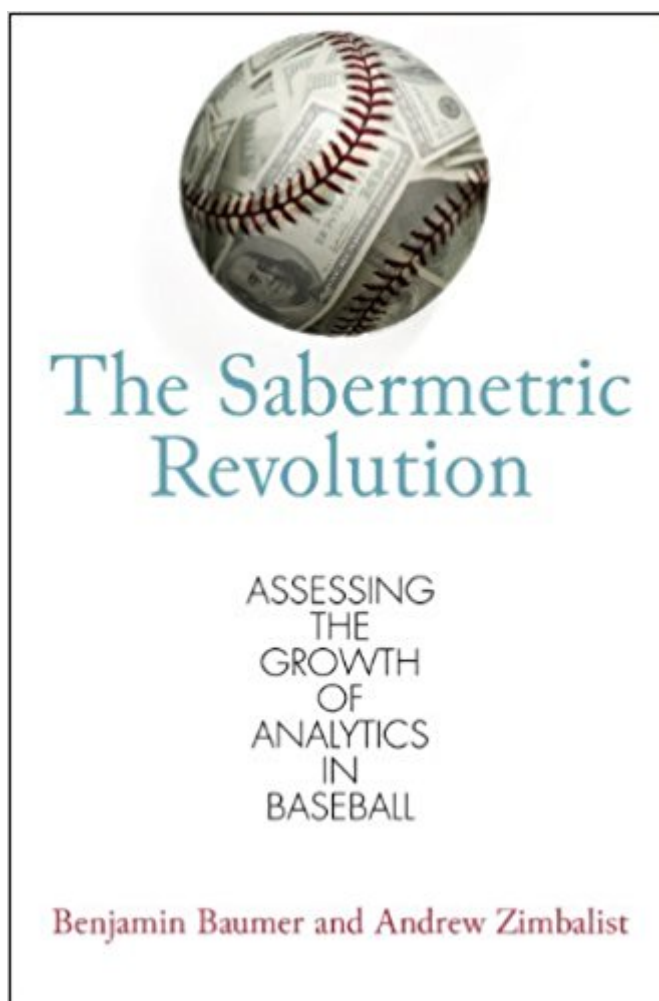


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# The Sabermetric Revolution: Assessing The Growth Of Analytics In Baseball



## Synopsis

From the front office to the family room, sabermetrics has dramatically changed the way baseball players are assessed and valued by fans and managers alike. Rocketed to popularity by the 2003 bestseller *Moneyball* and the film of the same name, the use of sabermetrics to analyze player performance has appeared to be a David to the Goliath of systemically advantaged richer teams that could be toppled only by creative statistical analysis. The story has been so compelling that, over the past decade, team after team has integrated statistical analysis into its front office. But how accurately can crunching numbers quantify a player's ability? Do sabermetrics truly level the playing field for financially disadvantaged teams? How much of the baseball analytic trend is fad and how much fact? *The Sabermetric Revolution* sets the record straight on the role of analytics in baseball. Former Mets sabermetrician Benjamin Baumer and leading sports economist Andrew Zimbalist correct common misinterpretations and develop new methods to assess the effectiveness of sabermetrics on team performance. Tracing the growth of front office dependence on sabermetrics and the breadth of its use today, they explore how Major League Baseball and the field of sports analytics have changed since the 2002 season. Their conclusion is optimistic, but the authors also caution that sabermetric insights will be more difficult to come by in the future. *The Sabermetric Revolution* offers more than a fascinating case study of the use of statistics by general managers and front office executives: for fans and fantasy leagues, this book will provide an accessible primer on the real math behind moneyball as well as new insight into the changing business of baseball.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

"The Sabermetric Revolution is like the story behind the story. Michael Lewis's classic tugs at our

heartstrings and opens our eyes, but Baumer and Zimbalist help us look behind the curtain. If you've ever wanted to understand what happens in the other offices around the general manager, this is a brilliant book."

— Will Carroll, lead writer for sports medicine in Bleacher Report

Leo Durocher once said that 'Baseball is like church; many attend, few understand.' The Sabermetric Revolution is a must-read for those in the baseball congregation seeking understanding of how objective analytics can be used to determine intrinsic value, identify undervalued and overvalued assets and dynamics, and create competitive advantage."

— Tom Garfinkel, former president and CEO of the San Diego Padres

Former Mets sabermetrician Benjamin Baumer and sports economist Andrew Zimbalist's *The Sabermetric Revolution* takes an expert look at the statistical analysis craze, debunking misconceptions and evaluating the role of sabermetrics in the future

— no doubt of great interest to future general managers, both real and fantasy league."

— The Daily Beast

The *Sabermetric Revolution* is an excellent and well-written look at where sabermetric knowledge stands today. This is a very useful book."

— Tyler Cowen, *Marginal Revolution*

Andrew Zimbalist and Benjamin Baumer do the best job yet of evaluating the benefits and the myths of the ever-growing world of baseball analytics. This is a must-read for anyone interested in where sports metrics have been as well as where they're going."

— Stan Kasten, CEO of the Los Angeles Dodgers

Sabermetricians have developed new and important ways of measuring player performance. Baumer and Zimbalist turn the table on the sabermetricians and evaluate their performance. The result is an interesting and balanced portrayal of what the authors believe works and what doesn't, and of the challenges that lie ahead."

— Bob Costas, broadcaster for NBC and MLBTV

*Moneyball* was a good read by Michael Lewis and a good part for Brad Pitt, but as Ben Baumer and Andrew Zimbalist show, it was primarily a good fairy tale. The *Sabermetric Revolution* doesn't just debunk, but has a high slugging average with all sorts of valuable new insights and baseball numbers. But, be on guard, stats freaks: it isn't doctrinaire."

— Frank Deford, commentator for NPR and HBO Real Sports

The *Sabermetric Revolution* truly is an engaging and succinct illumination of where the field is and how it got here. The book is ideal for a reader who wishes to tie together the importance of everything they have digested from sites like Fangraphs, Baseball Prospectus, Hardball Times, Beyond the Box Score, and, even, yes, Camden Depot. . . . Well worth the read."

— Jon Shepherd, Camden Depot

An ideal introduction to the topic of advanced statistics in baseball, *The Sabermetric Revolution* provides a thorough overview of the ways in which analytics has transformed the management and coaching of baseball. Demonstrating how the game has been changed by the evolving use of data over time, Baumer and Zimbalist also offer a tantalizing glimpse of how sabermetrics may continue

to develop in the future."•Prozone Sports"Moneyball played an important role in highlighting to mass culture the evolution of decision making in Major League Baseball front offices•but this was only a momentary reflection of a broader movement within the game. In The Sabermetric Revolution, Baumer and Zimbalist provide a much more accurate understanding of the exceptional work of the A's to overcome their expected outcomes and how other front offices continue to advance objective analysis and its role in player personnel decisions. A must read for anyone who wants a deeper understanding of why and how baseball continues to lead the way in the use of analytics."•Mark Shapiro, president of the Cleveland Indians

Daily Beast list of best baseball books 2014. "Former Mets sabermetrician Benjamin Baumer and sports economist Andrew Zimbalist's The Sabermetric Revolution: Assessing the Growth of Analytics in Baseball takes an expert look at the statistical analysis craze, debunking misconceptions and evaluating the role of sabermetrics in the future--no doubt of great interest to future general managers, both real and fantasy league." "Baumer and Zimbalist provide an interesting case study of the use of statistics by general managers and front office executives. For fans and fantasy leagues, the book is an accessible primer on the real math behind moneyball including new insights into the changing business of baseball." David Low, The Wesleyan Connection.[sophia.smith.edu/~azimbali/TheSabermetricRevolution.htm](http://sophia.smith.edu/~azimbali/TheSabermetricRevolution.htm) --This text refers to the Hardcover edition.

This could be a very long review because this very important book contains much to comment on. I will, however, let you read this book to fully grasp what it says. You will have a complete review of baseball statistical analysis from the creation of the box score, through the Dodgers early efforts in the 1950's, to early regression analysis and then the full blown Sabermetrics efforts of today. This book also does a great service in pointing out the errors Michael Lewis added to "Money Ball" the book and errors in the movie, that have bothered me since I first saw the movie. In fact, Lewis violated Bob Uecker's first rule of resumes, "Don't lie about your batting average, they'll look that up." by "altering fact." Zimbalist and Baumer provide a guide for the reader who want to know what analytics is and what it does, and they go further by stating the limits as well. You will find, contrary to stats geeks, that scouting is in the ascendancy, as it should be. What I found most enlightening is explanation of the distinction between statistical analysis and data analysis. This is because I think there is too much data out there and data science, through big data management, is the way to go and is the way the secrets locked in the data will be revealed. This is good news for

Sabermetricians as their tools will be enhanced. Simply stated, if you are a baseball person at whatever level, from fan to GM, this is the book for you. I think its impact will be significant and the game will be better understood because of it.

First, make sure you have either read the book or seen the movie 'Moneyball,' because much of the early parts of this book relates directly to it, especially what is not considered a factual portrayal in the movie or the book of what actually happened concerning the 'saber' revolution in Oakland. Next, be prepared to learn why sabermetricians typically have a very strong academic background in statistics, such as degrees in economics. Then be prepared to 1) realize that the geeks are truly geeks and not usually 'inside' baseball people; 2) be ready to accept that sabermetrics is a discipline that is changing the philosophy on how the game is perceived and played and 3) be ready to be overwhelmed by an onslaught of 'foreign' baseball acronyms that can become very difficult to process, such as WAR, fWAR, rWAR, UZR, FIELD/fx, MORP and DER without a handy guide. Its a brave new baseball world.

This is a must-read for anyone interested in analyzing sports. After an entertaining first chapter deconstructing the various errors and omissions in Moneyball, to which the authors attribute the surge of interest in analytics both inside and outside the sports industry, the book proceeds to a very accessible summary of what is and isn't known about the subject. It clarifies the baseball GM's basic analytical problem--that the performance indicators of individual players that are most closely associated with team wins experience very little consistency from one year to the next, so that it is easy to explain a team's performance in a particular season but very difficult to make a reliable prediction of how it will do the next season. It then summarizes the much more rudimentary state of analytics in other sports and explains why this is the case. The book concludes with a path-breaking quantitative analysis of the success of baseball analytics in improving team performance. Highly recommended for serious sports fans.

Good introduction on sabermetrics and getting to know the basics. I thought too much was spent on tearing down Moneyball, but it helps to understand the real world of SBM outside of a movie.

What the book does well is explain the concepts of sabermetrics in common language that anybody can follow. I wish the book did more of this. However, much of the first half of the book is a critique on the other book "Moneyball". It often feels like an extended blog post of someone just being bitter

about the book "Moneyball". If Baumer doesn't agree with the author of Moneyball, then he should spend his time just writing on his perspective of sabermetrics and not waste time criticizing other people's work in a published book. Save that for your website.

A beautifully written book which continues the conversation many began with Moneyball. Lots of great material for everyone from the casual fan to the research sabermetrician.

This is a fun book. You really need a statistics background to get the discussion. It does let me quantify why I think the Red Sox management is mostly a bunch of boobs. I could give them first class advice, but they never call.

Good read for an avid baseball fan or someone looking.g to understand Sabermetrics and analytics further. So much is misunderstood but this book clears it up.

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