



Munich Personal RePEc Archive

Equal Strength or Dominant Teams: Policy Analysis of NFL

Biner, Burhan

University of Minnesota, Department of Economics

25 March 2009

Online at <https://mpra.ub.uni-muenchen.de/17920/>
MPRA Paper No. 17920, posted 17 Oct 2009 11:41 UTC

Equal Strength or Dominant Teams: Policy Analysis of NFL

Burhan Biner ^{*†}

University of Minnesota

JOB MARKET PAPER

March 2, 2009

Abstract

In North America, professional sports leagues operate mostly as cartels. They employ certain policies such as revenue sharing, salary caps to ensure that teams get high revenues and players get high wages. There are two major hypotheses regarding the talent distribution among the teams that would maximize the total revenues, dominant teams rule and equal strength team rule. This paper examines the revenue structure of National Football League and proposes policy recommendations regarding talent distribution among the teams. By using a unique, rich data set on game day stadium attendance and TV ratings I am able to measure the total demand as a function of involved teams talent levels. Reduced form regression results indicates that TV viewers are more interested in close games, on the other hand stadium attendees are more interested in home teams dominance. In order to identify the true effects of possible policy experiments, I estimate the parameters of the demand for TV as functions of team talent, fixed team and market variables by using partial linear model described as in Yatchew (1998) which uses non-parametric and difference-based estimators. I then estimate the demand for stadium attendance using random coefficients model by using normative priors for the 32 cities that hosts the teams. Estimated demand for TV ratings and stadium attendance corroborates the findings of reduced form regressions, stadium demand and TV demand working against each other. We therefore propose a somewhat equal strength team policy where big market teams has a slight advantage over the others. Total revenues of the league is maximized under such a policy.

Keywords: Perfect Competition, Dominant Team, Cartels.

JEL Classifications: C14, C34, L52, L83

*I would like to thank Ryan Rebolz of Pro Football Hall of Fame for helping me find the crucial TV data. I also wish to thank Tom Holmes, Kyoo il Kim, Erzo Luttmer, Turkmen Goksel for their helpful discussions with me. I would also like thank Olivia Hansburg for lending me her expertise in data. Lastly I am grateful to the Economics Department of the University of Minnesota for financial support. All errors are my own.

[†]Department of Economics, University of Minnesota, 1035 Heller Hall, 271-19th Avenue South, Minneapolis, MN, 55455. Email: biner@econ.umn.edu.

1 Introduction

Professional sports leagues in North America are good examples of cartels. Most of them have some sort of exemption status from the laws of commerce that the rest of the economy has to abide by. They have a league governing body formed by the owners and players that plan and take care of the problems of the league. The league generates revenue through games and the revenue is shared between team owners and players. They are mostly free to adopt policies on governing the league as they wish. The league primarily wants to increase the total revenue made throughout the league in order to increase the salaries for players and profits for team owners. There are various actions available to the league including imposing a salary cap or revenue sharing.

There are two major hypotheses regarding how leagues use relative strength of teams to increase total revenues, player salaries and fan utility. The first is to follow the dominant teams rule. Pick a few teams that have revenue making advantage over the others and make sure that they have a stronger team ensuring that their fans will generate higher revenue. MLB, to some extent follows this, New York Yankees, Boston Red Sox, New York Mets and Chicago Cubs have clear advantage in revenue generation over the other teams. The second hypothesis is to distribute talent among the teams "evenly", ensuring a high level of competition and thereby attracting higher demand for the game.

In this paper we are going to empirically assess the superiority of these two hypotheses over each other for National Football League.

Among all professional sports leagues National Football League is by far the most lucrative sports league. In 2007, the NFLs annual revenues exceeded \$7 billion. In contrast, Major League Baseball generated revenues of just over \$6 billion. Basketball and hockey lag far behind. The National Basketball Associations annual revenues stand at \$3.3 billion. Bringing up the rear among the Big Four team sports leagues, the National Hockey Leagues revenues reach \$2 billion annually¹. There are clearly certain things going right with NFL. Popularity of the game has been increasing every passing year along with its' revenue making potential. Clearly their policies are working for the league. They have been employing a salary cap rule along with revenue sharing due to a collective bargaining with NFL Players Association.

¹<http://anthonygaughan.blogspot.com/2008/02/king-of-sports-world.html>

This paper argues that in NFL, TV audience in general likes to watch somewhat close games while fans attending the games like to see their teams dominate the other team. On average 66-70 percent of a team's revenue comes from media deals. Since most of the revenue comes from the media it's best to have a policy that advocates a somewhat equal team strength.

There is a rich literature in sports economics. Most of the literature is in theoretical sports economics with a few empirical research papers mainly done in simple regressions. In the first mathematical model of a professional sports league, El-Hodiri and Quirk,(1971), examine whether the current organization of professional team sports will lead to equalization of playing strengths. They develop a dynamic model involving wages, revenues, trades, the draft, skill level, and the probability of winning a game. Profit maximization is not consistent with the equalization of playing strengths unless all teams are affected equally by a change in strength of one team in terms of gate receipts, or if the home team receives at least half of the gate receipts and all teams have the same revenue function. Additionally, to ensure equalization, there must be a constant supply of new playing skill and no cash sales. Equal strengths will converge regardless of the initial allocation of talent. Fewer teams and a quicker depreciation of talent will speed up the convergence process.

Atkinson, Stanley, and Tschirhart (1988), develop a model of a professional sports league which shows how revenue sharing encourages an optimal distribution of resources among teams. The league tries to devise an incentive scheme that will induce agents to maximize total output. The agents, on the other hand, receive private non-monetary benefits which are not shared. This leads to classical principal agent problem. Empirically, they show that that revenue sharing has desirable properties for the NFL, but is partially mitigated if teams are not profit maximizers.

Fort and Quirk, (1995), develop a profit maximizing model of a professional sports league. They discuss the issues in determining the definition of winning, whether it be season-long winning percentage or championship prospect. The effects of the reserve system versus free agency are examined. A salary cap results in equal playing strengths and would be adopted if the cap is sufficiently low. They argue that it is the only incentive mechanism which can maintain league viability and competitive balance.

Empirical papers in Sports Economics are mostly done with very limited data. This is usually due to lack of team level game day data. Most of the empirical analysis is done for aggregate level data instead and usually done for a few years. The biggest problem is we don't have individual

level data on consumers. The big elephant in the room is unobserved heterogeneity that's hard to touch due to lack of data at the individual level. Specifically it's hard to measure the "fanness" of consumers. In European sports leagues people are more attached to their teams, in some cases cult like cultures exist. This is not really the case in US. However, we still see that type of behavior for certain teams. Detroit Lions have been a losing team for quite some time, yet they manage to sell almost capacity for most of their games. Whether this is due to fans' connection to their teams or some other reason is hard to guess.

Welki and Zlatoper, (1991), analyzes the game day stadium attendance in NFL for 1991 season. In their paper they analyze the attendance in terms of ticket price, home team record, visiting team record, income level of home team population, temperature and some other dummy variables. Their Tobit analysis finds a clear bias for home team record which supports our hypothesis for game day attendance. However, their data is only for one season which raises doubts about the validity of the results. In their (1999) paper they analyze the games for 1986 and 1987 seasons. In that paper they use betting lines to measure how close a game is expected to be by the general audience. They find that fans do care about closeness of games and quality of the playing teams, especially home team.

Carney and Fenn,(2004), on the other hand analyzes the TV ratings for NFL games in 2000 and 2001 seasons. In their analysis they find that closeness of the games matter by using winning records of opposing teams. They use various variables such as player race, coach race. However their analysis relies on local TV ratings which is a relatively minor consideration for the general discussion since most of the revenue comes from national media deals.

There is no research done on NFL for the entire revenue scheme. Our analysis is done for both TV ratings and stadium attendance making it possible for us to come up with a better policy analysis. TV ratings data we use is national level data and game day attendance data is a very rich panel data that spans 14 years.

The rest of the paper proceeds as follows. Section 2 introduces the theoretical model. Section 3 introduces the data used in the paper. In Section 4, we use reduced form regressions and random coefficient models for both sets of data to estimate demand and discusses the results. Section 5 concludes.

2 Theory

This section first presents a simple theoretical model for sports demand both in terms of stadium attendance and TV ratings. Then I discuss some analytical results.

In general the audience cares about a game's potential characteristics such as how close the game will be, likelihood of their team winning the game, the week the game is played and other variables. We can represent the first two characteristics in terms of the talent levels of the teams. Let t_1 be the home team's talent level and t_2 be the visiting team's talent level. Probability of home team winning has to be positively correlated with home team's talent level. Without loss of generality assume that

$$Win_{1,2} = \left(\frac{t_1}{t_1 + t_2} \right)^\alpha \quad (1)$$

where $0 < \alpha < 1$. This assures us that probability of winning is an increasing and concave function of t_1 . Probability of winning for the visiting team is defined similarly

Closeness of the game has to be correlated with the talent difference of the teams. Without loss of generality assume that

$$Close_{1,2} = |t_1 - t_2|^\beta \quad (2)$$

where $-1 < \beta \leq 0$.

The TV ratings for a particular game will be the product of winning probability and closeness. Similarly, stadium attendance will be a product of winning probability and closeness. Here, α is the elasticity of demand with respect to winning probability, β is the elasticity of demand with respect to closeness.

We assume that there are two types of cities, big cities and small cities. In an environment like this it's normal to assume that team types are also correlated with the city types. Teams in big cities should be able to bring more demand and more revenue. Therefore I am going to assume that big city teams will have t_1 talent and small city teams have t_2 talent. This model is equivalent to the model where there is one big city team and one small city team facing each other certain percentages of times in each other's stadium. Without loss of generality we can assume that they

face each other ω_1 times at the big city team's turf, ω_2 times at the small city team's turf. We can assume that $\omega_1 + \omega_2 = 1$, moreover we will normalize the total talent to 1, $t_1 + t_2 = 1$. Even though total talent used by the league can be less than 1 we will assume that it will be binding. In other words, everyone in the talent pool will be employed.² Let the size of the big city be n_1 and the size of the small city be n_2 .

Under these assumptions total demand for stadium attendance will be

$$Att = n_1\omega_1 \left(\frac{t_1}{t_1+t_2}\right)^{\alpha_1} \left(\frac{t_2}{t_1+t_2}\right)^{\alpha_2} |t_1-t_2|^{\beta_1} + n_2\omega_2 \left(\frac{t_1}{t_1+t_2}\right)^{\alpha_3} \left(\frac{t_2}{t_1+t_2}\right)^{\alpha_4} |t_1-t_2|^{\beta_2} \quad (3)$$

We are assuming that elasticities of winning probabilities and closeness are different for each city. On the other hand TV ratings will be

$$Rating = n_1\omega_1 \left(\frac{t_1}{t_1+t_2}\right)^{\alpha_5} \left(\frac{t_2}{t_1+t_2}\right)^{\alpha_6} |t_1-t_2|^{\beta_3} + n_2\omega_2 \left(\frac{t_1}{t_1+t_2}\right)^{\alpha_7} \left(\frac{t_2}{t_1+t_2}\right)^{\alpha_8} |t_1-t_2|^{\beta_4} \quad (4)$$

Since we are only looking national level TV data, for ratings can assume that elasticities of winning and closeness are same throughout the league. We have no way of seeing which city watched which game. Total demand for the game will be the sum of *Att* and *Rating*.

Proposition 2.1 *Total demand is maximized when $t_1 = t_2$ if $\beta_i \neq 0$ for at least one $i = 1, 2, 3, 4$.*

Proof See appendix.

Clearly the degree of how much people care about close games is important. If they don't care at all, rather they care about their team winning then maximum demand is achieved depending on the relative elasticity of winning probabilities, relative size of the cities and ratio of the type of big cities and small cities.

Corollary 2.2 *If TV viewers care more about close games and stadium attendees care more about their home team winning then total demand is maximized when $t_1 = t_2$.*

²Players have a union and one of the objectives of the union is to make sure every player is employed. Teams have to have number of players in their rosters to make sure that they can field a team for every game during the season. Every player that's in the pool at the beginning of the season will be allocated to a team.

Proof This is a simple application of **Proposition 2.1**.

3 Data

3.1 TV Data

Since almost 70 percent of operating income of every team under the current revenue sharing rule comes from media deals, it's only fitting to first analyze TV ratings. Our TV ratings data comes from Football Hall of Fame archives. Data spans nationally televised games for 1972-1978, 1981 and 1983. Data includes preseason games, regular games and playoff games. Almost all of the preseason games have ratings available, however there are no betting lines quoted for them. Not all of the regular games have been nationally televised. Monday night, Thursday, Friday and Saturday games are usually nationally televised. On Sundays, usually one or two games are picked and televised by national stations. Even though there is 1943 games in this period we have only 491 games with ratings.

In order to analyze the effect of close games on TV ratings we have collected Las Vegas Betting lines data for the corresponding games using Washington Post archives. Lines are quoted as one single number representing which team is favored by how many points. It represents public's perception of an upcoming game. It's a good candidate for measuring how close a game will be if it's measured around zero. If betting line between Vikings playing at Green Bay is reported as -5, this means Green Bay is favored by 5 points. The more the betting lines negative, the more home team is favored. If betting lines are quoted as positive that means visiting team is favored. Clearly a betting line close to zero means that game is perceived to be tight. Bookies who publish betting lines usually have their own formulas. In order to do a consistent estimation, it's important to find consistent betting lines. This is especially important since I use betting lines for different periods, 1970's and 1994-2007 period. Our comparison shows that they are following the same line. Bookies in general use win ratios, streaks of teams involved in the upcoming game in their formulas. Correlation between visiting team win ratio and betting lines for the TV data is about 0.47, correlation between home team win ratio and betting lines is about -0.46 which is a clear indication of their formula effecting the betting lines. Correlations with the win-loss streaks

are 0.38 and -0.38 respectively. They also use game specific information such as the place of the game, weather conditions during the game³ and team specific information such as injuries. I will denote these information as Σ . Therefore, betting line between team i and team j at time t can be formulated as

$$Bet_{ijt} = \mathbf{E}[Point_{i,t} - Point_{j,t} | Winrat_{i,t-1}, Winrat_{j,t-1}, Streak_{i,t-1}, Streak_{j,t-1}, \Sigma] \quad (5)$$

Here $Point_{i,t}$ and $Point_{j,t}$ are the number of points team i and team j will score at the game respectively.

Summary of the data is given in Table 1 in the appendix.

A single national ratings point represents one percent of the total number of television households. Since they are normalized with respect to the number of households with TV for that year it's a good measure for the TV demand for the game. There is quite a bit variation in the rating data to explain. The lowest rating we have is recorded on a game that coincided with a World series game. The highest was recorded on a Super Bowl game. Standard error for playoff games is about 7.6, standard error for regular games is 3.8. **Viswinper** and **Homwinper** are winning percentages of visiting and home teams prior to every game respectively. Betting lines only measure how close a game is expected to be, in other words they measure the relative perceived strength of the opposing teams, they do not measure individual qualities of the teams. We use winning percentages for this purpose. Win-loss streaks of opposing teams going into each game measures the order of wins. Order of wins are clearly important for our analysis as well since win percentages are not a good measure of how teams are doing going into a specific game. After four games, if a team has two wins and two losses clearly when those games are won make a difference. If they won the last two games, they go into next games on a winning spree and usually audience respond positively to that. If they win on an alternating schedule then the effect of the last win is not as much. **Homebase** measures the possible population who would be interested in watching home team's game, **visbase** is similarly defined. It's calculated by using team's division city populations. The rest of the variables are dummy variables describing the game day. **Worldseries** corresponds to the games coincides with MLB playoff games, **Doubleheader** corresponds to games that are

³This is especially important for open air stadiums. Bookies follow the game day weather report a few days before the game and put that into their formulas.

televised consecutively on the same day. On the other hand, **weekcount** measures the week the game is played, as the season progresses we see increased attention towards the game. Since betting lines show winning bias, we also include the absolute value of the betting lines, we only care how close a game is perceived to be not who is likely to win, **absline** measures this. By using absolute value of betting lines we introduce nonlinearity into our estimation, however at the same time we lose the directional information that betting lines bring into the table.

3.2 Stadium Data

Our stadium data covers the games between 1994-2007. I collected attendance data for every regular game using various web sites. I then collected betting lines corresponding to these games from Mrnfl.com. Mrnfl.com reports the betting lines published on Washington Post, therefore it matches the betting lines I used for TV ratings. Summary of the data is given in Table 2 in the appendix.

Some of the variables here are same as what I used for TV ratings. I include stadium size, stadium cost adjusted for 1938 prices, stadium age, attendance normalized by stadium size, MSA population, MSA income per capita, difference between attendance and stadium size, average season price adjusted for 1994 prices. Unfortunately at the panel level some of these variables are useless. Price is seasonal therefore has no effect on game by game estimation, stcost on the other hand is constant and in the usual reduced regression it has negative coefficient. **Dif** measures the difference between attendance and stadium size, **difrat** is the normalized difference ratio. I have to use difrat for censored regression model. Stadium size here is not a hard upper bound for attendance. It's most of the time adhered but in some cases some teams can add a few more seats to their stadiums. This is especially true for warm climate teams such as Tampa Bay. Nevertheless, the stadium sizes listed on team web sites are mostly observed, there are only 382 cases out of 3448 games that somehow teams managed to post attendance higher than their stadium size.

4 Estimation

4.1 TV Demand

The most important aspect of our TV Data is that we observe that games expected to be close bring higher ratings. Our hypothesis is that TV audience has a different utility function than the typical fan. In terms of the model we introduced, elasticity of winning probability for TV audience is very close to zero. Instead of going through the hassles of driving, waiting for the queues, bathrooms, parking, dealing with the rowdy fans they'd like to sit at the comfort of their house and watch a nice game. Average game watcher on TV is mostly interested in games that are competitive rather than his team definitely winning. Let (t_1, t_2) be the talent level of both of the teams. Utility function of TV audience has to be a decreasing function of $|t_1 - t_2|$, increasing function of win records of both teams. Utility maximization of TV audience problem gives us a plausible demand function. It simply leads to the following assumption for TV ratings: I assume that the TV ratings is a production of betting lines, home team's win percentage, visiting team's win percentage and other market and game specific variables. This is along the lines of the theory I introduced in Section 2. In order to account for the negative values that win-loss streaks and betting lines take I will use the following log-linear modeling:

$$Rating_{ijt} = A * e^{\alpha * absline_{ijt}} * e^{\beta * homwinper_t} * e^{\gamma * viswinper_t} * e^{\Omega} \quad (6)$$

where $\Omega = \{homestreak, visstreak, homebase, visbase, totbase, dummyvariables\}$ and i denotes the home team, j denotes visiting team. We do expect the coefficient for **absline** to be negative and coefficients of win percentages of both teams to be positive of close magnitude when we log-linearize the production function for ratings. In the log-linear model $\ln(y) = \beta_1 + \beta_2 x$, one-unit increase in x leads to $100 \times \beta_2\%$ change in y .

One of the problems with the estimation of TV ratings is that our data has sample selection issues. Scheduling of most of the games are done before the season starts. Monday night games are scheduled this way just as Thanksgiving day games at Detroit and Dallas. Regular Sunday games and some Saturday games on the other hand are selected by the broadcast company a week prior to the game. They tend to pick competitive games in general. My data includes playoff games

as well but they are in general quite competitive and fit the selection criteria. In order to correct for selection I use the heckman probit model. Selection equation is determined by **Homewinper**, **Viswinper**, **Homestreak**, **Visstreak**. In order to use heckman selection model I need exclusion restriction variables. Betting lines are determined to some extent using these variables but the correlation is not that much. Especially, correlation between betting lines and win-loss streaks are very low. We use the **type II Tobit model**:

$$y_1 = \mathbf{x}_1\boldsymbol{\beta}_1 + u_1 \tag{7}$$

$$y_2 = 1_{[\mathbf{x}\boldsymbol{\delta}_2 + v_2 > 0]} \tag{8}$$

The second equation is the selection equation. y_2 and \mathbf{x} are always observed, y_1 is observed only when $y_2 = 1$. We have observations for **Homewinper**, **Viswinper**, **Homestreak**, **Visstreak** on every game. The fact that win-loss streak can be negative and we look at games where teams are more likely to be in equal strengths ensure that y_2 can be 0. For those games we don't have any ratings. With further assumptions that (u_1, v_2) is independent of \mathbf{x} with zero mean, $v_2 \sim \text{Normal}(0,1)$ and $E(u_1|v_2) = \gamma_1 v_2$ we can estimate this model. A little bit manipulation gives us the following:

$$E(y_1|\mathbf{x}, y_2 = 1) = \mathbf{x}_1\boldsymbol{\beta}_1 + \gamma_1\lambda(\mathbf{x}\boldsymbol{\delta}_2) \tag{9}$$

where λ is the inverse Mills ratio. We can estimate this model using the **Heckit** procedure:

We first obtain the probit estimate $\hat{\boldsymbol{\delta}}_2$ from the model

$$P(y_{i2} = 1|\mathbf{x}_i) = \Phi(\mathbf{x}_i\boldsymbol{\delta}_2) \tag{10}$$

using all observations. Then, obtain the estimated inverse Mills ratios $\hat{\lambda}_{i2} = \lambda(\mathbf{x}_i\hat{\boldsymbol{\delta}}_2)$. Then, we obtain $\hat{\boldsymbol{\beta}}_1$ and $\hat{\gamma}_1$ from OLS regression on the selected sample, y_{i1} on \mathbf{x}_{i1} , $\hat{\lambda}_{i2}$.

A simple t-test of the estimate of the inverse Mills ratio λ is a valid test for sample-selection bias.

Results of reduced form regressions and heckman probit selection model is shown in Table 3-6.

Results are corroborating our hypothesis. TV audience cares more about how close the games are. Clearly the negative coefficient on the absolute value of betting lines show that people care more about close games, it's statistically significant at the level of 10%. For every one unit difference in team talent ratings decrease by 6.7 percent. This is a significant effect on the ratings. Home team's winning percentage is favored a little more than the visiting team winning percentage. Even when corrected for selection we see that closeness of the games are significantly important.

Linear regression unfortunately gives us only a general idea about how the audience is reacting to games on TV. It averages out quite a bit of information and doesn't use the nonlinearity. If we look at Figure 1-3, we see that ratings are very nonlinear in terms of betting lines, win percentages. In order to account for nonlinearity in the model I use two other specifications to model the TV demand. The other specification for TV Ratings as a function of explanatory variables I use is

$$LogRating_{ijt} = \alpha + \beta * absline_{ijt}^{\gamma} + \tau homwinper_{ijt}^{\eta} + \psi viswinper_{ijt}^{\kappa} + \dots \quad (11)$$

The other variables are in linear form. Nonlinear estimation of this specification is reported in Table 7. Even when accounted for nonlinearity we see that **absline** has negative coefficient albeit it's statistical significance is not much. The power of **absline**, γ , comes out 1.655. This supports the linear regression model we estimated earlier. The coefficients and powers of win ratios are quite significant and again supports our results from linear regression.

Throughout all these models one other common result we see is that population base of a team is also very important. In other words teams that play in big cities or big markets tend to draw more audience to TV, this is of course expected but as a possible policy we can see that big market teams should have better teams in order to maximize the revenues. This is especially true for home teams that has a large audience. It's better to televise games that's played on a big city team turf.

The last specification I use is the semiparametric regression formulated by Yatchew:

$$y_{ijt} = f(z_{ijt}) + \mathbf{x}_{ijt}\boldsymbol{\beta} + \epsilon_{ijt} \quad (12)$$

where z is a random variable, x is a p-dimensional random variable. $E[y|x, z] = f(z) + \mathbf{x}\boldsymbol{\beta}$ and ϵ_{ijt} is iid mean-zero error term such that $Var[y|x, z] = \sigma_{\epsilon}^2$. The function f is a smooth, single valued function with a bounded first derivative. In this model the parametric ($\mathbf{x}\boldsymbol{\beta}$) and non-parametric

$(f(z))$ parts are additively separable.

We follow the methodology suggested by Yatchew (1997). We first estimate the nonparametric nonlinear part by locally weighted least squares method as described in Yatchew (2003). Then we do the linear least squares on $y_i = \pi + \mathbf{x}\boldsymbol{\beta}$ where π is the estimate from lowess method.

We assume that $E(\epsilon|x, z) = 0$ and that $Var(\epsilon|x, z) = \sigma_\epsilon^2$, z 's have bounded support and have been rearranged so that they are in increasing order. Suppose that the conditional mean of x is a smooth function of z , say $E(x|z) = g(z)$ where g' is bounded and $Var(x|z) = \sigma_u^2$. Then we may rewrite $x = g(z) + u$. Differencing yields

$$\begin{aligned} y_i - y_{i-1} &= (x_i - x_{i-1})\beta + (f(z_i) - f(z_{i-1})) + \epsilon_i - \epsilon_{i-1} \\ &= (g(z_i) - g(z_{i-1}))\beta + (u_i - u_{i-1})\beta + (f(z_i) - f(z_{i-1})) + \epsilon_i - \epsilon_{i-1} \\ &\cong (u_i - u_{i-1})\beta + \epsilon_i - \epsilon_{i-1} \end{aligned}$$

Thus, the direct effect $f(z)$ of the nonparametric variable z and the indirect effect $g(z)$ that occurs through x are removed. Suppose we apply the OLS estimator of β to the differenced data, that is,

$$\hat{\beta}_{diff} = \frac{\sum(y_i - y_{i-1})(x_i - x_{i-1})}{\sum(x_i - x_{i-1})^2} \quad (13)$$

Then, substituting the approximations $x_i - x_{i-1} \cong u_i - u_{i-1}$ and $y_i - y_{i-1} \cong (u_i - u_{i-1})\beta + \epsilon_i - \epsilon_{i-1}$ into above and rearranging, we have

$$n^{1/2}(\hat{\beta}_{diff} - \beta) \cong \frac{n^{1/2} \frac{1}{n} \sum(\epsilon_i - \epsilon_{i-1})(u_i - u_{i-1})}{\frac{1}{n} \sum(u_i - u_{i-1})^2} \quad (14)$$

We can show that the above equation converges in distribution to $N\left(0, \frac{1.5\sigma_\epsilon^2}{\sigma_u^2}\right)$. Our estimator will be consistent.

Bottom line is, the estimation method we have here relies heavily on first differencing. After that we take the simple OLS estimator and then use kernel regression to get the nonparametric part. On the linear part we are using win ratios, streaks and other dummy variables. There is a clear correlation between betting lines and win ratios. This makes the assumption $x = g(z) + \epsilon$

possible. Moreover, differencing here is crucial because we difference the trends out from win ratios. For the nonlinear part I use betting lines as explanatory variable. Results are reported in Table 8. The only difference here is that home team’s win percentage has much more significance than the visiting team’s win percentage.

On the other hand when we use the betting lines themselves for the nonparametric part and absolute value of betting lines in the linear part we get a much better picture. Using absolute value of betting lines in the linear part ensures us that positive trends from previous weeks are trended out. We can see this in Figure 1. If we don’t use absolute value of betting lines in the linear part, for regular games we get the Figure 2. Figure 2 is a better indicator, it tells us that demand is maximized when betting lines are close to zero. However, the curvature around zero is not as high as in Figure 1.

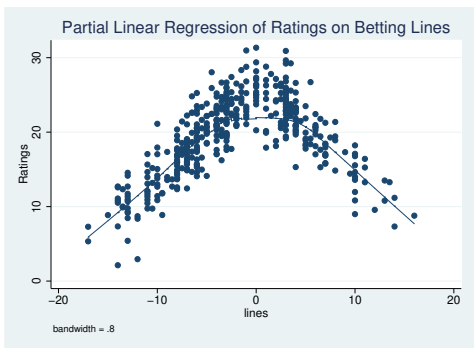


Figure 1: TV Ratings against betting lines, absolute value of betting lines and other variables.

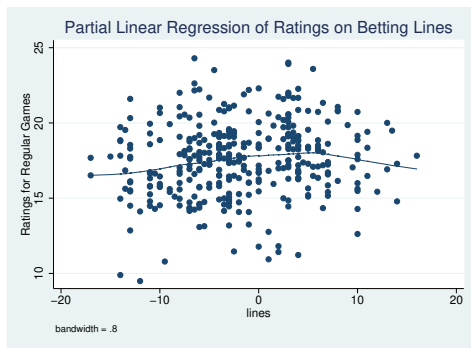


Figure 2: Regular game TV Ratings against betting lines and other variables.

Table 8 and table 9 shows the results. When we use absline in the linear part, we are getting a positive coefficient, this is due to the fact that most of the effect has gone onto nonparametric part that includes betting lines. The other results are similar with table 9, home team’s win ratio is still more important than visiting team win ratio. Home team’s population again is important.

The most important result from semiparametric estimation is that our hypothesis is supported again. TV audience is more interested in close games.

4.2 Stadium Attendance Demand

For the stadium case I am going to report linear fixed effect estimation results along with random effects tobit results for panel data in Table 10 and Table 11. Results are pooled. In the following

linear fixed effect model, x_{ijt} includes **absline**, **homwinrat**, **viswinrat**, **homstreak**, **visstreak** and other dummy variables. One of the problems with using **absline** as explanatory variables here is that we lose quite a bit of information by doing that. We are losing the directional interpretation of betting lines, in other words which team is favored. If the coefficient of **absline** comes up as negative the interpretation is straightforward, fans like games that are close. If it comes up as positive interpretation is vague, it most probably means they like blow-out games but since **absline** doesn't tell us which team is favored we have to use other variables to come up with that result. The first model is usual fixed effects panel data OLS estimation:

$$Att_{ijt} = \alpha + \mathbf{x}_{ijt}'\boldsymbol{\beta} + \epsilon_{ijt} \quad (15)$$

Attendance is limited by number of seats available to fans, therefore it's important take this censoring into account. As I pointed out in Section 3, censoring is not observed for every game. For some games, some teams manage to post attendance more than stadium size, nevertheless this is not a big problem since I censor any attendance over the stadium size and use the stadium size as attendance for that particular game.

$$Att_{ijt}^* = \alpha + x'_{ijt}\boldsymbol{\beta} + \epsilon_{ijt}, \epsilon_{ijt} \sim N(0, \sigma_i^2) \quad (16)$$

where $Att_{ijt} = Att_{ijt}^*$ if $Att_{ijt}^* < stdsize_i$ and $Att_{ijt} = stdsize_i$ otherwise.

Clearly, fans in this case care much more about their own team's strength since the coefficient of home team's winning percentage is very high compared to visiting team winning percentage. Moreover, the coefficient on betting lines show a small bias towards home team's relative strength when it's done with betting lines only rather than absolute value of the lines. As I pointed out before, the interpretation of absolute value of betting lines is problematic, we do get that it is positive and people care about blow out result. The fact that coefficient of **homwinrat** is significantly bigger than the coefficient of **viswinrat** tells us that the blow out should be done by home team. If the home team goes into game as a clear favorite, for every 1 unit advantage over the visiting team the attendance is likely to increase by by 6 percent of the stadium size. Censored regression on betting lines itself gives us a better interpretation. In table 12, we see that coefficient of betting lines is negative, showing bias towards home team. Once again **homwinrat** and **viswinrat** are

much better indicators corroborating our previous result. Stadium attendees care more about their home team winning. We can assume that elasticity of closeness for stadium attendees is almost zero.

If we however do the estimation team by team we see the effect of lines varying quite a bit. In some cases such as in Arizona, fans are more interested in the visiting team rather than the home team. When done with absolute values however we expect the coefficient to be negative, we are not getting that but the coefficient is very close to zero. Team records are much better predictions of the expectations of the fans.

It's natural to think that consumers in different cities have different preferences, therefore different coefficients for different games and games in general. For example, people in New York might care about Philadelphia games more than Arizona games.

A parsimonious model for the relationships between attendance and betting lines can be obtained by specifying a team-specific random intercept ζ_{1j} and a team-specific random slope ζ_{2j} for (x_{ij}) :

$$y_{ij} = \beta_1 + \beta_2 x_{ij} + \zeta_{1j} + \zeta_{2j} x_{ij} + \epsilon_{ij} \tag{17}$$

$$= (\beta_1 + \zeta_{1j}) + (\beta_2 + \zeta_{2j}) x_{ij} + \epsilon_{ij} \tag{18}$$

We assume that the covariate x_{ij} is exogenous with $E(\zeta_{1j}|x_{ij}) = 0$, $E(\zeta_{2j}|x_{ij}) = 0$, and $E(\epsilon_{ij}|x_{ij}, \zeta_{1j}, \zeta_{2j}) = 0$.

We will, as is usually done, assume that, given x_{ij} , the random intercept and random slope have a bivariate normal distribution with zero mean and covariance matrix Σ .

Following Rossi, Allenby and McCulloch (2005), I use a hierarchical Bayesian model with a mixture of four normal priors to account for the random coefficients. I use EM algorithm to estimate the game day attendance. Table 13 and 14 shows the results. I then go onto show predicted Bayesian posterior distribution for the teams.

Results are again as we predicted. Coefficient of betting lines is negative albeit very small. However win ratio of home team again has a very high coefficient compared to win ratio of visiting team. Figures 9-12 shows the density distribution of random coefficients we use to estimate our model. If we make the home team's talent increase by 1 unit relative to visiting teams, we see the

attendance increase only by .00048%. On the other hand if we increase home team's win record by one unit (hypothetically), attendance increase by 5 percent. This clearly shows that home team's record is much more important for fans to attend. Home team fans would like to see their team going dominant into a game.

5 Conclusion

The estimation results in Section 4 clearly shows that TV viewers and stadium attendees display different type of preferences for the game. TV ratings are determined mostly by close games with possibly strong teams playing each other. Figure 1 and 2 shows that maximum ratings are attained when lines are close to zero. Moreover, big city teams are drawing bigger audiences to their games. Coupled with this fact, it's better to have as many close games and these games should be played among teams that has larger fan base. On the other hand stadium attendance is determined by home team's dominance. In a city, fans are much more likely to attend a game if they think their team is more likely to win. Therefore, it's better to give some bias in the distribution of talent to big city teams. Nevertheless, since most of the revenue is obtained through media deals we suggest that talent distribution among the teams should be more towards an even distribution. It's imperative that there should be some bias towards teams that have bigger fan base. Of course, this is a policy that should be adopted if there is a sensible revenue sharing policy throughout the league. Here we are assuming that the NFL Commissioner acts as a Social Planner and has the means to redistribute the revenue generated by this cartel. With a policy of this sort, it's pretty easy to increase the size of the total revenue league makes and increase the individual teams' share. Under this regime players on average are more likely to see their salaries go up as well since the total revenue made will increase considerably thereby increasing team owners' shares and players' wages. If there is no redistribution of revenue in place then a policy that favors big city teams even a little bit is bound to backfire in the future since small city teams will get weaker considerably in time. Big city teams will likely use the revenues they make to attract better talent and get stronger as time progresses. This should have adverse effects on player salaries on average even though a few high talent players will likely see their wages go up much higher.

There is still more research to be done in this area. Once the demand parameters for TV Ratings

and Stadium attendance are covered, it's pretty straightforward to do a policy analysis as to how the distribution should actually be done. Actual numerical experiments can be done to simulate the effects of any redistribution of talent. One should also observe that winning percentages are nonlinear functions of betting lines. Therefore this makes it easier to do analysis for TV Ratings. On the other hand, for stadium attendance since we have recovered the random coefficients the policy analysis should be done to calculate the probability of fans attending a game depending on the betting lines. Unfortunately we do not have yet data on player salaries and player talent. The next step in this research will be correlating the player salaries to their talent level and coming up with profit function for the league so as to see the effects of a possibly policy like salary cap.

References

- [1] ATKINSON, SCOTT; LINDA AND TSCHIRHART, JOHN. "Revenue Sharing as an Incentive in an Agency Problem: An Example from the National Football League", *RAND Journal of Economics*, Vol. 19, pp. 27-43, Spring 1988.
- [2] CARNEY, SHANNON and FENN, AJU. "The Determinants of NFL Viewership: Evidence from Nielsen Ratings", *Colorado College Working Paper*, October 2004.
- [3] EL HODIRI, MOHAMED AND QUIRK, JAMES. "An Economic Model of a Professional Sports League", *Journal of Political Economy*, Vol. 79, pp. 1302-1319, November/December 1971.
- [4] FORT, RODNEY AND QUIRK, JAMES. "Cross-subsidization, Incentives, and Outcomes in Professional Team Sports Leagues", *Journal of Economic Literature*, Vol. 33, pp. 1265-1299, September 1995.
- [5] KESENNE, STEFAN. "The Impact of Salary Caps in Professional Team Sports", *Scottish Journal of Political Economy*, Vol 47, pp. 422-430, 2000.
- [6] ROSSI, P., ALLENBY G. AND MCCULLOCH R. "Bayesian Statistics and Marketing," John Wiley and Sons, 2005.
- [7] SZYMANSKI, STEFAN. "The Economic Design of Sporting Contests", *Journal of Economic Literature*, Vol. 41, pp. 1137-1187, December 2003.

- [8] VROOMAN, JOHN. “A General Theory of Professional Sports Leagues”, *Southern Economic Journal*, Vol. 61,4, pp 971-990.
- [9] WELKI, ANDREW and ZLATOPER, THOMAS. “US Professional Football: The Demand for Game-Day Attendance in 1991”, *Managerial and Decision Economics*, Vol. 15, pp. 489-495, 1994.
- [10] WELKI, ANDREW and ZLATOPER, THOMAS. “US Professional Football Game-Day Attendance”, *American Economic Journal*, Vol. 27, No. 3, pp. 285-298, 1999.
- [11] YATCHEW, A., “An Elementary Estimator of the Partial Linear Model”, *Economic Letters*, Vol. 57: 135-43, 1997.
- [12] YATCHEW, A., *Semiparametric Regression for the Applied Econometrician*, Cambridge University Press, Cambridge, UK, 2003.

A Proofs

Proof of Proposition 2.1

If at least one of the $\beta_i \neq 0$, then $\lim_{t_1 \rightarrow t_2} |t_1 - t_2|^{\beta_i} = \infty$, since $-1 < \beta_i < 0$. Moreover, $\lim_{t_1 \rightarrow t_2} \frac{t_1}{t_1 + t_2} = \frac{1}{2}$. Therefore,

$$\lim_{t_1 \rightarrow t_2} \left(\frac{t_1}{t_1 + t_2} \right)^{\alpha_i} |t_1 - t_2|^{\beta_i} \rightarrow \infty \quad (19)$$

Since for any other combination of (α_i, β_i) the total profit will be finite we conclude that maximum is achieved when $t_1 = t_2$. In other words, whenever closeness is important it leads our total demand to be maximized when strengths are equal.

A Results

Table 1: Summary statistics for TV ratings

Variable	Definition	Mean	Std. Dev.	Min.	Max.	N
lines	Betting Lines	-2.102	7.704	-43	20	1843
absline	Absolute Value of Betting Lines	5.732	3.709	0	43	1843
rating	TV Ratings	18.273	6.44	5.9	49.1	491
Share	Share of the Ratings	37.35	11.454	11	78	491
Viswinper	Visiting Team Win Percentage before game	0.500	0.275	0	1	1861
Homwinper	Home Team Win Percentage before game	0.500	0.274	0	1	1861
1PM	1 if game started at 1PM ET	0.025	0.156	0	1	1934
4PM	1 if game started at 4PM ET	0.117	0.321	0	1	1934
Evening	1 if game is played on an evening	0.108	0.311	0	1	1934
Friday	1 if game is played on Friday	0.008	0.088	0	1	1934
Thursday	1 if game is played on Thursday	0.016	0.126	0	1	1934
Thanksgiving	1 if game is played on Thanksgiving	0.009	0.096	0	1	1934
Saturday	1 if game is played on Saturday	0.046	0.21	0	1	1934
Doubleheader	1 if game is a doubleheader	0.142	0.349	0	1	1934
WorldSeries	1 if game day coincides with World Series	0.011	0.104	0	1	1934
Monday	1 if game is played on Monday	0.069	0.253	0	1	1934
Playoff	1 if it's a playoff game	0.036	0.186	0	1	1934
Superbowl	1 if it's a superbowl game	0.005	0.068	0	1	1934
Preseason	1 if it's a preseason game	0.038	0.191	0	1	1934
weekcount	Week the game played	8.199	4.528	1	20	1861
visstreak	Visiting team's win-loss streak before the game	0.14	2.782	-13	15	1861
homestreak	Home team's win-loss streak before the game	-0.005	2.882	-14	16	1861
visbase	Population of visiting team's division MSAs	3.415	0.642	2.11	5	1934
homebase	Population of home team's division MSAs	3.409	0.645	2.11	5	1934
totbase	Sum of visbase and homebase	6.824	1.037	4.3	9.810	1934

Table 2: Summary statistics for game day attendance

Variable	Definition	Mean	Std. Dev.	Min.	Max.	N
weekdate	Week day the game played	6.494	1.554	1	7	3448
line	Betting lines	-2.55	5.874	-24	20	3448
week	Week the game played	9.144	4.968	1	17	3448
att	Attendance	64520.151	10313.258	15131	90910	3433
yearweek	Year of the game	2000.668	3.994	1994	2007	3448
stdsize	Stadium size	70210.216	6969.578	41203	91665	3448
viswinrat	Visiting team win ratio before the game	0.502	0.262	0	1	3448
homwinrat	Home team win ratio before the game	0.499	0.262	0	1	3448
monday	1 if game is played on Monday	0.068	0.252	0	1	3448
thursday	1 if game is played on Thursday	0.019	0.135	0	1	3448
friday	1 if game is played on Friday	0.009	0.093	0	1	3448
saturday	1 if game is played on Saturday	0.026	0.159	0	1	3448
sunday	1 if game is played on Sunday	0.879	0.326	0	1	3448
dif	Difference between attendance and stadium size	-5701.219	8804.909	-57010	14856	3433
Visteamstreak	Visiting Team win-loss streak before the game	0.158	2.61	-12	15	3448
Homteamstreak	Home Team win-loss streak before the game	-0.125	2.656	-14	14	3448
absline	Absolute value of betting lines	5.406	3.431	0	24	3448
Priceadjusted	Average season ticket prices in 1994 dollars	40.622	8.679	23.93	70.48	3448
stcost	Stadium cost in 1938 dollars	19647038.373	11734284.431	125000	51020166.7	3448
stdage	Stadium age	19.374	13.94	0	81	3448
attratio	Attendance normalized by stadium size	0.92	0.123	0.242	1.235	3433
difrat	Attendance difference normalized by stadium size	-0.08	0.123	-0.758	0.235	3433
Population	Population of home team MSA	4155653.971	4132625.006	260000	18959938	3448
Income	Income level of home team MSA	28241.209	4440.646	20645	43841.078	3448

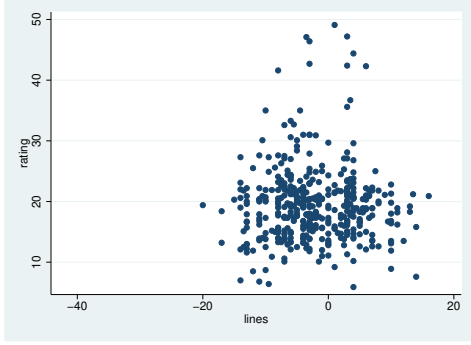


Figure 3: Ratings against betting lines for all games.

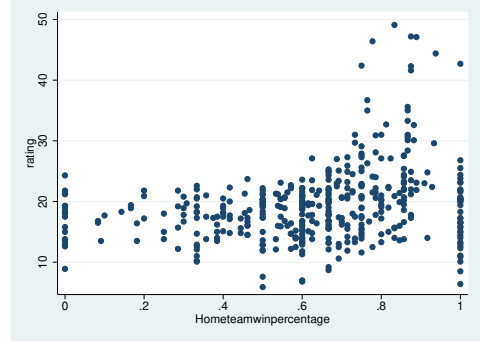


Figure 4: Ratings against Home Team Win Percentages for all games.

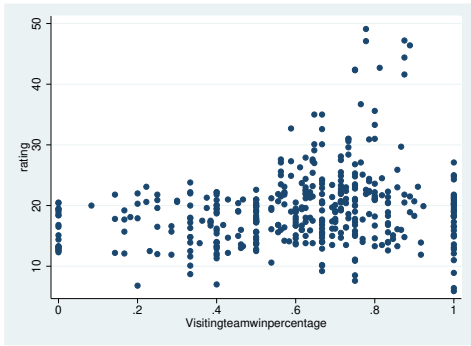


Figure 5: Ratings against Visiting Team Win Percentages for all games.

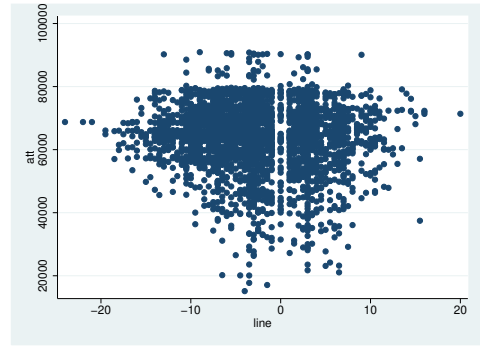


Figure 6: Attendance against betting lines for regular games all teams combined.

Table 3: Reduced regression on log ratings for all games

Variable	Coefficient	(Std. Err.)
absline	-0.067 [†]	(0.039)
Homewinpercentage	2.376**	(0.711)
Visitingwinpercentage	1.771*	(0.710)
1PM	-0.207	(1.187)
4PM	0.225	(1.073)
Evening	1.357	(1.204)
Friday	-5.832*	(2.887)
Thursday	0.489	(1.381)
Thanksgiving	1.933	(1.561)
Saturday	-3.654**	(0.474)
Doubleheader	0.066	(1.008)
WorldSeries	-4.522**	(0.664)
Monday	3.356**	(0.927)
Playoff	8.077**	(0.563)
Superbowl	15.895**	(1.452)
weekcount	0.232**	(0.037)
visstreak	0.126*	(0.062)
homestreak	0.094	(0.060)
visbase	-0.089	(0.211)
homebase	0.517*	(0.221)
Intercept	10.525**	(1.778)
<hr/>		
N	414	
R ²	0.820	
F _(20,393)	89.595	

Significance levels : † : 10% * : 5% ** : 1%

Table 4: Reduced regressions on log ratings for playoff games

Variable	Coefficient	(Std. Err.)
absline	-0.212	(0.179)
Homewinpercentage	8.730	(7.356)
Visitingwinpercentage	16.569**	(5.972)
4PM	1.400	(0.881)
Saturday	-4.402**	(0.958)
Doubleheader	4.073	(2.628)
WorldSeries	0.000	(0.000)
Monday	2.957	(2.336)
Superbowl	16.069**	(3.134)
weekcount	1.381**	(0.343)
visstreak	0.054	(0.164)
homestreak	-0.189	(0.141)
visbase	-0.137	(0.686)
homebase	0.077	(0.714)
Intercept	-17.003	(10.954)
<hr/>		
N	69	
R ²	0.865	
F _(13,55)	27.21	
<hr/>		
Significance levels : † : 10% * : 5% ** : 1%		

Table 5: Reduced regressions on log ratings for regular games

Variable	Coefficient	(Std. Err.)
absline	-0.068 [†]	(0.038)
Homewinpercentage	2.602**	(0.685)
Visitingwinpercentage	1.522*	(0.694)
1PM	0.134	(1.223)
4PM	0.718	(0.999)
Evening	0.370	(1.132)
Friday	-5.341*	(2.705)
Thursday	0.641	(1.367)
Thanksgiving	2.300	(1.552)
Saturday	-2.044**	(0.607)
Doubleheader	-1.450	(1.117)
WorldSeries	-4.540**	(0.611)
Monday	3.549**	(1.003)
weekcount	0.185**	(0.036)
visstreak	0.092	(0.067)
homestreak	0.109	(0.067)
visbase	-0.093	(0.215)
homebase	0.539*	(0.228)
Intercept	11.698**	(1.774)
<hr/>		
N	345	
R ²	0.598	
F _(18,326)	26.956	
<hr/>		
Significance levels : † : 10% * : 5% ** : 1%		

Table 6: Heckman selection results

Variable	Coefficient	(Std. Err.)
Equation 1 : rating		
absline	-0.077*	(0.036)
1PM	-0.688	(1.164)
4PM	-0.237	(1.059)
Evening	0.689	(1.181)
Friday	-6.042*	(2.749)
Thursday	0.628	(1.351)
Thanksgiving	1.805	(1.529)
Saturday	-3.611**	(0.468)
Doubleheader	-0.048	(1.014)
WorldSeries	-4.108**	(0.644)
Monday	3.452**	(0.928)
Playoff	8.418**	(0.533)
Superbowl	15.678**	(1.496)
weekcount	0.230**	(0.036)
visbase	-0.144	(0.206)
homebase	0.499*	(0.214)
Intercept	17.629**	(1.795)
Equation 2 : select		
Homewinpercentage	0.957**	(0.146)
Visitingwinpercentage	0.954**	(0.150)
visstreak	0.040**	(0.014)
homestreak	0.041**	(0.014)
Intercept	-1.825**	(0.122)
N	1857	
Log-likelihood	-1877.62	
$\chi^2_{(16)}$	1415.189	
Significance levels : † : 10% * : 5% ** : 1%		

Table 7: Nonlinear least squares regression of log ratings on the explanatory variables

Variable	Coefficient	(Std. Err.)
α	2.474**	(0.107)
β	-0.001	(0.003)
γ	1.655	(1.357)
τ	0.124**	(0.042)
η	1.494	(1.038)
ψ	0.082*	(0.042)
κ	1.300	(1.309)
visstreak	0.006 [†]	(0.004)
homestreak	0.005	(0.004)
onepm	0.018	(0.069)
fourpm	0.042	(0.063)
evening	0.083	(0.070)
friday	-0.358*	(0.168)
thursday	0.007	(0.081)
thanksgiving	0.155 [†]	(0.092)
saturday	-0.169**	(0.028)
doubleheader	-0.032	(0.059)
worldseries	-0.361**	(0.039)
monday	0.185**	(0.054)
playoff	0.374**	(0.033)
superbowl	0.372**	(0.085)
weekcount	0.013**	(0.002)
totbase	0.014 [†]	(0.008)
N	414	
R ²	0.742	
Significance levels : † : 10% * : 5% ** : 1%		

Table 8: Semiparametric Estimation of Ratings with absline as linear variable

Variable	Coefficient	(Std. Err.)
absline	1.07*	(0.752)
Homewinpercentage	3.001*	(1.254)
Visitingwinpercentage	0.555	(0.800)
1PM	0.799	(1.311)
4PM	1.168	(1.178)
Evening	2.393†	(1.317)
Friday	-8.029*	(3.214)
Thursday	0.693	(1.592)
Thanksgiving	1.867	(1.805)
Saturday	-4.062**	(0.509)
Doubleheader	0.574	(1.102)
WorldSeries	-4.950**	(0.731)
Monday	3.663**	(1.002)
Playoff	8.661**	(0.625)
Superbowl	15.318**	(1.675)
totbase	0.108	(0.151)
weekcount	0.200**	(0.047)
vistreak	0.112	(0.069)
homestreak	0.137*	(0.064)

N	413
R ²	0.825
F (19,394)	97.678

Significance levels : † : 10% * : 5% ** : 1%

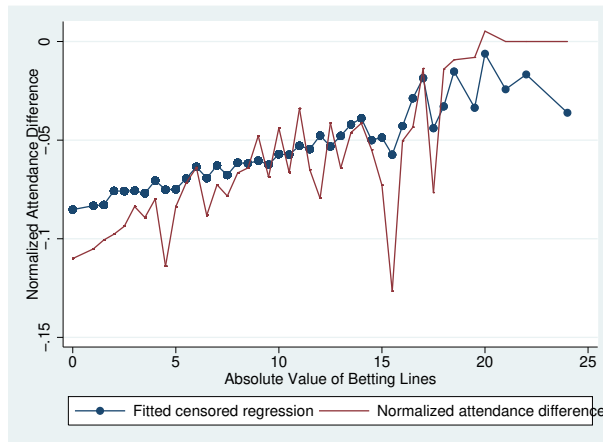


Figure 7: Censored regression against normalized attendance difference for absolute value of betting lines.

Table 9: Semiparametric Estimation of Ratings of Regular games

Variable	Coefficient	(Std. Err.)
weekcount	0.133*	(0.056)
Homewinpercentage	2.126*	(0.853)
Visitingwinpercentage	1.856*	(0.916)
1PM	-2.090	(1.585)
4PM	-0.025	(1.247)
Evening	-0.359	(1.361)
Friday	-5.129	(3.164)
Thursday	1.441	(1.633)
Thanksgiving	2.730	(1.862)
Saturday	-1.676*	(0.712)
Doubleheader	-1.342	(1.274)
WorldSeries	-4.686**	(0.718)
Monday	3.633**	(1.149)
visstreak	0.104	(0.082)
homestreak	0.084	(0.085)
homebase	0.676*	(0.274)
visbase	-0.162	(0.252)
<hr/>		
N	344	
R ²	0.621	
F (17,327)	31.524	
<hr/>		
Significance levels : † : 10% * : 5% ** : 1%		

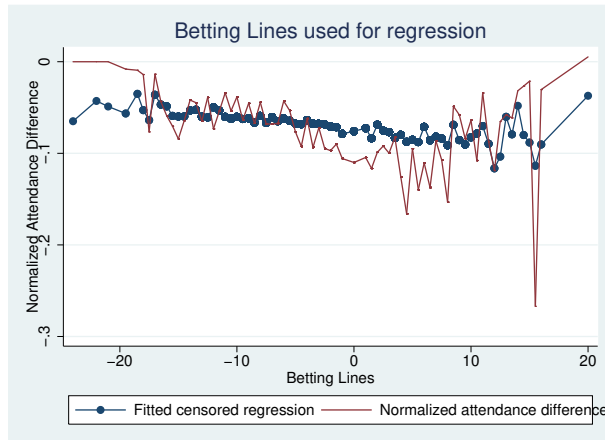


Figure 8: Censored regression against normalized attendance difference for betting lines.

Table 10: Fixed effects panel estimation for attendance ratio

Variable	Coefficient	(Std. Err.)
absline	0.0014**	(0.0005)
week	-0.002**	(0.000)
homwinrat	0.049**	(0.007)
viswinrat	0.002	(0.006)
visstreak	0.002**	(0.001)
homstreak	0.004**	(0.001)
monday	0.044**	(0.007)
thursday	0.027*	(0.012)
friday	0.005	(0.018)
saturday	-0.003	(0.011)
Population	0.000**	(0.000)
Income	0.000**	(0.000)
Intercept	0.317**	(0.028)

N	3433
R ²	0.169
F (43,3389)	57.623

Significance levels : † : 10% * : 5% ** : 1%

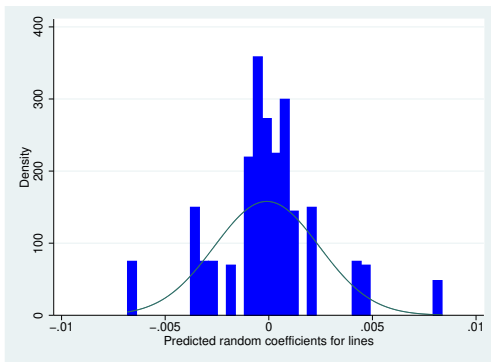


Figure 9: Posterior distribution for coefficients of betting lines.

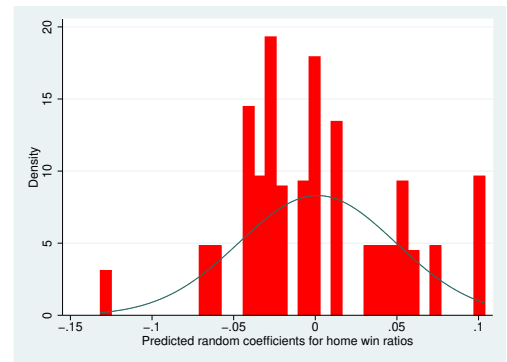


Figure 10: Posterior distribution for coefficients of home team winning ratios.

Table 11: Random effects censored regression results on attendance ratio

Variable	Coefficient	(Std. Err.)
Equation 1 : difrat		
absline	0.002**	(0.001)
week	-0.002**	(0.000)
homwinrat	0.057**	(0.008)
viswinrat	0.002	(0.007)
visstreak	0.003**	(0.001)
homstreak	0.004**	(0.001)
monday	0.049**	(0.008)
thursday	0.033*	(0.015)
friday	-0.015	(0.021)
saturday	-0.008	(0.012)
Intercept	-0.096**	(0.014)
Equation 2 : sigma_u		
Intercept	0.068**	(0.009)
Equation 3 : sigma_e		
Intercept	0.110**	(0.001)
<hr/>		
N	3433	
Log-likelihood	1952.545	
$\chi^2_{(10)}$	206.555	
<hr/>		
Significance levels : † : 10% * : 5% ** : 1%		

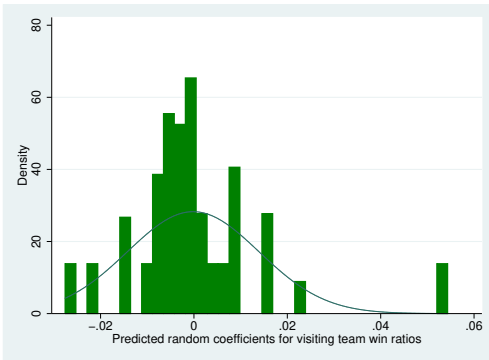


Figure 11: Posterior distribution for coefficients of visiting team winning ratios.

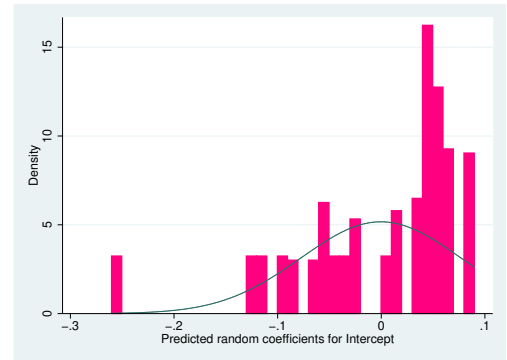


Figure 12: Posterior distribution for coefficients of intercepts.

Table 12: Censored regression on betting lines

Variable	Coefficient	(Std. Err.)
Equation 1 : difrat		
line	-0.00006	(0.0003)
homwinrat	0.059**	(0.008)
viswinrat	0.002	(0.007)
week	-0.002**	(0.000)
visstreak	0.002**	(0.001)
homestreak	0.005**	(0.001)
monday	0.049**	(0.008)
thursday	0.032*	(0.015)
saturday	-0.008	(0.012)
friday	-0.015	(0.021)
Intercept	-0.088**	(0.014)
Equation 2 : sigma_u		
Intercept	0.068**	(0.009)
Equation 3 : sigma_e		
Intercept	0.110**	(0.001)
N	3433	
Log-likelihood	1948.085	
$\chi^2_{(10)}$	197.237	
Significance levels :	† : 10%	* : 5% ** : 1%

Table 13: Random Coefficients Model with absolute value of betting lines

Variable	Coefficient	(Std. Err.)
Equation 1 : attratio		
absline	0.002*	(0.001)
homwinrat	0.060**	(0.007)
viswinrat	0.004	(0.007)
Intercept	0.880**	(0.013)
N	3433	
Log-likelihood	2863.799	
$\chi^2_{(3)}$	81.549	
Significance levels :	† : 10%	* : 5% ** : 1%

Table 14: Random coefficient estimation with betting lines

Variable	Coefficient	(Std. Err.)
Equation 1 : attratio		
line	-0.000048	(0.001)
homwinrat	0.051**	(0.013)
viswinrat	0.005	(0.008)
visstreak	0.002**	(0.001)
homstreak	0.004**	(0.001)
week	-0.002**	(0.000)
monday	0.041**	(0.007)
thursday	0.027*	(0.013)
saturday	-0.008	(0.011)
friday	-0.012	(0.018)
Intercept	0.905**	(0.015)
<hr/>		
N	3433	
Log-likelihood	2918.139	
$\chi^2_{(10)}$	137.599	
<hr/>		
Significance levels :	† : 10%	* : 5% ** : 1%