A Structural Decomposition Analysis of Global and National Energy Intensity Trends

Daniel Croner* and Ivan Frankovic†

October 29, 2016

Abstract

This paper analyses recent energy intensity trends of 40 major economies. Our main focus lies on the question whether improvements in energy efficiency were due to structural change towards a greener economy or a consequence of technological improvements. We account for intersectoral trade by using the World Input-Output database and adjust sector-specific energy use via the environmentally extended input-output analysis. We find strong differences between adjusted and unadjusted energy consumption across sectors, particularly in the construction and electricity industry. Using the three factor Logarithmic Mean Divisia Index method, our decomposition analysis shows that recent energy intensity reductions were mostly driven by technological advances. Structural changes within countries played only a minor role, whereas international trade by itself even increased global energy intensity. Compared to a previous study that used unadjusted sectoral energy data, we find structural effects on energy intensity reductions to be systematically weaker under adjusted data. The differences are particularly striking on a country-level, e.g. for Japan and Turkey.

*University of Vienna, Faculty of Business, Economics and Statistics; daniel.croner@univie.ac.at
†Wittgenstein Centre (IIASA, VID/ÖAW, WU) and Vienna Institute of Demography; ivan.frankovic@oeaw.ac.at.
1 Introduction

In the last decades, climate change caused by anthropogenic emissions of greenhouse gases, particularly CO$_2$, has become a major concern for the world community. To a large extent, CO$_2$ emissions are caused by the energy use of mankind. In particular, energy consumption is an inevitable ingredient for economic growth$^1$. However, in order to meet the 2 degree Celsius target of the Copenhagen Accord 2009$^2$, countries have to reduce their carbon emissions significantly. Hence, economic growth and climate change targets seem to be a insuperable contradiction. Nevertheless, a large body of literature on green growth suggests a way to harmonize both goals and to achieve a sustainable path of economic growth$^3$.

![Figure 1: Development of energy intensity (ratio of global energy use to world GDP) since 1990 (base year)](image)

Following the literature on green growth, there are at least two ways to achieve economic growth and simultaneously limit global warming. First, the world can aim at decoupling energy consumption from CO$_2$ emissions via the use of renewable energy. This approach has, however, so far failed on a global scale and has its limits even when taking into account future technological improvements$^4$. Second, one can attempt to decouple economic growth from energy consumption and, hence, reduce the energy intensity (the ratio of energy use to output). Over the course of the last decades, the global energy intensity has been constantly decreasing (see Figure 1), giving rise to some scope for green growth.

There are, at least, three different pathways of how energy intensity of an economy can be reduced. First, technological progress can render production more efficient with respect to energy use. Second, the production of relatively energy intensive goods and services can be outsourced to other countries. This approach, however, only decreases the domestic energy-intensity but not necessarily global energy intensity$^5$. Third, structural change within a country towards sectors with a relatively low energy use per unit of output can lower the energy intensity of the economy. In this paper we

---

$^1$See e.g. Ayres et al. (2013)
$^2$See Chappé (2015)
$^3$For a discussion and introduction to green growth, see Bowen and Fankhauser (2011). Furthermore, OECD (2013) provides an overview of green growth policies.
$^4$See Wiré et al. (2015)
$^5$In fact, trade can increase global energy intensity, if production is outsourced to countries with a higher energy use per output. This problematic aspect of international trade has been called Carbon Leakage in the context of CO$_2$ emissions. Peters et al. (2011) study the extent of international Carbon Leakage. Jakob and Marschinski (2013) discuss the implications of Carbon Leakage with respect to trade policies.
want to shed light on the question, to which extent changes in these three factors explain the decreasing global energy intensity. We do so by following an empirical approach exploiting the World Input-Output Database (WIOD), providing information about intersectoral trade within and across countries alongside with WIOD environmental accounts which entail data on sector-specific energy use. However, we adjust energy use as provided in the WIOD with respect to intersectoral trade using the environmentally extended input-output analysis (EEIOA). This enables us to determine the magnitude of energy use that a sector is ultimately responsible for by also considering energy consumption embodied in trade. After adjusting data in this way we apply the Logarithmic Mean Divisia Index (LMDI), as proposed by Ang and Zhang (1997), to decompose global energy intensity trends into the presented three factors.

Our work is most importantly related to Voigt et al. (2014) who investigate to which extent energy intensity developments have been due to structural and technological change, based on an analysis of WIOD environmental accounts. They find that, while structural change has played an important role in explaining energy efficiency trends in some countries, in particular in the USA, global energy intensity has improved largely due to technological advancements. The study does not, however, adjust for energy use embodied in trade by using trade information from the WIOD. By solely focusing on the aggregate energy use data on sectoral level Voigt et al. (2014), thus, represents an index decomposition analysis (IDA). In contrast, this paper employs a structural decomposition analysis (SDA) and uses information on intersectoral trade relationships. By employing the LMDI method within a SDA framework, we are following an only recently established approach as traditionally LMDI is used in the context of IDAs (see Su and Ang (2012)). For example, Wachsmann et al. (2009) apply an SDA to energy use in Brazil using national input-output tables. Furthermore, Wood (2009) conducts a structural decomposition of greenhouse gas emissions in the Australian economy. Both studies use an additive LMDI method for decomposition, while we will resort to a multiplicative version of the LMDI to obtain a better comparability of our results to Voigt et al. (2014). An emerging literature applies the SDA to WIOD data, but differs to this paper with respect to the used decomposition method and the focus of analysis. For example, Zhong (2016) applies an averaging technique of perfect decomposition methods to study emission and energy use trends. Xu and Dietzenbacher (2014) analyse global emission trends instead of energy use by employing an SDA using the WIOD. Finally, Peters et al. (2011) study CO$_2$ emissions embodied in trade and focus on a country-level analysis and identifying the extent of carbon leakage. To our knowledge, a structural decomposition analysis on global energy intensity trends using the LMDI method has not been conducted yet.

Our results show that energy intensity in a number of sectors change dramatically, if we look at adjusted data (in particular for the construction and electricity sector). Nonetheless, the global decomposition results exhibit qualitatively similar trends as under unadjusted data. We find, however, that structural effects are systematically overestimated when using unadjusted energy data. Moreover, our analysis shows that technological improvements within the sectors are the most important factors of decreasing global energy intensity and that these mainly happened during the times of increasing oil prices from 2004 to 2008, while structural changes within countries only modestly contributed to falling energy intensities. International trade even had a positive effect on the global energy intensity, indicating that production was outsourced to relatively more energy-intensive regions. On a country level, we find that the technological effect is strongly underestimated in a range of countries when using unadjusted data, particularly in Japan and Turkey. Our analysis suggests, thus, that structural policies favoring growth of seemingly green sectors need to take into account the indirect energy use associated with sectoral final demand. Otherwise, the success of such policies might be overestimated.

Hence our paper contributes to the existing literature in the following way: First, it provides a complete adjustment of sector specific energy data to depict the direct and, more importantly,
indirect energy consumption in each sector and on a country level. Second, we compare our adjustments with unadjusted energy data in order to highlight the importance of the EEIOA for our analysis. Third, we decompose adjusted energy intensity trends into structural effects between countries (trade effect), structural effects within countries, and technological effects, and discuss the differences with respect to a decomposition using unadjusted data. We apply this decomposition not only for the global economy but also on a country level for each of the 40 considered states.

The remainder of the paper is structured as follows: In the following section the data as well as the EEIOA are introduced in detail, followed by a comparison of adjusted and unadjusted energy use in Section 3. Section 4 and 5 introduce the decomposition algorithm and present the main results of this study before Section 6 concludes.

2 Data and Methods

2.1 Data sources

Our analysis is based on the World Input-Output Database (WIOD), a public database that provides time-series (covering the period from 1995 to 2011) of intersectoral input-output tables for 40 countries including a model estimation of the rest of the world. It features 35 standardized sectors, that can be further aggregated into agriculture, construction, manufacturing, electricity, transport, and service industry. The 40 countries covered in the database entail 27 member states of the European Union, the BRIC nations as well as other major economies such as the US, Canada, Australia and Japan. Together, these nations comprised more than 80% of the world GDP in 2009.

The WIOD has been widely used in trade economics. Data from various national sources have been harmonized in order to enable comparability of data across countries. Moreover, the accompanying WIOD previous year’s prices dataset provides information on price developments on sectoral level, enabling us to deflate each sector independently instead of using aggregate national price deflators which lack important information in the heterogeneity of inflation in each sector.

In addition to the input-output tables, the WIOD is accompanied by environmental satellite accounts providing information about sector-specific gross energy use (EU) in terajoule (TJ), that encompasses the total energy requirements in the industry. Importantly, EU only includes energy consumed in the production process of a given sector, while ignoring indirect energy consumption through trade of goods and services with other sectors. We only use data on EU from production and do not include household energy consumption as our main focus lies on structural effects and technology improvements within sectors.

As international supply chains have been integrated to an increasing extent during the last decades (see Timmer et al. (2014)), it is necessary to account for energy transfers embodied in intersectoral and international trade to obtain a realistic picture of the energy use of a given sector. As an example, we consider the construction sector. In the WIOD environmental accounts, the energy use of the construction sector would be comprised mostly of electricity and fossil fuel consumption by vehicles and machinery deployed in construction works. While this direct energy demand by the construction sector is certainly not negligible, one would grossly underestimate the extent of energy consumption that is required for the final demand this sector is supplying if only this direct energy demand is considered. Obviously, the construction sector is heavily dependent on inputs from other sectors, such as materials from the mining and quarrying sector as well as the

---

8 As the WIOD was released in 2012, Croatia as the 28th member state is not included.
9 The WIOD and its accompanying environmental accounts are freely available at http://www.wiod.org. While this paper will provide a short introduction on the use of input-output tables, detailed information on the database is provided in Timmer et al. (2015). Extensive documentation about the construction of the WIOD is compiled in Diezenbach et al. (2013). A technical report on the environmental accounts is provided by Gentry (2012).
10 Here, we follow Xu and Dietzenbacher (2014) who took a similar approach in their analysis of global CO2 emissions trends.
wood sector. Moreover, it requires heavy machinery, vehicles, and technical equipment from various manufacturing subsectors. Conversely, the output produced by the construction sector does not only satisfy final demand but also intermediate demand by other sectors. Take as an example the manufacturing or service sector that require factories and office space for their production processes.

In our globalized and highly integrated economies, the interdependencies between sectors within and between countries through trade are highly developed, such that tracking indirect energy use for each sector would be a very cumbersome, if not impossible task. However, Wassily Leontief has developed a convenient method to calculate direct and indirect inputs required in the production processes of sectors, the Input-Output Analysis\textsuperscript{11}. Moreover, he extended this method to study material and pollution flows across sectors in his seminal paper "Environmental Repercussions and the Economic Structure" (Leontief, 1970), laying the groundwork for what was later called the environmentally extended input-output analysis. This method allows us to determine the total energy use of a sector, based not only on its direct but also on the indirect energy consumption. Hence, our study applies a structural decomposition analysis within a global multi-regional input-output framework.

2.2 Input-Output Analysis

In order to adjust for the implicit trade of energy consumption, we apply the environmentally extended input-output analysis, originally proposed by Leontief (1970). This method, in its first application, measured intersectoral pollution transfers by extending the well-known Leontief-Inverse from input-output table analysis to environmental pollution. Miller and Blair (2009) provide an insightful summary of the methodological groundwork by Leontief (1970) and give an introduction to modern applications of the EEIOA.

For a better understanding of the EEIOA, we offer the following short example. The WIOD input-output data is generally given in the form of Table 1. In this table, we assume the existence of solely two sectors, the manufacturing and the construction sector. Hence a simple 2x2 matrix is sufficient to describe the complete set of intersectoral input-output flows (see the gray shaded area). Within this matrix, entry (x,y) denotes the output created by sector x for the use of sector y. For example, Row (1) contains the monetary value of outputs produced in the construction sector for its own use (first column, value=1) and for the use of the manufacturing sector (second column, value=20). The third column shows the monetary value of goods and services created for final consumption. In each row, total output of a given sector is provided in column (4) and is defined as the sum of column (1) to (3).

\begin{table}[h]
\centering
\begin{tabular}{|c|c|c|c|}
\hline
 & to Constr. & to Manuf. & Consumption & Output \\
\hline
from Constr. & 1 & 20 & 960 & 981 \\
from Manuf. & 250 & 1200 & 1800 & 3250 \\
\hline
\end{tabular}
\caption{Exemplary I/O-Table}
\end{table}

The values in columns (1) to (3) are derived from the actual WIOD input-output table for the US in the year 2009 (values are rounded and given in current billion USD). While the final demand in each sector can certainly not be supported without considering the numerous other sectors, we neglect these in this example to keep our calculations tractable. Nonetheless, we can observe the magnitude of intersectoral dependence. For example, the manufacturing sector delivers a considerable amount of intermediary inputs to the construction sector, while the reverse flow from constructors to manufacturers is negligible.

We follow the usual notation employed in the input-output analysis literature and define

\textsuperscript{11}Leontief (1936) is the seminal work that introduced the I-O analysis for the first time.
\[ Z = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 20 \\ 250 & 1200 \end{pmatrix}, \quad y = \begin{pmatrix} 960 \\ 1800 \end{pmatrix}, \quad x = \begin{pmatrix} 981 \\ 3250 \end{pmatrix}, \]

where \( Z \) denotes the interindustry trade matrix, \( y \) the vector of final demand, and \( x \) the vector of total output.\(^\text{12}\) The amount of output produced in each sector depends (i) on the demand by final consumers in each sector and (ii) on the input requirements of the two sectors. The latter is determined by the trade structure given in the input-output table. In this example, in order to produce one unit of output, the construction sector needs \( \frac{1}{981} \) units of construction and \( \frac{250}{981} \) units of manufactured inputs, while the manufacturing sector requires \( \frac{20}{3250} \) units from the construction industry and \( \frac{1200}{3250} \) from itself. For each sector, we can now conveniently express total output as the sum of (i) and (ii) in a linear equation:

\[
\begin{align*}
  x_1 &= y_1 + \left( \frac{1}{981} \right) x_1 + \left( \frac{20}{3250} \right) x_2, \\
  x_2 &= y_2 + \left( \frac{250}{981} \right) x_1 + \left( \frac{1200}{3250} \right) x_2.
\end{align*}
\]

Taking the construction sector as an example, total construction output \( x_1 \) equals the final demand faced by the construction industry \( y_1 \), the output absorbed in the sector itself \( \left( \frac{1}{981} \right) x_1 \) and output required in the manufacturing sector \( \left( \frac{20}{3250} \right) x_2 \). The linear equation system would, of course, hold if we were to enter \( x \) and \( y \) from the exemplary input-output table above. However, having now expressed the intricate relationship between the two industries, we can, for any given final demand structure \( y \), calculate the necessary output in each sector \( x \), such that the economy can meet the demand. To do so, we simply need to solve the linear equation system (1a)-(1b), which can conveniently be done using matrix notation. First we define the structural matrix, \( A \), that captures the trade structure of the economy, given by

\[ A = \begin{pmatrix} z_{11}/x_1 & z_{12}/x_2 \\ z_{21}/x_1 & z_{22}/x_2 \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} 1/981 & 20/3250 \\ 250/981 & 1200/3250 \end{pmatrix}. \]

The linear equation system (1a)-(1b) can now be expressed as

\[ x = y + A \times x \quad \iff \quad x = (I - A)^{-1} \times y. \]

The matrix \( (I - A)^{-1} \) is called Leontief-Inverse and can transform any given final demand structure \( y \) into required total outputs. Furthermore, we can now calculate the extent of outputs from each sector that is needed for the satisfaction of a given industry’s final demand. In other words, we want to identify the resources in an economy that are ultimately required by the consumption of one industry’s final goods and services. This information is not readily available from the input-output table, as the elimination of final demand in sector A would affect the output produced in sector B that is required as input. This, in turn, would affect the output produced in sector A and so on, resulting in an infinite chain of adjustments necessary to calculate the structure of this counter-factual economy with final demand in only one sector. The Leontief-Inverse allows us, however, to make this calculation more convenient. Taking the construction sector as an example, we define \( y = [960; 0] \),\(^\text{13}\) implying that we only want to identify the output required to meet the final consumption of construction goods. Inserting \( y \) into equation (3) evaluates to

\[ [963; 389] = (I - A)^{-1} \times [960; 0], \]

implying that, 963 units of the construction and 389 units of the manufactured output is required to meet the final demand that the construction industry faces. Interestingly, the inputs needed

\(^{12}\)Analogous to Table 1 it holds, that \( z_{11} + z_{12} + y_1 = x_1 \) and \( z_{21} + z_{22} + y_2 = x_2 \).

\(^{13}\)To economize on space, we express vectors always horizontally. Semicolons, however, indicate a new row, such that \( y = [960; 0] \) is to be interpreted as the vertical vector \( \begin{pmatrix} 960 \\ 0 \end{pmatrix} \) whereas \( y = [960 0] \) denotes a horizontal vector.
from manufactures strongly exceeds the value of 250 in the input-output table, which describes the extent of direct inputs. However, in order to produce the required 250 units, the manufacturing sector has to create machinery and equipment for its own production processes adding substantially to the necessary output.

Using the input-output analysis we are, therefore, able to measure the extent of resources that a certain final demand in a sector ultimately requires, considering not only the direct inputs and the infinite chain of indirect inputs resulting from the trade relationship described in the input-output table. In the following, we extend this analysis with respect to energy use in order to measure energy consumption that is associated with an industry’s final demand.

2.3 Environmentally Extended Input-Output Analysis

In order to adjust the energy use according to intersectoral trade, we now extend the input-output analysis with respect to energy use, given by \( e = [1950 \ 54400] \) where the first and second vector entries provide energy use (as provided in the WIOD environmental accounts, given in 1000 terajoule) in the construction and manufacturing sector, respectively. Analogous to (2) we first derive the structural coefficients for the energy use as

\[
A_e = [1950/981 \ 54400/3250],
\]

implying the direct energy use of 1950/981 units for the production of one unit in the construction sector and 54400/3250 units for one unit of the manufacturing sector. We then extend the linear equation system in (1a)-(1b) to

\[
\begin{align*}
    x_1 &= y_1 + (1/981)x_1 + (20/3250)x_2 \\
    x_2 &= y_2 + (250/981)x_1 + (1200/3250)x_2, \\
    E &= 1950/981x_1 + 54400/3250x_2,
\end{align*}
\]

where \( E \) denotes total energy use in the economy. In matrix notation, the linear equation system can be written as

\[
\begin{align*}
    \begin{pmatrix} x \\ E \end{pmatrix} &= \begin{pmatrix} y + A \times x \\ A_e \times x \end{pmatrix} \\
    \equiv \begin{pmatrix} x \\ E \end{pmatrix} &= \begin{pmatrix} A \times x \\ A_e \times x \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} y \\ 0 \end{pmatrix} \\
    \equiv \begin{pmatrix} x \\ E \end{pmatrix} &= \begin{pmatrix} I - A \\ A_e \end{pmatrix}^{-1} \begin{pmatrix} 0 \\ 0 \end{pmatrix} \times \begin{pmatrix} y \\ 0 \end{pmatrix} \\
    \equiv \begin{pmatrix} x \\ E \end{pmatrix} &= \begin{pmatrix} (I - A)^{-1} \\ A_e(I - A)^{-1} \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} 0 \\ 0 \end{pmatrix} \times \begin{pmatrix} y \\ 0 \end{pmatrix},
\end{align*}
\]

where in the last step, we have taken advantage of block matrix inversion. This extended form of the Leontief-Inverse allows us to determine not only the extent of output requirements associated with a given final demand allocation across sectors, but the ultimate energy requirements the final demand causes. Using again the construction sector as an example, we repeat the above calculation but use the environmentally extended Leontief-Inverse:

\[
\begin{pmatrix} 963 \\ 389 \\ 8430 \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} (I - A)^{-1} \\ A_e(I - A)^{-1} \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} 0 \\ 0 \\ 0 \end{pmatrix} \times \begin{pmatrix} 960 \\ 0 \\ 0 \end{pmatrix}.
\]
Hence, we have evaluated the output in each sector as well as the energy consumption that is associated with the final demand in the construction sector. In this particular example, 8430 units of energy use are associated with the construction sector, implying a large markup relative to the direct production energy use of 1950 provided in the WIOD environmental accounts. This markup is a result of the strong reliance on manufactured, energy-intensive goods and services within the production processes of the construction sector. Energy consumption in the manufacturing sector is reduced from 54400 to 47920 units. Note, that the sum of adjusted energy use equals the sum of unadjusted energy consumption as the EEIOA simply reallocates energy use across sectors.

The EEIOA, therefore, enables us to determine the energy use that a given sector’s final consumption demand requires given the intersectoral trade relationship of the economy. This extended measure is what we refer to as adjusted energy consumption in this paper. We apply the EEIOA to the complete WIOD table for each year from 1995 to 2009, featuring 40 countries and 35 sectors. However, we also use input-output relations with the rest of the world model provided in the WIOD and include it as an additional region such that the trade matrix consists of 41x35 rows and columns each year. The input-output analysis (as well as the EEIOA) extends naturally to higher dimensions. In fact, adjusted emissions, \( \hat{e} \), can be calculated conveniently by the formula

\[
\hat{e} = A_e(I - A)^{-1}y^T, \tag{7}
\]

where we have applied block matrix inversion to (6). Equation (7) represents the standard equation for the adjustment of energy or emission data within structural decomposition analyses.

3 Adjusted vs. Unadjusted Energy Use

This section compares energy use (EU) data from the WIOD environmental accounts with the measure of trade-adjusted energy consumption presented in the previous section. We analyze general differences between adjusted and unadjusted energy use for the year 2009 on an aggregated national and sectoral level. Lastly, we examine time trends of these differences across countries and sectors.

3.1 Country-level analysis

![Figure 2: Gross energy use in 2009 among the world largest energy consumers ranked by adjusted EU](image)

We begin with a country-level analysis where sectoral energy consumption is aggregated nationally. Figure 2 shows the world largest energy users consisting of the USA, China, Japan, Russia, and India in the year 2009. In the US, adjusted energy use exceeds the unadjusted value provided in the WIOD environmental accounts by 8.5%. Hence, final consumption in the US is associated with a larger energy consumption than required for the production of total output in the US. While,
to our knowledge, this result has not yet been established in the context of energy consumption, Peters et al. (2010) have shown that the USA is net-importer of CO\textsubscript{2} emission considering the carbon-intensity of internationally traded goods and services. Considering that energy use and CO\textsubscript{2} emissions are highly correlated, i.e. high energy use in a given sector implies large CO\textsubscript{2} emissions\textsuperscript{14}, our results are consistent with these findings.

China, the second largest energy user in the world, exhibits the exact opposite pattern. Here, adjusted energy consumption lies below the unadjusted value, a difference of 6.7\%. To a large part, the results of the USA and China reflect the trade patterns in each country; while the US runs a large trade deficit, China is net exporter of goods and services\textsuperscript{15}.

Japan, that usually exhibits trade surpluses, experienced a strong decline in exports in the course of the great recession after 2008, resulting in a trade deficit, which is reflected in a relatively higher adjusted energy consumption. In the case of Russia we observe the largest differences of adjusted to unadjusted energy consumption, namely by 40.9\%. This is due to the rather energy-intensive exports in Russia, dominated by petroleum and gas production as well as the mineral resource industry. Interestingly, Russia’s adjusted energy consumption lies below Japan’s while in terms of unadjusted energy use they would be ranked in the opposite way. Lastly, India is a net-importer of energy, a likely consequence of its trade deficit.

![Figure 3: Gross energy use in 2009 among largest European economies ranked by adjusted EU](image-url)

Figure 3 shows energy use among the five largest European economies, consisting of Germany, France, Italy, Great Britain and Spain, in the year 2009. Considering that France, Italy, Great Britain and Spain were running a trade deficit in 2009, it is not surprising that their adjusted energy consumption exceeds the unadjusted values. The degree to which energy is implicitly imported through trade is remarkably stable across countries: In these countries, adjusted EU exceeds unadjusted energy use by about 20\%-23\%.

In contrast to this similarity across large European economies, Germany shows a different pattern. Despite its immense trade surplus (approx 5\% of GDP in 2009), Germany nevertheless exhibits net energy imports. This indicates that the outputs produced in Germany for the use in foreign industries are distinctly less energy-intensive than those goods and services that are imported from foreign sources. However and due to the large trade surplus, Germany’s gap between adjusted and unadjusted energy use amounts to only 13.7\% in 2009 and thus, is considerably lower than in the other considered European countries.
3.2 Sector-level analysis

We now focus on seven sectors aggregated to a global level for the year 2009. Figure 4 shows adjusted and unadjusted energy use share of the global energy consumption together with information on the industry-specific value added share of the world’s GDP. This allows us to compare the energy use of a given sector relative to its market size. Due to its dominance, we focus on the service as well as on the manufacturing sector. While the former contributes nearly 60% of total value added, it only requires less than 8% to the total energy use in the production of its output. In contrast, the manufacturing sector, with a market share of approximately 20%, is responsible for about 50% of global energy use. However, when considering the extent of energy use associated with the final demand these sectors ultimately satisfies as measured by adjusted energy consumption, this strong difference in energy-intensity narrows dramatically. From this consumption-based perspective, the service sector requires close to 30% of world energy use, whereas the share of the manufacturing industry shrinks to about 35%. The adjustment of energy use towards the service sector can be explained by the strong reliance on inputs from other sectors, whereas manufactures deliver a larger share of their outputs for the use of other sectors rather than for final demand.

The electricity, gas, and water supply sector as well as the mining and quarrying industry show a similar pattern as the manufacturers, being predominantly producers of intermediate inputs into other sectors. The construction industry, however, exhibits a qualitatively similar adjustment as the service industry. It also shows the strongest reallocation of energy use across all sectors which indicates a strong reliance on energy-intensive inputs from other sectors.

3.3 Time trends

So far, we have focused only on the differences between adjusted and unadjusted energy use for the year 2009. In this section, however, we will analyze time trends in these differences across selected countries and global sectors. First we refer to Figure 5, that displays energy use trends for USA and China over the period from 1995 to 2009. Independent from the measure we apply, we observe an increase of EU in the US until the Great Recession in 2008 and a subsequent strong reduction. By contrast, China exhibits increases in EU throughout the whole time period. As already observed for the year 2009, the US is a net-importer of energy, whereas China uses more

---

14This correlation, of course, depends on the mix of energy sources used in the production.
15Here and in the following, data on trade patterns for 2009 is based on the indicator "Net trade in goods and services (BoP, current US$)" from The World Bank (2016).
energy in production than for its final consumption. However, prior to the Great Recession, these differences in production and consumption-based energy use were even stronger and rising. They only declined due to a slump in international trade caused by the recession\textsuperscript{16}.

\textbf{Figure 5: Energy use trends in the USA (left) and China}

We extend the same time trend analysis on the global construction and energy sector. Figure 6 shows the evolution of adjusted and unadjusted energy use (in each case relative to the level in 1995) for both sectors. We observe, that the difference between both measures has considerably increased over the considered time period. This becomes most evident when looking at the construction sector that exhibits relatively stable production energy use since the mid 2000s, but dramatically increasing consumption-based energy use in the same period. The rising integration of global supply chains, see Timmer et al. (2014) has, thus, likely resulted in larger transfer of energy embodied in trade.

\textbf{Figure 6: Energy use trends in the construction (left) and electricity, gas and water supply sector, base — 1995}

\section{4 Decomposition}

Our main focus in this paper lies on the question whether structural or technological factors drive the overall trend of global and national energy intensity\textsuperscript{17}. First, we clarify these terms: “Structural effects” denote sectoral shifts within a country and trade effects between countries. “Technological

\textsuperscript{16}See "Trade (\% of GDP)" indicator for the world in The World Bank (2016)

\textsuperscript{17}Following Voigt et al. (2014) we define global (national) energy intensity as the ratio of global (national) energy use to global (national) gross output. Equivalently, sectoral energy intensity is defined as the ratio of sectoral energy use to its gross output.
effects” represent any changes within a specific sector such as those relating to production technology and processes, input combinations or intrasectoral market share shifts between companies. Note that with this definition technological effects encompass a broad range of factors. Anything that influences the ratio of energy input to economic output within a sector, which is not attributed to any sectoral shift, is captured therein. For example, if a manufacturer employs modern machinery instead of workers, it might lead to an increase of the energy intensity within a sector as the machine requires electricity to produce the same amount of output. Moreover, output shifts from less energy efficient firms to more energy efficient firms would fall into the category of technological effects. While this broad definition of technology might appear confusing at first, it is the dominant approach in the concerning literature.

For decomposing the trend in energy intensity into the effects of trade, sectoral shifts within a country and technology, we use the Log-Mean Divisia Method II (LMDI II) introduced by Ang and Choi (1997). This method has the advantage that it obtains no residual term and therefore completely decomposes the trends in its components. Its original version is applied as a two factor decomposition method for specific countries.\(^{18}\)

In order to obtain results with adjusted data on a global level we additionally use the three factor LMDI II introduced by Voigt et al. (2014) and apply it to our adjusted energy consumption data to separate the effect of technological improvement as well as structural change within and between countries. But first we introduce the two factor LMDI II which decomposes the trend of energy intensity into technological improvements and structural change between sectors within a country.

### 4.1 Two factor LMDI II

The energy intensity of a country is defined as the sum of energy use of all its economic sectors divided through the sum of its gross output. Hence we can write energy intensity as:

\[
I_{j,t} = \sum_i \frac{EU_{i,j,t}}{GO_{j,t}} = \sum_i \frac{GO_{i,j,t}}{GO_{j,t}} \frac{EU_{i,j,t}}{GO_{i,j,t}} = \sum_i S_{i,j,t} I_{i,j,t} \tag{8}
\]

where

- \(t \in (1995, 2009)\) is the time period
- \(i = 1, ..., 35\) is the sector index
- \(j = 1, ..., 40\) indicates the country
- \(EU_{i,j,t}\) is the energy use of sector \(i\) in economy \(j\) in period \(t\).
- \(EU_{j,t} = \sum_i EU_{i,j,t}\) is the energy use of economy \(j\) in period \(t\).
- \(GO_{i,j,t}\) is gross output of sector \(i\) in economy \(j\) in period \(t\).
- \(GO_{j,t} = \sum_i GO_{i,j,t}\) is the gross output of the whole economy in period \(t\).
- \(S_{i,j,t} = \frac{GO_{i,j,t}}{GO_{j,t}}\) is the output share of sector \(i\) in total gross output of the country in period \(t\).
- \(I_{i,j,t} = \frac{EU_{i,j,t}}{GO_{i,j,t}}\) is the energy intensity of sector \(i\) in economy \(j\) and period \(t\).

\(^{18}\)The more recent method LMDI I proposed by Ang and Lui (2001) would have the additional advantage of consistency in aggregation which allows for consistent estimation of sub-groups. However, we do not apply further analysis of subgroups in this paper. The focus of this article is rather to compare our results with Voigt et al. (2014) that used unadjusted data. For this reason we resort to the LMDI II method in this paper.
• $I_{j,t} = \frac{EU_{j,t}}{GDP_{j,t}}$ is total energy intensity of economy $j$ in period $t$.

As proven in Ang and Choi (1997), changes in energy intensity between period $t$ and $t+1$ can be expressed as

$$D_{Tot,j,t+1} = \frac{I_{j,t+1}}{I_{j,t}} = D_{Str,j,t+1}D_{Int,j,t+1}. \quad (9)$$

The components are

$$D_{Str,j,t+1} = \exp \left[ \sum_i \frac{L(\omega_{i,j,t+1}, \omega_{i,j,t})}{\sum_i L(\omega_{i,j,t+1}, \omega_{i,j,t})} \ln \left( \frac{S_{i,j,t+1}}{S_{i,j,t}} \right) \right] \quad (10)$$

$$D_{Int,j,t+1} = \exp \left[ \sum_i \frac{L(\omega_{i,j,t+1}, \omega_{i,j,t})}{\sum_i L(\omega_{i,j,t+1}, \omega_{i,j,t})} \ln \left( \frac{I_{i,j,t+1}}{I_{i,j,t}} \right) \right] \quad (11)$$

where

$$L(\omega_{i,j,t+1}, \omega_{i,j,t}) = \frac{\omega_{i,j,t+1} - \omega_{i,j,t}}{\ln \left( \frac{\omega_{i,j,t+1}}{\omega_{i,j,t}} \right)} \quad (12)$$

and

$$\omega_{i,j,t} = \frac{EU_{i,j,t}}{EU_{j,t}} \quad (13)$$

$\omega_{i,j,t}$ is the share of energy use from a specific sector of the overall energy use of the economy in a country. $L(\omega_{i,j,t+1}, \omega_{i,j,t})$ is a logarithmic weight function for country $j$ which is normalized in (10) and (11) by dividing it through the sum of each country’s weight function. $D_{Str,j,t+1}$ describes how much structural change within a country contributes to the change in overall energy intensity between period $t$ and $t+1$. The higher the share of a sector is, the higher is its weight for total energy intensity. $D_{Int,j,t+1}$ shows to which extent technological improvements in a sector contribute to the change in overall energy intensity between $t$ and $t+1$ (with "Int" standing for sectoral energy intensity). The lower $I_{i,j,t}$ is, the more efficient is the use of energy in a particular sector. While it is evident that $D_{Tot}$ denotes the total change in energy intensity between two periods, the values of $D_{Str}$ and $D_{Int}$ can be interpreted counter-factually: $D_{Str}$ represents the change in energy intensity caused by structural changes within the economy if technology had remained constant throughout the considered period. Conversely, $D_{Int}$ denotes the change in energy intensity associated with technological progress if sectoral market shares had stayed unchanged.

In order to obtain a decomposed time series from 1995 to 2009 the results are chained as in Ang and Lui (2007). All indices are set to 1 for the baseline year 1995. The chained factors indicate the procentual change of each factor compared to 1995.

5 Results

In this section, we present the results of the decomposition of adjusted energy use data. First we focus on the decomposition results on a country level and discuss patterns in efficiency gains across countries. Second, we analyze and decompose global energy intensity trends. Finally, we will juxtapose the difference in decomposition results between adjusted and unadjusted data.
5.1 Decomposition on a country level

The country level results are summarized in Table 7. We see that the average energy intensity across the 40 considered countries in 2009 is about 72.7% of the intensity in 1995. The structural component is associated with a decline in energy intensity of about 9.4% and the technological effect of about 19.4% in 2009 compared to 1995. We identify strong technological improvements of up to 60% in some countries. The structural effect is in generally weaker than the technological effect, which was especially strong in the years from 2004 to 2008, most likely driven by the increasing oil and energy prices during that time.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Mean</th>
<th>Std. dev.</th>
<th>Min</th>
<th>Max</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1995</td>
<td>.994312</td>
<td>.032648</td>
<td>.930832</td>
<td>1.083761</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1996</td>
<td>.947394</td>
<td>.060275</td>
<td>.745655</td>
<td>1.094794</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1998</td>
<td>.964247</td>
<td>.064944</td>
<td>.802262</td>
<td>1.093007</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1999</td>
<td>.920852</td>
<td>.078941</td>
<td>.710938</td>
<td>1.094269</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2000</td>
<td>.878755</td>
<td>.089271</td>
<td>.661130</td>
<td>1.108570</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2001</td>
<td>.863063</td>
<td>.095196</td>
<td>.638648</td>
<td>1.080379</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2002</td>
<td>.852648</td>
<td>.110008</td>
<td>.648091</td>
<td>1.174584</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2003</td>
<td>.860967</td>
<td>.114669</td>
<td>.629163</td>
<td>1.101905</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2004</td>
<td>.8460196</td>
<td>.1189958</td>
<td>.5915942</td>
<td>1.080317</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2005</td>
<td>.830734</td>
<td>.134431</td>
<td>.566839</td>
<td>1.085291</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2006</td>
<td>.7878287</td>
<td>.1433596</td>
<td>.514336</td>
<td>1.096222</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2007</td>
<td>.758871</td>
<td>.1454686</td>
<td>.478706</td>
<td>1.071660</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2008</td>
<td>.7478592</td>
<td>.1593519</td>
<td>.4454841</td>
<td>1.096522</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2009</td>
<td>.7266052</td>
<td>.1484112</td>
<td>.4095882</td>
<td>1.076419</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Mean</th>
<th>Std. dev.</th>
<th>Min</th>
<th>Max</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Structural Effect</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1995</td>
<td>1.000992</td>
<td>.0183099</td>
<td>.9704547</td>
<td>1.050311</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1996</td>
<td>.978314</td>
<td>.030276</td>
<td>.9045482</td>
<td>1.045149</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1998</td>
<td>.9678406</td>
<td>.0442213</td>
<td>.7249706</td>
<td>1.078469</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1999</td>
<td>.9579489</td>
<td>.0550651</td>
<td>.8107974</td>
<td>1.065010</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2000</td>
<td>.9493314</td>
<td>.0725847</td>
<td>.7249706</td>
<td>1.078469</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2001</td>
<td>.9426058</td>
<td>.0802464</td>
<td>.6557008</td>
<td>1.076897</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2002</td>
<td>.9413463</td>
<td>.0875077</td>
<td>.638575</td>
<td>1.071476</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2003</td>
<td>.9396686</td>
<td>.081794</td>
<td>.630167</td>
<td>1.089591</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2004</td>
<td>.9263024</td>
<td>.0836813</td>
<td>.6173066</td>
<td>1.052241</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2005</td>
<td>.9193993</td>
<td>.0942077</td>
<td>.6063524</td>
<td>1.060365</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2006</td>
<td>.9135091</td>
<td>.0986393</td>
<td>.602994</td>
<td>1.072274</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2007</td>
<td>.9045689</td>
<td>.1098905</td>
<td>.5743841</td>
<td>1.125356</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2008</td>
<td>.9062109</td>
<td>.1048777</td>
<td>.584449</td>
<td>1.124321</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2009</td>
<td>.9063128</td>
<td>.0993947</td>
<td>.5982265</td>
<td>1.110304</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Mean</th>
<th>Std. dev.</th>
<th>Min</th>
<th>Max</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Technological Effect</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1995</td>
<td>1.000992</td>
<td>.0183099</td>
<td>.9704547</td>
<td>1.050311</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1996</td>
<td>.978314</td>
<td>.030276</td>
<td>.9045482</td>
<td>1.045149</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1997</td>
<td>.9678406</td>
<td>.0442213</td>
<td>.7249706</td>
<td>1.078469</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1998</td>
<td>.9579489</td>
<td>.0550651</td>
<td>.8107974</td>
<td>1.065010</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2000</td>
<td>.9493314</td>
<td>.0725847</td>
<td>.7249706</td>
<td>1.078469</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2001</td>
<td>.9426058</td>
<td>.0802464</td>
<td>.6557008</td>
<td>1.076897</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2002</td>
<td>.9413463</td>
<td>.0875077</td>
<td>.638575</td>
<td>1.071476</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2003</td>
<td>.9396686</td>
<td>.081794</td>
<td>.630167</td>
<td>1.089591</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2004</td>
<td>.9263024</td>
<td>.0836813</td>
<td>.6173066</td>
<td>1.052241</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2005</td>
<td>.9193993</td>
<td>.0942077</td>
<td>.6063524</td>
<td>1.060365</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2006</td>
<td>.9135091</td>
<td>.0986393</td>
<td>.602994</td>
<td>1.072274</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2007</td>
<td>.9045689</td>
<td>.1098905</td>
<td>.5743841</td>
<td>1.125356</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2008</td>
<td>.9062109</td>
<td>.1048777</td>
<td>.584449</td>
<td>1.124321</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2009</td>
<td>.9063128</td>
<td>.0993947</td>
<td>.5982265</td>
<td>1.110304</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Figure 7: Summarized Country Statistic

Figure 8 shows three scatter plots that depict the relationship between energy intensity improvements (y-axis) and GDP per capita, GDP growth as well as initial energy intensity (on the x-axis) across the 40 countries and the period 1995-2009 considered in the WIOD. The first graph shows that less developed countries tend to have more success in impeding energy intensity than coun-
tries with a higher development status, measured by the average GDP per capita (PPP)\textsuperscript{19}. Hence, poorer countries exhibit on average higher relative gains in energy efficiency. In fact, this association is driven by the technological effect on energy efficiency that were most pronounced in poorer countries. By contrast, structural changes tended to be stronger in richer countries.\textsuperscript{20} Moreover, average GDP growth appears to be correlated with efficiency gains (center graph). Economies that grew at higher rates also exhibited large efficiency gains. Again, the association is shaped by the technological component, while the impact of structural changes seem to be independent of GDP growth. Finally and as shown in the right plot, countries with larger initial energy intensities also tended to improve their energy efficiency much stronger as seen in the graph at the right of Figure 8. Hence, we observe a global convergence of energy-intensities in the considered period.

\begin{figure}[h]
\centering
\includegraphics[width=\textwidth]{figure8}
\caption{Relationship between energy intensity improvement and GDP per capita (left), average GDP growth (center) and initial energy intensity (right)}
\end{figure}

In the following, we highlight some selected countries of interest, namely USA, China, Japan and Turkey and provide the results of all remaining nations in the Appendix A2. Figure 9 shows that the main contribution to declining energy in the USA is due to the structural effects although more recently technological progress has gained importance, amounting to an overall reducing effect on energy intensities of 11\%. We can see a completely different result for China. Almost all efficiency gains were due to technological improvements. A sectoral shifts to cleaner sectors did not occur during that time period or pointed even moving slightly towards more polluting sectors.

\begin{figure}[h]
\centering
\includegraphics[width=\textwidth]{figure9}
\caption{Decomposition trends for USA and China}
\end{figure}

\textsuperscript{19}Here we use GDP per capita (PPP) in constant 2011 international Dollar from the World Bank (2016)

\textsuperscript{20}See Appendix A2 for a decomposition of energy efficiency gains in a structural and technological component and their relationship to GDP per capita, GDP growth and initial energy intensity.
The decomposition results of China and the USA do not change dramatically when using non-adjusted data. This similarity between adjusted and unadjusted data is not the case for all countries. In most countries the structural effect is weaker if we use adjusted data. In particular we find qualitative differences for Japan and Turkey.

![Figure 10: Decomposition trends for Turkey](image)

The outcome for Turkey shows strong differences in particular for the last two years of the time period considered. When decomposing unadjusted data, the technological effect is underestimated by about 24% while the structural effect is strongly exaggerated.

![Figure 11: Decomposition trends for Japan](image)

In Japan, structural changes seem responsible for all improvements in national energy efficiency under unadjusted energy consumption data while the pattern dramatically changes if we look at adjusted data. These differences are an indicator of the importance of an environmental extended input output analysis in evaluating energy intensity trends.

### 5.2 Decomposition on a global level

In addition to the two factors considered in the country analysis, we also have to account for a third factor on a global level, namely the structural effect between countries, also called the trade effect. It is a well known concern that industrial countries, by tightening their environmental laws, create incentives for heavily polluting industries to move to less-regulated countries. We

---

21 See e.g. Babiker (2005)
therefore decompose the global energy intensity trend into a technological effect, structural effect within a country and a structural effect between countries (trade effect). We apply a three factor decomposition analysis, described by Voigt et al. (2014) and in Appendix A1.

On a global scale, adjusted and non-adjusted results show similar patterns. It is evident in both approaches that the trade effect between countries, illustrated by the orange line in Figure 12, has lead to a more energy intensive world economy. As Voigt et al. (2014) note, this was due to the shift of the global economy towards countries like China and India that have relatively high energy intensities. However, the effect appears to be weaker by about 2 percentage points over the considered period using adjusted data as can be inferred from Figure 13 that shows the difference of adjusted to unadjusted decomposition results. The overestimation of the trade effect under unadjusted data is due to the missing reallocation of energy embodied in trade away from energy-intensive countries such as China and India. In fact, a significant part of energy use in these countries is linked to final demand in less energy-intensive countries, see Section 3. Thus, the global shift in energy use is less pronounced when considering consumption-based rather than production-based energy use.

Both approaches also agree, that the structural effect within a country, shown by the blue line in Figure 12, lead to a reduction of global energy intensities. However and even more pronounced compared to the trade effect, unadjusted data overestimates the importance of this factor, namely by 4 percentage points as seen in Figure 13. We, thus, observe once again, that when energy-embodied trade is accounted for, structural changes appear to have a weaker effect on the global energy intensity.

Both approaches also have in common that the technology effect was the main driving force for energy efficiency gains. In particular we can see by examining the red line in 12, that the increasing energy prices between 2004 and 2008 coincided with a strong global improvement due to technology. The overestimation of structural effects using unadjusted data necessarily results in an underestimation of the technology effect. In fact, unadjusted energy consumption data underestimates the technological component in energy intensity reductions from 1995 to 2009 by about 1.5 percentage points.

6 Conclusion

The fundamental question addressed in the green growth literature is whether it is possible to reconcile economic growth with environmental sustainability. This question hinges most importantly on the feasibility of decreasing the emission of greenhouse gases and the exploitation of natural resources in global production processes. Apart from the utilization of renewable energy, widespread and significant reductions in energy intensities can contribute to achieving sustainable growth in the future. This can be achieved not only by technological but also by structural changes. Moreover,
international trade can affect the global energy intensity. In this paper, we have attempted to shed some light on the importance of these three factors by analyzing recent developments in global and national energy intensities.

Our key contribution lies in the utilization of the World Input-Output database in combination with the accompanying environmental accounts to arrive at a consumption-based measure of energy use on a sectoral level. In contrast to Voigt et al. (2014), we are, thus, able to take into account the energy use of intermediate goods that contribute to the satisfaction of sectoral final demand. Only by doing so, we can meaningfully study the ultimate effect of changes in consumption patterns on national or global energy intensities. Our analysis, then, consists of two stages: First, we compare adjusted and unadjusted energy use across sectors and countries. Second, we decompose trends of adjusted data on a country and global level into technological, trade and structural factors. Furthermore, we juxtapose the decomposition results of adjusted and unadjusted energy use in order to highlight differences to Voigt et al. (2014).

We find large differences between adjusted and unadjusted sectoral energy use. In particular, the energy use associated with final demand in the construction and service sector exceeds by far the energy consumption in their production processes. This indicates a strong reliance on energy-intensive inputs from other sectors. Conversely, the manufacturing industry as well as the electricity, water and gas sector that, to a large degree, deliver intermediate inputs to other sectors, show lower energy use when adjusted for energy embodied in trade. For the purpose of designing green growth policies aiming at promoting structural change in order to reduce the environmental impact of the economy, these results are important findings and challenge possibly naive and overly optimistic views on sectoral change. Overall, we find that the global energy intensity from 1995 to 2009 was declining predominantly due to more efficient techniques used in the sectors than due to a structural change in the economy. Nevertheless, structural change within countries played a sizeable role in the reduction of energy consumption. Furthermore, our analysis shows that international trade did, in fact, have a positive effect on energy intensity levels. This is likely a result of outsourcing production processes to countries with lower levels of energy intensities.

Decomposing unadjusted energy use reveals that the role of structural change is systematically overestimated compared to adjusted data. This implies, that after adjusting sectoral energy use according to intersectoral trade, changes in structural composition, both within and between countries, appear to have a smaller impact on global energy intensities. Nevertheless, also the unadjusted decomposition identifies technological change as the main driver of reducing energy use relative to...
output. However, this qualitative similarity on a global level does not hold for each country. For instance, we show, that in some countries, like Japan and Turkey, the technological effect is strongly underestimated. While structural change seems to be the driving factor of energy intensity reductions using unadjusted data, technology plays the dominant role using adjusted energy consumption. Hence, our adjusted measure of energy use indicates that these countries are not exceptions from the general global pattern in which the main force of increasing energy efficiency is technological progress.

Our analysis shows, that green growth policy has to take the adjustment of sectoral data into account in order to obtain a clear picture of what can be considered a "green" or "dirty" sector. This is particularly relevant for the theoretical literature on directed technical change and the environment that usually features such a stylized distinction between industries. The interdependencies of sectors through trade of intermediated goods might even give rise to doubts whether such a classification of sectors can be meaningfully applied.

There are several ways to build on this emerging literature analysing environmental impacts of global production processes based on WIOD and its accompanying environmental accounts. First, past global trends have shown little evidence of a strong structural break towards relatively cleaner sectors. China has become the largest energy consumer in 2010 and is, therefore, of particular importance for future global energy intensities. In fact, China itself practically did not experience any effect from structural change, and its energy intensity increase is explained completely by technological progress. More recent literature argues, however, that energy intensity gains in China during the 2010s are mostly driven by structural change (see Jos et al. (2015)). Thus, it would be an interesting and important field for future research to analyse whether there is a potential for structural transformation of economies beyond the magnitude shown in this paper for the period up to 2009. Second, this work and numerous other papers have documented the large extent of emissions and energy embodied in international trade. In fact, we show that increasing outsourcing of energy-intensive production has by itself increased global energy intensities. Thus, an analysis of the effects of carbon border taxation on overall global energy and emission intensities poses another important further research challenge. Finally, technological improvements were identified as the main driver of decreasing energy intensities. WIOD accounts can be used to identify sectors and countries that would benefit most strongly from technology transfers and those that can provide the technology to do so. Considering the large differences in sectoral energy-intensities across countries, there is certainly scope for global energy intensity reductions through technology-transfers to less efficient countries.

---

22See e.g. Acmoglu et al. (2012)
23Su and Ang (2012) point out that the construction of input-output tables are rather time-intensive such that there is a large time lag between publication and data used.
A Appendix

A.1 Three factor LMDI II

The three factor LMDI II is similar to the two factor LMDI II and adds international structural change to the components to be decomposed. Therefore we depict global Energy Intensity as follows:

\[ I_t = \sum_j \sum_i \frac{GO_{i,j,t}}{GO_t} \frac{GO_{i,j,t}}{GO_{j,t}} \frac{EU_{i,j,t}}{GO_{i,j,t}} = \sum_j \sum_i S_{j,t} S_{i,j,t} I_{i,j,t} \]  \hspace{1cm} (14)

- \( I_t \): global energy intensity at time \( t \).
- \( t \in (1995, 2009) \) is the time period
- \( i = 1, \ldots, 35 \) is the sector index
- \( j = 1, \ldots, 40 \) indicates the country
- \( EU_{i,j,t} \) is the energy use of sector \( i \) in economy \( j \) in period \( t \).
- \( GO_{i,j,t} \) is gross output of sector \( i \) in economy \( j \) in period \( t \).
- \( GO_{j,t} = \sum_i GO_{i,j,t} \) is the gross output of the whole economy.
- \( GO_t = \sum_j GO_{j,t} \): global gross output at time \( t \).
- \( S_{i,j,t} = \frac{GO_{i,j,t}}{GO_t} \) is the output share of sector \( i \) in total gross output of the country.
- \( S_{j,t} = \frac{GO_{j,t}}{GO_t} \): share of country \( j \) in global gross output at time \( t \).
- \( I_{j,t} = \frac{EU_{i,j,t}}{EU_t} \) is total energy intensity of economy \( j \) in period \( t \).

Analogous to the two factor LMDI II we can decompose the change in energy intensity as follows:

\[ D_{Tot,j,t+1} = \frac{I_{t+1}}{I_t} = D_{bStr,t+1} D_{wStr,t+1} D_{Int,t+1} \]  \hspace{1cm} (15)

\[ D_{bStr,t+1} = \exp \left[ \sum_j \sum_i L(\tilde{\omega}_{i,j,t+1}, \tilde{\omega}_{i,j,t}) \ln \left( \frac{S_{j,t+1}}{S_{j,t}} \right) \right] \]  \hspace{1cm} (16)

\[ D_{wStr,t+1} = \exp \left[ \sum_j \sum_i \sum_j \sum_i L(\tilde{\omega}_{i,j,t+1}, \tilde{\omega}_{i,j,t}) \ln \left( \frac{S_{i,j,t+1}}{S_{i,j,t}} \right) \right] \]  \hspace{1cm} (17)

\[ D_{Int,t+1} = \exp \left[ \sum_j \sum_i \sum_j \sum_i L(\tilde{\omega}_{i,j,t+1}, \tilde{\omega}_{i,j,t}) \ln \left( \frac{I_{i,j,t+1}}{I_{i,j,t}} \right) \right] \]  \hspace{1cm} (18)

where

\[ L(\tilde{\omega}_{i,j,t+1}, \tilde{\omega}_{i,j,t}) = \frac{\tilde{\omega}_{i,j,t+1} - \tilde{\omega}_{i,j,t}}{\ln (\frac{\tilde{\omega}_{i,j,t+1}}{\tilde{\omega}_{i,j,t}})} \]  \hspace{1cm} (19)

and

\[ \tilde{\omega}_{i,j,t} = \frac{EU_{i,j,t}}{EU_t} \]  \hspace{1cm} (20)

- \( GO_t = \sum_j GO_{j,t} \): global gross output at time \( t \).
\( GO_{j,t} = \sum_i GO_{i,j,t} \) is the gross output of the whole economy.

\( GO_{i,j,t} \) is gross output of sector \( i \) in economy \( j \) in period \( t \).

\( S_{j,t} = \frac{GO_{j,t}}{GO_t} \): share of country \( j \) in global gross output at time \( t \).

\( S_{i,j,t} = \frac{GO_{i,j,t}}{GO_{j,t}} \) is the output share of sector \( i \) in total gross

\( I_{i,j,t} = EU_{i,j,t} \) is the energy intensity of sector \( i \) in economy \( j \) and period \( t \).

\( I_{j,t} = \frac{EU_{j,t}}{GO_{j,t}} \) is total energy intensity of economy \( j \) in period \( t \).

\( I_t \): global energy intensity at time \( t \).

\( EU_{i,j,t} \) is the energy use of sector \( i \) in economy \( j \) in period \( t \).

\( EU_{j,t} = \sum_i EU_{i,j,t} \) is the energy use of economy \( j \) in period \( t \). output of the country.

The structural component from the two factor LMDI II is now split into two parts:

\( D_{bStr,t+1} \) is the share of contribution of trade between countries to the change of global energy intensity. The more connected via trade the economies are the more important the between countries effect becomes.

\( D_{wStr,t+1} \) is the share of contribution of structural shifts within a country to global energy intensity. It is the same factor as before, but now related to the global energy use.

### A.2 Further scatter plots and decomposition results for all countries

In the following, we present scatter plots of the relationship between the average GDP, average GDP growth and initial energy intensity and the overall energy intensity change (first row), the structural component of this change (second row) and technology component (third row). Furthermore, we provide adjusted decomposition results for all countries not displayed in the main part of this paper.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Country</th>
<th>Within Country Structural Effect</th>
<th>Technology Effect</th>
<th>Total Effect</th>
<th>Adjusted</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Year</td>
<td>NLD</td>
<td>POL</td>
<td>PRT</td>
<td>ROU</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>------</td>
<td>-----</td>
<td>-----</td>
<td>-----</td>
<td>-----</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1995</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2000</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2005</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2010</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
References


