Predicting Situational Time On Ice

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Question

Can we use data from previous seasons to predict how much time a particular NHL skater will get on the ice (TOI) in various situations (even strength, short-handed, power play) in the upcoming 2014-2015 season?

Data

As before, we load our database of season-wide NHL data into a data frame called skaterstats. We'll also grab our games played predictions and store it in a data frame called skatpred15; these two steps are done with the setup.R file. Finally, we will load our previous model for games played (GPModel).

Feature Selection

We'd like to compare a few different attempts. First, we'd like to model time on ice directly, with and without our predicted games played. Then, we'd like to model time on ice per game and multiply it by our predicted games played numbers and compare the accuracy.

We'll start again by modelling even-strength TOI using all possible predictors, then try to ascertain which are the most important factors.

```
gbmdata <- nhlShape(2012, 2013, outcome = 38)
rfdata <- nhlShape(2013, 2013, outcome = 38)</pre>
```

First, we build random forest models from several seeds.

```
esrfmod1 <- nhlBuild(data = rfdata, perc = 0.7, seed = 9112)

## [1] 0.7332324

esrfmod2 <- nhlBuild(data = rfdata, perc = 0.7, seed = 2857)

## [1] 0.7851254</pre>
```

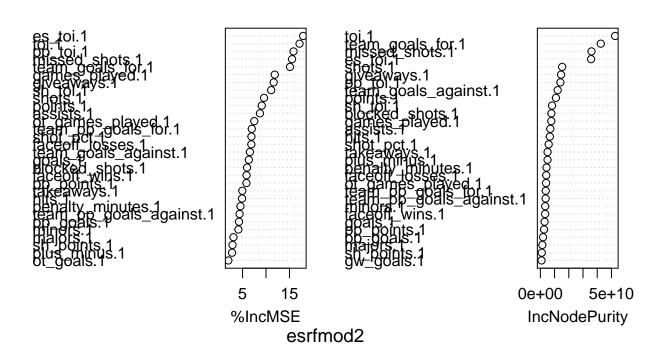
```
esrfmod3 <- nhlBuild(data = rfdata, perc = 0.7, seed = 31415)
```

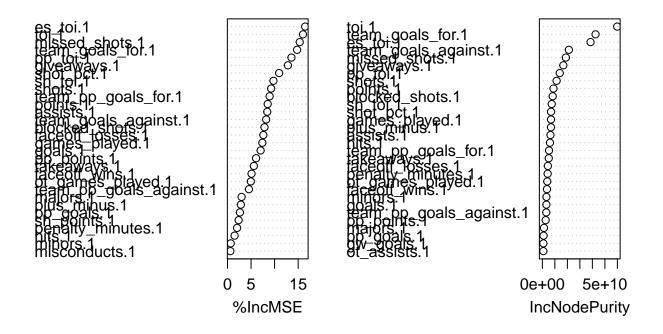
```
## [1] 0.7582238
```

```
esrfmod4 <- nhlBuild(data = rfdata, perc = 0.7, seed = 28182)
```

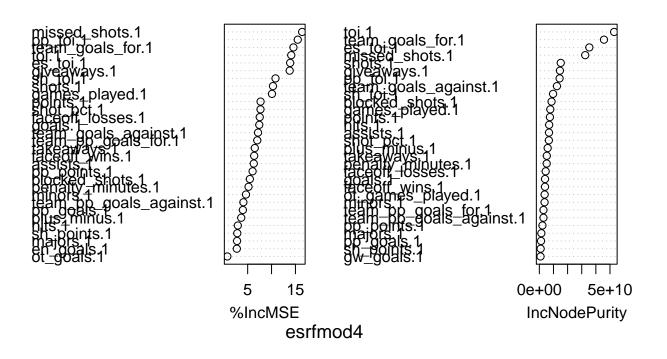
[1] 0.7335663

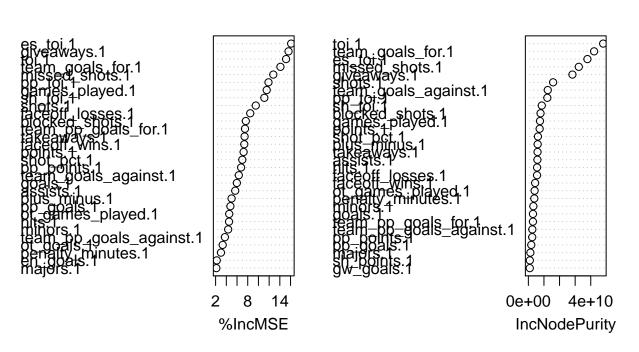
esrfmod1





esrfmod3





```
esgbmmod1 <- nhlBuild(data = gbmdata, type = "gbm", perc = 0.7, seed = 9112, n.trees = 10000, cv.folds esgbmmod2 <- nhlBuild(data = gbmdata, type = "gbm", perc = 0.7, seed = 2857, n.trees = 10000, cv.folds esgbmmod3 <- nhlBuild(data = gbmdata, type = "gbm", perc = 0.7, seed = 31415, n.trees = 10000, cv.folds
```

```
esgbmmod4 <- nhlBuild(data = gbmdata, type = "gbm", perc = 0.7, seed = 28182, n.trees = 10000, cv.folds
```

```
##
                   var var.inf.tot
## 1 team_goals_for.1
                         57.983263
## 2
        missed shots.1
                          55.538200
## 3
                 toi.1
                         50.723774
## 4
              es_toi.1
                         36.647614
## 5
      team_goals_for.2
                         28.477084
## 6
              es_toi.2
                         18.466111
## 7
                 toi.2
                         16.286954
## 8
              pp_toi.1
                         14.056329
## 9
           giveaways.1
                         10.440052
## 10
              sh_toi.1
                          9.118568
## 11
                          7.953250
               shots.1
## 12
                          6.804834
              pp_toi.2
## 13
           takeaways.2
                          6.158915
## 14
        games_played.1
                          5.725170
## 15
           giveaways.2
                          5.269562
## 16 blocked_shots.1
                          4.489300
## 17
      blocked_shots.2
                           4.332368
## 18
                hits.2
                           4.273493
col1 <- c(1:3, 15, 24, 30:31, 38:41)
col2 \leftarrow c(28:29, 32)
esDataRF1 <- nhlShape(2013, 2013, cols = c(col1, col2[1]), outcome = 38, rm.nhlnum = F)
esDataRF2 <- nhlShape(2013, 2013, cols = c(col1, col2[2]), outcome = 38, rm.nhlnum = F)
esDataRF3 <- nhlShape(2013, 2013, cols = c(col1, col2[3]), outcome = 38, rm.nhlnum = F)
esDataRF4 <- nhlShape(2013, 2013, cols = c(col1, col2), outcome = 38, rm.nhlnum = F)
esDataGBM1 <- nhlShape(2012, 2013, cols = c(col1, col2[1]), outcome = 38,
                       rm.nhlnum = F, rm.NA = FALSE)
esDataGBM1 <- subset(esDataGBM1, !is.na(games_played.1))</pre>
esDataGBM2 \leftarrow nhlShape(2012, 2013, cols = c(col1, col2[2]), outcome = 38,
                       rm.nhlnum = F, rm.NA = FALSE)
esDataGBM2 <- subset(esDataGBM2, !is.na(games_played.1))</pre>
esDataGBM3 <- nhlShape(2012, 2013, cols = c(col1, col2[3]), outcome = 38,
                       rm.nhlnum = F, rm.NA = FALSE)
esDataGBM3 <- subset(esDataGBM3, !is.na(games_played.1))</pre>
esDataGBM4 <- nhlShape(2012, 2013, cols = c(col1, col2), outcome = 38,
                       rm.nhlnum = F, rm.NA = FALSE)
esDataGBM4 <- subset(esDataGBM4, !is.na(games played.1))</pre>
```

Here are the low level models.

```
esrfmod1 <- nhlBuild(esDataRF1[, -1], perc = 1, seed = 77677)
esrfmod2 <- nhlBuild(esDataRF2[, -1], perc = 1)
esrfmod3 <- nhlBuild(esDataRF3[, -1], perc = 1)
esrfmod4 <- nhlBuild(esDataRF4[, -1], perc = 1)
esgbmmod1 <- nhlBuild(esDataGBM1[, -1], type = "gbm", perc = 1, n.trees = 10000, cv.folds = 5, n.cores</pre>
```

Distribution not specified, assuming gaussian ...

```
esgbmmod2 <- nhlBuild(esDataGBM2[, -1], type = "gbm", perc = 1, n.trees = 10000, cv.folds = 5, n.cores
## Distribution not specified, assuming gaussian ...
esgbmmod3 <- nhlBuild(esDataGBM3[, -1], type = "gbm", perc = 1, n.trees = 10000, cv.folds = 5, n.cores
## Distribution not specified, assuming gaussian ...
esgbmmod4 <- nhlBuild(esDataGBM4[, -1], type = "gbm", perc = 1, n.trees = 10000, cv.folds = 5, n.cores
## Distribution not specified, assuming gaussian ...
We build our data frame with the low level predictions in it.
esrf1 <- predict(esrfmod1, esDataRF1)</pre>
esrf2 <- predict(esrfmod2, esDataRF2)</pre>
esrf3 <- predict(esrfmod3, esDataRF3)</pre>
esrf4 <- predict(esrfmod4, esDataRF4)</pre>
esrf <- as.data.frame(cbind(esDataRF1[, 1], esrf1, esrf2, esrf3, esrf4))</pre>
names(esrf) <- c("nhl_num", "esrf1", "esrf2", "esrf3", "esrf4")</pre>
esgbm1 <- predict(esgbmmod1, esDataGBM1)</pre>
## Using 9999 trees...
esgbm2 <- predict(esgbmmod2, esDataGBM2)</pre>
## Using 9991 trees...
esgbm3 <- predict(esgbmmod3, esDataGBM3)</pre>
## Using 9994 trees...
esgbm4 <- predict(esgbmmod4, esDataGBM4)</pre>
## Using 9919 trees...
esgbm <- as.data.frame(cbind(esDataGBM1[, 1], esgbm1, esgbm2, esgbm3, esgbm4))</pre>
names(esgbm) <- c("nhl_num", "esgbm1", "esgbm2", "esgbm3", "esgbm4")</pre>
esData <- merge(esrf, esgbm, all = TRUE)</pre>
esData <- merge(esData, esDataGBM1[, c(1, 22)])
The final even strength model is built.
esModel <- nhlBuild(esData[, -1], type = "gbm", perc = 0.7, seed = 98765, n.trees = 10000, cv.folds = 5
## Distribution not specified, assuming gaussian ...
## Using 10000 trees...
## [1] 0.9711687
```

We repeat the overall process for short-handed time next.

```
gbmdata <- nhlShape(2012, 2013, outcome = 39)
rfdata <- nhlShape(2013, 2013, outcome = 39)

shrfmod1 <- nhlBuild(data = rfdata, perc = 0.7, seed = 9112)

## [1] 0.7279542

shrfmod2 <- nhlBuild(data = rfdata, perc = 0.7, seed = 2857)

## [1] 0.778058

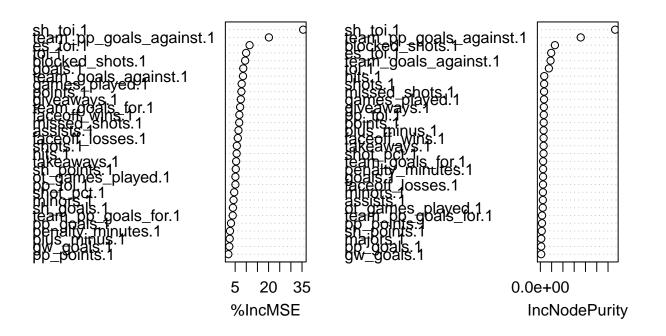
shrfmod3 <- nhlBuild(data = rfdata, perc = 0.7, seed = 31415)

## [1] 0.7535301

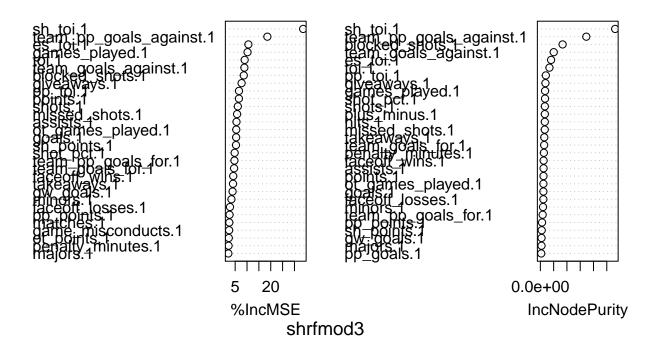
shrfmod4 <- nhlBuild(data = rfdata, perc = 0.7, seed = 28182)</pre>
```

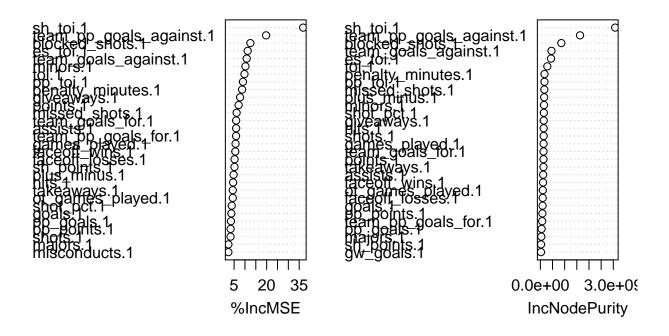
shrfmod1

[1] 0.7803814

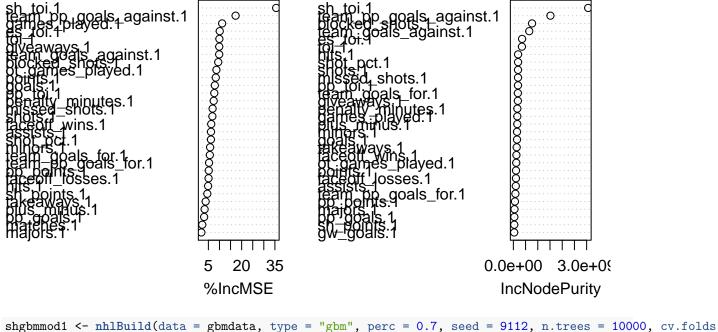


shrfmod2





shrfmod4



```
shgbmmod1 <- nhlBuild(data = gbmdata, type = "gbm", perc = 0.7, seed = 9112, n.trees = 10000, cv.folds shgbmmod2 <- nhlBuild(data = gbmdata, type = "gbm", perc = 0.7, seed = 2857, n.trees = 10000, cv.folds shgbmmod3 <- nhlBuild(data = gbmdata, type = "gbm", perc = 0.7, seed = 31415, n.trees = 10000, cv.folds shgbmmod4 <- nhlBuild(data = gbmdata, type = "gbm", perc = 0.7, seed = 28182, n.trees = 10000, cv.folds
```

```
##
                          var var.inf.tot
## 1
                               235.904451
                     sh toi.1
## 2
                     sh toi.2
                                52.866135
## 3 team_pp_goals_against.1
                                19.982456
             blocked_shots.1
                                 8.464144
## 5 team_pp_goals_against.2
                                 6.716257
## 6
                        toi.1
                                 5.656339
## 7
                                 5.498642
             blocked_shots.2
## 8
                     es_toi.1
                                 5.282992
```

Both models seem to agree; the previous season's sh_toi is far and away the best predictor, with team_pp_goals_against making a surprising showing in second place. Perhaps there is a possession argument to be made for the inclusion of this factor.

Unsurprising entries that show up every time are remaining TOI stats and blocked_shots. Additional factors of value that show up consistently in random forest models are team_goals_against, giveaways, and points; we'll use these as minor factors.

This is going to be quite the simple model.

```
col1 <- c(1:2, 27, 29, 38:41)
col2 <- c(6, 26, 31)
shDataRF1 <- nhlShape(2013, 2013, cols = c(col1, col2[1]), outcome = 39, rm.nhlnum = F)</pre>
```

```
Here are the low level models.

shrfmod1 <- nhlBuild(shDataRF1[, -1], perc = 1, seed = 77677)
shrfmod2 <- nhlBuild(shDataRF2[, -1], perc = 1)
shrfmod3 <- nhlBuild(shDataRF3[, -1], perc = 1)
shrfmod4 <- nhlBuild(shDataRF4[, -1], perc = 1)
shgbmmod1 <- nhlBuild(shDataGBM1[, -1], type = "gbm", perc = 1, n.trees = 10000, cv.folds = 5, n.cores

## Distribution not specified, assuming gaussian ...
shgbmmod2 <- nhlBuild(shDataGBM2[, -1], type = "gbm", perc = 1, n.trees = 10000, cv.folds = 5, n.cores

## Distribution not specified, assuming gaussian ...
shgbmmod3 <- nhlBuild(shDataGBM3[, -1], type = "gbm", perc = 1, n.trees = 10000, cv.folds = 5, n.cores

## Distribution not specified, assuming gaussian ...
shgbmmod4 <- nhlBuild(shDataGBM4[, -1], type = "gbm", perc = 1, n.trees = 10000, cv.folds = 5, n.cores

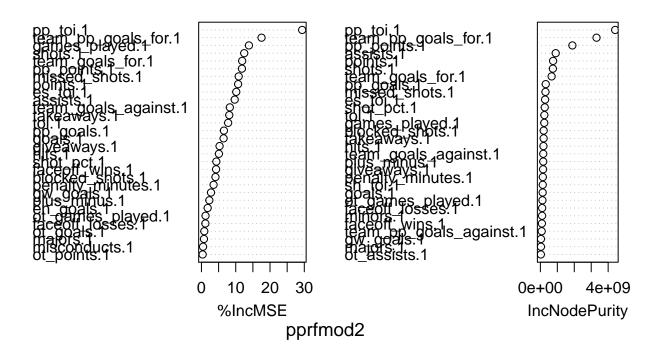
## Distribution not specified, assuming gaussian ...
We build our data frame with the low level predictions in it.
shrf1 <- predict(shrfmod1, shDataRF1)
```

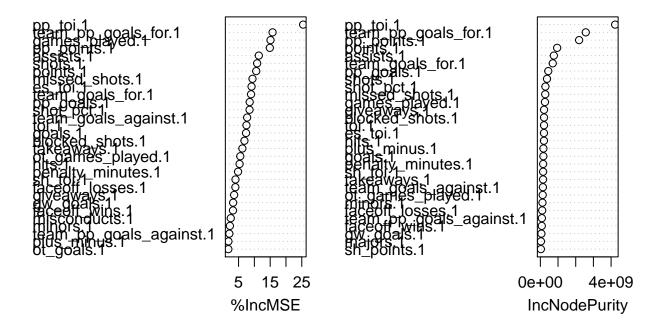
```
shrf1 <- predict(shrfmod1, shDataRF1)
shrf2 <- predict(shrfmod2, shDataRF2)
shrf3 <- predict(shrfmod3, shDataRF3)
shrf4 <- predict(shrfmod4, shDataRF4)
shrf <- as.data.frame(cbind(shDataRF1[, 1], shrf1, shrf2, shrf3, shrf4))
names(shrf) <- c("nhl_num", "shrf1", "shrf2", "shrf3", "shrf4")
shgbm1 <- predict(shgbmmod1, shDataGBM1)</pre>
```

Using 8075 trees...

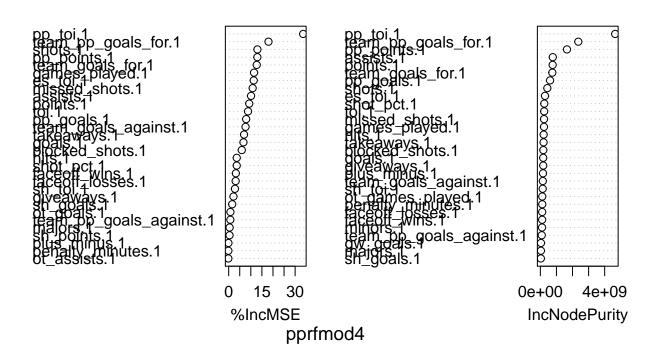
```
shgbm2 <- predict(shgbmmod2, shDataGBM2)</pre>
## Using 9996 trees...
shgbm3 <- predict(shgbmmod3, shDataGBM3)</pre>
## Using 9999 trees...
shgbm4 <- predict(shgbmmod4, shDataGBM4)</pre>
## Using 8737 trees...
shgbm <- as.data.frame(cbind(shDataGBM1[, 1], shgbm1, shgbm2, shgbm3, shgbm4))</pre>
names(shgbm) <- c("nhl_num", "shgbm1", "shgbm2", "shgbm3", "shgbm4")</pre>
shData <- merge(shrf, shgbm, all = TRUE)</pre>
shData <- merge(shData, shDataGBM1[, c(1, 16)])</pre>
The final short-handed model is built.
shModel <- nhlBuild(shData[, -1], type = "gbm", perc = 0.7, seed = 98765, n.trees = 10000, cv.folds = 5
## Distribution not specified, assuming gaussian ...
## Using 10000 trees...
## [1] 0.9660476
And once more for the power play.
gbmdata <- nhlShape(2012, 2013, outcome = 40)</pre>
rfdata <- nhlShape(2013, 2013, outcome = 40)</pre>
pprfmod1 <- nhlBuild(data = rfdata, perc = 0.7, seed = 9112)</pre>
## [1] 0.8262312
pprfmod2 <- nhlBuild(data = rfdata, perc = 0.7, seed = 2857)</pre>
## [1] 0.8410991
pprfmod3 <- nhlBuild(data = rfdata, perc = 0.7, seed = 31415)</pre>
## [1] 0.8528829
pprfmod4 <- nhlBuild(data = rfdata, perc = 0.7, seed = 28182)</pre>
## [1] 0.8280485
```

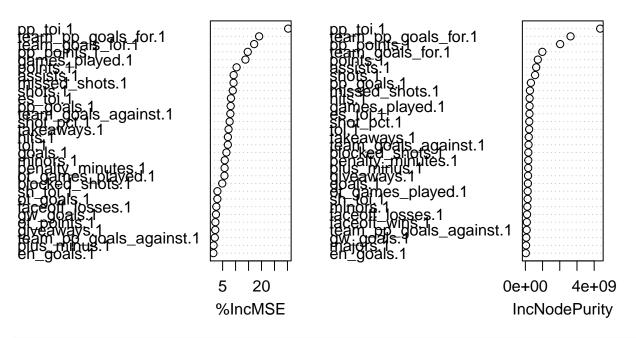
pprfmod1





pprfmod3





```
ppgbmmod1 <- nhlBuild(data = gbmdata, type = "gbm", perc = 0.7, seed = 9112, n.trees = 10000, cv.folds = ppgbmmod2 <- nhlBuild(data = gbmdata, type = "gbm", perc = 0.7, seed = 2857, n.trees = 10000, cv.folds = ppgbmmod3 <- nhlBuild(data = gbmdata, type = "gbm", perc = 0.7, seed = 31415, n.trees = 10000, cv.folds
```

```
ppgbmmod4 <- nhlBuild(data = gbmdata, type = "gbm", perc = 0.7, seed = 28182, n.trees = 10000, cv.folds
```

```
##
                      var var.inf.tot
## 1
                 pp_toi.1 182.942573
## 2
                            40.428422
                 pp_toi.2
## 3
              pp_points.1
                            22.297918
## 4
      team_pp_goals_for.1
                            19.674872
## 5
      team_pp_goals_for.2
                            16.254380
## 6
         team_goals_for.1
                            15.934968
## 7
                assists.1
                            12.609585
## 8
              pp_points.2
                             7.777941
## 9
                assists.2
                             6.756863
## 10
                  shots.1
                             6.433354
## 11
           missed_shots.2
                             6.258376
## 12
                             6.076638
               pp_goals.2
## 13
         team_goals_for.2
                             4.708492
                 points.1
## 14
                             4.642754
```

Not surprisingly, overall and power play offensive metrics reign supreme here. In particular, team success metrics (e.g., team_goals_for) are important.

Shot statistics and points have lesser importance to both models types, and we also add games_played and es toi from the random forest importance graphs as second-tier predictors.

```
col1 \leftarrow c(1:2, 5, 10, 24:25, 40)
col2 \leftarrow c(3, 6, 15, 30, 38)
ppDataRF1 <- nhlShape(2013, 2013, cols = c(col1, col2[1]), outcome = 40, rm.nhlnum = F)</pre>
ppDataRF2 <- nhlShape(2013, 2013, cols = c(col1, col2[2]), outcome = 40, rm.nhlnum = F)
ppDataRF3 <- nhlShape(2013, 2013, cols = c(col1, col2[3]), outcome = 40, rm.nhlnum = F)
ppDataRF4 <- nhlShape(2013, 2013, cols = c(col1, col2[4]), outcome = 40, rm.nhlnum = F)
ppDataRF5 <- nhlShape(2013, 2013, cols = c(col1, col2[5]), outcome = 40, rm.nhlnum = F)
ppDataRF6 <- nhlShape(2013, 2013, cols = c(col1, col2), outcome = 40, rm.nhlnum = F)
ppDataGBM1 <- nhlShape(2012, 2013, cols = c(col1, col2[1]), outcome = 40,
                        rm.nhlnum = F, rm.NA = FALSE)
ppDataGBM1 <- subset(ppDataGBM1, !is.na(pp toi.1))</pre>
ppDataGBM2 <- nhlShape(2012, 2013, cols = c(col1, col2[2]), outcome = 40,
                        rm.nhlnum = F, rm.NA = FALSE)
ppDataGBM2 <- subset(ppDataGBM2, !is.na(pp_toi.1))</pre>
ppDataGBM3 <- nhlShape(2012, 2013, cols = c(col1, col2[3]), outcome = 40,
                        rm.nhlnum = F, rm.NA = FALSE)
ppDataGBM3 <- subset(ppDataGBM3, !is.na(pp_toi.1))</pre>
ppDataGBM4 <- nhlShape(2012, 2013, cols = c(col1, col2[4]), outcome = 40,
                        rm.nhlnum = F, rm.NA = FALSE)
ppDataGBM4 <- subset(ppDataGBM4, !is.na(pp_toi.1))</pre>
ppDataGBM5 <- nhlShape(2012, 2013, cols = c(col1, col2[5]), outcome = 40,
                        rm.nhlnum = F, rm.NA = FALSE)
ppDataGBM5 <- subset(ppDataGBM5, !is.na(pp_toi.1))</pre>
ppDataGBM6 \leftarrow nhlShape(2012, 2013, cols = c(col1, col2), outcome = 40,
                        rm.nhlnum = F, rm.NA = FALSE)
ppDataGBM6 <- subset(ppDataGBM6, !is.na(pp_toi.1))</pre>
```

Here are the low level models.

```
pprfmod1 <- nhlBuild(ppDataRF1[, -1], perc = 1, seed = 77677)</pre>
pprfmod2 <- nhlBuild(ppDataRF2[, -1], perc = 1)</pre>
pprfmod3 <- nhlBuild(ppDataRF3[, -1], perc = 1)</pre>
pprfmod4 <- nhlBuild(ppDataRF4[, -1], perc = 1)</pre>
pprfmod5 <- nhlBuild(ppDataRF5[, -1], perc = 1)</pre>
pprfmod6 <- nhlBuild(ppDataRF6[, -1], perc = 1)</pre>
ppgbmmod1 <- nhlBuild(ppDataGBM1[, -1], type = "gbm", perc = 1, n.trees = 10000, cv.folds = 5, n.cores
## Distribution not specified, assuming gaussian ...
ppgbmmod2 <- nhlBuild(ppDataGBM2[, -1], type = "gbm", perc = 1, n.trees = 10000, cv.folds = 5, n.cores
## Distribution not specified, assuming gaussian ...
ppgbmmod3 <- nhlBuild(ppDataGBM3[, -1], type = "gbm", perc = 1, n.trees = 10000, cv.folds = 5, n.cores
## Distribution not specified, assuming gaussian ...
ppgbmmod4 <- nhlBuild(ppDataGBM4[, -1], type = "gbm", perc = 1, n.trees = 10000, cv.folds = 5, n.cores
## Distribution not specified, assuming gaussian ...
ppgbmmod5 <- nhlBuild(ppDataGBM5[, -1], type = "gbm", perc = 1, n.trees = 10000, cv.folds = 5, n.cores
## Distribution not specified, assuming gaussian ...
ppgbmmod6 <- nhlBuild(ppDataGBM6[, -1], type = "gbm", perc = 1, n.trees = 10000, cv.folds = 5, n.cores
## Distribution not specified, assuming gaussian ...
We build our data frame with the low level predictions in it.
pprf1 <- predict(pprfmod1, ppDataRF1)</pre>
pprf2 <- predict(pprfmod2, ppDataRF2)</pre>
pprf3 <- predict(pprfmod3, ppDataRF3)</pre>
pprf4 <- predict(pprfmod4, ppDataRF4)</pre>
pprf5 <- predict(pprfmod5, ppDataRF5)</pre>
pprf6 <- predict(pprfmod6, ppDataRF6)</pre>
pprf <- as.data.frame(cbind(ppDataRF1[, 1], pprf1, pprf2, pprf3, pprf4, pprf5, pprf6))</pre>
names(pprf) <- c("nhl_num", "pprf1", "pprf2", "pprf3", "pprf4", "pprf5", "pprf6")</pre>
ppgbm1 <- predict(ppgbmmod1, ppDataGBM1)</pre>
## Using 9789 trees...
ppgbm2 <- predict(ppgbmmod2, ppDataGBM2)</pre>
## Using 9989 trees...
```

```
ppgbm3 <- predict(ppgbmmod3, ppDataGBM3)</pre>
## Using 9978 trees...
ppgbm4 <- predict(ppgbmmod4, ppDataGBM4)</pre>
## Using 6451 trees...
ppgbm5 <- predict(ppgbmmod5, ppDataGBM5)</pre>
## Using 9055 trees...
ppgbm6 <- predict(ppgbmmod6, ppDataGBM6)</pre>
## Using 9995 trees...
ppgbm <- as.data.frame(cbind(ppDataGBM1[, 1], ppgbm1, ppgbm2, ppgbm3, ppgbm4, ppgbm5, ppgbm6))</pre>
names(ppgbm) <- c("nhl_num", "ppgbm1", "ppgbm2", "ppgbm3", "ppgbm4", "ppgbm5", "ppgbm6")</pre>
ppData <- merge(pprf, ppgbm, all = TRUE)</pre>
ppData <- merge(ppData, ppDataGBM1[, c(1, 14)])</pre>
The power play time model is finally built.
ppModel <- nhlBuild(ppData[, -1], type = "gbm", perc = 0.7, seed = 98765, n.trees = 10000, cv.folds = 5
## Distribution not specified, assuming gaussian ...
## Using 10000 trees...
## [1] 0.9704033
```