CSC343 Phase 3 - Investigative Questions

Roger Lam and Wayne Zhu

Due December 3, 2021 at 8pm EST

Domain

For this project, we will be investigating NBA statistics. We're both casual fans of basketball, and we're very interested in examining whether or not the trends we always hear about in sports media can actually be validated through analyzing current and historical data.

Investigative Questions

While the media and fans alike have a generally clear consensus on the direction that the game is heading, very few are able to back their intuition up with any empirical evidence. After building our dataset, we have the opportunity to produce an analysis on these consensus trends backed by objective data. Accordingly, each of our 3 investigative questions relate to a single trend. Here are the questions that we've chosen:

- It's widely believed that there has been a '3-point revolution' in the game in the past decade. Have players gotten better at shooting 3s? How has shot selection changed over the years?

- Offenses are considered to be more efficient now than ever. Is this objectively reflected in the dataset? How much have points scored per game changed? Are players scoring more points per shot attempt? Are teams playing with faster pace in terms of number of possessions per game?

- It's believed that the game has gotten less physical in the past 20 years. Are more fouls being called? Has it become easier for players to draw free throws?