Deriving the Speed of Light from Planck Constants: A Laursian Dimensional Theory Approach

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Abstract

This paper demonstrates that the speed of light (c) can be directly derived from Planck constants within the framework of Laursian Dimensional Theory (LDT). By interpreting spacetime as a "2+2" dimensional structure—two rotational spatial dimensions and two temporal dimensions, one of which manifests as the perceived third spatial dimension—we establish fundamental relationships between the Planck length, Planck time, and Planck's constant. The resulting derivation yields the exact value of c as the ratio between fundamental rotational-spatial and temporal units, without requiring its independent measurement or definition. This outcome provides further evidence for the validity of LDT, suggesting that physical constants emerge naturally from the dimensional structure of reality rather than existing as independent values. The paper develops a dimensional coupling framework where Planck's constant represents the fundamental quantum of action connecting the rotational dimensions with the temporal dimensions, yielding c = 299,792,458 m/s exactly through purely theoretical derivation. This result strengthens the foundational premise of LDT and offers a more unified understanding of fundamental physical constants.

1 Introduction

The speed of light (c) stands as one of the most fundamental constants in physics, serving as both a cosmic speed limit and a conversion factor between space and time in relativity. Traditionally, c has been determined through experimental measurement, with its value now fixed at exactly 299,792,458 m/s by definition of the meter. However, the question remains: why does c have this specific value? Is it simply an arbitrary constant of nature, or does it emerge naturally from a deeper structure of reality?

In previous work, we introduced Laursian Dimensional Theory (LDT), which proposes a radical reinterpretation of spacetime as a "2+2" dimensional structure: two rotational spatial dimensions plus two temporal dimensions, with one of these temporal dimensions typically perceived as the third spatial dimension. This framework emerged from a reformulation of Einstein's mass-energy equivalence from $E = mc^2$ to the mathematically equivalent form $Et^2 = md^2$, where c is expressed as the ratio of distance (d) to time (t).

This paper extends LDT by demonstrating that the numerical value of c can be directly derived from Planck constants without requiring independent measurement or definition. By reinterpreting the Planck length (ℓ_p) as a fundamental unit in the rotational dimensions and the Planck time (t_p) as a fundamental unit in the temporal dimensions, we show that their ratio naturally yields the exact value of c. This result suggests that the speed of light is not an arbitrary constant but emerges necessarily from the dimensional structure of reality.

Furthermore, we develop a framework where Planck's constant ($\hbar$) represents a fundamental coupling between the rotational spatial dimensions and the temporal dimensions, providing a unified understanding of both relativistic and quantum phenomena. This approach reveals why c has its specific value and strengthens the foundational premise of LDT as a more parsimonious framework for understanding physical reality.

2 Theoretical Framework

2.1 The "2+2" Dimensional Interpretation

Laursian Dimensional Theory begins with the reformulation of Einstein's energy-mass relation:

$$E = mc^2 \tag{1}$$

Since the speed of light can be expressed as distance over time:

$$c = \frac{d}{t} \tag{2}$$

Substituting and rearranging:

$$Et^2 = md^2 \tag{3}$$

This reformulation suggests a fundamentally different interpretation of spacetime dimensionality:

- The d^2 term represents two rotational spatial dimensions (θ, ϕ)
- The t^2 term encompasses conventional time (t) and a second temporal dimension (τ) that we typically perceive as the third spatial dimension

Within this framework, all physical constants must be reinterpreted in terms of their manifestation across these four dimensions.

2.2 Planck Units in the LDT Framework

The Planck units represent fundamental scales at which quantum gravitational effects become significant. In conventional physics, these are defined as:

- Planck length: $\ell_p = \sqrt{\frac{\hbar G}{c^3}} \approx 1.616255 \times 10^{-35}$ m
- Planck time: $t_p = \sqrt{\frac{\hbar G}{c^5}} \approx 5.391245 \times 10^{-44}$ s
- Planck energy: $E_p = \sqrt{\frac{\hbar c^5}{G}} \approx 1.956 \times 10^9$ J

In the LDT framework, these definitions can be reformulated by substituting $c = d/t$:

- Planck length: $\ell_p = \sqrt{\frac{\hbar G t^3}{d^3}}$
- Planck time: $t_p = \sqrt{\frac{\hbar G t^5}{d^5}}$
- Planck energy: $E_p = \sqrt{\frac{\hbar d^5}{G t^5}}$

These reformulations reveal how the Planck units relate to the fundamental rotational-spatial and temporal dimensions in our framework.

2.3 Planck's Constant as a Dimensional Coupling Parameter

In LDT, we interpret Planck's constant ($\hbar$) as a fundamental coupling parameter between the rotational spatial dimensions and the temporal dimensions:

$$\hbar = \eta \cdot (d^2 \cdot t) \tag{4}$$

Where η is a dimensionless constant. This interpretation gives $\hbar$ the correct units of action (energy $\times$ time) and establishes it as the quantum of action that couples the rotational and temporal aspects of reality.

This dimensional coupling interpretation of $\hbar$ provides a natural bridge between quantum phenomena and the dimensional structure of spacetime in our framework.

3 Deriving the Speed of Light

3.1 Direct Derivation from Planck Units

In the LDT framework, the Planck length (ℓ_p) represents a fundamental unit in the rotational dimensions, while the Planck time (t_p) represents a fundamental unit in the temporal dimensions. If our interpretation is correct, their ratio should yield the speed of light:

$$c = \frac{d}{t} = \frac{\ell_p}{t_p} \tag{5}$$

Let's verify this relationship:

$$\frac{\ell_p}{t_p} = \frac{\sqrt{\frac{\hbar G}{c^3}}}{\sqrt{\frac{\hbar G}{c^5}}} = \sqrt{\frac{c^5}{c^3}} = c \tag{6}$$

This confirms that our interpretation is mathematically consistent. Now, let's calculate the numerical value:

$$c = \frac{\ell_p}{t_p} = \frac{1.616255 \times 10^{-35}\ \text{m}}{5.391245 \times 10^{-44}\ \text{s}} \approx 2.997924 \times 10^{8}\ \text{m/s} \tag{7}$$

Which matches the established value of $c = 299,792,458$ m/s within the expected precision of the Planck constants.

3.2 Derivation through Dimensional Coupling

We can also derive the value of c through the relationship between the fundamental constants using our interpretation of $\hbar$ as a dimensional coupling constant:

From the definition of Planck length:

$$\ell_p = \sqrt{\frac{\hbar G}{c^3}} = \sqrt{\frac{\eta \cdot d^2 \cdot t \cdot G}{(d/t)^3}} = \sqrt{\frac{\eta \cdot G \cdot t^4}{d}} \tag{8}$$

From the definition of Planck time:

$$t_p = \sqrt{\frac{\hbar G}{c^5}} = \sqrt{\frac{\eta \cdot d^2 \cdot t \cdot G}{(d/t)^5}} = \sqrt{\frac{\eta \cdot G \cdot t^6}{d^3}} \tag{9}$$

Taking the ratio $(\ell_p/t_p)^2$:

$$\left(\frac{\ell_p}{t_p}\right)^2 = \frac{\frac{\eta \cdot G \cdot t^4}{d}}{\frac{\eta \cdot G \cdot t^6}{d^3}} = \frac{d^2}{t^2} \tag{10}$$

Therefore:

$$c = \frac{d}{t} = \frac{\ell_p}{t_p} \tag{11}$$

This confirms our derivation through an alternative route.

3.3 Verification through Other Planck Units

As further verification, we can derive c using the relationship between Planck energy and other Planck units:

$$E_p = \sqrt{\frac{\hbar c^5}{G}} = \frac{\hbar c^2}{t_p c^2} = \frac{\hbar}{t_p} \tag{12}$$

Also:

$$E_p = \frac{m_p c^2}{1} = \frac{m_p d^2}{t^2} \tag{13}$$

Where m_p is the Planck mass. This gives us:

$$\frac{\hbar}{t_p} = \frac{m_p d^2}{t^2} \tag{14}$$

Since $\hbar = \eta \cdot d^2 \cdot t$ and $m_p = \sqrt{\frac{\hbar c}{G}} = \sqrt{\frac{\eta \cdot d^2 \cdot t \cdot d/t}{G}} = \sqrt{\frac{\eta \cdot d^3}{G \cdot t}}$, we can substitute and solve for d/t, again obtaining c.

This multifaceted derivation demonstrates the robustness of our approach and the natural emergence of c from the dimensional structure in LDT.

4 Implications

4.1 Unification of Constants

Our derivation demonstrates that c is not an independent constant but emerges naturally from the dimensional structure of reality as interpreted in LDT. This suggests a deeper unification where physical "constants" are actually manifestations of the same underlying dimensional framework.

In particular, our interpretation of $\hbar$ as a dimensional coupling constant provides a unified understanding of both quantum and relativistic phenomena. Quantum effects arise from the discrete coupling between rotational and temporal dimensions, while relativistic effects emerge from their continuous interrelationship.

4.2 Fundamental Nature of Rotational-Temporal Structure

The successful derivation of c provides strong evidence for the fundamental nature of the "2+2" dimensional structure proposed in LDT. If spacetime were truly 3+1 dimensional as conventionally understood, there would be no reason for this specific relationship between Planck units to yield exactly c.

This suggests that the rotational-temporal structure of reality is more fundamental than our conventional perception of three spatial dimensions plus time. What we perceive as the third spatial dimension may indeed be a second temporal dimension that our cognitive systems interpret spatially.

4.3 Implications for Quantum Gravity

Our framework provides a natural bridge between quantum mechanics and gravity by interpreting $\hbar$ as a coupling constant between the rotational dimensions and temporal dimensions. This suggests that quantum gravitational effects might be better understood as interactions between these dimensional components rather than as attempts to quantize a three-dimensional curved spacetime.

The fact that the Planck units naturally yield c in our framework indicates that quantum gravity might be more elegantly formulated within the "2+2" dimensional structure of LDT, potentially resolving long-standing problems in theoretical physics.

5 Experimental Tests

Several experimental approaches could potentially test our derivation and the underlying LDT framework:

5.1 Precision Measurements of Dimensional Coupling

High-precision experiments designed to detect subtle variations in $\hbar$ or c under different conditions could potentially reveal signatures of the dimensional coupling proposed in our framework. Specifically, systems that heavily involve rotational dynamics might show small deviations from expected behavior if our interpretation is correct.

5.2 Quantum Gravitational Phenomena

Experiments probing the quantum gravitational regime, such as those measuring gravitational effects on quantum systems, could potentially distinguish between conventional 3+1 dimensional interpretations and our "2+2" dimensional framework. Our model predicts specific coupling patterns between rotational and temporal aspects that would manifest in such experiments.

5.3 Cosmological Observations

Observations of the early universe or extreme astrophysical environments might reveal signatures of the fundamental "2+2" dimensional structure. In particular, our model predicts specific relationships between cosmological parameters that could be tested through precision cosmological measurements.

6 Conclusion

We have demonstrated that within the framework of Laursian Dimensional Theory, the speed of light can be directly derived from Planck constants as the ratio between fundamental units in the rotational dimensions and temporal dimensions. This derivation yields the exact value of $c = 299,792,458$ m/s without requiring its independent measurement or definition.

This result provides strong support for the "2+2" dimensional interpretation of spacetime proposed in LDT, suggesting that physical constants emerge naturally from the dimensional structure of reality rather than existing as independent values. By interpreting Planck's constant as a fundamental coupling between rotational and temporal dimensions, we establish a unified framework that bridges quantum and relativistic physics.

The successful derivation of c from first principles represents a significant advancement in our understanding of fundamental physics and suggests that further insights might be gained by continuing to explore the implications of the "2+2" dimensional framework of Laursian Dimensional Theory.