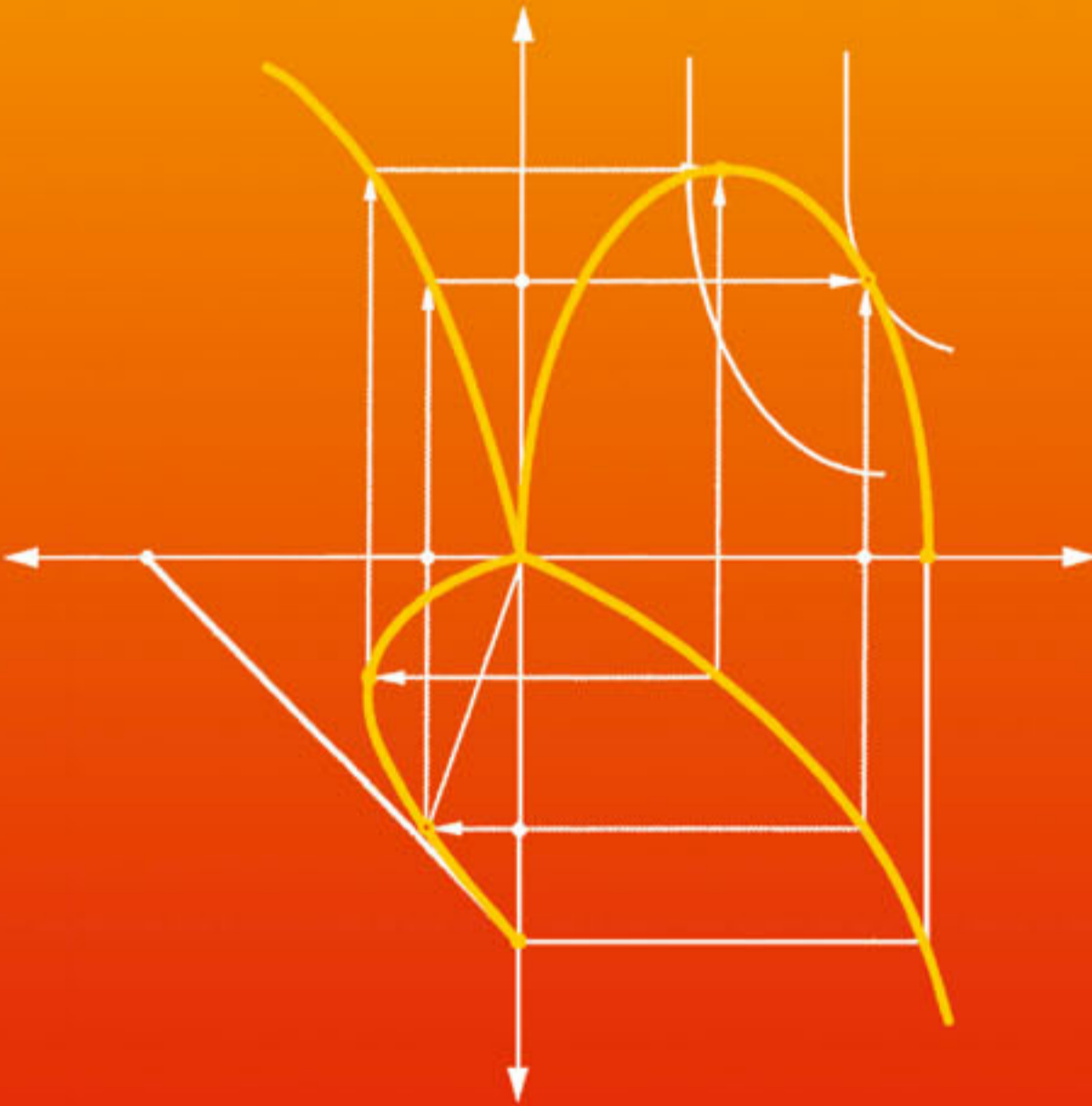


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Health Economics

Second Edition



 Springer

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Peter Zweifel · Friedrich Breyer · Mathias Kifmann

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Preface

Health Economics is a fascinating subject. This book provides a systematic treatment of this field of study. It is based on a German version which has been well received since 1992, resulting in five editions so far. It serves both as a textbook in university courses at the Master level and as a reference book.

The book's distinguishing feature is that it consistently builds on formal economic models that have been used in academic Health Economics journals for several decades but have not been integrated in the leading undergraduate textbooks of the field. As we are convinced that many problems in Health Economics are too complicated to be analyzed only graphically, we are now offering this text for Master level courses at universities worldwide. Our premise is that readers are familiar with basic calculus. Some knowledge of econometrics is also useful. At the same time, we have taken care to explain the reasoning in the more technical sections. In addition, we state our main results in non-technical Conclusions and in Summaries at the end of each chapter.

We are grateful to those who have provided their generous assistance to the completion of this book. Ana Ania, Han Bleichrodt, Laszlo Goerke, Normann Lorenz, Thomas McGuire, Robert Nuscheler and Luigi Siciliani have read parts of the manuscript and made valuable suggestions for improvement. We also would like to thank Stefan Felder, Kristin Grabe, Andreas Hauffer, Tobias Laun, Hansjörg Lehmann, Maximilian Rüger, Florian Scheuer, Carlo Schultheiss, Lukas Steinmann, Harry Telser, Silke Uebelmesser and Matthias Wrede for their comments on versions of the German manuscript. Finally, we are grateful to Patrick Eugster, Ilja Neustadt, Maurus Rischatsch, Kerstin Roeder, Maximilian Rüger, Clarissa Schnekenburger, Johannes Schoder, Susanna Sedlmeier, Michèle Sennhauser, Sandra Strametz and Philippe Widmer for their assistance in preparing the manuscript.

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