#### **RESEARCH ARTICLE**



# Determinants of consumption-based carbon emissions in Chile: an application of non-linear ARDL

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### **Abstract**

In recent years, a growing number of scholars have employed various proxies of environmental degradation to understand the reasons behind rising environmental degradation. However, very few studies have considered consumption-based carbon emissions, even though a clear understanding of the impact of consumption patterns is essential for redirecting the pattern to more sustainable consumption. Thus, this study takes a step forward by using consumption-based carbon emissions (CCO<sub>2</sub>) as a proxy of environmental degradation using the novel non-linear ARDL technique for Chilefrom 1990 to 2018. To the best understanding of the investigators, no prior studies have investigated the drivers of consumption-based carbon emissions utilizing non-linear ARDL. The study employed ADF and KSS (non-linear) tests to check the data series' stationary level. Additionally, the symmetric and asymmetric ARDL approaches are utilized to explore cointegration and long-run linkages. According to the results, there is no symmetric cointegration among the variables; however, the empirical estimates reveal a long-run asymmetric connection between the indicators and CCO2 emissions. The novel results from the asymmetric ARDL indicate that negative and positive changes in economic growth deteriorate the quality of the environment. Interestingly, a reduction in economic growth makes a more dominant contribution to environmental degradation. Moreover, positive changes in renewable energy usage improve the quality of Chile's environment, inferring that the country can achieve a reduction in environmental degradation by boosting renewable energy consumption. Surprisingly, the study found that technological innovation is ineffective in reducing consumption-based carbon emissions, which implies that Chile's technological innovation is not directed towards manufacturing green technology. Finally, the policy implications are discussed with respect to reducing consumption-based carbon emissions.

 $\textbf{Keywords} \ \ Consumption-based \ carbon \ emissions \cdot Economic \ growth \cdot Renewable \ energy \ consumption \cdot Technological \ innovation \cdot NARDL$ 

# Introduction

Climate change is a worldwide concern that requires even more focus than Covid-19. This impacts the whole Earth negatively with multifaceted problems such as global warming, melting of Antarctica and rising sea levels, reduction in the availability of water and upsurge in disease, and the extinction of wild and aquatic creatures (Akinsola and

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Adebayo 2021; Wang et al. 2021b). In a bid to curtail the increase in climate change and global warming, the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) held a meeting in Paris in 2015. The Paris Agreement, advocates for the commitment of both developed and developing countries to maintaining a temperature level under or marginally above the preindustrial level. Following the ratification of the Paris Agreement by many countries, including Chile, which is premised on maintaining the temperature level of 2 °C above preindustrial level and 1.5 °C, the individual countries (developed and developing) need to work towards the stipulated target (Umar et al. 2020; Alola and Kirikkaleli 2020; Adebayo and Kirikkaleli 2021).

One of the Paris Agreement targets, as specified under Articles 2 and 7, is to encourage the capacity to adapt to the negative impacts of climate change, boost climate resilience, and lower the level of greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions. In this regard, Chile is one of the countries identified as being a signatory of the Paris Agreement. The country has adopted various policies in order to achieve this target, such as actions aimed at protecting people and their rights, livelihoods, and ecosystems. The steps include the urgent and immediate need to identify the causes of emissions in each sector at the national and subnational scale. Consumption patterns represent one of the drivers causing the increase in emissions. This is classified as consumption-based emissions. Sustainable consumption with sustainable production styles is part of the roadmap towards the achievement of the 2030 global goals for sustainable development as enshrined in the Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 12. A clear understanding of the impact of consumption patterns on emissions will help redirect the pattern to more sustainable consumption. Mitigating climate change requires the identification of causes and ways of alleviating them, and one of the causes of climate change is the production of carbon emissions from different sources. Economic activities targeting growth and development, such as manufacturing involving the production and consumption of products, constitute one of the causes of climate change. The transition from the agricultural age to the industrialization age has paved the way for excessive utilization of fossil fuels, which lead to the pollution of earth bodies (air, land, and water bodies) that constitute the environment.

The economic activities that give rise to emissions can be viewed from the angles of consumption and production. Production-based emissions include all carbon footprints from the production of goods and services domestically and overseas, while consumption-based emissions are caused by the country's final demand for goods and services that are largely produced abroad. While the production-based carbon emissions have been intensively researched, this has been criticized due to the lack of focus on carbon leakage issues in trade liberalization (Peters and Hertwich 2008; Munksgaard et al. 2005; Su and Ang 2014). Direct emission levels and emission

patterns from production activities have been the focus of research in terms of the effects of climate policy and mitigation initiatives. However, more scholars have proposed a different perspective with a direct and more reasonable means of measuring emissions from end users, defined as consumption-based carbon emissions (Barrett et al. 2013; Ferng 2003; Feng et al. 2013; Brizga et al. 2017). A general rise in income mostly triggers an increase in consumption, and this is considered as one of the greatest drivers of resource—use and environmental degradation globally.

Global economic activities are significantly driving consumption, and this will provide an insight into the role of consumption in driving global emissions. Consumer behavior and lifestyles have a major impact on energy use and trigger emissions. An increasing proportion of world greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions emanating from production can be linked to consumer behaviors and patterns. Various different studies have been based on different indices such as economic growth, agriculture, non-renewables, trade, and foreign direct investment, with regard to their capacity to induce climate change via carbon emissions with minimal attention on consumption-based carbon emission. Trade openness with regard to the flow of goods and services and increased economic activities have been identified as being important factors that explain carbon emissions (Liu et al. 2015). The benefit of this accounting perspective is the accurateness of measuring emissions without double counting. This is possible by ensuring that emissions from goods and services produced for exports are excluded and counted at the end-user's point. Among the benefits of consumption, carbon accounting includes sustainable consumption together with sustainable production, which is in line with SDG 12, and assists a country with respect to its national commitment in curtailing emissions at the national level, thereby conforming to the requirements of the UNFCC Paris Agreement.

International trade degrades the environment through carbon leakage by shifting carbon emission-intensive industries to other economies. In their efforts to reduce the impacts of emissions on climate change, countries around the world have implemented different measures to mitigate carbon emissions, such as technological innovation and the adoption of renewable energy sources. Technological innovation can be achieved in various ways, but research and development (R&D) has been identified as an efficient way of reducing emissions (Zhang et al. 2017). The effectiveness of technological innovation towards curbing emission has been researched by various scholars (Lee and Min 2015; Zhang and Da 2015; Cai and Zhou 2014). An aspect of technological innovation is storage technology and carbon capture, which can control CO<sub>2</sub> emissions (Huaman and Tian 2014). Among the initiatives that have gained global acceptance in pollution control is the adoption of renewable sources of energy (Chiu and Chang 2009; Gessinger 1997) in the execution of economic and production activities.



No study has explored the drivers of CCO<sub>2</sub> emissions in Chile. Also, in the previous literature, most studies have adopted linear techniques to study the factors causing the increase in CCO<sub>2</sub> emissions. On this note, this study aims to investigate the determinants and possible ways of mitigating consumption-based-carbon emission for the case of Chile. Consumption-based carbon emissions play a direct and relevant role in climate policies. As previously noted, Chile has been ranked as one of the most committed countries in terms of controlling its national emissions to reduce the impact of climate change. It has introduced various strategies to reduce fossil fuel consumption and augment renewable energy consumption, and this makes the country a good example for understanding its effort to mitigate CCO<sub>2</sub>. Chile is projected to exceed its 2020 pledge with some of its policies, including the adoption of the carbon tax and unconventional renewable energy laws aimed at achieving its carbon neutrality and energy transition targets, and the strategy to divert electricity production from coal-based electricity supply to other sources by retiring its eight coal-fired power plants (Carbon Action Tracker, 2020). Also, the willingness of Chile to move away from fossil fuels can be understood from its adoption of the electro-mobility strategy, which is targeted at achieving electrification of 40 and 100% of the private and public transport in cities by 2050, respectively (Carbon Action Tracker, 2020). Moreover, it is anticipated that COVID-19 will make a positive contribution to reducing the intensity of greenhouse gas emissions of the economy in 2020 and 2021. This contributes to the projections that Chile is one of the few countries that is likely to meet its emission reduction targets. In the process of moving towards carbon neutrality by shifting to renewable energy sources, Chile intends to completely phase out coal plants by 2040 (Carbon Action Tracker, 2020). To do justice to this topic, we incorporate factors (renewable energy, technological innovation) that are capable of controlling and mitigating emissions in our empirical estimation and analysis. Although this is not the first work to assess climate change with the identified variables, the novelty and uniqueness of our study are based on the fact that it deviates from the popular method using production-based carbon emissions to the adoption of consumption-based carbon emission accounting. The adoption of recent approaches, namely symmetric (linear) and asymmetric (non-linear) ARDL incorporating structural breaks in the analysis, also distinguishes this study from others. The asymmetric ARDL method will allow us to decompose regressors into their positive and negative changes; hence, in addition to linear effects, the study will reveal how positive and negative shocks in the regressors impact CCO<sub>2</sub>.

The remaining part of the research is structured as follows: a review of past studies is depicted in "Literature review" section, and the methodology is illustrated in "Methodology" section. "Discussion of findings" section entails the findings and discussion. Lastly, "Conclusion and

policy direction" section presents the study conclusion and policy path.

# Literature review

Literature has shown and proved that fossil fuel energy contributes to carbon emissions (Kirikkaleli and Adebayo 2021; Oluwajana et al. 2021; Udemba 2019, 2020a, b, c, 2021; Apergis and Ozturk 2015; Stern 2016 Ahmed et al. 2020c; Adebayo 2021). In a bid to curb the carbon emissions from fossil fuels, renewables such as wind, solar, hydro, and geothermal have been identified as potential ways of substituting fossil fuels, thus reducing the excessive emissions (Chiu et al. 2009; Ahmed and Le 2021). These variables have been considered at country, regional, and cross-sectional levels to explore their climate change involvement (Ahmed et al. 2020a, b). Zhang and Da, 2015; Liu et al. 2015; Yu et al. 2012; Mi et al. 2015; Adebayo and Kirikkaleli 2021). Changing focus to the investigation of the role of increasing consumption in inducing carbon emissions (consumption-based carbon emissions (CCO<sub>2</sub>) accounting) is a new idea capable of providing the research world with new insights into efforts to mitigate climate change. From the consumption-based carbon emissions perspective, products and services purchased by people are measured. Also, emissions are distributed to the consumers of goods and services (Dawkins et al. 2010; Afionis et al. 2017).

Some studies have investigated the aforementioned factors with mixed findings. The study of Hasanov et al. (2018) found that imports and exports increase and decrease emissions, respectively. The impact of imports and consumption on CO<sub>2</sub> emissions was investigated by Sheau-Ting and Al-Mulali (2014) for six regions and the study found that imports increase emissions. Renewable and non-renewable energies were considered in the carbon emissions study of Sub-Sahara African countries by Inglesi-Lotz and Dogan (2018), who found that renewable energy controls carbon emissions.

Likewise, Mensah et al. (2018) and Bhattacharya et al. (2016) established that technological innovation and renewable energy control carbon emissions. Shahbaz et al. (2018) studied financial development and energy innovation in France. The study found that both energy innovation and financial development reduce carbon emissions. Álvarez-Herránz et al. (2017) researched OECD countries with regard to energy innovation and found that energy innovation controls emission. Furthermore, other studies such as Bhattacharya et al. (2020); Khan et al. (2020a); Khan et al. (2020b); Knight and Schor (2014); He et al. (2021); Kirikkaleli and Adebayo (2021); and Khan et al. (2020c) studied and calculated environmental performance with consumption-based measures. Bhattacharya et al. (2020) examined the convergence of consumption-based and territory-



based carbon emissions intensity across 70 countries. They found two convergent clubs for consumption-based emissions and three convergent clubs for territory-based emissions. They also found that increases in total factor productivity, renewable energy consumption, and urbanization increase the odds of belonging to a low carbon emissions intensity club. Khan et al. (2020a, b, c) confirmed the negative effect of exports on consumption-based carbon emissions in both the short run and long run.

Khan et al. (2020b) found that imports and income enhance consumption-based carbon emissions in the long run, while exports, environmental innovation, and renewable energy consumption mitigate consumption-based CO<sub>2</sub> emissions. Knight and Schor (2014) found that economic growth exert positive impact on consumption-based emissions and not territorial emissions. He et al. (2021) confirmed that financial development, energy usage, and economic growth can predict consumption-based carbon emissions at different frequencies. In contrast, trade openness and globalization can predict significant variations in consumption-based carbon emissions. Kirikkaleli and Adebayo (2021) confirmed a long-run cointegration between consumption-based carbon dioxide emissions and their possible determinants. Khan et al. (2020c) found a negative effect of exports on consumption-based carbon emissions. For this discussion, it is evident that the determinants of CCO<sub>2</sub> are yet to be explored in the context of Chile. In addition, previous studies have adopted linear techniques in probing the factors influencing CCO<sub>2</sub> emissions.

# Methodology

# Descriptions of data and theoretical foundation

The present research explores the impact of economic growth (GDP), renewable energy consumption (REN), and technological innovation (TI) on consumption-based carbon emissions (CCO<sub>2</sub>) in Chile using yearly data stretching between 1990 and 2018. The variables utilized are transformed into their natural logarithm. This was conducted to ensure that data is normally distributed (Kirikkaleli et al. 2020; Balsalobre-Lorente and Leitão 2020). Table 1 shows the data source, measurement, and unit of measurement. Also, the flow of analysis is illustrated in Fig. 1. The study economic function is depicted in Eq. 1:

$$CCO_{2t} = f(GDP_t, REN_t, TI_t)$$
 (1)

In Eq. 1, GDP, REN, TI, and CCO<sub>2</sub> represent economic growth, renewable energy, technological innovation, and consumption-based carbon emissions, respectively. Therefore, the economic model of the current research is presented in Eq. 2;

 Table 1
 Variables units and sources

| Variable         | Description                        | Units   | Sources  |
|------------------|------------------------------------|---|--|
| CCO <sub>2</sub> | Consumption-based carbon emissions | Million tons of CO <sub>2</sub> emissions   | GCA by Peters<br>et al. (2011)<br>and Gilfillan<br>et al. (2019) |
| GDP              | Economic growth                    | GDP per capita<br>constant \$US,<br>2010  | WDI (2020)   |
| TI               | Technological<br>innovation        | Measured as the<br>addition of patent<br>applications,<br>residents and<br>patent<br>applications,<br>non-residents |  |
| REN              | Renewable energy                   | Renewables per capita (kWh)   | BP (2020)  |

Source: Authors compilation

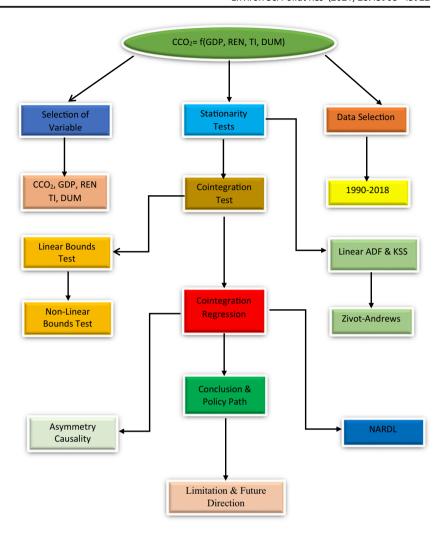
$$CCO_{2t} = \vartheta_0 + \vartheta_1 GDP_t + \vartheta_2 REN_t + \vartheta_3 TI_t + \varepsilon_t$$
 (2)

The reasons why the aforementioned parameters are incorporated are discussed here. In the past two decades, numerous scholars (Kirikkaleli et al. 2020; Ahmed et al. 2020a, b; Alola et al. 2020; Shahbaz et al. 2020) have explored these interconnections. Nevertheless, prior studies did not incorporate CCO<sub>2</sub> emissions as a proxy of environmental degradation. Instead, they used CO<sub>2</sub> emissions and ecological footprint, etc., as proxies of environmental degradation. The uniqueness of using CCO<sub>2</sub> carbon emissions is that it takes into account the global supply chain that contributes to the creation of emissions and distinguishes between emissions created in one nation and used in another (Safi et al. 2020; Khan et al. 2020a, b, c; Knight and Schor, 2014; Shahbaz et al. 2020).

Following the studies of Balsalobre-Lorente and Leitão (2020), Odugbesan and Adebayo (2020a, b), Magazzino et al. (2020), Ayobamiji and Kalmaz (2020), Kirikkaleli and Adebayo (2020), and Zhang et al. (2021), the present research incorporates GDP into the model. The interrelationship between environmental pollutions and economic growth is projected to be positive. This denotes that an increase in economic growth would increase environmental degradation, i.e.,  $(\beta_1 = \frac{\partial CCO_2}{\partial GDP} > 0)$ . Also, following the studies of Alola (2019), Shahbaz et al. (2020), and Kirikkaleli and Adebayo (2020), the current study introduces renewable energy usage into the framework. The association between renewable energy usage and environmental pollutions is expected to be negative. This infers that an increase in renewable energy usage would enhance environmental quality, i.e.,  $(\beta_2 = \frac{\partial CCO_2}{\partial REN} < 0)$ . The study also investigates the linkage between innovation and environmental pollution. In line with prior studies (Khan



Fig. 1 Flow chart



et al. 2020; Kirikkaleli and Adebayo, 2020; Shahbaz et al. 2020), technological innovation is incorporated into the model. Thus, the association between technological innovation and environmental degradation is expected to be negative if the technology is eco-friendly, i.e.,  $\left(\beta_3 = \frac{\partial CCO_2}{\partial TI} < 0\right)$ , otherwise  $\left(\beta_3 = \frac{\partial CCO_2}{\partial TI} > 0\right)$  if it is not eco-friendly.

To ascertain asymmetric effects, renewable energy usage, economic growth, and technological innovation are disintegrated into positive and negative changes (GDP<sup>+</sup>, GDP<sup>-</sup>, REN<sup>+</sup>, REN<sup>-</sup>, TI<sup>+</sup>, TI<sup>-</sup>). Ahmed et al. (2021) suggested that fiscal and monetary policies, international trade, phases of business cycles, etc., can influence macroeconomic variables leading to asymmetric properties; hence, we divide regressors into positive and negative changes since their effect may vary in direction and magnitude. Equation 2 (econometric model I) is transformed into Eq. 3 as follows:

$$CCO_{2t} = \vartheta_0 + \vartheta_1 GDP_t^+ + \vartheta_2 GDP_t^- + \vartheta_3 REN_t^+ + \vartheta_4 REN_t^- + \vartheta_5 TI_t^+ + \vartheta_6 TI_t^- + \varepsilon_t$$
(3)



## **Econometric method**

# Unit root test

This study's econometric approach comprised the usage of nonlinear approaches to investigate long-term impacts and causal relations. Before implementing non-linear ARDL (NARDL), it is essential to investigate non-linear parameters. Therefore, the research utilized the renowned BDS test. This test is utilized to affirm whether the linear or non-linear modeling is suitable for the study. Several recent studies such as Odugbesan and Adebayo (2020), Ahmed et al. (2020a, b, c), and Sheikh et al. (2020) utilized the BDS test developed by Brock et al. (1996). The null and alternative hypotheses of the BDS test are linearly dependence and non-linearly dependence. Furthermore, the rejection of the null hypothesis denotes the existence of nonlinearities and the suitability of the non-linear modeling. After the pre-requisite is satisfied, the current study chooses a unit-root test utilizing the ADF and KSS (non-linear) tests. It should be remembered that the use of this test is merely to capture the stationarity features of series, as the prior tests may yield results

that are misleading if there is evidence of a break(s) in the series. Although NARDL can house fractional integration, the non-linear or linear ARDL may not be reliable if there is no evidence of a unit root in the dependent variable; therefore, it is reasonable to utilize a unit root test that can capture both structural break(s) and the stationarity features of the series. Accordingly, the current study employed the Zivot and Andrews (ZA) test developed by Zivot and Andrews (2002).

#### RDL approach (linear and non-linear)

The current study utilized linear (symmetric) and non-linear (asymmetric) ARDL techniques. The symmetric and asymmetric ARDL methods are versatile and can be extended to parameters integrated at order 1(0) or 1 (1). Applying the ARDL involves the selection of and adequate lag, and the potential issue of endogeneity can be resolved by selecting an appropriate lag length. Shin et al. (2014) stated that a sufficient lag length is also effective in addressing the problem of potential multicollinearity in the NARDL. The ARDL method produces both long-run and short-run outcomes. Equation 1 is transformed into the following symmetric ARDL framework. Shin et al. (2014) stated that the optimal lag period is also useful in resolving potential multicollinearity problems in the asymmetrical ARDL. The ARDL method produces short-term and long-term results as a whole, and the lagged ECT reveals details on convergence. The symmetrical ARDL model is depicted in Eq. 1 as follows.

$$\Delta CCO_{2t} = \vartheta_0 + \sum_{i=1}^t \vartheta_1 \Delta CCO_{2t-i} + \sum_{i=1}^t \vartheta_2 \Delta GDP_{t-i}$$

$$+ \sum_{i=1}^t \vartheta_3 \Delta REN + \sum_{i=1}^t \vartheta_4 \Delta TI_{t-i}$$

$$+ \sum_{i=1}^t \vartheta_5 \Delta DUM_{t-i} + \beta_1 CCO_{2t-1}$$

$$+ \beta_2 GDP_{t-1} + \beta_3 REN_{t-1} + \beta_4 TI_{t-1}$$

$$+ \beta_5 DUM_{t-1} + \varepsilon_t$$
(4)

where the short-run coefficients are depicted by  $\vartheta_{1, 2, 3, 4, 5}$  and long-run coefficients by  $\beta_{1, 2, 3, 4, 5}$ . Also, the first difference operator is signified by  $\Delta$ , and  $\varepsilon_t$  is the error term. The null  $(H_0)$  and the alternative  $(H_a)$  hypothesis for the ARDL bound test are presented in Eqs. 5 and 6, respectively.

$$H_0 = \beta_1 = \beta_2 = \beta_3 = \beta_4 \tag{5}$$

$$H_a \neq \beta_1 \neq \beta_2 \neq \beta_3 \neq \beta_4 \tag{6}$$

To reject the null hypothesis, the *F*-stat must be greater than both the lower and upper bound critical values.

After confirming that the series is not stationary at I(2), the present study utilized the NARDL. This approach is beneficial

for verifying the existence of non-linear cointegration between parameters. It also estimates the short-run and long-run association between the explanatory variables and the dependent variable. As Ahmed et al. (2021) stated, this approach's versatility to utilize an ideal lag length will resolve the possible issue of multicollinearity. Furthermore, it can also accommodate fractional integration and possible endogenous and autocorrelation problems (Odugbesan and Adebayo 2020a, b. Onvibor et al. 2020; Adedoyin et al. 2020). In addition to all these advantages, the ability of linear ARDL to produce reliable findings for small sample sizes renders it one of the favored options for the analysis of time-series. The NARDL decomposes parameters with their corresponding positive and negative shifts. Thus, renewable energy usage, economic growth, and technological innovation will be decomposed into negative and constructive shifts in our key model. As previously mentioned in Eq. 3, we have already illustrated parameters into corresponding shocks (GDP+, GDP-, REN+, REN-, TI+, TI-). Furthermore, the partial sum of renewable energy usage shifts, economic growth, and technological innovation are as follows.

$$GDP^{+} = \sum_{i=1}^{t} \Delta GDP^{+} + \sum_{i=1}^{t} \max(GDP_{i,O})$$
 (7)

$$GDP^{-} = \sum_{i=1}^{t} \Delta GDP^{-} + \sum_{i=1}^{t} \min(GDP_{i,O})$$
(8)

$$REN^{+} = \sum_{i=1}^{t} \Delta REN^{+} + \sum_{i=1}^{t} \max \left( REN_{i,O} \right)$$
 (9)

$$REN^{-} = \sum_{i=1}^{t} \Delta REN^{-} + \sum_{i=1}^{t} \min(REN_{i}, O)$$
 (10)

$$TI^{+} = \sum_{i=1}^{t} \Delta TI^{+} + \sum_{i=1}^{t} \max(TI_{i}, O)$$
 (11)

$$T\Gamma = \sum_{i=1}^{t} \Delta T \Gamma + \sum_{i=1}^{t} \min(T \Gamma_{i,O})$$
 (12)

Nonetheless, Eq. 4 mentioned earlier can be revamped into the following NARDL model, correspondingly.

$$\Delta CCO_{2t} = \vartheta_0 + \sum_{i=1}^t \vartheta_1 \Delta CCO_{2t-i} + \sum_{i=1}^t \vartheta_2 \Delta GDP_{t-1}^+$$

$$+ \sum_{i=1}^t \vartheta_3 \Delta GDP_{t-1}^- + \sum_{i=1}^t \vartheta_4 \Delta REN_{t-1}^+$$

$$+ \sum_{i=1}^t \vartheta_5 \Delta REN_{t-1}^- + \sum_{i=1}^t \vartheta_6 \Delta TI_{t-1}^+$$

$$+ \sum_{i=1}^t \vartheta_7 \Delta TI_{t-1}^- + \sum_{i=1}^t \vartheta_8 \Delta DUM_{t-1}$$

$$+ \beta_1 CCO_{2t-1} + \beta_2 GDP_{t-1}^+ + \beta_3 GDP_{t-1}^-$$

$$+ \beta_4 REN_{t-1}^+ + \beta_5 REN_{t-1}^- + \beta_6 TI_{t-1}^+$$

$$+ \beta_7 TI_{t-1}^- + \beta_8 DUM_{t-1} + \rho ECT_{t-i} + \varepsilon_t$$
 (13)



In the NARDL, non-linear cointegration is examined using the Bounds test. To reject the null hypothesis in NARDL, the *F*-stat must be greater than both the lower and upper bound critical values. Further, the study uses various diagnostic measures to examine the stability of the asymmetrical models. In the asymmetrical ARDL method, we have utilized the WALD test to validate the long-term asymmetrical impact.

# Asymmetric causality

There is always a distinction in the reaction between negative and positive shocks, which render it reasonable to apply the asymmetries causality. Consequently, in the last stage of the present research, the Hatemi-i (2012) causality is deployed. This approach utilizes the theoretical foundation of the Toda and Yamamoto approach; moreover, it has the potential to separate parameters into negative and positive shocks by introducing non-linear effects. This method separates the parameters into the corresponding shocks, then tests their causality from negative shocks to negative shocks and positive shocks to positive shocks under the VAR framework. When the modified WALD statistics is greater than the bootstrap critical values, the null hypothesis of no asymmetric causality is rejected. In this causality method, the bootstrap process is used to obtain causal results, which makes it more useful for a small sample size compared to other techniques. Using the bootstrap simulations with leverage correction, this test's critical values are generated; therefore, they are robust to both time-varying volatility and non-normality. Furthermore, asymmetric causality provides benefits, such as the ability to accommodate asymmetric structure, better power and size properties, robustness against ARCH, and non-normality. Hence, these factors make asymmetric causality a reliable method for capturing causal interactions.

# **Discussion of findings**

This study investigates the symmetric and asymmetric impact of technological innovation, renewable energy usage, and economic growth on consumption-based carbon emissions between 1990 and 2018 in Chile. Table 2 presents a statistical summary and the different normality tests utilized. Moreover, the parameters' mode, maximum, mean, standard deviation, minimum, and median are illustrated by the descriptive statistics. Table 2 shows that GDP has the highest mean (10890.70), which is followed by renewable energy consumption (REN) with a mean of 3973.883, and technological innovation and consumption-based carbon emissions with means of 2494.000 and 63.85005, respectively. The research used Kurtosis to verify whether the series is light-tailed or heavytailed relative to normal distribution. The empirical outcomes

Table 2 Descriptive statistics

|              | CCO <sub>2</sub> | GDP       | REN        | TI         |
|--------------|------------------|-----------|------------|------------|
| Mean         | 63.85005         | 10890.70  | 3973.883   | 2494.000   |
| Median       | 60.12730         | 10726.64  | 3930.835   | 2792.000   |
| Maximum      | 93.43620         | 15111.70  | 5471.402   | 3952.000   |
| Minimum      | 31.13620         | 5933.207  | 2072.491   | 811.0000   |
| Std. dev.    | 20.10264         | 2886.701  | 677.5301   | 853.1786   |
| Skewness     | -0.029779        | -0.046307 | - 0.574684 | - 0.540442 |
| Kurtosis     | 1.867291         | 1.744942  | 4.177907   | 2.288933   |
| Jarque-Bera  | 1.554613         | 1.913696  | 3.272786   | 2.022660   |
| Probability  | 0.459642         | 0.384102  | 0.194681   | 0.363735   |
| Observations | 29               | 29        | 29         | 29         |

illustrate that all the series are Platykurtic since their values are less than 3 with the exemption of renewable energy consumption. Additionally, the parameters' skewness is less than 1, which illustrates that they are moderately skewed. Also, the outcomes from the Jarque-Bera (JB) probability show that all the parameters conform to normality.

To ascertain the parameters' linearity, the current study utilized the BDS test initiated by Broock et al. (1996) to capture non-linearity. The BDS test outcomes are depicted in Table 3, which demonstrate that the variables possess nonlinearities. Based on the non-linearity outcomes, it is necessary to utilize non-linear techniques to investigate the interconnection between technological innovation, economic growth, renewable energy, and CCO<sub>2</sub> emissions. Accordingly, the current research utilized the non-linear ADF and KSS tests. The outcomes of the ADF and KSS tests are depicted in Table 4. The results of the non-linear ADF and KSS reveal that at level, i.e., I(0), we fail to reject the null hypothesis. However, after the first difference, i.e., I(1), is taken, the series are stationary, indicating that there is no unit root. Moreover, as stated by Olanrewaju et al. (2021), Adebayo (2020), Alola (2019), and Kirikalleli et al. (2020), the application of both ADF and KSS unit root testing approaches may yield misleading outcomes as they disregard

Table 3 BDS test to inspect non-linearity

|         | M = 2    | M = 3   | M = 4   | M = 5   | M = 6   |
|---------|----------|---------|---------|---------|---------|
| T-Stat  | BDS stat |         |         |         |         |
| $CCO_2$ | 0.1844*  | 0.3106* | 0.4017* | 0.4661  | 0.5107* |
| GDP     | 0.1918*  | 0.3197* | 0.4119* | 0.4795* | 0.5293* |
| REN     | 0.1400*  | 0.2303* | 0.2891* | 0.3141* | 0.3306* |
| TI      | 0.1753*  | 0.2908* | 0.3732* | 0.4234* | 0.4522* |

Note: \* refers 1% level of significance. Residual values computed from the BDS test with m dimensions show the presence of non-linearities in variables



Table 4 ADF and KSS tests

| Variables        | ADF      |         |            |         | KSS      |          |            |          |
|------------------|----------|---------|------------|---------|----------|----------|------------|----------|
|                  | Level    |         | Difference |         | Level    |          | Difference |          |
|                  | T-Stat   | p value | T-Stat     | p value | KSS stat | P values | KSS stat   | p values |
| CCO <sub>2</sub> | - 0.4154 | 0.8963  | - 4.3225*  | 0.0015  | - 1.230  | 0.735    | - 4.169*   | 0.002    |
| GDP              | -0.0958  | 0.9247  | - 4.1227*  | 0.0027  | -0.806   | 0.858    | - 2.960**  | 0.052    |
| REN              | - 1.6674 | 0.4392  | - 5.9644*  | 0.0000  | -2.199   | 0.244    | - 2.697*** | 0.093    |
| TI               | - 1.3173 | 0.6116  | - 6.1135*  | 0.0000  | - 1.210  | 0.752    | - 3.904*   | 0.005    |

Note: \*, \*\*, and \*\*\* refer 1%, 5%, and 10% level of significance

structural breaks in the series. The study utilized the Zivot and Andrews (ZA) method proposed by Zivot and Andrews (2002) to solve this problem. The advantage of the ZA unit root test is that it can capture stationarity features and a single break in the series. The ZA test outcomes are portrayed in Table 4, which clearly indicate that the series are not stationary at level. However, after the first difference is taken, the series are stationary with CCO<sub>2</sub> emissions, economic growth, renewable energy, and technological innovation having structural breaks in 2011, 2001, 2000, and 2011, respectively. The break of 2011 in consumption-based carbon emissions is incorporated while checking the cointegration and long-run results. This break coincides with a series of student-led protests across Chile - known as the Chilean Winter or the Chilean Education Conflict—that demanded a new framework for education in the country, including more direct state participation in secondary education and an end to the existence of profit in higher education (Angell and Pollack, 2014). Hence, political uncertainty and related issues can affect macroeconomic indicators and consumption-based carbon emissions, resulting in a break-in consumption-based carbon emissions (Table 5).

After the series stationarity property is confirmed, the current study investigates the long-run interaction among the parameters. To do this, the study utilized the linear and nonlinear bounds test. The results of the ARDL and NARDL

 Table 5
 ZA unit root test

|                  | Level      |                | Difference  | Difference     |  |  |
|------------------|------------|----------------|-------------|----------------|--|--|
| Variables        | t-stat     | Break-<br>year | t-stat      | Break-<br>year |  |  |
| CCO <sub>2</sub> | - 4.1594   | 2001           | - 6.1824*   | 2011           |  |  |
| GDP              | -3.7471    | 2012           | - 4.9262*** | 2001           |  |  |
| REN              | - 4.8174   | 2010           | - 6.4442*   | 2000           |  |  |
| TI               | - 5.4373** | 2009           | - 6.8565*   | 2011           |  |  |

Note: Critical values: 10%, 5%, and 1% level of significance is depicted by \*\*\*, \*\*, and \* respectively

bounds tests are depicted in Table 6. The results of the ARDL bounds test show no evidence of cointegration in the long run, while the NARDL bounds test reveals evidence of cointegration among the variables in the long run. Since there is no cointegration among the series as revealed by the ARDL bounds test, the ARDL long-run estimations cannot be carried out. On the other hand, the results of the NARDL bounds test indicate that we can estimate the long-run results using the NARDL.

The current study utilizes the NARDL after the prerequisite conditions are met. The outcomes of the long-run NARDL are depicted in Table 7. The empirical findings from the NARDL reveal that a positive increase in economic growth harms the quality of the environment. This implies that keeping other indicators constant, a 1% increase in GDP increases environmental degradation by 2.103%. Also, a reduction in economic growth deteriorates the quality of the environment. Thus, a 1% decrease in economic growth would increase environmental degradation by 3.283% when other parameters are held constant.

The long-run outcomes suggest that increases and decreases in economic growth increase environmental degradation in Chile. The study's estimated findings differ from prior studies in terms of the asymmetric effects of shifts in

Table 6 ARDL and NARDL cointegration

| Models estimat  | red     | F-statistics | Break-year | AIC Lags          |
|---|---------|--------------|------------|-------------------|
| (CCO <sub>2</sub> /GDP, F   | EN, TI) | 1.6416       | 2011       | [1,1,1,0]         |
| (CCO <sub>2</sub> /GDP <sup>+</sup> ,<br>REN <sup>-</sup> , TI <sup>+</sup> , |         | 6.2017*      | 2011       | [1,0,0,0, 1,1, 0] |
| Model 2 Robustness tests  |         |              |            |                   |
|   | F-stat. | p value      |            |                   |
| $\chi^2$ LM   | 0.807   | 0.457        |            |                   |
| $\chi^2$ ARCH   | 0.112   | 0.739        |            |                   |
| $\chi^2$ RESET  |         |              |            |                   |

Note: \* refers to a significance level of 1%. Optimum lag length 1 under AIC is used. Robustness tests are not computed for model 1 as there is no cointegration in that



**Table 7** Non-linear ARDL long and short-run results

|                  | Long-run estimation |          |         | Short-run estimation |              |         |         |
|------------------|---------------------|----------|---------|----------------------|--------------|---------|---------|
| Variables        | Coefficients        | t-stat   | p value | Variables            | Coefficients | t-stat  | p value |
| GDP <sup>+</sup> | 2.103*              | 3.9705   | 0.000   | GDP <sup>+</sup>     | 0.1564       | 0.898   | 0.377   |
| $\mathrm{GDP}^-$ | - 3.283**           | -2.0995  | 0.045   | $\mathrm{GDP}^-$     | - 0.2378**   | -2.250  | 0.033   |
| REN <sup>+</sup> | - 0.419**           | - 2.4286 | 0.022   | REN <sup>+</sup>     | - 0.1051     | - 1.062 | 0.297   |
| REN <sup>-</sup> | 0.354               | 1.1977   | 0.241   | REN_                 | - 0.2114     | - 1.215 | 0.235   |
| $TI^+$           | 0.061               | 0.7357   | 0.468   | $TI^+$               | 0.1269**     | 2.584   | 0.015   |
| $TI^-$           | 0.160*              | 3.3137   | 0.002   | $TI^-$               | 0.0165       | 0.819   | 0.420   |
| $DY^a$           | 0.005               | 0.0847   | 0.933   | DY                   | 0.0683       | 1.256   | 0.220   |
| С                | 2.377*              | 7.7934   | 0.000   | ECT(-)               | - 0.3323*    | - 5.485 | 0.000   |
| Diagnostic tests |                     |          |         |                      |              |         |         |
| $R^2$            | 0.99                |          |         |                      |              |         |         |
| $Adj R^2$        | 0.99                |          |         |                      |              |         |         |
| DW statistics    | 2.28                |          |         |                      |              |         |         |
| F-statistics     | 625.7 [0.000]       |          |         |                      |              |         |         |
| J-B normality    | 0.009 [0.995]       |          |         |                      |              |         |         |
| $\chi^2$ LM      | 0.807 [0.457]       |          |         |                      |              |         |         |
| $\chi^2$ ARCH    | 0.112 [0.739]       |          |         |                      |              |         |         |
| $\chi^2$ RESET   | 2.683 [0.113]       |          |         |                      |              |         |         |

Note: \*, and \*\* mirror 1% and 5% level of significance. a DY is a dummy variable included for a break in CCO2

economic growth on environmental degradation. For instance, using data from the USA, the study of Eng and Wong (2015) revealed that CO<sub>2</sub> emissions increased from 3 to 4% between June 1980 and April 1981 due to economic expansion. They further estimated a reduction of 1.37 to 11.37% in CO<sub>2</sub> emissions from the contractionary cycles accompanying these economic expansions. Although our findings of asymmetries largely support Doda (2013), they still differ from the recent asymmetric evidence of business cycles and CO2 emissions proposed by recent studies. While our observations of asymmetry broadly endorse the studies of Doda (2014) and Baloch et al. (2020), they contradict the findings of prior studies (Burke et al. 2015; Sheldon 2017; York 2012). As revealed by York (2012), economic expansion increases environmental degradation while a reduction in environmental degradation caused by anis economic slowdown.

Nevertheless, York (2012) proposed that CO<sub>2</sub> emissions have a symmetric reaction to economic change. Conversely, the present research challenges conventional assertions by investigating whether economic contractions are never subject to pollution over time. While the present study findings contradict York (2012), we still agree with him the sense that CO<sub>2</sub> emissions are largely dependent on the nation's economic infrastructure and structure. Therefore, the developed infrastructure (roads, cars, and factories) will still be in operation even when there is a dip in the economy. Additionally, when economic activities reduce, the investment in environmentally friendly activities can reduce. During economic crises, the

government may find it difficult to concentrate on environmental sustainability, and businesses may also shift to using cheap pollutant fossil fuels rather than renewables. This can lead to more pollution since the environmentally friendly effects of economic growth subsidize; hence, a reduction in economic growth has a more severe effect on environmental quality than a rise in income. This finding suggests that reductions in economic growth are more detrimental in developing nations like Chile that have enjoyed substantial development in recent decades. Authorities in Chile should consider this outcome when designing environmental and growth strategies, and should focus on economic stability and the transition towards green energy for accomplishing sustainable development and environmental sustainability.

Furthermore, only an increase in renewable energy reduces environmental degradation. Thus, a 0.41% decrease in environmental degradation will result from a 1% positive increase in renewable energy usage. This outcome does not comply with the research of Apergis and Payne (2010) for 19 advanced and emerging nations and Menyah and Wolde-Rufael (2010) for the USA, who established a positive interconnection between renewable energy usage and environmental degradation. The present study's outcome complies with prior studies, such as Kirikkaleli and Adebayo 2020; Shafiei and Salim 2014; Wang et al. 2021a; and Khan et al. 2020a, b, c, who established that an increase in renewable energy helps to mitigate environmental degradation. The probable cause of the negative association is that renewable technology utilizes



pure and cleaner energy sources that are safe and satisfy current and future necessities, whereas it is also a source of pollution mitigation. This outcome is reasonable in Chile's context since the country has introduced numerous strategies to increase renewable energy consumption and reduce pollutant fossil fuels, including the adoption of the carbon text, shifting electricity production towards renewables, and reducing coalbased electricity consumption. Furthermore, Chile has launched a strategy of electro-mobility, which involves a move towards electricity-based transportation (Carbon Action Tracker, 2020). Our findings indicate that these strategies are quite useful, and increasing renewable energy consumption in Chile mitigates CCO<sub>2</sub> emissions.

Moreover, a positive change in technological innovation exerts a positive and insignificant influence on the quality of the environment. Surprisingly, a 1% reduction in technological innovation decreases environmental degradation by 0.160%. The probable reason for this association is that Chile is not investing in green technology. Thus, a reduction in such technology will enhance the quality of the environment. This is a worrying sign for Chile, and its policymakers should focus on green technology in their innovation strategies. Currently, innovation is ineffective in reducing CCO<sub>2</sub> emissions, indicating that it is mostly directed to areas other than environmentally friendly technology.

As anticipated, the ECT is (-0.33), which validates cointegration and defines the speed of adjustment. Table 6 also illustrates the outcomes of the post-estimation tests. The findings show no heteroscedasticity or serial correlation in the model, with the Ramsey test depicting no misspecification in the model. Furthermore, the J-B reveals normal distribution. Moreover, the model is stable as revealed by the CUSUM and CUSUMSQ in Figs. 2 and 3, respectively. The paper's focus is on the long-run estimation, but short-run outcomes are also given in Table 6. Most variables are not significant in the

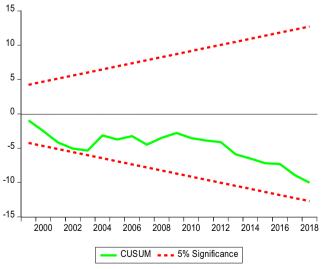


Fig. 2 CUSUM

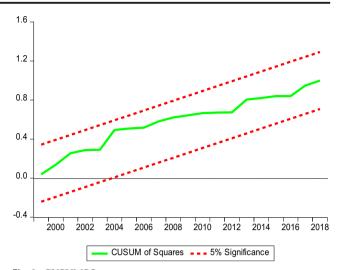


Fig. 3 CUSUMSQ

short-run, except negative GDP, which has similar results to the long run. Technological innovation increases CCO<sub>2</sub> emissions in the short run, implying that Chile's innovation is not focused on environmental sustainability, as discussed in the long-run results. However, convergence to the long-run equilibrium takes about 3 years, so differences in short-run shocks are corrected in almost 3 years.

The present paper utilized the Wald test to ascertain the long-run asymmetries' significance. The outcomes of the WALD test are depicted in Table 8. The findings show that both economic growth and renewable energy usage have long-run asymmetries, while technological innovation does not have long-run asymmetries

In order to capture the causal linkage among the variables, the current study utilized an asymmetric causality test. The outcomes of the causality test are portrayed in Table 9. The empirical findings show that positive renewable energy usage Granger causes positive consumption-based carbon emissions. This illustrates that positive renewable energy usage can predict significant variations in positive consumption-based carbon emissions. Also, a negative shock in technological innovation Granger causes a negative change in consumption-based carbon emissions. This implies that a negative shock in technological innovation can predict the significant variation in positive consumption-based carbon emissions. This outcome suggests that a negative shock in technological innovation can predict a negative shock in

**Table 8** Long-run asymmetries (WALD test)

| Variables | F-stat [p value]  |
|-----------|-------------------|
| GDP       | 19.5374* [0.0002] |
| REN       | 11.9595* [0.0019] |
| TI        | 1.8399 [0.1866]   |

Note: \* indicates 1% significance level



 Table 9
 Asymmetric causality test

| Path of causality                  | W.stat   | CV (1%) | CV (5%) | CV (10%) |
|------------------------------------|----------|---------|---------|----------|
| $GDP^+ \rightarrow CCO_2^+$        | 1.858    | 12.031  | 7.317   | 4.902    |
| $GDP^{-} \rightarrow CCO_{2}^{-}$  | 0.703    | 7.431   | 4.580   | 2.965    |
| $CCO_2^+ \rightarrow GDP^+$        | 0.385    | 11.244  | 5.083   | 3.296    |
| $CCO_2^- \rightarrow GDP^-$        | 0.003    | 20.467  | 4.443   | 2.387    |
| $REN^+ \rightarrow CCO_2^+$        | 3.718*** | 14.150  | 5.582   | 3.453    |
| $REN^- \rightarrow CCO_2^-$        | 0.682    | 12.724  | 5.034   | 3.220    |
| $CCO_2^+ \rightarrow REN^+$        | 0.273    | 10.859  | 5.068   | 3.275    |
| $CCO_2^- \rightarrow REN^-$        | 0.002    | 8.716   | 4.071   | 2.850    |
| $TI^+ \rightarrow CCO_2^+$         | 0.250    | 10.337  | 5.308   | 3.246    |
| $TI \rightarrow CCO_2$             | 11.292*  | 9.238   | 4.922   | 3.360    |
| $CCO_2^+ \rightarrow TI^+$         | 0.068    | 13.827  | 5.559   | 3.979    |
| $CCO_2^- \rightarrow TI^-$         | 1.114    | 9.420   | 4.535   | 3.051    |
| $GDP^+ \rightarrow REN^+$          | 0.985    | 9.371   | 4.772   | 3.270    |
| $GDP^{-}\rightarrow REN^{-}$       | 0.079    | 13.856  | 4.873   | 2.198    |
| $REN^+ \rightarrow GDP^+$          | 0.652    | 10.854  | 5.046   | 3.233    |
| $REN^{-}\rightarrow GDP^{-}$       | 0.862    | 10.637  | 4.461   | 2.485    |
| $GDP^+ \rightarrow TI^+$           | 0.216    | 10.890  | 5.112   | 3.400    |
| $GDP^- \rightarrow TI^-$           | 6.065**  | 44.598  | 5.436   | 3.251    |
| $TI^+ \rightarrow GDP^+$           | 0.422    | 9.022   | 4.893   | 3.132    |
| $TI^- \rightarrow GDP^-$           | 0.007    | 103.345 | 3.792   | 1.888    |
| $TI^+ \rightarrow REN^+$           | 0.003    | 11.711  | 5.309   | 3.509    |
| TI <sup>−</sup> →REN <sup>−</sup>  | 0.157    | 9.016   | 5.192   | 2.963    |
| $REN^+ \rightarrow TI^+$           | 2.233    | 11.746  | 4.876   | 3.091    |
| REN <sup>-</sup> → TI <sup>-</sup> | 0.002    | 14.649  | 5.361   | 3.252    |

Note: Significance level of 1%, 5%, and 10% is depicted \*, \*\*, and \*\*\*

consumption-based carbon emissions. Lastly, there is an asymmetric causality from negative economic growth to negative technological innovation, which signifies that at a 5%

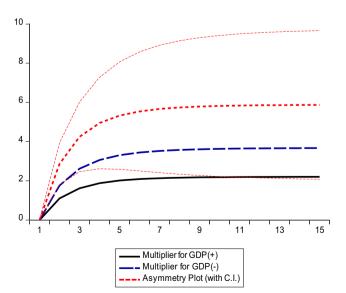


Fig. 4 Multiplier for GDP

level of significance, a negative economic growth shock can predict negative technological innovation.

Lastly, Figs. 4, 5, and 6 illustrate the multipliers for the three independent parameters, which illustrate a convergence to an equilibrium after early positive and negative shocks. The non-linear modification of CCO<sub>2</sub> emissions to negative

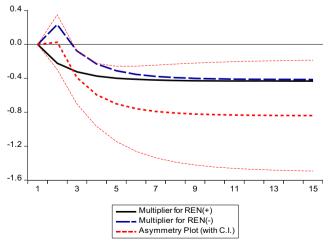


Fig. 5 Multiplier for REN



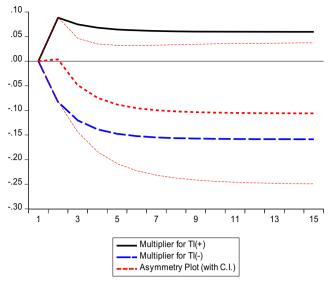


Fig. 6 Multiplier for TI

shocks is depicted by the black dotted line, whereas the solid black line depicts the adjustment of CCO2 to a positive shock. The red dotted line, which is the asymmetric pattern, is the variation between positive and negative shocks. The outcome in Fig. 1 illustrates that an increase in economic growth has a positive effect on CCO<sub>2</sub> emissions, as revealed by the black line, whereas a decrease in economic growth has a positive impact on CCO<sub>2</sub> emissions, as revealed by the blue line. Figure 2 reveals that an upsurge in renewable energy consumption has a positive impact on CCO2 emissions, as revealed by the black line, whereas a decrease in renewable energy consumption has a positive effect on CCO<sub>2</sub> emissions, as revealed by the blue line. Moreover, the outcomes reveal that the effect of a positive change is more than a negative change. Figure 3 shows that an upsurge in technological innovation exerts a positive impact on CCO<sub>2</sub> emissions, as revealed by the black line, whereas a decrease in technological innovation has a negative effect on CCO<sub>2</sub> emissions, as revealed by the blue line.

# **Conclusion and policy direction**

Utilizing Chile, the 5th biggest economy in Latin America, as a case study, the current study examines whether consumption-based carbon emissions (CCO<sub>2</sub>) are nonlinearly influenced by renewable energy usage (REN), technological innovation (TI), and economic growth (GDP) using data from the period from 1990 to 2018. The study employed both linear and non-linear ARDL approaches to investigate these dynamics. Furthermore, the asymmetric causality test was utilized to examine the causal association among the economic variables. The ARDL bounds test outcomes revealed no linear cointegration, while the NARDL bounds test showed

evidence of cointegration among the indicators. The NARDL technique's novelty is that it can capture the regressors' positive and negative impacts on CCO<sub>2</sub> emissions. Furthermore, the current study included a dummy variable for discontinuity of series to compute the CCO<sub>2</sub> function. The outcomes of the unit root test implemented revealed that the series were integrated at first difference. Moreover, the outcomes of the Wald test indicated that the NARDL was suitable for this empirical analysis. The current study outcomes can be utilized for suggesting a policy framework towards the attainment of the SDGs objectives.

The NARDL model outcomes revealed a long-run interconnection between CCO2 emissions, technological innovation, and renewable energy consumption in Chile. In the long run, an increase and decrease in GDP positively impact CCO<sub>2</sub>, where the impact of the negative change is dominant. Furthermore, an increase in renewable energy consumption is accompanied by a reduction in CCO<sub>2</sub> emissions. Moreover, an upsurge in technological innovation exerts an insignificant effect on CCO2 emissions, while a decrease in technological innovation decreases CCO<sub>2</sub> emissions. In the short run, a decrease in GDP exerts a positive impact on CCO<sub>2</sub> emissions and an increase in technological innovation harms the quality of the environment in Chile. The outcomes of the asymmetric causality revealed that (a) positive renewable energy Granger causes positive CCO<sub>2</sub> emissions; (b) a negative shock in technological innovation Granger causes a negative change in CCO<sub>2</sub> emissions; (c) a negative shock in technological innovation Granger cause CCO2 emissions; and (d) negative GDP Granger causes technological innovation.

Since an upsurge in environmental degradation accompanies an increase in economic growth, policymakers in Chile should focus on organizing public awareness drives in favor of renewable goods, while the government should place lower tax rates on businesses that use sustainable technologies in their production. We recommend that public budgets in green energy should be increased to promote renewable energy usage. At the same time, there should be collaboration between the public and private sectors to launch more research and development directed towards efficient and clean technology. Strategies should be designed to finance the green energy sector and projects because currently, the innovation is unsustainable. A negative change in economic growth has a more severe impact on environmental quality, so the government should ensure that economic growth continues using clean energy sources. Also, we advocate the subsidization of investment in the development of renewable energy and the adoption of more carbon taxes on fossil fuels to prevent their use and promote the transition to renewable energy sources.

Furthermore, policymakers should encourage green technology, since innovation is currently not directed towards clean technology, and innovation does not reduce consumption-based emissions. We also recommend the



adoption of strategies aimed increasing educational institutions' research funding, particularly in green technologies, to boost green innovation. The focus should also be on promoting collaboration between universities and industries. This will help in boosting affordable and efficient technologies according to the needs of the industries. In designing policies that include economic growth, technological innovation, environmental degradation, and renewable energy usage, Chile needs to be more vigilant by taking into consideration the existence of asymmetries in the interaction between these variables.

Also, the government should carefully design policies as the ongoing pandemic has also affected the pattern of energy consumption. For instance, household energy consumption has been boosted, and transportation energy consumption has reduced in Chile. Thus, authorities should also focus on increasing energy-efficient resident electric appliances and more renewable solutions for household sectors at affordable prices. This research has a limitation in that it only incorporated only a few factors to explore the drivers of CCO<sub>2</sub> due to the limited period of data. As such, additional research is required to examine the asymmetric interconnection among these economic indicators in developing and advanced economies for a more extended period adding more variables to the model.

Acronyms ADF, Augmented Dickey-Fuller; ARDL, Autoregressive distributed lag; BRICS, Brazil, Russia, India, China, and South Africa; CCO<sub>2</sub>, Consumption-based carbon emissions; CO<sub>2</sub>, Carbon dioxide; COP21, UN Climate Change Conference in Paris; DOLS, Dynamic ordinary least square; DUM, Dummy variable; ECM, Error correction model; ECT, Error correction term; EKC, Environmental Kuznets curve; EN, Energy consumption; FMOLS, Fully modified ordinary least squares; GDP<sup>-</sup>, Decrease in economic growth; GDP<sup>+</sup>, Increase in economic growth; GDP, Economic growth; GHGs, Greenhouse gas emissions; GMM, Generalized method of moments; IEA, International Energy Agency; OECD, The Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development; PMG-ARDL, Pooled Mean Group Autoregressive Distributed Lag; PP, Phillips-Perron; R&D, Research and development; REN<sup>-</sup>, Decrease in renewable energy; REN<sup>+</sup>, Increase in renewable energy; TI<sup>-</sup>, Decrease in technological innovation; TI<sup>+</sup>, Increase in technological innovation; TY, Toda and Yamamoto; UAE, United Arab Emirates; VAR, Vector autoregression; ZA, Zivot & Andrews**Symbols**  $\theta$ , Coefficient of the regressors;  $\rho$ , Speed of adjustment;  $e_t$ , Error term;  $ECT_{t-1}$ , Error correction term;  $H_0$ , Null hypothesis;  $H_a$ , Alternative hypothesis

Author contribution Tomiwa Sunday Adebayo collected data and Zahoor Ahmed analyzed it. The introduction and literature review sections are written by Tomiwa Sunday Adebayo and Edmund Ntom Udemba. Tomiwa Sunday Adebayo, Dervis Kirikkaleli and Edmund Ntom Udemba constructed the methodology section and empirical outcomes in the study. Tomiwa Sunday Adebayo and Zahoor Ahmed contributed to the interpretation of the outcomes and policymaking. All the authors read and approved the final manuscript.

**Data availability** Data is readily available at https://data.worldbank.org/country/chile



### **Declarations**

Ethics approval This study follows all ethical practices during writing.

Consent to participate Not applicable

Consent for publication Not applicable

**Competing interests** The authors declare no competing interests.

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