Project Luther

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Question / Motivation

"Can you predict how a player performs in the NBA in their rookie season based on their college statistics?"
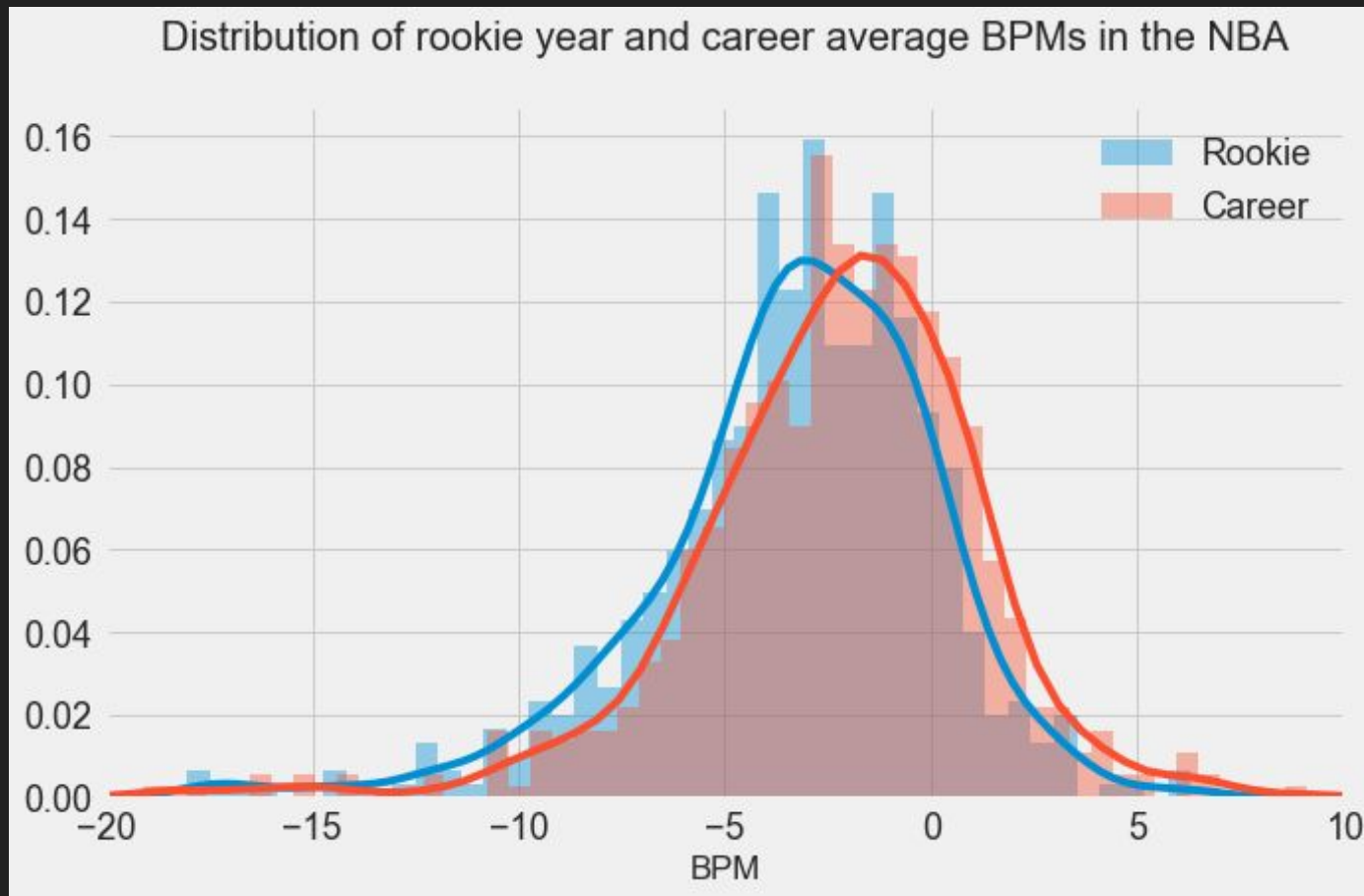
Data

All data is from players drafted between 2003 to 2016

- Drafted Player's college statistics

- Drafted Player's physical characteristics

- Drafted Player's NBA rookie year and career average statistics

- All NBA Player's Yearly average statistics

Resulting data set includes 509 drafted NBA players since 2003

Target

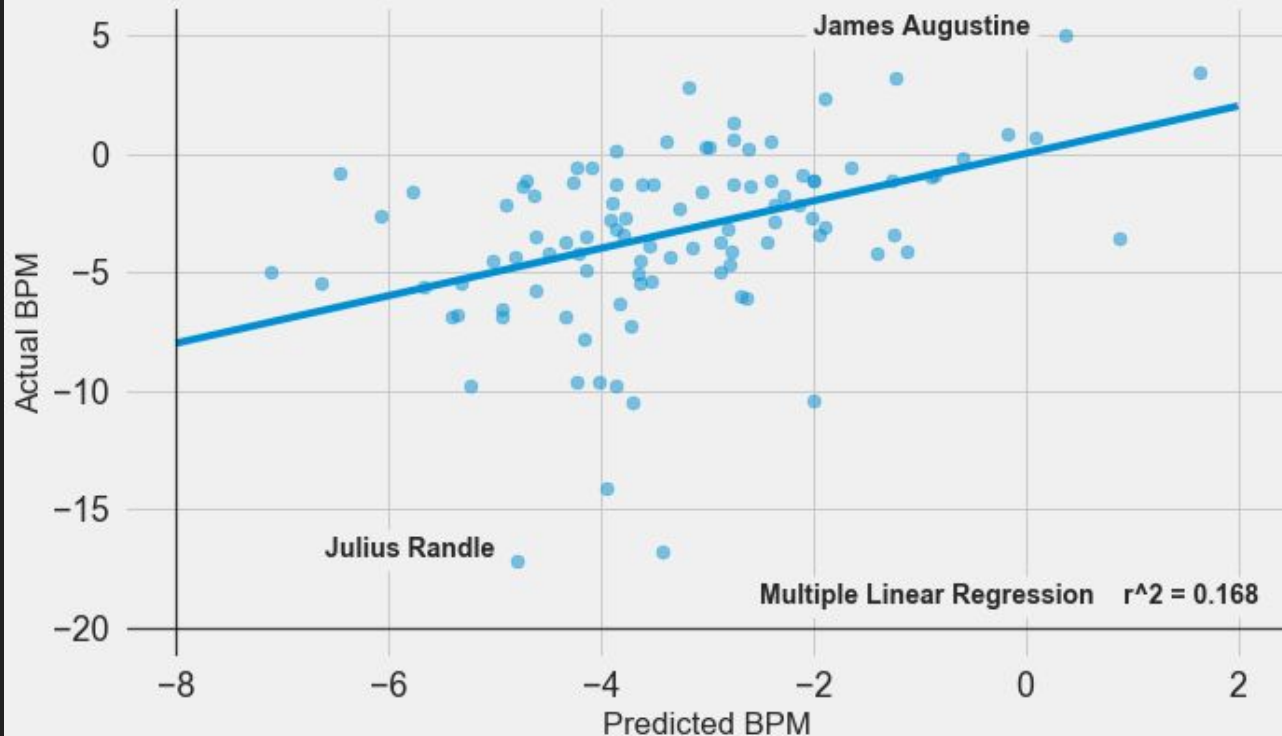Distribution of rookie year and career average BPMs in the NBA

Process

- Started with just using college and physical statistics

- Added dummy variables of which college they went to

- Added average statistics of the teammates of the drafted player's rookie season
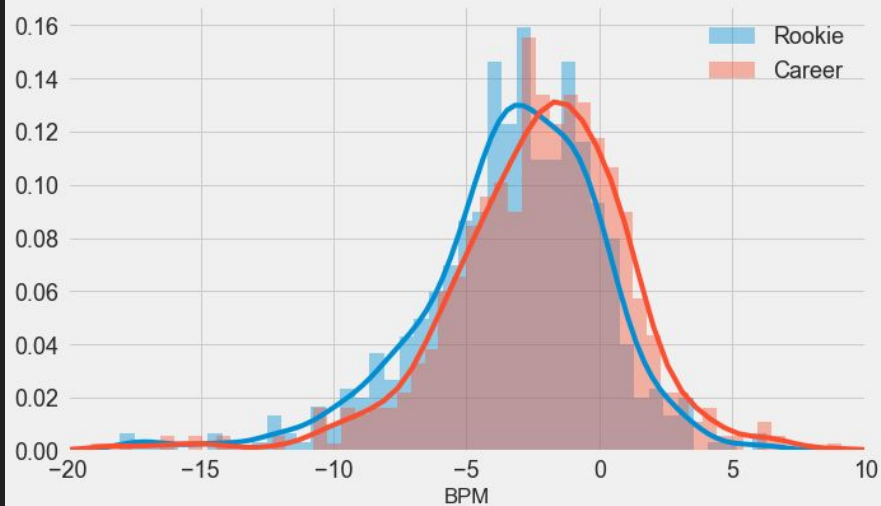
Results

Further Research

- Recruit star ratings (draft prospect rankings)
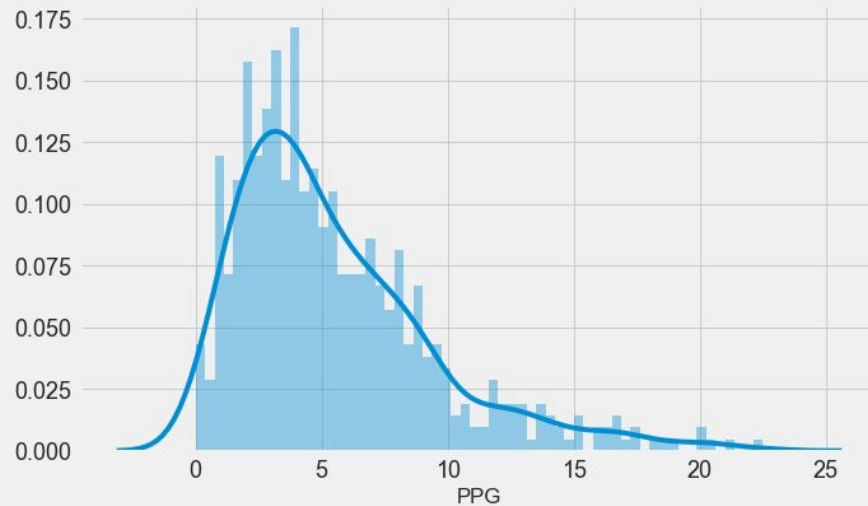
- Twitter or basketball forum "hype"

Targets

Distribution of rookie year and career average BPMs in the NBA

Distribution of rookie year PPGs in the NBA

Results 2.0

Predicted Rookie Year PPG vs Actual

Each point represents a drafted rookie in the test set since 2003 who played at least one game in the NBA.

Kevin Durant

Ridge Regression
r^2 = 0.162

Actual PPG

Predicted PPG