

Inventory models for managing deteriorating products: a literature review

Freddy Perez¹ and Fidel Torres²

¹Universidad de la Costa

²Universidad de los Andes

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Abstract

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Deteriorating inventory models: a review

Full names of authors

Freddy Andrés Pérez Mantilla

José Fidel Torres Delgado

Author's institutional affiliations

Freddy Pérez (ORCID 0000-0002-2456-3268), PhD., Associated Professor, Universidad de la Costa, Barranquilla, Colombia (fperez23@cuc.edu.co).

Fidel Torres (0000-0001-7379-6212), PhD., Associated Professor, Universidad de los Andes, Bogotá, Colombia (ftorres@uniandes.edu.co).

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Abstract and keywords

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cost. In the present paper, we conduct a structural content analysis of 317 selected peer-reviewed research articles that were published during the period 2001-2018 and ranked with a quartile score of Q1 by either ISI or Scopus database. By discussing the main topics of the inventory modeling literature, we provide a comprehensive view of the past research dealing with the management of deteriorating items. Here, we focus on items undergoing physical modification during the planning period, which encompasses a wide variety of products such as fresh produce, processed food, pharmaceuticals and blood products. Therefore, based on our holistic analysis, we identify new trends and we highlights crucial research opportunities to develop more comprehensive and practical models.

Keywords: inventory models, deteriorating inventory, perishability, shelf life, review.

Main text

Introduction

Inventory management is one of the most fundamental and challenging activities for any company dealing with raw materials, work-in-process and/or finished goods. Since organizations usually make a significant investment in inventories, the correct management of this tied-up capital provides a very important opportunity for business improvements. Under these circumstances, scientific methods for inventory decisions can be decisive to achieve a significant competitive advantage in today's business world. On the one hand, there is a wish to make large replenishment orders to get trade credit benefits and volume discounts, to reduce production costs by means of long production runs and economies of scale, and to increase sales by providing a high customer service level. On the other hand, there is a wish to keep stock levels down to avoid the risk of suffering financial difficulty as a result of low or tight liquidity and to avoid excessive costs incurred for keeping and managing large inventories. In order to balance these and other conflicting goals, novel approaches are required to provide an answer to at least the following three questions:

1. How often should the inventory status be reviewed and determined?
2. When should an order be placed?
3. How large should the order quantity be?

One way to tackle these issues is to use an inventory model as a decision-support tool. Generally speaking, inventory models are approximations or simplifications of real inventory management systems. It does not reflect every aspect of reality in a particular context. However, they can be useful for decision-making processes. Despite all the effort invested in research, there is still a lack of research on inventory management where useful endeavors may result not only in a significant improvement to companies but to society in general. The evidence supporting this is overwhelming. In the agricultural industry, for example, post-harvest losses are significant and unavoidable [1]. Roughly, one-third of food produced for human consumption is globally lost or wasted throughout the food supply chain, which is about 1.3 billion tons per year and has a negative impact on economic development and on the environment [2]. In the grocery retailing industry, perishable products within the grocery-food category account for approximately 50% of total supermarkets sales [3-5], and the losses of these kinds of products due to inventory spoilage at the retail level are susceptible to range from 5% to 22.8% [2, 6]. While reducing perishable inventory waste 20% can increase total store profit by 33% [7], mismanagement of perishable products can represent a major threat to the profitability of companies in the grocery retailing industry [8]. Therefore, finding suitable inventory management policies has always been of great importance to both researchers and practitioners.

The mathematical modeling of inventory systems has its roots in the Economic Order Quantity Model (EOQ) proposed by Harris [9] in 1913, which assists in determining the optimal number of units to order with a view to minimizing the total cost associated with the purchase, delivery and storage of the product. However, in the EOQ model, many of its basic assumptions are far removed from practice. When, for example, deterioration has a significant economic impact within inventory systems, the common assumption of unlimited shelf life for lot-size determination becomes very inaccurate. A challenging task for this class of items is to maintain

product availability while avoiding excessive product loss so that effective inventory management is possible. Because achieving this effectiveness represents a formidable challenge to both academics and practitioners, the study of inventory systems dealing with deteriorating products is still one of the most important research areas that emerged from the first EOQ model.

This research aims to gain a more in-depth understanding of the state of the inventory modeling literature stream for deteriorating items. This responds to the need for evaluating what the lot-sizing theory applied for perishable products has collectively accomplished and what directions might be fruitful for future research. In general, the identification, evaluation, and interpretation of existing knowledge in literature reviews is an essential part of all kinds of research processes. This is frequently pointed out by textbooks on research methodologies [10-12], as well as methodological articles in high impact journals [13, 14]. In particular, since the last literature reviews on deteriorating inventory modeling [15-17], more than 300 papers have been recorded over the last years. This not only raises concerns about the state of art of this research stream but justifies the need to provide a starting point for research by identifying patterns, themes, and issues from the existing body of recorded documents.

Since the earliest works on deteriorating inventory modeling during the decades of the 50's and 60's [18-20], many studies have been published every year. The first review on this research area was developed by Nahmias [21] in 1982. This review discussed the relevant literature dealing with the inventory problem of finding suitable ordering policies for either fixed or random lifetime items. Next, nine years later, and following the classification scheme of Silver [22], Raafat [23] reviewed the advances of deteriorating inventory literature but limited to those studies that investigated the effect of deterioration as a function of the on-hand inventory level. Then, in the year 2001, Goyal and Giri [24] extended Raafat [23] but included inventory models subject to fixed lifetime items. After that, in the year 2012, Bakker, Riezebos [15] updated Goyal and Giri [24] by providing an overview and classification very close to that of Goyal and Giri's to facilitate comparisons between them. Finally, Janssen, Claus [17] updated Bakker, Riezebos [15] by analyzing relevant papers from 2012 to 2015 and by discussing new topics. Unlike all the previous reviews mentioned, they included newsvendor and transport models. Apart from this stream of surveys, there are other works that have been reported in the literature. However, some of them only focused on specific topics of deteriorating inventory modeling [25-30], and others followed a different classification and/or analysis approach [16, 25].

In this paper, we complement and update the surveys in [15, 17, 24]. As in these works, we discuss the basic features, extensions and generalization of new reported published literature in the mathematical deteriorating inventory modeling (in our case, 167 papers from 2016 to 2018). However, our scope is broader and does not only include a classification of the new reported literature since the work of Janssen, Claus [17], but also includes a relevant sample of published papers from 2001 to 2015. To keep the scope of this research treatable, we limited ourselves to inventory models dealing with products which naturally undergo physical degradation. This includes most inventory models with fixed and random lifetime products, and even some models for seasonal products.

The remainder of this paper is organized as follows. In Section 2, we first describe the research materials and methodology utilized to search and select the papers included in our review. Next, in Section 3, we provide the different categories upon which our thorough evaluation of the selected literature is conducted. Discussions are then presented in Section 4, while conclusions and future research opportunities are given in Section 5.

Methodology and descriptive analysis

With a view to review the body of research on deteriorating inventory models, the methodology applied in our study is based on the work of Seuring, Müller [31], which discusses the basics on how to conduct a literature review through a structural content analysis. By doing so, the following subsection contains a description of the material collection process as well as of the background of the collected material.

To ensure the quality of selected studies, we confined our searching to only peer-reviewed research papers that were written in English and ranked with a quartile score of Q1 by either ISI or Scopus database. By means of this quality selection rule, material for our review was collected in two phases. In the first phase, we extracted a sample of 150 articles published between 2001 and 2015 from previous related reviews [15, 17]. We felt that 10 papers per year, meeting our above quality selection rule, was good enough to draw additional inferences. In the second phase, we used the Web of Science (WOS) Core Collection database for searching research papers from 2016 to 2018. The search in the WOS platform was conducted in 05/14/2019 by using the expression $TS=((deteriorat* OR perish* OR decay* OR "shelf life" OR spoil* OR outdate* OR "waste" OR lifetime*) AND "Inventory")$, and then filtering matched records by selecting all the Research Areas of the WOS that generated at least one relevant paper for this review. All selected Research Areas from the WOS database are displayed in Figure 1.

As can be seen in Figure 1, the above searching process yielded 1204 records. In our sample we do not include book chapters and data papers, so we first discarded them. Next, we scanned the title, keywords, and in some cases, the abstract to select all potential articles which develop an inventory model. Here, we were as flexible as possible, and we obtained a preliminary sample of 488 articles. Then, as was done for papers published between 2001 and 2015, we chose all papers ranked with a quartile score of Q1 by either ISI or Scopus database. This resulted in a sample of 325 papers. Last of all, we proceed to classify all the inventory models with the potential of being applied to products which naturally undergo physical degradation. As a result, we obtained a relevant sample of 167 papers published between 2016 and 2018.

Note that when executing a Topic Search in WOS ($TS = \dots$), the search engine looks for further matches of the words entered by using an extended keywords ("keywords plus"), which is harvested from the title of indexed articles by WOS. We realized that this "keywords plus", which is unique to WOS, can change over time. Thus, users may be aware of this when executing the same topic search at different times. It is also worth noticing that we employed all the search terms in [15, 17]. However, as is evident from Figure 1 and Table 1, there is a significant amount of unrelated studies even after limiting the search to specific research areas. In this regard, we had to discard 699 papers by scanning the reference manager files (RIS) exported from WOS database, and most of them coming from records found using the word "waste" (see Table 1).

To overcome this shortcoming in future literature reviews, along with the selected Research Areas from WOS (see Figure 1), we suggest a far better search expression that includes both all the papers selected in our final sample and all the inventory models for deteriorating items that we identified as relevant in a further examination. This search expression generates 493 records instead of 1804, and is provided as follows:

$TS=((deteriorat* OR perish* OR decay* OR "shelf life" OR lifetime$ OR "expiration" OR "evaporating") NEAR/14 (product$ OR item$ OR produce$ OR "inventory" OR "goods" OR food$ OR "cost" OR "weibull" OR "storage") AND "inventory" NOT "life cycle assessment")$

In the above expression, the wildcards (*, \$) represent unknown characters and are used to find inflected forms of the corresponding words. The asterisk (*) represents any group of characters while the dollar sign (\$) represent zero or one character. The quotation mark (" ") is used to find exact phrases. And the proximity operator NEAR/14 is used to find only records where the terms joined by the operator are within 14 words of each other. Readers are referred to the WOS core collection help for more details and tips.

Note that we did not recommend to use in the query the keywords spoil*, "waste" and outdate*. For the case of spoil* and outdate*, we found that all the relevant papers provided by these keywords search are also provided by the keywords perish* and "shelf life". And for the case of the "waste" keyword we found on closer examination that the records solely belonging to this query (15 of the 39 in Table 1) are not actually relevant for a review of deteriorating inventory models.

Table 2 shows the list of the Journals to which most of the selected articles belong, and ranked in descending order of papers published. It can be verified that these journals published 121 (72.5%) of the total number of papers included in our review in the research period (2016-2018). The rest of journals with only one or two paper each are provided in Table 3.

Among all the journals, the International Journal of Production Economics alone accounts for 25 papers (17.5% of all publications). Second and third are the Computers & Industrial Engineering and the European Journal of Industrial Engineering with fifteen and fourteen papers each. There is a dominance of traditional Operations Research & Management Science journals, but in recent years, environmental management-related journals have increasingly been used as a channel for publication.

Main characteristics of inventory systems

In general, inventory models can be broadly classify according to the demand and the type deterioration. Depending on the type of demand, there are deterministic inventory models or stochastic one. If the demand is deterministic, the variation of inventories over time on each inventory cycle may be affected by a prediction of a constant demand ($\frac{dI(t)}{dt} = -D_1$), or by the combined effects of a constant demand D_1 and a fixed fraction D_2 of the instantaneous stock level ($\frac{dI(t)}{dt} = -D_1 - D_2I(t)$). In more elaborate inventory models, the depletion of the inventory can also occur due to a known function of demand depending on time or further depending on the selling price and/or one of various marketing parameters (e.g., selling price, frequency of advertisement, credit, and freshness of products). In turn, when the demand is uncertain, it may follow a known probability distribution, or it may be represented through an additive or multiplicative functional-form with random components. When the accuracy of the stochastic demand distribution/function is unknown, modeling a fuzzy/hybrid demand [32-35] can be useful to address this type of uncertainty.

According to Raafat [23], any stocked items restrained by any process from being used for its original intended use is known as inventory subject to deterioration or decay. This definition encompasses many different types of products. However, they have been traditionally classified into three main categories: items with fixed lifetime, items with random lifetime, and items subject to obsolescence.

Fixed lifetime refers to the best-before date (BBD) of most packaged products. Although these types of products are not usually spoiled at the end of its BBD, sellers discard them in order to follow regulations. Random lifetime refers to the uncertainty in the spoiled time of items like fresh produce. Here, the time to spoilage may be uncertain for each individual stocked item, but, in practice, or from a modeling perspective, the total amount of spoiled items within any specific interval of time may follows either a deterministic or probabilistic function. Finally, obsolescence refers to the rapid loss in value of unsold items due to the introduction of a new product or the end of a shopping season. Unlike fixed lifetime items, this type of products does not suffer physical degradation due to its own nature, and thus, they do not necessarily need to be removed from the inventory throughout their selling season. Typical examples are found in the fashion and technology industry, and almost all the industry applications of studies further investigating or extending the classic newsvendor problem.

Table 4 shows the classification of deteriorating inventory items adopted for most authors in the literature. Note that some of the most common terms used in the literature of inventory models such as “perishable items” and “random lifetime products” may be used in different context. For example, the term “perishable products” may be used for either items with fixed life time or items subject to obsolescence, and the “random lifetime” term may be utilized for models that do not necessarily consider deterioration as a stochastic or random process. As a result, for the sake of transparency, in the present review we use three categories that represent the way in which spoiled items are model or represented into the mathematical models. These categories are fixed lifetime items, constant deterioration rate, and time-varying deterioration rate.

The first category, inventory models with a *known fixed lifetime*, is used for products discarded in a particular point of time, i.e., when their expiration date has lapsed (e.g., 2 days, 1 week, etc.). The second category, inventory models with a *constant deterioration rate*, is used to those models where the variation of spoiled items at each period or instant of time t is represented by a constant fraction θ of the instantaneous stock level (e.g., $\frac{dI(t)}{dt} = -D_1 - \theta I(t)$). The third category, inventory models with a *varying deterioration rate*, is

used to discuss those models where the variation of spoiled items at each period or instant of time t is represented by a non-uniform fraction over time of the instantaneous stock level (e.g., $\frac{dI(t)}{dt} = -D_1 - \theta(t) I(t)$).

Note that papers such as [36, 37] that claim the inclusion of a deterioration rate following a probability distribution are classified in the second category when, in the mathematical model, the mean of a probability density function is used as a constant rate, and thus, the amount of spoiled items is the same over time. Contributions such as [38-50], in which the rate of deterioration can be reduced by investing ξ monetary units in a preservation technology, are classified in the second or third category depending on the variability over time (or not) of spoiled items in the inventory model (e.g., $\frac{dI(t)}{dt} = -D_1 - [\theta - m(\xi)] I(t) \rightarrow \text{category 2}$; $\frac{dI(t)}{dt} = -D_1 - [1 - m(\xi)] \theta(t) I(t) \rightarrow \text{category 3}$).

Inventory models in which an item can randomly expire before or up until their maximum lifetime (uncertain lifetime) are classified in the third category due to the amount of the same item perishing at each period or instant of time t explicitly varies with respect to time. Meanwhile, studies such as [51-74], in which the inventory loses value but it is not physically destroyed are classified in the first category.

Among other interactions, the assumptions or restrictions to be considered for the correct application of inventory models for deteriorating items include the lead time (negligible, constant, or with a known or unknown distribution), the inventory review policy (periodic or continuous), the existence of shortages (lost sales or backorders), the inclusion of multiple products (with complementary and/or substitute items), the production rate (finite, infinite or uncertain), the selling price (fixed, variable or uncertain), the time value of money, the number of echelons within the supply chain (closed loop supply chain, VMI, non-cooperative, etc.), a permissible delay in payments (fixed or conditioned), and the set of uncertain parameters or variables.

Classification of inventory models

In this section, 317 articles that developed an inventory model for deteriorating items are classified and analyzed. In Section 4.1, the studies published between 2001 and 2018 are classified according to the type of demand and deterioration assumed. Similarly, in Section 4.2, the different papers referenced are also classified according to the inclusion of the following characteristics: a determination of an optimal price policy, considerations of a stock-out period, the inclusion of multiple products, consideration of two warehouses, a study of two or more echelon within the supply chain, considerations of delay in payments, the inclusion of the time value of money, and the inclusion of uncertain parameters or variables.

Classification according to the demand and deterioration

Table 5 shows the type of demand and deterioration considered in the models of our sample according to the characteristics discussed in Section 3. Here, 230/317 of the papers reviewed have included a deterministic demand, and 92/317 included an uncertain demand. In addition, 153/317 considered a constant deterioration rate, 77/317 considered a variable deterioration rate, and 94/317 studied deterioration with a fixed lifetime. Note that of all of the authors who considered an inventory model for deteriorating items with a fixed lifetime, 63/94 have taken an uncertain demand into account. Also note that from all authors who considered a deterministic demand, 148/230 did not include any of the marketing strategies that companies commonly use to influence demand, such as pricing, advertising, markdowns, post sales services, among others.

When marketing strategies are used to stimulate customers' consumption, the integration between marketing and inventory management decisions becomes important to maximize mutual benefits and avoid potential conflicts. Of the 230 deterministic inventory models, 82 incorporated an optimal decision for marketing strategies (pricing and others marketing dependent demand factors) in combination with an optimal inventory replenishment policy. Of these 82 models, 32 considered that the demand for an item depends on characteristics further than selling price, thus affecting marketing decisions: in [75-79], the demand rate is a function of the trade credit period offered by the retailer to their customers; in [53, 80-86], the demand rate is influenced

by the frequency of advertisement or the promotional expenditure; in the work of [50, 86-88], the demand rate is affected by the customer service level such as the warranty period and the aftersales service expenditure; in [52-54, 56, 59, 61-64, 71, 89-94], the consumption rate depends on the product's freshness or quality of an item during the planning period. Finally, in [47, 80], customer's environmental concern affecting the demand are considered.

If environmental factors such as economic and marketing conditions change during the product life and have a significant effect on the demand, then the assumption that the demand in each period is a random variable and is independent of environmental factors apart from time will be incorrect. In such real life situations, the Markov chain approach provides a flexible alternative for modeling the demand process [55, 276, 321, 335, 336, 339-341, 343-346]; not only does it significantly generalize the Poisson process [55, 272, 278, 280, 281, 287, 290, 297, 303, 304, 307, 308, 316, 333, 338, 341], but it is also a convenient tool for modeling both the renewal and non-renewal demand arrivals. However, despite this fact, the Markovian assumption holds for demand processes with relatively low variation coefficients, i.e., in cases where high demand variances are observed, the non-stationary assumption does not hold in the Markovian environment because standard periods of constant length may introduce memory and generate correlated demand distributions within periods. For these cases, the models in [8, 285, 286, 292, 310, 319] provide a reasonable alternative. Of the inventory models with stochastic demand explicitly guiding marketing strategies, the models in [66, 67, 69, 283, 289, 293, 300, 314, 325, 326, 328, 330, 334, 342] are developed to define both a price decision and inventory control policies. In turn, the inventory models in [51, 66, 67, 69, 283, 289, 300, 302, 307] take into account that the market demand is random and sensitive to the freshness of the product, which is more assertive for deteriorating items.

From studies with varying deterioration rates and deterministic demand, in the inventory models [38, 89, 108, 199-202, 206, 207, 211, 212, 215, 219, 244, 263-266], the deterioration rate is assumed to be a general or arbitrary function of time $\theta(t)$; in the models described in [268], the deterioration rate is studied as time proportional $\theta(t) = \theta t$; in the papers [94, 155, 203, 204, 209, 262] a three-parameter Weibull distribution $\theta(t) = \alpha\beta(t - \gamma)^{\beta-1}$ is included; in the models described in [87, 93, 157, 161, 205, 210, 213, 214, 217, 221, 222, 245, 269, 271], the deterioration rate follows a two Weibull distribution $\theta(t) = \alpha\beta(t)^{\beta-1}$; and in the models developed in [76-79, 154, 158-160, 162, 218, 220, 246, 267, 270], the products deteriorate at a rate $\theta(t) = \frac{1}{1+m-t}$, where m is the maximum lifetime at which the total on-hand inventory deteriorates. In other particular works: [245] present the deterioration rate as a function of both quality level and time, where the time-related function follows a two-parameter Weibull distribution; in [208] the time to deterioration is assumed normally distributed over time; and [255] introduce a deterioration rate depending on the time and storage temperature to which food products are exposed.

With respect to inventory models with an uncertain demand, it is interesting to note that most of these studies assumed a fixed life time, but few of them [34, 51, 55, 66-70, 73, 74, 90, 289] consider the influence of product freshness over demand. From inventory models with uncertain demand and constant deterioration, the deterioration of items in [32, 33, 35, 112, 323-333] is assumed to be a constant fraction θ between [0,1] from the on-hand inventory. Meanwhile, from inventory models with uncertain demand and time-varying deterioration, the product lifetime in [282, 337, 339, 340, 343] is random and can be described by a discrete distribution, while the lifetime of each item in [297, 334-336, 338, 341, 344-346] has negative exponential distribution with parameter $\gamma (> 0)$, which may be suitable for inventory systems where item lifetimes are typically small but occasionally have long lifetime.

In nearly all of the inventory models considering deteriorating items, the demanded items are immediately delivered to the customers from the goods in stock. However, when the items from the on-hand inventory are not delivered at the time of demand, but after some positive service time that usually is random, the inventory managers need to consider the replenishment policy as well as the effect of the formation of queues in the inventory system, in order to implement suitable control policies. Amirthakodi, Radhamani [335], Manuel, Sivakumar [344], and Yadavalli, Sivakumar [346] analyzed an inventory system with a service facility assuming that the customers arrive according to a Markovian arrival process with a product lifetime

following an exponential distribution, but [335, 344] consider that the service facility has a single server, and [346] consider a multi-server perishable inventory system.

Classification according to shared characteristics with other research streams

As can be observed in Table 6, 167/317 of the models allowed a stock-out period in their models (category 1), 65/317 took into account an inventory system with a permissible delay in payment (category 2), 82/317 considered the determination of an optimal pricing policy (category 3), 77/317 studied a multi-echelon deteriorating inventory model (category 4), 44/317 developed an inventory model considering the time value of money (category 5), 30/317 studied a two-warehouse inventory model (category 6), 32/317 took into account the existence of multiple products (category 7), and 12/317 studied an inventory model in a fuzzy environment (category 8).

Out of the 167 investigations allowing shortages, a total of 18, 31, 29, 31, 18, 18 and 4 models take into account the category C2, C3, C4, C5, C6, C7 and C8, respectively. Of the 64 investigations considering a delay in payment or prepayments, 11, 7, 15, 11, 0 and 5 models considered categories C3, C4, C5, C6, C7, and C8, respectively. Of the 82 studies determining a pricing policy, 20, 9, 4, 2 and 2 considered categories C4, C5, C6, C7 and C8, respectively. Of the 77 multi-echelon inventory models, 5, 5, 10, and 1 models included categories C5, C6, C7 and C8, respectively. Of the 44 models considering the effect of the time value of money, 8, 2, and 2 considered categories C6, C7, and C8, respectively. Of the 30 investigations considering two or more warehouses, 2 and 2 considered the categories C7 and C8 in the model, respectively. Finally, of 32 inventory models with multiple items, 12 papers considered category C8.

Inventory models including a stock-out period

When demand is higher than the previous forecast and cannot be fulfilled immediately with the inventory on hand, then there is an excess of demand, or shortages. Depending on the customer-company relationship, the excess of demand (shortage) can be lost [89, 90, 98, 99, 101, 155, 258], or the excess demand can be accumulated in different ways with an associated shortage cost. Therefore, the behavior of the inventory systems, when a stock-out period is allowed, differs from one model to another.

Of the deterministic inventory models developed in [35, 45, 83, 102, 105, 112, 123, 124, 128, 139-144, 151, 161, 167, 169, 171, 181, 186, 203, 207-210, 214, 216, 217, 227, 232, 242, 251, 257, 266, 271, 274], all of the excess of demand is willing to wait for the next replenishment (shortages are fully backlogged). In the papers [87, 119, 122, 144, 157, 160, 172, 201, 211, 213, 226, 227, 229], shortages are allowed, but only a fixed fraction is backordered, and the rest is lost. Finally, the deterministic inventory models found in [40, 41, 43-46, 82, 84, 85, 138, 146, 152, 166, 173, 176, 177, 185, 187-189, 192, 194-196, 205, 218-222, 225, 228, 234, 241, 245, 246, 250, 263-265, 269, 270] consider that shortages are allowed, but the unsatisfied demand is partially backlogged depending on the waiting time until the arrival of the fresh lot.

With respect to the inventory models with uncertain demand and shortages, nearly all of the authors assumed that all of the excess demand during the stock-out period become either lost sales [8, 51, 66, 68, 70, 73, 90, 98, 272, 273, 275, 276, 278, 281, 282, 288-290, 294, 296-300, 302, 303, 306, 309-311, 313, 316, 320-322, 326, 332, 335, 337-340], or shortages that are fully backlogged [8, 35, 112, 278, 284, 286, 287, 295, 297, 308, 315, 319, 321, 323, 325, 329, 341, 343, 347]. However, some models with uncertain demand consider a partial backlogging rate: [305, 330, 331, 333] assume that a fixed fraction of shortages are backlogged while [328, 342] assume a waiting time function for unmet demand. Finally, inventory models considering a maximum allowable shortages constraint can be found in [280, 336], and inventory models in which unmet demand during the stock-out period temporarily leave the service area and repeat or retry their request after some random time (until they find a positive stock level) is studied in [345, 346]. In the latter case, it is important to note that, as opposed to the lost-sales and backlog cases, the company does not incur any expenditure toward lost sales or for holding unsatisfied demands.

Wu, Ouyang [194] proposed a model for non-instantaneous deterioration of items with stock-dependent demand and in which the backlogging rate is variable and dependent on the waiting time for the next replenishment. Olsson and Tydesjö [308] described a model where demand is generated by a stationary Poisson process, but it is assumed that unmet demand is immediately backordered. Meanwhile, Dehghani and Abbasi [278] proposed a new age-based lateral-transshipment policy, which may be useful for reducing stockouts and improve performance in supply chains.

Permissible delay in payment and/or prepayments

In the traditional inventory economic order quantity model, it was tacitly assumed that the supplier is paid for the items as soon as the items are received. However, in business transactions it is observed that the supplier provides a grace period whereby purchasers can repay their debts without having to pay any interest (trade credit period) or may delay the payment beyond the permitted time, in which case interest is charged.

Inventory models in which the supplier provides a permissible delay to the buyers if and only if the order quantity is greater than or equal to a predetermined quantity W can be found in [107, 108, 116, 168]. Authors who assume that there already exists a regular credit policy between the retailer and the vendor (fixed delay in payment) can be consulted in [48, 49, 111, 119, 125, 134, 138, 146, 152, 154, 165, 180, 182, 190, 191, 202, 204-207, 243, 250, 257, 259, 333], whereas authors who consider a permissible delay of payments, but as a decision variable, can be found in [33, 75, 76, 78, 79, 118, 164].

The inventory models submitted in [32, 75, 76, 79, 110, 114, 115, 145, 158, 162, 164, 220, 237, 264, 324, 328] take into consideration affairs in which the supplier not only offers a fixed credit period to the retailer but the retailer also adopts the trade credit policy with his/her customer. A two-level trade credit is also considered in [33, 77, 126, 159, 227, 267, 270] but with a partial trade credit in one or both echelon of the supply chain.

Alternatively, in the models presented in [117, 120, 129, 267], the supplier provides not only a permissible delay in payments to the customer but also a cash discount, to wit a cash discount is offered by the supplier if full payment is paid within time $M1$ (period of cash discount); otherwise, the full payment is paid within time $M2$ (with $M2 > M1$).

Ouyang, Teng [131] and Guchhait, Maiti [230] consider situations in which a supplier also offers a partial permissible delay in payments even if the order quantity is less than a predetermined amount W of units of an item. This means that if the order quantity Q is less than W , then the retailer must pay a fraction $0 \leq \beta \leq 1$ of the total purchase cost cQ when the order is filled and pay the rest, $cQ(1 - \beta)$, at the end of the trade credit M .

Chang, Ouyang [109] consider a situation in which the supplier offers his/her customers a permissible delay in payments, $M1$, and a price discount if the order quantity is greater than or equal to a predetermined quantity Y , a permissible delay in payments, $M2$, if the order quantity is greater than or equal to a predetermined quantity X (with $M2 > M1$), and a trade credit period, $M1$, if the order quantity is less than X (or Y). In turn, [122, 142, 160, 227] develop an EOQ model with multiple prepayments

Inventory models determining an optimal price decision

In competitive environments, it is common to change the price of items to stimulate demand and decrease the rate of deterioration of stored commodities: in this context, it is important to define a price strategy during the horizon planning, and thus, it is important to include price decisions in the deteriorating inventory models.

The selling price as a decision variable was first considered for perishable products in 1996 by Eilon and Mallya [348]. Later, Kang and Kim [349] and Aggarwal and Jaggi [350] reformulated and extended this model to make way for further investigations in which both the selling price [42, 45, 47, 50, 61, 64, 67, 69, 80-83,

86-89, 93, 128, 164, 167, 179, 218, 223, 230, 232, 240, 250-257, 259, 261, 263-271, 275, 325, 328] and the discounted selling price [68, 89, 145, 170, 175, 249, 298, 314] are taken into account as decision variables.

Traditionally, a common practice followed by companies is to maintain a constant price on the goods offered and apply discounts when items are close to expiry or when the demand decreases. However, applying an aged-dependent selling price strategy may be more beneficial [53, 62, 63, 289]. Inventory models considering a dynamic pricing policy are described in [38, 53, 55, 62, 63, 65, 71, 91, 92, 94, 174, 178, 191, 233, 235, 247, 260, 283, 289, 293, 300, 325, 326, 330, 342].

In relation to the particular works in this category, new approaches for determining a pricing policy when reference price play a critical role in customer purchase decisions are proposed in [38, 47, 258], a clearance sales as a strategy to sell items approaching their expiration dates at a reduced price is studied by Li, Yu [298], and an optimal replenishment and pricing policy for deteriorating items with heterogeneous consumer sensitivities is investigated by Herbon [64].

Multi-echelon inventory models

In the present literature reviewed, 39/77 of the inventory models that consider more than one echelon in the supply chain are restricted to interactions that occur between a supplier/producer and a buyer [37, 39, 58, 63, 67, 73, 80, 81, 87, 88, 97, 101, 103, 104, 106, 112, 114, 118, 143, 145, 147, 149, 170, 176, 198, 229, 231, 237, 242, 248, 251, 252, 256, 275, 293, 305, 321, 331, 332]. However, a supply chain involving a single-vendor and multiple buyers is studied in [34, 36, 60, 72, 82, 100, 140, 153, 197, 210, 253, 261, 277, 281, 290, 296, 326, 334], while a two-level supply chain with multiple suppliers and multiple buyers is considered in [48, 95, 315, 327].

Inventory models for a three-level supply chain can be found in [42, 49, 86, 90, 96, 98, 133, 135, 136, 148, 155, 156, 312, 318, 333], and inventory models for a closed-loop supply chain (recovery system) are presented in [34, 73, 149, 163, 261]. Wee, Lee [149] incorporate VMI strategies for a green electronic product in a two-level supply chain. Yang, Chung [261] also consider a closed-loop supply system, but involve a single producer and multiple buyers. Meanwhile, Alamri [163] consider a recovery system in a production environment consisting of three shops: one of manufacturing new items, and the others for collecting and remanufacturing returned items.

Finally, it is worth noticing that most of the above studies addressed a coordinated policy for integrating a supply chain. However, few studies have proposed new mechanism for achieving a cooperation in a non-cooperative environment [67, 73, 88, 133, 256, 281]. Other few studies have also addressed the problem of a non-coordinated supply chain [63, 248, 275] but in a competitive environment.

Inventory models under the effect of time value of money

The effect of the time value of money (TVM) and inflation is another important extension that makes inventory models applicable to real-life situations. It plays an important role in business, especially in countries with double-digit Gross National Product rate [351]. Table 7 shows the papers incorporating the time value of money effect into an inventory models. Note that few studies have been developed for determining an inventory policy with multiples items or in a fuzzy environment under time value of money.

Hou and Lin [232] discuss an inventory model for deteriorating items with price and stock dependent selling price in which shortages are completely backordered. Ghiami and Beullens [157] provide a Net Present Value analysis for a production-inventory system without the inventory cost parameters commonly used in this context. Meanwhile, Tat, Taleizadeh [143] study the optimal ordering policy in an inventory system considering backorders and delay in payments.

In the previous models, the inflation rate has been considered as a constant and known value. However, Mirzazadeh, Seyyed Esfahani [329] consider that the inflation changes over the time horizon, specifically, the

inflation rate was assumed to be stochastic with known pdfs over the time horizon. Here, the demand rate is a linear function of the internal and external inflation rates, shortages are allowed and fully backlogged, and a constant fraction of the on-hand inventory deteriorates per unit time.

Two or more warehouse for deteriorating inventory models

In most of the existing inventory models for deteriorating items, it is assumed that all of the items are stored in a single warehouse (owned warehouse, OW). However, in some cases, organizations may require another storage facility (rented warehouse, RW) with better preserving facilities and ample capacity in which deterioration, costs, demand, and other parameters are different. These facilities are usually rented either to reduce the losses due to deterioration or to store excessive goods obtained at a discount price or simply to avoid inflation rate. Cases where a retailer owns two shops: one shop to sell fresh items until a particular point in time and the other shop to offer non-fresh items at a reduced price are included in this category. Two-warehouse inventory models incorporating further characteristics related to inventory systems are presented in Table 8. Notice that models considering two or more storage facilities and the time value of money are shown in Table 7.

Two-warehouse inventory models for products with imperfect quality, and thus, subject to inspection are developed in [121, 200]. Alamri and Syntetos [200] propose a new policy entitled “Allocation-In-Fraction-Out (AIFO)”. Unlike Last-In-First-Out (LIFO) or First-In-First-Out (FIFO) dispatching policy which are commonly adopted in classical formulation of a two-warehouse inventory models, AIFO implies simultaneous consumption fractions associated with RW and OW. Jaggi, Tiwari [121] also study the effect of deterioration on two-warehouse inventory model with imperfect quality, but Alamri and Syntetos [200] assume that the percentage defective per lot reduces according to a learning curve while Jaggi, Tiwari [121] assume that each lot received contains a random proportion of defective item, and thus, the screening times of OW and RW are included as decisions variables.

Most of the studies uses a calculus-based approach for solving the proposed inventory model. However, some formulations require the use of metaheuristic due to the complexity of the mathematical model. For example, Guchhait, Maiti [230] studied the features of PSO with a genetic algorithm in a hybrid heuristic named PSGA (Particle Swarm-Genetic Algorithm) to show that this performance is better compared to the FGA (Fuzzy Genetic Algorithm) and the traditional PSGA in an inventory system with stock and selling price demand being dependent under crisp and fuzzy environments.

Multi-item inventory systems

Although in most inventory systems the assumption of a single item is not real, very few studies have been found in the literature dealing with multi-item inventory control compared to single-item models. Two or more items in combination with shortages are taken into account in [34, 35, 70, 99, 101, 102, 105, 123, 155, 245, 279, 284, 292, 296, 299, 311, 315, 341]. Inventory models considering an optimal price decision and multiple items can be found in [62, 223]. Inventory models taking into account multiple products in a fuzzy environment are developed in [35, 137, 245]. And multi-item inventory models in a supply chain system can be found in [34, 72, 100, 101, 103, 127, 155, 296, 312, 315].

It is worth noticing that, although in recent years the volume of inventory models with multiples items has increased (23 papers between 2016 and 2018 compared with 9 papers between 2001 and 2015), most of the models only consider a different demand, perishing nature and/or cost parameters for items. Thus, the effect of multiple product competing for shared resources (such as demand, space, etc.) is still a research area where much more work is needed. Studies considering these issues can be found in [57, 223, 236, 307].

Maity and Maiti [236] propose an inventory control system wherein multiple items are either complementary and/or substitutes, and the deterioration rate is stock dependent. In this work, an optimal inventory policy for complementary and substitute commodities is considered, but shortages are not allowed, and demand is stock

dependent. Önal, Yenipazarli [223] develop a mathematical model with price-and displayed-stock -dependent demand under shelf-space and backroom storage capacity constraints. Claassen, Gerdessen [57] study a production planning and scheduling problem in a food processing industry where setups are usually sequence-dependent. Finally, Najafi, Ahmadi [307] address a blood inventory management problem by considering all types of blood and their substitution compatibilities based on medical priorities.

Inventory models with uncertain parameters

In most inventory models with stochastic demand, the lead time is assumed to be either negligible [8, 69, 90, 112, 276, 277, 284, 286, 293, 300, 307, 319, 323, 324, 328-330, 334, 340, 343], or a fixed positive constant [272-274, 279, 282, 287, 288, 290-292, 296, 297, 300, 304, 306, 308, 312, 313, 316, 322, 331, 332, 337, 340, 341]. However, there are inventory models that consider the lead time as an unknown parameter following an arbitrary distribution [336, 338], an exponential distribution [344-346] or a phase-type distribution [335]. Furthermore, although a non-negligible lead time is usually associated with a stochastic demand, few studies consider an uncertain lead time with deterministic demand [172, 176].

In some mathematical models with stochastic demand, the inventory is controlled explicitly with a periodic review system [8, 66, 273, 274, 276, 279, 280, 282, 284, 287, 289, 292, 293, 296, 300, 303, 320, 321, 324, 330, 339], while in others, it is controlled with a continuous review system [272, 278, 290, 297, 304, 306, 308, 309, 311, 312, 316, 323, 332, 335, 336, 338, 341, 343-346]. On one hand, among items monitored continuously, [272, 306, 311, 312, 323, 332, 335, 336, 343-346] apply the traditional (s, S) policy in which a same amount of product ($Q = S - s$) is ordered every time the inventory level (on hand plus an order minus backorders) reaches the level of s . [278, 290, 297, 308, 309, 338] use a $(S - 1, S)$ ordering policy for stock replenishment in which in which a reorder for an item is placed whenever the inventory level drops by one unit either due to demand or because a perished unit. [304, 316] suggest a combined age-and-stock-based ordering policy, (Q, r, T) policy, in which a replenishment order of size Q is placed either when the inventory drops to r or when T units of time have elapsed, whichever occurs first. Finally, [341] uses the (s_i, c_i, S_i) policy suggested by [352-354] with $s_i < c_i < S_i$ for multi-item inventory problems dealing with a group of items i where the replenishment cost of two or more class of items is less than the total cost of individual or separate replenishments. In this policy, as the traditional (s, S) policy, an order is placed by item i when its inventory level falls to *thereorder level* s_i . However, any other item j is also included in the same order if its inventory level is at or below its *scan-order level* , c_j .

On the other hand, among periodic inventory systems, [8, 276, 282, 284, 293, 300, 330, 339] study the determination of inventory policies myopically, that is, at the beginning of each given period, decisions are only made upon replenishment (one period at a time). From these papers: [322] uses a (s, S) policy, i.e., an order is placed to raise the inventory to S when the inventory level is less than, or equal to, the reorder point s ; [276, 305, 320] apply a base-stock policy of level S in which the total inventory level at the beginning of each period is always raised to S ; [287, 288] suggest a stock-level dependent ordering policy $(s, S, q_{\min}, Q_{\max})$, which is a (s, S) policy with the order quantity being restricted between q_{\min} and Q_{\max} ; and [274, 319] investigate a class of proportional balancing (PB) policy that balances a proportion of expected marginal costs. Finally, papers applying an order up to a level (R, S) policy in which the inventory level is observed at equal intervals of time R and items are ordered to bring the inventory position to a level S can be found in [66, 279, 289, 292, 303, 321, 324], while papers investigating an age-based replenishment policy can be found in [273, 280, 294, 296]. These age-based replenishment policies work similar to the traditional order-up-to level policy except that the inventory level is corrected for the estimated amount of outdated and an order is placed if this new corrected inventory level drops below the target reorder level.

Alternatively, in the development of inventory models for deteriorating items, researchers usually consider that all of the parameters and relevant data of the systems are already known or stochastic. However, in some practical applications, those assumptions are unrealistic because obtaining some of them (demand, production rate, costs coefficients, inflation, etc.) can be vague and imprecise or even impossible to determine exactly. In this regard, with the exception of [77, 98, 155], nearly all of the studies [32, 35, 43, 77, 111, 119,

170, 183, 230, 239, 245, 255, 295] that have investigated an inventory problem in fuzzy environments to model uncertainties in a non-stochastic sense assume that one or more parameters is a fuzzy number rather than a fuzzy variable. Note that the fuzzy variable can be interpreted as a random fuzzy variable, fuzzy random variable, fuzzy rough variable, and a hybrid variable. A fuzzy random variable can be viewed as a random variable whose values are not real but a fuzzy number, and a random fuzzy variable can be viewed as a fuzzy variable taking random variable values. The reader might refer to [355-357] for more information.

Conclusions

This paper has discussed the key characteristic of inventory systems that have been addressed by researchers since the year 2001. It revealed, in general, that there has been an incremental effort for representing reality using the inventory modeling approach from a theoretical point of view, but with little attention to its potential applicability. As a result, we found that the gap between theory and practice is increasingly wide, and there is an urgent need for incorporating more empirical evidence and useful guidelines for practitioners in this important research field. This recall us the famous aphorism attributed to George E. P. Box “all models are wrong, but some are useful”, which highlights the importance of developing good enough models for real life applications instead of overrepresenting reality by increasing model complexity. Therefore, in general, we call for the incorporation of more empirical evidence into the modeling of inventory systems dealing with perishable products by critically evaluating the trade-off between applicability, simplicity, and level scientific technique. For a complete discussion of this three aspects on scientific modeling, we suggest [358].

Given the above concerns, it would be interesting to find out whether the same is happening for perishable products subjects to obsolescence (like electronics components and fashionable products), or even for non-perishable products. If the gap between theory and practice is also an increasingly growing phenomenon in the modeling of these types of products, then it is likely that one or more concepts within the inventory modeling framework have become “reified”. According to Lane, Koka [359], reification is problematic because it threatens the validity of studies using a theoretical framework. A particular concept or construct becomes taken for granted and researchers increasingly fail to specify the assumptions that justify its use. To the inventory modeling literature, this would mean that some of the modeling characteristics commonly used to represent inventory systems are being included or adapted out of context in an increasing range of papers instead of being treated as a building modeling approach that need to be constantly refined and revised. The problem created by reification, thus, can only be addressed through a systematic assessment of the literature in which the diverse interpretations and applications of the construct are investigated along with its underlying assumptions. Toward this aim, we recommend consulting [359, 360] and the references cited therein.

The literature on inventory management also suggests additional ways in which the models included in our review may be improved to obtain more suitable inventory policies. For example, in most of these models, it is assumed that the deterioration rate of perishable products is constant over time. i.e., a constant fraction of the on-hand inventory is assumed to spoil over time. Although this modeling approach was originally proposed to accurately represent the deterioration nature of volatile liquids and radioactive substances, it has also been extensively used by researchers as an approximation to represent a great variety of perishable products such as fresh produce. We agree that this modeling approach is particularly useful when the spoilage of products comes from multiple sources. However, there are still situations in which modeling a time-varying deterioration rate may produce a better profitable inventory policy. Similarly, exploring other topics of the inventory management literature may be of great importance for extending the existing literature. Such topics include the analysis of multiple substitutes and/or complementary products, the study of different demand patterns and marketing strategies for boosting demand, the inclusion of fuzzy parameters and so on. Particularly, from all these, we consider that applying Game theory to supply chain inventory models would be of great benefit to promote an effective management, given the natural competitive restriction in

which operates company all around the world. All these topics may be explored in future research.

As in previous review papers, we also found an overuse of deterministic inventory models when compared to stochastic. Nevertheless, a deeper analysis conducted in our review for deterministic inventory models has revealed that there is still too much research needed in this research stream. For example, in Section 4.2 we showed that most of the deterministic inventory models have assumed that the demand is constant, stock-dependent or price dependent. However, the interest for modeling other factors, such as the freshness or quality of products, the advertisement effort and the customer service level, has grown in recent years. As would be anticipated, the study of such important factors affecting the demand through the use of a stochastic inventory modeling approach is still in its infancy. Also, with regards to the concern of best capturing the deterioration nature of products for determining suitable inventory policies, we have identified in Section 4.2 various interesting modeling approach than can be further explored and evaluated in future research. And not only in a deterministic inventory modeling approach but in a stochastic setting.

Another finding comes from the fact that incorporating practical insights from different but related research fields can be very beneficial for developing the state of art of a particular research stream. Accordingly, based on our analysis, we identified for each topic discussed the few works that have been developed to guide such integrated approaches. For example, even though queueing theory has been studied extensively by many authors, as far as our analysis reveals, only few studies [335, 344-346] have been address to unify into the inventory modeling this important research streams.

Finally, throughout Section 4.2 of the present study, we also unveiled various covered topics in which future research efforts may take the lead. For example, since the call for research of previous literature reviews [15, 17] to address the existence of multiple items into the inventory modeling, an increasing volume of papers have included this aspect. However, our analysis showed that the effect of complementary and substitute products on lot-size determination is still a critical research stream where more research is needed. In particular, important new challenges are expected for food supply chains in which actors, more than in other context, need to collaborate in sharing information and deciding common lot sizing strategy policies in order not only to achieve an overall profitability but to achieve a sustainable development that minimizes food waste concerns. Creating new approaches for considering sustainability concerns into the lot sizing modeling is also, from our perspective, a promising research area.

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Tables

Table 1 Number of records provided by each of the keywords search used.

Query	Records within Step3	Records within Step4
TS=(deteriorat* AND “inventory”)	428	312
TS=(perish* AND “inventory”)	236	221
TS=(lifetime* AND “inventory”)	155	61
TS=(“shelf life” AND “inventory”)	66	48
TS=(“waste” AND “inventory”)	458	39
TS=(decay* AND “inventory”)	73	25
TS=(spoil* AND “inventory”)	12	11
TS=(outdate* AND “inventory”)	29	8

Table 2 Journals publishing 121 of the 167 papers selected in the period 2016-2018.

Journal name	Number of Papers
International Journal of Production Economics	25
Computers & Industrial Engineering	15
European Journal of Industrial Engineering	14

Journal name	Number of Papers
Annals of Operations Research	9
Applied Mathematical Modelling	8
International Journal of Production Research	7
International Journal of Systems Science	6
Journal of the Operational Research Society	6
International Journal of Management Science and Engineering Management	5
Journal of Cleaner Production	5
Omega-International Journal of Management Science	4
Operations Research	4
Transportation Research Part E-Logistics and Transportation Review	4
Computers & Operations Research	3
Expert Systems with Applications	3
Plos One	3

Table 3 Journals publishing 46 of the 167 papers selected in the period 2016-2018.

Journal name
Applied Mathematics and Computation, Computers & Chemical Engineering, International Journal of Advanced Manufacturing, Ain Shams Engineering Journal, Automatica, British Food Journal, Chemical Engineering Research & Design, Decision Sciences

Table 4 Common classification of deteriorating inventory items in the literature.

Inventory assumption	Inventory assumption	Description	Products example
Perishable products.	Fixed lifetime Fixed shelf life Age dependent	During the planning horizon, Products are hold in stock for a specified length of time, after which they must be removed	Red blood cells, most packaged foods, canned goods, photographic film, and drugs.
	Obsolescence Seasonal items	At the end of the planning horizon (known or uncertain), products are abruptly reduced in price or disposed off.	Newspapers, fashion clothes, electronics components, maps, cameras, airline tickets
Random lifetime, Continuous decay, Decaying products.	Exponential decay Age independent Inventory dependent.	A fixed fraction of the inventory is lost each period regardless of its age distribution, or lifetime of individual units is an exponential random variable	Fresh produce Volatile liquids such as gasoline, alcohol, and acetone Radioactive substances such as radiopharmaceuticals.
	Age independent	Lifetime of units is a random variable following a probability distribution.	

Inventory assumption	Inventory assumption	Description	Products example
	Time dependent	The deterioration of the inventory is a discretely or continuously function of time.	

Table 5 Classification according to the demand and deterioration rate (2001-2018).

Demand	Fixed lifetime	Constant deterioration over time
Constant	[57, 58, 60, 72, 73, 95-104]	[32, 36, 37, 40, 41, 43, 46, 48, 49, 105-153]
Time dependent	[52, 57, 65, 72, 95-100]	[36, 80, 81, 113, 127, 132, 134, 139, 163-199]
stock dependent	[56, 61, 71, 223, 224]	[35, 44, 45, 84, 194, 196, 225-243]
Price dependent	[53, 61-65, 71, 91, 92, 223, 248, 249]	[39, 42, 45, 47, 50, 80-86, 88, 128, 164, 167]
Function of other marketing factors	[52-54, 56, 59, 61-64, 71, 90-92]	[47, 50, 75, 80-86, 88]
Uncertain	[8, 34, 51, 55, 66-70, 73, 74, 90, 272-322]	[32, 33, 35, 112, 323-333]

Table 6 Classification of papers per category (2001-2014).

Category	Known demand
C1.Allowing a stock-out period	[35, 40, 41, 43-46, 73, 82-85, 87, 89, 90, 98, 99, 101, 102, 105, 112, 119, 122-124, 128, 130, 131, 132, 133, 134, 135, 136, 137, 138, 139, 140, 141, 142, 143, 144, 145, 146, 147, 148, 149, 150, 151, 152, 153, 154, 155, 156, 157, 158, 159, 160, 161, 162, 163, 164, 165, 166, 167, 168, 169, 170, 171, 172, 173, 174, 175, 176, 177, 178, 179, 180, 181, 182, 183, 184, 185, 186, 187, 188, 189, 190, 191, 192, 193, 194, 195, 196, 197, 198, 199, 200, 201, 202, 203, 204, 205, 206, 207, 208, 209, 210, 211, 212, 213, 214, 215, 216, 217, 218, 219, 220, 221, 222, 223, 224, 225, 226, 227, 228, 229, 230, 231, 232, 233, 234, 235, 236, 237, 238, 239, 240, 241, 242, 243, 244, 245, 246, 247, 248, 249, 250, 251, 252, 253, 254, 255, 256, 257, 258, 259, 260, 261, 262, 263, 264, 265, 266, 267, 268, 269, 270, 271, 272, 273, 274, 275, 276, 277, 278, 279, 280, 281, 282, 283, 284, 285, 286, 287, 288, 289, 290, 291, 292, 293, 294, 295, 296, 297, 298, 299, 300, 301, 302, 303, 304, 305, 306, 307, 308, 309, 310, 311, 312, 313, 314, 315, 316, 317, 318, 319, 320, 321, 322, 323, 324, 325, 326, 327, 328, 329, 330, 331, 332, 333, 334, 335, 336, 337, 338, 339, 340, 341, 342, 343, 344, 345, 346, 347, 348, 349, 350, 351, 352, 353, 354, 355, 356, 357, 358, 359, 360, 361, 362, 363, 364, 365, 366, 367, 368, 369, 370, 371, 372, 373, 374, 375, 376, 377, 378, 379, 380, 381, 382, 383, 384, 385, 386, 387, 388, 389, 390, 391, 392, 393, 394, 395, 396, 397, 398, 399, 400, 401, 402, 403, 404, 405, 406, 407, 408, 409, 410, 411, 412, 413, 414, 415, 416, 417, 418, 419, 420, 421, 422, 423, 424, 425, 426, 427, 428, 429, 430, 431, 432, 433, 434, 435, 436, 437, 438, 439, 440, 441, 442, 443, 444, 445, 446, 447, 448, 449, 450, 451, 452, 453, 454, 455, 456, 457, 458, 459, 460, 461, 462, 463, 464, 465, 466, 467, 468, 469, 470, 471, 472, 473, 474, 475, 476, 477, 478, 479, 480, 481, 482, 483, 484, 485, 486, 487, 488, 489, 490, 491, 492, 493, 494, 495, 496, 497, 498, 499, 500]
C2.Delay in payments	[32, 48, 49, 75-79, 107-111, 114-120, 122, 125, 126, 129, 131, 134, 138, 142, 144-146, 150, 151, 152, 153, 154, 155, 156, 157, 158, 159, 160, 161, 162, 163, 164, 165, 166, 167, 168, 169, 170, 171, 172, 173, 174, 175, 176, 177, 178, 179, 180, 181, 182, 183, 184, 185, 186, 187, 188, 189, 190, 191, 192, 193, 194, 195, 196, 197, 198, 199, 200, 201, 202, 203, 204, 205, 206, 207, 208, 209, 210, 211, 212, 213, 214, 215, 216, 217, 218, 219, 220, 221, 222, 223, 224, 225, 226, 227, 228, 229, 230, 231, 232, 233, 234, 235, 236, 237, 238, 239, 240, 241, 242, 243, 244, 245, 246, 247, 248, 249, 250, 251, 252, 253, 254, 255, 256, 257, 258, 259, 260, 261, 262, 263, 264, 265, 266, 267, 268, 269, 270, 271, 272, 273, 274, 275, 276, 277, 278, 279, 280, 281, 282, 283, 284, 285, 286, 287, 288, 289, 290, 291, 292, 293, 294, 295, 296, 297, 298, 299, 300, 301, 302, 303, 304, 305, 306, 307, 308, 309, 310, 311, 312, 313, 314, 315, 316, 317, 318, 319, 320, 321, 322, 323, 324, 325, 326, 327, 328, 329, 330, 331, 332, 333, 334, 335, 336, 337, 338, 339, 340, 341, 342, 343, 344, 345, 346, 347, 348, 349, 350, 351, 352, 353, 354, 355, 356, 357, 358, 359, 360, 361, 362, 363, 364, 365, 366, 367, 368, 369, 370, 371, 372, 373, 374, 375, 376, 377, 378, 379, 380, 381, 382, 383, 384, 385, 386, 387, 388, 389, 390, 391, 392, 393, 394, 395, 396, 397, 398, 399, 400, 401, 402, 403, 404, 405, 406, 407, 408, 409, 410, 411, 412, 413, 414, 415, 416, 417, 418, 419, 420, 421, 422, 423, 424, 425, 426, 427, 428, 429, 430, 431, 432, 433, 434, 435, 436, 437, 438, 439, 440, 441, 442, 443, 444, 445, 446, 447, 448, 449, 450, 451, 452, 453, 454, 455, 456, 457, 458, 459, 460, 461, 462, 463, 464, 465, 466, 467, 468, 469, 470, 471, 472, 473, 474, 475, 476, 477, 478, 479, 480, 481, 482, 483, 484, 485, 486, 487, 488, 489, 490, 491, 492, 493, 494, 495, 496, 497, 498, 499, 500]
C3.Optimal price decisions	[38, 42, 45, 47, 50, 53, 61-65, 71, 80-83, 86-89, 91-94, 128, 145, 164, 167, 170, 174, 175, 176, 177, 178, 179, 180, 181, 182, 183, 184, 185, 186, 187, 188, 189, 190, 191, 192, 193, 194, 195, 196, 197, 198, 199, 200, 201, 202, 203, 204, 205, 206, 207, 208, 209, 210, 211, 212, 213, 214, 215, 216, 217, 218, 219, 220, 221, 222, 223, 224, 225, 226, 227, 228, 229, 230, 231, 232, 233, 234, 235, 236, 237, 238, 239, 240, 241, 242, 243, 244, 245, 246, 247, 248, 249, 250, 251, 252, 253, 254, 255, 256, 257, 258, 259, 260, 261, 262, 263, 264, 265, 266, 267, 268, 269, 270, 271, 272, 273, 274, 275, 276, 277, 278, 279, 280, 281, 282, 283, 284, 285, 286, 287, 288, 289, 290, 291, 292, 293, 294, 295, 296, 297, 298, 299, 300, 301, 302, 303, 304, 305, 306, 307, 308, 309, 310, 311, 312, 313, 314, 315, 316, 317, 318, 319, 320, 321, 322, 323, 324, 325, 326, 327, 328, 329, 330, 331, 332, 333, 334, 335, 336, 337, 338, 339, 340, 341, 342, 343, 344, 345, 346, 347, 348, 349, 350, 351, 352, 353, 354, 355, 356, 357, 358, 359, 360, 361, 362, 363, 364, 365, 366, 367, 368, 369, 370, 371, 372, 373, 374, 375, 376, 377, 378, 379, 380, 381, 382, 383, 384, 385, 386, 387, 388, 389, 390, 391, 392, 393, 394, 395, 396, 397, 398, 399, 400, 401, 402, 403, 404, 405, 406, 407, 408, 409, 410, 411, 412, 413, 414, 415, 416, 417, 418, 419, 420, 421, 422, 423, 424, 425, 426, 427, 428, 429, 430, 431, 432, 433, 434, 435, 436, 437, 438, 439, 440, 441, 442, 443, 444, 445, 446, 447, 448, 449, 450, 451, 452, 453, 454, 455, 456, 457, 458, 459, 460, 461, 462, 463, 464, 465, 466, 467, 468, 469, 470, 471, 472, 473, 474, 475, 476, 477, 478, 479, 480, 481, 482, 483, 484, 485, 486, 487, 488, 489, 490, 491, 492, 493, 494, 495, 496, 497, 498, 499, 500]
C4.Multi-echelon inventory models	[36, 37, 39, 42, 48, 49, 58, 60, 63, 72, 73, 80-82, 86-88, 90, 95-98, 100, 101, 103, 104, 105, 106, 107, 108, 109, 110, 111, 112, 113, 114, 115, 116, 117, 118, 119, 120, 121, 122, 123, 124, 125, 126, 127, 128, 129, 130, 131, 132, 133, 134, 135, 136, 137, 138, 139, 140, 141, 142, 143, 144, 145, 146, 147, 148, 149, 150, 151, 152, 153, 154, 155, 156, 157, 158, 159, 160, 161, 162, 163, 164, 165, 166, 167, 168, 169, 170, 171, 172, 173, 174, 175, 176, 177, 178, 179, 180, 181, 182, 183, 184, 185, 186, 187, 188, 189, 190, 191, 192, 193, 194, 195, 196, 197, 198, 199, 200, 201, 202, 203, 204, 205, 206, 207, 208, 209, 210, 211, 212, 213, 214, 215, 216, 217, 218, 219, 220, 221, 222, 223, 224, 225, 226, 227, 228, 229, 230, 231, 232, 233, 234, 235, 236, 237, 238, 239, 240, 241, 242, 243, 244, 245, 246, 247, 248, 249, 250, 251, 252, 253, 254, 255, 256, 257, 258, 259, 260, 261, 262, 263, 264, 265, 266, 267, 268, 269, 270, 271, 272, 273, 274, 275, 276, 277, 278, 279, 280, 281, 282, 283, 284, 285, 286, 287, 288, 289, 290, 291, 292, 293, 294, 295, 296, 297, 298, 299, 300, 301, 302, 303, 304, 305, 306, 307, 308, 309, 310, 311, 312, 313, 314, 315, 316, 317, 318, 319, 320, 321, 322, 323, 324, 325, 326, 327, 328, 329, 330, 331, 332, 333, 334, 335, 336, 337, 338, 339, 340, 341, 342, 343, 344, 345, 346, 347, 348, 349, 350, 351, 352, 353, 354, 355, 356, 357, 358, 359, 360, 361, 362, 363, 364, 365, 366, 367, 368, 369, 370, 371, 372, 373, 374, 375, 376, 377, 378, 379, 380, 381, 382, 383, 384, 385, 386, 387, 388, 389, 390, 391, 392, 393, 394, 395, 396, 397, 398, 399, 400, 401, 402, 403, 404, 405, 406, 407, 408, 409, 410, 411, 412, 413, 414, 415, 416, 417, 418, 419, 420, 421, 422, 423, 424, 425, 426, 427, 428, 429, 430, 431, 432, 433, 434, 435, 436, 437, 438, 439, 440, 441, 442, 443, 444, 445, 446, 447, 448, 449, 450, 451, 452, 453, 454, 455, 456, 457, 458, 459, 460, 461, 462, 463, 464, 465, 466, 467, 468, 469, 470, 471, 472, 473, 474, 475, 476, 477, 478, 479, 480, 481, 482, 483, 484, 485, 486, 487, 488, 489, 490, 491, 492, 493, 494, 495, 496, 497, 498, 499, 500]
C5.Time value of money	[76, 85, 87, 107, 109, 119, 138, 143, 146, 151, 157, 162, 166, 168, 169, 172, 177, 182, 188, 189, 190, 191, 192, 193, 194, 195, 196, 197, 198, 199, 200, 201, 202, 203, 204, 205, 206, 207, 208, 209, 210, 211, 212, 213, 214, 215, 216, 217, 218, 219, 220, 221, 222, 223, 224, 225, 226, 227, 228, 229, 230, 231, 232, 233, 234, 235, 236, 237, 238, 239, 240, 241, 242, 243, 244, 245, 246, 247, 248, 249, 250, 251, 252, 253, 254, 255, 256, 257, 258, 259, 260, 261, 262, 263, 264, 265, 266, 267, 268, 269, 270, 271, 272, 273, 274, 275, 276, 277, 278, 279, 280, 281, 282, 283, 284, 285, 286, 287, 288, 289, 290, 291, 292, 293, 294, 295, 296, 297, 298, 299, 300, 301, 302, 303, 304, 305, 306, 307, 308, 309, 310, 311, 312, 313, 314, 315, 316, 317, 318, 319, 320, 321, 322, 323, 324, 325, 326, 327, 328, 329, 330, 331, 332, 333, 334, 335, 336, 337, 338, 339, 340, 341, 342, 343, 344, 345, 346, 347, 348, 349, 350, 351, 352, 353, 354, 355, 356, 357, 358, 359, 360, 361, 362, 363, 364, 365, 366, 367, 368, 369, 370, 371, 372, 373, 374, 375, 376, 377, 378, 379, 380, 381, 382, 383, 384, 385, 386, 387, 388, 389, 390, 391, 392, 393, 394, 395, 396, 397, 398, 399, 400, 401, 402, 403, 404, 405, 406, 407, 408, 409, 410, 411, 412, 413, 414, 415, 416, 417, 418, 419, 420, 421, 422, 423, 424, 425, 426, 427, 428, 429, 430, 431, 432, 433, 434, 435, 436, 437, 438, 439, 440, 441, 442, 443, 444, 445, 446, 447, 448, 449, 450, 451, 452, 453, 454, 455, 456, 457, 458, 459, 460, 461, 462, 463, 464, 465, 466, 467, 468, 469, 470, 471, 472, 473, 474, 475, 476, 477, 478, 479, 480, 481, 482, 483, 484, 485, 486, 487, 488, 489, 490, 491, 492, 493, 494, 495, 496, 497, 498, 499, 500]
C6.Two or more warehouse	[99, 115, 121, 126, 138, 146, 151, 152, 166, 172, 173, 177, 180, 198, 200, 203, 204, 229, 230, 231, 232, 233, 234, 235, 236, 237, 238, 239, 240, 241, 242, 243, 244, 245, 246, 247, 248, 249, 250, 251, 252, 253, 254, 255, 256, 257, 258, 259, 260, 261, 262, 263, 264, 265, 266, 267, 268, 269, 270, 271, 272, 273, 274, 275, 276, 277, 278, 279, 280, 281, 282, 283, 284, 285, 286, 287, 288, 289, 290, 291, 292, 293, 294, 295, 296, 297, 298, 299, 300, 301, 302, 303, 304, 305, 306, 307, 308, 309, 310, 311, 312, 313, 314, 315, 316, 317, 318, 319, 320, 321, 322, 323, 324, 325, 326, 327, 328, 329, 330, 331, 332, 333, 334, 335, 336, 337, 338, 339, 340, 341, 342, 343, 344, 345, 346, 347, 348, 349, 350, 351, 352, 353, 354, 355, 356, 357, 358, 359, 360, 361, 362, 363, 364, 365, 366, 367, 368, 369, 370, 371, 372, 373, 374, 375, 376, 377, 378, 379, 380, 381, 382, 383, 384, 385, 386, 387, 388, 389, 390, 391, 392, 393, 394, 395, 396, 397, 398, 399, 400, 401, 402, 403, 404, 405, 406, 407, 408, 409, 410, 411, 412, 413, 414, 415, 416, 417, 418, 419, 420, 421, 422, 423, 424, 425, 426, 427, 428, 429, 430, 431, 432, 433, 434, 435, 436, 437, 438, 439, 440, 441, 442, 443, 444, 445, 446, 447, 448, 449, 450, 451, 452, 453, 454, 455, 456, 457, 458, 459, 460, 461, 462, 463, 464, 465, 466, 467, 468, 469, 470, 471, 472, 473, 474, 475, 476, 477, 478, 479, 480, 481, 482, 483, 484, 485, 486, 487, 488, 489, 490, 491, 492, 493, 494, 495, 496, 497, 498, 499, 500]
C7.Inclusion of multiple items	[35, 57, 62, 72, 99-103, 105, 123, 127, 132, 137, 155, 223, 236, 244, 245]
C8.Fuzzy environment	[32, 35, 77, 111, 119, 137, 170, 183, 230, 239, 245, 295]

Table 7 Inventory models considering TVM and other factors.

Features	References
Shortages	[85, 87, 119, 138, 143, 146, 151, 157, 166, 169, 172, 177, 186, 196, 201, 207, 208, 217, 219, 220, 232, 241, 242, 243, 244, 245, 246,

Features	References
Delay in payments	[115, 126, 138, 146, 152, 180, 204, 230, 237, 250, 257]
Price decision	[230, 235, 250, 257]
Multi-echelon	[198, 229, 237, 242, 327]
Multiple-items	[99, 244]
Fuzzy environments	[230]

Figure Legends

Figure 1 Review methodology for published papers during 2016-2018.

