

# Industrial Innovations: (Edwin Mansfield)

(Study on Coal, iron and steel, brewing and railways).

- i) Total number of firms in an industry is  $N$ .
- ii)  $x(t) \rightarrow$  Number of firms that have adopted a technological innovation.

$$\boxed{\Delta x \propto \Delta t} \quad \text{and} \quad \boxed{\Delta x \propto (N-x)} \Rightarrow \boxed{\Delta x \propto (N-x) \Delta t}$$

Jointly, we write  $\boxed{\Delta x = \lambda (N-x) \Delta t}$ ,

in which  $\lambda \rightarrow$  proportional factor (not constant)

$$\boxed{\lambda = \lambda(p, s, \frac{x}{N})}, \text{ in which (with } \underline{N \text{ being fixed}})$$

- i)  $p \rightarrow$  profitability in investing in an innovation.
- ii)  $s \rightarrow$  investing ability to acquire innovation, as a percentage of the total assets.
- iii)  $\frac{x}{N} \rightarrow$  Percentage of firms <sup>that</sup> have already adopted the innovation.

Edwin Mansfield's Study: (To determine  $\lambda$ ).

- i) Carry out a Taylor expansion of  $\lambda$  about some equilibrium values of  $p, s$  and  $x/N$ , represented with a subscript  $e$  ( $p_e, s_e, \frac{x}{N}_e$ ).
- ii) Limit the Taylor expansion only up to the second order, (i.e. orders of  $p^2, s^2, (\frac{x}{N})^2$ ).
- iii) Gather all the coefficients of zeroth, first and second orders.



Accordingly  $\lambda = f(p, s, \frac{x}{N})$  is Taylor expanded as,

$$\begin{aligned} \lambda = & f(p_c, s_c, \frac{x}{N}|_c) \\ & + \frac{\partial f}{\partial p} \Big|_c (p - p_c) + \frac{\partial f}{\partial s} \Big|_c (s - s_c) + \frac{\partial f}{\partial (\frac{x}{N})} \Big|_c \left( \frac{x}{N} - \frac{x}{N}|_c \right) \\ & + \frac{1}{2!} \frac{\partial^2 f}{\partial p^2} \Big|_c (p - p_c)^2 + \frac{1}{2!} \frac{\partial^2 f}{\partial s^2} \Big|_c (s - s_c)^2 + \frac{\partial^2 f}{\partial^2 (\frac{x}{N})} \Big|_c \left( \frac{x}{N} - \frac{x}{N}|_c \right)^2 \\ & + \frac{2}{2!} \frac{\partial^2 f}{\partial p \partial s} \Big|_c (p - p_c)(s - s_c) + \frac{2}{2!} \frac{\partial^2 f}{\partial p \partial (\frac{x}{N})} \Big|_c (p - p_c) \left( \frac{x}{N} - \frac{x}{N}|_c \right) \\ & + \frac{2}{2!} \frac{\partial^2 f}{\partial s \partial (\frac{x}{N})} \Big|_c (s - s_c) \left( \frac{x}{N} - \frac{x}{N}|_c \right) + \dots \end{aligned}$$

In deriving the above expression we have used the mathematical principle  $\frac{\partial^2 \psi}{\partial x \partial y} = \frac{\partial^2 \psi}{\partial y \partial x}$ .  
We set, on collecting

~~Collecting~~ all the terms of the same order,

$$\lambda = a_1 + a_2 p + a_3 s + a_4 \left( \frac{x}{N} \right) + a_5 p^2 + a_6 s^2 + a_7 p s + a_8 p \left( \frac{x}{N} \right) + a_9 s \left( \frac{x}{N} \right) + a_{10} \left( \frac{x}{N} \right)^2$$

in which all  $a_i$  are constants, depending on the equilibrium values of  $p, s$  and  $\frac{x}{N}$ , and their derivatives.

Edwin Mansfield's study shows  $a_{10} = 0$  and

$$a_1 + a_2 p + a_3 s + a_5 p^2 + a_6 s^2 + a_7 p s = 0$$

The remaining terms  $\lambda = (a_4 + a_8 p + a_9 s) \frac{x}{N}$

Define  $k = a_4 + a_8 p + a_9 s \Rightarrow \lambda = k \frac{x}{N}$



$K \equiv k(p, s)$ , i.e.,  $k$  depends on profitability and investing power. ( $k$  is not to be confused with the carrying capacity in the logistic equation.)

$$\therefore \Delta x = k \frac{x}{N} (N-x) \Delta t \Rightarrow \frac{\Delta x}{\Delta t} = k \frac{x}{N} (N-x)$$

$$\Rightarrow \frac{dx}{dt} = k \frac{x}{N} (N-x) \Rightarrow \frac{d(x/N)}{dt} = k \frac{x}{N} (1 - \frac{x}{N})$$

Define  $X = \frac{x}{N}$  and  $T = kt$ , & set

$$\frac{dX}{dT} = X(1-X), \text{ which is the logistic equation.}$$

The solution is  $X = \frac{1}{1 + A^{-1} e^{-T}} \Rightarrow x = \frac{N}{1 + A^{-1} e^{-kt}}$

Initial condition: when  $t = t_0$ ,  $x = 1$ .

$$\Rightarrow 1 = \frac{N}{1 + A^{-1} e^{-kt_0}} \Rightarrow A^{-1} = (N-1) e^{kt_0}$$

$$\Rightarrow x = \frac{N}{1 + (N-1) e^{-k(t-t_0)}}$$

The integral solution for spread of industrial innovations.

This solution was used to study:

- i) The spread of twelve innovations such as the shuttle car, trackless mobile loaders, mining machines, coke ovens, wide strip mills, etc.
- ii) Across four major industries like coal, iron and steel, brewing and railroads.