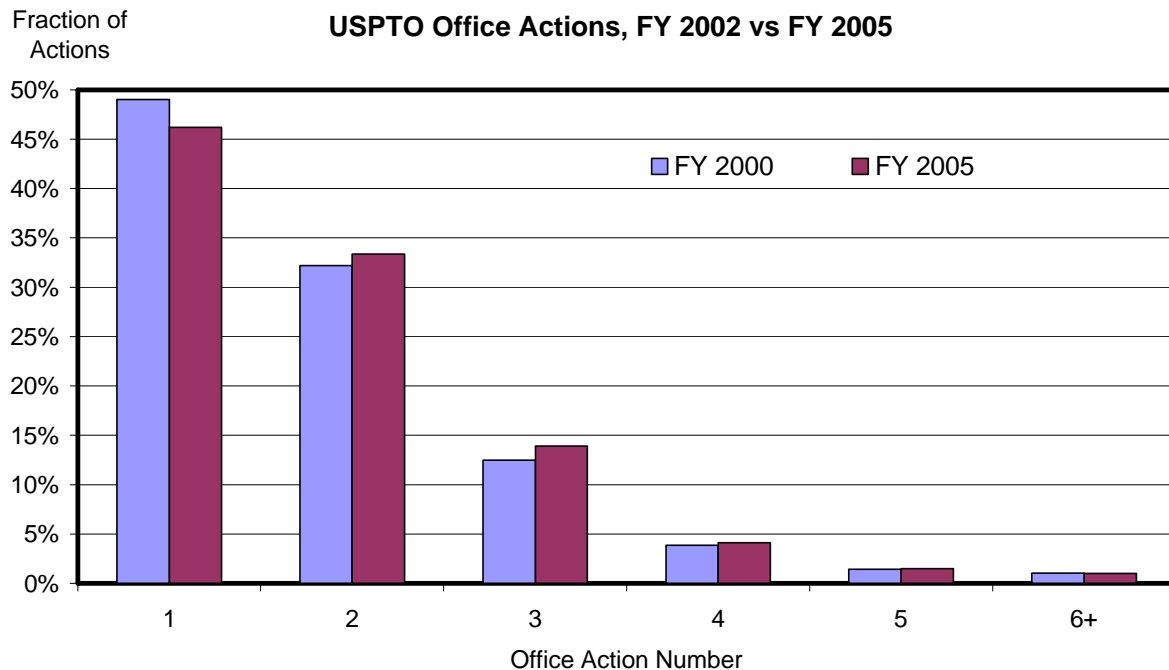


TRENDS IN USPTO OFFICE ACTIONS

1. Higher rejection rates necessitated more office actions per disposal

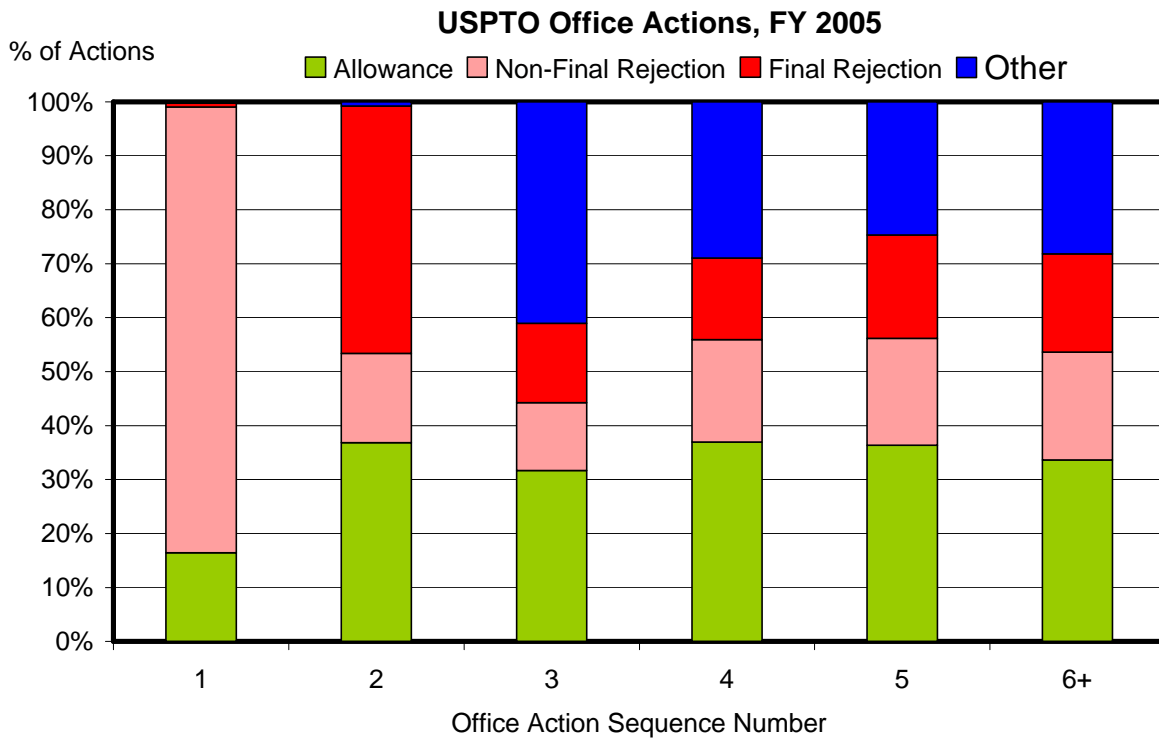
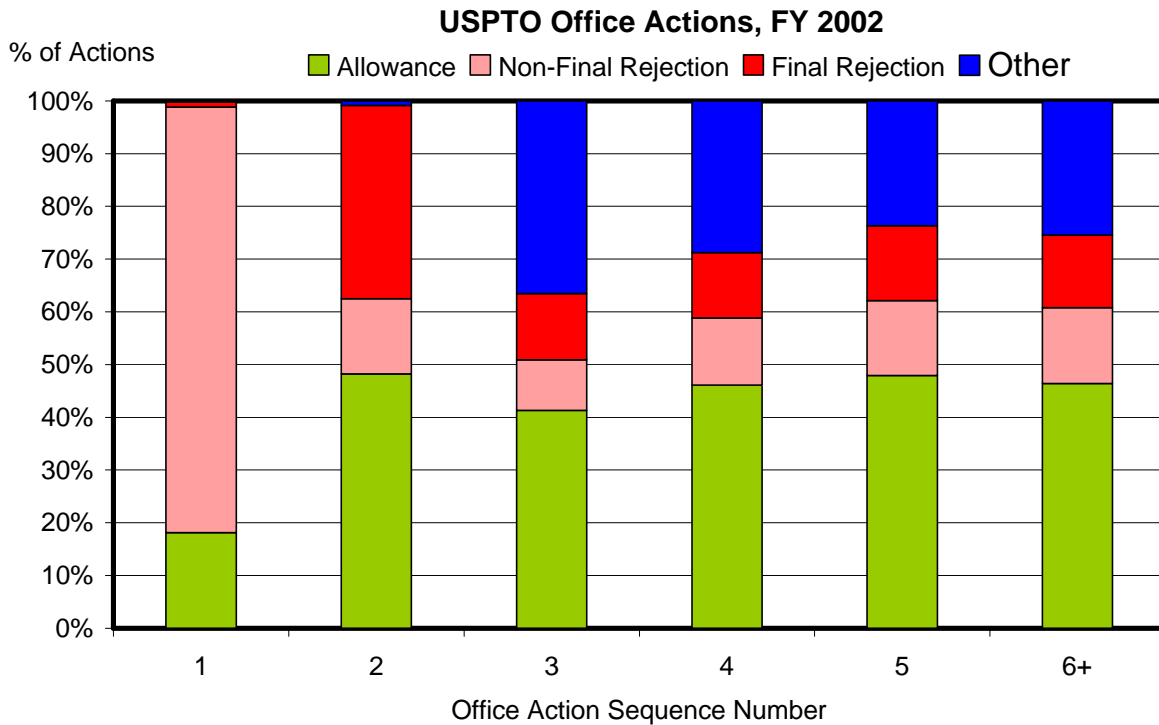


Source: USPTO data, *Tafa v. Dudas* (2007), Administrative Record, at A04372.

In what follows, all applications with office actions during FYs 02 - 05 were identified and all office actions from those applications were extracted. Actions were selected from the mailing of a non-final rejection, a final rejection, an advisory action, a miscellaneous action, an independent rule 105 communication, an examiner's answer, a supplemental examiner's answer, a notice of allowance, a letter of suspension (ML.SP only), an interference action, an ex parte Quayle action (grouped under allowance) and an interference disposal. Also identified and included in the list of actions were the express abandonments for CPA, RCE or R129.

When counting the Office action sequence, counts were restarted with any express abandonment. In this way, the same application could have multiple first actions, etc. Restrictions are not included in this analysis (i.e., they are not counted as Office actions).

2. Allowance rate declines were predominantly at the second or later office actions.



Source: USPTO data, *Tafa v. Dudas* (2007), Administrative Record, at A04372.