



University of Stuttgart
Institute of Geometry and Topology

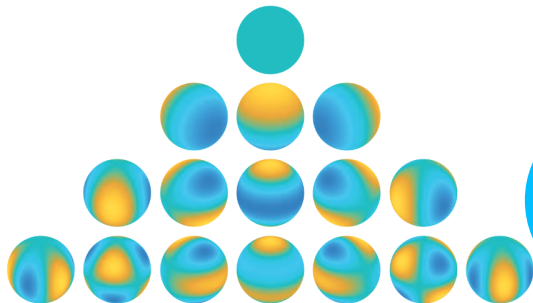


Image source: F. Pfaff, G. Kurz, U. D. Hanebeck,

Filtering on the Unit Sphere Using Spherical Harmonics

Paul
Schwahn

Canonical connections and the Lichnerowicz Laplacian

Special geometries and gauge
theories, Pau

23.06.2023

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Stability of Einstein metrics and the Lichnerowicz Laplacian

Deformation theory and integrability obstructions

Integrable geometries: a reminder

Setting: (M, g) Riemannian manifold, ∇^g Levi-Civita connection.

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Theorem (Berger 1955)

(M^n, g) simply connected, non-symmetric such that $\text{Hol}(\nabla^g) \curvearrowright TM$ irreducibly (*holonomy irreducible*). Then $\text{Hol}(\nabla^g)$ is one of

$\text{SO}(n)$, $\text{U}(n)$, $\text{SU}(n)$, $\text{Sp}(m)\text{Sp}(1)$, $\text{Sp}(m)$, G_2 , $\text{Spin}(7)$, $[\text{Spin}(9)]$.

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By [de Rham's](#) theorem, a simply connected (M, g) with [reducible holonomy](#) is a Riemannian product of manifolds with irreducible holonomy.

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- If $\text{Hol}(M, g) \subset G$, then ∇^g comes from a principal connection on a G -structure.

Nonintegrable geometries

(M^n, g) oriented Riemannian manifold with a G -structure P .

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- A **nonintegrable geometry** is (M, g, P) such that $\Gamma \neq 0$.

Nonintegrable geometries: Characteristic connections

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Theorem (Friedrich–Ivanov 2002)

M admits a G -connection ∇^c with *skew-symmetric torsion* $T^c \in \Omega^3(M)$ if and only if $\Gamma \in \text{im } \Theta$, where

$$\Theta : \Lambda^3 \mathbb{R}^n \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^n \otimes \mathfrak{g}^\perp, \quad \Theta(T) = \sum_i (e_i \lrcorner T) \otimes e_i,$$

(e_i) ONB of \mathfrak{g}^\perp . In this case

$$2\Gamma = -\Theta(T^c).$$

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- ∇^c has the same geodesics as ∇^g .

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- An analogue of the [de Rham](#) Theorem for ∇^c does not hold – thus [reducible holonomy](#) becomes interesting ([Cleyton–Moroianu–Simmelmann 2020](#)).

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 - E.g. Einstein–Sasaki manifolds, 3-Sasaki manifolds.

Nonintegrable geometries: parallel torsion

Theorem (Cleyton–Swann 2004)

(M, g, P) nonintegrable geometry with G -connection ∇ such that $\nabla T = 0$ and $\text{Hol}(\nabla) \curvearrowright TM$ *irreducibly*. Then one of the following holds:

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In cases 1, 3, 4: $\nabla = \nabla^c$, hence T is skew-symmetric.

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- \exists Killing spinor, thus g is Einstein with $\text{scal}_g > 0$.
- Cone $\bar{M} = M \times_{r^2} \mathbb{R}_+$ has a parallel spinor, $\text{Hol}(\nabla^{\bar{g}}) = G_2$.

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(Torsion-free) G_2 -manifolds

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- $\text{Hol}(\nabla^c) \subset G_2$, also **weak holonomy G_2** in the sense of **Gray**.
- \exists Killing spinor, thus g is **Einstein**, $\text{scal}_g = \frac{21}{8} \tau_0^2$.

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If (M, g, φ) is **proper** nearly parallel G_2 (not Sasakian):

- Cone $\bar{M} = M \times_{r^2} \mathbb{R}_+$ has a parallel spinor, $\text{Hol}(\nabla^{\bar{g}}) = \text{Spin}(7)$.

Nearly parallel G_2 -manifolds

- (M^7, g, φ) Riemannian manifold with compatible G_2 -structure such that $d\varphi = \tau_0 * \varphi$ for some $\tau_0 \in \mathbb{R}$.
- ∇^c **canonical G_2 -connection**, $\nabla^c g = 0$, $\nabla^c \varphi = 0$.
- $T^c = -\frac{\tau_0}{6} \varphi$.
- $\text{Hol}(\nabla^c) \subset G_2$, also **weak holonomy** G_2 in the sense of **Gray**.
- \exists Killing spinor, thus g is **Einstein**, $\text{scal}_g = \frac{21}{8} \tau_0^2$.

Reductive homogeneous spaces

G Lie group, H closed subgroup, $M = G/H$.

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 - $\bar{T}_o(X, Y) = -[X, Y]_{\mathfrak{m}}$, $X, Y \in \mathfrak{m} \cong T_oM$.

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$M = G/H$ reductive homogeneous space, $\mathfrak{g} = \mathfrak{h} \oplus \mathfrak{m}$. Assume M simply connected, G effective.

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- $\bar{T} = 0 \iff \nabla^c = \nabla^g \iff M$ symmetric.

Homogeneous classifications

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$$S^6 = \frac{G_2}{SU(3)}, \quad S^3 \times S^3 = \frac{SU(2)^3}{\Delta SU(2)}, \quad \mathbb{C}P^3 = \frac{Sp(2)}{Sp(1)U(1)}, \quad F_{1,2} = \frac{SU(3)}{T^2}.$$

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$$B = \frac{SO(5)}{SO(3)_{\text{irr}}}, \quad S_{\text{sq}}^7 = \frac{Sp(2) \times Sp(1)}{Sp(1) \times Sp(1)},$$

two non-isometric metrics on each of the Aloff–Wallach spaces

$$N_{k,l} = \frac{SU(3)}{S_{k,l}^1}, \quad S_{k,l}^1 = \{(z^k, z^l) \mid z \in S^1\} \subset T^2, \quad k, l \text{ coprime},$$

plus Einstein–Sasaki spaces (also known).

The Einstein–Hilbert action

M compact, oriented. For a Riemannian metric g on M , let

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be its **total scalar curvature** or **Einstein–Hilbert action**.

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- Consider the second variation S''_g . Also suppose $(M, g) \neq (S^n, g_{\text{round}})$.

The second variation of S

Suppose $(M, g) \not\cong (S^n, g_{\text{round}})$.

- $T_g \mathcal{M}_1 = C_g^\infty(M)g \oplus L_{\mathfrak{X}(M)}g \oplus \mathcal{S}_{\text{tt}}^2(M)$, where

$$C_g^\infty(M) := \{f \in C^\infty(M) \mid \int_M f \operatorname{vol}_g = 0\},$$

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- The above splitting is orthogonal with respect to S_g'' .
- $S_g'' > 0$ on $C_g^\infty(M)g$, i.e. g locally minimizes S along conformal change,
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- S_g'' has finite coindex and nullity, i.e. is "mostly negative" in $\mathcal{S}_{\text{tt}}^2(M)$.
- For $h \in \mathcal{S}_{\text{tt}}^2(M)$, $S_g''(h, h) = -\frac{1}{2} (\Delta_L h - 2Eh, h)_{L^2}$, where Δ_L is the **Lichnerowicz Laplacian**.

The Lichnerowicz Laplacian

(M, g) compact, oriented Riemannian manifold. ∇ Levi-Civita connection. R Riemannian curvature.

- Recall the [Weitzenböck formula](#) for the Hodge–de Rham Laplacian on differential forms $\Omega^p(M)$:

$$\Delta = d^*d + dd^* = \nabla^*\nabla + q(R).$$

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- (Standard) curvature endomorphism:

$$q(R) = \sum_i (\omega_i)_* \circ \widehat{R}(\omega_i)_*,$$

where $\widehat{R}: \Lambda^2 TM \rightarrow \Lambda^2 TM$ is the **curvature operator of the first kind**, and (ω_i) is a local ONB of $\mathfrak{so}(TM) \cong \Lambda^2 TM$. Correspondence:

$$(X \wedge Y)_* Z = g(X, Z)Y - g(Y, Z)X.$$

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Both $\nabla^* \nabla$ and $q(R)$ are definable on any tensor bundle $\text{Fr}(M) \times_{\text{SO}(n)} V$, facilitating the definition

$$\Delta_L := \nabla^* \nabla + q(R)$$

of the **Lichnerowicz Laplacian**.

Linear stability & infinitesimal deformability

For $h \in \mathcal{S}_{\text{tt}}^2(M)$: $S_g''(h, h) = -\frac{1}{2} (\Delta_L h - 2Eh, h)_{L^2}$.

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- Null directions for S_g'' in $\mathcal{S}_{\text{tt}}^2(M)$, i.e. elements of

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- **Question:** Does Δ_L have small eigenvalues on $\mathcal{S}_{\text{tt}}^2(M)$?

Δ_L on Gray manifolds

(M^6, g, J) compact s.c. nK manifold. Normalize such that $\text{scal}_g = 30$.

- Goal: Solve the differential system

$$\Delta_L h = \lambda h, \quad \delta_g h = 0 \quad (\text{L})$$

in $h \in \mathcal{S}_0^2(M)$ for some $\lambda \leq 2E = 10$.

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in $h \in \mathcal{S}_0^2(M)$ for some $\lambda \leq 2E = 10$.

- Idea: Relate eigenspaces of Δ_L to eigenspaces of $\Delta^c := \nabla^{c*}\nabla^c + q(R^c)$ (the **standard Laplacian** of ∇^c).
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- \rightsquigarrow comparison formulae for $\nabla^{g*}\nabla^g - \nabla^{c*}\nabla^c$, $q(R^g) - q(R^c)$ on various bundles (Moroianu–Semmelmann 2010, 2011).

Δ_L on Gray manifolds

(M^6, g, J) compact s.c. nK manifold. Normalize such that $\text{scal}_g = 30$.

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\rightsquigarrow System (L) is equivalent to

$$\begin{cases} (\bar{\nabla}^*\bar{\nabla} + q(\bar{R}))h^+ = (\lambda - 6)h^+ + (\delta\sigma)_{1,1} \circ J, \\ (\bar{\nabla}^*\bar{\nabla} + q(\bar{R}))h^- = (\lambda - 4)h^- - s, \\ \delta h^+ + \delta h^- = 0. \end{cases} \quad (\text{L}')$$

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- Note: $\Delta^c = \Delta$ on $\Omega_{0,\mathbb{R}}^{1,1} \cap \ker \delta_g$.

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Theorem (S. 2022)

Suppose $\lambda = 10 - \varepsilon$ in system (L). The space of solutions of (L) is isomorphic to

① $E(\mu_1) \oplus E(\mu_2) \oplus E(\mu_3)$ with

$$\mu_{1,2} = 7 - \varepsilon \pm \sqrt{25 - 4\varepsilon}, \quad \mu_3 = 6 - \varepsilon$$

if $\varepsilon < \frac{25}{4}$, $\varepsilon \neq 6$,

② $E(2) \oplus \ker \Delta|_{\Omega^3}$ if $\varepsilon = 6$,

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In particular $\varepsilon(g) \cong E(2) \oplus E(6) \oplus E(12)$ (Moroianu–Simmelmann 2011).

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The coindex of S_g'' on $\mathcal{S}_{tt}^2(M)$ is

- 2 if $M = S^3 \times S^3$ (comes from harmonic 3-forms),
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This proves that the coindex bounds by **Semmelmann–Wang–Wang 2020** are sharp.

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Theorem (Wang–Wang 2018, Semmelmann–Wang–Wang 2020)

All compact s.c. homogeneous non-symmetric Einstein 7-manifolds are unstable.

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- How to make sense of $\mathcal{A}^*\bar{\nabla}$, $\mathcal{A}^*\mathcal{A}$?

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Theorem (S.-Simmelmann–Weingart 2022)

With the inclusion $\mathfrak{m}^{\otimes p} \subset \mathfrak{g}^{\otimes p}$,

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Theorem (S. 2023)

With the inclusion $C^\infty(G, \mathfrak{m}^{\otimes p})^H \subset C^\infty(G, \mathfrak{g}^{\otimes p}) \cong C^\infty(G) \otimes \mathfrak{g}^{\otimes p}$,

$$\mathcal{A}^* \bar{\nabla}|_{C^\infty(G, \mathfrak{m}^{\otimes p})^H} = \frac{1}{2} \text{Cas}_{\mathfrak{g}}^{\mathfrak{g}} + \frac{1}{2} \text{pr}_{\mathfrak{m}^{\otimes p}} \left(\text{Cas}_{\mathfrak{g}^{\otimes p}}^{\mathfrak{g}} - \text{Cas}_{C^\infty(G) \otimes \mathfrak{g}^{\otimes p}}^{\mathfrak{g}} \right) - \text{Cas}_{\mathfrak{m}^{\otimes p}}^{\mathfrak{h}}.$$

Hence on symmetric tensors, if g is Einstein:

$$\Delta_L|_{\text{Sym}^p \mathfrak{m}} = \frac{3}{2} \text{Cas}_{\mathfrak{g}}^{\mathfrak{g}} + \text{pr}_{\text{Sym}^p \mathfrak{m}} \left(\text{Cas}_{\text{Sym}^p \mathfrak{g}}^{\mathfrak{g}} - \frac{1}{2} \text{Cas}_{C^\infty(G) \otimes \mathfrak{g}^{\otimes p}}^{\mathfrak{g}} \right) - \frac{3}{2} \text{Cas}_{\text{Sym}^p \mathfrak{m}}^{\mathfrak{h}} - pE + \frac{p}{4}.$$

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- ↪ many new stability results for **Einstein metrics with $\text{scal}_g > 0$** ([S. 2023](#)).

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- [Koiso](#) 1980: either g is rigid or it admits an essential Einstein deformation.

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- Are there any other Einstein metrics “near” g ?
- Are there smooth curves of Einstein metrics through g ? (**Einstein deformations**)
- Obvious deformations:
 - Scaling by a constant: $g_t = t \cdot g$, where $t \in \mathbb{R}^+$.
 - Action by diffeomorphism: $g_t = \varphi_t^* g$, where $\varphi_t \in \text{Diff}(M)$.
- Transverse to those: **Essential Einstein deformations**.
- Moduli space $\mathcal{E} := \{g \text{ Einstein metric on } M\} / (\mathbb{R}_+ \times \text{Diff}(M))$.
- g is called **rigid** if $[g]$ is isolated in \mathcal{E} .
- **Koiso** 1980: either g is rigid or it admits an essential Einstein deformation.
- $\varepsilon(g) = 0 \implies g$ is rigid.

Deformation theory of Einstein metrics

- Consider the Einstein operator

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$$g_k(t) := g + th + \sum_{j=2}^k \frac{t^j}{j!} h_j$$

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\rightsquigarrow polynomial obstructions.

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- Rigidity results for infinitesimally deformable structures: $F_{1,2}$ ([Foscolo 2016](#)), $N_{1,1}$ ([Nagy–Simmelmann 2021](#)).