Management Services: A Magazine of Planning, Systems, and Controls

Volume 4 | Number 6

Article 1

11-1967

Letters

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Recommended Citation

Timmins, B.; Hata, Kyojiro; Levi, Joseph; and Hansen, B. J. (1967) "Letters," *Management Services: A Magazine of Planning, Systems, and Controls*: Vol. 4: No. 6, Article 1. Available at: https://egrove.olemiss.edu/mgmtservices/vol4/iss6/1

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Odds and probabilities

On reading "A Decision Curve for Lease or Buy" by Kyojiro Hata (January-February '67, p. 37) . . . I noticed an apparent error in a table presented on page 42. . . .

The conversion of "odds" to "probabilities" should read as follows:

15:1	6.25%
3:1	25.00%
1:1	50,00%
7:1	12.50%

15:1 6.25%

B. TIMMINS University of Otago Dunedin, New Zealand

Misuse of term

In reply to Mr. Timmins' letter, I think his criticism is well taken and am correcting the table as he suggested. When I constructed the table, I used the term "odds" in the sense of "winning chance." However, this is an apparent misuse of the term "odds." I would

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like to thank Mr. Timmins for his sincere interest in my article. Куојпо Ната Peat, Marwick, Mitchell & Co. Tokyo, Japan

Timely and useful

We want to express our appreciation for your article, "Solution to Medicare Accounting Problems" (July-August, 1967, p. 28). It gave us very timely and useful information.

After our telephone conversation with you, we called [National Cash Register Company and] made arrangements to send [them] our input data... NCR sent back to us all the reports, completely prepared as agreed, the same day they received our basic input form.

In the New York area in the past, all hospitals were submitting cost reports to United Hospital Fund using the step down method. I am quite sure that many hospitals would be inclined automatically to continue submitting the Medicare reports using the step down method as in the past without realizing that they should first try to find out what results the apportionment double method would bring. Your article, therefore, will be very useful to any hospital that wants to obtain this information in an easy way and at a small cost. You should be congratulated for bringing this to the attention of hospitals.

JOSEPH LEVI, Controller The Long Island Jewish Hospital New Hyde Park, New York

More about IMPACT

[My IMPACT system (see letter to the editor September-October '67, p. 3)] was advertised in 1963 in the Armed Forces Management magazine. It also was published in the Proceedings of the Univac Users Association meeting which was held in Chicago in 1963. The best description...is perhaps in the Univac Users Proceedings.

The Navy Department's Bureau of Supplies and Accounts Data Processing Center utilized the IM-PACT system for planning and controlling its ADPS software development in 1962. I do not believe any of the people who have knowledge of IMPACT are still with the Navy.

Some of the PERT principles incorporated in IMPACT are contained in my book, *Practical PERT*, *Including Critical Path Method* (America House, 1001 Vermont Street, N.W., Washington, D.C., 1964), which is in its fifth printing and costs \$4.75 plus 25 cents for mailing.

B. J. HANSEN Vice President John I. Thompson & Company Washington, D.C.

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