



#### Feature Extraction and Aggregation for Predicting the Euro 2016

Maryam Tavakol Hamid Zafartavanaelmi, and Ulf Brefeld

Riva del Garda, Sep 19, 2016

# Agenda

- Introduction
- Feature Extraction
- Prediction & Learning
- Performance Analysis
- Summary

#### Introduction



## Feature Extraction

- Based on available data from the past tournaments
- General country data
  - FIFA ranking, FIFA points, UEFA ranking, etc.
  - Normalising features using *min* and *max* rescaling —keep the order

## Feature Extraction

- Player specific data
  - Market value, age, num of matches/goals, etc.
  - Obtaining the current squads
  - Goal/play ratio —host advantage for France
  - Averaging for all players of a team
  - Normalising features using *min* and *max* rescaling

### Add a New Feature

















































### Club Division



# Team-Club Harmony

Country	Num of Players	Club	Club Rank
Spain	5	Barcelona	1
Italy	6	Juventus	2
France	2	Juventus	2
Germany	5	Bayern Munich	4
Belgium	3	Liverpool	42
Poland	3	Legia	52
Portugal	4	Sporting CP	179
Wales	3	Crystal Palace	0*
Iceland	2	Hammarby	0*

(Normalised Club rank) x (num of players)

## Prediction

• A score per country is defined as a weighted sum of features, i.e., linear function

$$s_i = \boldsymbol{\theta}_i^\top \mathbf{x}_i$$

The probabilities are computed based on obtained scores

#### Prediction



# Learning

- Capture the outcome probabilities from the head to head record of pair of countries
  - Germany vs. France: 27 times
  - 10 win for **Germany**, 12 for **France** and 5 draw

$$p_{w_G} = \frac{10}{27}, p_{w_F} = \frac{12}{27}, p_d = \frac{5}{27}$$

## Learning

- Converting probabilities to scores
- Obtaining parameters from the closed form solution of ridge regression problem

$$\hat{\boldsymbol{\theta}} = (X^{\top}X + I)^{-1}X^{\top}\hat{\mathbf{s}}$$

# Performance Analysis

- Compare prediction results to actual tournament outcome
  - Until Quarter-Final (QF)
- Evaluation by multi class logarithmic loss

$$Logloss = -\frac{1}{N} \sum_{i=1}^{N} \sum_{j=1}^{M} y_{ij} * log(p_{ij})$$

## Overal Performance

• Error of prediction for 45 matches before QF



• Average error: 1.3187

## Insufficient Data

 Relation of performance with amount of historical data



Num of historical data



## Sufficient Data

 Reduction of error from 1.3187 to 1.1129 for teams with more than 4 historical records



## Role of Past Euros

 Eliminating teams with less than 2 appearance in past Euro cups, error: 0.9680



#### Baseline

Compare to a simple baseline (based on FIFA ranking only)



# Summary

- Collecting data
- Feature extracting/cleaning
- New feature: team-club harmony
- Learn a linear model
- Effect of historical data on the performance

#### Thanks for your attention

**Questions?** 

Email: <u>tavakol@leuphana.de</u>