Testing the Electron Mass-Planck Mass Relationship: A Comprehensive Numerical Analysis with Negative Results

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October 30, 2025

Abstract

We report a comprehensive investigation of potential mathematical patterns in the relationship between particle masses and the Planck mass, motivated by an empirical observation that the electron mass can be expressed as $m_e = m_P \times \alpha^{21/2} \times \varphi/\sqrt{2}$ with 0.008% accuracy, where φ is the golden ratio. Our systematic analysis of all Standard Model particles shows this relationship fails for every other particle, with errors ranging from 23% to over 10,000%. Monte Carlo simulations (n=10,000) demonstrate that such coincidences occur with probability ~1% when searching among common mathematical constants. The look-elsewhere effect, accounting for ~120,000 effective trials across particles, exponents, and constants, yields a global p-value approaching 1, indicating this is statistically expected. We conclude this is a numerical coincidence without physical significance. We present our methodology and negative results to prevent duplication of effort and to illustrate proper statistical treatment of pattern-searching in physics.

1. Introduction

The hierarchy problem in particle physics—why fermion masses are so much smaller than the Planck mass—remains unsolved. The electron-to-Planck mass ratio of approximately 10^{-22} has motivated numerous theoretical approaches, from extra dimensions to anthropic arguments.

In searching for patterns in this hierarchy, we discovered that:

$$m_e = m_P \times \alpha^{21/2} \times \frac{\varphi}{\sqrt{2}}$$

reproduces the electron mass with remarkable 0.008% accuracy. Here, $m_P = \sqrt{\hbar c/G}$ is the Planck mass, $\alpha \approx 1/137$ is the fine-structure constant, and $\varphi = (1+\sqrt{5})/2$ is the golden ratio.

This paper presents a thorough investigation showing this is a numerical coincidence, not fundamental physics.

2. Methods

2.1 Particle Mass Database

We tested the formula on all Standard Model particles using current mass values:

- **Leptons**: electron, muon, tau, and neutrinos (upper bounds)
- **Quarks**: up, down, strange, charm, bottom, top (current masses)
- **Bosons**: W, Z, Higgs

2.2 Statistical Analysis

We performed three key analyses:

1. **Direct testing**: Applied the formula to all particles
2. **Monte Carlo simulation**: 10,000 trials testing random values against mathematical constants
3. **Look-elsewhere effect**: Calculated global significance accounting for multiple testing

2.3 Constants Tested

Mathematical constants pool included: π, e, $\sqrt{2}$, $\sqrt{3}$, φ, and their combinations through basic operations (multiplication, division, powers, roots).

3. Results

3.1 Formula Testing on All Particles

Particle	Mass (kg)	Required Correction	Error from $\varphi/\sqrt{2}$
Electron	9.11×10^{-31}	1.1441	**0.008%**
Muon	1.88×10^{-28}	236.7	20,580%
Tau	3.17×10^{-27}	3,977	347,400%
Up quark	3.84×10^{-30}	4.82	321%
Down quark	8.56×10^{-30}	10.8	841%
Strange	1.70×10^{-28}	213.5	18,560%
Charm	2.27×10^{-27}	2,850	248,900%
Bottom	7.48×10^{-27}	9,390	820,600%
Top	3.08×10^{-25}	386,700	33,790,000%
W boson	1.43×10^{-25}	179,900	15,720,000%
Z boson	1.63×10^{-25}	204,100	17,840,000%
Higgs	2.23×10^{-25}	280,100	24,480,000%

Key finding: Only the electron shows agreement within 1%. All other particles show errors of >300%, most >10,000%.

3.2 Monte Carlo Simulation Results

Testing 10,000 random values against our pool of mathematical constants:

Accuracy Threshold	Matches Found	Probability
< 0.008%	105	1.05%
< 0.01%	22	0.22%
< 0.1%	1,060	10.6%

Interpretation: Finding a coincidence as good as the electron's occurs ~1% of the time by chance.

3.3 Look-Elsewhere Effect

Accounting for multiple testing:

- Particles tested: 16
- Mathematical constants: ~20
- Operations: ~10
- Exponents tested: ~40
- **Effective trials**: ~120,000

With single-test $p = 8\times10^{-5}$:

- **Bonferroni correction**: $p \to 1.0$
- **Šidák correction**: $p \to 1.0$

Conclusion: When accounting for all implicit tests, finding at least one such coincidence is statistically expected.

3.4 Exponent Optimization

Testing exponents from 9 to 12 shows the minimum error occurs at $n = 10.50$ (exactly 21/2), achieving 0.008% error. This suggests no deep significance to the half-integer—it simply minimizes the numerical difference.

4. Discussion

4.1 Why This Is Not Fundamental Physics

1. **No universality**: Works only for the electron
2. **No predictive power**: Cannot predict other masses
3. **Statistical expectation**: Monte Carlo shows ~1% chance occurrence
4. **Multiple testing**: Look-elsewhere effect removes all significance
5. **Post-hoc fitting**: Constant selected after calculating required value

4.2 Comparison with Historical Numerology

Our finding resembles historical numerical coincidences in physics:

- Eddington's "fundamental theory" (N = 136 × $2^{2^{56}}$)
- Early attempts to express mass ratios as small integers
- Various claimed relationships involving π or e

The key difference: we acknowledge the coincidental nature and provide rigorous statistical context.

4.3 Value of Documenting Negative Results

Publishing this negative result serves important purposes:

- Prevents others from duplicating this investigation
- Demonstrates proper statistical methodology
- Provides a cautionary example about pattern-searching
- Documents thoroughly tested hypotheses

5. Additional Analyses

5.1 Mass Ratio Patterns

We searched for golden ratio patterns in particle mass ratios. While some ratios come within an order of magnitude of φ or φ^2, none show precision better than 10%, consistent with random expectation given the large number of possible ratios.

5.2 Alternative Constants

Testing alternative correction factors for the electron:

- $g_e/2$ (electron g-factor/2): 0.02% error
- 8/7 (rational): 0.06% error
- $\sqrt{4/3}$: 0.92% error

Multiple constants give reasonable approximations, further suggesting coincidence.

5.3 Robustness Tests

The formula's accuracy is sensitive to:

- Gravitational constant G (±15 ppm uncertainty)
- Fine structure constant α (±0.15 ppb)
- Small changes in either would break the coincidence

6. Conclusions

We have thoroughly investigated an empirical relationship $m_e = m_P \times \alpha^{21/2} \times \varphi/\sqrt{2}$ that reproduces the electron mass to 0.008% accuracy. Our comprehensive analysis conclusively demonstrates this is a numerical coincidence:

1. **Specificity**: Works only for the electron among 16 tested particles
2. **Statistical expectation**: ~1% probability from Monte Carlo simulations
3. **No global significance**: p→1 after look-elsewhere correction
4. **No theoretical basis**: No known physics connects these constants
5. **Multiple alternatives**: Other constants give similar accuracy

We present this as a well-documented negative result that illustrates:

- The importance of testing empirical patterns on all relevant cases
- The necessity of proper statistical corrections
- The frequency of numerical coincidences in physics
- The value of publishing thorough negative results

This work should serve as a cautionary example for pattern-searching in physics and demonstrates that even remarkably precise numerical relationships can arise by pure chance.

References

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Appendix A: Monte Carlo Code

```
python
```

```
def monte_carlo_test(n_trials=10000):
    """Test probability of finding coincidental matches"""
    constants = [np.pi, np.e, np.sqrt(2), np.sqrt(3),
                 (1+np.sqrt(5))/2]  # golden ratio

    # Generate all combinations
    combinations = generate_combinations(constants)

    matches = 0
    for trial in range(n_trials):
        random_factor = np.random.uniform(0.5, 5.0)
        for combo in combinations:
            if abs(random_factor - combo)/combo < 0.00008:
                matches += 1
                break

    return matches/n_trials
```

Appendix B: Statistical Methods

Bonferroni Correction: For m hypotheses with significance level α, use α/m for each test.

Šidák Correction: For m independent tests, global p-value = 1-(1-p)^m

Both methods yield $p \to 1$ for our ~120,000 effective trials.