

IPL Auctions Aren't Chaotic — They're Markets

Every IPL auction is called unpredictable or emotional. But that's misleading. IPL auctions are markets under constraints: fixed budgets, scarce roles, sequence dependence, and human psychology.

Most analytics models fail because they try to rank players. Teams don't rank players. They manage mistakes.

This project treats the auction as a market simulation, not a prediction task. IPL performance is anchored using an Exponentially Weighted Moving Average (EWMA), balancing recency and career stability.

Players are valued by primary role only — batter, bowler, all-rounder, or wicket-keeper. All-rounders are priced for flexibility, not double-counted output.

A Monte Carlo auction simulator models random player order, two-team bidding duels, dynamic walk-away prices, and budget constraints.

Using only pre-2022 data, the model independently reconstructed core structures of successful IPL teams, including Gujarat Titans' balanced build.

The key insight: auctions are not lost by many mistakes. They are lost by one — an emotional overpay, ignored Tier-B value, or mispriced role.

The best auction strategy isn't about buying stars. It's about never paying for the same mistake twice.