

EXPECTATION CONFIRMATION IN INFORMATION SYSTEMS RESEARCH: A TEST OF SIX COMPETING MODELS

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Appendix A

Studies Using Polynomial Modeling in Information Systems Reference Fields

| Paper Reference | Discipline | Theory |
|-----------------------------|-------------------------|------------------------------------|
| Atwater et al. (1998) | Personnel Psychology | Self-other agreement |
| Bailey and Fletcher (2002) | Organizational Behavior | Management competence |
| Brown et al. (2012) | Information Systems | Expectation confirmation |
| Brown et al. (2008) | Organizational Behavior | Expectation confirmation |
| Bono and Colbert (2005) | Psychology | Job performance |
| Dineen et al. (2005) | Management | Integrative theory |
| Edwards (1994) | Organizational Behavior | Person-environment fit |
| Edwards and Cable (2009) | Psychology | Person-environment fit |
| Edwards and Harrison (1993) | Management | Person-environment fit |
| Edwards and Parry (1993) | Management | Person-environment fit |
| Edwards and Rothbard (1999) | Organizational Behavior | Person-environment fit |
| Hetch and Allen (2005) | Organizational Behavior | Person-job fit |
| Hom et al. (1999) | Personnel Psychology | Realistic job preview |
| Irving and Meyer (1994) | Psychology | Met expectations hypothesis |
| Irving and Meyer (1995) | Personnel Psychology | Met expectations hypothesis |
| Irving and Meyer (1999) | Personnel Psychology | Met expectations hypothesis |
| Kim and Hsieh (2003) | Marketing | Distributor-supplier relationships |
| Klein et al. (2009) | Information Systems | IS service quality |

| Paper Reference | Discipline | Theory |
|-----------------------------------|-------------------------|--|
| Kreiner (2006) | Organizational Behavior | Person-environment fit |
| Kristof-Brown and Guay (2010) | Psychology | Person-environment fit |
| Kristoff-Brown and Stevens (2001) | Psychology | Person-environment fit |
| Lambert et al. (2003) | Personnel Psychology | Psychological contract theory |
| Lubatkin et al. (2006) | Management | Behavioral integration |
| Oh and Pinsonneault (2007) | Information Systems | Resource-centered and contingency-based view |
| Shaw and Gupta (2004) | Personnel Psychology | Person-environment fit |
| Titah and Barki (2009) | Information Systems | Economic theory of complementarities |
| Venkatesh and Goyal (2010) | Information Systems | Expectation confirmation |
| Yi (1990) | Marketing | Expectation confirmation |

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Appendix B

Items

All items were measured using a seven-point Likert scale with the endpoints strongly disagree to strongly agree, unless noted otherwise.

Expectation Items

Usefulness

- I expect that <system> will enable me to accomplish tasks more quickly.
- I expect that <system> will improve the quality of the work I do.
- I expect that <system> will make it easier to do my job.
- I expect that <system> will enhance my effectiveness on the job.
- I expect that <system> will give me greater control over my job.
- I expect that <system> will improve my productivity.

Ease of Use

- I expect that it will be easy to get <system> to do what I want it to do.
- I expect that overall, <system> will be easy to use.
- I expect that learning to operate <system> will be easy for me.
- I expect that interacting with <system> will not require a lot of my mental effort.

Experience Items

Usefulness

- <system> enables me to accomplish tasks more quickly.
- <system> improves the quality of the work I do.
- <system> makes it easier to do my job.
- <system> enhances my effectiveness on the job.
- <system> gives me greater control over my job.
- <system> improves my productivity.

Ease of Use

- It is easy to get <system> to do what I want it to do.
- Overall, <system> is easy to use.
- Learning to operate <system> is easy for me.
- Interacting with <system> does not require a lot of my mental effort.

Satisfaction

I am an enthusiastic user of <system>.
 All things considered, my continuing to use <system> in my job is . . . (Extremely Negative to Extremely Positive).
 All things considered, my continuing to use <system> in my job is . . . (Extremely Bad to Extremely Good)
 All things considered, my continuing to use <system> in my job is . . . (Extremely Harmful to Extremely Beneficial).

Behavioral Intention

I intend to continue using the <system>.
 I predict I would continue using the <system>.
 I plan to continue using the <system>.

Disconfirmation Items

Usefulness

Compared to my initial expectations, the ability of <system>:
 To improve my performance was (much worse than expected . . . much better than expected).
 To increase my productivity was (much worse than expected . . . much better than expected).
 To enhance my effectiveness was (much worse than expected . . . much better than expected).

Ease of Use

Compared to my initial expectations:
 It was easy to get <system> to do what I want it to do (much worse than expected . . . much better than expected).
 Overall, <system> was easy to use (much worse than expected . . . much better than expected).
 Learning to operate <system> was easy for me (much worse than expected . . . much better than expected).
 Interacting with <system> did not require a lot of my mental effort (much worse than expected . . . much better than expected).

Appendix C

Model Specifications Using Difference Scores and Direct Measures

Much prior expectation disconfirmation research has either used difference scores or direct measurement models to examine the relationship among expectations, experiences, and outcome variables. Below, we briefly explain these models and present the results of these models using our empirical data.

| Table C1. Summary of Model Tests | | |
|----------------------------------|--|--|
| Theoretical Model | Tests | Model Tests |
| Assimilation | Algebraic difference Direct Measurement | $Z = b_0 + b_1 (X - Y)$ $Z = b_0 + b_1 (D)$ |
| Contrast | Algebraic difference Direct Measurement | $Z = b_0 + b_1 (X - Y)$ $Z = b_0 + b_1 (D)$ |
| Generalized Negativity | Squared difference Squared Direct Measurement | $Z = b_0 + b_1 (X - Y)^2$ $Z = b_0 + b_1 (D)^2$ |
| Assimilation-Contrast | Cubic difference Cubic Direct Measurement | $Z = b_0 + b_1 (X - Y)^3$ $Z = b_0 + b_1 (D)^3$ |

Note: D = direct measure of disconfirmation; Z = outcome; X = experience; Y = expectation; b1 = coefficient of the difference score or the direct measure of the difference score.

Difference Score Models

Based on the nature of the relationship (linear or curvilinear), Edwards and Harrison (1993) and Edwards (2002) describe the use of two types of difference score models: (1) algebraic difference where $Z = b_0 + b_1(X - Y) + e$, and (2) squared difference: $Z = b_0 + b_1(X - Y)^2$. Edwards also presents an absolute difference model where $Z = b_0 + b_1(1 - 2W)(X - Y) + e$ with $W = 0$ when $X > Y$ and $W = 1$ when $X < Y$ or $Z = b_0 + b_1X - b_1Y - 2b_1WX + 2b_1WY + e$, but this model is rarely used. Edwards argues that these difference score models distort the true relationship between component measures (i.e., X and Y) that may result in oversimplified or erroneous results (for a review, see Edwards 2002).

Direct Measurement Models

In order to avoid the problems with difference scores, Irving and Meyer (1994, 1995, 1999) discussed prior research that used direct measurement models, where the difference between X and Y (component measures) was directly measured instead of being computed. Irving and Meyer (1994, 1995, 1999) illustrate that direct measurement models not only suffer from problems associated with difference scores, but also create additional problems (see Venkatesh and Goyal 2010).

Model Testing: Linear Models

Because the assimilation model and the contrast model are both linear models represented by the equation $Z = b_0 + b_1U_1 + b_2U_2 + e$, their constrained models can also be represented by an algebraic difference model and a linear direct measurement model. Recall that the assimilation model requires expectations to be a dominant predictor of the outcome whereas the contrast model requires experiences to be a dominant predictor of the outcome. Therefore, we expect the coefficient of the difference score (experiences – expectations) and the direct measure to be negative for the assimilation model and positive for the contrast model.

The results of the constrained difference scores model for all three dependent variables (i.e., BI, use, and satisfaction) are presented in Tables C2–C4. The results of the constrained direct measurement model for all three dependent variables (i.e., BI, use, and satisfaction) are presented in Table C5. The coefficient of the difference score (BI: 0.30, $p < .01$; use: 0.24, $p < .01$; and satisfaction: 0.24, $p < .001$) is positive for all three dependent variables, indicating that the assimilation model is not supported by the difference score model. The coefficient of the direct measure (BI: 0.24, $p < .001$; use: 0.23, $p < .001$; and satisfaction: 0.23, $p < .001$) is also positive for all three dependent variables indicating that the assimilation model is not supported by the direct measurement model. Edwards (2002) explains that for a constrained model to support a theoretical model, an unconstrained model should not explain higher variance in the outcome variable than the constrained model. Because the variance explained by the constrained models (i.e., difference scores and direct measurement models) is significantly less than the variance explained by an unconstrained linear model (see Tables 4–6), both assimilation and contrast models are rejected. Moreover, significantly higher variance explained by the curvilinear difference scores and direct measurement models (see Tables C2–C5) provides further evidence that both assimilation and contrast models are rejected.

Model Testing: Curvilinear Models

As the generalized negativity model involves a second-order curvilinear relationship and is represented by the equation $Z = b_0 + b_1U_1 + b_2U_2 + b_3U_1^2 + b_4U_1U_2 + b_5U_2^2 + e$, this model can be tested by the squared difference model and the direct measurement model where a square of the direct measurement term would be used. Recall that the generalized negativity model requires that the outcome variable is maximized when expectations are equal to experiences. As differences between expectations and experiences increase, the outcome variable decreases. Therefore, we expect the coefficient of the squared difference score term and the squared difference score term to be negative and significant. As presented in Tables C2–C4, the coefficient of the difference score (BI: 0.07, n.s.; use: 0.16, $p < .05$; and satisfaction: 0.13, $p < .05$) and the direct measure (BI: 0.23, $p < .001$; use: 0.13, $p < .05$; and satisfaction: 0.14, $p < .05$) were positive for all three dependent variables indicating that the generalized negativity model is not supported. Moreover, the unconstrained model explained more variance ($R^2 = 0.58$ for BI; $R^2 = 0.51$ for Use; $R^2 = 0.53$ for Sat) than the constrained model, providing further evidence that the generalized negativity model is not supported.

Finally, the assimilation-contrast model involves a third-order curvilinear relationship because of two inflection points and is represented by $Z = b_0 + b_1U_1 + b_2U_2 + b_3U_1^2 + b_4U_1U_2 + b_5U_2^2 + b_6U_1^3 + b_7U_1^2U_2 + b_8U_1U_2^2 + b_9U_2^3 + e$. This model can be tested by a cubic difference model and the direct measurement model where a cubic term of the direct measurement term would be used. This model is not tested by Edwards

(2002) but would follow the same line of reasoning as the squared difference model and will be represented by $Z = b_0 + b_1 (X - Y)^3$. Recall that for the assimilation-contrast model, outcome is explained by expectations for small differences in expectations and experiences and outcome is explained by experiences for large differences in expectations and experiences. Such a relationship is represented by a wave-shaped graph along the X-Y axis which requires the coefficient of $(U_1 - U_2)^3$ and their direct measure to be significant. As presented in Tables C2-C4, the coefficient of the difference score (BI: 0.08, n.s.; use: 0.12, $p < .05$; and satisfaction: 0.07, n.s.) and the direct measure (BI: 0.13, $p < .05$; use: 0.13, $p < .05$; and satisfaction: 0.16, $p < .05$) were either not significant or marginally significant. Moreover, the unconstrained model explained more variance ($R^2 = 0.69$ for BI; $R^2 = 0.70$ for Use; $R^2 = 0.68$ for Sat) than the constrained model, providing further evidence that the assimilation-contrast model is not supported.

Table C2. Constrained Model: Predicting BI₂ Using Difference Scores

| Independent Variable | Difference Scores Model | | | Squared Difference Scores Model | | | Cubic Difference Scores Model | | |
|---|-------------------------|---------|------|---------------------------------|---------|------|-------------------------------|---------|------|
| | R ² | B | SE | R ² | B | SE | R ² | B | SE |
| Age | 0.35 | -0.12* | 0.01 | 0.37 | -0.12* | 0.01 | 0.38 | -.10 | .02 |
| Gender | | 0.21** | 0.02 | | 0.21** | 0.02 | | 0.20** | 0.02 |
| EOU ₁ | | 0.08 | 0.03 | | 0.08 | 0.03 | | 0.07 | 0.04 |
| EOU ₂ | | 0.20** | 0.01 | | 0.22** | 0.02 | | 0.21** | 0.02 |
| BI ₁ | | 0.46*** | 0.03 | | 0.44*** | 0.02 | | 0.43*** | 0.02 |
| (U ₁ - U ₂) | | 0.30*** | 0.07 | | 0.24*** | 0.08 | | 0.21** | 0.07 |
| (U ₁ - U ₂) ² | | | | | 0.07 | 0.05 | | 0.04 | 0.05 |
| (U ₁ - U ₂) ³ | | | | | | | 0.08 | 0.03 | |
| ΔR ² | | | | 0.02* | | | 0.01 | | |

Notes:

1. BI₂ = behavioral intention measured at t₂; BI₁ = behavioral intention measured at t₁; EOU₁ = experienced ease of use; EOU₂ = expected ease of use; U₁ = experienced usefulness; U₂ = expected usefulness.
2. Control variables: EOU₁, EOU₂, Gender (1 represents women), and Age.
3. Variables measured at time t₁: EOU₂, U₂, BI₁, Gender, and Age.
4. Variables measured at time t₂: EOU₁, U₁, BI₂.
5. *p < .05; **p < .01; ***p < .001.

Table C3. Constrained Model: Predicting Use₂₃ Using Difference Scores

| Independent Variable | Difference Scores Model | | | Squared Difference Scores Model | | | Cubic Difference Scores Model | | |
|---|-------------------------|---------|------|---------------------------------|---------|------|-------------------------------|---------|------|
| | R ² | B | SE | R ² | B | SE | R ² | B | SE |
| Age | 0.37 | -0.07 | 0.02 | 0.40 | -0.05 | 0.02 | 0.42 | -0.04 | 0.01 |
| Gender | | 0.23** | 0.02 | | 0.21** | 0.02 | | 0.20** | 0.02 |
| EOU ₁ | | 0.07 | 0.03 | | 0.06 | 0.03 | | 0.04 | 0.04 |
| EOU ₂ | | 0.22** | 0.03 | | 0.21** | 0.02 | | 0.20** | 0.02 |
| Use ₁₂ | | 0.43*** | 0.06 | | 0.40*** | 0.06 | | 0.35*** | 0.06 |
| (U ₁ - U ₂) | | 0.24** | 0.06 | | 0.20* | 0.08 | | 0.17* | 0.08 |
| (U ₁ - U ₂) ² | | | | | 0.16* | 0.03 | | 0.14* | 0.03 |
| (U ₁ - U ₂) ³ | | | | | | | 0.12* | 0.02 | |
| ΔR ² | | | | 0.03* | | | 0.02* | | |

Notes:

1. Use₁₂ = use measured from t₁ to t₂; Use₂₃ = use measured from t₂ to t₃; EOU₁ = experienced ease of use; EOU₂ = expected ease of use; U₁ = experienced usefulness; U₂ = expected usefulness.
2. Control variables: EOU₁, EOU₂, Gender (1 represents women), and Age.
3. Variables measured at time t₁: EOU₂, U₂, Use₁₂, Gender, and Age.
4. Variables measured at time t₂: EOU₁, U₁, Use₂₃.
5. *p < .05; **p < .01; ***p < .001.

Table C4. Constrained Model: Predicting Sat₂ Using Difference Scores

| Independent Variable | Difference Scores Model | | | Squared Difference Scores Model | | | Cubic Difference Scores Model | | |
|---|-------------------------|---------|------|---------------------------------|---------|------|-------------------------------|---------|------|
| | R ² | B | SE | R ² | B | SE | R ² | B | SE |
| Age | 0.35 | -0.13* | 0.01 | 0.41 | -0.12* | 0.01 | 0.42 | -0.12* | 0.01 |
| Gender | | 0.24* | 0.05 | | 0.20* | 0.06 | | 0.17* | 0.07 |
| EOU ₁ | | 0.06 | 0.05 | | 0.04 | 0.05 | | 0.03 | 0.06 |
| EOU ₂ | | 0.33*** | 0.01 | | 0.30*** | 0.01 | | 0.28*** | 0.02 |
| Sat ₁ | | 0.80*** | 0.06 | | 0.76*** | 0.06 | | 0.73*** | 0.05 |
| (U ₁ - U ₂) | | 0.24*** | 0.03 | | 0.20* | 0.07 | | 0.17* | 0.07 |
| (U ₁ - U ₂) ² | | | | | 0.13* | 0.02 | | 0.12* | 0.02 |
| (U ₁ - U ₂) ³ | | | | | 0.07 | 0.02 | | | |
| ΔR ² | | | | 0.06*** | | | 0.01 | | |

Notes:

- Sat₂ = satisfaction measured at t₂; Sat₁ = satisfaction measured at t₁; EOU₁ = experienced ease of use; EOU₂ = expected ease of use; U₁ = experienced usefulness; U₂ = expected usefulness.
- Control variables: EOU₁, EOU₂, Gender (1 represents women), and Age.
- Variables measured at time t₁: EOU₂, U₂, Sat₁, Gender, and Age.
- Variables measured at time t₂: EOU₁, U₁, Sat₂.
- *p < .05; **p < .01; ***p < .001.

Table C5: Constrained Model: Predicting BI₂, Use₂₃, Sat₂ Using Direct Measures

| Dependent Variable | Independent Variables | Direct Measurement Model | | | Squared Direct Measurement Model | | | Cubic Direct Measurement Model | | |
|--------------------|-----------------------|--------------------------|----------|---------|----------------------------------|---------|------|--------------------------------|---------|------|
| | | R ² | B | SE | R ² | B | SE | R ² | B | SE |
| BI ₂ | Age | 0.33 | -0.15* | 0.02 | 0.41 | -0.12* | 0.02 | 0.46 | -0.07 | 0.04 |
| | Gender | | 0.25*** | 0.02 | | 0.21*** | 0.02 | | 0.15* | 0.03 |
| | DEOU | | -0.21*** | 0.03 | | -0.17* | 0.03 | | -0.14* | 0.03 |
| | BI ₁ | | 0.46*** | 0.02 | | 0.38*** | 0.02 | | 0.35*** | 0.02 |
| | DU | | 0.24*** | 0.02 | | 0.21*** | 0.02 | | 0.17* | 0.03 |
| | DU ² | | | 0.23*** | 0.03 | 0.20** | 0.03 | | | |
| | DU ³ | | | | | 0.13* | 0.02 | | | |
| | ΔR ² | | | | 0.08*** | | | 0.05** | | |
| Use ₂₃ | Age | 0.31 | -0.07 | 0.02 | 0.35 | -0.05 | 0.03 | 0.38 | -0.04 | 0.03 |
| | Gender | | 0.22** | 0.02 | | 0.20** | 0.03 | | 0.17* | 0.03 |
| | DEOU | | -0.13* | 0.02 | | -0.12* | 0.02 | | -0.12* | 0.03 |
| | Use ₁₂ | | 0.42*** | 0.03 | | 0.40*** | 0.03 | | 0.35*** | 0.03 |
| | DU | | 0.23*** | 0.02 | | 0.20*** | 0.02 | | 0.17** | 0.02 |
| | DU ² | | | 0.13* | 0.04 | 0.12* | 0.04 | | | |
| | DU ³ | | | | | 0.13* | 0.03 | | | |
| | ΔR ² | | | | 0.04* | | | 0.03* | | |
| Sat ₂ | Age | 0.33 | -0.13* | 0.01 | 0.37 | -0.12* | 0.02 | 0.41 | -0.10 | 0.03 |
| | Gender | | 0.23** | 0.02 | | 0.21** | 0.02 | | 0.17** | 0.03 |
| | DEOU | | 0.22** | 0.04 | | 0.20** | 0.04 | | 0.17** | 0.04 |
| | Sat ₁ | | 0.77*** | 0.04 | | 0.70*** | 0.05 | | 0.66*** | 0.05 |
| | DU | | 0.23*** | 0.02 | | 0.21*** | 0.03 | | 0.19** | 0.03 |
| | DU ² | | | 0.14* | 0.04 | 0.10 | 0.05 | | | |
| | DU ³ | | | | | 0.16* | 0.02 | | | |
| | ΔR ² | | | | .04* | | | 0.04* | | |

Notes:

- DU = disconfirmation of usefulness; DEOU = disconfirmation of ease of use; BI₁ = behavioral intention measured at t₁; BI₂ = behavioral intention measured at t₂; Sat₁ = satisfaction measured at t₁; Sat₂ = satisfaction measured at t₂; Use₁₂ = use measured from t₁ to t₂; Use₂₃ = use measured from t₂ to t₃.
- Control variables: DEOU, Gender (1 represents women), and Age.
- Variables measured at time t₁: DEOU, DU, BI₁, Use₁₂, Sat₁, Gender, and Age.
- Variables measured at time t₂: BI₂, Use₂₃, Sat₂.
- *p < .05; **p < .01; ***p < .001.

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Appendix D

Slopes along Lines of Interest¹

A **linear equation** can be presented by

$$Z = b_0 + b_1X + b_2Y + e$$

Slopes along lines of interest for such a linear equation are given by:

Confirmation axis (X = Y line):

Linear slope (a_x) is given by: $b_1 + b_2$

Disconfirmation axis (X = -Y line):

Linear slope (a_y) is given by: $b_1 - b_2$

A **quadratic equation** can be presented by:

$$Z = b_0 + b_1X + b_2Y + b_3X^2 + b_4XY + b_5Y^2 + e$$

Slopes along lines of interest for such a quadratic equation are given by:

Confirmation axis (X = Y line):

Linear slope (a_x) is given by: $b_1 + b_2$

Quadratic slope (a_x^2) is given by: $b_3 + b_4 + b_5$

Disconfirmation axis (X = -Y line):

Linear slope (a_y) is given by: $b_1 - b_2$

Quadratic slope (a_y^2) is given by: $b_3 - b_4 + b_5$

A **cubic equation** can be presented by:

$$Z = b_0 + b_1X + b_2Y + b_3X^2 + b_4XY + b_5Y^2 + b_6X^3 + b_7X^2Y + b_8XY^2 + b_9Y^3 + e$$

Slopes along lines of interest for such a cubic equation are given by:

Confirmation axis (X = Y line):

Linear slope (a_x) is given by: $b_1 + b_2$

Quadratic slope (a_x^2) is given by: $b_3 + b_4 + b_5$

Cubic slope (a_x^3) is given by: $b_6 + b_7 + b_8 + b_9$

Disconfirmation axis (X = -Y line):

Linear slope (a_y) is given by: $b_1 - b_2$

Quadratic slope (a_y^2) is given by: $b_3 - b_4 + b_5$

Cubic slope (a_y^3) is given by: $b_6 - b_7 + b_8 - b_9$

¹See Brown et al. (2012), Edwards (2002), and Edwards and Parry (1983).

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