The GTAP-Power Data Base: Disaggregating the Electricity Sector in the GTAP Data Base

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Computable general equilibrium (CGE) models are ubiquitous in energy and environmental economic research. Recent technological advancements in electricity fuels, generation technologies, and environmental policies which target specific generation technologies (e.g. emission regulations) have motivated detailed CGE modeling of the electricity sector. Modeling these issues requires distinct electricity generating technologies in a CGE database. Researchers using the Global Trade Analysis Project (GTAP) Data Base have disaggregated the electricity sector into generating technologies independently using largely disparate, incomparable methodologies. This paper presents the methodology used to create the GTAP-Power Data Base, an electricity-detailed extension of the GTAP 9 Data Base with the following disaggregated electricity sectors: transmission and distribution, nuclear, coal, gas, hydroelectric, wind, oil, solar, and other. Gas, oil, and hydroelectric are further differentiated as base and peak load. The "bottom-up" data are electricity generation and levelized input costs for each technology and region. The levelized input costs for each technology are estimated to be as close as possible to the original data, but consistent with the original GTAP 9 Data Base. Major limitations in the initial version of the GTAP-Power Data Base are the lack of regional coverage in input cost data and disparity between available data and the total values for the electricity aggregate. All of the GTAP 9 Data Base is included in the GTAP-Power Data Base.

JEL codes: C61, D57, D58, L94, Q40

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1. Introduction

From 1990 to 2010 electricity output increased 81% worldwide, and approximately 40% of the world's total energy is consumed via the electric power sector (IEA, 2012). Coal and gas alone fueled over 40% and 20% of total world electricity production in 2009, respectively, and global trade of these input fuels has increased faster relative to many other tradable commodities (IEA, 2013; Narayanan et al., 2012). As a consequence of its prominent role in global fossil fuel combustion, the electricity sector is also responsible for approximately 33% of greenhouse gas emissions and, as such, has been the target of many carbon mitigation policies around the world. [Figure 1](#page-1-0) shows a differential importance of global trade of fossil fuels in the production of electricity for several countries.

Figure 1. Source (import and domestic) of fossil fuel use in domestic electricity sectors for several regions.

Source: GTAP 9 Data Base (Narayanan et al., 2012).

Prominent electricity-related technologies and policies such as these beg the question of how regional electricity sectors and bilateral energy trade will evolve. In turn, what effects might these evolving industrial and trade patterns may have on the incidence and impacts of global energy and climate policies? Computable general equilibrium (CGE) models are often used to provide answers to these types of global policy assessment questions.

Many CGE and integrated assessment models treat the electricity sector as an aggregate sector due to the lack of a consistent database with distinct electricity generating technologies. This is perhaps best exemplified by the Global Trade

Analysis Project (GTAP) Data Base for CGE modeling which, previous to version 9, had a single sector which encompasses "production, collection and distribution of electricity". In models using this type of database the electricity sector can substitute different fuels as inputs, but does not identify specific generating technologies (e.g. GTAP-E; Burniaux and Truong, 2002). [Figure 2](#page-2-0) shows that about 32% of electricity comes from non-fuel-based technologies which cannot be explicitly identified in an aggregate electricity sector. However, more and more policies target specific electricity generating technologies and not necessarily fuels or carbon emissions explicitly (e.g. production and investment tax credits for renewables in the United States, nuclear phase-out in Japan and Germany).

Introducing electricity-detail into CGE analysis requires: i) a general equilibrium consistent database with disaggregated electricity generating technologies and ii) a mechanism to address substitutability of generating technologies. Most of the attention in these works is placed on the latter, while little documentation is available on the former. Previous forays in this area are documented in [Table 1,](#page-3-0) below.

Figure 2. Shares of global electricity generation by technology in 2011**.**

Note: About 32% of electricity generation comes from non-fuel-based technologies and would be represented as a portion of 'capital' in an aggregate electricity sector.

Source: IEA Energy Balances (IEA, 2010a; IEA, 201b).

The lack of documentation may be due to the employment of ad hoc methods (e.g. Arora and Cai, 2014; Lindner et al., 2014). Another explanation could be that researchers naively find documentation trivial due to the prevalence wellstudied matrix balancing methods (e.g. RAS). Either way, discriminating electricity technologies from an original database requires specific data which are

unavailable, incomplete, uncertain, and/or inconsistent. The assumptions and procedures used in such disaggregation exercises vary across research groups and require a considerable amount of "educated guesswork," much of which is not properly (or at least not publicly) documented. The lack of a commonly constructed database precludes any comparison of these models.

Notes: Non-exhaustive of research efforts and summarized based on available documentation. Sources: MIT-EPPA (Paltsev et al., 2005), JCRI-Phoenix (Sue Wing, 2008), GEM-E3 (Capros et al., 2013, GTEM (Pant, 2007), OECD ENV-Linkages (Château et al., 2010), and Productivity Commission (Unpublished email from Patrick Jomini). Most disaggregation processes seem to be un- or weakly documented in the public domain.

This work documents a tractable disaggregation methodology for the regional electricity sectors in the GTAP 9 Data Base which leverages available data and various matrix balancing techniques. Section 2 discusses the available data which comprises electricity output by technology and region, in gigawatt-hours (GWh), and levelized input costs for several technologies and regions, in USD per GWh. Section 3 describes the method used to balance the input costs such that the values implied by production and input cost data match that of the aggregate

GTAP 9 Data Base electricity sector. The US electricity sector is used as the representative example in these sections. Section 4 presents some results and discusses the deviation between the data sources (i.e. input costs and production versus the GTAP 9 Data Base). Section 5 discusses specific ways to reduce these deviations. The result is a transparent GTAP-Power Data Base where specific limitations and improvements in techniques can be identified by both researchers and GTAP community members. The database is published in hopes of continuous improvement and greater consistency in the base data amongst researchers modeling the electricity sector. The primary way to improve the GTAP-Power Data Base is with contributions from GTAP users in the form of region-specific transmission and distribution (T&D) cost shares, base and peak load splits, and levelized input costs. This data would be incorporated in subsequent GTAP-Power Data Base versions. Section 6 concludes.

The GTAP-Power Data Base is an extension of the GTAP 9 Data Base in that it includes all of the data included in the GTAP 9 Data Base. This documentation supports the accompanying data files and GAMS file ely_disagg_2011.gms which performs the GTAP-Power Data Base disaggregation for base year 2011.

2. Data

The data used in the disaggregation for this paper are:

- $Q^0 = \{q_e^0\}$: electricity production (in GWh) by energy source (IEA, 2010a; IEA, 2010b, EIA, 2015),
- \bullet $\mathbf{U}^0 = \{u_{iab}^0\}$: total value of inputs (in base year USD) to an aggregate electricity sector for each source (i.e. domestic and import), and type (i.e. basic and tax) for base years 2004, 2007, and 2011 (Narayanan et al., 2012), and
- \bullet L⁰ = { l_{ct}^{0} }: levelized (i.e. annualized cost per GWh) capital, operating and maintenance (O&M), fuel, and effective tax costs of electricity for select generating technologies and regions (IEA/NEA, 2010; various sources).

These data are available over an addition index, *r*, which covers the 140 regions in the GTAP 9 Data Base, but this index is dropped in most of the following notation because the regional disaggregations can be performed independently. The super-script *0* identifies these as original data sources.

The set *e* is the set of original technologies in the IEA database which are not differentiated based on operational characteristics (i.e. base versus peak load). These are: 'Nuclear', 'Coal', 'Gas', 'Hydro', 'Oil', 'Wind', 'Solar', and 'Other.' The

matrix, \mathbf{Q}^0 , with elements q_e^0 refers to the total electric output, in GWh, by each generating technology in the IEA database for each region. The EIA database was used to help fill missed regions in IEA.

The set *t* consists of the disaggregated sectors, transmission and distribution and all generating technologies. These are: transmission and distribution ('T&D'), seven base load technologies ('NuclearBL', 'CoalBL', 'GasBL', 'HydroBL', 'OilBL', 'WindBL' and 'OtherBL'¹), and four peak load technologies ('GasP', 'OilP', 'HydroP', and 'SolarP'). The matrix, Q , with elements q_t is the expanded matrix with these new sectors for the GTAP-Power Data Base. Electricity produced by the transmission and distribution sector is defined as the total GWh produced in the region. The details of this expansion are described in Section 4.1.

The matrix U^0 with elements u_{lab}^0 is an alternate representation of electricity sector in the GTAP 9 Data Base where *i* is the set of all input costs to production (see Appendix A for listing), *a* is the set of sources (i.e. domestic or imported), and the set *b* is the type of cost (i.e. basic or tax).² The GTAP Data Base, **U⁰** , is used to create constraints in the GTAP-Power Data Base disaggregation.

The matrix \mathbf{L}^0 represents the levelized cost of electricity (LCOE) for each type, *c* (i.e. investment, O&M, fuel, own-use, and effective tax), for each new sector, *t*, and region. [Table 2](#page-6-0) provides the definition of the individual levelized costs and how they map to the GTAP sectors.

The technologies in the IEA (**Q⁰**) and IEA/NEA (**L⁰**) do not encompass all of the technologies that are in the GTAP-Power Data Base. The GTAP-Power Data Base includes splits of certain generating technologies into base and peak load technologies. The intent of the split between base and peak load is two-fold. First, the total generation data (**Q⁰**) comes in the form of fuel inputs (e.g. GWh generated from natural gas); however, several different technologies (e.g. combined-cycle, combustion turbine, steam turbine) are used to turn the fuels into electricity. These technologies have cost structures which must be differentiated, especially if the modeler wishes to aggregate different technologies.³ Second, connecting the data to modeling, base and peak load are

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¹ 'OtherBL' includes biofuels, waste, geothermal, and tidal technologies.

² The national version of the GTAP 9 Data Base is created using scripts from the SplitCom application (Horridge, 2008). SplitCom takes the full database and creates NATIONAL and TRADE matrices. The matrix **U⁰** is constructed from the basedata.har headers EVFA, VDFM, VIFM, VDFA, and VIFA for PROD_COMM element 'ely.'

³ In the long-run specific technologies such as combined-cycle, combustion turbine, and steam turbine gas would provide a better idea of costs, but the modeling issues of how

distinct types of generation. Without differentiating electricity production by these operational considerations, a model can have a technology like solar taking over the entire generation which is not realistic, at least in the current electricity system (i.e. without storage for time arbitrage). This is discussed further in Section 3.1.

| LCOE | Definition | GTAP inputs |
|------------------------------------|---|---|
| Investment (inv) | Overnight costs including pre-construction, construction, and contingency cost including interest accrued during construction. Includes decommissioning cost | 'capital' |
| Fuel | Cost of fuel per year based on fixed capacity factor (load factors) and heat rate for each technology. | $'$ coa', 'oil', $'p_c'$, 'gas', 'gdt' |
| Own-use | Electricity generated for in-plant operations | $'$ elv $'$ |
| Operating and maintenance (O&M) | Includes labor, inputs, and services used to support the operations of the plant (e.g. lubricants, administration). | All other sectors |
| Effective tax (tax) | Taxes on produced electricity by technology. | T Γ AX' |

Table 2. Definition of levelized costs and mapping to GTAP sectors.

Notes: The annual stream of costs and total electricity produced over the lifetime is discounted at a rate of 5%.⁴ The lifetime of the plant is technology-specific.

The GTAP 9 Data Base electricity sector data (**U⁰**) is derived in part from the IEA GWh data. The IEA GWh data (**Q⁰**) is mapped to the GTAP regions. In the event where levelized cost data (**L⁰**) are not available for either a technology or region, averages of available cost data of all other regions for the missing technology are used. The accuracy of this assumption may raise eyebrows at first

each of these technologies compete from an operational perspective is still unclear. Therefore, a simple aggregate base and peak load differentiation is a nice balance between operational considerations and data availability.

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⁴ "The full financial cost of an investment [is] determined by the interest rates of debt and equity weighted by their respective shares in the financing mix, generally known as the weighted average cost of capital (WACC). The underlying algorithms of Projected Costs of Generating Electricity calculate financing costs for one single interest rate at a time (either 5% real, i.e. net of inflation, or 10% real), without specifying any particular split between debt and equity finance. Any assumption will do, whether 100% debt, 100% equity, or any proportion of the two, as long as the weighted average of their returns amounts to either 5 or 10%" (IEA/NEA, 2010). The assumptions on WACC and discount rate can greatly affect the levelized investment cost. A 5% discount rate seems to match the capital costs in GTAP better.

glance and is certainly debatable. However, considering there are only a handful of suppliers for the electricity generating units worldwide, this assumption may not be as limiting as expected in terms of both capital and O&M costs. To derive levelized costs of own-use, the value of total own-use in the electricity sector in each region comes directly from own-use in the original GTAP Data Base, $u_{i\epsilon}^0$ where $i = \langle e \mid u \rangle'$. The value share allocated to transmission and distribution is identical to the share allocated to transmission and distribution for the entire electricity sector (discussed later). The remainder is divided by the total GWh produced in the region to derive the electricity own-use cost per GWh. Also, estimated fuel costs, which are generally more variable by region, are derived partly from the implicit region-specific fuel prices in the GTAP Data Base. The IEA/NEA coverage of levelized costs and the method for filling missing values are summarized in [Table 3.](#page-7-0) The full levelized costs data are available in Appendix C. Increasing the LCOE coverage is a major opportunity for subsequent versions.

Table 3. Coverage of levelized cost data and method for filling missing values.

Notes: Appendix C provides the full coverage and values of technology-region pairs used in the disaggregation.

3. Method

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The disaggregation comprises two stages and focuses on the supply-side disaggregation. ⁵ The first stage (Section 3.1) allocates total generation data for the technologies in the IEA Energy Balances, q_e^0 , to the technologies in the GTAP-Power Data Base, q_t , which comprise both base and peak technologies for gas, oil, and hydroelectric power. Technologies that are suited for base (e.g. steam

⁵ The method is implemented in the supplementary file: ely_disagg_ERP_2011.gms.

turbine) and peak (e.g. combustion turbine) load provision have different cost structures. These technological and cost differences are captured in the disaggregation and preserved even if a modeler elects to re-aggregate the sector into a single gas power sector. The second stage estimates new, balanced levelized input costs that are "close" to the original data, but are consistent with the GTAP 9 Data Base (Section 3.2). Value is allocated to the full set of GTAP input costs based on expert assumptions and the balanced levelized input costs found in Section 3.3. Section 3.4 discusses some basic assumptions used to create the demand and trade dimensions of the database. The United States is used as the example for the tables and charts in this section.

3.1 Stage 1: Base and peak load split

This particular effort is unique to many other electricity sector disaggregations, in that the generating technologies are split into base and peak load power. This is important for two reasons: unique cost structures of different generating technologies and providing important insight into modeling using the database.

First, there are many ways of converting an energy source to electricity. For example, gas and oil can be directly combusted in a gas turbine, used to heat water to drive a steam turbine, or some combination of these two methods (e.g. combined cycle). Different combinations of fuels can be co-fired in the same power plant. Moving water can be converted to electricity by damming a river, by run-of-river, or by capturing tides. Each of these technologies have unique cost structures due to different levels of investment and fuel efficiency. Ideally, specific electricity generation technologies would be captured; however, these data are not available for this version of the GTAP-Power Data Base, so base and peak provide a coarse approximation.

Second, splitting gas, oil, and hydro into base and peak load on the supplyside offers a first-order approximation of different technologies that are better suited to providing base (e.g. combined cycle gas) versus peak (e.g. combustion turbine) power. There are many ways to represent the electricity sector in CGE modeling (e.g. Paltsev et al., 2005; Pant, 2007; Sue Wing, 2008; Château et al., 2010; Capros et al., 2013). A modeler using this database might find it useful to allow only technologies that are well-suited to base (or peak) to substitute. The intent of this *database* is not to propose a model. Separating technologies into base and peak in the database allow for flexibility in modeling. Of course, should the modeler choose to pursue an alternative scheme that does not separate base and peak power technologies, the technologies (e.g. gas base load and gas peak load)

could be aggregated into a single technologies (e.g. gas power)⁶, and the aggregate cost structures discussed above, which includes different technologies, would be captured. That is, the base and peak load distinction is the more general way to disaggregate the data.

Separating the base and peak load split into a separate stage makes the problem more tractable and allows seamless implementation of alternative data types (e.g. detailed regional technological data) and models (e.g. Wiskich, 2014) without compromising the matrix balancing described later in Stage 2.

The base-peak load split stage minimizes the total O&M and fuel costs of base load production subject to GWh clearing constraints and an assumption that base load must account for at least 85% of total GWh produced. This is a simple way to allocate high capital, low variable cost technologies to the base load and low capital, high variable cost technologies to peak load. A straightforward improvement would be to minimize variable costs specifically; a portion of O&M costs may be fixed. The following formulation is repeated for each region, *r*:

$$
\min_{q_{bl}} \sum_{bl} q_{bl} \cdot [l_{0\&M,bl}^0 + l_{fuel,bl}^0] \tag{1}
$$

subject to:

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$$
\sum_{bl} q_{bl} \ge \beta \cdot \sum_{g} q_g \tag{2}
$$

$$
q_{gasbl} + q_{gasp} = q_{gas}^{0}
$$
 (3)

$$
q_{oilbl} + q_{oilp} = q_{oil}^0 \tag{4}
$$

$$
q_{hydrobl} + q_{hydrop} = q_{hydro}^0
$$
 (5)

where *q^t* is the total GWh produced by each generating technology, *t*. Again, *q 0 ^e* is total GWh produced by each energy type, *e*, from the IEA Energy Balance data (the dataset does not distinguish base and peak load technologies), and $l⁰_{ct}$ is the IEA levelized cost data for each generating technology. The set *g* contains all generating technologies in the GTAP-Power Data Base (not 'T&D'), and *bl* is the subset of *g* with generating technologies classified as base load power. The scalar β is the assumed proportion of base load generation in total generation. Here, 85% is assumed based on load duration curves; however, this value may change by region. This process is shown visually in [Table 4](#page-10-0) and [Table 5.](#page-10-1)

⁶ For example, with FlexAgg or GTAPAgg programs available on the GTAP website: [https://www.gtap.agecon.purdue.edu/.](https://www.gtap.agecon.purdue.edu/)

Table 4. Electricity production by sectors in IEA Energy Balances for the United States, q^{o_e} , terawatt-hours (TWh).

| | | Nuclear Coal Gas | Oil Hydro Wind Solar Other | | |
|----------------|--|------------------|----------------------------|--|------|
| \mathbf{O}^0 | 821.4 1,872.2 1,056.6 31.4 321.7 120.9 6.2 | | | | 96.3 |
| | $C_{\text{out},\text{out}}$ IEA Eporar Rolances (IEA 2010a: IEA 2010b) | | | | |

Source: IEA Energy Balances (IEA, 2010a; IEA, 2010b).

Table 5. Generation allocated to base and peak load power for each technology based on minimized O&M and fuel costs in the United States, *qt*, TWh.

| | Base Load (BL) | | | | | | | | Peak Load (P) | | | | |
|-------------|--|-----------------------------------|--|--|--|--|--|-----------------|---------------|--|-----|--|--|
| | Nuclear | Coal | | | | | | | | Gas Oil Hydro Wind Other Gas Oil Hydro Solar | | | |
| $\mathbf O$ | | 821.4 1,872.2 445.1 0 321.7 120.9 | | | | | | 96.3 611.4 31.4 | | | 6.2 | | |
| | Source: GTAP-Power Data Base, erp.har, header: GHWR. | | | | | | | | | | | | |

One important limitation in the above method is that it cannot admit more than one technology that is both base and peak load. Alternative models which elucidate the base and peak load split (e.g. Wiskich, 2014) could be implemented in this stage; however, there is a trade-off between model capability, data availability, and solution improvement.

[Figure 3](#page-10-2) shows the global shares of electricity from base and peak load technologies. Coal, nuclear, wind, and other exclusively provide base load, and solar exclusively provides peak load. The exclusive technologies have uniform levelized costs; therefore, the base and peak distinction does not have any implication on the values in the disaggregate database. Gas provides over half of the peak load. Hydro is more likely to provide base load than peak load. Conversely, oil is more likely to provide peak than base load.

Figure 3. Shares of global electricity generation from different technologies in base and peak (green cut-out) load.

Source: GTAP-Power Data Base, erp.har, header: GWHR.

3.2 Stage 2a: Targeting levelized cost relationships

3.2.1 The general disaggregation problem

This section presents the matrix balancing problem and the corresponding notation which will be used to describe the subsequent disaggregations in order to conform to existing literature. This documentation focuses on the supply-side, because it is the most interesting for the electricity disaggregation. The supplyside disaggregation problem is a subset of the matrix balancing problem. The demand and trade-side are discussed later in Section 3.4; both are based on the resulting domestic production from the supply-side disaggregation.

The fully disaggregated supply-side matrix is constructed by disaggregating a particular sector (e.g. electricity) into sub-sectors while the other sectors remain unaffected. The balanced disaggregation is defined as the non-negative matrix **X** with elements x_i where i is an input in the same vector of inputs as those in the full GTAP 9 Data Base, and *t* is a new industry within the set of new industries (or technologies) being inserted in place of the aggregated sector. By way of example, x_i might refer to capital inputs into the solar power generation subsector. In order to perform this disaggregation, we start with an initial nonnegative matrix **A** which is constructed from economic and/or technological information about alternative technologies. The disaggregation problem is to minimize the distance between the elements of **X** and **A** subject to a set of constraints imposed by the I-O structure (Schneider and Zenios, 1990). In particular, the sum of x_i over all t (row sum) must equal the original employment of input *i* in the aggregate sector defined as u_i (i.e. x_i , = u_i where $x_{i} \equiv \sum_{t} x_{it}$).⁷ Most methods also impose a column sum constraint on the sum of x_{it} over all *i* for each *t* must equal some given value v_t (i.e. $x_{\bullet t} = v_t$ where $x_{\bullet t} \equiv \sum_i x_{it}$). However, this is not required for consistency with the GTAP 9 Data Base since the earlier row sum restriction will ensure that total value in the disaggregate matrix will equal that of the aggregate industry. We are motivated in this paper by the desire to avoid a potentially restrictive column sum constraint when information on the column sum, *vt*, is unknown or of less reliability than the component costs (Peters and Hertel, 2016a,b).

The disaggregated industry matrix (**X**), illustrated in Figure 4, replaces the aggregate industry in the full matrix to construct a complete GTAP-Power Data Base containing the new disaggregated electricity industries along with those in the GTAP 9 Data Base.

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⁷ Throughout this work, summations are assumed to range over the entirety of the dimensions unless otherwise stated.

| | Technologies (t) | Sum (u_i) | | | |
|--------------|------------------|-------------|--|--|--|
| | | | | | |
| Inputs (i) | | | | | |
| | | | | | |
| Sum | | | | | |
| | | | | | |

Figure 4. The supply-side table for the disaggregated electricity sector (**X**).

3.2.2. The GTAP-Power Data Base disaggregation for levelized costs

Peters and Hertel (2016b) show that an ideal disaggregation preserves both the cost structure and "row share" (i.e. relative input cost intensity across technologies) implied by the economic data (in this case, **L⁰**). This is especially the case when the database will be used in a model with substitution between the electricity generation technologies.

Other electricity disaggregations use available levelized cost data, but only leverage one aspect of the economic relationships. Marriott (2007), Arora and Cai (2014), and Lindner et al. (2014) focus on row shares by allocating input costs across new technologies based largely on production (GWh) and elementary assumptions (e.g. water transport is exclusive to coal-fired power and pipeline transport is split between gas and oil power). In these cases, there is no specific consideration regarding the final cost structure of the technologies. Furthermore, these are ad hoc methods and do not present a systematic way of introducing additional information as in constrained optimization formulations.

Sue Wing (2008) presents a positive mathematical programming approach to incorporate cost structure and detailed engineering data (e.g. thermal efficiency, GWh production). The formulation does quite well in introducing the detailed technological data, but neglects specific attention to preserving input intensity (i.e. row share) across the new technologies. Given that the input cost data exists for the disaggregation task at hand, both relationships (i.e. cost structure and row share) should be considered.

Outside of electricity-specific literature, maximum entropy (e.g. cross-entropy, RAS) approaches are well-studied for matrix filling and balancing problems considering an underdetermined and/or conflicting system (Golan et al., 1994;

McDougall, 1999; Robinson et al., 2001; Lenzen et al., 2009).⁸ However, the disaggregation problem here is unique to the traditional cross-entropy approach (and RAS) in two main ways: i) total column sums for each technology are unknown and ii) the prior coefficients for the full matrix do not exist (e.g. a previous year as suggested in Robinson et al. 2001).

The first limitation can be overcome several ways. Column sums can most simply be derived by an allocation of value to transmission and distribution and total levelized cost of generation (per GWh) multiplied by the total GWh of each generating technology which is then scaled to match the total value in the original GTAP electricity sector. This preserves relative total cost intensity across different technologies; however, due to the inconsistent nature of the data, the cost structures are sacrificed. Peters and Hertel (2016b) show that this is problematic in the case of substitution between generating technologies, and results can be greatly improved by eliminating the overly-restrictive column constraint which is derived from disparate data sources.

Instead, the fully disaggregated matrix is partitioned to investment, fuel, O&M, own-use, and production tax costs for transmission and distribution and each generating technology. This provides a target matrix, **A**, based on the levelized cost and electricity production data; however, it is inconsistent with the GTAP Data Base. Targeting relationships in levelized cost data, **L⁰** , and fixing the other data implies that the GTAP values, **U⁰** , as an aggregate measure, and the electricity production values, Q , are the more trusted sources.⁹ The proposed optimization algorithm finds an estimated levelized cost which minimizes deviation from both the derived i) cost proportionality within a single generating technology (i.e. cost structure) and ii) relative cost intensity between generating technologies (i.e. row share) from the target levelized cost data. In doing so, the algorithm targets relationships between levelized costs rather than the levelized

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⁸ There are also minimized sum-squared error-type and other approaches; however, GTAP is constructed using cross-entropy methods, so a cross-entropy approach is used for the GTAP-Power Data Base.

⁹ It must be noted that traditional levelized cost has previously been shown to be a flawed metric as it treats electricity as a strictly homogenous product with a value that does not change in terms of space (e.g. availability of renewable use), time (e.g. base and peak demand periods, seasonal variability, intermittency of some renewables), or leadtime (Joskow, 2011; Hirth et al., 2014). Furthermore, there is uncertainty in the parameters (e.g. discount rate, efficiency, heat rate, load factor, lifetime) used to derive the costs. In light of this particular problem, levelized costs are still insightful despite their obvious limitations.

costs themselves. Tax costs are assumed fixed and are assigned by the value implied by the tax (**L⁰**) and production (**Q**) data. The residual tax value in GTAP are allocated to the new sectors on a per GWh basis.

The objective function is designed to minimize weighted entropy distance from both the cost structure and row share relationships (Peters and Hertel, 2016a).¹⁰ This is termed the share-preserving cross-entropy (SPCE) method. Constraints are imposed to maintain an assumed allocation of value to transmission and distribution and ensure consistency with the GTAP Data Base.

The target matrix **A**, as defined in Section 3.2.1, is given by:

$$
a_{ct} = \frac{l_{ct}^0 \cdot q_t}{\sum_c \sum_t l_{ct}^0 \cdot q_t} \cdot u_{\bullet \bullet \bullet}^0
$$
 (6)

where $u_{\bullet\bullet}^0 \equiv \sum_i \sum_a \sum_b u_{iab}^0$ or the total value of the GTAP electricity sector. The balanced matrix **X**, as defined in Section, 3.2.1, is given by:

$$
x_{ct} = \frac{l_{ct} \cdot q_t}{\sum_c \sum_t l_{ct} \cdot q_t} \cdot u_{\bullet \bullet}^0. \tag{7}
$$

where l_{ct} are the balanced levelized costs after balancing with the SPCE method. The set of linear constraints are described as:

$$
u_c = \sum_{i \in c} u_{i \bullet}^0. \tag{8}
$$

Again, the index *r* is dropped for simplicity since each are performed independently from one another. The balanced levelized costs *lct* are determined from the SPCE objective and constraints as follows and repeated for each region, *r*:

$$
\min_{x_{dt}} \sum_{c} \sum_{t} x_{dt} \cdot \left[\ln \left(\frac{x_{dt}}{x_{\bullet t}} \bigg|_{\mathcal{A}_{\mathcal{A}_t}} \right) + \ln \left(\frac{x_{dt}}{x_{d\bullet}} \bigg|_{\mathcal{A}_{\mathcal{A}_t}} \right) \right]
$$
(9)

subject to:

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$$
\sum_{t} x_{ct} = u_c \tag{10}
$$

 10 A variant of Kuroda (1988) is a sum squared error-type matrix balancing method that is also capable of removing the total cost constraint. We employ the SPCE because the GTAP Data Base is also created with an entropy approach.

$$
\sum_{d} x_{dt} = \gamma \cdot u_d \tag{11}
$$

The SPCE method is written in terms of **X** and **A** to conform to literature and for sake of simplicity, but are written in terms of l_{ct} and q_t in the accompanying GAMS code. The final matrix of **L** is the estimated levelized cost which minimizes the weighted entropy distance from the economic relationships implied by the target levelized cost data (**L⁰**). The first natural-log component of the objective targets cost structure, and the second targets row share. The set *c* consists of all the levelized costs, and subset *d* are the levelized costs excluding effective tax. The objective, Equation 9, sums across only *d* since the effective tax is fixed (discussed in Section 4.3.5).

The first constraint (Equation 10) sums over only the costs, *i,* which are associated with the particular levelized cost, *c* (e.g. labor in O&M, coal in fuel; see Table 2). The vector **U⁰** is the GTAP national input value data for total value of each cost in the original electricity sector ('*ely*') with dimensions for source (*a*) and type (*b*). This ensures market clearance of the GTAP values across each levelized costs; that is, values of the new sectors in the GTAP-Power Data Base can be aggregated to the GTAP 9 Data Base electricity values.

The second constraint (Equation 11) ensures the assumed value allocation to transmission and distribution where the scalar *γ* is the proportion of total nontax value allocated to the transmission and distribution sector. The *γ* value does not have a great deal of literature behind it; examples of values include 4% (Marriott, 2007), 45% (Joskow, 1997), and 65% (Sue Wing, 2008) for the United States. The non-production operational expenses (i.e. transmission, distribution, customer accounts, customer service, sales, and administration) for electric utilities in the United States represent about 21% of total operational expenses (EIA, 2013: Table 8.3).¹¹ Therefore, a γ value of 21% is used for all regions in this disaggregation. In reality, the value may differ regionally which can easily be incorporated provided accurate data are available.

Additional constraints are imposed to ensure sufficient and proportional allocation of fuels into their associated technologies (e.g. total fuel costs of coalbased generation are greater or equal to the total coal costs to electricity in the GTAP Data Base).

l

¹¹ This does not include electricity loss in transmission and distribution. Here, we are concerned with the costs and values.

3.3 Stage 2b: Targeting specific input costs for the levelized cost

Stage 2a returns estimated total column sums for each levelized cost [\(Table 6\)](#page-16-0) which overcomes the unknown total costs which motivated the SPCE formulation. Therefore, RAS can be used to estimate the matrices for each levelized cost. Basic data and assumptions are used to construct the target matrices (the same **A** as defined in Section 3.2.1) for each levelized cost separately. The notation is identical to the generic disaggregation problem in 3.2.1 and pertains to the relevant section only. That is, **A** is not differentiated by any form of notation in the O&M and capital disaggregations in the following sections. They are independent disaggregations.

Table 6. Values for the United States implied by the levelized cost and production data for each technology subject to market clearing in the GTAP values (*uc*).

| | Base Load (BL) | | | | | | Peak Load (P) | | | | | | |
|-------------|----------------|-------------------|------|-------|--------|-------|---------------|-------|------|-------|-----|-------|-------|
| C | | TnD Nuc. Coal Gas | | | Wind | Hydro | Oil | Other | Gas | Hvdro | Oil | Solar | u_c |
| Inv | 24.8 | 22.5 | 36.9 | 4.1 | 7.3 | 28.7 | 0.0 | 2.3 | 3.6 | 0.0 | 0.4 | 1.2 | 130.0 |
| Fuel | 0.0 | 0.0 | 37.9 | -22.6 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 3.1 | 42.0 | 0.0 | 6.7 | 0.0 | 117.9 |
| Own- use | 5.5 | 3.9 | 8.9 | 2.1 | 0.6 | 1.5 | 0.0 | 0.5 | 2.9 | 0.0 | 0.1 | 0.0 | 26.0 |
| O&M | 43.7 | 18.8 | 16.5 | -1.7 | 2.0 | 4.3 | 0.0 | 1.9 | 2.8 | 0.0 | 0.7 | 0.1 | 133.1 |
| Tax | 5.2 | -4.8 | 8.5 | 2.0 | -0.1 | 0.5 | 0.0 | 0.1 | 2.8 | 0.0 | 0.1 | 0.0 | 14.4 |

Source: GTAP-Power Data Base, erp.har, headers: ZLCO and ELYT.

3.3.1 Operating and maintenance costs

There is little information regarding the specific sectoral composition of the O&M levelized cost matrix. The GTAP 9 Data Base has 56 costs which fall broadly under the umbrella of O&M costs including five labor classes and various agricultural, machinery, chemical, and transportation sectors (see Appendix A for the full mapping). While not much data exists regarding how these sub-sectors enter either transmission and distribution or specific generating technologies, some basic assumptions can be made regarding their shares. These shares can be treated as probabilities that an input cost enters the new sectors. This is similar to a technique previously employed to allocate capital between transmission and distribution and generation (Sue Wing, 2008) and to allocate costs to different generation types for input-output analysis (Marriott, 2007).

These basic assumptions are be formulated into two tables. The first table allocates the assumed shares of a particular sub-sector entering transmission and distribution versus generation as a whole, *P^t* (treated akin to probabilities with costs as uncertain). The second table allocates assumed probabilities between the various generating types conditional on the cost entering generation (*P^g*). Targets are constructed from these probabilities. The assumptions for P^t and P^g used in this work are presented in Appendix B.

Table 7. Probability tables for allocation between transmission and distribution (P^t) and allocation of conditional probabilities between generation types (P^g).

| \mathbf{p}_t | | | | | | | $P_{\rm g}$ | | |
|----------------|-----|-----|-------|--|----------|---------|-------------|-------|-------|
| | TnD | GEN | Total | | | Nuclear | \cdots | Solar | Total |
| O&M1 | | | | | O&M1 | | | | |
| \cdots | | | | | \cdots | | | | |
| O&Mn | | | | | O&Mn | | | | |

Probabilities between transmission and distribution and generation are also based on the cost proportion allocated to transmission by the earlier transmission and distribution share assumption, *γ*. The resulting probabilities are:

$$
P_{T\&D} = \frac{\gamma \cdot P_{T\&D}^t}{(1-\gamma) \cdot P_{GEN}^t + \gamma \cdot P_{T\&D}^t}
$$
(12)

$$
P_{GEN} = \frac{(1 - \gamma) \cdot P_{GEN}^t}{(1 - \gamma) \cdot P_{GEN}^t + \gamma \cdot P_{T\&D}^t}
$$
(13)

where *P^tr*_{*BD*} is the probability of cost classified as transmission and distribution, and *P^tGEN* is the probability of cost classified as generation (*P^tGEN* = 1- *P^tT&D*).

Likewise, there is also a probability of the input cost entering the specific generation technologies allocated based on relative levelized O&M costs across technologies (i.e. row share for O&M in Table 6), termed *P^r g*.

$$
P_g^r = \frac{q_g \cdot l_{O\&M,g}}{\sum_g [q_g \cdot l_{O\&M,g}]} \tag{14}
$$

where *g* is the set of generating technologies only. Alternatively, *P^r ^g* could be derived based on other assumptions (e.g. construction costs mimic levelized cost of capital rather than O&M). Such decisions are dependent on the researcher and problem, but the framework presented here is flexible to such convictions. Since *P^g* and *P^r* are independent, the total probability of the O&M cost for a generating technology conditional on entering generation is therefore the intersection of *P^g* and *P^r* :

$$
P(g|GEN) = P_g^g \cdot P_g^r \tag{15}
$$

The resulting tax-inclusive targets, **A^I** , for each O&M cost can be written as:

$$
a_{i, T\&D}^I = P_{T\&D} \cdot u_{i\bullet\bullet}^0, \qquad i \in O\&M \tag{16}
$$

$$
a_{i,g}^I = P(g|GEN) \cdot P_{GEN} \cdot u_{i\bullet}^0, \qquad i \in O\&M \tag{17}
$$

where $a^{I_{i,t}}$ is the tax-inclusive (*I*) target for input costs, *i*, to new industries, *t*, where *i* here refers to the subset of 56 costs in the GTAP Data Base which are classified as O&M costs (i.e. $i \in 0$ &M). [Table 8](#page-18-0) shows a visual representation of the targeting matrix.

| | | | | \cdot | | | | | | | | |
|------------------|--|--|--|---------|--|---|--|--|--|--|------|-------|
| | Target O&M cost sub-matrix (A ¹) | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Base load | | | | | | | | | | | Peak | |
| | TnD | | | | | Nuc Coal Gas Oil Hydro Wind Other Gas Oil Hydro | | | | | | Solar |
| O&M1 | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| \cdots | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| O&M _n | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Total | | | | | | | | | | | | |

Table 8. Target the individual components of O&M costs.

Notes: A similar procedure is used for capital, fuel and tax sub-matrices.

The RAS method is formulated as follows:

$$
\min_{x_{it}^l} \sum_{i} \sum_{t} x_{it}^l \cdot \ln \frac{x_{it}^l}{a_{it}^l}, \quad i \in 0 \& M
$$
\n(18)

subject to:

$$
\sum_{t} x_{it}^{I} = u_{i\bullet}^{0}, i \in O\&M
$$
\n(19)

$$
\sum_{i} x_{it}^{I} = l_{0\&M,t}, \quad i \in 0\&M
$$
 (20)

where $x^{I_{it}}$ is the estimated tax-inclusive value of O &M costs. The first constraint (Equation 19) pertains to the market clearance conditions, and the second (Equation 20) pertains to the column sum estimated in Stage 2a. This procedure is repeated for each region. The tax-inclusive estimated cost (x^{I}) is expanded to full GTAP dimensionality based on the source and type proportions of the original GTAP electricity sector proportions which ensures market clearing in the additional dimensions. The results for the United States are discussed in Section 4.3.

3.3.2 Fuel costs

There are five sectors in the GTAP Data Base which correspond to fuel costs: coal, gas pipeline, distributed gas, oil, and petroleum and coal products ('coa', 'gas', 'gdt', 'oil', and 'p_c' in GTAP, respectively). These are allocated using basic assumptions and conditionals when those assumptions break down. The original

GTAP coal sector is allocated to 'CoalBL'. Both pipeline and distributed gas are allocated to 'GasBL' and 'GasP' based on the relative levelized cost between the technologies and in a manner where the proportion of types of gas are equal for each technology. The equal proportions technique is also used for oil and p_c' in 'OilBL' and 'OilP'; however, petroleum-derived products do not strictly enter oil technologies (e.g. lubricants, gasoline for company vehicles). The excess 'p_c' is used to meet the levelized fuel cost column sum constraints for the other sectors.

Conditionals may come into play where there are fuel inputs to electricity in the original GTAP Data Base, but there is no directly corresponding generation for a region (e.g. coal input to electricity in GTAP, but no coal generation in the OECD GWh data). The source of these residuals is case and region-specific, but may arise as a result of sectoral aggregation in GTAP, non-exclusivity of fuel use for electricity production (e.g. gas for heat in the facility), and the balancing algorithm necessary for the original GTAP Data Base. In these cases, targets are created based on relative cost across the new sectors. High confidence in the assumptions for fuel inputs to generating technologies results in a highly constrained optimization problem.

3.3.3 Capital costs

Although levelized investment costs only have one associated GTAP sector (i.e. 'Capital'), the difference in type (i.e. basic and tax) costs are of particular importance in the electricity sector. For instance, the United States has investment tax credits which subsidizes capital investments to some renewable technologies. This is an important consideration for modeling using the disaggregated database. The targets for the two type matrices are as follows:

$$
a_{it}^l = \frac{l_{inv,t} \cdot q_t}{\sum_t [l_{inv,t} \cdot q_t]} \cdot u_{i\bullet\bullet}^0, \quad i \in inv
$$
 (21)

$$
a_{it}^X = \frac{a_{it}^I}{k_{it}^0}, \qquad i \in inv \tag{22}
$$

where $a^{I_{it}}$ is the tax-inclusive target (superscript *I*), and $a^{X_{it}}$ is the tax-exclusive target (superscript *X*) for investment costs. The set *i* is a subset of all costs which pertain to investment costs ($i \in inv$, which is only 'Capital' in this case). The scalar k^o ^{*ti*} is the power of the tax on capital for the electricity sub-sectors.

Entropy is minimized for a tax-inclusive and tax-exclusive matrix subject to market clearing constraints for both matrices and a total column sum for the taxinclusive matrix. This is a similar formulation to one found in McDougall (1999).

$$
\min_{x_{it}^I, x_{it}^X} \sum_i \sum_t x_{it}^I \cdot \ln \frac{x_{it}^I}{a_{it}^I} + \sum_i \sum_t x_{it}^X \cdot \ln \frac{x_{it}^X}{a_{it}^X}, \quad i \in inv
$$
\n(23)

subject to:

$$
\sum_{t} x_{it}^{I} = \sum_{a} u_{i \bullet \bullet}^{0}, \quad i \in inv \tag{24}
$$

$$
\sum_{t} x_{it}^{X} = u_{i,\bullet, bas}^{0}, \quad i \in inv
$$
\n(25)

$$
\sum_{i} x_{it}^{I} = l_{it}, \qquad i \in inv
$$
\n(26)

The results, x^x and $(x^I - x^x)$, the basic and tax matrices, are expanded to full GTAP dimensionality based on the source in the original GTAP electricity sector proportions to preserve market clearing in these dimensions.

3.3.4 Own-use costs

The value of total own-use in the electricity sector in each region comes directly from own-use in the original GTAP Data Base, u_{iab}^0 where $i = e^i y$. The total costs of own-use for the disaggregated electricity sectors is the estimated levelized cost for own-use, *l*_{*own-use,t*, multiplied by the total production, *qt*.}

The individual electricity input costs are allocated to the new electricity sectors with the assumption that each demands identical shares of transmission and distribution and generating technologies. This is as though they draw from the grid and not necessarily the individual plant-type.

3.3.5 Effective production tax

The effective production tax in GTAP is labeled 'PTAX', which for a generating technology can be thought of a tax on a specific type of generation, while 'PTAX' for transmission and distribution can be thought of a tax on electricity provision to the ultimate users. Tax costs are assumed fixed and are assigned by the value implied by the levelized tax from the data (**L⁰**) and total GWh production (**Q**) data. The residual tax value (that not explained by available tax data) is additionally allocated to the new sectors on an equal per GWh basis.

3.4 Demand-side and trade disaggregation

The electricity mix of exports of electricity are assumed to be identical to the mix of domestic production. This assumption fills the complete trade matrix. The demand-side share allocation for each electricity sector is simply identical to the mix implied by the sum of domestic production and the net imports.

Presumably, different industries and households consume electricity from different sources depending on the sub-region and type of load. For instance, the retail industry may consume electricity predominantly during peak hours during the middle of the day. Households may consume more electricity during the peak hours immediately following school or office hours. Furthermore, households may demand renewable sources or even purchase household solar panels. Certain industries may require electricity and make long-term agreements for base load electricity.

Unfortunately, anything beyond pure assumption is currently unavailable for this research. The disaggregation of the demand-side in the GTAP-Power Data Base assumes all users demand identical shares of transmission and distribution and each generating technologies.

Alternatively, the transmission and distribution sector could be separated from generation where generation would be sold to transmission and distribution, and users would purchase the transmission and distribution. This may make some sense in terms of how the electricity sector operates (at least in the United States); however, this type of database construction does not allow for different generation demands by industry. The database construction described above is general enough to allow for this; although due to data limitations, uniform mixes across industries are assumed for this particular version.

4. Results

The final results of the supply-side disaggregation are presented in this section. The demand-side is less interesting because of the lack of available data. The data and assumptions explained above are available upon request. This section focuses on the error between the estimated levelized costs and the IEA/NEA data and how important features in the original datasets are captured in the disaggregated data.

4.1 Ad hoc Method for Large Deviations

For some regions the deviation between the estimated and the target levelized costs can be quite large. While deviation is expected, large deviations may indicate broader issues in the OECD electricity production and, more likely, the electricity sector in the GTAP Data Base. For instance, the target estimate of capital requirements for electricity in Cambodia derived from the levelized costs and production data is 75.9 million USD; however, the GTAP Data Base reports only 1.8 million USD of capital is allocated to the entire electricity sector.

Obviously, there is some discrepancy in reporting between the top-down and bottom-up type datasets.

To accommodate for largely disparate data, an additional bound constraint is added to the Stage 2a formulation which bounded the estimated capital and O&M levelized costs for each generation technology to *n* and *(1/n)* times the target levelized cost value threshold. Fuel cost are excluded from these bounds because these are generally directly mapped to fuel input costs in GTAP (e.g. coal to 'CoalBL') and the costs are highly variable across regions which limits the relevance of using an average of available levelized cost data as an initial estimate. A single capital and O&M levelized cost to a generation technology which deviates by $n \text{ or } (1/n)$ times the target estimate results in an unsuccessful completion. The number of successful completions in total share of GWh terms are shown in [Figure 5.](#page-22-0) Beyond a certain threshold (x-axis) it may be better to allocate each levelized cost using an ad hoc method. The threshold chosen is 10 because at this point over 95% of the global GWh produced converges using the SPCE method.¹²

Figure 5. Share of total GWh which converge using the SPCE procedure with the bound of deviation from target LCOE data.

Source: GTAP-Power Data Base, erp.har, header: OPTS.

 $\overline{}$

 12 With a threshold of a 10 or 1/10 times deviation from the original levelized cost value the following 22 regions cannot be reconciled: Oman, Rest of Oceania, Brunei Darussalam, Laos, Rest of South Asia, Argentina, Ecuador, Honduras, Estonia, Lithuania, Belarus, Rest of Former Soviet Union, Georgia, Bahrain, United Arab Emirates, Rest of West Asia, Guinea, Rest of West Africa, Kenya, Madagascar, Malawi, and Rest of Southern Africa. These regions produce less than 3% of the world's electricity and in most cases would be aggregated into larger regions.

The ad hoc method is used for those regions that do not converge and follows Marriott (2007), Lindner et al. (2014), and Arora and Cai (2014) by allocating each costs by the production weighted levelized costs described by for each unsuccessful region:

$$
l_{ct} = \frac{1}{q_t} \cdot \frac{l_{ct}^0 \cdot q_t}{\sum_t l_{ct}^0 \cdot q_t} \cdot \sum_{i \in c} u_{i \bullet \bullet}^0
$$
 (27)

This does not specifically preserve the cost structure, but the data is so disparate in these regions the any modeling of these regions individually is suspect to begin with.

 The jump in GWh converging from a bound of 9 to 10 in [Figure 5](#page-22-0) is due to the convergence of Russia at a bound of 10. The GTAP value of capital in Russia is much lower than the value implied by the target levelized cost of capital. Section 6 discusses how the GTAP Data Base construction may be able to leverage the levelized cost data to eliminate such large discrepancies moving forward while recognizing the limitations in the target cost data as well.

4.2 Deviation from target levelized cost data

It is worth reiterating that the procedure described above implies that the GTAP values, as an aggregate measure, and the electricity production values are a more trustworthy source than levelized cost, as a stylized representative of actual costs determined from a number of assumptions. This is why we fix the GTAP, **U⁰** *,* and the estimated GWh production, **Q**, values and target the levelized costs, **L⁰** .

[Table 9](#page-26-0) shows the percentage deviation of the estimated levelized costs from the target levelized costs in the United States. The average deviation for nonfixed levelized costs is 20.9%. The estimated levelized cost for 'NuclearBL' and 'CoalBL' are larger than the target levelized cost while the majority of others are lower. It is also evident that the O&M cost in the GTAP data is much larger than the cost implied by O&M in the levelized cost; the deviation is highest for O&M costs and the balanced estimates are all larger than the target levelized costs. The frequency plot in [Figure 6](#page-24-0) shows how these deviations are distributed for all regions, and [Figure 7](#page-25-0) shows the different between OECD and non-OECD countries.

[Table 10](#page-26-1) and [Table 11](#page-26-2) show the deviation from the cost structure and relative cost intensity for the United States, respectively. Again, the disparity between the target levelized costs and the GTAP data in O&M is the primary source of deviation in cost structure. However, the relative fuel costs seem to be the primary source of deviation in the row share. The effective tax has no deviation

because the taxes are allocated on a row share basis. The average deviation is 16.7% and 12.3% for cost structure and row share, respectively.

Figure 6. Histogram of deviation between estimated levelized cost and target levelized costs for all regions.

Notes: lct/l⁰ ct plotted on a log-scale. For each distribution, the deviation of the median from one indicates bias and larger standard deviation indicates larger deviation between the disaggregate data and original GTAP data.

Source: GTAP-Power Data Base, erp.har, header: ELCO and author's calculations.

Deviations can be attributed to two primary factors: i) discrepancies in the values implied by the different data sets and ii) assumptions made in the procedure itself. An example is the O&M levelized costs for the United States (discernible in all three deviation tables). While the error in fuel and tax estimates are relatively low, the estimated levelized costs for O&M are much higher than the values in the IEA/NEA dataset [\(Figure 6\)](#page-24-0). This indicates that the O&M costs implied by original GTAP dataset are much higher than the IEA/NEA data. However, this deviation can also be attributed to our assumption of the cost structure of the transmission and distribution sector. If this assumption is altered to include a larger share of O&M in the total cost of transmission and distribution, some of the 'excess' O&M in generation will be absorbed by the sector. The own-use cost has a high deviation because the target for transmission and distribution was constructed from the 'similar-to-communications-sector' assumption and targets for generating technologies were constructed from GWh data, and the targets do not necessarily sum to the total own-use for electricity in

the GTAP data. While the error values for the United States and some other OECD countries are relatively low, the errors can be quite high for regions where the GTAP and IEA electricity production data are questionable and where the levelized cost is derived through averages.

[Figure 6](#page-24-0) shows that O&M costs are skewed to the right which indicates that GTAP, in general, has more O&M cost than the levelized cost data. However, at the left-hand extremum for both investment and O&M costs, [Figure 6](#page-24-0) shows that for some regions and technologies there is significantly less value in the GTAP data than what is implied by the levelized cost data. In other words, the estimated levelized costs are lower than the target data set. This could be partly a result of averages from mainly OECD countries used as levelized cost in developing and other low-income countries where no data is available (see [Figure 7\)](#page-25-0). For instance, a low-income country may face significantly less labor costs, which is a major component of O&M costs. Another disparity could be between the assumptions of parameters used to construct the levelized costs and similar assumptions in the GTAP Data Base. The nature of the deviations, shown in [Figure 6](#page-24-0) and [Figure 7,](#page-25-0) implies that the levelized cost data can be improved greatly. Furthermore, high-fidelity cost data could also lead to improvements in the construction of the GTAP electricity sector itself.

Figure 7. A histogram comparing deviation between estimated levelized costs and target levelized costs for OECD countries and non-OECD countries.

 $Notes:$ l_{ct}/l^oct plotted on log-scale. The larger mass of OECD regions around one indicates a closer match between disaggregate data and original GTAP data. Non-OECD counts (1408 non-fixed values) are scaled to OECD counts (1111 non-fixed values) for comparison.

Source: GTAP-Power Data Base, erp.har, header: ELCO and author's calculations.

Table 9. Percent deviation from non-fixed target levelized cost for each generating technology for the United States.

| Levelized cost | T&D | NuclearBL | \sim oal BL | GasBL | WindBL | HvdroBL | OtherBL | GasP | OilP | SolarP |
|----------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|----------|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|----------|----------|--------------------------|
| Investment | -10.5% | 5.0% | 10.0% | $-16.9%$ | -4.1% | $-7.5%$ | $-5.4%$ | $-17.2%$ | $-16.1%$ | $-9.6%$ |
| Fuel | -19.2% | $\overline{}$ | 63.0% | $-25.1%$ | $\overline{}$ | \sim | $-14.6%$ | $-25.1%$ | $-24.2%$ | $\overline{}$ |
| Own-use | -8.7% | 7.0% | 12.0% | $-15.2%$ | $-2.1%$ | -5.6% | $-3.5%$ | $-15.5%$ | $-14.4%$ | -7.7% |
| O&M | 34.0% | 57.0% | 64.0% | 24.0% | 43.0% | 38.0% | 41.0% | 41.0% | 24.0% | 35.0% |
| Effective tax | $\overline{}$ | $\overline{}$ | $\overline{}$ | | $\overline{}$ | $\overline{}$ | $\overline{}$ | | | |

Note: The average absolute deviation for non-fixed values is 21.3%.

Source: GTAP-Power Data Base, erp.har, header: ELCO.

Table 10. Percent deviation from non-fixed target shares of levelized cost in the total cost (i.e. cost structure) of each specific generating technology in the United States.

Note: The average absolute deviation for non-fixed values is 16.7%.

Source: GTAP-Power Data Base, erp.har, header: EL10.

Table 11. Percent deviation from non-fixed target relative cost intensity (i.e. row share) normalized by GWh for each levelized cost and generating technology in the United States.

Note: The average absolute deviation for non-fixed values is 12.3%.

Source: GTAP-Power Data Base, erp.har, header: ELC9.

4.3 Main result

[Table 12](#page-29-0) shows the input values to the disaggregated sectors for the United States. All of the original 62 costs were disaggregated using the method described above, and the results are then aggregated to 21 sectors for analysis (See Appendix A for sectoral mapping). The values are the sum of sources and type dimensions. With the exception of a capital subsidies to solar power ('SolarP') and balancing of the capital across the other users, the hidden dimensions are allocated in identical proportions.

The fuel sectors (i.e. coal, gas, gas distribution, oil, and petroleum products) are allocated to the corresponding generating technology. Coal enters 'CoalBL', Oil enters 'OilP' only as there is no GWh generated from oil technology as base load in the United States. Gas extraction and gas distribution enter in equal proportion to 'GasBL' and 'GasP'. However, the proportion of gas fuels in 'GasP' to gas fuels in 'GasBL' is greater than the proportion of GWh in 'GasP' to 'GasBL' due to a higher levelized cost of fuel for peak gas production (i.e. less efficient production from peak-type technologies). The opposite is true when looking at capital to the gas generating technologies because 'GasBL' is more capital intensive than 'GasP'. A portion of petroleum products also enter 'GasBL' and 'GasP' in order to reach the levelized cost target (i.e. the total gas inputs in GTAP were insufficient). The petroleum and coal products sector in GTAP contains many different energy fuels (e.g. coke, refinery gas, diesel), so it is difficult to distinguish the actual composition of this sector. As discussed previously, some of these energy fuels may very well enter alternative types of production other than strictly oil technologies. These also enter in fixed proportion between gas technologies. Similarly, the relative levelized cost intensities between technologies is preserved when we look at the other levelized costs and generating technologies as well.

Recall from Section 3.3.1 that targets for each O&M cost are based on the balanced levelized input intensity, *P^r* , and expert assumptions of the probability of a cost entering T&D versus generation, *P^t* , and entering a specific technology, *Pg* . The probability tables, *P^t* and *P^g* , used in the disaggregation can be found in Appendix B. Focusing on two O&M sectors which had no additional assumptions beyond relative cost intensity between technologies, chemicals $\&$ rubber and non-ferrous metals, we see that the relative costs are similar across the technologies. The ratio of value of chemicals and rubber to non-ferrous metals is approximately 10.7 for each technology.

However, general assumptions can be made about many O&M sectors. First, water transport is allocated strictly to 'CoalBL' (i.e. *P*^{*t*}(*GEN*) = 1 and *P^{<i>g*}(CoalBL) = 1), since coal is generally the only fuel source which is transported domestically by waterway in the United States. Second, a 2/3 probability of *P^t (T&D)* was made for various sectors in the services set under the assumption that a majority of the sales, customer service, etc. of the utilizes fall under these sectors in transmission and distribution. This is a simple and somewhat arbitrary value, but demonstrates the ability to add expert intuition into the methodology. A similar method can be adopted to redistribute skilled and unskilled labor. This may require a balancing act between relative probabilities between types of labor within a technology and across technologies. The complex allocations of these two labor types in generation demonstrate how some of these assumptions may sacrifice transparency of the final results. These results show that the skilled to unskilled labor ratio is higher for 'NuclearBL' and renewable sources (i.e. 'WindBL' and 'SolarP') than fossil-fuel based generating technologies.

[Table 12](#page-29-0) shows the results for the United States. It is worth noting that the technological structure of the power sector differs greatly between countries (shown in [Figure 8\)](#page-28-0). Non-fuel-based technologies would be implicitly captures in the original GTAP Data Base as capital inputs to electricity. These technologies comprise a large share electricity production in many large economies (e.g. Brazil, Korea, Russia, Germany, US). The GTAP-Power Data Base captures the technological composition of the power sector to support CGE modeling of technology-specific policies.

Figure 8. The structure of the electric power for several large economies. *Source:* GTAP-Power Data Base, erp.har, header: GWHR.

| | T&D | NuclearBL | CoalBL | GasBL | WindBL | HydroBL | OilBL | OtherBL | GasP | HydroP | OilP | SolarP | Total |
|-----------------------------|----------|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|---------------------|---|--------------------------|----------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|-----------|
| | | | | | | Total electricity production by generating technology in GWh | | | | | | | |
| Total production | | 821,405 | 1,872,215 | 445,135 | 120,854 | 321,733 | $\mathbf{0}$ | 96,289 | 611,425 | $\mathbf{0}$ | 31,416 | 6,153 | 4,326,625 |
| Percent of total GWh | L, | 19.0% | 43.3% | 10.3% | 2.8% | 7.4% | 0.0% | 2.2% | 14.1% | 0.0% | 0.7% | 0.1% | 100% |
| Costs | | | | | | Cost of inputs to electricity sectors in millions of 2011 USD | | | | | | | |
| 1 Coal | | | 61,781.0 | | | | | | | | | \overline{a} | 61,781.0 |
| 2 Gas | | | $\overline{}$ | 2,131.0 | ÷, | | | \overline{a} | 3,953.0 | | | $\overline{}$ | 6,084.0 |
| 3 Gas distribution | | | $\overline{}$ | 9,248.0 | | | | | 17,150.0 | $\overline{}$ | | $\overline{}$ | 26,398.0 |
| 4 Oil | | | \sim | | \sim | | | | | \sim | 13.0 | \Box | 13.0 |
| 5 Petroleum & coal products | 12.9 | $\bar{}$ | \overline{a} | 5,563.0 | \overline{a} | | ÷, | 2,651.0 | 10,316.0 | \overline{a} | 5,081.0 | $\overline{}$ | 23,623.9 |
| 6 Agriculture and food | 4.0 | 2.8 | 2.8 | 0.2 | 0.3 | 0.6 | ÷. | 0.3 | 0.4 | \sim | 0.1 | 0.0 | 11.4 |
| 7 Mining | 1.1 | 1.7 | 0.2 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | \equiv | 0.0 | 0.0 | $\overline{}$ | 0.0 | 0.0 | 3.0 |
| 8 Non-metal minerals | 13.2 | 9.1 | 9.2 | 0.7 | 1.0 | 2.0 | L, | 0.9 | 1.2 | \sim | 0.3 | 0.0 | 37.5 |
| 9 Paper and textiles | 170.0 | 117.1 | 118.9 | 8.9 | 12.4 | 25.6 | \overline{a} | 11.9 | 14.9 | | 3.8 | 0.6 | 484.1 |
| 10 Chemicals and rubber | 520.0 | 358.0 | 364.0 | 27.2 | 37.9 | 78.4 | $\overline{}$ | 36.3 | 45.7 | \sim | 11.7 | 1.9 | 1,481.1 |
| 11 Non-ferrous metals | 95.5 | 65.8 | 66.8 | 5.0 | 7.0 | 14.4 | \sim | 6.7 | 8.4 | \overline{a} | 2.2 | 0.3 | 272.0 |
| 12 Ferrous metals | 102.1 | 70.3 | 71.4 | 5.3 | 7.4 | 15.4 | \blacksquare | 7.1 | 9.0 | $\overline{}$ | 2.3 | 0.4 | 290.8 |
| 13 Water transport | | $\overline{}$ | 1,371.0 | $\overline{}$ | $\bar{}$ | $\overline{}$ | ÷, | | $\overline{}$ | | $\overline{}$ | $\overline{}$ | 1,371.0 |
| 14 Air and land transport | 4,062.0 | 3,380.0 | 1,803.0 | 257.2 | 357.4 | 739.0 | $\overline{}$ | 342.6 | 431.1 | ÷ | 110.7 | 17.9 | 11,500.9 |
| 15 Retail | 1,319.0 | 908.0 | 922.0 | 69.1 | 96.1 | 199.0 | \sim | 92.2 | 116.0 | $\overline{}$ | 29.7 | 4.8 | 3,755.9 |
| 16 Services | 25,801.0 | 13,080.5 | 1,3280.0 | 994.7 | 1,383.5 | 2,862.1 | $\overline{}$ | 1,327.0 | 1,669.5 | $\overline{}$ | 428.1 | 69.4 | 60,895.8 |
| 17 Construction & machinery | 1,787.6 | 1,231.0 | 1,249.5 | 93.6 | 130.6 | 269.6 | \equiv | 124.8 | 156.7 | $\overline{}$ | 40.3 | 6.5 | 5,090.4 |
| 18 Tech_aspros | 456.0 | 631.0 | 320.0 | 24.0 | 66.7 | 69.0 | ÷. | 32.0 | 80.5 | $\overline{}$ | 20.7 | 1.7 | 1,701.6 |
| 19 Clerks | 4,097.0 | 705.0 | 716.0 | 53.6 | 74.6 | 154.0 | \overline{a} | 71.6 | 90.0 | | 23.1 | 3.7 | 5,988.6 |
| 20 Service shop | 204.0 | 134.0 | 273.0 | 20.5 | 14.2 | 58.8 | ω | 27.3 | 34.3 | $\overline{}$ | 8.8 | 0.7 | 775.6 |
| 21 Off_mgr_pros | 11,862.0 | 3,425.0 | 1,159.0 | 86.8 | 121.0 | 250.0 | \sim | 116.0 | 146.0 | $\overline{}$ | 37.4 | 6.1 | 17,209.3 |
| 22 Ag_othlowsk | 7,822.0 | 5,386.0 | 5,468.0 | 410.0 | 570.0 | 1,178.0 | \blacksquare | 546.0 | 687.0 | $\overline{}$ | 176.0 | 28.5 | 22,271.5 |
| 23 Capital | 22,159.0 | 23,626.0 | 40,623.0 | 3,409.0 | 7,004.0 | 26,577.0 | \equiv | 2,140.0 | 3,002.0 | $\overline{}$ | 298.0 | 1,129.0 | 129967.0 |
| 24 PTAX | 5,210.0 | $-4,753.0$ | 8,481.0 | 2,016.0 | -107.0 | 545.0 | \sim | 72.0 | 2,770.0 | \sim | 142.0 | -7.0 | 14,369.0 |
| | 856,98.5 | 483,78.3 | 138,079.7 | 24,423.9 | 9,777.1 | 33,037.9 | \overline{a} | 7,605.7 | 40,681.6 | $\overline{}$ | 6,429.1 | 1,264.6 | 395,376.4 |
| | 21.7% | 12.2% | 34.9% | 6.2% | 2.5% | 8.4% | $\overline{}$ | 1.9% | 10.3% | | 1.6% | 0.32% | 100% |

Table 12. Main result: an electricity-detailed disaggregation of the GTAP electricity sector for the United States in 2011.

Notes: Rows 1 – 5 are associated with fuel costs, 6-22 with O&M costs, 23 with capital, and 24 with effective tax. Own-use is not shown in this table. May not sum to totals due to rounding.

5. Looking back at the GTAP Data Base construction

There may exist some opportunity to reconcile the aggregate electricity value implied by the disaggregated levelized cost data with those from original aggregate GTAP electricity sector. [Table 13](#page-30-0) below shows the aggregate value of inputs to the electricity sector in the US implied by the disaggregated data compared to those in the GTAP Data Base with an aggregate electricity sector. The latter is a constraint on disaggregation, so it is also identical to the aggregate electricity sector in the GTAP-Power Data Base. This section presents *ideas*, as opposed to guidelines, on how such a reconciliation might be performed in subsequent versions.

Table 13. Deviation between total aggregate inputs to the electricity sector implied by the disaggregate data (used as targets) and the original values in the GTAP 9 Data Base 'ely' sector (used as consistency constraints) for the United States.

| | | Total aggregate inputs to electricity (millions of 2011 USD) | |
|---------------|------------------------------|--|-----------|
| \mathcal{C} | Aggregate value implied by | GTAP 'ely' sector | Deviation |
| | disaggregate data (Q, L^0) | (u_c) | |
| Inv | 131,763 | 129,967 | 1.4% |
| Fuel | 112,309 | 117,899 | -4.7% |
| $Own-$ use | 26,002 | 26,002 | 0.0% |
| O&M | 92,575 | 133,139 | -30.5% |
| Tax | 14,370 | 14,370 | 0.0% |
| Total | 377,020 | 421,378 | -10.5% |
| | | | |

Source: GTAP-Power Data Base, erp.har, headers: ZLCO and ELYT.

On one hand there is the "bottom-up" data constructed from levelized costs and production levels. Recall that due to the heterogeneous reality of electricity markets these levelized costs can be misleading in many ways (Joskow, 2011; Hirth et al. 2014). On the other hand the aggregate GTAP electricity sector is constructed from targets that are derived from various sources, namely contributed I-O tables and IEA energy data. Even in the long-run, it is unlikely that the I-O tables contributed by the GTAP community will include all or even some of the electricity sub-sectors described here. Many contributions may not even include a separated electricity sector. Therefore, the new electricity sectors described here will likely remain a disaggregation of an aggregate electricity sector in the main GTAP Data Base construction.

Therefore, despite the known limitations, there may be opportunity to use the levelized cost data to create targets for the aggregate electricity sector in GTAP, especially where quality data may not exist to target the sector otherwise. This would help reconcile the "bottom-up" and "top-down" perspectives of the electricity sector.

There are at least three distinct cases in a possible aggregate electricity reconciliation exercise. For each GTAP region: i) the levelized cost data is more "trustworthy" than the GTAP target, ii) the GTAP target is more "trustworthy" than the levelized cost data, or iii) they are equally "trustworthy" (or equally "untrustworthy"). In the first two cases, it may be best to simply use the target the researcher deems more "trustworthy." However, there should be some additional introspection when these deviate by such large margins.

The third case may be more interesting. Typically, the quality of the data follows the collection efforts of the region and both the bottom-up and top-down data are either "trustworthy" or "untrustworthy," rather than the two cases described before. Still differences inevitably arise, as shown for the US in [Table](#page-30-0) [13.](#page-30-0) In this case, there might be two options based on the cost structure component of the data. If the cost structure of the aggregate GTAP electricity sector is "trustworthy," a simple average of the two data sources for each input cost to the aggregate electricity sector could suffice. What might be a more likely case, is that the top-down total value in the electricity might be accurate since it can be easily constructed form a price of electricity and total production (demand-side), but the cost structure is created from assumption rather than data. Here, the targets for inputs to the aggregate electricity can be constructed by taking the total electricity sector value from the top-down data and imposing the *aggregate* cost structure (GWh-weighted average levelized cost plus T&D) implied by the bottom-up data.

These methods might help decrease the gap between the bottom-up and topdown modeling using the GTAP-Power Data Base. This section documents *ideas* gathered from this particular disaggregation exercise and not necessarily the path GTAP will continue in the future.

6. Conclusions

This work documents a disaggregation of the GTAP electricity sector into transmission and distribution, base load generating technologies, and peak generating technologies for use in CGE models. The method leverages available data and reasonable assumptions to construct the database in a replicable and transparent manner. Application to CGE and integrated assessment models which is built on the GTAP Data Base is straightforward.

The resulting electricity-detailed GTAP-Power Data Base can be used by researchers modeling electricity, energy, and climate policies using social accounting and CGE methods. The intent of this work is to identify strengths and limitations in database construction for consistency and continuous improvement in the GTAP community.

There are many limitations to this work that offer opportunity for continuous improvement given additional data sources (namely **L⁰** , β, and γ). Some of these are listed below:

Stage 1 of the methodology disaggregates the power sectors by fuel into power sectors by load-type (i.e. base and peak load). The base-peak split in this stage could be improved or, given data, these could split into distinct technologies (e.g. steam, combined-cycle, combustion turbine). The latter case would give much better estimates of cost structures as well as allow for more detailed modeling. GTAP users can help by providing region-specific base and peak load splits $(β)$.

The assumptions on the cost structure of transmission and distribution greatly influence the results for the generation technologies. GTAP users can help by providing region-specific base and peak load splits $(γ)$.

Additional coverage of levelized cost data would reduce deviation between the original data sets (**L⁰**).

The levelized costs used in this version is for new generating capacity. In GTAP many countries have capital values much lower than those implied by the levelized costs and production data. This may be due to depreciated (old) generating capacity in the country. Adjusting for this may bring estimates of levelized capital costs more in line with the GTAP data.

Coverage of production and input taxes for specific electricity technologies is currently limited (**L⁰**).

As discussed in Section 5, the disaggregated data could be used as an additional data source for the GTAP 'ely' sector. This might help reduce the deviations between the bottom-up and top-down models.

By making the disaggregation method transparent and publicly-available, the intent is to continuously improve the method and foundational data via the social accounting and CGE research community.

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Appendix B. O&M cost share assumptions

The share tables, *P^t* and *P^g* , are for all the original GTAP costs which are mapped to the analysis costs in [Table 12](#page-29-0) as shown in Appendix A. The two tables below only show additional assumptions made beyond equal probabilities between alternatives (i.e. 0.5/0.5 in *P^t* and 1/11 for all generation tech in *P^g*).

Table B.1. Probability of cost occurring in transmission and distribution versus generation, *P^t*

| GTAP 9 sector | T&D | GEN |
|---|----------|---------------|
| Water transport (wtp) | Ω | |
| Communications (cmn) | 0.67 | 0.33 |
| Other financial intermediation (ofi) | 0.67 | 0.33 |
| Other business services (obs) | 0.67 | 0.33 |
| Dwellings (dwe) | 0.67 | 0.33 |
| Technically skilled professionals (Tech_aspros) | 0.4 | 0.6° |
| Clerks | 0.8 | 0.2 |
| Service and shop floor workers (Service_shop) | 0.4 | 0.6° |
| Office and managerial professionals (Off_mgr_pros) | 0.8 | 0.2 |
| Agriculture and other low-skilled workers (Ag_othlowsk) | 0.5 | 0.5 |
| REST | 0.5 | 0.5 |

Table B.2. Probability of cost occurring in different generation technologies, P^g. Rows may not sum to one due to rounding.

Water transport is allocated exclusively to coal transportation, which means *Pt (T&D)* = 0. Additional weight is allocated to transmission and distribution for communications, financial intermediation, business services, and dwellings

l

¹⁴ Other Mining: mining of metal ores, uranium, gems. other mining and quarrying

¹⁵ Other Transport: road, rail ; pipelines, auxiliary transport activities; travel agencies

because of additional customer interaction with final electricity users (e.g. billing, customer service).

The GTAP sector 'omn' contains uranium, but not exclusively uranium, so we assume that NuclearBL is ten times more likely to have 'omn' costs. Water transport is exclusive to CoalBL. Corollary to this, air and land transport is assumed half as likely to be a cost for coal. Coal may still arrive via rail and truck. Furthermore, other non-fuel transportation costs may arise here. The weighting scheme for the five labor classes attempts to elicit reasonable labor splits within and between technologies. These assumptions result in interesting proportions within a technology which can then be refined by the researcher.

Appendix C. Levelized costs of electricity

APPENDIX D. Flow chart for constructing the GTAP-Power Data Base

Figure D.1. Flow chart from input data to the input files and folders to the .bat file which outputs the GTAP-Power Data Base. File names with "yyyy" designate the corresponding base year for the disaggregation. Several GEMPACK commands were adapted from SplitCom.