

P-Berwald manifolds

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Dedicated to Professor Lajos Tamássy on the occasion of his 85th birthday

Abstract. We introduce a new class of special Finsler manifolds, the class of p -Berwald manifolds. P -Berwald manifolds are defined as Finsler manifolds for which the projected Berwald curvature vanishes. We show that an at least 3-dimensional Finsler manifold is a p -Berwald manifold if and only if it is a weakly Berwald Douglas manifold. 2-dimensional p -Berwald manifolds are characterized by means of a differential equation concerning the main scalar. We prove that a p -Berwald manifold is R -quadratic if and only if its stretch tensor vanishes.

1. Introduction

By a p -Berwald manifold we mean a Finsler manifold whose projected Berwald curvature vanishes. The concept of a “projected Finsler tensor” was first systematically investigated by M. MATSUMOTO under the quite strange term “indicatorizaion”, using the arsenal of classical tensor calculus [8]. An index-free description of MATSUMOTO’s indicatorization was presented by SZ. VATTAMÁNY [18], working on TTM and using the Frölicher–Nijenhuis calculus of vector-valued forms. It seems to us that the pull-back bundle $\hat{\tau}^*TM$ is a more economical framework for these constructions, and the Berwald derivative arising naturally from a Finsler structure is an adequate tool for calculations in this setting. For the

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readers' convenience, we briefly summarize these basic technicalities in Section 2, and, partly, in Section 3. We follow the notation and conventions of reference [17] and, with some modifications, [5]. These papers also give some links to the classical approach. In Section 4 we discuss basic curvature relations in a Finsler manifold. The most interesting is formulated in Proposition 4.2; it has a “converse” (see (25)) in p-Berwald manifolds. In Section 5 it turns out that in $n > 2$ dimensions p-Berwald manifolds form the intersection of the class of Douglas manifolds and the class of weakly Berwald manifolds – of two classes of special Finsler manifolds which have been investigated extensively [1]–[4], [6].

2. Preliminaries

Throughout the paper M will be an n -dimensional ($n \geq 1$), second countable, Hausdorff, smooth manifold. $C^\infty(M)$ is the ring of real-valued smooth functions on M ; the $C^\infty(M)$ -module of smooth vector fields on M is denoted by $\mathfrak{X}(M)$. d is the operator of exterior derivative, i_X is the substitution operator induced by $X \in \mathfrak{X}(M)$.

If TM is the $2n$ -dimensional manifold of all tangent vectors to M , and $\tau : TM \rightarrow M$ is the natural projection, the “foot map”, then τ is said to be the tangent bundle of M , TM is the total space of the tangent bundle. The complete lift of a function $f \in C^\infty(M)$ is

$$f^c : v \in TM \mapsto f^c(v) := v(f).$$

The complete lift of a vector field $X \in \mathfrak{X}(M)$ is the unique vector field $X^c \in \mathfrak{X}(TM)$ such that

$$X^c f^c = (Xf)^c, \quad f \in C^\infty(M).$$

Let $\widetilde{TM} \subset TM$ be an open subset satisfying $\tau(\widetilde{TM}) = M$, and let $\widetilde{\tau} := \tau \upharpoonright \widetilde{TM}$. If

$$\widetilde{\tau}^* TM := \widetilde{TM} \times_M TM := \{(u, v) \in \widetilde{TM} \times TM \mid \widetilde{\tau}(u) = \tau(v)\}$$

and $\widetilde{\pi}(u, v) := u$ for $(u, v) \in \widetilde{\tau}^* TM$, then $\widetilde{\pi}$ is a vector bundle of rank n , the *pull-back of τ over $\widetilde{\tau}$* . The most important special cases arise when $\widetilde{TM} := TM$, $\widetilde{\tau} := \tau$ and $\widetilde{TM} := \overset{\circ}{TM} := TM \setminus o(M)$ ($o \in \mathfrak{X}(M)$ is the zero vector field), $\widetilde{\tau} := \overset{\circ}{\tau} := \tau \upharpoonright \overset{\circ}{TM}$. Then we get the pull-back bundles $\pi : TM \times_M TM \rightarrow TM$ and $\overset{\circ}{\pi} : \overset{\circ}{TM} \times_M TM \rightarrow \overset{\circ}{TM}$.

We denote by $\Gamma(\widetilde{\pi})$ the $C^\infty(\widetilde{TM})$ -module of smooth sections of $\widetilde{\pi}$. A typical

element of $\Gamma(\tilde{\pi})$ is of the form

$$\tilde{X} : v \in \widetilde{TM} \mapsto \tilde{X}(v) = (v, \underline{X}(v)) \in \widetilde{TM} \times_M TM,$$

where $\underline{X} : \widetilde{TM} \rightarrow TM$ is a smooth map such that $\tau \circ \underline{X} = \tilde{\tau}$. Any vector field X on M yields a section

$$\hat{X} : v \in \widetilde{TM} \mapsto \hat{X}(v) = (v, X \circ \tilde{\tau}(v)) \in \widetilde{TM} \times_M TM,$$

of $\tilde{\pi}$, called a *basic vector field*. Basic vector fields generate the $C^\infty(\widetilde{TM})$ -module $\Gamma(\tilde{\pi})$. The *canonical section* δ of $\tilde{\pi}$ sends $v \in \widetilde{TM}$ to $(v, v) \in \tilde{\tau}^*TM$.

We denote by $\mathcal{T}_l^k(\tilde{\pi})$ the $C^\infty(\widetilde{TM})$ -module of all tensors of type (k, l) over $\Gamma(\tilde{\pi})$ ($(k, l) \in \mathbb{N} \times \mathbb{N}$; $\mathcal{T}_0^0(\tilde{\pi}) := C^\infty(\widetilde{TM})$). Elements of $\mathcal{T}_l^k(\tilde{\pi})$ may naturally be interpreted as $\Gamma(\tilde{\pi})$ -valued $C^\infty(\widetilde{TM})$ -multilinear maps. The unit tensor in $\mathcal{T}_1^1(\tilde{\pi})$ will simply be denoted by $\mathbf{1}$. We note that $\mathcal{T}_l^k(\tilde{\pi})$ may (and will) be considered as a submodule of $\mathcal{T}_l^k(\hat{\pi})$.

\mathbf{i} denotes the canonical bundle injection $\widetilde{TM} \times_M TM \rightarrow T\widetilde{TM}$, \mathbf{j} is the canonical bundle surjection of $T\widetilde{TM}$ onto $\widetilde{TM} \times_M TM$. Then $\mathbf{j} \circ \mathbf{i} = 0$, while $\mathbf{J} := \mathbf{i} \circ \mathbf{j}$ is another canonical bundle map, the *vertical endomorphism* of $T\widetilde{TM}$. \mathbf{i} , \mathbf{j} and \mathbf{J} induce the $C^\infty(\widetilde{TM})$ -homomorphisms

$$\begin{aligned} \Gamma(\tilde{\pi}) &\longrightarrow \mathfrak{X}(TM), & \tilde{X} &\longmapsto \mathbf{i}\tilde{X} := \mathbf{i} \circ \tilde{X}, \\ \mathfrak{X}(\widetilde{TM}) &\longrightarrow \Gamma(\pi), & \xi &\longmapsto \mathbf{j}\xi := \mathbf{j} \circ \xi, \\ \mathfrak{X}(\widetilde{TM}) &\longrightarrow \mathfrak{X}(TM), & \xi &\longmapsto \mathbf{J}\xi := \mathbf{J} \circ \xi. \end{aligned}$$

Then

$$\mathfrak{X}^\nu(\widetilde{TM}) := \mathbf{i}(\Gamma(\tilde{\pi})) = \text{Im}(\mathbf{J}) = \text{Ker}(\mathbf{J})$$

is the $C^\infty(\widetilde{TM})$ -module of *vertical vector fields* on \widetilde{TM} , $X^\nu := \mathbf{i}\hat{X}$ is the *vertical lift* of $X \in \mathfrak{X}(M)$. $C := \mathbf{i}\delta$ is a canonical vertical vector field on \widetilde{TM} , the *Liouville vector field*. For any vector field X on M we have

$$[C, X^\nu] = -X^\nu, \quad [C, X^c] = 0. \tag{1}$$

We define the *vertical differential* $\nabla^\nu F \in \mathcal{T}_1^0(\tilde{\pi})$ of a function $F \in C^\infty(\widetilde{TM})$ by

$$\nabla^\nu F(\tilde{X}) := (\mathbf{i}\tilde{X})F, \quad \tilde{X} \in \Gamma(\tilde{\pi}). \tag{2}$$

The vertical differential of a section $\tilde{Y} \in \Gamma(\tilde{\pi})$ is the $(1, 1)$ tensor $\nabla^\nu \tilde{Y} \in \mathcal{T}_1^1(\tilde{\pi})$ given by

$$\nabla^\nu \tilde{Y}(\tilde{X}) := \nabla_{\tilde{X}}^\nu \tilde{Y} := \mathbf{j}[\mathbf{i}\tilde{X}, \tilde{Y}], \quad \tilde{X} \in \Gamma(\tilde{\pi}), \tag{3}$$

where $\eta \in \mathfrak{X}(\widetilde{TM})$ is such that $\mathbf{j}\eta = \widetilde{Y}$. (It is easy to check that the result does not depend on the choice of η .) Using the Leibnizian product rule as a guiding principle, the operators $\nabla_{\widetilde{X}}^\vee$ may uniquely be extended to a tensor derivation of the tensor algebra of $\Gamma(\widetilde{\pi})$. Forming the vertical differential of a tensor over $\Gamma(\widetilde{\pi})$, we use the following convention: if, e.g., $\mathbf{A} \in \mathcal{T}_2^1(\widetilde{\pi})$, then $\nabla^\vee(\mathbf{A}) \in \mathcal{T}_3^1(\widetilde{\pi})$, given by

$$\nabla^\vee \mathbf{A}(\widetilde{X}, \widetilde{Y}, \widetilde{Z}) := (\nabla_{\widetilde{X}}^\vee \mathbf{A})(\widetilde{Y}, \widetilde{Z}) = \nabla_{\widetilde{X}}^\vee \mathbf{A}(\widetilde{Y}, \widetilde{Z}) - \mathbf{A}(\nabla_{\widetilde{X}}^\vee \widetilde{Y}, \widetilde{Z}) - \mathbf{A}(\widetilde{Y}, \nabla_{\widetilde{X}}^\vee \widetilde{Z}).$$

3. Finsler functions and associated objects

Let m_λ , where λ is a real number, denote the map $v \in TM \mapsto \lambda v \in TM$. By a *Finsler function* we mean a function $F : TM \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ satisfying:

- (F1) F is smooth on \mathring{TM} .
- (F2) $F \circ m_\lambda = \lambda F$ for all real numbers $\lambda \geq 0$.
- (F3) $F \geq 0$ and equals 0 only on $o(M)$.
- (F4) The $(0, 2)$ tensor $g := \frac{1}{2} \nabla^\vee \nabla^\vee F^2 \in \mathcal{T}_2^0(\mathring{\pi})$ is (fibrewise) positive definite.

A *Finsler manifold* is a pair (M, F) consisting of a manifold M and a Finsler function on TM . By Euler’s theorem on homogeneous functions, condition (F2) may equivalently be written in the form $CF = F$. $E := \frac{1}{2} F^2$ is the *energy function* of the Finsler manifold. It is positive-homogeneous of degree 2, i.e., $CE = 2E$, smooth on \mathring{TM} and identically zero on $o(M)$. It may be shown (see e.g. [19]) that, actually, E is C^1 on TM and is C^2 , if and only if, E is the norm associated with a Riemannian structure on M in which case E is smooth on TM . $g = \nabla^\vee \nabla^\vee E$ is said to be the *metric tensor* of (M, F) . For any vector fields X, Y on M we have

$$g(\widehat{X}, \widehat{Y}) = X^\vee(Y^\vee E). \tag{4}$$

Since $[X^\vee, Y^\vee] = 0$, this implies that g is symmetric. It would have been sufficient to assume only the (fibrewise) non-singularity of this tensor for positive definiteness is then a consequence of the other conditions on F .

Now we list some basic data arising immediately from a Finsler function.

- (i) $\delta_b : \widetilde{X} \in \Gamma(\mathring{\pi}) \mapsto \delta_b(\widetilde{X}) := g(\widetilde{X}, \delta)$ - the *canonical 1-form* of (M, F) ,
- (ii) $\ell := \frac{1}{F} \delta \in \Gamma(\mathring{\pi})$ - the *normalized support element field*,
- (iii) $\ell_b := \frac{1}{F} \delta_b \in \mathcal{T}_1^0(\mathring{\pi})$ - the dual form of ℓ ,
- (iv) $\eta := g - \ell_b \otimes \ell_b$ - the *angular metric tensor*.

We have the following relation:

$$\delta_b = F\nabla^\nu F = \nabla^\nu E. \tag{5}$$

Indeed for any vector field X on M , $\delta_b(\widehat{X}) := g(\widehat{X}, \delta) = g(\delta, \widehat{X}) = \nabla^\nu \nabla^\nu E(\delta, \widehat{X}) = \nabla_\delta^\nu \nabla^\nu E(\widehat{X}) = C(X^\nu E) - \nabla^\nu E(\nabla_\delta^\nu \widehat{X}) \stackrel{(3)}{=} [C, X^\nu]E + X^\nu(CE) - \nabla^\nu E(\mathbf{j}[C, X^c]) \stackrel{(1)}{=} -X^\nu E + 2X^\nu E = \frac{1}{2}X^\nu F^2 = F(X^\nu F) \stackrel{(3)}{=} F\nabla^\nu F(\widehat{X})$, which proves the formula.

From this observation relations

$$g(\delta, \delta) = \delta_b(\delta) = F^2, \quad \ell_b(\ell) = g(\ell, \ell) = 1, \tag{6}$$

$$\eta = g - \nabla^\nu F \otimes \nabla^\nu F \tag{7}$$

are immediately deduced.

If (M, F) is a Finsler manifold, then there is a unique vector field S on TM defined to be zero on $o(M)$, and defined on \mathring{TM} to be the unique vector field such that

$$i_S d(\nabla^\nu F^2 \circ \mathbf{j}) = -dF^2.$$

Then S is C^1 on TM , smooth on \mathring{TM} and has the properties

$$JS = C, \quad [C, S] = S, \tag{8}$$

therefore S is a spray, called the *canonical spray* of the Finsler manifold. It is less known, but a proof of this really fundamental fact may also be found in WARNER's above cited paper [19]. The canonical spray induces an Ehresmann connection $\mathcal{H} : \mathring{TM} \times_M TM \rightarrow T\mathring{TM}$ such that for any vector field X on M ,

$$X^h := \mathcal{H}\widehat{X} := \mathcal{H} \circ \widehat{X} := \frac{1}{2}(X^c + [X^\nu, S]). \tag{9}$$

\mathcal{H} is said to be the *Barthel connection* of (M, F) , X^h is the *horizontal lift* of X . \mathcal{H} is *homogeneous* in the sense that

$$[C, X^h] = 0, \quad X \in \mathfrak{X}(M). \tag{10}$$

Indeed, $2[C, X^h] = [C, X^c] + [C, [X^\nu, S]] \stackrel{(1)}{=} [C, [X^\nu, S]] = -[X^\nu, [S, C]] - [S, [C, X^\nu]] \stackrel{(1), (8)}{=} [X^\nu, S] + [S, X^\nu] = 0$.

An important property of the Barthel connection is that the Finsler function is a first integral for the horizontal lifts, i.e.,

$$X^h F = 0, \quad X \in \mathfrak{X}(M). \tag{11}$$

Equivalently, $dF \circ \mathcal{H} = 0$. For a recent, simple proof of this fact we refer to [16].

To the Barthel connection (as to any Ehresmann connection) we associate

- (i) the *horizontal projector* $\mathbf{h} := \mathcal{H} \circ \mathbf{j}$,
- (ii) the *vertical projector* $\mathbf{v} := 1_{T\overset{\circ}{T}M} - \mathbf{h}$,
- (iii) the *vertical map* $\mathcal{V} : T\overset{\circ}{T}M \rightarrow \overset{\circ}{T}M \times_M TM$ such that $\mathbf{i} \circ \mathcal{V} = \mathbf{v}$.

We define the *h-Berwald differentials* $\nabla^h F \in \mathcal{T}_1^0(\overset{\circ}{\pi})$ ($F \in C^\infty(\overset{\circ}{T}M)$) and $\nabla^h \tilde{Y} \in \mathcal{T}_1^1(\overset{\circ}{\pi})$ ($\tilde{Y} \in \Gamma(\overset{\circ}{\pi})$) by the following rules:

$$\nabla^h F(\tilde{X}) := (\mathcal{H}\tilde{X})F, \quad \tilde{X} \in \Gamma(\overset{\circ}{\pi}); \tag{12}$$

$$\nabla^h \tilde{Y}(\tilde{X}) := \nabla_{\tilde{X}}^h \tilde{Y} := \mathcal{V}[\mathcal{H}\tilde{X}, \mathbf{i}\tilde{Y}], \quad \tilde{X} \in \Gamma(\overset{\circ}{\pi}). \tag{13}$$

Then the operators $\nabla_{\tilde{X}}^h$ ($\tilde{X} \in \Gamma(\overset{\circ}{\pi})$) may uniquely be extended to the whole tensor algebra of $\Gamma(\overset{\circ}{\pi})$ as tensor derivations. Forming the h-Berwald differential of an arbitrary tensor, we adopt the same convention as in the vertical case. We note that the homogeneity of the Barthel connection implies

$$\nabla^h \delta = 0. \tag{14}$$

From the operators ∇^v and ∇^h we build the *Berwald derivative*

$$\nabla : (\xi, \tilde{Y}) \in \mathfrak{X}(\overset{\circ}{T}M) \times \Gamma(\overset{\circ}{\pi}) \mapsto \nabla_\xi \tilde{Y} := \nabla_{\mathcal{V}\xi}^v \tilde{Y} + \nabla_{\mathbf{j}\xi}^h \tilde{Y} \in \Gamma(\overset{\circ}{\pi}).$$

Then, by (3) and (13),

$$\nabla_\xi \tilde{Y} = \mathbf{j}[\mathbf{v}\xi, \mathcal{H}\tilde{Y}] + \mathcal{V}[\mathbf{h}\xi, \mathbf{i}\tilde{Y}].$$

In particular,

$$\begin{aligned} \nabla_{\mathbf{i}\tilde{X}} \tilde{Y} &= \nabla_{\tilde{X}}^v \tilde{Y}, & \nabla_{\mathcal{H}\tilde{X}} \tilde{Y} &= \nabla_{\tilde{X}}^h \tilde{Y}; & \tilde{X}, \tilde{Y} &\in \Gamma(\overset{\circ}{\pi}); \\ \nabla_{X^v} \hat{Y} &= 0, & \nabla_{X^h} \hat{Y} &= \mathcal{V}[X^h, Y^v]; & X, Y &\in \mathfrak{X}(M). \end{aligned} \tag{15}$$

4. Curvature properties

We assume for the remainder of the paper that (M, F) is a fixed n -dimensional Finsler manifold. To introduce some curvature data in (M, F) , we start from the classical curvature tensor R^∇ of the Berwald derivative on M given by

$$R^\nabla(\xi, \eta)\tilde{Z} := \nabla_\xi \nabla_\eta \tilde{Z} - \nabla_\eta \nabla_\xi \tilde{Z} - \nabla_{[\xi, \eta]}\tilde{Z}, \quad (\xi, \eta \in \mathfrak{X}(\overset{\circ}{T}M), \tilde{Z} \in \Gamma(\overset{\circ}{\pi})).$$

By the *affine curvature tensor* of (M, F) we mean the tensor $\mathbf{H} \in \mathcal{T}_3^1(\overset{\circ}{\pi})$ given by

$$\mathbf{H}(\tilde{X}, \tilde{Y})\tilde{Z} := R^\nabla(\mathcal{H}\tilde{X}, \mathcal{H}\tilde{Y})\tilde{Z}; \quad \tilde{X}, \tilde{Y}, \tilde{Z} \in \Gamma(\overset{\circ}{\pi}).$$

Here we followed L. Berwald’s terminology. According to Z. Shen’s usage, we say that (M, F) is *R-quadratic* if $\nabla^\vee \mathbf{H} = 0$, i.e., the affine curvature “depends only on the position”.

The type $(1, 3)$ tensor \mathbf{B} given by

$$\mathbf{B}(\tilde{X}, \tilde{Y})\tilde{Z} := R^\nabla(\mathbf{i}\tilde{X}, \mathcal{H}\tilde{Y})\tilde{Z}; \quad \tilde{X}, \tilde{Y}, \tilde{Z} \in \Gamma(\overset{\circ}{\pi})$$

is said to be the *Berwald curvature* of (M, F) . Evaluating on basic vector fields, we find that

$$\mathbf{B}(\hat{X}, \hat{Y})\hat{Z} = \nu [X^\vee, [Y^h, Z^\vee]] \quad \text{or} \quad \mathbf{iB}(\hat{X}, \hat{Y})\hat{Z} = [X^\vee, [Y^h, Z^\vee]].$$

It is then a straightforward matter to check that \mathbf{B} is totally symmetric. We also have:

$$\delta \in \{\tilde{X}, \tilde{Y}, \tilde{Z}\} \Rightarrow \mathbf{B}(\tilde{X}, \tilde{Y})\tilde{Z} = 0. \tag{16}$$

A Finsler manifold is said to be a *Berwald manifold* if its Berwald curvature vanishes. (M, F) is a *weakly Berwald manifold* provided $\text{tr } \mathbf{B} = 0$, where tr denotes the trace of the $C^\infty(\overset{\circ}{T}M)$ -linear map $\tilde{X} \mapsto \mathbf{B}(\tilde{X}, \tilde{Y})\tilde{Z}$.

We shall need the following Bianchi identity:

$$\nabla^\vee \mathbf{H}(\tilde{X}, \tilde{Y}, \tilde{Z}, \tilde{U}) + \nabla^h \mathbf{B}(\tilde{Y}, \tilde{Z}, \tilde{X}, \tilde{U}) - \nabla^h \mathbf{B}(\tilde{Z}, \tilde{Y}, \tilde{X}, \tilde{U}) = 0 \tag{17}$$

$(\tilde{X}, \tilde{Y}, \tilde{Z}, \tilde{U} \in \Gamma(\overset{\circ}{\pi}))$; see [14], p. 1331.

The *Landsberg tensor* of (M, F) is

$$\mathbf{P} := -\frac{1}{2} \nabla^h g. \tag{18}$$

As a special case of 2.50, Lemma 5 in [14], we obtain

Lemma 4.1. *The Berwald curvature and the Landsberg tensor of a Finsler manifold are related by*

$$\nabla^\vee E \circ \mathbf{B} = -2\mathbf{P}, \tag{19}$$

where E is the energy function.

Notice that relation (19) implies immediately that Berwald manifolds have vanishing Landsberg tensor.

By the *stretch tensor* of (M, F) we mean the tensor $\Sigma \in \mathcal{T}_4^0(\overset{\circ}{\pi})$ given by

$$\frac{1}{2}\Sigma(\tilde{X}, \tilde{Y}, \tilde{Z}, \tilde{U}) := \nabla^h \mathbf{P}(\tilde{X}, \tilde{Y}, \tilde{Z}, \tilde{U}) - \nabla^h \mathbf{P}(\tilde{Y}, \tilde{X}, \tilde{Z}, \tilde{U}). \quad (20)$$

The next important observation gives an index-free reformulation of relation (3.3.2.5) in [10]. For completeness we present an immediate (and also index-free) proof, which differs essentially from MATSUMOTO's argument based on classical tensor calculus.

Proposition 4.2. *For any sections $\tilde{X}, \tilde{Y}, \tilde{Z}, \tilde{U}$ in $\Gamma(\overset{\circ}{\pi})$,*

$$\nabla^v E \circ \nabla^v \mathbf{H}(\tilde{X}, \tilde{Y}, \tilde{Z}, \tilde{U}) = \Sigma(\tilde{Y}, \tilde{X}, \tilde{Z}, \tilde{U}). \quad (21)$$

PROOF. It is enough to check the relation for basic vector fields $\hat{X}, \hat{Y}, \hat{Z}, \hat{U}$.

$$\begin{aligned} \nabla^v E(\nabla^v \mathbf{H}(\hat{X}, \hat{Y}, \hat{Z}, \hat{U})) &\stackrel{(2)}{=} (\mathbf{i}\nabla^v \mathbf{H}(\hat{X}, \hat{Y}, \hat{Z}, \hat{U}))E \\ &\stackrel{(17)}{=} (\mathbf{i}(-\nabla^h \mathbf{B}(\hat{Y}, \hat{Z}, \hat{X}, \hat{U}) + \nabla^h \mathbf{B}(\hat{Z}, \hat{Y}, \hat{X}, \hat{U})))E. \end{aligned}$$

Here

$$\begin{aligned} \nabla^h \mathbf{B}(\hat{Y}, \hat{Z}, \hat{X}, \hat{U}) &= (\nabla_{Y^h} \mathbf{B})(\hat{Z}, \hat{X}, \hat{U}) = \nabla_{Y^h} \mathbf{B}(\hat{Z}, \hat{X})\hat{U} \\ &\quad - \mathbf{B}(\nabla_{Y^h} \hat{Z}, \hat{X})\hat{U} - \mathbf{B}(\hat{Z}, \nabla_{Y^h} \hat{X})\hat{U} - \mathbf{B}(\hat{Z}, \hat{X})\nabla_{Y^h} \hat{U}, \end{aligned}$$

and by (15)

$$\nabla_{Y^h} \mathbf{B}(\hat{Z}, \hat{X})\hat{U} = \mathcal{V}[Y^h, \mathbf{iB}(\hat{Z}, \hat{X})\hat{U}].$$

Therefore, applying (19) we get

$$\begin{aligned} \mathbf{i}\nabla^h \mathbf{B}(\hat{Y}, \hat{Z}, \hat{X}, \hat{U})E &= [Y^h, \mathbf{iB}(\hat{Z}, \hat{X})\hat{U}]E + 2\mathbf{P}(\nabla_{Y^h} \hat{Z}, \hat{X}, \hat{U}) \\ &\quad + 2\mathbf{P}(\hat{Z}, \nabla_{Y^h} \hat{X}, \hat{U}) + 2\mathbf{P}(\hat{Z}, \hat{X}, \nabla_{Y^h} \hat{U}). \end{aligned}$$

Since $Y^h E = 0$ by (11), at the right-hand side the first term is

$$Y^h((\mathbf{iB}(\hat{Z}, \hat{X})\hat{U})E) \stackrel{(19)}{=} -2Y^h \mathbf{P}(\hat{Z}, \hat{X}, \hat{U}),$$

therefore the right-hand side is just $-2\nabla^h \mathbf{P}(\hat{Y}, \hat{Z}, \hat{X}, \hat{U})$. In the same way we find that

$$\mathbf{i}\nabla^h \mathbf{B}(\hat{Z}, \hat{Y}, \hat{X}, \hat{U})E = -2\nabla^h \mathbf{P}(\hat{Z}, \hat{Y}, \hat{X}, \hat{U}).$$

Hence

$$\begin{aligned} \nabla^v E(\nabla^v \mathbf{H}(\hat{X}, \hat{Y}, \hat{Z}, \hat{U})) &= 2(\nabla^h \mathbf{P}(\hat{Y}, \hat{Z}, \hat{X}, \hat{U}) - \nabla^h \mathbf{P}(\hat{Z}, \hat{Y}, \hat{X}, \hat{U})) \\ &\stackrel{(20)}{=} \Sigma(\hat{Y}, \hat{Z}, \hat{X}, \hat{U}), \end{aligned}$$

as was to be proved. \square

Corollary 4.3. *R-quadratic Finsler manifolds have vanishing stretch tensor.*

5. P-Berwald manifolds

Lemma 5.1. *If*

$$\mathbf{p} := \mathbf{1} - \frac{1}{2E} \nabla^\nu E \otimes \delta, \tag{22}$$

then $\mathbf{p}(\delta) = 0$, and \mathbf{p} is a projection operator on $\Gamma(\overset{\circ}{\pi})$, i.e., $\mathbf{p}^2 = \mathbf{p}$.

PROOF. Since the energy function is positive-homogeneous of degree 2,

$$\mathbf{p}(\delta) := \delta - \frac{1}{2E} \nabla^\nu E(\delta)\delta = \delta - \frac{1}{2E} (CE)\delta = \delta - \delta = 0.$$

Using this observation, for any section \tilde{X} in $\Gamma(\overset{\circ}{\pi})$,

$$\mathbf{p}^2(\tilde{X}) = \mathbf{p}(\tilde{X} - \frac{1}{2E}(\mathbf{i}\tilde{X})E\delta) = \mathbf{p}(\tilde{X}),$$

thus proving the claim. □

By the *projected tensor* of a tensor $\mathbf{K} \in \mathcal{T}_k^0(\overset{\circ}{\pi})$ or $\mathbf{L} \in \mathcal{T}_k^1(\overset{\circ}{\pi})$ we mean the tensors $\mathbf{p}\mathbf{K}$ and $\mathbf{p}\mathbf{L}$ given by

$$\mathbf{p}\mathbf{K}(\tilde{X}_1, \dots, \tilde{X}_k) := \mathbf{K}(\mathbf{p}\tilde{X}_1, \dots, \mathbf{p}\tilde{X}_k)$$

and

$$\mathbf{p}\mathbf{L}(\tilde{X}_1, \dots, \tilde{X}_k) := \mathbf{p}(\mathbf{L}(\mathbf{p}\tilde{X}_1, \dots, \mathbf{p}\tilde{X}_k)).$$

Corollary 5.2. *Let $\mathbf{K} \in \mathcal{T}_k^0(\overset{\circ}{\pi})$, $\mathbf{L} \in \mathcal{T}_k^1(\overset{\circ}{\pi})$. If*

$$\delta \in \{\tilde{X}_1, \dots, \tilde{X}_k\} \Rightarrow \mathbf{K}(\tilde{X}_1, \dots, \tilde{X}_k) = 0, \quad \mathbf{L}(\tilde{X}_1, \dots, \tilde{X}_k) = 0,$$

then $\mathbf{p}\mathbf{K} = \mathbf{K}$, $\mathbf{p}\mathbf{L} = \mathbf{p} \circ \mathbf{L}$.

Example. The projected tensor of the metric tensor g is the angular metric tensor η . Indeed, for any vector fields X, Y on M ,

$$\begin{aligned} \mathbf{p}g(\hat{X}, \hat{Y}) &:= g(\mathbf{p}(\hat{X}), \mathbf{p}(\hat{Y})) = g\left(\hat{X} - \frac{1}{2E}(X^\nu E)\delta, \hat{Y} - \frac{1}{2E}(Y^\nu E)\delta\right) \\ &= g(\hat{X}, \hat{Y}) - \frac{1}{2E}(X^\nu E)g(\delta, \hat{Y}) - \frac{1}{2E}(Y^\nu E)g(\hat{X}, \delta) \\ &\quad + \frac{1}{4E^2}(X^\nu E)(Y^\nu E)g(\delta, \delta) \stackrel{(5),(6)}{=} g(\hat{X}, \hat{Y}) - \frac{1}{F^2}(X^\nu E)\nabla^\nu E(\hat{Y}) \\ &\quad - \frac{1}{F^2}(Y^\nu E)\nabla^\nu E(\hat{X}) + \frac{1}{F^2}(X^\nu E)(Y^\nu E) \\ &= \left(g - \frac{1}{F^2}\nabla^\nu E \otimes \nabla^\nu E\right)(\hat{X}, \hat{Y}) = (g - \nabla^\nu F \otimes \nabla^\nu F)(\hat{X}, \hat{Y}) = \eta(\hat{X}, \hat{Y}). \end{aligned}$$

Lemma 5.3. *The projected tensor of the Berwald curvature of a Finsler manifold is*

$$\mathbf{pB} = \mathbf{B} + \frac{1}{E}\mathbf{P} \otimes \delta. \tag{23}$$

PROOF. By (16) and Corollary 5.2, $\mathbf{pB} = \mathbf{p} \circ \mathbf{B}$. Now, for any vector fields X, Y, Z on M ,

$$\begin{aligned} (\mathbf{pB})(\widehat{X}, \widehat{Y}, \widehat{Z}) &= \mathbf{p}(\mathbf{B}(\widehat{X}, \widehat{Y})\widehat{Z}) \stackrel{(22)}{=} \mathbf{B}(\widehat{X}, \widehat{Y})\widehat{Z} - \frac{1}{2E}(\mathbf{iB}(\widehat{X}, \widehat{Y})\widehat{Z})E\delta \\ &\stackrel{(19)}{=} \mathbf{B}(\widehat{X}, \widehat{Y})\widehat{Z} + \frac{1}{E}\mathbf{P}(\widehat{X}, \widehat{Y}, \widehat{Z})\delta = \left(\mathbf{B} + \frac{1}{E}\mathbf{P} \otimes \delta\right)(\widehat{X}, \widehat{Y}, \widehat{Z}), \end{aligned}$$

hence our statement. □

Definition. By a p -Berwald manifold we mean a Finsler manifold in which the projected Berwald curvature vanishes, i.e., which has the property

$$\mathbf{B} + \frac{1}{E}\mathbf{P} \otimes \delta = 0. \tag{24}$$

Proposition 5.4. *Any p -Berwald manifold is a weakly Berwald manifold.*

PROOF. We have to show that if (M, F) is a p -Berwald manifold, then $\text{tr } \mathbf{B} = 0$. By (24) and Lemma 1 of [15], $\text{tr } \mathbf{B} = -\frac{1}{E} \text{tr}(\mathbf{P} \otimes \delta) = -\frac{1}{E}i_\delta \mathbf{P}$. Here $i_\delta \mathbf{P} = -\frac{1}{2}i_\delta \nabla^h g = 0$; for an index-free proof of this well-known fact we refer to [14], 3.11 (p. 1381). □

Theorem 5.5. *A p -Berwald manifold is R -quadratic, if and only if, its stretch tensor vanishes.*

PROOF. The necessity of the condition is a consequence of Corollary 4.3. To prove the sufficiency, we show that in a p -Berwald manifold we have

$$\nabla^v \mathbf{H}(\tilde{X}, \tilde{Y}, \tilde{Z}, \tilde{U}) = \frac{1}{F^2} \boldsymbol{\Sigma}(\tilde{Y}, \tilde{Z}, \tilde{X}, \tilde{U}) \otimes \delta; \quad \tilde{X}, \tilde{Y}, \tilde{Z}, \tilde{U} \in \Gamma(\hat{\pi}). \tag{25}$$

Observe first that

$$\nabla^h \mathbf{B} \stackrel{(24)}{=} -\nabla^h \left(\frac{1}{E} \mathbf{P} \otimes \delta \right) \stackrel{(11),(14)}{=} -\frac{1}{E} \nabla^h \mathbf{P} \otimes \delta.$$

Now, applying Bianchi identity (17), we get

$$\begin{aligned} \nabla^v \mathbf{H}(\tilde{X}, \tilde{Y}, \tilde{Z}, \tilde{U}) &= \nabla^h \mathbf{B}(\tilde{Z}, \tilde{Y}, \tilde{X}, \tilde{U}) - \nabla^h \mathbf{B}(\tilde{Y}, \tilde{Z}, \tilde{X}, \tilde{U}) = -\frac{1}{E}(\nabla^h \mathbf{P}(\tilde{Z}, \tilde{Y}, \tilde{X}, \tilde{U}) \\ &\quad - \nabla^h \mathbf{P}(\tilde{Y}, \tilde{Z}, \tilde{X}, \tilde{U})) \otimes \delta \stackrel{(20)}{=} \frac{1}{F^2} \boldsymbol{\Sigma}(\tilde{Y}, \tilde{Z}, \tilde{X}, \tilde{U}). \end{aligned}$$

This proves (25), whence the statement follows. □

To give a more precise characterization of p-Berwald manifolds, we need the concept of Douglas manifolds. By the *Douglas curvature* of a Finsler manifold we mean the tensor

$$\mathbf{D} := \mathbf{B} - \frac{1}{n+1}(\text{tr } \mathbf{B} \odot \mathbf{1} + (\nabla^\nu \text{tr } \mathbf{B}) \otimes \delta), \tag{26}$$

where the symbol \odot denotes symmetric product (without any extra numerical factor). An index-free representation of the Douglas curvature was first presented by J. SZILASI and SZ. VATTMÁNY [13]; formula (26) is just a “pull back version” of formula (6.2b) of the cited paper. Finsler manifolds with vanishing Douglas curvature were baptized *Douglas manifolds* by S. BÁCSÓ and M. MATSUMOTO, who devoted a series of papers to their thorough investigation [1]–[4]. Observe that in weakly Berwald manifolds, and hence in p-Berwald manifolds the Douglas and Berwald curvature coincide.

Lemma 5.6. *The projected tensor of the Douglas curvature is*

$$\mathbf{pD} = \mathbf{pB} - \frac{1}{n+1} \text{tr } \mathbf{B} \odot \mathbf{p} = \mathbf{B} + \frac{1}{E} \mathbf{P} \otimes \delta - \frac{1}{n+1} \text{tr } \mathbf{B} \odot \mathbf{p}. \tag{27}$$

PROOF. First we check that \mathbf{D} satisfies the condition of Corollary 5.2, i.e., $\mathbf{D}(\tilde{X}, \tilde{Y})\tilde{Z} = 0$, if $\delta \in \{\tilde{X}, \tilde{Y}, \tilde{Z}\}$. Let, for example, $\tilde{X} := \delta$. Then

$$\begin{aligned} \mathbf{D}(\delta, \tilde{Y}, \tilde{Z}) &:= \mathbf{B}(\delta, \tilde{Y}, \tilde{Z}) - \frac{1}{n+1}(\text{tr } \mathbf{B}(\delta, \tilde{Y})\tilde{Z} + \text{tr } \mathbf{B}(\tilde{Y}, \tilde{Z})\delta + \text{tr } \mathbf{B}(\tilde{Z}, \delta)\tilde{Y}) \\ &\quad - \frac{1}{n+1}(\nabla_C \text{tr } \mathbf{B})(\tilde{Y}, \tilde{Z})\delta \stackrel{(16)}{=} -\frac{1}{n+1}(\text{tr } \mathbf{B}(\tilde{Y}, \tilde{Z})\delta + \nabla_C \text{tr } \mathbf{B})(\tilde{Y}, \tilde{Z})\delta. \end{aligned}$$

It is known (see e.g. [13], Proposition 4.4) that \mathbf{B} is homogeneous of degree -1 , i.e., $\nabla_C \mathbf{B} = -\mathbf{B}$. Thus $\nabla_C \text{tr } \mathbf{B} = \text{tr } \nabla_C \mathbf{B} = -\text{tr } \mathbf{B}$, and hence $\mathbf{D}(\delta, \tilde{Y}, \tilde{Z}) = 0$. The other two cases may be handled similarly. Now it follows that

$$\mathbf{pD} = \mathbf{p} \circ \mathbf{D} = \mathbf{pB} - \frac{1}{n+1}(\mathbf{p}(\text{tr } \mathbf{B} \odot \mathbf{1}) + \mathbf{p}(\nabla^\nu \text{tr } \mathbf{B} \otimes \delta)).$$

Here, for any vector fields X, Y, Z on M ,

$$\begin{aligned} \mathbf{p}(\text{tr } \mathbf{B} \odot \mathbf{1}(\hat{X}, \hat{Y}, \hat{Z})) &:= \mathbf{p}(\text{tr } \mathbf{B} \odot \mathbf{1}(\mathbf{p}\hat{X}, \mathbf{p}\hat{Y}, \mathbf{p}\hat{Z})) \stackrel{(16), \text{Cor.5.2}}{=} \mathbf{p}(\text{tr } \mathbf{B}(\hat{X}, \hat{Y})\mathbf{p}(\hat{Z}) \\ &\quad + \text{tr } \mathbf{B}(\hat{Y}, \hat{Z})\mathbf{p}(\hat{X}) + \text{tr } \mathbf{B}(\hat{Z}, \hat{X})\mathbf{p}(\hat{Y})) = \text{tr } \mathbf{B}(\hat{X}, \hat{Y})\mathbf{p}(\hat{Z}) \\ &\quad + \text{tr } \mathbf{B}(\hat{Y}, \hat{Z})\mathbf{p}(\hat{X}) + \text{tr } \mathbf{B}(\hat{Z}, \hat{X})\mathbf{p}(\hat{Y}) \\ &= (\text{tr } \mathbf{B} \odot \mathbf{P})(\hat{X}, \hat{Y}, \hat{Z}), \end{aligned}$$

while

$$\mathbf{p}(\nabla^\nu \operatorname{tr} \mathbf{B} \otimes \delta)(\widehat{X}, \widehat{Y}, \widehat{Z}) = \mathbf{p}((\nabla_{\mathbf{p}\widehat{X}}^\nu \operatorname{tr} \mathbf{B})(\mathbf{p}\widehat{Y}, \mathbf{p}\widehat{Z})\delta) = 0,$$

since $\mathbf{p}(\delta) = 0$.

This concludes the proof of (27). □

Theorem 5.7. *If (M, F) is a Finsler manifold of dimension $n > 2$, then (M, F) is a p -Berwald manifold, if and only if, it is a weakly Berwald Douglas manifold.*

PROOF. If (M, F) is a p -Berwald manifold, then it is weakly Berwald by Proposition 5.4, therefore (27) reduces to $\mathbf{pD} = 0$. However, by a theorem of T. SAKAGUCHI [11] (see also [18]), $\mathbf{pD} = 0$ is equivalent to the vanishing of the Douglas tensor under the condition $n > 2$.

Conversely, if (M, F) is a weakly Berwald Douglas manifold, then $\mathbf{D} = \mathbf{pD} = 0$ and $\operatorname{tr} \mathbf{B} = 0$ imply by (27) that (M, F) is a p -Berwald manifold. □

Finally, we have a look at the “exceptional case” $\dim M = 2$. Then one can choose a section $m \in \Gamma(\overset{\circ}{\pi})$ such that

$$g(\ell, m) = 0, \quad g(m, m) = 1;$$

the pair (ℓ, m) is said to be a *Berwald frame* on (M, F) . An immediate calculation shows that the only non vanishing component of the tensor $\nabla^\nu g$ with respect to (ℓ, m) is the function

$$I := \frac{1}{2} \nabla^\nu g(m, m, m),$$

it is called the *main scalar* of (M, F) . For the Landsberg tensor of (M, F) we have the expression

$$2\mathbf{P} = \frac{SI}{I} \nabla^\nu g, \tag{28}$$

where S is the canonical spray. By (16), the only surviving component of the Berwald curvature is $\mathbf{B}(m, m)m$. It may be shown that

$$\mathbf{B}(m, m)m = -\frac{2SI}{F} \ell + ((\mathbf{i}m)(SI) + (\mathcal{H}m)I)m, \tag{29}$$

where \mathcal{H} is the Barthel connection arising from S according to (9). By (28) and (29), condition $\mathbf{B} + \frac{1}{E} \mathbf{P} \otimes \delta = 0$ takes the form

$$\mathbf{B}(m, m)m + \frac{1}{2E} \frac{SI}{I} \nabla^\nu g(m, m, m)\delta = 0. \tag{30}$$

Since $\frac{1}{2E} \frac{SI}{I} \nabla^\nu g(m, m, m)\delta = \frac{1}{E}(SI)\delta = \frac{2}{F}(SI)\ell$, (29) and (30) yield

$$(\mathbf{i}m)SI + (\mathcal{H}m)I = 0. \tag{31}$$

Thus we obtain:

Theorem 5.8. *A two-dimensional Finsler manifold is a p -Berwald manifold, if and only if, the main scalar satisfies relation (31).*

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