



Writing & Presenting the Report/Paper

Single Country CGE, 2024 © cgemod



1

1



Outline

- Audience
- Question
- Data
- Experiments and Settings
- Limitations
- Report
 - ‘Backstory’
 - Experiments
 - Analyses

Single Country CGE, 2024 © cgemod



2

2





Audience: Report

- To Policy makers
 - Report
 - Policy relevance
 - Real world policy analyses
 - Core data
 - Concise
 - Presentation
 - Hook: policy question/issue
 - Impacts on agents: income distribution; government budget; trade balance; etc

Single Country CGE, 2024© cgemod 3

3



Audience: Paper

- To Academics
 - Paper
 - Novel approach
 - New theory
 - Interesting question
 - Formal exposition of theory/approach
 - Conference Presentation
 - Hook: new theory/approach
 - Impacts: generic economic/social implications

Single Country CGE, 2024© cgemod 4

4



Question

- Work starts with the question
- Focus on ‘Evidence Based Policy Analyses’
 - What is the question?
 - What is the relevance of the question to policy makers?
 - What are the data, are they adequate, do they contain real information, etc.?

**Complete and write up the ‘backstory’
before proceeding to the experiments and
analyses**

Single Country CGE, 2024 © cgemod  5

5



The Modeller from Hell!!!

- Highly sophisticated model
- (highly) non-linear equations
- Results ‘broadly’ consistent with theory, but ..
- Results cannot be simply explained
- The model was programmed correctly (by me)
- The data have some issues (done by the RA)

KISS principal

Acknowledgements to Mark Horridge

Single Country CGE, 2024 © cgemod  6

6



Data

- SAM – transactions data
 - Are the accounts appropriate?
 - Relevant tax instruments
 - RHG
 - Factors
 - Commodities/Activities
 - Are the data meaningful?
- Satellite Accounts (optional)
 - Factor use
 - Factor ownership
- Elasticities

Single Country CGE, 2024 © cgemod 

7

7



Experiments and Settings

- Explicit statement of experiments
 - Not ALL but those relevant to the presented results
 - It is enough to note other experiments and provide details in appendices or on request
 - Experiments may NOT be exact replications of reality
 - Easy for academic papers; tricky for policy reports
- Explicit statement of Macroeconomic and Market Clearing settings
 - Audiences need this information to interpret your results

Single Country CGE, 2024 © cgemod 

8

8



ANALYSES

≠

**TABLES OF
SUMMARY RESULTS**

Single Country CGE, 2024 © cgemod  9

9



Analyses

- Results derive from
 - Model – behaviours
 - Data – shares, elasticities, etc.
 - Shocks
- Know your
 - Data
 - Shocks

**Follow the behaviours and prices
in the model**

Single Country CGE, 2024 © cgemod  10

10

 **Unexpected Results**

- Results that are inconsistent with your and your ‘bosses’ priors can be difficult
 - Are the assumptions correct?
 - Are there errors in
 - Model
 - Data
 - Experiments?
 - Are your analyses right?

If NO errors, results can be very interesting

DIG, DIG, DIG!!!

Single Country CGE, 2024 © cgemod  11

11

 **In retrospect everything coming out of mathematical models of economic systems is obvious. But getting to the insight that the results are obvious can be challenging.**

Nonetheless, it is rewarding.
(source: GTAP PPT)

Single Country CGE, 2024 © cgemod  12

12



Limitations

- Openly acknowledge the limitations of your analyses
 - There are assumptions in the model
 - You have made closure and market clearing decisions
 - There are limits to the accuracy of the data
 - NB: Some transactions may have very large error bounds but are included because they are known to exist but there is little information

Audiences often contain experts. Not acknowledging the limitations just gives them an easy target (you!!)

Single Country CGE, 2024 © cgemod  13

13



Sensitivity Analyses

- Report the results of your sensitivity analyses
 - Range of shocks
 - Macroeconomic closures
 - Market clearing
 - Elasticities
 - Parameters

If you do not, you will be challenged on your results and analyses.

Single Country CGE, 2024 © cgemod  14

14



“If you can provide a study that does justice to what your audience knows already about the situation, and which also provides one clear insight that they didn’t have already, then you are likely to make a sale.”

Robert McDougall

Single Country CGE, 2024 © cgemod  15

15



*Writing & Presenting the
Report/Paper*

The End

Single Country CGE, 2024 © cgemod  16

16