Super Mario vs England

This is a part of the football mathematical modeling course mini-challenge:

1. Think of a player who you enjoyed watching at the recent Men's or Women's World Cups

2. What actions did they perform that were important and why?

3. Plot the actions and describe how the data supports or contradicts your own analysis

4. Write a short text using at most two figures that illustrate your points

Mario Mandzukic vs England was one of the best individual performances for me. After analyzing his performance, I came up with two hypotheses:

1. Mario Mandzukic played as a false No. 9 by dropping to the center of the field to open space for either Rebic or Persice to cut inside and receive a cross inside of the box

2. **When England had the ball near their penalty area, Mandzukic will apply pressure to the ball holder (either Cbs or GK) so they would make a mispass so Croatia would get the ball back in a dangerous positions**
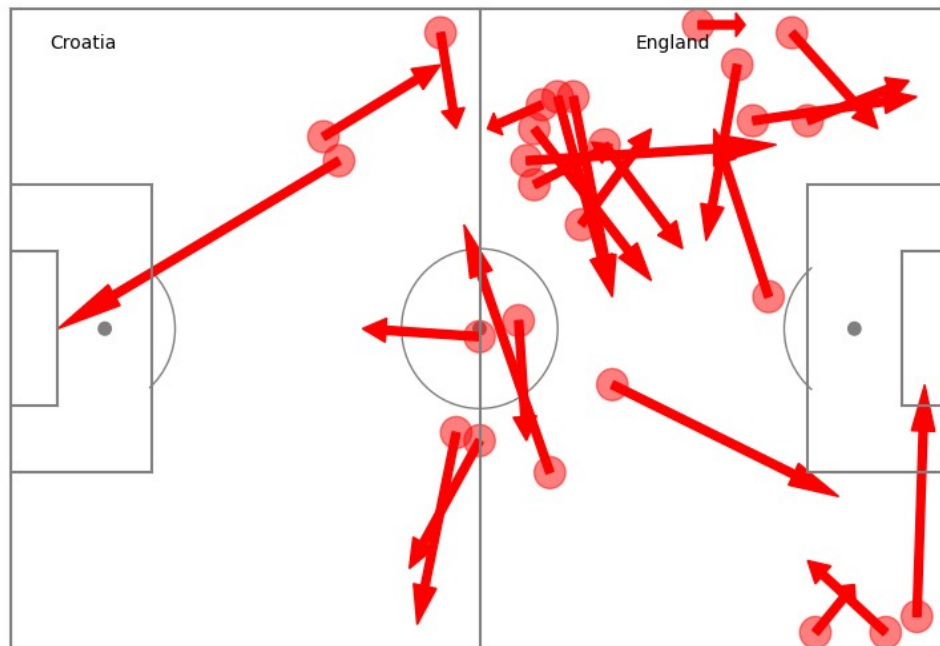

Actions that I should plot to either support or contradict my analysis:
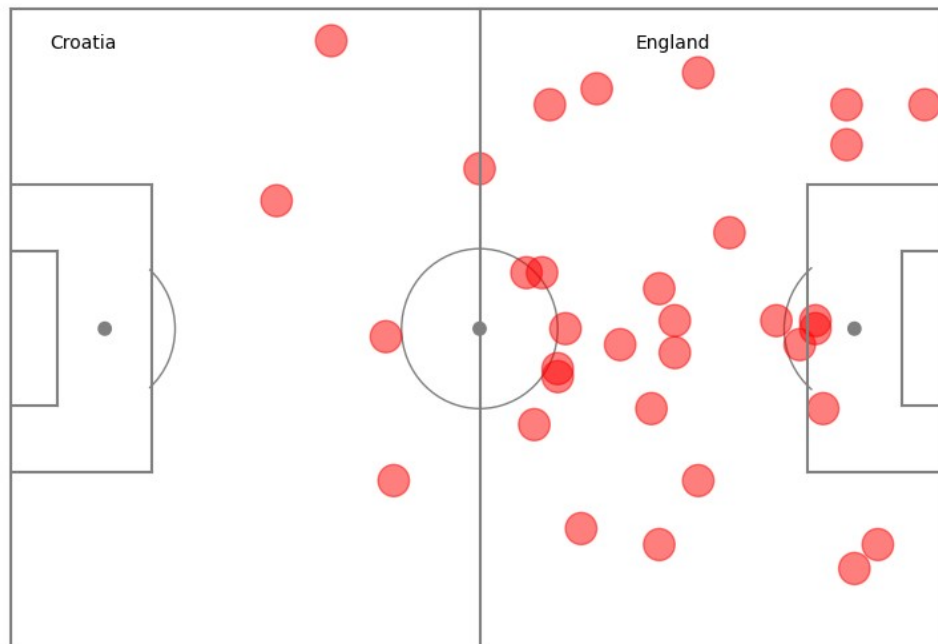
1. **A carry map so we would look to Mandzukic's movement with the ball to see if he drops with the ball**

2. **A pass map to look at his passing pattern (It should be towards Modric and Brozovic so they would play crosses)**

3. **A pressure map to see where Mandzukic applied pressure the most**

Carry map of Mario Mandzukic (movement with the ball)

Mario Mandzukic pass map

Mario Mandzukic Pressure Map

Conclusion:

- **The carry map contradicts my first point as Mandzukic plays as a Center Forward that drifts wide more than a false No.9 but my second point seemed to supported as you see most of Mandzukic passes was in the England's half towards moving towards the center near the box**

- **The pressure map also supports as we see Mandzukic applying pressure near the penalty area and even applying pressure on the goalie inside of the penalty area**