

MODELLING TECHNOLOGICAL SPECIALISATION USING PRODUCT-LEVEL TRADE STATISTICS

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Abstract

This paper contributes to the literature on patterns of trade specialisation analysed in the context of recent developments in advanced digital production (ADP) technologies. Drawing upon product-level trade data (BACII - CEPII) and the recent classification of ADP-related export products, we document a significant concentration of technological trade activity around the world. Such a pattern implies that recent waves of technological progress reinforce the technological advantage of just a handful of players in the international trade system. Additionally, we employ semi-parametric methods of estimation to confront the evolution of overall trade specialisation and technological specialisation along the path of economic development. The results allow for a technologically-based interpretation of stages of diversification.

JEL Classification: *O33; F14; O47*

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