When Linder Meets Hirschman: Inter-Industry Linkages and Global Value Chains in Business Services

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WHEN LINDER MEETS HIRSCHMAN:
INTER-INDUSTRY LINKAGES AND GLOBAL VALUE CHAINS IN BUSINESS SERVICES

JAVIER LOPEZ GONZALEZ¹, VALENTINA MELICIANI² AND MARIA SAVONA³*

ABSTRACT
The scholarship on Global Value Chains (GVCs) is recently focusing on the international fragmentation of production that involves services and in particular business services. It has been argued that participation in business services GVCs might open up new opportunities for structural change and catching up in developing countries. What are the theoretical and empirical bases for such a claim? This paper puts forward the conjecture that factor endowments and costs are not the only driver for the emergence of service GVCs and that the specific domestic structure of backward linkages à la Hirschman is of great importance. We empirically test this conjecture on the basis of the World Input Output Data in a GMM framework. We then attempt brief implications in terms of industrial policy for developing countries, particularly on the importance of developing domestic specialisation in business services before joining GVCs as a catching-up strategy.

KEYWORDS: BUSINESS SERVICES; GLOBAL VALUE CHAINS; HIRSCHMAN LINKAGES; DEVELOPMENT.

JEL CODES: F63; L16; L80; O14.

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1. Introduction

International fragmentation of production, which implies that countries specialise in portions of the value chain and trade other portions of it, is a relatively recent phenomenon, involving offshoring and globalisation of value chains (for recent reviews, see Kaplinsky 2013; De Backer and Miroudot 2013; Timmer et al. 2012). As put by Baldwin (R Baldwin 2011), this process has led to a ‘second unbundling’ of globalisation, transformed the terms of international competition and shifted the barycentre of the world’s global headquarters and peripheries (see also Baldwin & López-Gonzalez 2014).

Research interest and concerns of trade and GVCs’ scholars spread from the determinants of GVC (Costinot, Vogel, and Wang 2013; OECD 2013) to their effects on labour markets and wages in participating countries (Feenstra and Hanson 1999; Antras, Garicano, and Rossi-Hansberg 2006; Grossman and Rossi-Hansberg 2006; Hanson 2012; Timmer et al. 2013) to the implications in terms of GVCs governance asymmetries between developed and developing countries (Gary Gereffi, Humphrey, and Sturgeon 2005; Kaplinsky 2000; Schmitz and Strambach 2009), often with opposite stands when it comes to – for instance – the role of GVCs for the purpose of catching up and development.

Within these debates, the scholarship has so far paid little attention to the increasing importance of fragmentation of production that involves services offshoring. Services have always been considered as non-tradable and generally overlooked in traditional trade statistics, with notable exceptions (R. W. Jones and Kierzkowski 1990; Golub, Jones, and Kierzkowski 2007). The interest in this emerging phenomenon seems to lead scholars to consider participation in GVC in business services as opening up new opportunities for catching up in developing countries (Blinder 2006; Gary Gereffi and Fernandez-stark 2010; Hernández, R., N. Mulder, K. Fernandez-Stark, P. Sauvé, D. López Giral 2014).

This paper aims to contribute to this debate, from a three-fold novel perspective.

First, after briefly reviewing the theoretical and empirical literature on GVCs, particularly on service offshoring, we revert to two alternative voices often neglected in these circles, those of Hirschman (Hirschman 1958) and Linder (Burenstam Linder 1961). In particular, we consider the theoretical stands by Hirschman and (a modified version of) the Linder Thesis, and consider them jointly to explain the propensity to participate in services offshoring and GVCs, as a competitive explanation with respect to the traditional determinants of cost and factor endowments. We broadly take stock of the literature on the economics of services and derive our conjecture on the basis of
the empirical evidence shown in our prior work (Meliciani and Savona 2014). We then claim that the higher the domestic specialisation in Business Services (BS henceforth) backward-linked industries, (i.e. sectors with the highest intermediate demand for services), the higher the propensity to participate in BS GVCs directly and indirectly, in line with what Linder claimed to be the case for the composition of final domestic demand favouring trade in similar sectors.

Second, we test these conjectures using the World Input Output Data, which we draw upon to construct indicators of participation in service GVCs, based on (Koopman et al. 2010), within a GMM econometric framework. A particular novel contribution of this paper resides in that we use a pseudo-spatial specification which takes into account the role of specialisation in backward linked industries à la Hirschman in the distance-weighted trade partners countries. This allows us to account for the potential role of closeness between headquarters and factory economies and this specific aspect of international division of labour for services GVCs. In so doing, we therefore consider the competing view that GVCs present new opportunities for specialisation without the need of ‘building a service value chain from scratch’ (as put forward in the case of manufacturing value chains by (Baldwin 2011; Baldwin & López-Gonzalez 2014, p. 4). This view implies that backward linkages à la Hirschman may increasingly arise across national boundaries and therefore lead to participation in BS GVCs, as a result of closeness to ‘headquarter’ nations and regardless of the domestic sectoral structure. Reappraising and empirically testing these different views is important as they might have different implications in terms of industrial policy, whereby putting more emphasis on favouring participation in GVCs might undermine the role of domestic industrial policy in constructing and upgrading indigenous capabilities.

Third, and relatedly, we aim to challenge the views mentioned above on the opportunity to favour GVC in BS as a development strategy and more in general the argument put forward mainly by trade theorists. We do so by claiming that in the absence of a strong domestic presence of backward linked manufacturing industries to BS, it is unlikely that a (developing) country would build a GVC in these sectors from scratch, or develop the capabilities to upgrade existing low value added services and develop high value added BS to join the upstream segments of existing GVCs and serve international markets. We therefore attempt preliminary reflections on the policy implications to be drawn and suggest some caution when considering unconditional participation in GVCs in services as a new pathway for sectoral and technological upgrading in developing countries.

The remaining of the paper is structured as follows: next section reviews the relevant theoretical and empirical literature and lays out our main argument in the form of testable research hypothesis. Section 3 details the methodology, particularly the indicators that we construct on the basis of the
WIOD (World Input Output Data) data with respect to extant measurements of value chains in the literature. We then discuss econometric results in Section 5 and conclude in Section 6.

2. Trends and theories of GVC in services

2.1 The different phases and geographies of globalization of production

A stream of contributions has tried to empirically account for the emergence of GVCs and the changing nature of trade in the 21st century. Some of these fall squarely within the mainstream trade theory, starting from the assumption that falling transport and communication costs have been responsible for the increased fragmentation of production across national borders. Baldwin (2011) has argued that globalization went through two distinct phases, entailing different processes of fragmentation of production. A ‘first unbundling’, up until the mid-1980s, was mainly determined by plummeting transportation costs and involved competition in sectors, where the whole of the supply chain remained within the national borders. The ‘second unbundling’, considered as starting after 1985, was the dramatic drop of Information and Communication Technology (ICT) costs, which reinforced the virtual effects started by transport costs and fuelled offshoring.

It is this second unbundling that shifted the nature of international competition towards stages of productions rather than products and favoured the spatial concentration of ‘factory economies’. These are developing countries that specialize in the low-tech phases of production chains, and are usually geographically located close to industrialized/developed countries. Examples of the novel map of international division of labour around portions of the value chains that sees headquarters and factories closely located are United States (US)/Mexico, and Germany/Poland. Falling costs have mattered therefore in different ways, first for disagglomeration of production and value chains within national borders, then for international fragmentation of production and value chains across countries, in line with what Krugman and Venables 1995 had highlighted. Importantly, it is argued that closeness to head-quarters mattered particularly as it favoured the first industrialization of developing countries in the form of participation in existing GVCs (rather than building them from scratch) (R Baldwin 2011; Richard Baldwin and López-Gonzalez 2014, p. 4).

In this context, developing countries start to function as neighbouring factory economies, specialising in the low-skilled (manufactured) portion of the value chain where the high-skilled segments remain within the boundaries of the headquarter country. For instance, countries such as Mexico, close to the US; China, close to Japan; Poland and Turkey, close to Germany, all have increased their participation in GVCs thanks to their closeness to headquarters.
A very interesting pattern of forward and backward linkages between headquarter and factory networks arises: broadly, Figure 1 below shows, in red, the selling of intermediates to the listed country, and in blue the buying of intermediates from the listed country (the negative side of the horizontal axis highlights differences, rather than negative sales). In 'Factory North America' we see that the US has a very diverse set of sales of intermediates but that the neighbouring Mexico predominantly buys from the US. So the patterns of specialisation between these is that Mexico buys intermediates from the US, assembles them into final products and then exports them to American consumers.

Figure 1 – Markets for intermediates across countries, 2009

Source: Baldwin and Lopez-Gonzalez (2014)

Regardless the risk of specialisation trap in the low-end segments of the value chain and abstracting from any consideration on the conditions for upgrading them, this process has been claimed to be a unique occasion for many countries, which were able to industrialise for the first time at virtually a fraction of the time-span that developed countries took to take off (R Baldwin 2011).

Overall, as Baldwin (2011, p. 33) puts it:

“The 2nd unbundling made industrialization less meaningful. Before the 2nd unbundling a nation had to have a deep and wide industrial base before it could export, e.g. car engines. Exporting engines
was a sign of victory. Now it is a sign that the nation is located in a particular segment of an international value chain”.

These observations beg the question on whether it is proximity to a large headquarter economy that matters for participation in GVCs and what kind of participation this proximity tends to favour. Or whether there is need to develop own capacity internally before, in the form of domestic structure specialised in high BS users sectors, that is able to secure a chance of upgrading initial participation in low-end to higher-end segments of the value chain in the long-run.

This evidence has also raised concerns within a different stream of scholarship, interested in the distribution of benefits along the value chains and the income polarisation effects observed as a consequence of value chain globalisation. Kaplinsky (2000), for instance, points to the sources of inequality linked to the spatial distribution of production activities between headquarters and factory economies. It is true, Kaplinsky argues, that being left out of GVCs represents a losing situation. However, the countries that are most likely to lose from the globalisation game are also those that do join and keep participating to GVCs at costly conditions. Many of these gain asymmetries are attributable to issues of governance (Kaplinsky 2000; Gary Gereffi, Humphrey, and Sturgeon 2005). Processes of governance entail “the role of coordination and the complementary role of identifying dynamic rent opportunities and apportioning roles to key players” (Kaplinsky, 2000, p. 124).

More in general, it would be important to disentangle the inevitable nexus between being a headquarter versus a factory economy, and give empirical content to the dynamics of rent appropriation along different portions of the value chain and the consequent power structure asymmetries between the actors involved. It is in the dynamics of this nexus that different development scenarios might arise for developing countries, whereby the chance to “kick away the ladder” (Chang 2002) would most likely be linked to opportunities of technological, economic and social upgrading along phases of the value chain with associate redistribution of rents (Kaplinsky 2000; Schmitz and Strambach 2009). This debate needs generalizable, longitudinal and cross-country empirical evidence on the extent of these phenomena, to track the ‘upgrading’ process and derive sound implications in terms of industrial policy.

One way to provide generalizable evidence is to go beyond the almost exclusive focus on manufacturing value chains and take into account that the international fragmentation of production is increasingly involving services offshoring.
2.2 A ‘third globalisation unbundling’? Evidences on GVCs in services

Both Baldwin’s (2011) first and second unbundling of globalization refer to manufacturing value chains. However, what is emerging most lately in the GVC literature is the ‘servicification’ of manufacturing, i.e. the increase in the service content of exports (Gary Gereffi and Fernandez-stark 2010; Hernández, R., N. Mulder, K. Fernandez-Stark, P. Sauvé, D. López Giral 2014). For example, European Union's value added that is used by China to produce exports is mainly in the service sectors, where China is basically engaged in the manufacturing elements of the value chain, particularly in low-skill activities.

There are two key findings, worth highlighting here. The first one is the importance of services in general, and business services in particular, which is made evident by the significance of these when counted in terms of value added rather than traditional exports as shown in Figures 2 and 3 below. Moreover, amongst the service sectors, it is indeed business services that have witnessed a steep growth in terms of value added in exports.

The second one is the concentration of suppliers of intermediate business services across headquarter economies such as the US, Germany, the United Kingdom (UK) as shown in Figure 4 below. The entries mark the value of the row nation sales of BS to the column nation divided by global trade in intermediate business services. The matrix lends support to the idea of a spatial concentration in business services across headquarter economies.
Figure 2 - Share of Gross Exports by Category

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Business Services</th>
<th>Other Services</th>
<th>Natural Resources</th>
<th>Manufacturing</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1995</td>
<td>3.91%</td>
<td>10.03%</td>
<td>14.97%</td>
<td>71.09%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2011</td>
<td>4.58%</td>
<td>16.67%</td>
<td>15.38%</td>
<td>62.97%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: Own calculations using WIOD

Note: Gross exports show direct exports across selected sectors. Value added figures show the contribution of each sector towards the creation of these gross exports.

Figure 3 - Share of Value Added by category

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Business Services</th>
<th>Other Services</th>
<th>Natural Resources</th>
<th>Manufacturing</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1995</td>
<td>11.81%</td>
<td>9.54%</td>
<td>34.03%</td>
<td>44.62%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2011</td>
<td>20.58%</td>
<td>10.32%</td>
<td>32.09%</td>
<td>36.52%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Overall, developing countries have been the destination of an increasing volume of standardized Information Technology Outsourcing (ITO), including – ranked in terms of value added – infrastructure management activities, software services such as Enterprise Resource Planning (ERP), only most recently also Software and Research and Development (R&D) consultancy. The top segments of offshored services are Business Process Outsourcing (BPO) and Knowledge Process Outsourcing (KPO), which are more intensive in high-skilled human capital and knowledge and typically remain within 'headquarter economies', although it has been argued that in most recent years an increasing trade share of these high-skilled activities (or non-routinised tasks) have involved Latin American countries (for a detailed summary of this evidence, see (Gary Gereffi and Fernandez-stark 2010; Ventura-Dias et al. 2003; Hernández, R., N. Mulder, K. Fernandez-Stark, P. Sauvé, D. López Giral 2014). This process has been attributed to a combination of decreasing Information Technology (IT) costs, increasing opportunities for standardization of typical IT functions – that therefore require less high-skill content – and a very recent drive to look for ‘talents’ (i.e. creative, not necessarily technologically-related high skills) across the whole world, a drive that for the first time does not exclude the participation of developing countries (Lewin, Massini, and Peeters 2009).

The tone of the emerging discourse seems to depict a rosy picture, in terms of developmental opportunities for periphery countries to join services GVCs, and the role of industrial policy to
favour this process (G Gereffi and Fernandez-Stark 2010). However, the reflection on service GVCs is still at its embryonic stage, with much empirical evidence still limited to single industries cases. This calls at least for some cautiousness.

For instance, in a recent contribution (Flecker, Haidinger, and Schönauer 2013) have raised doubts about the actual benefits of service offshoring for both the headquarter and recipient countries involved, mainly in relation to the labour market’s conditions, idiosyncratic to service value chains. They argue that the vertical disintegration of service labour markets and the lengthening of service value chains might exacerbate those aspects of value exploitation linked to knowledge codification and work intensification, which totally relies on the knowledge ability of service employees.

It is important to account for those specificities of services that might facilitate the interpretation of the empirical evidences reviewed above and their implications.

2.3 When Linder meets Hirschman: A reappraisal of services GVCs

The study of the effects of structural change on economic performance of countries has traditionally brought about concerns about de-industrialization processes and the erosion of capital accumulation in advanced countries. In some cases, positive expectations on knowledge accumulation and leveraging for the rest of the economy, intrinsic in some business services and the widespread diffusion of ICTs have counter-balanced this view (for a review, see Ciarli, Meliciani, and Savona 2012; Gallouj and Savona 2008; Meliciani and Savona 2014). The empirical evidence on the emergence of Knowledge Intensive Business Services (KIBS) has often coupled with this rhetoric.

When it comes to patterns of structural change in developing countries, involving shifts from agriculture to low-tech industries and services, the empirical evidence is more controversial (Dasgupta and Singh 2005; Dasgupta and Singh 2006; Bah 2011), and rarely takes into account the global dimensions of structural changes, with notable exceptions (McMillan, Rodrik, and Verduzco-Gallo 2014; Rodrik 2015). Despite this, the theoretical and empirical debates within trade theory and GVCs scholarship seem to suggest that structural changes toward business services in developing countries would be desirable, and eased by joining business service GVCs. By simple extension from the existing evidence on developed countries, scholarly work coming, for instance,

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4 A seminal contribution on the topic remains (Kaldor 1966), followed by (Baumol 1967) and (Fuchs 1968).
5 Classical contributions to the opposite stand – i.e. the optimism toward the progress and ‘third industrial revolution’ are (Fourastié 1949; Bell 2008).
6 More specifically, concerns about tertiarisation have been cyclical; a further evidence of this is the very recent “re-assessment” of the benefits of industry - most likely due to the second public outrage following the tarnish consequences of the latest global financial crisis - as reported in the EC 2013 Competitiveness Report “Towards Knowledge-Driven Re-industrialisation”.

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from the Inter-American Development Bank or the World Bank (Gary Gereffi and Fernandez-stark 2010; Ventura-Dias et al. 2003; Crespi, Tacsir, and Vargas 2014) seems to point to services as the next generation engine to ensure catching up and development.

We have seen above that the increasing involvement of services in GVCs can be considered as a sort of ‘third unbundling’, paraphrasing (Richard Baldwin 2011) equivalent in importance to the processes of tertiarisation that have followed industrialisation in developed countries, occurring now on a global scale. For the purpose of identifying the main determinants of the emergence of service GVCs, we put forward three questions and attempt to provide a testable framework that can answer them:

1. Are the determinants of the first two unbundlings also crucial in explaining the emergence of service GVCs?
2. Relatedly, is the proximity to large headquarter economies that matters the most also for participation in service GVCs? What kind of participation does such proximity tend to favour? Alternatively, to what extent do countries need to develop their own capacity internally - in the form of domestic structure specialised in high BS users sectors, that is able to secure a chance of upgrading initial participation in low-end to higher-end segments of the value chain in the long-run - before joining services GVCs?
3. What are the implications in terms of industrial policy for development?

The basic intuition that we attempt to articulate below is that in the absence of a strong domestic presence of backward-linked industries to (high-end) services as most BS, it appears unlikely that a (developing) country would construct its own or join an existing BS GVC, or indeed both, let alone upgrade from existing lower-value added services GVCs and develop competitive BS. To articulate our intuition, we revive two seminal classical contributions to the theory of international trade and economic development, respectively those of Staffan Burenstam Linder and Albert Hirschman. While we have no pretense to formalize anything here, we hope that this might stimulate further reflection and research.

Both Albert Hirschman (Hirschman 1958) and Staffan Burenstam Linder (Burenstam Linder 1961) represent alternative voices to the mainstream turn that the disciplines of development economics and international trade had taken by the time they produced their seminal contributions(Lundhal 2006).

In a seminal text on economic development, Hirschman (1958) identified the structure of sectoral intermediate linkages within regional economies as the main determinant of specialisation and
growth polarisation. According to Hirschman, there are different types of externalities, depending on whether activities are related to one another by forward or backward linkages, i.e. whether certain sectors concentrate where their clients are located or, rather, migrate where new or emerging supplier sectors are located.

Hirschman’s one was a remarkably original stand with respect to the mainstream growth theory based on factor endowments. Sectoral specialisation and structural change had hitherto rarely been considered of any relevance in explaining growth polarisation across local and national economies. The role of linkages in Hirschman’s work serves the purpose of creating new sectors by way of a scalable intermediate demand, and therefore represents a useful device to explain structural change of the sectoral composition of economies, although Hirschman’s work remained relatively silent on the conditions and specific mechanisms by which intermediate demand is translated into the creation of new supplier sectors, and for what matters, into upgrading. Recently, the role of structural change is being increasingly brought back in the development debate (Lin 2012; Stiglitz, Lin, and Monga 2013), which is extremely interesting from our perspective.

The work of Linder (Burenstam Linder 1961) also emerged as a particularly radical stand against mainstream trade theory following the Heckscher-Ohlin-Samuelson model. The latter explained foreign trade on the basis of cross-country differences in factor endowments, such that capital-endowed countries would export capital-intensive goods and reach higher incomes per capita, while countries relatively more labour-endowed would specialise in and trade labour-intensive goods. Linder put forward what it is now known as the Linder Thesis, his main contribution to the theory of foreign trade.

According to Linder (1961), the Heckscher-Ohlin model was able to explain trade in raw materials, but less so trade in manufactured goods. The latter trade depended on whether a country reached a certain level of domestic representative demand in a particular manufactured good. This benchmark level of domestic demand, in turn, provided the necessary information from purchasers to producers, which eventually allow them to face competition in foreign market. Therefore countries with a similar structure of final demand – owing for instance to similar levels of per capita income – tended to have similar structures of trade specialisation.

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7 These intuitions have on some occasions been taken up and operationalized in the literature (L. P. Jones 1976); see also, more recently, (Hausmann, Klinger, and Lawrence 2008), although it is out of the scope of this paper to go more in depth into these.

8 We owe to Martin Bell reflections on structural change within Hirschman’s work.
A joint Hirschman-Linder hypothesis reprises the importance of Hirschman linkages and (a modified version of) the Linder Thesis, refers to domestic intermediate rather than final demand and considers them jointly in explaining the propensity to join services offshoring GVCs.

As argued above, our belief is that traditional determinants of cost and factor endowments are able to explain less of the recent processes of ‘global structural change’ involving services offshoring. Rather, it is the structure of domestic intermediate demand for business services and the specialisation in BS forward linked industries, the domestic representative intermediate demand, which most affect the propensity and capacity to engage in international value chains in BS, in line with what Linder claimed for final domestic demand.

In what follows we operationalize the joint Hirschman Linder hypothesis by considering traditional variables such as skills, wages and technology, combined with proxies of the domestic Hirschman-linked manufacturing industries and that of distance-weighted trade partners, to account for the role and spatial distribution of headquarters economies. We detail this strategy in next section.

3. **Empirical strategy**

We synthesize our hypothesis in Equation 1. We take into account the role of technology, human capital and wages to explain countries’ participation in BS GVCs. To these traditional variables, we add our main variables: domestic manufacturing value added in final consumption and domestic BS value added in final consumption. The first variable captures the importance of having a strong domestic manufacturing sector both in general and in order to enter global value chains in BS. The second one proxies the presence of strong domestic linkages between BS and other sectors that might favour participation in BS value chains. Both variables test the Linder-Hirschman hypothesis in terms of importance of domestic (intermediate) demand for BS value added in exports, and contribute more generally to the debate on the importance of maintaining a core manufacturing base, argued above (Rodrik 2015).

However, the literature on globalization stresses the fact that in a globalised world domestic demand should matter less and less, as countries operating in global value chains serve global markets. In order to test for this effect, we add to our basic specification manufacturing (or BS) value added in final consumption of distance weighted trade partners. Finally, we take into account the possible existence of sectoral complementarities in participation in global value chains among trade partners by controlling for BS value added in exports of distance weighted trade partners.

Therefore, the general form of the estimated equation is the following:
where DBSVAE is the BS domestic value added in exports for country i at time t, DBSVAET is BS domestic value added in exports of distance weighted trade partners, DDEM is either domestic manufacturing (DDEM1) or domestic BS (DDEM2) value in final consumption, DDEMT is either domestic manufacturing or domestic BS value added in final consumption of distance weighted trade partners, W is hourly wages of high skilled workers, HC is the share of direct value added attributed to high skilled labor returns, TECH are patents per capita and Internet users per 100 people, αi and αt are country and time period fixed effects. All variables are in logarithms.

In the estimated equation, DBSVAE is a function of αi, and so it is DBSVAE_{i,t-1}. This makes the Ordinary Least Squares (OLS) estimator biased and inconsistent. The fixed effects (FE) estimator eliminates αt but will be biased for short time-series since DBSVAE_{i,t-1} will be correlated with the FE-transformed residual by construction. Due to the relatively short time-series of our sample (11 years) we therefore adopt the Arellano-Bond (AB) Generalised Method of Moments (GMM) estimator.

A problem with the original Arellano-Bond estimator is that lagged levels are often poor instruments for first differences, especially for variables that are close to a random walk. (Arellano and Bover 1995) described how, if the original equations in levels were added to the system, additional moment conditions could be brought to bear to increase efficiency. In these equations, predetermined and endogenous variables in levels are instrumented with suitable lags of their own first differences. We, therefore, use the system GMM developed by (Blundell and Bond 1998) that has been shown to give more reasonable results than first-differenced GMM in the estimation of models with high persistence.

The system GMM gives consistent estimates provided that there is no second order serial correlation among the errors, and we report tests for second order autocorrelation. We estimate a robust version of system GMM with heteroscedastic errors and allow our proxies for BS demand to be endogenous.

Data

We use the recently released World Input-Output Database (WIOD - November 2013 release), which covers 40 economies (including all EU-27 countries as well as Australia, Brazil, Canada,
China, India, Indonesia, Japan, Korea, Mexico the Russian Federation, Chinese Taipei, Turkey and the US) and a rest of world grouping across 35 sectors (20 of which are services, 11 manufacturing, and 4 primary sectors) and 15 years (yearly from 1995 to 2009). The database has two key components: i) an annual inter-country input-output (ICIO) table; and ii) an accompanying set of Socio Economic Accounts (SEAs).9

The ICIO table allows us to track not just the direct linkages within and between countries and sectors but also those that arise indirectly through the growing interconnectedness in trade. The database therefore lends itself to the creation of indicators that capture the extent and nature of GVC participation across different sectors. The SEAs then give us valuable information on the wage bills or indeed the hours worked by labour of different skills within countries which we exploit and combine with indicators of GVC participation so as to test our hypotheses.

We carry out a comparative analysis across several countries at different stages of development to identify whether there are significant differences between developed and transition economies.

Variables

Our choice of indicators is informed by the mushrooming literature on GVCs and is based on ICIO models. The most widely used indicator of GVC participation, and one favoured by the OECD (OECD 2013), is the value added content of exports (which we shorten to VAE).10 It tracks the origin of value added, by country and sector, which is embodied in gross exports generally focusing on the foreign element which is the factor that has witnessed important changes due to the proliferation of GVCs. A variant of this indicator decomposes value added, similarly across countries and sectors, but according to final demand (Los, Timmer, and de Vries 2012; Erumban et al. 2011). Both involve similar calculation techniques but the former is solely concerned with exporting activities whereas the latter considers the origin of value added in GDP. The difference is important because domestic final demand and gross export vectors might differ significantly.

Our interest lies in the determinants of GVC participation in business services. We therefore define our dependent variable as the domestic business service value added in exports (DBSVAE) using the following equation:

\[
DBSVAE = V'[I - A]^{-1}EXP
\]

9See (Los, Timmer, and de Vries 2012). The ICIO has recently been extended to incorporate data till 2011 but the SEAs only go as far as 2009.

10Based on (Hummels, Ishii, and Kei-Mu 1999) vertical specialisation indicator and refined by (Koopman et al. 2010).
Where:

\( V \) is an \( n \times n \) matrix with \( n \) countries (\( n=\{1,2,\ldots, 41\} \)) and \( i \) sectors of activity (\( i=\{1,2,\ldots, 35\} \)). It is populated with elements \( v_{ni} = \frac{V_{ni}}{Y_{ni}} \) capturing the direct value added (\( V \)) share of sector \( i \) in country \( n \) in the output (\( Y \)) of the industry across the diagonal (with zeros elsewhere).

The \( [I - A]^{-1} \) is the traditional Leontief inverse matrix that captures the inter-linkages within and between sectors across all countries. It is obtained from inverting the product of the subtraction of the technical coefficient matrix (\( A \)) with elements \( a_{ni} = \frac{I_{ni,j}}{Y_{ni}} \) from the identity matrix (\( I \)).

Finally, \( EXP \) represents a diagonalised vector of gross exports. The domestic business service element of exports is identified from the individual domestic rows of each country and capture the domestic business service value added that is exported.

Our independent variables aim to capture different domestic and international linkages arising from either manufacturing or business service activities. The domestic demand element differentiates between manufacturing (\( DDEM1 \)) and business services (\( DDEM2 \)). Final domestic demand (\( FD \)) is calculated taking different elements of the product of the equation below.

\[
DDEM = V' [I - A]^{-1} FD
\]

The difference between this equation and that of our dependent variable is that we use final demand rather than gross exports. \( DDEM1 \) is the sum of the domestic manufacturing rows and therefore captures the manufacturing sector value added whose end use is domestic (where this can include final consumption by households or government as well as investment (i.e. gross fixed capital formation)). \( DDEM2 \) is constructed by taking the domestic business service row.

To capture the potential for international linkages we take the domestic business service value added in exports of foreign countries and weight this by distance to the reporting country - DBSVAET. Finally we do the same but in terms of domestic BS and manufacturing value added in final domestic demand of partner countries.

As controls variable, we use the hourly wage of high-skilled workers which we compute from the SEA's of the WIOD by dividing the wage bill associated to high-skilled labour by the amount of hours worked by high-skill workers.
A glance at pattern of Business Services Value Added in Exports in developed and emerging countries

We employ our indicators to get a picture of potential differences between developed and emerging economies in their patterns of participation to services GVCs and the association between these and their internal and distance-weighted trade-partners specialisation.

For developed countries there seems to be a complementarity between domestic Business Services Value Added in Export (BSVAE) and that of partners (Figures 5 and 6). That is to say that countries with a higher domestic BSVAE share tend to be those closer to larger poles of BSVAE activity, and therefore they cluster together. However this relationship does not hold for emerging economies thereby providing some prima facie evidence that the links between developing a competitive BS sector in emerging economies is not contingent on having strong BS neighbours. In contrast, when we look at the link between domestic BS and domestic manufacturing and BS linkages (Figure 7 and Figure 8) we find that for both developed and emerging countries there is a positive relationship giving support to the importance of Hirschman linkages.
Figure 5 – Share of Domestic Business Services Value Added in Export versus partner weighted business services value added in exports in developed and emerging countries

Source: Own calculations using WIOD

Figure 6 – Share of Business Services Value Added in Export versus partner weighted manufacturing value added in exports in developed and emerging countries
Source: Own calculations using WIOD

Figure 7 – Domestic Business Services Value Added in Export versus domestic manufacturing value added in final domestic demand
Source: Own calculations using WIOD

In contrast, when looking at the correlation between the domestic manufacturing value added share in gross exports and neighbouring country and domestic manufacturing value added in final demand - Figure 8 and Figure 9 respectively - we see that the positive association is present in both instances, suggesting first that there are differences between manufacturing and services in terms of domestic and international linkages and second that there might be a case for the thesis that countries may be able to integrate into manufacturing value chains by relying on partner country manufacturing activities (recalling that the preliminary evidence suggests that this is not the case for services).

**Figure 8 – Domestic Manufacturing Value Added in Exports versus weighted neighbour manufacturing value added in final domestic demand**

![Figure 8](image1)

Source: Own calculations using WIOD

**Figure 9 – Domestic Manufacturing Value Added in Exports versus domestic manufacturing value added in final domestic demand**

![Figure 9](image2)
Also, evidence emerges that RCA in manufacturing (broadly defined) correlates positively with higher use of domestic BS value added in exports (Figure 10).

Source: Own calculations using WIOD
4. Econometric results

We will first look at regression results for the entire sample of countries including both advanced and emerging economies and then compare the results of the estimations based only on emerging countries. Table 1 reports the results of the estimation for the entire sample. We start from the simpler specification in which we include only variables referred to the typical country (specifications a); we then add first manufacturing (or BS) value added in final consumption of distance weighted trade partners (specifications b) and finally also BS value added in final exports of distance weighted trade partners (specifications c). The equation is estimated first including separately manufacturing value added in final consumption (specifications 1) and BS value added in final consumption (specifications 2) and then including both variables in the regression (specifications 3).
Table 1: System GMM estimations of BS value added in exports for advanced and emerging economies

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<tr>
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<th>(1a)</th>
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<th>(3a)</th>
<th>(1b)</th>
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<td>(6.58)** (1.89)*</td>
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<td>(-4.14)** (-1.87)*</td>
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<td></td>
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<td></td>
<td>(-0.98) (2.51)** (2.93)**</td>
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<td>0.021</td>
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<tr>
<td>Share of direct VA attributed to high skilled labor returns</td>
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<td>0.301</td>
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<td>(0.71) (1.81) (1.79)*</td>
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<td>(5.54)** (3.89)** (0.24)</td>
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<td>(0.48) (0.59) (0.06)</td>
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<td>-1.71*</td>
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</table>

Note: Year dummies included but not reported. Standard errors are heteroschedasticity robust. *, ** and *** indicate significant at 10, 5 and 1% respectively.

The table shows that manufacturing value added in final consumption plays a crucial positive role in explaining BS value added in exports. The same occurs also for BS value added in final consumption, however when the two variables are introduced simultaneously in the specification, this second proxy of intermediate demand loses significance. The results show the relevance of domestic intermediate linkages (particularly between BS and manufacturing) as determinants of participation in BS international value chains. This evidence is consistent with the finding of the importance of manufacturing demand for regional specialization in BS (Meliciani and Savona 2014) and for the capability of European regions to attract BS foreign direct investments (Castellani, Meliciani, and Mirra 2014).

A second interesting result of the econometric analysis is the negative impact of manufacturing and BS value added in final consumption for distance weighted trade partners. This is somehow at odds with the idea that countries can enter global value chains relying on the demand coming from partner countries also in the absence of a domestic intermediate demand. On the contrary, we find
that the presence of neighbor partner countries with high intermediate demand for BS has a displacing effect on one’s country BS value added in exports.

However, there appears to be complementarities in BS value added in exports between neighbor partner countries. This is a signal that neighbor trade partners tend to specialize in similar segments of the value chain, engaging in intra-industry trade. Consequently, the net effect of intermediate demand coming from partner countries is ambiguous depending on the strength of the direct negative effect and the indirect positive effect (partner countries demand affects positively their BS value added in exports, which in turn positively affects one country’s BS value added in exports)\(^{11}\).

Finally, looking at control variables, not surprisingly the most significant factor in explaining BS valued added in exports is the availability of high skilled labor. Patents, ICT and labor costs are significant only in some specifications including also variables referred to distance weighted trade partners, signaling the importance of taking into account of the international structure of demand in order to better disentangle the factors affecting countries’ capability to enter in BS global value chains.

Table 2 reports the same estimations but focusing only on emerging economies.

\(^{11}\)In order to disentangle the net effect a proper spatial GMM model should be estimated. This is left for future research.
Table 2: System GMM estimations of BS value added in exports for emerging economies

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
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<th>(1b)</th>
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<td>BS value added in exports lag 1</td>
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<td>0.738</td>
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<td>0.703</td>
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<td>(4.44)***</td>
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<td>BS VA in exports partners</td>
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</table>

Note: Year dummies included but not reported. Standard errors are heteroskedasticity robust. *, ** and *** indicate significant at 10, 5 and 1% respectively.

The results on the positive role of domestic, and particularly manufacturing, intermediate demand for BS value added in exports hold also for emerging economies. Similarly, there appears to be a displacing effect by intermediate demand (especially BS value added in consumption) of distance weighted trade partners. The most notable difference between the results obtained for the entire sample and those obtained when focusing only on emerging economies is the lack of significance, for emerging countries, of distance weighted trade partners’ BS value added in all specifications. This signals that while neighbor trade partners from advanced countries tend to specialize in similar segments of the value chain, this does not apply to emerging economies. Therefore, for emerging economies, contrary to the common wisdom, is even more important to construct a domestic specialization and develop domestic capabilities in sectors that are vertically integrated with BS in order to enter BS global value chains. In the absence of such capabilities, having neighbor partners with high levels of manufacturing (BS) value added in consumption will only have a displacing effect.
Finally, also for emerging economies, the most important factor for increasing BS value added in exports is the availability of a skilled labor force, while patents and high skilled labor remunerations have their expected positive (negative) signs only in some specifications. Surprisingly, Internet penetration does not appear to discriminate.

We also checked these results by running the same estimations on the manufacturing value added in export respectively in the cases of all countries and emerging economies only (Tables A1 and A2 in Appendix). This allows investigating whether the importance of domestic demand is specific to services or it applies also to manufacturing sectors. Moreover, it allows assessing whether the displacing effect of the demand coming from trade partner countries (particularly for emerging economies) found in the case of business services also applies to manufacturing.

Results show that domestic demand is important also in explaining participation in global value chains in manufacturing and this holds for the entire sample and for the sample including only emerging economies. However, for emerging economies manufacturing demand of partner countries, when controlling also for BS demand, turns out to be positive and significant, supporting the idea that proximity to a large headquarter economy may help emerging economies entering global value chains in manufacturing (Richard Baldwin and López-Gonzalez 2014). Finally, in the case of manufacturing, the evidence shows the existence of complementary effects also for emerging economies: being surrounded by countries involved in global value chains in manufacturing increases the typical country’s chances to be part of such value chains. Again, when controlling also for these complementary effects, the overall effect of being surrounded by partners with strong domestic demand for manufacturing is ambiguous.

5. Concluding remarks

This paper has aimed to add to the recent debate around the development opportunities of joining a service GVC sparked in both academic and policy circles. It has done so from a conceptual and empirical perspective.

Trade theory has moved in the direction of interpreting the emergence of GVC as a change in the object of RCA – now based on tasks rather than products – while leaving substantially unchanged its determinants, i.e. relative endowment of factors, skills and factors’ prices (Antras, Garicano, and Rossi-Hansberg 2006; Grossman and Rossi-Hansberg 2006; Grossman and Rossi-Hansberg 2008;

12The net effect of intermediate demand coming from partner countries is ambiguous depending on the strength of the direct negative effect and the indirect positive effect (partner countries demand affects positively their manufacturing value added in exports, which in turn positively affects one country’s manufacturing value added in exports).

From an empirical perspective, the role of factor endowment, skills and relative wages tend to fit with the evidence that some scholars have shown (R Baldwin 2011; Richard Baldwin and López-Gonzalez 2014)(R Baldwin 2011; Richard Baldwin and López-Gonzalez 2014): the main driver for a country to participate in (BS) GVCs is the proximity to headquarters nations, which tend to offshore the low segments of services to neighbouring factor economies. This view is consistent with theory and evidences related to the first two ‘unbundling’ of globalisation, the first involving domestic fragmentation of production, the second one related to this occurring at a global scale mainly for manufacturing sectors (R Baldwin 2011).

In parallel, and quite separately, the GVC scholarship produces evidence that tend to support the discourse on the opportunity to favour GVC in BS as a upgrading and development strategy (Gary Gereffi and Fernandez-stark 2010; Hernández, R., N. Mulder, K. Fernandez-Stark, P. Sauvé, D. López Giral 2014; Hernández, R. A., Martínez-Piva J.M. and Mulder 2014).

This paper has proposed a different framework to explain the emergence of service GVCs, tested the related conjectures on the basis of WIOD data, and drawn different implications in terms of benefits of joining service GVCs in the absence of a core domestic manufacturing base, or at least has plead for some cautiousness when considering GVCs in services as a third unbundling of globalisation of production, one that opens up new opportunities for catching up in developing countries.

Taking stock on prior work on structural change, the economics of services and the determinants of specialisation in business services (Ciarli, Meliciani, and Savona 2012; Meliciani and Savona 2014) we have reverted to two alternative voices often neglected in both trade and GVCs scholars’ circles, those of Hirschman and Linder (Hirschman 1958; Burenstam Linder 1961). In particular, we reprise the theoretical stands by Hirschman and (a modified version of) the Linder Thesis, and consider them jointly to explain the propensity to participate in services offshoring and GVCs.

We have claimed and empirically shown that the higher the domestic specialisation in Business Services backward-linked industries, most especially manufacturing sectors, the higher the propensity to participate in BS GVCs directly and indirectly, in line with what Linder claimed to be the case for the composition of final domestic demand favouring trade in similar sectors.
In particular, our findings show that our joint Hirschman-Linder hypothesis holds for the (WIOD) sample of countries and, indeed, for the emerging countries only. Most interestingly, when we look at whether the participation in service GVC is driven by the specialisation of close trade partners, we find that this has actually a negative effect, which is at odds with the idea that countries can enter global value chains relying on the demand coming from partner countries regardless their own specialization and specifically the presence of a domestic intermediate demand. This result emerges more clearly for emerging countries, for which it seems that, contrary to the common wisdom, it is even more important to develop domestic capabilities in sectors that are vertically integrated with BS in order to enter BS global value chains.

Overall, we believe that we are in the position of challenging – or at least spark discussion upon - the emerging view on the opportunity to favour GVC in BS as a development strategy, by claiming that in the absence of a strong domestic presence of Hirschman linked manufacturing industries to BS, it is unlikely that a (developing) country would build a GVC in these sectors from scratch, or upgrade existing low value added services and develop competitive BS to join existing GVCs. We therefore suggest some caution when considering GVC in services as a new desirable pathway for developing countries’ sectoral and technological upgrading.

Reappraising these alternative views within the debates on GVC – particularly in services - is important as they might have different implications in terms of industrial policy, whereby a trade-off between favouring participation in GVCs versus industry-wide, domestic industrial policy might arise (Hernández et al. 2014). This is the key message that some scholars seem to put forward when they look at cases like African countries in contrast to the experience of Latin American countries, where structural changes have brought about gains in productivity but overall loss of employment (McMillan, Rodrik, and Verduzco-Gallo 2014).

We shall acknowledge that cases such as India, Philippines or Uruguay offer counter-evidence to this view, whereby trade specialisation and participation in service GVCs has been mainly driven by external demand. These are indeed interesting cases to observe over the next decades, to assess their long-term development paths compared to other developing countries which different domestic sectoral and trade specialisation. It is our belief that drawing implications on a few cases only might be misleading, in a context where the debate is strongly putting back to the forefront the risks of a ‘premature de-industrialisation” (Rodrik 2015).
### Appendix - System GMM estimations of manufacturing value added in exports

#### Table A1 - All sample

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
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<th>(1a)</th>
<th>(2a)</th>
<th>(3a)</th>
<th>(1b)</th>
<th>(2b)</th>
<th>(3b)</th>
<th>(1c)</th>
<th>(2c)</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Manufacturing value in exports lagged</td>
<td>0.631***</td>
<td>0.788**</td>
<td>0.706**</td>
<td>0.562***</td>
<td>0.777**</td>
<td>0.658**</td>
<td>0.44</td>
<td>0.678</td>
<td>0.592**</td>
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<td>BS value added in final consumption</td>
<td>0.337*</td>
<td>0.375</td>
<td>(2.56)**</td>
<td>(3.71)**</td>
<td>(4.41)**</td>
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<td>BS value added in final consumption</td>
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<td>(1.51)</td>
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<td>Hourly wage of high-skilled</td>
<td>(1.96)***</td>
<td>(4.81)***</td>
<td>(4.78)***</td>
<td>(3.87)***</td>
<td>(4.75)***</td>
<td>(4.25)***</td>
<td>(2.74)***</td>
<td>(3.95)***</td>
<td>(3.71)***</td>
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<tr>
<td>BS VA in manufacturing partners</td>
<td>0.047</td>
<td>0.037</td>
<td>(3.86)***</td>
<td>(3.20)***</td>
<td>(3.20)***</td>
<td>(3.71)***</td>
<td>(3.71)***</td>
<td>(3.71)***</td>
<td>(3.71)***</td>
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<tr>
<td>Share of direct VA attributed to</td>
<td>0.720*</td>
<td>0.083</td>
<td>0.013</td>
<td>0.860**</td>
<td>0.175</td>
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<td>3.355</td>
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<td>-4.157</td>
<td>-5.333</td>
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#### Table A2 - Emerging economies

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<tr>
<td>Manufacturing value added in exports lagged</td>
<td>0.728</td>
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<td>0.774</td>
<td>0.703</td>
<td>0.908</td>
<td>0.771</td>
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<tr>
<td>BS value added in final consumption</td>
<td>0.369</td>
<td>0.458</td>
<td>(2.89)***</td>
<td>(3.94)***</td>
<td>(3.86)***</td>
<td>(3.20)***</td>
<td>(3.52)***</td>
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<td>(3.74)***</td>
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<td>BS VA in manufacturing partners</td>
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<td>-0.125</td>
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