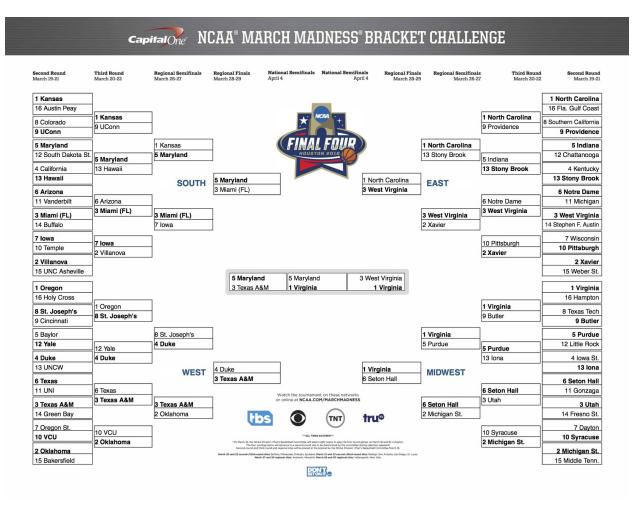
CSC2541: Sports Analytics (Challenge 3: March Madness)

February 26, 2017

Each March, 64 USA college basketball teams from Division I level of the National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA) compete in a single elimination tournament until a champion is emerged. This tournament is called March Madness or the Big Dance. A greatly exciting aspect of the tournament is that people around the world make predictions of the outcomes, fill brackets and participate in friends or office pools and win money and most importantly bragging rights.

Your goal for this challenge is to predict the winning teams at every level of the tournament by using machine learning techniques. A 2016 filled bracket would have look like this:



Besides bragging rights, there will be multiple awesome prizes involved.

For a comprehensive overview of March Madness, please refer to the following Wikipedia article or the NCAA website.

1 Contest

We have created a private group on Yahoo! Fantasy website where you can submit your bracket. You can register your team by clicking here.

The 64 teams will be announced on March 12th. The deadline to submit your bracket is **March** 15th 11:59 pm eastern time.

You can use any machine learning technique and data you like. A great source of info and ideas on machine learning techniques for this challenge is UofT ML alumni Danny Tarlow's blog.

2 Scoring

The brackets will be scored using the exponential point scoring system of 1, 2, 4, 8, 16 and 32 points for a correct pick depending on the stage of the competition.

3 Prizes

We will give prices to the top 3 winning teams. There will also be a prize for the most innovative submission.

4 Submission

A report (paper format) should be submitted explaining what you have done. A presentation will be given in class as well.