

- Adds revenue from sale of more units, and
- Causes value of each unit to decrease

$$\frac{dR}{dy} = \frac{\partial R}{\partial y} + \frac{\partial R}{\partial p} \frac{dp}{dy}$$

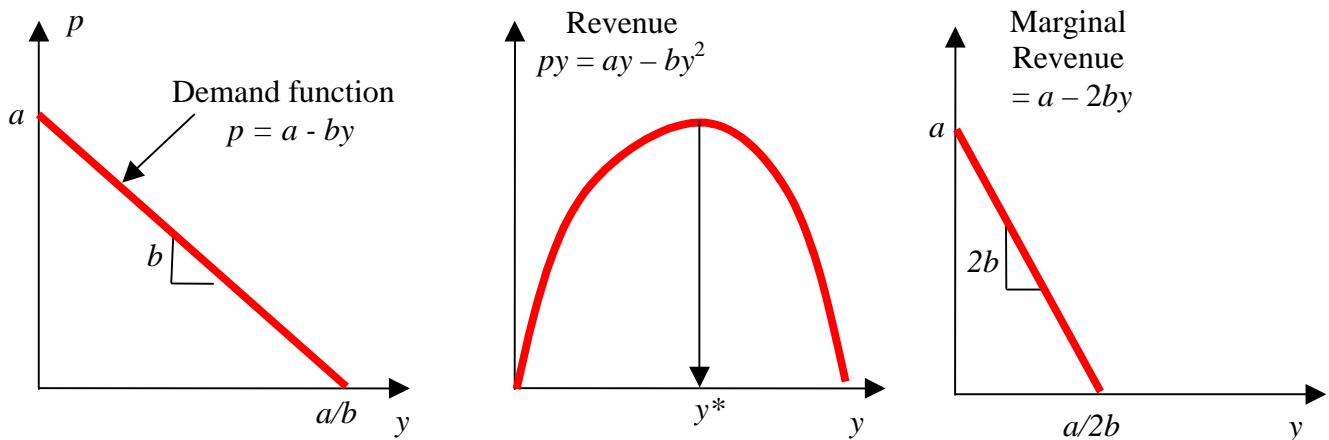
$$= p + y \frac{dp}{dy}$$

- Competitive firm: p is constant $p' = \frac{dp}{dy} = 0$
- Monopolistic firm: p is not constant $p' = \frac{dp}{dy} \neq 0$

Example

Linear demand function $p(y) = a - by$

- Revenue $R = py = ay - by^2$ $\frac{dR}{dy} = a - 2by$
- Marginal revenue
- marginal revenue slope is twice demand curve



The Firm's Problem – 2nd Way

- Minimize cost

$$\text{minimize } \sum_{n=1}^N w_n x_n$$

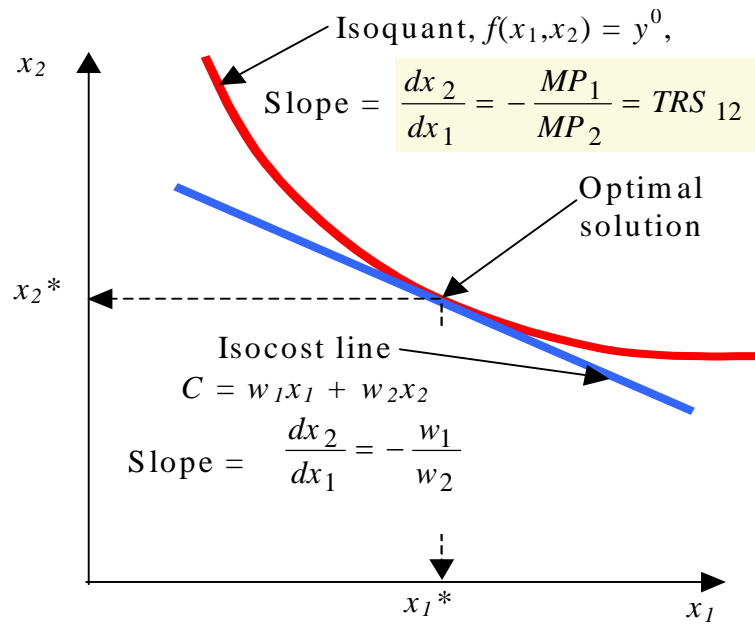
subject to

$$f(x_1, \dots, x_N) = y_0$$

- Optimality conditions $\frac{\partial L}{\partial x_n} = w_n - \lambda \frac{\partial f}{\partial x_n} = 0 \quad n = 1, \dots, N$
- $\frac{\partial L}{\partial \lambda} = f - y_0 = 0$

Technical rate of substitution equals price ratio

$$\frac{w_i}{w_j} = \frac{MP_i}{MP_j} = -TRS_{ij}$$



Cost Functions

Cost to producing level, y_0

$$TC(y) = \min\{w \cdot x : y = f(x)\}$$

- **Cost comprised of fixed and variable** costs
- **Average cost is** cost per unit to produce y units
- **Marginal cost** is cost of producing an additional unit

$$TC(y) = FC + VC(y)$$

$$AC = \frac{TC(y)}{y}$$

$$MC = \frac{dTC}{dy} = \frac{dVC}{dy}$$

Example – Competitive Firm

- How much water should a water industry firm sell (produce) and at what price?
- Firm's problem

Optimality conditions

$$\text{Maximize } \pi(y) = py - TC(y)$$

$$\frac{d\pi}{dy} = 0 = \frac{dp}{dy}y + p - \frac{dTC}{dy}$$

$$MR(y) = \frac{dp}{dy}y + p = MC(y)$$

Competitive firm

$$p' = \frac{dp}{dy} = 0$$

$$p = MC$$

