## Predicting the Winner of 2021 D1 NCAA Basketball Tournament

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## EDA

• Build data frames for exploratory data analysis and model construction:

```
season df =
  read_csv("./data/MRegularSeasonDetailedResults.csv") %>%
 rowid to column("game id") %>%
  relocate(WLoc:NumOT, .after = DayNum) %>%
  pivot_longer(
   WTeamID:LPF,
   names_to = "stat",
   values_to = "count"
  mutate(outcome = case_when(
   str_detect(stat, "^W") ~ "win",
    str_detect(stat, "^L") ~ "loss"
  )) %>%
  mutate(stat = substr(stat, 2, nchar(stat))) %>%
  pivot_wider(
   names from = stat,
   values_from = count
  mutate(TeamID = as.factor(TeamID)) %>%
  filter(Season > 2014) %>%
  mutate(
   Season = as.factor(Season),
   outcome = as.factor(outcome),
   fg_pct = FGM/FGA,
   fg3_pct = FGM3/FGA3,
   ft_pct = FTM/FTA) %>%
  select(-(FGM:FTA)) %>%
  unnest()
opp_df =
  season_df %>%
  group_by(game_id) %>%
  arrange(outcome, .by_group = T) %>%
  ungroup() %>%
  select(OR:ft_pct) %>%
  rename_all(~paste0("opp", .x))
```

```
train_df =
  season_df %>%
  cbind(opp_df) %>%
  as_tibble() %>%
  mutate(
   OR_diff = OR - oppOR,
   DR_diff = DR - oppDR,
   Ast_diff = Ast - oppAst,
   T0_{diff} = T0 - oppT0,
   Stl_diff = Stl - oppStl,
   Blk_diff = Blk - oppBlk,
   PF_diff = PF - oppPF,
   FGpct_diff = fg_pct - oppfg_pct,
   FG3pct_diff = fg3_pct - oppfg3_pct,
   FTpct_diff = ft_pct - oppft_pct
  ) %>%
  select(Season, outcome, TeamID, OR_diff:FTpct_diff)
tourney_df =
  read_csv("./data/MNCAATourneyDetailedResults.csv") %>%
  rowid_to_column("game_id") %>%
 relocate(WLoc:NumOT, .after = DayNum) %>%
 pivot_longer(
   WTeamID:LPF,
   names_to = "stat",
   values to = "count"
  ) %>%
  mutate(outcome = case_when(
    str_detect(stat, "^W") ~ "win",
   str_detect(stat, "^L") ~ "loss"
  )) %>%
  mutate(stat = substr(stat, 2, nchar(stat))) %>%
  pivot_wider(
   names_from = stat,
   values_from = count
  mutate(TeamID = as.factor(TeamID)) %>%
  filter(Season > 2014) %>%
 mutate(
   Season = as.factor(Season),
   outcome = as.factor(outcome),
   fg_pct = FGM/FGA,
   fg3_pct = FGM3/FGA3,
   ft_pct = FTM/FTA) %>%
  select(-(FGM:FTA)) %>%
  unnest()
opp_tourney =
  tourney_df %>%
  group_by(game_id) %>%
  arrange(outcome, .by_group = T) %>%
  ungroup() %>%
  select(OR:ft_pct) %>%
```

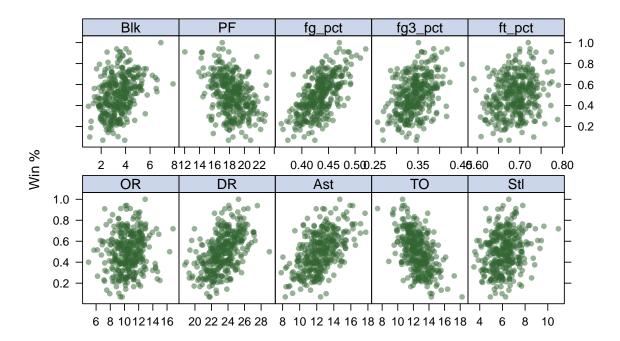
```
rename_all(~paste0("opp", .x))
test_df =
  tourney_df %>%
  cbind(opp_tourney) %>%
  as_tibble() %>%
  mutate(
    OR_diff = OR - oppOR,
    DR_diff = DR - oppDR,
    Ast_diff = Ast - oppAst,
    T0_{diff} = T0 - oppT0,
    Stl_diff = Stl - oppStl,
    Blk_diff = Blk - oppBlk,
    PF_diff = PF - oppPF,
    FGpct_diff = fg_pct - oppfg_pct,
    FG3pct_diff = fg3_pct - oppfg3_pct,
    FTpct_diff = ft_pct - oppft_pct
  ) %>%
  select(Season, outcome, TeamID, OR_diff:FTpct_diff)
total_games_df =
  season_df %>%
  group_by(Season, TeamID) %>%
  summarize(n_games = n())
win_pct_df =
  season_df %>%
  group_by(Season, TeamID) %>%
  filter(outcome == "win") %>%
  summarize(n_wins = n()) %>%
  left_join(total_games_df) %>%
  mutate(win_pct = n_wins/n_games)
regstats_df =
  season_df %>%
  select(Season, TeamID, OR:ft_pct) %>%
  group_by(Season, TeamID) %>%
  summarize_at(vars(OR:ft_pct), ~mean(.x))
regszn_df =
  win_pct_df %>%
  left_join(regstats_df) %>%
  drop_na() %>%
  group_split(Season)
```

• Scatter plots of win probability across different seasonal stats:

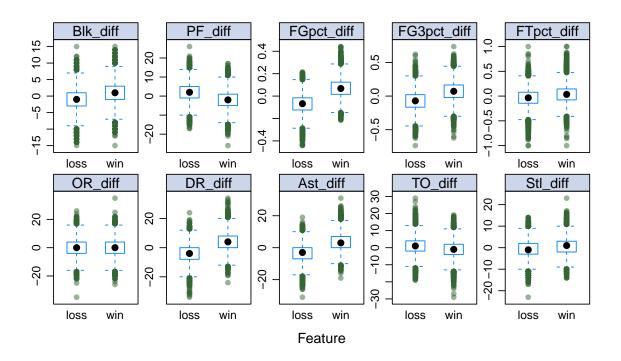
```
x = model.matrix(win_pct ~ ., regszn_df[[1]] %>% dplyr::select(-(Season:n_games)))[ ,-1]
y = regszn_df[[1]]$win_pct

theme1 = trellis.par.get()
theme1$plot.symbol$col = rgb(.2, .4, .2, .5)
theme1$plot.symbol$pch = 16
```

```
theme1$plot.line$col = rgb(.8, .1, .1, 1)
theme1$plot.line$lwd = 2
theme1$strip.background$col = rgb(.0, .2, .6, .2)
trellis.par.set(theme1)
featurePlot(x, y, plot = "scatter", labels = c("", "Win %"), type = c("p"), layout = c(5, 2))
```



• Distributions of game stat differences, grouped by outcome:



• Test three different models (simple logistic regression, MARS, and KNN) using 10-fold cross-validation:

```
set.seed(37564)
ctrl = trainControl(method = "cv", summaryFunction = twoClassSummary, classProbs = T, number = 10)
mods_df =
  tibble(Year = c(2015:2020)) %>%
  mutate(train = map(.x = Year, ~filter(train_df, Season == .x)),
         test = map(.x = Year, ~filter(test_df, Season == .x))) %>%
  mutate(mod_glm = map(.x = train, ~train(outcome ~ . -Season -TeamID,
                                       na.action = na.exclude,
                                       data = .x,
                                       method = "glm",
                                       family = "binomial",
                                       metric = "ROC",
                                       trControl = ctrl)),
         mod_mars = map(.x = train, ~train(outcome ~ . -Season -TeamID,
                                       na.action = na.exclude,
                                       data = .x,
                                       method = "earth",
                                       tuneGrid = expand.grid(degree = 1, nprune = 13:20),
                                       metric = "ROC",
                                       trControl = ctrl)),
         mod_knn = map(.x = train, ~train(outcome ~ . -Season -TeamID,
                                       na.action = na.exclude,
                                       data = .x,
                                       method = "knn",
                                       metric = "ROC",
                                       preProcess = c("center", "scale"),
```

```
tuneGrid = data.frame(k = seq(30, 80, by = 5)),
                                                         trControl = ctrl)))
plot_knn = map(.x = c(1:6), ~ggplot(mods_df$mod_knn[[.x]], highlight = T) + theme(plot.title = element_
(plot_knn[[1]] + labs(title = "2015")) + (plot_knn[[2]] + labs(title = "2016")) + (plot_knn[[3]] + labs
                       2015
                                          ROC (Cross-Validation)
0.9853
0.9851
0.9851
                                                                2016
                                                                                                         2017
  ROC (Cross-Validation)
                                                                                   ROC (Cross-Validation)
                                                                                       0.9846
      0.9846
                                                                                       0.9843
      0.9844
     0.9842
                                                                                       0.9840
      0.9840
                                                                                       0.9837
     0.9838
                                                                                       0.9834
                 40 50 60 70
#Neighbors
                                                           40 50 60 70
#Neighbors
                                                                                                    40 50 60 70
#Neighbors
             30
                                                      30
                                                                               80
                                                                                               30
                                                                                   ROC (Cross-Validation)
9986.0
9986.0
6986.0
                       2018
                                                                2019
                                                                                                         2020
  ROC (Cross-Validation)
                                           ROC (Cross-Validation)
      0.9852
                                              0.9839
     0.9850
                                              0.9838
     0.9848
                                              0.9837
     0.9846
                                              0.9836
```

0.9844

30 40

50 60 70

#Neighbors

80

```
plot_mars = map(.x = c(1:6), ~ggplot(mods_df$mod_mars[[.x]], highlight = T) + theme(plot.title = elemen
(plot_mars[[1]] + labs(title = "2015")) + (plot_mars[[2]] + labs(title = "2016")) + (plot_mars[[3]] + l
```

50 60 70 80

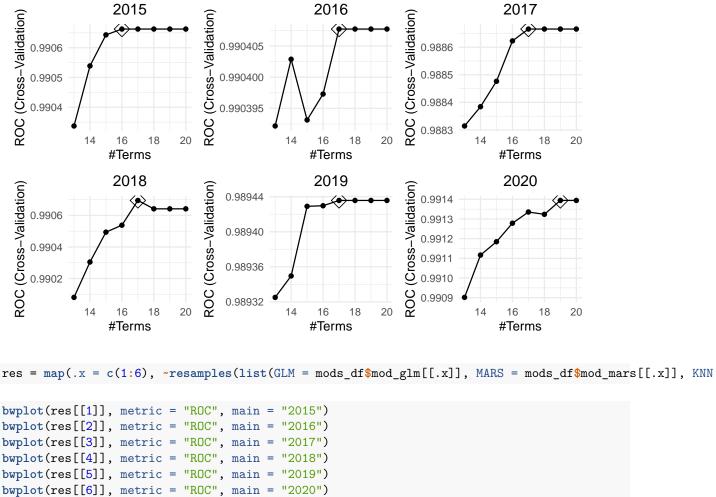
#Neighbors

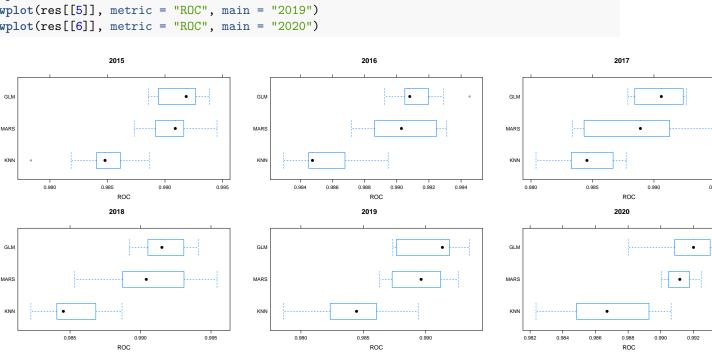
30 40 50 60

#Neighbors

70

30 40



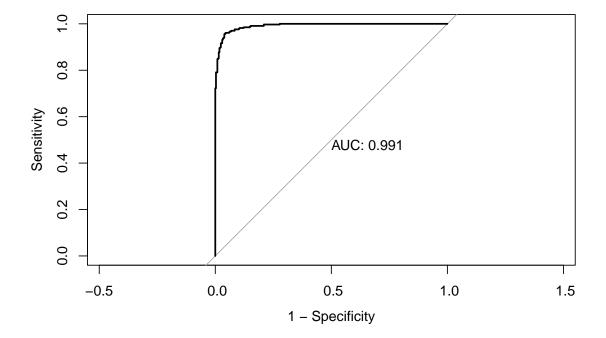


• 10-fold CV determined that the GLM using logistic regression is the best model to use.

• Now, we test the GLM model for each season, excluding 2020 since that will be used for the Tournament predictions.

```
pred_df =
  mods_df %>%
  filter(Year < 2020) %>%
  dplyr::select(-mod_mars, -mod_knn) %>%
  mutate(pred = map2(.x = mod_glm, .y = test, ~predict(.x, .y, type = "prob")[, 2])) %>%
  unnest(test, pred) %>%
  dplyr::select(Season, outcome, pred)

plot(roc(pred_df$outcome, pred_df$pred), legacy.axes = TRUE, print.auc = TRUE)
```



- The AUC of the ROC using the logisitic regression model is **0.991**, suggesting that this model does a great job of predicting outcomes.
- Now, let's

```
##
## Call:
## NULL
##
## Deviance Residuals:
     Min
          1Q Median
                              3Q
                                     Max
## -3.349 -0.056 0.000
                         0.056
                                   3.349
##
## Coefficients:
##
                Estimate Std. Error z value Pr(>|z|)
## (Intercept) 3.063e-16 5.221e-02
                                      0.000
## OR_diff
               3.817e-01 1.866e-02 20.461 < 2e-16 ***
## DR_diff
               2.009e-01 2.535e-02
                                     7.925 2.27e-15 ***
## Ast_diff
               1.515e-01 1.254e-02 12.080 < 2e-16 ***
## TO_diff
              -6.027e-01 2.645e-02 -22.790 < 2e-16 ***
## Stl_diff
               2.927e-02 1.983e-02
                                      1.476
                                                0.14
                                      5.385 7.24e-08 ***
## Blk_diff
               1.057e-01 1.963e-02
## PF diff
              -3.108e-01 1.394e-02 -22.300 < 2e-16 ***
               4.762e+01 2.058e+00 23.140 < 2e-16 ***
## FGpct_diff
## FG3pct diff 1.231e+01 5.279e-01 23.327 < 2e-16 ***
## FTpct_diff
              8.210e+00 4.403e-01 18.644 < 2e-16 ***
## ---
## Signif. codes: 0 '*** 0.001 '** 0.01 '* 0.05 '.' 0.1 ' 1
## (Dispersion parameter for binomial family taken to be 1)
##
      Null deviance: 14764.0 on 10649 degrees of freedom
## Residual deviance: 2459.5 on 10639 degrees of freedom
## AIC: 2481.5
##
## Number of Fisher Scoring iterations: 8
matchup = function(Team1, Team2) {
 t1_df =
   reg2020 %>%
   filter(TeamID %in% c(Team1, Team2))
 t2_df =
   reg2020 %>%
   filter(TeamID %in% c(Team1, Team2)) %>%
   arrange(desc(TeamID)) %>%
   select(OR:ft_pct) %>%
   rename_all(~paste0("opp", .x))
 test2020 =
   t1_df %>%
   cbind(t2_df) %>%
   as_tibble() %>%
   mutate(
     OR_diff = OR - oppOR,
     DR_diff = DR - oppDR,
     Ast diff = Ast - oppAst,
     TO_{diff} = TO - oppTO,
```

```
Stl_diff = Stl - oppStl,
      Blk_diff = Blk - oppBlk,
      PF_diff = PF - oppPF,
      FGpct_diff = fg_pct - oppfg_pct,
      FG3pct_diff = fg3_pct - oppfg3_pct,
      FTpct_diff = ft_pct - oppft_pct
   ) %>%
    select(Season, TeamID, OR_diff:FTpct_diff)
  win_prob = predict(model, test2020, type = "prob")[1, 2]
 if (Team1 < Team2) {if (win_prob > 0.5) {
   print(Team1)
 } else {
   print(Team2)
  }} else {if (win_prob > 0.5) {
   print(Team2)
  } else {
   print(Team1)
  }}
}
```

• For the first four play-in games:

• Now, to create the 4 regions and seed all the teams:

```
seed2020 =
 read_csv("./data/MNCAATourneySeeds.csv") %>%
  filter(Season == "2021") %>%
  select(-Season) %>%
  mutate(TeamID = as.factor(TeamID)) %>%
  left_join(reg2020) %>%
  mutate(Region = as.factor(case_when(
    str_detect(Seed, "^W") ~ "East",
   str_detect(Seed, "^X") ~ "West",
   str_detect(Seed, "^Y") ~ "Midwest",
   str_detect(Seed, "^Z") ~ "South"))) %>%
  separate(Seed, c(NA, "Seed"), sep = "[W-Z]") %>%
  filter(TeamName %nin% c("Norfolk St", "Wichita St", "TX Southern", "UCLA")) %>%
  mutate(Seed = as.numeric(str_remove(Seed, "[ab]"))) %>%
  mutate(TeamID = as.character(TeamID),
         TeamID = as.numeric(TeamID))
```

```
## Parsed with column specification:
## cols(
##
     Season = col_double(),
     Seed = col_character(),
##
##
     TeamID = col_double()
## )
## Joining, by = "TeamID"
East =
  seed2020 %>%
  filter(Region == "East")
West =
  seed2020 %>%
  filter(Region == "West")
Midwest =
  seed2020 %>%
  filter(Region == "Midwest")
South =
  seed2020 %>%
  filter(Region == "South")
```

• Simulate tournament by regions, using self-created region\_sim() function:

```
region_sim = function(region) {
  r1 = region %>%
    filter(Seed %in% c(1, 16)) %>%
    arrange(TeamID) %>%
    pull(TeamID)
  r2 = region %>%
    filter(Seed %in% c(2, 15)) %>%
    arrange(TeamID) %>%
    pull(TeamID)
  r3 = region %>%
   filter(Seed %in% c(3, 14)) %>%
    arrange(TeamID) %>%
    pull(TeamID)
  r4 = region %>%
    filter(Seed %in% c(4, 13)) %>%
    arrange(TeamID) %>%
    pull(TeamID)
  r5 = region %>%
    filter(Seed %in% c(5, 12)) %>%
    arrange(TeamID) %>%
    pull(TeamID)
  r6 = region %>%
    filter(Seed %in% c(6, 11)) %>%
```

```
arrange(TeamID) %>%
  pull(TeamID)
r7 = region %>%
  filter(Seed %in% c(7, 10)) %>%
  arrange(TeamID) %>%
  pull(TeamID)
r8 = region %>%
  filter(Seed %in% c(8, 9)) %>%
  arrange(TeamID) %>%
  pull(TeamID)
res1 = matchup(r1[1], r1[2])
res2 = matchup(r2[1], r2[2])
res3 = matchup(r3[1], r3[2])
res4 = matchup(r4[1], r4[2])
res5 = matchup(r5[1], r5[2])
res6 = matchup(r6[1], r6[2])
res7 = matchup(r7[1], r7[2])
res8 = matchup(r8[1], r8[2])
quart1 = matchup(res1, res8)
quart2 = matchup(res2, res7)
quart3 = matchup(res3, res6)
quart4 = matchup(res4, res5)
sem1 = matchup(quart1, quart4)
sem2 = matchup(quart2, quart3)
fin1 = matchup(sem1, sem2)
rd1 = c(res1, res2, res3, res4, res5, res6, res7, res8) %>%
  as_tibble() %>%
  rename(TeamID = value) %>%
  mutate(TeamID = as.factor(TeamID)) %>%
  left_join(mutate(seed2020, TeamID = as.factor(TeamID))) %>%
  dplyr::select(TeamID, Seed, TeamName)
quart = c(quart1, quart2, quart3, quart4) %>%
  as tibble() %>%
  rename(TeamID = value) %>%
  mutate(TeamID = as.factor(TeamID)) %>%
  left_join(mutate(seed2020, TeamID = as.factor(TeamID))) %>%
  dplyr::select(TeamID, Seed, TeamName)
sem = c(sem1, sem2) \%
  as_tibble() %>%
  rename(TeamID = value) %>%
  mutate(TeamID = as.factor(TeamID)) %>%
  left_join(mutate(seed2020, TeamID = as.factor(TeamID))) %>%
  dplyr::select(TeamID, Seed, TeamName)
```

```
fin = c(fin1) \%
    as_tibble() %>%
    rename(TeamID = value) %>%
    mutate(TeamID = as.factor(TeamID)) %>%
    left_join(mutate(seed2020, TeamID = as.factor(TeamID))) %>%
    dplyr::select(TeamID, Seed, TeamName)
  rbind(rd1, quart, sem, fin)
}
region_sim(East)
## [1] 1276
## [1] 1104
## [1] 1400
## [1] 1199
## [1] 1207
## [1] 1140
## [1] 1268
## [1] 1261
## [1] 1261
## [1] 1268
## [1] 1140
## [1] 1207
## [1] 1261
## [1] 1140
## [1] 1140
## Joining, by = "TeamID"
## # A tibble: 15 x 3
     TeamID Seed TeamName
##
##
     <fct> <dbl> <fct>
## 1 1276
                1 Michigan
## 2 1104
                2 Alabama
## 3 1400
                3 Texas
## 4 1199
                4 Florida St
## 5 1207
                12 Georgetown
## 6 1140
                6 BYU
## 7 1268
                10 Maryland
## 8 1261
                8 LSU
## 9 1261
                8 LSU
## 10 1268
                10 Maryland
## 11 1140
                6 BYU
## 12 1207
                12 Georgetown
## 13 1261
                8 LSU
## 14 1140
                 6 BYU
## 15 1140
                 6 BYU
```

```
region_sim(West)
## [1] 1211
## [1] 1234
## [1] 1242
## [1] 1325
## [1] 1166
## [1] 1179
## [1] 1332
## [1] 1328
## [1] 1211
## [1] 1332
## [1] 1242
## [1] 1166
## [1] 1211
## [1] 1242
## [1] 1211
## Joining, by = "TeamID"
## # A tibble: 15 x 3
      TeamID Seed TeamName
##
##
      <fct> <dbl> <fct>
## 1 1211
                1 Gonzaga
## 2 1234
                  2 Iowa
## 3 1242
                 3 Kansas
## 4 1325 13 Ohio

## 5 1166 5 Creightor

## 6 1179 11 Drake

## 7 1332 7 Oregon

## 8 1328 8 Oklahoma
                5 Creighton
## 9 1211
                1 Gonzaga
## 10 1332
                 7 Oregon
## 11 1242
                  3 Kansas
## 12 1166
                  5 Creighton
## 13 1211
                   1 Gonzaga
## 14 1242
                   3 Kansas
## 15 1211
                   1 Gonzaga
region_sim(Midwest)
## [1] 1228
## [1] 1222
## [1] 1452
```

## [1] 1251 ## [1] 1333 ## [1] 1361 ## [1] 1353 ## [1] 1260

```
## [1] 1260
## [1] 1222
## [1] 1361
## [1] 1251
## [1] 1251
## [1] 1361
## [1] 1251
## Joining, by = "TeamID"
## # A tibble: 15 x 3
##
     TeamID Seed TeamName
##
      <fct> <dbl> <fct>
## 1 1228
                 1 Illinois
## 2 1222
                 2 Houston
## 3 1452
                3 West Virginia
## 4 1251
                13 Liberty
## 5 1333
                12 Oregon St
## 6 1361
                6 San Diego St
## 7 1353
                10 Rutgers
              8 Loyola-Chicago
## 8 1260
## 9 1260
                 8 Loyola-Chicago
## 10 1222
                 2 Houston
## 11 1361
                 6 San Diego St
## 12 1251
                13 Liberty
## 13 1251
                13 Liberty
## 14 1361
                 6 San Diego St
## 15 1251
                13 Liberty
region_sim(South)
## [1] 1124
## [1] 1331
```

```
## [1] 1437
## [1] 1429
## [1] 1458
## [1] 1458
## [1] 1458
## [1] 1331
## [1] 1159
## [1] 1437
## [1] 1437
## [1] 1159
## Joining, by = "TeamID"
```

## [1] 1159 ## [1] 1317

```
## # A tibble: 15 x 3
##
     TeamID Seed TeamName
##
     <fct> <dbl> <fct>
##
  1 1124
               1 Baylor
##
   2 1331
               15 Oral Roberts
## 3 1159
               14 Colgate
## 4 1317
               13 North Texas
## 5 1437
               5 Villanova
## 6 1429
               11 Utah St
## 7 1196
               7 Florida
## 8 1458
               9 Wisconsin
## 9 1458
               9 Wisconsin
## 10 1331
               15 Oral Roberts
## 11 1159
               14 Colgate
## 12 1437
                5 Villanova
## 13 1437
                5 Villanova
## 14 1159
               14 Colgate
## 15 1159
               14 Colgate
```

• Finish tournament by simulating the Final Four, using self-created f4\_sim() function:

```
f4_sim = function(regE, regW, regMW, regS){
  winEast = region_sim(regE)[[15, 1]] %>% as.character() %>% as.numeric()
  winWest = region_sim(regW)[[15, 1]] %>% as.character() %>% as.numeric()
  winMidwest = region_sim(regMW)[[15, 1]] %>% as.character() %>% as.numeric()
  winSouth = region_sim(regS)[[15, 1]] %>% as.character() %>% as.numeric()
 nat_sem1 = matchup(winEast, winWest)
 nat sem2 = matchup(winMidwest, winSouth)
 nat_fin = matchup(nat_sem1, nat_sem2)
 nat_sem = c(nat_sem1, nat_sem2) %>%
   as_tibble() %>%
   rename(TeamID = value) %>%
   mutate(TeamID = as.factor(TeamID)) %>%
   left_join(mutate(seed2020, TeamID = as.factor(TeamID))) %>%
   dplyr::select(TeamID, Seed, TeamName)
 nat_fin = c(nat_fin) %>%
   as tibble() %>%
   rename(TeamID = value) %>%
   mutate(TeamID = as.factor(TeamID)) %>%
   left_join(mutate(seed2020, TeamID = as.factor(TeamID))) %>%
   dplyr::select(TeamID, Seed, TeamName)
  rbind(nat_sem, nat_fin)
}
f4_sim(East, West, Midwest, South)
```

## [1] 1276

```
## [1] 1104
## [1] 1400
## [1] 1199
## [1] 1207
## [1] 1140
## [1] 1268
## [1] 1261
## [1] 1261
## [1] 1268
## [1] 1140
## [1] 1207
## [1] 1261
## [1] 1140
## [1] 1140
## Joining, by = "TeamID"
## [1] 1211
## [1] 1234
## [1] 1242
## [1] 1325
## [1] 1166
## [1] 1179
## [1] 1332
## [1] 1328
## [1] 1211
## [1] 1332
## [1] 1242
## [1] 1166
## [1] 1211
## [1] 1242
## [1] 1211
## Joining, by = "TeamID"
## [1] 1228
## [1] 1222
## [1] 1452
## [1] 1251
## [1] 1333
## [1] 1361
## [1] 1353
## [1] 1260
## [1] 1260
## [1] 1222
## [1] 1361
## [1] 1251
```

```
## [1] 1251
## [1] 1361
## [1] 1251
## Joining, by = "TeamID"
## [1] 1124
## [1] 1331
## [1] 1159
## [1] 1317
## [1] 1437
## [1] 1429
## [1] 1196
## [1] 1458
## [1] 1458
## [1] 1331
## [1] 1159
## [1] 1437
## [1] 1437
## [1] 1159
## [1] 1159
## Joining, by = "TeamID"
## [1] 1211
## [1] 1251
## [1] 1211
## Joining, by = "TeamID"
## Joining, by = "TeamID"
## # A tibble: 3 x 3
## TeamID Seed TeamName
## <fct> <dbl> <fct>
## 1 1211
            1 Gonzaga
## 2 1251
             13 Liberty
```

## 3 1211

1 Gonzaga