

# UN1105 Principles of Economics

## Recitation 2: Supply and Demand, continued

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Columbia University

Fall 2020

# Outline

- Introduction
- Review of Concepts
- Analytical Questions
  - Q1: The Market for Denim
  - Q2: K&W Problem 3.02
- Short-answer Questions
  - Q3: K&W Problem 3.19

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# Introduction

Recitation structure:

- Will not review previous problem set.
- Retrospective focus on prior week's material:
  - This week: supply and demand (again),
  - Next week: elasticity and consumer theory.

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# Review of Concepts

## 1. Demand and Supply Model

(i) What type of market are we focusing on?

(ii) Demand-side

- Law of demand.
- Distinguish between movements along, and shifts of, the curve.
- What factors shift the demand curve?
- Normal v inferior goods.
- Market demand v individual demand.

(iii) Supply-side

- No law of supply, but usually upward sloping.
- Distinguish between movements along, and shifts of, the curve.
- What factors shift the demand curve?
- Market supply v individual supply.

(iv) Equilibrium

- Why does a competitive market move towards this point; surpluses and shortages.
- Comparative statics following an increase in demand/supply.

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## Analytical Questions, Q1: The Market for Denim

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To find the equilibrium price, we set quantity demanded equal to quantity supplied, and then solve for the implied price.

$$Q_D(P^*) = 60 - 10P^* = 10P^* = Q_S(P^*)$$

$$\Rightarrow 60 = 20P^*$$

$$\Rightarrow P^* = 3$$

To find the equilibrium quantity, we substitute the equilibrium price into either the demand or supply function. (It doesn't matter which one, why?)

$$Q^* = Q_S(P^*) = 10 \times 3 = 30$$

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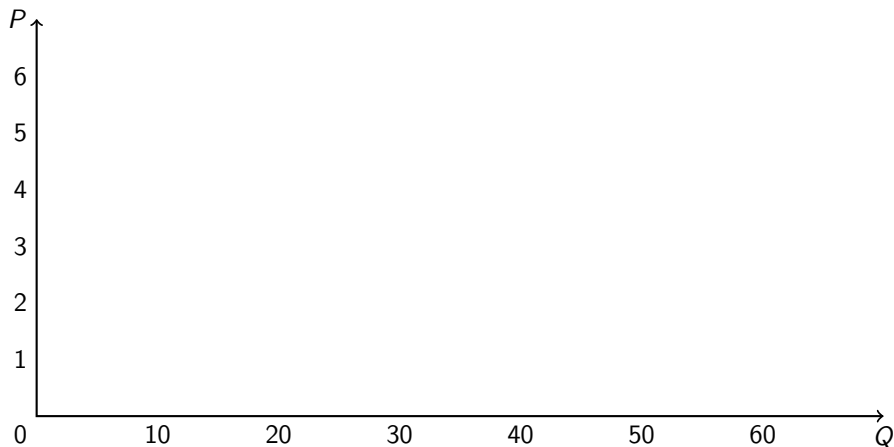
Because price is on the y-axis of a D-S graph, we need to find and then plot the *inverse* demand and supply functions.

$$Q_D = 60 - 10P \Rightarrow 10P_D = 60 - Q \Rightarrow P_D = 6 - 0.1Q$$

$$Q_S = 10P \Rightarrow P_S = 0.1Q$$

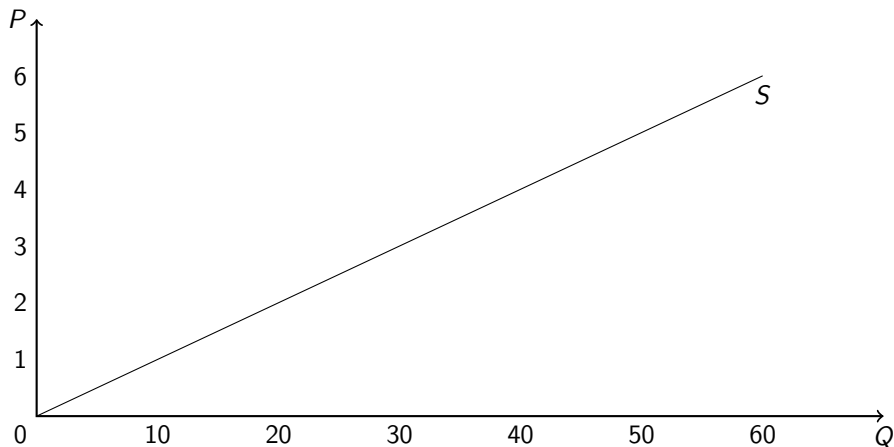
# Analytical Questions, Q1: The Market for Denim, (ii)

Figure 1: Market for Denim



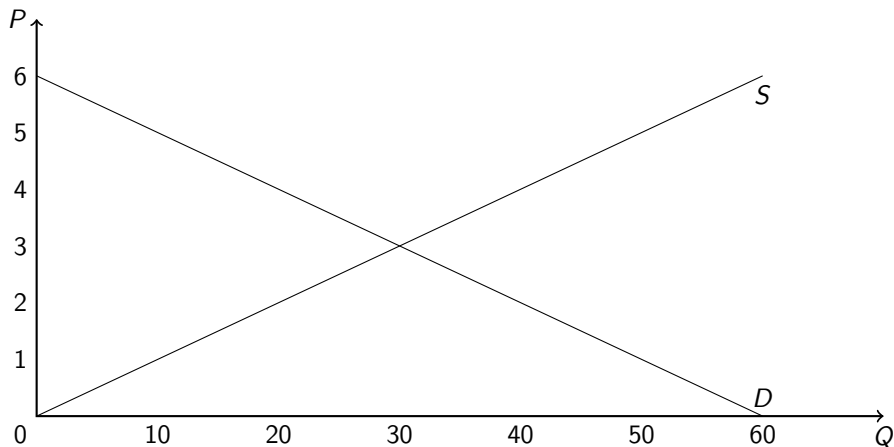
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Figure 1: Market for Denim



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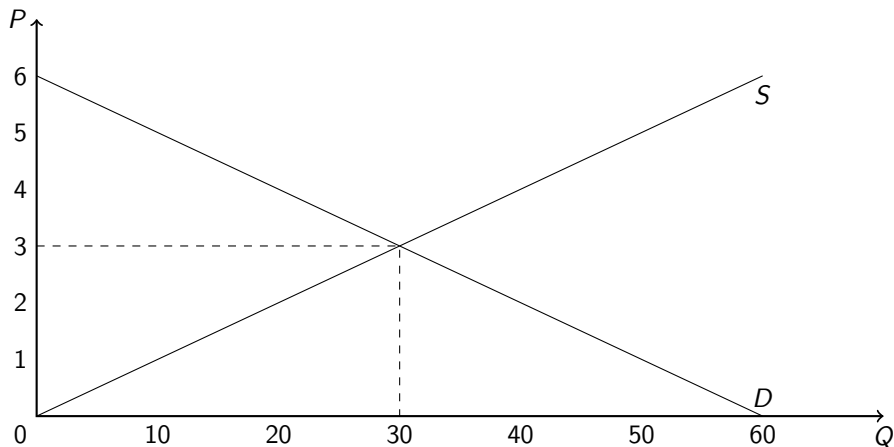
Figure 1: Market for Denim





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## Analytical Questions, Q1: The Market for Denim, (iii)

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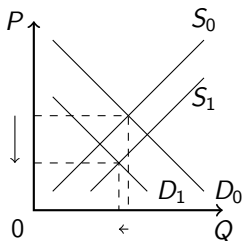
- Cotton is a input to denim manufacturing, and as the price of an input falls we expect supply to shift to the right.
- However, cotton is also an input in the manufacturing of substitute clothing, and as the price of a substitute falls the demand for denim shifts to the left.
- The overall effect is an unambiguously lower equilibrium price, but the change in quantity is dependent on whether the supply or demand effect is greater.

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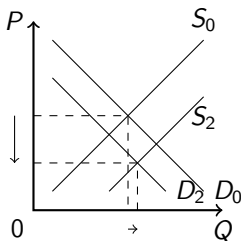
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(a) Larger decrease in demand



(b) Larger increase in supply



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This statement ignores the possibility that consumers are buying more Starbucks beverages despite higher prices because (i) their incomes went up; or ii) the price of a substitute good has gone up.

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3. Consumers are illogical for buying an iPhone 7 when an iPhone 5 costs less.

This statement is based on the erroneous assumption that an iPhone 5 is a perfect substitute for an iPhone 7. Consumers are willing to spend more for an iPhone 7 because it has increased capabilities over an iPhone 5.

