Measures of upstreamness and downstreamness defined on exports

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In this article I discuss and develop measures of Upstreamness and Downstreamness to describe the position of countries and sectors in global value chains. Both measures are defined as distance from exports either to final demand (Upstreamness) or to primary factors (Downstreamness) and can be summed in a single measure of length and position of chains in international trade. I show the usefulness of these measures to highlight some aspects of international participation in value chains that cannot be deduced from previous measures. In particular, the specialization of countries along value chains is better described with the measures proposed here.