

## FINSLER METRICS WITH SPECIAL LANDSBERG CURVATURE\*

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**Abstract** – In this paper, we study a class of Finsler metrics which contains the class of P-reducible and general relatively isotropic Landsberg metrics, as special cases. We prove that on a compact Finsler manifold, this class of metrics is nothing other than Randers metrics. Finally, we study this class of Finsler metrics with scalar flag curvature and find a condition under which these metrics reduce to Randers metric.

**Keywords** – Randers metric, flag curvature, Landsberg metric, P-reducible

### 1. INTRODUCTION

In Finsler geometry, there are several important non-Riemannian quantities. Let  $(M, F)$  be a Finsler manifold. The second derivatives of  $\frac{1}{2}F_x^2$  at  $y \in T_xM_0$  is an inner product  $g_y$  on  $T_xM$ . The third order derivatives of  $\frac{1}{2}F_x^2$  at  $y \in T_xM_0$  is a symmetric trilinear form  $C_y$  on  $T_xM$ . We call  $g_y$  and  $C_y$  the fundamental form and the Cartan torsion, respectively. The rate of change of the Cartan torsion along geodesics is the Landsberg curvature  $L_y$  on  $T_xM$  for any  $y \in T_xM_0$ . Set  $J_y := \sum_{i=1}^n L_y(e_i, e_i, \cdot)$ , where  $\{e_i\}$  is an orthonormal basis for  $(T_xM, g_y)$ .  $J_y$  is called the mean Landsberg curvature.  $F$  is said to be Landsbergian if  $L = 0$ , and weakly Landsbergian if  $J = 0$  [1, 2].

Various interesting special forms of Cartan and Landsberg tensors have been obtained by some Finslerians. The Finsler spaces having such special forms have been called C-reducible, P-reducible, general relatively isotropic Landsberg, and etc. In [3], Matsumoto introduced the notion of C-reducible Finsler metrics and proved that any Randers metric is C-reducible. Later on, Matsumoto-Hōjō proves that the converse is true too [4]. A Randers metric  $F = \alpha + \beta$  is just a Riemannian metric  $\alpha$  perturbed by a one form  $\beta$ . Randers metrics have important applications in both mathematics and physics [5]. As a generalization of C-reducible metrics, Matsumoto-Shimada introduced the notion of P-reducible metrics [6]. This class of Finsler metrics has some interesting physical means and contains Randers metrics as a special case.

In [7], Prasad introduced a new class of Finsler spaces which contains the notion of P-reducible and general relatively isotropic Landsberg spaces, as special cases. Let us put

$$L_{ijk} = \lambda C_{ijk} + a_i h_{jk} + a_j h_{ki} + a_k h_{ij}, \quad (1)$$

where  $\lambda = \lambda(x, y)$  and  $a_i = a_i(x, y)$  are scalar functions on TM and  $h_{ij} = g_{ij} - F^{-2} y_i y_j$  is the angular metric.  $\lambda$  and  $a_i$  are the homogeneous function of degree 1 and degree 0 with respect to  $y$ ,

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respectively. By definition, we have  $a_i y^i = 0$ . Therefore, the study of this class of Finsler spaces will enhance our understanding of the geometric meaning of Randers metrics. If  $a_i = 0$ , then  $F$  is reduce to a general isotropic Landsberg metric and if  $\lambda = 0$ , then  $F$  is a P-reducible metric.

Let  $F$  be a Landsberg metric satisfied in (1). Then  $F$  is a C-reducible metric. In a 1974 paper [3], Matsumoto showed that  $F = \alpha + \beta$  is a Landsberg metric if and only if  $\beta$  is parallel. In a 1977 paper [8], M. Hashiguchi and I. Ichijyo showed that for a Randers metric  $F = \alpha + \beta$ , if  $\beta$  is parallel, then  $F$  is a Berwald metric. Then every Landsberg metric satisfied in (1) is Berwaldian.

In this paper, we prove that on a compact Finsler manifold, this class of metrics reduces to the class of Randers metrics. More precisely, we prove the following.

**Theorem 1.** Let  $(M, F)$  be a compact Finsler manifold with dimension  $n \geq 3$ . Suppose that  $F$  satisfy in the equation (1). Then  $F$  is a Randers metric.

Then we study this class of Finsler metrics with scalar flag curvature and find a condition under which these metrics reduce to a Randers metric. More precisely, we prove the following.

**Theorem 2.** Let  $(M, F)$  be a Finsler manifold of scalar flag curvature  $K$  with dimension  $n \geq 3$ . Suppose that  $F$  satisfy in the equation (1) with  $\lambda_i y^i + \lambda^2 + K \neq 0$ . Then  $F$  is a Randers metric.

There are many connections in Finsler geometry [9-11]. Throughout this paper, we set the Berwald connection on Finsler manifolds. The h- and v- covariant derivatives of a Finsler tensor field are denoted by " $|$ " and " $\cdot$ " respectively.

## 2. PRELIMINARIES

Let  $M$  be an n-dimensional  $C^\infty$  manifold. Denote by  $T_x M$  the tangent space at  $x \in M$ , by  $TM = \bigcup_{x \in M} T_x M$  the tangent bundle of  $M$ , and by  $TM_0 := TM \setminus \{0\}$  the slit tangent bundle of  $M$ . A Finsler metric on  $M$  is a function  $F : TM \rightarrow [0, \infty)$  which has the following properties: (i)  $F$  is  $C^\infty$  on  $TM_0$ ; (ii)  $F$  is positively 1-homogeneous on the fibers of tangent bundle  $TM$ , and (iii) for each  $y \in T_x M$ , the following quadratic form  $g_y$  on  $T_x M$  is positive definite,

$$g_y(u, v) := \frac{1}{2} [F^2(y + su + tv)]_{s,t=0}, \quad u, v \in T_x M.$$

Let  $(M, F)$  be a Finsler manifold of dimension n. Fix a local frame  $\{b_i\}$  for  $TM$ . The Finsler metric  $F = F(y^i b_i)$  is a function of  $(x^i, y^i)$ . Let

$$C_{ijk}(x, y) := \frac{1}{4} [F^2]_{y^i y^j y^k}(x, y).$$

For a non-zero vector  $y = y^i b_i \in T_x M$ , the Cartan torsion  $C_y$  on  $T_x M$  is a trilinear symmetric form on  $T_x M$  defined by  $C_y(b_i, b_j, b_k) := C_{ijk}(x, y)$ . The mean Cartan torsion  $I_y$  is a linear form on  $y = y^i b_i \in T_x M$  defined by

$$I_y(b_i) = I_i(x, y) := g^{jk}(x, y) C_{ijk}(x, y).$$

The spray of  $F$  is a vector field on  $TM_0$ . In a standard local coordinate system  $(x^i, y^i)$  in  $TM$ , the spray is given by

$$G = y^i \frac{\partial}{\partial x^i} - 2G^i(x, y) \frac{\partial}{\partial y^i}$$

where  $G^i(y) := \frac{1}{4} g^{il}(x, y) \{ [F^2]_{x^k y^l} y^k - [F]_{x^l}^2(y) \}$ . A Finsler metric  $F$  is called a Berwald metric if  $G^i(x, y) := \frac{1}{2} \Gamma^i_{jk}(x) y^j y^k$  are quadratic in  $y \in T_x M$ . It is known that every Berwald metric has the same geodesics as a Riemannian metric [12]. The local structures of Berwald metrics have been completely determined by Z. I. Szabo [13]. Thus Berwald metrics can be identified with Riemannian metrics at geodesic level.

Let  $c(t)$  be a  $C^\infty$  curve and  $U(t) = U^i(t) \frac{\partial}{\partial x^i} |_{c(t)}$  be a vector field along  $c$ . Define the covariant derivative of  $U(t)$  along  $c$  by

$$D_{\dot{c}} U(t) := \left\{ \frac{dU^i}{dt}(t) + U^j(t) \frac{\partial G^i}{\partial y^j}(c(t), \dot{c}(t)) \right\} \frac{\partial}{\partial x^i} |_{c(t)}$$

$U(t)$  is said to be linearly parallel if  $D_{\dot{c}} U(t) = 0$ .

For a vector  $y \in T_x M$ , define

$$L_y(u, v, w) := \frac{d}{dt} [C_{\dot{\sigma}(t)}(U(t), V(t), W(t))] |_{t=0},$$

$$J_y(u) := \frac{d}{dt} [I_{\dot{\sigma}(t)}(U(t))] |_{t=0},$$

where  $\sigma(t)$  is the geodesic with  $\sigma(0) = x$ ,  $\dot{\sigma}(0) = y$  and  $U(t), V(t), W(t)$  are linearly parallel vector fields along  $\sigma$  with  $U(0) = u, V(0) = v, W(0) = w$ . We call  $L_y$  the Landsberg curvature. The Landsberg curvature measures the rate of change of the Cartan torsion along the geodesics. Let  $L_{ijk}(x, y) := L_y(b_i, b_j, b_k)$  and  $J_i(x, y) := J_y(b_i)$ . We have that  $J_i(x, y) = g^{jk}(x, y) L_{ijk}(x, y)$ . Thus we call  $J_y$  the mean Landsberg curvature [1].

$L/C$  is regarded as the relative rate of change of  $C$  along the geodesics. A Finsler metric  $F$  on a manifold  $M$  is said to be a general relatively isotropic Landsberg metric if  $L = \mu C$ , where  $\mu$  is a positively 1-homogeneous scalar function on  $TM_0$  [14]. The generalized Funk metrics on the unit ball  $B^n \subset R^n$  satisfy  $L+cFC=0$  for some constant  $c \neq 0$  [15]. To the same way,  $J/I$  is regarded as the relative rate of change of  $I$  along the geodesics and  $F$  is said to be a general relatively isotropic mean Landsberg metric if  $J = \mu I$  [16].

For a non-zero vector  $y \in T_x M$ , the tensor  $T$  induces a multi-linear form  $T_y(u, \dots, v) := T_{i \dots k}(x, y) u^i \dots v^k$  on  $T_x M$ . Let  $\sigma(t)$  denote the geodesic with  $\dot{\sigma}(0) = y$ . We have

$$\frac{d}{dt} [T_{\dot{\sigma}(t)}(U(t), \dots, W(t))] = T_{i \dots k|m}(\sigma(t), \dot{\sigma}(t)) \dot{\sigma}^m(t) U^i(t) \dots W^k(t)$$

where  $U(t) = U^i(t) \frac{\partial}{\partial x^i} |_{c(t)}, \dots, W(t) = W^k(t) \frac{\partial}{\partial x^k} |_{c(t)}$  are linearly parallel vector fields along  $\sigma$ . Thus the  $L$ -curvature  $L = L_{ijk} w^i \otimes w^j \otimes w^k$  and the  $J$ -curvature  $J = J_i w^i$  are given by

$$L_{ijk} = C_{ijk|m} y^m, \quad J_i = I_{im} y^m. \tag{2}$$

Let

$$M_{ijk} := C_{ijk} - \frac{1}{n+1} \{ I_i h_{jk} + I_j h_{ki} + I_k h_{ij} \}.$$

We obtain a symmetric trilinear form  $M_y$  on  $T_x M$  defined by  $M_y(b_i, b_j, b_k) := M_{ijk}(x, y)$ . This

quantity is introduced by M. Matsumoto [17]. Thus we call  $\bar{M}_y$  the Matsumoto torsion. Matsumoto proves that every Randers metric satisfies that  $\bar{M}_y = 0$ . Later on, Matsumoto-Hōjō proves that the converse is true too.

**Lemma 1.** ([17][4]) A Finsler metric  $F$  on a manifold of dimension  $n \geq 3$  is a Randers metric if and only if  $\bar{M}_y = 0, \forall y \in TM_0$ .

Finsler metrics in this paper are always assumed to be regular in all directions. If this regularity is not imposed, Matsumoto-Hōjō's theorem says that  $F$  has vanishing Matsumoto torsion if and only if  $F = \alpha + \beta$  or  $F = \frac{\alpha^2}{\beta}$ , where  $\alpha$  is a Riemannian metric and  $\beta$  is a 1-form on  $M$ .

Define  $\bar{M}_y : T_x M \otimes T_x M \otimes T_x M \rightarrow R$  by  $\bar{M}_y(u, v, w) := \bar{M}_{ijk}(y) u^i v^j w^k$  where

$$\bar{M}_{ijk} := L_{ijk} - \frac{1}{n+1} \{J_i h_{jk} + J_j h_{ki} + J_k h_{ij}\}.$$

A Finsler metric  $F$  is said to be P-reducible if  $\bar{M}_y = 0$ . The notion of P-reducibility was given by Matsumoto-Shimada [6]. It is obvious that every C-reducible metric is a P-reducible metric.

The Riemann curvature  $K_y = K_k^i dx^k \otimes \frac{\partial}{\partial x^i} |_x : T_x M \rightarrow T_x M$  is a family of linear maps on tangent spaces, defined by

$$K_k^i = 2 \frac{\partial G^i}{\partial x^k} - y^j \frac{\partial^2 G^i}{\partial x^j \partial y^k} + 2G^j \frac{\partial^2 G^i}{\partial y^j \partial y^k} - \frac{\partial G^i}{\partial y^j} \frac{\partial G^j}{\partial y^k}.$$

For a flag  $P = \text{span}\{y, u\} \subset T_x M$  with flagpole  $y$ , the flag curvature  $K = K(P, y)$  is defined by

$$K(P, y) := \frac{g_y(u, K_y(u))}{g_y(y, y)g_y(u, u) - g_y(y, u)^2},$$

where  $g_y = g_{ij}(x, y) dx^i \otimes dx^j$ . When  $F$  is Riemannian,  $K = K(P)$  is independent of  $y \in P$ , which is just the sectional curvature of  $P$  in Riemannian geometry. We say that a Finsler metric  $F$  is of scalar curvature if for any  $y \in T_x M$ , the flag curvature  $K = K(x, y)$  is a scalar function on the slit tangent bundle  $TM_0$ . If  $K = \text{constant}$ , then  $F$  is said to be of constant flag curvature.

### 3. PROOF OF THEOREM 1

In this section, we are going to prove a generalization of Theorem 1. First, we define the norm of the Matsumoto torsion at  $x \in M$  by

$$\|M\|_x := \sup_{y, u, v, w \in T_x M_0} \frac{F(y) |\bar{M}_y(u, v, w)|}{\sqrt{g_y(u, u) g_y(v, v) g_y(w, w)}}.$$

**Theorem 3.** Let  $(M, F)$  be a complete Finsler manifold satisfied in equation (1) with dimension  $n \geq 3$ . Suppose that  $F$  has bounded Matsumoto torsion. Then  $F$  is a Randers metric.

**Proof:** We will first prove that the Matsumoto torsion vanishes. To prove this, we assume that the Matsumoto torsion  $\bar{M}_y(u, u, u) = M_{ijk}(x, y) u^i u^j u^k \neq 0$  for some  $y, u \in T_x M_0$  with  $F(x, y) = 1$ . Let  $\sigma(t)$  be the unit speed geodesic with  $\sigma(0) = x$  and  $\dot{\sigma}(0) = y$ . Let  $U(t)$  denote the linear parallel vector

field along  $\sigma$ , that is,  $D_\sigma U(t) = 0$ . From the above equation, we see that a linearly parallel vector field  $U(t)$  along  $\sigma$  linearly depends on its initial value  $U(t_0)$  at a point  $\sigma(t_0)$ .

Let

$$M(t) := M_\sigma(U(t), U(t), U(t)) = M_{ijk}(\sigma(t), \dot{\sigma}(t)) U^i(t) U^j(t) U^k(t).$$

We have

$$M'(t) = M_{ijk|p}(\sigma(t), \dot{\sigma}(t)) \dot{\sigma}^p(t) U^i(t) U^j(t) U^k(t)$$

Now we assume that  $F$  is satisfied in the equation (1):

$$L_{ijk} = \lambda C_{ijk} + a_i h_{jk} + a_j h_{ki} + a_k h_{ij}, \tag{3}$$

Contacting (3) with  $g^{ij}$  and using the relations  $g^{ij} h_{ij} = n - 1$  and  $g^{ij} (a_i h_{jk}) = g^{ij} (a_j h_{ik}) = a_k$  implies that

$$J_k = \lambda I_k + (n + 1) a_k. \tag{4}$$

Then

$$a_i = \frac{1}{n + 1} J_i - \frac{\lambda}{n + 1} I_i. \tag{5}$$

Putting (5) in (3) yields

$$\begin{aligned} L_{ijk} = & \lambda C_{ijk} + \frac{1}{n + 1} \{J_i h_{jk} + J_j h_{ki} + J_k h_{ij}\} \\ & - \frac{\lambda}{n + 1} \{I_i h_{jk} + I_j h_{ki} + I_k h_{ij}\}. \end{aligned} \tag{6}$$

By simplifying (6), we get

$$L_{ijk} - \frac{1}{n + 1} (J_i h_{jk} + J_j h_{ki} + J_k h_{ij}) = \lambda \{C_{ijk} - \frac{\lambda}{n + 1} (I_i h_{jk} + I_j h_{ki} + I_k h_{ij})\}. \tag{7}$$

The equation (7) is equivalent to

$$M_{ijk|s} y^s = \lambda(x, y) M_{ijk}. \tag{8}$$

It follows from (8) that

$$M'(t) = \lambda(t) M(t). \tag{9}$$

Take an arbitrary unit vector  $y \in T_x M$  and an arbitrary vector  $v \in T_x M$ . Let  $c(t)$  be the geodesic with  $\dot{c}(0) = y$  and  $V(t)$  the parallel vector field along  $c$  with  $V(0) = v$ . From equation (9), we have

$$M(t) = c e^{\lambda t}. \tag{10}$$

Since  $M$  is complete and  $\|M\| < \infty$ , by letting  $t \rightarrow +\infty$  or  $t \rightarrow -\infty$ , we have  $c=0$ . Thus the Matsumoto torsion vanishes. By Lemma 1,  $F$  must be a Randers metric.

By the relation (7), we get the following corollaries.

**Corollary 1.** Let  $F$  be a Finsler metric satisfied in the equation (1) with dimension  $n \geq 3$  and  $\lambda \neq 0$ . Then  $F$  is C-reducible if and only if  $F$  is P-reducible.

By a simple calculation on the equation (7), we have the following.

**Corollary 2.** Let  $F$  be a Finsler metric satisfied in the equation (1) with dimension  $n \geq 3$  and  $\lambda \neq 0$ . Then the following are equivalent:

- (a)  $F$  has a general relatively isotropic Landsberg curvature;
- (b)  $F$  has a general relatively isotropic mean Landsberg curvature.

#### 4. PROOF OF THEOREM 2

**Lemma 1.** ([18, 19]) Landsberg curvature and Riemann curvature are related by the following equation

$$L_{ijk|m} y^m + C_{ijm} R^m_k = -\frac{1}{3} g_{im} R^m_{k,j} - \frac{1}{3} g_{jm} R^m_{k,i} - \frac{1}{6} g_{im} R^m_{j,k} - \frac{1}{6} g_{jm} R^m_{i,k}. \tag{11}$$

Contracting (11) with  $g^{ij}$  gives

$$J_{k|m} y^m + I_m R^m_k = -\frac{1}{3} \{2K^m_{k,m} + K^m_{m,k}\}. \tag{12}$$

**Proof of Theorem 2.** We will first prove that the Matsumoto torsion vanishes. To prove this, we assume that the Matsumoto torsion  $M_y(u, u, u) = M_{ijk}(x, y)u^i u^j u^k \neq 0$  for some  $y, u \in T_x M_0$  with  $F(x, y) = 1$ . Let  $\sigma(t)$  be the unit speed geodesic with  $\sigma(0) = x$  and  $\dot{\sigma}(0) = y$ . Let  $U(t)$  denote the linear parallel vector field along  $\sigma$ , that is,  $D_{\dot{\sigma}}U(t) = 0$ . From the above equation, we see that a linearly parallel vector field  $U(t)$  along  $\sigma$  linearly depends on its initial value  $U(t_0)$  at a point  $\sigma(t_0)$ .

Let

$$M(t) := M_{\sigma}(U(t), U(t), U(t)) = M_{ijk}(\sigma(t), \dot{\sigma}(t))U^i(t)U^j(t)U^k(t).$$

We have

$$M''(t) = M_{ijk|p|q}(\sigma(t), \dot{\sigma}(t)) \dot{\sigma}^p(t) \dot{\sigma}^q(t) U^i(t)U^j(t)U^k(t)$$

Now we assume that  $F$  is of scalar curvature with flag curvature  $K = K(x, y)$ . This is equivalent to the following identity:

$$R^i_k = KF^2 h^i_k, \tag{13}$$

where  $h^i_k := g^{ij} h_{jk}$ . Differentiating (13) yields

$$R^i_{k,l} = K_{,l} F^2 h^i_k + K \{2g_{lp} y^p \delta^i_k - g_{kp} y^p \delta^i_k - g_{kl} y^i\} \tag{14}$$

By (11), (12) and (14), we obtain

$$L_{ijk|m} y^m = -\frac{1}{3} F^2 \{K_{,i} h_{jk} + K_{,j} h_{ik} + K_{,k} h_{ji} + 3KC_{ijk}\} \tag{15}$$

And

$$J_{k|m} y^m = -\frac{1}{3} F^2 \{(n+1)K_{,k} + 3KI_k\} \quad (16)$$

By (2), we have

$$C_{ijk|p|q} y^p y^q = L_{ijk|m} y^m, \quad I_{k|p|q} y^p y^q = J_{k|m} y^m.$$

$$M_{ijk|p|q} y^p y^q := L_{ijk|m} y^m - \frac{1}{n+1} \{J_{i|m} y^m h_{jk} + J_{j|m} y^m h_{ki} + J_{k|m} y^m h_{ij}\}. \quad (17)$$

Plugging (15) and (16) into (17) yields

$$M_{ijk|p|q} y^p y^q + K F^2 M_{ijk} = 0. \quad (18)$$

It follows from (18) that

$$M''(t) + K(t) M(t) = 0 \quad (19)$$

By (9) we have

$$M''(t) = \lambda' M(t) + \lambda M'(t) = (\lambda' + \lambda^2)M. \quad (20)$$

By (20) and (19) we get

$$(\lambda' + \lambda^2 + K)M = 0 \quad (21)$$

By assumption  $\lambda' + \lambda^2 + K \neq 0$ , then  $M = 0$ . This completes the proof.

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