# Impact of Jet Lag on MLB Team Performance

Jonathan Grossman | Science Seminar



 Turn an idea into a number... something tangible

### Where is it found?

Determine instances of jet lag

# How can it be analyzed?

Discover impacts of jet lag

## Jet Lag in Sports

- All major sports leagues travel between time zones
- Disruptions in circadian rhythms
- Peak physical performance required
- Possible statistical advantage/disadvantages



#### **Definition:**

a condition that is characterized by various psychological and physiological effects (such as fatigue and irritability), occurs following long flight through several time zones, and probably results from disruption of circadian rhythms in the human body

# Why MLB?

- NHL 82 games/team/season
- NBA 82 games/team/season
- NFL 16 games/team/season
- MLB 162 games/team/season



# Research Design – Overview

- Data sample: 2016–2019 MLB regular season games (n = 19,436)
  - API: MySportsFeeds.com
- Determine if/when jet lag
  - Create and apply a jet lag equation
- Determine jet lag's impacts on performance:
  - Win percentage
  - Runs scored per game
  - Runs Allowed per game
- Test for significance

Code algorithms to sort through data and calculate desired values (python)



# Research Design – Data Analysis

### Part I

How does jet lag, in any form, impact a team's performance?

### Part II

How does eastward jet lag impact a team's performance compared to westward jet lag?

# Research Design – Gathering Data







Game Date	Game Time	Away Team Abbr.	Away Team Name	Home Team Abbr.	Home Team Name	Away Score Total	Home Score Total
4/17/16	17:35:00 GMT	MIL	Brewers	PIT	Pirates	3	9
4/17/16	17:35:00 GMT	WAS	Nationals	PHI	Phillies	2	3
4/17/16	18:10:00 GMT	DET	Tigers	HOU	Astros	4	5
4/17/16	18:10:00 GMT	LAA	Angels	MIN	Twins	2	3
4/17/16	18:15:00 GMT	CIN	Reds	STL	Cardinals	3	4
4/17/16	18:20:00 GMT	COL	Rockies	CHC	Cubs	2	(
4/17/16	20:05:00 GMT	KC	Royals	OAK	Athletics	2	3
4/17/16	20:40:00 GMT	ARI	Diamondbacks	SD	Padres	7	3
4/17/16	00:05:00 GMT	SF	Giants	LAD	Dodgers	1	3
4/18/16	15:05:00 GMT	TOR	Blue Jays	BOS	Red Sox	4	3
4/18/16	23:05:00 GMT	NYM	Mets	PHI	Phillies	5	2
4/18/16	23:10:00 GMT	MIL	Brewers	MIN	Twins	4	7
4/18/16	23:10:00 GMT	WAS	Nationals	MIA	Marlins	1	6
4/18/16	23:10:00 GMT	COL	Rockies	CIN	Reds	5	1
4/18/16	00:09:00 GMT	CHC	Cubs	STL	Cardinals	5	(
4/18/16	00:10:00 GMT	LAA	Angels	cws	White Sox	7	(
4/18/16	02:15:00 GMT	ARI	Diamondbacks	SF	Giants	9	7
4/19/16	17:10:00 GMT	MIL	Brewers	MIN	Twins	6	5
4/19/16	22:10:00 GMT	SEA	Mariners	CLE	Indians	2	3
4/19/16	23:05:00 GMT	TOR	Blue Jays	BAL	Orioles	4	3
4/19/16	23:05:00 GMT	NYM	Mets	PHI	Phillies	11	1
4/19/16	23:05:00 GMT	OAK	Athletics	NYY	Yankees	3	2
4/19/16	23:10:00 GMT	WAS	Nationals	MIA	Marlins	8	(
4/19/16	23:10:00 GMT	LAD	Dodgers	ATL	Braves	1	8
4/19/16	23:10:00 GMT	ТВ	Rays	BOS	Red Sox	3	(
4/19/16	23:10:00 GMT	COL	Rockies	CIN	Reds	3	4
4/10/16	22:1E:00 CNIT	DET	Tigore	vc	Double		c

19,436 x 8 Excel spreadsheet containing data from every MLB regular season game (2016–2019)

# Research Design – Jet Lag Equation

$$Jet \ lag = \frac{\Delta \ miles \ travelled * \Delta \ time \ zones}{\Delta \ time \ between \ events}$$

## Jet Lag Equation Breakdown

$$Jet \ lag = \frac{\Delta \ miles \ travelled * \Delta \ time \ zones}{\Delta \ time \ between \ events}$$

△ miles travelled: distance travelled from prior game

 $\Delta time zones$ : number of hours gained/lost from travel (positive if westward, negative if eastward)

△ time between events: number of hours since previous game start

Jet lag = 0 if team has not travelled since previous game

Jet lag > 0 if team is experiencing westward jet lag since previous game

Jet lag < 0 if team is experiencing eastward jet lag since previous game

Larger value (very positive or very negative) = severe jet lag since previous game

## Jet Lag Equation Breakdown

$$Jet \ lag = \frac{\Delta \ miles \ travelled * \Delta \ time \ zones}{\Delta \ time \ between \ events}$$

```
曾 miles travelled = 曾 jet lag
```

\$\text{hours gained/lost} = \$\text{pet lag}\$

û time between events = jet 和g

Realistic range of *jet lag* values: [-3000, 3000]

Saturday: 7:00 Houston Time

Sunday: 7:00 Houston Time

Monday: 7:00 Oakland Time













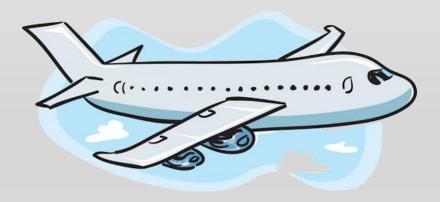






KC jet lag experienced: 0

KC jet lag experienced: 125.8837011



# Research Design — Calculating Jet Lag

iame Date	Game Time	Away Team Abbr.	Away Team Name	Home Team Abbr.	Home Team Name	Away Score Total	Home Score Total	Away Calculated JL H	ome Calculated JL	Win	Margin – positive means home wins, negative away
4/17/16	17:35:00 GMT	MIL	Brewers	PIT	Pirates	3	9	0	0		6
4/17/16	17:35:00 GMT	WAS	Nationals	PHI	Phillies	2	3	0	0		1
4/17/16	18:10:00 GMT	DET	Tigers	HOU	Astros	4	5	0	0		1
4/17/16	18:10:00 GMT	LAA	Angels	MIN	Twins	2	3	0	0		1
4/17/16	18:15:00 GMT	CIN	Reds	STL	Cardinals	3	4	0	0		1
4/17/16	18:20:00 GMT	COL	Rockies	CHC	Cubs	2	0	0	0		-2
4/17/16	20:05:00 GMT	KC	Royals	OAK	Athletics	2	3	0	0		1
4/17/16	20:40:00 GMT	ARI	Diamondbacks	SD	Padres	7	3	0	0		-4
4/17/16	00:05:00 GMT	SF	Giants	LAD	Dodgers	1	. 3	0	0		2
4/18/16	15:05:00 GMT	TOR	Blue Jays	BOS	Red Sox	4	3	0	0		-1
4/18/16	23:05:00 GMT	NYM	Mets	PHI	Phillies	5	2	0	0		-3
4/18/16	23:10:00 GMT	MIL	Brewers	MIN	Twins	4	7	25.07832483	0		3
4/18/16	23:10:00 GMT	WAS	Nationals	MIA	Marlins	1	. 6	0	0		5
4/18/16	23:10:00 GMT	COL	Rockies	CIN	Reds	5	1	-8.91664019	-10.63639344		-4
4/18/16	00:09:00 GMT	CHC	Cubs	STL	Cardinals	5	0	0	0		-5
4/18/16	00:10:00 GMT	LAA	Angels	CWS	White Sox	7	0	0	144.4858317		-7
4/18/16	02:15:00 GMT	ARI	Diamondbacks	SF	Giants	9	7	0	0		-2
4/19/16	17:10:00 GMT	MIL	Brewers	MIN	Twins	6	5	0	0		-1
4/19/16	22:10:00 GMT	SEA	Mariners	CLE	Indians	2	3	0	0		1
4/19/16	23:05:00 GMT	TOR	Blue Jays	BAL	Orioles	4	3	0	-12.90683949		-1
4/19/16	23:05:00 GMT	NYM	Mets	PHI	Phillies	11	. 1	0	0		-10
4/19/16	23:05:00 GMT	OAK	Athletics	NYY	Yankees	3	2	-150.4508935	0		-1
4/19/16	23:10:00 GMT	WAS	Nationals	MIA	Marlins	8	0	0	0		-8
4/19/16	23:10:00 GMT	LAD	Dodgers	ATL	Braves	1	. 8	-81.2896335	0		7
4/19/16	23:10:00 GMT	ТВ	Rays	BOS	Red Sox	3	0	0	0		-3
4/19/16	23:10:00 GMT	COL	Rockies	CIN	Reds	3	4	0	0		1
4/10/16	22:1E:00 CMT	DET	Tigore	vc	Double		0	0	E0 EE10001		2

Jet lag equation applied to both home and away teams in all 19,436 games (MLB, 2016–2019)

# Analysis – Part I Impact of Jet Lag on MLB Team Performance

How does jet lag, in any form, impact a team's performance?

- i) H<sub>o</sub>: There is no relationship between jet lag and MLB teams' probability to win.
  - H<sub>a</sub>: Experiencing jet lag will on average decrease teams' probability to win.
- ii) H<sub>o</sub>: MLB teams score the same runs per game on average with and without jet lag.
  - H<sub>a</sub>: Experiencing jet lag will on average decrease teams' runs scored per game.
- iii) H<sub>o</sub>: MLB teams allow the same runs per game on average with and without jet lag.
  - H<sub>a</sub>: Experiencing jet lag will on average increase teams' runs allowed per game.

# Current Literature – Jet Lag on Sport Performance

- Jet-lagged MLB teams found to demonstrate weakened offense and defense performance (Song et al., 2017)
- Swimmers found to swim 6% slower when experiencing jet lag (Anderson et al., 2018)
- 2008 Beijing games six Australian swimmers exhibited 10%-15% decreased testosterone levels when sleeping less (Rosa et al., 2016)

# Data and Statistical Analysis

## Jet Lag Effect on Win Percentage by Team (2016–2019)

	Team Abbr.	No Lag Win	Lag Win %	Effect of Lag on Win %	Games Won/Lost Due to Lag	P-value
	ATL	0.516239316	0.403225806	-0.11301351	-18.30818859	0.045285
ıst	MIA	0.424496644	0.46	0.035503356	5.751543624	0.686871
NL East	NYM	0.501689189	0.410714286	-0.090974903	-14.73793436	0.096544
Z	PHI	0.468120805	0.365384615	-0.10273619	-16.64326278	0.077006
	WAS	0.567839196	0.549019608	-0.018819588	-3.048773278	0.397316
_	СНС	0.570409982	0.620689655	0.050279673	8.145307026	0.811382
itra	CIN	0.432098765	0.407407407	-0.024691358	-4	0.337279
NL Central	MIL	0.539019964	0.479591837	-0.059428127	-9.627356569	0.138717
Z	PIT	0.475849732	0.436781609	-0.039068122	-6.32903584	0.248537
	STL	0.545126354	0.489361702	-0.055764652	-9.033873569	0.158051
	ARI	0.505300353	0.524390244	0.019089891	3.092562268	0.626652
est	COL	0.496254682	0.513043478	0.016788797	2.719785051	0.627788
NL West	LAD	0.607705779	0.58974359	-0.01796219	-2.909874714	0.380564
Ź	SD	0.428571429	0.395061728	-0.0335097	-5.428571429	0.284102
	SF	0.473043478	0.397260274	-0.075783204	-12.27687909	0.110684
	BAL	0.414839798	0.345454545	-0.069385252	-11.24041085	0.158365
st	BOS	0.587837838	0.535714286	-0.052123552	-8.444015444	0.224765
AL East	NYY	0.58557047	0.557692308	-0.027878162	-4.516262261	0.347899
A	ТВ	0.513377926	0.54	0.026622074	4.31277592	0.64095
	TOR	0.469491525	0.482758621	0.013267095	2.149269433	0.576521
_	cws	0.442028986	0.368421053	-0.073607933	-11.92448513	0.090448
tra	CLE	0.590664273	0.566666667	-0.023997606	-3.887612208	0.333962
AL Central	DET	0.406028369	0.390243902	-0.015784466	-2.55708355	0.392773
AL (	КС	0.430357143	0.420454545	-0.009902597	-1.604220779	0.430776
	MIN	0.49382716	0.530864198	0.037037037	6	0.733358
	HOU	0.597845601	0.681318681	0.08347308	13.52263894	0.93486
est	LAA	0.480427046	0.418604651	-0.061822395	-10.01522801	0.142445
AL West	OAK	0.534391534	0.432098765	-0.102292769	-16.57142857	0.042363
AL	SEA	0.481675393	0.6	0.118324607	19.16858639	0.97301
	TEX	0.502702703	0.419354839	-0.083347864	-13.50235397	0.068389
	MLB	0.502739566	0.479385965	·	-121.7443823	0.018072

#### P-value in context:

The probability of obtaining these results given that jet lag does not decrease a team's chance to win is 0.018072

#### **YES** – statistically significant decrease

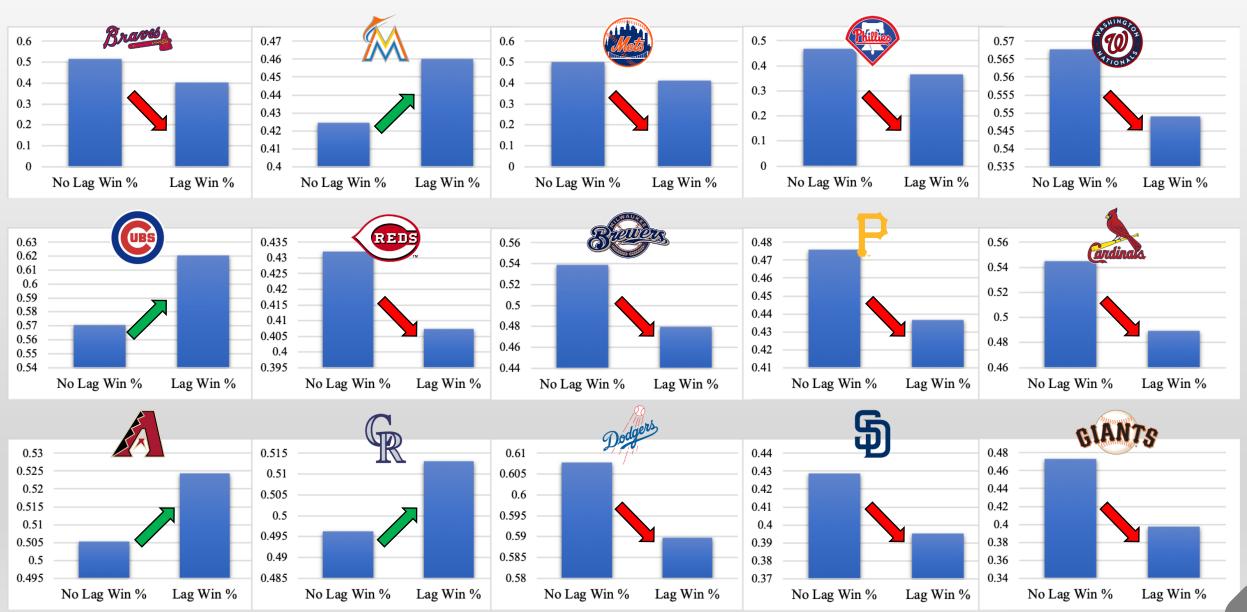
#### Noteworthy statistics:

Between 2016–2019, among all 30 MLB teams, the estimated net impact of jet lag is **121.75 games lost** 

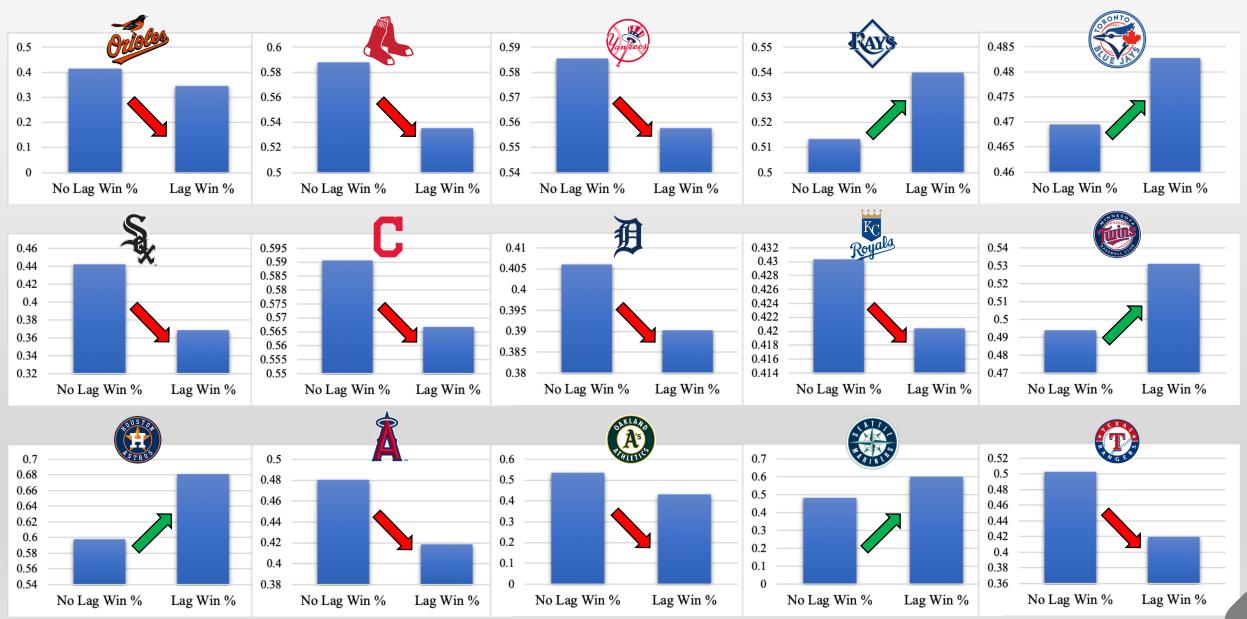
Within the NL and AL, the division that lost the most games due to jet lag was East, followed by Central and then West with the least games lost due to jet lag

Suggests that teams playing on the east coast are most impacted by jet lag, west coast are least impacted

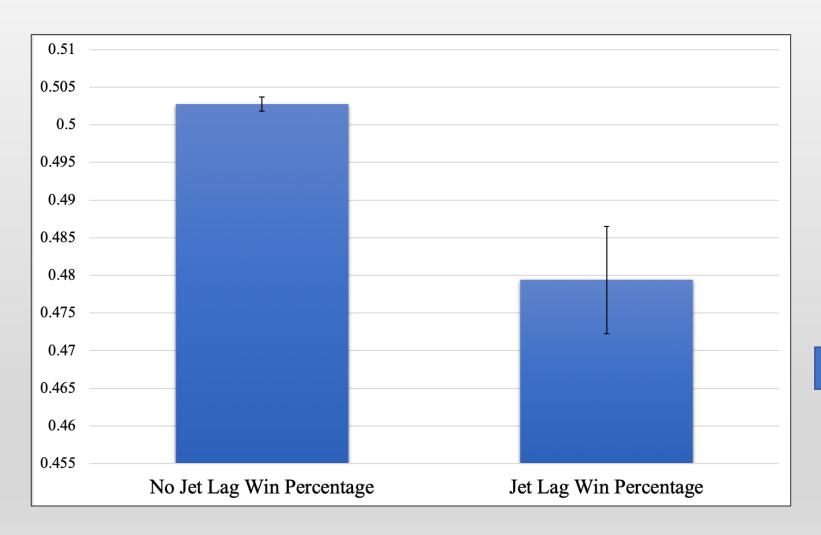
## Jet Lag Effect on Win Percentage by Team (NL, 2016–2019)



## Jet Lag Effect on Win Percentage by Team (AL, 2016–2019)



## Jet Lag Effect on Win Percentage (MLB, 2016–2019)



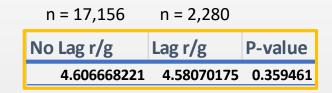
#### P-value in context:

The probability of obtaining these results given that jet lag does not decrease a team's chance to win is 0.018072

**YES** – statistically significant decrease

## Jet Lag Effect on Runs Scored per Game by Team (2016–2019)

	Team Abbr.	No Lag r/g	Lag r/g	Effect of Lag on r/g	P-value
NL East	ATL	4.711111111	3.935483871	-0.77562724	
	MIA	4.087248322	4.02	-0.067248322	
	NYM	4.420608108	4.571428571	0.150820463	
	PHI	4.268456376	3.980769231	-0.287687145	
	WAS	5.040201005	4.431372549	-0.608828456	
_	СНС	4.879003559	5.32183908	0.442835522	
NL Central	CIN	4.430335097	4.37037037	-0.059964727	
Cen	MIL	4.520871143	4.43877551	-0.082095633	
Z	PIT	4.391071429	4.459770115	0.068698686	
	STL	4.752707581	4.563829787	-0.188877794	
	ARI	4.738515901	4.719512195	-0.019003706	
est	COL	5.095505618	4.930434783	-0.165070835	
NL West	LAD	4.882661996	5.076923077	0.19426108	
Z	SD	4.029982363	3.975308642	-0.054673721	
	SF	3.982608696	4.726027397	0.743418702	
	BAL	4.401349073	4.290909091	-0.110439982	
st	BOS	5.285472973	5.553571429	0.268098456	
AL East	NYY	5.166107383	4.865384615	-0.300722767	
₹	ТВ	4.409698997	4.28	-0.129698997	
	TOR	4.447457627	4.568965517	0.12150789	
	cws	4.230072464	4.452631579	0.222559115	
tral	CLE	4.982046679	4.533333333	-0.448713345	
Cen	DET	4.141843972	4.463414634	0.321570663	
AL Central	КС	4.194642857	4.056818182	-0.137824675	
	MIN	4.982363316	4.802469136	-0.17989418	
	HOU	5.179533214	4.978021978	-0.201511236	
AL West	LAA	4.553380783	4.174418605	-0.378962178	
	OAK	4.69664903	4.77777778	0.081128748	
	SEA	4.495636998	5.026666667	0.531029668	
	TEX	4.837837838	4.580645161	-0.257192677	
LB		4.606668221	4.580701754		0.35946



#### P-value in context:

The probability of obtaining these results given that jet lag does not decrease a team's runs scored per game is 0.359461

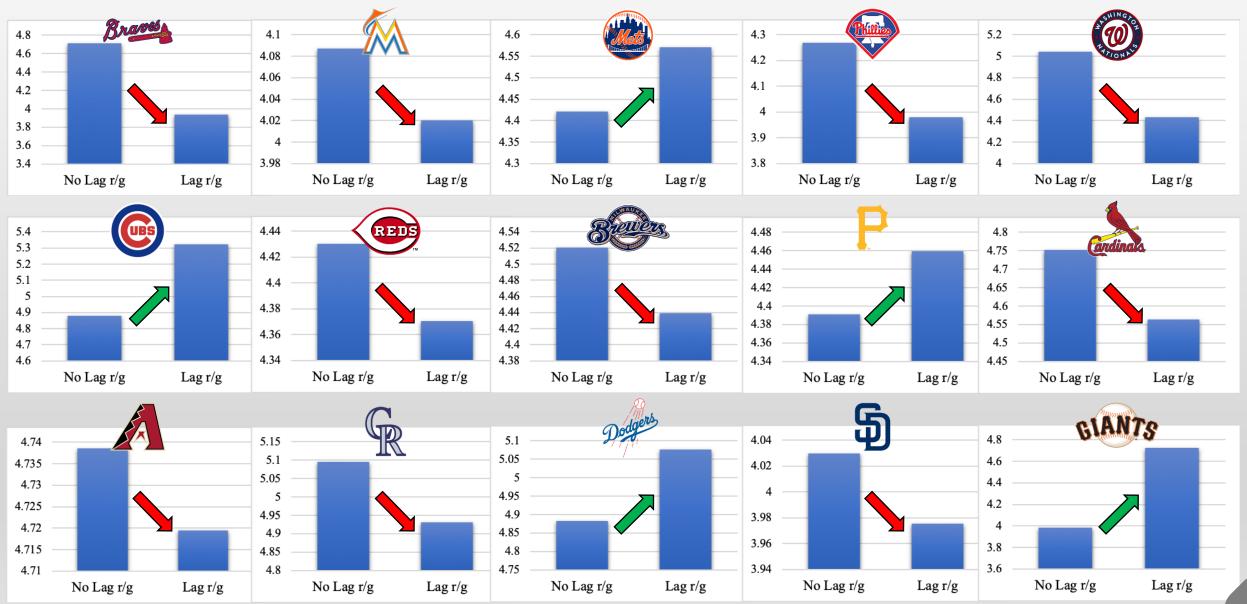
**NO** – not statistically significant decrease

#### Noteworthy statistics:

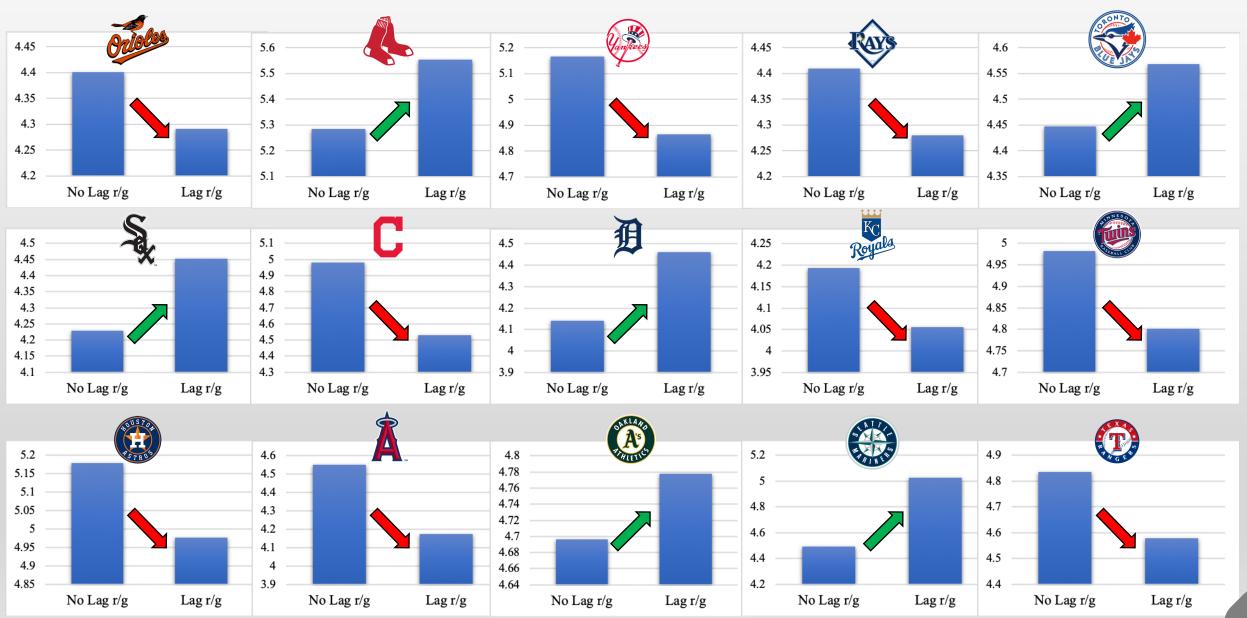
Between 2016–2019, **19 out of 30 MLB teams scored fewer** runs per game when experiencing jet lag

Teams in the NL East had the worst effects of lag on runs scored per game, scoring an average of 0.31 fewer runs per game when experiencing jet lag

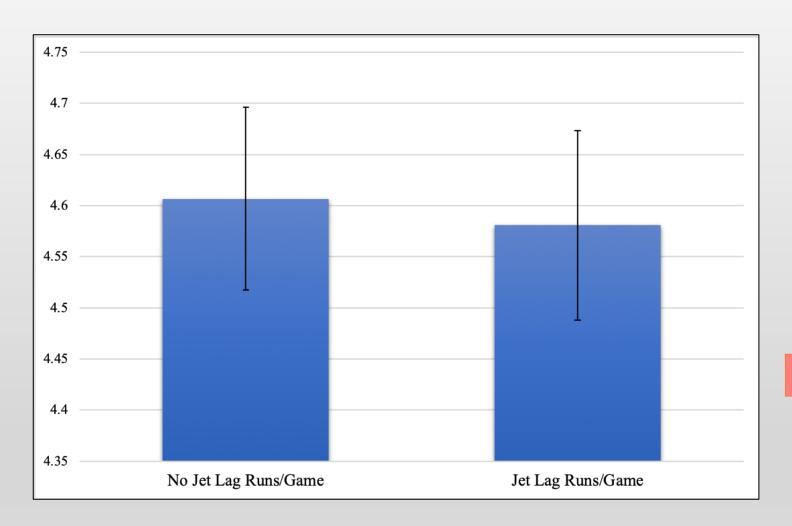
### Jet Lag Effect on Runs Scored per Game by Team (NL, 2016–2019)

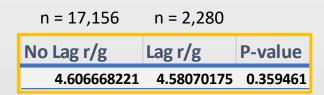


## Jet Lag Effect on Runs Scored per Game by Team (AL, 2016–2019)



## Jet Lag Effect on Runs Scored Per Game (MLB, 2016–2019)





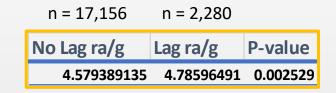
#### P-value in context:

The probability of obtaining these results given that jet lag does not decrease a team's runs scored per game is 0.359461

**NO** – not statistically significant decrease

## Jet Lag Effect on Runs Allowed per Game by Team (2016–2019)

	Team Abbr.	No Lag ra/g	Lag ra/g	Effect of Lag on ra/g	P-value
NL East	ATL	4.6	5.129032258	0.529032258	
	MIA	4.843959732	4.72	-0.123959732	
	NYM	4.488175676	4.767857143	0.279681467	
	PHI	4.731543624	5.346153846	0.614610222	
	WAS	4.185929648	3.862745098	-0.32318455	
	СНС	4.023131673	4.045977011	0.022845339	
ıtra	CIN	4.982363316	5.296296296	0.313932981	
NL Central	MIL	4.344827586	4.714285714	0.369458128	
Z	PIT	4.696428571	5.356321839	0.659893268	
	STL	4.276173285	4.265957447	-0.010215838	
	ARI	4.508833922	4.682926829	0.174092907	
est	COL	5.18164794	4.939130435	-0.242517505	
NL West	LAD	3.695271454	4.256410256	0.561138803	
Z	SD	4.765432099	5.456790123	0.691358025	
	SF	4.31826087	5.424657534	1.106396665	
	BAL	5.246205734	5.8	0.553794266	
st	BOS	4.390202703	4.25	-0.140202703	
AL East	NYY	4.251677852	4.596153846	0.344475994	
⋖	ТВ	4.195652174	4.24	0.044347826	
	TOR	4.747457627	5.327586207	0.58012858	
_	cws	4.873188406	5.536842105	0.663653699	
AL Central	CLE	3.944344704	3.866666667	-0.077678037	
Cen	DET	5.15070922	5.146341463	-0.004367756	
AL (	КС	4.960714286	4.863636364	-0.097077922	
	MIN	4.975308642	4.75308642	-0.22222222	
	HOU	4.034111311	3.615384615	-0.418726695	
est	LAA	4.68683274	4.604651163	-0.082181577	
AL West	OAK	4.46031746	5.098765432	0.638447972	
AL	SEA	4.802792321	4.413333333	-0.389458988	
	TEX	5.063063063	5.258064516	0.195001453	
/ILB		4.579389135	4.785964912		0.00252



#### P-value in context:

The probability of obtaining these results given that jet lag does not increase a team's runs allowed per game is 0.002529

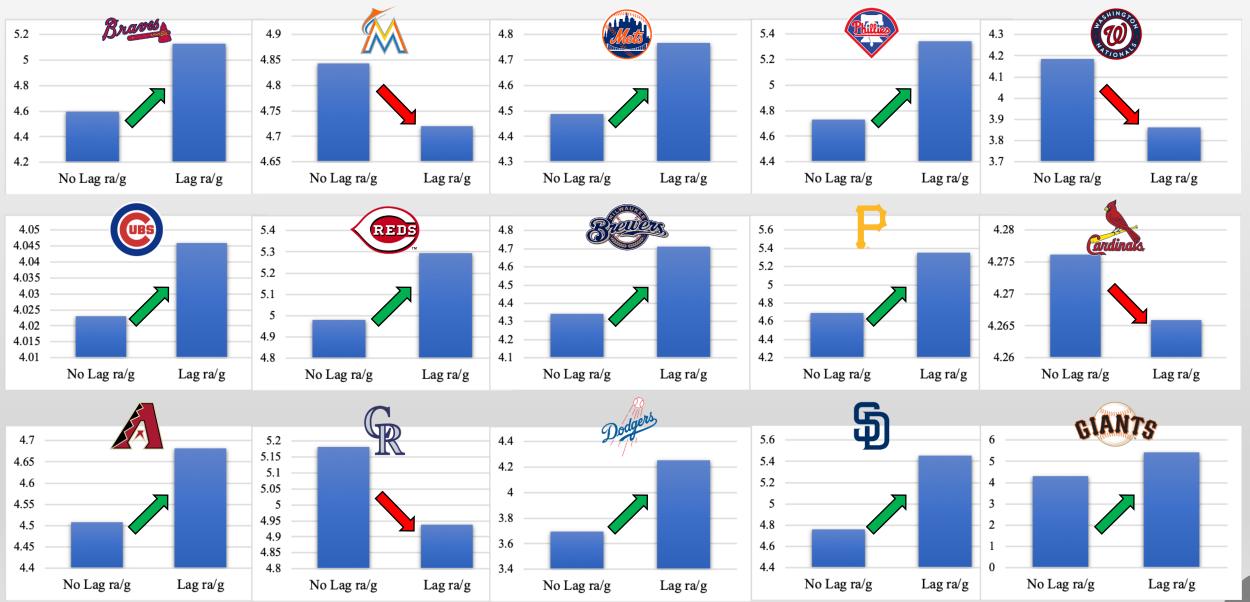
#### **YES** – statistically significant increase

#### **Noteworthy statistics:**

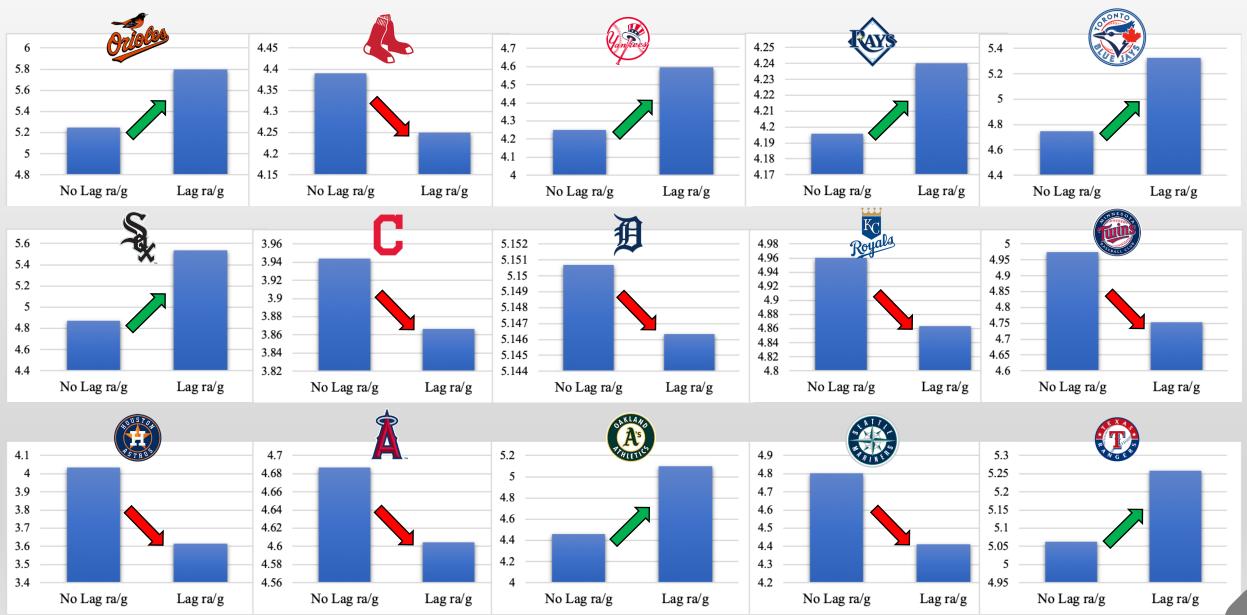
Between 2016–2019, **18 out of 30 MLB teams allowed more** runs per game when experiencing jet lag

Teams on average, when experiencing jet lag, allowed roughly 4.5% more runs per game

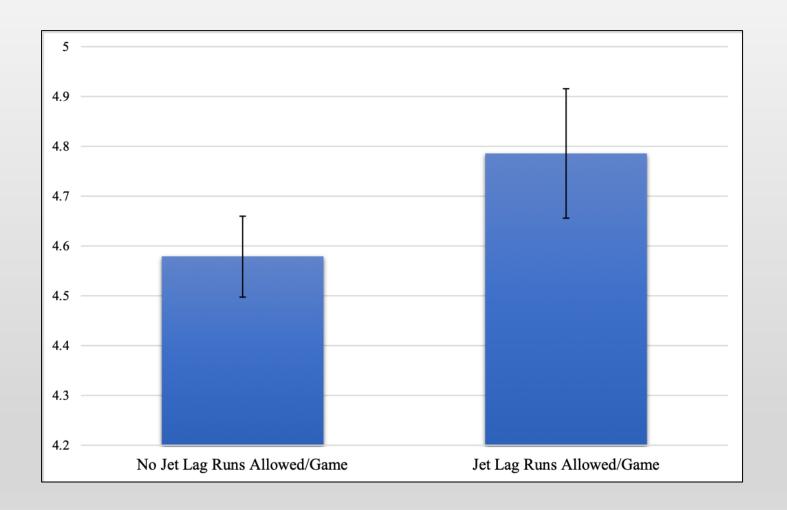
## Jet Lag Effect on Runs Allowed per Game by Team (NL, 2016–2019)

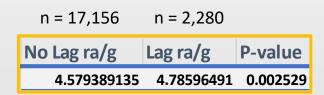


## Jet Lag Effect on Runs Allowed per Game by Team (AL, 2016–2019)



## Jet Lag Effect on Runs Allowed Per Game (MLB, 2016–2019)





#### P-value in context:

The probability of obtaining these results given that jet lag does not increase a team's runs allowed per game is 0.002529

**YES** – statistically significant increase

## Part I – KEY FINDINGS/CONCLUSIONS

How does jet lag, in any form, impact a team's performance?

- 1. On average, experiencing jet lag decreases an MLB team's probability of winning a game.
- 2. On average, experiencing jet lag increases the number of runs an MLB team will allow.



# Analysis – Part II

# Impact of Jet Lag on MLB Team Performance

How does eastward jet lag impact a team's performance compared to westward jet lag?

- i) H<sub>o</sub>: There is no relationship between win percentage and type of jet lag.
  - H<sub>a</sub>: MLB teams' win percentages will be different on average when experiencing east vs. westward jet lag.
- ii) H<sub>o</sub>: MLB teams score the same runs per game on average with eastward and westward jet lag.
  - H<sub>a</sub>: MLB teams' runs scored per game will be different on average when experiencing east vs. westward jet lag.
- iii) H<sub>o</sub>: MLB teams allow the same runs per game on average with eastward and westward jet lag.
  - H<sub>a</sub>: MLB teams' runs allowed per game will be different on average when experiencing east vs. westward jet lag.

## Eastward vs. Westward Jet Lag

### **Eastward**

- West → east w/ time zone change
- "Losing" time
- Negative number in equation



### Westward

- East → west w/ time zone change
- "Gaining" time
- <u>Positive number</u> in equation

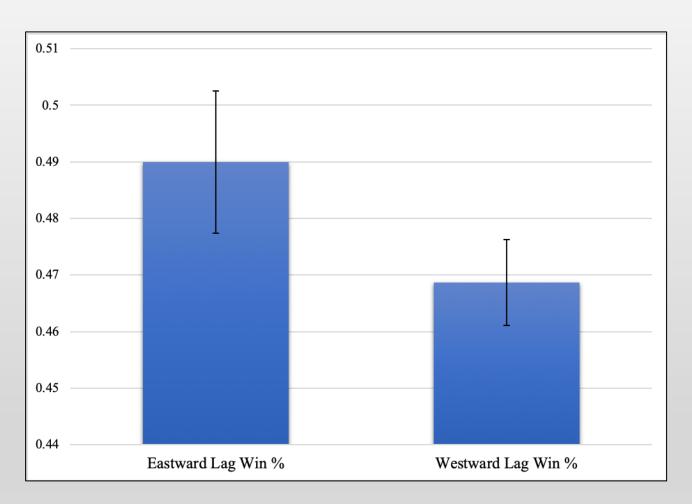


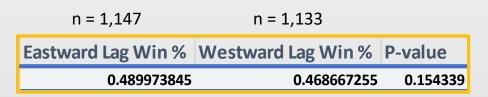
## Current Literature — Eastward vs. Westward

- Eastward jet lag shown to be worse for MLB teams only defensively (Song et al., 2017)
- Eastward jet lag decreases physical performance more so than westward jet lag
  - 20-meter sprint times significantly worse travelling east compared to west (Fowler et al., 2017)
  - Fatigue ratings (opinion-based) significantly worse travelling east vs. west (Fowler et al., 2017)

# Data and Statistical Analysis

# Eastward vs. Westward Jet Lag Effect on Win Percentage (MLB, 2016–2019)



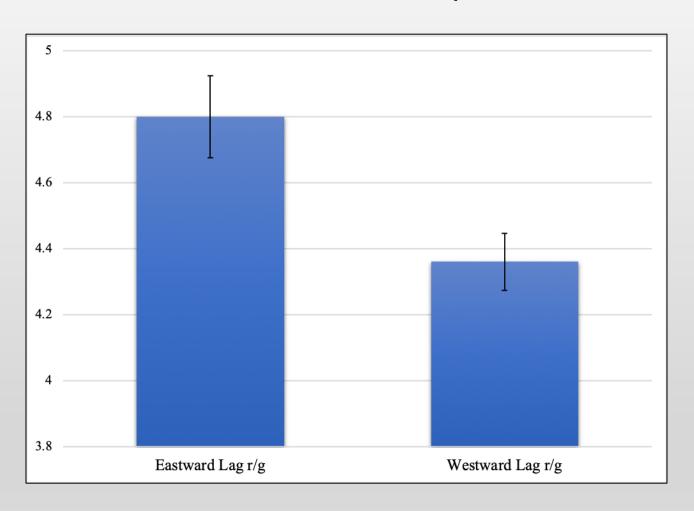


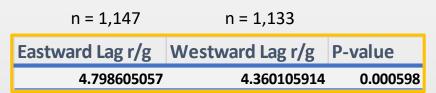
#### P-value in context:

The probability of obtaining these results given that there is no difference between eastward and westward jet lag's impacts on win percentage is 0.154339.

NO – not statistically significant difference

# Eastward vs. Westward Jet Lag Effect on Runs Scored Per Game (MLB, 2016–2019)





#### P-value in context:

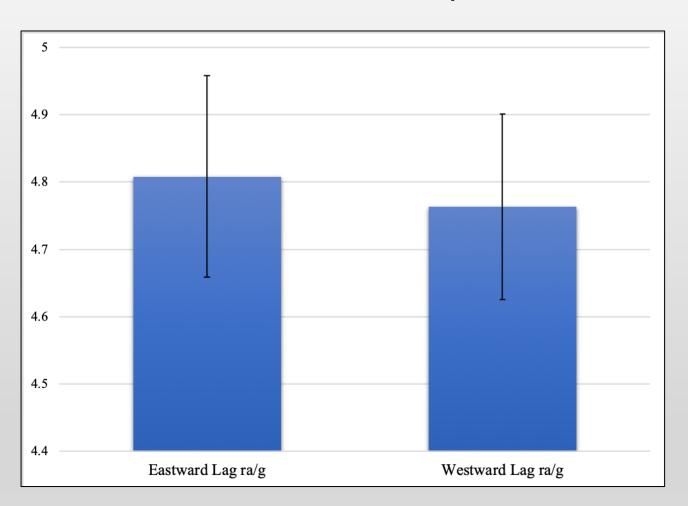
The probability of obtaining these results given that there is no difference between eastward and westward jet lag's impacts on runs scored per game is 0.000598.

#### **YES** – statistically significant difference

#### Meaning:

There is evidence to show that on average, teams score more runs per game when experiencing eastward jet lag compared to westward jet lag (contradicts literature)

# Eastward vs. Westward Jet Lag Effect on Runs Allowed Per Game (MLB, 2016–2019)



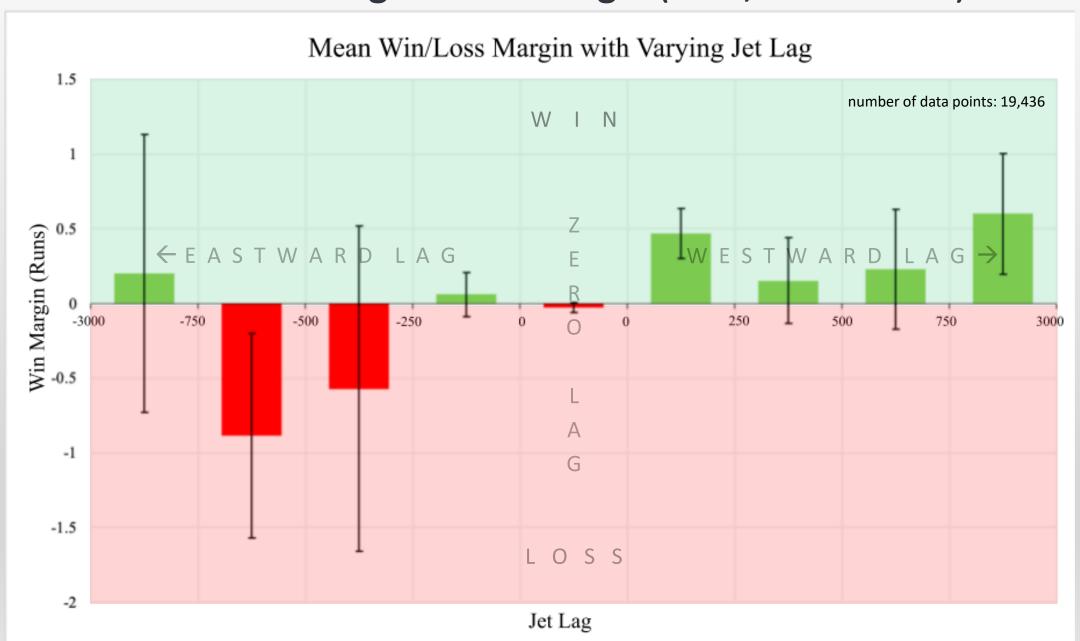


#### P-value in context:

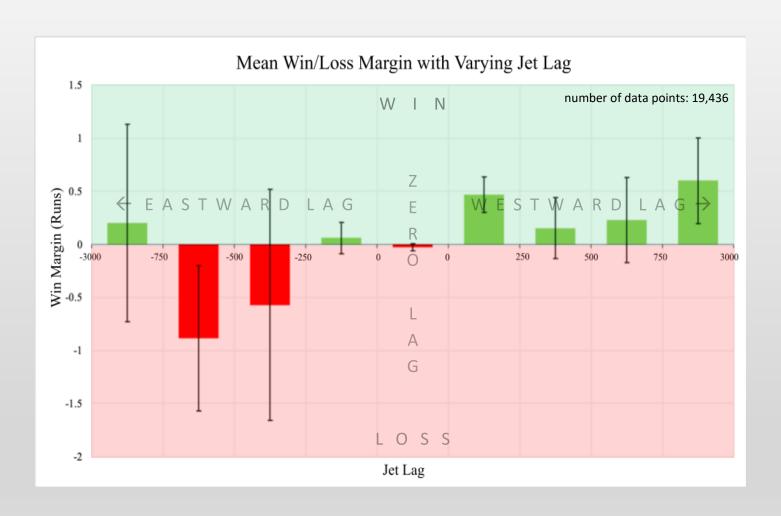
The probability of obtaining these results given that there is no difference between eastward and westward jet lag's impacts on win percentage is 0.373802.

NO – not statistically significant difference

## Extent of Jet Lag on Win Margin (MLB, 2016–2019)



## Extent of Jet Lag on Win Margin (MLB, 2016–2019)



#### **Interpretation of Data:**

Data suggests that teams experiencing eastward jetlag perform worse than westward jet lag

Data suggests westward jet lag increases a team's overall probability to win

No suggestion that the severity of jet lag impacts win margin

#### Conclusions:

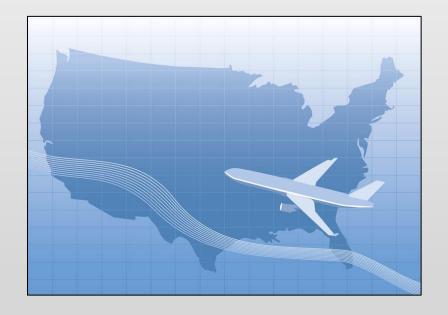
No conclusions can be made due to overlapping error bars

## Part II – KEY FINDINGS/CONCLUSIONS

How does eastward jet lag impact a team's performance compared to westward jet lag?

Although there is statistical evidence to show that teams score more runs per game when experiencing eastward jet lag compared to westward jet lag, this contradicts data displayed in previous figure.

No conclusions can be made regarding eastward versus westward jet lag's impact on MLB team performance, or severity of jet lag's impact on team performance.



# Final Conclusions

## Final KEY FINDINGS/CONCLUSIONS

How does jet lag impact MLB team performance?

On average, experiencing jet lag decreases an MLB team's probability of winning a game

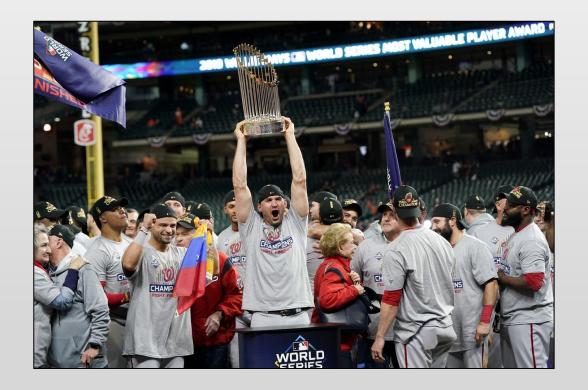
On average, experiencing jet lag increases the number of runs an MLB team will allow



No conclusions can be made from this research regarding eastward versus westward jet lag's impact on MLB team performance

# Implication of Findings

- MLB is multi-billion dollar industry
- Winning pays
- Understand factors that contribute
  - to winning/losing



# Implication of My Research

- Large scale data-analysis
  - Using algorithms to analyze patterns
  - Applications in research, computer science, and engineering
- Jet lag equation
  - First numerical and linear representation of jet lag
  - Application to any trip between two points in time

## Works Cited

#### References

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