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Applied Economics > Volume 36, 2004 - Issue 13

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Original Articles

Multi-product costs and standby capacity derived from queuing theory: the case of Belgian hospitals

Mike Smet

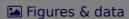
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time (derived from queuing theory) is incorporated into a proper multi-product cost

function to capture the degree of standby capacity into a proper multi-product cost function. The study uses 1997 data on Belgian general care hospitals to estimate a multi-product cost function and calculate cost elasticities, marginal costs and the degree of economies of scale. The results further show that providing standby capacity has a significant impact on total costs.

Acknowledgements

The author wishes to thank the Belgian Federal Ministry of Social Affairs, Public Health and the Environment for providing the data for this study. However, the author is the sole responsible for the empirical analysis and conclusions presented here.

Notes

The translog functional form for example satisfies this requirement, being a reason for the widespread use of the translog function.

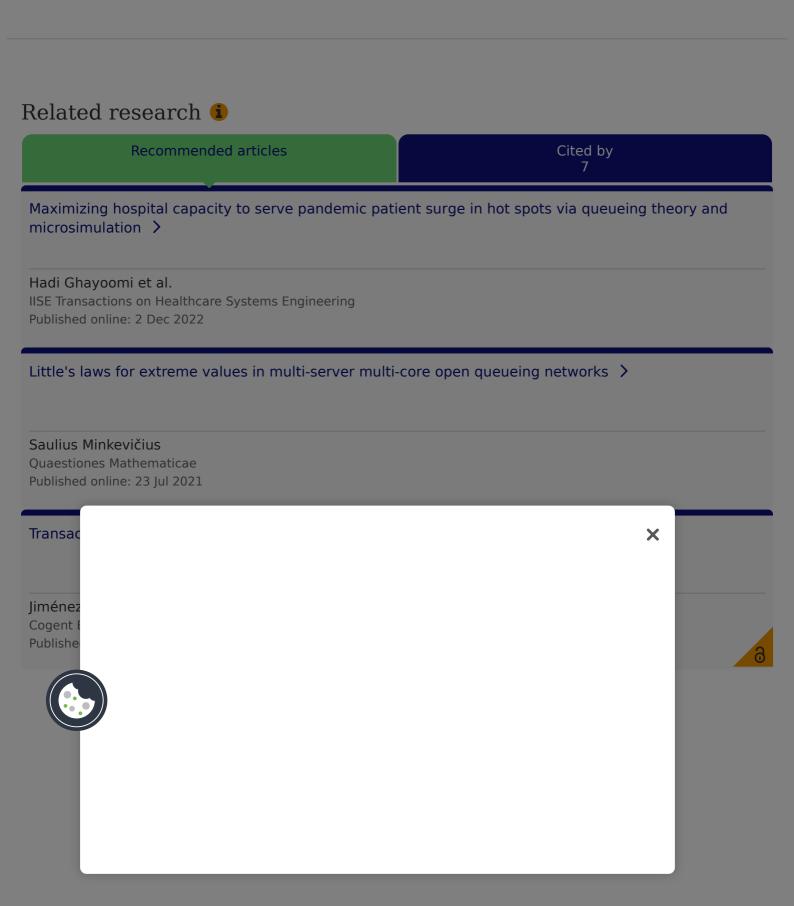
The underlying birth-and-death process is a special type of continuous time Markov chain.

Because health contact the profit of the contact the profit of the contact the profit of the profit

orders. The public and the private (not-for-profit) sectors operate in the same market and receive more or less comparable levels of resources.

National Institute for Sickness and Invalidity Insurance.

Although the limited input price variation already suggests it would not promise well, we did estimate a model using cost share equations. However, as it was only to be expected, this generated poor results.



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