

Will Schell

Excel Spreadsheet Assignment

March 31, 2016

For those who do not know, the NHL is the National Hockey League. I retrieved my data from [nhl.com](https://www.nhl.com/standings/league).¹²³⁴ There is a lot of statistics and data in hockey. Some examples are, goals for, goals against, wins loses, etc. These are basic things we seen in many sports. Hockey has a unique category though. A point for a win and no points for a loss is not how the NHL calculates the team's points. They score it as 2 points for a win, 0 points for a loss, and 1 point for a loss that occurs in overtime or a shootout. In an 82 game season, this can be helpful. Say a team goes into overtime every game of the season, which means they automatically get 82 points. Now you might think, "How is that a good thing?" This is a good thing because the top teams in the league usually finish with over 100 points. Therefore, in an 82 game season if a team goes into overtime every game and only wins 18 games, they could make the playoffs with 100 points and a winning percentage of, close to, 22%. This is unlikely, but possible.

In the charts below, we look at a different statistic. We look at goals against, goals for, and the difference of goals for and goals against. Now why would we look at these statistics? These statistics have a pattern. The difference between the two is where that pattern is. The pattern is that the top teams in the league, the ones who make the playoffs, are generally the teams that have the best differential, meaning they score a lot more goals than they allow. There are about one or two teams every year that break this pattern. This is usually from a bubble team. A bubble team is a team that is really close to making the playoffs but falls just shy. Another interesting thing is that the team that finishes in first place, with the most points, is generally the team that has the best differential. This is not always the case but it occurs more often than not.

You can look at the data in the spreadsheets by clicking [here](#).

I used column graphs (vertical bar graphs) to represent the data. I did this is because it is an easier way to show and represent the goals for, goals against and their difference. In the graphs, the "x", "y", "z", or "p" next to a team's name tells whether they made the playoffs or not. In the 2015-2016 chart, you can see certain teams that have made the playoffs and you can see what teams should or will make the playoffs based on their difference in goals against.

¹ <https://www.nhl.com/standings/league>

² <https://www.nhl.com/standings/2014>

³ <https://www.nhl.com/standings/2013>

⁴ <https://www.nhl.com/standings/2012>



