The IMF Balancing Tool for SUT/IOT

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Outline

- Balancing process
- Tool’s main features
Balancing process

Manual balancing:
- For large imbalances which require expert knowledge/analysis
- Not for imbalances smaller the level of accuracy of the data (balancing $1?)

Using a residual (e.g., inventories) defeats the purpose of SUTs

Automatic balancing starts after manual balancing, resolves small imbalances mathematically
**Tool’s main features**

Freeware: Matlab or R or Python versions

User friendly: simple functionalities in Excel, easy setup

Flexible: works with any SUT structure and classifications

Balance SUT under complex constraints

Constraints:
- Horizontal: supply = use
- Vertical: zero sum columns for margins and CIF/FOB adjustment
- Reliability: coefficients defining adjustable cells
- Additional: ratios or fixed totals for specific SUTs components
Tool’s main features

Example:
- Ensure that total trade margins column = 0
- Prevent balancing process from modifying imports or government consumption
- Maintain fixed ratio between VAT and household consumption

These complex constraints would be impossible to maintain while balancing the tables manually.