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A Bounded Additive Model for Efficiency Evaluation in Two-Stage Production Systems with Negative Data

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Revise Date 13 March 2022	Abstract
Accept Date: 15 April 2022	Data Envelopment Analysis (DEA) is a method for assessing the
Keywords: Data Envelopment Analysis (DEA) Negative data, Two-stage systems Efficiency Additive models	efficiency of Decision Making Units (DMUs). Traditional DEA models do not examine the potential differences between two stages caused by intermediate operations. As a result, DEA has been extended to evaluate the efficiency of two-stage processes. In these processes, all outputs of the first stage are intermediate operations that comprise the inputs of the second stage. The input data in real-world applications may have negative values. In this study, considering the importance of network production processes, we deal with the efficiency evaluation of two-stage production units with negative data. Also, we extend CRS (constant returns to scale) bounded additive model for the efficiency evaluation of the two-stage units in the presence of negative data. For illustration, we evaluate the efficiency and ranking of 36 airlines by applying the new model.

INTRODUCTION

Data Envelopment Analysis (DEA) is a nonparametric method to evaluate the efficiency of Decision Making Units (DMUs). Farrell introduced this method in 1957, and Charnes et al. extended it in 1978. Everybody knows that the optimal use of available resources and precise efficiency evaluation can improve organizational operations. achieve these objectives, То researchers proposed various models and methods.

In 2004, Halkos and Salamouris used DEA in a practical research study. They evaluated the performance efficiency in the Greece Bank sector in a specific period from 1997 to 1999. They managed to design a model and compare efficient banks with inefficient ones [12]. In DEA, the input and output data are positive, but in the real world, the data could be negative. Therefore, many researchers addressed the negative data in this method. Pastor (1994), Lovell (1995), as well as Seiford and Zhu (2002) employed a transfer method to apply negative data in DEA. Others utilized a minute positive value instead of the negative output [26,16,31]. Portela et al. (2004) investigated the negative data using the directional distance function [27]. Sharp et al. (2007) presented the modified slack-based measure (MSBM) model to evaluate the efficiency in the presence of negative data [32]. Kazemi Matin and Azizi (2011) introduced an adjusted additive model with negative data in DEA. Most importantly, they used bank data in their model for comparing and drawing conclusions [13]. In 2013, Vencheh and Esmaeilzadeh introduced a super-efficiency model for ranking DMUs. Their model could also determine the efficiency for each DMU [34]. Lin et al. (2019) offered a successful slacks-based super-efficiency model to handle the negative data [24]. Lin (2019) investigated the evaluation of cross-efficiency in the presence of negative data [25].

Traditional DEA models treat any system as a black box. In the black box, the internal structures

are ignored, and the inputs and outputs are considered for estimating the system's overall efficiency. Thus, one of the weak points of traditional or classic DEA models is disregarding the internal structure, while the internal structures of many systems generate intermediate products. In other words, DMUs could have two-stage structures where the inputs of one stage are outputs of the previous stage. The Network DEA (NDEA) models have resolved this defect by considering intermediate values. This notion is the difference between traditional and network views. As a result, it is necessary to consider the internal processes of a DMU. In this regard, banks could have a two-stage network structure.

In recent decades, network models have gained interest, and several models have been proposed in this area. The two-stage network models have extended over time. Besides, the efficiency results of the models in the two-stage network show that they could better evaluate the units. The two-stage network models could be applied more in the structural area. The two-stage DEA model can yield the overall efficiency for the whole process and efficiency scores of each stage perfectly well. NDEA has been introduced to academic society by the famous article of Fare & Grosskopf, entitled "Network Data Envelopment Analysis." However, this topic had already been investigated by Fare (1991), Fare & Grosskopf (1996), and Lathgren and Tambour (1999). Recently, DEA has been extended with using network systems. There are several articles on network systems. Lewis and Sexton (2004) showed that how DEA can be used to examine the internal DMUs. They also proved some of the theoretical features of NDEA [17]. Chen and Zhu (2004) used a twostage production process to detect the efficient frontier [2]. Prieto and Zoflo (2007) proposed a multi-stage model. They applied this model to a group of OECD (The Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development) countries [28]. Chen et al. (2009) proposed an approach of additive efficiency decomposition in a two-stage DEA [4]. Chen et al. (2009) examined the correlation and equivalence in measuring efficiency in two-stage systems [3]. Chen et al.

(2010) developed DEA models under nondiscretionary inputs to measure efficiency in twostage network processes [5]. Chen et al. (2010) proposed an approach under two-stage DEA to determine the frontiers for inefficient units [6]. Paradi et al. (2011) used a two-stage DEA to mark different the operating units in scales simultaneously. In the end, they proposed a modified measurement slacks-based model. They evaluated this model by using the data of a prominent Canadian bank with 816 branches. They examined three dimensions of productivity, profitability, and intermediation. This method enables the bank managers to find their weak and strong points clearly [29]. Premachandra et al. (2012) presented a two-stage DEA that decomposes the efficiency of DMU into two parts. They used this model to assess the relative efficiency of the family budget in the USA during 1993-2008 [30]. Chen et al. (2013) proved some issues about the envelopment and multiplier points in NDEA [8]. Lin and Chiu (2013) used an overall model to evaluate the efficiency of Banks in Taiwan through decomposing the independent components analysis (ICA) and assessing based on network slacks (NSBM). In their work, three dimensions of efficiency: production efficiency, service efficiency, and profiting efficiency have been discussed [18]. Kao (2014) conducted a review study on network systems [14]. Wanke and Barros (2014) evaluated the efficiency of Brazilian banks using a two-stage model [35]. Liu et al. (2015) proposed the two-stage DEA models with undesirable inputs and intermediate outputs. Also, they applied two-stage models in some data of China banks [19]. Li et al. (2016) extended a centralized model to measure the efficiency in two-stage processes. They tested their model on 17 branches of a bank in Anhui Province, China [21]. Lim and Zhu (2016) studied the double standard of DEA in two-stage systems [20]. Wanke et al. (2016) used a two-stage model that simultaneously included both costs and efficiency of learning and evaluated the performance problems in state high schools in Australia[36]. Fukuyama and Matousek (2017) examined the efficiency of bank performance in a two-stage network (NDEA). Besides, they applied the

Nerlove model to detect the inefficiencies in banks. Their article shows that local banks in Japan have not reached their desired target in production processes [10]. Li et al. (2018) proposed a network model with some important features in their article [22]. Lu et al. (2019), in their article, evaluated the efficiency of the car industry in Taiwan from 2010 to 2014 using a dynamic NDEA model. They showed that the overall growth production depends partly on the market production stage and partly on the production stage. Motivated by the benefits of combining multiple energies [23]. Cheng et al. (2020) designed a two-stage method at two levels. They wanted to achieve an optimal energy supply among multi-energy systems (MES) [9].

The rest of the articles are organized as follows. The section 2 discusses the two-stage systems with negative data model. In the fourth section, CRS-bounded additive model is examined. Also, In the section CRS-bounded additive model is examined. The section 3 evaluated this Two-stage bounded additive model. In the section 4, a numerical and practical example is solved. Conclusions are presented in Section 5.

TWO-STAGE SYSTEMS WITH NEGATIVE DATA

Several articles have been written on two-stage systems with negative data. For example, Tavana et al. (2018) examined the RDM and the dynamic models on two-stage systems with negative data [33].

In 2020, Kao defined a set of general production possibilities with the negative data. Their proposed model could identify unrealistic production processes and assess the efficiency in the presence of negative data. It was the simplest two-stage system [15]. Cooper et al. (2011) proposed the BAM model [7]. BAM model had many advantages. The model not only could accept negative data but also distinguish between strong and weak units, which increased its credibility. The BAM model performs well in the variable returns to scale (VRS) efficiency mode and does not experience inconsistencies in the constant returns to scale (CRS). However, the two-stage CRS-boundary collective model has

CRS is as follows:

technology.

not been explored so far. We aimed to evaluate a two-stage CRS-boundary collective model (BAM-CRS).

CRS-bounded additive model

In the analysis of efficiency, inputs are tried to decrease and outputs increased, so we use $\underline{x_i} = \min\{x_{ij}, j=1,...,n\}$ lower bound for each input and

 $\overline{y_r} = \max\{y_{rj}, j=1,...,n\}$ higher bound for each output in the DEA model.



Fig. 1. Bounded frontier in CRS technology

The CRS-bounded additive model (for more information, refer to Cooper et al. [2011]) is presented as Model 1:

$$Max \left(\sum_{i=1}^{m} s_{io}^{-} + \sum_{r=1}^{s} s_{ro}^{+} \right)$$

s.t.

$$\sum_{j=1}^{n} \lambda_{j} x_{ij} + s_{io}^{-} = x_{io} , \quad i = 1, ..., m$$

$$\sum_{j=1}^{n} \lambda_{j} y_{rj} - s_{ro}^{+} = y_{ro} , \quad r = 1, ..., s$$

$$\sum_{j=1}^{n} \lambda_{j} x_{ij} \ge x_{i} , \quad i = 1, ..., m$$

$$\sum_{j=1}^{n} \lambda_{j} y_{rj} \le \overline{y_{r}} , \quad r = 1, ..., s$$

$$\lambda_{j} \ge 0 , \quad j = 1, ..., n ; \quad s_{io}^{-} \ge 0, \forall i ; \quad s_{ro}^{+} \ge 0, \forall r$$

(1)

Model 1 can be revised as envelopment Model 2: *Min* β

s.t. $\beta x_{io} \ge \sum_{j=1}^{n} \lambda_j x_{ij} , \quad i = 1, ..., m$ $y_{ro} \le \sum_{j=1}^{n} \lambda_j y_{rj} , \quad r = 1, ..., s$ $\sum_{j=1}^{n} \lambda_j x_{ij} \ge \underline{x_i} , \quad i = 1, ..., m$

$$\sum_{j=1}^{n} \lambda_j \ y_{rj} \le \overline{y_r} \quad , \quad r = 1 , \dots, s$$

$$\lambda_j \ge 0 \quad , \quad j = 1 , \dots, n \quad ; \qquad (2)$$

Mode 2 is an envelopment CRS bounded additive model.

The set of bounded production probability under

It is assumed that for the evaluation of n units in

DEA, m inputs and s outputs are defined for each

unit. Fig. 1 shows the bounded frontier for CRS

 $T = \{(x,y)\in \mathbb{R}^m_+ \times \mathbb{R}^s_+ (x,-y) = \sum_{j=1}^n \lambda_j (x_j,-y) = \sum_{j=1}^n (x_j,-y)$

 y_j); $\lambda_j \ge 0$, $\forall j$; $x_i \ge x_i$, $\forall i; y_r \le \overline{y_r}$, $\forall r$ }

The value of $\Gamma_{BAM-CRS}$ efficiency is obtained from

 $\Gamma_{\text{BAM-CRS}} = 1 - \beta$ Which has the following terms:

- 1- $0 \leq \Gamma_{\text{BAM-CRS}} \leq 1$
- 2- $\Gamma_{\text{BAM-CRS}} = 1 \iff \text{DMU}_{O}$ is fully efficient.
- 3- $\Gamma_{\text{BAM-CRS}} = 0 \quad \iff \quad \text{DMU}_0 \text{ is fully}$ inefficient.
- 4- $\Gamma_{BAM-CRS}$ is invariant to units of measurement of inputs and outputs.
- 5- $\Gamma_{BAM-CRS}$ is translation invariant.

6- $\Gamma_{\text{BAM-CRS}}$ is monotonic.

TWO-STAGE BOUNDED ADDITIVE MODEL

Several studies have proposed better and more precise models in the area of two-stage models literature. In this section, we evaluate the twostage CRS-bounded additive model.

It is assumed that for each DMU_j (j = 1,...,n), the (i = 1,...,m) x_{ij} input is used for z_{dj} (d = 1,...,D) intermediate products. Then, the output of the first stage is used as the input of another process to produce y_{rj} (r = 1,...,s) outputs of the second stage. As shown in Figure 2.

In Model 3, the lower bound input of $\underline{x_i} = \min\{x_{ij}, j=1,...,n\}$ and higher bound output of $\overline{y_r} = \max\{y_{rj}, j=1,...,n\}$ have been employed.

In the two-stage DEA model, the lower and higher bounds of intermediate products are considered as follows:

 $\overline{z_d} = \max\{ z_{dj}, j=1,...,n \}$ o $\underline{z_d} = \min\{ z_{dj}, j=1,...,n \}$.



Fig.2. Two-stage network system

The two-stage CRS-bounded additive is obtained as Model 3, using Model 2.

The two-stage Model 3 is a set of variables with two sets of constraints related to Z_{do} intermediate products that make the model more efficient and, as a result, bigger. In this model, the intermediate product is of high importance. In continuation, Model 3 is revised as Model 4. *Min* β

s.t.

$$\beta x_{io} \ge \sum_{j=1}^{n} \lambda_j^1 x_{ij} , \quad i = 1, ..., m$$

$$z_{do} \le \sum_{j=1}^{n} \lambda_j^1 z_{dj} , \quad d = 1, ...$$

$$\begin{split} z_{do} &\geq \sum_{j=1}^{n} \lambda_j^2 \, z_{dj} , \quad d=1,...,D \\ y_{ro} &\leq \sum_{j=1}^{n} \lambda_j^2 \, y_{rj} , \quad r=1,...,s \\ \sum_{j=1}^{n} \lambda_j^1 \, x_{ij} &\geq \underline{x_i} , \quad i=1,...,m \\ \sum_{j=1}^{n} \lambda_j^1 \, z_{dj} &\leq \overline{z_d} , \quad d=1,...,D \\ \sum_{j=1}^{n} \lambda_j^2 \, z_{dj} &\geq \underline{z_d} , \quad d=1,...,D \\ \sum_{j=1}^{n} \lambda_j^2 \, y_{rj} &\leq \overline{y_r} , \quad r=1,...,s \\ \underline{x_i} &= \min\{ \, x_{ij}, j=1,...,n\} , \quad i=1,...,m \\ \overline{x_i} &= \min\{ \, x_{ij}, j=1,...,n\} , \quad i=1,...,m \\ \overline{z_d} &= \max\{ \, z_{dj} \, , j=1,...,n\} , \quad d=1,...,D \\ \overline{y_r} &= \max\{ \, y_{rj} \, , j=1,...,n\} , \quad r=1,...,s \\ \lambda_j^k &\geq 0 , \quad j=1,...,n , \quad k=1,2 ; \end{split}$$

 $\begin{array}{ll} \text{Model 4 is a two-stage network model.} \\ \text{The dual form of Model 4 is Model 5:} \\ \text{Max} \quad w^{1}z_{do} - w^{2}z_{do} + uy_{ro} + v \underline{x_{i}} - w^{1} \overline{z_{d}} + w^{2} \\ \underline{z_{d}} - u \overline{y_{r}} \\ \underline{z_{d}} - u \overline{y_{r}} \\ \underline{x_{io}} v_{i}^{1} - \sum_{j=1}^{n} v_{i}^{1} x_{ij} + \sum_{j=1}^{n} w_{d}^{1} z_{dj} - \\ \sum_{j=1}^{n} w_{d}^{2} z_{dj} + \sum_{j=1}^{n} u_{r}^{2} y_{rj} + \sum_{j=1}^{n} v_{i}^{1} x_{ij} - \sum_{j=1}^{n} w_{d}^{1} \\ z_{dj} + \sum_{j=1}^{n} w_{d}^{2} z_{dj} - \sum_{j=1}^{n} u_{r}^{2} y_{rj} \leq \beta \\ \underline{x_{i}} = \min\{ x_{ij}, j=1, \dots, n \} , \quad i = 1, \dots, m \\ \overline{z_{d}} = \max\{ z_{dj}, j=1, \dots, n \} , \quad d=l, \dots, D \\ \underline{z_{d}} = \min\{ z_{dj}, j=1, \dots, n \} , \quad r = l, \dots, s \\ v_{i}^{1}, u_{r}^{2}, w_{d}^{1}, w_{d}^{2} \geq 0 \quad ; \\ (5) \end{array}$

THE NUMERICAL AND APPLIED EXAMPLE

In this section, a numerical and applied example is presented. Today, airlines have a

considerable share in the economic development of countries worldwide. One of the most important issues that managers of airlines are interested in is to know the relative status and performance rank of their companies compared to other companies and competitors. Designing and evaluating the efficiency process is one of the issues that managers should attend to. The involved criteria in this process could be evolved and changed. The improved service qualities and customers' satisfaction could increase the benefits of airlines. Evaluation of services is one of the challenging issues in these companies. Many studies have been conducted on evaluating the efficiency of airlines. Gillen and Lall (1997) used the DEA to evaluate the efficiency of airports. They used the data of 21 airports in the USA for 5 years [11].

Adler and Golany (2001) used the DEA to find the most efficient airlines in west Europe. They analyzed the significant components using an applied program [1].

In this study, we evaluated the efficiency of 36 airlines using the two-stage bounded additive model. As shown in Table 1, fuel cost, maintenance expenses, labor expenses, and fleet size are input values; available ton miles and available seat miles are intermediate values, and revenue passenger mile, revenue ton mile and net income are the output values.

Inputs Intermediate Outputs 52990-Total Fleet Available Available **Revenue tone** Year Fuel cost Salary Net income **Revenue** px (000,000)flight (000,000)mile (000,000) mile(000,000) Size ton miles seat miles (000)maintance (000.000)(000.000)(000.000)1 2010 1.006.21 424.83 1.564.18 708 20688 85710 96985 11322 -171.152.002 2010 1.184.42 1.593.98 708 21440 90038 107388 12419 40,724.00 448.65 3 2010 1,383.72 540.19 1,587.04 708 21646 91228 111076 12729 -160,325.00 Δ 2010 1.383.93 490.48 1.685.57 708 20115 85256 99682 11692 -600,966.00 5 2011 1,285.09 489.93 1,637.66 685 20109 85505 99047 11472 -105,857.00 2011 1,491.71 1,594.80 21128 89204 110573 12750 279,479.00 6 488.28 685 7 2011 1,546.64 504.35 1,607.41 685 21126 89065 109148 12592 730.00 2011 1.262.24 11717 8 494.37 1 626 65 685 19963 84278 99605 -10.476.009 2012 1,228.19 480.53 1,577.07 660 19653 83384 97726 11348 51,144.00 10 2012 1,428.64 1,563,40 20171 85297 107007 12315 270.608.00 484.36 660 11 2012 1.518.99 502.24 1.632.71 20400 86545 108872 12434 146,574.00 660 12 2012 1,634.30 494.77 1,641.50 19873 84596 101761 11825 -112,545.00 660 13 2013 1,801.96 548.82 1,557.63 648 19306 82106 97467 11267 -343,910.00 14 2013 2.118.50 19581 83439 103200 11926 -1,462,732.00 562.22 1,575.60 648 2013 2,402.01 1,549.94 19720 103477 11883 -396,172.00 15 544.75 648 83933 16 2013 1.637.73 530.41 1.653.24 18280 77597 91141 10494 -327.938.00648 2014 1,604.12 17 1,142.87 545.22 606 17766 75567 85783 9695 -365,661.00 18 2014 1,163.95 1,619.21 18219 548.49 606 77135 94697 10673 -389,835.00 19 2014 1,270.37 1,621.42 18122 77087 97061 10959 -376,810.00 564.24 606 20 2014 1,279.90 17242 73769 89727 10392 -343,475.00 568.91 1.640.12 606 2015 21 1,301.97 602.49 1,615.08 614 17180 73691 86102 9956 -488,786.00 22 2015 1,434.21 594.43 1,624.56 614 17934 76829 96650 11106 -6,818.00 23 2015 1.386.61 575.35 1.642.70 614 18673 79885 100642 11499 128,583.00 93075 10766 24 2015 1,431.01 552.37 1,614.89 614 17627 76085 -102,197.00

Table 1: Data of 36 airlines

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25	2016	1,589.85	556.58	1,627.01	615	17481	75703	87499	10073	-430,511.13
26	2016	1,895.49	591.36	1,672.87	615	18167	78458	98367	11219	-284,356.00
27	2016	1,946.78	611.31	1,682.04	615	18590	79870	101692	11510	-153,152.00
28	2016	1,720.95	576.12	1,689.51	615	17237	74615	91918	10522	-1,097,082.00
29	2017	1,865.09	581.53	1,685.29	606	17600	75837	89879	10331	-1,676,208.00
30	2017	1,903.10	578.73	1,687.26	606	17853	76576	97757	11149	-263,749.00
31	2017	1,882.49	559.54	1,696.17	606	18159	77909	99905	11271	-256,922.00
32	2017	1,857.85	577.09	1,464.05	606	17610	74932	91671	10483	270,778.00
33	2018	1,879.91	587.61	1,390.91	612	17731	74784	90415	10280	-252,848.00
34	2018	1,825.11	569.39	1,360.92	612	18628	77444	98552	11269	227,756.00
35	2018	1,894.67	538.77	1,458.99	612	19387	80163	102233	11584	289,839.00
36	2018	1,814.91	555.06	1,422.19	612	18377	76602	94032	10899	-1,790,454.00





We simulate this example using the two-stage non-parametric Model 4. This model is presented as Model 6.

Min β

, <i>i</i> = 1 ,2,3,4
, d=1,2
, d=1,2
, $r = 1$,2,3
, <i>i</i> = 1 ,2,3,4
, d=1,2
, d=1,2
, $r = 1, 2, 3$
, , i = 1, 2, 3, 4
6} , <i>d=1,2</i>
<i>b</i> } , <i>d</i> =1,2
$5\}$, $r = 1, 2, 3$
, $k=1$, 2 ;
(6)

Model 6 is a two-stage CRS-bounded additive model. The efficiency values of Model 6 have been calculated by Lingo, and the results are presented in the third column of Table 2. In the fourth column, the efficiency of units is specified. Also, the overall efficiency values are ranked in the fifth column. Figure 4 displays the diagram of efficiency values based on Model 6.

As seen in Table 2 and Figure 4, there are efficient units in 36 airlines. Also, DMU1, DMU2, DMU6, DMU10, DMU14, DMU18, DMU22, DMU26, DMU30, DMU34 are efficient. Their efficiency values are equal to 1. However, DMU7 has the worst performance efficiency among these 36 airlines. Its efficiency value is 0.3367. According to the diagram in Figure 3, this unit has obtained the lowest efficiency.

Based on the Table, the other units are ranked as follows:

$$\label{eq:multiplicative} \begin{split} DMU12 < DMU16 < DMU8 < DMU4 < DMU24 \\ < DMU20 < DMU32 < DMU28 < \ldots < DMU7 \end{split}$$

Table 2: Results of efficiency values of 36 airlines

DMU	year	Efficiency two-stage additive bounded CRS model	Rank
1	2010	1.0000	1
2	2010	1.0000	1
3	2010	0.3406	25
4	2010	0.9365	5
5	2011	0.4315	11
6	2011	1.0000	1
7	2011	0.3367	27
8	2011	0.9380	4
9	2012	0.4242	12
10	2012	1.0000	1
11	2012	0.3420	24
12	2012	0.9478	2
13	2013	0.3851	19
14	2013	1.0000	1
15	2013	0.3400	26
16	2013	0.9400	3
17	2014	0.3983	15
18	2014	1.0000	1
19	2014	0.3679	22
20	2014	0.9179	7
21	2015	0.3860	18
22	2015	1.0000	1
23	2015	0.3873	17
24	2015	0.9226	6
25	2016	0.3474	23

26	2016	1.0000	1
27	2016	0.3958	16
28	2016	0.9053	9
29	2017	0.4238	13
30	2017	1.0000	1
31	2017	0.3692	21
32	2017	0.9113	8
33	2018	0.4161	14
34	2018	1.0000	1
35	2018	0.3788	20
36	2018	0.9014	10

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Fig. 4. Diagram of overall efficiency values based on Model 6

CONCLUSION

This article examined a two-stage CRSbounded additive model with negative data. It also evaluated the efficiency of units in a two-stage network. It was found that a two-stage model could better assess the units by considering the intermediate values. Also, the overall efficiency of 36 airlines was examined, and DMU7 was found to have the Lowest performance. Twostage models are variables with two sets of constraints that become more efficient by considering the intermediate products. In other words, the intermediate products become very important. For future studies, the two-stage methods could be used in DEA. The research areas and DEA techniques in two-stage models could evaluate the units with negative data in the best way.

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