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Explanation of the Moderating Role of Knowledge Management in the Impact of Management Accounting Methods on Company Performance

Aida Bagherzadeh* 

Morvarid Intelligent Industrial Systems Research Group, Iran; aida.bagherzadeh27@gmail.com.

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Abstract

The main objective of this study is to investigate the moderating role of knowledge management in the relationship between the application of management accounting methods and company performance. This research is descriptive-survey in nature. The statistical population consists of financial managers, accountants, and staff in the management and economic departments of companies listed on the Tehran Stock Exchange. Using Morgan's table and a simple random sampling method, 134 individuals were selected as the sample. Data were analyzed using Structural Equation Modeling (SEM) and the Partial Least Squares (PLS) approach. The results show that there is a significant relationship between the application of knowledge management and the use of management accounting methods, and this relationship indirectly affects company performance. Moreover, the moderating role of knowledge management in the relationship between management accounting and company performance was confirmed. By focusing on the moderating role of knowledge management in the relationship between management accounting and company performance, this study offers a novel perspective on integrating knowledge management tools with management accounting techniques. It can contribute to improving managerial decision-making.

Keywords: Knowledge management, Management accounting, Performance.

1 | Introduction

In today's competitive, complex, and rapidly changing world, access to accurate and up-to-date financial and accounting information, along with mastery of management knowledge and familiarity with scientific decision-making techniques, is considered an essential tool for organizational survival and growth [1]. With

the intensification of competition among organizations and increased pressure to enhance productivity and efficiency, attention to intangible assets—especially knowledge management—has become one of the primary sources for creating sustainable competitive advantage. To respond to environmental challenges and make strategic decisions, organizations are inevitably required to utilize the capacities of both individual and organizational knowledge [2]. Knowledge management is a multidimensional concept that emphasizes the acquisition, storage, sharing, and application of knowledge. It involves the management of both explicit and tacit knowledge, along with the organization and utilization of intellectual capital. In this regard, the use of modern technologies and advanced information systems enables organizations to leverage knowledge management tools for processing, storing, and transferring both structured and unstructured knowledge [3].

In the field of management accounting, knowledge also plays a central role. Accounting data becomes valuable only when it is properly analyzed and interpreted, transforming into meaningful information and then into usable knowledge. Management accountants, relying on their insight, experience, and specialized knowledge, play a key role in analyzing financial information and supporting strategic decision-making [4]. Accordingly, knowledge in management accounting can be considered an extension of the general definition of knowledge in management, since accounting data without interpretive knowledge is inherently meaningless and lacks decision-making utility. The management accounting system not only provides managers with the information needed for decision-making but also delivers comprehensive reports for evaluating the performance of managers, employees, and operational processes [5]. At the same time, according to the requirements of the Code of Professional Conduct, management accountants are obliged to continually enhance their knowledge and professional skills in order to maintain their professional competence and integrity [6]. This professional responsibility reflects the significance and position of knowledge in management accounting activities.

Given the above, it can be concluded that knowledge management and management accounting are two fundamental and interconnected components of the modern organizational structure. In order to enhance performance and support strategic decision-making, organizations must utilize management accounting methods within a knowledge-based framework. Accordingly, the present study aims to examine the moderating role of knowledge management in the impact of applying management accounting methods on company performance. The significance of this research lies in the growing need of organizations to develop knowledge capabilities and strengthen information infrastructure particularly in the financial and accounting domains—as prerequisites for growth and innovation. Existing evidence indicates that knowledge management, as a strategic factor, can enhance the effectiveness of management accounting methods and significantly improve organizational performance [7].

From this perspective, the key research questions arise: Is there a significant relationship between the adoption of knowledge management and the application of management accounting methods? How can knowledge management strengthen or moderate this relationship? How can the simultaneous implementation of these two approaches lead to improved company performance and the creation of sustainable competitive advantage?

Answering these questions can lead to a deeper understanding of the interaction between knowledge systems and management accounting tools, and offer practical strategies to enhance decision-making and performance in organizational environments.

2 | Theoretical Foundations and Hypothesis Development

2.1 | Knowledge Management and Management Accounting Techniques

Today, knowledge management is not solely driven by economic pressure; an essential aspect of knowledge management is the effective behavior of individuals [8], [9]. Knowledge management refers to a process that can be precisely used to define a decision-making problem, determine its components, and generalize them.

In a structured decision-making situation, knowledge management can be effectively utilized for the interactive exploration of a set of goals along with strategic options [10], [11].

Managers seek informed advisors to assist them in making better decisions. Management accounting essentially represents the role that management accountants can play—through acquiring the latest scientific advancements—in helping managers fulfill their duties effectively. In shaping a company's strategy, they rely on a combination of acquiring and storing explicit knowledge along with managing intellectual capital [12]. In this context, they play a key role in achieving organizational goals [1].

Knowledge in management accounting can be linked to the definition of knowledge in knowledge management. Accountants use their wisdom and knowledge to interpret accounting numbers and data [13]. According to modern expert views, knowledge management is an organizational issue that seeks to control the intangible and spiritual capacities, experiences, and skills of employees. Today, some scholars believe that the knowledge management approach is gradually replacing total quality management as a measurement and evaluation tool within the quality approach [14].

Management accounting in Iran has not yet attained its proper position as it should. This issue is evident not only in manufacturing institutions but also clearly observed in educational and service centers. The development of management accounting in Iran is debatable not only in quantitative terms but also qualitatively. Although in recent years, efforts have been made in the country to introduce the nature of knowledge-based companies—particularly regarding the employment of management accountants in economic enterprises—such as the approval and admission of students in the management accounting specialization within the accounting field, the establishment of the Management Accounting Association, training expert management accountants, and holding conferences as appropriate by relevant authorities.

2.2 | Knowledge Management and Company Performance

The adoption of knowledge management adds greater value to the overall performance of a company and also helps the company operate more efficiently, creatively, and productively [15], [16]. The benefits of implementing knowledge management initiatives, from the technical level to the strategic level, influence the culture and overall productivity of the organization. Other advantages of knowledge management include improved competitive responsiveness, prevention of costs and wastage of intellectual capital, strategic orientation, and fulfillment of globalization needs, as well as job and organizational effectiveness [17–19]. Companies that continuously and systematically embed knowledge into their business processes to achieve goals can attain greater success [20–24].

Companies achieve self-satisfaction through the level of knowledge management adoption, which leads to varying degrees of knowledge sharing and application [15], [25], [26]. Drago et al. [21] and Suchahio et al. [25] note that the adoption of knowledge management in business results in enhanced business performance. They confirm that company performance is influenced by knowledge management adoption through two main pathways: first, knowledge management can help create knowledge and thereby improve company performance. As long as knowledge management adoption is linked to company performance [27], it plays a vital role in enhancing company performance as well [28].

The effects of knowledge management adoption and the application of management accounting methods on company performance have been examined in several separate models. Therefore, it seems necessary to combine knowledge management adoption and the use of management accounting methods into a single unified model of company performance and to investigate their causal relationships. Most importantly, based on mediation research conducted by Baron and Kenny [29] and Wu et al. [30], it is hypothesized that the adoption of knowledge management plays a significant intervening role in the impact of applying management accounting methods on company performance. Hence, examining the moderating role of knowledge management adoption appears essential.

2.3 | Management Accounting Techniques and Company Performance

Management accounting methods facilitate the decision-making process for managers in planning, organizing, managing, and evaluating the company's strategic business processes and performance by collecting, processing, and transmitting information. Traditional management accounting methods—such as traditional budgeting, cost-volume-profit analysis, and variance analysis—which focus on internal company concerns and adopt a financial approach, are no longer considered efficient tools to provide sufficient information for decision-making in today's dynamic business environments [31–33].

Previous research [34–36] confirms that applying management accounting methods in businesses leads to greater adoption of knowledge management [33], [37]. Besides providing managers with the necessary information for decision-making, management accounting systems are also used to prepare reports for evaluating the operational performance of managers and their subordinate staff [38], [39]. Knowledge management relates to the systematic and purposeful use of knowledge within the organization and its application in activities to achieve organizational goals and mission. Its objective is to prevent repeated mistakes and make decisions based on organizational knowledge [40]. To achieve competitive advantage, companies must connect their control tools to more advanced management systems such as activity-based costing, total quality management, and balanced scorecard, and integrate financial and non-financial information to meet specific customer needs [32], [41].

Furthermore, the use of management accounting information is a determining factor in improving company performance [37]. In a study by Ajibowoladi et al. [42], a positive relationship was reported between the implementation of management accounting methods and company performance. Wang and Han [37] also claimed that greater use of management accounting information helps improve business managers' performance. Ji and Simon [43] provided evidence on the role of accounting information methods in enhancing company performance. Therefore, existing evidence on the relative impact levels of knowledge management compared to the application of management accounting methods on company performance is very important for managers' decision-making regarding the implementation of knowledge management and management accounting methods in business. However, it seems necessary to compare the extent of impact of knowledge management adoption and management accounting methods in supporting company performance improvement [44], [45].

2.4 | Hypothesis Development

In today's turbulent and competitive environment, organizations seek to utilize tools and methods that can assist them in improving performance and achieving strategic goals. One of these tools is modern management accounting techniques, which aim to collect, process, and analyze relevant financial and non-financial information to help managers make effective decisions. Techniques such as activity-based costing, balanced scorecard, and total quality management go beyond traditional financial reporting and provide deeper, more practical information for planning, control, and performance evaluation. Accordingly, it is expected that the application of these methods in organizations will lead to increased efficiency, effectiveness, and ultimately, improved overall company performance.

However, the effective application of these techniques requires the existence of infrastructures that enable their maximum utilization. In this context, knowledge management, as a systematic process for identifying, creating, storing, sharing, and applying organizational knowledge, can play a vital role. Knowledge management enhances organizational learning, facilitates knowledge-based decision-making, prevents the repetition of errors, and increases creativity and innovation at the organizational level. When knowledge management is effectively implemented in companies, it can strengthen the impact of management accounting techniques on company performance and, as a moderating factor, reinforce the relationship between these two variables. Therefore, it is hypothesized that knowledge management is not only effective

on its own in improving organizational performance but also can enhance the effectiveness of management accounting methods, and through the synergy of these two, bring about better performance for companies.

H1: The adoption of knowledge management has a positive and significant relationship with the application of management accounting methods.

Knowledge management helps organizations make better use of management accounting techniques by facilitating learning processes and knowledge sharing. This relationship implies that organizations implementing knowledge management systems are more likely to utilize management accounting methods more extensively and effectively.

H2: The adoption of knowledge management in business has a positive relationship with company performance.

Implementing knowledge management enables organizations to access, share, and utilize the knowledge needed for optimal decision-making, which ultimately leads to increased efficiency, innovation, and overall improvement in company performance.

H3: The application of management accounting methods has a positive relationship with company performance.

Management accounting methods help managers obtain more accurate and practical information for planning and controlling company performance. This information leads to better decision-making and enhanced efficiency, which directly contributes to improved organizational performance.

H4: The adoption of knowledge management moderates the relationship between the application of management accounting methods and company performance.

Knowledge management means that the positive impact of applying management accounting methods on company performance will be stronger and more effective in organizations where knowledge management is well implemented. In other words, knowledge management can act as a reinforcing factor that enhances the relationship between management accounting and performance.

No prior research in Iran has specifically investigated the moderating role of knowledge management in the impact of applying management accounting methods on company performance. However, several domestic and international studies have addressed related topics, as outlined below: Ebrahimi and Nournezhad vanoush [2], in an applied study, presented a comprehensive model for developing dynamic marketing capabilities in small and medium-sized dairy companies. Their results showed that strengthening these capabilities can significantly enhance competitive advantage and improve organizational performance.

Zadeh Gorgan and Mohaqezadeh [16] examined the impact of innovation capability and knowledge sharing on innovation and marketing performance in Parsian Bank, Tehran Province. They found that these factors, as strategic resources, play a key role in improving innovation efficiency and enhancing marketing indicators. Malek hosseini et al. [28], in an applied study, confirmed the role of organizational culture in improving the financial performance of listed companies on the Tehran Stock Exchange through the use of modern management accounting techniques. Their findings showed that the interaction between organizational culture and management accounting techniques leads to significant improvement in financial indicators.

Rashidi et al. [4] investigated the role of knowledge management in the human resource development process at the civil registration organization of Kohgiluyeh and Boyer-Ahmad Province. The results indicated that knowledge management significantly enhances human resource performance and increases employee job satisfaction. Tahvildari [46] examined management accounting tools and showed that optimal and purposeful application of these tools leads to increased financial efficiency and profitability of companies. Donnatte and De Palpo [18] explained the pivotal role of knowledge-oriented leadership in improving knowledge management processes and enhancing organizational innovation. Honarpoor et al. [14] explored the bidirectional relationship between knowledge management and total quality management, finding that strengthening knowledge management can lead to continuous improvement in total quality—and vice versa.

Huang et al. [9] focused on commitment to knowledge systems and the motivation for personal information management. They discovered a significant relationship between these factors and the intention to share knowledge within organizations, which facilitates knowledge flow and enhances organizational productivity. Mustak et al. [3], through thematic analysis and scientometric methods, identified research trends in artificial intelligence in marketing and emphasized the vital role of this technology in transforming marketing strategies.

Novasari [6] identified key factors such as professional diligence, competence, time budget pressure, and work experience as influential elements on audit quality, finding that these factors directly contribute to the improvement of audit service quality. Jassimi and Blanco-Encomienda [5], using the Structural Equation Modeling (SEM)-NCA method, analyzed the impact of participative budgeting on reducing budget slack and enhancing managerial performance, with leadership style and leader-member exchange acting as mediators. Sinayah et al. [11] examined the importance of managerial decision-making styles in the strategic management process and organizational performance. Their study confirmed that effective decision-making styles lead to continuous improvement in organizational performance. Finally, Dzenpolyak et al. [12], emphasizing intra-organizational knowledge sharing and ambidexterity, highlighted the role of knowledge quality as a determining factor in enhancing company performance.

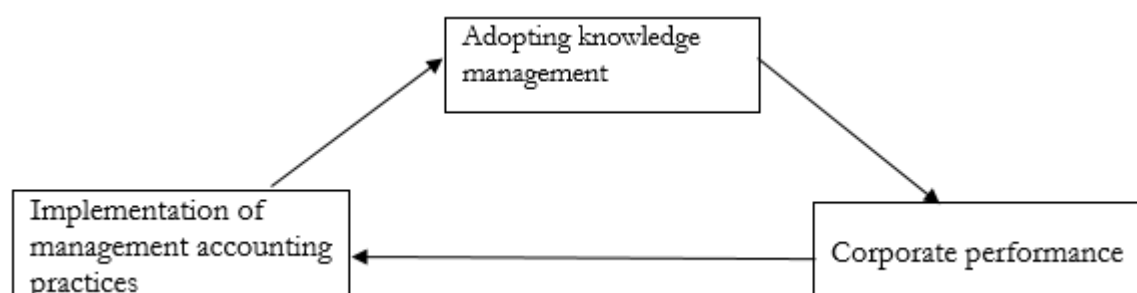


Fig. 1. Conceptual model of the research [37].

3 | Methodology

The statistical population of this study includes managers of the Tehran Stock Exchange. Due to cost and time constraints related to sampling, a sample was selected using a stratified sampling method and determined based on the appropriate sample size table for the statistical population. This sample consists of 154 managers from the specified Karajsi and Morgan regions, who operate within companies active in the Tehran Stock Exchange at a confidence level. The selected sample was designed to be representative of the population. Then, questionnaires were distributed among these 154 individuals, from which 136 questionnaires were collected. Of these, two questionnaires were excluded due to incomplete responses, and ultimately 134 questionnaires were used for the final analysis.

3.1 | Method, Data Collection Tools, and Data Analysis

In this study, the library research method was used to collect data and information related to the literature review and investigation of previous studies. In the library section, the theoretical foundations of the research were gathered from specialized Persian and English books and journals. Information regarding the indicators of knowledge management adoption, management accounting methods, and company performance was obtained through field research methods. Since the research was conducted as a field study dealing with real data, a survey questionnaire was used to collect data related to the dependent and independent variables of the study. This questionnaire was distributed among the heads and executive managers of companies listed on the Tehran Stock Exchange. The collected data related to the research variables were analyzed using statistical techniques, and statistical tests for the hypotheses were performed with SPSS22 and Partial Least Squares (PLS) smart software. The method used in the field research involved a questionnaire consisting of two separate sections: The first section included general questions about the respondent, comprising five

questions; the second section contained specialized questions designed to test the proposed hypotheses, consisting of 25 questions divided into four parts. The statistical methods employed in this study can be divided into two categories: Descriptive and inferential statistics. Descriptive statistical methods such as frequency distribution tables and means were used to examine and describe the general characteristics of the respondents. In the inferential section, the research hypotheses were analyzed at a 95% confidence level (5% error level). The reliability of the questionnaire in this study was calculated using Cronbach's alpha, as shown in *Table 1*, indicating the high reliability of the questions presented in this research.

Table 1. Reliability of research variables.

| Variable | Number of Questions | Cronbach's Alpha |
|--|---------------------|------------------|
| Adoption of knowledge management | 10 | 0.728 |
| Application of management accounting methods | 5 | 0.850 |
| Company performance | 10 | 0.855 |
| Total Cronbach's alpha value | 25 | 0.854 |

The overall Cronbach's alpha value is 0.854, as also shown in the table above. The Cronbach's alpha for the entire questionnaire, calculated using SPSS software, is 0.854, which is higher than the threshold of 0.7. Therefore, the questionnaire demonstrates good reliability and can be used to test the research hypotheses. Moreover, the reliability coefficients for the three variables—"knowledge management adoption," "application of management accounting methods," and "company performance"—are 0.728, 0.850, and 0.885, respectively, all exceeding 0.7. Thus, the items for each variable also possess satisfactory reliability.

4 | Research Findings

4.1 | Analysis of Demographic Data

First, the demographic characteristics of the 134 questionnaire respondents during the research period are examined using frequency distribution. As shown in *Table 2*, 62% of respondents are male and 38% are female. Regarding age groups, respondents under 30 years old constitute the smallest group at 14%, while those aged 35 to 40 years represent the largest group with 36% participation. In terms of education, the lowest proportion (10%) belongs to the associate degree group, and the highest proportion (46%) corresponds to those holding a master's degree or its equivalent. Regarding work experience, the smallest proportion (11%) is related to individuals with more than 25 years of experience, whereas the largest proportion (52%) belongs to those with 5 to 15 years of work experience.

Table 2. Descriptive statistical results of frequency distribution and demographic characteristics of respondents.

| Demographic Characteristic | | Abundance | Percentage |
|----------------------------|---------------------------------------|-----------|------------|
| Gender | Male | 82 | 0.62 |
| | Female | 52 | 0.38 |
| | Total | 134 | 0.100 |
| Age | Less than 30 | 19 | 0.14 |
| | Between 30 and 35 | 45 | 0.33 |
| | Between 35 and 40 | 49 | 0.36 |
| | More than 40 | 21 | 0.15 |
| | Total | 134 | 0.100 |
| Achievements | Above diploma | 14 | 0.10 |
| | Associate degree | 39 | 0.26 |
| | Senior associate degree or equivalent | 62 | 0.46 |
| | Doctorate or equivalent | 19 | 0.14 |
| | Total | 134 | 0.100 |

Table 2. Continued.

| Percentage | Demographic Characteristic | Abundance | Percentage |
|------------|----------------------------|-----------|------------|
| Experience | Less than 5 years | 18 | 0.13 |
| | Between 5 and 15 years | 70 | 0.52 |
| | Between 15 and 25 years | 30 | 0.22 |
| | More than 25 years | 16 | 0.11 |
| | Total | 134 | 0.100 |

4.2 | Model Estimation and Analysis Results

The structural model fit is assessed using Z coefficients, which must be greater than 1.96 to confirm the significance of all questions and relationships between variables at a 95% confidence level. According to Fig. 2, the Z significance coefficients for all paths exceed 1.96; therefore, all questions and relationships between variables are significant at the 95% confidence level. The second criterion for assessing structural model fit in research is the R^2 coefficients related to the endogenous (Dependent) latent variables in the model.

These indicate the impact of an exogenous variable on an endogenous variable, with values of 0.19, 0.33, and 0.67 considered as thresholds for weak, moderate, and strong R^2 , respectively Davari and Reza-zadeh [47]. According to Fig. 2, the R^2 values of the endogenous variables, shown inside the blue circles, are all greater than 0.33. Therefore, the model fit based on the R^2 criterion is considered good, indicating the model's high explanatory power. Hence, it can be stated that the overall model is statistically significant. In other words, the independent variables of the study collectively predict and explain the dependent variable to an acceptable degree. The model estimation was conducted using SEM with the PLS approach. The results of the model estimation are presented in Figs. 2 and 3.

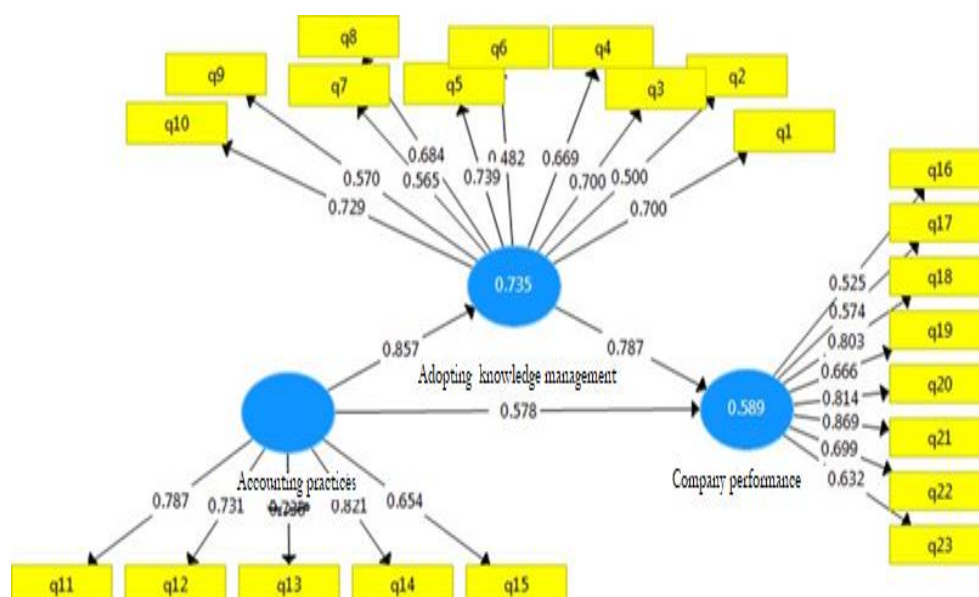


Fig. 2. Factor loadings coefficients.

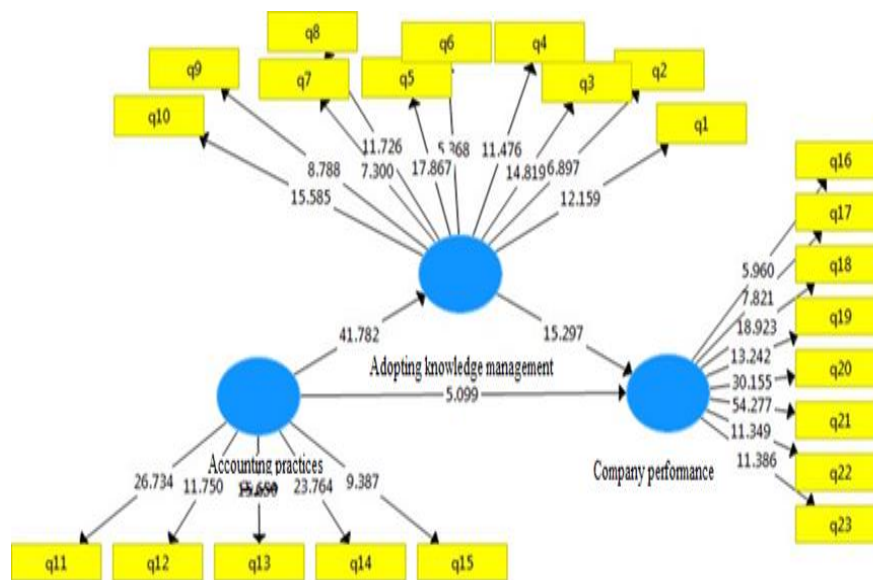


Fig. 3. Significance coefficients (Z-values/t-values).

After evaluating the fit of the measurement models, the research hypotheses are tested in two ways: Examining the significance coefficients Z (T-values) and analyzing the standardized factor loadings of the paths corresponding to each hypothesis. This study determines the effect of each independent and mediating variable on the dependent variable based on the results of model estimation using SEM with the PLS approach, as shown in *Figs. 2 and 3*. Suppose the significance level of Z (T-value) for variables in all paths is greater than 1.96.

In that case, the effect of that variable on the dependent variable is significant at the 95% confidence level. In this case, the next step is to analyze the coefficients of the variables. If the coefficient sign is positive, it indicates a direct relationship between the independent and mediating variables with the dependent variable; that is, as the value of the independent and mediating variables increases, the value of the dependent variable also increases. Conversely, if the coefficient sign is negative, it indicates an inverse relationship between the independent and mediating variables with the dependent variable; meaning, as the value of the independent and mediating variables increases, the value of the dependent variable decreases.

4.3 | Testing and Results of Research Hypotheses

A summary of the hypothesis test results, according to *Figs. 2 and 3*, is presented below. Regarding the first hypothesis, which states that the adoption of knowledge management has a positive relationship with the application of management accounting methods, the test results show a significance level of 41.78, which is well above 1.96. Therefore, there is a significant relationship between knowledge management adoption and the use of management accounting methods. Considering the positive sign of the path coefficient, there is a direct relationship between knowledge management adoption and the application of management accounting methods in this study. The path coefficient is 0.857, indicating a strong effect. As a result, the hypothesis is accepted with 95% confidence. Accepted hypothesis means that a 1% increase in knowledge management adoption is expected to increase the application of management accounting methods by 85.7%. The findings of this hypothesis align with the research of Wang and Han [37].

Regarding the second hypothesis, which states that the adoption of knowledge management in business leads to better company performance, the test results show a significance level of 15.29, which is higher than 1.96. Therefore, there is a significant relationship between knowledge management adoption in business and company performance. Given the positive sign of the path coefficient, this study confirms a direct relationship between knowledge management adoption in business and company performance. The path coefficient is 0.787, indicating a strong effect. Consequently, the hypothesis is accepted with 95% confidence. The

confidence interval means that a 1% increase in knowledge management adoption in business is expected to increase the company's financial performance by 78.7%. This result is consistent with the findings of Teece [20], Drogue et al. [21], Tseng [48], and Cohen and Olsen [49].

Regarding the third hypothesis, which states that the application of management accounting methods has a positive relationship with company performance, the test results show a significance level of 5.099, which is higher than 1.96. Therefore, there is a significant relationship between the use of management accounting methods and company performance. Given the positive sign of the path coefficient, this study confirms a direct relationship between the application of management accounting methods and company performance. The path coefficient is 0.578, indicating a moderate effect. Consequently, the hypothesis is accepted with 95% confidence. The moderate impact means that a 1% increase in the application of management accounting methods is expected to increase the company's financial performance by 57.8%. The results of this hypothesis are consistent with the research of Tyles et al. [34] and Novas et al. [35].

Regarding the fourth hypothesis, which states that knowledge management adoption moderates the relationship between the application of management accounting methods and company performance, the test results show that the significance levels of the three paths among the variables—knowledge management adoption, application of management accounting methods, and company performance—are 41.78, 15.29, and 5.099 respectively, all higher than 1.96. Knowledge management adoption indicates that both the direct effect of management accounting methods on company performance and the indirect effect of management accounting methods on company performance through the mediating variable of knowledge management adoption are significant at the 95% confidence level. Therefore, this hypothesis is confirmed.

On the other hand, the two coefficients 0.85 and 0.78 indicate that the variable "management accounting methods" indirectly affects the company's performance variable by 67% (0.85×0.78) through the mediating variable of knowledge management adoption. The mediating variable means that a 1% increase in management accounting methods is expected to indirectly increase the company's financial performance via the mediating effect of knowledge management adoption.

5 | Conclusion

In this study, from the perspective of management accounting indicators and company performance, the adoption and acceptance of knowledge management were examined with the aim of providing evidence on the relationship between knowledge management adoption and the application of management accounting techniques on the performance of companies listed on the Tehran Stock Exchange. The findings from the model estimation show that the entire model is statistically significant; in other words, the independent and mediating variables of the study together meaningfully predict and explain the dependent variable. The research results indicate that the implementation of management accounting methods at the organizational level leads to an increase in the acceptance level of knowledge management. An increase in the acceptance level means that by performing management accounting tasks, knowledge is added to the organization's general knowledge, where the manner of development and use of this knowledge as part of the organization's knowledge body, and also the review of decision-making processes in management accounting from the perspective of knowledge management and how knowledge management is used in decision-making are considered.

The study examines how knowledge is collected, processed, distributed, and applied in different decision-making situations, and how it shifts from everyday decision-making needs to strategic needs, as well as informational needs and the resulting outcomes of decisions. Therefore, considering the results of this study which show that knowledge management adoption has a positive relationship with the use of management accounting methods, it is recommended to managers that, in order to transform the company into a knowledge-centered institution through knowledge management technologies and strategies, it is essential first to address the underlying dynamics in the knowledge economy, knowledge, and knowledge management.

Furthermore, the necessary infrastructures for establishing knowledge management should be considered, and according to the available organizational resources, actions should be taken to reduce obstacles within the organization.

As the results showed, the adoption of knowledge management in business has a positive relationship with company performance. In other words, by applying knowledge management methods in organizations and companies, their financial performance also improves; that is, adopting knowledge management in business leads to better company performance. This research indicates that the adoption of knowledge management plays an effective role in enhancing company performance; therefore, it can be said that knowledge management processes and activities impact the improvement of employees' knowledge learning, processes, products, and organizational performance. Strategic management accounting can influence internal organizational processes through knowledge management activities, reform them, and thereby help improve organizational performance. Improving processes results in greater organizational flexibility, cost reduction, innovative processes, and product improvements; these changes lead to the emergence of new standards, norms, values, and structures. Based on the characteristics and indicators of knowledge management, it is assumed that the role of management accounting as one of the sources of knowledge and supporting skills for the organization's competitive advantage is very effective.

Accordingly, it is recommended that managers, considering the existing capabilities within the organization, strengthen factors related to the creation, acquisition, sharing, and leveraging of knowledge to provide the grounds for the growth and development of organizational activities. Also, employees should be involved in organizational decision-making and, as much as possible, their viewpoints and suggestions should be utilized to create the necessary conditions for fostering creativity and facilitating the process of converting resources into benefits.

The findings of the research showed that the application of management accounting methods has a positive relationship with company performance. Considering the results of this study, respondents believe that the more companies can efficiently and effectively use management accounting methods, the more positive impact it will have on their performance. Management accounting methods occur through providing useful information that assists in planning, controlling, evaluating processes, and ultimately decision-making, which can positively affect performance. Therefore, based on the research results, it should be said that management accounting information plays an important role in facilitating communication and coordination between different departments. It can ease relationships, decisions, and information systems, and build trust among all departments. With the expansion of new knowledge in management accounting among all employees, a new knowledge-based organization emerges that, supported by information technology and knowledge management in organizational processes, becomes a repository of valuable knowledge.

The result of continuous employee innovation is also the improvement of processes and cost reduction, which leads to maintaining and increasing competitive advantage and, consequently, better organizational performance. Hence, it is recommended to managers of organizations and companies to utilize output data from management accounting systems as input for their decision-making models. According to respondents, such information can be effectively used in making better decisions, planning, controlling, and evaluating internal organizational processes. Moreover, holding training sessions strengthens employees' learning and creativity spirit, providing the necessary conditions to update their work capabilities.

The results show that knowledge management adoption moderates the relationship between the application of management accounting methods and company performance. Considering its progressive and dynamic nature, knowledge management can help improve internal methods and processes of the organization and assist organizations in responding to environmental changes around them. This intervention, given the cultural, social, economic, political, and legal conditions surrounding commercial organizations in Iran, and the localization of management accounting methods and techniques in Iran, is highly effective and can contribute to the development and improvement of management accounting methods and techniques. In fact, the adoption and use of concepts, tools, techniques, and strategies of knowledge management in future

transformations, aimed at establishing knowledge-based companies, is not simple because it requires the correct selection of tools and techniques that are used in a coordinated manner. It should be noted that this research is about identifying and explaining the moderating role of knowledge management in the effect of applying management accounting methods on the performance of companies listed on the Tehran Stock Exchange. Since many other factors can be examined in future studies, it is recommended that future research identify and investigate other factors affecting the moderating role of knowledge management in the mentioned relationship.

Also, due to inherent limitations of using questionnaires and statistical methods, and because the sample included both public and private companies, further studies are needed to understand better the psychological and behavioral dimensions of managerial variables such as knowledge management, organizational trust, and other behavioral variables. Finally, the development, promotion, and application of knowledge management require studies that also examine the psychological and behavioral dimensions of this field.

Conflict of Interest

The authors declare no conflict of interest.

Data Availability

All data are included in the text.

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