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The purpose of the present study was to describe the process of marital dissolution. This description entailed collecting information about the process itself and then typologizing divorces on the basis of their trajectories to dissolution. One hundred and seven divorced individuals were interviewed. This interview consisted of three parts. First, participants graphed their relationships from the recognition of significant marital dissatisfaction until the divorce was final. Second, participants divided these trajectories into three time periods: recognition, discussion, and action periods of the divorce process. Third, participants completed questionnaires that assessed the relationship dimensions of love, maintenance, ambivalence, conflict, trust, marital satisfaction, and comparison level for alternatives at each time period.

Three types of marital dissolution were identified using cluster analysis. <u>Rapid</u> dissolutions reported the highest mean chance of divorce and slope during the initial two periods of the divorce process. <u>Extended</u> dissolutions were characterized by longer recognition and discussion periods and small slopes. Extended dissolutions were the most turbulent and more critical events were downturns than in the other types. <u>Gradual</u> dissolutions were moderate in comparison to rapid and extended dissolutions.

No significant differences were found between participants from different types on the relationship dimensions. Significant differences as a function of who initiated the dissolution process were found on love and marital satisfaction. Initiators reported less love for their partners and were less satisfied with the marriage than noninitiators and mutual divorces. Significant differences were found by time period on all relationship dimensions.

Multiple regressions were used to determine what relationship dimensions were predictors of the chance of divorce and the acceptance of marital termination at each of the three time periods. Conflict, maintenance, and marital satisfaction were the strongest predictors of the chance of divorce during the recognition and discussion periods. Ambivalence, trust, and love were the best predictors of the chance of divorce during the action period. The strongest predictors of acceptance of marital termination were love and comparison level for alternatives at each period.

Implications for future research were discussed in two areas: (a) methodological improvements in the present study, and (b) methodological implications for future research about the divorce process.

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of Marital Dissolution

by

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CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

Marital dissolution is becoming an increasingly common phenome-
non in American society. It seems the institution of marriage is
not as invincible as was once thought. Many strings--some legal,
some emotional, some physical, and some financial--come together in
marriage to form a tangled knot which is quite complicated and not
easily undone. The knot can unravel, however, leaving many loose
ends for one to deal with. Because society values marriage, its dis-
solution is usually accompanied by emotional as well as economic dis-
stress [Weiss, 1976; Epenshade, 1979].

No matter how it is measured, the incidence of divorce has been
increasing and is presently at a record high. The annual crude di-
vorce rate (divorces per 1,000 population) has risen every year since
1962. The 1981 divorce rate was 5.3 per 1,000 population compared
with 5.2 in 1980, an increase of two percent [Monthly Vital Statis-
tics Report, 1982]. Using a more refined index, the number of di-
vorced persons per 1,000 married persons living with their spouses
reveals a similar pattern. Between 1970 and 1980, this ratio rose
by 113 percent, from 47 divorced persons per 1,000 husbands and wives
in intact marriages in 1970 to 100 per 1,000 in 1980 [Current Popula-
tion Reports, 1982]. Indeed, it is not unusual to hear that divorce

has become endemic to Americans [Carter and Glick, 1976; Norton and Glick, 1979].

The chain of events and emotions that lead up to marital dissolution are likely as long and as varied as the chain of events that lead up to marriage [Hagestad and Smyer, 1982]. Marital dissolution, like marriage, is an intricate interactive process which may leave either a distressing, bewildering, unmanageable emotional residue [Cuber and Harroff, 1965] or feelings of relief and euphoria [Chiancola, 1978]. Researchers have recently noted the differential processes of premarital couples as they move toward marriage [Huston, Surra, Fitzgerald, and Cate, 1981]; however, systematic research concerning the divorce process has received at best only scant attention [Price-Bonham and Balswick, 1980].

To better understand the marital dissolution process, it is necessary to review three areas of literature. The first of these areas involves various theoretical explanations concerning marital dissolution. These theoretical efforts are important in that they have attempted to organize the extant literature into cogent predictive models of divorce. Since most of the divorce research has emphasized the causes of or subsequent adjustment to marital dissolution, current theoretical models seem to lack much substantive information concerning the processes which take place between the initiation and adjustment to marital termination [Price-Bonham and Balswick, 1980].

The second body of research to be examined is the sequential

models of marital dissolution. These models, oftentimes based on clinical impressions or constructed from therapeutic intervention, usually conceptualize the divorce process as a progression of emotional stages [Salts, 1978]. The dynamic nature of the sequential models may facilitate the understanding of how the process of marital dissolution unfolds and is experienced by those involved. However, these models tend to overemphasize unidirectionality and conformity in that individuals are viewed as progressing through a prescribed series of stages from marriage toward another lifestyle.

Finally, the literature that centers on the differential patterns present in the divorcing process will be reviewed. In spite of the multitude of demographic data, theoretical explanations, and sequential models, relatively little is known about the differential processes of divorce [Kitson and Raschke, 1981]. A few researchers have attempted to investigate these differences [Kressel, Jaffee, Tuchman, Watson, and Deutsch, 1980; Hagestad and Smyer, 1982]. Such work is of primary importance because it highlights the processual complexity of marital dissolution. Therefore, the purpose of this study was to examine the differential nature of the dissolution process by typologizing marriages on the basis of their trajectories to divorce. These typologies were subsequently differentiated on the basis of certain social psychological dimensions.

CHAPTER II

REVIEW OF LITERATURE

Theoretical and Conceptual Explanations

Over the past five decades of data collection and empirical study only a handful of theoretical explanations concerning marital dissolution have emerged. To a significant extent the scientific method of deriving propositional statements, hypothesis testing, and theory construction and modification based upon the empirical evidence, has not been widely practiced in the area of divorce research [Newcomb and Bentler, 1981]. However, despite such concerns, several conceptual and theoretical frameworks for understanding marital dissolution have been suggested recently. These theoretical explanations have both sociological and social psychological roots. Two sociological theories [Jaffe and Kanter, 1976; Laner, 1978] and two sociopsychological perspectives [Levinger, 1976; Edwards and Saunders, 1978] will be briefly reviewed.

Sociological Perspectives

Jaffe and Kanter's [1976] four-factor model employs concepts from general systems theory to provide a comprehensive, albeit complicated, macro-level perspective of why couples terminate their marital relationships. This conceptualization was empirically derived from interviews with 29 couples residing in urban communal households. Although this model was developed with reference to couples in communal settings, Levinger and Moles [1976] have postulated its applicability for dissolution in other marital couples, too. The four

factors uncovered were: contextual conduciveness, systemic strain, generalized beliefs, and precipitating events.

Contextual conduciveness refers to the structural aspects of the couple's environment which are particularly conducive to marital dissolution. For instance, included within this factor are the increasing acceptance of the option to remain single, and reduced couple dependency due to the accessibility to resources other than those provided by the partner. Yet, conducive circumstances alone will not suffice in explaining the dissolution process, since many couples remain married despite such circumstances.

Divorces do not typically originate without a history of previous difficulty. The stability of a marriage is contingent on the couple's means of coping with such strain in the marriage. The second factor, systemic strain, pertains to those events that may produce friction and discontent within the marital dyad. Such strain could arise from low intra-couple cohesion due to disparate marital realities or the partner's incompatible needs and expectations.

Generalized beliefs comprise the third factor of this conceptualization. These beliefs consist of internalized norms and values that either encourage or interfere with marital stability. Such beliefs are oftentimes acquired from interaction with peers, religious convictions, and the sociocultural milieu. Finally, precipitating events, the fourth factor, are those occurrences that trigger the initiation of the dissolution process. The intensity of feelings elicited by the precipitating event is just enough to propel an

unsatisfactory marriage toward divorce. The presence of another
sexual partner is often mentioned by those divorcing as a precipi-
tating event.

Laner [1978], utilizing an inductive method of theory construc-
tion, posits marital dissolution to be the result of a combination
of cultural, societal, dyadic, and individual factors. The cultural
context (e.g., secular values, population heterogeneity, and emphasis
on individualism) is considered to impact on all marital relation-
ships. According to Laner [1978], the societal (e.g., residential
mobility, greater urbanization, and female employment), dyadic (e.g.,
short courtship period and heterogamy), and individual (e.g., age at
marriage, education, and family history) level factors combine inter-
actively to predict the degree of marital conflict which, if unre-
solvable, presumably increases the chances of divorce.

Both Laner [1978] and Jaffe and Kanter [1976] propose encyclopedic
theoretical perspectives which offer little in terms of a detailed
explanation of the process of marital dissolution. In addition, the
mere complexity of such comprehensive theoretical statements tend to
discourage empirical verification.

Social Psychological Perspectives

Levinger [1976] has integrated Lewinian field theory and social
exchange theory in postulating a social psychological model of mari-
tal dissolution. This social psychological perspective utilizes
the constructs of attractions, barriers, and alternative attractions

to account for the degree of marital stability. According to Levinger [1976], individuals are attracted toward particular relationships because such relationships are perceived as being high in rewards and low in costs. Rewards are derived from positive outcomes associated with the relationship, and can take several forms including material, symbolic, and affectional. Family income and home ownership are examples of material rewards, while symbolic rewards include security and social status. Sexual fulfillment and companionship are important types of affectional rewards possible within a marital relationship. Costs associated with marital relationships may include time and energy and other commitments necessary to maintaining an intimate and enduring relationship.

In addition to attractions within the relationship, there are usually costs, or barriers, associated with ending any close relationship. Barriers act as psychological restraining forces which come into play when someone wishes to exit a relationship. These barriers derive from many sources, such as societal maxims or interpersonal promises to remain in the marriage. They can also be material, symbolic, or affectional in form. Material costs would include the financial strain of supporting two households instead of one. Moral prescriptions or personal commitment to the marriage are symbolic barriers, while fear of loneliness and emotional ties to children are affectional costs of terminating a marriage. Thus, barriers deter relationship dissolution by increasing the perceived termination costs.

Alternative attractions are actual or perceived rewards that are

extrinsic to the present relationship. Ultimately, the inducements to remain within the relationship, that is, its intrinsic attractions, must be comparatively higher than these alternative attractions. These alternative attractions can also take material, symbolic, or affectional forms. Material alternatives might include the discovery of means of self-support outside the marriage. Symbolic rewards might include an emphasis on personal growth and development or simply independence from a restrictive marital relationship. Affectional alternative attractions may include the availability of another sexual partner.

As the barriers and alternatives impinge on the couple, they have the potential to create a tenuous balance between the rewards and costs entailed in the marriage. Crucial here is the comparison of the intrinsic attractions and those expected from any salient alternative; otherwise known as the comparison level for alternatives [Thibaut and Kelley, 1959]. The outcome of every interaction is evaluated on the basis of past experience in comparable situations; this experience providing a standard or comparison level by which present interaction is to be judged. From this, individuals perceive their goodness of outcome which is a cognitive evaluation of costs and rewards gleaned from the relationship [Thibaut and Kelley, 1959]. According to Levinger [1976], the dissolution of marital relationships is often marked by a drastic shift in perceived rewards or costs. For instance, if one partner's comparison level decreases and comparison level for alternatives increases then the chance of divorce will

increase, especially if the barriers are also low, because the costs of staying within the marriage exceed the costs of terminating it and a better goodness of outcome can be secured from salient alternatives. Therefore, the probability of marital dissolution increases when the attractions between partners decreases, the salience of alternative attractions increases, the barriers to dissolution erode or are reduced, or any combination of the above occurs.

Edwards and Saunders [1981] propose another social psychological model of the dissolution decision. These researchers posit a linear unidirectional relationship between the degree of premarital heterogeneity and subsequent marital stability, with marital congruity and commitment as intervening factors. Marital congruity is a global term coined by Edwards and Saunders [1981] to denote the degree to which there is concordance in the partner's perceptions of their marriage. Commitment is defined as the degree to which the self is identified with the marital relationship. The model suggests that the greater the relative premarital heterogeneity of social backgrounds, the greater the propensity toward marital dissolution. Six propositions are hypothesized which link the premarital relationship to the dissolution decision in the following manner. Greater premarital heterogeneity leads to lower adjustment in the premarital relationship which subsequently promotes lower congruity in the marital relationship. The lower marital congruity decreases barriers and increases the salience of alternatives because the lack of interpersonal agreement in terms of perceptions of the marriage initiates

a reevaluation of the costs of remaining within the marriage which leads to a heightened awareness of available alternatives. Barrier permeability and the increased attractiveness of alternatives produces a higher comparison level of alternatives, and a lower goodness of outcome from the marriage, thereby lowering the level of marital commitment. Finally, the lower the level of commitment, the higher the probability of dissolution.

The sociopsychological perspectives of Levinger [1976] and Edwards and Saunders [1981] are particularly appealing to researchers because their dyadic emphasis promotes conceptual simplicity. However, the lack of attention given social and individual factors is a major concern due to the importance of these factors in the dissolution process. In addition, the assumptions of social exchange theory, upon which both formulations rely heavily, consider individuals to approach relationships in a logical and rational manner which may not always be the case.

Marital dissolution research has been criticized for its overemphasis on demographic variables and correlates of the decision to divorce and post-divorce adjustment [Kitson and Raschke, 1982]. The lack of information regarding what happens in between the divorce decision and the legal termination of the marriage seriously limits theoretical efforts in formulating explanatory models of the entire process. Such data would not only assist in the development of more appropriate models of the dissolution process, but also help social workers, counselors, lawyers, and former spouses understand and aid

those who may have difficulty in fully navigating the divorcing process.

Sequential Models of Marital Dissolution

While there are many studies of marital dissolution, only a few of these deal with the process of ending the marital relationship [Levinger, 1976]. Among the studies that have examined the divorcing process are clinical or therapeutic reports [Ahrons, 1980; Brown, 1976; Kressel and Deutsch, 1977], and empirical descriptions of the process [Vaughan, 1979].

Brown's Model

Brown [1976] discussed the divorce process as the transition connecting marriage and another lifestyle. Social and emotional processes were integrated with the legal process to provide a better representation of the complexity of the dissolution experience. This model is split into a decision-making phase and a restructuring phase. The decision-making phase begins when either partner initially considers divorce, oftentimes following a considerable period of marital unrest. Brown [1976] outlines the following steps in the decision-making phase of the process: (a) initial consideration of divorce; (b) consideration of alternatives and reassessment of needs and values; (c) assessment of the likelihood of change in the marriage and evaluation of the impact of a decision to divorce; (d) the decision to divorce; and (e) the development of a plan for implementing the decision. The implementation of the divorce decision moves the

individual into the restructuring phase of the process.

The process of marital dissolution transforms the marital system. This transformation creates the need to reestablish a new equilibrium over time within the system. The restructuring phase starts as the couple responds to the systemic disequilibrium accompanying the divorce decision. The first response is usually physical separation. Massive personal changes and stress may be experienced as each partner deals with the legal, economic, parental, social, and emotional aspects of constructing another lifestyle. The degree and duration of disorganization within the system will depend on the nature and extent of the problems encountered, the availability of appropriate resources, and the coping skills of the individuals involved. The steps in the restructuring phase include: (a) acknowledgment of the fact of insurmountable problems (for the initiator) or of separation (for the noninitiator); (b) anger and blame, feelings of loss, grief, helplessness, feelings of guilt and failure; (c) management of daily activities; (d) efforts to develop a new social relationships; (e) acceptance of dissolution and separation; (f) acceptance and management of change; (g) understanding why the marriage ended and acceptance of personal contribution to the breakdown; (h) reassessment of values and needs and establishment of long-term goals; and (i) ideally, the development of autonomy. This restructuring phase is the most difficult and painful part of the dissolution process.

Ahrons' Model

According to this model, the first visible transition during the

process of dissolution is one of individual cognition which centers on the problems of the deteriorating marriage [Ahrons, 1980]. This transition begins with the emotional divorce, and feelings of loss and denial are characteristic. Couples often deny that their marriage is beginning to disintegrate. This denial diverts attention away from the ailing marital relationship and directs it toward external or situational contingencies as possible explanations for the distress. Spouses may become mutually antagonistic as a result of feelings of hurt, anger, and disappointment. Although such a marriage is not considered optimal, it can persist indefinitely as the couple continues to look outside the relationship for the source of their dissatisfaction.

According to Ahrons [1980], individual cognition is followed by a second transition called family metacognition. During this transition, spouses become cognizant of the fact that their marital problems arise from within the marital system itself. The reality of a faltering marriage can no longer be denied. The future stability of the marriage is seriously called into question. Physical separation usually occurs at this time. Feelings of loss, depression, isolation, and an inability to communicate with the estranged spouse are intensified. The degree to which these feelings are experienced depends on the amount of emotional involvement or attachment to the partner. The physical separation can mark the beginning or end of crisis; either way, it is a significant milestone during the dissolution process.

The complexity of the process gains momentum as the couple moves

toward the third major transition of systemic separation. The legal formalization of the divorce, the economic settlement concerning division of shared assets, arrangements for child care and fulfillment of parental obligations, and possible community disapproval all come into play as those divorcing share their marital plight with family, friends, and the greater community. Intense feelings of ambivalence about ending the marriage are seen during this transition. Tensions are exacerbated and resentments develop which continue to break the threads of trust, respect, and mutual attraction. The severity of the crisis experienced during this transition is contingent on the satisfactory resolution of previous transitional concerns and tasks.

According to this model, the urgency with which the couple separates also has repercussions on all those connected with the marital system. Consequently, where separation is unplanned, undertaken impulsively, pursued as a reaction to fancied or real misdeeds, or where the separation coincides with other unrelated family crises, the partner's capacity to cope becomes severely burdened. The salience of partners exchanging information emphasizes the need to understand and prepare for the anticipated changes within the system. Systemic separation extends the reality of dissolution beyond the marital dyad.

Once the anger and ambivalence encountered during systemic separation are dealt with realistically and each spouse accepts the reality of divorce, the process moves into the fourth transition

called systemic reorganization. People who marry tend to become socially a part of a couple or family and define themselves accordingly; they lose the habit of seeing themselves as individuals. As partners disengage from marital relationships, the necessity of redefining roles and boundaries within the system becomes imperative. The marital system continues to react to distress and disequilibrium until role clarification and boundary regulation are reorganized. The move away from the marital system to another lifestyle must be seen as part of the process of evolving new relationships.

New patterns of interaction and adjustment characterize the final transition of family redefinition. The redefinition of relationships is dependent on the relationship between the divorcing partners. Acceptance and a new way of relating to those in the system hinges on the redefinitions following dissolution. This is particularly evident as new members are introduced into the system via remarriage.

Therapist's Impressions

Kressel and Deutsch [1977] surveyed marital therapists in order to determine the nature of the divorce process. These therapists described four stages of psychic divorce: the predivorce decision period, the decision period proper, the period of mourning, and the period of equilibration. The predivorce period is marked first by increases in dissatisfaction, and tension on the part of both partners. This is followed by attempts at reconciliation, a decline in

intimacy, and finally a break in the public facade of solidarity. The decision period begins when at least one of the partners decides to divorce. This is followed by anxiety over the separation and a renewal of intimacy. However, marital fighting breaks out again; at the end of this period, each spouse accepts the inevitability of divorce. The period of mourning is characterized by feelings of guilt, self-reproach and failure. These feelings are eventually re- placed by anger, usually directed at the former spouse, which in turn is replaced by acceptance of the positive and negative aspects of marriage. The period of equilibration is a time of increased self-growth and decreased dwelling on the former marriage.

The postulation of stages of divorce offers a useful conceptuali- zation of the experience of dissolving marital relationships, but these stages have yet to be delineated in a systematic way. To date, there has been little research that documents the occurrence of the postulated stages of divorce in a random sample of divorced indivi- duals. Most of the reports of stages in emotional reaction to dis- solution are based on observations of clinical populations. These constructs must be shown to apply to a non-clinical population if they are assumed to be common to all those undergoing such an experi- ence. Vaughan [1979] attempted to empirically support a sequential model of marital dissolution.

Vaughan's Model

Vaughan [1979] interviewed a convenience sample in an exploratory study of the uncoupling process. A seven-stage process was suggested

which starts when either spouse seriously call the couple identity into question. Although this initial questioning can be mutual, Vaughan [1979] found it to be more frequently initiated by one spouse. If dissolution of the marriage is perceived as the solution, then the initiator attempts to redefine the nature of the marital relationship in what was called the "accompanying reconstructions" stage. Initiators may redefine their own identity, that of their partners or that of the couple. A change in the definition of any of the three implies a change in at least one of the others. In the third stage, the initiator moves to sources outside the marriage for self-validation (e.g., career, education, or new relationships). This serves not only to lessen the commitment to the marriage, but begins the structuring of a separate autonomous space for the initiator. The process to this point is intrapersonal on the part of the initiating partner, but the fourth stage witnesses the beginning of intense definition negotiation by both spouses. Vaughan [1979] aptly calls this stage "trying." The partners start to share a common definition of a troubled unsatisfactory marriage, and may turn to professional help for assistance. Physical separation may be employed as a means of resolving the marital unrest, but it is viewed as only temporary.

Mutual uncertainty is evident during this time, especially if a new definition of the couple's identity cannot be reached. The ambiguity surrounding the relationship hinders the reorganization of the marital system. The fifth stage requires "objectivation" or

the mutual restructuring of both private and public networks. The marital system is restructured in response to the lack of marital quality. This reorganization is followed by the sixth stage in which legal procedures to secure formal dissolution are initiated. The legal divorce is viewed as only a small part of the uncoupling process because the redefinitions of self and partner and the reorganization of the marital system may not be completed by this time. The final step in the process considers "continuities." These continuities include all the ties that remain regardless of the divorce such as those with children or friends.

Vaughan's [1979] model highlights two important points. First, the model propounds the existence of an underlying order for a phenomenon generally regarded as a chaotic and disorderly process. Second, Vaughan [1979] notes that divorce is not always seen as a conflict-ridden experience. Some people experienced positive changes, and oftentimes patterns of caring and responsibility between the partners emerged during the process.

Differential Perspectives of the Divorce Process

Hunt and Hunt [1977] have described the divorce process as one that varies from couple to couple. For some couples, the dissolution occurs as a result of a gradual fading of the original vitality of the marriage. In contrast, other couples experience a sudden break up of a seemingly good marriage. Such intercouple differences have yet to receive much empirical scrutiny. It cannot be assumed that the

progression from encountering an unsatisfactory marriage to securing a divorce is always an orderly sequential one. Different types of divorce may exist and couples may move back and forth between them [Edwards and Saunders, 1981]. Three innovative empirical works describe such differential patterns concerning marital dissolution [Hagestad and Smyer, 1982; Kressel et al., 1980; Wallerstein and Kelly, 1980].

Wallerstein and Kelly's [1980] Study

The multitude of changes set into motion with the decision to dissolve a marriage was considered by Wallerstein and Kelly [1980] in their longitudinal study addressing families with children present during the divorcing process. It was noted that for some of the families the resolution of the changes associated with the divorce experience were unsettled as long as five years after marital separation. The decision to divorce was viewed as an important factor in the ability to make sense out of the dissolution itself. Wallerstein and Kelly [1980] presented four categories of divorce decisions found in their sample.

When the decision to divorce was simply a legal formality representing the culmination of years of visible unhappiness, the difficulties posed by the marital separation were not as great as those found in the other categories. More often than not, this category of decision was not a reactive decision, but rather the response to the accumulation of discomfort, combined with a growing awareness of more

attractive alternatives outside the marital relationship. In a second group of divorces, the decision was induced as a response to external stress. This reponse to stress essentially ricocheted into the marriage since no signs of marital unhappiness were evident beforehand. Experiences that induced such divorces included the unexpected diagnosis of a terminal disease, the severe psychological illness of one partner, or a crippling accident to a child. The stressful situation was so profoudly disturbing that the stressed person then initiated the move toward dissolution as a means of coping with it. Such divorces often left the other members of the marital system bewildered and distraught since the dissolution did not address any particular problems within the marriage. These divorces made no sense to other family members, and there was no subsequent relief or sense of closure. The same tragedy that had the potential to mobilize some families, drawing the members closer together, paradoxically has the potential to rupture other families, as one or both spouses avoid each other in order to forget the unbearable memory of the tragedy.

The third category was comprised of impulsive divorces. These decisions were instigated with no reflection or consideration on the part of the initiating spouse. Divorce, in these cases, was often employed as a power strategy to punish an unfaithful partner but, also, an attempt to restore the marital bond. Usually this maneuver failed, and the errant spouse was able to leave the marriage more easily and not feeling guilty. Since the upset partner never really wanted to dissolve the marriage, he or she approached the complex issues

involved in the dissolution process with little or no motivati[c]
resolve them. The final category of divorce decisions were entered
into with the support and encouragement of adults outside the mari-
tal system. For instance, such decisions were initiated within a
counseling group or upon the advice of the family physician who sus-
pects an abusive relationship exists. Wallerstein and Kelly [1980]
feel that the diversity of experience which they found is often
overlooked by researchers set on discerning only the effects of
marital dissolution.

The Kressel et al. [1980] Typology

Kressel et al. [1980] undertook the first systematic attempt at
typologizing divorced couples. This typology is based on the ex-
periences of a small purposive sample of fourteen couples. Thus,
the typology can be only suggestive of what takes place between
spouses as they move toward divorce. Four couple types were identi-
fied: enmeshed, autistic, direct-conflict, and disengaged.

The enmeshed couples were emotionally unprepared to let go of
the marriage. High levels of conflict and ambivalence as well as
mutual blaming were characteristic of this type. Autistic couples,
on the other hand, exhibited almost no communication or overt con-
flict between themselves. Then tended to be emotionally and physical-
ly withdrawn. Despite a high level of ambivalence, autistic couples
were somewhat amicable toward each other. The direct-conflict
couples engaged in frequent open communication about divorce with
high levels of conflict, although not quite as high as enmeshed

couples. The direct-conflict couples were initially high in ambiva-
lence, but this gradually tapered off as they moved toward divorce.
Disengaged couples expressed low levels of ambivalence, and apathy
seemed to be the most salient characteristic of the type. Low
levels of communication and conflict resulted from this apathy or
lack of interest. However, these couples showed the most successful
post-divorce adjustment.

For most of the couples the dissolution process was relatively
long. The median was 26 months from the time that either partner
initially considered divorce seriously to the granting of the decree.
Kressel et al. [1980] noted that divorcing partners' temporal perspec-
tives differed depending on whether they were the initiator of the
decision to divorce or not. These researchers suggested that those
who were left had less time with which to prepare for the emotional
and substantive issues involved in the process ahead. In addition,
it was suggested that the entire process may be viewed in two stages:
a decision stage and a negotiation stage. The decision stage involved
a longer period of time (median 14 months) as the couple determined
the fate of their marriage. The negotiation stage, on the other
hand, typically began within a month to three months of the divorce
decision and ended within a month or two in agreement over the terms
of the final divorce settlement.

The Hagestad and Smyer [1982] Typology

Hagestad and Smyer [1982] address the different divorcing

patterns in an exploratory study of dissolution of people married at least two decades. The case material which was secured through personal interviews was utilized to intuitively develop a typology of divorcing couples. The 41 men and 49 women who were interviewed exhibited striking contrasts in describing their divorce experience. Initially, the divorce experiences were distinguished as orderly or disorderly. In an orderly divorce process, spouses had to let go of established habits and routines, disconnect their identity from marital roles, and withdraw their emotional investment in the former partner prior to the legal status change. In other words, the spouses will have gone through a psychological divorce before the legal one. The types of orderly divorce, four in all, were differentiated by two factors: the amount of personal control over the divorcing process (total, partial, none), and the time available to adjust to the marital termination (short or long time frame).

There was a wide range of diversity within the disorderly divorces. Seven types were identified. In addition to the amount of personal control and the time available to go through the dissolution process, disorderly divorces were typologized in terms of the failure to complete any of the events necessary for an orderly divorce, i.e., continued attachment to either the marital roles, the former spouse, or the shared marital routines. The most common type of disorderly divorce (62% of the sample of disorderly divorces) consisted of those cases in which only the shared routines of living together and the legal status of being married were lost; the

attachment to the marital roles and the former spouse had not yet been given up.

Of the 90 respondents, 61 reported orderly divorces and 29 were classified as disorderly. The orderly divorces were nearly evenly divided between long and short time frames. In contrast, over three-fourths (76%) of the disorderly divorces report have a short time frame to adjust to the marital dissolution. Almost two-thirds (64%) of the orderly divorces report having total control of the dissolution process, with no one reporting have no control at all. The disorderly divorces differed in that only 7% of the respondents reported total control and 42% related stories which reflected no control of the divorcing process.

Basis for Empirical Typology

Price-Bonham and Balswick [1981], in their decade review article, emphasized the need to place more attention on certain theoretical and methodological issues in divorce research; in particular, consideration of the interactive processes leading from the decision to divorce to the establishment of new relationships, and the utilization of multivariate statistical analyses of variables related to dissolution. These concerns were similarly stressed by Kitson and Raschke [1982]. Unfortunately, most research to date has focused on intra-psychic or individual factors associated with divorce or conceptualized the dissolution process as unidimensional by suggesting sequential stage models which purport that individuals move from one step to the

next in more or less the same manner. However, there appears to be both logical and empirical support for a multidimensional approach to the divorcing process. Rather than every marriage going through universal stages, each relationship may evolve to dissolution in a unique manner. Consequently, it should be possible to identify these dissolution patterns and thus establish an empirical typology of marital dissolution. The predictive power of such a typology is dependent on the extent to which identification of the individual as a member of a type enables the researcher to predict the behaviors of the individual on the basis of knowledge of the general characteristics of that type.

Kressel et al. [1980] and Hagestad and Smyer [1982] both developed typologies of dissolution which highlight the multidimensional nature of the divorce experience. Yet, both studies employed intuitive methods to derive their typologies instead of utilizing multivariate statistical methods. Since the conditions of multidimensionality exist with regard to the termination of marital relationships, it would be helpful to construct an empirical typology utilizing appropriate statistical techniques.

Statement of Purpose

The purpose of the present study was to describe the process of marital dissolution. This description entailed collecting basic information about the process itself and then typologizing divorces on the basis of their trajectories to divorce (graphic representations

of the change in probability of divorce over time). Consistent with previous clinical and therapeutic work, these typologies were differentiated on the basis of the factors of love, maintenance, ambivalence, conflict, dyadic trust, marital satisfaction, and the comparison level for alternatives.

CHAPTER III

THE METHOD

Overview

The purpose of this research project was to construct typologies
of marital dissolution based on a retrospective interview technique.
Participants, with the assistance of an interviewer, were asked to
construct a trajectory of marital dissolution on a possibility of
divorce graph. This trajectory traced the development of the disso-
lution from the point when significant marital dissatisfaction on the
part of either partner was first recognized to the issuance of the
final divorce decree. A cluster analysis of a series of trajectory
characteristics was subsequently differentiated on the basis of cer-
tain relationship dimensions. These relationship dimensions were
love, conflict, maintenance, ambivalence, trust and marital satis-
faction.

One hundred and seven divorced individuals were interviewed and
administered a series of questionnaires concerning their previous
marriages. The interview consisted of having participants: (a) graph
changes in the probability that their marriage would terminate as
they moved through the dissolution process; (b) fill out the ques-
tionnaires that tapped the relationship dimensions during three time
periods--recognition of dissatisfaction, discussion of ending the
marital relationship, action taken on the divorce decision; and (c)

provide information about their premarital and marital relationship.

The following analyses were done: First, a cluster analysis was used to construct the typology of marital dissolution. Second, repeated measures analysis of variance was performed to ascertain if significant differences existed between types and genders as a function of the three time periods. A second repeated measures analysis of variance was run to determine if there were significant differences as a function of who initiated the divorce process.

Participants

One hundred and seven divorced individuals (57 men and 50 women) participated in this study. The mean age of the participants was 36.66 (range was from 23 to 59). The average length of marriage was 10.21 years, with a range of one to 37 years (see Table 1).

Three methods were employed to identify a sample of divorced men and women. First, the population of men and women who were either petitioners, copetitioners, or respondents in petitions for dissolution of marriage, filed in Benton County, Oregon within the preceding eighteen months were obtained from county records. No restrictions on sample inclusion were made. A letter (see Appendix A) was sent to possible participants explaining this research project and asking for their cooperation. Individuals who did not respond were contacted by telephone to ascertain their willingness to participate and arrange for an interview appointment.

TABLE 1. Personal Characteristics of Respondents by Sex on
          Selected Characteristics

Comparison characteristic	Men (n=57)		Women (n=50)	
Age				
at marriage	$\bar{x}$ = 24.90		$\bar{x}$ = 21.30	
presently	$\bar{x}$ = 37.88		$\bar{x}$ = 35.28	
Education	n	percent	n	percent
less than high school diploma	0	0	1	2.0
high school diploma	1	1.8	7	14.0
some college	20	35.1	26	52.0
college degree	16	28.1	11	22.0
graduate or professional school	20	35.1	5	10.0
Occupation				
professional	23	40.3	7	14.0
semi-professional	17	29.8	4	8.0
skilled	6	10.5	10	20.0
semi-skilled	3	5.3	1	2.0
unskilled	3	5.3	4	8.0
other	3	5.3	12	24.0
no response	2	3.5	12	24.0
Currently Employed				
yes	47	82.5	33	66.0
no	10	17.5	17	34.0
Religious Affiliation				
Catholic	5	8.8	14	28.0
Protestant	18	31.6	24	48.0
Jewish	1	1.8	0	0
other	11	19.3	6	12.0
none	22	38.6	6	12.0
Religious Participation				
at least once a week	10	17.5	19	38.0
about monthly	6	10.5	10	20.0
a few times a year	10	17.5	7	14.0
once a year	1	1.8	2	4.0
never	13	22.8	8	16.0
no response	17	29.8	4	8.0

The second method of recruiting took place concurrently with the first and was intended to incorporate potential participants who were not, for whatever reasons, reached via court house records. Brief advertisements inviting participation were placed in local newspapers. The purpose of these advertisements was twofold. The initial reason was to alert the community about the study and attempt to set a tone for the study which might elicit cooperation and support and establish its legitimacy. The second reason was to promote a better response rate than is customary for research on this topic.

Third, local singles organizations, such as Parents Without Partners, or church-affiliated groups were contacted for possible participants. Once individuals were contacted and agreed to participate, they were given the choice of being interviewed in their homes or in the offices of the researcher. The total sample, then, consisted of 11 former couples (i.e., 11 men and 11 women) and 85 individuals (46 men and 39 women).

Procedure

Structured Interview

Data was gathered in this study through a two-hour, face-to-face interview (see Appendix H for the interview schedule), and paper-and-pencil questionnaires (see Appendix C). The interview was comprised of two parts. First, participants were asked to

retrospectively trace the changes in the perceived probability of divorce from the point when significant dissatisfaction with the marriage was initially recognized until the date the final divorce decree was granted. These changes were plotted by the participants on a "chance of divorce" graph. This graph represented the probability that the marriage would end as a percentage from zero to 100 percent chance of divorce. Ultimately, this graphic representation becomes a trajectory from initial discovery of discontent to marital termination. The second half of the interview consisted of completing psychometric scales which assessed love, conflict, maintenance, ambivalence, trust, and marital satisfaction for each of the three time periods of dissolution: recognition, discussion, and action. In addition, participants perceptions of alternatives to their marriage, their acceptance of its termination, and their current attitudes toward divorce were assessed.

Female participants were interviewed by a female interviewer, and male participants were interviewed by a male interviewer. Interviewers were instructed to spend a few minutes at the beginning of the interview acquainting themselves with the participants, to establish a favorable environment for the procedures that followed. At this time, they also reviewed the general purposes of the study and obtained written informed consent (see Appendix B) in order to conduct the interviews.

The next step in the interview was the construction of the trajectory of the divorce process. This was

accomplished by graphing the marriage on a "chance of divorce" graph. The ordinate of the graph represented the chance of divorce from zero to 100 percent, in increments of five percent. The abscissa of the graph represents time, in increments of one month. The interviewer began by asking the participants when they first recognized significant marital dissatisfaction that made them think their problems might lead to divorce (month and year), and when the final divorce decree was granted. Using these two dates as endpoints, the interviewer filled in the first initial of each month between them along the abscissa.

Next, the interviewer asked the participant to recall when a series of typical dissolution events occurred (see Appendix D). These items included events such as the first time the participant thought the marriage might end, initial separation, and filing for divorce. Each dissolution event was recorded on the dissolution events recording sheet in terms of month and year.

The interviewer proceeded to the actual filling in of the graph after the dissolution events were recorded. Participants were told that this graph would enable them to show the changes in the probability of divorce as they occurred over time. In estimating the chance of divorce, the participants were asked to consider both their own feelings and how they thought their former partner felt about the divorce. The graphing proceeded in a three-step process. First, the interviewer asked what the participant thought the chance of divorce was at the time when marital dissatisfaction was first

recognized. The interviewer marked this percentage on the vertical line which represented the first month on the graph. Second, the interviewer asked the participant to indicate at what month a change in the chance of divorce was first noted. Such a change may be either in an upward or downward direction. After ascertaining the degree to which the chance of divorce changed (e.g., a change from 5% to 25%), the interviewer plotted this new chance of divorce on the vertical line that represents the appropriate month. At this point, the interviewer asked the participant how these two points were connected (i.e., was the change gradual, rapid, sudden, etc.). Third, the participant was asked to relate the events and feelings that surrounded this change in the chance of divorce. The interviewer recorded these verbal comments on a critical events recording sheet (see Appendix E). This three-step process was repeated until the entire trajectory was constructed. Thus, the final graph consisted of changes in the chance of divorce that were based on specific critical events as the marriage dissolved over time.

Participants were then encouraged to examine the completed graph for its accuracy in representing the dissolution process and make any desired changes. Participants were then asked to indicate the months, if applicable, during which: (a) they recognized significant marital dissatisfaction; (b) they openly discussed the possibility that the marriage may end in divorce with others, such as a former partner, family, friends, a counselor or minister (discussion); and (c) either partner initiated action toward securing

a legal divorce decree (action). These time periods were marked on the top of the graph by the interviewer.

The next portion of the interview consisted of filling out a series of questionnaires. The participant completed measures of love, conflict, maintenance, ambivalence, trust, marital satisfaction, and comparison level for alternatives for each of the three time periods outlined on the graph. The first set of measures began with instructions to think back to "the period in your marriage when you first recognized a significant degree of dissatisfaction either on your part or that of your former partner that made you think your problems might lead to divorce," before answering the questions for this particular time period. Each of the other three sets of measures began similarly, but the directions were congruent with the other two time periods.

Upon completion of these three sets of measures, the interviewer asked the participant to give a more detailed description of their premarital relationships, and demographic information (see Appendices F and G). This completed the structured interview. Participants were thanked for their cooperation and asked if they had any questions concerning the interview.

Training of Interviewers

The interviews were conducted by five graduate students and eight senior-level undergraduate students. All thirteen of the interviewers participated in approximately three hours of training

in the specific interview techniques needed for this study. Training consisted of the following: (a) the interviewers were thoroughly familiarized with the interview procedure and protocol (see Appendix H for the interview protocol); (b) the interviewers role-played a simulated interview in which they first acted as participants and then as interviewers; and (c) the interviewers met with the principal investigator to review any questions raised by the role-playing experience. Each interviewer was required to conduct a practice interview outside the training sessions. This practice interview was audio-taped so that feedback could be provided by the principal investigator. After each interviewer performed successfully on the practice interview, data collection began.

Measurement of Variables

General Properties of the Relationship Trajectories

Trajectories of the dissolution process were constructed by having the participants outline changes on the perceived chance of divorce from the time significant marital dissatisfaction, on the part of either partner, was recognized to the time the divorce decree was granted. Six general properties of these trajectories were utilized in the clustering procedure. The six characteristics provided the best representation of the overall length and shape of the trajectories.

Total length of dissolution process. This variable was measured by the number of months the dissolution process took from the initial recognition of dissatisfaction to the final granting of the divorce decree.

Number of critical events. This variable represented the number of times in the dissolution process where partners perceived a change in the chance of divorce either in an upward or downward direction. This property was calculated as a simple count.

Index of critical events. This property was the number of critical events divided by the total length of the dissolution process.

Number of downturns. This variable was the number of times the chance of divorce changed, in a downward direction, resulting in a decline in the probability of divorce. This property was calculated as a simple count.

Index of turbulence. This property was the number of downturns divided by the total length of the dissolution process.

Index of reconciliation. This property was the number of downturns divided by the number of critical events. This index provided a ratio of downturns to the total number of critical events.

In addition to the six general trajectory properties, four specific properties were also assessed. These properties represented a more refined assessment of the shape and characteristics of the relationship trajectories.

Specific Properties of the Relationship Trajectories

Mean chance of divorce. This property was assessed by directly

reading the chance of divorce from the graph and dividing by the number of months. A mean chance of divorce estimate was calculated for each of the three time periods.

Length of each time period. This property was measured by a simple count of the number of months in each of the three time periods marked on the graph: recognition, discussion, and action.

Ratio of length of each time period to the total length. This property was calculated by adding together the number of months for each of the three time periods and dividing each by the total length of the dissolution process. These ratios assessed the proportion of the dissolution process spent in a particular time period.

Slope. This property was calculated for each of the three time periods during the dissolution process. The slope was defined as the change in the chance of divorce divided by the change in time. Change in the chance of divorce was assessed in increments of five, so that a change of 10 percent chance of divorce to 15 percent chance of divorce represented one unit; whereas the change in time was assessed in increments of one month. The beginning and end of each time period were used as the endpoints in calculating these slopes. For example, if the participant indicated the chance of divorce changed from five percent to 40 percent over a period of two months, the slope of the trajectory for this time would be 3.5. Slope served as a general measure of the rapidity of dissolution, and thus ignored any fluctuations or temporary changes in the chance of divorce.

Relationship Dimensions

Love. Love was assessed by the love subscale of the Braiker and Kelley [1979] relationship dimensions scale (see items 1, 4, 7, 10, 13, 16, 17, 19, 21, 23, in Appendix C). These ten items tapped the feelings of closeness, belonging, and attachment. Participants were asked to indicate the degree to which each feeling is true of their relationship on a nine-point Likert scale of 1 (not true at all) to 9 (very true). The scale ranged from 10 to 90.

Maintenance. This dimension was assessed by five items from the Braiker and Kelley [1979] relationship dimensions scale (see items 2, 8, 11, 14, and 22, in Appendix C). These items tapped both communication and self-disclosure in the relationship. Each item was accompanied by a nine-point Likert scale; possible range of the scale is from 5 to 45.

Ambivalence. Ambivalence was measured by five items from the Braiker and Kelley [1979] relationship dimensions scale (see items 6, 9, 15, 18, and 20, in Appendix C). These five items assessed feelings of confusion and anxiety concerning the commitment to the partner. Each item was accompanied by a nine-point Likert scale; possible range of the scale is from 5 to 45.

Conflict. This dimension was measured by five items from the Braiker and Kelley [1979] relationship dimensions scale (see items 3, 5, 12, 24, and 25, in Appendix C). These items assessed the amount of overt conflict and communication of negative affect in

the relationship. Each of the items was accompanied by a nine-point Likert scale; possible range of the scale is from 5 to 45.

Trust. Trust was measured with the dyadic trust scale developed by Larzelere and Huston [1980]. This scale assessed the extent that a person believes another person to be benevolent and honest. The scale consisted of eight items (see Appendix C), each measured on a seven-point Likert scale of 1 (disagree), 4 (moderately agree), and 7 (agree). Items were summed to yield a total score with questions 1, 2, and 6 being reversed before scoring. This total ranged from 8 to 56. The higher the score, the more the participants trusted their partners.

The dyadic trust scale has been shown to be highly reliable (coefficient alpha of .93) and unaffected by social desirability (r = .00, n.s. on social desirability measures).

Marital satisfaction. Marital satisfaction was assessed by asking participants to rate the level of satisfaction with their marriage, all things considered, on a seven-point Likert scale of 1 (completely dissatisfied) to 7 (completely satisfied) (see Appendix C). The higher the score, the more satisfied the participant was with the marriage.

Intrapersonal Characteristics

Comparison level for alternatives. Comparison level for alternatives was assessed with the marital alternatives scale developed

by Udry [1981]. This scale assessed the degree to which the participant perceived alternatives to the present situation, both in terms of finding a new partner and in terms of perceiving a satisfying future without the present partner. The scale consisted of eleven items (see Appendix C), each of which was measured on a four-point Likert scale of 1 (impossible), 2 (possible but unlikely), 3 (probable), and 4 (certain). Items were summed to yield a total score; this total ranged from 11 to 44. The higher the score, the more the participant perceives a favorable comparison level for alternatives. The split-half reliability for the scale was reported as approximately .70, which is acceptable for so short a scale.

Acceptance of divorce. This dimension was assessed with the acceptance of marital termination scale developed by Thompson and Spanier [1983]. The scale consisted of eleven items (see Appendix C), each of which was measured on a four-point Likert scale of 1 (not at all) to 4 (very much). Items were summed to yield a total score, with question 9 being reversed before scoring. This total ranged from 11 to 44. The lower the score, the greater the acceptance and positive feeling toward the dissolution of the marriage. Reliability of this scale was assessed by Cronbach's alpha coefficient, which was a .90 for the eleven-item scale.

Attitudes toward divorce. This dimension was assessed by four items adapted from Hardy's [1957] divorce questionnaire by Jorgensen and Johnson [1980] (see Appendix C). These four items assessed the liberality of attitudes toward divorce. Each item is accompanied

by a four-point Likert scale of 1 (strongly agree) to 4 (strongly
disagree). The scale ranged from 4 to 16. The higher the score,
the more liberal the attitudes concerning divorce. Hardy [1956]
reported satisfactory split-half reliability, corrected by the
Spearman-Brown formula, of .85. Cronbach's alpha coefficient, as
measured by Jorgensen and Johnson [1980], was .74.

Relationship History Variables and Dissolution Events

A number of questions were asked regarding certain premarital
and marital relationship history variables (Appendix F) and dissolu-
tion events (see Appendix D). The premarital and marital relation-
ship history variables assessed participants' dating frequency prior
to meeting their former partners, the number of serious relationships
prior to their marriages, the level of involvement with someone of
the opposite sex at the time of meeting their former spouse, their
comparison level, their feelings in general about eventually marry-
ing immediately prior to meeting their former partners, parental
support of the marriage, how easy or difficult it was for them to
develop intimate relationships before they met their former spouses,
the length of time they dated their former partners, age at marriage,
and the length of their marriage.

The dissolution events were the length of time since separation,
the length of time since the issuance of the final decree, physical
health since the divorce, emotional distress after the divorce, who
initially suggested divorce, who moved out when partners separated,

who filed for dissolution, whether or not the dissolution was con-
tested, and the amount of contact preferred with the former partner.

CHAPTER IV

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Overview of Statistical Analysis

The statistical analyses in this study were performed in three phases. First, a typology of marital dissolution was constructed through the use of cluster analysis, which grouped relatively similar trajectories into homogeneous sets or types. Next, the properties of the trajectories in each type were compared with the properties of the trajectories in the other types in order to validate the typology. Finally, the relationship dimensions were examined. The relationship dimensions for each type were analyzed through the use of repeated measures analysis of variance in an attempt to differentiate the types. In addition, the relationship dimensions of the sample as a whole were used to construct predictive models of marital dissolution and acceptance of marital termination during three different time periods.

Constructing the Typology of Marital Dissolution

Cluster analysis was used to group similar dissolution trajectories into a limited number of types. These types were created by using an algorithm with a specific clustering criterion. The criterion employed in this study was the single linkage method. This method fused groups initially made up of individuals according to the similarity between their nearest members such that the

groups with the greatest similarity, as measured by the correlation coefficient, became a cluster [Everitt, 1974]. Put more simply, when the trajectory properties were analyzed, the end-product was clusters of individuals with similar trajectories to divorce over time.

Dissolution trajectories were clustered on the basis of six general trajectory properties: the total length of the dissolution process, the number of downturns, the number of critical events, the index of turbulence, the index of critical events, and the index of reconciliation. This set of variables was chosen as the best representation of the overall length and shape of the trajectories. These six variables produced a good clustering only up to the 88th step. At this point, there were three large clusters, three small clusters, and 13 outliers. Since approximately 80 percent of the total sample was divided almost evenly into the three large clusters, the analysis proceeded on these groups with the following distribution of cases: Type 1, n = 27; Type 2, n = 29; Type 3, n = 28; and outliers, n = 23.

The final typology consisted of three patterns of marital dissolution. These three types were named as follows: Type 1, rapid; Type 2, gradual; and Type 3, extended. These names were chosen as descriptive labels which reflect the major properties of each type. Using the means of the clustering variables and other trajectory properties, "average" trajectories were drawn for illustrative purposes (see Fig. 1 for the trajectories and
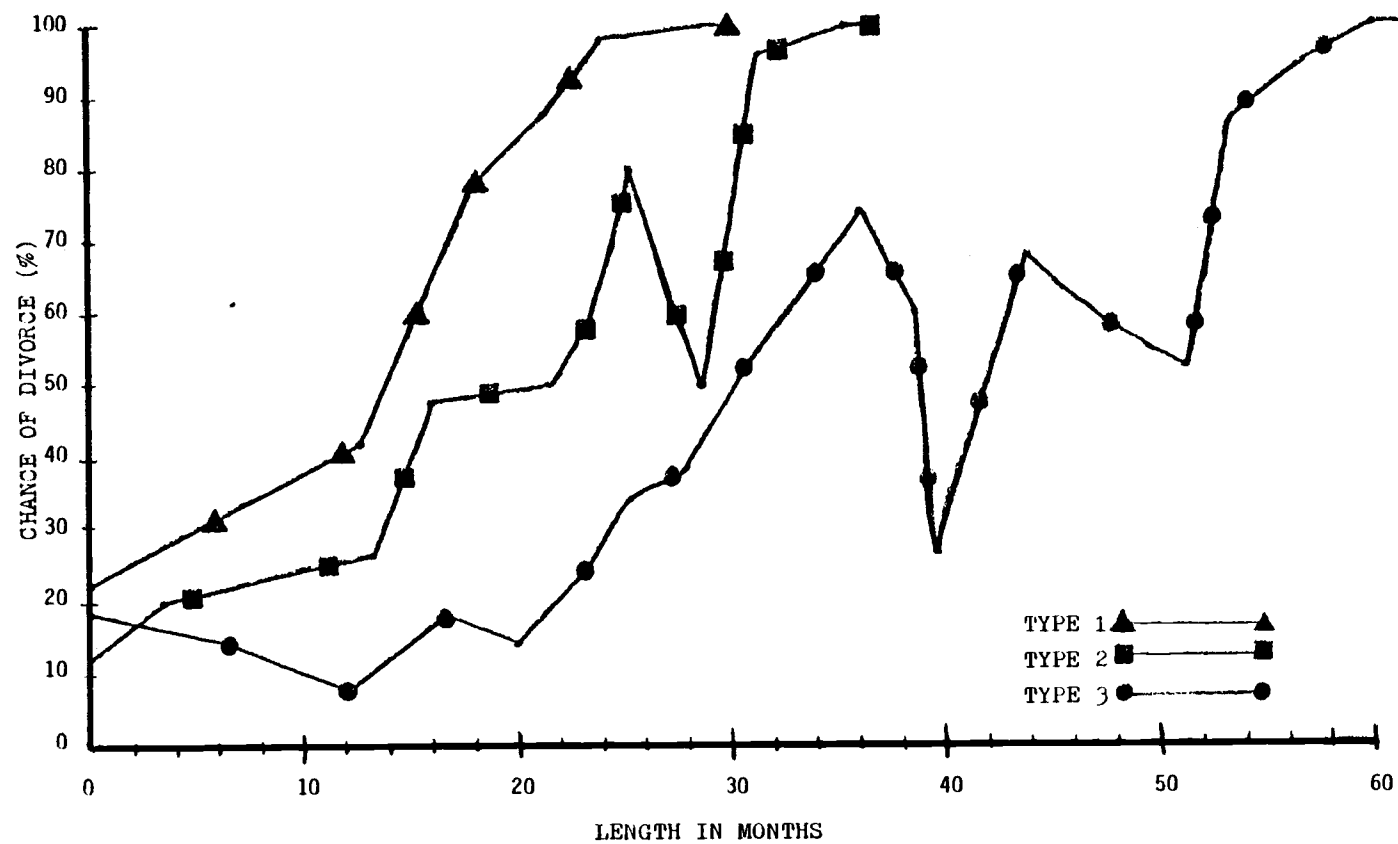
Figure 1. Average trajectories for the three dissolution types.

Table 2 for the means of the three types on the clustering
variables).

A caution with cluster analysis is that it will always give
a solution whether or not the solution is a good one. Since no
set of rules exist to determine the optimal number of clusters
for a given data set, validation of the typology was a major con-
cern. The means on the six clustering variables were compared for
differences by type using one-way analyses of variance. Signifi-
cant differences were found between types on five of the six vari-
ables (length, downturns, critical events, index of turbulence,
and the index of reconciliation; see Table 3). These findings sup-
port the typology derived through the cluster analytic procedure.

Next, the means of the clustering variables were examined to
ascertain where the differences actually were (see Table 2 for
means). Post-hoc analyses (Newman-Keuls' multiple range test,
alpha = .05) for the length, the number of downturns, the number
of critical events, and the indices of turbulence and reconcilia-
tion revealed the following differences between dissolution types.
Participants in the rapid and gradual types reported significantly
shorter dissolutions than those in the extended type. Partici-
pants in the rapid type reported significantly fewer downturns in
comparison to the other types, and those in gradual dissolutions ex-
perienced significantly more downturns than participants in rapid
dissolutions, but less than those in extended dissolutions. Parti-
cipants who experienced extended dissolutions reported significantly

TABLE 2. Means on Clustering Variables by Type

	Type		
	Rapid	Gradual	Extended
Total length	28.22	33.97	49.04
Number of downturns	0	1.00	2.64
Number of critical events	3.37	4.66	8.11
Index of turbulence	0	0.04	0.05
Index of critical events	0.16	0.18	0.15
Index of reconciliation	0	0.25	0.33

TABLE 3. Analyses of Variance on Six General Trajectory
Properties

Total Length

Source	df	SS	MS	F ratio
Type	2	14928.36	7464.18	19.80***
Error	81	30528.60	376.90	
Total	83	45456.96		

***p < .0001.

The Number of Critical Events

Source	df	SS	MS	F ratio
Type	2	332.51	166.25	47.497***
Error	81	283.53	3.50	
Total	83	616.04		

***p < .0001.

The Number of Downturns

Source	df	SS	MS	F ratio
Type	2	98.27	49.14	215.974***
Error	81	18.43	.23	
Total	83	116.70		

***p < .0001.

The Index of Critical Events

Source	df	SS	MS	F ratio
Type	2	.02	.01	.946
Error	81	.67	.01	
Total	83	.69		

Table 3 (continued)

The Index of Turbulence

Source	df	SS	MS	F ratio
Type	2	.04	.02	87.188***
Error	81	.02	.0002	
Total	83	.05		

***p < .0001.

The Index of Reconciliation

Source	df	SS	MS	F ratio
Type	2	1.64	.82	131.017***
Error	81	.51	.01	
Total	83	2.15		

***p < .0001.

more downturns than the other two types. A similar pattern was found regarding the number of critical events; that is, participants in the extended type reported significantly more critical events than those in either rapid or gradual dissolutions, and those in rapid dissolutions reported significantly fewer critical events than the other two types. Participants in the gradual type experienced significantly more critical events than those in the rapid type and significantly fewer than participants in the extended type.

The three types were also significantly different on both the index of turbulence and the index of reconciliation. Participants in extended dissolutions reported significantly more turbulence and experienced a larger proportion of critical events as downturns (i.e., a larger index of reconciliation). Participants in gradual dissolutions reported significantly larger indices of turbulence and reconciliation than those in rapid dissolutions. No significant differences were found between types on the index of critical events. In addition, dissolution types were not differentiated by gender; that is, there were no significant differences between the number of men and women within each type ($\underline{x}^2$ = 1.49, n.s.).

Analysis of Trajectory Properties

After forming the dissolution types on the basis of six general trajectory properties, a more detailed analysis of four specific properties was conducted. It will be recalled that the participants

delineated three time periods on the dissolution trajectories.
These time periods were recognition, discussion, and action. The
four specific properties were calculated for each time period.
These properties were the mean chance of divorce, the length of
each time period, the ratio of the time period length to the total
length of the dissolution process, and the slope. Four repeated
measures analyses of variance were used to test for significant
differences between types with time period as a repeated measure.
Main effects are not discussed when a significant interaction be-
tween type and time period was found in the analyses (see Table 4).
Means and the differences between time period means were plotted
to help explain the interaction effects (see Appendix I).

Participants who experienced rapid dissolutions exhibited a
pattern in which the differences between the mean chance of divorce
during the recognition and discussion periods was higher than that
between the discussion and action periods. This pattern was re-
versed for individuals in gradual and extended dissolutions (see
Appendix I). Examination of the means shows that the highest mean
chance of divorce during all three time periods was reported by
participants in the rapid type (see Table 5). This difference is
also noted on the plot of means (see Appendix I). In terms of time
period length, participants in extended dissolutions reported the
longest recognition and discussion periods (see Table 6 and Appendix
I). The length of each time period was almost the same for parti-
cipants in the rapid and gradual types. The fact that no

TABLE 4. Analyses of Variance on Four Specific Trajectory
Properties

Mean Chance of Divorce

Source	df	MS	F ratio
Type (A)	2	1570.09	3.18*
Error	78	493.75	
Time Period (B)	2	96681.40	300.28**
AxB	4	834.20	2.59***
Error	156	321.97	

*p < .047.

**p ≤ .0001.

***p < .038.

Ratio of Time Period Length to Total Length

Source	df	MS	F ratio
Type (A)	2	.0046	0.22
Error	78	.0209	
Time Period (B)	2	.3683	5.02*
AxB	4	.2201	3.00**
Error	156	.0734	

*p < .008.

**p < .02.

TABLE 4 (continued)

Length of Time Period

Source	df	MS	F ratio
Type (A)	2	2396.19	18.80*
Error	78	127.48	
Time Period (B)	2	1359.18	6.92**
AxB	4	622.09	3.17***
Error	156	196.54	

*$p \leqslant .0001$.

**$p < .001$.

***$p < .027$.

Slope

Source	df	MS	F ratio
Type (A)	2	7.55	3.67*
Error	78	2.05	
Time Period (B)	2	17.92	7.81**
AxB	4	1.97	0.86
Error	156	2.29	

*$p < .03$.

**$p < .0006$.

TABLE 5. Means of Mean Chance of Divorce by Type

Time Period	Type		
	Rapid	Gradual	Extended
Recognition	29.13	26.52	27.51
Discussion	71.66	53.18	52.21
Action	98.27	97.24	94.94
S.E. for differences between any two time period means within each type	5.08	4.80	4.80

TABLE 6. Means on Length of Each Time Period by Type

Time Period	Type		
	Rapid	Gradual	Extended
Recognition	10.57	13.68	27.64
Discussion	10.90	14.65	24.80
Action	10.13	9.69	10.03
S.E. for differences between any two time period means within each type	3.97	3.75	3.75

differences were noted between types at the action period was not surprising since this time period was more dependent on and sub-sequently regulated by the legal system. This distinction is also seen in the ratios of time period length to total length (see Table 7 and Appendix I). The ratio of the action period to the total length for gradual and extended dissolutions was significantly smaller when compared with the rapid type because of the overall length of the process. The slopes for the rapid dissolutions were higher than the other two types especially during the discussion period (see Table 8 and Appendix I). This was not surprising con-sidering the overall rapidity of these trajectories to divorce in comparison to the extended type. Once again, the gradual dissolu-tions were in between the rapid and the extended types.

In summary, the results of this analysis of trajectory proper-ties indicates the following differences. Participants in rapid dissolutions reported the highest mean chance of divorce and slope during the initial two periods of the dissolution process. Parti-cipants in extended dissolutions, in contrast, were best charac-terized by longer recognition and discussion periods and small slopes. Participants in extended dissolutions also experienced the most turbulence and report more critical events as downturns when compared with those in either the rapid or gradual type. Par-ticipants in gradual dissolutions were usually moderate in compari-son with the other two types.

TABLE 7. Means on the Proportion of Each Time Period to Total
Length by Type

Time Period	Type		
	Rapid	Gradual	Extended
Recognition	0.36	0.38	0.47
Discussion	0.36	0.44	0.44
Action	0.38	0.31	0.18
S.E. for differences between any two time period means within each type	0.077	0.072	0.072

TABLE 8. Means on Slope Properties by Type

Time Period	Type		
	Rapid	Gradual	Extended
Recognition	1.23	1.14	0.36
Discussion	1.43	1.03	0.56
Action	0.11	0.21	0.12
S.E. for differences between any two time period means within each type	0.43	0.40	0.40

Analysis of Relationship Dimensions

The analysis of the relationship dimensions took place in two phases. In the first phase, the three types of marital dissolution were compared on the relationship dimensions and the intrapersonal characteristics. Seven repeated measures analyses of variance were performed to check for differences on love, conflict, maintenance, ambivalence, trust, marital satisfaction, and comparison level for alternatives between dissolution types. Gender and type were considered fixed effects and time period served as the repeated measure. Seven additional repeated measures analyses of variance were run on these dimensions in order to examine differences as a function of who initiated the process by suggesting divorce. It should be noted that since two series of repeated measures analyses were performed, there were two separate analyses of main effects for gender and time period. In every case, wherever such a main effect was significant in both analyses, the pattern of results revealed in the post-hoc test was exactly the same. Thus, main effects for gender and time period will be discussed only once to avoid redundancy.

One-way analyses of variance were employed to check for differences on the acceptance of marital termination, general attitudes toward divorce, and relationship history variables between types and between those who initiated the divorce process and those who did not. Newman-Keuls' multiple range tests were used as a post-hoc measure with an alpha level of .05.

In the second phase, using the total sample, an attempt was made to explain marital dissolution in greater detail by analyzing which relationship dimensions were the best predictors at three time periods during the dissolution process. A multiple regression was performed on the mean chance of divorce scores for recognition, discussion and action time periods. A stepwise selection procedure was utilized because it facilitates the selection of the best combination of predictor variables by testing the usefulness of each predictor as additional predictors are entered into the regression model. The relationship dimension scores on love, maintenance, conflict, ambivalence, trust, and marital satisfaction for the corresponding time period served as independent variables. A second multiple regression was run to determine the best predictors of acceptance of marital termination at each time period.

Love

There was a significant main effect for time period on the measure of love (see Tables 9 and 10). The amount of love significantly decreased between each time period. This indicated that the amount of love differed depending on whether the participants had recognized marital dissatisfaction salient enough to consider divorce, or they were openly discussing the possibility of terminating their marriage with others, or action had been taken to secure a dissolution.

Lloyd [1982], in a study of premarital relationship dissolution, reported a similar decrease in feelings of love as premarital

TABLE 9. Analysis of Variance by Type on Love Dimension

Source	df	MS	F ratio
Sex (A)	1	2050.33	3.72
Type (B)	2	734.63	1.33
AxB	2	23.26	0.04
Error	75	550.77	
Time Period (C)	2	16908.70	165.62*
AxC	2	267.29	2.62
BxC	4	18.26	0.18
AxBxC	4	143.47	1.41
Error	150	102.09	

*p < .0001.

TABLE 10. Analysis of Variance by Initiator on Love Dimension

Source	df	MS	F ratio
Sex (A)	1	783.39	1.55
Initiator (B)	2	3508.08	6.93*
AxB	2	331.40	0.65
Error	93	506.56	
Time Period (C)	2	11363.00	114.78**
AxC	2	161.51	1.63
BxC	4	228.02	2.30
AxBxC	4	84.34	0.85
Error	186	99.00	

*p < .002.

**p ≤ .0001.

dyads progressed from a period of uncertainty to one of being certain that the relationship would end. Levinger [1966] found that insufficient affection, lack of love and companionship, and the lack of communication were cited by a significant number of men and women as a source of dissatisfaction leading to divorce. McKenry, White, and Price-Bonham [1978] also noted that divorced dyads were characterized by greater affect dissatisfaction when compared with married couples. Hayes, Stinnett, and DeFrain [1980] reported that many divorced individuals in their study indicated that their spouses never verbally expressed love. Since the love scale measures feelings of closeness, belonging, and attachment, it is not too surprising that as one's marriage deteriorates such feelings of love and attachment also decrease.

There was also a significant main effect for initiator on the love scale (see Table 10). Initiators reported significantly lower love scores than noninitiators and those whose divorce decisions were mutual. Post-hoc analysis revealed no differences between the noninitiators and mutual divorces. Hill, Rubin, and Peplau [1976] noted that premarital partners who initiated a breakup felt less severe emotional after-effects than those who did not. Weiss [1975] also found distinct differences between initiators and non-initiators in terms of emotional distress experienced after the dissolution. Those who initiated the dissolution questioned their ability to meet emotional obligations whereas noninitiators questioned their ability to love someone else in a new relationship.

Maintenance

There was a significant main effect for time period on the measure of maintenance behaviors (see Tables 11 and 12). Post-hoc analysis found maintenance behaviors to be significantly higher during both the recognition and discussion periods than during the action period. The maintenance scale assesses behaviors such as the amount of time spent talking about the quality of the relationship, problem-solving behaviors, and dyadic communication of personal feelings and needs which one would expect partners to engage in once they encounter relationship problems [Levinger, 1980]. Apparently, these participants did not discontinue their efforts at maintaining their marriages, but continued to disclose to their partners and try and solve their differences. It would make sense then that the amount of time spent maintaining the marital relationship would not noticeably diminish until action was taken to dissolve it. Lloyd [1982] noted a similar decrease in maintenance behaviors in premarital dyads as they dissolved their relationships.

Ambivalence

There was a significant main effect for time period on the ambivalence measure (see Tables 13 and 14). Post-hoc comparisons of means revealed that ambivalence was significantly higher during the first two periods when compared to the action period. Emotional ambivalence of the parties about the divorce may be a serious impediment to the process of negotiation [Kressel, 1980].

TABLE 11. Analysis of Variance by Type on Maintenance Dimension

Source	df	MS	F ratio
Sex (A)	1	62.75	0.49
Type (B)	2	1.75	0.01
AxB	2	187.52	1.47
Error	75	127.73	
Time Period (C)	2	3209.28	62.59*
AxC	2	134.94	2.63
BxC	4	86.35	1.68
AxBxC	4	53.21	1.04
Error	150	51.27	

*$p \leqslant .0001$.

TABLE 12. Analysis of Variance by Initiator on Maintenance Dimension

Source	df	MS	F ratio
Sex (A)	1	7.77	0.07
Initiator (B)	2	263.63	2.37
AxB	2	68.09	0.61
Error	93	111.30	
Time Period (C)	2	2068.34	38.84*
AxC	2	38.70	0.73
BxC	4	12.68	0.24
AxBxC	4	114.60	2.15
Error	186	53.26	

*$p \leqslant .0001$.

TABLE 13. Analysis of Variance by Type on Ambivalence Dimension

Source	df	MS	F ratio
Sex (A)	1	2.09	0.02
Type (B)	2	83.16	0.69
AxB	2	3.59	0.03
Error	75	120.99	
Time Period (C)	2	1971.74	37.57*
AxC	2	1.30	0.02
BxC	4	15.86	0.30
AxBxC	4	48.41	0.92
Error	150	52.48	

* $p \leqslant .0001$.

TABLE 14. Analysis of Variance by Initiator on Ambivalence
Dimension

Source	df	MS	F ratio
Sex (A)	1	0.69	0.01
Initiator (B)	2	59.47	0.47
AxB	2	137.31	1.09
Error	93	125.83	
Time Period (C)	2	1664.55	33.58*
AxC	2	28.51	0.58
BxC	4	170.74	3.44**
AxBxC	4	92.01	1.86
Error	186	49.57	

* $p \leqslant .0001$.

** $p < .01$.

Weiss [1975] also noted the persistence of feelings of attachment which led to ambivalent feelings on the part of the divorcing couple. The partners oscillate between wanting to dissolve the marriage and then repair it. Ambivalence may be due to indecision whether to express their discontent to one another or not. Since the participants in this study reported relatively high ambivalence scores to begin with, it seems plausible that such feelings need to be acknowledged and dealt with in some fashion before partners may move ahead in the divorce process.

One significant interaction was found on ambivalence between initiator and time period (see Table 14). Examination of means and plots revealed the following differences. Participants who did not initiate the divorce process experienced comparatively less ambivalence during the recognition period. This may be due to the fact that they were not the one who would eventually initiate the process to end the relationship. A slight increase in ambivalent feelings was evident in all three types during the discussion period. However, once action was taken on the decision to dissolve the marriage, noninitiators reported more ambivalence than those who wished to end the marriage. This makes sense in that such action would resolve the ambivalent feelings which the initiators were struggling with from the recognition periods, whereas the noninitiators may just be beginning this process at this time. The participants for whom the divorce decision was mutual were similar to the initiators in terms of ambivalence (see Appendix K).

Conflict

There was a signifcant main effect for time period on the measure of conflict (see Table 16). Post-hoc analysis revealed that conflict significantly decreased from the first two periods to action. Since many couples are already separated by the time they file for dissolution, this finding may be due to diminished interaction in general.

There was a three-way interaction between sex, type, and time period (see Table 15). Examination of means and plots suggests the following differences (see Appendix J). Men in rapid dissolutions were the only group that reported that the amount of conflict decreased during the discussion period. The amount of conflict experienced by men in gradual dissoluation and women in extended dissolutions decreased during the action period. These differences are not clearly understood and past research does not support such findings.

Trust

There were two significant main effects on the measure of dyadic trust (see Table 17). The first main effect was for sex. Post-hoc analysis revealed that women reported less dyadic trust for their former partners. Previous studies have not reported such a sex difference. It may be explained in part by the adversarial system of divorce which positions one spouse against another.

The second main effect was for time period. Trust significantly decreased between the recognition and action time periods.

TABLE 15. Analysis of Variance by Type on Conflict Dimension

Source	df	MS	F ratio
Sex (A)	1	35.96	0.32
Type (B)	2	172.89	1.54
AxB	2	249.66	2.22
Error	75	112.32	
Time Period (C)	2	978.51	21.69*
AxC	2	1.82	0.04
BxC	4	32.91	0.73
AxBxC	4	222.33	4.93**
Error	150	45.12	

  *p ≤ .0001.

 **p < .001.

TABLE 16. Analysis of Variance by Initiator on Conflict Dimension

Source	df	MS	F ratio
Sex (A)	1	0.06	0.00
Initiator (B)	2	38.66	0.33
AxB	2	131.20	1.11
Error	93	118.57	
Time Period (C)	2	754.99	14.86*
AxC	2	63.83	1.26
BxC	4	63.50	1.25
AxBxC	4	69.63	1.37
Error	186	50.82	

  *p ≤ .0001.

TABLE 17. Analysis of Variance by Type on Trust Dimension

Source	df	MS	F ratio
Sex (A)	1	314.26	4.16*
Type (B)	2	45.68	0.60
AxB	2	201.22	2.66
Error	75	75.60	
Time Period (C)	2	47.28	3.07**
AxC	2	22.36	1.45
BxC	4	6.70	0.43
AxBxC	4	22.79	1.48
Error	150	15.41	

*$p < .05$.

**$p < .05$.

TABLE 18. Analysis of Variance by Initiator on Trust Dimension

Source	df	MS	F ratio
Sex (A)	1	120.45	1.57
Initiator (B)	2	136.11	1.77
AxB	2	20.64	0.27
Error	93	76.81	
Time Period (C)	2	35.61	2.35
AxC	2	30.45	2.01
BxC	4	18.49	1.22
AxBxC	4	23.05	1.52
Error	186	15.14	

Larzelere and Huston [1980] noted that the divorced partners in
their study tended to have less dyadic trust for their ex-partners
than married persons had for their partners. This study takes
this finding a step further by explicating the developmental pat-
tern of dyadic trust as a couple moves toward dissolution. In addi-
tion, Larzelere and Huston [1980] reported that dyadic trust and
love were highly correlated. Thus since love decreases during each
period, one would expect the amount of dyadic trust to similarly
decrease.

Marital Satisfaction

There were two significant main effects for marital satisfac-
tion (see Table 20). The first main effect was for initiators.
The initiators were significantly less satisfied than either non-
initiators or those in mutual divorces with their marriages. This
was not surprising since initiators also reported less love. Since
love is strongly associated with marital satisfaction, if it de-
creases, marital satisfaction should also. The second main effect
was for time period. As expected, marital satisfaction decreased
as participants moved closer to dissolution. Marital satisfaction
was significantly lower in discussion than during recognition and
significantly lower during action than discussion.

A three-way interaction was also found between sex, type, and
time period (see Table 19). Examination of means and plots suggests
the following differences (see Appendix J). There was little differ-
ence between sexes during the recognition period except for men in

TABLE 19.   Analysis of Variance by Type on Marital Satisfaction

Source	df	MS	F ratio
Sex (A)	1	4.58	1.60
Type (B)	2	5.49	1.92
AxB	2	1.45	0.51
Error	70	2.86	
Time Period (C)	2	50.69	33.28*
AxC	2	0.37	0.24
BxC	4	0.89	0.58
AxBxC	4	4.45	2.92**
Error	140	1.52	

*p ≤ .0001.

**p < .02.

TABLE 20.   Analysis of Variance by Initiator on Marital Satisfaction

Source	df	MS	F ratio
Sex (A)	1	1.64	0.54
Initiator (B)	2	14.32	4.73*
AxB	2	0.47	0.16
Error	87	3.03	
Time Period (C)	2	39.95	27.31**
AxC	2	0.65	0.44
BxC	4	1.66	1.13
AxBxC	4	2.08	1.42
Error	174	1.46	

*p < .01.

**p ≤ .0001.

extended dissolutions who reported higher marital satisfaction than women. During the discussion period, the women in rapid dissolutions experienced a substantial decrease in satisfaction. After action was taken, women in extended dissolutions reported higher satisfaction than men; realizing, of course, that overall satisfaction had diminished for both sexes since recognition. These findings are not clearly understood and previous studies do not suggest any rationale for such findings.

Analysis of Intrapersonal Characteristics

Comparison Level for Alternatives

There was a significant main effect for time period on the measure of comparison level for alternatives (CLalt, see Tables 21 and 22). Post-hoc analysis indicated that CLalt increased significantly from the recognition and discussion periods to the action period. Thus, alternatives became more apparent as the decision to divorce was implemented. This supports the precepts of social exchange theory in that as alternatives increase, the stability of the relationship should decrease [Levinger, 1976]. Yet, it should be emphasized that it is impossible to determine whether the perception of increased alternatives precipitated taking action or vice versa.

Acceptance of Marital Termination and Attitudes toward Divorce

No significant differences were found between the sexes or dissolution types on the acceptance of marital termination or

TABLE 21. Analysis of Variance by Type on Comparison Level for Alternatives

Source	df	MS	F ratio
Sex (A)	1	77.84	1.92
Type (B)	2	33.53	0.83
AxB	2	17.75	0.44
Error	74	40.54	
Time Period (C)	2	187.75	22.63*
AxC	2	17.22	2.08
BxC	4	5.69	0.69
AxBxC	4	6.77	0.82
Error	148	8.30	

*p ≤ .0001.

TABLE 22. Analysis of Variance by Initiator on Comparison Level for Alternatives

Source	df	MS	F ratio
Sex (A)	1	10.42	0.22
Initiator (B)	2	48.86	1.05
AxB	2	16.55	0.36
Error	92	46.59	
Time Period (C)	2	162.89	19.51*
AxC	2	18.64	2.23
BxC	4	5.59	0.67
AxBxC	4	6.33	0.76
Error	184	8.35	

*p ≤ .0001.

the attitudes toward divorce (see Appendix L). No significant differences were noted between those who initially suggested divorce and those who did not in terms of acceptance. Furthermore, no significant differences were found between those who moved out when partners decided to separate and those who did not. Finally, no significant differences on acceptance or attitudes were noted between those who filed for divorce and those who were respondents.

Relationship History Variables and
Dissolution Events

One significant difference was found between dissolution types on the relationship history variables (see Appendix P). Post-hoc analysis indicated that participants in rapid dissolutions reported that their parents were less supportive of their decision to marry than participants in extended dissolutions. No significant differences were noted between types on the dissolution events.

One significant difference was found between the sexes on the relationship history variables (see Appendix O). Post-hoc analysis revealed that male participants were significantly older than female participants when they married. This is congruent with census data which report that the median age at first marriage for men is 2.4 years older than that of women [Eshelman, 1981].

One trend was noted on the dissolution events. It seems that more women may initially suggest dissolving the marital relationship than men. This would be congruent with previous research [Zeiss, Zeiss, and Johnson, 1981].

Additional Analyses

Stepwise multiple regression was utilized in constructing two predictive models of the probability of marital dissolution and the acceptance of marital termination at three time periods during the dissolution process. Three criteria were considered in order to ascertain the best explanatory model: (a) the multiple correlation coefficient ($\underline{R}^2$), a measure of explained variance in the dependent variable accounted for by the independent variables; (b) the level of error within the model; and (c) a $\underline{C}_p$ statistic lower than the number of parameters in the model, a measure of bias present in the model (Neter and Wasserman, 1974).

Predicting the Probability of Marital Dissolution

The mean chance of divorce scores were regressed on love, conflict, ambivalence, maintenance, trust, and marital satisfaction for each time period. These variables were selected because they assess salient dimensions of the marital relationship. The results of the regression analyses were as follows:

Recognition. Three relationship dimensions predicted marital dissolution during the recognition period in the following order: (a) conflict, (b) marital satisfaction, and (c) maintenance (see Table 23). Conflict and marital satisfaction were negatively related and maintenance was positively related to the probability of marital dissolution at this time. These three variables accounted

TABLE 23. Regression on Chance of Divorce at Time Period 1 (Recognition)

Dimension	F to enter	P of entering variable	R^2	R^2 change	MSE	Cp	Simple r
Conflict	3.54	.063	0.0336	0.0336	600.24	8.58	-0.183
Marital Satisfaction	4.62	.034	0.0758	0.0422	579.67	5.87	-0.151
Maintenance	5.47	.021	0.1237	0.0479	555.10	2.54	0.115
Love	0.28	.600	0.1262	0.0025	559.14	4.26	-0.033
Ambivalence	0.25	.617	0.1284	0.0022	563.40	6.02	-0.027
Trust	0.02	.904	0.1286	0.0002	569.12	8.00	-0.011

for 12.4 percent of the variance in chance of divorce scores. Moreover, with a C_p statistic (2.54) being lower than the number of parameters in the model (4), bias was minimized.

Discussion. Three relationship dimensions predicted marital dissolution during the discussion period in the following order: (a) marital satisfaction, (b) conflict, and (c) maintenance (see Table 24). An inverse relationship was found between the chance of divorce and all three variables. These variables accounted for 10.2 percent of the variance, and bias within the model was limited.

Action. Three relationship dimensions predicted marital dissolution once action has been initiated on the divorce decision in the following order: (a) ambivalence, (b) trust, and (c) love (see Table 25). Dyadic trust was positively related to the chance of divorce while the other predictor variables were negatively correlated with chance of divorce. The three variables accounted for 16.1 percent of the variance and the C_p statistic (3.48) was lower than the number of parameters in the model.

Conflict, marital satisfaction, and maintenance behaviors were the strongest predictors of the probability of marital dissolution during the recognition and discussion periods of the divorce process. It is interesting to note that the direction of the relationship between maintenance behaviors and the chance of divorce changed from positive during the recognition period to negative during discussion. This makes sense in light of the maintenance

TABLE 24. Regression on Chance of Divorce at Time Period 2 (Discussion)

Dimension	F to enter	P of entering variable	R^2	R^2 change	MSE	Cp	Simple r
Marital Satisfaction	7.51	.007	0.0719	0.0719	665.24	1.83	-0.268
Conflict	2.76	.100	0.0978	0.0259	653.41	1.16	-0.100
Maintenance	0.43	.516	0.1018	0.0040	657.34	2.74	-0.191
Love	0.36	.552	0.1052	0.0034	661.82	4.39	-0.149
Trust	0.26	.609	0.1077	0.0025	667.04	6.13	0.002
Ambivalence	0.13	.720	0.1090	0.0013	673.35	8.00	-0.070

TABLE 25. Regression on Chance of Divorce at Time Period 3 (Action)

Dimension	F to enter	P of entering variable	R^2	R^2 change	MSE	Cp	Simple r
Ambivalence	13.59	.0001	0.1218	0.1218	68.42	3.93	-0.349
Trust	2.23	.139	0.1415	0.0197	67.58	3.71	0.179
Love	2.27	.135	0.1613	0.0198	66.71	3.48	-0.183
Marital Satisfaction	0.71	.403	0.1675	0.0062	66.91	4.78	-0.051
Conflict	0.42	.518	0.1712	0.0037	67.32	6.37	-0.186
Maintenance	0.37	.544	0.1745	0.0033	67.78	7.99	-0.257

behavior scale. This scale assesses communication behaviors engaged in by members of the couple to reduce costs and maximize benefits from the relationship. If, as Levinger [1980] has suggested, an early warning sign of relationship problems is closer scrutiny of costs and benefits received by remaining within the relationship, then one would expect the partners to engage in such behaviors when they begin to experience marital problems. However, once open discussion about the possibility of divorce begins between partners or with others, the direction changes such that as maintenance behaviors decrease the chance of divorce increases. It may be that some time in the course of these discussions either partner realizes the futility of attempting to maintain the ailing marriage and thus begins to invest less in the relationship. As either partner's emotional involvement is withdrawn, marital satisfaction and conflict may decrease because the quality and quantity of interaction between partners may diminish in response to the partners' disengagement.

The relationship between marital satisfaction and the probability of dissolution was as expected. Such a relationship is postulated in theoretical arguments [Laner, 1979; Lewis and Spanier, 1979]. In addition, empirical research has shown that as marital satisfaction decreases, partners are more likely to consider divorce [Booth and White, 1980]. Thompson and Spanier [1982] noted that a third of the men and almost half of the women in their study rated their marriages as extremely unhappy in retrospect.

The inverse relationship between conflict and chance of divorce may be explained by reviewing the divorce counseling studies. The probability of divorce increases as the level of conflict decreases. This makes sense in that intense conflict may prolong the decision to dissolve the marriage indefinitely. Another explanation might be that the lack of overt conflict is due to the repression of negative affect which in turn might decrease overall satisfaction with the marital relationship, which is thus related to higher chance of divorce. Furthermore, since there are no socially sanctioned means of communicating such negative feelings, Duck [1982] suggests that there is a tendency for partners to avoid overt conflict and communicate only slight negative affect during the early stages of withdrawal because of ambivalent feelings toward the fate of the relationship. However, the positive correlation found between ambivalence and conflict do not support this suggestion (Recognition: $r = .30$; Discussion: $r = .45$).

Feelings of love and marital satisfaction continue to decrease as the divorce decision is implemented. Thompson and Spanier [1982] reported that over 70 percent of their respondents recalled not showing love as a problem in the final months of marriage, while half reported that they frequently or always disagreed about demonstrations of affection and sexual relations. As ambivalence toward the fate of the marriage decreases, the chance of divorce increases; that is to say, as intrapersonal conflict was resolved or at least lessened, the action to dissolve the relationship was initiated.

The certainty of the action period may account for the increase in trust between partners since the very filing for dissolution confirms the intent to divorce.

Predicting Acceptance of Marital Termination

The acceptance of marital termination scores served as a dependent measure in the second regression analysis, and the relationship dimensions (love, conflict, maintenance, ambivalence, trust, marital satisfaction) and comparison level for alternatives were independent variables. The regressions for each time period were as follows:

Recognition. Three relationship dimensions predicted acceptance during recognition in the following order: (a) love, (b) comparison level for alternatives, and (c) ambivalence (see Table 26). The regression analysis revealed a negative relationship between acceptance and love, and a positive relationship for CLalt and ambivalence. These three variables accounted for 17.4 percent of the variance in the acceptance of marital termination. Furthermore, since the C_p statistic (0.98) was much smaller than the number of parameters in the model (4), bias was minimized.

Discussion. Three dimensions predicted acceptance during the discussion period in the following order: (a) love, (b) CLalt, and (c) maintenance (see Table 27). Love and CLalt continue to be the strongest predictors with negative and positive relationships to acceptance respectively. Maintenance was inversely related to

TABLE 26. Regression on Acceptance of Marital Termination at Time Period 1 (Recognition)

Dimension	F to enter	P of entering variable	R^2	R^2 change	MSE	Cp	Simple r
Love	16.58	.0001	0.1398	0.1398	36.24	0.97	-0.374
CL_{alt}	2.40	.125	0.1598	0.0200	35.75	0.63	0.240
Ambivalence	1.70	.196	0.1738	0.0140	35.51	0.98	0.299
Maintenance	0.79	.376	0.1803	0.0065	35.58	2.22	-0.141
Conflict	0.07	.786	0.1809	0.0006	35.92	4.14	0.049
Marital Satisfaction	0.08	.785	0.1816	0.0007	36.26	6.07	-0.301
Trust	0.08	.773	0.1823	0.0007	36.61	7.99	-0.114

TABLE 27. Regression on Acceptance of Marital Termination at Time Period 2 (Discussion)

Dimension	F to enter	P of entering variable	R^2	R^2 change	MSE	Cp	Simple r
Love	20.41	.0001	0.1739	0.1739	33.50	7.53	-0.417
CL$_{alt}$	6.38	.013	0.2253	0.0514	31.74	3.15	0.364
Maintenance	2.91	.091	0.2483	0.0230	31.12	2.29	-0.141
Conflict	1.48	.228	0.2599	0.0116	30.96	2.85	0.149
Marital Satisfaction	0.80	.373	0.2663	0.0063	31.03	4.06	-0.322
Trust	0.06	.815	0.2667	0.0004	31.35	6.01	-0.101
Ambivalence	0.02	.888	0.2669	0.0002	31.69	7.99	0.203

acceptance. These variables accounted for 24.8 percent of the variance, and bias within the model was limited.

Action. Five dimensions predicted acceptance of marital termination once action had been taken on the divorce decision in the following order: (a) love, (b) CLalt, (c) trust, (d) maintenance, and (e) ambivalence (see Table 28). Love, maintenance, and ambivalence are negatively correlated with acceptance, and CLalt and trust had a positive relationship. The five variables accounted for 33.6 percent of the variance and the C_p statistic (5.32) was lower than the number of parameters in the model.

For all three time periods, the strongest predictors of acceptance of marital termination were love and CLalt. The relationships were always in the same direction such that as feelings of love decrease and perceived alternatives increase, acceptance also increases. The relationship between acceptance and ambivalence noted during this period conforms closely to the interaction found between initiators and ambivalence. Initiators were already tangling with the concerns and intrapersonal conflict which might accompany separation and divorce, and thus may be more prepared for accepting the possibility of dissolution early in the divorce process.

During the discussion and action periods, the inverse relationship between maintenance and acceptance makes sense. One would expect that the more time and effort spent in trying to maintain the marital relationship, the less accepting one will be toward its

TABLE 28. Regression on Acceptance of Marital Termination at Time Period 3 (Action)

Dimension	F to enter	P of entering variable	R^2	R^2 change	MSE	Cp	Simple r
Love	34.52	.0001	0.2605	0.2605	31.48	7.91	-0.510
CL_{alt}	3.58	.061	0.2868	0.0263	30.67	6.21	0.393
Trust	2.90	.092	0.3077	0.0209	30.08	5.28	0.049
Maintenance	1.13	.290	0.3159	0.0082	30.04	6.13	-0.249
Ambivalence	2.83	.096	0.3359	0.0200	29.48	5.32	-0.237
Marital Satisfaction	1.14	.288	0.3439	0.0080	29.43	6.19	-0.154
Conflict	0.18	.670	0.3452	0.0013	29.69	8.00	-0.161

termination. By the time action is taken on the decision to divorce, love and CLalt are still strong predictors. Ambivalence is now negatively related so as the degree of ambivalence decreases toward the fate of the marriage, acceptance increases. This is supported by the work of Kressel et al. [1980] and Weiss [1975]. The positive relationship noted between dyadic trust and acceptance was not unexpected. The more trust between partners the more acceptance of the dissolution.

Limitations of the Study

There are several limitations of the present study which bear mentioning. Since the sample was drawn primarily through county court records only those who had already filed for divorce were identified. Therefore, all participants had to think back and recall the dissolution process. This, however, is a concern which can only be alleviated by following a sample of married persons over time, anticipating some may move toward separation and divorce. Given the constraints of time, financial support, and the assurance that some of the sample will eventually divorce, such a longitudinal design is not practical. A retrospective interview technique was considered the most pragmatic means of gathering information about the divorce process.

Although retrospective techniques such as those used in this study are commonly used in the social sciences with positive results, they are not without certain limitations [Huston et al., 1981; Lloyd, 1982]. The major criticism of such designs has been

the accuracy of recall. Three steps were taken to minimize faulty recall in this study. First, the interviews began by asking participants to provide an open-ended description of their divorce in order to enhance their ability to remember events. Second, data on the critical events during the dissolution process were gathered in a chronological order, with the respondents using a timeline to order these events. Finally, the participants were given several opportunities to check on the accuracy of their recollections, and to make any corrections or additions to their reports.

A second limitation was that the sample included only those individuals who agreed without compensation to be interviewed. Nothing can be said about those who chose not to be involved in this project. In addition, most data were collected from divorced individuals rather than former partners. There is little doubt that former partners would be preferred to individuals. Weiss [1975] has pointed out that each partner may construct a very different account of the dissolution. However, there are enormous methodological difficulties in terms of obtaining cooperation of both partners, not the least of which is the high mobility of divorced individuals.

CHAPTER V

IMPLICATIONS AND CONCLUSIONS

The purpose of this study was to gather basic information about the divorce process and develop a typology of marital dissolution. Three dissolution types were derived from participants' graphic representations of the divorce process. These types were undifferentiated on the basis of certain relationship dimensions. The question now becomes one of how these findings compare to past research, and what implications can be drawn for future research. Implications for past research will be divided into three areas: (a) theoretical explanations, (b) sequential models, and (c) previous typological descriptions. Then, implications for future research will be explored.

Implications for Theoretical Explanations

It will be recalled that Laner's [1978] theoretical perspective related marital dissolution to cultural, societal, dyadic, and individual level factors. The degree of marital conflict which was unresolvable, and the degree of satisfaction in and with the marriage were primary precursors to marital dissolution at the dyadic and individual levels respectively. These two variables and their relationship to marital dissolution was of special interest given the findings of this study. The three-way interactions on conflict and marital satisfaction found in this study were not clearly understood. Moreover, these interactions between

the sexes, dissolution types, and time periods have no precedent in past research. The salience of these two variables was further supported by the fact that they were both strong predictors of the probability of divorce during the recognition and discussion periods. Nonetheless, the relationship between these variables and marital dissolution may not be as direct as Laner [1978] has postulated.

Contrary to what one would expect, marital satisfaction is an area that has received very little attention in the study of divorce. In their review of the literature on marital satisfaction and dissolution, Hicks and Platt [1970] conclude that the relationship between the two variables is one of the most significant gaps in the literature. In terms of sex differences, Peplau and Gordon [in press] discussed past research which suggested that marital satisfaction has somewhat different determinants for men and for women. An examination of the factors that contribute to satisfaction (or dissatisfaction) for both sexes during the dissolution of marital relationships is an important direction for future research.

Research in the area of conflict and heterosexual relationships has reported that men and women use different strategies to influence each other. Men are more likely to use direct and assertive strategies whereas women are more likely to use indirect and unilateral strategies [Peplau and Gordon, in press]. Kelley, Cunningham, Grisham, Lefebvre, Sink, and Yablon [1978] have proposed that these sex differences stem from differential socialization patterns for men and women. Harvey, Wells, and Alvarez [1978], in an

an exploratory study of separated individuals, reported that there were sex differences on the basis of partner's attributions concerning conflict during separation and divorce. This seems to be obscured further by Weiss, Hope, and Patterson's [1973] suggestion that a considerable degree of vagueness on the part of both partners exists in many cases of conflict. Thus, conclusive work on conflict and marital dissolution has yet to be presented.

It is interesting to note, however, that Kressel et al. [1980] use conflict as one measure upon which they based their typology of divorcing couples. The measurement of conflict in their study was done by an objective party rather than asking the participants for their perceptions. The problem with such an approach lies in the fact that an outsider may not be interpreting conflictual interactions in the same manner that the partners do. In other words, the observers may label a particular couple as exhibiting a high degree of conflict, but if the partners were asked about it, they might say that such interactions were mutually understood patterns.

The developmental trends found in certain relationship dimensions lend support for the models proposed by Levinger [1976], and Edwards and Saunders [1981]. As participants moved closer to divorce, love, maintenance, ambivalence, and dyadic trust decreased and alternatives increased. These findings confirm the idea that dissolution occurs as a result of a decrease in attractions and an increase in alternatives.

Implications for Sequential Models

The sequential models suggested by clinicians and therapists received the most support from this study. The results of the present study found clear differences between three time periods during the divorce process. It will be recalled that the process was initiated with the recognition of significant marital dissatisfaction that might lead to divorce. Recognition was followed by a period of discussion in which the possibility of dissolving the marriage was shared with others. Finally, the action period started when the divorce decision was implemented. The fact that significant differences were found between these three time periods on measures of love, conflict, maintenance, ambivalence, marital satisfaction, dyadic trust, and alternatives clarifies how these emotions, behaviors, and assessments change or differ as the divorce process moves from intrapersonal recognition, and interpersonal discussion to public acknowledgment of the divorce. These findings support the work of Brown [1976], Ahrons [1980], and Vaughan [1979] in the sense that the models were similar in their conceptualization of the divorce process.

Implications for Previous Typological
Descriptions

This study supports the work of Kressel et al. [1980] and Hagestad and Smyer [1982] by describing dissolution as a multidimensional process. However, the lack of any significant findings between dissolution types on the relationship dimensions was

unexpected. This may be due to the fact that the participants were emprically clustered according to the properties of the dissolution trajectories they constructed. The three dissolution types were clearly differentiated by the trajectory properties. Kressel et al. [1980] and Hagestad and Smyer [1982] developed their respective typologies intuitively on the basis of certain social psychological dimensions (e.g., withdrawal of emotional involvement, conflict, and control over the decision to divorce). This study considered similar dimensions; however, these dimensions were employed to differentiate the dissolution types rather than determine them.

The findings of this study concur with Weiss' [1975] work. Weiss [1975] noted very similar emotional experiences for the divorced individuals in his investigations regardless of the length of their marriages. Divorced individuals in this study were not differentiated by the relationship dimensions regardless of dissolution type. It seems divorce may elicit similar emotional experiences regardless of how partners finally arrive at the decision to dissolve their marriages.

Implications for Future Research

The findings of this study suggest several directions for future research. Implications for future research will be discussed in two areas: (a) methodological improvements in the present study and (b) methodological implications for research on the process of marital dissolution.

The retrospective interview technique used in this study in conjunction with a longitudinal design may insure more accurate reports of ongoing behaviors and feelings as well as an assessment of the entire dissolution process. Ideally, a sample of couples would be followed over time, and retrospective interviews would be incorporated at either established time intervals (e.g., every six months) or after significant events (e.g., marriage, birth of a child, divorce, etc.). This type of design would allow researchers to compare intact marriages with those that dissolve. It would also place the dissolution process in the context of the entire relationship, which in turn would allow researchers the opportunity to check the impact of many aspects of the relationship history on the divorce.

Future researchers might use other instrumentation that is more sensitive to differences between dissolution types. The Braiker and Kelley [1978] relationship dimensions were generated by married couples when they were asked about the development of their relationships. It would be interesting to see if divorced couples asked about the dissolution of their relationships would generate similar or different dimensions. In addition, dissolution types might be differentiated by variables such as couple communication patterns [Miller and Parks, 1982], role relationships [Chiriboga and Thurnher, 1980], social and cultural influences [LaGaipa, 1982; Berscheid and Campbell, 1981], and emotional adjustment after the dissolution [Spanier and Casto, 1979].

Many other interesting research questions arise from the findings of this study. The forces and feelings that press upon individuals at different times during the divorce process seem to differ and change as things proceed. Selected dimensions of the marital relationships of the participants in this study exhibited significant developmental changes across the three time periods. It may prove helpful, therefore, to use different research techniques in order to illuminate how these dimensions change within each period. For instance, self-report techniques may be the most conducive means of gathering information during the recognition period because of the intrapersonal nature of the period. However, as individuals move into the interpersonal discussion period, research techniques that focus on communication processes may be more beneficial, especially in light of work such as Fitzpatrick's [1977] typology of couples on the basis of their communication patterns. Couples with different communication patterns may move through the dissolution process in different ways. In addition, the use of network identification procedures [Johnson, 1982] and behavioral research techniques [Weiss, 1978] may prove helpful. Observational techniques might be utilized with couples in a mediation setting in order to secure more information about the action period [i.e., Kressel et al., 1980].

Future investigators may want to explore in more depth the dimensions of conflict and marital satisfaction since neither has yet received much empirical scrutiny, and unexpected interactions between the sexes, types, and time periods were found in this study.

These interactions emphasize the importance of considering gender differences when studying interactional processes. The expansion of the study sample by collecting data from divorced couples rather than individuals may assist researchers in understanding the perceptions and adjustment of the couple to divorce.

Another area that bears investigation is the importance of causal attributions about the dissolution of the marriage [Harvey, Weber, Yarkin, and Stewart, 1982]. A basic assumption behind this line of investigation is that when individuals experience a major, novel, and possibly unexpected life change such as divorce, they find it necessary to provide explanations for the event--if not to themselves and each other, at least to people outside the relationship. It would be interesting to investigate how such attributions are related to the dissolution types found in this study. Subsequent analysis of the critical events which occurred for participants as they progressed toward divorce may offer further insights into this question.

This study has added to the available knowledge on marital dissolution. Three types of marital dissolution were described. This study also described how selected relationship dimensions changed as individuals progressed through the divorce process. Perhaps the largest contribution of this study is that it provides a foundation from which additional research may be conducted.

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APPENDICES

APPENDIX A

Letter to Participants

School of
Home Economics

Oregon State University

Corvallis, Oregon 97331   (503) 754-3551

We are writing to ask for your cooperation in a study we are
conducting concerning marital dissolution. We are interested in
finding out how people decide to divorce and how the dissolution of
one couple's marriage differs from another's. Your name was found in
the public records of petitions for dissolution of marriage in the
county courthouse. In fact, your former spouse may receive this same
letter.

If you are able to participate, an interviewer from our research
staff will make an appointment to talk with you at your convenience.
The interview requires that you talk to us about what your divorce
experience was like for you. The interview can be done in your home
or in our offices on campus, whichever is most convenient for you.
You can expect the interviews to take between 1 and 2 hours of your
time.

Your interview will be strictly confidential, and your name will
never be associated with any information given us. The
confidentiality of your interview is protected by the rigid
guidelines of Oregon State University. Information gathered in all
of the interviews will be pooled and used to formulate general
research reports. If you participate, we will gladly send you a
report of our general findings.

Would you please phone our office when it is convenient for you so
that we can set up an appointment? We want to give you the
opportunity to find out as much about the study as you wish. If you
would like to participate or if you have any questions at all, please
do not hesitate to call. Our phone number is 754-4766. Your
cooperation is greatly appreciated. If we are not in when you call,
please leave a message and your call will be returned.

Sincerely,

James J. Ponzetti, Jr.
Principal Investigator
Human Development & Family Studies

Rodney Cate, Ph.D.
Project Director
Human Development & Family Studies

APPENDIX B

Informed Consent

INFORMED CONSENT

To the participant:

　　This is a study of how marriages dissolve. We know there is great variability in how marriages change over time, and that there is no typical marriage. We are not interested in how your marriage was similar to others, but rather we are interested in the ways your marital relationship might have been different or unique. You will be asked to describe your marital relationship, and we will ask you questions to help you fill in the details. You will also be asked to fill out questionnaires that tap how you felt about your marriage at different points in time.

　　These procedures should not take longer than two hours. Through this experience, you may come to know some of the reasons why marriages change. Your contribution will add much to the little knowledge that is available in this field. Your name will never be connected with your particular answers and only members of our qualified research team will have access to any information you provide.

◆ ◆

This is to certify that I, _____, hereby agree to participate as a volunteer in a scientific investigation as an authorized part of the educational and research program of Oregon State University under the supervision of Dr. Rodney Cate, Assistant Professor of Human Development and Family Studies.

This investigation has been fully explained to me by _____ and I understand the explanation. The procedures are described on this form and have been discussed in detail with me. I have been given an opportunity to ask whatever questions I may have had and all such questions and inquiries have been answered to my satisfaction. I understand that I am free to deny any answer to specific items or questions in the interview or in the questionnaire.

I understand that any data or answers to questions will remain confidential with regard to my identity. I further understand that I am free to withdraw my consent and terminate my participation at any time.

_____　　　　　　_____
　　　(Date)　　　　　　　　　　　　　　(Participant's Signature)

I, the undersigned, have defined and fully explained the investigation to the above person.

_____　　　　　　_____
　　　(Date)　　　　　　　　　　　　　　(Interviewer's Signature)

APPENDIX C

Questionnaires

C-1. Relationship Dimensions Scales

<u>I.</u>

The following questions are items concerning certain aspects of your marriage at a specific time period. Please answer these questions for the period in your marriage when you <u>first recognized a significant degree of dissatisfaction either on your part or that of your former partner that made you think your problems might lead to divorce.</u> In answering these questions, you are to pick the number of "1" to "9" that best describes how much, or to what extent, the statement describes your marital relationship as it was at this particular time period. The following is an example of how a question might be answered:

How much did you worry about getting hurt emotionally by your partner, that is, how emotionally vulnerable did you feel?

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
Not at all				Moderately				Very much

If you worried not at all about being hurt, you would circle the number "1".

If you worried moderately, you would circle the number "5".

If you worried very much, you would circle the number "9".

If your amount of worry were somewhere between "not at all" and "moderately," you would circle either number "2", "3", or "4", depending on the extent of your feeling.

If your amount of worry were somewhere between "very much" and "moderately," you would circle either number "6", "7", or "8", depending on the extent of your feeling.

Please complete the following set of questions for the time you <u>first recognized a significant degree of dissatisfaction either on your part or that of your former partner that made you think your problems might lead to divorce.</u>

<u>II.</u>

The following questions are items concerning certain aspects of your marriage at a specific time period. Please answer these questions for the period in your marriage when you <u>first openly discussed</u> <u>the possibility</u> that <u>your marriage may end in divorce with others</u> <u>such as your former partner, family, friends, a counselor or minister</u> etc. In answering these questions, you are to pick the number from "1" to "9" that best describes how much, or to what extent, the statement describes your marital relationship as it was at this particular time period. The following is an example of how a question might be answered:

How much did you worry about getting hurt emotionally by your partner, that is, how emotionally vulnerable did you feel?

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
Not at all				Moderately				Very much

If you worried not at all about being hurt, you would circle the number "1".

If you worried moderately, you would circle the number "5".

If you worried very much, you would circle the number "9".

If your amount of worry were somewhere between "not at all" and "moderately," you would circle either number "2", "3", or "4", depending on the extent of your feeling.

If your amount of worry were somewhere between "very much" and "moderately," you would circle either number "6", "7", or "8", depending on the extent of your feeling.

Please complete the following set of questions for the time you <u>first openly discussed the possibility</u> that <u>your marriage may end</u> <u>in divorce with others such as your former partner, family, friends,</u> <u>a counselor or minister</u>, etc.

<u>III.</u>

The following questions are items concerning certain aspects of your marriage at a specific time period. Please answer these questions for the period in your marriage when <u>either</u> <u>you</u> <u>or</u> <u>your</u> <u>former</u> <u>partner</u> <u>actually</u> <u>filed</u> <u>for</u> <u>divorce</u>. In answering these questions, you are to pick the number from "1" to "9" that best describes how much, or to what extent, the statement describes your marital relationship as it was at this particular time period. The following is an example of how a question might be answered:

How much did you worry about getting hurt emotionally by your partner, that is, how emotionally vulnerable did you feel?

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
Not at all				Moderately				Very much

If you worried not at all about being hurt, you would circle the number "1".

If you worried moderately, you would circle the number "5".

If you worried very much, you would circle the number "9".

If your amount of worry were somewhere between "not at all" and "moderately," you would circle either number "2", "3", or "4", depending on the extent of your feeling.

If your amount of worry were somewhere between "very much" and "moderately," you would circle either number "6", "7", or "8", depending on the extent of your feeling.

Please complete the following set of questions for the time when <u>either</u> <u>you</u> <u>or</u> <u>your</u> <u>former</u> <u>partner</u> <u>actually</u> <u>filed</u> <u>for</u> <u>divorce</u>.

1. To what extent did you have a sense of belonging with your partner?

```
1      2      3      4      5      6      7      8      9
Not at all                                      Very much
```

2. To what extent did you reveal or disclose very intimate facts about yourself to your partner?

```
1      2      3      4      5      6      7      8      9
Not at all                                      Very much
```

3. How often did you and your partner argue with one another?

```
1      2      3      4      5      6      7      8      9
Not at all                                      Very much
```

4. How much do you feel you "gave" to the relationship?

```
1      2      3      4      5      6      7      8      9
Not at all                                      Very much
```

5. To what extent did you try to change things about your partner that bothered you (e.g., behaviors, attitudes, etc.)?

```
1      2      3      4      5      6      7      8      9
Not at all                                      Very much
```

6. How confused were you about your feelings toward your partner?

```
1      2      3      4      5      6      7      8      9
Not at all                                      Very much
```

7. To what extent did you love your partner at this stage?

```
1      2      3      4      5      6      7      8      9
Not at all                                      Very much
```

8. How much time did you and your partner spend discussing and trying to work out problems between you?

```
1      2      3      4      5      6      7      8      9
Not at all                                      Very much
```

9. How much time did you think about or worry about losing some of your independence by getting involved with your partner?

```
1      2      3      4      5      6      7      8      9
Not at all                                      Very much
```

10. To what extent did you feel that the things that happened to your partner also affected or were important to you?

1   2   3   4   5   6   7   8   9
Not at all   Very much

11. How much did you and your partner talk about the quality of your relationship, e.g., how "good" it was, how "satisfying," how to improve it, etc."

1   2   3   4   5   6   7   8   9
Not at all   Very much

12. How often did you feel angry or resentful toward your partner?

1   2   3   4   5   6   7   8   9
Not at all   Very much

13. To what extent did you feel that your relationship was somewhat unique compared to others you'd been in?

1   2   3   4   5   6   7   8   9
Not at all   Very much

14. To what extent did you try to change your own behavior to help solve certain problems between you and your partner?

1   2   3   4   5   6   7   8   9
Not at all   Very much

15. How ambivalent or unsure were you about continuing in the relationship with your partner?

1   2   3   4   5   6   7   8   9
Not at all   Very much

16. How committed did you feel toward your partner?

1   2   3   4   5   6   7   8   9
Not at all   Very much

17. How close did you feel to your partner?

1   2   3   4   5   6   7   8   9
Not at all   Very much

18. To what extent did you feel that your partner demanded or required too much of your time?

```
1        2        3        4        5        6        7        8        9
Not at all                                                      Very much
```

19. How much did you need your partner at this stage?

```
1        2        3        4        5        6        7        8        9
Not at all                                                      Very much
```

20. To what extent did you feel "trapped" or pressured to continue this relationship?

```
1        2        3        4        5        6        7        8        9
Not at all                                                      Very much
```

21. How sexually intimate were you with your partner?

```
1        2        3        4        5        6        7        8        9
Not at all                                                      Very much
```

22. How much did you tell your partner what you wanted or needed from the relationship?

```
1        2        3        4        5        6        7        8        9
Not at all                                                      Very much
```

23. How attached did you feel to your partner?

```
1        2        3        4        5        6        7        8        9
Not at all                                                      Very much
```

24. When you and your partner argued, how serious were the problems or arguments?

```
1        2        3        4        5        6        7        8        9
Not at all                                                      Very much
```

25. To what extent did you communicate negative feelings toward your partner--e.g., anger, dissatisfaction, frustration, etc.?

```
1        2        3        4        5        6        7        8        9
Not at all                                                      Very much
```

C-2. Dyadic Trust Scale

In answering these questions, circle a number from "1" to "7" indicating whether you agree or disagree with each statement.

	Disagree			Moderately Agree			Agree
1. My partner was primarily interested in his/her own welfare.	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
2. There were times when my partner could not be trusted.	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
3. My partner was perfectly honest and truthful with me.	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
4. I felt I could trust my partner completely.	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
5. My partner was truly sincere in his/her promises.	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
6. I felt that my partner did not show me enough consideration.	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
7. My partner treated me fairly and justly.	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8. I felt that my partner could be counted on to help me.	1	2	3	4	5	6	7

C-3. Marital Satisfaction Scale

All things considered, how satisfied or dissatisfied were you with your marriage during this time?

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Completely dissatisfied			Neutral			Completely satisfied

C-4. Marital Alternatives Scale

If your marriage had ended during this time (that is, [I., when you first recognized a significant degree of dissatisfaction either on your part or that of your former partner that made you think your problems might lead to divorce; II., when you first openly discussed the possibility that your marriage may end in divorce with others such as your former partner, family, friends, a counselor or minister, etc.; III., when either you or your former partner actually filed for divorce]), how likely do you imagine each of the following would have been?

HOW LIKELY WAS IT THAT:	Impossible	Possible but Unlikely	Probable	Certain
1. You could have found another partner better than this one.	1	2	3	4
2. You could have found another partner as good as this one.	1	2	3	4
3. You would have been quite satisfied without a partner.	1	2	3	4
4. You would have been sad, but have gotten over it quickly.	1	2	3	4
5. You would have been able to live as well as you do now.	1	2	3	4
6. You would have been able to take care of yourself.	1	2	3	4
7. You would have been better off economically.	1	2	3	4
8. Your prospects for a happy future would have been bleak.	1	2	3	4
9. There are many other partners you could have been happy with.	1	2	3	4
10. You could have supported yourself at your present level.	1	2	3	4
11. Your life would have been ruined.	1	2	3	4

C-5. Acceptance of Marital Termination Scale

DIRECTIONS: In answering these questions, circle a number from "1" to "4" which best reflects your current feelings.

	Not at all	Slightly	Somewhat	Very much
1. I find myself spending a lot of time thinking about my former spouse.	1	2	3	4
2. Sometimes I just can't believe that we got a divorce (separation).	1	2	3	4
3. I find myself wondering what my former spouse is doing.	1	2	3	4
4. I went ahead with the divorce (separation) only because it was what my former spouse wanted.	1	2	3	4
5. I feel as if I've been dumped.	1	2	3	4
6. Perhaps with all things considered, we should have tried longer.	1	2	3	4
7. This has been coming for a long time, and I'm glad we've finally made the break.	1	2	3	4
8. I feel as if this is a horrible mistake.	1	2	3	4
9. It isn't an easy decision to divorce (separate from) your spouse, but basically I'm relieved.	1	2	3	4
10. I feel I will never get over the divorce (separation).	1	2	3	4
11. Divorce is one of the most tragic things that can happen to a person.	1	2	3	4

C-6. Attitudes Toward Divorce Scale

DIRECTIONS: In answering these questions, circle a number from "1" to "4" which best reflects your current feelings.

	Strongly disagree	Disagree	Agree	Strongly agree
1. I feel that divorce is a sensible solution to many unhappy marriages.	1	2	3	4
2. Marriage is a sacred covenant which should be broken only under drastic circumstances.	1	2	3	4
3. If a married couple finds getting along with each other a real struggle, then they should not feel obligated to remain married.	1	2	3	4
4. Children need a home with both a father and a mother even though the parents are not especially suited to one another.	1	2	3	4

APPENDIX D

Record of Dissolution Events

Dissolution Events

Please tell me if and when each of the following
events occurred:

		Month	Year

1. When did you first think your marriage
    might end in divorce? _____ _____

2. When were you first <u>certain</u> your marriage
    was going to end in <u>divorce?</u> _____ _____

3. When did you first separate, even for just
    a short time? _____ _____

4. When did you finally separate for good? _____ _____

5. When would you say any serious degree of
    commitment was over between you and your
    former spouse? _____ _____

6. How long were you married to your former
    spouse? _____ years.

7. Who first suggested getting divorced? (circle one)

    1 wife
    2 husband
    3 both
    4 other (please specify _____)

8. Who actually moved out when you finally separated? (circle one)

    1 wife
    2 husband
    3 both
    4 other (please specify _____)

9. Who filed for divorce? (circle one)

    1 wife
    2 husband
    3 both

10. Did you or your former spouse contest the divorce? (circle one)

    1 wife contested
    2 husband contested
    3 not contested

11. How long have you and your former spouse actually been (physically) separated? _____(months) (years).

12. How long ago was your divorce actually granted? _____(months) (years).

13. Were there other significant events as you were dissolving your relationship with your former spouse that you found particularly impactful? (please list)

_____

_____

_____

_____

APPENDIX E

Critical Events Recording Sheet

CRITICAL EVENTS RECORDING SHEET

.E.# _____ Date: _____ to _____

_____

_____

_____

_____

.E.# _____ Date: _____ to _____

_____

_____

_____

_____

.E.# _____ Date: _____ to _____

_____

_____

_____

_____

.E.# _____ Date: _____ to _____

_____

_____

_____

_____

.E.# _____ Date: _____ to _____

_____

_____

_____

_____

APPENDIX F

Relationship History Questions

Questions Regarding Relationship History

1. How many serious relationships did you have prior to the one with your former spouse? (please indicate number)_____

2. In the two months prior to meeting your former spouse, how often were you dating? (circle one)

   1 very frequently
   2 frequently
   3 infrequently
   4 not at all

3. At the time of meeting your former spouse, how deeply were you involved with any other person? (circle one)

   1 seriously
   2 moderately
   3 casually
   4 not involved

4. When you met your former spouse, how many people could you have met at that time you might have been interested in? (circle one)

   1 a great number
   2 some
   3 few
   4 none

5. Immediately before meeting your former spouse, what were your general feelings about eventually marrying? (circle one)

   1 I was extremely unfavorable toward marriage
   2 I was mildly unfavorable toward marriage
   3 I was neutral toward marriage
   4 I was mildly favorable toward marriage
   5 I was extremely favorable toward marriage

6. At the time you met your former spouse, how eager did you feel your parents were to see you get married? (circle one)

   1 very eager
   2 eager
   3 indifferent
   4 not eager at all

7. Before you met your former spouse, how was it for you to develop relationships with members of the opposite sex? (circle one)

    1 very easy
    2 easy
    3 difficult
    4 very difficult

8. How long did you and your former spouse date before you were married? _____ months.

9. How old were you when you married your former spouse? _____ years.

10. How old was your former spouse when you married? ____ years.

11. Since your divorce, how has your physical health been? (circle one)

    1 excellent
    2 good
    3 fair
    4 poor

12. What degree of emotional distress did you experience after the divorce? (circle one)

    1 a great deal
    2 a moderate amount
    3 a little
    4 none

13. What degree of emotional distress do you think your partner felt? (circle one)

    1 a great deal
    2 a moderate amount
    3 a little
    4 none

14. After a divorce couples sometimes keep in contact with one another. In general, how do you feel about keeping in touch with your former spouse? (circle one)

    1 I like to maintain close contact
    2 I like some contact, but only when necessary
    3 I like no contact at all

15. Please tell me briefly, in your own words, why you think your marriage did not work out?

APPENDIX G

Demographic Information

Background Information

To help us in our analysis we need to ask you a few questions about yourself and your former partner:

1. What is your sex? (circle one)

    1 Female
    2 Male

2. What is your age? _____ years

3. What is the age of your former spouse? _____ years

4. Are you currently employed? (circle one)

    1 Yes
    2 No (skip to Question 5)

    4a. What is your current occupation? (Please be specific, for example, housewife, self-employed owner of hardware store, manager of Pizza Haven, car mechanic, etc.) _____
    _____

5. Is your former spouse currently employed? (circle one)

    1 Yes
    2 No (skip to Question 6)

    5a. What is the occupation of your former spouse? _____
    _____

6. What is the highest level of schooling you have completed?
                                                    (circle one)
    1 less than high school diploma
    2 high school diploma
    3 some college
    4 college degree
    5 graduate or professional school

7. What is the highest level of schooling completed by your former partner? (circle one)

    1 less than high school diploma
    2 high school diploma
    3 some college
    4 college degree
    5 graduate or professional school

8. Before the divorce, what was your total family income before taxes? (circle one)

   1 less than 10,000
   2 10,000 to 14,999
   3 15,000 to 19,999
   4 20,000 to 24,999
   5 25,000 or above

9. Compared with American families in general, would you say this income was:

   1 far below average
   2 below average
   3 average
   4 above average
   5 far above average

10. Since you have divorced, your total income before taxes is:

    1 less than 10,000
    2 10,000 to 14,999
    3 15,000 to 19,999
    4 20,000 to 24,999
    5 25,000 or above

11. Do you feel this income is:

    1 less than adequate
    2 adequate
    3 more than adequate

12. What is your religious affiliation, if any?

    1 Catholic
    2 Protestant
    3 Jewish
    4 Other (specify _____)
    5 None (skip to Question 13)

    12a. How frequently do you attend church or religious activities?

         1 at least once a week
         2 about monthly
         3 a few times a year
         4 once a year
         5 never

13. Is there anything else you would like to say about your divorce or this interview? _____
    _____

APPENDIX H

<u>Interview Protocol</u>

INTERVIEW SCHEDULE

PART I

<u>Getting Acquainted and Obtaining</u>
<u>Informed Consent</u>

1. <u>Introduction</u>

Introduce yourself to the respondent. Let the respondent know who you are, and what you are doing here, but only in demographic terms. Spend five to ten minutes getting to know a little about the respondent, and creating a comfortable atmosphere. Do not get too familiar with interviewee.

2. <u>Informed Consent</u>

Read: Before we begin, I must get your written permission to conduct this interview. Take a minute or two to read this explanation of the study we are conducting.

(Hand respondent Informed Consent form.)

Do you have any questions about the study?

(Allow respondent to ask questions; answer in global terms.)

Your signature on this form certifies that you willingly participated in this interview. When I turn this interview packet in, this form will be stored separately from the rest of the material to assure the confidentiality of this inverview. If you have any questions, I will be glad to answer them. If you would be interested in having us mail you a summary of the findings of this study, please write your address on the back of the informed consent form.

(Make sure this is an address that is permanent, since the results won't be ready for at least seven months.)

PART II

Constructing the Relationship Graph

1. Introduction of the Graph

    Read: We are interested in finding out how marital relationships
            dissolve (or progress toward divorce). Mostly, we are in-
            terested in what made your marriage unique or different.

            We realize that there is great variability in how relation-
            ships change over time, and that there is no typical marriage.
            Indeed, marital relationships vary greatly from couple to
            couple. So, we are not interested so much in how your
            marriage was "typical," but more in how it was really
            unique.

            Basically, we want to accomplish two things in this inter-
            view: first, we will graph the dissolution of your marriage
            on this piece of graph paper. Second, you will describe your
            marriage in greater depth, by filling out a series of ques-
            tionnaires that are designed to tap various aspects of a
            relationship.

            As a final step, I will be asking you to describe the di-
            vorce itself in greater detail. In this way, we hope to
            gain a clear understanding of the dissolution of your
            marriage.

2. Relationship Events and Dates

    A.   If you had to give me a one- or two-minute description of
            your divorce, what would you say?

            *(Do not allow this description to go on for more than a few min-
            utes. You want just a general idea of the sequence of events.)*

    B.   Tell me, when did you first recognize a significant degree
            of dissatisfaction either on your part or that of your former
            partner that made you think your problems might lead to divorce?

(Mark in month and year on graph.)

Now, when was the final divorce decree granted?

(Mark in month and year on graph.)

C. Now I'd like to get a clearer picture of exactly how your marriage moved to divorce. First, I am going to mark the months and years between the initial recognition of dissatisfaction and the date of the final divorce decree.

(Fill in months and years between endpoints along the bottom of the graph.)

In order to help you remember what was happening during your divorce, I would like to know _if_ and _when_ certain events occurred.

(Read each event from the Record of Divorce Events form. Record the month and year of each event on the form. Keep this form in the respondents view throughout the remainder of the interview.)

3. Graphing Procedure

A. Now we will begin to fill in the relationship graph. Remember, we're interested in your perception of changes in the chance of you and your former partner becoming divorced. Of course, after the divorce you were 100% sure your marriage would end in divorce. When you initially recognized dissatisfaction either on your part or that of your former partner that made you think your problems might lead to divorce, the chance of divorce may have been zero, or may have been above zero. Keep in mind that changes in the chance of divorce are based on changes in _both_ _your_ _feelings_ about divorce and _your_ _partner's_ _feelings_.

As you can see, I have filled in each month during the dissolution of your marriage along the bottom of the graph. Along the vertical line, you will see the chance of divorce, from 0 to 100%. With this graph, we will be able to show how the move toward divorce progressed over time. We have chosen the chance of divorce to represent the probability that

both you and your partner felt your marriage would end at
different points in time. When you think of the chance of
divorce, think of how likely you and your former partner
were to divorce.

We realize that once spouses decide to divorce, the marital
relationship can go in many directions. It can go up, go
down, or stay at the same level. Please be as realistic
as possible when you think about the chance of divorce; it
should represent the mutual probability that your marriage
would end, rather than how much you wanted to divorce.

We will use this graph to follow the dissolution of your
marriage over time.

B.   Now what do you think the chance of divorce was at this time
when you say you first recognized a significant degree of
dissatisfaction in your marriage that made you think your
problems might lead to divorce?

*(Point to the beginning point on graph. Mark chance on graph
with a dot.)*

At what month were you first aware that the chance of divorce
was different from this point, either up or down?

What was the chance of divorce at that time?

(Mark with a dot above the appropriate month.)

Now we must connect these two points with the proper line.
What should the line look like between these two dots? Was
this a gradual increase/decrease, or were there things that
caused it to change suddenly, or was the line flat for a
while?

*(Make appropriate extension of the line or allow respondent to
if he/she wishes.)*

Does this look about right?
Now, we'd like to know why you think the chance of divorce
changed. Tell me, in as <u>specific terms</u> as possible, what

are some of the reasons that made the chance of divorce change.

(Write reasons given on Turning Points Recording Sheet. It is important to get specific answers here, without leading the respondent. Probe carefully where necessary.)

Of the reasons you have given me, what was the most important one? The next most important?

(Mark in a "1" next to the most important reason, a "2" by the next most important, etc., until all reasons are prioritized.)

(The above procedure outlined in part "B" is repeated until the entire relationship curve has been drawn, with the last point being the date of the issuance of the divorce decree.)

C.   Now, take a minute or two to look over what we have drawn. If you see changes that should be made in order to make the graph more accurate, we can make them now.

(Give respondent plenty of time to decide if changes are necessary.)

PART III

Measuring Relationship Structure

Read: We are now interested in dividing the graph into three time periods which we will call "Recognition," "Discussion," and "Action."

1. Breaking the Graph into the Three Time Periods

A.   There may have been a time, after you initially became aware of significant marital dissatisfaction, when you began openly discussing the possibility that your marriage may end in divorce with others such as your former partner, family, friends, a counselor or minister, etc. Can you show me on the graph when this was?

(Mark in month and year on graph. Label this time period along the top of the graph as "Recognition.")

B. Now, there was a time when either you or your former partner filed for divorce. Can you show me when this was?

(Mark in month and year on graph. Label this time period as "Discussion.")

(Label the remaining time period as "Action.")

(If any period did not exist, make sure the respondents understand the time period in question, but do not force then to label such a period if they feel one did not exist.)

2. Filling Out the Relationship Measures

Read: In the next half of the interview, I want to get a more detailed description of what wat happening in your marriage during this time. In order to do this, I am going to ask you to complete some questionnaires. You will fill out these forms for each of the three time periods you identified on the graph.

(Hand respondent the questionnaires one at a time as they are completed. Point out the instructions as to which time period the questionnaire refers to.)

PART IV

Describing the Divorce

1. Relationship History Questions

A. *(The final section of the interview consists of getting a more detailed description of the history of the marital relationship. Using the form titled "Questions Regarding Relationship History," ask the respondent to answer each of the questions. Make sure to probe where necessary to obtain as specific answers as possible.)*

B. Background information

The final step in this interview is to get an idea of
your personal and social background. Please take a
moment to fill out this brief background questionnaire.

C. Conclusion

I must say, you have been very helpful. I have enjoyed
talking with you very much, and I hope you have also.
Thank you very much.

(Don't run away. Put away the interview. Then say ...

You know, I sometimes wonder about something. In answer-
ing these questions, do you feel the interviewer can get
a true picture of your divorce experience and how it im-
pacted you, from your answers to these question?

*(Probe. Go back to any given questions, if necessary. Chat
informally. After leaving, write down any remarks which
followed the structured part of the interview.)*

NOTE: Check every question before leaving to make sure that the
schedule is complete!

APPENDIX I

Plots of Interaction Effects for
Specific Trajectory Properties
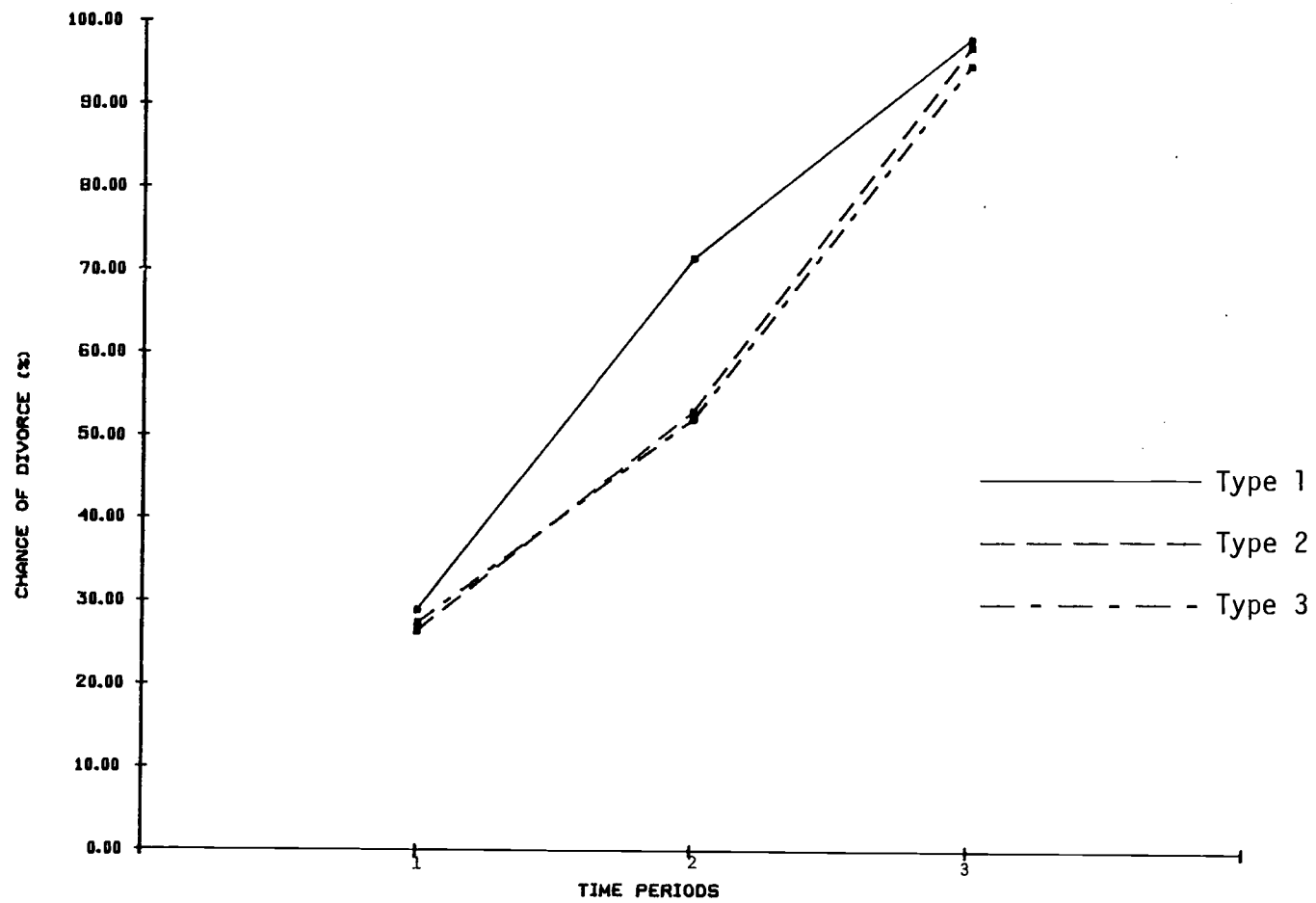
MEAN CHANCE OF DIVORCE BY DISSOLUTION TYPE
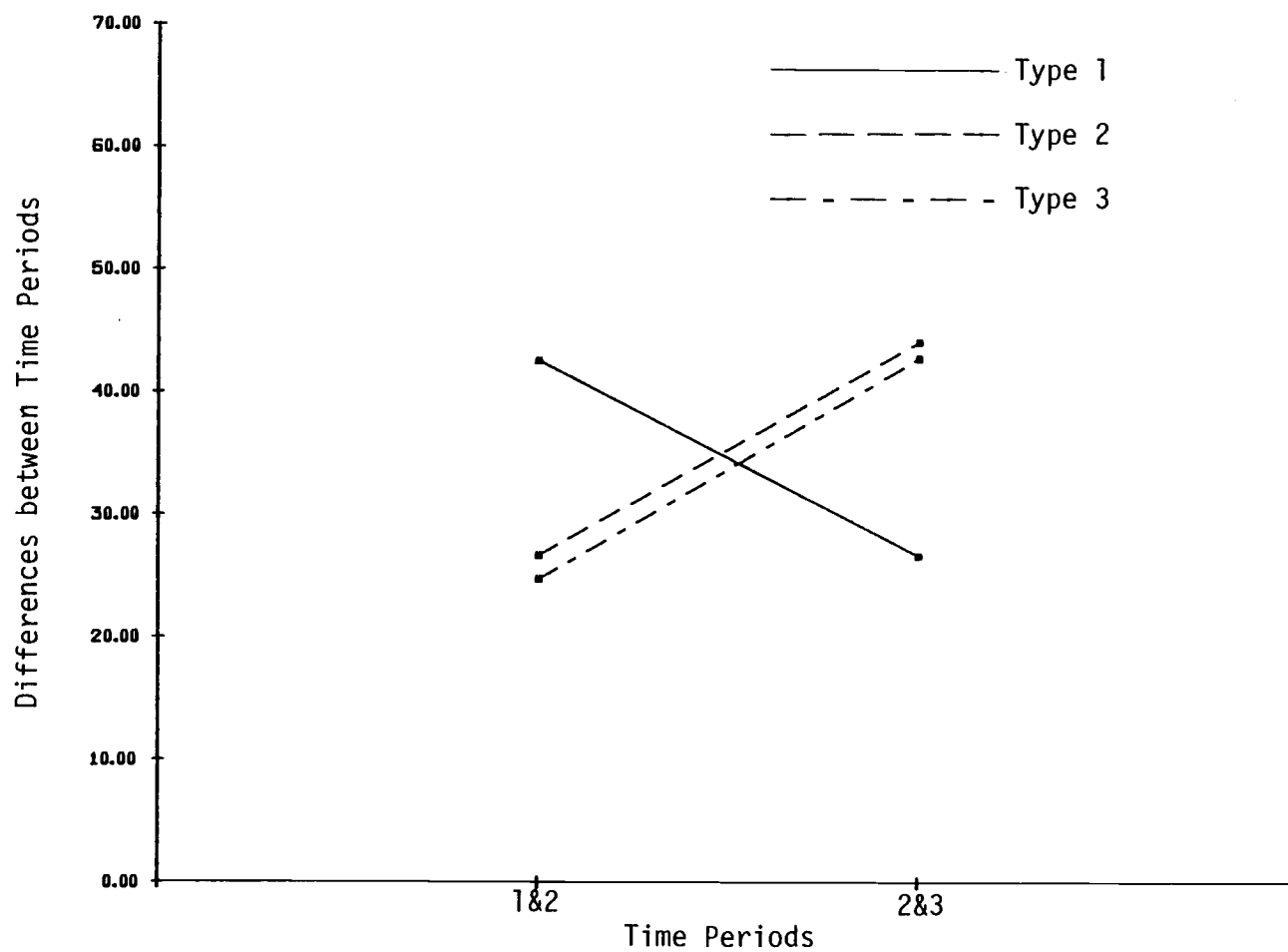
DIFFERENCES ON MEAN CHANCE OF DIVORCE BY TYPE
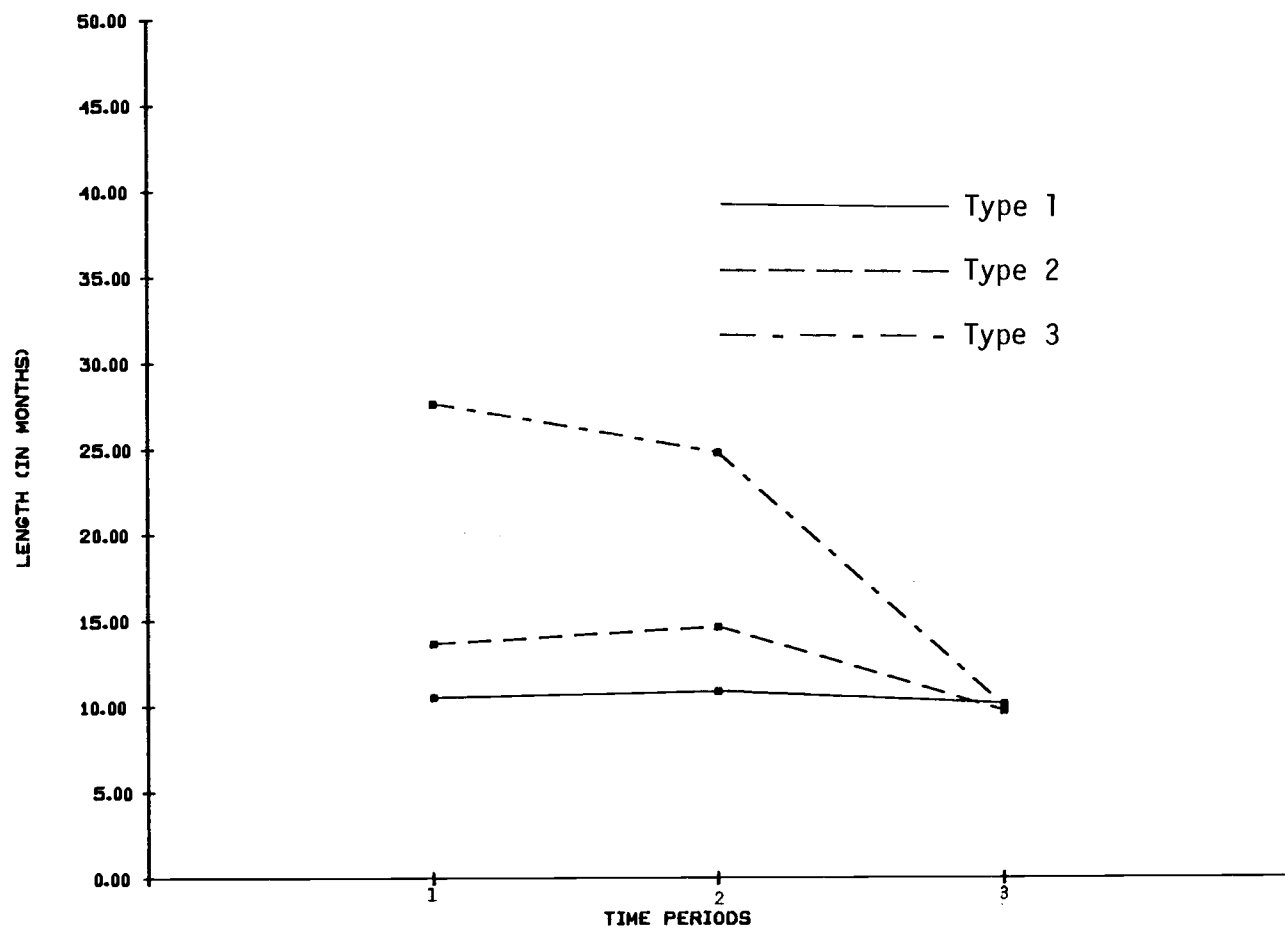
TIME PERIOD LENGTH BY DISSOLUTION TYPE

DIFFERENCES IN TIME PERIOD LENGTH BY TYPE

RATIO OF TIME PERIOD LENGTH TO TOTAL LENGTH BY TYPE

DIFFERENCES IN RATIO OF TIME PERIOD LENGTH TO TOTAL LENGTH BY TYPE
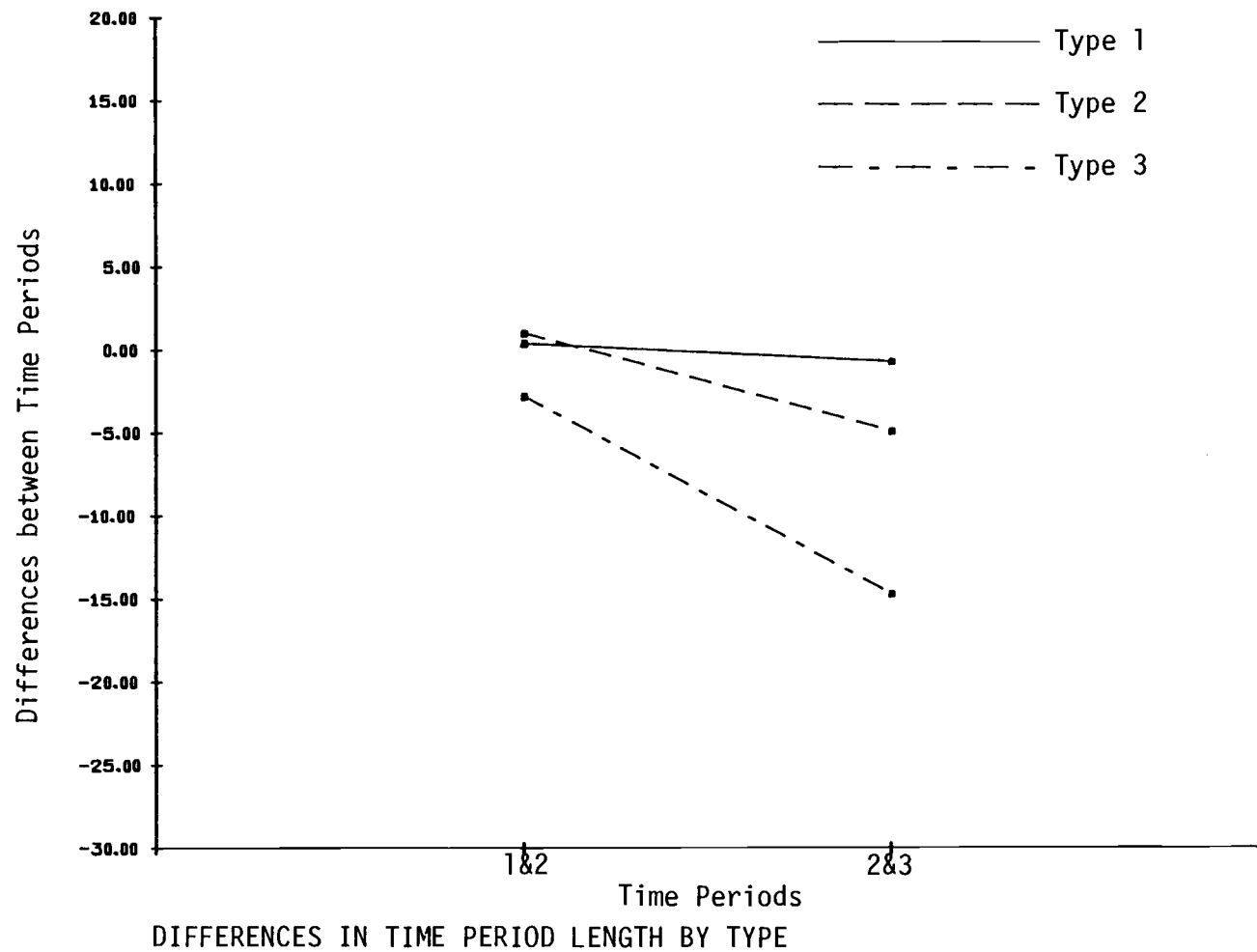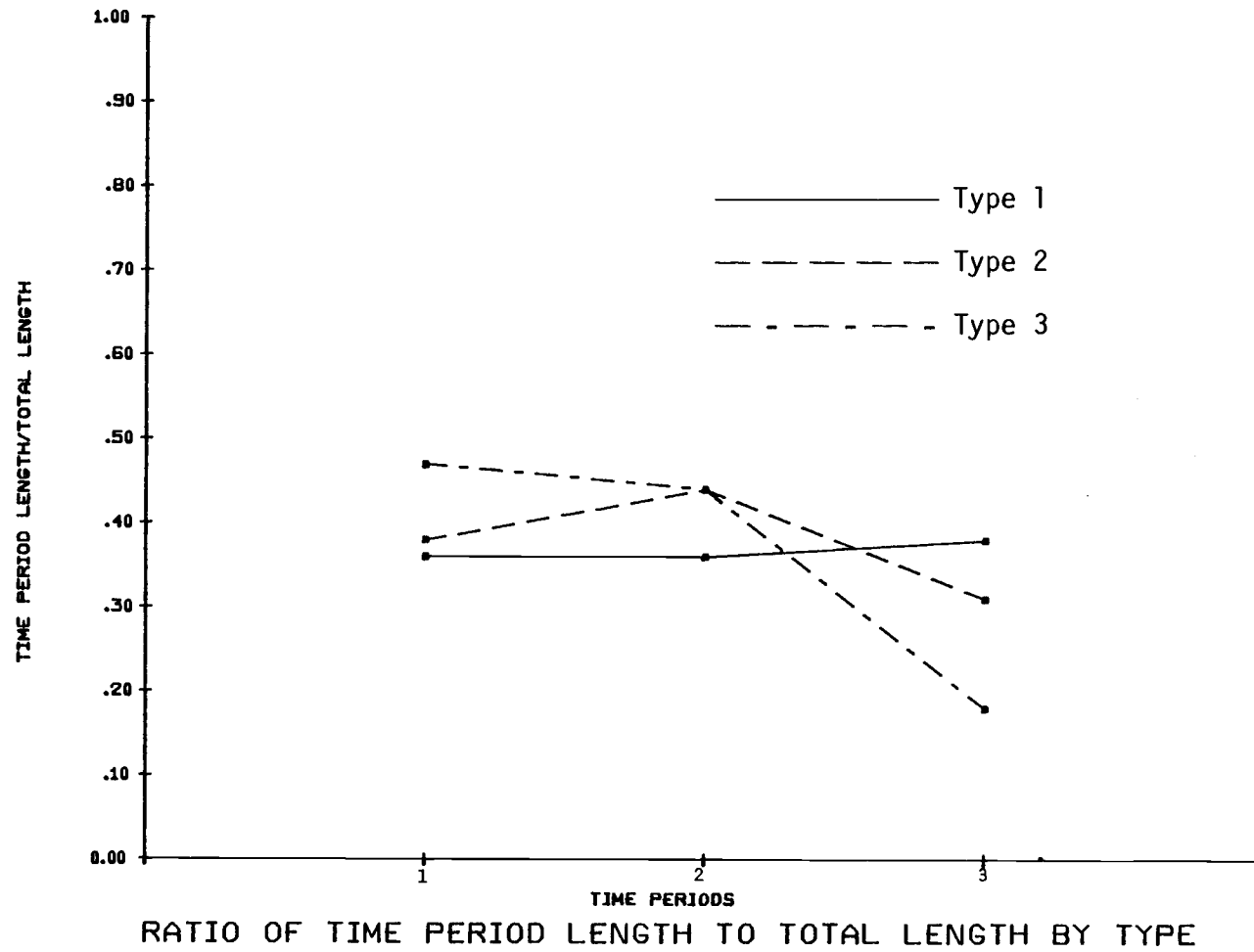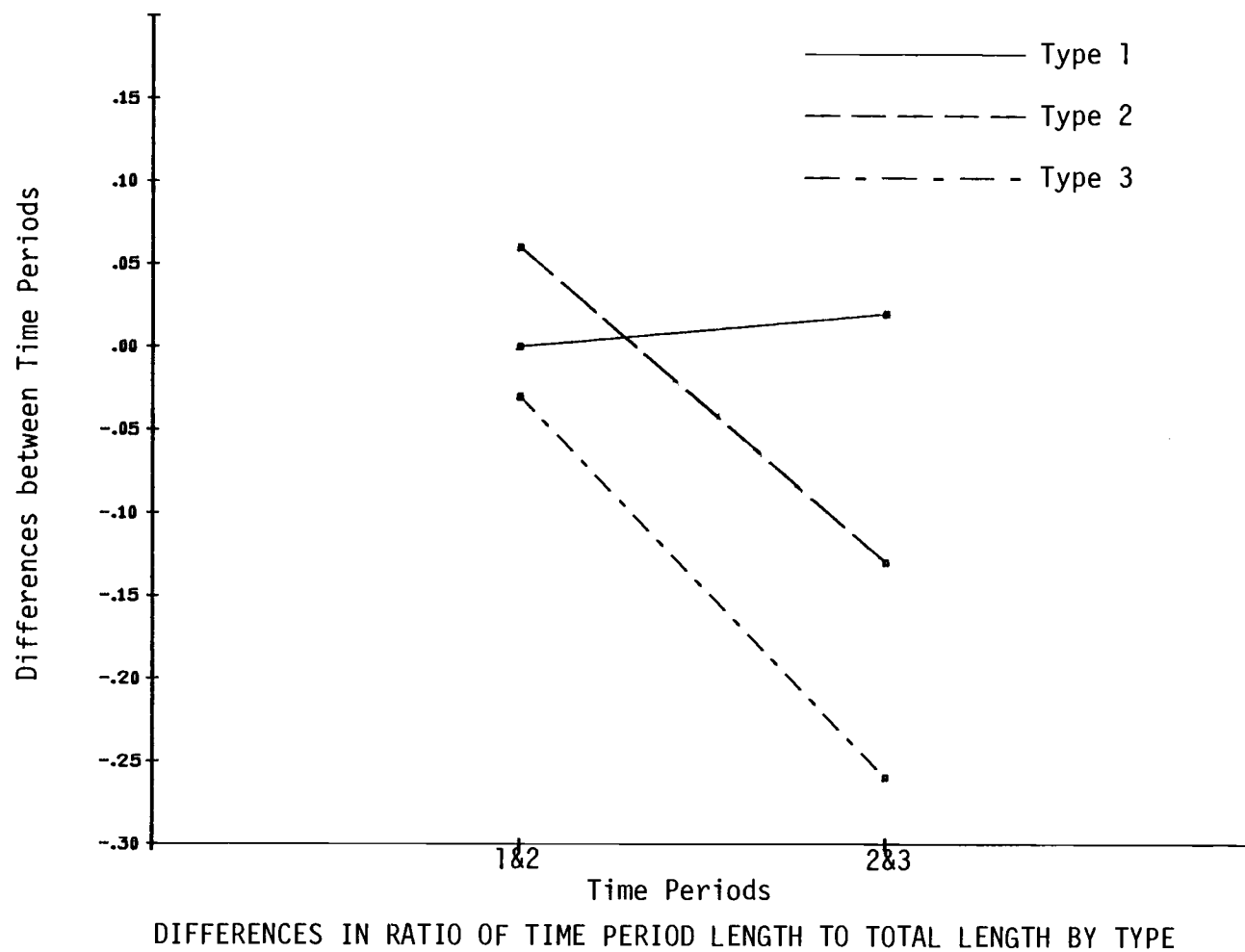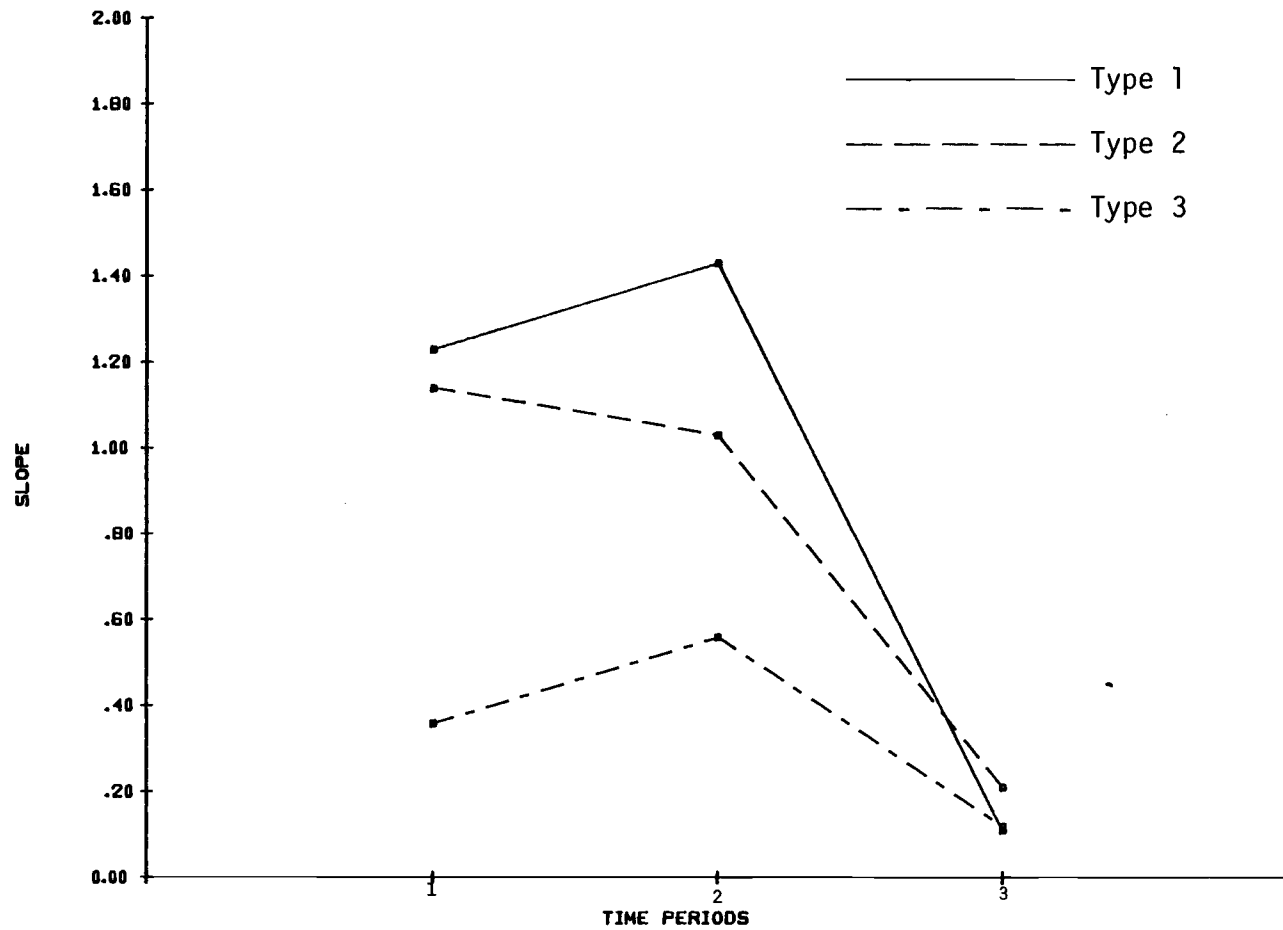
SLOPE BY DISSOLUTION TYPE
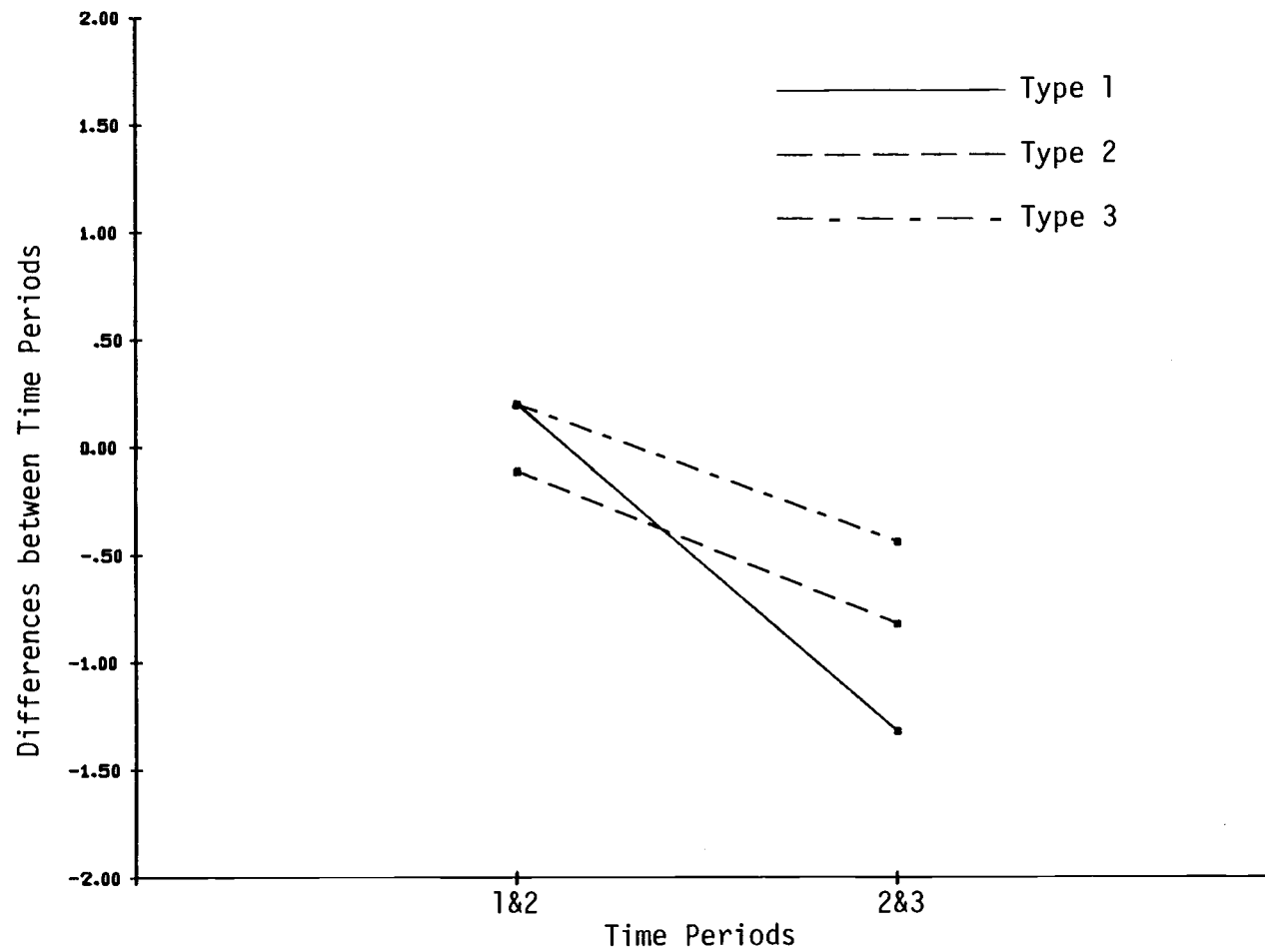
DIFFERENCES IN SLOPE BY TYPE

APPENDIX J

Plots of Interaction Effects for Conflict
and Marital Satisfaction by Type

CONFLICT BY DISSOLUTION TYPE FOR FEMALES
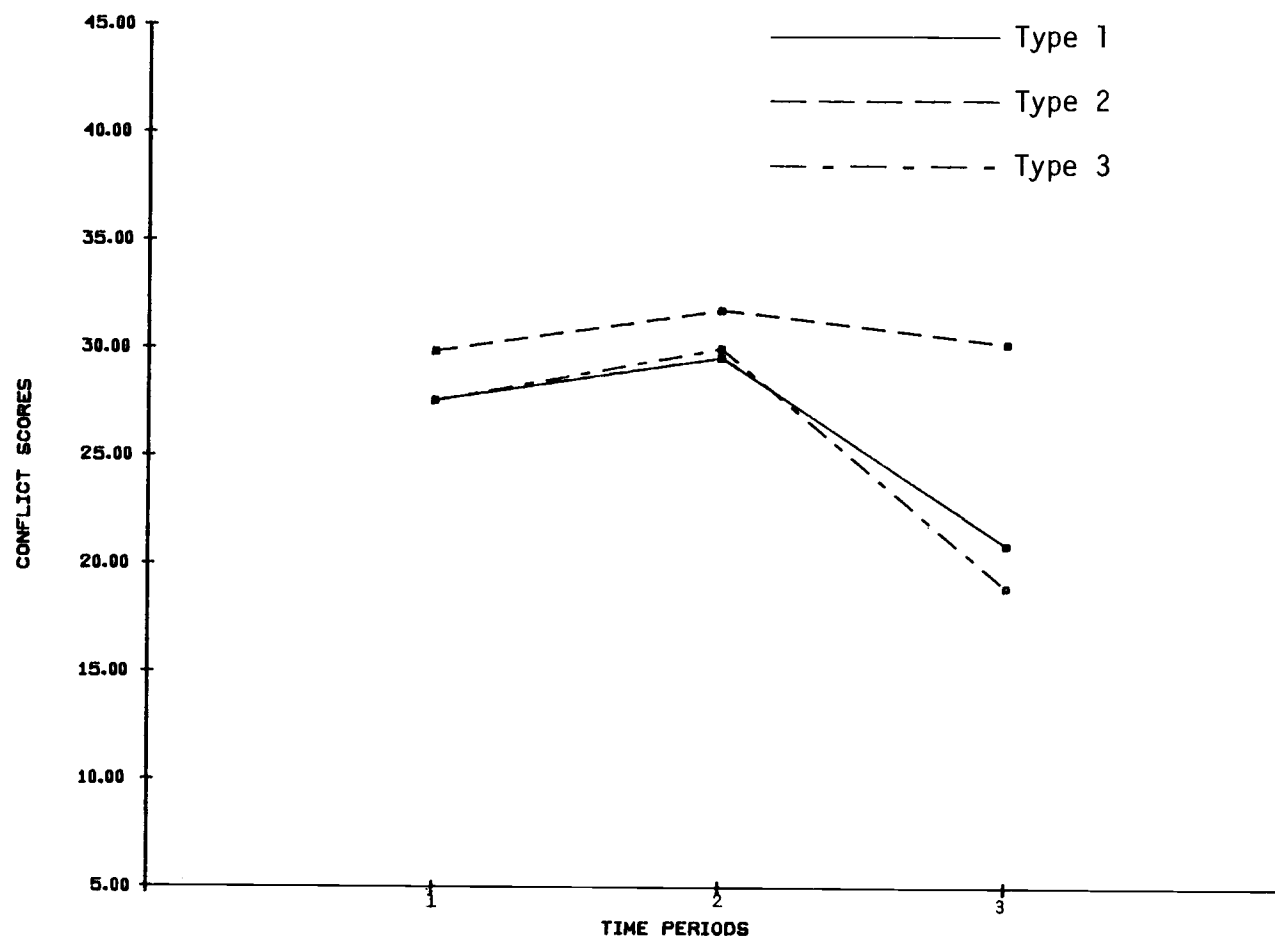
DIFFERENCES IN CONFLICT BY TYPE FOR FEMALES

CONFLICT BY DISSOLUTION TYPE FOR MALES
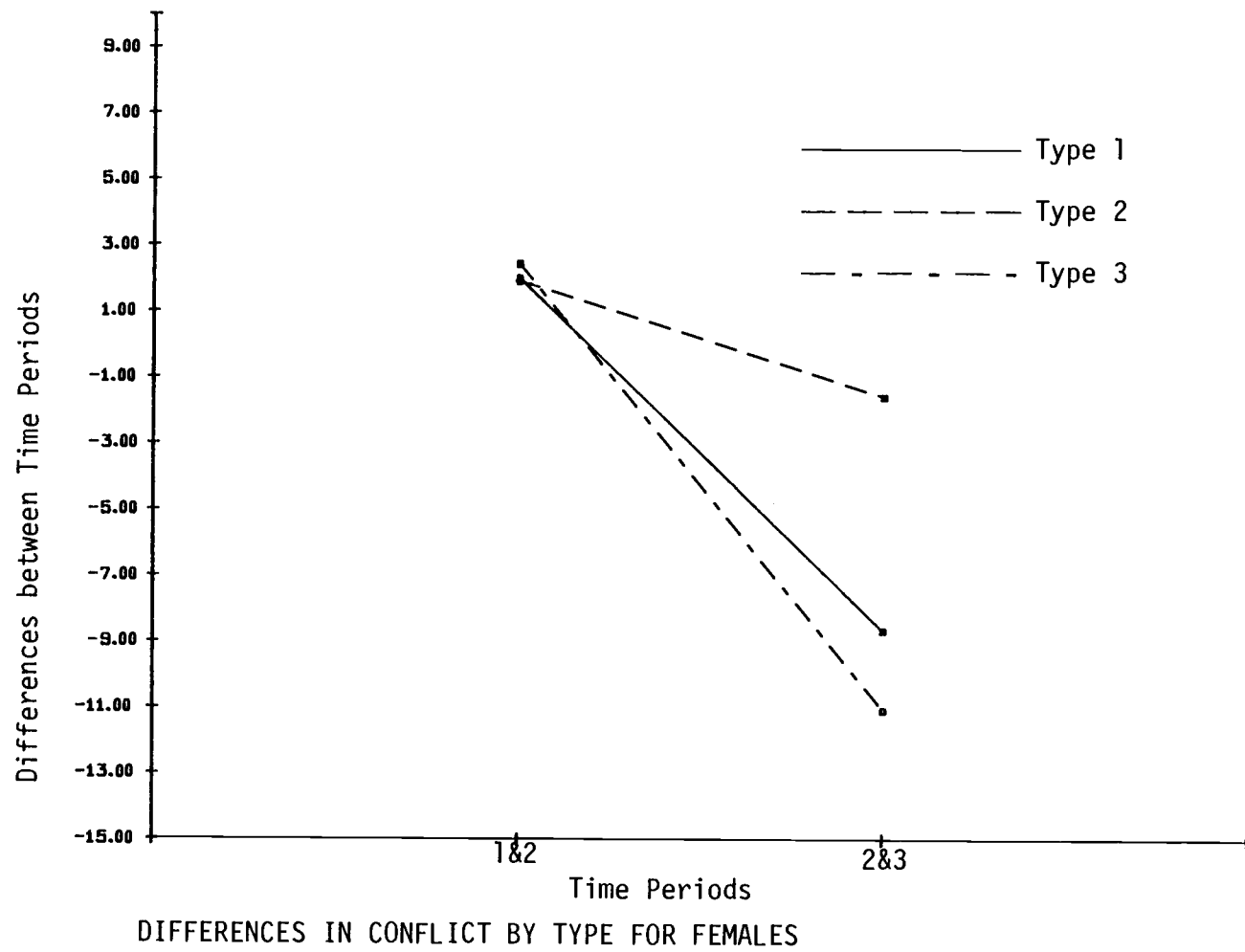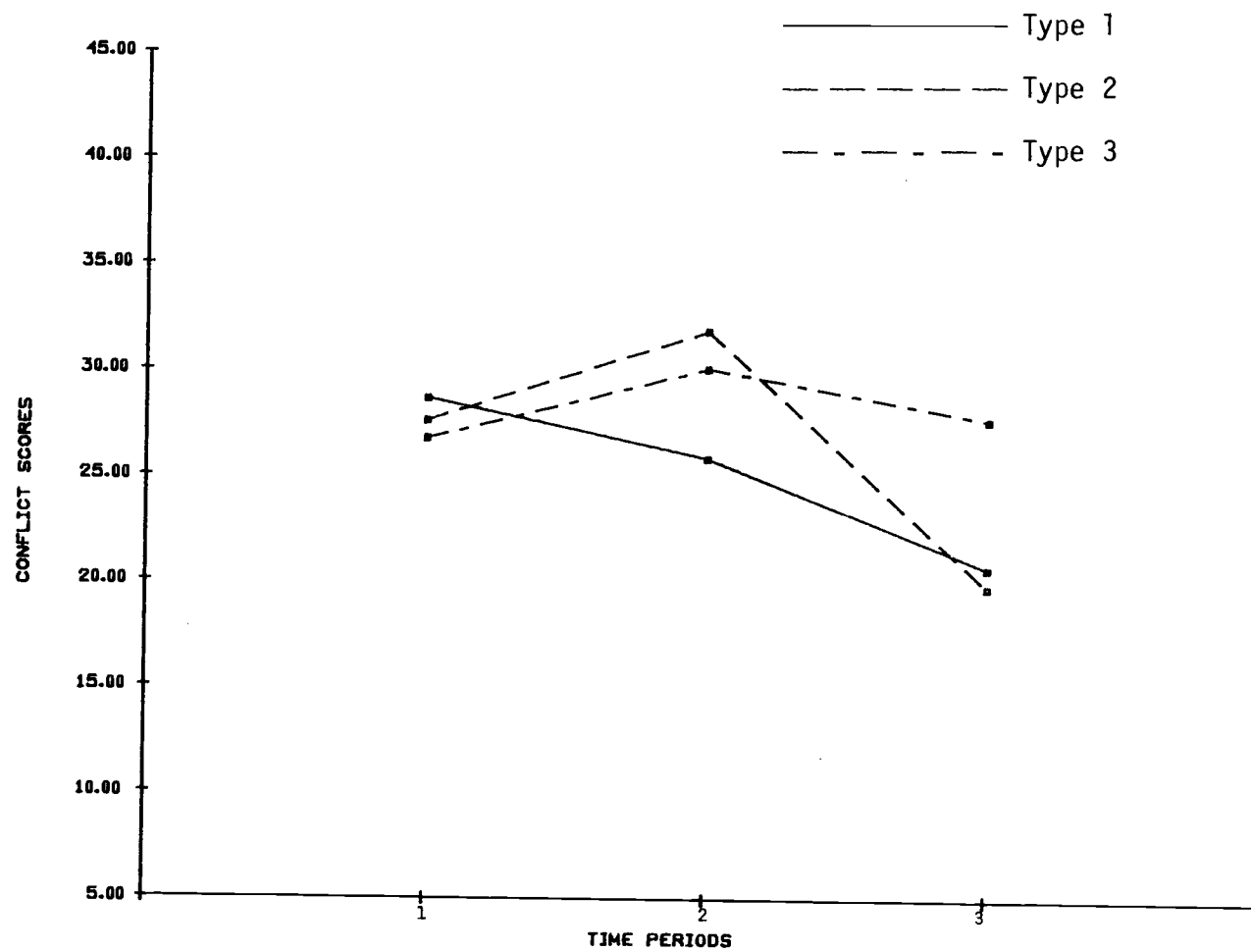
DIFFERENCES IN CONFLICT BY TYPE FOR MALES
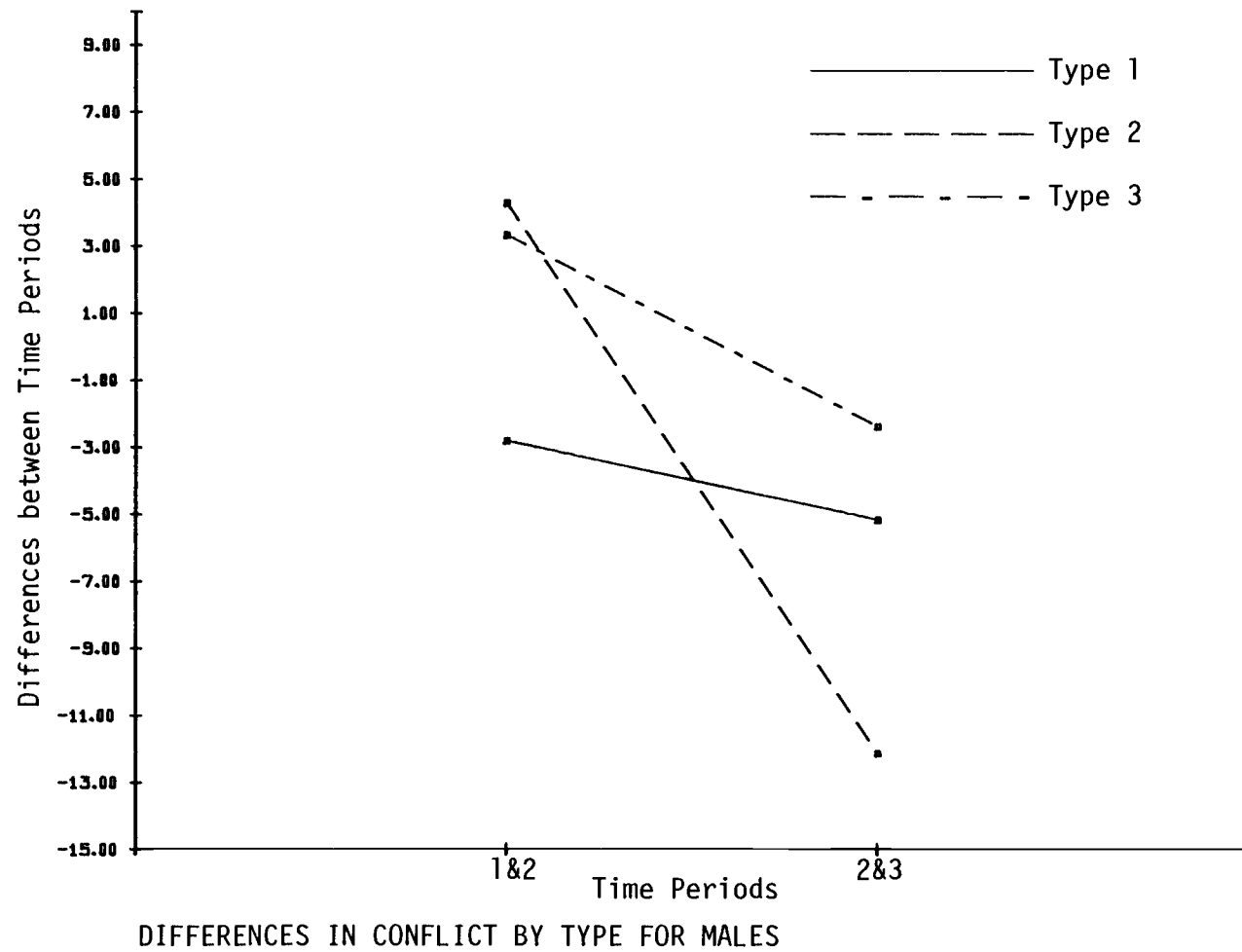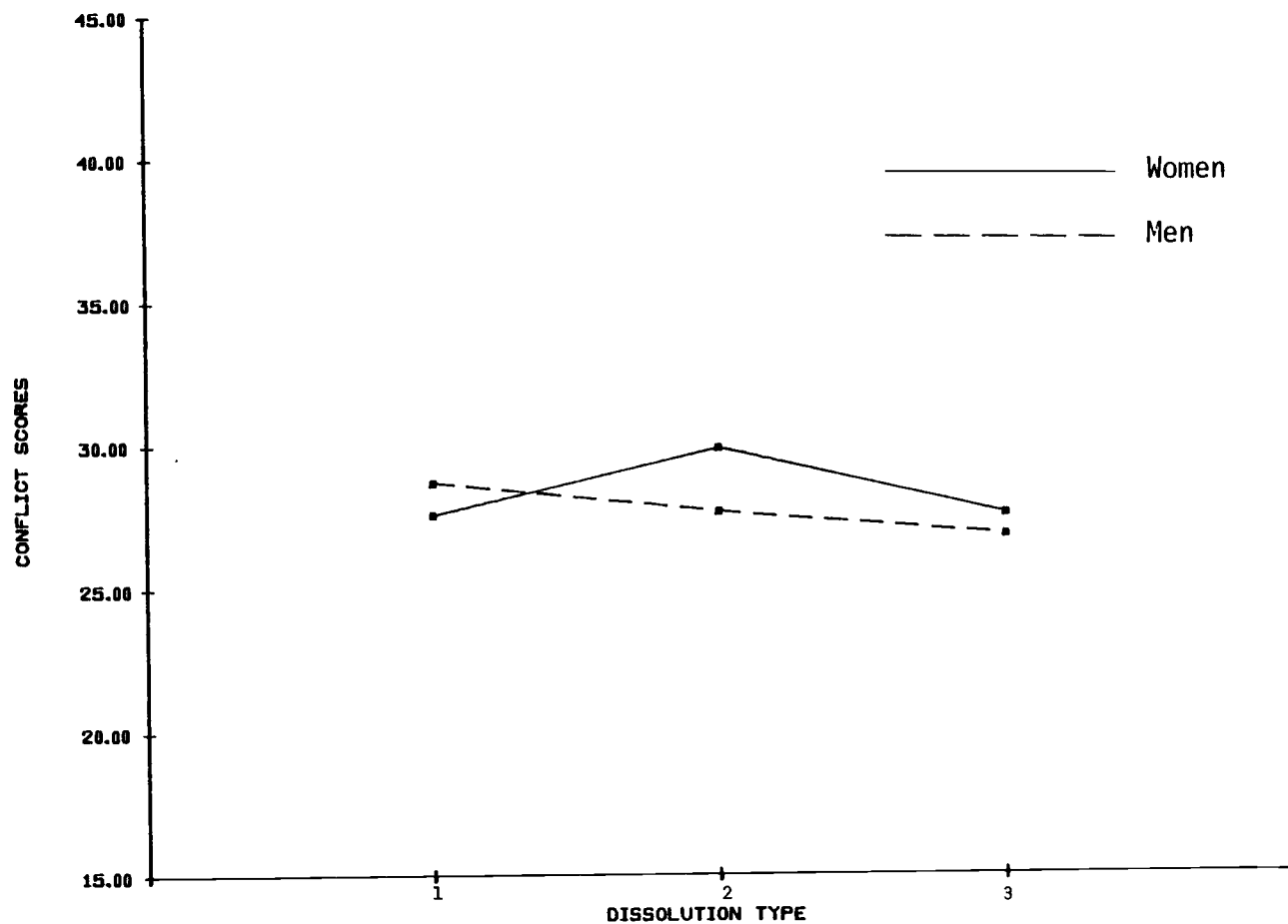
CONFLICT SCORES BY SEX FOR PERIOD 1
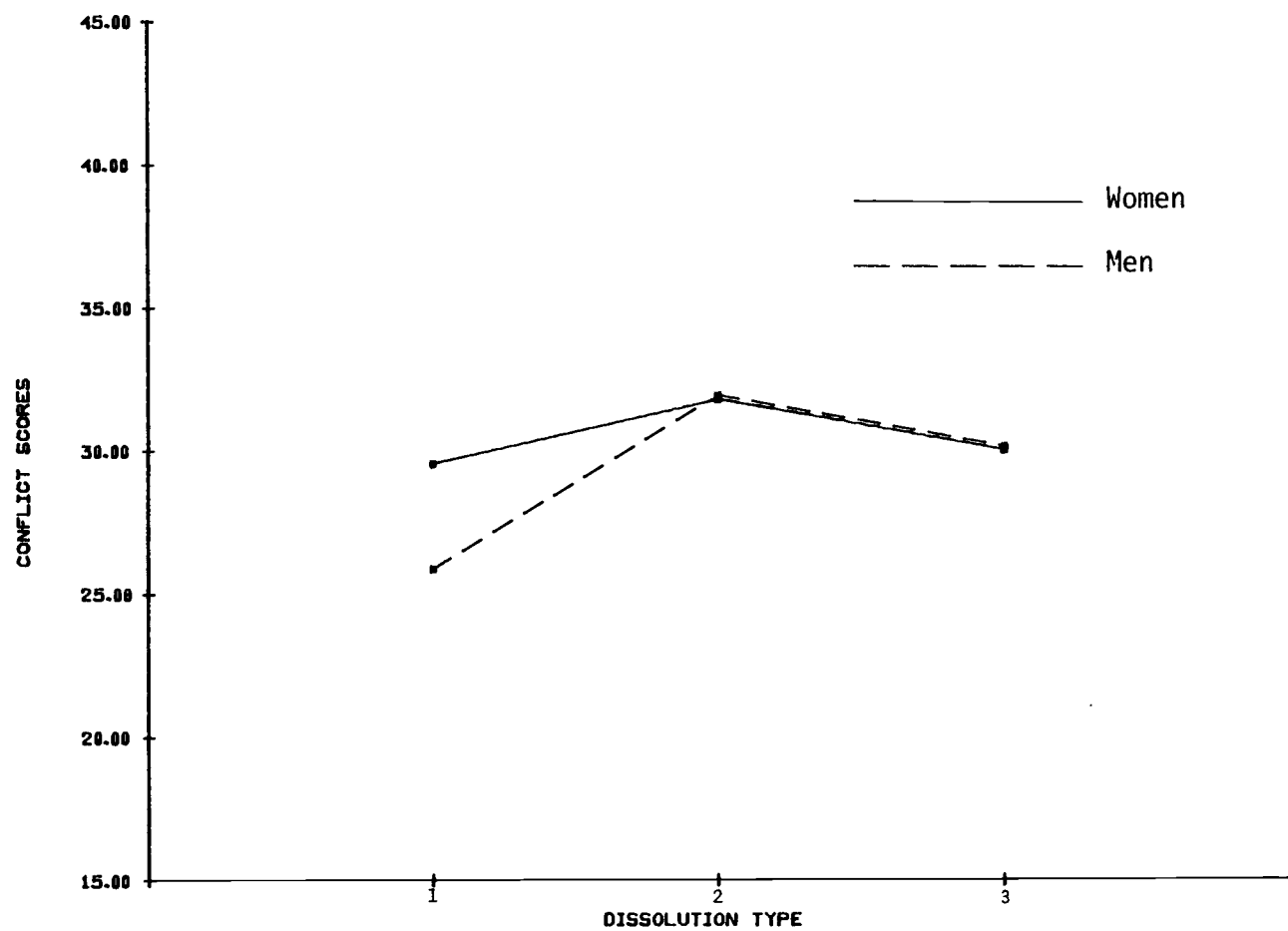
CONFLICT SCORES BY SEX FOR PERIOD 2
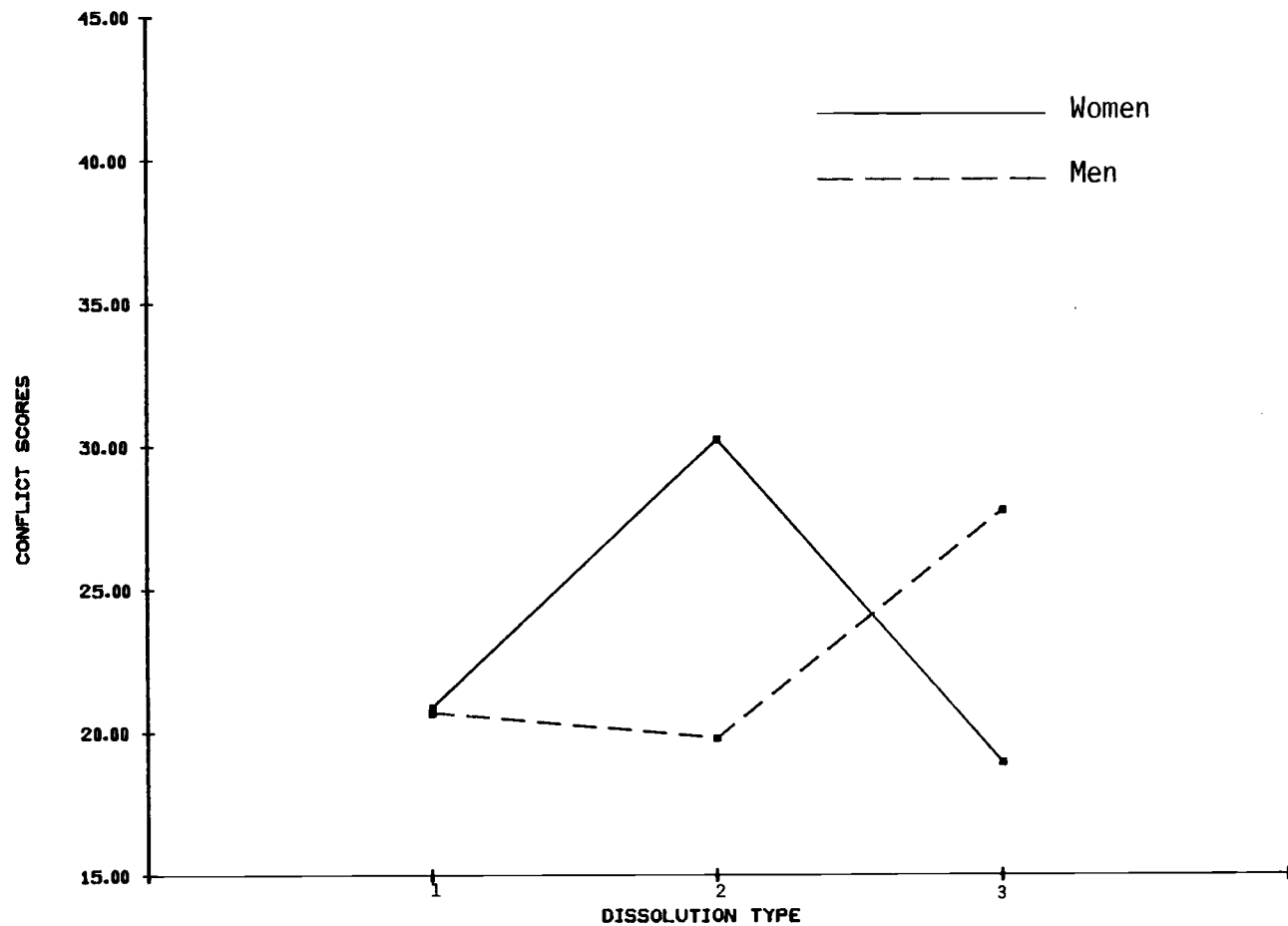
CONFLICT SCORES BY SEX FOR PERIOD 3

TABLE J-1. Means on Marital Satisfaction

Time Periods	Rapid		Gradual		Extended	
	♀	♂	♀	♂	♀	♂
Recognition	3.14	3.07	3.36	3.17	3.00	4.40
Discussion	1.86	2.73	2.29	2.58	2.85	2.80
Action	1.29	2.33	1.29	1.25	2.23	1.60
n	7	15	14	12	13	15
S.E.	0.66	0.45	0.47	0.50	0.48	0.45

TABLE J-2. Means on Conflict

| Time Periods	Rapid		Gradual		Extended	
	♀	♂	♀	♂	♀	♂
Recognition	27.56	28.69	29.86	27.64	27.54	26.80
Discussion	29.56	25.88	31.79	31.93	30.00	30.13
Action	20.89	20.69	30.21	19.79	18.92	27.73
n	9	16	14	14	13	15
S.E.	3.17	2.37	2.54	2.54	2.63	2.45

MARITAL SATISFACTION BY DISSOLUTION TYPE FOR FEMALES
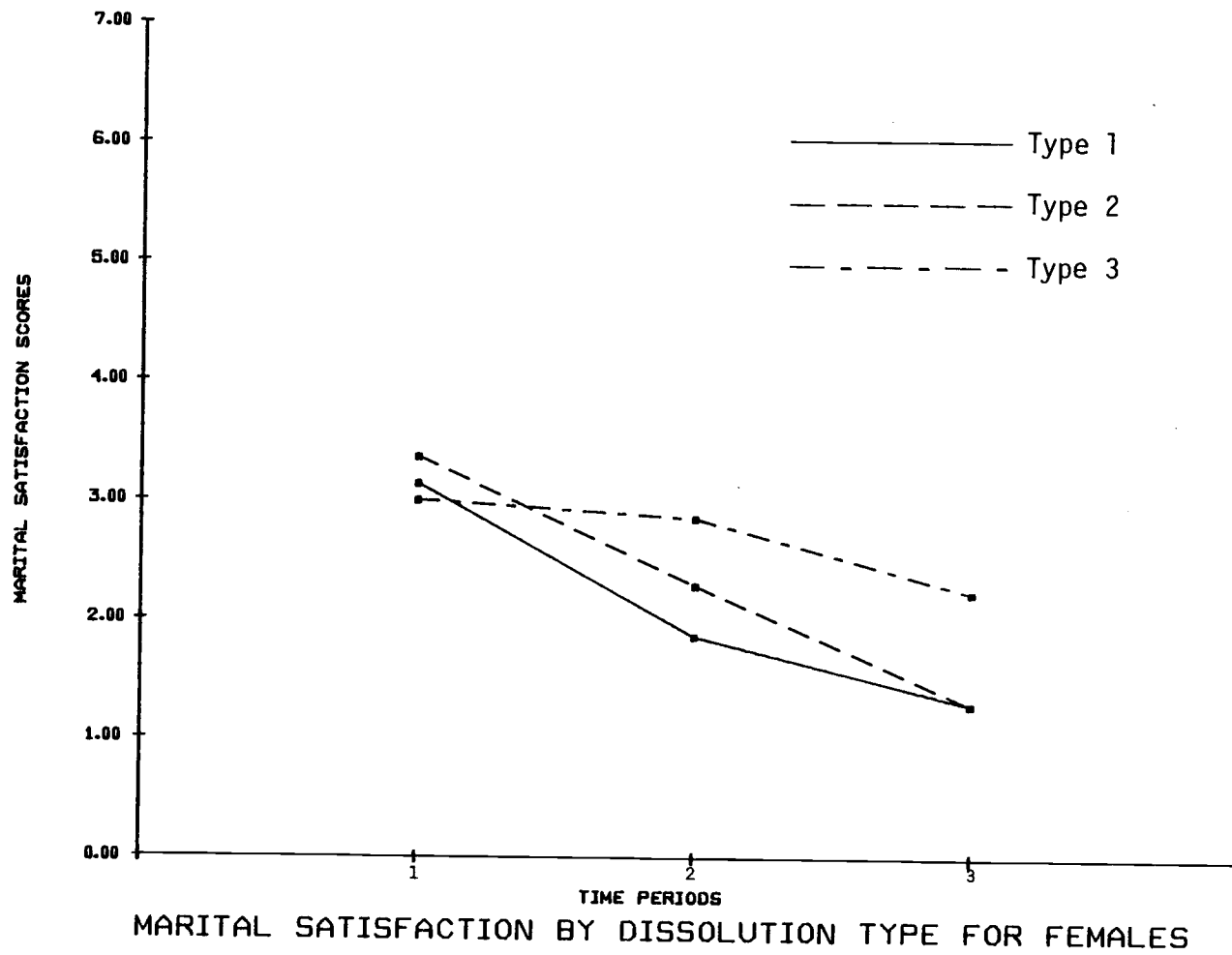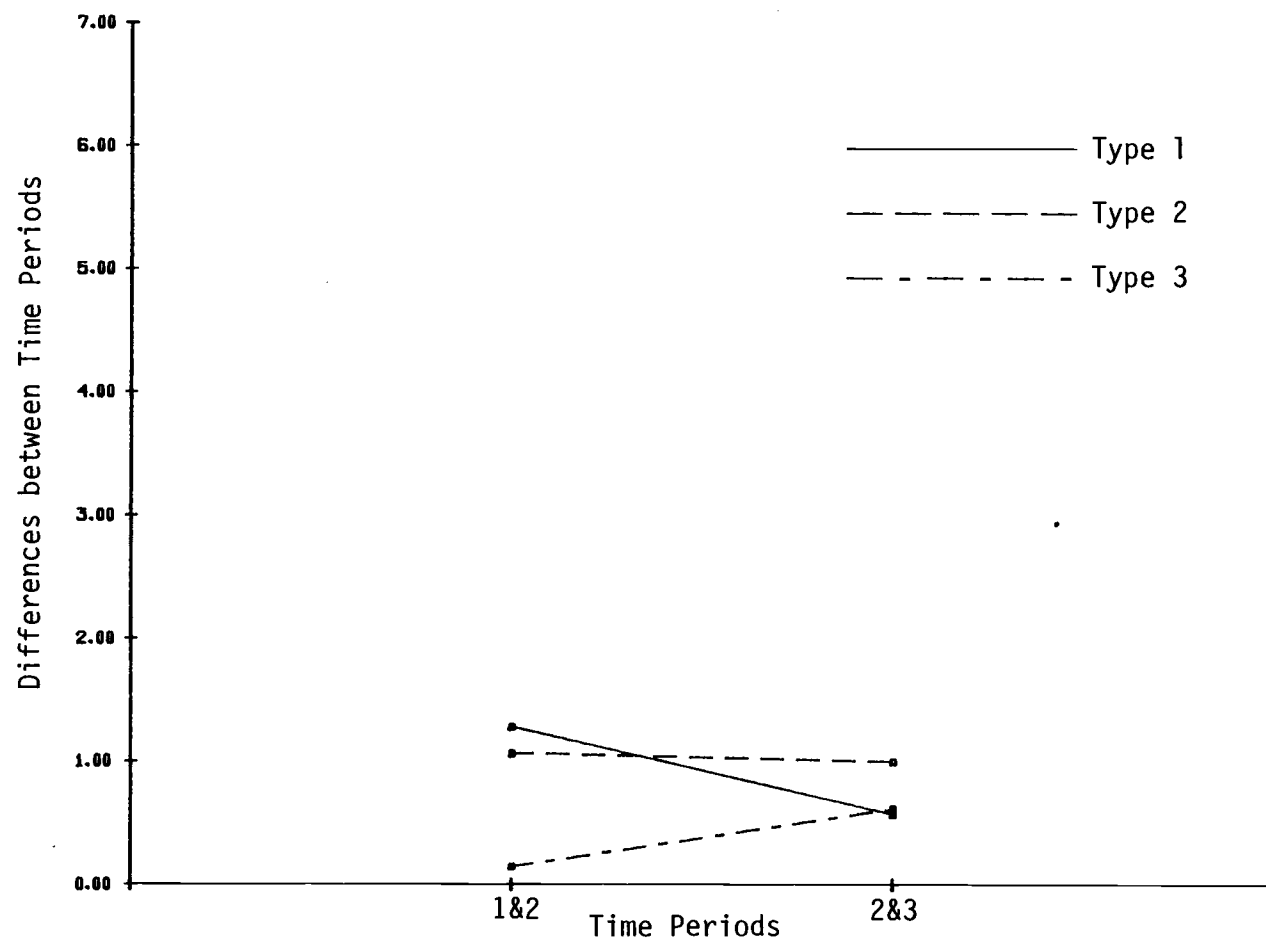
DIFFERENCES IN MARITAL SATISFACTION BY TYPE FOR FEMALES
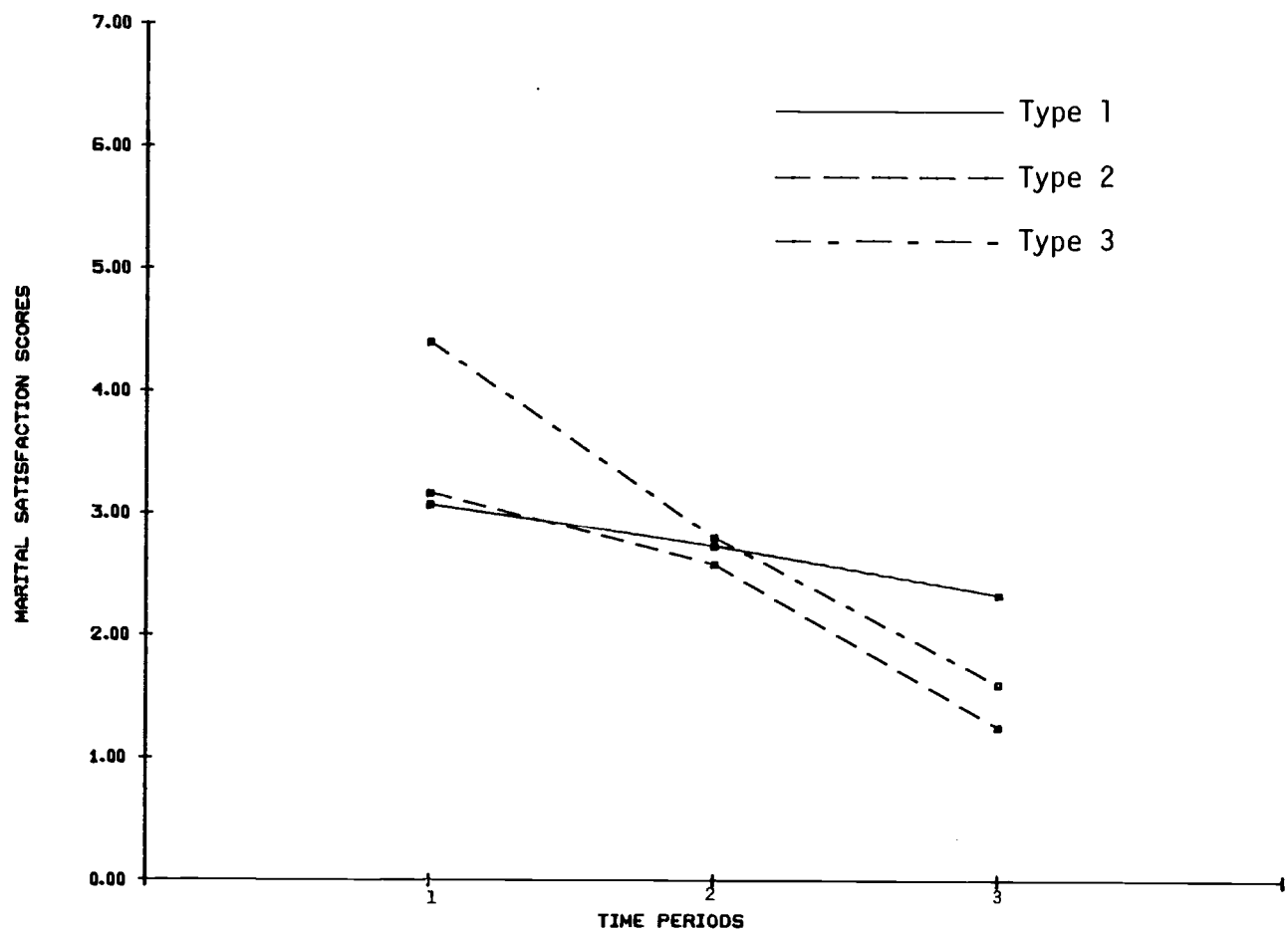
MARITAL SATISFACTION BY DISSOLUTION TYPE FOR MALE

DIFFERENCES IN MARIAL SATISFACTION BY TYPE FOR MALES
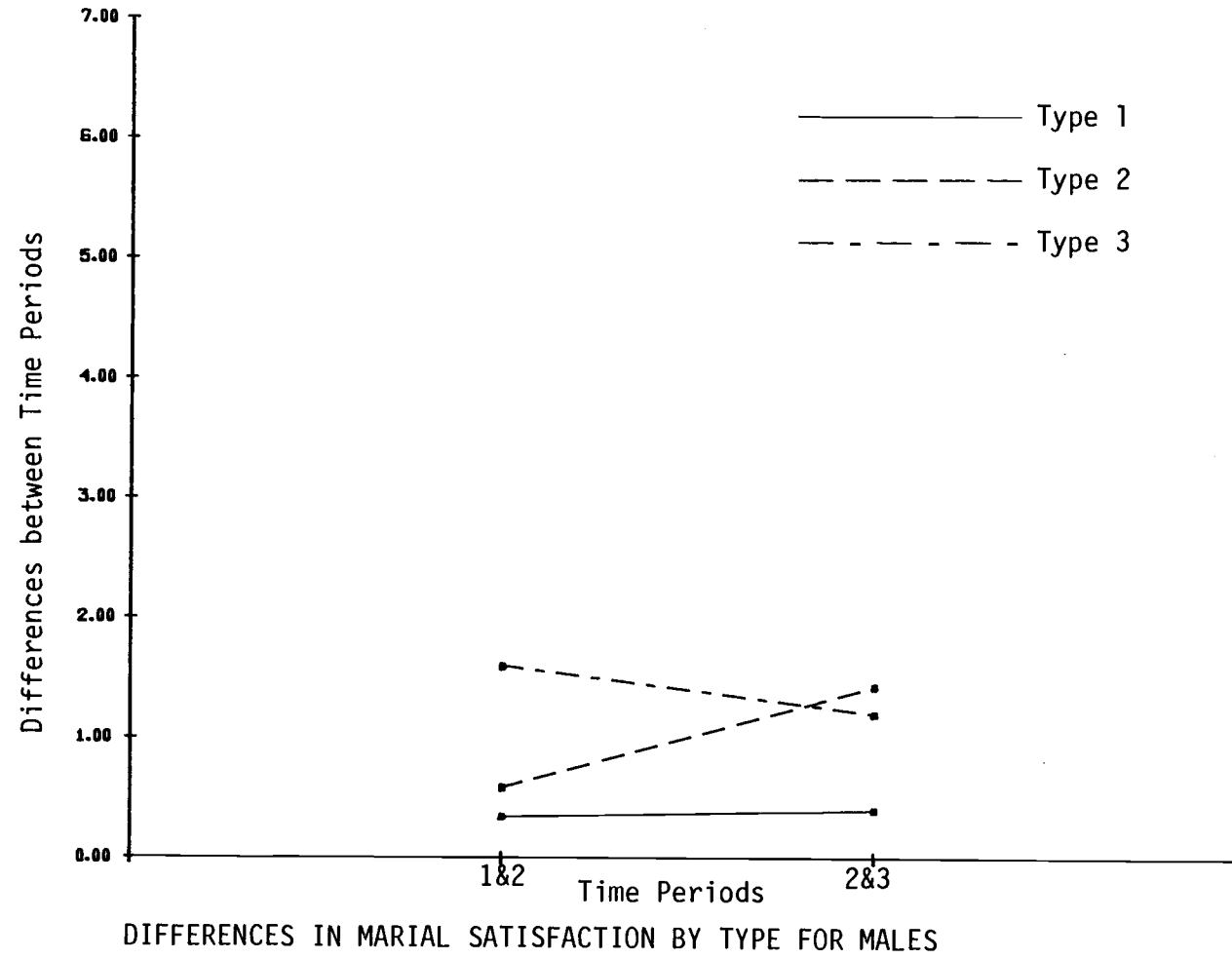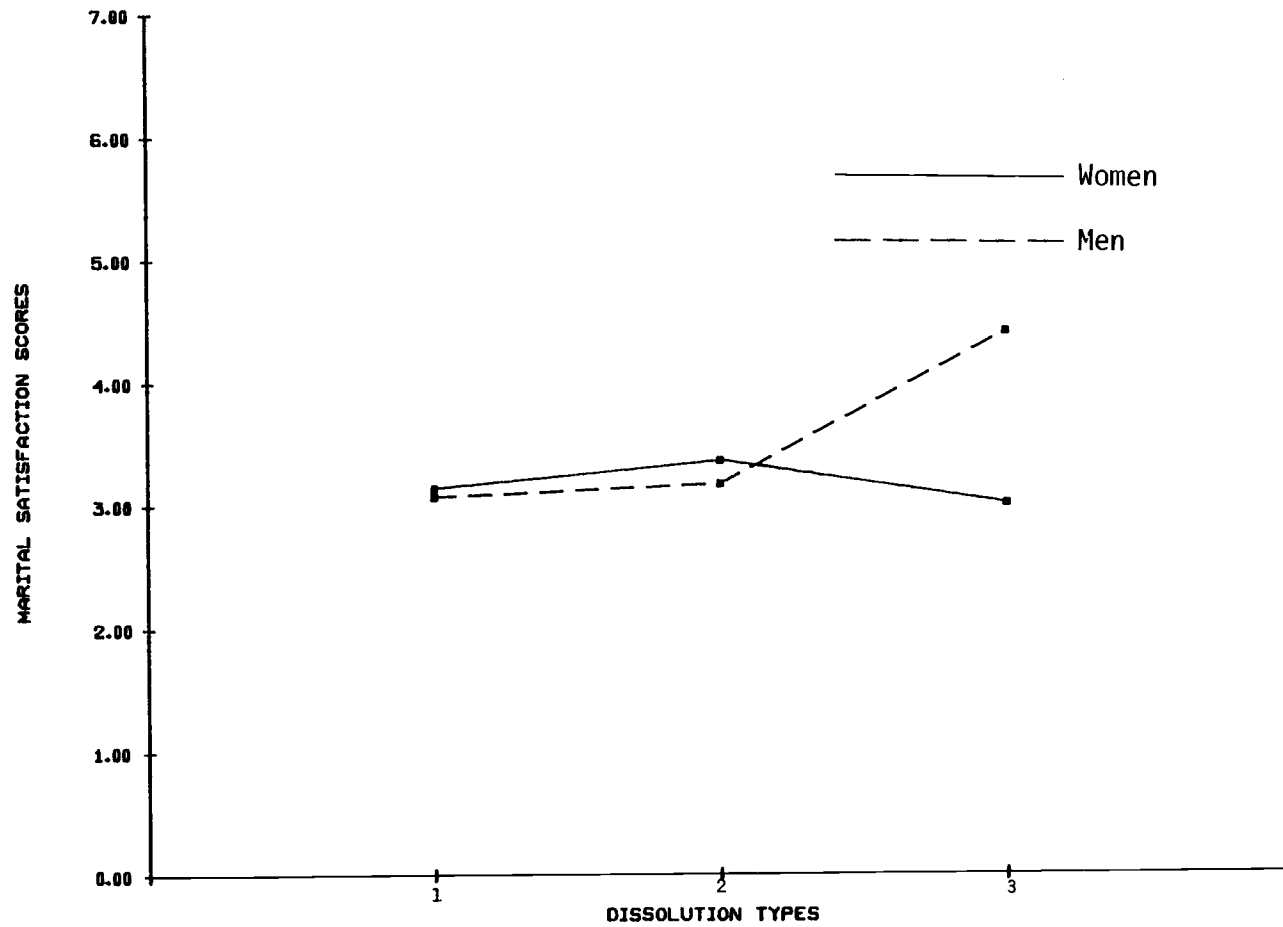
MARITAL SATISFACTION BY SEX FOR PERIOD 1
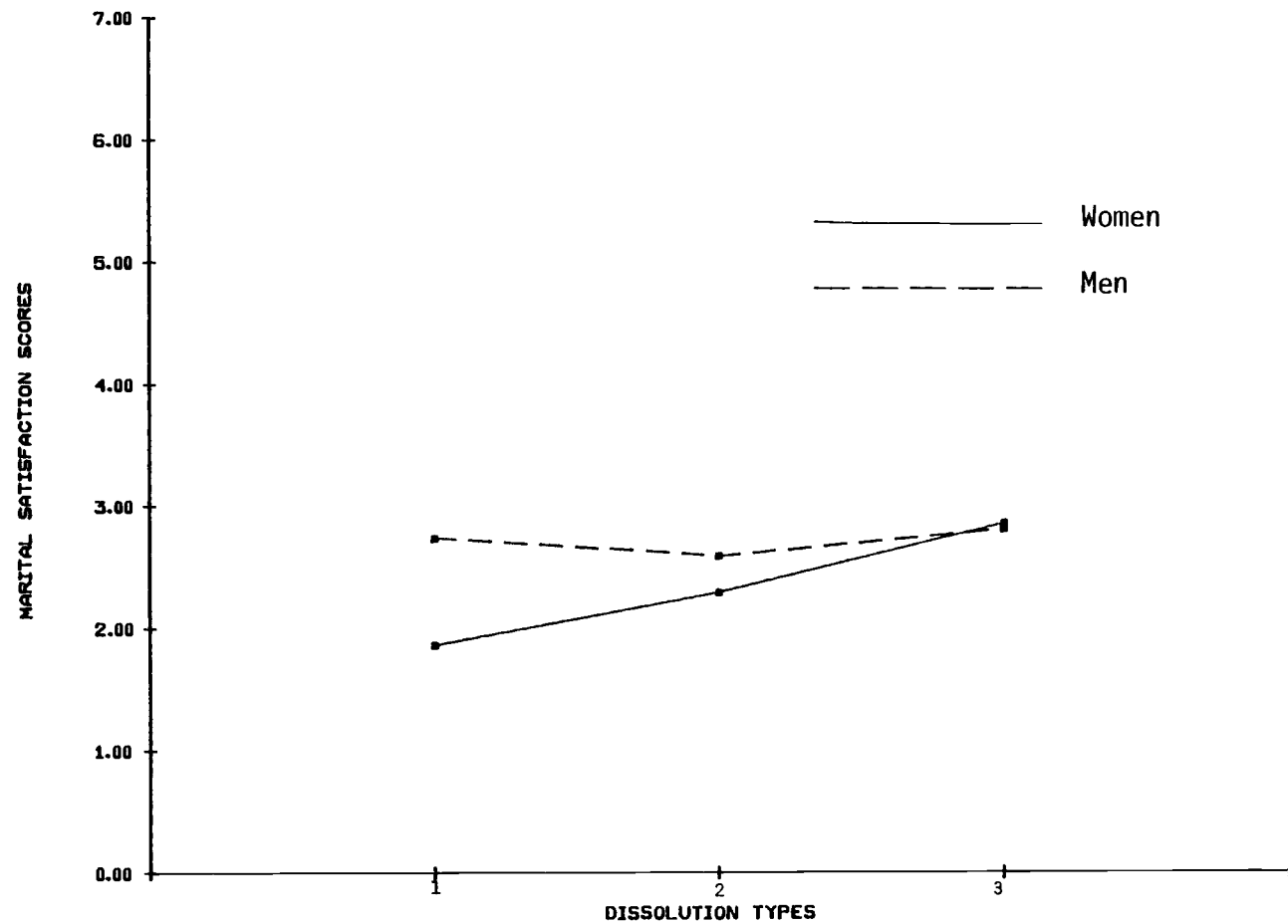
MARITAL SATISFACTION BY SEX FOR PERIOD 2
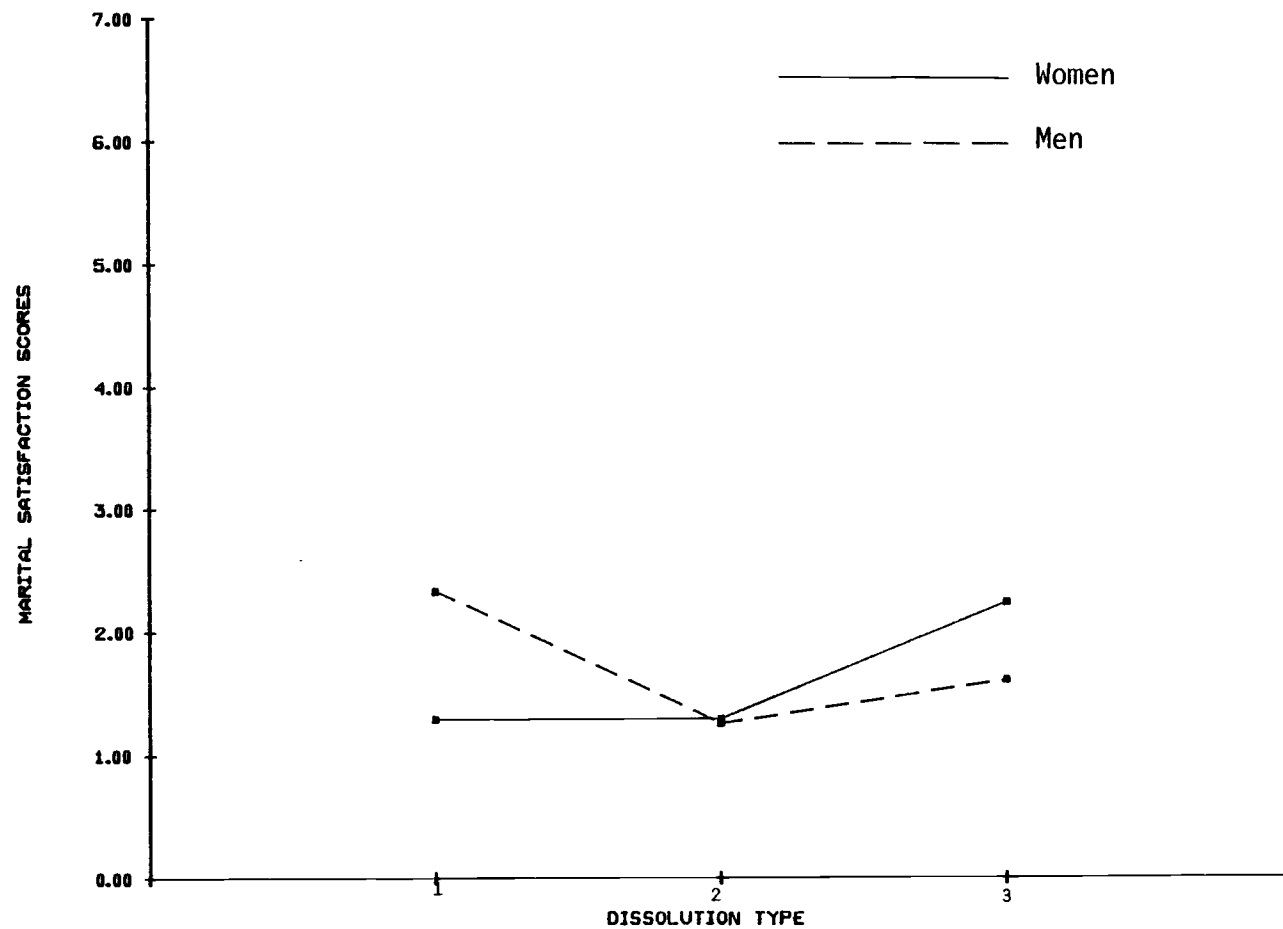
MARITAL SATISFACTION BY SEX FOR PERIOD 3

APPENDIX K

Plots of Interaction Effects for

Ambivalence by Initiator

AMBIVALENCE BY INITIATOR

DIFFERENCES IN AMBIVALENCE BY INITIATOR
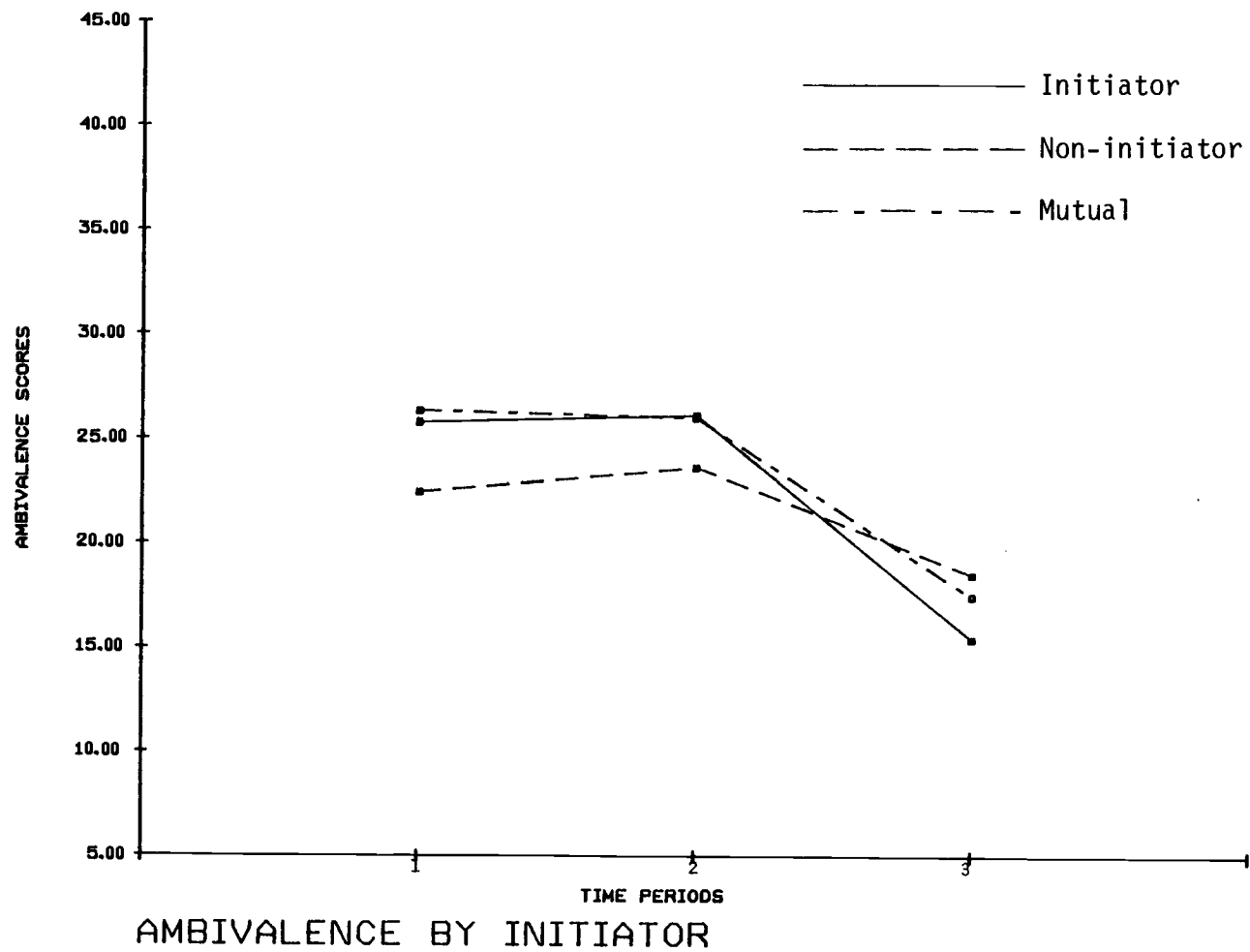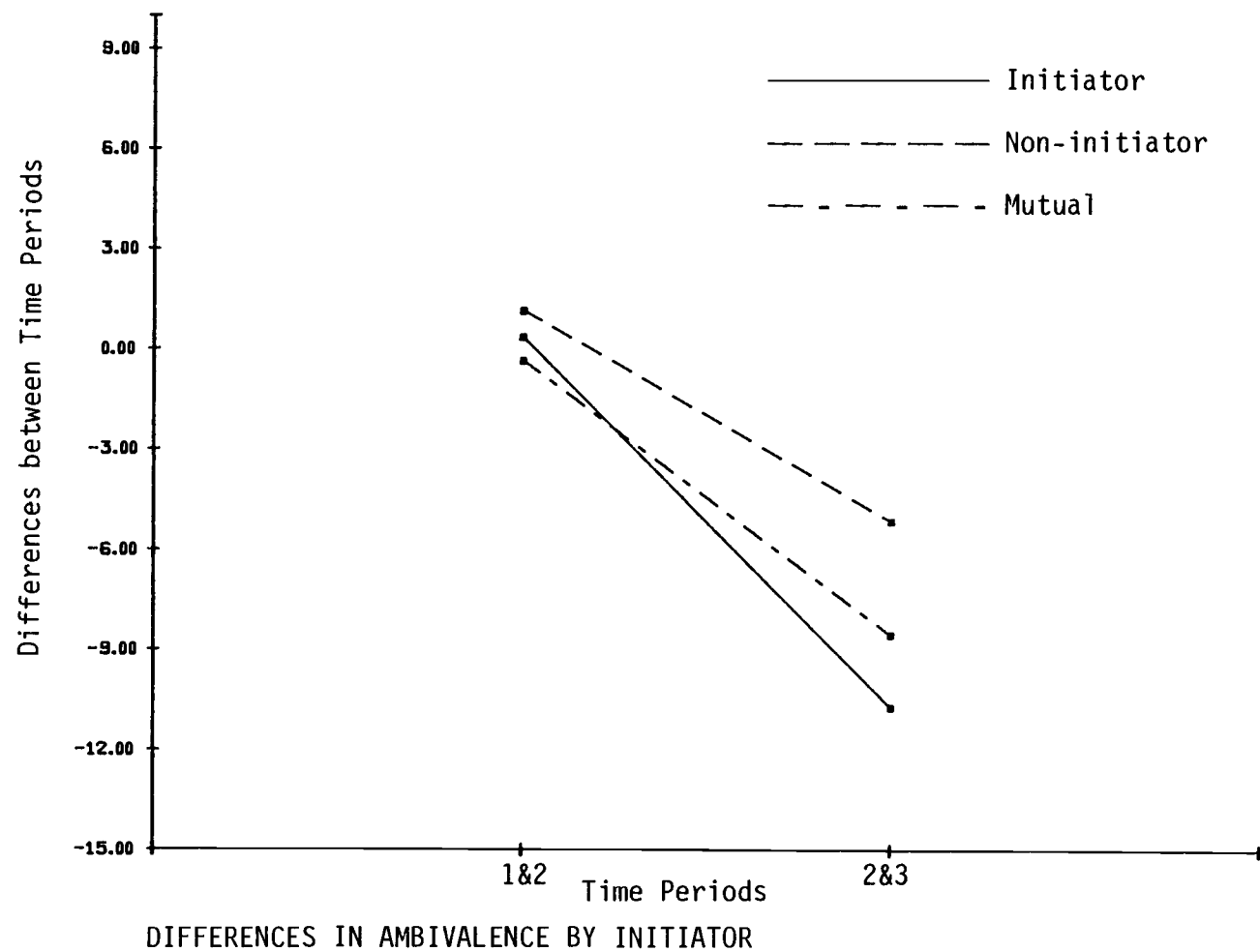
APPENDIX L

Analyses of Variance on Acceptance
of and Attitudes towards Divorce

TABLE L-1.   Attitudes toward Divorce by Type

Source	df	SS	MS	F ratio
Between groups	2	25.53	12.77	1.73
Within groups	81	598.42	7.39	
Total	83	623.95		

TABLE L-2.   Analysis of Variance on Acceptance of Marital Termination by Type

Source	df	SS	MS	F ratio
Between groups	2	225.81	112.90	2.67
Within groups	81	3424.89	42.28	
Total	83	3650.70		

TABLE L-3.   Attitudes towards Divorce by Who Suggested Divorce

Source	df	SS	MS	F ratio
Between groups	3	49.99	16.66	2.20
Within groups	101	764.78	7.57	
Total	104	814.77		

TABLE L-4.   Acceptance of Marital Termination by Who Suggested Divorce

Source	df	SS	MS	F ratio
Between groups	3	33.11	11.03	0.26
Within groups	101	4315.94	42.73	
Total	104	4349.05		

TABLE L-5. Attitudes toward Divorce by Who Moved Out

Source	df	SS	MS	F ratio
Between groups	2	16.90	8.45	1.09
Within groups	104	806.15	7.75	
Total	106	823.05		

TABLE L-6. Acceptance of Marital Termination by Who Moved Out

Source	df	SS	MS	F ratio
Between groups	2	3.58	1.79	0.04
Within groups	104	4402.59	42.33	
Total	106	4406.17		

TABLE L-7. Attitudes toward Divorce by Who Filed

Source	df	SS	MS	F ratio
Between groups	2	33.67	16.83	2.22
Within groups	104	789.38	7.59	
Total	106	823.05		

TABLE L-8. Acceptance of Marital Termination by Who Filed

Source	df	SS	MS	F ratio
Between groups	2	106.10	53.05	1.28
Within groups	104	4300.07	41.35	
Total	106	4406.17		

TABLE L-9. Attitudes towards Divorce by Sex

Source	df	SS	MS	F ratio
Sex	1	8.80	8.80	1.14
Error	105	814.25	7.76	
Total	106	823.05		

TABLE L-10. Acceptance of Marital Termination by Sex

Source	df	SS	MS	F ratio
Sex	1	34.83	34.83	0.84
Error	105	4371.34	41.63	
Total	106	4406.17		

APPENDIX M

Tables of Means for Relationship
Dimensions by Type

TABLE M-1. Means on Love by Type

| | Type | | | |
	Rapid	Gradual	Extended	Total
Time Period				
Recognition	64.00	57.93	58.03	59.84
Discussion	53.08	49.22	47.46	49.80
Action	37.24	29.32	28.72	31.56
Gender				
Men	54.02	48.26	47.07	49.90
Women	46.85	42.71	42.05	43.51
TOTAL	51.44	45.49	44.74	

TABLE M-2. Means on Maintenance by Type

| | Type | | | |
	Rapid	Gradual	Extended	Total
Time Period				
Recognition	27.93	25.18	23.61	25.48
Discussion	24.56	25.58	24.50	24.89
Action	14.16	13.47	15.68	14.44
Gender				
Men	23.88	20.67	21.24	22.00
Women	19.26	22.14	21.28	21.11
TOTAL	22.22	21.41	21.26	

TABLE M-3. Means on Conflict by Type

| | Type | | | |
	Rapid	Gradual	Extended	Total
Time Period				
Recognition	28.28	28.75	27.14	28.05
Discussion	27.21	31.86	30.07	29.80
Action	20.76	25.00	23.64	23.22
Gender				
Men	25.08	26.45	28.22	26.55
Women	20.89	30.21	18.92	27.61
TOTAL	23.57	28.33	23.90	

TABLE M-4.   Means on Ambivalence by Type

	Type			
	Rapid	Gradual	Extended	Total
Time Period				
Recognition	24.24	24.79	25.04	24.70
Discussion	22.96	26.04	26.00	26.07
Action	15.16	17.22	16.50	16.33
Gender				
Men	20.83	22.67	22.20	21.86
Women	20.70	22.69	22.87	22.26
TOTAL	20.78	22.68	22.51	

TABLE M-5.   Means on Trust by Type

	Type			
	Rapid	Gradual	Extended	Total
Time Period				
Recognition	31.80	31.90	33.32	32.36
Discussion	31.72	31.50	32.89	32.05
Action	30.65	31.18	30.75	30.86
Gender				
Men	32.83	33.64	31.71	32.71
Women	28.81	29.40	33.03	30.56
TOTAL	31.38	31.52	32.32	

TABLE M-6.   Means on Marital Satisfaction by Type

	Type			
	Rapid	Gradual	Extended	Total
Time Period				
Recognition	3.09	3.27	3.75	3.40
Discussion	2.45	2.42	2.82	2.58
Action	2.00	1.27	1.89	1.71
Gender				
Men	2.71	2.33	2.93	2.68
Women	2.10	2.31	2.69	2.41
TOTAL	2.49	2.32	2.82	

TABLE M-7. Means on Comparison Level for Alternatives by Type

	Type			
	Rapid	Gradual	Extended	Total
Time Period				
Recognition	27.41	27.29	27.79	27.50
Discussion	27.75	28.07	28.64	28.18
Action	29.38	31.00	31.00	30.51
Gender				
Men	28.96	29.05	29.44	29.15
Women	26.63	28.52	28.79	28.19
TOTAL	28.18	28.79	29.14	

APPENDIX N

Tables of Means for Relationship
Dimensions by Initiator

TABLE N-1. Means on Love by Initiator

	Initiator			
	Initiator	Noninitiator	Mutual	Total
Time Period				
Recognition	53.67	66.46	62.47	60.04
Discussion	42.78	57.18	52.07	49.86
Action	28.14	34.49	39.47	32.35
Gender				
Men	44.04	52.46	53.17	49.77
Women	40.00	53.00	44.00	45.02
TOTAL	41.53	52.71	51.34	

TABLE N-2. Means on Maintenance by Initiator

	Initiator			
	Initiator	Noninitiator	Mutual	Total
Time Period				
Recognition	24.18	25.84	28.53	25.50
Discussion	22.38	26.03	26.66	24.47
Action	13.15	15.79	16.40	14.69
Gender				
Men	19.96	21.76	24.44	21.79
Women	19.87	23.48	21.56	21.30
TOTAL	19.90	22.55	23.86	

TABLE N-3. Means on Conflict by Initiator

	Initiator			
	Initiator	Noninitiator	Mutual	Total
Time Period				
Recognition	27.76	26.95	31.27	27.97
Discussion	30.73	28.59	31.20	29.96
Action	22.93	24.85	25.40	24.06
Gender				
Men	25.29	26.92	29.81	27.06
Women	28.26	26.65	27.22	27.61
TOTAL	27.14	26.80	29.29	

TABLE N-4. Means on Ambivalence by Initiator

| | Initiator | | | |
	Initiator	Noninitiator	Mutual	Total
Time Period				
Recognition	25.78	22.46	26.33	24.56
Discussion	26.14	23.64	26.00	25.13
Action	15.43	18.51	17.46	16.95
Gender				
Men	21.41	22.68	23.03	22.33
Women	23.07	20.20	24.22	22.09
TOTAL	22.44	21.54	23.27	

TABLE N-5. Means on Trust by Initiator

| | Initiator | | | |
	Initiator	Noninitiator	Mutual	Total
Time Period				
Recognition	31.07	31.79	35.73	32.06
Discussion	30.25	31.92	35.33	31.68
Action	30.27	29.34	32.66	30.26
Gender				
Men	32.14	31.46	34.86	32.51
Women	29.55	30.50	33.44	30.14
TOTAL	30.53	31.02	34.58	

TABLE N-6. Means on Marital Satisfaction by Initiator

| | Initiator | | | |
	Initiator	Noninitiator	Mutual	Total
Time Period				
Recognition	2.89	3.89	3.72	3.40
Discussion	2.19	3.09	2.79	2.62
Action	1.49	1.75	1.93	1.66
Gender				
Men	2.20	3.02	2.88	2.72
Women	2.18	2.77	2.56	2.41
TOTAL	2.19	2.09	2.81	

TABLE N-7. Means on Comparison Level for Alternatives by Initiator

| | Initiator | | | |
	Initiator	Noninitiator	Mutual	Total
Time Period				
Recognition	27.43	26.39	28.26	27.15
Discussion	28.13	27.37	28.93	27.96
Action	29.83	29.87	31.26	30.06
Gender				
Men	29.02	28.54	29.31	28.88
Women	28.12	27.06	30.22	27.88
TOTAL	28.46	27.88	29.49	

APPENDIX O

ANOVA Tables for Relationship History
Variables by Sex

TABLE 0-1.   Number of Premarital Relationships

Source	df	SS	MS	F ratio
Sex	1	5.73	5.73	2.18
Error	104	273.37		
Total	105	279.10		

TABLE 0-2.   Dating Frequency before Marriage

Source	df	SS	MS	F ratio
Sex	1	0.0001	0.0001	0.00
Error	102	95.5400	0.9400	
Total	103	95.5400		

TABLE 0-3.   Level of Involvement with Opposite Sex Previous to Marriage

Source	df	SS	MS	F ratio
Sex	1	3.57	3.57	3.38
Error	104	109.83	1.06	
Total	105	113.40		

TABLE 0-4.   Comparison Level before Marrying Partner

Source	df	SS	MS	F ratio
Sex	1	0.12	0.12	0.16
Error	104	79.47	0.76	
Total	105	79.59		

TABLE 0-5.   Premarital Feelings toward Marriage in General

Source	df	SS	MS	F ratio
Sex	1	0.37	0.37	0.22
Error	104	174.05	1.67	
Total	105	174.42		

TABLE O-6.   Parental Support of Decision to Marry

Source	df	SS	MS	F ratio
Sex	1	0.05	0.05	0.05
Error	102	93.80	0.92	
Total	103	93.85		

TABLE O-7.   Ability to Develop Intimate Relationships

Source	df	SS	MS	F ratio
Sex	1	0.0002	0.0002	0.00
Error	104	76.8800	.7400	
Total	105	76.8800		

TABLE O-8.   Dating Period with Partner

Source	df	SS	MS	F ratio
Sex	1	254.82	254.82	0.92
Error	103	28591.14	277.58	
Total	104	28845.96		

TABLE O-9.   Respondent's Age at Marriage

Source	df	SS	MS	F ratio
Sex	1	342.65	342.65	13.63***
Error	104	2614.97	25.14	
Total	105	2957.62		

*** $p < .0004$.

TABLE O-10.   Age of Respondent's Spouse at Marriage

Source	df	SS	MS	F ratio
Sex	1	10.02	10.02	0.46
Error	104	2280.21	21.93	
Total	105	2290.23		

TABLE O-11. Length of Marriage

Source	df	SS	MS	F ratio
Sex	1	26.80	26.80	0.49
Error	105	5744.67	54.71	
Total	106	5771.47		

TABLE O-12. Physical Health Since Divorce

Source	df	SS	MS	F ratio
Sex	1	1.97	1.67	1.67
Error	104	88.34	0.85	
Total	105	90.01		

TABLE O-13. Respondent's Emotional Distress after Divorce

Source	df	SS	MS	F ratio
Sex	1	0.65	0.65	0.63
Error	104	107.62	1.03	
Total	105	108.27		

TABLE O-14. Partner's Emotional Distress after Divorce

Source	df	SS	MS	F ratio
Sex	1	0.03	0.03	0.04
Error	102	90.43	0.89	
Total	103	90.46		

TABLE O-15. Level of Contact Preferred with Partner after Divorce

Source	df	SS	MS	F ratio
Sex	1	1.37	1.37	2.70
Error	104	52.63	0.51	
Total	105	54.00		

Chi-Squares for Dissolution Events by Sex

TABLE 0-16.

	Women	Men	
Wife suggested	28	23	51
Husband suggested	19	19	38
Both suggested	3	12	15
	50	54	

$x^2=5.75, 2 d.f., p<.056$

TABLE 0-17.

	Women	Men	
Wife moved	20	26	46
Husband moved	29	30	59
Both moved	1	1	2
	50	57	

$x^2=0.34, 2 d.f., n.s.$

TABLE O-18.

	Women	Men	
Wife filed	27	28	55
Husband filed	15	22	37
Joint	8	7	15
	50	57	

x^2=0.96, 2 d.f.,n.s.

TABLE O-19.

	Women	Men	
Wife contested	2	5	7
Husband contested	3	5	8
Neither contested	45	47	92
	50	57	

x^2=1.38, 2 d.f.,n.s.

APPENDIX P

ANOVA Tables for Relationship History
Variables by Type

TABLE P-1.　Number of Premarital Relationships

Source	df	SS	MS	F ratio
Type	2	3.00	1.50	.52
Error	80	231.17	2.89	
Total	82	234.17		

TABLE P-2.　Dating Frequency before Marriage

Source	df	SS	MS	F ratio
Type	2	0.40	0.20	0.21
Error	79	75.66	0.96	
Total	81	76.06		

TABLE P-3.　Level of Involvement with Opposite Sex Previous to Marriage

Source	df	SS	MS	F ratio
Type	2	2.68	1.34	1.14
Error	80	94.21	1.18	
Total	82	96.89		

TABLE P-4.　Comparison Level before Marrying Partner

Source	df	SS	MS	F ratio
Type	2	0.14	0.07	0.09
Error	80	64.51	0.81	
Total	82	64.65		

TABLE P-5.　Premarital Feelings toward Marriage in General

Source	df	SS	MS	F ratio
Type	2	4.33	2.16	1.42
Error	80	122.27	1.53	
Total	82	126.60		

TABLE P-6. Parental Support of Decision to Marry

Source	df	SS	MS	F ratio
Type	2	5.36	2.68	3.34**
Error	79	63.34	0.80	
Total	81	68.70		

**p < .04.

TABLE P-7. Ability to Develop Intimate Relationships

Source	df	SS	MS	F ratio
Type	2	0.50	0.25	0.33
Error	80	59.77	0.75	
Total	82	60.27		

TABLE P-8. Dating Period with Partner

Source	df	SS	MS	F ratio
Type	2	232.36	116.18	0.37
Error	79	25009.70	316.58	
Total	81	25242.06		

TABLE P-9. Respondent's Age at Marriage

Source	df	SS	MS	F ratio
Type	2	64.98	34.49	1.04
Error	80	2499.26	31.24	
Total	82	2564.24		

TABLE P-10. Age of Respondent's Spouse at Marriage

Source	df	SS	MS	F ratio
Type	2	32.04	16.02	0.64
Error	80	1999.96	25.00	
Total	82	2032.00		

TABLE P-11. Age of Respondent's Spouse at Marriage

Source	df	SS	MS	F ratio
Type	2	65.61	32.81	0.74
Error	81	3612.96	44.60	
Total	83	3678.57		

TABLE P-12. Physical Health Since Divorce

Source	df	SS	MS	F ratio
Type	2	0.99	0.49	0.60
Error	80	66.07	0.83	
Total	82	67.06		

TABLE P-13. Respondent's Emotional Distress after Divorce

Source	df	SS	MS	F ratio
Type	2	0.69	0.34	0.30
Error	80	92.30	1.15	
Total	82	92.99		

TABLE P-14. Partner's Emotional Distress after Divorce

Source	df	SS	MS	F ratio
Type	2	3.19	1.60	1.90
Error	80	67.10	0.84	
Total	82	70.29		

TABLE P-15. Level of Contact Preferred with Partner after Divorce

Source	df	SS	MS	F ratio
Type	2	0.32	0.16	0.29
Error	80	44.67	0.56	
Total	82	44.99		

Chi-Square Tables for Dissolution Events by Type

TABLE P-16.

	Rapid	Gradual	Extended	
Wife suggested	15	13	13	41
Husband suggested	5	12	12	29
Both suggested	5	4	3	12
	25	29	28	

$x^2 = 3.94, 4$ d.f., n.s.

TABLE P-17.

	Rapid	Gradual	Extended	
Wife moved	12	12	13	37
Husband moved	15	16	15	46
Both moved	0	1	0	1
	27	29	28	

$x^2 = 6.30, 4$ d.f., n.s.

TABLE P-18.

	Rapid	Gradual	Extended	
Wife filed	12	17	16	45
Husband filed	7	9	10	26
Joint	8	3	2	13
	27	29	28	

$\underline{x}^2$=6.30, 4d.f.,n.s.

TABLE P-19.

	Rapid	Gradual	Extended	
Wife contested	1	1	3	5
Husband contested	2	1	4	7
Neither contested	24	27	21	72
	27	29	28	

x^2=4.24,4 d.f.,n.s.