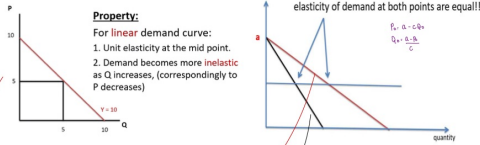


Linear function: slope v.s. elasticity



Exercise 2A:

2.A.1) Given a demand function by $p = a - bQ$, derive the formula for the elasticity of demand, and show that the third property holds

2.A.2) Given the market supply $p = c + dQ$ where $d \geq 0$, show that
(i) elasticity of supply is always greater than 1 if $c > 0$,
(ii) elasticity of supply is always equal to 1 if $c = 0$,
(iii) elasticity of supply is always less than 1 if $c < 0$.



2.A.1

$$p = a - bQ$$

$$Q_0 = \frac{a - P_0}{b}$$

$$\text{Point PED} = \frac{\Delta Q}{\Delta P} \times \frac{P_0}{Q_0}$$

$$= \frac{\Delta Q}{\Delta P} \times \frac{a - bQ_0}{a - P_0}$$

$$= \frac{\Delta Q}{\Delta P} \times \frac{a - b(\frac{a - P_0}{b})}{a - P_0}$$

$$= \frac{\Delta Q}{\Delta P} \times \frac{a - (a - P_0)}{a - P_0} = \frac{\Delta Q}{\Delta P} \times \frac{P_0}{a - P_0}$$

$$= \frac{\Delta Q}{\Delta P} \times \frac{P_0}{a - P_0}$$

$$\text{point PED} = -1 \times a - b$$

$$= -a + b$$

$$P_0 = a - bQ_0$$

$$Q_0 = \frac{a - P_0}{b}$$

$$\text{Point PED} = \frac{\Delta Q}{\Delta P} \times \frac{P_0}{Q_0}$$

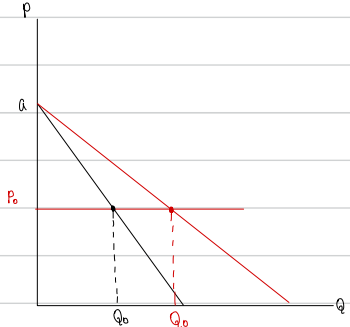
$$= \frac{\Delta Q}{\Delta P} \times \frac{a - bQ_0}{a - P_0}$$

$$= \frac{\Delta Q}{\Delta P} \times \frac{a - b(\frac{a - P_0}{b})}{a - P_0}$$

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$$= \frac{\Delta Q}{\Delta P} \times \frac{P_0}{a - P_0}$$

$$\text{Point PED} = -a + c$$



2.A.2) (i)

$$p = c + dQ_0$$

$$d_n = 2$$

$$Q_0 = \frac{c - P}{d}$$

$$d_0 = 1$$

$$c_0 = 1$$

$$\Delta Q = \frac{1 - P}{2} - \frac{1 - P}{1} = \frac{1 - P - 2 + 2P}{2}$$

$$\frac{\Delta Q}{\Delta P} = \frac{\frac{1 - P}{2}}{\frac{1}{2 - P}}$$

$$= \frac{1 - P}{2} \times \frac{2 - P}{1}$$

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(ii)

$$p_0 = c + dQ$$

$$d_n = 2 \quad c = 0$$

$$Q_0 = \frac{c - P}{d}$$

$$d_0 = 1 \quad c = 0$$

$$\Delta Q = \frac{Q_1 - Q_0}{Q_0} = \frac{0 - P}{2} - \frac{0 - P}{1}$$

$$= \frac{0 - P}{2} - \frac{0 - P}{1}$$

$$= 0$$

$$\frac{\Delta Q}{\Delta P} = 0$$

(iii)

$$p_0 = c + dQ$$

$$d_n = 2$$

$$c = -1$$

$$\Delta P = -1 + 2Q - (-1 + Q)$$

$$Q_0 = \frac{c - P}{d}$$

$$d_0 = 1$$

$$\Delta Q = \frac{-1 - P}{2} - \frac{-1 - P}{1}$$

$$= \frac{-1 - P}{2} - \frac{-1 - P}{1}$$

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