



Research Paper

## A optimal pricing and inventory model for perishable agricultural products

XiuxiuLi<sup>1</sup>, YuquanCui\*<sup>2</sup>WentianZhang<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> School of mathematics, Shandong university, Jinan, China

<sup>2</sup> School of mathematics, Shandong university, Jinan, China, (corresponding author)

### ABSTRACT

The research object of this paper was the inventory system of a single perishable agricultural product. In this inventory system, the demand rate of the product was affected by the sales price and also the randomness of the demand described by the Brownian motion. At the same time, this paper constructed the attenuation coefficient function of perishable products. The coefficient consisted of two parts. The first part was fixed referred to the previous studies. The second was the stochastic part caused by external environment or human factors. And it was described by the Brownian motion. Different from previous studies, this paper introduced both the stochastic demand and the attenuation coefficient of stochastic factors into the modeling of the inventory system. Without loss of generality, we studied a sales replenishment cycle of perishable agricultural products from zero replenishment to the optimal inventory  $S$  and the cycle  $T$  was divided into  $N$  stages. The relative analytical solutions were given in the cases of fixed inventory and fixed prices. And we pointed out the impact of uncertainty factor parameters on pricing and profits. The deduction that the phased pricing resulted in a limited profit improvement over the single pricing was obtained by comparative analyzing. In addition, we also showed the practical significance of introducing random factors by the exploration of the relationship between the coefficients.

**Keywords:** Perishable agricultural product, the Brownian motion, the inventory system

Received 02 Oct., 2022; Revised 11 Oct., 2022; Accepted 13 Oct., 2022 © The author(s) 2022.

Published with open access at [www.questjournals.org](http://www.questjournals.org)

### I. Introduction

With the improvement of people's living standard, people's requirements on the quality of agricultural products are also improving. However, the deterioration and loss of agricultural products will inevitably occur in each process of the supply chain. From the perspective of sellers' market, considering the inventory control and the phased pricing strategy of perishable agricultural products will be conducive to boost profitability, reduce the waste of fresh products in many supermarkets or retailers and promote the development of fresh agricultural products industry chain. Many scholars have studied and developed the replenishment strategy of perishable goods. The research on perishable products began in 1977 [1] and it was assumed that the product was in exponential decay form and the deterioration coefficient was constant in the literature. However, the deterioration rate of perishable goods is not constant in real life. Scholars at home and abroad introduced the concept of non-immediate metamorphosis and studied the product ordering and production strategy model. Hong Chen et al. [2] considered the problem of optimal inventory and phased pricing in an inventory system with the uncertain demand. In this paper, standard Brownian motion was used in the demand rate. Nita H. Shah [3] studied integrated inventory system and pricing and ordering strategy for vendor-buyer supply chain system. And when demand rate is increasing function of the time and decreasing function of the retail price, they developed and validated a mathematical model.

As for the fresh produce supply chain management (FSCM), Manish Shukla and Sanjay Jharkharia [4] collected and analyzed the related studies upto 2011. The factors such as the globalization and the consumer awareness have attracted the attention of researchers and practitioners towards the FSCM. The literature pointed that most of the

supply chain problems are generally well studied and explored for manufacturing products, but have recently gained attention for agri-fresh produce. In recent ten years, with the increasing attention paid to agricultural production, more and more scholars have conducted in-depth studies on the supply chain of agricultural fresh products. In the aspect of cold chain logistics of agricultural products, some scholars designed and optimized the evaluation index system model based on risk identification in order to manage potential risks. Some scholars [5] also established an evaluation method based on CVaR to evaluate and control risks. In terms of supply chain coordination, scholars [6,7] have improved the existing supply chain contracts and established a supply chain coordination model for agricultural fresh products. Scholars [8,9] built the mixed integer linear programming models for different agricultural and fresh products to optimize distribution costs in the supply chain. Attention, scholars here have considered the perishable characteristics of fresh agricultural products. In addition, another scholars [10] consider the customer response factor into the short-term food supply chain problem. Scholars [11] considered the inventory control of fresh agricultural products under Weibull distribution, and integrated inflation and delay payment. Therefore, the inventory and pricing optimization model of agricultural fresh products is established based on the existing studies. In this paper, standard Brownian motion is used to describe the uncertain factors of demand rate and the quality decay of fresh agricultural products over time. At present, there are few studies considering the two factors comprehensively.

## 2 Problem Formulation

### 2.1 Problem description

The research object of this paper is the seller of some perishable agricultural products such as the large supermarkets and the wholesale market of agricultural products. Firstly, the demand function, the inventory function and the pricing replenishment strategy were described as follows.

The demand rate  $\lambda(p)$  is the decreasing function of the price  $p$  and positive-valued. Also,  $\lambda(p)$  is twice continuous differentiable in the interior of the domain of the function. Many commonly-used demand functions satisfy the above assumption.  $B(t)$  represents the standard Brownian motion and describes the randomness. Note that  $\sigma_1$  is a constant coefficient satisfying  $0 < \sigma_1 < 1$ . The decay coefficient of perishable products is  $\theta(t) = \mu(t) + \sigma_2 B(t)$  where  $B(t)$  is the standard Brownian motion and  $0 < \sigma_2 < 1$ . Then the inventory level  $X(t)$  at time  $t$  satisfies  $X(t) = S - \theta(t)S - D(t)$ .

In the following model, we suppose the perishable product is replenished immediately. That is, the demand is always met immediately. The time interval between two consecutive replenishments is called one period  $T$ . Inventory replenishment quantity is set to be  $S$ . As for a given positive integer  $N$  which stands for the cycle stages divided into, we assume that

$S = S_0 > S_1 > \dots > S_{(N-1)} > S_N = 0$  and the corresponding stage price is  $P = (p_1, p_2, \dots, p_N)$

. Without generality, we assume that the cycle inventory is added from zero to optimal inventory  $S$

. In accordance with the divided  $N$  stages in a cycle, let  $T_0 = 0$  be the initial state. Let  $T_n$  be the time for

the inventory level first reaches  $S_n$ . That means  $T_n = \inf\{t \geq 0 : D(t) + \theta(t)S = nS / N\}$

, where we take the attenuation of the perishable goods into consideration.

A simple graphic of a cycle is shown below.

$$S = S_0 \xrightarrow{\mu_1, p_1} S_1 \xrightarrow{\mu_2, p_2} \dots \xrightarrow{\mu_n, p_n} \dots \xrightarrow{\mu_N, p_N} S_N$$

The time interval of phase  $N$  is  $\tau_n := T_n - T_{(n-1)}$ , i.e.

$\tau_n = \inf\{t \geq 0 : \lambda(p_n)t + \sigma_1 B(t) + \mu(t)tS + \sigma_2 B(t) = S / N\}$  Convenient to discuss below, we assume

that the first part of the perishable product's attenuation function in a fixed phase as fixed values, noting as

$$\mu_n = \int_{T_{(n-1)}}^{T_n} \mu(t) dt. \text{ Therefore, } \tau_n = \inf\{t \geq 0 : \lambda(p_n)t + \sigma_1 B(t) + \mu_n t S + \sigma_2 B(t) = S/n\}.$$

### 2.2 The preliminary analysis

Combined with the strong Markov property of Brownian motion, the following can be obtained.

$$E(\tau_n) = \frac{S}{N(\lambda_n + \mu_n S)} \quad (1)$$

$$E(\tau_n^2) = \frac{(\sigma_1 + \sigma_2 S)^2}{(\lambda_n + \mu_n S)^2} \cdot E(\tau_n) + E^2(\tau_n) \quad (2)$$

According to the division of the phases in the cycle mentioned above, we can get  $X(T_{(n-1)}) = S_{(n-1)}$  and

$X(T_n) = S_n$ . In combination with the relationship between the inventory level and the demand, the following can be obtained.

$$\begin{aligned} \int_{T_{n-1}}^{T_n} X(t) dt &= T_n S_n - T_{n-1} S_{n-1} - \int_{T_{n-1}}^{T_n} t dX(t) \\ &= T_n S_n - T_{n-1} S_{n-1} - \int_{T_{n-1}}^{T_n} T_{n-1} dX(t) + \int_{T_{n-1}}^{T_n} (t - T_{n-1}) dX(t) \\ &= \tau_n S_n + \int_{T_{n-1}}^{T_n} (t - T_{n-1}) dX(t - T_{n-1}) \\ &= \tau_n S_n - \int_{T_{n-1}}^{T_n} (t - T_{n-1})(\lambda(t) + S\mu(t)) dt - (\sigma_1 + \sigma_2 S) dB(t) \end{aligned}$$

Since  $E(\int_{T_{n-1}}^{T_n} (\sigma_1 + \sigma_2 S) dB(t)) = 0$ , then

$$\begin{aligned} (3) \quad E[\int_{T_{n-1}}^{T_n} X(t) dt] &= E[S_n \tau_n - \int_{T_{n-1}}^{T_n} (t - T_{n-1})(\lambda_n + \mu S) dt] \\ &= S_n E[\tau_n] + \frac{1}{2} (\lambda_n + \mu S) E[\tau_n^2] \\ &= \frac{S \cdot S_n}{N(\lambda_n + \mu S)} + \frac{S(\sigma_1 + \sigma_2 S)^2}{2N(\lambda_n + \mu S)^2} + \frac{S^2}{2N^2(\lambda_n + \mu S)} \end{aligned}$$

Therefore, the expected profit of phase  $N$  can be expressed as the following equation.

$$\begin{aligned} v(S, p_n) &= E[p_n (\frac{S}{N} - \theta_n \frac{S}{N}) - h \int_{T_{n-1}}^{T_n} X(t) dt] \\ &= p_n (1 - \theta_n) \frac{S}{N} - h \left[ \frac{S \cdot S_n}{N(\lambda_n + \mu_n S)} + \frac{S(\sigma_1 + \sigma_2 S)^2}{2N(\lambda_n + \mu_n S)^2} + \frac{S^2}{2N^2(\lambda_n + \mu_n S)} \right] \end{aligned}$$

(4)

Where  $\theta_n = \int_{T_{n-1}}^{T_n} d\theta(t) = \int_{T_{n-1}}^{T_n} \mu(t)dt + \int_{T_{n-1}}^{T_n} \sigma_2 dB(t) = \mu_n + \int_{T_{n-1}}^{T_n} \sigma_2 dB(t)$ ,  $S_n = \frac{(N-n)S}{N}$

In this paper, when the replenishment quantity is  $S$ , we use the equation  $c(S)$  to stand for the corresponding cost. Then the total profit of the cycle is

$$\sum_{n=1}^N v_n(S, P) = \sum_{n=1}^N \left[ p_n(1-\theta_n) \frac{S}{N} - \frac{hS \cdot S_n}{N(\lambda_n + \mu_n S)} - \frac{hS(\sigma_1 + \sigma_2 S)^2}{2N(\lambda_n + \mu_n S)^2} - \frac{hS^2}{2N^2(\lambda_n + \mu_n S)} \right] - c(S) \quad (5)$$

$$= \sum_{n=1}^N \left[ p_n(1-\theta_n) \frac{S}{N} - \frac{h(N-n+\frac{1}{2})}{N^2} \cdot \frac{S^2}{(\lambda_n + \mu_n S)} - \frac{hS(\sigma_1 + \sigma_2 S)^2}{2N(\lambda_n + \mu_n S)^2} \right] - c(S)$$

Therefore, the decision variables of decision makers are the inventory replenishment quantity  $S$  and the price vector  $P = (p_1, p_2, \dots, p_N)$ . The rest of the paper will mainly focus on the solution of the decision variables.

### 3 Model constructing and preliminary results

#### 3.1 The optimal replenishment quantity model when the price is fixed

Firstly, note that  $\lambda_n(p_n) + \mu_n S = g_n(p_n)$ . And for convenience, the long-term average profit function is introduced, noting as  $V(S, P)$ .

$$V(S, P) = \frac{\sum_{n=1}^N v_n(S, P)}{\frac{S}{N} \cdot \sum_{n=1}^N \frac{1}{\lambda_n + \mu_n S}} = \frac{\sum_{n=1}^N v_n(S, P)}{\frac{S}{N} \cdot \sum_{n=1}^N \frac{1}{g_n}}$$

$$= \frac{\sum_{n=1}^N \left[ p_n(1-\theta_n) - \frac{hS(N-n+\frac{1}{2})}{N} \cdot \frac{1}{g_n} - \frac{h(\sigma_1 + \sigma_2 S)^2}{2} \cdot \frac{1}{g_n} - a(S) \right]}{\sum_{n=1}^N \frac{1}{g_n}} \quad (6)$$

When the price vector  $P = (p_1, p_2, \dots, p_N)$  is fixed, the solution of the model is to solve the optimization problem  $\max_{S>0} V(S, P)$

.Based on the strict concavity of the profit function for replenishment  $S$  in the previous paper, the optimal replenishment quantity can be solved by the first order condition.

$$\frac{\partial V(S, P)}{\partial S} = \sum_{n=1}^N \left[ \frac{p_n(1-\theta_n)}{N} - \frac{h(N-n+1/2)}{N^2} \cdot \frac{2S\lambda_n + S^2\mu_n}{(\lambda_n + \mu_n S)^2} \right] - c'(S) \quad (7)$$

#### 3.2 The single pricing model when the replenishment is fixed

Firstly, we have  $V(S, P) = p_n(1-\theta_n)(\lambda_n + \mu_n S) - \frac{hS}{2} - \frac{h(\sigma_1 + \sigma_2 S)^2}{2(\lambda_n + \mu_n S)} - a(S)(\lambda_n + \mu_n S)$  when  $N = 1$

.Further, it can be simplified as the following.

$$V(S, P) = p(1-\theta)g(p) - \frac{hS}{2} - \frac{h(\sigma_1 + \sigma_2 S)^2}{2g(p)} - a(S)g(p)$$

$$= r(p) - \frac{hS}{2} - \frac{h(\sigma_1 + \sigma_2 S)^2}{2g(p)} - a(S)g(p)$$

According to the strict concave assumption of the average profit function on the price in the previous paper, there exists a vector  $P$  that maximizes the average profit and satisfies the first-order condition.

$$p(1-\theta) + \frac{(1-\theta)g(p)}{g'(p)} + \frac{h(\sigma_1 + \sigma_2 S)^2}{2g^2(p)} = a(S) \quad (8)$$

To analyze the expressions of the first-order conditions, the following propositions can be gotten.

**Theorem 1.** Based on the premise of this paper, considering the single pricing problem when the periodic replenishment quantity  $S$  is fixed, the optimal pricing  $p^*$  is determined by the above first-order conditions, and the following discussion can be made.

(i) The marginal revenue  $r'(p)|_{p=p^*}$  at the optimal price  $p^*$  is no greater than the average replenishment cost  $a(S)$ .

(ii) The optimal price  $p^*$  decreases with respect to  $\sigma_1, \sigma_2$  and  $h$ .

(iii) The optimal average profit  $V(S, p^*)$  decreases with respect to  $\sigma_1, \sigma_2$  and  $h$ .

**Proof.** Firstly, we recall that the revenue function is  $r(P) = p(1-\theta)g(p)$ . Then the marginal revenue

$$r'(p)|_{p=p^*} \text{ at the optimal price } p^* \text{ is } r'(p^*) = p^*(1-\theta) + \frac{(1-\theta)g(p^*)}{g'(p^*)}.$$

Combined with the first-order formula satisfied by  $p^*$ , we can get  $r'(p^*) \leq a(S)$ . Since  $g(p)$  was defined as a decreasing function of  $p$ , i.e.  $g'(p) < 0$ , the following inequalities can be derived.

$$\frac{\partial^2 V}{\partial p \partial \sigma_1} = \frac{2h(\sigma_1 + \sigma_2 S)g'(p)}{2g^2(p)} < 0, \quad \frac{\partial^2 V}{\partial p \partial \sigma_2} = \frac{2Sh(\sigma_1 + \sigma_2 S)g'(p)}{2g^2(p)} < 0,$$

$$\frac{\partial^2 V}{\partial p \partial h} = \frac{(\sigma_1 + \sigma_2 S)^2 g'(p)}{2g^2(p)} < 0, \quad \frac{\partial^2 V}{\partial p \partial a(S)} = -g'(p) > 0.$$

So far, problems 2 and 3 have been proven.

As for problem 4, without loss of generality, let  $h_1 \leq h_2$  and the optimal single prices are respectively  $p_1^*, p_2^*$ .

Correspondingly, we have the revenue functions  $V(S, p_1^*, h_1)$  and  $V(S, p_2^*, h_2)$ . Then,

$$V(S, p_1^*, h_1) \geq V(S, p_2^*, h_1) \geq V(S, p_2^*, h_2) \text{ can be obtained.}$$

It should be pointed out that the first inequality is based on the best of  $p_1^*$ , and the second inequality can be established by the objective function.

### 3.3 The phased pricing model when the replenishment $S$ is fixed

For the convenience of analysis and discussion, based on the original long-term average profit rate

$$\text{formula (6), the following arrangement is made. Noting that } w_n = \frac{1}{(\lambda_n(p_n) + \mu_n S)}$$

, the decision variable is converted to  $W = (w_1, w_2, \dots, w_N)$ . Then the problem can be described as the following.

$$\max_w V(S, W) = \frac{\sum_{n=1}^N [p(\frac{1}{w_n}) - \frac{hS}{N}(N-n+\frac{1}{2})w_n - \frac{h(\sigma_1 + \sigma_2 S)^2}{2}w_n^2 - a(S)]}{\sum_{n=1}^N Nw_n} \quad (9)$$

First of all, we point out that  $r(g) = p(g)g(1-\theta)$ . Under the condition of the replenishment quantity is fixed,

$$r''(g) = (1-\theta)[2p'(g) + gp''(g)] \text{ and } \frac{d^2 p(\frac{1}{w})}{dw} = \frac{1}{w^3} [2p'(\frac{1}{w}) + \frac{1}{w} p''(\frac{1}{w})]$$

have the same positive and negative properties. Then the strict concavity of  $p(\frac{1}{w})$  with respect to  $w$  is obtained from the strict concavity of  $r(g)$  with respect to  $g$ . So in Equation (9), the strict convexity of molecules with respect to  $w$  can be obtained. Based on the definition of pseudo-concave function in the literature [2], if the ratio of positive concave function to positive linear function is pseudo-concave, the above formula is pseudo-concave function. And then we have

$$\Delta_w V(S, w_1)(w_2 - w_1) \leq 0 \Rightarrow V(S, w_2) < V(S, w_1)$$

Therefore, the following theorem can be obtained.

**Theorem 2.** In the case of the fixed inventory replenishment quantity, the optimal solution exists and is unique. If the optimal solution conforms to there all life, then the price components satisfy  $p_1^* \leq p_2^* \leq p_3^* \leq \dots \leq p_N^*$ .

*Proof.* The existence and uniqueness of the optimal solution are known. And it is assumed that the solution exists in a reasonable range, then the optimal  $W$  can be obtained by solving the first

order conditions. That is 
$$\frac{\partial \tilde{v}_n(S, w_n)}{\partial w_n} = \frac{\sum_{k=1}^N \tilde{v}_k(S, w_k) - c(S)}{\sum_{k=1}^N w_k}, n = 1, 2, \dots, N$$
, where

$$\tilde{v}_n(S, w_n) = v_n(S, p(\frac{1}{w_n})).$$

Notice that the right-hand side of the above equation does not depend on stage  $n$ .

And we can notice that  $p_n = p(\frac{1}{w_n})$  increases with respect to  $w_n$ . So the statement can be converted to prove that

$w_n^*$  is non-negative. Observing that the equation (9) contains terms  $\sum_{n=1}^N n w_n$ , consider the following

reasoning process. For any vector  $W = (w_1, w_2, \dots, w_n)$  that satisfy the conditions, rearrange its components

from smallest to largest. By doing this rearrangement, we can make sure that  $\sum_{n=1}^N n w_n$  is the largest while other

values in equation (9) remain unchanged. Therefore, combined with the optimization, the conclusion can be proved.

Meanwhile, similar to the discussion in theorem 1, there are the following conclusions.

**Theorem 3.** In the case of the inventory replenishment quantity  $S$  is fixed and the optimal price

$$P = (p_1, p_2, \dots, p_N)$$

exists, the optimal average profit  $V(S, P^*)$  decreases with respect to  $\sigma_1, \sigma_2$  and  $h$ .

### 3.4 The comparative analysis of single pricing and multiple pricing

The following part will compare the average profit of multi-stage pricing condition and single pricing condition when the inventory replenishment quantity  $S$  is fixed.

As for equation (9), let set the optimal solution for multi-stage pricing to be  $W^* = (w_1^*, w_2^*, \dots, w_N^*)$ , then the corresponding price is  $P^* = (p_1^*, p_2^*, \dots, p_N^*)$ . Let note the optimal profit in the case of multi-stage pricing by  $V_N^*$ . In the single pricing case, the corresponding is  $V_1^*$ . For the convenience of discussion, let

$$\bar{w} = \sum_{n=1}^N w_n \text{ and } V_1 = V(S, \bar{w}).$$

It is easy to know that  $V_1 \leq V_1^*$ . Then, we have

$$V_N^* - V_1^* \leq V_N^* - V_1$$

$$V_N^* - V_1 = \frac{\sum_{n=1}^N [p(\frac{1}{w_n^*}) - p(\frac{1}{\bar{w}})] - \frac{hS}{N} \sum_{n=1}^N [(N-n + \frac{1}{2})w_n^* - \frac{N}{2}\bar{w}] - \frac{h(\sigma_1 + \sigma_2 S)^2 N}{2} [\frac{1}{N} \sum_{n=1}^N w_n^{*2} - \bar{w}^2]}{\sum_{n=1}^N w_n^*}$$

According to the previous assumption, the first molecular term in the above equation is obviously less than zero.

Observing the third molecular term,  $\frac{1}{N} \sum_{n=1}^N w_n^{*2} - \bar{w}^2 \geq 0$  can be gotten by applying the Cauchy-

Schwartz inequality. Therefore, we have the following.

$$\begin{aligned}
 V_N^* - V_1^* &\leq \frac{-\frac{hS}{N} \sum_{n=1}^N [(N-n + \frac{1}{2})w_n^* - \frac{N}{2}\bar{w}]}{\sum_{n=1}^N w_n^*} \\
 &= \frac{hS}{N} \left( \frac{\sum_{n=1}^N n w_n^*}{\sum_{n=1}^N w_n^*} - \frac{N+1}{2} \right) \\
 &= \frac{hS}{N} \cdot \frac{2w_1^* + 4w_2^* + \dots + 2Nw_N^* - (N+1)(w_1^* + \dots + w_N^*)}{2 \sum_{n=1}^N w_n^*} \\
 &= \frac{hS}{N} \cdot \frac{(N-1)(w_N^* - w_1^*) + (N-3)(w_{N-1}^* - w_2^*) + \dots}{2N\bar{w}}
 \end{aligned}$$

In the last line of the above equation, we discuss  $N$  in terms of parity. When  $N$  is even, the last item is  $w_{(N/2)+1}^* - w_{N/2}^*$ . When  $N$  is odd, the last item is  $w_{(N+3)/2}^* - w_{(N-1)/2}^*$ . So  $V_N^* \geq V_1^*$  is easy to get. By analyzing the derivative of the average profits  $V_1^*$  and  $V_N^*$ , it can be found that the derivative has an upper bound. The upper bound is related to the division of cycle stage and the replenishment amount of the fixed inventory.

**4 Numerical examples**

In the previous section, we can see that the solutions of our model are complex. Without loss of generality, we use linear functions to simplify the model and give numerical examples to illustrate the above conclusions. The following is then examples of one-stage pricing theorem 2 in the model.

In the numerical examples, we set the sales cycle to be  $[0,1]$ . The first part of the decay coefficient of perishable agricultural products is fixed in the single period  $[0,1]$ . Since the standard Brownian motion satisfy  $B(t)N(0,1)$ , then  $B(t)N(0,1)$  when we set  $t = 1$ . Recall that is  $N(0,1)$  the standard normal distribution. So the second part of the decay coefficient depends on the coefficient  $\sigma_2$ . Setting  $\mu$  to be 0.08, then the attenuation coefficient is  $\theta = \mu + \sigma_2 = 0.08 + \sigma_2$ . The function of demand rate influenced by price is  $\lambda(p) = 50 - p$  and the ordering cost function is  $c(S) = 500 + 2S$ .

The following tables briefly show the impact of the coefficient of demand uncertainty  $\sigma_1$ , the quality decay coefficient  $\sigma_2$  and the holding cost per unit  $h$  on the optimal price and the corresponding profits. And the replenishment quantity here is fixed and set as 1000.

Table 1: The impact of  $\sigma_1$  on the optimal price and the profits

$\sigma_1$	$\sigma_2$	$h$	$p$	$V(S, p)$
0.05	0.30	1.00	59.6756	1286.007
0.10	0.30	1.00	59.6736	1285.794
0.15	0.30	1.00	59.6716	1285.581
0.20	0.30	1.00	59.6695	1285.367
0.25	0.30	1.00	59.6675	1285.154
0.30	0.30	1.00	59.6650	1284.940
0.35	0.30	1.00	59.6635	1284.727

0.40	0.30	1.00	59.6614	1284.513
------	------	------	---------	----------

Table2: The impact of  $\sigma_2$  on the optimal price and the profits

$\sigma_1$	$\sigma_2$	$h$	$P$	$V(S, p)$
0.20	0.05	1.00	66.2586	2995.251
0.20	0.10	1.00	65.7821	2725.282
0.20	0.15	1.00	64.8953	2417.220
0.20	0.20	1.00	63.5814	2072.782
0.20	0.25	1.00	61.8381	1694.446
0.20	0.30	1.00	59.6695	1285.367
0.20	0.35	1.00	57.0777	849.2741
0.20	0.40	1.00	54.0539	390.3976

From table1, we can see that when other conditions remain unchanged, the optimal price and the corresponding profits obtained by the model increase with the impact factor of demand uncertainty  $\sigma_1$ . Based on the settings, the decrement is not obvious in some ways. However, the decreasing trend is certain. In reality, the decreasing trend and magnitude are closely related to the actual demand rate of fresh agricultural products and the market conditions. This also indicates that the model in this paper has certain universality, which can be further extended and applied in specific real life situations.

Similarly, from table2, the conclusion that the optimal price decreases with respect to  $\sigma_2$  can be seen. Also, the corresponding profits decreases with respect to  $\sigma_2$ . What's more, the decrement is more obvious than table1 in some ways. That means the quality decay coefficient of agricultural and fresh products should be paid more attention in the supply chain.

Table3: The impact of  $h$  on the optimal price and the profits

$\sigma_1$	$\sigma_2$	$h$	$P$	$V(S, p)$
0.20	0.30	0.75	61.2500	1572.342
0.20	0.30	1.00	59.6695	1285.367
0.20	0.30	1.25	58.2040	1001.860
0.20	0.30	1.50	56.8339	721.4510
0.20	0.30	1.75	54.5447	443.0312
0.20	0.30	2.00	54.3251	168.7774

### 5 Summary and prospect

This paper describes an inventory control system for perishable agricultural fresh products distributors. In this paper, an optimization model of inventory control and phased pricing is established. Different from the previous studies, the uncertainty of demand and the law of quality decay of fresh agricultural products are considered in the model designing of this paper. The standard Brownian motion and the related coefficient are used to describe the uncertainty. In this paper, the model is solved respectively in the case of the fixed inventory and the fixed price. The influence of the parameters set in this model on the overall profits is analyzed and numerical examples are redesigned for demonstration. By analyzing, for perishable fresh agricultural products, it is of great practical significance for seller to consider both demand uncertainty and quality decay coefficient in inventory control. In addition, the optimization model in this paper has universality and can be used to set the attenuation coefficient and demand impact coefficient for specific fresh agricultural products. For example, for this article's demand rate function, the  $\lambda(p, \dots)$  could consider adding the impact factor other than price, which would be a better guide to the reality. There is no specific numerical solution method for the joint inventory pricing problem in this paper. At present, we can use mathematical software to get heuristic solution or more precise numerical solution for specific model of specific goods. In the algorithm design and practical application of the model, we can carry out further exploration.

### Reference

[1] Morris A. Cohen. Joint pricing and ordering policy for exponentially decay inventory with known demand. *Naval Research Logistics Quarterly*, 24(2):257-268, 1977.



- [2] Hong Chen, Owen Wu, and David Yao. Optimal pricing and replenishment in a single-product inventory system with brownian demand. 04 2004.
- [3] Shah Nita H., Ajay S Gor, and Chetan A. Jhaveri. Optimal pricing and ordering policy for an integrated inventory model with quadratic demand when trade credit linked to order quantity. *Journal of modelling in management*, 7(2):148–165, 2012.
- [4] Manish Shukla and Sanjay Jharkharia. Agri-fresh produce supply chain management: a state-of-the-art literature review. *International journal of operations and production management*, 33(2):114–158, 2013.
- [5] Hao Zhang, Bin Qiu, and Kerning Zhang. A new risk assessment model for agricultural products cold chain logistics. *Industrial Management and Data Systems*, 117(9):1800–1816, 2017.
- [6] Song Zilong and He Shiwei. Contract coordination of new fresh produce three-layer supply chain. *Industrial management + data systems*, 119(1):148–169, 2019.
- [7] Wu Xiaohua, Yan Bo, Ye Bing, and Zhang Yongwang. Three-level supply chain coordination of fresh agricultural products in the internet of things. *Industrial management + data systems*, 117(9):1842–1865, 2017.
- [8] Agrawal Sunil Patidar Rakesh. A mathematical model formulation to design a traditional Indian agri-fresh food supply chain: a case study problem. *Benchmarking : an international journal*, ahead-of-print (ahead-of-print), 2020.
- [9] Jabarzadeh Younis and Reyhani Yamchi Hossein. A multi-objective mixed-integer linear model for sustainable fruit closed-loop supply chain network. *Management of environmental quality*, 31(5):1351–1373, 2020.
- [10] Sergaki Panagiota, Koutsou Stavriani. Producers' cooperative products in short food supply chains: consumers' response. *British Food Journal*, 122(1):198–211, 2019; 2020;.
- [11] Lijuan Wang, Hongwei Wang, and Xichao Sun. Inventory control model for fresh agricultural products on weibull distribution under inflation and delay in payment. *Kybernetes*, 41(9):1277–1288, 2012.
- [12] Abad PL. Optimal pricing and lot-sizing under conditions of perishability and partial backordering. *Management Science*, 42(8), 1996.
- [13] Jie Min and Yong Wu Zhou. Inventory model for non-instantaneous deteriorating items under stock-dependent selling rate. *Journal of Systems Engineering*, 24(2):577–81, 2009.
- [14] George C. Philip. A generalized EOQ model for items with weibull distribution deterioration. *AIIE Transactions*, 6(2):159–162, 1974.
- [15] Steffen Jrgensen and Peter M. Kort. Optimal pricing and inventory policies: Centralized and decentralized decision making. *European Journal of Operational Research*, 2002.
- [16] Chang Ho and Su Ouyang. The optimal pricing and ordering policy for an integrated inventory model when trade credit linked to order quantity. *Applied mathematical modelling*, 33(7):2978–2991, 2009.
- [17] Wang Fengling, Yan Bo, Wu Jiwen. Cvar-based risk assessment and control of the agricultural supply chain. *Management decision*, 57(7):1496–1510, 2019; 2018;.