

A critical review of the global MRIO databases

Topic: Global databases

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The analysis of global production networks is inevitable in an increasingly globalized world. Several global multi-regional input-output (MRIO) or global inter-country input-output (ICIO) databases have been developed. These databases link production across industries and countries with consumption and are therefore able to give a near complete picture of the global economy and its interdependencies. In addition, for most of the databases a variety of environmental and socio-economic extensions exist, that are linked to industrial production. This allows for an analysis of the interactions between economic activities and environmental and socio-economic pressures. These databases are based on more or less the same data, but use slightly different approaches for constructing the global table, as well as different industry/product and country resolutions. This results in significant differences in some of the indicators calculated with the different databases. Substantial work has been done to compare the databases, but consolidated information for database users is still missing. This paper aims at clarifying which database can be used for what type of analysis and assesses the associated uncertainties. Each database has some advantages over the other databases, but also some shortcomings. It is therefore vital to sufficiently inform the database users, for them to be able to correctly interpret and contextualize the results.