

EURO 2024 groupstage predictions: 1st match day

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We use a **diagonal-inflated Bivariate-Poisson model with dynamic team-specific abilities** for the attack and the defence. Let (X_i, Y_i) denote the random number of goals scored by the home and the away team in the i -th game, $i = 1, \dots, n$, respectively. **ranking** denotes the Coca-Cola FIFA ranking at April 4th, 2024, whereas **att** and **def** denote the attack and the defence abilities, respectively.

$$(X_i, Y_i) \sim \begin{cases} (1-p)\text{BP}(x_i, y_i | \lambda_1, \lambda_2, \lambda_3) & \text{if } x \neq y \\ (1-p)\text{BP}(x_i, y_i | \lambda_1, \lambda_2, \lambda_3) + pD(x, \eta) & \text{if } x = y, \end{cases} \quad (1)$$

$$\log(\lambda_{1i}) = \text{att}_{h_i, t} + \text{def}_{a_i, t} + \frac{\gamma}{2}(\text{ranking}_{h_i} - \text{ranking}_{a_i}) \quad (2)$$

$$\log(\lambda_{2i}) = \text{att}_{a_i, t} + \text{def}_{h_i, t} - \frac{\gamma}{2}(\text{ranking}_{h_i} - \text{ranking}_{a_i}), \quad i = 1, \dots, n \text{ (matches)}, \quad (3)$$

$$\log(\lambda_{3i}) = \rho, \quad (4)$$

$$\text{att}_{k, t} \sim \mathcal{N}(\text{att}_{k, t-1}, \sigma^2), \quad (5)$$

$$\text{def}_{k, t} \sim \mathcal{N}(\text{def}_{k, t-1}, \sigma^2), \quad (6)$$

$$\rho, \gamma \sim \mathcal{N}(0, 1) \quad (7)$$

$$p \sim \text{Uniform}(0, 1) \quad (8)$$

$$\sum_{k=1}^{n_t} \text{att}_k = 0, \quad \sum_{k=1}^{n_t} \text{def}_k = 0, \quad k = 1, \dots, n_t \text{ (teams)}, \quad t = 1, \dots, T \text{ (times)}. \quad (9)$$

Lines (1) displays the likelihood's equations (diagonal inflated bivariate Poisson); lines (2)-(4) display the log-linear models for the scoring rates λ_1, λ_2 and the covariance parameter λ_3 ; lines (5)-(6) display the dynamic prior distributions for the attack and the defence parameters, respectively; lines (7)-(8) display prior distributions for the other model parameters; line (9) displays the sum-to-zero identifiability constraints. Model fitting has been obtained through the Hamiltonian Monte Carlo sampling, 2000 iterations, 4 chains using the **footBayes** R package (with the underlying **rstan** package). The historical data used to fit the models come from *all the international matches played during the years' range 2020-2024*.

The idea is to provide a dynamic predictive scenario: at the end of each match-day, the model will be refitted to predict the remaining matches.

home	away	home win	draw	away win	mlo
Germany	Scotland	0.579	0.243	0.178	1-0 (0.143)
Hungary	Switzerland	0.326	0.329	0.345	0-0 (0.176)
Spain	Croatia	0.455	0.289	0.256	1-0 (0.14)
Italy	Albania	0.723	0.190	0.088	2-0 (0.148)
Poland	Netherlands	0.156	0.214	0.630	0-2 (0.113)
Slovenia	Denmark	0.186	0.270	0.543	0-1 (0.167)
Serbia	England	0.107	0.212	0.681	0-1 (0.15)
Romania	Ukraine	0.254	0.277	0.469	0-1 (0.137)
Belgium	Slovakia	0.729	0.190	0.081	2-0 (0.158)
Austria	France	0.170	0.243	0.588	0-1 (0.145)
Turkey	Georgia	0.491	0.240	0.269	1-0 (0.097)
Portugal	Czech Republic	0.693	0.196	0.111	2-0 (0.134)

