加州橙子

Q: 四十多年前,美国加州的橙子中,质量最高的牌子是新奇士,但是这种橙子都运到外地去,在加州本土反而少见。为什么优质的产品运到外地,而留在产地的反而较差呢? (《经济解释》)

• 一个相关的问题

Borcherding and Silberberg (1978) describe a letter to the Seattle Times in which an irate local consumer found it **difficult to find quality apples in Seattle, Washington**, a state known for its apples.

Puzzle: "why can't you get good apples in Seattle?"

分析思路'

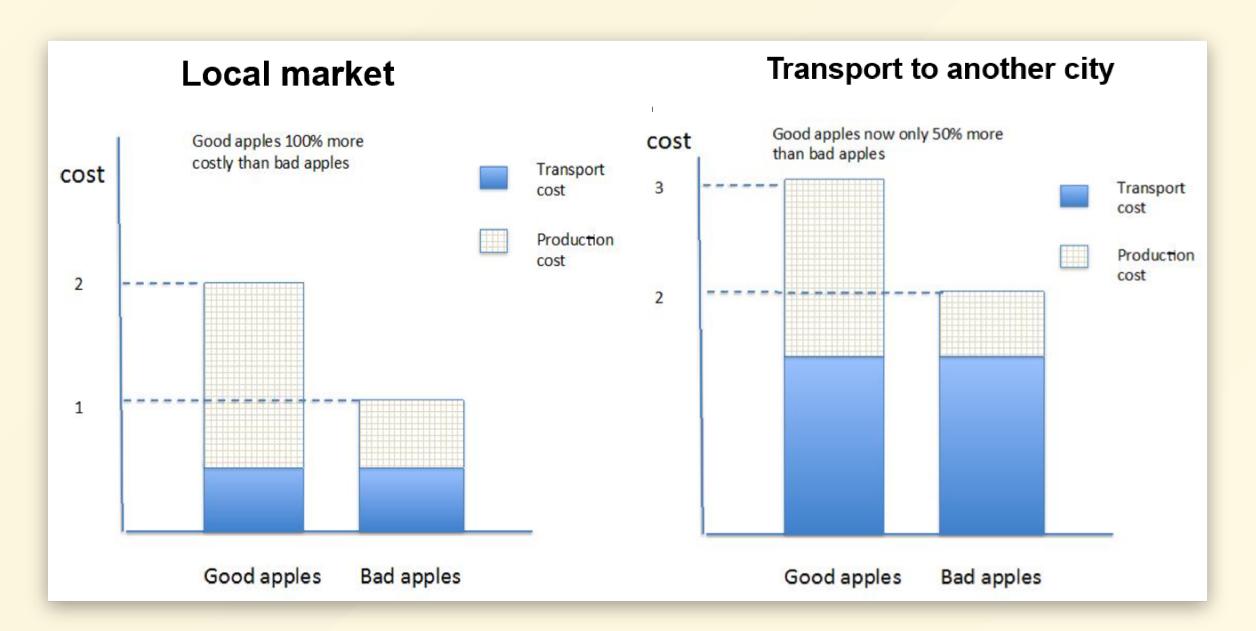
- 用需求定律解释
- "优质的产品运到外地" --- 与本地相比,外地的需求量大 ⇒ 优质橙子在外地的价格低 (WHY?)
- 价格---相对价格--- 好橙子相对于差橙子的价格
- 什么因素会使优质橙子的相对价格发生变化呢?

Borcherding and Silberberg (1978) 's explanation:

• Suppose, for example, a 'good' apple costs 10 cents and a 'poor' apple 5 cents locally. Then, since the decision to eat on good apple costs the same as eating two poor apples, we can say that a good apple in essence costs two poor apples.

Borcherding and Silberberg (1978) 's explanation:

- Suppose now that it costs 5 cents per apple (any apple) to ship apples East. Then, in the East, good apples will cost 15 cents and poor ones 10 cents each.
 - Under this scenario, one good apple will cost 3/2 poor apples.
 - Though both prices are higher, good apples have become relatively cheaper



• Law of Demand \Rightarrow a higher percentage of good apples will consumed in the East than here.

Conclusion:

 When a place produces high quality and low quality items, it will be rational for those in faraway places to consume the high quality items, and it will be rational for the producers to ship them, leaving only the low quality items locally.

Alchian-Allen Theorem:

- An equal fixed cost that was imposed to both high-quality and low-quality goods alike caused a shift in consumption toward the higher-quality good, because it is now relatively cheaper.
- Alchian, Arrnen A., and Allen, William R. University Economics. Belmont, Calif.: Wadsworth Publishing Co., 1964.

Extension:

 Any common cost added to or subtracted from the price of goods that results in a relative price change of the goods will result in a change in the relative consumption of those goods.

Examples

- Australians drink higher quality Californian wine than Californians, and vice versa, because it is only worth shipping the high quality wine out.
- 出去旅游,通常会选择当地较有特色,质量较高的餐厅。
- 地价高的地方会建设质量较高的房子。(地价相当于固定加价)
- 古代丝绸之路上贸易的商品都是高档商品,如丝绸,瓷器,红木家具等等。

- (2016 final) 试回答,以下三个现象符合什么定律?并对三个现象统一进行解释。
 - 现象一: 自 1973 年美国打响禁毒战争(持有与交易毒品的惩罚力度大幅度提高)以来,高效力的毒品越来越受欢迎。(大麻的平均效力,即四氢大麻酚的含量,在 1975 年,1995 年和 2009 年的含量本别为 0.74%,3.75% 和 13.01%)
 - 现象二:面对高昂的交通运输费用,美国纽约市很多食品店选择供应一流的食品。
- 现象三: 1920 年,美国颁布了禁酒令(1933 年废除),规定"凡是制造、售卖乃至于运输酒精含量超过 0.5%以上的饮料皆属违法",该禁令引起了非法酿造、出卖和走私酒类饮料的犯罪行为。值得的注意的是,走私犯大量选择烈酒(如,威士忌)而非啤酒走私。

另一种解释 (《经济解释》)

• Q: 橙子为什么会有价格差异?



另一种解释(《经济解释》)

- Q: 橙子为什么会有价格差异?
- A: 两类橙子有质量的差异,表现在糖分有区别,糖分高价格高(即定价时,将糖分之量委托于"个"这个量)
- 假设橙子的糖分单位被度量并被定价,质量高的橙子与质量低的橙子的价格差异源于糖分含量的不同。
- 如果给每个橙子加上一个相同的固定运费,糖分含量越多的橙子,含运费的单位糖价越低(每单位糖分摊分的运费较低),这类橙子的相对价格下降的越快 ---- 糖分多的橙子相对价格降低。

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以上结论可以推广到任何相似物品固定加价的情况上 去。

若物品按委托之量计价,固定加价后,在委托量内包含特质多(质量高)的物品需求量增加;固定加价越高,包含特质越多的物品,其相对价格下跌的越快,需求量越大。

i.e. 海运行李,运费以箱计,但有一个重量上限,箱子的大小由海运公司规定,那么,我们邮寄时,一定会在重量上限内,将箱子塞的满满的。

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