Complexity and corporate governance: an analysis of companies listed on the BM&FBOVESPA*

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ABSTRACT

In light of the need to develop mechanisms of control, protection, and transparency regarding the relationships between principal and agent, and with the aim of eliminating or reducing the agency problem, corporate governance has emerged. Based on Agency Theory, separation of ownership and control of activities derives from the complexity of organizations. In this context, this study aims to analyze the relationship between dimensions of complexity and corporate governance in companies listed on the São Paulo Stock, Commodities, and Futures Exchange (BM&FBOVESPA), in which contingency factors might influence organizational characteristics. The investigation gathers data from a sample of 162 companies listed on the BM&FBOVESPA. The following statistical tests were used in the data analysis: Factor Analysis, Multiple Linear Regression, Correspondence Analysis, and Correlation Analysis. For measuring complexity, contingency variables such as age, size, diversification, and internationalization were adopted; and, to assess corporate governance, a representative index of the adoption of good governance practices was used. The results show that organizational complexity is explained by the size and diversification variables, whereas operational complexity is explained by the size, diversification, and internationalization variables. It was observed that in the two dimensions of complexity – organizational and operational – corporate governance was influenced by the diversification, internationalization, and age variables, with the latter involving an inverse relationship. It is concluded that companies displaying more complexity, in its two dimensions, record a higher level of corporate governance, which confirms the research hypothesis.

Keywords: organizational complexity, operational complexity, corporate governance, agency theory.

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1 INTRODUCTION

The initial discussion regarding the agency problem, promoted by Berle and Means (1932), and subsequently, the conception of Agency Theory, defended by Jensen and Meckling (1976), are essential for understanding the origin of corporate governance, given that, based on the conflict of interest between principal and agent, the need is verified for adopting mechanisms that promote an alignment of interests between these parties (Hitt, Ireland, & Hoskisson, 2003).

Conflicts of interest can occur in organizations with highly dispersed or highly concentrated shareholdings. They can be revealed, for example, through one shareholder or controlling group maximizing earnings to the expense of the other shareholders, or also in manager opportunism, where executives aim to maximize earnings during their careers instead of increasing company value (Silveira, 2010). Berle and Means (1932) argued that these agency problems originate from the complexity of organizations. With this understanding, separation between shareholder and manager is thus owed to operational complexity (Arruda, Madruga, & Freitas, 2008).

The literature indicates that bigger, older companies with greater business volumes and that are more dependent on external capital and more involved with the external market, can be considered as being more complex (Andreatta, Silveira, & Olinquevitch, 2009; Fama & Jensen, 1983; Greiner, 1998; Miller & Friesen, 1984; Thompson, 1967), and, consequently, they require more improved control mechanisms, the result of which is generally reflected in the adoption of best corporate governance practices (Silveira, 2002).

According to Agency Theory, the separation between control activities and ownership occurred as a result of the increased complexity of organizations, and in order to minimize agency problems it was necessary to improve their control mechanisms. From this perspective, an analysis of the relationship between aspects linked to organizational complexity and those related to corporate governance, with a focus on good governance practices, is considered relevant. In light of this scenario, the following question is set: What is the relationship between dimensions of complexity and corporate governance in companies listed on the São Paulo Stock, Commodities, and Futures Exchange (BM&FBOVESPA)?

Based on an analysis of studies that have addressed the relationship between complexity and aspects related to corporate governance (Anderson, Reeb, Upadhyay, & Zhao, 2011; Assunção, De Luca, Vasconcelos, & Rebouças, 2014; Berry, Bizjak, Lemmon, & Naveen, 2006; Boone, Field, Karpoff, & Raheja, 2007; Bushman, Chen, Engel, & Smith, 2004; Coles, Daniel, & Naveen, 2008; Ferreira, Ferreira, & Raposo, 2011; Lin & Lee, 2008; Linck, Netter, & Yang, 2008; Naveen, 2006), the use of the term "complexity" is verified in relation to two dimensions: organizational complexity and operational complexity. However, the choice of adopting one of these dimensions is rarely explained by the authors. In this study, though, organizational complexity is considered as referring to the complexity of the aspects that are necessary for a company's insertion into the market, and operational complexity is regarded as relating to the whole complexity of resources and valid processes for developing a company's activities.

The study, therefore, aims to analyze the relationship between dimensions of complexity and corporate governance in companies listed on the BM&FBOVESPA.

Considering that contingency factors can influence modifications in the characteristics related to company structure and strategy (Donaldson, 2007) and that complexity creates a demand for more control mechanisms, which in turn can be established via good corporate governance practices (Silveira, 2002), this descriptive study presents the following hypothesis: More complex companies listed on the BM&FBOVESPA present higher corporate governance indices.

This study fits into the context of research that addresses organizational complexity and that aims to understand its relationship with governance, thus expanding the contributions from the current literature regarding the two issues (Boone et al., 2007; Cardoso & Cabral, 2010; Coles et al., 2008; Ferreira et al., 2011; Linck et al., 2008; Ponchirolli, 2007). It bears mentioning that this prior research was carried out in different contexts and that no studies were found that had developed analyses of this nature by specifically considering companies listed on the BM&FBOVESPA.

This study, when related to complexity, is warranted in that corporate governance can be analyzed from the perspective of the control mechanisms that are inherent to best practices, making it a starting point for the analysis of environmental and organizational aspects and the potential need to implant more efficient controls or improve them.

2 LITERATURE REVIEW

2.1 Organizational Complexity

In light of the idea that setting influences the structure of an organization, the existence of contingency factors is observed; that is, variables that model the organizational characteristics to which companies must adapt (Espejo & Frezatti, 2008). The search to understand how these variables influence organizations gave rise to Contingency Theory, which is based on the assumption that environmental conditions cause transformations in organizational structure. This theory argues that there is no unique structure (the best way) to be applied in all companies, since for each one there are different contingency factors that influence the organizational characteristics and conduct (Donaldson, 2007).

Some researchers understand that, as they grow and evolve, organizations can become complex and alter their structures, which will result in a demand for new and better systems of control (Andreatta et al., 2009; Fama & Jensen, 1983). Or, also, because of a dynamic environment with rapid changes, companies need to adapt (Kledt, Evers, & Benson, 2016). Thus, independent of the context that they are part of, it is considered fundamental that companies prepare to face changes, and consequently, that they develop new control mechanisms, as well as knowing how to use them simultaneously in different situations (Ponchirolli, 2007).

The organizational complexity construct can cover a wide range of organizational characteristics (Bushman et al., 2004). According to Thompson (1967), organizational complexity describes a significant level of differentiation and specialization within an organization in relation to the profession, task, access to information, and technology. It bears mentioning, therefore, that size in itself does not necessarily result in complexity, since companies that employ simple technology and undertake simple tasks can be big, and nonetheless have a relatively lean structure.

Thus, it is observed that organizational complexity can derive from an organization itself or from the way its subsystems interact. However, it may also be a reflection of turbulence in the market environment it forms part of and of its underlying mechanisms (Ponchirolli, 2007). Coles et al. (2008) understand that organizations can be complex in different dimensions (operational, size, and leverage). Thus, the authors state that companies with greater numbers of segments, with higher revenue, and with greater dependency of third-party capital, can be

characterized as complex. Lin and Lee (2008), in turn, understand that while an organization grows, operational activities, technological development, and organizational hierarchy become more complex. Thus, when a company is more diversified, this means that it encounters various product and industry markets that differ from it in many operational aspects.

It is therefore observed that from a Contingency Theory standpoint, the characteristics and specificities of each organization that take into account environment, competitive strategies, technology, structure, processes, and size, among others (Chenhall, 2007; Fisher, 1995), determine its own dynamics and complexity. Thus, it is understood that complexity of organizational life also exists as a result of organizations' internal dynamics themselves, and not only due to external market dynamics or other factors such as technology, which are constantly changing (Crispim & Barbosa, 2006).

The literature presents empirical studies that use organizational complexity to compare or determine certain company characteristics in different contexts (Anderson et al., 2011; Berry et al., 2006; Boone et al., 2007; Bushman et al., 2004; Coles et al., 2008; Ferreira et al., 2011; Lin & Lee, 2008; Linck et al. 2008; Naveen, 2006). Based on the terminology adopted in these studies, we find complexity used in relation to two dimensions: organizational and operational. Moreover, we verify the use of different variables to evaluate complexity, such as business diversification (Berry et al., 2006; Bushman et al., 2004; Coles et al., 2008; Linck et al., 2008), debt (Linck et al., 2008), leverage (Coles et al., 2008; Lin & Lee, 2008), age (Anderson et al., 2011; Boone et al., 2007; Linck et al., 2008), internationalization (Lin & Lee, 2008), strategy (Chenhall, 2007), and size (Coles et al., 2008; Ferreira et al., 2011; Linck et al., 2008). In the studies identified there is thus no predominance with regards to the adoption of variables in one or the other dimension of complexity (organizational or operational). It bears mentioning that in order to carry out the aim of this study, organizational complexity is considered as referring to the aspects that are necessary for a company's insertion into the market, while operational complexity is related to the resources and processes that are essential and valid for the development of its activities.

Complexity can ultimately be contemplated in a new management paradigm, given that it presents a new analysis approach and treatment of factors and phenomena that occur in organizations (Cardoso & Cabral, 2010; Daryani & Amini, 2016). From an Agency Theory perspective, separation between shareholders and managers is attributed to operational complexity (Arruda et al., 2008).

Thus, according to Bhagat, Carey, and Elson (1999), a story told in 1954 at Columbia University Graduate School of Business illustrates that an increase in the size and complexity of organizations gave rise to the need to improve both the means and methods of supervision of management and those of control. Therefore, it is understood that the contingency elements that take into account the external environment, technology, structure, and competitive strategies, among others, influence organizational characteristics – and thus their complexity – requiring from companies a capacity for adaption and adequation to such elements (Chenhall, 2007; Lawrence & Lorsch, 1967).

In the context of this study, it should also be mentioned that complex structures make it possible for managers to pursue their own objectives at the expense of the interests of shareholders (Gomes, 2016). It is thus supposed that complexity creates a demand for more mechanisms of control, which in turn can be established via the adoption of good corporate governance practices.

2.2 Corporate Governance and Control Mechanisms

Corporate governance can be represented by a set of rules and practices that aim to reduce conflicts or problems of agency, by using incentive and control mechanisms (Silveira, 2004). Depending on the setting, there can be two types of control mechanism: internal and external. Internal controls operate via boards of directors and ownership structure (Gill, Vijay, & Jha, 2009). The following are frequently mentioned: the board of directors (Securities and Exchange Commission/Comissão de Valores Mobiliários [CVM], 2002; Hitt et al., 2003; Brazilian Institute for Corporate Governance/Instituto Brasileiro de Governança Corporativa [IBGC], 2009; Jensen, 1993; Silveira, 2002), executive pay (Almeida, Santos, Ferreira & Torres, 2010; Hitt et al., 2003; IBGC, 2009; Silveira, 2002), and concentration of ownership

(Hitt et al., 2003; IBGC, 2009; Silveira, 2002).

With regards to external controls, a greater variety of mechanisms is verified (mandatory disclosure of periodic information regarding the company, the presence of a hostile takeover market, the demand for competitive work, the legal and regulatory environment, the accounting standards required from companies, capital market control, competitive markets, private equity fund operations, and institutional investor and shareholder activism), among which the control mechanism carried out by the capital market stands out (Hitt et al., 2003; Jensen, 1993; Rossetti & Andrade, 2011; Silveira, 2002).

It is understood that the implementation of control mechanisms provides improvements in company management, although their success depends on the degree of alignment between management and governance practices (Araújo, Cabral, Santos, Pessoa, & Roldan, 2013). Considering the large variety of documents (studies, reports, guides) with recommendations issued by different bodies, it is important for managers to evaluate those that could be executed by taking into consideration the structure of their organizations.

Rossetti and Andrade (2011) understand that adhesion to good corporate governance practices is not a shield against the risks of investments in the capital market, but rather an indication of the position of companies in relation to values, such as transparency, integrity of information, regulatory compliance, and the adoption of reliable management models. Thus, it is understood that corporate governance practices, aligned with the principles of governance, are considered to be internal control mechanisms.

It is therefore noted that improving governance practices is associated with developing better organizational structures, and that their "adequation and improvement (...) involves a continuous process over time, motivated by internal stimuli from within and external pressures from outside organizations" (Lameira & Ness, 2011, p. 35), and that even in economies with more advanced markets, they need to be improved (Shleifer & Vishny, 1997). In this context, this investigation aims to contribute to broadening the discussion involving the constructs of complexity and governance.

3 METHODOLOGY

Based on the aim established in this study, a descriptive and correlational study was conducted, given that this type of approach makes it possible to evaluate the relationship between two or more concepts, categories, or variables, in a particular context – in this case, complexity and corporate governance (Sampieri, Collado, & Lúcio, 2006). With regards to the research approach, its predominantly quantitative nature stands out, with the use of the following statistical techniques: Correlation Analysis, Correspondence Analysis, Factor Analysis, and Multiple Linear Regression.

The population of this study was initially comprised of 365 non-financial companies listed on the BM&FBOVESPA on 12/11/2013. Considering the BM&FBOVESPA classification, companies from the Financial and Others sector did not form part of this study, as they present particularities that differentiate them substantially from the other companies. Holding companies were also excluded, as were those with no 2013 Reference Form (RF) available during the data collection period, those under a process of judicial receivership or extrajudicial liquidation or with their operations suspended, and those without all of the variables established for measuring complexity. Thus, after these exclusions, the final study sample totaled 162 companies.

In order to carry out the aim, for measuring organizational complexity and operational complexity, the following variables were adopted: company age, company size, diversification, and internationalization, which have already been used in previous studies, individually or in combination. These variables stand out in the studies that in some way address aspects of complexity in organizations (Anderson et al., 2011; Assunção et al., 2014a; Berry et al., 2006; Boone et al., 2007; Bushman et al., 2004; Coles et al., 2008; Farias, 2012; Ferreira et al., 2011; Lin & Lee, 2008; Linck et al., 2008; Naveen, 2006).

The data related to complexity were collected from the companies' 2013 Reference Forms and from the Explanatory Notes for the accounting statements closed on 12/31/2012, both of which were available on the BM&FBOVESPA website, in the period between 12/13/2013 and 02/10/2014, and from the Economática® database, on 11/23/2013. It bears mentioning that the data collected corresponds to a single period, considering that, for the researchers of contingency theory (Donaldson, 2007; Chenhall, 2007; Fisher, 1995), each context tends to define its own organizational position.

Table 1 presents the proxies, the respective sources of data, and the operationalization of the variables used in the study, considering the two dimensions of complexity (organizational and operational).

Table 1 Variables, proxies, operationalization, and source of data for the dimensions of complexity

Dimension	Variables	Proxy	Operacionalization	Source of Data	Theoretical Foundation
Organizational Complexity	Age	Year of registration with the Brazilian Securities and Exchange Commission (CVM)	Difference between the base year (2012) and the year of registration with CVM.	Reference Form – Registrational Data Item – General Data – Date of Registration with CVM	Almeida et al. (2010); Assunção, De Luca, Gallon, and Cardoso (2014).
	Size	Size Company market value		Economática®	Boone et al. (2007); Linck et al. (2008).
	Diversification	Shares on foreign stock exchanges	Number of foreign stock exchanges in which the company's shares are traded.	Reference Form – Item 18.7 and Registration Data – Foreign countries	Hassel, Höpner, Kurdelbusch, Rehder and, Zugehör (2003); Santoset al. (2013).
	Internationalization	Foreign share capital	Proportion of shares belonging to foreigners.	Reference Form – Item 15.1	Hassel et al. (2003); Santos et al. (2013).

Cont.

Table 1 Cont.

Dimension	Variables	Proxy	Operacionalization	Source of Data	Theoretical Foundation
Operational Complexity	Age	Year company was formed	Difference between base year (2012) and year of formation.	Reference Form – Registration Data Item – General Data – Date of Formation	Farias (2012).
	Size	Value of Total Assets	Consolidated Total Assets, in thousand reais, on 12/31/2012.	Assets, in thousand Economática®	
	Diversification	Number of business segments	Number of operational activity segments in the company, in accordance with Technical Pronouncement CPC 22.	Explanatory Notes for the accounting statements closed on 12/31/2012 – Information by Segment Item	Anderson et al. (2011); Berry et al. (2006); Coles et al. (2008); Accounting Pronouncements Committee [CPC] (2009); Ferreira et al. (2011).
	Internationalization	Overseas revenue	Ratio between revenue obtained abroad and total company revenue.	Reference Form – Item 7.6	Lin and Lee (2008); Santos et al. (2013).

Source: Prepared by the authors.

It is observed in Table 1 that the operationalization of organizational complexity takes the following variables into account: 1) age: measured by the number of years the company has been registered with the CVM; 2) size: measured by the company's market value; 3) diversification: calculated using the number of foreign stock exchanges on which the company's shares are traded; and 4) internationalization: calculated using foreign participation in the company's share capital. Meanwhile, for operational complexity, the following variables were adopted: 1) age: measured by the time since the company was formed; 2) size: measured by the value of the company's Total Assets; 3) diversification: calculated using the number of business segments in which the company operates; and 4) internationalization: calculated using the percentage of revenue obtained overseas. It bears mentioning that these variables contemplate some of the specific characteristics of internal company dynamics for the development of activities (operational complexity), as well as particular aspects that are inherent to a company's involvement with the environment for its insertion into the market (organizational complexity).

In order to measure organizational and operational

complexity for the companies in the sample, Factor Analysis was applied, aiming to identify "the common dimensions of variability existing in a set of phenomena", in order to "try and describe a set of variables through creating a lower number of dimensions" (Bezerra, 2009, 74). After carrying out the analysis, it was thus possible to distribute the companies into four complexity groups (low, medium low, medium high, and high), using the score quartiles obtained from the Factor Analysis as cutoff points.

The corporate governance index (CGI) was configured based on the studies from Lameira and Ness (2011), Silva and Leal (2005), and Silveira (2004), as well as the recommendations proposed by the CVM Recommendations Leaflet for Corporate Governance (CVM, 2002) and by the IBGC Code of Best Corporate Governance Practices (IBGC, 2009). Thus, based on these studies and documents, a checklist was constructed (Table 2), divided into four dimensions and 16 items, for verifying the existence of control mechanisms in the companies, which can be established through the companies reporting the adoption of good corporate governance practices aligned with the principles of governance.

 Table 2 Dimensions and items of the Corporate Governance Index, source of data, and theoretical foundation

Dimension	Item analized	Source of Data	Theoretical Foundation	
Access to and Content of Information	The company publishes the Annual Reports from previous years on its website.	Company website	Silveira (2004); IBGC (2009).	
	The company publishes its Code of ethics and/or of Conduct on its website.	Company website	IBGC (2009).	
	The company publishes a specific area related to Corporate Governance on its website.	Company website	Silveira (2004).	
	The company publishes operational and/or economic-financial Forecasts.	Item 11.1 of RF	Silveira (2004).	
Ownership and Control Structure	The company has only ordinary shares.	Itens 15.1/2 and 15.3 of RF	Silveira (2004); Silva and Leal (2005); IBGC (2009); Lameira and Ness Jr. (2011).	
	The percentage of shares with voting rights belonging to the controllers is lower or equal to their participation in total company capital.	Item 15.1/2 of RF	Silveira (2004); Silva and Leal (2005 Lameira and Ness (2011).	
	The company offers 100% tag-along for all partners.	BM&FBOVESPA website	Silveira (2004); Silva and Leal (2005); IBGC (2009); Lameira and Ness (2011).	
	The positions of chairman of the board and CEO are occupied by different people.	Item 12.6/8 of RF	CVM (2002); Silveira (2004); Silva and Leal (2005); IBGC (2009); Lameira and Ness (2011).	
	The Board of Directors is composed of 5 (five) to 11 (eleven) members.	Itens 12.1 and 12.6/8 of RF	CVM (2002); Silveira (2004); Silva and Leal (2005); IBGC (2009); Lameira and Ness (2011).	
Board of Directors	The Board of Directors is composed of at least 50% independent members.	Item 12.6/8 of RF	Silveira (2004); Silva and Leal (2005); IBGC (2009); Lameira and Ness (2011).	
	The mandate for the Board of Directors is no greater than 2 (two) years and it is unified.	Itens 12.1 and 12.6/8 of RF	CVM (2002); Silveira (2004); Silva and Leal (2005); IBGC (2009).	
	The company uses performance evaluation mechanisms for the Board of Directors.	Item 12.1 of RF	IBGC (2009).	
Other Corporate Governance Bodies and Agents	The company has an Audit Commitee.	Item 12.7 of RF	CVM (2002); IBGC (2009).	
	The company has other advisory committees.	Item 12.7 of RF	CVM (2002); IBGC (2009); Lameira and Ness (2011).	
	The company's Fiscal Council is permanent.	Item 12.1 of RF	CVM (2002); Silva and Leal (2005); IBGC (2009); Lameira and Ness (2011).	
	The company has a policy for executive pay.	Item 13.1 of RF	Silveira (2004); IBGC (2009).	

Source: Prepared by the authors.

From Table 2 it is verified that the data related to the CGI were gathered from the last 2013 Reference Form (RF) – available from the BM&FBOVESPA website – and from the company and BM&FBOVESPA websites, during the collection period (February to May 2014).

As already said, it bears mentioning that the choice of analysis period of one year considers that each specific environmental and time set tends to define its own organizational configuration (Donaldson, 2007; Chenhall, 2007; Fisher, 1995). It is worth highlighting that the data collection for constructing the CGI, especially for analyzing the "Access to and Content of Information" dimension, derives from the information available on the company websites at the time of collection, thus reinforcing the choice of a one year analysis period adopted in this study.

In order to determine the CGI for each company in the sample, a value of "1" was attributed to each adopted good practice recommendation, with a value of "0" otherwise, considering good practices adopted as being those reported by the companies in the data sources used. Therefore, a value of "1" was attributed to reported governance practices, and not reported practices were given a value of "0". Based on this criterion, no situation exists in which any of the items investigated are not applied in constructing the CGI. The CGI for each company was obtained by calculating the ratio between the score obtained by the company and the maximum

value possible; that is, 16 points. After calculating the CGI, the sample was divided into quartiles, considering that the companies classified in the first quartile have a low CGI, while those in the second one record an average CGI, those in the third one present a good CGI, and those in the fourth quartile have a high CGI.

Based on the CGI obtained, and in order to investigate complexity in relation to the two dimensions (organizational and operational), in accordance with the variables presented in Table 1, this study presents a two-dimensional analysis of complexity, and therefore formulates two hypotheses to be tested:

Hypothesis 1: The companies listed on the BM&FBOVESPA with more organizational complexity present higher corporate governance indices.

Hypothesis 2: The companies listed on the BM&FBOVESPA with more operational complexity present higher corporate governance indices.

Ordinary Least Squares Multiple Linear Regression was also used in order to verify the organizational complexity and operational complexity variables that influence the CGI (equation 1 and equation 2, respectively). It should be mentioned that for the regression analysis the following assumptions were addressed and analyzed: residual normality, residual homoskedasticity, linearity of coefficients, and multicollinearity between the independent variables (Cunha & Coelho, 2009).

$$CGI_{i} = \alpha + \beta_{1}AGE_{i} + \beta_{2}MV_{i} + \beta_{3}FOR_{i} + \beta_{4}CAP_{i} + \varepsilon_{i}$$

in which: CGI_i : Corporate Governance Index; AGE_i : Time registered with CVM; MV_i : Company size; FOR_i : Diversification of company; CAP_i : Internationalization

of company; α : Constant; β : Model coefficient; ϵ_i : Model error.

$$CGI_{i} = \alpha + \beta_{1}TIME_{i} + \beta_{2}SIZE_{i} + \beta_{3}SEGM_{i} + \beta_{4}REC_{i} + \varepsilon_{i}$$

in which: CGI_i: Corporate Governance Index; TIME_i: Company age; SIZE_i: Company size; SEGM_i: Diversification of business; REC_i: Internationalization of company activities; α: Constant; β: Model coefficient; ε_i: Model error.

In order to verify the relationship between dimensions of complexity and corporate governance, Correspondence Analysis (Anacor) was applied, the intention of which is to connect and analyze geometrical proximity relationships between non-metric variables in a perceptual map (Fávero, Belfiore, Silva, & Chan, 2009). The Anacor result is of an essentially descriptive nature and does not contain any inferences regarding cause and effect. Thus, Correlation Analysis was also carried out in order to determine the strength of the relationship between dimensions of complexity and corporate governance.

4 PRESENTATION AND ANALYSIS OF THE RESULTS

4.1 Organizational Complexity and Operational Complexity

The initial Factor Analysis tests for measuring organizational complexity indicated that the age and internationalization variables are not associated with the size and diversification variables. It was possible to verify that the size and diversification variables reach a higher explanatory power when all of the factors obtained are considered. The degree of explanation from the two variables for a factor is 80.3%, which justifies more than half of the variance in the two variables. This result is the best one among the three tested. This is because on the first occasion in which all of the variables (age, size, diversification, and internationalization) were used, two factors were retrieved with which around 70% of the total variability in the data was explained; and on the second, where three variables (age, size, and diversification) were adopted, a factor was created that would explain 54.2% of the variation in the variables. It is therefore revealed that there was a drop in the explanatory power of the model between the first to the second attempts and an increase in the third in relation to the previous two. As a result of this, only the size and diversification variables form part of the analysis model.

It is concluded that, together, market value (size) and the number of foreign stock exchanges on which a company's shares are traded (diversification) explain organizational complexity, whereas because they are not related with the other variables, time registered with the CVM (age) and the proportion of shares belonging to foreigners (internationalization) do not together describe organizational complexity.

Despite the result revealing that age, together with the other variables, does not explain organizational complexity, Miller and Friesen (1984) believe that age in itself does not make a company complex, with it needing to grow and diversify in order to evolve; that is, age, together with the other variables, should explain organizational complexity. Meanwhile, Coles et al., (2008) understand that big diversified companies may be considered complex. Thus, it is observed that, in this case, the age of a company is not seen by the authors as something that is able to influence its complexity.

The initial Factor Analysis tests for the operational complexity dimension indicated that the age variable is not associated with the others. Thus, in the search for a better connection between the variables, the tests were carried out with the other variables. It is verified that the size and internationalization variables have a reasonable explanatory power, despite them being below 0.7. With regards to the diversification variable, although the value 0.301 may be considered low, Hair, Black, Bandin, Anderson & Tatham (2009) think that, even if the communality is low, it is possible not to reject it, depending on the research purpose. Thus, considering the aim of this study and the results from the other tests, the diversification variable was kept.

The level of explanation from the three variables for a factor is 49.7%, thus explaining almost half of the variance in the three variables; that is, taking the three variables into account, it is observed that, with regards to the explanatory power of the factor extracted by the Factor Analysis, there is an increase in relation to the first attempt. Therefore, the operational complexity dimension considers that the size, diversification, and internationalization variables form part of the analysis model.

It is therefore worth highlighting that based on the Factor Analysis, the time the company has been operating (age) is not related with the other variables; and that the value of Total Assets (size), the number of operational activity segments (diversification), and the proportion of revenue obtained abroad in relation to total company revenue (internationalization) explain operational complexity for the companies in the sample. As already mentioned, age is one of the variables that model organizational characteristics (Espejo & Frezatti, 2008), and despite being considered as a variable that causes changes in organizational structure over the long run (Greiner, 1998), it did not show any relationship with the other contingency factors, in order for them to explain together the operational complexity. Thus, the results from the investigation from Linck et al. (2008) should be considered, which reveal that age does not influence complexity in the same proportion for young and mature companies.

Thus, from a Contingency Theory standpoint, it is considered that size and diversification together cause changes in the aspects for company insertion into the market, which is related to organizational complexity. On the other hand, size, diversification, and internationalization together model the resources and processes that are intrinsic to the development of company activities, which are inherent to operational complexity.

4.2 Corporate Governance Index

Based on the data for the 162 companies in the sample, it is found that the lowest CGI is 0.0000 and the highest is 0.8125; that is, some companies adopt up to 13 of the 16 corporate governance practices considered, while others do not adopt any of them. With regards to the average, the value of 0.4610 reveals that most of the companies adopt less than half of the corporate governance practices assessed. Of the practices observed, the one most adopted by the companies in the sample relates to presenting a policy for executive pay (93.8%).

The studies from Almeida et al. (2010) and Catapan, Colauto, and Barros (2013), respectively, found that, on average, 67% and 64% of companies adopt the recommendation for different people to occupy the roles of CEO and chairman of the board. Moreover, in these two studies, 77% and 37% of the companies analyzed have between 5 and 9 members on their boards of directors. The proportion of companies in this study that adopt these practices (79.6% and 79%) is higher than that found previously.

Although some recommendations are frequently adopted, others do not follow this same trajectory, as is the case of tag along being offered to all partners (6.2%), the number of independent board members (12.3%), evaluating board performance (16%), and the existence of a permanent fiscal council (24.7%). In relation to this last recommendation, it bears mentioning that, despite this not being adhered to in 122 of the 162 companies in the sample, 50.8% (62 companies) do have a fiscal council installed. The proportion of companies that adopt the recommendation of having other advisory committees (42.6%) is greater than that for the implantation of an audit committee (30.9%).

It is identified that the number of companies that publish annual reports from previous financial years on their websites (25.9%) corresponds to less than half of those that adopt the good practice of publishing a code of ethics and/or of conduct (66.7%). However, it is worth highlighting that of the companies that do not follow this recommendation (120), only 9% also do not publish standardized financial statements from previous years. It is also noted that almost 81% (84) of the companies

that publish a code of ethics and/or of conduct do so in the section of the website titled corporate governance.

4.3 Complexity Factors that Influence Corporate Governance

In order to identify the organizational complexity and operational complexity variables that influence corporate governance, Multiple Linear Regression was used. Thus, based on the CGI dependent variable and the age, size, diversification, and internationalization independent variables, an analysis of the assumptions was carried out, followed by the Multiple Linear Regression.

It was initially identified using the R² value that 30.9% of the variation in the CGI is explained by the set of variables in the organizational complexity dimension, while 24.7% are explained in the operational complexity dimension. With regards to the absence of serial autocorrelation assumption, it was observed that the Durbin-Watson test presents a value close to two, in the two dimensions; thus, the absence of autocorrelation assumption was fulfilled by both dimensions. In relation to normality, the results from the Kolmogorov-Smirnov test reveal that the normality assumption is fulfilled, given that the sig values are 0.926 and 0.713 in the organizational and operational complexity dimensions, respectively; in other words, the data follow normal distribution.

In analyzing the absence of multicollinearity assumption, it is found that the multicollinearity is acceptable since the VIF (variance inflation factor) value is between 1 and 10 and the Tolerance index is lower than 1. In the assessment of the existence of homoskedasticity assumption, it is found that the residuals are homoskedastic; that is, there is no indication of the presence of heteroskedasticity, since they were not statistically significant, neither in the organizational complexity dimension (sig = 0.959), nor in the operational complexity dimension (sig = 0.255). Therefore, in light of the results found, in which all the assumptions were fulfilled, it is concluded that the Multiple Linear Regression model is valid. Table 3 presents the result from the Multiple Linear Regression for identifying the complexity variables that influence corporate governance.

Table 3 Result from the Multiple Linear Regression model

Model		Non standardized coefficients		Standardized coefficients (Beta)	T	Sig.
		В	Standard error			
	(Constant)	0.539	0.024		22.571	0
	MV	7.45E-10	0.000	0.072	0.83	0.408
Organizational complexity	AGE	-0.005	0.001	-0.439	-6.338	0.000
Complexity	FOR	0.105	0.035	0.259	3.022	0.003
	CAP	0.191	0.095	0.14	2	0.047
	(Constant)	0.468	0.033		14.081	0.000
0 " 1	TIME	-0.002	0.001	-0.402	-4.426	0.000
Operational complexity	SIZE	-1.88E-10	0.000	-0.03	-0.313	0.755
	SEGM	0.034	0.011	0.284	3.067	0.003
	REC	0.284	0.084	0.322	3.369	0.001

Source: Prepared by the authors.

The data in Table 3 reveal that, in both complexity dimensions – organizational and operational – the independent variables age, diversification, and internationalization influence the CGI. In contrast, the same cannot be affirmed for the size variable, since it does not present statistical significance.

It should be highlighted that unlike the other variables (diversification and internationalization), age presents a negative sign. That is, the relationship between company age and corporate governance is inverse; in other words, age negatively influences the CGI, whether considering the date the company was founded or the time it has been registered with the CVM.

This result is similar to that found by Almeida et al. (2010), who by investigating Brazilian publicly-traded companies found that company age negatively influences compliance with corporate governance practices; which is the opposite to the findings of Lameira and Ness (2011), who verified that more time of life is a determining factor for quality of governance.

The study from Lin and Lee (2008), which considers the size of the board of directors to be the starting point for analyzing corporate governance, revealed that company size and diversification positively and significantly affect board size, while internationalization is not significantly related.

It is worth mentioning that the size variable, operationalized both by market value (organizational complexity) and by the value of Total Assets (operational complexity), does not influence the CGI, contrasting with

the results from previous empirical studies (Almeida et al. 2010; Lameira & Ness, 2011; Silveira & Barros, 2008). Klapper and Love (2002) are noted for understanding that there are reasons for companies, both big and small, to adopt good corporate governance practices.

4.4 Relationship between Dimensions of Complexity and Corporate Governance

With the aim of investigating the relationship between the organizational and operational complexity and the corporate governance of the companies listed on the BM&FBOVESPA, the Chi-Squared Test was initially carried out, which verified the dependency between the variables. Anacor was subsequently applied, followed by the Kolmogorov-Smirnov test, which revealed a nonnormal distribution, and then the Spearman Correlation was adopted.

It bears mentioning that in order to do this, the CGI was divided into quartiles, following what was established in the methodology. Thus, the companies classified in the first quartile have a low CGI; those in the second one record an average CGI; those in the third one present a good CGI; and those in the fourth one have a high CGI. The distribution of the CGI by quartiles also took into account the whole set of companies used for measuring the two dimensions of complexity adopted in the study.

The Anacor results, in which it is possible to examine the geometrical proximity relationships between the categories of organizational complexity variables analyzed and the CGI, are shown in Figure 1.

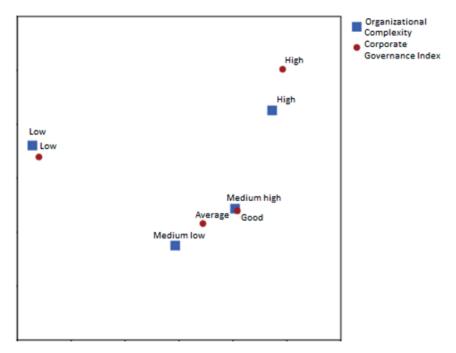


Figure 1 Perceptual map of the relationship between organizational complexity and CGI **Source:** Prepared by the authors.

It is confirmed that both high and low organizational complexity have a proximity relationship with high and low CGIs, respectively. It is also found that, based on the conceptual map, medium high organizational complexity is associated with a good CGI, while medium low organizational complexity is related with an average CGI.

Figure 2 shows the perceptual map of the connection between operational complexity and the CGI.

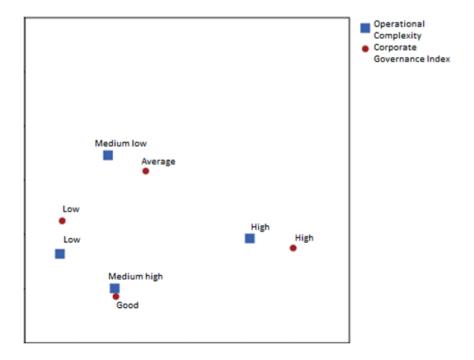


Figure 2 Perceptual map of the relationship between operational complexity and CGI **Source:** Prepared by the authors.

In a similar way to the results found in Figure 1, it can be verified in Figure 2 that high operational complexity presents a close relationship with a high CGI, just as low operational complexity has proximity with a low CGI. It is also observed that medium high operational complexity is associated with a good CGI and that medium low operational complexity is related with an average CGI.

In order to support the results and fulfill the study's proposal, it is also verified that the correlation coefficient (Spearman correlation) between organizational complexity and the CGI is 0.660 (1% significance), which represents a strong effect according to Field (2009) since it was above 0.5. It can therefore be inferred that there is a positive and significant correlation with a strong effect between the variables analyzed. In turn, considering the operational

complexity dimension, the coefficient of correlation between operational complexity and the CGI is 0.334, which represents an average effect (Field, 2009), suggesting a positive and significant correlation with an average effect between operational complexity and the CGI.

It is therefore found that there is a relationship between complexity and corporate governance, considering both dimensions of complexity analyzed in this study, which confirms research hypotheses 1 and 2 that companies with more organizational complexity and operational complexity, respectively, present a greater adhesion to good corporate governance practices. Thus, it can be considered that control mechanisms are improved as a result of the demand that exists to ease the agency problems originating from company complexity.

5 CONCLUSIONS

In this study, it was considered that the contingent factors age, size, diversification, and internationalization can influence modifications in company characteristics, or rather, in their complexity, which in turn is capable of creating a demand for more control mechanisms, represented by good corporate governance practices. The study responds to the research question and fulfills the proposed aim, in accordance with the comments below.

The results demonstrate that whatever the dimension of complexity is, it is directly and positively related to the adoption of good corporate governance practices. Therefore, companies that are considered to be complex (whether in relation to structure or to the formal and strategic aspects necessary for their insertion into the market – organizational complexity –, or linked to the set of resources and valid processes for the development of their activities – operational complexity) adopt more corporate governance practices.

Considering the specificities of this investigation, it is verified that its results are consistent with the literature (Boone et al., 2007; Coles et al., 2008; Ferreira et al, 2011; Lin & Lee, 2008) in affirming that the complexity of organizations ultimately promotes the separation of control activities and ownership, and that by observing this companies perceive the need to promote an alignment between top level managers' and shareholders' interests and minimize agency problems.

In general terms, the results from this study are compatible with those from Coles et al. (2008), who revealed that complex companies (considering the variables diversification, size, and leverage) have bigger boards of directors with more external members, which

is considered to be a good corporate governance practice. It is also worth highlighting that the findings from this investigation are consistent with those of Bushman et al. (2004), who verified that organizational complexity, measured by geographic concentration and product diversification, limits the efficiency of control mechanisms.

From this perspective, the results from the study confirm that corporate governance is related to company complexity, considering that this complexity represents the quantity and diversity of components and relationships that, together, constitute an organizational standard (Vesterby, 2008); in other words, each company has a certain level of complexity and tends to create a specific demand for control mechanisms, which consequently stimulates the adoption of good corporate governance practices, in order for it to meet its specific needs.

It should be pointed out that, despite the results from the Factor Analysis revealing that the complexity factor can be explained by a group of different variables (organizational complexity – size and diversification – and operational complexity – size, diversification, and internationalization), it is concluded that in the two dimensions (organizational and operational) complexity is directly and positively related with the adoption of good corporate governance practices in non-financial companies listed on the BM&FBOVESPA. In light of these findings, research hypotheses 1 and 2 were accepted.

It is thus believed that by relating organizational complexity and operational complexity with corporate governance, this study makes it possible to understand that more complex companies, or rather, those that are influenced by contingency variables, adopt better corporate governance practices with the aim of adapting to the environment in which they find themselves.

Although the results cannot be generalized, due to the limitations of this study, it can be considered that organizations improve their control mechanisms when they perceive that there is a demand for more and better control mechanisms, which results from changes in company structure and processes, which make them more complex. The results therefore contribute to revealing the existence of complexity in organizations using contingency factors, suggesting that managers should, in this context, perceive the need to adhere to a greater quality of control mechanisms by adopting good corporate governance practices.

It is understood that, because there are other factors

that may be related with complexity and because they have not been used or explored in this investigation (leverage, tangibility of assets, geographical concentration, and industry structure, among others), and also because aspects such as company ownership contexts, characteristics related to activity sector, and capital structure, were not considered when carrying out the analysis, the study has limitations. It is therefore suggested, for future research, that the variables related to complexity and the analysis period should be expanded, that companies from other countries should be analyzed, that the inclusion of other corporate governance practices that were not considered in this investigation should be verified, and that, for comparison purposes, financial and holding companies should be considered.

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