

## Group Performance Evaluation, An Application of Data Envelopment Analysis

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### Abstract

The contribution of this paper is to provide an approach for evaluating the performance of a group of decision making units (DMUs) based on the production technology. Group evaluation is an application of data envelopment analysis (DEA). DEA uses linear programming to provide a suitable technique to estimate a multiple-input/multiple-output empirical efficient function. In this paper, an approach for evaluating the performance of a group of DMUs is proposed. Suppose A is a subset of J. On the basis of the observed inputs-outputs of DMUs in A and under the five assumptions, the respective PPS of A is denoted by  $T^A$  and defined as follows:

$$T^A = \{(X, Y) \mid X \geq \sum_{j \in A} \lambda_j X_j, Y \leq \sum_{j \in A} \lambda_j Y_j, \lambda_j \geq 0 (j \in A)\} \quad (1)$$

where, for convenience, instead of  $DMU_{j \in A}$ , we write  $j \in A$ . The output distance function of the input-output vector  $(X, Y)$  related to set A is defined as

$$\begin{aligned} D_A(X, Y) = \text{Max } \phi \\ \text{s.t. } \sum_{j \in A} \lambda_j X_{ij} \leq X_i, \quad i=1, \dots, m, \\ \sum_{j \in A} \lambda_j Y_{rj} \leq Y_r, \quad r=1, \dots, s, \\ \lambda_j \geq 0, \quad j \in A. \end{aligned} \quad (2)$$

Similar to Malmquist productivity indices,  $\frac{D_{A1}(X, Y)}{D_{A2}(X, Y)}$  measures the technology frontier shift

between two groups A1 and A2 with respect to point  $(X, Y)$ , such that  $\frac{D_{A1}(X, Y)}{D_{A2}(X, Y)} \geq 1$  implies

that group A1 uses a more efficient technology than A2 and has a better performance.

**Definition 1.** Group A1 performs better than group A2 with respect to input-output vector  $(X, Y)$ , if  $D_{A1}(X, Y) > D_{A2}(X, Y)$ .

The comparison in definition 1 is dependent on input-output vector  $(X, Y)$ .

A group can be justly evaluated by selecting some suitable input-output vectors. The comparison of the two groups' performances can be done using the geometric mean of their technology changes with respect to all DMUs in J such that the performance of group A1 is better than that of group A2

if

$$\left( \prod_{j=1}^n \frac{D_{A1}(X_j, Y_j)}{D_{A2}(X_j, Y_j)} \right)^{\frac{1}{n}} \geq 1$$

**Definition 2.** The performance score of group  $A \subseteq J$  is defined as

$$P(A) = \left( \prod_{j=1}^n D_A(X_j, Y_j) \right)^{\frac{1}{n}} \quad (3)$$

Therefore, group A1 performs better than group A2 if  $P(A1) > P(A2)$ .

It might sound more sensible in the evaluation to compare a group A with all DMUs (J) as reference points. But the reason for comparing all DMUs (J) with group A as a reference group is to ignore the performance of inefficient DMUs in A, and consider only the production ability of group A in the evaluation.

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**keywords: Group Evaluation, Performance, DEA.**

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