IMESS DISSERTATION

Note: Please email the completed mark sheet to Year 2 coordinator (jiri.vykoukal@post.cz)

Please note that IMESS students are <u>not</u> required to use a particular set of methods (e.g. qualitative, quantitative, or comparative) in their dissertation.

Student:	Yifan Chen
Dissertation title:	The Changing Role of Global Automotive Industry: Analyse the Automotive International Trade of CEE Countries and China

	70+	69-65	60-61	59-55	54-50	<50
	A	B	C	D	E	F
Knowledge *Knowledge of problems involved, e.g. historical and social context, specialist literature on the topic. Evidence of capacity to gather information through a wide and appropriate range of reading, and to digest and process knowledge.*	71					
Analysis & Interpretation *Demonstrates a clear grasp of concepts. Application of appropriate methodology and understanding; willingness to apply an independent approach or interpretation recognition of alternative interpretations; Use of precise terminology and avoidance of ambiguity; avoidance of excessive generalisations or gross oversimplifications.*		65				
Structure & Argument *Demonstrates ability to structure work with clarity, relevance and coherence. Ability to argue a case; clear evidence of analysis and logical thought; recognition of an argument´s limitation or alternative views; Ability to use other evidence to support arguments and structure appropriately.*	71					
Presentation & Documentation *Accurate and consistently presented footnotes and bibliographic references; accuracy of grammar and spelling; correct and clear presentation of charts/graphs/tables or other data. Appropriate and correct referencing throughout. Correct and contextually correct handling of quotations.*		69				
Methodology *Understanding of techniques applicable to the chosen field of research, showing an ability to engage in sustained independent research.*		65				

ECTS Mark:	B/68	**Charles Mark:**	B/88	**Marker:**	Michal Paulus
Deducted for late submission:	No			**Signed:**	
Deducted for inadequate referencing:				**Date:**	4.9.2024

MARKING GUIDELINES

A (UCL mark 70+) = A (Charles mark 91-100 - excellent): *Note: marks of over 80 are given rarely and only for truly exceptional pieces of work.*
Distinctively sophisticated and focused analysis, critical use of sources and insightful interpretation. Comprehensive understanding of techniques applicable to the chosen field of research, showing an ability to engage in sustained independent research.

B (UCL mark 69-65) = B (Charles mark 81-90– very good)
C (UCL mark 64-60) = C (Charles mark 71-80 – good): A high level of analysis, critical use of sources and insightful interpretation. Good understanding of techniques applicable to the chosen field of research, showing an ability to engage in sustained independent research. 65 or over equates to a B grade.

D (UCL mark 59-55) = D (Charles mark 61-70 – satisfactory)
E (UCL mark 54-50) = E (Charles mark 51-60 – sufficient):
Demonstration of a critical use of sources and ability to engage in systematic inquiry. An ability to engage in sustained research work, demonstrating methodological awareness. 55 or over equates to a D grade.

F (UCL mark less than 50) = F (Charles mark 0-50 - insufficient):
Demonstrates failure to use sources and an inadequate ability to engage in systematic inquiry. Inadequate evidence of ability to engage in sustained research work and poor understanding of appropriate research techniques.

Please provide substantive and detailed feedback!

Comments, explaining strengths and weaknesses (_at least 300 words_):

General Assessment:

The paper utilizes analysis of input-output tables to investigate time role of CEE countries and China in automotive industry. The author uses data from the OECS-ICIO and BACI databases for the subsequent network analysis and provides very rich set of results. However, the main weakness is in my opinion the methodology section which lacks proper technical description of author's steps and used methodology in the paper. Therefore, I grade the thesis with B.

My comments in detail:

Literature Review

The literature review starts with an interesting description of the development of the automotive industry in China. Then it continues with a summary of the state of automotive industries in China and CEE and the market of electric vehicles. The literature review continues with the section 1.3 describing utilized methodological concepts (I-O analysis, network analysis and I-O network analysis). I have no major critical comment, just few minor remarks:

- I would welcome more extended parts of the section 1.3 devoted to the summary of existing empirical papers utilizing those concepts, especially the papers analysing automotive sector. The previous subsections 1.1.x-1.2.x are very detailed compared to the subsections 1.3.x.

- The chapter also includes section 1.4 describing the OECD-ICIO database. I would personally move such section into the methodology part (data) to more clearly separate the sections. But this is just my personal opinion and very minor comment.

Methodology

The methodology relies on an input-output analysis and then subsequent network I-O analysis. My most important critical remark is that in the whole methodology section the author presents just with three simple equations (pages 26-27). I understand that these are the three key three variables the author is interested in however as a result, many technical concepts are only mentioned without proper technical description (equations and mathematical formulas of utilized technical concepts) such as GVC participation. Such technical description would not only transparently show author's methodology but also subsequent septs of the analysis. I provide several examples below:

- On page 25 the author claims that the "icio" Stata module was used for the basic I-O analysis. However, I would expect more technical description of how the analysis was conducted (what is at least basically behind the utilized Stata commands represented with formulas).

- The author used Stata to calculate indexes needed for the network analysis. From the text it is not clear which indexes were calculated, which commands were used and again I miss technical description of the steps the author did during the analysis.

- The author estimates also GVC participation however that concept is not properly technically described.

- I recommend numbering the equations for further references (e.g. equations on page 26).

- The last equation on page 27 looks copy pasted from some external source. If this is true, then a proper reference shall be included.

Presentation and documentation

Figures starting from page 31 are too small in my opinion. It is really hard to read the labels. I recommend to enlarge them. Otherwise, I have no critical remark.

Specific questions you would like addressing at the oral defence (*at least 2 questions*):

- Can you technically describe how the GVC participation was computed in the thesis?
- How do you see the future of the automotive industry in the CEE region? Do you expect further growth or the opposite? Why?
- You mentioned that the "*many CEE countries' governments' subsidies for EV development are limited*". What shall the CEE countries do to improve their position in the EV industry (especially in the situation that large part of their automotive industry is foreign owned)?