









































Theoretical Basis for the PLC: the Diffusion Model

- •Qualitatively, Sales depend on purchases by
 - Innovators and by Imitators
 - -Innovators' decision
 - = f(inherent benefits, risks, info. availability)
 - -Imitators' decision
 - = f(word-of-mouth by innovators)
 - = f(# of innovators)



Theoretical Basis for the PLC: the Diffusion Model	
I.e., Sales at any point come from two types of consumers:	
<u>Innovators</u> and <u>Imitators</u> $\mathbf{S}_{r} = \mathbf{p}(\mathbf{N} - \mathbf{N}_{rr}) + \mathbf{q}(\mathbf{N}_{rr}/\mathbf{N})(\mathbf{N} - \mathbf{N}_{rr})$; where:	
S_t = sales (number of buyers) in period t	
N= ultimate number of buyers (market potential) (NOTE: L&R use m)	
N_T = cumulative number of buyers to date	
p=innovation effect (individual conversion rate without adopters' influence)	
q≕imitation effect (effect of each adopter on each non-adopter)	
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	Innovation	Imitation
Product/	parameter	parameter
Technology	(p)	(q)
B&W TV	0.028	0.25
Color TV	0.005	0.84
Air conditioners	0.010	0.42
Clothes dryers	0.017	0.36
Water softeners	0.018	0.30
Record players	0.025	0.65
Cellular telephones	0.004	1.76
Steam irons	0.029	0.33
Motels	0.007	0.36
McDonalds fast food	0.018	0.54
Hybrid corn	0.039	1.01
Electric blankets	0.006	0.24

Products	U.S.A.		South Korea		Taiwan		Japan	
	Years Covered	q	Years Covered	q	Years Covered	q	Years Covered	q
Electric Refrigerators	1921-54	.16	1970-82	.69	1966-80	.29	1956-65	.76
Black and White TV	1946-58	.39	1966-83	.52	1968-75	.75	1953-65	.59
Electric Washing Machines	1927-52	.13	1975-82	.61	1968-82	.36	1953-75	.19
Room Air Conditioners	1949-61	.38	1970-81	.50	1972-81	.65	1957-81	28
Passenger Cars	1901-31	.29	1965-81	.49	1969-82	.45	1952-74	.39
Vacuum Cleaners	1932-54	.15	NA	NA	NA	NA	1956-75	.23
Calculators	1970-81	.43	NA	NA	1975-86	.46	1963-81	.39
Radios	1922-45	.38	1971-80	.48	1966-75		NA	NA



























Some Positive Lessons

Characteristics of the innovation associated with a <u>faster rate</u> of adoption

- 1. Perceived <u>relative Advantage</u> by consumers
- <u>Compatibility</u> with existing consumption patterns.
- 3. <u>Communicability & Observability</u> of the innovation and its benefits.
- 4. <u>Trialability:</u> ability to demonstrate the innovation on a small scale.



Some Marketing Actions Implications

- THE <u>LOWER</u> THE PRICE THE <u>FASTER</u> THE RATE OF ADOPTION
- THE <u>GREATER</u> THE LEVEL OF ADVERTISING AND SALES EXPENDITURES, THE <u>FASTER</u> THE RATE OF ADOPTION
- THE <u>GREATER</u> THE SAMPLING OR DEMONSTRATION LEVEL, THE <u>FASTER</u> THE RATE OF ADOPTION
- THE <u>MORE</u> WIDESPREAD THE DISTRIBUTION LEVEL, THE FASTER THE RATE OF ADOPTION
- THE <u>MORE</u> THAT THE INNOVATION IS
 <u>POSITIONED</u> IN LINE WITH MARKET SEGMENT
 NEEDS, THE <u>FASTER</u> THE RATE OF ADOPTION

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Factors Affecting the rate of Diffusion

Product-related

- High relative advantage over existing products
- High degree of compatibility with existing approaches
- Low complexity
- d Can be tried on a limited basis
- Benefits are observable

Market-related

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- Type of innovation adoption decision
- (eg, does it involve switching from familiar way of doing things?)
- Communication channels used
- Nature of "links" among market participants
- Nature and effect of promotional efforts

Some Extensions to the Basic Bass Model

- Varying market potential As a function of product price, reduction in uncertainty in product performance, and growth in population, and increases in retail outlets.
- Incorporation of marketing variables
 Coefficient of innovation (p) as a function of advertising
 p(t) = a + b ln A(t).
 Effects of price and detailing.
- Incorporating repeat purchases
- d Multi-stage diffusion process Awareness → Interest → Adoption → Word of mouth

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