

Report on Bachelor Thesis

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

Student:	Edita Ďurovčiková
Advisor:	Julie Chytilová, Ph.D.
Title of the thesis:	Comparison of progress in information processing after a term of studies of mathematical and non-mathematical programs

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

In her thesis, Edita Ďurovčiková aims to answer the question whether there are differences between students of mathematics and other fields in a variety of “biases” in decision-making highlighted by behavioral economics and what is the progress of the students during the first term of their studies. The research questions are clearly defined. I appreciate Edita’s effort to answer them by designing a questionnaire reflecting the decision-making problems highlighted in the literature and collecting own data “in the field” among university freshmen during two rounds of data collection. To analyze the data, Edita uses basic statistics and econometrical methods and I believe she improved her skills in using these methods in practice when working on the thesis. She also goes further and attempts to deal with problems like ceiling effect and testing for random answers of the respondents.

A topic for the discussion during the defence would be the choice of wording of some parts of the questionnaire. Specifically, it seems that for framing effects programs A and C do not match (i.e., do not describe the same situation using different framing) as it is the case in the original study of Kahneman. Similarly, different scenarios in quantity expressions do not seem to describe the same situation. This is important given the fact that most of the action in the results happens for framing effects and quantity expression and it is worth clarifying how were the questions used in the research constructed and what precisely they measure.

Overall, I find the quality of the thesis sufficient for the defence at the Institute of Economic Studies and recommend grade A (1) or B (2), depending on the defence of the thesis.

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

CATEGORY	POINTS
<i>Literature</i> (max. 20 points)	15
<i>Methods</i> (max. 30 points)	25
<i>Contribution</i> (max. 30 points)	21
<i>Manuscript Form</i> (max. 20 points)	20
TOTAL POINTS (max. 100 points)	81
GRADE (1 – 2 – 3 – 4)	1-2

NAME OF THE REFEREE: Julie Chytilová

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DATE OF EVALUATION: *May 26, 2015*



Referee Signature

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