

CSE 519 -- Data Science
Quant Shop Video Review Form

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Video episode title: Predicting the Playoffs **Episode number (1-8)** 6

Of the eight episodes, how many have you previously watched? (0-7) 1

Give the month and year you started your graduate studies at Stony Brook August 2017

Did you learn anything by watching it? (Y/N) Y

Describe stuff you did learn below (if Y):

1. If it seems that data is unavailable, it is likely to be found in varied sources, possibly from different organisations. To convert it into a usable form, it needs to be filtered and integrated.
2. The same problem can be approached in alternative ways if seen from various perspectives, considering different factors - in this case, using an exhaustive ranking system vs. considering interactions between pairs of teams independently.
3. Prediction problems tend to be of the nature "How much" rather than "Yes/No". Solving "how much" problems is a more difficult and interesting process.

What did you learn from looking at their project report?

1. It is possible to use an algorithm that is usually applied in completely different contexts. This project presents a novel application of the Page Rank algorithm to predict football winners.
2. When building various models, it is not necessary that the later models to be built upon previous ones by introducing improvements or new parameters. Completely different approaches may produce better results as compared to incremental versions of previous models.

Rate program quality from 1 (terrible) to 10 (amazing): 8 **Was it worth watching (Y/N)?** Y

What could we do to make the videos better, and more educational?

It would be useful to know how the team brainstormed and came up with these models. It will serve as a guideline on how to approach a new problem (especially for this project, since the team members did not know anything about football at the outset). Which model/s did they discard/use and why?