

Optimal Timing of TV Commercials: Symmetrical Model

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Abstract

In this paper I study the behavior of free-good producers (TV broadcasters) on a market where every consumer (TV viewer) perpetually makes a decision whether to consume and which product (TV channel) to consume contingent on the attractiveness of the currently consumed product. Every producer optimally allocates a time period where a product with higher attractiveness (TV program) is replaced by a product with lower attractiveness (advertising). While products with higher attractiveness represent producers' costs, products with lower attractiveness bring in revenue that is proportional to the audience reach. I assume that consumers choose among products and the outside option following a Markov process where probabilities of transition reflect various attractiveness of the products. Given symmetrical positions of the producers, I prove that their optimal strategy is to put their commercial breaks into the same or very close times. For some setting of the parameters, the breaks will overlap perfectly. Given the perfect overlap, both broadcasters are better off if they fragment their breaks into shorter breaks keeping the total amount of commercial time the same.

V tomto článku studuje chování televizních stanic na trhu sledovanosti, kde se každý divák rozhoduje zda a kterou stanici sledovat v závislosti na atraktivitě práve sledovaného programu. Každá z televizních stanic optimálne výberá, ve ktorém case produkt s vyšší atraktivitou (televízny program) nahradí produktem s nižšou atraktivitou (reklama). Zatímco televízny program predstavuje náklad pre televíznu stanicu, reklama je zdrojem príjmu, ktoré jsou úmerné její sledovanosti. Predpokladám, že diváci sa pohybujú medzi jednotlivými kanály a stavom, kdy televízni nesledujú, náhodne podľa Markovova procesu, ve ktorom pravdepodobnosti prechodu odrážajú atraktivitu daného programu. Pokud jsou na trhu dve stanice a majú symetrické postavenie, ich optimálna stratégia je takové nacasovanie reklamy, pri ktorom sa ich reklamné bloky prekrývajú. Pre určité nastavenie parametrov je optimálny prekryv 100%-ný. Pri takovom prekryvom by navíc televízna stanica mely rozdeliť svuj celkový reklamný čas do co najmenších bloku.

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