

**Issues in measuring the degree of technological specialisation
with patent data ***
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The degree of technological specialisation of a country can be measured by the distribution of the patents of that country in different technological areas. This paper analyses several issues in measuring this degree of specialisation with patent data. The objective is to analyse the impact of the choices along the three dimensions of the measure: the source of patent data (USPTO, EPO, Triadic Patent Families), the statistical proxy used to measure the specialisation (concentration ratios, concentration measure of Herfindahl, concentration index of Gini) and the patent classification, i.e. the set of distinct technological classes (different levels in the IPC or OST classification). It is far from obvious that the calculation based on one source will be necessarily correlated with the one based on a different source. Also, there is no readily noticeable evidence that the results should be the same whatever the method of technological breakdown. Finally, the proxy used to measure the technological specialisation may also lead to different conclusions. This paper limits its analysis to a few options for each dimension and tests whether these options have a significant impact on the final results.