Information and Learning in Markets
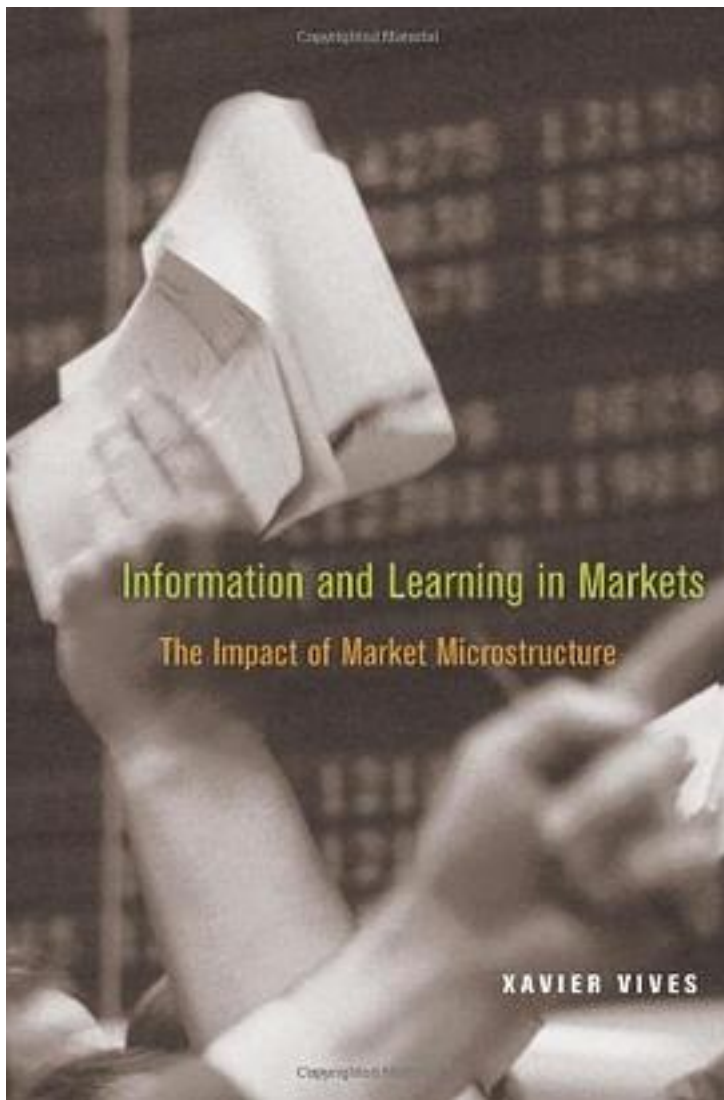

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出版者:Princeton University Press

出版时间:2010-1-25

装帧:Paperback

isbn:9780691145969

The ways financial analysts, traders, and other specialists use information and learn from each other are of fundamental importance to understanding how markets work and prices are set. This graduate-level textbook analyzes how markets aggregate information and examines the impacts of specific market arrangements - or microstructure - on the aggregation process and overall performance of financial markets. Xavier Vives bridges the gap between the two primary views of markets - informational efficiency and herding - and uses a coherent game-theoretic framework to bring together the latest results from the rational expectations and herding literatures. Vives emphasizes the consequences of market interaction and social learning for informational and economic efficiency. He looks closely at information aggregation mechanisms, progressing from simple to complex environments: from static to dynamic models; from competitive to strategic agents; and, from simple market strategies such as noncontingent orders or quantities to complex ones like price contingent orders or demand schedules. Vives finds that contending theories like informational efficiency and herding build on the same principles of Bayesian decision making and that 'irrational' agents are not needed to explain herding behavior, booms, and crashes. As this book shows, the microstructure of a market is the crucial factor in the informational efficiency of prices. It provides the most complete analysis of the ways markets aggregate information. It bridges the gap between the rational expectations and herding literatures. It includes exercises with solutions. It serves both as a graduate textbook and a resource for researchers, including financial analysts.

作者介绍:

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