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:	Chao Dan
Dissertation title:	Analysis of EU Enlargement on China-EU trade: Based on Gravity Model

	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.*	72					
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.*	70					
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.*	68					
Methodology *Understanding of techniques applicable to the chosen field of research, showing an ability to engage in sustained independent research.*	75					

ECTS Mark:	A/71	**Charles Mark:**	A/91	**Marker:**	Michal Paulus
Deducted for late submission:	No			**Signed:**	
Deducted for inadequate referencing:				**Date:**	2.9.2024

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 represents very extensive analysis of EU-China trade relations focused on the eastern enlargement of the EU. The thesis relies primarily on a microfounded gravity model of trade. The chosen methodology reflects academic standards and the author presents results of several empirical exercise (e.g. impacts of different phases of enlargements, estimation utilizing sectoral data, analysis of trade dependencies). I have quite minor critical comments (described below) and therefore I grade the thesis with A.

My comments in detail:

The thesis estimates the impacts of eastward expansion of the European Union on trade between the EU and China using the gravity model of trade. The author´s main analysis is divided into two steps: analysis of aggregated data and disaggregated (sectoral) data. As an additional analysis the author discusses mutual trade dependencies between China and the EU.

Literature Review

The thesis includes very extensive literature review (in fact chapters 2 and 3). It covers empirical research on the impacts of EU enlargement on EU-China trade but also detailed summary of gravity model development and other related topics such as CEE´s participation on global value chains.

Methodology

The methodology of the paper relies on a microfounded gravity model of trade which reflects current academic standards. I have several critical comments which I do not find critical:

- I do not understand the reason for the presentation of the models 2-7 (pages 57-58) if the baseline model is the number 8. Is not easier to simply present the "best" specification? The same remark holds for the models 12-14 (pages 60-61) and 15-16 (page 62).

- The logic behind different specifications of the models 9-11 (page 58) shall be explained in the text. Which specification is the preferred one?

- Chapter 4 includes extensive description of current trade relations between the EU and China and also summarizes mutual trade dependencies (chapter 4.3). I would welcome definition of a trade dependence in the chapter 4.3 where the topic is discussed. A definition of a strategic dependence is provided then in chapter 7 but then it is unclear whether those chapters are related or not.

Presentation and documentation

I have several minor comments:

- I recommend to check that there is a reference withing the text for every figure, graph or table in the thesis. E.g. I have not found any reference for the Figure 1.

- In some figures I miss what the numbers are precisely representing – e.g. in the Figure 3 it is not clear what the y-axis represents. Trade volumes in units of USD or EUR? Or are the figures representing e.g. millions of USD/EUR?

- I would improve graphical presentation of the tables. E.g. Figure 17 demands some basic formatting for presentation.

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

- How is a trade dependence defined for the purpose of the chapter 4.3? Strategic dependence is defined on page 88 (chapter 7). How is this definition related to the chapter 4.3?

- What is the reason for the presentation of the models 2-7 (pages 57-58) if the baseline model is the number 8? The same question holds for the models 12-14 (pages 60-61) and 15-16 (page 62). Is not easier to simply present the "best" specification?

- What is the logic behind different specifications of the models 9-11 (page 58)? Which specification is the preferred one?

- Why are not the time-variant exporter and importer dummies included in the specification for the disaggregated exports (page 79)?