

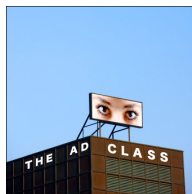
Firms' Strategies and Markets Advertising

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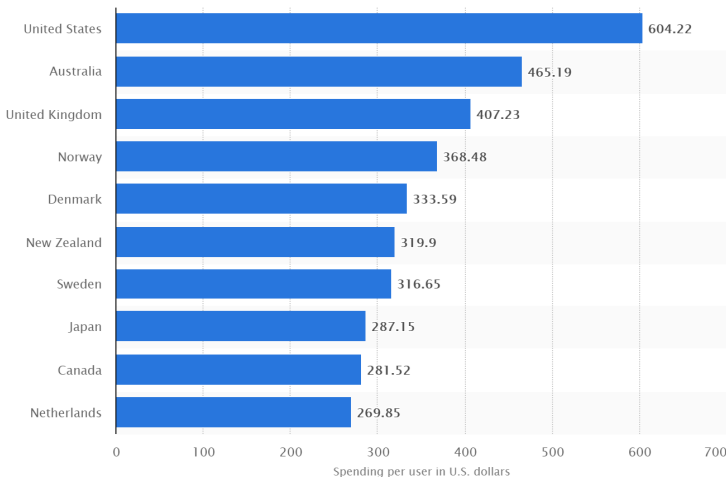


Introduction



- ▶ Worldwide amount of ad spending in 2020 is about 586 billion \$;
- ▶ More than 60% of this amount are digital advertising and mobile phone (growing)—the rest are mainly TV and radio ($\approx 30\%$) or print medias (newspapers and magazine $<5\%$);
 - ▶ Google is the largest digital ad seller in the world in 2019;
 - ▶ Google and Facebook have a 60% market share of online advertising.
 - ▶ CMA report in 2020 / role of consumer data in digital market ads.
- ▶ The largest advertisers in 2017 are Samsung and Procter & Gamble (>10 billions US \$ in 2017 for P&G)

Countries with highest advertising spending per person in 2016 (US \$)



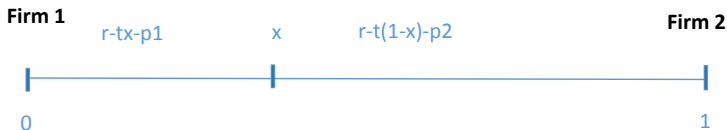
Typology of advertising

- ▶ **Persuasive Advertising** enhances consumers' tastes for a given product
 - ▶ Advertising increases consumers' willingness to pay.
 - ▶ Advertising changes the distribution of consumers' tastes.
 - ▶ Advertising increases perceived product difference.
- ▶ **Informative Advertising** provides consumers with information about the existence, prices and characteristics of products. Consumers make better informed decision.
 - ▶ Information about prices
 - ▶ Information about product's existence.
- ▶ **Signaling Quality**: the amount of ads spent or the price indirectly convey information about the quality of the products to consumers.

Persuasive Advertising

Assumptions

- ▶ Game: Stage 1- Advertising & Stage 2- price competition;
- ▶ Consumers are distributed according to $F(x)$ over $[0, 1]$
- ▶ The cost of advertising intensity λ_i is $a\lambda_i^2/2$.



- ▶ Advertising increases consumers' willingness to pay: $r_i(\lambda_i)$
- ▶ Advertising changes the distribution of consumers' tastes: $F(x, \lambda_i, \lambda_j)$
- ▶ Advertising increases perceived product difference : $t(\lambda_i, \lambda_j)$

Benchmark: Without advertising

Assumptions

- We assume that there is no advertising.

The indifferent consumer address \hat{x} is such that:

$$r - t\hat{x} - p_1 = r - t(1 - \hat{x}) - p_2$$

$$\hat{x} = \frac{1}{2} + \frac{p_2 - p_1}{2t}$$

$$\Pi_1 = (p_1 - c)\hat{x}(p_1, p_2)$$

$$\Pi_2 = (p_2 - c)(1 - \hat{x}(p_1, p_2))$$

Firms maximize their profit with respect to p_i and the reaction functions are symmetric and increasing : Prices are strategic complement!

$$\underset{p_i}{\text{Max}} \Pi_i \Rightarrow p_i(p_j) = \frac{1}{2}(c + t + p_j)$$

Results

There is a symmetric equilibrium: $p_1^* = p_2^* = c + t$ and $\Pi_1^* = \Pi_2^* = \frac{t}{2}$.

Advertising increases consumers' willingness to pay

Assumptions

- We denote $r_i(\lambda_i) = r + \beta\lambda_i$

The indifferent consumer address \hat{x} is such that:

$$r + \beta\lambda_1 - t\hat{x} - p_1 = r + \beta\lambda_2 - t(1 - \hat{x}) - p_2$$

$$\hat{x} = \frac{1}{2} + \frac{p_2 - p_1}{2t} + \beta \frac{\lambda_1 - \lambda_2}{2t}$$

$$\Pi_1 = (p_1 - c)\hat{x}(p_1, p_2, \lambda_1, \lambda_2) - a\lambda_1^2/2$$

$$\Pi_2 = (p_2 - c)(1 - \hat{x}(p_1, p_2, \lambda_1, \lambda_2)) - a\lambda_2^2/2$$

Firms maximize their profit with respect to p_i and the reaction functions are symmetric and increasing : Prices are strategic complement!

$$\underset{p_i}{\text{Max}} \Pi_i \Rightarrow p_i(p_j) = \frac{1}{2}(c + t + p_j + \beta\lambda_i - \beta\lambda_j)$$

The Nash equilibrium in prices is:

$$p_i(\lambda_i, \lambda_j) = c + t + \frac{1}{3}\beta(\lambda_i - \lambda_j)$$

$$\Pi_i(\lambda_i, \lambda_j) = \frac{1}{18t}(3t + \beta(\lambda_i - \lambda_j))^2 - a\lambda_i^2/2$$

In stage 1, each firm i maximizes its profit with respect to λ_i anticipating the stage 2 competition in prices:

$$\text{Max}_{\lambda_i} \Pi_i(\lambda_i, \lambda_j) \Rightarrow \lambda_i(\lambda_j) = \frac{\beta(3t - \beta\lambda_j)}{9at - \beta^2}$$

The best reaction functions are symmetric and decreasing: advertising investments are strategic substitutes!

Results

$\lambda_1^* = \lambda_2^* = \frac{\beta}{3a}$, $p_1^* = p_2^* = c + t$ and $\Pi_1^* = \Pi_2^* = \frac{t}{2} - \frac{\beta^2}{18a} < \frac{t}{2}$. Firms are worse-off with advertising. If they could coordinate, they would refrain from investing.

Advertising changes the distribution of consumers' tastes

Assumptions

- ▶ We denote $F(x, \lambda_1, \lambda_2) = (1 + \lambda_1 - \lambda_2)x - (\lambda_1 - \lambda_2)x^2$ with a continuous density $f(x, \lambda_1, \lambda_2) = (1 + \lambda_1 - \lambda_2) - 2x(\lambda_1 - \lambda_2)$.
- ▶ If $\lambda_1 = \lambda_2$ we find a uniform distribution, $\lambda_1 = 1$ and $\lambda_2 = 0$ a distribution that favors firm 1.

Distribution Function

The address of the indifferent consumer \hat{x} is such that:

$$r - t\hat{x} - p_1 = r - t(1 - \hat{x}) - p_2 \Rightarrow \hat{x} = \frac{1}{2} + \frac{p_2 - p_1}{2t}$$

$$Q_1 = F(\hat{x}, \lambda_1, \lambda_2), Q_2 = 1 - F(\hat{x}, \lambda_1, \lambda_2)$$

$$\Pi_1 = (p_1 - c)Q_1 - a\lambda_1^2/2 \text{ and } \Pi_2 = (p_2 - c)Q_2 - a\lambda_2^2/2$$

Maximizing their profit **simultaneously** with respect to p_i and λ_i , and focusing on the symmetric equilibrium:

Results

$p_1^* = p_2^* = c + t$ and $\lambda_1^* = \lambda_2^* = \frac{t}{4a}$. $\Pi_1^* = \Pi_2^* = \frac{t}{2} - \frac{t^2}{32a} < \frac{t}{2}$. Firms are worse-off with advertising. If they could coordinate, they would refrain from investing.

Advertising increases perceived product differences

Assumptions Differentiation

- We denote $t(\lambda_1, \lambda_2) = t + \beta\lambda_1 + \beta\lambda_2$.

It is immediate that in stage 2:

$$p_1(\lambda_1, \lambda_2) = p_2(\lambda_1, \lambda_2) = c + t + \beta\lambda_1 + \beta\lambda_2$$

$$\Pi_1 = (p_1 - c)\hat{x} - a\lambda_1^2/2 \text{ and } \Pi_2 = (p_2 - c)(1 - \hat{x}) - a\lambda_2^2/2$$

In stage 1, maximizing their profit with respect to λ_i , and focusing on the symmetric equilibrium:

$$\lambda_1^* = \lambda_2^* = \frac{\beta}{2a} \text{ and } p_1^* = p_2^* = c + t + \frac{\beta^2}{a}$$

$$\Pi_1^* = \Pi_2^* = \frac{t}{2} + \frac{3\beta^2}{8a} > \frac{t}{2}$$

Result

Advertising that increases perceived product difference relaxes competition and therefore firms' investment is profitable.

Public good: coordination raises investment.

Remember

- ▶ Advertising creates or boosts the demand for a product.
- ▶ In a competition framework: different types of persuasive advertising lead to different outcomes
 - ▶ Increasing the consumers' willingness to pay, or changing consumers' taste for a good at the expense of rivals may lead to a business stealing effect and result in an efficient advertising race.
 - ▶ Advertising characteristics of the products may increase the perceived differentiation among products and soften competition !
- ▶ Heavy regulation of ads – in France:
 - ▶ Comparative ads are regulated (not authorized to depreciate/lie the product of a rival)!!
 - ▶ Law "Evin" (1991) forbids any ads on tobacco or alcohol.
 - ▶ Law project under debate to forbid ads on some products that are bad for environment (high GHG emissions- SUV) or for health (food products listed by PNNS).

Informative advertising on prices

Assumptions

- ▶ Consider a duopoly of homogenous products with marginal cost c .
- ▶ Consumers do not know the price charged by each firm.
- ▶ Consumers have a valuation $v > c$ for the good.
- ▶ Consumers have search cost: they can only discover one price (0 for one firm, $+\infty$ for two).

Without advertising on prices : consumers choose between the two firms randomly, check the price and buy if $p < v$. The two firms set $p = v$.

With advertising : Competition is Bertrand like, because the product is

homogenous: $p = c$.

Result

Informative advertising on prices may intensify competition by reducing consumers' search costs.

- ▶ Argument often put forward in favor of "online" sales.

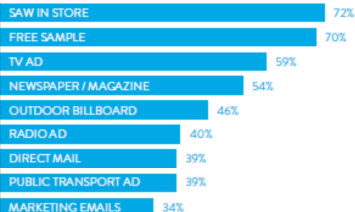
Informative advertising on product's existence

Grossman & Shapiro (1984)

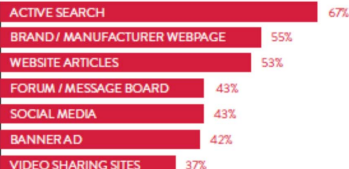
Advertising is key to launch a new product

GLOBAL PERCENT MUCH/SOMEWHAT MORE LIKELY
TO BUY A NEW PRODUCT WHEN LEARNED THROUGH THESE METHODS

TRADITIONAL ADVERTISING



INTERNET COMMUNICATIONS



Source: Nielsen Global Survey of New Product Purchase Sentiment, Q3 2012

Remember

- ▶ In a competition framework: different types of informative advertising lead to different outcomes
 - ▶ It might increase competition when it vehicles information on prices.
 - ▶ Informative advertising is profitable when it reveals the product's existence (See Exercise 1).

Exercise 1

Assumptions

- ▶ Consumers are uniformly distributed along a segment $[0, 1]$. A firm is localized in 0 and another firm in 1.
- ▶ A consumer who travels a distance x to buy one unit at price p has a utility $U = v - p - tx$ if he buys and 0 if he does not buy. There is no utility for a second unit.
- ▶ A consumer buys only if he receives an ad. Let Φ_i denote the share of consumers who have received an ad from i . The cost to reach this fraction of demand is $A(\phi) = \frac{a\phi^2}{2}$ with $a \geq \frac{t}{2}$.

Questions

1. What is the demand of consumers who receive only an ad from i ?

1. What is the demand of consumers who receive only an ad from i ?
 - ▶ The probability to receive an ad only from firm i is: $\phi_i(1 - \phi_j)$.
 - ▶ Consumers who buy are such that $v - p_i - tx \geq 0$
 - ▶ $D_i = 1$ if $x_0 = \frac{v-p_i}{t} > 1$ (covered market)! \Rightarrow We focus on this case for simplicity
 - ▶ $D_i = \frac{v-p_i}{t}$ otherwise (uncovered market).

- ▶ The probability to receive an ad from both firms is: $\phi_i \phi_j$.
- ▶ Among them the address of the indifferent consumer \tilde{x} is such that $v - p_i - tx = v - p_j - t(1 - x)$ or $\tilde{x} = \frac{1}{2} + \frac{(p_j - p_i)}{2t}$.
- ▶ \tilde{x} (resp. $1 - \tilde{x}$) is the demand for i (resp. j) when the gap in price is not too high.

3. What is the total demand for firm i ? How the price elasticity of demand varies in ϕ in $p_i = p_j = p$ and $\phi_i = \phi_j = \phi$?

- ▶ $D_i = \phi_i[(1 - \phi_j) + \phi_j\tilde{x}]$
- ▶ At point $p_i = p_j = p$ and $\phi_i = \phi_j = \phi$, the elasticity

$$\epsilon = \frac{-p_i \partial D_i / \partial p_i}{D_i} = \frac{p\phi}{t(2-\phi)}$$
 which increases in ϕ .
- ▶ A larger ϕ implies a larger the probability that consumers are informed of the existence of both goods: They are thus more sensitive to price.

4. Firms choose simultaneously their price and their ad level.
Determine the symmetric Nash equilibrium of this game.

- The profit of firm i is:

$$\Pi_i = (p_i - c)D_i - A(\phi_i)$$

- with $D_i = \phi_i[(1 - \phi_j) + \phi_j \frac{p_i - p_j + t}{2t}] = \frac{\phi_i}{2t}[(1 - \phi_j)2t + \phi_j(p_i - p_j + t)]$
- The first order conditions are :

$$2p_i = c + t + p_j + \frac{2(1 - \phi_j)t}{\phi_j}$$

$$\phi_i = (p_i - c) \frac{(1 - \phi_j + \phi_j \tilde{x})}{a}$$

- At the symmetric equilibrium $p_i = p_j = p^* = c + \sqrt{2at}$ and $\tilde{x} = \frac{1}{2}$
and $\phi_i = \phi_j = \phi^* = \frac{2}{(1 + \sqrt{2a/t})}$.

Advertising Signals

Assumptions

- ▶ One consumer with a valuation for a high quality good v_H and for the low quality $v_L < v_H$.
- ▶ Production cost is the same, $c < v_L$, for a high or a low quality good.
- ▶ Two period game. The consumer wants one unit in each period. Experience good!
- ▶ Firms can choose to spend an advertising amount A which is observed by the consumer before he chooses to purchase in period 1.

Full Information

Consumers know the quality and thus firms do not advertise.

A high quality firm sets $p_H = v_H$ and gets $\Pi_H = 2(v_H - c)$;

A low quality firm sets $p_L = v_L$ and gets $\Pi_L = 2(v_L - c)$.

Asymmetric Information

We look for a separating equilibrium **BOUTON**. We assume that only advertising amounts (not price) can convey a signal about quality.

Advertising Signals

Assume that there exists a separating equilibrium such that if a firm spends A in advertising, consumers believe that it is a high quality firm with probability 1.

In such separating equilibrium: $\Pi_H = 2(v_H - c) - A$, and $\Pi_L = 2(v_L - c)$.

Participation constraint

- ▶ Check that a high quality firm makes a positive profit i.e. $\Pi_H > 0$, that is $A < 2(v_H - c)$.

Incentive constraints

- ▶ Check that a high quality firm is better off advertising! Its deviation profit is $\Pi'_H = v_L + v_H - 2c < \Pi_H \Rightarrow A \leq v_H - v_L$
- ▶ Check that a low quality firm is better off not advertising! Its deviation profit is $\Pi'_L = v_H + v_L - 2c - A < \Pi_L \Rightarrow A \geq v_H - v_L$

Advertising Signals

Assume now that if a consumer was cheated in the first period, the firm is boycotted in the next period. The incentive constraint for the low quality firm becomes:

- ▶ A low quality firm is better off not advertising! Its deviation profit is $\Pi'_L = v_H - c - A < \Pi_L \Rightarrow A \geq v_H - v_L - (v_L - c)$
- ▶ A separating equilibrium exists for $A \in [v_H - v_L - (v_L - c), v_H - v_L]$.
- ▶ In equilibrium the high quality firm chooses the minimum advertising amount $A^* = v_H - v_L - (v_L - c)$ and obtains a profit $\Pi_H^* = v_H - c + 2(v_L - c) > \Pi'_H$

Result

Burning money through advertising can be a credible means for a firm to signal a high quality in particular in the case of experience good with repeated purchases.

Price and Advertising signals

Milgrom and Roberts (1986)

Assumptions

- ▶ A firm has a new product of quality H or L and knows its quality.
- ▶ Consumers do not know the quality.
- ▶ Repeated purchase game. Consumers discover the quality after one purchase.
- ▶ $\pi(P, q, Q) - A$, expected present value of the profit of a firm where :
 - q true quality;
 - the introductory price is P ;
 - the introductory advertising spending A
 - consumers believe the product is of quality Q .
- ▶ $\pi(P, q, Q)$ increases in Q (initial sales)

- ▶ We define $P_Q^q = \arg \max_P \pi(P, q, Q)$. P_L^L and P_H^H are full information optimal prices.
- ▶ We are looking for a SE such that there exists a couple (P, A) that makes consumers believe the quality is H (with proba 1) and L otherwise.

Result 1

There exists a separating sequential equilibrium if and only if for some (P, A) :

$$\pi(P, H, H) - \pi(P_L^H, H, L) \geq A \geq \pi(P, L, H) - \pi(P_L^L, L, L) \quad (1)$$

- ▶ $\pi(P, H, H) - A \geq \pi(P_L^H, H, L)$: a firm of quality H earns a larger profit in selecting (P, A) which conveys the signal H to consumers than her best profit when consumers believe it is of quality L.
- ▶ $\pi(P, L, H) - A \leq \pi(P_L^L, L, L)$: a firm of quality L earns a smaller profit in selecting (P, A) rather than its best profit when consumers believe its quality is L.

- Isoprofit curves:
 - $A(P) = \pi(P, H, H) - \pi(P_L^H, H, L)$ (Above)
 - $A(P) = \pi(P, L, H) - \pi(P_L^L, L, L)$ (Below)

- Elimination of equilibria with dominated strategies.

Result 2

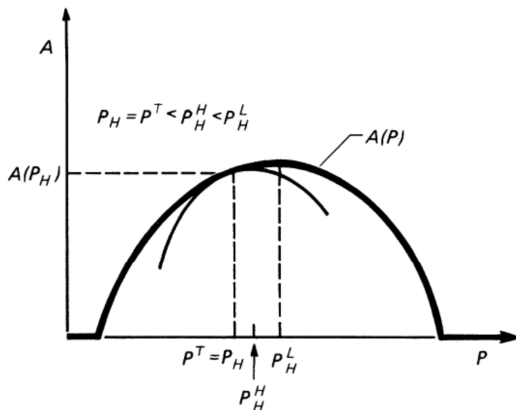
There exists a separating equilibrium if and only if there is some (P, A) such that eq(1) holds. At any separating equilibrium, the choice (P, A) of the high-quality firm must be a solution to the following programme (2):

$$\begin{aligned} & \max_{P,A} \pi(P, H, H) - A \\ & \text{subject to } \pi(P, L, H) - A \leq \pi(p_L^L, L, L) \end{aligned}$$

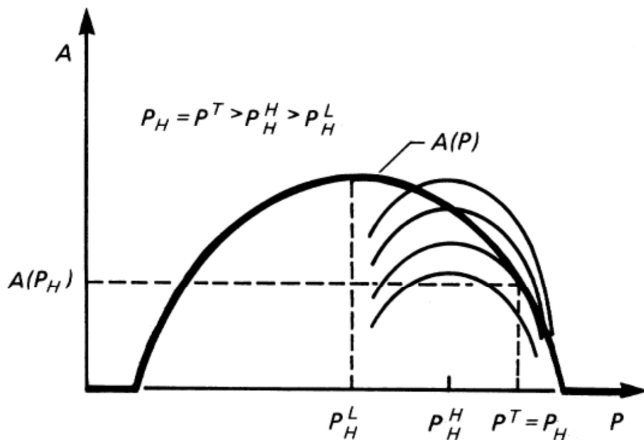
- . If the solution (P^*, A^*) to (2) is such that $A^* > 0$, then P^* solves

$$\begin{aligned} & \max_P \pi(P, H, H) - \pi(P, L, H) \\ & \Rightarrow \frac{\partial \pi(P, H, H)}{\partial P} = \frac{\partial \pi(P, L, H)}{\partial P} \end{aligned}$$

- ▶ Assume $\pi(P, H, H) - \pi(P, L, H)$ has a maximum in P .
- ▶ $A(P) = \pi(P, L, H) - \pi(P_L^L, L, L)$
- ▶ The other curve is $\pi(P, H, H) - A$
- ▶ The separating equilibrium is at the tangency point (P^T, A^T) .



- ▶ The separating equilibrium is at the tangency point (P^T, A^T) .
- ▶ In the case below there is an upward distortion in price $P^T > P_H^H$



Assume that $\pi(P, L, H)$ is strictly concave in P and that $A(P)$ is positive on an interval $(\underline{P}, \overline{P})$ with $P > 0$.

- ▶ A necessary condition for advertising to occur at equilibrium is $P_H^H \in (\underline{P}, \overline{P})$ or, equivalently,

$$\pi(P_H^H, L, H) > \pi(P_L^L, L, L)$$

- ▶ **Case in which $P_H^H > \overline{P}$:** If a new high-quality product is very expensive to produce and is aimed at a limited market.
- ▶ **Case in which $P_H^H < \underline{P}$:** If the new high-quality product is very cheap to produce the introducing firm may set a low initial price or give away free samples in launching the product.

Remember

- ▶ Burning money, i.e. a high level of advertising may signal a high quality
- ▶ Together with advertising, a high price (ie. higher than the high quality monopoly) may signal a high quality: it claims that the producer is confident enough in its product quality
- ▶ Together with advertising, a low price may signal a high quality (i.e lower than the high quality monopoly price): it claims that consumers that will taste it won't be disappointed.

Exercise 2

Advertising as a commitment device (Lal and Matutes, 1994)

Assumption

- ▶ Firms A and B are located at the extreme of a segment of length 1.
- ▶ Consumers are uniformly distributed along the segment and incur linear transport cost tx .
- ▶ A and B sell two products 1 and 2.
- ▶ Consumers have the same willingness to pay for each good, denoted H .
- ▶ Unless they receive an ad (catalog, leaflet,...), consumers are uninformed about prices but make rational expectations about prices.
- ▶ Each firm can choose to advertise one or two goods. Advertising costs F and vehicles the information about a product's price to all consumers.
- ▶ **We exclude that a consumer visit both stores.**

Exercise 2

1. What happens if no firm advertise any product?

Exercise 2

1. What happens if no firm advertise any product?
 - ▶ If there are no advertising, consumers rationally expect that all prices are equal to H .
 - ▶ Once at the store the firm knows that the transportation cost is sunk for the consumer and has an incentive to set a price H .
 - ▶ Anticipating this, no consumer buy anything and therefore no profit for both firms.

- 2 What happens if the two firms advertise both products? Is this an equilibrium?
- ▶ Assume that the two firms advertise both products at prices (p_{A1}, p_{A2}) and (p_{B1}, p_{B2}) which costs $2F$ to each firm!
 - ▶ The indifferent consumer is such that the surplus it obtains in visiting A , i.e. $2H - p_{A1} - p_{A2} - t\hat{x}$ is the same as the surplus it obtains in visiting B , i.e. $2H - p_{B1} - p_{B2} - t(1 - \hat{x})$

$$\hat{x} = \frac{p_{B1} + p_{B2} - p_{A1} - p_{A2} + t}{2t}$$

- ▶ A maximizes its profit $(p_{A1} + p_{A2})\hat{x}$, and B maximizes $(p_{B1} + p_{B2})(1 - \hat{x})$!
- ▶ This leads to $p_A^* = p_{A1} + p_{A2} = t$ and $p_B = p_{B1} + p_{B2} = t$.

- 2 What happens if the two firms advertise both products? **Is this an equilibrium?**
- ▶ The first important condition to check is that $t < 2H$. Then, the profit each firm realizes is $\pi_j = \frac{t}{2} - 2F > 0 \rightarrow F < \frac{t}{4}$.
 - ▶ Another condition to check is that the marginal consumer has a positive surplus, i.e. that $2H - t - \frac{t}{2} > 0 \rightarrow t < \frac{4H}{3}$ (covered market).
 - ▶ To check whether this is an equilibrium, we check that a firm, say B , has no incentive to deviate unilaterally by only advertising one of its products, say 1.
 - ▶ Consumers rationally expect that a product that is not advertised will be sold at H .

$$\hat{x} = \frac{p_{B1} + H - p_A^* + t}{2t}$$

- ▶ Maximizing its profit $(p_{B1} + H)\hat{x}$ with respect to p_{B1} , we obtain $p_{B1} = t - H$.
- ▶ The profit obtained by firm B is therefore $\pi_B = \frac{t}{2} - F > \frac{t}{2} - 2F$:
NO.

3. Determine the two types of equilibria of this game. For which conditions on H and F do these equilibria exist?
 - ▶ There are two symmetric equilibria: (i) one firm advertises 1 and the other 2 or (ii) the two firms advertise the same good.
 - ▶ A and B advertise product 1. Consumers expect product 2 to be sold at price H at both stores.
 - ▶ The indifferent consumer is:

$$\hat{x} = \frac{p_{B1} + H - p_{A1} - H + t}{2t}.$$

- ▶ A maximizes its profit $(p_{A1} + H)\hat{x}$ whereas B maximizes $(p_{B1} + H)(1 - \hat{x})$.
- ▶ We obtain $p_{A1} = p_{B1} = t - H$ and therefore the profit is $\frac{t}{2} - F > 0$.

- ▶ Grossman, G. and C. Shapiro, (1984), "Informative Advertising with Differentiated Products", *The Review of Economic Studies*, Vol. 51, No. 1 (Jan., 1984), pp. 63-81.
- ▶ Lal, R. and C. Matutes (1994) "Retail Pricing and Advertising Strategies", *The Journal of Business*, Vol. 67, pp. 345-370.
- ▶ Milgrom, P. and J. Roberts (1986), "Price and Advertising Signals of Product Quality", *Journal of Political Economy*, 94, 4, pp. 796-821.
- ▶ Belleflamme, P. and M. Peitz (2003), Chapter 6, "Markets and Strategies", *Industrial Organization*, Cambridge University Press.
- ▶ CMA report, 2020,
https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/media/5efc57ed3a6f4023d242ed56/Final_report_1_July_2020_.pdf.

Signaling Game

- ▶ Player 1 has a private information about his type $\theta \in \Theta$ and chooses a signal $s \in S$.
- ▶ Player 2 observes s and chooses an action $b \in B$.
- ▶ Player 2 has prior belief about Player 1's type $p(\cdot)$. After observing s , Player 2 revises its beliefs according to the Bayes's rule and has a posterior belief $\mu(\cdot/s)$ over Θ .
- ▶ Player 1 determines $\sigma_1(s/\theta)$, the probability to send a signal s when being of type θ .
- ▶ Player 2 determines $\sigma_2(b/s)$, the probability to choose the action b given the signal s and posterior belief $\mu(\cdot/s)$.

Definition . A perfect Bayesian equilibrium of a signaling game is a strategy profile (σ_1^*, σ_2^*) in which each player's strategy is the best reaction to the other's strategy according to the posterior beliefs $\mu(\cdot/s)$.

back

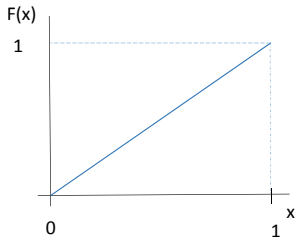
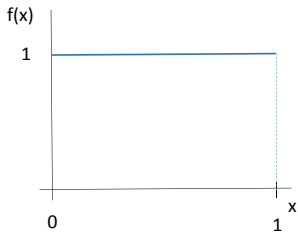
Types of equilibria

A **separating equilibrium** is an equilibrium where Players 1 of different types always choose different messages and therefore fully reveal their type to Player 2.

A **pooling equilibrium** is an equilibrium where Players 1 of different types always choose the same message and no information is revealed to Player 2.

back

Uniform distribution: $\lambda_1 = \lambda_2$



Distribution in favor of 1: $\lambda_1 = \lambda_2$

