

# A review of DEA approaches for health supply chain

J. Pourmahmoud\*, M. Gholamazad

**Received:** 19 December 2017 ; **Accepted:** 21 March 2018

**Abstract** More than 200 papers have been published in the last 20 years on the topic of health supply chains (HSC). Looking at the research methodologies employed, less than 15 papers apply data envelopment analysis (DEA) models. This is in contrast to, for example, A network data envelopment analysis (NDEA) model for supply chain performance evaluation where several reviews on respective NDEA models have already been provided. The paper summarizes research on DEA, NDEA, simulation data envelopment analysis (SI-DEA) and stochastic data envelopment analysis (S-DEA) models for health supply chains and thereby contributes to the further substantiation of the field. On the modeling side, there are four dominant approaches: Classic-DEA models, NDEA models, SI-DEA models and S-DEA models. The paper ends with suggestions for future research.

**Keywords:** Data Envelopment Analysis, Classic DEA Model, NDEA Model, SI-DEA Model, S-DEA Model, Health Supply Chain.

## 1 Introduction

Data Envelopment Analysis (DEA) was developed by Charnes, Cooper and Rhodes [1] (CCR, 1978) to evaluate the relative efficiency of peer decision making units (DMUs). DEA has been proven an effective tool for performance benchmarking when multiple performance measures exist and a priori information on the tradeoffs among these measures is completely available (see, e.g., Zhu [2], 2003). The standard DEA approach treats each DMU's operation (e.g., production process) as a black-box where inputs are transformed into outputs. There are many more complicated cases in which the whole operation is separated into more than two processes. These may have a series structure, a parallel structure, or a mixture of these. These structures are generally called network structures, and the DEA technique to measure the efficiency of systems with a network structure is called network data envelopment analysis (NDEA) (Färe & Grosskopf [3], 2000). Bolori and Pourmahmoud [4] in 2014 proposed a modified SBM-NDEA approach for the efficiency measurement in bank branches. Then in 2014 equivalent multiplier and envelopment DEA models for measuring the efficiency under general network structures proposed by Bolori et al [5]. Pourmahmoud and Zeynali [6] proposed a nonlinear model for identifying common weights set in NDEA in 2016. They [7] also in 2016 proposed a DEA network structure sensitivity to non-Archimedean epsilon. In

---

\*Corresponding Author. (✉)

E-mail: [Pourmahmoud@azaruniv.ac.ir](mailto:Pourmahmoud@azaruniv.ac.ir) (J. Pourmahmoud)

**J. Pourmahmoud**

Department of Applied Mathematics, Azarbaijan Shahid Madani University, Tabriz

**M. Gholamazad**

Department of Applied Mathematics, Azarbaijan Shahid Madani University, Tabriz

2017, Sayyaditooranloo et al. [8] applied NDEA in ceramic and tile industry in Yazd province.

A supply chain (SC) is a value chain network in every industrial system. Jahani Sayyad Noveiri et al. [9] in 2017 proposed a cost efficiency of closed-loop supply chain in the presence of dual-role and undesirable factors. Then in 2018, supply chain performance with undesirable factors and reverse flows: A DEA-based approach proposed by Jahani Sayyad Noveiri et al. [10]. In healthcare industries, SCs are the most costly part of the system. Thus, evaluating of management in the healthcare supply chain (HCSC) is evident (McKone-Sweet et al [11], 2005). Human factors play an important role in SCM (Kim [12], 2005). Time and cost play an important role in the performance of the hospital and the importance of these factors on healthcare performance are expressed by some researchers such as Cheng and Whittimore [13], HaszlinnaMustaffa and Potter [14], and Kehrel [15]. It is clear that, the healthcare industry has a key role in human health and quick access to the medicine is one of the important issues with the significant impact on healthcare department. It is therefore quite essential to evaluate medicine SC to enhance performance of the healthcare department.

The aim of this paper is to summarize existing research on DEA, NDEA, simulation data envelopment analysis (SI-DEA) and stochastic data envelopment analysis (S-DEA) models for health supply chains, thereby contributes to the further substantiation of the field. This provides insights toward future research directions and needs.

The rest of this paper is organized as follows: In Section 2, a summary of papers on DEA models that were previously presented is reviewed. We review the classic DEA models on HSC in Section 3. In Section 4 we give the review of developed DEA models (NDEA models, SI-DEA models and S-DEA models) on HSC. The conclusions are discussed in Section 5.

## 2 The summary of previous papers on DEA

DEA is a method to evaluate the relative efficiency of comparable units called DMUs. Charnes et al. (1978) proposed a fractional programming model, commonly referred to as the CCR model.

The CCR model for measuring the relative efficiency of a DMU indexed by 0 is:

$$E_o = \max. \frac{\sum_{r=1}^s u_r Y_{ro}}{\sum_{i=1}^m v_i X_{io}} \quad (1)$$

$$s.t. \quad \frac{\sum_{r=1}^s u_r Y_{rj}}{\sum_{i=1}^m v_i X_{ij}} \leq 1, \quad j = 1, 2, \dots, n$$

$$u_r, v_i \geq \varepsilon, \quad r = 1, 2, \dots, s, \quad i = 1, 2, \dots, m.$$

Model (1) is commonly called a ratio model.

$$\begin{aligned}
 E_o = \min. \quad & \theta - \varepsilon \left( \sum_{i=1}^m s_i^- + \sum_{r=1}^s s_r^+ \right) \\
 \text{s.t.} \quad & \sum_{i=1}^m \lambda_j X_{ij} + s_i^- = \theta X_{io}, \quad i = 1, 2, \dots, m \\
 & \sum_{r=1}^s \lambda_j Y_{rj} - s_r^+ = Y_{ro}, \quad r = 1, 2, \dots, s \\
 & \lambda_j \geq 0, \quad j = 1, 2, \dots, n, \quad r = 1, 2, \dots, s, \quad i = 1, 2, \dots, m \\
 & \theta \text{ unrestricted in sign.}
 \end{aligned} \tag{2}$$

This model is called an envelopment model and its dual, the multiplier form of the CCR model in the input oriented case is:

$$\begin{aligned}
 \max. \quad & \sum_{r=1}^s u_r Y_{ro} \\
 \text{s.t.} \quad & \sum_{i=1}^m v_i X_{io} = 1 \\
 & \sum_{r=1}^s u_r Y_{rj} - \sum_{i=1}^m v_i X_{ij} \leq 0, \quad j = 1, 2, \dots, n, \\
 & u_r, v_i \geq \varepsilon, \quad r = 1, 2, \dots, s, \quad i = 1, 2, \dots, m.
 \end{aligned} \tag{3}$$

In year 2008, Jahanshahloo et al. [16] provided the review of ranking models in DEA. In evaluating the relative efficiency, usually more than one unit may be efficient. The problem of ranking efficient DMUs is of interest from theoretical and practical point of view. In this paper, different methods have been discussed and in some sense they are compared.

## 2.1 AP model

Anderson and Peterson [17] proposed the super efficiency model. They omitted the efficient DMU from the PPS and ran the CCR model for other units to rank it. They proposed the following model:

$$\begin{aligned}
 \max. \quad & \sum_{r=1}^s u_r Y_{ro} \\
 \text{s.t.} \quad & \sum_{i=1}^m v_i X_{io} = 1 \\
 & \sum_{r=1}^s u_r Y_{rj} - \sum_{i=1}^m v_i X_{ij} \leq 0, \quad j = 1, 2, \dots, n, \quad j \neq 0 \\
 & u_r, v_i \geq \varepsilon, \quad r = 1, 2, \dots, s, \quad i = 1, 2, \dots, m.
 \end{aligned} \tag{4}$$

## 2.2 MAJ model

To solve the important difficulties of AP model, Mehrabian et al. [18] proposed another model for ranking efficient units. Their proposed model is:

$$\begin{aligned}
 & \min . 1 + w \\
 & s.t. \quad \sum_{j=1, j \neq 0}^n \lambda_j X_{ij} \leq X_{io} + w, \quad i = 1, 2, \dots, n \\
 & \quad \sum_{j=1, j \neq 0}^n \lambda_j Y_{rj} \geq Y_{ro}, \quad r = 1, 2, \dots, s \\
 & \quad \lambda_j \geq 0, \quad j = 1, 2, \dots, n, j \neq 0.
 \end{aligned} \tag{5}$$

## 2.3 Revised MAJ model

The MAJ model may be infeasible in some cases. To solve this problem, Saati et al [19], proposed the following model:

$$\begin{aligned}
 & \min . 1 + w \\
 & s.t. \quad \sum_{j=1, j \neq 0}^n \lambda_j X_{ij} \leq X_{io} + w, \quad i = 1, 2, \dots, n \\
 & \quad \sum_{j=1, j \neq 0}^n \lambda_j Y_{rj} \geq Y_{ro} - w, \quad r = 1, 2, \dots, s \\
 & \quad \lambda_j \geq 0, \quad j = 1, 2, \dots, n, j \neq 0.
 \end{aligned} \tag{6}$$

## 2.4 The slack adjusted DEA model

In the CCR model, there are some difficulties to introduce  $\varepsilon$ . To solve these difficulties, Sueyoshi et al [20] proposed the slack adjusted DEA model (SADEA), and used it to rank efficient units. Their model for ranking is:

$$\begin{aligned}
 & \max . \sum_{r=1}^s u_r Y_{ro} \\
 & s.t. \quad \sum_{i=1}^m v_i X_{io} = 1 \\
 & \quad \sum_{r=1}^s u_r Y_{rj} - \sum_{i=1}^m v_i X_{ij} \leq 0, \quad j = 1, 2, \dots, n, j \neq 0 \\
 & \quad u_r \geq \frac{1}{[(m+s)R_r^+]} \quad r = 1, 2, \dots, s \\
 & \quad v_i \geq \frac{1}{[(m+s)R_i^-]} \quad i = 1, 2, \dots, m.
 \end{aligned} \tag{7}$$

where  $R_i^- = \max_j X_{ij}$ ,  $R_r^+ = \max_j Y_{rj}$  for every  $i, j$ . SA - DEA has the same difficulties of AP model.

## 2.5 The gradient line method

Jahanshahloo et al [21] used the gradient line to rank extreme efficient units. In this way, they defined the plan  $P_o$  which contains the point  $(X_o, Y_o)$  and the set  $S_o$  as follows:

$$\begin{aligned} P_o &= \{(X, Y) : X = \alpha X_o, Y = \beta Y_o\} \\ S_o &= \{(X, Y) \in P_o : X = \alpha X_o, Y = \beta Y_o, \alpha \geq 0, \beta \geq 0\} \end{aligned} \quad (8)$$

The corresponding gradient equation to  $DMU_o$  in  $P_o$  with center  $(0, 0)$  is:  $\frac{\alpha^2}{K_\alpha^2} + \frac{\beta^2}{K_\beta^2} = 1$ .

where:

$$K_\alpha = \sqrt{\frac{\sum_{i=1}^m X_{io}^2 + \sum_{r=1}^s Y_{ro}^2}{\sum_{i=1}^m X_{io}^2}}, \quad K_\beta = \sqrt{\frac{\sum_{i=1}^m X_{io}^2 + \sum_{r=1}^s Y_{ro}^2}{\sum_{r=1}^s Y_{ro}^2}} \quad (9)$$

Later they made this model:

$$\begin{aligned} \max. \quad H_o &= \sum_{r=1}^s u_r Y_{ro} - \sum_{i=1}^m v_i X_{io} \\ s.t. \quad &\sum_{i=1}^m v_i + \sum_{r=1}^s u_r = 1 \\ &\sum_{r=1}^s u_r Y_{rj} + \sum_{i=1}^m v_i X_{ij} \leq 0, \quad j = 1, 2, \dots, n, j \neq 0 \\ &u_r, v_i \geq \varepsilon, \quad r = 1, 2, \dots, s, \quad i = 1, 2, \dots, m. \end{aligned} \quad (10)$$

## 2.6 Ranking by common set of weights

Hosseinzadeh Lotfi et al. [22] proposed a common set of weight (CSW) model which evaluates all DMUs with a set of weight. They based it on this fact that the feasible region of  $n$  problems is the same. Their suggested model for ranking extreme efficient units is:

$$\begin{aligned}
 \max. \quad & \left\{ \frac{\sum_{r=1}^s u_r Y_{r1}}{\sum_{i=1}^m v_i X_{i1}}, \dots, \frac{\sum_{r=1}^s u_r Y_{rm}}{\sum_{i=1}^m v_i X_{im}} \right\} \quad (11) \\
 \text{s.t.} \quad & \frac{\sum_{r=1}^s u_r Y_{rj}}{\sum_{i=1}^m v_i X_{ij}} \leq 1, \quad j = 1, 2, \dots, n, \quad j \neq 0 \\
 & u_r, v_i \geq \varepsilon, \quad r = 1, 2, \dots, s, \quad i = 1, 2, \dots, m.
 \end{aligned}$$

## 2.7 Ranking by $l_1$ norm

Jahanshahloo et al. [23], used norm  $l_1$  for ranking extreme efficient units. Consider the following model to obtain the ranking score of  $DMU_o$ :

$$\begin{aligned}
 \min. \quad & \Gamma_c^o(X, Y) = \sum_{i=1}^m |X_i - X_{io}| + \sum_{r=1}^s |Y_r - Y_{ro}| \quad (12) \\
 \text{s.t.} \quad & \sum_{j=1, j \neq 0}^n \lambda_j X_{ij} \leq X_i, \quad i = 1, 2, \dots, m \\
 & \sum_{j=1, j \neq 0}^n \lambda_j Y_{rj} \geq Y_r, \quad r = 1, 2, \dots, s \\
 & X_i \geq 0, \quad i = 1, 2, \dots, m \\
 & Y_r \geq 0, \quad r = 1, 2, \dots, s \\
 & \lambda_j \geq 0, \quad j = 1, 2, \dots, n, \quad j \neq 0.
 \end{aligned}$$

An organizational theoretic review of green supply chain management literature is presented by Sarkis et al [24] in 2011. In this paper, they reviewed the literature on GSCM with a focus on identifying applicable and explanatory organizational theories that have been utilized to expand understanding and knowledge of this research field. They found that researchers in GSCM have started to apply a number of organizational theories in explicit ways. Some of the research has also helped to further understand and strengthen some of these theories. They also expound on future possibilities for organizational theory development and linkages.

Seuring [25] in 2013 provided the review of modeling approaches for sustainable supply chain management. The main goal of his paper is to provide summarized research on quantitative models for forward supply chains and thereby contributes to the further substantiation of the field. While different kinds of models are applied, it is evident that the social side of sustainability is not taken into account. On the environmental side, life-cycle assessment based approaches and impact criteria clearly dominate. On the modeling side, there are three dominant approaches: equilibrium models, multi-criteria decision making and analytical hierarchy process.

According to research of Hosseinzadeh Lotfi et al. [26], there exists a variety of papers which apply different ranking methods to a real data set. These ranking methods have divided

into seven groups. As each of the existing methods can be viewed from different aspects, it is possible that somewhat these groups have an overlapping with the others. The first group conducts the evaluation by a cross-efficiency matrix where the units are self-and peer-evaluated. On the second one, the ranking units are based on the optimal weights obtained from the multiplier model of DEA technique. In the third group, super-efficiency methods are dealt with which are based on the idea of excluding the unit under evaluation and analyzing the changes of frontier. The fourth group involves methods based on benchmarking, which adopts the idea of being a useful target for the inefficient units. The fourth group uses the multivariate statistical techniques, usually applied after conducting the DEA classification. The fifth research area ranks inefficient units through proportional measures of inefficiency. The sixth approach involves multiple-criteria decision methodologies with the DEA technique. In the last group, some different methods of ranking units are mentioned. In this section we refer to the three groups:

### 2.7.1 Cross-efficiency ranking techniques

Sexton et al. [27] provided a method for ranking units based on this idea that units are self-and peer-evaluated. For deriving the cross-efficiency of any  $DMU_j$  using weights chosen by  $DMU_o$ , they proposed the following equation:

$$\theta_{oj} = \frac{U_o^* Y_j}{V_o^* X_j} \quad (13)$$

Where  $U^*, V^*$  are optimal weights obtained from the following model for  $DMU_o$  under assessment:

$$\begin{aligned} \min. & V^t X_o \\ \text{s.t.} & U^t Y_o = 1 \\ & U^t Y_j - V^t X_j \leq 0 \quad j = 1, 2, \dots, n \\ & U^t, V^t \geq 0 \end{aligned} \quad (14)$$

Now  $DMU_o$  received the average cross-efficiency score as:  $\bar{\theta}_o = \frac{\sum_{j=1}^n \theta_{oj}}{n}$

### 2.7.2 Super-efficiency ranking techniques

Super efficiency models, introduced in DEA technique, are based upon the idea of leave one out and assessing this unit through the remaining units. Jahanshahloo et al. [28] added some ratio constraints to the multiplier form of A.P. model and introduced a new method for ranking DMUs:

$$\begin{aligned}
& \max. \sum_{r=1}^s u_r Y_{ro} \\
& \text{s.t.} \sum_{i=1}^m v_i X_{io} = 1 \\
& \sum_{r=1}^s u_r Y_{rj} - \sum_{i=1}^m v_i X_{ij} \leq 0, \quad j = 1, 2, \dots, n, j \neq 0 \\
& \tilde{t}^{pq} \leq \frac{v_p}{v_q} \leq \bar{t}^{pq}, \quad p, q = 1, 2, \dots, m, p < q \\
& \hat{t}^{kw} \leq \frac{u_k}{u_w} \leq \check{t}^{kw}, \quad k, w = 1, 2, \dots, s, k < w \\
& u_r, v_i \geq \varepsilon, \quad r = 1, 2, \dots, s, \quad i = 1, 2, \dots, m.
\end{aligned} \tag{15}$$

$DMU_o$  is efficient if the optimal objective function of the previous model is greater than or equal to one.

### 2.7.3 Benchmarking ranking techniques

Sueyoshi et al. [29] proposes a “benchmark approach” for baseball evaluation. This method is the combination of DEA this index is the better rank for corresponding unit will be obtained

$$FPI_k^{IBM} = \frac{(TE_k^{BCC} - STD_k^{IBM})}{STD_k^{IBM}} \tag{16}$$

where  $TE_k^{BCC}$  and  $STD_k^{IBM}$  are, respectively, the efficiency in the BCC model and normalization of  $TE^{IBM}$  of  $DMU_k$ .

A review of network data envelopment analysis has been presented by Kao [30] in 2014. In this paper, the review of the studies on network DEA was based on the network structures of the problems discussed in the focal works, and the models that were developed or applied to them. The structures of NDEA divided into six groups: The first of them is two-stage structures, the second of them is series structures, the third of them is parallel structures, the fourth of the is mixed structures, the fifth is hierarchical structure and the last group of them is dynamic structures.

Suppose a system is composed of  $p$  processes. Other terms, such as subunits, sub-DMUs, divisions, and components have also been used, and this paper use the term processes when there is no ambiguity. Denote  $X_{ij}^{(k)}$  and  $Y_{rj}^{(k)}$  as the  $i$ th input supplied from outside,  $i \in I^{(k)}$ , where  $I^{(k)}$  is the index set of the exogenous inputs used by process  $k$ , and the  $r$ th final output of the system,  $r \in O^{(k)}$ , where  $O^{(k)}$  is the index set of the final outputs produced by process  $k$ ,  $k = 1, 2, \dots, p$ , respectively, of the  $j$ th DMU. Clearly, the sums of  $X_{ij}^{(k)}$  and  $Y_{rj}^{(k)}$  for all

$p$  processes are the system input  $X_{ij}$  and system output  $Y_{rj}$ , respectively, i.e.,  $\sum_{k=1}^p X_{ij}^{(k)} = X_{ij}$  and  $\sum_{k=1}^p Y_{rj}^{(k)} = Y_{rj}$ . Further, let  $Z_{ff}^{(a,k)}$  denote the  $f$ th intermediate product produced by process  $a, f \in M_k$ , where  $M_k$  is the index set of the intermediate products used by process  $k$ , and  $Z_{gj}^{(k,b)}$  denote the  $g$ th intermediate product to be used by process  $b, g \in N_k$ , where  $N_k$  is the index set of the intermediate products produced by process  $k$ . The input-oriented model for measuring the system efficiency can be formulated as:

$$\begin{aligned}
 & \min. \theta \\
 & \text{s.t.} \quad \sum_{j=1}^n \lambda_j^{(k)} X_{ij}^{(k)} + s_i^{- (k)} = \theta X_{io}^{(k)}, \quad i \in I^{(k)}, \quad k = 1, 2, \dots, p \\
 & \quad \sum_{j=1}^n \lambda_j^{(k)} Y_{rj}^{(k)} - s_r^{+ (k)} = Y_{ro}^{(k)}, \quad r \in O^{(k)}, \quad k = 1, 2, \dots, p \\
 & \quad \sum_{j=1}^n \lambda_j^{(k)} Z_{ff}^{(k)} + s_f^{o(k)} = Z_{fo}^{(k)}, \quad f \in M^{(k)}, \quad k = 1, 2, \dots, p \\
 & \quad \sum_{j=1}^n \lambda_j^{(k)} Z_{gj}^{(k)} - s_g^{o(k)} = Z_{go}^{(k)}, \quad g \in N^{(k)}, \quad k = 1, 2, \dots, p \\
 & \quad s_i^{- (k)}, s_r^{+ (k)}, s_f^{o(k)}, s_g^{o(k)}, \lambda_j^{(k)} \geq 0, \quad i \in I^{(k)}, r \in O^{(k)}, f \in M^{(k)}, \\
 & \quad g \in N^{(k)}, j = 1, 2, \dots, n, k = 1, 2, \dots, p.
 \end{aligned} \tag{17}$$

Another way to measure the efficiency of the system is to find the multipliers  $u, v, w$  and  $\hat{w}$  which produce the maximum efficiency under the constraint that the aggregation of the outputs is less than or equal to that of the inputs for all processes. In symbols, this is:

$$\begin{aligned}
 E_o = \max. & \quad \frac{\sum_{r=1}^s u_r Y_{ro}}{\sum_{i=1}^m v_i X_{io}} \\
 & \text{s.t.} \quad \sum_{r \in O^{(k)}} u_r^{(k)} Y_{rj}^{(k)} + \sum_{g \in N^{(k)}} \hat{w}_g^{(k)} Z_{gj}^{(k)} \\
 & \quad - \sum_{i \in I^{(k)}} v_i^{(k)} X_{ij}^{(k)} - \sum_{f \in M^{(k)}} w_f^{(k)} Z_{ff}^{(k)} \leq 0, \quad j = 1, 2, \dots, n, \quad k = 1, 2, \dots, p \\
 & \quad u_r^{(k)}, \hat{w}_g^{(k)}, v_i^{(k)}, w_f^{(k)} \geq 0, \quad r \in O^{(k)}, g \in N^{(k)}, i \in I^{(k)}, f \in M^{(k)} \quad k = 1, 2, \dots, p.
 \end{aligned} \tag{18}$$

The efficiency of process  $k$  is the ratio of the aggregation of its outputs to that of its inputs:

$$E_o^{(k)} = \max. \frac{\sum_{r \in O^{(k)}} u_r^{(k)} Y_{ro}^{(k)} + \sum_{g \in N^{(k)}} \hat{w}_g^{(k)} Z_{go}^{(k)}}{\sum_{i \in I^{(k)}} v_i^{(k)} X_{io}^{(k)} + \sum_{f \in M^{(k)}} w_f^{(k)} Z_{fo}^{(k)}} \quad (19)$$

Models to measure the efficiency of network systems have been developed from these two basic models.

### 3 Literature review of classic DEA models on HSC

According to Parkin and Hollingsworth [31], Pereira [32], Caballer et al. [33], Kumar Mishra [34], Bin et al. [35] and Azadeh et al. [36], "Health is not only a basic need for human survival, but also a common goal of global development". They applied the CCR fractional model (1) and an envelopment model (2) in the papers.

Parkin and Hollingsworth believed that, although DEA has the potential to produce useful information concerning the efficiency of hospitals, this must be considered carefully because of the existence of some unresolved issues. The model used in their paper had a problem common to many health care production frontier analyses - whether statistical or deterministic - in that it used outputs not outcomes. They applied these results in the real study in hospitals of Scotland.

Pereira provided that, exploitation of economies of scale is often argued in favor of blood-bank consolidation into large regional centers, despite a lack of adequate empirical support. This study was aimed at testing the economies of scale hypothesis in a sample of blood centers in the USA.

The fundamental objective of the research work of Caballer et al. is to offer simple tools to measure efficiency in hospitals in the Valencian Community. The importance of analyses the operational efficiency of hospital units has been highlighted in the Introduction.

In the study of Kumar Mishra, the supply chain efficiency is measured by the application of DEA. In this paper, an attempt had been taken to measure the efficiency of the supply chain. He had taken the case of the pharmaceutical industry of India.

Bin et al. applied the DEA in evaluating the efficiency of public hospitals in Tianjin, China. They believed that, public hospitals are the most important components of health systems and account for a large proportion of health resources in China.

In the study of Azadeh et al. presented an integrated approach for analyzing the impact of macro-ergonomics factors in the healthcare supply chain (HCSC) by DEA. The case of this study is the supply chain (SC) of a real hospital.

### 4 Literature review of developed DEA models on HSC

#### 4.1 NDEA model on HSC

There is one paper in the HSC field via NDEA. In this paper that worked by Azbari et al. [37], the NDEA model of Cook et al. [38] under the assumption of constant returns to scale (CRS) had been used and they had developed this model to variable returns to scale (VRS). This paper is the result of research related to supply chain of pharmaceutical companies in Tehran

Stock Exchange and 115 experts and senior executives have been questioned as a sample. They suggested that the overall efficiency in the P stage system is:

$$\theta = \frac{\sum_{p=1}^p \left( \sum_{r=1}^{R_p} u_{pr} z_{pr}^{j_1} + \sum_{k=1}^{S_p} \eta_{pk} z_{pk}^{j_2} \right)}{\left\{ \sum_{i=1}^{I_o} v_{oi} z_{oi}^j + \sum_{p=2}^p \left( \sum_{k=1}^{S_{p-1}} \eta_{p-1k} z_{p-1k}^{j_2} + \sum_{i=1}^{I_p} v_{p-1i} z_{p-1i}^{j_g} \right) \right\}} \quad (20)$$

#### 4.2 SI-DEA and S-DEA models on HSC

Jacobs [39], Azadeh et al [40, 41] and Shwartz et al. [42] believed that, composite measures calculated from individual performance indicators increasingly are used to profile and reward health care providers. They used simulation and stochastic DEA models for evaluating the efficiency of hospitals.

Jacobs developed SDEA models to examine hospital efficiency in the UK. He suggested that, there has been increasing interest in the ability of different methods to rank efficient hospitals over their inefficient counterparts. The UK department of health had used three cost indices to benchmark NHS Trusts. His study used the same dataset and compares the efficiency rankings from the cost indices with those obtained using DEA and stochastic cost frontier analysis (SCF).

Azadeh et al. in 2013 presented that, overcrowding is common problem for emergency departments (ED) and related decision making process. Furthermore, they proposed in 2015, an integrated simulation and DEA approach to increase the quality of service in a neurosurgical intensive care unit (ICU).

In the study of Shwartz et al. the following cases have highlighted:

- 1- DEA is used to develop a composite measure of health care quality.
- 2- An empirical study is carried in US Department of Veterans Affairs nursing homes.
- 3- DEA identifies fewer high performers, but more highly rewards the high performers.
- 4- Advantages of DEA for developing composite measure make it worth pursuing further.
- 5- Monte Carlo resampling with replacement is applied to reflect DEA data uncertainty.

#### 5 Conclusion

This paper provides a review of the status of research on health supply chain applying modeling of DEA. The classic DEA models, the NDEA models as well as the simulation and stochastic DEA models presented in the papers have been assessed. The findings of the paper summarize the status of research on applying modeling techniques DEA in health supply chain.

#### References

1. Charnes, A., Cooper, W.W., Rhodes, E., (1978). Measuring the efficiency of decision making units, *European Journal of Operational Research*, 2, 429–444.

2. Zhu, J., (2003). *Quantitative Models for Performance Evaluation and Benchmarking: Data Envelopment Analysis with Spreadsheets*, Boston: Kluwer Academic Publishers. Färe, R., Grosskopf, S., (2000). Network DEA, *Socio-Economic Planning Sciences*, 34, 35–49.
3. Boloori, F., and Pourmahmoud, J., (2014). A modified SBM-NDEA approach for the efficiency measurement in bank branches, *An International Journal*, doi: 10, 1007- s12351- 051- 0201-1.
4. Boloori, F., Afsharian, M., and pourmahmoud, j., (2014). Equivalent Multiplier and Envelopment DEA models for Measuring Efficiency under General Network Structure's measurement, *Measurement*, 80: 259-269.
5. Pourmahmoud, J., Zeynali, Z., (2016). A nonlinear model for common weights set identification in network Data Envelopment Analysis, *Int. J. Industrial Mathematics*, 8(1), 87-98.
6. Pourmahmoud, J., Zeynali, Z., (2016). DEA Network Structures Sensitivity to Non-Archimedean Epsilon, *Research Journal of Applied Sciences*, 11 (8): 751-758.
7. Sayyad itooranloo, H., Zanjirchi, S, M., Karimi, M., (2017). A Framework for Assessing Organizational Agility Emphasizing the the Role of Information Technology Through Using Network DEA. A Case Study of Ceramic and Tile Industry in Yazd Province, *Journal of Applied Mathematics - Lahijan Azad University*, 14(2), 19-40.
8. Jahani Sayyad Noveiri, M., Kordrostami, S., Amirteimoori, AR., (2017). Cost Efficiency of Closed-Loop Supply Chain in the Presence of Dual-Role and Undesirable Factors, *Journal of New Researches in Mathematics* 3 (9), 5-16.
9. Jahani Sayyad Noveiri, M., Kordrostami, S., Wu, J., Amirteimoori, AR. (2018). Supply chains performance with undesirable factors and reverse flows: A DEA-based approach, *ournal of the Operational Research Society*, 1-11.
10. McKone-Sweet, K.E., Hamilton, P., Willis, S.B., (2005). The ailing healthcare supply chain: a prescription for change, *J. Supply Chain Manag*, 41 (1), 4-17.
11. Kim, D., (2005). An integrated supply chain management system: a case study in healthcare sector, In: *E-Commerce and Web Technologies*, 218-227.
12. Cheng, S.H.J., Whittemore, G.J., (2008). *An Engineering Approach to Improving Hospital Supply Chains*, (Doctoral dissertation, Massachusetts Institute of Technology).
13. MHaszlinnaMustaffa, N., Potter, A, (2009). Healthcare supply chain management in Malaysia: a case study, *Supply Chain Manag, Int. J*, 14 (3), 234-243.
14. Kehrel, U., (2015). The acceptance of process innovations in drug supply-An empirical analysis of patient-individualized blister packaging in stationary nursing facilities, *Int. J. Healthc. Manag*, 8 (1), 58-63.
15. Jahanshahloo, G. R., Hosseinzadeh Lotfi, F., Sanei, M and Fallah Jelodar, M., (2008). Review of Ranking Models in Data Envelopment Analysis, *Applied Mathematical Sciences*, 2(29), 1431-1448.
16. Anderson, P., Petersen, N.C., (1993). A procedure for ranking efficient units in data envelopment analysis, *Management science*, 39 (10), 1261-1264.
17. Mehrabian, S, Alirezaee, M.R, Jahanshahloo, G.R., (1999). A complete efficiency ranking of decision making units in data envelopment analysis, *Computational optimization and applications*, 4, 261-266.
18. Saati, M.S, Zarafat Angiz, M, Jahanshahloo, G.R., (1999). A model for ranking decision making units in data envelopment analysis, *Recerca operativa*, 31.
19. Sueyoshi, T., (1999). DEA nonparametric ranking test and index measurement: Slack-adjusted DEA and an application to Japanese agriculture cooperatives, *Omega, INT.J.MGMT.SCI* 27, 315-326.
20. Jahanshahloo, G.R, Sanei, M, Hosseinzadeh Lotfi, F, Shoja, N., (2004). Using the gradient line for ranking DMUs in DEA, *Applied mathematics and computation*, 151(1), 209-219.
21. Hosseinzadeh Lotfi, F., Jahanshahloo, G.R., Memariani, A., (2000). A method for finding common set of weights by multiple objective Programming in data envelopment analysis, *Southwest journal of pure and applied mathematics*, 1, 44-54.
22. Jahanshahloo, G.R, Hosseinzadeh Lotfi, F, Shoja, N, Tohidi, G, Razavian, S., (2004). Ranking using norm in data envelopment analysis, *Applied mathematics and computational*, 153 (1), 215-224.
23. Sarkis, j., Zhu, Q., Lai, K., (2011). An organizational theoretic review of green supply chain management literature, *Int. J. Production Economics*, 130 (2011), 1–15.
24. Seuring, S., (2013). A review of modeling approaches for sustainable supply chain management, *Decision Support Systems* 54 (2013) 1513–1520.
25. Hosseinzadeh Lotfi, F., Jahanshahloo, G.R, Khodabakhshi, M., Rostamy-Malkhlifeh, M., Moghaddas, Z., Vaez-Ghasemi, M., (2013). A Review of Ranking Models in Data Envelopment Analysis, *Hindawi Publishing Corporation Journal of Applied Mathematics* , Article ID 492421, 20 pages.
26. Sexton, T, R., Silkman, R, H., Hogan, A, J., (1986). Data envelopment analysis: critique and extensions, in *Measuring Efficiency: An Assessment of Data Envelopment Analysis*, R. H. Silkman, Ed, 73–105.

28. Jahanshahloo, G. R., Sanei, M., Shoja, N., (2004). Modified ranking models, using the concept of advantage in data envelopment analysis, working paper.
29. Sueyoshi, T., (1999). DEA non-parametric ranking test and index measurement: slack-adjusted DEA and an application to Japanese agriculture cooperatives, *Omega*, 27(3), 315–326.
30. Kao, C., (2014). Network data envelopment analysis: A review, *European Journal of Operational Research* 239 (2014) 1–16.
31. Parkin, D., Hollingsworth, B., (1997). Measuring production efficiency of acute hospitals in Scotland, 1991e94: validity issues in data envelopment analysis, *Appl. Econ*, 29 (11), 1425-1433.
32. Pereira, A., (2006). Economies of scale in blood banking: a study based on data envelopment analysis, *Blackwell Publishing Ltd. VoxSanguinis*, 90, 308–315.
33. Caballero Tarazona, M., Moya Clemente, I., Vivas Consuelo, D., Barrachina Martínez, I., (2010) . A model to measure the efficiency of hospital performance, *Mathematical and Computer Modelling*, 52, 1095–1102.
34. Kumar Mishra, M., (2012). Measuring supply chain efficiency: A DEA approach, *Journal of Operations and Supply Chain Management*, 5 (1), 45 – 68.
35. Bin, S., Lianyun, Z., Wenxiu, Y., Jingchao, Z., Da, L., Chao, H., (2016). Data Envelopment Analysis on Evaluating the Efficiency of Public Hospitals in Tianjin, China, *Tianjin University and Springer-Verlag Berlin Heidelberg*, 22, 182-188.
36. Azadeh, A., Motevali Haghghi, S., Gaeini, Z., Shabanpour, N., (2016). Optimization of healthcare supply chain in context of macroergonomics factors by a unique mathematical programming approach, *Applied Ergonomics*, 55, 46-55.
37. Ebrahimpour Azbari, M., Olfat, L., Amiri, M., Bamdad Soofi, J., (2014). A Network Data Envelopment Analysis Model for Supply Chain Performance Evaluation: Real Case of Iranian Pharmaceutical Industry, *International Journal of Industrial Engineering & Production Research*, 25(2), 125-137.
38. Cook, W. D., Zhu, J., Bi. Feng, Y., (2010). Network DEA: Additive Efficiency Decomposition, *European Journal of Operational Research*, 207, 1122–1129.
39. Jacobs, R., (2000). Alternative Methods to Examine Hospital Efficiency: Data Envelopment Analysis and Stochastic Frontier Analysis, *CENTRE FOR HEALTH ECONOMICS*.
40. Azadeh, A., Sepahi, M., Motevali Haghghi, S., (2013). An integrated simulation-DEA approach to improve quality care of medical centres, *Int. J. Process Management and Benchmarking*, 3, 352-370.
41. Azadeh, A., Tohidi, H., Zarrin, M., Pashapour, S., Moghaddam, M., (2015). An integrated algorithm for performance optimization of neurosurgical ICUs, *Expert system with application*.
42. Shwartz, M., James, F., Burgess, Jr., Zhu, J., (2016). A DEA Based Composite Measure of Quality and Its Associated Data Uncertainty Interval for Health Care Provider Profiling and Pay-for-Performance, *European Journal of Operational Research*, S0377-2217(16)30102-3.