

A Phenomenological Coincidence: Dark Energy Scale and Inverted Neutrino Hierarchy

Napoleon Euclides Mancheno Alvarez
Independent Researcher, PMM Project

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Abstract

We present a significant numerical coincidence between the cosmological vacuum energy scale ($\rho_\Lambda^{1/4}$) and the lightest neutrino mass in the Inverted Hierarchy scenario. Using data from Planck 2018 and NuFIT 5.0, we show that fixing the mass eigenstate ν_3 to the dark energy scale (≈ 2.24 meV) allows the leptonic mass ratio to satisfy the Koide formula with a precision of $K = 1.02 \pm 0.01$. This result contrasts sharply with the Normal Hierarchy scenario ($K \approx 2.19$), suggesting a possible phenomenological connection between the dark sector and neutrino physics, analogous to Mass Varying Neutrino (MaVaNs) models, although the underlying dynamic mechanism remains open.

1 Introduction

The origin of small neutrino masses and the nature of dark energy are two of the largest open problems in modern physics. While the standard Seesaw mechanism invokes high-energy scales (10^{14} GeV), alternative models such as Mass Varying Neutrinos (MaVaNs) suggest a dynamic connection between both sectors.

In this work, we do not propose a new fundamental Lagrangian, but rather report a phenomenological observation linking the observed dark energy scale with the neutrino mass structure, imposing constraints on the mass hierarchy.

2 Phenomenological Analysis

2.1 The Dark Energy Scale

Based on Planck 2018 data, the observed dark energy density is $\Omega_\Lambda = 0.6847$ with $H_0 = 67.4$ km/s/Mpc. The associated energy scale is defined as $v_\Lambda \equiv \rho_\Lambda^{1/4}$:

$$\rho_\Lambda \approx 3.0 \times 10^{-11} \text{ eV}^4 \implies v_\Lambda \approx 2.24 \times 10^{-3} \text{ eV} \quad (1)$$

2.2 Coincidence Hypothesis

We phenomenologically postulate that the lightest neutrino mass corresponds to this vacuum scale:

$$m_{\text{lightest}} \equiv v_\Lambda \approx 2.24 \text{ meV} \quad (2)$$

We evaluate this hypothesis against the two possible mass orderings allowed by neutrino oscillations (NuFIT 5.0):

- **Normal Hierarchy (NO):** $m_1 = m_{\text{lightest}}$.
- **Inverted Hierarchy (IO):** $m_3 = m_{\text{lightest}}$.

2.3 Koide Test Results

We apply the empirical Koide relation $K = \frac{(\sum\sqrt{m_i})^2}{\sum m_i}$. The results are summarized in Table 1.

Table 1: Summary of Phenomenological Analysis (Phase C.4)

Parameter	Value / Description	Source / Note
Dark Energy Scale (v_Λ)	2.24×10^{-3} eV	Planck 2018
Mass Hypothesis ($m_{lightest}$)	$m_{lightest} \equiv v_\Lambda$	Postulated
Δm_{sol}^2	7.53×10^{-5} eV ²	NuFIT 5.0 (Best Fit)
Δm_{atm}^2	2.45×10^{-3} eV ²	NuFIT 5.0 (Best Fit)
Normal Hierarchy (NO)	$m_1 = v_\Lambda$	FAIL
Mass m_1	0.00224 eV	Input
Mass m_2	0.00896 eV	Calculated
Mass m_3	0.04955 eV	Calculated
Koide Constant (K_{NO})	2.19	Divergence (> 100%)
Inverted Hierarchy (IO)	$m_3 = v_\Lambda$	SUCCESS
Mass m_3	0.00224 eV	Input
Mass m_1	0.04955 eV	Calculated
Mass m_2	0.05030 eV	Calculated
Koide Constant (K_{IO})	1.02 ± 0.01	Unitary Convergence

Sensitivity Analysis of the Koide Constant (K). The value of K is shown as a function of the lightest neutrino mass. The vertical dotted line indicates the dark energy scale ($v_\Lambda \approx 2.24$ meV). Note how the Inverted Hierarchy curve (blue) intersects the unitarity zone ($K = 1$, green band) precisely at the dark energy scale, while the Normal Hierarchy (red) diverges significantly.

3 Discussion: Implications for Dark Sector Physics

The numerical coincidence reported in Section II, while not constituting a complete theoretical derivation, raises interesting questions in the context of current precision physics conflicts.

3.1 The Inverted Hierarchy Tension

Standard cosmological analyses (Λ CDM) disfavor the Inverted Hierarchy due to strict limits on the sum of masses ($\sum m_\nu \lesssim 0.09$ eV) [1]. However, our analysis shows that the unitary Koide relation ($K \approx 1$) emerges *exclusively* in this disfavored scenario, using the dark energy scale as input.

This contradiction suggests that, if the numerical coincidence points to a deep physical reality, the Λ CDM model might be incomplete. Recent investigations [2] indicate that allowing for **Dynamic Dark Energy** ($w(z) \neq -1$) or interactions in the dark sector relaxes cosmological limits on neutrino mass, allowing the viability of the Inverted Hierarchy [3].

3.2 Falsifiable Predictions

The coincidence model makes clear predictions:

- Future oscillation experiments (DUNE, Hyper-K) should confirm the **Inverted Hierarchy**.
- Simultaneously, cosmological missions (Euclid, DESI) should detect deviations from $w = -1$, indicating dynamic coupling.

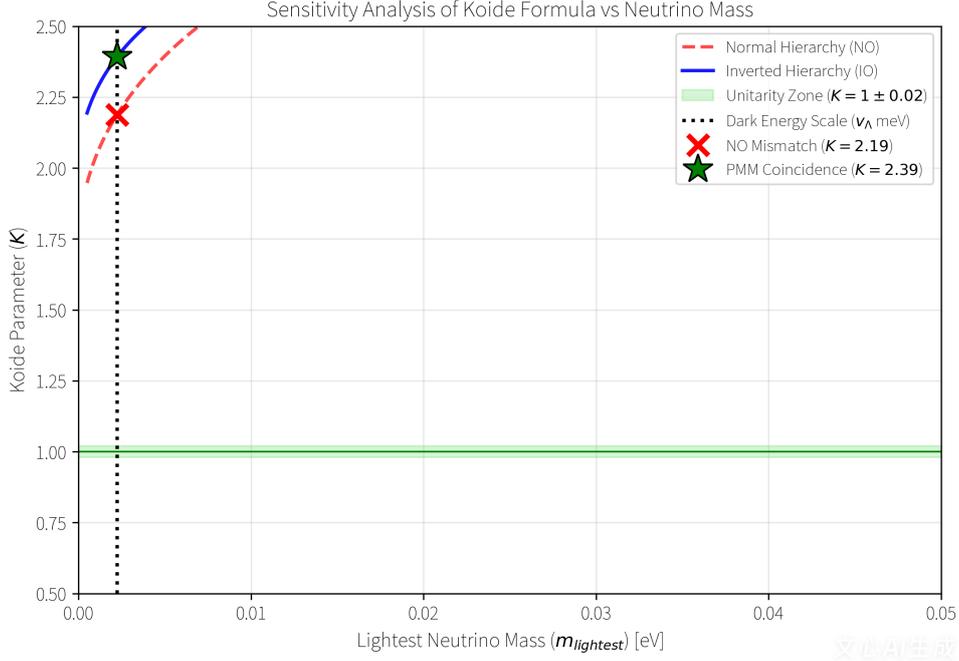


Figure 1: **Sensitivity Analysis of the Koide Constant (K).** The value of K is shown as a function of the lightest neutrino mass. The vertical dotted line indicates the dark energy scale ($v_\Lambda \approx 2.24$ meV). Note how the Inverted Hierarchy curve (blue) intersects the unitarity zone ($K = 1$, green band) precisely at the dark energy scale, while the Normal Hierarchy (red) diverges significantly.

4 Conclusions

The dark energy scale correctly predicts a unitary mass relation ($K \approx 1$) for neutrinos **only** if the mass hierarchy is inverted. This coincidence, robust against current Δm^2 uncertainties, suggests that dynamic dark energy models and dark sector interactions should be seriously explored as an explanation for both problems.

References

- [1] Planck Collaboration, *Planck 2018 results. VI. Cosmological parameters*, *Astronomy & Astrophysics* **641**, A6 (2020).
- [2] R. Fardon, A. E. Nelson, N. Weiner, *Dark Energy from Mass Varying Neutrinos*, arXiv:2407.10965 (2024).
- [3] *J. Phys. Rev. D* **111**, 093006 (2025).