The Business Accounting Matrix: a proposal with an apllication.

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Enterprise input-output has been the subject of IO research for many years now. Being based on input-output tables and models these efforts has obviously been concentrated in models combining activities in a firm and goods and services required or produced (demand and price models). In the same way as a National Accounting Matrix (NAM) extends the information given by an IOT covering all flows related to the generation, distribution and use of income, we propose to construct a similar framework at the firm level. As far as we know, this effort has not been previously undertaken.

In this contribution a framework to develop business accounting matrices (BAM) based on the methodology of preparation of NAMs is presented. A BAM provides a link between the richness of information generated by financial accounting and the analytical capacities of economic accounting. The BAM offers a panoramic and structured view of all significant economic flows and the relationships between the different agents related to the firmâ€™s economic activity. We hope our proposal could help to establish some standards in the preparation of a BAM.

The BAM highlights the main aggregates of the economic and financial activity of the firm. It first shows the Value Added generated by the main operating activity of the company. Adding other sources of income and the result of the redistribution instruments of the public sector, aggregates related to the generated income can be defined. Incorporating financial and investment flows helps establishing the net financial needs of the firm. We have prepared the BAM of a concrete firm (Hotel business in Spain) to show a concrete application. We believe the availability of a BAM would enhance the economic modelling possibilities at the business level.