

A stochastic inventory model with price and customer's credit- dependent demand rate under inflation for deteriorating/ameliorating itemsFatemeh Sadat Shafienejad^a, Sara Nodoust^a, Abolfazl Mirzazadeh^a^aDepartment of Industrial Engineering, University of Kharazmi, Tehran, Iran,**Abstract**

In this paper, the production inventory model is extended to allow not only for general partial backlogging rate but also for inflation. In reality, there are some items whose value, utility or quantity increase with time and those items can be termed as ameliorating. Also, deterioration of many items is usually observed during their normal storage period for damage, spoilage, dryness, vaporization, etc. Therefore, the model considered both ameliorating and deteriorating items. The developed model, also, implicate to finite production rate and finite time horizon. The demand rate is assumed to be a function of both price and the customer's credit period. Consequently, the paper deals with the problem of determining the optimal price, replenishment number and shortage period. The numerical examples are presented to illustrate the proposed models.

Keywords: Inventory; Trade credit; Stochastic; Inflation; Ameliorating; Deteriorating.

1. Introduction

Ameliorating occurs when the value or utility of a product increases overtime. The practical examples can be pickle manufacturing industry and fast growing animals like fish, broiler, sheep, pig, etc. in farming yard. The manufacturers purchase these livestock when they are small and raise them. The manufacturers treat these livestock as the raw materials. When these livestock are kept in the farm, they will increase in value due to their growth, and decrease in value due to feeding expenses and/or diseases. When these livestock have grown up, the manufacturers use the matured livestock to produce the cooked livestock (finished goods). To be more realistic, the livestock's growth is faster in the beginning and declines at the later stage. Hwang [12] developed a special case of inventory models for items with Weibull ameliorating and deteriorating rates. Mondal et al. [15] developed an inventory model of ameliorating items for a prescribed time period with price-dependent demand rate.

The problem of deteriorating items has received considerable attention in the recent years. These items (e.g., fruits, vegetables, pharmaceuticals, volatile liquids, and, etc.) deteriorate continuously due to evaporation, obsolescence, spoilage, etc. Ghare and Schrader [7] first derived a revised economic order quantity (EOQ) model by assuming exponential decay. Next, Covert and Philip [5] extended Ghare and Schrader's constant deterioration rate to a two-parameter Weibull distribution. Soleimani et al. [18] compared two methods for calculating the optimal total cost in an inventory model with time value of money and inflation for deteriorating items.

Fries [6] extended the EOQ model for a perishable commodity (as known as a deteriorating item) with the fixed lifetime. Aggarwal [1] and Shah and Jaiswal [17] presented and re-established an order level inventory model with a constant rate of deterioration. Thereafter, numerous works have been devoted to the inventory models with incorporating both the opposite physical characteristics. The model of Moon et al. [16], is worth mentioning in this direction. In these works, researchers considered inflationary inventory systems. Yang [21] studied an inventory model for deteriorating items under inflation. Chen et al. [3] developed a lot-size model under inflation for deteriorating items. Maity & Maiti [14] considered a multi objective optimal inventory model for deteriorating items under inflation.

The characteristic of the above-mentioned articles is that the unsatisfied demand (due to shortage) is completely backlogged. However, in reality, demands for foods, medicines, etc. are usually lost during the shortage period. Yang et al. [20] considered an inventory model under inflation for deteriorating items with partial backlogging shortages. Most of the previous inventory management studies have considered variety of demand, such as stock-dependent demand, constant demand rate, time-varying demand rate, etc.

Nowadays, severely competitive business environment, entrepreneurs are increasingly using trade credit to attract customers. As a result, trade credit plays an important role in modern business operation. Manufacturers tend to

extend this benefit to customers by offering a delayed payment period as well. To obtain deeper insight into trade credit strategy and inventory policy, several authors have proposed various analytical models. Goyal [8] established an economic order quantity (EOQ) model with a constant demand rate under the condition of permissible delay in payments. More related articles can be found in the work by Huang [11], Biskup et al. [2], Chung and Huang [4], Teng and Chang [19], Liao [13], Huang and Hsu [10], Ho [9] and, etc.

In this paper, we developed a stochastic inventory model in which (1) demand rate is related both to the product price and the credit period offered by the manufacturer to the customers, (2) shortages are partial backlogging to reflect that longer the waiting time; the smaller the backlogging rate would be, (3) the inflation rate assumed stochastic with known pdfs over a finite planning horizon with finite production rate. The mentioned situations have not been considered simultaneously in the previous research.

The paper is organized as follows. Assumptions and notations are introduced in Section 2. Section 3 discusses the mathematical model. In Section 4, we presented a numerical example. Finally, conclusions and some future research recommendations are given in Section 5.

2. The assumptions and notations

The following assumptions have been used in developing the model:

1. H is taken to be the constant time horizon.
2. The demand rate increased with the customer's credit period N and decreased with the selling price ω which is given by $D(N, \omega) = D_0 N^a \omega^{-b}$ where $D_0 > 0$ is a scaling factor, $a > 0$ is a constant governing the increasing rate of the demand rate, and $b > 1$ is a price-elasticity coefficient. For notational simplicity, $D(N, \omega)$ and D will be used interchangeably in this paper.
3. The customers are assumed to be impatient and only a fraction $B(t)$ of the demand during the stock-out period is backlogged where $(t_{j+1} - t)$ is the amount of time for which the customer waits before receiving goods and remaining fraction $1 - B(t)$ is lost. $B(t)$ is given by $B(t) = \frac{k_0}{1 + k_1 t}$; $0 < k_0 < 1$; $0 < k_1 < 1$. This is practical because as the waiting time of customers for receiving their goods increases, the backlogging rate decreases.
4. The lead-time is assumed to be negligible.
5. The production rate is finite and constant, greater than the demand rate and the number of units deteriorated per unit time.
6. The inventory system costs are known at the beginning of the time horizon and during this time will be increased with the inflation rate.
7. The initial and the final inventory levels during the finite planning horizon are both zero.
8. When shortages are lost, the cost of lost sales is the sum of the revenue loss and the cost of lost goodwill. Note that the cost of lost goodwill varies with products and firms. Its value ranges from 0 to the estimated future profit per customer. Hence, the cost of lost sales here is greater than the unit purchase cost.
9. The inflation rate may be stochastic with the Uniform(u_1, u_2) pdf.

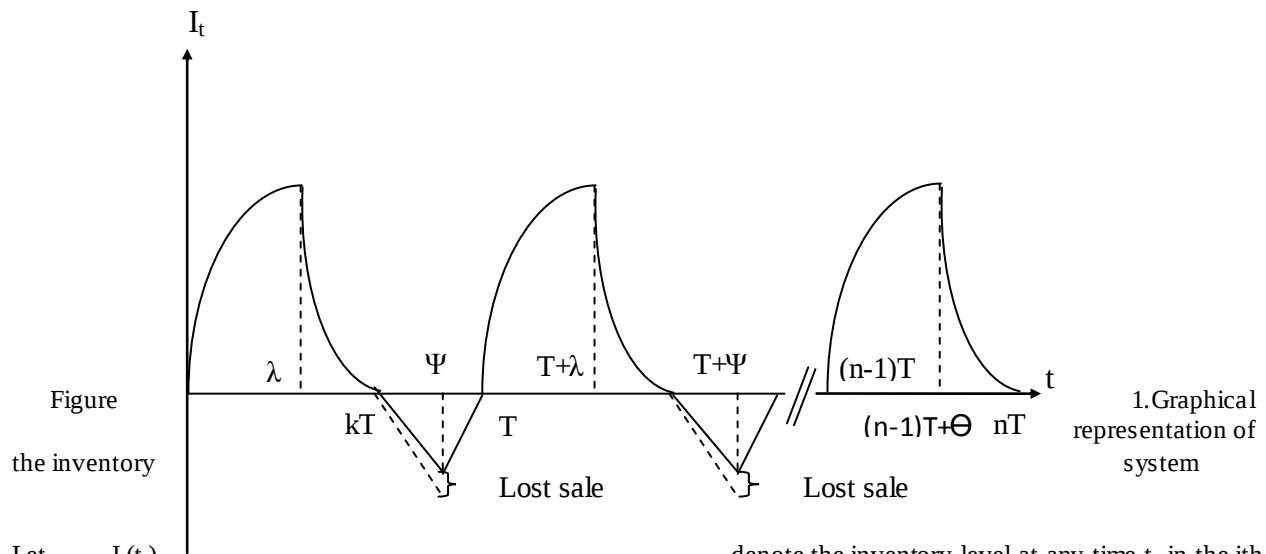
For convenience, the following notation is used throughout the entire of paper.

H	The time horizon
$I(t)$	The inventory level at time t
$D(N, \omega)$	The demand rate
α	A constant fraction of on-hand inventory ameliorates or deteriorates per unit of time. ($0 \leq \alpha < 1$)
i	The inflation rate, which is varied by the social economic situations and the company operation status
C_o	The internal fixed purchasing cost per order
C_p	The external variable purchasing cost per unit
C_h	The inventory holding cost per unit per unit time
C_s	The backlogging cost per unit per unit time
C_l	The cost of lost sales per unit

C_{det}	The deteriorating item's cost per unit
C_{ame}	The ameliorating item's cost per unit, $C_{ame} < 0$
kT	Duration of inventory cycle when there is positive inventory
λ, Ψ, θ	Interim time-span

3. The mathematical model

A typical behavior of the production-inventory in a cycle is depicted in fig.1. The time horizon, H , is divided into n equal cycle each of length T so that $T=H/n$. Each inventory cycle except the last cycle can be divided into four parts. The production starts with zero inventories at zero time. During λ time period, there is an inventory buildup and hence deterioration becomes effective. At $t_1=\lambda$, production stops which the inventory level achieves to the maximum level. After $t_1=\lambda$ there is no production and the inventory level decreases due to demand and deterioration rates. The inventory level becomes zero at $t_2=kT$. During time period of t_3 , part of the shortage is backlogged and another part is lost sales. Only the backlogged items are replaced in the next replenishment. At $t=\Psi$, the production starts again and the inventory level increases until the moment of T . In this moment, the second cycle starts and this behavior continues till the end of the $(n-1)T$. In the last cycle, shortages are not allowed and each inventory cycle can be divided into two parts. At $t=(n-1)T+\lambda$ production stops and then inventory level decreases until the end of the time horizon.



Let $I_i(t_i)$ denote the inventory level at any time t_i in the i th part of cycle ($i=1,2,3,4$). Then, $I_i(t_i)$ are governed by the following differential equations:

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{dI_1(t_1)}{dt_1} &= P - D - \alpha I_1(t_1) & 0 < t_1 < \lambda \\ \frac{dI_2(t_2)}{dt_2} &= -D - \alpha I_2(t_2) & 0 < t_2 < kT - \lambda \end{aligned} \quad (1) \quad (2)$$

$$\frac{dl_3(t_3)}{dt_3} = -DB(\Psi - kT - t_3) \quad 0 < t_3 < \Psi - kT \quad (3)$$

$$\frac{dl_4(t_4)}{dt_4} = P - D \quad 0 < t_4 < T - \Psi \quad (4)$$

In the last cycle, shortages are not allowed and the inventory level is governed by the following differential equations (i=5,6)

$$\frac{dl_5(t_5)}{dt_5} = P - D - \alpha I_5(t_5) \quad 0 < t < \theta \quad (5)$$

$$\frac{dl_6(t_6)}{dt_6} = -D - \alpha I_6(t_6) \quad 0 < t < T - \theta \quad (6)$$

The solutions of the above differential equations after applying the following boundary conditions: $I_1(0)=0$, $I_2(kT-\lambda)=0$, $I_3(0)=0$, $I_4(T-\Psi)=0$, $I_5(0)=0$, $I_6(T-\theta)=0$, are

$$I_1(t) = \frac{(e^{-\alpha t} - 1)(D - P)}{\alpha} \quad 0 < t_1 < \lambda \quad (7)$$

$$I_2(t) = -\frac{D(-e^{\lambda(t+kT)} + 1)}{\alpha} \quad 0 < t_2 < kT - \lambda \quad (8)$$

$$I_3(t) = \frac{Dk_0}{k_1} \log\left(\frac{1+k_1(\Psi-kT-t)}{1+k_1(\Psi-kT)}\right) \quad 0 < t_3 < \Psi - kT \quad (9)$$

$$I_4(t) = (P - D)(t - T + \Psi) \quad 0 < t_4 < T - \Psi \quad (10)$$

$$I_5(t) = \frac{(P-D)(1-e^{-t_5\alpha})}{\alpha} \quad 0 < t < \theta \quad (11)$$

$$I_6(t) = \frac{-D(1-e^{(T-\gamma-t_6)\alpha})}{\alpha} \quad 0 < t < T - \theta \quad (12)$$

We can calculate Ψ , λ , θ by using the above equations. Solving $I_1(\lambda) = I_2(0)$ for λ we have:

$$\lambda = \frac{-\ln[(e^{-\alpha kT} + 1)\frac{D}{P-D} + 1]}{\alpha} \quad (13)$$

Similarly Ψ and θ are:

$$\Psi = \frac{-P+D+Pk_1kT}{(-P+D)K_1} \quad (14)$$

$$\theta = \frac{1}{\alpha} \ln\left(\frac{P-D(1-e^{\alpha T})}{P}\right) \quad (15)$$

The total system costs over the time horizon for a given value of H, are including: ordering, holding, production, backordering, lost sale, deterioration and amelioration costs. As a result, we obtain the present value of the total ordering cost during H as:

$$c_o = c_o \left[1 + \sum_{j=0}^{n-1} e^{-R(jT+\Psi)} \right] \quad (16)$$

The present value of the total inventory holding cost during H is as follow:

$$c_h = \sum_{j=1}^{n-1} c_h \left[\int_0^\lambda \frac{(e^{-\alpha t} - 1)(D - P)}{\alpha} e^{Rt_1} dt + \int_0^{kT-\lambda} -\frac{D(-e^{-\alpha(t-kT+\lambda)} + 1)}{\alpha} e^{-Rt_2} dt_2 e^{-\lambda R} \right] \times e^{-(j-1)RT} + c_h \left(\int_0^\theta \frac{P-D}{\alpha} (1 - e^{-\alpha t} e^{-Rt} dt - Rn-1T + \theta) e^{-tR} e^{-Rn-1T + \theta} \right) \quad (17)$$

The present value of the total inventory production (purchasing) cost during H is:

$$c_p = \sum_{j=1}^{n-1} c_p \left[\alpha e^{-(j-1)RT} + (T - \Psi) e^{-[j+(j-1)T]R} \right] \quad (18)$$

The present value of the total inventory backordering cost during H is:

$$c_s = \sum_{j=1}^{n-1} c_s \left[\int_0^{\Psi-kT} \left[-\frac{Dk_0 \ln(1+k_1\Psi-k_1kT-k_1t)}{k_1} + \frac{Dk_0 \ln(1+k_1\Psi-2k_1kT)}{k_1} \right] e^{-Rt_3} dt_3 e^{-kTR} \right] + \int_0^{T-\Psi} (Dt + Dk_0 \ln(1+k_1\Psi-k_1kT-k_1tk_1 - Pt - DT - Dk_0 \ln(1+k_1\Psi-k_1kT-k_1tk_1 + PT)) e^{-Rt_4} dt_4 e^{-\Psi R} \times e^{-j-1RT} \quad (19)$$

The present value of the total inventory lost sale cost during H is:

$$C_{L_s} = \sum_{j=1}^{n-1} c_{L_s} \int_0^{\Psi-kT} \left[1 - \frac{k_0}{1+k_1.t} \right] D e^{-Rt} e^{-(j-1)RT} dt \quad (20)$$

The present value of the total inventory deterioration cost during H is:

$$c_{det} = \sum_{j=1}^{n-1} \alpha \cdot c_{det} \left[\int_0^{\lambda} \frac{(e^{-\alpha t} - 1)(D-P)}{\alpha} e^{Rt_1} dt + \int_0^{kT-\lambda} - \frac{D(-e^{-\alpha(t-kT+\lambda)} + 1)}{\alpha} e^{-Rt_2} dt_2 e^{-\lambda R} \right] \times e^{-(j-1)RT} + \alpha(c_h \left(\int_0^{\theta} \frac{P-D}{\alpha} (1 - e^{-\alpha t}) e^{-Rt} dt e^{-R(n-1)T} + \int_0^{T-\theta} \frac{D}{\alpha} (1 - e^{\alpha(T-\theta-t)}) e^{-tR} e^{-R((n-1)T+\theta)} \right)) \quad (21)$$

The present value of the total inventory ameliorated cost during H is:

$$c_{ame} = \sum_{j=1}^{n-1} \alpha \cdot c_{ame} \left[\int_0^{\lambda} \frac{(e^{-\alpha t} - 1)(D-P)}{\alpha} e^{Rt_1} dt + \int_0^{kT-\lambda} - \frac{D(-e^{-\alpha(t-kT+\lambda)} + 1)}{\alpha} e^{-Rt_2} dt_2 e^{-\lambda R} \right] \times e^{-(j-1)RT} + \alpha(c_h \left(\int_0^{\theta} \frac{P-D}{\alpha} (1 - e^{-\alpha t}) e^{-Rt} dt e^{-R(n-1)T} + \int_0^{T-\theta} \frac{D}{\alpha} (1 - e^{\alpha(T-\theta-t)}) e^{-tR} e^{-R((n-1)T+\theta)} \right)) \quad (22)$$

The distribution of R is continuous uniform. Because of the R is stochastic parameter, we must calculate the expected present value (EPV) of those equations. Then we have:

$$EPV(c_o) = c_o \left[1 + \sum_{j=0}^{n-1} (e^{-0.07(jT+\Psi)} - e^{-0.06(jT+\Psi)}) / (.01(-jT - \Psi)) \right] \quad (23)$$

$$EPV(c_p) = \sum_{j=1}^{n-1} c_p \left[\alpha(e^{-(j-1).07T} - e^{-(j-1).06T}) / ((-j+1).01T) + (T-\Psi)(e^{-[\Psi+(j-1)T].07} - e^{-[\Psi+(j-1)T].06}) / (-0.01\Psi+j-1T) \right] \quad (24)$$

$$EPV(c_h) = \sum_{j=1}^{n-1} 100c_h \left[\int_0^{.07} \int_0^{\lambda} \frac{(e^{-\alpha t} - 1)(D-P)}{\alpha} e^{Rt} e^{-(j-1)RT} dt d_R + \int_0^{.07} \int_0^{kT-\lambda} - \frac{D(-e^{-\alpha(t-kT+\lambda)} + 1)}{\alpha} e^{-Rt} dt e^{-(j-1)RT} e^{-\lambda R} d_R \right] + 100c_h \left(\int_0^{.07} \int_0^{\theta} \frac{P-D}{\alpha} (1 - e^{-\alpha t}) e^{-Rt} dt e^{-R(n-1)T} d_R + \int_0^{.07} \int_0^{T-\theta} \frac{D}{\alpha} (1 - e^{\alpha(T-\theta-t)}) e^{-tR} e^{-R((n-1)T+\theta)} dt d_R \right) \quad (25)$$

$$EPV(c_s) = \sum_{j=1}^{n-1} 100c_s \left[\int_0^{.07} \int_0^{\Psi-KT} \left[\left(-\frac{Dk_0}{k_1} \log \left(\frac{1+k_1(\Psi-KT-t)}{1+k_1(\Psi-KT)} \right) \right) e^{-Rt} dt e^{-KTR} \right] e^{-(j-1)RT} d_R + \int_0^{.07} \int_0^{T-\Psi} [(-P + D(t-T+\Psi)) e^{-Rtdt} e^{-\Psi R} e^{-j-1RT} dR \right] \quad (26)$$

$$EPV(C_{L_s}) = \sum_{j=1}^{n-1} 100c_{L_s} \int_0^{.07} \int_0^{\Psi-KT} \left[1 - \frac{k_0}{1+k_1.t} \right] D e^{-Rt} e^{-(j-1)RT} dt d_R \quad (27)$$

$$EPV(c_{det}) = \sum_{j=1}^{n-1} 100(\alpha \cdot c_{det}) \left[\int_0^{.07} \int_0^{\lambda} \frac{(e^{-\alpha t} - 1)(D-P)}{\alpha} e^{Rt} e^{-(j-1)RT} dt d_R + \int_0^{.07} \int_0^{kT-\lambda} - \frac{D(-e^{-\alpha(t-kT+\lambda)} + 1)}{\alpha} e^{-Rt} dt e^{-(j-1)RT} e^{-\lambda R} d_R \right] + 100(\alpha \cdot c_{det}) \left(\int_0^{.07} \int_0^{\theta} \frac{P-D}{\alpha} (1 - e^{-\alpha t}) e^{-Rt} dt e^{-R(n-1)T} d_R + \int_0^{.07} \int_0^{T-\theta} \frac{D}{\alpha} (1 - e^{\alpha(T-\theta-t)}) e^{-tR} e^{-R((n-1)T+\theta)} dt d_R \right) \quad (28)$$

$$EPV(c_{ame}) = \sum_{j=1}^{n-1} 100(\alpha \cdot c_{ame}) \left[\int_0^{.07} \int_0^{\lambda} \frac{(e^{-\alpha t} - 1)(D-P)}{\alpha} e^{Rt} e^{-(j-1)RT} dt d_R + \int_0^{.07} \int_0^{kT-\lambda} - \frac{D(-e^{-\alpha(t-kT+\lambda)} + 1)}{\alpha} e^{-Rt} dt e^{-(j-1)RT} e^{-\lambda R} d_R \right] + 100(\alpha \cdot c_{ame}) \left(\int_0^{.07} \int_0^{\theta} \frac{P-D}{\alpha} (1 - e^{-\alpha t}) e^{-Rt} dt e^{-R(n-1)T} d_R + \int_0^{.07} \int_0^{T-\theta} \frac{D}{\alpha} (1 - e^{\alpha(T-\theta-t)}) e^{-tR} e^{-R((n-1)T+\theta)} dt d_R \right) \quad (29)$$

Finally, the total expected present value of all of the system costs are

$$TEPV = EPV(c_o) + EPV(c_p) + EPV(c_h) + EPV(c_s) + EPV(c_{L_s}) + EPV(c_{det}) + EPV(c_{ame}) \quad (30)$$

Some formulations have been used for simplifying the model and then, the solution is obtained by a solver in MATLAB source code.

4.Insights for Practitioners

The following numerical example is provided to clarify how the proposed model is applied. Let

Table 1.Data for numerical example

PARAMETERS	VALUS	UNIT
D_0	5000000	Unit/year
c_o	80	D/order
c_p	5	D/unit
c_{det}	8	D/unit /year
c_{ame}	-10	D/unit /year
H	10	year
c_{L_s}	8	D/unit /year
c_h	0.4	D/unit /year

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c_s	0.8	D/unit /year
P	5000	Unit/year
N	10	day
k_1	0.1	-
k_0	0.9	-
α	0.1	-
a	1.5	-
b	1.5	-
u_1	0.6	-
u_2	0.7	-

According to the above-mentioned values of the system parameters, the optimal solution is: $n^*=2$, $k^*=0.99$, $\omega^*=1.8 \times 10^8$ and $TC^*(n,k,\omega)=182.9$.

5. Conclusion

Astochastic inventory model is developed here with considering both ameliorating and deteriorating items, under stochastic inflation, partial backlogging and finite production rate. Although, many inventory researchers developed models with considering variable demands. We assumed that the demand rate is linked both to the price and the credit period. The contribution of this paper to the ameliorating/deteriorating items is to add this type of demand. We formulated the model as a nonlinear mixed integer programming problem to determine the optimal shortage period, number of production and the selling price. One of the future research directions is to extend the study to more general distributions for planning horizon or other inventory policies (e.g., two-level trade credit). Moreover, in this paper, we assume that the price is a decision variable. It might be useful to employ other pricing policies (e.g., mark-up pricing).

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