

OVERVIEW

You will be given a dataset (“soccermatches.csv”) with data from club soccer matches. The fields are listed on the next page.

Your assignment is to write three different functions (as described below) to predict the results of soccer matches from an out-of-sample dataset of the same type (same variable names, also club soccer matches from similar period and similar years). The functions should be written in either R or python. They will load the **out-of-sample** CSV and add the predictions to the dataframe. Do not use anything auxiliary like a model object, the functions must do the work to generate predictions.

FUNCTION 1: Make pregame predictions of P(Home Team wins), P(Draw) and P(Away Team Wins). Note that these variables are Hwins, IsDraw and Awins in the dataset. Your goal is to minimize overall Brier Score on the out-of-sample CSV. The winner of the game can be determined by Hgoals and Agoals. Because these are pregame projections, you may not use Hgoals1H or Agoals1H as part of your prediction. Your predictions should be added to the dataframe as hProb, dProb and aProb.

FUNCTION 2: Make halftime predictions of P(Home Team wins), P(Draw) and P(Away Team Wins). Your goal is to minimize overall Brier Score on the out-of-sample CSV. In this function, you may of course use Hgoals1H or Agoals1H. Your predictions should be added to the dataframe as hProbHT, dProbHT and aProbHT.

FUNCTION 3: Make a pregame prediction of the total number of goals scored in the game. Note that this variable is “goals2H” in the dataset. Your goal is to minimize sum of squared errors in the out-of-sample CSV. Your prediction should be added to the dataframe as predGoals2H.

You should assume that the out-of-sample CSV will be titled “soccermatches2.csv”. Your script will

1. Load soccermatches2.csv
2. Call the three functions and add predictions to dataframe
3. Write csv as [yourname]_output.csv

ADDITIONAL NOTES

1. Your submission will not be considered if you attempt to determine exact identity of games based on the rows in sample. (Example of something that is not in the spirit of the exercise: having a lookup table across vast database of soccer leagues to find results of games where Home Team had previously scored 33 goals, allowed 28, etc.)
2. If you feel that you can get the best possible results via some method that absolutely requires that you attach and load a model object, you can submit that as a supplement but you should still include a “standard submission” that accomplishes everything in self-contained functions.
3. The “in-sample” dataset “soccermatches.csv” exists for you to delve into and learn from. But your submission will not be able to ingest this file. That is, the function must do the work itself (as opposed to loading a CSV, building a model, predicting with that model).
4. Sample submissions are attached, one in R, one in python.

Hwins: Binary variable indicating whether home team won the match

Awins: Binary variable indicating whether away team won the match

IsDraw: Binary variable indicating whether match ended in a draw

goals2H: Number of goals scored in second half

[Above four variables are in principle redundant because they can be derived from the rest of dataset but are added for avoidance of doubt since these are the variables you are assigned to predict]

Hgoals: Goals scored by home team

Agoals: Goals scored by away team

Hgoals1H: Goals scored by home team in the first half

Agoals1H: Goals scored by away team in the first half

HG_LY: Home team number of goals scored in previous season (“last year”)

HGA_LY: Home team goals allowed in previous season

HM_LY: Home team matches played previous season

AG_LY: Away team number of goals scored in previous season (“last year”)

AGA_LY: Away team goals allowed in previous season

AM_LY: Away team matches played previous season

HG_TY: Home team number of goals scored in previous season (“last year”)

HGA_TY: Home team goals allowed in previous season

HM_TY: Home team matches played previous season

AG_TY: Away team number of goals scored in previous season (“last year”)

AGA_TY: Away team goals allowed in previous season

AM_TY: Away team matches played previous season

Hrelegated: 0/1 indicator for whether home team was relegated in previous year

Arelegated: 0/1 indicator for whether away team was relegated in previous year

Hpromoted: 0/1 indicator for whether home team was promoted in previous year

Apromoted: 0/1 indicator for whether away team was promoted in previous year