



FOOTBALL BETS

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Introduction

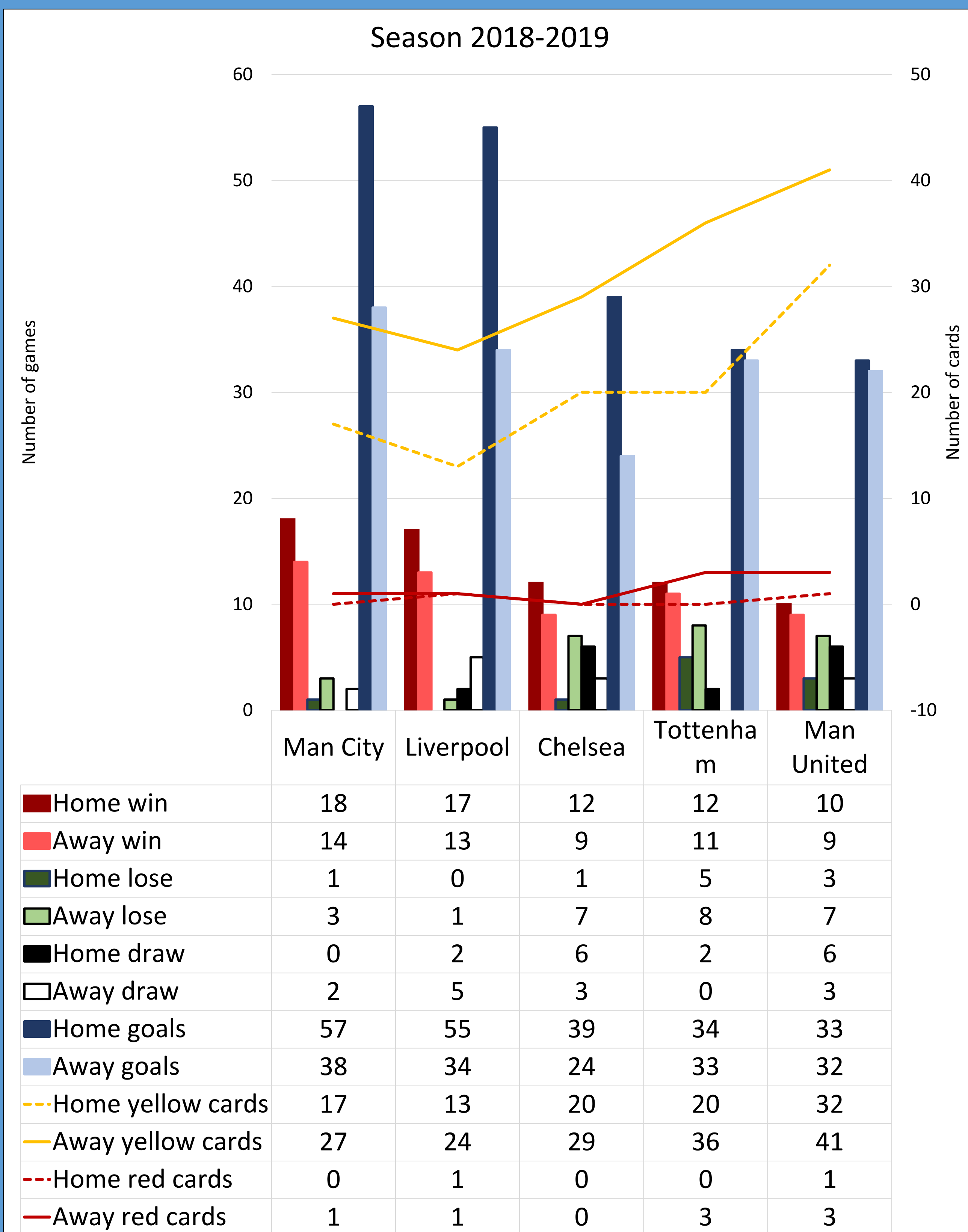
Today, almost everyone has faced sports betting. Some people believe that if you constantly analyze, for example, football teams, you can make money on it. With this project, we wanted to know if this is actually so.

Goals

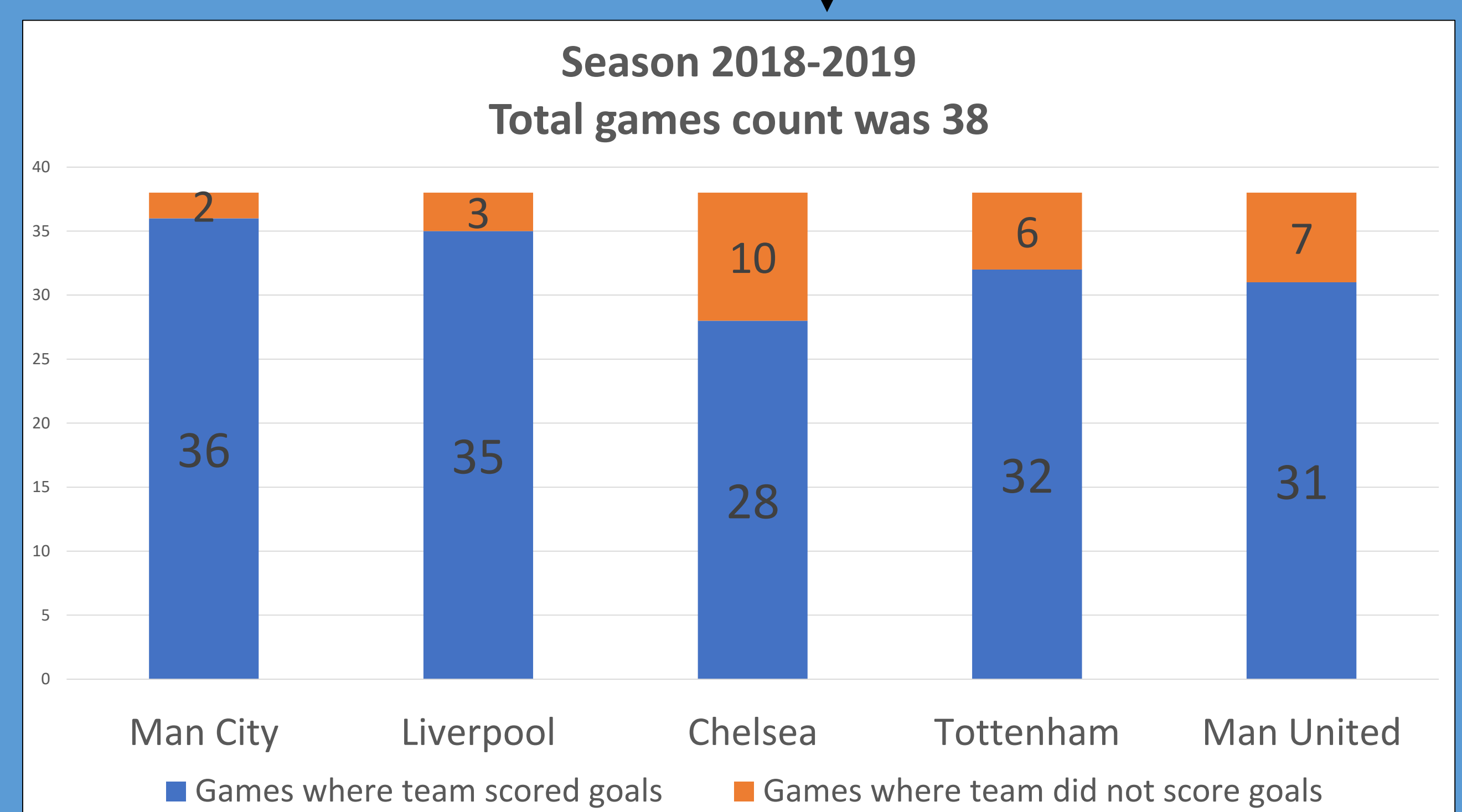
- ✓ Data preprocessing
- ✓ Make data human readable
- ✓ Try to find what the outcome of the match depends on
- ✓ Create a model that will predict future matches

Data

The data itself was gotten from football-data.co.uk/ website. We decided to take the data for the last 5 English Premier League seasons including the current. We had to drop quite a few columns as they were not needed. For example, there were different bookmakers, who gave their coefficient on who would win (difference in 0.1 decimal). Unfortunately, the data files did not have any information about the players, so only teams and coefficients were taken into account for prediction.

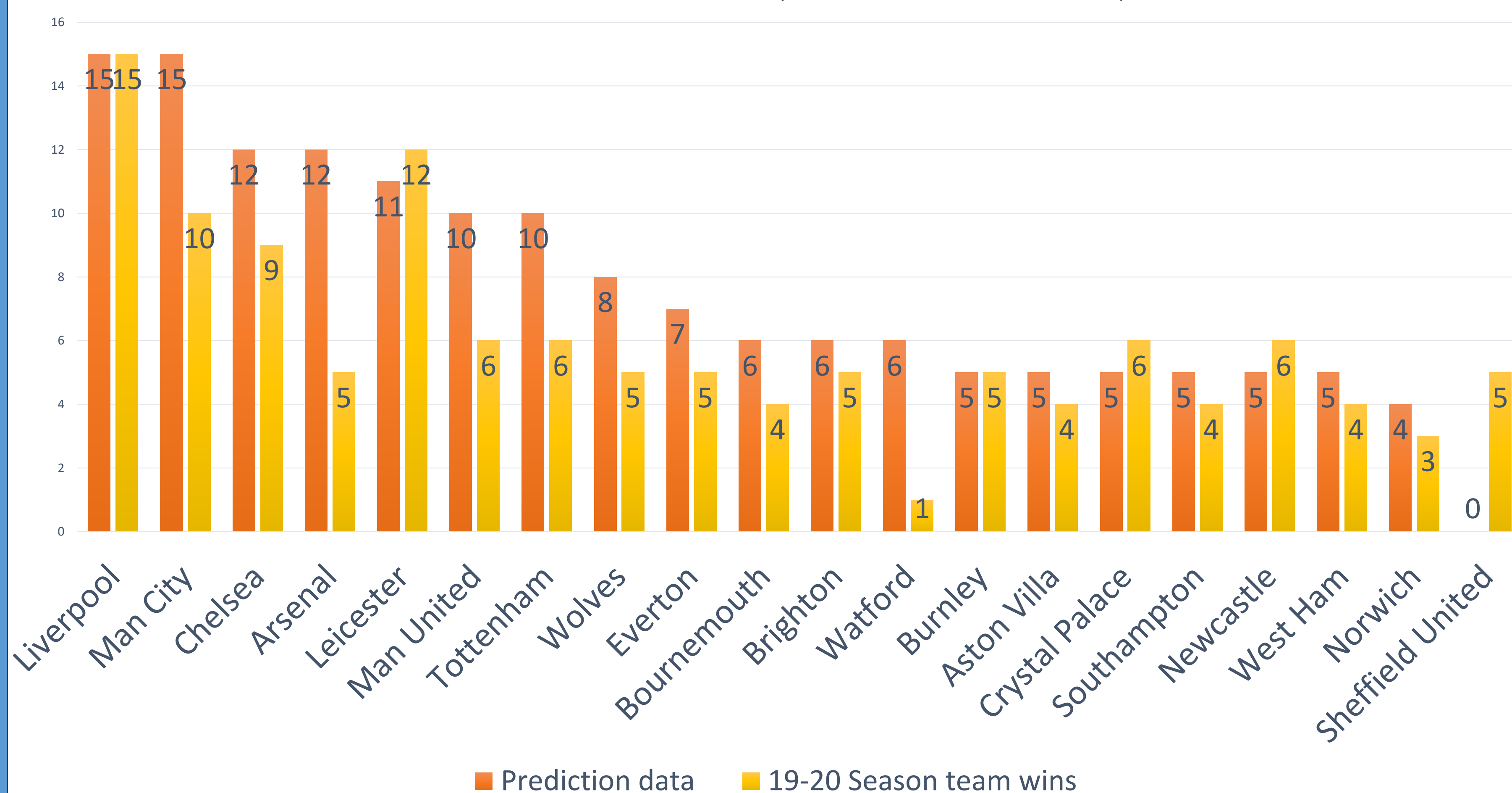


What did we finally get...



This is perhaps the only bet that has the highest percentage of accuracy. This means that if Man City or Liverpool plays in the English Premier League, then with the highest probability these teams will score a goal.

Prediction model vs actual team wins



Fun facts

- ✓ In every fifth game, a weaker team wins the match
- ✓ 45% of games end in a draw or loss of stronger team
- ✓ The more training data, the worse the model predicts
- ✓ Most often, when weaker teams won stronger teams were, when referee Martin Atkison was on the field

Conclusion

In the end, we can say that making money through football betting is very risky. You can never be sure that a weak team with a coefficient of 11.0 will lose to a team with a coefficient of 1.10. We also found out, that you can not take too old data as teams have changed their roster, so you have to find the sweet spot.

We used from 2015 to 19 England Premier data to train our model, that we used to try to predict current season match outcome.



Our predictions for next week matches