

# Extended supply-demand model in a distribution network

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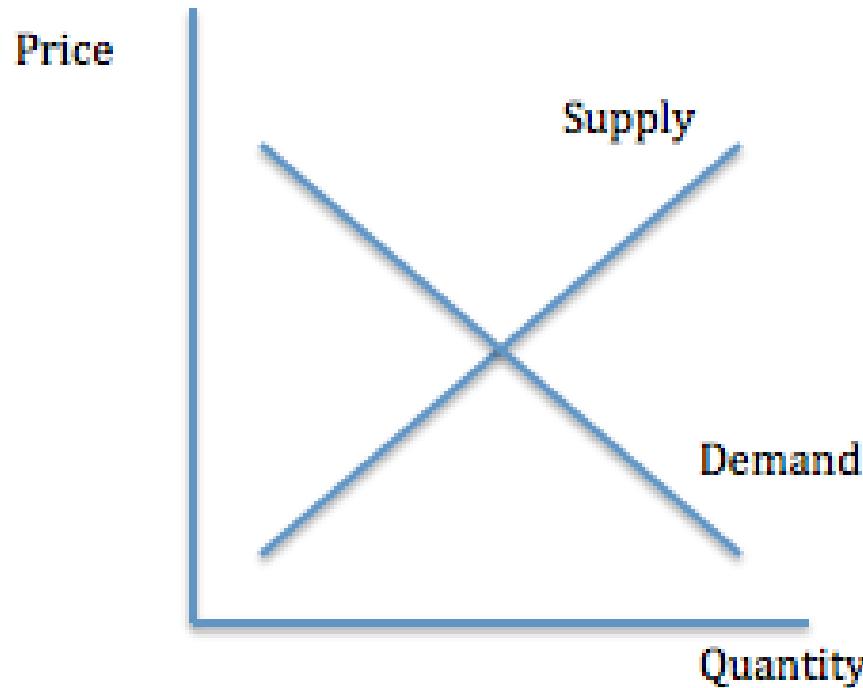
17.11.25 Complexity Conference

# Introduction

Q: How does price change  
when the supply of products changes?

# Introduction

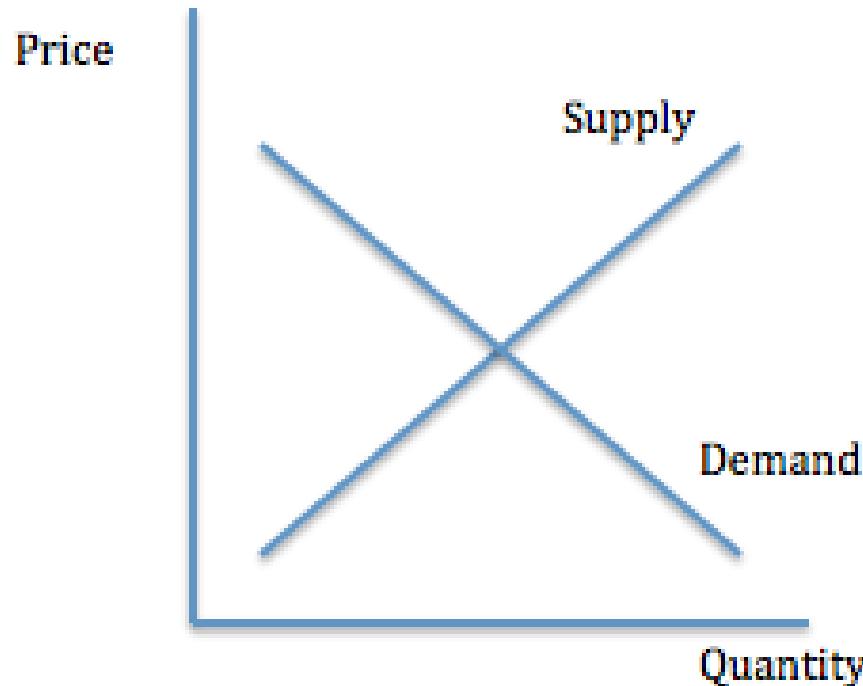
## A1:Supply-demand theory



- + Classical approach in microeconomics
- + Price is determined by supply and demand

# Introduction

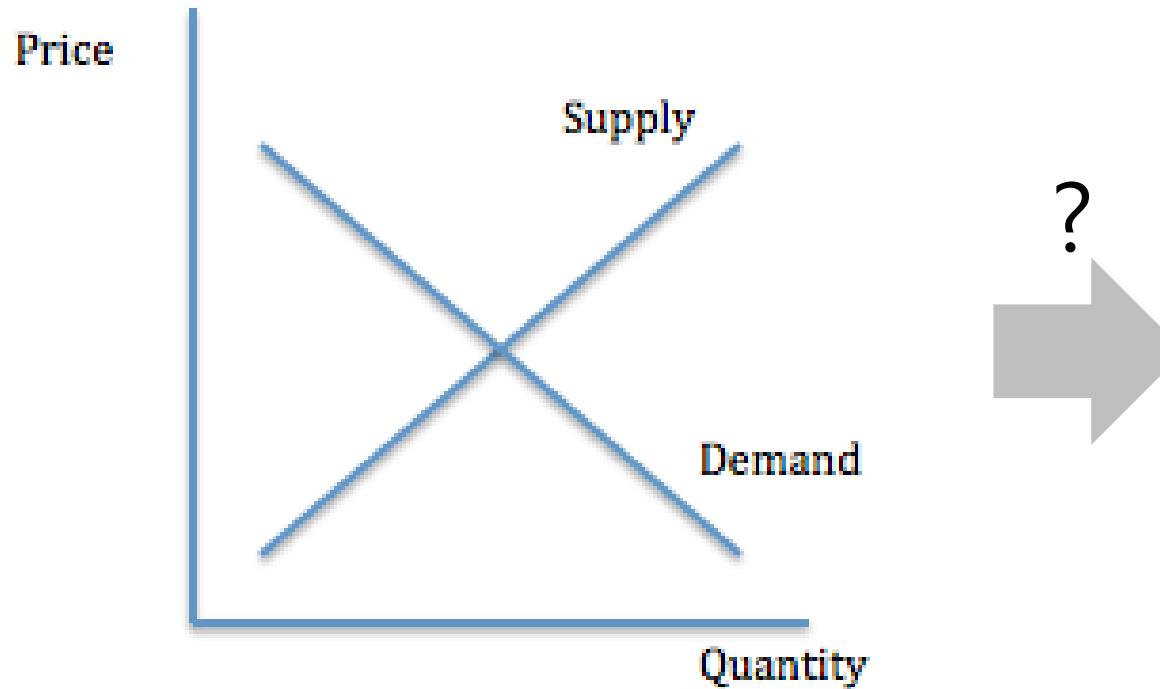
## A1:Supply-demand theory



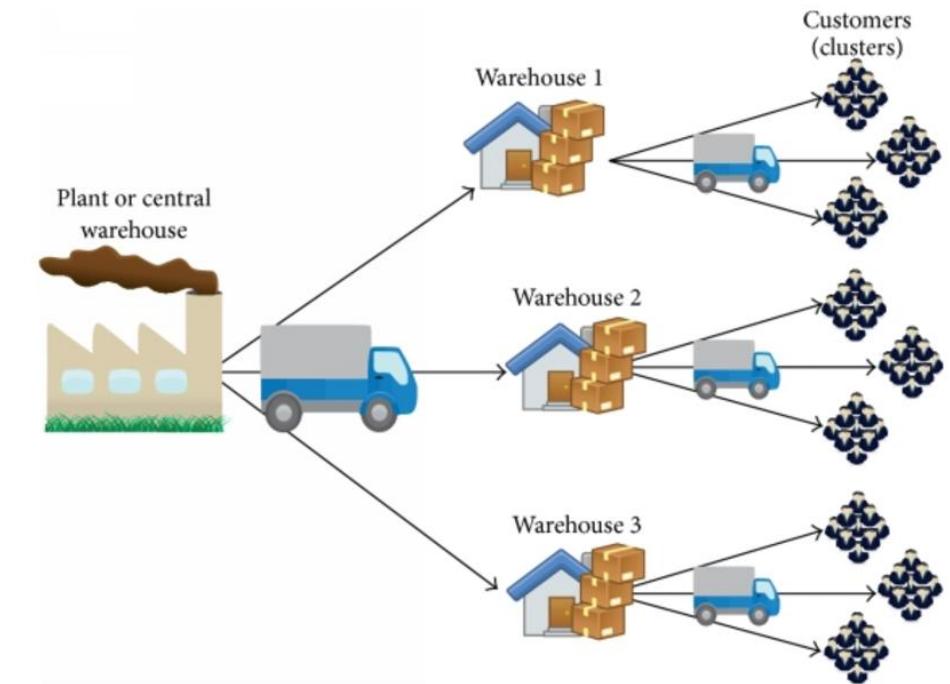
- + Classical approach in microeconomics
- + Price is determined by supply and demand
- + **One-to-one relationship**

# Introduction

A1: For one-to-one relationship

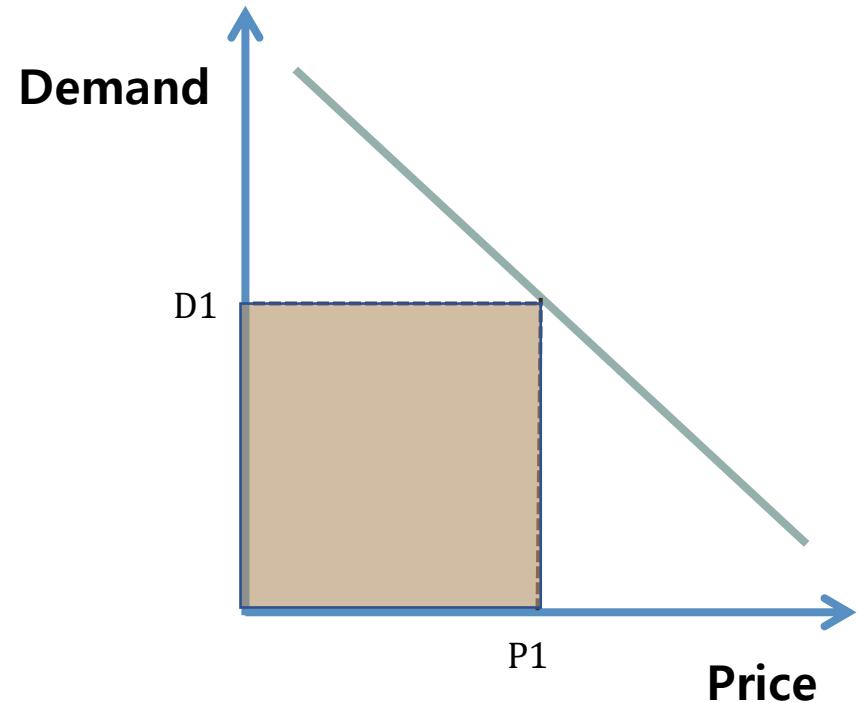


A2: For distribution network



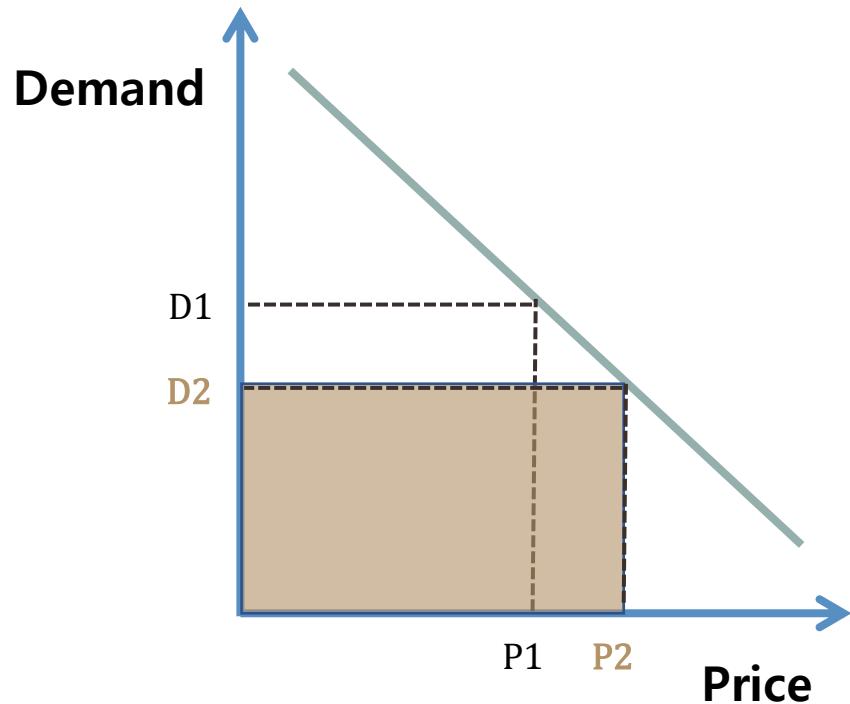
# Theory

## Price elasticity( $\varepsilon$ )



# Theory

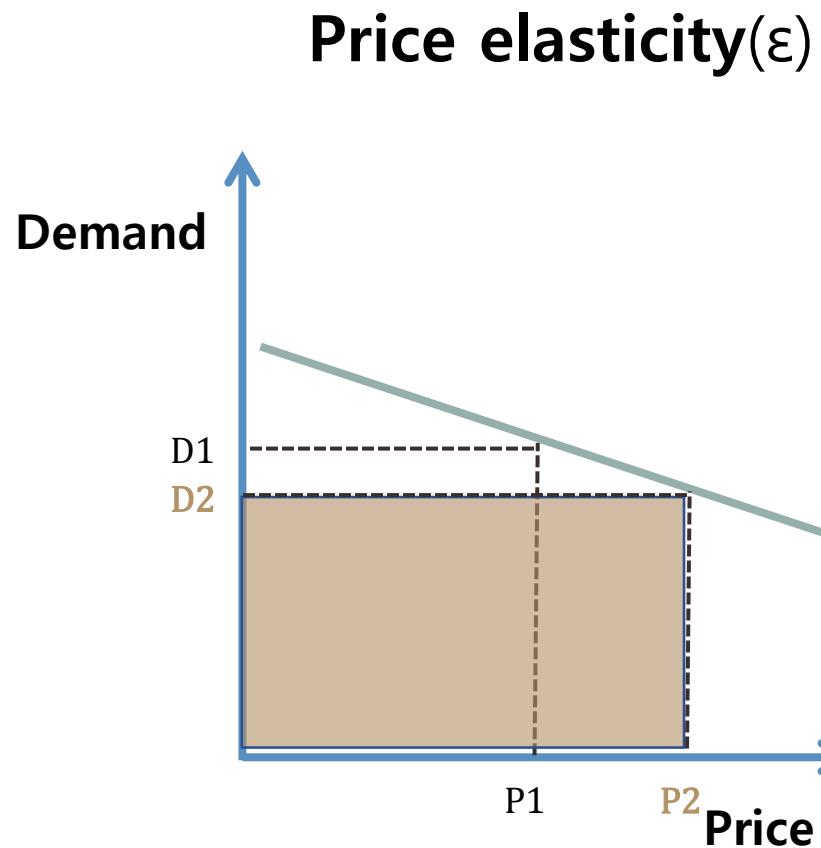
## Price elasticity( $\varepsilon$ )



Price	100\$	→	110\$	=	$100(1+0.1)\$$
Demand	100	→	$(100 - 10\varepsilon)$	=	$100(1-0.1\varepsilon)$
Profit (Price × Demand)	10000\$	→	$(11000 - 1100\varepsilon)\$$	=	$10000(1+0.1)(1-0.1\varepsilon)\$$

$$\frac{\Delta D}{D} = -\varepsilon \frac{\Delta P}{P}$$

# Theory



**When  $\varepsilon=0.5$  (low)**

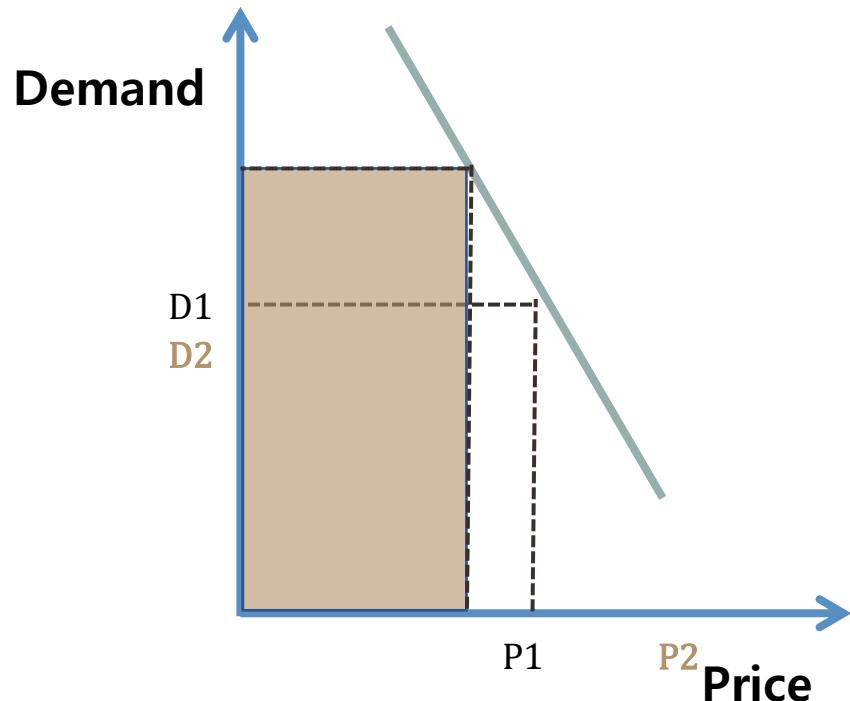
Price	100\$	→	110\$	=	$100(1+0.1)$$
Demand	100	→	95	=	$100(1-0.05)$
Profit (Price × Demand)	10000\$	→	10450\$	=	$10000(1+0.1)(1-0.05)$ \$

$$\frac{\Delta D}{D} = -\varepsilon \frac{\Delta P}{P}$$

**Seller raise the price**

# Theory

## Price elasticity( $\varepsilon$ )



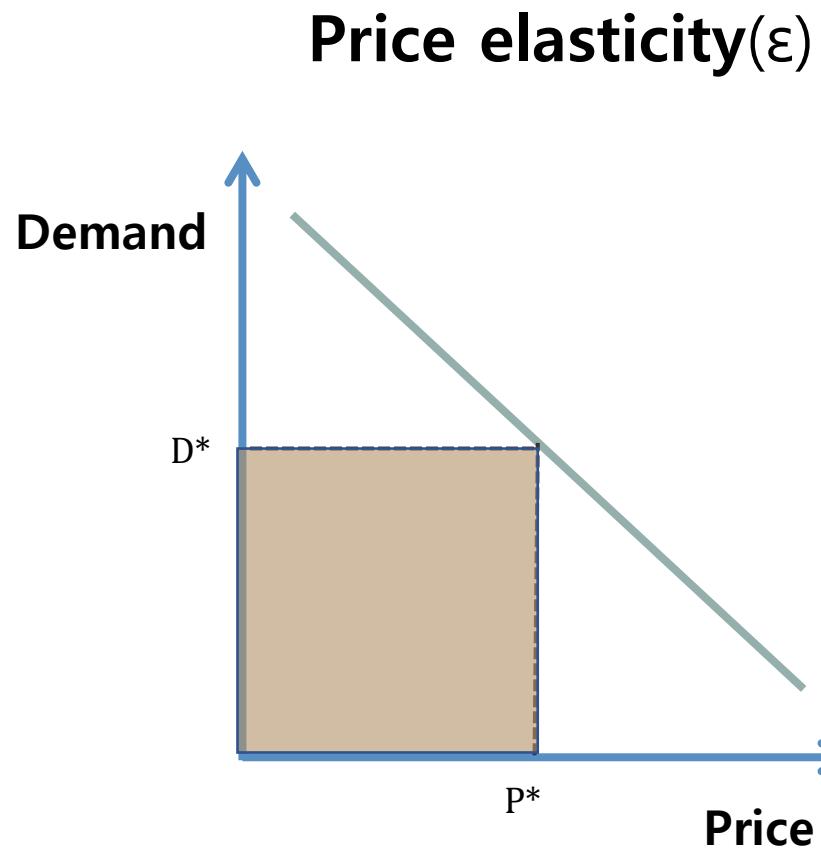
When  $\varepsilon=2$  (high)

Price	100\$	→	95\$	=	$100(1-0.05)$$
Demand	100	→	110	=	$100(1+0.1)$
Profit (Price × Demand)	10000\$	→	10450\$	=	$10000(1-0.05)(1+0.1)\$$

$$\frac{\Delta D}{D} = -\varepsilon \frac{\Delta P}{P}$$

Seller lower the price

# Theory



## When $\varepsilon=1$

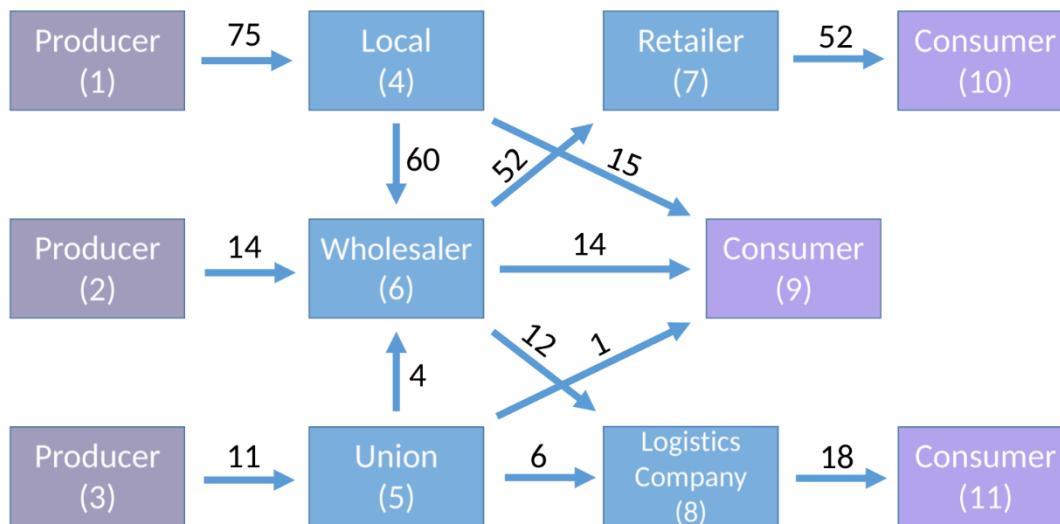
Price	100\$	→	110\$	=	$100(1+0.1)\$$
Demand	100	→	90	=	$100(1-0.1)$
Profit (Price × Demand)	10000\$	→	9900\$	=	$10000(1+0.1)(1-0.1)\$$

$$\frac{\Delta D}{D} = -\varepsilon \frac{\Delta P}{P}$$

Balanced price  
(Nash equilibrium)

# Theory

But, in a distribution network..



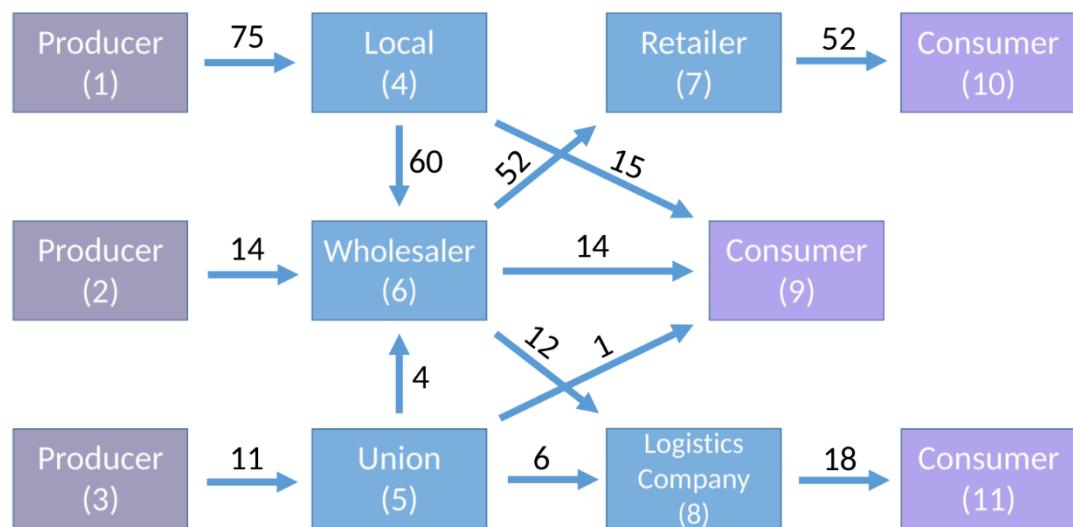
Korean cabbage distribution network(2014)

- + Multiple producer and consumer
- + Products flow in distribution network
- + Complex network structure
- + **Difficult to find equilibrium**

# Theory

But, in a distribution network..

**Node**



(Price)



: Making product flow

(Price)



: Mediating product flow

(Demand)

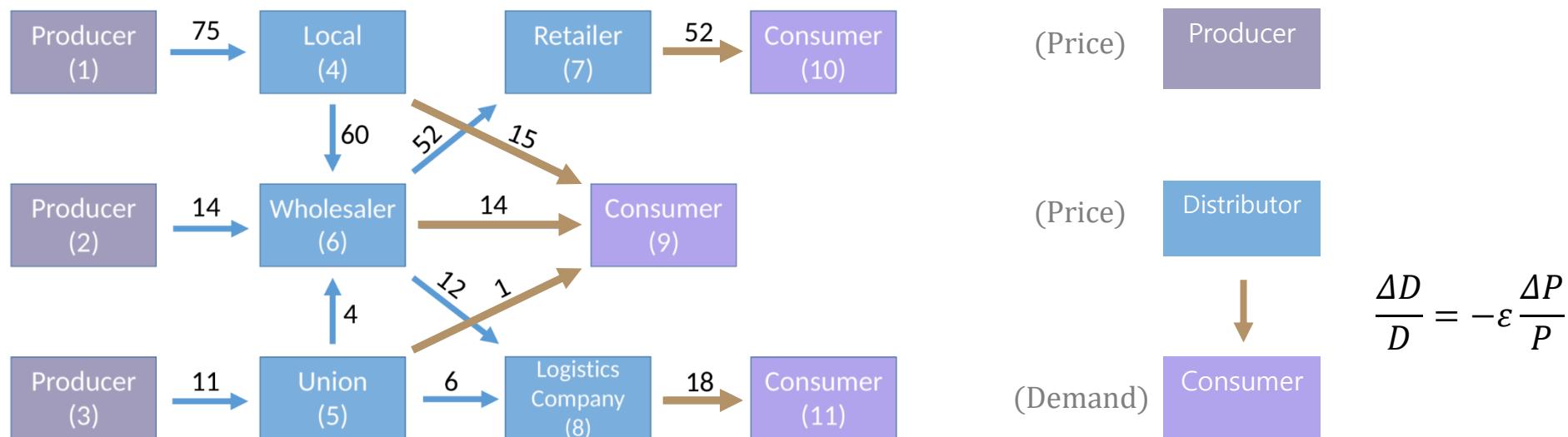


: Consuming product flow

Korean cabbage distribution network(2014)

# Theory

But, in a distribution network..



Korean cabbage distribution network(2014)

**Node**

(Price)

Producer

(Price)

Distributor

(Demand)

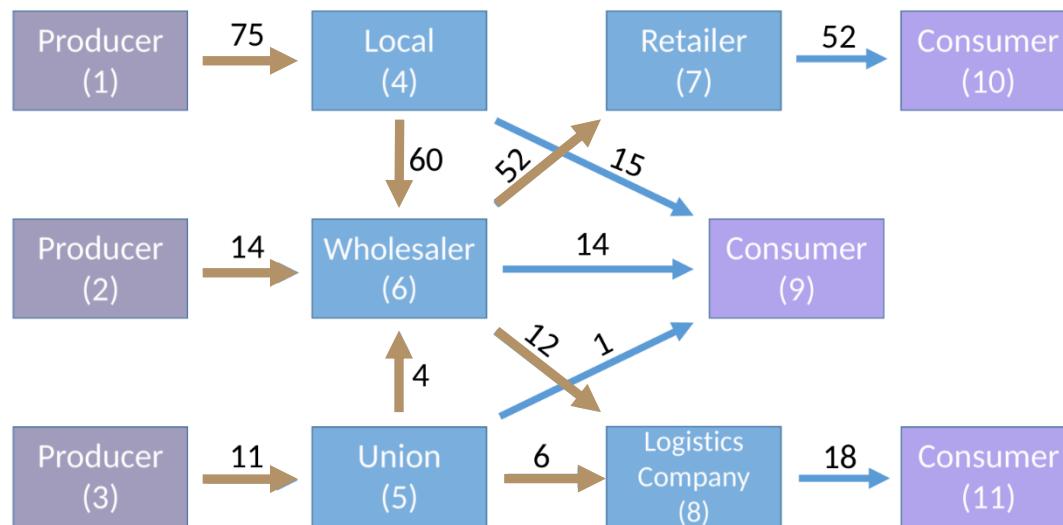
Consumer

$$\frac{\Delta D}{D} = -\varepsilon \frac{\Delta P}{P}$$

Only available on  
Distributor-consumer links

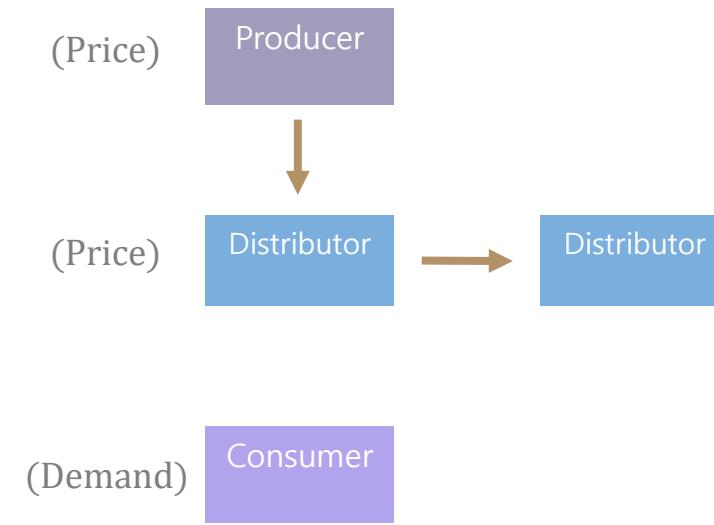
# Theory

But, in a distribution network..



Korean cabbage distribution network(2014)

**Node**

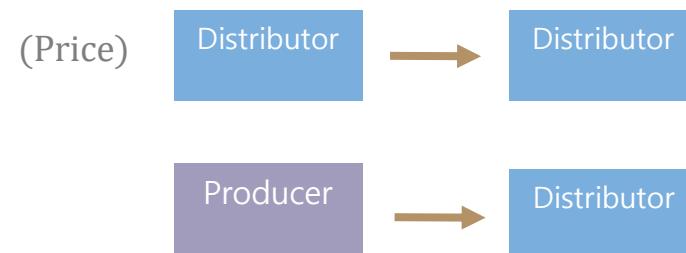
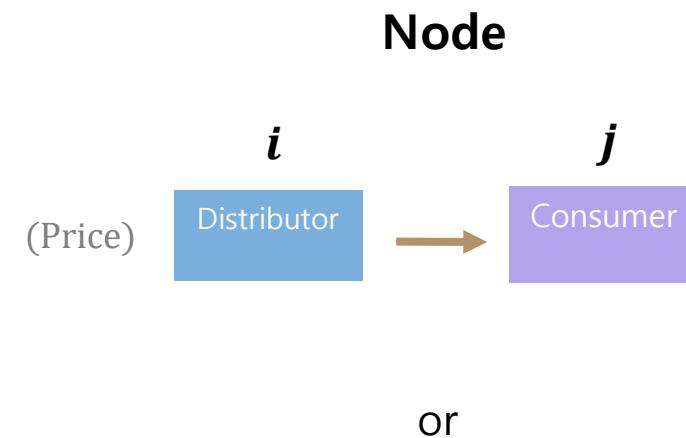


What is the function of distributor?

# Theory

$$\frac{\Delta D}{D} = -\varepsilon \frac{\Delta P}{P}$$

Demand                      Price



→ Consumer's demand is determined by  
**Price**

# Theory

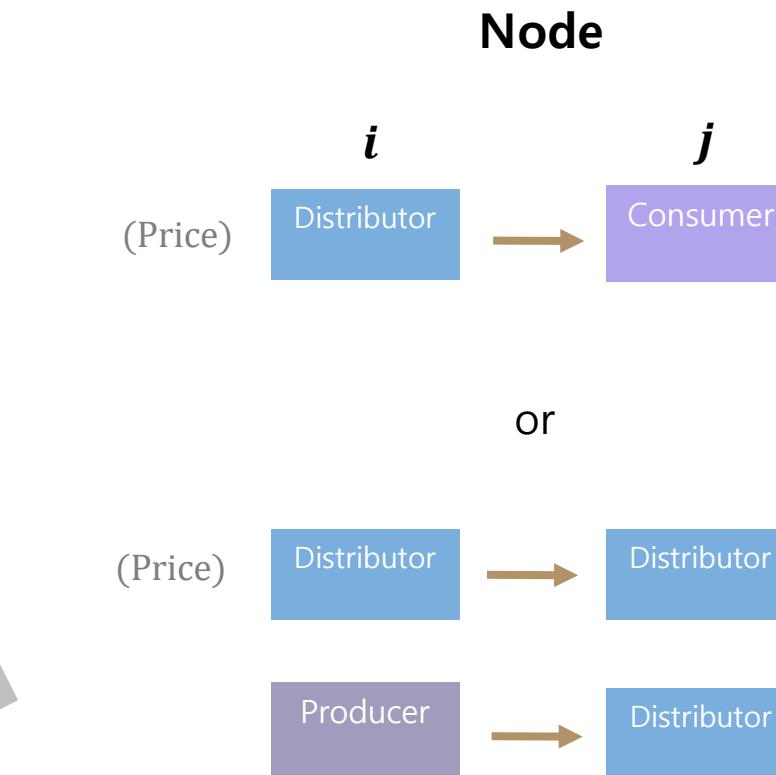
$$\frac{\Delta D}{D} = -\varepsilon \frac{\Delta P}{P}$$

Demand

Price

Price difference

$$\frac{\Delta D}{D} = \varepsilon \frac{\Delta(P_j - P_i)}{(P_j - P_i)}$$

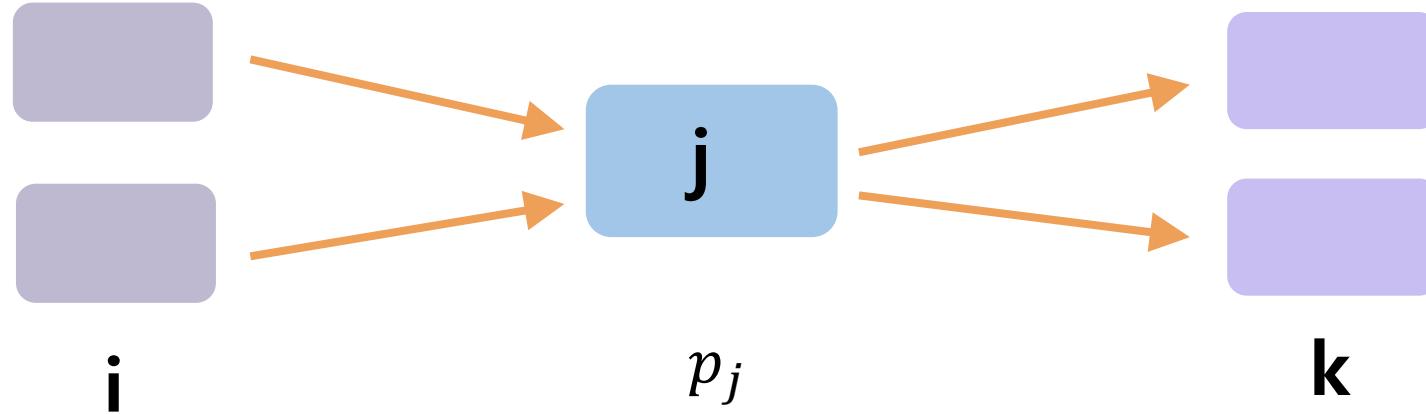


→ Distributor's demand is determined by  
**Price difference (profit per product)**

# Theory

## Continuity

Each distributor node must minimize its stock,



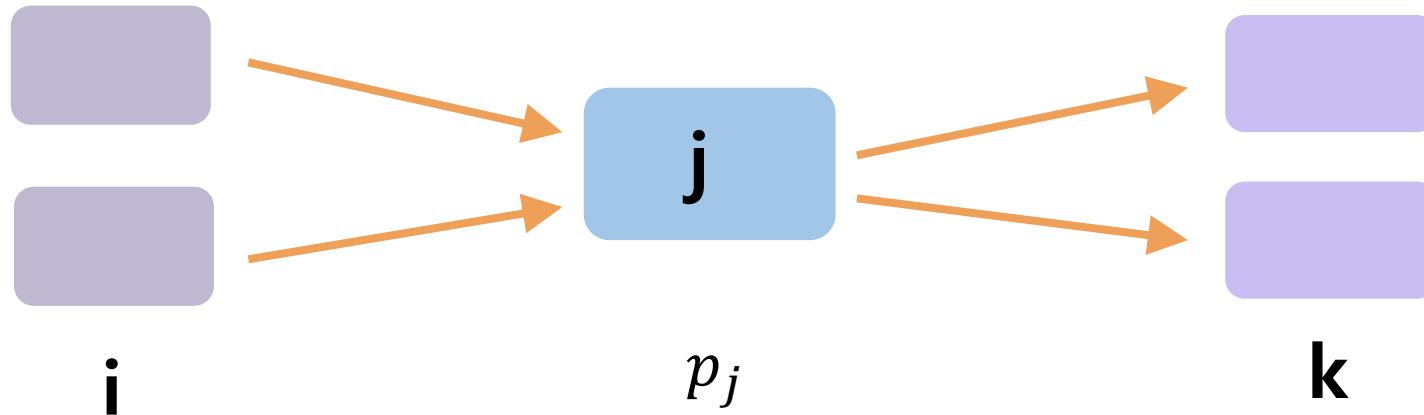
(Flow difference)  $\Delta f_j = \sum_i \Delta D_{ij} - \sum_k \Delta D_{jk} = 0$

# Theory

## Continuity

Each distributor node must minimize its stock,

By adjusting the price  $p_j$



(Flow difference)  $\Delta f_j = \sum_i \Delta D_{ij} - \sum_k \Delta D_{jk} = 0$

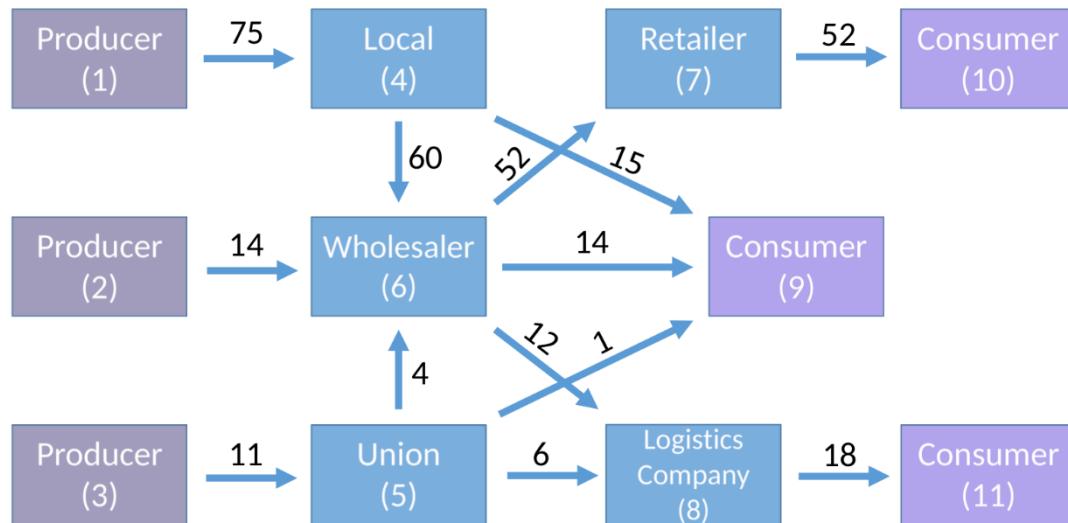
$$\rightarrow \sum_i \frac{\lambda_{ij} \Delta(p_j - p_i)}{p_j - p_i} - \sum_k \frac{\lambda_{jk} \Delta(p_k - p_j)}{p_k - p_j} = 0$$

$$\rightarrow \Delta p_j = \frac{\Delta f_j}{\sum_i \frac{D_{ij} \lambda_{ij}}{p_j - p_i} + \sum_k \frac{D_{jk} \lambda_{jk}}{p_k - p_j}}$$

(Adjusting Price)

# Simulation

## Setting



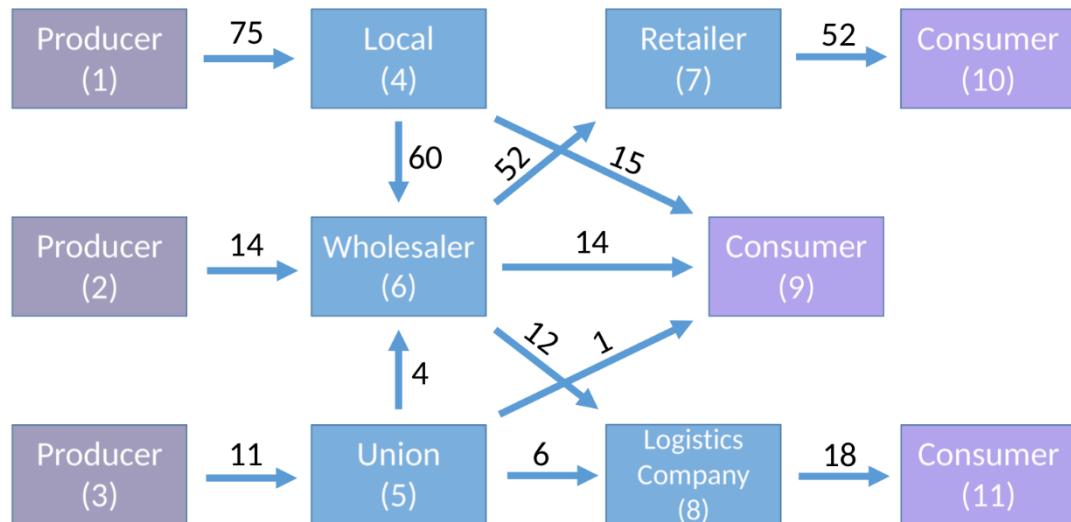
Korean cabbage distribution network(2014)

- + Assume that initial network is stable
- + Each node has own price (except consumer)
- + Prices change upon supply change

node	price
1,2,3	1
4,5	2
6	3
7,8	4

# Simulation

## Algorithm

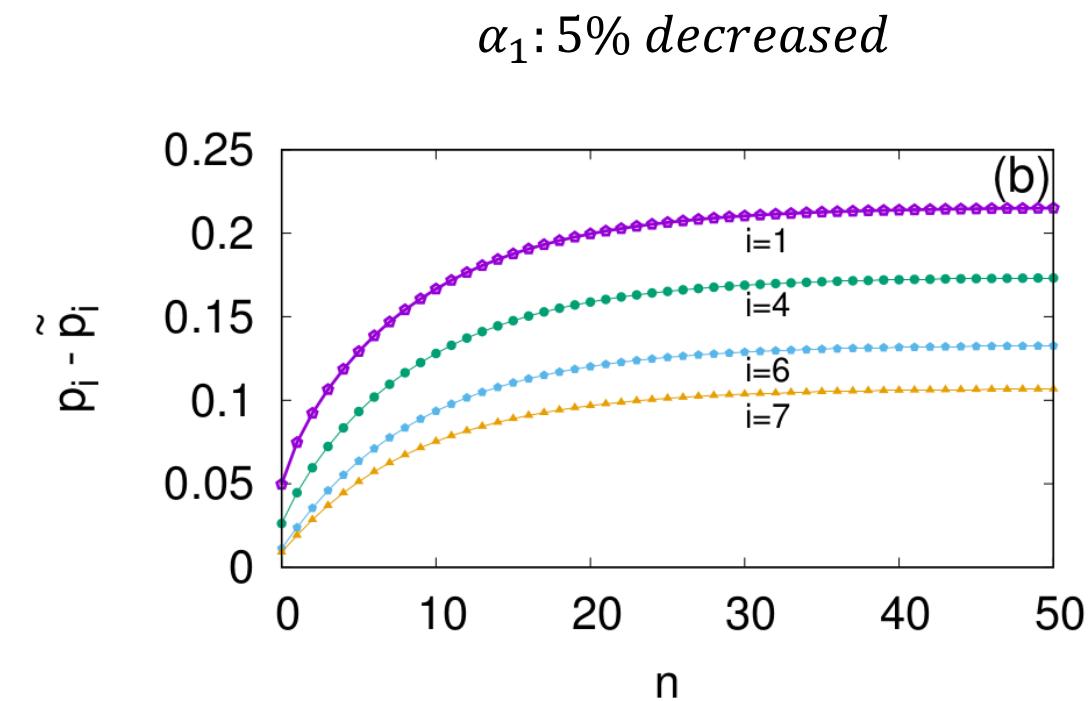
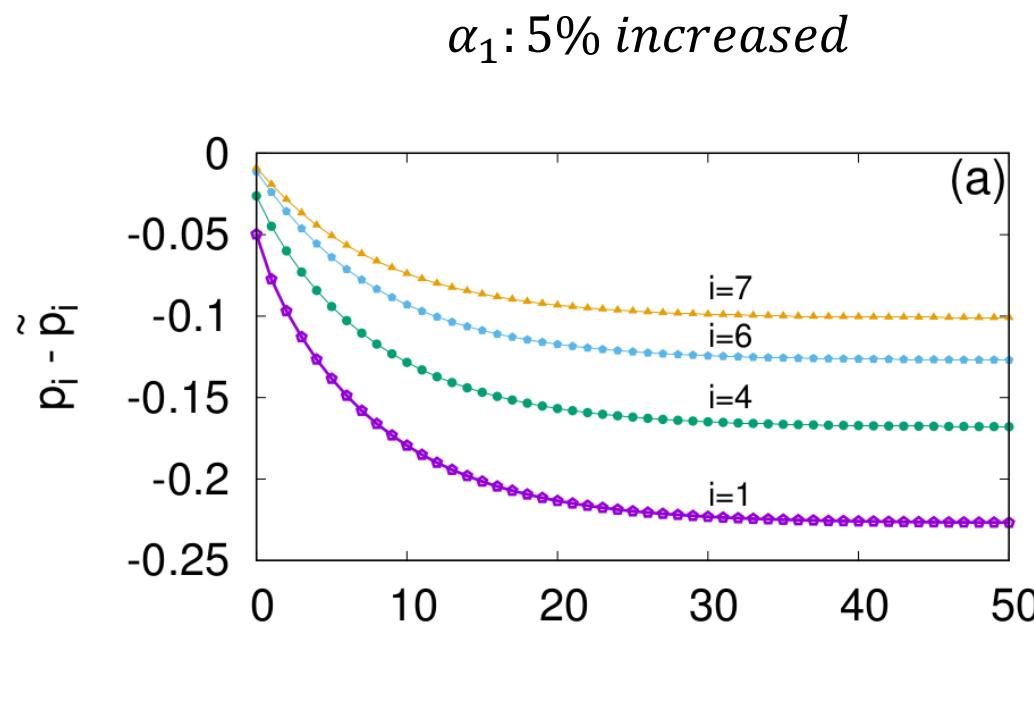


Korean cabbage distribution network(2014)

1. Apply a small supply change
2. Determine the price on each node
3. Iterate until all nodes become stable

# Result

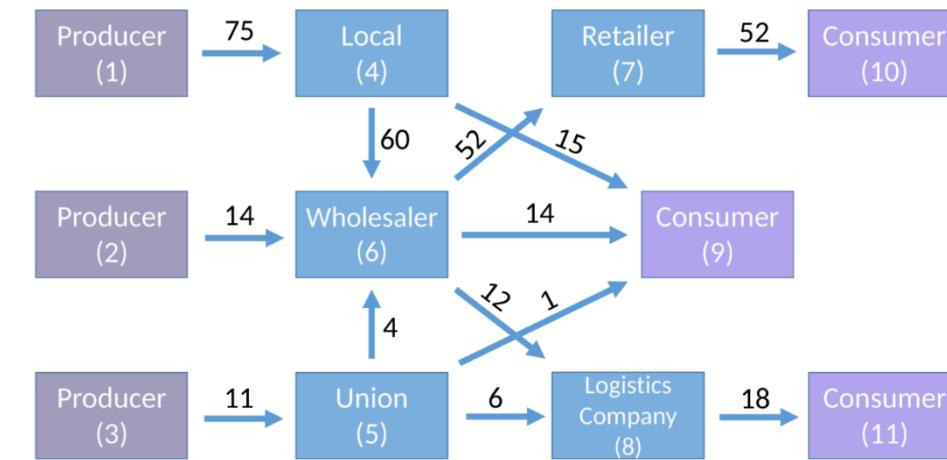
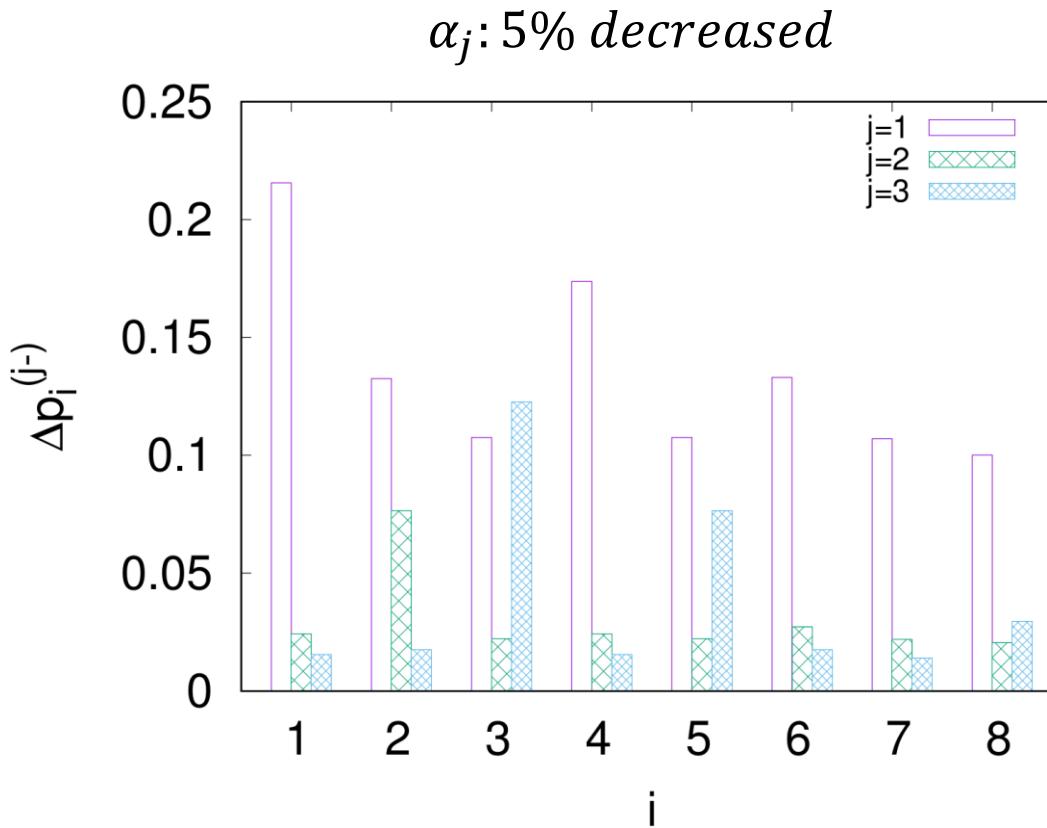
## 1. Price change in time



New equilibrium prices emerge!

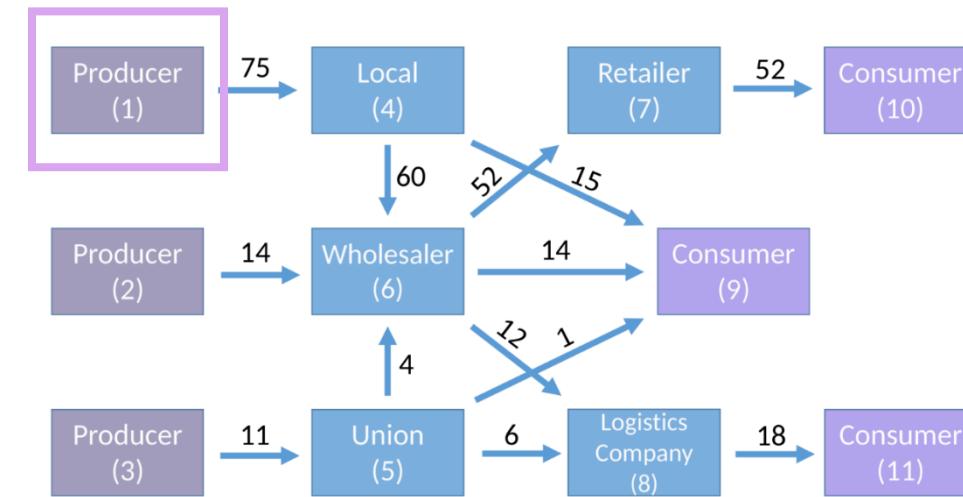
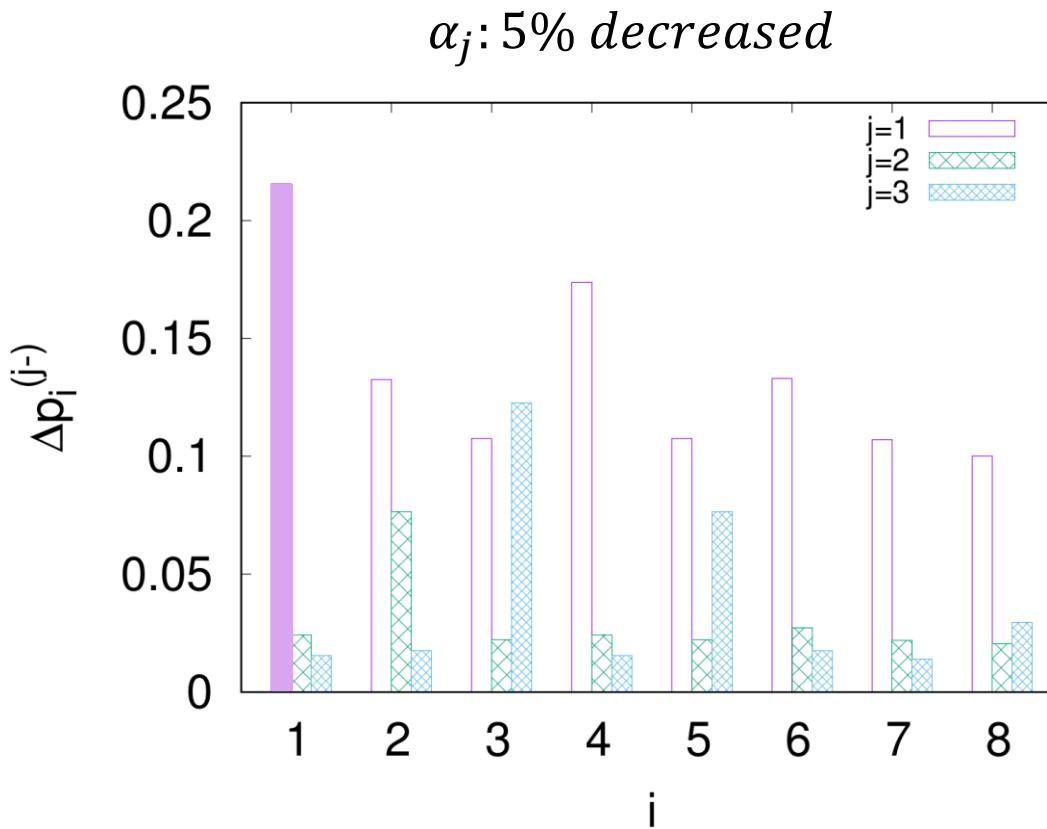
# Result

## 2. Price change with various fluctuation sources



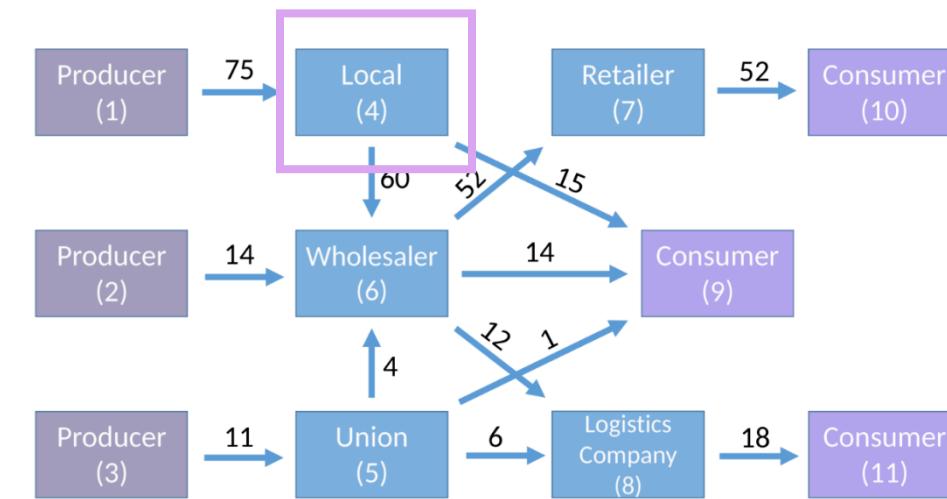
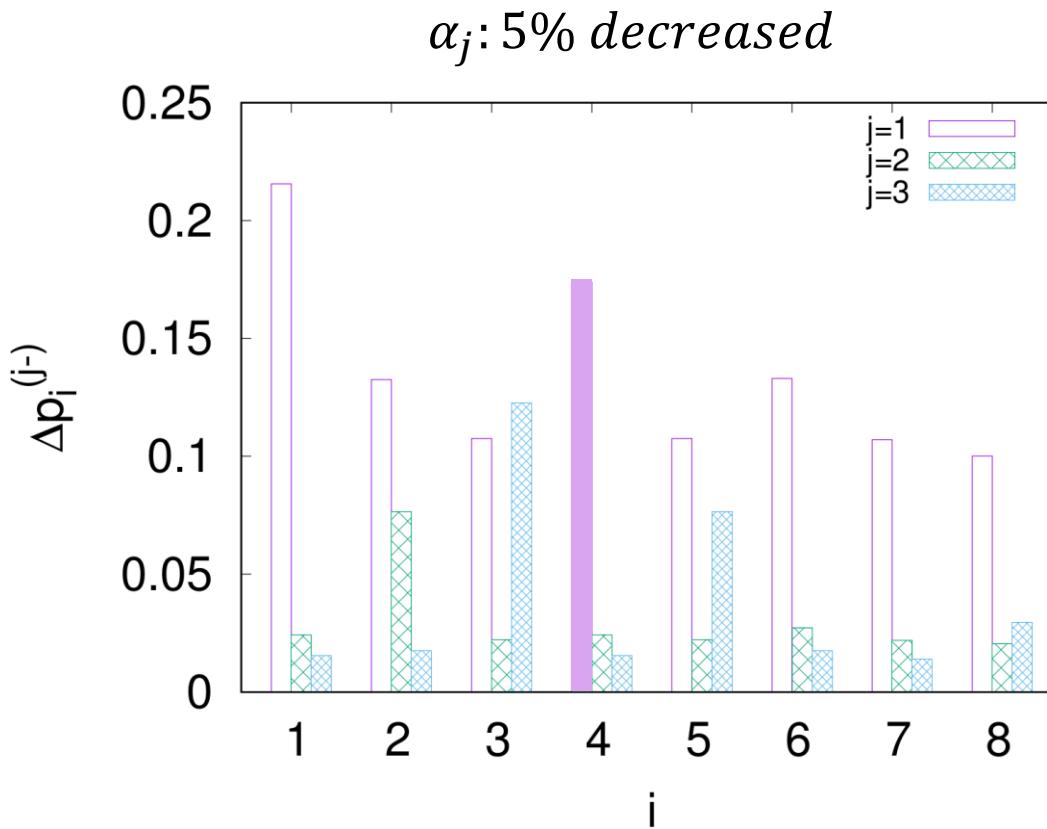
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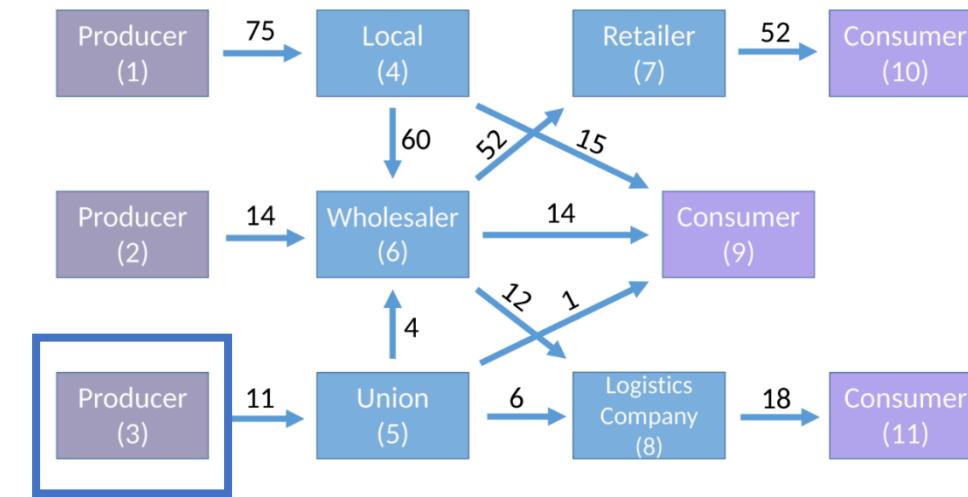
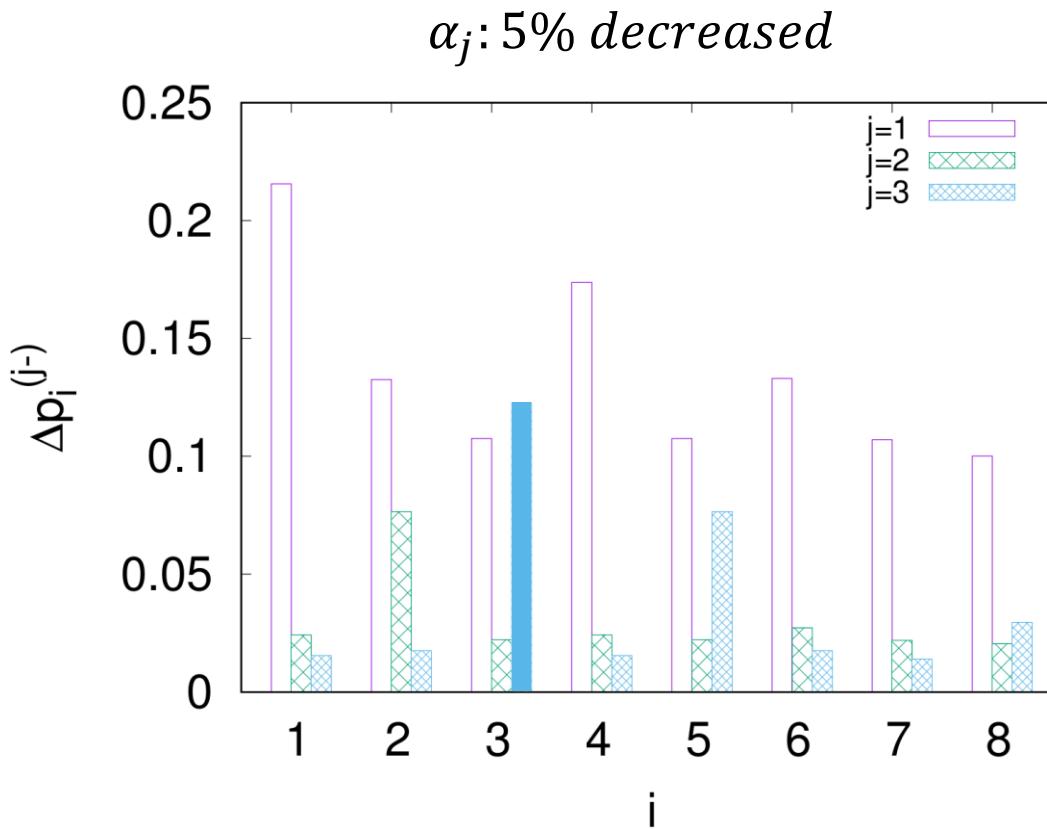
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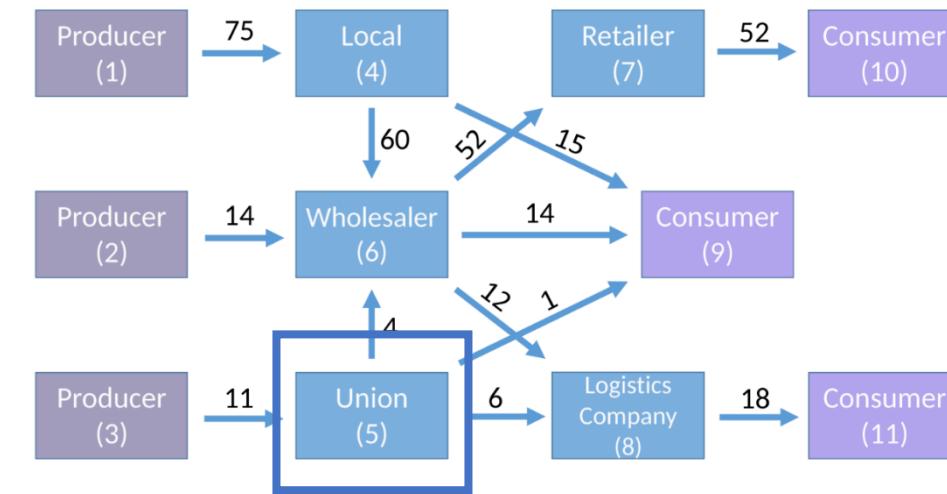
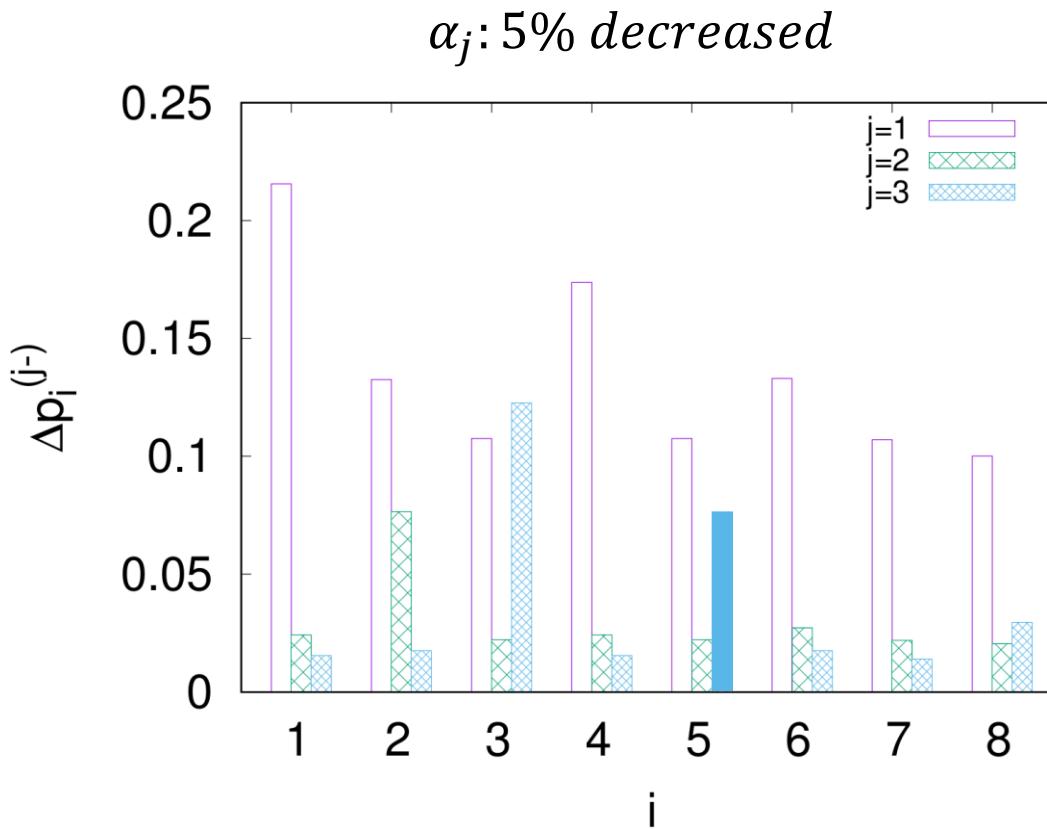
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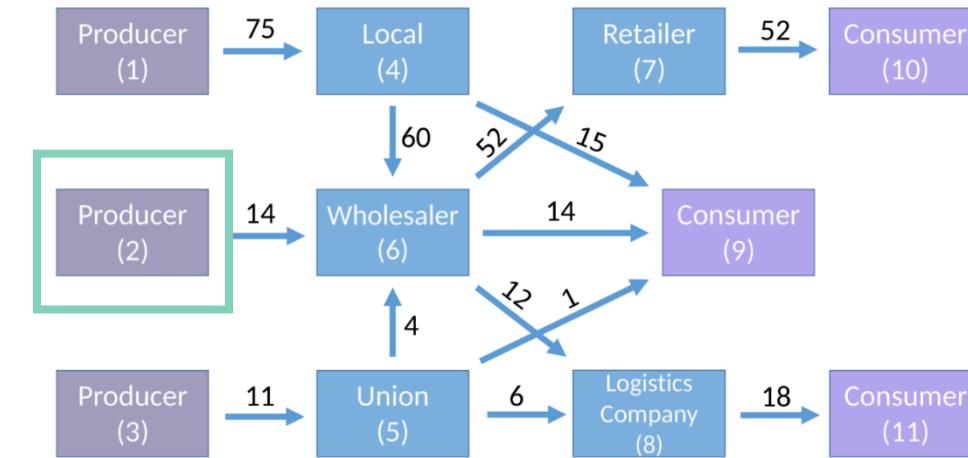
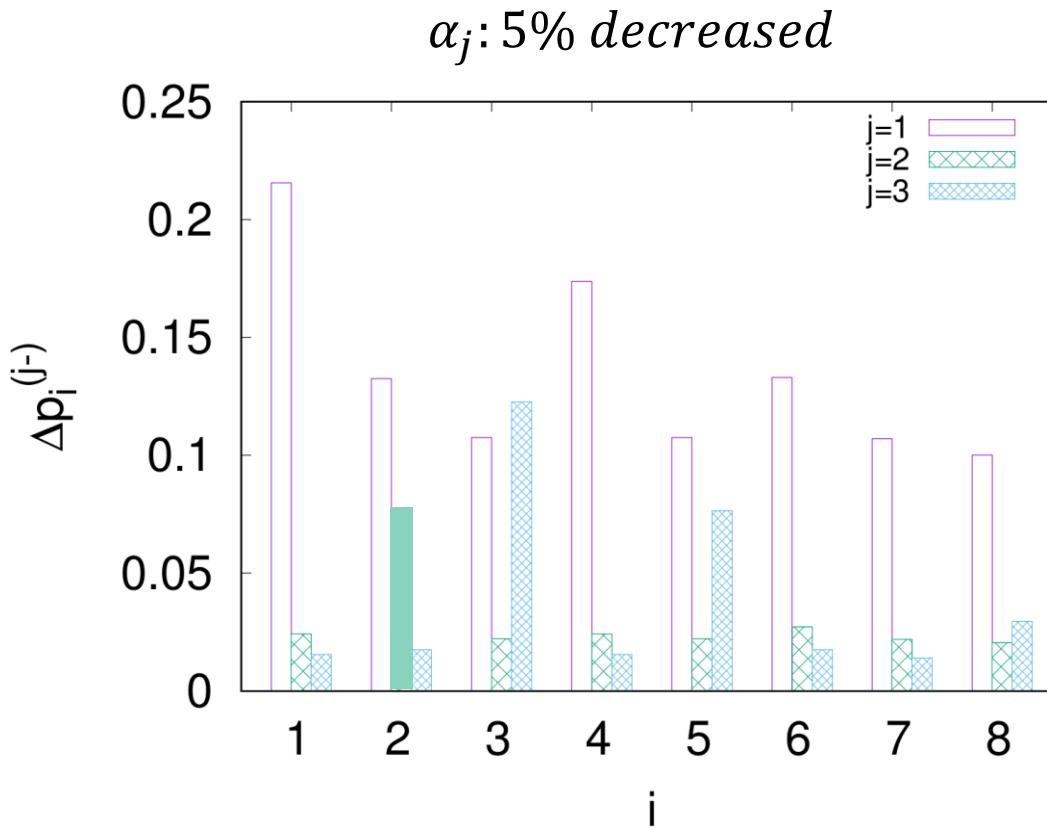
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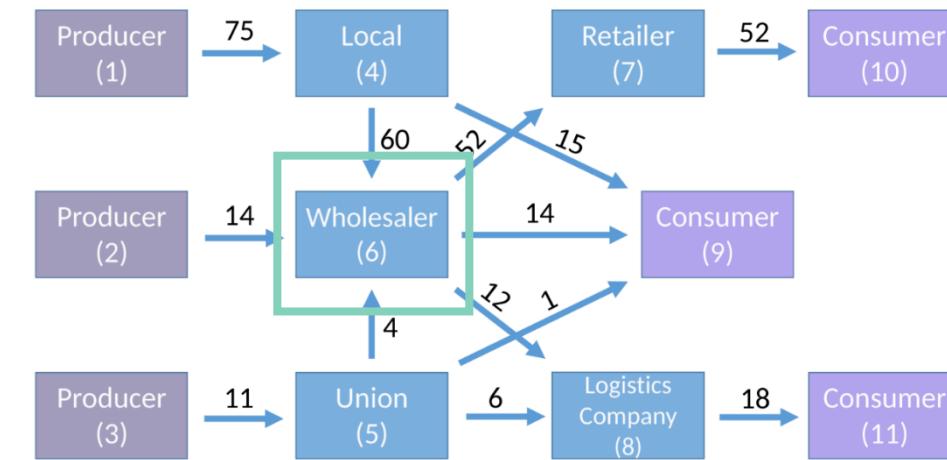
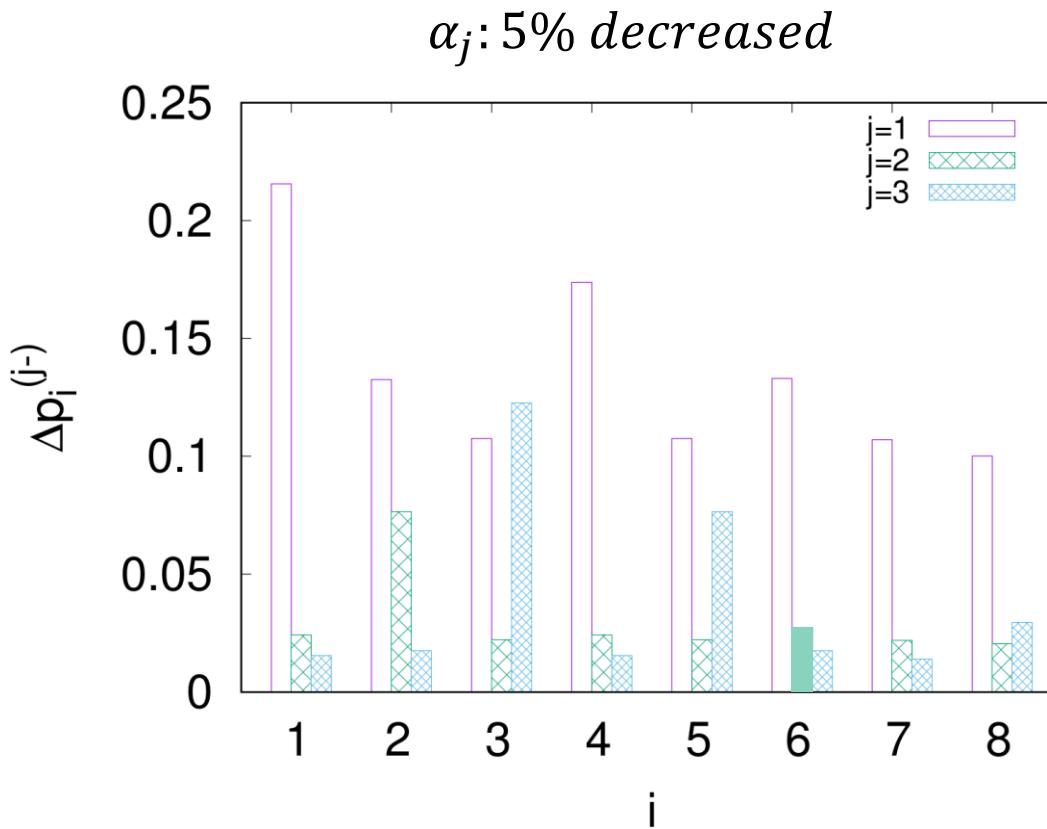
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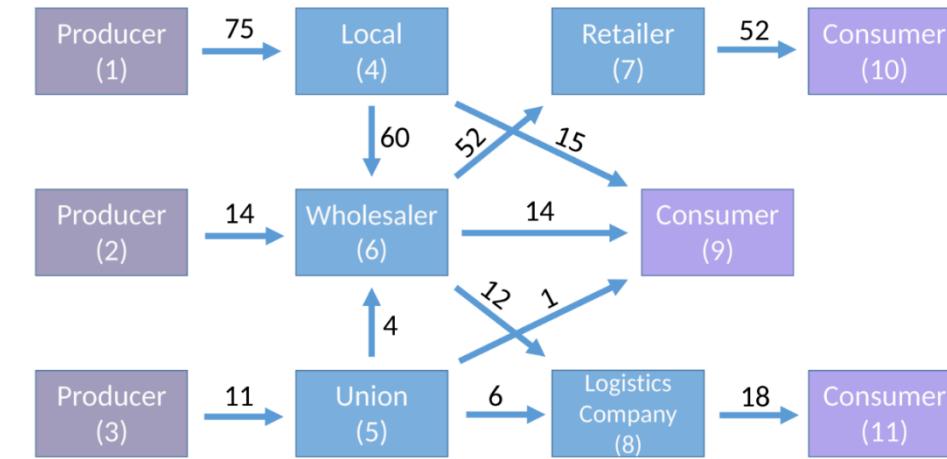
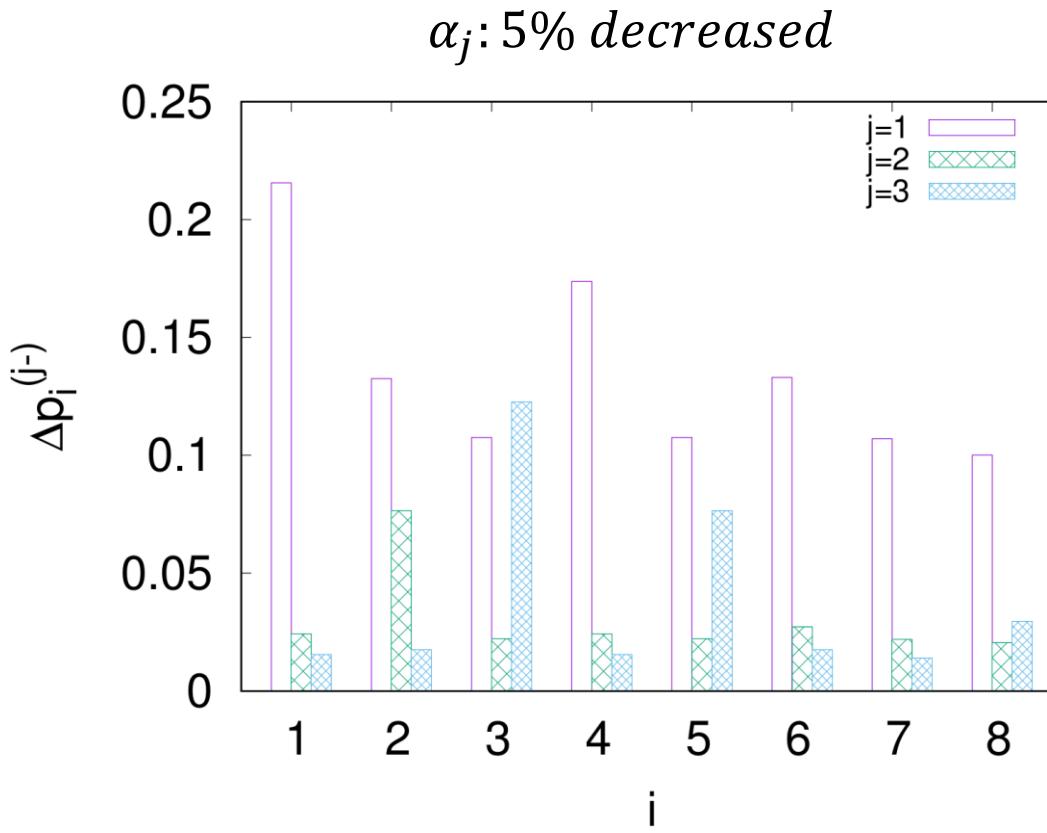
# Result

## 2. Price change with various fluctuation sources



# Result

## 2. Price change with various fluctuation sources



Impact of supply change depends on network structure

# Summary & Limitation

## Summary

- + Extended supply-demand theory
- + Applied to complex distribution network
- + Simulation of price change in real network
- + New equilibrium condition emerges
- + Importance of network structure

## Limitation

- + Distributors do not satisfy Nash equilibrium
- + Abrupt price change not observed