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Modelling Behavioural Factors Affecting Consumers' Intention to Adopt Electric Aircraft: A Multi-Method Investigation

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Abstract: Electric aircraft are seen as a key option for reducing the environmental footprint of the aviation industry. This research aims to identify the factors that influence Turkish air travellers' intentions to adopt electric aircraft by building upon the theory of planned behaviour (TPB). A structured online survey was developed to gather cross-sectional data from 217 air travellers using convenience sampling. The data were analysed through a multi-method approach, including structural equation modelling (SEM) for sufficiency analysis and necessary condition analysis (NCA) for necessity analysis. The findings reveal that attitudes, subjective norms, perceived behavioural control, personal moral norms, and green trust positively correlate with the intention to adopt electric aircraft, whereas perceived risk has a negative correlation. Moreover, the NCA indicates that attitudes, subjective norms, perceived behavioural control, personal moral norms, environmental knowledge, and green trust are necessary conditions for the intention to adopt electric aircraft, reinforcing these results. This study is the first empirical attempt to investigate the formation of the intention to adopt electric aircraft, built on both sufficiency and necessity logics.

Keywords: aviation; electric aircraft; theory of planned behaviour; intention to adopt; structural equation modelling; necessary condition analysis



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1. Introduction

Aviation has played a significant role in strengthening global connectivity and facilitating the movement of people and goods across borders. Despite challenges such as the September 11th terrorist attacks, severe acute respiratory syndrome (SARS), and COVID-19, the aviation industry has achieved remarkable growth over the past decades, making air travel more accessible and affordable [1–3]. The International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) reported that the total number of passengers carried on scheduled services increased from 2.5 billion in 2003 to 4.5 billion in 2019, before the COVID-19 pandemic disrupted air travel [4]. Furthermore, compared to 2019, air travel demand is projected to double by 2040, increasing at an annual rate of 3.4% [5]. However, this expansion also brings significant environmental challenges, such as emissions and pollution [6].

According to the International Air Transport Association (IATA), the aviation industry is responsible for approximately 2.5% of global carbon dioxide (CO₂) emissions [5]. While this figure may seem relatively small, it should be noted that emissions from the aviation industry have continuously increased, reaching 903 megatons of CO₂ in 2019 [7]. Moreover, the aviation industry also contributes to the formation of non-CO₂ emissions such as noise pollution, nitrogen oxides (NOx), and particulate matter (PM), which contribute to local air quality issues and broader climatic effects [8]. With the continuous increase in demand for air travel, addressing the global impacts of the aviation industry has become a critical issue. In fact, if no additional measures are taken, global aviation emissions are projected to triple by 2050 compared to pre-pandemic levels [9].

In response to these challenges, various stakeholders, including governments, aviation organizations, and aircraft manufacturers have proposed and implemented several

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strategies to reduce the environmental impacts of air travel. For instance, at the 41st ICAO Assembly, with the participation of 184 states and 57 organizations, ICAO member states adopted the aspirational goal of achieving net zero carbon emissions by 2050 [10]. Similarly, the European Union (EU) Commission, in collaboration with stakeholders, has developed a strategic vision called Flightpath 2050. The goal is to reduce aircraft emissions by 75% CO₂, 90% NOx, and produce 65% less noise by 2050, using emission levels from the year 2000 as a reference [11]. Proposed solutions to combat environmental pollution range from operational improvements like optimizing flight routes and implementing more effective air traffic management systems to researching new aircraft technologies and alternative fuels such as sustainable aviation fuels (SAFs) [7,12,13].

At this stage, one promising solution is the development of electric aircraft. Corroborating this, the Air Transport Action Group's (ATAG) Waypoint 2050 report also underlines the role of hybrid/electric aircraft, particularly those with short range and less than 100 seats, in achieving net zero CO₂ emissions [14]. Electric aircraft leverage advancements in electric propulsion systems and battery technologies to significantly reduce direct emissions from air travel, thereby mitigating the industry's environmental impact [6]. Electric aviation offers the potential to drastically reduce emissions, decrease noise pollution, and lower operational costs related to fuel and maintenance [6,12].

Electric aircraft are seen as a sustainable emerging option for air travel and an environmentally friendly alternative to conventional aircraft [15]. According to Deloitte Netherlands' 2022 report [16], the current industry estimates that battery-electric aircraft with a capacity of 9–19 passengers will be available by 2030, and thus electric aviation is expected to take off in the next decade. Over the past few decades, there has been a noticeable increase in environmentally conscious customers within the aviation industry [17]. In this context, attitudes toward electric aircraft and readiness to adopt them are critical factors for the adoption of these technologies. The increasing sensitivity of passengers to environmental issues will be the driving force behind this transition. Therefore, understanding the processes by which air travellers adopt electric aircraft in depth is of vital importance for researchers and practitioners.

Research considers behavioural intention as a proxy for behaviour and posits that behavioural intention is an essential driver of actual behaviour [18]. Understanding the adoption intention for electric aircraft, an emerging technology with significant potential to reduce emissions, is crucial for advancing sustainable practices in aviation. However, the existing literature indicates that there is a significant paucity of research focusing on the intentions of air travellers to adopt electric aircraft [15,17,19–21]. This gap is particularly noteworthy given the increasing importance of sustainable transportation solutions in the aviation industry. Understanding passenger adoption intentions is critical for designing effective strategies to encourage the transition to electric aircraft, which are pivotal for reducing the environmental impact of air travel. To address this research gap, the present study aims to investigate the determinants influencing air travellers' intentions to adopt electric aircraft, by extending the framework of the theory of planned behaviour (TPB).

Previous research [15,22–24] has typically employed analytical methods like structural equation modelling (SEM) to analyse consumer attitudes toward electric vehicles. The logic of SEM analysis is based on the assumption known as "sufficiency", which posits that "X increases Y" [25]. According to sufficiency logic, a determinant may be sufficient to produce a dependent variable, but whether it is necessary remains a question [26]. On the other hand, necessary condition analysis (NCA), which is based on "necessity logic", implies that certain levels of determinants must be present for an outcome to occur. This can be expressed as "Y requires X" [27]. If the necessary conditions are not met, the expected outcome cannot be achieved [28].

In the existing literature, Han et al. [15] examined how perceived uncertainty and attachment to eco-friendly products moderate consumers' intentions to adopt eco-friendly electric aircraft. Han et al. [17] investigated how gender and age influence airline passengers' decision making when considering environmentally responsible electric aircraft. Han

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et al. [19] identified factors that trigger travellers' willingness to use and recommend eco-friendly aircraft, focusing on underlying motivational triggers. Fu and Moeckel [20] examined key factors that influence the acceptance of hybrid-electric aircraft among air travellers. Han et al. [29] assessed the effects of travellers' perceived risk, attitude, and new product knowledge on their acceptance of electric aircraft. This study distinguishes itself by (a) proposing a more comprehensive TPB model, (b) utilizing both SEM and NCA to examine the antecedents of the intention to adopt electric aircraft, and (c) employing a Turkish sample.

This study stands out as the first to use a multi-method approach integrating both SEM and NCA to identify the sufficient (should-have factors that contribute to a highlevel outcome) and necessary (must-have factors required for an outcome) conditions for the adoption intention of electric aircraft, an emerging technology. By combining these two logics, it provides a deeper understanding of the proposed relationships [30]. Furthermore, this study extends the TPB to electric aircraft, shedding light on the impact of various predictors on air travellers' adoption intentions. The findings of this study are robust, based on the principles of sufficiency (should-have) and necessity (must-have), and provide a more comprehensive understanding of the behavioural factors influencing the intention to adopt electric aircraft. Lastly, this study targeted air travellers living in Türkiye. Türkiye presents a compelling case for studying the potential adoption of electric aircraft. Firstly, the nation's import landscape reflects a strong demand for electric-based technologies. Data from 2023 indicate that both vehicles and electric machinery rank among Türkiye's top five import commodities by value, reaching USD 31 million and USD 26 million, respectively [31]. This suggests a pre-existing interest in and infrastructure for electric technologies that could readily translate to the adoption of electric aircraft. Türkiye's domestic air travel industry exhibits significant growth potential. Between 2008 and 2018, domestic traffic grew at a rate of 12%, exceeding the 9% increase observed in international traffic [32]. This trend highlights a growing domestic travel market that electric aircraft could effectively cater to. Furthermore, the integration of electric aircraft into domestic routes could significantly contribute to reducing aviation-related emissions in Türkiye. Building on existing technological interest and an increasing domestic travel market, the Turkish market presents an opportunity to explore the potential of electrification for sustainable aviation practices.

The remainder of this paper is structured as follows: Section 2 outlines the conceptual framework and develops the research hypotheses. Section 3 describes the research methodology. Section 4 presents the findings from a multi-method approach, while Section 5 discusses these findings. Finally, Section 6 concludes the study with theoretical and practical implications and suggests directions for future research.

2. Conceptual Framework and Hypothesis Development

2.1. Electric Aircraft's Technological Advancements and Passenger Considerations

The aviation industry is determined to achieve net-zero carbon emissions by 2050. While incremental improvements to conventional technology offer limited progress towards this goal [33], research is actively exploring transformative solutions. A key focus lies in the increased use of electric power within the propulsion system [34].

Electric propulsion offers significant potential for cleaner, quieter, and more energy-efficient operations [34]. The viability of electric aircraft hinges on reductions in energy consumption, emissions, noise, and operational costs. Considerable effort is currently directed towards benchmarking technology enablers and charting a path towards commercialization [35]. The main differences between conventional and electric aircraft are listed in Table 1 [6,11,12,14,36,37].

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Feature	Conventional Aircraft	Electric Aircraft
CO ₂ emissions	Higher CO_2 emissions due to combustion of aviation fuel	Lower to zero direct emissions, depending on the source of electricity
Other emissions	NOx, PM, noise pollution	Reduced noise pollution
Energy source	Fossil fuels (jet fuel)	Electricity from various sources
Charging time	Not applicable	Varies by technology and battery size
Supplies and instruments	Standard aviation fuel and maintenance tools for combustion engines	Electric-specific tools, battery management systems
Charging equipment	Not applicable	Charging stations which may require different voltages and connectors
Handling of old technology	Gradual phase-out with potential for retrofitting or repurposing	Recycling or disposal of old batteries and electric components
Waste and dangers	Includes waste like used oil and hydraulic fluids	Battery waste, with potential risks of leaks or fires

Table 1. The key differences between conventional aircraft and electric aircraft.

However, navigating this path presents a complex balancing act. Designing efficient and viable electric aircraft demands maintaining the highest standards of safety and reliability under diverse operational conditions [35]. Furthermore, the introduction of these disruptive technologies will necessitate significant changes in aircraft design and operational procedures. The current industry modelling environment lacks the capacity to fully capture the multidisciplinary aspects of electric propulsion systems [38].

Beyond technical considerations, a holistic view requires acknowledging factors like technology development approaches, safety and reliability concerns, error-tolerance strategies, ground infrastructure needs, and regulatory hurdles [38]. Addressing these elements is critical to ensuring the smooth and comprehensive operation of electric aircraft.

While the commercial viability of electric aircraft remains under debate, preliminary assessments paint a promising picture for further exploration. Estimates suggest a potential market pull for short- and medium-range electric aircraft applications within the next 15–20 years [39].

However, technological advancements alone cannot guarantee success. Passenger acceptance is equally important for the successful introduction of electric-powered aviation. While existing research on electric aircraft consumers primarily focuses on demand modelling and economic feasibility [40,41], investigations into passenger intentions and technology acceptance remain relatively sparse [17,20]. This lack of understanding highlights the need for further exploration of public perception towards electric aircraft.

2.2. Theory of Planned Behaviour and Intentions to Use Green Products

The central constructs of Ajzen's [42] TPB are that individuals are likely to perform a specific type of behaviour if they believe (1) that such behaviour has a favourable consequence, (2) that others will praise it, and (3) that they have the capacity to perform the behaviour.

The first component of the theory, behavioural intention, is driven by motivational factors that shape behaviour [42]. The stronger an individual's intention to perform a specific behaviour, the more likely they are to actually do so. The second component, attitude towards the behaviour, refers to how positively or negatively an individual views the behaviour. Attitude is formed by behavioural beliefs and the evaluation of potential outcomes. Next, subjective norm involves the social pressures that influence whether an individual will or will not engage in a behaviour. It is shaped by normative beliefs and the individual's motivation to adhere to these norms. Perceived behavioural control, another crucial element of the TPB, concerns an individual's perceptions of the ease or difficulty associated with the behaviour in question. In other words, attitude toward the behaviour,

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subjective norm, and perceived behavioural control are essential cognitive variables that influence behavioural intention determining the action [43].

The application of the theory of planned behaviour in a certain context is essential for the prediction of individuals' future behaviour. The theory suggests that one's intention is the immediate predictor of actual behaviour [15,44]. The TPB has been widely applied in air transportation research to understand and predict travellers' intentions and behaviours related to air travel. The theory is commonly employed to explain and predict pro-environmental behaviours in air travel, such as willingness to pay for carbon offsetting or choosing more sustainable flight options [45–47].

The core components of TPB—attitudes, subjective norm, and perceived behavioural control—are used to model travellers' intentions and actual behaviour towards sustainable air travel practices. Studies have found that positive attitudes towards environmental protection, social pressure from peers, and perceived ease of offsetting emissions positively influence intentions to pay for carbon offsetting when booking flights [48].

While research directly addressing electric aircraft is limited, findings from broader pro-environmental studies within the airline industry offer valuable insights for hypotheses development. Niu et al. [49] found that passengers are more likely to choose airlines with strong environmental practices, and Hagmann et al. [50] observed a positive influence of green image on airline choice, with passengers even willing to pay a premium for eco-friendly initiatives. Drawing parallels between these findings and the context of electric aircraft, it is expected that positive attitudes towards electric aircraft, social pressure to be environmentally conscious, and the perceived ease of using them (behavioural control) to all contribute to a stronger intention to fly on electric aircraft. This assumption rests on the expectation that electric aircraft will be viewed similarly to other green initiative in the airline industry. Therefore, the following hypotheses are proposed:

H1. Attitude towards eco-friendly electric aircraft has a positive effect on the intention to adopt electric aircraft.

H2. Subjective norm has a positive effect on the intention to adopt electric aircraft.

H3. *Perceived behavioural control has a positive effect on the intention to adopt electric aircraft.*

While TPB has been widely used, some studies highlight its limitations in fully explaining the intention–behaviour gap in sustainable air travel. Researchers extended TPB through combining it with other theoretical frameworks or including additional factors to increase its explanatory power in predicting pro-environmental intentions and sustainable air travel behaviour [29,51,52]. On the other hand, Lin et al. [18] identified the factors affecting environmentally friendly behavioural intentions in the context of tourism and hospitality through a meta-analysis involving 194 empirical studies. This meta-analysis highlighted that environmental mindsets, norms, and values, as well as perceptions and evaluations, significantly shape individuals' intentions toward pro-environmental behaviours [18]. Supporting this finding, as shown in Table 2, various studies exploring behavioural intentions related to electric vehicles have extended the TPB framework. These studies have integrated constructs such as environmental knowledge (environmental mindset), environmental concern (environmental mindset), personal moral norms (norms and values), perceived risk (perceptions and evaluations), and green trust (perceptions and evaluations).

Therefore, the current study seeks to extend the TPB framework by incorporating these variables—environmental knowledge, environmental concern, personal moral norms, perceived risk, and green trust—to offer a more comprehensive prediction model for the intention to adopt electric aircraft. Each of these factors has been selected based on its theoretical and empirical relevance to understanding pro-environmental behaviours, as evidenced by the previous literature (see Table 2). Environmental knowledge and environmental concern are included to assess how awareness and concern for environmental issues influence adoption intentions. Personal moral norms are examined to understand the role

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of individual ethical standards in shaping pro-environmental behaviours. Perceived risk is considered to evaluate how concerns about potential negative outcomes might impact adoption intentions toward electric aircraft. Finally, green trust is integrated to explore the role of trust in environmentally friendly aircraft. The factors incorporated into the study and their operational definitions are provided in Table 2. The proposed conceptual model is shown in Figure 1.

Table 2. The pertinent factors affecting the intention to adopt electric air	Table 2. The perting	nent factors affecting	the intention to	o adopt electric aircr
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Factor	Description	Reference
Perceived risk	The degree to which an individual perceives the use of electric aircraft as risky or uncertain	[29,53–55]
Personal moral norms	The personal beliefs and values that guide an individual's decisions and behaviours towards the environment	[21,56–59]
Environmental knowledge	The level of knowledge and awareness an individual has about environmental issues and the impact of their actions	[23,60,61]
Environmental concern	The level of concern an individual has towards the environment and the impact of their actions on it	[23,61–64]
Green trust	The degree to which an individual trusts that electric aircraft are environmentally friendly and beneficial	[21,24,65]

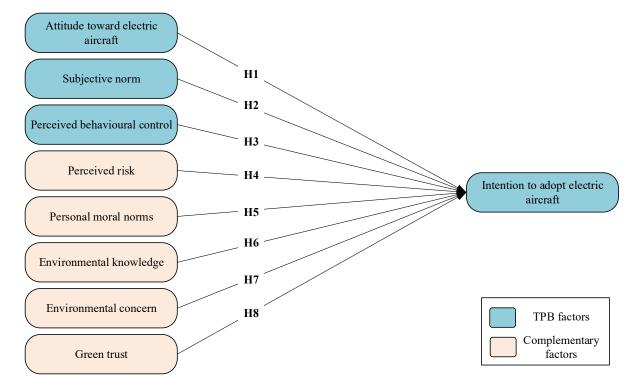


Figure 1. Proposed research model.

2.2.1. Perceived Risk

In terms of consumer behaviour and technology adoption, perceived risk emerges as a significant factor influencing individuals' intentions to adopt electric vehicles (EVs) and other innovative technologies. Hu et al. [53], Şimşekoğlu and Nayum [54], and Jaiswal et al. [55] suggested that perceived risk acts as a barrier to EV adoption, indicating that managing risk perceptions and uncertainties is required for promoting sustainable transportation solutions. Clothier et al. [66] conducted surveys to investigate public perceptions of drones and found that risk perception, influenced by terminology and broader concerns, can impact the acceptance of new aviation technologies.

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In the context of electric aircraft, safety considerations are dominant due to the challenges posed by the use of batteries in aircraft propulsion systems [38]. The transition towards more electric aircraft and all-electric aircraft underscores the increasing reliance on electrical power in aviation systems, posing new challenges related to insulation and electrical stress [67]. Studies indicate that battery performance can increase thermal risk, while electrical components in controls raise partial discharge concerns [68,69]. These factors highlight the need for robust risk management in electric aircraft design and operation and influence the public perception of risk in electric aircraft systems [70]. Han et al. [29] analysed the responses of more than 300 U.S. airline passengers and suggest that reducing customers' perceived risk is critical to boosting trust and to a positive attitude towards adopting electric aircraft. Based on the previous studies, it is expected that the degree of the relationship strength between intention to adopt electric aircraft is influenced by the level of perceived risk.

H4. *Perceived risk negatively impacts the intention to adopt electric aircraft.*

2.2.2. Personal Moral Norms

In the context of adopting environmentally friendly technologies, previous studies highlight the impact of personal moral norms on consumer behaviour and decision-making processes [58]. Personal moral norms have been identified as a significant positive predictor of consumer buying intentions, indicating that individuals who hold strong moral convictions are more inclined to make environmentally conscious purchasing decisions [59]. Such findings emphasize the importance of moral considerations in driving consumer behaviour towards sustainable choices. Yadav [57] has shown a positive association between moral standards and consumers' intentions to purchase electric vehicles, indicating that ethical considerations significantly impact consumer adoption of environmentally friendly transportation options. This association between moral standards and adoption intentions suggests that individuals who prioritize ethical values are more likely to support and engage with sustainable innovations in different modes of transportation, similarly, the electric aircraft. Thus, the following hypothesis is proposed:

H5. There is a positive association between moral norms and air travellers' intentions to adopt electric aircraft.

2.2.3. Environmental Knowledge

The TPB suggests that knowledge influences attitudes and intentions; existing research suggests a positive and mediating effect of environmental knowledge on the adoption of sustainable technologies [71].

A deeper understanding of environmental issues and the impact of technology on the environment can significantly influence perceptions and behavioural intentions regarding electric aircraft. Studies in the tourism sector demonstrate this connection, where individuals with higher environmental consciousness and knowledge exhibit a stronger inclination to use electric Vertical Take-Off and Landing (eVTOL) aircraft [72]. This recognition of the environmental benefits associated with electric transportation translates to a greater intention to adopt such technologies.

Research across various domains consistently highlights the link between environmental knowledge and pro-environmental behaviours. Indrajaya et al. [60] identified environmental knowledge as a key factor influencing green purchase intentions and positive attitudes towards sustainable products. This suggests that enhancing public understanding of environmental challenges can foster greater acceptance of environmentally friendly alternatives like electric aircraft.

Similar findings emerge from studies on electric vehicles. Consumers with a stronger grasp of environmental issues demonstrate a greater propensity to consider the environmental impact of their choices, leading to a heightened intention to purchase EVs [73]. This

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association underscores the importance of environmental knowledge in shaping consumer preferences towards sustainable technologies.

The relevance of these findings extends to the aviation industry, where the transition towards electric aircraft is on the rise [74]. Research has shown a positive correlation between environmental awareness—encompassing eco-label knowledge and general environmental knowledge—and the intention to switch to electric vehicles. This highlights the importance of promoting environmental literacy to drive sustainable choices. Therefore, the following hypothesis is suggested:

H6. There is a direct relationship between environmental knowledge and the intention to adopt electric aircraft.

2.2.4. Environmental Concern

A plethora of studies [23,61–64,75] demonstrate a positive link between environmental consciousness and the preference for eco-friendly transportation options, including electric vehicles. This highlights environmental concern as a key driver for electric vehicle adoption, where individuals with stronger environmental consciousness are more inclined to support green technologies due to their perceived role in reducing carbon emissions and mitigating environmental degradation [76].

The influence of environmental concern extends beyond individual consumer behaviour. Research suggests a significant impact on green purchase intentions, consumer attitudes, and adoption behaviours across organizational and societal levels, encompassing eco-friendly products and technologies [72].

Environmental concern can also act as a mediating factor, influencing the relationship between personal values, brand trust, willingness to pay, and purchase intentions for electric vehicles and other environmentally friendly products [62,63]. Individuals with a strong environmental focus are more likely to trust green brands, demonstrate a willingness to pay a premium for sustainable products, and ultimately express stronger purchase intentions towards eco-friendly alternatives.

H7. There is a positive association between environmental concern and the intention to adopt electric aircraft.

2.2.5. Green Trust

Several studies in consumer behaviour and airlines confirm the strong link between trust and positive behavioural intentions [77,78]. For instance, Chuah et al. [79] found that high traveller trust in an airline leads to increased favourable behaviour towards the company. This importance of trust extends to passenger loyalty. Akamavi et al. [77] found that passenger trust significantly affects loyalty within the low-cost airline industry, with a path coefficient of 0.130 (p < 0.001). Similarly, a meta-analytic study by Wang et al. [80] which reviewed 19 studies identified a robust positive correlation between trust and purchase intentions on social commerce platforms, with a mean effect size of 0.55, indicating a substantial impact. This relationship was also evident in the context of quick service restaurants in Indonesia [81], where green trust significantly influenced repurchase intentions, reflected in a path coefficient of 0.470 (p < 0.01). Lombart and Louis' [78] research on retail customers showed trust influences future behaviour, such as recommending stores and buying products. In the area of green marketing, the impact of green trust on consumers' behavioural intentions has been a subject of interest. Further emphasizing the role of green trust, Yeğin and Ikram [24] demonstrated that green trust had a significant positive effect on purchase intentions, with a path coefficient of 0.19 (p < 0.001). Wang et al. [80] emphasized that trust is a powerful predictor of future purchase intentions among customers. Han et al. [21] implied that improving customers' level of trust in electric aircraft is an essential aspect of boosting their likelihood/readiness to adopt the electric aircraft and their willingness to pay relevant fares. This suggests that establishing trust in

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the environmental credentials of products can positively shape consumers' intentions to engage with sustainable technologies. Hence, this hypothesis is put forward:

H8. *Green trust directly impacts the intention to adopt electric aircraft.*

3. Data and Methodology

3.1. Measures

The constructs in the proposed conceptual model were measured using scales that have previously been validated and proven reliable. These scales have been slightly modified to fit the context of electric aircraft. Information about the measurement scales used in the study is given in Table 3. The research constructs were measured using a 5-point Likert scale ranging from "1—strongly disagree" to "5—strongly agree". The measurement items for the research constructs are shown in Appendix A.

Scale Name	Reference	Number of Items	Type of Scale	Area of Analysis
Attitude towards electric aircraft	[82]	3	Likert scale	Attitude assessment
Subjective norm	[15]	3	Likert scale	Social influence
Perceived behavioural control	[65]	3	Likert scale	Perceived control and capability
Perceived risk	[83,84]	3	Likert scale	Perceptions and evaluations
Personal moral norms	[56]	3	Likert scale	Norms and values
Environmental knowledge	[23,61]	3	Likert scale	Environmental mindset
Environmental concern	[23]	4	Likert scale	Environmental mindset
Green trust	[65]	4	Likert scale	Perceptions and evaluations
Intention to adopt electric aircraft	[15]	3	Likert scale	Behavioural intentions

Table 3. Overview of measurement scales.

Since the original scales were in English, they were translated into Turkish using a parallel translation procedure with the help of three language experts, following Douglas and Craig [85]. The initial version of the survey form was pretested by 15 university students studying in the department of aviation management, and the expressions were finalized based on their feedback. The final survey consisted of three parts. The first part included screening questions and asked for voluntary participation. Only participants aged 18 and over were allowed to respond to the survey. As a screening question, similar to the literature [15,19,29], only individuals who have travelled by air within the past year were allowed to respond. Finally, participants were asked to read a description of electric aircraft. The description defined electric aircraft, outlined their technical features, and explained potential benefits such as reducing fuel costs, reducing noise pollution inside the cabin, and decreasing carbon emissions. It was also noted that these aircraft, currently in development and testing phases, are anticipated to be commercially used for passenger transportation in the near future. The second part of the survey contained demographic information, while the last part featured the items measuring the study constructs.

3.2. Sample and Data Collection Procedures

The target respondents of this study are individuals in Türkiye who travel by air. Türkiye has a rapidly growing aviation market with an increasing number of air passengers [86]. According to statistics from the General Directorate of State Airports Authority (DHMI), in 2013, a total of 149,995,868 passengers travelled by air, whereas in 2023, the number increased to 214,136,575, representing a 42.76% rise in air passenger traffic in Türkiye over the last decade [87].

In this cross-sectional study, since it was not feasible to reach the entire population, we collected data using convenience sampling. For this purpose, we designed a web-based

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survey using Google Forms and distributed it through multiple channels, such as Facebook (www.facebook.com, accessed on 28 August 2024), LinkedIn (www.linkedin.com, accessed on 28 August 2024), and WhatsApp (www.whatsapp.com, accessed on 28 August 2024). In doing so, we reached respondents through the authors' personal networks and also shared the survey link in groups within these channels. Additionally, no incentives were offered to participants. The data collection process, conducted in May and June 2024, resulted in 226 completed responses. However, NCA is sensitive to outliers [88]. Therefore, univariate outliers based on *z*-scores and multivariate outliers based on Mahalanobis distance were detected and removed [27,89]. Observations with a straight-lining pattern were also removed. After discarding 9 observations, we proceeded with 217 responses for further analysis. Table 4 details the demographic information of the respondents.

Table 4. Demographics of respondents.

Variable	Counts (N)	Percentage (%)
Gender		
Male	101	46.5 %
Female	116	53.5 %
Education Level		
Primary School	10	4.6%
High School	44	20.3 %
Associate's Degree	26	12.0 %
Bachelor's Degree	107	49.3 %
Post Graduate (Master's/Ph.D.)	30	13.8 %
Age Range		
18–25	65	30.0 %
26–35	73	33.6 %
36–45	57	26.3 %
46–55	15	6.9 %
56 and over	7	3.2 %
Monthly Income *		
TL 10,000 and below	77	35.5 %
TL 10,001–18,000	28	12.9 %
TL 18,001–30,000	35	16.1 %
TL 30,001–50,000	50	23.0 %
TL 50,001 and above	27	12.4 %

Note. * During data collection, the exchange rate was approximately TL 1 = USD 0.030. Rates may fluctuate.

The sample comprises 217 individuals, with a slight majority of females (53.5%) compared to males (46.5%). In terms of education level, the majority hold a bachelor's degree (49.3%), followed by those with high school diplomas (20.3%), post-graduate degrees (13.8%), associate's degrees (12.0%), and primary school education (4.6%). The age range indicates a younger demographic, with the largest age group being 26–35 years (33.6%), followed by 18–25 years (30.0%), and 36–45 years (26.3%). The remaining participants are aged 46–55 years (6.9%) and 56 years and over (3.2%). Regarding monthly income, the largest segment earns TL 10,000 and below (35.5%), with successive brackets capturing smaller percentages of the sample, up to those earning over TL 50,001 (12.4%).

Following the recent literature [90,91], an a priori power analysis was conducted before data collection. Assuming a medium effect size of 0.15, an alpha level of 0.05, a power of 0.95, and 8 predictors, the G*Power software Version 3.1.9.6 calculated that a minimum sample size of 160 was required [92]. Furthermore, no minimum sample size is specified for NCA in the extant literature. Therefore, 217 responses in further analyses were considered sufficient for a multi-method investigation involving both SEM and NCA.

3.3. Common Method Bias

If responses for exogenous and endogenous constructs are obtained from a single source, there is usually a risk of common method bias (CMB). This study applied both procedural and statistical remedies to mitigate the risk of CMB [93]. In terms of procedural remedies, respondents' anonymity was assured, and they were informed that there were no right or wrong answers. Furthermore, simple language was used, and pretesting ensured that the items were sufficiently concise and understandable [94]. Concerning statistical remedies, we applied Kock's [95] full collinearity test (FCT). FCT is a statistical test used to check for multicollinearity among predictors in a regression model. Since the variance inflation factor (VIF) values for all research constructs ranged between 1.089 and 2.859, which is below the threshold of 3.3, CMB is not a concern in the present study. Similarly, we used the unmeasured latent method factor approach in the structural model, referencing Liang et al. [96]. This approach relies on substantive factor loading (SFL) and method factor loading (MFL) to assess CMB. These terms are related to factor analysis and are critical in assessing the measurement model in SEM. As depicted in Table 5, nearly all estimates of the method factor are insignificant, and the ratio of average substantive variance (0.763) to average method variance (0.007) is 104:1, which is relatively small. Therefore, in this dataset, CMB is not a major concern.

Table 5. Analysis of common method bias.

Construct	Item	SFL	SFL ²	MFL	MFL^2
	ATT1	1.013 **	1.026	-0.057	0.003
Attitude towards electric aircraft (FCT = 2.737)	ATT2	0.992 **	0.984	-0.044	0.002
	ATT3	0.861 **	0.741	0.101	0.010
	SNO1	0.896 **	0.803	0.054	0.003
Subjective norm (FCT = 2.285)	SNO2	1.005 **	1.010	-0.047	0.002
	SNO3	0.935 **	0.874	-0.006	0.000
	PBC1	0.805 **	0.648	-0.217 **	0.047
Perceived behavioural control (FCT = 1.089)	PBC2	0.751 **	0.564	0.191 **	0.036
	PBC3	0.677 **	0.458	-0.041	0.002
	PR1	0.816 **	0.666	-0.151 **	0.023
Perceived risk (FCT = 1.361)	PR2	0.961 **	0.924	0.017	0.000
	PR3	1.030 **	1.061	0.137 **	0.019
	PMN1	0.819 **	0.671	0.068	0.005
Personal moral norms (FCT = 2.514)	PMN2	0.834 **	0.696	0.036	0.001
	PMN3	0.873 **	0.762	-0.121	0.015
	EK1	0.852 **	0.726	-0.021	0.000
Environmental knowledge (FCT = 1.601)	EK2	0.902 **	0.814	-0.032	0.001
	EK3	0.763 **	0.582	0.058	0.003
	EC1	0.708 **	0.501	0.073	0.005
Environmental concern (FCT = 1.409)	EC2	0.810 **	0.656	0.034	0.001
Environmental concern (1 C1 – 1.707)	EC3	0.585 **	0.342	0.038	0.001
	EC4	0.817 **	0.667	-0.134 **	0.018

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Construct	Item	SFL	SFL ²	MFL	MFL ²
	GT1	0.928 **	0.861	-0.075	0.006
Green trust (FCT = 1.959)	GT2	0.856 **	0.733	0.053	0.003
Green trust (PCT = 1.939)	GT3	0.957 **	0.916	-0.008	0.000
	GT4	0.793 **	0.629	0.029	0.001
	IA1	1.004 **	1.008	-0.048	0.002
Intention to adopt electric aircraft (FCT = 2.859)	IA2	0.967 **	0.935	0.011	0.000
	IA3	0.928 **	0.861	0.037	0.001
	Average		0.763		0.007

Note. ** p < 0.01; FCT = full collinearity test; SFL = substantive factor loading; MFL = method factor loading.

This study further examined non-response bias to ensure that there was no systematic difference between respondents' responses [97]. Following Mkedder and Bakır [98], we conducted a wave analysis by comparing the first (n = 50) and last (n = 50) responses. An independent samples t-test revealed no significant difference between the two waves in terms of responses to the study variables (p > 0.05, n = 217). Therefore, non-response bias is not a concern in the data, and the representativeness of the sample is ensured.

3.4. Normality Test

Violations of distribution normality can distort the results of multivariate analyses. While PLS-SEM offers a more flexible option for handling this issue, Hair et al. [91] noted that significant deviations from normal distributions remain a substantial concern. Furthermore, Sorjonen [99] observed that skewed distributions in both condition and outcome variables in NCA could deflate the size of the necessity effect. Accordingly, as the absolute skewness and kurtosis values of the indicators involved in the study do not exceed 3, there is no risk of non-normal distribution [26].

Furthermore, we conducted Mardia's [100] multivariate normality test using the WebPower (https://webpower.psychstat.org/models/kurtosis/, accessed on 28 August 2024) online calculation tool [101]. According to the results of the multivariate normality test, multivariate skewness (β = 277.742, p < 0.01) and multivariate kurtosis (β = 1094.558, p < 0.01) indicate the absence of a normal distribution.

3.5. Analytical Methods

This study presents a multi-method methodology that examines the formation of electric aircraft adoption intentions from both sufficiency and necessity logics. The flowchart of the proposed multi-method approach is depicted step by step in Figure 2. The first stage uses SEM for sufficiency analysis, followed by NCA for necessity analysis in the second stage. SEM is traditionally used to estimate hypothesized relationships. The SEM methodology is divided into two types: covariance-based SEM (CB-SEM) and variance-based SEM, known as partial least squares SEM (PLS-SEM). CB-SEM aims to minimize the difference between observed and implied covariance matrices, while PLS-SEM maximizes the explained variance of endogenous (dependent) latent variables [91]. PLS-SEM allows for the effective examination of causal-predictive relationships and provides higher predictive accuracy [27,30]. Furthermore, the latent construct scores produced by PLS-SEM are often used for subsequent analyses such as segmentation or prediction [102].

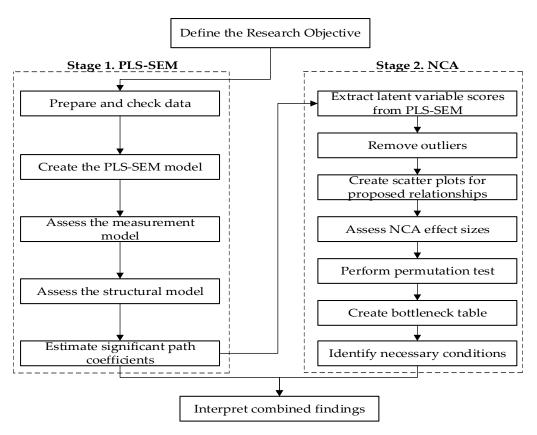


Figure 2. The proposed multi-method approach.

The statistical properties of PLS-SEM produce quite robust outputs in the analysis of non-normally distributed data [91]. As mentioned earlier, since multivariate normality could not be established, we employed PLS-SEM. While PLS-SEM can validate sufficiency (should have) conditions, it is not capable of testing necessity (must have) conditions [89]. Therefore, this study also conducted NCA to complement the findings from SEM. NCA is an analytical tool used to identify specific conditions that must be fulfilled to achieve a desired outcome [27]. If the necessary conditions are not present, the desired result will not occur [30]. NCA can determine the conditions necessary to produce a certain output and the extent to which they must occur without requiring prior calibration of the data [27].

An NCA consists of a scatter plot, an effect size, and a bottleneck table [26]. Dul [25] suggests creating a scatter plot to examine the relationship between variables X and Y. The absence of data points in the top-left corner of this scatter plot indicates a necessary condition. There are two types of ceiling lines used in NCA on this scatter plot: (1) the ceiling envelopment–free disposal hull (CE-FDH) line, characterized by a non-decreasing step-wise linear progression (step function), and (2) the ceiling regression–free disposal hull (CR-FDH) line, which is a straightforward linear regression line running along the CE-FDH line. The ceiling line delineates the area containing observations from the area devoid of them [27]. While the CE-FDH is suitable for discrete data, the CR-FDH is appropriate for continuous data [26].

The necessity effect size (*d*) in NCA is calculated by dividing the area without observations (termed the ceiling zone) by the entire observational area (termed the scope) on the scatter plot, and it determines whether a variable is a necessary condition. Therefore, *d* inherently ranges from 0 to 1 [27,89]. Research [25] has proposed that a (*d*) value less than 0.1 indicates a small effect, between 0.1 and 0.3 a medium effect, between 0.3 and 0.5 a large effect, and 0.5 or higher a very large effect. NCA also calculates the significance of the effect size using the approximate permutation test [89]. Lastly, the bottleneck table, an important component of NCA, depicts the levels at which multiple necessary conditions must be fulfilled for a desired outcome to occur at a certain level [26].

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The PLS-SEM analyses were performed using SmartPLS software (version 4.1.0.) [103], and the NCA was performed using the NCA package (version 4.0.1) in the R environment [104].

4. Results

4.1. Measurement Model Assessment

In this section, we assessed the reliability and validity of the reflectively measured constructs [30]. Table 6 presents the findings of the measurement model. Firstly, internal reliability was established as RhoA and composite reliability (CR) values for all constructs surpassed the threshold of 0.7 [105]. To assess convergent validity, we used the indicators' outer loadings and the average variance extracted (AVE) measure. Except for PBC1, PBC3, EC3, and EC4, all indicators' outer loadings remained above the threshold of 0.708. Furthermore, since the AVE values of the constructs exceeded the cut-off of 0.50, we retained these indicators, thus achieving convergent validity [26].

Table 6. Findings of the measurement model.

Construct	Item	Loading (>0.708)	RhoA (>0.70)	CR (>0.70)	AVE (>0.50)
	ATT1	0.962	0.952	0.969	0.913
Attitude towards electric aircraft	ATT2	0.953			
_	ATT3	0.951			
	SNO1	0.941	0.941	0.962	0.894
Subjective norm	SNO2	0.966			
_	SNO3	0.930			
	PBC1	0.595	0.780	0.767	0.533
Perceived behavioural control	PBC2	0.920			
_	PBC3	0.631			
	PR1	0.933	0.940	0.954	0.873
Perceived risk	PR2	0.944			
_	PR3	0.926			
Personal moral norms	PMN1	0.886	0.809	0.876	0.703
	PMN2	0.870			
_	PMN3	0.753			
	EK1	0.832	0.792	0.878	0.706
Environmental knowledge	EK2	0.871			
_	EK3	0.816			
	EC1	0.776	0.711	0.808	0.519
Environmental concern –	EC2	0.854			
Environmental concern –	EC3	0.603			
_	EC4	0.616			
	GT1	0.862	0.912	0.935	0.783
Green trust –	GT2	0.900			
Green trust –	GT3	0.951			
_	GT4	0.821			
	IA1	0.959	0.965	0.977	0.934
Intention to adopt electric aircraft	IA2	0.978			
-	IA3	0.962			

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Furthermore, we assessed the discriminant validity of the constructs using the Fornell and Larcker criterion [106] and the heterotrait–monotrait (HTMT) ratio of correlations [107]. According to the Fornell and Larcker criterion, the square root of each construct's AVE, which is located on the diagonal, should be greater than the corresponding correlation coefficients. Table 7 demonstrates that this criterion is met. As shown in Table 8, the more stringent HTMT measure also remained below the threshold of 0.90 for all construct pairs [91]. Therefore, discriminant validity is not a concern in this data.

Table 7. Discriminant validity using Fornell and Larcker's [106] criterion	Table 7	. Discrin	ninant v	alidity 1	using	Fornell	and l	Larcker	s[106	criterion
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Construct	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
1. Attitude towards electric aircraft	0.955								
2. Subjective norm	0.752	0.946							
3. Perceived behavioural control	0.463	0.437	0.730						
4. Perceived risk	-0.598	-0.540	-0.317	0.934					
5. Personal moral norms	0.713	0.628	0.520	-0.533	0.838				
6. Environmental knowledge	0.233	0.235	0.352	-0.174	0.412	0.840			
7. Environmental concern	0.123	0.169	0.191	-0.086	0.280	0.567	0.720		
8. Green trust	0.656	0.578	0.446	-0.492	0.694	0.373	0.230	0.885	
9. Intention to adopt electric aircraft	0.823	0.730	0.532	-0.666	0.753	0.317	0.203	0.702	0.966

Note. The italics on the diagonal are the square root of each construct's AVE value.

Table 8. Discriminant validity using heterotrait–monotrait (HTMT) ratio.

Construct	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
1. Attitude towards electric aircraft									
2. Subjective norm	0.794								
3. Perceived behavioural control	0.537	0.520							
4. Perceived risk	0.628	0.570	0.373						
5. Personal moral norms	0.815	0.736	0.737	0.607					
6. Environmental knowledge	0.267	0.271	0.495	0.202	0.535				
7. Environmental concern	0.148	0.199	0.313	0.118	0.361	0.703			
8. Green trust	0.704	0.625	0.566	0.533	0.811	0.439	0.260		
9. Intention to adopt electric aircraft	0.859	0.766	0.643	0.698	0.857	0.362	0.207	0.750	

4.2. Structural Model Assessment

When assessing the structural model, we first checked for multicollinearity through VIF values to avoid the risk of biased estimates [89]. As seen in Table 9, since the VIF values remain below the critical level of 5, they do not pose a threat [27]. Subsequently, the in-sample explanatory power of the model was examined using the R^2 parameter. Accordingly, the proposed model is responsible for 79.3% of the variance of the endogenous variable, intention to adopt electric aircraft ($R^2 = 0.793$). In consumer research, R^2 values above 0.20 are practically significant, thus it is concluded that this study provides quite satisfactory explanatory power [26,91].

We assessed the model fit using the standardized root mean square residuals (SRMR). The SRMR values for our estimated model were 0.068, falling below the recommended threshold of 0.08 [108], confirming the adequacy of our model fit. In our model, the normed fit index (NFI) was also found to be 0.801, indicating an acceptable fit for exploratory research [109].

Hypothesis	Relationship	Coefficient	Std. Dev	<i>p-</i> Value	95% Confidence Intervals	Support	R ²	VIF
H1	$ATT \rightarrow IA$	0.356	0.067	0.000	[0.219; 0.483]	Yes	0.793	3.354
H2	$SNO \to IA$	0.129	0.052	0.014	[0.021; 0.232]	Yes		2.492
Н3	$\text{PBC} \to \text{IA}$	0.099	0.040	0.013	[0.028; 0.182]	Yes		1.480
H4	$\text{PR} \to \text{IA}$	-0.198	0.048	0.000	[-0.295; -0.103]	Yes		1.664
H5	$\text{PMN} \to \text{IA}$	0.158	0.061	0.010	[0.039; 0.275]	Yes		2.895
Н6	$EK \to IA$	0.006	0.051	0.900	[-0.100; 0.104]	No		1.736
H7	$EC \rightarrow IA$	0.023	0.052	0.663	[-0.067; 0.136]	No		1.498
H8	$GT \rightarrow IA$	0.135	0.056	0.015	[0.029; 0.250]	Yes		2.259

Table 9. Hypotheses testing results.

Note: ATT = Attitude; SNO = Subjective Norm; PBC = Perceived Behavioural Control; PR = Perceived Risk; PMN = Personal Moral Norm; EK = Environmental Knowledge; EC = Environmental Concern; GT = Green Trust; IA = Intention to Adopt.

To test the hypotheses, a percentile bootstrapping procedure was conducted using 5000 resamples [91]. Table 9 displays the results of hypotheses testing for each proposed relationship. Notably, attitude (β = 0.356, p < 0.01) shows a significant positive influence on intention to adopt electric aircraft (IA), supporting H1. Similarly, subjective norm (β = 0.129, p < 0.05) and perceived behavioural control (β = 0.099, p < 0.05) both positively predict IA, confirming H2 and H3. Perceived risk (β = -0.198, p < 0.01) negatively influences IA, supporting H4. Furthermore, personal moral norms (β = 0.158, p < 0.05) also show a significant positive effect on IA, supporting H5. However, environmental knowledge (β = 0.006, p = 0.900) and environmental concern (β = 0.023, p = 0.663) do not show significant relationships with IA, rejecting H6 and H7. Finally, green trust (β = 0.135, p < 0.05) demonstrates a significant positive influence on IA. Thus, H8 is confirmed.

Finally, to examine the out-of-sample predictive relevance of the model, we used the PLSpredict procedure by Shmueli et al. [110] using a 10-fold cross-validation approach. As seen in Table 10, the Q²predict values for the indicators of the endogenous variable are clearly above zero. Furthermore, the root mean squared error (RMSE) values of the PLS-SEM prediction for relevant indicators are smaller than those of the linear model (LM) benchmark. Therefore, the research model yields high predictive accuracy [30].

		R	PLS-SEM—LM	
Items	Q ² predict	PLS-SEM	Linear Model	Difference
IA1	0.686	0.693	0.768	-0.075
IA2	0.741	0.634	0.669	-0.035
IA3	0.720	0.665	0.701	-0.036

Table 10. Results of predictive relevance using PLSpredict.

4.3. Necessary Condition Analysis Results

In this study, we further conducted NCA to identify the must-have (necessary) conditions for the intention to adopt electric aircraft [25,27]. In this section, we performed the NCA in accordance with the guidelines of Richter et al. [27]. Firstly, we defined our research objective as determining the degree of necessity for various determinants of the intention to adopt electric aircraft. In the second stage, we operationalized our multi-item constructs in NCA by extracting latent variable scores from PLS-SEM, also considering measurement error [105].

As Dul [111] suggested, outliers have a significant impact on results in NCA. When a case is removed in NCA, if it significantly changes the magnitude of the necessity effect, it

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should be considered a potential threat. Dul [111] also noted that observations changing the effect size by more than 30% when removed should be further evaluated. Based on this guidance, we used the 'nca_outliers' function in the NCA package to identify four outliers and removed them.

We used the NCA package for R v4.0.1 to analyse the size of necessity effects and create a bottleneck table [104]. When interpreting NCA results, we based it on the CE-FDH ceiling baseline as it is also suitable for a five-point Likert scale [89]. Following the existing literature, we employed approximate permutation testing with 10,000 resamples to test the statistical significance of the necessary conditions [26,27]. Figure 3 provides scatter plots for proposed relationships. Scatter plots are also available in the Open Science Framework: https://osf.io/chd7r (accessed on 23 September 2024).

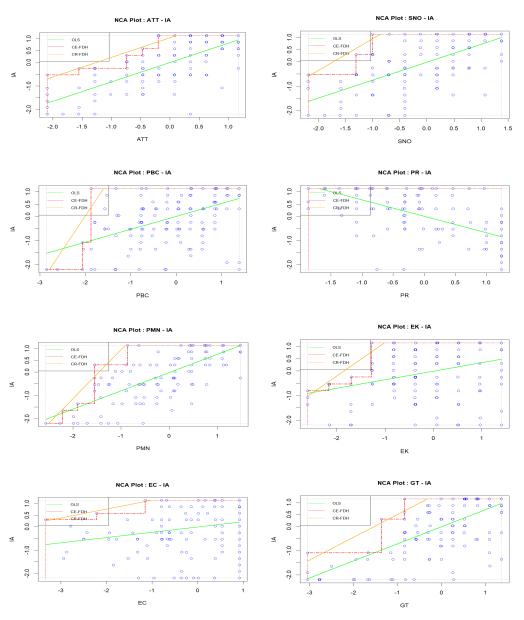


Figure 3. NCA scatter plots for proposed conditions.

In assessing the effect sizes, we adhere to the guidelines proposed by Dul [25], which define the benchmarks as follows: a value of 0 < d < 0.1 suggests a small effect, 0.1 < d < 0.3 indicates a medium effect, 0.3 < d < 0.5 represents a large effect, and $d \ge 0.5$ denotes a very large effect. Moreover, Dul [28] suggested the use of thresholds for effect size (e.g., >0.10) and p-value (e.g., p < 0.05) and rejects the necessity of a factor for the outcome if even one

of these is not met. Table 11 depicts the results of the necessary condition analysis. The findings showed that attitude (d = 0.221, p < 0.01), subjective norm (d = 0.145, p < 0.01), perceived behavioural control (d = 0.217, p < 0.01), personal moral norm (d = 0.258, p < 0.01), environmental knowledge (d = 0.166, p < 0.01), and green trust (d = 0.284, p < 0.01) are medium-sized necessary conditions for generating the intention to adopt electric aircraft. On the other hand, perceived risk (d = 0.000, p = 1.000) and environmental concern (d = 0.108, p = 0.056) could not be qualified as necessary conditions.

Table 11. NCA effect sizes.

Construct	Effect Size (CE-FDH)	<i>p-</i> Value
Attitude	0.221	0.000
Subjective Norm	0.145	0.000
Perceived Behavioural Control	0.217	0.000
Perceived Risk	0.000	1.000
Personal Moral Norm	0.258	0.000
Environmental Knowledge	0.166	0.000
Environmental Concern	0.108	0.056
Green Trust	0.284	0.000

Finally, we presented the analysis of the degree of necessity in Table 12, in the bottleneck table. Consistent with Dul et al. [112], it should be noted that the bottleneck table only presents the necessary conditions that were not rejected. For instance, to maintain a medium level of adoption intention (50%), personal moral norm should not be less than 25%, environmental knowledge should be at least 10.9%, perceived behavioural control should be at least 23.2%, and green trust should not fall below 38%. Similarly, to achieve a high level of adoption intention (>80%), at least 50% in attitude, 33.3% in subjective norm, 23.2% in perceived behavioural control, 42% in personal moral norm, 33.1% in environmental knowledge, and 50% in green trust must be present. This suggests a progressive increase in the necessary conditions across different behavioural factors to achieve higher levels of adoption intention toward electric aircraft.

Table 12. NCA bottleneck table.

IA (%)	ATT	SNO	PBC	PMN	EK	GT
0	NN	NN	NN	NN	NN	NN
10	NN	NN	18.8	8.6	NN	NN
20	NN	NN	18.8	16.3	NN	NN
30	NN	NN	18.8	25.0	NN	NN
40	NN	NN	23.2	25.0	NN	38.0
50	NN	NN	23.2	25.0	10.9	38.0
60	41.6	24.8	23.2	25.0	33.1	38.0
70	41.6	24.8	23.2	25.0	33.1	38.0
80	50.0	33.3	23.2	42.0	33.1	50.0
90	58.2	33.3	23.2	42.0	33.1	50.0
100	58.2	33.3	23.2	42.0	33.1	50.0

Note: ATT = Attitude; SNO = Subjective Norm; PBC = Perceived Behavioural Control; PR = Perceived Risk; PMN = Personal Moral Norm; EK = Environmental Knowledge; EC = Environmental Concern; GT = Green Trust; IA = Intention to Adopt.

Finally, the interpretation of the combined findings of the multi-method approach was summarized in Table 13.

Table 13. Combined interpretation of PLS-SEM and NCA findings.

Factors	PLS-SEM Results	NCA Results	Interpretation
Attitude	Significant determinant	Necessary condition	A certain level of attitude is necessary for the intention to adopt electric aircraft. A further increase in the level of attitude will enhance the intention to adopt electric aircraft.
Subjective Norm	Significant determinant	Necessary condition	A certain level of subjective norm is necessary for the intention to adopt electric aircraft. A further increase in the level of subjective norm will enhance the intention to adopt electric aircraft.
Perceived Behavioural Control	Significant determinant	Necessary condition	A certain level of perceived behavioural control is necessary for the intention to adopt electric aircraft. A further increase in the level of perceived behavioural control will enhance the intention to adopt electric aircraft.
Perceived Risk	Significant determinant	Not a necessary condition	On average, an increase in perceived risk will decrease the intention to adopt electric aircraft, but no minimum level of perceived risk is needed to ensure that the intention to adopt will occur.
Personal Moral Norm	Significant determinant	Necessary condition	A certain level of personal moral norm is necessary for the intention to adopt electric aircraft. A further increase in the level of personal moral norms will enhance the intention to adopt electric aircraft.
Environmental Knowledge	Not a significant determinant	Necessary condition	Environmental knowledge must reach a certain minimum level to influence the intention to adopt electric aircraft. Once this threshold is met, further increases in environmental knowledge do not proportionally enhance the intention to adopt.
Environmental Concern	Not a significant determinant	Not a necessary condition	Environmental concern neither significantly influences the intention to adopt electric aircraft, nor is it a necessary condition for its occurrence. Therefore, it plays a critical role neither as a direct influential factor nor as a precondition to generate intention to adopt.
Green Trust	Significant determinant	Necessary condition	A certain level of green trust is necessary for the intention to adopt electric aircraft. A further increase in the level of green trust will enhance the intention to adopt electric aircraft.

5. Discussion

This study empirically tests the factors influencing air travellers' intention to adopt electric aircraft by proposing a conceptual model. In doing so, it extends the TPB by considering environmental mindsets (e.g., environmental knowledge and environmental concern), norms and values (e.g., personal moral norms), and perceptions and evaluations (e.g., perceived risk and green trust). Moreover, it integrates SEM and NCA to provide a deeper understanding of the proposed relationships. The proposed model explains 79.3% of the variance in the intention to adopt electric aircraft ($R^2 = 0.793$), demonstrating substantial explanatory power.

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Considering the SEM results, we first observed that attitudes towards electric aircraft significantly influence intention to adopt. This finding aligns with Han et al. [15] and Han et al. [29], who confirm that attitude is the variable with the greatest impact on the intention to adopt electric aircraft. This relationship suggests that positive perceptions and feelings towards electric aircraft are strong predictors of an individual's willingness to adopt them. Those who view electric aircraft favourably are more likely to consider using them in the future [29]. The emphasis on attitude as a pivotal factor in the behavioural intention is supported by the broader literature in electric vehicles [22]. Moreover, our study's findings are complemented by Yeğin and Ikram [24], which suggests that attitude leads to higher purchase intentions for electric vehicles.

Secondly, the study indicates that the other components of the TPB—subjective norm and perceived behavioural control—have significant effects on adoption intention, consistent with the literature [15,22]. This suggests that social factors—such as friends, family, and societal expectations—play a role in an individual's decision-making process regarding electric aircraft. If individuals significant to a person expect or prefer the adoption of electric aircraft, it can motivate the person to conform to these social norms [15]. Moreover, if air travellers consider using electric aircraft is within their control and not overly difficult, they are more likely to intend to adopt them [22]. Therefore, our results align with the TPB framework, where subjective norms and perceived behavioural control are pivotal [42]. Building on the TPB model, Buhmann et al. [22] found that subjective norms influence adoption intention in electric vehicles. On the other hand, Yeğin and Ikram [24] discovered the significant effect of perceived behavioural control on purchase intention in electric vehicles.

The results also indicate that perceived risk significantly and negatively affects the adoption intentions. This finding suggests that higher perceived risks, such as safety concerns or financial costs, can deter individuals from adopting electric aircraft. Although there are no studies directly investigating the impact of perceived risk on adoption intention in the context of electric aircraft, Han et al. [29] observed a significant and negative indirect effect. Furthermore, the literature identifies perceived risk as one of the most significant barriers influencing the intention to use similar technologies, such as electric vehicles [55]. The negative influence of perceived risks, such as safety concerns and financial implications, is well-documented in the technology adoption literature [53]. For instance, Jaiswal et al. [55] identified perceived risk as one of the most significant barriers influencing the intention to adopt electric vehicles. Furthermore, Fu [113] pointed out the critical role of financial and functional risks in electric vehicle adoption.

The study also demonstrates a significant impact of personal moral norms on the intention to adopt. Personal norms have been recognized as pivotal in influencing environmental behaviours, including the adoption of innovative transportation technologies. For instance, Han et al. [17] and Han et al. [21] underline the role of personal moral norms specifically in the context of adopting electric aircraft, indicating that these norms are not only relevant but are strong predictors of adoption intention. This aligns with broader trends identified in studies focused on low-carbon travel behaviour [45] which emphasize the substantial influence of personal moral norms on travel choices. Similarly, in the automotive sector, Buhmann et al. [22] and Shanmugavel and Balakrishnan [23] showed how personal moral norms significantly drive the acceptance of innovative technologies.

Contrary to expectations, environmental knowledge and environmental concern did not exert a significant effect on the intention to adopt electric aircraft. Previous findings revealed the impact of both factors on pro-environmental behavioural intentions [18,23,45]. Lin et al. [18] observed that environmental knowledge and environmental concern are significant antecedents of pro-environmental behavioural intention in a meta-analysis of 194 studies in tourism and hospitality. Similarly, Hu et al. [45] found the critical role of environmental concern on young people's behavioural intention towards low-carbon travel. Indrajaya et al. [60] reported the significant effect of environmental knowledge on purchase intention for solar power plants, both directly and through attitude. However, our findings

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reveal a more nuanced relationship that diverges from conventional expectations. Specifically, the near-zero beta coefficient (β = 0.006) for environmental knowledge suggests that merely being knowledgeable about environmental issues does not translate into the adoption intention, which corroborates the findings of Simanjuntak et al. [114]. This suggests that, while knowledge is important, it must be combined with other factors to motivate behavioural change. On the other hand, the findings indicate that general environmental concerns do not strongly influence the intention to adopt electric aircraft. This may mean that even though individuals are concerned about the environment, this concern is not directly related to the adoption of all types of environmental technologies, or it could have an indirect effect through the existence of other factors. Indeed, Buhmann et al. [22] also failed to find a direct impact of environmental concern on the intention to adopt electric vehicles, and they observed significant effects through mediating variables. This is further supported by Ogiemwonyi et al. [115], who argue that although environmental concerns do not affect green purchasing behaviours, they may have a significant effect through environmental attitude.

Furthermore, green trust is significantly associated with the intention to adopt electric aircraft. This finding aligns with the existing literature [18,24] and highlights the importance of trust in the effectiveness and environmental claims of electric aircraft. Individuals are more likely to adopt these technologies when they trust that they are really more environmentally friendly and beneficial. Zhang et al. [116] found a significant role of green trust on the intention to purchase new energy vehicles (i.e., electric, hydrogen, and hybrid).

The results of the NCA indicate that green trust has the largest effect size (d = 0.284) on the intention to adopt electric aircraft, followed by personal moral norms (d = 0.258), attitude (d = 0.221), perceived behavioural control (d = 0.217), environmental knowledge (d = 0.166), and subjective norms (d = 0.145). However, perceived risk and environmental concern are not necessary preconditions for generating adoption intention. For a high level of adoption intention, attitude and green trust are the most necessary factors. To achieve a high level of adoption intention (>80%), at least 50% in attitude, 33.3% in subjective norm, 23.2% in perceived behavioural control, 42% in personal moral norm, 33.1% in environmental knowledge, and 50% in green trust must be present.

Finally, as presented in Table 13, attitude, subjective norm, perceived behavioural control, personal moral norm, and green trust are all significant determinants and necessary conditions for the intention to adopt, meaning a certain level of these factors is essential, and any increase enhances adoption intention. Environmental knowledge, while not a significant determinant, is still a necessary condition, requiring a minimum level to influence adoption. However, perceived risk and environmental concern are not necessary conditions. Specifically, perceived risk negatively affects adoption intention, and environmental concern has no significant influence or necessary presence for adopting electric aircraft.

6. Conclusions

6.1. Theoretical and Practical Implications

This study contributes to the existing literature in several ways. First, it extends the TPB to the context of electric aircraft, shedding light on the impact of various factors on air travellers' adoption intentions. It is one of the few studies that investigates the intention to adopt or use electric aircraft, an emerging technology [15,17,19–21]. In doing so, it focuses on Türkiye, a country with a strong demand for electric technologies and a significant domestic air travel market.

Secondly, to the best of our knowledge, this is the first study to use a multi-method approach integrating both SEM and NCA to identify the sufficient (should-have factors that contribute to a high-level outcome) and necessary (must-have factors necessary for an outcome) conditions for the adoption intention of electric aircraft. Thus, the study deepens the understanding of the intention to adopt electric aircraft by building on both sufficiency and necessity logics.

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Lastly, the fact that environmental knowledge and environmental concern do not significantly affect the intention to adopt electric aircraft suggests that the adoption of electric aircraft may indeed follow different patterns compared to other environmentally friendly technologies. Electric aircraft serve as a new and technologically more advanced mode of transportation, unlike widely known environmentally friendly options like electric cars. Therefore, potential users may prioritize factors such as reliability, safety, and economic considerations over environmental issues, given the perceived high risks in the aviation industry. Thus, it can be inferred that traditional models emphasizing environmental attitudes, which are relevant in contexts where environmental concerns act as a driving force, like with electric cars, may not fully apply to electric aircraft. Consequently, our findings indicate that this context has unique characteristics when it comes to researching the adoption of electric aircraft.

This study has a few practical implications. The ATAG [14] envisions electric, hybrid, and hydrogen-powered aircraft serving regional and short-haul markets by 2050. Understanding air travellers' intentions to adopt electric aircraft and their readiness is crucial for a successful transition to this sustainable technology. This present study extends the TPB to predict air travellers' intentions to adopt electric aircraft. This extended framework can assist managers and policymakers in identifying the key determinants that shape air travellers' intentions toward electric aircraft. The study identifies several critical determinants that influence air travellers' intentions to adopt electric aircraft, such as attitude, subjective norms, perceived behavioural control, perceived risk, personal moral norms, and green trust. Managers and policymakers can leverage these findings to develop targeted strategies and campaigns that positively shape these factors, thereby increasing the likelihood of electric aircraft adoption among air travellers. For example, managers and marketers can focus on fostering positive attitudes towards electric aircraft through educational campaigns. In doing so, they could develop programs that inform passengers that electric aircraft are quieter and safer in terms of security. Encouraging early adopters to share their experiences with electric aircraft in these campaigns could also be an important strategy. Additionally, using influencer marketing by having popular social media users try this technology and share their experiences with followers could lead to a more effective campaign. On the other hand, since perceived risk negatively impacts adoption intentions, managers could alleviate consumer concerns by providing clear and detailed information about the technological reliability of electric aircraft. Finally, given consumers' increasing environmental awareness in recent years, marketers can emphasize how choosing this technology contributes to sustainability goals and make air travellers feel part of this movement.

Furthermore, the study adopts a multi-method approach to identify both sufficient and necessary factors for the intention to adopt electric aircraft. This can guide managers in prioritizing and focusing their efforts on the most critical factors. For example, SEM findings suggest that attitude is the most significant factor. On the other hand, NCA findings suggest that attitude is not necessary to generate a moderate level of adoption intention (50%). However, a certain level of perceived behavioural control, personal moral norms, environmental knowledge, and green trust are essential for the same level of adoption intention. Additionally, the bottleneck analysis provides a roadmap to help managers use scarce resources more effectively. For instance, since the necessary level of environmental knowledge does not change for intentions to adopt electric aircraft over 60%, managers can focus their resources on enhancing other behavioural factors. The study also shows the negative impact of perceived risk on adoption intention. This implies that managers and policymakers need to address and mitigate potential concerns or perceived risks associated with electric aircraft technologies. Effective communication campaigns, education programs, and risk management strategies can help alleviate these concerns and increase confidence in electric aircraft among air travellers.

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6.2. Limitations and Future Research

This study has several limitations that need to be pointed out. First, it relies on convenience sampling, which may limit the generalizability of the findings. The sample may not fully represent the broader population of air travellers, particularly in terms of varying socio-economic statuses and cultural backgrounds. Second, our analysis relies solely on self-reported data, which may be subject to biases. For example, social desirability bias may lead respondents to over-report their environmentally friendly behaviour, biasing the perceived acceptance of electric aircraft and threatening the validity of our findings. Third, our cross-sectional design does not allow for the examination of changes in intentions or behaviours over time, which is crucial for understanding trends in the adoption of electric aircraft. Fourth, this study extends the TPB with a limited number of factors. However, other factors may still influence air travellers' intentions to adopt electric vehicles. Furthermore, these factors could include specific economic incentives, technological advancements, or regulatory changes that might influence passenger acceptance of electric aircraft. Therefore, we recommend that future studies further enrich the proposed framework. Fifth, it is important to note that this study focused on adoption intention rather than actual adoption [22]. However, actual behaviour and intention may not always be consistent [65]. Since electric aircraft are an emerging technology not yet available for commercial use, measuring actual behaviour is not possible. Therefore, a follow-up study is needed in the future to understand the intention-behaviour gap in the context of electric aircraft.

Sixth, this study was conducted using a sample of respondents from Türkiye, representing a specific cultural context. As per Hofstede's cultural dimensions [117], the cultural dimensions of Türkiye are characterized by a high power distance, a collectivist orientation, moderate masculinity, and high uncertainty avoidance. According to Triandis [118], subjective norm is more influential for individuals from collectivist cultures. Similarly, Hassan et al. [119] suggested that subjective norm has a strong relationship with adoption intention in societies with higher power distance. Therefore, in Turkish society, where social influence is more evident on most behaviours and power distance is high, the impact of social norms on adoption intention may be higher than in individualistic societies. Barbarossa et al. [120] also observed a stronger relationship between attitude and behavioural intention among individuals from individualistic cultures in the context of electric vehicles. Therefore, in a more individualistic society, as opposed to Türkiye, the effect of attitude on adoption intention may be greater. Indeed, Han et al. [15] found a stronger relationship between attitude and adoption intention in a US sample compared to this study. On the other hand, research found that collectivism strengthened the relationship between personal moral norms and electric vehicles [121]. Therefore, it is worth investigating the nature of this relationship in an individualistic society. Furthermore, in countries more tolerant of uncertainty, like the United Kingdom and the US, perceived risk may play a lesser role in the intention to adopt electric aircraft, as people are more open to new technology despite potential uncertainties. Since air travellers in Türkiye tend to avoid uncertain situations and prefer safety, perceived risk may have emerged as an influential variable. Therefore, testing this model with air travellers from culturally diverse countries could yield interesting findings [15].

In addition, longitudinal studies would provide insights into how intentions to adopt electric aircraft evolve as the technology matures and becomes more widely known and tested. Incorporating experimental or quasi-experimental designs could also help determine causality more definitively. Researchers should also consider examining the impact of policy changes, economic incentives, and technological advancements on consumer attitudes toward electric aircraft. As another issue, future studies could also gain deep insights by focusing on a segment of respondents who resist technology and oppose electric aircraft. Lastly, qualitative studies could provide deeper insights into the personal reasons behind individuals' attitudes and intentions, offering a richer understanding of the factors driving or hindering the adoption of electric aircraft technology.

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Appendix A. Measurement Items and Sources

Table A1. Survey measurement items.

Constructs	Items	Sources			
	AT1: I like the idea of using electric aircraft.				
Attitude towards electric aircraft	AT2: I think that using electric aircraft is a good idea.				
	AT3: I think that using electric aircraft is a wise idea.				
	SN1: Most people who are important to me think that in the future I should use electric aircraft.				
Subjective norm	SN2: Most people who are important to me would want me to use electric aircraft in the future. SN3: People whose opinions I value would prefer me to travel with electric aircrafts in the future.				
	PBC1: The decision to use or not use electric aircraft is completely up to me.				
Perceived behavioural control	PBC2: I am confident that if I want, I can travel with an electric aircraft.				
Terceived behavioural control	PBC3: I have the necessary money, time, and opportunity to use an electric aircraft.	[65]			
	PR1: I am worried about the safety of electric aircraft.				
Perceived risk	PR2: I am worried that the failure or malfunctions of electric aircraft may cause accidents.				
	PR3: I am worried that using electric aircraft may expose myself and my family to certain risks.				
	PMN1: Because of my own principles, I feel an obligation to use an electric aircraft to reduce carbon emissions and improve air quality. PMN2: If I use an aircraft, I feel morally obliged to use an electric aircraft, regardless of what other people do.				
Personal moral norms					
	PMN3: I feel obliged to take into account the environmental consequences of aircraft use when making adoption choices.				
	EK1: I am very knowledgeable about environmental issues.				
Environmental knowledge	EK2: Compared to the average person, I am more familiar with issues related to the environment.				
	EK3: I know the effects of aircraft use on environmental pollution.				

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Table A1. Cont.

Constructs	Items	Sources	
	EC1: I understand the serious issues of environmental problems in the recent period.		
Environmental concern	EC2: I presume that if everyone lives in accord with nature we can achieve sustainable development. EC3: I suppose that we do not take efforts to safeguard the natural resources that are scarcely available.		
Environmental Concern			
	EC4: I would like that everyone should shoulder the responsibility to protect the environment.		
	GT1: I feel that electric aircrafts' environmental commitments are generally reliable. GT2: I feel that electric aircrafts' environmental performances are generally dependable. GT3: I feel that electric aircrafts' environmental commitments are trustworthy.		
Green trust			
	GT4: I feel that electric aircrafts keep the environmental promises and commitments they make.		
	IA1: I plan to use electric aircraft in the future.		
Intention to adopt electric aircraft	c aircraft IA2: I am willing to travel on electric aircraft in the future.		
	IA3: I will make an effort to fly on electric aircraft in the future.		

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