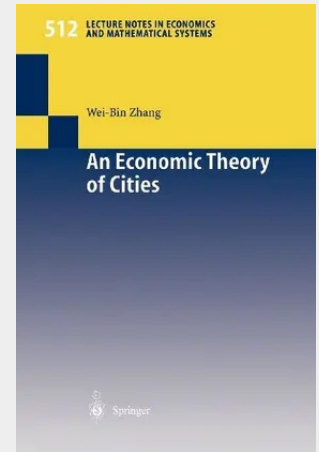


An Economic Theory of Cities

Spatial Models with Capital, Knowledge, and Structures

Over more than two centuries the development of economic theory has created a wide array of different concepts, theories, and insights. My recent books, *Capital and Knowledge* (Zhang, 1999) and *A Theory of International Trade* (Zhang, 2000) show how separate economic theories such as the Marxian economics, the Keynesian economics, the general equilibrium theory, the neoclassical growth theory, and the neoclassical trade theory can be examined within a single theoretical framework. This book is to further expand the framework proposed in the previous studies. This book is a part of my economic theory with endogenous population, capital, knowledge, preferences, sexual division of labor and consumption, institutions, economic structures and exchange values over time and space (Zhang, 1996a). As an extension of the *Capital and Knowledge*, which is focused on the dynamics of national economies, this book is to construct a theory of urban economies. We are concerned with dynamic relations between division of labor, division of consumption and determination of prices structure over space. We examine dynamic interdependence between capital accumulation, knowledge creation and utilization, economic growth, price structures and urban pattern formation under free competition. The theory is constructed on the basis of a few concepts within a compact framework. The comparative advantage of our theory is that in providing rich insights into complex of spatial economies it uses only a few concepts and simplified functional forms and accepts a few assumptions about behavior of consumers, producers, and institutional structures.

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