



Bayesian Approaches to Predicting Football Match Outcomes: Who will be the Champion?

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In this talk, I discuss simulation-based methods for predicting football match outcomes. The Bayesian perspective is considered to model the number of goals of two opposing teams, distributed with means proportional to the relative technical level of the opponents. Different ratings are taken as measures of the technical level of teams, as well as experts guesses on the scores of the matches are taken in account to construct prior distributions of the parameters. Tournament simulations are performed in order to estimate probabilities of winning the tournament assuming different values for the weight attached to the experts guesses. The methodology is illustrated on the 2014 Football World Cup. This is a joint work with Adriano K. Suzuki, Luis E. B. Salazar, Danilo L. Lopes, Anderson Ara and José G. Leite.

Keywords: Bayesian Analysis; Expert Guess; Football; Match Outcomes.