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Article

Keywords: hot-hand effect, cricket, performance streaks

Posted Date: November 9th, 2021

DOI: <https://doi.org/10.21203/rs.3.rs-1003454/v1>

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Uncovering predictability of individual and team success: Significant Hot Hand Effect in International Cricket

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We investigate the predictability and persistence (hot-hand effect) of individual and team performance by analyzing the complete recorded history of international cricket. We introduce an original temporal representation of performance streaks, which is suitable to be modelled as a self-exciting point process. We confirm the presence of predictability and hot-hands across the individual performance and the absence of the same in team performance and game outcome. Thus, Cricket is a game of skill for individuals and a game of chance for the teams. Our study contributes to recent historiographical debates concerning the presence of persistence in individual and collective productivity and success. The introduction of several metrics and methods can be useful to test and exploit clustering of performance in the study of human behavior and design of algorithms for predicting success.

1. Introduction

The study of what bring success or failure in battles and wars, in politics, in business, in sports, even in our personal lives, has a very long history, being part of the DNA of human evolution that has tended to promote the genes of the “successful ones” (1). The ‘science of success’ has received a boost in recent years with the growing availability of large datasets describing individual’s careers from which much can be learned and importantly predicted (2–10). The increasing shift towards collaborative and team-based effort (performance) in recent decades has made it more important to quantify and predict teamwork (11–15). However, the translation of the predictability in individual performance to team performance is still missing.

In this study, we develop novel statistical tools to uncover the temporal features that are characteristic of a set of performances. We explore the complete history of International cricket (16, 17) to quantify individual and team performances. We study the sequence of consecutive performances of each player and team. By investigating the scores of individual players against the index of the games, we note that success breeds success in individual career (also supported by ARIMA model in SM). We further document that the best performances in a given player’s career are clustered in time (see figure 3), contrary to previous findings (18, 19). However, we cannot say the same for teams. We uncover the presence of hot hands in individual careers in both formats

14 of the game but the absence of the same in team performances. Our proposed Hawkes model applied to the performance time not
15 only outperforms the traditional techniques like ARIMA (see SM) but is successful in capturing the ingredients of self-excitation
16 in the patterns of consecutive superior performances. These findings raise intriguing questions regarding the nature and extent of
17 predictability of one's success and team success in a team game. This is particularly interesting, since these findings not only refute
18 the well-established narratives of the absence of hot hands in team games (18–21) where performances are usually driven by
19 stochastic events. Our findings suggest that the hot hand effect is not just a psychological bias (18, 19). A part of results corroborate
20 previous works on hot-hands (8, 9, 22–24). To the best of our knowledge, this is the first time a detailed quantitative analysis has
21 been done to quantify the well-known concept of 'in form' or 'out of form' present in the cricketing vocabulary. One of the possible
22 explanations for the observation of such a peculiar behavior in the game of cricket may be the relatively larger importance of skill
23 in the outcomes of a player's game and luck in the outcomes of a teams' game (10, 25).

24 The rest of the article is structured as follows. In section 2, we present a short literature review to motivate our study and put it
25 in the right context. Section 3 describes the dataset that has been used in the study and the data acquisition methodology. Section 4
26 summarizes the empirical observations. Section 5 presents our proposed clustering point process representation in the form of a
27 self-excited point process model to quantify and predict the hot hands in the sequences of performances. Section 6 presents our
28 main results. We conclude the results of the study in section 7.

29

30

31

2. Literature review

32 A much-debated question is whether or not a string of successes of an individual or entity is more likely to cause continued
33 success. This is called The Hot Hand effect. The belief in it is called the hot-hand fallacy, whereas the belief in the opposite, i.e.,
34 success is less likely after a streak of success is called Gambler's fallacy (26). The question of whether the Hot Hand effect
35 genuinely exists is important, as its positive answer has far-reaching consequences in several research fields, including finance
36 and econometrics (10, 24, 27–29), psychology (18, 19, 30, 31) and sociology (2, 8, 9, 32, 33). The debate on the "Hot Hand fallacy"
37 vs. the "Gambler's Fallacy" revolves around the deeper question: 'to what extent, human beings are capable of dealing with
38 inherent systemic stochasticity' (10, 25). In their seminal paper, Gilovich et al. refute the validity of "the hot hand" and
39 "streak shooting" in the game of basketball (18). Their analyses of the shooting records of the Philadelphia 76ers, Boston Celtics,
40 and a controlled shooting experiment with the men and women of Cornell's varsity teams provided no evidence for a positive
41 correlation between the outcomes of successive shots. They further showed that the belief in the hot hand and the detection of
42 streaks in random sequences is nothing but an expression of the general misconception of chance (18), according to which even
43 short random sequences are thought to be highly representative of their generating process. There has been very strong support for
44 this reasoning in the literature, especially in the field of finance and economics (21, 28–30, 34). These studies support the idea that
45 the hot-hand effect is a fallacy, stating that the hot hand does not exist and is nothing, but a psychological bias based on the "law
46 of small numbers". Moreover, these studies warn that this fallacy may often lead people to take costly and risky decisions.

47 On the other side of the debate, Miller and Sanjurjo (22) have recently challenged the original findings in (18), with contrasting
48 conclusions revealing significant evidence for streak shooting. Miller and Sanjurjo showed that the method used in (18) introduced
49 a sampling bias because they start counting after a series of hits/misses. They further showed that the method of (18) is biased
50 towards more misses, thus claiming that an equal rate of hits to misses after a streak presented in (18) is, in fact, a sign of a hot
51 hand. The debate about successful streaks has gained fresh prominence in many other fields, with many arguing for the presence
52 of such streaks in large scale data sets of scientific careers, artistic career and acting careers (8, 9, 31, 35, 36).

53 The above debates revolve around the investigation of presence or absence of the hot-hand effect in individual performances.
 54 However, they fail to show how these effects can be exploited for better prediction or how the aggregated individual performances
 55 drive the evolution of team performance. In this study, we present a novel methodology to better understand and predict individual
 56 and team performances. We derive our methodology from the self-excited conditional Hawkes point process (37), which has been
 57 applied in a variety of fields particularly the description of social diffusion processes (38–40), financial systems (41–43), and
 58 seismological predictions (44–46). To the best of our knowledge, this is the first use of Hawkes processes in the domain of ‘science
 59 of success’. We apply our methodology for studying the presence (or absence) of the hot hand effect within the performance
 60 sequences in individual performance in the game of cricket. Our methodology would be useful in predicting and quantifying hot-
 61 hand effect in performance sequences in many other domains.

62

63

3. Dataset

64 The dataset we use in this study includes 4,178 One Day International (ODI) games starting from January 5, 1971, till July 1,
 65 2019 (48 years) and 2,351 international Test games spanning March 1877 to March 2019 (142 years) (see SM for data acquisition
 66 and preparation). We record 51,699 batting performances of 2,959 Test batsmen and 51,088 bowling performances of 2,874 Test
 67 bowlers, 90,166 batting performances of 2,500 ODI batsmen and 90,754 bowling performances of 2,505 ODI bowlers (in total
 68 283,707 records) (see figure 1). The dataset further contains the information about the performance of the teams and the outcomes
 69 of the games. To have meaningful calibration results, we only analyze the performances of those batsmen who have played at least
 70 30 games (see goodness of fit in SM).

71

4. Distributions of temporal locations of best performances

72 To study the self-excited nature of the scores in an individual’s career, we investigate the relative positions of the best three
 73 performances in each player’s career. We denote t_j^* the index of the best performance in player j ’s career, i.e.,

$$74 \quad t_j^* = \operatorname{argmax}_t S_j(t) \quad (1)$$

75 We also define t_j^{**} , t_j^{***} as the indices of the second, third best performance, and τ_j as the length of an individual’s career. We
 76 then calculate the relative difference of indices of the three best performances as

$$77 \quad \Delta_j^{1,2} = \frac{t_j^* - t_j^{**}}{\tau_j}, \quad \Delta_j^{1,3} = \frac{t_j^* - t_j^{***}}{\tau_j}, \quad \Delta_j^{2,3} = \frac{t_j^{**} - t_j^{***}}{\tau_j} \quad (2)$$

78 for all players in our dataset and define the marginal probability density functions $P(\Delta_j^{1,2})$, $P(\Delta_j^{1,3})$, $P(\Delta_j^{2,3})$ and the joint probability
 79 distribution $Q(\Delta_j^{1,2}, \Delta_j^{1,3})$. As a control, we shuffle the indices of the performances within the individual’s career and reevaluate
 80 these quantities. The primed quantities correspond to the shuffled career, i.e., $t_j^{* \prime}$ corresponds to the index of the best performance
 81 within the randomly reshuffled player j ’s career, and so on. We define the marginal probability density functions $P(\Delta_j^{\prime 1,2})$, $P(\Delta_j^{\prime 1,3})$,
 82 $P(\Delta_j^{\prime 2,3})$, which are the distributions of the shuffled versions $\Delta_j^{\prime 1,2}$ of $\Delta_j^{1,2}$, $\Delta_j^{\prime 1,3}$ of $\Delta_j^{1,3}$ and $\Delta_j^{\prime 2,3}$ of $\Delta_j^{2,3}$. We define the ratios
 83 $R(\Delta t)$ of these marginal probabilities to quantify the temporal collocation of the best performances in an individual career

$$84 \quad R(\Delta t) = \frac{P(\Delta t)}{P'(\Delta t)}, \text{ where } \Delta t = \Delta_j^{1,2}, \Delta_j^{1,3} \text{ or } \Delta_j^{2,3}. \quad (3)$$

85 Figure 3 presents the joint probability distribution of relative difference of indices of best and second-best against the best and third
 86 best ($Q(\Delta_j^{1,2}, \Delta_j^{1,3})$) (top panels) defined by equation (2), for *ODI* and *Test* formats over all individuals’ careers. We observe a
 87 concentration of high probability around the origin $(0,0)$ in both formats of the game. This correlation is interesting since this
 88

89 characteristic is a feature of the self-excited process and is not expected in a pure memoryless Poissonian process. We further
 90 compare the joint probability distribution ($Q(\Delta_j^{1,2}, \Delta_j^{1,3})$) with the corresponding reshuffled joint probability distribution
 91 ($Q(\Delta_j'^{1,2}, \Delta_j'^{1,3})$) and present in figure S2. The p-values from 2D Kolmogorov-Smirnov two sample tests in figure S2 signifies the
 92 significant clustering around origin. This finding constitutes a first line of evidence for the existence of temporal clustering in the
 93 performances across players' careers.

94
 95
 96

97 The bottom panels of figure 3 shows the ratio $R(\Delta t)$ (eq. (3)), which compares the marginal probability distribution of the
 98 relative difference of the indices in the real careers against the indices obtained from shuffled careers. The distinctive peak around
 99 0 in the plots provides additional support for clustering of performance within careers. $R(\Delta t)$ is approximately symmetric around
 100 the origin, indicating that the highest performances are equally likely to arrive before or after the second highest and third-highest
 101 scores. This pattern is expected from a self-excited process with approximately equal propensity for performance persistence
 102 among the best performance streaks¹ (47, 48).

103

104 5. Clustering point process representation

105 Definition of the “performance time”

106 We call $S_j(t)$ the performance (see SM for more details about the game of cricket) of the player j at his t^{th} attempt within his
 107 career. We define the subordinate time process $H_j(t)$ of the stochastic process $S_j(t)$ (49) as

$$108 \quad H_j(t) = \sum_{t_i=1}^t \frac{1}{S_j(t_i)} \quad (4)$$

109 The $t \rightarrow H_j(t)$ map represents a nonlinear transformation from the calendar time t onto an effective “performance time” of player
 110 j . $H_j(t)$ denotes a transformed time-stamp at which the t^{th} event takes place for player j . This defines a point process along
 111 “performance time” with the time stamps $\{H_j(t_1), H_j(t_2), \dots, H_j(t_n), \dots\}$. The intuition behind definition (4) is that a series of
 112 strong performance values $\{S_j(t_i), S_j(t_{i+1}), \dots\}$ are transformed into closely clustered points in “performance time”. This allows
 113 us to analyze the relationship between performances in time using simple one-dimensional techniques. In other words, by
 114 transforming $S_j(t)$, into $H_j(t)$, we project the stochastic process described by the sequence $\{S_j(t), t = 1, \dots\}$ onto an one-
 115 dimensional point process with time stamps $\{H_j(t_1), H_j(t_2), \dots, H_j(t_n), \dots\}$. By construction, the $t \rightarrow H_j(t)$ transformation
 116 preserves the self-excited component of performance scores described by the stochastic process $\{S_j(t)\}$ and amplifies it by the
 117 magnitude of the performance values.

118

119 Figure 2 presents the example of the career of Sachin Tendulkar, who has the highest sum of performances in both formats of the
 120 game. Top panels show the performance time $H(t)$ as a function of t , which is the index of the t^{th} attempt, as defined in equation
 121 (1), for two international cricketing formats, ODI and Test. Bottom panels show the scores $S_j(t)$ as a function of t , which indexed

¹ This was shown in the context of earthquake time and space clustering. Here, we can think of the highest performance as equivalent to the main shock in a seismic sequence. Then, the main shock can be shown to be triggered by large events that occur before it (“foreshocks”) and the main shock itself triggers large events (“aftershocks”)

122 the t^{th} attempt, for the same two international cricketing formats, ODI and Test. The presence of local temporal clustering around
123 the high and low performances is clearly visible in both representations of $H(t)$ and $S(t)$ for this player.

124 125 **Hawkes point process along the “performance time”**

126 The performance time $H_j(t)$ of player j defined by expression (1) allows us to introduce a point process by the performance times
127 $\{H_j(t_1), H_j(t_2), \dots, H_j(t_n), \dots\}$ along the H axis. In other words, we consider the “performance time” axis $H_j(t)$ and, along this
128 new time axis, we identify “points” at the locations $\{H_j(t_1), H_j(t_2), \dots, H_j(t_n), \dots\}$. When player j has a series of large scores, this
129 is expressed as a cluster of closely spaced points along the H axis as shown in figure 2.

130 Inspired by the analyses of (38, 43, 50) using generalized non-homogeneous Poisson processes, we propose to model the
131 clustering of the points along the H axis of each player by using the self-excited stochastic Hawkes point process model (37, 42),
132 augmented by some necessary ingredients for constructing a prediction model (19). In other words, we visualize the points for a
133 given player j along the performance time axis $H_j(t)$ as being generated by a Hawkes model with intensity $\lambda(t)$ given by

$$134 \lambda(t) = \mu + \sum_{t_i < t} \varphi(t - t_i) \quad (5)$$

135 In expression (5), the first term μ in the right-hand-side is the background intensity, which quantifies the “intrinsic” performance
136 level of a player, uninfluenced by his/her past performances. The second term describes how past points can trigger future points
137 along the H axis. This is a convenient and elegant way to account for the possibility of a hot-hand effect, since each next point is
138 function of the whole history, with a weight quantified by the memory or kernel function $\varphi(t - t_i) > 0$, which is decaying as a
139 function of its argument (points further in the past have a weaker influence). Thus, the sum $\sum_{t_i < t} \varphi(t - t_i)$ quantifies the influence
140 of the history of past performances on a player’s present performance.

141 Depending on the problem, previous researchers have used different parametric forms for φ , e.g. (38, 45, 46) use a power law
142 kernel, whereas (51) use an exponential kernel. In the present case, as there is no reason to favor any parametric form, we decide
143 to use a non-parametric kernel function for φ (42, 52). Thus, shortly after a large performance amplitude, model (2) describes the
144 possibility that the excess intensity of observing a similar performance is boosted and then decays to the baseline average
145 performance level μ at long times.

146 The self-excited Hawkes conditional point process is one of the simplest models to account for how the past can influence the
147 future, while keeping a very convenient linear dependence of the past onto the future. The most important parameter of the Hawkes
148 model is its branching ratio defined by

$$149 n = \int_0^\infty \varphi(t) dt. \quad (6)$$

150 The branching ratio n is the average number of points (or events) of first generation triggered by a given point. It is also the fraction
151 of points (events) that have been triggered by past events (53). A value of n close to the critical value 1 thus qualifies a large level
152 of triggering (strong hot hand effect) and endogeneity. Please see figure S4 for details about the used method.

153 We use the expectation maximization algorithm as described (42) to calibrate the model.

154 **6. Results**

155 **Hot individual hands**

156 We partition the career of a player j into training set and validation set. We take the first 80% of the performances as the training
157 set and the next 20% as the validation set. We transform the performance sequence in training and validation set to performance
158 time representation (4) as discussed in methods section. We calibrate the performance time in training set to determine background

159 intensity μ and the memory kernel φ . We then use the calibrated μ and φ to evaluate the prediction performance in validation set
160 using the log-likelihood score and call the median value \mathcal{L}_j^{model} .

161

162 Similarly, we prepare a controlled set of log-likelihood estimation for the same player. Keeping the validation set unaltered, we
163 shuffle the sequence of the performance in the training set 100 times and use this to train the model. We evaluate the trained model
164 on the unaltered validation set to determine the corresponding median log-likelihood estimation $\mathcal{L}_j^{control}$. With the above
165 constructions, we define the relative differences $\delta(\mathcal{L}_j^{model}, \mathcal{L}_j^{control})$ by

166

$$167 \quad \delta(\mathcal{L}_j^{model}, \mathcal{L}_j^{control}) = \frac{\mathcal{L}_j^{model} - \mathcal{L}_j^{control}}{\mathcal{L}_j^{control}} \quad (7)$$

168

169 Additionally, we estimate the branching ratios (see equation (6)) (38, 41, 45) of the performance time for all players over the
170 duration of their entire career. For comparison, we construct null estimations by randomly shuffling the performance time times
171 and reevaluating the 100 null branching ratios for each of the players.

172

173 The relative difference of log-likelihood prediction scores in equation (7) is shown in the bottom panels of figure 4, for both
174 formats of the games. The insets present the fraction of time control performing better and the fraction of time the model performing
175 better. The results show a significant improvement in prediction score in model experiments compared to the control experiments.
176 We plot the distribution of the branching ratios obtained from the data and the null branching ratios and compare them in the top
177 panels of figure 4. In the plots, the shaded region marks the fraction of players' branching ratios that are never found in the null
178 models. This behavior is robust against the number of simulated null models, i.e., the fraction of players' branching ratios that are
179 never found in the null model remains the same even if we consider 500 and 1000 null models.

180

181 We then compare the log-likelihood score from 100 control estimates with the log-likelihood score obtained from the data for
182 each of the player. We evaluate the statistical significance of having a better log-likelihood score in the model experiments
183 compared to the control experiments. We perform the Wilcoxon signed-rank test in each career to determine the statistical
184 significance. Considering a confidence level of 0.05, we observe that, in 49.6% of Test careers and in 46.8% of the ODI careers,
185 the log-likelihood prediction score in original sequences is significantly higher than the median log-likelihood prediction score in
186 control experiments. This leads us to conclude that the probability of falsely accepting the null hypotheses -- the control experiments
187 perform equally good -- is $< 10^{-6}$ (using a binomial probability distribution with success rate 0.05 of false test result) for both the
188 cases. This result is sufficient to support the predictive power of our model. Furthermore, our model performs better than the
189 standard techniques like ARIMA (please refer SM).

190

191 We then compare the branching ratios (see equation (6)) of the performance time obtained from data and null shuffling for each
192 player to quantify the Hot-Hand effect. We perform the Wilcoxon signed-rank test to determine the statistical significance. We
193 observe that in 56.8% of Test careers and in 53.7% of the ODI careers, the branching ratio of original performance time is
194 significantly higher than the median branching ratio in null performance time (confidence level = 0.05). These results suggest a
195 significant presence of Hot Hands in the players career, as the probability for the absence of Hot Hands is $< 10^{-6}$ (using a binomial
196 probability distribution with success rate 0.05 of false test result)

197

198 Hot team hands

199

200 We repeat the above analysis to predict and quantify the team performances (sum of all individual performances in a game)
201 (please see SM for more details). We take the first 80% of the team performances as the training set and validate the model on the
202 next 20%. Using the Wilcoxon signed-rank test with confidence level 0.05, we observe that, only in 30% and 20% of ODI and Test
203 teams, the log likelihood scores in model experiments is significantly better than the control experiments. These results suggest a
204 significant reduction in prediction (~50% reduction) compared to predictability of individual performances (please see SM for more
205 details). Further the probability of falsely accepting the null hypotheses – the control experiments perform better – increases to
206 $\sim 10^{-2}$ and $\sim 10^{-1}$ respectively (using a binomial probability distribution with success rate 0.05 of false test result). The absence
207 of reliable prediction in the above results suggest the absence of exploitable self-excited patterns in team performance.

208

209 Hot winning hands

210

211 We investigate the presence of hot hands in the team performances by going through the complete history of games played by
212 each team and analyze the winning streaks (i.e., the number of continuous wins without losing a single game in between). We note
213 down the length of winning streaks and the corresponding frequencies of occurrences of such streaks in each team playing history.

214

215 Then, we construct a statistical ensemble of possible performance trajectories. We randomly shuffle the original performance
216 sequences to generate 1000 synthetic performance trajectories. Using this statistical ensemble, we evaluate the null probability
217 distribution for the joint occurrence of streaks of length n and of corresponding frequency f . We use this probability distribution
218 for estimating the p -values for the observed events. we define the p -values $p(n)$ and $p(n_f)$ according to

$$219 \quad p(n) = P(n_i \geq n), \quad p(n_f) = P(n_i \geq n|f) \quad (8)$$

220

221 which respectively represent the p-value for observation of streaks with length n and streaks with length n conditional on frequency
222 f . To avoid the problem of multiple hypothesis testing (54), because of simultaneous consideration of the multiple individual tests,
223 we correct the error rates of individual tests using multiple hypothesis testing methods (55–59). We note down the results
224 from the methods (55–59) and identify the extreme events (see supporting tables for multiple hypothesis testing in SM).

225

226 Figure 5 presents the position of the realized winning streaks, along with the null distribution of the winning streaks for the 10
227 teams in the ODI format (top panel) and in the Test format (bottom panel). The red stars in figure reveal several highly improbable
228 i.e., one or both of $p(n)$ and $p(n_f)$ is significant with confidence level 0.05, after multiple testing. A large number of white stars
229 indicate probable events i.e., none of $p(n)$ and $p(n_f)$ is significant. We present the $p(n)$ and $p(n_f)$ values for the events that pass
230 the multiple hypothesis tests in figure.

231

232 We observe 5 out of 98 (5.1%) streaks in ODI cricket are significantly long, considering both their length (n) and frequency (f).
233 In Test cricket, 6 out of 73 (8%) considering the length and 5 out of 73 (7%) considering the frequency are statistically significant.
234 Because of the considered significance level, we expect an error rate of 0.05 in individual verification. In total we verified 98
235 possible streaks in ODI cricket and 73 streaks in Test cricket. The binomial probability for the observation of 5 hot hands in ODI
236 cricket is 0.18 and more than 5 hot hands is 0.36. However, for the Test format, the probability of observing 5 and 6 hot hands are

237 0.14 and 0.08 and more than 5 and 6 are 0.15 and 0.07 respectively. This allows us to conclude that we don't observe any Hot Hand
238 effect in winning streaks of teams both in ODI and Test cricket.

239 **7. Concluding remarks**

240
241 In this study, we have quantified the predictability and persistence of individual and collective performances of the teams in a
242 team game. We introduced a number of novel statistical tools to study the hot hand effect in a new dataset on game of Cricket. We
243 quantified and exploited the self-excited patterns in individual and team performances to better predict the future compared to
244 traditional methods like ARIMA.

245
246 Our investigation has confirmed the presence of significant hot-hands in individual performance. This is supported by the fact
247 that the three highest performances in individual career cluster in time, particularly when players partake in hundreds of games.
248 Further, the shaded branching ratios in figure 4A and 4B are very rarely found in simulated null data, confirming the strength of
249 the self-excitation that qualifies the presence of the hot-hand effect. The major finding of our work is that these self-excitation
250 patterns can indeed be exploited for predicting future performances. The findings of this investigation complement those of earlier
251 studies supporting the presence of hot hands in individual careers, while raising questions about the validity of those refuting the
252 same.

253
254 Additionally, we have showed a significant reduction in prediction of team performances compared with single players'
255 performance, suggesting the dominance of stochasticity in the determinant of teams' performance. While there is still some
256 predictability to a certain extent, the outcome of the game cannot be predicted, nor do they cluster in time. This leads us to suggest
257 the somewhat paradoxical conclusion that 'Cricket is a game of skill for individuals and a game of chance for the teams.'

258
259 Our study showed that, while an individual can consistently deal with the environmental systemic stochasticity, it is difficult for
260 the team to perform equally well. Thus, these results open door for future research in the direction of the impact of group size in
261 predictability and consistency of performance.

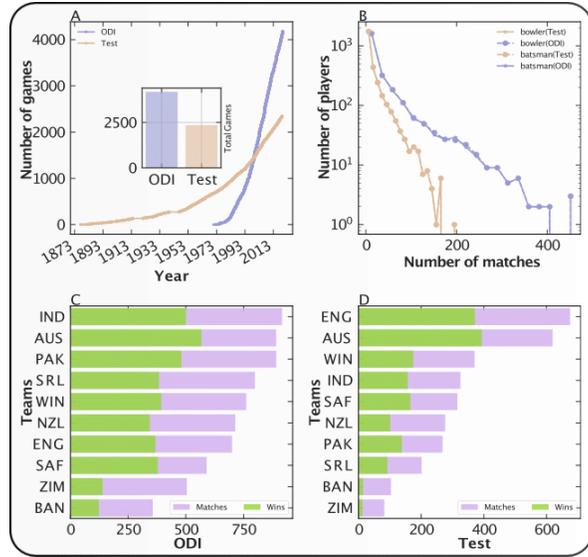
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263 Furthermore, the present study established a quantitative framework for detecting and predicting the performances in individual
264 careers. This approach will prove useful in expanding our understanding of the predictability of success in individual careers. This
265 paper contributes to recent historiographical debates concerning the presence of hot hands in the sequence of successes in individual
266 performances. Further work needs to be done to establish whether the presented methodology for predicting the performances can
267 be improved for commercial usage and for financial gains, exploiting the presence of self-excited patterns in individual careers.
268 The findings of this study have a number of important implications for future research in the field of quantifying self-excited
269 performance patterns involved in the study of human behavior and design of algorithms for predicting success.

270

271 **Acknowledgment**

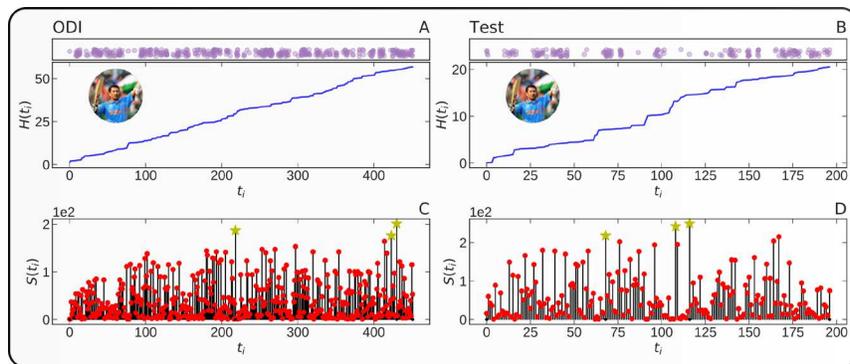
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273 We thank Ananya Acharya, Ali Ayoub, Giuseppe-Maria Ferro, Jan-Christian Gerlach and Devendra Shintre for many
 274 enlightening discussions during the preparation of the manuscript. Competing interests: The authors declare no competing interests.
 275 Data and materials availability: All data, codes, and materials used in the analysis would be made available.
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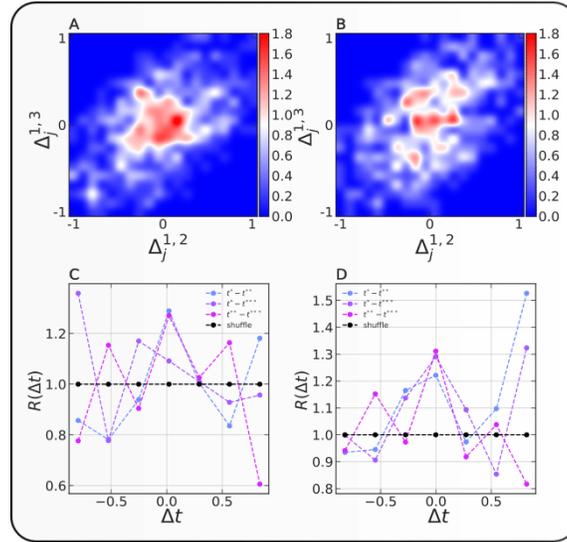
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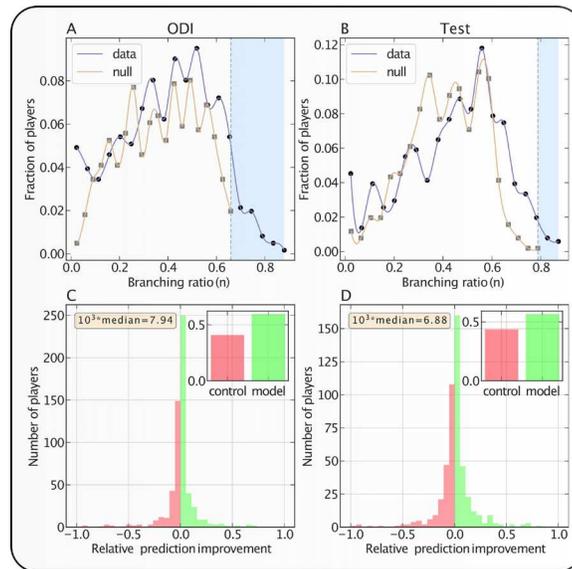
294 the player in Test cricket corresponding to panel (B). The large yellow stars represent the top 3 performances. The top insets in (A)
 295 and (B) give the point process representation of $H(t)$, in which each dot corresponds to an instant of time along the $H(t)$ time axis.
 296 We have added noise along the y-direction for better visualization.



297

299 **Figure 3: Joint probability distribution and $Q(\Delta_j^{1,2}, \Delta_j^{1,3})$ and $R(\Delta t)$.** (A) and (B) show the joint distribution of the relative
 300 difference of the indices of second best from the best (defined by equation (5) in section 4.1), plotted against the third best from
 301 the best performances. (C) and (D) show $R(\Delta t)$ defined by equation (3) for $\Delta t = \Delta_j^{1,2}, \Delta_j^{1,3}, \Delta_j^{2,3}$. (A) and (C) correspond to the
 302 batting performances in ODI cricket and (B) and (D) correspond to the performances in Test cricket.

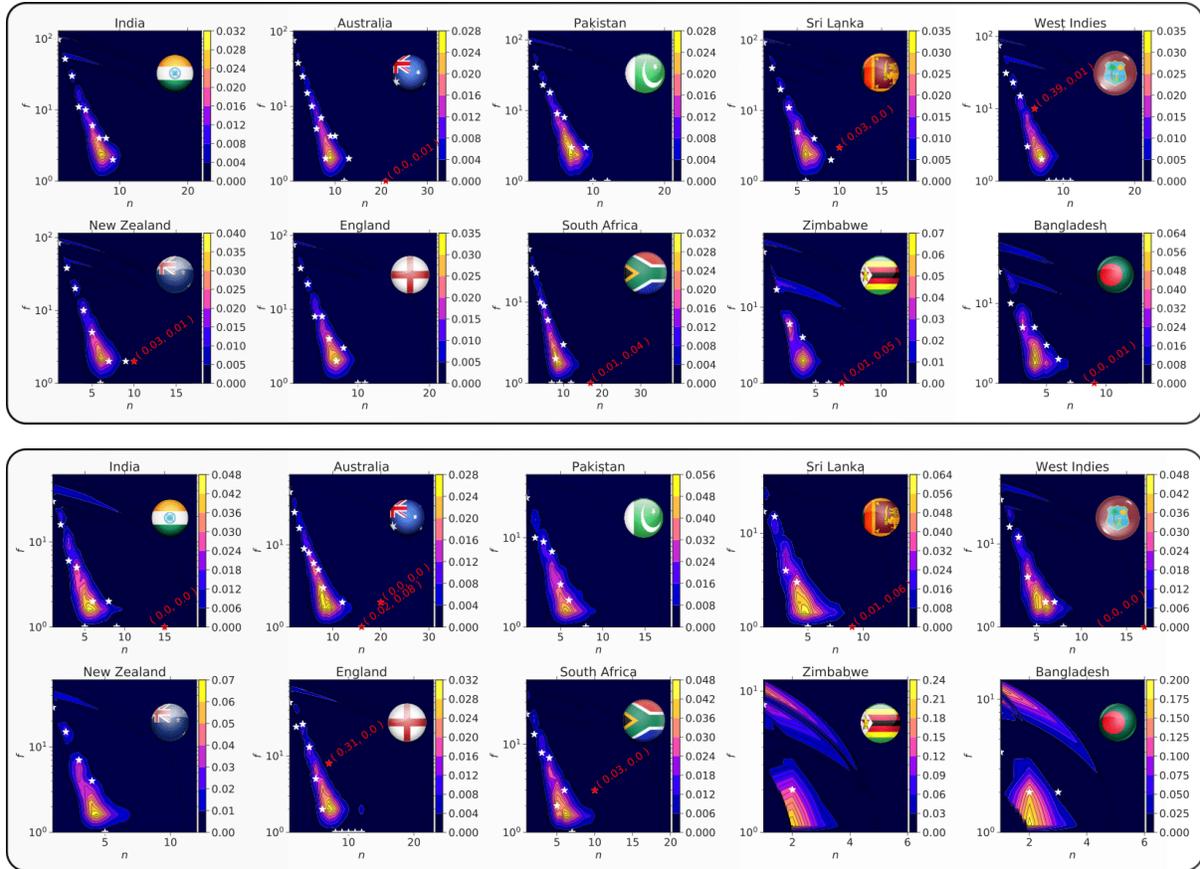
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306 **Figure 4: Analysis of clustering in the time series of performance time with the self-excited point process model.** (A) and
 307 (B) represent the distribution of branching ratios over the set of players and of the branching ratios obtained from synthetic shuffled
 308 careers. (A) represents the distribution for ODI cricket and (B) is for Test cricket. Shaded regions in the plot represent the domain
 309 of branching ratios obtained from the real data that cannot be explained by the null models. (C) and (D) show the distribution of

310 $\delta(\mathcal{L}_j^{model}, \mathcal{L}_j^{control})$ (see equation (7)). (C) represents the distribution for ODI cricket, and (D) is for the Test format. The fraction
 311 of the times model experiments achieves a better log-likelihood score compared to the control experiments is colored green,
 312 otherwise the color is red. The insets show the fraction of control and model outperforming their counterparts. In ODI games, the
 313 fraction of times model experiment performs better than the control experiment is: 0.62; for Test cricket, this fraction is 0.60.



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