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Analysis and statistic comparison in the international elite football: China-Europe-Italy

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Abstract
For long time now statistic numbers in football represent a well-established reality, and even if they don't constitute an absolute truth they can however give a huge support for a coach and his technical staff. Indeed, in professional football the figure of the match analyst, also defined tactical, is now widespread, with his task consisting on revise and studying the data in order to give an interpretation of the statistic numbers of his team and of the opposing team, from which it's possible to get useful information for the coach and for the players themselves. In any case this figure has always to be a support for the coach, never replacing him. In football today it's really hard for a coach to keep in mind every action he considers important in a game, in that sense videos help the coach to correct any bad situation and/or mistake of the team. But a most important impact than the one of the video can be given by the statistics, knowing how many clean and tackles one of his defenders can do per match, or knowing whether a midfielder prefers the ball clean or to give filtering balls (all that certified by numbers) can take-on a primary importance for coaches of today and of the future above all.

Keywords: Europe, China, football, Real Madrid, Guangzhou, key pass, tackle, dribbling, interception, teams, players

Introduction
In this article my intended aim is to compare the most scientifically I could (that is by using statistical data from the Website: Whoscored [1]) the best European and Chinese Teams, trying to understand the biggest differences between the various championships and, when possible, their different playing style. For what concerns the statistical analysis I divided the different parameters following the attacking phase, the defensive phase, goal and pass values and the percentage of the positional attack. After that I made a similar analysis taking into account the defensive and attacking parameters of the best players in Europe and in the Chinese Super League, dividing them following their role (as each role requires different attacking and defensive tasks), trying to emphasize differences and similarities in the values of all the different players, trying also to contextualize the difficulties and characteristics of each championship or tournament.

Means and Methods
The statistical analysis of this article has been possible thanks to the use of the data supplied by the Whoscored website, that every year updates its records with the major European Championships and some of the foreign Championships (including the Chinese Super League), scrupulously dividing the statistics of team from the individual ones, or better of the single players.
For what concerns the Team statistics, I took as a reference the winner of the last A series (Juve), the winner of the last Champions (Real Madrid) and the one of the last Csl (Guangzhou Evergrande). The aim of this study is to analyze the different characteristics of three winners in three different events, especially taking into account the macroscopic differences between the teams in Europe and China. After that I divided the study into 5 different areas: attacking values with % of ball possession,
The total number of shots and that of shots on goal, the dribbles' number and that of aerial won and, finally, the % of pass success.

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In the second field I analyse the defensive phase of these three teams underlining the shots suffered per match, the tackles' number, interceptions and fouls and, finally, the number of offsides and cards per match. In the third area we analyse the value of the goals made by the three mentioned teams and the number of them made on action, on goal-kick and on penalty, finally we mention the number of goals suffered too. In the fourth area passes are studied, with particular attention on long and short passes, cross and, above all, key passes made per match by the three teams in each tournament. In the fifth and last area we analyse the percentage of the positional attack, that means the % of attacks from left, right and from the centre, the number of shots made from the left, from the right and from the centre, consequently a really interesting data has been analysed, that is the % of shots froms the outside of the playng area, from inside and from the small area, considering the fact that the more you approach the door and the more you are likely to score, finally it has been calculated how many actions the team can make (in percentage), actions made in its own midfield, in the centre of the field and in the midfield of the opposing team (typical value for a team making the ball possession a weapon in his favour).

For what concerns the individual statistics, I first divided players following their role, considering as representatives the best of the Championships League, of the A Series and of the Chinese Super League (2015/2016), for this last competition, when possible, I took two representatives, a Chinese and a foreign one, just for underlining the differences between local and foreign players also inside the same Csl.

The aim of this study is to highlight differences and analogies among the best players in Europe and China from the statistical point of view. The analysis of the players is divided into two parts for each role, the first table has the task of showing us the whole year of the player from a general point of view, highlighting common statistics such as age, number of presence, goals, assists, the number of penalties and the

rating, or rather the evaluation following Whoscored data. Whereas in the second table the most relevant statistical categories for the role involved are highlighted. For what concerns the goalkeeper role we put the accent on the number of outputs, of saves per match (inside and outside the area), and also on the number of short passes with the % of success, concluding with the number of long shots. In the case of the central back the stress is on the categories of tackles, interceptions, clear and aerial won, on the number of passes with its percentage. For the role of the fullback, in addition to the aforementioned statistics we introduce 3 attacking voices as the number of cross, dribbles and key passes per match. When talking of the midfielder we introduce the number of shots per match and give attention to the voices of creation of the game (key passes, % of pass success), both on the defensive categories and interception and tackles. For the role of the attacking midfielder the number of key passes and dribbles and all the voices related to the construction of the game are of great importance. In the role of wing crosses are important again and dribbles per match. Finally for the role of striker the most important statistic value is that of shots, especially shots on goal, index of danger for an attacking role.

Results and Discussion
Statistical Analysis of Teams (2015/2016 Season)
In the following tables are listed both the attacking and defensive statistics and the data about goals, pass and positional attack of the three winners of the Chinese Championship, the A series and the Champions League, that is Guangzhou Evergrande, Juventus and Real Madrid, using the data taken from the Whoscored Website. The aim of this analysis is to compare through these data the excellence of the different championships mentioned above, trying to understand how far the Chinese football contest could be from the European and the Italian one.

Attacking Values

Table 1: Attacking statistic values for Guangz Evergr, Juventus and Real Madrid

Teams	Leagues	Shot Pg	Possess%	Pass success%	DribblesPg	Aerial Wons	Shot on target
Guangz. Evergr	Csl	17,2	58%	83,7%	4,6	11,6	6,3
Juventus	Serie A	15,8	54,9%	85,3%	14,3	12.9	5,7
Real Madrid	Champ. League	21,2	54,6%	88,2%	12,6	12,1	7,2

Analysis of the attacking data following the parameters taken into account

Guangzhou Evergrande, with its 17,2 shots per game (17,7 at home) sharply outdistances the other players, in this case Shandong Luneng (13,9) and Guangzhou R&F (13,5). It's particularly significant the value of the shots out of home, which settles on a high 16,6 per game (Shandong is second with 13,6). The Canton team has also an excellent percentage of Possess, around 58% (even 59,6 at home); this data confirms the territorial domination of Guangzhou. The second teams in this special classification are Guang. R&F (56,2%) and Beijing Guoan (53,7%). An important information is given by the percentage of Possess out of home, where R&F collapses at 53,7%, while Evergrande keeps an excellent 57,5%. Guangzhou Evergrande is second only to Guangz. R&F with 83,7% of Pass success, this last one able to join an incredible 87,7% at home, being the quality of the rose significantly lower than the other big of the Championship. The 11,6 aerial won per game place the Evergrande in a good position of this results, even if the rivals for the title are well off (thinking of the different playing style, too, as we will see

later on), indeed the Jiangsu Suning has 13,9 won per game while Shangai SIPG even 15,4 per game. In the 17,2 shots per game of the Evergrande 6,3 are on target, going far from the Shangai SIPG with its 5. It's finally interesting the data placing the Canton Team under the average of dribbles made per game, only 4,6, quite a half of the Jiangsu Suning (7,2) and of Shangdong (7,1). Juventus in the last A Series (2015-2016) had an average of 15,8 shots per game (18,2 at home) overcoming Roma (15,3) and Fiorentina (15,1), but surpassed by Napoli with 17,3 and 19,4 even at home. The merit of most of these data has to be given to the incredible work made by the technical staff of Sarri and, partly, to Higuain's talent. Out of home the shot's average goes deeply down, showing the difficulty to play away in the A Series, Juventus in this results makes 13,3 shots per game, far away from Napoli (15,5). Juventus places itself as 4° with 54,9% of ball possess, behind Roma (55,7%), Fiorentina (58,3%) and Napoli (59,2%). For what concerns the percentage of pass success Juve is 3rd with 85,3% behind Fiorentina (85,7%) and Napoli with 85,8%, at home Allegri's team increase its quality settling itself on the 86,4%. Juventus wins 12,9 aerial duels per game (like Napoli)

placing itself under the A series average, that is favored by the playing style that prefers ball on the ground. The best team for aerial won has been Udinese with an average of 17,4 per game, placed 17° in the Championship's results of last year, showing then a low importance of this parameter for winning. Among the 15,8 shots made by Juventus 5,7 are goals (6,7 at home), surpassed only by Napoli with 6,4 (7,5 at home). Juventus is the most dribbling team in championship with 14,3 and going far away from the second team placed, while Napoli is about halfway of the list. Real Madrid, winner of the last Championships League, stands out along this journey making 21,2 shots per game (23,4 at home), going behind Bayern Monaco di Guardiola only, which made 21,7 shots per game (24,2 at home). With 54,6% of ball possess Real Madrid took the 5th place in the competition, behind Bayern (66,6%) and Barcellona (64,9%). With 88,2% of pass success Real

goes very close to the top, surpassed only by PSg (89,3%) and Bayern Monaco (89,6%), while overcoming Barcellona (87,7%). Real Madrid wins 12,1 aerial duels per game, settling itself under the average well detached from Bayer Leverkusen (20,3) and Atletico Madrid (18,2). Both teams are efficient from this point of view, being favored by a similar style of play based on physical touch and attacking pressing, so as the gegenpressing [3]. Among the 21,2 shots of Real previously mentioned 7,2 go on goal. In this results the Meregues are surpassed only by Bayern of Guardiola making 8,3 goals per game. Finally Real Madrid makes 12,6 dribbles per game, taking the 7th place of this results, where the supremacy of Porto with even 23,3 dribbles per game makes frenzy.

Defensive Values

Table 2: Defensive values of Guangz Evergr., Juventus and Real Madrid

Teams	Leagues	Shot Suffered Pg	Tackles Pg	Interception Pg	Fouls Pg	Offsides Pg	Discipline	
Guangz. Evergr.	Csl	8,8	15	13,8	15,4	3,1	55	1
Juventus	Serie A	8,9	15,9	15,9	15,1	2,8	90	6
Real Madrid	Champ. League	9,2	18,8	15,4	10,8	2,4	24	0

Analysis of the defensive data following the parameters taken into account

The Guangzhou Evergrande is the team that gives less shots in the championship with 8,8, closely followed by Beijing Guoan with 8,9. At home it goes down to 8,5 shots, while outside can keep an impressive 9,2, while Guoan goes up to 10,2 shots per game when plays outside. Even if Evergrande is a team that makes the ball possession its playing style, it can however keep high the number of tackles per game: 15, surpassed only by 2 highly physical teams like SIPG (16) and Henan (16,3). Out of home the number of tackles of Guangzhou rises to 15,9, together with the team's aggressiveness. The number of interceptions brings the Canton's team at halfway of the results with 13,8 interceptions per game, on top again SIPG and Henan with respectively 23,3 and 24,5. For what concerns fouls, Guangzhou Evergrande makes 15,4 fouls per game taking the average, that means that the Scolari's team knows well when to stop the counterattacks, and this is a symbol of maturity. The most incorrect teams of the Championship are: Henan (18,5) and Liaoning (18,9). The team with less fouls, and the less bad consequently, is the Guangzhou R&F with 11,6 fouls per game. Evergrande is the team more often in off-sides with 3,1 per game, and that is even logic considering that it is one of the most dangerous team and the one entering more often the opposing area. Juventus teamis the best of A series with 8,9 shots given per game (only 7,3 at home) followed by Fiorentina (9,1) and Napoli (9). Napoli surpasses Juve (10,6) just with 10,2 shots per game out of home, the difference then

between shot suffered at home and outside show the difficulty of facing up to the games out of home in the A Series. With 15,9 tackles per game Juve is under the average far away from Carpi with its 21,5 tackles. Juve makes 15,9 interceptions per game going again under the Championship's average, while Lazio makes even 22,3 interceptions per game. Juve, so as Guangzou, knows well when to make fouls, with 15,1 per game keeping on average, but together with the percentage for the ball possession this data take more value, that's why Napoli, that stood out in this statistic, goes down to the last position of the A Series for what concerns both for interception (12,5) and fouls made (11,6). Juventus is among the first places of the Championship with 2,8 offsides per game, together with Napoli. Real Madrid, with only 9,2 shots given per game, is the best of the European big teams. 18,8 tackles per game staying in the average of the competition (the number of tackels goes up when the intensity of the game greatly increases). In this ranking teams that make more tackles are the most aggressive, that is Bayer Leverkusen (25) and Atletico Madrid (25,7). The interceptions of Real in Champions are well below the average with 15,4, first is Bate Borisov with 25,2. Real Madrid with 10,8 fouls per game is one of the less incorrect teams of the competition, Dinamo Kiev is the first with 16,4 fouls per game. Real makes 2,4 off-sides per match, the first is PSG with 4,7 off-sides per game, this data favored by the trend of the forwarders to attack in depth, often served by Verratti.

Goal

Table 3: Values of the Goals of Guangz. Evergr., Juventus e Real Madrid

Teams	Leagues	Match plays	Goal scored	On play	Set Pieces	Penalty	Goal conceded
Guangz. Evergr.	Csl	30	62	49	9	3	19
Juventus	Serie A	38	75	47	17	8	20
Real Madrid	Champions League	13	27	20	5	2	7

Goals analysis following the parameters taken into account

Evergrande is the team making the highest number of goals on play, that means 49 goals in 30 matches. For what concerns the set pieces, 9 goals made, over the average but far away from SIPG (13) and Teda (16). Guangzhou is on the average with 3 penalties, while Guoan leads the ranking with

6 penalties. Juventus made 75 goals, of which 49 made on play, Napoli leads this ranking with 80 total goals and 64 on play (42 even at home during 19 matches), while Roma made 83 goals, of which 56 on play. Juve scored 17 goals on set pieces, this value showing also the good physic condition of Allegri's team. Indeed in this classification it's placed 3rd

behind Verona and Roma (favored by the goals of Pjanic actually playing with Juve). Finally Juve took advantage of 8 penalties, like Fiorentina did, while Torino and Lazio played 9 penalties and being at first place. Real Madrid made 20 goals on play, on a total of 27, becoming the team with more

goals in the event. It also scored 5 goals on free kick, showing also to be a physical team (Sergio Ramos has been decisiv in the results) and 2 on penalty.

Passes

Table 4: Values about passes in Guangz Evergr, Juventus and Real Madrid

Teams	Leagues	Cross	Long balls	Short passes	Key passes
Guangzhou Evergrande	Csl	22	53	446	12,9
Juventus	Serie A	21	58	466	12,3
Real Madrid	Champions League	22	53	559	15,5

Pass analysis following the parameters taken into account
Guangzhou Evergrande makes 22 cross per game, surpassed only by Shangai Shenua of Cao Yunding with 24 cross, while out of home Evergrande is the first with 23 cross per game. Evergrande is the team using less long balls in the championship, only 53 per game (only 49 at home), Suning and SIPG, that means the second and the third classified in the last Chinese Super League, makes respectively 67 and 69 long balls per game. Tianjin Teda leads this ranking with 80 long balls. For what concerns short passes Guangzhou again leads with 446 passes per game, showing in that way the will of playing the ball and the tendency to throw it never away. A surprising Guangzhou R&F follows with 435 short passes, while quite far there are SIPG (361) and Jiangsu Suning (309). Guangzhou is first also for what concerns key passes, 12,9 per game, 10,7 of which are short and 2,2 long, followed by SIPG (favored by the creativity of the ex Mr. Dario Conca) with 9,6, divided into 7,6 short and 2,1 long. Juve makes an average of 21 cross per game (similar to Napoli and Fiorentina with 20 and 19 cross), the first one is Lazio thanks to the presence of Candreva (the player making most cross during the 5 most important European Championships), actually playing with Inter. Juve makes only 58 shots (55 at home), Atalanta is the first with 73. For what concerns short

passes, Juve is at 4th place with 466 passes, surpassed by Roma (467) Fiorentina (530) and above all Napoli with even 605 short passes per game. The values of the short passes in the A Series far exceed those of CSL, showing from this point of view a championship less technical and more unripe. Finally Juventus makes 12,3 key passes per match, divided into 1,8 long and 10,5 short, in this important classification is surpassed only by Napoli with 13,4 kay passes, 11,8 short and 1,6 long. In the last Champions Real Madrid made an average of 22 cross per match, overcoming the actual average and going behind few teams like B. Monaco (27) and Valencia (30). Real always tries to play the ball and this is shown by the only 53 long balls per match, only Arsenal (45) and PSG (50) make less than that. The team making more shots is PSV with 80. Real makes even 559 passes per match, but this is not enough for representing the top, it is indeed surpassed by Barcellona (654), Bayern Monaco (666) and PSG (669). For what concerns the key passes, Real makes 15,5 key passes per game, 13,3 of which are short and 2,2 long, but is nevertheless exceeded by BAyern with 16,4, 13,7 short and 2,8 long.

Positional Attack

Table 5: Values about positional attack in Guangz Evergr., Juventus and Real Madrid

Teams	Leagues	Attack Sides (%)			Shot Directions(%)			Shot Zones (%)			Action Zones (%)		
Guangzhou Evergrande	Csl	Sx	C	Dx	Sx	C	Dx	6m	18m	>18m	Own third	Midd third	Opposthird
		36%	25%	39%	17%	64%	19%	6%	49,%	45%	23%	49%	29%
Juventus	Serie A	Sx	C	Dx	Sx	C	Dx	6m	18m	>18m	Own third	Midd third	Opposthird
		37%	26%	36%	21%	63%	17%	7%	46%	48%	24%	47%	29%
Real Madrid	Champ. League	Sx	C	Dx	Sx	C	Dx	6m	18m	>18m	Own third	Midd third	Oppos third
		36%	30%	34%	22%	61%	17%	5%	56%	39%	22%	49%	30%

Data analysis following the parameters taken into account for the positional attack
Guangzhou Evergrande has a playing system well balanced in both wings, with 36% of attacks made from the left and 39% from the right, 25% of attacks from the center. These data show that most of the attacks in the Chinese Championship are made on the wings. Also the conclusions are well balanced between right (19%) and left (17%), even if most of them come from the center (64%). Suning is the team that concludes more often from the center (73%) and this is symptom of greater danger. Guangzhou is one of the teams suffering less shots from the center, only 63%. Guangzhou Evergrande concludes 6% of essays from 6m (one of the best percentage in CSL), 49% inside the area and 45% from outside the area, this last value is to be considered really high thinking of the low percentage of results for the shots from the outside. On the other side, Evergrande suffers only 4% of shots from 6m,, 48% of shots from inside the area (very low

percentage) and 49% of shots from the outside, leaving the opponents a less dangerous conclusion. From the analysis of these statistics we can understand why Guangzhou suffered only 19 goals in 30 matches. For what concerns the play actions, the 23% of them are played in the Canton's team field (the lowest percentage of the whole CSL), 49% in the middle of the field (the best value together with Hebei), and 29% in the opponent's field (the best together with Teda and Henan). Juventus divides its attacks within both wings in a balanced manner, 37% come from the left, 36% from the right and 26% from the center. Napoli for example attacks mostly from the left (39%) and 31% from the right, in that sense favored by the attacking presence of Ghoulam, Hamsik and Insigne on that wing much more attack-minded than the chain Hysaj, Allan, Callejon. Teams attacking more often from the center are the surprising Empoli of Giampaolo (32%) and Fiorentina (31%). Juventus conclusions come from the left for a 21% (area where Dybala played), from the right for the 17% and

from the center for 63%. The conclusions that Juve received come from left for the 21% (where a fullback like Evra and A. Sandro left more field than in the right side defended by a defensive Lichsteiner), for a 15% from the right and for a 64% from the center. Juve makes 7% of its shots from the 6m (highest percentage) 46% from inside the area and 48% from outside the area (value increased by Pogba). For what concerns the shots given Juve suffers only the 4% of them within 6m (even just 2% at home), only Napoli suffers less with a 3%, while Roma suffers 7% of the total shots. An important value is the percentage of suffered shots for the Juventus from inside the area and it corresponds to a 39%, while Roma and Napoli are far behind with a 43% and 45% of the total shots. Finally Juve is also the team suffering most shots from outside the area with a 57%, the ones even more difficult to realize. From these data rises Juve's hermetic defense, able to receive only 20 goals in 38 matches. Interesting is the value of shots suffered by Fiorentina from inside the area, that is 53% of the total, from which we can understand the defensive limits of Sousa team, that well held the comparison with Juve and Napoli from the attacking point of view. Juve plays 24% of actions in its half field, 47% in the middle and 29% in the opponent's half field. In the last Champions Real Madrid kept a balanced attack: 36% of the attacks from the left, 34% from the right and 30% from the center. A feature of big teams is to continuously penetrate in the middle area, the most dangerous feature for the opposing team, and from this point of view Barcellona represents the top with its 32% of attacks. Real concludes 22% of shots from the left (with Ronaldo tending to centralize first, then hit with his strong foot), 17% from the right and 61% from the center. Real makes 5% of its shots from 6m (high%), 56% within

18m (very high%) and 39% from outside the area (very low %), really good statistic data that give reason to the 27 goals made, 20 of which on play in only 13 games played. Real receives 8% of shots from 6m, 48% of them from 18m (a good % considering the difficulty of the Champions and the strength of the opposing teams) and 44% of shots from outside the area. Real Madrid actions are played for the 22% in its own half field, for the 49% in the middle and 30% in the opponent's half field.

Statistical Analysis of Players (2015/2016 Season)
In the following tables we will analyze the parameters of the top performing players by role in the Chinese Super League, A Series and Champions League. For each role it has been decided to give importance to different parameters based on the different needs of each situation. The aim of this analysis is to establish the actual distance between the European players and Asiatic ones through the comparison of these data, it has been particularly underlined that there are differences between the Chinese players and the foreigners even in the same CSL. Finally we underline the rating for distinguishing the players performances, given by Whoscored following the elaboration of a multitude of parameters summed up in these tables.

Goalkeeper

Player	Teams	Age	Apps	Rating
Zheng Cheng	Guangzhou Evergrande	29	23	6,84
Buffon	Juventus	38	35	6,77
Neuer	Bayern Monaco	30	11	6,83

Table 6: Statistic values of the 3 best goalkeepers of China and Europe

Player	Teams	Pass success %	Passes Pg	Long balls	Clear	Saves	Saves		
							6m	18m	<18m
Zheng Cheng	Guangz. Evergr	62%	18,2	5,3	1,1	2	/	0,8	1,2
Buffon	Juventus	78,1%	21,6	4,6	0,5	1,8	0,2	1	0,6
Neuer	Bayern Monaco	82%	25,6	5,5	0,2	3,4	0,4	2,2	0.8

For what concerns goalkeepers it's not possible to make difference between Chinese and foreigners in the same CSL, as this role is given only to local people and not to foreigners. Looking at the % of good passes of Zeng Cheng and the two European Buffon and Neuer we can understand that in Europe strong teams are inclined to play the ball since from the goalkeeper, something that doesn't happen yet in the CSL. This information is confirmed also by the average quantity of passes made by the three goalkeepers, where Neuer in particularly, favored by the playing style of Guardiola, leads

this ranking with 25,6 passes per match. The number of save also establishes the bigger supremacy of Guangzhou in its own Championship compared to the two other teams, as Zeng Cheng had to save an average of only 2 shots per match (1,2 out of the area, so less dangerous, and no one from the small area), while Buffon and Neuer respectively receive 1 and 2,2 shots per match from inside the area, even if Buffon suffers less shots in total.

Central Back

Table 7: Statistic values of the 4 best central back of China and Europe

Player	Teams	Age	Apps	Goal	Assist	Cards		Rating
Feng Xiaoting	Guangz. Evergr.	30	22	/	1	4	/	7,03
Sainsbury	Jiangsu Suning	24	29	2	1	6	/	7,07
Acerbi	Sassuolo	28	36	4	/	3	/	7,32
Sergio Ramos	Real Madrid	30	10	1	/	3	/	7,56

Player	Teams	Pass success %	Passes Pg	Long Balls	Tackles	Intercept	Clear	Aerial Wons
Feng Xiaoting	Guangz Evergr.	84,1%	49,2	2,8	1,3	2	2,7	2
Sainsbury	Jiangsu Suning	80%	43,4	5,2	1,5	2,4	3,6	2,5
Acerbi	Sassuolo	87,1%	50,1	4,3	1,4	3,9	5,2	1,7
Sergio Ramos	Real Madrid	88,7%	64,6	3,7	2,5	2,4	4,1	2,8

The high performances of the central Feng Xiaoting in this case are not far from the ones of the Australian Sainsbury, actually playing for Inter, this last particularly characterized by physical parameters better than the ones of the Chinese colleague, as in the case of 1,5 tackles, 2,4 intercepts, 3,6 clear and 2,5 aerial won. Better than the ex Suning Feng are the setting parameters, favored by the possession playing of Guangzhou, and different from the vertical playing of Jiangsu Suning. As previously analyzed, the European centrals have better characteristics in the % of passes and in the total number of passes. Finally, quite similar are the numbers of the best centrals in the A series and in the Champions, Acerbi distinguishes himself for the incredible quantity of intercepts and clears, respectively 3,9 and 5,2 while Sergio Ramos has better setting parameters and better values in the aerial won and tackles, symptom of higher intensity in a competition so technical and intense as the Champions is.

Full Back

Table 8: Statistic values of the 3 best fullbacks of China and Europe

Player	Teams	Age	Apps	Goal	Assist	Cards		Rating
Zhang Linpeng	Guangz Evergr.	27	16	/	/	4	/	7,18
Alex Sandro	Juventus	25	22	2	3	5	1	7,45
Mario Fernandes	Cska Mosca	26	5	/	1	1	/	7,73

Player	Teams	Pass success %	Passes Pg	Tackles	Interc.	Clear	Aerial Wons	Cross	Key pass	Dribbles
Zhang Linpeng	Guang. Evergr.	82,5%	45,8	1,8	2,1	2,6	1,3	0,6	0.6	0,5
Alex Sandro	Juventus	84%	36,2	1,8	2	1,6	1,5	1,2	1,9	1,8
Mario Fernandes	Cska Mosca	76,3%	35,4	6	5,4	3,8	2,2	0,6	1,2	0,4

In this table there is not the foreigner champion of CSL, as actually there are no foreigners fullbacks, all Asian playing. Being the number of foreigners limited, clubs decide to use them mostly for attack and midfield, often giving the central role to an Asiatic (above all South-Korean). The number of foreigners in the CSL schedules the 3+1, that is 3 foreigners plus an Asiatic player playing at the same time in the field. In this case Zhang Linpeng shows good setting values, favored by the Guangzhou supremacy in the last CSL, the defensive values are also good and they are too similar to the ones of the A Series representative A. Sandro, something else instead the defensive statistics of Mario Fernandes, the Brasilian player of CSKA Mosca, distinguishing himself with 6 tackles, 5,4 intercepts, 3,8 clears and 2,2 aerial won. In the attacking statistics we can reveal an evident difference between China and Europe with A. Sandro distinguishing himself with the double of crosses, the triple of key passes and more than the triple of dribbles compared to the Chinese colleague.

Midfielder

Table 9: Statistic values of the 4 best central midfielders of China and Europe

Player	Teams	Age	Apps	Goal	Assist	Cards		Rating
Zheng Zhi	Guangzhou Evergrande	36	26	1	4	8	1	7,18
Paulinho	Guangzhou Evergrande	28	30	7	2	2	/	7,51
Pogba	Juventus	23	35	8	12	10	/	7,81
Thiago Alcantara	Bayern Monaco	25	9	1	4	/	/	8

Player	Teams	Pass success %	Passes Pg	Tackles	Interc.	Clear	Aerial Wons	Shot Pg	Key pass	Dribbles
Zheng Zhi	Guang. Evergr.	85,60%	57,7	2	2,6	1,1	0,7	0,7	0,8	0,4
Paulinho	Guang Evergr.	88,2%	58,5	2,7	1,6	0,9	1,7	2,8	1,2	0,8
Pogba	Juve	83,4%	48,5	2,2	1,3	0,6	1,8	3,5	1,5	2,9
Thiago Alcantara	Bayern Monaco	90.7%	80,1	3,1	2,1	0,8	1,2	1,3	2,6	2,1

For what concerns CSL, the 2 representatives are both midfielders of Guangzhou Evergrande and even if both of them are really helpful for the team, the attacking contribution of Paulinho makes this one more important than Zheng Zhi, in the last season Paulinho made 7 goals and gave 2 assists in 30 presences, for what concerns the setting and the defensive phase the statistics of the 2 players are similar, but as already said the Brasilian is striking for his 2,8 shots per match, 1,2 key passes and 1,7 aerial won. The big difference between the Guangzhou players and the European colleagues is above all in the attacking statistics (and in the case of T. Alcantara also in the setting statistics), indeed Pogba marks out for his 8 goals and 12 assists in 35 presences and for the 3,5 shots per match and 2,9 dribbles, while Thiago marks out for 2,6 key passes and 80 passes per match with 90,7% of precision.

Attacking Midfielder

Table 10: Statistic values of the 4 best attacking midfielders of China and Europe

Player	Teams	Age	Apps	Goal	Assist	Cards		Rating
Zhang Xizhe	Beijing Guoan	25	25	6	2	6	/	6,92
Dario Conca	Shangai SIPG	33	17	4	3	4	/	7,5
Pjanic	Roma	26	33	10	12	10	1	7,46
Messi	Barcellona	29	7	6	1	1	/	8,28

Player	Teams	Pass success %	Passes Pg	Tackles	Interc.	Clear	Shot Pg	Key pass	Dribbles
Zhang Xizhe	Beijing Guoan	82,20%	42,2	1	0,8	0,2	1,4	2,1	1
Dario Conca	Shangai SIPG	76,00%	50,8	1,6	0,5	0,1	2,7	2,6	1,6
Pjanic	Roma	84,9%	65,5	1,4	1,5	0,8	2,1	2,4	0,8
Messi	Barça	85,2%	68,4	0,7	0,1	/	5,6	1,4	4,9

As already said for the midfielders, the most significant difference between Zhang Xizhe and Dario Conca is related to the attacking features of this last one, with his 2,7 goals against the 1,4 of the Chinese colleague, 2,6 key passes against the 2,1, and the 1,6 dribbles against the 1 of the Chinese player. The features of the setting and the defensive phase, instead, are quite similar. In this case the 2 European representatives improve all the statistics of the role, Pjanic particularly marks out in the defensive phase with 1,4 tackles,

1,5 intercepts and 0,8 clears per match, while in the attacking phase he highly helps the team thanks to his 10 goals and 12 assists, concluding with the setting phase with his 65,5 passes per match with 84,9% of precision. Messi finally greatly improve the attacking statistics of the role thanks to his 5,6 shots per match and 4,9 dribbles, as well as 6 goals and 1 assist during his 7 total presences.

Wing

Table 11: Statistic values of the 4 best wings of China and Europe

Player	Teams	Age	Apps	Goal	Assist	Cards		Rating
Wu Lei	Shangai SIPG	25	30	14	9	1	/	7,23
Alex Texeira	Jiangsu Suning	26	28	11	8	4	1	7,38
Dybala	Juventus	23	34	19	9	1	/	7,71
Neymar	Barcellona	24	9	3	4	2	/	8,24

Player	Teams	Pass success %	Passes Pg	Tackles	Interc.	Cross	Shot Pg	Key pass	Dribbles
Wu Lei	Shaingai SIPG	75,8%	27,6	1	1.1	0,4	2,8	1.3	0,7
Alex Texeira	Jiangsu Suning	85,5%	34,8	0,6	0,4	1,4	2,3	2,2	1,9
Dybala	Juventus	84,9%	30,1	0,4	0,4	1,5	3,1	2,1	2,7
Neymar	Barça	83,4%	56,3	1,4	0,6	1,3	3,9	3,8	5,1

In terms of realization the Chinese wing Wu Lei has nothing to envy to the Brasilian Alex Texeira, indeed the SIPG player realized 14 goals and 9 assists during 30 presences against the 8 goals and 11 assist of the ex Shaktar, who after a first phase of adaptation has been able to give his precious support to the cause of Jiangsu Suning. During the setting out phase the Brasilian prevails on the Chinese, even if this last one has defensive values much more better than the colleague, thanks to his tactic's discipline. Finally, from an attacking point of view, it's a well balanced battle, as Wu Lei prevails on the total shots with 2,8 per match while Texeira prevails on the key passes (2,2) and dribbles (1,9). The 2 European representatives highly improve their attacking features,

Dybala in particular distinguishes himself for 19 goals and 9 assist in 34 presences playing with Juve, and for the 1,5 cross per match against the 0,4 of the Chinese colleague, but Neimar can do even better improving his results in all parameters, from the N° of pass (56,3 per match) quite double compared to what the other players do, to the defensive phase with 1,4 tackles and 0,6 clears and, above all, the attacking phase with 3,9 shots per match, 3,8 key passes and 5,1 dribbles (great merit has to be given to Barcellona, that instilled in the mind of the young Brasilian the value of sacrifice and humility that he didn't have before).

Striker

Table 12: Statistic values of the 4 best strikers of China and Europa

Player	Teams	Age	Apps	Goal	Assist	Cards		Rating
Gao Lin	Guangz. Evergr.	30	28	7	12	3	/	7,17
Elkenson	Shangai SIPG	27	26	10	12	4	/	7,44
Higuain	Napoli	30	35	36	2	1	1	7,74
Ronaldo	Real Madrid	31	12	16	4	1	/	8,11

Player	Teams	Pass success %	Passes Pg	Tackles	Interc.	Cross	Shot Pg	Key pass	Dribbles
Gao Lin	Guangz Evergr.	75,9%	25,8	0,3	0,1	0,5	2,1	2,1	0,4
Elkenson	Shangai SIPG	76,5%	29,6	1	0,7	0,3	2,4	1,6	0,9
Higuain	Napoli	78,1%	25,9	0,5	0,3	0,1	5,2	1,5	1,4
Ronaldo	Real Madrid	83,5%	34,3	0,3	0,3	0,5	7,9	1,9	0,8

In terms of realization, as it happened before, Gao Lin has few to envy to Elkenson with 7 goals and 12 assist in 28 presences against 10 goals and 12 assist in 26 presences of the Brasilian. In the setting out phase they are equal, while from the defensive point of view the Brasilian seems to be more efficient, with his greater physicalness allowing him to realize 1 tackle and 0,7 intercepts per match, finally in the attacking phase the challenge is balanced again, as the Chinese striker of Guangzhou is better in the key passes with 2,1 per match while the SIPG striker prevails in the number of shots per match (2,4) and in the dribbles (0,9). If the comparison for what concerns the setting out and the defensive role stands up well against the two European representatives, that's not the case of the attacking statistics. In the last season of the A series Higuain has beaten the record of goals made in the A

series overcoming Nordhal with his 36 goals in 35 presences, remarkable then his attacking statistics with 5,2 shots per match, 1,5 key passes and 1,4 dribbles. Even better are the attacking statistics of Ronaldo, who has been decisive in the win of the last Champions League with his 16 goals and 4 assist in 12 presences, furthermore he has registered in his attacking statistics 7,9 shots per match, 1,9 key passes and 0,8 dribbles.

Conclusion

For what concerns the statistic analysis we do not notice great differences between the attacking values of the big teams of the Chinese Championship and those of the European big ones, except for the number of dribbles per match (4,6 of Guangz Evergrande against 14,3 of Juventus in the A Series),

a sign this one of less individual technique with a lower look for the 1vs1, and for the % of pass success (88,2% of Real against 83,7% of Guangzhou Evergrande). The defensive values show that the Chinese Championships has minor intensity and greater wickedness compared to the Italian A series and the Champions League, in favor of this thesis we can take the minor number of tackles, interceptions and cards. The information about goals show how important is to make many goals on action and, above all, how important it is to award them the least possible and to go then to the final victory. The statistic analysis of passes gives back height to the different importance of technique in the various Championships, indeed the values of the short passes of Guangzhou Evergrande (clear synonymous of the attacking construction of a team) are much more lower than those of Real Madrid. The statistic analysis of players, instead, shows a different playing intensity between the Asian and the European tournament, above all different technical details between them. Between goalkeepers in particular, the most evident difference emerging between Zeng Cheng and Neuer and Buffon is the quantity of short passes made (25,6 per match with 82% of precision against the 18,2 of the Chinese colleague with a depressing 62%). In the role of the central back the difference between the two European players and the two representatives of CSL is mostly in the better percentage of passes and the highest number of interceptions and clears per match showing a higher playing intensity and aggressiveness, in the role of full back the main difference between the European and Asian players is in the attacking phase of the play (in the specific case Alex Sandro makes exactly more than the double of cross, dribbles, key passes than the Chinese colleague). For what concerns the role of midfielder the differences emerge in the attacking area, that means in particular in dribbles and key passes, synonymous of a better individual technique of the two European representatives, having by their side also a higher completeness in the tasks of their role of midfielder. As for the role of the attacking midfielder the biggest differences are in the number of shooting at goal per match, so as the number of dribbles and key passes, the European representatives being endowed of a better technique, they make more passes with a higher percentage of success than the two best representatives of the CSL. The most significant differences in the role of the wing are the number of dribbles and of shooting at goal with a higher involvement in the defensive phase of the play, easy to guess thanks to the number of tackles and interceptions. Finally in the role of the striker the biggest differences between the two Championships are related to the number of shooting at goal, much more high for the two European, and to the involvement in the move thanks to a higher number of passes with a better percentage of success.

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