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Performance evaluation of R&D active firms

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Abstract: Due to the speed of technology change and development of market, research and development (R&D) firms that are fully (partially) supported by government are playing a vital role in countries around the world. They are viewed as an important and effective anchor of facilitating future product development and economic growth, although it is not often aimed to generate immediate profit. Prior studies have shown that there is no positive linear correlation between the total R&D investment and the R&D growth while it is crucial for policy makers to ensure the performance of supported R&D firms in disseminating innovations. This paper is the first to take a view of R&D firms characteristics located in Belgium. To achieve this, an extensive database has been gathered for a number of years to outline these firms as well as to render a basis to compare them. We then exploit data envelopment analysis (DEA) to gauge the performance of R&D firms to deal with the lack of an effective benchmarking analysis. Such research sets out to lay foundations for the analysis within the pertinent context by creating a classification of the homogeneous firms in the different regions to observe the performance of the R&D firms in a more exhaustive analysis.