

## Chapter Outline

5.1. The Buyer's Problem
5.2. Putting It All Together
5.3. From the Buyer's Problem to the Demand Curve
5.4. Consumer Surplus
5.5. Demand Elasticities

## Key Ideas

1. The buyer's problem has three parts:
2. what you like,
3. prices, and
4. your budget.
5. An optimizing buyer makes decisions at the margin.
6. An individual's demand curve reflects an ability and willingness to pay for a good or service.

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-What would motivate you?


## The Buyer's Problem:

What You Like: Tastes and Preferences
-What do you like?

- Everyone has different likes and dislikes, but we assume everyone has two things in common:

1. We all want the biggest bang for our buck
2. What we actually buy reflects our tastes and preferences

The Buyer's Problem: The Budget Set How Much Money You Have to Spend

- How much money do you have?
- There are lots of things to do with your money, but we assume:

1. There is no saving or borrowing, only buying
2. That even though we use a straight line to represent purchase choices, we only purchase whole units


## The Buyer's Problem: <br> Prices of Goods and Services

- How much does it cost?
- We also assume two characteristics of prices:

1. Prices are fixed-no negotiation
2. We can buy as much as we want of something without driving the price up (because of an increase in demand)

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The Buyer's Problem: The Budget Set How Much Money You Have to Spend

```
    # Quantity of 16 sweaters
14
```



[^0]The Buyer's Problem: The Budget Set
How Much Money You Have to Spend


Why does the budget line have a negative slope?
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The Buyer's Problem: The Budget Set How Much Money You Have to Spend Quantity of 16 [ Quantity ors


$\left.$| Four Bundles on the Budget |
| :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Quantity |
| Q |
| of Sweaters | | Constraint |
| :---: |
| Quantity |
| of Jeans | \right\rvert\,

What does the slope represent?

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| :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- |

## Putting It All Together

- The next day, he calls and says he doesn't have time to buy the car and will just give you a check for $\$ 100,000$ instead.
- Will you go buy the car?
- Would you accept his offer?


Exhibit 5.2 Your Buyer's Problem (\$300 available)
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| Putting It All Together |
| :--- |
| $\rightarrow$ Consumer Equilibrium Condition: |
| $\qquad \frac{M B_{s}}{P_{s}}=\frac{M B_{j}}{P_{j}}$ |
| $\rightarrow$ What if $M B_{s}=\$ 75$ and $M B_{j}=\$ 100 ?$ |
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## Putting It All Together: Price Changes

$\underbrace{16}_{\substack{\text { Quantily of } \\ \text { swoaters }}}$
${ }^{\text {swoaters }}{ }_{14}$ -

$\left.\begin{array}{|ccc|}\hline \begin{array}{c}\text { Four Bundles on the Budget } \\ \text { Quantity } \\ \text { of }\end{array} \\ \begin{array}{c}\text { Bunstraint } \\ \text { Quandle } \\ \text { of }\end{array} \\ \hline \text { A Sweaters }\end{array}\right)$

## Putting It All Together: Price Changes



Exhibit 5.3 An Inward Pivot in the Budget Constraint from a Price Increase
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## From the Buyer's Problem to the Demand Curve

- Why does a soda machine only dispense one bottle or can at a time, but
- a newspaper vending machine opens up so that you can take as many as you want?


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- What would motivate you?


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## Demand Elasticities

- Suppose you play in a band.
- Your band has a steady gig with a bar that gives you the cover charge without taking a cut.
- You and your band are interested in increasing the money you make from this gig and are talking about changing the cover charge.
-Should you increase it or decrease it?

| Demand Elasticities |  |
| :--- | :--- |
| - Elasticity |  |
| A measure of how sensitive one variable is |  |
| to changes in another |  |
|  |  |
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## Demand Elasticities

- Three measures of elasticity:

1. Price elasticity of demand
2. Cross-price elasticity of demand
3. Income elasticity of demand


## Demand Elasticities: Elasticity Measures

- $\mathrm{ED}=\infty=$ Perfectly Elastic
- ED $>1$ = Elastic
- $\mathrm{ED}=1$ = Unit Elastic
- $\mathrm{ED}<1=$ Inelastic
- $\mathrm{ED}=0$ = Perfectly Inelastic


## Demand Elasticities: Elasticity Measures

| Good Category | Price Elasticity ${ }^{3}$ |
| :--- | :---: |
| Olive Oil | 1.92 |
| Peanut Butter | 1.73 |
| Ketchup | 1.36 |
| Wine | 1.00 |
| Laundry Detergent | 0.81 |
| Shampoo | 0.79 |
| Potato chips | 0.45 |
| Cigarettes | 0.40 |

Exhibit 5.13 Examples of Various Price Elasticities

Demand Elasticities:

## Price Elasticity of Demand

- Let's look at another point on the demand curve for jeans:
- Original price $=\$ 25$; original quantity $=4$ pair
- What if
- Price increased to \$30 (20\% increase)
- and as a result, the optimal quantity fell to 3 (25\% decrease)
- $E D=-25 \% / 20 \%=-1.25$


## Demand Elasticities:

## Midpoint Method for Calculation

- Problem: The above method gives different answers depending on where you start.

From A to B,


## Demand Elasticities and Total Revenue

$$
T R=P \times Q
$$

- If demand is inelastic, when price increases, quantity decreases-a little:

$$
T R=\uparrow P \times \downarrow Q=\uparrow T R
$$

- The price increase pushes total revenue up, - the quantity decrease pushes total revenue down, - but the price increase is more than the quantity decrease,
- so the final result is that total revenue increases.

Demand Elasticities and Total Revenue

$$
T R=\downarrow P \times \Uparrow Q=\downarrow T R
$$

- If price decreases, total revenue also decreases.
- As a result of lower price, quantity increases,
- but because demand is inelastic, quantity increases only slightly.
- Net result is that total revenue decreases.


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## Demand Elasticities and Total Revenue

$$
\mathrm{TR}=\mathrm{P} \times \mathrm{Q}
$$

- If demand is elastic, when price increases, quantity decreases-a lot:

$$
\mathrm{TR}=\uparrow \mathrm{P} \times \downarrow \mathrm{Q}=\downarrow \mathrm{TR}
$$

- The price increase pushes total revenue up, - the quantity decrease pushes total revenue down,
- but the quantity decrease is more than the price increase,
- so the final result is that total revenue decreases.


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## Selected Price Elasticity (from Wiki)

> | Soft drinks | Alcoholic beverages |
| :--- | :--- |
| - 0.8 to -1.0 | $(\text { US })^{42]}$ |
| $(\text { general) })^{51]}$ | -0.3 or -0.7 to -0.9 as |
| $-3.8(\text { Coca-Cola) })^{[52]}$ | of 1972 (Beer) |
| $>-4.4$ | -1.0 (Wine) |
| $(\text { Mountain Dew) })^{[52]}$ |  |
| -1.5 (Spirits) |  |

- Livestock
- -0.5 to -0.6
(Broiler Chickens)
Cigarettes (US)
- -0.3 to -0.6 (General)
- -0.6 to -0.7 (Youth)


## Selected Price Elasticity (from Wiki)

```
- Medicine (US) \(\quad\) Cinema visits (US)
```

    - -0.31
                                    - 0.87 (General)
    (Medical insurance) Live Performing Arts
    - - .03 to -. 06
    (Pediatric Visits) \({ }^{471}\)
    - Oil (World)
    \(\rightarrow-0.4 \quad\) Steel
                                    - -0.2 to \(-0.3^{53}\)
    
## Demand Elasticities: Determinants

- Determinants of Price Elasticity of Demand

1. Number and closeness of substitutes
2. Budget share spent on the good
3. Time horizon available to adjust to price changes

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## Demand Elasticities: Determinants

- Why are last-minute airplane tickets so expensive?

- Why are last-minute Broadway show tickets so cheap?


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## Demand Elasticities:

## Cross-Price Elasticity of Demand

2. Cross-price elasticity of demand answers:

- How much does the quantity demanded of one good change when the price of another changes?
- Mathematically:
- the percentage change in demand of good 1 due to a percentage change in the price of good 2:
$\begin{gathered}\text { Cross-price elasticity } \\ \text { of demand }\end{gathered}=\frac{\% \text { change in } Q^{d} \text { for good } 1}{\% \text { change in price of good } 2}$

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| Goods | Cross-Price <br> Elasticity $^{4}$ |
| :--- | :---: |
| Meat and Fish | 1.6 |
| Clothing and Entertainment | 0.6 |
| Whole Milk and Low-Fat Milk | 0.5 |
| Meat and Potatoes | -0.2 |
| Food and Entertainment | -0.7 |

Exhibit 5.14 Examples of Various Cross-Price Elasticities

## Demand Elasticities:

## Income Elasticity of Demanc

3. Income elasticity of demand answers:

- How much does quantity demanded change when income changes?
- Mathematically:
- the percentage change in demand of a good due to a percentage change in income

$$
\begin{aligned}
& \text { Income elasticity } \\
& \text { of demand }
\end{aligned}=\frac{\text { Percentage change in } Q^{d}}{\text { Percentage change in Income }}
$$

## Conclusion

- Demand is derived from Buyer's Problem
- Consumer Surplus is the Gain from Trade
- Elasticity (= Sensitivity) of Demand
- Price Elasticity of Demand
- Cross-Price Elasticity of Demand
- Income Elasticity of Demand

Homework For ALL Chapter 5

- ALL Chap.5, Problem 1, 4, 7, 10, 11, 13

Challenge Questions (from Past Midterms)

- 2007 - Essay Q2
- 2008 - Essay Part D (Multi-Choice Q4-6)
- 2009 - Essay C2-C7, D7-D8
- 2010 - Essay B2-B4, B7, B10-B11(True/False Q4)
- 2012 - Essay B3, C (True/False Q5)
- 2013 - Essay A, D13-D14 (True/False Q4)
- 2014 - Essay A6-A10, C1-C5
- 2015 - Essay B1-B13 (True/False A6)

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[^0]:    Exhibit 5.1 The Budget Set and the Budget Constraint for Your Shopping Spree

