

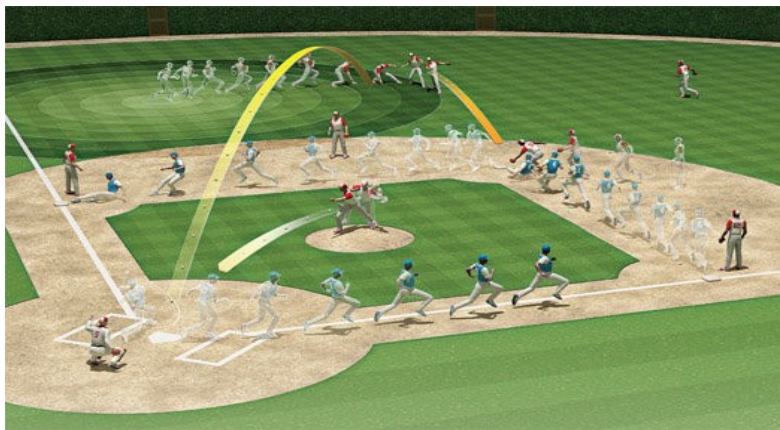
The SUMO Speaker Series for Undergraduates

(Pizza Provided)

Wednesday, December 1st
4:30-5:20, room 380C

Sabermetrics: The Mathematics of Baseball

Dan Jerison



ABSTRACT:

The game of baseball gives rise to many questions. Who is the best fielding shortstop in the majors? When should the starting pitcher be pulled? Is a double really worth twice as much as a single? How much is Derek Jeter worth on the open market? Did Felix Hernandez deserve the Cy Young Award despite his 13-12 record? Is there such a thing as a clutch hitter?

Sabermetrics is the search for objective answers to these kinds of questions. The modern movement began with a devoted fan's self-published newsletters and steadily gained adherents so that now it's revolutionizing the way teams make decisions and how the game is played on the field. In this talk, I'll discuss the fundamental principles of sabermetrics; how to measure the value of a player's past contributions and how to predict his future performance; and when to use different in-game strategies. I'll introduce the data, just now starting to be collected, which will be the basis for a new generation of stats. Along the way, I'll draw on techniques from statistics, game theory, and Markov chains.

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