

# **decompr and gvc:** Global Value Chain decomposition and analysis in R

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## **Abstract**

Global Value Chains have become a central unit of analysis in research on international trade. However, the complex matrix transformations at the basis of most Value Chain indicators still constitute a significant entry barrier to the field. The R package `decompr` solves this problem by implementing the algorithms for the analysis of Global Value Chains as R procedures, thereby simplifying the decomposition process. Two methods for gross export flow decomposition using Inter-Country Input-Output tables are provided. The first method concerns a decomposition based on the classical Leontief (1936) insight. It derives the value added origins of an industry's exports by source country and source industry, using easily available gross trade data. The second method is the Wang-Wei-Zhu algorithm which splits bilateral gross exports into 16 value added components. These components can broadly be divided into domestic and foreign value added in exports. Using the results of the two decompositions, `decompr` provides a set of Global Value Chain indicators, such as the now standard Vertical Specialisation ratio. This article summarises the methodology of the algorithms, describes the format of the input and output data, and exemplifies the usefulness of the two methods on the basis of a simple example data set.

# 1 Introduction

Global Value Chains (GVCs) refer to the quickly expanding internationalization of production networks. Most goods we use nowadays consist of parts that are sourced from different corners of the planet and are assembled across different continents. A popular example of this development is the iPhone, which uses inputs from at least five countries (USA, China, Germany, Taiwan, South Korea) and is assembled in two (USA and China). This has made GVCs a central topic in research on trade and development policy. Both policy makers and academia increasingly value the growth opportunities GVCs offer to global trade and, especially, to developing countries. However, analysing this phenomenon empirically requires complex matrix manipulations, since the relevant data is only available in the form of gross flows. The `decompr` package enables researchers with little background in matrix algebra and linear programming to easily derive standard GVC indicators for statistical analysis.

The package uses Inter-Country Input-Output tables (ICIOs), such as those published by the OECD and WTO (TiVA), the World Input Output Database (Timmer et al., 2012), or national statistics bureaus, as input. These tables state supply and demand relationships in gross terms between industries within and across countries. For instance, let us look at the example of the leather used in German manufactured car seats. The ICIOs quantify the value of inputs that the Turkish leather and textiles industry supplies to the German transport equipment industry. The problem of these tables measuring gross trade flows, is that they do not reveal how much of the value was added in the supplying industry, and how much of the value was added in previous stages of production, performed by other industries or even countries.

The Leontief decomposition of gross trade flows solves this problem by re-allocating the value of intermediate goods used by industries to the original producers. In our example, the use of Argentinian agricultural produce (raw hides) is subtracted from the Turkish leather industry and added to the Argentinian agricultural industry. The Wang-Wei-Zhu (henceforth WWZ) decomposition goes a step further by not only revealing the source of the value added, but also breaking down exports into different categories, according to final usage and destination. It implements the theoretical work of Wang et al. (2014). The main categories in this framework are listed below.

1. domestic value added in exports
2. foreign value added in exports
3. pure double counted terms

## 1.1 Package Details

The `decompr` package implements the algorithms for these decompositions as R procedures and provides example data sets. The R procedures are implemented as functions, the included functions are listed below.

- `load_tables_vectors()`; transforms the input objects to an object used for the decompositions (class: `decompr`)
- `leontief`; takes a `decompr` object and applies the Leontief decomposition

- `wwz`; takes a `decompr` object and applies the Wang-Wei-Zhu decomposition
- `decomp()`; a wrapper function which integrates the use of `load_tables_vectors` with the various decompositions, using an argument `method` to specify the desired decomposition (default `leontief`)

For legacy purposes, several deprecated functions / methods are available under their original names. In addition to this, one example data sets is included.

- *Leather*; a fictional three-country, three-sector data set

Trade flow analysis often involves studying the development of a certain variable (set) over time, thus taking the panel form. However, at the decomposition level, the panel dimension is essentially a repeated cross-section. Therefore, as a design decision, the time dimension is not implemented in the package itself. Instead, we provide examples of how this repetition can be implemented using a `for-loop`.

Section 2 introduces the data as it is used by the package as well as two example data sets, after which Section 3 and Section 4 summarise the theoretical derivations for the two decompositions, and show how these can be performed in R using `decompr`. We conclude with a discussion of potential uses and further developments of GVC research.

## 2 Data

Two data sets are included in the package, one real world data set and one minimal data set for demonstration purposes. The former is the WIOD regional Inter-Country Input Output tables for the year 2011 (Timmer et al., 2012). The latter is a fictional 3-country 3-sector data set, which we will use throughout this article to demonstrate the usage and advantages of the `decompr` package.

```
# load the package
library(decompr)

# load the data
data(leather)

# list the objects in the data set
ls()

## [1] "countries" "final"      "industries" "inter"      "out"
```

This data is set up in order to illustrate the benefits of the decompositions. We do this by following the flows of intermediate goods through a fictional GVC and by showing how the readily available gross trade flows differ from the decomposed value added flows. To this end, we construct the elements of the input-output tables such that we have two countries and two industries that focus on upstream tasks, which means they focus on supplying other industries, and one country and industry that is specialized in downstream tasks, i.e. it serves mainly final demand. In our example the upstream industries are Agriculture and Textiles while the downstream industry is Transport Equipment.

Similarly, Argentina and Turkey represent upstream countries with Germany being located downstream within this specific value chain (see Table ?? on page ??).

The first step of the analytical process is to load the input object and create a `decompr` class object, which contains the data structures for the decompositions. This step is not needed when using the `decomp()` wrapper function but more on this later.

```
# create the decompr object
decompr_object <- load_tables_vectors( x = inter,
                                       y = final,
                                       k = countries,
                                       i = industries,
                                       o = out      )

# inspect the content of the decompr object
ls(decompr_object)

## [1] "A"      "Ad"     "Am"     "B"      "Bd"
## [6] "Bm"     "E"      "ESR"    "Efd"    "Eint"
## [11] "Exp"    "G"      "GN"     "L"      "N"
## [16] "Vc"     "Vhat"   "X"      "Y"      "Yd"
## [21] "Ym"     "bigrownam" "fdc"    "i"      "k"
## [26] "rownam" "z"      "z01"    "z02"
```

As can be seen above, a `decompr` class object is in fact a list containing thirty different objects. For example, *Eint* is an object that collects the intermediate goods exports of the industries, while *Y* refers to the final demand that the industries supply. Depending on the choice of the decomposition, all or some of these objects are used.

### 3 Leontief decomposition

Let us now turn to the algorithms, starting with the Leontief decomposition. We shortly describe the theoretical derivation of the method to expose the internal steps of the `decompr` package. Afterwards, we turn to the technical implementation and, finally, we describe the output.

#### 3.1 Theoretical derivation

The tools to derive the source decomposition date back to Leontief (1936) who showed that, with a set of simple calculations, national Input-Output tables based on gross terms give the true value added flows between industries. The idea behind this insight is that the production of industry *i*'s output requires inputs of other industries and *i*'s own value added. The latter is the direct contribution of *i*'s output to domestic value added. The former refers to the first round of *i*'s indirect contribution to domestic value added since the input from other industries that *i* requires for its own production triggers the creation of value added in the supplying industries. As supplying industries usually depend on inputs from other industries, this sets in motion a second round of

indirect value added creation in the supplying industries of the suppliers, which is also caused by  $i$ 's production. This goes on until value added is traced back to the original suppliers and can mathematically be expressed as

$$VB = V + VA + VAA + VAAA + \dots = V(I + A + A^2 + A^3 + \dots), \quad (1)$$

which, as an infinite geometric series with the elements of  $A < 1$ , simplifies to

$$VB = V(I - A)^{-1}, \quad (2)$$

where  $V$  is a  $N \times N$  matrix with the diagonal representing the direct value added contribution of  $N$  industries,  $A$  is the Input-Output coefficient matrix with dimension  $N \times N$ , i.e. it gives the direct input flows between industries required for 1\$ of output, and  $B = (I - A)^{-1}$  is the so called Leontief inverse.  $VB$  gives thus a  $N \times N$  matrix of so called value added multipliers, which denote the amount of value added that the production of an industry's 1\$ of output or exports brings about in all other industries. Looking from the perspective of the supplying industries, the matrix gives the value added that they contribute to the using industry's production. If we multiply it with a  $N \times N$  matrix whose diagonal specifies each industry's total output or exports, we get value added origins as absolute values instead of shares.

The application of the Leontief insight to ICIOs as opposed to national Input-Output tables for our Leontief decomposition is straightforward.  $V$  refers now to a vector of direct value added contributions of all industries across the different countries. Its dimension is correspondingly  $1 \times GN$ , where  $G$  is the number of countries.  $A$  is now of dimension  $GN \times GN$  and gives the industry flows including cross border relationships. Since we are interested in the value added origins of exports we multiply these two matrices with a  $GN \times GN$  matrix whose diagonal we fill with each industry's exports,  $E$ , such that the basic equation behind the source decomposition is given by  $V(I - A)^{-1}E$ .<sup>1</sup> In a simple example with two countries ( $k$  and  $l$ ) and industries ( $i$  and  $j$ ) we can zoom in to see the matrices' content:

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<sup>1</sup>When using the `leontief_output` function, the value added multiplier is instead multiplied with each industry's output.

$$\begin{aligned}
V(I - A)^{-1}E &= \begin{pmatrix} v_k^i & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & v_k^j & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & v_l^i & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & v_l^j \end{pmatrix} * \begin{pmatrix} b_{kk}^{ii} & b_{kk}^{ij} & b_{kl}^{ii} & b_{kl}^{ij} \\ b_{kk}^{ji} & b_{kk}^{jj} & b_{kl}^{ji} & b_{kl}^{jj} \\ b_{lk}^{ii} & b_{lk}^{ij} & b_{ll}^{ii} & b_{ll}^{ij} \\ b_{lk}^{ji} & b_{lk}^{jj} & b_{ll}^{ji} & b_{ll}^{jj} \end{pmatrix} \\
&* \begin{pmatrix} e_k^i & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & e_k^j & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & e_l^i & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & e_l^j \end{pmatrix} \\
&= \begin{pmatrix} v_k^i b_{kk}^{ii} e_k^i & v_k^i b_{kk}^{ij} e_k^j & v_k^i b_{kl}^{ii} e_l^i & v_k^i b_{kl}^{ij} e_l^j \\ v_k^j b_{kk}^{ji} e_k^i & v_k^j b_{kk}^{jj} e_k^j & v_k^j b_{kl}^{ji} e_l^i & v_k^j b_{kl}^{jj} e_l^j \\ v_l^i b_{lk}^{ii} e_k^i & v_l^i b_{lk}^{ij} e_k^j & v_l^i b_{ll}^{ii} e_l^i & v_l^i b_{ll}^{ij} e_l^j \\ v_l^j b_{lk}^{ji} e_k^i & v_l^j b_{lk}^{jj} e_k^j & v_l^j b_{ll}^{ji} e_l^i & v_l^j b_{ll}^{jj} e_l^j \end{pmatrix} \\
&= \begin{pmatrix} vae_{kk}^{ii} & vae_{kk}^{ij} & vae_{kl}^{ii} & vae_{kl}^{ij} \\ vae_{kk}^{ji} & vae_{kk}^{jj} & vae_{kl}^{ji} & vae_{kl}^{jj} \\ vae_{lk}^{ii} & vae_{lk}^{ij} & vae_{ll}^{ii} & vae_{ll}^{ij} \\ vae_{lk}^{ji} & vae_{lk}^{jj} & vae_{ll}^{ji} & vae_{ll}^{jj} \end{pmatrix}
\end{aligned} \tag{3}$$

$$v_c^s = \frac{va_c^s}{y_c^s} = 1 - a_{kc}^{is} - a_{kc}^{js} - a_{lc}^{js} - a_{lc}^{is} \quad (c \in k, l \quad s \in i, j),$$

$$\begin{pmatrix} b_{kk}^{ii} & b_{kk}^{ij} & b_{kl}^{ii} & b_{kl}^{ij} \\ b_{kk}^{ji} & b_{kk}^{jj} & b_{kl}^{ji} & b_{kl}^{jj} \\ b_{lk}^{ii} & b_{lk}^{ij} & b_{ll}^{ii} & b_{ll}^{ij} \\ b_{lk}^{ji} & b_{lk}^{jj} & b_{ll}^{ji} & b_{ll}^{jj} \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} 1 - a_{kk}^{ii} & -a_{kk}^{ij} & -a_{kl}^{ii} & -a_{kl}^{ij} \\ -a_{kk}^{ji} & 1 - a_{kk}^{jj} & -a_{kl}^{ji} & -a_{kl}^{jj} \\ -a_{lk}^{ii} & -a_{lk}^{ij} & 1 - a_{ll}^{ii} & -a_{ll}^{ij} \\ -a_{lk}^{ji} & -a_{lk}^{jj} & -a_{ll}^{ji} & 1 - a_{ll}^{jj} \end{pmatrix}^{-1},$$

and

$$a_{cf}^{su} = \frac{inp_{cf}^{su}}{y_f^u} \quad (c, f \in k, l \quad s, u \in i, j),$$

where  $v_c^s$  gives the share of industry  $s$ 's value added,  $va_c^s$ , in output,  $y_c^s$ , and  $e_k^i$  indicates gross exports. Finally,  $a_{su}^{cf}$  denotes the share of inputs,  $inp_{su}^{cf}$ , in output. The elements of the  $V(I - A)^{-1}E$  or  $vae$  matrix are our estimates for the country-industry level value added origins of each country-industry's exports. `decompr` implements this algorithm into R to automate the process of deriving the matrix. Equipped with it, researchers can calculate standard GVC indicators. Examples include Hummels et al. (2001)'s Vertical Specialisation ratio at the industry-level using the `vertical_specialisation` function, which sums for each country and industry across the value added of all foreign countries and industries, and Johnson and Noguera (2012)'s so-called VAX ratio. Alternatively, the four dimensions of the matrix (source country, source industry, using country, using industry) allow for industry-level gravity-type estimations of value added trade flows.

### 3.2 Implentation

As described, in Section 2, the first step of our analytical process is to construct a `decompr` object using the `load_tables_vectors()` function. After this, we can use the `leontief()` function to apply to Leontief decomposition.

```
lt <- leontief( decomp_object )
```

In addition, a wrapper function called `decomp()` is provided which integrates both elements of the workflow into a single function. We recommended that the atomic functions be used for large data sets, however, for small data sets this is an easy way to derive the results immediately. The `decomp()` function requires a method to be specified (see `help('decomp')` for details), if none is provided, the function will default to `leontief()`.

```
lt2 <- decomp( x = inter,
               y = final,
               k = countries,
               i = industries,
               o = out,
               method = "leontief" )
```

Note that the output produced by these two different processes is identical.

### 3.3 Output

We can now analyse the output of the Leontief decomposition, which consists of a  $GN \times GN$  matrix that gives for each country and industry the value added origins of its exports by country and industry. To this end, we look at the results of the Leontief decomposition for our example data set (Table 1 on page 8). In the first column we find the source countries and industries while the first row contains the using countries and industries. The first element, 28.52, thus gives the amount of value added that the Argentinian Agriculture industry has contributed to the exports of the Argentinian Agriculture industry. Similarly, the last element of this row, 4.12, gives the amount of value added that the Argentinian Agriculture industry has contributed to the exports of the German Transport Equipment industry.

A key advantage of the decomposition becomes clear when we compare the decomposed values with the intermediate trade values of the non-decomposed IO table when multiplied with the exports over output ratio to create comparability (Table 1 on page 8). We see for instance that Argentina's Agriculture industry contributes significantly more value added to the German Transport Equipment industry than suggested by the non-decomposed IO table. The reason is that Argentina's Agriculture industry is an important supplier to Turkey's Textile and Leather industry which is in turn an important supplier for the German Transport Equipment industry. The decomposition thus allows us to see how the value added flows along this Global Value Chain.

We can also take look at specific industries. For instance, we find that the non-decomposed values of the Transport Equipment are for many elements larger than the value added elements while the opposite holds for Agriculture. This emphasises the fact that Transport Equipment is a downstream industry that produces mostly final goods. Agriculture on the other hand qualifies as an upstream industry that produces also many intermediate goods so that its value added in other industries is typically large.

Finally let's consider the countries of our specific example. We see that Germany has more instances in which the non-decomposed values are above

Table 1: Non-decomposed Values

	Argentina. Agriculture	Argentina. Textile.and. Leather	Argentina. Transport. Equipment	Turkey. Agriculture	Turkey. Textile.and. Leather	Turkey. Transport. Equipment	Germany. Agriculture	Germany. Textile.and. Leather	Germany. Transport. Equipment
Argentina.Agriculture	6.88	2.49	0.25	1.30	2.04	0.08	0.77	0.68	1.76
Argentina.Textile.and.Leather	1.03	3.91	0.44	0.04	1.52	0.31	0.30	0.95	4.13
Argentina.Transport.Equipment	0.38	0.24	0.55	0.00	0.05	0.06	0.00	0.10	0.18
Turkey.Agriculture	0.47	0.93	0.03	7.33	6.27	1.20	2.23	0.75	3.19
Turkey.Textile.and.Leather	0.13	1.37	0.01	2.48	13.35	1.24	0.52	0.61	9.19
Turkey.Transport.Equipment	0.00	0.05	0.04	1.67	1.52	1.75	0.05	0.00	0.65
Germany.Agriculture	0.51	2.05	0.04	1.67	0.57	0.12	7.18	4.73	6.43
Germany.Textile.and.Leather	0.56	0.54	0.00	1.30	2.28	0.51	1.26	7.06	8.65
Germany.Transport.Equipment	0.90	0.68	0.41	1.67	1.47	0.77	2.80	1.96	18.42

Table 2: Leontief Decomposition

	Argentina. Agriculture	Argentina. Textile.and. Leather	Argentina. Transport. Equipment	Turkey. Agriculture	Turkey. Textile.and. Leather	Turkey. Transport. Equipment	Germany. Agriculture	Germany. Textile.and. Leather	Germany. Transport. Equipment
Argentina.Agriculture	28.52	2.79	0.36	1.81	3.12	0.36	1.24	1.30	4.12
Argentina.Textile.and.Leather	1.06	19.12	0.42	0.48	1.83	0.43	0.59	1.15	4.75
Argentina.Transport.Equipment	0.21	0.14	1.06	0.03	0.08	0.04	0.02	0.07	0.19
Turkey.Agriculture	0.72	1.34	0.12	34.93	7.00	1.48	2.55	1.52	6.18
Turkey.Textile.and.Leather	0.41	1.39	0.12	2.69	40.17	1.32	1.11	1.15	9.51
Turkey.Transport.Equipment	0.03	0.09	0.03	0.81	0.91	3.16	0.12	0.07	0.65
Germany.Agriculture	0.93	2.25	0.16	2.31	2.06	0.51	29.88	5.25	9.60
Germany.Textile.and.Leather	0.65	0.73	0.08	1.54	2.55	0.63	1.46	18.96	8.16
Germany.Transport.Equipment	0.67	0.65	0.26	1.29	1.49	0.57	1.73	1.51	34.74



the value added flows than Argentina and Turkey combined. Along the lines of the industry analysis, this shows that Germany focuses within this GVC on downstream tasks producing mostly final goods that contain value added from countries located more upstream. In our example these are Turkey and Argentina.

## 4 Wang-Wei-Zhu decomposition

The Wang-Wei-Zhu decomposition builds upon the Leontief insight but uses, in addition, further valuable information provided in ICIOs. More specifically, the Leontief decomposition traces the value added back to where it originates but ICIOs also contain data on how the value added is subsequently used. This information is extracted by the Wang-Wei-Zhu decomposition, which thereby allows a much more detailed look at the structures of international production networks and the respective positions of countries and industries within them.

### 4.1 Theoretical derivation

The derivation of the Wang-Wei-Zhu decomposition is significantly more technical than the source decomposition since it splits gross exports up more finely. This is why we present here only the final equation for a two country one industry model (equation 22 in WWZ) and refer the interested reader to the original paper by Wang et al. (2014). The key idea is to use the Leontief insight and extend it using additional information from ICIOs on the final usage and destination of the exports (e.g. re-imported vs. absorbed abroad).

$$\begin{aligned}
E^{kl} = & (V^k B^{kk})^T * F^{kl} + (V^k L^{kk})^T * (A^{kl} B^{ll} F^{ll}) \\
& + (V^k L^{kk})^T * (A^{kl} \sum_{t \neq k, l}^G B^{lt} F^{tt}) + (V^k L^{kk})^T * (A^{kl} B^{ll} \sum_{t \neq k, l}^G F^{lt}) \\
& + (V^k L^{kk})^T * (A^{kl} \sum_{t \neq k, l}^G \sum_{u \neq k, t}^G B^{lt} F^{tu}) + (V^k L^{kk})^T * (A^{kl} B^{ll} F^{lk}) \\
& + (V^k L^{kk})^T * (A^{kl} \sum_{t \neq k, l}^G B^{lt} F^{tk}) + (V^k L^{kk})^T * (A^{kl} B^{lk} F^{kk}) \\
& + (V^k L^{kk})^T * (A^{kl} \sum_{t \neq k}^G B^{lk} F^{kt}) + (V^k B^{kk} - V^k L^{kk})^T * (A^{kl} X^l) \\
& + (V^l B^{lk})^T * F^{kl} + (V^l B^{lk})^T * (A^{kl} L^{ll} F^{ll}) + (V^l B^{lk})^T \\
& * (A^{kl} L^{ll} E^{l*}) + (\sum_{t \neq k, l}^G V^t B^{tk})^T * F^{kl} + (\sum_{t \neq k, l}^G V^t B^{tk})^T \\
& * (A^{kl} L^{ll} F^{ll}) + (\sum_{t \neq k, l}^G V^t B^{tk})^T * (A^{kl} L^{ll} E^{l*}),
\end{aligned} \tag{4}$$

where  $F^{kl}$  is the final demand in  $l$  for goods of  $k$ ,  $L^{ll}$  refers to the national Leontief inverse as opposed to the Inter-Country inverse  $B$ , and  $T$  indicates a matrix

transpose operation. As can be seen from equation (4), the Wang-Wei-Zhu decomposition splits gross exports into 16 terms with three main categories given by domestic value added in exports ( $DViX\_B$ ), foreign value added in exports ( $FVA$ ), and purely double counted terms ( $PDC$ ). The main categories are further divided according to their final destination so that the final decomposition is given by:

- Domestic value added absorbed abroad ( $VAX\_G$ , T1-5)
  - Domestic value added in final exports ( $DVA\_FIN$ , T1)
  - Domestic value added in intermediate exports
    - \* Domestic value added in intermediate exports absorbed by direct importers ( $DVA\_INT$ , T2)
    - \* Domestic value added in intermediate exports re-exported to third countries ( $DVA\_INTrex$ , T3-5)
      - Domestic value added in intermediate exports re-exported to third countries as intermediate goods to produce domestic final goods ( $DVA\_INTrexI1$ , T3)
      - Domestic value added in intermediate exports re-exported to third countries as final goods ( $DVA\_INTrexF$ , T4)
      - Domestic value added in intermediate exports re-exported to third countries as intermediate goods to produce exports ( $DVA\_INTrexI2$ , T5)
- Domestic value added returning home ( $RDV\_B$ , T6-8)
  - Domestic value added returning home as final goods ( $RDV\_FIN$ , T6)
  - Domestic value added returning home as final goods through third countries ( $RDV\_FIN2$ , T7)
  - Domestic value added returning home as intermediate goods ( $RDV\_INT$ , T8)
- Foreign value added ( $FVA$ , T11-12/14-15 )
  - Foreign value added in final good exports ( $FVA\_FIN$ , T11/14)
    - \* Foreign value added in final good exports sourced from direct importer ( $MVA\_FIN$ , T11)
    - \* Foreign value added in final good exports sourced from other countries ( $OVA\_FIN$ , T14)
  - Foreign value added in intermediate good exports ( $FVA\_INT$ , T12/15)
    - \* Foreign value added in intermediate good exports sourced from direct importer ( $MVA\_INT$ , T12)
    - \* Foreign value added in intermediate good exports sourced from other countries ( $OVA\_INT$ , T15)
- Pure double counting ( $PDC$ , T9-10/13/16)
  - Pure double counting from domestic source ( $DDC$ , T9-10)

- \* Due to final goods exports production (*DDF*, T9)
- \* Due to intermediate goods exports production (*DDI*, T10)
- Pure double counting from foreign source (*FDC*, T13/16)
- \* Due to direct importer exports production (*FDF*, T13)
- \* Due to other countries' exports production (*FDI*, T16)

The higher resolution of the WWZ decomposition comes at the cost of a lower dimension (source country, using country, using industry) since the current, highly aggregated, ICIOs render a four-dimensional decomposition unfeasible. This means that the two methods are complementary and imply a trade-off between detail and disaggregation.

## 4.2 Implementation

As with the `leontief()` function, the `wwz()` function also takes a `decompr` class object as its input, the procedure for this is described in Section 2. After having created this `decompr` object, we can apply the Wang-Wei-Zhu decomposition using the `wwz()` function.

```
w <- wwz(decompr_object)
```

Furthermore, it is also possible to derive the results of the Wang-Wei-Zhu decomposition directly, using the `decomp()` function.

```
w2 <- decomp( x = inter,
              y = final,
              k = countries,
              i = industries,
              o = out,
              method = "wwz" )
```

Both these processes will yield the same results.

## 4.3 Output

The output when using the WWZ algorithm is a matrix with dimensions  $GNG \times 19$ , whereby 19 consists of the 16 objects the WWZ algorithm decomposes exports into, plus three checksums. *GNG* represents source country, source industry and using country whereas these terms are slightly ambiguous here due to the complex nature of the decomposition. More specifically, the using country can also be the origin of the foreign value added in the exports of the source country to the using country (see for example T11 and T12). Therefore we use the terms exporter, exporting industry, and direct importer instead. This becomes much clearer when we take a look at specific examples.

Table ?? on page ?? shows the results for the example data. The first column lists exporter, exporting industry, and direct importer. Note that the value added is domestic but not necessarily created in the exporting industry. When exporter and importer are identical, the values are zero since there are no exports. The first row lists the 16 components of bilateral exports at the sector level and three checksums.

The first eight components relate to domestic value added of the exporting country contained in the sectoral exports of the exporting industry to the direct importer. For instance, the first non-zero element in Table ?? on page ?? refers to  $DVA\_FIN$ , or domestic value added in final good exports. It shows that there are 5.47 units of domestic value added in the exports of final goods from Argentina's Agriculture industry to Turkey. In the same row the third term,  $DVA\_INTrexII$ , is slightly more complicated. As mentioned above, it gives the amount of domestic Value added in intermediate exports re-exported to third countries as intermediate goods to produce domestic final goods. In our example this means that there are 1.14 units of domestic value added in the intermediate exports of Argentina's Agriculture industry to Turkey, that are re-exported by Turkey as intermediates to a third country which produces final goods with it. Terms six to eight concern domestic value added that eventually returns home.  $RDV\_FIN2$  reveals for example that there are 0.35 units of domestic value added in the intermediate exports of Argentina's Agriculture industry to Turkey, that Turkey re-exports as intermediates to Argentina for the latter's final good production.

The following four terms apply to foreign value added in exports and separate on the one hand between the origin of the foreign value added ( $MVA$  vs  $OVA$ ) and on the other hand between the type of export (intermediate vs final good).  $MVA$  describes hereby foreign value added sourced by the exporting country from the direct importer. From the perspective of the latter, these terms are thus part of the  $RDV$  (value added returning home) share.  $OVA$  in contrast sums over the foreign value added sourced from all other countries. Going back to the example, this means that there are 0.21 units of Turkish value added in the final goods exports of Argentina's Agriculture industry to Turkey.

Terms 13 to 16 collect the double counting of gross trade statistics that occurs when goods cross borders multiple times.  $DDC$  captures double counting due to domestic value added, which is further classified according to the type of the ultimate export (final vs intermediate good).  $MDC$  and  $ODC$ , on the other hand, capture double counting due to foreign value added from either the direct importer or other countries. For the Argentina-Turkey case this implies, for instance, that there are 0.18 units of value added in the intermediate exports of Turkey to Argentina which are re-exported by Argentina's Agriculture industry to Turkey as intermediates and then again re-exported. Since they would be part of  $MVA$  twice, they are now counted once as double-counted term.

Finally, the three checksums give total exports, total final goods exports, and total intermediate exports. The difference between the first and the latter two should be zero.

One interesting application of this decomposition for trade and development uses changes over time in  $FVA\_FIN$  and  $FVA\_INT$ . When low-wage developing countries enter GVCs, they tend to specialize mainly in assembly but try to gradually move up within the value chain. To illustrate this, we can reuse the example of the iPhone. Most of the value added in the device stems from US design and Japanese technology but it is ultimately assembled in China. This means for China that when it enters this GVC, its  $FVA\_FIN$  starts to increase since it imports a lot of foreign value added, assembles it, and exports a final good: the iPhone. However, assembly itself does not contain a lot of value added so that the benefit of China initially is small. When its technology improves due to the interaction with Japan and the USA, it might be able to produce

actual parts of the phone, which contain more value added. Eventually it might even be able to outsource assembly to a cheaper country. This would imply that it seizes a larger share of the value added, something commonly referred to as upgrading or moving up within the value chain. In terms of the WWZ decomposition, we would then observe that China's *FVA\_FIN* first goes up and then starts to decline with a simultaneous increase in *FVA\_INT*.

## 5 Conclusion

GVCs describe the increasingly international organization of production structures. As more and more regional trade agreements come into force, which drive down trade costs and harmonize product standards, it becomes more and more attractive for firms to outsource certain tasks of their production lines. Research on international trade analysing this development evolves quickly and reveals important implications of GVCs for economic growth and competitiveness. *decompr* aims at facilitating this research by simplifying the calculation of standard GVC indicators. The purpose is to accelerate the research and, especially, to make it accessible to a wider audience.

We have designed the package using a modular structure, with an additional user interface function for increased ease of use. The modular structure enables users to break the computationally intensive analysis process down into several steps. Furthermore, the modular structure enables users and other developers to build on top of basic data structures which are created by the `load_tables_vectors` function when implementing other decompositions or analyses. However, a wrapper function (`decomp()`) is also provided, which combines the use of the atomic functions into one. All of this should allow users of the package to adapt the package to their specific needs as the GVC research progresses.

Since GVCs constitute a fairly new field of research, there are many ways forward for its analysis. The next central step is to examine both in theory and empirically how GVC participation affects real economic activity. More specifically, it is very relevant to look at how, for instance, employment and economic growth react when countries join GVCs and what the factors are that determine a successful relationship. From the standpoint of developing and emerging countries a very interesting question is if GVCs simplify industrialization and the formation of comparative advantage while high-income countries might look for an additional push for their stagnating post-crisis economies. We hope that *decompr* can play a part in this field and promote it.

## Colophon

This paper was written in a combination of R (R Core Team, 2014) and  $\text{\LaTeX}$  (Lamport and  $\text{\LaTeX}$ , 1986), specifically  $\text{\LaTeX}$  Hagen 2005, with `biblatex` and `biber` (Lehman, 2006) for citations, using Sweave syntax (Leisch, 2003) and compiled using `knitr` (Xie, 2013) and Pandoc (MacFarlane, 2012).

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