

Rethinking the FIFA World Cup final draw

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Abstract:

In this talk, we investigate a number of flaws in the current procedure for the final draw of the FIFA World Cup. These flaws result from FIFA's inability to enforce the geographic constraints that they put on the draw in the most fair manner. We suggest three new tractable procedures that are fair to all teams, produce balanced and geographically diverse groups, and, for the last two, give equally likely outcomes.