To construct our dataset we have combined TA data from the “Design of International Trade Agreements” (DESTA) (Dür, Andreas, Leonardo Baccini and Manfred Elsig 2014) and from the CEPII “Trade and Production Database” (TradeProd) (Thierry Mayer, Gianluca Santoni, Vincent Vicard 2023). The DESTA database aims to aggregate all agreements that have the potential to liberalise trade, including all agreements notified to the World Trade Organisation (WTO) and other agreements from a wide range of sources, covering 880 agreements for 204 countries since 1948 to 2023 in the last updated version.

Our sample consists of TAs signed between the years 2000 to 2010 and the country members to these TAs, totalling 154 agreements and 143 member countries. For ease of estimation, and to get a sense of geographical differences, we estimate our models by TA region for five main regions: Africa, Americas, Asia, Europe and Intercontinental (We exclude Oceania [11 countries and 1 agreement] for lack of sufficient trade data for our estimations). Each region has the following samples of agreements and countries: Intercontinental (114 countries and 64 agreements), Europe (42 countries and 41 agreements), Asia (35 countries and 33 agreements), Americas (15 countries and 13 agreements) and Africa (10 countries and 2 agreements).

For all countries in our sample, we get international trade and domestic trade flows from the TradeProd database, which has been created specifically for estimating gravity models and combines trade data from the UN Commodity Trade Statistics Database (COMTRADE) and production data from UNIDO Industrial Statistics database (INDSTAT). We also download export data directly from COMTRADE for all countries in our sample to construct our export product unit value measurements. For estimations on trade flows, we use international trade flow data as reported by importer. In order to measure the appropriate lags for the effects of each agreement, our period of interest for international flow data is between 1995 to 2015, and since we are estimating in 5-year intervals, we get trade flow data for the years 1995, 2000, 2005, 2010 and 2015. Finally, as mentioned before, export product unit values are constructed using the total value exported per product per year divided by the net weight exported of said product for said year at the HS 2-digit code level for the 84 and 85 codes for manufacturing products. As it is not possible to get data for product unit values for domestic trade, the estimations using this measure as the dependent variable will suffer from bias as the estimation does not include intra-trade effects. However, the direction of bias is important as not including intra-trade measures is expected to bias the effects of TAs downwards (Yotov et al. 2016), so we use this estimates as illustrative conservative measurements of the effects of TAs on the unit value of exported products.

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