**1. Core Power Rankings Analysis**

Even if you only scrape the weekly ranks:

* **Trend detection**: For each team, compute slope (Δrank/week). Who’s surging? Who’s collapsing?
* **Volatility**: Standard deviation of rank across weeks. Teams with high variance are the “yo-yo” clubs.
* **Persistence / momentum**: Autocorrelation of week-to-week rank changes. Some teams climb steadily, others bounce around.
* **Rank delta features**: Compute week-to-week Δrank. You can plot histograms or rolling averages.

**2. Comparative Analytics**

Compare teams against one another:

* **Head-to-head trajectory**: When did Blue Jays overtake Yankees in rankings?
* **Cluster analysis**: Group teams with similar trajectories (hierarchical clustering on their rank-time vectors).
* **Convergence vs divergence**: How close are rivals’ trajectories? You can compute distance metrics between their lines.

**3. Linking to Baseball Performance Data**

Scraping **performance stats** turns this into a serious data project:

* **Win-loss records**: From MLB standings pages (e.g. Baseball-Reference, FanGraphs, MLB.com standings). Compare actual win% vs. rank position.
* **Run differential**: Scrape or pull from public APIs. Does it correlate more strongly with rankings than win%?
* **WAR / player stats**: For deeper analysis, scrape Fangraphs or Stathead WAR contributions. See if rankings anticipate roster improvements.

Ideas:

* **Correlation matrix**: Weekly rank vs. win%, run diff, last-10 record, etc.
* **Lag analysis**: Do rankings respond immediately to performance, or is there a lag (e.g. do rankings “catch up” 1–2 weeks later)?
* **Residuals**: Build a simple model Rank ~ Win% + Run Differential. Look at residuals to find which teams are “over-ranked” or “underrated.”

**4. Advanced Time-Series / ML Angles**

* **Forecasting**: Fit ARIMA/SARIMA or even Prophet to each team’s rank trajectory. (Fun to see if the model predicts September surges).
* **Hidden states**: Use HMMs to cluster each week into “tiers” (elite/contender/mediocre/rebuilder).
* **Shock detection**: Look for structural breaks (big rank shifts) and map them to real events (injuries, trades, win streaks).
* **Consensus index**: Scrape *both* MLB.com and ESPN and compute a consensus “power index” (average or weighted rank).

**5. Visual Storytelling**

Some plot ideas beyond line charts:

* **Heatmaps**: Team vs. week, colored by rank (like college football AP poll charts).
* **Bump charts**: Show top 10 teams swapping places week to week.
* **Animated rank flow**: A moving line chart over the season.
* **Cluster dendrograms**: Which teams’ trajectories are most alike?

**6. Data Sources You Can Scrape Alongside**

* **MLB.com standings**: Official win–loss, streak, run differential.
* **Baseball-Reference**: More granular stats, game logs, splits.
* **FanGraphs**: WAR, wRC+, playoff odds (those odds vs. rankings is a goldmine).
* **ESPN MLB schedule/results**: To tie rankings to game outcomes.
* **Betting lines / odds** (if you want a finance-flavored angle): Compare public odds with subjective rankings.