

Project

December 2, 2019

1 Data Science Workshop

2 NBA Free Throws Prediction



In January 2015 a data-set of 600K NBA free-throws was upload to Kaggle by Sebastian-Mantey. The data was scraped from the website ESPN.com which belongs to an entertainment and sports programming network.

Since the data-set was uploaded, 25 kernels were uploaded to Kaggle related to it. Most of the kernels summarize, analyze and visualize the data and do not try to predict anything. However, there are two interesting kernels:

The kernel ‘Shooting percentage over time’, engages with the questions How does the Free Throw shooting percent develop over time? Does it go down as the game approaches the ending due to higher pressure? Does it go up thanks to players being warmer, or alternatively - better shooters take the ball?

The findings of the analysis are that in the end of every quarter of a game, there is an increase in the number of free-throws and in the free-throws percentage. They also found that most of the

throws in the end of every quarter were performed by better players, but still the absolute time of the throw affected the outcome more than how performed it.

Another interesting kernel is ‘Pooling Partial Hierarchica via champs throw Free’, in which they try to find the best players in the data-set with statistical and probability methods such as complete pooling, and find the probability p for every player to succeed in the free-throw.

Outside Kaggle, we found the article ‘Mindfulness and Free Throws’. This article investigate the relationship between mindfulness, preshot routine, and basketball free-throw percentage. The findings suggest that the combination of mindfulness levels, skill level (practice free-throw percentage), and competitive experience (year in school), all contribute to the prediction of competitive free throw percentage.

2.1 Data preparation and cleaning

2.2 Import Python Libraries

```
[1]: import numpy as np
import matplotlib.pyplot as plt
import seaborn as sns
import pandas as pd
pd.set_option('display.notebook_repr_html', True)
pd.options.display.width = 50
def _repr_latex_(self):
    return "\centering{%s}" % self.to_latex()

pd.DataFrame._repr_latex_ = _repr_latex_ # monkey patch pandas DataFrame
%matplotlib inline
```

2.3 Reading the Original Dataset

```
[2]: free_throws_db = pd.read_csv('free_throws.csv')
free_throws_db.drop_duplicates()
free_throws_db.head(10)
```

```
[2]:
```

| | end_result | game | game_id | period | play | player |
|---|------------|-----------|-----------|--------|--|--------|
| 0 | 106 - 114 | PHX - LAL | 261031013 | 1 | Andrew Bynum makes free throw 1 of 2 | Andrew |
| 1 | 106 - 114 | PHX - LAL | 261031013 | 1 | Andrew Bynum makes free throw 2 of 2 | Andrew |
| 2 | 106 - 114 | PHX - LAL | 261031013 | 1 | Andrew Bynum makes free throw 1 of 2 | Andrew |
| 3 | 106 - 114 | PHX - LAL | 261031013 | 1 | Andrew Bynum misses free throw 2 of 2 | Andrew |
| 4 | 106 - 114 | PHX - LAL | 261031013 | 1 | Shawn Marion makes free throw 1 of 1 | Shawn |
| 5 | 106 - 114 | PHX - LAL | 261031013 | 1 | Amare Stoudemire makes free throw 1 of 2 | Amare |
| 6 | 106 - 114 | PHX - LAL | 261031013 | 1 | Amare Stoudemire makes free throw 2 of 2 | Amare |
| 7 | 106 - 114 | PHX - LAL | 261031013 | 2 | Leandro Barbosa misses free throw 1 of 2 | Leandr |
| 8 | 106 - 114 | PHX - LAL | 261031013 | 2 | Leandro Barbosa makes free throw 2 of 2 | Leandr |
| 9 | 106 - 114 | PHX - LAL | 261031013 | 2 | Lamar Odom makes free throw 1 of 2 | Lamar |

Description of dataset: - end_result: host total score - guest total score -

game: host team vs guest team - game_id: id of specific game - period: which quarter - play: who make free throw, make or miss free throw - player: player name - playoffs: whether a playoff game or regular game - score: host team score - guest team score at that time - season: NBA season - shot_made: whether player got the free throw - time: time left in that quarter

```
[3]: print("Number of free throws in database: %d"%(free_throws_db.shape[0]))
      print("Number of games in database: {}".format(free_throws_db.game_id.unique().
      →size))
      print("Games distribution:")
      free_throws_db['playoffs'].value_counts()
```

Number of free throws in database: 618019
 Number of games in database: 12874
 Games distribution:

```
[3]: regular      575893
      playoffs    42126
      Name: playoffs, dtype: int64
```

2.4 Collecting more data from internet

In order to expand our dataset, we decided to use an open source python library PandasBasketball, and use a webscrapper in order to get more players stats from <https://www.basketball-reference.com> website

Example of basketball-reference NBA player stats webpage:


BASKETBALL
 REFERENCE

Players
 Teams
 Seasons
 Leaders
 Scores ¹⁰
 Playoffs



LeBron James

LeBron Raymone James • [Twitter: KingJames](#)
 (King James, LBJ, Chosen One, Bron-Bron, The Little Emperor, The Akron Hammer, L-Train)
Position: Power Forward and Point Guard and Small Forward and Shooting Guard • **Shoots:** Right
 6-9, 250lb (206cm, 113kg)
Team: [Los Angeles Lakers](#)
Born: [December 30, 1984](#) (Age: 34-328d) in Akron, [Ohio](#) 
High School: Saint Vincent-Saint Mary in Akron, [Ohio](#)
Recruiting Rank: [2003](#) (1)
Draft: [Cleveland Cavaliers](#), 1st round (1st pick, 1st overall), [2003 NBA Draft](#)
NBA Debut: [October 29, 2003](#)
Experience: 16 years

| SUMMARY | G | PTS | TRB | AST | FG% | FG3% | FT% | eFG% | PER | WS |
|----------------|------|------|-----|------|------|------|------|------|------|-------|
| 2019-20 | 15 | 24.9 | 7.7 | 11.3 | 48.6 | 34.6 | 70.8 | 53.4 | 27.7 | 2.8 |
| Career | 1213 | 27.1 | 7.4 | 7.3 | 50.4 | 34.4 | 73.6 | 54.1 | 27.6 | 229.4 |

Totals [Share & more](#) [Glossary](#)

| Season | Age | Tm | Lg | Pos | G | GS | MP | FG | FGA | FG% | 3P | 3PA | 3P% | 2P | 2PA | 2P% | eFG% | FT | FTA | FT% | ORB | DRB | TRB | AST | STL | BLK | TOV | PF | PTS |
|------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|------|------|-------|-------|-------|------|------|------|------|-------|-------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|-----|------|------|-------|
| 2003-04 | 19 | CLE | NBA | SG | 79 | 79 | 3122 | 622 | 1492 | .417 | 63 | 217 | .290 | 559 | 1275 | .438 | .438 | 347 | 460 | .754 | 99 | 333 | 432 | 465 | 130 | 58 | 273 | 149 | 1654 |
| 2004-05 | 20 | CLE | NBA | SF | 80 | 80 | 3388 | 795 | 1684 | .472 | 108 | 308 | .351 | 687 | 1376 | .499 | .504 | 477 | 636 | .750 | 111 | 477 | 588 | 577 | 177 | 52 | 262 | 146 | 2175 |
| 2005-06 | 21 | CLE | NBA | SF | 79 | 79 | 3361 | 875 | 1823 | .480 | 127 | 379 | .335 | 748 | 1444 | .518 | .515 | 601 | 814 | .738 | 75 | 481 | 556 | 521 | 123 | 66 | 260 | 181 | 2478 |
| 2006-07 | 22 | CLE | NBA | SF | 78 | 78 | 3190 | 772 | 1621 | .476 | 99 | 310 | .319 | 673 | 1311 | .513 | .507 | 489 | 701 | .698 | 83 | 443 | 526 | 470 | 125 | 55 | 250 | 171 | 2132 |
| 2007-08 | 23 | CLE | NBA | SF | 75 | 74 | 3027 | 794 | 1642 | .484 | 113 | 359 | .315 | 681 | 1283 | .531 | .518 | 549 | 771 | .712 | 133 | 459 | 592 | 539 | 138 | 81 | 255 | 165 | 2250 |
| 2008-09 | 24 | CLE | NBA | SF | 81 | 81 | 3054 | 789 | 1613 | .489 | 132 | 384 | .344 | 657 | 1229 | .535 | .530 | 594 | 762 | .780 | 106 | 507 | 613 | 587 | 137 | 93 | 241 | 139 | 2304 |
| 2009-10 | 25 | CLE | NBA | SF | 76 | 76 | 2966 | 768 | 1528 | .503 | 129 | 387 | .333 | 639 | 1141 | .560 | .545 | 593 | 773 | .767 | 71 | 483 | 554 | 651 | 125 | 77 | 261 | 119 | 2258 |
| 2010-11 | 26 | MIA | NBA | SF | 79 | 79 | 3063 | 758 | 1485 | .510 | 92 | 279 | .330 | 666 | 1206 | .552 | .541 | 503 | 663 | .759 | 80 | 510 | 590 | 554 | 124 | 50 | 284 | 163 | 2111 |
| 2011-12 | 27 | MIA | NBA | SF | 62 | 62 | 2326 | 621 | 1169 | .531 | 54 | 149 | .362 | 567 | 1020 | .556 | .554 | 387 | 502 | .771 | 94 | 398 | 492 | 387 | 115 | 50 | 213 | 96 | 1683 |
| 2012-13 | 28 | MIA | NBA | PF | 76 | 76 | 2877 | 765 | 1354 | .565 | 103 | 254 | .406 | 662 | 1100 | .602 | .603 | 403 | 535 | .753 | 97 | 513 | 610 | 551 | 129 | 67 | 226 | 110 | 2036 |
| 2013-14 | 29 | MIA | NBA | PF | 77 | 77 | 2902 | 767 | 1353 | .567 | 116 | 306 | .379 | 651 | 1047 | .622 | .610 | 439 | 585 | .750 | 81 | 452 | 533 | 488 | 121 | 26 | 270 | 126 | 2089 |
| 2014-15 | 30 | CLE | NBA | SF | 69 | 69 | 2493 | 624 | 1279 | .488 | 120 | 339 | .354 | 504 | 940 | .536 | .535 | 375 | 528 | .710 | 51 | 365 | 416 | 511 | 109 | 49 | 272 | 135 | 1743 |
| 2015-16 | 31 | CLE | NBA | SF | 76 | 76 | 2709 | 737 | 1416 | .520 | 87 | 282 | .309 | 650 | 1134 | .573 | .551 | 359 | 491 | .731 | 111 | 454 | 565 | 514 | 104 | 49 | 249 | 143 | 1920 |
| 2016-17 | 32 | CLE | NBA | SF | 74 | 74 | 2794 | 736 | 1344 | .548 | 124 | 342 | .363 | 612 | 1002 | .611 | .594 | 358 | 531 | .674 | 97 | 542 | 639 | 646 | 92 | 44 | 303 | 134 | 1954 |
| 2017-18 | 33 | CLE | NBA | PF | 82 | 82 | 3026 | 857 | 1580 | .542 | 149 | 406 | .367 | 708 | 1174 | .603 | .590 | 388 | 531 | .731 | 97 | 612 | 709 | 747 | 116 | 71 | 347 | 136 | 2251 |
| 2018-19 | 34 | LAL | NBA | SF | 55 | 55 | 1937 | 558 | 1095 | .510 | 111 | 327 | .339 | 447 | 768 | .582 | .560 | 278 | 418 | .665 | 57 | 408 | 465 | 454 | 72 | 33 | 197 | 94 | 1505 |
| 2019-20 | 35 | LAL | NBA | PG | 15 | 15 | 524 | 141 | 290 | .486 | 28 | 81 | .346 | 113 | 209 | .541 | .534 | 63 | 89 | .708 | 15 | 101 | 116 | 169 | 19 | 9 | 51 | 22 | 373 |
| Career | | NBA | | | 1213 | 1212 | 46759 | 11979 | 23768 | .504 | 1755 | 5109 | .344 | 10224 | 18659 | .548 | .541 | 7203 | 9790 | .736 | 1458 | 7538 | 8996 | 8831 | 1956 | 930 | 4214 | 2229 | 32916 |
| 11 seasons | | CLE | NBA | | 849 | 848 | 33130 | 8369 | 17022 | .492 | 1251 | 3713 | .337 | 7118 | 13309 | .535 | .528 | 5130 | 6998 | .733 | 1034 | 5156 | 6190 | 6228 | 1376 | 695 | 2973 | 1618 | 23119 |
| 4 seasons | | MIA | NBA | | 294 | 294 | 11168 | 2911 | 5361 | .543 | 365 | 988 | .369 | 2546 | 4373 | .582 | .577 | 1732 | 2285 | .758 | 352 | 1873 | 2225 | 1980 | 489 | 193 | 993 | 495 | 7919 |
| 2 seasons | | LAL | NBA | | 70 | 70 | 2461 | 699 | 1385 | .505 | 139 | 408 | .341 | 560 | 977 | .573 | .555 | 341 | 507 | .673 | 72 | 509 | 581 | 623 | 91 | 42 | 248 | 116 | 1878 |

And our code to extract from website html our data

```
[4]: from tools import get_player_stats
import warnings
warnings.filterwarnings("ignore", category=UserWarning, module='BeautifulSoup')
dataFrame = get_player_stats("Lebron James")
print(dataFrame.columns)
dataFrame.head(20)
```

```
Index(['Season', 'Age', 'Tm', 'Lg', 'Pos', 'G',
      'GS', 'MP', 'FG', 'FGA', 'FG%', '3P',
      '3PA', '3P%', '2P', '2PA', '2P%', 'eFG%',
      'FT', 'FTA', 'FT%', 'ORB', 'DRB', 'TRB',
      'AST', 'STL', 'BLK', 'TOV', 'PF', 'PTS',
      'Height', 'Weight', 'ShootingHand',
      'draftRank'],
      dtype='object')
```

[4]:

| | Season | Age | Tm | Lg | Pos | G | GS | MP | FG | FGA | FG% | 3P | 3PA | 3P% | 2P |
|----|---------|-----|-----|-----|-----|------|------|-------|-------|-------|------|------|------|------|----|
| 0 | 2003-04 | 19 | CLE | NBA | SG | 79 | 79 | 3122 | 622 | 1492 | .417 | 63 | 217 | .290 | 55 |
| 1 | 2004-05 | 20 | CLE | NBA | SF | 80 | 80 | 3388 | 795 | 1684 | .472 | 108 | 308 | .351 | 68 |
| 2 | 2005-06 | 21 | CLE | NBA | SF | 79 | 79 | 3361 | 875 | 1823 | .480 | 127 | 379 | .335 | 74 |
| 3 | 2006-07 | 22 | CLE | NBA | SF | 78 | 78 | 3190 | 772 | 1621 | .476 | 99 | 310 | .319 | 67 |
| 4 | 2007-08 | 23 | CLE | NBA | SF | 75 | 74 | 3027 | 794 | 1642 | .484 | 113 | 359 | .315 | 68 |
| 5 | 2008-09 | 24 | CLE | NBA | SF | 81 | 81 | 3054 | 789 | 1613 | .489 | 132 | 384 | .344 | 65 |
| 6 | 2009-10 | 25 | CLE | NBA | SF | 76 | 76 | 2966 | 768 | 1528 | .503 | 129 | 387 | .333 | 63 |
| 7 | 2010-11 | 26 | MIA | NBA | SF | 79 | 79 | 3063 | 758 | 1485 | .510 | 92 | 279 | .330 | 66 |
| 8 | 2011-12 | 27 | MIA | NBA | SF | 62 | 62 | 2326 | 621 | 1169 | .531 | 54 | 149 | .362 | 56 |
| 9 | 2012-13 | 28 | MIA | NBA | PF | 76 | 76 | 2877 | 765 | 1354 | .565 | 103 | 254 | .406 | 66 |
| 10 | 2013-14 | 29 | MIA | NBA | PF | 77 | 77 | 2902 | 767 | 1353 | .567 | 116 | 306 | .379 | 65 |
| 11 | 2014-15 | 30 | CLE | NBA | SF | 69 | 69 | 2493 | 624 | 1279 | .488 | 120 | 339 | .354 | 50 |
| 12 | 2015-16 | 31 | CLE | NBA | SF | 76 | 76 | 2709 | 737 | 1416 | .520 | 87 | 282 | .309 | 65 |
| 13 | 2016-17 | 32 | CLE | NBA | SF | 74 | 74 | 2794 | 736 | 1344 | .548 | 124 | 342 | .363 | 61 |
| 14 | 2017-18 | 33 | CLE | NBA | PF | 82 | 82 | 3026 | 857 | 1580 | .542 | 149 | 406 | .367 | 70 |
| 15 | 2018-19 | 34 | LAL | NBA | SF | 55 | 55 | 1937 | 558 | 1095 | .510 | 111 | 327 | .339 | 44 |
| 16 | 2019-20 | 35 | LAL | NBA | PG | 19 | 19 | 661 | 187 | 375 | .499 | 40 | 111 | .360 | 14 |
| 17 | Career | | | NBA | | 1217 | 1216 | 46896 | 12025 | 23853 | .504 | 1767 | 5139 | .344 | 10 |

Columns used for this database for each player: - Position : The most common position for the player over his seasons. - FG% - 3P% - FT% - Height - Weight - ShootingHand - draftRank

2.5 We merged both the datasets according our collected data from internet.

Some players stats had been inserted manually because some bugs found on PandasBasketball library

```
[5]: database_p1 = pd.read_csv("merged_db_part1.csv")
database_p2 = pd.read_csv("merged_db_part2.csv")

database = pd.concat([database_p1,database_p2])
database = database.drop(columns=['Unnamed: 0', 'Unnamed: 0.1'])
# Drop duplicated rows
database.drop_duplicates()
database.head(5)
```

```
[5]:
```

| | end_result | game | game_id | period | play | player |
|---|------------|-----------|-----------|--------|---------------------------------------|-----------|
| 0 | 106 - 114 | PHX - LAL | 261031013 | 1 | Andrew Bynum makes free throw 1 of 2 | Andrew By |
| 1 | 106 - 114 | PHX - LAL | 261031013 | 1 | Andrew Bynum makes free throw 2 of 2 | Andrew By |
| 2 | 106 - 114 | PHX - LAL | 261031013 | 1 | Andrew Bynum makes free throw 1 of 2 | Andrew By |
| 3 | 106 - 114 | PHX - LAL | 261031013 | 1 | Andrew Bynum misses free throw 2 of 2 | Andrew By |
| 4 | 106 - 114 | PHX - LAL | 261031013 | 1 | Shawn Marion makes free throw 1 of 1 | Shawn Mar |

2.6 Specifying Data Types

```
[6]: binary_variables = ['shot_made', 'playoffs', 'ShootingHand']
categorical_variables = ['end_result', 'game', 'game_id', 'period', 'play',
    ↪ 'player', 'season', 'Pos']
numeric_variables = ['score', 'time', 'FG%', '2P%', '3P%', 'FT%', 'Height',
    ↪ 'Weight', 'draftRank']
```

```
[7]: database.count()
```

```
[7]: end_result      618019
game                618019
game_id            618019
period             618019
play               618019
player             618019
playoffs           618019
score              618019
season             618019
shot_made          618019
time               618019
FG%                618019
2P%                618019
3P%                612941
FT%                618019
Height             618019
Weight             618019
draftRank          579587
Pos                618019
ShootingHand       618019
dtype: int64
```

We can see, we have only two columns with missing data. First - the draftRank column. This values are missing because the players performed the free throw didn't have a draft rank and not because we couldn't collect the data. Second - 3P% has missing values since there are players that have never throws a 3-pointer.

2.7 Analyzing the data

2.7.1 Analyzing the number of throws troughout the game

We would like to show the free throws distribution throughout the game time, in our current dataset, the time column represents the time left in that quarter and the period column represents the quarter of the game, so we'll add a new column to our data which calculate the absolute time in the game that the throw was made.

```
[8]: database['minute'] = database.time.apply(lambda x: int(x[:len(x)-3]))
database['sec'] = database.time.apply(lambda x: int(x[len(x)-2:]))
database['abs_min'] = 12 - database['minute']+12*(database.period -1)
database['abs_time'] = 60*(database.abs_min-1) + 60 - database['sec']

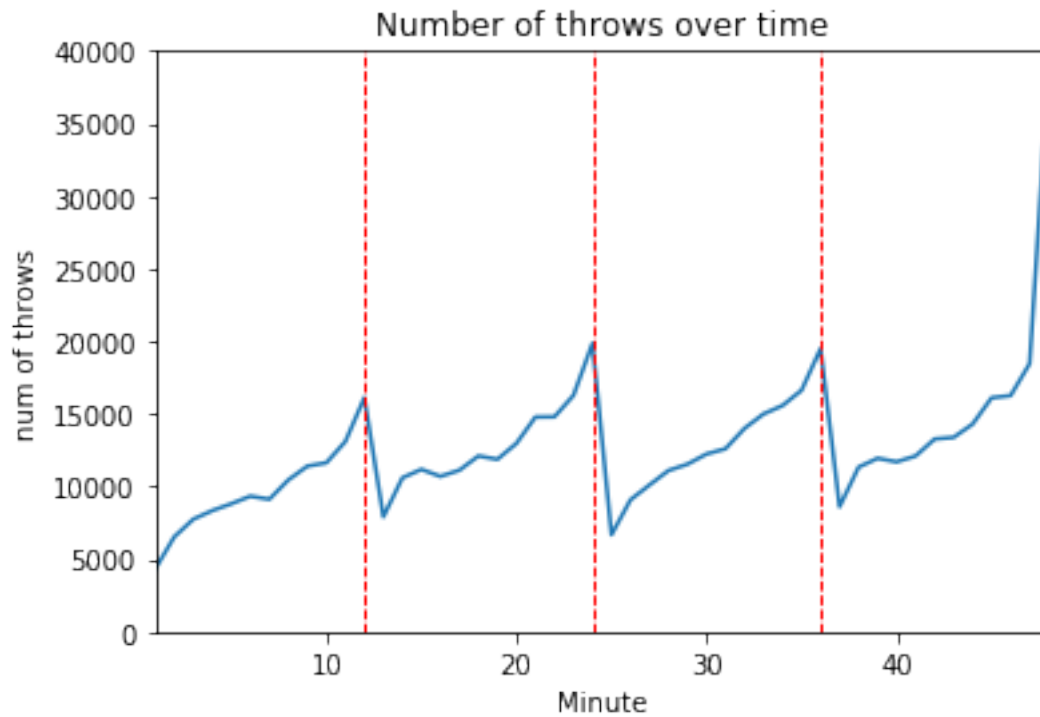
# counting the num of throws, and success throws precentage per minute
minutes = range(int(max(database.abs_min)))
total_throws = []
success_throws = []
success_precentage = []

def count_throws(database,minute):
    made = len(database[(database.abs_min == minute) & (database.shot_made == 1)])
    success_throws.append(made)
    total = len(database[database.abs_min == minute])
    total_throws.append(total)
    if total == 0:
        precentage = 0.0
    else:
        precentage = made/total
    success_precentage.append(precentage)

for minute in minutes:
    count_throws(database,minute)
```

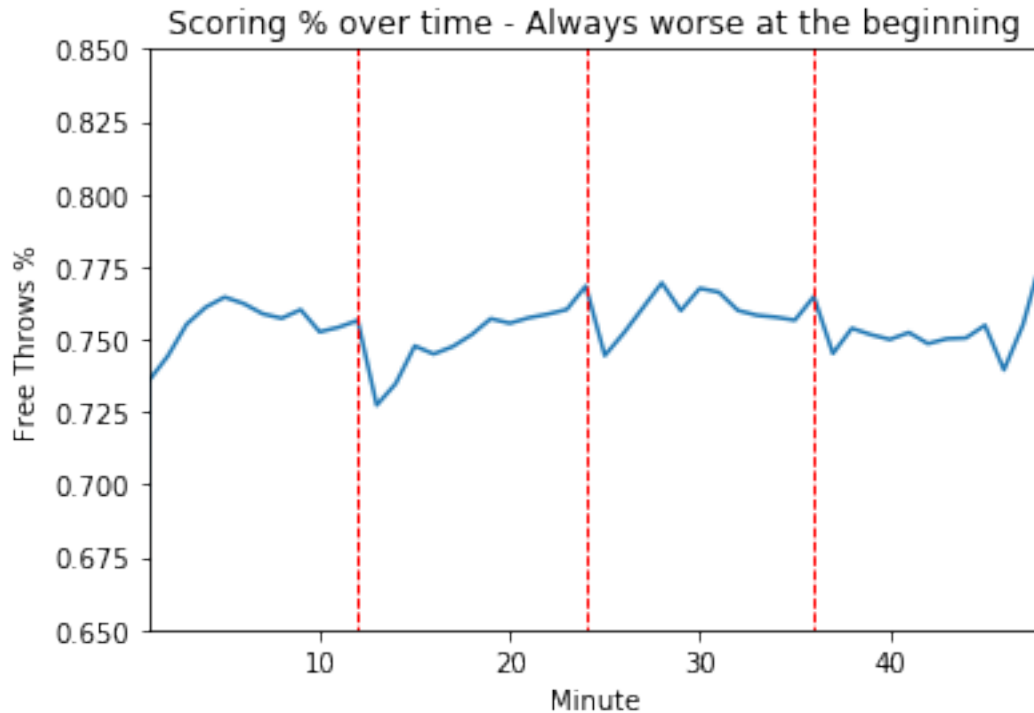
```
[9]: # Number of throws over time
plt.plot(minutes,total_throws)
plt.title('Number of throws over time')
plt.xlim([1,48])
plt.ylim([0, 40000])
plt.plot([12,12],[0,40000], '--', linewidth = 1, color = 'r')
plt.plot([24,24],[0,40000], '--', linewidth = 1, color = 'r')
plt.plot([36,36],[0,40000], '--', linewidth = 1, color = 'r')
plt.plot([48,48],[0,40000], '--', linewidth = 1, color = 'r')
plt.xlabel('Minute')
plt.ylabel('num of throws')
```

```
[9]: Text(0, 0.5, 'num of throws')
```



```
[10]: # Success throws precentage over time
plt.plot(minutes,success_precentage)
plt.title('Scoring % over time - Always worse at the beginning')
plt.xlim([1,48])
plt.ylim([0.65,0.85])
plt.plot([12,12],[0,1], '--', linewidth = 1, color = 'r')
plt.plot([24,24],[0,1], '--', linewidth = 1, color = 'r')
plt.plot([36,36],[0,1], '--', linewidth = 1, color = 'r')
plt.plot([48,48],[0,1], '--', linewidth = 1, color = 'r')
plt.xlabel('Minute')
plt.ylabel('Free Throws %')
```

```
[10]: Text(0, 0.5, 'Free Throws %')
```

From the plots we can observe that at the beginning of every quarter, both the number of free throws and the success percentage drops. Moreover, at the end of a quarter, and especially at the end of the game, both plots increase. We can explain this behavior, as basketball rules when a team made more than 5 fouls, every another foul made in that quarter will be penalty with a free throw.

2.7.2 Analyzing the number of throws throughout the game

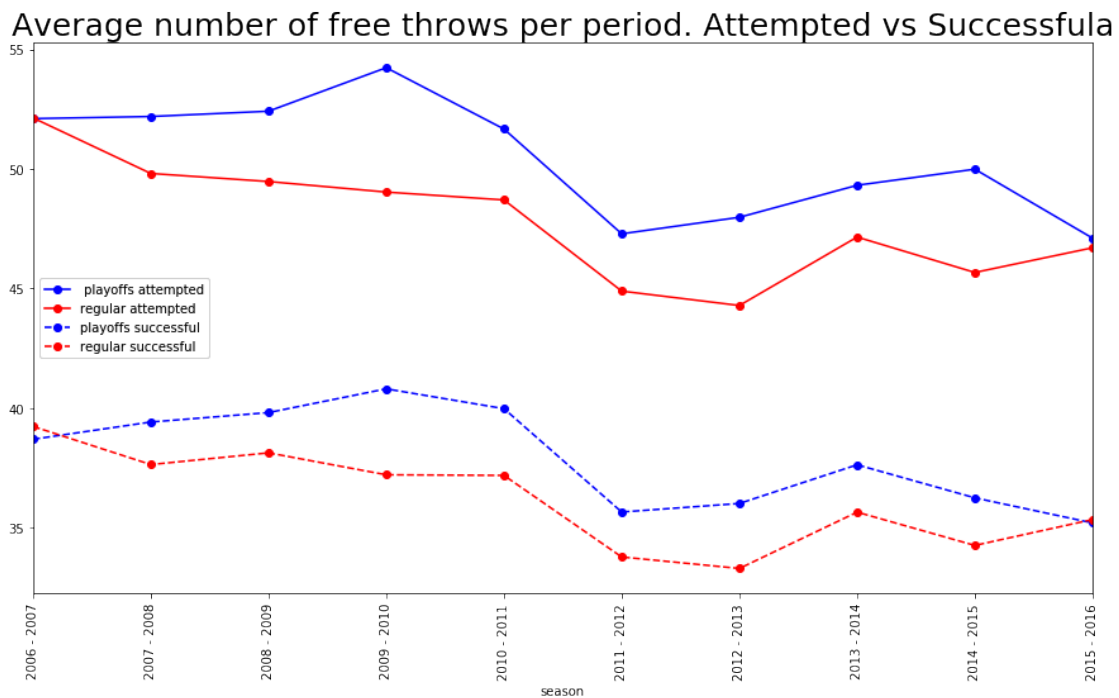
We want to see how the average of free throws attempted and succeed in games over our different seasons in our dataset are distributed.

```
[11]: shot_attempted_per_game = database.groupby(["season", "playoffs"])['shot_made'].
      ↪count().unstack()
shot_made_per_game = database.groupby(["season", "playoffs"])['shot_made'].
      ↪sum().unstack()

# this has to be divided by the number of games for each season to get an
↪average
number_of_games=database.groupby(["season", "playoffs"])['game_id'].nunique().
      ↪unstack()

average_shot_made_per_game = shot_made_per_game/number_of_games
average_shot_attempted_per_game = shot_attempted_per_game/number_of_games
```

```
f, (ax1) = plt.subplots(figsize=(18,18))
first=average_shot_attempted_per_game.plot(ax=ax1, marker='o', figsize=(15,8),
↳xticks=range(10), color=['b','r'], rot=90)
second=average_shot_made_per_game.plot(ax=ax1, marker='o', linestyle='--',
↳figsize=(15,8), xticks=range(10), color=['b','r'], rot=90)
ax1.set_title('Average number of free throws per period. Attempted vs
↳Successful', size=25)
legend=plt.legend((' playoffs attempted','regular attempted','playoffs
↳successful','regular successful'), loc=6)
ax1.add_artist(legend)
plt.show()
```



We can see that are not very big differences over the seasons at both attempted and successful shots. But there is a clear difference between the amount of made shots and and successful shots at playoffs and regular season.

```
[12]: made_shot_perc , missed_shot_perc = database['shot_made'].
↳value_counts(normalize=True) * 100
print("Made shots percentage in dataset: %.2f"%(made_shot_perc))
print("Missed shots percentage in dataset: %.2f"%(missed_shot_perc))
```

Made shots percentage in dataset: 75.68
Missed shots percentage in dataset: 24.32

2.7.3 The correlation between the player's draft rank and the free-throw result

We wanted to check if there is a connection between the draft rank of the player performing the shot and the result of the shot. As we saw at the data description, we have some missing values in the draftRank column, and it was because the player throwing had no draft rank.

As we can see below, the majority of the data in this column is available so we will omit throws that were made by a player with no draft rank.

```
[13]: # the percentage of the data that has draftRank:
print(database['draftRank'].count()/database['game'].count())
```

0.9378142095954979

```
[14]: # Function that replace the field "undrafted" with a 0 in draftRank column

database['draftRank'] = database['draftRank'].replace(np.nan, 0)
database['draftRank'] = database['draftRank'].replace("undrafted", 0)
# pd.to_numeric(free_throws_db['draftRank'])
database['draftRank'] = database.draftRank.apply(lambda x: int(float(x)))

np.nanmax(database['draftRank'])

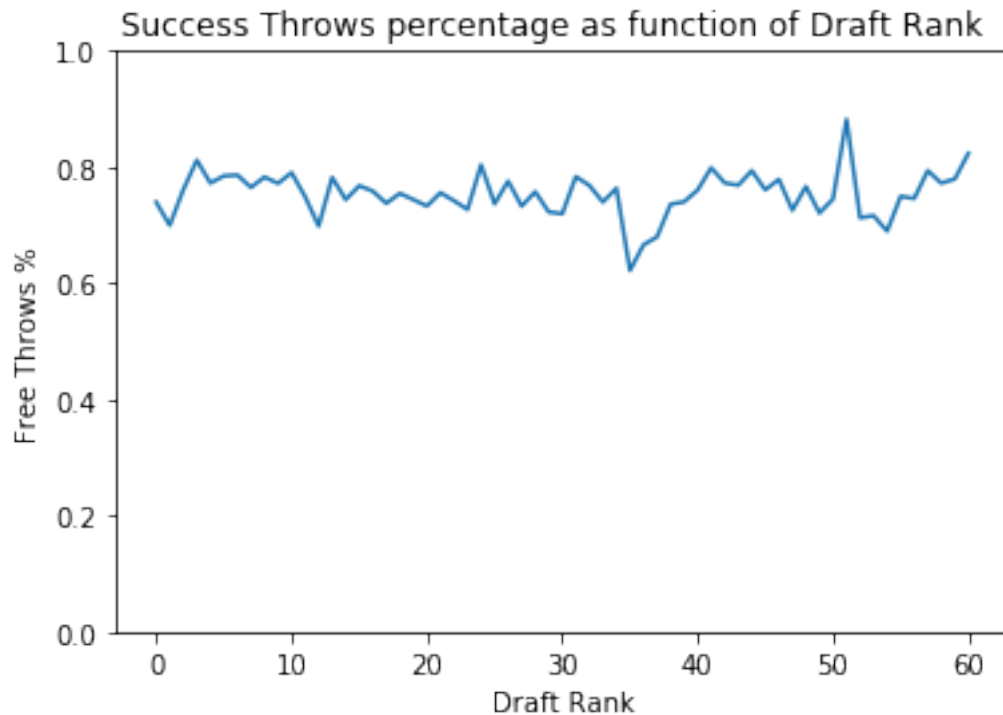
ranks = range(int(np.nanmax(database['draftRank']))+1)
success_percentage_by_rank = []

def throws_per_rank(database,rank):
    total = len(database[database.draftRank == rank])
    if total == 0:
        percentage = 0.0
    else:
        made = len(database[(database.draftRank == rank) & (database.shot_made_
→ == 1)])
        percentage = made/total
        success_percentage_by_rank.append(percentage)

for rank in ranks:
    throws_per_rank(database,rank)
```

```
[15]: # Success throws percentage over time
plt.plot(list(ranks),success_percentage_by_rank)
plt.title('Success Throws percentage as function of Draft Rank ')
plt.ylim([0,1])
plt.xlabel('Draft Rank')
plt.ylabel('Free Throws %')
```

```
[15]: Text(0, 0.5, 'Free Throws %')
```

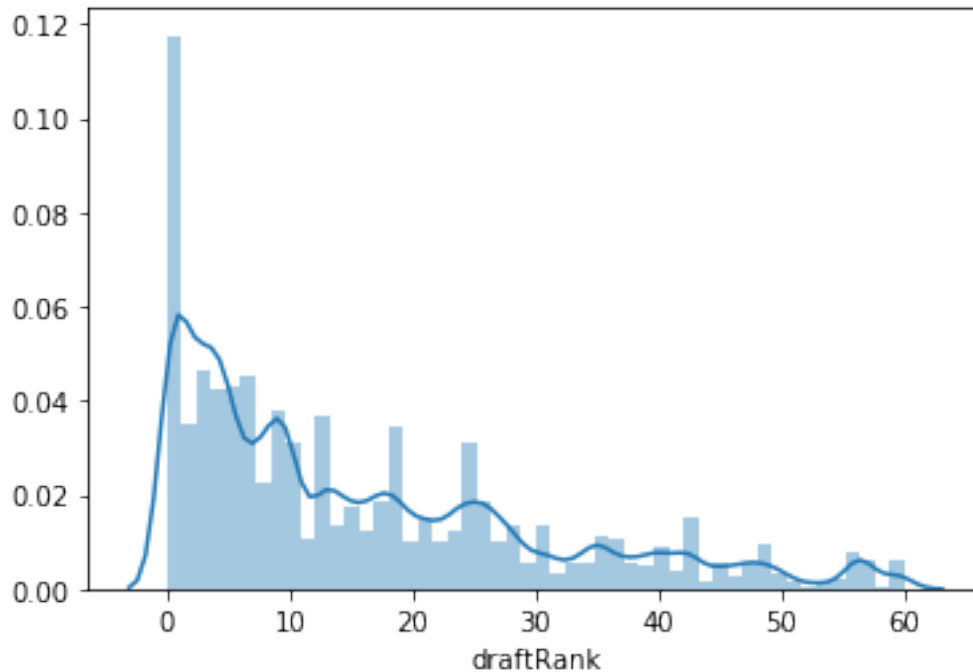


As we see, there is no special trend in the graph (the FT% is between 0.7 to 0.9 for all ranks). We expected that the higher-ranked players would have better performance but we can't conclude it from the data.

We have to take under consideration that the draft-rank data is not uniformly distributed, as we can see in the graph below, and is biased toward small values (the value 0 represents missing values, and in our case players who had no draft rank), so the barplot above needs to be normalized.

```
[16]: sns.distplot(database['draftRank'])
```

```
[16]: <matplotlib.axes._subplots.AxesSubplot at 0x1168be250>
```



2.7.4 The correlation between the score difference and the free-throw result

We will add a column calculating the difference. We assume that if the difference is small in the time of the shot, the player would be more stressed and his shooting percentage would drop.

```
[17]: database['scores'] = database.score.replace(' - ', '-').apply(lambda x: x.
    ↪split('-'))
database['scoreDif'] = database.scores.apply(lambda x: int(x[1])-int(x[0]))
print(database['scoreDif'])
```

```
0      1
1      2
2     -6
3     -6
4     -9
...
309005  13
309006  14
309007  15
309008  15
309009  14
Name: scoreDif, Length: 618019, dtype: int64
```

```
[18]: difs = range(int(np.min(database['scoreDif']))+1,int(np.
    ↪max(database['scoreDif']))+1)
```

```

success_percentage_by_scoreDif = []

def throws_per_dif(database,dif):
    total = len(database[database.scoreDif == dif])
    if total == 0:
        percentage = 0.0
    else:
        made = len(database[(database.scoreDif == dif) & (database.shot_made == 1)])
        percentage = made/total
    success_percentage_by_scoreDif.append(percentage)

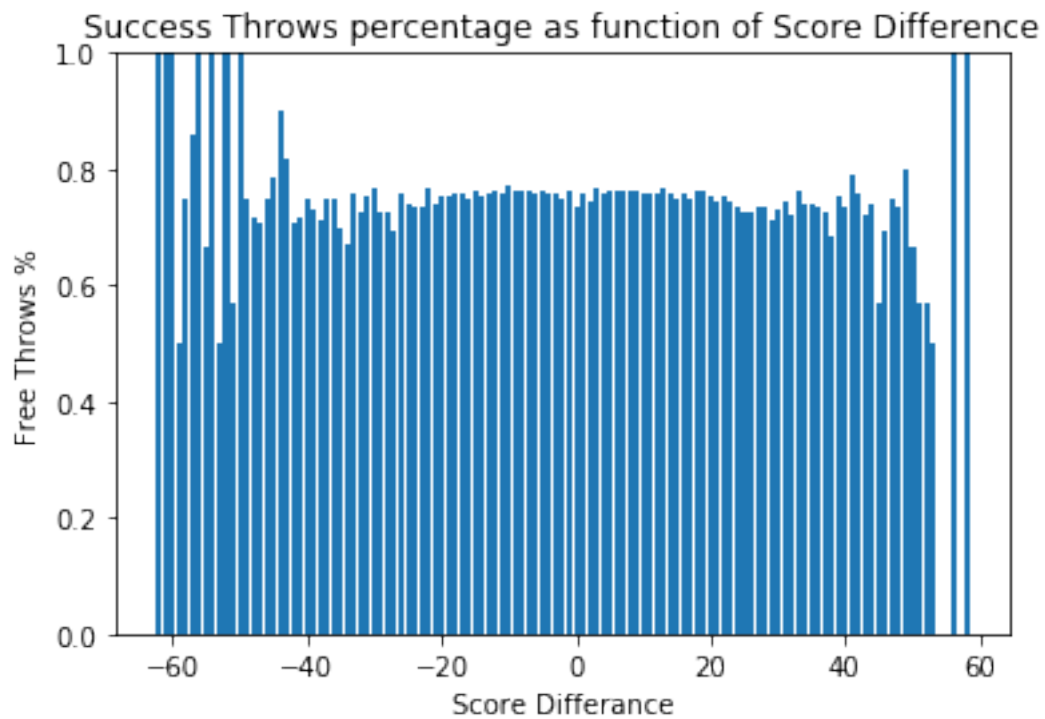
for dif in difs:
    throws_per_dif(database,dif)

```

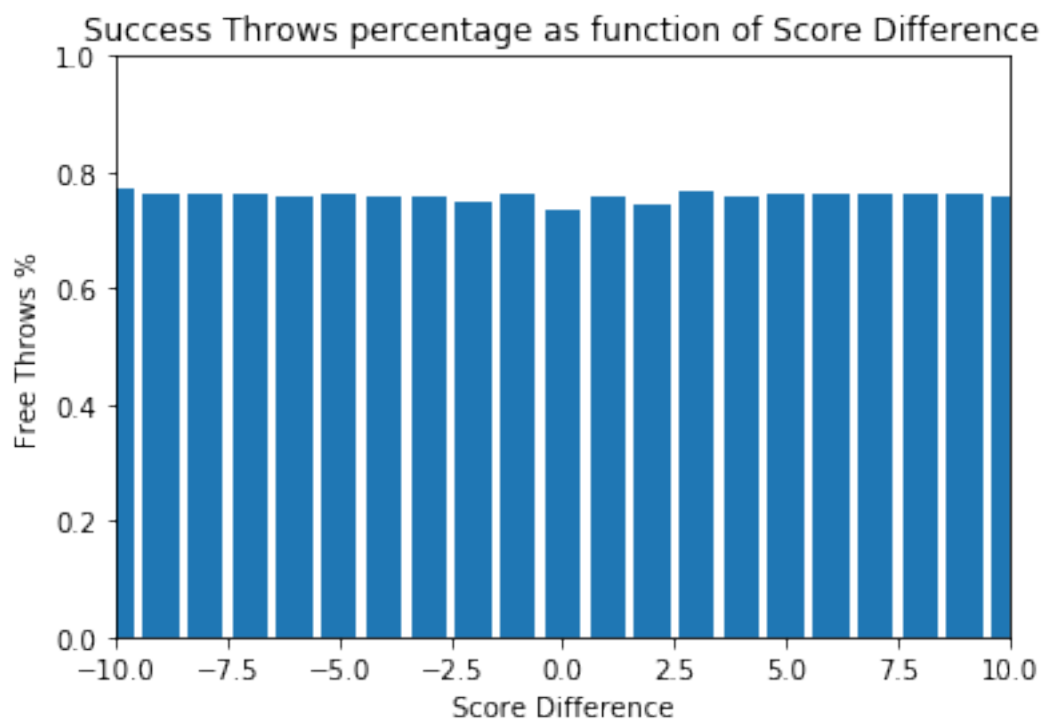
```

[19]: # Success throws precentage over time
plt.bar(list(difs),success_percentage_by_scoreDif)
plt.title('Success Throws percentage as function of Score Difference')
plt.ylim([0,1])
plt.xlabel('Score Differance')
plt.ylabel('Free Throws %')
plt.show()
plt.bar(list(difs),success_percentage_by_scoreDif)
plt.title('Success Throws percentage as function of Score Difference')
plt.ylim([0,1])
plt.xlabel('Score Difference')
plt.ylabel('Free Throws %')
plt.xlim(-10,10)

```



[19]: (-10, 10)

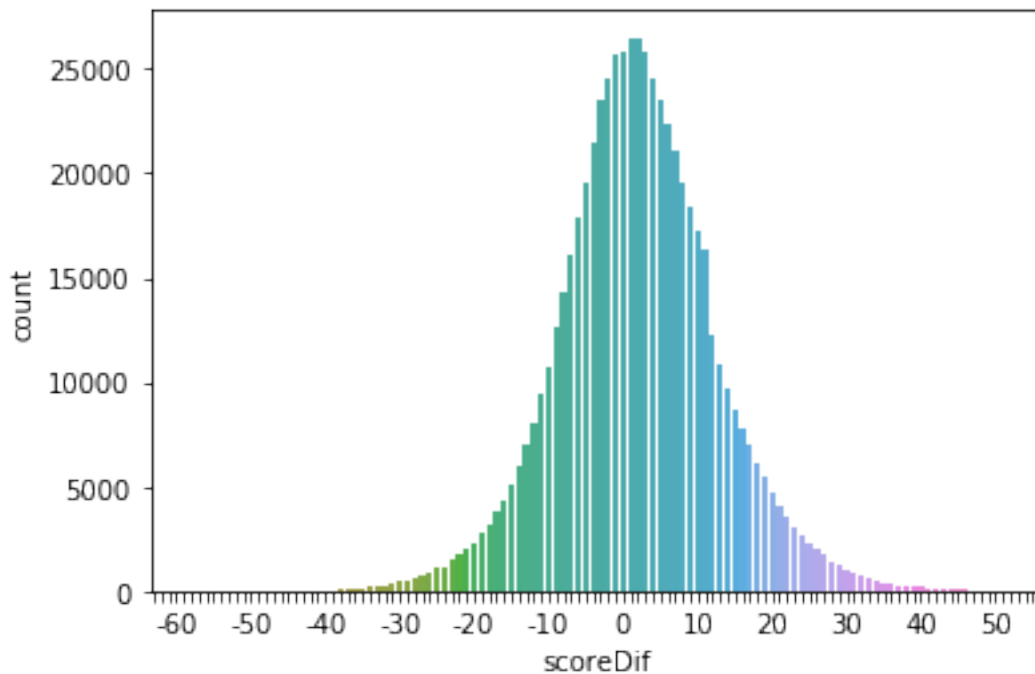


At the 'Success Throws percentage as function of Score Difference' plot, it seems

that our hypothesis that as long as the score difference gets bigger, so as the free-throw success percentage is partly true. We can see a trend in the graph but it is not continuous.

Furthermore, here too we have to relate to the fact that we have much more samples with low difference than high difference. As shown at graph below.

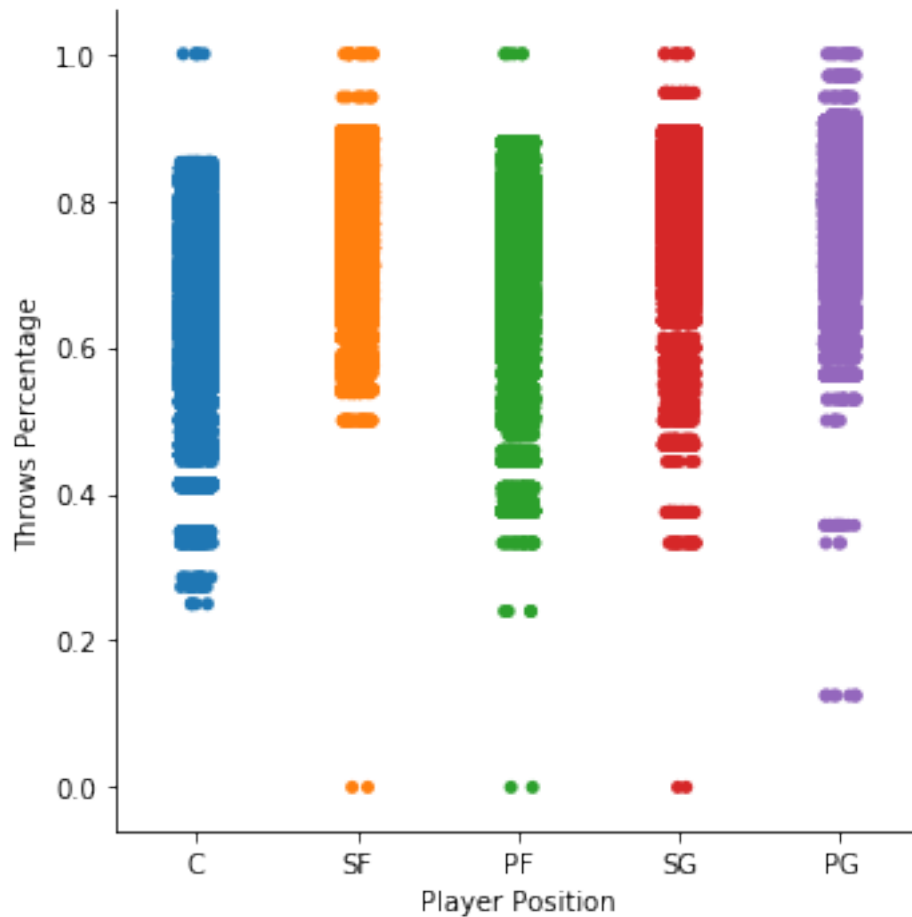
```
[20]: plot_ = sns.countplot(x='scoreDif', data=database)
for ind, label in enumerate(plot_.get_xticklabels()):
    if (ind-3) % 10 == 0: # every 10th label is kept
        label.set_visible(True)
    else:
        label.set_visible(False)
plt.show()
```



2.7.5 The correlation between the player position and the free-throw result

We want to analyze if the ``Position'' feature of each player could be a helpful feature that may help our prediction model. Above we can see a plot showing the distribution of the FT% over the different positions.

```
[21]: ax2 = sns.catplot(x="Pos", y="FT%", data=database);
#ax2 = sns.catplot(x="Pos", y="FT%", kind="swarm", data=database);
ax2.set(xlabel='Player Position', ylabel='Throws Percentage')
plt.show()
```

Average FT% at each position

```
[22]: database.groupby('Pos').agg({'FT%': 'mean'})
```

[22]:

| FT% | |
|-----|----------|
| Pos | |
| C | 0.675366 |
| PF | 0.724143 |
| PG | 0.805380 |
| SF | 0.777317 |
| SG | 0.802994 |

We can see that Centers players owns the worst percentage.

Point Guards and Shooting Guards players holds the best percentage over all the positions.

Next, we will check how well our dataset represents the general population of NBA Players. 1. MSE of the FT% players achieved in their careers and their FT% we have in the dataset.

```
[23]: def Dataset_FT_Percentage_per_player(players, database):
    FT_dict = dict()
    for player in players:
        shots_made = len(database[(database.player == player) & (database.
→shot_made == 1)])
        shots_total = len(database[(database.player == player)])
        FT_dict[player] = shots_made/shots_total
    return FT_dict

[24]: def Overall_FT_Percentage_per_player(players, database):
    FT_dict_2 = dict()
    df = database.groupby("player")["FT%"].unique()
    FT_dict_2 = df.to_dict()
    return FT_dict_2

[25]: players = database["player"].unique()
dataset_percentage_dict = Dataset_FT_Percentage_per_player(players,database)
overall_percentage_dict = Overall_FT_Percentage_per_player(players, database)

[26]: MSE = 0
for player in players:
    MSE+=_
→((overall_percentage_dict[player][0]-dataset_percentage_dict[player])**2)
MSE = MSE/len(players)
print("The MSE between whole carrer FT%% and FT%% calculated from dataset for_
→the players in our db is: %f"%(MSE))
```

The MSE between whole carrer FT% and FT% calculated from dataset for the players in our db is: 0.003852

2.7.6 Our goal

We'll try to explore two options for prediction:

- Offline prediction: try to predict the players succes percentage (for all kinds of throws) for the current season based on his past performance and give the coach an insight about the player.
- Online prediction : try to predict whether a player will hit in a certain throw.

2.7.7 What's next?

- Extract more statistical analysis on our current data, find corralation between more than two parameters.
- Pre-process our data in order to create an initial ML model.
- Achieve good results on our ML model
- Try to reduce our problem dimension/features by analyzing which features have big influence.

- ``Engineer'' more strong features in order to achieve dimension reduction.
- Build new ML model and achieve good results, again! YEY!
- Explain our ML model results, when it fails and why

[]: