

Report on Master Thesis

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

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| Student: | Bc. Milan Hanousek |
| Advisor: | PhDr. Ladislav Křišťoufek Ph.D. |
| Title of the thesis: | Internation Trade Network |

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

| CATEGORY | POINTS |
|---------------------------------------|-----------|
| Literature (max. 20 points) | 20 |
| Methods (max. 30 points) | 30 |
| Contribution (max. 30 points) | 25 |
| Manuscript Form (max. 20 points) | 19 |
| TOTAL POINTS (max. 100 points) | 94 |
| GRADE (1 – 2 – 3 – 4) | 1 |

NAME OF THE REFEREE:

Radovan Parrák

DATE OF EVALUATION:

31.8.2014


Referee Signature

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OVERALL ASSESSMENT

In overall, the thesis is self-contained and was pleasure to read. The aim of the thesis is clear, methods are well motivated and formally, it is well structured. The findings are in line with the majority of academic papers on this topic. I recommend this thesis to be defended with a distinction for an extraordinary thesis and to be (developed further and) submitted to the IES working paper series.

The author has demonstrated an overarching view on the relevant literature.

The statistical methods involved in the thesis are adequate to the level of master studies at IES. In addition, these are presented in a great clarity with a stress on both the mathematical rigour and underlying intuition, making the thesis academically sound and, by the same token, "easy-to-understand" for a practitioner. The latter attribute is rather exceptional for thesis on such a quantitative topic as econophysics – well done.

Author builds on profound concepts from the network analysis, such as Node Degree / Strength, Average Nearest-Neighbour Degree, etc. and chooses to study the international trade network from an undirected network perspective, staying in a mathematically tractable framework. This choice is rather well advocated on the data. Within this framework, the author offers an analysis of the network of international trade from both binary as well as weighted perspective. The (intermediary) results of the network analysis are motivated, well explained and underpinned with an economic intuition, showing a high capacity of the author to think critically. The only downside of the thesis, with respect to other top theses, would be its limited contribution, when it comes to methods. Author provides a "static" analysis of the international trade, implementing (and commenting on their strengths and weaknesses) well founded methods from the academia. Yet, in my opinion, going one step further, i.e. developing new or improving the presented methods would greatly increase the contribution of the paper.

The manuscript form is almost flawless. The thesis is written using the, quantitative academia, standard LaTeX editor. From the formal point of view, the most significant upside of this thesis is its very high level of academic English, let alone small typos here and there (p.3, paragraph 1, "the main contribution of this thesis in a comparison..." → "lies" is missing. p.5, the flow of the last sentence of the 1st paragraph is a bit unnatural. p.34, first sentence below the figure, the slope of "gamma" not "alpha", etc). The combination of both of the aforementioned characteristics makes this thesis formally comparable to the top master theses published in the Western Europe and / or USA.

EXPLANATION OF CATEGORIES AND SCALE:

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

| Strong | Average | Weak |
|--------|---------|------|
| 20 | 10 | 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.*

| Strong | Average | Weak |
|--------|---------|------|
| 30 | 15 | 0 |

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.*

| Strong | Average | Weak |
|--------|---------|------|
| 30 | 15 | 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.*

| Strong | Average | Weak |
|--------|---------|------|
| 20 | 10 | 0 |

Overall grading:

| TOTAL POINTS | GRADE | | |
|--------------|-------|----------------|---------------------------|
| 81 – 100 | 1 | = excellent | = výborně |
| 61 – 80 | 2 | = good | = velmi dobře |
| 41 – 60 | 3 | = satisfactory | = dobře |
| 0 – 40 | 4 | = fail | = nedoporučuji k obhajobě |