

How England, Italy and Germany Are Dominating the World Cup

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Q1 (Brandon):

- What groupings in the data are there?

The data appears to have the following groupings:

- Stage of world cup (Group Stage, Round of 16, Quarterfinals, Semifinal, Finals)
- Region (Europe, North America, South America)
- Soccer League (Premier League (England), Serie A (Italy), Bundesliga (Germany), ...)
- Top 10 and not Top 10 Soccer League by share of players

Q2 (Connor):

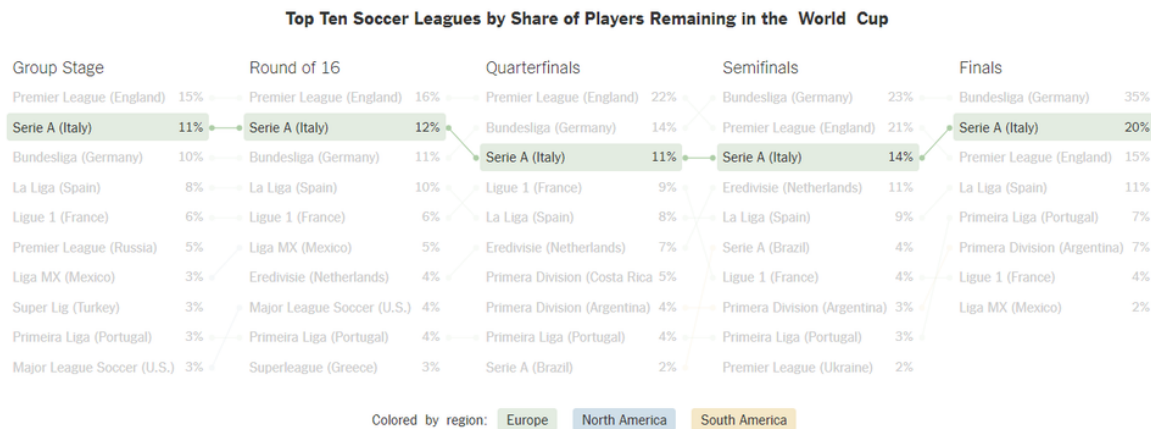
- How are the different groupings visually indicated in the graphic?

To show the groupings for each stage (Group Stage, Round of 16, Quarterfinals, Semifinal, Finals) the graphic uses labels, location and a slight degree of parallelism. Leagues represented in each stage are closely stacked and arranged in their own rectangle that in turn makes it quite clear to the viewer. The region groups are probably the most obvious to see as a result of using one of the strongest preattentive properties, color. Europe is categorized with green, North America with blue, and South America with yellow, all making it abundantly clear for the viewer. Finally, the different iterations of the leagues (Premier League, Bundesliga, etc...) are tentatively grouped with the addition of small connector lines. These lines show the movement of a league from one group to the next but only hold up for some leagues across the whole graphic.

Q3 (Miles):

- Visit the [online version \(Links to an external site.\)](#). What grouping does the interaction help highlight and how?

When viewing the interactive version of the plot on the NYT website, if your mouse hovers over the bar corresponding to a particular league, then the bars for that league within *each* column are highlighted and the others washed out:



This allows you to track the *change* in the Share of Players remaining as a function of the stage of the tournament (so the grouping element would be the league in question). In the screenshot above, we can see that Italy's league started with 11% representation in the preliminary stage, but gradually increased to 20% representation in the finals!

Q4 (Amy):

- Is the graphic successful in its purpose?

There is some kind of flow in the information conveyed and that is helped by having the same team be connected by a line throughout the table. The rows are ordered by the percentages and so if we were interested in which countries are at the top, we would notice that the top three are England, Italy, and Germany. Naturally, our eyes would then move from one column to the next, from left to right. So, yes, the graphic is successful in showing how these three countries dominated in the World Cup.

Q5 (Abraham):

- What changes would you make?

By taking into consideration the Gestalt laws of spatial proximity, some of the changes I would make would be to space each block in each column a little more. For example, Group Stage: the 'Premier League (England)' block and 'Serie A (Italy)' block, I would separate such blocks on the longest side. I would then center the titles for each group, and create a box around each grouping in separate colors to make it more than obvious of a clear distinction between each group (E.g. a red box around Group Stage, and a blue box around Round of 16, and a green box around Quarterfinals, a black box over Semifinals, and a purple one over Finals). I assume that I would also make it more apparent that the goal is to get to finals, so, I would make use a pre-attentive property of size and change the font-size. With the largest font for the groups the teams that reached 'Finals' and smaller font for the initial 'Group Stage.'