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Adding context to player performance with spatiotemporal data

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When measuring player performance, we're often focused on events that involve the ball. Whether related to marking, tackling, or passing, performance indicators in the AFL are focused on on-ball events. Success in team sports is the culmination of a series of both on-ball and off-ball performances, but measuring the latter is an underexplored topic. Player tracking data provides analysts with rich, complex datasets that allow for the measurement of performance in ways that are not possible with traditional performance indicators.

This presentation discusses the applications of these datasets, from the simple to the complex. Topics covered include consolidating datasets from different sources, using spatiotemporal data to add context to performance, and the development of new metrics. Within these topics, our focus is on increasing automation and reducing the subjectivity of our analysis. Applications will be exemplified through my work in the AFL on player motion and player decision-making. I will highlight big picture concepts that require consideration when analysing player tracking data.