

Preface

This work arose during my occupation at the Chair of Production and Operations Management at the Catholic University Eichstätt–Ingolstadt, where it was accepted as my doctoral thesis. Professor Heinrich Kuhn served as the first and Professor Ulrich Küsters as the second reviewer. This thesis started off as my attempt to solve all the issues related to multi-level inventory management in discrete time once and for all. In retrospect, I am very glad that I took on the challenge. It taught me humility. Much as I wished to resolve everything in one fell swoop, I am now proud to be able to say that this is it: this is what is possible at the present time. We – the many researchers that came before me, and now myself – gave it our very best. I collated all the knowledge that was available, and hope to have driven the topic forwards a little. I admit the going was extremely tough, and wish my successors in this particular field of inventory theory courage and tenacity.

I am so very grateful to the many friends and colleagues who accompanied me on this path. It would be hard to pick out individuals – I would run the risk of leaving out far too many. Instead, I will not mention anyone specifically at all, and would like to simply express my heartfelt thanks to everyone who shared this journey with me, or contributed to it – I am sure you all recognize yourselves, and will understand.

I would, however, like to single out two names that I have already mentioned: Professor Heinrich Kuhn and Professor Ulrich Küsters. I owe the deepest appreciation to Professor Ulrich Küsters for his open and always constructive criticism. Readers should be thankful to him, too: his comments have spared them many of my excesses. And to more than anyone else, I am enormously grateful to my doctoral supervisor, Professor Heinrich Kuhn, for his guidance and latitude during the six years that I worked with him at his chair. His untiring commitment to teaching and research is a continuous inspiration. I am indebted to him as steadfast mentor, and know he will always remain true to himself. But now curtains up on the models, methods and approaches to the management of periodically reviewed inventory systems that await you on the following pages. I hope I have managed to

clearly express my thoughts and ideas, and that I can perhaps encourage you, the reader, to work with them, and – even more importantly – to further refine them.

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