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**Title:** A compactness theorem in Finsler geometry

**Author(s):** Mihai Anastasiei and Ioan Radu Peter

Let  $(M, F)$  be a complete Finsler manifold and  $P$  be a minimal and compact submanifold of  $M$ . The  $k$ -Ricci curvature  $\mathbf{Ric}_k(x), x \in M$  is a differential invariant that interpolates between the flag curvature and the Ricci scalar. We prove that if the  $k$ -Ricci curvature satisfies the condition  $\int_0^\infty \mathbf{Ric}_k(t) > 0$  along any geodesic  $\gamma : [0, \infty) \rightarrow M, t \rightarrow \gamma(t)$  emanating orthogonally from  $P$  or  $\int_{-\infty}^0 \mathbf{Ric}_k(t) > 0$  along any geodesic  $\gamma : (-\infty, 0] \rightarrow M, t \rightarrow \gamma(t)$  arriving orthogonally to  $P$ , then  $M$  is compact.

**Address:**

Mihai Anastasiei  
Faculty of Mathematics  
Alexandru Ioan Cuza University of Iași  
and Mathematical Institute "O. Mayer"  
Romanian Academy  
Iași  
Romania

**Address:**

Ioan Radu Peter  
Department of Mathematics  
Technical University of Cluj-Napoca  
Memorandumului 28  
Cod RO-400114, Cluj-Napoca  
Romania