Multipliers and supermultipliers in a multisectoral framework: macroeconomic tools after all?

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The paper aims to show that the common mistake of considering Keynesian income and/or employment multipliers as sector-specific, in a multisectoral framework, is taking its way back to economics. The phenomenon coincides with the recent debate about the macroeconomic Sraffian supermultiplier, as presented by Serrano (1995), and generates some new miscommunication by using similar terminology to sectoral multipliers. A revival of the tradition of the multiplier as a matrix (Goodwin, 1949) can be encountered in Mariolis (2017), which is largely based in Kurz (1985), despite the lack of references about the macroeconomic Sraffian supermultiplier. Estimates for that kind of static Sraffian multipliers for the Greek economy can be found also in Mariolis and Soklis (2018). On the other hand, DejuÃ¡n (2014) presents the macroeconomic Sraffian supermultiplier as a set of vertically hyper-integrated sectors (Pasinetti, 1988) without making a truly macroeconomic connection between sectoral multipliers and that ones for the economy as a whole. In order to throw some light on that debate, the present paper emphasizes the differences between the traditional input-output multipliers and its Keynesian counterparts, showing also the required adaptations for supermultiplier representations. Keynesian multipliers or Sraffian supermultipliers emerge as typical macroeconomic constructs, in spite of the fact that the knowledge on production structure and consumption (and investment) patterns is mandatory to capture them in a multisectoral framework. Some estimates for multipliers and supermultipliers are also presented using data from the World Input-Output Database (WIOD).