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Article

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Determinants of Advertising Effectiveness: The Development of an International Advertising Elasticity Database and a Meta-Analysis

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Abstract

Increasing demand for marketing accountability requires an efficient allocation of marketing expenditures. Managers who know the elasticity of their marketing instruments can allocate their budgets optimally. Meta-analyses offer a basis for deriving benchmark elasticities for advertising. Although they provide a variety of valuable insights, a major shortcoming of prior meta-analyses is that they report only generalized results as the disaggregated raw data are not made available. This problem is highly relevant because coding of empirical studies, at least to a certain extent, involves subjective judgment. For this reason, meta-studies would be more valuable if researchers and practitioners had access to disaggregated data allowing them to conduct further analyses of individual, e.g., product-level-specific, interests. We are the first to address this gap by providing (1) an advertising elasticity database (AED) and (2) empirical generalizations about advertising elasticities and their determinants. Our findings indicate that the average current-period advertising elasticity is 0.09, which is substantially smaller than the value of 0.12 that was recently reported by [Sethuraman, Tellis, and Briesch \(2011\)](#). Furthermore, our meta-analysis reveals a wide range of significant determinants of advertising elasticity. For example, we find that advertising elasticities are higher (i) for hedonic and experience goods than for other goods; (ii) for new than for established goods; (iii) when advertising is measured in gross rating points (GRP) instead of absolute terms; and (iv) when the lagged dependent or lagged advertising variable is omitted.

JEL-Classification: C10, D12, M37

Keywords: advertising effectiveness, advertising elasticity, advertising elasticity database, meta-analysis, empirical marketing generalizations

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1 Introduction

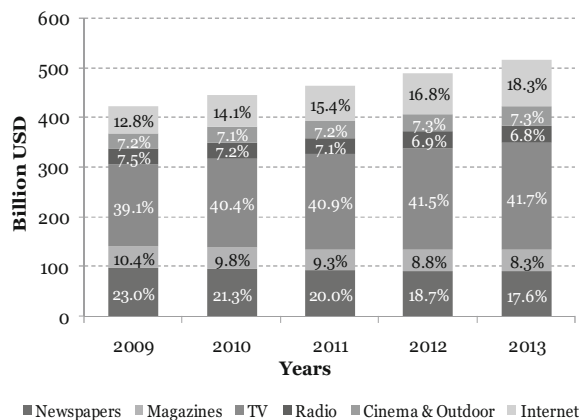
Companies invest substantial shares of their marketing budget into advertising. In 2010, for example, Coca-Cola spent USD 2.9 billion on worldwide advertising ([The Coca-Cola Company 2011: 63](#)) while global advertising spending increased by 10.6% to USD 503 billion ([The Nielsen Company 2011](#)). Despite the fact that investments in *online* media are predicted to continually rise (between 2009 and 2013 from 12.8% to 18.3% of overall ad-

vertising spending), Figure 1 reveals that – even though the world is turning online – the lion's share of advertising is constantly invested in *offline* media ([ZenithOptimedia 2011: 4](#)).

Companies' massive investment in advertising is necessary in order to persuade the consumer to purchase the product by influencing his attitude, social norm, perceived behavior control, and subsequently his behavior intention ([Armitage and Conner 2001](#)). Next to personal selling, in which com-

panies in the US invest almost three times the amount spent on advertising (Albers, Mantrala, and Sridhar 2010), advertising is the second largest investment to influence consumer behavior.

Figure 1: Global Advertising Spending by Medium



Source: ZenithOptimedia 2011 (estimated values for 2011-2013)

Such high advertising expenditures have to be justified by satisfactory financial outcomes, so marketing managers are greatly interested in measuring the response to advertising expenditures (Lehmann 2004; Srinivasan, Vanhuele, and Pauwels 2010).

A powerful measure to quantify the effect of advertising is the advertising elasticity, which is dimensionless and simple to interpret (Parsons 1975; Tellis 1988). Albers, Mantrala, and Sridhar (2010: 840) defined the elasticity as “the ratio of the percentage change in output (e.g., dollar or unit sales) to the corresponding percentage change in the input (e.g., dollar expenditures on advertising”. The particular advantage of elasticities arises from the fact that managers who know the elasticity of their marketing instruments are able to allocate their budgets optimally (Albers 2000). This ability requires knowledge of advertising elasticities – ideally drawn from an easily accessible database.

Despite the high relevance of marketing elasticities for managerial decision making and marketing scientists, only a few meta-analyses have focused on this topic. Albers, Mantrala, and Sridhar (2010) found a mean elasticity of 0.34 for personal selling. Bijmolt, Van Heerde, and Pieters (2005) report a mean price elasticity of -2.62 which indicates a substantial increase over time compared to the mean price elasticity of -1.76 reported by Tellis (1988).

With regard to advertising elasticities, Assmus, Farley, and Lehmann (1984) reported a mean short-term advertising elasticity of 0.22. This finding was recently updated by Sethuraman, Tellis, and Briesch (2011), who reported an average current-period advertising elasticity of 0.12.

What these meta-analyses of advertising and other marketing elasticities have in common is that they report valuable generalized findings. Unfortunately, they do so at a highly aggregated level without providing the database from which the results are derived. Thus, prior meta-analyses do not allow researchers to (i) quickly determine which studies report elasticities on a specific topic; (ii) easily aggregate prior elasticity findings with respect to certain subgroups; or (iii) run their own, e.g., product-type-specific, analyses to optimize research-related and real-life marketing decisions.

In summary, we address two major research gaps in the field of advertising elasticities with this study: First, even though a few meta-analyses on advertising elasticities exist, the underlying data have never been made available, thus preventing access to the disaggregated data. Second, because the underlying database is unavailable, the findings of conventional meta-analyses cannot be retraced. This situation is unsatisfactory because coding involves personal judgment, which may mean that the findings of meta-analyses need to be adjusted to specific contexts.

In order to eliminate these shortcomings, this study contributes to extant research by providing the first *international, online-access advertising elasticity database* (AED, Web Appendix 1), which includes empirical elasticities from the 62 studies outlined in section 3.1. For all of these studies, a large number of characteristics are coded, including most of the moderator variables used by Sethuraman, Tellis, and Briesch (2011) as well as additional ones, such as competitive effects, seasonality, income, and various publication details which are outlined in section 2. With respect to the type of advertising elasticity, we have found 602 short- and 143 long-term elasticities in the empirical studies. Due to our focus on contemporaneous effects, we have calculated current-period elasticities, i.e., short-term elasticities derived from long-term elasticities, wherever possible. These calculations yielded an additional 58 current-period elasticities. The AED is enhanced by a coding handbook (Web Appendix 2) and by a study overview, which contains a summary



of the characteristics of the included studies (Table 1 in Section 3.1). Thus, our online AED (i) presents a simple but comprehensive overview of scientific results, (ii) provides a maximum level of transparency, (iii) offers deep insights into the effectiveness of advertising activities at a disaggregated level, thereby allowing for benchmarking, and (iv) enables researchers and managers to conduct analyses tailored to their particular needs. Hence, this online AED will facilitate further research and help to transfer the results into management practice.

With respect to the second research gap, we aim to *quantitatively generalize empirical findings on the determinants of the relationship between advertising and the response to advertising*. Thus, we conduct a meta-analysis to study whether, in what direction, and to what extent the potential determinants influence advertising effectiveness. Focusing on contemporaneous effects of advertising in the meta-analysis, original short-term elasticities are consolidated with the current-period elasticities derived from long-term elasticities, before they are analyzed jointly as a single category termed "current-period elasticities". While 602 short- and 143 long-term elasticities are coded in the AED based on 62 empirical studies and 60 different data sets, we include 659 current-period and 23 non-convertible long-run advertising elasticities in our meta-analysis. We find an average value of 0.09 for current-period elasticities. The advantage of this over prior meta-analyses is that our results can be understood perfectly, because every single coding decision can be retraced with the help of the coding description and the AED. The meta-findings can thus be easily adjusted to particular needs.

The remainder of this paper is organized as follows: The next section introduces the potential determinants of advertising elasticity. The coding of the AED as well as the derivation of hypotheses for potential determinants of advertising elasticity are presented in section 3. Section 4 addresses the estimation of the hierarchical meta-analysis model and presents the findings. Implications, limitations, and directions for further research conclude this paper.

2 Potential Determinants of Advertising Elasticity

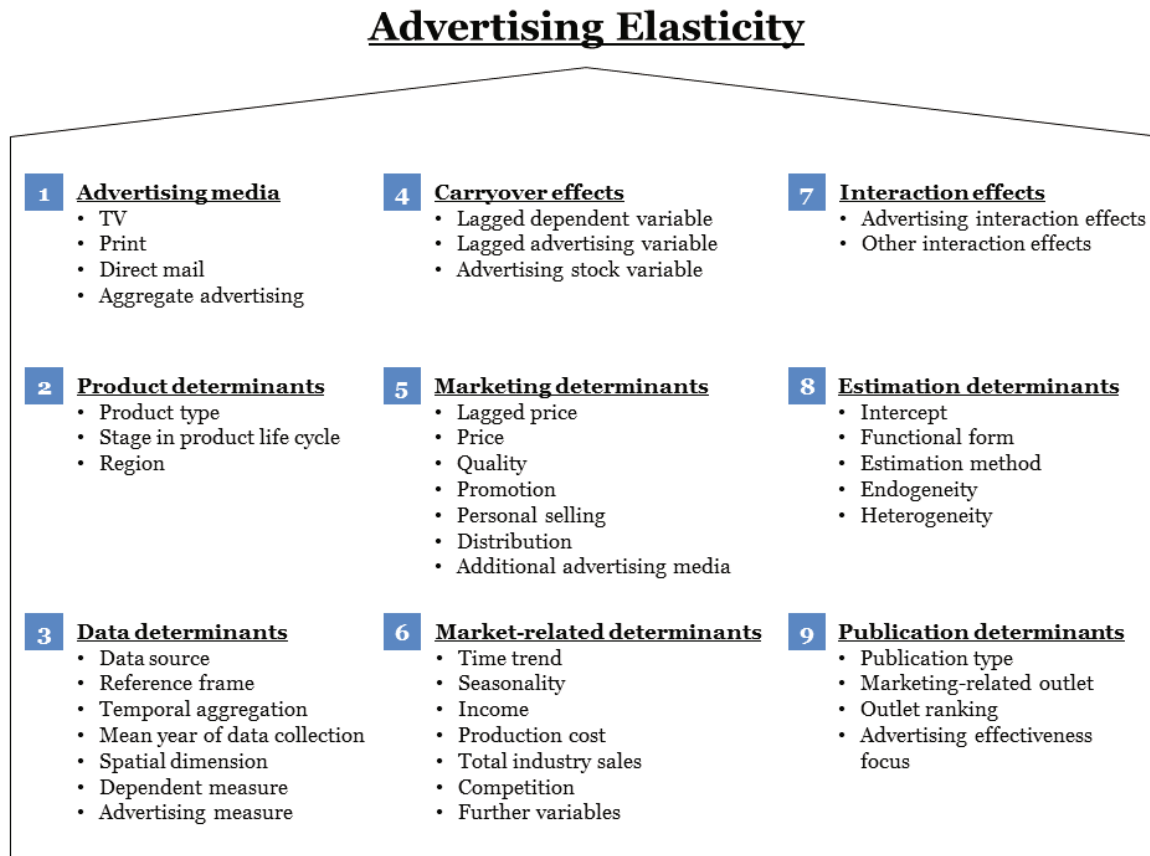
Our AED and the subsequent meta-analysis aim to include and analyze published and unpublished empirical studies dealing with any sort of advertis-

ing effect across a wide range of industries. The selection of the moderating variables is based on extant theoretical and empirical research on advertising efficiency (e.g., [Vakratsas and Ambler 1999](#)). In addition, we consider prior findings on determinants of the elasticities of advertising ([Assmus, Farley, and Lehmann 1984](#); [Sethuraman, Tellis, and Briesch 2011](#)) and other marketing mix instruments (e.g., [Albers, Mantrala, and Sridhar 2010](#); [Bijmolt, Van Heerde, and Pieters 2005](#); [Kremer, Bijmolt, Leeflang, and Wieringa 2008](#)). Finally, we include further variables derived from the coded studies that may influence advertising effectiveness. Figure 2 depicts nine groups of determinants that are most likely to affect advertising elasticity.

In the following, the relationships between the moderating variables and advertising elasticity are briefly outlined for each of the nine groups of potential determinants: (1) *Advertising medium*: Prior literature identifies substantial differences in advertising elasticity magnitudes according to the underlying advertising medium (e.g., [Vakratsas and Ambler 1999](#)). Thus, the advertising medium (such as TV, print, or direct mail) used to communicate the advertising message is included in the AED.

(2) *Product determinants*: First, theoretical rationale and empirical findings explain why advertising response varies for different product types. For example, entertainment products (such as movies) are hedonic-experience goods for which a quality and value assessment prior to consumption is almost impossible ([Sawhney and Eliashberg 1996](#)). Thus, advertising plays a major role in reducing uncertainty for these products. Second, research has shown that elasticities decrease during the product's life cycle ([Vakratsas and Ambler 1999](#)). Finally, cultural differences combined with different advertising strategies (e.g., due to region-specific market regulations) explain why advertising effectiveness differs with respect to the region in which the product is marketed (e.g., [Elberse and Eliashberg 2003](#); [Lambin 1976](#)). (3) *Data determinants*: Following earlier meta-analyses (e.g., [Kremer, Bijmolt, Leeflang, and Wieringa 2008](#)), we include a wide range of data determinants to control for data-driven effects such as the measurement of key variables (i.e., dependent and advertising variables) or data aggregation levels and time frames. (4) *Carryover effects*: It is not unreasonable to assume that models that account for carryover effects lead to

Figure 2: Potential Determinants of Advertising Elasticity Magnitude



lower elasticity magnitudes compared to those that do not account for such dynamics because in the latter case, carryover effects might spuriously be attributed to current advertising (Albers, Mantrala, and Sridhar 2010; Farley and Lehmann 2001). Hence, we investigate the effect of the omission of (i) the lagged dependent variable and (ii) lagged or stock advertising variables. (5) *Marketing determinants*: This group mainly includes the typical marketing mix elements, such as price, quality, and promotion. Because advertising campaigns often employ several media at the same time (so-called multi-channel marketing), we code which further advertising media (in addition to the one for which the elasticity is noted) are analyzed in the empirical model of a study. The purpose is to be able to account for the fact that further advertising media might be partially responsible for sales response. (6) *Market-related determinants*: In addition to marketing-related effects, we include a set of market-related determinants that are well established in the marketing literature to influence advertising re-

sponse. For example, a time variable is often included in models to account for trends in the data, and competition variables are used to account for the different strengths of market participants. (7) *Interaction effects*: Advertising elasticities are affected not only by marketing and the aforementioned market-related determinants but also potentially by interaction effects (e.g., Deighton, Henderson, and Neslin 1994). Therefore, we include these effects in our framework. (8) *Estimation determinants*: In order to capture effects on advertising elasticities that can be attributed to the wide field of estimation, we include the functional form and the estimation method and account for endogeneity and heterogeneity in the AED. (9) *Publication determinants*: Finally, prior meta-analyses (e.g., Albers, Mantrala, and Sridhar 2010) reported publication-related biases. Hence, the publication type (e.g., published versus unpublished) and whether the paper has a specific focus on advertising effectiveness are listed in the AED. Furthermore, we control for potential biases that could arise from publication in market-



ing-related versus non-marketing-related outlets or high- versus low-ranked journals.

In summary, the conceptual framework and the AED do not include two variables employed by [Sethuraman, Tellis, and Briesch \(2011\)](#). These are recession and product-type services which are excluded due to lack of information, an excessively high requirement of coding judgment, or our slightly different product sub-groupings. Variables that are additionally (or at a more disaggregated level) included in this study are: product-type entertainment media, region- (mostly continent-) specific information, internal or external data source, reference frame, number of periods, spatial dimension, personal selling, additional advertising media used, seasonality, income, production costs, industry sales, competitive effects, number of further variables (including a brief description), and three publication details, namely the marketing orientation of the publication outlet, the publication outlet's ranking, and a study's focus on an advertising-effectiveness topic. The complete range of variables coded in the AED serves as the basis for the subsequent meta-analysis, which as a result, uses some different explanatory variables to prior meta-studies (differences will be outlined in section 4.4). The next section describes the search procedure for the included empirical studies and the coding of variables.

3 Advertising Elasticity Database (AED)

3.1 Identification of Studies

The research base of the AED is generated by a multiple literature search approach to ensure that all published and unpublished studies that either report advertising elasticities or, in case elasticities are unavailable, provide sufficient information to calculate them, are included.

Our starting point was the list of studies included in the two prior meta-analyses on advertising elasticities ([Assmus, Farley and Lehmann 1984](#); [Sethuraman, Tellis, and Briesch 2011](#)). Next, we systematically searched for studies using major computerized databases for bibliographic data (e.g., ABI/Inform, Business Source Premier by EBSCO, Science Direct) and enriched the findings by conference proceedings and relevant working papers published online (e.g., SSRN). Third, we conducted a

manual journal search of the leading international journals in the field: *International Journal of Research in Marketing*, *Journal of Marketing*, *Journal of Consumer Research*, *Journal of Marketing Research*, *Management Science*, *Marketing Letters*, *Marketing Science*, *Journal of Business*, and *BuR – Business Research*. Finally, we conducted a cross-reference search based on the papers found to identify further relevant studies (including published books).

Each study then had to meet a series of four criteria to be included in the AED: (i) We include only studies that analyze brand- or product-level advertising effects. Thus, studies dealing with industry-level effects are excluded. (ii) We include only studies that focus on direct-to-consumer advertising. Thus, papers dealing with business-to-business aspects are excluded. (iii) We only include studies that have derived results based on empirical real-life sales or choice data. Thus, results derived on the basis of experiments are excluded. (iv) We only include studies that report (or allow us to derive) elasticities in the form of a percentage change in the response variable due to a one-percent change in the advertising variable (abbreviated in the following as %/% elasticities). Thus, in contrast to [Sethuraman, Tellis, and Briesch \(2011\)](#), we exclude studies using other types of elasticities (e.g., semi-elasticities, [Goeree 2008](#)).

Table 1 provides an overview of the studies that are included in the AED and the subsequent meta-regression. It contains 62 studies that were published between 1962 and 2010 and whose 60 datasets cover the time span from 1869 to 2005 across a wide range of industries, product types, advertising media, continents, and modeling approaches. The studies were published as articles in internationally recognized journals or conference proceedings, as books, or are not yet published. Thus, we reduce potential influences due to publication bias ([Cooper 1989](#)).

Compared to the meta-analysis of [Sethuraman, Tellis and Briesch \(2011\)](#), we exclude two studies ([Chintagunta, Kadiyali, and Vilcassim 2006](#); [Goeree 2008](#)) because %/% elasticities could not be calculated for these studies due to a lack of information. We include an additional book by [Frank and Massy \(1967\)](#) and papers from [Ainslie, Drèze, and Zufryden \(2005\)](#); [Arora \(1979\)](#); [Elberse and Eliashberg \(2003\)](#); [Erdem, Keane, and Sun \(2008\)](#); [Montgom-](#)



ery and Silk (1972); Prag and Casavant (1994); and Telser (1962).

3.2 Coding of Studies

The content of other authors' published and unpublished work is the basis for every meta-analysis. To obtain this data, it is necessary to analyze and interpret the information given in these empirical studies. Because this process involves a certain amount of subjective judgment, studies are coded and validated by a multiple coding approach to reduce biases that may arise from coders' subjective judgment (Albers, Mantrala, and Sridhar 2010; Kremer, Bijmolt, Leeflang, and Wieringa 2008). In order to provide as much transparency as possible, we followed two main steps while coding the data: First, the data were coded independently by two coders. Open questions, inconsistencies, and deviations from the number of elasticities coded by Sethuraman, Tellis, and Briesch (2011) were discussed with an experienced marketing scholar to whom we are deeply grateful, especially because he is not an author of this paper. When open questions remained, we contacted the authors of the respective empirical paper for clarification or provision of additional information. This procedure generally resulted in one of the three following outcomes: (i) the procedure worked well and our questions were answered; (ii) authors pointed out that they do not know how elasticities (could) have been derived and reported for their article in prior meta-analyses; or (iii) the authors did not respond. In these cases, we coded the respective articles to the best of our ability. Because we received replies from several authors, whom we thank for their kind support, we are confident in our results. Second, every coding decision is documented in the AED by a direct citation and/or explanation of our coding decision to provide a maximum level of transparency.

Subsequently, we first describe the coding of the advertising elasticity (which serves as the dependent variable in our subsequent meta-regression, AED columns N-AC) followed by the coding description of the independent variables, including their expected effects on advertising elasticity (AED columns AD-HY). Columns A-M of the AED contain general information on the article such as the publication details and a dataset indicator. A separate coding handbook that exclusively contains the pure coding rules is provided in Web Appendix 2.

3.2.1 Coding of the dependent variable "advertising elasticity" (AED columns N-AC)

The coding of the advertising elasticity serves two purposes: (1) setting up a comprehensive, open-access database of advertising elasticities that can be used for any scientific or managerial aim and (2) enabling a meta-analysis focusing on current-period advertising elasticities.

With respect to purpose (1), we code all short- and long-term advertising elasticities in the AED that we were able to locate in empirical studies. *Short-term elasticities* reflect the contemporaneous effect of advertising on response, whereas *long-term elasticities* additionally include advertising effects occurring over multiple time periods, thereby capturing dynamic effects on the response variable (e.g., by the use of an advertising stock variable, e.g., Lambin 1969: 90). This categorization is independent of the temporal aggregation level (Albers, Mantrala, and Sridhar 2010).

In the AED, columns P-Q indicate for each specific elasticity value, whether it was *originally found* as a short-term or long-term elasticity in the empirical study. The *numbers* of short- and long-term elasticities found in each study are given in columns R-S (and in Table 1).

The purpose of (2) the subsequent meta-analysis is to estimate the effects of the potential determinants (Figure 2) on advertising elasticity magnitude. In contrast to Sethuraman, Tellis, and Briesch (2011), who investigate short- and long-term elasticities in parallel, we convert long-term to current-period elasticities whenever possible to investigate the contemporaneous effect of current-period advertising on current-period response (Albers, Mantrala, and Sridhar 2010). We focus on current-period elasticities for the following three reasons: (i) the marketing literature has traditionally devoted more attention to the current than to the long-term impact of marketing strategies (Dekimpe and Hanssens 1995); (ii) most of the elasticities provided in the empirical studies are short-term (602 versus 143, Table 1); and (iii) in most cases, long-term elasticities can be converted into current-period elasticities, so studies reporting only long-term elasticities are retained in the analysis. To sum up the meta-analysis, we analyze 682 elasticities: 659 current-period elasticities consisting of 601 elasticities found as short-term ones in empirical studies which by definition describe the contemporaneous effect of

Table 1: Overview of Empirical Studies Included in AED and Meta-Regression (1/6)

Study No.	Authors	Publication Year	Data set No.	Industry	Region	Advertising Medium	Data Collection Period	Precedence in...			Number of Elasticities			Mean Elasticity Value per Study	
								AFL 1984	KBL W 2011	STB 2008	Found in Studies	Included in Meta-Regression	Long-term		Short-term
1	Ainslie, Drèze, and Ziefryden	2005	1	Movies	US/Canada	Aggr. advertising	1995-1998				1	1	0	1	0.31
2	Ariberg and Arora	2008	2	Several industries	n.a.	Direct mail	2001-2004				0	10	0	0	10 no obs. ⁵
3	Arora	1979	13	Ethical drugs	US/Canada	Print, direct mail	1959-1961	x	x		2	0	2	0	0.02
4	Baidya and Basu	2008	3	Hair care	Asia	Aggr. advertising	2000-2005			x[a] ⁶	1	0	1	0	0.38
5	Balachander and Ghose	2003	4	Yoghurts, detergents	US/Canada	TV	1987-1988				0	12	0	12	0.06
6	Bemnaor	1984	5	Frequently purchased goods	n.a.	Aggr. advertising	n.a.				12	0	12	0	0.07
7	Bird	2002	6	Cigarettes	Asia	Aggr. advertising	1992-1995				7	7	0	0	0.01
8	Bridges, Briesch, and Shu	2008	7	Cereals	US/Canada	TV	2002-2004			x[b]	18	0	18	0	0.15
9	Brodie and de Kluuyer	1984	8	Biscuits	Oceania	TV	1975-1980				18	0	18	0	0.01
10	Capps, Seo, and Nichols	1997	9	Spaghetti sauces	US/Canada	TV	1991-1992				0	3	0	0	3 no obs.
11	Carpenter, Cooper, Hanssens, and Midgley	1988	10	Household products	Oceania	TV	1981-1982				10	0	10	0	0.09
12	Clarke	1973	11	Low-priced purchased consumer goods	n.a.	Aggr. advertising	n.a.	x			18	0	18	0	0.08
13	Cowling and Cubbin	1971	12	Cars	Europe	Aggr. advertising	1957-1968	x			5	2	5	0	0.66
14	Crespi and Marette	2002	14	Prunes	US/Canada	TV	1992-1996				2	0	2	0	0.01
15	Danaher, Bonfrer, and Dhar	2008	15	Liquid laundry detergents, raisin brans	US/Canada	TV	1991				0	15	0	15	0.09

Table 1 continued: Overview of Empirical Studies Included in AED and Meta-Regression (2/6)

Study No.	Authors	Publication Year	Data set No.	Industry	Region	Advertising Medium	Data Collection Period	Precedence in...			Number of Elasticities			Mean Elasticity Value per Study
								AFL 1984	KBL W 2011	STB 2008	Found in Studies	Included in Meta-Regression	Long-term	
16	Deighton, Henderson, and Neslin	1994	16	Food, liquid laundry detergents, powder detergents	US/Canada	TV	1984-1985	x	12	0	12	0	0	-0.05
17	Doganoglu and Klapper	2006	17	Liquid detergents	Europe	TV	1998-2000	x	0	3	0	3	0	0.07
18	Dubé and Manchanda	2005	18	Frozen entrées	US/Canada	TV	1991-1994	x	0	9	0	9	0	0.00
19	Dubé, Hitsch, and Manchanda	2005	18	Frozen entrées	US/Canada	TV	1991-1994	x	0	5	0	5	0	0.03
20	Elberse and Eliashberg	2003	19	Movies	US and Canada, Europe	Aggr. advertising	1999	4	0	4	0	0	0	0.24
21	Erdem and Sun	2002	20	Toothpastes, toothbrushes	US/Canada	TV	1991-1994	x	0	4	0	4	0	0.87
22	Erdem, Keane, and Sun	2008	21	Ketchup	US/Canada	TV	1986-1988	0	1	0	0	0	1	no obs.
23	Erickson	1977	54	Household cleansers	US/Canada	Aggr. advertising	1869-1915	x	3	0	3	0	0	0.07
24	Frank and Massy	1967	22	Food	US/Canada	Print	1963-1964	x	39	38	39	0	0	0.01
25	Ghosh, Neslin, and Shoemaker	1984	43	Cereals	US/Canada	TV	1973-1975	x	8	0	8	0	0	0.03
26	Holak and Reddy	1986	23	Cigarettes	US/Canada	Aggr. advertising	1950-1969, 1970-1979	x	20	0	20	0	0	0.10
27	Houston and Weiss	1974	24	Food	US/Canada	Aggr. advertising	n.a.	x	5	0	5	0	0	0.19
28	Hsu and Liu	2004	26	Fluid milk products	Asia	TV, print	1996-1999	x	5	0	5	0	0	0.03

Table 1 continued: Overview of Empirical Studies Included in AED and Meta-Regression (3/6)

Study No.	Authors	Publication Year	Data set No.	Industry	Region	Advertising Medium	Data Collection Period	Precedence in...			Number of Elasticities		Mean Elasticity Value per Study		
								AFL 1984	KBL W 2008	STB 2011	Found in Studies	Included in Meta-Regression		Short-term	Long-term
							Short-term		Derived from Long-term						
29	Iizuka and Jin	2007	27	Prescription drugs	US/Canada	Print, aggr. advertising	1997-2001	x [c]	x [d]	6	0	6	0	0	0.06
30	Jedidi, Mela, and Gupta	1999	28	Non food consumer packaged goods	US/Canada	Aggr. advertising	1984-1992	x	0	4	0	0	0	4	no obs.
31	Jeuland	1980	29	Shampoos	Europe	Aggr. advertising	1975-1977	x [e]	10	0	10	0	0	0	0.10
32	Johansson	1973	30	Hair sprays	n.a.	Aggr. advertising	1968-1969	x	2	0	2	0	0	0	0.09
33	Kuehn, McGuire, and Weiss	1966	31	Groceries	US/Canada	Direct mail	n.a.	x	1	0	1	0	0	0	0.12
34	Lambin	1969	32	Food	Europe	Aggr. advertising	n.a.	x	3	3	3	0	0	0	0.22
35	Lambin	1970	33	Electronics	Europe	Aggr. advertising	1959-1966	x	3	0	3	0	0	0	0.28
36	Lambin	1972	25	Gasolines	US/Canada	Print	1950-1970	x	2	0	2	0	0	0	0.03
37	Lambin	1976	34	Soft drinks, electric shavers, gasolines, yoghurts, hair sprays, confectionaries, televisions, cigarettes, banks, insecticides, deodorants, detergents, auto trains, sun tan lotions, coffees, apples	Europe	Print, TV, aggr. advertising	Diverse data collection periods, ranging from 1949-1972	x	144	6	144	6	0	0	0.08

Table 1 continued: Overview of Empirical Studies Included in AED and Meta-Regression (4/6)

Study No.	Authors	Publication Year	Data set No.	Industry	Region	Advertising Medium	Data Collection Period	Precedence in...			Number of Elasticities			Mean Elasticity Value per Study
								AFL 1984	KBL W 2011	STB 2008	Found in Studies	Included in Meta-Regression	Long-term	
38	Leach and Reekie	1996	35	Gasolines	Africa	Aggr. advertising	1980-1988	x	4	0	4	0	0	0.00
39	Lee, Fairchild, and Behr	1988	36	Orange juices	US/Canada	Aggr. advertising	1983-1986	x	4	0	4	0	0	0.02
40	Lyman	1994	37	Electricity	US/Canada	Aggr. advertising	1959-1968	x	3	6	3	0	3	0.05
41	Metwally	1975	38	Coffees, beers, cigarettes, toilet soaps, laundry detergents, toothpastes, paints, motor spirits	Oceania	Aggr. advertising	1960-1970	x [f]	32	0	32	0	0	0.04
42	Metwally	1980	39	Coffees, beers, cigarettes, toilet soaps, laundry detergents, toothpastes, paints, motor spirits	Oceania	Aggr. advertising	1974-1976	x	8	0	8	0	0	0.38
43	Montgomery and Silk	1972	40	Ethical drugs	US/Canada	Print, direct mail	1963-1968	x	10	4	10	0	0	0.07
44	Moriarty	1975	41	Consumer goods	n.a.	TV	n.a.	x	25	0	25	0	0	0.02
45	Narayanan, Desiraju, and Chintagunta	2004	42	Drugs	US/Canada	Aggr. advertising	1993-2002	x	3	0	3	0	0	0.07

Table 1 continued: Overview of Empirical Studies Included in AED and Meta-Regression (5/6)

Study No.	Authors	Publication Year	Data set No.	Industry	Region	Advertising Medium	Data Collection Period	Precedence in...			Number of Elasticities			Mean Elasticity Value per Study		
								AFL 1984	KBL W 2008	STB 2011	Found in Studies	Included in Meta-Regression	Long-term		Short-term	Derived from Long-term
46	Palda	1964	45	Drugs	US/Canada	Aggr. advertising	Diverse data collection periods, ranging from 1907-1960	x	x	x	11	5	11	0	0	0.42
47	Parker and Gatignon	1996	46	Hair styling mousses	n.a.	Aggr. advertising	1984-1987	x			3	0	3	0	0	0.33
48	Parsons	1975	54	Household cleansers	US/Canada	Aggr. advertising	1869-1915	x			6	0	6	0	0	0.30
49	Parsons	1976	55	Shampoos	US/Canada	Aggr. advertising	1919-1929	x			4	0	4	0	0	0.02
50	Picconi and Olson	1978	47	Beverages	n.a.	TV	1964-1972	x			6	0	6	0	0	0.02
51	Prag and Casavant	1994	48	Movies	US/Canada	Aggr. advertising	1990				0	1	0	0	1	no obs.
52	Rennhoff and Wilbur	2010	49	Movies	US/Canada	TV	2003			x [g]	5	0	5	0	0	0.38
53	Rojas and Peterson	2008	50	Beers	US/Canada	Aggr. advertising	1988-1992	x			17	0	17	0	0	0.03
54	Sexton	1970	51	Groceries	US/Canada	TV, print	n.a.	x			12	0	11	0	0	0.01
55	Shankar and Bayus	2003	52	Home video games	US/Canada	Aggr. advertising	1993-1995	x			2	0	2	0	0	0.17
56	Shum	2004	53	Cereals	US/Canada	TV	1991-1992	x			48	0	48	0	0	0.09

Table 1 continued: Overview of Empirical Studies Included in AED and Meta-Regression (6/6)

Study No.	Authors	Publication Year	Data set No.	Industry	Region	Advertising Medium	Data Collection Period	Precedence in...			Number of Elasticities			Mean Elasticity Value per Study
								AFL 1984	KBL W 2008	STB 2011	Found in Studies	Included in Meta-Regression	Long-term	
57	Telser	1962	44	Cigarettes	US/Canada	Aggr. advertising	Diverse data collection periods, ranging from 1913-1939	x	5	0	5	0	0	0.30
58	Vilcassim, Kadyali, and Chintagunta	1999	56	Personal care products	US/Canada	TV	1991-1994	x	3	0	3	0	0	0.03
59	Weiss	1968	57	Low-cost frequently purchased consumer goods	US/Canada	Aggr. advertising	1960-1963	x	2	0	2	0	0	0.29
60	Wildt	1974	58	Food	n.a.	TV, aggr. advertising	n.a.	x	3	0	3	0	0	0.03
61	Wittink	1977	59	Frequently purchased branded goods	n.a.	TV	n.a.	x	25	0	25	0	0	0.09
62	Wosinska	2003	60	Drugs	US/Canada	Aggr. advertising	1996-1999	x [h]	0	4	0	4	0	0.01
								Sum	602	143	601	58	23	
								Total Sum	745	682				

⁴ AFL = Assmus, Farley, and Lehmann 1984, KBLW = Kremer, Bijmolt, Leeflang, and Wieringa 2008, STB = Sethuraman, Tellis, and Briesch 2011

⁵ no obs. = no observations available

⁶ [a] = STB listed 2007 as year of publication. The correct year is 2008.

[b] = STB listed 1974 as year of publication. The correct year is 1975.

[c] = KBLW used the version of 2005.

[d] = STB used the version of 2002.

[e] = STB used the version of 1979.

[f] = STB listed 1974 as year of publication. The correct year is 1975.

[g] = STB used the version of 2008.

[h] = KBLW used the version of 2002.

[i] = STB used the version of 2002.

advertising on response plus 58 current-period elasticities derived from long-term elasticities, and 23 non-convertible long-term elasticities while a dummy accounts for their long-term nature. Elasticity values are obtained from empirical papers in two ways. In most cases, they are taken as explicitly reported by the authors, i.e., the elasticity value or, for double-log models, the advertising coefficient, which equals the elasticity. If no elasticities are stated, we compute elasticities based on parameter estimates and data given in the paper (Web Appendix 3). These calculations are generally based on the well-known literature by [Hanssens, Parsons, and Schultz \(2001: 95-98, 100-101, 121-125, 135-137\)](#) and [Hruschka \(2002: 518\)](#). Share model elasticities are derived as outlined in [Leeflang, Wittink, Wedel, and Naert \(2000: 171-178\)](#) and [Cooper and Nakaniishi \(2000: 26-31, 34\)](#). In addition, interaction effects are considered in the computation of elasticities whenever possible. Table 2 provides an overview of the calculation of elasticities for the main model types. When a lack of data impedes deriving elasticities by means of functions, elasticities are derived from simulation results (e.g., [Aribarg and Arora 2008](#); [Erdem and Sun 2002](#)).

In a second step, long-term elasticities are converted into current-period elasticities whenever the elasticity was derived on the basis of an advertising stock variable. For these cases, the AED contains the long-term and the current-period elasticities in separate rows of the AED sheet (e.g., [Wosinska 2003](#)). [Hanssens, Parsons, and Schultz \(2001: 140-152\)](#) described several methods for modeling advertising carryover, for which the conversion of long-term into current-period elasticities has to be carried out accordingly. The most common advertising stock specification (Eq. 1) was introduced by [Nerlove and Arrow \(1962\)](#) and is used by, e.g., [Dubé and Manchanda \(2005\)](#) and [Lambin \(1976\)](#). The advertising stock AS_t in period t is calculated as

$$(1) \quad (AS_t)^N = A_t + \lambda (AS_{t-1})^N$$

where A_t is current advertising, N indicates the approach by Nerlove and Arrow, and λ is the carryover coefficient, sometimes also called the retention rate, which typically falls within the interval from zero to one. Because the stock value of a certain advertising level can be calculated as $AS^N = A / (1 - \lambda)$, current-period elasticities ($\varepsilon^{N,cp}$) are obtained from long-term elasticities ($\varepsilon^{N,lt}$) as given in Equa-

tion 2 ([Albers, Mantrala, and Sridhar 2010: Web Appendix, note on p.11](#); [Assmus, Farley and Lehmann 1984: 67](#); [Picconi and Olson 1978: 90](#)).

$$(2) \quad \varepsilon^{N,cp} = \varepsilon^{N,lt} (1 - \lambda)$$

While the approach by Nerlove and Arrow is by far the most frequently used stock specification in our research base, the alternative exponential smoothing approach by [Guadagni and Little \(1983\)](#), also see [Broadbent 1979](#)) given in Equation 3 is utilized in a few cases ([Balachander and Ghose 2003](#); [Danaher, Bonfrer, and Dhar 2008](#); [Erdem and Sun 2002](#)).

$$(3) \quad (AS_t)^G = (1 - \psi) A_t + \psi (AS_{t-1})^G$$

Extending the notation above, G indicates the approach by [Guadagni and Little \(1983\)](#), and ψ is the smoothing coefficient, which is bounded between zero and one. Calculating stock values analogously to the procedure in the Nerlove and Arrow case would be misleading because of the difference in their specification. A better approximation of the steady-state level can be achieved by $AS^G = A / (1 - \psi(1 - \psi))$. Hence, for models employing exponential smoothing, current-period elasticities are obtained from long-term elasticities as given in Equation 4.

$$(4) \quad \varepsilon^{G,cp} = \varepsilon^{G,lt} (1 - \psi(1 - \psi))$$

[Doganoglu and Klapper \(2006\)](#) used a Cobb-Douglas goodwill production function, which behaves similarly to the exponential smoothing approach with respect to reaching a steady-state level. In studies for which no current-period elasticities could be derived from the information given, for instance because the estimate of the carryover coefficient is not given ([Capps, Seo, and Nichols 1997](#)) or the model complexity is too high (e.g., [Aribarg and Arora 2008](#)), we include the long-term elasticity in the meta-regression. In these cases, a dummy variable accounts for the fact that, on average, higher values are found for long-term than for current-period elasticities. In case a study reports both current-period and long-term elasticities based on the same model, both types are contained in the AED for the sake of completeness. However, only the current-period elasticities enter the subsequent meta-analysis due to our focus on current-period elasticities and in order to avoid double-counting. The coding follows three guidelines:

Table 2: Elasticity Calculations

Functional Form	Statistical Model	Elasticity
Share (Multinomial Logit Model)	$Attr_i = \exp\left(\alpha_i + \sum_{h=1}^H \beta_h x_{hi}\right) + e_i$ $s_i = \frac{Attr_i}{\sum_{j=1}^J Attr_j}$	$\beta_h (1 - \bar{s}_i) \bar{x}_{hi}$
Double-log	$\log(y_i) = \alpha_i + \sum_{h=1}^H \beta_h \log(x_{hi}) + \log(e_i)$	β_h
Semi-log	$y_i = \alpha_i + \sum_{h=1}^H \beta_h \log(x_{hi}) + \log(e_i)$	$\beta_h (1/\bar{y}_i)$
Linear	$y_i = \alpha_i + \sum_{h=1}^H \beta_h x_{hi} + e_i$	$\beta_h (\bar{x}_{hi} / \bar{y}_i)$

Source: Cooper and Nakanishi (2000); Gemmil, Costa-Font, and McGuire (2007); Kremer, Bijmolt, Leeflang, and Wieringa (2008)

α = Constant	h = Indicator for explanatory variables ($h = 1, \dots, H$)
$Attr$ = Attraction of a brand	s = Share
β = Coefficient	x = Explanatory variable
e = Error term	\bar{x} = Arithmetic mean of explanatory variable
i = Brand indicator (where i is the focal brand)	y = Dependent variable
j = Brand indicator ($j = 1, \dots, J$)	\bar{y} = Arithmetic mean of dependent variable

- (i) Elasticities are coded at the most disaggregated level; i.e., when a study reports elasticities at an aggregated, higher hierarchy level but also at a more disaggregated, lower hierarchy level nested within the former level, only the elasticities derived at the disaggregated level are included in the AED to avoid double-counting. For example, Lyman (1994) reported disaggregated elasticities for the lower regional level (North, South, and Southwest) and for the higher total area level, so we only include the disaggregated regional elasticities in the AED. In contrast, the number of elasticities included in Sethuraman, Tellis, and Briesch (2011) suggested that they include both higher- and lower-level elasticities.
- (ii) If the model includes lagged but no current-period advertising, this is assumed to reflect the specifics of the product or the data. For in-

stance, Moriarty (1975: 145) uses lagged advertising because sales volume is reported in *shipments to* rather than *sales of* retail outlets, i.e., lagged advertising is employed to achieve a fit between the advertising variable and the response. As a result, we code the elasticity of the most recent advertising variable as the current-period advertising elasticity.

- (iii) Elasticity estimates sometimes have high standard errors despite being consistent. If one sets to zero all elasticity estimates whose p -values are < 0.05 , one would aggregate the wrong means of distributions. Thus, elasticities are coded irrespective of their significance levels.

To conclude, 62 studies are retrieved that provide 602 short-term and 143 long-term estimates of advertising elasticity in the AED (Web Appendix 1). Converting long-term to current-period elasticities

whenever possible yields a total of 659 current-period and 23 long-term elasticities that are included in the meta-analysis (cf. Web Appendix 1, row 805 et seq.). All elasticity calculations are available in Web Appendix 3.

3.2.2 Coding of the independent variables (AED columns AD-HY)

Literature on advertising effectiveness and the aforementioned meta-analyses yield a variety of potential determinants of advertising elasticity. In this study, nine groups of variables are coded (Figure 2): Advertising media determinants, product determinants, data determinants, carryover effects, marketing determinants, market-related determinants, interaction effects, estimation determinants, and publication determinants. Due to multicollinearity, not all of the variables that belong to each of these groups can enter the subsequent meta-analysis. However, in contrast to previous meta-analyses, which only report the variables included in the respective analysis, we code and make available information on all potential determinants to set up a very comprehensive AED. In the following, each variable is described with respect to its relevance, its coding, and the relevant literature. For variables that are included in the meta-analysis in section 4, the hypothesized effect is also outlined. The pure coding description including the hypotheses for meta-regression variables is additionally provided in Web Appendix 2.

Advertising medium (AED columns AD-AK)

Different advertising media allow for different levels of immediate feedback, personalization, and message complexity (e.g., Dahlén 2005; Rossiter and Percy 1998). Therefore, marketing managers implicitly assume that different media bring about different results (Berkowitz, Allaway, and D'Souza 2001), for instance due to different learning rates (McConnell 1970). Thus, the type of advertising medium is likely to influence advertising elasticity (Vakratsas and Ambler 1999). Hence, it is coded for each elasticity whether it predominantly relates to TV, print, or direct mail. Sometimes, aggregated advertising spending is also employed as a variable in empirical models. Common reasons for using aggregate advertising data are the unavailability of disaggregate data, multicollinearity, or difficulties in untangling what proportion of advertising success can be ascribed to which of the various advertising

media (Zhou, Zhou, and Ouyang 2003). When aggregated data for more than one type of advertising are investigated or no information about the type of advertising is stated, it is classified as aggregate advertising.

Aggregate advertising measurements average the impact of very effective media with that of less effective media (Assmus, Farley, and Lehmann 1984). In contrast, specific media might produce either higher or lower elasticities than those derived by an aggregate advertising measurement (Kremer, Bijmolt, Leeflang, and Wieringa 2008). According to Tellis, Chandy, and Thaivanich (2000), TV advertising is more effective compared to advertising exposure in print media because of its longer reach and its ability to deliver emotions. Aggregate advertising is assumed to lie between these effects. We subscribe to this expectation and thus hypothesize:

- H1:** Advertising elasticities are lower for
- a) aggregate advertising measurements
 - b) print and direct mail
- than for TV advertising.

Product determinants (AED columns AM-BK)

Product type (AED columns AM-AX): Literature indicates that advertising response varies across product types, e.g., due to different levels of involvement (e.g., McConnell 1970; Vakratsas and Ambler 1999). The AED therefore captures the type of product for which the advertising elasticity is reported. Product categories are as follows: drugs, durables, entertainment media (e.g., movies or video games, but no hardware), food, and other non-food products. The product type is coded as n.a. when no product type is stated.

Ambiguous results are reported with respect to the elasticity magnitude per product type. Assmus, Farley, and Lehmann (1984) found higher elasticities for food products than for other categories, whereas Sethuraman, Tellis, and Briesch (2011) reported that frequently purchased food and non-food products have the lowest advertising elasticities. Assmus, Farley, and Lehmann (1984) suggested that advertising effectiveness varies in accordance with the information needs for the particular product. For example, entertainment products such as movies are hedonic experience goods (Sawhney and Eliashberg 1996), impeding a valid assessment of quality prior to consumption. For such products, advertising is likely to play a major role in reducing uncertainty, especially when advertising is concentrated

on the time of the product's release to increase word of mouth (Liu 2006), resulting in high advertising elasticities. There is empirical agreement that durable products respond considerably more elastically to changes in advertising than other product types do (Bijmolt, Van Heerde, and Pieters 2005; Sethuraman and Tellis 1991; Vakratsas, Feinberg, Bass, and Kalyanaram 2004). This fact can be attributed to their long-term character, which makes consumers search for more information to decrease the purchase risk. Accordingly, we assume larger elasticities for hedonic and experience goods than for durables, which, in turn, respond more elastic than non-food and other product categories. We thus hypothesize:

- H2:** Advertising elasticities are higher for
- a) hedonic and experience goods
 - b) durables
- than for non-food and other products.

Stage in product life cycle (AED columns AY-BA): The influence of the product life cycle is well documented by research demonstrating a decline in advertising effectiveness over time (Parsons 1975; Winer 1979). Hence, whenever a product is clearly declared as an innovation, it is coded as a new product; otherwise, it is by default coded as an established one.

Advertising for new products is generally considered more informative, persuasive, and effective than is advertising for established products (Andrews and Franke 1991; Vakratsas and Ambler 1999), resulting in higher elasticity magnitudes in earlier than in later stages of the product life cycle (Lodish, Abraham, Kalmenson, Livelsberger, Lubetkin, Richardson, and Stevens 1995; Sethuraman, Tellis, and Briesch 2011). This is especially true for high-search, infrequently purchased new goods (e.g., Albers, Mantrala, and Sridhar 2010; Hagerty, Carman, and Russell 1988; Narayanan, Manchanda, and Chintagunta 2005). In contrast, in later stages of the product life cycle, product differentiation has made consumers more loyal, which often results in smaller responses to changes in marketing instruments (Bijmolt, Van Heerde, and Pieters 2005; Simon 1979). Thus, we hypothesize:

- H3:** Advertising elasticities are higher for new products than for established products.

Region (AED columns BB-BK): Since Hofstede's (1980, updated in 2001) outstanding work on cul-

tural dimensions, it is known that cultures, and therefore many nations, differ. Thus, a region variable is coded to indicate on which continent the data were collected. That is, like Bijmolt, Van Heerde, and Pieters (2005) do, we note whether a study is based on data from Europe, the US or Canada, America (excluding the US and Canada), Asia, Africa, Oceania, or whether the region is not indicated in the study.

Findings on marketing elasticities with respect to the national setting are ambiguous. Assmus, Farley, and Lehmann (1984) and Sethuraman, Tellis, and Briesch (2011) found higher advertising elasticities for Europe than for the United States. Similarly, Albers, Mantrala, and Sridhar (2010) detect higher personal selling elasticities in Europe than in the US. In addition to cultural differences, advertising effectiveness might differ across regions because of different advertising strategies (for instance due to market regulations; e.g., Elberse and Eliashberg 2003; Lambin 1976). Such restrictions are less rigid in the US than in many other countries, thus leading to a tendency for overspending in the US (Kremer, Bijmolt, Leeflang, and Wieringa 2008). Due to the flat maximum principle (Tull, Wood, Duhan, Gillpatrick, Robertson, and Helgeson 1986), which states that budget deviation by up to 25% from its optimum value does not significantly harm a company's profit, we, in contrast to Kremer, Bijmolt, Leeflang, and Wieringa (2008), assume that overspending is better than underspending and therefore expect:

- H4:** Advertising elasticities are lower for non-US/Canadian data than for US or Canadian data.

Data determinants (AED columns BL-DD)

Data source (AED columns BL-BN): Data to estimate advertising elasticities can be gained from firm internal data management systems or external providers such as marketing or data agencies. While internal data allow for analyzing, e.g., long-term customer relationship information, the advantage of external data providers lies in their specific industry knowledge, which results in the ability to collect the appropriate data and to detect future trends. To investigate whether obtaining the analyzed data from internal or external data sources has an effect on advertising elasticity, it is coded in the AED from which type of source the data are obtained. We define data as being internal when it is explicitly stated that the analyzed firm has provided the data or, by

definition, when only one firm or brand is analyzed in a paper. In contrast, if more than one firm or brand is investigated, or when data are made available by a market research company, the data source is coded as external.

Reference frame (AED columns BO-BT): Differences with respect to the data structure may influence elasticity magnitudes (Albers, Mantrala, and Sridhar 2010). We integrate the reference frame in the AED, which indicates whether the data used in the analyzed studies are cross-sectional, longitudinal, or both (i.e., panel). Cross-sectional data are collected by observing many subjects at one point in time, thereby capturing level effects. In contrast, longitudinal data are obtained by repeatedly observing the same subject over time, thereby capturing dynamic effects (Assmus, Farley, and Lehmann 1984). Panel data have both a cross-sectional and a longitudinal dimension, i.e., they allow for analyzing multiple subjects across time. If a firm or brand operates in several analyzed regions (e.g., sales areas or countries), the data are regarded as panel data. If a study employs data on multiple product categories that are analyzed independently, the reference frame is coded separately for each of the categories (e.g., Metwally 1980 analyzes eight product categories with one product each, so eight longitudinal data sets are coded).

Advertising elasticities estimated on the basis of pooled (including cross-sectional) data tend to be higher than those based on longitudinal data (e.g., Assmus, Farley, and Lehmann 1984) because longitudinal models often cannot distinguish between lagged advertising effects and positive serial correlation in the disturbances, whereas this problem does not affect cross-sectional data (Clarke and McCann 1973; Houston and Weiss 1974). Because panel data have both a longitudinal and a cross-sectional dimension, Kremer, Bijmolt, Leeftang, and Wieringa (2008) expected elasticities of panel data to be larger than those of longitudinal data but smaller than those of cross-sectional data. In their analysis, however, they found that elasticities based on longitudinal data are larger than elasticities based on panel data. In contrast, Albers, Mantrala, and Sridhar (2010) found that elasticities of cross-sectional data are lower than those from panel data. Because the extant literature does not agree on this topic, we consider this effect to be an empirical issue and do not provide a hypothesis.

Temporal aggregation (AED columns BU-CF): The time interval at which the data are temporally aggregated has been shown to affect elasticity magnitude (e.g., Bijmolt, Van Heerde, and Pieters 2005; Clarke 1976; Tellis 1988; Tellis and Franses 2006). Accordingly, it is coded in the AED at what temporal level the data used in the empirical studies are aggregated (daily, weekly, monthly, bimonthly, quarterly, yearly, or n.a.). In addition, the number of periods used for estimation (excluding periods for the calculation of lagged variables and holdout validation) is noted.

The majority of published findings suggests that advertising coefficients systematically increase with increasing temporal aggregation of the data (e.g., Kanetkar, Weinberg, and Weiss 1992; Leone 1995; Sethuraman and Tellis 1991; Tellis and Weiss 1995; Tellis 2005). More specifically, Assmus, Farley, and Lehmann (1984) found that advertising elasticities for bimonthly and quarterly data are higher than the grand mean, and Sethuraman, Tellis, and Briesch (2011) found that elasticities are higher for yearly than for quarterly data. This effect is attributable to carryover effects, among others, because advertising does not unfold its full impact on sales immediately but partially with a time lag (e.g., Christen, Gupta, Porter, Staelin, and Wittink 1997; Sethuraman and Tellis 1991; Tellis and Weiss 1995). Accordingly, disaggregated (such as daily or weekly) data lead to lower advertising elasticities. We thus hypothesize that the larger the time interval at which the data are temporally aggregated, the larger the advertising elasticity. That is, elasticities are larger for yearly than for quarterly than for monthly data:

- H5:** Data aggregated at the
- a) yearly level
 - b) bimonthly or quarterly level
- lead to larger elasticities than do data aggregated at the monthly level.

Mean year of data collection (mean centered, AED columns CG-CQ): It is of great interest to managers and researchers whether the advertising elasticity is stable over time or whether there is a trend due to, e.g., the differentiation of products, the refinement of media, or consumers being increasingly demanding. Thus, in line with Albers, Mantrala, and Sridhar (2010), the AED records the first, last, and mean year of data collection. Based on our database's

average difference between the mean year of data collection and the year of publication, missing values for the mean year of data collection are imputed before the variable is mean centered (AED columns CI-CQ).

While promotional effectiveness is stable for the data analyzed by [Kremer, Bijmolt, Leeflang, and Wieringa \(2008\)](#), personal selling and advertising elasticities are shown to decrease over time by [Albers, Mantrala, and Sridhar \(2010\)](#) and [Sethuraman, Tellis, and Briesch \(2011\)](#), respectively. Thus, we assume that in recent years more effort was necessary to produce the same level of output, leading to the following hypothesis:

H6: The more recent the analyzed data are, the smaller the elasticity will be.

Spatial dimension (AED columns CR-CW): It is known that customer segmentation is advantageous because consumer needs can better be addressed and satisfied when dealing with homogeneous than with heterogeneous preferences (e.g., [Iyer, Sobermann, and Villas-Boas 2005](#); [Smith 1956](#); [Wind 1978](#)). Research has shown that individual preferences are not static but rather dependent on the preferences of others in social and – often at least as important – spatial proximity (e.g., [Manchanda, Xie, and Youn 2008](#); [Yang and Allenby 2003](#)). As a result, it is not unreasonable to assume that the smaller the analyzed area is, the more homogeneous are the preferences (e.g., within-country fragmentation of consumer needs, [Hofstede, Wedel, and Steenkamp 2002](#)), which potentially pays off in higher sales response. To be able to investigate whether advertising elasticities differ in magnitude depending on whether the analyzed data are international, national, or regional (such as metropolitan cities), these three types of spatial dimensions are coded in the AED. If a study does not provide exact information about the spatial unit, data are coded as national by default.

Dependent measure (AED columns CX-CZ): Previous meta-analyses report that the specification of the dependent measure has an influence on elasticity magnitude (e.g., [Sethuraman, Tellis, and Briesch 2011](#)). The AED therefore includes whether the dependent measure used in empirical studies' models is specified in absolute (e.g., physical or monetary units) or relative terms (e.g., market share, choice, or attraction models).

Whereas [Assmus, Farley, and Lehmann \(1984\)](#) did not find a significant difference, [Sethuraman, Tellis, and Briesch \(2011\)](#) and [Weinberg and Weiss \(1982\)](#) detected higher advertising elasticity values for absolute than for relative dependent variables. This finding can be attributed to the fact that absolute dependent variables capture both primary (market expansion) and secondary (share expansion) effects, whereas relative dependent variables only capture secondary effects (e.g., [Albers, Mantrala, and Sridhar 2010](#); [Assmus, Farley, and Lehmann 1984](#); [Hagerty, Carman, and Russell 1988](#)). We thus assume:

H7: Advertising elasticities derived from models using absolute dependent measures are higher than those from models using relative dependent measures.

Advertising measure (AED columns DA-DD): Similarly, a firm's absolute advertising spending can increase while its advertising share decreases. In order to be able to examine the impact of the advertising's specification on elasticity magnitude, three types of advertising measurements are present in our database: advertising measured in absolute terms, in relative terms, and in gross rating points (GRP). Absolute advertising is quantified in monetary terms or units (e.g., number of advertising campaigns), whereas relative advertising describes a focal brand's advertising efforts divided by the efforts of its competitors or all market participants, respectively. GRPs are used in media planning (e.g., [Chintagunta, Kadiyali, and Vilcassim 2006](#); [Danaher, Bonfrer, and Dhar 2008](#); [Dubé, Hitsch, and Manchanda 2005](#); [Sissors and Baron 2002](#)) to measure the sum of percentage reach of one advertising insertion in a given time period ([Rossiter and Percy 1998](#)), thus combining absolute and relative components. Advertising quality, capturing, e.g., elements of the advertising campaign ([Lambin 1976: 221](#)), is not considered in this analysis.

[Sethuraman, Tellis, and Briesch \(2011\)](#) found that advertising elasticities estimated on the basis of GRP data are higher than those estimated based on relative data, which are in turn higher than those based on absolute advertising data. In contrast, [Assmus, Farley, and Lehmann \(1984\)](#) on average observed higher elasticities for absolute than for relative specifications, although the difference is not significant. They explained that the use of advertising share implicitly assumes no impact of advertis-

ing, so share elasticities calculated using advertising share may turn out to be smaller than those based on volume specifications. Subscribing to this approach, we expect:

- H8:** Advertising elasticities from models using
- a) GRP measures are higher
 - b) relative advertising measures are lower than elasticities derived on the basis of absolute advertising measures.

Carryover effects (AED columns DE-DQ)

The impact of advertising may be spread over time, i.e., it does not necessarily unfold its full impact in the same period as the impulse is set, but may be "carried over" to subsequent periods (Givon and Horsky 1990; Hanssens, Parsons, and Schultz 2001: 141, Leone 1995; Weinberg 1975, and section 3.2.1). Because alternative approaches to model carryover exist, three types of variables are coded in the AED, namely lagged dependent, lagged advertising, and advertising stock variables. Each type is described in brief before the suggested hypotheses are stated cohesively.

Lagged dependent variable (AED columns DE-DH): One option is to model carryover effects by employing the dependent variable (i.e., sales) of the previous period as an explanatory variable for the current period. The motivation is to capture effects such as consumer inertia or loyalty, which are typically hard to measure but can be captured by the lagged dependent variable due to its positive correlation with current-period response (Parsons and Schultz 1976: 170-172). The AED records whether a lagged dependent variable is used in a study's main model and, when it is reported, the estimate of its coefficient.

Lagged advertising variable (AED columns DI-DK): Whereas the former approach employs the lagged *response* as a predictor of the current response, lagged advertising employs the lagged *impulse* as a predictor of the current response to model carryover effects (e.g., Clarke 1976). The AED contains a dummy variable that indicates whether lagged advertising has been used as an explanatory variable. If the model includes lagged but no current-period advertising, it is assumed to reflect the specifics of the product or the data (Moriarty (1975: 145), for instance, uses lagged advertising because sales volume is reported in *shipments to* rather than *sales of* retail outlets, i.e., lagged advertising is em-

ployed to achieve a fit between the dependent and the independent variable). As a result, we consider and code the elasticities of the most recent advertising variable as current-period elasticities.

Advertising stock variable (AED columns DL-DO): A typical problem of employing lagged advertising values as explanatory variables for current response is the high degree of multicollinearity that is often present among them (Erickson 1981; Leeflang, Wit-tink, Wedel, and Naert 2000: 87). A way out has been offered by the introduction of stock variables (as outlined in section 3.2.1). In the AED, it is indicated whether an advertising stock variable is employed to account for carryover effects. When reported, the estimated parameter for the carryover coefficient is also noted.

A substantial amount of literature finds that the effect of advertising is indeed carried over, at least partially, into future periods (e.g., Assmus, Farley, and Lehmann 1984; Givon and Horsky 1990; Leone 1995) because individuals memorize past advertising and create "goodwill" toward the brand that only gradually deteriorates because of forgetting (Dekimpe and Hanssens 1995). This is true for both the lagged dependent variable (Albers, Mantrala, and Sridhar 2010; Assmus, Farley, and Lehmann 1984; Sethuraman, Tellis, and Briesch 2011) and lagged advertising (Albers, Mantrala, and Sridhar 2010). As a consequence, elasticities are found to be larger when carryover effects are not accounted for because, in this case, a larger part of the response is attributed to the current period's advertising efforts. Thus, we expect:

- H9:** Omitting the lagged dependent variable from a model leads to higher advertising elasticities than including it does.

- H10:** Analogously, omitting lagged or stock advertising from a model leads to higher advertising elasticities than including them does.

Marketing determinants (AED columns DR-ER)

If a regression equation omits relevant predictor variables, parameter estimates of included variables may be biased depending on the coefficient of the omitted variable and the correlation between the included and omitted variables (Greene 2000: 334-337). Thus, advertising elasticity magnitudes can be biased by the omission of relevant variables (Assmus, Farley, and Lehmann 1984; Sethuraman and

Tellis 1991). In order to control for potential omission bias, several marketing variables are integrated into the AED.

Lagged price (AED columns DR-DT): Similar to modeling advertising carryover effects by a lagged advertising variable, a lagged price variable can be used to capture consumers being geared to extant reference price levels and the fact that deal-prone consumers synchronize their purchases with firms' discounting patterns, i.e., stocking up when a product is on sale (Tellis 1988). As lagged price is likely to be negatively correlated with current-period sales (e.g., due to inertia in price setting, Pauwels 2004) but positively correlated with current-period advertising, the omission of lagged price can negatively bias the advertising elasticity (Sethuraman, Tellis, and Briesch 2011). In the AED, a variable captures whether lagged price is employed in the empirical studies' model.

Price (AED columns DU-DW): Price is a major influential variable in marketing research (Bijmolt, Van Heerde, and Pieters 2005; Tellis 1988; Völckner 2008; Völckner and Sattler 2005)– in some studies it even turned out to have, right after distribution, the second highest impact on sales (Srinivasan, Vanhuele, and Pauwels 2010). The AED records whether price is used as an explanatory variable in an empirical study's model.

Albers, Mantrala, and Sridhar (2010); Assmus, Farley, and Lehmann (1984); and Sethuraman, Tellis, and Briesch (2011) did not find significant effects of price on response. However, in case there is any difference at all, elasticities are assumed to be smaller when omitting the price variable than when including it because price is likely to be negatively correlated with advertising response but positively correlated with current-period advertising. Hence, we assume:

H11: Advertising elasticities are smaller when price is omitted from the model than when it is included.

Quality (AED columns DX-DZ): The omission of a product quality-related variable is likely to bias advertising elasticity estimates (Sethuraman, Tellis, and Briesch 2011). Thus, the database indicates whether product quality has been used as an explanatory variable to investigate the effect of omitting quality from a model on advertising elasticity. Note that quality refers to product quality, not to the

quality of advertising (such as advertising campaign quality, Lambin 1976: 221).

While quality turns out to be significant in price elasticity studies (Sethuraman and Tellis 1991; Tellis 1988), no significant effects are found for personal selling (Albers, Mantrala, and Sridhar 2010) and advertising (Sethuraman, Tellis, and Briesch 2011). Because advertising is known to have an information function (Nelson 1975), i.e., reducing uncertainty and leveraging the perceived product quality (e.g., Erdem, Keane, and Sun 2008; Tellis and Fornell 1988), sales and market share should increase if consumers are, at least to a certain extent, informed about a product's high quality (Tellis 1988). Because it is likely that, in models for higher-quality products, quality is included as a variable more often than in models for lower-quality products, and because the former should be more successful than the latter, we expect:

H12: Advertising elasticities are smaller when the quality variable is omitted from the model than when it is included.

Promotion (AED columns EA-EC): Promotions give consumers incentives to act faster (Ramanathan and Dhar 2010; Stilley, Inman, and Wakefield 2010). Sometimes perceived as a gift (Van den Putte 2009), they enhance sales more instantaneously and often to a greater extent than other elements of the marketing mix do (Blattberg and Neslin 1990). Biases of advertising elasticity might therefore occur due to the omission of promotional variables (Andrews and Franke 1991, or, in the context of personal selling elasticities, Albers, Mantrala, and Sridhar 2010). The AED indicates whether promotions (e.g., displays or samples) are used as an explanatory variable in the study. Variables labeled as "deals" point to promotional activities (e.g., Frank and Massy 1967; Johansson 1973).

Personal selling (AED columns ED-EF): A vast amount of literature investigates the effects of personal selling, which is a powerful marketing instrument, especially in the pharmaceutical industry (e.g., Albers, Mantrala, and Sridhar 2010; Fischer and Albers 2010; Kremer, Bijmolt, Leeflang, and Wieringa 2008; Sinha and Zoltners 2001). Because both advertising and personal selling aim at providing information to reduce risk, they can have substitutional or, when addressing different target groups, complementary effects (Jagpal and Brick 1982). Therefore, the AED captures whether sales force

data (e.g., detailing in the pharmaceutical industry) are used as an explanatory variable in an empirical study's model.

Distribution (AED columns EG-EI): There is general agreement that a wide distribution of products (e.g., by a larger number of outlets) positively influences sales (Hanssens, Parsons, and Schultz 2001: 347; Leone and Schultz 1980; Tellis 1988) – sometimes even more than other marketing mix elements do (Srinivasan, Vanhuele, and Pauwels 2010). Sethuraman, Tellis, and Briesch (2011), who reported a positive distribution omission effect on advertising elasticity, propose that advertised brands might enjoy a higher level of distribution, which pays off in higher sales and, in turn, leads to higher advertising elasticity values when omitting distribution from the model. In order to provide a basis for Farley, Lehmann, and Sawyer's (1995) call for more studies investigating price, advertising, quality, and distribution at the same time, the AED contains a dummy variable indicating whether distribution is used as a predictor in empirical studies.

Additional advertising media used (AED columns EJ-ER): Studies analyzing the effectiveness of different advertising media at the same time are rare, as reflected by this study's database. As a result, it is difficult to say what impact a certain advertising medium has on the advertising elasticity of another medium. Nonetheless, because most firms use more than one advertising channel, it is reasonable to assume that omitting advertising types used in parallel has an effect on elasticity, the extent of which depends on the correlation between the affected variables (Greene 2000: 334-337). Because empirical findings on this topic are crucial for the optimization of media selection and budget allocation decisions, the AED records whether – in addition to the advertising instrument for which the elasticity is reported (AED columns AD-AG) – further advertising media are used in the model (AED columns EJ-EN, e.g., Hsu and Liu 2004). In doing so, other researchers who wished to investigate the effectiveness of parallel-used advertising media can use our data as a starting point.

Market-related determinants (AED columns ES-FM)

The aforementioned omission bias (Assmus, Farley, and Lehmann 1984) can also be induced by failing to consider market-related variables. In order to account for their potential omitted variable bias, the

following market-related variables are contained in the AED.

Time trend (AED columns ES-EU): With a similar purpose to recording the mean year of data collection for each study in the AED (columns CG-CQ) to investigate whether the advertising elasticity is stable over time, some empirical studies include a trend variable. The presence or absence of a time trend matters in terms of the estimated advertising elasticity magnitude (Andrews and Franke 1991) because it filters out effects that can be attributed to changes over time. Hence, when a study employs, e.g., temporal dummies, period-related variables, or investigates sequences of time intervals separately, it is coded in the AED that a trend has been included in the empirical model.

Seasonality (AED columns EV-EX): Depending on the analyzed product type, the response to advertising can significantly depend on seasonality (Kinnucan and Forker 1986). This is true not only for weather-dependent goods, such as ice cream or sunscreen, but also for, e.g., the pharmaceutical industry, where sales calls are more effective right after the weekend than they are during the rest of the week (Tellis, Chandy, and Thaivanich 2000). In the AED, the seasonality variable is coded as being present when, e.g., temperature or seasonal dummies are used as predictors in empirical studies' models.

Income (AED columns EY-FA): Bijmolt, Van Heerde, and Pieters (2005) investigated the effect of income on price elasticity and found that an increase in household disposable income reduces pricing effectiveness because search costs outweigh the expected benefits of examining price information (Estelami, Lehmann, and Holden 2001). In a similar manner, an increase in disposable income might reduce consumers' motivation and need to look for uncertainty-reducing advertising. Therefore, advertising might be less effective in that case. On the other hand, advertising is known to signal product quality (Erdem, Keane, and Sun 2008; Tellis and Fornell 1988), which might be more important for high- than for low-income households. Against this backdrop, income could also positively influence advertising elasticity. The AED captures whether the effects of income on response are accounted for in a model.

Production costs (AED columns FB-FD): A few of the studies in the database use production cost as an explanatory variable of response (e.g., Prag and

Casavant 1994). The AED indicates whether the effects of such costs (e.g., production costs of a movie) on response are accounted for in a study's model. Costs not related to production of the good (e.g., costs of living) are not represented by this variable.

Total industry sales (AED columns FE-FG): Similarly, several studies of our database employ industry sales as an explanatory variable. Because the effect of this variable on advertising elasticity is not well-documented in the literature, it is noted in the AED whether an industry sales variable is used in the empirical studies' models, be it in absolute (e.g., Cowling and Cubbin 1971) or relative terms (e.g., Metwally 1975).

Competition (AED columns FH-FK): Competitive advertising interference occurs when consumers are exposed to advertising messages for competing products, thereby considerably harming advertising's effectiveness (Vakratsas and Ambler 1999). The AED records whether competitive effects are accounted for in empirical models. These can be operationalized in various ways, such as the pure number of competitors or their market behavior (e.g., their advertising efforts) in absolute or relative terms.

The effects of competition are analyzed extensively, but the practical implication is not trivial. Although there are scenarios where the reverse holds, it can be generalized that a superior advertising position is advantageous in terms of being remembered by consumers (Van den Putte 2009; Xu, Chen, and Whinston 2011). While competitive markets are found to be more responsive to advertising (Gatignon 1984), advertising elasticity generally declines when competitive advertising volume and, more harmfully, the number of competitors increases (Parker and Gatignon 1996), sometimes even culminating in an advertising elasticity of null (Danaher, Bonfrer, and Dhar 2008). Accordingly, we hypothesize:

H13: Advertising elasticities derived from models that do not account for competitive effects are higher than those derived from studies that account for competitive influence.

Number of further variables (AED columns FL-FM): In addition to the many general variables that are coded up to this point, models might additionally include other variables that relate to the distinctive characteristics of the respective study. Due to their context-specific nature, each of them occurs

only infrequently, so they are merged in a pooled, ratio-scaled variable indicating the number of additional variables used in a model. Examples include brand loyalty, new variety activity, movie genre, and performance expectations. For each study, a brief description of these variables is given in the AED (column FM).

Interaction effects used in empirical studies (AED columns FN-FV)

Interaction effects can include or exclude advertising variables. Both types are briefly outlined before the hypothesis is stated cohesively.

Advertising interaction effects (AED columns FN-FQ): Marketing mix elements can affect consumer response synergistically (Narayanan, Desiraju, and Chintagunta 2004). To allow for such joint effects, interaction terms of the respective variables are included in estimation models, thereby potentially impacting advertising elasticity. In the AED it is noted whether interaction effects between advertising and other variables are considered in a model. For the purpose of this study, only response interaction is considered, whereas decision interaction, which is present in multiplicative models, is not (Gatignon and Hanssens 1987; Vanhonacker 1989). Because such interactions have positive effects, omitting them from a model could result in lower advertising elasticity estimates due to an underestimation of the marginal effect of advertising on response (Albers, Mantrala, and Sridhar 2010).

Other interaction effects (AED columns FR-FT): Likewise, the AED comprises other (i.e., excluding advertising) interaction effects, such as those of remaining marketing mix elements (e.g., Bridges, Briesch, and Shu 2008). Again, only response interaction is considered.

Due to their rarity in our database, both interaction types are collapsed to investigate the effect of omitting interaction effects on elasticity magnitude. We hypothesize:

H14: Advertising elasticities from response models that do not account for interaction effects are lower than those from studies that account for interaction effects.

Estimation determinants (AED columns FW-HI)

Intercept (AED columns FW-FX): This category indicates whether an intercept is included in the model of the coded empirical study. We have no

expectations regarding its influence and thus consider it as an empirical issue left to the data.

Functional form (AED columns FY-GH): When modeling, e.g., sales, a decision has to be made with respect to the most appropriate functional form (Brodie and de Kluyver 1984; Ghosh, Neslin, and Shoemaker 1984). The alternative forms assume different types of response to advertising, which can, in turn, affect advertising elasticity (Arora 1979; Assmus, Farley, and Lehmann 1984). Four functional forms that are frequently used to model advertising effectiveness are coded in the AED: share, double-log, semi-log (with the advertising variable being logged), and linear. In case none of these types applies, the model falls into the category other, which is a pool of less frequently used functional forms. Note that when the percentage value of market share is modeled by, e.g., a double-log or linear function, it falls into categories double-log or linear, whereas the category share is appropriate for fraction formulations used by attraction models.

Although most studies do not (e.g., Albers, Mantrala, and Sridhar 2010; Bijmolt, Van Heerde, and Pieters 2005; Kremer, Bijmolt, Leeflang, and Wieringa 2008; Tellis 1988), Assmus, Farley, and Lehmann (1984) and Sethuraman, Tellis, and Briesch (2011) found significant differences in advertising elasticity for different functional forms. However, we do not provide a hypothesis for a potential systematic difference in advertising elasticity with respect to the functional form, because the adequacy of a model form depends on the characteristics of the analyzed data (Tellis 1988).

Estimation method (AED columns GI-GZ): The choice of the estimation method cannot only bias the magnitude but even the direction of the estimated effect of advertising on sales (Assmus, Farley, and Lehmann 1984). To be able to trace whether this holds for the advertising elasticities in our database, the AED reflects whether the estimation method used is Ordinary Least Squares (OLS), Weighted Least Squares (WLS), Non-Linear Least Squares (NLS), (Feasible) Generalized Least Squares (GLS), Two-Stage Least Squares (2SLS), Three-Stage Least Squares (3SLS), Maximum Likelihood (ML), Two-Step Maximum Likelihood (2SML), Simulated Maximum Likelihood (SimML), Generalized Method of Moments (GMM), Bayes, or other. If no information with respect to the estimation method is stated, it is coded as n.a.

There is ambiguity about how the estimation method might affect advertising elasticities (Assmus, Farley, and Lehmann 1984; Tellis 1988). Because most generalization studies report insignificant effects (e.g., Albers, Mantrala, and Sridhar 2010; Assmus, Farley, and Lehmann 1984; Bijmolt, Van Heerde, and Pieters 2005; Kremer, Bijmolt, Leeflang, and Wieringa 2008; Sethuraman, Tellis, and Briesch 2011; Tellis 1988), we do not provide a hypothesis but keep the variable in the meta-analysis for comparison to prior generalization studies.

Endogeneity (AED columns HA-HC): Endogeneity emerges when it is assumed that model variables are (set) independent(ly) although in reality they depend on some factors that are often principally known but hard to observe or measure and hence are rarely part of the data (Blattberg and Neslin 1990). By assuming exogeneity, these unobserved factors enter the model's error term, thus inducing a correlation between the affected variable and the error term that can lead to biased estimates (Chintagunta, Kadiyali, and Vilcassim 2006). Thus, not accounting for endogeneity potentially biases elasticity magnitudes (Besanko, Gupta, and Jain 1998; Chintagunta 2001; Shugan 2004; Villas-Boas and Winer 1999). The AED contains a dummy, indicating whether endogeneity is accounted for, e.g., by the use of instrumental variables.

While Sethuraman, Tellis, and Briesch (2011) expected and found a negative endogeneity omission bias for advertising elasticities, Albers, Mantrala, and Sridhar (2010) expected and found a significant positive one for personal selling elasticities. Joining the latter's argument of the overestimation of response effects when not accounting for endogeneity, we posit:

H15: When endogeneity is not accounted for in a model, the advertising elasticity is lower than when it is accounted for.

Heterogeneity (AED columns HD-HI): Accounting for heterogeneity in models leads to more precise and accurate estimation results for the investigated subgroups (e.g., Ghosh, Neslin, and Shoemaker 1984). To investigate whether this results in structurally differing advertising elasticities, the AED captures whether heterogeneity is accounted for in the empirical studies' models via individual (i) in-

tercepts or (ii) advertising coefficients (e.g., brand-, segment-, or consumer-specific).

Referring to [Hutchinson, Kamakura, and Lynch Jr. \(2000\)](#), [Bijmolt, Van Heerde, and Pieters \(2005\)](#) outlined that accounting for heterogeneity can theoretically lead to an increase or decrease of elasticity estimates. Because neither these authors nor [Albers, Mantrala, and Sridhar \(2010\)](#) or [Sethuraman, Tellis and Briesch \(2011\)](#) found significant differences in advertising elasticity with respect to accounting for heterogeneity, we consider the direction of a potential effect as an empirical issue left to the data.

Publication determinants (AED columns HJ-HX)

Publication type (AED columns HJ-HP): A basic concern that seems to have peculiar appeal to critics of meta-analyses is that generalizations suffer from the so-called publication bias ([Rust, Lehmann, and Farley 1990](#)). That is, “less desired results” (from a marketer’s perspective, such as “wrong” effect direction or low statistical power resulting from small sample size, [Lipsey and Wilson 2001: 141-143](#)) have lower probability of being published, which is why results from meta-analyses are sometimes said not to reflect the real world. In order to control for this bias, the AED captures whether a study has appeared in an academic journal, conference proceedings, a published book, or is an unpublished working paper.

There is general agreement that, if a publication bias is present, elasticities in published work should be larger than those in unpublished work because editors prefer to publish significant results. The results of [Kremer, Bijmolt, Leeflang, and Wieringa \(2008\)](#) confirm this assumption, while those by [Albers, Mantrala, and Sridhar \(2010\)](#) and [Sethuraman, Tellis, and Briesch \(2011\)](#) are not significant. If a publication bias exists, we expect that:

H16: Unpublished studies exhibit lower advertising elasticity estimates than published papers do.

Marketing-related outlet (AED columns HQ-HS):

Similar to a publication-type bias, a publication outlet bias might exist; i.e., findings on elasticity might structurally differ with respect to the research area ([Kremer, Bijmolt, Leeflang, and Wieringa 2008](#)). The AED captures whether the outlet of a study is related to marketing or not. While this categorization is typically easy for journals and conference proceedings, it may be difficult for books and

working papers. We define books as related to marketing when the title relates to a marketing topic or when the book is published in a marketing book series. If a paper is not yet published, the affiliation of the first author is decisive.

Findings on the direction of a potential publication bias by [Albers, Mantrala, and Sridhar \(2010\)](#) and [Kremer, Bijmolt, Leeflang, and Wieringa \(2008\)](#) are not significant. However, as the latter argued, marketing outlets, in case of doubt, prefer to publish results underlining the outstanding importance of marketing actions to company success. Hence, a positive publication bias might exist for these outlets, which is why we hypothesize:

H17: Advertising elasticities published in non-marketing outlets are lower than those published in marketing-related outlets.

Outlet ranking (AED columns HT-HU): [Gallet and List \(2003\)](#) pointed out that elasticities are sensitive to whether results are published in higher- or lower-ranked journals. To investigate whether this is true for our database, two alternative ranking values are included in the AED for each study. These have been developed by [Hult, Reimann, and Schilke \(2009\)](#) and include the *Popularity and Familiarity Index* (PFI, where higher values indicate a better ranking) and the *Importance and Prestige Index* (IPI, where lower values indicate a better ranking).

For missing cases, Science Citation Index values (Science Citation Index 2011, Svensson 2010) are imputed wherever possible. Remaining rankings are set to the lowest values of 0.01 and 9.00 for PFI and IPI, respectively.

Highly ranked outlets are very demanding with respect to modeling requirements. For instance, accounting for potential heterogeneity and endogeneity is a minimum prerequisite for an article to be published in a high-ranked journal to make sure no effects are spuriously ascribed. As a result, accounting for a variety of possible effects might lead to a lower mean elasticity for high-ranked outlets. If a ranking bias exists, we assume:

H18: The better the ranking value of a publication outlet is, the lower the magnitude of elasticities published there.

Advertising effectiveness focus (AED columns HV-

HX): Finally, [Kremer, Bijmolt, Leeflang, and Wieringa \(2008\)](#) argued that a positive publication

bias might exist for studies of which the main topic is promotional effectiveness. Although not found to be statistically significant by the aforementioned authors, the AED records whether a study investigates an advertising effectiveness topic. This is, by definition, the case whenever the title or the abstract deals with the effects of advertising on the response measure. If such a bias is present, we expect:

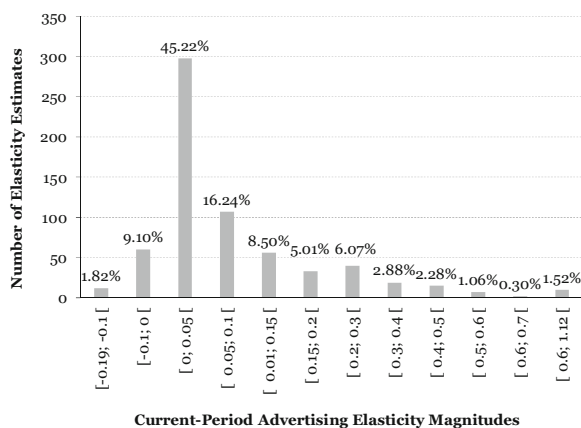
H19: Studies focusing on non-advertising topics exhibit lower elasticity estimates than do studies focusing on advertising effectiveness topics.

4 Meta-Analysis

4.1 Distribution of Elasticities

Figure 3 displays the frequency distribution of the 659 current-period advertising elasticities that are included in the meta-analysis.

Figure 3: Frequency Chart of Current-Period Elasticity Estimates



It shows that 89% of the current-period elasticities are positive. After excluding one unreasonably high elasticity value of 1.80 (Sexton 1970), the database's minimum elasticity value is -0.19 while the maximum value is 1.11 (Table 3). Similar to Sethuraman, Tellis, and Briesch (2011, Figure 1, 58%), about 61.5% of all current-period elasticities lie within the interval of [0; 0.1]. The mean current-period elasticity is 0.09 (median = 0.04). While this value is substantially lower than those reported by Assmus, Farley, and Lehmann (1984, mean = 0.22) and Sethuraman, Tellis, and Briesch (2011, mean = 0.12, additionally reported is median = 0.05), it is in line with the findings of recent studies for TV advertising

(Hu, Lodish, and Krieger 2007, mean = 0.10) and direct-to-consumer advertising in the pharmaceutical industry (Kremer, Bijmolt, Leeflang, and Wieringa 2008, mean = 0.07). Possible reasons for our finding of a smaller current-period advertising elasticity are: (i) a general negative time trend; (ii) in comparison to Sethuraman, Tellis, and Briesch (2011), a downward influence resulting from additionally including the studies by Ainslie, Drèze, and Zufryden (2005); Arora (1979); Elberse and Eliashberg (2003); Frank and Massy (1967); Montgomery and Silk (1972); and Telser (1962), whose mean current-period elasticity is 0.06; and (iii) some data potentially being interpreted differently than by Sethuraman, Tellis, and Briesch (2011) after having contacted the authors of the empirical papers.

4.2 Estimation

Although many variables are coded in the AED to make it as comprehensive as possible, only a subset of them enters the subsequent meta-analysis for the following two reasons: (i) due to multicollinearity, not all of them can be included in the meta-analysis; (ii) variables that do not turn out to exert a major impact on advertising elasticity, either in forward or backward regression or in prior meta-analyses, are excluded. Table 3 provides an overview of the descriptive statistics for the variables included in the meta-regression, where the naïve prediction indicates the mean current-period elasticity value for each variable level.

We model advertising elasticity as a linear function of selected independent variables. A portion of the hierarchical structure of the data is reflected by the coded variables, that is, some variables are observed at the lower measurement level, i.e., their values can differ within a study, while other variables are observed at the higher study level, i.e., their values are fixed within a study. Nevertheless, additional study-specific factors might exist that are not picked up by the aforementioned coded variables. As a result, a non-zero within-study error structure might emerge. In order to account for this potential bias, we apply the standard hierarchical linear modeling approach suggested by Bijmolt and Pieters (2001). Following Albers, Mantrala, and Sridhar (2010), we use the SAS PROC MIXED procedure to estimate random study-level intercepts and fixed effects for the determinants by means of maximum likelihood. The results of this hierarchical model M1 are

Table 3: Descriptive Statistics of Variables Included in Meta-Analysis (1/4)

Variable Category	Level	N	Sum N	%	Mean ⁷	Std Dev ⁷	Min ⁷	Max ⁷	Naïve Current-Period Elasticity Prediction ⁸ [N=659]
Elasticity type	Current-period	659	682	96.6%	0.09	0.16	-0.19	1.11	-
	Long-term	23		3.4%	0.19	0.25	0.00	1.00	-
Advertising media	TV	245	682	35.9%	-	-	0	1	0.0766
	Print and direct mail	130		19.1%	-	-	0	1	0.0345
	Aggregate advertising	307		45.0%	-	-	0	1	0.1255
Product type	Drugs	36	682	5.3%	-	-	0	1	0.1671
	Durables	39		5.7%	-	-	0	1	0.2359
	Entertainment media	14		2.1%	-	-	0	1	0.2898
	Food	271		39.7%	-	-	0	1	0.0604
	Non-food and other	322		47.2%	-	-	0	1	0.0826
	Stage in product life cycle	New	47	682	6.9%	-	-	0	1
	Established	635		93.1%	-	-	0	1	0.0856
Region	US or Canada	318	682	46.6%	-	-	0	1	0.0997
	Non-US/CAN	364		53.4%	-	-	0	1	0.0836
Reference frame	Longitudinal	327	682	47.9%	-	-	0	1	0.0760
	Cross-sectional/ panel	355		52.1%	-	-	0	1	0.1059

Table 3 continued: Descriptive Statistics of Variables Included in Meta-Analysis (2/4)

Variable Category	Level	N	Sum N	%	Mean ⁷	Std Dev ⁷	Min ⁷	Max ⁷	Naïve Current-Period Elasticity Prediction ⁸ [N=659]
Temporal aggregation of data	Up to one month	366	682	53.7%	-	-	0	1	0.0791
	Bimonthly and quarterly	151		22.1%	-	-	0	1	0.0402
	Year and others	165		24.2%	-	-	0	1	0.1645
Mean year of data collection (mean centered)	-	682	682	100.0%	0.00	18.15	-103.69	30.31	-
Dependent measure	Absolute	202	682	29.6%	-	-	0	1	0.1484
	Relative	480		70.4%	-	-	0	1	0.0695
Advertising measure	Absolute	420	682	61.6%	-	-	0	1	0.0869
	GRP	39		5.7%	-	-	0	1	0.1354
	Relative	223		32.7%	-	-	0	1	0.0910
Lagged dependent variable	Omit	357	682	52.3%	-	-	0	1	0.1048
	Included	325		47.7%	-	-	0	1	0.0765
Coefficient of lagged dependent variable ⁹	-	397	-	45.0%	0.46	0.36	-0.81	1.01	-
Lagged advertising variable/ stock advertising variable	Omit	437	682	64.1%	-	-	0	1	0.1097
	Included	245		35.9%	-	-	0	1	0.0552
Carryover of adv. stock variable ⁹	-	72	-	10.6%	0.50	0.31	0	0.98	-

Table 3 continued: Descriptive Statistics of Variables Included in Meta-Analysis (3/4)

Variable Category	Level	N	Sum N	%	Mean ⁷	Std Dev ⁷	Min ⁷	Max ⁷	Naïve Current-Period Elasticity Prediction ⁸ [N=659]
Price	Omit	170	682	24.9%	-	-	0	1	0.1184
	Included	512		75.1%	-	-	0	1	0.0817
Quality	Omit	618	682	90.6%	-	-	0	1	0.0801
	Included	64		9.4%	-	-	0	1	0.1988
Competition	Omit	107	682	15.7%	-	-	0	1	0.1805
	Included	575		84.3%	-	-	0	1	0.0745
Interaction effects	Omit	552	682	80.9%	-	-	0	1	0.0972
	Included	130		19.1%	-	-	0	1	0.0644
Intercept	Omit	91	682	13.3%	-	-	0	1	0.0847
	Included	591		86.7%	-	-	0	1	0.0921
Functional form	Share	122	682	17.9%	-	-	0	1	0.0819
	Double-log	398		58.4%	-	-	0	1	0.0826
	Linear	73		10.7%	-	-	0	1	0.0948
	Semi-log and others	89		13.0%	-	-	0	1	0.1533

Table 3 continued: Descriptive Statistics of Variables Included in Meta-Analysis (4/4)

Variable Category	Level	N	Sum N	%	Mean ⁷	Std Dev ⁷	Min ⁷	Max ⁷	Naïve Current-Period Elasticity Prediction ⁸ [N=659]
Estimation method	Ordinary least squares	297	682	43.5%	-	-	0	1	0.0867
	Other least squares approaches	182		26.7%	-	-	0	1	0.1032
	Maximum likelihood	164		24.0%	-	-	0	1	0.0708
	Other	39		5.7%	-	-	0	1	0.1691
Endogeneity	Not accounted for	603	682	88.4%	-	-	0	1	0.0849
	Accounted for	79		11.6%	-	-	0	1	0.1393
Heterogeneity in advertising coefficient	Not accounted for	648	682	95.0%	-	-	0	1	0.0839
	Accounted for	34		5.0%	-	-	0	1	0.2313
Publication type	Published	642	682	94.1%	-	-	0	1	0.0876
	Unpublished	40		5.9%	-	-	0	1	0.1450
Publication outlet	Not marketing-related	163	682	23.9%	-	-	0	1	0.0912
	Marketing-related	519		76.1%	-	-	0	1	0.0910
Publication outlet ranking	PFI	682	682	100.0%	0.37	0.41	0.01	1	-
Advertising effectiveness focus	No	79	682	11.6%	-	-	0	1	0.0670
	Yes	603		88.4%	-	-	0	1	0.0943

⁷ Mean, Std Dev, Min, Max are rounded to two decimal points.

⁸ The term "Naïve Elasticity Prediction" indicates the mean current-period elasticity value.

⁹ Not included in meta-regression.

presented in section 4.4 and in Web Appendix 4, column E.

In addition, we provide the estimation results of three alternative model specifications. First, those of an ordinary least squares (OLS) benchmark model (Web Appendix 4, column D) which serves two purposes: (i) a direct comparison of our results with the OLS-based findings of [Assmus, Farley, and Lehmann \(1984\)](#); and (ii) the opportunity to investigate the effect of hierarchical modeling on the significance of effects by comparing the results of this benchmark OLS model with those of our main hierarchical model M1. Second, we present the estimation results of an alternative hierarchical model M2 (Table 4 and Web Appendix 4, column L). In comparison to our main hierarchical model M1, M2 includes six additional interaction terms that could potentially impact advertising elasticity magnitude and were identified based on a literature search ([Albers, Mantrala, and Sridhari 2010](#); [Bijmolt, Van Heerde, and Pieters 2005](#); [Kremer, Bijmolt, Leeflang, and Wieringa 2008](#); [Sethuraman, Tellis, and Briesch 2011](#); [Tellis 1988](#)). Specifically, we test for the effects of the following six interaction effects:

- (i) Advertising medium type x Region
- (ii) Advertising medium type x Mean-centered mean year of data collection
- (iii) Stage in product life cycle x Specification of dependent measure
- (iv) Stage in product life cycle x Temporal data aggregation
- (v) Temporal data aggregation x Omission of lagged dependent variable
- (vi) Temporal data aggregation x Omission of lagged/stock advertising variable

Third and lastly, also for the hierarchical model including interaction effects (M2), the results of the respective OLS model are presented in Web Appendix 4 (column K) to investigate the effect of hierarchical modeling on the significance of effects.

As noted before, the results of our main model M1 along with selected findings of the alternative models are discussed in section 4.4. A complete overview of all estimation results is available from Web Appendix 4.

4.3 Robustness Checks

In order to test the robustness of model M1, we perform a number of analyses. First, we test an

alternative hierarchical effect, i.e., a random *dataset*-level intercept instead of the random *study*-level intercept. Due to the high correlation between these two variables ($r = 0.98$), the alternative specification yields almost identical results which is why we stick with the common random study-level intercept. Second, we carefully test for multicollinearity. We analyze bivariate correlations, VIF values, and condition indices. The correlation matrix provided in Web Appendix 5 reveals that no absolute bivariate correlation exceeds an absolute value of 0.67 and only seven entries have an absolute value larger than 0.5 (a level below the one reported by [Bijmolt, Van Heerde, and Pieters 2005](#)). A maximum VIF value of 5.38 (variable: estimation ML), only two variables (excluding the intercept) with a proportion of variation >0.5 , and a condition index of 23.2 (excluding the intercept) indicate a moderate level of multicollinearity, which is comparable to other meta-analyses (e.g., [Albers, Mantrala, and Sridhar 2010](#); [Kremer, Bijmolt, Leeflang, and Wieringa 2008](#)). We decide to keep the five variables that are indicated by multicollinearity checks (absolute bivariate correlations >0.5 ; indicated variables are: mean year of data collection, competition omitted, estimation method ML, not accounted for endogeneity, publication type unpublished; Web Appendix 5) in the meta-analysis due to their interesting nature and to enable comparison to prior generalization studies. This decision is affirmed by further robustness checks, i.e., the model is systematically validated by excluding each of the five variables from the analysis one at a time, as suggested by [Sethuraman, Tellis, and Briesch \(2011\)](#). Doing so does not lead to substantial changes in the estimated regression parameters (Web Appendix 4, models M1a-M1e, columns F-J).

For the hierarchical model M2, we find higher levels of multicollinearity due to the inclusion of the interaction effects described above. The maximum VIF increases to 10.6 (variable: temporal aggregation yearly), and the condition index rises to 24.5, while one variance proportion exceeds 0.5 (again both excluding the intercept). However, the inclusion of interaction effects does not unexpectedly change the parameter estimates of the other variables (Web Appendix 4). Therefore, we trust that the level of multicollinearity remains moderate. In sum, the stability tests affirm that the models are robust and

that we find no substantial effects caused by multicollinearity.

4.4 Model Fit

Table 4 provides the estimation results, including the estimates' lower and upper bounds (90% confidence interval) for the models M1 and M2.

The overall fit of the models is good: $R^2_{\text{Model 1}} = 0.43$ and $R^2_{\text{Model 2}} = 0.46$ (R^2 have been obtained using OLS). Other meta-analyses provide substantially smaller model fits (for an overview see [Albers, Mantrala, and Sridhar 2010: 848](#)). In comparison to the advertising elasticity meta-study by [Sethuraman, Tellis, and Briesch \(2011\)](#), the following variables are not coded or do not turn out to exert a major impact on advertising elasticity in our study: recession, product-type services, region non-US/Canada, data aggregation, lagged price, promotion, and distribution. The additional explanatory variables used in our meta-study are: product-type entertainment media, reference frame, usage of intercept in empirical studies, competition, usage of interaction effects in empirical studies, and three publication characteristics, namely marketing-relatedness of publication outlet, ranking of publication outlet, and focus of study on advertising effectiveness topic. In addition, the interaction effects employed in the two meta-analyses differ.

Turning back to our models M1 and M2, we find twelve significant determinants of advertising elasticity in both models (two-sided tests in contrast to [Sethuraman, Tellis, and Briesch 2011](#)). Compared to 23 and 21 significant effects in the respective OLS benchmark models (Web Appendix 4, columns D and K, respectively), this is a substantial decrease. This effect is not surprising, though, because in the OLS models the determinants' values for all 682 elasticities are treated as being independent observations. In reality, however, higher (study)-level variables (such as the mean year of data collection) are identical for all elasticities derived from one study. This effect is filtered out by hierarchical modeling ([Bijmolt and Pieters 2001](#)), resulting in fewer significant variables.

4.5 Discussion of Estimation Results

In the following, the results of our main model M1 are discussed. Results of alternative models are selectively embedded. All reported estimation results relate to Table 4 and/or Web Appendix 4.

Current versus long-term effects

As expected, and consistent with [Sethuraman, Tellis, and Briesch \(2011\)](#), we find higher long-term elasticities (mean = 0.19) than current-period elasticities (mean = 0.09). This descriptive finding is reflected in the highly significant regression parameter (0.25, $p < 0.01$) for the long-term elasticity dummy in model M1. The effect is not influenced by the inclusion of interaction effects in model M2.

Advertising medium

Table 3 shows that 35.9% of the 682 advertising elasticities included in the meta-analysis are based on TV advertising, 19.1% on print or direct mail advertising, and 45.0% on aggregate advertising. H1a (H1b) suggests that advertising elasticities are smaller for aggregate (print and direct mail) than for TV advertising. However, the regression results indicate no significant difference in the impacts of the different advertising media on advertising elasticity. Whereas our finding is consistent with the result of [Assmus, Farley, and Lehmann \(1984\)](#), it conflicts with [Sethuraman, Tellis, and Briesch \(2011\)](#), who found that TV advertising elasticity is significantly higher than that of aggregate advertising, which is in turn higher than that of general print advertising in the short run. Thus, our results do not support their empirical generalization. The interaction effects of the advertising medium print and direct mail with (i) non-US/Canadian markets and (ii) the mean-centered mean year of data collection are also not significant.

Product determinants

We test the effects of three product determinants: product type, the stage in the product life cycle, and the region in which the product was marketed.

Product type: We analyze five product categories: drugs (5.3%), durables (5.7%), entertainment media (2.1%), food (39.7%), and non-food and other products (47.2%). We find that advertising for entertainment media products has a significantly higher elasticity (regression parameter = 0.19, $p < 0.1$) than does advertising for the non-food and other product-type category, which serves as the base category. The marginally significant effect diminishes with the inclusion of interaction effects (model M2). However, the finding of model M1 is consistent with H2a, which suggests higher elasticities for hedonic and experience goods than for non-food and other product types. Thus, advertising plays a major role in reducing uncertainty prior to consumption.

Table 4: Estimation Results (1/7)

Var. Type ^o	Variable Category	Meta-Regression Variables	Hypothesis	Hypothesis confirmed by M1?	Effects (Significance) found by	Hierarchical Model (M1)			Hierarchical Model including Interaction Effects (M2)		
						Estimate (se) ^u	Lower bound	Upper bound	Estimate (se) ^u	Lower bound	Upper bound
INT	Intercept	-	-	-	-	0.05 (0.10)	-0.14	0.25	0.07 (0.10)	-0.12	0.27
CP/LT	Indicator	Current-period (Base)	-	[Mean short-term elasticity: 0.22 (N=128)]	[Mean short-run elasticity: 0.12 (N=751),	-	-	-	-	-	-
		Long-term	-	[Mean long-term elasticity: 0.19 (N=23)]	mean long-term elasticity: 0.24 (N=402)]	0.25 (0.06) ^{***}	0.13	0.37	0.24 (0.06) ^{***}	0.12	0.36
AD	Advertising medium	TV (Base)	H1a: Aggregate advertising < TV	H1a: (n.s.)	TV > Aggregate > TV (n.s.)	-	-	-	-	-	-
		Print and direct mail	H1b: Print and direct mail < TV	H1b: (n.s.)	Print (sign.)	-0.02 (0.03)	-0.08	0.05	-0.03 (0.04)	-0.11	0.05
		Aggregate adv.				0.01 (0.03)	-0.05	0.07	0.03 (0.03)	-0.04	0.09
PD	Product type	Non-food and other goods (Base)	H2a: Hedonic and experience goods > Non-food and other goods	H2a: (sign.)	Food > Others (sign.)	-	-	-	-	-	-
		Drugs	H2b: Durables > Non-food and other goods	H2b: (n.s.)	Durables > Drugs > Food and others (sign.)	-0.03 (0.07)	-0.19	0.12	0.01 (0.07)	-0.14	0.16
		Durables				0.03 (0.03)	-0.02	0.09	0.03 (0.03)	-0.02	0.09

Table 4 continued: Estimation Results (2/7)

Var. Type ^o	Variable Category	Meta-Regression Variables	Hypothesis	Hypothesis confirmed by M1?	Effects (Significance) found by	Hierarchical Model (M1)		Hierarchical Model including Interaction Effects (M2)					
						Estimate (se) ^u	Lower bound	Upper bound	Estimate (se) ^u	Lower bound	Upper bound		
PD	Product type (continued)	Entertainment media Food	H2a: Hedonic and experience goods > Non-food and other goods H2b: Durables > Non-food and other goods	H2a: yes (sign.) H2b: (n.s.)	Food > Others (sign.) Durables > Drugs > Food and others (sign.)	Assmus, Farley, Lehmann 1984	Sethuraman, Tellis, Briesch 2011	0.19 (0.10)*	0.00	0.39	0.13 (0.11)	-0.09	0.34
PD	Stage in product life cycle	Established (Base) New	H3: New > Established	yes (sign.)	[Expected to be higher for early phase but sample too small for sign. tests.]			-	-	-	-	-	-
PD	Region	USA/Canada (Base) Rest of world	H4: Rest of world < USA/Canada	(n.s.)	Europe > US (sign.)			0.18 (0.04)***	0.10	0.26	-0.01 (0.05)	-0.11	0.09
DD	Reference frame	Cross-sectional or panel data (Base) Longitudinal data		-	Pooled data (incl. cross-sections) > Time-series (sign.)			-	-	-	-	-	-
								0.0002 (0.02)	-0.04	0.04	0.01 (0.02)	-0.03	0.04

Table 4 continued: Estimation Results (3/7)

Var. Type ¹⁰	Variable Category	Meta-Regression Variables	Hypothesis	Hypothesis confirmed by M1?	Effects (Significance) found by	Hierarchical Model (M1)			Hierarchical Model including Interaction Effects (M2)				
						Estimate ¹¹	Lower bound	Upper bound	Estimate ¹¹	Lower bound	Upper bound		
DD	Temporal aggregation of data	Up to one month (Base) Bimonthly and quarterly Yearly and other	H5a: Yearly > Up to 1 month	H5a: yes (sign.)	Bimonthly or quarterly > Yearly (sign.)	Yearly > Quarterly (sign.)	-	-	-	-	-	-	
			H5b: Bimonthly and quarterly >	H5b: (n.s.)	> Weekly or monthly (sign.)	Weekly > Quarterly (n.s.)	0.04 (0.03)	-0.01	0.09	0.04 (0.03)*	-0.01	0.09	
			Up to 1 month			Quarterly (n.s.)	0.11 (0.03)***	0.05	0.17	0.03 (0.05)	-0.06	0.12	
DD	Mean year of data collection	(Mean centered)	H6: The more recently the analyzed data, the smaller the elasticity.	yes (sign.)	-	The more recent the data, the smaller the elast. (sign.)	-0.003 (0.001)***	-0.005	-0.001	-0.002 (0.001)*	-0.004	0.0002	
DD	Dependent measure	Relative (Base)	H7: Absolute > Relative	(n.s.)	Absolute > Relative (n.s.)	Absolute < Relative (n.s.)	-	-	-	-	-	-	
		Absolute						-0.02 (0.02)	-0.07	0.02	-0.01 (0.02)	-0.05	0.04
DD	Advertising measure	Absolute (Base)	H8a: GRP > Absolute	H8a: yes (sign.)	Volume > Share (n.s.)	GRP > Relative > Monetary (sign.)	-	-	-	-	-	-	
		GRP	H8b: Relative < Absolute	H8b: (n.s.)				0.27 (0.08)***	0.11	0.43	0.23 (0.08)***	0.08	0.39
		Relative						0.02 (0.02)	-0.01	0.06	0.02 (0.02)	-0.02	0.05

Table 4 continued: Estimation Results (4/7)

Var. Type ^o	Variable Category	Meta-Regression Variables	Hypothesis	Hypothesis confirmed by M1?	Effects (Significance) found by	Hierarchical Model (M1)			Hierarchical Model including Interaction Effects (M2)			
						Assmus, Farley, Lehmann 1984	Sethuraman, Tellis, Briesch 2011	Estimate (se) ^u	Lower bound	Upper bound	Estimate (se) ^u	Lower bound
CE	Lagged dependent variable	Included (Base)	H9: Lagged dependent variable omit. >	yes (sign.)	Omitted > Included (sign.)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
		Omitted	Lagged dependent variable incl.			0.06 (0.02)***	0.03	0.09	0.01 (0.02)	-0.03	0.05	
CE	Lagged or stock advertising variable	Included (Base)	H10: Lagged/stock adv. omit. >	yes (sign.)	Lagged adv. omit. >	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
		Omitted	Lagged/stock adv. incl.			0.06 (0.02)***	0.02	0.09	0.04 (0.02)*	-0.002	0.078	
MD	Price	Included (Base)	H11: Price omit. < Price incl.	(n.s.)	Included > Omitted (n.s.)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
		Omitted				0.01 (0.02)	-0.03	0.05	0.01 (0.02)	-0.03	0.04	
MD	Quality	Included (Base)	H12: Quality omit. < Quality incl.	yes (sign.)	Omitted < Included (n.s.)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
		Omitted				-0.05 (0.02)**	-0.094	-0.002	-0.06 (0.02)**	-0.10	-0.01	
MRD	Competition	Included (Base)	H13: Competition omit. > Competition incl.	yes (sign.)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
		Omitted				0.08 (0.03)***	0.02	0.13	0.06 (0.03)**	0.01	0.11	
IE EMP. Interaction effects (IE)	Interaction effects (IE)	Included (Base)	H14: IE omit. < IE incl.	(n.s.)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
		Omitted				0.03 (0.04)	-0.06	0.12	0.01 (0.04)	-0.08	0.09	

Table 4 continued: Estimation Results (5/7)

Var. Type ^o	Variable Category	Meta-Regression Variables	Hypothesis	Hypothesis confirmed by M1?	Effects (Significance) found by	Hierarchical Model (M1)		Hierarchical Model including Interaction Effects (M2)			
						Estimate (se) ^u	Lower bound	Upper bound	Estimate (se) ^u	Lower bound	Upper bound
ED	Intercept	Included (Base)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
		Omitted				0.04 (0.03)	-0.03	0.10	0.01 (0.03)	-0.05	0.07
ED	Functional form of model	Double-log (Base)	-	-	Additive > Double-log (sign.)	Linear > Other > Double-log > Share (sign.)	-	-	-	-	-
		Share					-0.002 (0.03)	0.06	0.01 (0.03)	-0.05	0.08
		Linear					0.01 (0.03)	0.07	0.01 (0.03)	-0.05	0.07
		Semi-log/other					0.05 (0.03)*	0.10	0.05 (0.03)*	0.00	0.11
ED	Estimation method	OLS (Base)	-	-	Nonlinear single equations > Multiple-step single equations (n.s.)	ML > OLS > Other > GLS (n.s.)	-	-	-	-	-
		Least squares (without OLS)					-0.02 (0.02)	0.01	-0.02 (0.02)	-0.05	0.01
		ML					-0.01 (0.04)	0.07	-0.01 (0.04)	-0.10	0.07
		Other					0.07 (0.08)	0.23	0.09 (0.08)	-0.07	0.24
ED	Accounted for endogeneity	Yes (Base)	H15: Endogeneity not acc. for < Endo-genity acc. for	(n.s.)	-	Omitted < Included (sign.)	-	-	-	-	-
		No					0.06 (0.04)	-0.02	0.05 (0.04)	-0.03	0.13

Table 4 continued: Estimation Results (6/7)

Var. Type ^o	Variable Category	Meta-Regression Variables	Hypothesis	Hypothesis confirmed by M1?	Effects (Significance) found by	Hierarchical Model (M1)		Hierarchical Model including Interaction Effects (M2)				
						Estimate (se) ^u	Lower bound	Upper bound	Estimate (se) ^u	Lower bound	Upper bound	
ED	Accounted for heterogeneity in adv. coeff.	Yes (Base) No	-	-	Omitted < Included (n.s.)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
PUB	Publication type	Published (Base) Unpublished	H16: Unpublished < Published	(n.s.)	Published > Working Paper (n.s.)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
PUB	Marketing-related publication outlet	Yes (Base) No	H17: Non-marketing-related < Marketing-related	(n.s.)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
PUB	Ranking of publication outlet	-	H18: The higher the ranking value, the lower the elasticity.	(n.s.)	-	-0.05 (0.08)	-0.22	0.12	-0.02 (0.08)	-0.18	-0.16	0.09
PUB	Focus of study on advertising effectiveness	Yes (Base) No	H19: No adv. effect. focus < Adv. effect. focus	(n.s.)	-	0.03 (0.06)	-0.08	0.14	0.03 (0.06)	-0.08	-0.08	0.14

Table 4 continued: Estimation Results (7/7)

Var. Type ¹⁰	Variable Category	Meta-Regression Interaction Variables	Finding of M2?	Effects (Significance) found by	Hierarchical Model (M1)			Hierarchical Model including Interaction Effects (M2)		
					Estimate (se) ¹¹	Lower bound	Upper bound	Estimate (se) ¹¹	Lower bound	Upper bound
IE META	Interaction effects	Advertising medium type print and direct mail x Region non-US/Canada	(n.s.)	-	-	-	0.03 (0.05)	-0.06	0.12	
IE META	Interaction effects	Advertising medium type print and direct mail x Mean centered mean year of data collection	(n.s.)	-	-	-	-0.002 (0.002)	-0.005	0.001	
IE META	Interaction effects	Stage in product life cycle new x Absolute dependent measure	(sign.)	-	-	-	0.21 (0.09)**	0.04	0.38	
IE META	Interaction effects	Stage in product life cycle new x Yearly data aggregation	(sign.)	-	-	-	0.4 (0.09)***	0.23	0.58	
IE META	Interaction effects	Yearly data aggregation x Omitted lagged dependent variable	(sign.)	-	-	-	0.09 (0.03)***	0.04	0.15	
IE META	Interaction effects	Yearly data aggregation x Omitted lagged/stock advertising variable	(n.s.)	-	-	-	0.04 (0.04)	-0.04	0.12	

¹⁰ AD = Advertising media for which elasticity is valid, CE = Carryover Effects, CP/LT = Indicator for current-period/long-term elasticities, DD = Data determinants, ED = Estimation determinants, IE EMP = Interaction effects in empirical studies, IE META = Interaction effects in meta-regression, INT = Intercepts in meta-regression, MRD = Marketing determinants, PD = Product determinants, PUB = Publication determinants.

¹¹ Given are: Estimates, (standard errors), and the significance levels where ***: $p < 0.01$; **: $p < 0.05$; *: $p < 0.1$ (two-sided).

However, we do not find empirical support for H2b, which suggests that durables have a higher elasticity than the base category does. Contrary to prior research (Sethuraman, Tellis, and Briesch 2011), the durable goods in this study's database do not respond considerably more elastically to advertising than other product categories do.

Stage in product life cycle: Consistent with H3, we find that advertising elasticities are significantly higher for products in an early stage of the life cycle (6.9% in our sample) than for more established products (regression parameter = 0.18, $p < 0.01$). While this effect disappears in model M2, two significant positive interactions of the early life cycle stage could be detected, i.e., (i) with an absolute dependent measure (regression parameter = 0.21, $p < 0.05$) and (ii) with a yearly data aggregation (regression parameter = 0.4, $p < 0.01$). Thus, consistent with Sethuraman, Tellis, and Briesch (2011) and Vakratsas and Ambler (1999), we find that advertising for new products is more effective than advertising in later stages of the product life cycle.

Region: The geographical distribution of the included elasticities is almost even; 46.6% of the elasticities are from US or Canadian markets, 53.4% from the rest of the world. We find no support for differences in elasticity magnitudes with respect to where the data stem from (H4). Our finding weakens prior generalizations by Assmus, Farley, and Lehmann (1984) and Sethuraman, Tellis, and Briesch (2011), who found significantly stronger advertising effects in Europe.

Data determinants

We test the influence of five data determinants: reference frame, temporal aggregation of data, mean year of data collection, measurement of the dependent variable, and the advertising measure.

Reference frame: The distribution of elasticities with regard to the data structure is almost even. A total of 47.9% (52.1%) of the elasticities are based on a longitudinal (cross-sectional or panel) reference frame. Our regression results indicate that the reference frame (which we treat as a control variable without prior hypothesis) does not significantly influence the advertising elasticity.

Temporal aggregation: Most of the elasticities are derived based on data aggregated up to one month (53.7%), whereas aggregation to bimonthly and quarterly (22.1%) and yearly and other intervals (24.2%) are less common. Consistent with H5a, we

find in M1 that elasticities that are estimated based on yearly data are significantly larger than those based on monthly data, i.e., yearly aggregation has a significant positive effect on advertising elasticities (regression coefficient = 0.11, $p < 0.01$). However, H5b cannot be supported; elasticities based on quarterly or bimonthly data do not significantly differ from those based on data aggregated at a monthly level. The reverse is true for the interaction model M2; H5b is supported while H5a is not. This is not surprising, though, because the influence of a yearly temporal aggregation is captured by three interactions (with early product life cycle stage, omitted lagged dependent variable, and omitted lagged/ stock advertising variable) which are all significant in model M2. Overall, we, in line with other studies such as Tellis (2005), find that advertising elasticities increase with increasing temporal aggregation.

Mean year of data collection: Consistent with H6, we find that studies analyzing more recent data yield lower elasticities. Thus, the effectiveness of advertising is decreasing over time (regression coefficient -0.003, $p < 0.01$). This finding, which is valid also for interaction model M2, is in line with Sethuraman, Tellis, and Briesch (2011).

Dependent measure: About 70.4% of the estimated elasticities are derived using a relative dependent measure. In H7, we suggest that advertising elasticities derived from models using absolute dependent measures are higher than elasticities derived from models using relative dependent measures are. Consistent with Assmus, Farley, and Lehmann (1984) and Sethuraman, Tellis, and Briesch (2011), we do not find a significant impact of the dependent measure on advertising elasticities. As mentioned above, however, the interaction between an early stage in the product life cycle and an absolute dependent measure has a significant positive effect on advertising elasticity.

Advertising measure: The majority of the elasticities is estimated using an absolute (61.6%) or relative (32.7%) advertising measure, whereas gross rating points (GRP) remain an exception (5.7%). Consistent with Sethuraman, Tellis, and Briesch (2011), we find that advertising elasticities estimated from models using GRP as advertising measure are higher than elasticities derived using absolute measures (H8a, regression coefficient = 0.27, $p < 0.01$). However, H8b cannot be supported because the respective regression coefficient is positive

but not significant. Thus, elasticities derived from models using relative advertising measures are not significantly smaller than those based on absolute measures. Both results remain in model M2.

Carryover effects

We analyze two kinds of carryover effects: First, we focus on the lagged dependent variable, and second, we analyze the effect of lagged or stock advertising variables.

Lagged dependent variable: 52.3% of the elasticities in our meta-analysis are derived by models that do not consider a lagged dependent variable. H9 hypothesizes that advertising elasticities from models that do not include a lagged dependent variable are higher than elasticities derived from models that account for this type of dynamic effect. This hypothesis is supported (regression coefficient = 0.06, $p < 0.01$) and confirms the prior findings of [Assmus, Farley, and Lehmann \(1984\)](#) and [Sethuraman, Tellis, and Briesch \(2011\)](#). As mentioned above, the interaction between yearly data and the omission of the lagged dependent variable also positively impacts advertising elasticity in model M2.

Lagged or stock advertising variable: The same logic applies to the omission of lagged or stock advertising from a model (64.1% of all cases). As suggested in H10, we expect significantly higher current-period advertising elasticity estimates when lagged or stock advertising variables are omitted. While [Sethuraman, Tellis, and Briesch \(2011\)](#) failed to provide support for this hypothesis, we find a significant effect of omitting lagged or stock advertising variables in model M1 (regression coefficient = 0.06, $p < 0.01$, coincidentally identical to the coefficient for the omission of the lagged dependent variable). The same is true for model M2, whereas the additional interaction between omitting lagged or stock advertising and yearly data is insignificant.

Marketing determinants

We include two marketing determinants in our meta-analysis: price and quality.

Price: Price, as a major influential variable, is included in the models of 75.1% of the elasticities. H11 hypothesizes that advertising elasticities decrease when price is omitted from the model. However, consistent with both prior advertising meta-analyses ([Assmus, Farley, and Lehmann 1984](#); [Sethuraman, Tellis, and Briesch 2011](#)), our results

neither support nor reject H11 because the regression coefficient is insignificant.

Quality: Only 9.4% of the elasticities are derived from models that control for the product's quality. As expected in H12, we find that the omission of quality-related variables significantly reduces advertising elasticity estimates (regression coefficient = -0.05, $p < 0.05$). This effect persists when interaction effects are added to the model. This finding updates the non-significant results reported by [Sethuraman, Tellis, and Briesch \(2011\)](#).

Market-related determinants

Competition: Preliminary analyses suggested including one market-related variable in the meta-regression model, namely competition. Competitive behavior is included in 84.3% of the models. In H13, we hypothesize that advertising elasticities derived from studies that do not account for competitive influences are higher than those from studies that account for competitive effects. The regression analysis supports this hypothesis (regression coefficient = 0.08, $p < 0.01$). The result is not moderated by interaction effects and persists in model M2. Thus, studies omitting competitive effects tend to overestimate advertising elasticities. Although this finding is consistent with various marketing studies (e.g., [Vakratsas, Feinberg, Bass, and Kalyanaram 2004](#)), it has been ignored in prior advertising meta-analyses.

Interaction effects

Only 19.1% of the models used to estimate elasticities include interaction effects. In our meta-analysis, we test for the effect of (collapsed advertising and other) interaction effects on advertising elasticity magnitude. In H14, we suggest that advertising elasticities derived from studies that do not include interaction effects are lower than those from studies that account for interaction effects. The regression results neither support nor reject the hypothesis; the regression parameter is not significant.

Estimation determinants

We focus on five potential estimation influences on advertising elasticities by addressing the employment of an intercept, the functional form and the estimation method as well as accounting for endogeneity and heterogeneity.

Intercept: We test whether omitting an intercept from the model (13.3% of all cases) influences the

magnitude of the elasticity. Our data do not provide support for a significant effect.

Functional form: The majority of elasticities have been derived using a double-log model specification (58.4%), which is why it serves as the base category. Less often we observe share (17.9%), linear (10.7%), and semi-log or other functional forms (13%). In both models M1 and M2, we find a significant regression parameter ($0.05, p < 0.1$ for M1 and M2) for semi-log or other functional forms. All remaining functional forms do not significantly affect the advertising elasticity. Our results conflict with [Sethuraman, Tellis, and Briesch \(2011\)](#) who found significant effects for all model types, but are consistent with most other meta-analyses reporting no significant effects for different functional forms (e.g., [Albers, Mantrala, and Sridhar 2010](#); [Bijmolt, Van Heerde, and Pieters 2005](#); [Kremer, Bijmolt, Leeflang, and Wieringa 2008](#); [Tellis 1988](#)).

Estimation method: As the descriptive statistics in Table 3 reveal, 43.5% of the elasticities are derived using OLS, 26.7% use other least squares approaches, 24% rely on ML, and 5.7% use other techniques to estimate the parameters. Consistent with our expectation and other meta-analyses (e.g., [Assmus, Farley, and Lehmann 1984](#) and [Sethuraman, Tellis, and Briesch 2011](#)), we find that the estimation method does not significantly alter advertising elasticity.

Endogeneity: Only 11.6% of the elasticities are derived while considering potential endogeneity. While there is ambiguity on this topic in the literature, we assume (H15) the advertising elasticity to be lower when endogeneity is not accounted for in a model. In contrast to [Sethuraman, Tellis, and Briesch \(2011\)](#), whose data confirm this assumption, our regression results neither support nor reject the hypothesis because the estimated parameter is not significant.

Heterogeneity: Only 5% of the elasticities in our database are estimated on the basis of models which account for heterogeneity via individualized advertising coefficients. We find that ignoring heterogeneity has a significant negative effect on elasticity magnitude (regression parameter = $-0.11, p < 0.05$). This effect is also present in the interaction model M2. Thus, this variable seems to be a relevant control variable.

Publication determinants

The last section of determinants relates to four publication determinants that control for different potential publication biases.

Publication type: A total of 94.1% of the elasticities are drawn from published papers. We expect (H16) that published studies exhibit higher elasticity estimates than unpublished work does. However, the naïve elasticity prediction is lower for published than for unpublished papers (Table 3) and, consistent with [Sethuraman, Tellis, and Briesch \(2011\)](#), we cannot detect a significant publication type bias.

Marketing-related outlet: We further assume (H17) that advertising elasticities are higher if they are derived from studies published in marketing-related outlets (76.1%) compared to other academic outlets (23.9%). However, the estimated parameter is not significant.

Outlet ranking: We further suggest (H18) smaller elasticities to be published in more highly ranked publication outlets. Testing for this effect indicates no significant result.

Advertising effectiveness focus: Finally, we test whether elasticities are biased upwards when a study focuses on advertising effectiveness (H19). A total of 88.4% of the elasticities are derived from papers focusing on advertising. Our results do not support H19 because the regression parameter is insignificant.

5 Conclusions

Summary of findings: Worldwide, managers allocate substantial portions of companies' marketing budgets towards advertising. Increasing demand for marketing accountability requires marketing managers to attach great importance to the efficiency of marketing expenditures. Chief Executive Officers (CEOs) and auditing executives focus on the efficiency of advertising expenditures. This enormous real-life relevance (Figure 1) is certainly one of the reasons why scientific research has devoted particular attention to advertising effectiveness (e.g., [Vakratsas and Ambler 1999](#)). For the purpose of marketing accountability and benchmarking, advertising elasticity is the most appropriate measure. Meta-analyses offer a systematic assessment of the robustness of findings with respect to advertising elasticities across variations in study designs ([Farley and Lehmann 2001](#)).



This paper provides an online-accessible advertising elasticity database that includes a large number of potential determinants of advertising elasticity (Figure 2). It largely surpasses prior meta-analyses in terms of comprehensiveness and disaggregation – such a wide range of variables has never before been provided in coded format in one single document. In summary, it offers 602 short-term and 143 long-term elasticities obtained from 60 datasets and 62 studies published in international journals and conference proceedings, books, or unpublished manuscripts. In the descriptive analysis, we find an average current-period elasticity of 0.09.

Furthermore, this study quantitatively summarizes the econometric findings on the relationship between advertising and current-period advertising response by investigating the effect of several moderating variables. For this purpose, we conduct a meta-analysis based on the data coded in the AED. The analysis builds on a conceptual framework integrating prior theoretical and empirical findings. We estimate the parameters using a hierarchical linear model and find 12 significant determinants of advertising elasticity, which partially differ from those employed by Sethuraman, Tellis, and Briesch (2011). The comprehensiveness in conjunction with the transparency of the AED provides managers with disaggregated insights and researchers with starting values for estimation as well benchmark results for the validation of own research findings.

Contributions: This paper contributes to the existing literature in two major ways: First, prior meta-analyses generalize findings on advertising elasticities and identify determinants that influence advertising elasticity. Despite deriving a variety of valuable insights, a major shortcoming of these meta-analyses is the fact that only generalized results are reported, whereas the disaggregated raw data are not made available. Because managers are highly interested in, e.g., product-type-level information, we focus on providing a database of marketing elasticities on a disaggregated level. Second, we (re-)analyze and update empirical generalizations about advertising elasticities and their determinants based on the AED.

Managerial implications: Compared to Sethuraman, Tellis, and Briesch (2011), we find a substantially smaller current-period advertising elasticity (-25%). This smaller effect is attributable to (i) decreasing advertising elasticity magnitudes over time, (ii) an extended study base, and (iii) some data po-

tentially being interpreted differently compared to Sethuraman, Tellis, and Briesch (2011). The rather small advertising elasticities indicate that advertising spending should be allocated carefully. Especially compared to personnel selling (Albers, Mantrala, and Sridhar 2010), advertising is by far less effective (0.09 vs. 0.34). The meta-analysis further reveals that the trend is indeed downwards; i.e., papers analyzing more recent data tend to find lower advertising elasticities compared to older ones. Because we control for most of the relevant methodological issues that influence elasticity magnitudes (e.g., temporal aggregation of data, measurement issues, omission of lagged variables, and heterogeneity), we believe that, ceteris paribus, advertising effectiveness will continue to decline over time. This trend is supported by the fact that competition reduces advertising effectiveness. Managers benefit from our study by allocating their budgets more carefully to increase the success of their products and the efficiency of their advertising spending.

However, even with small elasticities, advertising will continue to play a major role in marketing because it signals product quality to consumers (Erdem, Keane, and Sun 2008), which often results in higher prices. Our meta-analysis reveals that advertising elasticities are higher for hedonic and experience products and for products in an early stage of their life cycle. Thus, these products will strongly benefit from the optimized allocation of advertising spending.

Research implications: Researchers benefit from our study by obtaining a comprehensive database including starting values for their own estimations and meta-regression results of determinants whose effects have not been investigated previously. Although we provide the AED online so that everyone can retrace and adjust our coding decisions, the statement by Farley and Lehmann (1986: 54) on the difficulties of meta-analysis should still be considered: “The relative sparseness of the data makes meta-analysis in some way similar to archaeology where a few important clues and some general notions are used to construct an admittedly incomplete understanding of a situation.” We believe that the provision of the AED may stimulate other researchers to shed light on issues that have not yet been completely resolved.

Although every effort has been made to ensure the accuracy of the AED, we cannot rule out the possibility that small coding errors might have occurred.



If errors are found, the authors would appreciate a notification so that they can correct the database. Also, the collection of the data in the AED has shown that although advertising research has yielded numerous insights, many questions remain unanswered. For example, most of the studies used aggregate advertising data. Thus, few studies systematically and jointly analyzed the elasticities of different advertising media to provide insights into the simultaneous allocation of budgets across these media. Furthermore, we have not found any studies dealing with new media or comparing the advertising elasticities across internet channels, such as social networks or search engine marketing. Against this backdrop, our AED might stimulate research in this area of advertising.

Meta-analyses face general limitations, including (i) the risk that misleading conclusions might arise by combining poorly done with more rigorously done studies (Andrews and Franke 1991); (ii) problems of non-independence of observations (Farley and Lehmann 1986; Tellis 1988); or (iii) the problem of autocorrelation in the data (Sethuraman, Tellis, and Briesch 2011). The public, online availability of a transparent AED along with a meta-analysis may serve as a starting point for minimizing these concerns.

Web-Appendix 1:

Advertising Elasticity Database (AED)

Web-Appendix 2:

Coding Description of Variables (Coding Handbook)

Web-Appendix 3:

Elasticity Calculations for Certain Empirical Studies

Web-Appendix 4:

Estimation Results and Robustness Checks

Web-Appendix 5:

Correlation Matrix of Meta-Regression Variables

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