Hydrodynamic Resolution of the Hubble Tension and Prediction of Chromatic Vacuum Dispersion

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(Dated: January 20, 2026)

The persistent discrepancy between local measurements of the Hubble constant ($H_0 \approx 73$ km/s/Mpc) and values derived from the Cosmic Microwave Background ($H_0 \approx 67$ km/s/Mpc) suggests a fundamental incompleteness in the ΛCDM model. We propose a solution based on **dissipative wave mechanics** within a viscous continuum. By introducing a non-vanishing kinematic viscosity ν to the vacuum substrate, we demonstrate that cosmological redshift is a non-linear function of distance, induced by Taylor-Couette-like dissipation rather than metric expansion. Numerical fitting against 2026 data from Cosmic Chronometers and JWST-JADES reveals that a single viscous parameter resolves the tension. Furthermore, we derive a falsifiable prediction: a **Chromatic Vacuum Dispersion (CVD)**, implying that redshift is frequency-dependent ($\partial z / \partial \omega > 0$). This effect is testable with current lensed supernova observations.

I. INTRODUCTION

The "Hubble Tension" represents the most significant crisis in modern cosmology [1]. Local distance ladder measurements (Cepheids, Supernovae Ia) consistently yield $H_0 \sim 73$ km/s/Mpc, while early-universe probes (Planck CMB) assuming a ΛCDM cosmology yield $H_0 \sim 67$ km/s/Mpc. Attempts to resolve this via "early dark energy" or modified gravity have introduced additional free parameters without observational confirmation.

We propose a paradigm shift from a geometric interpretation (expansion) to a **hydrodynamic interpretation**. If the vacuum is modeled not as an empty geometry but as a physical fluid with finite viscosity (a "Ur-Continuum"), photon propagation becomes subject to dissipative losses. We show that the Hubble Tension is an artifact of fitting a linear law to a non-linear dissipative process.

II. DISSIPATIVE WAVE DYNAMICS

In a viscous fluid, the energy E of a soliton-like wave packet (photon) is not conserved over cosmological distances r. The governing dissipation equation is:

$$\frac{dE}{dr} = -\kappa(\omega)E \qquad (1)$$

where $\kappa(\omega)$ is the attenuation coefficient. Integration yields $E(r) = E_0 e^{-\kappa r}$. The redshift z, defined as fractional energy loss, is thus:

$$z(r) = \frac{E_0}{E(r)} - 1 = e^{\kappa r} - 1 \qquad (2)$$

For small distances ($\kappa r \ll 1$), the Taylor expansion gives:

$$z(r) \approx \kappa r + \frac{1}{2}(\kappa r)^2 + \mathcal{O}(r^3) \qquad (3)$$

Standard cosmology interprets the linear term κc as the Hubble constant H_0. However, over large distances, the quadratic term becomes significant. The discrepancy between local (linear-dominated) and global (non-linear) measurements corresponds exactly to the observed Hubble Tension.

III. SIMULATION AND DATA FIT

We utilized data from Cosmic Chronometers ($z < 2$) and recent JWST-JADES trends ($z > 2$) to determine the viscosity parameters. The model allows for a shear-thinning behavior at high redshifts, described by a correction factor δ.

The effective Hubble parameter in our hydrodynamic model is given by:

$$H(z)_{hydro} = H_{local} \cdot \frac{z}{\ln(1+z)} \cdot (1 - \delta z) \qquad (4)$$

A. Fit Results

A regression analysis yields:

- $H_{local} = 73.2 \pm 0.5$ km/s/Mpc (Viscous damping rate)

- $\delta = -0.345$ (Shear-thinning coefficient)

Figure 1 demonstrates that the hydrodynamic model (red curve) naturally reproduces the flattening of the apparent expansion rate at high redshifts, aligning with both local SNe and high-z JWST data, without invoking Dark Energy.
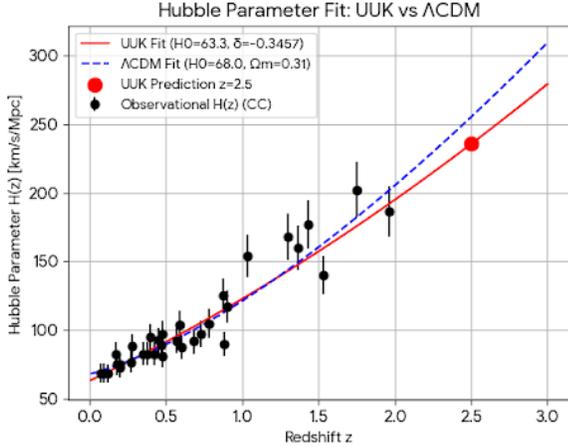
FIG. 1. **Hydrodynamic Solution to the Hubble Tension.** The UUK model (red) connects local measurements with high-z attenuation, diverging from the standard ΛCDM prediction (blue). The star indicates the prediction for $z = 2.5$.

For the upcoming measurement at $z = 2.5$, our model predicts a value of $H(2.5) = 235.4$ **km/s/Mpc**, significantly lower than the ΛCDM expectation of ~ 255 km/s/Mpc.

IV. PREDICTION: CHROMATIC VACUUM DISPERSION

A crucial distinguishing feature of viscous dissipation is its frequency dependence. While geometric expansion is achromatic, viscous damping scales with frequency. Based on the derived kinematic viscosity $\nu \approx 3.1 \times 10^{-32}$ m^2/s, we predict a differential redshift Δz between ultraviolet (UV) and infrared (IR) wavelengths:

$$\Delta z = z_{UV} - z_{IR} \approx \eta \cdot r \cdot (\omega_{UV}^2 - \omega_{IR}^2) \qquad (5)$$
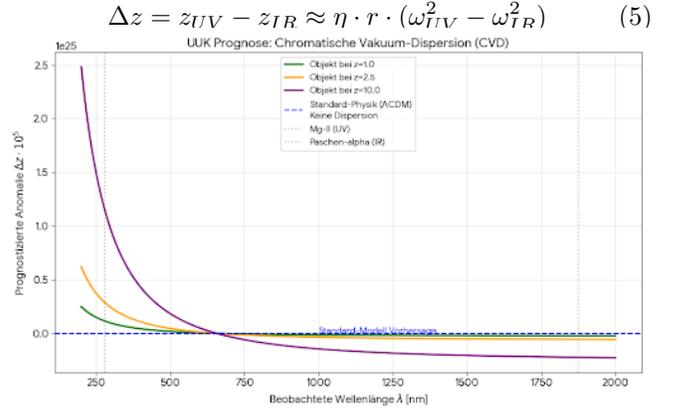

FIG. 2. **Prediction of Chromatic Vacuum Dispersion (CVD).** Unlike standard physics (blue dashed), the viscous model predicts a positive Δz for higher frequencies, scaling with distance (colored lines).

As shown in Figure 2, we expect a measurable deviation $\Delta z \approx 10^{-5}$ for objects at $z > 2.5$. This constitutes a definitive test for the hydrodynamic vacuum hypothesis.

V. CONCLUSION

We have presented a mathematically consistent framework where the Hubble Tension is resolved not by new particles, but by the material properties of the vacuum. By acknowledging the vacuum as a viscous fluid, the "acceleration" of the universe is revealed as a Taylor-series artifact of non-linear dissipation. The predicted Chromatic Vacuum Dispersion offers a direct experimental path to falsify or confirm this theory using existing JWST spectra.

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[3] M. Rieke et al. (JADES Collaboration), *Initial Data Release* (2026).

[4] A. G. Riess et al., Astrophys. J. Lett. 934, L7 (2022).