

## 4. The Market Forces of Supply and Demand

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March 17, 2016

# What this chapter is about

The first chapter in a three-chapter sequence that deals with **supply and demand** and **how markets work**.

- ▶ Chapter 4 shows how supply and demand for a good determines both the **quantity** produced and the **price** at which the good sells.
- ▶ Chapter 5 will add precision to the discussion of supply and demand by addressing the concept of **elasticity**—the sensitivity of the quantity supplied and quantity demanded to changes in economic variables
- ▶ Chapter 6 will address the impact of **government policies** on prices and quantities in markets.

# What this chapter is about


- ▶ what a competitive market is.
- ▶ what determines the demand for a good in a competitive market.
- ▶ what determines the supply of a good in a competitive market.
- ▶ how supply and demand together set the price of a good and the quantity sold.
- ▶ the key role of prices in allocating scarce resources in market economies.

# Market and Competition


- ▶ Market: a group of buyers and sellers of a particular good or service.
- ▶ Competitive market: there are many buyers and sellers of the same good or service
  - ▶ Each seller or buyer has a negligible impact on the market price
- ▶ Each market is characterized by a different degree of competition.



# Perfect competition

- ▶ For now, we will assume that markets are **perfectly competitive**.
  - ▶ The goods being offered for sale are exactly the same.
  - ▶ Buyers and sellers are so numerous that no single buyer or seller has any influence over the market price.
  - ▶ Must accept the market price as given → "price takers." 
- ▶ Not all goods are sold in a perfectly competitive market.
  - ▶ The other extreme: monopoly
  - ▶ Other markets fall between perfect competition and monopoly.
    - ▶ oligopoly, duopoly, monopolistic competition


# Perfect competition as a benchmark

- ▶ We will start by studying perfect competition.
- ▶ Easiest to analyze 
- ▶ Some degree of competition is present in most markets
  - ▶ Many of the lessons that we learn under perfect competition apply in more general environment.
- ▶ Useful starting point

# Demand

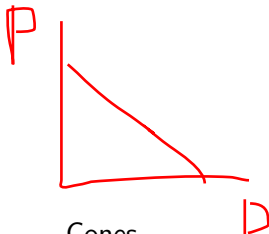
- ▶ **Quantity demanded:** the amount of a good that buyers are willing and able to purchase (at some specific price).

$$Q^D = f(P, \text{가}, \text{ , }, \text{ , }, \text{Other things})$$

- ▶ **Law of demand:** the claim that, *other things being equal*, the quantity demanded of a good falls when the price of the good rises. 
  - ▶ The exceptions (Giffen goods) are so rare
- ▶ **Demand schedule:** a table that shows the relationship between the price of a good and the quantity demanded.
- ▶ **Demand curve:** a graph of the relationship between the price of a good and the quantity demanded.

# Demand

## ► Catherine



Price of Ice-Cream Cone	Cones Demanded
\$0.00	12 cones
\$0.50	10 cones
\$1.00	8 cones
\$1.50	6 cones
\$2.00	4 cones
\$2.50	2 cones
\$3.00	0 cones



## Market Demand versus Individual Demand



- ▶ The market demand is the sum of all of the individual demands for a particular good or service.
- ▶ The demand curves are summed horizontally—meaning that the quantities demanded are added up for each level of price.

Price of Ice-Cream Cone	Catherine		Nicholas		Market
\$0.00	12	+	7	=	19 cones
\$0.50	10		6		16
\$1.00	8		5		13
\$1.50	6		4		10
\$2.00	4		3		7
\$2.50	2		2		4
\$3.00	0		1		1

## Shifts in the demand curve

가

가

가 .

- ▶ "Other things" need not be constant
- ▶ Any changes in these other factors will affect demand *at any given price*.
- ▶ Represented by shifts in the demand curve
  - ▶ An increase in demand is represented by a shift of the demand curve to the right.
  - ▶ A decrease in demand is represented by a shift of the demand curve to the left.
- ▶ Need to distinguish between "*movement along the demand curve*" and "*shift in the demand curve*"

$$Q^D = f(P, \text{Other things})$$

## Other things...

- ▶ Income
- ▶ **Normal good**: a good for which, other things equal, an increase in income leads to an increase in demand : 가 가
- ▶ **Inferior good**: a good for which, other things equal, an increase in income leads to a decrease in demand : 가
  - ▶ Fast-food chains
  - ▶ Bus rides

## Other things...

- ▶ Prices of **related goods**
- ▶ **Substitutes**: two goods for which an increase in the price of one good leads to an increase in the demand for the other. : 가
  - ▶ Coffee and Tea 가 가 가 .
  - ▶ Train rides and Air flights
  - ▶ Frozen yogurt and Ice cream
- ▶ **Complements**: two goods for which an increase in the price of one good leads to a decrease in the demand for the other. : 가
  - ▶ Goods that are consumed together 가 가 .
  - ▶ Computers and Software
  - ▶ Cars and Gasoline !
  - ▶ Cappuccinos and Croissants



# Case Study: Two Ways to Reduce the Quantity of Smoking Demanded



1. Shift the demand curve for cigarettes and other tobacco products
2. Try to raise the price of cigarettes  
가 .

# Case Study: Two Ways to Reduce the Quantity of Smoking Demanded

- ▶ Policies designed to reduce the demand for cigarettes
  - ▶ Public service announcements
  - ▶ Mandatory health warnings on cigarette packages
  - ▶ Prohibition of cigarette advertising on television
- ▶ If successful
  - ▶ Shift the demand curve to the left

## Case Study: Two Ways to Reduce the Quantity of Smoking Demanded

- ▶ Raising the price of cigarettes
  - ▶ Tobacco taxes  $\rightarrow$  higher price  $\rightarrow$  lowers the quantity of cigarettes demanded.
  - ▶ The demand curve does not shift in this case
  - ▶ An increase in the price of cigarettes can be shown by a movement along the original demand curve.
- ▶ 10% increase in the price of cigarettes causes a 4% reduction in the quantity of cigarettes demanded.
- ▶ For teens, a 10% increase in price leads to a 12% drop in quantity demanded.



## Case Study: Two Ways to Reduce the Quantity of Smoking Demanded

- ▶ How does the price of cigarettes affects the demand for illicit drugs, such as marijuana
- ▶ Opponents of cigarette taxes vs. Proponents
- ▶ One can claim that marijuana is a close substitute for smoking cigarettes.
  - ▶ In this case, an increase in the price of cigarettes results in much higher marijuana consumption.
- ▶ On the other hand, some studies have shown that tobacco as a “gateway drug” that leads people to other harmful drugs.
  - ▶ In this case, an increase in the price of cigarettes results in much smaller marijuana consumption.
  - ▶ Thus, it appears that tobacco and marijuana are complements.
- ▶ Substitutes or complements? It depends.

# Supply

- ▶ **Quantity supplied:** the amount of a good that sellers are willing and able to sell (at some specific price).

$$Q^S = f(P, \text{Other things})$$

- ▶ **Law of supply:** the claim that, *other things being equal*, the quantity supplied of a good rises when the price of the good rises
- ▶ **Supply schedule:** a table that shows the relationship between the price of a good and the quantity supplied
- ▶ **Supply curve:** a graph of the relationship between the price of a good and the quantity supplied

# Supply

► Ben

Price of Ice-Cream Cone	Cones Supplied
\$0.00	0 cones
\$0.50	0 cones
\$1.00	1 cones
\$1.50	2 cones
\$2.00	3 cones
\$2.50	4 cones
\$3.00	5 cones

## Market Supply versus Individual Supply

- ▶ The market supply is the sum of the quantities supplied by all the sellers at each price for a particular good or service.
- ▶ The market supply curve is found by adding horizontally the individual supply curves.

Price of Ice-Cream Cone	Ben		Jerry		Market
\$0.00	0	+	0	=	0 cones
\$0.50	0		0		0
\$1.00	1		0		1
\$1.50	2		2		4
\$2.00	3		4		7
\$2.50	4		6		10
\$3.00	5		8		13

## Shifts in the supply curve

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- ▶ Any changes in these other factors will affect supply *at any given price*.
- ▶ Represented by shifts in the supply curve
  - ▶ An increase in supply is represented by a shift of the supply curve to the right
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$$Q^S = f(P, \text{Other things})$$

## Other things...

- ▶ Input prices  
ex) Input prices ↑ → Supply ↓
  - ▶ Supply is negatively related to prices of inputs
  - ▶ Higher input prices: decrease in supply
- ▶ Technology  
ex) Technology ↑ → Supply ↑
  - ▶ Advance in technology: increase in supply
- ▶ Expectations about future prices  
ex) Future prices ↑ → Current supply ↓
  - ▶ Affect current supply
  - ▶ Expected higher prices: decrease in current supply
- ▶ Number of sellers increases  
ex) Number of sellers ↑ → Market supply ↑
  - ▶ Market supply increases

# Supply and Demand Together

## ▶ Equilibrium

- ▶ Various forces are in balance
- ▶ A situation in which market price has reached the level where
  - ▶  $\text{Quantity supplied} = \text{Quantity demanded}$
- ▶ Supply and demand curves intersect

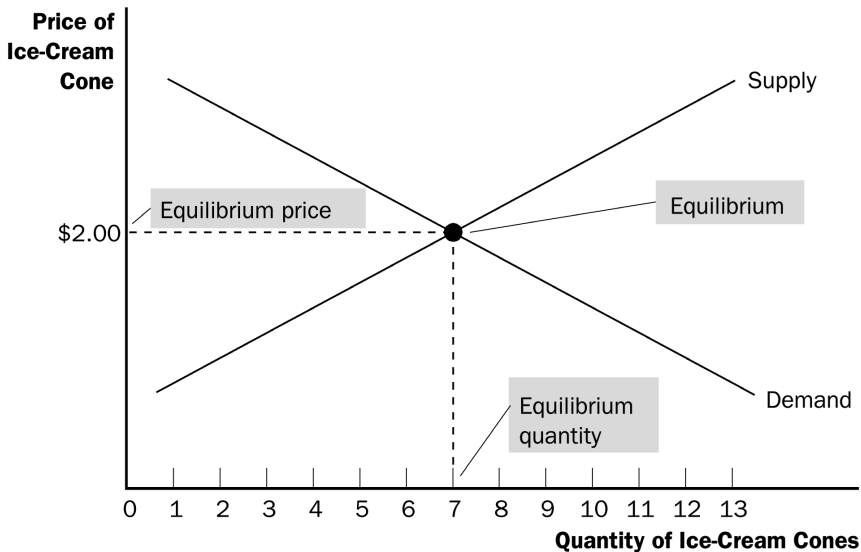
## ▶ Equilibrium price                   가

- ▶ Balances quantity supplied and quantity demanded
- ▶ Market-clearing price

## ▶ Equilibrium quantity

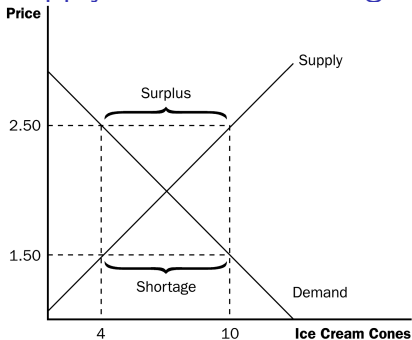
- ▶ Quantity supplied and quantity demanded at the equilibrium price

# Supply and Demand Together





# Supply and Demand Together



## ► Surplus

- Quantity supplied  $>$  quantity demanded
- Excess supply

## ► Shortage

- Quantity demanded  $>$  quantity supplied
- Excess demand

# Supply and Demand Together

- ▶ Markets tend to move toward equilibrium
- ▶ Excess supply
  - ▶ Downward pressure on price
    - ▶ Movements along the demand and supply curves
    - ▶ Increase in quantity demanded
    - ▶ Decrease in quantity supplied
- ▶ Excess demand
  - ▶ Upward pressure on price
    - ▶ Movements along the demand and supply curves
    - ▶ Decrease in quantity demanded
    - ▶ Increase in quantity supplied

# Supply and Demand Together

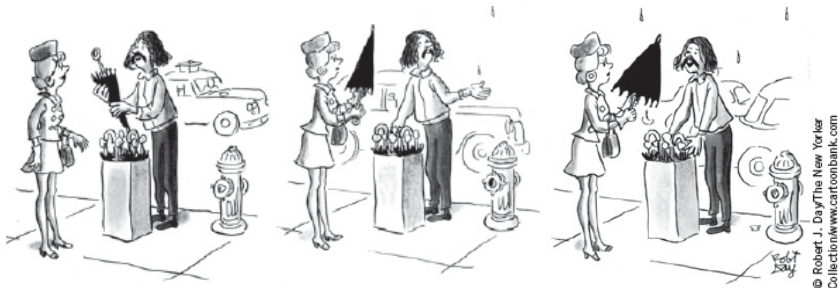
- ▶ In most free markets
  - ▶ Surpluses and shortages are temporary
  - ▶ Prices eventually move toward their equilibrium level
  - ▶ How quickly equilibrium is reached varies from market to market
    - ▶ Depend on how quickly prices adjust.
    - ▶ More competitive → quicker adjustment
- ▶ **Law of supply and demand**
  - ▶ The price of any good **adjusts**
    - ▶ To bring the quantity supplied and the quantity demanded for that good into balance

## Three Steps for Analyzing Changes in Equilibrium

1. Decide whether the event shifts the supply or demand curve (or perhaps both).
  2. Determine the direction in which the curve shifts.
  3. Use the supply-and-demand diagram to see how the shift changes the equilibrium price and quantity.
- ▶ Often called "*comparative statics*"
  - ▶ Comparative statics is loosely defined as the comparison of two different economic outcomes, before and after an exogenous change in economic environment.

## Simple examples

- ▶ A change in market equilibrium due to a shift in demand
  - ▶ The effect of hot weather on the market for ice cream
  - ▶ The effect of an decrease in the income of consumers



*"Two dollars"*

*"— and seventy-five cents."*

shift      가      가!

# Simple examples

- ▶ Remember! : **Shifts** vs. **movements** along curves
  - ▶ Shift in the supply curve
    - ▶ Change in *supply*
  - ▶ Movement along a fixed supply curve
    - ▶ Change in *the quantity supplied*
  - ▶ Shift in the demand curve
    - ▶ Change in *demand*
  - ▶ Movement along a fixed demand curve
    - ▶ Change in *the quantity demanded*

## Simple examples

- [illegible]

## Conclusion: How Prices Allocate Resources

- ▶ The model of supply and demand is a powerful tool for analyzing markets.
- ▶ Supply and demand together determine the prices of the economy's goods and services.
  - ▶ These prices in turn serve as signals that guide the allocation of scarce resources in the economy.
  - ▶ Prices determine who produces each good and how much of each good is produced.