

Report on Bachelor Thesis

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

Student:	Aner Hadzic
Advisor:	Ladislav Kristoufek
Title of the thesis:	Do Left-handers and Left-footers Have a Competitive Advantage in Sports

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

Please provide a short summary of the thesis, your assessment of each of the four key categories, and an overall evaluation and suggested questions for the discussion. The minimum length of the report is 300 words.

Short summary

The thesis investigates the performance of left-handed/left-footed athletes across five different sports. The author uses a variety of tests and regressions to compare the performance of left-sided and right-sided athletes in many categories. The results show that while left-sided athletes are overrepresented in four out of the five examined sports, there is no significant difference in performance between left-handers/left-footers and right-handers/right-footers. The thesis concludes that left-handers may have a competitive advantage in reaching the elite level in a given sport, but once they reach that level, they no longer have an edge over righties.

Contribution

The thesis contributes significantly to the understanding of left-handers' performance in sports. It expands the current knowledge by comparing the achievement of lefties and righties in varying performance metrics across multiple sports. If the study wanted to be taken to a higher level, additional factors affecting performance could be controlled for. However, the study goes rather wide than deep and that is perfectly fine for a bachelor's thesis.

Methods

The author uses a robust methodology, implementing predictive Bradley-Terry models based on past matches and comparing performance across multiple metrics.

Literature

The thesis demonstrates a good understanding of the existing literature on the topic. It builds on previous studies and fills a gap in the literature by examining the effect of left-handedness/left-footedness in direct encounters between individuals and teams. The overall coverage of the current literature is at a very high level.

Manuscript form

The manuscript is well-structured and clearly written. The author provides a clear explanation of the research problem, methodology, and findings. However, the thesis could have been improved with better organization of the sections and more visual aids to help the reader understand the data and results as well as graphical representation of tables.

Overall evaluation and suggested questions for the discussion during the defense

Turnitin uncovered no systematic issues.

In my view, the thesis fulfills the requirements for a bachelor thesis at IES, Faculty of Social Sciences, Charles University, I recommend it for the defense and suggest grade A.

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Possible questions for the defense:

- Could you explain more about the statistical methods used in your analysis?
- How could future research build on your findings?

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

CATEGORY	POINTS
<i>Contribution</i> (max. 30 points)	29
<i>Methods</i> (max. 30 points)	28
<i>Literature</i> (max. 20 points)	20
<i>Manuscript Form</i> (max. 20 points)	16
TOTAL POINTS (max. 100 points)	93
GRADE (A – B – C – D – E – F)	A

NAME OF THE REFEREE: *Ladislav Kristoufek*

DATE OF EVALUATION: *1 June 2023*

Referee Signature