



INTERMEDIATE
MICROECONOMICS

NINTH EDITION

HAL R. VARIAN

Chapter 24

Industry Supply

Supply From A Competitive Industry

- ◆ **How are the supply decisions of the many individual firms in a competitive industry to be combined to discover the market supply curve for the entire industry?**

Supply From A Competitive Industry

- ◆ **Since every firm in the industry is a price-taker, total quantity supplied at a given price is the sum of quantities supplied at that price by the individual firms.**

Short-Run Supply

- ◆ In a short-run the number of firms in the industry is, temporarily, fixed.
- ◆ Let n be the number of firms;
 $i = 1, \dots, n$.
- ◆ $S_i(p)$ is firm i 's supply function.

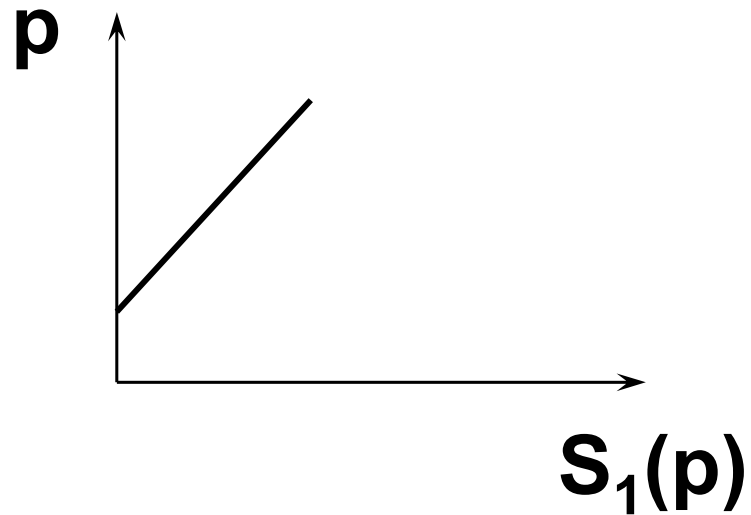
Short-Run Supply

- ◆ In a short-run the number of firms in the industry is, temporarily, fixed.
- ◆ Let n be the number of firms;
 $i = 1, \dots, n$.
- ◆ $S_i(p)$ is firm i 's supply function.
- ◆ The industry's short-run supply function is

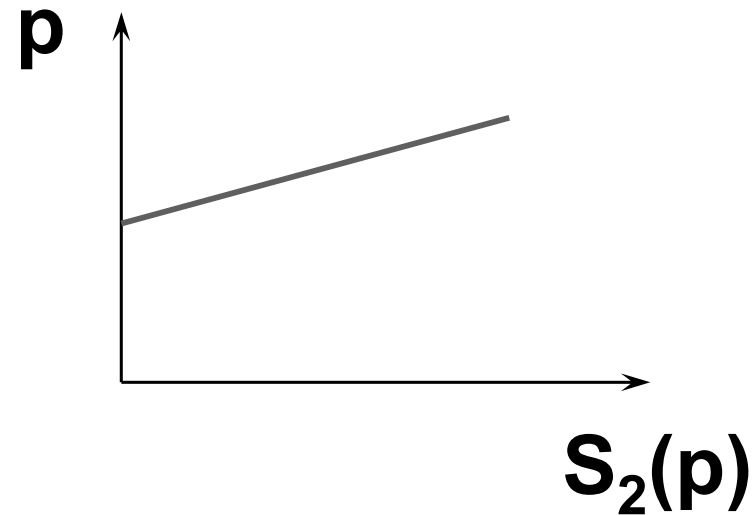
$$S(p) = \sum_{i=1}^n S_i(p).$$

Supply From A Competitive Industry

Firm 1's Supply

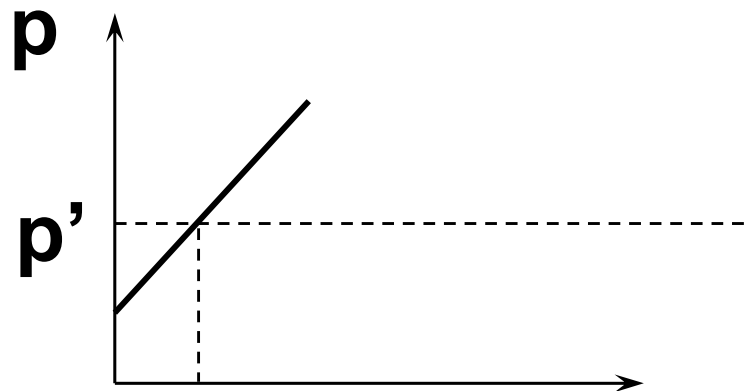


Firm 2's Supply

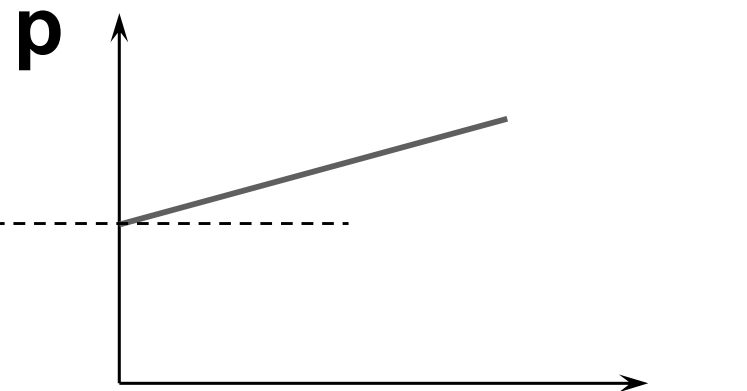


Supply From A Competitive Industry

Firm 1's Supply



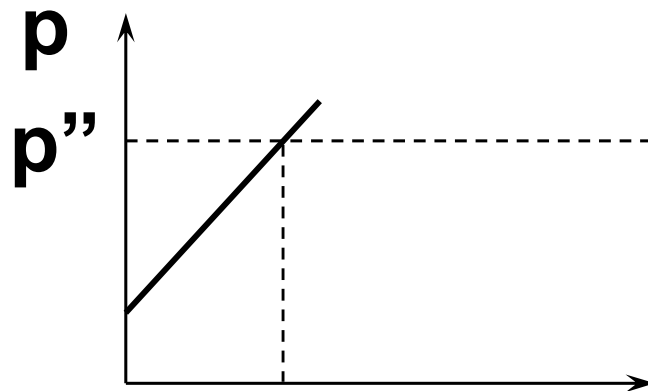
Firm 2's Supply



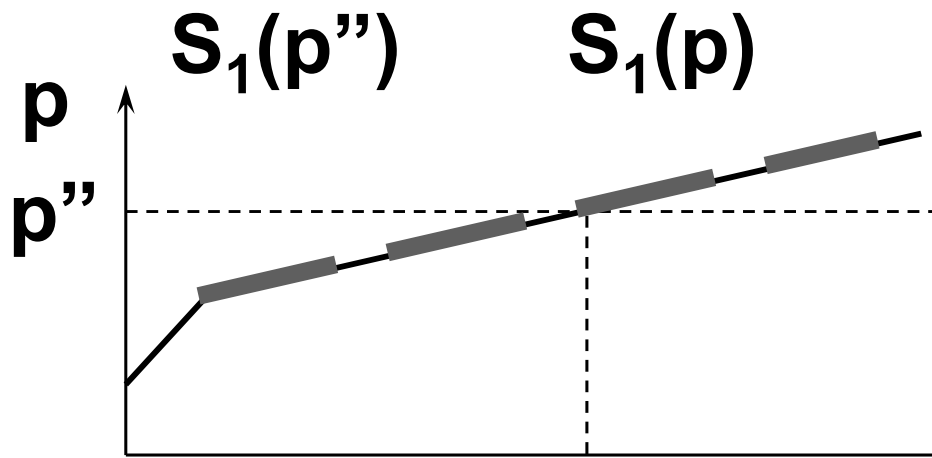
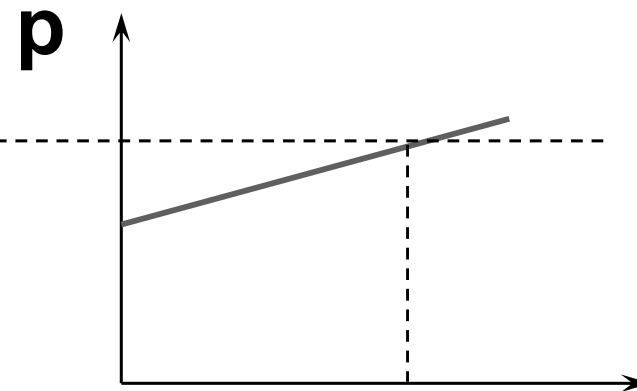
Industry's Supply

Supply From A Competitive Industry

Firm 1's Supply



Firm 2's Supply



$S_1(p'')$

$S_1(p)$

$S_2(p'')$

$S_2(p)$

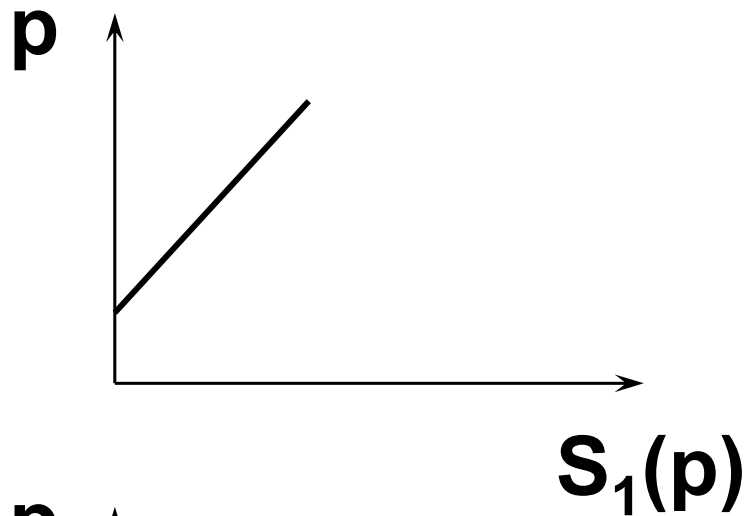
$S_1(p'') + S_2(p'')$

$S(p) = S_1(p) + S_2(p)$

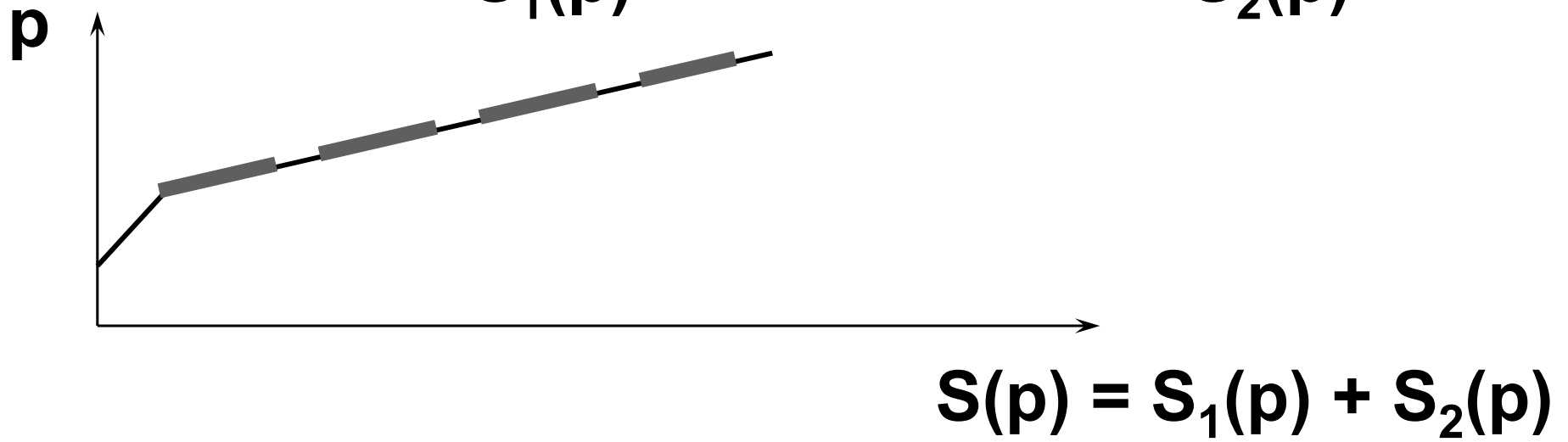
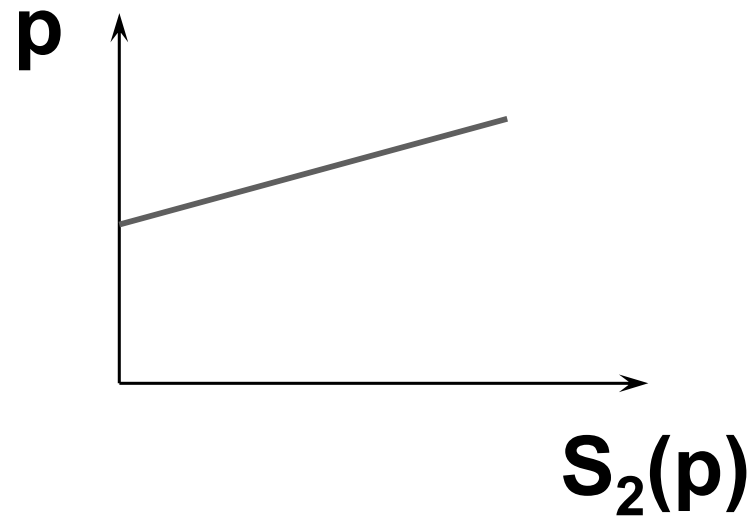
Industry's Supply

Supply From A Competitive Industry

Firm 1's Supply



Firm 2's Supply

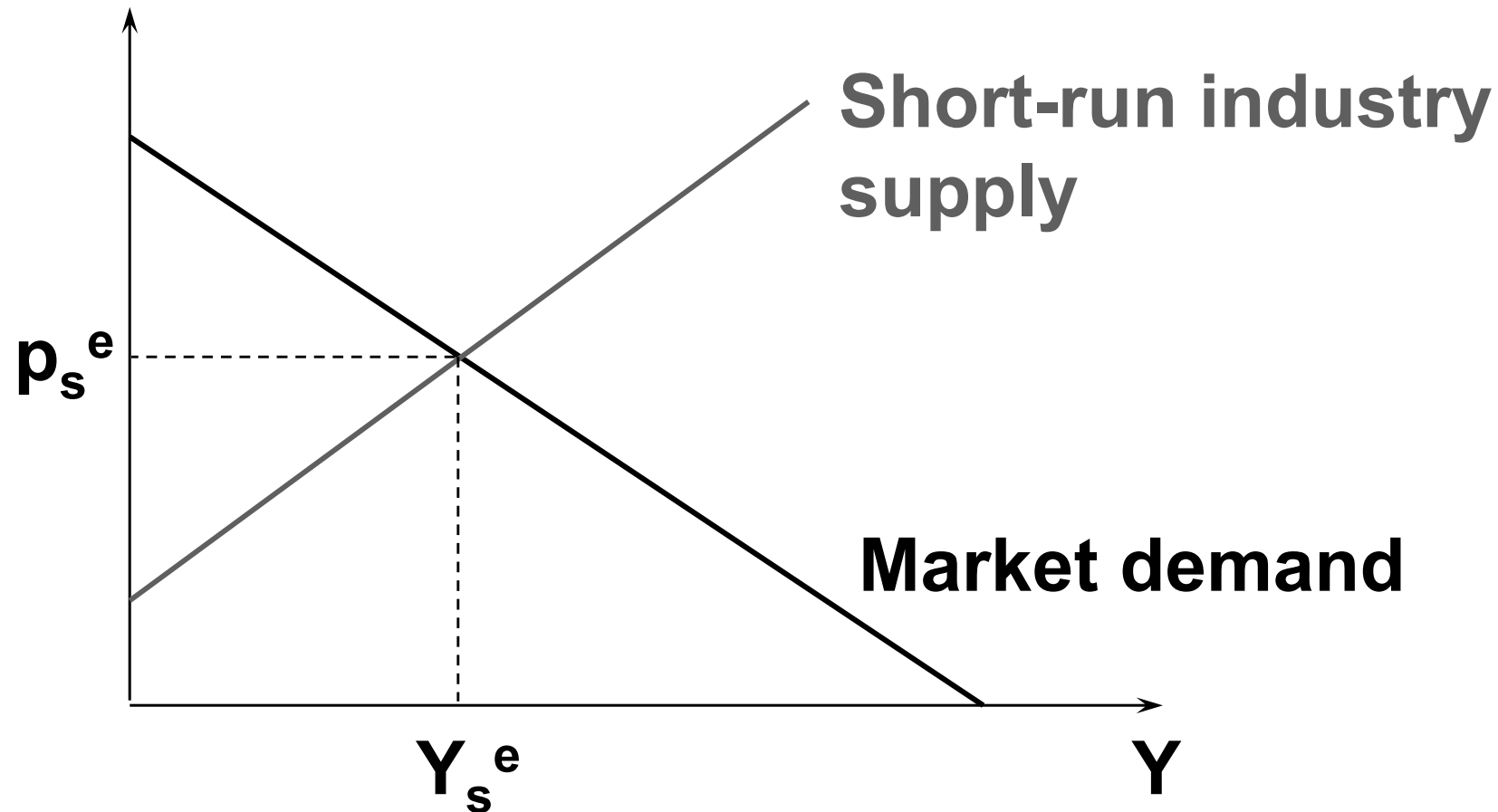


Industry's Supply

Short-Run Industry Equilibrium

- ◆ **In a short-run, neither entry nor exit can occur.**
- ◆ **Consequently, in a short-run equilibrium, some firms may earn positive economics profits, others may suffer economic losses, and still others may earn zero economic profit.**

Short-Run Industry Equilibrium



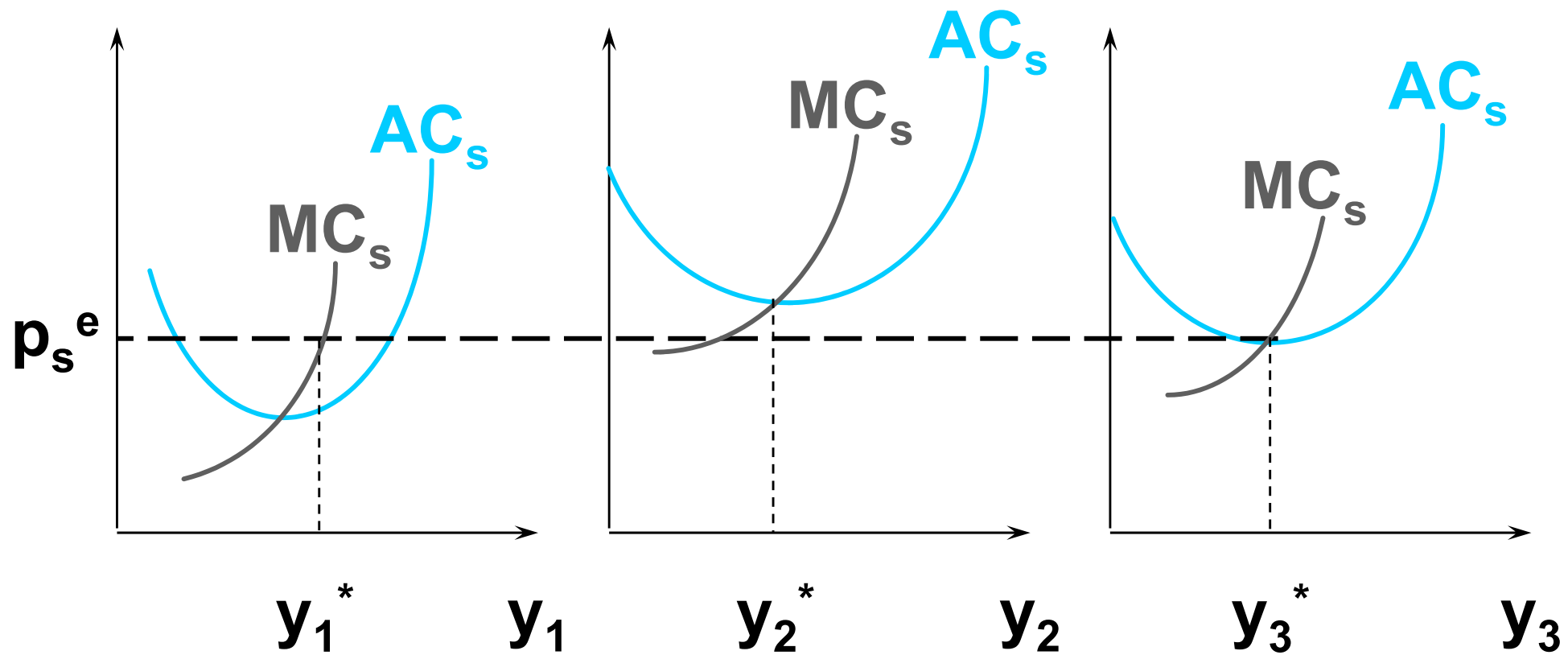
Short-run equilibrium price clears the market and is taken as given by each firm.

Short-Run Industry Equilibrium

Firm 1

Firm 2

Firm 3

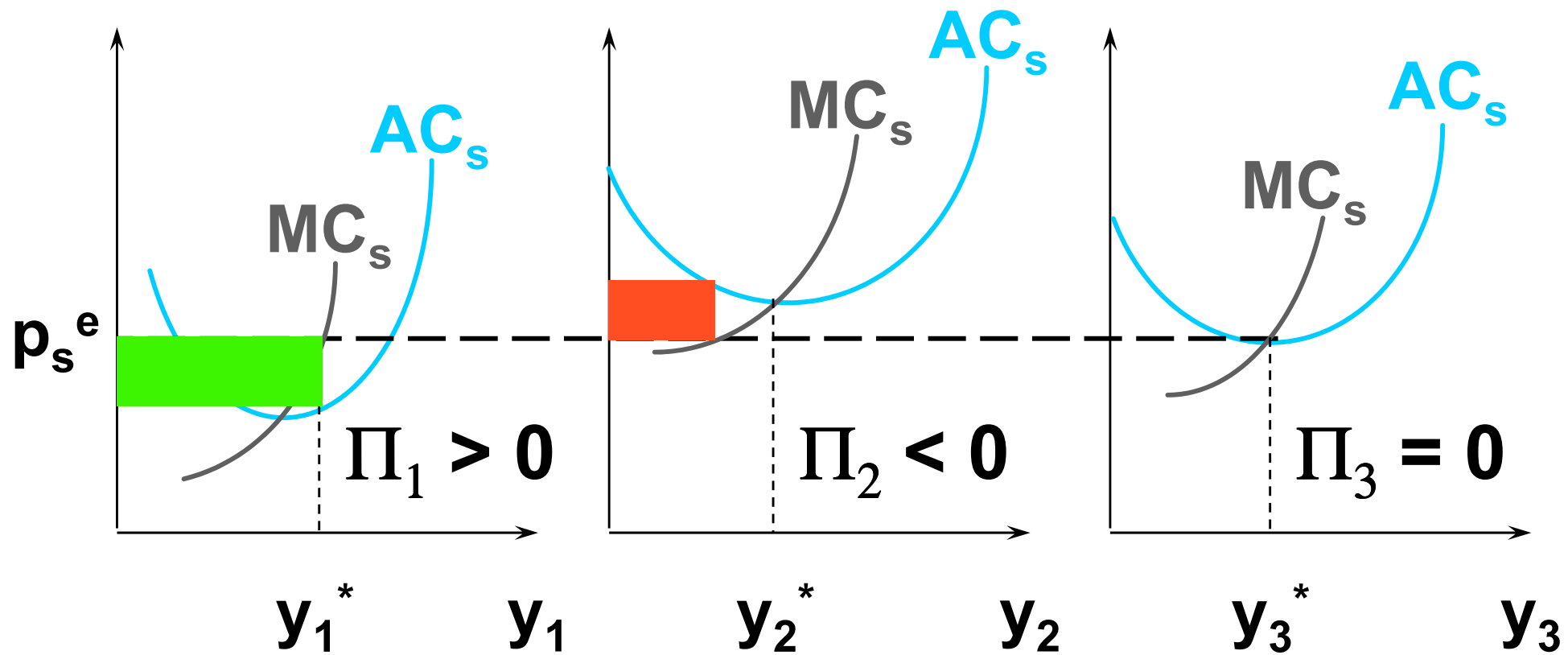


Short-Run Industry Equilibrium

Firm 1

Firm 2

Firm 3

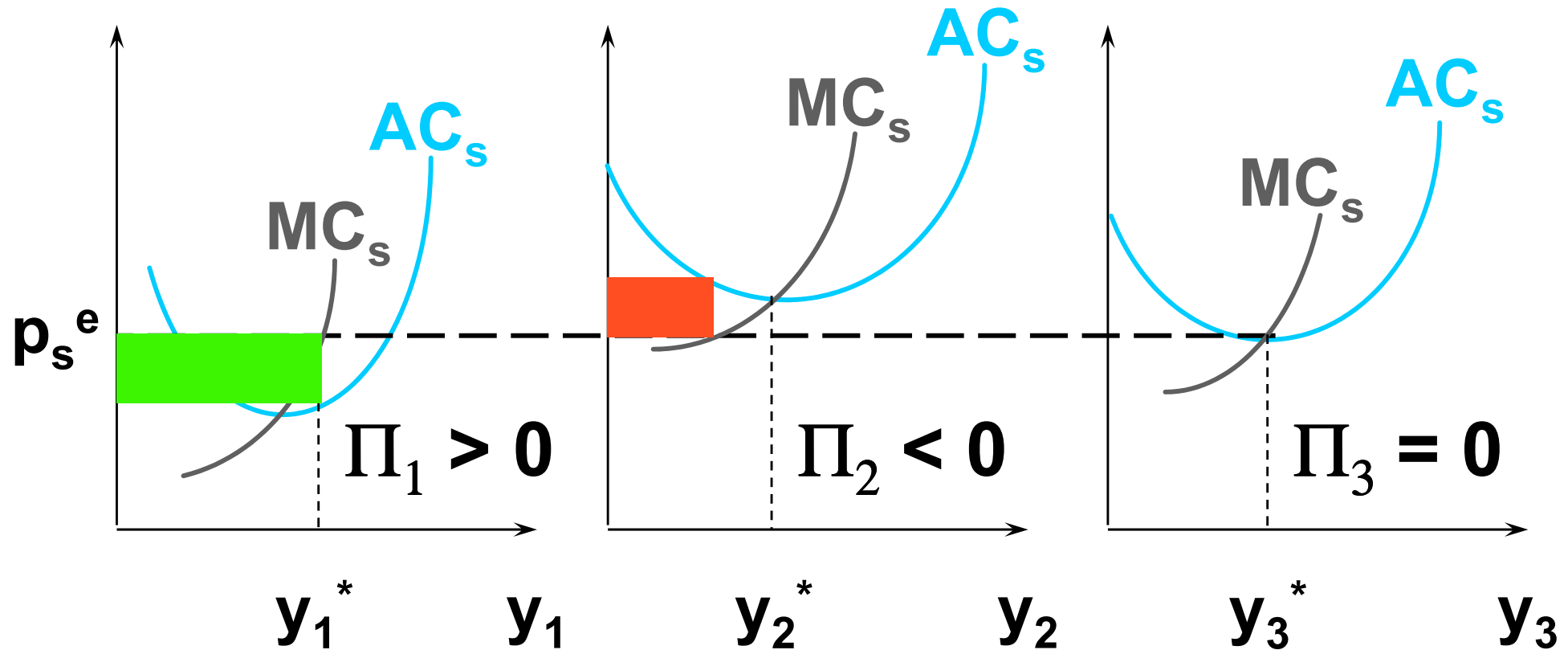


Short-Run Industry Equilibrium

Firm 1

Firm 2

Firm 3



Firm 1 wishes to remain in the industry.

Firm 2 wishes to exit from the industry.

Firm 3 is indifferent.

Long-Run Industry Supply

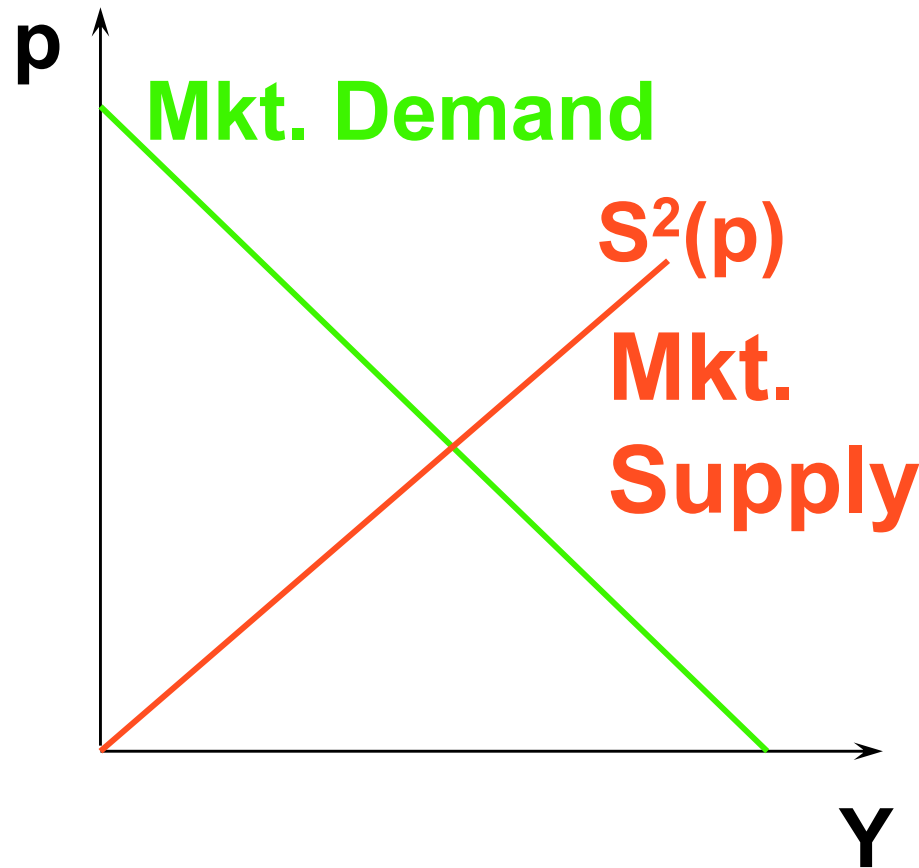
- ◆ **In the long-run every firm now in the industry is free to exit and firms now outside the industry are free to enter.**
- ◆ **The industry's long-run supply function must account for entry and exit as well as for the supply choices of firms that choose to be in the industry.**
- ◆ **How is this done?**

Long-Run Industry Supply

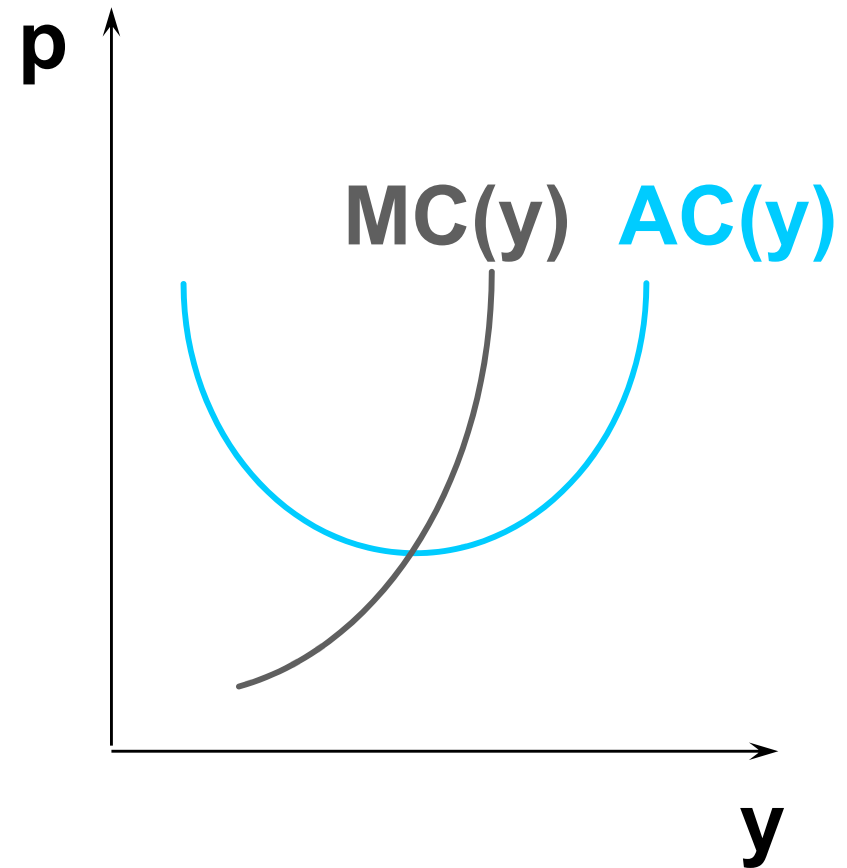
- ◆ **Positive economic profit induces entry.**
- ◆ **Economic profit is positive when the market price p_s^e is higher than a firm's minimum av. total cost;**
$$p_s^e > \min AC(y).$$
- ◆ **Entry increases industry supply, causing p_s^e to fall.**
- ◆ **When does entry cease?**

Long-Run Industry Supply

The Market



A "Typical" Firm

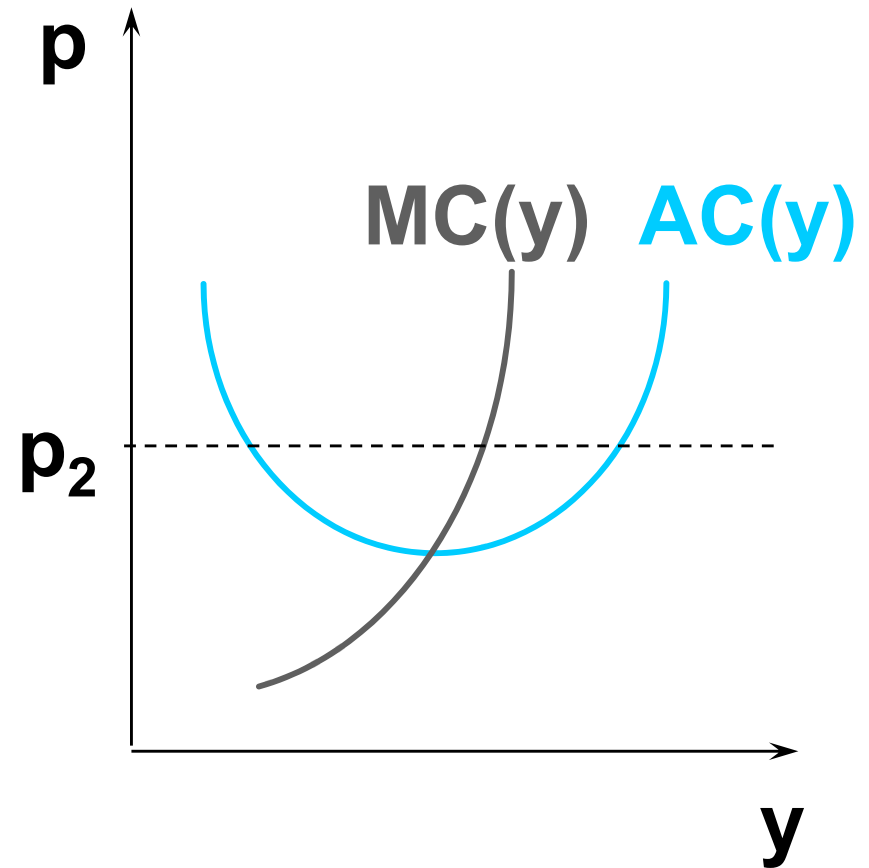
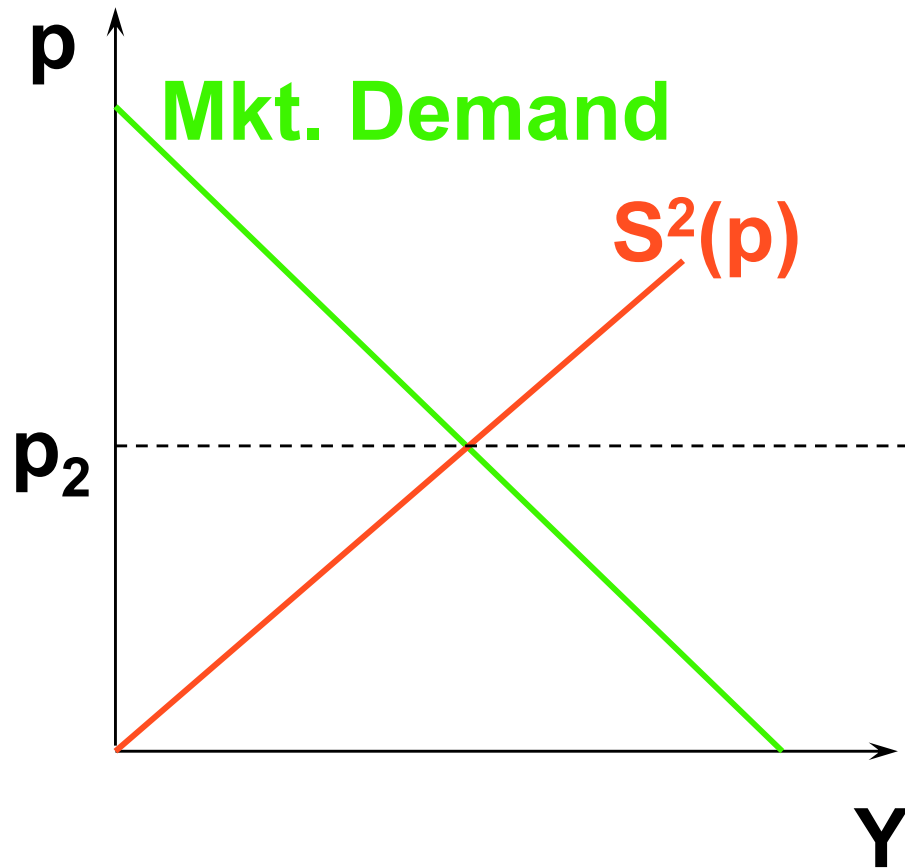


Suppose the industry initially contains only two firms.

Long-Run Industry Supply

The Market

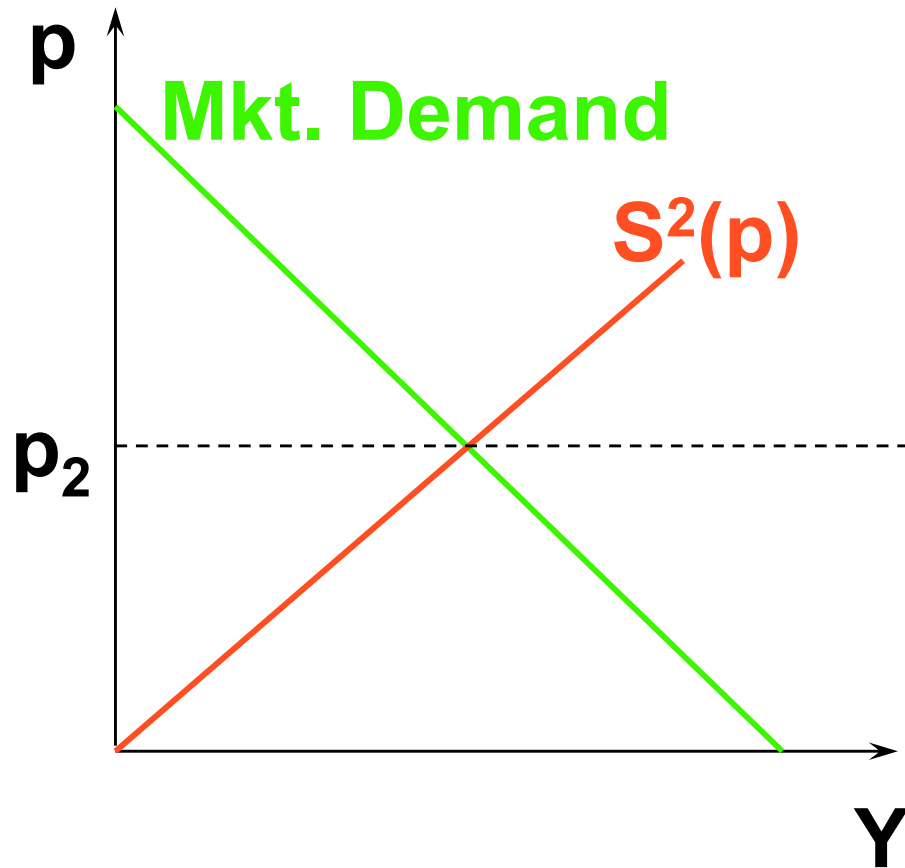
A "Typical" Firm



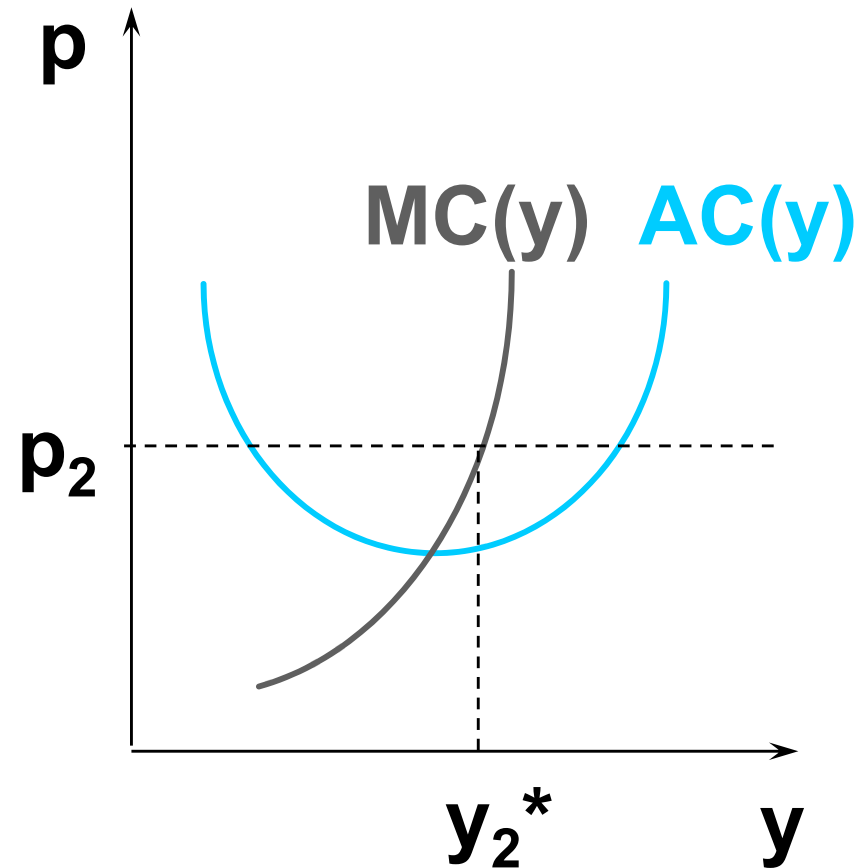
Then the market-clearing price is p_2 .

Long-Run Industry Supply

The Market



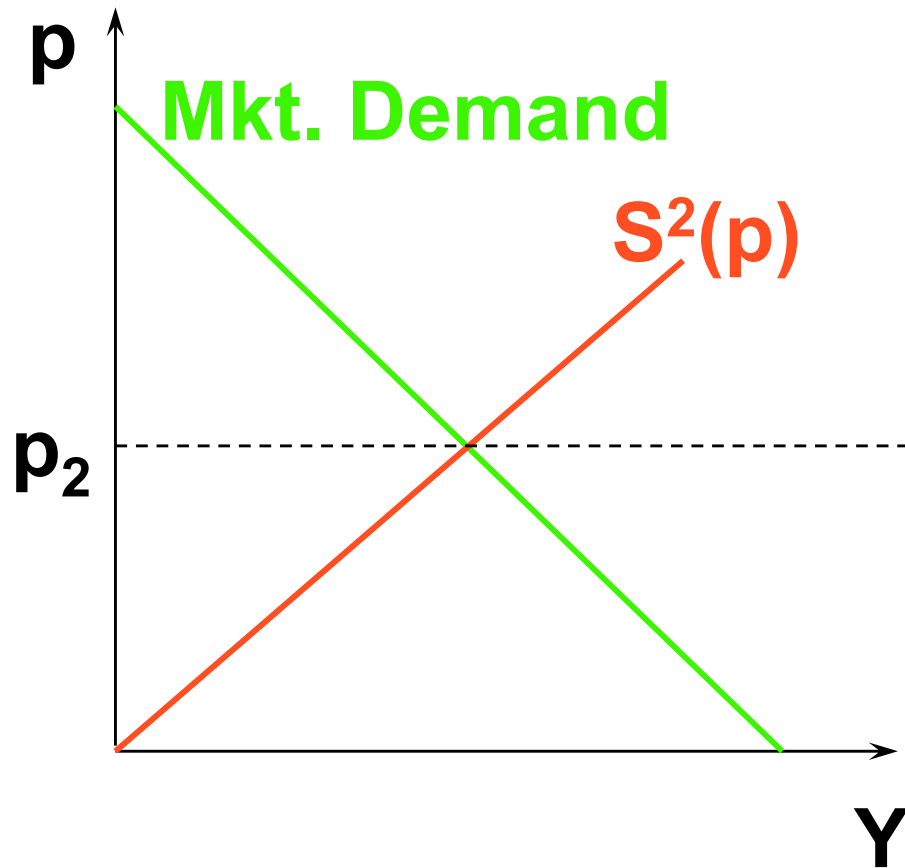
A "Typical" Firm



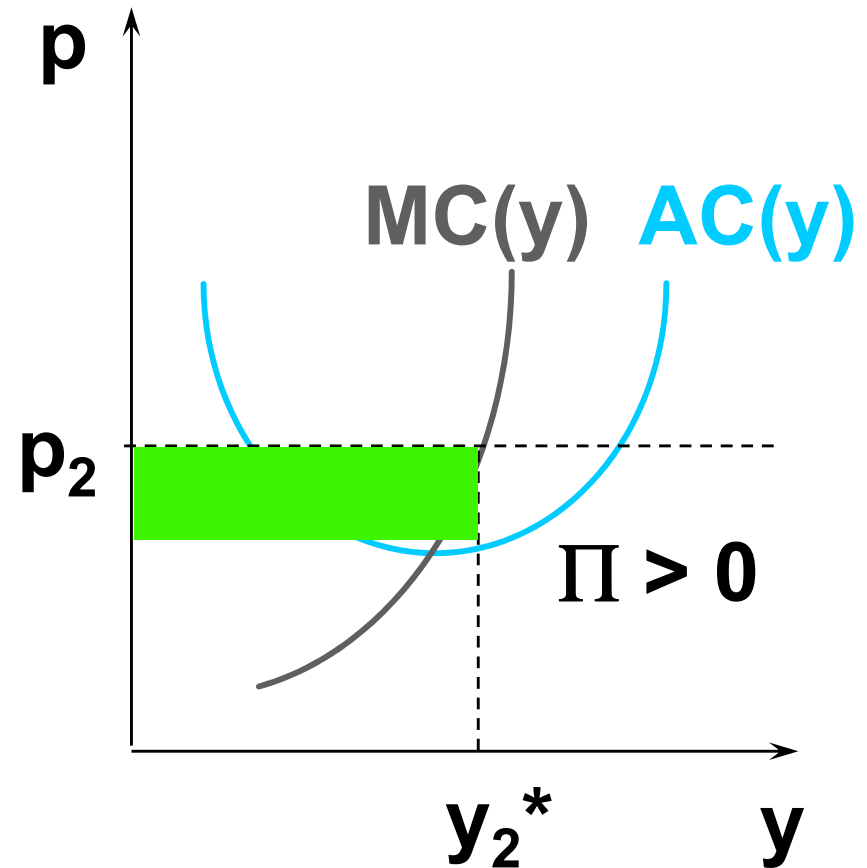
Then the market-clearing price is p_2 .
Each firm produces y_2^* units of output.

Long-Run Industry Supply

The Market



A "Typical" Firm

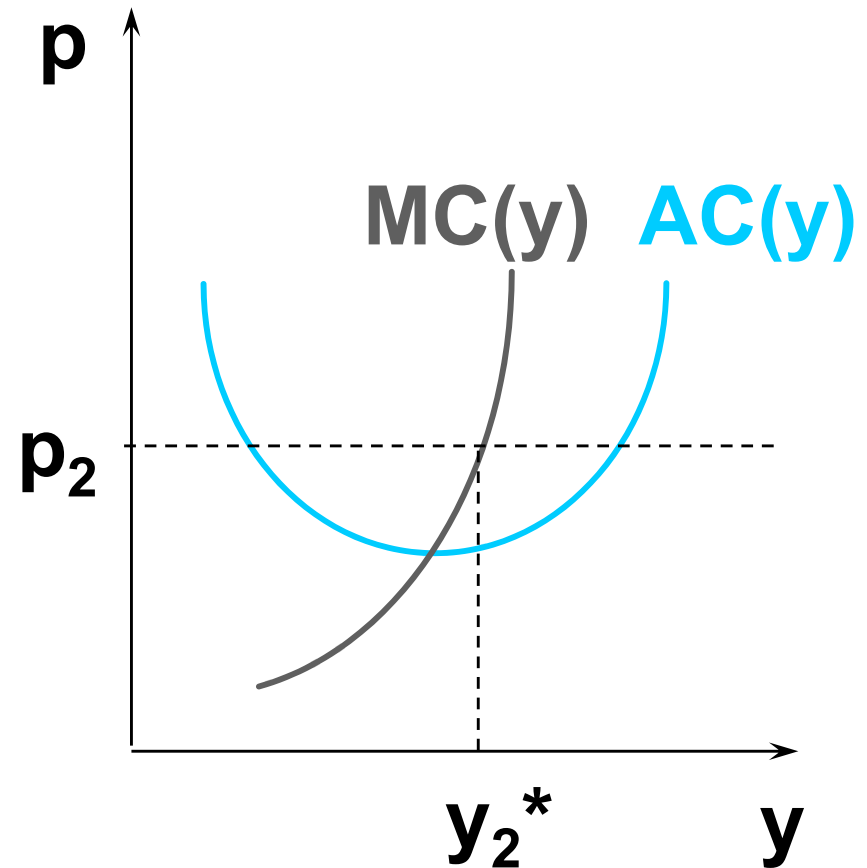
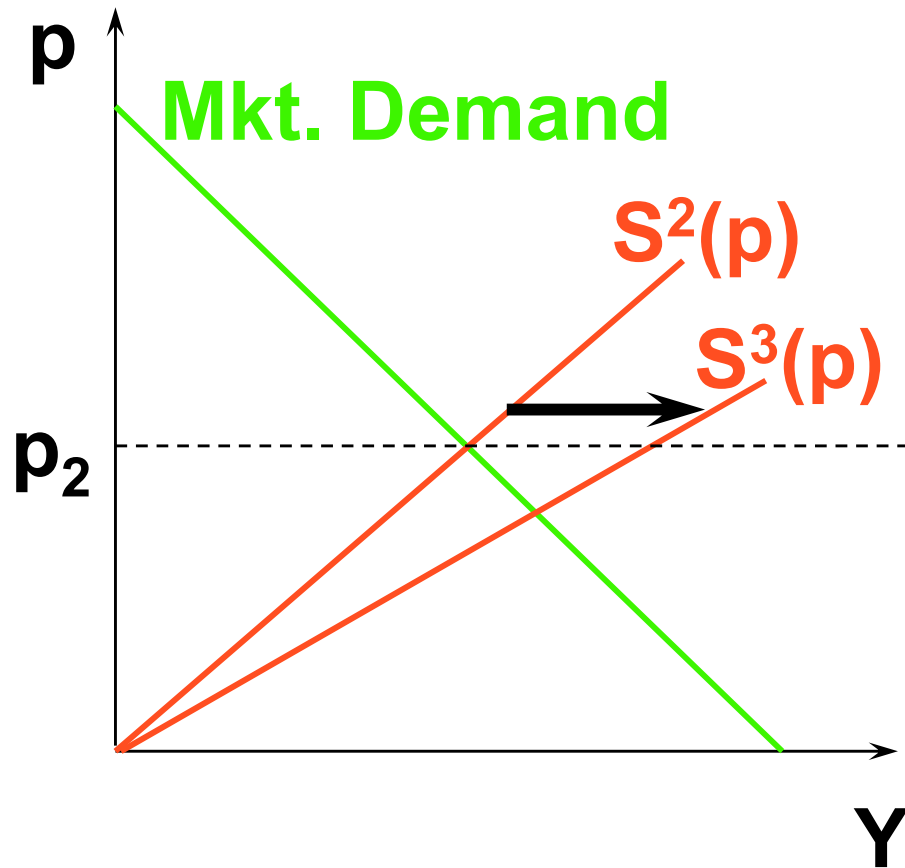


Each firm makes a positive economic profit, inducing entry by another firm.

Long-Run Industry Supply

The Market

A "Typical" Firm

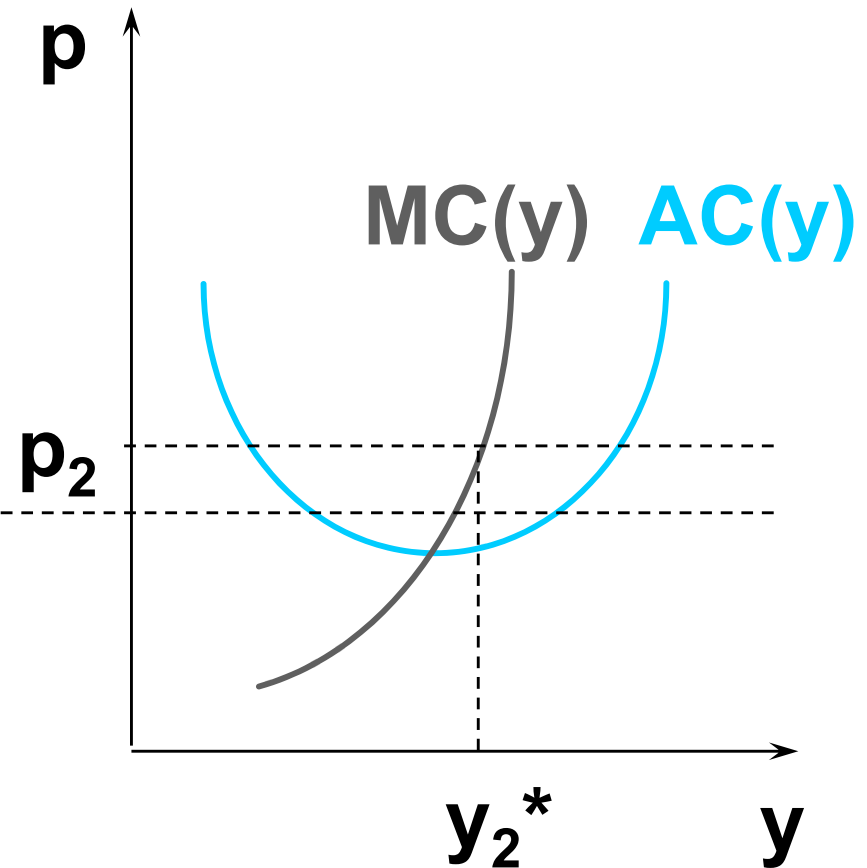
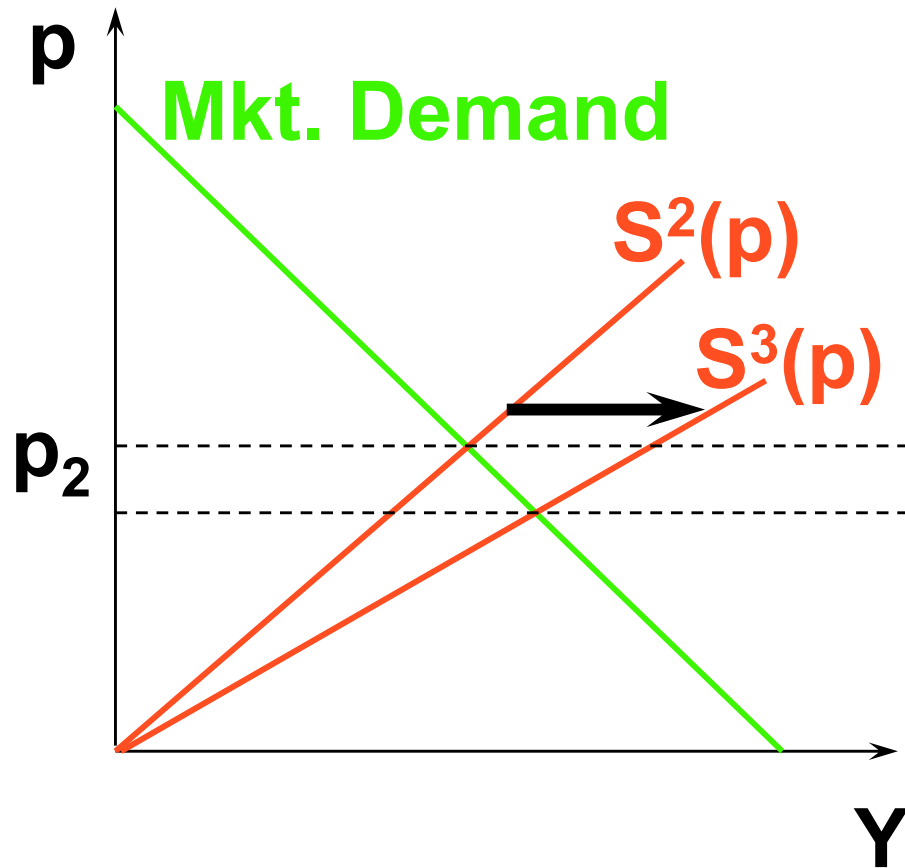


Market supply shifts outwards.

Long-Run Industry Supply

The Market

A "Typical" Firm



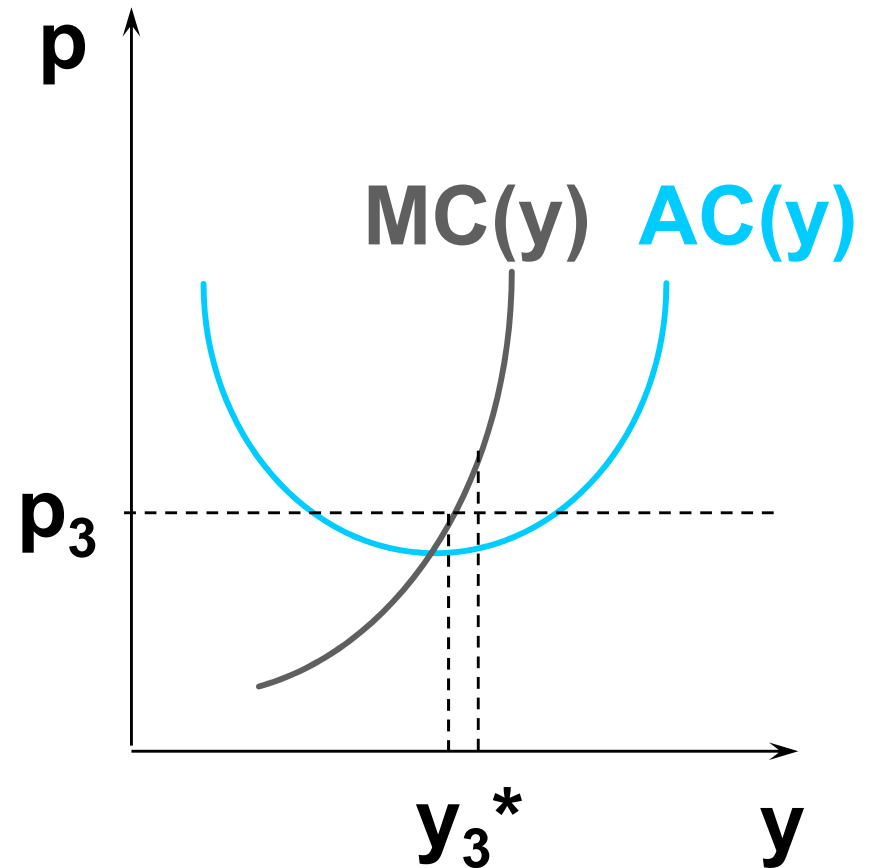
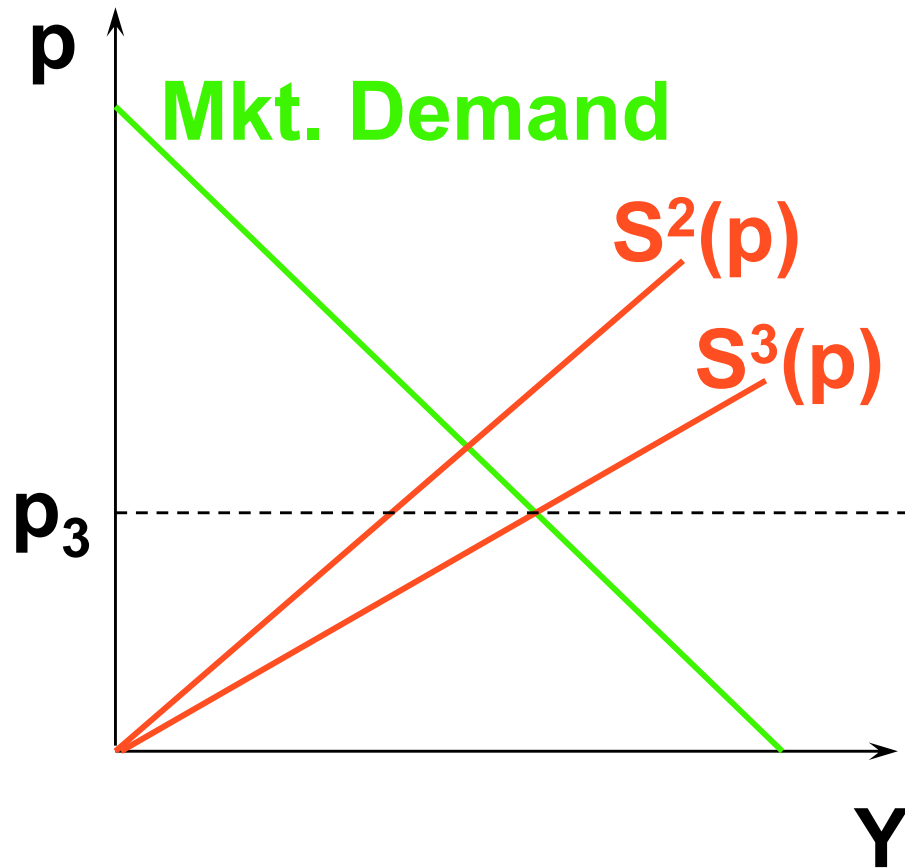
Market supply shifts outwards.

Market price falls.

Long-Run Industry Supply

The Market

A "Typical" Firm

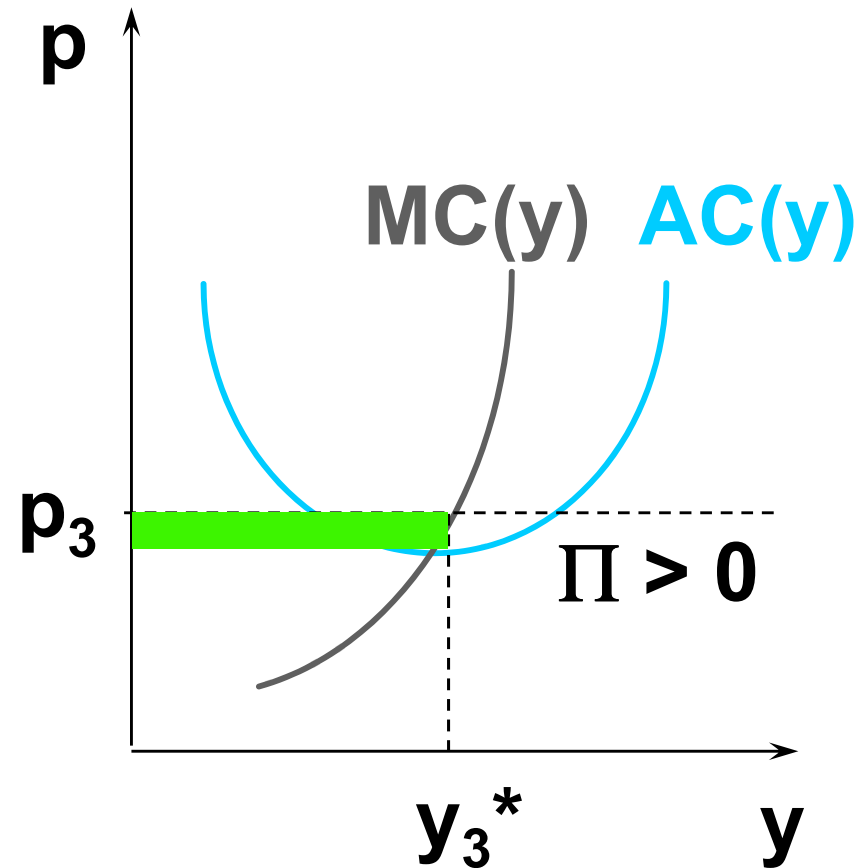
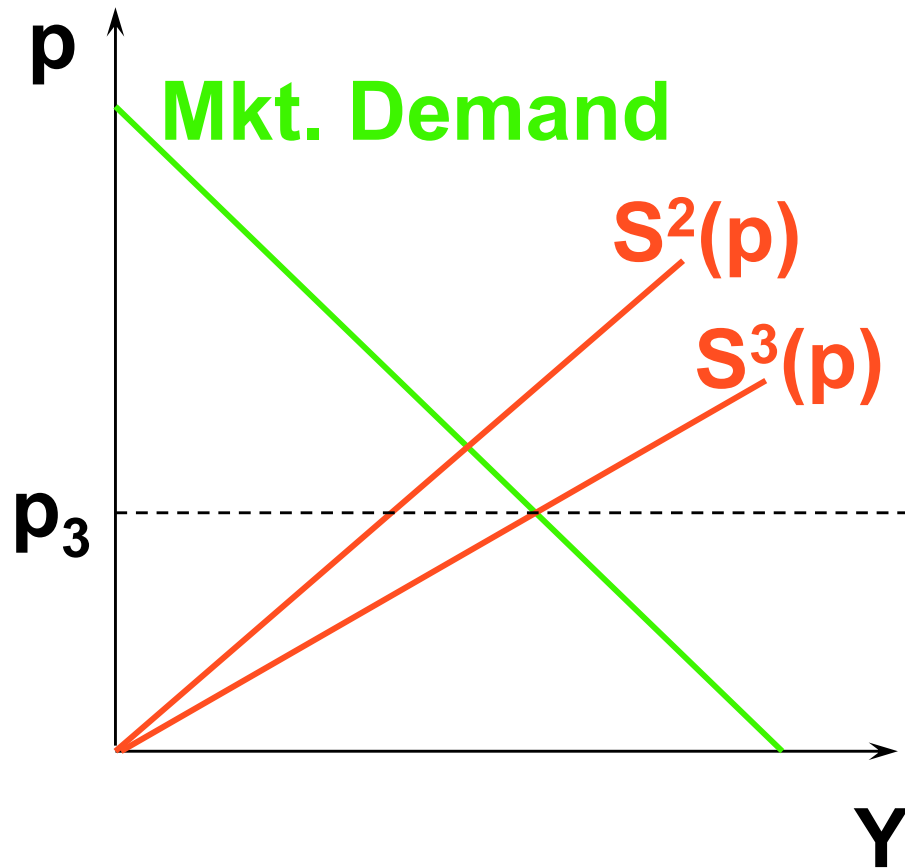


Each firm produces less.

Long-Run Industry Supply

The Market

A "Typical" Firm

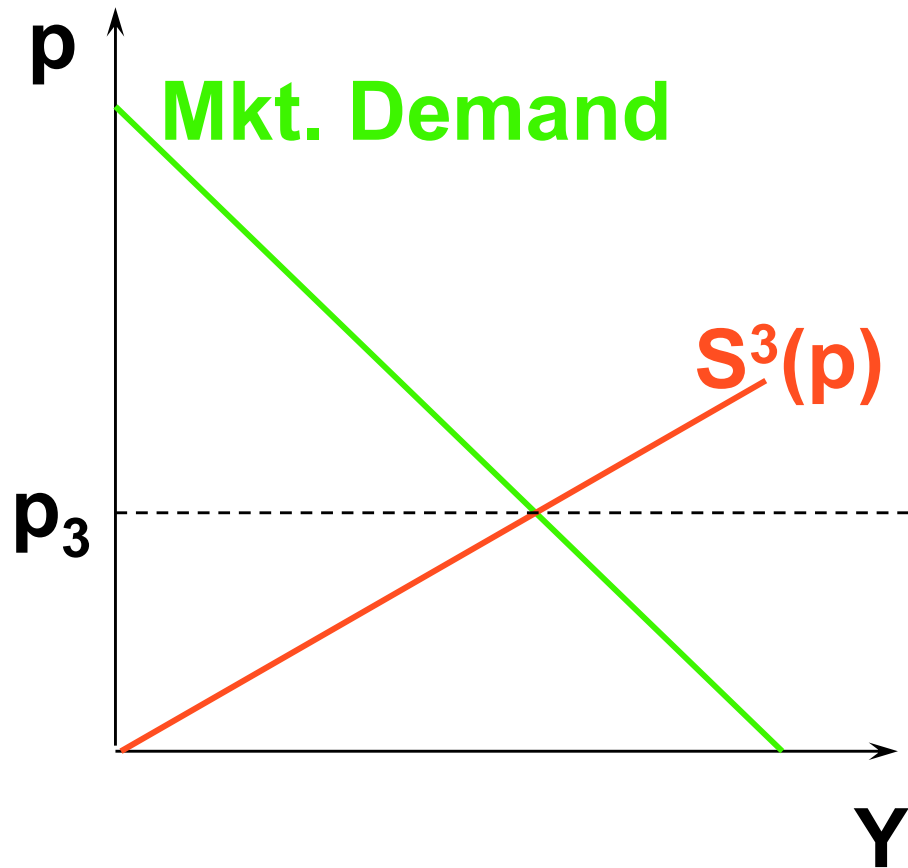


Each firm produces less.

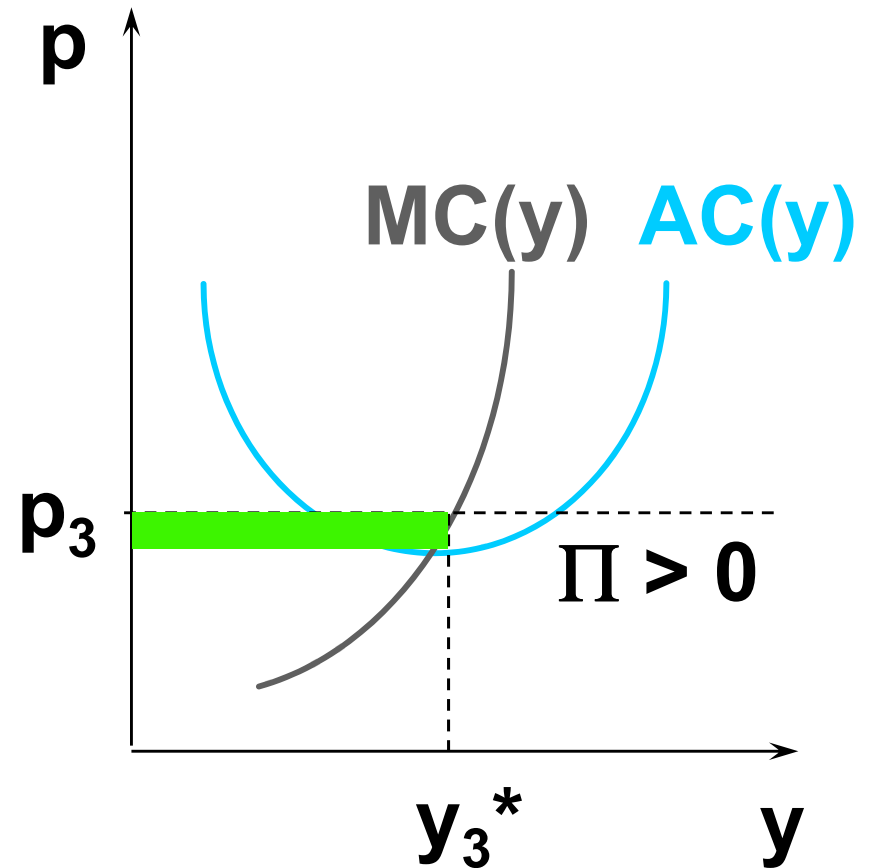
Each firm's economic profit is reduced.

Long-Run Industry Supply

The Market



A "Typical" Firm

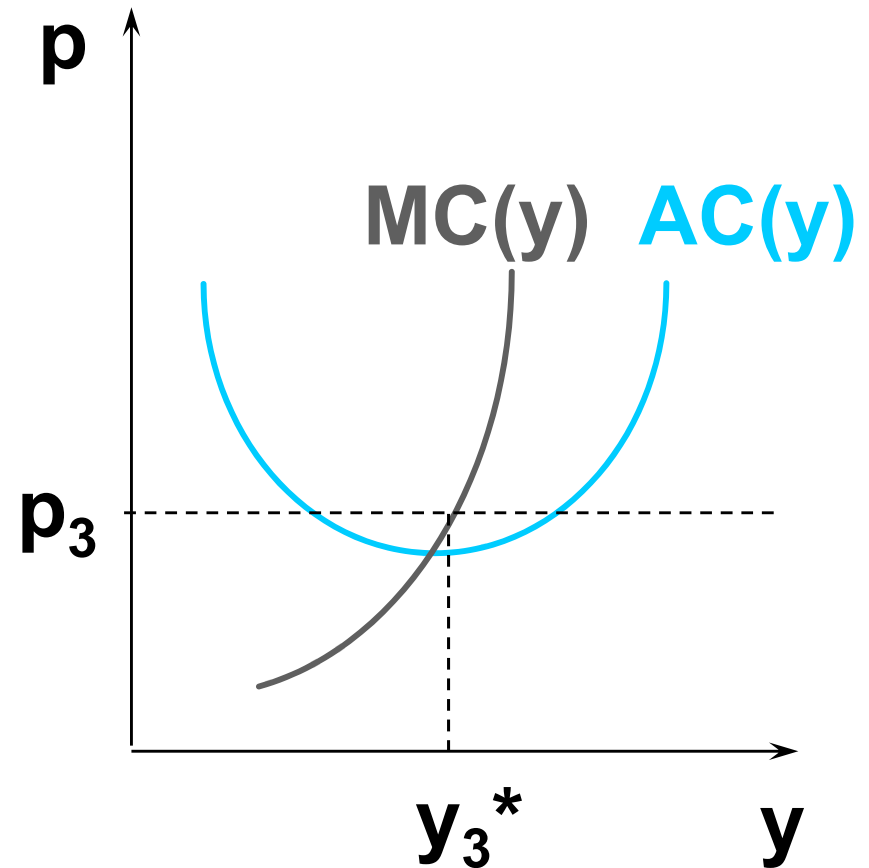
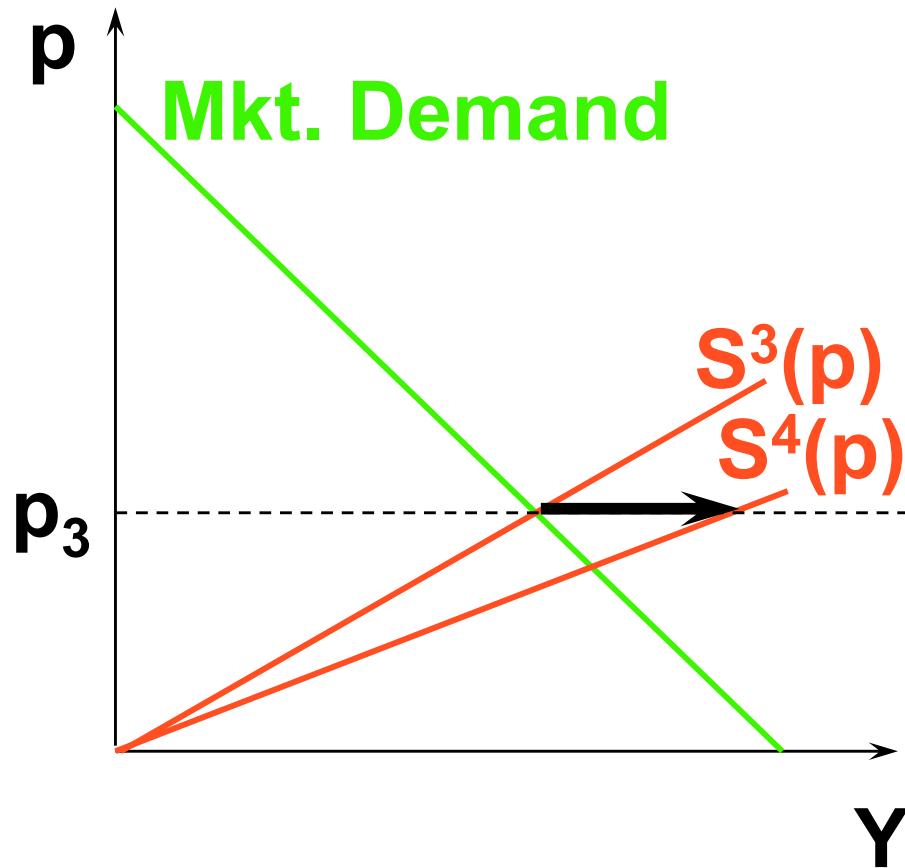


**Each firm's economic profit is positive.
Will another firm enter?**

Long-Run Industry Supply

The Market

A "Typical" Firm

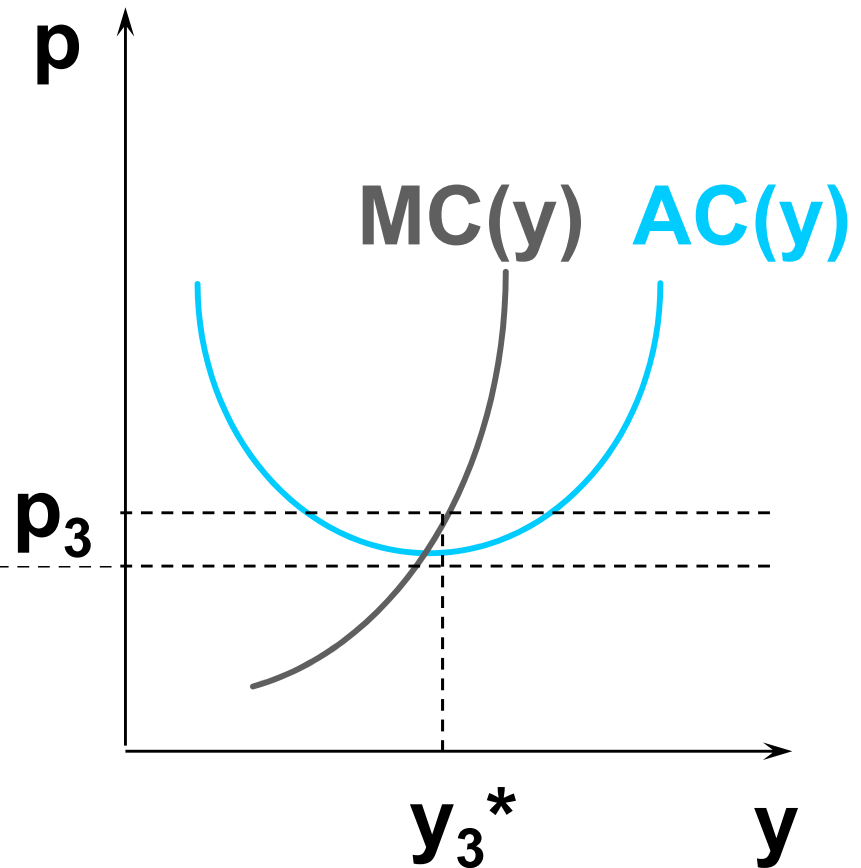
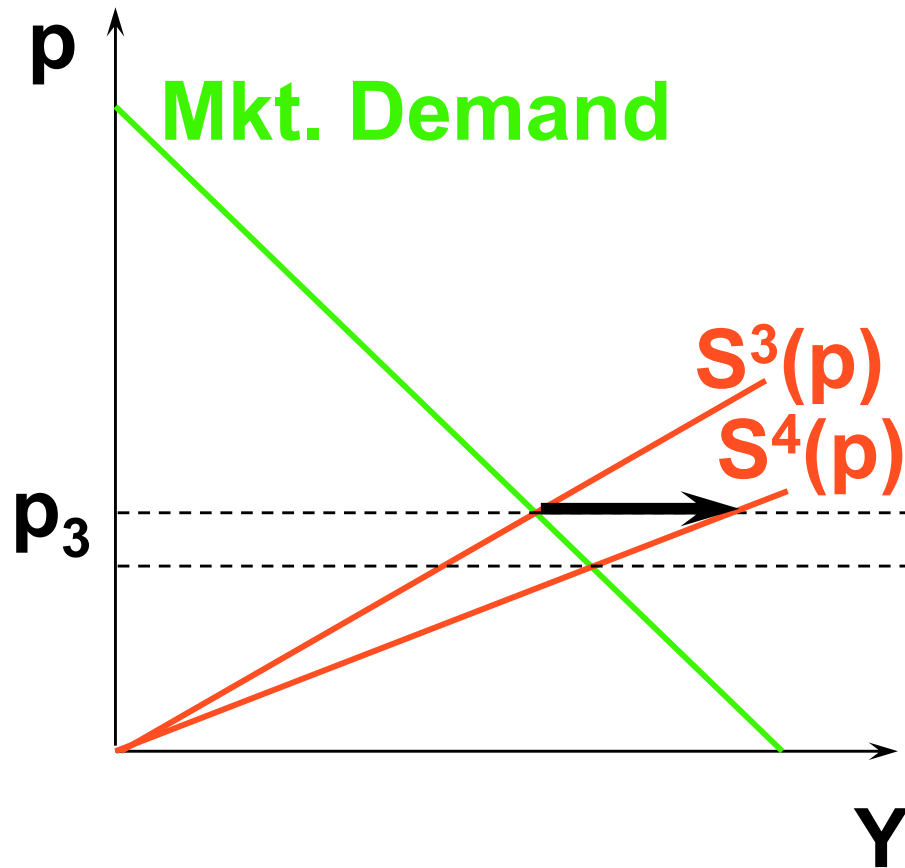


Market supply would shift outwards again.

Long-Run Industry Supply

The Market

A "Typical" Firm

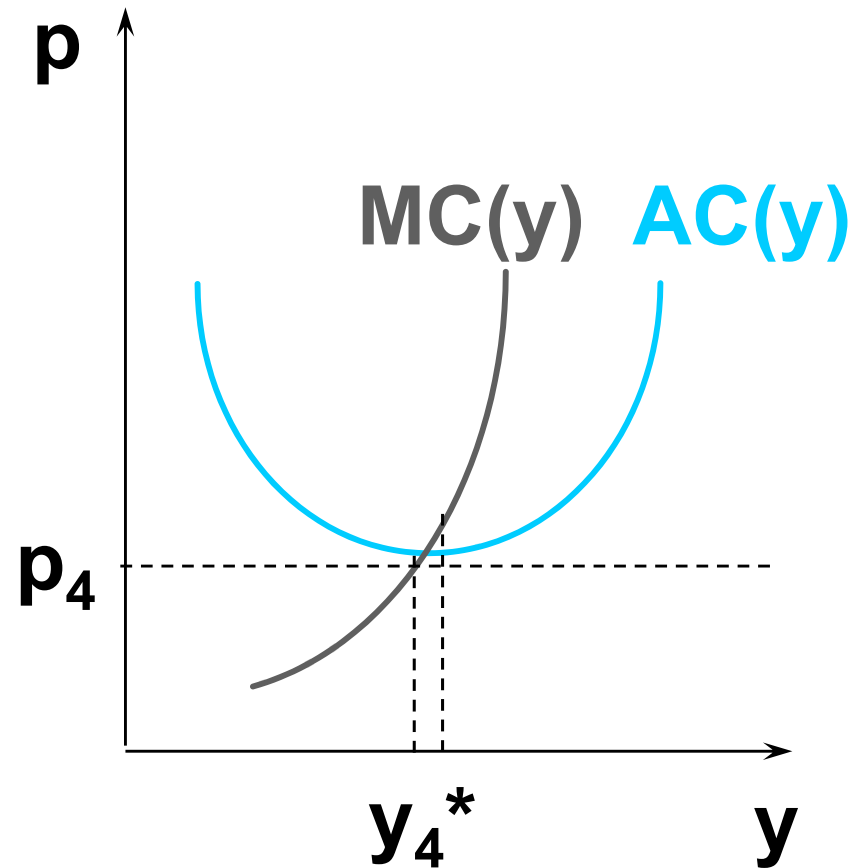
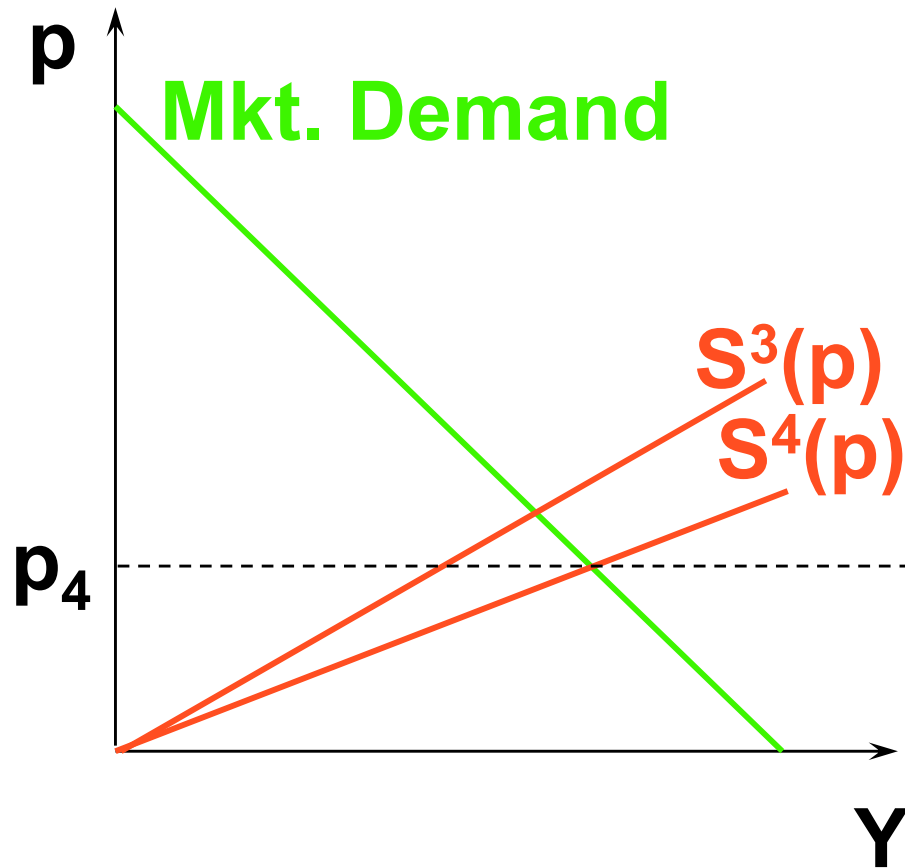


**Market supply would shift outwards again.
Market price would fall again.**

Long-Run Industry Supply

The Market

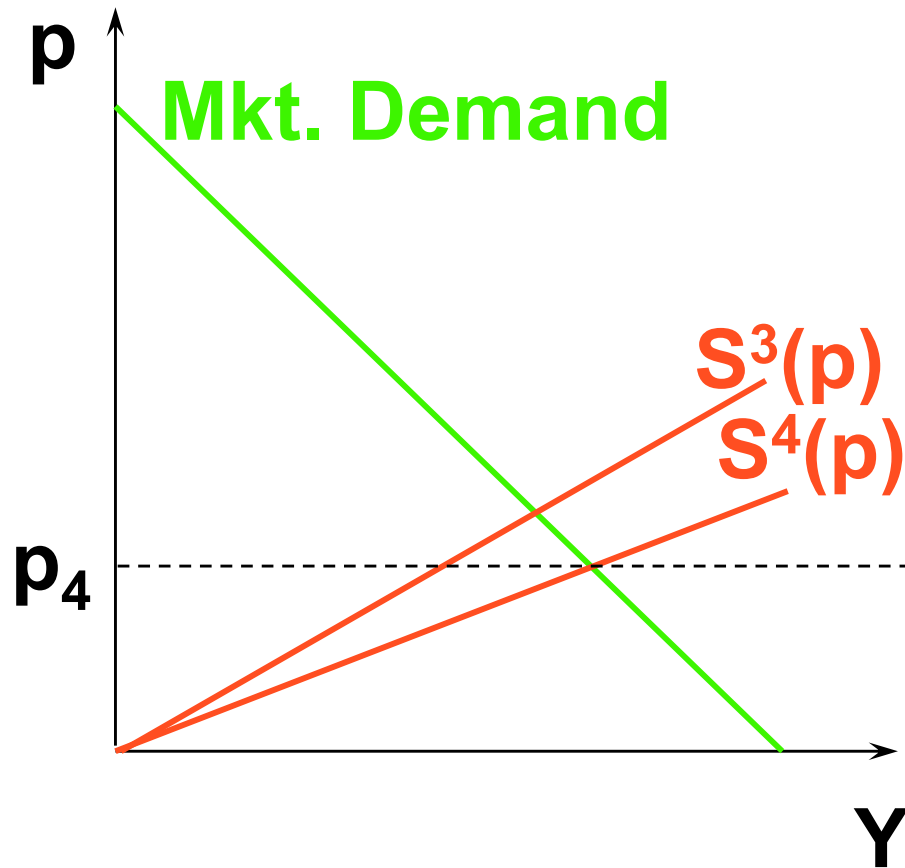
A "Typical" Firm



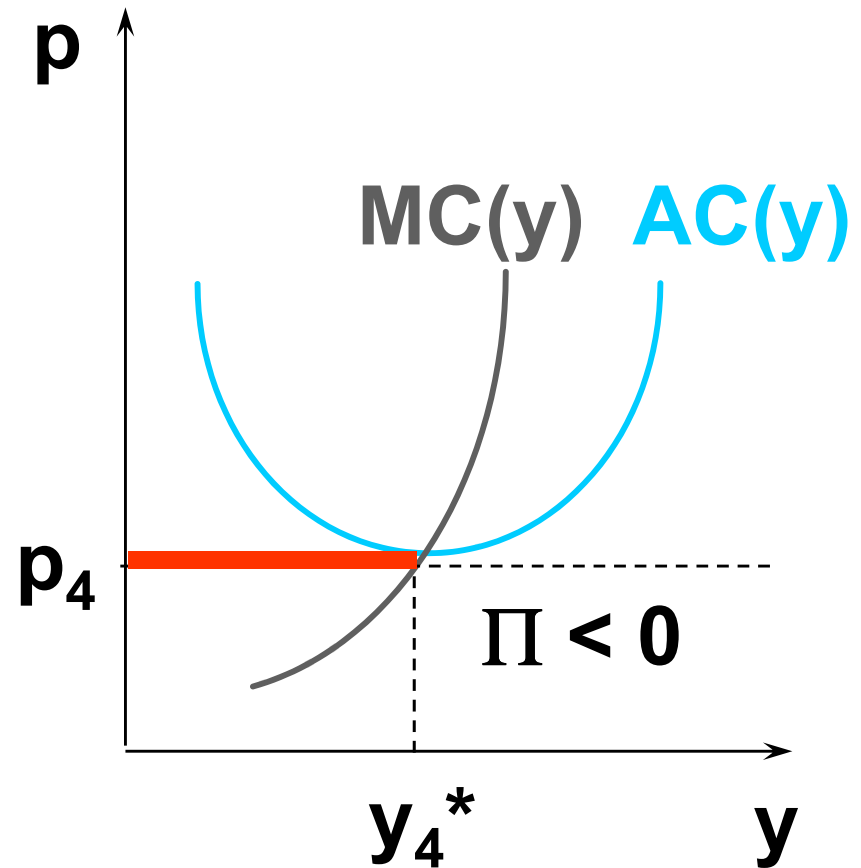
Each firm would produce less again.

Long-Run Industry Supply

The Market



A "Typical" Firm

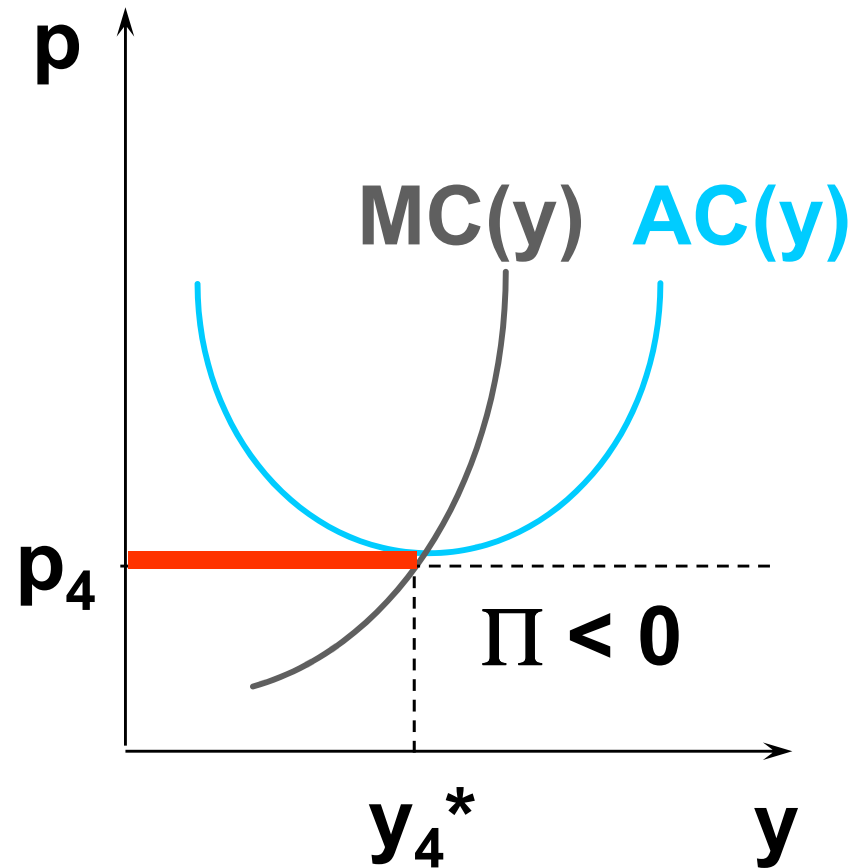
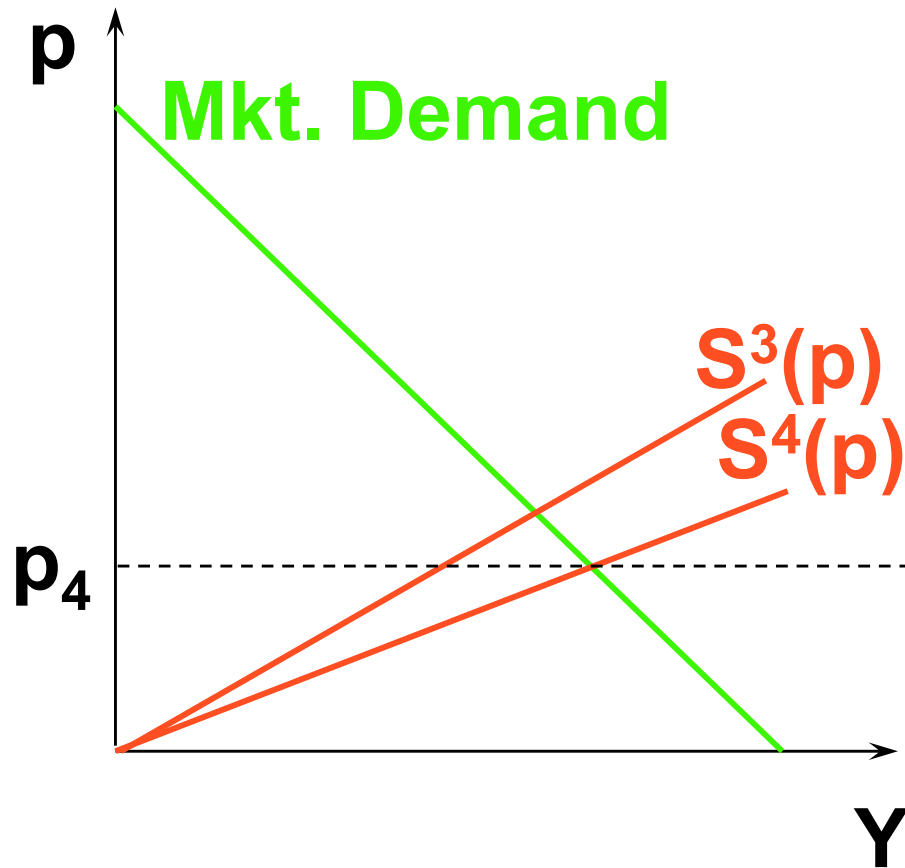


Each firm would produce less again. Each firm's economic profit would be negative.

Long-Run Industry Supply

The Market

A "Typical" Firm



Each firm would produce less again. Each firm's economic profit would be negative. So the fourth firm would not enter.

Long-Run Industry Supply

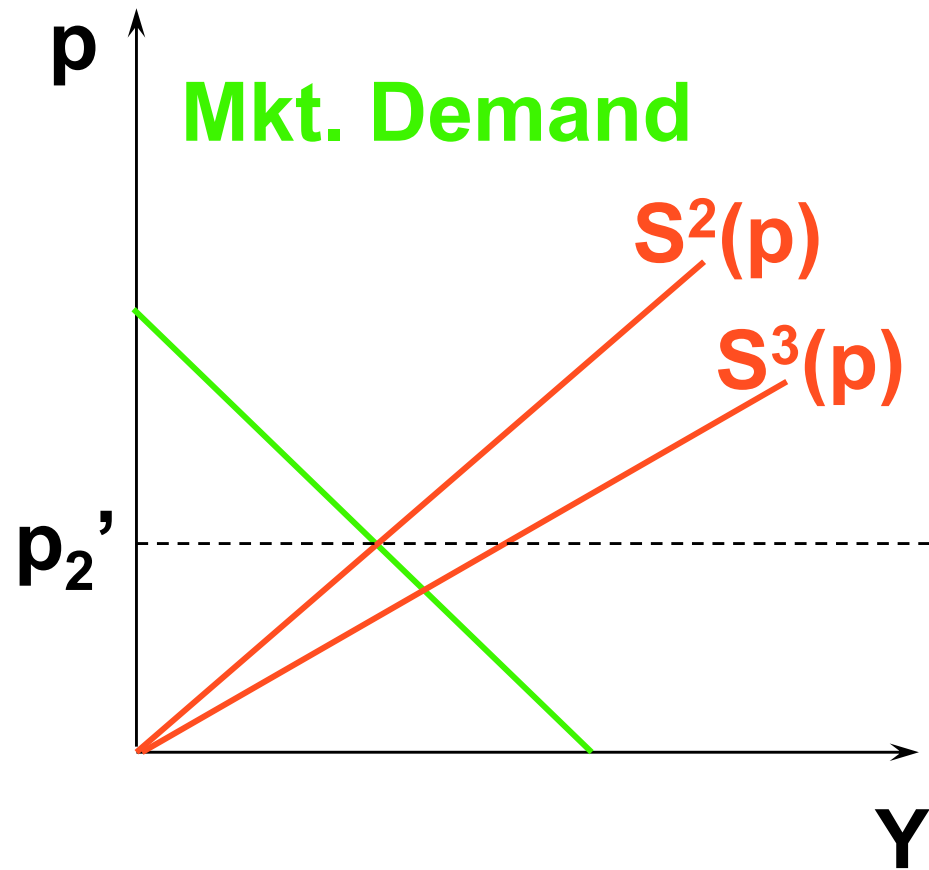
- ◆ **The long-run number of firms in the industry is the largest number for which the market price is at least as large as $\min AC(y)$.**
- ◆ **Now we can construct the industry's long-run supply curve.**

Long-Run Industry Supply

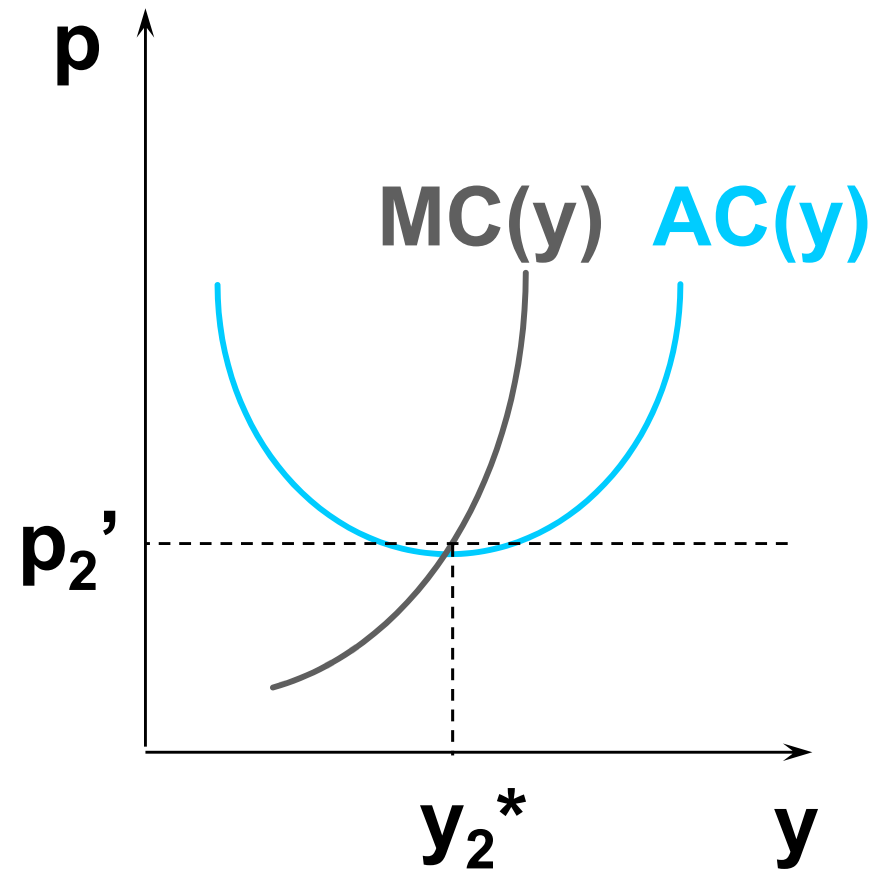
- ◆ **Suppose that market demand is large enough to sustain only two firms in the industry.**

Long-Run Industry Supply

The Market



A "Typical" Firm



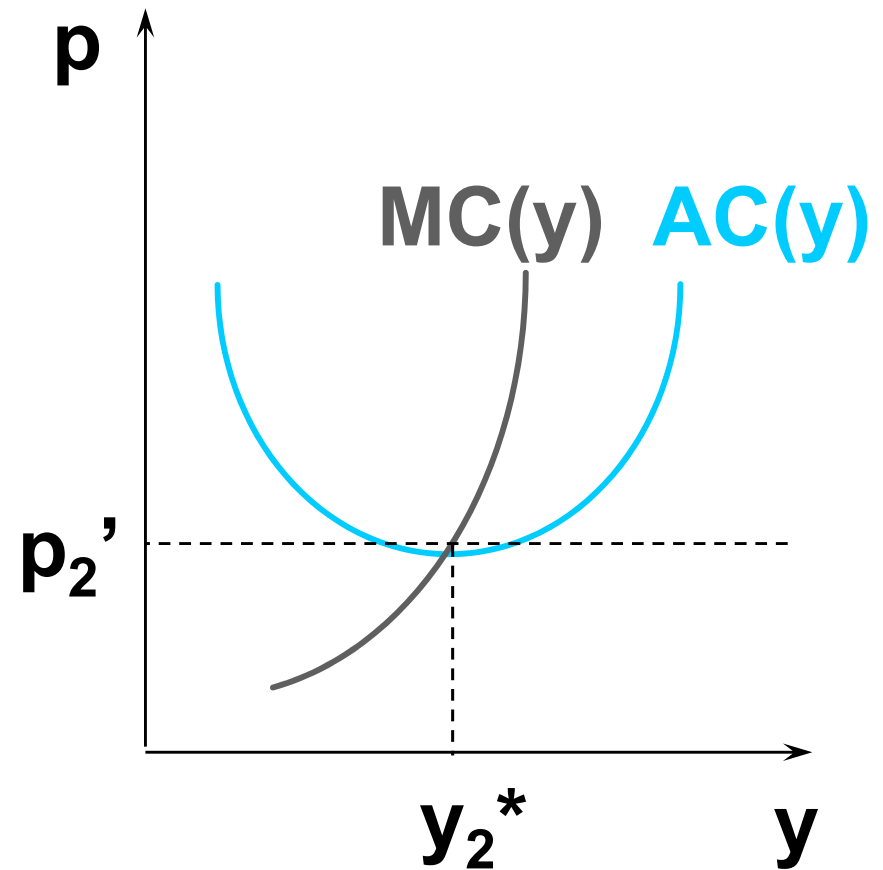
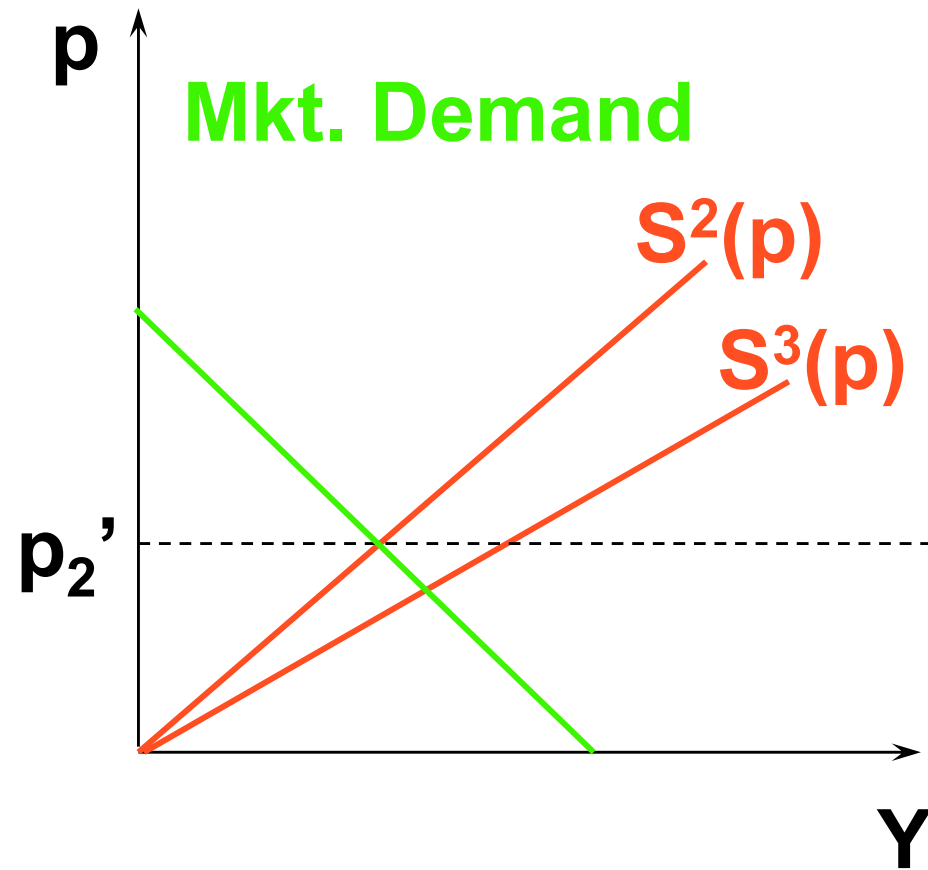
Long-Run Industry Supply

- ◆ **Suppose that market demand is large enough to sustain only two firms in the industry.**
- ◆ **Then market demand increases, the market price rises, each firm produces more, and earns a higher economic profit.**

Long-Run Industry Supply

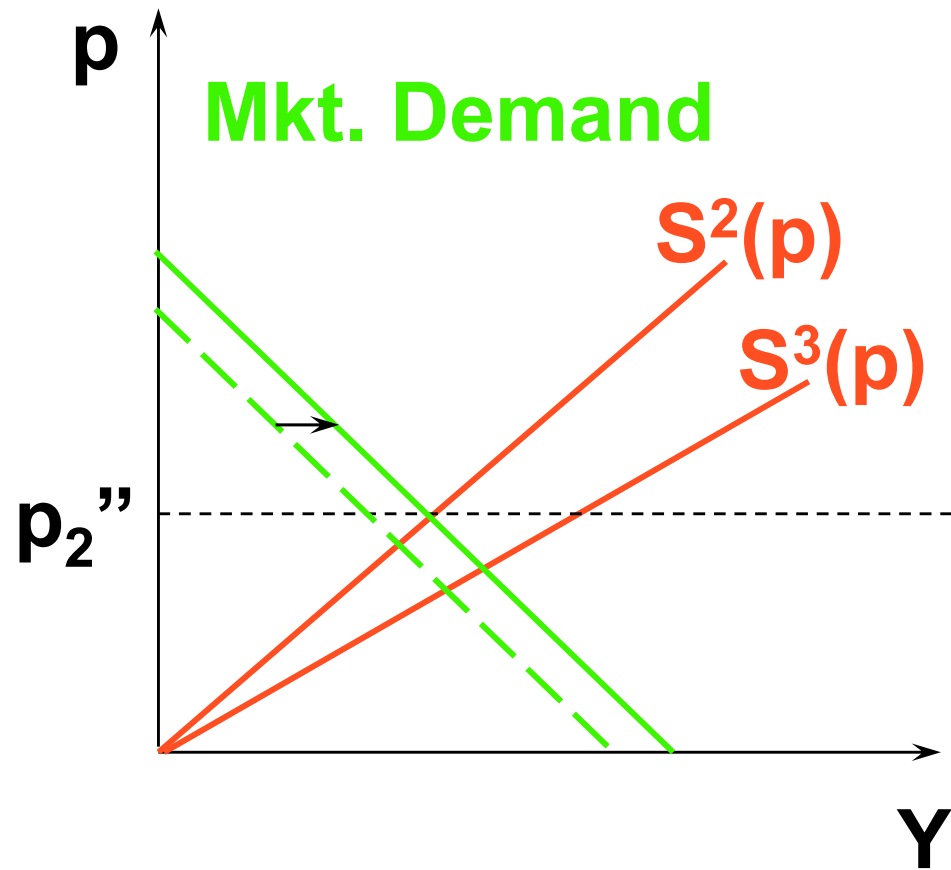
The Market

A "Typical" Firm

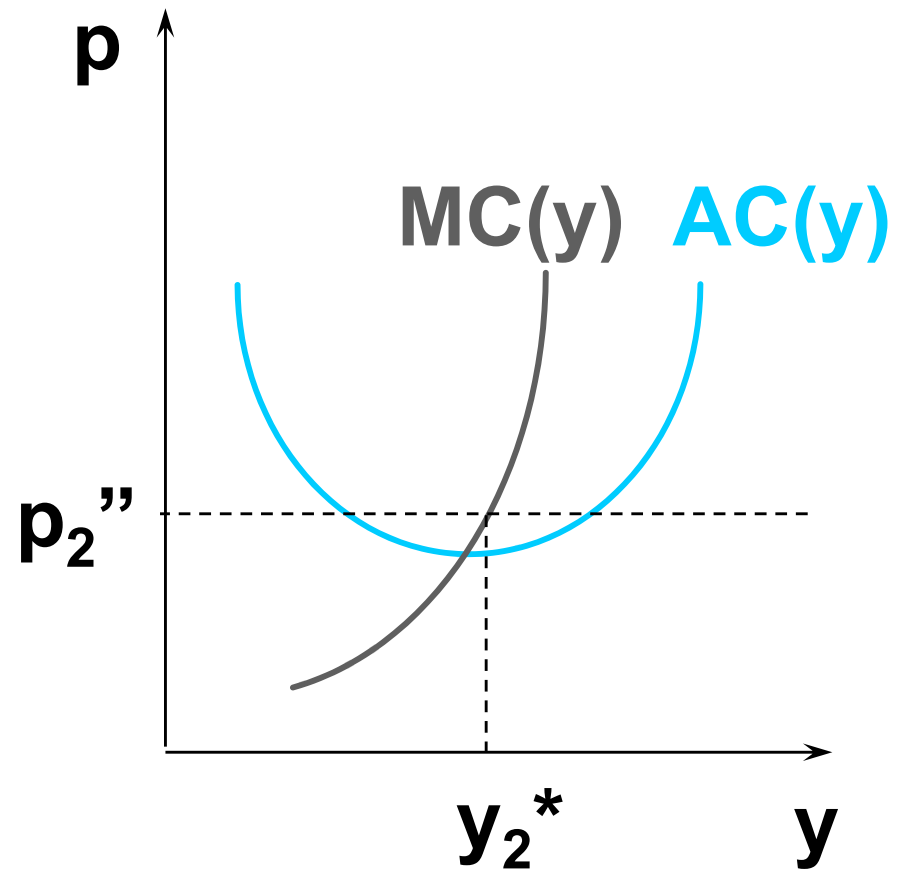


Long-Run Industry Supply

The Market

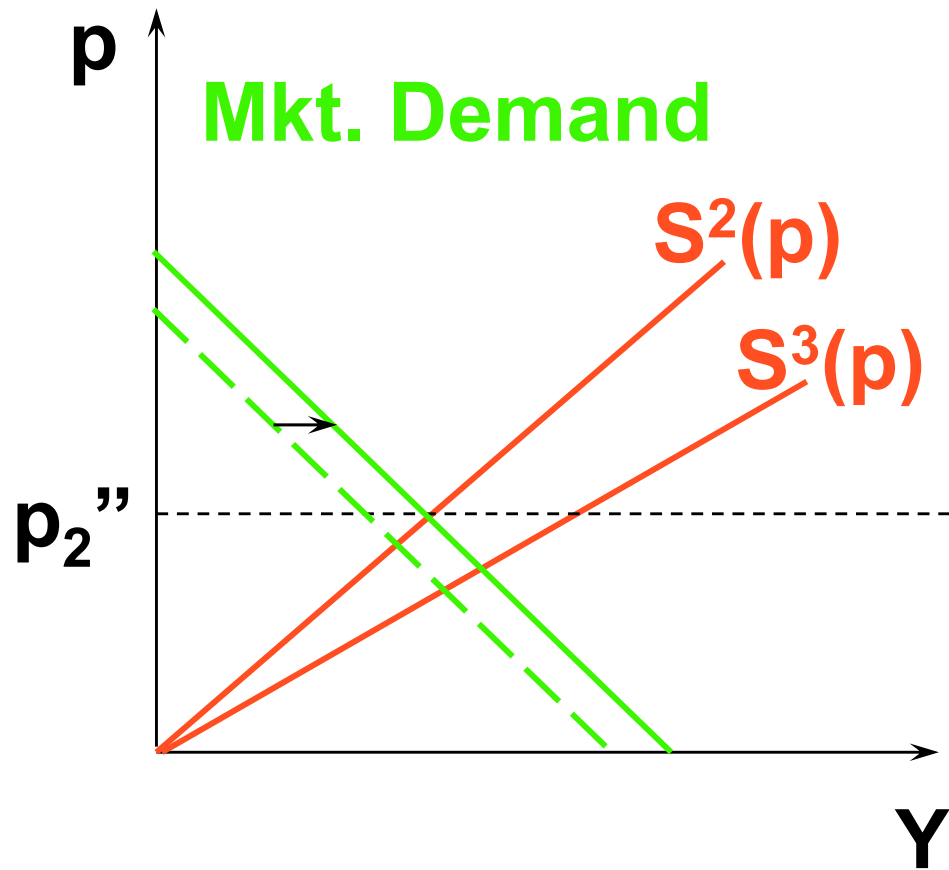


A "Typical" Firm

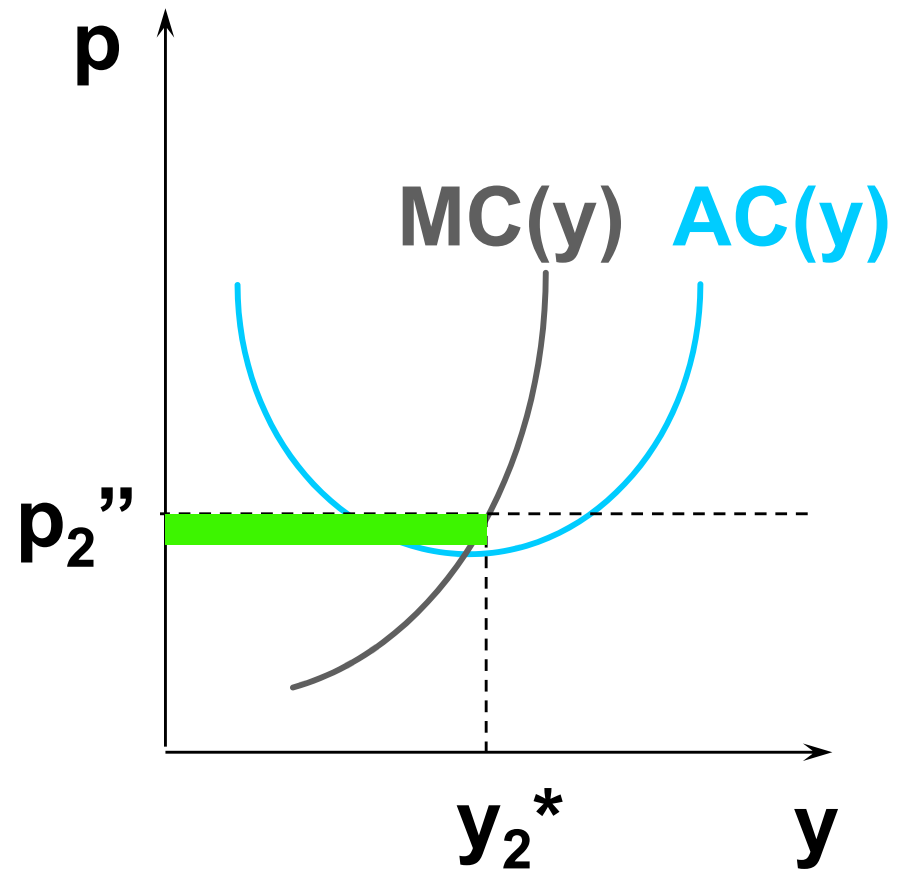


Long-Run Industry Supply

The Market



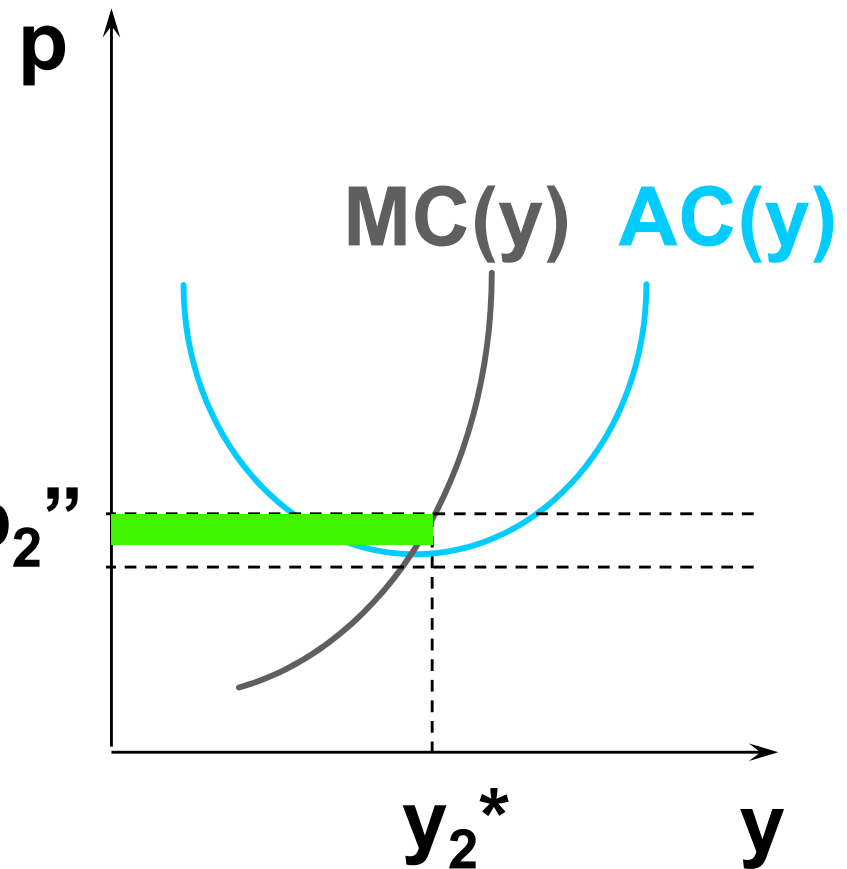
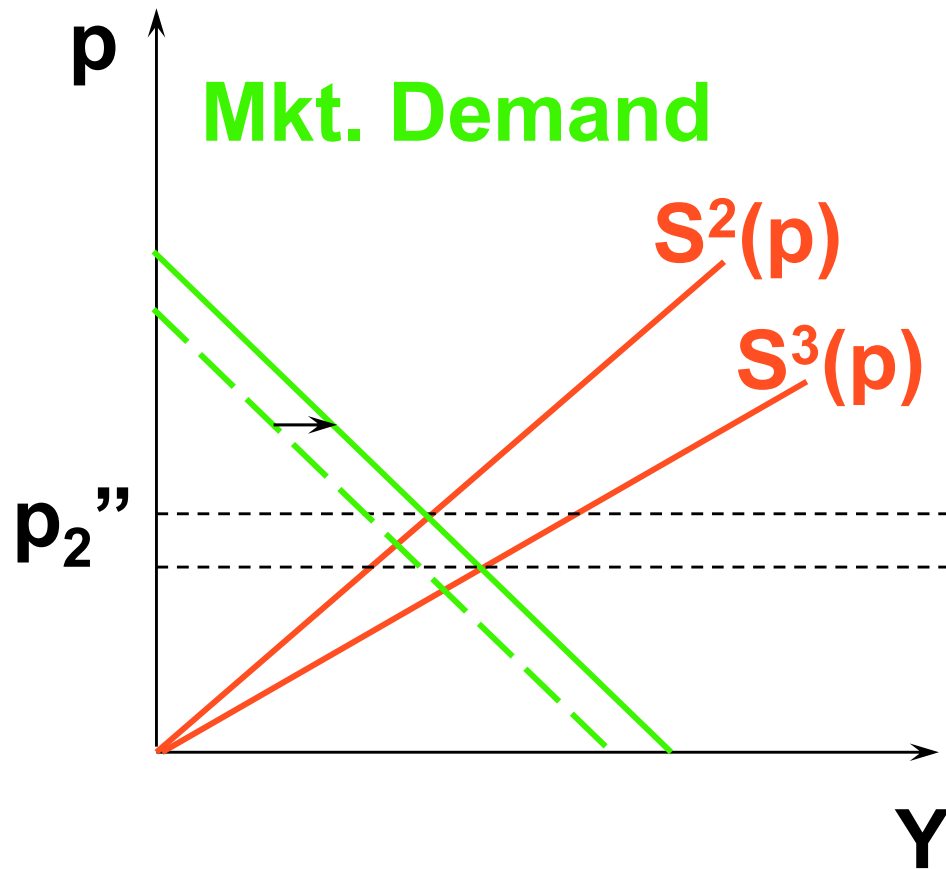
A "Typical" Firm



Long-Run Industry Supply

The Market

A "Typical" Firm



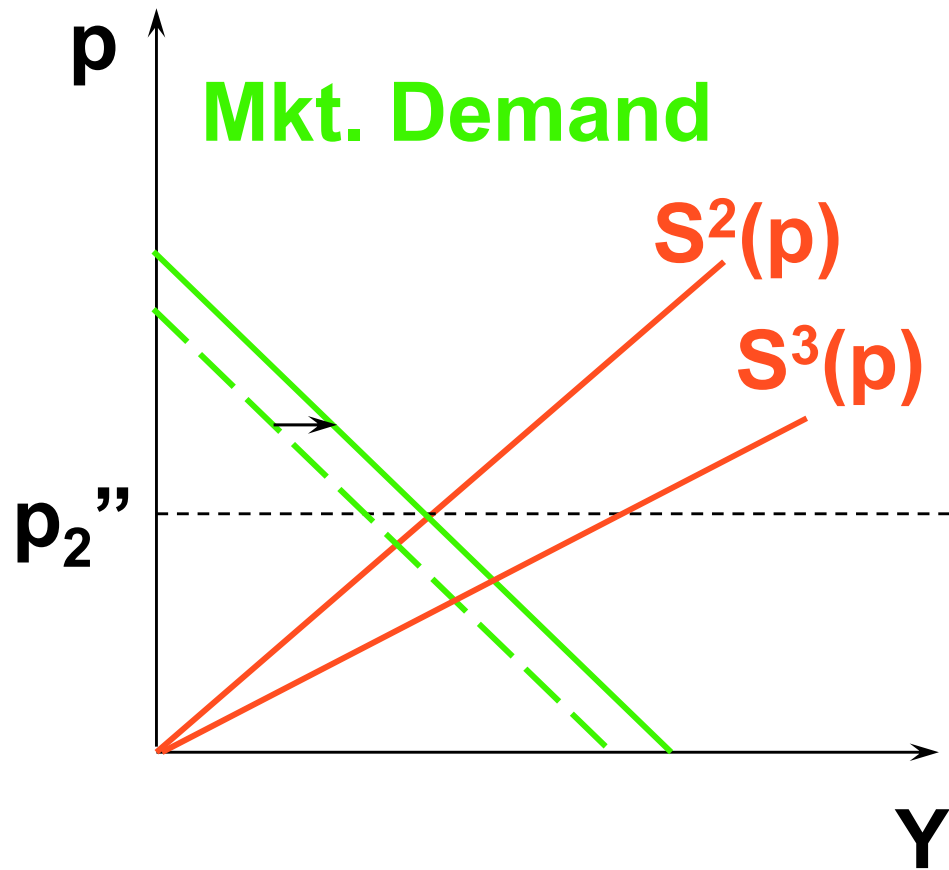
Notice that a 3rd firm will not enter since it would earn negative economic profits.

Long-Run Industry Supply

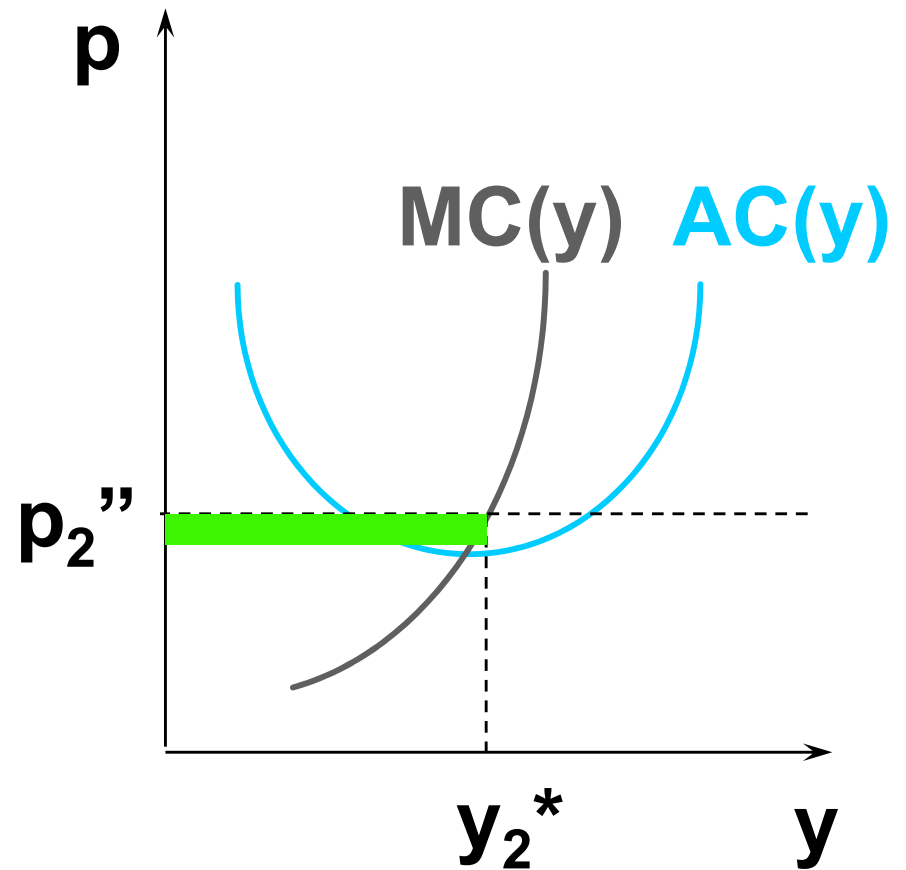
- ◆ **As market demand increases further, the market price rises further, the two incumbent firms each produce more and earn still higher economic profits -- until a 3rd firm becomes indifferent between entering and staying out.**

Long-Run Industry Supply

The Market

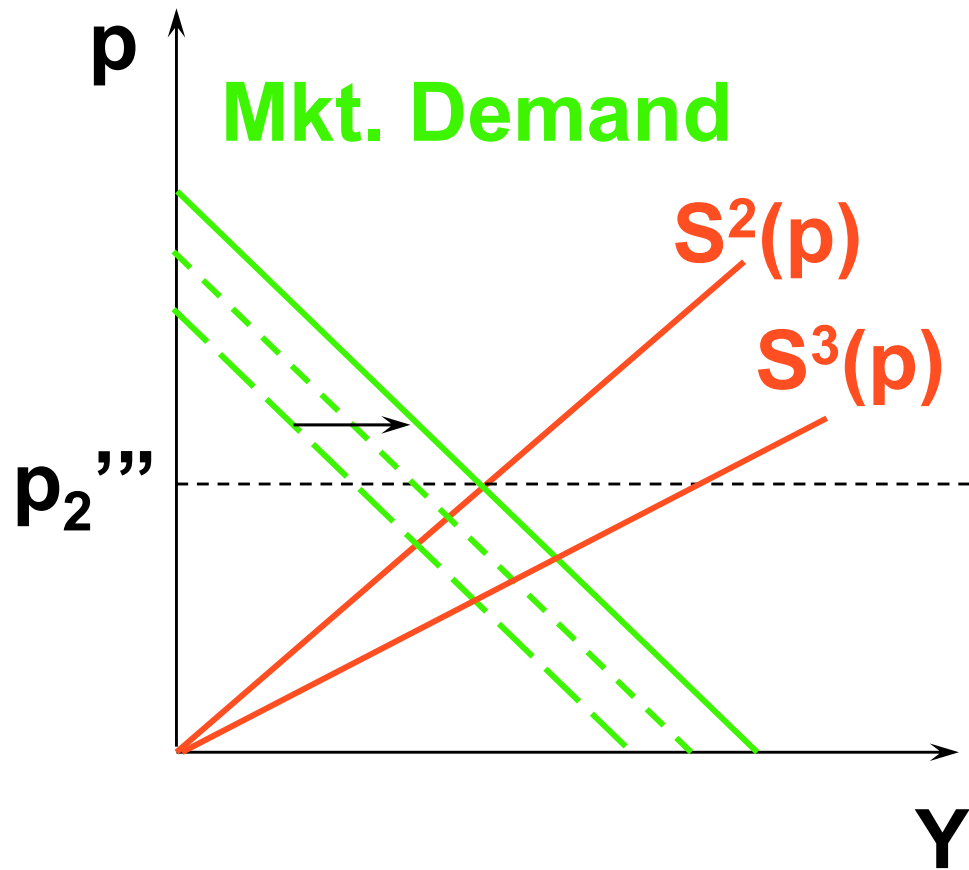


A "Typical" Firm

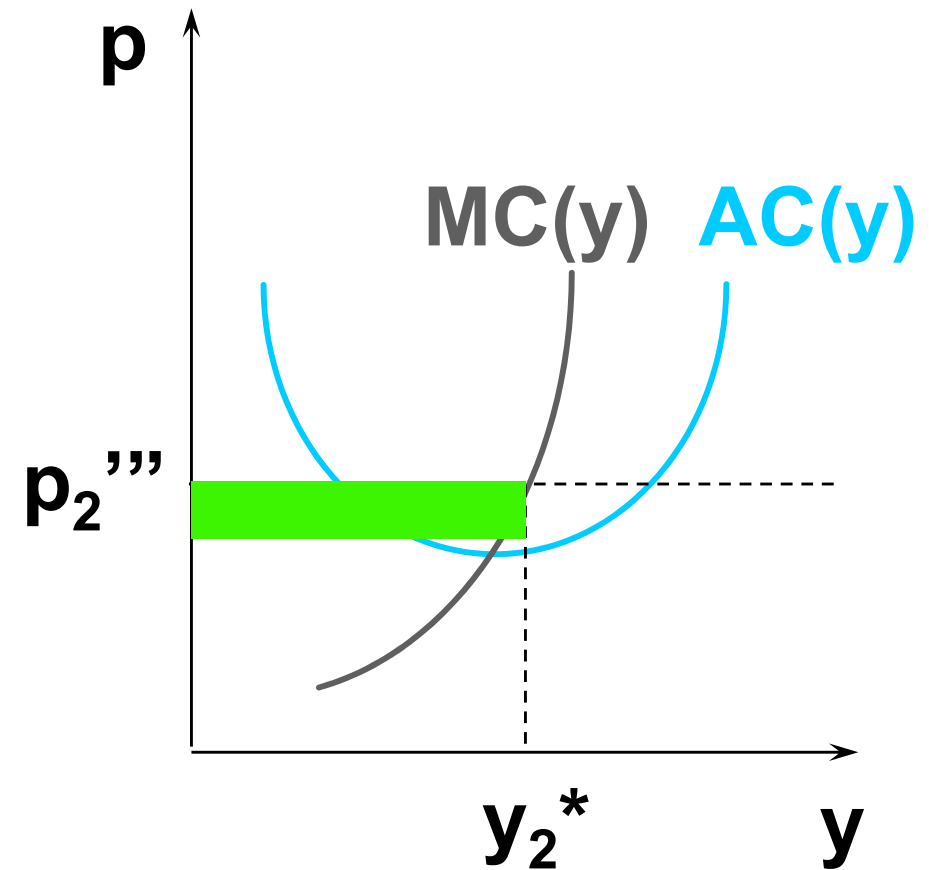


Long-Run Industry Supply

The Market

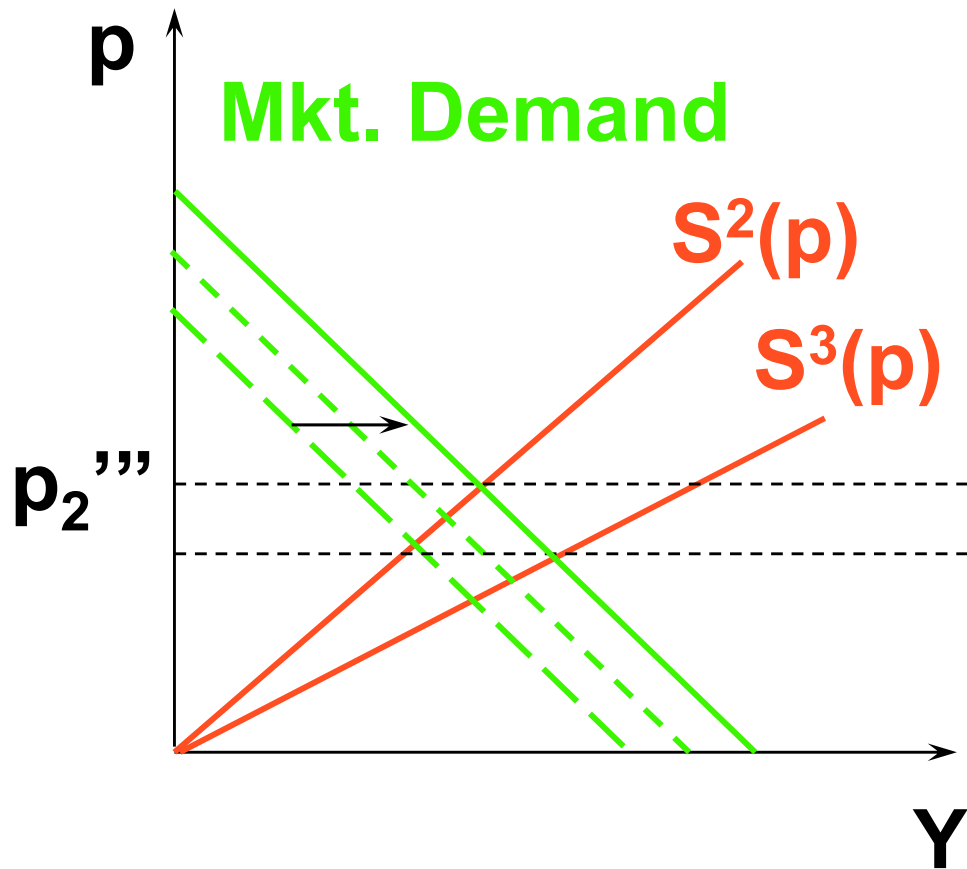


A "Typical" Firm

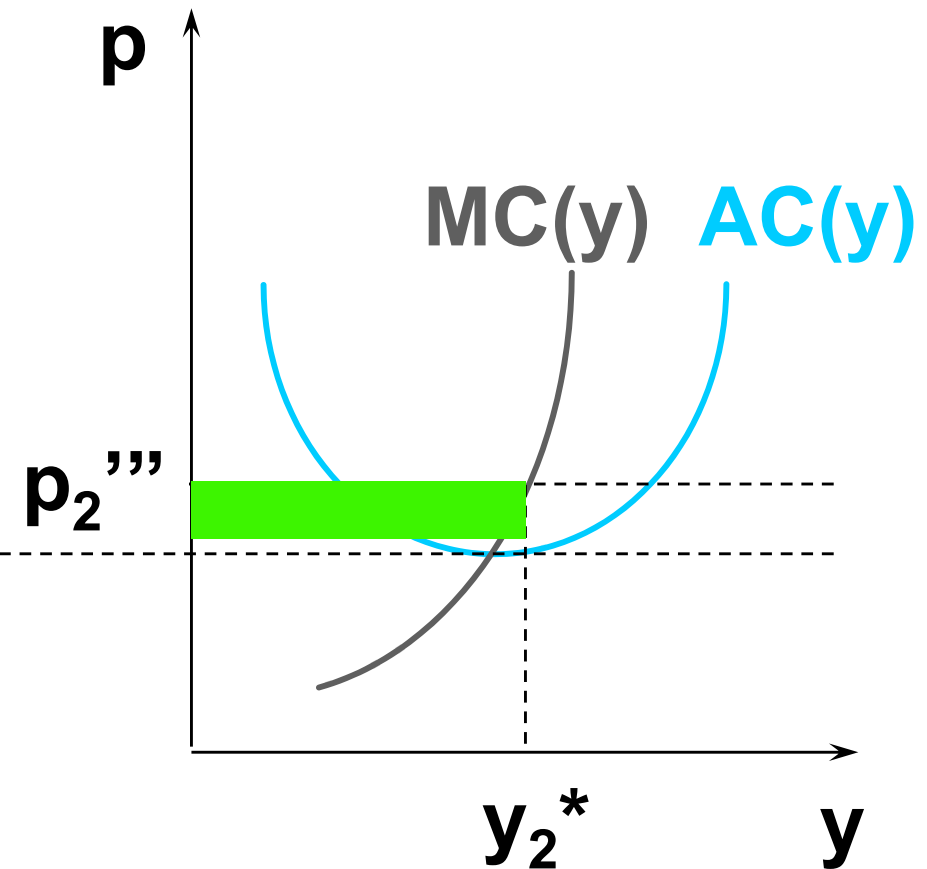


Long-Run Industry Supply

The Market



A "Typical" Firm



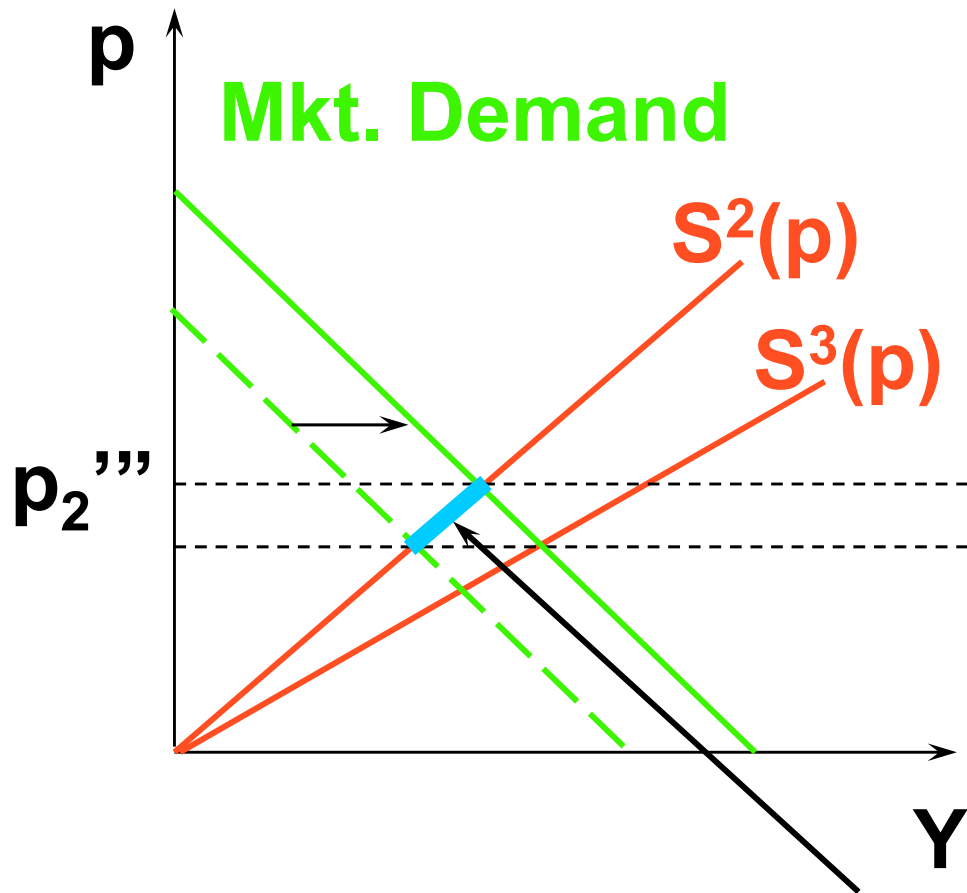
A third firm can now enter, causing all firms to earn zero economic profits.

Long-Run Industry Supply

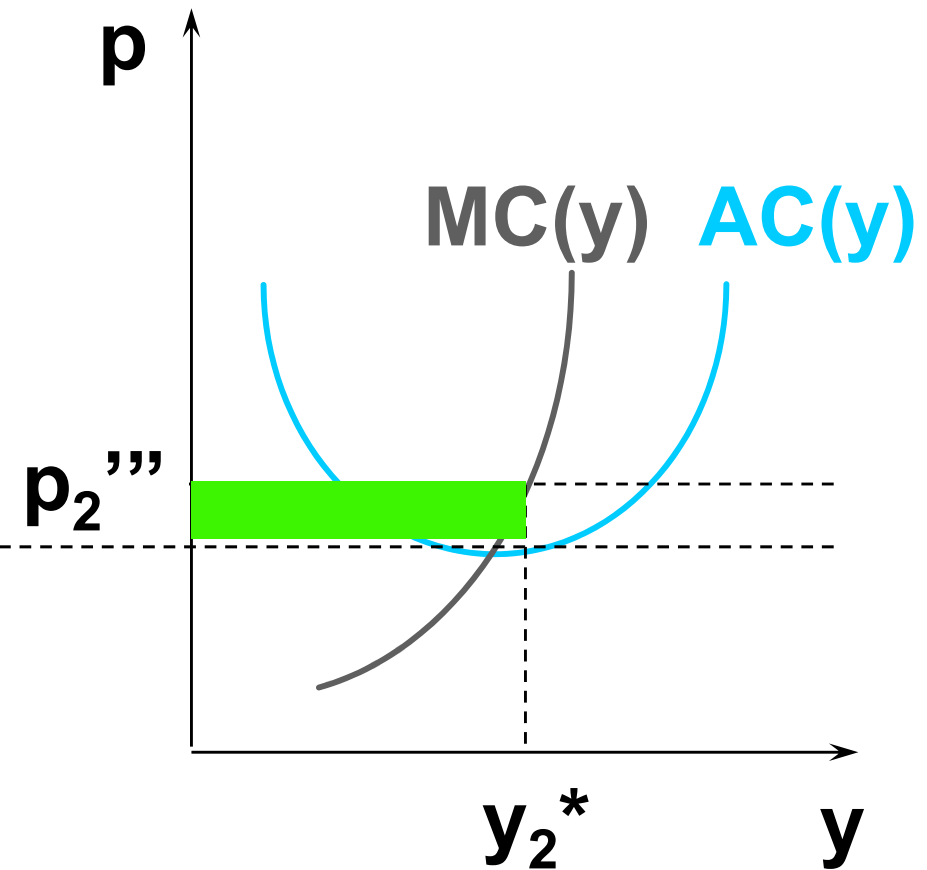
- ◆ **So any further increase in market demand will cause the number of firms in the industry to rise to three.**

Long-Run Industry Supply

The Market



A "Typical" Firm



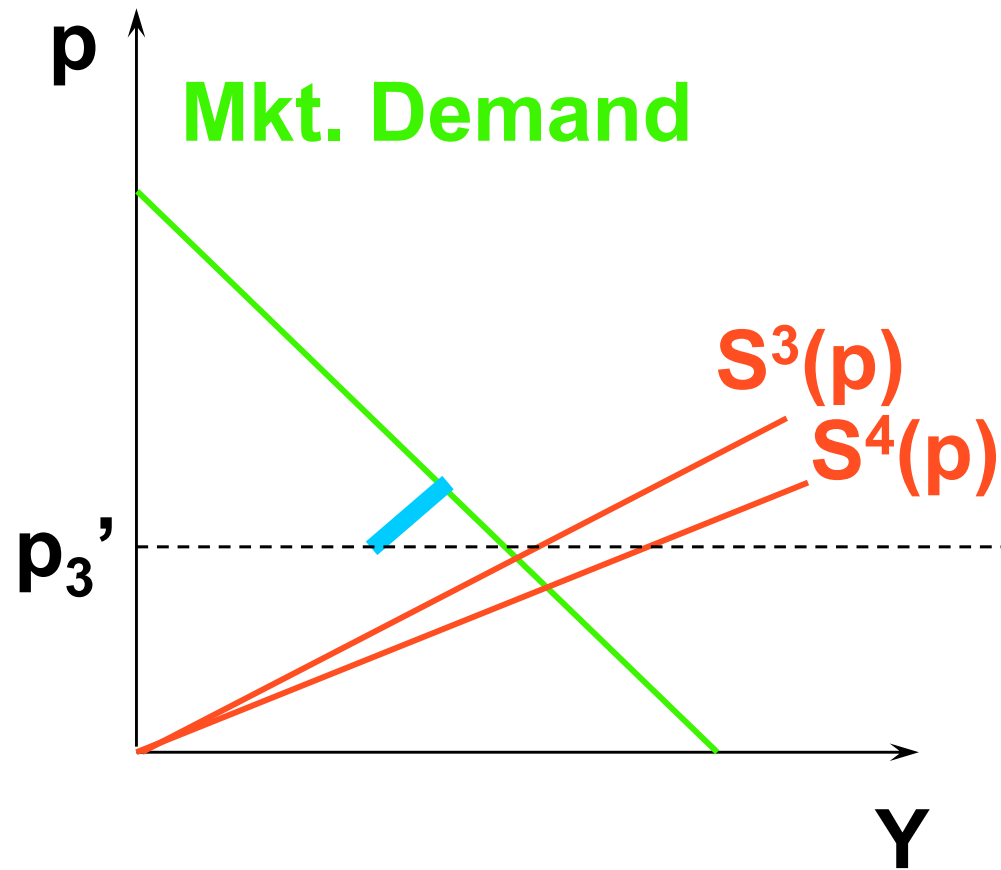
The only relevant part of the short-run supply curve for $n = 2$ firms in the industry.

Long-Run Industry Supply

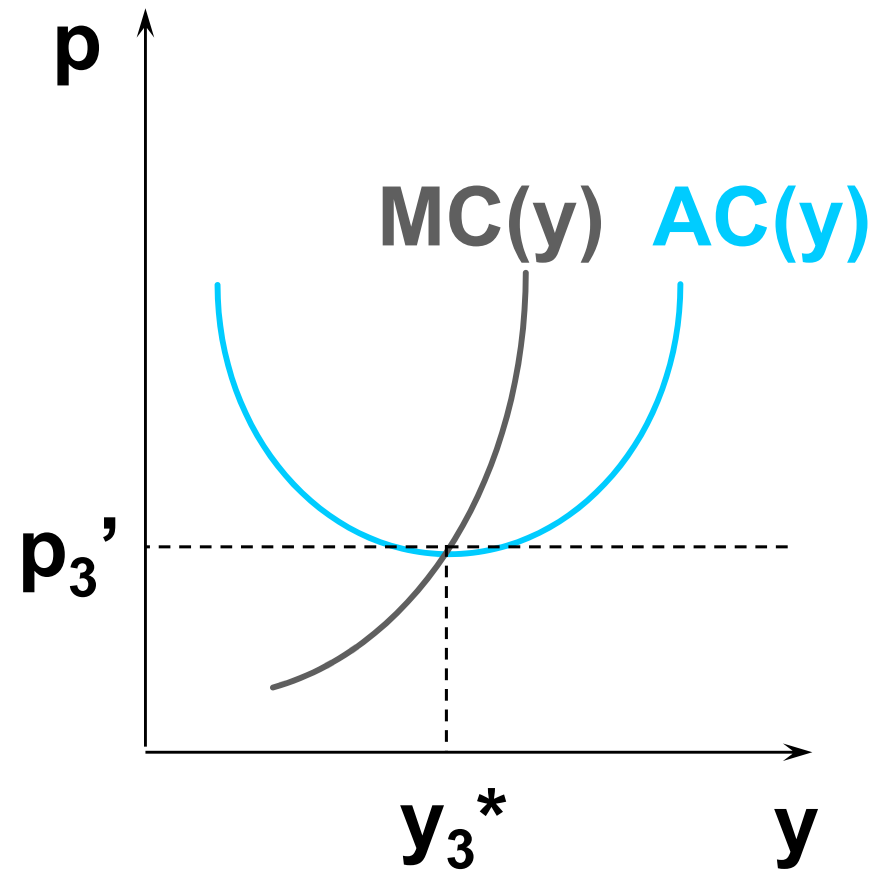
- ◆ **How much further can market demand increase before a fourth firm enters the industry?**

Long-Run Industry Supply

The Market



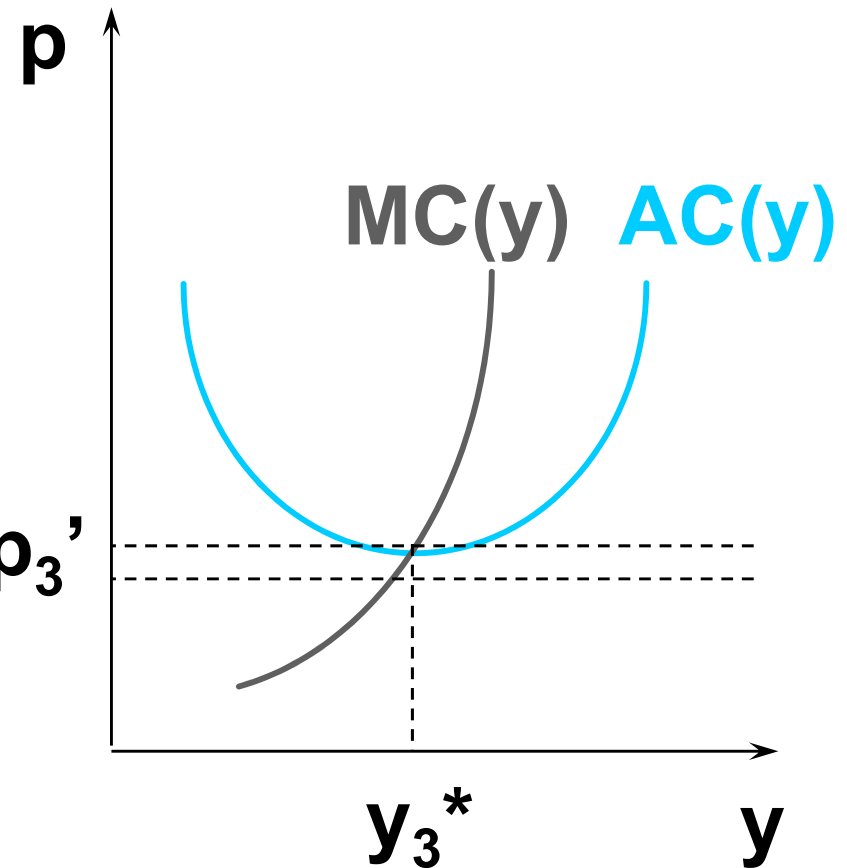
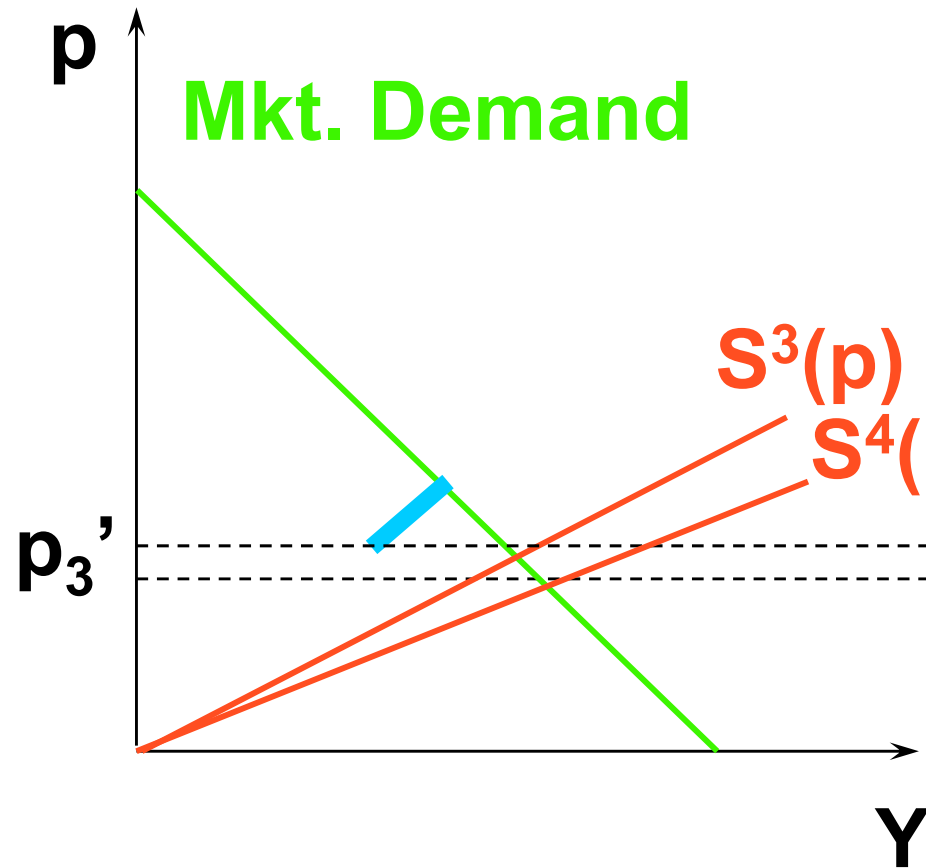
A "Typical" Firm



Long-Run Industry Supply

The Market

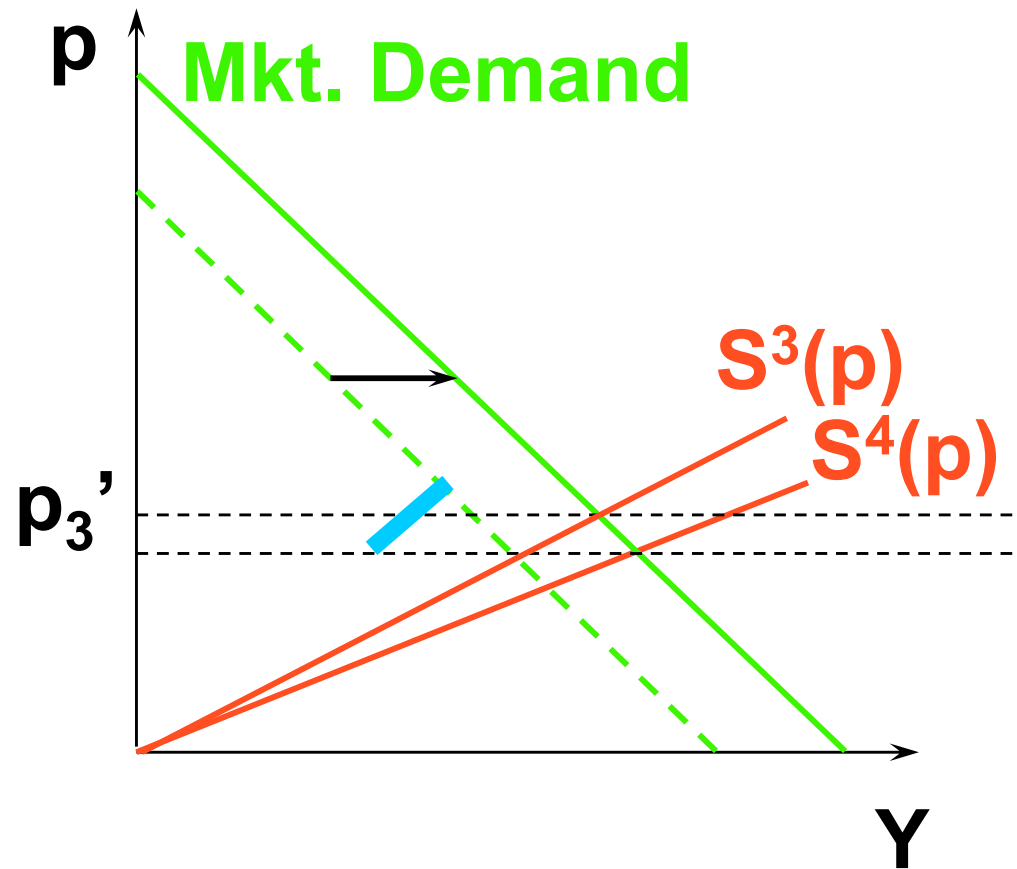
A "Typical" Firm



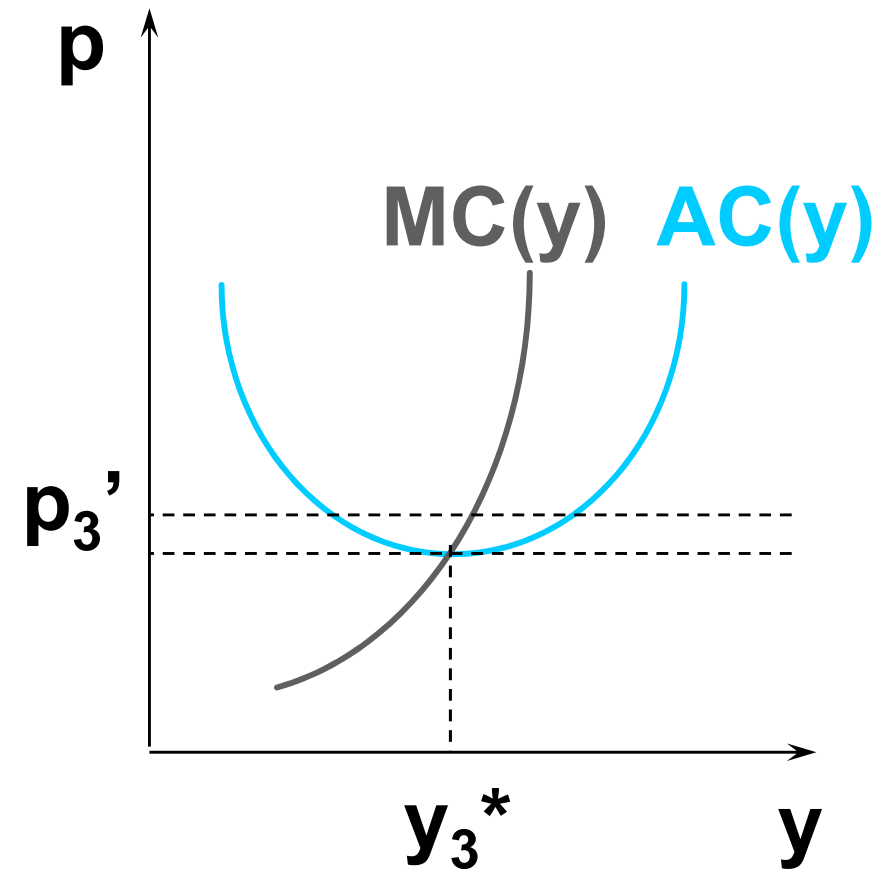
A 4th firm would now earn negative economic profits if it entered the industry.

Long-Run Industry Supply

The Market



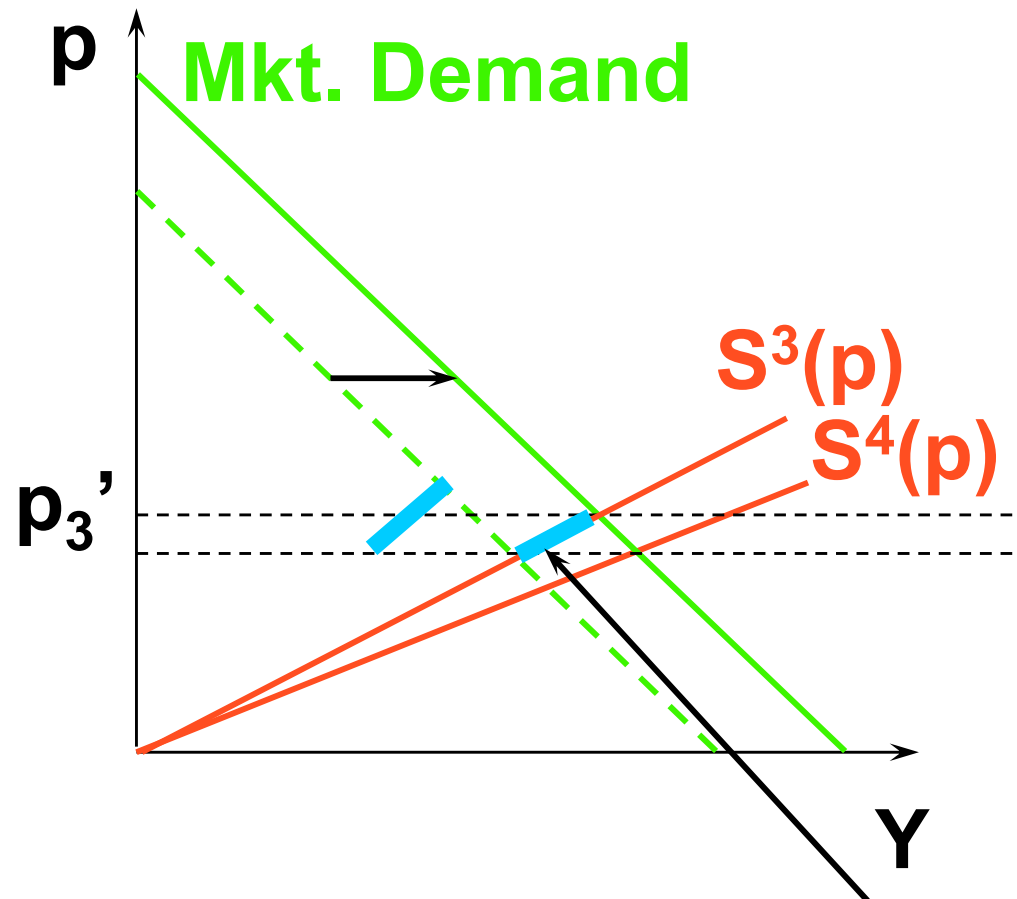
A "Typical" Firm



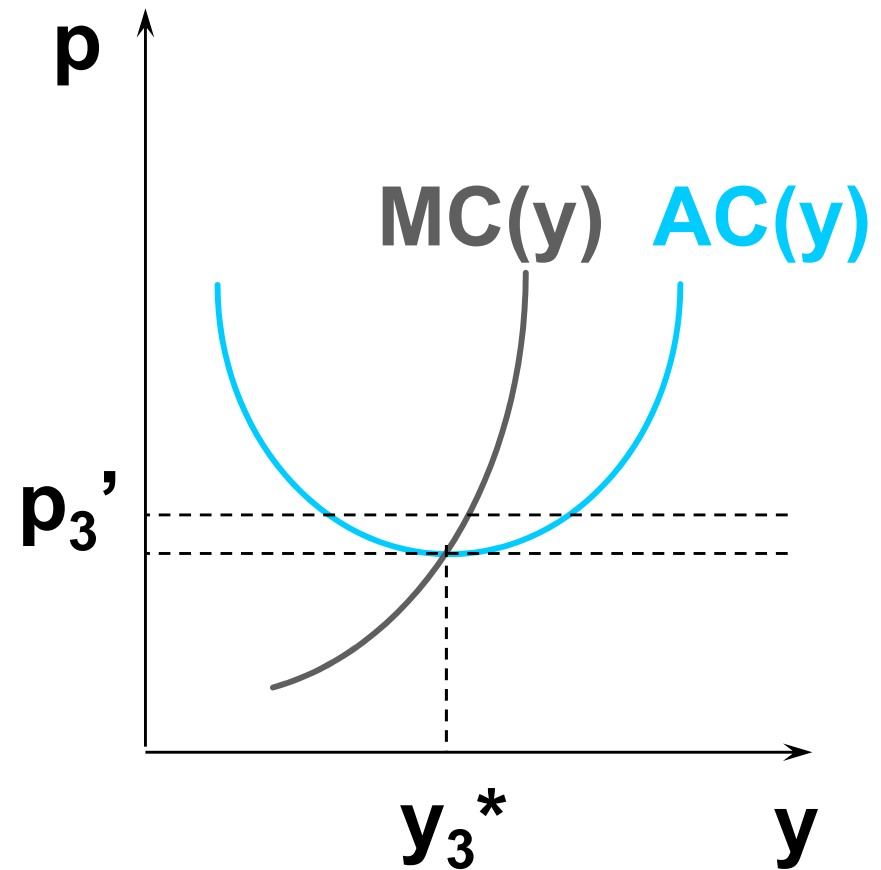
But now a 4th firm would earn zero economic profit if it entered the industry.

Long-Run Industry Supply

The Market



A "Typical" Firm



The only relevant part of the short-run supply curve for $n = 3$ firms in the industry.

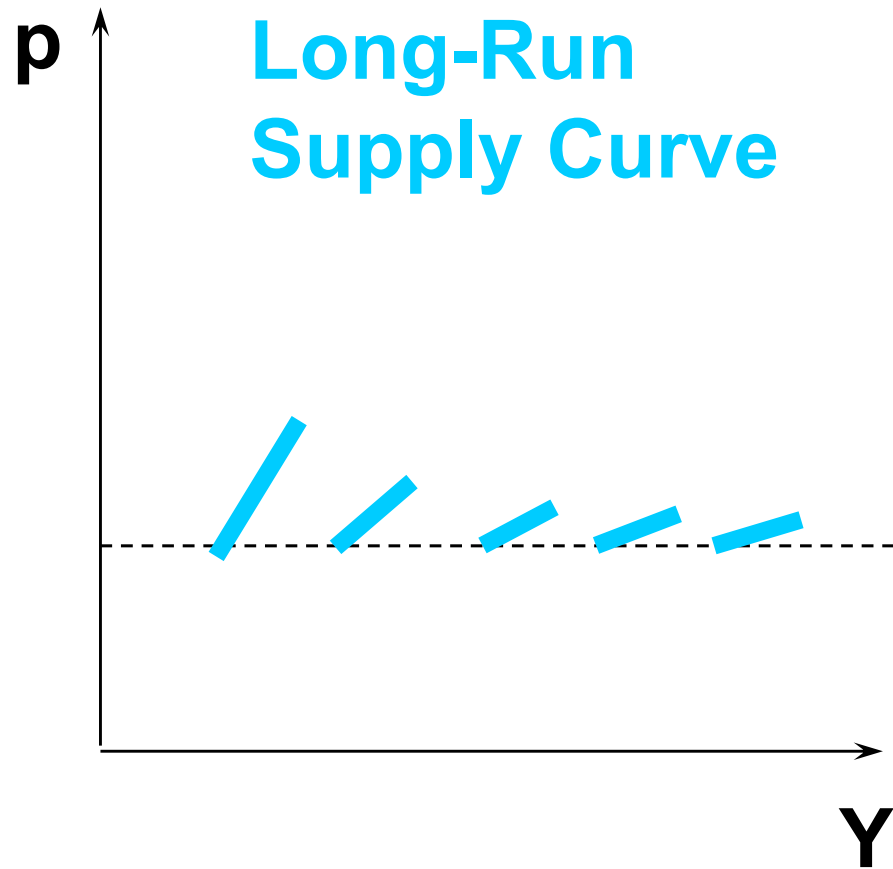
Long-Run Industry Supply

- ◆ **Continuing in this manner builds the industry's long-run supply curve, one section at-a-time from successive short-run industry supply curves.**

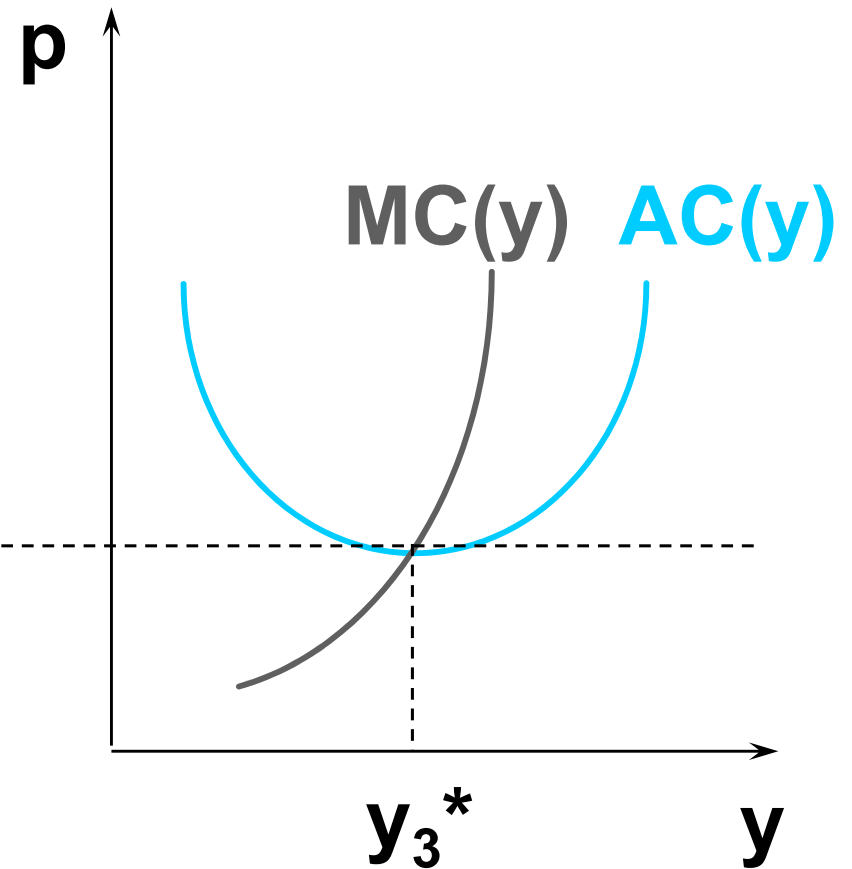
Long-Run Industry Supply

The Market

Long-Run
Supply Curve



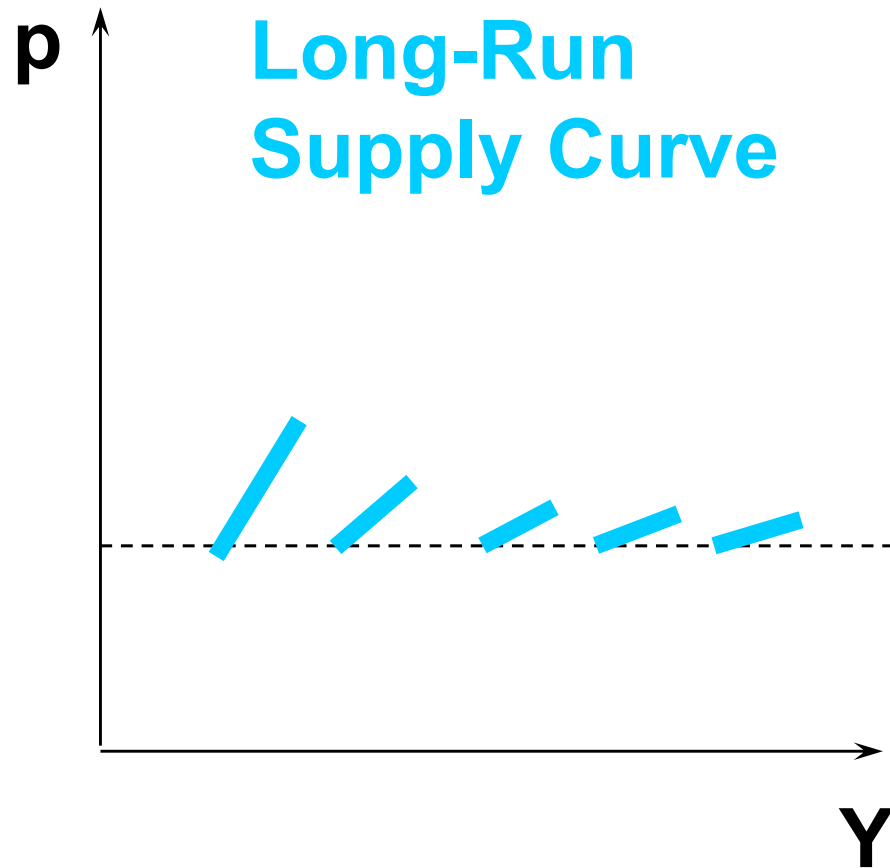
A "Typical" Firm



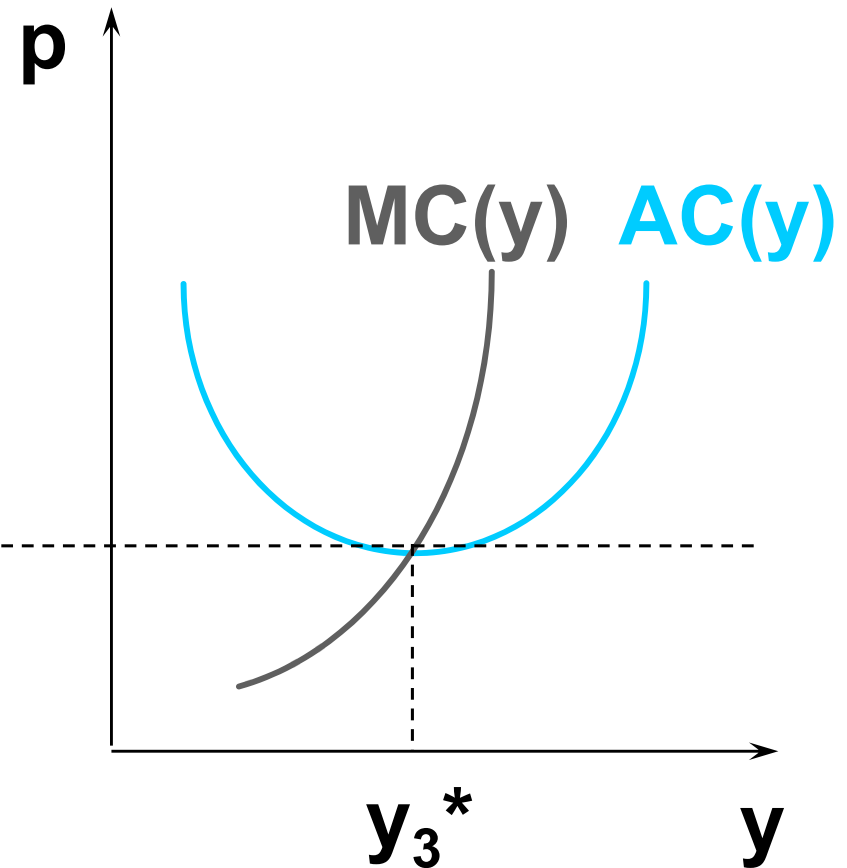
Long-Run Industry Supply

The Market

Long-Run
Supply Curve



A "Typical" Firm



Notice that the bottom of each segment of the supply curve is $\min AC(y)$.

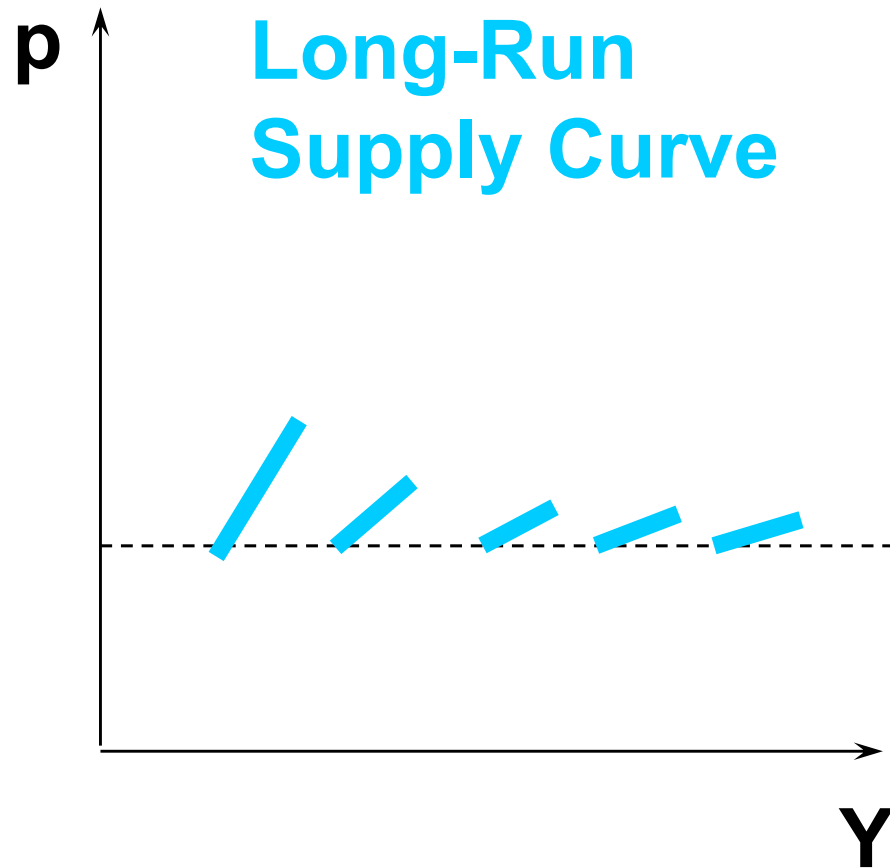
Long-Run Industry Supply

- ◆ **As each firm gets “smaller” relative to the industry, the long-run industry supply curve approaches a horizontal line at the height of $\min AC(y)$.**

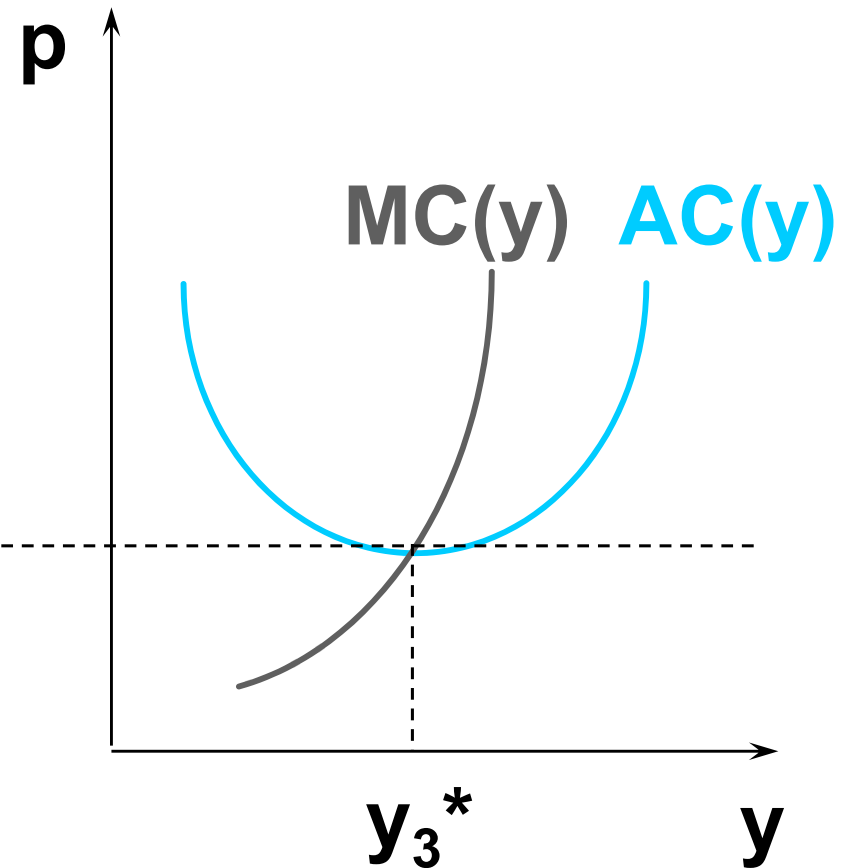
Long-Run Industry Supply

The Market

Long-Run
Supply Curve



A "Typical" Firm

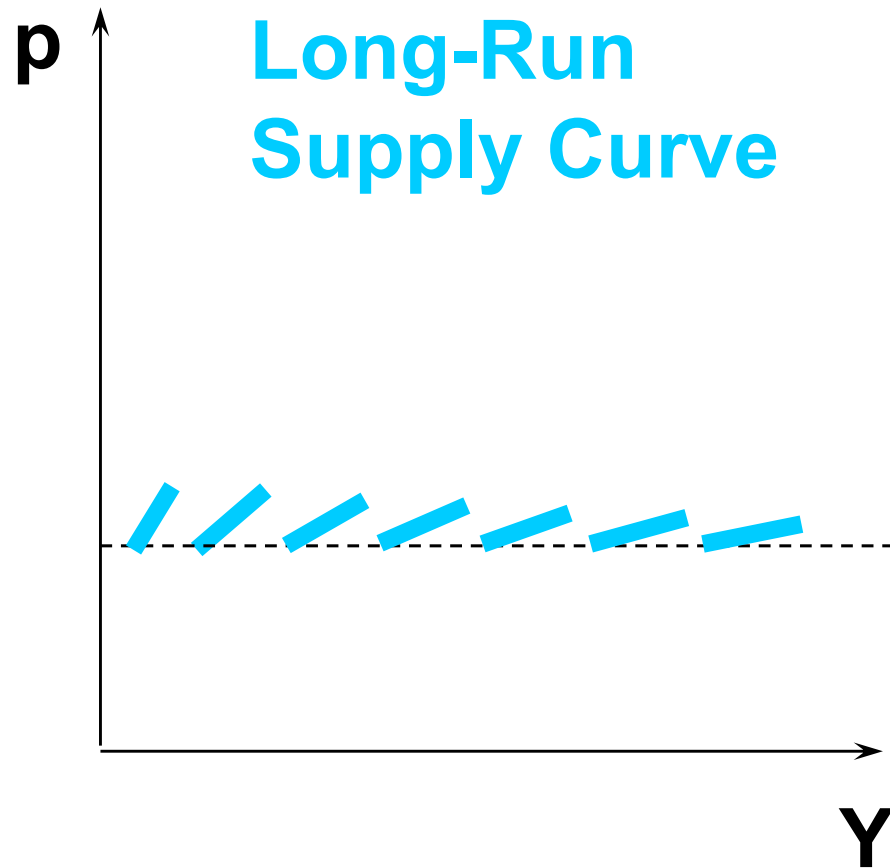


Notice that the bottom of each segment of the supply curve is $\min AC(y)$.

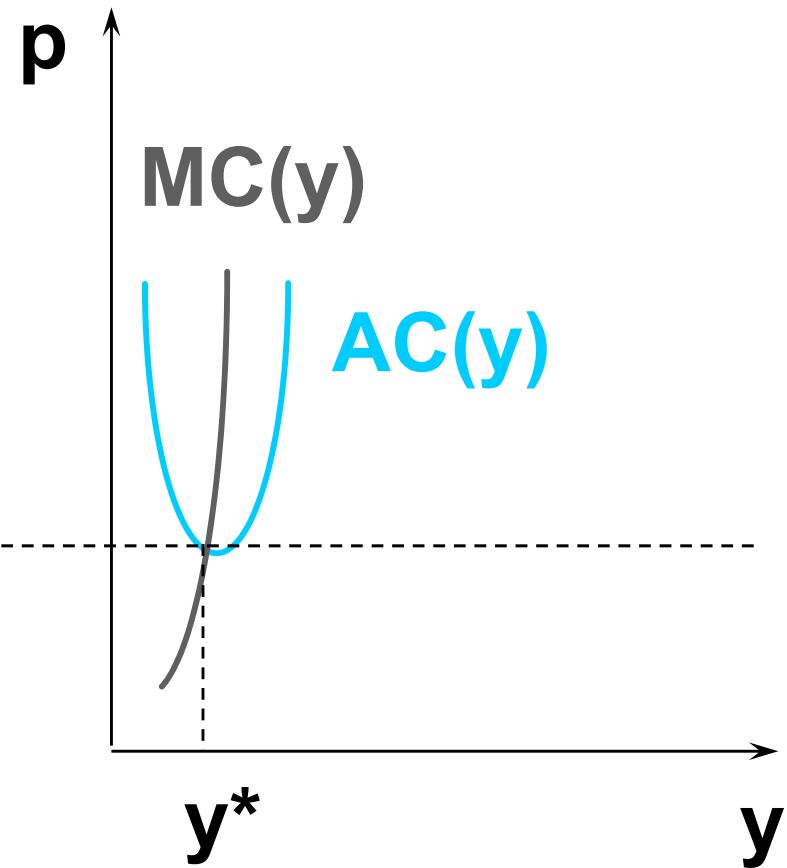
Long-Run Industry Supply

The Market

Long-Run
Supply Curve



A "Typical" Firm



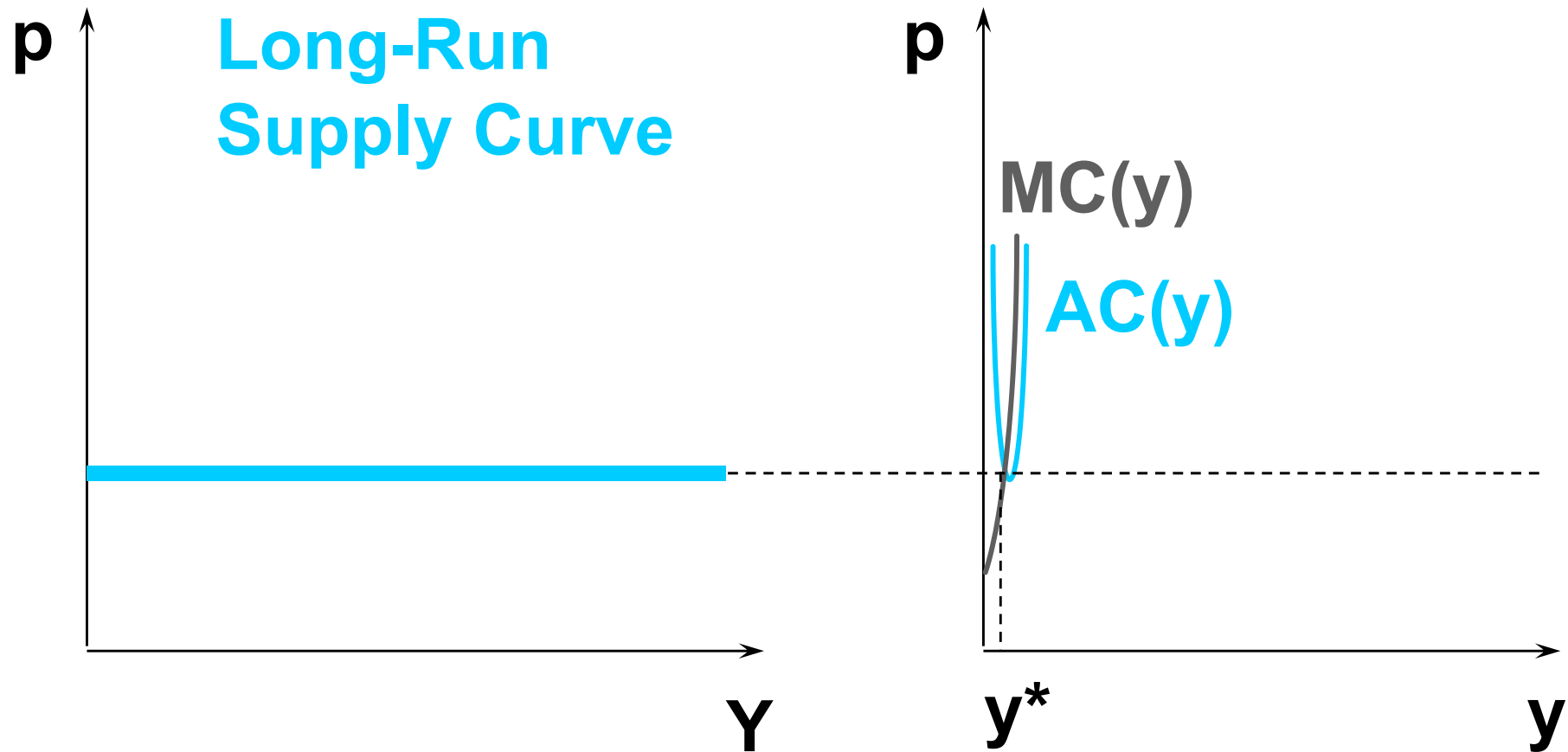
The bottom of each segment of the supply curve is $\min AC(y)$. As firms get "smaller" the segments get shorter.

Long-Run Industry Supply

The Market

Long-Run
Supply Curve

A "Typical" Firm



In the limit, as firms become infinitesimally small, the industry's long-run supply curve is horizontal at $\min AC(y)$.

Long-Run Market Equilibrium Price

- ◆ **In the long-run market equilibrium, the market price is determined solely by the long-run minimum average production cost.**

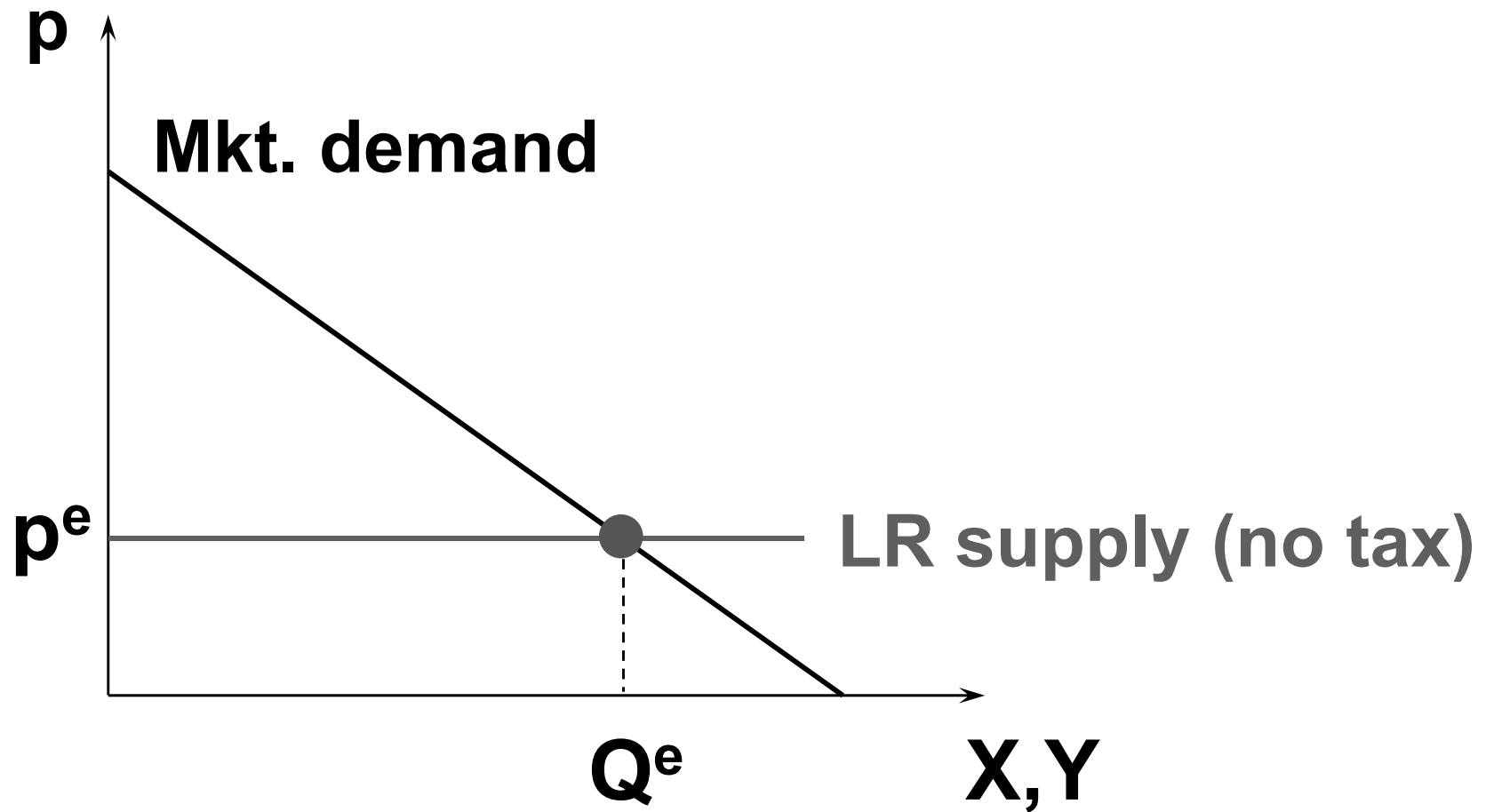
Long-run market price is

$$p^e = \min_{y>0} AC(y).$$

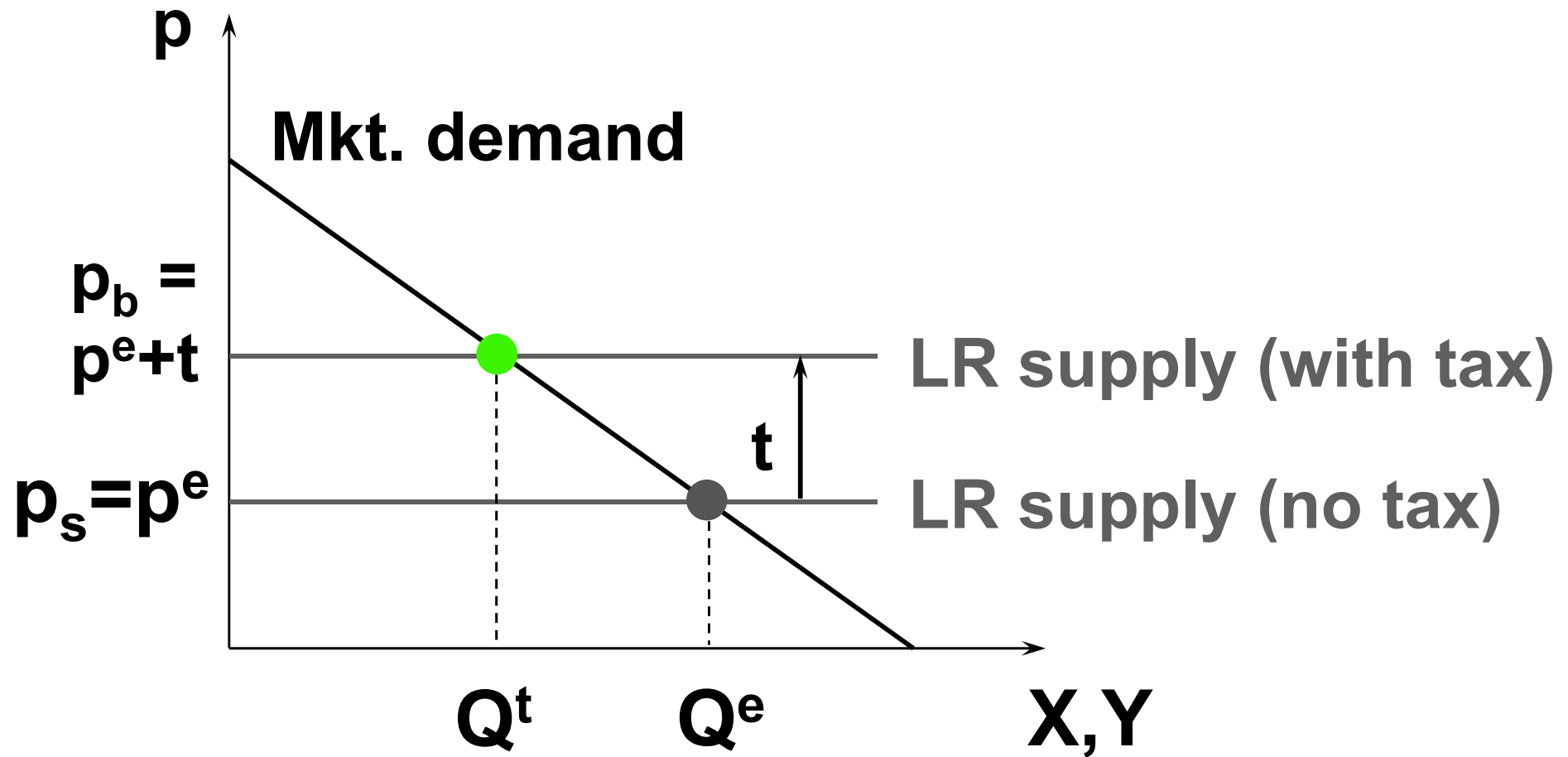
Long-Run Implications for Taxation

- ◆ **In a short-run equilibrium, the burden of a sales or an excise tax is typically shared by both buyers and sellers, tax incidence of the tax depending upon the own-price elasticities of demand and supply.**
- ◆ **Q: Is this true in a long-run market equilibrium?**

Long-Run Implications for Taxation

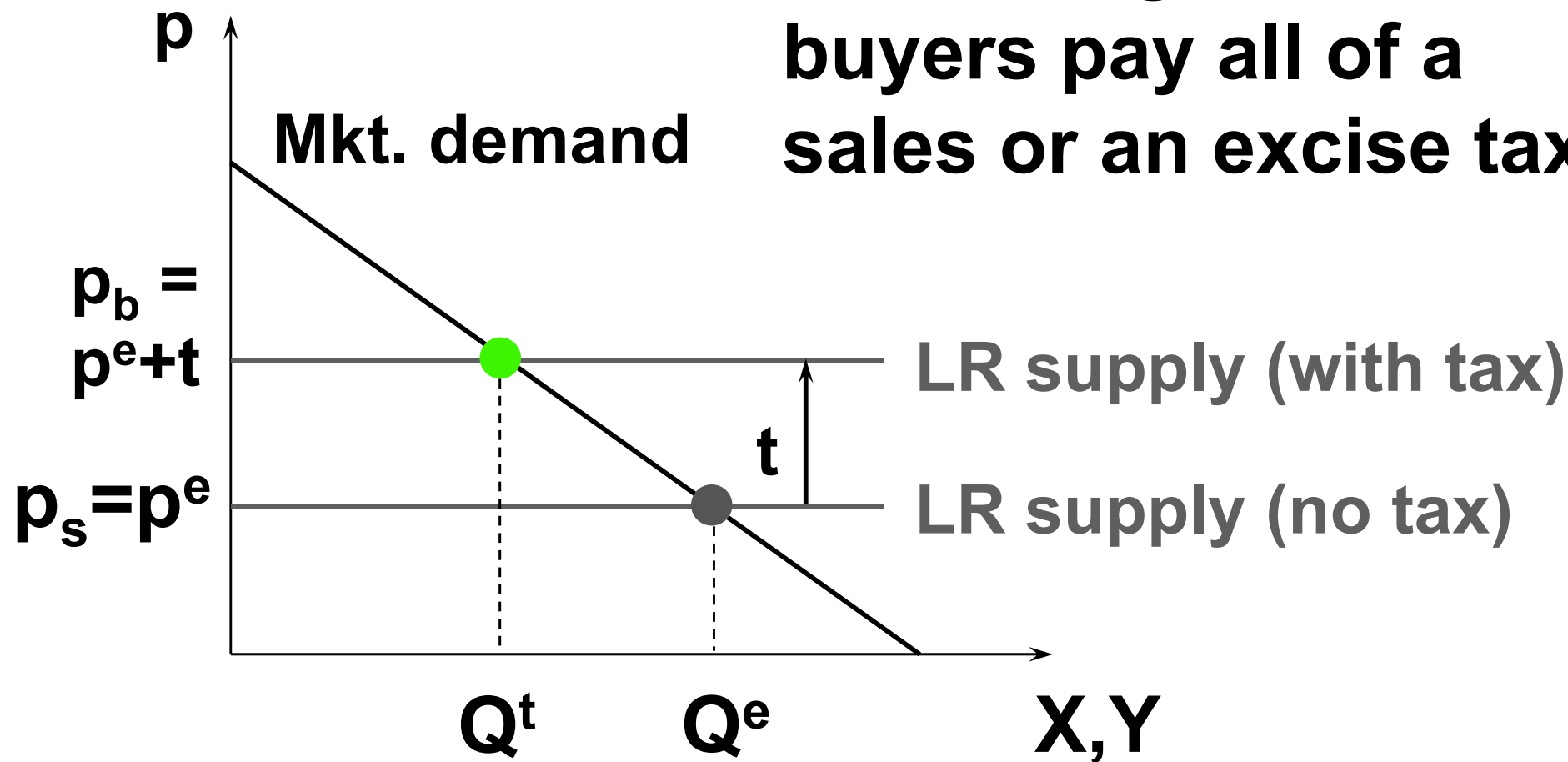


Long-Run Implications for Taxation



Long-Run Implications for Taxation

In the long-run the buyers pay all of a sales or an excise tax.



Fixed Inputs and Economic Rent

- ◆ **What if there is a barriers to entry or exit?**
- ◆ **E.g., the taxi-cab industry has a barrier to entry even though there are lots of cabs competing with each other.**
- ◆ **Liquor licensing is a barrier to entry into a competitive industry.**

Fixed Inputs and Economic Rent

- ◆ **Q: When there is a barrier to entry, will not the firms already in the industry make positive economic profits?**

Fixed Inputs and Economic Rent

- ◆ **Q: When there is a barrier to entry, will not the firms already in the industry make positive economic profits?**
- ◆ **A: No. Each firm in the industry makes a zero economic profit. Why?**

Fixed Inputs and Economic Rent

- ◆ **An input (e.g. an operating license) that is fixed in the long-run causes a long-run fixed cost, F .**
- ◆ **Long-run total cost, $c(y) = F + c_v(y)$.**
- ◆ **And long-run average total cost, $AC(y) = AFC(y) + AVC(y)$.**
- ◆ **In the long-run equilibrium, what will be the value of F ?**

Fixed Inputs and Economic Rent

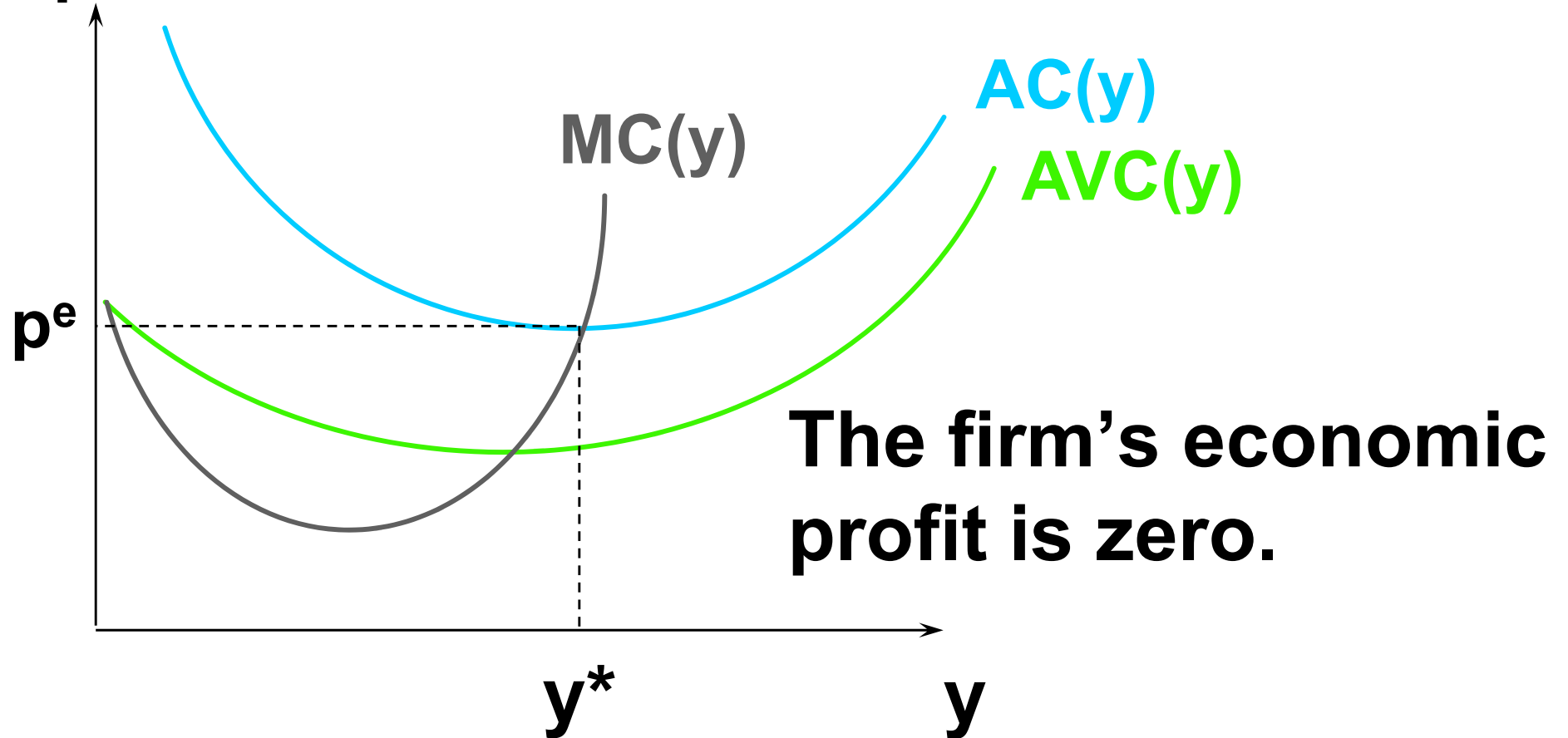
- ◆ **Think of a firm that needs an operating license -- the license is a fixed input that is rented but not owned by the firm.**
- ◆ **If the firm makes a positive economic profit then another firm can offer the license owner a higher price for it. In this way, all firms' economic profits are competed away, to zero.**

Fixed Inputs and Economic Rent

- ◆ **So in the long-run equilibrium, each firm makes a zero economic profit and each firm's fixed cost is its payment for its operating license.**

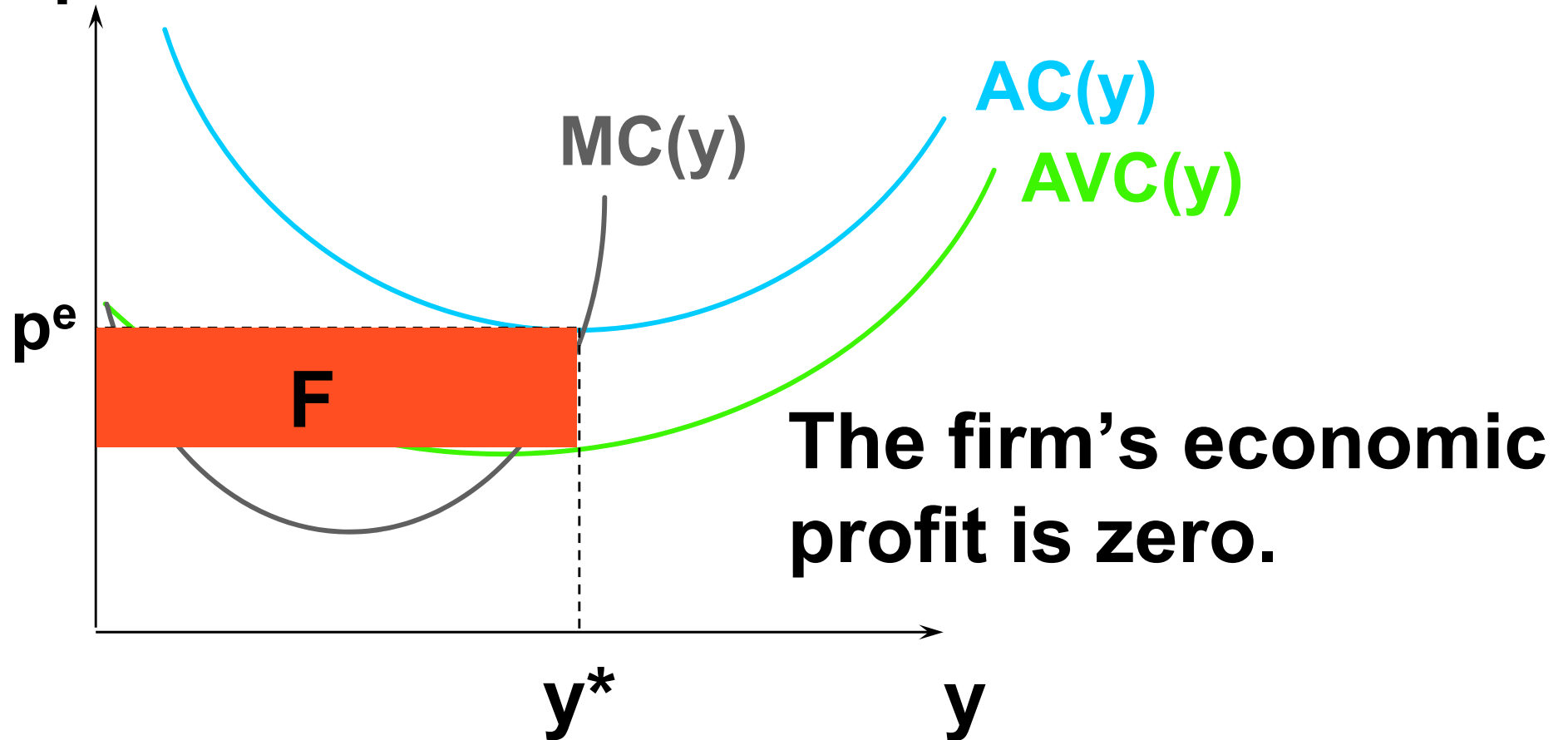
Fixed Inputs and Economic Rent

\$/output unit



Fixed Inputs and Economic Rent

\$/output unit



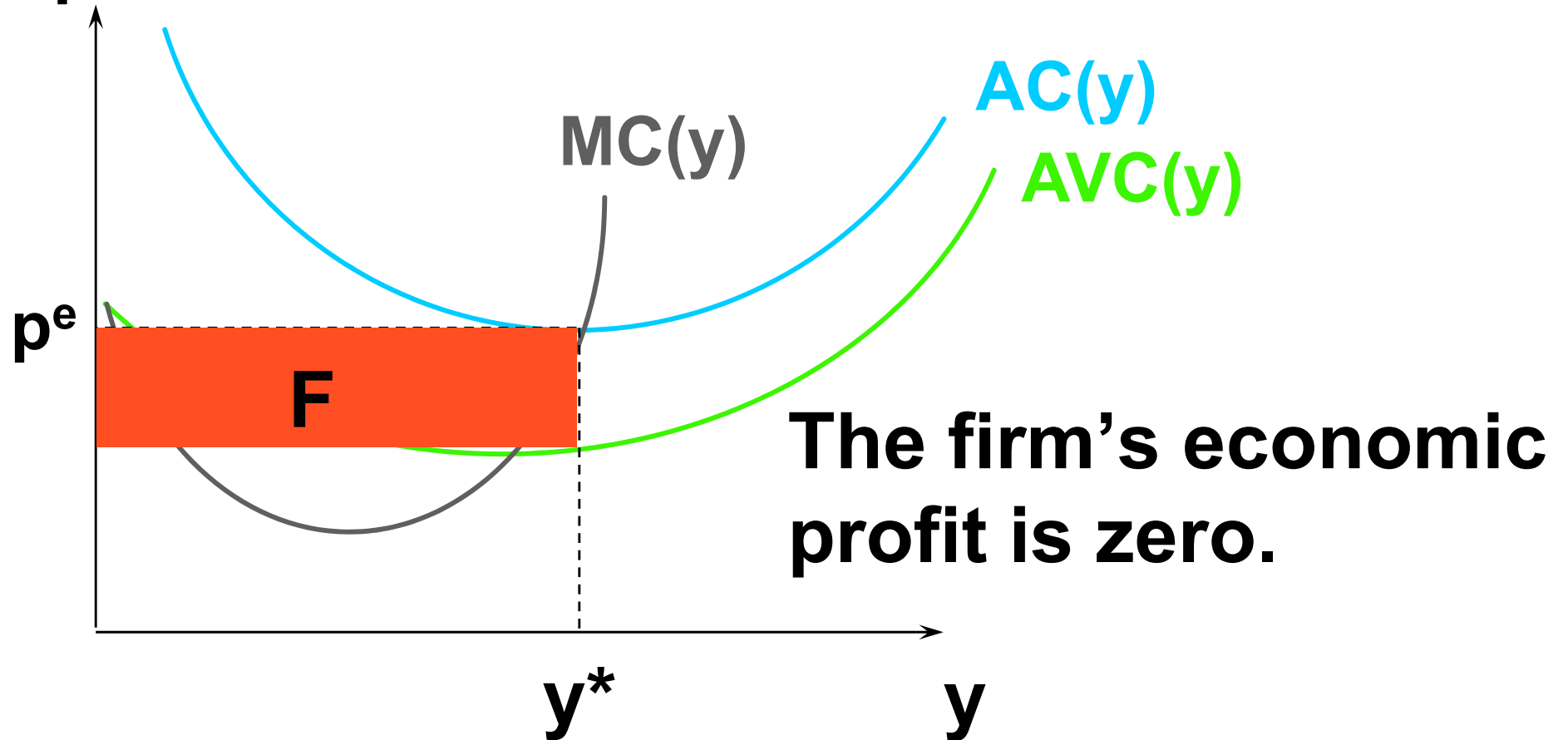
F is the payment to the owner of the fixed input (the license).

Fixed Inputs and Economic Rent

- ◆ **Economic rent is the payment for an input that is in excess of the minimum payment required to have that input supplied.**
- ◆ **Each license essentially costs zero to supply, so the long-run economic rent paid to the license owner is the firm's long-run fixed cost.**

Fixed Inputs and Economic Rent

\$/output unit



F is the payment to the owner of the fixed input (the license); $F =$ economic rent.