

Conformal Tensors in Lovelock Gravity

Lovelock gravity shares important features with Einstein gravity...

But exactly which features?

Do we know them all?

The Riemann-Lovelock Curvature Tensor

David Kastor (Massachusetts U., Amherst). Feb 2012. 12 pp.

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Conformal Tensors via Lovelock Gravity

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Formulate some basic questions...

- a) Higher Curvature Bianchi Identities
- b) Analogues of 3D GR

- 
1. Intro to Lovelock
 2. Riemann-Lovelock Tensor & “Lovelock Flatness”
 3. Weyl-Lovelock et. al.
 4. Further (interesting?) questions

Answers supplied by
new higher curvature
constructs

What about “conformal
Lovelock flatness”?

In abundance...

1) Introduction to Lovelock

Coupling constants

Higher curvature analogues of scalar curvature

$$S = \int d^D x \sqrt{-g} \sum_{k=0}^{k_D} a_k \mathcal{R}^{(k)}$$

$$\mathcal{R}^{(k)} = \delta_{b_1 \dots b_{2k}}^{a_1 \dots a_{2k}} R_{a_1 a_2}^{b_1 b_2} \dots R_{a_{2k-1} a_{2k}}^{b_{2k-1} b_{2k}}$$

$$\delta_{a_1 \dots a_n}^{b_1 \dots b_n} = \delta_{[a_1}^{b_1} \dots \delta_{a_n]}^{b_n]}$$

$$\mathcal{R}^{(0)} = 1 \quad \text{Cosmological constant term}$$

$$\mathcal{R}^{(1)} = R \quad \text{Einstein-Hilbert term}$$

$$\mathcal{R}^{(2)} = \frac{1}{6} (R_{ae}{}^{cd} R_{cd}{}^{be} - 2R_{ad}{}^{bc} R_c{}^d - 2R_c{}^b R_a{}^c + R_a{}^b R) \quad \text{Gauss-Bonnet term}$$

$$\mathcal{R}^{(k)}$$

Euler density in D=2k dimensions

- vanishes for D<2k

- variation vanishes in D=2k



$$k_D = \left[\frac{D-1}{2} \right]$$

The nice thing about Lovelock...

$$S = \int d^D x \sqrt{-g} \sum_{k=0}^{k_D} a_k \mathcal{R}^{(k)}$$

$$\sum_{k=0}^{k_D} a_k \mathcal{G}^{(k)a}{}_b = 0$$

$$\mathcal{G}_a^{(k)b} = \frac{(2k+1)\alpha_k}{2} \delta_{ad_1\dots d_{2k}}^{bc_1\dots c_{2k}} R_{c_1 c_2}{}^{d_1 d_2} \dots R_{c_{2k-1} c_{2k}}{}^{d_{2k-1} d_{2k}}$$

$$\nabla_a \mathcal{G}^{(k)a}{}_b = 0 \quad \text{Covariantly conserved}$$

$$\mathcal{G}^{(1)a}{}_b \quad \text{Einstein tensor}$$

$$\mathcal{G}^{(k)a}{}_b \quad \text{Vanishes for } D < 2k+1$$

Equations of motion depend only on Riemann tensor and not its derivatives

- no 4th derivatives of metric
- same initial data as GR
- no ghosts

Higher curvature analogues of Einstein tensor

Questions...

A)

$$\nabla_a \mathcal{G}^{(k)a}_b = 0 \quad \text{Covariantly conserved}$$

k=1 Follows from twice contracted Bianchi identity

$$\begin{aligned} \nabla_{[a} R_{bc]}{}^{de} = 0 & \quad \Rightarrow \quad 0 = \nabla_{[a} R_{bc]}{}^{bc} \\ & = \frac{1}{3} (\nabla_a R - 2 \nabla_b R^b{}_a) \\ & = -\frac{2}{3} \nabla_b G^b{}_a \end{aligned}$$

Is there an analogue of the uncontracted Bianchi identity for $k > 1$?

Is there a higher curvature Lovelock
analogue of the Riemann tensor in this
sense?

Questions...

B) Vacuum GR in D=3

$$G_{ab} = 0 \rightarrow R_{ab}{}^{cd} = 0$$

All solutions to Einstein's equation are flat

Both Riemann and Ricci tensors have 6 independent components

3 x 3 symmetric tensors

Or simple Lovelock-type construction ...

$$\delta_{abgh}{}^{cdef} R_{ef}{}^{gh} = \frac{1}{6} \left(R_{ab}{}^{cd} - 4\delta_{[a}^{[c} R_{b]}^{d]} + \delta_{ab}^{cd} R \right)$$

Relation is true in all dimensions

LHS vanishes in D=3, determining Riemann tensor in terms of its contractions

Questions...

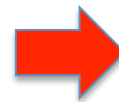
B) Vacuum GR in D=3

$$G_{ab} = 0 \rightarrow R_{ab}{}^{cd} = 0$$

All solutions to Einstein's equation are flat

Is there an analogue of this for $k > 1$?

$\mathcal{R}^{(k)}$ Euler density in D=2k dimensions



Look at "pure" k^{th} order
Lovelock gravity in D=2k+1

$$S_{\text{pure}} = \int d^D x \sqrt{-g} \mathcal{R}^{(k)}$$

Only k^{th} order Lovelock
term in action

Trivial in D=2k,
like GR in D=2

D=2k+1



This is highest order
Lovelock term available

Expect all solutions to Lovelock will asymptote to solutions
of pure k^{th} order theory in high curvature regime

Questions...

B) Vacuum GR in D=3

$$G_{ab} = 0 \rightarrow R_{ab}{}^{cd} = 0$$

All solutions to Einstein's equation are flat

Is there an analogue of this for $k > 1$?

$\mathcal{R}^{(k)}$ Euler density in D=2k dimensions



Look at “pure” k^{th} order
Lovelock gravity in D=2k+1

$$S_{\text{pure}} = \int d^D x \sqrt{-g} \mathcal{R}^{(k)}$$

Only k^{th} order Lovelock
term in action

Is there a higher curvature Lovelock flatness condition, such that all solutions to pure k^{th} order Lovelock in D=2k+1 are k^{th} order Lovelock flat?

Like question 1, this calls for a higher curvature analogue of the Riemann tensor

2) Riemann-Lovelock tensors & “Lovelock flatness”

Call this Riemann^(k) tensor

$$\mathcal{R}_{a_1 b_1 \dots a_k b_k}^{(k) c_1 d_1 \dots c_k d_k} \equiv R_{[a_1 b_1} [c_1 d_1 R_{a_2 b_2}^{c_2 d_2} \dots R_{a_k b_k}^{c_k d_k}]$$

Tensor of type (2k,2k), vanishes for $D < 2k$ and satisfies...

Like all 1D spaces are $k=1$
Lovelock flat

$$\mathcal{R}_{a_1 \dots a_{2k} b_1 \dots b_{2k}}^{(k)} = \mathcal{R}_{[a_1 \dots a_{2k}] b_1 \dots b_{2k}}^{(k)} = \mathcal{R}_{a_1 \dots a_{2k} [b_1 \dots b_{2k}]}^{(k)} = \mathcal{R}_{b_1 \dots b_{2k} a_1 \dots a_{2k}}^{(k)}$$

$$\mathcal{R}_{[a_1 \dots a_{2k} b_1]}^{(k) b_2 \dots b_{2k}} = 0$$

Bianchi identities

$$\nabla_{[c} \mathcal{R}_{a_1 \dots a_{2k}] b_1 \dots b_{2k}}^{(k)} = 0$$

Symmetries

Analogous to familiar properties of Riemann tensor

k^{th} order Lovelock flatness or Riemann^(k) flat

$$\mathcal{R}_{a_1 b_1 \dots a_k b_k}^{(k) c_1 d_1 \dots c_k d_k} = 0$$

Taking traces...

$$\mathcal{R}^{(k)} = \mathcal{R}_{a_1 \dots a_{2k}}^{(k)} a_1 \dots a_{2k}$$

Tracing over all pairs of indices gives back scalar Lovelock interaction terms

$$\mathcal{R}_a^{(k)b} = \mathcal{R}_{ac_1 \dots c_{2k-1}}^{(k)} b c_1 \dots c_{2k-1}$$

Ricci^(k) tensor is an analogue of Ricci tensor

$$\mathcal{G}_a^{(k)b} = k \mathcal{R}_a^{(k)b} - (1/2) \delta_b^a \mathcal{R}^{(k)}$$

Einstein^(k) tensor appears in Lovelock equation of motion

$$\begin{aligned} 0 &= \nabla_{[a} \mathcal{R}_{b_1 \dots b_{2k}}^{(k)} b_1 \dots b_{2k} \\ &= \frac{1}{2k+1} \left(\nabla_a \mathcal{R}^{(k)} - 2k \nabla_b \mathcal{R}^{(k)b}_a \right) \\ &= - \frac{2}{2k+1} \nabla_b \mathcal{G}^{(k)b}_a \end{aligned}$$

Fully contracted Bianchi identity yields vanishing divergence for Einstein^(k) tensors

Answers 1st question

Demonstrates some relevance for Riemann-Lovelock tensors

Pure k^{th} order Lovelock in $D=2k+1$

Analogue of
vacuum GR in $D=3$

$$S_{\text{pure}} = \int d^{2k+1}x \sqrt{-g} \mathcal{R}^{(k)}$$

$$\mathcal{G}_a^{(k)b} = k \mathcal{R}_a^{(k)b} - (1/2) \delta_b^a \mathcal{R}^{(k)} = 0$$

Yes

2nd Question



Are all solutions k^{th} order Lovelock flat?

$$\mathcal{R}_{a_1 b_1 \dots a_k b_k}^{(k) c_1 d_1 \dots c_k d_k} \equiv R_{[a_1 b_1} [c_1 d_1 R_{a_2 b_2}^{c_2 d_2} \dots R_{a_k b_k}^{c_k d_k}]$$

$D=2k+1$



Same number of independent components
as symmetric $(2k+1) \times (2k+1)$ tensor

Can show $\mathcal{R}_a^{(k)b} = 0 \implies \mathcal{R}_{a_1 b_1 \dots a_k b_k}^{(k) c_1 d_1 \dots c_k d_k} = 0$

Are there interesting spacetimes that are higher order Lovelock flat, but not Riemann flat?

Large set of examples...

Riemann^(k) tensor vanishes for any spacetime of dimension $D < 2k$

Can build higher dimensional Riemann^(k) flat spacetimes by adding flat directions

Interesting example in $D=2k+1$...

Static, spherically symmetric solutions of pure k^{th} order Lovelock are missing solid angle spacetimes

$$ds_{2k+1}^2 = -dt^2 + dr^2 + \alpha^2 r^2 d\Omega_{2k-1}^2$$

Static, spherically symmetric solutions of pure k^{th} order Lovelock
are missing solid angle spacetimes

$$ds_{2k+1}^2 = -dt^2 + dr^2 + \alpha^2 r^2 d\Omega_{2k-1}^2$$

$$R_{\mu\nu}{}^{\rho\sigma} = \frac{2}{\alpha^2 r^2} (1 - \alpha^2) \delta_{\mu\nu}^{\rho\sigma} \quad \mu, \nu = 1, \dots, 2k-1$$

Angular
coordinates
on sphere

Only nonzero curvature components

Curved for $\alpha \neq 1$

Riemann^(k) tensor

$$\mathcal{R}_{a_1 b_1 \dots a_k b_k}^{(k) c_1 d_1 \dots c_k d_k} \equiv R_{[a_1 b_1} [c_1 d_1 R_{a_2 b_2}^{c_2 d_2} \dots R_{a_k b_k}^{c_k d_k}] = 0$$

Involves anti-symmetrization over $2k$ indices, but only
 $2k-1$ are available...

Static, spherically symmetric solutions of pure k^{th} order Lovelock
are missing solid angle spacetimes


$$ds_{2k+1}^2 = -dt^2 + dr^2 + \alpha^2 r^2 d\Omega_{2k-1}^2$$

$$R_{\mu\nu}{}^{\rho\sigma} = \frac{2}{\alpha^2 r^2} (1 - \alpha^2) \delta_{\mu\nu}^{\rho\sigma} \quad \mu, \nu = 1, \dots, 2k - 1$$

Angular
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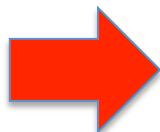
Curved for $\alpha \neq 1$

GR in D=3  k=1

$$ds_3^2 = -dt^2 + dr^2 + \alpha^2 d\phi^2$$

Missing angle
Flat
Global flat space
with identifications

General case
k>1



Missing *solid* angle
Riemann^(k) Flat
~~Global flat space~~
~~with identifications~~

Further question...


Can we classify all
Riemann^(k) flat
spacetimes?



Conformal tensors in Lovelock...

Riemann^(k) flatness  Conformal^(k) flatness

Next step

A spacetime is Conformal^(k) flat if
it is related to a Riemann^(k) flat
spacetime via a conformal
transformation

$D \geq 4$ Conformal flatness  Weyl tensor vanishes
Trace free part of Riemann tensor

 Consider trace free part of
Riemann^(k) tensors  Weyl^(k) tensors

Do Weyl^(k) tensors determine
Conformal^(k) flatness?

First recall some other constructs...

$$W_{ab}{}^{cd} = R_{ab}{}^{cd} - 4\delta_{[a}^{[c} S_{b]}^{d]}$$

Weyl tensor

$$S_a{}^b = \frac{1}{D-2} \left(R_a{}^b - \frac{1}{2(D-1)} \delta_a^b R \right)$$

Schouten tensor

$$C_{ab}{}^c = 2\nabla_{[a} S_{b]}{}^c$$

$$C_{ab}{}^b = 0$$

Cotton tensor

Conformal transformations $\tilde{g}_{ab} = e^{2f} g_{ab}$

$$\tilde{W}_{ab}{}^{cd} = e^{-2f} W_{ab}{}^{cd}$$

$$\tilde{C}_{ab}{}^c = e^{-2f} (C_{ab}{}^c - W_{ab}{}^{cd} \nabla_d f)$$

Conformal transformations $\tilde{g}_{ab} = e^{2f} g_{ab}$

$$\tilde{W}_{ab}{}^{cd} = e^{-2f} W_{ab}{}^{cd}$$

$$\tilde{C}_{ab}{}^c = e^{-2f} (C_{ab}{}^c - W_{ab}{}^{cd} \nabla_d f)$$

Vanishes in D=3

↓

$$\delta_{abgh}^{cdef} W_{ef}{}^{gh} = (1/6) W_{ab}{}^{cd}$$

D=3 → $W_{ab}{}^{cd} = 0$

Cotton tensor is conformally invariant

Conformal flatness
condition in D=3

$$C_{ab}{}^c = 0$$

D=2 → Weyl tensor not defined


All metrics are locally conformally flat

Conformal tensors in Lovelock...

Define Weyl^(k) tensor as traceless part of Riemann^(k) tensor

$$\mathcal{W}_{a_1 \dots a_{2k}}^{(k) \quad b_1 \dots b_{2k}} = \mathcal{R}_{a_1 \dots a_{2k}}^{(k) \quad b_1 \dots b_{2k}} + \sum_{p=1}^{2k} \alpha_p \delta_{[a_1 \dots a_p}^{[b_1 \dots b_p} \mathcal{R}_{a_{p+1} \dots a_{2k}}^{(k) \quad b_{p+1} \dots b_{2k}]} .$$

$$\alpha_p = \left(\frac{(2k)!}{(2k-p)!} \right)^2 \frac{(-1)^p (D - (4k-1))!}{p! (D - (4k-p-1))!}$$

Can show  Riemann^(k) tensor determined by its traces for $D < 4k$

Expect Weyl^(k) tensor is nontrivial only for $D \geq 4k$

$D < 4k - 1$ Weyl^(k) tensor undefined because of divergent coefficients

Like Weyl tensor in $D=1,2$

$D = 4k - 1$ Weyl^(k) tensor defined, but vanishes identically

Like Weyl tensor in $D=3$

Schouten^(k) and Cotton^(k) tensors

$$\mathcal{W}_{a_1 \dots a_{2k}}^{(k) \quad b_1 \dots b_{2k}} = \mathcal{R}_{a_1 \dots a_{2k}}^{(k) \quad b_1 \dots b_{2k}} - (2k)^2 \delta_{[a_1}^{[b_1} \mathcal{S}_{a_2 \dots a_{2k}] }^{(k) \quad b_2 \dots b_{2k}]}$$

$$\mathcal{C}_{a_1 \dots a_{2k}}^{(k) \quad b_1 \dots b_{2k-1}} = 2k \nabla_{[a_1} \mathcal{S}_{a_2 \dots a_{2k}] }^{(k) \quad b_1 \dots b_{2k-1}}$$

All in parallel with
k=1 case....

$$\mathcal{C}_{a_1 \dots a_{2k-1} c}^{(k) \quad b_1 \dots b_{2k-2} c} = 0 \quad \text{Traceless}$$

$$\nabla_c \mathcal{W}_{a_1 \dots a_{2k}}^{(k) \quad cb_1 \dots b_{2k-1}} = (D - (4k - 1)) \mathcal{C}_{a_1 \dots a_{2k}}^{(k) \quad b_1 \dots b_{2k-1}}$$

Conformal transformations $\tilde{g}_{ab} = e^{2f} g_{ab}$

$$\tilde{\mathcal{W}}_{a_1 \dots a_{2k}}^{(k) \quad b_1 \dots b_{2k}} = e^{-2kf} \mathcal{W}_{a_1 \dots a_{2k}}^{(k) \quad b_1 \dots b_{2k}}$$

$$\tilde{\mathcal{C}}_{a_1 \dots a_{2k}}^{(k) \quad b_1 \dots b_{2k-1}} = e^{-2kf} \left(\mathcal{C}_{a_1 \dots a_{2k}}^{(k) \quad b_1 \dots b_{2k-1}} - \mathcal{W}_{a_1 \dots a_{2k}}^{(k) \quad b_1 \dots b_{2k-1} c} \nabla_c f \right)$$

D=4k-1 \longrightarrow Weyl^(k) tensor vanishes \longrightarrow Cotton^(k) is conformally invariant

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On the Bianchi Identities

Ravindra S. Kulkarni

No connection to Lovelock,
but roughly the same time
period

- Demonstrates properties of Riemann^(k) tensors
- Defines Weyl^(k) tensors and shows conformal invariance

JOURNAL OF MATHEMATICAL PHYSICS VOLUME 12, NUMBER 3 MARCH 1971

The Einstein Tensor and Its Generalizations*

DAVID LOVELOCK

Department of Applied Mathematics, University of Waterloo, Waterloo, Ontario, Canada

(Received 27 August 1970)

Conformal transformation of Weyl tensor...

Let $A_{ab}{}^{cd}$ satisfy $A_{abcd} = A_{[ab]cd} = A_{ab[cd]} = A_{cdab}$

Traces $A_a{}^c = A_{ab}{}^{cb}$ $A = A_a{}^a$

Trace free part

$$A_{ab}^{(t)cd} = A_{ab}{}^{cd} - \frac{4}{D-2} \delta_{[a}^{[c} A_{b]}^{d]} + \frac{2}{(D-1)(D-2)} \delta_{ab}^{cd} A$$

Let $\tilde{A}_{ab}{}^{cd} = A_{ab}{}^{cd} + \delta_{[a}^{[c} \Lambda_{b]}^{d]}$ with $\Lambda_{ab} = \Lambda_{ba}$

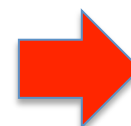
Can show that....

$$\tilde{A}_{ab}^{(t)cd} = A_{ab}^{(t)cd}$$

Conformal transformation $\tilde{R}_{ab}{}^{cd} = e^{-2f} \left(R_{ab}{}^{cd} + \delta_{[a}^{[c} \Lambda_{b]}^{d]} \right)$

$$\Lambda_a{}^b = 4\nabla_a \nabla^b f + 4(\nabla_a f) \nabla^b f - 2\delta_a^b (\nabla_c f) \nabla^c f$$

Analogous
construction
works for all k



Result

Conformal^(k) flatness conjectures

k=1 result

$$D < 2k$$

Riemann^(k) tensor vanishes
All spacetimes conformal^(k) flat

No curvature in D=1

$$D = 2k$$

Riemann^(k) tensor has a single component
All spacetimes (locally) conformal^(k) flat?

All D=2 spacetimes
are (locally)
conformally flat

$$2k < D < 4k - 1$$

Weyl^(k) & Cotton^(k) tensors not defined
All spacetimes (locally) conformal^(k) flat??

$2 < D < 3$
No k=1 analogue

$$D = 4k - 1$$

Conformal^(k) flat if Cotton^(k) tensor vanishes?

D=3 spacetime is
conformally flat if Cotton
tensor vanishes

$$D \geq 4k$$

Conformal^(k) flat if Weyl^(k) tensor vanishes?

$D \geq 4$
Weyl tensor vanishing
implies conformal
flatness

New gravity models?

Recall that low dimensional gravity models make use of conformal tensors...

D=3 Topologically massive gravity (Deser, Jackiw & Templeton – 1982)

Cotton tensor appears in equation of motion

D=3 New massive gravity (Bergshoeff, Hohm & Townsend – 2009)

Schouten tensor is ingredient in action

Perhaps conformal^(k) tensors can be useful in model building associated with Lovelock theories in low(ish) dimensions...

Simple example \longrightarrow Conformal^(k) gravity in D=4k

Recall...

Conformal gravity in D=4 $S = \int d^4x \sqrt{-g} W_{ab}{}^{cd} W_{cd}{}^{ab}$

Equation of motion $B_{ab} = 0$

Bach tensor $B_a{}^b = (\nabla^d \nabla_c + \frac{1}{2} R_c{}^d) W_{ad}{}^{bc}$

Symmetric, traceless

$$\tilde{B}_a{}^b = e^{-4f} B_a{}^b$$

Equations of motion are conformally invariant

All Einstein metrics have vanishing Bach tensor

All conformally Einstein spacetimes are solutions to conformal gravity

Simple example \longrightarrow Conformal^(k) gravity in D=4k

$$S = \int d^{4k}x \sqrt{-g} \mathcal{W}_{a_1 \dots a_{2k}}^{(k) \quad b_1 \dots b_{2k}} \mathcal{W}_{b_1 \dots b_{2k}}^{(k) \quad a_1 \dots a_{2k}}.$$

Equation of motion

Compare with...

$$B_a{}^b = (\nabla^d \nabla_c + \frac{1}{2} R_c{}^d) W_{ad}{}^{bc}$$

Bach tensor

$$\mathcal{B}_a^{(k)b} = \left(\mathcal{R}_{c_1 \dots c_{2k-2}}^{(k-1) \quad d_1 \dots d_{2k-2}} \nabla^{d_{2k-1}} \nabla_{c_{2k-1}} + \frac{k}{2} \mathcal{R}_{c_1 \dots c_{2k-1}}^{(k) \quad d_1 \dots d_{2k-1}} \right) \mathcal{W}_{ad_1 \dots d_{2k-1}}^{(k) \quad bc_1 \dots c_{2k-1}}$$

$$\mathcal{B}_{(ab)}^{(k)} = 0$$

Expect anti-symmetric part of Bach tensor vanishes,
but not straightforward to show...

As it does
for k=1

Also expect Bach^(k) tensor is a conformal invariant,
because of conformal invariance of action

Simple example \longrightarrow Conformal^(k) gravity in D=4k

$$S = \int d^{4k}x \sqrt{-g} \mathcal{W}_{a_1 \dots a_{2k}}^{(k) \quad b_1 \dots b_{2k}} \mathcal{W}_{b_1 \dots b_{2k}}^{(k) \quad a_1 \dots a_{2k}}.$$

$$\mathcal{B}_a^{(k)b} = \left(\mathcal{R}_{c_1 \dots c_{2k-2}}^{(k-1) \quad d_1 \dots d_{2k-2}} \nabla^{d_{2k-1}} \nabla_{c_{2k-1}} + \frac{k}{2} \mathcal{R}_{c_1 \dots c_{2k-1}}^{(k) \quad d_1 \dots d_{2k-1}} \right) \mathcal{W}_{ad_1 \dots d_{2k-1}}^{(k) \quad bc_1 \dots c_{2k-1}}$$

$$\mathcal{B}_{(ab)}^{(k)} = 0$$

Solved by Einstein^(k) spaces...

$$\mathcal{R}_{a_1 \dots a_{2k-1}}^{(k) \quad b_1 \dots b_{2k-1}} = \alpha \delta_{a_1 \dots a_{2k-1}}^{b_1 \dots b_{2k-1}}$$

Conclusions...

Riemann^(k) tensor looks interesting.

Lots of related questions...