

Elasticity is expressed as %.

Own price elasticity:

$$E_D = \frac{\% \Delta Q_D}{\% \Delta P} = \frac{\frac{\Delta Q}{Q} \times 100}{\frac{\Delta P}{P} \times 100}$$

avg of pf g  
one method  
simply  
they are

=  
1) accurate measure  
of how to think  
about elasticity  
2) applicable over a longer  
range of price changes

arc price elasticity

$$= \frac{\Delta Q}{\Delta P} \times \frac{P}{Q}$$

$$\Rightarrow slope \propto D = \frac{\Delta P}{\Delta Q}$$

$$\therefore E_D = \frac{1}{\text{slope}} \times \frac{P}{Q}$$

$E_D$  is always negative.  
 (it's discussed in absolute values)

### Lecture Video 3.2 - Interpreting the Elasticity of Demand

Interpreting  $E_D$ : indicates the %  $\Delta Q_D$  for a 1%  $\Delta P$

- suppose  $E_D = -5 = \frac{-5\%}{+1\%} = \frac{+5\%}{-1\%}$   
 $|E_D| = 5$ 
  - meaning: if  $P \uparrow$  ( $P \downarrow$ ) by 1%  $\rightarrow Q_D \downarrow$  ( $Q_D \uparrow$ ) by 5%.
  - magnitude: with  $|E_D| > 1$ :  $\% \Delta Q_D > \% \Delta P$
  - consumers are elastic (sensitive to  $\Delta P$ ) since we see large  $\Delta Q_D$  even with relatively small  $\Delta P$
  - extreme case:  $E_D = -\infty$  (perfectly elastic), where a 1%  $\Delta P \rightarrow \infty \% \Delta Q_D$ 
    - consistent with a horizontally-drawn demand curve ( $D_1$ )
- suppose  $E_D = -0.2 =$ 
  - meaning: if  $P \uparrow$  ( $P \downarrow$ ) by \_\_\_\_\_  $\rightarrow Q_D \downarrow$  ( $Q_D \uparrow$ ) by \_\_\_\_\_.
  - magnitude: with  $|E_D| < 1$ :  $\% \Delta Q_D < \% \Delta P$
  - consumers are \_\_\_\_\_ (not very sensitive to  $\Delta P$ ) since we see \_\_\_\_\_  $\Delta Q_D$  even with relatively large  $\Delta P$

Lecture Video 3.2 - Interpreting the Elasticity of Demand

- suppose  $E_D = -0.2 = \frac{-0.2\%}{+1\%} = \frac{+0.2\%}{-1\%}$
- meaning: if  $P \uparrow (P \downarrow)$  by 1%  $\rightarrow Q_D \downarrow (Q_D \uparrow)$  by 0.2%.
- magnitude: with  $|E_D| < 1$ :  $\% \Delta Q < \% \Delta P$
- consumers are inelastic (not very sensitive to  $\Delta P$ ) since we see relatively small  $\Delta Q_D$  even with relatively large  $\Delta P$  (gas example)
- extreme case:  $E_D = -0$  (perfectly inelastic), where a 1%  $\Delta P \rightarrow 0\% \Delta Q_D$ 
  - consistent with a \_\_\_\_\_ demand curve
- suppose  $E_D = -1 =$ 
  - meaning: if  $P \uparrow (P \downarrow)$  by \_\_\_\_\_  $\rightarrow Q_D \downarrow (Q_D \uparrow)$  by \_\_\_\_\_.
  - magnitude: with  $|E_D| = 1$ :  $\% \Delta Q = \% \Delta P$
  - consumers are \_\_\_\_\_ since we see consumers respond \_\_\_\_\_ with  $Q_D$  to  $P$  changes

1%  $\Delta P \rightarrow \% \Delta Q_D$  all along the D curve



- meaning: if  $P \uparrow (P \downarrow)$  by 1%  $\rightarrow Q_D \downarrow (Q_D \uparrow)$  by -0.2%.
- magnitude: with  $|E_D| < 1$ :  $\% \Delta Q < \% \Delta P$
- consumers are inelastic (not very sensitive to  $\Delta P$ ) since we see relatively small  $\Delta Q_D$  even with relatively large  $\Delta P$  (gas example)
- extreme case:  $E_D = -0$  (perfectly inelastic), where a 1%  $\Delta P \rightarrow 0\% \Delta Q_D$ 
  - consistent with a vertically drawn demand curve
- suppose  $E_D = -1 =$ 
  - meaning: if  $P \uparrow (P \downarrow)$  by \_\_\_\_\_  $\rightarrow Q_D \downarrow (Q_D \uparrow)$  by \_\_\_\_\_.
  - magnitude: with  $|E_D| = 1$ :  $\% \Delta Q = \% \Delta P$
  - consumers are \_\_\_\_\_ since we see consumers respond \_\_\_\_\_ with  $Q_D$  to  $P$  changes
- special case:  $E_D = 1$  (unit elastic)  $\rightarrow$  where a 1%  $\Delta P \rightarrow 1\% \Delta Q_D$  all along the D curve



Lecture Video 3.2 - Interpreting the Elasticity of Demand

consistent with a vertically down demand curve  $D_2$

- suppose  $E_D = -1 = \frac{-1/4}{+1/4} = \frac{+1/4}{-1/4}$
- meaning: if  $P \uparrow (P \downarrow)$  by  $\frac{1}{4}P$ ,  $\rightarrow Q_D \downarrow (Q_D \uparrow)$  by  $\frac{1}{4}Q$ .
- magnitude: with  $|E_D| = 1: \Delta Q = \Delta P$
- consumers are unit elastic since we see consumers respond proportionately with  $Q_D$  to  $P$  changes
- special case  $|E_D| = 1$  (unit elastic)  $\rightarrow$  where a 1%  $\Delta P \rightarrow 1\% \Delta Q_D$  all along the D curve

consistent with a \_\_\_\_\_ demand curve

Special Cases of Elasticity

10:29 / 14:40



















