Gravity with spin and electromagnetism with a nonsymmetric metric tensor

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It is shown the antisymmetric part of the metric tensor is the potential for the spin field. Various metricity conditions are discussed and comparisons are made to other theories, including Einstein’s. It is shown in the weak field limit the theory reduces to one with a symmetric metric tensor and totally antisymmetric torsion. It is also shown, due to gauge invariance, the electromagnetic field must be present.

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I. INTRODUCTION

One of the strongest motivations for developing a theory with a nonsymmetric metric tensor comes from the nonsymmetric energy momentum tensor, but first, let us address a common proof, appearing in many textbooks, that the energy momentum tensor must be symmetric. These “proofs” assume the angular momentum is orbital angular momentum, so the contribution from a small region is the density times the volume times the radius. As the volume goes to zero so does the contribution to the angular momentum, which, as the proof shows, yields a symmetric energy momentum tensor. However, if the angular momentum is intrinsic spin the argument fails, as discussed in detail by Sciami. In fact, Papapetrou showed the antisymmetric part of the energy momentum tensor is related to spin (by spin I will always mean intrinsic spin), and so we are naturally led to consider a nonsymmetric metric tensor if spin is included.

The exception to this argument arises from gravitation with a symmetric metric tensor with torsion. In this case, as is known, the torsion can describe spin. However, the torsion arises from an antisymmetric source tensor and, as we will see below for torsion of the string theory type, the source of torsion turns out to be the antisymmetric part of the metric tensor. Thus, we end up with a nonsymmetric energy momentum tensor.

These arguments also tell us what the physical interpretation of the nonsymmetric part of the metric tensor is, it is related to spin. However, all this assumes the source has intrinsic spin. For bodies like the Earth or an apple the spins may add to zero. However, the source used for composite bodies is always some averaged out model of the true source, the elementary particles that make up matter. To have a realistic theory, it must be formulated in terms of a source which is an elementary particle (macroscopic averaging may be done later), and each elementary particle has intrinsic spin. The electron, quarks, and the electron neutrino, and the two other families each have spin. Exempted here are the two exchange particles with zero spin; the Higgs and the quantum of torsion. With this proviso, since particles have spin, the energy momentum tensor cannot be symmetric and so, we take the metric tensor to be nonsymmetric.

More modern developments in physics, after the Einstein era, make the nonsymmetric metric tensor more cogent than ever. Anti-commuting variables, non-commutative geometry and superspace can be related to the antisymmetric part of the metric tensor. For example, for anti-commuting Grassmann variables \( \theta^\mu \), which satisfy \( \{ d\theta^\mu, d\theta^\nu \} = 0 \), the line element can be generalized to include \( \phi_{\mu\nu} d\theta^\mu d\theta^\nu \) where \( \phi_{\mu\nu} \) is the antisymmetric part of the metric tensor. In the metricity conditions (discussed fully below), the antisymmetric part of the metric tensor appears in the skew symmetric derivative, \( \phi_{\mu\nu,\sigma} + \phi_{\sigma\mu,\nu} + \phi_{\nu\sigma,\mu} \). The temptation to set this to zero may have fueled attempts to interpret \( \phi_{\mu\nu} \) as being related to the electromagnetic field, but today we see this combination is used to define torsion (as discussed below) both from generalized gravity and string theory.

The older work is well known. Soon after Einstein published his theory of general relativity he, and others, began serious investigations into the physical theory based on a non-symmetric metric tensor \( g_{\mu\nu} \), a detailed review may be found in the literature. For almost 100 years this search led to many dead-ends and disappointing quagmires. Al-
though early investigations of Einstein sought to develop a fully geometric theory in which the energy momentum tensor was of a geometric origin, most of his efforts sought to find a unified theory of gravitation and electromagnetism. Various researchers picked up the torch, including Schrödinger, but finally the light dimmed as it became evident these dark paths led nowhere.

Two notable approaches followed. One is the work of Sciama, who showed the antisymmetric part of the metric tensor is associated with intrinsic spin. This followed work by Papapetrou and Belinfante who considered a nonsymmetric energy momentum tensor. Sciama adopted Einstein’s variational approach but did not associate the theory with electromagnetism. Soon after, however, Sciama adopted a symmetric metric tensor but considered spacetime to be endowed with torsion. This notion of classical spin in general relativity with a symmetric metric tensor was carried forward by Hehl and his collaborators in the 1970s and later others. The other well-known approach is due to Moffat. He adopted Einstein’s equations with a nonsymmetric metric tensor, but he eschewed the notion of electromagnetism, taking the theory to be one of gravitation only. It was shown if the metric tensor was expanded about a background metric, the antisymmetric potential appears without a derivative. This non gauge invariant term gave rise to ghosts, but they were removed by adding cosmological type terms. The revenant idea of the antisymmetric part of the metric tensor being associated with spin was described more recently.

One of the problems with using a nonsymmetric metric is the proliferation of tensors, such as in the definition of the covariant derivative, the curvature tensor, and its contractions that form scalars to be used in the Lagrangian. Einstein used transposition invariance as a guiding principle. This is not a physics principle, unless one interprets it as coming from a charge invariance, but even if this fragile notion stood up, it is based on the idea the theory involves electromagnetism. Even recently, for example, the notion that the antisymmetric part of the metric tensor is associated with nuclear forces has been considered.

In the current paper it is shown the nonsymmetric part of the metric tensor is associated with spin. With this, physical principles are used to choose the appropriate terms so that the proliferation of tensors is not an issue.

A. previous related work

It will be shown that the linearized version of the nonsymmetric theory developed below reduces to a well studied theory with a symmetric metric tensor and torsion of the string theory type, i.e.,

\[
S_{\mu\nu\sigma} \equiv \psi_{[\mu\nu,\sigma]} = \frac{1}{3}(\psi_{\mu\nu,\sigma} + \psi_{\sigma\mu,\nu} + \psi_{\nu\sigma,\mu}) \quad (1)
\]

where

\[
S_{\mu\nu} = \frac{1}{2}(\Gamma_{\mu\nu} - \Gamma_{\nu\mu}) \quad (2)
\]

where \(\Gamma_{\mu\nu}\) is the affine connection and where \(\psi_{\mu\nu}\) is the antisymmetric torsion potential. The geometrical part of the action is simply

\[
I = \int \sqrt{-g}d^4xR \quad (3)
\]

where \(R\) is the curvature scalar and, in that theory, variations are taken with respect to a general potential defined by \(\Phi_{\mu\nu} \equiv g_{\mu\nu} + \psi_{\mu\nu}\) where \(g_{\mu\nu}\) is the symmetric metric tensor. This theory is very successful. One of the most important results is that the correct conservation law of total angular momentum is obtained if the source of torsion is intrinsic spin. From this viewpoint, it was argued that torsion must exist. A phenomenological source was constructed and the weak field limit of the torsion was found. This coincided exactly with the low energy limit of the Dirac equation in spacetime with torsion, which is a very important confirmation of the theory. It was then shown strings are a natural source for the material action, and it was further shown how the correct equations of motion arise from strings. However, the notion of a general potential \(\Phi_{\mu\nu}\) was not a geometrical foundation. It was simply a tidy way of deriving the field equations. Variations with respect to the general potential are identical to independent variations of the metric tensor and torsion potential. However, it was suggestive. It certainly invites the question, can the theory be formulated in terms of a nonsymmetric metric tensor? In addition, it is known the skew symmetric derivative appearing in \(\Gamma_{\mu\nu}\) arises naturally in the nonsymmetric theory when metricity conditions are used. Instead of thinking this is related to electromagnetism, as Einstein did, it is more natural that this may be related to spin, as will be seen in detail below.

This notion gives us very useful direction, and especially what to expect in the weak field limit. Also, the notion that the (dimensionless) antisymmetric part of the metric potential acts like a potential for
the field coincides with the idea that the symmetric part is like the potential of the gravitational field. Finally, one of the original complaints about the nonsymmetric metric tensor is that the symmetric part and antisymmetric part transform separately, which was considered bad. However, the gravitational field is not the source of spin and the spin field is not the source of gravity, and no coordinate transformation should make that so, so this bemoaned separation is actually a good thing. Finally, as further motivation, it was recently shown that the spin of the electromagnetic field gives rise to torsion if the energy momentum tensor is nonsymmetric.\[19]\] A nonsymmetric energy momentum tensor requires the existence of a nonsymmetric metric tensor, and in this case it is related to spin.

The field equations for the theory with a symmetric metric tensor from\[33\] with a material action added, and with\[11\], are given by

\[
G^{\mu\nu} - 3S^{\mu\nu\sigma\sigma} - 2S^\alpha_\beta S^{\sigma\alpha\beta} = kT^{\mu\nu},
\]

where \(k = 8\pi G\) and \(G^{\mu\nu}\) is the Einstein tensor in U4 spacetime (spacetime with torsion) and the semicolon is the Levi-Civita covariant derivative. The symmetric part yields the gravitational field equations,

\[
G^{(\mu\nu)} - 2S^\alpha_\beta S^{\sigma\alpha\beta} = kT^{(\mu\nu)},
\]

or, in terms of the Riemannian Einstein tensor \(^oG^{\mu\nu}\),

\[
^oG^{\mu\nu} - 3S^\alpha_\beta S^{\sigma\alpha\beta} + \frac{1}{2}S^{\sigma\beta\sigma}S^\alpha_\beta = kT^{(\mu\nu)},
\]

and the antisymmetric part are the torsional field equations,

\[
S^{\mu\nu\sigma\sigma} = -k j^{\mu\nu}
\]

where \(j^{\mu\nu} \equiv (1/2)T^{[\mu\nu]}\).

It should also be noted the curvature scalar, \(R\), of space-time with torsion given by\[11\] can be written in terms of the Riemannian scalar \(^oR\) according to

\[
R = ^oR - S^\alpha_\beta S^\alpha_\beta.
\]

It is important to note this is the same Lagrangian in the low energy limit of string theory without the scalar field (or constant scalar field.) However, the scalar field arises naturally, and cannot be zero, when this is coupled to the Dirac equation.\[20\]

\[\text{II. AFFINE GEOMETRY}\]

We begin by looking at a spacetime endowed with an affine connection, more details may be found in the literature.\[21\] At this point there is no concept of a metric tensor or distance. In an affinely connected space we have parallel transport entering into the covariant derivative according to, for any vector \(A^\sigma\),

\[
\nabla_- A^\sigma = A^\sigma_\mu + \Gamma^\sigma_\mu\nu A^\nu
\]

or

\[
\nabla_\mu A^\sigma = A^\sigma_\mu + \Gamma^\sigma_\nu\mu A^\nu
\]

where the plus or minus sign underneath the index labels these two definitions. Since

\[
\nabla_- A^\sigma - \nabla_\mu A^\sigma = (\Gamma^\sigma_\nu\sigma - \Gamma^\nu_\mu\sigma) A^\nu \equiv 2S^\nu_\sigma A^\nu,
\]

these definitions are different unless the torsion tensor, \(S^\nu_\sigma\), vanishes. The first,\[11\], will be adopted here. Starting with the second instead, the final results are equivalent.

The curvature tensor is defined according to

\[
\Delta A^\sigma = \frac{1}{2} A^\nu R^\sigma_\nu\mu\xi^\mu d\xi^\beta
\]

where \(A^\sigma\) is parallel transported along the small closed curved according to\[9\], and is given by

\[
R^\sigma_\nu\mu = \Gamma^\sigma_\nu\beta\mu - \Gamma^\nu_\beta\mu + \Gamma^\nu_\beta\phi \Gamma^\phi_\sigma\mu - \Gamma^\nu_\sigma\phi \Gamma^\phi_\beta\mu
\]

and contracting gives the Ricci tensor,

\[
R_{\mu\nu} = R^\sigma_\mu\nu\sigma,
\]

which is not symmetric. There is also the segmental curvature tensor \(V_{\nu\mu}\) defined by

\[
V_{\nu\mu} \equiv R_{\mu\nu\sigma} = \Gamma_{\nu,\mu} - \Gamma_{\mu,\nu}
\]

where \(\Gamma_{\nu} \equiv \Gamma_{\nu\sigma}\). The antisymmetric part of the Ricci tensor is given by

\[
R_{[\mu\nu]} = -\frac{1}{2}V_{\mu\nu} + \nabla_\xi S^\mu_\sigma + 3(\nabla_{[\mu}S_{\nu]} + S^\mu_\sigma S_{\sigma})
\]

where the brackets imply taking the antisymmetric part and \(S^\nu = S^{\sigma\nu}_\sigma\) is called the torsion trace or the...
torsion vector. The Bianchi identities are given by

$$\nabla_\nu G^{\mu\nu} = 2 S^{\mu\alpha\beta}R_{\beta\alpha} - S_{\alpha\beta\gamma}R^{\mu\sigma\beta\alpha}. \quad (17)$$

### III. METRICAL SPACE

The metric tensor may be written in terms of its symmetric part, $\gamma_{\mu\nu}$ and its antisymmetric part $\phi_{\mu\nu}$,

$$g_{\mu\nu} = \gamma_{\mu\nu} + \phi_{\mu\nu}. \quad (18)$$

For any $n \times n$ array, $N$, we define the inverse according to $N^{\mu\theta}N_{\nu\theta} = \delta^\mu_\nu = N^{\theta\mu}N_{\theta\nu}$, so for example, we define $g^{\mu\nu}$ so that

$$g^{\mu\nu} g_{\nu\theta} = \delta^\mu_\nu \quad (19)$$

and

$$\gamma^{\mu\nu} \gamma_{\mu\theta} = \delta^\nu_\theta. \quad (20)$$

However, we shall define the contravariant form of the metric tensor in an unconventional form, i.e.

$$g^{\mu\nu} = \gamma^{\mu\nu} + f^{\mu\nu}. \quad (21)$$

In this form, since both $f^{\mu\nu}$ and $f^{\mu\nu}$ hold, $f^{\mu\nu}$ is determined, and is given by

$$f^{\mu\nu} = -\gamma^{\mu\alpha} \phi^{\alpha\beta} + \gamma^{\mu\alpha} f^{\alpha\beta}\phi^{\alpha\beta} + \ldots. \quad (22)$$

This last form involves the (inverse) metric tensor again on the right side, but that is defined in terms of (19) so this is well defined. It is most useful in linearizing the theory. In fact, an iterative solution may be written by using (21) in (22), giving

$$f^{\mu\nu} = -\gamma^{\mu\alpha} \phi^{\alpha\beta} \phi^{\alpha\beta} - \gamma^{\mu\alpha} f^{\alpha\beta} \phi^{\alpha\beta} + \ldots \quad (23)$$

Unlike GR, there is no unique way of raising and lowering indices. If we consider the vector $A^\sigma$, then we have two different contravariant forms, $g^{\sigma\mu}A_\mu$ and $g^{\mu\sigma}A_\mu$. Each of these is a bonafide tensor, but we take the second as the definition of $A^\sigma$. To lower an index we assume $A_\mu = A^\sigma g_{\mu\sigma}$. This allows us to consistently raise and lower indices.

The next decision is the most important considering the resulting field equations. It is, whether to fix a condition between the metric tensor and the affine connection and then consider variations with respect to the metric tensor and its derivatives, (this is called the second order formalism), or to consider the metric tensor and the affine connection independent and consider variations with respect to each. This is called the Palatini method. In GR they give the same result, but in general they do not. In order to see the details we consider nonmetricity in some detail.

#### A. meaning of metricity

The notion of setting the covariant derivative of the metric tensor to zero is rooted in physics. In GR it guarantees the scalar invariant of two vectors parallel transported along a curve remains constant, which has the immediate ramification that the length of a vector does not change upon parallel transport. For example, Einstein used this idea to show Weyl’s unified theory was unphysical. Here it is assumed that metricity holds, but there is more to the story.

Let us consider the vector $A^\mu$ undergoing parallel transport along an infinitesimal $dx^\sigma$. Define the scalar product as $P = A^\mu A^\sigma g_{\mu\sigma}$. Then, according to (17)

$$dP = -A^\mu A^\sigma \nabla_\sigma g_{\mu\nu} dx^\rho \quad (24)$$

and one may hasten to the conclusion that if the scalar product remains constant then $\nabla_\sigma g_{\mu\nu} = 0$. However, if we adopt a different definition of covariant differentiation then (24) will change. More importantly, the entire notion of metricity has no real foundation when the metric tensor is not symmetric. This is true for two reasons. From (24) we see the antisymmetric part of the metric tensor drops away and therefore the covariant derivative of $\phi_{\mu\nu}$ is not specified. The second has its roots in physics. Although the notion of parallel transport is essential in developing the theory of curved space, it does not represent the physical motion of a particle. The equation of motion must be derived from the Bianchi identities, and it is known the motion is generally not that of parallel transport. Thus parallel transport along a curve does not represent a natural motion in curved space, and could only be achieved with additional, nongravitational, forces.

It is stressed that once we adopt the definition of covariant differentiation given by (24), the covariant derivative of a second order (and higher) tensor is already defined. For example, with (24), the covariant derivative of a second rank tensor $T_{\mu\nu}$ is

$$\nabla_\sigma T_{\mu\nu} = \Gamma^\sigma_{\mu\nu} T_{\theta\sigma} - \Gamma^\sigma_{\nu\sigma} T_{\mu\theta} = 0. \quad (25)$$

However Einstein adopted the condition,
\[
\n\n\n\n\n\n\n\n\n\n\nwhere \( g_{\mu\nu} \) is the nonmetricity tensor. With \( q_{\mu\nu} = -2S_{\sigma\mu\nu} \) and \( g_{\sigma\mu\nu} \) are the same (we may assume the plus minus derivative used by Einstein and others is related to the choice of the metricity tensor). But why choose this?

It turns out we can choose the nonmetricity on physical grounds. To see this we will work out the natural possibilities according to the possible choices of

1. \( \nabla g_{\mu\nu} = g_{\mu\nu,\sigma} - \Gamma_\sigma^\theta g_{\theta\nu} - \Gamma_\nu^\theta g_{\mu\theta} = 0 \) (28)

2. \( \nabla g_{\mu\nu} = g_{\mu\nu,\sigma} - \Gamma_\sigma^\theta g_{\theta\nu} - \Gamma_\nu^\theta g_{\mu\theta} = 0 \) (29)

3. \( \nabla g_{\mu\nu} = g_{\mu\nu,\sigma} - \Gamma_\sigma^\theta g_{\theta\nu} - \Gamma_\nu^\theta g_{\mu\theta} = 0 \) (30)

4. \( \nabla g_{\mu\nu} = g_{\mu\nu,\sigma} - \Gamma_\sigma^\theta g_{\theta\nu} - \Gamma_\nu^\theta g_{\mu\theta} = 0 \) (31)

Each gives rise to a relation between the metric tensor and the affine connection as follows.

**B. Case 1, - - , and Case 4, ++**

This corresponds to \( \nabla g_{\mu\nu} = 0 \) and \( \nabla g_{\mu\nu} = 0 \). By writing \( \text{(28)} \) with rotating indices in the usual way we find

\[
\Gamma_{\mu\nu}^\sigma = S_{\mu\nu}^\sigma + C_{\mu\nu}^\sigma + \gamma^\sigma_{\mu\nu} (S_{\theta\nu\mu} + S_{\theta\mu\nu}) \tag{32}
\]

From Case 1 above we see that as \( \phi_{\mu\nu} \) goes to zero, the torsion is indeterminate. To see this explicitly we note that, for an antisymmetric \( N \times N \) quantity, \( \phi^{\mu\nu} = 1/(2\sqrt{\phi}) \epsilon^{\alpha\beta\mu\nu} \phi_{\alpha\beta} \) where \( \phi \) is the determinant

where

\[
S_{\phi\mu\nu} \equiv S_{\phi\mu}^\lambda \gamma_{\lambda\nu} \tag{33}
\]

(the underbar should not be confused with the earlier definitions in \( \text{(9) and (10)} \) and

\[
C_{\mu\nu}^\sigma = 1/2 \gamma^\sigma_{\mu\nu} (\gamma_{\theta\mu,\nu} + \gamma_{\theta\nu,\mu} - \gamma_{\mu\nu,\theta}) \tag{34}
\]

We define

\[
\phi_{\mu\nu\sigma} \equiv 3\phi_{[\mu\nu,\sigma]} \equiv \phi_{\mu\nu,\sigma} + \phi_{\sigma\mu,\nu} + \phi_{\nu\sigma,\mu} \tag{35}
\]

and find

\[
1/2 \phi_{\mu\nu\sigma} = S_{\mu\nu\sigma} + S_{\sigma\mu\nu} + S_{\sigma\nu\mu} - (S_{\mu\nu\sigma} + S_{\sigma\mu\nu} + S_{\sigma\nu\mu}). \tag{36}
\]

A solution is given by

\[
S_{\mu\nu}^\sigma = 1/6 \phi^\sigma_{\theta\mu\nu} \phi_{\theta\mu\nu}. \tag{37}
\]

**C. Case 2, ++ and Case = - +,**

This corresponds to \( \nabla g_{\mu\nu} = 0 \), and \( \nabla g_{\mu\nu} = 0 \). Performing the same kinds of manipulations as before we find,

\[
\Gamma_{\mu\nu}^\sigma = S_{\mu\nu}^\sigma + C_{\mu\nu}^\sigma + \gamma^\sigma_{\mu\nu} (S_{\theta\nu\mu} + S_{\theta\mu\nu} + \phi_{\lambda\mu}) \tag{38}
\]

and

\[
1/2 \phi_{\mu\nu\sigma} = S_{\mu\nu\sigma} + S_{\sigma\mu\nu} + S_{\sigma\nu\mu} \tag{39}
\]

a solution of which is

\[
S_{\mu\nu\sigma} = 1/2 \phi_{\mu\nu\sigma}. \tag{40}
\]

of \( \phi_{\mu\nu} \) so that from \( \text{(37)} \)
Moffat used the Palatini method but considered that the Palatini equations have been well studied. Einstein used them in an attempt to unify gravitation to continue its use. The second reason is that theory and rotation curves of galaxies (dark matter issues). Thus, between Einstein, Sciama, and Moffat, all the formulations are exhausted by the Palatini approach. The third reason is the most important: It is based on the physical idea that as the torsion goes to zero, the theory approaches the original 1915 version. This is very reasonable, and gives us the clue we need to establish the correct relation between the metric tensor and the affine connection.

To see all this explicitly let us start by, at first, considering $R = \sqrt{-g}R$, and take the metric tensor and the affine connection to be independent, so we have

$$\delta I = \delta \int d^4xR \quad (43)$$

$$= \int d^4x \left( \delta \sqrt{-g}g^{\alpha\beta}R_{\alpha\beta} + \sqrt{-g}g^{\alpha\beta}\delta R_{\alpha\beta} \right)$$

$$= \int d^4x \left( -G^{\mu\nu}\delta g_{\mu\nu} + \tilde{E}^{\mu\nu}\delta \Gamma_{\mu\nu} \right) \quad (44)$$

where

$$\tilde{E}^{\mu\nu} = \tilde{g}^{\alpha\beta} \frac{\partial R_{\alpha\beta}}{\partial \Gamma_{\mu\nu}} + \tilde{g}^{\alpha\beta} \frac{\partial R_{\alpha\beta}}{\partial q_{\mu\nu}} \frac{\partial q_{\mu\nu}}{\partial \Gamma_{\mu\nu}} - \partial_\eta \left( \tilde{g}^{\alpha\beta} \frac{\partial R_{\alpha\beta}}{\partial \Gamma_{\mu\nu}} \right)$$

and where the tilde implies density, i.e., $\tilde{E}^{\mu\nu} = \sqrt{-g}E^{\mu\nu}$. Variations on the hyper-surface surrounding the volume are always taken to be zero.

Let us begin with the vacuum equations in which case $\delta I = 0$. For the sake of comparison we note in passing the Palatini method gives

$$E^{\mu\nu} = 0 \quad (45)$$

and

$$G_{\mu\nu} = 0. \quad (46)$$

the antisymmetric part of the gravitational field to be part of gravity, and sought connections between that theory and rotation curves of galaxies (dark matter issues).
However, since we adopt the second order formalism we must choose the metricity condition to hold, and assume the Lagrangian density is a function of the metric tensor and its derivative. The affine connection is not an independent variable, so that we have

$$\delta I = \int d^4x \sqrt{-g} (-G^{\mu\nu} + L^{\mu\nu}) \delta g_{\mu\nu}$$  \hspace{1cm} (47)$$

where

$$\tilde{L}^{\mu\nu} = \tilde{E}^{\alpha\beta} \frac{\partial \Gamma^{\alpha\beta}}{\partial g_{\mu\nu}} - \partial_\theta \left( \tilde{E}^{\alpha\beta} \frac{\partial \Gamma^{\alpha\beta}}{\partial g_{\mu\nu} g} \right)$$  \hspace{1cm} (48)$$

$$E^{\lambda\sigma} = 2S_{\sigma} - \nabla_\sigma g^{\lambda\omega} - \delta_\sigma^\lambda \omega_{\eta} - \frac{1}{2} g^{\lambda\beta} u_{\sigma}^{\beta} - \frac{1}{2} \delta_\lambda^\beta g^{\eta\omega} g_{\beta}^{\eta} + g^{\alpha\beta} \left( S_{\beta\sigma} \omega_{\alpha} + S_{\alpha\sigma} \omega_{\beta} \right) - S_{\tilde{\sigma}}^{\lambda\omega}. \hspace{1cm} (50)$$

From (10) we can show the torsion trace, $S_{\sigma}$, is zero, which is not true in the Einstein variational principle. With this and (30) we have

$$L^{\mu\nu} = \frac{1}{2} \left( E^{\alpha\beta\mu} S_{\alpha\beta}^{\nu} + E^{\alpha\beta\nu} S_{\alpha\beta}^{\mu} + \frac{1}{2} \eta_{\eta} \sigma e^{\mu\nu} \right) + e^{\mu\nu} \rho - \frac{1}{6} \left( f^{\mu\eta\nu} + \frac{1}{2} f^{\mu\eta\nu} \right)$$  \hspace{1cm} (51)$$

momentum tensor is[12]

$$T^{\mu\nu} = \frac{\mu}{\sqrt{-g}} \int d^2\zeta \sqrt{-\lambda} \delta \left( x - x(\zeta) \right) \eta^{\mu} x^{\nu} (\lambda_{ab} + \eta e^{ab})$$ \hspace{1cm} (57)$$

where $\lambda_{ab}$ is the two dimensional metric of the string and $\lambda$ is its determinant. In this, $\zeta_0$ is the timelike string coordinate and $\zeta_1$ is the spacelike coordinate, and in this section $a, b$ sum from 0 to 1. The string surface element is given by

$$d\sigma^{\mu\nu} = e^{ab} x^{\mu}_{a} x^{\nu}_{b} d^2\zeta$$ \hspace{1cm} (58)$$

where

$$\sqrt{-\gamma} e^{ab} = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & -1 \\ 1 & 0 \end{pmatrix} = e^{ab}. \hspace{1cm} (59)$$

This can be written in a naturally “unified” form as follows. First we define

$$\Lambda^{ab} = \lambda^{ab} + e^{ab} \hspace{1cm} (60)$$
which is tantamount to taking the string metric to have an antisymmetric part. With this we can write

\[ I_M = \mu \int d^2 \zeta \sqrt{-x^{\mu}x^{\nu}A^{ab}g_{\mu\nu}} \]  

(61)

where here we assume \( \lambda \) is not an explicit function of the metric tensor until after the variation. Thus, strings provide a very natural way to write the material action for a theory with a nonsymmetric metric tensor. However, it has been shown how to construct an action without strings. We will not dwell on this further here.

V. LINEARIZED THEORY

Although this is a geometrical theory, we may think of the antisymmetric part of this as the equations for the spin and the symmetrical part as gravitation. This will be shown to be true in the linearized theory given below. To linearize we use (18) and assume the antisymmetric part is small compared to the symmetric part. In this we find

\[ E^{\lambda \omega} = 2S^{\omega \lambda} \]  

(62)

and

\[ L^{\mu \nu} = 2S_{\sigma \alpha \sigma}S^{\nu \alpha \sigma} \]  

(63)

and

\[ G^{\mu \nu} = G^{\mu \nu} + S^{\mu \nu \sigma} + S^{\mu \sigma \nu} - S^{\nu \alpha \beta}S^{\sigma \alpha \beta} \]  

(64)

the symmetrical part of the field equations become identical to (6) and antisymmetric part of (55) is

\[ \nabla_{\sigma}S_{\mu \nu} - \frac{1}{2} \phi_{\mu \nu} R = -k j_{\mu \nu} \]  

(65)

where again \( j_{\mu \nu} \equiv (1/2)T_{\mu \nu} \).

This is certainly an noteworthy result. In the linearized theory it is the same as the torsional field equations with a symmetric metric tensor, i.e., equation (65) reduce to (7). However, if there is a region where \( \phi \) is large, than the nonlinear terms may become exceedingly important, and may even represent a path to detecting torsion.

It is interesting to note the effect of the cosmological term \( \Upsilon \); the torsional field equations become (in the weak field limit and in vacuum),

\[ \Box \phi^{\mu \nu} + \Upsilon \phi^{\mu \nu} = 0. \]  

(66)

Thus, the cosmological constant finds a surprising connection, it gives the torsion quantum a mass!

In spacetime with a symmetric metric tensor and torsion, the field equations can always be broken into the Riemannian part and torsion terms. This cannot be done when the metric tensor is nonsymmetric, but we may proceed as follows. We write

\[ \Gamma_{\mu \nu} = C_{\mu \nu} + \Lambda_{\mu \nu} \]  

(67)

where

\[ \Lambda_{\mu \nu} = S_{\mu \nu} + \gamma^{\sigma \theta}(S_{\theta \mu} \phi_{\lambda \nu} + S_{\theta \nu} \phi_{\lambda \mu}) \]  

(68)

and

\[ C_{\mu \nu} = \frac{1}{2} \gamma^{\sigma \theta} (\gamma_{\theta \mu, \nu} + \gamma_{\theta \nu, \mu} - \gamma_{\mu \nu, \theta}) \].  

(69)

We define the colon derivative as follows

\[ A_{\alpha \beta} = A_{\alpha \beta} - C_{\alpha \beta} A_{\theta} \]  

(70)

Using this in (14) and (68) we find

\[ R_{\mu \nu} = r_{\mu \nu} + M_{\mu \nu} \]  

(71)

where

\[ r_{\mu \nu} = C_{\mu \nu, \sigma} - C_{\sigma, \mu} + C_{\sigma, \nu} \]  

(72)

and where

\[ M_{\mu \nu} = \Lambda_{\mu, \nu} C_{\sigma, \mu} - \Lambda_{\mu, \sigma} C_{\sigma, \nu} + \Lambda_{\sigma, \nu} C_{\sigma, \mu} - \Lambda_{\sigma, \mu} C_{\sigma, \nu} \]  

(73)

Thus, in the limit \( \phi_{\mu \nu} = 0 \), \( M_{\mu \nu} = 0 \), \( g_{\mu \nu} \) becomes the symmetric metric tensor and \( C_{\mu \nu} \) is the Ricci tensor of Riemannian space-time.

In the linearized (in \( \phi_{\mu \nu} \)) theory we use

\[ g_{\mu \nu} = \gamma_{\mu \nu} + \phi_{\mu \nu} \]  

(74)

\[ g^{\mu \nu} = \gamma^{\mu \nu} - \gamma^{\mu \alpha} \gamma^{\mu \beta} \phi_{\alpha \beta} \]  

and find

\[ S_{\mu \nu \sigma} = \frac{1}{2} \phi_{\mu \nu \sigma} \]  

(75)
which is the same as (1) (to within a numerical factor). Also, the curvature scalar becomes,

$$R = C - S_{\mu\nu\sigma}S^{\mu\nu\sigma}$$  (76)

where \( C = C_{\mu\nu}\gamma^{\mu\nu} \). This is precisely the same as (3), since \( R \) becomes the Riemannian Ricci tensor in this limit.

Thus, many of the results of the theory with a symmetric metric tensor may be borrowed, since the equations, in the weak field limit, are the same. For example, the Minkowski limit solution to the torsional field equations were found for a static source.

We began by abandoning all ties to electromagnetism and showed the antisymmetric part of the metric tensor is related to spin. It was shown in the weak field limit equations reduce to those of torsion gravity with a symmetric metric tensor. In that theory the spin potential possessed the gauge invariance \( \psi_{\mu\nu} \to \psi_{\mu\nu} + \xi_{[\mu,\nu]} \). However, the metric tensor enjoys no such freedom.

This also happens in string theory when a point charge is put on a brane. To maintain gauge invariance a term is added to \( \psi_{\mu\nu} \). We adopt the same notion here and let

$$g_{\mu\nu} = \phi_{\mu\nu} + \mathcal{F}_{\mu\nu}$$  (82)

where

$$\mathcal{F}_{\mu\nu} \equiv \xi_{[\nu,\mu]}.$$  (83)

With this, gauge invariance is restored for the combined gauge transformation

$$\phi_{\mu\nu} \to \phi_{\mu\nu} + \lambda_{[\mu,\nu]}$$  (84)

and

$$\xi_\mu \to \xi_\mu + \lambda_\mu.$$  (85)

It was noted after (12) the term \( \mathcal{F}_{\mu\nu} \) may be added to the solution we found for the torsion provided

$$\mathcal{F}_{[\mu\nu,\sigma]} + \mathcal{F}_{[\sigma\mu,\nu]} + \mathcal{F}_{[\nu\sigma,\mu]} = 0.$$  (86)

In the linearized theory \( C \) reduces to the Riemannian \( R \) and \( \gamma_{\mu\nu} \) becomes the symmetric \( g_{\mu\nu} \) of Riemannian spacetime. Thus, the theory with a non-symmetric metric tensor reduces to a theory with a symmetric metric tensor and totally antisymmetric torsion so long as \( \phi/2\gamma << 1 \).

VI. ENTER ELECTROMAGNETISM

We began by abandoning all ties to electromagnetism and showed the antisymmetric part of the metric tensor is related to spin. It was shown in the weak field limit equations reduce to those of torsion gravity with a symmetric metric tensor. In that theory the spin potential possessed the gauge invariance \( \psi_{\mu\nu} \to \psi_{\mu\nu} + \xi_{[\mu,\nu]} \). However, the metric tensor enjoys no such freedom.

This also happens in string theory when a point charge is put on a brane. To maintain gauge invariance a term is added to \( \psi_{\mu\nu} \). We adopt the same notion here and let

$$g_{\mu\nu} = \phi_{\mu\nu} + \mathcal{F}_{\mu\nu}$$  (82)

where

$$\mathcal{F}_{\mu\nu} \equiv \xi_{[\nu,\mu]}.$$  (83)

With this, gauge invariance is restored for the combined gauge transformation

$$\phi_{\mu\nu} \to \phi_{\mu\nu} + \lambda_{[\mu,\nu]}$$  (84)

and

$$\xi_\mu \to \xi_\mu + \lambda_\mu.$$  (85)

It was noted after (12) the term \( \mathcal{F}_{\mu\nu} \) may be added to the solution we found for the torsion provided

$$\mathcal{F}_{[\mu\nu,\sigma]} + \mathcal{F}_{[\sigma\mu,\nu]} + \mathcal{F}_{[\nu\sigma,\mu]} = 0.$$  (86)

In light of (83) and (86), it is natural to ask if \( F_{\mu\nu} = \kappa \mathcal{F}_{\mu\nu} \) is the electromagnetic field (the constant \( \kappa \) must be included for dimensional reasons, and we may consider the potential to be \( A_\mu = \kappa \xi_\mu \)). If so, there would have to be the kinetic term in the Lagrangian. It turns out that term is there. Expanding \( \sqrt{-g} \) in the weak field limit, from the last term in (79) we see a term \( F_{\mu\nu} F^{\mu\nu} \) is already present. In
fact, the Lagrangian becomes, in the weak field limit,

\[ \int \sqrt{-g} d^4(R + \gamma) \rightarrow \int \sqrt{-\gamma} d^4 x \left( \alpha R - S^{\alpha \beta \sigma \tau} S_{\alpha \beta \sigma \tau} + \frac{1}{16\pi} F^{\alpha \beta} F_{\alpha \beta} \right) \]

where \( \kappa \) is taken to be \( \kappa = G/c^2 \sqrt{\gamma} \). Thus, gravitation with a nonsymmetric metric tensor reduces to, in the weak field limit, the theory of gravitation with spin and the electromagnetic field.

It is also interesting to note the cosmological constant must be non-zero if the electromagnetic field is present. Another way of stating this is, the cosmological constant must be non-zero if the theory is gauge invariant, so there is finally a strong theoretical reason for the existence of the cosmological constant. It is also worth noting, in cgs and using the currently accepted value of the cosmological constant, \( \kappa \) is near unity.

VII. DISCUSSION

The general theory of relativity of 1915 (GR) has been tested to be successful and, for that reason, the theory presented here follows general relativity as closely as possible with only one change, initially, being that the metric tensor is not symmetric. It was explained above, due to spin, the metric tensor should not be symmetric, and it gives rise to a non-vanishing torsion field. In this paper the second order formalism was used, necessitating the need of a connection between the metric tensor and the affine connection. It was assumed that as the nonsymmetric part of the metric tensor goes to zero, the torsion should go to zero. This fixed the value of the nonmetricity.

The linearized equations were presented and it was found the theory reduces to a previous theory in which the metric was symmetric and the torsion was totally antisymmetric. In that theory the equations of motion, interactions, and bounds on coupling constants were all worked out, so we may borrow them here. However, new nonlinear and gravitational interactions are predicted and need investigation.

In order to formulate the material action it is shown a natural choice is the string action. The two dimensional string metric was taken to be non-symmetric according to \([30]\). However this can be generalized further by letting \( e_{ab} \rightarrow \eta e_{ab} \) where \( \eta \) is an undetermined coupling constant.

Although theories with non-vanishing torsion have been studied for a century now, an argument sometimes used to dismiss them is that there is no reason to assume torsion exists in the first place, and if it does, there is no reason to assume it is given by \([1]\). But with a nonsymmetric metric tensor it must exist, and must be given by \([1]\), in the weak field limit.

It was also shown if a cosmological constant is introduced, it gives rise to a mass of the torsion quanta, and gauge invariance is lost even in the linearized theory. But even without the mass term gauge invariance of form \( \phi_{\mu \nu} \rightarrow \phi_{\mu \nu} + \xi_{[\mu, \nu]} \) is lost in the general theory. This is obvious since the metric tensor enjoys no such invariance. The same thing happens in string theory for open strings. In that case, the electromagnetic field is introduced to resurrect gauge invariance. This is an exciting result, leading to a modern interpretation of a connection between gravitation and electromagnetism.

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E^{\lambda\omega}\sigma = g^{\gamma\beta}\Gamma_{\alpha\beta}^{\omega}\delta_\sigma\gamma - g^{\lambda\beta}\Gamma_{\beta\sigma}^{\omega}\gamma - g^{\alpha\omega}\Gamma_{\alpha\sigma}^{\lambda} - \left(\frac{\sqrt{-g}}{\sqrt{-g}}g^{\lambda\sigma} + g^{\lambda\omega}\right) + \delta_\eta\left(\frac{\sqrt{-g}}{\sqrt{-g}}g^{\eta\omega} + g^{\eta\omega}\right) (88)

which, with (28) set equal to zero reduces to

\[ E^{\lambda\omega}\sigma = 2\delta^{\lambda}_{\eta}\delta^{\omega}_{\lambda}\eta + 2\delta^{\omega}_{\lambda}\delta^{\lambda}_{\eta}\eta - 2\delta^{\eta}\delta^{\lambda}_{\omega}\eta + 2\delta^{\lambda}_{\eta}\delta^{\omega}_{\eta}\phi (89) \]

where \( S_{\eta} = S_{\eta}\sigma \) does not vanish in this case. With this we can work out (48). From (47) we may note

\[ L^{\mu\nu}_{\delta} = L^{\mu\nu}_{\delta}(\delta_{\gamma\mu\nu} + \delta_{\mu\nu}) (90) \]

so we can work out the symmetric part, \( L^{\mu\nu}_{\delta} \) and then the antisymmetric part \( L^{\mu\nu}_{A} \). Thus, assuming taking the symmetric part (in \( \mu\nu \)) is implied,

\[ L^{\mu\nu}_{S} = E^{\lambda\omega}_{\sigma} \left[ -\gamma^{\mu\sigma}C_{\lambda}^{\nu} - \gamma^{\sigma\mu}S_{\lambda}^{\nu} - \gamma^{\nu\mu}S_{\lambda}^{\sigma} - \gamma^{\nu\sigma}S_{\lambda}^{\mu} - \delta^{\nu}_{\lambda}\delta^{\omega}_{\mu}\right] (91) \]

we adopt the unconventional notation \( \delta^{\nu\eta}_{\lambda\omega} = \delta^{\nu}_{\lambda}\delta^{\eta}_{\omega} \). Defining

\[ e_{\nu\eta\mu} = \epsilon^{\nu\eta\mu} + \epsilon^{\nu\sigma\mu} - \epsilon^{\nu\eta\sigma} \]

\[ L^{\mu\nu}_{A} = E^{\lambda\omega}_{\sigma} \left[ \gamma^{\mu\sigma}C_{\lambda}^{\nu} - \gamma^{\sigma\mu}S_{\lambda}^{\nu} - \gamma^{\nu\sigma}C_{\lambda}^{\mu} - \gamma^{\nu\sigma}C_{\lambda}^{\mu} \right] \]

which may be written as

\[ L^{\mu\nu}_{A} = E^{\lambda\omega}_{\sigma} \left[ \gamma^{\mu\sigma}C_{\lambda}^{\nu} - \gamma^{\sigma\mu}S_{\lambda}^{\nu} - \gamma^{\nu\sigma}C_{\lambda}^{\mu} - \gamma^{\nu\sigma}C_{\lambda}^{\mu} \right] \]

Now we may find the nonsymmetric part \( L^{\mu\nu}_{A} \), where the antisymmetric part is implied. It is,

\[ L^{\mu\nu}_{A} = E^{\lambda\omega}_{\sigma} \left[ \gamma^{\mu\sigma}C_{\lambda}^{\nu} - \gamma^{\sigma\mu}S_{\lambda}^{\nu} - \gamma^{\nu\sigma}C_{\lambda}^{\mu} - \gamma^{\nu\sigma}C_{\lambda}^{\mu} \right] \]

which may be written
\[ L_{\lambda}^{\mu} = E_{\lambda \sigma}^{\lambda \sigma} S_{\lambda \omega}^{\mu} - E_{\lambda \sigma}^{\lambda \sigma} (\gamma_{\xi \sigma} S_{\xi \omega}^{\mu} + \gamma_{\lambda \sigma} S_{\lambda \omega}^{\mu}) \] (95)

\[-\frac{1}{6} \left[ (\nabla_{\eta} + S_{\eta}) (E_{\sigma \phi}^{\eta \phi} + E_{\eta \phi}^{\sigma \phi} - E_{\eta \phi}^{\mu \phi} + 2 S_{\phi \theta}^{\mu} (E_{\phi \theta}^{\eta \phi} + E_{\phi \theta}^{\eta \phi}) \right] .

These, with (49), are the field equations for minus minus metricity.