**FACULTY
OF SOCIAL SCIENCES**
Charles University

Report on the part of the final state examination
Record of the thesis defence

Academic year: 2023/2024

Student's name and surname:	Alex Farid Zayat
Student's ID:	34298291
Type of the study programme:	Master's (post-Bachelor)
Study programme:	Economics and Finance
Study ID:	758721
Title of the thesis:	Machine Learning in Macroeconomic Nowcasting
Thesis department:	Institute of Economic Studies (23-IES)
Language of the thesis:	English
Language of defence:	English
Advisor:	prof. PhDr. Ladislav Krištoufek, Ph.D.
Reviewer(s):	Mgr. Luboš Hanus, Ph.D.
Date of defence:	18.09.2024 **Venue of defence:** Praha
Attempt:	regular

Course of the examination: Mr Zayat briefly explained what nowcasting is and why it has become popular, and why machine learning can be expected to provide an interesting contribution to nowcasting methods and which additional pre-requisites (transparency, interpretability) should ideally be met for a better acceptance of the methods by their potential users. Then, the machine learning methods used in the thesis were listed and briefly outlined. Mr Zayat then focused on the interpretability of the results.

In the follow-up discussion, the unusual focus of the nowcasting exercise (Argentina, monthly data), as well as the possible issues related to overfitting and questions on the implementation of support vector machine regressions, was discussed. The student was very well prepared and answered most of the questions and comments from the reports relatively convincingly.

Result of defence:	very good (C)	
Chair of the board:	Geršl Adam, doc. PhDr., Ph.D. (present)	....
Committee members:	Havránek Tomáš, prof. PhDr., Ph.D. (present)	....
	Holub Tomáš, doc. Mgr., Ph.D. (present)	....
	Semerák Vilém, Ing., M.A., Ph.D. (present)	....

260174 - Alex Farid Zayat