

PREDICTING FOOTBALL MATCH OUTCOMES: THE 2014 FIFA WORD CUP TOURNAMENT CASE

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Resumen

In this talk we discuss a simulation-based method for predicting football match outcomes. We model the number of goals of two opposing teams as a Poisson distribution whose mean is proportional to the relative technical level of opponents. FIFA ratings were taken as the measure of technical level of teams as well as experts' opinions on the scores of the matches were taken in account to construct the prior distributions of the parameters on a full Bayesian approach. Tournament simulations were performed in order to estimate probabilities of winning the tournament assuming different values for the weight attached to the experts information and different choices for the sequence of weights attached to the previous observed matches. The methodology is illustrated on the 2014 Football World Cup. This is a joint work with Adriano K. Suzuki, Luis E. B. Salazar, Anderson Ara and Jose G. Leite.