AN ABSTRACT OF THE THESIS

__Sally A. Lloyd__ for the degree of ___Doctor of Philosophy___

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Title: _A Typological Description of Premarital Relationship_

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The purpose of the present study was to describe the process of

premarital relationship dissolution. This description entailed

typologizing relationships on the basis of their trajectories to

involvement and eventual dissolution. One hundred individuals who had

been involved in a serious relationship that had broken up within the

past 12 months were interviewed. This 90-minute face-to-face inter-

view consisted of three parts. First, the relationship was graphed

out on a "chance of marriage" graph, in order to form a trajectory

of the relationship. Second, the participant completed a series of

measures that assessed the relationship dimensions of love, mainten-

ance, ambivalence, conflict, reward level, comparison level, com-

parison level for alternatives, and satisfaction. Third, the

participant described the breakup of the relationship in greater

detail.

Five types of serious relationships that had dissolved were

identified through the use of cluster analysis. Accelerated

relationships were characterized by rapid involvement over a short

period of time, rapid dissolution, and a low level of turbulence

in the relationship. Low-level relationships were lowest in level

of involvement; they developed at a slow pace. These relationships dissolved quickly and contained little turbulence. Moderate relationships developed and dissolved at a moderate-to-slow pace and reached an intermediate level of involvement with little turbulence. Prolonged-turbulent relationships were characterized by a high level of turbulence and a high involvement level. These relationships developed at a moderate pace and dissolved quickly. Prolonged-smooth relationships were the longest relationships. These relationships were characterized by a slow, nonturbulent development and a slow dissolution.

After the types were identified, they were further differentiated on the basis of the relationship dimensions. There were significant differences by type on the dimensions of love, conflict, and comparison level for alternatives. In addition, there were differences as a function of who initiated the breakup on the dimensions of ambivalence and comparison level for alternatives. Finally, there were significant differences by gender on the dimensions of ambivalence, maintenance, rewards, and satisfaction.

A Typological Description of Premarital

Relationship Dissolution

by

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A FRAMEWORK FOR STUDYING PREMARITAL
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Introduction

Premarital relationships have been viewed as a period of testing compatibility for marriage. Such a conceptualization implies that the development of the premarital relationship has implications for the quality of the marital relationship. Ultimately, the premarital relationship may be viewed as a vital first step in the sequence of events known as the family life cycle. However, if premarital relationships are indeed a time of "testing compatibility," it is likely that some relationships would be incompatible and subsequently dissolve. In order to enhance our understanding of the mate selection process and how couples move to marriage, it is important to study couples who do not marry, as well as couples who do marry.

Within the study of premarital development, it has been emphasized that the process of relationship development is not the same for all couples (Huston, Surra, Fitzgerald & Cate, 1981). This emphasis on the variability that exists from relationship to relationship can be equally applied to the examination of the process of relationship dissolution (Duck, 1981). Knapp (1978) has conceptualized two types of dissolutions: relationships that slowly pass away and relationships that die a sudden death. Hill, Rubin, and Peplau (1976) have provided anecdotes that represent these two types:

Slowly Passing Away

Kathy and Joe . . . both agree that Kathy was the one who
wanted to break up. She felt they were too tied down to
one another, that Joe was too dependent and demanded her
exclusive attention--even in groups of friends he would
draw her aside. As early as the spring Joe came to feel
that Kathy was no longer as much in love as he, but it took
him a long time to reconcile himself to the notion that
things were ending. They gradually saw each other less
and less over the summer months, until finally she began
to date someone else. (p. 156)

Sudden Death

David was less involved in the relationship that Ruth was,
but it was clear that Ruth was the one who precipitated
the final breakup. According to Ruth, David was spending
more and more time with his own group of friends, and this
bothered her. She recalled one night in particular when
"they were showing The Last Picture Show in one of the
dorms, and we went to see it. I was sitting next to him,
but it was as if he wasn't really there. He was running
around talking to all these people and I was following
him around and I felt like his kid sister. So I knew
I wasn't going to put up with that much longer." When
she talked to him about this and other problems, he said
"I'm sorry"--but did not change. Shortly thereafter,
Ruth wanted to see a movie in Cambridge, and asked David
if he would go with her. He replied, "No, there's some-
thing going on in the dorm!" This was the last straw for
Ruth, and she told him she would not go out with him
anymore. (pp. 156-157)

These anecdotes point out the potential variability that is present

from one relationship to the next in terms of the manner in which

relationships terminate. An examination of the differences in

pathways to the termination of a relationship would be a logical

first step in increasing our understanding of the relationship

dissolution process.

Importance of the Study of Premarital Relationship Dissolution

The study of premarital relationship dissolution is important

for three reasons. First, it may provide a framework for a better

understanding of mate selection (Hill et al., 1976). Studies of

mate selection have focused primarily on ascertaining who makes it to marriage, rather than on describing who does not make it to marriage. Using the results of these studies of mate selection, it may be possible to describe couples whose relationships break up, in terms of a failure to achieve certain characteristics or stages in their relationships. Thus, according to Kerckhoff and Davis (1962), couples break up because they fail to achieve social similarity, value consensus, and need complementarity with one another. Such an analysis tells little, however, about the process that led to the dissolution of the relationship. A more detailed description of the process that lead to the dissolution of the relationship would provide a framework for a better understanding of why one couple's relationship dissolves and another couple's relationship results in marriage. The primary importance of the study of premarital relationship dissolution, then, lies in its ability to fill in the gaps in our understanding of mate selection.

The second reason the study of premarital relationship dissolution is important is that it may help to increase our understanding of other types of dissolutions, most notably divorce. Hill et al. (1976) note that there are profound differences in the experience of marital versus premarital breakup. Most notable among these differences is the normative context: premarital breakups occur in an accepting context; whereas, divorce remains counternormative. Despite such differences, however, some similarities between the two do exist (e.g., gender differences in the perception of the breakup have been discovered both in premarital and marital dissolutions). It seems

reasonable to assume that there may be similarities in the process of disengaging and deciding to terminate a relationship, be it marital or premarital. Increased understanding of this process for premarital couples may provide a framework to better understand the similarities and differences that exist between premarital breakup and divorce. In addition, such study would be valuable in suggesting future directions for research in both premarital and marital termination.

Third, information on premarital relationship dissolution may, in the long run, enhance our understanding of marital stability. In terms of the development of a particular relationship, an individual couple can take one of three routes: they can break up premaritally, they can marry and remain stable, or they can marry and subsequently divorce. An understanding of the factors that differentiate which route a particular couple will take may ultimately contribute to a larger understanding of why some relationships are stable and others are not. The first step in reaching such understanding is basic descriptive research of each of these three paths. The present study proposes to describe one such route, that of premarital relationship dissolution.

The Study of Relationship Dissolution

Empirical and conceptual works on relationship dissolution exist in two main areas: the ending of premarital relationships and the ending of marital relationships. These two areas of the literature will be reviewed in order to examine what has been done in the area

of relationship dissolution as well as to draw implications for the
descriptive study of premarital relationship dissolution.

The Ending of Premarital Relationships

The termination of premarital relationships has not yet received
much empirical scrutiny. Two major studies have been published: one
on broken engagements by Burgess and Wallin (1953) and one on breakups
before marriage by Hill et al. (1976). In addition, there are several
conceptual statements on the process of disengagement from a premarital relationship.

Burgess and Wallin (1953) studied the broken engagements of 131
couples. These researchers found broken engagements to be fairly
prevalent; in their total sample of 1,000, about one-third of the
men and one-half of the women had experienced a broken engagement.
Burgess and Wallin (1953) classified the "causes" of these breaks
into five categories: slight emotional attachment, physical separation, parental opposition, cultural differences, and personality
problems. Couples who remained together versus couples who broke
their engagements could be differentiated on all five of these
factors.

In addition, Burgess and Wallin (1953) studied the engagement-breaking process. This process was seen as containing five phases:
(a) difficulties encountered before the final break, (b) circumstances
of breaking up, (c) reactions of the couple to the breakup, (d) rebound engagement with someone else, and (e) learning from the
experience. The time before the final break was characterized by
one or more interruptions in the relationship. These breaks were
due to a variety of reasons, such as misunderstandings, deceptions,

and quarrels. The second phase, that of the actual final break of the engagement, was not the same for all couples. Some relationships terminated with a sharp, complete break; others ended through a gradual tapering off procedure. This final break usually occurred at the initiative of one member of the couple, with a few cases of the noninitiator of the breakup being totally surprised at its occurrence. In terms of reacting to the broken engagement, there was a period of severe emotional stress and strain (which was directly proportional to the unexpectedness of the break). These strains were eventually replaced by feelings of satisfaction that the break had occurred. Burgess and Wallin (1953) found that some individuals rapidly became engaged to a new partner "on the rebound" from their previous engagement, while others became more cautious in how quickly they committed themselves to a new relationship.

Hill et al. (1976) studied the ending of premarital relationships. In this study, couples who dissolved their relationships were lower in intimacy at the beginning of the study, had unequal levels of involvement between the two partners, and were dissimilar in social characteristics and values in comparison to couples whose relationships remained intact.

In terms of the actual process of breaking up, Hill et al. (1976) concluded that factors external to the relationship (e.g., the end of the school year) interacted with internal factors (e.g., unhappiness with the relationship) to produce a breakup. Breakups tended to occur at key points in the school year, most notably at the beginning and end of a term. Hill et al. (1976) speculated that such timing allowed the couples to come up with a verbal reason to decrease

involvement and at the same time save self-esteem.

There were differences in the perception of the breakup between the partner who initiated the breakup and the partner who was broken up with. Mainly, there were differences in the emotional aftermath; initiators suffered less emotional trauma than did noninitiators. In addition, the two sides failed to agree on the dyadic factors (e.g., conflicting ideas about marriage) that contributed to the relationship termination. However, there was high agreement on the individual factors (e.g., one partner's desire to be independent) that contributed to the breakup.

Other differences in the perception and experience of the breakup were related to gender. Women tended to perceive more problems than did men. Relationships were ended by women both when they were the more involved and the less involved partner; however, relationships were rarely ended by men who were the more involved partner. Finally, the actual experience of the breakup was more traumatic for men than for women (Hill et al., 1976).

Davis (1973) has suggested reasons for the termination of an intimate relationship. He distinguishes between relationships that "pass away" and relationships that die a "sudden death." Three reasons for a relationship slowly terminating seem to be: (a) a new potential partner enters the scene, (b) physical separation increases the difficulty of maintaining a high level of intimacy, or (c) individual development interferes with the relationship. The factors that may precipitate the "sudden death" of a relationship include (a) one individual wishing to terminate the relationship decides to do so rapidly, (b) some unforeseen event precipitates a quick termination

(e.g., an argument gets out of hand), or (c) a sacred covenant, or a core belief of the relationship, is violated (e.g., having intercourse with someone else). Davis' analysis not only pays attention to the fact that couples break up for a variety of reasons, it also allows for differences in the speed of progression through the breaking up process.

Two additional conceptualizations about the process of the dissolution of relationships can be found in the works of Altman and Taylor (1973) and Reiss (1976). Altman and Taylor (1973) have outlined the process of social penetration. This process entails increases in the depth and breadth of self-disclosure as the relation-ship deepens. Altman and Taylor (1973) hypothesized that the deteri-oration of a relationship is characterized by a reversal of this process. Individuals begin to disclose less about less intimate topics as their relationships begin to disengage. Reiss (1976) proposes a similar idea within the Wheel Theory of Love. This theory postulates that individuals move through rapport, self-revelation, mutual dependency, and personality need fulfillment in the process of falling in love. The process of deterioration of the relationship is characterized by reverse movement through these four states.

Studies of Marital Dissolution

While there are many studies of divorce, only a few of these deal with the process of ending a marriage (Levinger, 1976). Rather, most studies of divorce have emphasize the demographics associated with divorce or have emphasized post-divorce adjustment. Among the studies that have examined the process of divorce are works on types

of divorce (Hunt & Hunt, 1977; Kressel, Jaffe, Tuchman, Watson, & Deutsch, 1980) and work on the process of deciding to divorce (Kressel & Deutsch, 1977).

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 firmly 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, the members of the couple accept the inevitability of divorce. The period of mourning is characterized by feelings of guilt, self-reproach, and failure. This feeling is eventually replaced by anger at the former spouse, which in turn is replaced by acceptance of the positive and negative aspects of the marriage. The period of equilibration is a time of increased self-growth and decreased dwelling on the marriage.

Hunt and Hunt (1977) have described the divorce process as one that varies from couple to couple. For some couples, the breakup occurs as a result of a gradual fading of the original vitality of the relationship. In contrast, other couples experience a sudden breakup of a seemingly good marriage. Hunt and Hunt (1977) comment

that the actual separation occurs in most cases after a long and agonized process of alternating deterioration and attempts at reconciliation.

Kressel et al. (1980) empirically developed a typology of divorcing couples. They identified four distinct types of couples: enmeshed, autistic, direct-conflict, and disengaged-conflict. These types were distinguished on the basis of the amounts of conflict, communication, and ambivalence in the relationship during the divorce decision period. Enmeshed couples were characterized by high amounts of conflict, communication, and ambivalence. Autistic couples were low in conflict and in communication and evidenced high yet unarticulated ambivalence. Direct-conflict couples were high in conflict and communication and initially high in ambivalence. The amount of ambivalence decreased as the couple drew closer to a decision to divorce. Disengaged-conflict couples were low in all three dimensions.

Implications for the Study of Premarital Relationship Dissolution

Overall, three conceptualizations of relationship dissolution emerge from the literature. First, premarital relationship dissolution has been viewed as a "reversal" of premarital relationship development. Both Altman and Taylor (1973) and Reiss (1976) comment that the dissolving relationship "unfolds" as a reversal of the manner in which it developed. However, an examination of the empirical literature on premarital relationship dissolution does not necessarily support this simple "reversal of development" conception. As Duck (1981) and Hill et al. (1976) point out, termination is not merely a result of internal or dyadic factors (such as superficial involvement) but is also affected by external or situational factors (such

as the end of the school year). The "reversal of development" idea does not take into account such situational factors. Indeed, so many factors appear to be at play in any termination (note, for example, the perceptual differences between the initiator and non-initiator of the breakup as seen in the Hill et al. 1976 study) that the conceptualization of the relationship termination process as a reversal may be too simplistic. Premarital relationship dissolution should be conceptualized as a result of a variety of factors, dyadic and individual, internal and external. An application of a multilevel framework, such as the social exchange framework of pair dissolution presented by Levinger (1979), may prove to be a more accurate depiction of premarital relationship dissolution.

Second, relationship termination has been conceptualized as a process of alternating disengagement and attempts at reconciliation (Hunt & Hunt, 1977; Kressel & Deutsch, 1977). This approach ties in nicely with the conceptual work of Altman, Vinsel, and Brown (1981). They approach termination from the perspective of alternating cycles of openness and closedness in the attempt to resolve disagreements, express hostilities, and clarify positions. This cycle may be quite temporally regular (i.e., occurring at fixed intervals of time) or it may evidence little in the way of a constant pattern. Altman et al. (1981) presented this framework as one that speaks to the limitations of the earlier social penetration process framework. Rather than viewing termination as a simple reversal, termination is now viewed as a process of approach and withdrawal. Such a conceptualization indeed begins to take a closer look at the process of disengagement,

as it allows for the possibility that termination does not always occur as a sharp and final break but, rather, probably occurs more often over an extended period of time. In addition, this framework takes into account the ambivalence that may accompany the decision to terminate a relationship, for these cycles of approach and withdrawal may be seen as a reflection of variation in how the individual feels about the relationship over time.

A third conceptualization of termination emphasizes differences in the process of dissolution from couple to couple. Kressel et al. (1980) described four types of divorcing couples; their approach emphasized that not all couples go through the process of a marital termination in the same manner. In addition, Burgess and Wallin (1953), Hunt and Hunt (1977), and Knapp (1978) all comment that the rapidity with which a termination occurs varies from relationship to relationship. The idea that relationship terminations can be differentiated from couple to couple complements studies that have typologized developing and ongoing relationships (cf. Cuber & Harroff, 1966; Huston et al., 1981). These studies emphasize that not only are there differences in the movement to marriage but that marital relationships differ as well. It seems logical to extend these ideas to a conceptualization of premarital dissolution as a process that varies from couple to couple.

In summary, three conceptualizations of relationship dissolution have been posited: dissolution as the reversal of development, dissolution as a cycle of disengagement and reconciliation, and dissolution as a process that varies from couple to couple. The use of the word conceptualization here is not meant to imply that these

three views of dissolution are mutually exclusive. Rather, all three of these ways of looking at relationship dissolution have important implications for an empirical investigation. While the idea that dissolution is a reversal of development may be too simplistic, it is important in that it emphasizes the utility of looking at the entire history of the relationship, that is, it emphasizes placing the process of dissolution in the context of the entire relationship. The view of dissolution as a series of cycles of disengagement and reconciliation emphasizes the importance of looking at the breakup over time and the potential fluctuation that may be present within a relationship as the couple negotiates its future. Finally, allowing for multiple pathways to the termination of a relationship emphasizes the importance of variability between couples. Just as there is probably no "typical" courtship, there is probably no "typical" process of relationship dissolution. In the last analysis, a typological description of the development and subsequent dissolution of premarital relationships may well do the most in terms of "filling in the gaps" in the understanding of relationships, mate selection, and stability.

A Method for Describing the Process of Relationship Dissolution

The focus of the present study will be to develop a typology of the process of premarital relationship dissolution. Recently, a method for typologizing relationships has been developed by Huston et al. (1981). This method involves the use of a retrospective

interview wherein each partner reconstructs the development of the relationship in a time-ordered fashion. This reconstruction of the relationship utilizes a "chance of marriage" graph to represent changes in commitment to the relationship over time. The chance of marriage graph has probability of marriage from 0 to 100% along the ordinate and time in months along the abscissa (see Figure 1). The actual graphing of the relationship revolves around points in time where the chance of marriage changed (increased or decreased) and the events that affected such changes. This graphing technique results in a trajectory of the premarital relationship.

Huston et al. (1981) designed this technique to allow for individual differences in the movement to marriage. Rather than constructing one "average" trajectory to represent movement to marriage, these researchers have looked at typologies of the trajectories. Thus, the emphasis has been placed on describing variations in the courtship process. Cate (1979) generated three types of trajectories to marriage in his study of 50 married couples. The accelerated courtship began with the highest chance of marriage and climbed quickly to 100% probability. The prolonged courtship was characterized by a slow, turbulent movement to 100% chance of marriage. The intermediate courtship fell in between accelerated and prolonged in the rate of movement to marriage; in addition, the movement to marriage was smoother for the intermediate courtships than for the accelerated or prolonged courtships.

The next step in developing typologies is to attempt to differentiate the identified types on relevant dimensions. Some particularly
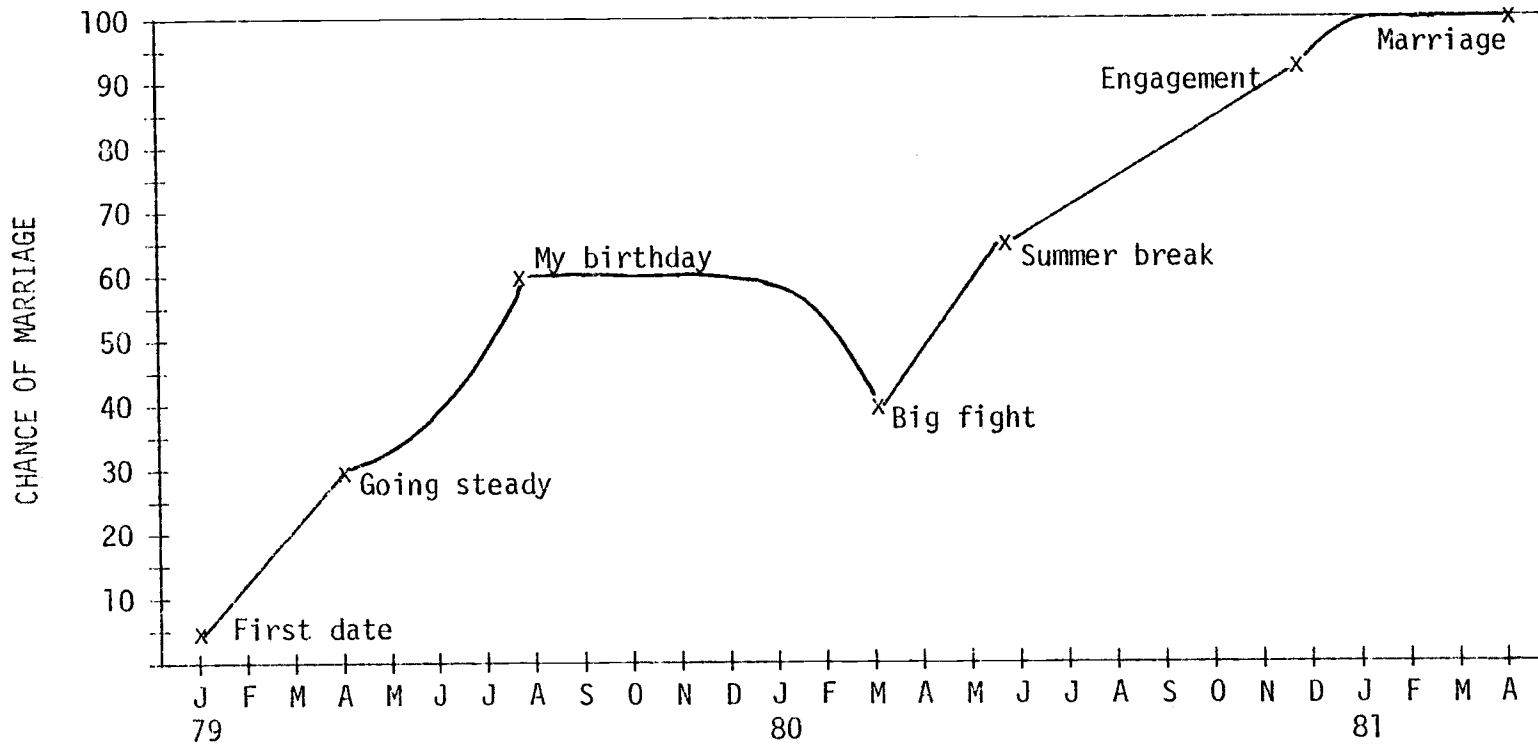
Figure 1. Chance of marriage graph.

relevant dimensions of premarital relationships have been identified by Braiker and Kelley (1979). The primary intent of their work was to conceptualize the process of courtship based on how married couples reconstructed the development of their relationships. Braiker and Kelley's (1979) analysis yielded four dimensions: love, maintenance, ambivalence, and conflict. These dimensions reflected two basic aspects of the relationship: the nature of interdependence and the nature of conflict. Love can be viewed as the "subjective condition" (i.e., as the feeling state) that is associated with the development of interdependence in the relationship, while maintenance may be viewed as a behavioral manifestation of that interdependence (Huston, 1981). Ambivalence may be seen as a manifestation of intrapersonal conflict (e.g., confusion about feelings towards the partner), while conflict represents the occurrence of interpersonal problems and arguments in the relationship (Braiker & Kelley, 1979).

Braiker and Kelley (1979) examined the development trend of each of these four dimensions during the courtship period. Each dimension evidence significant differences across the four relationship stages of casual dating, serious dating, engagement, and marriage. Love and maintenance both showed gradual, increasing changes as the relationship progressed to marriage. Ambivalence followed a decreasing pattern, being at its highest during casual dating and decreasing with engagement. Conflict showed a sharp increase from casual to serious dating, leveling off thereafter.

The dimensions of love, maintenance, ambivalence, and conflict have been used in conjunction with the relationship trajectories. Cate (1979) found significant differences among his three types of

courtships on the dimensions of love, maintenance, and conflict. Prolonged and intermediate courtships reported more love during the stages of casual and serious dating than did accelerated courtships (there were no differences among the types on love during engagement and marriage). An analysis of the conflict dimension revealed that prolonged relationships were higher in conflict than either accelerated or intermediate relationships. Finally, accelerated courtships were significantly lower in maintenance than the prolonged and intermediate relationships during the three premarital stages of casually dating, seriously dating, and engagement.

The use of the retrospective interview technique appears to be particularly applicable to the study of premarital relationship dissolution. The construction of a trajectory of the relationship allowed an assessment of the process of the relationship, that is, such a trajectory was a representation of the development and eventual dissolution of the relationshiop over time. In the long run, typologizing relationship trajectories and the description of these typologies on the basis of relevant dimensions allowed an assessment of the three conceptualizations of dissolution previously mentioned. Of primary importance, this technique allowed an examination of the differences in the process of premarital relationship dissolution from couple to couple. In addition, this retrospective interview technique allowed an assessment of whether the process of dissolution was indeed a reversal of the process of development and whether there were cycles of disengagement and reconciliation in the process of dissolving a relationship.

Some questions may arise as to the applicability of the "chance of marriage" graphing technique to relationships that never reached marriage. Previous study has shown, however, that individuals in premarital relationships at all levels of involvement (casual, serious, engaged) had no problem in assessing their current chance of marriage. In addition, the chance of marriage was highly related to the level of involvement in the relationship; the correlation between chance of marriage and involvement was .72 (Lloyd, Cate & Henton, 1982). Thus, in the present study, chance of marriage was retained as the ordinate of the graph for two reasons. First, it appears from previous study that chance of marriage serves as a simple marker for the level of involvement in the relationship. Second, retaining the chance of marriage allowed the results of the present study of dissolved relationships to be compared to other studies of relationships that did result in marriage (cf. Cate, 1979; Surra, 1980).

Relevant Dimensions in the Study of Relationship Dissolution

Recently researchers have used a social exchange framework in the explanation and study of relationship development and maintenance. The basic tenet of exchange theory is that individuals act so as to maximize their rewards and minimize their costs (Thibaut & Kelly, 1959). Thus, interaction is viewed as an exchange of mutually rewarding activities; the assumption here is that rewarding relation-ships will continue, while costly ones will dissolve (Levinger, 1979).

Levinger (1979) has proposed a social exchange framework of pair dissolution. This framework conceptualizes dissolution as being a

function of one or more of the following changes in the relationship:
a decrease in net positive attractions, an increase in the attrac-
tiveness of alternatives, and a decrease in barriers against breaking
up. This framework thus suggests three areas for investigation into
the process of dissolution. Dimensions of relationships were
chosen from each of these areas, in order to provide an assessment
of how attractions, barriers, and alternatives changed over time in
the process of relationship termination.

Attractions. Attractions fall into two classes: positive and
negative. Positive attractions stem from feelings of pleasure, love,
or satisfaction with the relationship. Negative attractions stem
from the opposite of these, namely displeasure, dislike, or dissatis-
faction. Any relationship contains both positive and negative
attractions (which results in a certain amount of ambivalence);
usually the positive attractions outweigh the negative attractions
(Levinger, 1976, 1979).

The dimensions of love, maintenance, conflict, and ambivalence
may all be seen as representations of positive or negative attractions.
Love and maintenance are representations of interdependence (Braiker &
Kelley, 1979). Levinger (1976) conceptualized interdependence as
the degree of overlap between the partners, that is, as the degree
of joint outlook, feelings, behaviors, etc. What is important to note
is that such interdependence is mediated by the positive and negative
attractions in the relationship: positive attractions drive the
partners towards more interdependence, while negative attractions
drive them away from interdependence. On a very simple level, love
and maintenance may be seen as positive attractions, conflict may be

seen as a negative attraction, and ambivalence as a feeling that results from the interplay of positive and negative attractions in the relationship.

The use of the dimensions of love, maintenance, ambivalence, and conflict in the study of relationship dissolution is warranted for two additional reasons. First, since the dimensions of love, conflict, and maintenance were significant differentiators of types of premarital relationships, it appeared reasonable to assume that they would also be significant differentiators of types of dissolutions. Indeed, Kressel et al. (1980) used similar dimensions (communication, conflict, and ambivalence) as the basis of their typology of divorcing couples. Second, the use of the dimensions of love, maintenance, ambivalence, and conflict to describe the process of premarital relationship dissolution was an extension of the original work by Braiker and Kelley (1979). They outlined the developmental trend of each of these dimensions as couples moved from casually dating to marriage. The present study used these dimensions to outline the development of relationships from casual dating, through varying levels of commitment, and finally to dissolution.

Another vital aspect of Levinger's (1979) social exchange framework of dissolution is the dimension of reward level. Rewards have been conceptualized as falling into six broad categories: love, information, status, services, goods, and money (Foa & Foa, 1974). It is easy to see how each of these six areas could be an area of both positive and negative attractions in the relationship. For example, if the individual feels highly rewarded in the area of love, this could serve as a positive attraction in the relationship and

thus serve to increase interdependence. If, however, the individual feels underrewarded in the area of love, this could serve as a negative attraction and thus drive the individual away from inter- dependence.

The idea that reward level in a relationship may serve as a positive or negative attraction can only make sense in light of another key concept of social exchange theory, that of comparison level (CL). Basically, the individual's attraction to the relation- ship is mediated by whether or not the reward level is above the individual's comparison level (Levinger, 1979). Comparison level is a subjective standard of statisfaction with the relationship; it is based on an average evaluation of all rewards the individual has previously experienced in comparable situations (Levinger, 1979). Austin, McGinn, and Susmilch (1980) have broken CL into two com- ponents. Comparison level consists of both a comparison of previous reward levels and the individual's expectations for rewardingness in the present situation. Individuals are satisfied with the present situation when the current reward level is higher than the CL, and dissatisfaction results when the current reward level is below the CL (Swenson, 1973). Thus, it is through the CL that the indi- vidual determines whether a given level of rewards is a positive or a negative attraction.

In summary, attractions in a relationship may be assessed in a variety of ways by the dimensions of love, maintenance, ambivalence, conflict, reward level, comparison level, and satisfaction. Love and maintenance may be seen as positive attractions, while conflict may be seen as a negative attraction. Ambivalence is a result of

the interplay of these positive and negative attractions. The level of rewards in the relationship may be seen as a positive or negative attraction, depending on the individual's standard of comparison (CL). Comparison level in turn mediates the individual's current satisfaction with the relationship.

Alternatives. Levinger (1979) conceptualized an increase in the attractiveness of alternatives as a potential factor in the dissolution of relationships. Alternatives are defined under the exchange framework as the level of rewards expected in the best currently available alternative (Thibaut & Kelley, 1959). This concept is more commonly called the comparison level for alternatives (CLalt). Udry (1981) viewed CLalt as the ability not only to replace the partner but also as the perception that the future would be happy and satisfying without the current partner. This conceptualization is important because it takes into account more than just the availability of a new partner. Ultimately, as Levinger (1979) noted, the more attractive the alternatives are, the less dependent the individual is on the current relationship to maximize rewards.

Barriers. Barriers derive from two sources: they may come from the world that is external to the relationship or they may stem from the internal world of the relationship (Levinger, 1979). An external barrier to dissolution is one that is socially created; for example, making a public commitment with an engagement ring may serve to keep the couple intact, even when the attractions in the relationship are largely negative. An example of an internal barrier to dissolution would be an obligation the individual has created within the relationship, such as the obligation to "take care" of the partner.

A key point with regards to dissolution is that they come into play only when the individual wishes to leave the relationship (Levinger, 1976, 1979). Barriers are important in keeping relationships stable in that they prevent breakups due to temporary fluctuations in attractions. Two implications for the study of dissolution emerge from this discussion of barriers. First, it is important to assess what barriers were present (if any) as the relationship began to dissolve. Second, it is important to determine at what point in time these barriers became weakened so as to allow the breakup of the relationship to occur.

Other revelant dimensions. Three other dimensions would seem to be of importance in the study of premarital relationship dissolution. First, it is important to look at differences in the perceptions of the process of dissolution as a function of whether the individual initiated the breakup or not. Second, it is important to look at gender differences in the perception of the breakup. Both gender and initiator differences were noted in the Hill et al. (1976) study of premarital breakups.

A final dimension that would seem to be of importance in the study of dissolution would be an examination of the factors that increased or decreased the chance of marriage. In the studies that have previously used the "chance of marriage" graphs, these factors were termed turning points (Huston et al., 1981). Turning points have been classified into four types: individual, dyadic, social network, and circumstantial (Surra & Wareham, 1981). Individual factors consisted of reasons for a change in the chance of marriage that originated in the individual's belief system, including such

things as social clock factors, standards for an ideal partner, and fear/attraction predispositions to commitment. Dyadic factors included reasons for a change in the chance of marriage that resulted from interaction between the partners, such as self-disclosure, conflict, and physical contact. Social network factors included reasons for change in the chance of marriage that reflected interaction with or influence by a third party (e.g., friends or parents). Circumstantial factors consisted of reasons which resulted from anticipated or unanticipated events over which the partners had little influence. Examples of circumstantial factors are reasons related to jobs, health, accidents, and other events.

Surra and Wareham (1981) examined differences among couple types based on the proportion of each type of turning point. They found significant differences in the proportion of individual and circumstantial turning points as a function of type. Thus, the type of turning point that surrounds the change in the chance of marriage is a significant differentiator between the typologies of courtships. In the study of dissolutions, it will be important to examine differences in turning points as a function of type of dissolution as well. In addition, it would be interesting to assess how the proportion of each type of turning point changes over time. It could be that the proportion of dyadic turning points is the highest as the couple is moving to increasing levels of involvement and that the proportion of individual and circumstantial turning points is highest as the couple is moving to decreasing levels of involvement.

Purpose of the Present Study

The purpose of the present study was to describe the process of premarital relationship dissolution. This description entailed typologizing relationships on the basis of their trajectories to involvement and eventual dissolution. These typologies were subsequently differentiated on the basis of the factors of love, maintenance, conflict, ambivalence, reward level, comparison level, satisfaction, comparison level for alternatives, barriers, types of turning points, gender, and initiator/noninitiator.

THE METHOD

Overview

The purpose of the present study was to construct typologies of
relationship dissolution based on a retrospective interview technique.
Participants were assisted in graphing out changes in the involvement
levels in their relationships over time on a "chance of marriage"
graph. This graph represented the level of involvement in the rela-
tionship as a percentage from 0 to 100% chance of marriage. Ulti-
mately, the graph became a trajectory of the relationship from the
time the partners met to the time they broke up. Cluster analysis
of a series of trajectory characteristics was used to typologize
the relationships. These typologies were subsequently differentiated
on the basis of the relationship dimensions of love, ambivalence,
maintenance, conflict, reward level, satisfaction, comparison level,
comparison level for alternatives, and barriers, as well as reasons
for a turning point in the relationship, gender, and initiator/
noninitiator of the breakup.

One hundred individuals who had recently broken up were inter-
viewed and administered a series of questionnaires concerning their
relationships. The interview consisted of (a) graphing out a tra-
jectory of the relationship on a chance of marriage graph; (b) filling
out the questionnaires that tapped the relationship dimensions during
the five time periods of casually involved, a couple, committed to the
relationship, uncertain of the future of the relationship, and certain
that the relationship would end; and (c) giving open-ended descriptions
of factors associated with the breakup.

The following analyses were done: First, the typology of broken relationships was constructed by a cluster analysis of the trajectory properties of length of relationship, slope-up, slope-down, highest chance of marriage, and number of downturns. Second, a repeated measures analysis of variance was run to determine where mean differences on each relationship dimension existed between types as a function of the five time periods and gender. A second repeated measures analysis was run on each dimension to determine whether there were differences as a function of who initiated the breakup.

Participants

One hundred individuals (50 males, 50 females) participated in this study. The mean age of the participants was 20.67 (range was from 18 to 32), and the median class standing was sophomore. Overall, the average length of the broken relationships described by these participants was 15.70 months, with a range of 4 months to 92 months.

Each participant had to meet two criteria in order to be included in this study. First, the breakup of the relationship had to have occurred within the past 12 months. This time period was chosen so as to facilitate the recall of past events. Second, the relationship had to have reached the stage of serious involvement. For the purposes of this study, three criteria were used to assess serious involvement. Each participant was asked to indicate (a) whether they had reached a time in their relationship where they had identified as a couple, (b) whether they had reached a period of exclusive dating, and (c) what their highest level of involvement had been.

To assess the latter, the first five items of the involvement scale developed by Levinger, Rands, and Talaber (1977) was administered to each potential participant, with instructions to answer the questions in terms of the time period when their relationship was at its highest level of involvement (see Appendix A for a copy of the scale). Individuals were chosen for inclusion in the sample if their mean item rating on the involvement scale was 5 or higher. The cutoff point was chosen to reflect the differences between casual and serious relationships outlined by Levinger et al. (1977) in the development of the scale. Individuals were included in the study only if they met all three criteria of serious involvement and the criterion pertaining to the time elapsed since the breakup of the relationship.

Potential participants were recruited in three ways. First, as a means of advanced publicity, a feature study was published in the campus newspaper. The story briefly described what the study entailed and its potential importance in understanding how relationships develop and terminate. Second, flyers were posted in all the dormitories on campus. Both the newspaper story and the flyers asked for two types of volunteers for the study. First, actual participants for the study were recruited by asking individuals who had experienced a breakup of a serious relationship in the last 12 months to call in and volunteer. Second, individuals who knew of premarital couples who had experienced a breakup of a serious relationship were asked to help in recruiting these couples by calling in and referring the couple (or individual) as potential participants. Both the story and the flyers also contained the information that individuals who

participated in the study would be paid $5 each and that individuals who helped recruit participants would be eligible for a $35 gift certificate to a local restaurant.

Third, visits were made to university classes for participants and recruiters. A brief explanation of the study was give, along with the information on the criteria for inclusion and the payment of participants and recruiters. Volunteers were contacted by phone by the principal investigator. Potential participants were asked over the telephone to answer the questions concerning the seriousness of their relationship and the time elapsed since the actual breakup. In addition, the potential participants were asked whether they thought their former partners might be willing to also be interviewed. If the participant felt that the former partner was willing to participate, the participant first contacted the partner to introduce the intent of the study. Only after the participant had secured the permission of the former partner to be interviewed was that partner contacted by the principal investigator. The total sample, then, consisted of 11 former couples (i.e., 11 males and 11 females) and 78 individuals (39 males and 39 females).

Procedure

The Interview

Data for the present study were collected in a face-to-face interview. The first half of the interview consisted of a structured procedure for constructing the relationship trajectory. The second half of the interview consisted of a series of questionnaires that

further described the relationship. After it was determined that a participant met the criteria for inclusion in the study, contact was made to schedule the interview. All participants were allowed to choose where to be interviewed (at home or in a Family Life Department office). To help in establishing rapport, interviewers were instructed to spend 5 to 10 minutes at the beginning of the interview getting to know the participant and helping the participant to be at ease.

The first task in the interview was obtaining informed consent (see Appendix B). Each participant received a formal consent form that explained the study, outlined the participant's rights (non-response to any item and the right to terminate the interview at any time), and assured confidentiality of all responses. In addition, each participant was assured that only the researcher would have access to any of the interview responses. After the participant signed the consent form, the interviewer informed the participant that anonymity would be assured by removing the signed consent from the rest of the interview materials.

In order to introduce the intent of the study to the participants, the interviewers read the following text:

> We are interested in finding out how your relationship began, developed to its time of greatest involvement, and how it progressed to the time of the breakup. Mostly, we are interested in what made your relationship unique or different. We realize that no two relationships are exactly alike; indeed, relationships vary greatly from couple to couple. So, we are not interested so much in how your relationship was "typical," but more in how it was really unique. Basically, we want to accomplish three things in this interview: First, we will graph the development of your relationship, and its termination, on this piece of graph paper. Second, you will describe your relationship in greater depth, by filling out

a series of questionnaires that are designed to tap various
aspects of a relationship. Finally, I will be asking you
to describe the breakup itself in greater detail. In this
way, we hope to gain a clear understanding of your relation-
ship with (partner).

The next step in the interview was construction of the relation-

ship trajectory. This was accomplished by graphing out the relation-

ship on a "chance of marriage" graph. The ordinate of the graph

represented the chance of marriage from 0 to 100%, in increments

of 5%. The abscissa of the graph represented time in increments of

1 month. The interviewer asked when the partners first met (month

and year) and when the actual breakup occurred. Using these two

dates as endpoints, the interviewer filled in the first initial of

each month of the relationship along the abscissa (see Figure 2 for

a prototypical graph).

Next, the interviewer asked the participant to recall when a

series of typical relationship events occurred (see Appendix C).

These items included events such as the first date, the first kiss,

the time when the participant was first uncertain of the relationship's

future, etc. Each relationship event was recorded on the relationship

events recording sheet in terms of month and year.

The interviewer proceeded to the actual filling in of the graph

after the relationship events were recorded. Construction of the

trajectory proceeded as follows. The interviewer explained what the

chance of marriage represented by reading the following text to the

participant:

Now we will begin to fill in the relationship graph. As you
can see, I have filled in each month of your relationship,
from the time that you and (partner) met to the time that
your relationship ended. Along the vertical line, you will
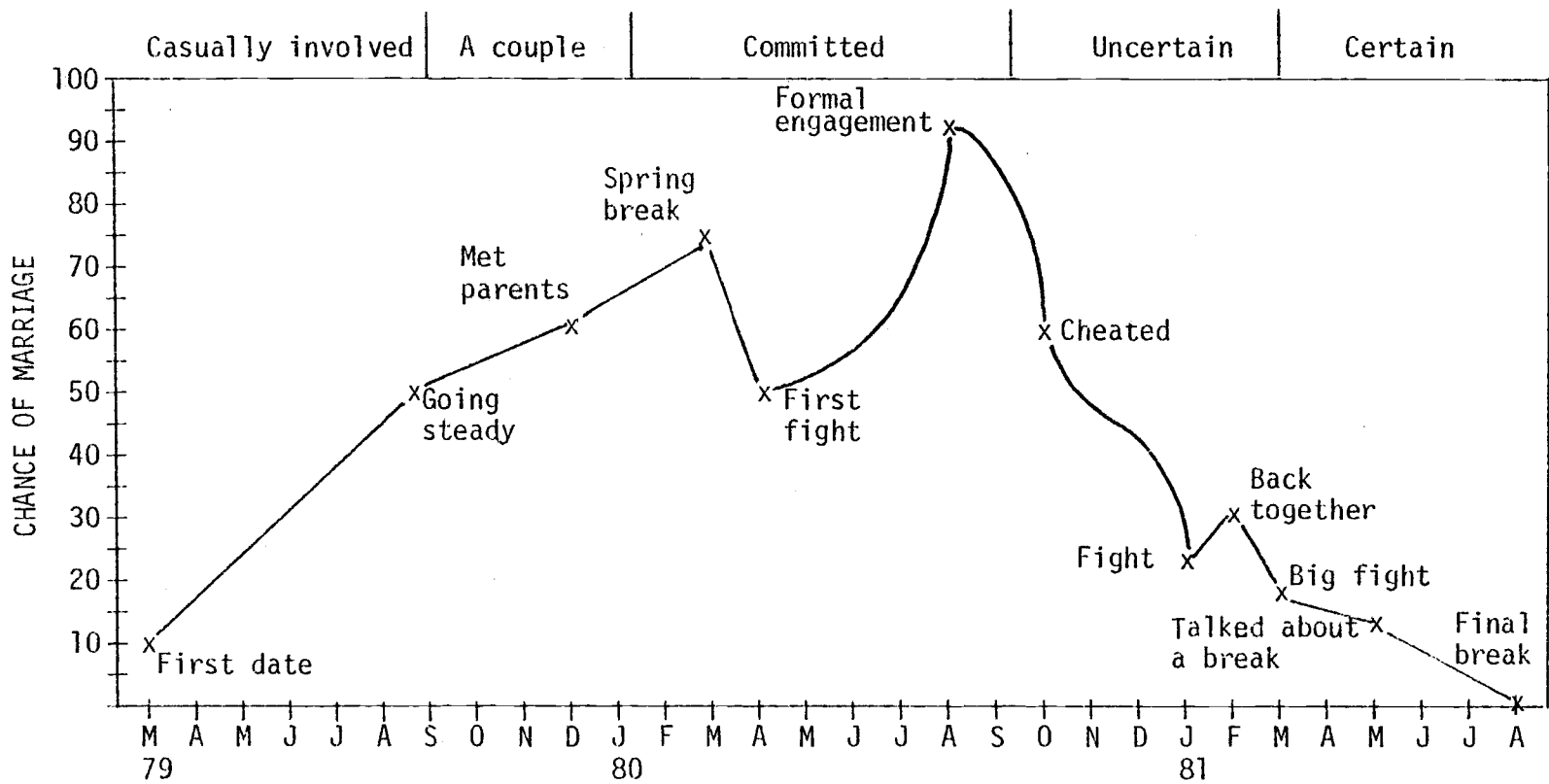
Figure 2.   Relationship trajectory.

see the chance of marriage, from 0 to 100%. With this graph, we will be able to show how your relationship with (partner) changed and developed over time. We have chosen the chance of marriage to represent the different levels of involvement of your relationship at different points in time. When you think of the chance of marriage, think of the degree of commitment that both you and (partner) had towards your relationship. Even though the relationship did not end in marriage, there were probably times when you and (partner) both felt that the relationship was moving towards greater commitment. Eventually, there were times when you and (partner) felt that the relationship was moving towards less commitment. Please be as realistic as possible when you think about the chance of marriage; it should represent what the actual involvement level of your relationship was, rather than how much you wanted to be involved. We will use this graph to follow the development and termination of your relationship over the time you knew (partner).

After this text was read, the graphing proceeded in a three-step process. First, the interviewer asked what the participant thought the chance of marriage was at the time they first met. The interviewer marked this percentage in on the vertical line, which represented the first month of the relationship. Second, the interviewer asked the participant to indicate at what month a change in the chance of marriage was first noted. Such a change may have been either in an upward or downward direction. After ascertaining what the chance of marriage changed to (e.g., a change from 5% to 25%), the interviewer filled in this new chance of marriage on the vertical line that represented the appropriate month. At this point, the interviewer asked the participant how these two points representing a change of chance in marriage should be 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 marriage. The interviewer recorded these verbal comments on a "turning points recording sheet"

(see Appendix D). This three-step process was repeated until the entire relationship trajectory was constructed. The final graph, then, consisted of changes in the chance of marriage that were based on specific turning points in the relationship.

Each participant was allowed to examine the overall graph for its accuracy in representing the relationship. After making any desired adjustments in the graph, the interviewer turned to dividing the graph into five time periods. The participant indicated the months during which (a) the partners were seeing each other on a casual basis but had not yet identified as a couple, (b) the partners felt they were a couple but had not yet reached 100% commitment to the relationship, (c) the partners were 100% committed to the relationship, (d) the partners first began to feel uncertain about the future of the relationship, and (e) the partners were certain that the relationship would end (from the first time of certainty of a termination to the actual end of the relationship). These time periods were marked in 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, maintenance, ambivalence, conflict, comparison level, comparison level for alternatives, reward level, and satisfaction for each of the five time periods outlined on the graph (see Appendix E). The first set of measures began with instructions to "think back to the time in your relationship when you and your partner were seeing each other on a casual basis but had not yet identified as a couple." Each of the other four sets of measures began similarly but with directions to think back to each of the other four time periods in

the relationship. One-half of the participants were randomly chosen to receive the measures in the order from "seeing each other casually" to "certain of a breakup"; the other half received the measures in the reverse order of "certain of a breakup" to "seeing each other casually."

Upon completion of these five sets of measures, the interviewer asked the participant to give a more detailed description of the breakup itself. The participant responded to a series of questions that assessed reasons for the breakup, problem areas in the relationship, timing of these problems, barriers to breaking up, etc. (see Appendix F). Each of these questions was asked in an open-ended format, with the interviewer recording the verbal responses in writing. Finally, the participant answered a series of background questions (see Appendix G). Upon completion of the background information, participants were thanked for their cooperation and paid for their participation.

Training of Interviewers

The interviews were conducted by four graduate students and two senior-level undergraduate students. All six of the interviewers participated in approximately 6 hours of training. First, the interviewers attended a 2-hour training session that explained the interview procedure and protocol (see Appendix H for the interview protocol). During the second training session, the protocol was reviewed and discussed. The interviewers then practiced the interview procedure on each other. As a final step in training, 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 relationship were constructed by having the participants outline changes in the perceived chance of marriage from the time the relationship began to the time the relationship ended. Five general properties of these relationship trajectories were utilized in the clustering procedure. These five were chosen as the best representations of the overall length and shape of the trajectories.

Highest chance of marriage. This property was simply the highest chance of marriage reached in the relationship. It was assessed by directly reading the chance of marriage off the graph.

Total length. The total length of the relationship was measured as the number of months the relationship lasted, from the first meeting to the termination of the relationship.

Downturns. This was the number of times the chance of marriage changed, in a downward direction. This property was calculated as a simple count.

Slope-up. The slope was defined in this study as the change in the chance of marriage divided by the change in time. Change in the chance of marriage was calculated in increments of five, so that a change from 10% to 15% chance of marriage represented one unit. Change in time was assessed in increments of 1 month. The slope-up was calculated as the slope from the beginning of the relationship to the point at which the highest chance of marriage was reached. Thus, if the participant indicated that the relationship progressed from 5% chance of marriage to 80% chance of marriage over a period of 6 months, the slope-up would be +1.67.

Slope-down. Slope-down was calculated as the slope from the point at which the highest chance of marriage was reached to the end of the relationship. Thus, if the participant indicated that the relationship progressed from 75% chance of marriage to 0% chance of marriage over a period of 5 months, the slope-down would be -2.00. Both slope-up and slope-down were calculated as general measures of the rapidity of involvement and disengagement, and thus both ignored any fluctuations or temporary changes in the chance of marriage.

Specific Properties of the Relationship Trajectories

In addition to the five general properties of the relationship trajectories, four types of specific properties were also assessed. These properties were chosen so as to give a more refined assessment of the shape and characteristics of the relationship trajectories.

Mean chance of marriage. The mean chance of marriage was assessed for each of the five involvement levels outlined on the graph by the participant (i.e., for the time periods of casual,

a couple, committed, uncertain, and certain). This property was assessed by directly reading the chance of marriage from the graph for each month of the relationship.

Length. Length properties were assessed in two ways. First, the length of each involvement level (casual, a couple, committed, uncertain, and certain) was calculated. Second, the ratio of the length of each involvement level to the total length of the relationship was assessed.

Turning points. Five different turning point properties were calculated. First, the total number of turning points (that is, the total number of times the individual perceived a change in the chance of marriage, either up or down) was calculated. Second, an index of turning points was calculated by dividing the total number of turning points by the total length of the relationship. Third, the number of downturns during the stages of casual, a couple, and committed was assessed. Fourth, the number of downturns during the stages of uncertain and certain was counted. Finally, an index of turbulence was calculated by dividing the total number of downturns by the total length of the relationship.

Slope. Slope was calculated for each of the involvement levels of casual, a couple, committed, uncertain, and certain. The slope was calculated in the same manner as described in the section of slope-up. The beginning and end of each stage were used as the endpoints in calculating these slopes.

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, and 23, Appendix E). These ten items tapped the feelings of closeness, belonging, and attachment. Participants were asked to indicate the degree to which each feeling was true of their relationship on a 9-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, Appendix E). These items tapped both communication and self-disclosure in the relationship. Each item was accompanied by a 9-point Likert scale; possible range of the scale was 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, Appendix E). These five items assessed feelings of confusion about the partner and anxiety about increasing the commitment to the partner. Each item was accompanied by a 9-point scale; possible range was 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, Appendix E). These items assessed the amount of overt conflict and communication of negative affect in the relationship. Each of the items was accompanied by a 9-point scale; possible range was from 5 to 45.

Reward level. Reward level was asssessed by a 6-item scale developed by Cate, Lloyd, Henton, and Larsen (in press). This scale is based on the six resource areas outlined by Foa and Foa (1974). The participants were asked to indicate on a scale of 1 (very

unrewarded) to 9 (very rewarded) how rewarded they felt in the areas of love, status, services, goods, information, and money (see items 26 through 31, Appendix E). These six items were summed to yield a total score. The possible scores on the scale ranged from 6 to 54; the higher the score, the greater the perceived rewardingness of the relationship. Cronbach's alpha for the scale is .90, indicating a high degree of internal consistency.

Comparison level (CL). Comparison level was measured by two items (see items 32 and 33, Appendix E). The first item asked the participant to assess how the rewards received in the present relationship compared with rewards received in general from other past relationships. This item was accompanied by a 6-point Likert scale that ranged from 1 (present relationship lower in rewards) to 6 (present relationship higher in rewards). The second item asked the participant to compare the rewards of the present relationship with what was expected in terms of rewards. This item was accompanied by a Likert scale of 1 (lower than I expected) to 6 (higher than I expected). These two items were summed to yield a total score that had a possible range from 2 to 12. The higher the score, the more the participant was above the comparison level; the lower the score, the more the participant was below the comparison level.

Relationship satisfaction. Relationship satisfaction was assessed with the Austin Contentment/Distress measure (Austin, 1974). Participants were asked to think about their relationships--what each partner puts in and gets out--and then assess how they felt about the relationship. Participants indicated how happy, content, angry, and guilty they felt on a 1-to-4 scale of "not at all" to "very much"

(see items 41 through 44, Appendix E). The total satisfaction score was calculated by summing the content and happy scores and subtracting the angry and guilty scores. The higher the score, the more content the participant was with the relationship.

Comparison level for alternatives (CLalt). Comparison level for alternatives was assessed with a modified version of 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 seven items (see items 34 through 40, Appendix E), each of which was measured on a 4-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 7 to 28. The higher the score, the more the participant perceived a favorable comparison level for alternatives.

Barriers. Barriers were assessed through an open-ended question (see Appendix D, question 8). The interviewer read the following question to the participant: "Sometimes there are things that keep you together even though you would like to break up with your partner. What sorts of things were present as you were going through the dissolution of your relationship with (partner)?" Answers to this question were recorded in writing by the interviewer. Multiple responses were allowed. Barriers were classified into one of two types, internal or external, according to the definition provided by Levinger (1979). Two independent raters classified each barrier as internal or external; disagreements in classification were decided by

an expert in the field, independently of the two raters.

Turning points. Reasons for a turning point in the chance of marriage were recorded in written form by the interviewer as a part of the process of constructing the relationship trajectory (see Appendix D for the turning points recording sheet). These turning points were classified as individual, dyadic, social network, or circumstantial, according to the coding scheme developed by Surra and Wareham (1981). Two independent raters coded each reason for a turning point; when a disagreement in coding occurred, the proper classification was decided independently by an expert in the field. Reasons for a turning point were analyzed as four separate variables: the proportion of each type (individual, dyadic, social network, and circumstantial) to the total number of turning points.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Overview of Statistical Analysis

The analysis of the data gathered in this study was performed in three steps. First, cluster analysis was used to group similar relationship graphs into a limited number of types. Second, the types generated by the cluster analysis were compared on four categories of trajectory properties: (a) mean chance of marriage at each involvement level, (b) length properties, (c) turning points, and (d) slope characteristics.

Next, the types were differentiated on a series of relationship characteristics. Two types of relationship characteristics were studied. First, eight different dimensions of the relationship had been measured at five involvement levels: (a) casually involved, (b) a couple, (c) committed, (d) uncertain of the future of the relationship, and (e) certain the relationship would end. Each of these eight dimensions was analyzed through the use of repeated measures analysis of variance. Involvement level served as the repeated measure, and type of relationship and gender served as grouping variables. In addition, a second repeated measures analysis was run on each of the eight dimensions in order to examine differences as a function of who broke off the relationship. Second, two general characteristics of these relationships were examined. These general characteristics included turning points in the relationship and barriers to breaking up.

Constructing the Relationship Typology

Cluster analysis was used to group the relationship trajectories into a limited number of types. Agglomerative cluster analysis, using Euclidian distance as the distance measure, was utilized. Before the trajectories were clustered, the group of 100 graphs was examined for any extreme outliers. Two graphs were eliminated from the analysis as being obvious outliers. Both of these graphs lacked any downward slope, that is, both reached a high chance of marriage and stayed at that level even to the end of the relationship.

Relationship trajectories were clustered on the basis of five variables: length of the relationship, highest chance of marriage reached, number of downturns, slope-up, and slope-down. This set of variables produced a good clustering only up to the 64th step. At this point, there were four groups that contained more than 10 cases, four groups that contained between 3 and 7 cases, and six outliers. The final typology was arrived at in the following manner. Two judges independently examined each group in two ways, first by visually examining the group of trajectories and second by examining the means on the five clustering variables. Groups that were the most similar both visually and through the examination of means were grouped together. Both judges came up with the same five types of relation- ships through this process. Second, the values of the outliers on the five clustering variables were examined. These values, plus a visual examination of the graph of each outlier, were used to decide whether the outlier appropriately fit into one of the identified types or not. Three of the outliers were judged to be similar to one

type, and three were judged not to be similar to any of the types. Finally, each group was examined visually for homogeneity. Two additional outliers were identified at this point. This process eventually yielded five clusters of trajectories with the following distribution of cases: Type 1, n = 13; Type 2, n = 19; Type 3, n = 30; Type 4, n = 21; Type 5, n = 10; outliers, n = 7.

The final typology, then, consisted of five types of relationships that had broken up. These five types were named as follows: Type 1, accelerated; Type 2, low-level; Type 3, moderate; Type 4, prolonged-turbulent; and Type 5, prolonged-smooth. These names were chosen to reflect some of the major properties of each type of relationship. Using the means of the clustering variables and other trajectory properties, "average" graphs were drawn for each type (see figures 3 through 8 for average graphs for each type and Table 1 for the means of the five types on the five clustering variables).

Type 1, accelerated relationships, were the shortest relationships (see Figure 3). These relationships reached a high chance of marriage at a quite rapid rate (see Table 1 for means). Accelerated relationships were also characterized by a relatively rapid slope-down and by a small number of downturns. The following is one participant's description of his accelerated relationship:

> I met Mary on a raft trip in October. At that time, I was engaged to another girl. I broke off my engagement so I could get involved with Mary. At first, our relationship was more physical than anything else--it really drew us together. Once we got physically accustomed to each other, we got closer mentally as well. I was really seeing a lot I liked about her-- she fit my "ideal image." I felt like things could really work out well for us.
>
> In January, she had feelings of uncertainty and uncomfortableness with everything around her--I think lots of things external to the relationship, and more so things within her, impacted on
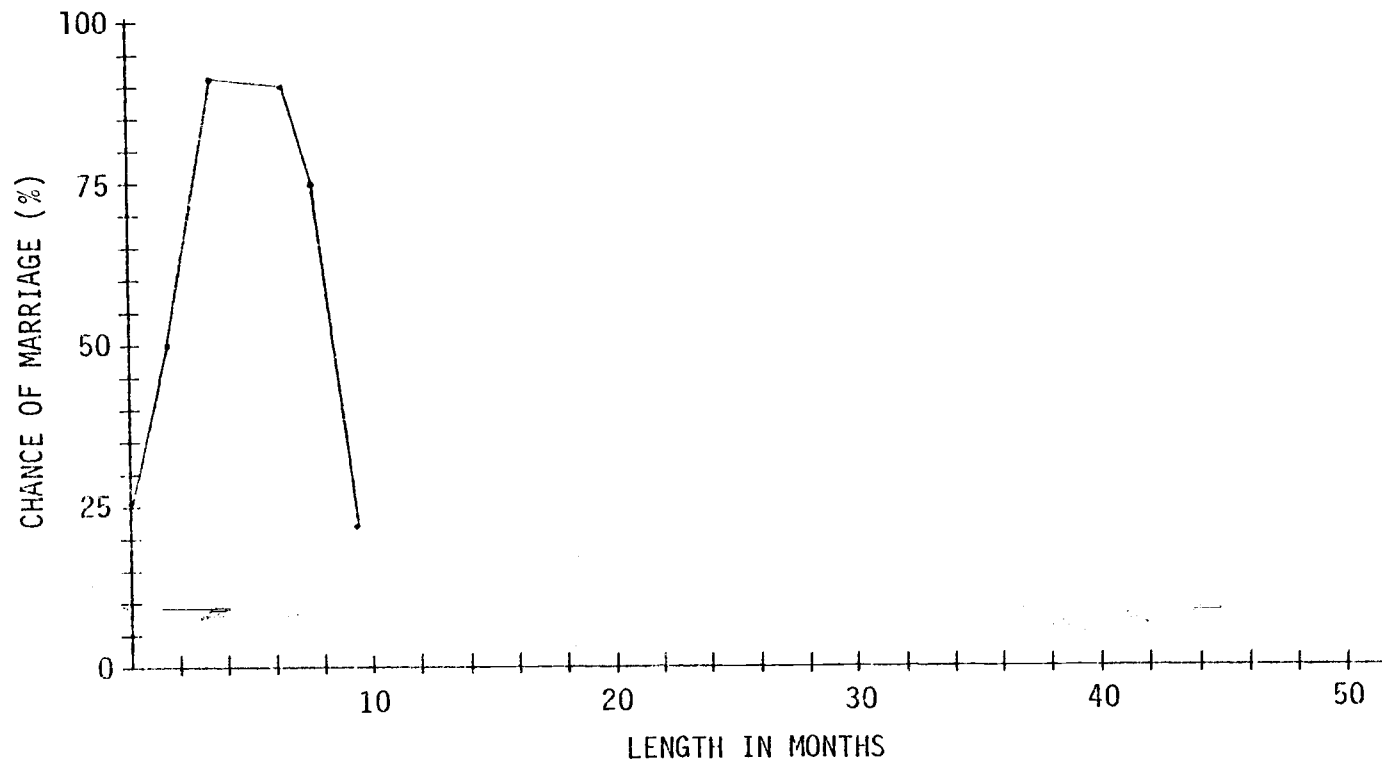
Figure 3. Average graph for accelerated relationship.

Table 1

Means on the Five General Trajectory Properties

<u>Type</u>

Trajectory Property	Accelerated	Low-level	Moderate	Prolonged-turbulent	Prolonged-smooth
Length	9.54	12.95	17.37	31.29	53.90
Highest Chance of Marriage	88.08	47.11	74.03	87.48	92.40
Slope-up	8.22	1.51	2.06	1.09	.85
Slope-down	-4.30	-4.55	-2.15	-4.67	-2.25
Downturns	2.31	2.16	3.57	5.29	2.80

the relationship. On February 1 she said she didn't love me any more--she wanted to change the relationship to just friends.

This anecdote illustrates both the rapidity of involvement and disengagement in the relationship, as well as the relative lack of conflict or turbulence.

Type 2, low-level relationships (see Figure 4), were characterized by short length and the lowest chance of marriage (see Table 1 for means). Low-level relationships progressed upwards at a moderate pace; their slope downward was markedly higher. These relationships contained the smallest number of downturns. The following quote was taken from the description given by a participant of his low-level relationship:

> We got to know each other because of a relationship she was involved in with someone else. I became involved in that because I knew both Jean and her partner. Jean and I continued to talk about her relationship and about other things for several months--we had more and more talks, and more and more visits. In February she terminated her other relationship--this was really the beginning of our involvement--we began to spend more time together. Jean and I began to build our lives around each other--she and I counted on the other to be there.
>
> In April, I said I wasn't able to give her the time and the part of myself that she wanted--she was reaching out for me, and I ran away from it. I'm 19, and I felt I needed to experience more things.

This relationship developed slowly and ended somewhat suddenly. Although the participant expressed relatively high involvement (in terms of the amount of time spent together), the highest chance of marriage reached in this relationship was 45%. In addition, the quote illustrates the very low level of turbulence seen in this type of relationship.

Type 3, moderate relationships (see Figure 5), fell in between the other types of all five clustering variables. These relationships
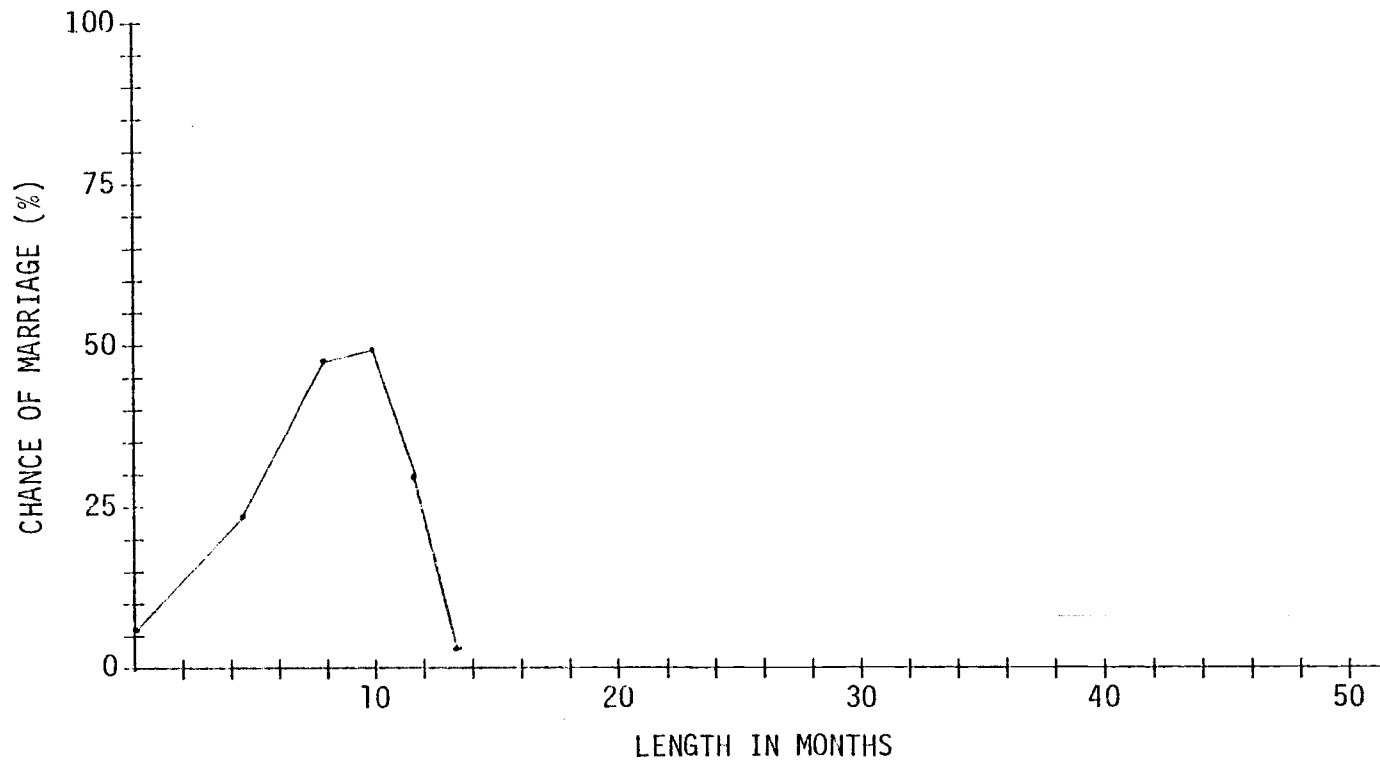
Figure 4. Average graph for low-level relationship.
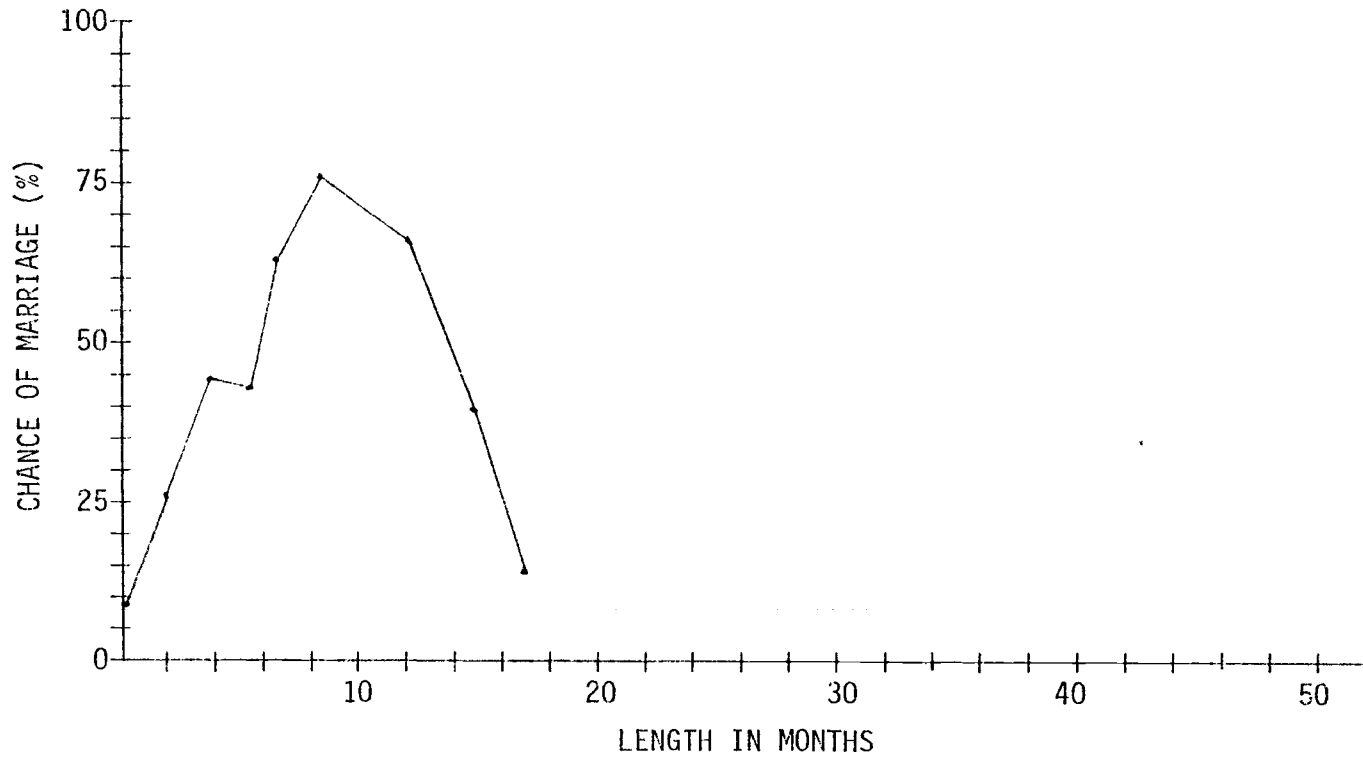
Figure 5. Average graph for moderate relationships.

reached a moderate chance of marriage (see Table 1 for means). Moderate relationships were basically symmetrical, in that the slope-up was approximately equal to the slope-down. Moderate relationships evidenced the most gradual slope down and, thus, may be the best examples of relationships that "just fade away." Finally, these relationships contained an average number of downturns, that is, they contained more downturns than did accelerated and low-level relationships but fewer than prolonged-turbulent relationships. The following anecdote from one participant helps to illustrate the gradual disengagement seen in the moderate relationships:

> We had been seeing each other every weekend, and calling each other every day. However, around January, he began doing things with his friends more on the weekends. I knew something was wrong--Bob wasn't as open. I didn't say anything for several months about it, but eventually I initiated talking to him about what was happening. I asked Bob if it was another person--he said "no, but let's talk." I found out that back in January he'd been talking with a friend who said "I think Sue needs to get married." Bob had decided that we needed to deal with that--he told me he never wanted to marry anyone (but if he ever had wanted to marry, it would have been me). At this time I told him that I could live with that, that I was willing to continue the relationship without that kind of commitment, and when I began to feel uncomfortable with that, I'd let him know.

> In May, we had a disagreement--he thought I'd been sending him mixed messages--saying I didn't need a commitment but continuing on with the relationship just like before. We ended the relationship at this point.

Type 4, prolonged-turbulent relationships (see Figure 6), were characterized by a high level of involvement, slow slope-up, and a rapid slope-down. Perhaps the most significant facet of prolonged-turbulent relationships was their up and down nature. These relationships contained more downturns than did any other type. In many cases, these downturns represented large dips in the chance of marriage and
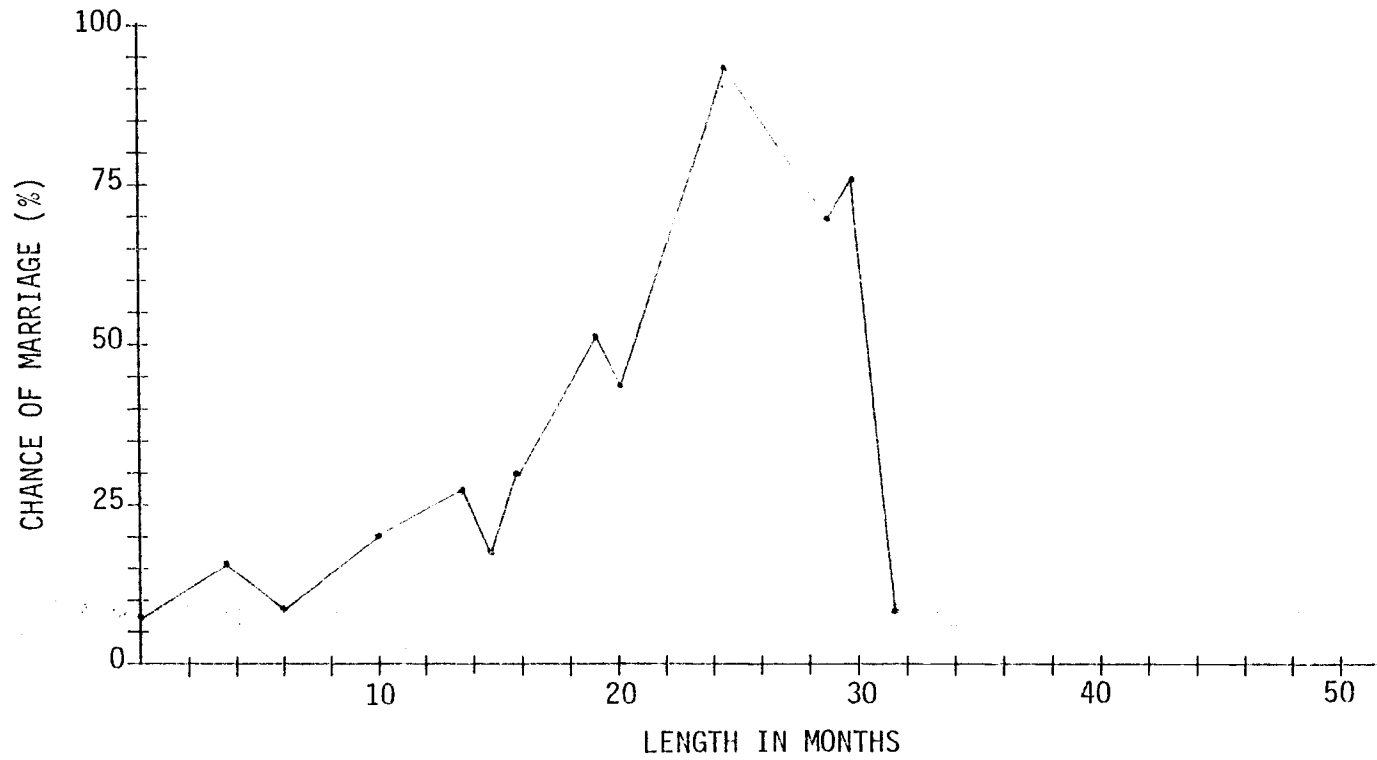
Figure 6. Average graph for prolonged-turbulent relationships.

temporary breakups with the partner. This anecdote by another participant helps to point out the many downturns experienced in these prolonged-turbulent relationships:

> [This anecdote begins after the couple has been going out for two years.] Tom was going out with someone else--but he wouldn't tell me about it--I'd find out about it later. I finally got fed up with it and broke off the relationship. A few days later we talked everything out--he told me he'd made a lot of mistakes, and he wanted to get back together. At this time he gave me a promise ring.
>
> For the next three months, we got along really good. We spent the night together a lot--that brought us closer together. However, once I went back to school, I started feeling really tied down. I didn't feel like Tom was treating me like he should--he just didn't make me happy--he wasn't honest with me all the time. We broke up again over Christmas break.
>
> Tom was really upset about the breakup--he was sorry, and he realized his mistakes--he wanted a second chance. He called me every day for a week. I finally said okay, let's get back together. Things went really well for a couple of months-- we looked at engagement rings, and talked about marriage.
>
> The whole thing happened during Spring break. His parents were gone--that was good--we could be alone, and anyway I didn't get along with his parents or friends at all. I found out he'd been smoking pot for five months, and I didn't like it. His friends were a bad influence on him, he had become money oriented. . . . All these things began to pile up--we had lots of arguments--the whole week we didn't get along. I ended it-- he wasn't in favor.

Type 5, prolonged-smooth relationships (see Figure 7), were the longest relationships and attained the highest chance of marriage (see Table 1 for means). These relationships were characterized by the most gradual slope-up and by the second most gradual slope-down. Prolonged-smooth relationships contained a moderate number of downturns. These relationships differ from prolonged-turbulent relationships in two ways: (a) prolonged-smooth relationships ended more gradually and (b) prolonged-smooth relationships contained notably
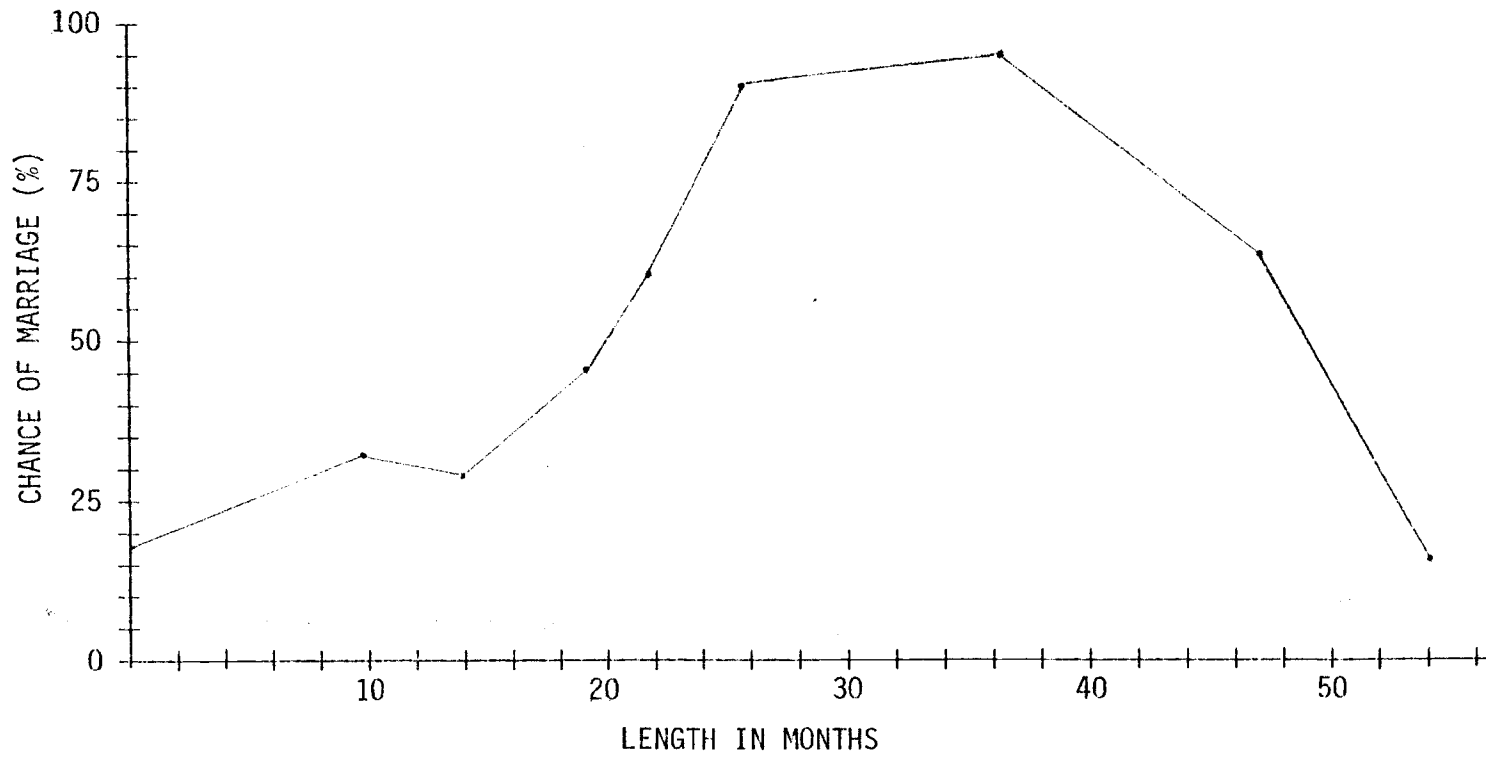
Figure 7. Average graph for prolonged-smooth relationships.

fewer downturns. The following quote was taken from the description

given by one participant of her prolonged-smooth relationship:

> [This anecdote begins after the couple had been going out for
> 5½ years. During this time, there were no downturns in the
> relationship, and the chance of marriage had remained constant
> at 98% for about 4 years.]
>
> Ever since November, I had been questioning whether I could
> marry Jim--I felt more like his sister than his "lover." It
> was a time when we had to make a decision about marriage--
> should we make it public, buy a ring? I had been questioning
> all along.
>
> In August, when I went home to Missouri for a vacation, I met
> a guy--I talked to him a lot. I realized through this that
> Jim and I had communication problems--I'd always thought before
> that men just didn't talk on a deep level. I realized also
> that such communication was important to me.
>
> The final breakup occurred about two months later. I had
> actually made my decision in August, and I talked to him in
> October for the first time about it. I had not told Jim that
> I had been questioning, so when I talked to him about it, I'd
> already made up my mind. Jim couldn't have changed it.

This anecdote illustrates both the gradual dissolution of prolonged-

smooth relationships and the relative lack of turbulence in these

relationships.

Next, the means on the five variables used to form these five

types were examined for differences by type using one-way analysis

of variance. There were significant differences by type on all five

of the clustering variables (length, highest chance of marriage,

slope-up, slope-down, downturns; see Table 2). These findings suggest

that the clustering procedure and the groupings done by the judges

had produced a well-differentiated typology of the relationship

trajectories.

Table 2

Analyses of Variance on Five General
Trajectory Properties

Length of Relationship

Source	df	SS	MS	F ratio
Type	4	16188.59	4047.15	54.68***
Error	88	6514.33	74.03	
Total	92	22702.93		

*** p < .001

Highest Chance of Marriage

Source	df	SS	MS	F ratio
Type	4	22307.93	5826.99	47.854***
Error	88	10715.32	121.77	
Total	92	34023.25		

*** p < .001

Table 2 (continued)

Slope-up

Source	df	SS	MS	F ratio
Type	4	519.09	129.77	80.64***
Error	88	141.62	1.61	
Total	92	660.71		

*** p < .001

Slope-down

Source	df	SS	MS	F ratio
Type	4	128.29	32.07	3.64*
Error	88	774.55	8.80	
Total	92	902.84		

* p < .05

Table 2 (continued)

Number of Downturns				
Source	df	SS	MS	F ratio
Type	4	123.93	30.98	15.10***
Error	88	180.55	2.05	
Total	92	304.47		

*** $p < .001$

The five relationship types were next examined for significant differences among types on the five variables used in the cluster analysis (see Table 1 for means). Post hoc analysis of the means (Least Significant Difference test, alpha = .05) for length, highest chance of marriage, slope-up, slope-down, and number of downturns revealed the following differences among types. Accelerated relationships were significantly shorter in length than were moderate, prolonged-turbulent, and prolonged-smooth relationships. Low-level relationships did not differ in length from accelerated or moderate relationships; both low-level and moderate relationships were significantly shorter than the two prolonged types. Finally, prolonged-turbulent relationships were significantly shorter than prolonged-smooth relationships.

In terms of the highest chance of marriage reached, low-level relationships were significantly lower than all four other types. In turn, moderate relationships were significantly lower than accelerated, prolonged-turbulent, and prolonged-smooth relationships in highest chance of marriage. Accelerated, prolonged-turbulent, and prolonged-smooth relationships did not differ significantly.

Accelerated relationships were significantly higher than the other four types in slope-up. In addition, moderate relationships were significantly higher in slope-up as compared to prolonged-turbulent and prolonged-smooth relationships. In terms of slope-down, prolonged-turbulent relationships were significantly greater in slope-down than were prolonged-smooth and moderate relationships. Low-level and accelerated relationships were also greater in slope-down as compared to moderate relationships.

Finally, in terms of the number of downturns, prolonged-turbulent relationships experienced significantly more downturns than any other type. In addition, moderate relationships reported more downturns than low-level and accelerated relationships.

In summary, five types of serious relationships that had broken up were identified. Accelerated relationships were the shortest in length, high in chance of marriage, rapid in both slope-up and slope-down, and low in downturns. Low-level relationships were short in duration, low in change of marriage, slow in slope-up, and rapid in slope-down. In addition, low-level relationships were the lowest in downturns. Moderate relationships were medium in length, reached a moderate chance of marriage, were moderate in slope-up and slow in slope-down, and contained an intermediate number of downturns. Prolonged-turbulent relationships were long in length, high in chance of marriage, slow in slope-up, rapid in slope-down, and very high in the number of downturns. Prolonged-smooth relationships were the longest relationships, reached the highest chance of marriage, were the slowest in slope-up, were slow in slope-down, and were low in downturns.

Analysis of Couple Data

Of the 93 trajectories studied, 22 represented partners. The trajectory properties of these 11 couples were studied in order to determine how similar the reports of each partner were in terms of the graphs of their relationship. Males' and females' scores on the five trajectory properties used in the cluster analysis were correlated. Results indicated that there were significant positive

relationships between the reports of males and females on all five of the trajectory properties. The correlation coefficients were as follows: (a) length of relationship, r = .99, p < .01; (b) highest chance of marriage, r = .55, p < .05; (c) slope-up, r = .73, p < .01; (d) slope-down, r = .77, p < .01; and (e) downturns, r = .79, p < .01. These results indicate close correspondence between the reports of males and females in terms of a retrospective graph of the development and dissolution of their relationships.

In addition to the correlations of the graph properties, the number of partners who were classified into the same type was examined. Out of 22 partners, 16 (73%) were classified into the same type. This percentage is remarkably similar to two previous studies of trajectories (cf. Cate, 1979; Surra, 1980) which classified 70% of marital partners into the same trajectory types. This indicates that the reports of the 22 partners studied were again similar in terms of their trajectories to dissolution. Where a discrepancy in classifying a couple did occur, it was usually due to a difference in the perceived highest chance of marriage (i.e., one partner perceived a much lower chance of marriage than did the other partner).

Analysis of Trajectory Properties

After forming the relationship types on the basis of length of relationship, highest chance of marriage, slope-up, slope-down, and number of downturns, a more detailed analysis of properties of the trajectories was conducted. These properties have been grouped into four categories: mean chance of marriage, length, turning points, and slope.

Mean Chance of Marriage

It will be recalled that the participants indicated on the graphs the months during which five time periods occurred. These time periods were casually involved, a couple, committed, uncertain of the future of the relationship, and certain that the relationship would end. The mean chance of marriage was calculated for each of these five involvement levels. A series of five one-way analyses of variance were used to test for significant differences by types in the mean chance of marriage.

There were significant differences in the mean chance of marriage at casual involvement (see Table I-1, Appendix I). Post hoc analysis[1] indicated that accelerated relationships had significantly higher mean chance of marriage at this stage than did any other type of relationship (see Table 3 for means). Low-level relationships were significantly lower in mean chance of marriage than were moderate and prolonged-smooth relationships. Prolonged-turbulent, moderate, and prolonged-smooth relationships did not differ in mean chance of marriage at the casual stage.

At the stage of being a couple, there were significant differences by type in the mean chance of marriage (see Table I-2, Appendix I). Post hoc analysis revealed that low-level relationships were significantly lower in the mean chance of marriage than all other four types, while accelerated relationships were significantly higher than all four other types. Prolonged-smooth, prolonged-turbulent, and moderate relationships did not differ in mean chance of marriage at this stage.

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[1]All post hoc tests were conducted with the LSD at the .05 level.

Table 3

Means on Mean Chance of Marriage by Type

Mean Chance of Marriage	Accelerated	Low-level	Moderate	Prolonged-turbulent	Prolonged-smooth
Casual	34.00	7.95	16.63	14.95	19.90
Couple	60.00	21.11	33.93	33.86	36.80
Committed	78.54	36.21	58.20	58.71	76.60
Uncertain	54.85	27.68	46.03	45.10	58.80
Certain	31.23	12.37	24.53	18.38	24.90

The third stage was that of commitment. There were significant differences by type in the mean chance of marriage at this stage (see Table I-3, Appendix I). Post hoc analysis indicated that low-level relationships were significantly lower in mean chance of marriage than any other type of relationship. Moderate and prolonged-turbulent relationships did not differ from each other but were both significantly lower than accelerated and prolonged-smooth relationships in mean chance of marriage. Accelerated and prolonged-smooth relationships did not differ in mean chance of marriage at the stage of commitment.

There were significant differences by type in the mean chance of marriage at the uncertain stage (see Table I-4, Appendix I). Low-level relationships were significantly lower in mean chance of marriage than were the other four types. Prolonged-turbulent and moderate relationships did not differ from one another but were lower in mean chance of marriage than were prolonged-smooth relationships.

Finally, there were significant differences by type in the mean chance of marriage at the certain stage (see Table I-5, Appendix I). According to post hoc analysis, accelerated relationships were significantly higher in mean chance of marriage at this stage than were moderate, low-level, and prolonged-turbulent relationships. Accelerated relationships did not differ from prolonged-smooth relationships at this stage of certain of a breakup.

These differences in the chance of marriage as a function of the involvement level of the relationship are fairly consistent across all five stages. Low-level relationships were the lowest in chance of marriage at all five stages, and accelerated relationships evidenced

the highest mean chance of marriage at four out of five stages.
These differences by type reflect the differences previously noted in
the highest chance of marriage attained, the rate of involvement in
the relationship (slope-up), and the rate of dissolution of the
relationship (slope-down). Prolonged-turbulent relationships tended
to be lower in mean chance of marriage at each stage than did accel-
erated or prolonged-smooth relationships, although these three types
did not differ in the highest chance of marriage attained. The lower
mean chance of marriage for the prolonged-turbulent relationships
reflects the effect of averaging the chance of marriage across the
many downturns experienced in these relationships.

Length

Length of each stage was examined in two ways. First, the actual
length of the stage in months was tested for mean differences by type.
Second, the ratio of each stage to the total length was examined.
This set of ratios was constructed in order to assess whether indi-
viduals in each type of relationship spent the same proportion of
the relationship in a particular stage.

There were significant differences in the length of the casual
stage by type of relationship (see Table I-6, Appendix I). Post hoc
analysis indicated that prolonged-smooth relationships spent a sig-
nificantly longer time in the stage of casual involvement than did
any other type (see Table 4 for means). Accelerated, low-level,
moderate, and prolonged-turbulent relationships did not differ in
length at this stage.

At the stage of being a couple, there were also differences in
length by type (see Table I-7, Appendix I). Post hoc analysis

Table 4

Means on Length Properties by Type

	Type				
	Accelerated	Low-level	Moderate	Prolonged-turbulent	Prolonged-smooth
Length in Months at each Stage					
Casual	1.57	2.50	3.10	2.49	5.24
Couple	1.19	2.53	2.73	5.29	10.80
Committed	4.25	4.97	6.45	13.86	28.40
Uncertain	1.61	1.92	3.30	7.86	7.16
Certain	.90	1.02	1.78	1.79	2.30
Proportion of each Stage to Total					
Casual	.16	.22	.18	.08	.09
Couple	.13	.20	.16	.16	.20
Committed	.42	.36	.36	.44	.52
Uncertain	.18	.16	.19	.25	.15
Certain	.12	.08	.11	.06	.04

indicated that prolonged-smooth relationships were again significantly
longer in the length of this stage than were any other type. In addi-
tion, prolonged-turbulent relationships were signficantly longer than
were accelerated relationships.

There were significant differences in the length of the committed
stage of involvement by type (see Table I-8, Appendix I). Prolonged-
smooth relationships were the longest, followed by prolonged-turbulent.
Accelerated, low-level, and moderate relationships did not differ in
the length of the committed stage.

There were significant differences between the types on the
length of the stage of uncertain of the future of the relationship
(see Table I-9, Appendix I). Post hoc analysis revealed that
prolonged-turbulent and prolonged-smooth relationships experienced
significantly longer periods of uncertainty than did the other three
types. There were again no differences among accelerated, low-level,
and moderate relationships. There were no significant differences
between the types on the length of the stage of certain of a breakup
(see Table I-10, Appendix I).

Prolonged-smooth relationships were longer than the other types
at the first three stages of the relationship. This reflects not only
the greater length of this type of relationship but also the slower
rate of getting involved in this type of relationship. Although
prolonged-turbulent relationships were significantly greater in
length than were accelerated, low-level, and moderate relationships,
prolonged-turbulent relationships were not longer than these types in
the length of the stages of casually involved and a couple. This indi-
cates that while the slope-up for prolonged-turbulent relationships was

quite gradual, the point at which a commitment was reached (in terms of months) was not much different from relationship types that developed at a much faster pace (e.g., accelerated and moderate relationships).

It is interesting that none of the relationship types differed significantly in the length of the stage of certain of a breakup. It appeared in the present study that once the point of certain that the relationship was going to end was reached, the relationship lasted only another 1 to 2 months. Thus, while the period of uncertainty varied between the relationships, once the breakup became inevitable, the relationship soon ended.

Only two ratios of length of a stage to total length were significant: the ratio of the casual stage to the total and the ratio of the committed stage to the total (see tables I-11 to I-15, Appendix I). The ratios of the stages of a couple, uncertain, and certain were not different by type. Post hoc analysis revealed the following differences. First, the ratio of the casual stage for the prolonged-turbulent group was significantly shorter than the ratios of accelerated, low-level, and moderate relationships. The ratio of the casual stage for the prolonged-smooth relationships was significantly shorter than low-level and moderate relationships. Second, the ratios of the committed stage for the low-level and moderate types were significantly lower than the ratio of the committed stage for the prolonged-smooth relationships.

These analyses indicated that prolonged-turbulent and prolonged-smooth relationships spent proportionately less time in the casual

stage and more time in the committed stage than did low-level and
moderate relationships. This makes sense given the overall length
of prolonged-turbulent and prolonged-smooth relationships. The five
types of relationships did not differ in the proportion of time spent
in the uncertain or the certain stages. This means the participants
in all the relationship types spent roughly 25% of the relationship
feeling uncertain about the future of the relationship or feeling
certain that the relationship would end. This is indeed interesting,
simply because the five types differed in overall length of relation-
ship. Basically, the longer the relationship had lasted, the more
time was spent in that relationship after the point of first feeling
uncertain about the future of the relationship. This could indicate
that the longer a relationship has lasted, the more the individual
feels invested in that relationship and the more the individual
attempts to keep the relationship going despite doubts or ambivalence.

Turning Points

Several types of turning points in these broken relationships
were analyzed. First, the total number of turning points were
counted. Then the number of downturns was calculated for two separate
time periods: (a) the period from the beginning of the relationship
to the beginning of the stage of uncertainty and (b) the period from
the beginning of the stage of uncertainty to the end of the relation-
ship. Finally, two ratios were calculated: (a) an index of turning
points (the number of turning points divided by the total length of
the relationship) and (b) an index of turbulence (the number of down-
turns divided by the total length of the relationship).

There were significant differences by type on all five of these turning point variables (see tables I-16 to I-20, Appendix I). Post hoc analysis of the number of turning points revealed that accelerated and low-level relationships had the least number of turning points, followed by moderate and prolonged-smooth relationships (see Table 5 for means). Prolonged-turbulent relationships experienced the highest number of turning points.

In terms of the number of downturns from the beginning of the relationship to the beginning of the stage of uncertainty, prolonged-turbulent relationships experienced significantly more downturns than did the other four types. Prolonged-smooth, accelerted, low-level, and moderate relationships did not differ in the number of downturns during the first three stages of the relationship. The number of downturns during the stages of uncertain and certain also varied by type. Prolonged-turbulent relationships were significantly higher in downturns at these two stages than any other type. In addition, moderate relationships experienced more downturns than did accelerated or low-level relationships.

On the turning point index, prolonged-smooth relationships were significantly lower than all four other types. Also, prolonged-turbulent relationships were significantly lower on the turning point index than were low-level and accelerated relationships. On the index of turbulence, prolonged-smooth relationships were significantly lower in turbulence than were all other types. Prolonged-turbulent and low-level relationships had a lower index of turbulence than did accelerated relationships.

Table 5

Means on Turning Point Properties by Type

	Type				
	Accelerated	Low-level	Moderate	Prolonged-turbulent	Prolonged-smooth
Turning Point Property					
Number of Turning Points	5.08	6.26	8.20	11.47	9.00
Downturns- Casual, Couple, Committed	.77	.84	1.07	2.00	.60
Downturns- Uncertain, Certain	1.54	1.32	2.50	3.29	2.20
Turning Point Index	.63	.57	.51	.40	.19
Index of Turbulence	.28	.20	.23	.18	.05

Overall, then, accelerated and low-level relationships tended to have fewer turning points and fewer downturns than did prolonged-smooth, prolonged-turbulent, and moderate relationships. In terms of the number of turning points per month, however, these two types of relationships (accelerated and low-level) tended to be fairly high. Perhaps for these two types of relationships, it is not the number of downturns and turning points per se but the closeness of their occurrence, which places a strain on the relationship and leads to a breakup.

It is important to note that the two prolonged types were significantly different from each other on all five of the turning point variables. In each case, the prolonged-smooth relationship was lower on a particular index or variable than the prolonged-turbulent relationship. These findings support the idea that prolonged-smooth relationships are indeed less turbulent than prolonged-turbulent relationships. Prolonged-turbulent relationships appeared to be able to stand a repeated series of ups and downs in the relationship for quite a length of time. In many cases, these times of turbulence were quite drastic, both in the rate at which the chance of marriage decreased and in the rate at which the chance of marriage increased after a downturn.

Slope

The slope of each stage of the relationship was examined as a function of type of relationship (see tables I-21 to I-25, Appendix I). Only the slope at the stages of casual involvement and being a couple varied significantly by type. Post hoc analysis revealed that for both the stages of casual and a couple, accelerated relationships were

significantly higher in slope than any other type of relationship (see Table 6 for means). This finding parallels the finding that accelerated relationships also had a significantly greater slope-up.

All five relationship types had slopes between .30 and .70 for the stage of commitment. This stage, then, appeared to represent for the participants a time during which the rate of increases in the chance of marriage had leveled off considerably. Additionally, in terms of slope, this time period was the "smoothest," so to speak, in that the rapid acceleration and deceleration experienced in the other relationship stages was not present during the time of commitment.

The fact that neither of the slopes during the stages of uncertainty or certainty were significantly different by type does not necessarily contradict the earlier finding that the overall slope downward was significantly different by type. This difference in findings occurred because the point at which a relationship began to come down from its highest point only rarely occurred at the beginning of the stage of uncertainty. More often, the chance of marriage had begun to decrease during the stage of commitment, some time before the participant indicated feeling really uncertain. In other cases, the highest point of the relationship (in terms of chance of marriage) was not reached until after the period of uncertainty had begun. In such cases, usually an outside event (such as a pregnancy or a job transfer) increased the chance of marriage greatly even though the participant felt doubt and uncertainty about the relationship.

Finally, it is interesting to note that except for the accelerated relationships, the slopes during the developing stages of the

Table 6

Means on Slope Properties by Type

	Accelerated	Low-level	Type Moderate	Prolonged-turbulent	Prolonged-smooth
Slope					
Casual	3.50	.93	1.50	1.34	1.44
Couple	5.81	1.75	2.16	2.02	.74
Committed	.65	.33	.54	.59	.41
Uncertain	-3.92	-2.44	-2.95	-2.36	-2.07
Certain	-3.64	-4.11	-2.96	-3.68	-2.47

relationship were more gradual than were the slopes during the dis-
solution stages of the relationship. This tends to disconfirm the
idea that a relationship dissolves in the same manner in which it
developed. In most cases, these relationships dissolved faster than
they developed.

In summary, the results of this analysis of trajectory properties
indicates the following major differences between types. Accelerated
relationships tended to be outstanding in terms of their slopes
during the casual and couple stages. Accelerated relationships had
the highest index of turbulence and index of turning points and were
highest in the mean chance of marriage at each involvement level.
Low-level relationships, in contrast, were best characterized by
their low levels of mean chance of marriage at all involvement levels.
Moderate relationships differed from the other types primarily in
their intermediate levels of mean chance of marriage at each stage
and in the symmetrical shape of their slope-up and slope-down.
Prolonged-turbulent relationships were outstanding in terms of their
high number of downturns and turning points. Finally, prolonged-
smooth relationships were characterized by a long period of commitment
at a high level of chance of marriage and by extremely low turbulence.

Differentiating the Types

After the typology of serious relationships that had broken up
was constructed, the identified types were differentiated on a series
of relationship dimensions. These dimensions were chosen as relevant
social-psychological aspects of a committed relationship. In addition,

the types were studied in terms of these dimensions in order to help clarify differences and similarities between these types.

First, the five identified types were differentiated on the basis of the relationship dimensions of love, maintenance, ambivalence, conflict, reward level, comparison level, comparison level for alternatives, and satisfaction. These eight dimensions were analyzed across the five involvement levels of casual, a couple, committed, uncertain, and certain. Next, the types were differentiated on the basis of turning points and barriers to breaking up.

Relationship Dimensions Across Involvement Levels

Repeated measures analysis of variance was used to examine the relationship dimensions. The five involvement levels of casual, a couple, committed, uncertain, and certain served as the repeated measure. Two repeated measures were run for each dimension. First, a Type x Gender x Involvement Level analysis was run to determine if there were differences between types or genders. Second, a Breakup x Gender x Involvement Level analysis was run to determine whether there were differences as a function of who broke off the relationship. Within the description of the results for each dimension, involvement level differences will be discussed first, followed by type differences and the analysis of breakup differences.

It should be noted that since there were two repeated measures analyses for each dimension, there were two separate analyses of main effects for involvement and for gender. In every case, wherever such a main effect was significant for both the type analysis and the breakup analysis, the pattern of results revealed in the post hoc

test was exactly the same. Thus, main effects for involvement and gender will be discussed only once to avoid being redundant. Throughout, the post hoc test used was the LSD test, with an alpha level of .05.

Love. There was a significant main effect for involvement level on the measures of love (see Table 7). This indicated that the amount of love differed depending on the involvement level of the relationship. Figure 8 shows the developmental trend of the dimension of love. Love increased steadily from casual involvement to being a couple, and from being a couple to commitment. Love then decreased steadily through the stages of being uncertain and certain. Post hoc analysis revealed that the amount of love differed significantly throughout this developmental progression (i.e., from casual to a couple, from a couple to committed, etc.).

The developmental trend of love during the stages of casual, a couple, and committed is almost identical to previous retrospective studies of relationships (cf. Braiker & Kelley, 1979; Cate, 1979). Past studies, however, have concentrated on relationships that moved from a stage of commitment to marriage; the present study examined relationships that moved from a stage of commitment to an eventual breakup. Thus, this study represents an extension of the previous work done on the Braiker and Kelley (1979) scale of love, maintenance, ambivalence, and conflict.

The amount of love expressed for the partner at each stage of the relationship followed basically the same pattern as did the mean chance of marriage at each stage. Mean chance of marriage increased steadily through the stage of commitment and decreased thereafter, as
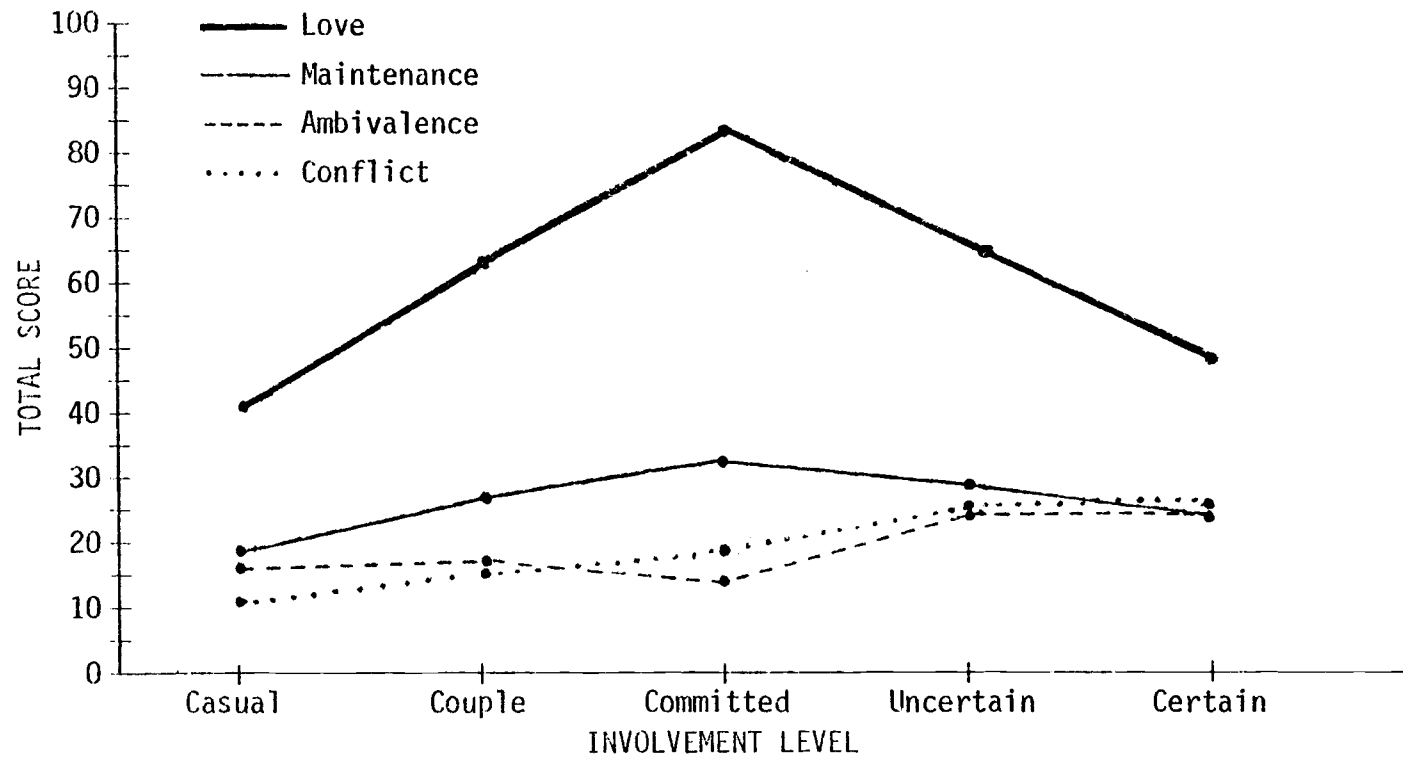
Figure 8. Developmental trends of love, maintenance, ambivalence, and conflict by involvement level.

Table 7

Analysis of Variance by Type
on Love Dimension

Source	df	MS	F ratio
Type (A)	4	888.01	3.57**
Gender (B)	1	441.15	1.77
A X B	4	307.31	1.23
Error	83	249.06	
Involvement Level (C)	4	17370.66	124.54***
A X C	16	236.08	1.69*
B X C	4	42.21	.30
A X B X C	16	114.30	.82
Error	332	139.48	

* $p < .05$

** $p < .01$

*** $p < .001$

did love. Thus, generally, as the level of involvement in the relationship increased or decreased, so did the amount of love for the partner increase or decrease.

There was a significant main effect for type and a significant type by involvement interaction on the measure of love (see Table 7). There was no significant main effect or interaction involving gender. Post hoc analysis of the main effect for type revealed no significant differences between types (see Table J-1, Appendix J, for means).[2] Post hoc analysis of the involvement level by type interaction revealed the following significant differences. At the casual stage of involvement, low-level relationships were significantly lower in love than were accelerated and prolonged-turbulent relationships. Moderate relationships and prolonged-smooth relationships were lower in love than were prolonged-turbulent relationships. At the stage of being a couple, low-level relationships were lower in love than any other type. There were no differences between types in the level of love at the stages of committed or uncertain. At the stage of certain of a breakup, prolonged-turbulent relationships were lower in love than were low-level, prolonged-smooth, and accelerated relationships.

In summary, the general trend of the level of love by type appeared as follows. Low-level relationships evidence the lowest mean love score at every stage of involvement except the last stage (however, low-level relationships were not always significantly lower

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[2]Throughout, the post hoc analyses of main effects revealed no significant differences. This phenomenon was due in every case to the large mean square error associated with the F ratio for the main effect. Basically, the least significant difference was larger than the difference between the highest and lowest means.

in love). During the last stage of the relationship, prolonged-turbulent relationships exhibited the lowest love score. Generally, prolonged-smooth and accelerated relationships showed relatively high levels of love throughout the relationship, while moderate relationships feel in between on love.

Overall, then, the relationship types identified by the clustering procedure differed on the amount of love felt for the partner. These differences in love occurred only in the stages of casual involvement, a couple, and certain that the relationship would end. All five types of relationships evidenced the same amount of love during the stages of committed and uncertain. These results are again similar to those in the study of trajectories to marriage (Cate, 1979). Cate (1979) discovered differences in the amount of love at the earlier stages of the relationship (casual and a couple) but no differences between types at the stage of commitment or at marriage.

It is indeed interesting to note that while the types identified in the present study did not differ in love at the committed and uncertain stages, they did differ in the mean chance of marriage at these two stages. A logical conclusion to be drawn from this is that chance of marriage and love are measuring independent facets of the relationship. However, it seems equally logical that chance of marriage and love do tap some of the same aspects of the relationship, for example, amount of involvement with the partner. It could be that love and the chance of marriage are more closely associated at some stages than at others. An examination of the correlations between love and chance of marriage reveals just such a pattern. These two variables correlate moderately at the casual and couple

stages (.37 and .39); the correlations decrease thereafter at the committed, uncertain, and certain stages (.24, .15, and .28, respectively). Thus, it appears that love is more highly related to chance of marriage at the beginning stages of the relationship than it is later on. It could be that in the beginning stages of the relationship, the development of love is tied to the perception of a future orientation to the relationship. That is, individuals become more involved as they perceive that their relationsips are heading towards deeper commitments. When interdependence has developed, however, love is no longer as tied to the future orientation of the relationship. Rather, at this point, love may be more closely associated with the amount of interdependence that has built up in the relationship or with the feelings of caring for the partner.

The fact that all relationship types reached the same level of love by the committed stage may be explained in part by the context of the study itself. Only individuals who had been involved in a serious relationship were recruited. Now, it could be that being in a serious relationship automatically connotes a certain degree of interdependence or love in the relationship. This could explain why all the participants retrospectively perceived a similar level of love for their partners at the committed stage, irrespective of the mean chance of marriage or of the amount of love for the partner at the casual and couple stages.

Two relationship types stand out in terms of their differences from the others on the amount of love. Low-level relationships are somewhat lower in love than the other types in the early stages of the relationship. This perhaps reflects the lower chance of marriage

seen for these relationships and the gradual slope-up of these rela-
tionships. This could also reflect a more gradual process of becoming
involved in the relationship. Prolonged-turbulent relationships were
the lowest in love at the last stage of the relationship. This again
reflects their low level of the chance of marriage at this stage and
also reflects the rapid slope-down of these relationships. Given the
lower amount of love and the greater slope-down of these relationships,
it almost appears as if the prolonged-turbulent relationships "fell
out of love" faster than the other types. This would make sense in
light of the increased turbulence seen in these relationships. It
appears as though after a series of downturns and breakups, the
individuals in prolonged-turbulent relationships experienced one
final event that signaled the end of the relationship. Once the
inevitability of the breakup became apparent, love for the partner
diminished.

Overall, the amount of love expressed by the end of the relation-
ship was equal to or greater than the amount of love expressed at the
beginning of the relationship for all five relationship types. This
indicates that the amount of "attraction" and "interdependence" was
at least as high at the end of the relationship as it had been at the
beginning of the relationship. During the interviews, the feeling
came through that even though these relationships did not work out,
the participants still cared deeply about their partners. Such caring
was exemplified by this participant's description of the end of her
relationship:

> In May we had finally decided to get married, despite the ups
> and downs we'd had in our relationship. By August I knew it
> wouldn't work. I guess I realized that we could not make it
> in a marriage--I felt it took more than love to make a compatible

> relationship. There was just too much in our past history to
> make it work, so even though I loved Barry, I broke off the
> relationship.

Thus, despite the fact that these relationships terminated, the feelings of love for the partner did not "disappear" totally but rather diminished as the individual began to feel uncertain how the relationship would work out.

It is interesting that two previous predictive studies of relationship breakup highlighted degree of emotional attachment (Burgess & Wallin, 1953) and amount of love (Hill et al., 1976) as significant factors associated with a breakup. In the Hill et al. (1976) study, couples who broke up versus couples who remained together reported they felt less love, felt less likely to marry, and were less likely to have been dating exclusively. It is obvious from the present study that some individuals expressed different amounts of love for their partners at the beginning stages of the relationship. Hill et al. (1976) seem to be describing the low-level relationships in this study (in terms of amount of love and chance of marriage early on in the relationship). However, relationship types such as the accelerated relationship (high chance of marriage, high love early in the relationship) clearly do not fit the pattern described by Hill et al. (1976). Indeed, Hill et al. (1976) noted that many of the couples in their predictive study did attain a high level of intimacy. Since the present study concentrated on serious relationships and since all of these relationships eventually reached a high level of love, it appears that this study represents a description of fairly intimate relationships. These relationships broke up for a multitude of reasons; a simple explanation such as "slight

emotional attachment" does not adequately describe the dissolution of these relationships.

Finally, it is surprising that there were no gender differences in love in this study. Previous studies, both retrospective and predictive (cf. Cate, 1979; Hill et al., 1976), have consistently demonstrated that men express more love for their partners early in relationships. The difference between this study and the previous studies may lie in the fact that this study did not consist entirely of couples. However, an examination of the data for the 11 couples in this study still shows no gender differences on love. $\underline{T}$ tests were run to test the differences between these 11 males and 11 females on love at each stage of the relationship. None of the five $\underline{t}$ tests showed any significant differences. The lack of gender differences in the present study perhaps lies then in the nature of the study. It could be that when males retrospect on a broken relationship, they perceive less love for their partners than when they are describing an ongoing relationship or when they are retrospecting on their relationships with their spouses. This perhaps is a result of rationalization or an attempt to mentally "save face" (e.g., a justification such as "I wasn't really that involved with her at first" or "I was in control, she was chasing me"). Alternately, women may perceive more love for their partners when they retrospect on a broken relationship than when they describe an ongoing relationship or when they describe their courtships. These present findings actually support the stereotypes of women as the lovers and men as the leavers (as described by Hill et al., 1976), in that women were

higher in love for their partners at every stage than were men, although not significantly so.

Love was analyzed as a function of breakup by gender by involvement level. This analysis revealed only one additional significant finding. There was a significant breakup by gender interaction (see Table 8). Post hoc analysis, however, detected no significant differences (see Table J-2, Appendix J, for means). An examination of the means revealed the following pattern. Males expressed the most love for their partners when the breakup was mutual, and the least love for their partners when they initiated the breakup. Females, in contrast, expressed the most love when they were the noninitiators in a breakup and the least amount of love when the breakup was mutual.

Maintenance. There was a significant main effect for maintenance at the five involvement levels (see Table 9). Post hoc analysis revealed that the developmental trend of maintenance was as follows (see Figure 8). Maintenance increased significantly from casual to a couple and from a couple to committed. Maintenance then decreased significantly from committed to uncertain and from uncertain to certain. In addition, the amount of maintenance at the last stage of the relationship, certain of a breakup, was significantly higher than the amount of maintenance at the first stage of the relationship.

Again, these findings on level of maintenance during the stages of casual, couple, and committed are quite similar to the findings of previous studies (Braiker & Kelley, 1979; Cate, 1979). It is interesting that while maintenance decreased in the last two stages of the relationship, it was not as low as it had been in the very first stage of the relationship. Indeed, the level of maintenance

Table 8

Analysis of Variance by Breakup
on Love Dimension

Source	df	MS	F ratio
Breakup (A)	2	124.24	.47
Gender (B)	1	70.84	.27
A X B	2	938.88	3.53*
Error	87	266.33	
Involvement Level (C)	4	15777.67	111.78***
A X C	8	275.67	1.95
B X C	4	21.80	.15
A X B X C	8	90.12	.64
Error	348	141.15	

* $p < .05$

*** $p < .001$

Table 9

Analysis of Variance by Type on
Maintenance Dimension

Source	df	MS	F ratio
Type (A)	4	205.09	1.95
Gender (B)	1	25.68	.24
A X B	4	76.30	.73
Error	83	105.05	
Involvement Level (C)	4	2735.40	71.01***
A X C	16	62.52	1.62
B X C	4	114.18	2.96*
A X B X C	16	28.99	.75
Error	332	38.52	

* p < .05

*** p < .001

evidenced in the stage of being a couple was maintained (at least) throughout the rest of the relationship. Thus, even though the participant felt uncertain about the future of the relationship, a relatively high amount of maintenance was being put into the relationship until its termination. This makes sense in light of the nature of the maintenance behavior scale. Several of the items tap how much time was spent working out problems and expressing what one wanted or needed from a relationship. Obviously, when a relationship begins to experience problems, one would expect the partners to engage in such behaviors. Apparently, these participants did not just suddently "quit" their efforts at maintaining the relationship but rather continued to disclose to their partners and to try and solve their relationship problems even after they were certain the relationship would end.

There were no main effects for type, gender, or breakup on the maintenance scale (see tables 9 and 10 for the repeated measures analyses and tables J-3 and J-4, Appendix J, for means). There was one significant interaction, that of involvement level by gender. Post hoc analysis indicated that males showed significantly less maintenance at the certain stage than did females. The difference at the other four stages were not significant. Since the maintenance scale tends to be an assessment of disclosure in the relationship, this finding is consistent with previous studies which have demonstrated that females tend to disclose more than do males (Hood & Back, 1971; Jourard & Lasakow, 1958). However, this trend was not in evidence throughout the relationship. Indeed, although the

Table 10

Analysis of Variance by Breakup on
Maintenance Dimension

Source	df	MS	F ratio
Breakup (A)	2	12.70	.12
Gender (B)	1	.93	.01
A X B	2	153.86	1.42
Error	87	108.39	
Involvement Level (C)	4	2228.39	56.72***
A X C	8	26.32	.67
B X C	4	35.80	.91
A X B X C	8	45.10	1.15
Error	348	39.29	

*** $p < .001$

difference was not a significant one, males showed more maintenance at the casual stage than did females. This crossover in maintenance was also demonstrated in the Cate (1979) study of trajectories to marriage. Cate (1979) attributed the higher maintenance of males early in the relationship to the fact that men tend to get involved in relationships more quickly than do females. Indeed, the maintenance behaviors scale appears to be taking a relationship orientation that reflects a tendency for males to put more into a relationship during the early stages and a tendency for females to put more into a relationship once they have become involved in the relationship (Cate, 1979).

It is interesting that the higher maintenance level of females in the present study was most in evidence in the last stage of the relationship. This would be in keeping with the expressive role of females (Parsons & Bales, 1953) and with the increased interpersonal sensitivity of females (Hill et al., 1976). Since females have been demonstrated to be more sensitive to problems in the relationship and more expressive about such problems, it is not surprising that they showed more maintenance at the end of the relationship. The fact that this gender difference was not in evidence at the beginning of the relationship can be explained by the fact that females tend to get involved in a relationship more slowly than do males (Hill et al., 1976).

Ambivalence. There was a significant main effect for involvement level on the ambivalence dimension (see Table 11). Ambivalence was at a moderate level in the casual stage and in the couple stage (see Figure 8). It decreased in the committed state and subsequently

increased sharply during the uncertain and certain stages. Post hoc analysis revealed the following significant differences in this developmental trend: The means for ambivalence in the casual and couple stages were not significantly different from one another but were significantly greater than the mean of ambivalence in the committed stage. In turn, the uncertain and certain stages were not different in the amount of ambivalence but were significantly greater in ambivalence than the other three stages. Thus, ambivalence took a significant decrease from a couple to committed and a significant increase from committed to uncertain.

These findings on the developmental trend of ambivalence during the stages of casual, a couple, and committed are nearly identical to previous studies (Braiker & Kelley, 1979; Cate, 1979). It is not unexpected that ambivalence would increase sharply during the stages of uncertain and certain. Indeed, it would seem almost by definition that ambivalence should increase as the individual becomes uncertain of the relationship. Unfortunately, no direction or causality can be inferred here. It would be quite interesting to further examine whether thoughts about ending the relationship occurred as a result of ambivalence or vice versa.

There was no main effect for type on the ambivalence measure. Thus, all five types of relationships experienced a similar level of ambivalence. There was a significant main effect for gender (see Table 11). Females on the average expressed more ambivalence about their relationships than did males. Post hoc analysis revealed that this difference was not a significant one, however. As a consequence, the breakdown of gender by involvement level was examined for

Table 11

Analysis of Variance by Type on
Ambivalence Dimension

Source	df	MS	F ratio
Type (A)	4	153.89	1.36
Gender (B)	1	545.37	4.82*
A X B	4	30.69	.27
Error	83	113.20	
Involvement Level (C)	4	2248.87	48.87***
A X C	16	59.63	1.30
B X C	4	58.03	1.26
A X B X C	16	32.66	.71
Error	332	46.02	

* p < .05

*** p < .001

differences. Post hoc analysis subsequently revealed that females experienced more ambivalence than did males during the stages of uncertain and certain (see Table J-5, Appendix J, for means). There were no gender differences in ambivalence at the other three stages.

The finding that females experienced more ambivalence than males during the end of the relationship can again be explained by the greater interpersonal sensitivity of females. Hill et al. (1976) noted in their study of breakups that females were more sensitive to and aware of problems in the relationship. In the present study, it appears that females also experienced more ambivalence about continuing the relationship. An additional explanation of this phenomenon is offered by Hill et al. (1976). They purport that females may be more practical about their relationships for economic reasons. Traditionally, a woman chooses a "standard of living" when she chooses a mate (Waller, 1939). This practicality may make females more sensitive to problems and to their feelings of uncertainty about the future of a relationship.

There was a significant main effect for breakup and a significant involvement level by breakup interaction (see Table 12). Post hoc analysis of the main effect for breakup revealed no significant differences (see Table J-6, Appendix J, for means). Post hoc analysis of the involvement level by breakup interaction revealed the following differences: At the stages of casual, a couple, and committed there were no differences in ambivalence. At the uncertain stage, individuals who were the noninitiators of the breakup and individuals in a mutual breakup were significantly lower in ambivalence than were individuals who initiated the breakup. At the certain stage,

Table 12

Analysis of Variance by Breakup on
Ambivalence Dimension

Source	df	MS	F ratio
Breakup (A)	2	362.91	3.58*
Gender (B)	1	950.62	9.38**
A X B	2	300.38	2.97*
Error	87	101.30	
Involvement Level (C)	4	1832.97	42.54***
A X C	8	163.73	3.80***
B X C	4	56.55	1.31
A X B X C	8	50.75	1.18
Error	348	43.09	

 * $p < .05$

 ** $p < .01$

*** $p < .001$

individuals who were the noninitiators of the breakup were significantly lower in ambivalence than were initiators of the breakup or individuals in a mutual breakup.

These findings yield additional information about differences in ambivalence. Once again, differences in ambivalence did not occur until the end of the relationship. Generally, during the stages of uncertain and certain of a breakup, individuals who initiated the breakup were more ambivalent than were individuals who were broken up with or than were individuals in a mutual breakup. This finding is quite logical; one would assume that the individual who initiated the breakup would be more aware of problems in the relationship and would experience more feelings of uncertainty than would the noninitiator of a breakup.

There was a significant breakup by gender interaction (see Table 12). Post hoc analysis revealed no significant differences. An examination of the means showed that the differences between males and females were small for initiators of the breakup and for individuals who were broken up with (see Table J-6, Appendix J, for means). The means for individuals who were in a mutual breakup showed females to be much higher in ambivalence than were males.

Conflict. There was a main effect for involvement level on the measure of conflict (see Table 13). Analysis of the means revealed the following developmental pattern. Conflict increased significantly from the casual stage to the couple stage and increased significantly from a couple to committed (see Figure 8). There was a sharp, significant increase from committed to uncertain. Conflict leveled off at

Table 13

Analysis of Variance by Type on
Conflict Dimension

Source	df	MS	F ratio
Type (A)	4	432.02	2.57*
Gender (B)	1	91.52	.54
A X B	4	72.35	.43
Error	83	167.95	
Involvement Level (C)	4	3456.12	91.26***
A X C	16	29.97	.79
B X C	4	57.01	1.51
A X B X C	16	22.58	.60
Error	332	37.87	

  * p < .05

*** p < .001

this point; the amount of conflict at uncertain and certain was not significantly different.

These findings depart somewhat from the previous studies of the developmental trend of conflict. Both Braiker and Kelley's (1979) and Cate's (1979) studies demonstrated a leveling off of conflict between the stages of a couple and committed. This leveling off of conflict was maintained into marriage. In this study of breakups, conflict continued to increase on into the stages of commitment and being uncertain. Of the four dimensions developed by Braiker and Kelley (1979), conflict was the only one that differed in its developmental trend from the two previous studies of love, maintenance, ambivalence, and conflict (Braiker & Kelley, 1979; Cate, 1979).

It is not unexpected that conflict increased sharply in the last two stages of the relationship. One would expect conflict and negativity to be present as the termination of the relationship is considered and negotiated. Unfortunately, no causal statements can be made concerning whether the increase in conflict led to an increase in ambivalence or whether the decrease in love led to an increase in conflict, etc. There are, however, some interesting differences between the development of the relationship and the dissolution of the relationship. During the development of the relationship, love, maintenance, and conflict increase, while ambivalence decreases. During the dissolution of the relationship, love and maintenance decrease, while conflict and ambivalence increase. Clearly, these four variables do not maintain the same relationship with one another through all five involvement levels.

There was a significant main effect for type on the measure of conflict (see Table 13). Post hoc analysis of the main effect of type revealed no significant differences between the types, however (see Table J-7, Appendix J, for means). Since the post hoc test of the means for type revealed no differences, the types were examined at each involvement level for differences. At the casual stage, the five types did not differ in the amount of conflict. During the couple stage, accelerated relationships were significantly lower in conflict than prolonged-smooth and prolonged-turbulent relationships. At the committed stage, accelerated relationships were lower in conflict than were low-level, prolonged-smooth, and prolonged-turbulent relationships. In addition, moderate relationships were lower in conflict than were prolonged-turbulent relationships. During the period of uncertainty, accelerated relationships were lower in conflict than were prolonged-smooth and prolonged-turbulent relationships. Low-level relationships were also significantly lower in conflict than were prolonged-turbulent relationships. Finally, at the stage of certain of a breakup, low-level and moderate relationships were significantly lower than were prolonged-turbulent relationships in conflict.

These findings were basically in accord with the differences between types on the number of downturns. Prolonged-turbulent relationships experienced significantly more downturns than did all the other types of relationships. Prolonged-turbulent relationships were also the highest in conflict across all five involvement levels (although prolonged-turbulent relationships were not always significantly higher in conflict). It is indeed interesting that even

though prolonged-turbulent relationships were greater in downturns than were prolonged-smooth relationships, these two relationship types did not differ in conflict at any stage of the relationship. This phenomenon may be explained by the nature of the conflict scale itself. Only one of the five items actually taps the frequency of arguments or disagreements. The other items tap into how often negative feelings were felt and expressed, how serious problems were, and how much the respondent tried to change the partner's behavior. Thus, it appeared that individuals in the prolonged types of relationships were more likely to express negative feelings, as well as engage in arguments, than were individuals in the shorter length relationships. It could be that the experience and expression of negative feelings was related to more than just turbulence in the relationship. Such expression may also be related to the level of trust and intimacy in the relationship and/or to the amount of time one has known the partner.

Accelerated relationships were consistently low in conflict when compared to the other types. Indeed, the participants who described such relationships often commented on the lack of conflict in the early stages of the relationship. Perhaps it was this low level of conflict and negative feelings towards the partner that allowed these relationships to move quickly to a high chance of marriage. One could further speculate that when such negative feelings were experienced in these accelerated relationships, they set in motion the rapid deceleration of these relationships.

There were no gender differences in conflict in this study. At first glance this does not seem to be in keeping with previous

research. Both Kelley (1980) and Falbo and Peplau (1980) noted gender differences in conflict. However, these differences centered around the conflict strategies used by males and females. It appeared in the present study that while males and females may use different strategies in negotiating conflict, they do not experience differences in the amount of conflict or negative feelings. Finally, there were no breakup differences or interactions involving breakup in the amount of conflict (see Table 14 for the repeated measures analysis and Table J-8, Appendix J, for means).

Rewards. There were a significant main effect for involvement level on rewards scale perceived by the participants (see Table 15). Post hoc analysis revealed the following developmental pattern: Reward level increased significantly from casual to a couple and from a couple to committed. Rewards then decreased significantly from committed to uncertain and from uncertain to certain. In addition, rewards ended up being significantly lower at the last stage than they had been in the first stage of the relationship (see Figure 9).

The developmental trend of rewards thus roughly follows the same pattern as did the developmental trends of love and maintenance (i.e., significant increases up to the committed stage, then significant decreases thereafter). There is one notable difference, however. Rewards decreased to their lowest level by the last stage of the relationship; whereas, love and maintenance were significantly higher at the certain stage than they had been at the casual stage. Although these participants perceived that the rewards they received from their relationships were at their lowest point by the end of the

Table 14

Analysis of Variance by Breakup on
Conflict Dimension

Source	df	MS	F ratio
Breakup (A)	2	439.93	2.59
Gender (B)	1	209.55	1.23
A X B	2	35.63	.21
Error	87	170.01	
Involvement Level (C)	4	2606.36	70.75***
A X C	8	48.98	1.33
B X C	4	37.85	1.03
A X B X C	8	26.41	.72
Error	348	36.84	

*** p < .001

Table 15

Analysis of Variance by Type on
Reward Dimension

Source	df	MS	F ratio
Type (A)	4	185.09	.87
Gender (B)	1	1283.98	6.01*
A X B	4	175.00	.82
Error	83	213.72	
Involvement Level (C)	4	5067.33	81.10***
A X C	16	65.20	1.04
B X C	4	131.56	2.11
A X B X C	16	47.79	.76
Error	332	62.48	

 * p < .05

*** p < .001
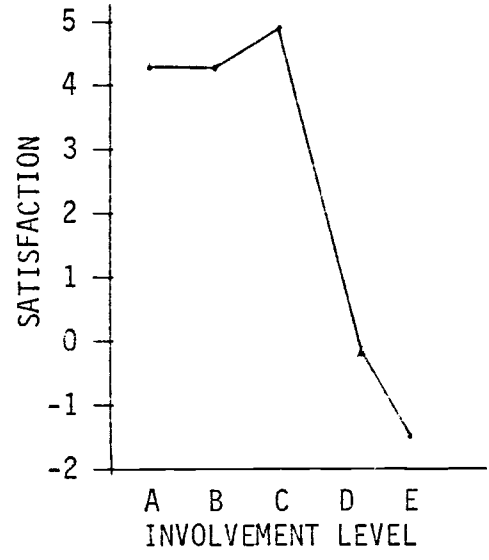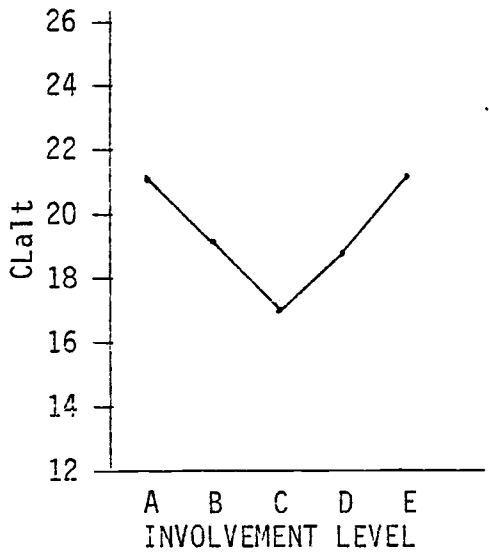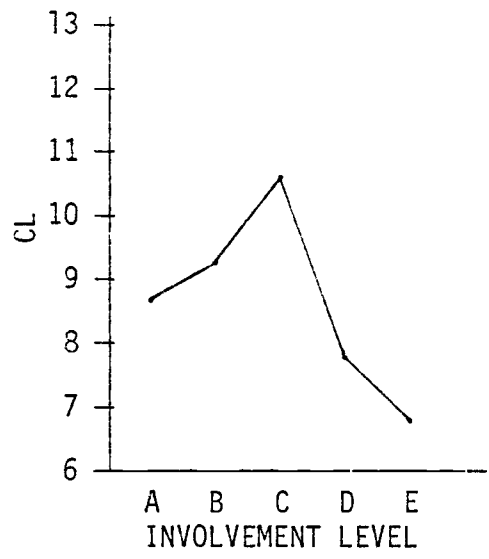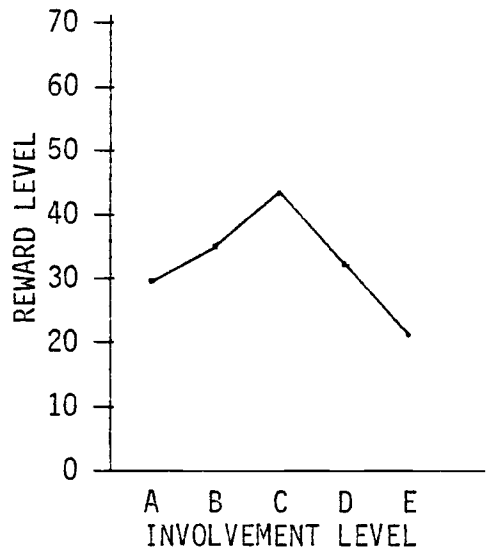
A = Casual
B = Couple
C = Committed
D = Uncertain
E = Certain

Figure 9. Developmental trends of rewards, CL, CLalt, and satisfaction by involvement level.

relationship, they still maintained a relatively high level of love and maintenance in the relationship.

The developmental trend of rewards found in this study ties in well with the propositions of social exchange theory (Thibaut & Kelley, 1959). The theory postulates that individuals will leave a situation that has a low profit (rewards minus costs) (Swenson, 1973). Clearly, by the time individuals begin to feel uncertain, their profits have decreased as reflected in the developmental trends of conflict, ambivalence, and rewards. Once again, it is not possible to determine the causal ordering of these variables. Does the increase in conflict trigger the decrease in rewards? Or does the increase in ambivalence trigger a decrease in rewards?

There was not a significant main effect for type or involvement by type interaction (see Table 15). There was a significant main effect for gender. Post hoc analysis of this main effect revealed no significant differences, so an analysis of gender at each involvement level was conducted. This post hoc analysis revealed that females perceived a significantly higher level of rewards than did males at the casual, couple, and certain stages. There were no differences at the stages of committed and uncertain (see Table J-9, Appendix J, for means).

The finding that females perceived a higher reward level than did males was not in keeping with a previous study that used the same reward scale. Lloyd et. al. (in press) found no differences between males and females in the amount of rewards perceived in an ongoing relationship. Thus, it appears that males and females did not perceive differences in rewards in a study which described a current

relationship, but they did perceive differences in rewards in this retrospective study of relationships. This difference could well be related to the idea put forth by Hill et al. (1976) that females have more at stake in a relationship (re: setting their economic standard of life). It could be that when retrospecting, women perceive a higher reward level because they expected more out of the relationship, due to their higher stake. Alternatively, females have been shown to be more interpersonally sensitive than males (Hill et al., 1976). Thus, females may remember more "positive" or rewarding aspects of the relationship when they retrospect than do males.

There was also a significant breakup by gender interaction (see Table 16). Post hoc analysis, however, detected no signficiant differences. Generally, the mutual group differed from the other groups in the differences between males and females (see Tables J-10, Appendix J, for means). Whether the breakup was initiated by the participant or by the partner, females perceived more rewards than did males. However, when the breakup was mutual, the pattern was reversed: males perceived more rewards than did females. In addition, males in a mutual breakup perceived a higher amount of rewards than did males in nonmutual breakups, while females in a mutual breakup perceived a lower amount of rewards than did females in a nonmutual breakup.

Comparison level. There was a significant main effect for involvement level on the comparison level measure (see Table 17). The post hoc analysis revealed the following developmental trend (see Figure 9). Comparison level increased significantly from casual to a couple and from a couple to committed. There was then

Table 16

Analysis of Variance by Breakup on
Reward Dimension

Source	df	MS	F ratio
Breakup (A)	2	214.93	1.15
Gender (B)	1	268.02	1.43
A X B	2	1005.63	5.36**
Error	87	187.69	
Involvement Level (C)	4	4524.46	71.98***
A X C	8	75.23	1.20
B X C	4	72.13	1.15
A X B X C	8	27.30	.43
Error	348	62.86	

** $p < .01$

*** $p < .001$

Table 17

Analysis of Variance by Type on
Comparison Level Dimension

Source	df	MS	F ratio
Type (A)	4	7.87	.60
Gender (B)	1	.21	.02
A X B	4	6.33	.48
Error	83	13.23	
Involvement Level (C)	4	170.79	46.83***
A X C	16	3.86	1.06
B X C	4	6.93	1.90
A X B X C	16	2.34	.64
Error	332	3.65	

*** $p < .001$

a sharp significant decrease from committed to uncertain and from uncertain to certain.

The developmental trends of comparison level and reward level followed roughly the same pattern. However, they differed in two ways. First, rewards increased more sharply than did comparison level at the beginning stages of the relationship. Second, comparison level decreased more rapidly than did rewards at the end of the relationship. Apparently, then, while comparison level is a rough index of how the relationship compares with previous relationships and with expectations in terms of rewards, CL does appear to be related to other facets of the relationship as well. Most notably, CL theoretically mediates how statisfied the individual is with the relationship. Additionally, CL may have dropped at a faster rate at the end of the relationship due to the increase in conflict and ambivalence seen at these stages.

There were no significant main effects for type, gender, or breakup, nor were there any interactions (see tables 17 and 18 for the repeated measures and tables J-12 and J-13, Appendix J, for means). The fact that CL did not vary by gender actually supports the explanation of the gender difference in rewards. Although females perceived more rewards than did males, they did not perceive a difference in the way these rewards compared to previous rewards in relationships and expectations. As previously noted, females may expect more rewards in a relationship than do males, due to their increased interpersonal sensitivity. The idea that females expect more out of a relationship is supported by the findings that females

Table 18

Analysis of Variance by Breakup on
Comparison Level Dimension

Source	df	MS	F ratio
Breakup (A)	2	14.99	1.25
Gender (B)	1	8.53	.71
A X B	2	26.97	2.25
Error	87	12.00	
Involvement Level (C)	4	147.76	42.10***
A X C	8	6.62	1.90
B X C	4	4.03	1.15
A X B X C	8	3.68	1.05
Error	348	3.51	

*** $p < .001$

perceived the same CL but a higher reward level as compared to males.

Comparison level for alternatives. There was a significant main effect for involvement on the measure of comparison level for alternatives (CLalt, see Table 19). Post hoc analysis revealed the following developmental trend (see Figure 9). CLalt decreased significantly from casual to a couple, and from a couple to commited. CLalt then increased significantly from committed to uncertain and from uncertain to certain. Thus, as the relationship reached increasingly higher levels of involvement (as per chance of marriage), CLalt decreased; and as involvement decreased, CLalt increased. This trend is in keeping with social exchange theory. As alternatives increase, the stability of the relationship should decrease. This study demonstrated a similar negative correlation between involvement and CLalt. Once again, it is impossible to determine whether the perception of increased alternatives precipitated the instability of the relationship or vice versa.

There was a significant involvement level by type interaction for CLalt (see Table 19). Post hoc analysis revealed that there were no differences at the casual or uncertain stages (see Table J-13, Appendix J, for means). At the stage of being a couple, accelerated relationships were significantly lower in alternatives than were prolonged-turbulent or low-level relationships. In addition, prolonged-smooth and moderate relationships were significantly lower in alternatives than were low-level relationships. At the stage of committed, prolonged-smooth relationships were lower in CLalt than were low-level, moderate, and accelerated relationships. During the stage of certain of a breakup, accelerated relationships were lower

Table 19

Analysis of Variance by Type on Comparison
Level for Alternatives Dimension

Source	df	MS	F ratio
Type (A)	4	43.04	1.21
Gender (B)	1	20.91	.59
A X B	4	62.23	1.76
Error	83	35.46	
Involvement Level (C)	4	497.91	54.90***
A X C	16	19.62	2.16**
B X C	4	17.98	1.98
A X B X C	16	10.09	1.11
Error	332	9.07	

** p < .01

*** p < .001

in alternatives than moderate and prolonged-turbulent relationships, and low-level and prolonged-smooth relationships were lower in alternatives than were prolonged-turbulent relationships.

Accelerated relationships were the lowest in alternatives and low-level relationships were the highest in alternatives at the couple stage. Perhaps, then early on in the relationship, CLalt is related to level of involvement in the relationship. As previously noted, accelerated relationships were highest in love and highest in mean chance of marriage, while low-level relationships were lowest in love and lowest in mean chance of marriage at the couple stage. Thus, to some extent, the higher the involvement level in the relationship, the lower the perceived CLalt. Such a statement is well in keeping with social exchange theory.

The above mentioned pattern appears also at the stage of certain of a breakup. Accelerated relationships were lowest in alternatives, high in love, and high in mean chance of marriage. Although these are just trends (i.e., the differences among the types on the dimensions of mean chance of marriage, love, and CLalt are not always signifi- cnat), the pattern does appear to be fairly consistent.

An additional interpretation of the lower alternatives perceived by individuals in accelerated relationships can be given. Perhaps the lower CLalt seen in these relationships reflects a piece of the "love at first sight" ideology. If this partner truly was the "one true love," then it makes sense that individuals in these relation- ships perceived fewer alternative partners both early and late in the relationship, for how could they ever find another partner who

could compare to the just-lost idealized partner? Alternatively, the lower alternatives of individuals in accelerated relationships may have been a predisposing factor that contributed to the very speed of involvement seen in this type of relationship.

At the stage of commitment, the pattern changes. The two prolonged types of relationships were lowest in alternatives. It is possible that CLalt is related to the length of the stage of commitment. Both prolonged-turbulent and prolonged-smooth relationships stayed in the stage of commitment a longer time--both in absolute months and in terms of the ratio of that stage to the total length of the relationship. It could be that the longer the time of commitment, the more "stable" the relationship (in terms of staying together, rather than in terms of ups and down), and, thus, the lower the perceived CLalt.

There was also a significant involvement level by breakup interaction for CLalt (see Table 20). Post hoc analysis revealed the following differences. There were no differences in CLalt at the stages of casual, a couple, and committed. For both the stages of uncertain and certain, the pattern was as follows: Noninitiators of a breakup were the lowest in CLalt, followed by individuals in a mutual breakup, with initiators being the highest in alternatives. These three groups were all significantly different from one another (see Table J-14, Appendix J, for means).

These findings tie in well with the conceptual work on CLalt. One would expect the initiator of the breakup to have the highest CLalt, simply because an individual is less likely to leave a

Table 20

Analysis of Variance by Breakup on Comparison
Level for Alternatives Dimension

Source	df	MS	F ratio
Breakup (A)	2	80.31	2.22
Gender (B)	1	14.43	.40
A X B	2	25.29	.70
Error	87	36.17	
Involvement Level (C)	4	450.91	51.37***
A X C	8	50.04	5.70***
B X C	4	11.72	1.33
A X B X C	8	5.73	.65
Error	348	8.78	

*** p < .001

relationship when alternatives are not available (Levinger, 1976).

Individuals who did not initiate the breakup may not have desired

the end of the relationships and, thus, may not have necessarily

been monitoring their alternatives anyway. It is interesting that

these differences did not appear until the end of the relationship;

this indicates that the initiator of the breakup did not perceive

more alternatives early on in the relationship but perceived a

higher CLalt only when uncertainty about the relationship's future

had begun. However, this finding could well be a function of the

retrospective technique itself, in that individuals may not recall

differences in CLalt early in the relationship.

Satisfaction. There was a significant main effect for involve-

ment level on the measure of satisfaction (see Table 21). Post hoc

analysis revealed the following: Satisfaction began quite high at

the casual stage and remained at that level at the couple stage

(see Figure 9). There was a small but significant increase in

satisfaction at the committed stage. At the stage of being uncertain,

satisfaction decreased significantly and then decreased significantly

at the stage of certain of a breakup.

The developmental trend of satisfaction should parallel the

developmental trend of comparison level, since CL serves as a

mediator of satisfaction (Swenson, 1973). However, in this study,

satisfaction and comparison level evidenced the same trend only at

the end of the relationship. At the stage of being uncertain, both

decreased sharply and subsequently decreased at the stage of certain

of a breakup. It is interesting that while CL and rewards both

Table 21

Analysis of Variance by Type on
Satisfaction Dimension

Source	df	MS	F ratio
Type (A)	4	13.02	1.88
Gender (B)	1	7.96	1.15
A X B	4	3.14	.45
Error	83	6.94	
Involvement Level (C)	4	690.36	178.42***
A X C	16	2.68	.69
B X C	4	3.42	.88
A X B X C	16	3.92	1.01
Error	332	3.87	

*** p < .001

Table 22

Analysis of Variance by Breakup on
Satisfaction Dimension

Source	df	MS	F ratio
Breakup (A)	2	.44	.06
Gender (B)	1	31.81	4.52*
A X B	2	14.43	2.05
Error	87	7.03	
Involvement Level (C)	4	569.95	149.87***
A X C	8	3.75	.99
B X C	4	4.90	1.29
A X B X C	8	6.02	1.58
Error	340	3.80	

* p < .05

*** p < .001

increased as the relationship moved to commitment, satisfaction did not. Indeed, satisfaction was the only dimension examined that started high and remained high until the period of uncertainty. Indeed, the development of satisfaction at the first three stages of the relationship more closely paralleled the development of ambivalence than it did any other dimension. Thus, rather than being tied only to CL (as theory would predict), satisfaction appeared to be related to other aspects of the relationship as well, such as the interplay of positive and negative attractions (i.e., ambivalence).

There was a significant main effect for gender (see Table 22). Post hoc analysis, however, revealed no significant differences (see tables J-15 and J-16, Appendix J, for means). Consequently, each breakup group was examined for differences by gender. Males in the mutual breakup group showed significantly higher satisfaction than did females in the mutual breakup group.

General Aspects of the Relationship

Two additional variables were examined in the present study: types of turning points and barriers to breaking up. Turning points were examined as a function of type by gender and as a function of breakup by gender.

Turning points. Each open-ended description of a turning point was classified into one of four types: individual, dyadic, network, or circumstantial. Individual turning points included such factors as predispositions to involvement or feelings that the partner met the criteria for an "ideal partner." Dyadic turning points included

changes in the amount of interdependence, communication, or changes in the level of commitment. Network turning points included family and friend influences on the relationship. Finally, circumstantial turning points included external events such as a job transfer, illness, or even the weather.

Each type of turning point was analyzed as a proportion of the number of that type to the total number of turning points. First, four 5 (Type) x 2 (Gender) analyses of variance were run (see Table 23). There were no main effects for type for any of the kinds of turning points. There was a main effect for gender on the proportion of individual turning points (see Table J-17, Appendix J, for means). Post hoc analysis revealed that females perceived significantly more individual turning points than did males. This finding is consistent with previous findings in this study and with previous research (cf. Hill et al., 1976) in that it again points to the increased interpersonal sensitivity of females. Women tend to take on more of an expressive role; as a result of this, it is not surprising that females might be more in tune with or aware of their individual feelings about relationships and their partners.

A series of four 3 (Breakup) x 2 (Gender) analyses of variance were run to test whether there were differences in perceived influences on the relationship as a function of who broke off the relationship. There were no significant differences in these analyses (see Table 24 for the ANOVAS and Table J-18, Appendix J, for means). Thus, the proportion of types of turning points did not vary as a function of who broke off the relationship.

Table 23

Analysis of Variance by Type on Proportion of
Individual Turning Points

Source	df	MS	F ratio
Type (A)	4	.021	1.26
Gender (B)	1	.076	4.58*
A X B	4	.016	.96
Error	83	.016	

* p < .05

Analysis of Variance by Type on Proportion of
Dyadic Turning Points

Source	df	MS	F ratio
Type (A)	4	.011	.51
Gender (B)	1	.022	1.06
A X B	4	.009	.42
Error	83	.021	

Table 23 (continued)

Analysis of Variance by Type on Proportion of
Network Turning Points

Source	df	MS	F ratio
Type (A)	4	.007	.600
Gender (B)	1	.000	.010
A X B	4	.006	.485
Error	83	.012	

Analysis of Variance by Type on Proportion of
Circumstantial Turning Points

Source	df	MS	F ratio
Type (A)	4	.006	.782
Gender (B)	1	.006	.900
A X B	4	.007	.940
Error	83	.006	

Table 24

Analysis of Variance by Breakup on Proportion of
Individual Turning Points

Source	df	MS	F ratio
Type (A)	2	.017	1.02
Gender (B)	1	.061	3.61*
A X B	2	.004	.26
Error	83	.017	

* p < .05

Analysis of Variance by Breakup on Proportion of
Dyadic Turning Points

Source	df	MS	F ratio
Type (A)	2	.025	1.29
Gender (B)	1	.013	.65
A X B	2	.025	1.28
Error	83	.020	

Table 24 (continued)

Analysis of Variance by Breakup on Proportion of
Network Turning Points

Source	df	MS	F ratio
Type (A)	2	.018	1.60
Gender (B)	1	.002	.20
A X B	2	.025	2.13
Error	83	.012	

Analysis of Variance by Breakup on Proportion of
Circumstantial Turning Points

Source	df	MS	F ratio
Type (A)	2	.017	2.54
Gender (B)	1	.002	.31
A X B	2	.002	.24
Error	83	.007	

The fact that there were no differences in the proportion of each type of turning point as a function of relationship type is not consistent with previous research. Surra and Wareham (1981) found differences in types of turning points as a function of courtship type. The lack of differences among types in the present study may be a function of the fact that most of the participants perceived a plethora of reasons for a turning point in their relationship. Indeed, only rarely did the development and eventual dissolution of a relationship seem to be a simple function of one or two influencing factors. The following anecdote illustrates the complexity of the turning points that surrounded the dissolution phase of one participant's relationship:

> During the last week of school, a whole lot began to happen. We began to have lots of fights--they didn't center on just one thing either. I wasn't happy because I found out he'd been smoking. I knew his friends were a bad influence, and besides, I didn't get along with them anyway. They were always trying to influence him against me. Bobby's attitude about church wasn't good either--he didn't live his life as a Christian. I suddenly realized that I was always trying to make the relationship and Bobby what I wanted--I realized that I couldn't do that.

Barriers. Each participant described what barriers (if any) to breaking up they had experienced as they thought about ending the relationship. These barriers were classified into one of two types: internal (i.e., reasons that were internal to the relationship or to the individual) or external (i.e., barriers that impacted on the relationship from outside). It was discovered during the coding process that there were several problems with the question on barriers to breaking up. First, the participants tended to give very nonspecific, general answers to this question. Second, it was

difficult to determine whether a particular response referred to many
barriers or to just one barrier, as the responses tended to run
together. Thus, coding the barriers was done as follows: Rather than
trying to determine after the fact whether a response described one
or several barriers, each response was coded as to whether an
internal barrier was mentioned and as to whether an external barrier
was mentioned.

The presence of an internal barrier to breaking up was mentioned
by 77 participants (83%); an external barrier to breaking up was
mentioned by 25 participants (32%). Clearly, then, most of the
participants felt an internal aspect of the relationship rather than
an external aspect of the relationship was a barrier to breaking up
with the partner. The internal barriers mentioned included a desire
to avoid hurting the partner, shared experiences, fear of loneliness
without the partner, insecurity, a hope that things would return to
how they had been before, and the amount of time invested in the
relationship. External barriers included a desire to avoid hurting
the partner's family, the status in other's eyes of being involved
for a long period of time, the expectation on the part of others
that having been together a long time meant that eventually marriage
would result, and a lack of alternatives.

The barriers mentioned by these participants largely fell into
the affectional category outlined by Levinger (1976). The lack of
material barriers (e.g., shared possessions) is not surprising in
this study, in that these couples were all in premarital relationships
and probably had not had enough time to build up a lot of mutual

possessions. It appears that the idea of barriers to premarital breakups is a salient one (in that the participants were able to express aspects that kept them together even though they knew the relationship was going to end) but is also an idea that will need further refinement. Clearly, the types of barriers that are present in the decision to divorce would not necessarily be the same as the barriers that would be present in the decision to break off a serious premarital relationship.

Summary of Results

Five types of relationships that had broken up were identified in this study. Accelerated relationships developed very quickly to a high level of involvement and subsequently dissolved very rapidly. Low-level relationships developed slowly to a low level of involvement, were low in turbulence, and dissolved at a rapid pace. Moderate relationships were symmetrical in their rate of development and dissolution (they developed and dissolved both at a moderate rate), reached a level of involvement that fell in between the low-level relationships and the other types, and contained a moderate level of turbulence. Prolonged-turbulent relationships developed slowly to a high chance of marriage, ended quickly, and contained the greatest amount of turbulence. Prolonged-smooth relationships developed slower than any other type, reached a high chance of marriage, and dissolved slowly. In addition, prolonged-smooth relationships contained a relatively low level of turbulence.

These types differed on three relationship dimensions: love, conflict, and comparison level for alternatives. Low-level relationships were the lowest in love during the casual and couple stages, while prolonged-smooth and accelerated relationships were the highest in love at these stages. There were no differences in love at the committed and uncertain stages. Prolonged-turbulent relationships were the lowest in love at the certain stage.

In terms of conflict, accelerated relationships tended to be the lowest in conflict at the stages of a couple, committed, and uncertain, while prolonged-turbulent and prolonged-smooth relationships were the highest in conflict at these stages. During the stage of certain of a breakup, low-level and moderate relationships were lowest in conflict. On the measure of CLalt, accelerated relationships were the lowest in alternatives at the stages of a couple and certain of a breakup. Low-level relationships were the highest in CLalt during the stages of a couple and committed, while prolonged-smooth relationships were the lowest in alternatives during the committed stage. The pattern switches somewhat at the final stage of the relationship, in that moderate and prolonged-turbulent relationships have the highest CLalt.

A total of eight relationship dimensions were studied. Each dimension evidenced a significant development pattern. Love, maintenance, rewards, and CL each increased to the stage of commitment and decreased thereafter. Conflict increased steadily to the point of commitment and then increased sharply into the stage of uncertain of the future of the relationship, at which point it leveled off. Ambivalence decreased slowly through the first three

stages of the relationship and then increased sharply at the stage of uncertainty. Like conflict, ambivalence leveled off between the stages of uncertain and certain. CLalt decreased steadily from casual involvement to committed and subsequently increased steadily from committed to certain. Finally, satisfaction began at a high level and maintained that level through the stage of commitment. Satisfaction decreased steadily thereafter until the end of the relationship.

The following differences as a function of who initiated the breakup appeared. Individuals who initiated the breakup were more ambivalent about the relationship than were individuals in a mutual breakup or noninitiators of a breakup during the stages of uncertain and certain. There were differences in CLalt as a function of who initiated the breakup. During both the uncertain and the certain stages, initiators had a significantly higher CLalt, followed by individuals in a mutual breakup, with noninitiators having the lowest CLalt. The following gender differences were seen in this study. Females perceived more rewards than did males in the first three stages of the relationship. Females also perceived significantly more maintenance and more rewards during the last stage of the relationship and more ambivalence during the last two stages of the relationship. Males, however, were more satisfied than were females within the mutual breakup group.

IMPLICATIONS AND CONCLUSIONS

The purpose of this study was to develop a typology of premarital relationship dissolution. Five types of serious relationships that had dissolved were identified. These five types differed not only in terms of properties of the trajectories but also differed on several dimensions of relationships. In addition, there were findings that related to who initiated the breakup of the relationship, as well as to gender. The question now becomes one of how these findings compare with past research, what the limitations of the data are, and what implications can be drawn for future research.

Discussion of implications for past research centers around three areas. First, the findings of the present study relate to previous studies and conceptualizations of relationship dissolution. Second, these data have many implications for the past research on mate selection. Third, the present typology will be examined in light of Levinger's (1979) social exchange of pair dissolution.

Limitations of the study are discussed in two main areas: (a) the nature of retrospective research and (b) the nature of the sample used in this study. Finally, the present study suggests several areas for future research, most notably as it relates both to premarital and marital dissolutions.

Implications for Past Research

Previously, three conceptualizations of premarital relationship dissolution were described. The "dissolution as a reversal of

development" conception purports that relationships dissolve much in the same manner as they develop. The dissolution as "alternating cycles of openness and closedness" concept supports the idea that the process of dissolution is one of alterations between approach and withdrawal. It was also proposed that dissolutions vary from relationship to relationship; usually two types of dissolution, slow and rapid, are listed under this conceptualization.

The results of the present study do not totally confirm any of these three conceptualizations. At first glance, it may seem that moderate relationships were relationships that would fall under the categorization of "dissolution as a reversal of development," in that these relationships were highly symmetrical. Indeed, these relationships dissolved at about the same pace as they developed. However, a look at the developmental trends of the eight relationship variables immediately disconfirms the reversal idea. It was clear from the results of this study that love, maintenance, ambivalence, conflict, rewards, CL, CLalt, and satisfaction did not "dissolve" at the same rate or in the same manner as they had developed. It was noted that these eight dimensions did not appear to maintain the same relationship with one another throughout the relationship. As a case in point, love, maintenance, and conflict all increased as the relationship moved from the casual stage to the couple stage. In contrast, the pattern was somewhat different from the uncertain stage to the certain stage: love and maintenance decreased, while conflict leveled off. Clearly, in terms of the relationship dimensions and the trajectories of every type (except the moderate relationships), the dissolutions of these relationships

did not appear to be a simple reflection of their development. The
reversal conception of dissolution may be too simplistic; indeed,
in many cases, the participants themselves took a multifaceted view
as they described a myriad of influences upon their relationships.

The alternating cycles of approach and avoidance conception
receives only minimal support. One relationship type, prolonged-
turbulent, did appear to contain cycles of approach and avoidance,
in that these relationships were characterized by numerous ups and
downs in the chance of marriage. The other four types, however, all
appeared to develop and to dissolve in a rather "smooth" manner, that
is, these relationships contained few downturns in the beginning
stages of the relationship and few "upturns" after the trajectories
had begun their downward trends. In addition, although prolonged-
turbulent relationships were characterized by numerous ups and downs,
it is clear that these fluctuations were not merely a function of
open versus closed self-disclosure. It seems more likely that these
fluctuations were due to dyadic conflict, alternative partners,
pressure from family or circumstantial events. Thus, while there
is some moderate support for the conception that relationships contain
cycles of approach and withdrawal, this conceptualization should be
modified in two ways. First, the cyclical idea applies only to a
segment of relationships, and second, these cycles appear to be a
function of a number of intra-relationship and extra-relationship
factors, rather than a mere function of openness and closedness.

The third conceptualization of dissolution was one of dissolution
as varying from relationship to relationship. Most commonly, two

types of dissolution are described. Some relationships are seen as just "slowly passing away," while others die a "sudden death." The findings of the present study do appear to support the existence of these two types of dissolution. Prolonged-smooth and moderate relationships experienced relatively "slow" dissolutions (in terms of their slope-down), while low-level, accelerated, and prolonged-turbulent relationships dissolved "rapidly."

The results of this study, however, also point out a serious limitation of the slow versus rapid dissolution conception: this conceptualization does not take into account the development of the relationship. While both slow and rapid dissolution were described in the present study, the lumping together of low-level, accelerated, and prolonged-turbulent relationships into one type does not make sense. Even though these three relationship types dissolved at the same rate, their overall patterning in terms of the entire trajectory of the relationship was quite different. The same applies to prolonged-smooth and moderate relationships, which both dissolved slowly. Thus, the findings of this study point out the importance of placing the dissolution in the context of the entire relationship. Indeed, the sudden dissolution of accelerated, low-level, and prolonged-turbulent relationships each make sense only in light of the previous history of the relationship. Cleary, a greater under-standing of the process of dissolution can be gained by an examination of the entire history of the relationship.

Overall, it appears that typologizing premarital relationships that had broken up was a fruitful endeavor. There were differences

among types both on their trajectory characteristics and on the relationship dimensions. Much descriptive information would have been lost had these relationships been described as one group, or even as "slow versus rapid" breakups. In addition, the methodology utilized here allowed for an examination of the process of development and dissolution of these relationships. Previous predictive studies (cf. Hill et al., 1976; Lloyd et al., in press), although longitudinal in nature, have not really described the process of dissolution. The present study described the developmental trends of several key relationship dimensions.

The results of this study support and add to many of the findings of the Hill et al. (1976) study of breakups in terms of gender and breakup differences. Hill et al. (1976) commented on the "two sides of breaking up." This applies to the perceptions of males versus females and to the perceptions of initiator versus the non-initiator of the breakup. Like the Hill et al. (1976) study, there were several gender differences on the relationship dimensions that pointed to the greater interpersonal sensitivity of females. However, one major gender difference discrepancy was in evidence between this study and previous studies. The present study did not support the previous findings in gender differences in love. It may be that differences in love according to gender depend on the nature of the study (ongoing relationships versus broken relationships) and on the method used (cross-sectional versus retrospective).

There were also differences on several relationship dimensions as a function of who initiated the breakup of the relationship.

These differences are in keeping with the previous research by Hill et al. (1976), which pointed to differences in the perception of the breakup by initiator versus noninitiator. In addition, there were several interesting breakup by gender interactions in the present study. In total, there were significant breakup by gender interactions on three dimensions: love, ambivalence, and reward level. In each case, the mutual group appeared to be quite different from the groups of initiators and noninitiators (although in no case were these differences statistically significant). In general, comparing within gender, mutual breakup males were highest in love and satisfaction and lowest in ambivalence as compared to males who were initiators or noninitiators of the breakup, while mutual breakup females were lowest in love and rewards and highest in ambivalence as compared to the other two groups of females. It appeared, then, that males who considered the breakup to be mutual were highly content with the relationship overall; whereas, females who considered the breakup to be mutual were highly discontent with the situation as a whole. It appears that males in a mutual breakup may have been the most interested in keeping the relationship going; whereas, females in a mutual breakup were probably the least interested in continuing the relationship. Hill et al. (1976) talk about the two sides to breaking up; the present study points out that there may be a third side to breaking up, in that individuals in a mutual breakup appeared to be different from initiators and noninitiators of the breakup.

The findings of the present study also have implications for studies of mate selection. First, one assumption of theories of mate selection is that all couples move through the same series of stages or filters (cf. Kerckhoff & Davis, 1962; Lewis, 1973). If each filter or stage is successfully completed, the couple is said to have also made courtship progress. If the filters or stages are not successfully achieved, then the relationship will be more likely to dissolve. A second assumption of mate selection theories is that once individuals pass through all the stages and reach "dyadic crystallization" (as Lewis, 1973, so succinctly puts it), the relationship will be a stable one. Clearly, the results of this study support neither of these assumptions. The types of relationships identified here demonstrated that not all individuals progress towards greater involvement and commitment in a relationship at the same rate nor in the same manner. In addition, many of these couples conceivably had reached a point of dyadic crystallization (about 34% had been engaged), yet these relationships were certainly not stable ones. Obviously, other factors such as a realization that this partner was not or could not be the partner one wanted, or the finding of an alternative partner who was perceived to be better than the current partner, helped to effect a dissolution after "mate selection" had taken place. Clearly, the theories of mate selection do not really explain why one couple stays together and another couple breaks apart.

The findings of this study of premarital breakup also relate to previous findings on divorce. Federico (1979) described a "period

of termination" in the divorce process that begins when tension and
ambivalence first build up and ends when a "point of no return"
(i.e., a clear decision to divorce) has been reached. The period
of uncertainty described in the present study appears to be quite
similar to this period of termination in divorce. Federico (1979)
comments that this period of termination may be a peak stress time
during the divorce. It appears that the period of uncertainty in
the premarital relationships in this study was also accompanied by
stress, in that conflict and ambivalence increased and love decreased
at this point. For many participants, the point at which they became
certain the relationship would end was actually a relief in that a
decision about the relationship had been made.

Another similarity between the process of divorce and the process
of premarital dissolution lies in the differences in the perceptions
of males and females. Levinger (1966) found that females cited more
reasons for the divorce than did males; this closer scrutiny of the
relationship by females also appeared in the present study. In
addition, as Hill et al. (1976) noted, there are likely to be vast
differences in the perception of the divorce as a function of who
initiated the proceedings, just as there were differences in this
study as a function of who initiated the breakup.

However, the dissolution of these premarital relationships was
vastly different from marital dissolution in several ways. Premarital
breakup occurs in an accepting context and tends to be fairly common;
whereas, divorce does not yet take place in a normative context
(Hill et al., 1976). This makes the experience of divorce much more

stressful than the experience of a premarital breakup. Consequently, it is likely that these premarital breakups were less traumatic than marital breakups would have been. Yet, some of these premarital relationships were still quite difficult to dissolve. Clearly, the individuals involved in a prolonged relationship had made an investment in their relationships, which was not disengaged from quickly or lightly. For some individuals, the period of uncertainty spanned nearly a year.

Overall, the present study supports Levinger's (1979) social exchange model of pair dissolution. As the participants began to express uncertainty about the future of their relationships, love, maintenance, rewards, comparison level, and satisfaction all decreased, while conflict, ambivalence, and alternatives increased. These developmental trends are in keeping with Levinger's (1979) ideas that a dissolution occurs as a result of a decrease in net positive attractions and an increase in alternatives. It is interesting overall that the dimension of love did not decrease as sharply at the end of the relationship as did reward level, comparison level, and satisfaction. Indeed, although love diminished as the relationship began to dissolve, by the last stage of the relationship love was still as high as it had been during the couple stage. In contrast, rewards, CL, and satisfaction all dropped to levels that were lower than they had been at any other stage of the relationship. Perhaps our terminology when describing a dissolution needs to be revised; these participants did not "fall out of love" so much as they "fell out of rewards."

Limitations

There are several limitations of the present study which bear mentioning. The first limitation centers around the use of a retrospective data collection technique. The use of retrospective interviews has been heralded as a method which answers some of the limitations of other research designs (e.g., the problems of different populations in a cross-sectional design, and the problems with finding an appropriate index of change in longitudinal designs) (Fitzgerald & Surra, 1982). However, the retrospective design has limitations of its own, which center around the accuracy of recall. Fitzgerald and Surra (1982) have noted that the retrospective interview technique does incorporate several techniques for maximizing recall (e.g., concentrating on salient events in the relationship) that help to ensure that recall is as accurate as possible.

The issue of accuracy of recall is especially salient in the present study, in that breakups tend to be emotionally traumatic. There is a good chance that the participant's present feelings about the relationship and about the former partner may "color" their perception of how the relationship developed and subsequently dissolved. Thus, the pictures drawn of these relationships may contain a bias that is due to feelings about the dissolution, selective memory, poor memory, and even an inability to express clearly what the development of the relationship was like.

The 11 former couples who were interviewed in this study allow an assessment of how well each partner's perceptions of the relation-ship correspond. Overall, the trajectories of the partners were

remarkably similar, as were the measures of the five general trajectory properties. Clearly, this high agreement supports the idea that the picture given of the relationship by each partner was an accurate one, at least in that each partner remembered the development and dissolution of the relationship similarly.

It could be, however, that these partners had contructed a "joint memory" of their relationships, especially given the fact that all of the former partners interviewed were still in contact with one another. Yet, it seems unlikely that such a novel procedure as a "chance of marriage" graph would produce similar trajectories for partners were they not rooted in events and behaviors that actually took place. Perhaps the reconstruction of these relationships is a "joint memory," not in that the former partners mutually reconstructed their perceptions of the relationship after the relationship had terminated, but rather in that the same significant events, both positive and negative, stood out to each partner as they reconstructed the relationship.

The ideal situation in the study of relationship formation and dissolution would be to combine a longitudinal and retrospective study. The longitudinal aspect would allow a more accurate assessment of ongoing behaviors and feelings, while the retrospective aspect would allow an assessment of the overall process of development and dissolution. Additionally, such a study would allow one to check the accuracy of recall of the retrospective technique.

A second limitation of this study lies in the lack of each partner's report on the relationship. Only 11 couples were interviewed; the other 78 participants represented only one-half of a

relationship. The use of couples would again allow for more assurance in terms of accuracy of recall and in terms of getting at a description of the _relationship_ rather than one individual's perception of the relationship. It cannot be known in the present study whether individuals who knew their partners would not be interviewed were less accurate in their telling of the relationship's history or not. Overall, very few of the individuals held any animosity towards their former partners; indeed, in many cases, the participants were concerned that the interviewers would "think badly" of their former partners. Obtaining each partner presented many constraints in this study, in that it first required that the partner was still in this area and secondly required that the interviewee felt comfortable contacting the former partner. Ultimately it could be that interviewing only individuals where both partners were available would have been a unique subset of breakups anyway, in that it would have eliminated the entire group of individuals who were not still in contact with their former partners.

A final limitation centers around the use of an all college sample. It is quite likely that the results of this study would have been quite different had the sample been one of noncollege individuals. Basically, this was a middle-class group of people, and the information gathered really only applies to a similar population. Overall, then, the limitations of the retrospective technique, the lack of each partner's reports, and an all college sample should be taken into account when viewing the results of this study.

Implications for Future Research

This study has many implications for future research, both in premarital and marital relationships. First and foremost, this study points to the utility of looking at differences between relationships, both in terms of how relationships develop and how relationships dissolve. There is clear evidence from the present study that individuals vary in their experiences of relationships; future research would do well to take this into account.

This study has several methodological implications for research. First, the use of retrospective interview technique has provided a rich descriptive data set. This technique has allowed for an examination of the process of development and dissolution throughout the entire relationship. It thus makes an important contribution to previous studies in that it is the first study to examine the process of dissolution within the context of the entire relationship. Future studies, especially of marital dissolution, should similarly attempt to place the divorce process in the context of the entire relationship. It could well be that many aspects of marital history (and of the premarital history as well) have an impact on the process of marital dissolution.

Ideally, in order to better understand both premarital and marital stability, longitudinal studies must be done. Such studies could, as previously noted, incorporate retrospective techniques as well. A group of intact couples could be assessed on relevant relationship dimensions over a long period of time. When a couple breaks up, or when a couple marries, a retrospective interview could

be conducted to examine the process which led to the breakup or to the marriage. Alternatively, a longitudinal study could incorporate a series of short retrospective interviews which cover the previous 3 or 4 months. Ultimately these techniques would allow for a comparison of what makes some relationships stable and others unstable.

The findings of this study also point to the importance of controlling for the level of involvement when doing predictive studies of stability. Past research (e.g., Hill et al., 1976) has compared casually involved couples with committed couples on a series of relationship variables. Subsequently, the couples' stability was assessed. Basically, the conclusions of these studies are that casually involved couples tend to break up, while seriously involved couples tend to say together. However, not all serious relationships stay intact, as evidenced by the 100 serious relationships studied here. It would make sense to control for the level of involvement of the couples in predictive studies, so as to be better able to assess the differences between the reasons for a breakup of a casual relationship versus the reasons for the breakup of a serious relationship.

Many other interesting research questions arise from the findings of the present study. The relationship dimension of conflict appeared to take a different developmental trend in these relationships as opposed to previous studies of trajectories to marriage (cf. Cate, 1979). The role of conflict in premarital relationships has not yet received much empirical scrutiny. It would be interesting to take

a closer look at conflict and how it relates to other relationship dimensions in premarital relationships. Are couples more satisfied when one type of conflict negotiation strategy is used versus another? It was shown in the present study that all premarital couples do not experience the same amount of conflict in their relationships. What, then, are the individual and dyadic factors that are associated with high versus low levels of conflict in a premarital relationship?

Another area that bears investigation in the area of premarital dissolution is that of attributions about the relationship. Individuals attribute motives or reasons to their own and others' behaviors. These attributions help the individual make sense out of the world and help to categorize events and behaviors. It would indeed be interesting to investigate how attributions about the partner change as a relationship moves from a developmental phase to a dissolution phase. For example, it could be that conflict during the development of the relationship is attributed to external events such as school stress or a job transfer. Conflict during the dissolution phase, however, may be attributed to the partner's unwillingness to change or compromise.

One area of investigation that would be particularly interesting is that of the causal ordering of changes in the relationship dimensions. It is worth investigating whether an increase in conflict precedes the decrease in maintenance and love or whether the decrease in love happens first. The causality of these relationship dimensions needs to be examined both during the developmental and dissolution

phases of the relationship, as the relationship dimensions studied here did not maintain the same relationship to each other throughout the relationship.

Many additional areas for future research can be suggested. The barriers to dissolution experienced by premarital couples need to be carefully delineated. In addition, the differences between barriers to premarital and marital dissolution could be investigated. Future research could concentrate on the many sides of breaking up. What implications does a mutual versus a one-sided breakup have for the power structure of the relationship? What implications does a mutual breakup have for the experience of trauma after the breakup? How does one premarital relationship experienced by an individual relate to that individual's subsequent premarital relationship? These and many other questions about premarital relationship development and dissolution arise.

This study described in detail five types of serious premarital relationships that had dissolved. Several important differences in relationship dissolution have been outlined. Perhaps the largest contribution this study makes is that it may indeed serve as a descriptive foundation for future studies of relationship stability and dissolution.

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APPENDICES

APPENDIX A

INVOLVEMENT SCALE

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INVOLVEMENT SCALE

1. There was something special about our relationship.

0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
Not at all true							Completely true	

2. What happened to my partner affected me equally.

0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
Not at all true							Completely true	

3. We were entirely open with one another.

0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
Not at all true							Completely true	

4. I would have done almost anything for my partner.

0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
Not at all true							Completely true	

5. It would have been hard for me to get along without my partner.

0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
Not at all true							Completely true	

APPENDIX B

INFORMED CONSENT

INFORMED CONSENT

To the participant:

This is a study of how relationships develop, and of how relation-
ships dissolve. We know that there is great variability in how
relationships change over time, and that there is no typical rela-
tionship. We are not interested in how your relationship was simi-
lar to others, but rather we are interested in the ways your rela-
tionship might have been different or unique. You will be asked
to describe your relationship, and we will ask you questions to help
fill in the details. You will also be asked to fill out question-
naires that tap how you felt about your relationship at different
points in time.

These procedures should not take longer than 90 minutes. Through
this experience, you may come to know some of the reasons why rela-
tionships 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 qual-
ified 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 satisfac-
tion. 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 investiga-
tion to the above person.

_____   _____
Date   Interviewer's Signature

APPENDIX C

RECORD OF RELATIONSHIP EVENTS

RECORD OF RELATIONSHIP EVENTS

1. First date _____

2. First holiday spent together _____

3. First time got a special present from partner _____

4. First time gave partner a special present _____

5. First kiss _____

6. First "I love you" from partner _____

7. First "I love you" from you _____

8. First fight _____

9. Times when you were dating others _____

10. Times when partner was dating others _____

11. First met partner's parents _____

12. Partner first met your parents _____

13. Engaged (private) _____

14. Engaged (public) _____

15. First time slept overnight _____

16. First intercourse _____

17. Time(s) when you thought you (partner) were (was) pregnant

    _____   What happened _____

18. Times when you stopped having intercourse _____

19. After you had made a commitment to the relationship, when was
    the first time you felt uncertain about the future of the
    relationship?   _____

20. First time partner uncertain _____

21. Time(s) when you broke things off _____

22. Time(s) when partner broke things off _____

23. Final breakup _____

APPENDIX D

TURNING POINTS RECORDING SHEET

TURNING POINT RECORDING SHEET

TP# _____   Date: From _____ to _____

_____

_____

_____

_____

TP# _____   Date: From _____ to _____

_____

_____

_____

_____

TP# _____   Date: From _____ to _____

_____

_____

_____

_____

APPENDIX E

RELATIONSHIP DIMENSIONS QUESTIONNAIRE

.

RELATIONSHIP QUESTIONNAIRE
FORM A

The following questions are items concerning certain aspects of your relation-ship at a specific time period. Please answer these questions for the period in your relationship when you were seeing each other on a casual basis, but had not yet identified as a couple. In answering the questions, you are to pick the number from "1" to "9" that best tells how much, or to what extent, the statement describes your 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 were seeing each other on a casual basis, but had not yet identified as a couple.

RELATIONSHIP QUESTIONNAIRE
FORM B

The following questions are items concerning certain aspects of your relation-
ship at a specific time period. Please answer these questions for the period
in your relationship when you felt you were a couple, but had not yet reached
100% commitment to the relationship. 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 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 felt you were
a couple, but had not yet reached 100% commitment to the relationship.

RELATIONSHIP QUESTIONNAIRE
FORM C

The following questions are items concerning certain aspects of your relationship at a specific time period. Please answer these questions for the period in your relationship when you were 100% committed to the relationship. In answering these questions, you are to pick the number from "1" to "9" that best tells how much, or to what extent, the statement describes your 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 were 100% committed to the relationship.

RELATIONSHIP QUESTIONNAIRE
FORM D

The following questions are items concerning certain aspects of your relation-
ship at a specific time period. Please answer these questions for the period
in your relationship when you were uncertain about the future of the relationship.
In answering these questions, you are to pick the number from "1" to "9" that best
tells how much, or to what extent, the statement describes your 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 were uncertain
about the future of the relationship.

RELATIONSHIP QUESTIONNAIRE
FORM E

The following questions are items concerning certain aspects of your relation-
ship at a specific time period. Please answer these questions for the period
in your relationship when you were certain that the relationship would end.
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 rela-
tionship 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 were certain that
the relationship would end.

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, now "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
```

The following questions pertain to the rewards that you receive from your relationship. On the rating scale, a "1" represents the least number of rewards possible to achieve from a relationship, and a "9" represents the greatest possible number of rewards.
Please indicate the amount of each type of reward you were receiveing from your partner when you were seeing each other on a casual basis, but had not yet identified as a couple.

26. Love (affection, warmth, comfort):

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
Low rewards							High rewards	

27. Information (advice, opinions, discussion):

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
Low rewards							High rewards	

28. Services (doing favors; performing tasks):

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
Low rewards							High rewards	

29. Status (feelings of prestige, esteem or self worth):

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
Low rewards							High rewards	

30. Goods (gifts, sharing goods such as a car, recreational and enter-
    tainment items, etc.)

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
Low rewards							High rewards	

31. Money (use of cash, credit, i.e. what to buy, how to spend):

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
Low rewards							High rewards	

32. During this time period in your relationship, how did the rewards you received from this relationship compare with the rewards you had received, in general, in other past relationships?

1	2	3	4	5	6
Present relationship was lower in rewards				Present relationship was higher in rewards	

33. How did the rewards you received from this relationship compare with the rewards you expected to receive?

1	2	3	4	5	6
Lower than I expected				Higher than I expected	

At this time in your relationship (that is, when you were seeing each other on a casual basis, but had not yet identified as a couple), if your relationship with your partner had broken up, how likely do you imagine each of the following would have been?

	Impossible	Possible, but Unlikely	Probable	Certain
34. You could have found another partner better that this one	1	2	3	4
35. You could have found another partner as good as this one	1	2	3	4
36. You would have been quite satisfied without a partner	1	2	3	4
37. You would have been sad, but have gotten over it quickly	1	2	3	4
38. Your prospects for a happy future would have been bleak	1	2	3	4
39. There were many other partners you could have been happy with	1	2	3	4
40. You life would have been ruined	1	2	3	4

When you think about your relationship during this time -- what you were putting into it and what you got out of it -- and what your partner was putting into it and getting out of it -- how did you feel?

	Not at all	A little	Somewhat	Very much
41. How content did you feel?	1	2	3	4
42. How happy did you feel?	1	2	3	4
43. How angry did you feel?	1	2	3	4
44. How guilty did you feel?	1	2	3	4

APPENDIX F

RELATIONSHIP BREAKUP QUESTIONS

RELATIONSHIP BREAKUP QUESTIONS

1. Reasons for the breakup:

    a. Reasons given to your partner _____

    _____

    _____

    b. Reasons given to family and friends _____

    _____

    _____

    c. Unexpressed reasons: at the time _____

    _____

    _____

    d. in retrospect _____

    _____

    _____

2. Problem areas in your relationship _____

    _____

    _____

    _____

3. Issues argued or fought over _____

    _____

    _____

    _____

4. Who broke off the relationship (at the final break) _____

5. Who was most interested in keeping the relationship together:

    casually dating _____   a couple _____

    committed _____   uncertain _____

uncertain _____

6. How many previous serious relationships had you had _____

7. How many previous serious relationships had partner had _____

8. Escalators _____

_____

_____

9. Barriers _____

_____

_____

10. Have you been involved in any relationships since this one broke

   up _____ if yes, how many _____

11. What degree of emotional distress did you experience after the
   breakup?

   a. a great deal

   b. a moderate amount

   c. a little

   d. none

12. What degree of emotional distress do you think your partner felt?

   a. a great deal

   b. a moderate amount

   c. a little

   d. none

APPENDIX G

DEMOGRAPHIC INFORMATION

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

1. Age (in years) _____

2. Sex

    1. Male

    2. Female

3. Total years of education _____

5. Yearly income

    1. $5,000 or less

    2. $5,001 to $9,999

    3. $10,000 to $14,999

    4. $15,000 to $19,999

    5. $20,000 or above

6. Occupation _____

7. Since you began to date people, overall how would you characterize your dating?

    1. usually dating one person at a time

    2. often seriously involved

    3. frequently dated, while generally playing the field

    4. infrequently dated, but generally played the field

8. In the two months prior to meeting this partner how often were you dating?

    1. very frequently

    2. frequently

    3. infrequently

    4. not at all

9. At the time of meeting your partner, how deeply were you involved with any other person?

   1. seriously

   2. moderately

   3. casually

   4. not involved

10. At the time you met your partner, in general, how were things going for you?

    1. very good

    2. good

    3. OK

    4. fair

    5. poor

11. At the time of meeting your partner, how many people do you think you could have met that you would have been interested in?

    1. a great number

    2. some

    3. few

    4. none

12. At the time you met your partner, how eager were your parents to see you in a dating relationship?

    1. very eager

    2. eager

    3. indifferent

    4. not eager at all

13. Before you met this partner, how easy or difficult was it for you to develop relationships with members of the opposite sex?

    1. very easy

    2. easy

    3. somewhat difficult

    4. difficult

.

APPENDIX H

INTERVIEW PROTOCOL

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INTERVIEW SCHEDULE

PART I

Getting Acquainted and Obtaining Informed Consent

1. Introduction
   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.

2. Informed Consent

   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).

   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 interview. If you have any questions, I will be glad to answer them.

PART II

Constructing the Relationship Graph

1. Introduction of the graph

   Read: We are interested in finding out how your relationship began, developed to its time of greatest involvement, and how it progressed to the time of the breakup. Mostly, we are interested in what made your relationship unique or different.

   We realize that no two relationships are exactly alike; indeed, relationships vary greatly from couple to couple. So, we are not interested so much in how your relationship was "typical," but more in how it was really unique.

   Basically, we want to accomplish two things in this interview: first, we will graph the development of your relationship, and its termination, on this piece of graph paper. Second, you will describe your relationship in greater depth, by filling out a series of questionnaires

that are designed to tap various aspects of a relation-
ship.

As a final step, I will be asking you to describe the
breakup itself in greater detail. In this way, we hope
gain a clear understanding of your relationship with
(partner).

2. Relationship events and dates

A. If you had to give me a one or two minute description of your
relationship, from the time that you both met until the time
you broke up, what would you say?

B. Tell me, how long had you known this partner, that is, when
did you first meet? (mark in month and year on graph)

(If the respondent tells you that he/she knew the person much
earlier in their lives, e.g., as a child, say:

Let me rephrase the question. When would you say the rela-
tionship between you and this partner began?)

Now, what was the date of the final breakup of the relation-
ship? (mark on graph)

(If the respondent has trouble deciding on the "final break"
say:

When would you say the relationship ended? That is, when
did you decide that any "romantic involvement" was over
between the two of you?)

C. Now I'd like to get a clearer picture of exactly how your
relationship developed, from the time you first met, to the
time you broke up. First, I am going to mark the months and
years of your relationship on the graph.

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

In order to help you remember what was happening in your
relationship, I would like to know if and when certain
events occurred.

(Read each event from the RECORD OF RELATIONSHIP EVENTS.
Record the month and year of each event on the form. Keep
this form in the respondent's view throughout the remainder
of the interview).

3. <u>Graphing procedure</u>

A. Now we will begin to fill in the relationship graph. As you can see, I have filled in each month of your relationship, from the time you and (partner) met to the time that your relationship ended.

Along the vertical line, you will see the chance of marriage, from 0 to 100%. With this graph, we will be able to show how your relationship with (partner) changed and developed over time. We have chosen the chance of marriage to represent the different levels of involvement in your relationship at different points in time. When you think of the chance of marriage, think of the degree of commitment that both you and (partner) had towards your relationship.

Even though the relationship did not end in marriage, there were probably times when your and (partner) both felt that the relationship was moving towards greater commitment.

Eventually, there were times when you and (partner) felt that the relationship was moving towards less commitment. Please be as realistic as possible when you think about the chance of marriage; it should represent what the actual involvement level of your relationship was, rather then how much you wanted to be involved.

We will use the graph to follow the development and termination of your relationship over the time that you knew (partner).

B. Now, what do you think the chance of marriage was at this time when you say that your relationship began?

(Point to the begining month on the graph. Mark chance of marriage with a dot.)

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

What was the chance of marriage 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.)

Does that look about right?

Now, we'd like to know why you think the chance of marriage changed. Tell me, in as specific terms as possible, what happened here that made you believe that the chance of marriage changed.

(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 breakup of the relationship.)

C. Now, take a minute ot 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

1. Breaking the graph into the five time periods.

   A. There may have been a time in your relationship when you and (partner) were seeing each other on a personal or casual basis, but you did not yet think of yourselves as a couple. Can you show me on the graph what period of time this was?

      (Mark this time period along the top of the graph. Label it as "casual.")

   B. Now, there was probably a time when you both were seeing each other and began to identify as a couple, but were not yet 100% committed to the relationship. Show me on the graph when this was.

      (Mark in as "a couple.")

   C. There was probably a time in your relationship where you felt 100% committed to the relationship. Can you show me what

time period this was?

(Mark as "committed.")

D.   Now, at what point did you first feel uncertain about the
     future of your relationship? At what point were you certain
     the relationship woul end?

     (Mark the time between the first point of uncertainty and the
     first time the respondent was certain that the relationship
     would end as "uncertain." Mark the time from the first
     period of uncertainty and the end of the relationship as
     "certain.")

2.   Filling out the relationship measures

     Read: In the next half of the interview, I want to get a more
             detailed description of what was happening in your rela-
             tionship as it developed and eventually terminated. 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 five stages you identified on the graph - - when
             you were seeing each other casually, when you were a
             couple, when you were committed, when you were uncertain
             of the future of the relationship, and when you were cer-
             tain the relationship would end.

             (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 Breakup

1.   Relationship breakup questions

A.   (The final section of the interview consists of getting a
     detailed open-ended description of the breakup itself. Using
     the form titled RELATIONSHIP BREAKUP QUESTIONS, ask the respon-
     dent to answer each of the questions. Make sure to probe where
     necessary, so as to obtain as specific answers as possible.

     Questions 8 and 9 require further instruction. Read the follow-
     ing texts before these questions.)

Question 8

There are many things that move partners to greater involvement in a relationship. What were the things that moved you to a greater involvement in this relationship?

(If the respondent feels that there were no escalators in the relationship, record "none." Otherwise, record each escalator in detail.)

Question 9

Sometimes there are things that keep you together even though you would like to break up with your partner. What sorts of things were present as you were going through the dissolution of your relationship with (partner)?

B. Background questionnaire

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.

(After the background questionnaire is completed, thank the participant for his/her cooperation, and pay the participant.

If the participant asks whether he/she can see the results of this study, have the participant write a permanent address on the back of the informed consent.)

APPENDIX I

ANOVA TABLES FOR TRAJECTORY PROPERTIES

Table I-1

Analysis of Variance on Mean Chance of Marriage
at the Casual Stage

Source	df	SS	MS	F ratio
Type	4	5484.04	1371.01	7.04***
Error	88	17139.77	194.77	
Total	92	22623.81		

*** p < .001

Table I-2

Analysis of Variance on Mean Chance of Marriage
at the Couple Stage

Source	df	SS	MS	F ratio
Type	4	1181.48	2970.37	9.60***
Error	88	27243.83	309.59	
Total	92	39125.31		

*** p < .001

Table I-3

Analysis of Variance on Mean Chance of Marriage
at the Committed Stage

Source	df	SS	MS	F ratio
Type	4	17937.42	4484.35	18.48***
Error	88	21353.87	242.66	
Total	92	39291.29		

*** p < .001

Table I-4

Analysis of Variance on Mean Chance of Marriage
at the Uncertain Stage

Source	df	SS	MS	F ratio
Type	4	8884.15	2221.04	9.25***
Error	88	21128.17	240.09	
Total	92	30012.32		

*** p < .001

Table I-5

Analysis of Variance on Mean Chance of Marriage
at the Certain Stage

Source	df	SS	MS	F ratio
Type	4	3409.52	852.38	3.00*
Error	88	24994.05	284.02	
Total	92	28403.57		

* p < .05

Table I-6

Analysis of Variance on Length of the Casual Stage

Source	df	SS	MS	F ratio
Type	4	19.05	4.76	1.58
Error	88	265.69	3.02	
Total	92	284.75		

Table I-7

Analysis of Variance on Length of the Couple Stage

Source	df	SS	MS	F ratio
Type	4	688.12	172.03	7.83***
Error	88	1933.54	21.97	
Total	92	2621.66		

*** p < .001

Table I-8

Analysis of Variance on Length of the Committed Stage

Source	df	SS	MS	F ratio
Type	4	4985.72	1246.43	24.40***
Error	88	4494.31	51.07	
Total	92	9480.04		

*** p < .001

Table I-9

Analysis of Variance on Length of the Uncertain Stage

Source	df	SS	MS	F ratio
Type	4	578.47	144.62	11.39***
Error	88	1117.21	12.70	
Total	92	1695.68		

*** p < .001

Table I-10

Analysis of Variance on Length of the Certain Stage

Source	df	SS	MS	F ratio
Type	4	19.05	4.76	1.58
Error	88	265.70	3.02	
Total	92	284.75		

Table I-11

Analysis of Variance of the Ratio of the Length of the
Casual Stage to the Total Length

Source	df	SS	MS	F ratio
Type	4	.238	.060	6.56***
Error	88	.799	.009	
Total	92	1.037		

*** p < .001

Table I-12

Analysis of Variance of the Ratio of the Length of the
Couple Stage to the Total Length

Source	df	SS	MS	F ratio
Type	4	.044	.011	.91
Error	88	1.054	.012	
Total	92	1.098		

Table I-13

Analysis of Variance of the Ratio of the Length of the
Committed Stage to the Total Length

Source	df	SS	MS	F ratio
Type	4	.278	.070	2.51*
Error	88	2.437	.028	
Total	92	2.715		

* p < .05

Table I-14

Analysis of Variance of the Ratio of the Length of the
Uncertain Stage to the Total Length

Source	df	SS	MS	F ratio
Type	4	.118	.029	1.85
Error	88	1.398	.016	
Total	92	1.515		

Table I-15

Analysis of Variance of the Ratio of the Length of the
Certain Stage to the Total Length

Source	df	SS	MS	F ratio
Type	4	.065	.016	2.24
Error	88	.643	.007	
Total	92	.708		

Table I-16

Analysis of Variance on the Number of
Turning Points

Source	df	SS	MS	F ratio
Type	4	429.87	107.47	22.17***
Error	88	426.65	4.85	
Total	92	856.52		

*** p < .001

Table I-17

Analysis of Variance on the Number of Downturns During the
Stages of Casual, a Couple and Committed

Source	df	SS	MS	F ratio
Type	4	22.08	5.52	6.65***
Error	88	73.10	.83	
Total	92	92.18		

*** p < .001

Table I-18

Analysis of Variance on the Number of Downturns During the
Stages of Uncertain and Certain

Source	df	SS	MS	F ratio
Type	4	47.56	11.89	8.13***
Error	88	128.72	1.46	
Total	92	176.28		

*** p < .001

Table I-19

Analysis of Variance on the Turning Point Index

Source	df	SS	MS	F ratio
Type	4	.238	.060	6.57***
Error	88	.799	.009	
Total	92	1.037		

*** p < .001

Table I-20

Analysis of Variance on the Index of Turbulence

Source	df	SS	MS	F ratio
Type	4	.380	.095	6.75***
Error	88	1.240	.014	
Total	92	1.620		

*** p < .001

Table I-21

Analysis of Variance on the Slope During the Casual Stage

Source	df	SS	MS	F ratio
Type	4	57.46	14.36	3.16*
Error	88	399.79	4.54	
Total	92	457.25		

* p < .05

Table I-22

Analysis of Variance on the Slope During the Couple Stage

Source	df	SS	MS	F ratio
Type	4	191.34	47.83	9.90***
Error	88	425.08	4.83	
Total	92	616.42		

*** p   .001

Table I-23

Analysis of Variance on the Slope During the Committed Stage

Source	df	SS	MS	F ratio
Type	4	1.12	.28	.12
Error	88	200.39	2.28	
Total	92	201.52		

Table I-24

Analysis of Variance on the Slope During the Uncertain Stage

Source	df	SS	MS	F ratio
Type	4	28.57	7.14	.64
Error	88	978.63	11.12	
Total	92	1007.21		

Table I-25

Analysis of Variance on the Slope During the Certain Stage

Source	$\underline{df}$	$\underline{SS}$	$\underline{MS}$	$\underline{F}$ ratio
Type	4	26.34	6.58	.40
Error	88	1447.33	16.45	
Total	92	1473.67		

APPENDIX J

TABLES OF MEANS FOR RELATIONSHIP DIMENSIONS

Table J-1

Means on Love by Type, Gender and Involvement Level

	Accelerated	Low-level	Moderate	Prolonged-turbulent	Prolonged-smooth	Total
Involvement Level						
Casual	46.54	35.05	38.73	42.05	52.10	41.23
Couple	67.85	53.05	62.57	62.57	66.10	61.74
Committed	83.15	76.74	82.20	83.48	84.60	81.76
Uncertain	67.08	61.79	64.30	62.19	66.10	63.89
Certain	54.15	53.05	48.40	41.67	52.30	49.05
Gender						
Males	59.37	55.20	57.59	57.40	67.05	58.04
Females	67.51	56.95	61.40	59.00	62.37	61.01
Total	63.75	55.94	59.24	58.39	64.24	

Table J-2

Means on Love by Breakup, Gender
and Involvement Level

	Initiator	Noninitiator	Mutual
Involvement Level			
Casual	42.13	38.81	43.72
Couple	63.56	59.10	61.36
Committed	81.15	82.61	82.00
Uncertain	63.10	65.55	62.93
Certain	45.48	54.26	49.79
Gender			
Males	55.84	58.36	62.31
Females	61.40	62.13	55.72
Total	59.08	60.06	59.54

Table J-3

Means on Maintenance by Type, Gender and Involvement Level

Type

	Accelerated	Low-level	Moderate	Prolonged-turbulent	Prolonged-smooth	Total
Involvement Level						
Casual	18.77	16.68	17.00	15.05	20.40	17.11
Couple	28.31	23.32	26.23	25.24	27.80	25.87
Committed	33.46	31.11	32.10	36.05	36.20	33.42
Uncertain	31.15	27.84	28.87	28.90	30.80	29.19
Certain	29.15	26.05	22.27	20.90	27.10	24.22
Gender						
Males	26.60	24.15	24.93	25.38	30.25	25.50
Females	29.51	26.18	25.77	25.14	27.27	26.41
Total	28.17	25.00	25.29	25.23	28.46	

Table J-4

Means on Maintenance by Breakup, Gender
and Involvement Level

	Initiator	Noninitiator	Mutual
Involvement Level			
Casual	16.23	17.52	19.21
Couple	26.33	24.97	26.29
Committed	34.00	33.03	32.29
Uncertain	29.10	28.74	30.05
Certain	24.08	23.64	25.93
Gender			
Males	25.01	24.79	27.93
Females	26.62	26.54	24.80
Total	25.95	25.58	26.84

Table J-5

Means on Ambivalence by Type, Gender and Involvement Level

| | Type | | | | | |
	Accelerated	Low-level	Moderate	Prolonged-turbulent	Prolonged-smooth	Total
Involvement Level						
Casual	17.69	13.05	14.77	17.67	14.10	15.41
Couple	11.77	17.21	14.37	19.19	15.10	15.75
Committed	11.62	15.26	12.23	14.90	11.80	13.32
Uncertain	22.92	26.11	23.87	27.43	23.10	24.91
Certain	22.38	24.32	26.50	23.95	24.20	24.66
Gender						
Males	15.27	17.78	17.38	20.18	16.60	17.62
Females	19.00	21.13	19.62	20.91	18.37	19.98
Total	17.28	19.19	18.35	10.63	17.66	

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Table J-6

Means on Ambivalence by Breakup, Gender
and Involvement Level

	Initiator	Noninitiator	Mutual
Involvement Level			
Casual	14.58	16.71	15.36
Couple	15.56	16.13	15.57
Committed	14.79	11.48	12.36
Uncertain	28.00	20.94	23.91
Certain	27.40	20.39	24.71
Gender			
Males	19.87	16.00	15.67
Females	20.21	18.50	22.84
Total	20.07	17.13	18.23

Table J-7

Means on Conflict by Type, Gender and Involvement Level

Type

	Accelerated	Low-level	Moderate	Prolonged-turbulent	Prolonged-smooth	Total
Involvement Level						
Casual	10.77	9.63	9.60	12.00	11.20	10.48
Couple	10.00	14.21	14.20	17.57	15.80	14.55
Committed	13.00	18.05	16.57	21.43	19.10	17.74
Uncertain	22.62	23.52	23.97	30.05	27.40	25.43
Certain	25.38	23.58	24.40	28.86	25.20	25.46
Gender						
Males	15.37	16.98	16.54	22.73	20.05	17.87
Females	17.20	18.93	19.32	21.52	19.53	19.57
Total	16.35	17.80	17.75	21.98	19.74	

Table J-8

Means on Conflict by Breakup, Gender
and Involvement Level

	Initiator	Noninitiator	Mutual
Involvement Level			
Casual	10.52	10.48	10.36
Couple	15.19	14.19	13.14
Committed	19.52	16.61	14.14
Uncertain	27.92	23.71	20.71
Certain	27.69	23.45	22.29
Gender			
Males	19.51	17.45	15.04
Females	20.63	17.99	18.08
Total	20.17	17.69	16.13

Table J-9

Means on Rewards by Type, Gender and Involvement Level

	Type					
	Accelerated	Low-level	Moderate	Prolonged-turbulent	Prolonged-smooth	Total
Involvement Level						
Casual	34.31	26.11	28.26	31.00	31.50	29.63
Couple	41.69	33.00	35.63	38.10	38.20	36.77
Committed	45.92	41.74	43.67	45.67	46.80	44.38
Uncertain	34.00	30.32	30.40	31.38	30.80	31.15
Certain	21.62	25.58	20.97	22.14	25.80	22.78
Gender						
Males	32.57	28.09	30.48	32.08	35.00	30.85
Females	38.03	35.83	33.49	34.63	34.37	34.99
Total	35.51	31.35	31.79	33.66	34.62	

Table J-10

Means on Reward Level by Breakup, Gender
and Involvement Level

	Initiator	Noninitiator	Mutual
Involvement Level			
Casual	29.90	27.61	33.21
Couple	37.73	35.61	36.07
Committed	44.02	44.06	46.29
Uncertain	31.92	29.48	32.21
Certain	25.10	18.29	24.79
Gender			
Males	30.07	28.67	36.71
Females	36.35	33.86	30.56
Total	33.73	31.01	34.51

Table J-11

Means on Comparison Level by Type, Gender and Involvement Level

	Type					
	Accelerated	Low-level	Moderate	Prolonged-turbulent	Prolonged-smooth	Total
Involvement Level						
Casual	8.46	8.21	8.70	9.10	8.80	8.67
Couple	9.84	8.68	9.30	9.15	9.80	9.23
Committed	10.77	10.63	10.70	10.14	10.70	10.57
Uncertain	8.62	7.95	7.60	7.38	6.90	7.67
Certain	8.00	7.00	6.53	5.86	6.50	6.68
Gender						
Males	8.93	8.49	8.79	7.95	8.95	8.60
Females	9.31	8.50	8.28	8.52	8.27	8.54
Total	9.12	8.49	8.57	8.30	8.54	

Table J-12

Means on Comparison Level by Breakup, Gender
and Involvement Level

	Initiator	Noninitiator	Mutual
Involvement Level			
Casual	8.60	8.61	9.00
Couple	9.15	9.26	9.57
Committed	10.31	10.71	10.57
Uncertain	7.67	7.26	8.71
Certain	7.06	5.42	8.14
Gender			
Males	8.58	7.96	9.87
Females	8.54	8.60	8.32
Total	8.56	8.25	9.31

Table J-13

Means on Comparison Level for Alternatives by Type, Gender and Involvement Level

	Type					
	Accelerated	Low-level	Moderate	Prolonged-turbulent	Prolonged-smooth	Total
Involvement Level						
Casual	20.08	22.32	21.20	21.57	20.50	21.28
Couple	17.23	21.37	18.70	20.00	18.60	19.32
Committed	15.77	16.21	15.17	14.24	12.70	14.99
Uncertain	18.62	18.37	19.40	19.33	18.20	18.94
Certain	19.77	19.84	22.37	22.81	20.40	21.38
Gender						
Males	19.50	19.36	19.55	18.93	16.10	19.09
Females	17.26	19.98	19.12	20.00	19.40	19.27
Total	18.29	19.62	19.37	19.59	18.08	

Table J-14

Means on Comparison Level for Alternatives by Breakup,
Gender and Involvement Level

	Initiator	Noninitiator	Mutual
Involvement Level			
Casual	20.85	21.94	21.29
Couple	19.00	19.68	19.64
Committed	15.29	14.65	14.71
Uncertain	20.19	17.06	18.79
Certain	23.13	18.74	21.21
Gender			
Males	19.87	18.47	18.53
Females	19.56	18.34	20.20
Total	19.69	18.41	19.13

Table J-15

Means on Satisfaction by Type, Gender and Involvement Level

	Accelerated	Low-level	Moderate	Prolonged-turbulent	Prolonged-smooth	Total
Involvement Level						
Casual	4.62	4.26	4.43	4.14	3.60	4.26
Couple	5.31	4.00	4.54	3.43	4.80	4.31
Committed	5.08	4.95	5.07	4.62	5.30	4.97
Uncertain	.38	- .05	.32	- .95	-1.00	- .19
Certain	- .77	-1.16	-1.89	-2.29	- .70	-1.54
Gender						
Males	3.03	2.37	2.84	1.90	2.60	2.56
Females	2.83	2.45	2.03	1.72	2.27	2.17
Total	2.92	2.40	2.49	1.79	2.40	

Type

Table J-16

Means on Satisfaction by Breakup, Gender
and Involvement Level

	Initiator	Noninitiator	Mutual
Involvement Level			
Casual	4.35	4.32	3.86
Couple	4.26	4.38	4.29
Committed	4.72	5.32	5.00
Uncertain	- .20	- .19	- .14
Certain	-1.57	-1.90	- .64
Gender			
Males	2.52	2.36	3.02
Females	2.17	2.41	1.48
Total	2.31	2.39	2.47

Table J-17

Means on Proportion of Turning Points by Type and Gender

Type

Type of Turning Point	Accelerated	Low-level	Moderate	Prolonged-turbulent	Prolonged-smooth	Total
Individual	.30	.20	.26	.24	.24	.25
Dyadic	.47	.51	.46	.49	.44	.47
Network	.12	.16	.17	.15	.17	.16
Circumstantial	.12	.13	.11	.13	.16	.12

Gender

	Males	Females
Individual	.22	.28
Dyadic	.49	.46
Network	.16	.15
Circumstantial	.13	.12

Table J-18

Means on Proportions of Turning Points by
Breakup and Gender

Turning Point	Initiator	Noninitiator	Mutual
Individual	.27	.22	.23
Dyadic	.45	.50	.50
Network	.17	.13	.15
Circumstantial	.11	.15	.12

	Males	Females
Individual	.22	.28
Dyadic	.49	.46
Network	.16	.15
Circumstantial	.13	.12