

Checking the Assumptions of Competitive Breaking with Data



Breaking and the Olympics Speaker Series

May 4, 2022

Vincent Qiu

The Assumptions of Competitive Breaking

Colloquially:

- It's more difficult to win a battle when going first...
- Judges are biased in favor of their crewmates and friends...
- Powerheads have an advantage over styleheads...



The Assumptions of Competitive Breaking

- Potential new career opportunities
- Offers a clear and significant goal people can work towards
- Gives us a pathway to compete on the global stage

Cons

- Extenuating existing global Breaking exclusionary hierarchies
- Sanitising the culture, normalising a disconnect with our history (music, burns, risk-taking)
- More lvls over crew battles and culture
- Lack of diversity and individual creativity in Breakers, more all-rounders, more sportified
- Conditions for judges that ignore and bypass the scenes cultural traditions
- Loss of agency, self-determination, and spontaneity
- Potential standardisation of global scenes
- Increasing cost to participate in (even judge) Breaking

Indifference

- “It’s just another comp that I can register for or not”

ETHNOGRAPHIC
EVIDENCE:
LOCAL
AUSTRALIAN
BREAKERS
RESPONSE



Pros

The Assumptions of Competitive Breaking

- Opportunity to grow the scene
- Potential new career opportunities
- Offers a clear and significant goal people can work towards
- Gives us a pathway to compete on the global stage

Cons

- Extenuating existing global Breaking exclusionary hierarchies
- Sanitising the culture, normalising a disconnect with our history (music, burns, risk-taking)
- More lvls over crew battles and culture
- Lack of diversity and individual creativity in Breakers, more all-rounders, more sportified
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- Potential standardisation of global scenes
- Increasing cost to participate in (even judge) Breaking

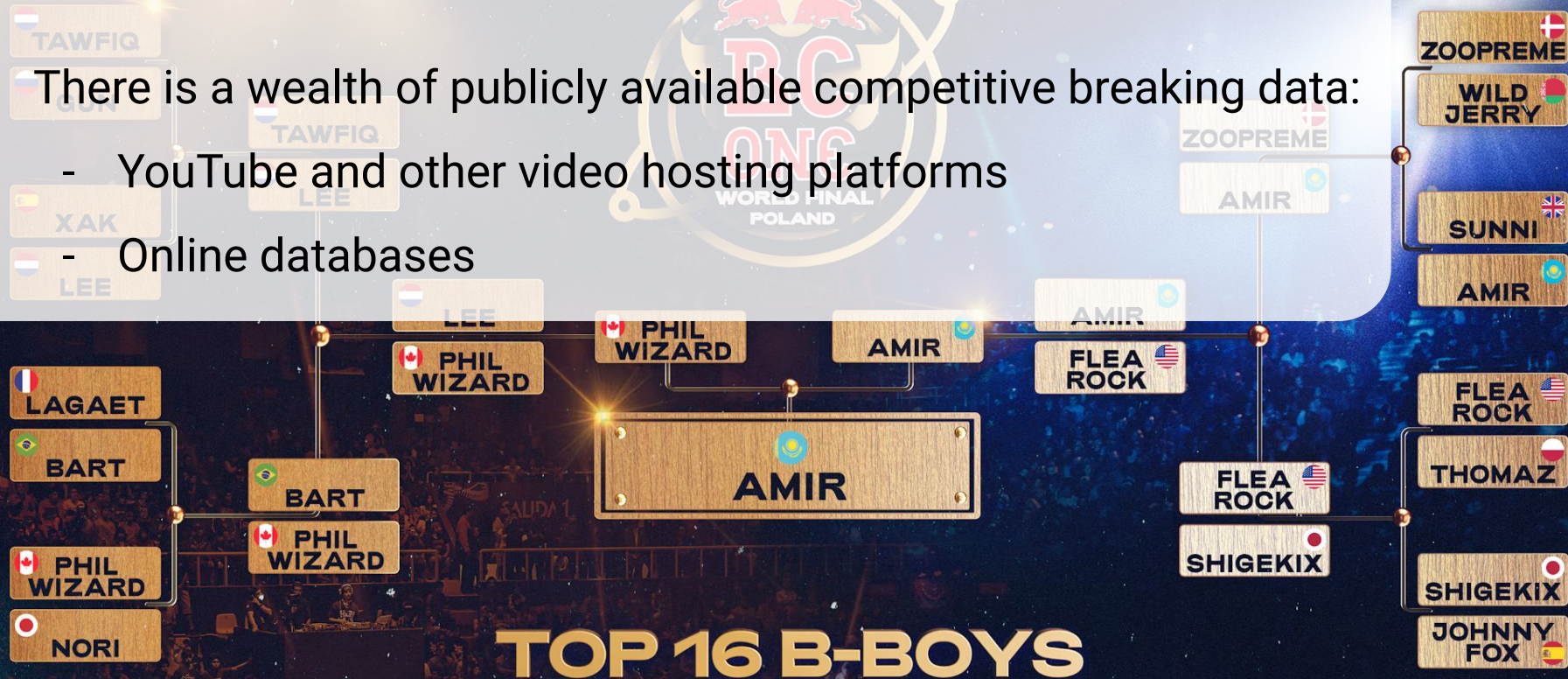
ETHNOGRAPHIC
EVIDENCE:
LOCAL
AUSTRALIAN
BREAKERS
RESPONSE

Indifference

The Data

There is a wealth of publicly available competitive breaking data:

- YouTube and other video hosting platforms
- Online databases





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NOVEMBER 12, 2022

▶ Rewatch the 2021 World Final



Red Bull BC One

852K subscribers

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Red Bull BC One Cypher Portugal 2022 | PREMIERE

1 waiting •
Premieres 5/4/22, 8:00 AM



Red Bull BC One E-Battle Breakers Battle Anywhere ...

4.5K views • 9 days ago



B-Girl Esthalavista vs. B-Girl Sinaya | Top 8 | Red Bull BC...

2.8K views • 12 days ago



B-Boy Amin Drillz vs. B-Boy Hynamite | Top 8 | Red Bul...

3.7K views • 12 days ago



B-Girl Sina vs. B-Girl Esthalavista | Final | Red Bul...

4K views • 13 days ago



B-Boy Lil Zoo vs. B-Boy Marox | Final | Red Bull BC...

39K views • 13 days ago



Red Bull BC One Cypher Austria 2022 | LIVESTREAM

33K views •
Streamed 2 weeks ago



B-Girl Stitch vs. B-Girl Yahan | Top 8 | Red Bull BC One...

4.6K views • 3 weeks ago



B-Boy Rosin vs. B-Boy What 21 | Top 8 | Red Bull BC One...

10K views • 3 weeks ago



B-Girl R Ning vs. B-Girl Stitch | Final | Red Bull BC One...

3.8K views • 3 weeks ago



B-Boy T Four vs. B-Boy Willy Roc | Final | Red Bull BC On...

15K views • 3 weeks ago



The Red Bull BC One E-Battle is BACK! 📺 Join now

4.7K views • 1 month ago



The Data

Red Bull BC One is an annual international B-Boy competition organized by the energy drink company **Red Bull**. It is an individual B-Boy competition, notable for being the only one of the major international breaking championships to not include a crew event. The main event is a knockout tournament featuring sixteen B-Boys and B-Girls, chosen for exceptional skills in the dance and good character, competing in one-on-one battles decided by a panel of five judges. Regional Finals are held for *North America*, *Eastern Europe*, *Western Europe*, *Latin America*, *Asia Pacific*, and *Middle East and Africa*. The winners of each region go on and participate in the World Finals. The inaugural BC One was held in Biel, Switzerland in 2004.

An official Red Bull BC One DVD was released for the 2004 and 2005 events. The production of the DVDs has been criticized due to musical rights, as the live music played during the competition had to be dubbed over.^{[1][2]} From 2006 and on, Red Bull stopped releasing DVDs and made the videos available online for free.^[3]

In 2007, Alastair Siddon directed a film about the Red Bull BC One 2007 competition. The film was released in March 2010 under the title, "Turn it Loose."

Since 2014, Red Bull BC One partnered up with the *World BBoy Series* and helped create *Undisputed*, an event to crown the solo world b-boy champion.^[4]

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- 6 2017
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- 7 2016
 - 7.1 Competitors
 - 7.2 Results
- 8 2015
 - 8.1 Competitors

Results [edit source]

Location: Gdańsk, Poland

Round of 16		Quarterfinals		Semifinals		Finals	
Tawfiq	W	Tawfiq	L	Lee	L	Amir	W
Gun	L	Lee	W	Phil Wizard	W	Phil Wizard	L
Xak	L						
Lee	W						
Lagaet	L	Bart	L				
Bart	W	Phil Wizard	W				
Phil Wizard	W						
Nori	L						
Zoopreme	W	Zoopreme	L				
Wild Jerry	L	Amir	W				
Sunni	L						
Amir	W			Amir	W		
Flea Rock	W	Flea Rock	W	Flea Rock	L		
Thomaz	L						
Shigekix	W	Shigekix	L				
Johnny Fox	L						



The Data

and8 Judge

every decision counts

Battle of the Year Germany 2015 (Hannover/Germany)

Storm [switch Judge](#)

Round 1 / 4

Buenos Aires 2018 - Youth Olympic Games (YOG) - Breaking for Gold
50% vs 50%

Trixi **Sandy**

Round 1

Round 2
Round 3
Round 4

[submit](#)

Red Side **Blue Side**

Technique
Variety

Execution
Form

CRASH
CRASH¹
CRASH²
CRASH³

Misbehavior

Confidence
Spontaneity

Repeat
Bite

Performativity
Musicality

Creativity
Personality

[Record](#) [undo](#)

You are here: [Home](#) / [Battle-Reports](#) / [WDSF World Championship 2021 - Paris](#) / **1vs1 B-Boys / Phase 2 (RoundRobin Top 32)**

Battle-Reports

[back to WDSF World Championship 2021 - Paris](#)

Group A

Mini Joe **vs** Zooty Zoot

Jester **vs** Quake

Quake **vs** Zooty Zoot

Jester **vs** Mini Joe

Jester **vs** Zooty Zoot

Quake **vs** Mini Joe

Group B

Twister **vs** Amir

Said **vs** Morris

Morris **vs** Amir

Said **vs** Twister

Said **vs** Amir

Morris **vs** Twister

Group C

Phil Wizard **vs** Shigekix

Rato **vs** X-Rain

X-Rain **vs** Shigekix

Rato **vs** Phil Wizard

Rato **vs** Shigekix

X-Rain **vs** Phil Wizard

Group D

Luan San **vs** Daniel

Flying Buddha **vs** Shane

Shane **vs** Daniel

Flying Buddha **vs** Luan ...

Flying Buddha **vs** Daniel

Shane **vs** Luan San

Group E

Victor **vs** Alkolil

Johnny Fox **vs** Lil G

Lil G **vs** Alkolil

Johnny Fox **vs** Victor

Johnny Fox **vs** Alkolil

Lil G **vs** Victor

Group F

Lilma **vs** Danny Dan

Mighty Jim **vs** Toa

Toa **vs** Danny Dan

Mighty Jim **vs** Lilma

Mighty Jim **vs** Danny Dan

Toa **vs** Lilma

Group G

Xak **vs** Mowgly

Marlone **vs** Matita

Matita **vs** Mowgly

Marlone **vs** Xak

Marlone **vs** Mowgly

Matita **vs** Xak

Group H

Xiangyu **vs** Lorenzo

Gun **vs** Deeogo

Deeogo **vs** Lorenzo

Gun **vs** Xiangyu

Gun **vs** Lorenzo

Deeogo **vs** Xiangyu

Battle-Report

[WDSF World Championship 2021 - Paris](#)

[1vs1 B-Boys / Phase 2 \(RoundRobin Top 32\)](#)

 Victor

VS

 Alkolil

Round 1 - (4:1) - 1:0

Skim

+4.07%

Storm

+2.8%

Extremo

+8.53%

Kujo

+7.27%

Dora

+0.4%

Round 2 - (5:0) - 2:0

Skim

+1.67%

Storm

+4.93%

Extremo

+4.2%

Kujo

+14.33%

Dora

+0.8%

Settle it in the Cypher

Competitive Breaking Data

Contact: settleitinthecypher@gmail.com

The Data

Competitive Breaking Data - 2022.05.04

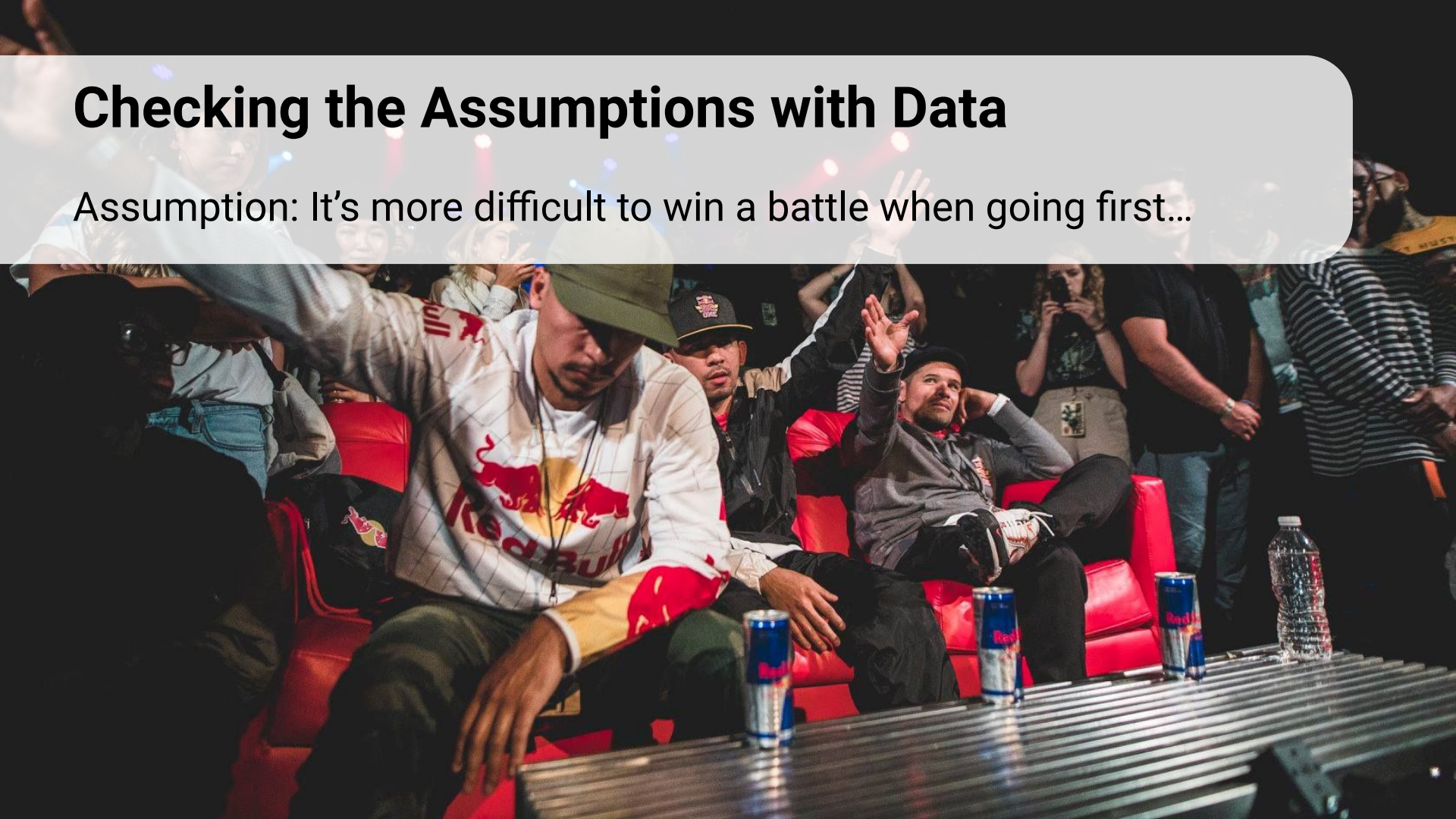
Breaker Left	Breaker Right	Go First	Winner	Competition	City	Country	Year	Month	Day	Brack	Brack	Rema	Video Link	Battle	System	Numb	Judge 1	Judge 1 Vote	Judge 2	Judge 2 Vote	Judge 3
Jamal	Kosto	Kosto	Kosto	WDSF European	Sochi	Russia	2021	6	26	32	5	2	youtube.com/watch?v=9333333333	3	Trivium	5	Focus	Katsu		Admir	
Hatsolo	Xak	Xak	Hatsolo	WDSF European	Sochi	Russia	2021	6	26	32	4.5	3	youtube.com/watch?v=9333333333	3	Trivium	5	Focus	Katsu		Admir	
Jamal	Hatsolo	Hatsolo	Jamal	WDSF European	Sochi	Russia	2021	6	26	32	4	4	youtube.com/watch?v=9333333333	2	Trivium	5	Focus	Katsu		Admir	
Kosto	Xak	Kosto	Kosto	WDSF European	Sochi	Russia	2021	6	26	32	4	4	youtube.com/watch?v=9333333333	2	Trivium	5	Focus	Katsu		Admir	
Kosto	Lorenzo	Kosto	Kosto	WDSF European	Sochi	Russia	2021	6	26	32	3	8	youtube.com/watch?v=9333333333	2	Trivium	5	Focus	Katsu		Admir	
Hatsolo	Deeogo	Deeogo	Hatsolo	WDSF European	Sochi	Russia	2021	6	26	32	3	8	youtube.com/watch?v=9333333333	2	Trivium	5	Focus	Katsu		Admir	
Xak	Twister	Twister	Xak	WDSF European	Sochi	Russia	2021	6	26	32	3	8	youtube.com/watch?v=9333333333	2	Trivium	5	Focus	Katsu		Admir	
Jamal	Tunde	Tunde	Jamal	WDSF European	Sochi	Russia	2021	6	26	32	3	8	youtube.com/watch?v=9333333333	2	Trivium	5	Focus	Katsu		Admir	
Volodya	Tunde	Tunde	Tunde	WDSF European	Sochi	Russia	2021	6	26	32	2	16	youtube.com/watch?v=9333333333	1	Trivium	5	Focus	Katsu		Admir	
Hatsolo	Said	Said	Hatsolo	WDSF European	Sochi	Russia	2021	6	26	32	2	16	youtube.com/watch?v=9333333333	1	Trivium	5	Focus	Katsu		Admir	
Deeogo	Nasty	Nasty	Deeogo	WDSF European	Sochi	Russia	2021	6	26	32	2	16	youtube.com/watch?v=9333333333	1	Trivium	5	Focus	Katsu		Admir	
Daniel	Lorenzo	Daniel	Lorenzo	WDSF European	Sochi	Russia	2021	6	26	32	2	16	youtube.com/watch?v=9333333333	1	Trivium	5	Focus	Katsu		Admir	
Jamal	Bruce Almighty	Jamal	Jamal	WDSF European	Sochi	Russia	2021	6	26	32	2	16	youtube.com/watch?v=9333333333	1	Trivium	5	Focus	Katsu		Admir	
Xak	Tirock	Tirock	Xak	WDSF European	Sochi	Russia	2021	6	26	32	2	16	youtube.com/watch?v=9333333333	1	Trivium	5	Focus	Katsu		Admir	
Kosto	Lagaet	Kosto	Kosto	WDSF European	Sochi	Russia	2021	6	26	32	2	16	youtube.com/watch?v=9333333333	1	Trivium	5	Focus	Katsu		Admir	
Twister	Tawfiq	Tawfiq	Twister	WDSF European	Sochi	Russia	2021	6	26	32	2	16	youtube.com/watch?v=9333333333	1	Trivium	5	Focus	Katsu		Admir	
Jamal	Senju	Jamal	Jamal	WDSF European	Sochi	Russia	2021	6	26	32	1	32	youtube.com/watch?v=9333333333	1	Trivium	5	Focus	Katsu		Admir	
Bruce Almighty	Beat TYH	Beat TYH	Bruce Almighty	WDSF European	Sochi	Russia	2021	6	26	32	1	32	youtube.com/watch?v=9333333333	1	Trivium	5	Focus	Katsu		Admir	
Volodya	El Prcinho	El Prcinho	Volodya	WDSF European	Sochi	Russia	2021	6	26	32	1	32	youtube.com/watch?v=9333333333	1	Trivium	5	Focus	Katsu		Admir	
Tunde	Lucky	Tunde	Tunde	WDSF European	Sochi	Russia	2021	6	26	32	1	32	youtube.com/watch?v=9333333333	1	Trivium	5	Focus	Katsu		Admir	
The R	Hatsolo	Hatsolo	Hatsolo	WDSF European	Sochi	Russia	2021	6	26	32	1	32	youtube.com/watch?v=9333333333	1	Trivium	5	Focus	Katsu		Admir	
Wild Jerry	Said	Said	Said	WDSF European	Sochi	Russia	2021	6	26	32	1	32	youtube.com/watch?v=9333333333	1	Trivium	5	Focus	Katsu		Admir	
Deeogo	Snap	Snap	Deeogo	WDSF European	Sochi	Russia	2021	6	26	32	1	32	youtube.com/watch?v=9333333333	1	Trivium	5	Focus	Katsu		Admir	
Nasty	Mons	Mons	Nasty	WDSF European	Sochi	Russia	2021	6	26	32	1	32	youtube.com/watch?v=9333333333	1	Trivium	5	Focus	Katsu		Admir	
Skelet	Kosto	Kosto	Kosto	WDSF European	Sochi	Russia	2021	6	26	32	1	32	youtube.com/watch?v=9333333333	1	Trivium	5	Focus	Katsu		Admir	
Daniel	Jester	Daniel	Daniel	WDSF European	Sochi	Russia	2021	6	26	32	1	32	youtube.com/watch?v=9333333333	1	Trivium	5	Focus	Katsu		Admir	
Slick Nick	Lagaet	Slick Nick	Lagaet	WDSF European	Sochi	Russia	2021	6	26	32	1	32	youtube.com/watch?v=9333333333	1	Trivium	5	Focus	Katsu		Admir	
Lorenzo	Exaggerate	Exaggerate	Lorenzo	WDSF European	Sochi	Russia	2021	6	26	32	1	32	youtube.com/watch?v=9333333333	1	Trivium	5	Focus	Katsu		Admir	
Blanco	Xak	Blanco	Xak	WDSF European	Sochi	Russia	2021	6	26	32	1	32	youtube.com/watch?v=9333333333	1	Trivium	5	Focus	Katsu		Admir	
Twister	Double D	Double D	Twister	WDSF European	Sochi	Russia	2021	6	26	32	1	32	youtube.com/watch?v=9333333333	1	Trivium	5	Focus	Katsu		Admir	
Emilio	Tirock	Emilio	Tirock	WDSF European	Sochi	Russia	2021	6	26	32	1	32	youtube.com/watch?v=9333333333	1	Trivium	5	Focus	Katsu		Admir	
Lele	Tawfiq	Lele	Tawfiq	WDSF European	Sochi	Russia	2021	6	26	32	1	32	youtube.com/watch?v=9333333333	1	Trivium	5	Focus	Katsu		Admir	
Vavi	Kastet	Vavi	Kastet	WDSF European	Sochi	Russia	2021	6	26				youtube.com/watch?v=9333333333	3	Trivium	5	Focus	Katsu		Admir	
Madmax	Paulina	Paulina	Madmax	WDSF European	Sochi	Russia	2021	6	26				youtube.com/watch?v=9333333333	3	Trivium	5	Focus	Katsu		Admir	
Kosto	Jamal	Kosto	Kosto	Red Bull BC One	Moscow	Russia	2021	6	13	16	4	2		3	Traditional	3	Robin	Kosto	Uzee Rock	Kosto	Alkolli
Jamal	Beat	Beat	Jamal	Red Bull BC One	Moscow	Russia	2021	6	13	16	3	4		2	Traditional	3	Robin	Jamal	Uzee Rock	Tin	Alkolli

2022.05.04

>
<

Checking the Assumptions with Data

Assumption: It's more difficult to win a battle when going first...



Checking the Assumptions with Data

Hypothesis: If a competitor goes first, then they are more likely to lose.

Method:

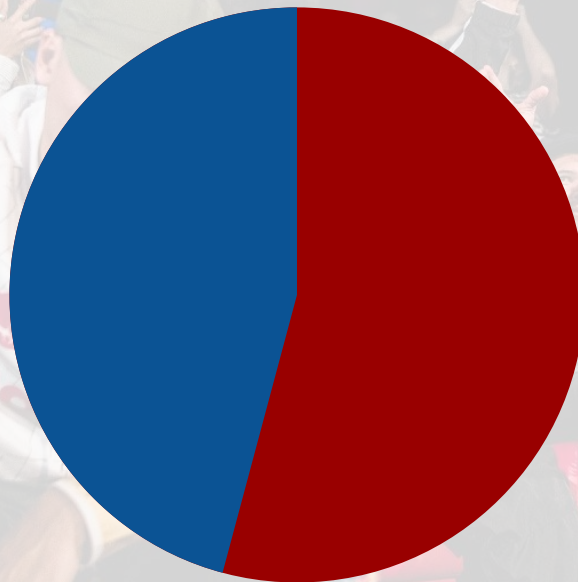
1. Record a large number of battles
2. Compare who went first to who won each battle



Checking the Assumptions with Data

Hypothesis: If a competitor goes first, then they are more likely to lose.

Win
45.6%



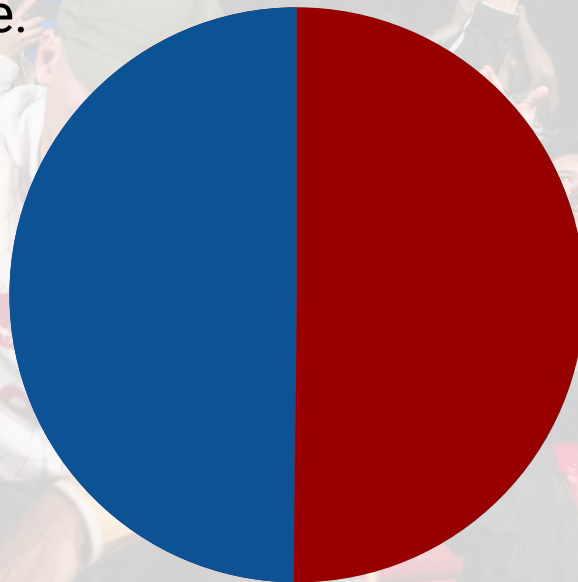
Lose
54.4%

599 battles

Checking the Assumptions with Data

Hypothesis: If a competitor stands on the judges' left, then they are more likely to lose.

Win
49.4%



Lose
50.6%

518 battles

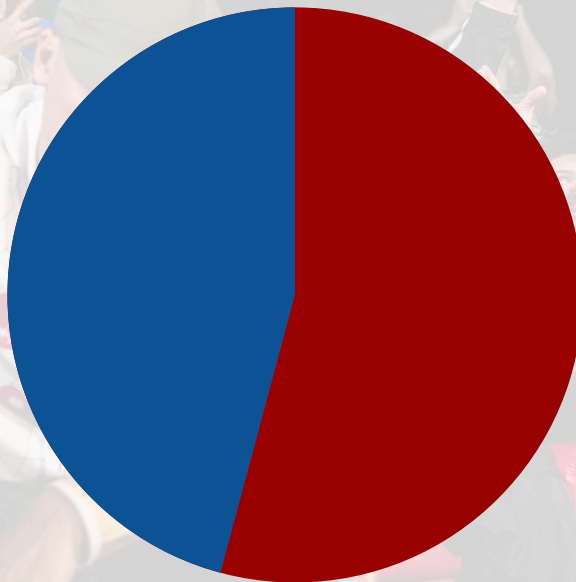
Checking the Assumptions with Data

Hypothesis: If a competitor goes first, then they are more likely to lose.

Win
45.6%

Lose
54.4%

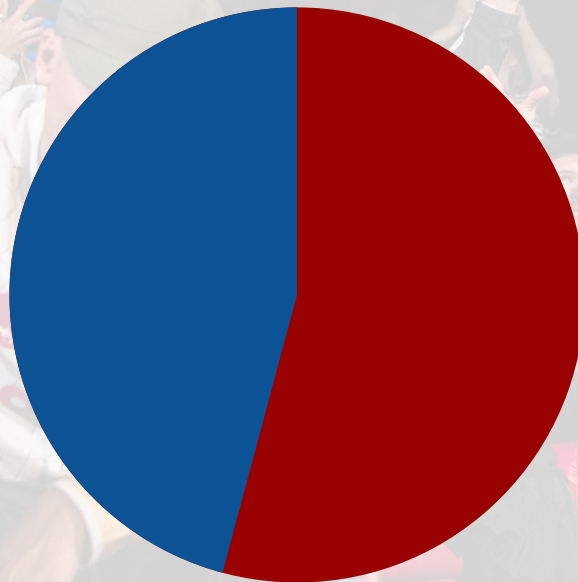
599 battles



Checking the Assumptions with Data

Conclusion: The findings allow us to reject the null hypothesis.

Win
45.6%



Lose
54.4%

599 battles

Checking the Assumptions with Data

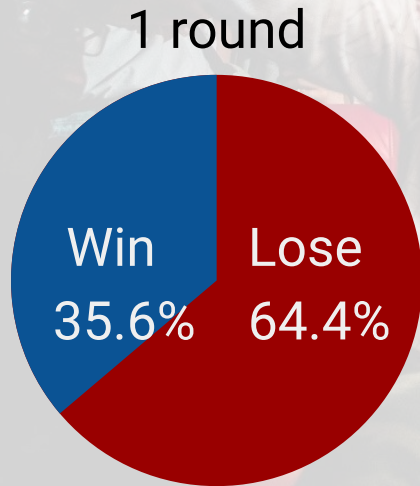
Discussion: Why is the competitor who goes first more likely to lose?

Conjecture: Competitor going second can better strategize and respond by observing their opponent's rounds.

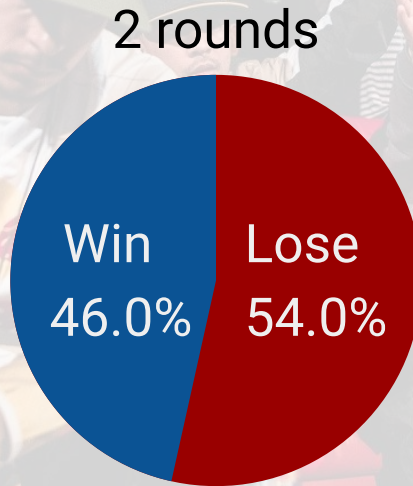
Hypothesis: If a battle has fewer rounds, then the competitor going first is more likely to lose.

Checking the Assumptions with Data

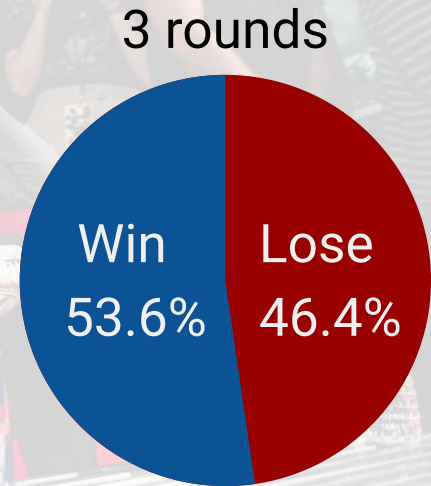
Hypothesis: If a battle has fewer rounds, then the competitor going first is more likely to lose.



149 battles



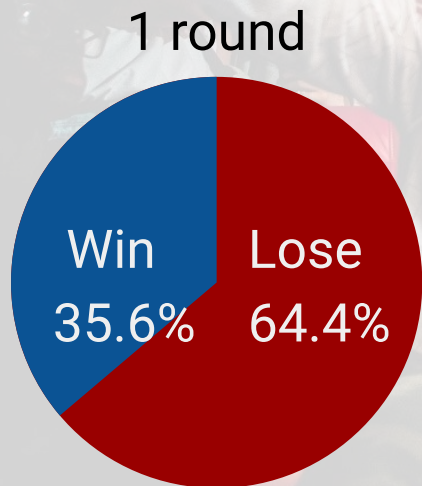
252 battles



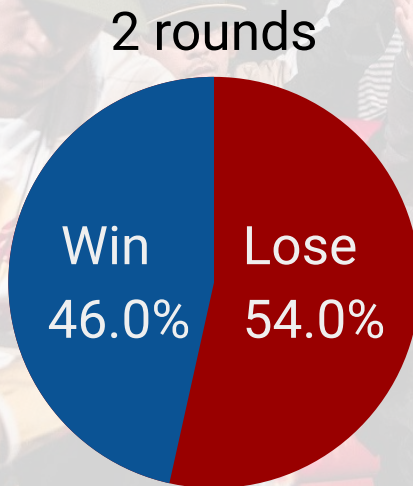
179 battles

Checking the Assumptions with Data

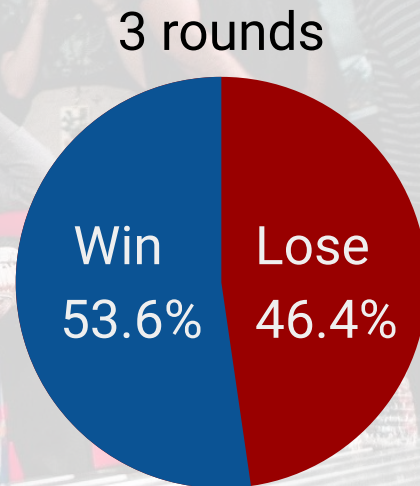
Conclusion: The findings allow us to reject the null hypothesis.



149 battles



252 battles



179 battles

Checking the Assumptions with Data

Discussion: Why is the competitor who goes first not more likely to lose when the battle has more rounds?

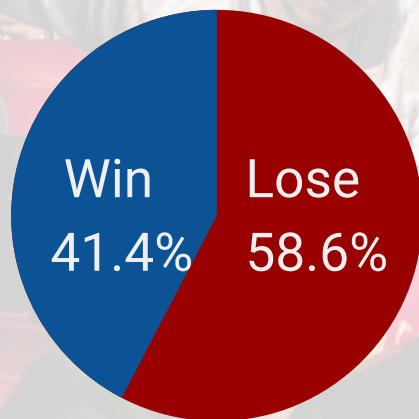
Conjecture: With more rounds, both competitors converge on a similar amount of opportunity to strategize and respond by observing their opponent's rounds.

Hypothesis: If a battle is judged round-by-round, then the competitor going first is more likely to lose.

Checking the Assumptions with Data

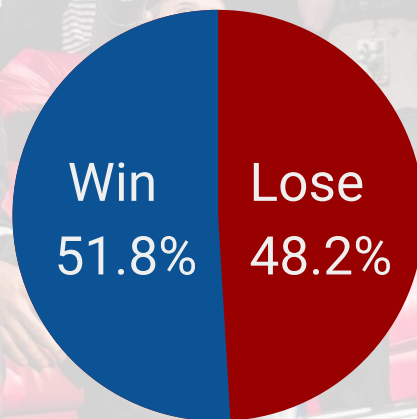
Hypothesis: If a battle is judged round-by-round, then the competitor going first is more likely to lose.

Round-by-round



350 battles

Holistic

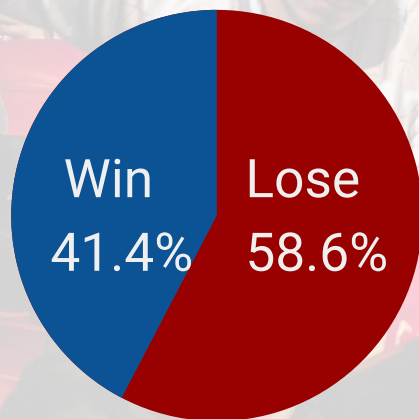


245 battles

Checking the Assumptions with Data

Hypothesis: If a battle is judged round-by-round, then the competitor going first is more likely to lose.

Round-by-round



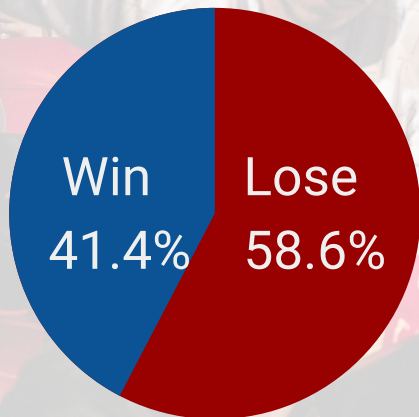
350 battles

System	# Battles	% Going 1st Wins	
Kozen	225	43.6%	
K.O.	46	32.6%	
OUR	45	44.4%	
Trivium	34	35.3%	

Checking the Assumptions with Data

Conclusion: The findings allow us to reject the null hypothesis.

Round-by-round



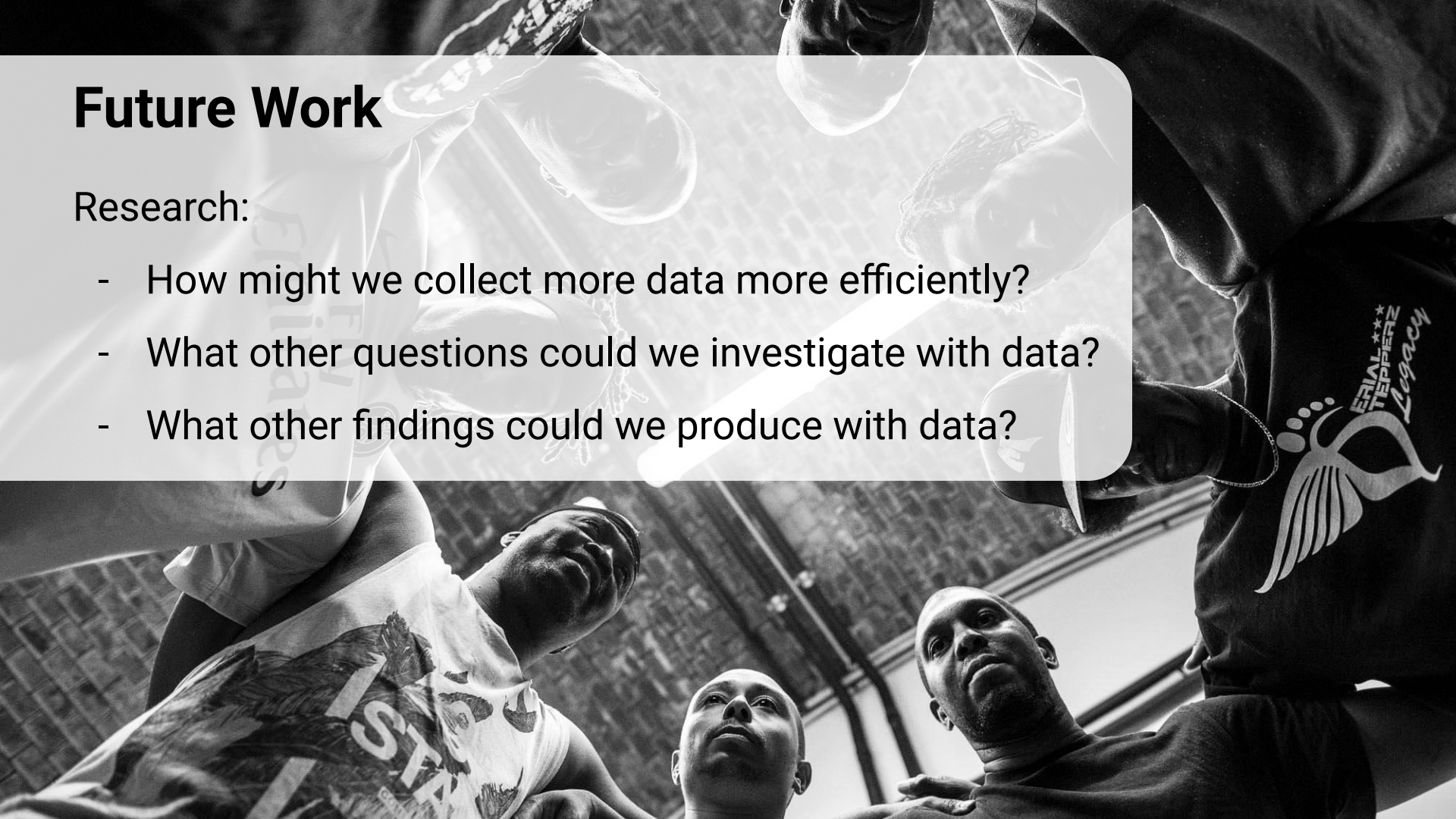
350 battles

System	# Battles	% Going 1st Wins	
Kozen	225	43.6%	
K.O.	46	32.6%	
OUR	45	44.4%	
Trivium	34	35.3%	

Future Work

Research:

- How might we collect more data more efficiently?
- What other questions could we investigate with data?
- What other findings could we produce with data?



Future Work

Design:

- Do the findings align with the values of the breaking community?
- How might we address the findings that do not align with our values?

Example:

- 2019 WDSF Breaking World Championship
- In semi-finals and finals, competitors take a break mid-battle then switch order for second half of battle

What questions do you have?



Thank you!

Vincent Qiu
vqiu@umich.edu

Data available at settleitinthecypher.github.io
This deck available at bit.ly/checkbreakingdata

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