# Article information:

A classification of the literature on the planning of substitutable products - ScienceDirect  
<https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S0377221715002854>

# Article summary:

1. The planning of substitutable products has gained attention in the operations management literature due to its impact on material/product planning, pricing and control.

2. The article presents a comprehensive taxonomy of the literature on the planning of substitutable products, including criteria such as modeling objectives, substitution mechanism, substitution decision maker, and direction of substitutability.

3. The paper identifies research gaps and provides guidance for related research in the future.

# Article rating:

May be slightly imbalanced: The article presents the information in a generally reliable way, but there are minor points of consideration that could be explored further or claims that are not fully backed by appropriate evidence. Some perspectives may also be omitted, and you are encouraged to use the research topics section to explore the topic further.

# Article analysis:

The article titled "A classification of the literature on the planning of substitutable products" provides a comprehensive taxonomy of the literature on product substitution in the context of assortment, inventory, capacity, and pricing decisions. The authors classify the literature based on four major criteria: modeling objective, substitution mechanism, direction of substitutability, and substitution decision maker. They also identify research gaps to guide future research.

Overall, the article is well-written and informative. However, there are some potential biases and limitations that need to be considered. Firstly, the authors only focus on studies published in major OM and marketing journals during the past thirty years (1974–2013). This may limit the scope of their analysis and exclude relevant studies published in other fields or more recently.

Secondly, while the authors provide a clear definition of choice and substitution, they do not fully explore how these concepts are related to each other. For instance, customers' probabilistic choice may lead to voluntary substitution even if their first preference is in stock. This aspect could have been explored further to provide a more nuanced understanding of product substitution.

Thirdly, while the authors identify research gaps for future studies, they do not discuss potential risks associated with product substitution. For instance, partial substitution may enhance overall service levels but may also lead to increased uncertainty in managing inventory and assortment decisions.

Finally, there is no evidence of promotional content or partiality in this article. The authors present both sides equally and provide a comprehensive overview of the literature on product substitution.

In conclusion, this article provides valuable insights into product substitution in the context of assortment planning, inventory decision-making, capacity planning, and pricing decisions. While there are some potential biases and limitations that need to be considered, overall this article is informative and well-written.

# Topics for further research:

* Probabilistic choice and voluntary substitution
* Risks associated with partial substitution in inventory management
* Product substitution in fields outside of OM and marketing
* Relationship between choice and substitution in consumer behavior
* Impact of product substitution on service levels and uncertainty
* Recent studies on product substitution beyond the timeframe of the article

# Report location:

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