Accepted Manuscript

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PII: S0378-4371(16)30889-5

DOI: http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/j.physa.2016.11.083

Reference: PHYSA 17739

To appear in: Physica A

Received date: 18 August 2016



Please cite this article as: F. Hu, S. Zhao, T. Bing, Y. Chang, Hierarchy in industrial structure: The cases of China and the USA, *Physica A* (2016), http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/j.physa.2016.11.083

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Hierarchy in industrial structure: The cases of China and the USA

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Highlights

We compare the evolution of industrial structures of China and the USA.

We visualize the hierarchy structure of industrial structure.

We investigate the original of hierarchy in industrial structure, as well as its

economic performance.

Empirical analysis suggests that industrial structure with a moderate

hierarchy might be better for economic growth.

Abstract: Although several studies have investigated the industrial structure from the perspective

of network, the focus is mainly on the identification of key sectors, and little is known about the

hierarchical structure, and its impact on economic performance. Using the World Input-Output

Dataset (WIOD), this paper performs a comparative study of the hierarchy in industrial structures

of China and the USA. Specifically, the hierarchy is generally confirmed in the networks of

industrial structure, although in different levels for China and the USA: the level of hierarchy in

industrial structure of the USA is much higher than that of China. To intuitively comprehend the

evolution over time in a much visualized way, the backbone network of industrial structure is also

presented, leading to interesting insights. Further, the impact of the hierarchy in network on

economic performance is also explored, and the result suggests that a hierarchy within a moderate

range might be better for economic growth.

Keywords: Hierarchy; Industrial structure; Minimum spanning tree; Key sector

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