Introduction

2020 MLB season has already been hard to predict given it's short nature. This research aims to build a perfect model using team batting stats of the past eight years and then use the model to predict which teams' stats on 08/13/2020 is worthy of getting into postseason on a traditional 10-team postseason format.

Methods

Model was built using the combination of 16 team regular season stats:PA, R, H, 2B, 3B, HR, RBI, SB, CS, BB, SO, BA, OBP, SLG, OPS, TB from 2012-2019 and whether that corresponding team went into postseason or not.

Using SQL Server and Python

Deep learning classification model by experimenting different number of neurons in each layer, different number of layers, different learning rate, model validation, dropout and early stopping.

Step 1: Import data

import regular season stats from MLB teams who got into postseason during 2012-2019

items include Tm, PA, R, H, 2B, 3B, HR, RBI, SB, CS, BB, SO, BA, OBP, SLG, OPS, TB

total rows are 8(years)*10(teams each year)=80

In [1]:

```
import pandas as pd
import pyodbc
sql conn = pyodbc.connect('''DRIVER={ODBC Driver 13 for SQL Server);
                             SERVER=ALLENHO\MSSQLSERVER002;
                             DATABASE=Playoffbound;
                             Trusted Connection=yes''')
query = '''
select Tm, PA, R, H, HR, RBI, SB, CS, BB, SO, BA, OBP, SLG, OPS, TB
from [dbo].['19B$']
where Tm in ('WSN','LAD','MIL','ATL','STL','HOU','NYY','MIN','TBR','OAK')
UNION ALL
select Tm, PA, R, H, HR, RBI, SB, CS, BB, SO, BA, OBP, SLG, OPS, TB
from [dbo].['18B$']
where Tm in ('BOS', 'LAD', 'MIL', 'ATL', 'CHC', 'HOU', 'NYY', 'CLE', 'COL', 'OAK')
UNION ALL
select Tm, PA, R, H, HR, RBI, SB, CS, BB, SO, BA, OBP, SLG, OPS, TB
from [dbo].['17B$']
where Tm in ('BOS', 'LAD', 'COL', 'WSN', 'CHC', 'HOU', 'NYY', 'CLE', 'ARI', 'MIN')
select Tm, PA, R, H, HR, RBI, SB, CS, BB, SO, BA, OBP, SLG, OPS, TB
from [dbo].['16B$']
where Tm in ('TOR', 'CLE', 'BOS', 'BAL', 'TEX', 'NYM', 'CHC', 'LAD', 'WSN', 'SFG')
UNION ALL
select Tm, PA, R, H, HR, RBI, SB, CS, BB, SO, BA, OBP, SLG, OPS, TB
from [dbo].['15B$']
where Tm in ('TOR','KCR','HOU','NYY','TEX','NYM','CHC','LAD','STL','PIT')
UNION ALL
select Tm, PA, R, H, HR, RBI, SB, CS, BB, SO, BA, OBP, SLG, OPS, TB
from [dbo].['14B$']
where Tm in ('BAL', 'KCR', 'OAK', 'LAA', 'DET', 'WSN', 'STL', 'LAD', 'PIT', 'SFG')
UNION ALL
select Tm, PA, R, H, HR, RBI, SB, CS, BB, SO, BA, OBP, SLG, OPS, TB
from [dbo].['13B$']
where Tm in ('BOS', 'TBR', 'OAK', 'CLE', 'DET', 'ATL', 'STL', 'LAD', 'PIT', 'CIN')
UNION ALL
select Tm, PA, R, H, HR, RBI, SB, CS, BB, SO, BA, OBP, SLG, OPS, TB
from [dbo].['12B$']
where Tm in ('TEX','BAL','OAK','NYY','DET','ATL','STL','SFG','WSN','CIN')
df = pd.read_sql(query, sql_conn)
#stored as df post
```

```
df_post = df
```

import regular season stats from MLB teams who DIDN'T get into postseason during 2012-2019 items are the same as above total rows are 8(years)*20(teams each year)=160

In [2]:

```
sql conn = pyodbc.connect('''DRIVER={ODBC Driver 13 for SQL Server};
                             SERVER=ALLENHO\MSSQLSERVER002;
                             DATABASE=Playoffbound;
                             Trusted Connection=yes''')
query = '''
select Tm, PA, R, H, HR, RBI, SB, CS, BB, SO, BA, OBP, SLG, OPS, TB
from [dbo].['19B$']
where Tm is not null and Tm not in ('WSN', 'LAD', 'MIL', 'ATL', 'STL', 'HOU', 'NYY', 'MIN', 'TBR', 'OAK', '
LgAvg')
UNION ALL
select Tm, PA, R, H, HR, RBI, SB, CS, BB, SO, BA, OBP, SLG, OPS, TB
from [dbo].['18B$']
where Tm is not null and Tm not in ('BOS', 'LAD', 'MIL', 'ATL', 'CHC', 'HOU', 'NYY', 'CLE', 'COL', 'OAK', '
LaAva')
UNION ALL
select Tm, PA, R, H, HR, RBI, SB, CS, BB, SO, BA, OBP, SLG, OPS, TB
from [dbo].['17B$']
where Tm is not null and Tm not in ('BOS', 'LAD', 'COL', 'WSN', 'CHC', 'HOU', 'NYY', 'CLE', 'ARI', 'MIN', '
LaAva')
UNION ALL
select Tm, PA, R, H, HR, RBI, SB, CS, BB, SO, BA, OBP, SLG, OPS, TB
from [dbo].['16B$']
where Tm is not null and Tm not in ('TOR','CLE','BOS','BAL','TEX','NYM','CHC','LAD','WSN','SFG', '
LgAvg')
UNION ALL
select Tm, PA, R, H, HR, RBI, SB, CS, BB, SO, BA, OBP, SLG, OPS, TB
from [dbo].['15B$']
where Tm is not null and Tm not in ('TOR','KCR','HOU','NYY','TEX','NYM','CHC','LAD','STL','PIT', '
LgAvg')
UNION ALL
select Tm, PA, R, H, HR, RBI, SB, CS, BB, SO, BA, OBP, SLG, OPS, TB
from [dbo].['14B$']
where Tm is not null and Tm not in ('BAL','KCR','OAK','LAA','DET','WSN','STL','LAD','PIT','SFG', '
UNION ALL
select Tm, PA, R, H, HR, RBI, SB, CS, BB, SO, BA, OBP, SLG, OPS, TB
from [dbo].['13B$']
where Tm is not null and Tm not in ('BOS', 'TBR', 'OAK', 'CLE', 'DET', 'ATL', 'STL', 'LAD', 'PIT', 'CIN', '
LqAvq')
UNION ALL
select Tm, PA, R, H, HR, RBI, SB, CS, BB, SO, BA, OBP, SLG, OPS, TB
from [dbo].['12B$']
where Tm is not null and Tm not in ('TEX', 'BAL', 'OAK', 'NYY', 'DET', 'ATL', 'STL', 'SFG', 'WSN', 'CIN', '
LgAvg')
df = pd.read_sql(query, sql_conn)
#stored as df npost
df_npost = df
#add each dataframe a new column named POST, which imply whether the team made the postseason that
vear
df post['POST']= 1
df npost['POST']= 0
#append two dataframes together
df com=df post.append(df npost)
#take a look at the table we got
print(df com)
                                                                        SO
     Тm
                                    HR
                                          RBI
                                                   SB
                                                         CS
              PA
                     R
                              Н
                                                                BB
0
     ATL 6302.0 855.0 1432.0 249.0 824.0
                                                89.0 28.0 619.0 1467.0
     HOU 6394.0 920.0 1538.0 288.0 891.0
                                                 67.0 27.0 645.0 1166.0
1
2
     T<sub>1</sub>AD
          6282.0
                  886.0
                         1414.0
                                  279.0
                                         861.0
                                                 57.0
                                                       10.0
                                                              607.0
                                                                    1356.0
                  769.0 1366.0 250.0
     MTT.
          6309.0
                                         744.0 101.0
                                                       25.0
                                                             629.0
         6392.0 939.0 1547.0 307.0 906.0
                                                28.0 21.0 525.0 1334.0
     MIN
```

```
155 PIT 6014.0 651.0 1313.0 170.0 620.0
                                                      73.0 52.0 444.0 1354.0
156 SDP 6112.0 651.0 1339.0 121.0 610.0 155.0 46.0 539.0 1238.0 157 SEA 6057.0 619.0 1285.0 149.0 584.0 104.0 35.0 466.0 1259.0 158 TBR 6105.0 697.0 1293.0 175.0 665.0 134.0 44.0 571.0 1323.0
159 TOR 6094.0 716.0 1346.0 198.0 677.0 123.0 41.0 473.0 1251.0
     BA OBP SLG OPS TB
0.258 0.336 0.452 0.789 2514.0
0.274 0.352 0.495 0.848 2781.0
                                         TB POST
0
     0.257 0.338 0.472 0.810 2593.0
    0.246 0.329 0.438 0.767 2429.0
   0.270 0.338 0.494 0.832 2832.0
      . . .
              . . .
                      . . .
                              . . .
155 0.243 0.304 0.395 0.699 2138.0
156 0.247 0.319 0.380 0.699 2060.0
157 0.234 0.296 0.369 0.665 2027.0
158 0.240 0.317 0.394 0.711 2128.0
159 0.245 0.309 0.407 0.716 2231.0
[240 rows x 16 columns]
```

Step 2: Build the deep learning classification model and experiment different number of neurons in each layer

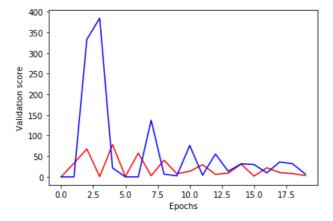
```
In [13]:
```

```
# Import necessary modules
from keras.layers import Dense
from keras.models import Sequential
from keras.utils import to_categorical
from keras.optimizers import adam
import matplotlib.pyplot as plt
# Save the number of columns in predictors: n cols
predictors=df com.loc[:,'PA':'TB'].to numpy()
n cols = predictors.shape[1]
input shape = (n cols,)
# Convert the target to categorical: target
target = to categorical(df com['POST'])
# Set up the model 1
model 1 = Sequential()
# Add the first and second layer
model_1.add(Dense(60, activation='relu', input_shape=input_shape))
model 1.add(Dense(60, activation='relu'))
# Add the output layer
model 1.add(Dense(2, activation='softmax'))
# Compile the model
model 1.compile(optimizer='adam',
              loss='categorical crossentropy',
              metrics=['accuracy'])
# Create the new model: model 2
model 2 = Sequential()
# Add the first and second layers
model_2.add(Dense(55, activation='relu', input_shape=input shape))
model 2.add(Dense(55, activation='relu'))
# Add the output layer
model 2.add(Dense(2, activation='softmax'))
# Compile model 2
model 2.compile(optimizer='adam',
                loss='categorical crossentropy',
                metrics=['accuracy'])
# Fit model_1
```

```
model_l_training = model_l.fit(predictors, target, epochs=20, batch_size=50, validation_split=0.2,
verbose=False)

# Fit model_2
model_2_training = model_2.fit(predictors, target, epochs=20, batch_size=50, validation_split=0.2,
verbose=False)

# Create the plot
plt.plot(model_1_training.history['val_loss'], 'r', model_2_training.history['val_loss'], 'b')
plt.xlabel('Epochs')
plt.ylabel('Validation_score')
plt.show()
```



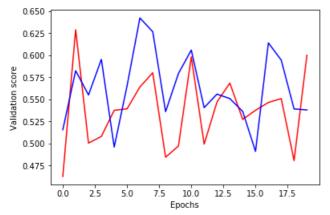
Result: 60 neurons in both hidden layers(red one) had a better performance than 55 neurons in both hidden layers(blue one)

Step 3: experiment different number of layers

```
In [4]:
```

```
# Create the new model: model 3
model 3 = Sequential()
# Add 20 hidden layers
model_3.add(Dense(60, activation='relu', input_shape=input_shape))
for i in range(19):
   model 3.add(Dense(60, activation='relu'))
# Add the output layer
model 3.add(Dense(2, activation='softmax'))
# Compile model 3
model 3.compile(optimizer='adam', loss='categorical crossentropy', metrics=['accuracy'])
# Create the new model: model 4
model_4 = Sequential()
# Add 25 hidden layers
model_4.add(Dense(60, activation='relu', input_shape=input_shape))
for i in range (24):
   model 4.add(Dense(60, activation='relu'))
# Add the output layer
model 4.add(Dense(2, activation='softmax'))
# Compile model 2
model 4.compile(optimizer='adam', loss='categorical crossentropy', metrics=['accuracy'])
model_3_training = model_3.fit(predictors, target, epochs=20, batch_size=50, validation_split=0.2,
verbose=False)
# Fit model 2
model 4 training = model 4.fit(predictors, target, epochs=20, batch size=50, validation split=0.2,
verbose=False)
# Create the plot
plt.plot(model 3 training.history['val loss'], 'r', model 4 training.history['val loss'], 'b')
```

```
plt.xlabel('Epochs')
plt.ylabel('Validation score')
plt.show()
```



Result: 20 hidden layers(red one) appeared to have better performance than 25 hidden layers(blue one)

Step 4: Try different learning rate

In [5]:

```
def get new model(input shape = input shape):
   model_5 = Sequential()
   model_5.add(Dense(60, activation='relu', input_shape = input_shape))
    for i in range (19):
        model 5.add(Dense(60, activation='relu'))
   model_5.add(Dense(2, activation='softmax'))
    return (model 5)
# Create list of learning rates: Ir to test
lr to test = [.000001, 0.01, 1]
# Loop over learning rates
for lr in lr to test:
   print('\nTesting model with learning rate: %f\n'%lr )
    # Build new model to test, unaffected by previous models
   model 5 = get new model()
   # Create adam optimizer with specified learning rate: my optimizer
   my_optimizer = adam(lr=lr)
    # Compile the model
   model_5.compile(optimizer=my_optimizer, loss='categorical crossentropy')
    # Fit the model
    model_5.fit(predictors, target, batch_size=50, epochs=10)
```

Testing model with learning rate: 0.000001

```
Epoch 1/10
Epoch 2/10
240/240 [==
       ======== - 0s 146us/step - loss: 0.6569
Epoch 3/10
240/240 [============ ] - 0s 196us/step - loss: 0.6546
Epoch 4/10
240/240 [===========] - 0s 175us/step - loss: 0.6522
Epoch 5/10
240/240 [============= ] - 0s 171us/step - loss: 0.6502
Epoch 6/10
240/240 [=========== ] - 0s 167us/step - loss: 0.6480
Epoch 7/10
240/240 [=========== ] - Os 183us/step - loss: 0.6468
Epoch 8/10
Epoch 9/10
240/240 [============= ] - 0s 192us/step - loss: 0.6434
Epoch 10/10
```

```
Testing model with learning rate: 0.010000
Epoch 1/10
240/240 [============= ] - 2s 8ms/step - loss: 8.2554
Epoch 2/10
240/240 [============= ] - 0s 512us/step - loss: 0.7558
Epoch 3/10
240/240 [=======] - Os 529us/step - loss: 0.6707
Epoch 4/10
Epoch 5/10
240/240 [===========] - Os 545us/step - loss: 0.6544
Epoch 6/10
240/240 [============ ] - 0s 521us/step - loss: 0.6386
Epoch 7/10
Epoch 8/10
240/240 [============ ] - 0s 187us/step - loss: 0.6400
Epoch 9/10
240/240 [============= ] - 0s 208us/step - loss: 0.6373
Epoch 10/10
Testing model with learning rate: 1.000000
Epoch 1/10
240/240 [=========== ] - 2s 9ms/step - loss: nan
Epoch 2/10
Epoch 3/10
Epoch 4/10
Epoch 5/10
Epoch 6/10
Epoch 7/10
240/240 [========= ] - Os 183us/step - loss: nan
Epoch 8/10
240/240 [=========== ] - Os 204us/step - loss: nan
Epoch 9/10
Epoch 10/10
```

Result: learning rate as 0.01(default) had the best performance

Step 5: Try the model with only training data with the best combination of neurons(60), layers(20) and learning rate(0.01, default)

```
In [6]:
```

Step 6: Perform with validating

```
In [7]:
```

```
Train on 192 samples, validate on 48 samples
Epoch 1/5
ss: 0.4326 - val accuracy: 1.0000
Epoch 2/5
oss: 0.5074 - val accuracy: 1.0000
Epoch 3/5
oss: 0.4768 - val accuracy: 1.0000
Epoch 4/5
oss: 0.5444 - val accuracy: 1.0000
Epoch 5/5
192/192 [============= ] - Os 750us/step - loss: 0.6870 - accuracy: 0.5833 - val 1
oss: 0.4520 - val accuracy: 1.0000
Out[7]:
```

<keras.callbacks.callbacks.History at 0x1ad9e1d94a8>

Step 7: Try dropout and see the change of accuracy of both training and validating data set

```
In [8]:
```

```
from keras.layers import Dropout

# Set up the model
model 8 = Sequential()
```

```
# Add the layers
model 8.add(Dense(60, activation='relu', input shape = (n cols,)))
model 8.add(Dropout(0.5))
for i in range(19):
   model 8.add(Dense(60, activation='relu'))
   model 8.add(Dropout(0.5))
# Add the output layer
model 8.add(Dense(2, activation='softmax'))
# Compile the model
model 8.compile(optimizer='adam',
           loss='categorical crossentropy',
           metrics=['accuracy'])
# Fit the model
model_8.fit(predictors, target, validation_split=0.2, batch_size=50, epochs=5)
Train on 192 samples, validate on 48 samples
Epoch 1/5
loss: 0.5052 - val accuracy: 1.0000
Epoch 2/5
loss: 0.7445 - val accuracy: 0.0000e+00
Epoch 3/5
192/192 [============ ] - 0s 370us/step - loss: 344.5958 - accuracy: 0.4583 - val
loss: 0.7568 - val accuracy: 0.0000e+00
Epoch 4/5
192/192 [============== ] - Os 328us/step - loss: 229.6910 - accuracy: 0.4948 - val
loss: 0.7092 - val accuracy: 0.0000e+00
Epoch 5/5
192/192 [============= ] - 0s 354us/step - loss: 137.3841 - accuracy: 0.4844 - val
loss: 0.6826 - val accuracy: 1.0000
```

<keras.callbacks.callbacks.History at 0x1ada310c208>

**** 1 0000

As expected, with dropout, training data set became less accurate than without dropout, however validating set became more accurate

Step 8: Try early stopping and see the change of accuracy of both training and validating data set

```
In [38]:
```

Out[8]:

```
# Import EarlyStopping
from keras.callbacks import EarlyStopping
# Specify the model
model 9 = Sequential()
model_9.add(Dense(60, activation='relu', input shape = input shape))
for i in range(19):
  model_9.add(Dense(60, activation='relu'))
model 9.add(Dense(2, activation='softmax'))
# Compile the model
model 9.compile(optimizer='adam', loss='categorical crossentropy', metrics=['accuracy'])
# Define early stopping monitor
early stopping monitor = EarlyStopping(patience=5)
# Fit the model
model 9.fit(predictors, target, validation split=0.15, batch size=50, epochs=20, callbacks=[early s
topping_monitor])
Train on 204 samples, validate on 36 samples
Epoch 1/20
```

```
ss: 0.3/91 - Val_accuracy: 1.0000
Epoch 2/20
204/204 [============= ] - 0s 382us/step - loss: 0.6847 - accuracy: 0.5931 - val 1
oss: 0.2672 - val_accuracy: 1.0000
oss: 0.5382 - val accuracy: 1.0000
s: 0.9388 - val_accuracy: 0.0000e+00
Epoch 5/20
204/204 [============ ] - 0s 2ms/step - loss: 0.7434 - accuracy: 0.4020 - val los
s: 0.4810 - val accuracy: 1.0000
Epoch 6/20
s: 0.3691 - val accuracy: 1.0000
Epoch 7/20
204/204 [============= ] - 0s 681us/step - loss: 0.6894 - accuracy: 0.6078 - val 1
oss: 0.5033 - val accuracy: 1.0000
Out[38]:
<keras.callbacks.callbacks.History at 0x1adeb361978>
```

Result: 5 epochs to wait before early stop if no progress on the validation set

Step 9: Perform prediction

import 2020 team stats as of 08/14/2020 normalized to 162 games, try to see which teams' stats on 08/13/2020 is worthy of getting into postseason on a traditional 10-team postseason format.

```
In [35]:
import pandas as pd
df 2020=pd.read excel(r'C:\Users\allen\Desktop\Baseball research\Postseason or bust\2020
projection for 0813.xlsx')
df 2020=df 2020.loc[:,['PA162', 'R162', 'H162', 'HR162', 'RB1162', 'SB162', 'CS162', 'BB162', 'S016
2', 'BA', 'OBP', 'SLG', 'OPS', 'TB162']]
print(df_2020.head())
                           R162
                                           H162
           PA162
                                                          HR162
                                                                        RBI162
                                                                                        SB162
0 6096.315789 750.315789 1347.157895 127.894737 707.684211 34.105263
1 5977.800000 842.400000 1312.200000 226.800000 826.200000 64.800000

      2
      6111.000000
      864.000000
      1467.000000
      243.000000
      846.000000
      63.000000

      3
      6096.315789
      724.736842
      1415.368421
      196.105263
      682.105263
      34.105263

      4
      6176.250000
      840.375000
      1296.000000
      232.875000
      789.750000
      50.625000

         CS162
                       BB162
                                         SO162
                                                    BA OBP
                                                                     SLG OPS
0 \quad 25.578947 \quad 477.473684 \quad 1219.263158 \quad 0.245 \quad 0.315 \quad 0.382 \quad 0.697 \quad 2097.473684

      24.300000
      526.500000
      1644.300000
      0.244
      0.316
      0.437
      0.753
      2349.000000

      45.000000
      513.000000
      1305.000000
      0.269
      0.337
      0.473
      0.810
      2583.000000

3 25.578947 426.315789 1492.105263 0.254 0.316 0.422 0.738 2353.263158
4 10.125000 658.125000 1620.000000 0.244 0.344 0.431 0.776 2288.250000
In [39]:
### Calculate predictions: predictions
predictions = model 9.predict(df 2020.to numpy())
# Calculate predicted probability of survival: predicted prob true
predicted prob true = predictions[:,1]
# print predicted prob true
print(predictions[:,1])
print(predicted_prob_true>0.5)
0.39291558
 0.3971191 \quad 0.3997976 \quad 0.38670668 \quad 0.39637354 \quad 0.38669688 \quad 0.39432058
 0.39587435\ 0.3956131\ 0.3930428\ 0.3966231\ 0.39536327\ 0.39697862
```

 $0.3974107 \quad 0.4047947 \quad 0.39315706 \ 0.39955214 \ 0.39503822 \ 0.40168834]$

[raise raise raise

Result

The model we built has a roughly 60% accuracy on training data set(data from 2011-2019). However when trying to see which teams' stats on 08/13/2020(normalized to 162 games) are worthy of getting into postseason on a traditional 10-team postseason format, it shows none of them.

Conclusion

Though it's a bit weird to see this, one can probably assume from the result that this is such a bad year for team batting so far that the model doesn't think any team is good enough for postseason on the past eight years' standard.