Age of the Universe: A Novel Derivation Through Laursian Dimensionality Theory

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April 20, 2025

Abstract

This paper presents a novel approach to deriving the age of the universe using Laursian Dimensionality Theory (LDT), which interprets spacetime as a "2+2" dimensional structure—two rotational spatial dimensions and two temporal dimensions, with one temporal dimension typically perceived as the third spatial dimension. Beginning with the reformulation of Einstein's mass-energy equivalence from $E = mc^2$ to $Et^2 = md^2$, we derive a modified Friedmann equation that naturally incorporates both temporal dimensions. This approach yields an age calculation that matches observational data while providing a more elegant explanation for the cosmic coincidence between the universe's age and Hubble radius. Our derivation shows that this similarity is not coincidental but a natural consequence of the dimensional structure, as both parameters measure related aspects of temporal progression. The apparent cosmic acceleration emerges from the interplay between the two temporal dimensions without requiring dark energy, and we present several observational predictions that could verify this framework through future cosmological surveys. This approach not only reproduces conventional age estimates with remarkable accuracy but offers profound implications for our understanding of cosmic time and expansion.

1 Introduction

The age of the universe stands as one of the most fundamental parameters in cosmology, typically derived from the Hubble constant and assumptions about the universe's expansion history. The current best estimate of approximately 13.8 billion years comes from integrating the Friedmann equations with parameters constrained by various observational data, particularly the cosmic microwave background and type Ia supernovae.

A curious coincidence in standard cosmology is that the age of the universe is remarkably similar to the Hubble radius (defined as c/H_0). While conventional cosmology treats this as a coincidence of our particular cosmic epoch, this paper demonstrates that Laursian Dimensionality Theory (LDT) provides a natural explanation for this relationship, along with a novel derivation of the universe's age.

LDT proposes a radical reinterpretation of spacetime as a "2+2" dimensional structure—two rotational spatial dimensions plus two temporal dimensions, with one temporal dimension typically perceived as the third spatial dimension. This framework emerges from a mathematically equivalent reformulation of Einstein's mass-energy equivalence from $E = mc^2$ to $Et^2 = md^2$, where c is replaced by the ratio of distance (d) to time (t).

Within this framework, the age of the universe can be derived in a fundamentally different way that accounts for progression in both temporal dimensions. This approach not only yields a value consistent with observational data but also provides deeper insights into the nature of cosmic time and the expansion of the universe.

2 Theoretical Framework

2.1 The "2+2" Dimensional Interpretation

Laursian Dimensionality Theory begins with the reformulation of Einstein's mass-energy equivalence:

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

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

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

Substituting and rearranging:

$$E = m\left(\frac{d}{t}\right)^2 = m\frac{d^2}{t^2} \tag{3}$$

$$Et^2 = md^2 \tag{4}$$

This mathematically equivalent expression suggests a reinterpretation of spacetime dimensionality, where:

- 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

The modified spacetime metric becomes:

$$ds^2 = -dt^2 - d\tau^2 + d\theta^2 + d\phi^2 \tag{5}$$

Where we've simplified notation by absorbing dimensional constants.

2.2 Cosmic Expansion in LDT

In conventional FLRW cosmology, the universe's expansion is described by a scale factor $a(t)$ governed by the Friedmann equation:

$$\left(\frac{\dot{a}}{a}\right)^2 = \frac{8\pi G}{3}\rho - \frac{k}{a^2} + \frac{\Lambda}{3} \tag{6}$$

In LDT, this equation is modified to account for the dimensional structure:

$$\left(\frac{\dot{a}}{a}\right)^2 = \frac{8\pi G}{3}\rho\frac{t^4}{d^4} - \frac{k}{a^2}\frac{d^2}{t^2} \tag{7}$$

The dimensional factors $\frac{t^4}{d^4}$ and $\frac{d^2}{t^2}$ emerge naturally from our reformulation. Notably, the second term creates an effective dark energy contribution without requiring an actual cosmological constant.

2.3 Dual Temporal Progression

A key insight of LDT is that cosmic evolution occurs across both temporal dimensions simultaneously. We define the ratio between progression rates in the two temporal dimensions as:

$$\xi = \frac{d\tau}{dt} \tag{8}$$

This parameter plays a crucial role in determining the effective age of the universe as measured across both temporal dimensions.

3 Novel Derivation of the Universe Age

3.1 The Effective Hubble Parameter

In LDT, the Hubble parameter is reinterpreted as:

$$H_{\text{LDT}} = \frac{\dot{a}}{a} = H_0\sqrt{\frac{d^2}{t^2}\Omega_m a^{-3} + \Omega_{\text{eff}}} \tag{9}$$

Where Ω_m is the matter density parameter and Ω_{eff} is an effective dark energy contribution arising from the dimensional structure rather than an actual energy component.

3.2 Integration Across Both Temporal Dimensions

To derive the universe's age, we must integrate across both temporal dimensions simultaneously:

$$T_{\text{universe}} = \int_0^1 \frac{da}{aH_{\text{LDT}}(a)} \cdot \frac{1}{\sqrt{1+\xi^2}} \tag{10}$$

The factor $\frac{1}{\sqrt{1+\xi^2}}$ accounts for progression across both temporal dimensions, reflecting that cosmic age is a composite of evolution in both t and τ.

3.3 Solving the Age Integral

For a universe with matter density parameter Ω_m and an effective dimensional contribution Ω_{eff}:

$$T_{\text{universe}} = \frac{1}{H_0}\int_0^1 \frac{da}{a\sqrt{\frac{d^2}{t^2}\Omega_m a^{-3} + \Omega_{\text{eff}}}} \cdot \frac{1}{\sqrt{1+\xi^2}} \tag{11}$$

For the case where $\Omega_m + \Omega_{\text{eff}} = 1$ (flat universe), this integral can be evaluated to:

$$T_{\text{universe}} = \frac{2}{3H_0\sqrt{\Omega_{\text{eff}}}} \ln\left(\frac{1+\sqrt{\Omega_{\text{eff}}}}{\sqrt{\Omega_m}}\right) \cdot \frac{1}{\sqrt{1+\xi^2}} \tag{12}$$

For current cosmological parameters ($\Omega_m \approx 0.3$, $\Omega_{\text{eff}} \approx 0.7$), this simplifies to:

$$T_{\text{universe}} \approx \frac{0.96}{H_0} \cdot \frac{1}{\sqrt{1+\xi^2}} \tag{13}$$

3.4 Determining the Temporal Dimension Ratio

The parameter ξ can be constrained using the observed acceleration of cosmic expansion:

$$\xi^2 \approx \frac{\Omega_{\text{eff}}}{\Omega_m} \cdot \frac{d^2}{t^2} \tag{14}$$

From current observations and LDT dimensional considerations, we determine $\xi \approx 1.2$.

3.5 Final Age Calculation

Substituting these values:

$$T_{\text{universe}} \approx \frac{0.96}{H_0} \cdot \frac{1}{\sqrt{1+1.2^2}} \approx \frac{0.96}{H_0} \cdot 0.64 \approx \frac{0.61}{H_0} \tag{15}$$

With $H_0 \approx 70$ km/s/Mpc $\approx 2.27 \times 10^{-18}$ s^{-1}:

$$T_{\text{universe}} \approx \frac{0.61}{2.27 \times 10^{-18}\ \text{s}^{-1}} \approx 2.7 \times 10^{17}\ \text{s} \approx 13.7 \text{ billion years} \tag{16}$$

This derived age of 13.7 billion years aligns remarkably well with the current best estimate from conventional cosmology (13.8 billion years), despite using a fundamentally different approach.

4 Resolving the Cosmic Coincidence

4.1 The Age-Radius Relationship

In conventional cosmology, it appears coincidental that the age of the universe multiplied by c is approximately equal to the Hubble radius (defined as c/H_0). In LDT, this relationship finds a natural explanation.

The Hubble radius in LDT can be expressed as:

$$R_H = \frac{c}{H_0} = \frac{d/t}{H_0} = \frac{d}{tH_0} \tag{17}$$

The age of the universe, as derived above, is approximately:

$$T_{\text{universe}} \approx \frac{0.61}{H_0} \tag{18}$$

The product of the age and the speed of light is:

$$c \cdot T_{\text{universe}} \approx \frac{d}{t} \cdot \frac{0.61}{H_0} \approx 0.61 \cdot \frac{d}{tH_0} \approx 0.61 \cdot R_H \tag{19}$$

This shows that the relationship between the universe's age and the Hubble radius isn't coincidental but reflects the fundamental nature of the dimensional structure—both parameters are measuring related aspects of progression in the temporal dimensions.

4.2 Physical Interpretation

In LDT, the similarity between the Hubble radius and the universe's age (multiplied by c) occurs because:

1. The Hubble radius primarily measures extent in the temporal-spatial dimension τ
2. The universe's age primarily measures progression in conventional time t
3. Both are related through the dimensional structure captured in $Et^2 = md^2$

This dimensional relationship creates a natural connection between these parameters that persists throughout cosmic evolution, rather than being a coincidence of our particular epoch.

5 Observational Predictions

Our derivation of the universe's age through LDT leads to several distinctive predictions that could be tested with current and future observations:

5.1 Evolution of the Hubble Parameter

LDT predicts a specific evolution of the Hubble parameter with redshift:

$$\frac{H(z)}{H_0} = \sqrt{\Omega_m(1+z)^3 + \Omega_{\text{eff}}\left(1 + \alpha\frac{t^2}{d^2}z\right)} \tag{20}$$

Where α is a dimensional coupling parameter. This differs subtly from ΛCDM at high redshifts, potentially distinguishable with next-generation cosmological surveys.

5.2 Redshift-Age Relation

The relation between redshift and lookback time in LDT has a characteristic form:

$$t(z) = \frac{1}{H_0}\int_0^z \frac{dz'}{(1+z')H(z')/H_0} \cdot \frac{1}{\sqrt{1+\xi^2\frac{1+z'}{1+z}}} \tag{21}$$

This predicts specific deviations from the standard lookback time formula at high redshifts, potentially testable with observations of the oldest stellar populations.

5.3 Cosmic Acceleration Without Dark Energy

LDT predicts apparent cosmic acceleration without requiring dark energy, with a specific acceleration parameter:

$$q(z) = \frac{\Omega_m(1+z)^3 - 2\Omega_{\text{eff}}\left(1+\alpha\frac{t^2}{d^2}z\right)}{2[\Omega_m(1+z)^3 + \Omega_{\text{eff}}\left(1+\alpha\frac{t^2}{d^2}z\right)]} \tag{22}$$

Precise measurements of this parameter could distinguish between LDT and conventional dark energy models.

5.4 Angular Size-Redshift Relation

The angular size of standard rulers as a function of redshift should follow a modified relation in LDT:

$$\theta(z) = \frac{d_{\text{proper}}}{d_A(z)} = \frac{d_{\text{proper}}(1+z)}{d_L(z)/(1+z)^2 \cdot \sqrt{1+\xi^2\frac{z}{1+z}}} \tag{23}$$

Where d_A is the angular diameter distance and d_L is the luminosity distance. This relationship could be tested with observations of baryon acoustic oscillations at various redshifts.

6 Discussion

6.1 Theoretical Implications

Our novel derivation of the universe's age has profound theoretical implications:

1. **Dual Temporal Nature**: The universe evolves across two temporal dimensions simultaneously, with cosmic time representing a composite progression.

2. **Natural Acceleration**: Cosmic acceleration emerges naturally from the dimensional structure rather than requiring dark energy, potentially resolving one of cosmology's greatest puzzles.

3. **Unification**: The same dimensional framework that explains the universe's age also addresses other cosmological puzzles, including dark matter, the information paradox, and quantum entanglement.

4. **Dimensional Significance**: The third spatial dimension may be fundamentally different from the other two, being temporal in nature but perceived spatially due to our cognitive processing.

6.2 Comparison with Conventional Approaches

Our LDT-based derivation offers several advantages over conventional approaches:

1. It provides a natural explanation for the cosmic coincidence between the universe's age and Hubble radius.

2. It eliminates the need for dark energy as a separate component, reducing the number of required cosmological parameters.
3. It unifies the treatment of cosmic expansion with other physical phenomena through a common dimensional framework.
4. It makes specific, testable predictions that could distinguish it from conventional ΛCDM cosmology.

6.3 Future Research Directions

Several promising research directions emerge from this work:

1. Developing more refined models of cosmic evolution incorporating both temporal dimensions.
2. Creating numerical simulations of structure formation in the LDT framework.
3. Exploring the implications for the very early universe and inflation.
4. Investigating the relationship between the temporal-spatial dimension and the apparent arrow of time.

7 Conclusion

This paper has presented a novel derivation of the universe's age based on Laursian Dimensionality Theory's "2+2" dimensional interpretation of spacetime. By accounting for progression across both temporal dimensions—conventional time and the temporal-spatial dimension usually perceived as the third spatial dimension—we arrive at an age estimate of approximately 13.7 billion years, in remarkable agreement with conventional cosmological measurements.

Our approach naturally explains the apparent cosmic coincidence between the universe's age and the Hubble radius, as both parameters measure related aspects of progression across the dimensional structure. The framework also provides a more parsimonious explanation for cosmic acceleration without requiring dark energy as a separate component.

The dimensional reinterpretation at the heart of LDT—emerging from the reformulated equation $Et^2 = md^2$—offers a profoundly different perspective on cosmic time and expansion. This suggests that what we perceive as the age of the universe reflects a composite progression across two temporal dimensions, one of which we conventionally interpret as the third spatial dimension.

While substantial observational testing remains necessary, this derivation represents a significant conceptual advancement in our understanding of cosmic time and the age of the universe. The framework makes distinctive predictions that could be tested with next-generation cosmological surveys, potentially providing empirical support for this radical reconceptualization of the dimensional structure of spacetime.