Opponent’s Report on Dissertation Thesis

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<table>
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<tr>
<th>Author:</th>
<th>Jan Pruša</th>
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<tr>
<td>Title of the Thesis:</td>
<td>Economic Efficiency, Competition and Equilibrium in Heterogeneous Production</td>
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<td>Type of Defense:</td>
<td>DEFENSE</td>
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<td>Date of Pre-Defense:</td>
<td>December 5, 2012</td>
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<td>Reviewer:</td>
<td>Prof. Cinzia Daraio Ph.D.</td>
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Address the following questions in your review, please:

a) Can you recognize an original contribution of the author?
b) Is the thesis based on relevant references?
c) Is the thesis defendable at your home institution?
d) Do the results of the thesis allow their publication in a respected economic journal?
e) Are there any additional major comments on what should be improved?
f) Were your comments raised at the pre-defense, addressed in the dissertation submitted to the regular defense? (The pre-defense report is enclosed below)
g) What is your overall assessment of the thesis? (a) I recommend the thesis to be defended without major changes; (b) The thesis is not defendable.

(Note: The review should be at least 2 pages long.)

Content of the Review:

General comments

The dissertation of Mr. Jan Pruša on “Economic Efficiency, Competition and Equilibrium in Heterogeneous Production” in its revised version presents a structured analysis on the economic efficiency of small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs). The work is organized in two parts: a theoretical part and an empirical section. In the first part a presentation of the main principles of economic efficiency is reported, together with an articulated discussion about the relation between economic efficiency, competition and firms’ equilibrium. The second part consists of three empirical analyses on the efficiency of SMEs in UK (“The money-metric production frontier” essay) and on the efficiency of SMEs in the Czech Republic (respectively the second and third essay on “Non-Parametric Efficiency of Czech SME” and “Parametric Efficiency of Czech SME”).
Original contribution
Mr. Průša provides an original contribution, in particular in the second section, where solid and well-grounded empirical evidences on British and Czeck SMEs have been presented in a detailed way.

Relevant references
The PhD thesis is based on relevant and up to date references.

The overall structure and content of the thesis is in line with the qualitative standards required in our university, the University of Roma “La Sapienza”, for PhD thesis. The candidate has well-structured and described his work.

Publication of the research
Two chapters of the PhD thesis have already been published in scientific journals. We think that also the third empirical chapter could be published in a respected economic journal.

Improvements done to the Thesis
The author took into account all our previous suggestions on his work. In particular he changed the title to his thesis, he restructured the first part, he updated the methodology reported concerning conditional nonparametric efficiency analysis, that is our fields of expertise, and finally he answered to all our questions. For that reason we do not have any additional remark or concern about his PhD thesis.

Overall assessment
Our overall evaluation of the PhD thesis is highly positive. The work is well written and well organized. The research questions are clearly articulated and detailed. The literature analysed is systematic and comprehensive. The empirical analysis carried out is detailed and presented in a convincing way. The author has showed his maturity in analyzing efficiency analysis concepts, such as, relationships between efficiency and profit of firms; differences between technical and allocative efficiency; Leibenstein’s X-efficiency, role of market prices in determining economic efficiency as opposed to technical efficiency and the like. The overall quality of this PhD thesis is as good as any recent dissertations held in our university, the University of Rome La Sapienza.

Final recommendation
Finally, we recommend the thesis to be defended (without major changes) as it is.

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<th>20 November 2013</th>
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<tr>
<td>Reviewer’s Signature:</td>
<td>Cinzia Daraio PhD</td>
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<tr>
<td>Reviewer’s Affiliation:</td>
<td>University of Rome &quot;La Sapienza&quot;</td>
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