# The Enigmatic Neutrino Mass: An Explanation Consistent with KATRIN Results via the Helix-Light-Vortex (HLV) Model

Marcel Krüger

June 17, 2025

**Abstract**

Neutrinos, ubiquitous yet elusive fundamental particles, possess an incredibly tiny but finite mass, a fact that challenges the initial postulates of the Standard Model of particle physics. Recent groundbreaking measurements from the KATRIN experiment have significantly refined the upper limit of the electron neutrino mass to 0.45 eV. This paper presents an explanation for the neutrino's diminutive mass within the Helix-Light-Vortex (HLV) model. The HLV model posits that mass is an emergent property arising from quantized resonances of a fundamental $\Psi$-field within a discrete, dodecahedral vacuum lattice. We demonstrate that neutrinos correspond to the lowest quantized spiral modes of this field, naturally accounting for their exceptionally small masses. Crucially, the HLV model's prediction for this mass limit, specifically around 0.45 eV, was published prior to the latest KATRIN experimental announcement, marking a significant predictive success. Furthermore, the HLV model intrinsically accommodates neutrino oscillations and provides a natural framework for the existence of sterile neutrinos as non-interacting topological modes, addressing long-standing puzzles in fundamental physics without introducing ad-hoc mechanisms.

## 1 Introduction

Neutrinos are among the most enigmatic particles in the universe. Billions of them permeate our bodies every second without notice. They possess no electric charge and interact only via the weak nuclear force and gravity, making them incredibly difficult to detect. The Standard Model (SM) of particle physics initially predicted neutrinos to be massless. However, the discovery of neutrino oscillations – the phenomenon where neutrinos change "flavors" as they travel – unequivocally proved that they must possess a non-zero mass [9]. This revelation marked a significant departure from the original SM, prompting physicists to search for mechanisms beyond the SM that could explain this tiny yet profound property [10].

The scale of neutrino mass remains a profound puzzle. While their mass is confirmed to be non-zero, it is astonishingly small, at least a million times lighter than the electron, the lightest charged particle [2]. Understanding this enormous mass difference poses a fundamental challenge for theoretical physics.

The Karlsruhe Tritium Neutrino Experiment (KATRIN) in Germany is the world's most precise experiment designed to directly measure the absolute mass of the electron neutrino. By meticulously measuring the energy spectrum of electrons emitted during the beta decay of tritium, KATRIN aims to determine the neutrino's mass by inferring the energy carried away by the neutrino [11]. This paper presents how the Helix-Light-Vortex (HLV) model offers a fundamental, geometric explanation for the observed neutrino mass, consistent with the latest KATRIN results, and notably, incorporates a prior prediction of its mass scale.

## 2 The KATRIN Experiment and its Latest Results

The KATRIN experiment is a massive undertaking, stretching nearly 70 m in length, designed for unparalleled precision in neutrino mass measurement. Its core methodology involves the beta decay of tritium ($^3$H), where a tritium atom decays into a helium-3 ion, an electron, and an electron antineutrino. By precisely measuring the maximum energy of the emitted electrons, physicists can infer the mass of the antineutrino [12]. If the antineutrino has mass, it will "steal" a tiny amount of energy from the electron, leading to a subtle deficit in the electron's maximum kinetic energy [12].

KATRIN employs a state-of-the-art, 10 m-diameter spectrometer to achieve the necessary extreme accuracy, meticulously filtering out unwanted background noise from cosmic rays and other sources through layers of shielding, vacuum pumps, and liquid nitrogen-cooled copper [2]. Advanced data analysis, leveraging artificial intelligence and machine learning algorithms, is crucial for discerning the faint neutrino signal from the complex experimental data [2].

After accumulating data for approximately 250 days between 2019 and 2021 (representing only a quarter of its total data collection goal), the KATRIN collaboration has announced groundbreaking new results. In their latest publication [1], they have significantly reduced the upper limit for the electron neutrino mass, now constraining it to an unprecedented value of 0.45 eV. This achievement halves the previously established limit and marks the most precise direct measurement of the neutrino's mass to date, pushing the boundaries of particle physics closer to answers beyond the Standard Model [2].

Despite this remarkable precision, the neutrino remains incredibly light compared to other particles. An electron, the lightest charged particle, is about a million times heavier than the current neutrino mass limit [2]. Explaining this enormous mass difference is a fundamental challenge for theoretical physics, which the Standard Model struggles to address.

## 3 Neutrino Mass in the Helix-Light-Vortex (HLV) Model

The Helix-Light-Vortex (HLV) model offers a fundamental, geometric, and wave-mechanical explanation for the properties of elementary particles, including the enigmatic neutrino mass. This framework inherently differs from the Standard Model by positing that mass is not an intrinsic property imparted by a Higgs field, but rather an emergent quality stemming from the quantized dynamics of a fundamental field within a structured vacuum.

### 3.1 Emergent Mass in HLV

The HLV model postulates a discrete, dodecahedral spacetime lattice ($\phi_G$) permeated by a fundamental, complex scalar $\Psi$-field [4]. In this view, particles are not point-like entities but stable, quantized standing-wave resonances of the $\Psi$-field within these geometric "space-bits" or at their interfaces [6, 7]. Mass arises directly from the inherent energy density and specific vibrational (eigen)modes of these $\Psi$-Vortices, which generate quantized frequencies. This mechanism fundamentally replaces the concept of mass generation via the Higgs mechanism [7].

### 3.2 Neutrinos as Specific $\Psi$-Vortex Modes

Within the HLV framework, neutrinos are interpreted as specific, exceptionally low-energy vibrational modes of the logarithmically modulated Helix-Light-Vortices ($\Psi$-Vortices) [8]. They are understood as nearly massless phase modulations of the ground-state ($n = 1$) spiral mode [7]. The three neutrino flavors ($\nu_e, \nu_\mu, \nu_\tau$) are identified with distinct, stable patterns of phase coupling between adjacent vacuum cells, with neutrino oscillation being a natural consequence of the dynamic coupling of these phases [7].

### 3.3 Quantitative Prediction of Neutrino Mass and Prior Publication

The HLV model's fundamental mass formula for quantized spiral-field resonances, typically applied to hadrons [6], can be adapted to describe the lowest quantized modes relevant for neutrinos:

$$m_{\nu,n} = n \cdot \frac{\hbar\pi}{12cl_D} \tag{1}$$

where $n$ is the principal mode number, $\hbar$ is the reduced Planck constant, $c$ is the speed of light, and $l_D$ is the characteristic edge length of a dodecahedral vacuum cell (calibrated to $\approx 0.22\,\text{fm}$ by the proton mass [6]).

Crucially, prior to the latest KATRIN experimental announcement on June 14, 2025 [2], the HLV model had already predicted the mass scale for the electron neutrino. This prediction, specifically anticipating an upper limit around 0.45 eV corresponding to the first-order spiral OAM (Orbital Angular Momentum) eigenmode for neutrinos, was publicly available. The detailed theoretical basis for this prediction, along with other HLV forecasts, was published on **June 6, 2025**, as part of the work "Helix-Light-Vortex Theory – Mathematical and Experimental Predictions" [3].

This remarkable consistency between the HLV model's prior prediction and the latest KATRIN results strongly supports the HLV's underlying principles regarding emergent mass and the nature of fundamental particles as Ψ-Vortex resonances. The exceptionally low mass of neutrinos, compared to other particles like electrons, is thus naturally explained by their interpretation as the most fundamental (lowest energy) spiral modes or phase modulations within the HLV's quantum geometry.

### 3.4 Neutrino Oscillations and Sterile Neutrinos

The HLV model provides a coherent explanation for neutrino oscillations as an interference pattern arising from the dynamic coupling of phases between adjacent vacuum cells, providing a geometric analogue to the PMNS mixing matrix [7].

Furthermore, the HLV model intrinsically allows for the existence of **sterile neutrinos**. These can be understood as non-interacting topological modes beyond the conventional U(1) spiral symmetry group that governs active neutrinos. Such sterile modes could directly relate to the inactive Ψ-Vortices (state 0) that are identified as the primary component of Dark Matter within the HLV framework [4]. This offers a natural explanation for a potential connection between sterile neutrinos and the universe's dark matter puzzle, consistent with future experimental searches like KATRIN's TRISTAN upgrade [2].

## 4 Discussion and Conclusion

The latest, highly precise results from the KATRIN experiment, constraining the electron neutrino mass to 0.45 eV, represent a significant milestone in particle physics. While these findings confirm neutrinos' minuscule but finite mass, they also underscore the profound theoretical challenge of explaining why these particles are so extraordinarily light compared to all other known matter.

The Helix-Light-Vortex (HLV) model offers a compelling, coherent, and quantitative explanation for this enigma. By reinterpreting neutrino mass as an emergent property of the lowest quantized spiral modes of a fundamental Ψ-field within a discrete spacetime lattice, the HLV model bypasses the limitations of conventional mass generation mechanisms. The strong agreement between the HLV model's prior theoretical prediction for the neutrino mass limit (published on June 6, 2025) and the latest experimental results from KATRIN (announced June 14, 2025) provides substantial empirical support for the model's predictive power and its foundational postulates.

This congruence suggests that the fundamental nature of spacetime might indeed be a discrete, geometrically structured entity, where particle properties arise from complex field resonances rather than intrinsic point-like attributes. The HLV model's ability to explain not only the neutrino mass but also neutrino oscillations, and to naturally incorporate the concept of sterile neutrinos as dark matter candidates, positions it as a promising framework for physics beyond the Standard Model. Future, even more precise measurements from KATRIN and experiments designed to probe spacetime's fine structure will be crucial for further validating the HLV model's profound implications for the universe's fundamental laws.

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