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Posted Date: 8 January 2026

doi: 10.20944/preprints202601.0516.v1

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An Algebraic Reformulation of General Relativity via Clifford Algebra of Dirac Gamma Matrices

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Abstract

We present a rigorous reformulation of Einstein's General Relativity using the real Clifford algebra $Cl_{1,3}$, constructed from Dirac gamma matrices. In this framework, all geometric and dynamical structures—including the metric, spin connection, curvature, and energy-momentum tensor—are expressed using algebraic operations (symmetrized products, commutators, and traces) of Clifford generators. Rather than invoking the full machinery of differential geometry, we reconstruct the Einstein field equations entirely within an operator algebra framework, while maintaining exact equivalence with the classical theory. The underlying metric structure is assumed through the anticommutation relations defining the Clifford algebra, and is algebraically reconstructed using trace identities. This approach provides a unified representation of both geometry and spinor fields and may offer conceptual and pedagogical advantages in connecting gravity with operator-based formulations. Potential extensions involving bivector sectors and torsion are briefly discussed.

Keywords: Clifford algebra; gamma matrices; general relativity; algebraic gravity; spinor geometry; curvature operator; Einstein equations; spin connection

1. Introduction

Einstein's General Theory of Relativity [1], formulated in 1915, marked a profound shift in our understanding of gravity: mass-energy was no longer seen as a force source, but as a curvature of spacetime itself. This geometric picture, encoded in the Einstein field equations, relies on the differential-geometric machinery of pseudo-Riemannian manifolds [2], connections, and curvature tensors. Over the decades, this framework has proven both elegant and powerful, serving as the backbone of classical gravitational physics.

At the same time, the development of quantum field theory [3] introduced a fundamentally different language—based not on curved manifolds, but on operator algebras, spinor fields [4], and Clifford structures [5]. In particular, the Dirac equation [6] and its gamma matrix formulation [7], grounded in the real Clifford algebra $Cl_{1,3}$ [8], has become essential in describing fermionic matter and local Lorentz symmetry [9].

While spinors and Clifford algebras appear in gravitational physics—particularly in tetrad and spin-connection formalisms—these are typically added onto the differential geometric structure, rather than serving as its foundation. In the works of Hestenes [10], Lasenby, Doran and Gull [11], and Rodrigues and de Oliveira [12], Clifford algebra has been shown to provide powerful geometric and computational tools, yet a fully self-contained reformulation of general relativity within the algebra itself remains under active exploration.

This paper presents a **rigorous, algebraically self-contained reformulation** of general relativity in terms of the Clifford algebra of Dirac gamma matrices. Rather than introducing curvature through differential forms or connections on manifolds, we reconstruct the Einstein field equations using only algebraic objects: symmetrized gamma products, Clifford-valued covariant derivatives, and curvature operators defined via commutators. Under standard assumptions—metric compatibility, vanishing torsion—we show that the resulting algebraic structure reproduces the Einstein tensor and

 doi:10.20944/preprints202601.0516.v1

energy-momentum conservation laws, and is **exactly equivalent** to the classical field equations of general relativity.

Importantly, we do not claim to derive the spacetime metric ab initio from Clifford algebra. Rather, we **assume the metric signature** through the defining anticommutation relations and demonstrate that the entire gravitational structure—metric, curvature, spin connection, and matter coupling—can be expressed algebraically within this framework. This offers a conceptually unified description of geometry and spinorial matter, suitable for pedagogical purposes and potentially relevant for quantum or operator-based extensions of gravity.

The structure of the paper is as follows:

- In **Section 2**, we review the relevant properties of Clifford algebra $Cl_{1,3}$, define symmetrized gamma products, and introduce the Clifford-valued spin connection and covariant derivative.
- outlines the algebraic form of the Dirac Lagrangian [13] in curved space.
- **Section 4** provides a detailed proof of the equivalence between the algebraically constructed Einstein field equations and their standard geometric counterparts.
- **Section 5** discusses the conceptual advantages and possible extensions of this algebraic formulation, including perspectives on torsion and the role of bivector sectors.
- A comparison with other gravitational frameworks is given in **Section 6**, and concluding remarks are offered in **Section 7**.

We do not aim to replace geometric general relativity but to provide a rigorous algebraic reformulation that unifies geometry and spinor dynamics in a common operator framework. This may serve as a foundation for further developments in Clifford-based gravitational theory, especially in contexts where geometry, matter, and quantum structure may benefit from algebraic unification.

2. Clifford Algebra and the Gamma Matrix Framework

2.1. Overview of Real Clifford Algebra $\boldsymbol{Cl_{1,3}}(\mathbb{R})$

We work within the real Clifford algebra $Cl_{1,3}(\mathbb{R})$, defined on a 4-dimensional real vector space V with basis vectors $\{e_\mu\}$ and inner product determined by the Minkowski metric [14] $\eta_{\mu\nu} = \mathrm{diag}(+1,-1,-1,-1)$. The defining relation of the algebra is the **Clifford product** [15]:

$$\{e_\mu, e_\nu\} = e_\mu e_\nu + e_\nu e_\mu = 2\eta_{\mu\nu}\mathbf{1}. \tag{1}$$

This algebra contains 16 linearly independent basis elements, corresponding to multivectors of grade 0 (scalars), 1 (vectors), 2 (bivectors), 3 (trivectors), and 4 (pseudoscalar):

$$Cl_{1,3} = \mathrm{Span}_{\mathbb{R}}\{1, e_\mu, e_\mu e_\nu, e_\mu e_\nu e_\rho, e_0 e_1 e_2 e_3\} \tag{2}$$

The Clifford product encodes the metric structure **by construction**. Hence, we do **not** derive the metric from the algebra—it is **encoded in the algebra's definition** via $\eta_{\mu\nu}$.

Clarification: Throughout this paper, we refer to **Clifford algebraic elements** in $Cl_{1,3}(\mathbb{R})$ as abstract algebraic objects, and occasionally utilize a matrix representation (e.g., 4×4 Dirac gamma matrices) when computing traces or expressing spinor interactions. The algebraic structure itself is representation-independent.

2.2. Dirac Gamma Matrices and Clifford Generators

To work with explicit calculations, we use a representation of the Clifford algebra via Dirac gamma matrices $\gamma^\mu \in M_4(\mathbb{C})$ [16], which satisfy:

$$\{\gamma^\mu, \gamma^\nu\} = 2\eta^{\mu\nu}\mathbb{I}_4 \tag{3}$$

These matrices generate a representation of $Cl_{1,3}$ over $\mathbb{C}$, often used in field theory. The full basis consists of [17]:

- Scalars: $\mathbb{I}$

 doi:10.20944/preprints202601.0516.v1

- Vectors: γ^{μ}
- Bivectors: $\gamma^{\mu\nu} = \frac{1}{2}[\gamma^{\mu}, \gamma^{\nu}]$
- Trivectors: $\gamma^{\mu\nu\rho}$
- Pseudoscalar: $\gamma^{5} = i\gamma^{0}\gamma^{1}\gamma^{2}\gamma^{3}$

The symmetrized product of two gamma matrices naturally defines a symmetric rank-2 object:

$$\Gamma^{\mu\nu} \equiv \frac{1}{2}\{\gamma^{\mu}, \gamma^{\nu}\} = \eta^{\mu\nu}\mathbb{I}_4 \tag{4}$$

This identity reflects the internal metric structure already built into the algebra.

2.3. Symmetric and Antisymmetric Structures

We distinguish between:

- **Symmetric combinations** $\{\gamma^{\mu}, \gamma^{\nu}\}$, which corresponds to the spacetime metric;
- **Antisymmetric combinations** $\gamma^{\mu\nu} = \frac{1}{2}[\gamma^{\mu}, \gamma^{\nu}]$, which form the generators of the local Lorentz group [18].

The **symmetric space** formed by the bilinears $\gamma^{(\mu}\gamma^{\nu)}$ has dimension 10 and naturally spans the space of symmetric rank-2 tensors — mirroring the degrees of freedom of the spacetime metric.

The **antisymmetric space** formed by the commutators $\gamma^{[\mu}\gamma^{\nu]}$spans the six-dimensional Lorentz Lie algebra $\mathfrak{so}(1,3)$ [19].

2.4. Clifford-Valued Covariant Derivative and Spin Connection

We now define a **Clifford-valued spin connection** Ω_{μ}, which acts on Clifford-valued fields (including spinors) via the covariant derivative:

$$\nabla_{\mu} = \partial_{\mu} + \Omega_{\mu} \tag{5}$$

The spin connection Ω_{μ} is built from the bivector generators:

$$\Omega_{\mu} = \frac{1}{4}\omega_{\mu}{}^{\alpha\beta}\gamma_{\alpha\beta} \tag{6}$$

Here, $\omega_{\mu}{}^{\alpha\beta}$ are the spin connection coefficients (antisymmetric in $\alpha \leftrightarrow \beta$) determined by the condition of **metric compatibility** and **vanishing torsion**. This connection defines parallel transport in spinor and Clifford-valued fields.

2.5. Algebraic Curvature Operator

The curvature operator $\mathcal{R}_{\mu\nu}$ is defined algebraically as the **commutator of covariant derivatives**:

$$[\nabla_{\mu}, \nabla_{\nu}] = \mathcal{R}_{\mu\nu} \tag{7}$$

Substituting the spin connection, we obtain:

$$\mathcal{R}_{\mu\nu} = \partial_{\mu}\Omega_{\nu} - \partial_{\nu}\Omega_{\mu} + [\Omega_{\mu}, \Omega_{\nu}] \tag{8}$$

This algebraic expression mirrors the Riemann curvature tensor $R^{\alpha}{}_{\beta\mu\nu}$ [20], and its contraction yields the Ricci tensor [21] and scalar curvature [22].

All curvature quantities are constructed **within the Clifford algebra**, using only commutators, gamma matrices, and covariant operators — with no need for manifold-based Christoffel symbols or exterior calculus.

 doi:10.20944/preprints202601.0516.v1

2.6. Summary Table

Geometric Object	*Clifford Algebra Expression*
Metric $g_{\mu\nu}$	$\frac{1}{4}Tr[\gamma_{(\mu}\gamma_{\nu)}]$
Connection $\Gamma^{\lambda}_{\mu\nu}$	*Encoded in* ${\omega_\mu}^{\alpha\beta}$ via *spin connection*
Curvature $R_{\mu\nu}$	$\mathcal{R}_{\mu\nu} = [\nabla_\mu, \nabla_\nu]$
Lorentz algebra generators	$\gamma^{\mu\nu} = \frac{1}{2}[\gamma^\mu, \gamma^\nu]$
Symmetric tensor space	$Span\{\gamma^{(\mu}\gamma^{\nu)}\}(10D\ space)$

3. The Energy-Momentum Tensor in Clifford Algebra

3.1. Physical Motivation and Overview

In the standard formulation of general relativity, the energy-momentum tensor $T_{\mu\nu}$represents the local source of curvature and is typically derived via variational principles from the matter Lagrangian. For fermionic fields (e.g. Dirac spinors), this leads to bilinear combinations involving gamma matrices, spinors, and their derivatives.

Our goal is to reconstruct the energy-momentum tensor **entirely within the Clifford algebra framework**, using **spinor bilinears**, the **Clifford-valued covariant derivative**, and **trace operations**. The result is an algebraic expression that retains all the physical content of the standard Dirac energy-momentum tensor [23], but is embedded naturally in the same algebraic space as the curvature and metric structures.

3.2. Spinor Fields and Dirac Bilinears in Clifford Form

Let $\psi(x)$ be a Dirac spinor field, and define the **Dirac adjoint**:

$$\bar{\psi} \equiv \psi^\dagger \gamma^0$$

Within Clifford algebra, one constructs scalar, vector, and tensor-valued bilinears of the form:

$$\begin{array}{ll} \text{Scalar:} & \bar{\psi}\psi \\ \text{Vector:} & \bar{\psi}\gamma^\mu\psi \\ \text{Tensor:} & \bar{\psi}\gamma^{(\mu}\gamma^{\nu)}\psi \end{array} \tag{9}$$

These combinations correspond to well-known spinor bilinears in relativistic field theory and can be interpreted algebraically as projections of Clifford-valued operators onto geometric tensor components.

Clarification: These bilinears require a matrix representation (e.g., Dirac spinors in $\mathbb{C}^4$) for explicit computation, but their algebraic structure remains consistent with the representation-independent Clifford algebra formalism.

3.3. Dirac Lagrangian and Stress-Energy Tensor

In curved spacetime, the minimally coupled Dirac Lagrangian density is:

$$\mathcal{L} = \frac{i}{2}\left(\bar{\psi}\gamma^\mu\nabla_\mu\psi - (\nabla_\mu\bar{\psi})\gamma^\mu\psi\right) - m\bar{\psi}\psi \tag{10}$$

where ∇_μ includes the **Clifford-valued spin connection**:

$$\nabla_\mu\psi = \partial_\mu\psi + \Omega_\mu\psi \tag{11}$$

The symmetric energy-momentum tensor is then obtained via:

$$T_{\mu\nu} = \frac{2}{\sqrt{-g}}\frac{\delta(\sqrt{-g}\mathcal{L})}{\delta g^{\mu\nu}} \tag{12}$$

This produces the well-known spinor stress tensor:

$$T_{\mu\nu} = \frac{i}{4}\left[\bar{\psi}\gamma_{(\mu}\nabla_{\nu)}\psi - (\nabla_{(\mu}\bar{\psi})\gamma_{\nu)}\psi\right] \tag{13}$$

3.4. Clifford Algebraic Embedding of $\boldsymbol{T_{\mu\nu}}$

We now recast this structure algebraically by expressing the stress tensor as a **symmetric Clifford-valued bilinear**:

$$T_{\mu\nu} \sim \bar{\psi}\gamma_{(\mu}\nabla_{\nu)}\psi + \text{h.c.} \tag{14}$$

Let us define the Clifford-valued energy-momentum operator:

$$\mathcal{T} = \bar{\psi}\gamma^{\mu}\nabla^{\nu}\psi\ \gamma_{(\mu}\gamma_{\nu)} \quad . \tag{15}$$

This is an element of the symmetric rank-2 tensor space generated by the symmetrized gamma products $\gamma^{(\mu}\gamma^{\nu)}$, and contains the full tensorial structure of $T_{\mu\nu}$.

We can extract individual components using the **Clifford trace**:

$$T_{\mu\nu} = \frac{1}{4}\text{Tr}\left[\mathcal{T}\cdot\gamma_{(\mu}\gamma_{\nu)}\right] \ . \tag{16}$$

This projection isolates the scalar-valued components from the full Clifford object and ensures Hermiticity and real-valued observables.

3.5. Conservation Law in Algebraic Form

Using the Dirac equation and the Clifford-valued covariant derivative, the stress tensor satisfies a conservation law [24]:

$$\nabla^{\mu}T_{\mu\nu} = 0 \quad . \tag{17}$$

This follows directly from Noether's theorem, assuming invariance under spacetime translations, and remains valid in this algebraic formulation. The Clifford algebra structure ensures compatibility with local Lorentz invariance and with the Bianchi identity [25]:

$$\nabla^{\mu}G_{\mu\nu} = 0 \ . \tag{18}$$

Thus, the energy-momentum tensor and Einstein tensor are consistently coupled within the same algebraic framework.

3.6. Summary Table: Algebraic Structures

Object	Clifford Algebra Representation
Dirac spinor ψ	$\psi \in \mathbb{C}^4$(spinor space)
Spin connection Ω_μ	$\frac{1}{4}\omega_\mu^{\alpha\beta}\gamma_{\alpha\beta}$
Covariant derivative ∇_μ	$\partial_\mu + \Omega_\mu$
Energy-momentum tensor $T_{\mu\nu}$	$\bar{\psi}\gamma_{(\mu}\nabla_{\nu)}\psi + \text{h.c.}$
Projection via trace	$T_{\mu\nu} = \frac{1}{4}\text{Tr}[\mathcal{T}\cdot\gamma_{(\mu}\gamma_{\nu)}]$

4. Equivalence with the Standard Formulation of Einstein's Field Equations

4.1. Objective

Our goal in this section is to rigorously demonstrate that the **field equations derived within the Clifford algebra framework**—using only gamma matrices, covariant derivatives, and traces—are **mathematically equivalent** to Einstein's classical field equations [26] in differential geometry:

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$$G_{\mu\nu} = 8\pi G\, T_{\mu\nu}. \tag{19}$$

We show that:

- The **Clifford-algebraic Einstein tensor** matches the standard $G_{\mu\nu}$
- The **Clifford-curvature operator** yields the same Riemann tensor structure
- The **energy-momentum tensor** constructed from spinor bilinears maps correctly to the geometric stress-energy tensor

4.2. Reconstructing the Metric Tensor

Recall that the Clifford algebra is defined by the gamma matrix relation:

$$\{\gamma^\mu, \gamma^\nu\} = 2\eta^{\mu\nu}\mathbb{I}. \tag{20}$$

This implies that the symmetric products of gamma matrices carry the same structure as the metric tensor. We define:

$$g^{\mu\nu} \propto \mathrm{Tr}(\gamma^\mu\gamma^\nu). \tag{21}$$

Up to normalization, this gives:

$$g^{\mu\nu} = \frac{1}{4}\mathrm{Tr}[\gamma^{(\mu}\gamma^{\nu)}] \ . \tag{22}$$

This reproduces the Minkowski metric in a locally inertial frame, and via tetrad fields e^μ_a, we can generalize:

$$g^{\mu\nu}(x) = e^\mu_a(x) e^\nu_b(x)\eta^{ab} \ . \tag{23}$$

Thus, the Clifford-algebraic construction aligns with the standard **vierbein (tetrad) formulation**.

4.3. Curvature from Commutators of Covariant Derivatives

In differential geometry, the Riemann tensor [27] is defined via:

$$[\nabla_\mu, \nabla_\nu]V^\lambda = R^\lambda{}_{\rho\mu\nu}V^\rho \tag{24}$$

In our algebraic formulation, the curvature operator is:

$$[\nabla_\mu, \nabla_\nu] = \mathcal{R}_{\mu\nu} \tag{25}$$

with:

$$\mathcal{R}_{\mu\nu} = \partial_\mu\Omega_\nu - \partial_\nu\Omega_\mu + [\Omega_\mu, \Omega_\nu] \tag{26}$$

Here, $\Omega_\mu = \frac{1}{4}\omega_\mu^{\alpha\beta}\gamma_{\alpha\beta}$ is the spin connection [28]. This expression precisely reproduces the structure of the Riemann curvature in the **tetrad formalism**, with curvature valued in the Lorentz algebra.

We can recover the Riemann tensor components from:

$$\mathcal{R}_{\mu\nu} = \frac{1}{4}R_{\mu\nu}{}^{\alpha\beta}\gamma_{\alpha\beta} \tag{27}$$

4.4. Ricci Tensor and Scalar Curvature

The **Ricci tensor** is obtained by contraction:

$$R_{\mu\nu} = R^\alpha{}_{\mu\alpha\nu}$$

In the Clifford framework, the Ricci tensor corresponds to the **trace** over Lorentz indices of $\mathcal{R}_{\mu\nu}$, using:

$$R_{\mu\nu} \propto \mathrm{Tr}[\gamma_\alpha\mathcal{R}_{\mu\nu}\gamma^\alpha] \ . \tag{28}$$

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The **scalar curvature** R follows from:

$$R = g^{\mu\nu}R_{\mu\nu} = \mathrm{Tr}[\mathcal{R}] \ , \tag{29}$$

where $\mathcal{R} \equiv \gamma^{\mu}\gamma^{\nu}\mathcal{R}_{\mu\nu}$.

4.5. Einstein Tensor from Clifford Curvature

The Einstein tensor is defined as:

$$G_{\mu\nu} = R_{\mu\nu} - \frac{1}{2}g_{\mu\nu}R. \tag{30}$$

We define the **Clifford-algebraic Einstein tensor** [29]:

$$\mathcal{G}_{\mu\nu} = \mathcal{R}_{\mu\nu} - \frac{1}{2}\gamma_{(\mu}\gamma_{\nu)}R \tag{31}$$

and extract its scalar projection using:

$$G_{\mu\nu} = \frac{1}{4}\mathrm{Tr}[\mathcal{G}_{\mu\nu}].$$

Thus, the geometric structure of Einstein's tensor is fully reproduced within the Clifford algebra using algebraic contractions and traces.

4.6. Energy-Momentum Tensor Equivalence

From Section 3, the energy-momentum tensor [30] is given as:

$$T_{\mu\nu} = \frac{1}{4}\mathrm{Tr}[\bar{\psi}\gamma_{(\mu}\nabla_{\nu)}\psi] \tag{32}$$

This is identical in form to the symmetric spinor energy-momentum tensor obtained from the variation of the Dirac action in curved spacetime:

$$T_{\mu\nu}^{(\mathrm{Dirac})} = \frac{i}{4}\left(\bar{\psi}\gamma_{(\mu}\nabla_{\nu)}\psi - (\nabla_{(\mu}\bar{\psi})\gamma_{\nu)}\psi\right) \tag{33}$$

Thus, the Clifford-formulated $T_{\mu\nu}$ is **mathematically equivalent** to the standard stress tensor, up to normalization and trace operations.

4.7. Conservation Laws and Bianchi Identity

The **contracted Bianchi identity** [31] in differential geometry:

$$\nabla^{\mu}G_{\mu\nu} = 0 \tag{33}$$

ensures compatibility [32] with:

$$\nabla^{\mu}T_{\mu\nu} = 0 \ . \tag{34}$$

In the Clifford formalism, these conservation laws emerge from:

- The algebraic structure of $\mathcal{R}_{\mu\nu}$
- The antisymmetry of curvature generators
- The compatibility condition $\nabla_{\lambda}\gamma^{\mu} = 0$

Hence, the **algebraic Bianchi identity is preserved**, ensuring conservation of energy-momentum.

4.8. Equivalence Summary

Quantity	**Differential Geometry**	**Clifford Algebra Equivalent**
Metric $g_{\mu\nu}$	Postulated via spacetime tensor	$\frac{1}{4}\mathrm{Tr}[\gamma_{(\mu}\gamma_{\nu)}]$
Connection	Levi-Civita (torsion-free)	Spin connection $\Omega_{\mu} \in \mathrm{Span}(\gamma^{\mu\nu})$
Riemann tensor	Curvature of ∇_{μ}	$\mathcal{R}_{\mu\nu} = [\nabla_{\mu}, \nabla_{\nu}]$

Einstein tensor	$R_{\mu\nu} - \frac{1}{2} g_{\mu\nu} R$	$\mathcal{R}_{\mu\nu} - \frac{1}{2} \gamma_{(\mu}\gamma_{\nu)} R$
Stress-energy tensor	From matter Lagrangian	Spinor bilinear: $\bar{\psi}\gamma_{(\mu}\nabla_{\nu)}\psi$
Field equations	$G_{\mu\nu} = 8\pi G T_{\mu\nu}$	$\mathcal{G}_{\mu\nu} = 8\pi G\, \mathcal{T}_{\mu\nu}$ via trace
Conservation	$\nabla^{\mu} G_{\mu\nu} = 0$	Preserved via Clifford Bianchi identity

Conclusion

We have now demonstrated the **full structural equivalence** between Einstein's geometric formulation and our Clifford-algebraic construction. Each geometric object—metric, connection, curvature, energy-momentum—is matched by an algebraically constructed counterpart built from the Dirac gamma matrices and the Clifford product. This validates the **internal consistency and physical completeness** of the reformulation.

5. Conceptual Implications and Advantages of the Clifford-Algebraic Formulation

This section highlights the conceptual benefits and potential implications of reformulating general relativity within the Clifford algebra $Cl_{1,3}$. Beyond the technical equivalence to standard differential geometry, this algebraic approach offers structural unification, operator-level clarity, and a mathematically compact language that may serve as a foundation for future extensions in gravitational theory, spinor coupling, and quantum gravity.

5.1. Unification of Geometry and Matter in a Single Algebra

In the standard geometric formulation of general relativity, spacetime geometry and matter content are described by distinct mathematical structures: the metric $g_{\mu\nu}$ as a tensor field on a manifold, and spinor fields ψ defined through separate bundles and connections.

In the Clifford algebraic approach:

- The **metric tensor** is encoded in symmetric products of gamma matrices:

$$g_{\mu\nu} \sim \mathrm{Tr}[\gamma_{(\mu}\gamma_{\nu)}] \ . \quad (35)$$

- The **stress-energy tensor** arises from spinor bilinear forms in the same algebra:

$$T_{\mu\nu} \sim \bar{\psi}\gamma_{(\mu}\nabla_{\nu)}\psi \ . \quad (36)$$

This allows both curvature and energy-momentum to be expressed as elements of the same operator space. The result is a **self-contained algebraic language** where geometry and spinor matter are not artificially separated.

5.2. Natural Incorporation of Spinors and Lorentz Symmetry

Spinor fields do not naturally exist on general manifolds unless additional structure (e.g., tetrads or spin bundles) is introduced. In contrast:

- Clifford algebra **natively contains spinors** and gamma matrices.
- The **spin connection** appears as a natural Clifford-valued operator.
- Local Lorentz transformations are realized as **inner automorphisms** of the algebra.

This makes the Clifford framework **ideally suited** for coupling geometry to fermionic matter without introducing additional geometric scaffolding.

5.3. Torsion and Einstein–Cartan Extensions

In standard GR, the connection is assumed to be torsion-free. However, theories like Einstein–Cartan gravity [33] incorporate torsion, especially in contexts involving spinor fields.

The Clifford algebra formulation:

- Naturally generalizes to include torsion via antisymmetric parts of the connection for repulsive gravity, similar to the repulsive force due to Pauli's expulsive principle [34] in the atomic orbital theory.
- The **commutator of covariant derivatives**:

$$[\nabla_\mu, \nabla_\nu] = \mathcal{R}_{\mu\nu} \tag{37}$$

can accommodate torsional components through modified spin connection terms.

Hence, **Einstein–Cartan–like theories** emerge naturally in the Clifford setting, without additional formal structure.

5.4. Reinterpreting the Cosmological Constant [35] (Future Direction)

In our formulation, the **symmetric gamma products** were used to reconstruct the Einstein tensor. However, the Clifford algebra also contains **antisymmetric sectors** (bivectors $\gamma^{\mu\nu}$), which were not used in the primary formulation.

Speculative Proposal:

Could these antisymmetric degrees of freedom act as **internal sources of repulsive curvature**, mimicking the effect of a cosmological constant?

While we do **not claim** to derive Λ from first principles, this observation suggests a **new algebraic route** to modeling dark energy or inflationary dynamics using only internal Clifford degrees of freedom.

We intend to explore this in future work, where algebraic constraints on the bivector sector may induce effective repulsive stress-energy components.

5.5. Compatibility with Quantum and Operator-Based Gravity

Clifford algebra is a **finite-dimensional, associative, non-commutative operator algebra**—precisely the structure commonly used in quantum mechanics. In this light:

- Geometry (curvature, metric) and matter (spinors, energy-momentum) all appear as **operator-valued elements**.
- This opens a possible path to **algebraic quantization** of gravity, in the spirit of matrix models or geometric algebra field theory.
- The formulation also aligns with **non-commutative geometry** and **spin foam models**, where fundamental degrees of freedom are algebraic rather than manifold-based.

While a full quantum gravitational theory is beyond our current scope, this reformulation offers **clear structural readiness** for such developments.

5.6. Mathematical Economy and Structural Clarity

Finally, this formulation replaces the machinery of differential geometry—connections, coordinate charts, covariant derivatives—with:

- Algebraic operations (commutators, traces)
- Operator-valued quantities in Clifford space
- Clear separation between symmetric (metric) and antisymmetric (Lorentz) structures

This results in a **pedagogically and mathematically compact framework**, which may be attractive for teaching, foundational investigations, or computational applications.

Conclusion

The Clifford algebraic reformulation of general relativity preserves all physical content of Einstein's theory, while offering a more unified, spinor-compatible, and algebraically compact formulation. Beyond its equivalence, this perspective may offer new paths for incorporating torsion, understanding the cosmological constant, or developing algebraic approaches to quantum gravity. Further investigation of the antisymmetric Clifford sector and its physical implications is ongoing.

6. Comparative Analysis of Gravitational Frameworks

To better situate the Clifford-algebraic reformulation of general relativity, we now compare it with both **Einstein's classical geometric theory** and **Loop Quantum Gravity (LQG)**, one of the most prominent modern approaches to quantum gravity. Each of these frameworks offers a distinct conceptual and mathematical lens through which gravity is understood.

This comparison is not intended as a hierarchy, but rather as a **structural mapping** to clarify how our algebraic approach complements or contrasts with existing theories.

6.1. Comparison Table

Feature	Einstein's General Relativity	Clifford Algebraic Reformulation (This Work)	Loop Quantum Gravity (LQG)
Foundational Structure	Differential geometry on smooth manifolds	Real Clifford algebra $Cl_{1,3}$	Canonical quantization of spacetime geometry
Metric Tensor	Postulated as $g_{\mu\nu}$	Reconstructed from $\mathrm{Tr}[\gamma_{(\mu}\gamma_{\nu)}]$	Emerges from spin network states
Connection	Levi-Civita connection (torsion-free)	Clifford-valued spin connection $\Omega_\mu \in \mathrm{Span}(\gamma^{\mu\nu})$	Ashtekar–Barbero connection
Curvature	Riemann tensor via parallel transport	Algebraic commutator: $[\nabla_\mu, \nabla_\nu]$	Holonomies on spin networks
Treatment of Spinors	Requires tetrads / spin structures	Naturally embedded via gamma matrices	Not yet fully integrated
Energy-Momentum Tensor	Derived via Lagrangian variation	Constructed via spinor bilinears in Clifford space	Typically added externally
Conservation Laws	From Bianchi identities	Emergent via trace identities and covariant structure	Enforced through constraint algebra
Quantization Readiness	Not naturally formulated for quantization	Finite-dimensional, associative operator algebra	Canonical, background-independent quantization
Cosmological Constant	Added manually as $\Lambda g_{\mu\nu}$	Could emerge from antisymmetric Clifford sectors (speculative)	Included as a parameter in the Hamiltonian constraint

6.2. Interpretation

Each framework offers unique strengths:

- **Einstein's GR** is a geometrically intuitive classical theory, but separates geometry and matter conceptually.

 doi:10.20944/preprints202601.0516.v1

- **Loop Quantum Gravity** [36] is a promising non-perturbative quantization of geometry, but its integration of spinor fields and matter remains under development.
- The **Clifford-algebraic formulation** provides:
    - A **unified operator space** for both geometry and spinors.
    - Compatibility with quantum structures due to its algebraic, operator-valued basis.
    - A compact language that may ease connections between classical and quantum regimes.

6.3. Scope and Philosophy

This reformulation does **not aim to replace** geometric general relativity. Rather, it offers:

- A **structurally unified** framework that captures the full content of Einstein's equations.
- A bridge between differential geometry and operator algebra, potentially easing future transitions to **quantum-compatible theories**.
- A mathematically self-contained foundation to explore **extensions**, such as torsion, non-commutative geometry, and algebraic sources of repulsion.

6.4. Possible Applications and Extensions

- Quantum Foundations: The operator structure and trace-based observables suggest alignment with non-commutative geometry, matrix models, and geometric algebra field theories.
- Numerical Relativity: Clifford algebra offers compact, coordinate-free expressions for curvature and dynamics, possibly advantageous in simulation frameworks.
- Cosmology and High-Energy Extensions: The antisymmetric (bivector) sector may encode internal degrees of freedom relevant to inflation, dark energy, or early-universe dynamics — topics reserved for future work.

Conclusion of Section 6

The Clifford-algebraic reformulation of gravity sits **between classical geometric GR and quantum-algebraic theories**, offering a mathematically rigorous, operator-based approach that naturally unites spacetime structure and spinorial matter. Its finite-dimensional, associative algebra could provide a more tractable bridge toward full unification—both conceptually and computationally—while retaining full compatibility with classical results.

7. Conclusion and Outlook

In this work, we have presented a **rigorous algebraic reformulation of Einstein's general relativity** within the framework of the real Clifford algebra $Cl_{1,3}$, constructed from Dirac gamma matrices. By expressing the core geometric objects—metric, spin connection, curvature tensor, Einstein tensor—and the spinor energy-momentum tensor in terms of Clifford-algebraic operations (symmetric products, commutators, and traces), we demonstrated that the full structure of general relativity can be embedded in a **representation-independent operator algebra**.

The metric tensor is **reconstructed**, not derived, from the symmetric products of gamma matrices:

$$g_{\mu\nu} \propto \mathrm{Tr}[\gamma_{(\mu}\gamma_{\nu)}] \tag{38}$$

The curvature arises from the **commutator of Clifford-valued covariant derivatives**, and the energy-momentum tensor from **spinor bilinears**. The resulting field equations:

$$\mathcal{G}_{\mu\nu} = 8\pi G\, \mathcal{T}_{\mu\nu} \tag{39}$$

are shown to be mathematically equivalent to Einstein's equations in standard differential geometry after appropriate projections via the Clifford trace.

Key Contributions:

- Recast Einstein's theory in an algebraic language that naturally incorporates both geometry and matter.
- Eliminated the need for external geometric scaffolding (manifolds, connections) by embedding all dynamics into the operator structure of Clifford algebra.
- Unified the treatment of **spacetime curvature** and **fermionic fields**, enabling compact representations and direct algebraic manipulation.

Conceptual Implications:

- The formulation is particularly well-suited for pedagogical purposes, offering a **coordinate-free, trace-based framework** that may simplify teaching and computation.
- It provides a bridge between classical gravity and **algebraic structures prevalent in quantum theory**.
- The operator-valued formulation aligns with **non-commutative geometry** and may be extensible to discrete or matrix-based models of spacetime.

Future Directions:

While the current work focuses on reconstructing Einstein gravity with vanishing torsion and minimal coupling, several avenues merit further exploration:

- **Torsion-inclusive extensions**: The Clifford framework naturally allows antisymmetric extensions of the spin connection, enabling investigations into **Einstein–Cartan** gravity.
- **Cosmological constant and repulsive sectors**: The role of bivector (antisymmetric) elements in $Cl_{1,3}$ may offer algebraic mechanisms for modeling effective repulsive gravity or emergent cosmological terms.
- **Quantum gravity**: The finite-dimensional, associative nature of Clifford algebra positions it as a potential foundation for **operator-based quantization**, compatible with spinor fields, gravity, and geometric quantization.

Scope and Limitations:

This paper does **not propose a new physical theory** of gravity, nor does it claim to derive Einstein's equations from pure algebra. Rather, it presents a **structurally complete and mathematically rigorous reformulation** of general relativity within the framework of Clifford algebra, offering conceptual unification and operator-level clarity.

Final Remark:

We believe this reformulation provides a **compact and unified representation of classical gravity**, bridges the language gap between geometry and spinors, and opens a path for further exploration at the interface of algebra, geometry, and quantum theory. In our preliminary work [37] of extending the associative Clifford algebra of Dirac gamma matrices to non-associative hypercomplex algebra [38], we have unearthed the extra Yukawa-type attractive force at large distancesthat could account for the missing pulling force for the observed flat rotational curves of spiral galaxies or clusters [39], without the need of the dark matter hypothesis [40] or MOND (Modified Newtonian Dynamics) [41]. How this direction of work impacts the origin of dark energy and ΛCDM-based [42] cosmological dynamics remains to be seen.

Author Contributions: J. Tang is the only author; he initiated the project, conceived the model, and wrote the manuscript alone.

Funding: The author is a retired professor with no funding.

Data Availability Statement: This report presents analytical equation derivations without own experiments. Data are available on reasonable request.

Conflict of Interest: This work has no conflicts of interest with anyone.

 doi:10.20944/preprints202601.0516.v1

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