

## $(\alpha, \beta)$ -metrics with relatively isotropic mean Landsberg curvature

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**Abstract.**  $(\alpha, \beta)$ -metrics form an important class of computable Finsler metrics. In this paper, we obtain firstly a formula of mean Cartan torsion for  $(\alpha, \beta)$ -metrics and characterize Riemann metrics among  $(\alpha, \beta)$ -metrics. Further, we obtain a sufficient and necessary condition for an  $(\alpha, \beta)$ -metric to be of relatively isotropic mean Landsberg curvature.

### 1. Introduction

In Finsler geometry, there are several very important non-Riemannian quantities. The Cartan torsion  $\mathbf{C}$  is a primary quantity. There is another quantity which is determined by the Busemann–Hausdorff volume form, that is the so-called distortion  $\tau$ . The vertical differential of  $\tau$  on each tangent space gives rise to the mean Cartan torsion  $\mathbf{I} := \tau_{y^k} dx^k$ .  $\mathbf{C}$ ,  $\tau$  and  $\mathbf{I}$  are the basic geometric quantities which characterize Riemannian metrics among Finsler metrics. Differentiating  $\mathbf{C}$  along geodesics gives rise to the Landsberg curvature  $\mathbf{L}$ . The horizontal derivative of  $\tau$  along geodesics is the so-called  $S$ -curvature  $\mathbf{S} := \tau_{|k} y^k$ . The horizontal derivative of  $\mathbf{I}$  along geodesics is called the mean Landsberg curvature  $\mathbf{J} := \mathbf{I}_{|k} y^k$ . The Riemann curvature measures the shape of the space while the non-Riemannian quantities describe the change of the “color” on the space. Hence

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Finsler spaces are “colorful” geometric spaces. It is found that the flag curvature is closely related to these non-Riemannian quantities[3], [9], [10].

By the definition,  $\mathbf{J}/\mathbf{I}$  can be regarded as the relative growth rate of the mean Cartan torsion along geodesic. We call a Finsler metric  $F$  is of *relatively isotropic mean Landsberg curvature* if  $F$  satisfies  $\mathbf{J} + c\mathbf{F}\mathbf{I} = 0$ , where  $c = c(x)$  is a scalar function on the Finsler manifold. In particular, when  $c = 0$ , Finsler metrics with  $\mathbf{J} = 0$  are called *weakly Landsberg metrics*. Many known Finsler metrics satisfy  $\mathbf{J} + c\mathbf{F}\mathbf{I} = 0$  (cf. [3], [4], [9]). In [11], Z. SHEN proves that a projectively flat Randers metric of constant flag curvature on an  $n$ -dimensional manifold is either locally Minkowskian or after a scaling, isometric to a Finsler metric on the unit ball  $\mathbb{B}^n$  in the following form

$$F_a = \frac{\sqrt{|y|^2 - (|x|^2|y|^2 - \langle x, y \rangle^2)}}{1 - |x|^2} \pm \frac{\langle x, y \rangle}{1 - |x|^2} \pm \frac{\langle a, y \rangle}{1 + \langle a, x \rangle}, \quad y \in T_x\mathbb{R}^n, \quad (1)$$

where  $a \in \mathbb{R}^n$  is a constant vector with  $|a| < 1$ . The Randers metric in (1) satisfies  $\mathbf{J} \pm \frac{1}{2}F_a\mathbf{I} = 0$ . In [4], the first author and Z. SHEN classify Randers metrics of isotropic flag curvature  $\mathbf{K} = \mathbf{K}(x)$  satisfying  $\mathbf{J} + c(x)F\mathbf{I} = 0$  for some  $c(x)$ . Further, CHENG–MO–SHEN characterize flag curvature of Finsler metrics of scalar flag curvature with relatively isotropic mean Landsberg curvature [3].

In the past several years, we witness a rapid development in Finsler geometry. Various curvatures have been studied and their geometric meanings are better understood. This is partially due to the study of a special class of Finsler metrics. The special Finsler metrics we are going to discuss are expressed in terms of a Riemannian metric  $\alpha = \sqrt{a_{ij}y^iy^j}$  and a 1-form  $\beta = b_iy^i$ . They are called  $(\alpha, \beta)$ -metrics. The simplest  $(\alpha, \beta)$ -metrics are the Randers metrics  $F = \alpha + \beta$ .  $(\alpha, \beta)$ -metrics form an important class of Finsler metrics with many applications in physics and biology (cf. [1]). Most important,  $(\alpha, \beta)$ -metrics are “computable” and they are of many interesting curvature properties.

Let  $\alpha = \sqrt{a_{ij}(x)y^iy^j}$  be a Riemannian metric and  $\beta = b_i(x)y^i$  be a 1-form on an  $n$ -dimensional manifold  $M$ . Using  $\alpha$  and  $\beta$  one can define a function  $F$  on  $TM$  as follows

$$F = \alpha\phi(s), \quad s = \frac{\beta}{\alpha}, \quad (2)$$

where  $\phi = \phi(s)$  is a  $C^\infty$  positive function on an open interval  $(-b_o, b_o)$ . The norm  $\|\beta_x\|_\alpha$  of  $\beta$  with respect to  $\alpha$  is defined by

$$\|\beta_x\|_\alpha := \sup_{y \in T_xM} \frac{\beta(x, y)}{\alpha(x, y)} = \sqrt{a^{ij}(x)b_i(x)b_j(x)}.$$

We assume that

$$\phi(s) - s\phi'(s) + (b^2 - s^2)\phi''(s) > 0, \quad (|s| \leq b < b_0), \tag{3}$$

so that  $F = \alpha\phi(s)$ , where  $s = \beta/\alpha$ , is a positive definite Finsler metric if and only if  $b(x) := \|\beta_x\|_\alpha < b_0$  for all  $x \in M$ .

Recently, B. LI and Z. SHEN characterize weakly Landsberg metrics in  $(\alpha, \beta)$ -metrics and show that there exist weakly Landsberg metrics which are not Landsberg metrics in dimension greater than two [8].

In this paper, we study  $(\alpha, \beta)$ -metrics with relatively isotropic mean Landsberg curvature and prove the following

**Theorem 1.1.** *Let  $F = \alpha\phi(\beta/\alpha)$  be an  $(\alpha, \beta)$ -metric on an  $n$ -dimensional manifold  $M$  ( $n \geq 3$ ), where  $\alpha = \sqrt{a_{ij}(x)y^i y^j}$  is a Riemannian metric and  $\beta = b_i(x)y^i$  is a 1-form. Then  $F$  is of relatively isotropic mean Landsberg curvature, i.e. there exists a scalar function  $c = c(x)$  on  $M$  such that  $\mathbf{J} + c(x)F\mathbf{I} = 0$ , if and only if  $\beta$  satisfies*

$$s_{ij} = 0, \tag{4}$$

$$r_{ij} = k(b^2 a_{ij} - b_i b_j) + \sigma b_i b_j, \tag{5}$$

where  $k = k(x)$  and  $\sigma = \sigma(x)$  are scalar functions on  $M$  and  $\phi = \phi(s)$  satisfies the following ODE:

$$\{\Psi_1 k + s\sigma\Psi_3\} + c(x)\Phi(\phi - s\phi') = 0, \tag{6}$$

where  $\Phi, \Psi_1, \Psi_3$  are defined as follows

$$Q := \frac{\phi'}{\phi - s\phi'}, \quad \Delta := 1 + sQ + (b^2 - s^2)Q', \tag{7}$$

$$\Phi := -(n\Delta + 1 + sQ)(Q - sQ') - (b^2 - s^2)(1 + sQ)Q'', \tag{8}$$

$$\Psi_1 := \sqrt{b^2 - s^2}\Delta^{1/2} \left[ \frac{\sqrt{b^2 - s^2}\Phi}{\Delta^{3/2}} \right]', \tag{9}$$

$$\Psi_2 := 2(n + 1)(Q - sQ') + 3\frac{\Phi}{\Delta} \tag{10}$$

and

$$\Psi_3 := \frac{s}{b^2 - s^2}\Psi_1 + \frac{b^2}{b^2 - s^2}\Psi_2. \tag{11}$$

By Theorem 1.1, we can see that  $\mathbf{J} = 0$  if and only if  $\beta$  satisfies

$$s_{ij} = 0, \quad r_{ij} = k(b^2 a_{ij} - b_i b_j) + \sigma b_i b_j$$

and  $\phi = \phi(s)$  satisfies

$$\Psi_1 k + s \sigma \Psi_3 = 0.$$

This is just the result of Proposition 3.1 in [8].

*Example 1.2.* Let  $\phi(s) = 1 + s$ . Then  $F = \alpha\phi(\beta/\alpha) = \alpha + \beta$  is a Randers metric on the manifold. By a direct computation, we can prove that  $F$  is of relatively isotropic mean Landsberg curvature,  $\mathbf{J} + c(x)F\mathbf{I} = 0$ , if and only if  $\beta$  satisfies (4) and (5) with  $k = 2c/b^2$  and  $\sigma = 2c(1 - b^2)/b^2$ , that is,  $\beta$  is closed and  $r_{ij} = 2c(a_{ij} - b_i b_j)$ . This result is first given by the first author and Z. SHEN in [4].

## 2. Preliminaries

Let  $F = F(x, y)$  be a Finsler metric on an  $n$ -dimensional manifold  $M$ . Let

$$g_{ij}(x, y) := \frac{1}{2}[F^2]_{y^i y^j}(x, y)$$

and  $(g^{ij}) := (g_{ij})^{-1}$ . For a non-zero vector  $y = y^i \frac{\partial}{\partial x^i}|_x \in T_x M$ ,  $F$  induces an inner product on  $T_x M$

$$g_y(u, v) = g_{ij} u^i v^j,$$

where  $u = u^i \frac{\partial}{\partial x^i}$ ,  $v = v^j \frac{\partial}{\partial x^j} \in T_x M$ .  $g = \{g_y\}$  is called the *fundamental tensor* of  $F$ .

Let

$$C_{ijk} := \frac{1}{4}[F^2]_{y^i y^j y^k} = \frac{1}{2} \frac{\partial g_{ij}}{\partial y^k}.$$

Define symmetric trilinear form  $\mathbf{C} := C_{ijk}(x, y) dx^i \otimes dx^j \otimes dx^k$  on  $TM \setminus \{0\}$ . We call  $\mathbf{C}$  the *Cartan torsion*. The *mean Cartan torsion*  $\mathbf{I} = I_i dx^i$  is defined by

$$I_i := g^{jk} C_{ijk}.$$

Further, we have ([3], [7], [9])

$$I_i = g^{jk} C_{ijk} = \frac{\partial}{\partial y^i} \left[ \ln \sqrt{\det(g_{jk})} \right]. \quad (12)$$

For a Finsler metric  $F$ , the geodesics are characterized locally by a system of 2nd ODEs:

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

where

$$G^i = \frac{1}{4}g^{il}\left\{[F^2]_{x^m y^l} y^m - [F^2]_{x^l}\right\}. \tag{13}$$

$G^i$  are called the *geodesic coefficients* of  $F$ . The *Landsberg curvature*  $\mathbf{L} = L_{ijk}(x, y)dx^i \otimes dx^j \otimes dx^k$  is a horizontal tensor on  $TM \setminus \{0\}$  defined by (cf. [9], [10])

$$L_{ijk} := -\frac{1}{2}FF_{y^m} [G^m]_{y^i y^j y^k}. \tag{14}$$

$F$  is called a *Landsberg metric* if  $\mathbf{L} = 0$ . The *mean Landsberg curvature*  $\mathbf{J} = J_i dx^i$  is defined by

$$J_i := g^{jk} L_{ijk}. \tag{15}$$

We call  $F$  a *weakly Landsberg metric* if  $\mathbf{J} = 0$ . We say that  $F$  is of *relatively isotropic mean Landsberg curvature* if  $J_i + c(x)F L_i = 0$  for a scalar function  $c(x)$  on  $M$ .

Now we consider an  $(\alpha, \beta)$ -metric on an  $n$ -dimensional manifold  $M$ ,  $F = \alpha\phi(s)$ ,  $s = \beta/\alpha$ . By a linear algebra technique, one obtains (cf. [2], [7], [9])

$$\det(g_{ij}) = \phi^{n+1}(\phi - s\phi')^{n-2}[(\phi - s\phi') + (b^2 - s^2)\phi''] \det(a_{ij}), \tag{16}$$

where  $b(x) := \|\beta_x\|_\alpha$ .

In order to study the geometric properties of  $(\alpha, \beta)$ -metrics, one needs a formula for the geodesic coefficients of an  $(\alpha, \beta)$ -metric. Let

$$\begin{aligned} r_{ij} &:= \frac{1}{2}(b_{i|j} + b_{j|i}), & s_{ij} &:= \frac{1}{2}(b_{i|j} - b_{j|i}), \\ s^i_j &:= a^{ih}s_{hj}, & r_j &:= b^m r_{mj}, & s_j &:= b_i s^i_j = b^m s_{mj}, \end{aligned}$$

where “|” denotes the covariant derivative with respect to the Levi-Civita connection of  $\alpha$ . We will denote  $r_{00} := r_{ij}y^i y^j$ ,  $s^i_0 := s^i_j y^j$ , etc. Let  $G^i$  and  $\bar{G}^i$  denote the geodesic coefficients of  $F$  and  $\alpha$  respectively in the same coordinate system. By a direct computation, one gets the following formula [7], [9]:

$$G^i = \bar{G}^i + \alpha Q s^i_0 + \Theta \left\{ -2\alpha Q s_0 + r_{00} \right\} \left\{ \frac{y^i}{\alpha} + \frac{Q'}{Q - sQ'} b^i \right\}, \tag{17}$$

where

$$\Theta := \frac{Q - sQ'}{2\Delta}.$$

The Landsberg curvature of  $(\alpha, \beta)$ -metrics is given by Z. SHEN [12] as follows

$$L_{jkl} = -\frac{\rho}{6\alpha^3} \{h_j h_k C_l + h_j h_l C_k + h_k h_l C_j + 3(E_j h_{kl} + E_k h_{jl} + E_l h_{jk})\}, \quad (18)$$

where

$$\begin{aligned} \rho &= \phi(\phi - s\phi'), \\ h_j &= b_j - \alpha^{-1} s y_j, \\ h_{jk} &= a_j{}_k - \alpha^{-2} y_j y_k, \\ C_j &= \alpha(X_4 r_{00} + Y_4 \alpha s_0) h_j - 3Q'' D_j, \\ E_j &= \alpha(X_6 r_{00} + Y_6 \alpha s_0) h_j - (Q - sQ') D_j, \\ D_j &= \frac{\alpha^2}{\Delta} (\Delta s_{j0} + r_{j0} - Q \alpha s_j) - \frac{1}{\Delta} (r_{00} - Q \alpha s_0) y_j, \end{aligned}$$

where  $y_j := a_{jk} y^k$  and

$$\begin{aligned} X_4 &= \frac{1}{2\Delta^2} \{ -2\Delta Q'' + 3[(Q - sQ') + (b^2 - s^2)Q''] Q'' \}, \\ X_6 &= \frac{1}{2\Delta^2} \{ (Q - sQ')^2 + [2(s + b^2 Q) - (b^2 - s^2)(Q - sQ')] Q'' \}, \\ Y_4 &= -2Q X_4 + \frac{3Q' Q''}{\Delta}, \\ Y_6 &= -2Q X_6 + \frac{(Q - sQ') Q'}{\Delta}. \end{aligned}$$

Then the mean Landsberg curvature of  $(\alpha, \beta)$ -metrics is given by B. LI and Z. SHEN [8] as follows

$$\begin{aligned} J_j &= -\frac{1}{2\alpha^4 \Delta} \left\{ \frac{2\alpha^3}{b^2 - s^2} \left[ \frac{\Phi}{\Delta} + (n + 1)(Q - sQ') \right] (s_0 + r_0) h_j \right. \\ &\quad + \frac{\alpha^2}{b^2 - s^2} \left[ \Psi_1 + s \frac{\Phi}{\Delta} \right] (r_{00} - 2\alpha Q s_0) h_j \\ &\quad + \alpha \left[ -\alpha^2 Q' s_0 h_j + \alpha Q (\alpha^2 s_j - y_j s_0) + \alpha^2 \Delta s_{j0} \right. \\ &\quad \left. \left. + \alpha^2 (r_{j0} - 2\alpha Q s_j) - (r_{00} - 2\alpha Q s_0) y_j \right] \frac{\Phi}{\Delta} \right\}. \quad (19) \end{aligned}$$

For our aim, we need the following formula for the mean Cartan torsion of  $(\alpha, \beta)$ -metrics.

**Lemma 2.1.** *For an  $(\alpha, \beta)$ -metric  $F = \alpha\phi(\beta/\alpha)$ , the mean Cartan torsion is given by*

$$I_i = -\frac{1}{2F} \frac{\Phi}{\Delta} (\phi - s\phi') h_i. \tag{20}$$

PROOF. By use of (12) and (16), after a direct computation, one can obtain

$$I_i = \frac{1}{2\alpha} \left\{ (n+1) \frac{\phi'}{\phi} - (n-2) \frac{s\phi''}{\phi - s\phi'} + \frac{(b^2 - s^2)\phi''' - 3s\phi''}{\phi - s\phi' + (b^2 - s^2)\phi''} \right\} h_i. \tag{21}$$

Further, by use of a Maple programm, one can get (20). □

By Deicke's theorem, a Finsler metric is Riemannian metric if and only if  $\mathbf{I} = 0$  [2]. By (3) and the assumption  $\phi(s) > 0$ , we have  $\phi(s) - s\phi'(s) > 0$ ,  $|s| \leq b < b_0$  (cf. [7]). Thus, from Lemma 2.1, we have the following

**Proposition 2.2.** *An  $(\alpha, \beta)$ -metric  $F$  is a Riemannian metric if and only if  $\Phi = 0$ .*

In the following we always assume that  $F$  is not a Riemannian metric, that is,  $\Phi \neq 0$ . From (19) and (20), we have the following

$$\begin{aligned} J_j + c(x)FI_j = & -\frac{1}{2\alpha^4\Delta} \left\{ \frac{2\alpha^3}{b^2 - s^2} \left[ \frac{\Phi}{\Delta} + (n+1)(Q - sQ') \right] (s_0 + r_0) h_j \right. \\ & + \frac{\alpha^2}{b^2 - s^2} \left[ \Psi_1 + s \frac{\Phi}{\Delta} \right] (r_{00} - 2\alpha Q s_0) h_j \\ & + \alpha \left[ -\alpha^2 Q' s_0 h_j + \alpha Q (\alpha^2 s_j - y_j s_0) + \alpha^2 \Delta s_{j0} \right. \\ & \left. + \alpha^2 (r_{j0} - 2\alpha Q s_j) - (r_{00} - 2\alpha Q s_0) y_j \right] \frac{\Phi}{\Delta} \\ & \left. + c(x) \alpha^4 \Phi (\phi - s\phi') h_j \right\}. \end{aligned} \tag{22}$$

### 3. Necessary conditions

We have known that  $\mathbf{J}$  can be expressed in terms of  $\alpha$ ,  $\beta$  and  $\phi(s)$ ,  $\phi'(s)$  and etc, where  $s = \beta/\alpha$ . But the formula (19) is very complicated. So the equation  $\mathbf{J} + c(x)F\mathbf{I} = 0$  is complicated too because one has to deal with the terms  $\phi(s)$ ,  $\phi'(s)$ , etc. To overcome this difficulty, a useful technique is to take a special local coordinate system at a point  $x$  as in [12] such that

$$\alpha_x = \sqrt{\sum_{i=1}^n (y^i)^2}, \quad \beta_x = by^1,$$

where  $b = \|\beta_x\|_\alpha$ . Then we take another special coordinate:  $(s, u^A) \rightarrow (y^i)$  given by

$$y^1 = \frac{s}{\sqrt{b^2 - s^2}} \bar{\alpha}, \quad y^A = u^A,$$

where  $\bar{\alpha} = \sqrt{\sum_{A=2}^n (y^A)^2}$ . We have

$$\alpha = \frac{b}{\sqrt{b^2 - s^2}} \bar{\alpha}, \quad \beta = \frac{bs}{\sqrt{b^2 - s^2}} \bar{\alpha}.$$

Because the expression (22) involves  $r_{ij}$ ,  $s_{ij}$  etc, one needs the following expressions:

$$\begin{aligned} r_1 &= br_{11}, \quad r_A = br_{1A}, \quad s_1 = 0, \quad s_A = bs_{1A}, \\ r_{00} &= \frac{s^2 \bar{\alpha}^2}{b^2 - s^2} r_{11} + 2 \frac{s \bar{\alpha}}{\sqrt{b^2 - s^2}} \bar{r}_{10} + \bar{r}_{00}, \\ r_{10} &= \frac{s \bar{\alpha}}{\sqrt{b^2 - s^2}} r_{11} + \bar{r}_{10}, \quad s_{10} = \bar{s}_{10}, \end{aligned}$$

where  $\bar{r}_{10} = r_{1A}u^A$ ,  $\bar{s}_{10} = s_{1A}u^A$ ,  $\bar{r}_{00} = r_{AB}u^A u^B$ . We have  $\bar{r}_0 = r_A u^A = b\bar{r}_{10}$ ,  $\bar{s}_0 = s_A u^A = b\bar{s}_{10}$ .

By a direct computation and using the formula (22), one can show that  $J_1 + c(x)FI_1 = 0$  is equivalent to that

$$\{\Psi_3[s^2 r_{11} \bar{\alpha}^2 + (b^2 - s^2) \bar{r}_{00}] - b^2 \Psi_2 \bar{r}_{00}\} + c(x) s b^2 \Phi(\phi - s\phi') \bar{\alpha}^2 = 0 \quad (23)$$

and

$$(2s\Psi_1 + b^2\Psi_2)\bar{r}_{10} + b^2(\Psi_2 - 2Q\Psi_1)\bar{s}_{10} = 0, \quad (24)$$

$J_A + c(x)FI_A = 0$  ( $A = 2, \dots, n$ ) is equivalent to that

$$\begin{aligned} &\{\Psi_3[s^2 r_{11} \bar{\alpha}^2 + (b^2 - s^2) \bar{r}_{00}] - b^2 \Psi_2 \bar{r}_{00}\} y_A + b^2 \frac{\Phi}{\Delta} [\bar{r}_{00} y_A - (\bar{r}_{A0} + \Delta \bar{s}_{A0}) \bar{\alpha}^2] \\ &+ c(x) s b^2 \Phi(\phi - s\phi') \bar{\alpha}^2 y_A = 0 \end{aligned} \quad (25)$$

and

$$\begin{aligned} &s\{2s\Psi_1 + b^2\Psi_2\}\bar{r}_{10} y_A + s b^2 \{\Psi_2 - 2Q\Psi_1\} \bar{s}_{10} y_A \\ &+ b^2 \frac{\Phi}{\Delta} \{s(\bar{r}_{10} y_A - r_{1A} \bar{\alpha}^2) - (b^2 Q + \Delta s)(\bar{s}_{10} y_A - s_{1A} \bar{\alpha}^2)\} = 0. \end{aligned} \quad (26)$$



**Lemma 3.1.**  $(n \geq 3)$  For an  $(\alpha, \beta)$ -metric  $F$ , if  $J_j + c(x)FI_j = 0$  at a point  $x$ , then we have

$$s_{AB} = 0, \tag{27}$$

$$r_{AB} = kb^2\delta_{AB}, \tag{28}$$

$$r_{11} = \sigma b^2, \tag{29}$$

where  $k = k(x)$  and  $\sigma = \sigma(x)$  are scalar functions on  $M$ .

PROOF. It follows from (23) and (25) that

$$\bar{r}_{00}y_A - (\bar{r}_{A0} + \Delta\bar{s}_{A0})\bar{\alpha}^2 = 0. \tag{30}$$

Since  $n \geq 3$ , (30) implies (27) and (28). Letting  $\sigma := r_{11}/b^2$ , we obtain (29).  $\square$

**Lemma 3.2.**  $(n \geq 3)$  For an  $(\alpha, \beta)$ -metric  $F$ , if  $J_i + c(x)FI_i = 0$  at a point  $x$ , then

$$s_{1A} = 0, \quad r_{1A} = 0. \tag{31}$$

PROOF. It follows from (24) and (26) that

$$\{s\bar{r}_{10} - (b^2Q + \Delta s)\bar{s}_{10}\}y_A - \{r_{1A} - (b^2Q + \Delta s)s_{1A}\}\bar{\alpha}^2 = 0. \tag{32}$$

Since  $n \geq 3$ , we obtain from (32) that

$$sr_{1A} - (b^2Q + \Delta s)s_{1A} = 0. \tag{33}$$

Then we can claim that  $s_{1A} = 0$  and  $r_{1A} = 0$ . See Lemma 4.2 in [8] for more details.  $\square$

From Lemma 3.1 and 3.2, one obtains the following

**Corollary 3.3.** For an arbitrary  $(\alpha, \beta)$ -metric  $F$  on an  $n$ -dimensional manifold  $M$  ( $n \geq 3$ ), if  $J_i + c(x)FI_i = 0$ , then  $\beta$  must be closed.

Now, plugging (28) and (29) into (23) yield

$$\{\Psi_1k + s\sigma\Psi_3\} + c(x)\Phi(\phi - s\phi') = 0. \tag{34}$$

Let us summarize what we have proved.

**Proposition 3.4.** Let  $F = \alpha\phi(s)$  be an  $(\alpha, \beta)$ -metric on an  $n$ -dimensional manifold ( $n \geq 3$ ). Suppose that  $J_i + c(x)FI_i = 0$  at a point  $x$ . Then  $\beta$  satisfies

$$s_{ij} = 0, \tag{35}$$

$$r_{ij} = k(b^2a_{ij} - b_ib_j) + \sigma b_ib_j \tag{36}$$

and  $\phi = \phi(s)$  satisfies

$$\{\Psi_1k + s\sigma\Psi_3\} + c(x)\Phi(\phi - s\phi') = 0.$$

#### 4. Sufficient conditions

In this section, we are going to prove the sufficient conditions for an  $(\alpha, \beta)$ -metric  $F = \alpha\phi(\beta/\alpha)$  to be of relatively isotropic mean Landsberg curvature. Assume that  $\alpha$  and  $\beta$  satisfy (4) and (5), we have

$$s_{j0} = 0, \quad s_j = 0, \quad s_0 = 0, \quad (37)$$

$$r_{j0} = k(b^2 y_j - \beta b_j) + \sigma \beta b_j, \quad r_0 = \sigma \beta b^2, \quad (38)$$

$$r_{00} = k(b^2 \alpha^2 - \beta^2) + \sigma \beta^2. \quad (39)$$

Substituting them into (22), we obtain

$$J_j + c(x)FI_j = -\frac{1}{2\Delta} \{ \Psi_1 k + s\sigma\Psi_3 + c(x)\Phi(\phi - s\phi') \} h_j.$$

By our assumption (6) on  $\phi$ , we have

$$J_j + c(x)FI_j = 0.$$

This completes the proof of the sufficient conditions.

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