Reviewer’s report

Title: Hospital daily outpatient visits forecasting using a combinatorial model based on ARIMA and SES models

Version: 0 Date: 03 Jan 2017

Reviewer: Jingkai Wei

Reviewer's report:

The manuscript presented models that predict daily outpatient visits based on West China Hospital. The topic could be one of significance if models may be widely used for predicting daily outpatients. The models look very nice, and the predictability is good, particularly the Combinatorial model. The models may be useful tools given the accuracy in predicting. For improvement of the paper, there are several points that need to be considered.

First, since West China Hospital is one of the largest hospitals in China, it is doubtful whether the representativeness can be ensured. In other words, are the models generalizable? Can the models also be applied to other similar hospitals in the Sichuan province or other parts of China? If not, then some other elements could be added to the models to make them applicable to different regions and hospitals. Otherwise, the significance of the study is limited.

Second, following the previous point, it is expected that authors may give out suggestions that can be useful for dealing with the situation of the outpatients visiting the hospitals. For example, are the current situation the optimal one? If not, using the models, can we make adjustments to make the frequency of outpatient visit more reasonable in a given period of time? Authors may consider giving this information in the discussion part.

Some minor points:

1. There are some misplacement. For example, the last few sentences in the introduction part may be put in the methods section.

2. The wording of some sentences (e.g. "benefit" in the abstract should be "beneficial", etc.) may be changed.
Are the methods appropriate and well described?
If not, please specify what is required in your comments to the authors.

Yes

Does the work include the necessary controls?
If not, please specify which controls are required in your comments to the authors.

No

Are the conclusions drawn adequately supported by the data shown?
If not, please explain in your comments to the authors.

Yes

Are you able to assess any statistics in the manuscript or would you recommend an additional statistical review?
If an additional statistical review is recommended, please specify what aspects require further assessment in your comments to the editors.

I am able to assess the statistics

Quality of written English
Please indicate the quality of language in the manuscript:

Needs some language corrections before being published

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