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# PROJECTIVE CHANGE BETWEEN RANDERS METRIC AND EXPONENTIAL  $(\alpha, \beta)$ -METRIC

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Abstract. In this paper, we find conditions to characterize the projective change between two  $(\alpha, \beta)$ -metrics, such as exponential  $(\alpha, \beta)$ -metric,  $L = \alpha e^{\frac{\beta}{\alpha}}$  and Randers metric  $\overline{L} = \overline{\alpha} + \overline{\beta}$  on a manifold with dim  $n > 2$ , where  $\alpha$  and  $\overline{\alpha}$  are two Riemannian metrics,  $\beta$  and  $\overline{\beta}$  are two non-zero 1-forms. We also discuss special curvature properties of two classes of  $(\alpha, \beta)$ -metrics.

Keywords: Finsler space,  $(\alpha, \beta)$ -metric, projective change, Randers metric, Berwlad, Riemannian metric.

### 1. Introduction

M. Matsumoto [10] introduced the concept of  $(\alpha, \beta)$ -metric on a differentiable manifold with local coordinates  $x^i$ , where  $\alpha^2 = a_{ij}(x)y^i y^j$  is a Riemannian metric and  $\beta = b_i(x)y^i$  is a 1-form on  $M^n$ . M. Hashiguchi and Y. Ichijyo [6] studied some special  $(\alpha, \beta)$ -metrics and obtained interesting results. In the projective Finsler geometry, there is a remarkable theorem called Rapcsak [14] theorem, which plays an important role in the projective geometry of Finsler spaces. In fact, this theorem gives the necessary and sufficient condition for a Finsler space to be projective to another Finsler space.

The projective change between two Finsler spaces has been studied by many authors ([2], [5], [8], [11], [12], [16]). In 1994, S. Bacso and M. Matsumoto [2] studied the projective change between Finsler spaces with  $(\alpha, \beta)$ -metric. In 2008, H. S. Park and Y. Lee [11] studied the projective changes between a Finsler space with  $(\alpha, \beta)$ -metric and the associated Riemannian metric. The authors Z. Shen and Civi Yildirim [16] studied a class of projectively flat metrics with a constant flag curvature. In 2009, Ningwei Cui and Yi-Bing Shen [5] studied projective change between two classes of  $(\alpha, \beta)$ -metrics. Also the author N. Cui [4] studied the Scurvature of some  $(\alpha, \beta)$ -metrics. In this paper, we find conditions to characterize

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the projective change between two  $(\alpha, \beta)$ -metrics, such as the exponential  $(\alpha, \beta)$ metric,  $L = \alpha e^{\frac{\beta}{\alpha}}$  and Randers metric  $\overline{L} = \overline{\alpha} + \overline{\beta}$  on a manifold with dim  $n > 2$ , where  $\alpha$  and  $\overline{\alpha}$  are two Riemannian metrics,  $\beta$  and  $\overline{\beta}$  are two non-zero 1-forms. In addition, we discuss special curvature properties of two classes of  $(\alpha, \beta)$ -metrics.

#### 2. Preliminaries

The terminology and notation are referred to ([15], [9], [1]). Let  $M^n$  be a real smooth manifold of dimension n and let  $F^n = (M^n, L)$  be a Finsler space on the differentiable manifold  $M^n$  endowed with the fundamental function  $L(x, y)$ . We use the following notation:

(2.1)  
\n
$$
\begin{cases}\ng_{ij} = \frac{1}{2}\dot{\partial}_{i}\dot{\partial}_{j}L^{2}, \\
C_{ijk} = \frac{1}{2}\dot{\partial}_{k}g_{ij}, \\
h_{ij} = g_{ij} - l_{i}l_{j}, \\
\gamma_{jk}^{i} = \frac{1}{2}g^{ir}(\partial_{j}g_{rk} + \partial_{k}g_{rj} - \partial_{r}g_{jk}), \\
G^{i} = \frac{1}{2}\gamma_{jk}^{i}y^{j}y^{k}, G^{i}_{j} = \dot{\partial}_{j}G^{i}, \\
G^{i}_{jk} = \dot{\partial}_{k}G^{i}_{j}, G^{i}_{jkl} = \dot{\partial}_{l}G^{i}_{jk},\n\end{cases}
$$

where  $\dot{\partial}_i \equiv \frac{\partial}{\partial y^i}$ .

**Definition 2.1.** A change  $L \to \overline{L}$  of a Finsler metric on the same underlying manifold M is called projective change if any geodesic in  $(M, L)$  remains to be geodesic in  $(M,\overline{L})$  and vice versa.

A Finsler metric is projectively related to another metric if they have the same geodesic as point sets. In Riemannian geometry, two Riemannian metrics  $\alpha$  and  $\overline{\alpha}$ are projectively related if and only if their spray coefficients have the relation [5]

(2.2) 
$$
G^i_\alpha = G^i_{\overline{\alpha}} + \lambda_{x^k} y^k y^i,
$$

where  $\lambda = \lambda(x)$  is a scalar function on the based manifold.

Two Finsler metric F and  $\overline{F}$  are projectively related if and only if their spray coefficients have the relation [5]

$$
(2.3) \tG^i = \overline{G}^i + P(y)y^i,
$$

where  $P(y)$  is a scalar function and homogeneous of degree one in  $y^i$ .

Definition 2.2. A Finsler metric is called a projectively flat metric if it is projectively related to a locally Minkowskian metric.

For a given Finsler metric  $L = L(x, y)$ , the geodesic of L is given by

(2.4) 
$$
\frac{d^2x^i}{dt^2} + 2G^i(x, \frac{dx}{dt}) = 0,
$$

where  $G^i = G^i(x, y)$  are called geodesic coefficients, which are given by

(2.5) 
$$
G^{i} = \frac{g^{il}}{4} \left\{ [L^{2}]_{x^{m}y^{l}} y^{m} - [L^{2}]_{x^{l}} \right\}.
$$

Let  $\phi = \phi(s)$ ,  $|s| < b_0$ , be a positive  $C^{\infty}$  satisfying the following

(2.6) 
$$
\phi(s) - s\phi'(s) + (b^2 - s^2)\phi''(s) > 0, \ (|s| \le b < b_0).
$$

Let  $\alpha = \sqrt{a_{ij}(x)y^i y^j}$  be a Riemannian metric,  $\beta = b_i y^i$  is a 1-form satisfying  $\|\beta_x\|_{\alpha} < b_0$  for all  $x \in M$ , then  $L = \alpha \phi(s)$ ,  $s = \frac{\beta}{\alpha}$ , is called an (regular)  $(\alpha, \beta)$ metric. In this case, the fundamental form of the metric tensor induced by  $L$  is positive definite. Let  $\nabla \beta = b_{i,j} dx^i \otimes dx^j$  be the covariant derivative of  $\beta$  with respect to  $\alpha$ .

Denote

$$
r_{ij} = \frac{1}{2}(b_{i|j} + b_{j|i}) \ s_{ij} = \frac{1}{2}(b_{i|j} - b_{j|i}).
$$

 $\beta$  is closed if and only if  $s_{ij} = 0$  [17]. Let  $s_j = b^i s_{ij}$ ,  $s_j^i = a^{il} s_{lj}$ ,  $s_0 = s_i y^i$ ,  $s_0^i = s_j^i y^j$ and  $r_{00} = r_{ij} y^i y^j$ .

The relation between the geodesic coefficient  $G<sup>i</sup>$  of L and the geodesic coefficient  $G^i_\alpha$  of  $\alpha$  is given by

(2.7) 
$$
G^i = G^i_{\alpha} + \alpha Q s^i_0 + \{r_{00} - 2Q\alpha s_0\} \{\psi b^i + \Theta \alpha^{-1} y^i\},
$$

where

$$
\Theta = \frac{\phi \phi' - s(\phi \phi'' + \phi' \phi')}{2\phi((\phi - s\phi') + (b^2 - s^2)\phi'')}, \nQ = \frac{\phi'}{\phi - s\phi'}, \n\psi = \frac{1}{2} \frac{\phi''}{(\phi - s\phi') + (b^2 - s^2)\phi''}.
$$

Definition 2.3. [5] Let

(2.8) 
$$
D_{jkl}^i = \frac{\partial^3}{\partial y^j \partial y^k \partial y^l} \left( G^i - \frac{1}{n+1} \frac{\partial G^m}{\partial y^m} y^i \right),
$$

where  $G^i$  is the spray coefficient of L. The tensor  $D = D^i_{jkl} \partial_i \otimes dx^j \otimes dx^k \otimes dx^l$  is called the Douglas tensor. A Finsler metric is called a Douglas metric if the Douglas tensor vanishes.

We know that the Douglas tensor is a projective invariant [13]. Note that the spray coefficients of a Riemannian metric are quadratic forms and one can see that the Douglas tensor vanishes (2.8). This shows that the Douglas tensor is a non-Riemannian quantity. In what follows, we use quantities with a bar to denote the corresponding quantities of metric  $\overline{L}$ . We compute the Douglas tensor of a general  $(\alpha, \beta)$ -metric. Let

(2.9) 
$$
\widehat{G}^i = G^i_{\alpha} + \alpha Q s^i_0 + \psi \{r_{00} - 2Q\alpha s_0\} b^i.
$$

Using  $(2.9)$  in  $(2.7)$ , we have

(2.10) 
$$
G^i = \hat{G}^i + \Theta \{r_{00} - 2Q\alpha s_0\} \alpha^{-1} y^i.
$$

Clearly,  $G^i$  and  $\hat{G}^i$  are projective equivalents according to (2.3). They have the same Douglas tensor. Let

(2.11) 
$$
T^{i} = \alpha Q s_{0}^{i} + \psi \{r_{00} - 2Q\alpha s_{0}\}b^{i}.
$$

Then  $\widehat{G}^i = G^i_{\alpha} + T^i$ , thus

$$
D_{jkl}^i = \hat{D}_{jkl}^i
$$
  
= 
$$
\frac{\partial^3}{\partial y^j \partial y^k \partial y^l} \left( G_{\alpha}^i - \frac{1}{n+1} \frac{\partial G_{\alpha}^m}{\partial y^m} y^i + T^i - \frac{1}{n+1} \frac{\partial T^m}{\partial y^m} y^i \right)
$$
  
(2.12) = 
$$
\frac{\partial^3}{\partial y^j \partial y^k \partial y^l} \left( T^i - \frac{1}{n+1} \frac{\partial T^m}{\partial y^m} y^i \right).
$$

To simplify (2.12), we use the following identities

$$
\alpha_{y^k} = \alpha^{-1} y_k, \ \ s_{y^k} = \alpha^{-2} (b_k \alpha - s y_k),
$$

where  $y_i = a_{il}y^l$ ,  $\alpha_{y^k} = \frac{\partial \alpha}{\partial y^k}$ . Then

$$
\begin{array}{rcl}\n[\alpha Q s_0^m]_{y^m} & = & \alpha^{-1} y_m Q s_0^m + \alpha^{-2} Q' [b_m \alpha^2 - \beta y_m] s_0^m \\
& = & Q' s_0\n\end{array}
$$

and

$$
\psi(r_{00} - 2Q\alpha s_0)b^m]_{y^m} = \psi'\alpha^{-1}(b^2 - s^2)[r_{00} - 2Q\alpha s_0] + 2\psi[r_0 - Q'(b^2 - s^2)s_0 - Qss_0],
$$

where  $r_j = b^i r_{ij}$  and  $r_0 = r_i y^i$ . Thus from (2.11), we get

(2.13) 
$$
T_{y^m}^m = Q' s_0 + \psi' \alpha^{-1} (b^2 - s^2) [r_{00} - 2Q\alpha s_0] + 2\psi [r_0 - Q'(b^2 - s^2)s_0 - Qss_0].
$$

We assume that the  $(\alpha, \beta)$ -metrics L and  $\overline{L}$  have the same Douglas tensor, i.e.,  $D_{jkl}^i = \widehat{D}_{jkl}^i$ . Thus from (2.8) and (2.12), we get

$$
\frac{\partial^3}{\partial y^j\partial y^k\partial y^l}\left(T^i-\overline{T}^i-\frac{1}{n+1}(T_{y^m}^m-\overline{T}_{y^m}^m)y^i\right)=0.
$$

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Then there exists a class of scalar functions  $H^i_{jk} = H^i_{jk}(x)$ , such that

(2.14) 
$$
H_{00}^i = T^i - \overline{T}^i - \frac{1}{n+1} (T_{y^m}^m - \overline{T}_{y^m}^m) y^i,
$$

where  $H_{00}^{i} = H_{jk}^{i} y^{j} y^{k}$ .

**Theorem 2.1.** [4] For the special form of  $(\alpha, \beta)$ -metric,  $L = \alpha + \epsilon \beta + k \left( \frac{\beta^2}{\alpha} \right)$  $\frac{\beta^2}{\alpha}\biggr),$ where  $\epsilon$ , k are non-zero constant, the following are equivalent:

- L has an isotropic S-curvature, i.e.,  $S = (n+1)c(x)L$  for some scalar function  $c(x)$  on M.
- L has an isotropic mean Berwald curvature.
- $\beta$  is a killing one form of constant length with respect to  $\alpha$ . This is equivalent to  $r_{00} = s_0 = 0$ .
- L has a vanished S-curvature, i.e.,  $S = 0$ .
- L is a weak Berwald metric, i.e.,  $E = 0$ .

## 3. Projective Change between Randers Metric and Exponential  $(\alpha, \beta)$ -metric

In this section, we find the projective relation between two  $(\alpha, \beta)$ -metrics on the same underlying manifold M of dimension  $n > 2$ . For  $(\alpha, \beta)$ -metric  $L = \alpha e^{\frac{\beta}{\alpha}}$ , one can prove by (2.6) that L is a regular Finsler metric if and only if 1-form  $\beta$  satisfies the condition  $\|\beta_x\|_{\alpha} < 1$  for any  $x \in M$ . The geodesic coefficient are given by (2.7) with

(3.1) 
$$
\begin{cases} \Theta = \frac{1-2s}{2(1+b^2-s-s^2)}, \\ Q = \frac{1}{1-s}, \\ \psi = \frac{1}{2(1+b^2-s-s^2)}. \end{cases}
$$

Using  $(3.1)$  in  $(2.7)$ , we get

$$
G^i = G^i_{\alpha} + \frac{\alpha^2}{\alpha - \beta} s^i_0 + \frac{1}{2(\alpha^2 - \beta^2 + \alpha^2 b^2 - \alpha \beta)} \left[ r_{00} - \frac{2\alpha^2}{\alpha - \beta} s_0 \right]
$$
  
(3.2) 
$$
\times \left[ \alpha^2 b^i + (\alpha - 2\beta) y^i \right].
$$

For the Randers metric  $\overline{L} = \overline{\alpha} + \overline{\beta}$ , one can also prove by (2.6) that  $\overline{L}$  is a regular Finsler metric if and only if  $\|\beta_x\|_{\alpha} < 1$  for any  $x \in M$ . The geodesic coefficients are given by (2.7) with

(3.3) 
$$
\overline{\Theta} = \frac{1}{2(1+s)}, \ \overline{Q} = 1, \ \overline{\psi} = 0.
$$

First, we prove the following lemma:

**Lemma 3.1.** Let  $L = \alpha e^{\frac{\beta}{\alpha}}$  and  $\overline{L} = \overline{\alpha} + \overline{\beta}$  be two  $(\alpha, \beta)$ -metrics on a manifold M with dimension  $n > 2$ . Then they have the same Douglas tensor if and only if both metrics are Douglas metrics.

*Proof.* First, we prove the sufficient condition. Let L and  $\overline{L}$  be Douglas metrics and the corresponding Douglas tensor  $D_{jkl}^i$  and  $\hat{D}_{jkl}^i$ . Then by the definition of Douglas metric, we have  $D^i_{jkl} = 0$  and  $\widehat{D}^i_{jkl} = 0$ , that is, both metrics have the same Douglas tensor. Next, we prove the necessary condition. If  $L$  and  $\overline{L}$  have the same Douglas tensor, then (2.14) holds.

Using  $(2.13)$ ,  $(3.1)$  and  $(3.3)$  in  $(2.14)$ , we have

(3.4) 
$$
H_{00}^{i} = \frac{A^{i} \alpha^{7} + B^{i} \alpha^{6} + C^{i} \alpha^{5} + D^{i} \alpha^{4} + E^{i} \alpha^{3} + F^{i} \alpha^{2}}{K \alpha^{6} + U \alpha^{5} + M \alpha^{4} + N \alpha^{3} + V \alpha^{2} + R} - \overline{\alpha} \overline{s}_{0}^{i},
$$

where

$$
A^{i} = (1 + b^{2})[2s_{0}^{i}(1 + b^{2}) - 2s_{0}],
$$
  
\n
$$
B^{i} = (1 + b^{2})[r_{00}b^{i} - 2\beta(3 + b^{2})s_{0}^{i} + 2\beta s_{0}b^{i} - 2\lambda s_{0}(1 + s)y^{i} - 2\lambda r_{0}y^{i}] - 2\lambda s_{0}y^{i},
$$
  
\n
$$
C^{i} = \beta(3 + 2b^{2})(2\lambda r_{0}y^{i} - r_{00}b^{i}) - 2\lambda\beta s_{0}(2 + b^{2})y^{i} + 4\lambda\beta s_{0}(1 + b^{2})y^{i} + 2\beta^{2}(1 - 2b^{2})s_{0}^{i} - \lambda b^{2}r_{00}y^{i},
$$
  
\n
$$
D^{i} = 2\beta^{3}(3 + 2b^{2})s_{0}^{i} + r_{00}\beta^{2}(2 + b^{2})b^{i} + 2\lambda\beta(\beta s_{0} + 2\beta s^{2} s_{0} - \beta b^{2}r_{0} - 2\beta r_{0} - s^{2}r_{00})y^{i},
$$
  
\n
$$
E^{i} = \beta^{2}r_{00}[\beta b^{i} + \lambda(3b^{2} - 4s^{2} - 2\beta b^{2})y^{i}] + 2\lambda\beta^{3}(ss_{0} - r_{0} - 2s_{0})y^{i} - 2\beta^{4}s_{0}^{i},
$$
  
\n
$$
F^{i} = 2\lambda\beta^{3}(\beta r_{0} - \beta s_{0} + s^{2}r_{00})y^{i} - 2\beta^{5}s_{0}^{i} - \beta^{4}r_{00}b^{i},
$$
  
\n
$$
\lambda = \frac{1}{n+1}
$$

and

$$
K = 2(1+b^2)^2, U = 4\beta(b^4 - 3b^2 - 2), M = 2\beta^2(b^2 + 2)^2,
$$
  
\n
$$
N = 4\beta^3(1+b^2), V = -4\beta^4(2+b^2), R = 2\beta^6.
$$

Then (3.4) is equivalent to

(3.5) 
$$
A^{i} \alpha^{7} + B^{i} \alpha^{6} + C^{i} \alpha^{5} + D^{i} \alpha^{4} + E^{i} \alpha^{3} + F^{i} \alpha^{2}
$$

$$
= (K \alpha^{6} + U \alpha^{5} + M \alpha^{4} + N \alpha^{3} + V \alpha^{2} + R)(H_{00}^{i} + \overline{\alpha} \overline{s}_{0}^{i}).
$$

Replacing  $y^i$  in (3.5) by  $-y^i$ , we have

(3.6) 
$$
- A^{i} \alpha^{7} + B^{i} \alpha^{6} - C^{i} \alpha^{5} + D^{i} \alpha^{4} - E^{i} \alpha^{3} + F^{i} \alpha^{2}
$$

$$
= (K \alpha^{6} - U \alpha^{5} + M \alpha^{4} - N \alpha^{3} + V \alpha^{2} + R)(H_{00}^{i} - \overline{\alpha} \overline{s}_{0}^{i}).
$$

Subtracting  $(3.6)$  from  $(3.5)$ , we get

(3.7) 
$$
A^{i} \alpha^{7} + C^{i} \alpha^{5} + E^{i} \alpha^{3} = (U \alpha^{5} + N \alpha^{3}) H_{00}^{i}
$$

$$
+ (K \alpha^{6} + M \alpha^{4} + V \alpha^{2} + R) \overline{\alpha} \overline{s}_{0}^{i}.
$$

From (3.7), we have

(3.8) 
$$
\alpha^2 [A^i \alpha^5 + C^i \alpha^3 + E^i \alpha - (U \alpha^3 + N \alpha) H_{00}^i
$$

$$
-\overline{\alpha} \overline{s}_0^i (K \alpha^4 + M \alpha^2 + V)] = R \overline{\alpha} \overline{s}_0^i.
$$

From (3.8),  $R\overline{\alpha} \overline{s}_0^i$  has the factor  $\alpha^2$ , i.e., the term  $R\overline{\alpha} \overline{s}_0^i = 2\beta^6 \overline{\alpha} \overline{s}_0^i$  has the factor  $\alpha^2$ . We can study two cases for Riemannian metric.

**Case (i):** If  $\overline{\alpha} \neq \mu(x)\alpha$ , then  $R\overline{s}_0^i = 2\beta^6\overline{s}_0^i$  has the factor  $\alpha^2$ . Note that  $\beta^2$  has no factor  $\alpha^2$ . Then the only possibility is that  $\beta \bar{s}_0^i$  has the factor  $\alpha^2$ . Then for each i there exists a scalar function  $\eta^i = \eta^i(x)$  such that  $\beta \bar{s}_0^i = \eta^i \alpha^2$  which is equivalent to  $b_j \bar{s}_k^i + b_k \bar{s}_j^i = 2\eta^i \alpha_{jk}$ . When  $n > 2$  and we assume that  $\eta^i \neq 0$ , then

$$
2 \geq rank(b_j \overline{s}_k^i) + rank(b_k \overline{s}_j^i)
$$
  
>  $rank(b_j \overline{s}_k^i + b_k \overline{s}_j^i)$   
=  $rank(2\eta^i \alpha_{jk}) > 2$ ,

which is impossible unless  $\eta^i = 0$ . Then  $\beta \overline{s}_0^i = 0$ . Since  $\beta \neq 0$ , we have  $\overline{s}_0^i = 0$ , which says that  $\overline{\beta}$  is closed.

**Case (ii):** If  $\overline{\alpha} = u(x)\alpha$ , then (3.7), becomes

(3.9) 
$$
R\mu(x)\bar{s}_0^i = \alpha^2[A^i\alpha^4 + C^i\alpha^2 + E^i - (U\alpha^2 + N)H_{00}^i
$$

$$
- \mu(x)\bar{s}_0^i(K\alpha^4 + M\alpha^2 + V)].
$$

From (3.9), we can see that  $\mu(x)R\bar{s}_0^i$  has the factor  $\alpha^2$ . i.e.,  $\mu(x)R\bar{s}_0^i = 2\mu(x)\bar{s}_0^i\beta^6$ has the factor  $\alpha^2$ . Note that  $\mu(x) \neq 0$  for all  $x \in M$  and  $\beta^2$  has no factor  $\alpha^2$ . The only possibility is that  $\beta \bar{s}_0^i$  has the factor  $\alpha^2$ . As the similar reason in case (*i*), we have  $\bar{s}_0^i = 0$ , when  $n > 2$ , which says that  $\bar{\beta}$  is closed.

M. Hashiguchi [7] proved that the Randers metric  $\overline{L} = \overline{\alpha} + \overline{\beta}$  is a Douglas metric if and only if  $\overline{\beta}$  is closed. Thus  $\overline{L}$  is a Douglas metric. Since L is projectively related to  $\overline{L}$ , then both L and  $\overline{L}$  are Douglas metrics.  $\Box$ 

**Theorem 3.1.** The Finsler metric  $L = \alpha e^{\frac{\beta}{\alpha}}$  is projectively related to  $\overline{L} = \overline{\alpha} + \overline{\beta}$ if and only if the following conditions are satisfied

(3.10) 
$$
\begin{cases} G_{\alpha}^i = G_{\overline{\alpha}}^i + \theta y^i - \tau \xi \alpha^2 b^i, \\ b_{i|j} = \tau [(1+2b^2)a_{ij} - 3b_i b_j], \\ d\overline{\beta} = 0, \end{cases}
$$

where  $b^i = a^{ij}b_j$ ,  $b = ||\beta||_{\alpha}$ ,  $b_{i|j}$  denotes the coefficient of the covariant derivatives of  $\beta$  with respect to  $\alpha$ ,  $\tau = \tau(x)$  is a scalar function and  $\theta = \theta_i y^i$  is a 1-form on a manifold M with dimension  $n > 2$ .

Proof. First, we prove the necessary condition. Since the Douglas tensor is invariant under projective changes between two Finsler metrics, if  $L$  is projectively related to  $\overline{L}$ , then they have the same Douglas tensor. According to Lemma 3.1, we obtain that both  $L$  and  $\overline{L}$  are Douglas metrics.

We know that the Randers metric  $\overline{L} = \overline{\alpha} + \overline{\beta}$  is a Douglas metric if and only if  $\overline{\beta}$  is closed, i.e.,  $d\overline{\beta} = 0$ .

The Finsler metric  $L = \alpha e^{\frac{\beta}{\alpha}}$  is a Douglas metric if and only if

(3.11) 
$$
b_{i|j} = \tau [(1+2b^2) - 3b_i b_j],
$$

for some scalar function  $\tau = \tau(x)$  [3], where  $b_{i,j}$  denotes the coefficient of the covariant derivatives of  $\beta = b_i y^i$  with respect to  $\alpha$ . In this case,  $\beta$  is closed. Since  $\beta$  is closed,  $s_{ij} = 0 \Rightarrow b_{i|j} = b_{j|i}$ . Thus  $s_0^i = 0$  and  $s_0 = 0$ .

By using (3.11), we have  $r_{00} = \tau [(1 + 2b^2)\alpha^2 - 3\beta^2]$ . Substituting all these in (3.2), we get

(3.12) 
$$
G^{i} = G^{i}_{\alpha} + \tau \frac{[(1+2b^{2})(\alpha^{3}-2\alpha^{2}\beta)-3\alpha\beta^{2}+6\beta^{3}]}{2(\alpha^{2}-\beta^{2}+b^{2}\alpha^{2}-\alpha\beta)}y^{i} + \tau\xi\alpha^{2}b^{i},
$$

where  $\xi = \frac{\tau [(1+2b^2)\alpha^2 - 3\beta^2]b^i}{2(\alpha^2 - \beta^2 + b^2\alpha^2 - \alpha\beta^2)}$  $\frac{\tau[(1+2b^{-})\alpha^{2}-3\beta^{2}]b^{2}}{2(\alpha^{2}-\beta^{2}+b^{2}\alpha^{2}-\alpha\beta)}.$ 

Since L is projectively related to  $\overline{L}$ , this is a Randers change between L and  $\overline{\alpha}$ . Noticing that  $\overline{\beta}$  is closed, then L is projectively related to  $\overline{\alpha}$ . Thus, there is a scalar function  $P = P(y)$  on  $TM - \{0\}$  such that

$$
(3.13)\t\t Gi = Gi\overline{\alpha} + Pyi.
$$

From  $(3.12)$  and  $(3.13)$ , we have

(3.14) 
$$
\left[ P + \frac{3\alpha\beta^2 - 6\beta^3 - (1 + 2b^2)(\alpha^3 - 3\alpha^2\beta)}{2(\alpha^2 - \beta^2 + b^2\alpha^2 - \alpha\beta)} \right] y^i = G^i_\alpha - G^i_{\overline{\alpha}} + \tau \xi \alpha^2 b^i.
$$

Note that the RHS of the above equation is a quadratic form. Then there must be one form  $\theta = \theta_i y^i$  on M, such that

$$
P + \frac{3\alpha\beta^2 - 6\beta^3 - (1 + 2b^2)(\alpha^3 - 3\alpha^2\beta)}{2(\alpha^2 - \beta^2 + b^2\alpha^2 - \alpha\beta)} = \theta.
$$

Thus (3.14) becomes

(3.15) 
$$
G^i_\alpha = G^i_{\overline{\alpha}} + \theta y^i - \tau \xi \alpha^2 b^i.
$$

Equations (3.11) and (3.12) together with (3.15) complete the proof of the necessity. Since  $\bar{\beta}$  is closed, it suffices to prove that L is projectively related to  $\bar{\alpha}$ . From (3.12) and  $(3.15)$ , we have

$$
G^{i}=G^{i}_{\overline{\alpha}}+\left[\theta+\frac{\tau[(1+2b^{2})(\alpha^{3}-3\alpha^{2}\beta)-3\alpha\beta^{2}+6\beta^{3}]}{2(\alpha^{2}-\beta^{2}+b^{2}\alpha^{2}-\alpha\beta)}\right]y^{i},
$$

that is, L is projectively related to  $\overline{\alpha}$ 

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From the above theorem, we get the following corollaries.

**Corollary 3.1.** The Finsler metric  $L = \alpha e^{\frac{\beta}{\alpha}}$  is projectively related to  $\overline{L} = \overline{\alpha} + \overline{\beta}$ if and only if they are Douglas metrics and the spray coefficients of  $\alpha$  and  $\overline{\alpha}$  have the following relation

$$
G^i_{\alpha} = G^i_{\overline{\alpha}} + \theta y^i - \tau \xi \alpha^2 b^i,
$$

where  $b^i = a^{ij}b_j$ ,  $\tau = \tau(x)$  is a scalar function and  $\theta = \theta_i y^i$  is one form on a manifold M with dimension  $n > 2$ .

Further, we assume that the Randers metric  $\overline{L} = \overline{\alpha} + \overline{\beta}$  is locally Minkowskian, where  $\bar{\alpha}$  is a Euclidean metric and  $\bar{\beta} = \bar{b}_i y^i$  is one form with  $\bar{b}_i$  = constant. Then (3.10) can be written as

(3.16) 
$$
\begin{cases} G_{\alpha}^{i} = \theta y^{i} - \tau \xi \alpha^{2} b^{i}, \\ b_{i|j} = \tau [(1 + 2b^{2}) a_{ij} - 3b_{i} b_{j}]. \end{cases}
$$

Thus, we state

**Corollary 3.2.** The Finsler metric  $\alpha e^{\frac{\beta}{\alpha}}$  is projectively related to  $\overline{L} = \overline{\alpha} + \overline{\beta}$  if and only if L is projectively flat, that is, L is projectively flat if and only if  $(3.16)$  holds.

### 4. Special Curvature Properties of two  $(\alpha, \beta)$ -metrics

We know that the Berwald curvature tensor of a Finsler metric  $L$  is defined by [9]

(4.1) 
$$
G = G_{jkl}^i dx^j \otimes \partial_i \otimes dx^k \otimes dx^l,
$$

where  $G_{jkl}^i = [G^i]_{y^j y^k y^l}$  and  $G^i$  are the spray coefficients of L. The mean Berwald curvature tensor is defined by

(4.2) 
$$
E = E_{ij} dx^{i} \otimes dx^{j},
$$

where  $E_{ij} = \frac{1}{2} G_{mij}^m$ .

A Finsler space is said to be of the isotropic mean Berwald curvature if

(4.3) 
$$
E_{ij} = \frac{n+1}{2}c(x)L_{y^i y^j},
$$

where  $c(x)$  is scalar function on M.

In this section, we assume that  $(\alpha, \beta)$ -metric  $L = \alpha e^{\frac{\beta}{\alpha}}$  has some special curvature properties.

**Theorem 4.1.** The Finsler metric  $L = \alpha e^{\frac{\beta}{\alpha}}$  having an isotropic S-curvature or isotropic mean Berwald curvature is projectively related to  $\overline{L} = \overline{\alpha} + \overline{\beta}$  if and only if the following conditions hold:

- $\alpha$  is projectively related to  $\overline{\alpha}$ ,
- $\beta$  is parallel with respect to  $\alpha$ , i.e.,  $b_{i|j} = 0$ ,
- $\overline{\beta}$  is closed, i.e.,  $d\overline{\beta} = 0$ ,

where  $b_{i,j}$  denotes the coefficient of the covariant derivative of  $\beta$  with respect to  $\alpha$ .

Proof. The sufficiency is obvious from Theorem  $(3.2)$ . For the necessary condition, from Theorem 3.1, if L is projectively related to  $\overline{L}$ , then

$$
b_{i|j} = \tau [(1+2b^2)a_{ij} - 3b_i b_j],
$$

where  $\tau = \tau(x)$  is scalar function. Transvecting the above equation with  $y^i$  and  $y^j$ , we have

(4.4) 
$$
r_{00} = \tau [(1+2b^2)\alpha^2 - 3\beta^2].
$$

From Theorem 2.4, if  $L$  has an isotropic  $S$ -curvature or an equivalently isotropic mean Berwald curvature, then  $r_{00} = 0$ . If  $\tau \neq 0$ , then (4.4) gives

(4.5) 
$$
(1+2b^2)\alpha^2 - 3\beta^2 = 0,
$$

which is equivalent to

(4.6) 
$$
(1+2b^2)a_{ij} - 3b_ib_j = 0.
$$

Transvecting  $(4.6)$  with  $a^{il}$ , we get

(4.7) 
$$
(1+2b^2)\delta_j^l - 3b^lb_j = 0.
$$

Contracting l and j in (4.7), we have  $n + (2n-3)b^2 = 0$ , which is impossible. Thus  $\tau = 0$ . Substituting in Theorem 3.2, we complete the proof.  $\square$ 

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