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SOME NEW IDENTITIES FOR THE SECOND COVARIANT DERIVATIVE OF THE CURVATURE TENSOR

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Abstract. In this paper, we have studied the second covariant derivative of Riemannian curvature tensor. Some new identities for the second covariant derivative have been given. Namely, identities obtained by cyclic sum with respect to three indices have been given. In the first case, two curvature tensor indices and one covariant derivative index participate in the cyclic sum, while in the second case one curvature tensor index and two covariant derivative indices participate in the cyclic sum.

Keywords: covariant derivative, curvature tensor, Riemannian manifold, second order identity

1. Introduction

The Riemannian curvature tensor R_{jmn}^i is very important in Riemannian manifold, especially when studying the theory of general relativity and quantum gravity (see [1, 8, 23]). Knowledge of the properties of curvature tensor is of great importance when studying the manifolds mentioned. Some other geometric object can be defined using curvature tensor, for example Ricci curvature tensor, scalar curvature, Weyl tensor, etc. In the articles [2, 3, 20], the curvature tensor was studied at various mappings and transformations (see also the monographs [4] and [7]).

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Initially, the idea was to use three indices in cyclic sum, and thus some of the properties of the Riemannian curvature tensor were proved (the first and the second Bianchi identities). The idea of a cyclic sum was continued in the paper [6], but in the summation four indices were used: two indices of curvature tensor and two indices of covariant derivative. In the present aricle we have given the new identities for cyclic summing of the second covariant derivatives with respect to three indices. We will see that one of these identities implies Lovelock differential identity.

2. Preliminaries

Let us consider the Riemannian manifold (\mathcal{M}_N, g) , where \mathcal{M}_N is N-dimensional manifold and g is a symmetric metric tensor. The Christoffel symbols of the first kind $\Gamma_{i\cdot jk}$ and the Christoffel symbols of the second kind Γ_{jk}^i of Riemannian manifold are defined as

(2.1)
$$\Gamma_{i \cdot jk} = \frac{1}{2} \left(g_{ij,k} - g_{jk,i} + g_{ki,j} \right),$$

(2.2)
$$\Gamma^{i}_{jk} = g^{ip} \Gamma_{p \cdot jk} = \frac{1}{2} g^{ip} \left(g_{pj,k} - g_{jk,p} + g_{kp,j} \right),$$

where g_{ij} and g^{ij} is the covariant and contravariant metric tensor, respectively. Hereinafter, the coma (,) denotes partial derivative.

In the general case, the partial derivative of a tensor is not always a tensor, and therefore the term covariant derivative is introduced. We will use the semicolon (;) for a covariant derivative in a Riemannian manifold. The covariant derivative with respect to the Christoffel symbols Γ^i_{jk} is defined as

$$(2.3) \quad t^{i_1\dots i_A}_{j_1\dots j_B;k} = t^{i_1\dots i_A}_{j_1\dots j_B,k} + \sum_{p=1}^A t^{i_1\dots i_{\alpha-1}pi_{\alpha+1}\dots i_A}_{j_1\dots j_B} \Gamma^{i_\alpha}_{pk} - \sum_{p=1}^B t^{i_1\dots i_A}_{j_1\dots j_{\alpha-1}pj_{\alpha+1}\dots j_B} \Gamma^p_{j_\alpha k},$$

where $t_{j_1...j_B}^{i_1...i_A}$ is an arbitrary tensor. The Riemannian curvature tensor R_{jmn}^i of a Riemannian manifold is obtained based on Ricci identity (2.4)

$$t_{j_1\dots j_B;mn}^{i_1\dots i_A} - t_{j_1\dots j_B;nm}^{i_1\dots i_A} = \sum_{p=1}^A t_{j_1\dots j_B}^{i_1\dots i_{\alpha-1}pi_{\alpha+1}\dots i_A} R_{pmn}^{i_\alpha} - \sum_{p=1}^B t_{j_1\dots j_{\alpha-1}pj_{\alpha+1}\dots j_B}^{i_1\dots i_A} R_{j_\alpha mn}^{p},$$

where

(2.5)
$$R^i_{jmn} = \Gamma^i_{jm,n} - \Gamma^i_{jn,m} + \Gamma^p_{jm}\Gamma^i_{pn} - \Gamma^p_{jn}\Gamma^i_{pm}.$$

Also, the Riemannian curvature tensor can be expressed in the form

(2.6)
$$R^i_{jmn} = \Gamma^i_{j[m,n]} + \Gamma^p_{j[m} \Gamma^i_{n]p},$$

where [ij] denotes alternation without division with respect to the indices *i* and *j* (for example, $a_{[ij]} = a_{ij} - a_{ji}$). For Ricci identity, we will use the notation below

(2.7)
$$t_{j_1...j_B;mn}^{i_1...i_A} - t_{j_1...j_B;nm}^{i_1...i_A} = t_{j_1...j_B;[mn]}^{i_1...i_A}.$$

The Riemannian curvature tensor has the following properties

- 1. $R^i_{jmn} = -R^i_{jnm}$, (anti-symmetry)
- 2. $Cycl R^i_{jmn} = 0$, (the first Bianchi identity)
- 3. $Cycl\,R^i_{jmn;u}=0,\,({\rm the\ second\ Bianchi\ identity})$

where Cycl is the cyclic sum by indices j, m, n.

The covariant curvature tensor of a Riemannian manifold is defined as

and has the following properties:

- 1. $R_{ijmn} = -R_{jimn} = -R_{ijnm}$,
- 2. $R_{ijmn} = R_{mnij}$,
- $3. \ \mathop{Cycl}_{\alpha\beta\gamma} R_{ijmn} = 0, \ \{\alpha,\beta,\gamma\} \subset \{i,j,m,n\},$
- 4. $Cycl_{mnu} R_{ijmn;u} = 0.$

Oswald Veblen showed that the following identity

(2.9)
$$R_{jmn;u}^{i} - R_{mju;n}^{i} + R_{unm;j}^{i} - R_{nuj;m}^{i} = 0,$$

is correct [21].

Theorem 2.1. [6] For the curvature tensor R^i_{imn} the identity

$$(2.10) \qquad Cycl R^i_{jmn;uv} = Cycl R^i_{jpm} R^p_{nuv} - R^i_{pmu} R^p_{jnv} + R^i_{pnv} R^p_{jmu}.$$

is valid.

By contracting by indices i and v in equation (2.10), one obtains the Lovelock differential identity (see [6])

(2.11)
$$Cycl R^{p}_{jmn;pu} = - Cycl R^{p}_{jmn} R_{pu}$$

where R_{jm} is the Ricci curvature tensor, i.e. $R_{jm} = R_{jmp}^p$.

Theorem 2.2. [22] The covariant curvature tensor of a Riemannian manifold satisfies the identity

(2.12)
$$R_{ijmn;[uv]} + R_{mnuv;[ij]} + R_{uvij;[mn]} = 0.$$

Definition 2.1. The Riemannian manifold (\mathcal{M}_N, g) is symmetric Riemannian manifold if a curvature tensor satisfies

(2.13)
$$R^i_{jmn;u} = 0.$$

The Riemannian manifold (\mathcal{M}_N,g) is semi-symmetric if a curvature tensor satisfies

(2.14)
$$R^i_{jmn;[uv]} = 0.$$

3. Results

In this section, we will present new results for the cyclic sum of the second covariant derivatives of Riemannian curvature tensor.

Let us consider the second Bianchi identity

By covariant derivative of this equation by index v we get the equation

In the same way, we have the following identities

(3.3)
$$Cycl R^{i}_{jmu;vn} = 0, \quad Cycl R^{i}_{jmv;nu} = 0.$$

Summing the obtained expressions (3.2) and (3.3), we have equation

$$(3.4) 0 = Cycl R^{i}_{jmn;uv} + Cycl R^{i}_{jmu;vn} + Cycl R^{i}_{jmv;nu}$$
$$= R^{i}_{jmn;uv} + R^{i}_{jnu;mv} + R^{i}_{jum;nv} + R^{i}_{jmu;vn} + R^{i}_{jmu;vn} + R^{i}_{juv;mn} + R^{i}_{jvm;un}$$
$$+ R^{i}_{jmv;nu} + R^{i}_{jvn;mu} + R^{i}_{jnm;vu}.$$

From here, using every third addend from the previous equation, we get the identity

(3.5)
$$Cycl R^{i}_{jmn;uv} + Cycl R^{i}_{jnu;mv} - Cycl R^{i}_{jmn;vu} = 0,$$

i.e.

(3.6)
$$Cycl\left(R^{i}_{jmn;[uv]} + R^{i}_{jnu;mv}\right) = 0.$$

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If we consider the Ricci identity (2.4) for $R^i_{jmn;[uv]}$, from equation (3.6) we obtain

$$(3.7) \quad Cycl\left(R^{p}_{jmn}R^{i}_{puv} - R^{i}_{pmn}R^{p}_{juv} - R^{i}_{jpn}R^{p}_{muv} - R^{i}_{jmp}R^{p}_{nuv} + R^{i}_{jnu;mv}\right) = 0$$

Since that $Cycl_{nuv} R^p_{nuv} = 0$ (the first Bianchi identity), it follows

$$(3.8) \qquad Cycl R^{i}_{jnu;mv} = -Cycl \left(R^{p}_{jmn} R^{i}_{puv} - R^{i}_{pmn} R^{p}_{juv} - R^{i}_{jpn} R^{p}_{muv} \right).$$

i.e.

(3.9)
$$Cycl R^{i}_{jnu;mv} = Cycl \left(R^{i}_{pmn} R^{p}_{juv} + R^{i}_{jpn} R^{p}_{muv} - R^{p}_{jmn} R^{i}_{puv} \right).$$

After changing the indices $n \to m, u \to n, m \to u$, we obtain

$$(3.10) \qquad \qquad Cycl R^i_{jmn;uv} = Cycl \left(R^i_{pum}R^p_{jnv} + R^i_{jpm}R^p_{unv} - R^p_{jum}R^i_{pnv}\right)$$

and with this we have proved the following theorem.

Theorem 3.1. Let (\mathcal{M}_N, g) be a Riemannian manifold. The Riemannian curvature tensor satisfies the identity

(3.11)
$$Cycl R^{i}_{jmn;uv} = Cycl \left(R^{i}_{pum}R^{p}_{jnv} + R^{i}_{jpm}R^{p}_{unv} - R^{p}_{jum}R^{i}_{pnv}\right),$$

where Cycl is the cyclic sum with respect to the indices m, n, v.

Corollary 3.1. Contraction by indices i and u in equation (3.11) gives the Lovelock differential identity (2.11).

Proof.

$$Cycl R^{p}_{jmn;pv} = Cycl \left(R^{p}_{spm}R^{s}_{jnv} + R^{p}_{jsm}R^{s}_{pnv} - R^{s}_{jpm}R^{p}_{snv}\right)$$

$$= Cycl \left(-R^{p}_{smp}R^{s}_{jnv}\right) + Cycl \left(R^{p}_{jsm}R^{s}_{pnv} - R^{s}_{jpm}R^{p}_{snv}\right)$$

$$= -Cycl R_{sm}R^{s}_{jnv} + Cycl \left(R^{p}_{jsm}R^{s}_{pnv} - R^{p}_{jsm}R^{s}_{pnv}\right)$$

$$= -Cycl R_{sm}R^{s}_{jnv},$$

$$(3.12)$$

i.e.

If we add an expression $- Cycl R^i_{jnu;vm} = 0$ to the equation (3.6), then we have the following consequence.

Corollary 3.2. The Riemannian curvature tensor satisfy the identity

(3.14)
$$Cycl\left(R^{i}_{jmn;[uv]} + R^{i}_{jnu;[mv]}\right) = 0,$$

where [ij] denotes alternation without division with respect to the indices i and j.

After applying Ricci identity, the previous equation takes the form

(3.15)
$$Cycl(R_{jmn}^{p}R_{puv}^{i} - R_{pmn}^{i}R_{juv}^{p} - R_{jpn}^{i}R_{muv}^{p} + R_{jnu}^{p}R_{pmv}^{i} - R_{jnu}^{i}R_{jmv}^{p} - R_{jpu}^{i}R_{nmv}^{p} - R_{jnp}^{i}R_{umv}^{p}) = 0.$$

Based on Theorem (3.1) we have the consequence.

Corollary 3.3. In a semi-symmetric Riemannian manifold the following identity

(3.16)
$$Cycl\left(R^{i}_{pum}R^{p}_{jnv} + R^{i}_{jpm}R^{p}_{unv} - R^{p}_{jum}R^{i}_{pnv}\right) = 0.$$

holds.

 $\it Proof.$ Given the fact that in semi-symmetric Riemannian manifold the following is valid

i.e.

$$(3.18) \qquad \qquad Cycl R^{i}_{jmn;uv} = Cycl R^{i}_{jmn;vu},$$

and since $Cycl R^i_{jmn;vu} = 0$ (the second Bianchi identity), it follows that the left hand side of equation (3.11) is equal to zero, thus completing the proof. \Box

Corollary 3.4. The equation (3.16) is valid in symmetric Riemannian manifold.

Below we present the result obtained by cyclic sum of the second covariant derivatives of curvature tensor, when one curvature tensor index and two covariant derivative indices participate in the cyclic sum. **Theorem 3.2.** Let (\mathcal{M}_N, g) be a Riemannian manifold. The Riemannian curvature tensor satisfy the following identity

$$(3.19) \qquad Cycl R^{i}_{jmn;uv} = Cycl \left(C^{i}_{jmnuv} - R^{i}_{jmn,uv} + R^{i}_{jmn,p} \Gamma^{p}_{uv} + R^{p}_{jmn} \Gamma^{i}_{uv,p} - R^{p}_{jmn} R^{i}_{uvp} + R^{i}_{psn} B^{sp}_{muvj} + R^{i}_{pms} B^{sp}_{nuvj} + R^{i}_{jps} B^{sp}_{nuvm} + \sum_{\beta=1}^{3} \left(R^{i}_{j_{1}pj_{3}} A^{p}_{j_{\beta}uv} - R^{p}_{j_{1}sj_{3}} B^{si}_{j_{\beta}uvp} \right) \right),$$

where

$$\begin{split} A^{i}_{jmn} &= -\Gamma^{i}_{jm,n} + \Gamma^{p}_{jn}\Gamma^{i}_{pm} + \Gamma^{p}_{mn}\Gamma^{i}_{pj}, \\ B^{pi}_{jmnu} &= \Gamma^{p}_{jm}\Gamma^{i}_{nu} + \Gamma^{p}_{jn}\Gamma^{i}_{mu}, \\ C^{i}_{jmnuv} &= C^{i}_{jmnu,v} + C^{p}_{jmnu}\Gamma^{i}_{pv} - C^{i}_{pmnu}\Gamma^{p}_{jv} - C^{i}_{jpnu}\Gamma^{p}_{mv} - C^{i}_{jmpu}\Gamma^{p}_{nv} - C^{i}_{jmnp}\Gamma^{p}_{uv}, \\ C^{i}_{jmnu} &= R^{i}_{jmn,u} + R^{i}_{jmu,n}, \ j_{1} = j, \ j_{2} = m, \ j_{3} = n, \end{split}$$

and Cycl is the cyclic sum with respect to the indices n, u, v.

Proof. First, we have identity

$$Cycl R^{i}_{jmn;uv} = R^{i}_{jmn;uv} + R^{i}_{jmu;vn} + R^{i}_{jmv;nu}$$
$$= (R^{i}_{jmn;u})_{;v} + (R^{i}_{jmu;v})_{;n} + (R^{i}_{jmv;n})_{;u}.$$

Further, we get the following equation

$$\begin{split} & \left(R_{jmn;u}^{i}\right)_{;v} + \left(R_{jmu;v}^{i}\right)_{;n} + \left(R_{jmv;n}^{i}\right)_{;u} = \\ & = \left(R_{jmn;u}^{i}\right)_{,v} + R_{jmn;u}^{p}\Gamma_{pv}^{i} - R_{pmn;u}^{i}\Gamma_{jv}^{p} - R_{jpn;u}^{i}\Gamma_{mv}^{p} - R_{jmp;u}^{i}\Gamma_{nv}^{p} - R_{jmn;p}^{i}\Gamma_{uv}^{p} \\ & + \left(R_{jmu;v}^{i}\right)_{,n} + R_{jmu;v}^{p}\Gamma_{pn}^{i} - R_{pmu;v}^{i}\Gamma_{jn}^{p} - R_{jpu;v}^{i}\Gamma_{mn}^{p} - R_{jmp;v}^{i}\Gamma_{un}^{p} - R_{jmu;p}^{i}\Gamma_{vn}^{p} \\ & + \left(R_{jmv;n}^{i}\right)_{,u} + R_{jmv;n}^{p}\Gamma_{pu}^{i} - R_{pmv;n}^{i}\Gamma_{ju}^{p} - R_{jpv;n}^{i}\Gamma_{mu}^{p} - R_{jmv;n}^{i}\Gamma_{vu}^{p} - R_{jmv;p}^{i}\Gamma_{nu}^{p}. \end{split}$$

After developing the remaining covariant derivatives on the right hand side of equality and grouping expressions using basic operations for the Ricci calculus, we get

$$\begin{split} Cycl \ R^{i}_{jmn;uv} &= Cycl \left(R^{i}_{jmn,uv} + C^{p}_{jmnu} \Gamma^{i}_{pv} - C^{i}_{pmnu} \Gamma^{p}_{jv} - C^{i}_{jpnu} \Gamma^{p}_{mv} - C^{i}_{jmpu} \Gamma^{p}_{nv} \right. \\ &- R^{i}_{jmp,n} \Gamma^{p}_{uv} + R^{p}_{jmn} \Gamma^{i}_{uv,p} - R^{p}_{jmn} R^{i}_{uvp} + R^{i}_{pmn} A^{p}_{juv} + R^{i}_{jpn} A^{p}_{muv} \\ &+ R^{i}_{jmp} A^{p}_{nuv} - R^{p}_{smn} B^{si}_{juvp} - R^{p}_{jsn} B^{si}_{muvp} - R^{p}_{jms} B^{si}_{nuvp} + R^{i}_{psn} B^{sp}_{muvj} \\ &+ R^{i}_{pms} B^{sp}_{nuvj} + R^{i}_{jps} B^{sp}_{nuvm} \right), \end{split}$$

where

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$$\begin{aligned} A^{i}_{jmn} &= -\Gamma^{i}_{jm,n} + \Gamma^{p}_{jn}\Gamma^{i}_{pm} + \Gamma^{p}_{mn}\Gamma^{i}_{pj}, \quad B^{pi}_{jmnu} = \Gamma^{p}_{jm}\Gamma^{i}_{nu} + \Gamma^{p}_{jn}\Gamma^{i}_{mu}, \\ C^{i}_{jmnu} &= R^{i}_{jmn,u} + R^{i}_{jmu,n}. \end{aligned}$$

If we introduce notation

$$\begin{split} C^i_{jmnuv} &= C^i_{jmnu,v} + C^p_{jmnu} \Gamma^i_{pv} - C^i_{pmnu} \Gamma^p_{jv} - C^i_{jpnu} \Gamma^p_{mv} - C^i_{jmpu} \Gamma^p_{nv} - C^i_{jmnp} \Gamma^p_{uv}, \end{split}$$
 the previous equation takes the form

$$Cycl R^{i}_{jmn;uv} = Cycl \left(C^{i}_{jmnuv} - R^{i}_{jmu,nv} + C^{i}_{jmnp} \Gamma^{p}_{uv} - R^{i}_{jmp,n} \Gamma^{p}_{uv} + R^{p}_{jmn} \Gamma^{i}_{uv,p} - R^{p}_{jmn} R^{i}_{uvp} + R^{i}_{jmn} A^{p}_{juv} + R^{i}_{jpn} A^{p}_{muv} + R^{i}_{jmp} A^{p}_{nuv} - R^{p}_{smn} B^{si}_{juvp} - R^{p}_{jsn} B^{si}_{muvp} - R^{p}_{jms} B^{si}_{nuvp} + R^{i}_{jsn} B^{sp}_{muvj} + R^{i}_{jps} B^{sp}_{nuvj} + R^{i}_{jps} B^{sp}_{nuvj} + R^{i}_{jps} B^{sp}_{nuvj} - R^{p}_{jps} B^{si}_{nuvm} \right)$$

and, from here, after rearranging, we obtain identity (3.19). This ends the proof. \Box

4. Conclusion

The first part of the Results section was devoted to the result we obtained by cyclic sum with respect to two indices of curvature tensor and one index of covariant derivative, i.e. $Cycl R^i_{jmn;uv}$. Due to anti-symmetry property of Riemannian curvature tensor R^i_{jmn} , the result we got has a simple form. Following the identity (3.11) obtained, we also listed three consequences implied by Theorem 3.1. In the second part of Results section, we present the cyclic sum $Cycl R^i_{jmn;uv}$ over known quantities, i.e. Riemannian curvature tensor and Christoffel symbols of the second kind.

For further research, one can observe cyclic sum of the second covariant derivatives in other manifolds, as the curvature tensor is an interesting geometric object in other manifolds [25], as well as in studying various mappings and transformations in other manifolds (see [5, 7, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 24, 26, 27]).

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