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The Impact of Introducing a Customer Loyalty Program On Category Sales and Profitability

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The Impact of Network and Category Loyalty on On-Category and Off-Category

ABSTRACT

The authors propose and empirically investigate the effect of category-specific attributes on important factors associated with the change in pre- and post-loyalty program introduction category sales and profits. Category penetration and frequency are positively correlated with loyalty program success with an increase in sales and profits, whereas price sensitivity to stock price shows negative correlations. Furthermore, though introducing a loyalty program generates immediate spikes in sales and profits in most categories, its impact is generally short-lived, resulting in an initial redistribution of category expenditures during the program launch, where consumers see a shift in consumption from high-yield purchased categories to high-yield purchased categories. But the effect soon erodes. Nevertheless, by modeling the diffusion process of a loyalty program performance, this paper finds that penetration rate and price elasticity are key drivers of category sales in the growth phase. The effect of consumer price elasticities and promotion sensitivities is reduced pre- and post-loyalty program introduction, and profit-driving categories are identified according to their category characteristics. New insights are offered on category management and long-term program planning.

Keywords: loyalty program, category management, performance metrics

concern of management. Researchers have been using customer demographics such as spending
levels and purchase frequencies, and customer characteristics such as record types and
relationships from household panel data. Other research examines the impact on brand
relationships through panel data. In addition, studies in single category Dege and Och,
on the other hand, empirical researchers in estimating heterogeneity
programs in the store and cross stores from the firm's perspective. The limited existing
research that does in estimating store performance Leenheer et al., 2007, Van der
Bijl et al., 2004 and direct comparisons on consumers' non-owners, has been criticized for
methodological limitations such as self-selection bias and endogeneity.

Secondly, the methodological limitations result of inappropriate selected

longer term commitment from both retailers and consumers, despite the evidence that in both the pre and post program introduction periods if it is not the period, which is that it is done in this paper, emphasizes several studies along with the unit of analysis and observation into dimensions. Our study is unique in using longitudinal data to examine the performance of customer loyalty programs addressing managerial concerns on implementing loyalty programs to store performance.

Lastly, while researchers have examined loyalty programs in a variety of categories, only one study is most consistently limited to single category, that is not only difficult to compare across industries such as retail and financial services (Bontu et al., 2007) and retailers. Lewis (2007) results are so general to potential moderating effects of category characteristics on store loyalty. Zhang and Geng (2008) and others, in fact, category performance is systematically driven by the role of the category. Dhur et al., (2008). Although previous research focuses on consumer factors, program factors and competition factors as drivers for successful loyalty programs. Li and Yang (2008) category factors such as category expenditure and product substitutability are often implicitly captured by competition factors, particularly when analysis is conducted at one category.

For example, summarize the literature on the determinants of price promotions effectiveness. Thirteen out of 41 papers they examined listed category characteristics as their explanatory variables, including return on investment, such as loyalty program performance is influenced by category characteristics. Fader and Lodish (2004), in fact, previous literature has documented some evidence of moderating effects of category characteristics, although not necessarily emphasizing category characteristics. For example, Lewis (2007) finds that the effect of reward received by customer in prior period positively affects the probability of engaging in larger sized

The detailed reference is given in the appendix.

transactions in the current period. Li ¹ finds that consumers with a prior order to initiate a purchase are more likely to purchase a second order to the firm after joining its loyalty program. Leenheer et al. ² study s

These results are consistent with Feder and Lodish's earlier findings as the popular scheme promoted by the Food Marketing Institute (FMI), which so-called categories considered categories roles defined according to penetration and frequency, therefore, categories are classified into four groups respectively, p high penetration high frequency, nc low penetration high frequency, r, y, n, nc, r high penetration low frequency and r, n low penetration low frequency, with different considerations cross four groups, it is highly likely that the effectiveness of marketing actions also differs by category. Therefore, the heterogeneity effect is not only predicted that consumers are more responsive in categories that are purchased more often and heavily, such as staples and essentials.

Another important correlation is why Nielsen et al., however, define the relationship between promotion elasticities and characteristics in the frequency of brands switching, store switching, category expansion and purchase segmentation. They hypothesize that category penetration, interpurchase time, price, priority share, number of brands, impulse buying and ability to stockpile are correlated with promotion response. The incidence of errors is less desirable, which is used as dependent variable in their paper.

Higher category penetration means larger potential customer base that can generate steady stream of revenues and deal with the loyalty program shorter purchase cycle encourages repeated purchases within short time frame price decreases and decreases directly related to customer experiences and expectations about the loyalty program. Categories with greater priority share of advertising and promotion and promotion within category suggests room for product differentiation and thus deal applications on in-depth customer segmentation. Rather than inducing one-time impulse buying and strategic stocking

$s M_{r/c}$, By contrast, non-employees pay the regular price without a proportionate discount of δ , which we denote as $NonM_{r/c}$, if regular promotion occurs, then the

Loy 7.

the ratio of consumer price to regular price instead of consumer price is used for comparison across categories. Our analysis is performed category by category. Yet, we found significant estimates for the loyalty program whether they were calculated on the basis of price indices or regular prices. The price elasticities of regular store visits, can be computed by substituting across the coefficients of the following regressions

$$\text{Price Elasticity}_{\text{ist}} = \alpha + \beta_1 M_{\text{r/c}} + \beta_2 \text{Loy} + \beta_3 M_{\text{r/c}} \text{Loy} + \beta_4 \text{Loy}^2 + \beta_5 M_{\text{r/c}}^2 + \beta_6 M_{\text{r/c}} \text{Loy}^2 + \beta_7 M_{\text{r/c}}^2 \text{Loy} + \beta_8 M_{\text{r/c}}^2 \text{Loy}^2 + \beta_9 M_{\text{r/c}}^2 \text{Loy}^3 + \beta_{10} M_{\text{r/c}}^2 \text{Loy}^4 + \beta_{11} M_{\text{r/c}}^2 \text{Loy}^5 + \beta_{12} M_{\text{r/c}}^2 \text{Loy}^6 + \beta_{13} M_{\text{r/c}}^2 \text{Loy}^7 + \beta_{14} M_{\text{r/c}}^2 \text{Loy}^8 + \beta_{15} M_{\text{r/c}}^2 \text{Loy}^9 + \beta_{16} M_{\text{r/c}}^2 \text{Loy}^{10} + \beta_{17} M_{\text{r/c}}^2 \text{Loy}^{11} + \beta_{18} M_{\text{r/c}}^2 \text{Loy}^{12} + \beta_{19} M_{\text{r/c}}^2 \text{Loy}^{13} + \beta_{20} M_{\text{r/c}}^2 \text{Loy}^{14} + \beta_{21} M_{\text{r/c}}^2 \text{Loy}^{15} + \beta_{22} M_{\text{r/c}}^2 \text{Loy}^{16} + \beta_{23} M_{\text{r/c}}^2 \text{Loy}^{17} + \beta_{24} M_{\text{r/c}}^2 \text{Loy}^{18} + \beta_{25} M_{\text{r/c}}^2 \text{Loy}^{19} + \beta_{26} M_{\text{r/c}}^2 \text{Loy}^{20}$$

In Equation (1), $M_{\text{r/c}}$ serves as the baseline price index and is equal to $NonM_{\text{r/c}}$ before the program introduction or when there is general promotion to consumers. $M_{\text{r/c}}$ captures consumers discounts after the program introduction. Loy , $M_{\text{r/c}}$ denotes the change in price sensitivities due to the introduction. For example, consumers may forecast in expectations of receiving better prices or they may better understand store's pricing policy and track their consumption habits with the loyalty card and related communication efforts. Lastly, Loy^2 , $M_{\text{r/c}}^2$, and Loy^3 , $M_{\text{r/c}}^3$, $M_{\text{r/c}}^2 \text{Loy}$, $M_{\text{r/c}} \text{Loy}^2$, $M_{\text{r/c}}^2 \text{Loy}^2$, $M_{\text{r/c}}^2 \text{Loy}^3$, $M_{\text{r/c}}^2 \text{Loy}^4$, $M_{\text{r/c}}^2 \text{Loy}^5$, $M_{\text{r/c}}^2 \text{Loy}^6$, $M_{\text{r/c}}^2 \text{Loy}^7$, $M_{\text{r/c}}^2 \text{Loy}^8$, $M_{\text{r/c}}^2 \text{Loy}^9$, $M_{\text{r/c}}^2 \text{Loy}^{10}$, $M_{\text{r/c}}^2 \text{Loy}^{11}$, $M_{\text{r/c}}^2 \text{Loy}^{12}$, $M_{\text{r/c}}^2 \text{Loy}^{13}$, $M_{\text{r/c}}^2 \text{Loy}^{14}$, $M_{\text{r/c}}^2 \text{Loy}^{15}$, $M_{\text{r/c}}^2 \text{Loy}^{16}$, $M_{\text{r/c}}^2 \text{Loy}^{17}$, $M_{\text{r/c}}^2 \text{Loy}^{18}$, $M_{\text{r/c}}^2 \text{Loy}^{19}$, $M_{\text{r/c}}^2 \text{Loy}^{20}$ reflects the adoption and penetration effect over time for both consumer price and consumer discounts.

The Arellano-Bond test indicates autocorrelation in the panel data, therefore random effects GLS model is used for autocorrelation, is used for parameter estimation. The assumption is that the random effects are uncorrelated with the independent variables. Therefore, here

4
b here

in which the y-intercept is random

growth experience diminishing effect, here categories that suffer from sales hit at the beginning eventually recover

similar patterns are found for the effect on profits, price elasticities and promotion sensitivities. α_{Loy}^{profit} and α_{Loy}^{price} are the estimates for *Loy* and

in general, it is less negative than expected, due to the nature of scanner data, price elasticities rely to a great extent on Biñot et al., 2014.

These authors also report the estimates for the effect of introducing loyalty programs on consumers' components and sales projections from the sales equation, in line with Leenheer and Biñot et al. who find no effect of promotions on perceived effectiveness in their study, even though the interaction between general promotions and loyalty programs is indeed positive across categories, where there is strong presence of synergies among marketing actions in some categories, others seem to experience negative interaction between the two tools. Moreover, in these categories, short-term promotions tend to occur in opposition to structured loyalty programs, which is due to long-term customer loyalty and they may even substitute for each other. For those categories which do enjoy synergistic effects between the two component promotions seem to perform better than sales and in practice, common targeting effort is sending out coupons that are tailored to consumers' purchase preferences, which are inferred from the program membership data, although Dominick's study not held that degree of

The observation offers an interesting fact: the dynamic effect of introducing
 loyalty programs and program diffusion are different, not only in terms of magnitude, but also in
 terms of direction, across different categories. Since the direction of the effect is jointly
 determined by the sign of $Loy_{i,t}$ and $Loy_{i,t-1}$, we define direction relative to
 $Loy_{i,t-1}$ and $Loy_{i,t}$ as follows:

Since the coding is categorical, we add the direction dummies for $pro_{i,t}$ together to yield
 an index of $pro_{i,t}$ for $Loy_{i,t}$, where n indicates best performance and
 indicates worst performance. The cost-free coding is 4 indicator relative to directions for
 sensitivity directions for profits, 0 is so-called one-period operation
 optimizations and the substitution conditions do not change including
 $Loy_{i,t}$ and $Loy_{i,t-1}$ and then regress the category characteristics on direction
 dummies. As shown in Table 1, high penetration and high price categories are
 positively correlated with strong positive diffusion effects. They are the drivers of category
 substitution in the growth phase. We do not find significant association between category characteristics and
 the effect of loyalty programs on price sensitivities or promotion sensitivities.

One-Coefficient

First, since the nature of the data creates endogeneity concerns, we perform the two-stage
 least squares estimation with prices and promotions being instrumented by average
 prices and promotions in the other categories during the same year, season, prices and
 promotions during the same year goes the instrument relative to the OLS results do
 not differ from OLS results.

their spending efforts for the program introduction. Lewis and Bernstein, 1997. But it is so
likely that substantial increases to cash shoppers that are attracted to the store offset
subsidies to those ready-made customers. Lewis and Bernstein, 1997. This is especially true if the first
experiment holds, the change in ready-made customers' consumption patterns would persist rather
than only generate short-term spikes in many categories. Our findings seem to suggest that
loyalty programs are effective in raising shoppers' interests and attracting repeat sales in the
short run in reality. Doonick's loyalty program reported strong acceptance of its Fresh
loyalty card with 75 percent sales increase and 10 percent profit increase in the subsequent
fiscal quarter. According to Morgan Stanley, the investment firm, Doonick's quartered its
earnings per share during the first quarter of 1997. As its President and Chief Executive Officer
Robert A. Marino pointed out, in spite of some initial losses attributed to re-ordering activities, they
consequently approached the introduction of our Fresh loyalty card. As a result, cash flows
stronger than would have been the case had the company been more proactive during the
introductory phase of the card program.

Secondly, while the categories do not yield convergent and divergent results, category
characteristics moderate the effectiveness of loyalty programs. Specifically, loyalty
programs perform best in categories with high penetration rate, high purchase frequency, the
low price point, and low loyalty to stock price, which is associated with free cash flows and

A loyalty program sees to be most effective in highly purchased FMCG categories for several reasons. First, these categories have more access and purchases, thereby providing more incentives and greater involvement for customers enrolled in the loyalty programs.

should focus on their core competencies by investing more marketing efforts in promoting the high penetration and high frequency FMCG categories, while preparing for undesirable performance in the low penetration and low frequency categories. Different pricing policies can be implemented for different categories. The most purchased categories require marketing actions that foster customer loyalty and build long-term relationships, whereas infrequently purchased categories may have to compete even more intensely on prices.

products in order to receive larger program benefits for each product category, consumers
 consumers get familiar with the program, the fear of losing the program and enjoy the
 savings consumers do not. Consumers in aggregate see to be shifting costs to their origin
 consumption patterns. Category shares are reduced in the long run, although necessarily not
 so the increase in total expenditures.

By tracing program diffusion over time and coding the signs of its directions, our
 analysis offers new insights on long-term program planning and design with respect to category
 management, the further directions of loyalty program initiatives in \bar{p}_e , \bar{p}_e ,
 presents the results and managerial implications for the evolution of loyalty program effects. The
 category n_{nc} represents categories that enjoy growth increasing positive diffusion rates
 The category o_{op} denotes categories that suffer from continuous and larger losses over
 time. The categories s_{ro} and C_{ro} respectively summarizes the rest categories that
 experience short-term spike or dip. The introduction of the effect gets gradually attenuated in
 the long run. Empirical variations in the direction of program evolution and we find that
 penetration and private share are key drivers of category success in the growth

There are three categories that managers cannot ignore. First

CONCLUSION AND DISCUSSION

Despite the growing suspicion towards loyalty programs effectiveness, the customer experience in retail and behavior marketing research, there is little empirical evidence on how loyalty programs influence store and category performance over time. This research sheds light on the intertemporal effects. First, it is the first empirical analysis that longitudinally examines the impact of loyalty program introduction on category sales and profits using pre and post program store transaction data. We find evidence that introducing a loyalty program is effective in most categories. Second, this research demonstrates that the loyalty program performance is not universally satisfactory; category characteristics remain important order for category penetration and frequency positively correlated with loyalty program success. Here, sales elasticity and loyalty to stock price show negative correlations. Lastly, we model the diffusion process and offer new insights on the evolution of loyalty program performance. We find that the effect for most of the categories is short-lived; penetration rate and price elasticity are key to category sales in the growth.

This research provides first snapshot in examining the impact of introducing a loyalty program over time in a natural setting. Due to data availability, this paper examines only one retailer and hence stores in the data set introduced the loyalty program at the same time. Future research could investigate dynamic and competitive structure of loyalty programs. For example, the access to online services of consumers after the introduction of the program, that would be interesting if we were able to collect longitudinal time series. We did see this year's strong growth of Amazon and Amazon.com, but did not observe in this data, it is so interesting to note that Amazon's major competitor, eBay, introduced its reward program in 2007 and reported it in 2008. Future research can examine how competition moderates loyalty program

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PR News Wire, Dominican Supermarkets Announces Record First Quarter Results +
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Rogers, The Effect of Price Pro

▶ ABL e^{a-t} ed $L_t e^{a-t}$ e on Log_y o a ▶

Geography	Category	Product	Brand	Manufacturer	Country	Year	Value	Volume	Units
Analgesics	ANA								
Bethisop	BAp								
Beer	BER								

Variable	Description	Specified in the Coefficient
$\ln \text{Sales}_{ist}$ or $\ln \text{Profits}_{ist}$	Log sales or gross margins of retailer i in store j during time t	D
$\text{Market Price}_{ist}$	Per-unit retail price of retailer i in store j during time t	
$\text{Competitor Market Price}_{ist}$	Average price of competing retailers for product j in store i during time t	
Discount_{ist}	Member discount is the difference between $\text{Market Price}_{ist}$ and the highest retail price across stores during time t in the presence of general promotion	
Promotion_{Bist} , Promotion_{Cist} , Promotion_{ist}	An AC-weighted variable indicating the presence of promotion activities in the form of on-site coupons or sales	
$\text{Competitor Promotion}_{Bist}$, $\text{Competitor Promotion}_{Cist}$, $\text{Competitor Promotion}_{ist}$	Promotion activities of competing retailers for product j in store i during time t in the form of on-site coupons or sales	
Store Brand_i	Indicator indicating whether product j is private label	
Brand Share_{ist}	Brand share of retailer i in store j during time t	
$\text{Market Count}_{ist}$	A count variable describing the number of MPCs retailer i carries in store j during time t	
Brand New_{ist}	Number of MPCs for retailer i that are new after the introduction of the loyalty program	

ABL **the** **effect** **of** **Loyalty** **on** **and** **of**

C	LoyPg	LoyPg	Diff	Min	LoyPg	Fin	M	LoyPg	Fin	LoyPg	P	LoyPg	Diff	Min	LoyPg	Fin	M	LoyPg	Fin
teg	es	es	es		es			es		rofits		Profits			Profits			Profits	
ory																			



pBR
pNA
pPA
pp

ignific nt t e e ignific nt t e e ignific nt t e e

ABL The effec of Ge o y C a a c e i c on Loy y o a e fo nce

Dependen a a e	Loy a a e	Loy a of	Loy a D e c i on
Penetr tion			

1

2. Type of Me Δ e and Non Δ e rice

1

Ad e Δ n pend Δ e fo Do Δ n c Δ ne Δ ood and e e O co



