

# Basic concepts of microeconomics and industrial organization: Demand function

Giovanni Marin

Department of Economics, Society, Politics Università degli Studi di Urbino 'Carlo Bo'

## Demand function

- The market consists of all buyers and sellers of a good or service
- The demand curve tells us the quantity of a good that buyers wish to buy at each price
- Properties of the demand function
  - As price of a good or service goes down the quantity consumers wish to buy will increase
  - Therefore, the demand curve is downward-sloping
- Alternative interpretation
  - As price of a good or service goes down, the number of individuals that purchase one unit of the good increases

## Demand function

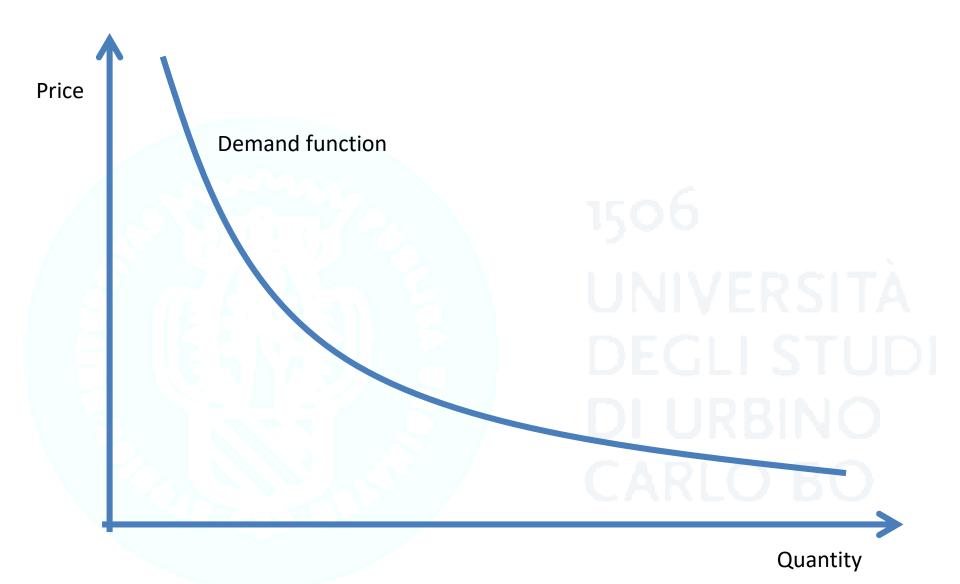
 Why do buyers purchase a greater quantity at lower prices and vice-versa?

#### - Substitution effect

 Change in the quantity demanded of a good because buyers switch to other goods when the relative prices changes

#### Income effect

 Change in the quantity demanded of a good due to the change in buyer's purchasing power (i.e. wealth) due to the change in the price of the good



## Demand function

### Reservation price

- The reservation price is monetary value of the benefit the buyer receives from the good
- If the reservation price exceeds the market price the consumer will purchase the good

