Introduction



- Soccer is one of the most popular sports in the world, especially around the time of each FIFA World Cup
- With the World Cup this summer, here are a few interesting trends in international soccer matches over the last 150 years:
 - How has goal scoring changed over time?
 - What country has hosted the most international matches?
 - Is homefield advantage a real phenomenon?
 - What is the record for each team that has played in the World Cup?

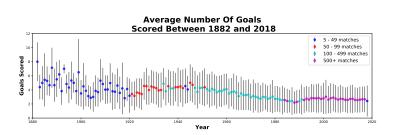
Data used: Kaggle Dataset, https://www.kaggle.com/martj42/international-football-results-from-1872-to-2017



Source: https://www.chicago-fire.com/post/2017/11/30/2018-world-cup-draw-set-friday-moscow

Average Scoring over Time





Methodology:

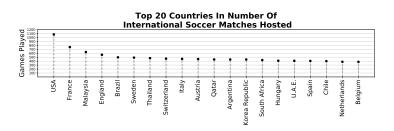
- At least 5 matches must have been played in a given year
- Color coding corresponds to the number of matches played

Conclusions:

- Over the past 30 years, soccer has been a low scoring affair
- Many low scoring games averages away high scoring matches

Top International Hosts





Methodology:

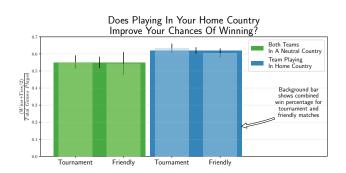
- Tallied number of matches played in each country
- No discrimination between tournament and friendly matches

Conclusions:

 The U.S. has the best chance to see an international match

Homefield Advantage





Methodology:

- If applicable, home team is the team playing in its home country
- Otherwise, the home team is the team listed as such

Conclusions:

- To first order, playing at home improves your chances to win
- Teams do better at home in tournaments than in friendly matches

World Cup Records



Methodology:

 Wins, Losses, Ties tallied for each team who has played in at least one FIFA World Cup

Conclusions:

- Unsurprisingly, Germany and Brazil have dominated the World Cup
- Sorry, Canada, but you should probably stick to hockey

