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Preface and Acknowledgements

18 [In the course of working on various problems in locational economics, it gradually dawned on me that much deeper results could be obtained if these problems were reformulated in terms of measure theory. I pursued this line of inquiry for several years, and found not only that most of classical location theory could be reformulated with profit in terms of measures, but also that the scope of the approach was much broader than I had anticipated. In short, it turns out that measure-theory is a vehicle of universal descriptive power which provides a framework into which all of social science can fit.

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It is easiest to summarize the book from back to front. Chapters 8 and 9 contain the reformulation of most of classical location theory, and a good deal more. Chapters 5 and 7, on the allocation-of-effort and transportation problems, respectively, provide results used in many of the models in Chapters 8 and 9, and are of considerable interest in their own right. Chapter 6 covers markets in general, in particular the real-estate market. Chapters 2 and 4 provide the overall descriptive framework. Chapter 3 develops the deepest mathematical innovation in the book, the concept of pseudomeasure. Finally, Chapter 1 elaborates the quick summary of this Preface, discusses what remains to be done, and provides a detailed synopsis and reader's guide.

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This work was done in splendid isolation—perhaps too splendid. But I must mention Karl Fox, to whom this book is dedicated. Fox is a man of vision who is today launching what amounts to a second career with his work on social indicators and historical interpretation. He was Head of the LSU Economics Department during the book's gestation period, and his encouragement was a necessary input to the sustained effort that went into creating it. It must not have been easy to keep the faith when year after year went by without anything palpable to show for it. I trust that the present book justifies the wait. My wife Mary bore with my efforts over many years. Finally, a note of thanks to my editor, Nancy Bohlen, who handled a nasty manuscript and temperamental author with grace.

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