

Report on Bachelor / Master Thesis

Institute of Economic Studies, Faculty of Social Sciences, Charles University in Prague

Student:	Jakub Špiroch
Advisor:	Doc. Julie Chytilová, PhD
Title of the thesis:	Analysis of Determinants of Carsharing

OVERALL ASSESSMENT (provided in English, Czech, or Slovak):

Please provide your assessment of each of the following four categories, summary and suggested questions for the discussion. The minimum length of the report is 300 words.

Contribution

In his thesis, Jakub Špiroch focuses on the recent phenomenon of car-sharing. He provides a nice motivation, explaining the motives of people for using this service (pollution, traffic jams, limited parking spaces, etc.). Jakub is interested in the determinants of car-sharing, in particular in the characteristics of cities which predict higher usage of car-sharing. He contributes to the quite limited literature on this topic. While so far, the existing studies focused either on impacts of car-sharing or on their determinants on the local level, Jakub's main contribution is the creation of a new dataset which includes data from cities from all over the world. The research question and contribution are clearly formulated.

Methods

As I already mentioned, Jakub created a new dataset to be able to study his research question. The variable of interest is the number of carsharing cars in a city. Since this variable is not available in a single dataset for different countries, and even at country/city level in most cases it is not easily accessible, Jakub had to employ a variety of approaches how to collect the data, including directly contacting the carsharing companies, inspecting their websites, the Python data scraping method, and manually computing cars on a map. I appreciate his careful approach when generating the dataset. To analyse the data, he uses standard and appropriate methods for this type of analysis (logit, OLS). I would recommend a bit more careful interpretation of the results, specifically in terms of causality vs. correlation. Also, the discussion about the observations with zero values, potentially biased results of OLS, and log-transformation on p. 29 was not clear to me. I include some questions related mostly to methodology at the end of the report.

Literature

The thesis provides a comprehensive review of the existing literature on the topic. The literature review section is clearly structured and Jakub seems to have a relatively sound knowledge of the literature, including the latest contributions. It would be nice to provide more direct comparison with the most closely related studies.

Manuscript form

The thesis reads well and is written in very good English.

Summary and suggested questions for the discussion during the defense

To sum up, I believe the thesis fulfills the requirements for a bachelor thesis at IES, Faculty of Social Sciences, Charles University, and suggest grade B or C, depending on the discussion during the thesis defense.

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Suggested questions for the discussion during the defense:

- Can you elaborate more on the discussion on p. 29 and explain why you decided to use log-transformed dependent variable? Is it motivated by observations with zero values, potentially biased results of OLS method, or by the way hot to interpret the findings?
- You decided not to include countries where there isn't carsharing in any of the cities. Would it make sense to include these cities into the logit analysis where you are interested in which types of cities carsharing is present?
- Can you compare your study with the two most closely related studies (Blomme 2016, Muenzel et al. 2017)? Your study focuses on cities from all over the world, while their studies focus on Europe only. What are the similarities/differences in terms of the analysis and variables used?
- You find that carsharing is more prevalent in cities with a prestigious university. Surely, such cities differ in many dimensions from cities without a prestigious university. Can you summarize which of these variables you include in your analysis and which other potential factors are unobserved (e.g. a share of young population)?

SUMMARY OF POINTS AWARDED (for details, see below):

CATEGORY	POINTS
<i>Contribution (max. 30 points)</i>	25
<i>Methods (max. 30 points)</i>	20
<i>Literature (max. 20 points)</i>	15
<i>Manuscript Form (max. 20 points)</i>	20
TOTAL POINTS (max. 100 points)	80
GRADE (A – B – C – D – E – F)	B-C

NAME OF THE REFEREE: *Julie Chytilová*

DATE OF EVALUATION: *May 21, 2019*

Referee Signature

EXPLANATION OF CATEGORIES AND SCALE:

CONTRIBUTION: *The author presents original ideas on the topic demonstrating critical thinking and ability to draw conclusions based on the knowledge of relevant theory and empirics. There is a distinct value added of the thesis.*

<i>Strong</i>	<i>Average</i>	<i>Weak</i>
30	15	0

METHODS: *The tools used are relevant to the research question being investigated, and adequate to the author's level of studies. The thesis topic is comprehensively analyzed.*

<i>Strong</i>	<i>Average</i>	<i>Weak</i>
30	15	0

LITERATURE REVIEW: *The thesis demonstrates author's full understanding and command of recent literature. The author quotes relevant literature in a proper way.*

<i>Strong</i>	<i>Average</i>	<i>Weak</i>
20	10	0

MANUSCRIPT FORM: *The thesis is well structured. The student uses appropriate language and style, including academic format for graphs and tables. The text effectively refers to graphs and tables and disposes with a complete bibliography.*

<i>Strong</i>	<i>Average</i>	<i>Weak</i>
20	10	0

Overall grading:

TOTAL	GRADE
91 – 100	A
81 - 90	B
71 - 80	C
61 – 70	D
51 – 60	E
0 – 50	F