"Top-Heaviness" and conference balance throughout NBA History

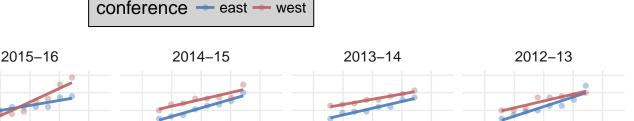
slope: 4.73

 $r^2 = 0.88$

includes top 50% of teams from each conference, at each of the last 30 seasons (1987/88 - 2016/17)

slope: 2.96

 $r^2 = 0.96$



slope: 2.35

 $r^2 = 0.94$

slope: 1.83

 $r^2 = 0.97$

slope: 3.33

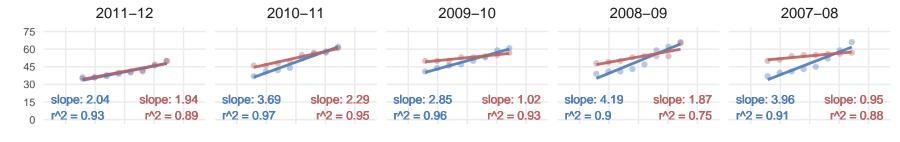
 $r^2 = 0.87$

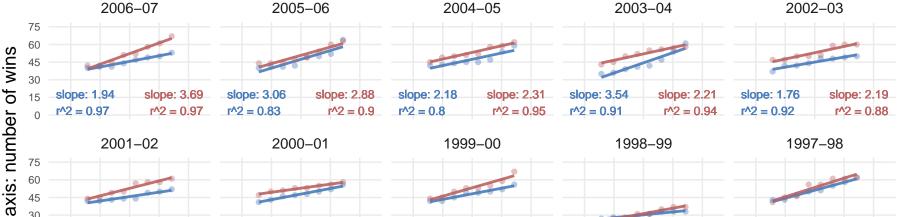
slope: 2.38

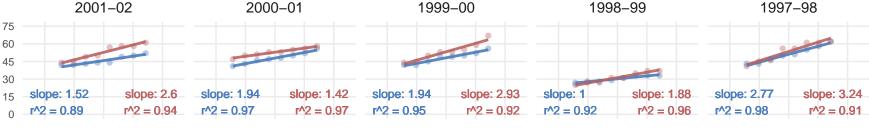
 $r^2 = 0.88$

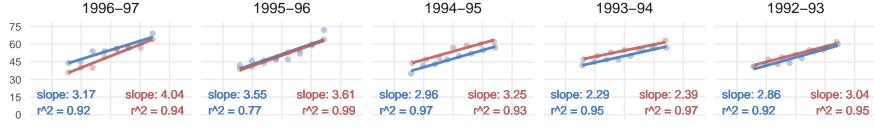
slope: 2.37

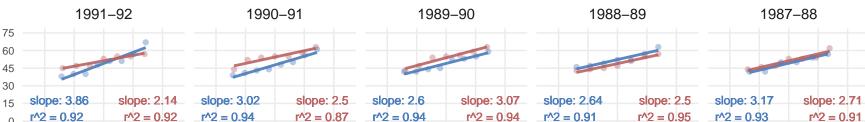
 $r^2 = 0.83$











x axis: conference rank (flipped, so that further to the right = better team)

2016-17

slope: 3.52

 $r^2 = 0.96$

slope: 1.74

 $r^2 = 0.81$

slope: 1.93

 $r^2 = 0.91$

15

0

>> a steep lines implies 'top-heaviness'

>> a flat line implies 'competitive balance'

>> a big difference between the east/west slopes implies a difference in top-heaviness

>> a big difference between the east/west heights implies 'overall conference imbalance'