Abstract: Overtime, predicting the performance of a soccer player in the next game has been interesting topic for many researchers and analysis. We take into account the data of game week 15th and 16th to start our research. After using linear regression, random forest and several methods, a model to predict the performance of soccer players is developed. Many variables are discussed and analyzed to find out which of them influence the performance of the players the most. Moreover, we also consider the question: are the variables that affect the scores a player gets and the variables that affect whether they are in the dream team the same?

Introduction

People mention to soccer as the king of all sports in this world. Topics relate to soccer are always controversial and the number of people fall in love with this sport is huge. These factors lead to the creation of Fantasy Premier League (FPL) a game that not only satisfy the demand to build the team we want but also sharpen our skills to predict the performance of players in the future. FPL is an online soccer game with over 5 million players around the world. In this game people assemble a team of real-life soccer players and score points based on the actual performance of these players. The points are based on the playing time, the number of goals, assists, fouls, etc. in real life. For instance, a player gets four points (in FPL) for scoring a goal and two points for playing a match. The goal of FPL is to get more points than other participants. Since the points heavily depend on many different variables, they are difficult to be predicted. Every players of FPL have different techniques to build their team and a player that finished the season at 1st rank in FPL can end up out of top 100 the next season. Therefore, FPL becomes one of the hardest and attractive game in the world. Some people simply look at the number of goals a striker gets to predict his performance in the next game, or the number of goals concede to predict a goal’ keeper performance. These ideas are completely one-side and they lead people to wrong ways to build a good team. Moreover, they make people have a wrong perception about soccer. With the desire to find out the most important variables in deciding the performance of players and to widen the knowledge of soccer for people, we start the research and finally come out with an effective model.