Value of plays using run expectancy

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This lecture is meant to supplement Chapter 5 in your textbook.

We will now study the value of baseball events.

Introduction to the run expectancy matrix

The run expectancy matrix is the average number of runs scored for each combination of outs and runners on base.

There are 8 possible arrangements of runners on the three bases, and the number of possible outs equals 3. Thus there are a total of 24 possible arrangements of outs and runners which form the run expectancy matrix.

The run expectancy matrix establishes a baseline value for baseball events in a context-free environment.

Data

We will calculate the run expectancy matrix. We first load in relevant software packages

```
library(Lahman)
library(tidyverse)
library(retrosheet)
```

and then we load in play-by-play data from the 2016 season

Data manipulations

We compute a runs scored in the remainder of the inning variable and add it to dat 2016.

Creating the matrix

Now that the runs scored in the remainder of the inning variable have been computed for each plate appearance, it is straightforward to compute the run expectancy matrix.

We create a BASES variable which indicates the base runner state (eg, 100 corresponds to a runner on first), and a STATE variable which adds the number of outs to BASES.

Creating the matrix (continued)

We now trim dat2016 to only include plays in which the state of the game changed and a half inning reached 3 outs.

Creating the matrix (continued)

We now create the run expectancy matrix RUNS_out

```
## 00 outs 1 out 2 outs ## 000 0.50 0.27 0.11 ## 001 1.35 0.94 0.37 ## 010 1.13 0.67 0.31 ## 101 1.93 1.36 0.55 ## 101 1.72 1.20 0.48 ## 110 1.44 0.92 0.41 ## 111 2.11 1.54 0.70
```

Measuring the success of a batting play

When a player comes to bat with a particular runners out situation, the run expectancy matrix tells us the number of runs a team is expected to score in the remainder of the half inning:

Run Value = $(Runs_{new \ state} - Runs_{old \ state}) + Runs_{scored \ on \ play}$

```
dat2016 = dat2016 %>%
  left_join(select(RUNS, - Outs), by = "STATE") %>%
  rename(RRUNS.State = Mean) %>%
  left_join(select(RUNS, -Outs), by = c("NEW.STATE" = "STATE")) %>%
  rename(RRUNS.New.State = Mean) %>%
  replace_na(list(RUNS.New.State = 0)) %>%
  mutate(run_value = RUNS.New.State - RUNS.SCORED)
```

Example: Jose Altuve

We will now study Jose Altuve's 2016 season.

The code below isolates the run value for each of Altuve's batting events and displays his first 3 batting events.

We can see that Jose Altuve was 13th in total RE24 value.

```
dat2016 %>% inner join(People %>% select(nameFirst, nameLast, retroID),
           bv = c("BAT ID" = "retroID")) %>%
 filter ( BAT EVENT FL == TRUE) %>%
 group by (BAT ID) %>%
 summarise(nameFirst = unique(nameFirst),
          nameLast = unique(nameLast),
          RE24 = sum(run value)) %>%
 arrange(desc(RE24)) %>% as.data.frame() %>% head(20)
##
     BAT ID nameFirst
                         nameLast
                                     RE24
## 1 troum001
                 Mike
                           Trout 65 21086
## 2 ortid001
               David
                          Ortiz 58.75680
## 3 freef001 Freddie
                        Freeman 46.19011
## 4 donaj001 Josh Donaldson 46.10413
## 5 vottj001 Joey Votto 45.74782
## 6 bryak001
               Kris
                           Bryant 45.68620
## 7 arenn001
              Nolan Arenado 45.34225
## 8 murpd006
               Daniel
                        Murphy 44.57236
## 9 rizza001
               Anthony
                       Rizzo 40.19773
## 10 bettm001
               Mookie
                          Betts 35.65014
               Miguel
## 11 cabrm001
                          Cabrera 34.27806
## 12 goldp001
                Paul Goldschmidt 34.27474
## 13 altuj001
                 Jose
                           Altuve 33.16617
## 14 encae001
                 Edwin Encarnacion 32,03130
## 15 blacc001
               Charlie
                         Blackmon 31 86506
## 16 ramih003
              Hanley
                        Ramirez 31.39952
               Manny
                        Machado 29.48961
## 17 machm001
               Adrian
                         Beltre 29.11069
## 18 belta001
## 19 gonzc001
              Carlos Gonzalez 28.29142
## 20 cruzn002
               Nelson
                            Cruz 28.18916
```

We can see the number of opportunities Jose Altuve had in each base out state.

```
altuve %>% group by (STATE) %>%
  summarise(N = n(), avg_run_value = mean(run_value),
                    total run value = sum(run value), se run value = sd(run value) / sqrt(N))
    as.data.frame()
##
      STATE
              N avg run value total run value se run value
## 1
     000 0 185
                  0.036051610
                                    6.6695479
                                                0.02707034
## 2
     000 1 104
                0.030673539
                                    3.1900481
                                                0.02786826
## 3
     000 2 126
                -0.002899510
                                   -0.3653383
                                                0.01736461
## 4
     001 0
                -0.103059751
                                   -0.3091793
                                                 0.30703088
## 5
     001 1
                0.382615911
                                    3.0609273
                                                0.15351209
## 6
     001 2
                0.100203614
                                    1.2024434
                                                0.14924366
## 7
     010 0
            15
                -0.078676867
                                   -1.1801530
                                                0.15080076
## 8
     010 1
             2.2
                0.016366766
                                    0.3600688
                                                0.13704177
## 9
     010 2
             22
                0.049357251
                                    1.0858595
                                                0.10129068
## 10 011 0
                0.317988565
                                    1.5899428
                                                0.37330473
## 11 011 1
                -0.096378018
                                   -0.4818901
                                                0.18380432
## 12 011 2
                0.290682347
                                    2.3254588
                                                0.34111391
## 13 100 0
             31
                0 162685083
                                    5.0432376
                                                 0 13171672
## 14 100 1
             58
                 0.085061807
                                    4.9335848
                                                 0.07587254
## 15 100 2
             39
                0.005568296
                                    0.2171636
                                                 0.06065280
## 16 101 0
                -0.316187264
                                   -2.5294981
                                                 0.20184533
## 17 101 1
                0.187174415
                                    1.3102209
                                                 0.21187277
## 18 101 2
                0.363020367
                                    2.1781222
                                                 0.23086490
## 19 110 0
                0.684712857
                                    4.1082771
                                                 0.50690064
## 20 110 1
                -0.060673082
                                   -0.8494231
                                                 0.22048071
             14
## 21 110 2
             19
                0.089659990
                                    1.7035398
                                                 0.19236237
## 22 111 0
                -0.239618713
                                   -0.4792374
                                                0.32927105
## 23 111 1
              5 0.215543377
                                    1.0777169
                                                 0.52456637
## 24 111 2
              1 -0.695272354
                                   -0.6952724
                                                         NA
```

Cleaner presentation of sample sizes for each out base state:

```
altuve RE = altuve %>% group by (STATE) %>%
 summarize(N = n(), avg_run_value = mean(run_value)) %>%
 mutate(Outs = substr(STATE, 5, 5)) %>%
 arrange (Outs)
altuve N mat = matrix(round(altuve RE$N, 4), 8, 3)
dimnames (altuve N mat) [[1]] = c("000", "001", "010", "011",
                         "100", "101", "110", "111")
dimnames (altuve N mat) [[2]] = c("0 outs", "1 out", "2 outs")
altuve N mat
      0 outs 1 out 2 outs
##
## 000 185 104 126
## 001 3 8 12
## 010 15 22
                   22
## 011 5 5
                   8
## 100 31 58 39
## 101 8 7
                    6
## 110 6 14 19
## 111
       2
              5
colSums (altuve N mat)
## 0 outs 1 out 2 outs
     255
           223
                 233
rowSums (altuve N mat)
## 000 001 010 011 100 101 110 111
## 415 23 59 18 128 21 39 8
```

Cleaner presentation of run value for each out base state:

```
## 0.00 001 010 011 100 101

## 0.02130000 0.12656667 -0.00430000 0.17076667 0.08446667 0.07800000

## 10 111

## 0.23790000 -0.23980000
```

We detect statistically significant differences for Jose Altuve's performance across base out states using an anova test. However, a close look reveals that these differences are not intuitive and our detected statistical significance may be just noise.

```
# performance in different states
summary(aov(run_value ~ -1 + STATE, data = altuve))

## Df Sum Sq Mean Sq F value Pr(>F)
## STATE 24 9.97 0.4153 1.873 0.00716 **
## Residuals 687 152.32 0.2217
## ---
```

Signif. codes: 0 '*** 0.001 '** 0.01 '* 0.05 '.' 0.1 ' ' 1

round(coef(summary(lm(run value ~ -1 + STATE, data = altuve))), 3)

```
##
             Estimate Std. Error t value Pr(>|t|)
                0.036
                           0.035
## STATE000 0
                                   1.041
                                            0.298
## STATE000 1
               0.031
                           0.046
                                   0.664
                                            0.507
## STATE000 2
               -0.003
                           0.042
                                  -0.069
                                           0.945
## STATE001 0
               -0.103
                           0.272
                                  -0.379
                                           0.705
## STATE001 1
               0.383
                           0.166
                                   2.298
                                            0.022
## STATE001 2
                0.100
                           0.136
                                   0.737
                                            0.461
## STATE010 0
                -0.079
                           0.122
                                  -0.647
                                            0.518
## STATE010 1
                0.016
                           0.100
                                   0.163
                                            0.871
## STATE010 2
                0.049
                           0.100
                                   0.492
                                           0.623
## STATE011 0
                0.318
                           0.211
                                   1.510
                                           0.131
                           0.211
                                  -0.458
## STATE011 1
                -0.096
                                            0.647
## STATE011 2
               0.291
                           0.166
                                   1.746
                                            0.081
## STATE100 0
                0.163
                           0.085
                                   1.924
                                            0.055
## STATE100 1
                0.085
                           0.062
                                   1.376
                                            0.169
## STATE100 2
                0.006
                           0.075
                                   0.074
                                            0.941
## STATE101 0
               -0.316
                           0.166
                                   -1.899
                                            0.058
## STATE101 1
               0.187
                           0.178
                                   1.052
                                            0.293
                                   1.888
                                            0.059
## STATE101 2
                0.363
                           0.192
## STATE110 0
                0.685
                           0.192
                                   3.562
                                            0.000
## STATE110 1
                -0.061
                           0.126 -0.482
                                            0.630
## STATE110 2
                0.090
                           0.108
                                   0.830
                                            0.407
## STATE111 0
               -0.240
                           0.333 -0.720
                                           0.472
## STATE111 1
               0.216
                           0.211 1.024
                                           0.306
## STATE111 2
               -0.695
                           0.471 -1.477
                                           0.140
```

Two-way anova tests do not reveal statistical significance.

A dichotomy between RISP and no RISP reveals statistical significance.

```
# performance with RISP
altuve = altuve %>% mutate(RISP = ifelse(!BASES %in% c("100","000"),1,0))
summary(aoy(run value ~ -1 + RISP + Outs, data = altuve %>%
            mutate(Outs = substr(STATE, 5, 5))))
            Df Sum Sq Mean Sq F value Pr(>F)
##
            1 1.08 1.0813 4.766 0.0294 *
## RTSP
## Out s
             3 0 81 0 2687 1 184 0 3147
## Residuals 707 160 41 0 2269
## ---
## Signif. codes: 0 '***' 0.001 '**' 0.01 '*' 0.05 '.' 0.1 ' ' 1
altuve %>% group by (RISP) %>% summarise (N = n(), avg run value = mean (run value),
                  total run value = sum(run value), se run value = sd(run value) / sqrt(N))
## # A tibble 2 x 5
          N avg run value total run value se run value
     RISP
    <dbl> <int>
                      <dbl>
                                     <dbl>
                                                  <db1>
## 1
       0 543 0.0363
                                      19.7 0.0164
## 2 1 168 0.0802
                                      13.5 0.0537
```

However, Jose Altuve ranked 75th among roughly 200 full time players in the difference in run value with RISP and with runners not in RISP.

We have mixed results. Can check out bref for a complete breakdown

634 0.0427

623 0 0415

3 altuj001 Jose Altuve 711 0.0440

LeMahieu

Ortiz

4 lemad001 DJ

5 ortid001 David

```
dat2016 %>% inner join (People %>% select (nameFirst, nameLast, retroID),
            bv = c("BAT ID" = "retroID")) %>%
 filter ( BAT EVENT FL == TRUE) %>%
 mutate(RISP = ifelse(!BASES %in% c("100", "000"), 1, 0)) %>%
 group by (BAT ID) %>%
  summarise(nameFirst = unique(nameFirst),
           nameLast = unique(nameLast),
           N = n().
           diff = mean(run value[which(RISP == 1)]) - mean(run value[which(RISP == 0)])) %>%
 filter(N >= 400) %>% arrange(desc(diff)) %>% slice(73:77)
## # A tibble: 5 x 5
## BAT ID nameFirst nameLast
                                       diff
## <chr> <chr> <chr>
                               <int> <dbl>
## 1 martv001 Victor Martinez
                                  608 0.0454
## 2 keplm001 Max
                  Kepler 445 0.0448
```

Altuve's situational OPS

The calculation on Altuve's situational OPS will involve knowledge of the retrosheet event codes. These codes are included as a comment in this code chunk in the accompanying .Rmd file

```
altuve %>%
  select (BASES, EVENT CD, NEW.BASES, NOUTS, Outs.Inning, OUTS CT) %>%
 filter(EVENT CD %in% c(2,3,14,15,16,18,19,20,21,22,23)) %>%
 mutate(RISP = ifelse(!BASES %in% c("100", "000"), 1,0)) %>%
 group_by(RISP) %>%
  summarise(n = n(),
            AB = n - sum(EVENT CD == 14) -
              sum (EVENT CD == 15) -
              sum (EVENT CD == 16),
            H = sum(EVENT CD %in% 20:23),
            OBP noSF = (H + sum(EVENT CD %in% 14:16)) /
              (AB + sum (EVENT CD %in% 14:16)),
            SLG = (sum (EVENT CD == 20) +
              2 * sum (EVENT CD == 21) +
              3 * sum(EVENT CD == 22) +
              4 * sum (EVENT CD == 23)) /AB,
            OPS noSF = OBP noSF + SLG)
```

```
## # A tibble: 2 x 7
## RISP n AB H OBP_noSF SLG OPS_noSF
## <a href="https://doi.org/10.15">doi.org/10.15</a>
## 3 color colo
```

We now compute the situational OPS split (OPS when RISP minus OPS when runners not in scoring position) for every player, and find Altuve's rank by this metric. First, some data transformation.

```
dat2016 OPS = dat2016 %>%
  inner join(People %>% select(nameFirst, nameLast, retroID),
             by = c("BAT ID" = "retroID")) %>%
 filter ( BAT EVENT FL == TRUE) %>%
 mutate(RISP = ifelse(!BASES %in% c("100", "000"), 1,0)) %>%
 group by (BAT ID, RISP) %>%
  summarise(nameFirst = unique(nameFirst),
            nameLast = unique(nameLast).
            n = n().
            AB = n - sum(EVENT CD == 14) -
              sum (EVENT CD == 15) -
              sum (EVENT CD == 16).
            H = sum(EVENT CD %in% 20:23),
            OBP noSF = (H + sum(EVENT CD %in% 14:16)) /
              (AB + sum (EVENT CD %in% 14:16)),
            SLG = (sum(EVENT CD == 20) +
              2 * sum (EVENT CD == 21) +
              3 * sum(EVENT CD == 22) +
              4 * sum (EVENT CD == 23)) /AB,
            OPS noSF = OBP noSF + SLG) %>%
 filter(n distinct(RISP) == 2)
```

Jose Altuve's situational OPS split difference ranks 44th (among batters with at least 400 batting events).

```
dat2016 OPS %>%
 mutate (OPS noSF diff = OPS noSF[RISP == 1] - OPS noSF[RISP == 0]) %>%
  summarise(nameFirst = unique(nameFirst),
           nameLast = unique(nameLast),
           n = sum(n).
           OPS noSF diff = unique(OPS noSF diff)) %>%
 filter(n >= 400) %>%
  arrange (desc (OPS_noSF_diff)) %>%
  slice(42:46)
## # A tibble: 5 x 5
## BAT ID nameFirst nameLast n OPS noSF diff
## <chr> <chr> <chr> <chr> <chr>
                                            <dh1>
## 1 solay001 Yangervis Solarte
                                            0.124
```

0 123

0.121

0.120

0.120

441

629

565

4.58

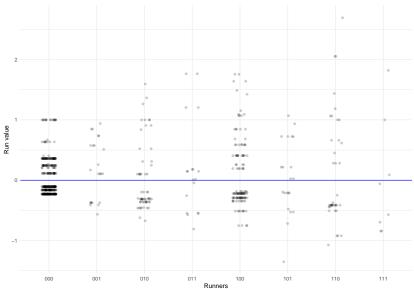
2 franm004 Maikel Franco

4 forsl001 Logan Forsythe

5 avbae001 Erick Avbar

3 altuj001 Jose Altuve 711

```
ggplot(altuve, aes(BASES, run_value)) +
  geom_jitter(width = 0.15, alpha = 0.20) +
  geom_hline(yintercept = 0, color = "blue") +
  xlab("Runners") + ylab("Run value") +
  theme_minimal()
```



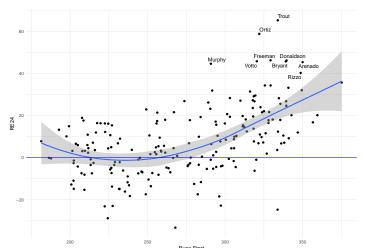
Example: All batters

We create a new variable: total starting runs potential Runs.Start. This variable sums the run values of all base-out states at the start of a batter's plate appearance.

```
runs = dat2016 %>%
 filter (BAT EVENT FL == TRUE) %>%
 inner_join(People, by = c("BAT_ID" = "retroID")) %>%
 group by (BAT ID) %>%
 summarise(RE24 = sum(run value),
           PA = length(run value).
           Runs.Start = sum(Runs.State),
           nameLast = unique(nameLast)) %>%
 filter(PA >= 400)
head (runs)
## # A tibble: 6 x 5
## BAT ID RE24 PA Runs.Start nameLast
## <chr> <dbl> <int>
                           <dbl> <chr>
## 1 abrej003 12.3 693
                             334. Abreu
## 2 alony001 -6.94 528
                              247. Alonso
## 3 altuj001 33.2 711
                              341 Altime
## 4 andet001 -10.9 428
                              202. Anderson
## 5 andre001 17 4 567
                              256 Andrus
## 6 aokin001 -2 12 466
                              229 Aoki
```

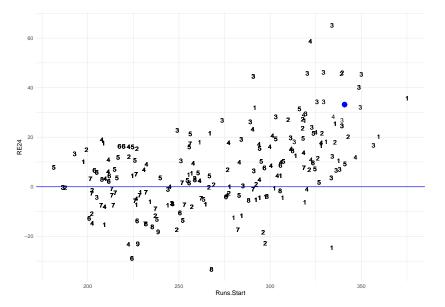
Batters with larger values of Runs. Start tend to have larger runs contributions. Batters with at least 40 RE24 are labeled.

```
library(ggrepel)
ggplot(runs, aes(Runs.Start, RE24)) +
  geom_point() + geom_smooth() +
  geom_hline(yintercept = 0, color = "blue") +
  geom_text_repel(data = filter(runs, RE24 >= 40), aes(label = nameLast)) +
  theme_minimal()
```



Simple lineup analysis

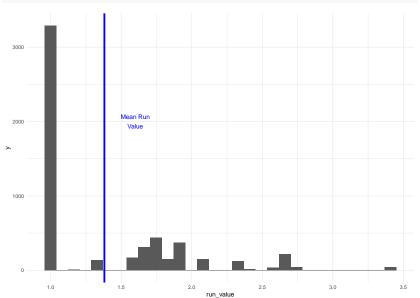
Managers like to put their best hitters near the middle third of the lineup.



Value of home runs

```
## get home runs
home runs = dat2016 %>% filter(EVENT CD == 23)
home runs N = home runs %>% group by (STATE) %>%
 mutate(Outs = substr(STATE, 5, 5)) %>%
 arrange (Outs) %>%
  summarise(Outs = unique(Outs), N = n()) %>%
 arrange (Outs)
## frequency table of home runs
home runs N mat = matrix(round(home runs N$N / sum(home runs N$N), 3), 8, 3)
dimnames (home runs N mat) [[1]] = c("000", "001", "010", "011",
                             "100", "101", "110", "111")
dimnames(home runs N mat)[[2]] = c("0 outs", "1 out", "2 outs")
home runs N mat
## 0 outs 1 out 2 outs
## 000 0.272 0.172 0.150
## 001 0.002 0.007 0.011
## 010 0.018 0.027 0.028
## 011 0.004 0.007 0.007
## 100 0.057 0.064 0.061
## 101 0.005 0.013 0.011
## 110 0.015 0.023 0.028
## 111 0.003 0.008 0.008
avg hr = home runs %>% summarise(avg run value = mean(run value))
avg hr
```

```
## # A tibble: 1 x 1
## avg_run_value
## <dbl>
## 1 1.38
```



Value of base stealing

Histogram of the run values of all steal attempts during the 2016 season.

```
ggplot(stealing, aes(run value, fill = factor(EVENT CD))) +
    geom_histogram() +
    scale_fill_manual(name = "Event", values = c("blue", "grey"),
                                            labels = c("SB", "CS")) +
  theme minimal()
 750
                                                                            Event
 250
                        -0.5
                                                      0.5
         -1.0
                                       0.0
                                                                     1.0
```

run_value

We can compute the marginal break-even success rate needed to justify a stolen base attempt across the 2016 season

$$a * SB_{avg value} + (1 - a) * CS_{avg value} = 0$$

which implies that

$$a = -\frac{\text{CS}_{\text{avg value}}}{\text{SB}_{\text{avg value}} - \text{CS}_{\text{avg value}}}.$$

From a previous slide we compute

```
a = 0.416 / (0.180 + 0.416)
```

```
## [1] 0.6979866
```