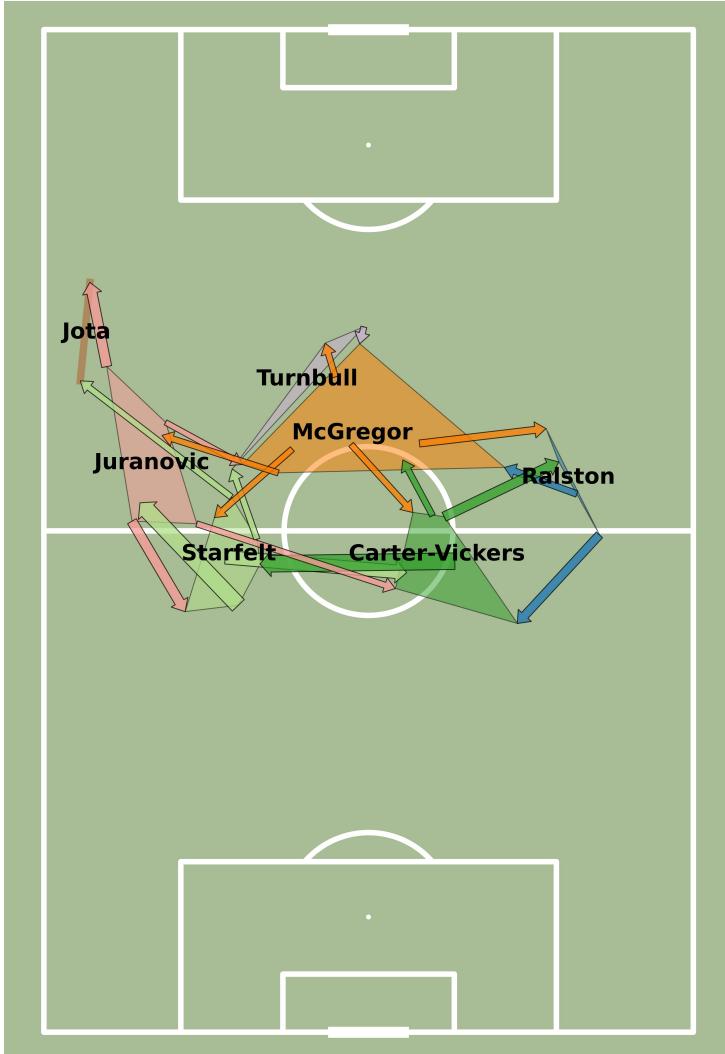


Celtic F.C. Opposition Report

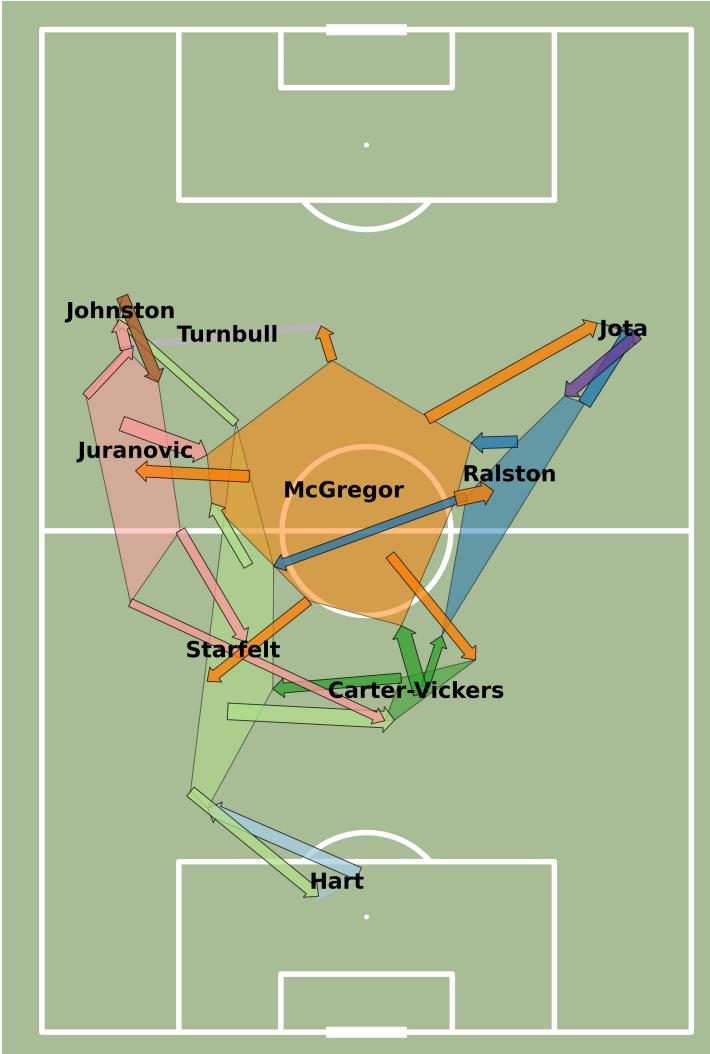
1. Overall passing structure
2. Play from goal kicks
3. Chance creating play
4. Defensive structure
5. Opponent's chance creating play

Celtic F.C's overall passing structure:

1. Zonal network v St Johnstone



3. Zonal network v Hibernian

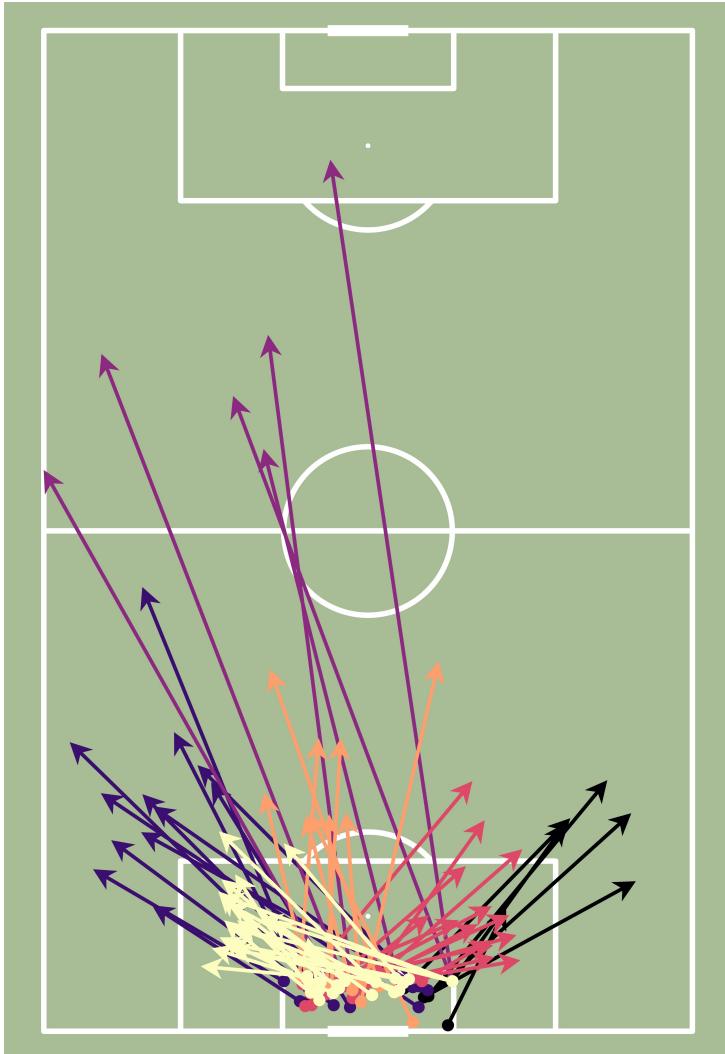


Technical details: Here I have plotted Celtic's zonal passing networks from their last 2 matches. The average pass is shown from one player to another. The arrows originate from the average position the ball was played and end at the average position they were received. Connections are included when the count in a relationship is above the mean.

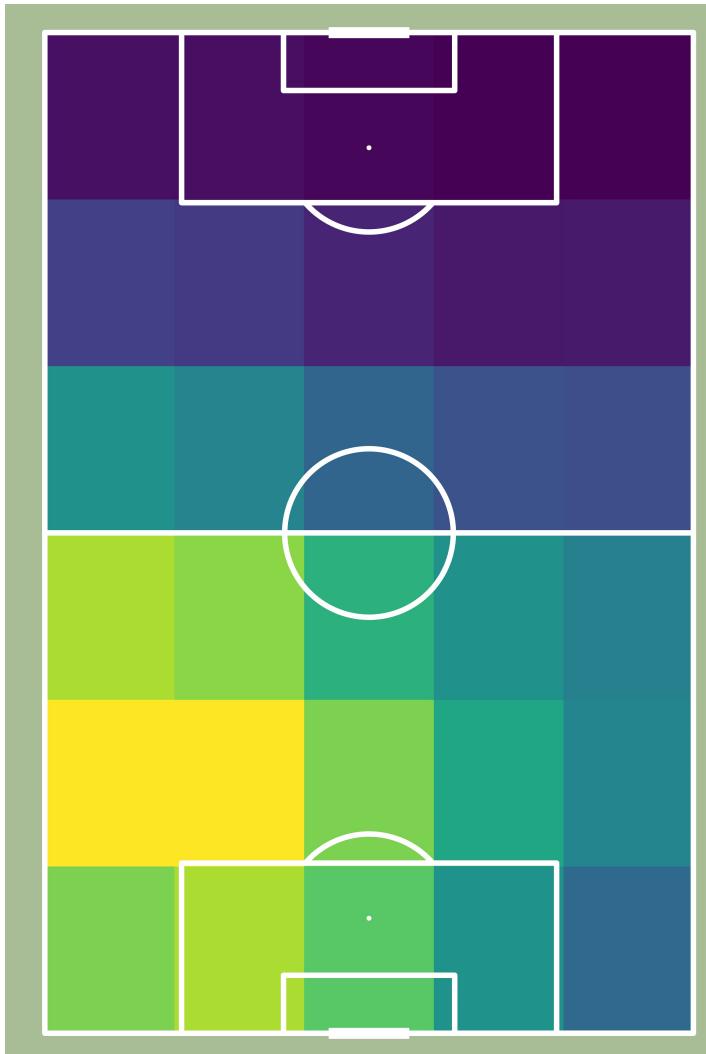
Analysis: McGregor's role in the middle of the pitch is the clear standout from this method analysis. In both matches he has been highly connected with his defensive players and managed to play slightly forward angled passes to his full-backs. Furthermore, he has routinely managed to play (on average) forward to Turnbull.

Celtic F.C's play from goal kicks:

1. Clustered goal-kicks

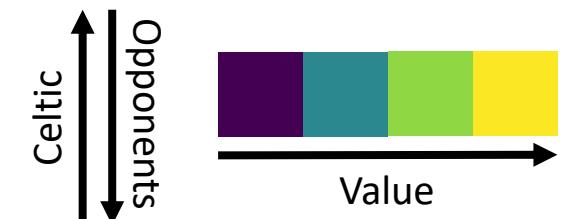


2. Passes 15s following goal-kicks



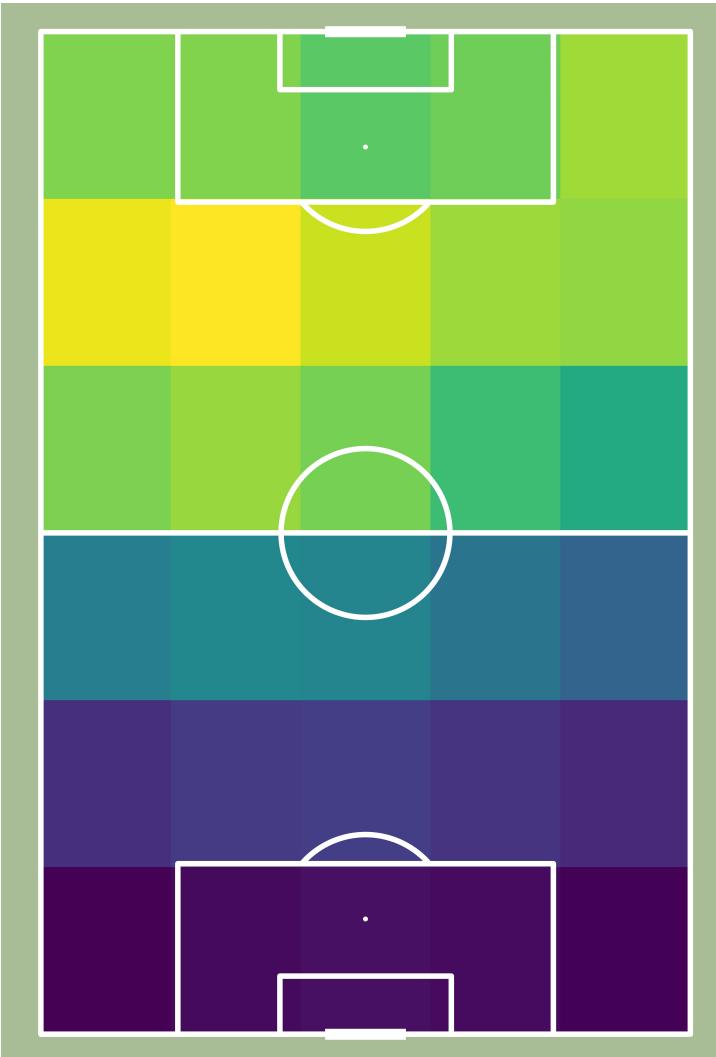
Technical details: In figure 1 I've used a K-means algorithm to cluster Celtic's goal-kicks based on their start and end locations. Figure 2 shows the distribution of passes 15s following goal-kicks.

Analysis: Clearly Celtic have a left bias when playing from the back. In figure 1 even when Celtic go long they are still likely to play left. In the set of passes visualized in figure 2 left center-back Starfelt is by far the most involved player.

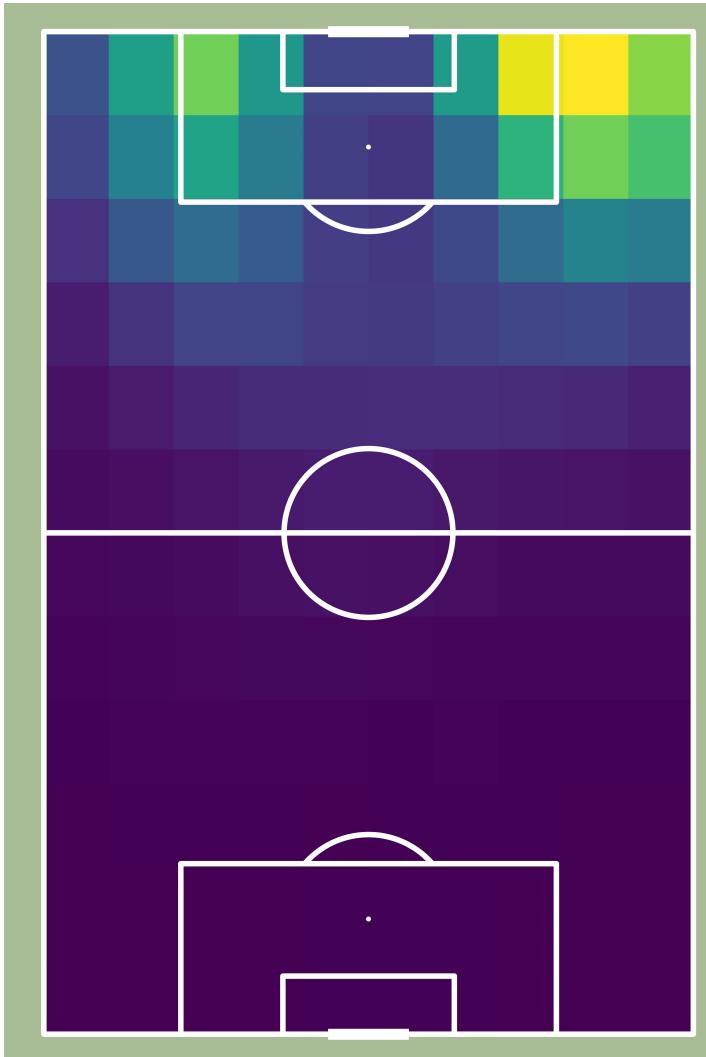


Celtic F.C's chance creating play:

1. Passes 15s before shots

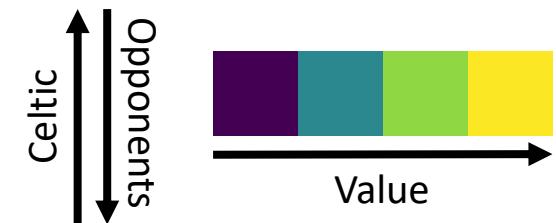


2. EPV generated in phase



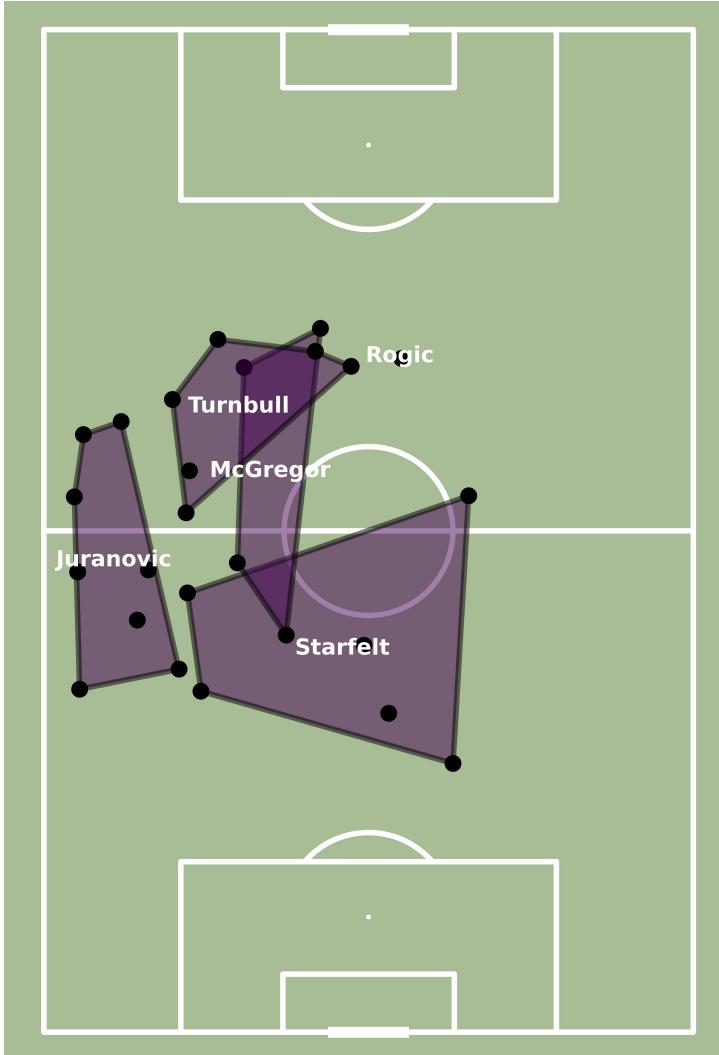
Technical details: Figure 1 conveys the distribution of Celtic's passes in the 15 seconds prior to shots. Figure 2 displays the sum of EPV generated in this phase by passes in each cell.

Analysis: In terms of quantity of passing prior to shots Celtic have a left bias. However, in terms of threat generation a right bias can be seen. Output like this leads to interesting video analysis. Are Celtic pulling team's left then quickly moving the ball right or is it the individual quality of a single player (Ralston in this case).

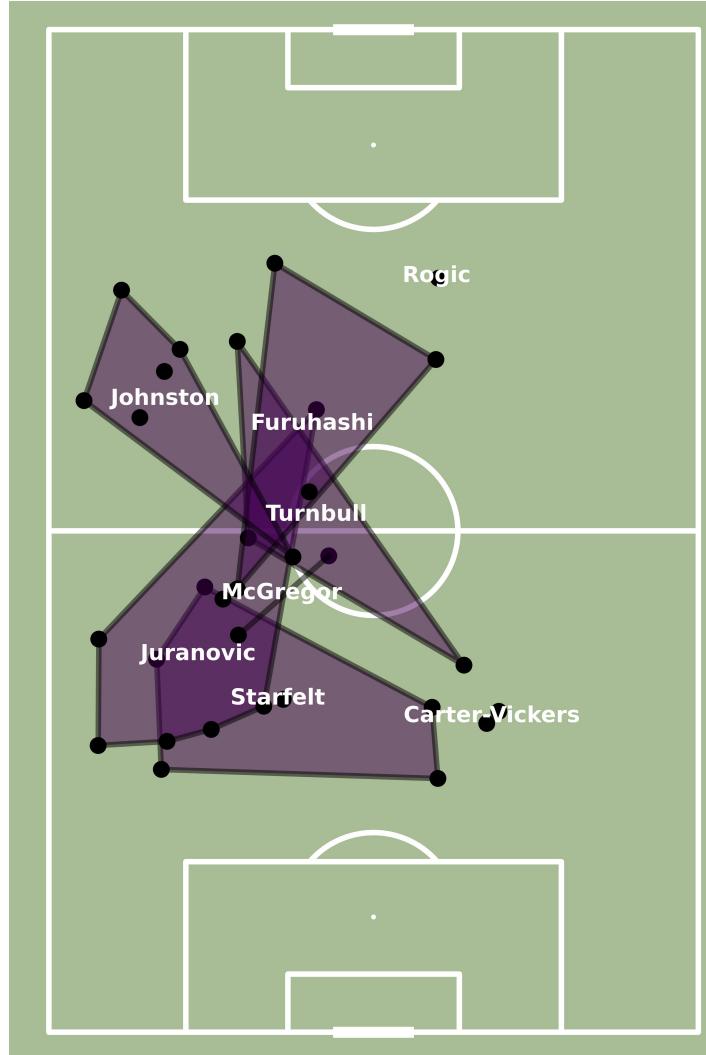


Celtic F.C.'s defensive territory:

1. Defensive areas vs St Johnstone



2. Defensive areas vs Hibernian

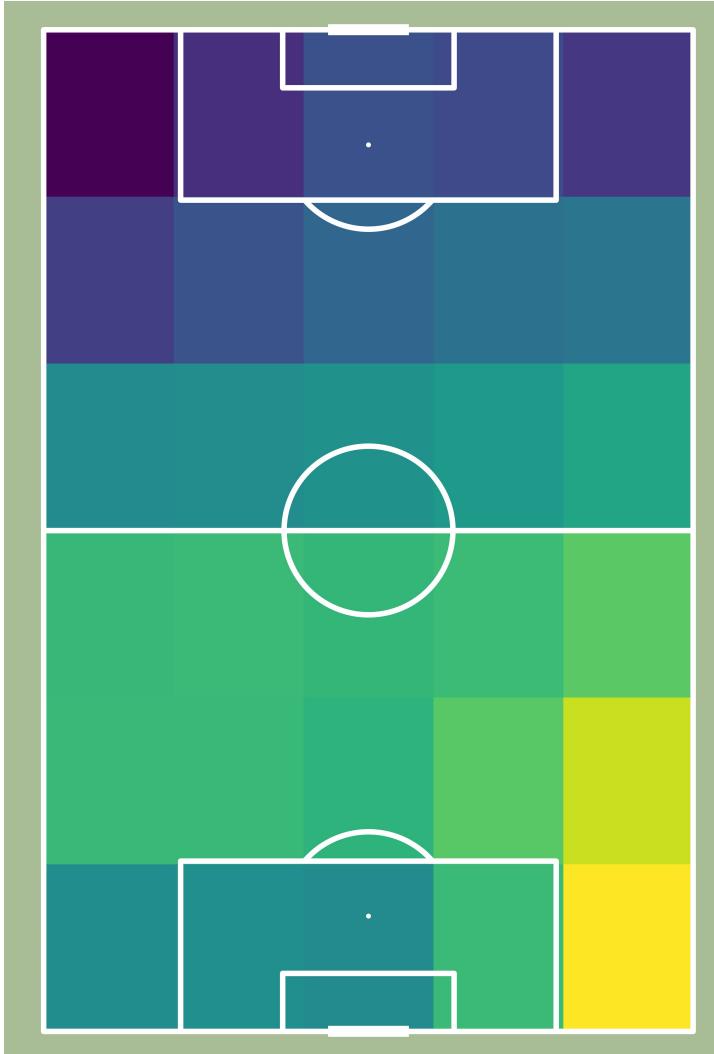


Technical details: I have plotted Celtic's important individual defensive action areas. For a given player their important area is the convex hull of their defensive actions within 1 standard deviation from their average defensive position. In general, this range in a dataset includes the expected or common values.

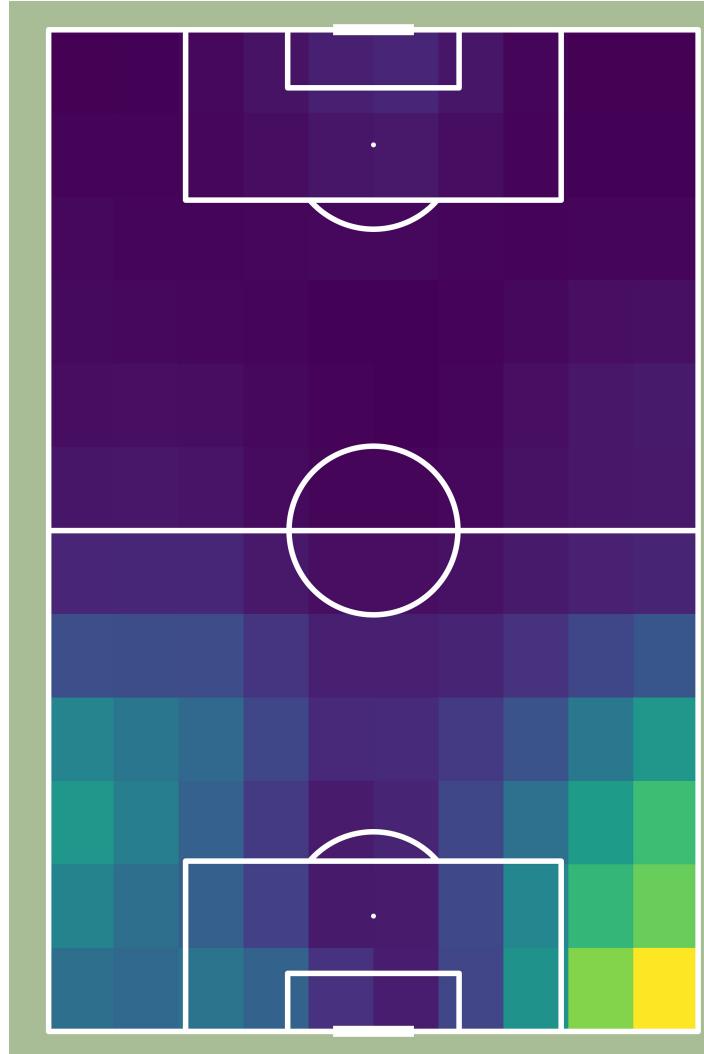
Analysis: It appears that Celtic have made defensive actions from a mid-block shape or using a high press. Furthermore, the left bias in Celtic's passing and these defensive territories suggests the implementation of a counter-pressing style.

Celtic F.C's opponents chance creating play:

1. Opponent play 15s before shots

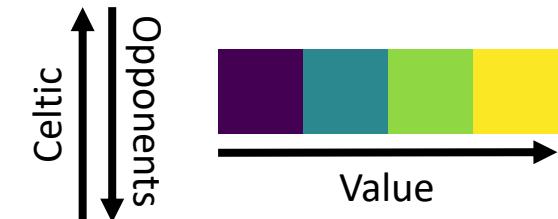


2. Opponent EPV in phase



Technical details: Here I have applied the same methods of evaluating Celtic's chance creating play, but on the chances they have conceded this season.

Analysis: Evidently Celtic's opponents have managed to play and generate threat by attacking. This could be due to Celtic's possible left biased counter pressing style leaving space on the right. If teams can beat Celtic's press, they find space to be exploited on the right.



Celtic F.C analysis summary:

- **Playing from the goalkeeper** Celtic have a substantial left bias in their initial passes.
- In the **build up to chances** Celtic also appear to have a **left bias**. However, in terms of **threat generated** from passes in this phase they appear to be more dangerous on the **right**.
- When **defending** Celtic appear to implement a **counter pressing** style. As Celtic's play in possession is left biased, they make more defensive actions on that side. Therefore, team's have created chances and danger by attacking Celtic's right. This is possibly as the opponents have beaten Celtic's counter press and find space on the right.

How would I use a report like this:

- In this report I have tried to identify trends and patterns in Celtic's play so far this season. In my opinion this form of match analysis is in no way the final stage. From here I would use these findings to inform video analysis.
- For example, the finding of Celtic playing more passes in the lead up to shots on the left but playing more threatening passes on the right could be caused by a whole number of possibilities. These possibilities need to be investigated using video
- Personally, I feel data can identify very interesting trends and structures in a team's play and video analysis is imperative in deciding how to react to these trends.