Exogenous Factors Impacting Minitrends

Augie Grant, Ph.D.

J Rion McKissick Professor of Journalism
University of South Carolina





Interdependence

- Organizational
 - Interdependence increases market power of dominant organization
- Consumer
 - Interdependence increases need for critical mass
 - Minimum: Alteration store
 - Maximum: Social network





Technical Standards as Interdependence

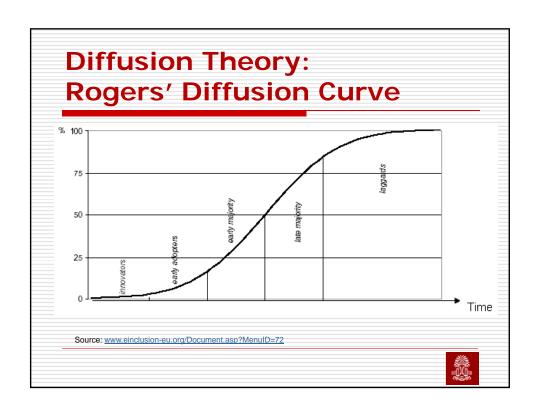
- □ A single, open standard allows easiest market entry
 - ☐ Example: 35mm headphone jack
- □ Single, closed standard limits market entry
 - Dependence upon standards holder
 - Example: Apple's iOS
- Multiple, open standards limit market opportunity

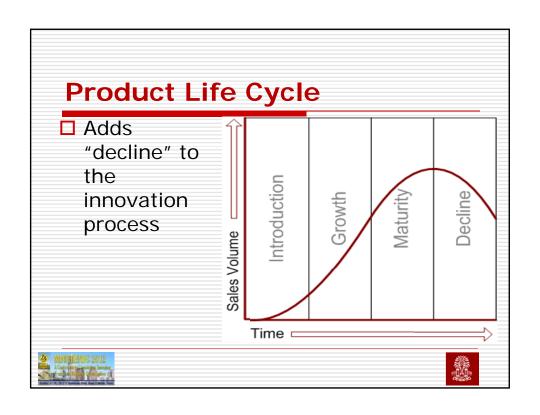


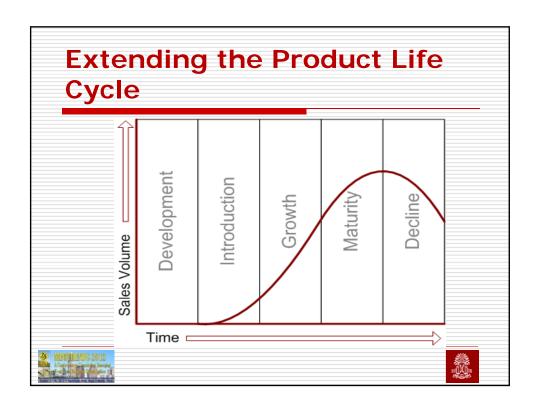
Example: Video recording formats



Analyzing the Ecosystem Interdependence Complexity Standards Production process Distribution levels Market domination





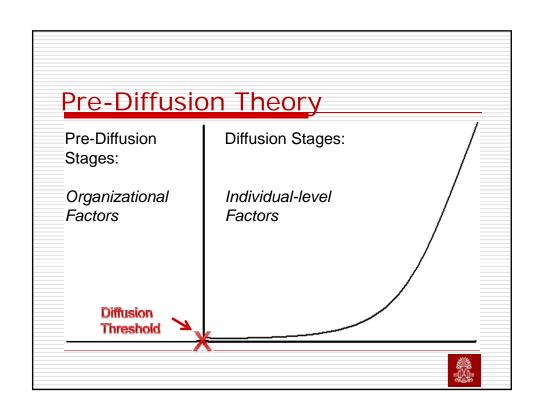


Development Stage ☐ May also be considered "Pre-Diffusion"

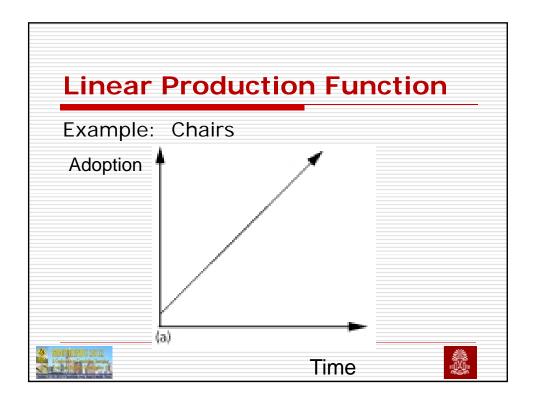
□ For most technologies, primary concern is organizational processes and relationships

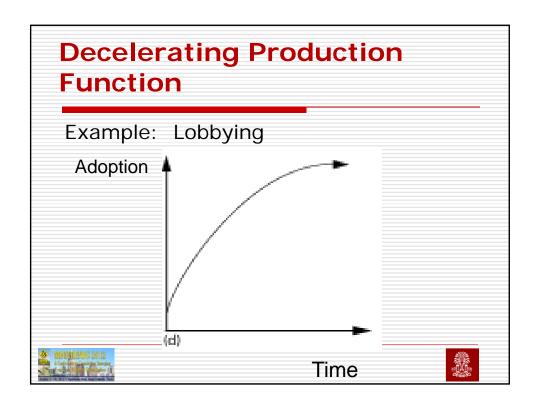


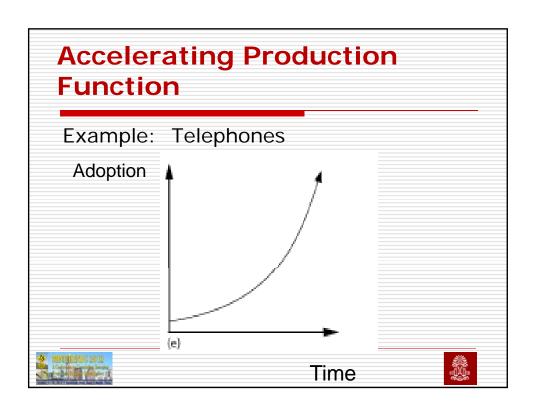


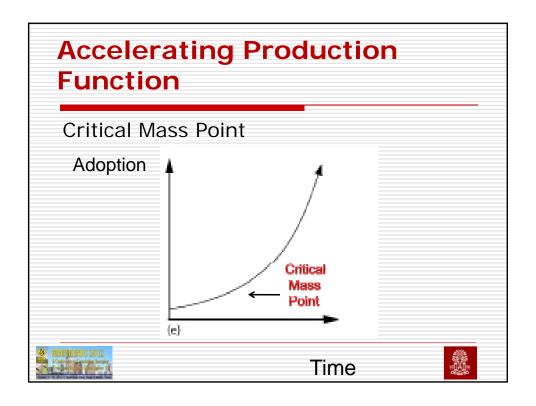


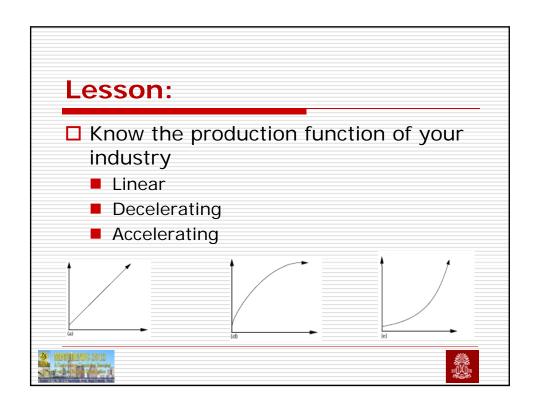
□ Question: What is the best way to explore the organizational relationships in the pre-diffusion process?
 □ One Answer: Collective action theory











Pre-Diffusion Theory

- ☐ Addresses factors that enable diffusion
- □ Organizational level
- □ Production and distribution of all hardware/software must be in place for diffusion to begin
 - Diffusion Threshold

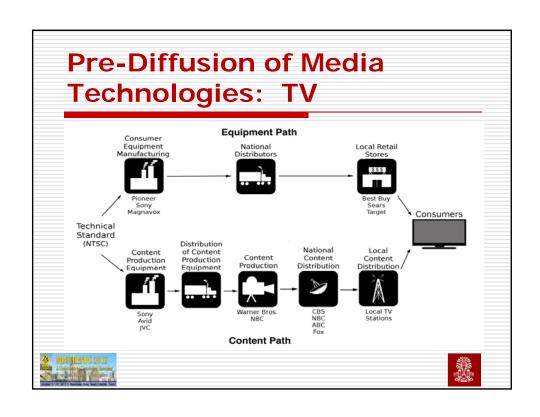


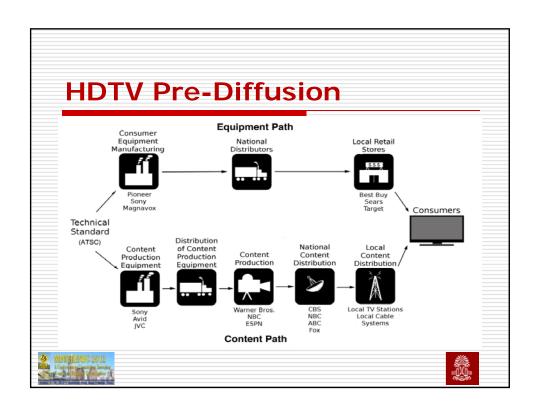
Market Concentration in the Ecosystem

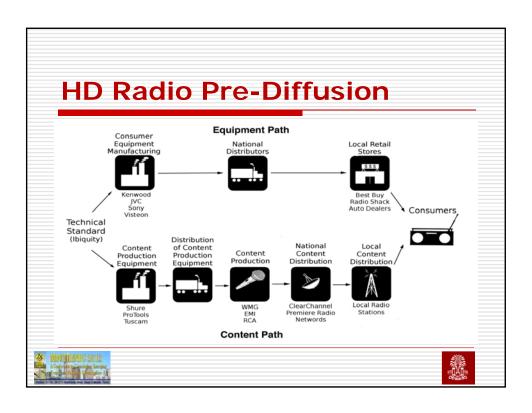
- □ Increased market concentration
 - One organization serves more functions
 - Increased likelihood of reaching diffusion threshold
- Decreased market concentration:
 - More organizations involved
 - More difficult to reach diffusion threshold

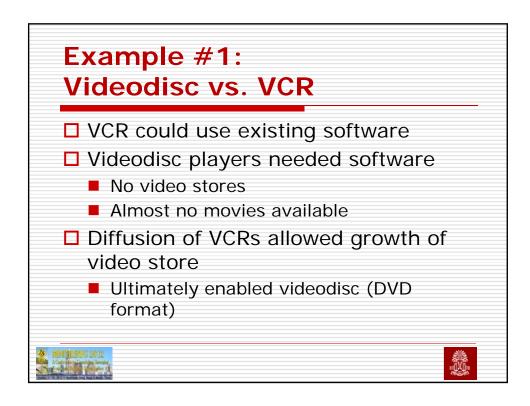












Example #2:Portable, Digital Music Players

- ☐ 1997-2001: Countless players (hardware and computer-based) introduced and failed
 - Lack of most popular music
- □ 2001: iPod introduced
 - Current hits made available on iTunes store
 - Music industry cooperation
 - □ Consumer adoption





Other Examples

- Tablet Computers
 - Repeated introduction of hardware
 - Lack of software
- ☐ Then along comes the iPad
 - Uses apps developed for the iPhone







Lessons:□ Know the production function of your industry□ Exploitation of Minitrends requires study of marketing ecosystem

- Interdependence
- Complexity
- Market domination
- Ecosystem must be studied as a unit





