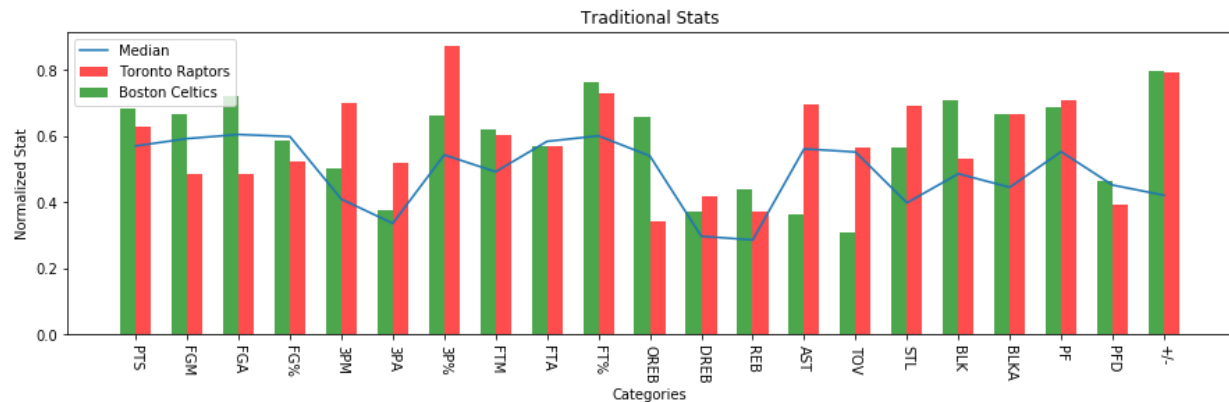


RAPTORS VS CELTICS

At first glance, these two teams appear to be very evenly matched.

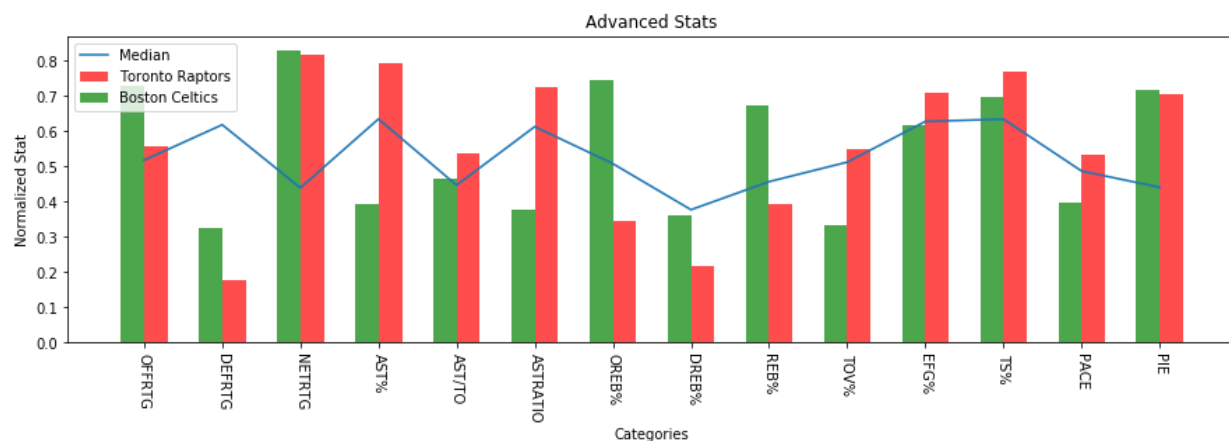
Let's take a look how the two teams compare over a variety of aggregated statistical categories.

TRADITIONAL



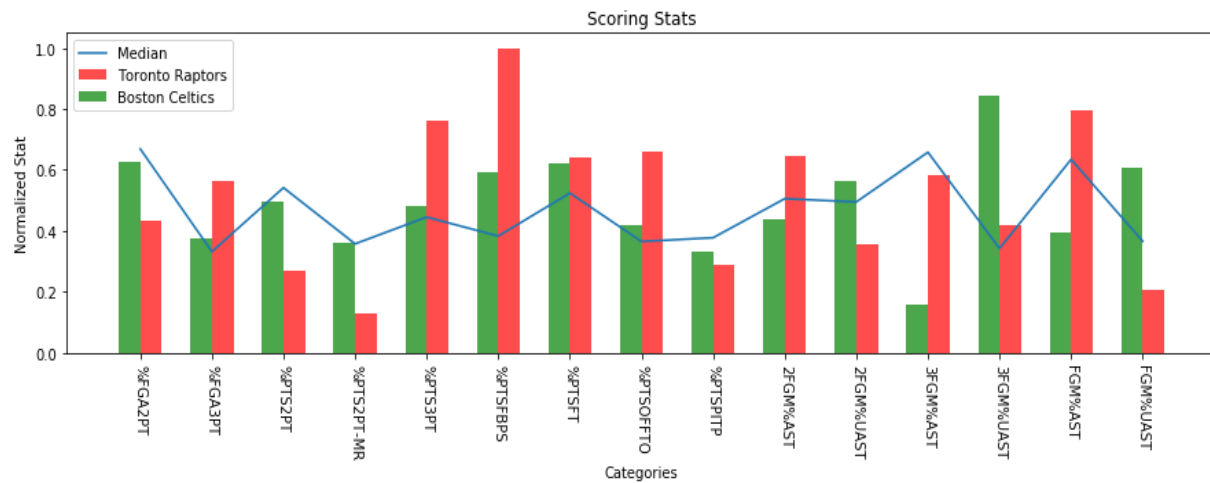
Taking a preliminary look at the Raptors and the Celtics throughout the regular season, we can see that the Raptors have a clear advantage in 3PT shooting and Assists, while the Celtics hold the advantage in overall scoring and turnovers (lower is better).

ADVANCED



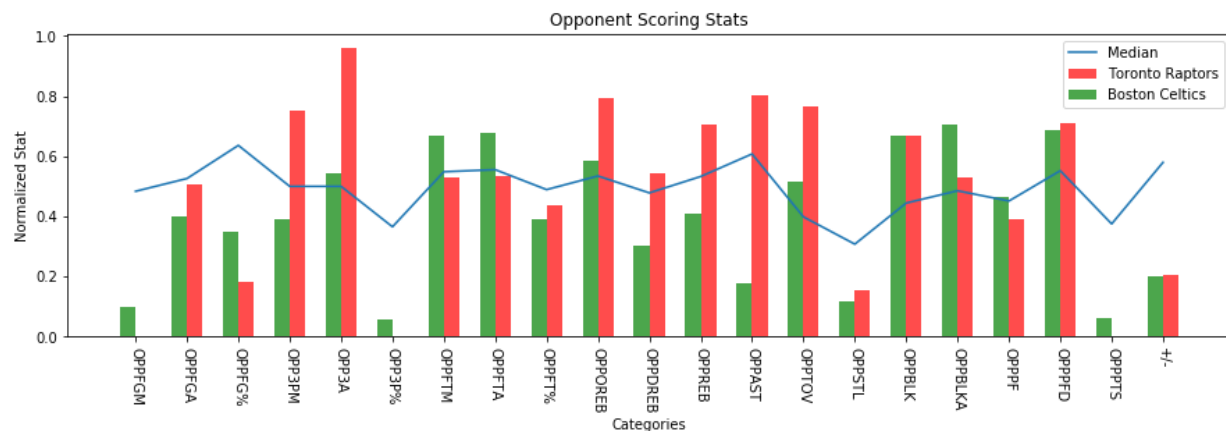
Advanced metrics show us that the Celtics have a more efficient offense (higher OFFRTG) despite having overall lower AST ratings and TS%. This seems counter-intuitive since as we previously saw, the Raptors shoot the 3 better and pass more.

SCORING



Looking at the breakdown of how the Raptors and Celtics score their points, the data suggests that the Raptors score a large percentage of their points with 3's and fast break opportunities while passing the ball. The Celtics on the other hand, clearly score more on 2 pointers (in particular unassisted field goals). The Celtics having a higher offensive rating may suggest that the Raptors would benefit from better scoring on plays that are not 3's and fast breaks.

OPPONENT SCORING



As expected, both teams are very good defensively compared to the medians. However, we see something strange happening in the data. We can see here that Raptors opponents make and attempt a ton of 3's, while shooting a very poor percentage. The only team that gives up more 3PT attempts than the Raptors is the Milwaukee Bucks, and they sport the best DEF RATING in the league. In fact, the Bucks, Raptors, and Clippers lead the league in opponent 3's attempts, but are also 3 of the top 5 teams in terms of best DEFENSIVE RATING. This may be something to look for in the future as defenses around the league continue to evolve.

RAPTORS

W/L Splits (Median)

	L	W
+/-	-10	9
NETRTG	-9.1	8.9
PIE	43.8	54.5
OFFRTG	101.9	113.9
PTS	102	118
TS%	51.8	59.8
FG%	40.6	47.6
EFG%	49.4	56
FGM	35	42
3P%	33.3	38.9
AST	21	26
REB%	46.8	50.9
ASTRATIO	16.3	18.8
PTSOFFTO	15	20
PITP	40	50
3PA	40	35
DEFRTG	106.8	103.6
3PM	11	14

This is a list of various categories for which we have rejected the null hypothesis (the difference in numbers in these categories is statistically different between wins and losses). We should likely try to stay away from analyzing vague things like shooting percentage of net ratings, since it seems kinda obvious to say if a team makes all their shots they will win.

The categories that seem more interesting look like 3P%, AST, REB%, ASTRATIO, PTSOFFTO, PITP, 3PA, and 3PM.

It's interesting to note that the median numbers suggest the Raptors shot more 3's in losing efforts. It could be that the Raptors sometimes shoot too many 3's, but it's also possible that the Raptors just shoot more 3's when they are losing as they play catchup. Either way it's something interesting to keep in mind.

In summary, for the Raptors to win they will likely have to shoot the 3 well, keep the ball moving, attack the paint, as well as get out in transition.

CELTICS

W/L Splits (Median)

	L	W
+/-	-5.5	11
NETRTG	-6	11.6
PIE	45.1	56
OFFRTG	103.15	116
TS%	53.25	59.5
EFG%	48.9	54.8
FG%	42.15	47.25
3P%	30.8	39.25
PTS	105.5	116
FGM	38	43
AST/TO	1.45	1.795
OPPEFG%	54	48.85
ASTRATIO	15.4	17.65
3PM	11	14
REB%	49.05	52.55
DREB	33.5	36
AST	21	24
DEFRTG	110.85	104.15
TOV	15	13
OPPPTSOFFTO	16.5	14
BLK	5	6
TOV%	15.2	13.2
%PTS3PT	30.85	35.05

For the Celtics noteworthy categories include 3PT%, 3PM, AST/TO, ASTRATIO, OPPEFG%, REB%, DREB, AST, TOV, OPPPTSOFFTO, and TOV%.

It's interesting to see some defensive categories such as OPPEFG%, OPPPTSOFFTO, and DEFRTG show up on this list. This would suggest that the Celtics have more variation in their level of defense and that in order to win they will need to keep their defensive focus as they keep their opponents EFG% down and limit points off of turnovers. AST/TO and TOV% being on this list also suggests that a point of focus for the Celtics should be taking care of the ball.

In summary, for the Celtics, a win generally means they shot the 3 well, kept the ball moving, limited turnovers, and played up to their defensive potential.