

A WIN-WIN STRATEGY FOR AN INTEGRATED VENDOR-BUYER DETERIORATING INVENTORY SYSTEM

P.C. YANG¹ and H.M. WEE²

*¹Industrial Engineering and Management Department
St. John's & St. Mary's Institute of Technology*

Tamsui 25135 Taipei ROC

*²Industrial Engineering Department, Chung Yuan Christian University
Chungli 32023 Taiwan ROC*

E-mail: pcyang@mail.sju.edu.tw; weehm@cycu.edu.tw

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Abstract. An integrated approach considering the view of both the buyer and the vendor is discussed in this study. It can be shown numerically that the integrated approach results in an impressive cost reduction when compared with an independent decision approach by the buyer. Although the integrated total cost decreases, the buyer's cost increases due to larger orders. To entice the buyer to accept larger order quantity, a permissible delay in payment is offered by the vendor to the buyer. A negotiation factor is also incorporated to share the benefits.

Key words: integration, deterioration, permissible delay in payment, win-win strategy

1. Introduction

In general, a retailer has the privilege to decide on the lot size when an order is made. The optimal decision derived solely from the perspective of the buyer may not be the most economical one for the vendor. However, if both of their perspectives are taken into account, a joint policy can be achieved. The idea of vendor-buyer integration has been studied in the sixties by Clark and Scarf [2]. Ha and Kim [6] studied the integrated decision of the buyer and the vendor using JIT (just in time) purchasing. Banerjee [1] derived a joint economic lot size with finite production rate. Goyal [5] extended Banerjee's model by relaxing the lot-for-lot production assumption. Wee and Jong [16] considered the integration between multiple parts and finished product with multi-lot-size.

Deterioration is defined as decay, spoilage, evaporation, and loss of utility or loss of marginal value of a commodity that results in decreasing usefulness from the original one [15]. IC chip, blood, fish, strawberries, alcohol, gasoline, radioactive chemicals and grain products are examples of deteriorating commodities. Several researchers have studied deteriorating inventory in recent decades. Ghare and Schrader [4] were the first authors to consider on-going deterioration of inventory. Other authors such as Kang and Kim [8], Mak [11], Raafat et al. [13] and Heng et al. [7] assumed either instantaneous or finite production with different assumptions on the pattern of deterioration.

Kingsman [9] analyzed the relationship between the inventory cost and the payment rules. Davis and Gaither [3] derived the optimal ordering policies with extended payment. Mandal and Phaujdar [12] developed the EOQ model with permissible delay in payment. Liao et al. [10] derived an optimal replenishment time interval for deteriorating item with extended payment.

In this study, an integrated vendor-buyer inventory system for deteriorating item is developed. A negotiation factor is used to balance the benefit, and a permissible delay in payment is offered to the buyer to make the cooperation relationship more realistic and mutual beneficial.

2. Mathematical Modeling and Analysis

An inventory system of single-vendor and single-buyer with instantaneous replenishment is considered. If the deterioration rate is proportional to on-hand stock, the inventory system at the vendor or the buyer with constant demand rate is represented by the following initial value differential problems:

$$\begin{cases} \frac{dI_b(t)}{dt} + \theta I_b(t) = -d, & 0 \leq t \leq T/n, \\ I_b(t) = 0, & t = T/n, \end{cases} \quad (2.1)$$

and

$$\begin{cases} \frac{dI_\nu(t)}{dt} + \theta I_\nu(t) = -d, & 0 \leq t \leq T, \\ I_\nu(t) = 0, & t = T. \end{cases} \quad (2.2)$$

The solutions of this differential problems are [14]:

$$I_b(t) = \frac{d}{\theta} \left(\exp(\theta(T/n - t)) - 1 \right), \quad 0 \leq t \leq T/n,$$

$$I_\nu(t) = \frac{d}{\theta} \left(\exp(\theta(T - t)) - 1 \right), \quad 0 \leq t \leq T.$$

The order quantities for the buyer and the vendor are $I_b(0)$ and $I_\nu(0)$ respectively, and they are defined as follows:

$$I_{mb} = \frac{d}{\theta} \left(\exp(\theta T/n) - 1 \right), \quad I_{m\nu} = \frac{d}{\theta} \left(\exp(\theta T) - 1 \right).$$

In the time period T , the total holding cost for the buyer is

$$\text{Holding cost of the buyer} = C_{b2} n \int_0^{T/n} I_b(t) dt. \quad (2.3)$$

The actual vendor average inventory level in the integrated two-echelon inventory model is the difference between the vendor-buyer combined average inventory level and the buyer average inventory level. The actual vendor holding cost in time T is expressed as:

$$\text{Holding cost of the vendor} = C_{v2} \left[\int_0^T I_\nu(t) dt - n \int_0^{T/n} I_b(t) dt \right]. \quad (2.4)$$

In the time period T ,

$$\text{the deterioration cost for the buyer} = C_b n \left[I_{mb} - \frac{dT}{n} \right] \quad (2.5)$$

and

$$\text{the deterioration cost for the vendor} = C_b n \left[I_{m\nu} - I_{mb} \right]. \quad (2.6)$$

In the time period T ,

$$\text{the ordering costs for the buyer} = C_{b1} n \quad (2.7)$$

and

$$\text{the ordering costs for the vendor} = C_{v1}. \quad (2.8)$$

The annual buyer's total cost, TC_b is the sum of (2.3), (2.5) and (2.7) divided by T :

$$TC_b = \frac{C_{b2} n}{T} \int_0^{T/n} I_b(t) dt + \frac{C_b n}{T} \left[I_{mb} - \frac{dT}{n} \right] + \frac{C_{b1} n}{T}. \quad (2.9)$$

The annual vendor's total cost TC_ν is the sum (2.4), (2.6) and (2.8) divided by T :

$$TC_\nu = \frac{C_{v2} n}{T} \left[\int_0^T I_\nu(t) dt - n \int_0^{T/n} I_b(t) dt \right] + \frac{C_\nu}{T} \left[I_{m\nu} - n I_{mb} \right] + \frac{C_{v1}}{T}. \quad (2.10)$$

The annual integrated total cost TC is the sum of TC_b and TC_ν . Since $T = nT_b$, TC is a function of two variables, T_b and n .

$$TC = TC_b + TC_\nu. \quad (2.11)$$

3. Solution Procedure

For the case without considering integration, the buyer and the vendor make strategic decision independently. In buyer market, the first step is for the buyer to minimize TC_b with respect to T_b as follow:

$$\frac{\partial TC_b}{\partial T_b} = 0. \quad (3.1)$$

The point satisfying (3.1) is the minimum of the buyer's total cost (see Appendix A). The second step is for the vendor to minimize TC_v by deriving the replenishment times per cycle time. Since the replenishment time is a discrete integer, it must satisfy the following condition:

$$TC_v(n-1) \geq TC_v(n) \leq TC_v(n+1).$$

The total cost without considering integration, $TC^\#$ is expressed as

$$TC^\# = \min_n \left[\left(\min_{T_n} TC_b \right) + TC_v \right]. \quad (3.2)$$

For the case considering integration, the total cost is optimized jointly rather than independently. For a fixed n , T_b is derived from (3.3) and denoted by $T_b(n)$. The optimal values of T_b and n , denoted by $T_b^*(n^*)$ and n^* , must satisfy the following conditions simultaneously:

$$\frac{\partial TC}{\partial T_b} = 0, \quad (3.3)$$

$$TC\left(T_b(n^*-1), n^*-1\right) \geq TC\left(T_b^*(n^*), n^*\right) \leq TC\left(T_b(n^*+1), n^*+1\right). \quad (3.4)$$

TC is convex with respect to T_b (see Appendix B).

The total cost considering integration, TC^* is expressed as

$$TC^* = \min_{T_b, n} \left(TC_b + TC_v \right). \quad (3.5)$$

The point satisfying (3.3) and (3.5) is the minimum of the integrated total cost (see Appendix C).

Since (3.5) is less than (3.2), the total cost saving, S_{int} is defined as

$$S_{int} = TC^\# - TC^*. \quad (3.6)$$

Let the buyer's cost saving, S_b be defined as

$$S_b = \alpha S_{int},$$

where α is the negotiation factor. When the negotiation factor equals one, it means all saving is accrued to the buyer; when the negotiation factor is 0.5, it implies that the total cost saving is equally distributed between the

vendor and the buyer. If the negotiation factor is zero, all saving is given to the vendor.

A permissible delay in payment is used to entice the buyer to cooperate in the integrated inventory system. The present value of unit cost after a time interval Δt is $e^{-R\Delta t}$. The buyer's permissible delay in payment can be derived solving the following equation:

$$dC_b(1 - e^{-R\Delta t}) = S_b, \tag{3.7}$$

where R is the continuous interest rate. The close form solution for Δt is

$$\Delta t = \frac{1}{R} \ln \left[\frac{C_b d}{C_b d - \alpha(TC^\# - TC^*)} \right]. \tag{3.8}$$

4. Numerical Example

The preceding theory can be illustrated by the following numerical example. The annual demand is 40,000 units. The unit costs for the vendor and the buyer are \$10 and \$12 respectively. The ordering cost for the vendor and the buyer are \$3,000 and \$600 respectively. The annual percentage of holding cost for the vendor and the buyer are 10% and 11% per unit. The annual deterioration rate is 10%. The interest rate and the negotiation factor are assumed to be 3% and 0.5 respectively.

By applying the solution procedure from Section 3, the solution comparing the case with integration to the case without integration is given in Table 1. The buyer's cost and the replenishment interval increase, when integration is considered. The vendor benefits \$6,698, while the buyer losses \$4,717. Therefore, the buyer will be hesitant to support the integration process. To entice the buyer to cooperate, the vendor offers the buyer a permissible delay in payment of 0.06887 years with equally distributed benefit. The percentage of integrated total cost reduction ($PICR$) is defined as $PICR = \frac{TC^\# - TC^*}{TC^\#}$. The value of $PICR$ is 6.82%.

Table 1. The optimal solution with and without considering integration. Note: $PICR = (TC^\# - TC^*)/TC^\#$.

Cases	Without integration	With integration
n	3	1
T_b	0.1087	0.2649
T	0.3261	0.2649
TC_b	\$11,018	\$15,735
TC_v	\$18,023	\$11,325
TC	\$29,041	\$27,060
$PICR$	—	6.82%
Δt (years)	—	0.06887

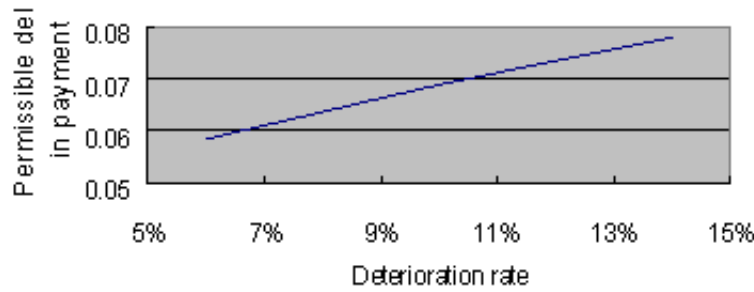


Figure 1. Permissible delay in payment *vs.* deterioration rate.

5. Sensitivity Analysis

Sensitivity analysis is carried out when one of the parameters is increased or decreased by 20% and 40% while the other parameters remain unchanged. The results are given in Tables 2 – 7 and Figure 1.

When the deterioration rates increase or the demand rates decrease, the PICR and the permissible delay in payment increase (Table 2 and Table 3). Therefore, the greater the deterioration rate or the less the demand rate, there is greater need to consider the integration process.

Table 2. Sensitivity analysis of deterioration rate.
Note: { } is a base column.

θ	0.06	0.08	{0.10}	0.12	0.14
$N^\#$	3	3	3	3	3
$TC^\#$	25,991	27,557	29,041	30,455	31,810
n^*	1	1	1	1	1
TC^*	24,311	25,721	27,060	28,337	29,561
$PICR$	6,46%	6,66%	6,82%	6,95%	7,07%
Δt	0,05839	0,06382	0,06887	0,07361	0,07817

From Table 4 – 5, we can see that PICR and the permissible delay in payment are more sensitive to the buyer's ordering cost, and less sensitive to the vendor's ordering cost. From Table 6, the permissible delay in payment increases when the buyer's holding cost increases. Table 7 demonstrates that the negotiator factor does not influence PICR values, but influences significantly the permissible delay in payment.

When integration is considered, the percentage extra benefit (PEB) considering deterioration is defined as:

$$PEB = \frac{TC - TC^*}{TC}, \quad (5.1)$$

where $\hat{}$ represents the optimal value without considering deterioration.

Table 3. Sensitivity analysis of demand rate.

d	24.000	32.000	{40.000}	48.000	56.000
$n^\#$	3	3	3	3	3
$TC^\#$	22,529	25,991	29,041	31,799	34,334
n^*	1	1	1	1	1
TC^*	20,987	24,216	27,060	29,631	31,995
$PICR$	6,84%	6,83%	6,82%	6,82%	8,81%
Δt	0,08934	0,07715	0,06887	0,06279	0,05805

Table 4. Sensitivity analysis of buyer's ordering cost.

C_{b1}	360	480	{600}	720	840
$n^\#$	3	3	3	2	2
$TC^\#$	27,215	28,017	29,041	29,491	29,919
n^*	1	1	1	1	1
TC^*	26,138	26,603	27,060	27,509	27,951
$PICR$	3,96%	5,05%	6,82%	6,72%	6,58%
Δt	0,03741	0,04914	0,06887	0,06889	0,06840

Table 5. Sensitivity analysis of vendor's ordering cost.

C_{v1}	1800	2400	{3000}	3600	4200
$n^\#$	2	2	3	3	3
$TC^\#$	23,693	26,452	29,041	30,881	32,720
n^*	1	1	1	1	1
TC^*	22,076	24,692	27,060	29,238	31,267
$PICR$	6,82%	6,65%	6,82%	5,32%	4,44%
Δt	0,05618	0,06115	0,06887	0,05709	0,05048

Table 6. Sensitivity analysis of buyer's ordering cost.

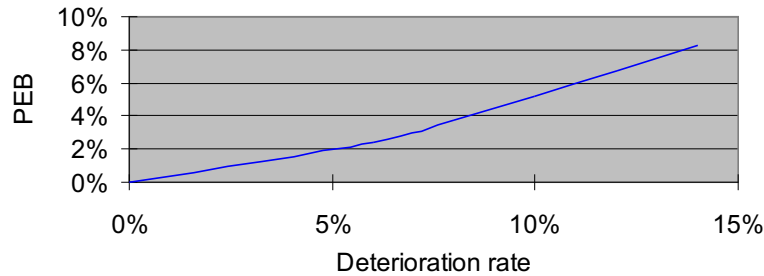
C_{b2}	0, 066	0,088	{0, 11}	0,132	0,154
$n^\#$	3	3	3	3	3
$TC^\#$	25,931	27,530	29,041	30,477	31,848
n^*	1	1	1	1	1
TC^*	24,072	25,609	27,060	28,436	29,748
$PICR$	7,17%	6,98%	6,82%	6,70%	6,59%
Δt	0,06462	0,06675	0,06887	0,07095	0,07300

Table 7. Sensitivity analysis of negotiation factor.

α	0.3	0.4	{0.5}	0.6	0.7
$n^\#$	3	3	3	3	3
$TC^\#$	29,041	29,041	29,041	29,041	29,041
n^*	1	1	1	1	1
TC^*	27,060	27,060	27,060	27,060	27,060
$PICR$	6,82%	6,82%	6,82%	6,82%	6,82%
Δt	0,04130	0,05508	0,06887	0,08266	0,09645

Table 8. Percentage extra benefit (PEB) when deterioration is considered.

θ	0.001	0.06	0.08	{0.10}	0.12	0.14
T_b, \hat{n}	0.36756, 1	0.36756, 1	0.36756, 1	0.36756, 1	0.36756, 1	0.36756, 1
TC	19,615	24,902	26,721	28,548	30,385	32,231
n^*	1	1	1	1	1	1
TC^*	19,615	24,311	25,721	27,060	28,337	29,561
PEB	0,00%	2,37%	3,74%	5,21%	6,74%	8.28%
Δt	0	0,05839	0,06382	0,06887	0,07361	0,07817

**Figure 2.** Percentage extra benefit *vs.* deterioration rate.

In the case without considering deterioration ($\theta = 0.001 \approx 0$), the optimal buyer's replenishment interval and replenishment times per cycle are 0.36756 years and one respectively. When the deterioration rates increase, the percentage extra benefits increase up to 8.28% (Table 8 and Figure 2). The computational result shows that it is significant to consider the deterioration factor in the supply chain integration.

6. Conclusions

In this paper, we develop a mathematical model for deteriorating item to derive an optimal ordering policy in the integrated vendor-buyer inventory system. It is shown that the optimal policy using the integrated approach has resulted in a lower joint cost. However, the buyer's cost increases when the integrated approach is used. To motivate the buyer's cooperation, an incentive system in the form of credit term to the buyer is incorporated into the system. In this analysis, we show that it is more significant to consider the integration process and the permissible delay in payment when deterioration rate and the holding rate are higher.

Appendix

A Proof of Convex of the Buyer's Total Cost

The proof is given for the case when deterioration is considered. For $\theta T_b \ll 1$, $\exp(\theta T_b)$ is replaced by Taylor series approximation:

$$1 + \theta T_b + (\theta T_b)^2/2! + (\theta T_b)^3/3!$$

The percentage error for the fourth term in Taylor series is

$$[(\theta T_b)^3/3!]/[1 + \theta T_b + (\theta T_b)^2/2! + (\theta T_b)^3/3!].$$

When $\theta = 0.1$ and $T_b = 0.2649$, the percentage error is about 0.0003017%. It will be smaller for terms higher than fourth. The integrated total cost of (2.9) can be expressed as

$$TC_b = \frac{1}{2T_b} \left(C_{b2}dT_b^2 + C_bdT_b^2\theta + 2C_{b1} \right). \quad (A.1)$$

The second derivatives of (A.1) with respect to T_b is

$$\frac{d^2TC_b}{dT_b^2} = \frac{2C_{b1}}{T_b^3} > 0. \quad (A.2)$$

Since (A.2) is positive, the buyer's total cost is convex with respect to T_b .

B Proof of Convex of the Integrated Total Cost with Respect to T_b

The integrated total cost of (2.11) can be expressed as

$$TC = \frac{1}{2nT_b} [ndT_b^2(C_{b2} + C_b\theta) + 2(nC_{b1} + C_{v1}) + (C_{v2} + C_v\theta)ndT_b^2(n-1)]. \quad (B.1)$$

The second derivative of the integrated total cost with respect to T_b is given as follow:

$$\frac{d^2TC}{dT_b^2} = \frac{2(nC_{b1} + C_{v1})}{nT_b^3} > 0. \quad (B.2)$$

Since (B.2) is positive, TC is convex with respect to T_b .

C Proof of the Minimum of the Integrated Total Cost with Respect to n and T_b

The integrated total cost of (2.11) can be expressed as

$$TC = \frac{1}{2nT_b} [(C_{\nu 2} + C_{\nu}\theta) dT_b^2 n(n-1) + 2(C_{\nu 1} + nC_{b1}) + dT_b^2 n(C_{b2} + C_b\theta)]. \quad (C.1)$$

Since the downstream cost is larger than the upstream cost, C_b and C_{b2} are larger than C_{ν} and $C_{\nu 2}$ respectively. One can assume:

$$C_b = C_{\nu} + r, \quad C_{b2} = C_{\nu 2} + s, \quad (C.2)$$

where r and s are all positive real values. Equating the first derivatives of TC with respect to n to zero, the unique feasible value of n is solved as:

$$n = \frac{1}{T_b} \sqrt{\frac{2C_{\nu 1}}{d(C_{\nu 2} + C_{\nu}\theta)}}. \quad (C.3)$$

Substituting (C.3) into (C.1), the integrated total cost can be expressed as function of only one variable, buyer's cycle time T_b . Equating the first derive of TC with respect to buyer's cycle time to zero, the cycle time can be solved as follow:

$$T_b = \sqrt{\frac{2C_{b1}}{(s+r\theta)}d}. \quad (C.4)$$

The sufficient conditions for the extreme points of the integrated total cost are $\frac{\partial TC}{\partial n} = 0$ and $\frac{\partial TC}{\partial T_b} = 0$. There are four extreme points: one is feasible, the other three are non-feasible. These are:

$$(n, T_b) = \left(\sqrt{\frac{C_{\nu 1}(s+r\theta)}{C_{b1}(C_{\nu 2} + C_{\nu}\theta)}}, \sqrt{\frac{2C_{b1}}{(s+r\theta)}d} \right), \quad (\text{feasible}) \quad (C.5)$$

$$(n, T_b) = \left(-\sqrt{\frac{C_{\nu 1}(s+r\theta)}{C_{b1}(C_{\nu 2} + C_{\nu}\theta)}}, \sqrt{\frac{2C_{b1}}{(s+r\theta)}d} \right), \quad (\text{non-feasible}) \quad (C.6)$$

$$(n, T_b) = \left(\sqrt{\frac{C_{\nu 1}(s+r\theta)}{C_{b1}(C_{\nu 2} + C_{\nu}\theta)}}, -\sqrt{\frac{2C_{b1}}{(s+r\theta)}d} \right), \quad (\text{non-feasible}) \quad (C.7)$$

$$(n, T_b) = \left(-\sqrt{\frac{C_{\nu 1}(s+r\theta)}{C_{b1}(C_{\nu 2} + C_{\nu}\theta)}}, -\sqrt{\frac{2C_{b1}}{(s+r\theta)}d} \right), \quad (\text{non-feasible}) \quad (C.8)$$

After substituting (C.3) into (C.1), the second derivative of TC with respect to buyer's cycle time is

$$\frac{d^2 TC}{dT_b^2} = \frac{2C_{b1}}{T_b^3} > 0. \quad (C.9)$$

If n and T_b are any real numbers, the point of (C.5) is the minimum in the feasible area. When n is fixed, T_b is derived from (C.11) and denoted by $T_b(n)$. If n is integral and T_b is any real number, the optimal point, denoted by n^* and $T_b^*(n^*)$, satisfying the following conditions simultaneously is the minimum.

$$TC(n^* - 1, T_b(n^* - 1)) \geq TC(n^*, T_b^*(n^*)) \leq TC(n^* + 1, T_b(n^* + 1)) \quad (\text{C.10})$$

and

$$\frac{dTC}{dT_b} = 0 \quad \forall n. \quad (\text{C.11})$$

D Nomenclature

θ	Deterioration rate per year
I_{mv}	Order quantity for the vendor
I_{mb}	Order quantity for the buyer to the vendor
T	Vendor's replenishment time interval (year)
T_b	Buyer's replenishment time interval (year)
n	Buyer's order times per T
d	Annual demand rate
C_v	Vendor's unit cost
C_b	Buyer's unit cost
$I_v(t)$	Vendor – buyer combined inventory level
$I_b(t)$	Buyer's inventory level
C_{v1}	Vendor's ordering cost per setup
C_{b1}	Buyer's ordering cost per setup
C_{v2}	Vendor's annual holding cost per unit
C_{b2}	Buyer's annual holding cost per unit
TC_v	Vendor's annual total cost
TC_b	Buyer's annual total cost
TC	Annual total cost for both vendor and buyer
Δt	Permissible delay in payment offered by the vendor to the buyer (year)
R	Continuous interest rate per year
α	Negotiation factor

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