FOURTH EDITION

MICROECONOMICS

ROBERT S. PINDYCK / DANIEL L. RUBINFELD

VICROECONOMICS

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To our daughters

Maya, Talia, and Shira

Sarah and Rachel

PREFACE

For students who care about how the world works, microeconomics is one of the most relevant and interesting subjects they study. A good grasp of microeconomics is vital for managerial decision making, for designing and understanding public policy, and more generally for appreciating how a modern economy functions.

We wrote this book, *Microeconomics*, because we believe that students need to be exposed to the new topics that have come to have a central role in microeconomics over the past decade—topics such as game theory and competitive strategy, the roles of uncertainty and information, and the analysis of pricing by firms with market power. We also felt that students need to be shown how microeconomics can be used as a practical tool for decision making. Microeconomics is an exciting and dynamic subject, but students need to be given an appreciation of its relevance and usefulness. They want and need a good understanding of how microeconomics can actually be used outside the classroom.

To respond to these needs, our book provides a fresh treatment of micro-economic theory that stresses its relevance and application to both managerial and public-policy decision making. This applied emphasis is accomplished by including more than eighty extended examples that cover such topics as the analysis of demand, cost, and market efficiency, the design of pricing strategies, investment and production decisions, and public policy analysis. Because of the importance that we attach to these examples, they are included in the flow of the text, rather than being "boxed" or screened. (A list of the examples is included in the table of contents on pages xvii–xix.)

The coverage in *Microeconomics* incorporates the dramatic changes that have occurred in the field in recent years. There is growing interest in game theory and the strategic interactions of firms (Chapters 12 and 13), in the role and implications of uncertainty and asymmetric information (Chapters 5 and 17), in the pricing strategies of firms with market power (Chapters 10 and 11), and in the design of policies to deal efficiently with externalities such as environmental pollution (Chapter 18). These topics, which have only recently received attention in most books, are covered extensively here.

That the coverage in *Microeconomics* is comprehensive and up-to-date does not mean that it is "advanced" or difficult. We have worked hard to make the exposition clear and accessible as well as lively and engaging. We believe that

the study of microeconomics should be enjoyable and stimulating. We hope that our book reflects this. Except for appendices and footnotes, *Microeconomics* uses no calculus. As a result, it should be suitable for students with a broad range of backgrounds. (Those sections that are more demanding are marked with an asterisk and can be easily omitted.)

Changes in the Fourth Edition

The second and third editions of this book contained a variety of changes and additions that built on the success of the first edition. These included a number of new topics, such as the extent of a market, revealed preference, Engel curves, advertising, the theory of comparative advantage, strategic trade policy, and incentive design in vertically integrated firms. But even more importantly, with the assistance of a number of able reviewers, we heavily revised the first eight chapters of the text, and updated many of the examples. Our primary goal in revising the book has always been to make the text as clear, accessible, and interesting as possible. The fourth edition continues this tradition. We have added some new material, but we have also revised much of the existing text with the goal of improved clarity and accessibility.

Changes in this edition include a more detailed introductory discussion of supply and demand in Chapter 2, and a revised exposition of some of the core theory throughout the book, but especially in the the first ten chapters. New material on cost-of-living indexes has been added to Chapter 3, an expanded discussion of productivity growth has been added to Chapter 6, and we have expanded our discussion of costs in Chapter 7. We have also revised and expanded our discussion of the antitrust laws in Chapter 10, and we have included new material on bundling in Chapter 11. We have added a number of new examples, and most of the existing examples have been revised and updated.

Finally, we have modified many of the diagrams to improve their accuracy and clarity. This edition, like the third edition, is printed in four colors. However, this time we have tried to use those colors more effectively to make the diagrams as clear and pedagically effective as possible.

Alternative Course Designs

Microeconomics offers instructors substantial flexibility in course design. For a one-quarter or one-semester course stressing the basic core material, we would suggest using the following chapters and sections of chapters: 1, 2, 3, 4.1-4.4, 6.1-6.5, 7.1-7.4, 8, 9.1-9.4, 10.1-10.4, 11.1-11.3, 12.1-12.2, 12.5-12.6, 14, 15.1-15.4, 18.1-18.2, and 18.5. A somewhat more ambitious course might also include parts of Chapters 5 and 16, and additional sections in Chapters 6, 7, 9, 10, and 12. To emphasize uncertainty and market failure, an instructor should also include substantial parts of Chapters 5 and 17.

Depending on one's interests and the goals of the course, other sections could be added or used to replace the materials listed above. A course that

emphasized modern pricing theory and business strategy would include all of Chapters 10, 11, 12, and 13, and the remaining sections of Chapter 15. A course in managerial economics might also include the appendixes to Chapters 4, 7, and 11, as well as the appendix on regression analysis at the end of the book. A course that emphasized welfare economics and public policy should include Chapter 16 and additional sections of Chapter 18.

Finally, we want to stress that those sections or subsections that are more demanding and/or are peripheral to the core material have been marked with an asterisk. These sections can easily be omitted without detracting from the flow of the book.

Supplementary Materials

Ancillaries of an exceptionally high quality are available to instructors and students using this book. The instructor's manual was written by Gilbert Davis and Valerie Suslow of the University of Michigan. It provides answers to all of the Questions for Review and all of the Exercises that appear at the end of chapters, as well as a summary of the key points in each chapter. It also contains a series of teaching suggestions. It is available from the publisher on request, as is a separate test bank, writter by Nancy Fox of Saint Joseph's University.

The study guide, written by Valerie Suslow of the University of Michigan and Jonathan Hamilton of the University of Florida, provides a wide variety of review materials and exercises for students. It can be purchased separately by students and others using the book.

For more information on the availability of the supplementary materials, contact your Prentice Hall sales representative.

Acknowledgments

Because this book has been the outgrowth of years of experience in the class-room, we owe a debt of gratitude to our students and to the colleagues with whom we often discuss microeconomics and its presentation. We have also had the help of capable research assistants, including Walter Athier, Phillip Gibbs, Jamie Jue, Kathy O'Regan, Karen Randig, Subi Rangan, and Deborah Senior. Kathy Hill helped with the art, while Assunta Kent, Mary Knott, and Dawn Elliott Linahan provided secretarial assistance with the first edition. We especially want to thank Lynn Steele and Jay Tharp, who provided considerable editorial support for the second edition. Mark Glickman and Steve Wiggins assisted with the examples in the third edition, while Andrew Guest, Jeanette Sayre, and Lynn Steele provided valuable editorial support.

Writing this book has been a painstaking and enjoyable process. At each stage we received exceptionally fine guidance from teachers of microeconomics throughout the country. After the first draft of the first edition of this book had been edited and reviewed, it was discussed at a two-day focus group meeting in New York. This provided an opportunity to get ideas from instructors with a variety of backgrounds and perspectives. We would like

to thank the following focus group members for advice and criticism: Carl Davidson of Michigan State University; Richard Eastin of the University of Southern California; Judith Roberts of California State University, Long Beach; and Charles Strein of the University of Northern Iowa. We would also like to thank all those who reviewed the first edition at each stage of its evolution:

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> R.S.P. D.L.R.

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