# Raúl Alcántara End of Season Report

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#### Introduction

Vitals	Pitch Type	Avg MPH	$\overline{\mathrm{Usg}\%}$
Throws: RHP	4-Seam	93.9	61.9%
Age: 27 (almost 28)	Slider	86.1	20.1%
DOB: 12/04/1992	Changeup	85.0	17.0%
Height: 6' 4"	Curveball	78.9	1.0%
Weight: 220 lbs			

In his second season in the KBO, Raúl Alcántara showed notable improvements over his 2019 approach and won the Choi Dong-won award in 2020 (the equivalent of the KBO's Cy Young award thanks to his 20-win season with the playoff-bound Bears). He's the hardest throwing starting pitcher in the KBO, and his ability to throw a lot of innings in 2021, after throwing 172.2+ IP in 2019 and 221 IP in 2020, may attract MLB teams looking for a young pitcher who has room to grow and throw every five days in 2021.

When he last pitched in MLB with the Oakland Athletics, Alcántara posted a dismal BB% of 11.1%, which was a drastic departure from the command and low walk rates that he displayed throughout the minor leagues. In the KBO, he's posted a BB% of 3.8% AND his 22.9% K% is the highest of his career. His other struggle was allowing HRs at a 2.72 HR/9 rate in his MLB stints and a 23% HR/FB ratio. He's drastically improved on that front as well, holding KBO hitters to a 0.54 HR/9 in 2020.

As an MLB pitcher, Alcántara sported five different pitches but dropped his sinker in the KBO based on what I've observed and rarely throws his curveball. He transitioned from a split starter/bullpen role with the Athletics into a full-time starting role with the KBO; naturally, his velocity has dipped a little bit from 95.2 mph on his 4-seam, but only fell to about 94 mph as a full-time starter. His slider dropped a tad more, down to about 86 mph, but the velocity is there from Alcántara, and it should be able to hold up against MLB hitters.

However, he was incredibly reliant on his fastball in 2020, using it about 62% of the time, the most in the KBO. While he's able to overpower KBO hitters repeatedly with his velocity, MLB hitters are much more likely to take advantage of his fastball-heavy approach. His slider was a good swing-and-miss pitch, while his changeup showed some promise against LHH, inducing a lot of groundballs. He rarely throws a curveball, only throwing 23 on the season (out of 2297 tracked pitches for Raúl Alcántara). My biggest concern with Alcántara is making sure that he's not too predictable as a starter, and that would likely mean increasing his slider/changeup usage or developing his curveball. Opposing hitters had an xwOBA of 0.449 off of his 4-seam fastball in 2017, and it doesn't appear to be a deceptive pitch.

Alcántara has MLB-caliber velocity with room to improve how he attacks hitters. His durability over the last two seasons may be enticing to MLB teams looking for reliable arms in the 2021 season. He is still relatively young, turning 28 in December of 2020, which does invite some optimism that he may be able to develop his curveball into an average fourth offering or improve upon his slider/changeup. His slider is a good pitch, while his changeup has a defined role against left-handed hitters, but I remain concerned about his 4-seam fastball and its quality of contact. I understand that Alcántara prefers to work the edges of the zone for called strikes, but a whiff% of 20.9% (that was below the KBO average) is still worrisome. He has the tools to get more whiffs with his velocity and slider, but he doesn't attack hitters in an optimal way to get those swings-and-misses.

## Stats and Graphics

Table 2: Stats from FanGraphs for Raúl Alcántara

Season	Team	IP	HR/9	<b>K</b> %	BB%	K-BB%	AVG	WHIP	BABIP	LOB%	ERA	FIP
2019	Wiz	172.2	0.78	13.8	3.7	10.1	0.274	1.25	0.303	70.9	4.01	3.94
2020	Bears	198.2	0.54	22.9	3.8	19.1	0.230	1.03	0.288	79.0	2.54	3.05

Pitch locations for Raúl Alcántara. Data for pitches from starts was manually charted from  ${\rm ESPN/Twitch}$  broadcasts.

#### Pitcher Perspective

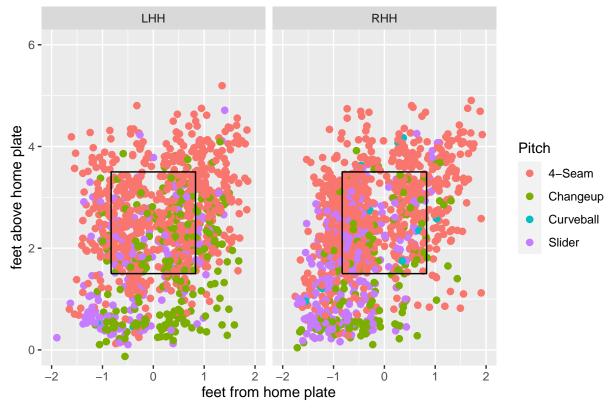


Table 3: Overall Charted Stats for Raúl Alcántara

Pitcher	Pitches	wOBA	ExwOBA	ExwOBACON	$\mathbf{CSW}\%$	$\mathbf{SwStr}\%$	$\mathbf{Whiff}\%$	$\mathbf{CS}\%$	$\mathbf{Swing}\%$	$\mathbf{Contact}\%$
Alcántara	2297	0.278	0.303	0.340	29.1	10.4	20.9	18.8	49.6	79.1
KBO	29734	0.337	0.338	0.361	27.6	10.4	22.2	17.2	47.1	77.8

Table 4: Overall Charted Batted Ball Event Data for Raúl Alcántara

Pitcher	BBEs	GB%	FB%	LD%	PU%	Soft%	Medium%	Hard%	Pull%	Straight%	Oppo%
Alcántara	432	50.5	24.3	13.9	11.3	32.6	41.4	25.9	28.0	40.0	31.9
KBO		51.2	26.0	14.0	8.7	30.4	40.8	28.7	34.1	42.8	23.1

#### Raúl Alcántara Velocity Distribution

4-Seam ~ 93.9, Slider ~ 86.1, Changeup ~ 85, Curve ~ 78.9

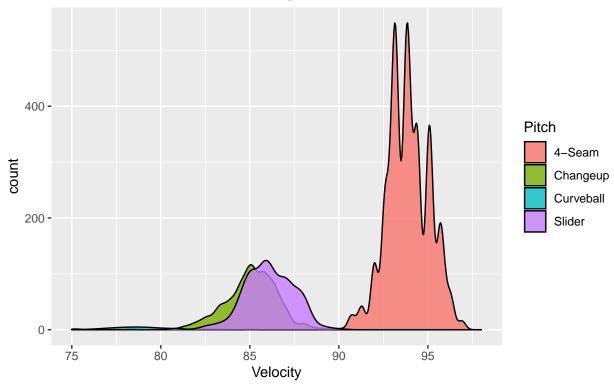


Table 5: Raúl Alcántara Pitch Usage by Batter Handedness

Bats	Pitches	$4 ext{-Seam}\%$	${\bf Slider}\%$	${\rm Changeup}\%$	Curveball%
RHH	1238	63.3	23.4	11.7	1.5
LHH	1053	60.1	16.2	23.3	0.4

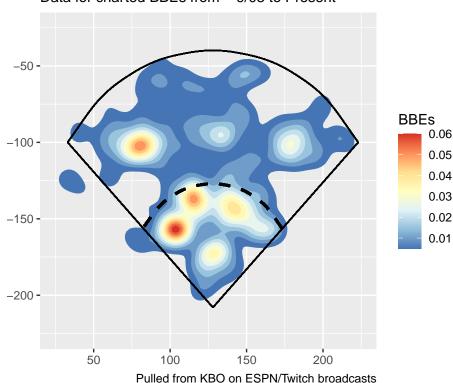
Table 6: Pitch Type Charted Stats for Raúl Alcántara

Pitch	$\mathbf{Velo}$	Usg $\%$	Pitches	wOBA	ExwOBA	$\mathbf{CSW}\%$	$\mathbf{SwStr}\%$	$\mathbf{Whiff}\%$	$\mathbf{CS}\%$	$\mathbf{Swing}\%$	$\mathbf{Contact}\%$
4-Seam	93.9	61.9	1417	0.287	0.316	27.6	9.6	18.0	18.0	53.3	82.0
Slider	86.1	20.1	461	0.199	0.271	36.0	12.6	30.4	23.4	41.4	69.6
Changeup	85.0	17.0	390	0.307	0.281	26.7	10.8	22.6	15.9	47.7	77.4
Curveball	78.9	1.0	23	0.637	0.509	21.7	8.7	25.0	13.0	34.8	75.0

Table 7: Pitch Type Charted Batted Ball Data for Raúl Alcántara

Pitch	Velo	Usg %	ExwOBACON	BBEs	GB%	FB%	LD%	PU%	Soft%	$\mathrm{Med}\%$	Hard%
4-Seam	93.9	61.9	0.348	274	43.8	25.2	15.3	15.7	33.9	37.6	28.5
Changeup	85.0	17.0	0.321	78	67.9	20.5	10.3	1.3	32.1	47.4	20.5
Slider	86.1	20.1	0.321	75	58.7	22.7	12.0	6.7	30.7	49.3	20.0
Curveball	78.9	1.0	0.509	5	20.0	60.0	20.0	0.0	0.0	40.0	60.0

#### Raúl Alcántara Charted BBE Plot Data for charted BBEs from ~ 9/03 to Present



Raúl Alcántara, a former MLB pitcher with 46.1 IP of experience with the Oakland Athletics, has pitched in the KBO for the last two seasons. In 2019, he pitched for the KT Wiz, throwing 172.2 IP with a 3.94 FIP and a below-average K\% of 13.8\%. Following the season, he jumped to the Doosan Bears and put together a spectacular season, throwing 198.2 regular-season IP (plus 22.1 IP in the playoffs for 221 IP total, easily a professional career-high), posting a 2.54 ERA, a 3.05 FIP, a 22.9% K%, and a 3.8% BB%. He walked away from the season as the recipient of the Choi Dong-won award, which is effectively the KBO's version of the Cy Young award. At 28 years old, these last two seasons are the first where Alcántara has thrown 100+ IP with the same team/affiliate since he threw 102.2 IP with the Athletics' Single-A affiliate in 2012. The chance to have a consistent role appears to have done wonders for continuing Alcántara's development.

Alcántara's 22.9% K% was the third-highest in the KBO while his BB% of 3.8% was the lowest in the KBO, resulting in a 19.1% K-BB%, the third-highest in the KBO. His WHIP of 1.03 was the third-lowest in the KBO (behind the 1.02 mark that Aaron Brooks and Dan Straily tied for). Alcántara's success and ability to throw every five days was a big part of why the Doosan Bears made a deep playoff run, falling the NC Dinos 4-2 in the Korean Series. He wasn't as lights out as his teammate Chris Flexen, but he showed up and did his job as needed.

On the season as a whole, Raúl Alcántara posted a 0.278 wOBA and a 0.303 ExwOBA (Estimated

xwOBA), marks that were both the third-lowest in the KBO. He complemented that with a Called Strike + Whiff (CSW)% of 29.1%, the fifth-highest mark in the KBO. His swing-and-miss stuff was average overall, with a Swinging Strike (SwStr)% of 10.4%, but compensated for that with an 18.8% Called Strike (CS)%, the second-highest mark in the KBO. The combination of his ability to locate his fastball with his slider/changeup was responsible for his K% which was one of the best in the KBO. I do question whether his called strike-heavy approach will play as well against MLB hitters as it does against KBO hitters.

Alcántara did a good job of keeping his batted ball profile under control, allowing an ExwOBACON (Estimated xwOBA on Contact) of 0.340 (seventh-lowest in the KBO) with a GB% of 51%, right about the KBO average. His contact strength allowed was a little bit better than the KBO average, with a slightly higher soft-contact% and a lower hard-contact%. His pop-up (PU)% of 11.3% is interesting to see, indicating that he's able to work well up in the zone with his 4-seam to induce pop-ups and weak fly balls against hitters.

Table 8: Raúl Alcántara Pitch Usage by Count vs RHH

Side	Count	Pitches	4-Seam%	Slider%	Changeup%	Curveball%
RHH	00	315	62.9	25.4	7.9	3.8
RHH	01	169	64.5	23.1	11.2	1.2
RHH	02	81	54.3	24.7	21.0	0.0
RHH	10	113	59.3	33.6	7.1	0.0
RHH	11	138	67.4	18.1	13.8	0.7
RHH	12	139	58.3	22.3	18.0	1.4
RHH	20	32	68.8	21.9	6.2	3.1
RHH	21	59	69.5	23.7	6.8	0.0
RHH	22	111	61.3	20.7	17.1	0.9
RHH	30	5	100.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
RHH	31	21	71.4	23.8	4.8	0.0
RHH	32	55	74.5	14.5	10.9	0.0

Table 9: Raúl Alcántara Pitch Usage by Count vs LHH

Side	Count	Pitches	$4 ext{-Seam}\%$	${\bf Slider}\%$	${\rm Changeup}\%$	Curveball%
LHH	00	268	56.7	19.0	23.9	0.4
LHH	01	149	59.1	16.1	23.5	1.3
LHH	02	96	53.1	16.7	29.2	1.0
LHH	10	91	56.0	14.3	29.7	0.0
LHH	11	123	63.4	14.6	22.0	0.0
LHH	12	137	56.9	18.2	24.8	0.0
LHH	20	17	94.1	0.0	5.9	0.0
LHH	21	45	68.9	13.3	17.8	0.0
LHH	22	68	60.3	19.1	20.6	0.0
LHH	30	6	100.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
LHH	31	18	83.3	0.0	16.7	0.0
LHH	32	35	74.3	14.3	11.4	0.0

Alcántara primarily worked with three pitches as a Doosan Bear, rather than the five that he threw in MLB. He's a fastball-heavy pitcher, but I believe that he either dropped his sinker entirely or threw it rarely enough that I did not pick up on it while watching Alcántara pitch. His fastball usage accounted for about 62% of his pitches and averaged around 94 mph. He averaged 95.2 mph on his 4-seam out of the bullpen with the Athletics, so it's interesting to see only a small decrease in velocity for Alcántara on his 4-seam. His 2016 4-seam velocity was 93.7 mph before ticking up to 95.2 mph in 2017, so it is possible that, as he's aged into his prime, he's added some mph to his max velocity, which compensates for the bullpen to rotation move. Alcántara primarily locates his 4-seam away from RHH, while he works both the inside and outside edge against LHH.

He complements his 4-seam fastball with a slider that he threw 20% of the time overall, but 23% of the time against right-handed hitters (RHH) and 16% of the time against left-handed hitters (LHH). His slider averaged 86 mph and was his best pitch in 2020, with a 36% CSW%. Alcántara's approach with his slider varies by batter handedness; against RHH, it's a swing-and-miss pitch. Against LHH, he'll throw for both swings-and-misses and called strikes while inducing some groundballs.

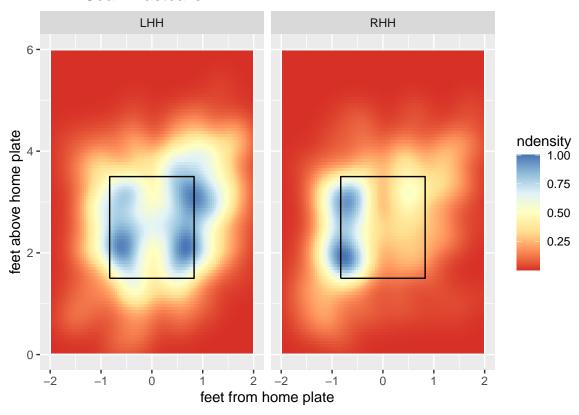
Alcántara throws his changeup about 17% of the time, which breaks down to 23% of the time against LHH and 12% of the time against RHH. It averages about 85 mph, which is very similar to how it profiled in 2017 with the Athletics. Alcántara throws this pitch with a typical splitter grip but, I originally tagged it as a changeup when I saw Alcántara's first few outings and continued to label it as a changeup for consistency. Over the season, Alcántara tended to work his changeup down in the zone and showed the ability to ramp its velocity up to about 88 mph.

Alcántara also throws the (very) rare curveball, throwing 23 curveballs out of the 2297 pitches that I saw him throw, for a 1% usage rate. It averaged about 79 mph but never really did much, and he didn't even use it interestingly, like throwing it exclusively in 0-0 counts or something.

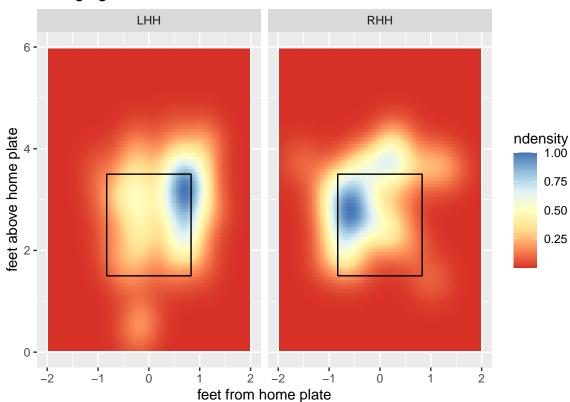
Alcántara was the hardest-throwing starting pitcher in the KBO in 2020, and he used that to great success. For him to be successful as an MLB starter, he'll likely need to decrease his reliance on his 4-seam fastball. His slider is a good pitch and his changeup is decent, while his curveball is non-existent at this point. Developing his curveball or continuing to improve his slider/changeup are crucial to becoming an effective MLB starter; with his current arsenal, I can see Alcántara finding MLB success in a hybrid/opener role. At 27 (28 to start the 2021 season), he is young enough that he's got room to improve, and the fact that he's thrown  $\sim 400$  competitive IP over the last two seasons is not something to overlook coming off of the shortened 2020 MLB season.

### Raúl Alcántara 4-Seam Fastball

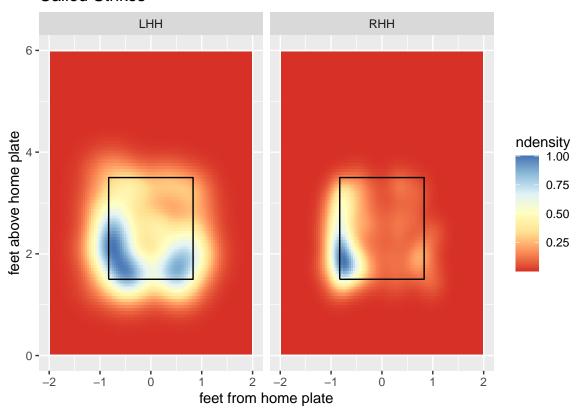
All 4-Seam Fastballs



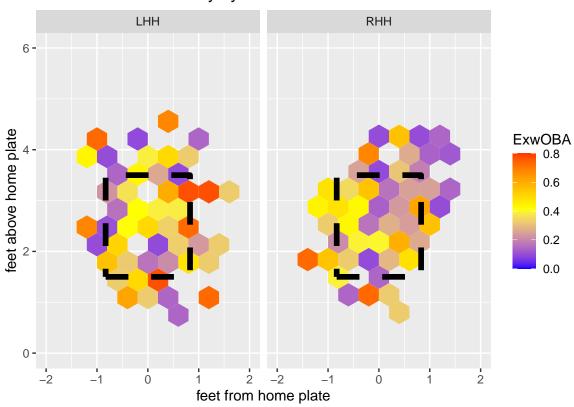
### **Swinging Strikes**



### Called Strikes



## xwOBA on Balls in Play by Pitch Location



#### 4-Seam Velocity

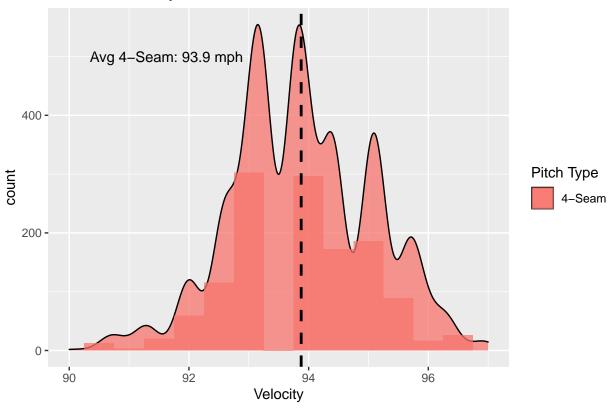


Table 10: Raúl Alcántara 4-Seam Stats

Pitch	Velo	Usg $\%$	wOBA	ExwOBA	$\mathbf{CSW}\%$	$\mathbf{SwStr}\%$	$\mathbf{Whiff}\%$	CS%	$\mathbf{Swing}\%$	Contact%
4-Seam	93.9	61.9	0.287	0.316	27.6	9.6	18	18	53.3	82

Table 11: 4-Seam Stats by Batter Handedness

Bats	$\mathrm{Usg}\%$	CSW%	$\mathbf{SwStr}\%$	Whiff%	CS%	$\mathbf{Swing}\%$	Contact%	Strike%
RHH	63.3	28.6	7.8	15.5	20.8	50.1	84.5	70.9
LHH	60.1	26.4	11.8	20.7	14.5	57.2	79.3	71.7

Table 12: Raúl Alcántara 4-Seam BBEs

Pitch	Velo	Usg $\%$	ExwOBACON	$\mathbf{BBEs}$	GB%	$\mathbf{FB}\%$	LD%	$\mathbf{PU}\%$	$\mathbf{Soft}\%$	$\mathbf{Med}\%$	$\mathbf{Hard}\%$
4-Seam	93.9	61.9	0.348	274	43.8	25.2	15.3	15.7	33.9	37.6	28.5

Raúl Alcántara is simultaneously the hardest-throwing starting pitcher in the KBO and the most fastball-reliant starter in the KBO. His 4-seam fastball averaged 93.9 mph as he threw it about 62% of the time, split 63% against RHH and 60% against LHH. He attacks the strike zone with his fastball, working away from RHH while throwing to both the inside and outside edges against LHH.

His 4-seam fastball was one of the most effective in the KBO with a CSW% of 27.6%, a wOBA allowed of 0.287, and an ExwOBA of 0.316 (third-lowest in the KBO). His 4-seam netted an SwStr% of 9.6%, the

third-highest on a 4-seam in the KBO, but the bread and butter of his 4-seam is his 18% CS%. Against RHH, Alcántara does an excellent job of locating away and down in the zone for called strikes. Against LHH, he continues to work down in the strike zone, both inside and outside, to get called strikes.

However, given his 4-seam fastball velocity, which runs up to 97 mph, I think that he has more room to grow as a strikeout pitcher. Against KBO hitters, working his fastball up in the zone was a recipe for netting swings-and-misses. His fastball did fare better as a whiff pitch against left-handed hitters though, with an 11.8% SwStr% versus his 7.8% SwStr% against right-handed hitters. Alcántara's 4-seam spun at about 2150 rpm with the Athletics and averaged about 12 inches of horizontal break, which was about 37% more horizontal break than the average MLB 4-seam. Working that arm-side movement up in the zone and breaking away from left-handed hitters is part of why his 4-seam has been more of a swing-and-miss pitch against lefties. This does play into why most of his called strikes against RHH are located down-and-away where the pitch starts as a ball before catching the outside edge of the plate.

Relative to his CSW% and ExwOBA, Alcántara's batted ball profile appears to be more of a concern, with his ExwOBACON of 0.348 much closer to the KBO average than the rest of his stats. However, his 0.348 ExwOBACON is the lowest mark in the KBO for 4-seam fastballs. His 4-seam's GB% of 44% is below-average, while his FB% and LD% are both around the KBO average. He makes up for that with his PU% of 15.7% and soft-contact% of 34%, which are the second and fourth highest marks on a 4-seam in the KBO.

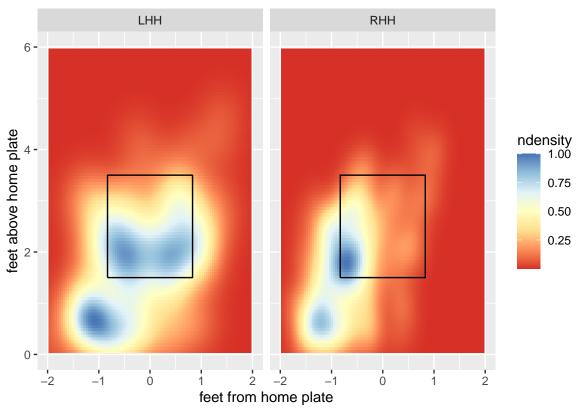
His 4-seam fastball is particularly effective at inducing weak contact against right-handed hitters. On his ExwOBA plot for balls in play, you can see the consistent purple coloring on the inside half of the plate for RHH. With the arm-side movement that his 4-seam gets, Alcántara can jam a lot of hitters and keep them from making solid contact on his 4-seam.

Alcántara throws his 4-seam in every situation, with its lowest usage rate coming in 0-2 counts, where he throws it about 54% of the time. He trusts the pitch and his ability to locate it close to the strike zone for a called strike. Even though his 4-seam fastball is the pitch that Alcántara throws the most in various 3-ball counts, with his control, he rarely ends up walking batters, which is why he has such a low wOBA on the pitch at 0.287.

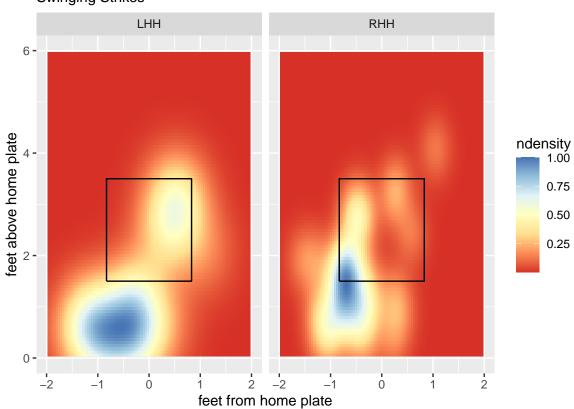
His 4-seam velocity is unique among KBO starting pitchers and part of the reason why he has been successful in the KBO. He also demonstrates consistent control and location of the pitch. There may be room for his 4-seam to be effective against MLB hitters and get more whiffs with his velocity, but I'm worried that it'll get hit hard if he continues to throw it 60% of the time.

## Raúl Alcántara Slider

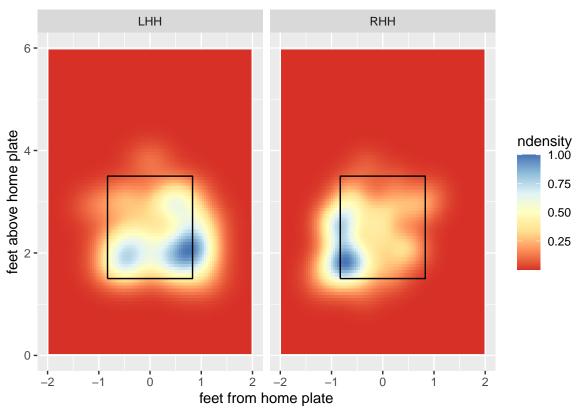




#### **Swinging Strikes**







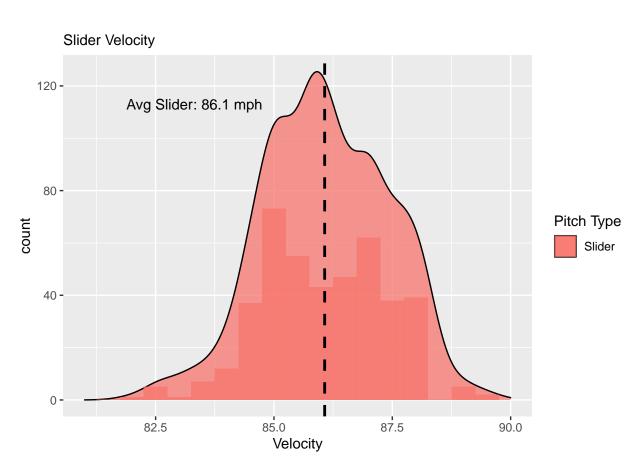


Table 13: Raúl Alcántara Slider Stats

Pitch	Velo	Usg %	wOBA	ExwOBA	CSW%	$\mathbf{SwStr}\%$	Whiff%	$\mathbf{CS}\%$	$\mathbf{Swing}\%$	Contact%
Slider	86.1	20.1	0.199	0.271	36	12.6	30.4	23.4	41.4	69.6

Table 14: Raúl Alcántara Slider Stats by Batter Handedness

Bats	$\mathrm{Usg}\%$	CSW%	SwStr%	Whiff%	CS%	Swing%	Contact%	Strike%
RHH	23.4	33.8	12.1	29.9	21.7	40.3	70.1	62.1
LHH	16.2	39.8	13.5	31.1	26.3	43.3	68.9	69.6

Table 15: Raúl Alcántara Slider BBEs

Pitch	Velo	Usg $\%$	ExwOBACON	BBEs	GB%	FB%	LD%	PU%	Soft%	$\mathrm{Med}\%$	$\mathrm{Hard}\%$
Slider	86.1	20.1	0.321	75	58.7	22.7	12	6.7	30.7	49.3	20

Raúl Alcántara's slider is probably his best pitch, throwing it around 20% of the time and averaging about 86 mph on the pitch. His slider posted an amazing 0.199 wOBA against and an ExwOBA of 0.271. His slider has his highest CSW% at 36% and is his best swing-and-miss pitch with a 12.6% SwStr%. It also has a 23.4% CS%, most of those called strikes coming against left-handed hitters.

Alcántara throws his slider about 23% of the time against RHH and 16% of the time against LHH. Against right-handed hitters, he locates his slider down and away or on the outside edge of the strike zone. His slider is effective against RHH, with a CSW% of 33.8%, thanks to an SwStr% of 12.1% and a CS% of 21.7%. Alcántara will throw his slider in almost any count against RHH, peaking in 2-strike and 1-0 counts.

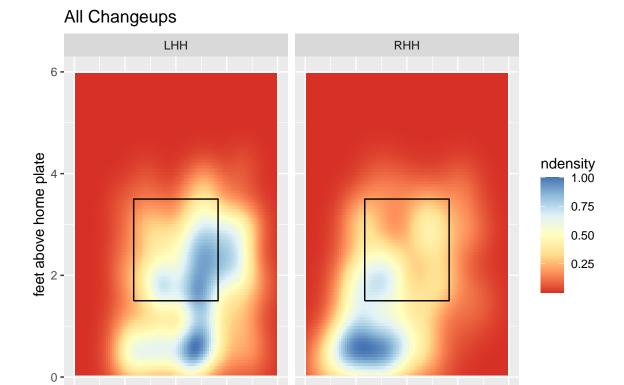
Against left-handed hitters, Alcántara's slider is even more effective, with a CSW% of 39.8%, a, SwStr% of 13.5%, and a whopping CS% of 26.3%. That dual role, a swing-and-miss pitch and a called strike pitch, is clear when you look at Alcántara's slider location plot. Against LHH, he peppers the bottom of the strike zone with his slider as well as throwing back foot sliders to LHH. He has a pretty clear split of his whiffs down and in against LHH while those sliders at the bottom of the strike zone go for called strikes. His slider usage against left-handed hitters is much more uniform across all counts than it is against right-handed hitters, although he never threw his slider in 2-0, 3-0, or 3-1 counts, which is not a huge surprise.

In addition to being his best swing-and-miss/called strike pitch, Alcántara's slider also limited hard contact well. His slider had an ExwOBA of 0.321 in 2020. He allowed a 59% GB% and a hard-contact% of 20%, while the rest of his batted ball stats were also better than average.

Alcántara's slider is his best pitch, and it was similarly effective when he threw it in 2017 against MLB competition. He threw it 17% of the time, netting a 39% whiff%, a wOBA of 0.241, and an xwOBA of 0.271. This gives me some optimism that his slider can continue to be effective against MLB hitters, especially if he throws it more to reduce his reliance on his 4-seam fastball.

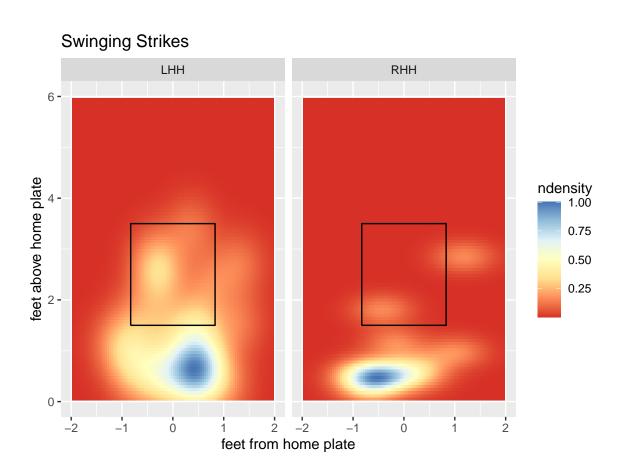
# Raúl Alcántara Changeup

Ö

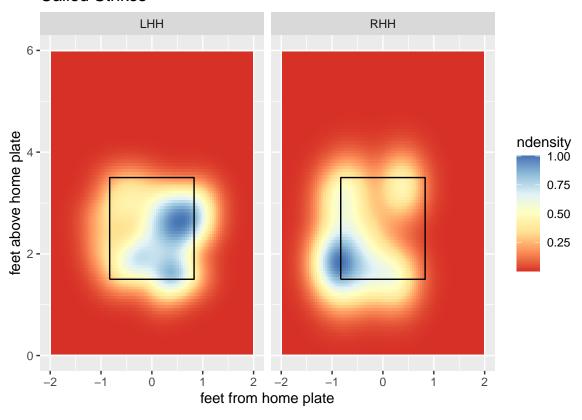


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2 feet from home plate Ö



### Called Strikes



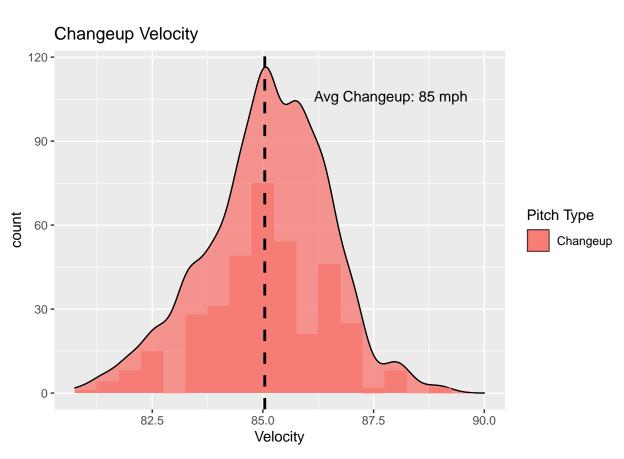


Table 16: Raúl Alcántara Changeup Stats

Pitch	Velo	Usg $\%$	wOBA	ExwOBA	CSW%	$\mathbf{SwStr}\%$	Whiff%	$\mathbf{CS}\%$	$\mathbf{Swing}\%$	Contact%
Changeup	85	17	0.307	0.281	26.7	10.8	22.6	15.9	47.7	77.4

Table 17: Raúl Alcántara Changeup Stats by Batter Handedness

Bats	$\mathrm{Usg}\%$	CSW%	SwStr%	Whiff%	CS%	Swing%	Contact%	Strike%
LHH	23.3	27.8	11.4	22.8	16.3	50.2	77.2	66.5
RHH	11.7	24.8	9.7	22.2	15.2	43.4	77.8	58.6

Table 18: Raúl Alcántara Changeup BBEs

Pitch	Velo	Usg %	ExwOBACON	BBEs	GB%	FB%	LD%	PU%	Soft%	$\mathrm{Med}\%$	Hard%
Changeup	85	17	0.321	78	67.9	20.5	10.3	1.3	32.1	47.4	20.5

Alcántara's changeup was an effective pitch for him in 2020, especially as a ground ball pitch and a weapon against LHH. He threw it about 17% of the time, averaging about 85 mph with what appears to be a splitter grip. He allowed a wOBA of 0.307 and an ExwOBA of 0.287 on the pitch. However, his changeup's 26.7% cSW% was the lowest of his 4-seam/slider/changeup trio thanks to a CS% of 16%. His changeup did net some swings-and-misses with a 10.8% SwStr%, but that's nothing spectacular.

Against LHH, Alcántara threw his changeup about 23% of the time and produced good results. He had a CSW% of 27.8% with an SwStr% of 11.4%. He worked away from left-handed hitters with his changeup, getting called strikes on the outside of the zone and whiffs down-and-away. He threw his changeup early in the count to get ahead of hitters as well as working it in two-strike counts as a put-away pitch.

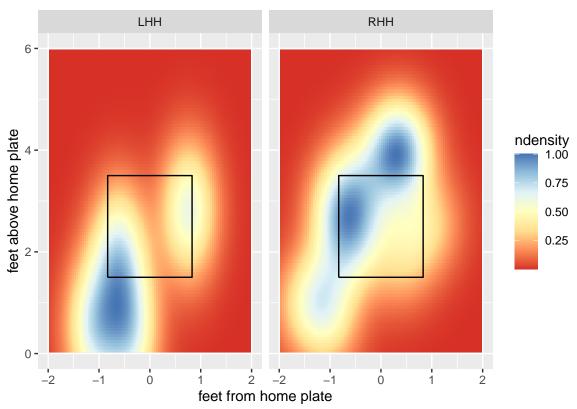
When he throws his changeup against RHH, Alcántara stays away from hitters, working down-and-away. His changeup has a 24.8% CS% against RHH, with an SwStr% of 9.7% and a CS% of 15.2%. His changeup has a 22.2% whiff% against RHH and a 22.8% whiff% against LHH, but right-handed hitters only swing at 43.4% of his changeups, whereas left-handed hitters swing at a 50% clip. However, his changeup usage against right-handed hitters does peak at 21% in 0-2 counts, 18% in 1-2 counts, and 17% in 2-2 counts.

Where his changeup excels is in inducing groundballs, with a 68% GB% and a 21% hard-contact% that results in a 0.321 ExwOBACON. That's the same ExwOBACON that his slider allowed on batted balls even though his changeup has a higher GB%. Most of that is due to his slider's higher PU% of 6.7% versus his changeup's PU% of 1.3%.

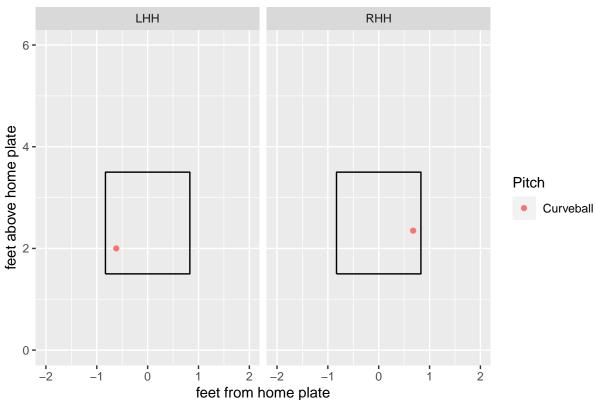
Against MLB hitters, his changeup was hit hard in 2017, allowing an xwOBA of 0.355. In the KBO, his changeup fared better with an ExwOBA of 0.287, but his whiff% did drop from 27% in MLB. I think that Alcántara's changeup is fine with its defined role against left-handed hitters, but it's not a phenomenal offering.

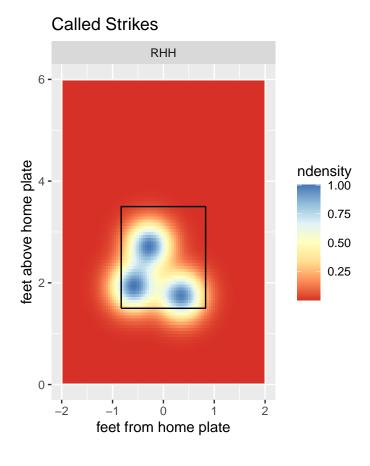
## Raúl Alcántara Curveball

### All Curveballs



### **Swinging Strikes**





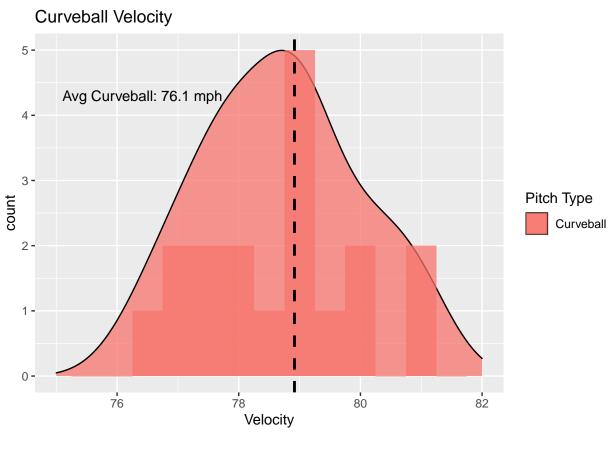


Table 19: Raúl Alcántara Curveball Stats

Pitch	Velo	Usg $\%$	wOBA	ExwOBA	$\mathbf{CSW}\%$	$\mathbf{SwStr}\%$	Whiff $\%$	$\mathbf{CS}\%$	$\mathbf{Swing}\%$	Contact%
Curveball	78.9	1	0.637	0.509	21.7	8.7	25	13	34.8	75

Table 20: Raúl Alcántara Curveball Stats by Batter Handedness

Bats	$\mathrm{Usg}\%$	CSW%	SwStr%	Whiff%	CS%	Swing%	Contact%	Strike%
RHH	1.5	21.1	5.3	16.7	15.8	31.6	83.3	47.4
LHH	0.4	25.0	25.0	50.0	0.0	50.0	50.0	50.0

Table 21: Raúl Alcántara Curveball BBEs

Pitch	Velo	Usg $\%$	ExwOBACON	BBEs	GB%	FB%	LD%	PU%	Soft%	$\mathbf{Med}\%$	Hard%
Curveball	78.9	1	0.509	5	20	60	20	0	0	40	60

Raúl Alcántara threw 23 curveballs out of 2297 tracked pitches in 2020, accounting for a 1% usage rate. His MLB usage in 2017 was 2%, so this is just a continuation of that trend. His curveball had a spin rate around 2076 rpm and doesn't profile as an effective pitch.

### Resources

- KBO Wizard to host 30,000 charted KBO pitches
- Raúl Alcántara's Baseball Savant Page
- Raúl Alcántara's FanGraphs Page
- Raúl Alcántara's myKBO page
- Mid-seasong scouting report on Raúl Alcántara
- Clips of Alcántara pitching )