

HOW CAN WE IDENTIFY AND VALUE... THE 'CHANNEL'?

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1) What is a 'CHANNEL'?

- A dynamic **line** that connects the outside centre-back and the nearest full-back.
- The dynamic **space** in between and around the outside centre-back and the nearest full-back.
- Puts what is created by the **movement** of the centre-back and the full-back as the main area of concern.

2) Why is the 'CHANNEL' important?

- 1) Little to no research is done on the channel because of its natural existence and coaches and analysts' assumptions about the area.
- 2) Limited ways to attack the channel although the area is well-known.
- 3) The channel has more potential that teams can use to help increase their attacking efficiency.

3) What should be known about the 'CHANNEL'?

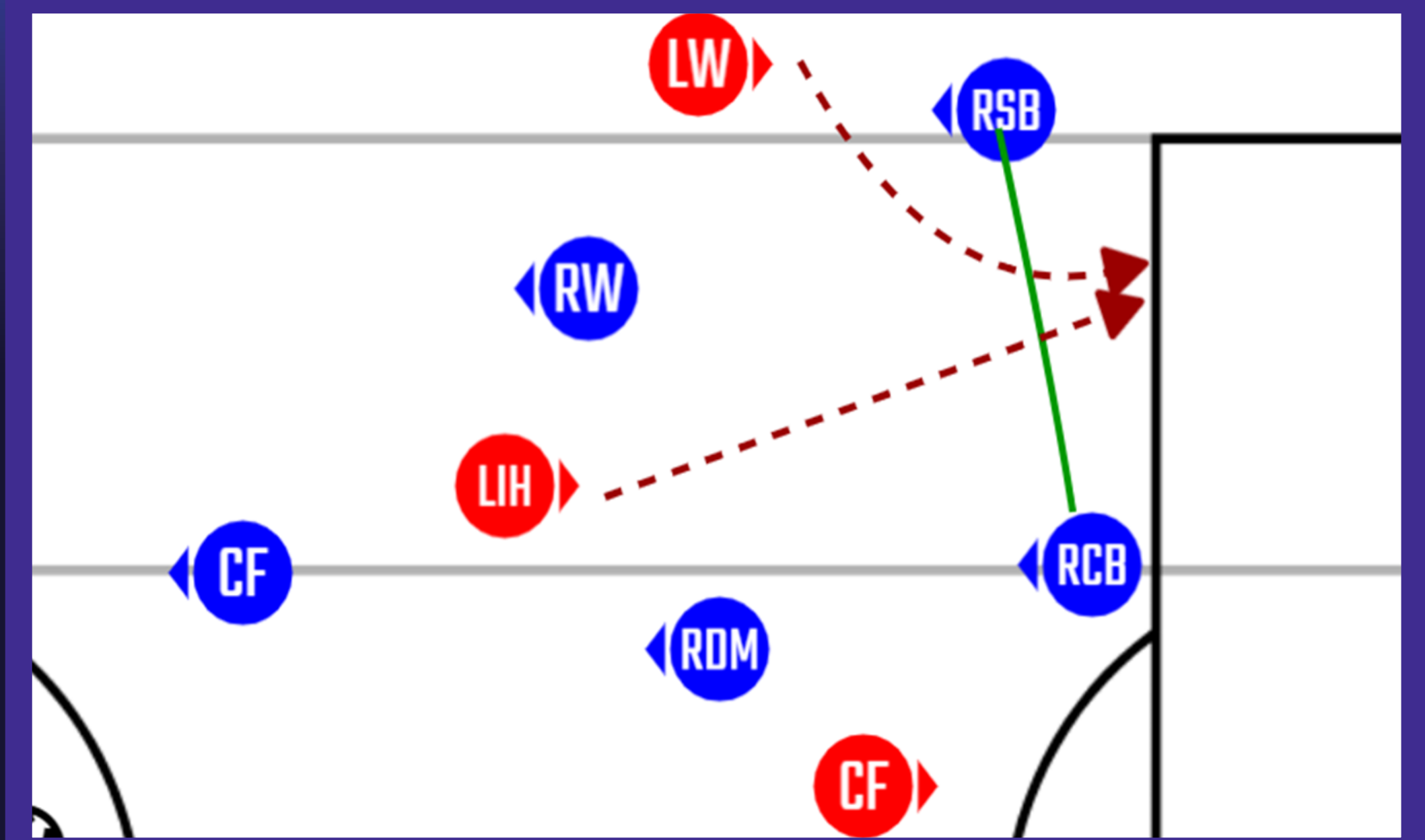
- Can only be created during the defensive phase.
- Dynamic space, unlike the static half-space, and can overlap with the half-space.
- An "active channel run" is when a player **actively** and **intentionally** runs into the channel.
- The run can lead to an increase in the goal-scoring possibility.

4) What did we find?

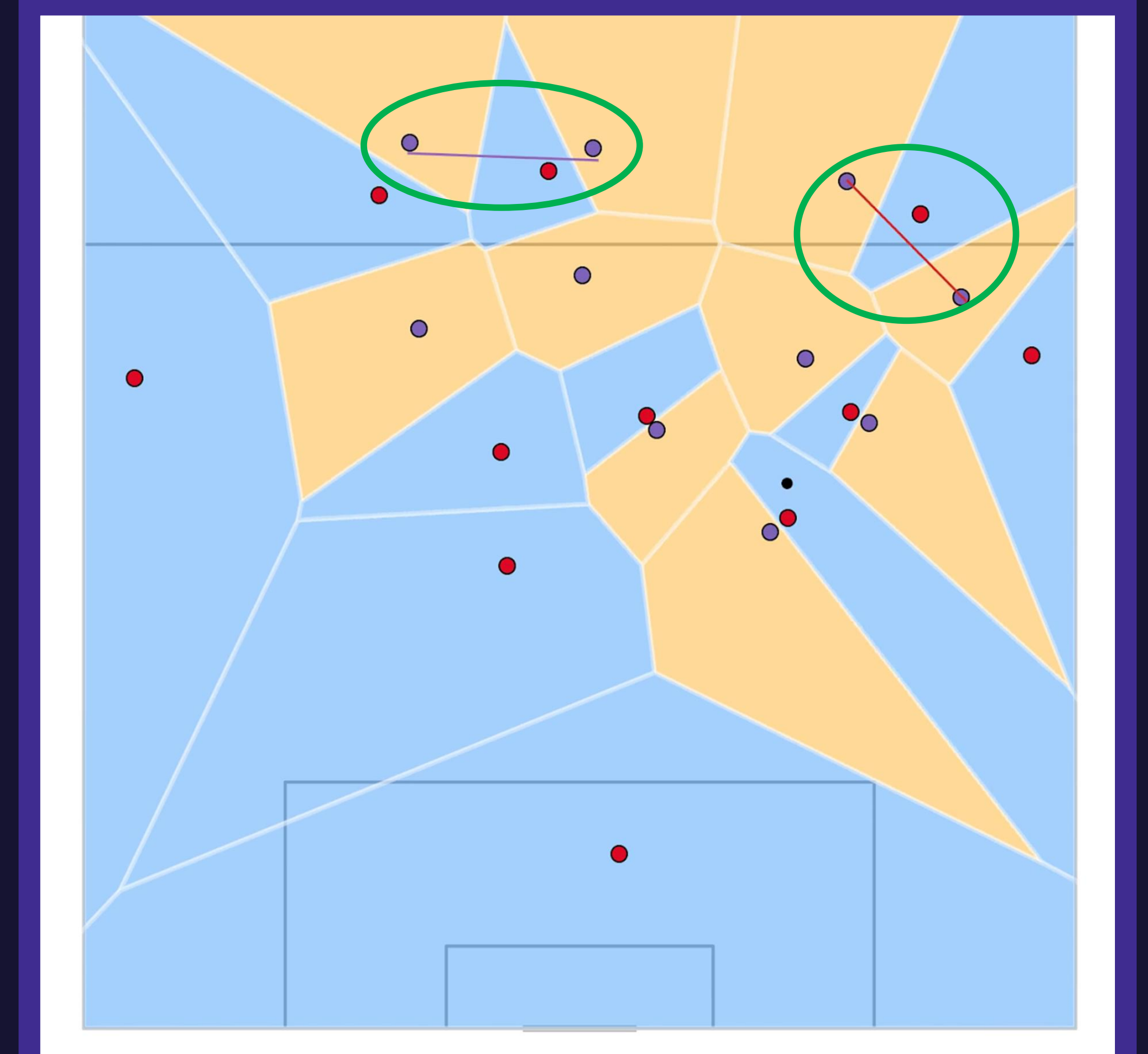
- Dataset: 20 matches (2 rounds) from the 2021/22 Ligue 1 season.
- League average: 100 to 150 total channel runs, 50 to 75 per match.
- Two teams fall very short of the lower threshold of 100 runs.
- One team stands out with 230 runs within 2 rounds.
- Teams have used channel runs with or without realising, but have not realised its potential.

5) How can coaches/analysts implement the 'CHANNEL'?

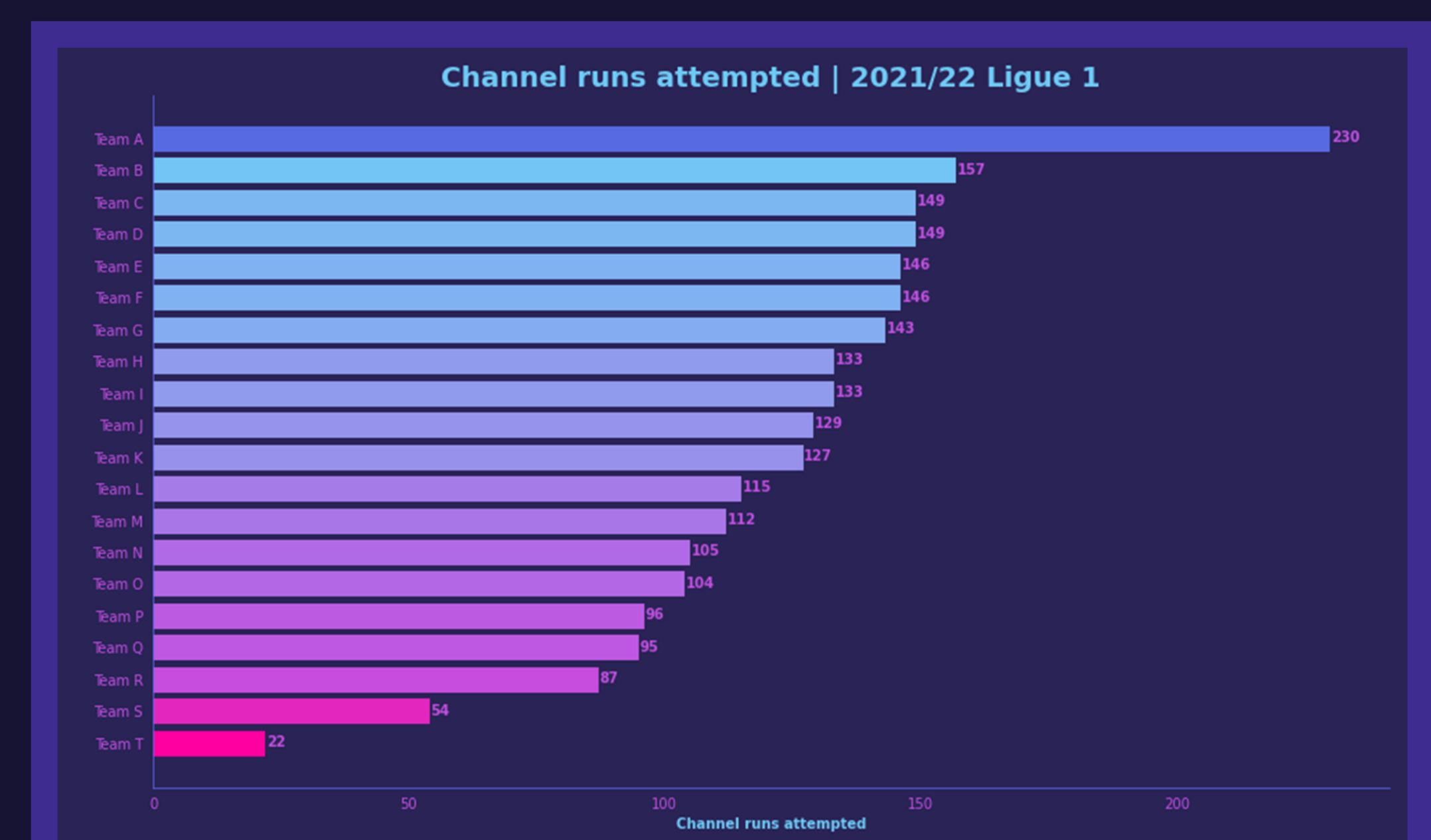
- Training: Develop specific exercises/rondos to create different attacking ways during the match.
- Pre-match and in-match analysis: Identify teams/players who are effective at attacking through the channel → create plans to defend/limit the threat from the opposition.
- Recruitment: Target underappreciated players who make good channel runs, allow managers to adapt to a new league quicker.



An example of an "active channel run"



How the "channel" is depicted from a 2D angle using Voronoi



Channel runs attempted in the 2021/22 Ligue 1

QR CODE TO VIEW THE FULL PRESENTATION

