TITLE: REFLECTIONS ON INPUT-OUTPUT-COEFFICIENTS

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ABSTRACT:

This paper intends to discuss the concept of input output coefficients. First Leontief’s notion of flow-flow coefficients and the concept of stock-stock coefficients employed by Sraffa or von Neumann are compared. It is shown, that the later can be translated into the former but not vice versa. The notions of a plant, vertical integration and Bertram Schefold’s concept of centre-coefficients are introduced. It turns out, that IO-coefficients depend on the subject of the analysis. If a quantity model is concerned, than IO-coefficients depend on the growth rate of the system - if prices are analyzed, then the coefficients are a function of the rate of profit.

The second section of the paper is devoted to the problem of choice of technique. Keeping the basic concept of Leontief’s fixed coefficients in the long, one may use Chenery’s notion of engineering production functions and the related concepts of Gutenberg’s production-function of type B or his idea of ”Verbrauchsfunktionen” to introduce some flexibility and substitution possibilities in the short run.