

Preface

This book began its journey to fruition many years ago when I was a Lecturer at the Management School at Imperial College. At that time I was approached by Tony Moore and asked to contribute a textbook in Finance to the Imperial College Press. Early progress was swift, but soon slowed down due to the interference of “life’s rich tapestry” as appears to often be the case. Having started the book as a single man with no major attachments (notwithstanding a passion for Tottenham Hotspur F.C.!), this book enters publication with the author a married man with two young children.

In writing this book I have been led by my own comments on texts from my student days, as well as by those of my own groups of students on the many contemporary texts in this area. One consequence is that I have tried to keep this book relatively short, to the point, and maintain a good flowing narrative. Too often, undergraduate textbooks drown the reader in a sea of numerous examples, so that the flow of the material gets lost and it becomes difficult to “see the wood for the trees”. I have deliberately opted for a short, focused text, rather than the more encyclopædic variety that inhabits and weighs down too many student bookshelves. I have also tried to maintain a sense of high quality, readable English that treats the reader as an equal. I hope that I will be regarded as successful in these areas. As always, any errors, both of omission and commission, remain my own responsibility.