Money(golf)ball

Predicting PGA Tour Pro Earnings
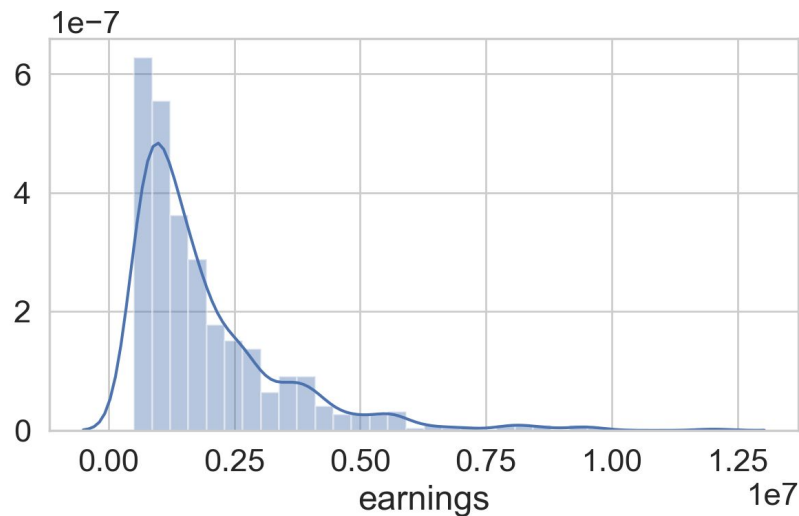
How do golfers earn money?

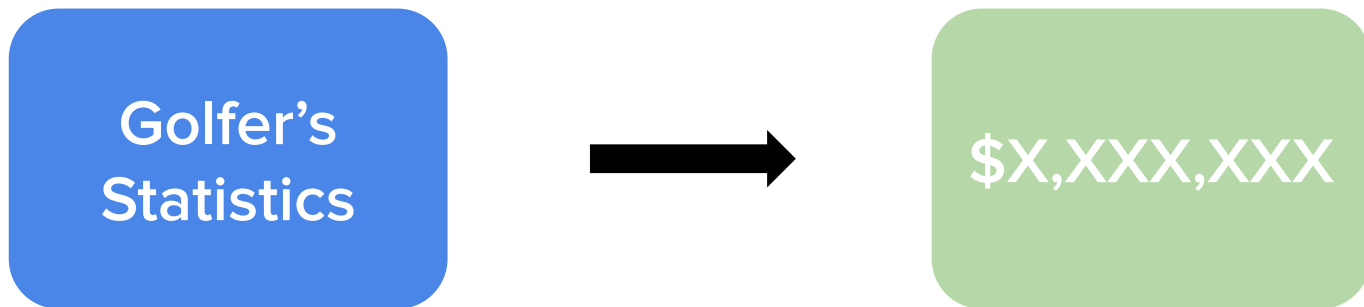|	
1st	$1,000,000
2nd	$750,000
3rd	$600,000

⋮

48th	$50,000
49th	$40,000
50th	$30,000

Introduction

GOAL: Predict a golfer's earnings based on statistics about his play.

Methodology

Choose statistics that break down a golfer's game:

- **Off the tee**

Methodology

Choose statistics that break down a golfer's game:

- Off the tee

- **Approaching the green**

Methodology

Choose statistics that break down a golfer's game:

- Off the tee

- Approaching the green

- **Putting**

Methodology

Choose statistics that break down a golfer's game:

- Off the tee

- Approaching the green

- Putting

Use Linear Regression to model
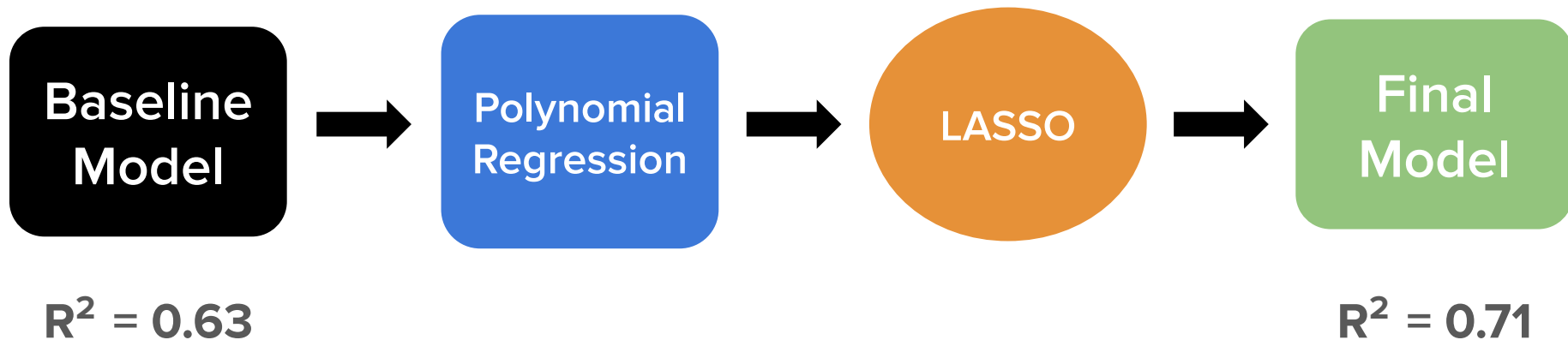
Methodology

Data: All data used was collected and scraped from the PGA Tour's official website.

- 13 features selected (over 400 available!)

- Selected from 2015, 2018, 2019

- www.pgatour.com/stats

The Model

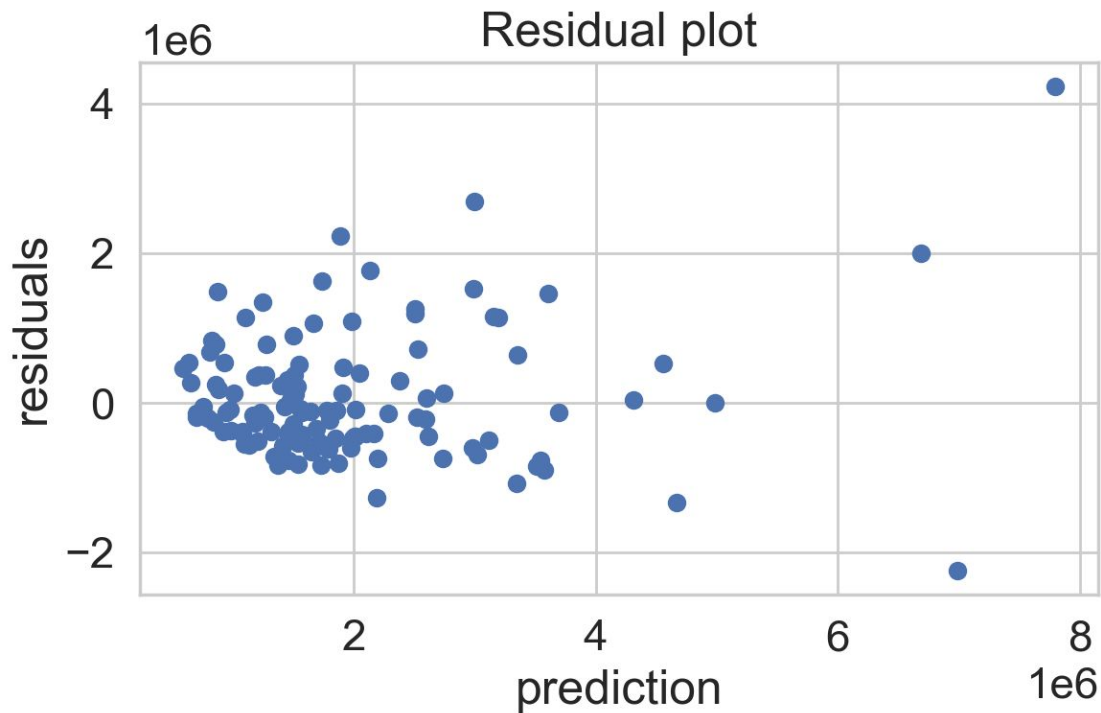Identifying the best model for predicting salaries

Baseline Model → Polynomial Regression → LASSO → Final Model

$R^2 = 0.63$

$R^2 = 0.71$

The Model

Identifying the best model for predicting salaries
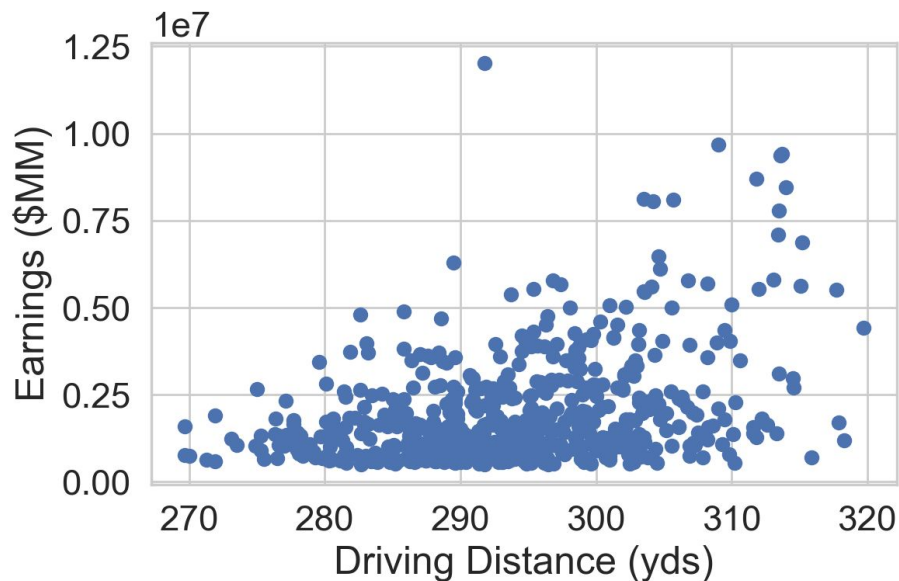

Residual plot

Takeaways

What can we take away from the model?

- **Driving distance** had a lot of influence on the model

- **Putting** also mattered, but not as much

- **Driving accuracy** and **approaching the green** did not

Takeaways

What can we take away from the model?

Future Work

- Add data from the 2016 and 2017 seasons when available

- Analyze each facet of the game more closely to determine impact on scoring

- Add additional features to the model to potentially increase accuracy

ANY QUESTIONS?