

Market Product Life Cycle Consequences for Architecting

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Abstract

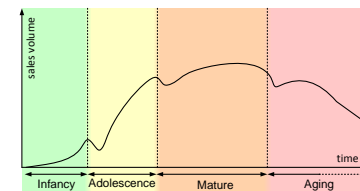
The lifecycle of a product category in the market determines many aspects of the architecting approach. The lifecycle consists typical of 4 phases: infancy, adolescence, mature and aging.

A discontinuity in market success is seen in the transition from one phase to the next phase. The explanation given is that the phases differ in characteristics and require different approaches. The right approach for one phase is sub optimal for the next phase. A set of characteristics per phase is given and the consequences for architecting are discussed.

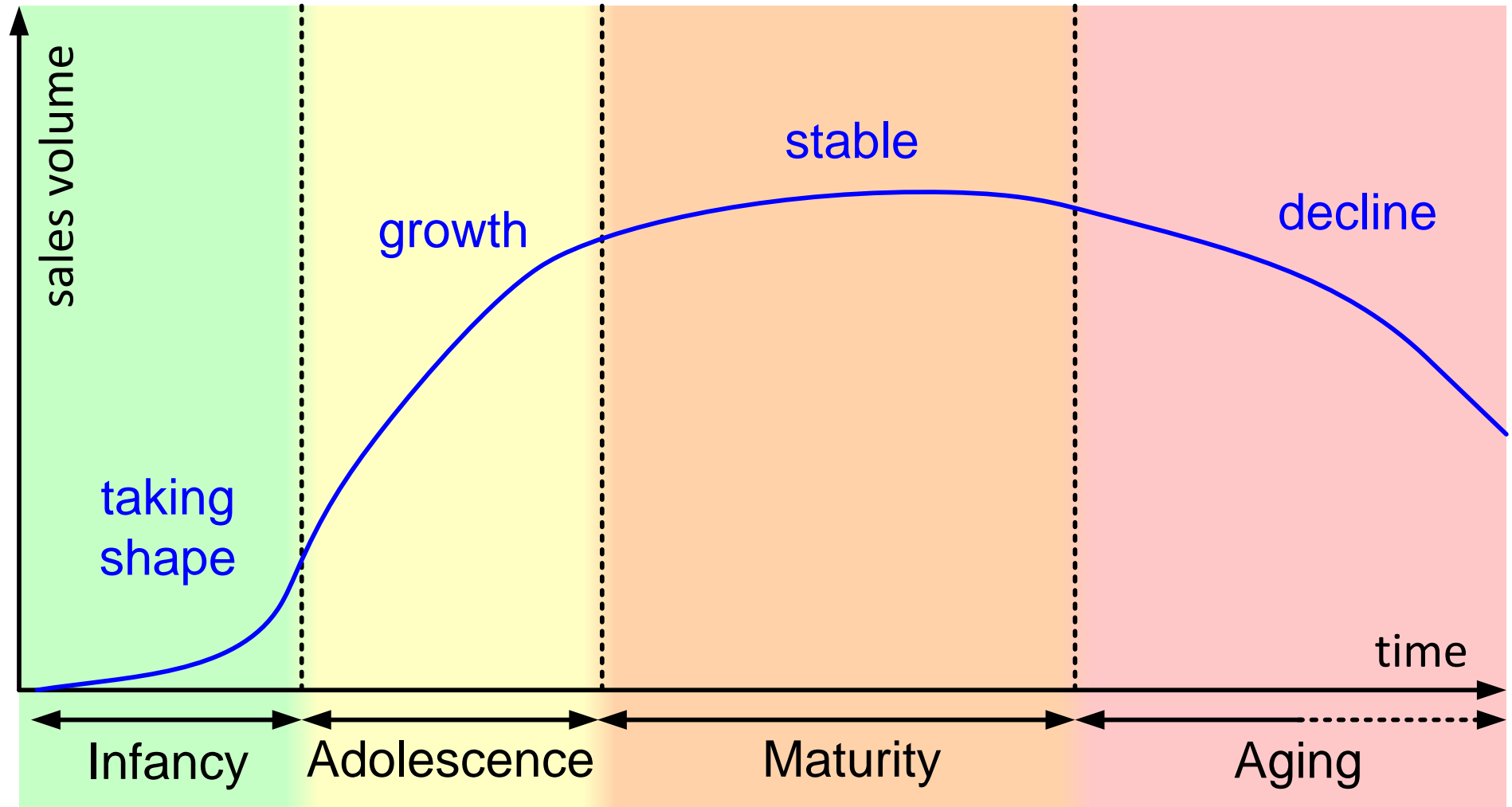
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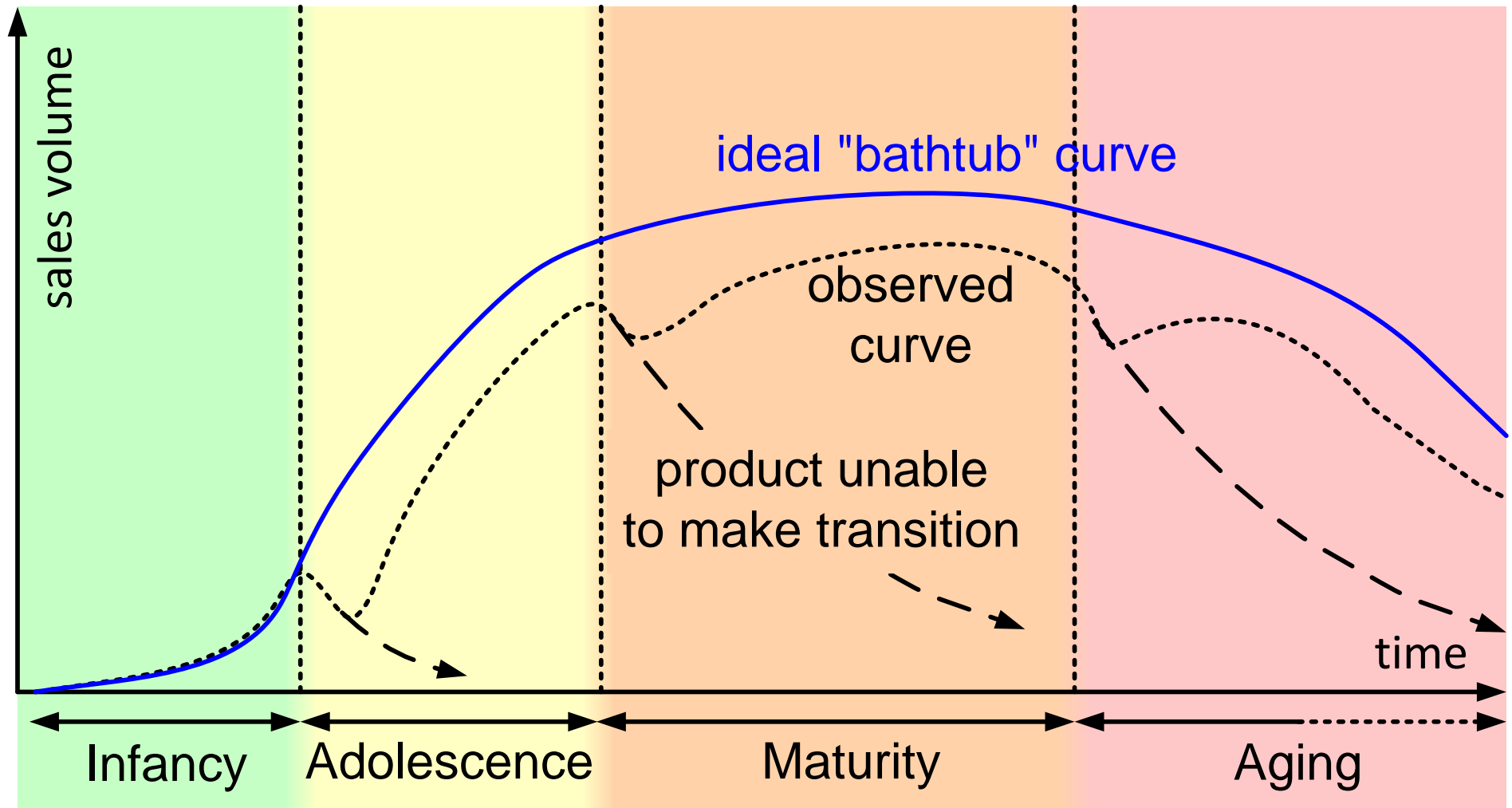
June 23, 2016
status: concept
version: 1.2



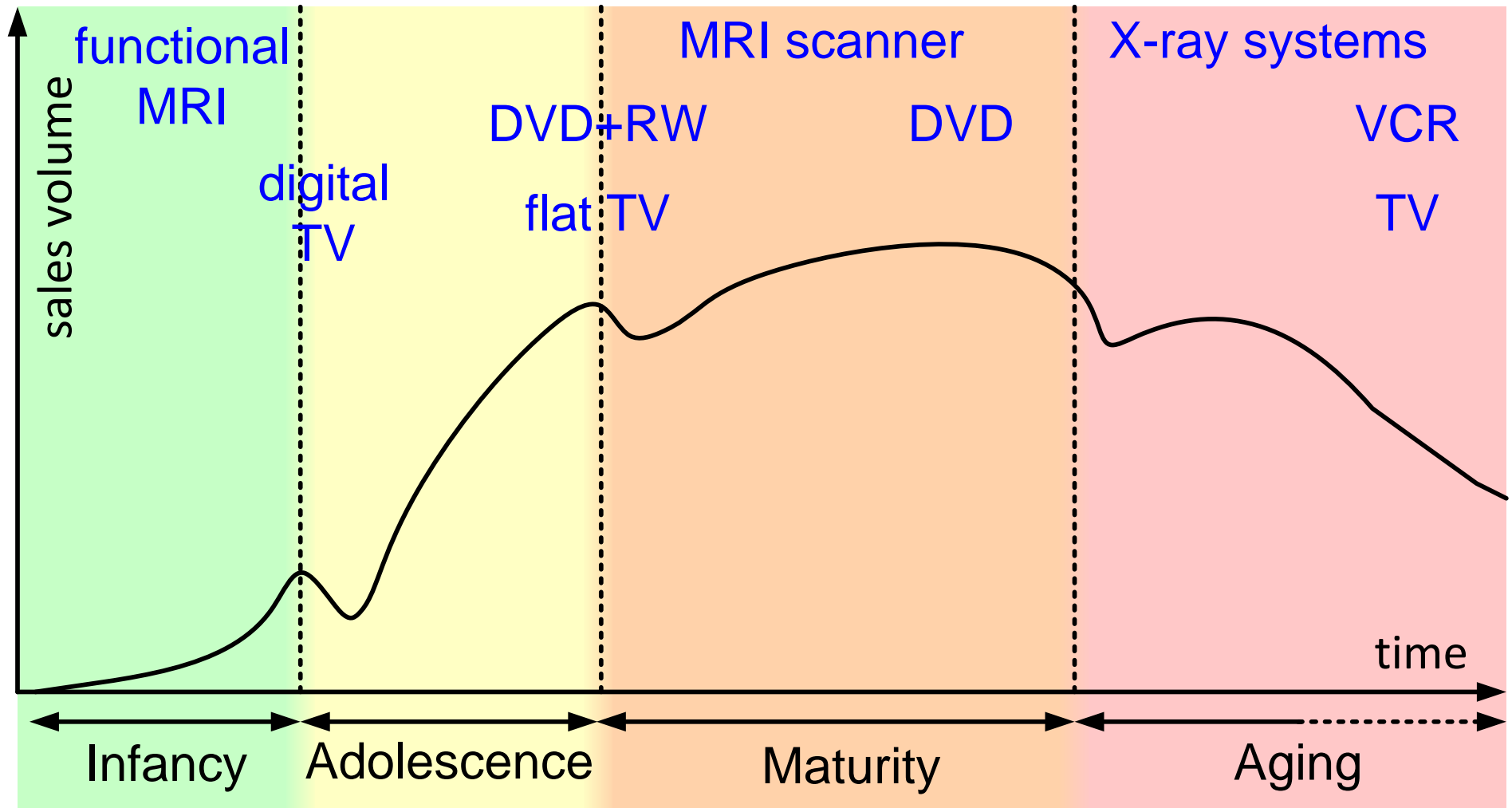
Ideal Bathtub Curve



Market Product Life Cycle Phases in Practice



Examples of Product Classes on the Curve



Attributes per Phase

	Infancy	Adolescence	Mature	Ageing
Driving factor	Business vision		Stable business model	Harvesting of assets
Value from	Responsiveness	Features	Refinements / service	Refining existing assets
Requirements	Discovery	Select strategic	Prioritize	Low effort high value only
Dominant technical concerns	Feasibility	Scaling	Legacy Obsolescence	Lack of product knowledge Low effort for obsolete technologies
Type of people	Inventors & pioneers	Few inventors & pioneers "designers"	"Engineers"	"Maintainers"
Process	Chaotic		Bureaucratic	Budget driven
Dominant pattern	Overdimensioning	Conservative expansion	Midlife refactoring	UI gadgets