



Lab/BA/SA/Group:

FIFA World Ranking

Motivation and Informal Description

Did you know that Switzerland has the 7th best football team in the world according to the official FIFA World Ranking?¹ Do you think this is accurate, in particular in light of Brazil being ranked 11th? A brief look on how this ranking is created will probably leave you baffled. A better understandable explanation is needed and is for example provided by Eurosport.² The word “insane” is used quite often trying to explain what is happening there. After having a look at it, you should understand why Switzerland is ranked 7th. But most likely you’re still not convinced that this reflects their actual ranking.

The need for a proper and fair (whatever that means) ranking is undeniable, in particular as the FIFA World Ranking is used to seed the teams for the next international competitions in order to prevent two top teams ending up in the same group and kicking each other out already in the group stage.

The task of this project is to create a *proper* and by certain means *fairer* ranking for all the football teams in the world. It should both be more transparent and more accurate than the one currently employed by FIFA. Ideally, your ranking should be general enough to be applicable for other ranking problems.



Requirements

Good programming skills and some basic knowledge graph theory could be of great help. The student(s) should be able to work independently on this topic!

Interested? Please contact us for more details!

Contact

- Philipp Brandes: philipp.brandes@tik.ee.ethz.ch, ETZ G64.2
- Tobias Langner: tobias.langner@tik.ee.ethz.ch, ETZ G61.4

¹<http://www.fifa.com/worldranking/>

²<http://uk.eurosport.yahoo.com/blogs/pitchside-europe/switzerland-really-better-italy-fifa-insane-ranking-system-144405289.html>