

A New Spin on Baseball

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All baseball fans know what a curveball is physically, but what is curveball mathematically, and how does it differ from a fastball? The secret of a pitch lies in its spin. In this paper we shall define the spin of a baseball and investigate the effects of its magnitude and direction by employing data collected by MLB.com Gameday from the league's best pitchers. We shall then employ this model to differentiate between the spin of a curveball and that of a fastball.