

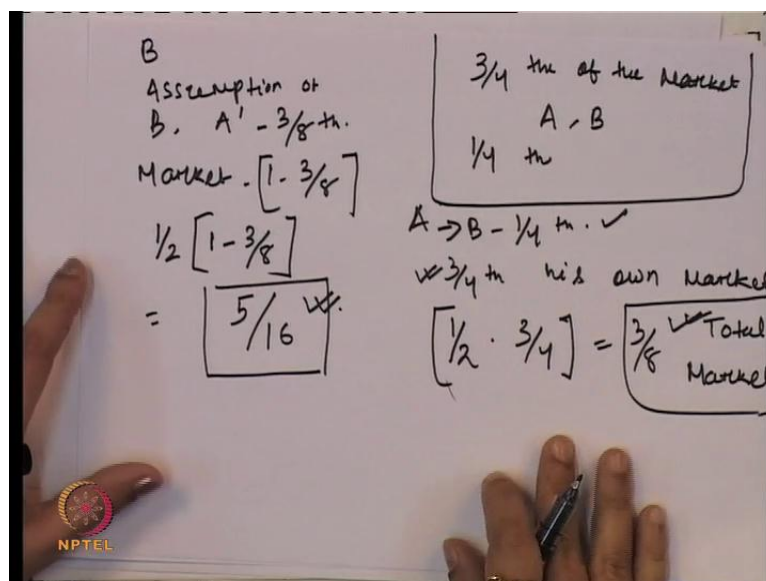
Managerial Economics
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Lecture - 32
Oligopoly (Contd...)

So, we will be continuing our discussion on non-collusive oligopoly model also in this session. So, if you remember in the last class, we discussed about the Cournot models, and Cournot models typically is a duopoly market situation, where the basic characteristic is that it operates in zero cost of production, and that is why we get a marginal cost which is equal to 0. Here, even if the firm, they knows that they are interdependent on each other, but when they fix their output, when they fix their price, they are not taking into consideration, what will be the rivals plan on the basics of their revised plan.

That is the reason if you remember in last class we discussed a situation when in the period one-fourth of the market remained unexplored. No one produced in that one-fourth market. Rest three-fourth market got produced by both the firms a and b. So, we will continue our discussion on the Cournot model. We will see that how the equilibrium solution can be achieved or how the equilibrium can be achieved with the reaction and action patterns of the reaction and action pattern of the two firms.

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So, in the last class, if you remember we talked about a situation where the three-fourth of the market generally. So, in that case if you remember, then A B together they were just producing three-fourth of the market and one-fourth was not produced either by firm A or firm B, at least in the first period. Now, what will happen in period 2? So, this in the first case, three-fourth was produced together by A and B and one-fourth was not.

Now, how it will happen? In period two firms A assume that B is just going to produce one-fourth of it and he will feel that three-fourth is his own market typically for firm A. So, if three-fourth is his own market, now generally he is producing only half of it. So, he will produce half of three-fourth in the market and that will come to three-eighth of total market.

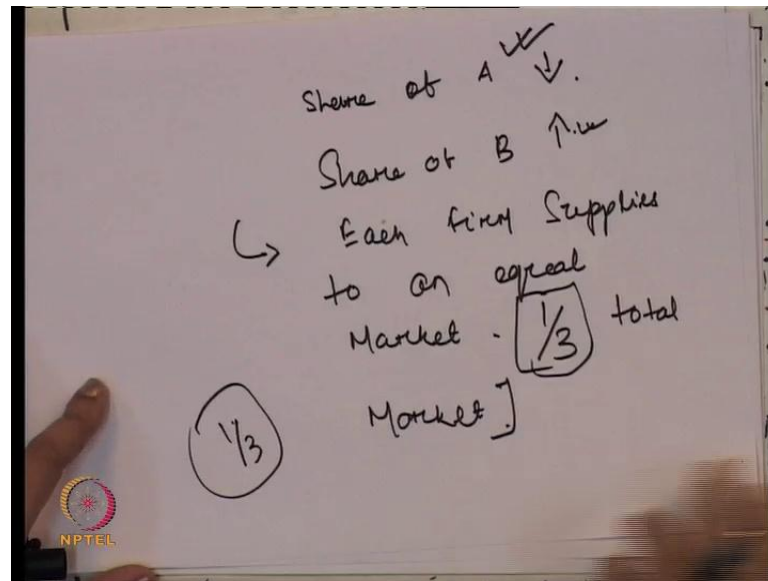
So, A is going to produce three-eighth of total market. A assume that B is just going to produce one-fourth of the market. So, A will think that he is just going to produce only three-fourth and the rest three-fourth is own market and since A produces only half of the total market. In this case, the half of total market is half multiplied by three-fourth and that comes to $\frac{3}{8}$ as the total market.

Now, we will see how B is going to react to this. So, B will consider that again when it comes to B, what will be the assumption? The assumption for B is A will continue to produce three-eighth of the market means what is the market available for B, the remaining market that is less by $\frac{3}{8}$. So, this is $1 - \frac{3}{8}$ is the market available to B. Now, B will produce again half of this because half of $1 - \frac{3}{8}$. So, this is $\frac{5}{16}$. So, A is going to produce $\frac{3}{8}$ and B is going to produce $\frac{5}{16}$.

Now, this action reaction pattern continues. Firm always assume that, A always assume that B is going to produce half and firm B is always going to assume that A is going to produce half. So, they take out that half and they feel that the rest of the market, whatever they could produce and again, it becomes the half of the total market demand. So, this action reaction pattern for firm A and B will continue.

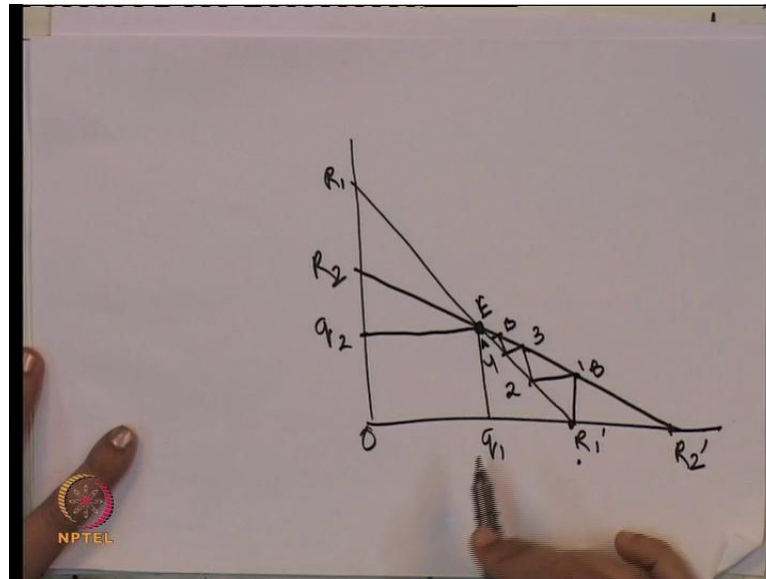
Now, what is the outcome of this action reaction pattern of firm A and B? So, it just goes on with the share that is half of share, half of the total market except the share of A for B and half of the total market except the share of B for A. So, this action reaction will continue.

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So, in this action reaction, generally share of A goes on decreasing and share of B goes on increasing and this will lead to a situation where each firm supply's to an equal market that is one-third of the total market. So, this if you look at initially the share of A was higher than share of B. So, this action reaction pattern will continue and with the action reaction pattern, finally each firm will reach to a situation where they are just producing one-third of the total market and remaining this one-third of total market is produced by a one-third of total market is produced by B and remaining one-third is not getting produced either by A or by B. So, we will just take the graph to understand this that how this will reach to a situation where they just produce one-third and leads to a case, where rest one-third remain on produce either by A and B.

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So, if you remember, your reaction function R_1 . R_1 does is the reaction function of firm A. R_2 does is the reaction function of firm B. So, ideally this should be the situation where this is the amount of q_1 , this is the amount of q_2 , q_1 is produced by A, q_2 is produced by B. Now, how they reached to this q_1 A to q_1 B? It is not that they start from here, rather they started from here. What is this R_1 does here at this point? The total market demand is we can say R_2 does is the total market demand. So, out of this, initially A will just produce this much and from there, actually this action reaction pattern happen. So, if this A is producing this, corresponding to this B will produce here that in the reaction curve of B R_2 . R_2 does is the reaction curve function of B R_1 . R_1 is the reaction curve function of A.

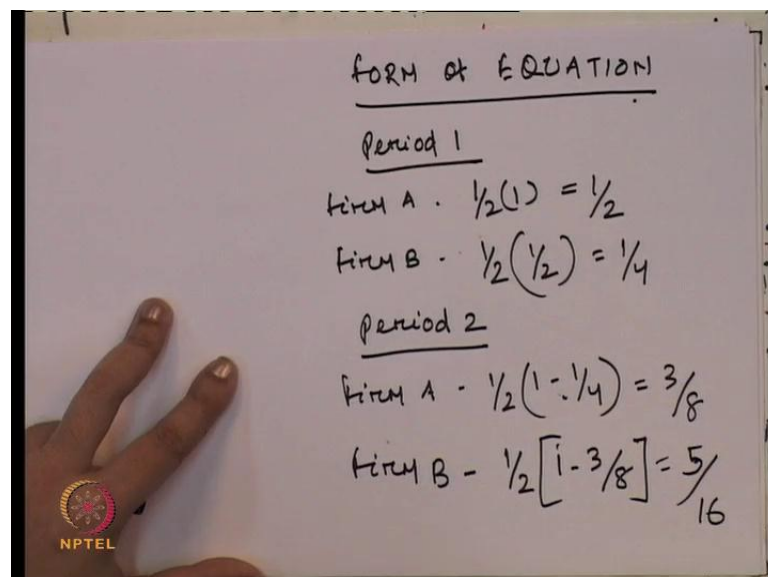
So, if you look at, initially A produce this much. Now, with reaction to this B will produce take a point corresponding to this in the reaction function of B that is R_2 or this corresponding to this. Again, A will react to this and choose a combination, where in the reaction function of A and if you remember, what is reaction function. Reaction function gives the different quantity of q_1 and q_2 combinations of q_1 and q_2 , where profit is maximum. So, whether B chooses any y combination and reaction function to A chooses any combination and reaction function one, ideally they maximize the profit.

So, to start with, they will do this with a start with this point corresponding to this B, choose a combination over here. Now, suppose this is combination 1. Then, this is

combination 2 again chosen by A with respect to the reaction to a combination B by this one. Then, corresponding to this, again B will choose a combination here and corresponding to this, A will choose a combination here. Then, corresponding to this, again B will choose a combination here and here will choose a combination. Here, this action reaction will continue till the time they are not reaching this point E and after reaching the point E, they generally reach the equilibrium solution where A produce q_1 unit of output and B produce q_2 unit of output.

So, graphically how we reach the Cournot's equilibrium? We reach the Cournot equilibrium through the reaction function approach. We take the reaction function 1, reaction function 2 and the reaction of both the firms get capture in their own reaction function. Finally, eventually this reaction action pattern leads them to the equilibrium where this is generally stable and after that, at least in that time period again the reaction action pattern never continue. Then, we will see the detail description that how this one-third of this total market output comes to firm 1. We will just take period wise that how this finally comes to one-third for firm A and one-third firm B.

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FORM OF EQUATION

Period 1

Firm A $\cdot \frac{1}{2}(1) = \frac{1}{2}$

Firm B $\cdot \frac{1}{2}\left(\frac{1}{2}\right) = \frac{1}{4}$

Period 2

Firm A $\cdot \frac{1}{2}\left(1 - \frac{1}{4}\right) = \frac{3}{8}$

Firm B $\cdot \frac{1}{2}\left[1 - \frac{3}{8}\right] = \frac{5}{16}$

So, generally we will just take a form of equation in order to understand this. So, period 1, we will see what is firm A, what is firm B. So, firm A is half of total market. So, this is half, firm B is half of half market that is a share that comes to one-fourth. Then, period

2. What will be for firm A half of 1 minus 1 by 4. 1 by 4 is the B share that comes to 3 by 8. Then, what will be for firm B that is half of 1 minus 3 by 8 that comes to 5 by 16.

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Handwritten calculations on a whiteboard:

Period 3
 firm A - $\frac{1}{2} \left[1 - \frac{5}{16} \right] = \frac{11}{32}$
 firm B = $\frac{1}{2} \left[1 - \frac{11}{32} \right] = \frac{21}{64}$

Period 4
 firm A - $\frac{1}{2} \left[1 - \frac{21}{64} \right] = \frac{43}{128}$
 firm B - $\frac{1}{2} \left[1 - \frac{43}{128} \right] = \frac{85}{256}$

Now, what will be in period 3 firm A that is half of 1 minus 5 by 16. This is B share that comes to 11 by 32. So, this is B share 1 minus this half of it going to be produced by firm A. Firm B again half of 1 minus 11 by 32. This is share of A. So, this comes to 21 by 64. Then, we will talk about period 4 output of firm A and firm B.

So, this is nothing, but just taking the share and making half of it, but eventually we will see how this has produced one-third of the total output. So, for period 4, this is again half of 1 minus 11 by 32. So, that comes to sorry 1 minus 21 by 64. So, that comes to 43 divided by 128 and firm B again half by 1 minus 43 by 128. So, that comes to 85 by 256. Now, this continues till the time period end. So, we will see how what will be the value in period N because N takes any number. So, it is 1 to n.

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Period N

$$\text{firm A} = \frac{1}{2} \left[1 - \frac{1}{3} \right] = \frac{1}{3}$$

$$\text{firm B} = \frac{1}{2} \left[1 - \frac{1}{3} \right] = \frac{1}{3}$$

A's equilibrium
Output $= \frac{1}{2} - \frac{1/8}{1 - 1/4}$

$$= \frac{1}{2} - \frac{1/8}{3/4} = \frac{8}{24} = \frac{1}{3}$$

So, in period N what will be the share of firm A? Firm B. Eventually, it is firm A half by 1 minus 1 by 3 that comes to 1 by 3 and firm B half of 1 by 1 minus 3 that is coming to 1 by 3. Now, what is a equilibrium output? Now, A's equilibrium output will be half minus 1 by 8 by 1 by 1 minus 4. So, that comes to half minus 1 by 8 by 3 by 4 which comes to 8 by 24 and 1 by 3. This is firm B A A firm A equilibrium output.

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Firm B's
equilibrium
Output $= \frac{1/4}{1 - 1/4} = \frac{1/4}{3/4} = \frac{1}{3}$

$\frac{1}{n+1}$ A
 B
 B

$\frac{1}{n+1} = \sum_{i=1}^n \frac{1}{n+1}$ $\frac{1}{n+1}$ no of firm

Similarly, we will find firm B's equilibrium output. So, firm B's equilibrium output one-fourth by 1 minus one-fourth. So, this is 1 by 4 divided by 3 by 4 which comes to 1 by 1

by 3 and for N number of firm what will be the industry output and what will be the firms output industry. Output will be n by $n + 1$ or to again discuss this is e is equal to 1 summation e 1 to n 1 by $n + 1$. What will be the individual firms output? $n + 1$ by $n + 1$. This will be the individual firms output both for A and B.

So, ideally what we want to check over here? We want to check over here is that when the action reaction pattern happens, they assume the same behavior from other firms and that is why, if you find some of this remain on utilize that is not being produced either by firm A or firm B and that is why they are just producing one-third of the total output of the market and remaining one-third is not being produced either by A and B.

Next, we will see, we will just take an example to understand this Cournot model. We will just take a numerical to understand the Cournot's model then and then, we will move into the next model that is Stackelberg model and Paul Sweezy kinked demand curve model.

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Cournot's Model

$$P = 100 - 0.5x \quad \text{- Demand function.}$$

$$C_A = 5x_A$$

$$C_B = 0.5x_B^2$$

Profit Maximizing level of output.

$$P = 100 - 0.5(x_A + x_B)$$

$$A's \text{ profit} = TR - TC$$

So, P is equal to 100 minus $0.5x$. This is the demand function, this is cost function of firm A which is a cost and cost function for firm B. It is the increasing cost function. We need to find out the profit maximizing level of output for both the firm A and B. How we will find out this? We generally take the profit maximizing rule that is marginal revenue is equal to marginal cost.

So, what is this P P? We can simplify this is as 100 minus 0.5 x A plus x B because this x is the total output is the summation of output of A and B. What will be the profit of A? What will the profit of firm A? That is total revenue minus total cost. What is total revenue over here?

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The whiteboard shows the following steps:

$$\begin{aligned} \pi_A &= TR - TC \\ &= P x_A - 5 x_A \\ &= [100 - 0.5(x_A + x_B)] x_A - 5 x_A \\ &= 100 x_A - 0.5 x_A^2 - 0.5 x_A x_B - 5 x_A \\ &= 95 x_A - 0.5 x_A^2 - 0.5 x_A x_B \\ &= 95 - x_A - 0.5 x_B = 0 \end{aligned}$$

The final result is boxed and labeled as the reaction function for firm A:

$$x_A = 95 - 0.5 x_B \quad \text{Reaction f. A}$$

So, total revenue minus total cost will give us the profit of A. So, this is P x A. This is the output, this is the price minus 5 x A, this is the cost function of the firm A. So, what is P x A? That is 100 minus 0.5, that is x. So, this x A plus x B multiplied by x A minus 5 x A. So, this is cost function, this is P and this x A. So, if you simplify this, then it comes to 100 x A minus 0.5 x A square plus, sorry if you open the bracket, this is minus plus minus 0.5 x A x B minus 5 x A. Simplifying this again, this is 95 x A because this 5 x A will get deducted from here minus 0.5 x A square minus 0.5 x A and x B simplifying this 95 minus x A minus 0.5 x B is equal to 0.

So, this is our marginal that is our profit. So, this comes to marginal revenue equal to minus marginal cost has to be equal to 0. So, this is 95. If you take the derivative, then this comes to 95. This comes to x A, this comes to 0.5 x b. So, if you simplify this in term of x A, this comes as 95 minus 0.5 x B. What is this x A in term of x B? This is the reaction function of A and this is the reaction function of A.

Similarly, we will find the reaction function of B and if you remember, what is the reaction function of A. This combination gives the maximum level of profit to the firm A. Similarly, we will now find it for B.

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$$x_B = 50 - 0.25x_A$$
 → Reaction curve function for B
 $x_A, x_B.$

$$x_B = 50 - 0.25x_A$$

$$= 50 - 0.25(95 - 0.5x_B)$$

$$= 50 - 23.75 + 0.125x_B$$

$$x_B = 30, x_A = 80.$$

$P = 45$

So, if this for x_B , we get is 50 minus 0.25 x_A . So, I am not just doing a detail calculation for B. You will need to follow the same formula to find out what we did for A, the same formula to find out the reaction curve function for B. Basically, you need to find out the π . Then, you need to maximize it. The π is the difference between total revenue total cost. You need to maximize this and then, solve for the value in term of x_B , in term of x_A and that will give us the reaction curve function for reaction curve function for B.

Now, to find this value of x_A and x_B , we need to put the reaction curve function of B in A and reaction and we can solve the value of x_A . So, in this case, we can find out x_B is equal to 50 minus 0.25 x_A . So, now what we will do? We will put the value of x_A in order to solve for x_B . So, this is equal to 50 minus 0.25 by 95 minus 0.5 x_B . So, that comes to 50 minus 23.75 plus 0.125 x_B .

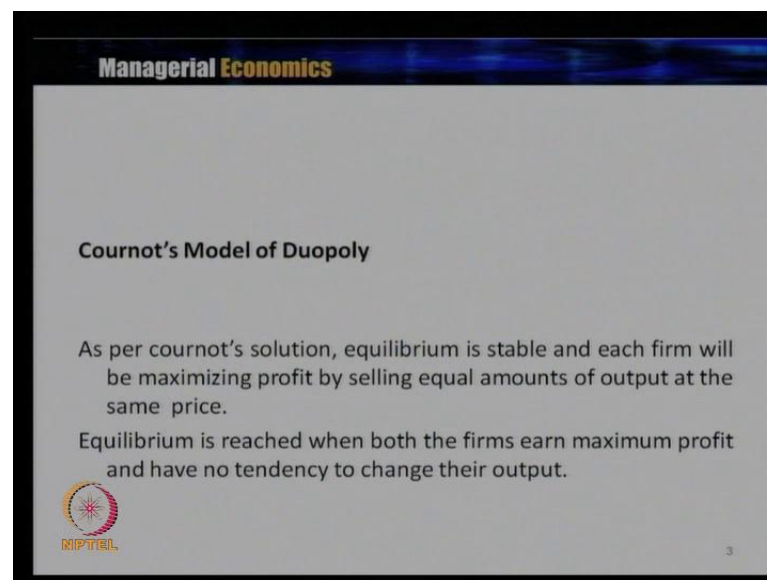
So, solving for this x_B will be equal to 30, x_A is equal to 80 and putting a value of x_A and x_B , that is 80 plus 30 that comes to 120 and putting the value of this, we will get the value of P which is equal to 45. So, this is the output of the B, this the output of A and

this is profit maximizing level of output of A and B using the Cournot model or generally using the reaction curve approach.

So, what we discuss of in case of Cournot model, this is a typical situation where two firms engage with each other. They know the interdependence, but they are not considering the fact that they are interdependent to each other in order to decide the output plan and that is the reason, when they are revising their plan. They are not considering what will be the rivals reaction to the revised plan and ultimately, they are reaching to a equilibrium which is stable, but in that case, they are not exploring the output to enter the market.

Here, we take the assumption that there is zero cost of production and we also discuss in case of Cournot model that when we assume the zero cost and there is a linear demand curve, the output of perfect, the output of monopoly is half of competitive output and duopoly output is the two-third of competitive output. So, to summarize this as per Cournot solution, equilibrium is stable and each firm will be maximizing profit by selling equal amount of output at the same price.

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Managerial Economics

Cournot's Model of Duopoly

As per cournot's solution, equilibrium is stable and each firm will be maximizing profit by selling equal amounts of output at the same price.

Equilibrium is reached when both the firms earn maximum profit and have no tendency to change their output.

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So, price same they are selling the equal amount of output like one-third of the total market and equilibrium is reached when both the firm earns maximum profit and have no tendency to change their output.

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Managerial Economics

Stackelberg's Model

- This sophisticated firm is able to determine the reaction curve of rival and is also able to incorporate it its own profit function.
- It acts as monopolist, the naive firm will act as follower.

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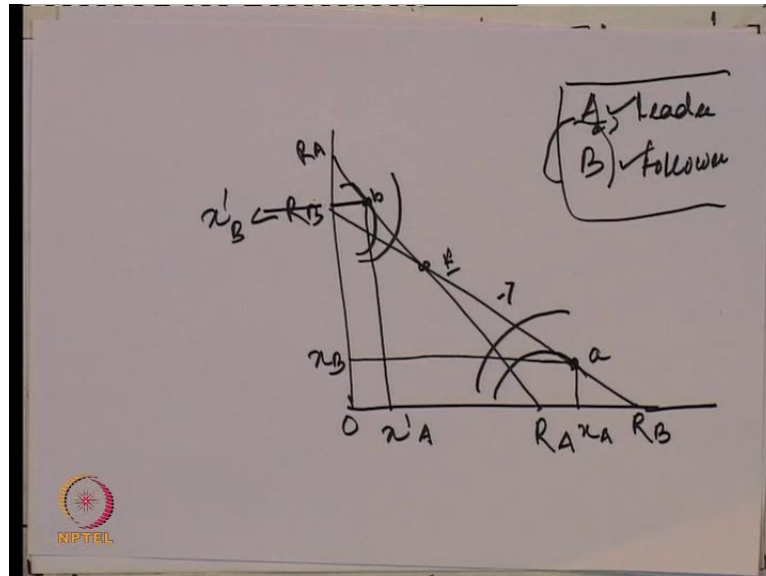
Then, we will take the case of another non-collusive model, that is generally known as the Stackelberg's model and this is the extension of the Cournot model and this is popularly known as the Leader Follower model. Here, one player is sufficiently sophisticated to recognize that the rivals firms act according to Cournot's assumption.

So, here one player, they feel that they recognize that rival firms, what is the rival firms reaction and what assumption they are taking when they are finding, when they are revising their output plan. So, this sophisticated firm, when they recognize that what will be the rivals plan or what is the reaction curve of the rival, they also able to incorporate that in their own profit function because they know now what the reaction curve function of the rival is. They act as monopolist; the naive firm will act as follower.

So, here how is it different from the Cournot's model? In case of Cournot model, when the firm, they were deciding about the output plan, they were not considering the reaction function of the other firm, but in case of this Stackelberg model, they consider this reaction. At least one of the firm who is sophisticated enough to understand or identify the reaction function of the other firm and they incorporate that in the profit function and that firm who has identified this, they generally act as the leader and the other firms act as follower. That is why it is also known as the leader follower model, this typical Stackelberg model. Both the firm is in equilibrium because they are

maximizing the profit before going into this equilibrium. We will see that ideally graphically how they reach to this equilibrium.

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So, this is the reaction curve of firm A and this is the reaction curve function of firm B. Now, this is the point where both the, so this is the profit and this is another profit for B. So, this is x does B and this is x does A. Similarly, this is the profit function for A. No, this is profit function of B. So, this also is profit function of A. This is A and this is B. So, R_B is the firm B reaction function, R_A is the firm A reaction function. Now, corresponding to this, here we have x_A and here we have x_B and e is the equilibrium output.

Now, let assume that A is firm. A is sophisticated enough and they operate in typically this R_A R_B R_A e R_A because their reaction curve function and they will produce A which is profit maximizing because the is profit curve which also is the reaction curve function. Now, in this case, A will produce $o x_A$ and B will produce $o x_B$. In this case, A is the leader and B is the follower. Now, suppose we will take the turn. We will suppose B is the sophisticated firm over here, what is the reaction function approach? The reaction function is again R_B , e is the reaction function. Reaction function for firm B is its equilibrium at the point B. So, B will produce $o x_B$ does and firm A will produce $o x$ does A.

So, if you look at whoever is sophisticated, they are producing more who is the leader. Whoever is not a sophistic their follower, they are generally paying. They are producing less like in case. In the first case, B is producing less and A is producing more and in the second case, B is producing more since B is the leader and A is producing less. Now, till the time the situation in one of them is leader, the other is follower or the reverse may happen that B is the leader and A is the follower. They will just the output will change because they are sophisticated.

Now, what happens when both of them they becomes sophisticated? Price war will continue. What is the outcome? Price war will continue, but price war is also not when if you sell for the oligopoly that also they know. So, initially when both of them they will be trying to sophistic, the sophisticated, they will be trying to be the leader in the market. Initially, price war will continue, but when they realize that price war is not going to benefit them, rather price war is going to benefit the consumer, they will stop over there. They will stabilize price over there and then, finally they get into the cartel.

So, Stackelberg model says what? Stackelberg model says that it is always profitable if one of them is leader and the other follower. Still the time the follower is also getting their share of profit and their share of output, but the question is that it will not continue for long run because if one firm is getting more profit because he knows that what is the reaction pattern of other firm, the other firms will also try to do it that in the long run and eventually, both of them were trying to be leader. That will lead to the price war and finally, it is a cartel. So, the end outcome, when you think about the end outcome of a Stackelberg model, still it is not determined fully that what should be the end outcome and where they should stop.

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Managerial Economics

Stackelberg's Model

- Both the firms in equilibrium because they are maximising their profits and have no tendency to change the output.
- Equilibrium is reached when each firm is able to assess the other's output correctly.
- This is achieved after a series of changes in output by each firm in anticipation of the other's output remaining unchanged.

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So, when it comes to monopoly's, both this typically both the firms in equilibrium because they are maximizing their profit and have no tendency to change the output. Typically, in the graph if you have seen at the point e and equilibrium is reached when each firm is able to asses to other output correctly and this is achieved after a series of change in the output by each firm in the anticipation of other outputs remaining unchanged like in the previous case. In case of Cournot model, we are discussing the action reaction pattern of both the firms. Finally, take them to the equilibrium and something happen. In case of Stackelberg model also, equilibrium is reached when each firm is able to assess the other's output correctly and this is not happened once. This generally happens after the action reaction pattern and in the anticipation that the other's output is remaining unchanged. Then, before going into the next model, we will just take a small numerical to understand this Stackelberg model.

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Stackenberg's Model
Demand function
 $P = 200 - Q$
 $MCA = MCB = 80$
 $P = 200 - (Q_A + Q_B)$
 $TRA = P \cdot Q_A = (200 - Q) Q_A$
 $= 200 \cdot Q_A - Q_A^2 - Q_A Q_B$

So, we have a demand function. This P is equal to 200 minus Q. Then, cost is fixed. MC A and MC B is equal to 80. So, P also we can say, this is 200 minus Q A plus Q B. What will be the revenue function of A? So, total revenue of A is P Q A. So, this is 200 minus Q by Q A which is 200 Q A. This is no minus here. 200 Q A minus Q square A minus Q A Q B because this Q is again Q A plus Q B.

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$TRA = 200 Q_A - Q_A^2 - Q_A Q_B$
 $MRA = \frac{d(TRA)}{dQ_A} = 200 - 2Q_A - Q_B$
 $MCA = 80$
 $MRA = MCA$
 $200 - 2Q_A - Q_B = 80$
 $Q_A = 60 - \frac{1}{2} Q_B$ Reaction function of A.

So, total revenue of A is 200 Q A minus Q square A minus Q A Q B and for marginal revenue of A, this is d T R A with respect to d Q A. So, this is 200 minus 2 Q A minus Q

B. Marginal cost of A is equal to 80. So, if marginal profit maximizing rule says that marginal revenue of A should be equal to marginal cost of A, so $200 - 2Q_A - Q_B$ should be equal to 80. So, Q_A is equal to $60 - \frac{1}{2}Q_B$ and this is generally the reaction function of A.

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Handwritten notes on a whiteboard:

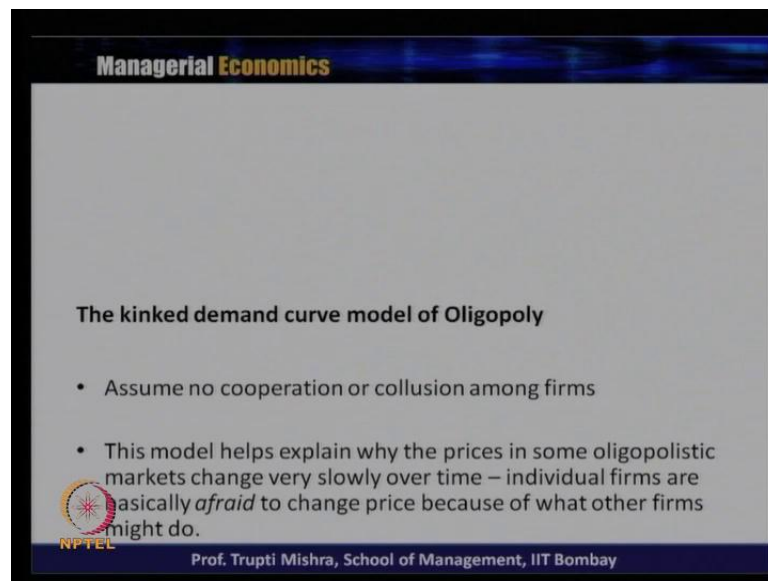
- Top left: $Q = 80$, $P = 12$, $Q_A = 40, Q_B = 40$
- Top right: $Q_B = 60 - \frac{1}{2}Q_A$ → Reaction function of B.
- Middle left: $P = 200 - Q$
- Middle left (circled): $= 200 - 80 = 120$
- Middle right: $Q_A = 60 - \frac{1}{2}Q_B$
- Middle right: $= 60 - \frac{1}{2}(60 - \frac{1}{2}Q_A)$
- Middle right: $= Q_A = 40, Q_B = 40$
- Bottom right: $Q = 80 (Q_A + Q_B)$

Similarly, for B we can find out Q_B is equal to I am not just getting into the detail of the derivation. So, Q_B is equal to $60 - \frac{1}{2}Q_A$. This is the reaction function of this is the reaction function of B. So, now to solve the value of Q and Q_B , we can just put the value of Q_A in equation of Q_B or Q_B in equation of Q_A . So, Q_A is equal to $60 - \frac{1}{2}Q_B$. So, $60 - \frac{1}{2}Q_A$, this is the value of Q_B . So, simplifying this, we will get Q_A is equal to 40 and Q_B also equal to 40. So, Q_A is equal to 40, Q_B is equal to 40 and Q has to be equal to 80. Since, it is $Q_A + Q_B$ and price is equal to $200 - Q$, so $200 - 80$. So, 120. So, Q is equal to 80, P is equal to 120, Q_A is equal to 40 and Q_B is equal to 40 with this demand function and cost using the Stackelberg model.

Then generally, how to solve this numerical or how to find out profit maximizing level of output for both the firms? Using the profit maximizing rule, we need to find out the reaction curve function for both the firms, that is for firm 1 and firm 2. From there, we can solve the value of output that is Q_A, Q_B or Q_1, Q_2 . Just porting the value of the others and that gives us the total output in the market and also the output specific to the firm.

So, here typically the reaction function, generally we say that this is the reaction function approach through which generally we get the individual firms output and the total market output. Then, we will get into the discussion of Kinked demand curve model. Kinked demand curve model is also one form of the non-collusive oligopoly model, where it assumes that there is no cooperation or no collusion among the firm. In case of a kinked demand curve model and this model generally explains us that why the price is rigid for the firms and at least in the oligopoly's market, why it changes very slowly over time.

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The slide is titled "Managerial Economics" and discusses the kinked demand curve model of oligopoly. It includes the following text:

The kinked demand curve model of Oligopoly

- Assume no cooperation or collusion among firms
- This model helps explain why the prices in some oligopolistic markets change very slowly over time – individual firms are basically *afraid* to change price because of what other firms might do.

The slide also features the NPTEL logo and the text "Prof. Trupti Mishra, School of Management, IIT Bombay" at the bottom.

So, individual firms basically afraid to change their price because of what other firms might do. So, if one firm change the possibility that the other firm may not do change and that is the reason they afraid to the change the price and that is the reason in case of oligopoly market may be decreasing price is not a. So, slow, but increasing price is slow because the others may not follow to this.


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Managerial Economics

**Sweezy's kinked demand curve
model of oligopoly**

Assumptions:

1. If a firm raises prices, other firms won't follow and the firm loses a lot of business.
So demand is very responsive or elastic to price increases.
2. If a firm lowers prices, other firms follow and the firm doesn't gain much business.
So demand is fairly unresponsive or inelastic to price decreases.

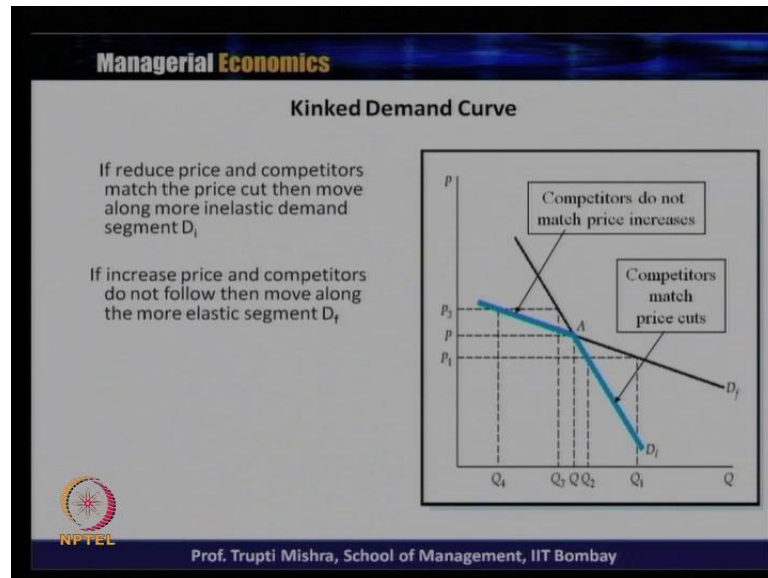
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Prof. Trupti Mishra, School of Management, IIT Bombay

There are certain assumptions we take in order to understand the kinked demand curve model. The first one is if a firm raises price, other firm would not follow and firm loses a lot of business. So, whenever there is an increase in the price, the other firm will not follow it automatically and that is why that firm who has raised the price, they generally lose a lot of business. So, demand is very responsive or elastic to price increase and if a firm lowers the price, other firm follows, but the firm does not gain much business.

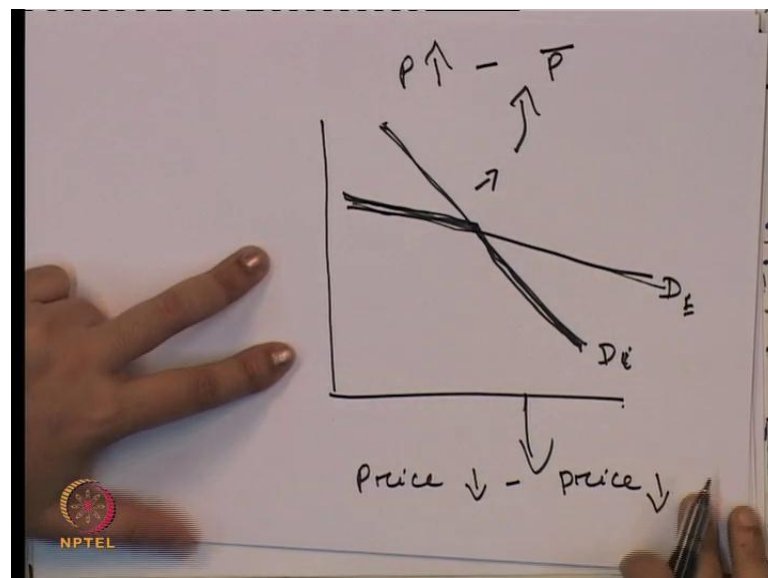
So, in these cases, if you look at if this part of the demand curve is inelastic because whenever one firm lowers the price, the other firm also lowers the price in order to get more market share or more demand. That is why in this case, the change in the price which is not affecting the quantity demanded of the firm much and that is why we get an inelastic demand curve. So, demand is very responsive or elastic to increase in the price and demand is fairly unresponsive and inelastic to price decrease.

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So, if you look at this graph, if you reduce price and competitor match the price, typically if you look at, now we are getting two set of the demand curve. One is the elastic demand curve and other is the inelastic demand curve. If we reduce price and competitor match the price, then move along that inelastic demand curve that is segment D_i and if increase in the price and competitor is not following that, then we get in the segment of the elastic.

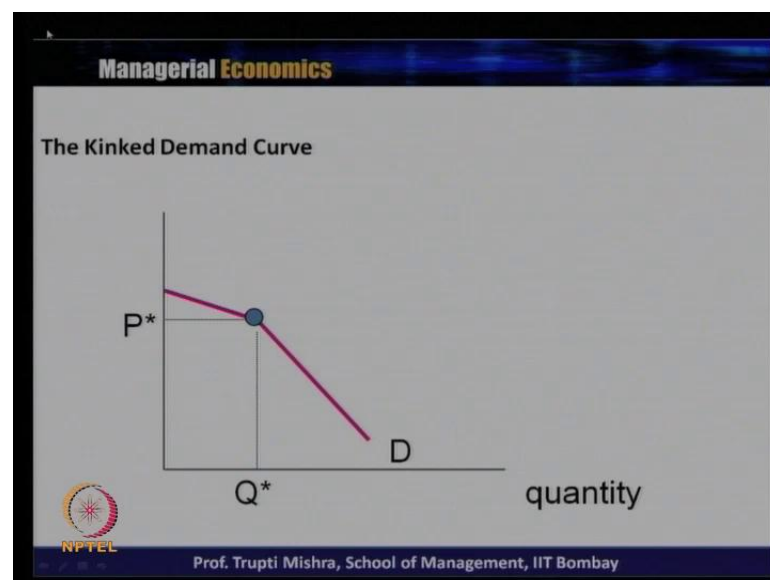
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So, we have two kind of demand curve. Now, one we have inelastic demand curve and we have elastic demand curve. So, this inelastic demand curve is when price decreases, other firm also decreases the price and elastic is the basis is that whenever there is an increase in the price, other firm keep the price constant. So, ideally what will be the demand curve for the firm? There are two segments. One segment of the elastic demand curve and one segment of the inelastic demand curve. So, this segment of the elastic demand curve because of the fact that whenever there is an increase in the price, the competitor they are not matching to it and this part of the demand curve is one whenever the price got happens, the other firms or the competitor also decreasing the price.

So, increase in the price, competitor price remains constant. Decrease in the price, the competitor also decreasing the price. That is why the demand curve of the firm has two segments. One is the elastic segment with respect to increase in the price and other is the inelastic segment that is with respect to decrease in the price. Remember that decrease in the price is generally followed by the competitor, but increase in the price is not followed by the competitor and that is why, we get two separate segments in the demand curve. One is the elastic segment and other is the inelastic segment.

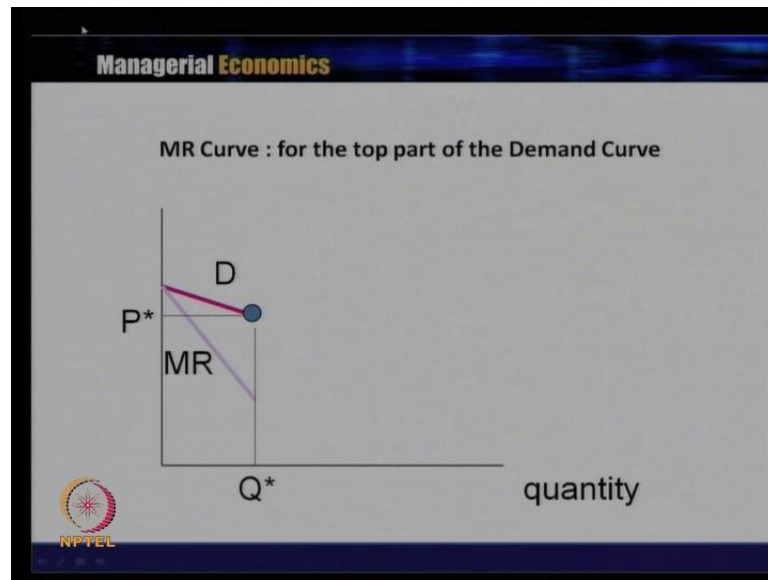
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So, this is generally the shape of the kinked demand curve, where the upper portion is elastic and the lower portion is inelastic. The upper portion comes from the elastic demand curve and in this segment, whenever there is an increase in the price because

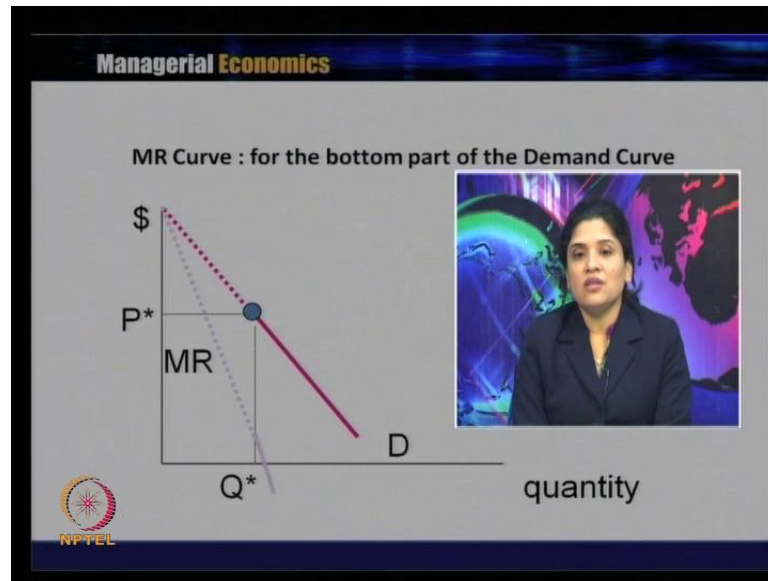
increase in the price, the competitor they are not going to follow it and the downward segment is the part of the inelastic segment, where whenever there is decrease in the price, competitor generally follows this.

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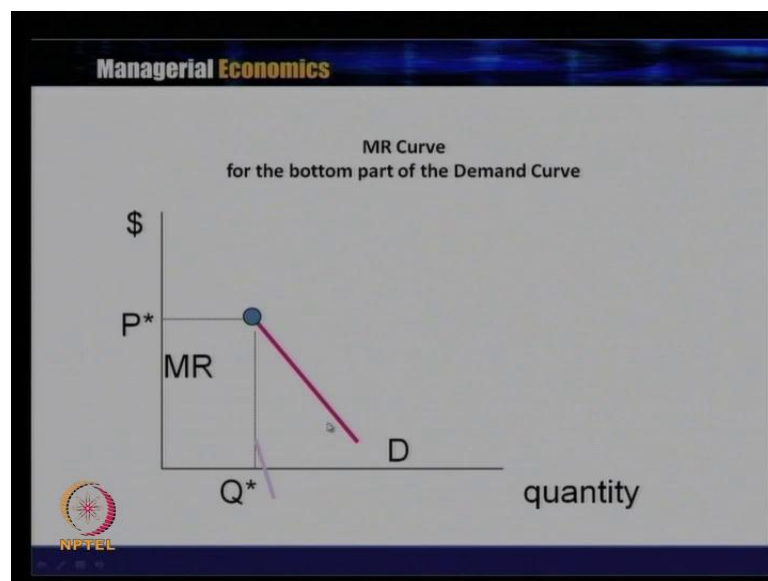
Now, how we get this marginal revenue curve here? We get this is the first case. This is the, we also get two marginal revenue curves here because since, we have two demand curves; we have two marginal revenue curves. The first segment of the marginal revenue curve comes from the top part of the demand curve which is the elastic demand curve. So, here this marginal revenue curve is with respect to the elastic segment of the demand curve.

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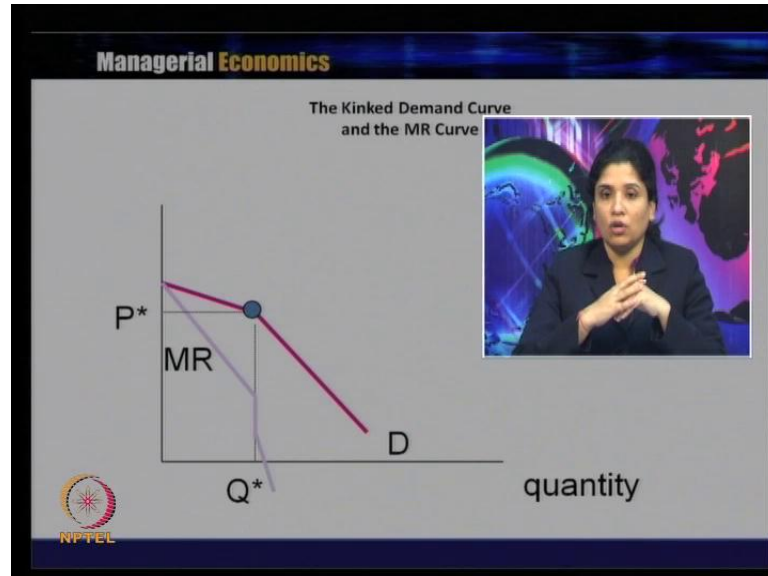
Then, we will see what the marginal revenue curve for the bottom segment is and for the marginal revenue curve or the bottom segment is again, it is a part of the inelastic demand curve. So, if you will find, there are two marginal revenue curves with respect to two demand curve because it is one demand curve, but it has two segments. One is the elastic segment and other one is the inelastic segment. So, one marginal revenue curve with respect to the elastic segment and the other marginal revenue curve with respect to the inelastic segment.

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So, this is for the bottom part of the demand curve and previously, it was the top part for the demand curve. So, this is inelastic part of the demand curve.

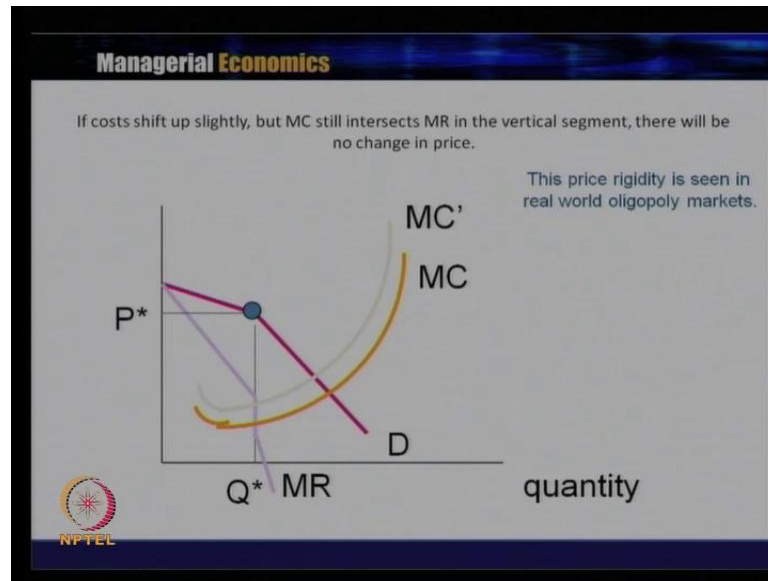
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So, this is generally the kinked demand curve and we have two marginal revenue curve. If you notice, here there is a gap between the two marginal revenue curves. Why there is a gap between two marginal revenue curves? Because our demand curve has kinked and at the point of the kinked, we have not able to decide which one is a marginal revenue curve.

So, if you look at demand curve is generally known as a kinked demand curve because it is kinked between the two segment of the demand curve, that is between the elastic segment and inelastic segment of the demand curve. Corresponding to the elastic segment, we have one marginal revenue curve and corresponding to the inelastic segment, we have another marginal revenue curve. At the corresponding to the point of kink, there is a gap between the marginal revenue curve 1 and marginal revenue curve 2. So, that is why in case of a kink demand curve, there is a gap between the marginal revenue curve 1 and marginal revenue curve 2.

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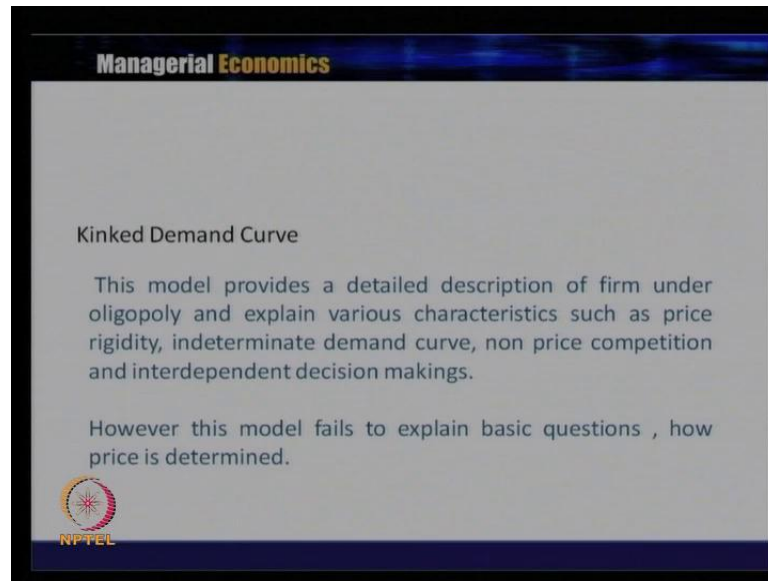


Now, the question comes how the marginal cost should be because we need to get the equality between the marginal revenue and marginal cost to get the profit maximizing level of output. The marginal cost should cut which segment of the marginal revenue curve? Whether the segment related to the elastic demand curve or whether the segment related to the inelastic demand curve.

So, marginal cost generally intersect the marginal revenue curve in the gap, in the vertical segment, in the gap between the marginal revenue 1 and marginal revenue 2 and whenever there is an increase in the marginal cost, if the cost shift up slightly, but marginal cost still intersect the marginal revenue in the vertical segment. There will be no change in the price because if any point of time if marginal cost goes to marginal revenue 1, that is elastic segment or to the inelastic segment, still it will not considered as for the whole demand curve, whole kink demand curve. That is why, we will find that there is price rigidity and this is the outcome of the price rigidity that we get two levels of marginal revenue curves and the marginal cost curve is not going for the marginal revenue 1 or marginal revenue 2, rather it is in the gap.

So, even if there is an increase in the cost till the firm is not changing the price because if it is changing the price, again it may lead to a situation that the other firm will not follow it and they will get into the loss.

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Managerial Economics

Kinked Demand Curve

This model provides a detailed description of firm under oligopoly and explain various characteristics such as price rigidity, indeterminate demand curve, non price competition and interdependent decision makings.

However this model fails to explain basic questions , how price is determined.

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So, kinked demand model, generally it provides the explanation, detailed description of firm under oligopoly and it explains the various characteristics, such as price rigidity, why there is an indeterminate demand curve, non-price competition and independent decision making, but this model fails to explain a basic question that how price is determined because it is really forgiven when the price decided in the gap in the vertical segment between marginal revenue 1 and marginal revenue 2. That is why this model is criticized on the ground that it fails to explain the basic question of any model that how the price and output is determined because we have a kinked demand curve and we have a two level of marginal revenue curve that is marginal revenue 1 and marginal revenue 2.

So, we will just take a numerical to understand that when you take a numerical, when you take a real production function, when we take a demand function cost function, whether we get the gap between the marginal revenue 1 and marginal revenue 2 with respect to two different demand, and whether the marginal cost also pass through the vertical segment or the gap between the marginal revenue 1 and marginal revenue 2.

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Kinked Demand

$$Q_1 = 28 - 4P_1$$
$$Q_2 = 10 - P_2$$
$$TC = \frac{1}{4}Q^2 + Q + 50$$

MR₁, MR₂, MC, Price,
Output,
Upper & lower limit of
MR,
MC falls in the
gap of two MR

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So, we will take two demand functions. We will take a h Q 1 and we will take h Q 2. So, we have two demand functions. One is 28 minus 4 P 1 and second is 10 minus P 2. We will take a total cost function, that is 1 4 Q square plus Q plus 50 and we need to find out the marginal revenue for both the firms, marginal cost price output and we need to see what is the upper and lower limit of M R because that will tell us whether there is a vertical segment or gap between marginal revenue or not and whether M C falls in the gap of M R or not.

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$$Q_1 = 28 - 4P_1$$
$$P_1 = 7 - \frac{1}{4}Q_1$$
$$Q_2 = 10 - P_2$$
$$P_2 = 10 - Q_2$$
$$TR_1 = P_1 Q_1 = 7Q_1 - \frac{1}{4}Q_1^2$$
$$MR_1 = 7 - \frac{1}{2}Q_1 \checkmark$$
$$TR_2 = P_2 Q_2 = 10Q_2 - Q_2^2$$
$$MR_2 = 10 - 2Q_2 \checkmark$$

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So, to start with, we will find out, since we have Q_1 is equal to $28 - 4P_1$, we will find P_1 is equal to $7 - \frac{1}{4}Q_1$. Q_2 is equal to $10 - P_2$. So, P_2 is equal to $10 - Q_2$. Total revenue 1 is $P_1 Q_1$. So, that comes to $7Q_1 - \frac{1}{4}Q_1^2$ and corresponding to this, we will get the marginal revenue 1 that is $7 - \frac{1}{2}Q_1$. Similarly, total revenue 2 is $P_2 Q_2$. So, this is $10Q_2 - Q_2^2$. Marginal revenue 2 is $10 - 2Q_2$.

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$TC = \frac{1}{4}Q^2 + Q + 50$
 $MC = 1 + \frac{1}{2}Q$
 $MC = 1 + \frac{1}{2}Q$
 $= 1 + \frac{1}{2} \cdot 4$
 $= \boxed{3} \checkmark$

At the kink,
 $Q = Q_1 = Q_2$
 $7 - \frac{1}{4}Q = 10 - Q$
 $Q = 4 \checkmark$
 $P = 6 \checkmark$

$MR_1 = 7 - \frac{1}{2} \cdot 4 = \boxed{5} \checkmark$
 $MR_2 = 10 - 2 \cdot 4 = \boxed{2} \checkmark$

We now have marginal revenue 1 and we have now marginal revenue 2. We will find out the marginal cost from our total cost function. So, total cost function is $\frac{1}{4}Q^2 + Q + 50$. So, marginal cost will come as $1 + \frac{1}{2}Q$ and if you look at the kink, at the point of kink, both the demand curve should intersect. To get this intersection, we have to do is equal to Q is equal to Q_1 plus Q_1 equal to Q_2 . So, $7 - \frac{1}{4}Q$ is equal to $10 - Q$. So, Q is equal to 4 and P is equal to 6.

So, taking the value of Q and P , marginal revenue 1 is equal to $7 - \frac{1}{2} \cdot 4$ that is equal to 5. Marginal revenue 2 is equal to $10 - 2 \cdot 4$. So, that is 2. So, marginal revenue 1 is 5. Marginal revenue 2 is 2. Now, we need to find out MC . So, MC is equal to $1 + \frac{1}{2}Q$. So, this comes to $1 + \frac{1}{2} \cdot 4$. So, this comes to 3. So, we can say that Q is equal to 4. This is the output. P is equal to 6. We have a first segment of MR is equal to 5. The value of second segment of MR is equal to 2 and MC is equal to

3. So, we can also prove that the $M C$ falls in the gap of 2 level of $M R$ that is marginal revenue 1 and marginal revenue 2.

So, today we discussed about typically in this session, we discussed about the Cournot model, Stackelberg model and kinked demand curve model and all these 3 models are part of non-collusive oligopoly model. In the next session, we will discuss about the collusive oligopoly model, typically the cartels and the price leadership model.