"SPECIFYING COMPETITIVE EFFECTS IN DIFFUSION MODELS: AN EMPIRICAL ANALYSIS"

by

Philip PARKER*
and
Hubert GATIGNON**

N° 91/62/MKT

- * Assistant Professor of Marketing, INSEAD, Boulevard de Constance, Fontainebleau 77305 Cedex, France.
- ** Associate Professor of Marketing, The Wharton School, University of Pennsylvania, U.S.A.

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Philip Parker

and

Hubert Gatignon*

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* Philip M. Parker is Assistant Professor of Marketing, INSEAD, Fontainebleau, France and Hubert Gatignon is Associate Professor of Marketing, The Wharton School, University of Pennsylvania. Thanks are extended to Information Resources Inc., Broadcast Advertising Reports and Leading National Advertisers for making the data available and to Leonard Lodish, Katrina Maxwell, David Reibstein, Howard Kunreuther and F. Gerard Adams for their comments on this research. Part of this research was conducted while Hubert Gatignon was a visiting Professor at the European Institute for Advanced Studies in Management, Brussels (Belgium) and at the Facultés Universitaires Catholiques de Mons (Belgium).

SPECIFYING COMPETITIVE EFFECTS IN DIFFUSION MODELS: AN EMPIRICAL ANALYSIS

ABSTRACT

The objectives of this research are to provide a systematic analysis of alternative specifications of brand-level first purchase diffusion models, and to empirically assess within a product category the relative success of these models to explain trial dynamics. In particular, this analysis addresses the following issues for a new and growing category: (1) the role of brandspecific versus category-level (competitive) effects across brands, (2) the role of both price and advertising on brand-level trial dynamics, (3) the existence of static versus dynamic price and advertising elasticities, (4) the response of brand trials to absolute versus relative measures of marketing mix activity, (5) the relative ability of various functional forms (e.g. separable versus nonseparable) in explaining brand-level trial dynamics in a new category, and (6) whether a common functional form, or hypothesized diffusion process can be imposed on all new brands entering into a new category. While such issues have received substantial attention in the literature for existing or newly launched brands in mature categories (e.g., in the area of market share models), these areas are relatively under-researched for new products in new categories which are undergoing a diffusion process.

SPECIFYING COMPETITIVE EFFECTS IN DIFFUSION MODELS: AN EMPIRICAL ANALYSIS

New product diffusion models have been developed to help marketing managers (1) forecast market potentials and sales growth patterns, (2) test hypotheses concerning the nature of the underlying diffusion process, and (3) derive normative rules for optimal marketing mix allocation over the product life cycle (Mahajan, Muller and Bass 1990).

Since the 1960s, models have increased in complexity from growth curves such as the modified exponential curve (Fourt and Woodlock 1960), the Gompertz curve (Chow 1967), the logistic function (Mansfield 1961) and the mixed influence diffusion model of Bass (1969) to diffusion models with varying potentials due to exogenous factors (Mahajan and Peterson 1978, Mahajan, Peterson, Jain and Malhotra 1979) and to models incorporating marketing mix variables. Models with marketing mix variables have typically incorporated one marketing mix variable at a time such as price (Robinson and Lakhani 1975, Dolan and Jeuland 1981, Bass 1980, Kalish 1983), advertising (Horsky and Simon 1983, Simon and Sebastian 1987, Dockner and Jorgensen 1988, Ozga 1960), sales force (Lilien, Rao and Kalish 1981) and distribution (Jones and Ritz 1991). Noteworthy exceptions regarding monopolistic models are Jeuland (1981), who incorporates information propagation due to communication programs and price, and Kalish (1985) who models advertising and price effects on the diffusion process.

Recently, brand-level diffusion models have become of greater interest because the normative recommendations derived from monopolistic markets are feared to be unapplicable to marketing situations when multiple brands enter into a new category (see, for example, Eliashberg and Jeuland 1986). While

progress has been made from a normative perspective, empirical models of brand-level diffusion have been under-represented in the literature. In fact, model structures often assumed in normative research have yet to be empirically validated at the brand level. Normative models have used a variety of theoretically plausible specifications to capture marketing mix effects at the brand level (see Mahajan, Muller and Bass 1990, and Hanssens, Parsons and Schultz, Chapter 8, 1990 for reviews of normative diffusion models). For example, Dockner and Jorgensen (1988) develop special cases represented by a number of competitive model specifications, while Eliashberg and Jeuland (1986) assume a unique model and elasticity structure across competitors. Normative analyses also differ in their use of absolute versus relative measures of marketing mix activities. This lack of empirical research noted by Gatignon and Robertson (1985) is not specific to marketing as Rogers (1983) reports a similar lack of work on decentralized, or competitive processes, partially due to difficulties in observing individual behavior at the brand or firm (change agent) level. In doing so, one must necessarily consider brand-level activities, including, for example, pricing and advertising.

In this paper we propose to study brand-level diffusion models by focusing on four objectives: (1) to formally test various specifications diffusion models of competition, (2) to test relevant theories with respect to the impact of marketing mix activities on the diffusion process for brands in competition, (3) to develop an efficient methodology to empirically compare various nested and non-nested models of the diffusion process, (4) to demonstrate the use of diffusion models to explain the trial diffusion of frequently purchased products. The issues raised in this paper have received

substantial attention in the literature for existing or newly launched brands in mature categories (e.g. in the area of market share models). However, these areas are relatively under-researched for new products in new categories undergoing a diffusion process. While diffusion models in marketing have developed considerably (Mahajan, Muller and Bass 1990), empirical evidence has been confined mostly to product category diffusion processes. Instead, we investigate the diffusion at the brand level, i.e., in the context of products or firms which compete in a new market.

Our research approach is similar in spirit to the work of Simon and Sebastian (1987) whose objectives were to assess the influence of advertising on diffusion in monopolistic markets. Here, alternative brand-level diffusion processes are modeled so as to capture the dynamics of competition via brand-specific interpersonal influences, price elasticity dynamics and advertising elasticity dynamics.

We propose a methodology that expands on the work of Jain and Rao (1990) who compare three models using three time series, and Kamakura and Balasubramanian (1988) who compare twelve models using six time series. Rather than using only nested tests of alternative specifications, we consider both nested and nonnested tests of twenty models across five brands in competition. In doing so, we address the following issues for a new and growing category: (1) the role of brand-specific versus category-level effects across brands, (2) the role of both price and advertising on brand-level adoptions (trials), (3) the existence of static versus dynamic marketing mix elasticities, (4) the response of brand adoptions (trials) to absolute versus relative measures of marketing mix activity, (5) the relative ability of various functional forms (e.g. separable versus nonseparable) in explaining

brand-level diffusion, and (6) whether a common functional form, or hypothesized diffusion process can be imposed on all new competitors entering into a new category, as certain normative analyses assume.

To estimate the alternative model specifications, a broad search across durable and non-durable categories revealed that one category was suitable for analysis—"hair styling mousses"— which was a completely new category with multiple entrants. The use of this category provides an opportunity to examine the use of diffusion models on the trial process of frequently packaged goods. Though our investigation is limited to a single product category, clarification of the issues summarized above stand to improve the applicability of normative prescriptions and provide a basis upon which to capture brand-level processes.

In the first section, the question of how brand-level effects can be specified in diffusion models, and the "behavioral" meaning of the various alternatives are discussed. In the second section, an empirical analysis of brand-level first purchases (trials), including time series of multiple brands which entered the market sequentially is presented.

MODELING BRAND-LEVEL DIFFUSION

The diffusion literature recognizes that all categories evolve from a centralized diffusion process, initially dominated by a monopolist, into a decentralized process having many competitors (Rogers 1983). When the first brand of a new product category (innovation) is launched, the firm acts as a monopolist (Eliashberg and Jeuland 1986). Potential and actual first adopters of the new product communicate with their peers and receive information from the firm, via marketing activities. These two forces influence the brand-

level diffusion process for decentralized competitive markets. Cross-brand or competitive interpersonal influence was first suggested in the marketing literature by Peterson and Mahajan (1978) and the negative impact of new entrants on the potential market of a single brand (or entrant) is recognized in Horsky and Mate (1988), Erickson (1985), Thompson and Teng (1984), Norton and Bass (1986), and Eliashberg and Jeuland (1986). Marketing mix variables, either measured at the category or brand level, have been an integral part of most models of brand-level or competitive market behavior, including price (Rao and Bass 1985, Dockner and Jorgensen 1988), advertising (Mate 1982, Teng and Thompson 1983, Horsky and Mate 1988), and both price and advertising (Thompson and Teng 1984).

In this section, models that have been used in the literature are considered by presenting a general framework that leads to a systematic analysis of alternative expanded models. We use the general formulation of Dockner and Jorgensen (1988) which we modify to incorporate multiple marketing mix variables. Then, we will discuss in turn the role of interpersonal communications and the influence of marketing mix decisions of brands competing in the market.

The first purchase diffusion process can be generally expressed by the differential equation (1):

$$s_i = \dot{x}_i = f_i (x_1, \dots, x_N; P_1, \dots, P_N; A_1, \dots, A_N)$$
 (1) where

s = instantaneous number of adopters (new buyers),

x - cumulative number of adopters,

i = firm/product/brand index,

P = price,

A = advertising expenses,

N = number of firms competing in market.

Research investigating optimal advertising and price behavior over time in the most general form has been undertaken while assuming the multiplicative separable form for mathematical tractability (Kalish 1983, Dockner and Jorgensen 1988):

$$s_i = \dot{x}_i = d_i (x_1, \dots, x_N) r_i(P_1, \dots, P_N; A_1, \dots, A_N)$$
 (2) where

 $d_i(\cdot)$ = diffusion process equation,

 $r_i(\cdot)$ = response function to marketing mix variables.

We will first discuss the two components of equation (2), i.e., the diffusion process per se ($d_i(\cdot)$) and the marketing mix effects ($r_i(\cdot)$). Then, we will consider non-separable effects. A significant issue addressed in this research is the functional form since, at least for the non-separable case, the optimal pricing and advertising policies over time can only be derived after first selecting a specific functional form.

Interpersonal Influences and Brand-Level Competition

A brand in competition with other substitutes can diffuse according to a number of different processes, as shown in Figure 1. Figure 1 illustrates the interpersonal influences affecting a given brand in a new category. Adopters of a brand, i, can be influenced by previous adoptions of that brand only (X_i) , or all previous brand-level adoptions combined (X), or of competitive brand adoptions only (X_j) . In the case of frequently purchased products, the first adoptions (trials) of a brand can come from households who have adopted (tried) other brands — implying multiple brand adoptions. While multiple-brand adopters may exert a particular interpersonal influence, influences from these adopters are captured by total category adoptions, and by competitive

adoptions. We will now consider diffusion processes based on the three influences shown in Figure 1.

First, diffusion can be specific to each product/brand; the diffusion process is not influenced by the diffusion of competitive product offerings. This process (for now excluding marketing mix effects) can be represented as in equation $(3)^2$:

$$d_i(\cdot) = \left[a_i + b_i \left(x_i / M_i \right) \right] \left(M_i - x_i \right) \tag{3}$$

where

a_i = external influence coefficient of brand i,

b; = internal influence coefficient of brand i,

 M_i = potential number of adoptions of brand i.

In this case, some individuals decide to purchase or try the brand independently of others, i.e., as they are informed from sources external to the social system (Gatignon and Robertson 1985). Other individuals use information from previous adopters; this information is obtained from interpersonal communication, from visual inspection of adopters, or simply because of the information conveyed by having a sizeable number of adopters. This is the case when the products are substantially differentiated and the information provided by adopters is specific to each product/brand. Equation (3) represents the monopolistic case as each firm is sufficiently differentiated so as to appear as a monopolist of an innovation. Equation 3, therefore, corresponds to the Bass model applied at the brand level. The substitute diffusion models of Peterson and Mahajan (1978) without competitive word-of-mouth reduce to this specification.

In the second process, the diffusion is not specific to the product/brand, but is general to each brand in the product category. This is the case when adopters give general information about the nature of the

product and when the product offerings are undifferentiated. Then, each product's first purchases may follow a product category diffusion process i.e.,

$$d_i(\cdot) = \left[a_i + b_i (x/M) \right] (M - x) \tag{4}$$

where

a_i = external influence coefficient of brand i,

b_i = internal influence coefficient of category trials on brand i,

M = potential number of adoptions (trials) in the category,

x = total category adoptions (trials).

In this case, the market potential is not specific to the brand, but is the total market potential from which each brand will draw its share of first purchases. The market potential is depleted whenever any brand is bought for the first time. Horsky and Mate (1988), Eliashberg and Jeuland (1986) and Dockner and Jorgensen (1988), among others, use a similar specification without interpersonal influence diffusion. In the case of frequently purchased products, M should reflect the fact that consumers can adopt (try) multiple brands within the same category; the number of multiple adoptions (trials) per household will generally be limited to some level less than the total number of competing brands (i.e. consumers are not likely to try all competing brands). If an individual tries multiple brands, this should be reflected in this market potential estimate.

Finally, we consider influences from particular brands. Communication between adopters at the brand level typically reflects two types of interpersonal influence: (1) brand-specific influence, and (2) competitive influence (Peterson and Mahajan 1978). Past adopters bought a specific brand. Consequently, they can provide information about that brand. In general,

given that they have tried a brand, one may expect that they are satisfied with their choice, because of confirmation of expectations or through the process of cognitive dissonance reduction. In general, they may be, therefore, likely to provide positive information about that brand. There are, however, cases of dissatisfaction which create the diffusion of negative information (Richins 1983). For frequently purchased products, negative trial experience from one brand can lead to trials of another brand by the same individual. The net impact of negative and positive information depends on the degree of persuasion of these sources. Negative information can attenuate positive information, in some cases, to such an extent that it may dominate. This is quite plausible because negative information tends to be more influential than positive information (Leonard-Barton 1985). In most cases, however, the diffusion process that results from the information provided by previous triers of a brand should be positive. The same is not true of the information provided by triers of a competitive brand. Indeed, the evaluation provided by the adopter of brand i about brand ; is more likely to be negative. For high involvement decision processes, individuals who have made a first purchase have deliberated and evaluated a number of alternatives; given that they did not choose brand j, they must have found brand j inferior (assuming that both are on the market). Consequently, the fact of having chosen brand i corresponds to a negative evaluation of brand j in relation to brand i. The larger the group of adopters of brand i, the more positive the information about brand i relative to brand j. Therefore, the larger the group of adopters of brand i, the slower the diffusion of brand j. suggests the following model:

$$d_i(\cdot) = \left[a_i + b_i (x_i/M_i) + c_i (x - x_i)/(M - x_i)\right] (M_i - x_i)$$
 (5)

where

c; - competitive internal influence coefficient of brand i.3

This specification corresponds to the substitute model of Peterson and Mahajan (1978). Note that a fourth case is possible, when the diffusion process is as discussed above but when the market potential for a brand is general to all the brands, which leads to equation (6):

$$d_{i}(\cdot) = \left[a_{i} + b_{i} (x_{i}/M_{i}) + c_{i} (x - x_{i})/(M - x_{i})\right] (M - x)$$
 (6)

In summary, interpersonal influence which characterizes diffusion processes are represented by parameters b_i and c_i . The brand specific interpersonal effect b_i is expected to be positive, while the influence from the adopters of competitive products (c_i) is expected to be negative.

The Marketing Mix

In addition to the dynamic effects of interpersonal influence on the diffusion of new products, external influences can affect a brand's first purchase diffusion or trial rate. In a decentralized/competitive diffusion process, the suppliers of the innovation use marketing mix activities to speed up the diffusion of their product/brand.

Price. The effect of pricing on the diffusion process can be represented in the response function by the price elasticity of demand over the product life cycle. Mickwitz (1959) was the first to consider the possibility of dynamic price elasticities over the product life cycle. Based on theoretical considerations, Mickwitz contended that price elasticities rise in the first three stages of the life cycle, and fall during the decline, or final stage. The same belief is held by Kotler (1966) and Lambin (1970). Diffusion theory, as expanded into the marketing field by Robertson (1971),

suggests that innovators or early adopters of new products have relatively high incomes and are therefore less sensitive to price changes than later adopters. Economic theory similarly argues that elasticities are directly related to the number of alternatives available to the consumers. The greater the number of alternatives or close substitutes, the more brand-specific price sensitivity increases.

An early empirical study by General Motors found results supporting this contention (Dean 1950). Liu and Hanssens (1981), investigating inexpensive gift items, and Tellis (1988), based on a meta analysis of branded products. find that elasticities increase over the product life cycle. Simon (1979) empirically examines the dynamics of price elasticities on 43 brands of frequently purchased products (pharmaceutical, detergents, and household cleansers), and finds that the price elasticity of growth brands decreases over time and the price elasticity of decline brands increases over time. Lilien and Yoon (1988) find that elasticities are stable in introduction and decline stages and decrease during the growth-to-maturity stage of the life cycle when examining the sales of thirty-five industrial chemicals. One possible explanation for the lack of consistency across studies might be due to differences in the level of analysis, some using aggregate industry sales and others performing the analysis at the brand level. More importantly, however, is the question of the theoretical rationale which might explain why these parameters vary over time. Parsons (1975) and Tellis (1988) consider changes in the competitive structure of the market. This is consistent with the traditional approach to modeling competition in econometrics using relative prices as explanatory variables (\bar{P}_i) . Even though the relative price sensitivity (the response function coefficient) may not change over time, the

change in sales due to a constant change in price depends on the changes in competitors' prices. In particular, when a new competitor enters the market with a lower price than the existing competitors (Eliashberg and Jeuland 1986) the incumbent's price appears higher and sales fall; therefore, one approach to modeling brand-level activities is to specify the response function $r(\cdot)$ as a function of relative price, similarly to the price specification in market share models (Brodie and de Kluyer 1984, Lambin 1976). An alternative is to specify the price elasticity to vary explicitly as a function of the number of competitors. In the first case, the impact of competition follows directly from the relative price variable definition. With the prices of the competitors entering in the denominator of the predictor variable, the competitive effects are inversely related to the dependent variable. For example, a new entry with the price lower than the current average, everything else being held constant, makes the relative price of the analyzed brand higher and, therefore, the current (for the introduction period) numbers of first purchases will decrease (assuming a negative significant impact of relative price on purchases). In the second case, it would be hypothesized, according to the literature discussed above, that a brand's price sensitivity to adoption (first purchase) increases as the number of entrants (close substitutes) in the product category increases.

Advertising. The effects of marketing mix (advertising) activities have recently been studied in diffusion theory research. Kotler (1971) reports that advertising elasticities decline over time for packaged goods. The same result is found by Parsons (1975) when examining the advertising elasticity over the life cycle of a household cleanser. Arora (1979) expands this effort by looking at the dynamic elasticities of journal advertising for new

pharmaceuticals. As found by Parsons, advertising elasticities approach zero over time. However, there are two different sources of variation of advertising elasticities of a product category. Brands have specific characteristics and, therefore, the changing nature of the market offerings over the product life cycle can alter the product class elasticities. In this paper, we are not concerned with explaining brand differences which are stable over time. Instead, we are interested in explanations due to the changing nature of competitiveness in the market over time, which results in a dollar spent in advertising a brand at a given point in time not generating the same level of response in purchases than another dollar when facing a different competitive environment.

Two factors can explain why the advertising effectiveness of a brand can be expected to decrease over its life. The first explanation comes from the fact that as more competitors enter the market, more competitive advertising reaches consumers and escalation in expenditures are necessary to preserve a constant effect. In addition, as more products enter the market, product redundancies will occur ("me too" products). These explanations for decreasing brand advertising effectiveness can be modeled with two complementary specifications."

If an advertising share predictor is specified to represent competitive effects, the impact of competition follows directly from the share specification (\bar{A}_i) , i.e., as the marketing actions of competitors enter into the denominator of the predictor variable, the competitive effects are inversely related to the dependent variable. Therefore, in this case, a new entrant which advertises, everything else being held constant, would reduce the share of advertising of the analyzed brand and, therefore, the current

(for the introduction period) numbers of purchases would decrease (assuming a positive significant impact of advertising on purchases).

In addition, to represent the greater task difficulty as more brands enter the market, the brand advertising sensitivity can be represented as a function of the number of competitors. It is expected that the larger the number of competitors, the smaller the advertising elasticity coefficient. Both aspects discussed above correspond to the hypothesis that the impact of advertising decreases as competition increases, in addition to effects due to market saturation.

Therefore, the marketing mix variables can be modeled according to either of the two equations (7) and $(8)^5$:

$$r_i(\cdot) = [P_i(t)]^{f_{0i} + f_{1i} N(t)} [A_i(t)]^{g_{0i} + g_{1i} N(t)}$$
 (7)

$$r_i(\cdot) = [\bar{P}_i(t)] f_{0i} + f_{1i} N(t) [\bar{A}_i(t)] g_{0i} + g_{1i} N(t)$$
 (8)

Where

 $P_i(t)$ = price of brand i at time t

 $A_i(t)$ = advertising expenditure for brand i at time t

foi - intercept of price elasticity for brand i

f_{1i} = coefficient of price elasticity dynamics for brand i

N(t) = number of brands in the product category at time t

 g_{0i} = intercept of the elasticity of advertising for brand i

g1; - coefficient of advertising elasticity dynamics for brand i

$$\bar{P}_{i}(t) = P_{i}(t) / \begin{bmatrix} \frac{1}{N(t)} & \sum_{j=1}^{N(t)} P_{j}(t) \end{bmatrix}$$

$$\tilde{A}_{i}(t) = A_{i}(t)/\sum_{j=1}^{N(t)} A_{j}(t)$$

Equations (7) and (8) express the impact of marketing-mix variables on the diffusion process. When appled to equation (2), the marketing mix effects and the diffusion process have a separable form. In fact, as discussed earlier, equation (1) might not be separable.

Non Separable Diffusion Functions

The separability question concerns whether price and advertising levels affect one's decision making in interaction with cumulative sales experience or not. It seems plausible that if a product is priced low, for example, then people are more likely to talk about it as being a "great deal". In other words, pricing or advertising can stimulate the communication processes between adopters and non-adopters. Theoretically, advertising can give credibility to interpersonal information or induce an "imitator" to seek information from previous adopters (Simon and Sebastian 1987).

Rogers (1983) suggests that mass media communication is more important during the early stages of an innovation's growth than for later sales. This would imply that short-term communication elasticities decline over time. The separable marketing mix response function allows for this phenomenon implicitly because of the saturation effects of the market and explicitly with equations (7) and (8). However, the same dynamics as specified by these equations apply to both the external influence process and to interpersonal communication. In fact, according to the argument discussed above, the external influence coefficient is given greater importance in the beginning of the life cycle while the internal influence coefficient dominates later.

To represent this phenomenon, both the external and internal influence coefficients can be expressed as functions of advertising (Horsky and Simon 1983, Simon and Sebastian 1987, Teng and Thompson, 1983). In theory, one could develop individual response functions associated with each coefficient. The latter approach is difficult due to estimation problems of multicollinearity (Simon and Sebastian 1987). It is nevertheless instructive to test alternative non-separable formulations which correspond to

specifications previously analyzed in the literature. A non separable specification is proposed by Simon and Sebastian $(1987)^7$ where the response function is multiplied by the coefficient of brand-spe ific internal influence, b_i :

$$s_i = [a_i + b_i (x_i/M_i) r_i(\cdot)] (M_i - x_i)$$
 (9)

This specification does not increase the number of parameters but does allow one to evaluate how sensitive the parameters are to alternative formulations. In equation (9), advertising and price are viewed as marketing tools which stimulate positive word of mouth.

The second alternative formulation multiplies the response function to the coefficient of innovation and not to the other diffusion parameters, similar to the model estimated by Horsky and Simon (1983):

$$s_i = [a_i \ r_i \ (\cdot) + b_i \ (x_i/M_i)] \ (M_i - x_i)$$
 (10)

In this case, advertising and price directly affect the likelihood of a potential adopter to purchase at that period without being influenced by an early adopter's information. Although the role of marketing is substantially different depending on these specifications, the hypotheses concerning the moderating role of competition remain unchanged.

In equations (9) and (10), the diffusion process is brand specific whereas the corresponding alternatives with a product class process are represented by equations (11) and (12):

$$s_i = [a_i + b_i (x/M) r_i (\cdot)] (M - x)$$
 (11)

$$s_i = [a_i \ r_i \ (\cdot) + b_i \ (x/M)] \ (M - x)$$
 (12)

EMPIRICAL ANALYSIS OF COMPETITIVE MODELS

<u>Data</u>

In order to compare the alternative specifications, the data set must have a reasonably large number of entrants (in order to assess competitive effects) and include (from the first day of the category's existence) the trials (first purchases), price, and advertising expenditures of all existing brands. The product category defined as "hair styling mousses" was the only category which met these criteria (with no seasonality) among hundreds of categories screened (consumer electronics and frequently purchased products). This category began with the first entrant in February 1984. By March 1985 there were 9 different (yet similar) brands offered on the market. The date of entry of the brands are as follows:

Brand (order of entry)	Date
1	02/19/84
2	03/11/84
3	05/06/84
4	05/06/84
5	07/01/84
6	08/12/84
7	10/28/84
8	11/18/84
9	02/10/85

The brands studied include the pioneer brand, L'Oreal, and eight other "me too" products whose only differentiation consisted of their individual umbrella brand names. All entrants studied are national brands and were launched nationally; only trials in mass channels are considered (supermarkets and drug stores). After the first nine brands (or two and a half years), category segmentation led to an additional forty brand entrants by 1988; these later brands differentiated themselves on various attributes, including

fragrances, flavors (e.g. lemon, cherry), colors (e.g. blue, purple), metallic/glitter content, alcohol content, and hair treatment abilities (e.g. strong hold, weak hold). Across the nine brands considered, Brand 6 (Suave) is known as a follower or an umbrella "me too" brand for other hair care products. Data sources relied on include (1) Information Resources, Inc. (IRI) for first purchase/trial and price data, (2) Broadcast Advertising Report (BAR) for broadcast advertising, and (3) Leading National Advertisers (LNA) for print media advertising.

Trial and Price Data

In 1984/1985 (the period of the product category introduction), IRI collected purchasing data from over 20,000 households across eight markets. Only first purchases of a given brand of the product class were used from a static sample of approximately 6,000 households who continually participated during the diffusion of the hair mousse products. IRI data are aggregated to cover periods of four weeks each (i.e., months). A maximum of 26 data points could be retrieved for each brand, so that the data cover at most 26 months for each of the brands studied. Average prices are given for those first purchases (trials) recorded over each observation period. Figures 2 and 3 provide graphic illustrations of the number of trials, and prices for each of the brands in the product category over the periods following their market introduction. The last two brands that entered the market as well as brand 5 were excluded from the analysis due to lack of observations. Neither of these brands achieved any significant penetration in the market, as shown in Figure 2. Brand 7 was also excluded because of its lack of diffusion process.

Trials of Brand 7 follow a purely random process which could not be fit by any model of diffusion.

Advertising Data

Broadcast Advertising Reports (BAR) collects monthly advertising data covering a number of broadcast media: local spot television, national network television, cable television, and radio. For each of these media, BAR calculates estimates of brand specific expenditures based on the time of day an advertisement is aired, its duration (in seconds), audience covered (e.g., local versus national), and the broadcast station (e.g., NBC, CBS, etc.).

These estimates are aggregated on a monthly basis for each brand advertised.

Similar to BAR, Leading National Advertisers (LNA) collects brandspecific monthly advertising data covering print media, including magazines,
newspapers and newspaper inserts. All major and most minor magazines and
newspapers are scanned for advertisements. Based on advertising rate cards
supplied by the publishers, the size of the advertisement (e.g., full-page,
half-page, etc.) and the format (black-and-white, or color), monthly
expenditures are estimated for each brand.

In order to derive total advertising expenditures, the broadcast and print media expenditures (from BAR and LNA sources) are aggregated into total advertising expenditures by brand (in thousands of dollars). Figure 4 shows the advertising expenditures for the nine brands introduced to the market during the period of investigation following the entry.

<u>Estimation</u>

In order to test the existence of the competitive effects discussed above and compare the performance of the various model specifications, econometric models are specified and estimated at the brand-level. The

alternatives tested correspond to various combinations of the four diffusion equations (equations (3), (4), (5), (6)) with the two alternative specifications of the marketing response functions (equations (7) and (8)). In addition, the non separable models represented by equations (9), (10), (11) and (12) are also estimated, leading to 16 models to be evaluated. These models are reported in Table 1 (where the time index t has been deleted for greater clarity).

When the marketing mix variables have no effect, these models reduce to simpler models which are also estimated. Models 1, 2, 9, 10, 11 or 12 reduce to model 17, models 3, 4, 13, 14, 15 and 16 reduce to model 18, model 5 and 6 reduce to model 19 and models 7 and 8 reduce to model 20 as specified in Table 1. It should also be noted that with the restriction that $c_i = 0$ models 19 and 20 reduce to model 17.

The market potentials (M_i) were first estimated by applying the original Bass model individually to each brand. The aggregate market potential (M) was then estimated to be the sum of the individual brands' potential as the competitors entered the market; the aggregate potential reflects, therefore, multiple adoptions (trials) across brands. Then, the diffusion parameters were estimated using the estimated market potential specific to each model specification as an externally evaluated parameter as in Gatignon, Eliashberg and Robertson (1989).

Comparison of Models

Instead of reporting all of the parameter estimates for each model, tests were performed to compare each specification and only the retained models for each brand are presented and discussed.

When models are nested, such as model 17 which is a restricted version of model 1, a likelihood ratio test can be performed. The restricted model is defined as the null hypothesis and the alternative hypothesis represents the unrestricted model specification. Therefore, it is possible to select the best model specification within nested specifications. However, tests of nonnested, non-linear models are not commonly performed in the marketing literature. In our case, these tests are critical. Multiple tests exist for non-nested models. However, different criteria can be used. Because we are testing a theory in this study (the existence of certain types of effects) rather than building models purely for predictive and/or for decision making purposes, parsimony should not be a factor in the selection of the test to apply (Rust and Schmittlein 1985). Therefore, there is no need to use criteria that correct for the number of parameters. Such a test is proposed by Cox (1961, 1962) and modified by Pesaran and Deaton (1978). The test used is described in the Appendix. Due to the inherent nonlinearity of the proposed models, the diffusion parameters are estimated using the Marquardt nonlinear estimation technique. These estimates approach the Gauss maximum likelihood estimates.

For each brand, tests for nested models are first performed and the Cox test is applied to select the best of the non-nested models among the retained nested models. The fit statistics of each model are provided in Table 2 and the model test results are presented in Tables 3 and 4. Because of collinearity, models 5, 6, 7, and 8, which involve competitive effects of diffusion through the parameter c; and competitive marketing mix effects could not be estimated. Consequently, the only models with competitive interpersonal diffusion are models 19 and 20. Table 2 reports for each brand and

each model the residual sum of squares as well as the correlation between the predicted and actual monthly trials. This correlation is a typical measure of fit for non-linear models (Judge et al. 1985). A static version of the marketing mix coefficients is also estimated for each brand. Because these static models are restricted ($f_{1i} = g_{1i} = 0$) versions of the models presented in Table 1, nested model tests apply. These chi-square tests are reported in Table 3. The model number corresponds to the numbers shown in Table 1 to which the letter S is assigned to indicate the static (restricted) version of each model. The statistically "best" nested models are then compared using the Cox test for non-nested models (Table 4). As can be seen in Table 4, the asymmetry of the Cox test does not define a single best alternative. Cox tests are performed separately for models where the diffusion is brand specific (models 1, 2, 9, 10, 11, 12) and for models where the diffusion is product class-wide (models 3, 4, 12, 14, 15, 16). When the Cox test is inconclusive, the more parsimonious model is retained. For each brand, the final model reported in Table 5 is the "best" according to the Cox test performed among the best brand specific versus product class diffusion models: if two models are statistically equivallent, both are reported.

The tests of nested models are shown in Table 3 for each brand, where the product class diffusion models (using M as the market potential of all brands) are shown separately from the brand specific diffusion models (which use a brand specific market potential M_i). The most complete (dynamic marketing mix effects) specification of each model form is first tested against its least restricted version, which is the static marketing mix effect model. For example, for brand 1, the static restricted version is not statistically different from the dynamic specification of model 1. For model

2, however, the more complete dynamic specification has statistically a better fit. The retained model is then tested against the next restriction, i.e., a model with no marketing mix variables. The models with no marketing variables are the basic Bass models specified either with a brand specific diffusion (model 17) or with a product class diffusion (model 18). If one of the non-basic models is retained, the corresponding basic model is rejected. These nested tests lead to the selection of a subset of the original conceptually feasible models. However, since the models retained so far are non-nested, the Cox test must be used to select final models.

Table 4 presents these results in the form of matrices of scores for each brand. Cox tests are performed among the retained brand specific diffusion models and among the retained product class diffusion models resulting in two matrices depending on the diffusion level specification. The rows correspond to the test when the model on the row is the null hypothesis and the model in the column is the alternative hypothesis. For example, for brand 1, among the retained brand specific diffusion models, the static version of model 11 is retained and among the product class diffusion models, the static version of model 15 is selected.

A third matrix for each brand is necessary to select between the best of the brand specific diffusion models and the best of the product class diffusion models. Again using brand 1 as an example, model 15S is rejected when the null is model 11S while we fail to reject model 11S when 15S is the null hypothesis. We therefore select model 11S to represent the diffusion of brand 1. In a few instances, such as for brands 3 and 4, selection could not be made due to inconclusive Cox tests and the same number of parameters prevented us from using the primary criterion. This primary criterion is

used, for example, for brand 5 to decide between models 2 and 12S in favor of model 12S. These options were then retained for the final Cox tests. In the case of brand 4, for example, models 1 and 9 are clearly rejected in favor of model 13, leading to an unambiguous conclusion. However, two models are reported for brand 3 as the criteria could not distinguish between models 10 and 4. The estimated models are shown in Table 5 with a summary of the characteristics of the retained models across the brands. This fit is graphically compared to the actual data and to the basic Bass model in Figure 2. This figure shows clearly that the lack of smoothness in the data is explained well by the retained models.

The correlation between the predicted trials and the actual data are shown for each brand in Table 5. The range from 0.71 to 0.91 indicates a good fit of the retained models. The final models retained can be classified by the type of diffusion process (brand specific versus product class), by the marketing mix effects being dynamic or static, by whether marketing effects are competitive due to a relative or not relative specification (static), and by whether the marketing variable affects the coefficient of external influence, the coefficient of internal influence or both.

Analysis of Retained Models

Based on the tests described above, this analysis addresses the following issues:

- (1) the role of brand-specific versus category level diffusion across competitive entrants,
- (2) the role of marketing mix elements on brand-level diffusion processes,
- (3) the existence of static versus dynamic elastic responses over the brand life cycle,
- (4) the response of brand trials to absolute versus relative measures of marketing mix activity, and
- (5) the appropriate use of separable versus non-separable functional forms incorporating brand-level marketing mix elements.

More generally, this research empirically tests whether a common functional form, or hypothesized diffusion process can be imposed on or characterizes all new brands entering into a new category, as certain normative analyses assume. The answer to this general question is "no". Each brand diffusion's is best represented by a different model specification. This is particularly critical because it creates asymmetries across brand trials which imply different recommendations for optimal marketing activities of each brand, rather than the same strategy for all brands.

Concerning the first issue of whether diffusion is brand or product class specific, the first brand to enter the market is characterized by its own brand-specific diffusion, which could correspond to the fact that, for the period during which the brand is in a monopoly situation, the product class is made up of that single brand. The finding that brand specific diffusion represents best the diffusion of the first brand suggests a strong brand identification, which insulates that brand from competitors. This finding is particularly significant given that, in the product class studied, the second brand entered the market only three weeks after the first entrant. This is reinforced by the fact that absolute marketing activities (as opposed to relative with respect to competitors) impact its diffusion and that sensitivity to marketing mix is not affected by the number of competitors. Therefore, the first brand seems to diffuse in the market independently of competitive developments. This quasi-monopolistic behavior might be seen as a pioneer's advantage.

Except for the sixth brand, the first generic-type brand which also develops according to its own diffusion, the early followers are characterized by a product class-wide diffusion. Therefore, the followers do not seem to be

able to develop their own market niche. This could be the reason for the difficulty of late entrants, such as brands 7, 8, and 9, and possibly brand 5, to be successful in this market. The sixth brand, Suave, achieves a brand specific diffusion, possibly benefiting from an established brand name since this brand is marketed under an umbrella brand strategy. Although the brand was undifferentiated apart from its name, it was introduced following a corporate policy of very low prices with no advertising (which is not needed because the brand relies on the overall umbrella brand awareness). In fact, as can be seen from Figure 3 (and which was confirmed in a conversation with the brand manager), brand 6 was originally priced too low for generating satisfactory profits and the price was subsequently raised progressively. This explains the positive price sensitivity parameter of that brand.

With respect to the second and third issue, for all of the brands investigated, the diffusion process is not independent of marketing activities which clearly play a significant role. Sensitivity to marketing mix variables is dynamic, i.e., varying when new competitors enter the market, except for brands 1 and 6. Regarding price, however, the only brand sensitive to that factor is the second entrant. This brand's trials become more sensitive to price as more brands entered into competition. Apart from brand 2, price coefficients are static as the parameters for the impact of the number of competitors are not significant. With respect to price, therefore, our analysis supports the findings of Tellis (1988), and Nagel (1987), among others, that if price sensitivities are dynamic, they would tend to increase over the product life cycle as brand competition increases.

The dynamic nature of the marketing effects come mostly, however, from advertising. Advertising sensitivities can decline, increase, or be

insignificant, depending on the brand, and, in particular, the number of competitors. The pioneer's advertising response parameters are not statistically different from zero, while the second and third entrant's sensitivities to advertising increased as the category matured. This increasing sensitivity may reflect the fact that brand-level advertising is only effective after a category's general awareness is high (created by the pioneer, L'Oreal). This free-rider benefit may be short-lived, however, as the next entrants eventually have declining elasticities as the number of competitors increase. The dynamics found for these entrants may explain why later entrants chose not to advertise. This finding, therefore, generally does not support the idea that advertising elasticities decline over the product life cycle, or are constant across competitive entries into a new category. Clearly the optimal timing (pioneer versus follower) and the level of marketing activity will be affected by such dynamics if they are considered prior to launch.

Regarding the fourth issue of whether marketing variables are specific (absolute) or relative to competitors's actions (relative price and share of voice), the results indicate that this depends on the brand. Likewise, regarding the fifth issue, this analysis provides little support (only possibly for brand 3) of the separable form. A number of brands' external influence coefficient is affected by marketing variables, although the analysis suggests that in some instances, marketing variables affect the coefficient of internal influence (brands 3 and 4). As Simon and Sebastian (1987) indicate, these differences across brands may be due to the different nature of the content of advertising for each brand. This is a product category where it is very feasible to emphasize the social benefits of using

the product. This could have an influence on the impact of consumer response to marketing activities and/or interpersonal communications (either in its visual or verbal form). The lack of clear support for the separable functional form is consistent with empirical studies of consumer durables at the category level (Kamakura and Balasubramanian 1988, Jain and Rao 1989).

SUMMARY

In this study, we empirically estimated and compared a number of brand-level model specifications typically found in the marketing literature which derives optimal marketing mix strategies over the brand's life cycle. This empirical investigation is limited to a single product category, which prevents general substantive inferences about the diffusion of innovations facing competition in general. The product category analyzed is a frequently purchased item. Consequently, the trial dynamics, in particular in terms of word-of-mouth, may be different for durable goods. For example, it is possible that the degree of dissatisfaction and consequently switching to a different brand leads to a stronger interpersonal influence than for durable goods.

The results of this study nevertheless point out a number of conclusions critical for modeling the diffusion of competing brands and with important managerial implications. First, the results indicate that each brand can follow a brand specific or a product class diffusion process and that marketing's impact varies for each brand's trials: sometimes it is a dynamic competitive force or, in other cases, the brand is strong enough to stand on its own as a quasi-monopoly.

Marketing mix variables are also shown to be critical in the diffusion of brands, and their impact is not identical across brands. The sensitivity

of trials to price increases over the product life cycle or is constant, while advertising sensitivity appears to be insignificant, increase or decrease over the product life cycle, depending on the order of entry.

Similar to findings for consumer durables, the separable functional form does not seem to be supported, and, even though more tractable mathematically for optimization purposes, would not be relevant for the brands analyzed in this paper. This is particularly critical because a functional form must be adopted for the optimization of the non-separable forms; only one separable functional form fits the data in this study well.

Generally, this study illustrates that asymmetries in the diffusion process exists across brands. This implies that optimal marketing mix strategies should recognize the various cases which derive from the various brand diffusion models. For example, while the first brand has a brand specific diffusion, the second entrant could follow a product class diffusion. These asymmetries should lead to different optimal strategies over time for each brand.

FOOTNOTES

- 1. A number of non-symmetric growth curves have also been proposed and fitted, e.g., Sharif and Kabir (1976), Jeuland (1981), Easingwood, Mahajan and Muller (1983), or Von Bertalanffy (1957). For a complete review, see Mahajan, Muller and Bass (1990).
- 2. The external influence model of Fourt and Woodlock (1960) and the internal influence model of Mansfield (1961) are not discussed further as conceptually they correspond to special cases of the mixed influence model of Bass (1969). Asymmetric growth curves in which the parameters' "behavioral" interpretation has not been assessed are not discussed in this paper.
- 3. Although in theory each brand could have a different impact on the diffusion of their competitors, for practical purposes due to estimation which would become unfeasible, all competitors can be assumed to have an homogeneous impact on the diffusion of brand i.
- 4. It should be noted that a third explanation comes from the saturation level being achieved in the market which reduces indirectly the impact that advertising can possibly have. This phenomenon is implicitly represented by the saturation of the market in the diffusion model specification.
- 5. Though similar in spirit to the response function above, market share model specifications such as the multiplicative competitive interaction model (Cooper and Nakanishi 1988) are not considered here due to the category dynamics studied (i.e., new entrants' trials in a new category).
- 6. The separable marketing mix response function can be interpreted in this manner, with the restriction of equal effects of marketing variables on both the diffusion model's external and internal influence coefficients.
- 7. Although Simon and Sebastian (1987) consider the monopolistic case for the analysis of competitive brands, we consider a similar model where the potential market is either brand specific or general to the category.
- 8. When there is no trial recorded during a period, price for the period is set equal to the average price for the prior period when purchases occurred.
- 9. Advertising data was (collected on a calendar basis) disaggregated to a daily basis assuming a uniform daily distribution and re-aggregated to correspond to the IRI four-week periods. A value of one was used for periods without advertising.
- 10. Because this analysis investigates an inexpensive frequently purchased product, it does not seem necessary to formulate M_i as a function of price, as in Kalish (1983); furthermore, Kamakura and Blasubramanian (1988) and Jain and Rao (1989) find that price affects the coefficients of internal and external influence, rather than the market potential for high and low priced consumer durables.

11. Although alternatives such as estimating the Bass model at the category level are feasible, our approach recognizes that the product category potential changes when new brands are introduced. This is especially relevant in the case of first purchases of frequently purchased items when an individual who is in the potential market of one brand may also be in the potential market for a competitive brand.

TABLE 1. Alternative Model Specifications

Combination of Equations		Formulation	
Separable M	odels	:	
3,7	s _i =	$= \left[a_i + b_i \left(x_i / M_i \right) \right] \left(M_i - x_i \right) \left[P_i^{f_{oi} + f_{1i} N(t)} A_i^{g_{oi} + g_{1i} N(t)} \right]$] 1
3,8	s _i -	$\left[a_i + b_i \left(x_i / M_i\right)\right] \left(M_i - x_i\right) \left[\tilde{P}_i f_{oi} + f_{1i} N(t) \tilde{A}_i g_{oi} + g_{1i} N(t)\right]$] 2
4,7	s _i -	$\left[a_i + b_i (x/M)\right] (M - x) \left[P_i f_{oi} + f_{1i} N(t) A_i g_{oi} + g_{1i} N(t)\right]$] 3
4,8	s _i -	$\left[a_i + b_i (x/M)\right] (M - x) \left[\tilde{P}_i f_{oi} + f_{1i} N(t) \tilde{A}_i g_{oi} + g_{1i} N(t)\right]$] 4
5,7	s _i =	$ \left[a_{i} + b_{i} (x_{i}/M_{i}) + c_{i}(x-x_{i})/(M-x_{i}) \right] (M_{i}-x_{i}) $ $ \left[p_{i} f_{oi} + f_{1i}N(t) A_{i} g_{oi} + g_{1i}N(t) \right] $	_
		[P _i -oi -li (), A _i boi oii (),	5
5,8	s _i =	$ \left[a_{i} + b_{i} (x_{i}/M_{i}) + c_{i}(x-x_{i})/(M-x_{i}) \right] (M_{i}-x_{i}) $ $ \left[\overline{P}_{i} f_{oi} + f_{1i}N(t) \overline{A}_{i} g_{oi} + g_{1i}N(t) \right] $	6
		[,, ,	
6,7	s _i =	$= \left[a_i + b_i (x_i/M_i) + c_i(x-x_i)/(M-x_i) \right] (M-x)$	
		$\begin{bmatrix} P_i^{f_{oi}+f_{1i}N(t)} & A_i & g_{oi}+g_{1i}N(t) \end{bmatrix}$	7
6,8	s _i =	$\left[a_{i} + b_{i} (x_{i}/M_{i}) + c_{i}(x-x_{i})/(M-x_{i})\right] (M-x)$	
		$\left[\overline{P}_{i}f_{oi}+f_{1i}N(t) \ \overline{A}_{i} \ g_{oi}+g_{1i}N(t) \right]$	8

TABLE 1. (Continued)

المساوية		
Combination of		Model
Equations	Formulation	Number

Non-Separable Models:

9,7
$$s_i = \left[a_i + b_i \left(x_i / M_i \right) P_i^{f_{oi} + f_{1i} N(t)} A_i^{g_{oi} + g_{1i} N(t)} \right] (M_i - x_i)$$
 9

9,8
$$s_i = \left[a_i + b_i (x_i/M_i) \overline{P}_i^{f_{oi} + f_{1i}N(t)} \overline{A}_i^{g_{oi} + g_{1i}N(t)} \right] (M_i - x_i)$$
 10

10,7
$$s_i = \begin{bmatrix} a_i P_i^{f_{oi}+f_{1i}N(t)} A_i^{g_{oi}+g_{1i}N(t)} + b_i (x_i/M_i) \end{bmatrix} (M_i - x_i) 11$$

10,8
$$s_i = \begin{bmatrix} a_i \overline{P}_i^{f_{0i}+f_{1i}N(t)} \overline{A}_i^{g_{0i}+g_{1i}N(t)} + b_i (x_i/M_i) \end{bmatrix} (M_i - x_i) 12$$

11,7
$$s_i = \left[a_i + b_i (x/M) P_i^{f_{0i} + f_{1i}N(t)} A_i^{g_{0i} + g_{1i}N(t)} \right] (M - x)$$
 13

11,8
$$s_i = \left[a_i + b_i (x/M) \overline{P}_i^{f_{0i} + f_{1i}N(t)} \overline{A}_i^{g_{0i} + g_{1i}N(t)} \right] (M - x)$$
 14

12,7
$$s_i = \left[a_i P_i^{f_{0i}+f_{1i}N(t)} A_i^{g_{0i}+g_{1i}N(t)} + b_i (x/M) \right] (M-x)$$
 15

12,8
$$s_i = \begin{bmatrix} a_i \overline{P}_i f_{oi} + f_{1i} N(t) \overline{A}_i g_{oi} + g_{1i} N(t) + b_i (x/M) \end{bmatrix} (M - x)$$
 16

Restricted Models ($f_{oi} = f_{1i} = g_{oi} = g_{1i} = 0$):

$$s_i = \begin{bmatrix} a_i + b_i & (x_i/M_i) \end{bmatrix} (M_i - x_i)$$
17

$$s_i = \begin{bmatrix} a_i + b_i & (x/M) \end{bmatrix} (M - x)$$

$$s_i = [a_i + b_i (x_i/M_i) + c_i (x-x_i)/(M - x_i)] (M_i - x_i)$$
 19

TABLE 1. (Continued)

Combination of		Model
Equations	Formulation	Number

Restricted Models (continued):

$$s_i = \left[a_i + b_i (x_i/M_i) + c_i (x-x_i)/(M-x_i)\right] (M-x)$$
 20

Where

s_i = first purchases of brand i at time t,

a; = external influence coefficient of brand i,

b; = internal influence coefficient of brand i,

c_i = competitive internal influence coefficient of brand i,

M; - potential number of adopters of brand i,

P_i = price of brand i at time t,

P_i = price of brand i relative to the average price of competition at time t,

 A_i = advertising expenditure for brand i at time t,

A_i = advertising share of brand i relative to the competition at time t,

f_{0i} = intercept of price elasticity of demand for brand i,

 f_{1i} = coefficient of price elasticity dynamics for brand i,

N(t) - number of products in the product category at time t,

g_{0i} = intercept of the elasticity of advertising for brand i

g_{li} = coefficient of advertising elasticity dynamics for brand i.

TABLE 2. Fit Statistics of Estimated Models

	1	6			
Model	RSS 1	RSS r	RSS r	RSS r	RSS r
1	1524.95 .6	97.48 .89	135.66 .71	148.53 .82	2427.00 .69
18	1714.18 .6	127.93 .85	161.63 .63	219.31 .71	2431.35 .69
2	1929.69 .5	7 149.02 .82	113.76 .77	219.94 .71	1112.13 .88
2S	1960.75 .5	153.47 .81	150.57 .71	237.31 .68	1922.69 .76
3	2221.02 .6	112.16 .88	130.00 .73	134.00 .83	2282.66 .71
3\$	2248.85 .6	3 161.03 .83	156.69 .64	208.64 .73	2404.18 .69
4	2566.21 .5	185.88 .79	106.67 .79	193.56 .75	1395.18 .83
4S	2643.05 .5	186.53 .78	151.42 .65	232.24 .69	2070.92 .74
9	1642.68 .6	106.42 .87	117.34 .74	143.54 .82	1328 .75 .88
9S	1941.58 .3	134.07 .84	215.43 .43	253.25 .6,5	2052.67 .74
10	1891.61 .5	3 153.57 .81	95.37 .80	214.39 .72	2155.86 .78
10S	1977.31 .5	159.20 .80	235.12 .33	232.61 .69	2426.46 .69
11	1208.90 .7	88.70 .90	142.83 .68	163.46 .80	2415.51 .70
11S	1430.86 .7	159.62 .64	180.77 .56	178.39 .77	2510.92 .67
12	1952.85 .5	162.34 .80	124.75 .75	181.80 .77	1159.31 .87
125	2248.97 .4	200.76 .74	162.89 .62	217.23 .72	1301.42 .85
13	2215.63 .6	110.02 .87	130.01 .73	120.40 .85	2301.30 .71
13S	2581.03 .5	174.46 .82	167.73 .60	164.10 .79	2317.43 .71
14	2643.31 .5	158.46 .80	90.62 .82	147.31 .81	2417.34 .69
148	2792.41 .5	171.11 .79	112.04 .76	153.89 .81	24,40.74 .69
15	1869.48 .6	78.80 .91	145.92 .67	172.01 .78	2374.07 .70
158	2199.71 .6	173.24 .81	157.06 .63	208.18 .73	2374.34 .70
16	2567.44 .5	190.95 .78	115.61 .78	222.44 .70	2114.53 .74
16S	2655.11 .5	198.48 .76	151.07 .66	228.24 .69	2243.87 .72
17	2249.62 .4	283.20 .60	240.50 .30	334.42 .49	2515.35 .67
18	3153.12 .4	308.51 .60	201.82 .48	328.63 .54	2440.82 .69
19	2229.96 .4	279.28 .61	218.93 .41	298.76 .59	2387.06 .71
20	2647.04 .4	259.98 .64	200.94 .48	319.91 .63	2390.32 .70
N	26	24	26	26	19

	D	ynami	c vs.	Sta	tic		vs.	1	No M	arket	ing Mix
RAND	1:										
	Bran	d Spe	cific	Dif	fusi	ion					
		-	1.5		٦.	(2 0/)				1.0	/ 7 07\data
	(1	vs.	1S	→		(3.04)}	VS.	17	→	1S	(7.07)**
	{ 2	vs.	2S	→		(0.42))	vs.	17	-+	17	(3.57)
	{ 9	vs.	9S	→		(4.35)}	vs.	17	→	17	(3.83)
	{10	٧s .	10S			(1.15)}	vs.	17	→	17	(3.35)
	(11	vs.	115			(4.38))	vs.	17	→	11s	(11.76)**
	{12	vs.	125			(3.67)}	vs.	17	→	17	(0.01)
			→ R	etai	ned	non-nested	models:	1S,	115		
	Prod	uct C	lass	Diff	usio	on:					
	{ 3	vs.	3S	→	35	(0.32)}	vs.	18	→	3S	(8.79)**
	{ 4	vs.	48	→		(0.77)}	vs.	18	-	18	(4.59)
	{13	vs.	138			(3.97)}	vs.	18	-	18	(5.21)
	{14	vs.				(1.43))	vs.	18	→	18	(3.16)
	(15	vs.	15S			(4.23)}	vs.	18	→	15S	(9.36)*
	{16	vs.	16S			(0.87)}	vs.	18	→	18	(4.47)
	·	•				non-nested		35,	15S		
RAND	2.										
LULID	۷.										
	Bran	d Spe	cific	Dif	fusi	ion					
	{ 1	vs.	1s	→	1	(6.52)**}	vs.	17	→	1	(25.60)*
	{ 2	vs.	28	→	25	(0.71)	vs.	17	-	28	(14.70)*
	{ 9	vs.	9S	→		(5.54)}	vs.	17	→	9S	(17.95)*
	(10	vs.	10S	→		(0.86)}	vs.	17	-	10S	(13.82)*
	(11	vs.	11s		11	(14.10)*)	vs.	17	→	11	(27.86)*
	{12	vs.	125			(5.10)}	vs.	17	→	12S	(8.26)**
	,					non-nested			2S,		os, 11, 12s
	Prod	uct C	lass	Diff	usio	on:					
	(3	vs.	3S	→	2	(8.68)**}	vs.	18	-+	3	(24.28)*
	{ 4	vs. vs.	4S			(0.08)	vs. vs.	18		4S	•
	(13		13S			(11.06)*	-	18		13	(24.75)*
	173	vs.	138 148			(11.06)*)	VS.	18	→	13 14S	
	111			_	145	1 1.0411	vs.	TO	-	143	(14). LJJ/
	{14	vs.				•					•
	{14 {15 {16	vs. vs. vs.	15S 16S	→	15	(18.91)**} (0.93)}		18 18	→	15	(32.76)* (10.59)*

Chi squared statistics are in parenthesesSignificant at .01 level

^{**} Significant at .05 level

TABLE 3. Tests of Nested Models* (Continued)

	D	ynami	c vs.	Static		vs.	No Marketing Mix
RAND	3:						
	Bran	ıd Spe	cific	Diffus	ion		
	{ 1	vs.	18	→ 1s	(4.55)}	vs.	17 → 1S (10.33)*
	{ 2	vs.	25	→ 2	(7.29)**}		$17 \rightarrow 2 (19.46)*$
	{ 9	vs.	98	→ 9	(15.80)*)	vs.	17 → 9 (18.66)*
	{10	vs.	105		(23.46)*)	vs.	$17 \rightarrow 10 (24.05)*$
	{11	vs.	118		(6.12)**	vs.	17 → 11 (13.55)*
	{12	vs.	125	→ 12	(6.94)**}		17 → 12 (17.07)*
					non-nested		1S, 2, 9, 10, 11, 12
	Prod	luct C	lass	Diffusi	on:		
	{ 3	vs.	3\$	→ 3S	(4.86))	vs.	18 → 3S (6.58)**
	{ 4	vs. vs.	4S	→ 4			18 → 4 (16.58)*
	(13	vs.	135			vs.	18 → 13 (11.43)**
	(14	VS.	14S		(5.52)	VS.	18 + 14S (15.30)*
	{15	vs. vs.	15S		(1.91))	vs.	18 → 15S (6.52)**
	(16		16S	→ 16	(6.96)}	vs.	18 → 16 (14.49)*
	(10	VS.			non-nested		3S, 4, 13, 14S, 15S, 16
RAND	4:						
	Bran	d Spe	cific	Diffus	ion		
	{ 1	vs.	18	→ 1	(10.13)*}	vs.	17 → 1 (21.10)*
	(2	vs.	25		(1.98)}	vs.	17 → 2S (8.92)**
	{ 9	vs.	95	→ 9	(14.76)*)	vs.	17 → 9 (21.99)*
	(10	vs.	105		(2.12)}	vs.	$17 \rightarrow 10S (9.44)*$
	(11	vs.	118		(2.27)}	vs.	17 → 11s (16.34)*
	{12	vs.	125		(4.63)}	vs.	17 → 12S (11.22)*
	,				non-nested		1, 28, 9, 108, 118, 128
	Prod	uct C	lass	Diffusi	on:		
	{ 3	vs.	38	→ 3	(11.51)*}	vs.	18 → 3 (23.32)*
	{ 4		48		(4.74)}	vs.	18 → 4S (9.03)**
	(13		135		(8.05)**}		18 → 13 (26.11)*
	{14		148		(1.14)}	vs.	18 → 14S (19.73)*
					·//	· - •	= - \
	-	VS.	15S	→ 15S	(4,96)1	VS.	18 → 15S (11.87)*
	(15 (16	vs. vs.	15S 16S		(4.96)} (0.67)}	vs. vs.	18 → 15S (11.87)* 18 → 16S (9.48)*

TABLE 3. Tests of Nested Models^a (Continued)

	D	ynami	c vs.	St	atic				vs.		No M	larket	ing Mix
AND	6:												
	Bran	d Spe	cific	ic Diffusion									
	{ 1	vs.	18	-+	18	(0.03)}	vs.	17	→	17	(0.65)
	{ 2	vs.	25	→	2	(1	0.40)* }	vs.	17	→	2	(15.51)*
	(9	vs.	95	-	9	(8.26)* }	vs.	17	→	9	(12.13)*
	(10	vs.	10S	>	10S	(2.25)}	vs.	17	→	17	(0.68)
	(11	vs.	118	→	115	(0.74) }	vs.	17	→	17	(0.03)
	{12	vs.			125	-				17	→	12S	(12.52)*
			→ R	eta	ined	no	n-ne	sted	models	2,	9, 1	2S	
	Prod	uct C	lass	Dif	fusio	n:							
	{ 3	vs.	3S	→	3\$	(0.99)}	vs.	18	→	18	(0.29)
	{ 4	vs.	45	→	4	(7.50)* }	VS.	18	→	4	(10.63)*
	(13	vs.			135	-			vs.	18	→	18	(0.99)
		vs.	145			•	0.18		VS.	18		18	(0.01)
	{15				15S	•			V5.	18		18	(0.52)
	{16	vs.			165	-			vs.	18	→		(1.60)
	, _ •					-			models				

TABLE 4: Tests of Non-Nested Models

BRAND 1:

Brand-Specific Diffusion Product-Class Differentiation

Models: Alt.	15	118		Models: Alt.	3\$	158
18	_	-4.72		35	-	-9.02
11S	1.65			15S	3.45	
		→ 11S	vs.	15S		
		Models: Alt.	115	158		
		11S 15S	-2.14	-0.03		

[→] Retained model: 11S

BRAND 2: Brand-Specific Diffusion

Product-Class Differentiation

Models:	Nul	Alt.	1	2 S	9 S	10 S	11	128	Models: Nul	Alt	3	4\$	138	14S	15	16\$
	1			-2.83	- 0.82	-1.96	-1.66	-3.44	3		_	-1.46	-1.38	-1.90	-6354.1	-2.40
	25		- 4.20	—	- 3.07	-0.49	-4.90	0.33	48		-4 .75		-6.45	-1.98	- 6.54	0.93
	9 S		-12.58	-1.93		-1.23	-5.03	-3.30	13S		-3.58	-3.09	_	-2.14	- 2.88	-3.15
	10S		- 3.50	-0.99	- 2.74	_	-4 .77	-1.07	14S		-4.47	-1.90	-3.44	_	-10.97	-1.58
	11		0.82	-1.83	1.12	-0.74	_	-3.33	15		3.34	-3.37	-0.38	-1.44		-4.43
	12S		-11.77	-3.86	-18.89	-5.42	-8.23		168		-5.63	-2.66	-8.90	-2.47	-6.84	
							→ :	11	vs.	15						
					Mo		s: A: ul	lt.	11	15						
						1	1		_	-5.0	06					
						1.	5		-0.72	_						

→ Retained model: 15

TABLE 4: Tests of Non-Nested Models (Continued)

BRAND 3:

Brand-Specific Diffusion

Product-Class Differentiation

Models:	Alt.	18	2	9	10	11	12S	Models: Nul	Alt 3S	4	13	14S	155	16
18		_	- 3.61	- 2.36	- 4.30	- 2.57	- 3.10	3 S	_	- 6.62	- 5.17	1.34	0.06	- 5.02
2		- 0.55	_	- 0.54	-13.96	- 0.25	- 4.73	4	0.66		1.58	8.81	0.71	- 4.74
9		- 0.32	- 1.33		-15.90	-0.001	- 2.83	13	- 0.14	- 5.91	_	1.11	80.0	- 5.97
10		0.16	- 0.68	2.10		0.70	0.72	14 S	-99.03	-192.41	-61.91		-98.46	-160.07
11		0.31	- 3.55	- 1.87	- 5.06	—	- 4.37	15S	- 1.95	- 6.18	- 3.29	1.12	_	- 4.99
12		0.66	-10.25	- 1.82	- 2.23	0.46	_	16	- 0.49	- 5.79	- 0.86	- 1.84	- 0.39	

→ 10 vs. 4 or 16

Models:	Alt.			
Nul		10	4	16
10		_	-3.77	0.03
4		-1.86		-4.74
16		-7.52	-5.79	

→ Retained model: 10 or 4

BRAND 4:

Brand-Specific Diffusion

Product-Class Differentiation

Models:	Nui	Alt.	1	2S	9	105	118	128	Models:	Alt 3	4 S	13	145	15S	16\$
	1			0.13	-1.06	-0.51	-0.82	-0.39	3		-0.06	- 5.29	-6.11	-1.56	-0.13
	2 S		-4.06		-4.15	-0.96	-2.41	-1.53	4 S	- 4.31		- 7.57	-5.32	-1.58	-7.09
	9		-0.53	-0.10	_	-0.13	0.86	-0.71	13	0.32	0.64		2.22	-0.40	0.56
	10S		-3.86	0.61	-13.00	_	-1.87	-1.79	14\$	- 2.68	-0.61	-294.7 7		-1.93	-0.73
	115		-2.59	0.51	-9.79	0		-0.19	158	-4038.1	-0.25	- 4.79	-2.57		-0.40
	12S		-2.80	-0.76	-7.63	-1.37	-1.77		168	- 3.96	2.48	-113.39	-3.6 5	-1.38	_

→ 1 or 9 vs. 13

Models:	Alt.	9	1	13
9			-0.5 3	-2.29
1		-1.06		-3.70
13		0.93	0.71	

→ Retained model: 13

TABLE 4: Tests of Non-Nested Models (Continued)

BRAND 6:

Brand-Specific Diffusion Product-Class Differentiation

Models:	Alt.	2	9	125			
	-		- 0.79 —	-2.27 -5.11			Model 4
	125	-1.93	-12.98	_			
			→	12S	vs.	4	

Models:	Alt.	128	4
12S 4	- 2	— -0 2.60 —	.62

→ Retained model: 12S

TABLE 5. Estimated Parameters for Retained Models*

BRAND 1:

$$S_{\underline{i}} = \begin{bmatrix} -4.361 & 0.0346 \\ 0.8424P_{\underline{i}} & R_{\underline{i}} & + 0.0993 & \left[\frac{x_{\underline{i}}}{R_{\underline{i}}} \right] & \left[(R_{\underline{i}} - x_{\underline{i}}) \right] \\ (0.254) & (0.0269) & (0.5632) & (0.0001) \end{bmatrix}$$

BRAND 2:

$$\mathbf{s_i} = \begin{bmatrix} -0.4776 & -0.0622N(t) & -0.071 & + & 0.0104N(t) \\ 0.018P_i & A_i & - & 0.0132 & \frac{X}{M} \end{bmatrix} \quad (M-X) \qquad \mathbf{r} = 0.91$$

$$(0.0813) (0.3162) (0.075) \quad (0.234) \quad (0.0008) \quad (0.0099)$$

BRAND 3:

$$s_{i} = \begin{bmatrix} 0.0017 + 0.0605 & \frac{x}{M} & \frac{1}{P} & -4.08 + 0.0735N(t) - 0.0135 + 0.0094N(t) \\ & & & & & \end{bmatrix} (M-X)$$

$$r = 0.79$$

$$(0.5204) \quad (0.1382) \quad (0.0526) \quad (0.6476) \quad (0.8219) \quad (0.023)$$

$$S_{i} = \begin{bmatrix} 0.0169 + 0.0822 \left\{ \frac{x_{i}}{M_{i}} \right\} & -12.84 + 0.3789N(t) - 0.4157 + 0.0295N(t) \\ \bar{P} & \bar{A} \end{bmatrix} (M_{i}-x_{i}) & r = 0.80 \\ (0.0014) (0.6972) & (0.2326) (0.5771) (0.335) (0.1742) \end{bmatrix}$$

Brand 4:

$$\mathbf{S_i} = \begin{bmatrix} 0.0019 + 0.3375 & \left(\frac{\mathbf{X}}{\mathbf{M}}\right) & -6.205 + 0.0868N(t) & 0.3973 - 0.0176N(t) \\ P_i & \mathbf{A_i} \end{bmatrix} & (M-X) & \mathbf{r} = 0.85 \\ (0.0513) & (0.5045) & (0.02) & (0.278) & (0.0287) & (0.0196) \end{bmatrix}$$

Brand 6:

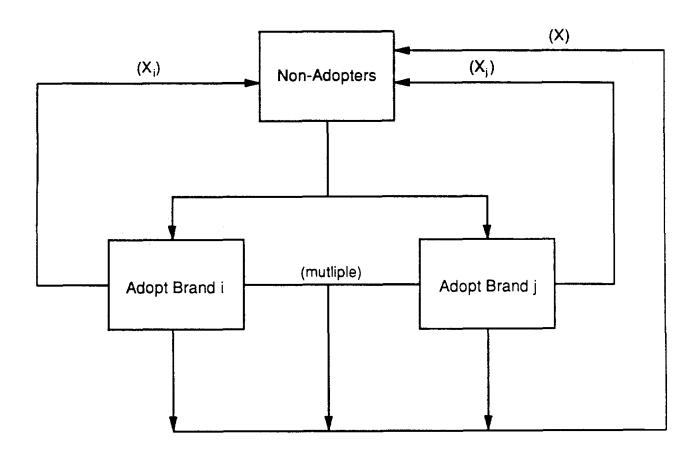
$$S_{\underline{i}} = \begin{bmatrix} 0.4723 & P^{\underline{0}} & + & 0.1597 & \frac{x_{\underline{i}}}{M_{\underline{i}}} \end{bmatrix} & M_{\underline{i}} - x_{\underline{i}} \end{bmatrix}$$

$$(0.0305) & (0.0019) & (0.0001)$$

SUMMARY OF ESTIMATED MODEL SPECIFICATION						
Brand	Model .	Brand (B) Vs. Product (P) Diffusion	Static (S) vs. Dynamic (D) Marketing Effects	Absolute (A) vs. Relative (R) Marketing Impacts	External (E) vs. Internal (I) vs. Both (B) Confluence Coefficient	
111	115	E	s	A	E	
2	15	Р	Ð	λ	E	
3	4/10	P/B	D	R	B/I	
4	13	P	D	A	I	
6	125	B	s	P.	E	

^{*}Numbers in parenthesis indicate the significance level

Figure 1. Brand-Level Adoption Influences (2 Brand Case)



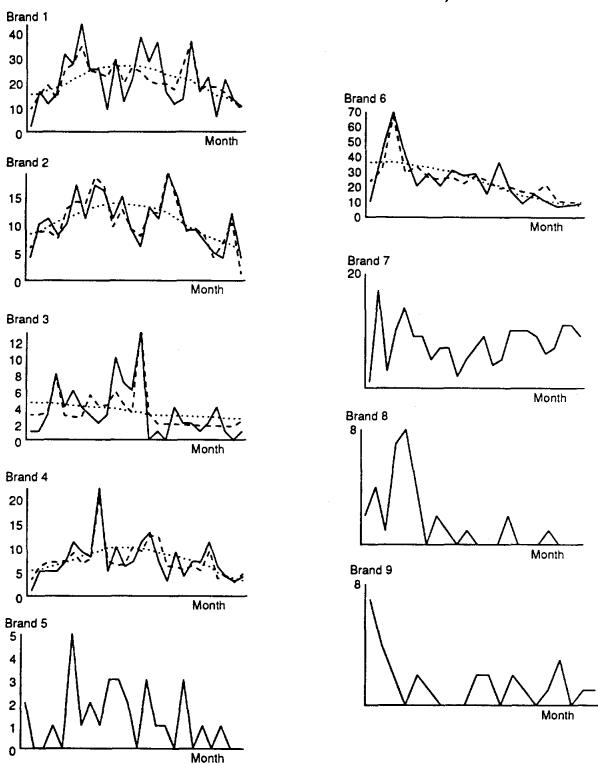
Note: Xi signifies influence associated with adopters of brand i.

 $\boldsymbol{X}_{\boldsymbol{j}}$ signifies influence associated with adopters of brand $\boldsymbol{j}.$

X signifies influence associated with adoptions of all brands.

Multiple signifies the adoption of more than one brand within the category for for a given household; otherwise, influences are based on single brand adoptions.

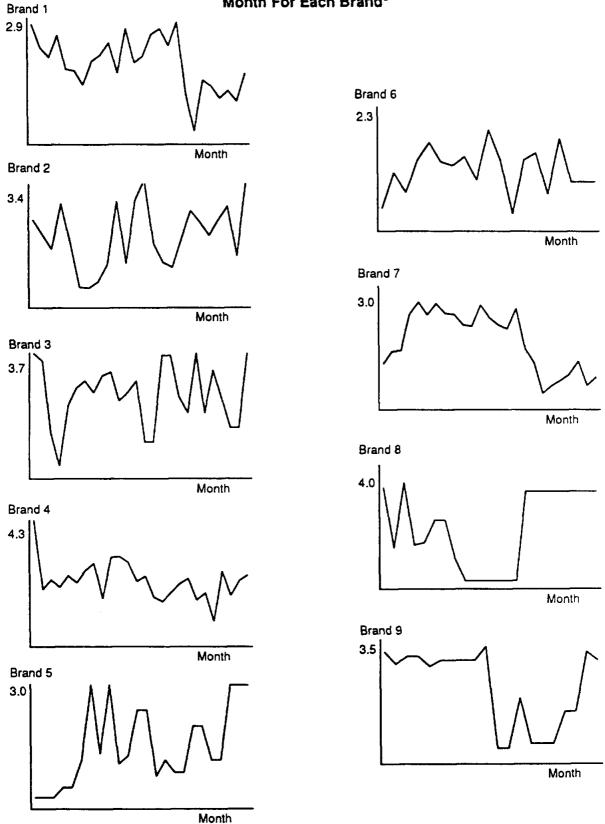
Figure 2. Trial Curves by Brand (Number of First Purchases on Vertical Axes Per Month)*



*The first observation corresponds to the brand introduction month

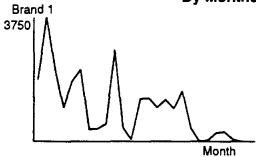
- · · · Fitted Data According to Bass Model
- Actual Data
- -- Fitted Data According to Retained Model

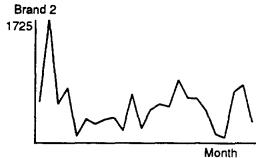
Figure 3. Average Price Charged In A Month For Each Brand*

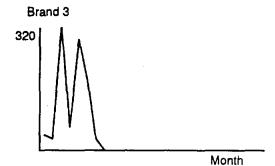


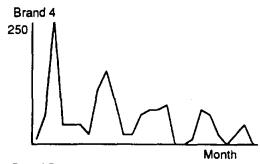
^{*} The first observation corresponds to the brand introduction month specific to each brand. Therefore, the months do not match across brands.

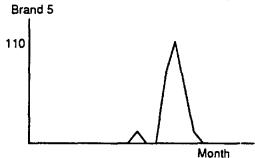
Figure 4. Advertising Expenditure Curves By Months For Each Brand*

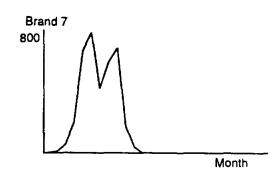


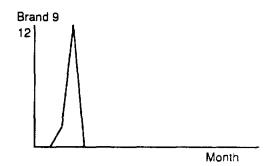












^{*} The first observation corresponds to the brand introduction month specific to each brand. Therefore, the months do not match across brands. Advertising Expenditures are in thousand dollars. Brands 6 and 8 did not advertise.

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APPENDIX

Description of Tests for Comparing Non-Nested Models

Assume two non-linear models (Pesaran and Deaton 1978),

Model 1: $y = f(X, \beta) + e$ $e^{-N}(0, \sigma^2I)$

Model 2: $y = g(W, \omega) + u$ $u = N(0, \mu^2 I)$

In model 1, y is predicted by X and in model 2, y is predicted by W. The number of parameters (or elements) of β and ω can be different. Let set first model 1 as the null hypothesis (H₀) and model 2 as the alternate hypothesis (H₁). The maximum likelihood estimators of β and σ^2 are $\hat{\beta}$ and $\hat{\sigma}^2$. Similarly, the maximum likelihood estimators of ω and μ^2 are $\hat{\omega}$ and $\hat{\mu}^2$. The Cox test is based on the test statistic $\hat{C}_1 = \frac{T}{2}$ (Ln $\hat{\mu}_2$ - Ln $\hat{\mu}^{*2}$), where T is the number of observations and $\hat{\mu}^{*2}$ is obtained as follows:

(1) Predict y using the maximum likelihood estimator of β under model 1, i.e., $\hat{\beta}$:

$$\hat{y}_1 = f(X, \hat{\beta})$$

(2) Regress y_1 on the W's

$$y_1 = g (W, \omega) + u_1.$$

Minimizing the sum of squared residuals (least squares), this leads to an estimate of ω , $\hat{\omega}_1$ and mean squared residuals $\frac{1}{T} \; (\hat{u}_1, \hat{u}_1)$

(3) Compute μ^{*2} using

$$\mu^{*2} = \hat{\sigma}^2 + \frac{1}{T} (\hat{u}_1, \hat{u}_1)$$

(4) Compute C₁ using

$$\hat{C}_1 = \frac{T}{2} (\text{Ln } \hat{\mu}^2 - \text{Ln } \mu^{*2})$$

(5) Compute the variance of C_1 using $\hat{V(C_1)} = (\hat{\sigma^2}/\mu^{*4}) [\hat{u_1}, \psi_1, \hat{u_1}]$ where

$$\psi_1 = I_{\uparrow} - Z (\hat{\beta}) [Z(\hat{\beta})' Z (\hat{\beta})]^{-1} Z (\hat{\beta})'$$

Z (β) is the matrix of first order derivatives of model 1 evaluated at the maximum likelihood $\hat{\beta}$ for each observation. C_1 is normally distributed

with variance $V(C_1)$. If $\hat{C_1}$ is significantly different from zero, model 1 (H₀) is rejected. If not, we fail to reject model 1.

Because this is not a symmetric test, we need to perform the parallel test where model 2 becomes H_0 and model 1 become H_1 . The computations are similar except for switching the models:

$$H_0$$
: (Model 2) $y = g(W, \omega) + u \qquad u \sim N(0, \mu^2 I)$

$$H_1$$
: (Model 1) $y = f(X, \beta) + e$ $e \sim N(o, \sigma^2 I)$

The maximum likelihood estimates of ω and μ_2 are $\hat{\omega}$ and $\hat{\mu}^2$ as before and similarly for Model 1 $\hat{\beta}$ and $\hat{\sigma}^2$ are maximum likelihood estimators of β and σ . The test now is based on the test statistic

$$C_2 = \frac{T}{2} \left(\operatorname{Ln} \, \hat{\sigma}^2 - \operatorname{Ln} \, \sigma^{*2} \right)$$

The computation of C_2 is analogous to the computation of C_1 .

Combining the two tests, the four cases shown in Figure A can occur. I the test based on C_1 (where model 1 is the null hypothesis) fails to reject model 1, and model 2 is rejected based on C_2 (where model 2 is the null hypothesis), model 1 is selected. Similarly, model 2 is retained if model 1 is rejected when it is set as the null hypothesis and model 2 cannot be rejected when it corresponds to the null hypothesis. For the other two combinations, the test is inconclusive. In such cases, where no conclusion can be reached, model selection must be based on other criteria. Parsimony and/or plausibility of parameter estimates might be appropriate criteria in such cases.

In summary, for a pair of models, four estimations are needed

- 1. Maximum likelihood estimators of model 1 parameters
- Maximum likelihood estimators of model 2 parameters
- 3. Estimates of model 2 parameters predicting y_1 's
- 4. Estimates of model 1 parameters predicting y2's

		Test 2 (based on C_2)			
		Model 2 Rejected	Model 2 Not Rejected		
	Model 1 Rejected	Inconclusive	Retain Model 2		
Test 1 (based on C ₁)	Model 1 Not Rejected	Retain Model 1	Inconclusive		

FIGURE A. Possible Outcomes of Cox Test

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