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# **A Breakthrough Technique For Forecasting Markets Outside FMCG In This New Millennium**

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# 1980s Emerged Proven Forecasting Techniques for Fast Moving Consumable Goods (FMCG) Markets

## ▶▶ Branded Products

- ◆ BASES
- ◆ MicroTest
- ◆ Assessor
- ◆ ESP

## ▶▶ Designed for FMCG categories

- ◆ Low price points ⇒ low risk (impulse) buying
- ◆ Short purchase cycles ⇒ trial and repeat models
- ◆ Specific marketing levers ⇒ advertising, distribution & promotion

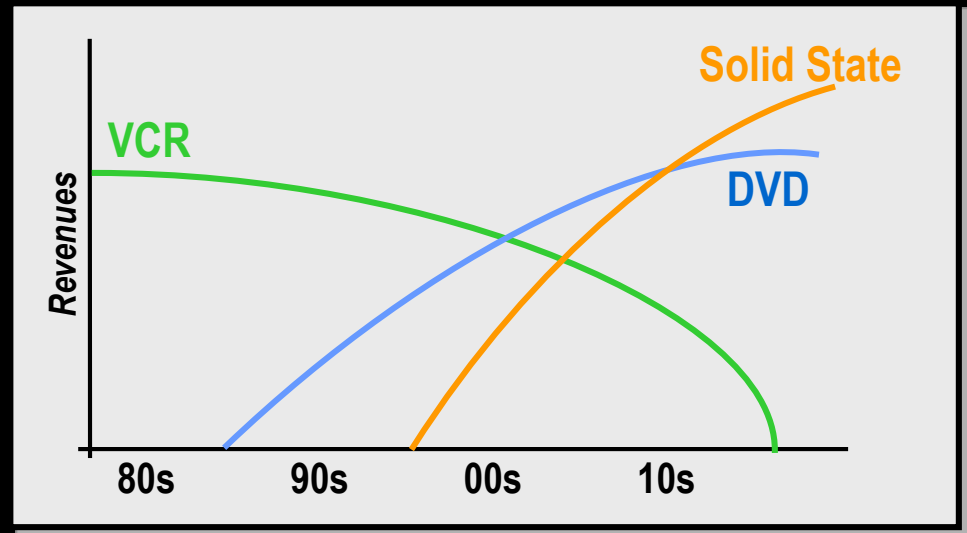
# These Branded Services Are Inappropriate For Forecasting Markets Outside FMCG

- ▶▶ Decisions based upon 5-year (or more) forecasts
- ▶▶ More involved purchase decision requires understanding relationship between product features and price
- ▶▶ Competition may be among technology platforms and not just brands

## Example:

# Revenue Engines in Consumer Electronics

- ▶▶ More frequently leading to “leap frog” effect
- ▶▶ Complex interactive effects not solely predicted by price changes



*Will these predictions become realized?  
What will be the driving forces?*

## Critical Ingredient is “Integration”

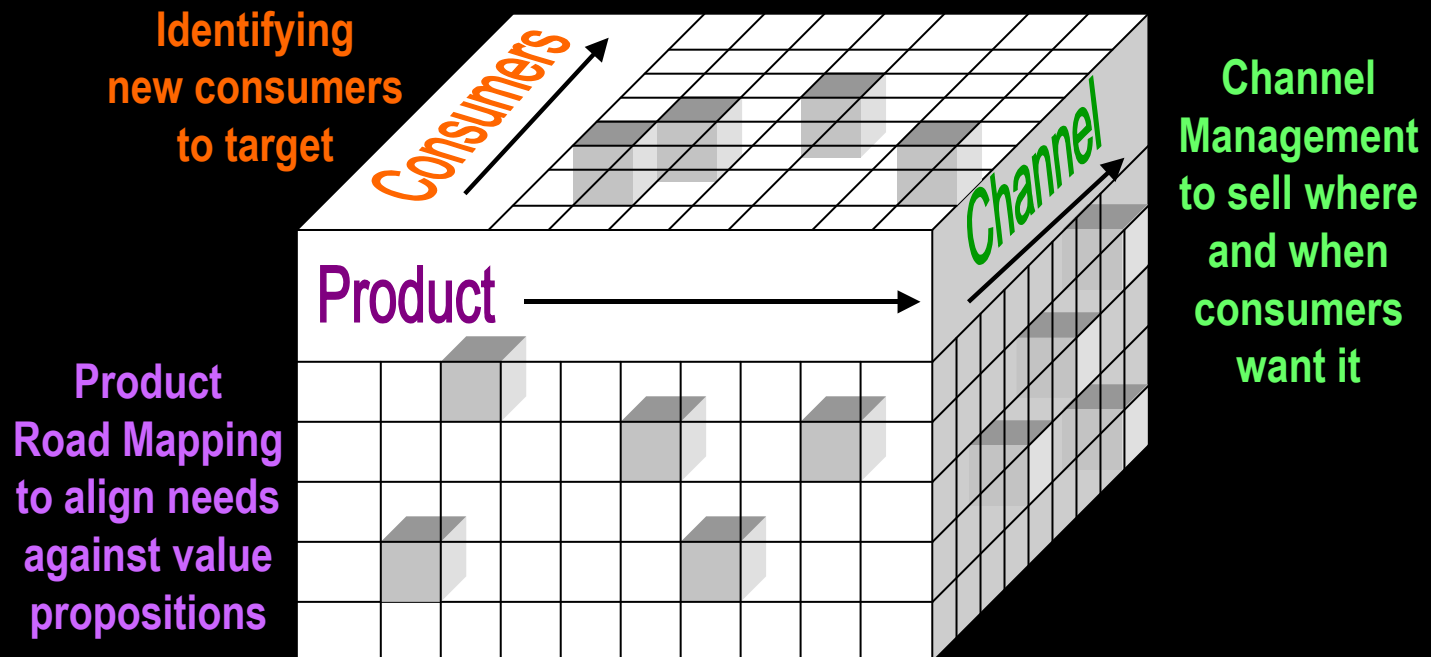
A portfolio of analyses are manufactured from an array of tools:

- ◆ Demand Forecasting
- ◆ Cannibalization Estimates
- ◆ Discrete Choice Analyses
- ◆ Financial Analyses

*Independently, these tools offer limited value.  
Working together, they offer a powerful capability.*

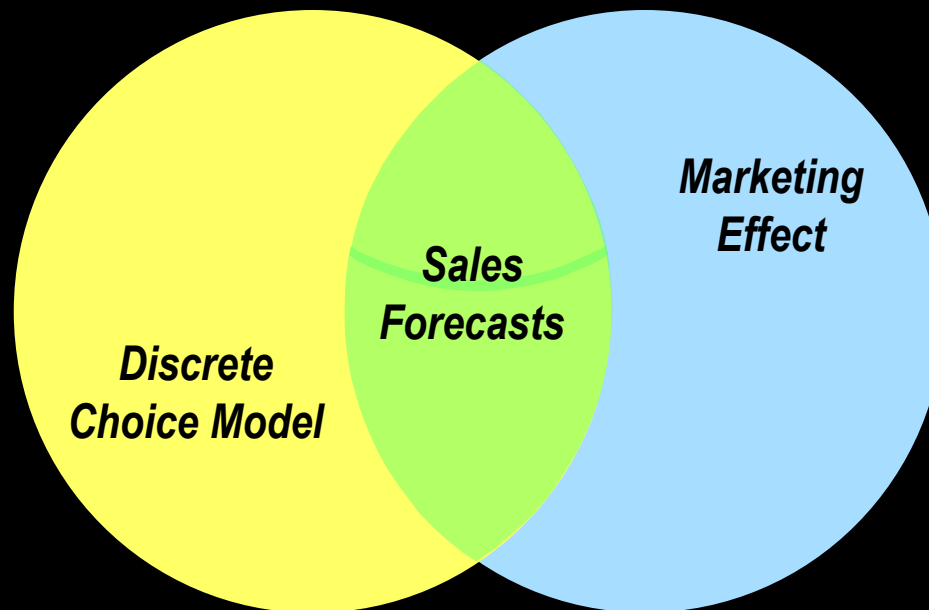
# Actionable Segmentation

A segmentation framework supports an integrated analysis.







## Forecasting Accuracy Outside FMCG

The accuracy of forecasting models for markets, product segments and brands can be improved by integrating the **marketing effect** with **Discrete Choice Analysis**.



# *Example:* Discrete Choice Exercise

*Which Smart Phone, if any, would you most likely buy?*

	<i>Nokia</i>	<i>Ericsson</i>	<i>Motorola</i>	
<b>Display</b>	Large	Standard	Standard	None
<b>Video</b>	Yes	No	No	of
<b>Internet</b>	Yes	Yes	No	These
<b>Price</b>	1,000 DM	800 DM	500 DM	
				

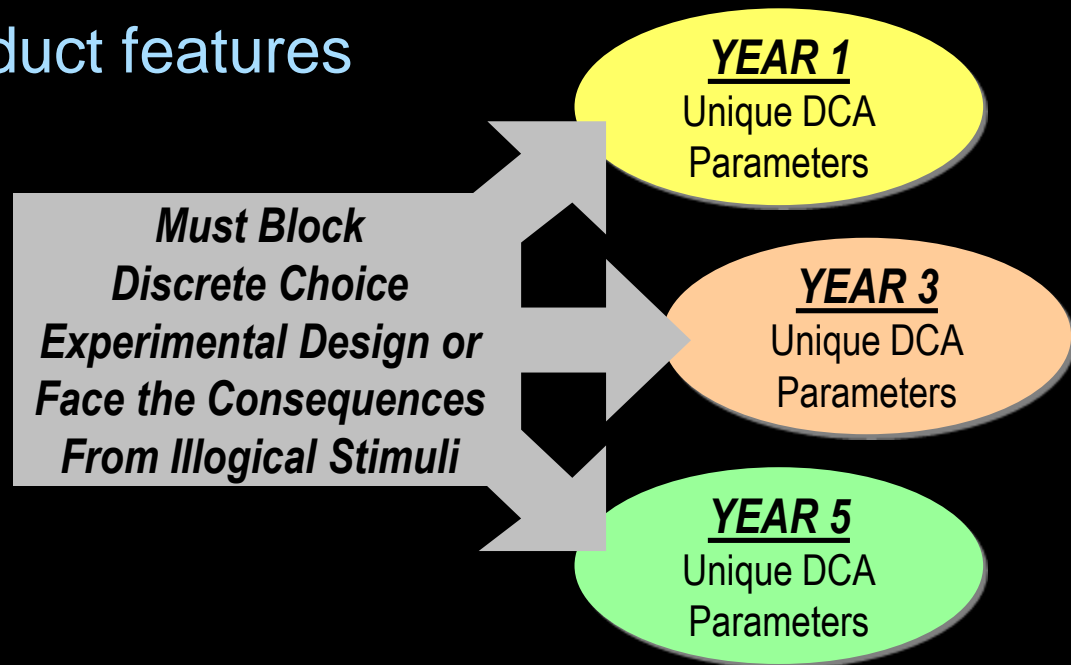
*Discrete Choice intended to simulate “buying situation”  
– It differs from conjoint where focus is “trade-off”*



## **Caution:**

# Markets Change Through the Years

- ▶▶ Considerable price erosion
- ▶▶ New technologies
- ▶▶ Evolving product features



## Experience With Choice Models





- ▶▶ Consumers **UNDERstate** the “*No Choice*” option
- ▶▶ Consumers **OVERstate** *price sensitivity*
- ▶▶ Consumers **OVERstate** preference for *new features*

*Choice models, by themselves,  
should not be used for predicting behavior*

# Overstatement Must Be Removed From The Data

Convert Discrete Choice (0,1) to “probability of choice” matrix.

*Which Smart Phone, if any, would you most likely buy?*

	<i>Nokia</i>	<i>Ericsson</i>	<i>Motorola</i>	
<b>Display</b>	Large	Standard	Standard	None
<b>Video</b>	Yes	No	No	of
<b>Internet</b>	Yes	Yes	No	These
<b>Price</b>	1,000 DM	800 DM	500 DM	
				

*Probability of Purchase*

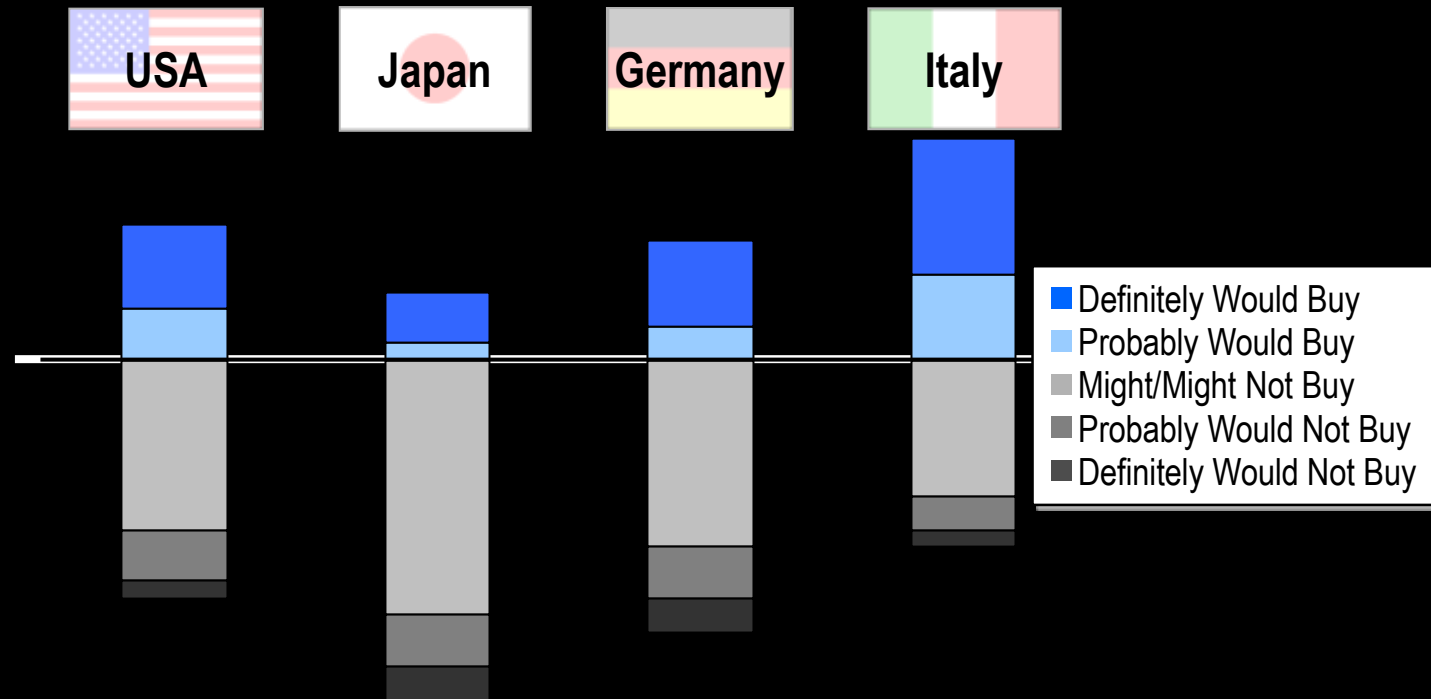
*How likely would you be to buy your choice above?*

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Definitely Would Buy          | <input type="checkbox"/> Probably Would Not Buy   |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Probably Would Buy | <input type="checkbox"/> Definitely Would Not Buy |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Might/Might Not Buy           |   |

**Remove Overstatement**

# Many Factors Contribute to Choice Overstatement

An example of how overstatement differs by culture ...



*Actual Penetration*

8%

10%

9%

6%

# Discrete Choice Calibration

*The logit utility for a product bundle looks like:*

$$U = B_O + B_P \times \text{Price} + B_1 \times \text{Feature}_1 + B_2 \times \text{Feature}_2 + \dots + B_K \times \text{Feature}_K$$

Discrete choice models should be calibrated for ...

- 🕒 Overstatement to buy
- 🕒 Oversensitivity to price
- 🕒 Overemphasis on features

*The calibrated discrete choice model looks like:*

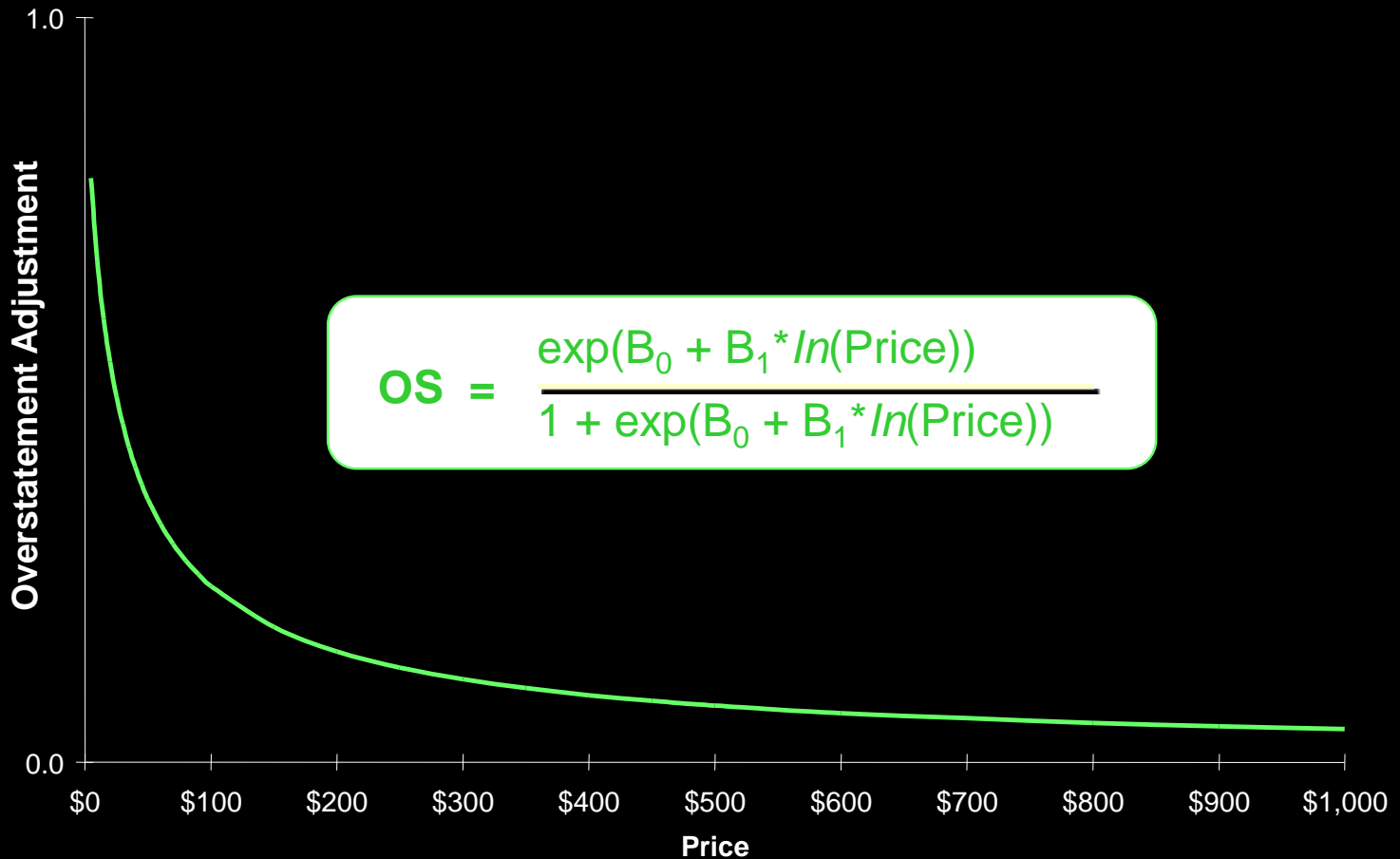
$$U = B_O - C_O + C_P \times B_P \times \text{Price} + C_F \times (B_1 \times \text{Feature}_1 + B_2 \times \text{Feature}_2 + \dots + B_K \times \text{Feature}_K)$$

Where:

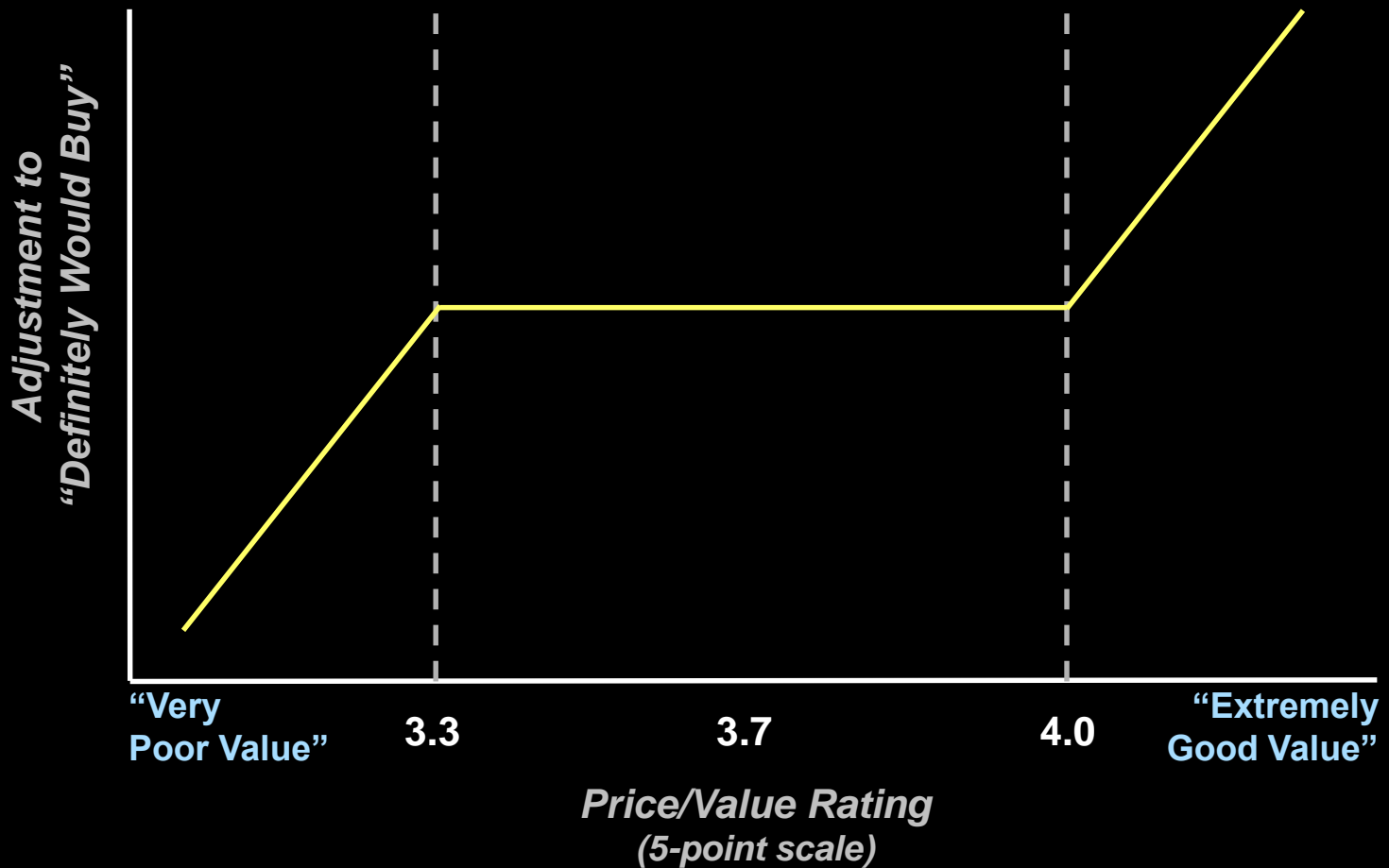
- ◆  $C_O$  calibration removes overstatement to buy ( $C_O > 0$ )
- ◆  $C_P$  calibration removes oversensitivity to price ( $C_P < 1$ )
- ◆  $C_F$  calibration removes overemphasis on features ( $C_F < 1$  and usually  $C_F < C_P$ )

## Example:

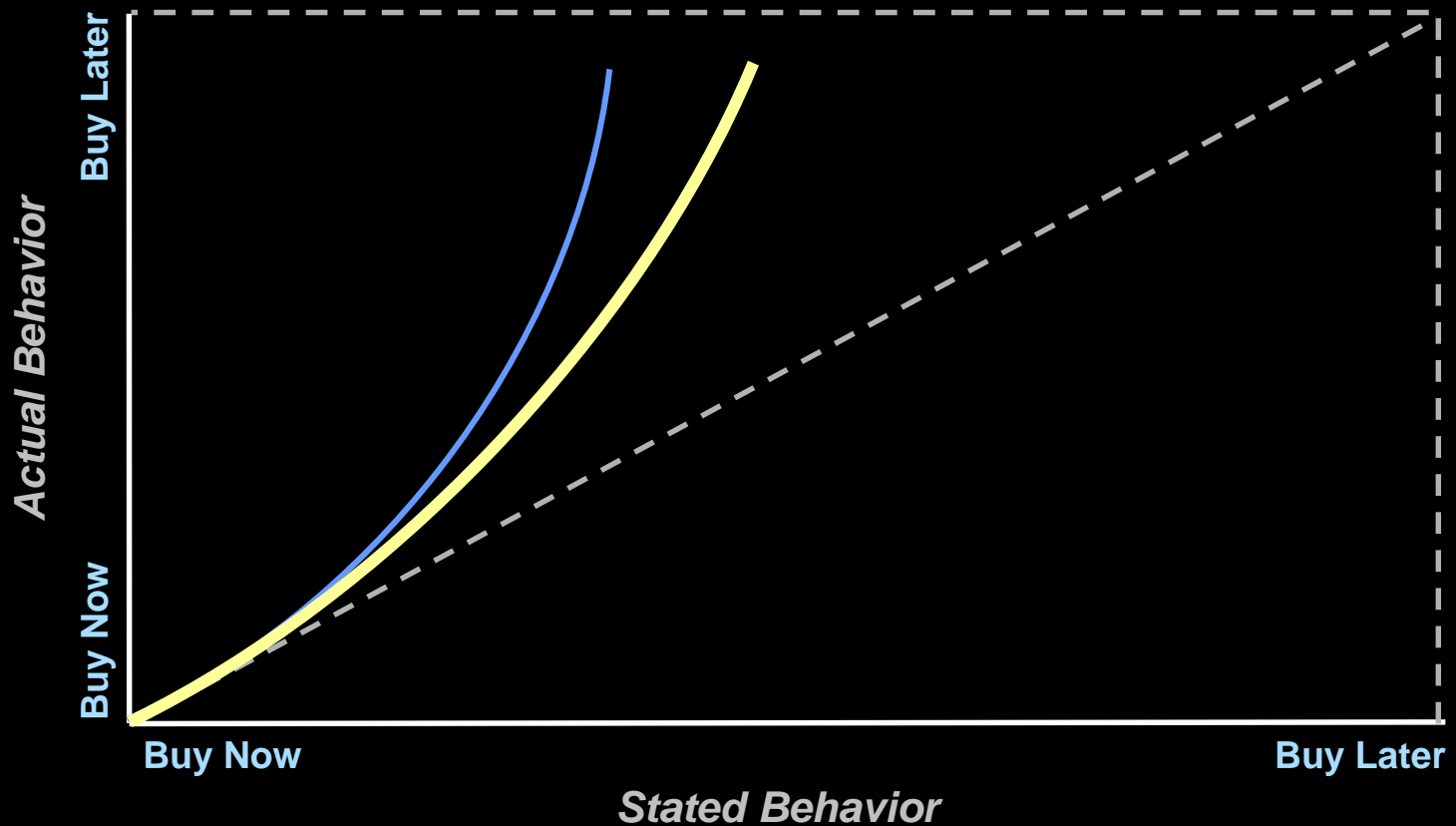
# Overstatement as a Function of Price



# Greater Overstatement Adjustment With Lower Value Perceptions



# Overstatement Inherent In Purchase Timing





## Discrete Choice Is Only Part of the Answer

Discrete Choice Analysis can address only a subset of the variables required to model future markets:

- ◆ Technologies/Platforms
- ◆ Brand Participation
- ◆ Functionality/Features
- ◆ Pricing

*Discrete Choice Analysis can predict PREFERENCE...  
but more information is needed to predict SALES*

# Predicting Consumer Behavior

Consumer behavior can be predicted by integrating Discrete Choice Analysis with the effects of marketing ...

- ◆ Distribution
- ◆ Shelf Facings
- ◆ POS Activity
- ◆ Relative Pricing
- ◆ Promotion
- ◆ Advertising

*It is the timing of these marketing effects which determines sales for markets, product segments and brands in Years 1 through 5*

# Effective Distribution

$$\text{EFFECTIVE DISTRIBUTION} = \underbrace{\text{A.DISTR}}_{\text{Base}} + \underbrace{[(1-\text{A.DISTR}) \times \text{SI} \times \text{AD.AWARE}]}_{\text{Motivated to Cross Shop}}$$

where,

**A.DISTR** = Actual Distribution in market

**SI** = Percent of relevant universe that will search for new product (Seek Information survey response adjusted for overstatement)

**AD.AWARE** = Percent of relevant universe made aware of category via advertising (function of co-op and mass advertising spending)

# Estimating Functional Awareness Build

$$\text{F.AWARE}(t + 1) = \text{F.AWARE}(t) + [\text{K} - \text{F.AWARE}(t)] \times \text{COEF}$$

where,

**F. AWARE** = Functional Awareness in Year 1 (function of distribution and spending)

**K** = Functional Awareness in Year 5 (function of segment growth and purchase probability)

**COEF** =  $0.2 \leq \text{Range} \leq 0.5$

$$\text{COEF} = f \left[ \frac{\text{Ad Spending}(t + 1)}{\text{Ad Spending}(t)}, \frac{\text{SKUs}(t + 1)}{\text{SKUs}(t)}, \left(1 + \frac{\text{Penetration}(t + 1)}{\text{Penetration}(t)}\right) \times \text{Uniqueness} \right]$$

# Key Stages In Preparing The Forecasts

## Consumer Research

- Retail store simulation
- Discrete Choice exercise
- Key drivers of demand
- Likely buyer profile

**Research**

## Marketing Plans

- Distribution, shelf space
- Advertising support
- Retail pricing plans
- Brand participation
- Products Offered

**Plans**

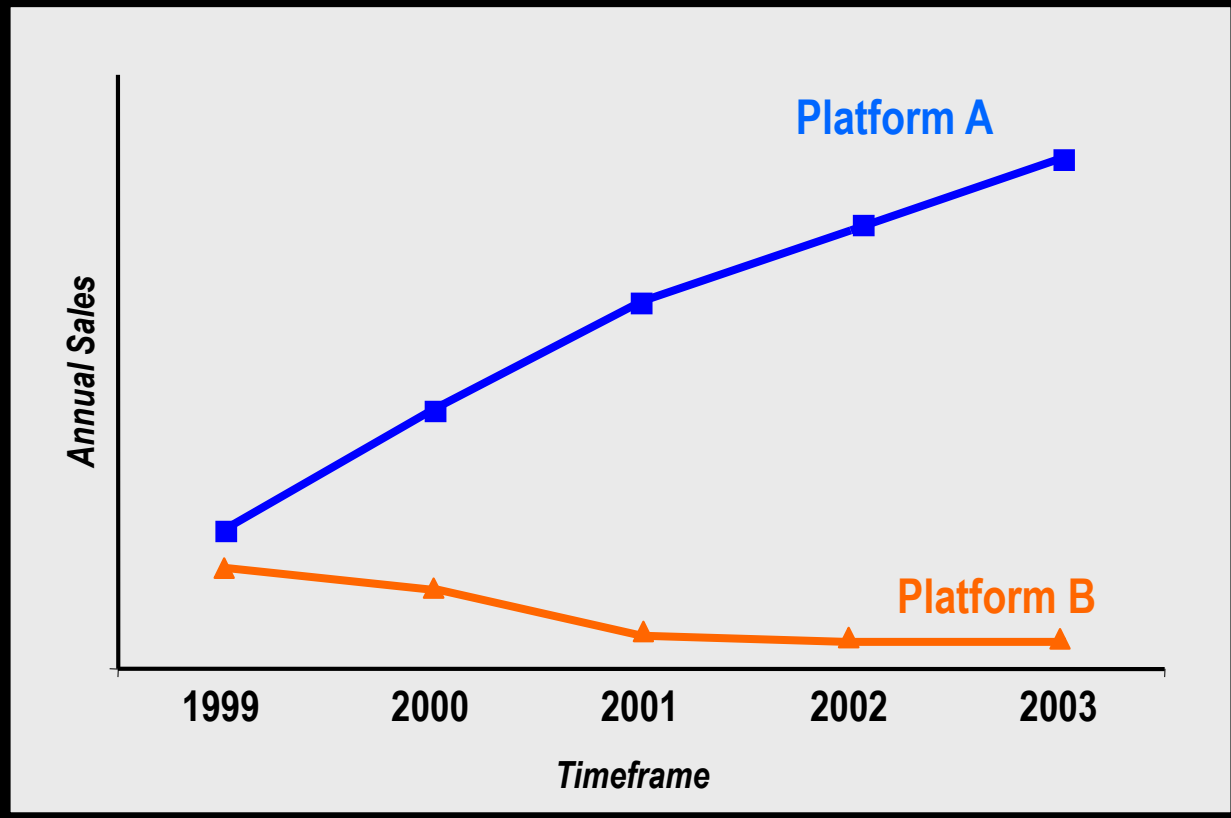
## Simulations

- Using alternative plans
- Assumptions for competition
- Category forecasts
- Brand forecasts

**Forecasts**

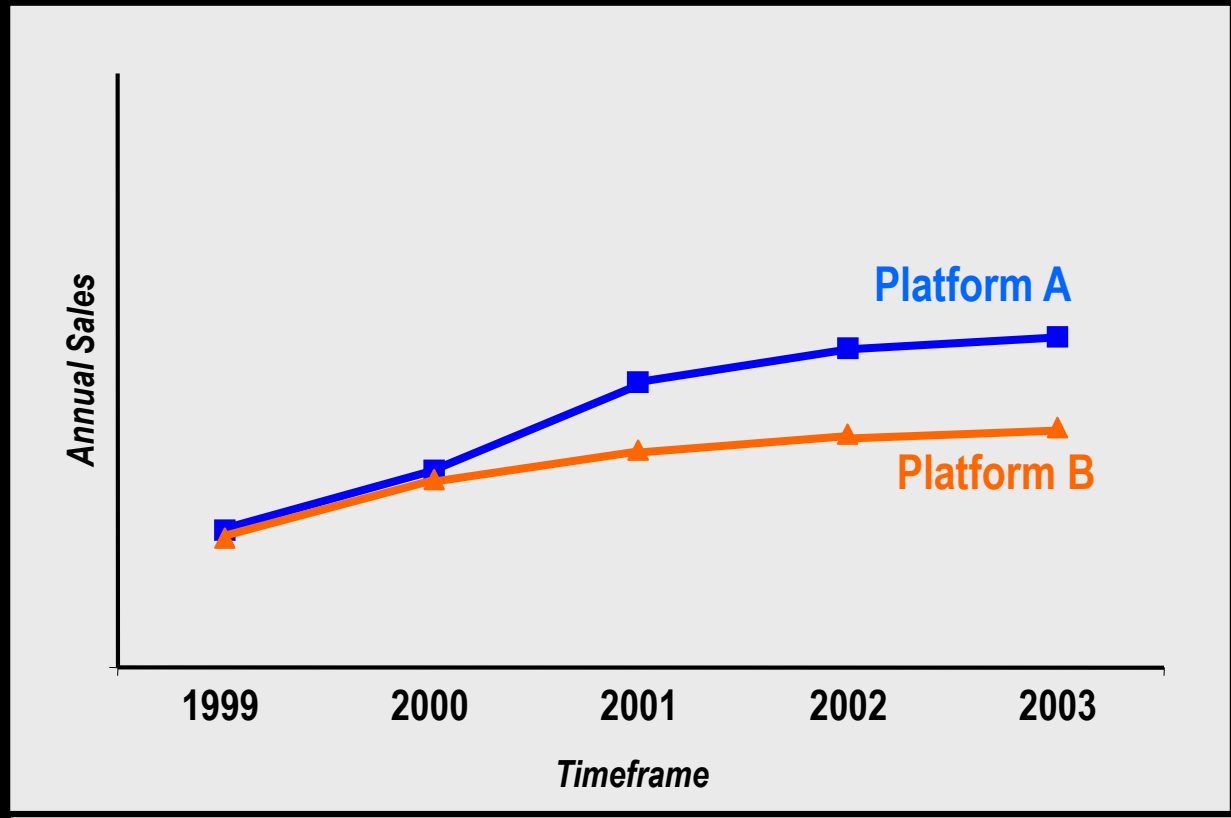
# Actual Simulations of Demand

## Price at Parity and Aggressive Marketing Plan



# Actual Simulations of Demand

## Priced at Premium and Reduced Marketing Spending



## Learning From Modeling Marketing Effects

- ▶▶ Categories differ. Customize model to capture the buying process and marketing “levers” which drive sales.
- ▶▶ Tie model calibration to variables that can be tracked.
- ▶▶ Continuously re-calibrate model as new observations come available.
- ▶▶ Database your learning.

*There are no “off the shelf” models ...  
not today.*