

## **FIFA Foe Fun!**

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Who will win the 2014 World Cup? Do you smell the blood of an Englishman? Will defending champion Spain come out on top? Host nation Brazil? Another perennial power, or a dark horse? Which one is the Group of Death? We investigate these questions just as the knockout phase of World Cup competition is about to begin. We begin by reviewing FIFA's official ranking method, and then we describe a number of other methods for ranking sports teams, using some linear algebra and some probability. We also describe a website, [fifafoefun.davidson.edu](http://fifafoefun.davidson.edu), that we have created to allow visitors to generate their own customized ranking of national soccer teams, using personally selected values for weighing the importance of a number of different factors attached to matches, including age of match, type of match, and the value of winning in a penalty shoot-out.