Project 1—Due Tuesday July 5th by 5 PM.

Each year, the National Basketball Association (NBA) awards the Most Valuable Player award to one player. Stephen Curry was the (unanimous) MVP recipient for the 2015-2016 season, which recently concluded. After the regular season concludes, the playoffs begin to determine which team wins the annual championship. Some argue that Curry did not perform as well in the playoffs as he did during the regular season. Your task is to investigate whether this is a fair criticism. You should use many, if not all, of the available variables to determine a few things:

Did the game-by-game results suggest a tendency to perform better during the regular season than in the playoffs?

Was Stephen Curry more inconsistent (i.e., more deviation from the average) from game to game during the season or during the playoffs?

As part of your answer, you should justify which variables you are putting primary emphasis on. And then make sure to answer the question: Was Stephen Curry’s playoff performance a (statistically) significant letdown from his regular season performance?

**The quality and depth of your analysis are very important in the grading of this project. It is also essential that you communicate your results in an accurate, informative, and engaging manner. Inclusion of appropriate graphical and numerical summaries is also expected to help illustrate your conclusions.**

The dataset is derived from data publicly available at nba.com (For example, <http://stats.nba.com/player/#!/201939/gamelogs/?Season=2015-16&SeasonType=Regular%20Season> accessed June 20, 2016) and is structured as follows. Each row corresponds to the player’s performance in a specific game. The columns are:

Playoffs: 1 if the game was during the playoffs; 0 if it was during the regular season

PlayoffLevelOpponent: 1 if the game was against a team that qualified to be in the playoffs; 0 if not

Date: (Can ignore, but this is the month and day the game was played)

Year: (Can ignore; the year the game was played)

Teams: (Can ignore; the two teams involved (GSW is Curry’s team, the Golden State Warriors))

W.L: (Can ignore; W if Curry’s team won the game, L if his team lost )

MIN: the number of minutes the player played

PTS: Points scored

FGM: Field Goals Made (either two or three points, each)

FGA: Field Goals attempted

FGperc: Field Goal Percentage (Higher values are better); equal to FGM/FGA\*100% (or missing (NA) if FGA=0).

ThreePM: Three Pointers Made (three points each)

ThreePA: Three Pointers Made

ThreePerc: Three Point field goal percentage

FTM: Free Throws Made (one point each)

FTA: Free Throw Attempted

FTperc: Free Throw Percentage

OREB: Offensive Rebounds

DREB: Defensive Rebounds

REB: Total Rebounds (OREB+DREB)

AST: Assists

STL: Steal

BLK: Blocks (as a defender, the player deflected the opponent’s shot to prevent them from possibly scoring)

TOV: Turnovers committed (This is one of the few categories where higher values are worse, not better)

PF: Personal Fouls committed (Again, one of the few categories where lower values are preferable. However, personal fouls are not necessarily bad, whereas turnovers always are.)

PlusMinus: The difference between points scored by his own team and the points scored by the other team when only counting time that the player was on the court (if a player is taking a break on the bench, points scored by his team or the opponent are not counted for this statistic).

You can learn more about any of these statistics by searching Wikipedia, Google, nba.com, or asking anybody you would like what they mean.

If you have any questions, please let me know.