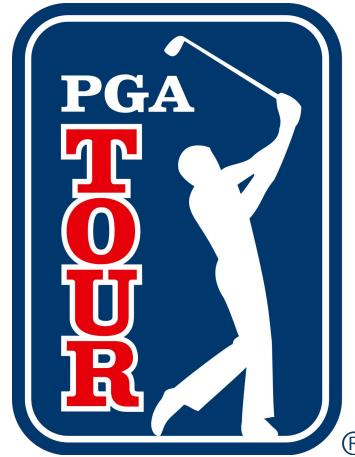




PGA Tour Players



Unsupervised Machine Learning Project

Mikael Magnusson

01-03-2024



So, you want to become a better golfer?

We have studied 438 PGA Players across 9 seasons to discover what strengths are most important to for a successful golfing career

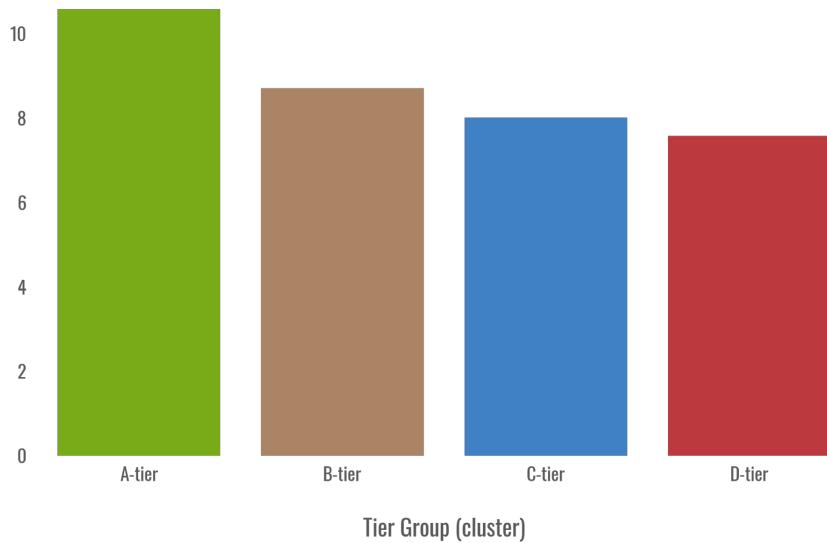
We have found flexibility to be an important factor among the greatest players with an emphasis on short-game

Stop training on hitting drivers as far as you can

Train on hitting them straight
Hitting greens consistently with irons
Chipping!

Getting to know our tiers

Average Top 10 finishes per cluster



Clear hierarchy of success

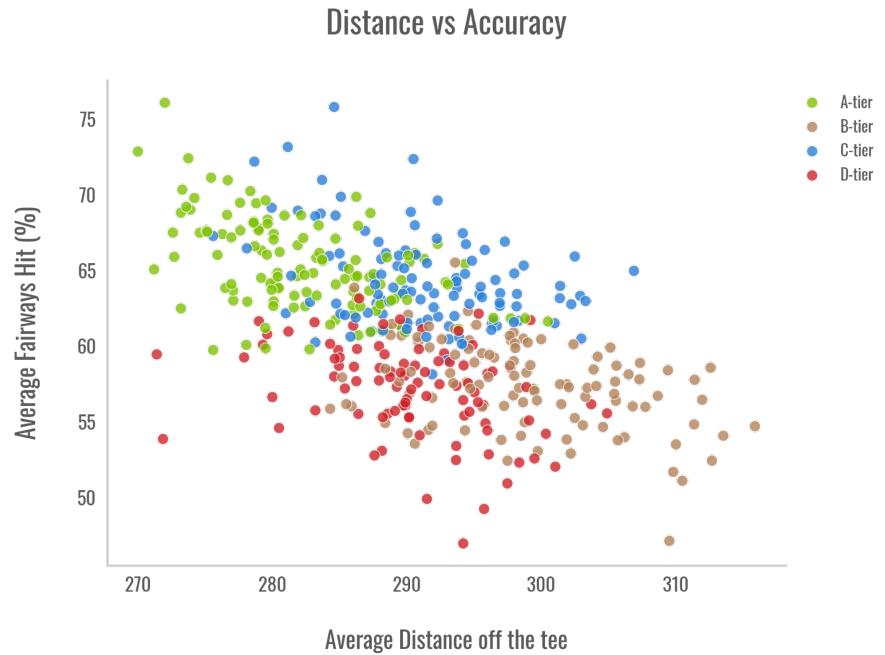
Player Distribution

Tier	Percentage
A-tier	29%
B-tier	25%
C-tier	24%
D-tier	21%

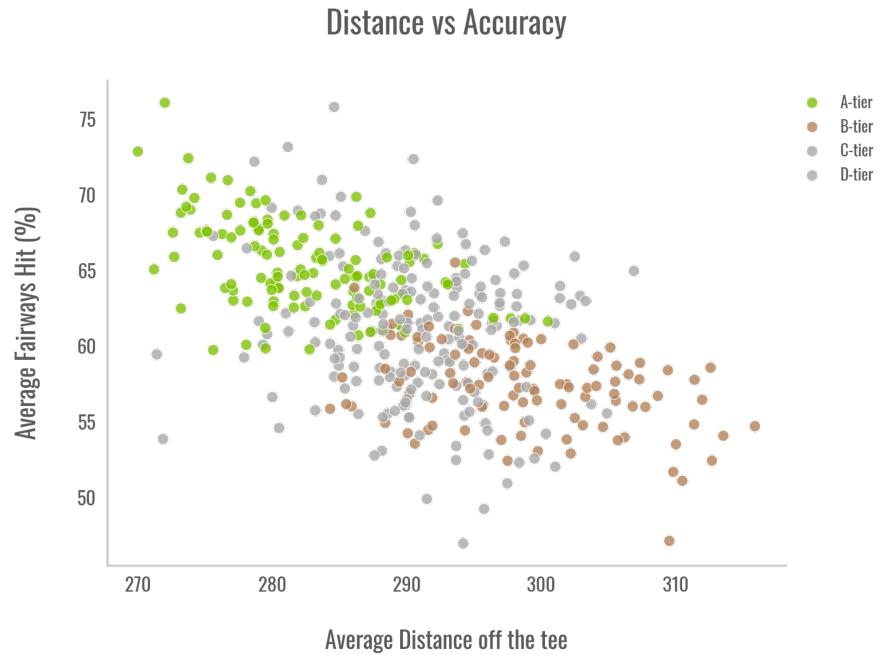
Money Correlation

	Top 10	Wins
	0.97	0.86

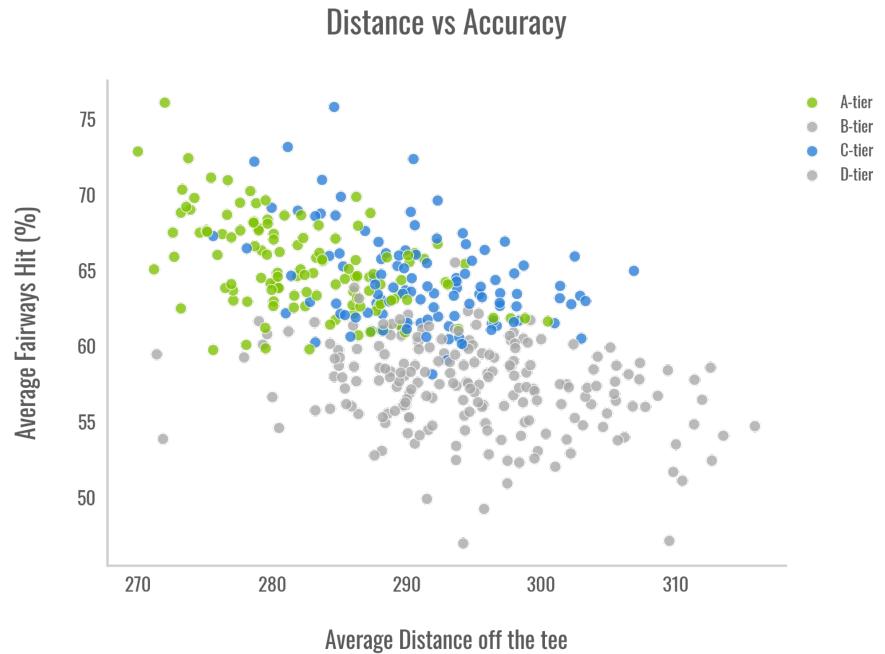
Starting off from the Tee



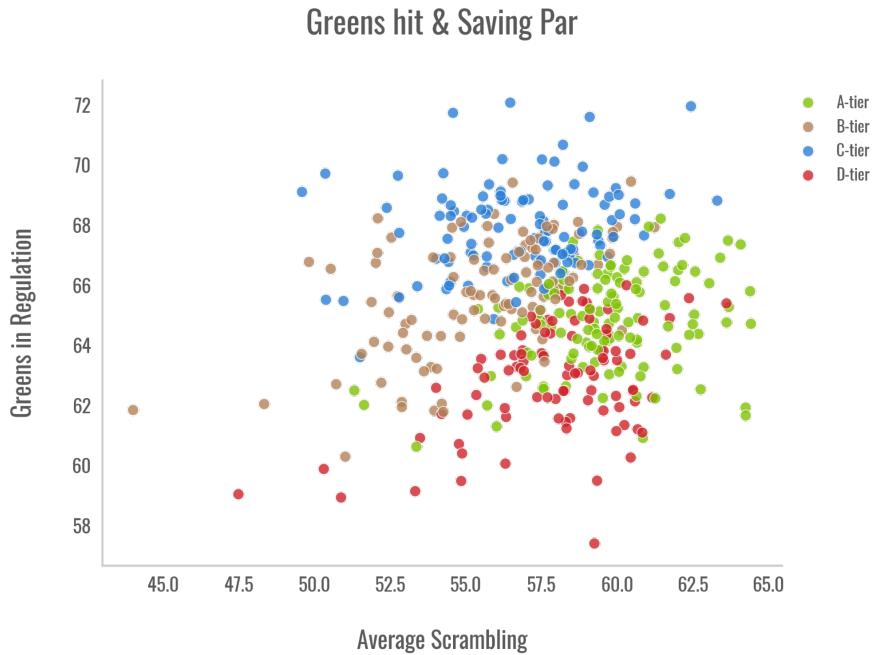
Starting off from the Tee



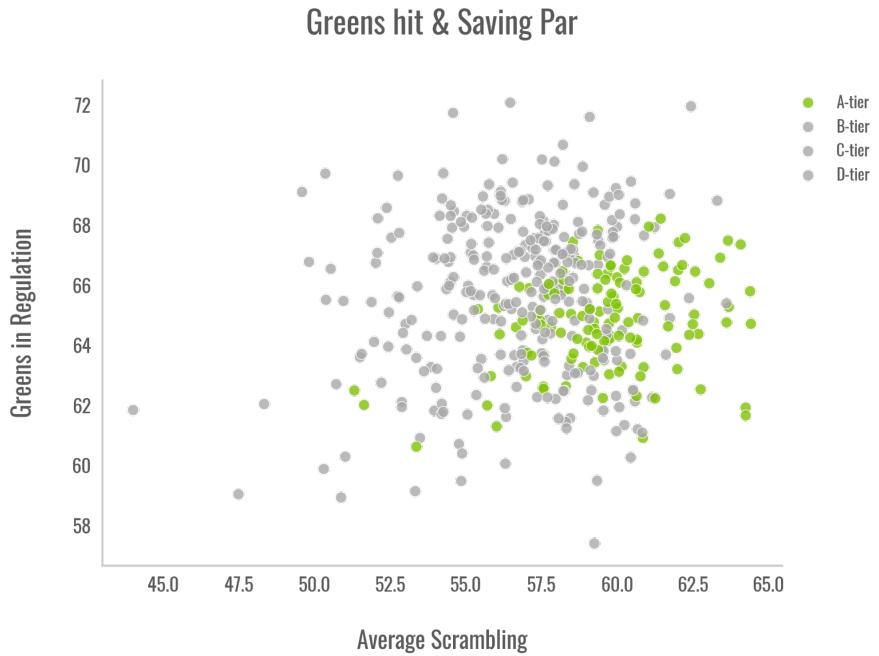
Starting off from the Tee



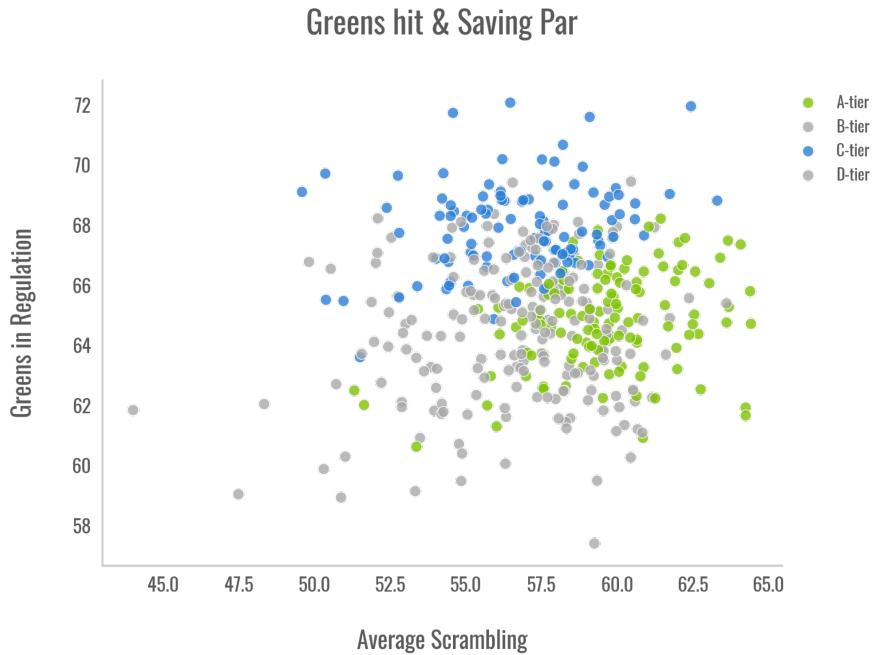
Approaching the Green



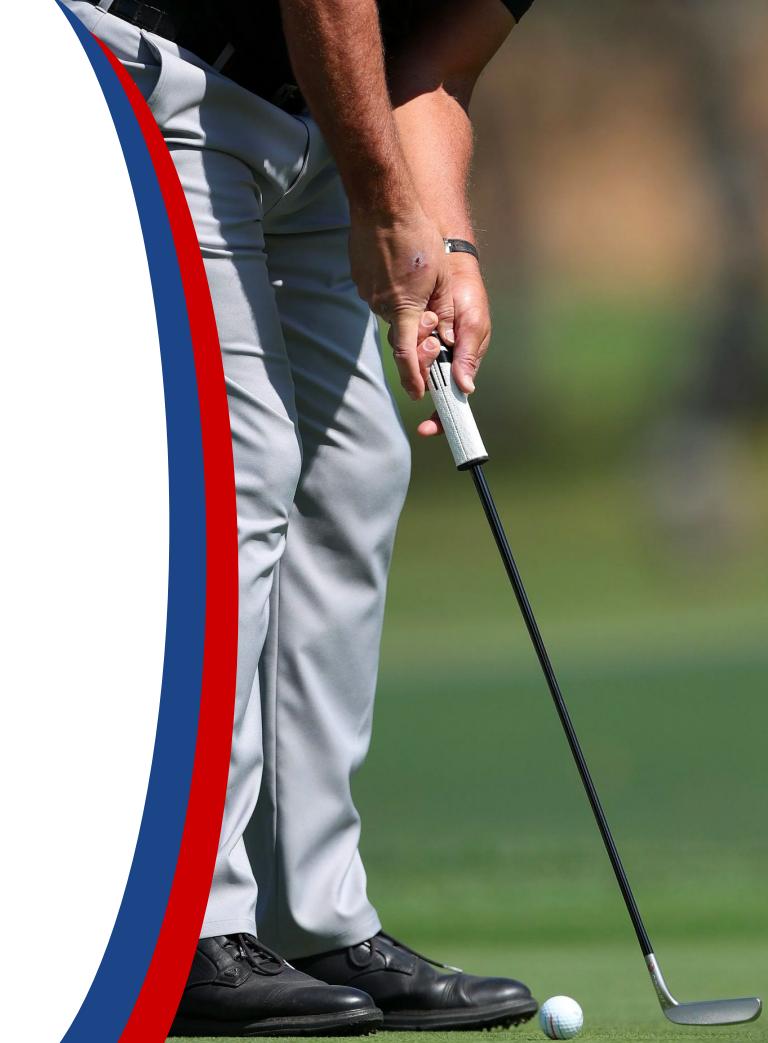
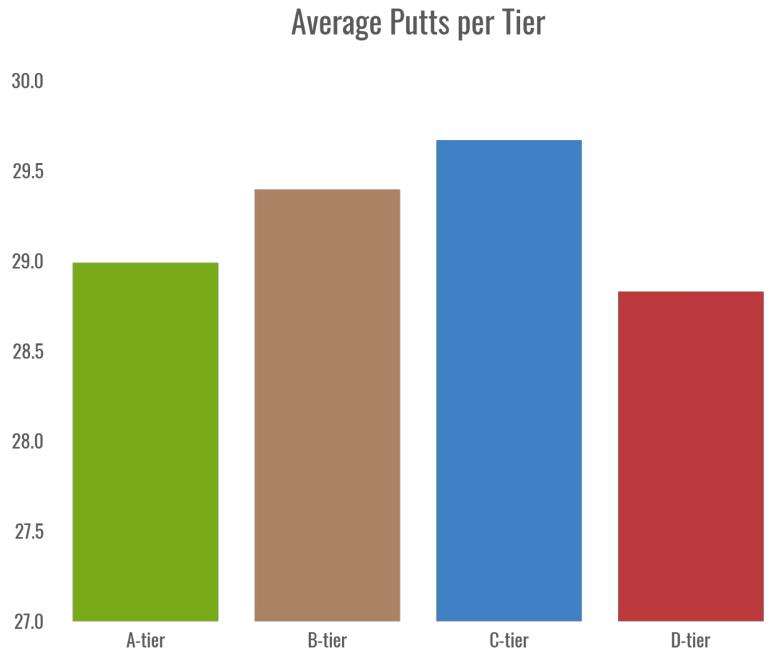
Approaching the Green



Approaching the Green

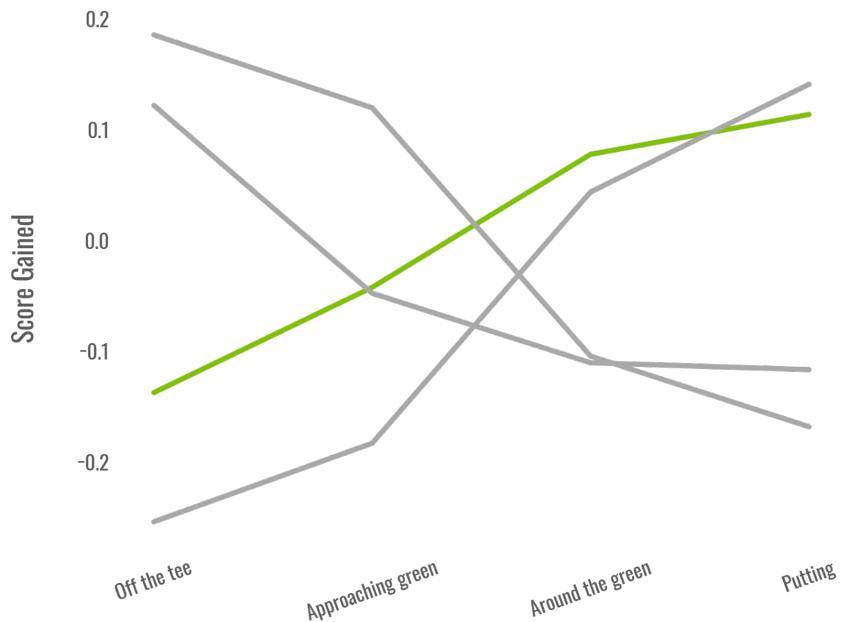


Putting



Conclusions

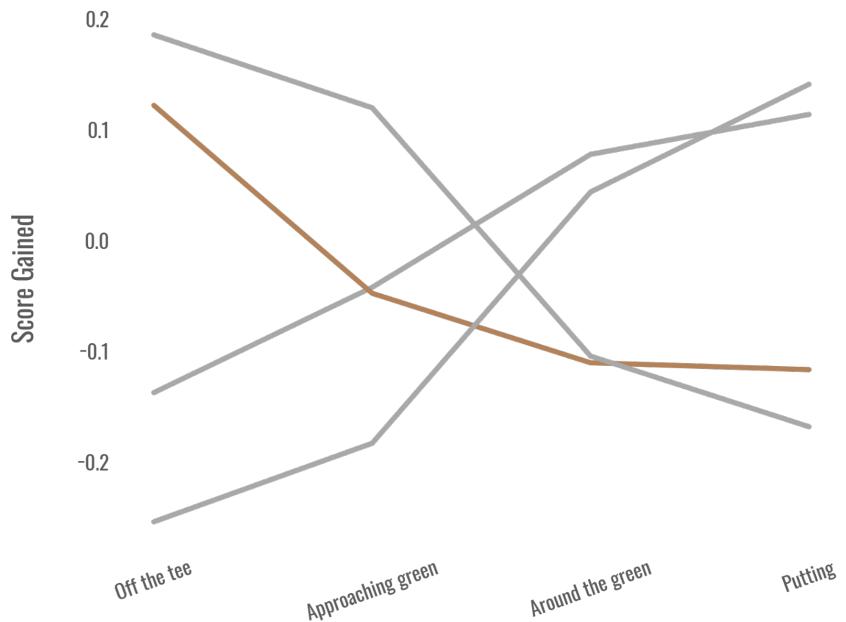
Tiers in the field



- Value Accuracy over distance
- Best around the greens
- Very good at putting
- Masters of Scrambling
- Most flexible players

Conclusions

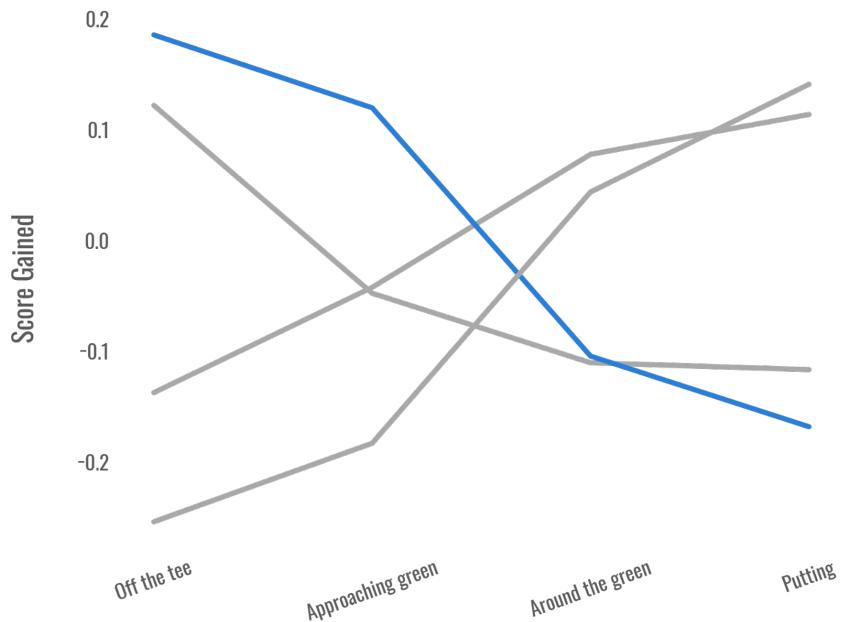
Tiers in the field



- Strikes ball the furthest
- Not very accurate
- Bad at putting
- Can hit many greens
- Worst chippers

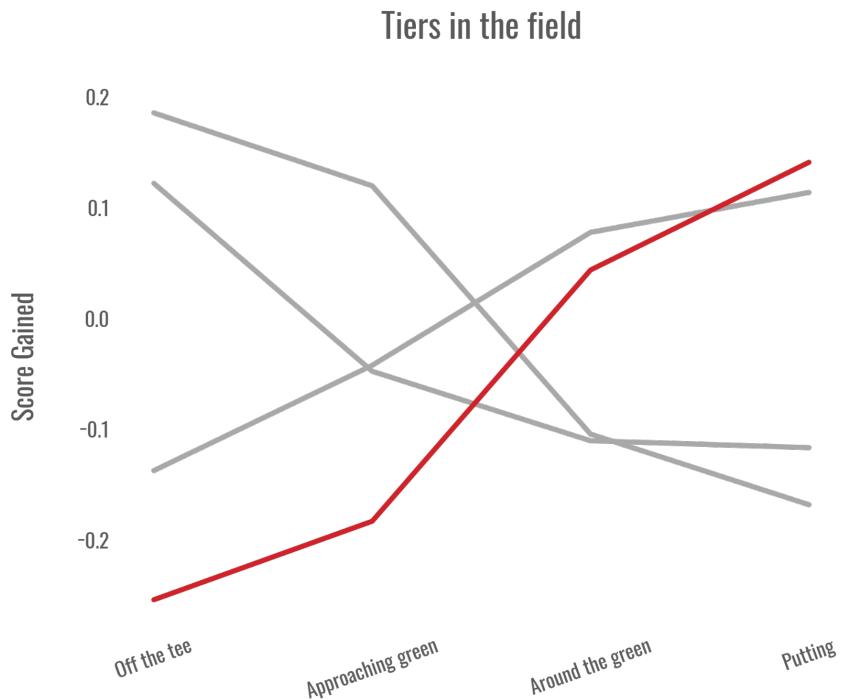
Conclusions

Tiers in the field



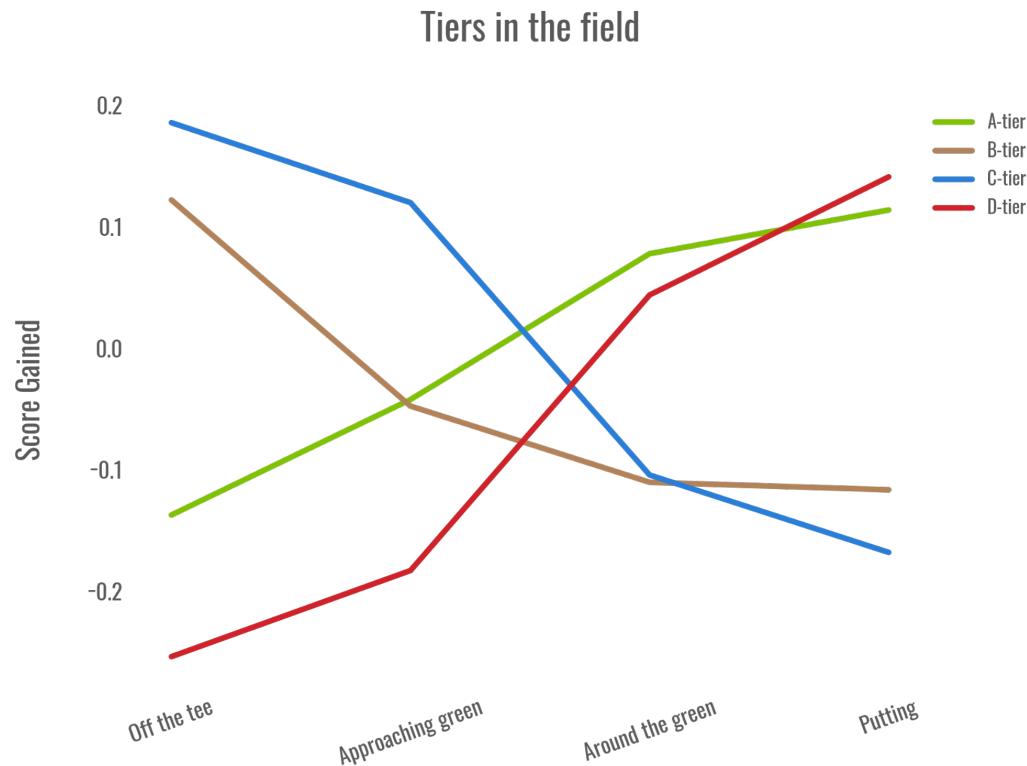
- Distance vs Accuracy - Good Balance
- Dominates off the tee
- Hits many greens from the fairway
- Worst at playing near the hole

Conclusions



- Dominates putting
- Good around the greens
- Surprising Scrambling
- Tee shots hurt their game

Conclusions



Example of golfers in each tier

Tiger Woods



Dustin Johnson



Henrik Stenson



Phil Mickelson



Distance
301
Scrambling
64%

Accuracy
61%
Putts
29

Greens in Regulation
67%

Distance
312
Scrambling
58%

Accuracy
56%
Putts
29

Greens in Regulation
68%

Distance
292
Scrambling
58%

Accuracy
70%
Putts
30

Greens in Regulation
70%

Distance
296
Scrambling
61%

Accuracy
55%
Putts
28

Greens in Regulation
65%

Overview of Dataset

Players & Seasons

- 438 players
- 9 seasons (2011 - 2018)

Career Statistics

- Wins
- Top 10 placements
- Money (Prize)

Play Statistics

- Average Distance
- Fairway Percentage
- Greens in Regulation (gir)
- Average Scrambling
- Average Putts
- Average Score
- Score Gained (SG)

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Metrics we used