

Development of the Flexible Seat Class Assignment Method Based on Demand Estimation

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Most of intercity express trains in Japan provide different seat classes in their economy class cars: (1) Reserved seat, where to seat is fixed and passengers are completely guaranteed to have seating with an additional fare. (2) Non-reserved seat, where to seat is not fixed and passengers can sit anywhere as far as available. The assignment of these classes is usually predetermined. The study tries to develop a flexible seat class assignment method based on demand estimation, which has possibility of increasing the convenience of passengers by decreasing the number of rejection for reservation requests and also increasing revenue of railway companies.