

We began working using the Delta method. Essentially, if we are able to quantify a player's performance over a season, we can calculate the change in that performance from one age to the next, and we can thus do this for every player and every age. For example, even though we do not have every player's change in performance from age 33 to 34, we can use the players we DO have for those ages to calculate a Delta(change) value, and we can average that with other players' Delta values for that change in age to find an average increase or decrease in performance for players going from the age of 33 to 34. This required us to create ways of evaluating player performance over a season for defenders, midfielders, and forwards. For defenders, we used total tackles, interceptions, and passes into the final third. For midfielders, we calculated the sum of progressive passes, progressive carries, passes into the final third, tackles, and interceptions. For forwards, we measured the total combined number of goals, assists, shots created, and goals created. We plotted the Delta values, using both average and total values, across the dataset, dividing the players into their respective positions. We also implemented a moving average to introduce smoothing to our graphs.