

# Two- Echelon Trade Credit Financing in a Supply Chain with Weibull Distribution and Exponentially Increasing Holding Cost

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## Abstract

In the present day, competitive marketplace, offering delay payments, has become a commonly adopted method. Previous inventory models under permissible delay in payments usually assumed that the demand of the items was either constant or merely dependent on the retailing price. In this paper, deterministic inventory model for deteriorating items having stock and time dependent demand under the effect of deterioration has been studied. A two parameter Weibull distribution has been used to represent the deterioration rate. The present model has been solved analytically to minimize the total cost of the system. The necessary and sufficient conditions for the existence and uniqueness of the optimal solutions which could minimize the retailer's total cost per unit time has been discussed. A numerical example is included to demonstrate the developed model and the solution procedure. To investigate the effect of changes in some main parameters values on the optimal solution, we conduct a sensitivity analysis and discuss some important managerial insights.

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## I. Introduction

Both in deterministic and probabilistic inventory models of classical type, it is observed that payment is made to the supplier immediately after receiving the items. In practice, the supplier will offer the retailer a delay period in paying for the amount of purchase to increase the demand known as trade credit period. Offering such a credit period to the retailer will encourage the supplier's selling and reduce on-hand stock level. Simultaneously, without a primary payment, the retailer can take the advantages of a credit period to reduce cost and increase profit. Thus, the delay in the payment offered by the supplier is a kind of price discount it encourages the retailer to increase their order quantity. Moreover, during this credit period, the retailer can start to accumulate revenues on the sales and earn interest on that revenue. But the higher interest is charged if the payment is not settled by the end of the credit period. Hence, trade credit can play an important role in inventory model for both the suppliers as well as the retailers.

To manage the inventory level successfully, the retailer needs to find a balance between the costs and benefits of holding stock. The costs of holding stock include the money has been spent buying the stock as well as storage. The benefits include having enough stock on hand to meet the demand of customers. Having too much stock equals extra expense for the retailer as it can lead to a shortfall in cash flow and incur excess storage costs. And having too little stock equals lost income in the form of lost sales, while also undermining customer confidence in retailer's ability to supply the products the retailer claims to sell. Hence keeping the right stock and being able to sell it can lead to increased sales, new customers, increased customer confidence, improved cash flow.

Another class of inventory models have been developed with time-dependent deterioration rate. The Weibull distribution is frequently used to represent the distribution of time to deterioration of the item. In practice, the deterioration rate of items like fashionable goods, food items, electronics

components, radioactive substance, chemicals and drugs is suitable to express in terms of Weibull distribution. In this connection

many researchers attracted their attention towards the Weibull distribution to model the inventory problem. [14] Sharmila and Uthayakumar presented a two parameter Weibull distribution is used to represent the distribution of the time to deterioration. [2] Annadurai and Uthayakumar formulated an inventory model under two-levels of credit policy for deteriorating items by assuming the demand is a function of credit period offered by the retailer to the customers. [16] Thangam and Uthayakumar implemented two different payment methods for the retailer to pay off the loan to the supplier under two - echelon trade credit scenario. [15] Sundara Rajan. R. and Uthayakumar, R. (2015), developed EOQ model for time varying demand and variable holding cost under permissible delay with shortages. [9] Mary Latha and Uthayakumar developed a time dependent quadratic inventory model for deteriorating items with permissible delay in payments. And offering certain credit period without interest entices the consumers to order more quantities, as delayed payment indirectly reduces the purchase cost. [12] Sharmila and Uthayakumar presented fuzzy inventory model for deteriorating items with shortages under fully backlogged condition. [7] Krishna and Bani proposed a mathematical model of an inventory system in which demand depending upon stock level and time with various degree  $\beta$ , gives more flexibility of the demand pattern and more general to the study done so far with the condition to minimize the total average cost of the system. [3] Annadurai and Uthayakumar formulated EOQ model for deteriorating items with stock dependent demand under permissible delay in payments. Also objective to determine the retailer's optimal policy by finding the optimal length of inventory interval with positive inventory and the optimal length of order cycle for minimizing the cost. [13] Sharmila and Uthayakumar perceived that failure rate and life expectancy of many items can be expressed in terms of Weibull distribution. [11] Sharmila and Uthayakumar examined the partial trade credit financing in a supply chain by EOQ-based model for decomposing items together with shortages. [5] Fredy and Artur presented an application of the proposed  $\Gamma$ -EW distribution to real data for illustrative purposes. Also considered some sub-models of the new four-parameter  $\Gamma$ -EW distribution to

fit this real data set for the sake of comparison: Weibull distribution, EE distribution, gamma Weibull ( $\Gamma - W$ ) distribution, gamma exponentiated exponential ( $\Gamma - EE$ ) distribution, and EW distribution. [10] Nita and Ankit derived under assumption of linearly increasing or exponentially increasing demand. However, in market of commodities like food grains, fashion apparels, electronic equipment's decreases with time during the end of season. [8] Madhavi et al. discussed made so far is mainly meant for determining order level inventory for an infinite horizon model when the demand increases exponentially. [6] Karmakar and Choudhury modified the demand rate is any function of time up to the time-point of its stabilization (general ramp-type demand rate), and the backlogging rate is any non increasing function of waiting time, up to the next replenishment. [4] Avikar et al. presented a production inventory model for deteriorating items with Exponentially increasing demand over a fixed time horizon. [17] Vijay et al. developed a model for the producer by assuming production to be stock dependent and exponentially increasing and demand rate to be linear and quadratic simultaneously with constant deterioration rate and holding cost. [1] Ajay and Anupam developed a single item inventory model with constant replenishment rate, exponential demand rate, infinite time horizon, with exponential partial back ordered rate, linearly increasing holding cost in both the warehouses and with the objective of maximizing the present worth of the total system profit.

## II. Notations and Assumptions

The following notations and assumptions are used throughout this paper

### 2.1 Notations

$A$	cost of placing one order
$Q$	the order quantity
$D$	annual demand
$T$	The cycle time in years
$t_1$	length of time in which the inventory has no shortage
$\theta$	the positive number representing the deteriorating rate, where $0 \leq \theta \leq 1$

$\delta$	the fraction of the demand during the stock - out period that will be back ordered, where $0 \leq \delta \leq 1$
$C$	unit purchasing price
$C_1$	shortage cost for backlogged item

$C_2$	unit cost of lost sales
$M$	the retailer's trade credit period offered by the supplier in years
$N$	the customer's trade credit period offered by the retailer's in years $h$ the inventory holding rate per unit time excluding interest charges $I_e$ interest which can be earned per \$ per year
$I_p$	interest charges per \$ in stock per year by the supplier
$I(t)$	the inventory level at time $t$
$TC$	the total annual cost

## 2.2 Assumptions

1. Demand rate is defined as the function of stock and time as  $D(q, t) = a + bt^{\beta-1}I(t)$ .
2. Shortages are allowed and completely backlogged.
3. Lead time is negligible.
4. Replenishment occurs instantaneously at infinite rate.
5. The items considered in this model are deteriorating with time.
6. The deteriorating rate is defined as two parameter Weibull distribution  $\theta(t) = \alpha\beta t^{\beta-1}$ , where  $0 < \alpha < 1$ .
7. The holding cost is time dependent and  $h(t) = f \exp(dt)$  where  $f$  and  $d$  are positive constant.
8. When  $T \geq M$  the account is settled at  $t = M$  and the retailer would pay for the interest charges on items in stock with rate  $I_p$  over the interval  $[M, T]$ . When  $T \leq M$  the account is also settled at  $t = M$  and the retailer does not need to pay any interest charge of items during the whole cycle.
9. The retailer can accumulate revenue and earn interest from the very beginning that this customer pays for the amount of purchasing cost to the retailer until the end of trade credit period offered by the supplier. That is the retailer can accumulate revenue and earn interest

during the period from  $t = N$  to  $t = M$  with rate  $I_e$  under the condition of trade credit.

10. There is no repair or replacement of deteriorated units during the planning horizon. The item will be withdrawn from warehouse immediately as they become deteriorated.

## 2 Proposed Model

In this section, a mathematical model is developed to determine the optimal replenishment cycle time that minimizes the total annual relevant cost in an inventory system for deteriorating items under partially permissible delay in payments including shortages.

Due to both the demand and deterioration of item, the inventory level decreases during the period  $[0, t_1]$  and ultimately falls to zero at  $t = t_1$ . Thereafter, shortages are allowed to occur and the demand during the period  $[t_1, T]$  is partially backlogged. The behavior of inventory system at any time is depicted in Fig. 1

## 3 Mathematical Formulation

As described above, the inventory level decreases owing to demand as well as deterioration during the time interval  $[0, t_1]$ . Hence, the differential equation representing the inventory status is given by

$$\frac{dI_1(t)}{dt} = -\theta(t) - D(q, t); 0 \leq t \leq t_1 \quad (1)$$

with boundary condition  $I_1(t_1) = 0, I_1(0) = I_{max}$

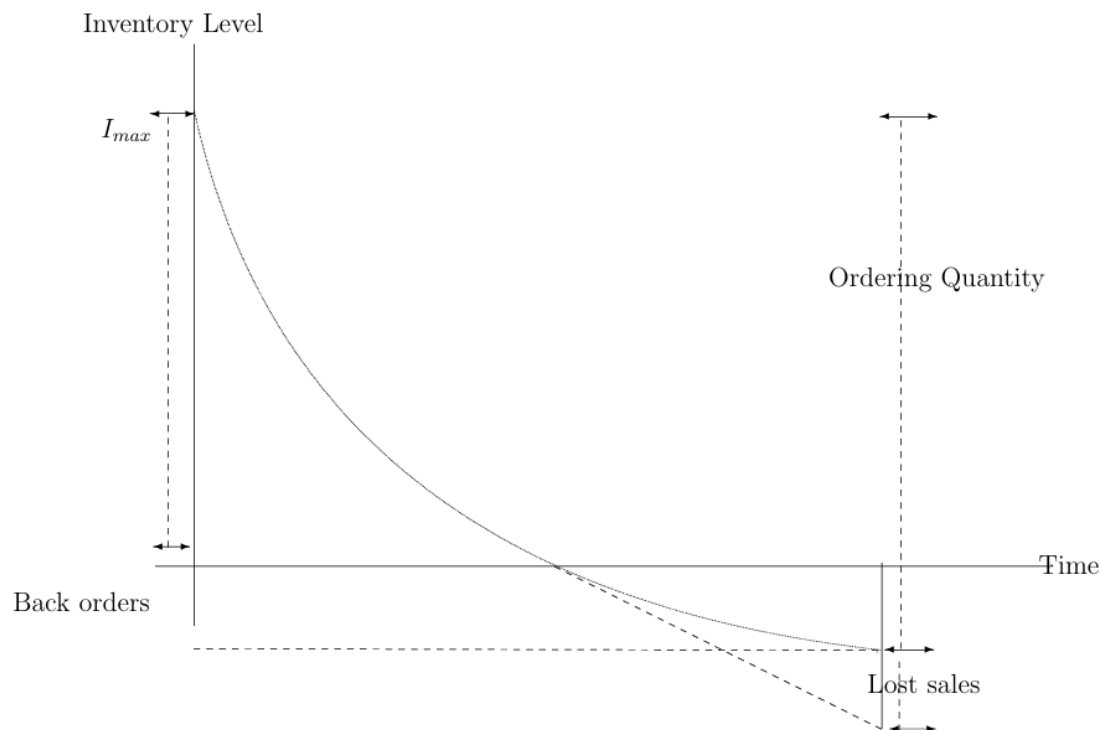
$$\frac{dI_2(t)}{dt} = -a\delta; t_1 \leq t \leq T \quad (2)$$

with boundary condition  $I_2(t_1) = 0$

Using the assumption that  $D(q, t)$ , the demand function and  $\theta(t)$ , the deterioration rate as a non linear function

$D(q, t) = a + bt^{\beta-1}I(t)$  and  $\theta(t) = \alpha\beta t^{\beta-1}$  then (1) and (2) reduces to

$$I_1(t) = ae^{kt^\beta} \left[ (t_1 - t) + \frac{k}{\beta + 1} (t_1^{\beta+1} - t^{\beta+1}) \right]; \text{ where } k = \frac{\alpha\beta + b}{\beta} \quad (3)$$



**Figure 1:** Graphical representation of inventory system

During the shortage interval  $[t_1, T]$  the demand at time  $t$  is partially backlogged at the fraction. Thus, the differential equation governing the amount of demand backlogged is as below

$$I_2(t) = -a\delta(t_1 - t) \quad (4)$$

by letting  $t = T$  in (4) we can obtain the maximum amount of demand backlogged per cycle as

$$S = -I_2(T) = a\delta(T - t_1) \quad (5)$$

Hence, the order quantity per cycle is given by

$$\begin{aligned} Q &= I_{\max} + S \\ &= a \left[ t_1 + \frac{k}{\beta + 1} (t_1^{\beta+1}) \right] + a\delta(T - t_1) \end{aligned}$$

Thus, we have

$$I(t) = \begin{cases} I_1(t) & \text{if } 0 \leq t \leq t_1 \\ I_2(t) & \text{if } t_1 \leq t \leq T \end{cases}$$

Next, the expected annual cost of the inventory system for the retailer is computed using the following various components.

1. ordering cost  $OC = A$
2. Holding cost (excluding interest charges)  $HC = \int_0^{t_1} h(t) I_1(t) dt$   

$$= fa \left[ \left( t_1^2 - \frac{t_1^2}{2} + \frac{dt_1^3}{2} - \frac{dt_1^3}{3} + \frac{kt_1^{\beta+1}}{\beta+1} - \frac{kt_1^{\beta+2}}{\beta+2} \right) \right. \\ \left. + \frac{k}{\beta+1} \left( t_1^{\beta+1} t_1 - \frac{\beta+2}{\beta+2} + \frac{dt_1^2 t_1^{\beta+1}}{2} - \frac{dt_1^{\beta+3}}{\beta+3} + \frac{kt_1^{\beta+1} t_1^{\beta+1}}{\beta+1} - \frac{kt_1^{\beta+3}}{\beta+3} \right) \right]$$
3. Deteriorating cost  $DC = C\theta \int_0^{t_1} I_1(t) dt$   

$$= aC\theta \left[ t_1^2 - \frac{t_1^2}{2} + \frac{k}{\beta+1} \left( t_1^{\beta+2} - \frac{t_1^{\beta+2}}{\beta+2} \right) + k \left( \frac{t_1^{\beta+2}}{\beta+1} - \frac{t_1^{\beta+2}}{\beta+2} \right) + \frac{k^2}{\beta+1} \left( t_1^{\beta+1} t_1^{\beta+1} - \frac{t_1^{2\beta+2}}{2\beta+2} \right) \right]$$
4. Shortages due to backlogging  $SC = C_1 \int_{t_1}^T -I_2(t) dt$   

$$= C_1 a\delta \left( t_1 T - \frac{T^2}{2} - \frac{t_1^2}{2} \right)$$
5. Opportunity cost due to lost sales  $OP = C_2 \int_{t_1}^T (1 - \delta) dt$   

$$= C_2 (1 - \delta) (T - t_1)$$

According to the above assumptions, there are three possible cases to occur in the interest charged and earned in each order cycle and we discuss each case in detail as follows

#### 4.1 Payment Method

In this method, at the end of trade credit(M), the retailer settles the account for all units sold and keeps the profits for other use and starts paying interest charges on the unpaid balance. To calculate interest payable and interest earned by the retailer, we consider the cases

- i)  $M \leq T$
- ii)  $N \leq T \leq M$
- iii)  $T \leq N$

**Case(i)  $M \leq T$**

$$\text{Annual interest payable} = cI_p \int_M^T I_1(t) dt$$

$$= cI_p a \left[ \left( t_1 T - \frac{T^2}{2} + \frac{k}{\beta+1} \left( t_1^{\beta+1} T - \frac{T^{\beta+2}}{\beta+2} \right) + k \left( \frac{t_1 T^{\beta+1}}{\beta+1} - \frac{T^{\beta+2}}{\beta+2} \right) + \frac{k^2}{\beta+1} \left( t_1^{\beta+1} \frac{T^{\beta+1}}{\beta+1} - \frac{T^{\beta+3}}{\beta+3} \right) \right. \right. \\ \left. \left. - \left( t_1 M - \frac{M^2}{2} + \frac{k}{\beta+1} \left( t_1^{\beta+1} M - \frac{M^{\beta+2}}{\beta+2} \right) + k \left( \frac{t_1 M^{\beta+1}}{\beta+1} - \frac{M^{\beta+2}}{\beta+2} \right) \right. \right. \right. \\ \left. \left. \left. + \frac{k^2}{\beta+1} \left( t_1^{\beta+1} \frac{M^{\beta+1}}{\beta+1} - \frac{M^{\beta+3}}{\beta+3} \right) \right) \right] \right]$$

**Case(ii)  $N \leq T \leq M$** 

Annual interest payable = 0

**Case(iii)  $T \leq N$** 

Annual interest payable = 0

Similar to interest payable, there are three cases that occur in costs of interest earned per year.

**Case(i)  $M \leq T$** 

Interest earned

$$= sI_e \left[ \alpha \int_0^N (a + bt^{\beta-1} I(t) dt) + \int_N^M (a + bt^{\beta-1} I(t) dt) \right]$$

$$= sI_e \left[ \alpha \left( a \left( \frac{kN^{\beta+1}}{\beta+1} \right) - b \left( \frac{N^{\beta+1}}{\beta(\beta+1)} \right) + \left[ a \frac{kM^{\beta+1}}{\beta+1} - b \frac{M^{\beta+1}}{\beta(\beta+1)} \right] \left[ a \frac{kN^{\beta+1}}{\beta+1} - b \frac{N^{\beta+1}}{\beta(\beta+1)} \right] \right) \right]$$

**Case(ii)  $N \leq T \leq M$** 

Interest earned

$$= sI_e \left[ \int_0^N (a + bt^{\beta-1} I(t) dt) + \int_N^T (a + bt^{\beta-1} I(t) dt) \right] \\ = sI_e \left[ \alpha \left( a \frac{kN^{\beta+1}}{\beta+1} - b \frac{N^{\beta+1}}{\beta(\beta+1)} \right) \frac{N^2}{2} + \left( a \frac{kT^{\beta+1}}{\beta+1} - b \frac{T^{\beta+1}}{\beta(\beta+1)} \right) - \left( a \frac{kN^{\beta+1}}{\beta+1} - b \frac{N^{\beta+1}}{\beta(\beta+1)} \right) N \right. \\ \left. \left[ \left( a \left[ \frac{kM^{\beta+1}}{\beta+1} - b \frac{M^{\beta+1}}{\beta(\beta+1)} \right] \left( -a \frac{kT^{\beta+1}}{\beta+1} - b \frac{T^{\beta+1}}{\beta(\beta+1)} \right) T \right) \right] \right]$$

**Case(iii)  $T \leq N$** 

Interest earned

$$= sI_e \left[ \alpha \left( \int_0^T (a + bt^{\beta-1} I(t) dt) \right) + \alpha \int_T^N (a + bt^{\beta-1} I(t) T dt) + \int_N^M (a + bt^{\beta-1} I(t) T dt) \right] \\ = sI_e \left[ \alpha \left( a \left( \frac{kT^{\beta+1}}{\beta+1} - b \frac{T^{\beta+1}}{\beta(\beta+1)} \right) \frac{T^2}{2} + \alpha \left( a \frac{kN^{\beta+1}}{\beta+1} - b \frac{N^{\beta+1}}{\beta(\beta+1)} \right) \right. \right. \\ \left. \left. - a \frac{kT^{\beta+1}}{\beta+1} + b \frac{T^{\beta+1}}{\beta(\beta+1)} \right) T + \left( a \frac{kM^{\beta+1}}{\beta+1} - b \frac{M^{\beta+1}}{\beta(\beta+1)} - a \frac{kN^{\beta+1}}{\beta+1} + b \frac{N^{\beta+1}}{\beta(\beta+1)} \right) T \right]$$

From the above arguments, the annual total relevant cost for the retailer can be expressed as

$$TC(T) = \begin{cases} TC_1(T) & \text{if } M \leq T \\ TC_2(T) & \text{if } N \leq T \leq M \\ TC_3(T) & \text{if } T \leq N \end{cases}$$

Where

$$TC_1(T) = \frac{1}{T} \left[ OC + HC + DC + SC + OP + IP - IE \right] \\ TC_2(T) = \frac{1}{T} \left[ OC + HC + DC + SC + OP + IP - IE \right] \quad (9) \\ TC_3(T) = \frac{1}{T} \left[ OC + HC + DC + SC + OP + IP - IE \right]$$

Since  $TC_1(M) = TC_2(M)$  and  $TC_2(N) = TC_3(N)$ ,  $TC(T)$  is continuous and well defined. All  $TC_1(T)$ ,  $TC_2(T)$ ,  $TC_3(T)$  and  $TC(T)$  are defined on  $T > 0$ .

**5. Solution Procedure For Payment Method**

The optimal cycle time  $T_1^*$  can be obtained by solving the equation:

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{dTC_1}{dT} = 0 \\ -\frac{1}{T^2} \left[ A + fa \left[ \left( t_1^2 - \frac{t_1^2}{2} + \frac{dt_1^3}{2} - \frac{dt_1^3}{3} + \frac{kt_1^{\beta+1}}{\beta+1} - \frac{kt_1^{\beta+2}}{\beta+2} \right) \right. \right. \\ \left. \left. + \frac{k}{\beta+1} \left( t_1^{\beta+1} t_1 - \frac{\beta+2}{\beta+2} + \frac{dt_1^2 t_1^{\beta+1}}{2} - \frac{dt_1^{\beta+3}}{\beta+3} + \frac{kt_1^{\beta+1} t_1^{\beta+1}}{\beta+1} - \frac{kt_1^{\beta+3}}{\beta+3} \right) \right] + \right. \\ \left. aC\theta \left[ t_1^2 - \frac{t_1^2}{2} + \frac{k}{\beta+1} \left( t_1^{\beta+2} - \frac{t_1^{\beta+2}}{\beta+2} \right) + k \left( \frac{t_1^{\beta+2}}{\beta+1} - \frac{t_1^{\beta+2}}{\beta+2} \right) + \frac{k^2}{\beta+1} \left( t_1^{\beta+1} t_1^{\beta+1} - \frac{t_1^{2\beta+2}}{2\beta+2} \right) \right] + \right. \\ \left. C_1 a \delta \left( t_1 T - \frac{T^2}{2} - \frac{t_1^2}{2} \right) + C_2 (1 - \delta) (T - t_1) + cI_p a \left[ \left( t_1 T - \frac{T^2}{2} + \frac{k}{\beta+1} \left( t_1^{\beta+1} T - \frac{T^{\beta+2}}{\beta+2} \right) \right. \right. \right. \\ \left. \left. + k \left( \frac{t_1 T^{\beta+1}}{\beta+1} - \frac{T^{\beta+2}}{\beta+2} \right) + \frac{k^2}{\beta+1} \left( t_1^{\beta+1} \frac{T^{\beta+1}}{\beta+1} - \frac{T^{\beta+3}}{\beta+3} \right) \right] - \left( t_1 M - \frac{M^2}{2} + \frac{k}{\beta+1} \left( t_1^{\beta+1} M - \frac{M^{\beta+2}}{\beta+2} \right) + k \left( \frac{t_1 M^{\beta+1}}{\beta+1} - \frac{M^{\beta+2}}{\beta+2} \right) \right. \right. \\ \left. \left. + \frac{k^2}{\beta+1} \left( t_1^{\beta+1} \frac{M^{\beta+1}}{\beta+1} - \frac{M^{\beta+3}}{\beta+3} \right) \right] \right] - sI_e \left[ \alpha \left( a \left( \frac{kN^{\beta+1}}{\beta+1} \right) - b \left( \frac{N^{\beta+1}}{\beta(\beta+1)} \right) + \left[ a \frac{kM^{\beta+1}}{\beta+1} - b \frac{M^{\beta+1}}{\beta(\beta+1)} \right] \right. \right. \\ \left. \left. \left[ a \frac{kN^{\beta+1}}{\beta+1} - b \frac{N^{\beta+1}}{\beta+1} \right] \right] \right] + \frac{1}{T} \left[ C_1 a \delta (t_1 - T) + C_2 (1 - \delta) + cI_p a (t_1 - T) + \frac{k}{\beta+1} (t_1^{\beta+1} - T^{\beta+1}) + \right. \\ \left. k(t_1 T^{\beta} - T^{\beta+1}) + T^{\beta+1} + \frac{k^2}{\beta+1} (t_1^{\beta+1} T^{\beta} - T^{\beta+2}) \right] = 0 \end{aligned}$$

Let  $f_1(t)$  be the function of  $T$  which is on the left hand side of equation (10). Let  $\Delta_1 = f_1(M)$ .

**Theorem 1:** If  $\Delta_1 < 0$ , then  $T^* = T_1^*$  and  $TC^*(T) = TC_1(T^*)$ .

Proof: Taking the first derivative of  $0036f_1(t)$  with respect to  $T$ , we get,

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{df_1(T)}{dT} = \frac{1}{T^3} \left[ -\frac{1}{T^2} \left[ A + fa \left[ \left( t_1^2 - \frac{t_1^2}{2} + \frac{dt_1^3}{2} - \frac{dt_1^3}{3} + \frac{kt_1^{\beta+1}}{\beta+1} - \frac{kt_1^{\beta+2}}{\beta+2} \right) \right. \right. \right. \\ \left. \left. + \frac{k}{\beta+1} \left( t_1^{\beta+1} t_1 - \frac{\beta+2}{\beta+2} + \frac{dt_1^2 t_1^{\beta+1}}{2} - \frac{dt_1^{\beta+3}}{\beta+3} + \frac{kt_1^{\beta+1} t_1^{\beta+1}}{\beta+1} - \frac{kt_1^{\beta+3}}{\beta+3} \right) \right] + \right. \\ \left. aC\theta \left[ t_1^2 - \frac{t_1^2}{2} + \frac{k}{\beta+1} \left( t_1^{\beta+2} - \frac{t_1^{\beta+2}}{\beta+2} \right) + k \left( \frac{t_1^{\beta+2}}{\beta+1} - \frac{t_1^{\beta+2}}{\beta+2} \right) + \frac{k^2}{\beta+1} \left( t_1^{\beta+1} t_1^{\beta+1} - \frac{t_1^{2\beta+2}}{2\beta+2} \right) \right] + \right. \\ \left. C_1 a \delta \left( t_1 T - \frac{T^2}{2} - \frac{t_1^2}{2} \right) + C_2 (1 - \delta) (T - t_1) + cI_p a \left[ \left( t_1 T - \frac{T^2}{2} + \frac{k}{\beta+1} \left( t_1^{\beta+1} T - \frac{T^{\beta+2}}{\beta+2} \right) + k \left( \frac{t_1 T^{\beta+1}}{\beta+1} - \frac{T^{\beta+2}}{\beta+2} \right) \right. \right. \right. \\ \left. \left. + \frac{k^2}{\beta+1} \left( t_1^{\beta+1} \frac{T^{\beta+1}}{\beta+1} - \frac{T^{\beta+3}}{\beta+3} \right) \right] - \left( t_1 M - \frac{M^2}{2} + \frac{k}{\beta+1} \left( t_1^{\beta+1} M - \frac{M^{\beta+2}}{\beta+2} \right) + k \left( \frac{t_1 M^{\beta+1}}{\beta+1} - \frac{M^{\beta+2}}{\beta+2} \right) \right. \right. \\ \left. \left. + \frac{k^2}{\beta+1} \left( t_1^{\beta+1} \frac{M^{\beta+1}}{\beta+1} - \frac{M^{\beta+3}}{\beta+3} \right) \right] \right] - sI_e \left[ \alpha \left( a \left( \frac{kN^{\beta+1}}{\beta+1} \right) - b \left( \frac{N^{\beta+1}}{\beta(\beta+1)} \right) + \left[ a \frac{kM^{\beta+1}}{\beta+1} - b \frac{M^{\beta+1}}{\beta(\beta+1)} \right] \right. \right. \\ \left. \left. - b \left( \frac{N^{\beta+1}}{\beta(\beta+1)} \right) + \left[ a \frac{kM^{\beta+1}}{\beta+1} - b \frac{M^{\beta+1}}{\beta(\beta+1)} \right] \left[ a \frac{kN^{\beta+1}}{\beta+1} - b \frac{N^{\beta+1}}{\beta+1} \right] \right] \right] \right] \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned}
& + \frac{1}{T} \left[ C_1 a \delta (t_1 - T) + C_2 (1 - \delta) + c l_p a (t_1 - T) + \frac{k}{\beta + 1} (t_1^{\beta+1} - T^{\beta+1}) + k (t_1 T^\beta \right. \\
& \left. - T^{\beta+1}) + T^{\beta+1} + \frac{k^2}{\beta + 1} (t_1^{\beta+1} T^\beta - T^{\beta+2}) \right] - \frac{1}{T^2} \left[ [C_1 a \delta (t_1 - T) + C_2 (1 - \delta) + \right. \\
& \left. c l_p a (t_1 - T) + \frac{k}{\beta + 1} (t_1^{\beta+1} - T^{\beta+1}) + k (t_1 T^\beta - T^{\beta+1}) + T^{\beta+1} + \frac{k^2}{\beta + 1} (t_1^{\beta+1} T^\beta - T^{\beta+2}) \right] \\
& + \frac{1}{T} \left( C_1 a \delta + c l_p a \left( 1 + \frac{k}{\beta + 1} (-\beta + 1 T^\beta) + k (t_1 \beta T^{\beta-1} - \beta + 1 T^\beta) \right) \right. \\
& \left. + \frac{k^2}{\beta + 1} (\beta t_1^{\beta+1} T^{\beta-1} - (\beta + 2) T^{\beta+1}) \right) \Big] > 0 \text{ for } T > M
\end{aligned}$$

Thus,  $f_1(T)$  is strictly increasing function of  $T$  in the interval  $[M, \infty)$ . Moreover, we know that

$$f_1(M) = \Delta_1 \text{ and } \lim_{T \rightarrow \infty} f_1(T) = \infty > 0$$

Since  $\Delta_1 < 0$ ,  $f_1(M) < 0$  and  $\lim_{T \rightarrow \infty} f_1(T) > 0$  by applying intermediate value theorem, there exists a unique  $T_1^* \in [M, \infty)$  such that  $f_1(T_1^*) = 0$ . It is easy to verify that

$$\frac{d^2 TC_1(T)}{dT^2} > 0 \text{ at } T = T_1^*$$

Thus,  $T_1^* \in [M, \infty)$  is a unique optimum solution to  $TC(T)$

After obtaining the first order derivatives of  $TC_2(T)$  and  $TC_3(T)$ , the optimal replenishment time  $T_2$  and  $T_3$  are the roots of the equations.

$$\begin{aligned}
0 = & -\frac{1}{T^2} \left[ A + f a \left[ \left( t_1^2 - \frac{t_1^2}{2} + \frac{dt_1^3}{2} - \frac{dt_1^3}{3} + \frac{kt_1^{\beta+1}}{\beta+1} - \frac{kt_1^{\beta+2}}{\beta+2} \right) \right. \right. \\
& + \frac{k}{\beta+1} \left( t_1^{\beta+1} t_1 - \frac{\beta+2}{\beta+2} + \frac{dt_1^2 t_1^{\beta+1}}{2} - \frac{dt_1^{\beta+3}}{\beta+3} + \frac{kt_1^{\beta+1} t_1^{\beta+1}}{\beta+1} - \frac{kt_1^{\beta+3}}{\beta+3} \right) \Big] + \\
& a C \theta \left[ t_1^2 - \frac{t_1^2}{2} + \frac{k}{\beta+1} \left( t_1^{\beta+2} - \frac{t_1^{\beta+2}}{\beta+2} \right) + k \left( \frac{t_1^{\beta+2}}{\beta+1} \right. \right. \\
& \left. \left. - \frac{t_1^{\beta+2}}{\beta+2} \right) + \frac{k^2}{\beta+1} \left( t_1^{\beta+1} t_1^{\beta+1} - \frac{t_1^{2\beta+2}}{2\beta+2} \right) \right] + C_1 a \delta \left( t_1 T - \frac{T^2}{2} - \frac{t_1^2}{2} \right) + C_2 (1 - \delta) (T - t_1) \\
& - s I_e \left[ \alpha \left( a \frac{k N^{\beta+1}}{\beta+1} - b \frac{N^{\beta+1}}{\beta(\beta+1)} \right) \frac{N^2}{2} + \left( a \frac{k T^{\beta+1}}{\beta+1} - b \frac{T^{\beta+1}}{\beta(\beta+1)} \right) - \left( a \frac{k N^{\beta+1}}{\beta+1} - b \frac{N^{\beta+1}}{\beta(\beta+1)} \right) N - \right. \\
& \left[ \left( a \left[ \frac{k M^{\beta+1}}{\beta+1} - b \frac{M^{\beta+1}}{\beta(\beta+1)} \right] \left( -a \frac{k T^{\beta+1}}{\beta+1} - b \frac{T^{\beta+1}}{\beta(\beta+1)} \right) T \right) \right] \Big] \\
& + \frac{1}{T} \left( C_1 a \delta (t_1 - T) + C_2 (1 - \delta) - s I_e \left[ \left( a k T^\beta - \frac{b T^\beta}{\beta} \right) N - \left( a k T^\beta - \frac{b T^\beta}{\beta} \right) T \right. \right. \\
& \left. \left. - \left( \frac{a k T^{\beta+1}}{\beta+1} - \frac{b T^{\beta+1}}{\beta(\beta+1)} \right) \right] \right) \Big]
\end{aligned}$$

(12)



$$\begin{aligned}
0 = & -\frac{1}{T^2} \left[ A + fa \left[ \left( t_1^2 - \frac{t_1^2}{2} + \frac{dt_1^3}{2} - \frac{dt_1^3}{3} + \frac{kt_1^{\beta+1}}{\beta+1} - \frac{kt_1^{\beta+2}}{\beta+2} \right) \right. \right. \\
& + \frac{k}{\beta+1} \left( t_1^{\beta+1} t_1 - \frac{\beta+2}{\beta+2} + \frac{dt_1^2 t_1^{\beta+1}}{2} - \frac{dt_1^{\beta+3}}{\beta+3} + \frac{kt_1^{\beta+1} t_1^{\beta+1}}{\beta+1} - \frac{kt_1^{\beta+3}}{\beta+3} \right) \left. \right] + \\
& aC\theta \left[ t_1^2 - \frac{t_1^2}{2} + \frac{k}{\beta+1} \left( t_1^{\beta+2} - \frac{t_1^{\beta+2}}{\beta+2} \right) + k \left( \frac{t_1^{\beta+2}}{\beta+1} \right. \right. \\
& - \left. \frac{t_1^{\beta+2}}{\beta+2} \right) + \frac{k^2}{\beta+1} \left( t_1^{\beta+1} t_1^{\beta+1} - \frac{t_1^{2\beta+2}}{2\beta+2} \right) \left. \right] + C_1 a \delta \left( t_1 T - \frac{T^2}{2} - \frac{t_1^2}{2} \right) + C_2 (1-\delta)(T-t_1) \\
& - sI_e \left[ \alpha \left( a \frac{kT^{\beta+1}}{\beta+1} - b \frac{T^{\beta+1}}{\beta(\beta+1)} \right) \frac{T^2}{2} + \alpha \left( a \frac{kN^{\beta+1}}{\beta+1} - b \frac{N^{\beta+1}}{\beta(\beta+1)} \right. \right. \\
& - \left. \left. a \frac{kT^{\beta+1}}{\beta+1} + b \frac{T^{\beta+1}}{\beta(\beta+1)} \right) T + \left( a \frac{kM^{\beta+1}}{\beta+1} - b \frac{M^{\beta+1}}{\beta+1} - a \frac{kN^{\beta+1}}{\beta+1} + b \frac{N^{\beta+1}}{\beta(\beta+1)} \right) T \right] \\
& + \frac{1}{T} \left( C_1 a \delta (t_1 - T) + C_2 (1-\delta) - sI_e \left( \left[ akT^\beta - \frac{bT^\beta}{\beta} \right] \alpha \frac{T^2}{2} - \left[ \frac{akT^\beta}{\beta+1} - \frac{bT^{\beta+1}}{\beta(\beta+1)} \right] \alpha T \right. \right. \\
& - \left. \left[ \alpha T a k T^\beta - \frac{bT^\beta}{(\beta)} - \left( \frac{akT^{\beta+1}}{\beta+1} - \frac{bT^{\beta+1}}{\beta(\beta+1)} \right) \right] + \alpha \left( \frac{akN^{\beta+1}}{\beta+1} - \frac{bN^{\beta+1}}{\beta(\beta+1)} \right) + \right. \\
& \left. \left. \left( \frac{akM^{\beta+1}}{\beta+1} - \frac{bM^{\beta+1}}{\beta+1} \right) - \left( \frac{akN^{\beta+1}}{\beta+1} - \frac{bN^{\beta+1}}{\beta(\beta+1)} \right) \right) \right) \left. \right] \left. \right]
\end{aligned}$$

(13)

respectively. Let  $f_2(T)$  and  $f_3(T)$  be the function in the left hand side of equations (12) and (13), respectively. Then,

$$\begin{aligned}
\frac{df_2(T)}{dT} = & \frac{1}{T^3} \left[ A + fa \left[ \left( t_1^2 - \frac{t_1^2}{2} + \frac{dt_1^3}{2} - \frac{dt_1^3}{3} + \frac{kt_1^{\beta+1}}{\beta+1} - \frac{kt_1^{\beta+2}}{\beta+2} \right) \right. \right. \\
& + \frac{k}{\beta+1} \left( t_1^{\beta+1} t_1 - \frac{\beta+2}{\beta+2} + \frac{dt_1^2 t_1^{\beta+1}}{2} - \frac{dt_1^{\beta+3}}{\beta+3} + \frac{kt_1^{\beta+1} t_1^{\beta+1}}{\beta+1} - \frac{kt_1^{\beta+3}}{\beta+3} \right) \left. \right] + \\
& aC\theta \left[ t_1^2 - \frac{t_1^2}{2} + \frac{k}{\beta+1} \left( t_1^{\beta+2} - \frac{t_1^{\beta+2}}{\beta+2} big \right) + k \left( \frac{t_1^{\beta+2}}{\beta+1} \right. \right. \\
& - \left. \frac{t_1^{\beta+2}}{\beta+2} \right) + \frac{k^2}{\beta+1} \left( t_1^{\beta+1} t_1^{\beta+1} - \frac{t_1^{2\beta+2}}{2\beta+2} \right) \left. \right] + C_1 a \delta \left( t_1 T - \frac{T^2}{2} - \frac{t_1^2}{2} \right) + C_2 (1 - \delta) (T - t_1) \\
& - sI_e \left[ \alpha \left( a \frac{kN^{\beta+1}}{\beta+1} - b \frac{N^{\beta+1}}{\beta(\beta+1)} \right) \frac{N^2}{2} + \left( a \frac{kT^{\beta+1}}{\beta+1} - b \frac{T^{\beta+1}}{\beta+1} \right) \right. \\
& - \left( a \frac{kN^{\beta+1}}{\beta+1} - b \frac{N^{\beta+1}}{\beta(\beta+1)} \right) N - \left[ \left( a \left[ \frac{kM^{\beta+1}}{\beta+1} - b \frac{M^{\beta+1}}{\beta(\beta+1)} \right] \left( -a \frac{kT^{\beta+1}}{\beta+1} \right. \right. \right. \\
& - \left. \left. \left. b \frac{T^{\beta+1}}{\beta(\beta+1)} \right) T \right) \right] \left. \right] - \frac{1}{T^2} \left( C_1 a \delta (t_1 - T) + C_2 (1 - \delta) - sI_e \left[ \left( akT^\beta - \frac{bT^\beta}{\beta} \right) N \right. \right. \\
& - \left. \left( akT^\beta - \frac{bT^\beta}{\beta} \right) T - \left( \frac{akT^{\beta+1}}{\beta+1} - \frac{bT^{\beta+1}}{\beta(\beta+1)} \right) \right] \left. \right] + \frac{1}{T} (C_1 a \delta (t_1 - T) + C_2 (1 - \delta) \\
& - sI_e \left[ \alpha \left( akT^\beta - \frac{bT^\beta}{\beta} \right) N - \left( akT^\beta - \frac{bT^\beta}{\beta} \right) T - \left( \frac{akT^{\beta+1}}{\beta+1} - \frac{bT^{\beta+1}}{\beta+1} \right) \right] \\
& \left. \frac{1}{T} \left[ C_1 a \delta - sI_e \left[ (ak\beta T^{\beta-1} - bT^{\beta-1}) N - (ak\beta T^{\beta-1} - bT^{\beta-1}) T - \left( akT^\beta - \frac{bT^\beta}{\beta} \right) \right] \right] \right]
\end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned}
\frac{df_3(T)}{dT} = & \frac{1}{T^3} \left[ \left[ A + fa \left[ \left( t_1^2 - \frac{t_1^2}{2} + \frac{dt_1^3}{2} - \frac{dt_1^3}{3} + \frac{kt_1^{\beta+1}}{\beta+1} - \frac{kt_1^{\beta+2}}{\beta+2} \right) \right. \right. \right. \\
& + \frac{k}{\beta+1} \left( t_1^{\beta+1} t_1 - \frac{\beta+2}{\beta+2} + \frac{dt_1^2 t_1^{\beta+1}}{2} - \frac{dt_1^{\beta+3}}{\beta+3} + \frac{kt_1^{\beta+1} t_1^{\beta+1}}{\beta+1} - \frac{kt_1^{\beta+3}}{\beta+3} \right) \left. \right. \\
& + aC\theta \left[ t_1^2 - \frac{t_1^2}{2} + \frac{k}{\beta+1} \left( t_1^{\beta+2} - \frac{t_1^{\beta+2}}{\beta+2} \right) \text{big} \right] + k \left( \frac{t_1^{\beta+2}}{\beta+1} - \frac{t_1^{\beta+2}}{\beta+2} \right) + \frac{k^2}{\beta+1} \left( t_1^{\beta+1} t_1^{\beta+1} - \frac{t_1^{2\beta+2}}{2\beta+2} \right) \left. \right] + \\
& C_1 a \delta \left( t_1 T - \frac{T^2}{2} - \frac{t_1^2}{2} \right) + C_2 (1 - \delta) (T - t_1) - sI_e \left[ \alpha \left( a \frac{kT^{\beta+1}}{\beta+1} - b \frac{T^{\beta+1}}{\beta(\beta+1)} \right) \frac{T^2}{2} + \right. \\
& \alpha \left( a \frac{kN^{\beta+1}}{\beta+1} - b \frac{N^{\beta+1}}{\beta(\beta+1)} - a \frac{kT^{\beta+1}}{\beta+1} + b \frac{T^{\beta+1}}{\beta(\beta+1)} \right) T + \left( a \frac{kM^{\beta+1}}{\beta+1} - b \frac{MM^{\beta+1}}{\beta+1} - a \frac{kN^{\beta+1}}{\beta+1} \right. \\
& + b \frac{N^{\beta+1}}{\beta(\beta+1)} \left. \right) T \left. \right] - \frac{1}{T^2} \left( C_1 a \delta (t_1 - T) + C_2 (1 - \delta) - sI_e \left[ \left( akT^\beta - \frac{bT^\beta}{\beta} \right) \alpha \frac{T^2}{2} - \right. \right. \\
& \left. \left[ \frac{akT^\beta}{\beta+1} - \frac{bT^{\beta+1}}{\beta(\beta+1)} \right] \alpha T - \left[ \alpha T a k T^\beta - \frac{bT^\beta}{\beta} - \left( \frac{akT^{\beta+1}}{\beta+1} - \frac{bT^{\beta+1}}{\beta(\beta+1)} \right) \right] + \alpha \left( \frac{akN^{\beta+1}}{\beta+1} \right. \right. \\
& \left. \left. - \frac{bN^{\beta+1}}{\beta(\beta+1)} \right) + \left( \frac{akM^{\beta+1}}{\beta+1} - \frac{bM^{\beta+1}}{\beta+1} \right) - \left( \frac{akN^{\beta+1}}{\beta+1} - \frac{bN^{\beta+1}}{\beta(\beta+1)} \right) \right] \left. \right] \left. \right] \\
& - \frac{1}{T^2} \left( C_1 a \delta (t_1 - T) + C_2 (1 - \delta) - sI_e \left[ \left( akT^\beta - \frac{bT^\beta}{\beta} \right) \alpha \frac{T^2}{2} - \left[ \frac{akT^\beta}{\beta+1} - \frac{bT^{\beta+1}}{\beta(\beta+1)} \right] \alpha T \right. \right. \\
& \left. \left. - \left[ \alpha T a k T^\beta - \frac{bT^\beta}{\beta} - \left( \frac{akT^{\beta+1}}{\beta+1} - \frac{bT^{\beta+1}}{\beta(\beta+1)} \right) \right] + \alpha \left( \frac{akN^{\beta+1}}{\beta+1} \right. \right. \right. \\
& \left. \left. - \frac{bN^{\beta+1}}{\beta(\beta+1)} \right) + \left( \frac{akM^{\beta+1}}{\beta+1} - \frac{bM^{\beta+1}}{\beta+1} \right) - \left( \frac{akN^{\beta+1}}{\beta+1} - \frac{bN^{\beta+1}}{\beta(\beta+1)} \right) \right] \left. \right) \\
& + \frac{1}{T} \left( C_1 a \delta - sI_e \left( \alpha \left[ ak\beta T^{\beta-1} - bT^{\beta-1} \right] \frac{T^2}{2} \right) + \alpha \left( akT^\beta - \frac{bT^\beta}{\beta} \right) T + \alpha \left[ \frac{akT^{\beta+1}}{\beta+1} - \frac{bT^{\beta+1}}{\beta+1} \right] \right. \\
& + \alpha \left[ akT^\beta - \frac{bT^\beta}{\beta} \right] T + \alpha \left[ -akT^\beta - \frac{bT^\beta}{\beta} \right] + (ak\beta T^{\beta-1} - bT^{\beta-1}) T \alpha \left( akT^\beta - \frac{bT^\beta}{\beta} \right) \left. \right) \\
& - \frac{1}{T^2} \left( C_1 a \delta (t_1 - T) + C_2 (1 - \delta) - sI_e \left[ \left( akT^\beta - \frac{bT^\beta}{\beta} \right) \alpha \frac{T^2}{2} - \left[ \frac{akT^\beta}{\beta+1} - \frac{bT^{\beta+1}}{\beta(\beta+1)} \right] \alpha T \right. \right. \\
& \left. \left. - \left[ \alpha T a k T^\beta - \frac{bT^\beta}{\beta} - \left( \frac{akT^{\beta+1}}{\beta+1} - \frac{bT^{\beta+1}}{\beta(\beta+1)} \right) \right] + \alpha \left( \frac{akN^{\beta+1}}{\beta+1} - \frac{bN^{\beta+1}}{\beta(\beta+1)} \right) \right. \right. \\
& \left. \left. + \left( \frac{akM^{\beta+1}}{\beta+1} - \frac{bM^{\beta+1}}{\beta+1} \right) - \left( \frac{akN^{\beta+1}}{\beta+1} - \frac{bN^{\beta+1}}{\beta(\beta+1)} \right) \right] \right) \right)
\end{aligned}$$

consequently,  $f_i(T)$  ( $i = 1, 2, 3$ ) is also increasing on  $(0, \infty)$ . From  $f_i(0) < 0$ , ( $i = 1, 2, 3$ ) and  $\lim_{T \rightarrow \infty} f(T) = \infty > 0$ , ( $i = 1, 2, 3$ ) by intermediate value theorem we see that  $f_i(T)$  is decreasing on  $[0, T_i^*]$  and increasing on  $(T_i^*, \infty)$ . Hence  $TC_i(T)$ ; ( $i = 1, 2, 3$ ) is convex on  $T > 0$ . Furthermore, we have  $TC_1'(M) = TC_2'(M)$  and  $TC_2'(N) = TC_3'(N)$ . Hence  $TC(T)$  is convex on  $T > 0$ . We, have,

$$\begin{aligned}
TC_1'(M) &= \frac{f_1(M)}{M^2} \\
TC_2'(M) &= \frac{f_2(M)}{M^2} \\
TC_2'(N) &= \frac{f_2(N)}{N^2} \\
TC_3'(N) &= \frac{f_3(N)}{N^2}
\end{aligned}$$

Let  $\Delta_2 = f_2(N) = f_3(N)$ . Clearly  $\Delta_1 \geq \Delta_2$ .

## 6. Numerical examples and sensitivity analysis

To illustrate the solution procedure and investigate the sensitivity analysis on optimal solution in our model, we consider the following examples

Given  $A = \$200/\text{units}, s = \$2/\text{units}, c = \$0.50/\text{unit}, I_p = 0.14, I_e = 0.13, M = 2\text{ years}, \theta = 0.2, \alpha = 0.05, N = 2\text{ years}, a = 100\text{ units}, b = 0.30\text{ units}, f = 15, d = 8, \delta = 0.23, C = 30, C_1 = 0.021, C_2 = 0.9785$

$TC_1=1019.5, TC_2=836.0634, TC_3=854.1909, Q=61.9049$

### 6.1 Sensitivity Analysis

Let us consider the same data as in example. Here, we study the effects of changes in the values, on optimal cycle and minimum total cost.

**Table 1:** Sensitivity model for inventory model parameters

$A$	$t_1$	$T$	$TC_1$	$TC_2$	$TC_3$	$Q$
230	0.2921	0.3148	1981.7	1738.2	1631.0	47.6239
240	0.2922	0.3150	2013.2	1769.8	1662.8	47.6454
250	0.2925	0.3151	2047.2	1803.9	1697.0	47.6984
260	0.2941	0.3158	2089.7	1847.2	1740.8	47.9850
270	0.2982	0.3162	2158.9	1917.5	1811.4	48.6892

$\delta$	$t_1$	$T$	$TC_1$	$TC_2$	$TC_3$	$Q$
0.55	0.2925	0.3150	1889.1	1645.7	1538.7	48.4161
0.65	0.2924	0.3150	1888.1	1644.8	1537.8	48.6284
0.75	0.2923	0.3151	1886.5	1643.2	1536.3	48.8502
0.85	0.2922	0.3152	1885.0	1641.7	1534.9	49.0760
0.95	0.2921	0.3151	1884.6	1641.3	1534.4	49.2868

$\theta$	$t_1$	$T$	$TC_1$	$TC_2$	$TC_3$	$Q$
0.01	0.2925	0.3152	1657.6	1414.3	1307.5	47.7007
0.03	0.2924	0.3151	1681.5	1438.2	1331.3	47.6815
0.05	0.2923	0.3148	1706.6	1463.1	1355.9	47.6577
0.07	0.2918	0.3135	1733.8	1489.4	1381.3	47.5434
0.09	0.2905	0.3129	1750.4	1505.3	1396.7	47.3102

$\alpha$	$t_1$	$T$	$TC_1$	$TC_2$	$TC_3$	$Q$
0.06	0.2934	0.3165	1897.7	1650.1	1545.7	48.0946
0.04	0.2931	0.3156	1882.3	1644.9	1536.9	48.5997
0.03	0.2924	0.3151	1869.8	1637.2	1527.5	47.2599
0.02	0.2913	0.3142	1885.9	1627.8	1516.2	46.8462
0.01	0.2901	0.3139	1837.8	1614.5	1501.4	46.4325

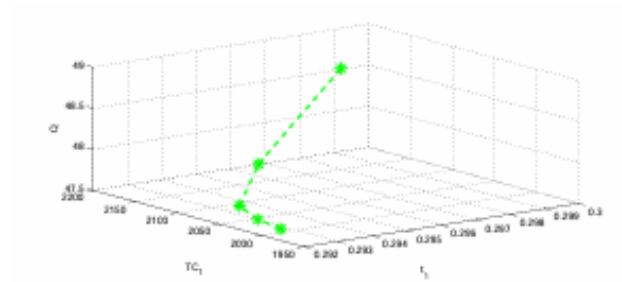
$\beta$	$t_1$	$T$	$TC_1$	$TC_2$	$TC_3$	$Q$
0.10	0.2938	0.3166	10165	9613.5	9252.9	136.2395
0.15	0.2931	0.3157	5845.7	5431.9	5175.1	100.5021
0.20	0.2924	0.3151	4144.5	3795.1	3590.9	82.1613
0.25	0.2918	0.3145	3273.8	2961.5	2788.8	70.8794
0.30	0.2904	0.3137	2744.4	2455.2	2303.5	62.9757

$M$	$t_1$	$T$	$TC_1$	$TC_2$	$TC_3$	$Q$
0.05	0.2926	0.3154	1982.7	1727.3	1800.6	47.7222
0.07	0.2925	0.3152	1982.2	1727.2	1800.0	47.7007
0.09	0.2924	0.3151	1980.9	1726.5	1798.8	47.6815
0.11	0.2921	0.3148	1978.8	1724.9	1796.6	47.6239
0.13	0.2914	0.3139	1976.5	1722.5	1793.7	47.4851

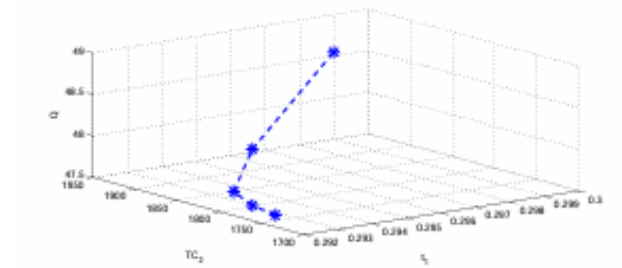
$N$	$t_1$	$T$	$TC_1$	$TC_2$	$TC_3$	$Q$
0.02	0.2908	0.3131	1632.9	1664.9	1461.0	47.3654
0.03	0.2919	0.3142	1637.4	1669.7	1466.7	47.5764
0.04	0.2924	0.3151	1637.8	1669.7	1467.5	47.6815
0.05	0.2938	0.3167	1643.3	1674.8	1473.9	47.9550
0.06	0.2945	0.3175	1646.2	1677.4	1477.2	48.0918

$I_e$	$t_1$	$T$	$TC_1$	$TC_2$	$TC_3$	$Q$
0.10	0.2926	0.3154	1896.7	1664.6	1582.5	47.7222
0.11	0.2925	0.3152	1889.9	1658.0	1567.6	47.7007
0.12	0.2924	0.3151	1888.5	1650.9	1552.2	47.6815
0.13	0.2913	0.3134	1887.1	1642.5	1534.4	47.4567
0.14	0.2901	0.3102	1893.9	1641.4	1522.2	47.1807

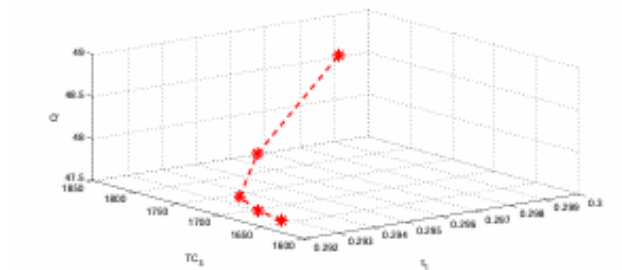
$I_p$	$t_1$	$T$	$TC_1$	$TC_2$	$TC_3$	$Q$
0.13	0.2931	0.3155	1879.8	1649.0	1542.7	47.8090
0.14	0.2926	0.3152	1888.8	1645.6	1538.8	47.7176
0.15	0.2924	0.3151	1899.6	1644.2	1537.3	47.6815
0.16	0.2915	0.3148	1904.9	1637.0	1529.9	47.5226
0.17	0.2901	0.3142	1907.4	1626.5	1518.9	47.2727



**Figure 2:** Variation of optimal cost  $TC_{1,Q}$  with respect to  $T, t_1$



**Figure 3:** Variation of optimal cost  $TC_{2,Q}$  with respect to  $T, t_1$



**Figure 4:** Variation of optimal cost  $TC_{3,Q}$  with respect to  $T, t_1$

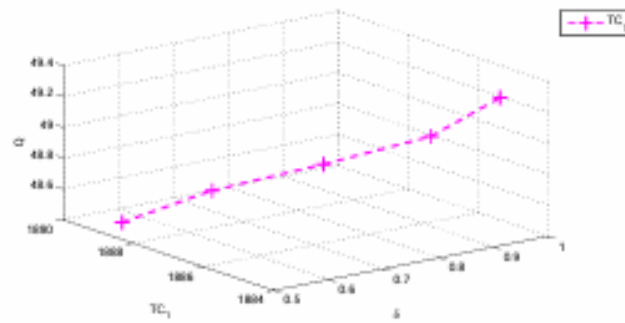


Figure 5: Variation of optimal cost  $TC_{1,Q}$  with respect to  $\delta$

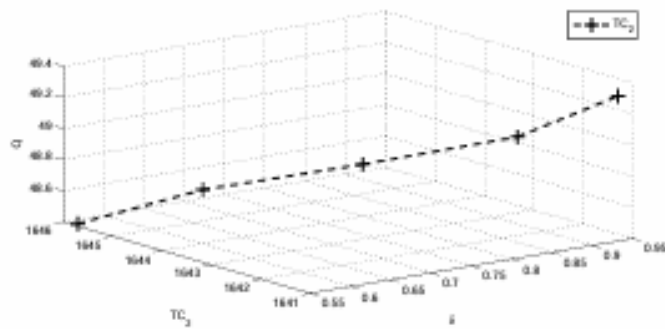


Figure 6: Variation of optimal cost  $TC_{2,Q}$  with respect to  $\delta$

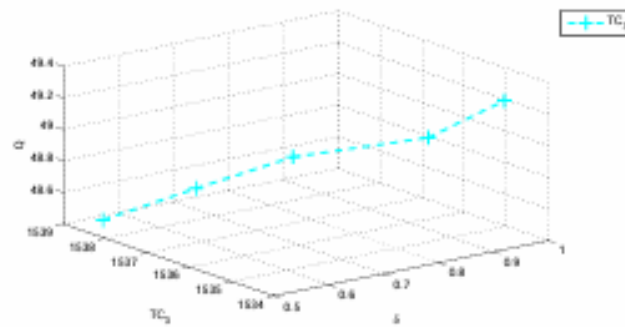


Figure 7: Variation of optimal cost  $TC_{3,Q}$  with respect to  $\delta$

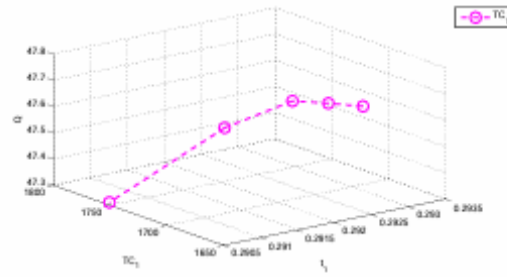


Figure 8: Variation of optimal cost  $TC_{1,Q}$  with respect to  $t_1$

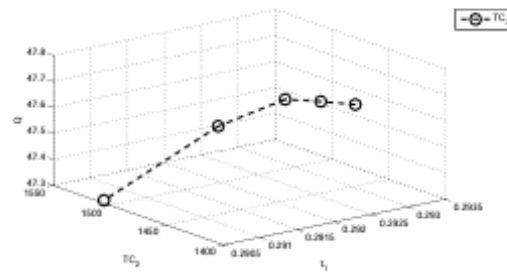


Figure 9: Variation of optimal cost  $TC_{2,Q}$  with respect to  $t_1$

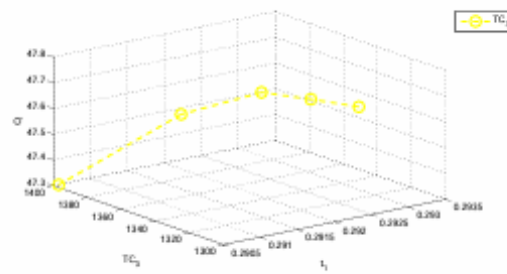


Figure 10: Variation of optimal cost  $TC_{3,Q}$  with respect to  $t_1$



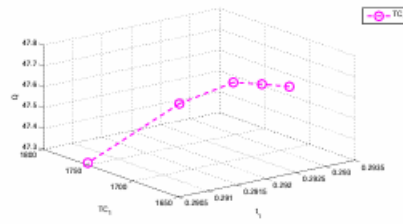


Figure 8: Variation of optimal cost  $TC_{1,Q}$  with respect to  $t_1$

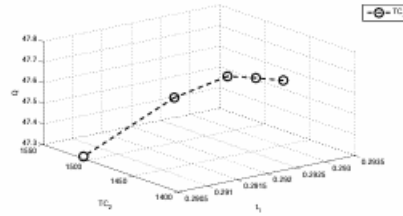


Figure 9: Variation of optimal cost  $TC_{2,Q}$  with respect to  $t_1$

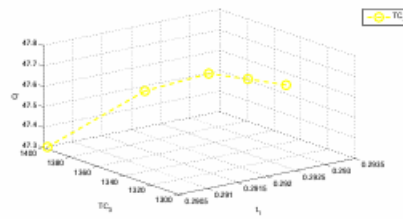


Figure 10: Variation of optimal cost  $TC_{3,Q}$  with respect to  $t_1$

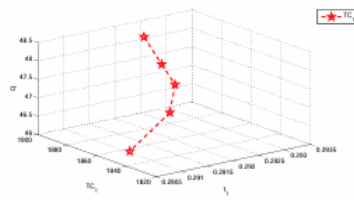


Figure 11: Variation of optimal cost  $TC_{1,Q}$  with respect to  $t_1$

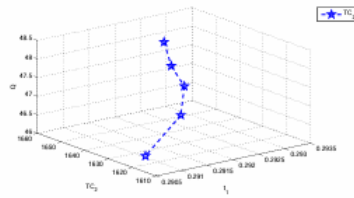


Figure 12: Variation of optimal cost  $TC_{2,Q}$  with respect to  $t_1$

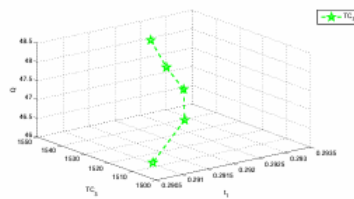


Figure 13: Variation of optimal cost  $TC_{3,Q}$  with respect to  $t_1$

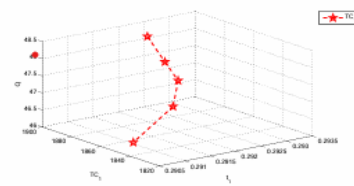


Figure 11: Variation of optimal cost  $TC_{1,Q}$  with respect to  $t_1$

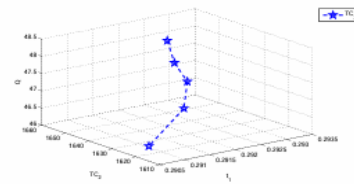


Figure 12: Variation of optimal cost  $TC_{2,Q}$  with respect to  $t_1$

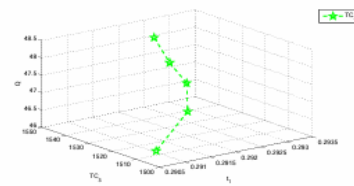
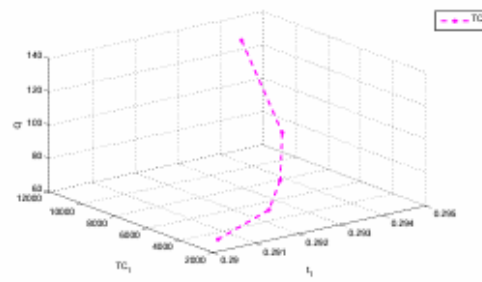
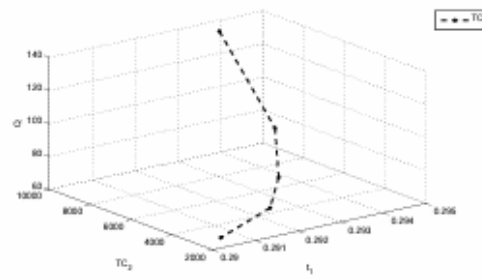


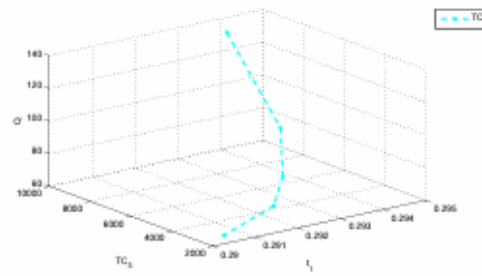
Figure 13: Variation of optimal cost  $TC_{3,Q}$  with respect to  $t_1$



**Figure 14:** Variation of optimal cost  $TC_{1,Q}$  with respect to  $t_1$



**Figure 15:** Variation of optimal cost  $TC_{2,Q}$  with respect to  $t_1$



**Figure 16:** Variation of optimal cost  $TC_{3,Q}$  with respect to  $t_1$

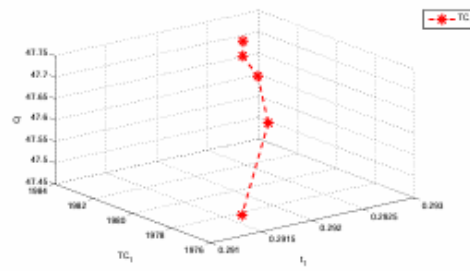


Figure 17: Variation of optimal cost  $TC_{1,Q}$  with respect to  $t_1$

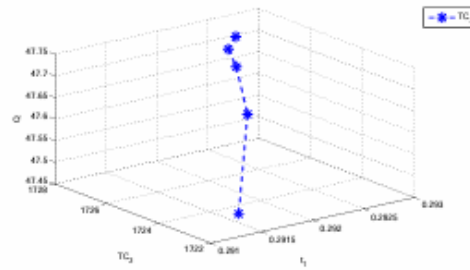


Figure 18: Variation of optimal cost  $TC_{2,Q}$  with respect to  $t_1$

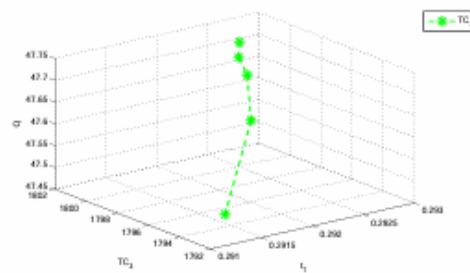


Figure 19: Variation of optimal cost  $TC_{3,Q}$  with respect to  $t_1$

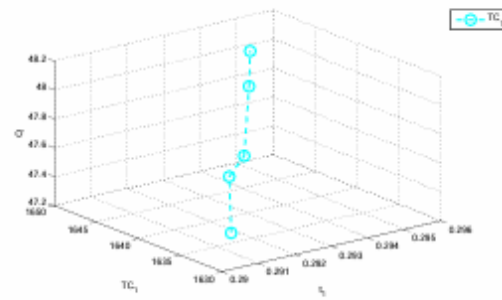


Figure 20: Variation of optimal cost  $TC_{1,Q}$  with respect to  $t_1$

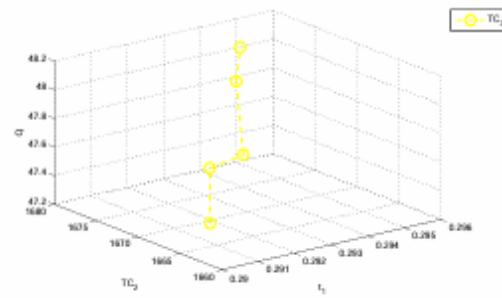


Figure 21: Variation of optimal cost  $TC_{2,Q}$  with respect to  $t_1$

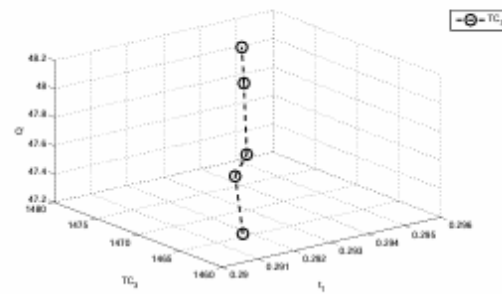


Figure 22: Variation of optimal cost  $TC_{3,Q}$  with respect to  $t_1$

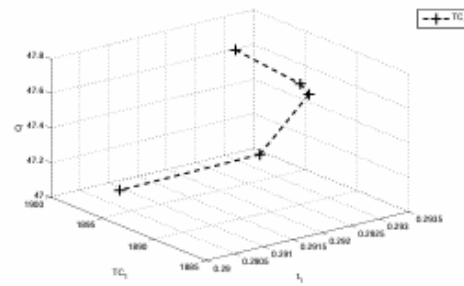


Figure 23: Variation of optimal cost  $TC_{1,Q}$  with respect to  $t_1$

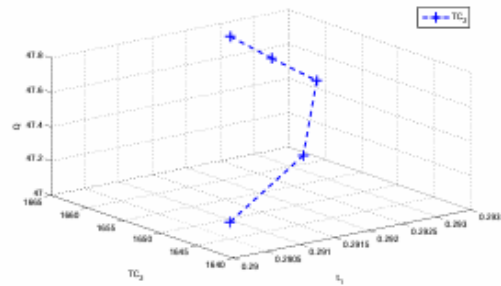


Figure 24: Variation of optimal cost  $TC_{2,Q}$  with respect to  $t_1$

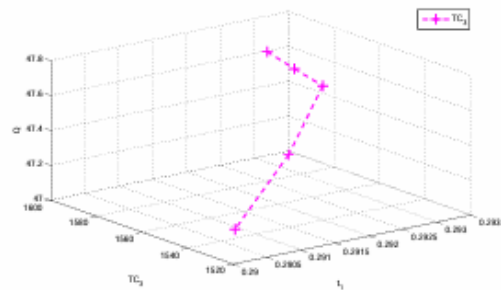


Figure 25: Variation of optimal cost  $TC_{3,Q}$  with respect to  $t_1$

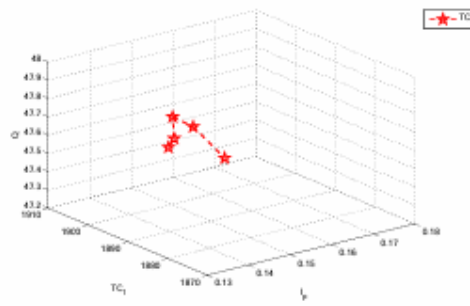


Figure 26: Variation of optimal cost  $TC_{1,Q}$  with respect to  $t_1$

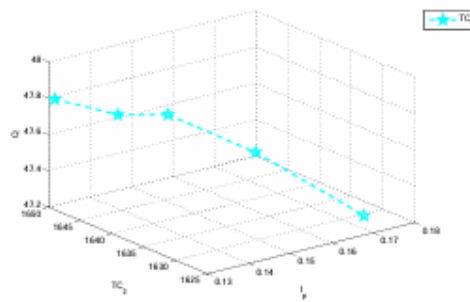


Figure 27: Variation of optimal cost  $TC_{2,Q}$  with respect to  $t_1$

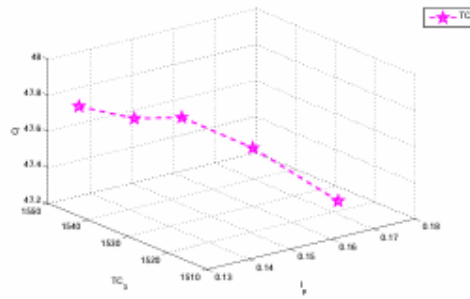


Figure 28: Variation of optimal cost  $TC_{3,Q}$  with respect to  $t_1$

## 7. Managerial Implication

1. The retailer should order marginally less order quantity when trade credit period ( $M$ ) increases. Actually, as  $M$  increases order quantity should also be increased. But the optimal cycle time falls in the interval  $M \leq T$ . so after,  $M$ , the retailer has to pay interest charges for the stock. Hence he wants to reduce marginally the ordering quantity.
2. The retailer prefers not to increase the customer's trade credit period.
3. High values of interest payable implies high total cost.
4. High values of interest earned implies low total cost.

## 8. Conclusion

The present paper developed two echelon trade credit financing in a supply chain with Weibull distribution and exponentially increasing holding cost. We developed different EOQ inventory model with perishable items under the condition that  $M \geq N$ . Numerical examples are given to illustrate the model. Sensitivity analysis for the effects of the parameters on the decisions are also offered. To archive optimized trade credit policies, which is helpful for the supply chain, the supplier should share additional profits to encourage the retailer to cooperate.

In future research, our model can be extended in several ways. One can extend the model for two types of payment method, varying deterioration rate, selling price dependent demand or inventory level dependent demand, quantity discount, time-value of money and inflations and soon. Additionally, this work can be extended for demand as a function of price, quantity and time varying.

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