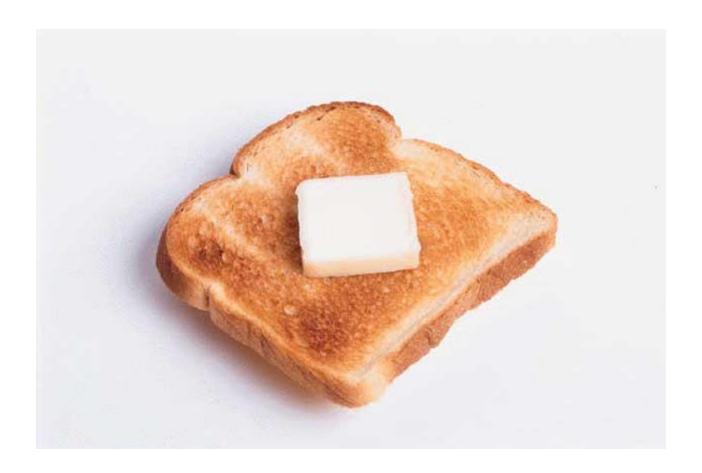




### Pricing is not a math problem

It's a judgment problem

## **Toast**



Toaster

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- Mechanical timer lets you get exactly the degree of toasting you prefer

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- o Iconic design, stainless steel costs manufacturer \$70 to make it
- Dualit brand, available at Williams-Sonoma
- It's the same toaster that Queen Elizabeth uses at Buckingham Palace

### **Dualit Classic Toaster**



### **Dualit Classic Toaster**

\$259.95



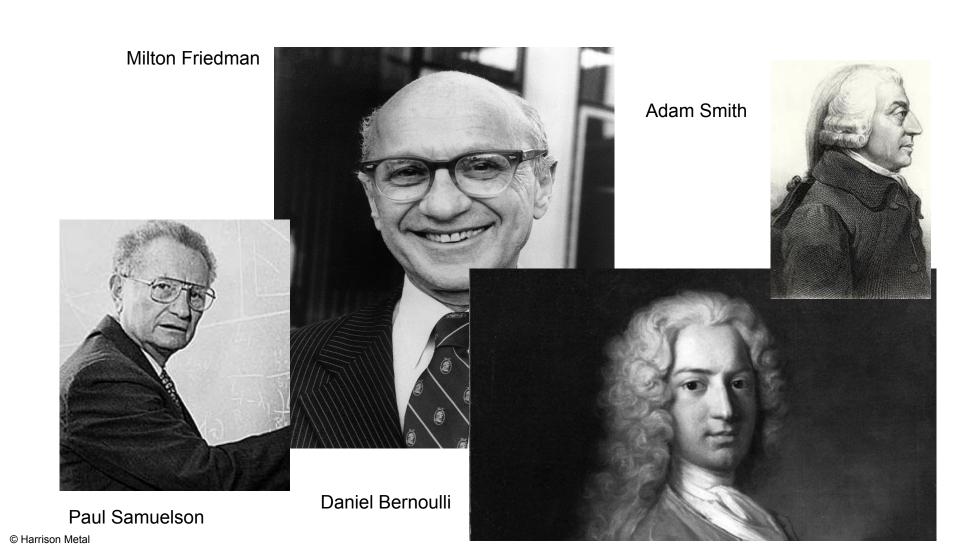
### How might we think about pricing?

- Standard model of supply and demand is powerful. It has some very nice features for understanding pricing
  - Downward sloping demand curves, utility and preference
  - "Elasticity" that links change in quantity to change in price
  - Supply curves, marginal costs of production and variable unit costs
  - Buyers and sellers use reason to make decisions
- But the standard model is less useful when managing pricing
  - New markets where demand is highly uncertain
  - Software, digital services where variable unit costs approach zero
  - Markets where humans make decisions only partly based on reason

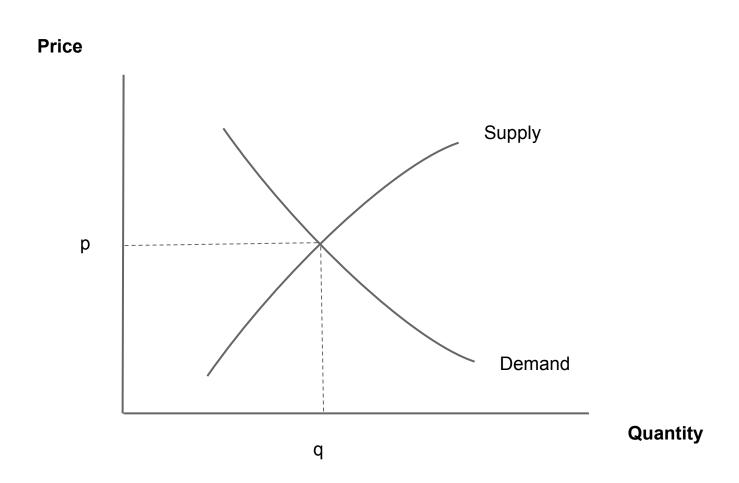
### ... in a different way?

- Behavioral economics offers helpful modifications to the standard model
  - Intuition and reasoning operate together in a compound system
  - "Utility" is reference-dependent and loss-averse
  - Complex decision-making is simplified using prototypes as anchors, and accessible analytic techniques
- You can use four simple tools to improve your pricing judgment
  - Map substitutes and complements for your product
  - Design for both the intuitive and the rational p.o.v. of users
  - Create value-based prototypes (perceived value > price)
  - Build assortments to probe demand and increase conversion

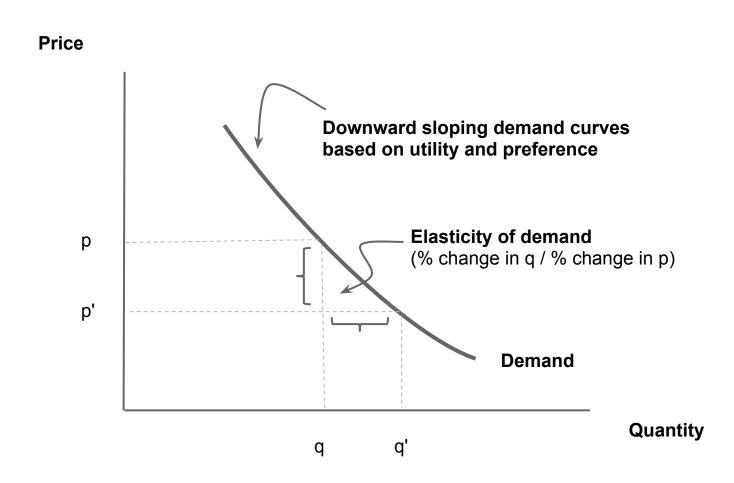
#### Standard model - classical economics



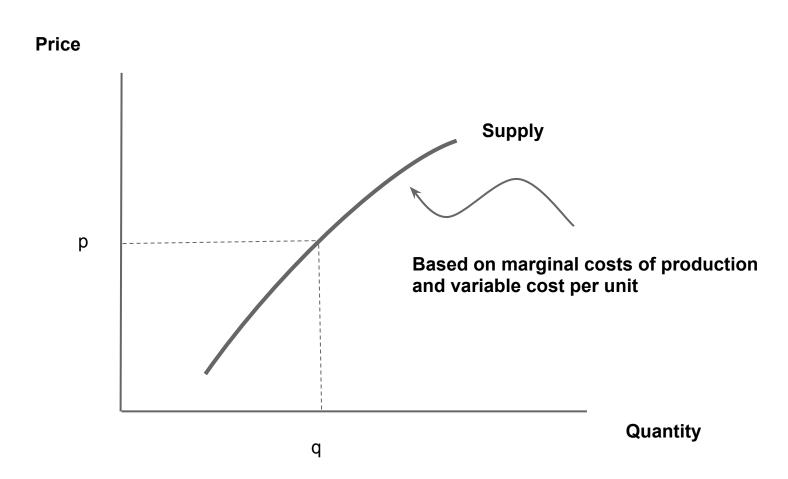
### Standard model - supply & demand



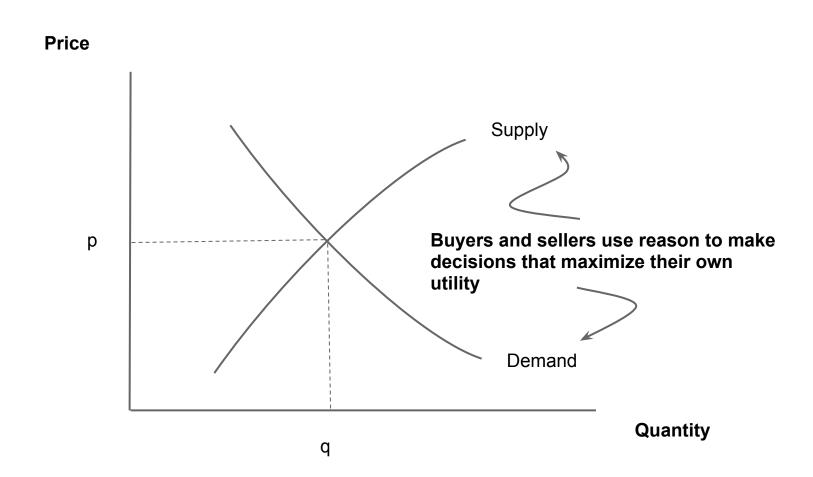
#### Nice features - demand



### Nice features - supply



### Nice features - rational actors



#### Problems with the standard model

- In new markets preferences and utility have not been established, therefore no demand curves
- In software and digital services, variable costs and marginal costs may approach zero, makes supply curves behave in weird ways
- Dis-utility from losses is not proportional to utility from gains
- Human psychology is burdened with / blessed by perception and intuition alongside reason

# The psychologists



### Behavioral economics helps

Kahneman and Tversky described a compound cognitive system, where intuition and reason operate together

#### Intuition (S1)

- "Trusting plausible judgment"
- Fast (like perception)
- Automatic (like perception)
- Quickly accesses prototype answers and suppresses uncertainty
- Low processing cost, low cognitive load
- Prone to errors

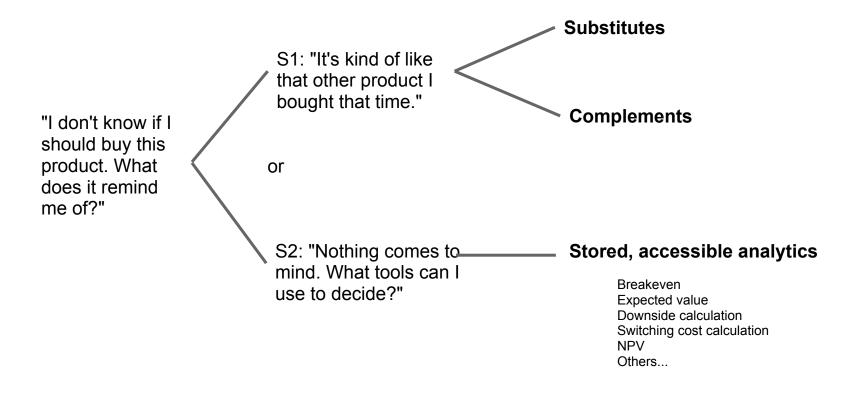
#### Reason (S2)

- Careful, based on doubt
- Slower, more effortful
- Accesses stored analytic techniques and methods
- Higher processing costs, higher cognitive load
- Good at monitoring S1 but only if prompted to investigate

Source: "Maps of Bounded Rationality: Psychology for Behavioral Economics," Daniel Kahneman's lecture December 8, 2002 when he received the Bank of Sweden Prize in Economic Sciences in Memory of Alfred Nobel, Stockholm, Sweden. Reprinted in *The American Economic Review*, vol 93, no 5 (December 2003).

### Behavioral economics helps

Buyers make hard decisions by accessing mental anchors like substitutes or complements, and stored analytic methods (in that order)



#### How do we sort all this out?



### **Synthesis**

Core truths of the standard model

- + Insights into humans of the behaviorists
- + **Practical tools** that help managers make better judgments
- = A better way to manage pricing

#### Four tools

- Map out your product's substitutes and complements -they anchor your buyers' thinking in S1
- Design with the buyer's intuitive (S1) and rational (S2) thinking in mind
- Prototype a value-based price for your product (perceived value > price)
- Build an assortment around to probe demand curve and increase conversion

### **#1: Substitutes and complements**

These are the highly accessible anchoring ideas that your buyers fall back on when they think about your new product using S1

Substitutes		Complements	
Without your product, how would your target user solve this problem?		What are the other products you'd expect to find in nature alongside your product?	
<ul><li>Jury rig a</li><li>Eliminate</li><li>Hire some</li></ul>	g npetitor's product DIY solution the underlying problem eone to deal with it ng your earlier version of the	0 0 0	A left shoe to go with a right shoe Printer with a desktop computer Cocktail table with a sofa Github subscription with a Heroku account

# #2: Intuitive and rational thinking

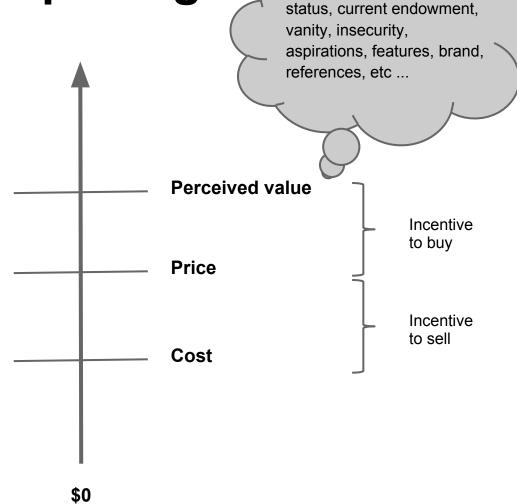
- Intuitive (S1): immediate, automatic thoughts that "lean in" or "push back"
- Rational (S2): careful, effortful analytic tools that monitor S1
- To make a sale, bolster S1 or call on S2 to influence decision-making

	Intuitive (S1)	Rational (S2)
Buyer's POV	Anchor ideas / prototypes / analogies Endowment state they don't want to lose Loss aversion	Household budget constraint Personal utility function Breakeven analysis Competitive price-value NPV

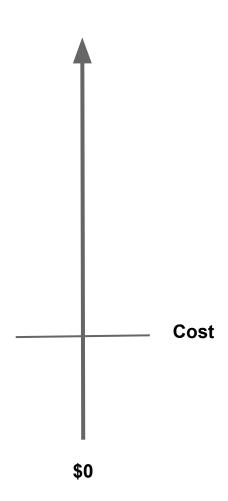
# #3: Value-based pricing

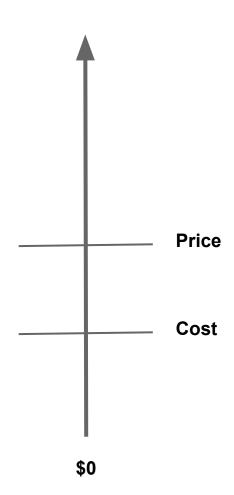
- Dolan's genius was to identify two separate gaps that drive product decisions
- He accidentally created a tool for S2 to monitor S1

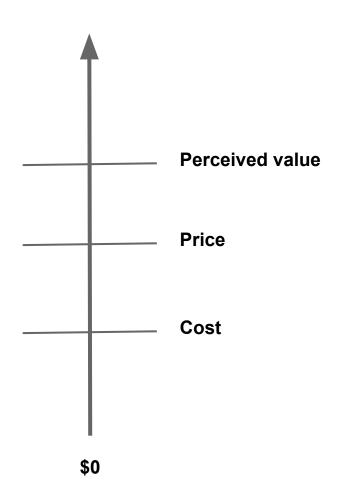


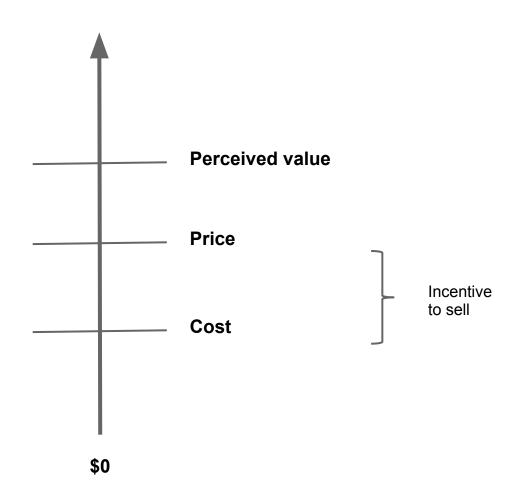


Substitutes, complements,

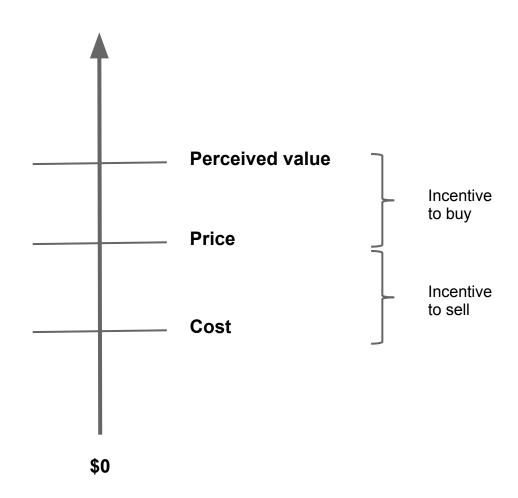






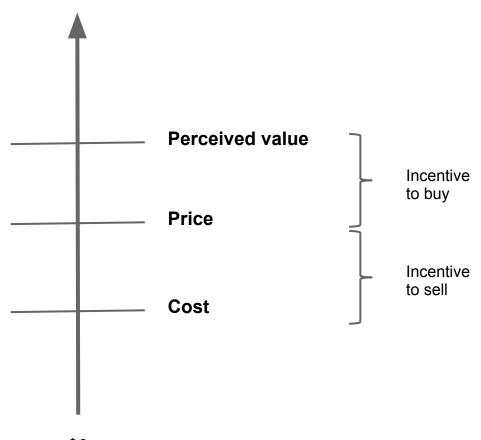


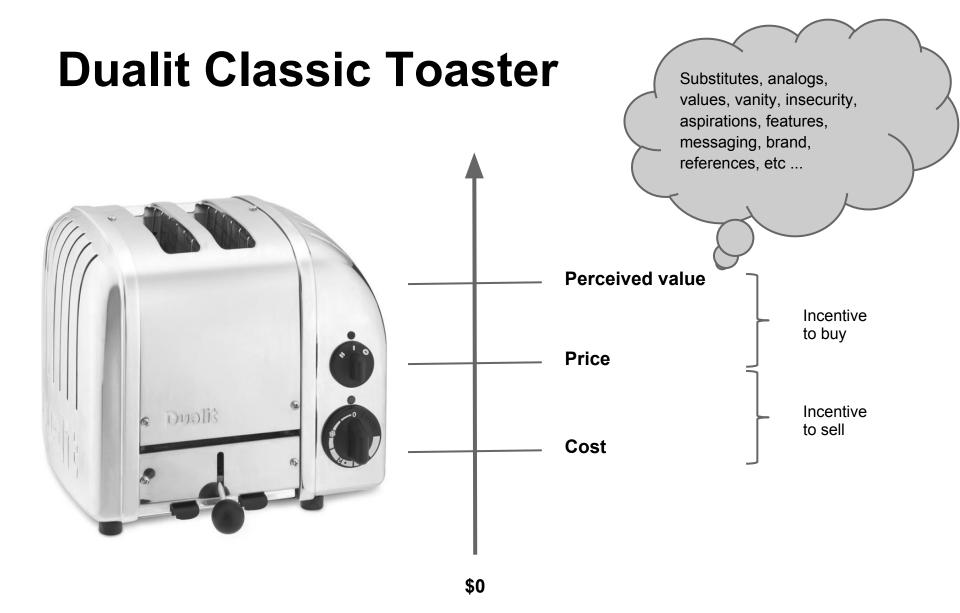
# **Robert Dolan's genius**

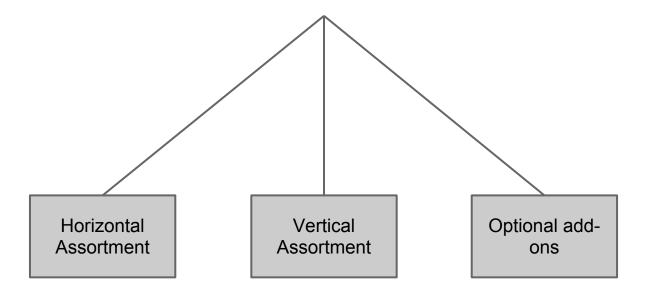


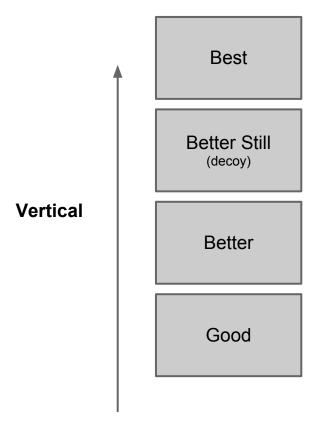
# Robert Dolan's genius

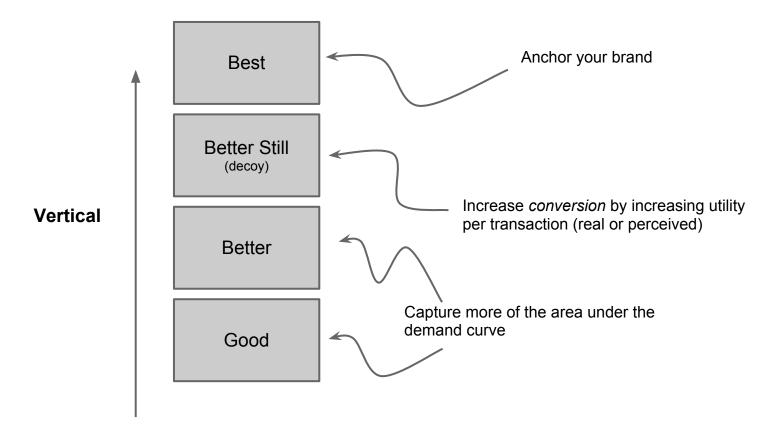
- Dolan's genius was to identify two separate gaps that drive product decisions
- Price > cost is a given
- Perceived value > price is a true insight

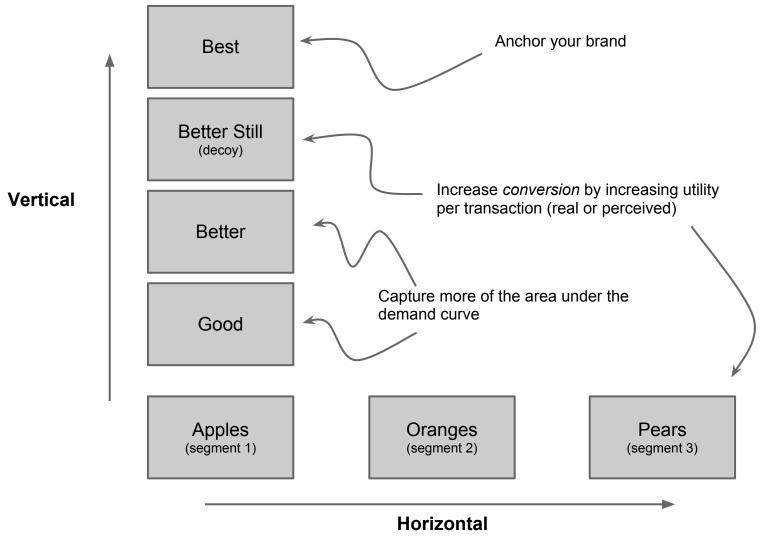












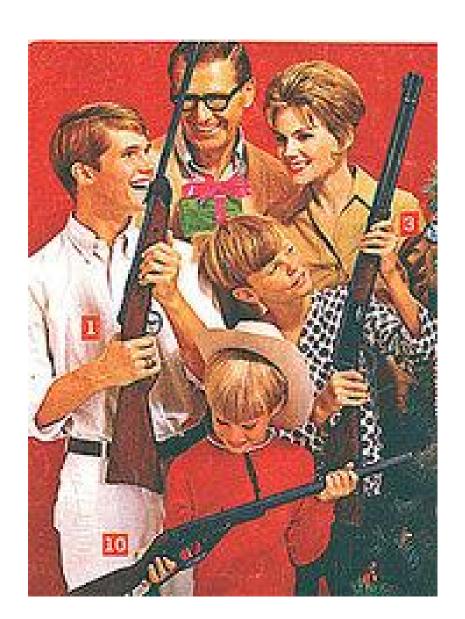
#### Horizontal assortment increases utility and conversion rate (shifts demand curve out)



#### Horizontal assortment in house dresses, Sears catalog, 1903



#### Horizontal assortment in BB guns, Daisy, 1950s



#### Vertical assortment (good, better, best) captures more of the area under the demand curve







#### Honest prices, no surprises.

Pay as you go. No long-term contracts. No per-user fee

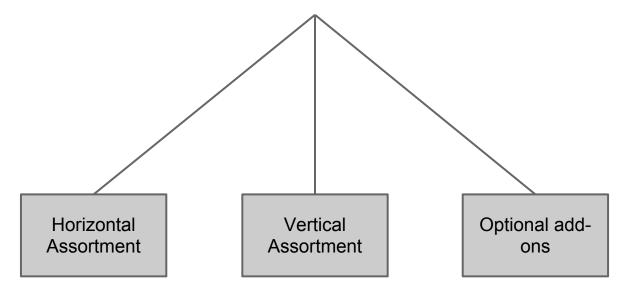
Manage UNLIMITED projects Includes 100 GB for file storage	\$150/month
Manage up to 100 projects at once Includes 40 GB for file storage	\$100/month
Manage up to 40 projects at once Includes 15 GB for file storage	\$50/month
Manage up to 10 projects at once Includes 3 GB for file storage	\$20/month
Also included in every package: Unlimited us encryption (the same as online banks), and da data to prevent permanent data loss.	

# "TEDDY BEARS" ARE ALL THE RAGE The Best Plaything Ever Invented.

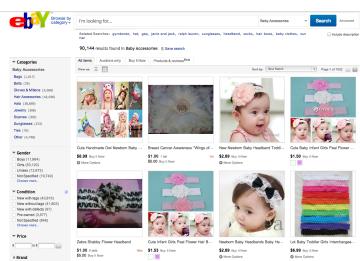
toys ever put before the public. Not a fad or campaign article, but something which has come to stay on merit alone. An article which will afford your children and even yourself great amusement and lasting pleasure. Made of the finest quality imported bear plush, they closely resemble the little cubs. They are full jointed and will assume countless different positions (four of which we illustrate). Each bear has a natural voice, produced by slight pressure on the front of body, and they are practically unbreakable. We offer these bears in four sizes. Natural climamon color only. The larger the size the better proportioned are the bears. Order one of these bears at once for your boy or girl, and you will find that no toy which you could select would give them more actual pleasure and entertainment.

#### Vertical assortment in "talking machines," early 20th century

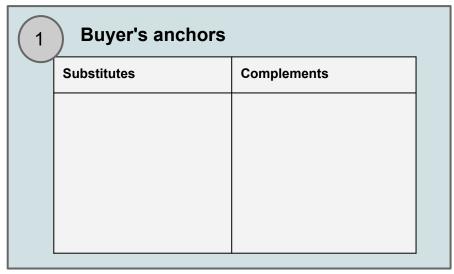


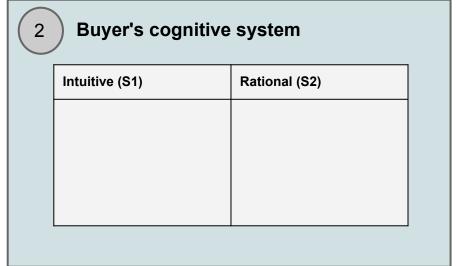


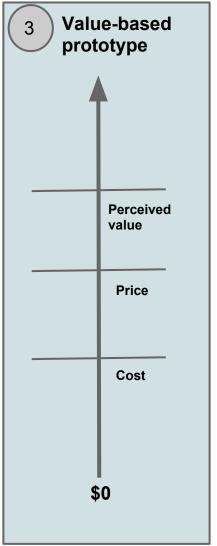
Optional **add-on features** increase margin, utility, and improve price "customization"

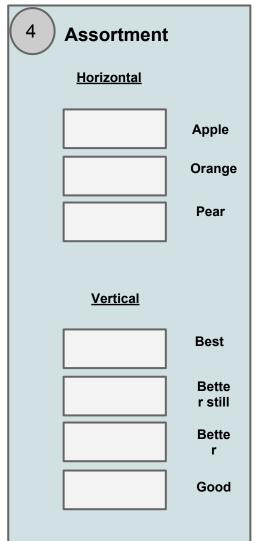


# Improve your pricing judgment



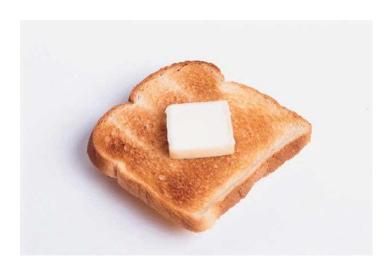






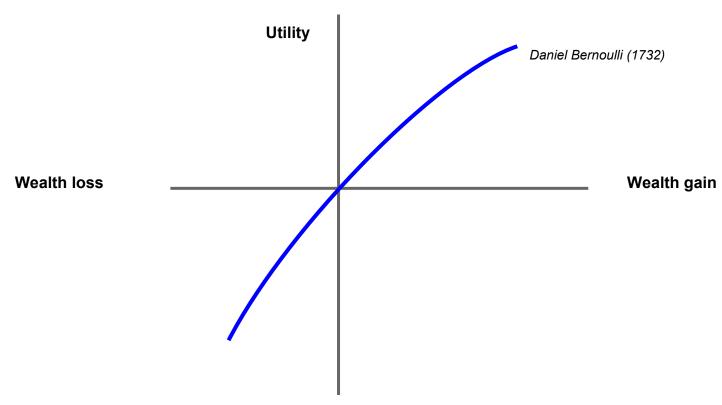
# **Applying the Toolkit**

The Case of the Dualit Toaster



# Nice features - wealth, utility, risk

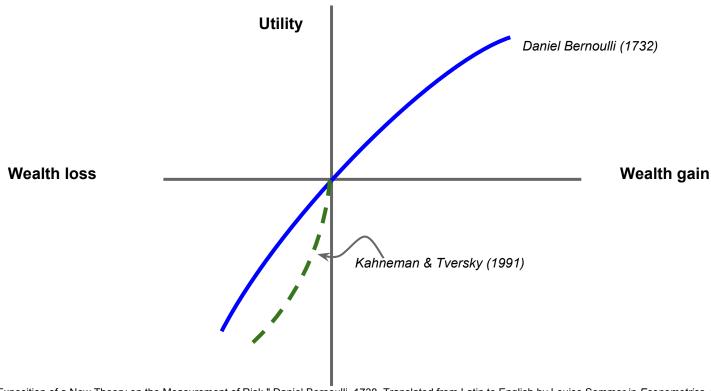
People's utility from changes in wealth can be measured and used to assess risk.



Source: "Exposition of a New Theory on the Measurement of Risk," Daniel Bernoulli, 1738. Translated from Latin to English by Louise Sommer in *Econometrica*, vol 22, issue 1 (January 1954).

# Behavioral economics helps

Buyer's intuition is dominated by reference dependence and loss-aversion. This creates the "endowment effect" -- a tendency to overestimate the pain of a potential loss



Source: "Exposition of a New Theory on the Measurement of Risk," Daniel Bernoulli, 1738. Translated from Latin to English by Louise Sommer in *Econometrica*, vol 22, issue 1 (January 1954); "Maps of Bounded Rationality: Psychology for Behavioral Economics," Daniel Kahneman's lecture December 8, 2002 when he received the Bank of Sweden Prize in Economic Sciences in Memory of Alfred Nobel, Stockholm, Sweden. Reprinted in *The American Economic Review*, vol 93, no 5 (December 2003).

### **Dualit Classic Toaster**

- Stainless steel with a lever to lower, raise bread
- Mechanical timer allows the degree of toasting you prefer
- Faster warm-up ensures perfect browning right from the first slice
- Defrost setting for frozen bread before toasting
- Bagel setting to warm one side and toast the other
- Superlative quality, hand-assembled in England
- Iconic design, costs manufacturer \$72 to make it
- It's the same toaster that Queen Elizabeth uses at Buckingham Palace



# **#1: Substitutes and complements**

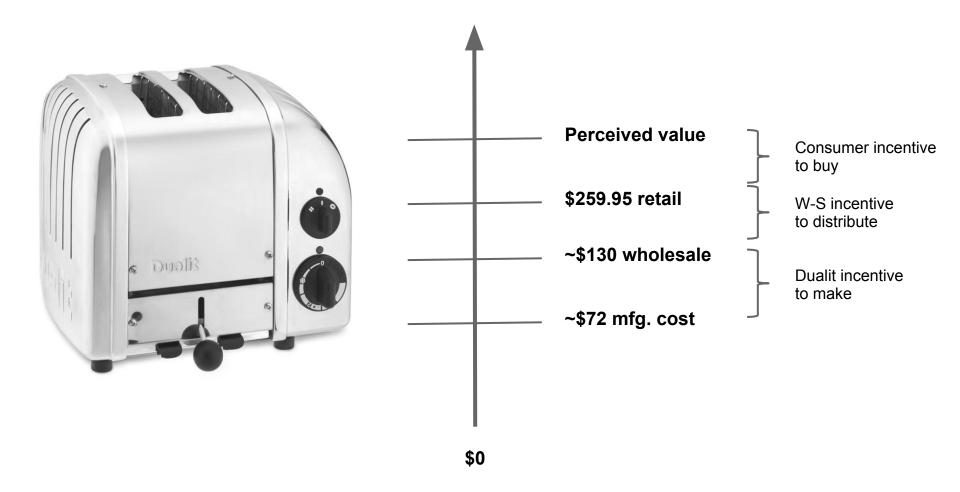
The target user is an affluent, status-conscious household where the key decision-maker gets her or his self-esteem from the quality of the kitchen

Substitute	es	Complem	ents
Without your product, how would your target user solve this problem?		What are the other products you'd expect to find in nature alongside your product?	
0 0 0	Do not eat toast Buy a toaster at Target or amazon that looks sort of like this one but isn't Toast in the oven Delegate decision to the cook Keep using the old toaster and hide it in the cupboard	0 0 0	Sub-zero refrigerator Bread bought at local bakery Calphalon pots and pans Henckels knives

### #2: Intuition and reason

	Intuition POV (S1)	Reasoning POV (S2)
Demand side	<ul> <li>High-status kitchen</li> <li>High performance appliances</li> <li>Basic functionality is excellent</li> <li>Style points for design</li> <li>Heritage of the product</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>Household budget = \$25k / month, 30% discretionary</li> <li>Lasts 3x longer so \$/slice is not so bad</li> </ul>
Supply side	<ul> <li>Aspire to be the premier brand forever</li> <li>German brands must be crushed</li> <li>100 years of leadership</li> <li>Premium position is more important than volume</li> <li>Rely on high-end retailers to bring to market</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>Unit cost = \$72 fully loaded</li> <li>Retailer needs to make 50% margin</li> <li>Revenue growth</li> <li>Customer segmentation</li> </ul>

# #3: Value-based price prototype



### #4: Build assortment

