

Lecture 8

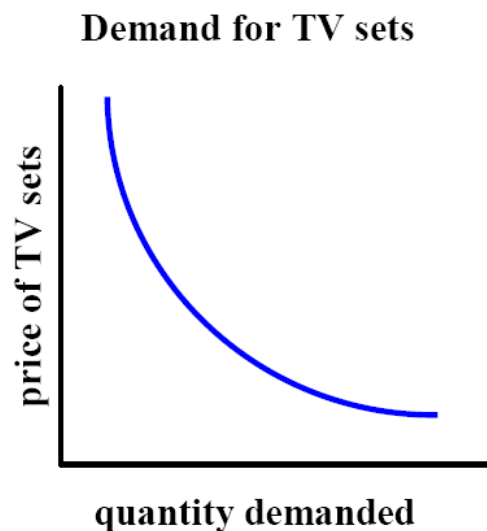
Supply, Demand and Equilibrium

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Economic Growth and
Economic Fluctuations

Demand

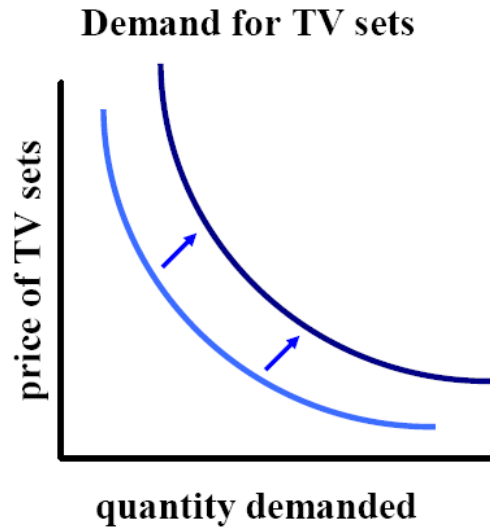
- How many TV sets do you have in your house?
- One in the kitchen, one in the bedroom, one in the living room
- Back in the 1950's, most families only had one TV, if they had one at all.
- Q.: Why do families have so many more TV sets today?
- A. # 1: They're cheaper.



If price of TV sets rises, then, ceteris paribus, the quantity of TV sets demanded will fall, and vice versa.

Demand

- Q.: Why do families have so many more TV sets today?
- A. # 2: Families' real incomes are larger.
- An increase in income changes relationship between price and quantity demanded.
- Demand curve shifts out (up and right).



When income rises, but the price of TV sets doesn't change (i.e. *ceteris paribus*), there's more demand for TV sets at every price level.

Movement along Demand Curve vs. Shift of Demand

Movement along:

- Only if there is change in the good's price (shift of supply curve)

Shift of demand,

due to changes in:

- **Income**
- Accumulated **wealth**
- Tastes and preferences (ex. fewer smokers)
- **Prices of other goods**
- Expectations (of future income, wealth and prices)

Income – *a flow* – sum of all earnings (wages, salaries, profits, interest payments, rents, etc.) in a given period of time

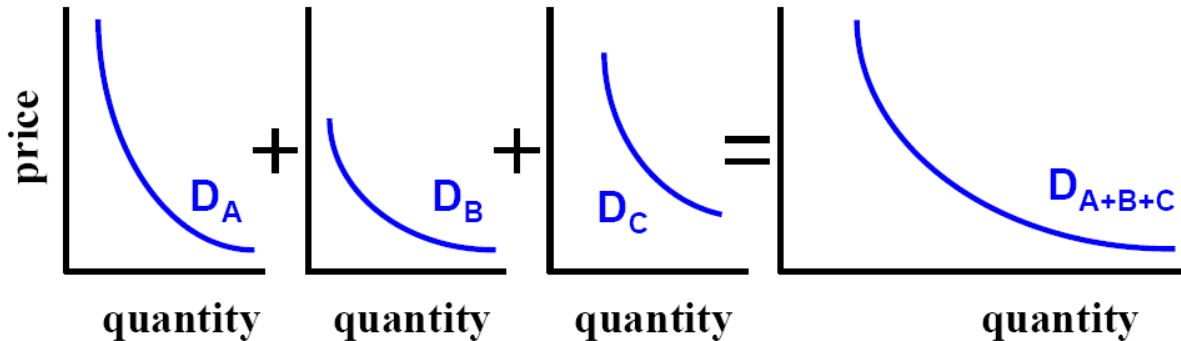
Wealth – *a stock* – total value of what household owns minus what it owes

Substitutes – when price of good X rises, demand for good Y rises (ex. cigs & rolling tobacco)

Complements – when price of good X rises, demand for good Y falls (ex. pasta & sauce)

Market Demand

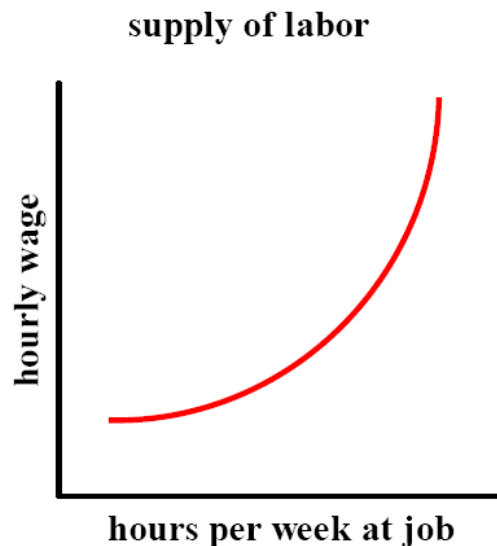
Sum of all individual demand curves (sum of all individual quantities demanded at each price)



price	quantity demanded by:					market demand
	A		B		C	
\$4	4	+	0	+	4	= 8
\$2	8	+	3	+	9	= 20

Supply

- If you were offered a job for \$3 an hour, how many hours a week would you work?
- You wouldn't take a job that pays so little.
- At \$50 an hour, how many hours a week?
- 40, 50, 60 hours?
- At \$100 an hour, how many hours a week?
- 40, 50, 60 hours? There's a limit to how much you can work in a week.
- *Ceteris paribus* – ex. if there's very high inflation, increase in wage reflect inflation and therefore will not increase output (hours worked)

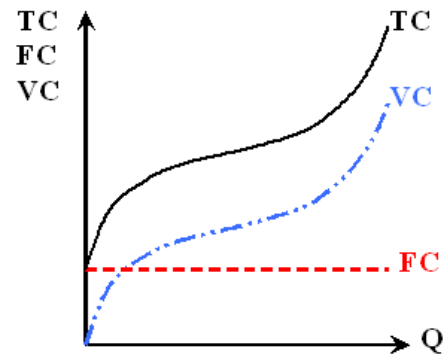


An increase in price – wage is the price of labor – will *ceteris paribus* increase the quantity of labor supplied and vice versa.

Firm Supply

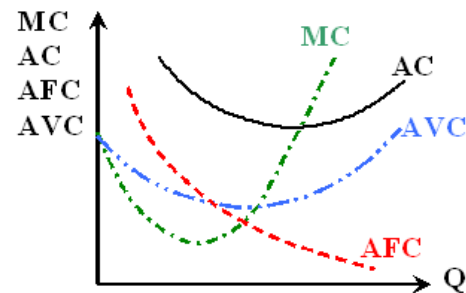
Total Cost: $TC = FC + VC$

- **Fixed costs (FC)** – repayment of loans, lump sum taxes, etc.
- **Variable costs (VC)** – labor, raw materials, electricity, etc.



Average Cost: $AC = AFC + AVC$

- **Average fixed cost (AFC)** decreases as output increases
- **Average variable cost (AVC)** increases as output increases (at least at higher output levels)



Marginal Cost (MC):

- Rate of change in total costs from extra unit of output
- Is the supply curve when $MC > AC$

Movement along Supply Curve vs. Shift of Supply

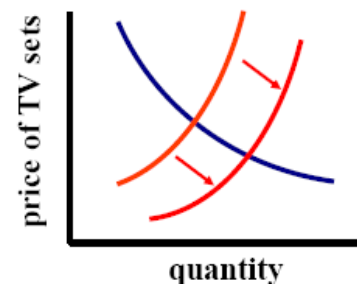
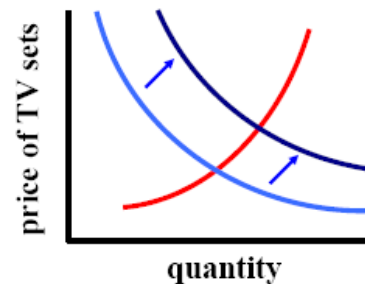
Movement along:

- Only if there is a change in the good's price (shift of demand curve)

Shift of supply,

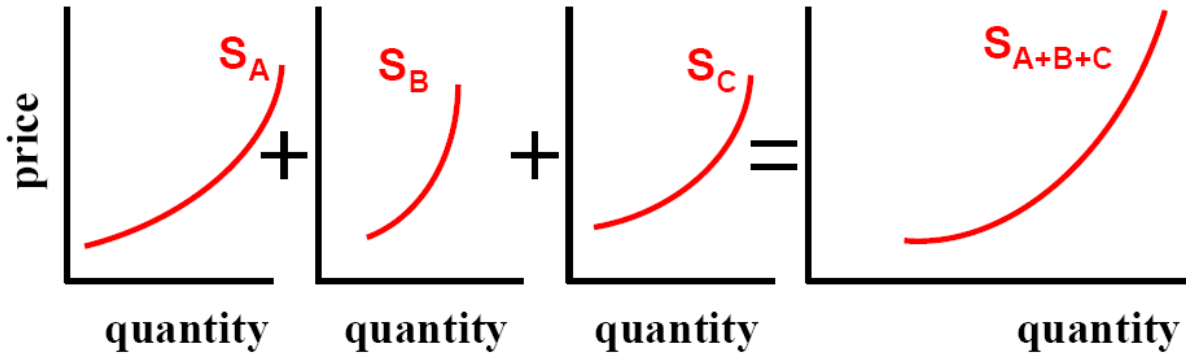
due to changes in:

- **Costs:**
 - wages
 - dividend payments
 - raw materials
- **Technology**
 - more productive machines
 - increased efficiency with which firm uses its inputs into its production



Market Supply

Sum of all individual supply curves (sum of all individual quantities supplied at each price)

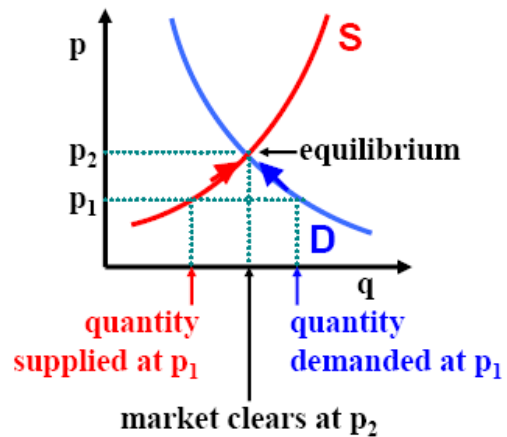


price	quantity supplied by:			market supply
	A	B	C	
\$4	30	+ 10	+ 25	= 65
\$2	10	+ 5	+ 10	= 25

Market Equilibrium

Excess Demand

- The absolutely must-have Christmas present
- Parents bid up the price of the present, some parents drop out of the market
- Factories increase production and ask higher price
- Shortage eliminated – “price rationing”

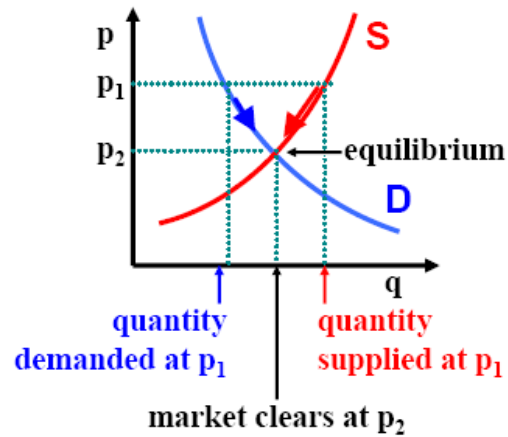


At equilibrium there is no natural tendency for further adjustment.

Market Equilibrium

Excess Supply

- **Car sales at the beginning of a recession**
 - Think back to end-2001
 - Every other ad on TV/radio was a car commercial
- **Buyers know of excess supply, offer lower prices and increase quantity demanded**
- **Automakers decrease production and accept a lower price**

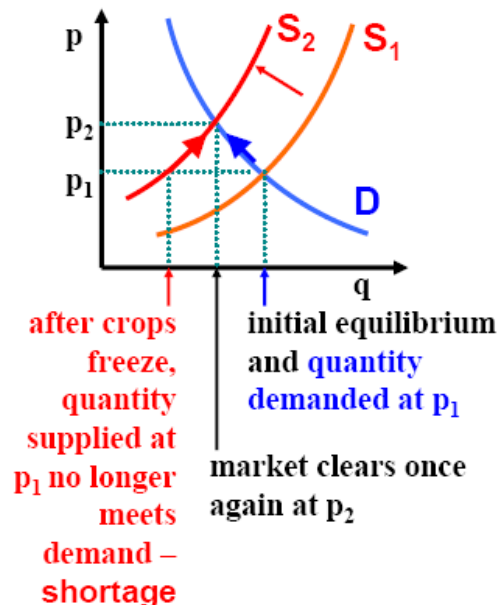


At equilibrium there is no natural tendency for further adjustment.

Changes in Equilibrium

Fall in Supply

- **Some crops freeze**
- **Initially at equilibrium**
- **After freeze, market supply is more limited**
- **Supply curve shifts in**
- **Shortage at initial price**
- **Price bid up, some drop out of market**
- **Other farms harvest more of frozen crop**
- **New equilibrium**



Scalpers

- How much would you pay for the best seats in the house?
- Limited supply
- Tickets priced below market equilibrium
- Excess demand at list price
- **Arbitrage** – whoever obtains tickets at list price, can profit by reselling them

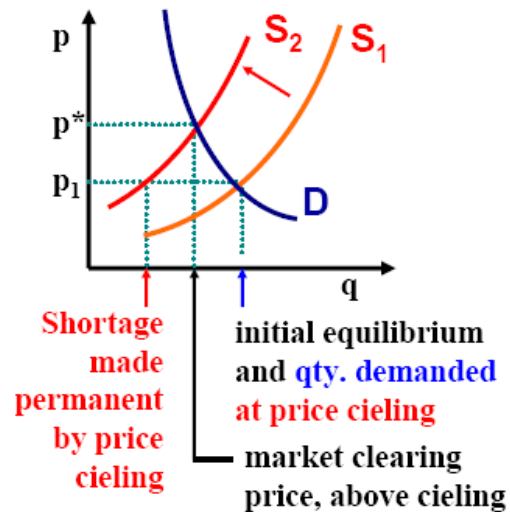


Stupidity

If “pro-” is the opposite of “con-,” what’s the opposite of “progress?”

Price ceilings

- 1974 – OPEC imposed oil embargo on US
- Supply shock
- Congress imposed a price ceiling on the price of gasoline
- **Result: long lines and shortage of gasoline**



Ways to beat a ceiling

1. **Queuing** – be first in line
2. **Favored customers** – bribe the retailer
3. **Ration coupons** – buy coupons from friends