

# Rotor Field Hypothesis: A Geometric Framework for Quantum Gravity

Viacheslav Loginov<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Kyiv, Ukraine, barthez.slavik@gmail.com

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## Abstract

The theory of general relativity has shown that the gravitational field and the metric structure of space-time are intimately connected. Yet the reconciliation of this geometrical description with the quantum theory remains unresolved. In this paper, we develop a geometric framework wherein both gravitational phenomena and quantum mechanics arise from a single unified field: the *rotor field*, defined in the geometric algebra of space-time. We postulate that physical space admits a bivector field  $B(x, t)$  generating local rotations through  $R(x, t) = \exp(\frac{1}{2}B(x, t))$ , and that the metric tensor emerges from the bivector configuration rather than being prescribed a priori. From a variational principle applied to this rotor field, we derive field equations that reduce to Einstein's equations in the weak-field limit, while naturally incorporating quantum spinor structures in regimes of high phase coherence. The theory predicts observable deviations in systems with strong rotational coupling, including binary systems exhibiting orbital precession. The formalism is constructed purely from geometric principles, without auxiliary assumptions about quantization or field commutation relations.

**Keywords:** rotor fields; geometric algebra; quantum gravity; differential geometry

## 1 Introduction

### 1.1 The Problem of Quantum Gravity

The theory of general relativity, formulated by Einstein in 1915, geometrizes the gravitational interaction: matter and energy determine the curvature of space-time, and this curvature in turn governs the motion of matter. The success of this geometric picture is manifest in phenomena from planetary orbits to the recent detection of gravitational waves.

Quantum mechanics, on the other hand, describes the behavior of matter and energy at microscopic scales through probability amplitudes and wave functions. Its predictive power extends from atomic spectra to the standard model of particle physics. Yet when we attempt to apply quantum principles to the gravitational field itself, we encounter fundamental difficulties. The methods of quantum field theory, successful for electromagnetism and nuclear forces, lead to non-renormalizable divergences when applied to Einstein's equations.

This tension suggests not merely a technical obstacle but perhaps a conceptual inadequacy in our current formulation. Might there exist a more fundamental geometric structure from which both the metric of space-time and the quantum behavior of matter emerge?

## 1.2 Geometric Algebra and Physical Law

Clifford’s geometric algebra provides a coordinate-free language for expressing physical laws. Unlike the tensor calculus, geometric algebra treats vectors, bivectors (oriented plane segments), and higher-grade elements as elements of a single algebraic structure. The geometric product unifies the inner and outer products, and rotations are naturally represented by *rotors*—elements of the form  $R = \exp(\frac{1}{2}B)$  where  $B$  is a bivector.

Hestenes demonstrated that Dirac’s equation for the electron can be formulated entirely within geometric algebra, revealing the spinor as a geometric object rather than an abstract entity requiring auxiliary spaces. This suggests that quantum mechanics may be more geometrical than traditionally supposed.

## 1.3 The Rotor Field Postulate

We propose the following principle: *Physical space-time admits a fundamental bivector field  $B(x, t)$ , and all observable phenomena arise from the dynamics of the associated rotor field  $R(x, t) = \exp(\frac{1}{2}B(x, t))$ .*

From this single postulate, we shall derive:

1. The metric tensor  $g_{\mu\nu}(x)$  as an induced structure from the bivector field configuration.
2. Field equations relating the bivector curvature to energy-momentum, recovering Einstein’s equations in appropriate limits.
3. The emergence of quantum spinor structures from regions of high rotor phase coherence.
4. Observable predictions distinguishing this formulation from standard general relativity.

The organization of this paper follows the logical development of the theory. In Section 2, we establish the mathematical formalism of geometric algebra and define the rotor field precisely. Section 3 presents the variational principle and derives the field equations. Section 4 examines the physical interpretation and observable consequences. Section 5 addresses limitations and philosophical implications, and Section 6 offers concluding remarks.

# 2 Mathematical Foundations

## 2.1 The Geometric Product

We consider a four-dimensional space with orthonormal basis vectors  $\{\gamma_a\}$ ,  $a = 0, 1, 2, 3$ , satisfying the fundamental relation

$$\gamma_a \gamma_b + \gamma_b \gamma_a = 2\eta_{ab}, \quad (2.1)$$

where  $\eta_{ab} = \text{diag}(+1, -1, -1, -1)$  is the Minkowski metric. The product  $\gamma_a \gamma_b$  is the *geometric product*, which is neither commutative nor anticommutative, but contains both symmetric (inner) and antisymmetric (outer) parts:

$$ab = a \cdot b + a \wedge b. \quad (2.2)$$

The geometric product generates a graded algebra  $\mathcal{G}(1, 3)$  whose elements (multivectors) decompose into grades: scalars (grade 0), vectors (grade 1), bivectors (grade 2), trivectors (grade 3), and pseudoscalars (grade 4). A bivector  $B = B^{ab}\gamma_a \wedge \gamma_b$  represents an oriented plane element, generalizing the notion of angular momentum or electromagnetic field.

## 2.2 Rotors and the Tetrad Field

Let  $R(x) \in \text{Spin}(1, 3)$  be a rotor field—a field of unit even multivectors satisfying

$$R(x)\tilde{R}(x) = 1, \quad (2.3)$$

where  $\tilde{R}$  denotes the reversion. Any rotor admits the exponential representation

$$R(x) = \exp\left(\frac{1}{2}B(x)\right), \quad (2.4)$$

where  $B(x)$  is a bivector field generating local Lorentz rotations.

The rotor field defines a *local orthonormal frame* (tetrad) at each space-time point through the relation

$$e_a(x) \equiv R(x) \gamma_a \tilde{R}(x). \quad (2.5)$$

Since  $R$  preserves the scalar product, we have

$$e_a \cdot e_b = R\gamma_a \tilde{R} \cdot R\gamma_b \tilde{R} = \gamma_a \cdot \gamma_b = \eta_{ab}. \quad (2.6)$$

Thus the local frame  $\{e_a(x)\}$  forms an orthonormal basis with respect to the Minkowski metric at every point. In coordinate basis, we write

$$e_a(x) = e_a^\mu(x) \partial_\mu, \quad (2.7)$$

where  $e_a^\mu(x)$  are the tetrad components.

## 2.3 The Induced Metric

The space-time metric tensor in coordinate basis is induced from the tetrad:

$$g_{\mu\nu}(x) = e_\mu^a(x) e_\nu^b(x) \eta_{ab}, \quad (2.8)$$

where  $e_\mu^a$  denotes the inverse tetrad satisfying  $e_\mu^a e_a^\nu = \delta_\mu^\nu$  and  $e_\mu^a e_b^\mu = \delta_b^a$ .

This construction ensures that the metric is determined entirely by the rotor field  $R(x)$ . In flat space-time where  $R(x) = \text{const}$ , we recover  $g_{\mu\nu} = \eta_{\mu\nu}$ . Curvature arises from the spatial variation of  $R(x)$ .

## 2.4 The Spin Connection

To define covariant derivatives of the rotor field, we introduce the *spin connection*  $\Omega_\mu(x)$ , a bivector-valued one-form, through

$$\nabla_\mu R \equiv \partial_\mu R + \frac{1}{2}\Omega_\mu R. \quad (2.9)$$

The spin connection acts on vectors through

$$\nabla_\mu e_a = \partial_\mu e_a + \frac{1}{2}\Omega_\mu e_a - e_a \frac{1}{2}\Omega_\mu = \Omega_{\mu a}{}^b e_b, \quad (2.10)$$

where  $\Omega_{\mu ab} = e_{a\mu;\nu} e_b^\nu$  are the connection coefficients.

We impose the *torsion-free condition* (Levi-Civita connection):

$$T^\mu \equiv de^\mu + \Omega^{\mu\nu} \wedge e_\nu = 0, \quad (2.11)$$

which determines  $\Omega_\mu$  uniquely in terms of the tetrad  $e_a$ . This condition ensures compatibility between the spin connection and the metric structure.

## 2.5 Curvature as Rotor Density

The *curvature* of space-time is measured by the field strength of the spin connection. Define the curvature bivector field:

$$F_{\mu\nu} \equiv \partial_\mu \Omega_\nu - \partial_\nu \Omega_\mu + \frac{1}{2}[\Omega_\mu, \Omega_\nu], \quad (2.12)$$

where the commutator  $[\Omega_\mu, \Omega_\nu] = \Omega_\mu \Omega_\nu - \Omega_\nu \Omega_\mu$  represents the nonabelian structure of the Lorentz group.

This curvature can be interpreted as the *density of rotor rotation*: if we parallel transport the rotor  $R$  around an infinitesimal loop with area element  $dx^\mu \wedge dx^\nu$ , the accumulated rotation is proportional to  $F_{\mu\nu}$ .

The Riemann curvature tensor in coordinate-free notation is recovered as

$$R_{\mu\nu ab} = \langle F_{\mu\nu} \gamma_a \wedge \gamma_b \rangle_0, \quad (2.13)$$

and the Ricci tensor and scalar curvature follow by contraction:

$$R_{\mu\nu} = R_{\mu\lambda\nu}{}^\lambda, \quad R = g^{\mu\nu} R_{\mu\nu}. \quad (2.14)$$

## 3 The Variational Principle and Field Equations

### 3.1 The Palatini Action

The gravitational dynamics follows from the Palatini formulation expressed in geometric algebra. The total action consists of two parts:

$$S_{\text{total}}[e, \Omega, R, \Phi] = S_{\text{grav}}[e, \Omega] + S_{\text{rotor}}[R, \Phi], \quad (3.1)$$

where  $S_{\text{grav}}$  describes pure gravity and  $S_{\text{rotor}}$  describes matter fields including the rotor dynamics. The gravitational action in geometric algebra form is

$$S_{\text{grav}}[e, \Omega] = \frac{1}{2\kappa} \int \langle e \wedge e \wedge F \rangle d^4x, \quad (3.2)$$

where  $\kappa = 8\pi G/c^4$  is the Einstein constant,  $e = e_a dx^\mu$  is the tetrad one-form, and  $F = F_{\mu\nu} dx^\mu \wedge dx^\nu$  is the curvature two-form defined in equation (2.12).

The rotor matter action takes the form

$$S_{\text{rotor}}[R, \Phi] = \int \left[ \frac{\rho}{2} \langle (\nabla_\mu R) \widetilde{\nabla^\mu R} \rangle_0 - V(R, \Phi) \right] \sqrt{-g} d^4x, \quad (3.3)$$

where  $\rho$  is a coupling constant with dimensions of  $(\text{length})^{-2}$ ,  $V(R, \Phi)$  is a potential depending on the rotor field and other matter fields  $\Phi$ , and  $\nabla_\mu R$  is the covariant derivative defined in equation (2.9).

### 3.2 Variational Field Equations

We now derive the field equations by varying the total action with respect to the independent fields  $\Omega_\mu$ ,  $e_a$ , and  $R$ .

**(i) Variation by  $\Omega_\mu$ :** Requiring  $\delta S_{\text{grav}}/\delta \Omega_\mu = 0$  yields the torsion-free condition

$$T^a = de^a + \Omega^a{}_b \wedge e^b = 0, \quad (3.4)$$

which determines the spin connection uniquely in terms of the tetrad. This is equivalent to equation (2.11) and ensures that  $\Omega_\mu$  is the Levi-Civita connection compatible with the metric.

(ii) **Variation by  $e_a$ :** Requiring  $\delta S_{\text{total}}/\delta e_a = 0$  yields

$$G_{ab} = \kappa T_{ab}, \quad (3.5)$$

where  $G_{ab} = R_{ab} - \frac{1}{2}\eta_{ab}R$  is the Einstein tensor in the tetrad basis, and

$$T_{ab} = \frac{\delta S_{\text{rotor}}}{\delta e^{ab}} \quad (3.6)$$

is the energy-momentum tensor of the rotor and matter fields. This is precisely Einstein's field equations.

(iii) **Variation by  $R$ :** Requiring  $\delta S_{\text{rotor}}/\delta R = 0$  yields the rotor field equation

$$\rho \nabla_\mu \nabla^\mu R - \frac{\partial V}{\partial \tilde{R}} = 0, \quad (3.7)$$

which governs the dynamics of the rotor field in the curved space-time determined by equations (3.4) and (3.5).

### 3.3 Einstein's Equations as an Effective Limit

Equation (3.5) shows that Einstein's field equations emerge directly from the variational principle applied to the Palatini action. General relativity is therefore not postulated but *derived* as the effective theory of the rotor-generated geometry.

The key insight is that the tetrad  $e_a(x) = R(x)\gamma_a\tilde{R}(x)$  depends on the rotor field  $R(x)$ , which in turn satisfies its own dynamical equation (3.7). In the limit where rotor gradients are small ( $|\nabla_\mu R| \ll 1$ ), the rotor field can be treated as a slowly-varying background, and the geometry becomes effectively classical. In this regime, Einstein's equations govern the metric structure.

However, when rotor gradients become large—near quantum scales or in regions of high phase coherence—equation (3.7) becomes dominant, and quantum effects modify the gravitational dynamics. This provides a natural bridge between classical and quantum regimes.

### 3.4 The Newtonian Limit

In the weak-field, slow-motion limit, we recover Newtonian gravity. Consider a static rotor field configuration with small deviations from flat space:  $R(x) = 1 + \frac{1}{2}B(x)$  where  $|B| \ll 1$ . The metric becomes

$$g_{00} \approx 1 + 2\Phi(x), \quad g_{ij} \approx -\delta_{ij}, \quad (3.8)$$

where  $\Phi(x)$  is the Newtonian gravitational potential.

Substituting into Einstein's equations (3.5) and keeping only leading-order terms, the 00-component yields

$$\nabla^2 \Phi = 4\pi G \rho_{\text{mass}}, \quad (3.9)$$

which is Poisson's equation for Newtonian gravity. Thus the rotor field formalism correctly reproduces Newtonian gravity in the appropriate limit.

### 3.5 Quantum Spinor Structures

In regions where the rotor field exhibits rapid oscillations in phase but not magnitude—that is,  $R(x, t) = \exp(\frac{1}{2}\phi(x, t)\hat{B})$  with  $\hat{B}^2 = -1$  constant—the rotor behaves as a quantum phase

factor. Restricting to a spinor subspace (a minimal left ideal of the geometric algebra), the field equation (3.7) takes the form

$$i\hbar \frac{\partial \psi}{\partial t} = \hat{H} \psi, \quad (3.10)$$

where  $\psi$  is the spinor wavefunction and  $\hat{H}$  the Hamiltonian operator derived from the rotor field dynamics. Thus quantum mechanics appears not as an independent axiom system, but as a consequence of high-frequency coherent oscillations of the rotor field.

This unification suggests that the wave-particle duality, the uncertainty principle, and quantum entanglement are geometric phenomena arising from the rotor field's phase structure.

## 4 Physical Interpretation and Observable Consequences

### 4.1 The Meaning of the Rotor Field

What is the physical nature of the bivector field  $B(x, t)$ ? In Einstein's theory, the metric  $g_{\mu\nu}$  is fundamental, and curvature arises from its variation. Here, the metric is derived from  $B$ , suggesting that  $B$  represents a more primitive aspect of space-time structure.

Consider a small region of space-time. The bivector  $B$  at a point encodes the infinitesimal rotation connecting the local frame to a reference frame. As we move from point to point,  $B$  changes, and this change—measured by  $\nabla B$ —generates curvature. Thus the rotor field represents the *local rotation state of space-time itself*.

In quantum mechanics, the phase of the wavefunction has no absolute meaning; only phase differences are observable. Similarly, the rotor field's absolute value may be unobservable, with only its gradients and curvature having physical significance. This aligns with the gauge principle: physics is invariant under local rotations  $R(x) \rightarrow S(x)R(x)$  where  $S(x)$  is an arbitrary spatially-varying rotor.

### 4.2 Gravitational Waves and Binary Systems

Consider two compact objects (neutron stars or black holes) in close orbit. In general relativity, their orbital motion generates gravitational waves—ripples in the metric propagating at the speed of light. In the rotor field theory, these waves correspond to propagating disturbances in  $B(x, t)$ .

When the objects possess significant angular momentum (spin), the orbital plane precesses. This precession introduces a modulation of the gravitational wave signal. The rotor field theory predicts that this modulation exhibits additional structure: sidebands at frequencies  $\omega \pm \Omega_{\text{prec}}$ , where  $\omega$  is the orbital frequency and  $\Omega_{\text{prec}}$  the precession rate. The amplitude of these sidebands depends on the coupling between the orbital angular momentum and the objects' spins—a quantity directly related to the bivector field's configuration.

Recent gravitational wave detections by LIGO and Virgo provide data against which this prediction can be tested. Systems with high effective spin parameter  $\chi_{\text{eff}}$  should exhibit stronger sideband signatures if the rotor field description is correct.

### 4.3 Quantum Interference and the Bivector Phase

In the double-slit experiment, an electron's wavefunction passes through both slits and interferes with itself, producing fringes on a screen. Standard quantum mechanics attributes this to the superposition principle. In the rotor field picture, the electron is associated with a region of coherent bivector oscillation. As this region splits (at the slits) and recombines, the relative phase

difference—determined by the line integral  $\int B \cdot dx$  along the two paths—produces constructive or destructive interference.

This interpretation suggests that quantum interference is a geometric effect, akin to parallel transport in curved space. The phase accumulated along a path depends on the bivector field configuration, just as in the Aharonov-Bohm effect the electromagnetic potential produces observable phase shifts.

## 5 Discussion

### 5.1 The Unity of Physical Law

We have shown that by postulating a bivector field  $B(x, t)$  as fundamental, both the curvature of space-time (general relativity) and the quantum behavior of matter emerge as different aspects of a single geometric structure. This suggests that the apparent dichotomy between gravity and quantum mechanics may be an artifact of our mathematical formulation rather than a deep physical reality.

Einstein sought a unified field theory throughout the latter part of his career, attempting to geometrize not only gravity but also electromagnetism. The present theory extends this program: the rotor field, through its bivector components, naturally encompasses electromagnetic phenomena (which are also described by bivectors—the Faraday tensor  $F_{\mu\nu}$ ) as well as gravitational and quantum effects.

### 5.2 Limitations and Open Questions

Several questions remain unanswered in this initial formulation:

**The constants  $\kappa$  and  $\rho$ .** These appear as phenomenological parameters in the actions (3.2) and (3.3). The Einstein constant  $\kappa = 8\pi G/c^4$  is determined experimentally, but the rotor coupling  $\rho$  and the potential  $V(R, \Phi)$  remain to be specified. Ideally, they should be derivable from deeper principles, perhaps related to the structure of the geometric algebra itself or to symmetry requirements.

**Strong-field regime.** Our derivation of Einstein’s equations from the rotor field dynamics relied on a perturbative expansion in  $\kappa B^2$ . Near black hole singularities or at the moment of the Big Bang, this expansion breaks down. A fully nonperturbative treatment is required.

**Cosmology.** What boundary conditions should be imposed on the bivector field at the beginning and end of cosmic time? Does the rotor field description offer insights into the initial singularity, dark energy, or the large-scale structure of the universe?

**Experimental precision.** The predicted sidebands in gravitational wave signals are small corrections to the dominant waveform. Detecting them requires high signal-to-noise ratios and careful statistical analysis. Future gravitational wave observatories with greater sensitivity will provide more definitive tests.

### 5.3 Philosophical Implications

If space-time geometry and quantum mechanics both arise from the rotor field, what is the ontological status of this field? Is it a physical substance filling space, or merely a mathematical device for calculating observables?

One might argue, following Einstein’s own view, that the field is as real as any observable phenomenon. The electromagnetic field, initially introduced by Maxwell as a theoretical construct,

is now regarded as physically existing, capable of carrying energy and momentum. Similarly, the rotor field may be considered a fundamental constituent of reality.

Alternatively, one might adopt an instrumentalist position: the rotor field is a useful formalism, and the question of its "reality" is metaphysical rather than physical. What matters is that it correctly predicts experimental outcomes.

## 6 Concluding Remarks

In this paper, we have developed a geometric framework for unifying general relativity and quantum mechanics through the concept of a rotor field. The main results are:

1. A bivector field  $B(x, t)$  defined in the geometric algebra of space-time can generate both the metric tensor (through equation (2.8)) and quantum spinor structures.
2. From a variational principle applied to the Palatini action (3.2), we derived field equations (3.5) and (3.7) from which Einstein's equations emerge as an effective limit.
3. Quantum mechanics emerges as the high-frequency oscillation regime of the rotor field, without requiring separate quantization postulates.
4. The theory predicts observable deviations from general relativity in systems with strong rotational coupling, testable through gravitational wave observations.

The framework is in its nascent stage. Much work remains to develop the full implications, compute detailed predictions, and compare with experiment. If future observations confirm the distinctive signatures of the rotor field—particularly in gravitational wave data from spinning binary systems—this would provide strong evidence for the geometric algebra approach to quantum gravity.

Whether or not the rotor field hypothesis proves correct in detail, the exercise demonstrates the value of seeking unification through geometry. Einstein's profound insight—that gravity is the curvature of space-time—may extend further than he imagined, encompassing not only the large-scale structure of the cosmos but also the quantum realm of atoms and particles.

*The author hopes that this work, however imperfect, may contribute to the ongoing quest for a unified understanding of physical law.*

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## A Calculation of the Ricci Tensor

We derive the connection between the bivector field  $B(x)$  and the Ricci curvature  $R_{\mu\nu}$ . Starting from the induced metric

$$g_{\mu\nu} = \eta_{\mu\nu} + \kappa \langle e_\mu B^2 e_\nu \rangle_0, \quad (\text{A.1})$$



the Christoffel symbols to first order in  $\kappa$  are

$$\Gamma_{\mu\nu}^{\lambda} = \frac{\kappa}{2} \eta^{\lambda\rho} [\partial_{\mu} \langle e_{\nu} B^2 e_{\rho} \rangle_0 + \partial_{\nu} \langle e_{\mu} B^2 e_{\rho} \rangle_0 - \partial_{\rho} \langle e_{\mu} B^2 e_{\nu} \rangle_0]. \quad (\text{A.2})$$

Using the product rule and the relation  $\partial_{\mu}(B^2) = 2B\partial_{\mu}B$ , the Riemann tensor to leading order becomes

$$R_{\sigma\mu\nu}^{\rho} = \kappa^2 [\partial_{\mu} \langle \partial_{\sigma} B e_{\nu} B \rangle_0 - \partial_{\nu} \langle \partial_{\sigma} B e_{\mu} B \rangle_0] + O(\kappa^3). \quad (\text{A.3})$$

Contracting to obtain the Ricci tensor:

$$R_{\mu\nu} = R_{\mu\lambda\nu}^{\lambda} = \kappa^2 \langle \partial_{\mu} B \partial_{\nu} B \rangle_0 + O(\kappa^3). \quad (\text{A.4})$$

This shows explicitly how curvature arises from variations of the bivector field.

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