## Application of Factor Decomposition Techniques to Vertical Specialisation Measurements

by

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#### Abstract

The increasing importance of vertical specialisation (VS) trade has been a notable feature of rapid economic globalisation and regional integration. In an attempt to understand countries' depth of participation in global production chains, many Input-Output based VS indicators have been developed. However, most of them focus on showing the overall magnitude of a country's VS trade, rather than explaining the roles that specific sectors or products play in VS trade and what factors make the VS change over time. Changes in vertical specialisation indicators are, in fact, determined by mixed and complex factors such as import substitution ratios, types of exported goods and domestic production networks. In this paper, decomposition techniques are applied to VS measurement based on the OECD Input-Output database. The decomposition results not only help us understand the structure of VS at detailed sector and product levels, but also show us the contributions of trade dependency, industrial structures of foreign trade and domestic production system to a country's vertical specialisation trade.

**Keywords:** Vertical specialisation, Factor decomposition, Input-Output

#### 1 Introduction

The recent increasing importance of vertical specialisation (VS) trade has been considered one of the most outstanding features of the rapid economic globalisation and regional integration. Notably, more intermediate parts and components are produced in sequential stages or processed across different countries, and then exported to other countries for further production. The phenomenon of increasingly prevalent VS trade has been explained by an extended Dornbusch-Fischer-Samuelson-Ricardian trade model (Hummels et al., 2001) and a two-country dynamic Ricardian model (Yi, 2003). The common conclusion of both models suggests that vertical specialisation can serve as a propagation mechanism magnifying tariff reductions into large increases in trade, since a one-percentage-point reduction in tariffs leads to a multiple of one percentage-point decline in costs and prices. Yi (2003) also shows that at least half of the observed increase in world trade since the 1960s can be explained by means of vertical speciali-

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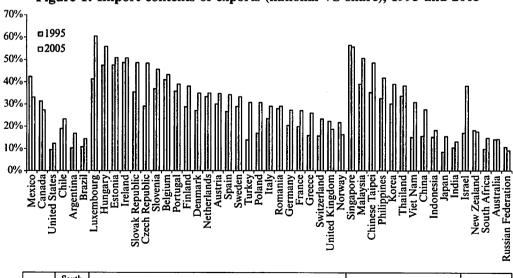
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sation.

NAFTA

In order to measure the magnitude of such vertical specialisation trade, various measurements have been developed in a range of empirical literature. The most widely used measure of vertical specialisation trade is the "import contents of export" (VS share) based on the set of symmetric Input-Output (I-O) tables for domestic output and imports. This indicator was originally proposed by Hummels *et al*. (2001). Since this measurement captures the embodied intermediate imports in exports or the direct and indirect imports of intermediates induced by export demand, it has been considered a useful proxy indicator to illustrate a country's degree of participation in vertical specialisation trade. This indicator has been extended and applied in various studies recently, such as Koopman *et al*. (2008), Uchida and Inomata (2009), Yang *et al*. (2009), Yamano *et al*. (2010), Hiratsuka and Uchida (2010), Koopman *et al*. (2010) and Meng *et al*. (2011). However, most of the above studies only focus on showing the overall magnitude of vertical specialisation for a target country, rather than explaining the roles specific sectors or products play in VS trade and what factors makes the VS share change over time.

Estimated indicators of import contents of exports show that large countries, like the United States, Japan, and China have relatively low VS shares while small countries, like Singapore and Luxembourg, have higher VS shares (Figure 1). That the VS share seems to depend on a country's economic size and the degree of its international openness is not surprising, since large countries are likely to be able to conduct more stages of production within their borders (possibly across different regions) and their export share of output will be lower because of the larger size of their domestic markets. For small countries, their higher share is partly due to their high dependence on the overseas market. In addition, from Figure 2 it's easy to see that there is a large variation in the changing pattern of VS share across countries. Most countries have experienced an increase in VS share with some showing significant growth such as



Asia

Others

Europe

Figure 1: Import contents of exports (national VS share), 1995 and 2005

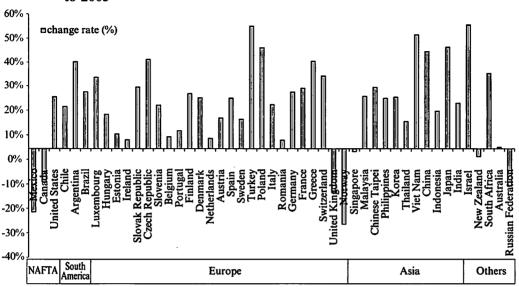


Figure 2: Import contents of exports (national VS share), percentage change, 1995 to 2005

China, Israel, Japan, Poland, Turkey and Viet Nam. However, for countries such as Canada, Mexico, Norway, the Russian Federation, and the United Kingdom, VS shares decreased between 1995 and 2005.

In order to investigate the structure of vertical specialisation and its changing pattern in detail, two decomposition techniques are applied to the VS measurement in this paper. The first one decomposes the national import contents of export into individual VS linkages, which helps us understand the role of a specific sector or product in a country's vertical specialisation trade. The second one is an I-O based factor decomposition technique. This kind of technique has been widely used in the analysis of structural change and long-term economic growth (Rose and Casler, 1996; Dietzenbacher and Los, 1998). Using this technique, we aim to examine the contributions of trade dependency, industrial structure of traded goods and domestic production system to the changes in vertical specialisation.

This paper proceeds as follows: the next section shows how a country's total VS measure can be decomposed into individual VS linkages at the sector level. Then, the contribution rate of individual VS linkages to national total VS is used to investigate the structural changes. We also aggregate the individual VS linkages by exporting sector and importing product respectively. This helps us identify the leading sectors or key products in vertical specialisation. Secondly, we show how to apply an I-O based factor decomposition technique to the absolute change of some VS measurements. This technique provides insights into which factors contribute most to the change in VS shares over time; Section 3 shows the cross-country application results of the decomposition techniques using the harmonised OECD I-O database. The concluding remarks are given in Section 4.

## 2 Decomposition of vertical specialisation indicators

#### 2.1 Individual VS linkage at sector level

The most widely used vertical specialisation measure (import contents of export or VS share) based on Leontief's demand driven I-O model can be expressed as follows:

VS share = 
$$\frac{\mathbf{u} \cdot \mathbf{m} \cdot \mathbf{L} \cdot \mathbf{E} \mathbf{X}}{\mathbf{u} \cdot \mathbf{E} \mathbf{X}}$$
 (1)

where **u** is a  $(1 \times n \text{ industries})$  vector of 1's; **m** is the  $(n \times n)$  matrix consisting of import coefficients (the share of imported intermediate goods to total inputs);  $\mathbf{L} = (\mathbf{I} - \mathbf{A}_d)^{-1}$  is the domestic Leontief inverse matrix, where  $\mathbf{A}_d$  is the  $(n \times n)$  domestic input coefficient matrix and **I** is an  $(n \times n)$  identity matrix; and **EX** is the  $(n \times 1)$  column vector of exports. The VS share measure represents the intermediate imports directly and indirectly induced by export demand, which can also be described as the value of imported intermediates embodied in a country's exports. This indicator also represents the backward linkage in inter-industrial production chains, since it's based on the Leontief inverse. In order to investigate how different individual linkages contribute to the national VS, equation (1) can be rewritten as:

VS share = 
$$\frac{\sum_{j=1}^{n} \sum_{i=1}^{n} \mathbf{m}^{j} \cdot \mathbf{L} \cdot \mathbf{E} \mathbf{X}^{i}}{\mathbf{u} \cdot \mathbf{E} \mathbf{X}}$$
 (2)

where  $\mathbf{m}^i$  is the  $j^{th}$  row  $(1 \times n)$  of matrix  $\mathbf{m}$ , namely, the row vector of intermediate import coefficients of product j.  $\mathbf{E}\mathbf{X}^i$  is the  $(n \times 1)$  column vector constructed by the export of product (sector) i and zero elements of other products (sectors). We can simplify the numerator of equation (2) so that

VS share = 
$$\frac{\sum_{j=1}^{n} \sum_{i=1}^{n} VS^{ji}}{\mathbf{u} \cdot \mathbf{EX}}$$
 (3)

where  $VS^{ji}$  represents how many intermediate imports of product j are directly and indirectly necessary for producing exports of product i by the way of the domestic interindustry production system. The contribution of  $VS^{ji}$  to total VS can help us understand the structure of VS at a detailed product-to-product level.

Using the above notation of  $VS^{\mu}$ , two measures with different perspectives of vertical specialisation are given as

$$VS^{\cdot i} = \sum_{j=1}^{n} VS^{ji} \tag{4}$$

$$VS^{j} = \sum_{i=1}^{n} VS^{ji} \tag{5}$$

where VS' represents the total intermediate imports of various products induced by the

exports of sector i. VS $^{j}$  shows the intermediate imports of product j induced by the national total exports. Using these measures, we can identify the leading-sectors or keyproducts in national VS measures, namely we can understand which sector or product plays a relatively important role in a country's vertical specialisation trade.

In addition, following the concept of import contents of export, the directly and indirectly induced domestic value added resulting from exports (primary input contents of exports) can be defined as

VSV share = 
$$\frac{\mathbf{v} \cdot \mathbf{L} \cdot \mathbf{E} \mathbf{X}}{\mathbf{u} \cdot \mathbf{E} \mathbf{X}} = \mathbf{v} \cdot \mathbf{L} \cdot \mathbf{e}$$
 (6)

where v is the  $(1 \times n)$  vector of primary input coefficients (value added rates by sector).  $\mathbf{e} = \mathbf{E} \mathbf{X} / \mathbf{u} \cdot \mathbf{E} \mathbf{X}$  is the  $(n \times 1)$  column vector constructed by the export share by sector (the share of sectors' exports in the national total exports).

# 2.2 Input-Output based factor decomposition in the change of VS share measurement

Equation (1) can be rewritten as the following form:

$$VS \text{ share} = \mathbf{u} \cdot \mathbf{m} \cdot \mathbf{L} \cdot \mathbf{e} \tag{7}$$

According to the above equation, the magnitude of the VS share depends on the relationship between the intermediate import coefficients (m), the domestic Leontief inverse ( $\mathbf{L} = (\mathbf{I} - \mathbf{A}_d)^{-1}$ ) and the export share (e). Therefore, the absolute change of the VS share over time can be given as follows:

$$\Delta VS \text{ share} = VS \text{ share}^{1} - VS \text{ share}^{0} = \mathbf{u} \left( \mathbf{m}^{1} \cdot \mathbf{L}^{1} \cdot \mathbf{e}^{1} - \mathbf{m}^{0} \cdot \mathbf{L}^{0} \cdot \mathbf{e}^{0} \right)$$
(8)

where the superscripts 0 and 1 represent the base year and target year, respectively. Following the decomposition technique proposed by Dietzenbacher and Los (1998), equation (8) can be decomposed into six alternative formations such as

$$\Delta VS \text{ share} = \mathbf{u} \left( \Delta \mathbf{m} \cdot \mathbf{L}^{1} \cdot \mathbf{e}^{1} + \mathbf{m}^{0} \cdot \Delta \mathbf{L} \cdot \mathbf{e}^{1} + \mathbf{m}^{0} \cdot \mathbf{L}^{0} \cdot \Delta \mathbf{e} \right)$$
(9.1)

$$= \mathbf{u} \left( \Delta \mathbf{m} \cdot \mathbf{L}^{0} \cdot \mathbf{e}^{1} + \mathbf{m}^{1} \cdot \Delta \mathbf{L} \cdot \mathbf{e}^{1} + \mathbf{m}^{0} \cdot \mathbf{L}^{0} \cdot \Delta \mathbf{e} \right)$$
(9.2)

$$= \mathbf{u} \left( \Delta \mathbf{m} \cdot \mathbf{L}^{\mathsf{I}} \cdot \mathbf{e}^{\mathsf{I}} + \mathbf{m}^{\mathsf{O}} \cdot \Delta \mathbf{L} \cdot \mathbf{e}^{\mathsf{O}} + \mathbf{m}^{\mathsf{O}} \cdot \mathbf{L}^{\mathsf{I}} \cdot \Delta \mathbf{e} \right) \tag{9.3}$$

$$= \mathbf{u} \left( \Delta \mathbf{m} \cdot \mathbf{L}^{\mathsf{I}} \cdot \mathbf{e}^{0} + \mathbf{m}^{0} \cdot \Delta \mathbf{L} \cdot \mathbf{e}^{0} + \mathbf{m}^{\mathsf{I}} \cdot \mathbf{L}^{\mathsf{I}} \cdot \Delta \mathbf{e} \right) \tag{9.4}$$

$$= \mathbf{u} \left( \Delta \mathbf{m} \cdot \mathbf{L}^{0} \cdot \mathbf{e}^{0} + \mathbf{m}^{1} \cdot \Delta \mathbf{L} \cdot \mathbf{e}^{1} + \mathbf{m}^{1} \cdot \mathbf{L}^{0} \cdot \Delta \mathbf{e} \right) \tag{9.5}$$

Note that, at the national level, the VSV share equals "1-VS share", so that essentially there is no additional information involved. An increase in VS means an equivalent decrease in VSV. However, as shown later, the decomposed factor that makes the VS share increase may not in turn makes the VSV share decrease. In addition, when focusing on issues related to value added, more detailed decomposition factors of VSV, such as labour inputs, capital consumption, and operating surplus can be analysed. This cannot be directly obtained from the measurement of VS.

$$= \mathbf{u} \left( \Delta \mathbf{m} \cdot \mathbf{L}^{0} \cdot \mathbf{e}^{0} + \mathbf{m}^{1} \cdot \Delta \mathbf{L} \cdot \mathbf{e}^{0} + \mathbf{m}^{1} \cdot \mathbf{L}^{1} \cdot \Delta \mathbf{e} \right) \tag{9.6}$$

where  $\mathbf{m}^1 = \mathbf{m}^0 + \Delta \mathbf{m}$ ,  $\mathbf{L}^1 = \mathbf{L}^0 + \Delta \mathbf{L}$ ,  $\mathbf{e}^1 = \mathbf{e}^0 + \Delta \mathbf{e}$ . The existence of alternative formations implies the problem of non-uniqueness, namely the result of decomposition analysis depends on the technique chosen. Since the choice of decomposition technique does not have much influence on average results (see Dietzenbacher and Los, 1997), the index of change in the VS share can be given by average value of the above six elements:

Average change in VS share

$$= \frac{1}{6} \mathbf{u} \Delta \mathbf{m} \left( 2\mathbf{L}^{0} \cdot \mathbf{e}^{0} + 2\mathbf{L}^{1} \cdot \mathbf{e}^{1} + \mathbf{L}^{0} \cdot \mathbf{e}^{1} + \mathbf{L}^{1} \cdot \mathbf{e}^{0} \right)$$

$$+ \frac{1}{6} \mathbf{u} \left( 2\mathbf{m}^{0} \cdot \Delta \mathbf{L} \cdot \mathbf{e}^{0} + 2\mathbf{m}^{1} \cdot \Delta \mathbf{L} \cdot \mathbf{e}^{1} + \mathbf{m}^{0} \cdot \Delta \mathbf{L} \cdot \mathbf{e}^{1} + \mathbf{m}^{1} \cdot \Delta \mathbf{L} \cdot \mathbf{e}^{0} \right)$$

$$+ \frac{1}{6} \mathbf{u} \left( 2\mathbf{m}^{0} \cdot \mathbf{L}^{0} + 2\mathbf{m}^{1} \cdot \mathbf{L}^{1} + \mathbf{m}^{0} \cdot \mathbf{L}^{1} + \mathbf{m}^{1} \cdot \mathbf{L}^{0} \right) \Delta \mathbf{e}$$

$$(10)$$

The absolute change of VS share is thus finally decomposed into three factors, namely the change of intermediate import coefficients ( $\Delta \mathbf{m}$ ), the change in the domestic Leontief inverse ( $\Delta \mathbf{L}$ ) and the change of export shares ( $\Delta \mathbf{e}$ ). These three factors represent the degree of a country's import dependency, domestic Leontief inverse and export structure respectively.

Similarly, the change of VSV share can also be decomposed into three factors as shown below, namely the change of primary input dependency ( $\Delta v$ ), the change of domestic Leontief inverse ( $\Delta L$ ) and the change of export structure ( $\Delta e$ ).

Average change in VSV share

$$= \frac{1}{6} \mathbf{u} \Delta \mathbf{v} \left( 2\mathbf{L}^{0} \cdot \mathbf{e}^{0} + 2\mathbf{L}^{1} \cdot \mathbf{e}^{1} + \mathbf{L}^{0} \cdot \mathbf{e}^{1} + \mathbf{L}^{1} \cdot \mathbf{e}^{0} \right)$$

$$+ \frac{1}{6} \mathbf{u} \left( 2\mathbf{v}^{0} \cdot \Delta \mathbf{L} \cdot \mathbf{e}^{0} + 2\mathbf{v}^{1} \cdot \Delta \mathbf{L} \cdot \mathbf{e}^{1} + \mathbf{v}^{0} \cdot \Delta \mathbf{L} \cdot \mathbf{e}^{1} + \mathbf{v}^{1} \cdot \Delta \mathbf{L} \cdot \mathbf{e}^{0} \right)$$

$$+ \frac{1}{6} \mathbf{u} \left( 2\mathbf{v}^{0} \cdot \mathbf{L}^{0} + 2\mathbf{v}^{1} \cdot \mathbf{L}^{1} + \mathbf{v}^{0} \cdot \mathbf{L}^{1} + \mathbf{v}^{1} \cdot \mathbf{L}^{0} \right) \Delta \mathbf{e}$$

$$(11)$$

Changes in vertical specialisation indicators are, in fact, determined by mixed and complex factors. The above structural decomposition techniques present an approach to disentangling the sources of change in a country's vertical specialisation into its component parts. This helps us to understand the evolution of vertical specialisation in detail.

## 3 Empirical results

In this section, the decomposition techniques shown in Section 2 are applied to the VS measures for 47 economies (33 OECD countries and 14 non-OECD countries) and 37 industries (see Appendix 1) using OECD's harmonised Input-Output database<sup>2</sup> and IDE

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> See http://www.oecd.org/sti/inputoutput.

-JETRO Input-Output tables (for three South East Asian countries)<sup>3</sup>. In order to increase the country coverage of analysis, some additional I-O tables for the reference years, i.e. 1995 and 2005, are estimated using National Accounts, trade statistics and other international industrial databases - for example, OECD's Structural Analysis (STAN) Database and the World Bank's World Development Indicators (WDI).

## 3.1 Individual VS linkages at detailed sector or product levels

In order to show which exporting sectors play important roles in a country's vertical specialisation trade, we calculate the contribution rate of sectoral VS (VS<sup>-1</sup> and VS<sup>-1</sup>) to national total VS (Table 1). The upper part of Table 1 shows the calculation results of VS<sup>-1</sup> for 1995 and 2005 by country group. More detailed results by country can be found in Appendix 2. The main features of sectoral VS<sup>-1</sup> can be summarized below.

There is a great variation in the contribution rate by sector. Some sectors, like Agriculture, Wood products, Pulp and paper, Coke, refined petroleum products, Rubber & plastics products, have relatively low rates for most countries. This is mainly because the products from these sectors are almost land or natural resource dependent and most intermediate inputs used in their production may be from the domestic market rather than from overseas. Another possible explanation for the sector with lower VS is that many of the intermediate inputs for this sector are imported, but its outputs are mainly for the domestic market, such as the case of Coke and refined petroleum products. On the other hand, some sectors, like Food products, Textile, Chemicals, Basic metals, Machinery and Motor vehicles have relatively higher average contribution rate. This suggests that these sectors are the leading VS sectors since the production of exports for these sectors require more foreign intermediate inputs.

When we look at the figures for 1995, notable differences of the sectoral VS contribution rate between country groups can be observed. For example, the contribution rate of the *Textiles* sector is relatively high for most Asian economies and some medium-income countries of Europe (see Appendix 2a). The contribution rate of *Chemicals*, *Basic metals*, *Machinery* and *Motor vehicles* sectors is high in many European countries. Most countries in NAFTA and South America have relatively high contribution rate for *Motor vehicles* sector with the exception of Chile. The contribution rate of *Radio*, *television & communication equipment* sectors is very high for many Asian economies. These observations reflect the structure of the international division of labour.

Comparing the figures of 1995 and 2005, some dynamic structural changes can be confirmed. For example, NAFTA, South America and Europe show a relatively steady structure, but in the Asian region the leading VS sector changed over time. In 1995, the main leading VS sectors for Asia were *Textiles* and *Radio*, television & communication equipment, but by 2005, the *Textiles* sector had lost its dominant role for half of the Asian economies (see Appendix 1a), especially for Korea (decline from 17% to 4%), The Philippines (decline from 30% to 4%) and Thailand (decline from 13% to 6%), while the presence of Office, accounting & computing machinery sector increased. In contrast to the decline of the contribution rate of the *Textiles* sector, the *Chemicals* sec-

<sup>3</sup> See http://www.ide.go.jp/English/Publish/Books/Sds/material.html.

Table 1: The contribution rate of sectoral VS in national VS by region

														_				_				
Average	Country	Asia		Europe	Атепса	South		NAFTA		Average	Country	Dota	A c.i.	Paropo	Filmpe	America	South	177 177	NAFTA			
2005	1995	2005	1002	3005	2005	1995	2005	1995		2005	1995	2005	1995	2005	1995	2005	1995	2005	1995	sector code		
2%	ngr Not	2% 2%	3 6	3% 3%	3%	5%	1%	2%		2%	2%	1%	2%	1%	2%	6%	6%	1%	2%	_	Agriculture, hunting, forestry and fishing	
2%	300	1%	1 6	ر م	2%	4%	1%	1%		5%	7%	3%	2%	4%	7%	14%	19%	2%	3%	3	Food products, beverages and tobacco	
4%	70%	4%	2 4	40%	2%	5%	3%	4%		6%	10%	9%	17%	5%	9%	3%	8%	3%	4%	4	Textiles, textile products, leather and footwear	
1%	10%	0%	100	1 %	0%	0%	1%	1%	B	1%	2%	1%	1%	1%	2%	2%	2%	1%	2%	v	Wood and products of wood and cork	
2%	40%	1%	2 6	4% 30%	Т	5%	2%	3%	•	2%	3%	1%	1%	3%	4%	4%	6%	2%	3%	6	Pulp, paper, paper products, printing and publishing	A: T
6%	400	9%	3 4	3% 4%	10%	7%	3%	1%	cont	2%	1%	2%	2%	1%	1%	4%	1%	1%	1%	7	Coke, refined petroleum products and nuclear fuel	ne co
13%	150	14% 13%	1070	15%	24%	24%	12%	9%	The contribution rate of importing product in national VS	9%	8%	7%	5%	10%	9%	12%	10%	6%	5%	00	Chemicals	The contribution rate of exporting sector in national VS by country-group
3%	30%	2% 2%	7 7	4%	3%	3%	5%	5%	on rat	3%	3%	3%	3%	3%	3%	2%	2%	3%	2%	9	Rubber & plastics products	tion 1
1%	102	1%		1%	1%	1%	1%	1%	e of	1%	1%	0%	1%	1%	1%	1%	1%	0%	0%	10	Other non-metallic mineral products	rate o
11%	110	11%	27.70				12%	10%	mpor	6%	7%	4%	3%	6%	7%	7%	7%	4%	4%	=	Basic metals	f exp
3%	305	1%	.~ 0⁄.0	3%	2%	2%	5%	5%	ting I	2%	3%	2%	2%	3%	3%	1%	2%	3%	2%	12	Fabricated metal products, except machinery & equip.	orting
6%	200	S %	2 2	\$ 6%	7%	5%	5%	6%	orodu	7%	6%	8%	5%	8%	8%	4%	4%	7%	6%	13	Machinery & equip., nec	sect
3%	300	5%	2/2	3% 2%	1%	1%	11%	26	ct in	4%	4%	8%	7%	2%	3%	1%	1%	13%	12%	14	Office, accounting & computing machinery	or in
6%	60,0	% % %	0,0	4% 5@	3%	4%	6%	17%	natio	4%	4%	6%	7%	4%	3%	1%	2%	4%	9%	15	Electrical machinery & apparatus, nec	natio
9%	600	20%	0 %	5%	3%	1%	8%	2%0	nal V	10%	7%	22%	18%	7%	5%	2%	1%	5%	%1	16	Radio, television & communication equipment	nal V
1%	100	2%	;     	2 2	0%	1%	0%	0%	S by	2%	2%	2%	1%	2%	2%	0%	1%	1%	<b>%</b> I	17	Medical, precision & optical instruments	S by
7%	502	2%	80%	° 6%	9%	6%	16%	17%	by country-group	11%	9%	4%	3%	13%	10%	15%	11%	28%	%0€	18	Motor vehicles, trailers & semi-trailers	coun
1%	ء ۾	- F	2   3	2%	2%	2%	2%	2%	ry–gı	2%	2%	2%	2%	2%	2%	3%	1%	5%	3%	19	Other transport equipment	ту-д
2%	10,	2%	3 7	3 8	0%	1%	1%	1%	oup (	3%	3%	2%	5%	2%	2%	1%	1%	3%	2%	20	Manufacturing nec; recycling (include Furniture)	quo
0%	00,0	0%	0%	8 8	1%	1%	0%	0%	(VSi.)	0%	1%	0%	0%	0%	1%	0%	0%	0%	0%	22	Construction	(VS.)
2% 2%	2 6	2%	1%	1 %	2%	2%	1%	0%		4%	4%	3%	4%	3%	4%	4%	3%	2%	3%	23	Wholesale & retail trade; repairs	
1%	2 6	9 %	8	8 2	0%	0%	0%	0%		1%	1%	1%	1%	0%	1%	0%	0%	0%	0%	24	Hotels & restaurants	
5% 8	4 6	મ જુ	18	4%	6%	7%	1%	1%		8%	7%	5%	5%	9%	6%	10%	13%	3%	3%	25	Transport and storage	
<del>8</del> 8	2 0	08	1%	: <u>1</u> %	1%	1%	0%	0%		0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	1%	1%	0%	0%	26	Post & telecommunications	
3%		9 %					1%	1%		3%	2%	1%	1%	4%	3%	0%	0%	1%	1%	27	Finance & insurance	
7%		\$ % %	9%	13%	5%	6%		6%		3%	2%	2%	2%	3%	3%	2%	1%	2%	1%	28-37	Other services	
100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%		100%	100%	100%	100%	200%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%		Total	

tor showed a significant increase for some Asian economies like Chinese Taipei (increase from 6% to 12%), Korea (increase from 6% to 10%) and Japan (increase from 7% to 10%). This illustrates that the vertical specialisation trade in Asia experienced a great structural change or industrial upgrade process, since the leading VS sector moved from relatively low-technology production, such as *Textiles*, to the production of relatively high-technology goods, such as *Computing machinery* and *Chemicals*.

The lower part of Table 1 shows the contribution rate of VS<sup>1</sup> to the national total VS by country group. According to the definition of VS<sup>1</sup>, this indicator can be used to identify the key product of intermediate imports in a country's VS trade. Obviously, Chemicals and Basic metals are the common key products in most countries' VS trade between 1995 and 2005. Looking at the table and Appendix 2b in detail, reveals that Motor vehicles products have been the more important intermediate inputs for NAFTA and for more than half of the European countries. Textiles was the key commodity for some Asian economies such as China, Indonesia, Philippines and Viet Nam in 1995. However, its presence declined rapidly over time of 1995 and 2005. On the other hand, Radio, television & communication equipment still plays an important role in most Asian economies. Generally speaking, the overall structure of key products across countries is stable over time, but for some specific countries and commodities, there is great change. For example, Electrical machinery & apparatus, nec. lost its contribution rate sharply for the United States (from 11% to 2%) while for Japan its importance increased rapidly between 1995 and 2005 (from 8% to 22%).

In order to see the structure of VS measure at a more detailed product-to-product level, the contribution rate of VS<sup>ji</sup> to national total VS is calculated. Table 2 shows the top five important individual VS<sup>ji</sup> linkages across countries for 1995 and 2005. The main features of this table can be summarized as follows.

Most economies have one or two leading individual VS linkages which account for more than 20% of the national VS. This implies that countries have a tendency to focus their participation in global production networks within specific sectors or products.

The VS linkage between the same products plays an important role in vertical specialisation trade. For example, in Canada, the intermediate imports from *Motor vehicles* (commodity code number:18) induced by the export demand for Motor vehicles output itself accounts for 32.9% of the total national VS in 1995. These results depend on the sector classification used, but to some extent, it also reflects the relative importance of the domestic intra-industrial backward linkage and international intra-industrial trade in a country's vertical specialisation. On the other hand, we can find that the VS linkage between different commodities for some countries is also important. For example, the intermediate imports of *Electrical machinery & apparatus, nec.* (16) induced by the export demand for *Office, accounting & computing machinery* (14) is larger than *computing machinery* itself for Japan and Chinese Taipei in 1995; while, the intermediated imports of *Other business activities* (32) embodied in the export of *Chemicals* (8) for Ireland in 2005 accounts for 16.5% of total national VS, which is also larger than the VS linkage of *Chemicals* itself (5.1%).

For most economies, the leading individual VS linkage is a commodity-to-commodity type, but for several countries, their leading VS linkage is service-to-service type. For example, Luxembourg's VS linkage of *Finance & insurance* (27), Norway's

VS linkage of *Transport and storage* (25) accounts for 68.8% and 21.8% of the national total VS in 2005 respectively.

There is a great variation and remarkable dynamic structural change of individual VS linkage across countries or country groups. In NAFTA and South America, the key individual VS linkage remains relatively stable for Canada, Mexico and Argentina. Namely, Canada's Motor vehicles, Mexico's Office, accounting & computing machinery and Argentina's Chemicals maintained top positions over time. On the other hand, the United States and Brazil seems to experience a large structural change. The leading VS linkage for the United States has switched from Office, accounting & computing machinery in 1995 to Motor vehicles in 2005. For Brazil, the top position of Basic metals (11) was replaced by Motor vehicles in 2005. In European region, it's easy to see that many countries (Austria, Belgium, Czech Republic, Germany, Poland, Portugal, Slovak Republic, Slovenia, Spain and Sweden) are involved in the production network of Motor vehicles. While, France, Italy, Netherlands, Switzerland and the United Kingdom enhanced their VS linkage of Chemicals over time of 1995 and 2005. In addition, it's also easy to confirm that the VS linkage of Electrical machinery & apparatus, nec. plays a dominant role in Estonia, Finland and Hungary; the importance of VS linkage of Textile decreased in most countries, remaining evident only in Italy, Portugal, Romania and Turkey. In the Asian region, much more diversity can be found. The VS linkage of Electrical machinery & apparatus, nec. increased or maintained its importance in most Asian economies such as Chinese Taipei, Korea, Malaysia, Philippines and Thailand. In particular, the figure of the Philippines increased from 18.5% to 51.1% between 1995 and 2005. Textile was a traditional exporting commodity of Asia, but its importance in VS trade declined sharply over time of 1995 and 2005. In contrary, the presence of Office, accounting & computing machinery became the leading VS linkage in some Asian countries, like China, India and Thailand. From Table 1, we can also find that the most important VS linkage for Australia, Russian Federation and South Africa is Basic metals, for New Zealand, it is Food products, beverages and tobacco (3) and for Israel, it's Manufacturing nec.; recycling (20).

#### 3.2 Decomposition results of vertical specialisation measurements

#### 3.2.1 Factor decomposition of the change in import contents of export

As shown in Section 2, the change of import contents of exports (VS share) over time can be decomposed into three individual factors, namely, the changes in import dependency, domestic Leontief inverse and export structure. Figure 3 shows the decomposition factors of VS change between 1995 and 2005. The main features of these figures can be summarized as follows.

Figure 3 illustrates that the structures of contribution rates by factor vary across countries. Import dependency clearly plays a positive role in most countries' VS change. This indicates that most countries take part in the international production network mainly by the way of increasing inputs of intermediate imports. This is not so surprising, since the continuous fall in trade costs of both monetary and non-monetary costs makes many imported goods much cheaper than their domestic equivalents – and substitution effects come in to play. Consequently, in more than half the countries, the contribution rate of the domestic Leontief inverse plays a negative role in their VS

Table 2: The contribution rate of Individual VS linkage (product-to-product level)

		Cana	ıda					Mex	ico					United	states		
	1995			2005			1995			2005			1995			2005	
im 18 15	ex 18 15 8	vs 32.9% 4.1% 2.4%	im 18 11	ex 18 11 8	vs 23.6% 3.9% 3.7%	im 14 15 18	ex 14 18 18	vs 8.7% 6.7% 6.6%	im 14 18 15	ex 14 18 14	vs 19.8% 10.4% 4.7%	im 14 15 15	ex 14 15 14	vs 6.4% 5.7% 5.5%	im 18 8 11	ex 18 8 13	vs 8.1% 5.9% 3.5%
11 19	11 19	2.1%	12 19	18 19	2.6% 2.6%	15	14	4.4%	15	18	3.6% 3.3%	18	18 8	5.2% 4.5%	i i 11	11	2.8% 2.7%
19	19	Arger		17	2.070			Bra			3.5 70			Ch			21.7.0
	1995			2005			1995			2005			1995			2005	
im	ex	VS	im	ex	VS 15 467	im	ex	vs • og	im	ex	vs 8.2%	im 25	ex 25	vs 8.2%	im 25	ex 25	vs 12.6%
8   18	8 18	12.7% 8.0%	8 18	8 18	15.4% 14.2%	11 8	11 8	6.2% 5.4%	18 8	18 8	5.7%	25 3	3	5.6%	7	25	8.3%
8	3	6.8%	.8	3	6.4%	25	25	5.4%	16	16	5.5%	1	3	4.6% 3.7%	3	3 8	3.7% 3.5%
8 11	1 11	4.1% 3.8%	11 7	11 7	4.9% 4.2%	4	4	5.2% 4.2%	19 11	19 11	5.3% 3.0%	8 8	8	3.5%	8 8	3	2.8%
		Aust	ria					Belg	ium					Czech R	epubl	ic	
	1995			2005			1995			2005			1995			2005	
im 18	ex 18	vs 8.8%	im 18	ex 18	vs 13.9%	im 18	ex 18	vs 14.2%	im 18	ex 18	vs 11.8%	im 11	ex 11	vs 8.5%	im 18	ex 18	vs 7.6%
4	4	5.4%	11	11	6.2%	8	8	9.1%	8	8	10.1%	4	4	4.3%	16	16	6.3%
11	11 8	5.2% 4.8%	13 8	13 8	4.7% 3.2%	11 4	11 4	7.4% 3.3%	11 3	11	6.8% 2.7%	15 8	15 8	4.1% 3.0%	14 15	14 15	5.3% 4.7%
13	13	4.7%	6	6	2.2%		3_	3.1%	25	25	2.5%	11	12_	2.5%	13	13_	3.4%
		Denn	nark					Esto	onia			<u> </u>		Finl	and	2005	
	1995		•	2005			1995		·	2005		im		1995 vs	im	2005 ex	vs
im 25	ex 25	vs 14.6%	im 25	ex 25	27.3%	im 4	ex 4	vs 9.5%	im 16	ex 16	vs 17.1%	16	ex 16	8.6%	16	16	15.8%
3	3	7.0%	7	25	5.7%	16	16	8.2%	15	16	8.0% 5.6%	8	6 13	5.3% 5.1%	11 31	11 16	6.4% 6.1%
8	8 13	5.7% 3.6%	8	8	4.0% 3.9%	14 25	16 25	4.5% 4.2%	4 25	4 25	5.0%	13	11	4.6%	13	13	5.0%
i	3	3.3%	25	23	2.6%	7	25	3.1%	11	12	4.0%	8	8	3.6%	8	8	4.6%
-	1005	Frai	nce	2005		Germany 1995 2005					Greece 1995 2005						
im	1995 ex	vs	im	2003 ex	vs	im	1993 ex	vs	im	2003 ex	vs	im	ex	vs	im	ex	vs
8	8	6.8%	8	8	9.3%	18	18	7.7%	18	18	10.2%	.3	24	8.4%	25	25	39.0% 7.4%
18	18 11	5.7% 5.4%	18 19	18 19	7.3% 4.9%	8	8 11	6.6% 5.4%	8 11	8 11	5.7% 5.5%	11	11	8.1% 5.1%	11	11	4.6%
14	14	5.1%	11	11	3.4%	13	13	4.1%	13	13	4.1%	8	8	4.0%	7	25	4.2%
19	19	3.7% Hun	11	18	2.4%	11	18	3.5% Irel	11 and	18	4.1%	1	3	3.0% It:	19 dy	25	3.5%
<u> </u>	1995		gary	2005	<u> </u>		1995			2005	<del></del>			1995		2005	5
im	ex	vs	im	ex	vs	im	ex	vs	im	ex	VS		ex	VS	im	ex	vs 9.8%
11	11 18	7.1% 5.6%	16 18	16 18	17.7% 10.4%	14	14	16.9% 5.9%	32	8 14	16.5% 8.1%		8 4	6.6% 5.8%	_	8 4	9.8% 5.6%
16	16	5.1%	15	16	4.3%	8	8	5.7%	27	27	6.5%	11	13	4.2%	11	11	4.2%
4 3	4	3.5% 3.2%	16 15	14 15	2.8% 2.6%	32 16	8 14	4.4% 4.3%	23	8 6	5.1% 4.9%	13	13 11	3.4% 3.4%		13 13	3.3% 3.0%
		Luxen			2.070				rlands						way		
	1995			2005	5		1995	;		2005				1995	<del></del>	2005	
im 27	ex 27	vs 54.2%	im 27	ex 27	vs 68.8%	im 8	ex 8	vs 11.2%	im 8	ex 8	vs 12.4%		ex 25	vs 16.4%		ex 25	vs 21.8%
11	11	5.7%	32	27	5.2%	ı	3	7.6%	3	3	4.9%	11	11	13.0%	11	11	14.1%
32	27	3.9%	32	30	1.9% 1.7%		3 25	7.0% 2.9%		3 18	4.1% 3.2%		25 8	3.3% 3.2%		2 8	54.2% 4.0%
8 36	9 36	3.4% 3.1%	26 11	30 11	1.7%	6	6	2.3%		25	3.1%		25	3.2%		3	2.7%
		Pol	and						tugal			<b> </b>			nania	200	
<u></u>	1995			200:		:	1995		:	200:		im		1995 vs	-	2005 ex	vs
im 8	ex 8	vs 2.9%	im 18	ex 18	vs 9.6%		ex 4	vs 17.3%	18	ex 18	12.9%	4	4	26.9%	4	4	14.8%
	18	2.9%	16	16	5.1%	18	18 16		4	4 16	9.1% 9.0%				15	15 8	5.3% 4.0%
13								n nw						117			
13 4 27	4 27	2.3% 2.0%	12 8	18 8	3.9% 3.4%		4	4.5%		8			4	2.6%	9	9	2.0%

Table 2: The contribution rate of Individual VS linkage (product-to-product level), cont'd.

<b>!</b>											1						
		lovak R	epubl				1005	Slov	enia	2006			1006	Spa	ain	2005	
	1995			2005		:	1995			2005			1995	$\overline{}$		2005	
im 8	ex 8	vs 6.5%	im 18	ex 18	vs 21.6%	im 18	ex 18	vs 11.9%	im 18	ex 18	vs 6.8%	im 18	ex 18	vs 22.6%	im 18	ex 18	vs 16.9%
18	18	6.4%	16	16	6.8%	4	4	7.8%	8	8	6.8%	8	8	5.6%	8	8	8.3%
liĭ	ii	5.8%	15	15	4.5%	8	8	6.1%	11	11	5.6%	11	18	4.0%	11	18	3.1%
6	6	2.5%	11	11	3.4%	13	13	4.6%	4	4	5.2%	9	18	3.1%	16	16	2.0%
8	9	2.3%	4	4	3.2%	11	11_	4.5%	11	12	4.6%	8	9	2.9%	4	4	2.0%
		Swe	den					Switz	erland					Tur	key		
	1995	<sub>T</sub>		2005	i		1995			2005			1995			2005	<u> </u>
im	ex	VS	im	ex	VS	im	ex	VS O FO	im	ex	VS	im	ex	VS	im	ex	VS 10 70
18	18 11	8.1% 5.6%	18 15	18 15	8.1% 6.2%	8 27	8 27	8.5% 5.9%	8 27	8 27	14.3%	8 4	4	11.7% 10.2%	18 11	18 11	10.7% 10.0%
16	16	4.9%	11	11	4.6%	11	13	2.9%	11	17	4.1%	11	11	6.5%	8	4	7.5%
8	8	4.2%	8	8	3.7%	12	13	2.6%	11	13	4.0%	8	8	6.1%	4	4	6.3%
13	13	3.9%	31	15	3.0%	13	13	2.3%	11	12	2.3%	7	25	3.0%	16	16	5.2%
	U	nited K	ingdo	m				Ch	ina					Chinese	Taipe	i	
	1995			2005	5		1995			2005	i		1995	5		2005	·
im	ex	vs	im	ex	vs	im	ex	vs	im	ex	vs	im	ex	vs	im	ex	vs
8	. 8	8.9%	.8	.8	11.6%	4	4	14.7%	15	14	16.9%	16	14	16.8%	16	16	30.9%
14	14 18	4.1% 3.9%	19 13	19 13	5.6% 2.8%	8 16	4 16	6.1% 3.1%	15 15	15 16	7.1% 6.3%	16 8	16 8	12.2% 5.3%	8	8 16	8.4% 6.2%
16	16	3.6%	32	32	2.3%	16	13	2.6%	4	4	3.8%	8	4	3.4%	11	11	4.4%
16	14	2.8%	11	11	2.2%	16	14	2.3%	8	8	3.4%	8	ġ	3.3%	ii	16	2.7%
		Ind	ia					Indo	nesia					Jap	an		
	1995			2005	5		1995	i		2005	j			1995		2005	5
im	ex	vs	im	ex	vs	im	ex	vs	im	ex	vs	im	ex	vs	im	ex	vs
8	8	8.0%	14	14	11.7%	4	4	12.1%	13	13	7.2%	16	16	9.6%	15	15	12.3%
8 7	4 25	5.2% 4.9%	8 11	8 11	8.8% 6.8%	8 13	4 13	8.7% 6.7%	8 4	4	5.9% 4.2%	16 14	14 14	5.8% 5.6%	8	8 11	4.8% 4.4%
36	23	3.8%	8	4	4.6%	8	9	5.3%	16	16	4.2%	11	11	5.0%	11	15	4.1%
111	20	3.8%	11	13	3.1%	16	16	5.1%	8	8	3.5%	8	8	4.5%	15	14	3.8%
		Kor	ea					Mala	ysia					Philip	pines		
	1995																
				2005	5		1995			2005	i			1995		2005	5
im	ex	vs	im	ex	vs	im	ex	vs	im	ex	vs	im	ex	vs	im	ex	vs
15	15	10.5%	16	ex 16	vs 25.2%	16	ex 16	vs 24.9%	16	ex 16	vs 20.9%	4	4	vs 20.7%	16	ex 16	vs 51.1%
15	15 4	10.5% 7.8%	16 8	ex 16 8	vs 25.2% 5.6%	16 15	ex 16 16	vs 24.9% 9.4%	16 16	ex 16 13	vs 20.9% 20.7%	4 16	4 16	vs 20.7% 18.5%	16 17	ex 16 17	vs 51.1% 6.0%
15 4 15	15	10.5% 7.8% 4.7%	16 8 11	ex 16 8 11	vs 25.2% 5.6% 5.0%	16 15 11	ex 16 16 16	vs 24.9% 9.4% 5.0%	16 16 13	ex 16 13 13	vs 20.9% 20.7% 5.1%	4 16 11	4 16 11	vs 20.7% 18.5% 5.1%	16	ex 16 17 14	vs 51.1% 6.0% 3.7%
15	15 4 16	10.5% 7.8%	16 8	ex 16 8	vs 25.2% 5.6%	16 15	ex 16 16	vs 24.9% 9.4%	16 16	ex 16 13	vs 20.9% 20.7%	4 16	4 16	vs 20.7% 18.5%	16 17 14	ex 16 17	vs 51.1% 6.0%
15 4 15 11	15 4 16 11 15	10.5% 7.8% 4.7% 4.6%	16 8 11 25 8	ex 16 8 11 25	vs 25.2% 5.6% 5.0% 3.3%	16 15 11 23	ex 16 16 16 16 15	vs 24.9% 9.4% 5.0% 4.0% 3.3% Thai	16 16 13 15 8	ex 16 13 13	vs 20.9% 20.7% 5.1% 3.5%	4 16 11 8	4 16 11 4	vs 20.7% 18.5% 5.1% 5.0% 1.9% Viet	16 17 14 4 7	ex 16 17 14 4	vs 51.1% 6.0% 3.7% 2.1%
15 4 15 11	15 4 16 11	10.5% 7.8% 4.7% 4.6% 3.8%	16 8 11 25 8	ex 16 8 11 25	vs 25.2% 5.6% 5.0% 3.3% 3.2%	16 15 11 23	ex 16 16 16 16	vs 24.9% 9.4% 5.0% 4.0% 3.3% Thai	16 16 13 15 8	ex 16 13 13	vs 20.9% 20.7% 5.1% 3.5% 2.7%	4 16 11 8	4 16 11 4	vs 20.7% 18.5% 5.1% 5.0% 1.9%	16 17 14 4 7	ex 16 17 14 4	vs 51.1% 6.0% 3.7% 2.1% 1.7%
15 4 15 11 11	15 4 16 11 15 1995 ex	10.5% 7.8% 4.7% 4.6% 3.8% Singa	16 8 11 25 8 pore	ex 16 8 11 25 16	vs 25.2% 5.6% 5.0% 3.3% 3.2%	16 15 11 23 16	ex 16 16 16 16 15 1995 ex	vs 24.9% 9.4% 5.0% 4.0% 3.3% Thai	16 16 13 15 8 land	ex 16 13 13 13 8 2005	vs 20.9% 20.7% 5.1% 3.5% 2.7%	4 16 11 8 8	4 16 11 4 8	vs 20.7% 18.5% 5.1% 5.0% 1.9% Viet 1995	16 17 14 4 7 nam	ex 16 17 14 4 25	vs 51.1% 6.0% 3.7% 2.1% 1.7%
15 4 15 11 11 im 7	15 4 16 11 15 1995 ex 7	10.5% 7.8% 4.7% 4.6% 3.8% Singa	16 8 11 25 8 pore	ex 16 8 11 25 16 2005 ex 7	vs 25.2% 5.6% 5.0% 3.3% 3.2% vs 20.8%	16 15 11 23 16 im 16	ex 16 16 16 16 15 1995 ex 16	vs 24.9% 9.4% 5.0% 4.0% 3.3% Thai	16 16 13 15 8 land	ex 16 13 13 13 8 2005 ex 16	vs 20.9% 20.7% 5.1% 3.5% 2.7% vs 21.5%	4 16 11 8 8 8	4 16 11 4 8 ex 4	vs 20.7% 18.5% 5.1% 5.0% 1.9% Viet 1995 vs 18.7%	16 17 14 4 7 nam	ex 16 17 14 4 25 2005 ex 4	vs 51.1% 6.0% 3.7% 2.1% 1.7% vs 14.8%
15 4 15 11 11 im 7 15	15 4 16 11 15 1995 ex 7 14	10.5% 7.8% 4.7% 4.6% 3.8% Singa vs 15.0% 14.3%	16 8 11 25 8 pore	ex 16 8 11 25 16 2005 ex 7 16	vs 25.2% 5.6% 5.0% 3.3% 3.2% vs 20.8% 11.1%	16 15 11 23 16 im 16 8	ex 16 16 16 16 15 1995 ex 16 4	vs 24.9% 9.4% 5.0% 4.0% 3.3% Thai	16 16 13 15 8 land im 16 14	ex 16 13 13 13 8 2005 ex 16 14	vs 20.9% 20.7% 5.1% 3.5% 2.7% vs 21.5% 10.1%	4 16 11 8 8 8 im 4 23	4 16 11 4 8 ex 4 4	vs 20.7% 18.5% 5.1% 5.0% 1.9% Viet 1995 vs 18.7% 9.8%	16 17 14 4 7 nam im 4 23	ex 16 17 14 4 25 2005 ex 4 4	vs 51.1% 6.0% 3.7% 2.1% 1.7% vs 14.8% 8.4%
15 4 15 11 11 im 7 15 15	15 4 16 11 15 1995 ex 7 14 15	10.5% 7.8% 4.7% 4.6% 3.8% Singa vs 15.0% 14.3% 10.3%	16 8 11 25 8 pore im 7 16 7	ex 16 8 11 25 16 2005 ex 7 16 8	vs 25.2% 5.6% 5.0% 3.3% 3.2% vs 20.8% 4.9%	16 15 11 23 16 im 16 8 4	ex 16 16 16 16 15 1995 ex 16 4 4	vs 24.9% 9.4% 5.0% 4.0% 3.3% Thai vs 29.7% 4.3% 3.5%	16 16 13 15 8 land im 16 14 8	ex 16 13 13 13 8 2005 ex 16 14 8	vs 20.9% 20.7% 5.1% 3.5% 2.7% vs 21.5% 4.2%	im 4 23 23	4 16 11 4 8 ex 4 4 1	vs 20.7% 18.5% 5.1% 5.0% 1.9% Viet 1995 vs 18.7% 9.8% 6.8%	16 17 14 4 7 nam im 4 23 7	ex 16 17 14 4 25 2005 ex 4 4 25	vs 51.1% 6.0% 3.7% 2.1% 1.7% vs 14.8% 8.4% 3.3%
15 4 15 11 11 im 7 15	15 4 16 11 15 1995 ex 7 14	10.5% 7.8% 4.7% 4.6% 3.8% Singa vs 15.0% 14.3%	16 8 11 25 8 pore	ex 16 8 11 25 16 2005 ex 7 16	vs 25.2% 5.6% 5.0% 3.3% 3.2% vs 20.8% 11.1%	16 15 11 23 16 im 16 8	ex 16 16 16 16 15 1995 ex 16 4	vs 24.9% 9.4% 5.0% 4.0% 3.3% Thai	16 16 13 15 8 land im 16 14	ex 16 13 13 13 8 2005 ex 16 14	vs 20.9% 20.7% 5.1% 3.5% 2.7% vs 21.5% 10.1%	4 16 11 8 8 8 im 4 23	4 16 11 4 8 ex 4 4	vs 20.7% 18.5% 5.1% 5.0% 1.9% Viet 1995 vs 18.7% 9.8%	16 17 14 4 7 nam im 4 23	ex 16 17 14 4 25 2005 ex 4 4	vs 51.1% 6.0% 3.7% 2.1% 1.7% vs 14.8% 8.4%
15 4 15 11 11 im 7 15 15 14	15 4 16 11 15 1995 ex 7 14 15 14	10.5% 7.8% 4.7% 4.6% 3.8% Singa vs 15.0% 14.3% 10.3% 9.6%	16 8 11 25 8 pore im 7 16 7 14 25	ex 16 8 11 25 16 2005 ex 7 16 8 14 25	vs 25.2% 5.6% 5.0% 3.3% 3.2% vs 20.8% 4.9% 4.7% 4.6%	16 15 11 23 16 im 16 8 4	ex 16 16 16 15 1995 ex 16 4 4 9 16	vs 24.9% 9.4% 5.0% 4.0% 3.3% Thai vs 29.7% 4.3% 3.5% 2.9% 2.6% New Z	16 16 13 15 8 land im 16 14 8 18	ex 16 13 13 13 8 2005 ex 16 14 8 18 14	vs 20.9% 20.7% 5.1% 3.5% 2.7% vs 21.5% 10.1% 4.2% 3.5% 3.1%	4 16 11 8 8 im 4 23 23 9	4 16 11 4 8 ex 4 4 4 4 4	vs 20.7% 18.5% 5.1% 5.0% 1.9% Viet 1995 vs 18.7% 9.8% 4.4% 3.8% ussian F	16 17 14 4 7 nam im 4 23 7 9	ex 16 17 14 4 25 2005 ex 4 4 25 4 1	vs 51.1% 6.0% 3.7% 2.1% 1.7% vs 14.8% 8.4% 3.3% 2.8%
15 4 15 11 11 im 7 15 15 14	15 4 16 11 15 1995 ex 7 14 15 14	10.5% 7.8% 4.7% 4.6% 3.8% Singa vs 15.0% 14.3% 10.3% 9.6% 4.0%	16 8 11 25 8 pore im 7 16 7 14 25	ex 16 8 11 25 16 2005 ex 7 16 8 14	vs 25.2% 5.6% 5.0% 3.3% 3.2% vs 20.8% 4.9% 4.7% 4.6%	16 15 11 23 16 im 16 8 4	ex 16 16 16 15 1995 ex 16 4 4 9	vs 24.9% 9.4% 5.0% 4.0% 3.3% Thai vs 29.7% 4.3% 3.5% 2.9% 2.6% New Z	16 16 13 15 8 land im 16 14 8 18	ex 16 13 13 13 8 2005 ex 16 14 8 18	vs 20.9% 20.7% 5.1% 3.5% 2.7% vs 21.5% 10.1% 4.2% 3.5% 3.1%	4 16 11 8 8 im 4 23 23 9	4 16 11 4 8 ex 4 4 4 4 4	vs 20.7% 18.5% 5.1% 5.0% 1.9% Viet 1995 vs 18.7% 9.8% 6.8% 4.4% 3.8%	16 17 14 4 7 nam im 4 23 7 9	ex 16 17 14 4 25 2005 ex 4 4 25 4 1	vs 51.1% 6.0% 3.7% 2.1% 1.7% vs 14.8% 8.4% 3.3% 2.8% 2.7%
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Note: im and ex represent the sector codes for imported product and exporting product, respectively.

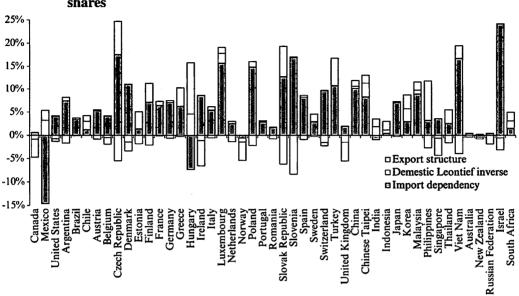


Figure 3: Factor decomposition of the change in VS share, 1995–2005: Absolute shares

changes. In addition, the change of export structure also makes a positive contribution to the VS change for more than half countries.

A cross-country comparison can provide us very interesting views. For example, the VS shares for both Hungary and Ireland increased between 1995 and 2005. However, the change of export structure and domestic Leontief inverse play positive role for Hungary, while a negative role for Ireland. Another interesting example can be found for Slovak Republic, Slovenia and Turkey. The structural changes of export makes a positive contribution to the VS change for both Slovak Republic and Turkey, but no contribution for Slovenia; while the change of domestic Leontief inverse plays a negative role for both Slovak Republic and Slovenia, but no contribution on Turkey's VS change. Furthermore, when looking at Mexico and India, they have a similar structure, namely the negative contribution from the change of import dependency and the positive contribution from the other two factors. However, due to the magnitudes of different factors for each country, the absolute change of VS for Mexico is negative while for India is positive. All the above facts clearly imply that different countries join global supply chains by different ways.

### 3.2.2 Factor decomposition of the change in primary input contents of export

The change of primary contents of export (VSV share) can also be decomposed into three factors as shown in Figure 4. As mentioned before, the VSV measure indicates the value added or GDP induced by export demand. Figure 4, suggests that the absolute change of VSV share between 1995 and 2005 is negative for most economies. This implies that the induced value added by one unit export for 2005 is lower than the figure for 1995 for most countries. It's not so surprising, since the change in VS share (import contents of export) in most countries is positive. Namely for producing one unit export, most countries need much more inputs of intermediated imports. This

means that the domestic or primary input rates may become relatively low. If much more domestic intermediate inputs are substituted by intermediate imports, the domestic Leontief inverse may play a negative role in the change of VSV share. On the other hand, if much more primary inputs are replaced by intermediate imports, the change of primary input dependency may affect the VSV change negatively. Figure 4 suggests that the change in primary input dependency gives a dominant and negative contribution to the change of VSV share for most countries, and the change of domestic Leontief inverse also contributed negatively for more than half countries.

The increase of VS share and the decline of VSV share reflect the impact of verti-

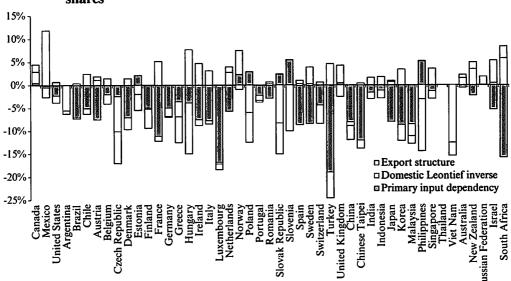
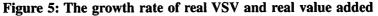
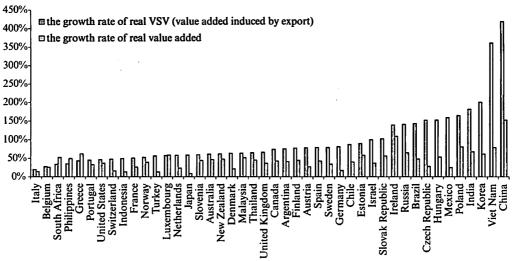


Figure 4: Factor decomposition of the change in VSV share, 1995-2005: Absolute shares





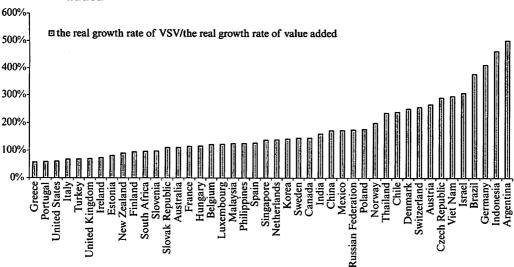


Figure 6: The growth rate of real VSV as a share of the growth rate of real value added

cal specialisation on a country's production technology or cost function. Although, the induced value added by one unit export declined between 1995 and 2005 for most countries, this does not mean the decrease of absolute value added caused by exports. In order to explain the above fact in detail, we calculate the growth rate of real VSV and compare it with the real growth rate of value added (see Figure 5 and 6). The gain of value added by exports at constant prices increased much faster than real value added for most countries between 1995 and 2005. One reasonable explanation is that the fall of trade costs stimulates vertical specialisation or the fragmentation of production with cheaper intermediate imports substituting primary inputs to some extent in long term. This makes the production system more efficient and causes much more demand and supply of foreign intermediates. As a result, the value added induced by one unit export declines, but the total volume of export increases much faster, then the absolute value of value added by total exports increases.

### 4 Conclusions

Vertical specialisation has been considered one of the most important sources of the rapid increase of world trade during recent decades. In order to investigate the structure of vertical specialisation and its changing pattern, this paper has presented two kinds of methods for structural analysis. One is to decompose the national total VS measure into individual VS linkages at detailed product-to-product level. The advantage of this

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>5</sup> For the calculation of real VSV, the most preferable data should be the national I-O table at constant prices. However, just for few countries, this data is available for us at present. For simplicity, we calculate the VSV using the I-O table at current prices, and then convert the results to constant prices with GDP deflator estimated from World Bank database.

decomposition is that the key individual VS linkage can be easily identified. This helps us understand which country specializes in what kind of particular stage of a good's production in global supply chain. In addition, with the aggregation of individual VS linkages for specific exporting sector and importing product, the average contribution level of leading-sector or key-product of VS trade can also be understood.

The second structural analysis method is an Input-Output based factor decomposition technique. Using this technique, the change of conventional VS share (import contents of export) can be decomposed into three individual factors, the change of import dependency, the change of domestic Leontief inverse and the change of export structure. We also applied this technique to the VSV share (induced value added by exports), which can be decomposed into the change of primary dependency, the change of domestic Leontief inverse and the change of export structure.

Applying the decomposition techniques to the OECD harmonized input-output database for 1995 and 2005, notable findings are the following.

- (1) Most countries have one or two key VS linkages which play an important role in their national total VS trade. This fact clearly reflects that vertical specialisation occurs when countries specialize in particular stages of a good's production sequence rather than in producing the entire good.
- (2) The leading exporting sector in VS trade varies across country groups and changes over time. For example, Textiles was an important key exporting sector for most Asian economies in 1995, but by 2005, its leading position in VS trade had been replaced by the Office, accounting & computing machinery and Chemicals sectors. Meanwhile in NAFTA and Europe, the Motor vehicles and Chemicals sectors maintained or enhanced their leading positions for most countries. On the other hand, the key importing products (Chemicals and Basic metals) in VS trade across countries remains relatively stable.
- (3) The changes in VS and VSV shares are mainly due to the change of import dependency and primary input dependency respectively. For most countries, the substitution between intermediate imports and domestic intermediate inputs makes the domestic Leontief inverse play a negative role in the change of VS and VSV shares. The change of export structure mainly shows a positive contribution to the increase of VS share for more than half economies.
- (4) We also found that the primary inputs may be substituted by intermediate imports to some extent in the increasing vertical specialisation trade. That's why the value-added increases by unit exports have declined for most economies between 1995 and 2005, while during the same period, the VS share shows an increasing tendency. The decline of VSV share just reflects the relative change of production input structure, it does not mean the gain from trade decreases since the total market size and the scale of international trade have been expanding greatly due to the increasing vertical specialisation.

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## Appendix 1: Sector classification

	Sectors	ISIC Rev.3
1	Agriculture, hunting, forestry and fishing	01-02-05
2	Mining and quarrying	10-11-12-13-14
3	Food products, beverages and tobacco	15-16
4	Textiles, textile products, leather and footwear	17-18-19
5	Wood and products of wood and cork	20
6	Pulp, paper, paper products, printing and publishing	21-22
7	Coke, refined petroleum products and nuclear fuel	23
8	Chemicals	24
9	Rubber & plastics products	25
10	Other non-metallic mineral products	26
11	Basic metals	27
12	Fabricated metal products, except machinery & equipmen	28
13	Machinery & equipment, nec	29
14	Office, accounting & computing machinery	30
15	Electrical machinery & apparatus, nec	31
16	Radio, television & communication equipment	32
17	Medical, precision & optical instruments	33
18	Motor vehicles, trailers & semi-trailers	34
19	Other transport equipment	35
20	Manufacturing nec; recycling (include Furniture)	36-37
21	Utility	40-41
22	Construction	45
23	Wholesale & retail trade; repairs	50-52
24	Hotels & restaurants	55
25	Transport and storage	60-63
26	Post & telecommunications	64
27	Finance & insurance	65-67
28	Real estate activities	70
29	Renting of machinery & equipment	71
30	Computer & related activities	72
31	Research & development	73
32	Other Business Activities	74
33	Public admin. & defence; compulsory social security	75
34	Education	80
35	Health & social work	85
36	Other community, social & personal services	90-93
37	Private households with employed persons	95

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