

Article

# Performance of Stochastic Inventory System with a Fresh Item, Returned Item, Refurbished Item, and Multi-Class Customers

K. Jeganathan <sup>1</sup>, S. Selvakumar <sup>1</sup>, S. Saravanan <sup>2</sup>, N. Anbazhagan <sup>3</sup>, S. Amutha <sup>4</sup>, Woong Cho <sup>5</sup>, Gyanendra Prasad Joshi <sup>6,\*</sup> and Joohan Ryoo <sup>7,\*</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Ramanujan Institute for Advanced Study in Mathematics, University of Madras, Chepauk, Chennai 600005, India; kjeganathan@unom.ac.in (K.J.); illoduselvakumar@gmail.com (S.S.)

<sup>2</sup> Madras School of Economics, Chennai 600025, India; profsaran11@gmail.com

<sup>3</sup> Department of Mathematics, Alagappa University, Karaikudi 630003, India; anbazhagann@alagappauniversity.ac.in

<sup>4</sup> Ramanujan Center for Higher Mathematics, Alagappa University, Karaikudi 630003, India; amuthas@alagappauniversity.ac.in

<sup>5</sup> Department of Software Convergence, Daegu Catholic University, Gyeongsan 38430, Korea; wcho@cu.ac.kr

<sup>6</sup> Department of Computer Science and Engineering, Sejong University, Seoul 05006, Korea

<sup>7</sup> Division of International Studies, Hanyang University, Seoul 04763, Korea

\* Correspondence: joshi@sejong.ac.kr (G.P.J.); jhryoo@hanyang.ac.kr (J.R.); Tel.: +82-2-6935-2481 (G.P.J.)

**Abstract:** This paper deals with an integrated and interconnected stochastic queuing-inventory system with a fresh item, a returned item, and a refurbished item. This system provides a multi-type service facility to an arriving multi-class customer through a dedicated channel. It sells fresh and refurbished items, buys used items from customers, refurbishes the used items for resale, and provides a repair service for defective items. The assumption of purchasing a used item from the customer and allowing them to buy a fresh item is a new idea in stochastic queuing-inventory modeling. To do so, this system has four parallel queues to receive four classes of customers and five dedicated servers to provide a multi-type service facility. Customers are classified according to the type of service they require. Each class of arrival follows an independent Poisson process. The service time of each dedicated server is assumed to be exponentially distributed and independent. This system assumes an instantaneous ordering policy for the replenishment of a fresh item. In the long run of this considered system, the joint probability distribution of the seven-dimensional stochastic process, significant system performance measures, and the optimum total cost are to be derived using the Neuts matrix geometric technique. The main objective of the system was to increase the occurrence of all kinds of customers by providing a multi-type service facility in one place. Buying a used item is unavoidable in an emerging society because it helps form a green society. Furthermore, the numerical result shows that the assumption of a system that allows a customer to sell their used item and purchase a new item will increase the number of customers approaching the system.

**Keywords:** multi-type service; parallel queues; resales; repair; refurbishment; instantaneous ordering policy

**MSC:** 60K25



**Citation:** Jeganathan, K.; Selvakumar, S.; Saravanan, S.; Anbazhagan, N.; Amutha, S.; Cho, W.; Joshi, G.P.; Ryoo, J. Performance of Stochastic Inventory System with a Fresh Item, Returned Item, Refurbished Item, and Multi-Class Customers. *Mathematics* **2022**, *10*, 1137. <https://doi.org/10.3390/math10071137>

Academic Editors: Xu Chen, Xiaojun Wang and Zheng Luo

Received: 24 February 2022

Accepted: 26 March 2022

Published: 1 April 2022

**Publisher's Note:** MDPI stays neutral with regard to jurisdictional claims in published maps and institutional affiliations.



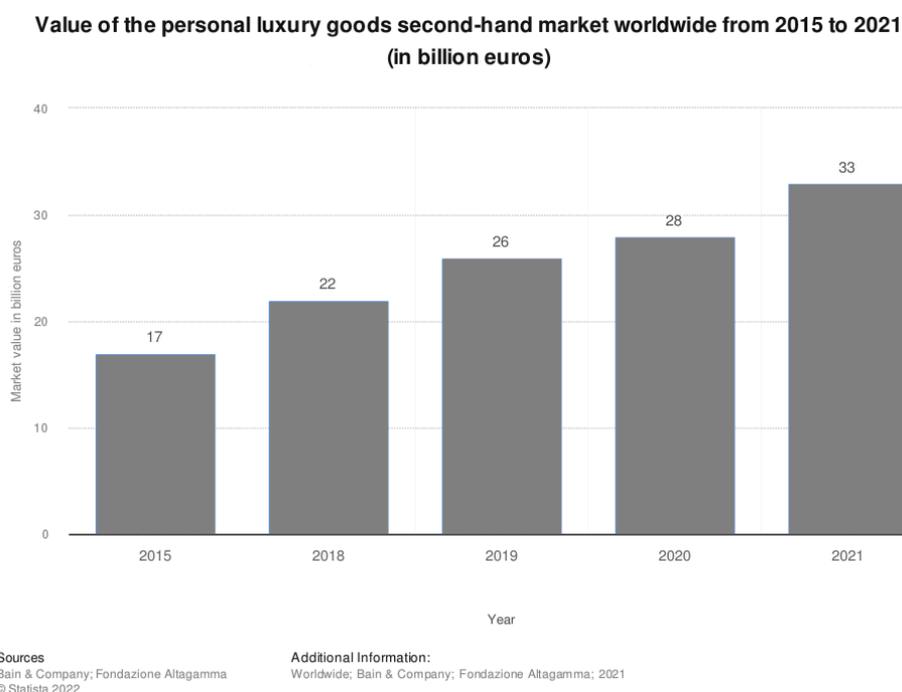
**Copyright:** © 2022 by the authors. Licensee MDPI, Basel, Switzerland. This article is an open access article distributed under the terms and conditions of the Creative Commons Attribution (CC BY) license (<https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/4.0/>).

## 1. Introduction

The use of refurbished (second-hand) products might sound strange to people all over the world. Let us see why many people show their interest in purchasing a refurbished product. Firstly, its price will be a considerable fact for people in an economically low category. Secondly, some of them want to use a refurbished product for temporary use. The purchase of a refurbished product from the second-hand market is shown in Figure 1. The refurbishment process not only concentrates on business points of view, but also helps to form a green society. For example, every refurbished laptop, printer, scanner, server, or

desktop computer you buy is one less piece of equipment going to the toxic waste dump. This is the main objective of discussing the refurbished products.

Generally, the second-hand markets are doing well with the sales of refurbished products. One might ask a question: why can a retailer, wholesaler, or company not sell the refurbished product? Yes, all of us can do it. Are the refurbished products available only on the second-hand market? No, this sale process has been going on smoothly in small businesses too. To conduct such business, the business owner must first be ready to purchase a used product from a customer; however, the used product need not be defective. For example, a person who is already using an old mobile phone. It is working well. They want to buy the new model of mobile phone, but at the same time, they are not willing to keep it. So, they sell their used mobile phone at some fixed price and buy the new one by paying an adequate charge on the same system. The articles discussed earlier on the refurbished products are based on the failed products, and at the same time, they must be purchased in the same system as before (see [1]).



**Figure 1.** The use of a refurbished product in the second-hand market.

To improvise a small business, having only one type of service option is not very helpful, so we need a multi-type service facility. When observing inventory and supply chain management, we understand that they are the foundations of any company's operations. As a result of technological advancements and the availability of process-driven software systems, inventory management has experienced revolutionary changes. All functions are interconnected and integrated with any business or organization, and they frequently overlap. The backbone of the business delivery function is comprised of crucial factors such as supply chain management, logistics, and inventories. As a result, both marketing managers and financial controllers place a high value on these functions (see [2]). For example, it can be easily seen that from a motorcycle showroom that sells new motor vehicles, used motor vehicles (refurbished), provides repair work on the defective motorcycle, and purchases a used motorcycle from the customer all in one place. All these functions are integrated and interconnected in that type of business. These factors impress us enough to propose this stochastic modeling.

### 1.1. Motivation

The author was inspired to create this mathematical model by a real-life experience. The author recently intended to buy a new Hewlett-Packard (HP) laptop by returning his old one (which he had previously purchased) to a branded laptop showroom. The author noticed something intriguing about the functioning of that exhibit room while there. This showroom uses different types of dedicated servers for different types of queues. Actually, the showroom provided service to the consumer by selling new laptops, receiving old laptops and selling new ones, and also selling used laptops through the appropriate queues. They also offered re-service of the repaired laptop at a separate service station with different servers. One server was restoring an acquired old laptop on the inside of a showroom. The author was inspired to make mathematical models of this showroom in the MQIS because of how well it worked and how well it looked.

### 1.2. Purchasing Strategy

However, it is far from certain that every consumer in each queue will purchase the thing they desire. Some clients enter the system and proceed through the service, but at the point when the service is completed, they may elect not to purchase the product. Impulse customers are those who buy the product on the spur of the moment. Although they have no intention of purchasing a product from the shop, there is a potential that they will do so if they are satisfied with the system's service. When looking at the laptop showroom, one can see that not every arriving consumer purchases a laptop owing to a lack of funds, dissatisfaction with the service, product features, and so on. Despite the fact that the suggested MQIS is designed for impulse customers, it will be a generalized model for both customers who purchase a product compulsorily when the probability is 1, and customers who may purchase with a probability value in the range of  $[0, 1)$ .

### 1.3. Return Strategy

A customer returns their old stuff, which does not need to be purchased in the same system. The system assumes that returned products always satisfy the terms and conditions of the system. At the end of the return procedures, the customer can choose to sell the old stuff and buy the new stuff, or leave the system with or without selling the old stuff, based on the probability  $p_1, p_2, p_3$ , where  $p_1 + p_2 + p_3 = 1$ . The old product that the customer returns is called a "returned product". Further, the system assumes that the returned product need not be defective.

### 1.4. Refurbishment Strategy

The returned products are refurbished to their original quality and resold to the market at a markdown price as refurbished products.

### 1.5. Repair Strategy

Customers arrive at the system with their own defective products. The server identifies the fault in the product and starts repair work on it. The system assumes that the server can do repair work for any type of defectiveness that occurs in the product.

### 1.6. Contribution of the Model

The contribution of the paper is listed as follows:

1. This paper concentrates on multi-type service facilities provided by dedicated servers.
2. It analyses the sales of a new product or fresh product, purchases the old or used product from the customer, conducts refurbishing work on the returned product, sells the refurbished product, and repairs the defective product.
3. There are four classes of customers that arrive at the system and they are classified according to their needs. To receive those customers, the system allocates three finite queues and one infinite queue.

4. As in the normal lifestyle, this paper assumes that a customer will purchase the product (fresh or refurbished) if they are satisfied with the service with respect to the Bernoulli schedule.
5. It assumes the instantaneous ordering principle for the replenishment process. The Neuts [3] matrix geometric approach and the logarithmic reduction algorithm are used to derive the stationary probability vector.
6. The numerical illustrations investigate the impact of each queue, server busy, or idle period, and the cost analysis according to the parameter variation.

### 1.7. Novelty of the Model

A customer selling their old product and buying the new product from the system is introduced in the stochastic queuing-inventory modeling. Many articles consider the return of failed products; however, we assume that the returned product need not be defective. In addition, we also encountered the sales service of fresh and refurbished products, defective product repair work, and refurbished work on returned products through the multi-type service facility.

### Design of the Paper

This paper is organized as follows: Reviews of related work are presented in Section 1.8 and the research gap is given in Section 1.9. Section 2 explains the mathematical formulation of the model. The process of the system states is explained in Section 3. Further, it investigates the stability analysis of the model. Following that, Section 4 derives the characteristic metrics of the model, and Section 5 interprets the numerical illustration. Furthermore, in Section 6, a conclusion is presented.

### 1.8. Review of the Related Work

Queuing-inventory theory, one of the fields of operations research, can help businesses make better judgments about how to construct more efficient and cost-effective workflow systems. Since then, to the present, many authors have presented their discussions in the queuing-inventory system (QIS). Very few authors started their analysis of QIS without a service facility. In this connection, the readers can refer to the following papers to know more details regarding the analysis of instantaneous service: Paul Manual et al. [4], Sivakumar [5], Sivakumar [6], Jeganathan et al. [7], and Abdul Reiyas and Jeganathan [8].

This aside, many authors explored their QIS with positive service time or service facilities; however, when observing the practical situation, an instantaneous service facility is not the most suitable one because many supply chain manufacturers, traders, and retailers provide their services to the customers with a positive service time. Not only that, every customer requires a demonstration of the product, a warranty and guarantee on the product, a price and offer on the product, and so on. These customer needs allow us to consider positive service time in this paper. Actually, the work involving service facilities was introduced by Melikov and Molchanov [9] and Sigman and Simchi -Levi [10] in the QIS.

The QIS's single-server service station is the familiar model where most of the researchers developed their academic knowledge. Amirthakodi [11] studied feedback from customers who required a feedback service after completion of the main service with a positive service time in the QIS. Those who required feedback were able to enter an orbit based on the Bernoulli schedule. Jeganathan et al. [12] investigated a single-server QIS with a queue-dependent service rate that was expected to reduce customer waiting time. According to their model, retrial customers are not permitted to obtain their services directly from the orbit. The orbital customer can obtain service through the waiting hall, and their retrial procedure follows the classical retrial policy.

When performing the replenishment process, there are two different approaches to make the order-up-to level: periodic review and continuous review. In such a way, to learn more about periodic review replenishment policies the reader can refer [13,14]. This paper

deals with a continuous review ordering policy. Krishnamoorthy et al. [15] discussed a QIS in which they analyzed two control policies:  $(s, Q)$  and  $(s, S)$  ordering principles. Aside from that, they assumed that the inventory provided to the customer at the end of service completion was not necessary. According to the Bernoulli schedule, the customer has either left the system with or without an item. The central assumption of this paper is that an arriving customer is not permitted to enter the system if the current stock level is zero. The reader can also refer [7] to know more about  $(s, Q)$  and  $(s, S)$  ordering principles.

Up to this point, a review of the literature works is performed on the single server with a single commodity in a QIS. The readers can refer to the recent papers on a single server in [16,17]. Nevertheless, the queuing-inventory literature has expanded with some other extensions: (i) single commodity, multi-class customers, single server; (ii) single commodity, single-class customers, multi-server; (iii) multi-commodity, single-class customers, single server; (iv) multi-commodity, single-class customers, multi-server. Vinitha et al. [18] investigated a QIS with a cancellation of sold items. In addition, the considered system allowed two classes of customers, i.e., ordinary and impulsive customers. Both classes of customers approached the system to purchase the same product. The cancellation of items is accepted when there is at most less than their maximum capacity. Fong-Fan Wang [19] determined the approximation and optimization of multi-server QIS with two types of customers. They are classified as high and low-priority customers whose arrivals occur according to the MAP. They assumed that the low-priority customer had left the system with a Bernoulli reneging probability if they became impatient.

Valentina et al. [20] considered the in-homogeneous customers in the queuing system with a single server under the assumption of priority. Jeganathan and Abdul Reiyas [21] discussed a two-parallel heterogeneous server QIS. The servers are exclusively dedicated to high and low-priority customers, respectively. Among these assumptions, in this paper, the dedicated server 1 and server 2 had offered that they could choose the modified and delayed working vacation options, respectively, upon the interruption. Kingsly et al. [22] provided the study about two server QIS. Even though the system has a dedicated server for the high-priority queue and a flexible server that is able to deliver the service for both queues. Jeganathan et al. [23] gave the compared discussion on the Markovian QIS with server interruption. The distinguished results are given on the basis of two homogeneous and two heterogeneous servers. In addition, the customers from a retrial group approached the system using the classical and constant retrial policies.

Vishnevsky et al. [24] investigated the performance of a priority multi-server queuing system with heterogeneous customers, whereas Klimenok et al. [25] worked on a multi-server queuing system for the retrial queue in which they used a phase-type for the retrial process if the number of customers in orbit is less than the threshold level. Recently, Jeganathan et al. [26] explored the two multi-server service channels in the retrial QIS with homogeneous customers. In this study, they assumed the interconnected arrival would enter the system. This system provided product sales service to the customer via one multi-server service channel. On the other hand, the products' repair service is performed by another multi-server service channel. Any arriving customer who bought a fresh product and required additional service is sent to the second service station. Apart from that, customers who only require repair services for the product can also approach the second service station. Rajkumar et al. [27] looked into an infinite queue multi-server and single-commodity QIS. In this work, the first passage and waiting time analysis is derived analytically for an infinite queue. The reader can refer to the recent papers [28,29] to know more details about the multi-server queuing-inventory system.

Many authors concentrate on single-commodity QIS, while only a few go on to investigate a two-commodity QIS. Sivakumar [5] investigated the two commodity inventory sales with a single server QIS in this regard. In this study, arriving consumers are treated as single-class customers, and both goods are presumed to be interchangeable. Serife Ozkar and Umay Uzunoglu Kocer [30] assumed two classes of clients for the two commodity QIS with a single-server service station in a recent paper. Customers in different classes (priority

and ordinary) require distinct products from the system. The system then replenished both commodities according to the individual ordering policy. The system's service facility is maintained by a single server. Binitha Benny et al. [31] discussed the two commodity QIS with a single server service facility. This system took into account single-class arrivals when purchasing the product. A customer who purchased a product is determined by a certain probability.

In recent days, many customers have focused their attention on purchasing refurbished products instead of purchasing the most expensive fresh products in the consumer market. Zhang et al. [32] studied the refurbishment and quality recovery of returned defective products in a closed-loop supply chain. Zhang et al. [33] determined the retailers' and suppliers' equilibrium decisions on the new product and refurbished product by the divide-and-conquer method. They also discussed how an arriving customer could choose the product when faced with both new and refurbished products at the same time. Consumer returns an unsatisfied product to the retailer with a full refund is considered in He et al. [34]. It is to be resold as a refurbished product to consumers. Tseng-Fung Ho et al. [35] analyzed a problem involving re-manufacturing products in a three-echelon supply chain. At the time of the screening test, some products were found to have failed. These failed products are packed for the re-manufacturer.

Rani et al. [36] studied a refurbished deteriorating item with cannibalization of the green supply chain. Cárdenas-Barrón et al. [37] studied a rework on imperfect quality products with non-linear demand. Very recently, Saranya et al. [1] investigated an inventory problem with a refurbished product. There are two types of customers who arrive in the system. The first type of customers came to the system to return their failed product and obtain a replacement with a new product. The second type of customers arrived to purchase the refurbished product. Sinu Lal et al. [38] examined the multi-type inventory system. The marked Markovian arrivals generated the different types of channels of finite size, which are allocated according to their requirements. Jacob et al. [39] studied the inventory system with one essential item and  $m$  optional items in a random environment. The service time of essential and optional items is assumed to be phase-type and exponentially distributed, respectively.

In the queuing literature, there is an interesting paper that is analyzed using multi-class customers with multi-server service facilities. Van Harten and Sleptchenko [40] considered a  $N$  type of clients whose service rate is assumed to be heterogeneous. Each server is identical and non-dedicated. They are trained to provide service to all classes of customers. Karumbathil Rasmi et al. [41] explored the heterogeneous QIS with heterogeneous inventory access. This is a single-source inventory system; however, there is  $K$  class of customers to purchase the single-source inventory. To accommodate each class of customer, the system has  $K$  waiting spaces with dedicated heterogeneous servers. All classes of customer arrival occur according to the marked MAP. Krishnamoorthy et al. [42] investigated the  $M/M/2$  and  $M/M/3$  QIS with homogeneous servers. This study has crucial assumptions such that the arriving customers' are not allowed when the inventory level is zero. In addition, at the end of service completion, the inventory provided to the customer is not certain. This idea is, of course, to explore a realistic situation in real life. It can be easily seen that not all customers are always ready to purchase the product when they visit the QIS. though some of them may buy it.

Some other interesting papers reported in the literature in a similar domain are [43–45].

### 1.9. Research Gap

There has been no paper published in the existing queuing-inventory literature with an FP, buying the OP from the customer, performing some refurbishing work on it, and selling it back to those who require such products along with a multi-type service facility. This idea is still incomplete along with these three different levels of the same product. This is because many customers are interested in purchasing used products, such as via online shopping organizations that sell used mobile phones, laptop computers, furniture, and so

on. They also offer the customer the opportunity to purchase a new product in exchange for returning a previously purchased product. Some jewelry stores, car dealerships, bike showrooms, and house sales companies, among others, offer sales services for new products, used products, and purchasing old products. So, the concept of buying a new product by selling the old product was not yet discussed in a stochastic QIS. This is also a familiar existing real-life application of the queuing-inventory problem, which has not yet been investigated.

1.10. Model Proposal

We suggest a novel model that investigates the selling of new items, second-hand items (refurbished), and the buying of old products from customers and performs refurbish work on them in order to convert them into refurbished items. The system creates specialized queues for FP, RFP, and OP purchases from customers. Dedicated servers are in charge of all of these diverse tasks. In addition to these tasks, the system also has a separate repair service for people who need their items fixed. They can wait in a separate queue. Figure 2 depicts the graphical representation of the suggested model.

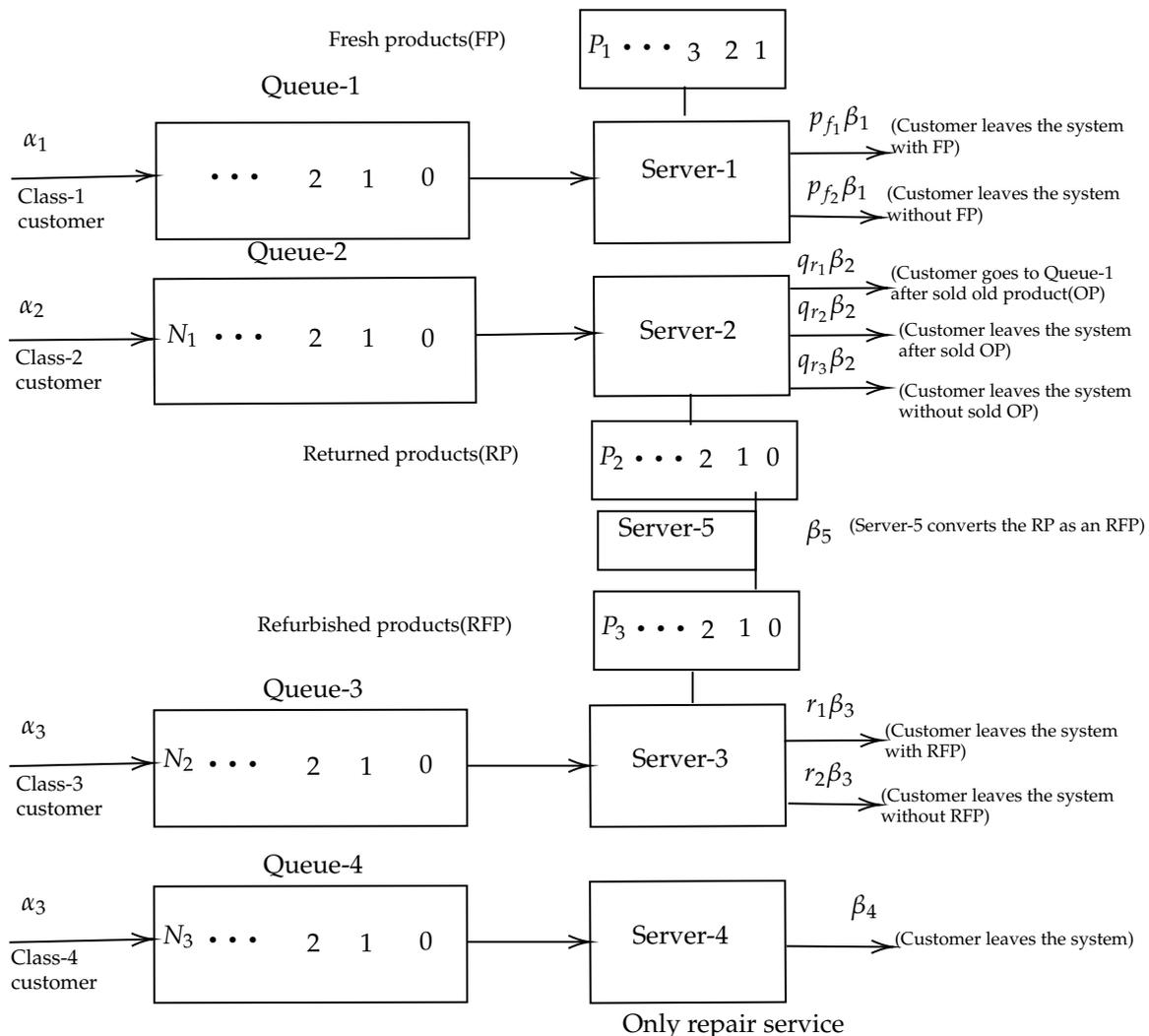


Figure 2. Pictorial representation of the system.

2. The Mathematical Formulation of the Model

This paper considers a multi-type service facility corresponding to multi-class customers with FP, RFP, and OP in an MQIS. In order to keep the products for sales and service procedures, this system divides them into three kinds of storage rooms. Each storage space

has a capacity of a maximum of  $P_1$ ,  $P_2$ , and  $P_3$  products and is labeled as FP, RP, and RFP, respectively. The four parallel queues, Queue- $i$ ,  $i \in S_1^4$ , are of unlimited size,  $N_1$ ,  $N_2$ , and  $N_3$ , respectively. The following actions are performed by the system under consideration:

1. Sales for both FP and RFP.
2. Purchase of OP from the customer.
3. Refurbishes the purchased OP to resell.
4. Provision of re-service to those who just require repair work on the defective product.

The assumption of purchasing a used item from the customer and allowing them to buy a fresh item is a new idea in stochastic queuing-inventory modeling. TaC will play a crucial role in the system for sales of FP, RFP, and the purchase of OP. Each of these three services will be successful only if the customer accepts the TaC of purchasing the required product. Before beginning to provide FP and RFP services to customers, the server will explain to them what the TaC is and how it is used. A customer may decide whether or not to acquire a product under the Bernoulli schedule after reading and comprehending the TaC. As an example, if an OP does not fulfill the TaC of the system, a customer may choose to return and purchase an FP, to only return and leave the system, or to leave the system without returning, taking into consideration the probabilities whose sum is one; however, there is no TaC for performing repair work, and Bernoulli choices are available for receiving such work instead of TaC. With no need for negotiation, all of the RPs purchased are fixed and rebuilt. The RPs purchased have only minor issues, which will be described in detail in the system's TOM, in order for the refurbishing service procedure to run as smoothly as possible.

According to their requirements, the MQIS welcomes four types of customers, each with their own set of requirements. Depending on their needs, for example, if they want to buy an FP, return an OP, buy an RFP, and only need repair service, they are routed to the appropriate queues, which are designated as Queue- $i$ ,  $i \in S_1^4$ . The arrival patterns of all four classes of customers are also classified as Class- $i$ ,  $i \in S_1^4$ , respectively. A Poisson distribution is used to describe the arrival of customers from each class independently. When a customer belongs to a Class- $i$ , his or her intensity rate is specified as  $\alpha_i$ , where  $i \in S_1^4$  is the number of customers. As a result of the limited size of Queue- $i$  where  $i \in S_2^4$ , an arriving customer from the Class- $i$ ,  $i \in S_2^4$  who finds that Queue- $i$  where  $i \in S_2^4$  has reached its maximum capacity is deemed to have lost his or her place in the queue. The following is the system's service description at this point: The system assigns a Server- $i$  where  $i \in S_1^4$  to each Queue- $i$  where  $i \in S_1^4$  in order to provide better service to an arriving Class- $i$  with  $i \in S_1^4$  customers. Due to the fact that each server is a dedicated server, it is expected that they are heterogeneous (i.e., not identical). The performance of each queue is described as follows:

*Performance of Queue-1: FPs are being purchased by customers that have arrived at this queue. For this queue, the mean service completion time is defined as  $\frac{1}{\beta_1}$ . At the end of the service completion of each customer, they decide whether to purchase the product with probability  $p_{f_1}$  or leave the system without purchasing under the probability  $p_{f_2}$  ( $p_{f_2} = 1 - p_{f_1}$ ) according to the satisfaction of the customer.*

*Performance of Queue-2: A customer who wants to sell their used product (OP) to the system goes to Queue-2 and meets Server-2. The average service completion time per customer is denoted as  $\frac{1}{\beta_2}$ . If a customer's OP requires minor repair, Server-2 will purchase it from them. As an example, Server-2 does not purchase the product since it requires extensive repair work. This is due to the violation of TaC. Perhaps Server-2 agrees to purchase the OP from the customer, but Server-2 is unable to do so because the customer can only choose to return their OP and move to Queue-1 to buy an FP with probability  $q_{r_1}$ , returns their OP and leaves the system with probability  $q_{r_2}$ , or leaves the system without returning their OP with probability  $q_{r_3}$ , where  $q_{r_1} + q_{r_2} + q_{r_3} = 1$ . If the allocated storage space for RP's has reached its maximum size  $P_2$ , Server-2 will become idle, and Class-2 customers will be forced to wait in Queue-2 until there are less items than  $P_2$  available for purchase.*

*Performance of Queue-3: To sell the RFP, Server-3 has been assigned to this queue. Aside from that, it is claimed that the RFPs are second-hand items. When a customer is placed in this*

queue, the average service time for that customer is given by the parameter  $\frac{1}{\beta_3}$ . The server provides all the necessary explanations and demonstrations of the product during the servicing procedure. Customers who are happy either purchase the RFP with a probability of  $r_1$  or quit the system without purchasing it with a compliment of  $r_2 = 1 - r_1$ . Suppose there is no RFP in stock, the customer in Queue-3 has to wait until the new RFP arrives.

Performance of Queue-4: Customers' defective items are brought to the dedicated Server-4, which is then assigned to repair or re-service them as necessary. The average service time is specified as  $\frac{1}{\beta_4}$  for these defective products. If there is no customer in the line at this point, Server-4 goes inactive until the next customer arrives.

Furthermore, the process of reconditioning the things that it has purchased in the past is to be executed. This type of service activity is carried out by Server-5. In order to refurbish each OP, an average service time of  $\frac{1}{\beta_5}$  is needed. Server-5 goes inactive until they can find an RFP that is less than  $P_3$  in the storage space. Otherwise, they keep reformulating the OP as RFP. There is no correlation between any of the mean service times and the intensity rate of each server, which is defined as  $\beta_i > 0$  for each of the servers with  $i \in S_1^5$ . All the mean service times are independently exponentially distributed. In addition to that, the replenishment procedure for the FP is to be carried out in accordance with the  $(0, P_1)$  re-ordering (replenishment) concept. Whenever the inventory level drops to zero, then  $P_1$  number of FP replenished immediately. There is an exponential distribution in the amount of time that elapses between two successive reorders.

### 3. Main Results

#### 3.1. Process of the States of the Stochastic Model

According to the assumptions described in Section 2, the process of a proposed model is defined as

$$J_t = \{(J_1(t), J_2(t), J_3(t), J_4(t), J_5(t), J_6(t), J_7(t))\}, \quad t \geq 0.$$

Since  $J_t, t \geq 0$  consists of a family of collection of random variables  $J_i(t), i \in S_1^7, t \geq 0$  depending on any time  $t, J_t, t \geq 0$  is called a seven-dimensional stochastic process with the discrete state space  $K$ . In this stochastic modeling, the sequence of possible events describes that the probability of each future event depends only on the present event and not on the past event,  $J_t, t \geq 0$  is said to be the Markov process. As  $J_t, t \geq 0$  has a continuous time process, it is called a CTMC. This Markov chain holds the property that every state of  $K$  is can be reached from every other state of itself. Thus, the process  $J_t, t \geq 0$  is also said to be an irreducible CTMC.

#### 3.2. Construction of Transition Matrices of the System

The seven-dimensional irreducible CTMC,  $J_t, t \geq 0$  has the infinitesimal generator matrix,

$$\mathbf{B} = \begin{pmatrix} B_0 & B_c & \mathbf{0} & \mathbf{0} & \mathbf{0} & \dots \\ B_a & B_b & B_c & \mathbf{0} & \mathbf{0} & \dots \\ \mathbf{0} & B_a & B_b & B_c & \mathbf{0} & \dots \\ \mathbf{0} & \mathbf{0} & B_a & B_b & B_c & \dots \\ \vdots & \vdots & \vdots & \vdots & \vdots & \ddots \end{pmatrix}, \tag{1}$$

where

$$[B_c]_{\gamma_0} = \begin{matrix} & 1 & 2 & 3 & \dots & P_1 \\ \begin{matrix} 1 \\ 2 \\ 3 \\ \vdots \\ P_1 \end{matrix} & \begin{pmatrix} A_1 & \mathbf{0} & \mathbf{0} & \dots & \mathbf{0} \\ \mathbf{0} & A_1 & \mathbf{0} & \dots & \mathbf{0} \\ \mathbf{0} & \mathbf{0} & A_1 & \dots & \mathbf{0} \\ \vdots & \vdots & \vdots & \ddots & \vdots \\ \mathbf{0} & \mathbf{0} & \mathbf{0} & \dots & A_1 \end{pmatrix} \end{matrix}$$

$$[A_1]_{\gamma_1} = \begin{matrix} & 0 & 1 & 2 & \dots & N_1 - 1 & N_1 \\ \begin{matrix} 0 \\ 1 \\ 2 \\ \vdots \\ N_1 - 1 \\ N_1 \end{matrix} & \begin{pmatrix} \alpha_1 I_{\gamma_2} & \mathbf{0} & \mathbf{0} & \dots & \mathbf{0} & \mathbf{0} \\ A_2 & \alpha_1 I_{\gamma_2} & \mathbf{0} & \dots & \mathbf{0} & \mathbf{0} \\ \mathbf{0} & A_2 & \alpha_1 I_{\gamma_2} & \dots & \mathbf{0} & \mathbf{0} \\ \vdots & \vdots & \vdots & \ddots & \vdots & \vdots \\ \mathbf{0} & \mathbf{0} & \mathbf{0} & \ddots & \alpha_1 I_{\gamma_2} & \mathbf{0} \\ \mathbf{0} & \mathbf{0} & \mathbf{0} & \dots & A_2 & \alpha_1 I_{\gamma_2} \end{pmatrix} \end{matrix}$$

$$[A_2]_{\gamma_2} = \begin{matrix} & 0 & 1 & 2 & 3 & \dots & P_2 \\ \begin{matrix} 0 \\ 1 \\ 2 \\ \vdots \\ P_2 - 1 \\ P_2 \end{matrix} & \begin{pmatrix} \mathbf{0} & q_{r_1} \beta_2 I_{\gamma_3} & \mathbf{0} & \mathbf{0} & \dots & \mathbf{0} \\ \mathbf{0} & \mathbf{0} & q_{r_1} \beta_2 I_{\gamma_3} & \mathbf{0} & \dots & \mathbf{0} \\ \mathbf{0} & \mathbf{0} & \mathbf{0} & q_{r_1} \beta_2 I_{\gamma_3} & \dots & \mathbf{0} \\ \vdots & \vdots & \vdots & \vdots & \ddots & \vdots \\ \mathbf{0} & \mathbf{0} & \mathbf{0} & \mathbf{0} & \dots & q_{r_1} \beta_2 I_{\gamma_3} \\ \mathbf{0} & \mathbf{0} & \mathbf{0} & \mathbf{0} & \dots & \mathbf{0} \end{pmatrix} \end{matrix}$$

$$[B_a]_{\gamma_0} = \begin{matrix} & 1 & 2 & 3 & \dots & P_1 - 1 & P_1 \\ \begin{matrix} 1 \\ 2 \\ 3 \\ \vdots \\ P_1 - 1 \\ P_1 \end{matrix} & \begin{pmatrix} p_{f_2} \beta_1 I_{\gamma_1} & \mathbf{0} & \mathbf{0} & \dots & \mathbf{0} & p_{f_1} \beta_1 I_{\gamma_1} \\ p_{f_1} \beta_1 I_{\gamma_1} & p_{f_2} \beta_1 I_{\gamma_1} & \mathbf{0} & \dots & \mathbf{0} & \mathbf{0} \\ \mathbf{0} & p_{f_1} \beta_1 I_{\gamma_1} & p_{f_2} \beta_1 I_{\gamma_1} & \dots & \mathbf{0} & \mathbf{0} \\ \vdots & \vdots & \ddots & \ddots & \vdots & \vdots \\ \mathbf{0} & \mathbf{0} & \ddots & \ddots & p_{f_2} \beta_1 I_{\gamma_1} & \mathbf{0} \\ \mathbf{0} & \mathbf{0} & \mathbf{0} & \ddots & p_{f_1} \beta_1 I_{\gamma_1} & p_{f_2} \beta_1 I_{\gamma_1} \end{pmatrix} \end{matrix}$$

For  $j_1 = 0$  and  $b$ .

$$[B_{j_1}]_{\gamma_0} = \begin{matrix} & 1 & 2 & 3 & \dots & P_1 \\ \begin{matrix} 1 \\ 2 \\ 3 \\ \vdots \\ P_1 \end{matrix} & \begin{pmatrix} D_1 & \mathbf{0} & \mathbf{0} & \dots & \mathbf{0} \\ \mathbf{0} & D_2 & \mathbf{0} & \dots & \mathbf{0} \\ \mathbf{0} & \mathbf{0} & D_3 & \dots & \mathbf{0} \\ \vdots & \vdots & \vdots & \ddots & \vdots \\ \mathbf{0} & \mathbf{0} & \mathbf{0} & \dots & D_{P_1} \end{pmatrix} \end{matrix}$$

For  $j_2 \in S_1^{P_1}$ .

$$[D_{j_2}]_{\gamma_1} = \begin{matrix} & 0 & 1 & 2 & \dots & N_1 - 1 & N_1 \\ \begin{matrix} 0 \\ 1 \\ 2 \\ \vdots \\ N_1 - 1 \\ N_1 \end{matrix} & \left( \begin{matrix} D_{j_2}^3 & D_{j_2}^1 & \mathbf{0} & \dots & \mathbf{0} & \mathbf{0} \\ D_{j_2}^2 & D_{j_2}^4 & D_{j_2}^1 & \dots & \mathbf{0} & \mathbf{0} \\ \mathbf{0} & D_{j_2}^2 & D_{j_2}^4 & \ddots & \mathbf{0} & \mathbf{0} \\ \vdots & \vdots & \vdots & \ddots & \ddots & \vdots \\ \mathbf{0} & \mathbf{0} & \mathbf{0} & \ddots & D_{j_2}^4 & D_{j_2}^1 \\ \mathbf{0} & \mathbf{0} & \mathbf{0} & \dots & D_{j_2}^2 & D_{j_2}^5 \end{matrix} \right) \end{matrix}$$

$$[D_{j_2}^1]_{\gamma_2} = \begin{matrix} & 0 & 1 & 2 & \dots & P_2 - 1 & P_2 \\ \begin{matrix} 0 \\ 1 \\ 2 \\ \vdots \\ P_2 - 1 \\ P_2 \end{matrix} & \left( \begin{matrix} \alpha_2 I_{\gamma_3} & \mathbf{0} & \mathbf{0} & \dots & \mathbf{0} & \mathbf{0} \\ \mathbf{0} & \alpha_2 I_{\gamma_3} & \mathbf{0} & \dots & \mathbf{0} & \mathbf{0} \\ \mathbf{0} & \mathbf{0} & \alpha_2 I_{\gamma_3} & \dots & \mathbf{0} & \mathbf{0} \\ \vdots & \vdots & \vdots & \ddots & \vdots & \vdots \\ \mathbf{0} & \mathbf{0} & \mathbf{0} & \dots & \alpha_2 I_{\gamma_3} & \mathbf{0} \\ \mathbf{0} & \mathbf{0} & \mathbf{0} & \dots & \mathbf{0} & \alpha_2 I_{\gamma_3} \end{matrix} \right) \end{matrix}$$

$$[D_{j_2}^2]_{\gamma_2} = \begin{matrix} & 0 & 1 & 2 & \dots & P_2 - 1 & P_2 \\ \begin{matrix} 0 \\ 1 \\ 2 \\ \vdots \\ P_2 - 1 \\ P_2 \end{matrix} & \left( \begin{matrix} q_{r_3} \beta_2 I_{\gamma_3} & q_{r_2} \beta_2 I_{\gamma_3} & \mathbf{0} & \dots & \mathbf{0} & \mathbf{0} \\ \mathbf{0} & q_{r_3} \beta_2 I_{\gamma_3} & q_{r_2} \beta_2 I_{\gamma_3} & \dots & \mathbf{0} & \mathbf{0} \\ \mathbf{0} & \mathbf{0} & q_{r_3} \beta_2 I_{\gamma_3} & \ddots & \mathbf{0} & \mathbf{0} \\ \vdots & \vdots & \vdots & \ddots & \ddots & \vdots \\ \mathbf{0} & \mathbf{0} & \mathbf{0} & \dots & q_{r_3} \beta_2 I_{\gamma_3} & q_{r_2} \beta_2 I_{\gamma_3} \\ \mathbf{0} & \mathbf{0} & \mathbf{0} & \dots & \mathbf{0} & \mathbf{0} \end{matrix} \right) \end{matrix}$$

For  $i = 3, 4$  and  $5$ .

$$[D_{j_2}^i]_{\gamma_2} = \begin{matrix} & 0 & 1 & 2 & \dots & P_2 - 1 & P_2 \\ \begin{matrix} 0 \\ 1 \\ 2 \\ \vdots \\ P_2 - 1 \\ P_2 \end{matrix} & \left( \begin{matrix} D_{i1} & \mathbf{0} & \mathbf{0} & \dots & \mathbf{0} & \mathbf{0} \\ D_{2b} & D_{i2} & \mathbf{0} & \dots & \mathbf{0} & \mathbf{0} \\ \mathbf{0} & D_{2b} & D_{i2} & \dots & \mathbf{0} & \mathbf{0} \\ \vdots & \vdots & \vdots & \ddots & \vdots & \vdots \\ \mathbf{0} & \mathbf{0} & \mathbf{0} & \ddots & D_{i2} & \mathbf{0} \\ \mathbf{0} & \mathbf{0} & \mathbf{0} & \dots & D_{2b} & D_{i3} \end{matrix} \right) \end{matrix}$$

$$[D_{2b}]_{\gamma_3} = \begin{matrix} & 0 & 1 & 2 & \dots & N_2 - 1 & N_2 \\ \begin{matrix} 0 \\ 1 \\ 2 \\ \vdots \\ N_2 - 1 \\ N_2 \end{matrix} & \left( \begin{matrix} D_4 & \mathbf{0} & \mathbf{0} & \dots & \mathbf{0} & \mathbf{0} \\ \mathbf{0} & D_4 & \mathbf{0} & \dots & \mathbf{0} & \mathbf{0} \\ \mathbf{0} & \mathbf{0} & D_4 & \dots & \mathbf{0} & \mathbf{0} \\ \vdots & \vdots & \vdots & \ddots & \vdots & \vdots \\ \mathbf{0} & \mathbf{0} & \mathbf{0} & \dots & D_4 & \mathbf{0} \\ \mathbf{0} & \mathbf{0} & \mathbf{0} & \dots & \mathbf{0} & D_4 \end{matrix} \right) \end{matrix}$$

$$[D_4]_{\gamma_4} = \begin{matrix} & 0 & 1 & 2 & 3 & \dots & P_3 \\ \begin{matrix} 0 \\ 1 \\ 2 \\ \vdots \\ P_3-1 \\ P_3 \end{matrix} & \begin{pmatrix} 0 & \beta_5 I_{\gamma_5} & 0 & 0 & \dots & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & \beta_5 I_{\gamma_5} & 0 & \dots & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & \beta_5 I_{\gamma_5} & \dots & 0 \\ \vdots & \vdots & \vdots & \vdots & \ddots & \vdots \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & \dots & \beta_5 I_{\gamma_5} \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & \dots & 0 \end{pmatrix} \end{matrix}$$

For  $j = 1, 2$  and  $3$ .

$$[D_{ij}]_{\gamma_3} = \begin{matrix} & 0 & 1 & 2 & \dots & N_2-1 & N_2 \\ \begin{matrix} 0 \\ 1 \\ 2 \\ \vdots \\ N_2-1 \\ N_2 \end{matrix} & \begin{pmatrix} D_{ij1} & D_{3a} & 0 & \dots & 0 & 0 \\ D_{3b} & D_{ij2} & D_{3a} & \dots & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & D_{3b} & D_{ij2} & \ddots & 0 & 0 \\ \vdots & \vdots & \vdots & \ddots & \ddots & \vdots \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & \ddots & D_{ij2} & D_{3a} \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & \dots & D_{3b} & D_{ij3} \end{pmatrix} \end{matrix}$$

$$[D_{3a}]_{\gamma_4} = \begin{matrix} & 0 & 1 & 2 & \dots & P_3-1 & P_3 \\ \begin{matrix} 0 \\ 1 \\ 2 \\ \vdots \\ P_3-1 \\ P_3 \end{matrix} & \begin{pmatrix} \alpha_3 I_{\gamma_5} & 0 & 0 & \dots & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & \alpha_3 I_{\gamma_5} & 0 & \dots & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & \alpha_3 I_{\gamma_5} & \dots & 0 & 0 \\ \vdots & \vdots & \vdots & \ddots & \vdots & \vdots \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & \dots & \alpha_3 I_{\gamma_5} & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & \dots & 0 & \alpha_3 I_{\gamma_5} \end{pmatrix} \end{matrix}$$

$$[D_{3b}]_{\gamma_4} = \begin{matrix} & 0 & 1 & 2 & \dots & P_3-1 & P_3 \\ \begin{matrix} 0 \\ 1 \\ 2 \\ \vdots \\ P_3-1 \\ P_3 \end{matrix} & \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 0 & 0 & \dots & 0 & 0 \\ r_1 \beta_3 I_{\gamma_5} & r_2 \beta_3 I_{\gamma_5} & 0 & \dots & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & r_1 \beta_3 I_{\gamma_5} & r_2 \beta_3 I_{\gamma_5} & \dots & 0 & 0 \\ \vdots & \vdots & \ddots & \ddots & \vdots & \vdots \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & \ddots & r_2 \beta_3 I_{\gamma_5} & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & \dots & r_1 \beta_3 I_{\gamma_5} & r_2 \beta_3 I_{\gamma_5} \end{pmatrix} \end{matrix}$$

For  $k = 1, 2$  and  $3$ .

$$[D_{ijk}]_{\gamma_4} = \begin{matrix} & 0 & 1 & 2 & \dots & P_3 \\ \begin{matrix} 0 \\ 1 \\ 2 \\ \vdots \\ P_3 \end{matrix} & \begin{pmatrix} D_{ijk}^1 & 0 & 0 & \dots & 0 \\ 0 & D_{ijk}^2 & 0 & \dots & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & D_{ijk}^2 & \dots & 0 \\ \vdots & \vdots & \vdots & \ddots & \vdots \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & \dots & D_{ijk}^3 \end{pmatrix} \end{matrix}$$

For  $l = 1, 2$  and  $3$ .

$$[D^l_{ijk}]_{\gamma_5} = \begin{matrix} & 0 & 1 & 2 & \dots & N_3 - 1 & N_3 \\ \begin{matrix} 0 \\ 1 \\ 2 \\ \vdots \\ N_3 - 1 \\ N_3 \end{matrix} & \begin{pmatrix} d^{l1}_{ijk} & \alpha_4 & \mathbf{0} & \dots & \mathbf{0} & \mathbf{0} \\ \beta_4 & d^{l2}_{ijk} & \alpha_4 & \dots & \mathbf{0} & \mathbf{0} \\ \mathbf{0} & \beta_4 & d^{l2}_{ijk} & \dots & \mathbf{0} & \mathbf{0} \\ \vdots & \vdots & \vdots & \ddots & \vdots & \vdots \\ \mathbf{0} & \mathbf{0} & \mathbf{0} & \dots & d^{l2}_{ijk} & \alpha_4 \\ \mathbf{0} & \mathbf{0} & \mathbf{0} & \dots & \beta_4 & d^{l3}_{ijk} \end{pmatrix} \end{matrix}$$

For  $m = 1, 2$  and  $3$ .

$$d^{lm}_{ijk} = -(\alpha_1 + \bar{\delta}_{i5}\alpha_2 + \bar{\delta}_{k3}\alpha_3 + \bar{\delta}_{m3}\alpha_4 + \bar{\delta}_{j10}\beta_1 + \bar{\delta}_{i3}\bar{\delta}_{j3}\beta_2 + \bar{\delta}_{l1}\bar{\delta}_{k1}\beta_3 + \bar{\delta}_{m1}\beta_4 + \bar{\delta}_{l3}\bar{\delta}_{j1}\beta_5).$$

### 3.3. Explanation of the Transition Rates of the System

The parameter  $\alpha_i, i \in S^4_1$ , indicates that the transition of Class- $i, i \in S^4_1$  customer enters into the corresponding Queue- $i, i \in S^4_1$ , respectively. The transitions of  $\alpha_i, i \in S^4_1$  are defined as follows:

- $(j_1, j_2, j_3, j_4, j_5, j_6, j_7) \xrightarrow{\alpha_1} (j_1 + 1, j_2, j_3, j_4, j_5, j_6, j_7)$ , if  $j_1 \in \mathbb{Z}^+, j_2 \in S^P_1, j_3 \in S^N_0, j_4 \in S^P_2, j_5 \in S^N_2, j_6 \in S^P_3, j_7 \in S^N_3$ .
- $(j_1, j_2, j_3, j_4, j_5, j_6, j_7) \xrightarrow{\alpha_2} (j_1, j_2, j_3 + 1, j_4, j_5, j_6, j_7)$ , if  $j_1 \in \mathbb{Z}^+, j_2 \in S^P_1, j_3 \in S^N_0, j_4 \in S^P_2, j_5 \in S^N_2, j_6 \in S^P_3, j_7 \in S^N_3$ .
- $(j_1, j_2, j_3, j_4, j_5, j_6, j_7) \xrightarrow{\alpha_3} (j_1, j_2, j_3, j_4, j_5 + 1, j_6, j_7)$ , if  $j_1 \in \mathbb{Z}^+, j_2 \in S^P_1, j_3 \in S^N_0, j_4 \in S^P_2, j_5 \in S^N_2, j_6 \in S^P_3, j_7 \in S^N_3$ .
- $(j_1, j_2, j_3, j_4, j_5, j_6, j_7) \xrightarrow{\alpha_4} (j_1, j_2, j_3, j_4, j_5, j_6, j_7 + 1)$ , if  $j_1 \in \mathbb{Z}^+, j_2 \in S^P_1, j_3 \in S^N_0, j_4 \in S^P_2, j_5 \in S^N_2, j_6 \in S^P_3, j_7 \in S^N_3$ .

The transition of a customer in Queue-1 leaves the system after their service completion with an FP or without FP is defined as follows:

- $(j_1, j_2, j_3, j_4, j_5, j_6, j_7) \xrightarrow{p_{f_1}\beta_1} (j_1 - 1, P_1, j_3, j_4, j_5, j_6, j_7)$ , if  $j_1 \in \mathbb{Z}^+ - \{0\}, j_2 \in S^P_1, j_3 \in S^N_0, j_4 \in S^P_2, j_5 \in S^N_2, j_6 \in S^P_3, j_7 \in S^N_3$ .
- $(j_1, j_2, j_3, j_4, j_5, j_6, j_7) \xrightarrow{p_{f_1}\beta_1} (j_1 - 1, j_2 - 1, j_3, j_4, j_5, j_6, j_7)$ , if  $j_1 \in \mathbb{Z}^+ - \{0\}, j_2 \in S^P_2, j_3 \in S^N_0, j_4 \in S^P_2, j_5 \in S^N_2, j_6 \in S^P_3, j_7 \in S^N_3$ .
- $(j_1, j_2, j_3, j_4, j_5, j_6, j_7) \xrightarrow{p_{f_2}\beta_1} (j_1 - 1, j_2, j_3, j_4, j_5, j_6, j_7)$ , if  $j_1 \in \mathbb{Z}^+ - \{0\}, j_2 \in S^P_1, j_3 \in S^N_0, j_4 \in S^P_2, j_5 \in S^N_2, j_6 \in S^P_3, j_7 \in S^N_3$ .

The transition of Class-2 customer leaves from Queue-2 after their service completion is calculated as follows:

- $(j_1, j_2, j_3, j_4, j_5, j_6, j_7) \xrightarrow{q_{r_1}\beta_2} (j_1 + 1, j_2, j_3 - 1, j_4 + 1, j_5, j_6, j_7)$ , if  $j_1 \in \mathbb{Z}^+, j_2 \in S^P_1, j_3 \in S^N_1, j_4 \in S^P_2, j_5 \in S^N_2, j_6 \in S^P_3, j_7 \in S^N_3$ .
- $(j_1, j_2, j_3, j_4, j_5, j_6, j_7) \xrightarrow{q_{r_2}\beta_2} (j_1, j_2, j_3 - 1, j_4 + 1, j_5, j_6, j_7)$ , if  $j_1 \in \mathbb{Z}^+, j_2 \in S^P_1, j_3 \in S^N_1, j_4 \in S^P_2, j_5 \in S^N_2, j_6 \in S^P_3, j_7 \in S^N_3$ .
- $(j_1, j_2, j_3, j_4, j_5, j_6, j_7) \xrightarrow{q_{r_3}\beta_2} (j_1, j_2, j_3 - 1, j_4, j_5, j_6, j_7)$ , if  $j_1 \in \mathbb{Z}^+, j_2 \in S^P_1, j_3 \in S^N_1, j_4 \in S^P_2, j_5 \in S^N_2, j_6 \in S^P_3, j_7 \in S^N_3$ .

The transition of Class-3 customer leaves from Queue-3 after their service completion is given by

- $(j_1, j_2, j_3, j_4, j_5, j_6, j_7) \xrightarrow{r_1\beta_3} (j_1, j_2, j_3, j_4, j_5 - 1, j_6 - 1, j_7)$ , if  $j_1 \in \mathbb{Z}^+, j_2 \in S^P_1, j_3 \in S^N_1, j_4 \in S^P_2, j_5 \in S^N_2, j_6 \in S^P_3, j_7 \in S^N_3$ .

- $(j_1, j_2, j_3, j_4, j_5, j_6, j_7) \xrightarrow{r_2\beta_3} (j_1, j_2, j_3, j_4, j_5 - 1, j_6, j_7)$ , if  $j_1 \in \mathbb{Z}^+, j_2 \in S_1^{P_1}, j_3 \in S_1^{N_1}, j_4 \in S_0^{P_2}, j_5 \in S_1^{N_2}, j_6 \in S_1^{P_3}, j_7 \in S_0^{N_3}$ .

The transition of Class-4 customer leaves from Queue-4 after their service completion is given by

- $(j_1, j_2, j_3, j_4, j_5, j_6, j_7) \xrightarrow{\beta_4} (j_1, j_2, j_3, j_4, j_5, j_6, j_7 - 1)$ , if  $j_1 \in \mathbb{Z}^+, j_2 \in S_1^{P_1}, j_3 \in S_1^{N_1}, j_4 \in S_0^{P_2}, j_5 \in S_0^{N_2}, j_6 \in S_0^{P_3}, j_7 \in S_1^{N_3}$ .

The transition of Server-5 refurbishes the RP as the RFP is defined as

- $(j_1, j_2, j_3, j_4, j_5, j_6, j_7) \xrightarrow{\beta_5} (j_1, j_2, j_3, j_4 - 1, j_5, j_6 + 1, j_7)$ , if  $j_1 \in \mathbb{Z}^+, j_2 \in S_1^{P_1}, j_3 \in S_1^{N_1}, j_4 \in S_1^{P_2}, j_5 \in S_0^{N_2}, j_6 \in S_0^{P_3-1}, j_7 \in S_0^{N_3}$ .

Along with these transitions, the diagonal element of the diagonal block matrices in the infinitesimal generator matrix is filled by the sum of all elements in the corresponding row of the **B** with a minus sign in order to ensure that the row sum is equal to zero; therefore, combining all the stated transitions in Section 3.2 and collecting them into their corresponding block matrices, we obtain the infinitesimal generator matrix, **B** as in (1).

### 3.4. Stability Analysis of the Model

#### Calculation of Stability Condition

According to Neuts [3] the matrix geometric approach to resolve the seven-dimensional Markov chain  $J_t, t \geq 0$ , we need to compute the stability condition of a proposed system. When observing the structure of infinitesimal generator matrix **B**, the block matrices  $B_a, B_b$ , and  $B_c$  are remain unaltered from state  $j_1 = 1$  on wards. In such a state, we construct a generator matrix,  $\mathbb{B} = B_a + B_b + B_c$ , which is given by

$$\mathbb{B} = \begin{cases} \bar{D}_{j_2} & j'_2 = j_2, j_2 \in S_1^{P_1} \\ F_2 & j'_2 = j_2, j_2 \in S_2^{P_1} \\ F_2 & j'_2 = P_1, j_2 = 1 \\ \mathbf{0} & \text{Otherwise.} \end{cases}$$

where  $\bar{D}_{j_2} = D_{j_2} + A_1, j_2 \in S_1^{P_1}$ , and  $F_2 = p_{f_1}\beta_1 I_{\gamma_1}$  are used to perform the stability condition of the system. Before computing the stability condition, we require a steady-state probability vector,  $\mathbf{y} = (y^{(1)}, y^{(2)}, \dots, y^{(P_1)})$  to the generator matrix,  $\mathbb{B}$ . Thus the computation of  $\mathbf{y}$  needs the following Lemma:

**Lemma 1.** The steady-state probability vector,  $\mathbf{y}$  to the generator matrix,  $\mathbb{B}$  is given by

$$y^{(j_2)} = y^{(1)}\Gamma_{j_2}, \quad j_2 \in S_1^{P_1}, \tag{2}$$

where,

$$\Gamma_{j_2} = \begin{cases} I, & j_2 = 1 \\ (-1)^{P_1-j_2+1} \prod_{j=j_2}^{P_1} (F_2\bar{D}_j^{-1}), & j_2 \in S_2^{P_1} \end{cases}$$

and  $y^{(1)}$  is determined by solving the equations

$$y^{(1)}[\bar{D}_1 + (-1)^{P_1-1} \prod_{j=2}^{P_1} (F_2\bar{D}_j^{-1})F_2] = \mathbf{0}, \tag{3}$$

$$\sum_{j_2=1}^{P_1} y^{(j_2)} \mathbf{e} = 1. \tag{4}$$

**Proof.** The steady-state probability vector  $\mathbf{y}$  satisfies the following equations:

$$\mathbf{y}\mathbb{B} = \mathbf{0}, \tag{5a}$$

$$\mathbf{y}\mathbf{e} = 1. \tag{5b}$$

In Equation (5a), writing  $\mathbf{y}$  and  $\mathbb{B}$  explicitly and simplifying it, we obtain the  $P_1$  set of system of homogeneous equations as follows:

$$y^{(j_2)}\bar{D}_{j_2} + y^{(j_2+1)}F_2 = \mathbf{0}, \quad j_2 \in S_1^{P_1-1} \tag{6}$$

$$y^{(1)}F_2 + y^{(j_2)}\bar{D}_{j_2} = \mathbf{0}, \quad j_2 = P_1. \tag{7}$$

By solving the system of Equations (6) and (7) recursively from the backward substitution method, we obtain all the steady-state probability vector  $y^{(j_2)}, j_2 \in S_2^{P_1}$ , in terms of initial steady-state probability vector,  $y^{(1)}$  to the generator matrix, and  $\mathbb{B}$  as in Equation (2). Further, to compute  $y^{(1)}$ , we solve the below system of equations  $y^{(1)}\bar{D}_1 + y^{(2)}F_2 = \mathbf{0}$  by applying the value of  $y^{(2)}$  from (2) and subject to the normalizing condition as stated in (5b), Equations (3) and (4) are obtained, respectively.  $\square$

**Lemma 2.** The stability condition of the Markov process  $J_t, t \geq 0$  is given by

$$y^{(1)}\mu_1 I_{\gamma_1} \mathbf{e} > y^{(1)} A_1 \mathbf{e}. \tag{8}$$

**Proof.** The stability of a proposed system is to be verified by referring Neuts [3] standard results of stability condition

$$\mathbf{y}B_a \mathbf{e} > \mathbf{y}B_c \mathbf{e}. \tag{9}$$

Applying Lemma 1 in the inequality (9) and writing all  $\mathbf{y}, B_a, B_c$  and  $\mathbf{e}$  explicitly, and simplifying it, the required stability condition stated in the inequality (8) is obtained.  $\square$

### 3.5. Calculation of R-Matrix

After verifying the stability of Markov process  $J_t, t \geq 0$ , the computation of rate matrix  $R$  will have a significant attention to find a steady-state probability vector,  $\Omega = (\Omega^{(0)}, \Omega^{(1)}, \dots)$  to the infinitesimal generator matrix,  $\mathbf{B}$ . The following lemma gives the  $R$ -matrix.

**Lemma 3.** The rate matrix  $R$  of the seven-dimensional Markov process  $J_t, t \geq 0$  can be determined by

$$B_a R^2 + B_b R + B_c = \mathbf{0}, \tag{10}$$

where  $R$  is the minimal non-negative solution of the matrix quadratic equation defined by

$$R = \begin{matrix} & \begin{matrix} 1 & 2 & 3 & \dots & P_1 \end{matrix} \\ \begin{matrix} 1 \\ 2 \\ 3 \\ \vdots \\ P_1 \end{matrix} & \left( \begin{matrix} R^{11} & R^{12} & R^{13} & \dots & R^{1P_1} \\ R^{21} & R^{22} & R^{23} & \dots & R^{2P_1} \\ R^{31} & R^{32} & R^{33} & \dots & R^{3P_1} \\ \vdots & \vdots & \vdots & \dots & \vdots \\ R^{P_1 1} & R^{P_1 2} & R^{P_1 3} & \dots & R^{P_1 P_1} \end{matrix} \right) \end{matrix} \tag{11}$$

**Proof.** Due to the block tridiagonal structure of the infinitesimal generator matrix,  $\mathbf{B}$ , the rate matrix  $R$  satisfies the matrix quadratic Equation (10). Initially, the unknown  $R$ -matrix is assumed to be in (11). Indeed, the structure of the  $R$ -matrix is identified by observing the number of non-zero rows exist in the  $B_c$  matrix. Since the  $B_c$  matrix has at-least one non-zero entry in each row, all the rows of  $R$ -matrix are to be considered as non-zero rows.

According to these assumptions, the unknown  $R$ -matrix is structured as in (11). Now, expanding all the block matrices in Equation (10), we obtain the following set of non-linear systems of homogeneous equations:

if  $i = j$ , and  $i, j \in S_1^{P_1-1}$

$$R^{ij}D_{(j)} + A_1 + \sum_{k=1}^{P_1} R^{ik}R^{kj}p_{f_2}\beta_1I_{\gamma_1} + \sum_{k=1}^{P_1} R^{ik}R^{kj+1}p_{f_1}\beta_1I_{\gamma_1} = \mathbf{0}, \tag{12}$$

if  $i = j$ , and  $i, j \in S_1^{P_1}$

$$R^{ij}D_{(j)} + A_1 + \sum_{k=1}^{P_1} R^{ik}R^{k1}p_{f_1}\beta_1I_{\gamma_1} + \sum_{k=1}^{P_1} R^{ik}R^{kj}p_{f_2}\beta_1I_{\gamma_1} = \mathbf{0}, \tag{13}$$

if  $i \neq j$ , and  $i \in S_1^{P_1}$

$$\sum_{k=1}^{P_1} R^{ik}R^{kj}p_{f_2}\beta_1I_{\gamma_1} + \sum_{k=1}^{P_1} R^{ik}R^{kj+1}p_{f_1}\beta_1I_{\gamma_1} = \mathbf{0}, \quad j \in S_1^{P_1-1}, \tag{14}$$

if  $i \neq j$ , and  $i \in S_1^{P_1-1}$

$$\sum_{k=1}^{P_1} R^{ik}R^{k1}p_{f_1}\beta_1I_{\gamma_1} + \sum_{k=1}^{P_1} R^{ik}R^{kj}p_{f_2}\beta_1I_{\gamma_1} = \mathbf{0}, \quad j \in S_1^{P_1}. \tag{15}$$

The obtained Equations (12)–(15) are solved by Gauss–Seidal iterative process in order to obtain each  $R^{ij}, i, j \in S_1^{P_1}$  in the  $R$ -matrix. □

**Remark 1.** The  $R$ -matrix can also be obtained using logarithmic reduction algorithm (LRA), which is referred to by Latouche and Ramaswamy (see [46,47]):

Step (i):  $R_1 \leftarrow -B_b^{-1}B_c, R_2 \leftarrow -B_b^{-1}B_a, R_3 = R_2$  and  $R_4 = R_1$

Step (ii):

$$\begin{aligned} R_5 &= R_1R_2 + R_2R_1 \\ R_6 &= R_1^2 \\ R_1 &\leftarrow (I - R_5)^{-1}R_6 \\ R_6 &\leftarrow R_2^2 \\ R_2 &\leftarrow (I - R_5)^{-1}R_6 \\ R_3 &\leftarrow R_3 + R_4R_2 \\ R_4 &\leftarrow R_4R_1 \end{aligned}$$

Continue Step (i) until  $\|\mathbf{e} - R_3\mathbf{e}\|_\infty < \epsilon$ .

Step (iii):  $R = -B_c(B_b + B_cR_3)^{-1}$ .

### Limiting Probability Criterion

From the infinitesimal generator matrix  $\mathbf{B}$  as in Equation (1), the seven-dimensional Markov process  $J_t, t \geq 0$  with the state space  $K$  is regular. Hence, the limiting probability criterion

$$\begin{aligned} \Omega^{(j_1, j_2, j_3, j_4, j_5, j_6, j_7)} &= \lim_{t \rightarrow \infty} Pr[J_1(t) = j_1, J_2(t) = j_2, J_3(t) = j_3, J_4(t) = j_4, J_5(t) = j_5, J_6(t) = j_6, \\ &J_7(t) = j_7 | J_1(0), J_2(0), J_3(0), J_4(0), J_5(0), J_6(0), J_7(0)], \end{aligned}$$

exists and it is never dependent on the initial state.

Then  $\Omega = (\Omega^{(0)}, \Omega^{(1)}, \dots)$  preserves

$$\Omega \mathbf{B} = \mathbf{0} \tag{16a}$$

$$\text{and } \Omega \mathbf{e} = \mathbf{1}. \tag{16b}$$

The partition of  $\Omega^{(j_1)}$  is

$$\begin{aligned} \Omega^{(j_1)} &= (\Omega^{(j_1,1)}, \Omega^{(j_1,2)}, \dots, \Omega^{(j_1, P_1)}), j_1 \in \mathbb{Z}^+ \\ \Omega^{(j_1, j_2)} &= (\Omega^{(j_1, j_2, 0)}, \Omega^{(j_1, j_2, 1)}, \dots, \Omega^{(j_1, j_2, N_1)}), j_1 \in \mathbb{Z}^+; j_2 \in S_1^{P_1}. \\ \Omega^{(j_1, j_2, j_3)} &= (\Omega^{(j_1, j_2, j_3, 0)}, \Omega^{(j_1, j_2, j_3, 1)}, \dots, \Omega^{(j_1, j_2, j_3, P_2)}), j_1 \in \mathbb{Z}^+; j_2 \in S_1^{P_1}; j_3 \in S_0^{N_1}. \\ \Omega^{(j_1, j_2, j_3, j_4)} &= (\Omega^{(j_1, j_2, j_3, j_4, 0)}, \Omega^{(j_1, j_2, j_3, j_4, 1)}, \dots, \Omega^{(j_1, j_2, j_3, j_4, N_2)}), j_1 \in \mathbb{Z}^+; j_2 \in S_1^{P_1}; \\ & \hspace{15em} j_3 \in S_0^{N_1}; j_4 \in S_0^{P_2}. \\ \Omega^{(j_1, j_2, j_3, j_4, j_5)} &= (\Omega^{(j_1, j_2, j_3, j_4, j_5, 0)}, \Omega^{(j_1, j_2, j_3, j_4, j_5, 1)}, \dots, \Omega^{(j_1, j_2, j_3, j_4, j_5, P_3)}), j_1 \in \mathbb{Z}^+; j_2 \in S_1^{P_1}; \\ & \hspace{15em} j_3 \in S_0^{N_1}; j_4 \in S_0^{P_2}; j_5 \in S_0^{N_2}. \\ \Omega^{(j_1, j_2, j_3, j_4, j_5, j_6)} &= (\Omega^{(j_1, j_2, j_3, j_4, j_5, j_6, 0)}, \Omega^{(j_1, j_2, j_3, j_4, j_5, j_6, 1)}, \dots, \Omega^{(j_1, j_2, j_3, j_4, j_5, j_6, N_3)}), j_1 \in \mathbb{Z}^+; \\ & \hspace{15em} j_2 \in S_1^{P_1}; j_3 \in S_0^{N_1}; j_4 \in S_0^{P_2}; j_5 \in S_0^{N_2}; j_6 \in S_0^{P_3}. \end{aligned}$$

3.6. Calculation of Stationary Probability Vector

**Theorem 1.** If the seven-dimensional Markov process  $J_t, t \geq 0$  satisfies the stability condition given in Lemma 2, then the steady-state probability vector  $\Omega$  is given by

$$\Omega^{(j_1)} = \Omega^{(0)} R^{j_1}, j_1 \in \mathbb{Z}^+ \tag{17}$$

where the matrix  $R$  satisfies Equation (10) and the initial steady-state probability vector  $\Omega^{(0)}$  satisfies

$$\Omega^{(0)} (B_0 + RB_a) = \mathbf{0} \tag{18a}$$

and subject to the normalizing condition

$$\Omega^{(0)} (I - R)^{-1} \mathbf{e} = \mathbf{1}. \tag{18b}$$

**Proof.** According to the Neuts [3] Matrix geometric approach, the steady-state probability vector  $\Omega$  of the seven-dimensional Markov process  $J_t, t \geq 0$  satisfies Equations (16a) and (16b). By Equation (16a), we have

$$\Omega^{(j_1)} B_0 + \Omega^{(j_1+1)} B_a = \mathbf{0}, j_1 = 0 \tag{19a}$$

$$\Omega^{(j_1)} B_c + \Omega^{(j_1+1)} B_b + \Omega^{(j_1+2)} B_a = \mathbf{0}, j_1 \in \mathbb{Z}^+. \tag{19b}$$

When observing Equations (19b) and  $j_1 \in \mathbb{Z}^+$ , the block matrices  $B_a, B_b$ , and  $B_c$  remain unchanged from their original structure. Thus, the steady-state probability vectors,  $\Omega^{(j_1)}, j_1 \in \mathbb{Z}^+$  is dependent only on the initial steady-state probability vector,  $\Omega^{(0)}$  and  $R$ -matrix where  $R$  is the minimal non-negative solution of Equation (10) from Lemma 3; therefore, Equation (17) is achieved. Then, applying the value of  $\Omega^{(1)}$  in Equation (19a), we obtain Equation (18a). Further, substituting all the  $\Omega^{(j_1)}, j_1 \in \mathbb{Z}^+$  values that are obtained from Equation (17) in Equation (16b), Equation (18b) is to be obtained. To compute the value of  $\Omega^{(0)}$ , we need the following lemma:

**Lemma 4.** The initial steady-state probability vector,  $\Omega^{(0)}$  is obtained by solving Equations (18a) and (18b).

**Proof.** From Equation (18a) and simplifying it, we obtain the set of non-linear following equations:

$$\sum_{j_1=1}^{P_1} \Omega^{(0,j_1)} [\beta_1 I_{\gamma_1} (R^{j_1 k} p_2 + R^{j_1 k+1} p_1) + \delta_{k j_1} D_{j_1}] = \mathbf{0}, k \in S_1^{P_1-1} \tag{20a}$$

$$\sum_{j_1=1}^{P_1} \Omega^{(0,j_1)} [\beta_1 I_{\gamma_1} (R^{j_1 1} p_2 + R^{j_1 P_1} p_1) + \delta_{P_1 j_1} D_{P_1}] = \mathbf{0}. \tag{20b}$$

By solving the  $P_1$  set of Equations (20a) and (20b) using Gauss–Seidal iterative process with subject to the normalizing condition as in (16b), we obtain the initial steady-state probability vector  $\Omega^{(0)}$ . □

By Lemmas 3 and 4, all the steady-state probability vector  $\Omega^{(j_1)}, j_1 \in \mathbb{Z}^+$  of the seven-dimensional stochastic process  $J_t, t \geq 0$  as in (17) is achieved. □

**4. Expected Performance Measures of the System (EPMS)**

*4.1. Computation of Expected Current Number of Products in the System*

- The expected current number of fresh items in the system is defined as

$$E_{FP} = \sum_{j_1=0}^{\infty} \sum_{j_2=1}^{P_1} j_2 \Omega^{(j_1, j_2)} \mathbf{e}.$$

- The expected current number of returned items in the system is defined as

$$E_{RP} = \sum_{j_1=0}^{\infty} \sum_{j_2=1}^{P_1} \sum_{j_3=0}^{N_1} \sum_{j_4=1}^{P_2} j_4 \Omega^{(j_1, j_2, j_3, j_4)} \mathbf{e}.$$

- The expected current number of refurbished items in the system is defined as

$$E_{RFP} = \sum_{j_1=0}^{\infty} \sum_{j_2=1}^{P_1} \sum_{j_3=0}^{N_1} \sum_{j_4=0}^{P_2} \sum_{j_5=0}^{N_2} \sum_{j_6=1}^{P_3} \sum_{j_7=0}^{N_3} j_6 \Omega^{(j_1, j_2, j_3, j_4, j_5, j_6, j_7)}.$$

*4.2. Computation of Expected Reorder Rate of Fresh Product*

The expected reorder rate of fresh products can be defined as follows

$$E_R = \sum_{j_1=1}^{\infty} \sum_{j_3=0}^{N_1} \sum_{j_4=0}^{P_2} \sum_{j_5=0}^{N_2} \sum_{j_6=0}^{P_3} \sum_{j_7=0}^{N_3} p_{f_1} \beta_1 \Omega^{(j_1, 1, j_3, j_4, j_5, j_6, j_7)}.$$

*4.3. Computation of Expected Number of Customers in the Queues*

- Expected number of customers in Queue-1 is defined as

$$E_{CQ1} = \sum_{j_1=1}^{\infty} j_1 \Omega^{(j_1)} \mathbf{e} = \Omega^{(0)} R (I - R)^{-2} \mathbf{e}.$$

- Expected number of customers in Queue-2 is defined as

$$E_{CQ2} = \sum_{j_1=0}^{\infty} \sum_{j_2=1}^{P_1} \sum_{j_3=1}^{N_1} j_3 \Omega^{(j_1, j_2, j_3)} \mathbf{e}.$$

- Expected number of customers in Queue-3 is defined as

$$E_{CQ3} = \sum_{j_1=0}^{\infty} \sum_{j_2=1}^{P_1} \sum_{j_3=0}^{N_1} \sum_{j_4=0}^{P_2} \sum_{j_5=1}^{N_2} j_5 \Omega^{(j_1, j_2, j_3, j_4, j_5)} \mathbf{e}.$$

- Expected number of customers in Queue-4 is defined as

$$E_{CQ4} = \sum_{j_1=0}^{\infty} \sum_{j_2=1}^{P_1} \sum_{j_3=0}^{N_1} \sum_{j_4=0}^{P_2} \sum_{j_5=0}^{N_2} \sum_{j_6=0}^{P_3} \sum_{j_7=1}^{N_3} j_7 \Omega^{(j_1, j_2, j_3, j_4, j_5, j_6, j_7)}.$$

4.4. Computation of Expected Number of Lost Customers in the Queues

- Expected number of lost customers in Queue-1 is defined as

$$E_{LCQ1} = \sum_{j_1=1}^{\infty} p_{f_2} \beta_1 \Omega^{(j_1)} \mathbf{e}.$$

- Expected number of lost customers in Queue-2 is defined as

$$E_{LCQ2} = \sum_{j_1=0}^{\infty} \sum_{j_2=1}^{P_1} \sum_{j_3=1}^{N_1} q_{r_3} \beta_2 \Omega^{(j_1, j_2, j_3)} \mathbf{e} + \sum_{j_1=0}^{\infty} \sum_{j_2=1}^{P_1} \alpha_2 \Omega^{(j_1, j_2, N_1)} \mathbf{e}.$$

- Expected number of lost customers in Queue-3 is defined as

$$E_{LCQ3} = \sum_{j_1=0}^{\infty} \sum_{j_2=1}^{P_1} \sum_{j_3=0}^{N_1} \sum_{j_4=0}^{P_2} \sum_{j_5=1}^{N_2} r_2 \beta_3 \Omega^{(j_1, j_2, j_3, j_4, j_5)} \mathbf{e} + \sum_{j_1=0}^{\infty} \sum_{j_2=1}^{P_1} \sum_{j_3=0}^{N_1} \sum_{j_4=0}^{P_2} \alpha_3 \Omega^{(j_1, j_2, j_3, j_4, N_2)} \mathbf{e}.$$

- Expected number of lost customers in Queue-4 is defined as

$$E_{LCQ4} = \sum_{j_1=0}^{\infty} \sum_{j_2=1}^{P_1} \sum_{j_3=0}^{N_1} \sum_{j_4=0}^{P_2} \sum_{j_5=0}^{N_2} \sum_{j_6=0}^{P_3} \alpha_4 \Omega^{(j_1, j_2, j_3, j_4, j_5, j_6, N_3)}.$$

4.5. Computation of Probability That the Servers in the System Are Busy

- Probability that Server-1 becomes busy is given by

$$P_{S_1B} = \sum_{j_1=1}^{\infty} \sum_{j_2=1}^{P_1} \Omega^{(j_1, j_2)} \mathbf{e}.$$

- Probability that Server-2 becomes busy is given by

$$P_{S_2B} = \sum_{j_1=0}^{\infty} \sum_{j_2=1}^{P_1} \sum_{j_3=1}^{N_1} \sum_{j_4=0}^{P_2-1} \Omega^{(j_1, j_2, j_3, j_4)} \mathbf{e}.$$

- Probability that Server-3 becomes busy is given by

$$P_{S_3B} = \sum_{j_1=0}^{\infty} \sum_{j_2=1}^{P_1} \sum_{j_3=0}^{N_1} \sum_{j_4=0}^{P_2} \sum_{j_5=1}^{N_2} \sum_{j_6=1}^{P_3} \Omega^{(j_1, j_2, j_3, j_4, j_5)} \mathbf{e}.$$

- Probability that Server-4 becomes busy is given by

$$P_{S_4B} = \sum_{j_1=0}^{\infty} \sum_{j_2=1}^{P_1} \sum_{j_3=0}^{N_1} \sum_{j_4=0}^{P_2} \sum_{j_5=0}^{N_2} \sum_{j_6=0}^{P_3} \sum_{j_7=1}^{N_3} \Omega^{(j_1, j_2, j_3, j_4, j_5, j_6, j_7)}.$$

- Probability that Server-5 becomes busy is given by

$$P_{S_5B} = \sum_{j_1=0}^{\infty} \sum_{j_2=1}^{P_1} \sum_{j_3=0}^{N_1} \sum_{j_4=1}^{P_2} \sum_{j_5=0}^{N_2} \sum_{j_6=0}^{P_3-1} \sum_{j_7=0}^{N_3} \Omega^{(j_1, j_2, j_3, j_4, j_5, j_6, j_7)}.$$

4.6. Computation of Miscellaneous Expected Measures of the System

- Expected rate at which the Class-1 customer who did not purchase an FP is defined as

$$E_{CNFP} = \sum_{j_1=1}^{\infty} \sum_{j_2=1}^{P_1} p_{f_2} \beta_1 \Omega^{(j_1, j_2)} \mathbf{e}.$$

- Expected rate at which the Class-2 customer who only sold an OP and does not go to Queue-1 is defined as

$$E_{COSRP} = \sum_{j_1=0}^{\infty} \sum_{j_2=1}^{P_1} \sum_{j_3=1}^{N_1} \sum_{j_4=0}^{P_2-1} q_{r_2} \beta_2 \Omega^{(j_1, j_2, j_3)} \mathbf{e}.$$

- Expected rate at which the Class-2 customer who did not return the OP is defined as

$$E_{CNRP} = \sum_{j_1=0}^{\infty} \sum_{j_2=1}^{P_1} \sum_{j_3=1}^{N_1} \sum_{j_4=0}^{P_2-1} q_{r_3} \beta_2 \Omega^{(j_1, j_2, j_3)} \mathbf{e}.$$

- Expected rate at which the Class-3 customer who purchases an RFP is defined as

$$E_{PRFP} = \sum_{j_1=0}^{\infty} \sum_{j_2=1}^{P_1} \sum_{j_3=0}^{N_1} \sum_{j_4=0}^{P_2} \sum_{j_5=1}^{N_2} \sum_{j_6=1}^{P_3} r_1 \beta_3 \Omega^{(j_1, j_2, j_3, j_4, j_5, j_6)} \mathbf{e}.$$

4.7. Computation of Expected Total Cost Value

The total cost value (TCV) of the seven-dimensional stochastic process,  $J_t, t \geq 0$ , is defined as given below.

$$E_{TCV} = HC_{FP}E_{FP} + HC_{RP}E_{RP} + HC_{RFP}E_{RFP} + SC_{FP}E_R + WC_{Q1}E_{CQ1} + WC_{Q2}E_{CQ2} + WC_{Q3}E_{CQ3} + WC_{Q4}E_{CQ4} + LC_{Q1}E_{LCQ1} + LC_{Q2}E_{LCQ2} + LC_{Q3}E_{LCQ3} + LC_{Q4}E_{LCQ4}.$$

5. Numerical Interpretation of Parameter Analysis of the System

The considered seven-dimensional stochastic queuing-inventory problem is to be investigated with a few numerical illustrations using the cost values and parameter values of the system. This section provide insights to the reader about the proposed model and its practical life application related to the society. Here, we conduct an investigation into each queue, product, server, and customer, and, of course, the expected total cost of the system. The discussion of each queue explains how the service provided by the server and the respective probabilities influence the total cost of the system and significant system performance measures. For the interpretation of numerical discussions, the parameter and cost values of the Markov process,  $J_t, t \geq 0$  are to be assumed as follows:  $P_1 = 3, P_2 = 3, P_3 = 4, N_1 = 3, N_2 = 3, N_3 = 3, \alpha_1 = 0.5, \alpha_2 = 0.02, \alpha_3 = 0.01, \alpha_4 = 0.8, \beta_1 = 3.7, \beta_2 = 2.5, \beta_3 = 2.7, \beta_4 = 1.6, \beta_5 = 1.9, p_{f_1} = 0.8, p_{f_2} = 0.2; q_{r_1} = 0.7; q_{r_2} = 0.2, q_{r_3} = 0.1, r_1 = 0.7, r_2 = 0.3, HC_{FP} = 0.2, HC_{RP} = 0.2, HC_{RFP} = 0.2, SC_{FP} = 10, WC_{Q1} = 5, WC_{Q2} = 5, WC_{Q3} = 5, WC_{Q4} = 5, LC_{Q1} = 0.5, LC_{Q2} = 0.2, LC_{Q3} = 0.2, LC_{Q4} = 0.1.$

5.1. Interpretation and Remarks on Queues

**Example 1.** Using this example, one can see how the activity on Queue-1 and Server-1 is represented graphically. In Queue-1, the system accepts Class-1 customers who wish to purchase the FP. Class-2 customers are also taken into consideration when they wish to purchase the FP after returning their old product in Queue 2.

1. Figure 3 depicts the predicted number of customers lost in Queue-1 as a result of increasing both the service rate,  $\beta_1$ , and the probability that customers will be satisfied at the end of service completion to purchase the FP,  $p_{f_1}$ , with Server-1.
2. As the average service time of Server-1 decreases, the value of  $E_{LCQ1}$  rises as well. In general, when the service completion time decreases, the number of lost customers or the total number of customers in the system decreases logically as well. According to the premise that an entering Class-1 customer is a member of the impulse customer category, the likelihood that they will acquire the product is dependent on their level of satisfaction with the service offered to them.
3. As a result, each service completion has the option of purchasing or not purchasing the FP. Because of the customer’s decision to oscillate, the value of  $E_{LCQ1}$  increases when the value of  $\beta_1$  increases. It is interesting to note that when the  $p_{f_1}$  is increased, (i.e., when the  $E_{LCQ1}$  is reduced), the situation is different. Indeed, the likelihood that a Class-1 consumer will be satisfied suggests that the supply of fresh products will increase.
4. As predicted, an increase in the arrival rate always resulted in Server-1 remaining busy when the rate was increased. In order for the server to be busy, there should be a large number of customers in front of the server at any given time. On the other hand, because Server-1 completes the operation as fast as possible, the likelihood of a server becoming available increases. This is shown in Figure 4.
5. As opposed to this, Figure 5 depicts an expected rate at which a customer who does not purchase an FP when the  $p_{f_2}$  and the  $\alpha_1$  are put together. It has been shown that when  $p_{f_2}$  and  $\alpha_1$  are elevated concurrently, they have a direct impact on  $E_{CNFP}$ .

In order to be a successful business person, one must always improve their service facilities in order to ensure that their customers are completely satisfied.

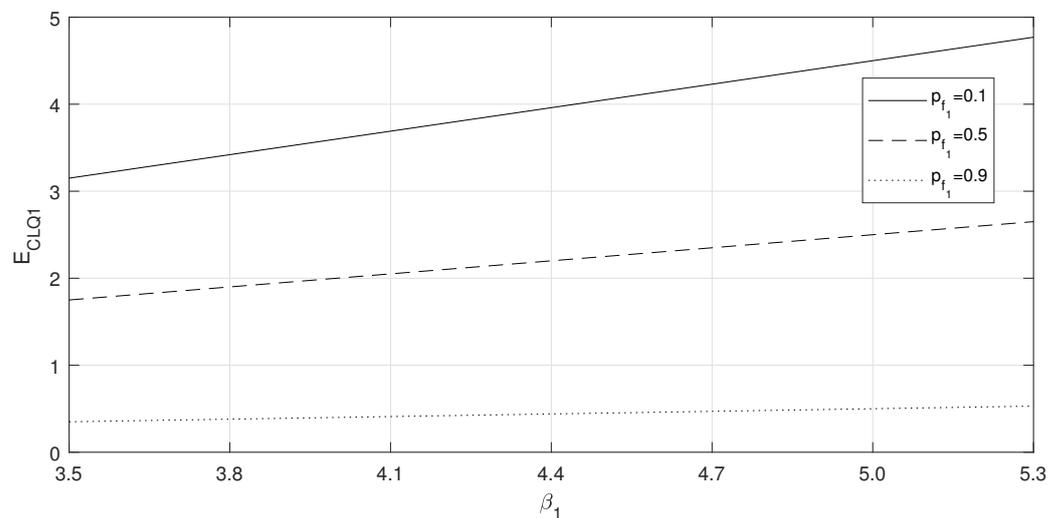


Figure 3. Expected customers lost in Queue-1 on  $p_{f_1}$  vs.  $\beta_1$ .

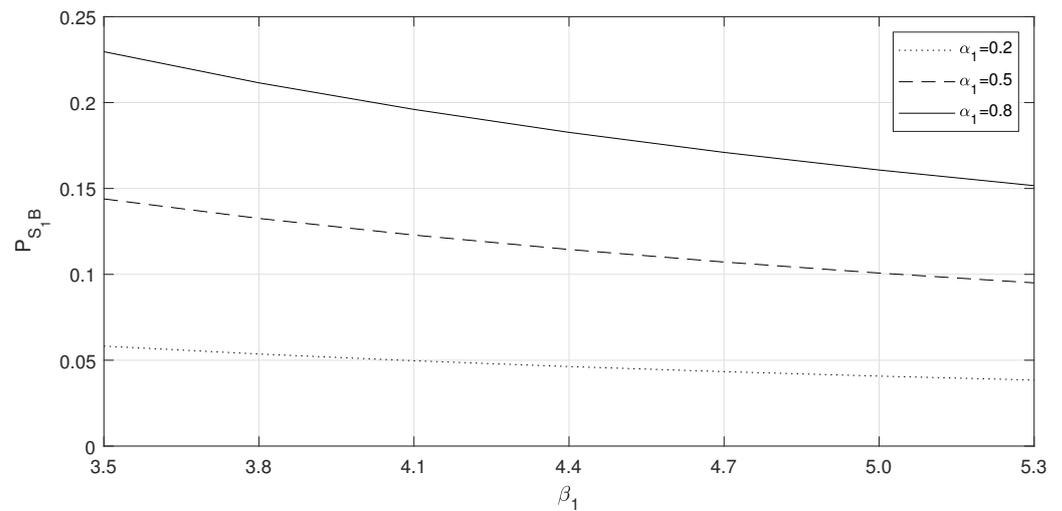


Figure 4. Probability that Server-1 is busy on  $\alpha_1$  vs.  $\beta_1$ .

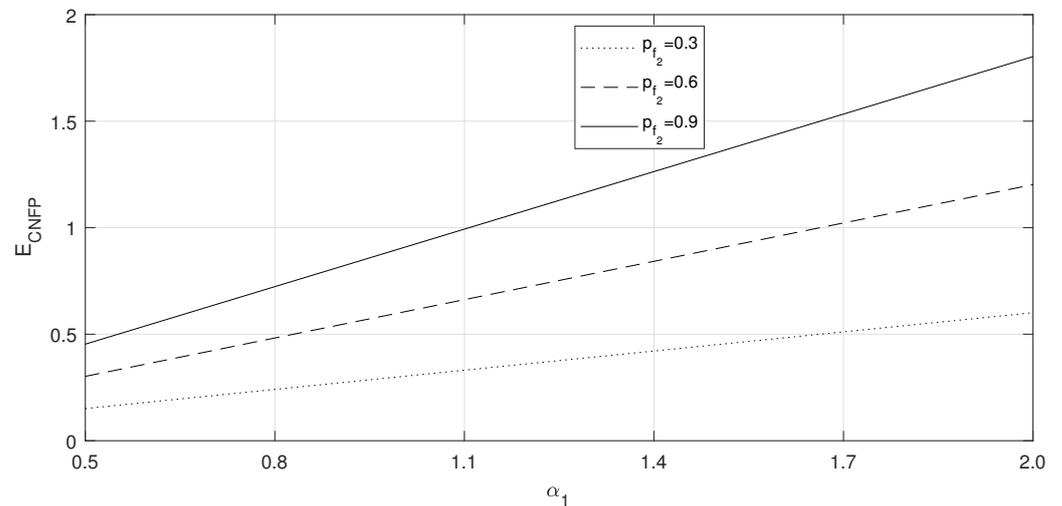


Figure 5. Expected rate at which the customer not purchasing an FP on  $p_{f_1}$  vs.  $\alpha_1$ .

**Example 2.** Table 1 shows the complete in and out activities of Queue-2. In this example, we see the influence of parameters  $\alpha_2$  and  $\beta_2$  and the probabilities  $q_{r_1}, q_{r_2}$ , and  $q_{r_3}$  on the  $ERP, EC_{Q1}, EC_{OSRP}, EC_{NRP}$ , and  $P_{S_2F}$ .

1. If the arrival rate,  $\alpha_2$  increases (meaning that the number of Class-2 customers in Queue-2 has increased), the expected number of RP, average arrivals in Queue-1, and expected rate at which a customer who sells only the OP and leaves the system without returning are increased. The probability of Server-2 being free is decreased if  $\alpha_2$  is increased, because all the other components ( $ERP, EC_{Q1}, EC_{OSRP}, EC_{NRP}$ ) are increased when  $\alpha_2$  increases.
2. The assumption defined for purchasing the old products from the customer causes the stated changes. This is because when Server-2 is attending a customer in Queue-2, the TaC of the old product is first checked and clearly explained to the customer. Finally, all the checking formalities are over, the customer may agree to the TaC. If they agree to the sale of the old product, then the old product is immediately purchased by Server-2. In this situation, the Class-2 customer may decide whether to buy an FP or not. Suppose they want an FP, immediately they go to Queue-1 with probability  $q_{r_1}$  or else leave the system with  $q_{r_2}$ . If the Class-2 customer is not willing to sell their old product, they leave the system without returning the old product with probability  $q_{r_3}$ . These are the reasons that the following changes happen:
  - If the probability  $q_{r_1}$  increases, then  $EC_{Q1}$  increases where as  $EC_{NRP}, P_{S_2F}$  are decreased.

- If the probability  $q_{r2}$  increases, then  $E_{COSRP}$  increases where as  $E_{CNRP}$ ,  $P_{S_2F}$  are decreased.
  - If the probability  $q_{r3}$  decreases, then  $E_{CNRP}$ ,  $P_{S_2F}$  are decreased.
3. The service rate of Server-2,  $\beta_2$  also causes the increase in the following measures  $E_{CQ1}$ ,  $E_{COSRP}$ ,  $E_{CNRP}$ ,  $P_{S_2F}$ . As the service rate of Server-2 increases, the probability of Server-2 being free is increased. When varying the probabilities in Table 1  $q_{r1}$ ,  $q_{r2}$  and  $q_{r3}$ , which is selected by the customers' own choice will have a great impact on the  $ERP$ ,  $E_{CQ1}$ ,  $E_{COSRP}$ ,  $E_{CNRP}$ , and  $P_{S_2F}$  as we predicted.
  4. Furthermore, Figure 6 depicts that Server-5's is busy when  $\alpha_2$  vs.  $\beta_2$ . The job of Server-5 is to recondition the returned OP into an RFP to sell it. To do so, Server-5 needs enough RPs in the storage place, or else Server-5 become free. When both parameters  $\alpha_2$  and  $\beta_2$  are increased, the number of RP increases; as such,  $P_{S_5BS}$  length of the busy period will increase.

From this interpretation, the reader can conclude that the sales of new products when buying the customers old products will be the new and best business approach to increase the sales of new products.

**Table 1.** Interpretation of parameters on Queue-2.

| $\alpha_2$ | $q_{r1}$ | $q_{r2}$ | $q_{r3}$ | $\beta_2$ | $ERP$    | $E_{CQ1}$ | $E_{COSRP}$ | $E_{CNRP}$ | $P_{S_2F}$ |
|------------|----------|----------|----------|-----------|----------|-----------|-------------|------------|------------|
| 0.02       | 0.4      | 0.3      | 0.3      | 2.5       | 0.963864 | 0.611457  | 0.458592    | 0.458592   | 0.388543   |
|            |          |          |          | 2.8       | 0.963943 | 0.684484  | 0.513363    | 0.513363   | 0.388854   |
|            |          |          |          | 3.1       | 0.964008 | 0.757510  | 0.568132    | 0.568132   | 0.389105   |
|            |          | 0.4      | 0.2      | 2.5       | 0.963059 | 0.733650  | 0.733650    | 0.366825   | 0.26635    |
|            |          |          |          | 2.8       | 0.963156 | 0.821505  | 0.821505    | 0.410752   | 0.266514   |
|            |          |          |          | 3.1       | 0.963234 | 0.909359  | 0.909359    | 0.454680   | 0.266646   |
|            | 0.5      | 0.3      | 0.2      | 2.5       | 0.966208 | 0.865863  | 0.519518    | 0.346345   | 0.307309   |
|            |          |          |          | 2.8       | 0.966324 | 0.969414  | 0.581649    | 0.387766   | 0.307561   |
|            |          |          |          | 3.1       | 0.966418 | 1.072964  | 0.643779    | 0.429186   | 0.307765   |
|            |          | 0.4      | 0.1      | 2.5       | 0.951715 | 0.995803  | 0.796642    | 0.199161   | 0.203358   |
|            |          |          |          | 2.8       | 0.951819 | 1.115138  | 0.892111    | 0.223028   | 0.203473   |
|            |          |          |          | 3.1       | 0.951903 | 1.234473  | 0.987578    | 0.246895   | 0.203566   |
| 0.05       | 0.4      | 0.3      | 0.3      | 2.5       | 0.982526 | 0.893242  | 0.669932    | 0.669932   | 0.106758   |
|            |          |          |          | 2.8       | 0.982736 | 1.000199  | 0.750149    | 0.750149   | 0.106965   |
|            |          |          |          | 3.1       | 0.982906 | 1.107155  | 0.830366    | 0.830366   | 0.107133   |
|            |          | 0.4      | 0.2      | 2.5       | 0.966112 | 0.935305  | 0.935305    | 0.467652   | 0.064695   |
|            |          |          |          | 2.8       | 0.966270 | 1.047433  | 1.047433    | 0.523716   | 0.064792   |
|            |          |          |          | 3.1       | 0.966398 | 1.159560  | 1.159560    | 0.579780   | 0.064871   |
|            | 0.5      | 0.3      | 0.2      | 2.5       | 0.971655 | 1.151891  | 0.691135    | 0.460756   | 0.078487   |
|            |          |          |          | 2.8       | 0.971866 | 1.289898  | 0.773939    | 0.515959   | 0.078645   |
|            |          |          |          | 3.1       | 0.972036 | 1.427903  | 0.856742    | 0.571161   | 0.078772   |
|            |          | 0.4      | 0.1      | 2.5       | 0.956308 | 1.195612  | 0.956490    | 0.239122   | 0.04351    |
|            |          |          |          | 2.8       | 0.956462 | 1.339005  | 1.071204    | 0.267801   | 0.043568   |
|            |          |          |          | 3.1       | 0.956587 | 1.482398  | 1.185918    | 0.296480   | 0.043614   |

Table 1. Cont.

| $\alpha_2$ | $q_{r_1}$ | $q_{r_2}$ | $q_{r_3}$ | $\beta_2$ | $ERP$    | $ECQ_1$  | $ECOSRP$ | $ECNRP$  | $P_{S_2F}$ |
|------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|------------|
| 0.08       | 0.4       | 0.3       | 0.3       | 2.5       | 0.983992 | 0.941741 | 0.706306 | 0.706306 | 0.058259   |
|            |           |           |           | 2.8       | 0.984222 | 1.054541 | 0.790906 | 0.790906 | 0.058445   |
|            |           |           |           | 3.1       | 0.984409 | 1.167340 | 0.875505 | 0.875505 | 0.058596   |
|            |           | 0.4       | 0.2       | 2.5       | 0.973038 | 0.966402 | 0.966402 | 0.483201 | 0.033598   |
|            |           |           |           | 2.8       | 0.973210 | 1.082275 | 1.082275 | 0.541137 | 0.033683   |
|            |           |           |           | 3.1       | 0.973349 | 1.198146 | 1.198146 | 0.599073 | 0.033753   |
|            | 0.5       | 0.3       | 0.2       | 2.5       | 0.976472 | 1.197981 | 0.718789 | 0.479193 | 0.041615   |
|            |           |           |           | 2.8       | 0.976702 | 1.341544 | 0.804926 | 0.536618 | 0.041754   |
|            |           |           |           | 3.1       | 0.976888 | 1.485105 | 0.891063 | 0.594042 | 0.041868   |
|            |           | 0.4       | 0.1       | 2.5       | 0.966819 | 1.223582 | 0.978865 | 0.244716 | 0.021135   |
|            |           |           |           | 2.8       | 0.966989 | 1.370343 | 1.096275 | 0.274069 | 0.021183   |
|            |           |           |           | 3.1       | 0.967125 | 1.517105 | 1.213684 | 0.303421 | 0.021223   |

**Example 3.** This illustration provides the complete analysis of Class-3 customers in Queue-3 with response to Server-3 and Server-5 according to result obtained in Table 2. To explore the actions that occur when the Class-3 customer enters Queue-3 until they were about to leave it, the parameters  $\alpha_3$ ,  $\beta_3$ ,  $\beta_5$ , and  $p_{rf_1}$  are incorporated into Table 2, which shows the average number of Class-3 customers present and lost in Queue-3.

1. First, the arrival rate of Class-3 customers is always directly proportional to  $E_{CQ_3}$  and  $E_{LCQ_3}$  where is the service rate, which is always inversely proportional to  $E_{CQ_3}$  and  $E_{LCQ_3}$ . This is because the number of existing customers in Queue-3 is increased when  $\alpha_3$  increases. Since the size of Queue-3 is finite and current number of Class-3 customer increases, newly arrived Class-3 customers are considered lost—this is why the arrival rate,  $\alpha_3$ , causes the increase in the loss of Class-3 customers when it is increased.
2. Simultaneously, the service process of Server-3 will have a crucial role in controlling the loss of Class-3 customers. As the average service time of Server-3 reduces, the number of present and lost customers also reduced.
3. The contribution of Server-5 is a remarkable one to determine the  $E_{CQ_3}$  and  $E_{LCQ_3}$  because Server-5 continuously performs the refurbished work on the RP if it is available. Suppose the refurbished products are not available, the Class-3 customer has to wait in Queue-3 and at one stage they will be lost. So, the mean service time of Server-3 causes the decrease in  $E_{CQ_3}$  and  $E_{LCQ_3}$  when it is decreased—this means that the sales of RFP is increased.
4. Finally, the probability of a Class-3 customer buying the RFP or not also determines the  $E_{CQ_3}$  and  $E_{LCQ_3}$ . This reflects the exact real-life application of a customer’s mindset. Generally, not all customers want to purchase the RFP. So many customers will have an oscillation mindset when they buy an RFP; therefore, when a Class-3 customer purchasing probability increases, the loss of them is to be reduced.
5. Figure 7 explores the probability of Server-3 becoming busy when  $\alpha_3$  and  $\beta_3$  are incorporated. As the average service time reduces,  $P_{S_3B}$  also reduces because of the quick service completion, whereas the increase in the number of customers in Queue-3 raises, and the server being busy time is increased.

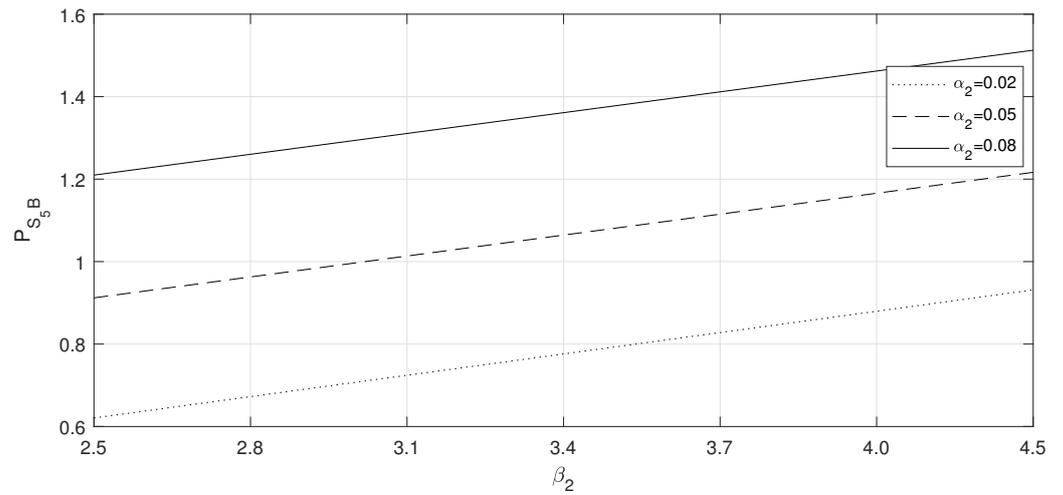


Figure 6. Probability that Server-5 is busy on  $\alpha_2$  vs.  $\beta_2$ .

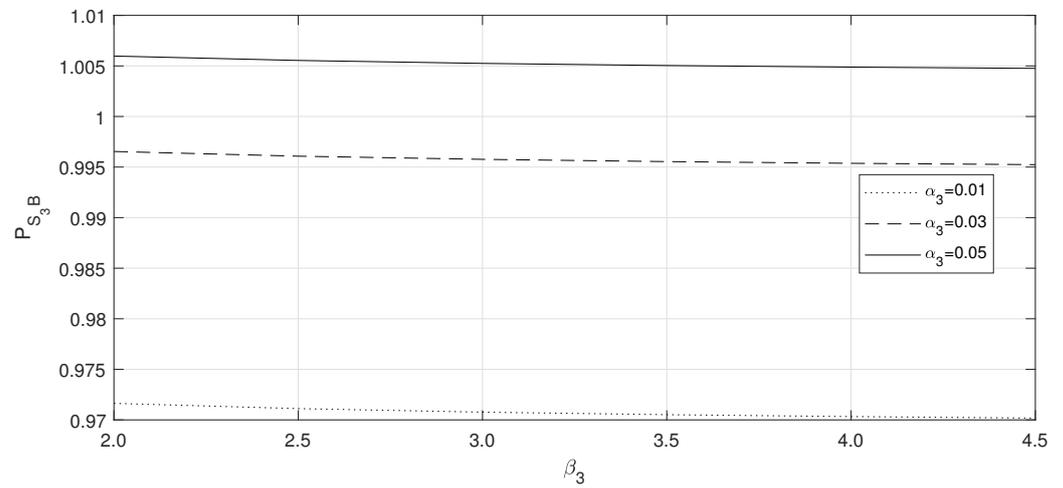


Figure 7. Probability that Server-3 is busy on  $\alpha_3$  vs.  $\beta_3$ .

Table 2. Interpretation of parameters on Queue-3.

| $\beta_5$ | $\beta_3$ | $p_{rf1}$ | $E_{CQ3}$        |                  |                  | $E_{LCQ3}$       |                  |                  |
|-----------|-----------|-----------|------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|
|           |           |           | $\alpha_3 = 0.1$ | $\alpha_3 = 0.2$ | $\alpha_3 = 0.3$ | $\alpha_3 = 0.1$ | $\alpha_3 = 0.2$ | $\alpha_3 = 0.3$ |
| 1         | 2.5       | 0.2       | 1.069820         | 1.245375         | 1.329015         | 1.572298         | 1.812185         | 1.944769         |
|           |           | 0.4       | 1.270535         | 1.389019         | 1.427365         | 1.360707         | 1.498965         | 1.577249         |
|           |           | 0.6       | 1.377906         | 1.443120         | 1.462050         | 0.977132         | 1.059310         | 1.118390         |
|           | 2.8       | 0.2       | 1.068205         | 1.243361         | 1.327096         | 1.756267         | 2.019233         | 2.162050         |
|           |           | 0.4       | 1.269631         | 1.388214         | 1.426629         | 1.519199         | 1.668268         | 1.750071         |
|           |           | 0.6       | 1.377481         | 1.442759         | 1.461722         | 1.089535         | 1.175675         | 1.235914         |
|           | 3.1       | 0.2       | 1.066895         | 1.241715         | 1.325517         | 1.940227         | 2.226255         | 2.379294         |
|           |           | 0.4       | 1.268897         | 1.387555         | 1.426024         | 1.677687         | 1.837563         | 1.922880         |
|           |           | 0.6       | 1.377135         | 1.442463         | 1.461452         | 1.201936         | 1.292037         | 1.353434         |

Table 2. Cont.

| $\beta_5$ | $\beta_3$ | $p_{rf_1}$ | $E_{CQ_3}$       |                  |                  | $E_{LCQ_3}$      |                  |                  |
|-----------|-----------|------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|
|           |           |            | $\alpha_3 = 0.1$ | $\alpha_3 = 0.2$ | $\alpha_3 = 0.3$ | $\alpha_3 = 0.1$ | $\alpha_3 = 0.2$ | $\alpha_3 = 0.3$ |
| 1.2       | 2.5       | 0.2        | 1.068865         | 1.244698         | 1.328570         | 1.571344         | 1.811443         | 1.944249         |
|           |           | 0.4        | 1.269938         | 1.388746         | 1.427194         | 1.360228         | 1.498724         | 1.577086         |
|           |           | 0.6        | 1.377606         | 1.442992         | 1.461969         | 0.976958         | 1.059223         | 1.118327         |
|           | 2.8       | 0.2        | 1.067245         | 1.242680         | 1.326647         | 1.755200         | 2.018405         | 2.161472         |
|           |           | 0.4        | 1.269033         | 1.387939         | 1.426457         | 1.518666         | 1.668002         | 1.749892         |
|           |           | 0.6        | 1.377180         | 1.442629         | 1.461641         | 1.089343         | 1.175580         | 1.235846         |
|           | 3.1       | 0.2        | 1.065931         | 1.241029         | 1.325063         | 1.939046         | 2.225342         | 2.378659         |
|           |           | 0.4        | 1.268296         | 1.387278         | 1.425850         | 1.677099         | 1.837272         | 1.922685         |
|           |           | 0.6        | 1.376834         | 1.442333         | 1.461370         | 1.201726         | 1.291935         | 1.353362         |
| 1.4       | 2.5       | 0.2        | 1.068181         | 1.244214         | 1.328252         | 1.570661         | 1.810911         | 1.943876         |
|           |           | 0.4        | 1.269512         | 1.388550         | 1.427072         | 1.359886         | 1.498552         | 1.576970         |
|           |           | 0.6        | 1.377392         | 1.442900         | 1.461912         | 0.976834         | 1.059161         | 1.118282         |
|           | 2.8       | 0.2        | 1.066558         | 1.242191         | 1.326324         | 1.754435         | 2.017812         | 2.161058         |
|           |           | 0.4        | 1.268604         | 1.387741         | 1.426334         | 1.518285         | 1.667812         | 1.749763         |
|           |           | 0.6        | 1.376965         | 1.442537         | 1.461582         | 1.089206         | 1.175512         | 1.235798         |
|           | 3.1       | 0.2        | 1.065241         | 1.240538         | 1.324738         | 1.938199         | 2.224687         | 2.378203         |
|           |           | 0.4        | 1.267867         | 1.387079         | 1.425725         | 1.676679         | 1.837063         | 1.922545         |
|           |           | 0.6        | 1.376618         | 1.442240         | 1.461311         | 1.201576         | 1.291861         | 1.353310         |

**Example 4.** This example graphically investigates the activities of Queue-4.

- Figure 8 shows the expected loss of Class-4 customers in Queue-4 when both  $\alpha_4$  and  $\beta_4$  varied together. As the results show, the reader can understand that both parameters influence  $E_{LCQ_4}$  opposite to each other as predicted. In Figure 9, the size of Queue-4,  $N_3$  is incorporated with  $\alpha_4$  to obtain  $E_{LCQ_4}$ , whereas in Figure 10,  $N_3$  is connected to  $\beta_4$ .
- Since  $\alpha_4$  causes the increase in customer arrivals in Queue-4, the overflow of Queue-4 leads to the loss of them. On the other side, as  $\beta_4$  reduces the wait time of Class-4 customers in Queue-4, the loss will be controlled and as  $N_3$  expands the size of Queue-4, a greater number of Class-4 customers can be allowed in Queue-4; thus, the loss of Class-4 customers can be reduced.
- Figure 11 depicts the number of customers,  $E_{CQ_4}$  in Queue-4 when  $\alpha_4$  and  $\beta_4$  act together. The measure  $E_{LCQ_4}$  is increased if  $\alpha_4$  is raised and is decreased if  $\beta_4$  is decreased due to the influence of corresponding parameters.
- The parameters  $\alpha_4$ ,  $\beta_4$ , and  $N_3$  are involved to discuss the probability of Server-4 becoming busy,  $P_{S_4B}$ . In this analysis,  $\alpha_4$  and  $N_3$  always keeps Server-4 busy when it is increased; however,  $\beta_4$  always reduces the busy period of Server-4 when it is to be increased. This is graphically shown in Figures 12–14.
- Suppose there are a greater number of Class-4 customers waiting for repair service of their product, Server-4 cannot take a rest because if Server-4 wants to take a rest, the Class-4 customers in Queue-4 will increase. This will also cause an overload of work for Server-4; this is why Server-4 is always busy when both  $\alpha_4$  and  $N_3$  are increased. On the contrary, as we reduce the mean service time of Server-4, the number of Class-4 customers in Queue-4 also decreased; thus, the probability of Server-4 being busy is low when  $\beta_4$  is high.

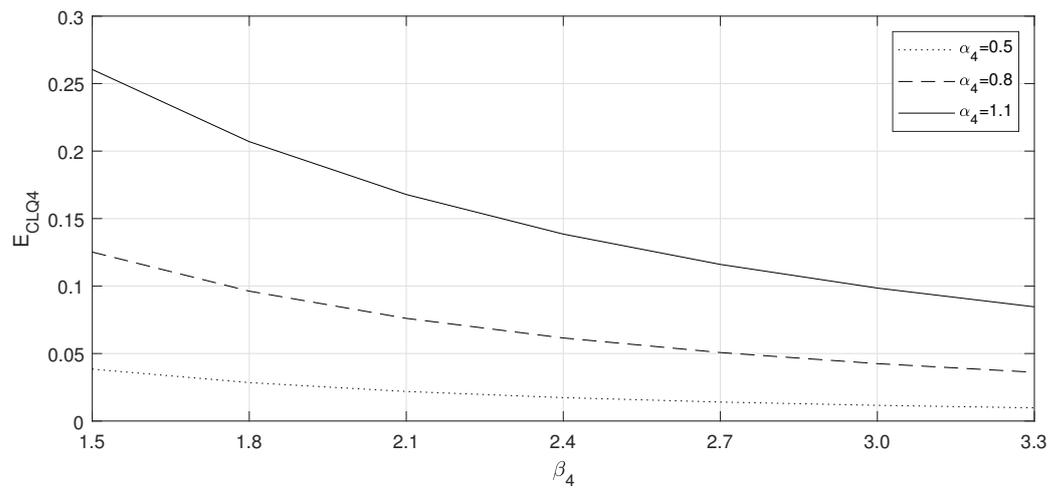


Figure 8. Expected customer loss in Queue-4 on  $\beta_4$  vs.  $\alpha_4$ .

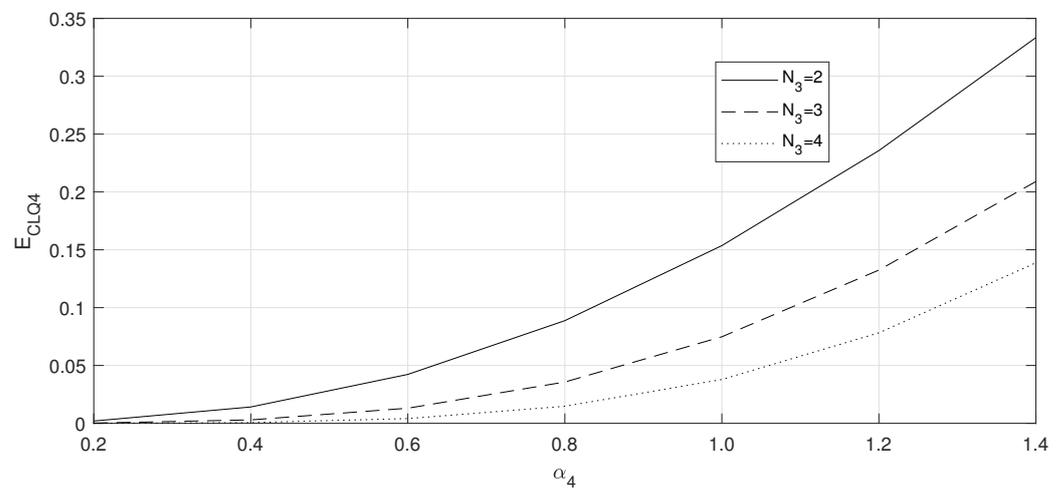


Figure 9. Expected customer loss in Queue-4 on  $\alpha_4$  vs.  $N_3$ .

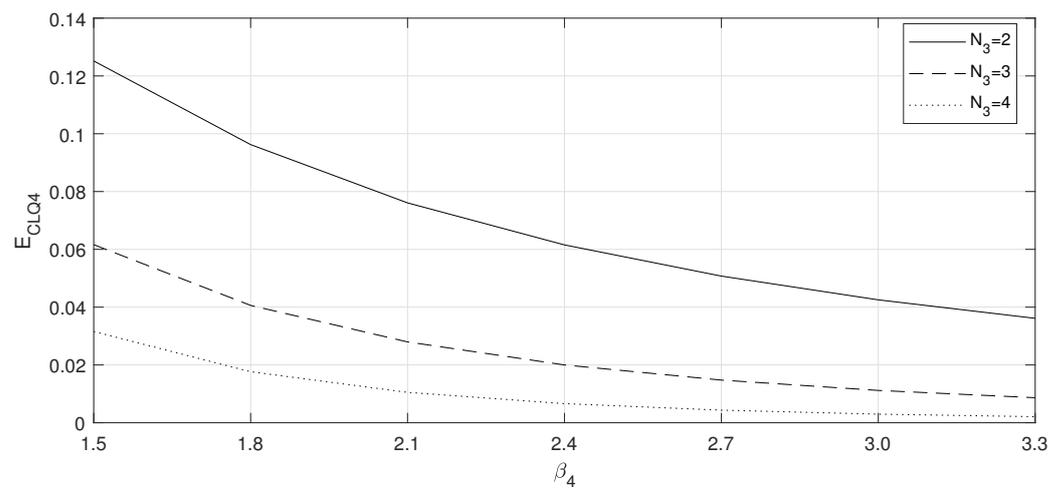


Figure 10. Expected customer loss in Queue-4 on  $\beta_4$  vs.  $N_3$ .

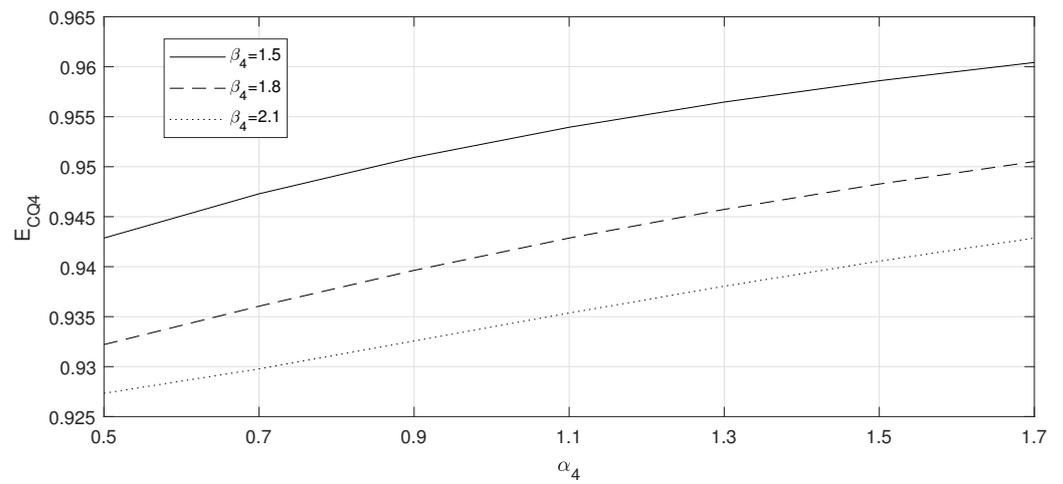


Figure 11. Expected customer loss in Queue-4 on  $\alpha_4$  vs.  $\beta_4$ .

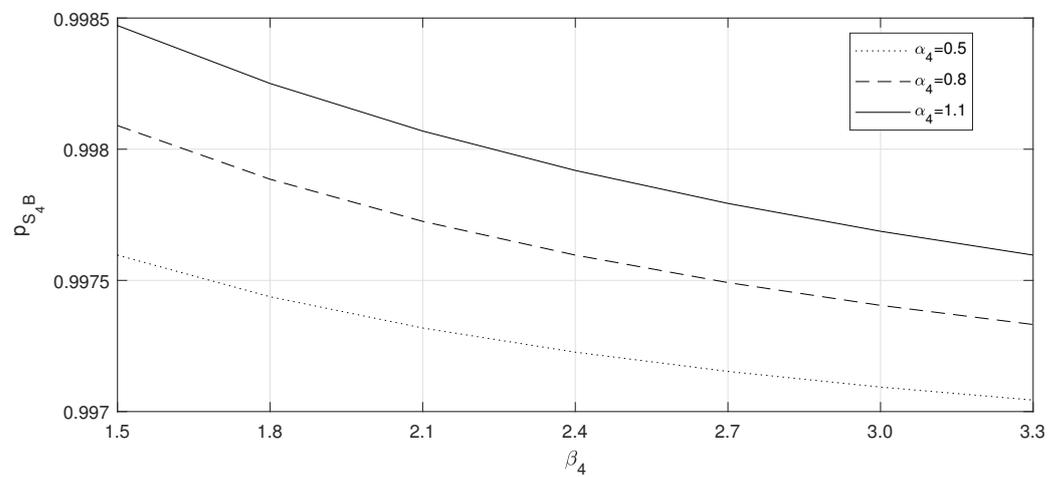


Figure 12. Probability that Server-4 is busy on  $\alpha_4$  vs.  $\beta_4$ .

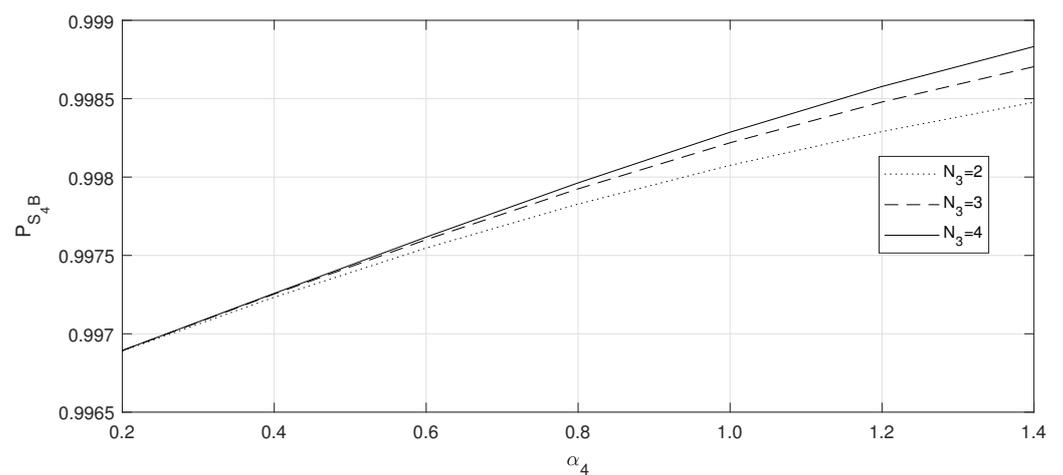


Figure 13. Probability that Server-4 is busy on  $\alpha_4$  vs.  $N_3$ .

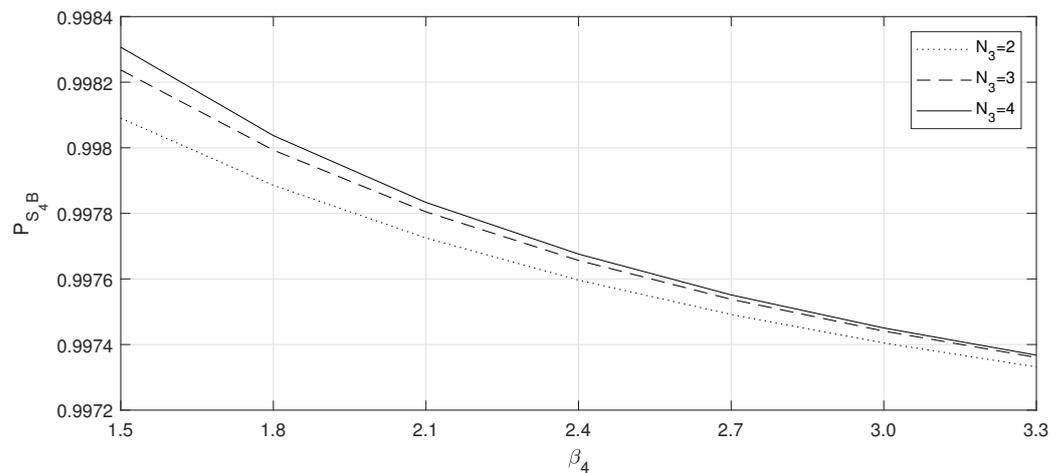


Figure 14. Probability that Server-4 is busy on  $\beta_4$  vs.  $N_3$ .

5.2. Interpretation of Expected Total Cost Value of the System

**Example 5.** For the purposes of this example, the expected total cost of the considered seven-dimensional stochastic process is to be explored, along with  $\alpha_1, \alpha_2, \alpha_3, \alpha_4, \beta_1, \beta_2, \beta_3, \beta_4,$  and  $\beta_5$  as shown in Table 3.

1. Of course, when dealing with this type of business in the real world, we all experience some degree of ambiguity regarding the typical total cost.
2. This example will be extremely beneficial to all businesses in order to eliminate such ambiguity; however, despite the fact that the system consists of five heterogeneous servers, the average service time of each server is inversely related to predicted total cost (i.e., for each service rate of  $\beta_1$  and  $\beta_i$ , where  $i \in S_3^5$  grows, the expected total cost reduces) but for  $\beta_2$  it increases because Server-2 performs a purchasing job—this will cause an increase in total cost.
3. As predicted, when we observe the mean arrival rate of all Class- $i$  customers, where  $i \in S_1^4$ , the projected total cost is directly proportional to the number of  $\alpha_i$  customers, where  $i \in S_1^4$ .
4. Furthermore, the cost value analysis provides the predicted rise in the expected total cost value, which is presented in Table 4. Many readers will be inspired by this example to conduct further investigation into this type of topic in the future. Providing a satisfactory service to all types of consumers under one QIS with a variety of dedicated servers is a difficult undertaking. The total cost incurred by our study, on the other hand, will provide valuable information to many readers and business people.
5. This is the most significant and necessary conversation in this proposed paradigm, and it should not be skipped.

**Table 3.** Interpretation of parameters on  $E_{TCV}$ .

|           |           |           |           | $\alpha_1$ | 0.4     |         |         |         |         |         |         |         |
|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|------------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|
|           |           |           |           | $\alpha_2$ | 0.02    |         |         |         | 0.04    |         |         |         |
|           |           |           |           | $\alpha_3$ | 0.01    |         | 0.03    |         | 0.01    |         | 0.03    |         |
|           |           |           |           | $\alpha_4$ | 0.7     |         | 0.9     |         | 0.7     |         | 0.9     |         |
| $\beta_1$ | $\beta_2$ | $\beta_3$ | $\beta_4$ | $\beta_5$  | 0.7     | 0.9     | 0.7     | 0.9     | 0.7     | 0.9     | 0.7     | 0.9     |
| 3.5       | 2.3       | 1.5       | 2.4       | 1.8        | 14.3814 | 14.4014 | 14.6691 | 14.7118 | 13.7803 | 13.7960 | 14.7620 | 14.7867 |
|           |           |           |           | 2          | 14.3742 | 14.3939 | 14.6546 | 14.6938 | 13.7749 | 13.7903 | 14.7531 | 14.7771 |
|           |           | 1.8       | 2.4       | 1.8        | 14.3813 | 14.4013 | 14.6673 | 14.7099 | 13.7803 | 13.7960 | 14.7611 | 14.7859 |
|           |           |           |           | 2          | 14.3741 | 14.3938 | 14.6527 | 14.6920 | 13.7749 | 13.7902 | 14.7522 | 14.7762 |
|           |           | 1.5       | 2.7       | 1.8        | 14.3724 | 14.3924 | 14.6621 | 14.7047 | 13.7715 | 13.7872 | 14.7535 | 14.7782 |
|           |           |           |           | 2          | 14.3652 | 14.3849 | 14.6476 | 14.6867 | 13.7661 | 13.7815 | 14.7447 | 14.7686 |
|           | 1.8       | 2.7       | 1.8       | 14.3723    | 14.3923 | 14.6602 | 14.7028 | 13.7715 | 13.7872 | 14.7527 | 14.7774 |         |
|           |           |           | 2         | 14.3651    | 14.3848 | 14.6457 | 14.6849 | 13.7661 | 13.7814 | 14.7438 | 14.7677 |         |
|           | 2.5       | 2.4       | 1.5       | 1.8        | 14.3844 | 14.4044 | 14.6683 | 14.7110 | 13.7833 | 13.7990 | 14.7626 | 14.7873 |
|           |           |           |           | 2          | 14.3772 | 14.3969 | 14.6538 | 14.6930 | 13.7779 | 13.7933 | 14.7537 | 14.7777 |
|           |           | 1.8       | 2.4       | 1.8        | 14.3843 | 14.4043 | 14.6664 | 14.7091 | 13.7832 | 13.7990 | 14.7617 | 14.7865 |
|           |           |           |           | 2          | 14.3771 | 14.3968 | 14.6519 | 14.6911 | 13.7779 | 13.7932 | 14.7528 | 14.7768 |
|           |           | 1.5       | 2.7       | 1.8        | 14.3754 | 14.3953 | 14.6613 | 14.7039 | 13.7745 | 13.7902 | 14.7541 | 14.7788 |
|           |           |           |           | 2          | 14.3682 | 14.3878 | 14.6468 | 14.6859 | 13.7691 | 13.7844 | 14.7453 | 14.7692 |
|           | 3.5       | 2.3       | 1.8       | 1.8        | 14.3753 | 14.3952 | 14.6594 | 14.7020 | 13.7744 | 13.7902 | 14.7533 | 14.7780 |
|           |           |           |           | 2          | 14.3681 | 14.3877 | 14.6449 | 14.6840 | 13.7691 | 13.7844 | 14.7444 | 14.7683 |
|           |           | 1.5       | 2.4       | 1.8        | 14.3650 | 14.3849 | 14.6503 | 14.6929 | 13.7638 | 13.7796 | 14.7419 | 14.7666 |
|           |           |           |           | 2          | 14.3578 | 14.3774 | 14.6358 | 14.6750 | 13.7584 | 13.7738 | 14.7330 | 14.7570 |
|           |           | 1.8       | 2.4       | 1.8        | 14.3649 | 14.3848 | 14.6484 | 14.6911 | 13.7638 | 13.7795 | 14.7410 | 14.7657 |
|           |           |           |           | 2          | 14.3576 | 14.3773 | 14.6339 | 14.6731 | 13.7584 | 13.7738 | 14.7321 | 14.7561 |
|           | 3.5       | 2.3       | 1.5       | 1.8        | 14.3560 | 14.3759 | 14.6432 | 14.6858 | 13.7550 | 13.7708 | 14.7334 | 14.7581 |
|           |           |           |           | 2          | 14.3488 | 14.3684 | 14.6287 | 14.6679 | 13.7496 | 13.7650 | 14.7245 | 14.7485 |
|           |           | 1.8       | 2.7       | 1.8        | 14.3558 | 14.3758 | 14.6413 | 14.6839 | 13.7550 | 13.7707 | 14.7325 | 14.7572 |
|           |           |           |           | 2          | 14.3486 | 14.3683 | 14.6268 | 14.6660 | 13.7496 | 13.7650 | 14.7236 | 14.7476 |
| 1.5       |           | 2.4       | 1.8       | 14.3679    | 14.3879 | 14.6494 | 14.6921 | 13.7668 | 13.7825 | 14.7425 | 14.7672 |         |
|           |           |           | 2         | 14.3607    | 14.3804 | 14.6349 | 14.6741 | 13.7614 | 13.7768 | 14.7336 | 14.7576 |         |
| 3.5       | 2.5       | 1.8       | 1.8       | 14.3678    | 14.3878 | 14.6475 | 14.6902 | 13.7668 | 13.7825 | 14.7416 | 14.7663 |         |
|           |           |           | 2         | 14.3606    | 14.3803 | 14.6330 | 14.6722 | 13.7614 | 13.7768 | 14.7327 | 14.7567 |         |
|           | 1.5       | 2.7       | 1.8       | 14.3589    | 14.3789 | 14.6424 | 14.6850 | 13.7580 | 13.7737 | 14.7340 | 14.7587 |         |
|           |           |           | 2         | 14.3517    | 14.3714 | 14.6279 | 14.6670 | 13.7526 | 13.7680 | 14.7251 | 14.7491 |         |
|           | 1.8       | 2.7       | 1.8       | 14.3588    | 14.3788 | 14.6405 | 14.6831 | 13.7580 | 13.7737 | 14.7331 | 14.7578 |         |
|           |           |           | 2         | 14.3516    | 14.3713 | 14.6260 | 14.6652 | 13.7526 | 13.7679 | 14.7242 | 14.7482 |         |

Table 3. Cont.

|           |           |           |           | $\alpha_1$ | 0.6     |         |         |         |         |         |         |         |
|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|------------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|
|           |           |           |           | $\alpha_2$ | 0.02    |         |         |         | 0.04    |         |         |         |
|           |           |           |           | $\alpha_3$ | 0.01    |         | 0.03    |         | 0.01    |         | 0.03    |         |
|           |           |           |           | $\alpha_4$ | 0.7     |         | 0.9     |         | 0.7     |         | 0.9     |         |
| $\beta_1$ | $\beta_2$ | $\beta_3$ | $\beta_4$ | $\beta_5$  | 0.7     | 0.9     | 0.7     | 0.9     | 0.7     | 0.9     | 0.7     | 0.9     |
| 3.5       | 2.3       | 1.5       | 2.4       | 1.8        | 15.4725 | 15.4925 | 15.7625 | 15.8051 | 14.8714 | 14.8871 | 15.8565 | 15.8812 |
|           |           |           |           | 2          | 15.4653 | 15.4850 | 15.7479 | 15.7871 | 14.8660 | 14.8813 | 15.8476 | 15.8716 |
|           |           | 1.8       | 2.4       | 1.8        | 15.4724 | 15.4924 | 15.7606 | 15.8032 | 14.8713 | 14.8871 | 15.8556 | 15.8804 |
|           |           |           |           | 2          | 15.4652 | 15.4848 | 15.7460 | 15.7853 | 14.8659 | 14.8813 | 15.8467 | 15.8707 |
|           |           | 1.5       | 2.7       | 1.8        | 15.4635 | 15.4834 | 15.7554 | 15.7980 | 14.8626 | 14.8783 | 15.8480 | 15.8727 |
|           |           |           |           | 2          | 15.4563 | 15.4759 | 15.7409 | 15.7800 | 14.8572 | 14.8725 | 15.8391 | 15.8631 |
|           | 1.8       | 2.7       | 1.8       | 15.4634    | 15.4833 | 15.7535 | 15.7961 | 14.8625 | 14.8783 | 15.8471 | 15.8719 |         |
|           |           |           | 2         | 15.4562    | 15.4758 | 15.7390 | 15.7782 | 14.8571 | 14.8725 | 15.8382 | 15.8622 |         |
|           | 1.5       | 2.4       | 1.8       | 15.4755    | 15.4954 | 15.7616 | 15.8043 | 14.8743 | 14.8901 | 15.8571 | 15.8818 |         |
|           |           |           | 2         | 15.4683    | 15.4879 | 15.7471 | 15.7863 | 14.8690 | 14.8843 | 15.8482 | 15.8722 |         |
|           | 1.8       | 2.4       | 1.8       | 15.4753    | 15.4953 | 15.7597 | 15.8024 | 14.8743 | 14.8900 | 15.8562 | 15.8810 |         |
|           |           |           | 2         | 15.4681    | 15.4878 | 15.7452 | 15.7844 | 14.8689 | 14.8843 | 15.8473 | 15.8713 |         |
|           | 1.5       | 2.7       | 1.8       | 15.4664    | 15.4864 | 15.7546 | 15.7972 | 14.8655 | 14.8813 | 15.8486 | 15.8733 |         |
|           |           |           | 2         | 15.4592    | 15.4789 | 15.7401 | 15.7792 | 14.8602 | 14.8755 | 15.8397 | 15.8637 |         |
|           | 1.8       | 2.7       | 1.8       | 15.4663    | 15.4863 | 15.7527 | 15.7953 | 14.8655 | 14.8812 | 15.8477 | 15.8725 |         |
|           |           |           | 2         | 15.4591    | 15.4788 | 15.7382 | 15.7773 | 14.8601 | 14.8755 | 15.8389 | 15.8628 |         |
|           | 2.3       | 2.4       | 1.5       | 1.8        | 15.3930 | 15.4130 | 15.6799 | 15.7226 | 14.7919 | 14.8076 | 15.7724 | 15.7971 |
|           |           |           |           | 2          | 15.3858 | 15.4055 | 15.6654 | 15.7046 | 14.7865 | 14.8019 | 15.7635 | 15.7875 |
|           |           |           | 1.8       | 1.8        | 15.3929 | 15.4129 | 15.6780 | 15.7207 | 14.7918 | 14.8076 | 15.7715 | 15.7963 |
|           |           |           |           | 2          | 15.3857 | 15.4054 | 15.6635 | 15.7027 | 14.7864 | 14.8018 | 15.7626 | 15.7866 |
|           |           | 1.5       | 2.7       | 1.8        | 15.3840 | 15.4040 | 15.6729 | 15.7155 | 14.7831 | 14.7988 | 15.7639 | 15.7886 |
|           |           |           |           | 2          | 15.3768 | 15.3964 | 15.6584 | 15.6975 | 14.7777 | 14.7930 | 15.7550 | 15.7790 |
|           |           | 1.8       | 2.7       | 1.8        | 15.3839 | 15.4038 | 15.6710 | 15.7136 | 14.7830 | 14.7988 | 15.7630 | 15.7877 |
|           |           |           |           | 2          | 15.3767 | 15.3963 | 15.6565 | 15.6956 | 14.7776 | 14.7930 | 15.7541 | 15.7781 |
| 2.5       |           | 2.4       | 1.5       | 1.8        | 15.3960 | 15.4160 | 15.6791 | 15.7218 | 14.7949 | 14.8106 | 15.7730 | 15.7977 |
|           |           |           |           | 2          | 15.3888 | 15.4085 | 15.6646 | 15.7038 | 14.7895 | 14.8048 | 15.7641 | 15.7881 |
|           |           | 1.8       | 1.8       | 15.3959    | 15.4159 | 15.6772 | 15.7199 | 14.7948 | 14.8106 | 15.7721 | 15.7969 |         |
|           |           |           | 2         | 15.3887    | 15.4083 | 15.6627 | 15.7019 | 14.7894 | 14.8048 | 15.7632 | 15.7872 |         |
| 1.5       | 2.7       | 1.8       | 15.3870   | 15.4069    | 15.6721 | 15.7146 | 14.7861 | 14.8018 | 15.7645 | 15.7892 |         |         |
|           |           | 2         | 15.3798   | 15.3994    | 15.6576 | 15.6967 | 14.7807 | 14.7960 | 15.7556 | 15.7796 |         |         |
| 1.8       | 2.7       | 1.8       | 15.3869   | 15.4068    | 15.6702 | 15.7128 | 14.7860 | 14.8017 | 15.7636 | 15.7883 |         |         |
|           |           | 2         | 15.3797   | 15.3993    | 15.6557 | 15.6948 | 14.7806 | 14.7960 | 15.7547 | 15.7787 |         |         |

**Table 4.** Interpretation of cost values on  $E_{TCV}$ .

|           |           |           |           | $HC_{FP}$  | 0.2    |        |        |        | 0.4    |        |        |        |        |
|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|------------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|
|           |           |           |           | $HC_{RP}$  | 0.2    |        | 0.3    |        | 0.2    |        | 0.3    |        |        |
|           |           |           |           | $HC_{RFP}$ | 0.1    |        | 0.3    |        | 0.1    |        | 0.3    |        |        |
| $WC_{Q1}$ | $WC_{Q2}$ | $WC_{Q3}$ | $WC_{Q4}$ | $SC_{FP}$  | 0.1    | 0.3    | 0.1    | 0.3    | 0.1    | 0.3    | 0.1    | 0.3    |        |
| 5         | 4         | 5         | 5         | 5          | 12.942 | 13.138 | 13.037 | 13.233 | 12.942 | 13.138 | 13.037 | 13.233 |        |
|           |           |           |           | 10         | 13.828 | 14.025 | 13.923 | 14.120 | 13.828 | 14.025 | 13.923 | 14.120 |        |
|           |           |           | 7         | 5          | 13.528 | 13.725 | 13.623 | 13.820 | 13.528 | 13.725 | 13.623 | 13.820 |        |
|           |           |           |           | 10         | 14.415 | 14.612 | 14.510 | 14.707 | 14.415 | 14.612 | 14.510 | 14.707 |        |
|           |           |           | 6         | 5          | 13.894 | 14.090 | 13.989 | 14.185 | 13.894 | 14.090 | 13.989 | 14.185 |        |
|           |           |           |           | 10         | 14.780 | 14.977 | 14.875 | 15.072 | 14.780 | 14.977 | 14.875 | 15.072 |        |
|           |           | 6         | 7         | 5          | 14.481 | 14.677 | 14.576 | 14.772 | 14.481 | 14.677 | 14.576 | 14.772 |        |
|           |           |           |           | 10         | 15.367 | 15.564 | 15.462 | 15.659 | 15.367 | 15.564 | 15.462 | 15.659 |        |
|           |           |           | 5         | 5          | 5      | 14.965 | 15.161 | 15.060 | 15.256 | 14.965 | 15.161 | 15.060 | 15.256 |
|           |           |           |           |            | 10     | 15.852 | 16.048 | 15.947 | 16.143 | 15.852 | 16.048 | 15.947 | 16.143 |
|           |           |           |           | 7          | 5      | 15.552 | 15.748 | 15.647 | 15.843 | 15.552 | 15.748 | 15.647 | 15.843 |
|           |           |           |           |            | 10     | 16.438 | 16.635 | 16.533 | 16.730 | 16.438 | 16.635 | 16.533 | 16.730 |
|           | 6         | 5         | 5         | 15.917     | 16.114 | 16.012 | 16.209 | 15.917 | 16.114 | 16.012 | 16.209 |        |        |
|           |           |           | 10        | 16.804     | 17.000 | 16.899 | 17.095 | 16.804 | 17.000 | 16.899 | 17.095 |        |        |
|           |           | 7         | 5         | 16.504     | 16.701 | 16.599 | 16.796 | 16.504 | 16.701 | 16.599 | 16.796 |        |        |
|           |           |           | 10        | 17.391     | 17.587 | 17.486 | 17.682 | 17.391 | 17.587 | 17.486 | 17.682 |        |        |
|           |           | 7         | 4         | 5          | 5      | 13.280 | 13.477 | 13.375 | 13.572 | 13.280 | 13.477 | 13.375 | 13.572 |
|           |           |           |           |            | 10     | 14.167 | 14.363 | 14.262 | 14.458 | 14.167 | 14.363 | 14.262 | 14.458 |
|           | 7         |           |           | 5          | 13.867 | 14.063 | 13.962 | 14.159 | 13.867 | 14.063 | 13.962 | 14.159 |        |
|           |           |           |           | 10         | 14.754 | 14.950 | 14.849 | 15.045 | 14.754 | 14.950 | 14.849 | 15.045 |        |
|           | 6         |           |           | 5          | 14.232 | 14.429 | 14.327 | 14.524 | 14.232 | 14.429 | 14.327 | 14.524 |        |
|           |           |           |           | 10         | 15.119 | 15.315 | 15.214 | 15.410 | 15.119 | 15.315 | 15.214 | 15.410 |        |
|           | 6         |           | 7         | 5          | 14.819 | 15.016 | 14.914 | 15.111 | 14.819 | 15.016 | 14.914 | 15.111 |        |
|           |           |           |           | 10         | 15.706 | 15.902 | 15.801 | 15.997 | 15.706 | 15.902 | 15.801 | 15.997 |        |
| 5         |           |           | 5         | 5          | 15.303 | 15.500 | 15.398 | 15.595 | 15.303 | 15.500 | 15.398 | 15.595 |        |
|           |           |           |           | 10         | 16.190 | 16.387 | 16.285 | 16.482 | 16.190 | 16.387 | 16.285 | 16.482 |        |
|           |           |           | 7         | 5          | 15.890 | 16.087 | 15.985 | 16.182 | 15.890 | 16.087 | 15.985 | 16.182 |        |
|           |           |           |           | 10         | 16.777 | 16.974 | 16.872 | 17.069 | 16.777 | 16.974 | 16.872 | 17.069 |        |
| 6         | 5         | 5         | 16.256    | 16.452     | 16.351 | 16.547 | 16.256 | 16.452 | 16.351 | 16.547 |        |        |        |
|           |           | 10        | 17.142    | 17.339     | 17.237 | 17.434 | 17.142 | 17.339 | 17.237 | 17.434 |        |        |        |
|           | 7         | 5         | 16.842    | 17.039     | 16.938 | 17.134 | 16.842 | 17.039 | 16.938 | 17.134 |        |        |        |
|           |           | 10        | 17.729    | 17.926     | 17.824 | 18.021 | 17.729 | 17.926 | 17.824 | 18.021 |        |        |        |

Table 4. Cont.

|                        |                        |                        |                        | <i>HC<sub>FP</sub></i>  | 0.2    |        |        |        | 0.4    |        |        |        |
|------------------------|------------------------|------------------------|------------------------|-------------------------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|
|                        |                        |                        |                        | <i>HC<sub>RP</sub></i>  | 0.2    |        | 0.3    |        | 0.2    |        | 0.3    |        |
|                        |                        |                        |                        | <i>HC<sub>RFP</sub></i> | 0.1    | 0.3    | 0.1    | 0.3    | 0.1    | 0.3    | 0.1    | 0.3    |
| <i>LC<sub>Q1</sub></i> | <i>LC<sub>Q2</sub></i> | <i>LC<sub>Q3</sub></i> | <i>LC<sub>Q4</sub></i> | <i>SC<sub>FP</sub></i>  |        |        |        |        |        |        |        |        |
| 0.5                    | 0.2                    | 0.1                    | 0.1                    | 5                       | 13.953 | 14.150 | 14.048 | 14.245 | 13.953 | 14.150 | 14.048 | 14.245 |
|                        |                        |                        |                        | 10                      | 14.840 | 15.036 | 14.935 | 15.131 | 14.840 | 15.036 | 14.935 | 15.131 |
|                        |                        |                        | 0.2                    | 5                       | 13.971 | 14.167 | 14.066 | 14.262 | 13.971 | 14.167 | 14.066 | 14.262 |
|                        |                        |                        |                        | 10                      | 14.858 | 15.054 | 14.953 | 15.149 | 14.858 | 15.054 | 14.953 | 15.149 |
|                        |                        |                        | 0.3                    | 5                       | 14.032 | 14.228 | 14.127 | 14.323 | 14.032 | 14.228 | 14.127 | 14.323 |
|                        |                        |                        |                        | 10                      | 14.918 | 15.115 | 15.013 | 15.210 | 14.918 | 15.115 | 15.013 | 15.210 |
|                        |                        | 0.4                    | 0.1                    | 5                       | 14.049 | 14.246 | 14.144 | 14.341 | 14.049 | 14.246 | 14.144 | 14.341 |
|                        |                        |                        |                        | 10                      | 14.936 | 15.133 | 15.031 | 15.228 | 14.936 | 15.133 | 15.031 | 15.228 |
|                        |                        |                        | 0.2                    | 5                       | 13.986 | 14.183 | 14.081 | 14.278 | 13.986 | 14.183 | 14.081 | 14.278 |
|                        |                        |                        |                        | 10                      | 14.873 | 15.069 | 14.968 | 15.164 | 14.873 | 15.069 | 14.968 | 15.164 |
|                        |                        |                        | 0.3                    | 5                       | 14.004 | 14.200 | 14.099 | 14.295 | 14.004 | 14.200 | 14.099 | 14.295 |
|                        |                        |                        |                        | 10                      | 14.890 | 15.087 | 14.985 | 15.182 | 14.890 | 15.087 | 14.985 | 15.182 |
|                        | 0.4                    | 0.4                    | 0.1                    | 5                       | 14.065 | 14.261 | 14.160 | 14.356 | 14.065 | 14.261 | 14.160 | 14.356 |
|                        |                        |                        |                        | 10                      | 14.951 | 15.148 | 15.046 | 15.243 | 14.951 | 15.148 | 15.046 | 15.243 |
|                        |                        |                        | 0.2                    | 5                       | 14.082 | 14.279 | 14.177 | 14.374 | 14.082 | 14.279 | 14.177 | 14.374 |
|                        |                        |                        |                        | 10                      | 14.969 | 15.166 | 15.064 | 15.261 | 14.969 | 15.166 | 15.064 | 15.261 |
|                        |                        |                        | 0.3                    | 5                       | 14.163 | 14.360 | 14.258 | 14.455 | 14.163 | 14.360 | 14.258 | 14.455 |
|                        |                        |                        |                        | 10                      | 15.050 | 15.246 | 15.145 | 15.341 | 15.050 | 15.246 | 15.145 | 15.341 |
|                        |                        | 0.2                    | 0.1                    | 5                       | 14.181 | 14.377 | 14.276 | 14.472 | 14.181 | 14.377 | 14.276 | 14.472 |
|                        |                        |                        |                        | 10                      | 15.068 | 15.264 | 15.163 | 15.359 | 15.068 | 15.264 | 15.163 | 15.359 |
|                        |                        |                        | 0.2                    | 5                       | 14.242 | 14.438 | 14.337 | 14.533 | 14.242 | 14.438 | 14.337 | 14.533 |
|                        |                        |                        |                        | 10                      | 15.128 | 15.325 | 15.223 | 15.420 | 15.128 | 15.325 | 15.223 | 15.420 |
|                        |                        |                        | 0.3                    | 5                       | 14.259 | 14.456 | 14.354 | 14.551 | 14.259 | 14.456 | 14.354 | 14.551 |
|                        |                        |                        |                        | 10                      | 15.146 | 15.343 | 15.241 | 15.438 | 15.146 | 15.343 | 15.241 | 15.438 |
| 0.4                    | 0.2                    | 0.1                    | 5                      | 14.196                  | 14.393 | 14.291 | 14.488 | 14.196 | 14.393 | 14.291 | 14.488 |        |
|                        |                        |                        | 10                     | 15.083                  | 15.279 | 15.178 | 15.374 | 15.083 | 15.279 | 15.178 | 15.374 |        |
|                        |                        | 0.2                    | 5                      | 14.214                  | 14.410 | 14.309 | 14.505 | 14.214 | 14.410 | 14.309 | 14.505 |        |
|                        |                        |                        | 10                     | 15.100                  | 15.297 | 15.195 | 15.392 | 15.100 | 15.297 | 15.195 | 15.392 |        |
|                        |                        | 0.3                    | 5                      | 14.275                  | 14.471 | 14.370 | 14.566 | 14.275 | 14.471 | 14.370 | 14.566 |        |
|                        |                        |                        | 10                     | 15.161                  | 15.358 | 15.256 | 15.453 | 15.161 | 15.358 | 15.256 | 15.453 |        |
|                        | 0.7                    | 0.1                    | 5                      | 14.292                  | 14.489 | 14.387 | 14.584 | 14.292 | 14.489 | 14.387 | 14.584 |        |
|                        |                        |                        | 10                     | 15.179                  | 15.376 | 15.274 | 15.471 | 15.179 | 15.376 | 15.274 | 15.471 |        |

### 6. Conclusions

Markovian queuing environments can be arranged using a model created using the research presented in this paper. According to information gleaned from the queuing inventory literature, there are currently no publications examining the combination of FP, RFP, and RP with multi-type servers and queues. This work is an attempt to fill a void in

the inventory literature that has been identified. Four classes of customers are welcomed to use the inventory system,

1. To purchase an FP.
2. To sell their OP and buy a new FP.
3. To buy used things (second-hand shops are commonplace in many countries).
4. Require a repair service of their defective product.

These customers benefit from the proposed MQIS, which provides a multi-type service facility to them. In addition, each of the three items included in the system must be acquired based on the customer's satisfaction with the product's features and total cost of ownership. These customer-focused services are only offered by a limited number of companies. The multi-type service facility provided by the system is considered a customer-oriented service.

- Assuming a customer-oriented service model, this system's performance is in line with real-world inventory businesses.
- The notion is theoretically described as a seven-dimensional stochastic process and its full analysis is carried out by the NMAM.
- Using LRA, the minimal non-negative solution of the matrix quadratic equation is found for the proposed MQIS.
- The system's performance metrics can be calculated when the stationary probability vector has been computed.
- The discussed model comes in under budget. From the detailed interpretation of the numerical discussion provided for each queue, one can observe that the overall expected inflow of a customer in the system (the sum of the expected number of customers in each queue) is raised.

#### 6.1. Insights and Limitations

As a result, the reader can gain new insights into the FP and RFP service processes under the assumption of probability.

1. In this MQIS, the probability  $q_{r_1}$  is expected to play an important role. In addition to increasing the number of customers in Queue-1 and Queue-3, it also raises the amount of RPs and RFPs.
2. The probability  $q_{r_3}$  must be smaller than  $q_{r_1}$  and  $q_{r_2}$  because it represents the loss of customers in Queue-2.
3. Despite the fact that customers have been lost in all of Queue- $i$ , where  $i = 1, 3, 4$ , the loss of customers in Queue-2 will have a significant impact on the system's overall costs and profits.
4. Customer dissatisfaction cannot be prevented, but it can be managed through the use of real-world examples. This study shows that the probability  $p_{f_2}$ ,  $q_{r_3}$ , and  $r_2$  should always be kept at reduced values while also never going to zero. In the event that they are considered to be zero, it conflicts with reality.
5. According to the proposed model, these probabilities could be reduced by readers or business people. In the meantime, they will need a creative strategy or design to meet the needs of all kinds of customers. These days, just a handful of businesses, such as online retailers Amazon and Flipkart, make an attempt to appeal to customers of various socioeconomic backgrounds. So, if a customer can have all of their needs met in a single place, they are less likely to look elsewhere.
6. The purchase of a new product when returning the old is increasing because every month there is new software and upgrades are introduced in many mobile phones, laptops, fridges, air-conditioning companies, etc. These upgrades stimulate the customer to buy a new product. Even though their previously purchased product will not expire soon, they are interested in buying the new one if a company will give such an opportunity (the sale of a new product when buying the customer's old product).
7. This model explores a circular economy that will bring business opportunities to the business people.

### 6.2. Future Directions

A busy-period analysis of each server and waiting time distribution of each queue work is under process. Discussion of this topic in a Markovian arrival process setting may be possible later on. The purchasing option will be given to a customer to choose FP or RFP. The repair work on the defective product will be performed using a phase-type distribution.

**Author Contributions:** Conceptualization, K.J.; Data curation, K.J.; Formal analysis, K.J.; S.S. (S. Selvakumar); Funding acquisition, G.P.J., J.R. and W.C.; Investigation, S.S. (S. Selvakumar), S.S. (S. Saravanan), and N.A.; Methodology, S.S. (S. Saravanan) and N.A.; Project administration, J.R. and W.C.; Resources, J.R.; Software, S.S. (S. Selvakumar) and S.A.; Supervision, G.P.J., J.R. and W.C.; Validation, W.C.; Visualization, N.A. and S.A.; Writing—original draft, K.J.; Writing—review and editing, G.P.J. All authors have read and agreed to the published version of the manuscript.

**Funding:** This research received no external funding.

**Institutional Review Board Statement:** Not applicable.

**Informed Consent Statement:** Not applicable.

**Data Availability Statement:** Not applicable.

**Acknowledgments:** Anbazhagan and Amutha would like to thank RUSA Phase 2.0 (F 24-51/2014-U), DST-FIST (SR/FIST/MS-I/2018/17), DST-PURSE 2nd Phase programme (SR/PURSE Phase 2/38), Govt. of India.

**Conflicts of Interest:** The authors declare no conflict of interest.

### Abbreviations

|      |                                    |
|------|------------------------------------|
| QIS  | Queuing-Inventory System           |
| FP   | Fresh Product                      |
| OP   | Old Product                        |
| NP   | New Product                        |
| RFP  | Refurbished Product                |
| RP   | Returned Product                   |
| MQIS | Markovian Queuing-Inventory System |
| TaC  | Terms and Conditions               |
| TOM  | Technical Operation Manual         |
| CTMC | Continuous Time Markov Chain       |
| LRA  | Logarithmic Reduction Algorithm    |
| TCV  | Total Cost Value                   |
| NMAM | Neuts Matrix Analytic Method       |

### Notations

|                     |                                                                             |
|---------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| $\mathbb{Z}^+$      | The set of all non-negative integers                                        |
| $S_l^m$             | $\{l, l + 1, l + 2, \dots, m\}, l, m \in \mathbb{Z}^+$                      |
| $\mathbf{0}$        | Zero matrix of an appropriate order                                         |
| $I$                 | Identity matrix of an appropriate order                                     |
| $I_r$               | Identity matrix of order r                                                  |
| $\mathbf{e}$        | Column matrix containing all ones of an appropriate order                   |
| $\delta_{ij}$       | $\begin{cases} 1, & \text{if } j = i, \\ 0, & \text{otherwise} \end{cases}$ |
| $\bar{\delta}_{ij}$ | $1 - \delta_{ij}$                                                           |
| $J_1(t)$            | Number of customer in Queue-1 at any time                                   |
| $J_2(t)$            | Number of available FP at any time                                          |
| $J_3(t)$            | Number of customer in Queue-2 at any time                                   |
| $J_4(t)$            | Number of RP exists at any time                                             |

|            |                                                                                                                                                                                    |
|------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| $J_5(t)$   | Number of customer in Queue-3 at any time                                                                                                                                          |
| $J_6(t)$   | Number of available RFP at any time                                                                                                                                                |
| $J_7(t)$   | Number of customer in Queue-4 at any time                                                                                                                                          |
| $K$        | $\{(j_1, j_2, j_3, j_4, j_5, j_6, j_7) : j_1 \in \mathbb{Z}^+, j_2 \in S_1^{P_1}, j_3 \in S_0^{N_1}, j_4 \in S_0^{P_2}, j_5 \in S_0^{N_2}, j_6 \in S_0^{P_3}, j_7 \in S_0^{N_3}\}$ |
| $\gamma_0$ | $P_1(N_1 + 1)(P_2 + 1)(N_2 + 1)(P_3 + 1)(N_3 + 1)$                                                                                                                                 |
| $\gamma_1$ | $(N_1 + 1)(P_2 + 1)(N_2 + 1)(P_3 + 1)(N_3 + 1)$                                                                                                                                    |
| $\gamma_2$ | $(P_2 + 1)(N_2 + 1)(P_3 + 1)(N_3 + 1)$                                                                                                                                             |
| $\gamma_3$ | $(N_2 + 1)(P_3 + 1)(N_3 + 1)$                                                                                                                                                      |
| $\gamma_4$ | $(P_3 + 1)(N_3 + 1)$                                                                                                                                                               |
| $\gamma_5$ | $(N_3 + 1)$                                                                                                                                                                        |
| $HC_{FP}$  | Holding cost of per FP per unit time                                                                                                                                               |
| $HC_{RP}$  | Holding cost of per RP per unit time                                                                                                                                               |
| $HC_{RFP}$ | Holding cost of per RFP per unit time                                                                                                                                              |
| $SC_{FP}$  | Set up cost of per order of FP per unit time                                                                                                                                       |
| $WC_{Q1}$  | Waiting cost of per customer in Queue-1 per unit time                                                                                                                              |
| $WC_{Q2}$  | Waiting cost of per customer in Queue-2 per unit time                                                                                                                              |
| $WC_{Q3}$  | Waiting cost of per customer in Queue-3 per unit time                                                                                                                              |
| $WC_{Q4}$  | Waiting cost of per customer in Queue-4 per unit time                                                                                                                              |
| $LC_{Q1}$  | Lost cost of per customer in Queue-1 per unit time                                                                                                                                 |
| $LC_{Q2}$  | Lost cost of per customer in Queue-2 per unit time                                                                                                                                 |
| $LC_{Q3}$  | Lost cost of per customer in Queue-3 per unit time                                                                                                                                 |
| $LC_{Q4}$  | Lost cost of per customer in Queue-4 per unit time                                                                                                                                 |

## References

- Saranya, N.; Shophia Lawrence, A.; Sivakumar, B. An inventory system with replacement and refurbishment of failed items. *Commun. Stat.—Theory Methods* **2022**, 1–23. [CrossRef]
- Juneja, P. Management Study Guide. Available online: <https://www.managementstudyguide.com/inventory-management.htm> (accessed on 24 February 2022).
- Neuts, M.F. *Matrix-Geometric Solutions in Stochastic Models: An Algorithmic Approach*; Dover Publication Inc.: New York, NY, USA, 1994.
- Paul, M.; Sivakumar, B.; Arivarignan, G. A Multi-Server Perishable Inventory System with Service Facility. *Pac. J. Appl. Math.* **2009**, 2, 69–82.
- Sivakumar, B. Two-commodity inventory system with retrial demand. *Eur. J. Oper. Res.* **2008**, 187, 70–83. [CrossRef]
- Sivakumar, B. A perishable inventory system with retrial demands and a finite population. *J. Comput. Appl. Math.* **2008**, 224, 29–38. [CrossRef]
- Jeganathan, K.; Reiyas, M.A.; Selvakumar, S.; Anbazhagan, N. Analysis of Retrial Queueing-Inventory System with Stock Dependent Demand Rate:  $(s, S)$  Versus  $(s, Q)$  Ordering Policies. *Int. J. Appl. Comput. Math.* **2020**, 6, 1–29. [CrossRef]
- Abdul Reiyas, M.; Jeganathan, K. Modeling of Stochastic Arrivals Depending on Base Stock Inventory System with a Retrial Queue. *Int. J. Appl. Comput. Math.* **2021**, 7, 1–22.
- Melikov, A.Z.; Molchanov, A.A. Stock optimization in transport/storage. *Cybern. Syst. Anal.* **1992**, 28, 484–487. [CrossRef]
- Sigman, K.; Simchi-Levi, D. Light traffic heuristic for an M/G/1 queue with limited inventory. *Ann. Oper. Res.* **1992**, 40, 371–380. [CrossRef]
- Amirthakodi, M.; Sivakumar, B. An inventory system with service facility and feedback customers. *Int. J. Ind. Syst. Eng.* **2019**, 33, 374–411.
- Jeganathan, K.; Selvakumar, S.; Anbazhagan, N.; Amutha, S.; Hammachukiattikul, P. Stochastic Modeling on M/M/1/N Inventory System with Queue Dependent Service Rate and Retrial Facility. *AIMS Math.* **2021**, 6, 7386–7420. [CrossRef]
- Jeenanunta, C.; Kongtarat, V.; Buddhakulsomsiri, J. A simulation-optimisation approach to determine optimal order-up-to level for inventory system with long lead time. *Int. J. Logist. Syst. Manag.* **2021**, 38, 253–276. [CrossRef]
- Taia, P.D.; Huyenb, P.P.N.; Buddhakulsomsirib, J. A novel modeling approach for a capacitated  $(S, T)$  inventory system with backlog under stochastic discrete demand and lead time. *Int. J. Ind. Eng. Comput.* **2021**, 12, 1–14. [CrossRef]
- Krishnamoorthy, A.; Manikandan, R.; Lakshmy, B. A revisit to queueing-inventory system with positive service time. *Ann. Oper. Res.* **2015**, 233, 221–236. [CrossRef]
- Krishnamoorthy, A.; Joshua, A.N.; Kozyrev, D. Analysis of a Batch Arrival, Batch Service Queueing-Inventory System with Processing of Inventory While on Vacation. *Mathematics* **2021**, 9, 419. [CrossRef]
- Sugapriya, C.; Nithya, M.; Jeganathan, K.; Anbazhagan, N.; Joshi, G.P.; Yang, E.; Seo, S. Analysis of Stock-Dependent Arrival Process in a Retrial Stochastic Inventory System with Server Vacation. *Processes* **2022**, 10, 176. [CrossRef]
- Veeramuthu, V.; Anbazhagan, N.; Amutha, S.; Jeganathan, K.; Joshi, G.P.; Cho, W.; Seo, S. Steady State Analysis of Impulse Customers and Cancellation Policy in Queueing-Inventory System. *Processes* **2021**, 9, 2146.

19. Wang, F.-F. Approximation and Optimization of a Multi-Server Impatient Retrial Inventory-Queueing System with Two Demand Classes. *Qual. Technol. Quant. Manag.* **2015**, *12*, 269–292. [[CrossRef](#)]
20. Klimenok, V.; Dudin, A.; Dudina, O.; Kochetkova, I. Queueing System with Two Types of Customers and Dynamic Change of a Priority. *Mathematics* **2020**, *8*, 824. [[CrossRef](#)]
21. Jeganathan, K.; Reiyas, M.A. Two parallel heterogeneous servers Markovian inventory system with modified and delayed working vacations. *Math. Comput. Simul.* **2020**, *172*, 273–304. [[CrossRef](#)]
22. Jehoashan Kingsly, S.; Padmasekaran, S.; Jeganathan, K. Two Heterogeneous Servers Queueing-Inventory System with Sharing Finite Buffer and a Flexible Server. *Int. J. Appl. Eng. Res.* **2019**, *14*, 1212–1219.
23. Jeganathan, K.; Abdul Reiyas, M.; Prasanna Lakshmi, K.; Saravanan, S. Two Server Markovian Inventory Systems with Server Interruptions: Heterogeneous Vs. Homogeneous Servers. *Math. Comput. Simul.* **2019**, *155*, 177–200. [[CrossRef](#)]
24. Vishnevsky, V.; Klimenok, V.; Sokolov, A.; Larionov, A. Performance Evaluation of the Priority Multi-Server System MMAP/PH/M/N Using Machine Learning Methods. *Mathematics* **2021**, *9*, 3236. [[CrossRef](#)]
25. Klimenok, V.I.; Dudin, A.N.; Vishnevsky, V.M.; Semenova, O.V. Retrial BMAP/PH/N Queueing System with a Threshold-Dependent Inter-Retrial Time Distribution. *Mathematics* **2022**, *10*, 269. [[CrossRef](#)]
26. Jeganathan, K.; Hari Krishnan, T.; Selvakumar, S.; Anbazhagan, N.; Amutha, S.; Acharya, S.; Dhakal, R.; Joshi, G.P. Analysis of Interconnected Arrivals on Queueing-Inventory System with Two Multi-Server Service Channels and One Retrial Facility. *Electronics* **2021**, *10*, 576. [[CrossRef](#)]
27. Rajkumar, M.; Sivakumar, B.; Arivarigan, G. An infinite queue at a multi-server inventory system. *Int. J. Inventory Res.* **2014**, *2*, 189–221. [[CrossRef](#)]
28. Chakravarthy, S.R.; Shajin, D.; Krishnamoorthy, A. Infinite Server Queueing-Inventory Models. *J. Indian Soc. Probab. Stat.* **2020**, *21*, 43–68. [[CrossRef](#)]
29. Hanukov, G.; Avinadav, T.; Chernonog, T.; Yechiali, U. A multi-server queueing-inventory system with stock-dependent demand. *IFAC-PapersOnLine* **2019**, *52*, 671–676. [[CrossRef](#)]
30. Ozkar, S.; Kocer, U.U. Two-commodity queueing-inventory system with two classes of customers. *Opsearch* **2021**, *58*, 234–256. [[CrossRef](#)]
31. Benny, B.; Chakravarthy, S.R.; Krishnamoorthy, A. Queueing-Inventory System with Two Commodities. *J. Indian Soc. Probab. Stat.* **2018**, *19*, 437–454. [[CrossRef](#)]
32. Zhang, Z.; Wu, J.; Wei, F. Refurbishment or quality recovery: Joint quality and pricing decisions for new product development. *Int. J. Prod. Res.* **2019**, *57*, 2327–2343. [[CrossRef](#)]
33. Zhang, Y.; He, Y.; Yue, J.; Gou, Q. Pricing decisions for a supply chain with refurbished products. *Int. J. Prod. Res.* **2019**, *57*, 2867–2900. [[CrossRef](#)]
34. He, Y.; Xu, Q.; Wu, P. Omnichannel retail operations with refurbished consumer returns. *Int. J. Prod. Res.* **2020**, *58*, 271–290. [[CrossRef](#)]
35. Ho, T.-F.; Lin, C.-C.; Lin, C.-L. Determining the Optimal Inventory and Number of Shipments for a Two-Resource Supply Chain with Correlated Demands and Remanufacturing Products Allowing Backorder. *Mathematics* **2020**, *8*, 548. [[CrossRef](#)]
36. Rani, S.; Ali, R.; Agarwal, A. Fuzzy inventory model for new and refurbished deteriorating items with cannibalisation in green supply chain. *Int. J. Syst. Sci. Oper. Logist.* **2020**, *9*, 22–38. [[CrossRef](#)]
37. Cárdenas-Barrón, L.E.; Plaza-Makowsky, M.J.L.; Sevilla-Roca, M.A.; Núñez-Baumert, J.M.; Mandal, B. An Inventory Model for Imperfect Quality Products with Rework, Distinct Holding Costs, and Nonlinear Demand Dependent on Price. *Mathematics* **2021**, *9*, 1362. [[CrossRef](#)]
38. Sinu Lal, T.S.; Joshua, V.C.; Vishnevsky, V.; Kozyrev, D.; Krishnamoorthy, A. A Multi-Type Queueing Inventory System—A Model for Selection and Allocation of Spectra. *Mathematics* **2022**, *10*, 714. [[CrossRef](#)]
39. Jacob, J.; Shajin, D.; Krishnamoorthy, A.; Vishnevsky, V.; Kozyrev, D. Queueing-Inventory with One Essential and m Optional Items with Environment Change Process Forming Correlated Renewal Process (MEP). *Mathematics* **2022**, *10*, 104. [[CrossRef](#)]
40. Van Harte, A.; Sleptchenko, A. On Markovian Multi-Class, Multi-Server Queueing. *Queueing Syst.* **2003**, *43*, 307–328. [[CrossRef](#)]
41. Rasmi, K.; Jacob, M.J.; Rummyantsev, A.S.; Krishnamoorthy, A. A Multi-Server Heterogeneous Queueing-Inventory System with Class-Dependent Inventory Access. *Mathematics* **2021**, *9*, 1037. [[CrossRef](#)]
42. Krishnamoorthy, A.; Manikandan, R.; Shaji, D. Analysis of a Multi-server Queueing-Inventory System. *Adv. Oper. Res.* **2015**, *2015*, 747328.
43. Becerra, P.; Mula, J.; Sanchis, R. Sustainable Inventory Management in Supply Chains: Trends and Further Research. *Sustainability* **2022**, *14*, 2613. [[CrossRef](#)]
44. Slama, I.; Ben-Ammar, O.; Thevenin, S.; Dolgui, A.; Masmoudi, F. Stochastic program for disassembly lot-sizing under uncertain component refurbishing lead times. *Eur. J. Oper. Res.* **2022**, *in press*. [[CrossRef](#)]
45. Jauhari, W.A.; Wangsa, I.D. A Manufacturer-Retailer Inventory Model with Remanufacturing, Stochastic Demand, and Green Investments. *Process. Integr. Optim. Sustain.* **2022**, 1–21. [[CrossRef](#)]
46. Latouche, G.; Ramaswami, V. *Introduction to Matrix Analytic Methods in Stochastic Modeling*; SIAM: Philadelphia, PA, USA, 1999.
47. Latouche, G.; Ramaswami, V. A logarithmic reduction algorithm for quasi-birth-death processes. *J. Appl. Probab.* **1993**, *30*, 650–674. [[CrossRef](#)]