

Pace of Play in Hockey

Tim Swartz

Dept of Statistics & Actuarial Science
Simon Fraser University

Ottawa Hockey Analytics Conference - September 14-15, 2018

Collaborator: Rajitha Silva, University of Sri Jayewardenepura

Introduction:

- ▶ reproducibility

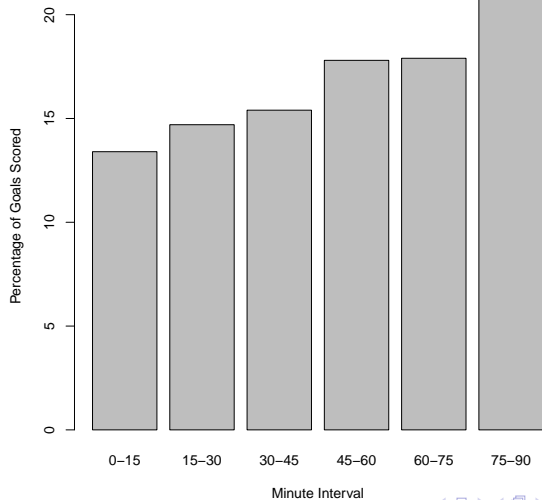
Introduction: pace in soccer - show video

Introduction: terms related to pace in soccer

- ▶ stretched
- ▶ frantic
- ▶ end to end, back and forth
- ▶ open
- ▶ pulsating

Introduction: soccer scoring rates

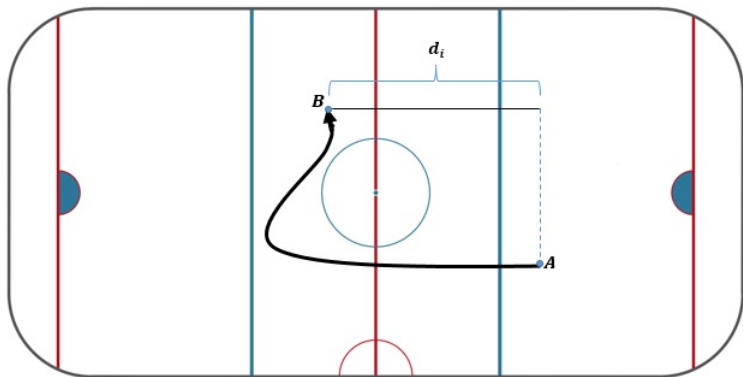
Ridder et al (1994) JASA



Introduction: questions related to pace in hockey

- ▶ does pace increase scoring? For whom?
- ▶ does pace contribute to winning?
- ▶ how do you increase pace?
- ▶ which teams are pacey?
- ▶ which players are pacey?
- ▶ has pace changed over seasons?
- ▶ are there strategic implications related to pace?

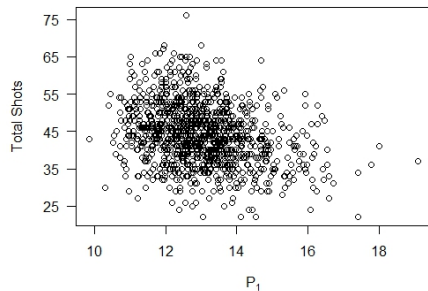
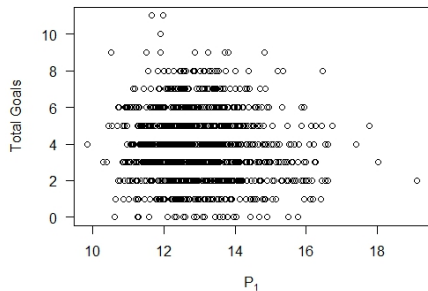
Pace: characterization of i th possession



Pace: SPORTLOGiQ - event data every 1.2 seconds

- ▶ $i = 1, \dots, n$ events
- ▶ $D = \sum_{i=1}^{n-1} d_i$
- ▶ $P_1 = D/T$

Pace: scatterplots



- no association between pace and scoring

Pace: variations in the definition

- ▶ only consider d_i 's where $d_i/t_i \geq 5.0$ ft/sec
- ▶ restrict attacking to sojourns between blue lines
- ▶ count zone entries

Concluding Remarks

Take-home message: hockey \neq soccer

- ▶ we were unable to characterize pace in hockey
- ▶ can you?
- ▶ if so, there may be strategic implications

Thank-you for your attention!

