistics















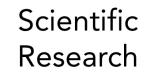






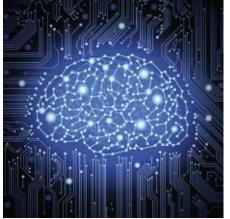


Services









Our analyses often integrate machine learning tools and experts' suggestions



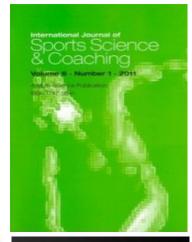




Scientific literature

Scientific journals







JOURNAL OF

QUANTITATIVE





Special Issues





- Predicting the outcomes of a game or a tournament
- Determining discriminating factors between successful and unsuccessful teams
- Examining the statistical properties and patterns of scoring during the games
- Analysing a player's performance and the impact on his team's chances of winning
- Monitoring playing patterns with reference to roles





- Designing the kinetics of players' body movements with respect to shooting efficiency, timing and visual control on the field
- Depicting the players' movements, pathways, trajectories and the network of passing actions, the flow of events and the connected functional decisions
- Studying teams' tactics and identifying optimal game strategies
- Investigating possible referee biases





- Measuring psychological latent variables and their association to performance
- Epidemiology of basketball injuries, physical, anthropometric and physiological attributes of players, hematological parameters or other vitals
- Special training programmes to stimulate muscle strength, jumping ability and physical fitness in general
- Scheduling problems





- This list is far from being complete
- The range of possible research questions is going to grow, thanks to the availability of large data sets and the incresaing computational power
- A complete theory explaining the relationships among the variables involved in basketball analytics is still not available
 - Answering to all those questions is a very interesting challenge for Data Scientists





3 – Basketball data





Data are essential to Data science and Analytics, so the procedures for obtaining and organizing data sets must be structured and validated to guarantee Quality:

Exhaustiveness

Accuracy

Completeness

Consistency

Accessibility

Timeliness





Another important issue about data is **Context** (all the additional information necessary to correctly interpret data): "Data without context are just numbers"

Several **sources** (Federations, sporting organizations, professional societies, associations, ...)





The web is a massive store of data:

- Data on payment or freely available
- Open data often require web scraping procedures
- Variety of datasets (traditional data matrices, multidimensional data cubes, unstructured text data, pixels from sensors and cameras, data from wearables, mobile phones, tablets, geocode, timestamps, ...), requiring relational databases and datawarehousing tools





We can distinguish four main macro-categories:

- Data recorded manually
- Data detected by technological devices
- Data from psychometric questionnaires
- Other data





Data recorded manually, with or without technological tools for annotation. This category includes the basic statistics from box scores, notational analysis data, play-by-play (event-log) data, reports filled by technical experts and coaches during training sessions, opinions and experts' evaluations that can be combined with measurement data.





Data detected by technological devices. Increasingly, technology enters both the training and the games, making available large amounts of data. Examples are the data recorded by GPS sensors or other player tracking systems, which detect the positions of the players on the court at very short time intervals (milliseconds), the video data coming from cameras, the platforms and all the wearable technologies that detect postures, body movements, vitals such as heartbeat and blood pressure.





Data from psychometric questionnaires administered to athletes, aimed at the measurement of attitudes and personality traits (group dynamics, interpersonal relations, social-cognitive processes, leadership, mental toughness, personality, coping strategies, ...).





Other data. In this residual category converge all the different and heterogeneous data classes that can integrate the analysis from different points of view, such as - without pretension of exhaustiveness - the market analysis data, the textual data obtained by querying the Social Networks (which can serve for example to measure the sentiment of the fans), data from Google Trends and other tools able to monitor online searches and popularity of hashtags.







Big Data





Stats

www.espn.com/nba stats.nba.com www.fiba.com Leagues

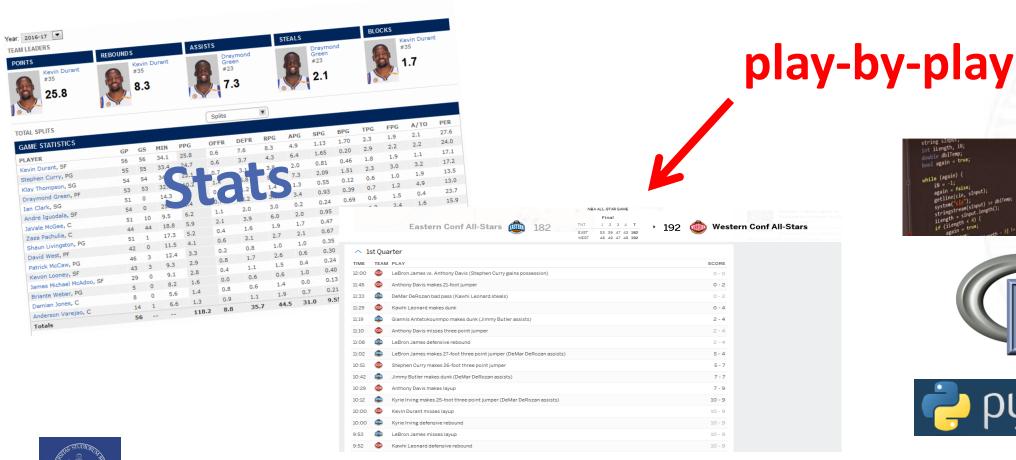






Data

Big Data





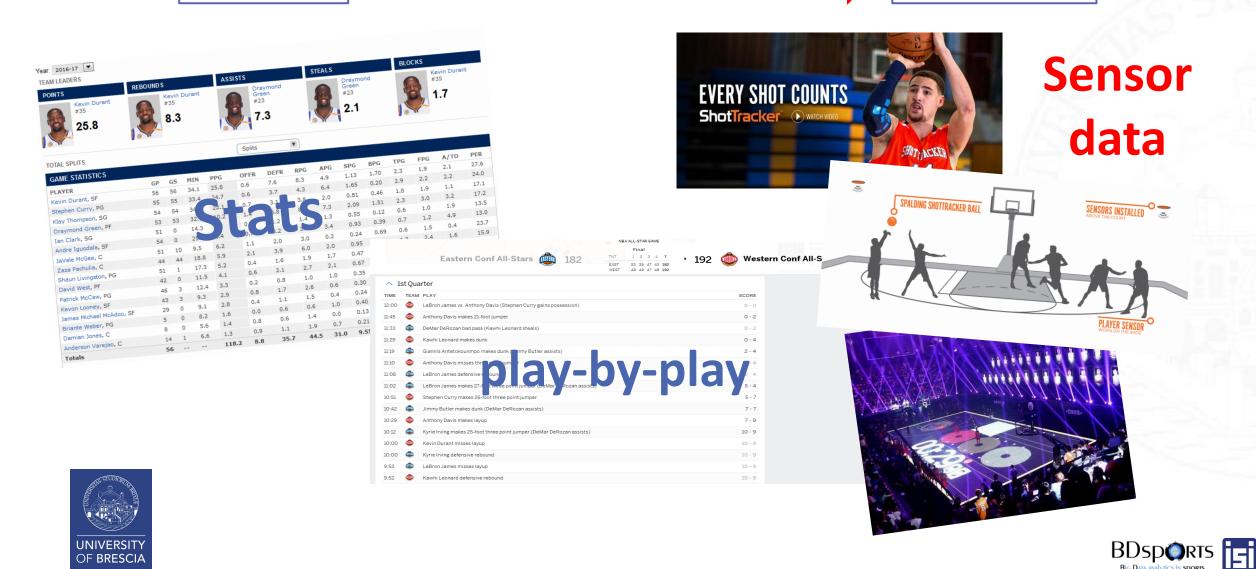






Data

Big Data



4 - Introduction to the R package BasketballAnalyzeR





Book and codes

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https://bdsports.unibs.it/basketballanalyzer/



Home

Team ✓

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BasketballAnalyzeR

BasketballAnalyzeR



BasketballAnalyzeR is an R package that accompanies the book:

P. Zuccolotto and M. Manisera (2020) <u>Basketball Data Science – With Applications in R</u>, Chapman and Hall/CRC. ISBN 9781138600799.

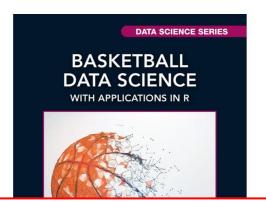
It has been developed by Marco Sandri, Paola Zuccolotto, Marica Manisera (Big&Open Data Innovation Laboratory <u>BODal-Lab</u>, University of Brescia) and provides functions for analysis and visualization of Basketball Data.

This web page gives details and information about the package.

Supplementary material for the book

Codes for reproducing the case studies presented throughout the book with ${\tt BasketballAnalyzeR-R}$ code checked under R-3.5.3 for Windows (64 bit) and for Mac OS X 10.11

pdf format







Install R and BasketballAnalyzeR

How to install BasketballAnalyzeR

BasketballAnalyzeR is on CRAN and github

Step 1 - Installing R

- Download the latest version of R from CRAN
- Install R following the instructions of the installer (you can safely use the default settings and just keep clicking Next
- If you have experienced problems with the installation, read for example here or here

Step 2 - Installing BasketballAnalyzeR

There are three alternative procedures, that can be optionally chosen by the user.

PROCEDURE 1 - STANDARD INSTALLATION FROM CRAN

- Write install.packages ("BasketballAnalizeR") and then press Enter
- · Wait until the package is installed
- To load the BasketballAnalyzeR package, write library (BasketballAnalyzeR) and then press Enter
- To test the package, write example (shotchart) and then press Enter

PROCEDURE 2 - INSTALLATION FROM LOCAL ZIP FILE

- Download the package's zip file
- Install it from local zip file (from the R menu: Packages -> Install package(s) from local files -> BasketballAnalyzeR_0.5.0.tar.gz)
- Wait until the package is installed (it can take several minutes)
- To load the BasketballAnalyzeR package, write library (BasketballAnalyzeR) and then press Enter
- To test the package, write example (shotchart) and then press Enter

PROCEDURE 3 - INSTALLATION OF DEVELOPMENT VERSION

With this procedure the user can install the latest version of the package, with the most recent updates in development version, not yet implemented in the CRAN version of the package.

- Open R
- Write install.packages ("devtools") and then press Enter
- To download and install the BasketballAnalyzeR package, write devtools::install_github("sndmrc/BasketballAnalyzeR") and then press Enter
- Wait until the package is installed (it can take several minutes)
- To load the BasketballAnalyzeR package, write library (BasketballAnalyzeR) and then press Enter
- To test the package, write example (shotchart) and then press Enter







data(package="BasketballAnalyzeR")

```
Data sets in package 'BasketballAnalyzeR':
```

Obox PbP.BDB

Pbox

Tadd Tbox Opponents box scores dataset - NBA 2017-2018 Play-by-play dataset - NBA 2017-2018

Players box scores dataset - NBA 2017-2018

Tadd dataset - NBA 2017-2018

Teams box scores dataset - NBA 2017-2018

- Tbox Teams' box scores
- Obox Opponents' box scores
- Pbox Players' box scores
- PbP.BDB Play-by-play data
- Tadd Additional information

NBA Regular Season 17/18

82 games

Play-by-play: 82 games played by the Champions, Golden State Warriors (made available by BigDataBall www.bigdataball.com)

> PbP <- PbPmanipulation(PbP.BDB)





data(package="BasketballAnalyzeR")

- 1. **Teams box scores**. In this data frame, called **Tbox**, the cases (rows) are the analyzed teams and the variables (columns) are referred to the team achievements in the considered games.
- 2. **Opponents box scores**. In this data frame, called Obox, the cases (rows) are the analyzed teams and the variables (columns) are referred to the achievements of the opponents of the in the considered games.
- 3. Players box scores. In this data frame, called Pbox, the cases (rows) are the analyzed players and the variables (columns) are referred to the individual achievements in the considered games.



data(package="BasketballAnalyzeR")

- 4. Play-by-play data. In this data frame, called PbP.BDB, the cases (rows) are the events occurred during the analyzed games and the variables (columns) are descriptions of the events in terms of type, time, players involved, score, area of the court.
- 5. Additional information. In this data frame, called Tadd, the cases (rows) are the analyzed teams and the variables (columns) are qualitative information such as Conference, Division, final rank, qualification to Playoffs.





Boxscores (1., 2., 3.) and Additional information (5) are about all the teams and players of the **82 games** in the regular season of the **NBA** championship 2017/2018

Play-by-play data are relative to the 82 games played by Golden State Warriors (the champions) during the regular season (data made available by BigDataBall, www.bigdataball.com)

18/19 NBA boxscores and play-by-play data of Cleveland Cavaliers (17/18) are available at







data(package="BasketballAnalyzeR")

Variable	Description	Tbox	Obox	Pbox	Tadd	Variable	Description
Team	Analyzed team	×	×	×	×	game_id	Identification code for the game
	(long name)					data_set	Season: years and type
team	Analyzed team				×	-	(Regular or Playoffs)
	(short name)					date	Date of the game
Conference	Conference				×	a1a5; h1h5	Five players on the court
Division	Division				×	aiao, iiiiio	(away team; home team)
Rank	Rank (end season)				×	period	Quarter (\geq 5: over-time)
Playoff	Playoff qualification				×	1	
	(Yes or No)					away_score; home_score	Score of the away/home team
Player	Analyzed player			×		${\tt remaining_time}$	Time left in the quarter
GP	Games Played	×	×	×			(h:mm:ss)
MIN	Minutes Played	×	×	×		elapsed	Time played in the quarter
PTS	Points Made	×	×	×			(h:mm:ss)
W	Games won	×	×			play_length	Time since the immediately
L	Games lost	×	×				preceding event (h:mm:ss)
P2M	2-Point Field Goals	×	×	×		play_id	Identification code for the play
	(Made)					team	Team responsible for the event
P2A	2-Point Field Goals	×	×	×		event_type	Type of event
	(Attempted)					assist	Player who made the assist
P2p	2-Point Field Goals	×	×	×		away; home	Players for the jump ball
	(Percentage)					block	Player who blocked the shot
P3M	3-Point Field Goals	×	×	×		entered; left	Player who entered/left the court
204	(Made)					num	Sequence number of the free throw
РЗА	3-Point Field Goals	×	×	×		opponent	Player who made the foul
D2	(Attempted) 3-Point Field Goals					outof	Number of free throws accorded
РЗр	(Percentage)	×	×	×			
PTM	0 /					player	Player responsible for the event
FTM	Free Throws (Made)	×	×	×		points	Scored points
FTA	Free Throws					possession	Player who the jump ball is tipped to
FIA		×	×	×		reason	Reason of the turnover
PT	(Attempted) Free Throws	~	~	~		result	Result of the shot (made or missed)
FTp		×	×	×		steal	Player who stole the ball
OREB	(Percentage) Offensive Rebounds	×	×	×		type	Type of play
DREB	Defensive Rebounds	×	×	×		shot_distance	Field shots: distance from the basket
AST	Assists	×	×	×		original_x; original_y;	coordinates of the shooting player
TOV	Turnovers	×	×	×		converted_x; converted_y	original: tracking coordinate system
STL	Steals	×	×	×		_ ,	half court, $(0,0)$ center of the basket
BLK	Blocks	×	×	×			converted: coordinates in feet
PF	Personal Fouls	×	×	×			full court, $(0,0)$ bottom-left corner
PM	Plus/Minus	×	×	×		description	Textual description of the event

Variable	Description
periodTime	Time played in the quarter (in seconds)
totalTime	Time played in the match (in seconds)
playlength	Time since the immediately preceding event
	(in seconds)
${ t Shot Type}$	Type of shot (FT, 2P, 3P)
oppTeam	Name of the opponent team





R script

bdsports.unibs.it/basketballanalyzer/

```
# July 2019
# The following R code allows to replicate all the analyses and examples
# in the book "Basketball Data Science" (by P. Zuccolotto and M. Manisera),
# forthcoming as a CRC Press publication.
# It is based on the "BasketballAnalyzeR" package developed with M. Sandri.
# https://bdsports.unibs.it/basketballanalyzer/
# for further explanations and updates
rm(list=ls())
# install.packages("devtools", repos="https://cran.stat.unipd.it/")
# devtools::install github("sndmrc/BasketballAnalyzeR",force=TRUE)
library(BasketballAnalyzeR)
# CHAPTER 2
# Data and Basic Statistical Analyses
#data(package="BasketballAnalyzeR")
#PbP <- PbPmanipulation(PbP.BDB)</pre>
##########################
# 2.2 BASIC STATISTICAL ANALYSES
###########################
###########################
# 2.2.1 Pace, Ratings, Four Factors
############################
rm(list=ls())
tm <- c("BOS", "CLE", "GSW", "HOU")</pre>
selTeams <- which(Tadd$team %in% tm)</pre>
FF.sel <- fourfactors(Tbox[selTeams,], Obox[selTeams,])</pre>
plot(FF.sel)
```

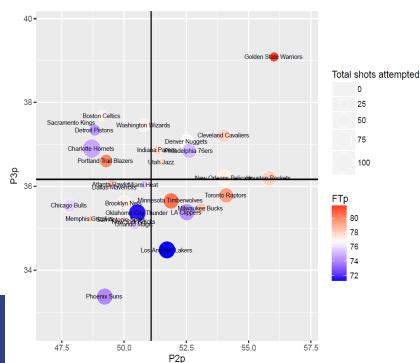


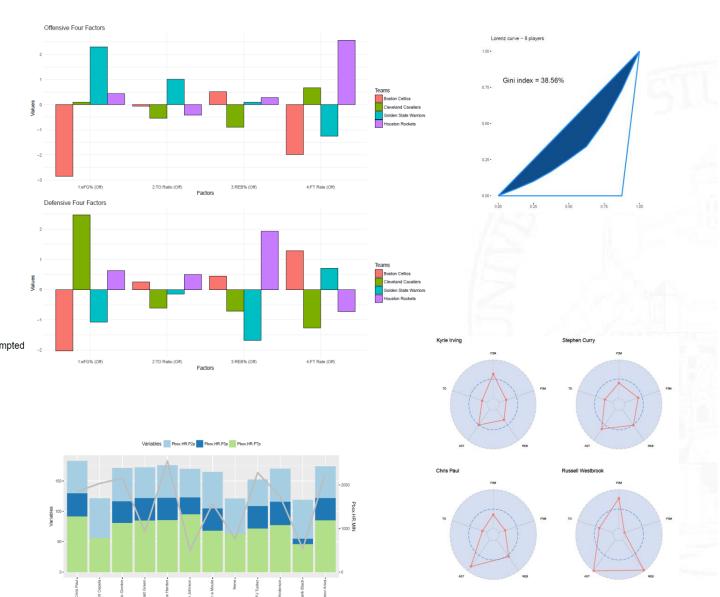






- Basic Statistical Analyses
- Discovering patterns in data
- Finding groups in data
- Modelling relationships in data



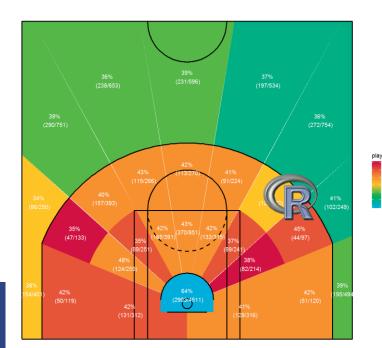


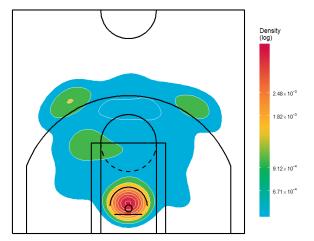


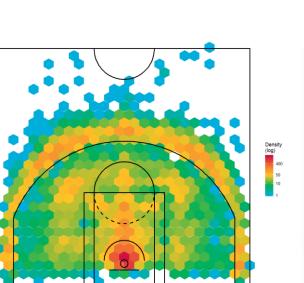


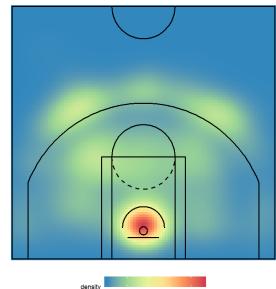


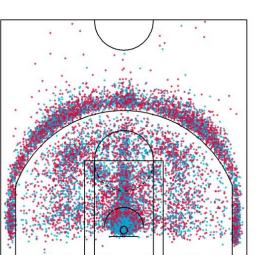
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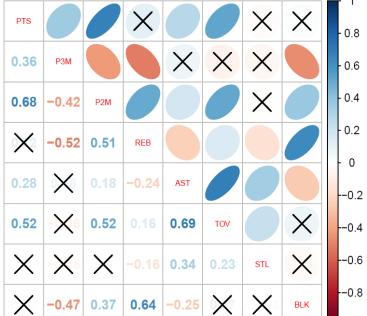


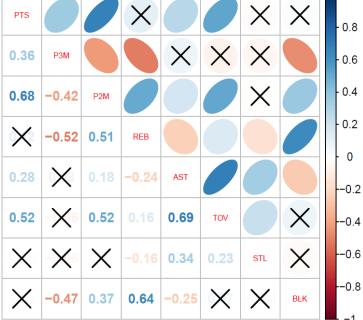


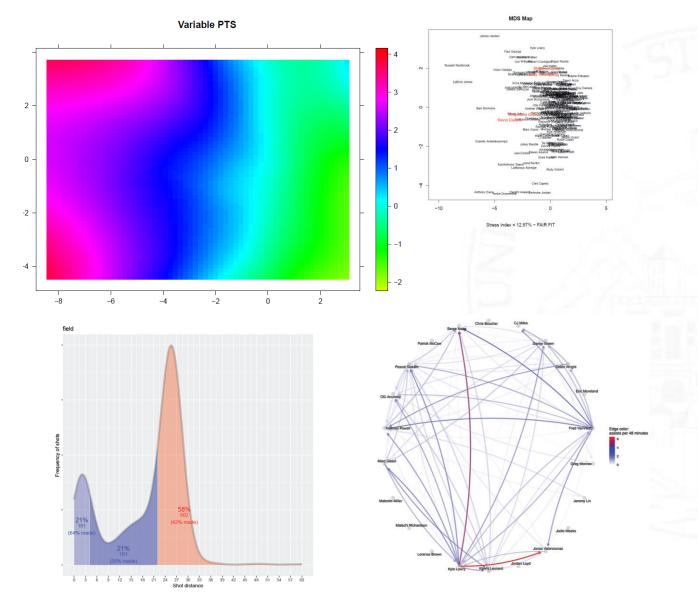




- **Basic Statistical Analyses**
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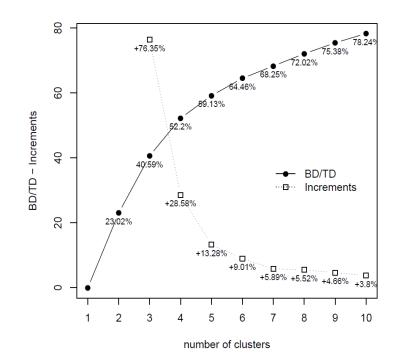


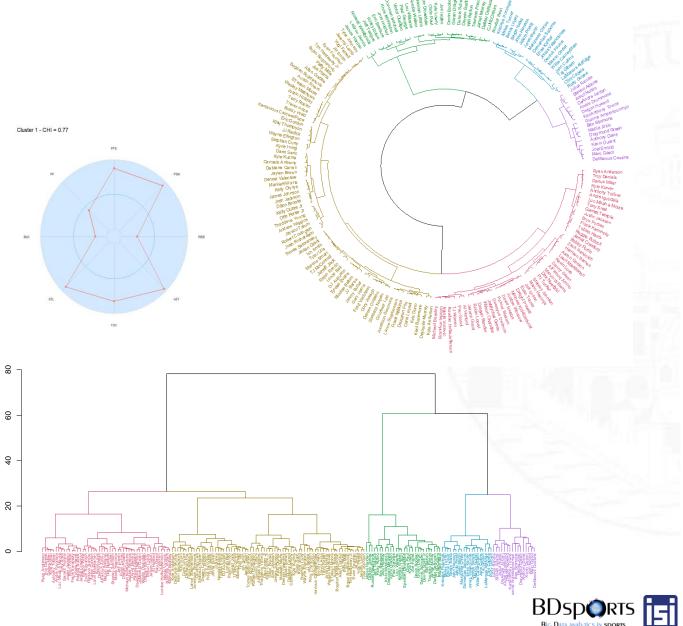






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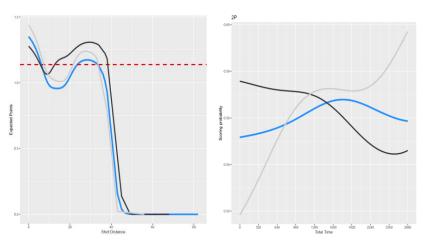




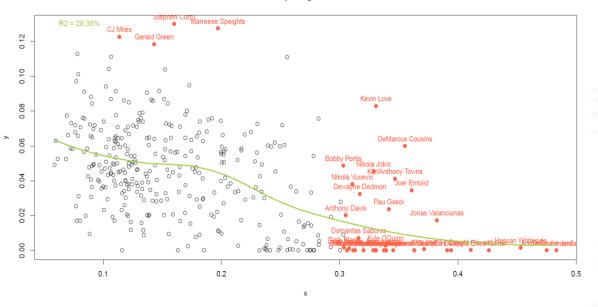




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Simple regression



Simple regression

