

Thesis Research Proposal

Sustainable Growth Strategies in China and the EU: a Comparative Analysis

Student: Denys Bodunov, MCS 2023

Supervisor: Professor Jiajun Lu, 陆嘉骏

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浙江大学 国际联合商学院
INTERNATIONAL BUSINESS SCHOOL
ZHEJIANG UNIVERSITY

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Structure

1

Introduction

Why is the proposed topic relevant? What is the background of the problem that this research will be addressing?

2

Research questions and Literature review

What are the research questions? What are the main insights extracted from the literature that are relevant to the stated research questions?

3

Methodology and the Timeline

What methodological framework will be used? What are the phases of the research project?

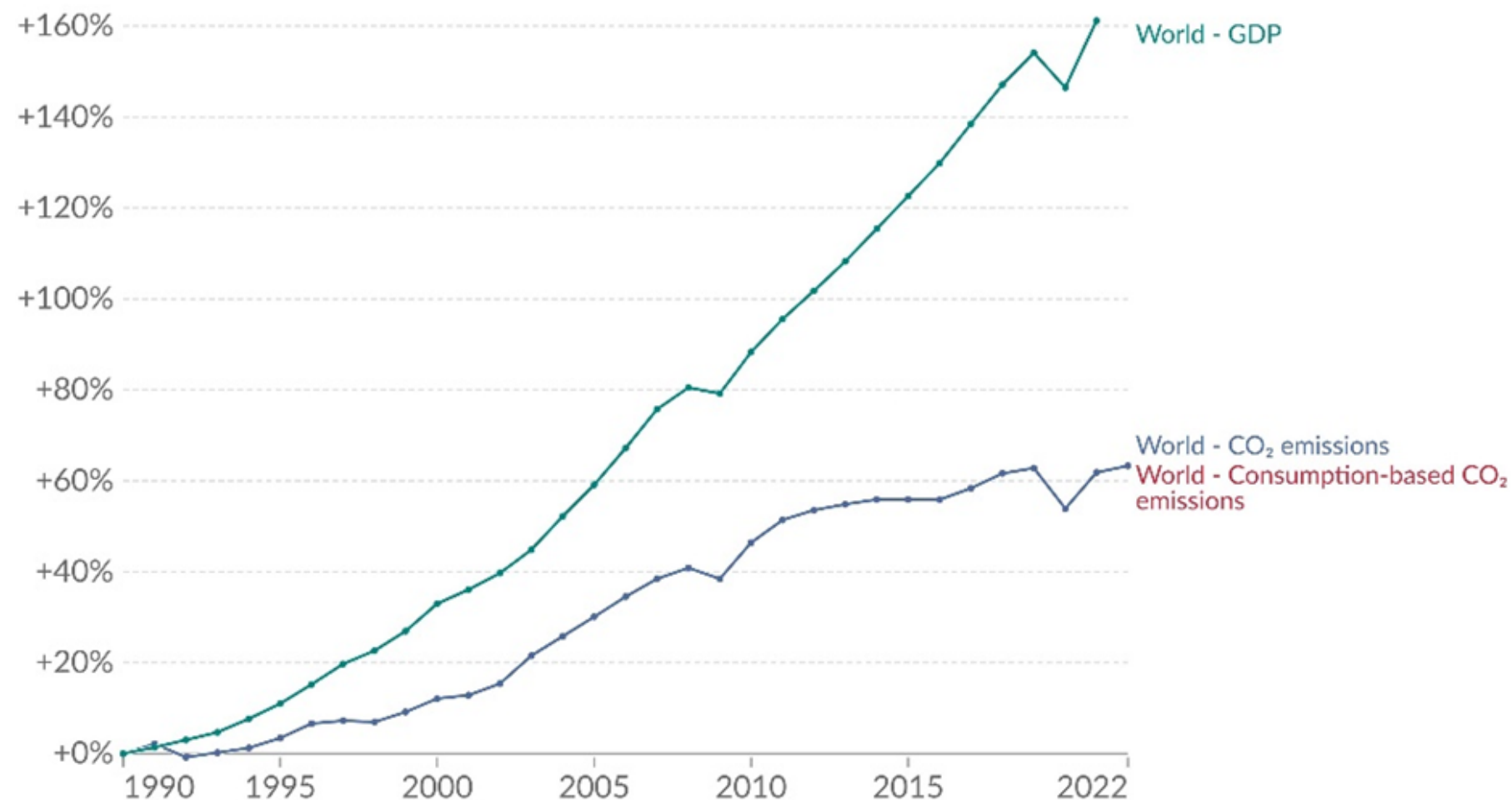


Correlation between economic growth and GHG emissions

Change in CO₂ emissions and GDP, World

Consumption-based emissions¹ are national emissions that have been adjusted for trade. This measures fossil fuel and industry emissions². Land-use change is not included.

Our World in Data

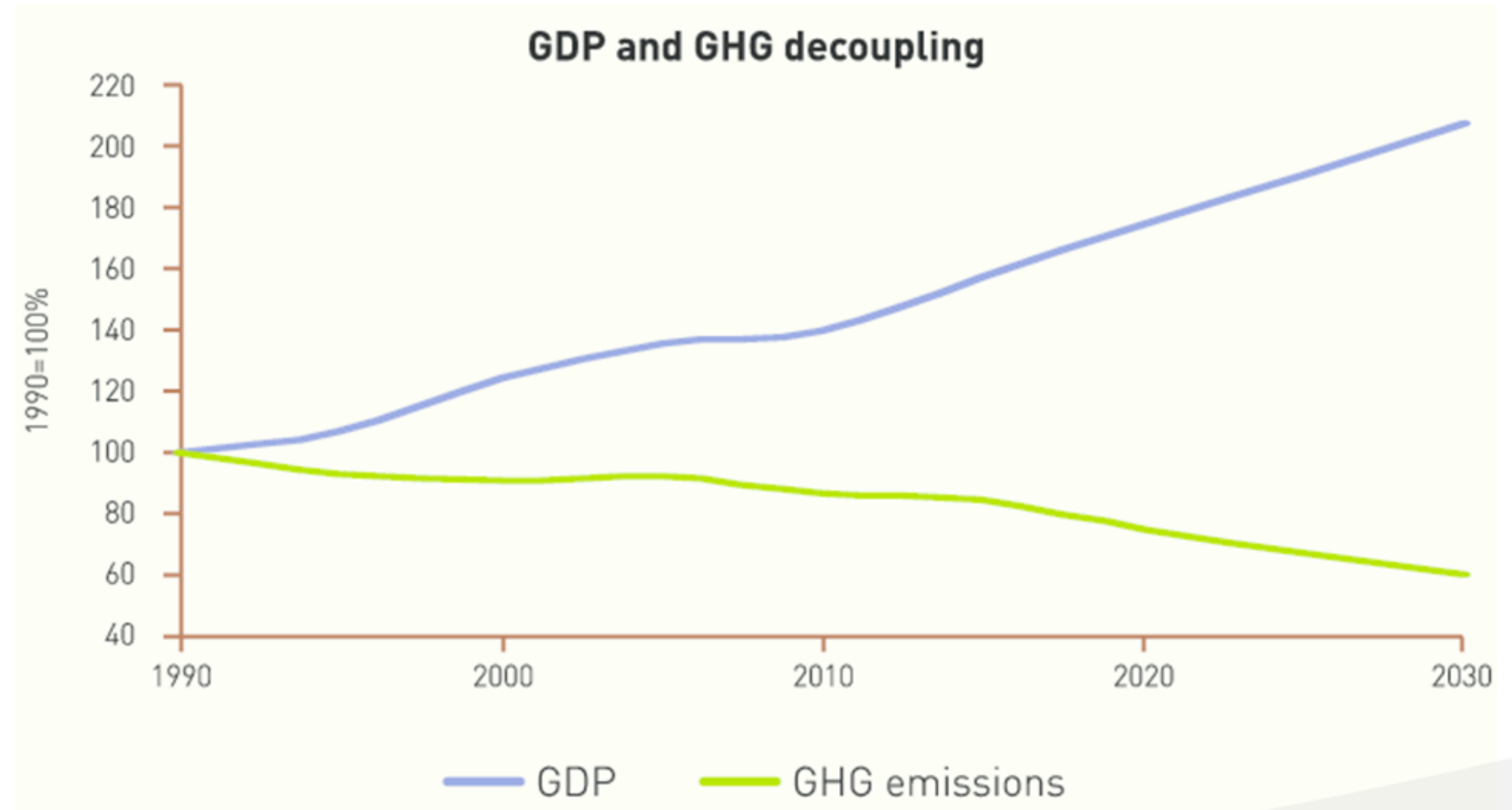


- **Earth's average temperature** has **risen by 0.7°C** since the industrial revolution, largely **due to human-caused greenhouse gas emissions**.
- Global surface temperature **has increased faster since 1970** than in any other 50-year period in the **last 2000 years**, emphasizing the recent acceleration of climate change.
- **Slowing economic growth is not a solution** since it may lead to economic downturn, increased unemployment, and social unrest.



Solution in 'Decoupling'

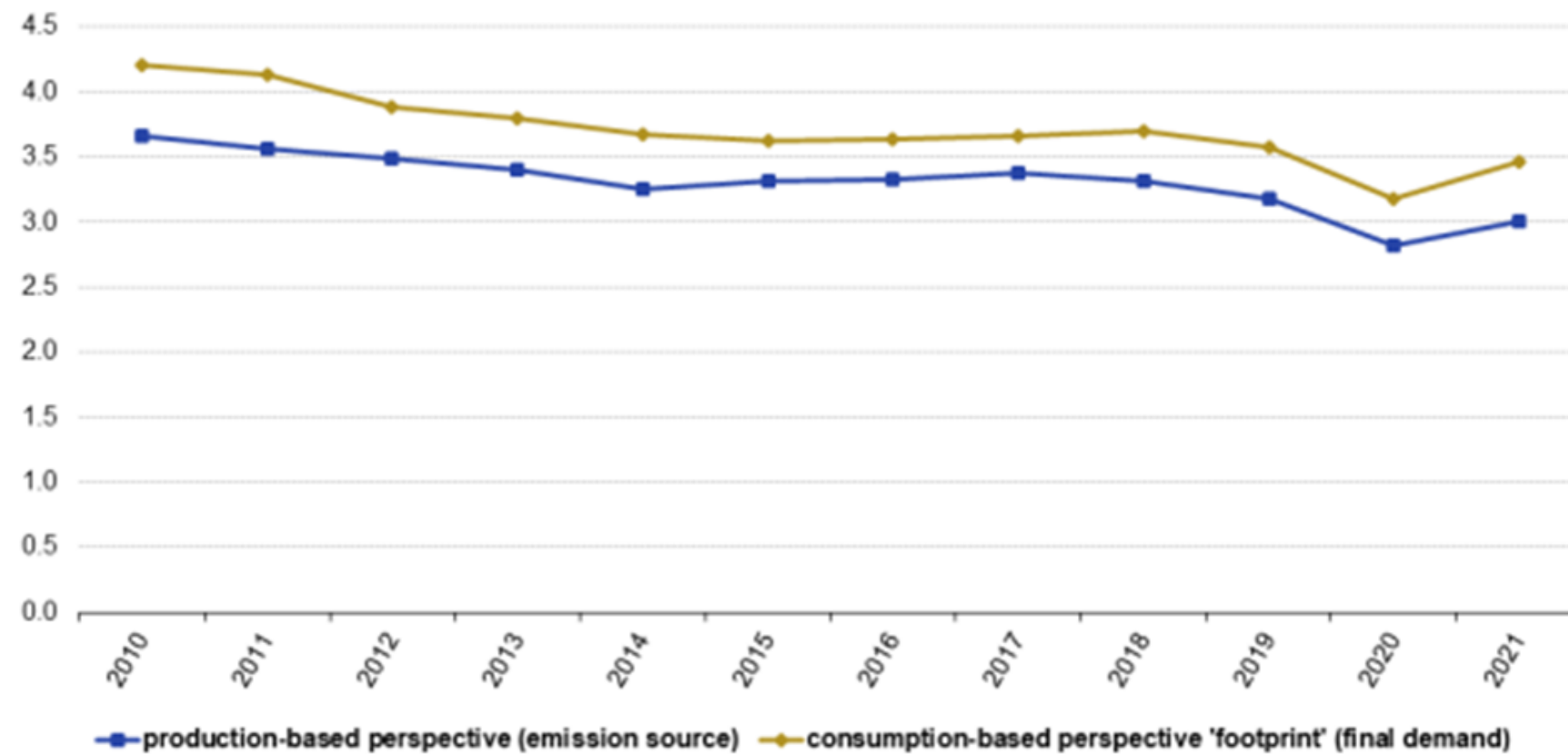
- While the **necessity of 'decoupling'** economic growth from the growth in GHG emissions is **acknowledged**, the **contexts** and magnitude of this challenge **differ** from country to country.
- **China and the EU**, both strong economic and geopolitical global players, represent **compelling cases** in the challenge of transitioning to sustainable global economy.





China and the EU: differences in contexts

CO₂-emissions by perspective, EU, 2010-2021
(billion tonnes)

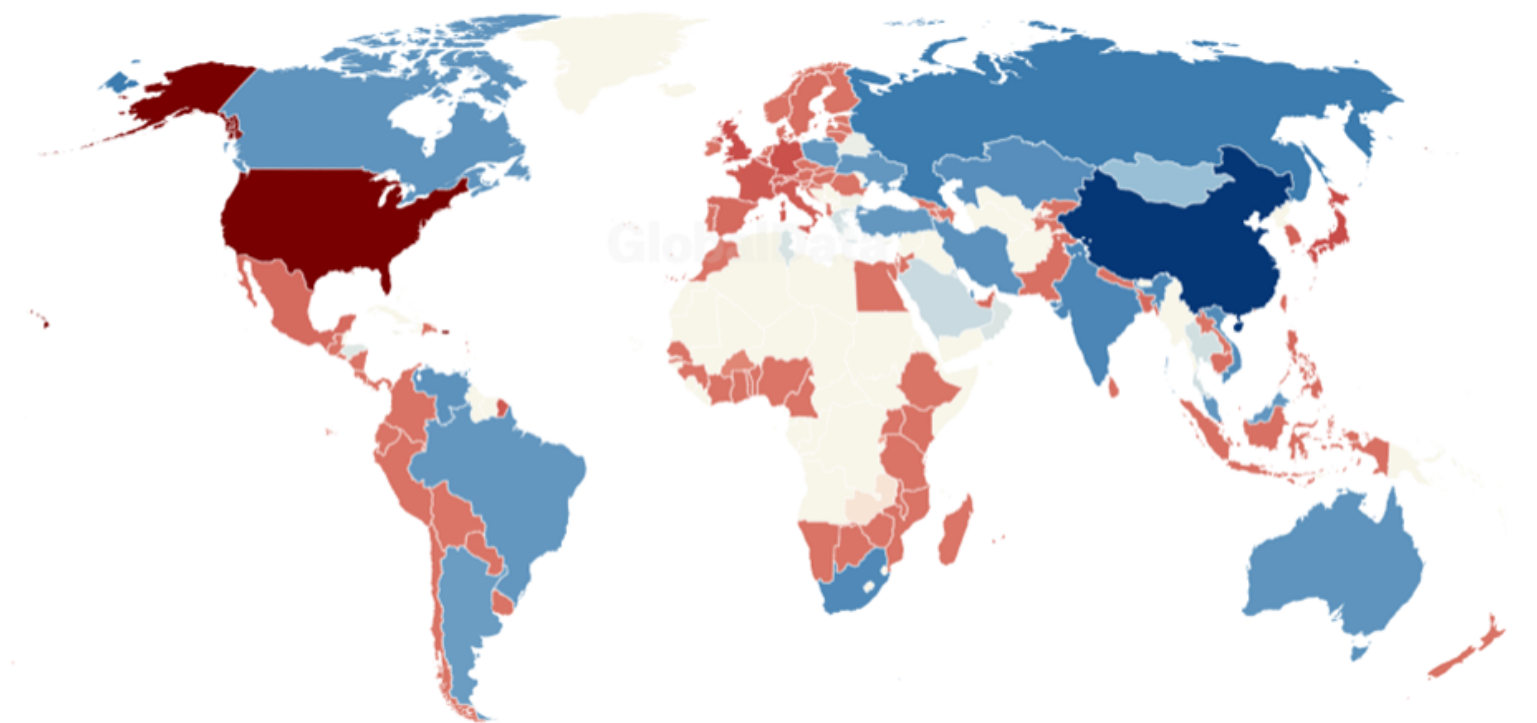
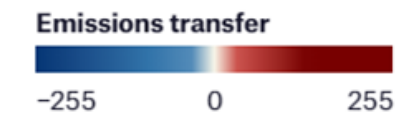


Source: Eurostat (online data code: env_ac_co2fp)



Global emissions adjusted for trade

2020 annual emissions from consumption minus emissions from production (territorial) Mt CO₂



Source: Global Carbon Project 2022



Research questions

How efficient are the approaches to the challenge of decoupling economic growth from greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions growth in the EU and China, and what insights can be gained from their comparison?

Main question

Sub-questions:



How can China and the EU learn from each other's experiences in implementing circular economy?



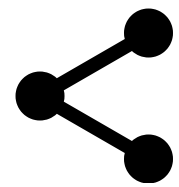
How do differences in political structures and governance models influence the design and implementation of green transition policies in China and the EU?



Which specific green technologies hold the most promising potential for driving sustainable growth in each region, and how can their adoption be accelerated?



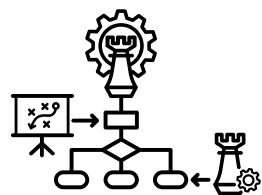
Literature review insights



Certain **sustainable practices and strategies** at the business level **hold potential irrespective of country-specific contexts**. These include, but are not limited to, supply chain collaboration, coordination actions, and various organizational designs.



There is evidence of **gender equality practices positively contributing** to the completion of a set of **Sustainable Development Goals** in the context of various countries all around the world, including China and EU member states.



The sustainability challenges require **holistic approaches** that integrate a complete set of stakeholders - governments, international and non-government organizations, businesses, and consumers.



The role of **innovative solutions** in the transition to sustainable economies is crucial.



Methodology



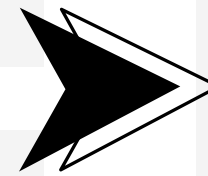
Data Collection

- Quantitative macroeconomic and sectoral data on relevant indicators collected through reputable sources.
- Qualitative data collected through a review of relevant policy documents and case studies.



Data analysis

- Quantitative data: statistical analysis techniques.
- Qualitative data: thematic analysis.

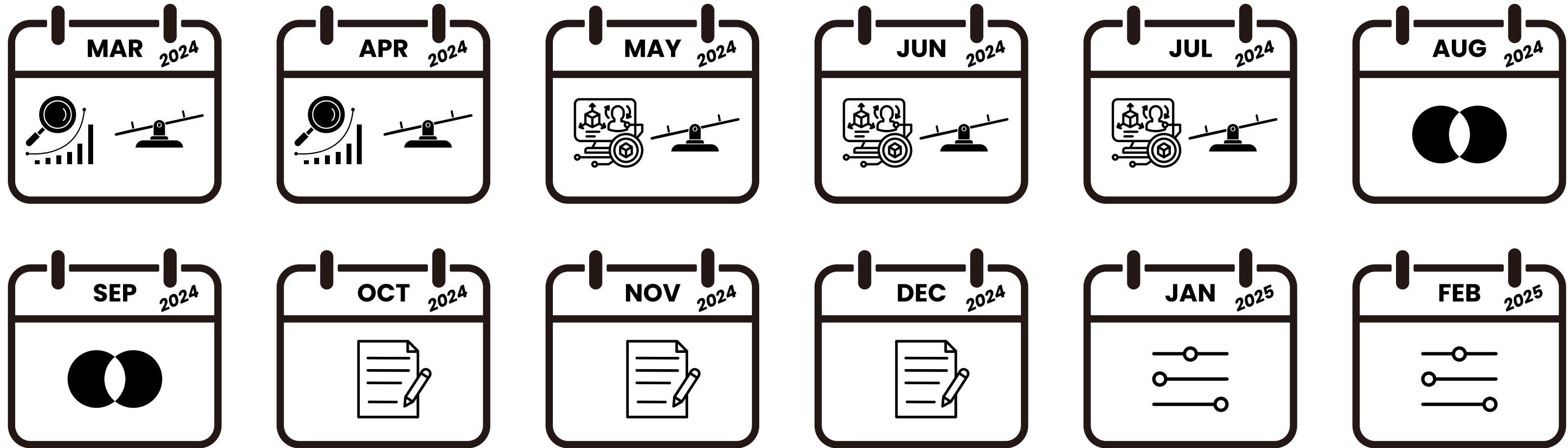


Comparative Framework Development

- Outlining specific dimensions for conducting a comparative analysis.
- Testing the framework for its holistic nature/comprehensiveness.



Timeline



- Data Collection
- Comparative Framework Development
- Data Analysis
- Comparative Analysis
- Thesis Composition
- Formatting & Finalizing



Thank you 谢谢

Q&A