

# A Class of Finsler Metrics with Isotropic S-curvature

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## Abstract

In this paper, we study a class of Finsler metrics defined by a Riemannian metric and a 1-form. We characterize these metrics with isotropic S-curvature.

## 1 Introduction

The S-curvature is one of the most important non-Riemannian quantities in Finsler geometry which was first introduced by the second author when he studied volume comparison in Riemann-Finsler geometry [10]. The second author proved that the Bishop-Gromov volume comparison holds for Finsler manifolds with vanishing S-curvature. He also proved that the S-curvature and the Ricci curvature determine the local behavior of the Busemann-Hausdorff measure of small metric balls around a point [16]. Recent study shows that the S-curvature plays a very important role in Finsler geometry (cf. [8][12][15]). It is known that, for a Finsler metric  $F$  of scalar flag curvature, if the S-curvature is almost isotropic, i.e.,

$$\mathbf{S} = (n + 1)cF + \eta, \quad (1)$$

where  $c = c(x)$  is a scalar function and  $\eta$  is a closed 1-form, then the flag curvature must be in the following form

$$\mathbf{K} = \frac{3\tilde{c}_x y^m}{F} + \sigma, \quad (2)$$

where  $\sigma = \sigma(x)$  and  $\tilde{c} = \tilde{c}(x)$  are scalar functions with  $c - \tilde{c} = \text{constant}$  [4]. Therefore it is an important problem to study and characterize Finsler metrics of (almost) isotropic S-curvature.

In Finsler geometry, there is an important class of Finsler metrics—Randers metrics which were introduced and studied by G. Randers. A Randers metric

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is a Finsler metric expressed in the form  $F = \alpha + \beta$ , 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 with  $\|\beta_x\|_\alpha < 1$ . Let

$$\begin{aligned} r_{ij} &= \frac{1}{2}(b_{i|j} + b_{j|i}), & s_{ij} &= \frac{1}{2}(b_{i|j} - b_{j|i}), \\ r_j &:= b^i r_{ij}, & s_j &:= b^i s_{ij}, \end{aligned}$$

where  $b_{i|j}$  denote the covariant derivatives of  $\beta$  with respect to  $\alpha$ . In [5], we prove that the Randers metric  $F = \alpha + \beta$  has isotropic S-curvature,  $\mathbf{S} = (n+1)c(x)F$ , if and only if

$$r_{ij} + b_i s_j + b_j s_i = 2c(a_{ij} - b_i b_j). \quad (3)$$

See [1] [17] for related work. In this paper, we generalize the above result as follows.

**Theorem 1.1** *Let*

$$F = k_1 \sqrt{\alpha^2 + k_2 \beta^2} + k_3 \beta$$

*be a Finsler metric of Randers type where  $k_1 > 0$  and  $k_3 \neq 0$ .  $F$  is of isotropic S-curvature,  $F = (n+1)cF$  if and only if  $\beta$  satisfies*

$$r_{ij} + \tau(s_i b_j + s_j b_i) = \frac{2c(1 + k_2 b^2)k_1^2}{k_3} (a_{ij} - \tau b_i b_j), \quad (4)$$

where

$$\tau := \frac{k_3^2}{k_1^2} - k_2.$$

If a Randers metric is of scalar flag curvature, then (1) and (2) are actually equivalent ([7], [18]). In particular, if a Randers metric is of constant flag curvature, then it must be of constant S-curvature ([1], [2]). We have classified Randers metrics of scalar flag curvature and isotropic S-curvature ([4], [7]). Further, we have characterized the locally projectively flat Finsler metrics with isotropic S-curvature ([6]).

It is natural to consider general Finsler metrics defined by a Riemannian metric  $\alpha = \sqrt{a_{ij}y^i y^j}$  and a 1-form  $\beta = b_i y^i$  with  $\|\beta_x\|_\alpha < b_o$ . They are expressed in the form  $F = \alpha\phi(s)$ ,  $s = \beta/\alpha$ , where  $\phi(s)$  is a  $C^\infty$  positive function on  $(-b_o, b_o)$ . It is known that  $F = \alpha\phi(\beta/\alpha)$  is a (positive definite) Finsler metric for any  $\alpha$  and  $\beta$  with  $\|\beta_x\|_\alpha < b_o$  if and only if  $\phi$  satisfies the following condition (cf. [13][14]):

$$\phi(s) - s\phi'(s) + (\rho^2 - s^2)\phi''(s) > 0, \quad (|s| \leq \rho < b_o). \quad (5)$$

Such a metric is called an  $(\alpha, \beta)$ -metric. Clearly, Finsler metrics of Randers type are special  $(\alpha, \beta)$ -metrics.

For a positive  $C^\infty$  function  $\phi = \phi(s)$  on  $(-b_o, b_o)$  and a number  $b \in [0, b_o)$ , let

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

where  $\Delta := 1 + sQ + (b^2 - s^2)Q'$  and  $Q := \phi'/(\phi - s\phi')$ . In this paper, we prove the following

**Theorem 1.2** Let  $F = \alpha\phi(s)$ ,  $s = \beta/\alpha$ , be an  $(\alpha, \beta)$ -metric on a manifold and  $b := \|\beta_x\|_\alpha$ . Suppose that  $\phi \neq k_1\sqrt{1+k_2s^2} + k_3s$  for any constants  $k_1 > 0$ ,  $k_2$  and  $k_3$ . Then  $F$  is of isotropic S-curvature,  $\mathbf{S} = (n+1)cF$ , if and only if one of the following holds

(i)  $\beta$  satisfies

$$r_j + s_j = 0 \quad (6)$$

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

$$\Phi = 0. \quad (7)$$

In this case,  $\mathbf{S} = 0$ .

(ii)  $\beta$  satisfies

$$r_{ij} = \epsilon \left\{ b^2 a_{ij} - b_i b_j \right\}, \quad s_j = 0, \quad (8)$$

where  $\epsilon = \epsilon(x)$  is a scalar function, and  $\phi = \phi(s)$  satisfies

$$\Phi = -2(n+1)k \frac{\phi \Delta^2}{b^2 - s^2}, \quad (9)$$

where  $k$  is a constant. In this case,  $\mathbf{S} = (n+1)cF$  with  $c = k\epsilon$ .

(iii)  $\beta$  satisfies

$$r_{ij} = 0, \quad s_j = 0. \quad (10)$$

In this case,  $\mathbf{S} = 0$ , regardless of the choice of a particular  $\phi$ .

It is easy to see that (10) implies (8), while (8) implies (6). The condition (6) is equivalent to that  $b := \|\beta_x\|_\alpha = \text{constant}$ . See Lemma 3.2 below. Thus (7) and (9) are independent of  $x \in M$ .

The mean Landsberg curvature  $\mathbf{J}$  is another important non-Riemannian quantity. It has been proved that for an  $(\alpha, \beta)$ -metric  $F = \alpha\phi(\beta/\alpha)$ , if  $\beta$  has constant length and  $\phi$  satisfies (7), then  $F$  is a weakly Landsberg metric, i.e.,  $\mathbf{J} = 0$ . See [9].

We have the following two interesting examples.

**Example 1.1** Let  $F = \alpha + \beta$  be the family of Randers metrics on  $S^3$  constructed in [3] (see also [16]). It is shown that  $r_{ij} = 0$  and  $s_j = 0$ . Thus for any  $C^\infty$  positive function  $\phi = \phi(s)$  satisfying (5), the  $(\alpha, \beta)$ -metric  $F = \alpha\phi(\beta/\alpha)$  has vanishing S-curvature.

**Example 1.2** Let  $F = \alpha\phi(\beta/\alpha)$  be an  $(\alpha, \beta)$ -metric defined on an open subset in  $R^3$ . At a point  $\mathbf{x} = (x, y, z) \in R^3$  and in the direction  $\mathbf{y} = (u, v, w) \in T_{\mathbf{x}}R^3$ ,  $\alpha = \alpha(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{y})$  and  $\beta = \beta(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{y})$  are given by

$$\begin{aligned} \alpha &:= \sqrt{u^2 + e^{2x}(v^2 + w^2)}, \\ \beta &:= u. \end{aligned}$$

Then  $\beta$  satisfies (8) with  $\epsilon = 1$ ,  $b = 1$ . Thus if  $\phi = \phi(s)$  satisfies (9) for some constant  $k$ , then  $F = \alpha\phi(\beta/\alpha)$  is of constant S-curvature  $\mathbf{S} = (n+1)cF$ .

## 2 Volume forms

The S-curvature is associated with a volume form. There are two important volume forms in Finsler geometry. One is the Busemann-Hausdorff volume form and the other is the Holmes-Thompson volume form.

The Busemann-Hausdorff volume form  $dV_{BH} = \sigma_{BH}(x)dx$  is given by

$$\sigma_{BH}(x) = \frac{\omega_n}{\text{Vol}\{(y^i) \in R^n | F(x, y^i \frac{\partial}{\partial x^i}) < 1\}}$$

and the Holmes-Thompson volume form  $dV_{HT} = \sigma_{HT}(x)dx$  is given by

$$\sigma_{HT}(x) = \frac{1}{\omega_n} \int_{\{(y^i) \in R^n | F(x, y^i \frac{\partial}{\partial x^i}) < 1\}} \det(g_{ij}) dy.$$

Here Vol denotes the Euclidean volume and

$$\omega_n := \text{Vol}(B^n(1)) = \frac{1}{n} \text{Vol}(S^{n-1}) = \frac{1}{n} \text{Vol}(S^{n-2}) \int_0^\pi \sin^{n-2}(t) dt$$

denotes the Euclidean volume of the unit ball in  $R^n$ . When  $F = \sqrt{g_{ij}(x)y^i y^j}$  is a Riemannian metric, both volume forms are reduced to the same Riemannian volume form

$$dV_{BH} = dV_{HT} = \sqrt{\det(g_{ij}(x))} dx.$$

For an  $(\alpha, \beta)$ -metric, we have the following formulas for the volume forms  $dV_{BH}$  and  $dV_{HT}$ .

**Proposition 2.1** *Let  $F = \alpha\phi(s)$ ,  $s = \beta/\alpha$ , be an  $(\alpha, \beta)$ -metric on an  $n$ -dimensional manifold  $M$ . Let  $dV = dV_{BH}$  or  $dV_{HT}$ . Let*

$$f(b) := \begin{cases} \frac{\int_0^\pi \sin^{n-2} t dt}{\int_0^\pi \frac{\sin^{n-2} t}{\phi(b \cos t)^n} dt} & \text{if } dV = dV_{BH} \\ \frac{\int_0^\pi (\sin^{n-2} t) T(b \cos t) dt}{\int_0^\pi \sin^{n-2} t dt} & \text{if } dV = dV_{HT}, \end{cases}$$

where  $T(s) := \phi(\phi - s\phi')^{n-2}[(\phi - s\phi') + (b^2 - s^2)\phi'']$ . Then the volume form  $dV$  is given by

$$dV = f(b)dV_\alpha,$$

where  $dV_\alpha = \sqrt{\det(a_{ij})} dx$  denotes the Riemannian volume form of  $\alpha$ .

*Proof:* In a coordinate system, the determinant of  $g_{ij} := \frac{1}{2}[F^2]_{y^i y^j}$  is given by (cf. [14])

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

First we take an orthonormal basis at  $x$  with respect to  $\alpha$  so that

$$\alpha = \sqrt{\sum (y^i)^2}, \quad \beta = by^1,$$

where  $b = \|\beta_x\|_\alpha$ . Then the volume form  $dV_\alpha = \sigma_\alpha dx$  at  $x$  is given by

$$\sigma_\alpha = \sqrt{\det(a_{ij})} = 1.$$

In order to evaluate the integrals

$$\text{Vol}\{(y^i) \in R^n | F(x, y^i \frac{\partial}{\partial x^i}) < 1\} = \int_{F(x,y) < 1} dy = \int_{\alpha\phi(\beta/\alpha) < 1} dy$$

and

$$\int_{F(x,y) < 1} \det(g_{ij}) dy = \int_{\alpha\phi(\beta/\alpha) < 1} \det(g_{ij}) dy,$$

we take the following coordinate transformation,  $\psi : (s, u^a) \rightarrow (y^i)$ :

$$y^1 = \frac{s}{\sqrt{b^2 - s^2}} \bar{\alpha}, \quad y^a = u^a, \quad (11)$$

where  $\bar{\alpha} = \sqrt{\sum_{a=2}^n (u^a)^2}$ . Then

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

Thus

$$F = \alpha\phi(\beta/\alpha) = \frac{b\phi(s)}{\sqrt{b^2 - s^2}} \bar{\alpha}$$

and the Jacobian of the transformation  $\psi : (s, u^a) \rightarrow (y^i)$  is given by

$$\frac{b^2}{(b^2 - s^2)^{3/2}} \bar{\alpha}.$$

Then

$$\begin{aligned} \text{Vol}\{(y^i) \in R^n | F(x, y) < 1\} &= \int_{\frac{b\phi(s)}{\sqrt{b^2 - s^2}} \bar{\alpha} < 1} \frac{b^2}{(b^2 - s^2)^{3/2}} \bar{\alpha} ds du \\ &= \int_{-b}^b \frac{b^2}{(b^2 - s^2)^{3/2}} \left[ \int_{\bar{\alpha} < \frac{\sqrt{b^2 - s^2}}{b\phi(s)}} \bar{\alpha} du \right] ds \\ &= \frac{1}{n} \text{Vol}(S^{n-2}) \int_{-b}^b \frac{b^2}{(b^2 - s^2)^{3/2}} \left( \frac{\sqrt{b^2 - s^2}}{b\phi(s)} \right)^n ds \\ &= \frac{1}{n} \text{Vol}(S^{n-2}) \int_{-b}^b \frac{(b^2 - s^2)^{(n-3)/2}}{b^{n-2} \phi(s)^n} ds \\ &= \frac{1}{n} \text{Vol}(S^{n-2}) \int_0^\pi \frac{\sin^{n-2} t}{\phi(b \cos t)^n} dt \quad (s = b \cos t). \end{aligned}$$

Therefore

$$\sigma_{BH} = \frac{\int_0^\pi \sin^{n-2} t dt}{\int_0^\pi \frac{\sin^{n-2} t}{\phi(b \cos t)^n} dt}. \quad (12)$$

Let

$$T(s) := \phi(\phi - s\phi')^{n-2}[(\phi - s\phi') + (b^2 - s^2)\phi'']. \quad (13)$$

Then

$$\det(g_{ij}) = \phi(s)^n T(s) \det(a_{ij}).$$

By a similar argument, we get

$$\begin{aligned} \sigma_{HT} &= \frac{1}{\omega_n} \int_{F(x,y) < 1} \phi(s)^n T(s) dy^1 \cdots dy^n \\ &= \frac{1}{n\omega_n} \text{Vol}(S^{n-2}) \int_{-b}^b \frac{b^2}{(b^2 - s^2)^{3/2}} \left( \frac{\sqrt{b^2 - s^2}}{b} \right)^n T(s) ds \\ &= \frac{\int_0^\pi (\sin^{n-2} t) T(b \cos t) dt}{\int_0^\pi \sin^{n-2} t dt}. \end{aligned}$$

Thus

$$\sigma_{HT} = \frac{\int_0^\pi (\sin^{n-2} t) T(b \cos t) dt}{\int_0^\pi \sin^{n-2} t dt}. \quad (14)$$

The above formulas for  $\sigma_{BH}$  and  $\sigma_{HT}$  are given in a special coordinate system at  $x$  and  $\sigma_\alpha = 1$ . Thus  $dV = f(b)dV_\alpha$ . This proves the proposition. Q.E.D.

Note that if  $b = \text{constant}$ , then  $f(b) = \text{constant}$ . In this case, both  $dV_{BH}$  and  $dV_{HT}$  are constant multiples of  $dV_\alpha$ .

It is surprised to see that  $dV_{TH} = dV_\alpha$  for certain functions  $\phi$ .

**Corollary 2.2** *Let  $F = \alpha\phi(s)$ ,  $s = \beta/\alpha$ , be an  $(\alpha, \beta)$ -metric on an  $n$ -dimensional manifold  $M$ . Let  $T = T(s)$  be defined in (13). Suppose that  $T(s) - 1$  is an odd function of  $s$ . Then  $dV_{TH} = dV_\alpha$ .*

*Proof:* Let  $h(s) = T(s) - 1$ . By assumption  $h(-s) = -h(s)$ . It is easy to see that

$$\int_0^\pi (\sin^{n-2} t) h(b \cos t) dt = 0.$$

Thus

$$\int_0^\pi (\sin^{n-2} t) T(b \cos t) dt = \int_0^\pi \sin^{n-2} t dt.$$

This implies that  $\sigma_{HT} = 1$  in the above special coordinate system at  $x$ . Then in a general coordinate system  $\sigma_{HT} = \sigma_\alpha$ . Q.E.D.

If  $\phi = 1 + s$ , then  $T = 1 + s$  and  $T(s) - 1$  is an odd function of  $s$ . Then for a Randers metric,  $dV_{HT} = dV_\alpha$ . This fact is known to Y. B. Shen.

### 3 The S-Curvature

In this section, we are going to find a formula for the S-curvature of an  $(\alpha, \beta)$ -metric on an  $n$ -dimensional manifold  $M$ .

Let  $F = F(x, y)$  be a Finsler metric on an  $n$ -dimensional manifold  $M$ . Let  $G = y^i \frac{\partial}{\partial x^i} - 2G^i \frac{\partial}{\partial y^i}$  denote the spray of  $F$  and  $dV = \sigma dx$  be a volume form on  $M$ . The spray coefficients  $G^i$  are defined by

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

Then the S-curvature (with respect to  $dV$ ) is defined by

$$\mathbf{S} = \frac{\partial G^m}{\partial y^m} - y^m \frac{\partial}{\partial x^m} (\ln \sigma).$$

By the definition, S-curvature  $\mathbf{S}(y)$  measures the average rate of changes of  $(T_x M, F_x)$  in the direction  $y \in T_x M$ . An important property is that  $\mathbf{S} = 0$  for Berwald spaces with respect to the Busemann-Hausdorff volume form  $dV_{BH}$  [10][11].

**Definition 3.1** Let  $F$  be a Finsler metric on an  $n$ -dimensional manifold  $M$ . Let  $\mathbf{S}$  denote the S-curvature of  $F$  with respect to  $dV_{BH}$ .  $F$  is of isotropic S-curvature if

$$\mathbf{S} = (n + 1)cF,$$

where  $c = c(x)$  is a scalar function.  $F$  is of constant S-curvature if  $c = \text{constant}$ .

We now compute the S-curvature of an  $(\alpha, \beta)$ -metric on a manifold. Let

$$F = \alpha\phi(s), \quad s = \beta/\alpha.$$

We have the following formula for the spray coefficients  $G^i$  of  $F$ :

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

where  $\bar{G}^i$  denote the spray coefficients of  $\alpha$  and

$$Q := \frac{\phi'}{\phi - s\phi'}, \quad \Theta = \frac{Q - sQ'}{2\Delta}, \quad \Psi = \frac{Q'}{2\Delta}, \quad (15)$$

where  $\Delta := 1 + sQ + (b^2 - s^2)Q'$ .

It is easy to see that if  $\phi = \phi(s)$  satisfies

$$b^2 Q + s = 0,$$

then

$$\phi = a_0 \sqrt{b^2 - s^2},$$

where  $a_0$  is a number independent of  $s$ .

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

$$\Psi = \text{constant},$$

then

$$\phi = k_1 \sqrt{1 + k_2 s^2} + k_3 s,$$

where  $k_1, k_2$  and  $k_3$  are numbers independent of  $s$ .

To compute the S-curvature, we need the following identities:

$$\frac{\partial s}{\partial y^m} = \frac{1}{\alpha} \left\{ b_m - s \frac{y_m}{\alpha} \right\},$$

$$\frac{\partial \alpha}{\partial y^m} = \frac{y_m}{\alpha},$$

$$\frac{\partial \bar{G}^m}{\partial y^m} = y^m \frac{\partial}{\partial x^m} (\ln \sigma_\alpha).$$

Using the above identities, we obtain

$$\frac{\partial G^m}{\partial y^m} = y^m \frac{\partial}{\partial x^m} (\ln \sigma_\alpha) + 2\Psi(r_0 + s_0) - \alpha^{-1} \frac{\Phi}{2\Delta^2} (r_{00} - 2\alpha Q s_0),$$

where

$$\Phi := -(Q - sQ')\{n\Delta + 1 + sQ\} - (b^2 - s^2)(1 + sQ)Q''. \quad (16)$$

By Proposition 2.1,  $dV = \sigma dx = f(b)\sigma_\alpha dx$ . Thus

$$y^m \frac{\partial}{\partial x^m} (\ln \sigma) = \frac{f'(b)}{f(b)} y^m \frac{\partial b}{\partial x^m} + y^m \frac{\partial}{\partial x^m} (\ln \sigma_\alpha).$$

$$y^m \frac{\partial b}{\partial x^m} = \frac{b^i b_{i|m} y^m}{b} = \frac{r_0 + s_0}{b}. \quad (17)$$

Then the S-curvature is given by

$$\mathbf{S} = \left\{ 2\Psi - \frac{f'(b)}{bf(b)} \right\} (r_0 + s_0) - \alpha^{-1} \frac{\Phi}{2\Delta^2} (r_{00} - 2\alpha Q s_0). \quad (18)$$

**Lemma 3.2** *Let  $\beta$  be a 1-form on a Riemannian manifold  $(M, \alpha)$ . Then  $b(x) := \|\beta_x\|_\alpha = \text{const}$  if and only if  $\beta$  satisfies the following equation:*

$$r_j + s_j = 0. \quad (19)$$

*Proof:* This follows immediately from (17).

Q.E.D.

In the case when  $b = \text{constant}$ , the S-curvature is given by

$$\mathbf{S} = -\alpha^{-1} \frac{\Phi}{2\Delta^2} (r_{00} - 2\alpha Q s_0). \quad (20)$$

We can prove the following

**Proposition 3.3** *Let  $F = \alpha\phi(\beta/\alpha)$  be an  $(\alpha, \beta)$ -metric on an  $n$ -manifold. If  $\beta$  and  $\phi$  satisfy conditions in Theorem 1.2 (i) or (ii) or (iii), then  $F$  has isotropic S-curvature.*

*Proof:* If  $\beta$  satisfies (6) and  $\phi$  satisfies (7), then it follows from (18) that  $\mathbf{S} = 0$ .

If  $\beta$  satisfies (8), then

$$r_{00} = \epsilon(b^2 - s^2)\alpha^2, \quad r_0 = 0, \quad s_0 = 0.$$

By (9) and the above equations, we get from (18) that

$$\mathbf{S} = -\alpha\epsilon(b^2 - s^2)\frac{\Phi}{2\Delta^2} = (n+1)k\epsilon\alpha\phi = (n+1)k\epsilon F.$$

If  $\beta$  satisfies (10), then

$$r_{00} = 0, \quad r_0 = 0, \quad s_0 = 0.$$

It follows from (18) that  $\mathbf{S} = 0$ .

Q.E.D.

To prove the necessary conditions in Theorem 1.2, we consider an  $(\alpha, \beta)$ -metric  $F = \alpha\phi(\beta/\alpha)$  with isotropic S-curvature,  $\mathbf{S} = (n+1)cF$ . By (18), the equation  $\mathbf{S} = (n+1)cF$  is equivalent to the following equation:

$$\alpha^{-1}\frac{\Phi}{2\Delta^2}(r_{00} - 2\alpha Qs_0) - 2\Psi(r_0 + s_0) = -(n+1)cF + \theta, \quad (21)$$

where

$$\theta := -\frac{f'(b)}{bf(b)}(r_0 + s_0). \quad (22)$$

To simplify the equation (21), we choose special coordinates. Fix an arbitrary point  $x$ . Take a local coordinate system at  $x$  as in (11). We have

$$\begin{aligned} r_1 &= br_{11}, & r_\alpha &= br_{1\alpha}, \\ s_1 &= 0, & s_\alpha &= bs_{1\alpha}. \end{aligned}$$

Let

$$\begin{aligned} \bar{r}_{10} &:= \sum_{\alpha=2}^n r_{1\alpha}y^\alpha, & \bar{s}_{10} &:= \sum_{\alpha=2}^n s_{1\alpha}y^\alpha, & \bar{r}_{00} &:= \sum_{\alpha,\beta=2}^n r_{\alpha\beta}y^\alpha y^\beta, \\ \bar{r}_0 &:= \sum_{\alpha=2}^n r_\alpha y^\alpha, & \bar{s}_0 &:= \sum_{\alpha=2}^n s_\alpha y^\alpha. \end{aligned}$$

We have

$$\bar{r}_0 = b\bar{r}_{10}, \quad \bar{s}_0 = b\bar{s}_{10}.$$

Let  $\theta = t_i y^i$ . Then  $t_i$  are given by

$$t_1 = -\frac{f'(b)}{f(b)}r_{11}, \quad t_\alpha = -\frac{f'(b)}{f(b)}(r_{1\alpha} + s_{1\alpha}). \quad (23)$$

(21) is equivalent to the following two equations:

$$\frac{\Phi}{2\Delta^2}(b^2 - s^2)r_{00} = -\left\{s\left(\frac{s\Phi}{2\Delta^2} - 2\Psi b^2\right)r_{11} + (n+1)cb^2\phi - sbt_1\right\}\bar{\alpha}^2, \quad (24)$$

$$\left(\frac{s\Phi}{\Delta^2} - 2\Psi b^2\right)(r_{1\alpha} + s_{1\alpha}) - (b^2Q + s)\frac{\Phi}{\Delta^2}s_{1\alpha} - bt_\alpha = 0. \quad (25)$$

Let

$$\Upsilon := \left[\frac{s\Phi}{\Delta^2} - 2\Psi b^2\right]'$$

We see that  $\Upsilon = 0$  if and only if

$$\frac{s\Phi}{\Delta^2} - 2\Psi b^2 = b^2\mu,$$

where  $\mu$  is a number independent of  $s$ . We shall divide the problem into three cases: (i)  $\Phi = 0$ , (ii)  $\Phi \neq 0$ ,  $\Upsilon = 0$  and (iii)  $\Phi \neq 0$ ,  $\Upsilon \neq 0$ .

## 4 $\Phi = 0$

In this section, we study the simplest case when  $\Phi = 0$ .

**Proposition 4.1** *Let  $F = \alpha\phi(\beta/\alpha)$  be an  $(\alpha, \beta)$ -metric. Assume that  $\Phi = 0$  but  $\phi \neq k_1\sqrt{1+k_2s^2}$  for any constants  $k_1 > 0$  and  $k_2$ . If  $F$  has isotropic  $S$ -curvature, then*

$$r_0 + s_0 = 0.$$

In this case,  $\mathbf{S} = 0$ .

*Proof:* Take a special coordinate system at  $x$  as in (11). (24) and (25) are reduced to

$$s\left\{\frac{f'(b)}{bf(b)} - 2\Psi\right\}b^2r_{11} + (n+1)cb^2\phi = 0 \quad (26)$$

$$\left\{\frac{f'(b)}{bf(b)} - 2\Psi\right\}b^2(r_{1\alpha} + s_{1\alpha}) = 0. \quad (27)$$

Letting  $s = 0$  in (26) yields

$$c = 0$$

and

$$\left\{\frac{f'(b)}{bf(b)} - 2\Psi\right\}r_{11} = 0. \quad (28)$$

If

$$\frac{f'(b)}{bf(b)} - 2\Psi = 0,$$

then

$$\phi = k_1\sqrt{1+k_2s^2} + k_3s,$$

where  $k_1 > 0$ ,  $k_2$  and  $k_3$  are numbers independent of  $s$ . Plugging it into the equation  $\Phi = 0$  yields that  $k_3 = 0$  and

$$\phi = k_1 \sqrt{1 + k_2 s^2}.$$

But this is impossible by assumption. Thus

$$\frac{f'(b)}{bf(b)} - 2\Psi \neq 0.$$

From (26) and (27), we conclude that

$$r_{11} = 0, \quad r_{1\alpha} + s_{1\alpha} = 0.$$

Q.E.D.

## 5 $\Phi \neq 0$ , $\Upsilon = 0$

First, note that  $\Upsilon = 0$  implies that

$$\frac{s\Phi}{\Delta^2} - 2\Psi b^2 = b^2 \mu, \quad (29)$$

where  $\mu$  is a number independent of  $s$ . First, we prove the following

**Lemma 5.1** *Let  $F = \alpha\phi(\beta/\alpha)$  be an  $(\alpha, \beta)$ -metric. Assume that  $\Phi \neq 0$  and  $\Upsilon = 0$ . If  $F$  has isotropic  $S$ -curvature,  $\mathbf{S} = (n+1)cF$ , then  $\beta$  satisfies*

$$r_{ij} = ka_{ij} - \epsilon b_i b_j + \frac{1}{b^2}(r_i b_j + r_j b_i), \quad (30)$$

where  $k = k(x)$ ,  $\epsilon = \epsilon(x)$ , and  $\phi = \phi(s)$  satisfies the following ODE:

$$(k - \epsilon s^2) \frac{\Phi}{2\Delta^2} = \left\{ \nu + (k - \epsilon b^2)\mu \right\} s - (n+1)c\phi, \quad (31)$$

where  $\nu = \nu(x)$ . If  $s_0 \neq 0$ , then  $\phi$  satisfies the following additional ODE:

$$\frac{\Phi}{\Delta^2}(Qb^2 + s) = b^2(\mu + \lambda), \quad (32)$$

where  $\lambda = \lambda(x)$ .

*Proof:* Since  $\Phi \neq 0$ , it follows from (24) and (25) that in a special coordinate system  $(s, y^a)$  at a point  $x$ ,

$$r_{ab} = k\delta_{ab}, \quad (33)$$

$$s \left( \frac{s\Phi}{2\Delta^2} - 2\Psi b^2 \right) r_{11} + (n+1)cb^2\phi + k \frac{\Phi}{2\Delta^2}(b^2 - s^2) = bst_1, \quad (34)$$

$$\left( \frac{s\Phi}{\Delta^2} - 2\Psi b^2 \right) (r_{1\alpha} + s_{1\alpha}) - (b^2 Q + s) \frac{\Phi}{\Delta^2} s_{1\alpha} - bt_\alpha = 0. \quad (35)$$

Let

$$r_{11} = -(k - \epsilon b^2).$$

Then (30) holds. By (29), we have

$$\frac{s\Phi}{2\Delta^2} - 2\Psi b^2 = b^2\mu - \frac{s\Phi}{2\Delta^2}.$$

Then (34) and (35) become

$$b(k - \epsilon s^2)\frac{\Phi}{2\Delta^2} = st_1 + sb\mu(k - b^2\epsilon) - (n+1)cb\phi. \quad (36)$$

$$b^2\mu(r_{1\alpha} + s_{1\alpha}) - \frac{\Phi}{\Delta^2}(Qb^2 + s)s_{1\alpha} - bt_\alpha = 0. \quad (37)$$

Letting  $t_1 = b\nu$  in (36) we get (31).

Suppose that  $s_0 \neq 0$ . Rewrite (37) as

$$\left\{b^2\mu - \frac{\Phi}{\Delta^2}(Qb^2 + s)\right\}s_{1\alpha} = bt_\alpha - b^2\mu r_{1\alpha}.$$

We can see that there is a number  $\lambda$  such that

$$\mu b^2 - \frac{\Phi}{\Delta^2}(Qb^2 + s) = -b^2\lambda.$$

This gives (32).

Q.E.D.

**Lemma 5.2** *Let  $F = \alpha\phi(\beta/\alpha)$  be an  $(\alpha, \beta)$ -metric. Assume that  $\Upsilon = 0$ . Then  $b = \text{constant}$ .*

*Proof:* Suppose that  $b \neq \text{constant}$ . Then  $b$  can be viewed as a variable over the manifold. By assumption,

$$\frac{s\Phi}{\Delta^2} - 2\Psi b^2 = b^2\mu,$$

where  $\mu = \mu(x)$ . Note that  $\Delta^2\left(\frac{s\Phi}{\Delta^2} - 2\Psi b^2 - b^2\mu\right)$  is a polynomial of degree six in  $b$  by (15). More precisely, we have

$$-\mu Q'^2 b^6 - \left\{Q'^2 - 2\mu Q'(1 + sQ - s^2 Q')\right\}b^4 + (\dots)b^2 + (\dots) = 0. \quad (38)$$

Thus

$$\mu Q'^2 = 0, \quad Q'^2 - 2\mu Q'(1 + sQ - s^2 Q') = 0.$$

Then  $Q' = 0$ , which implies that  $\phi = 1 + cs$ . This is impossible.

Q.E.D.

**Proposition 5.3** *Let  $F = \alpha\phi(\beta/\alpha)$  be an  $(\alpha, \beta)$ -metric. Suppose that  $b^2Q + s \neq 0$ ,  $\Phi \neq 0$  and  $\Upsilon = 0$ . If  $F$  has isotropic  $S$ -curvature,  $\mathbf{S} = (n+1)cF$ , then*

$$r_{ij} = \epsilon(b^2a_{ij} - b_ib_j), \quad s_j = 0, \quad (39)$$

where  $\epsilon = \epsilon(x)$  is a scalar function, and  $\phi = \phi(s)$  satisfies

$$\epsilon(b^2 - s^2)\Phi = -2(n+1)c\phi\Delta^2. \quad (40)$$

If  $\epsilon \neq 0$ , then  $c/\epsilon = \text{constant}$ .

*Proof:* First by Lemma 5.2 and Lemma 3.2, we have

$$r_0 + s_0 = 0.$$

Then by (18), we get

$$\mathbf{S} = -\alpha^{-1} \frac{\Phi}{2\Delta^2} \{r_{00} - 2\alpha Q s_0\}.$$

By Lemma 5.1,

$$r_{00} = (k - \epsilon s^2)\alpha^2 + \frac{2s}{b^2}r_0\alpha.$$

Then

$$\mathbf{S} = -(k - \epsilon s^2) \frac{\Phi}{2\Delta^2} \alpha + \frac{\Phi}{b^2\Delta^2} (b^2Q + s)s_0.$$

By (31), we get

$$\mathbf{S} = -s \left\{ \nu + (k - \epsilon b^2)\mu \right\} \alpha + \frac{\Phi}{b^2\Delta^2} (b^2Q + s)s_0 + (n+1)c\phi\alpha. \quad (41)$$

By our assumption,  $\mathbf{S} = (n+1)cF$ , we get from (41) that

$$-s \left\{ \nu + (k - \epsilon b^2)\mu \right\} \alpha + \frac{\Phi}{b^2\Delta^2} (b^2Q + s)s_0 = 0. \quad (42)$$

Letting  $y^i = \delta b^i$  for a sufficiently small  $\delta > 0$  yields

$$-\delta \left\{ \nu + (k - \epsilon b^2)\mu \right\} b^2 = 0.$$

We conclude that

$$\nu + (k - \epsilon b^2)\mu = 0. \quad (43)$$

Then (42) is reduced to

$$\frac{\Phi}{b^2\Delta^2} (b^2Q + s)s_0 = 0.$$

Since  $\Phi \neq 0$  and  $b^2Q + s \neq 0$ , we conclude that

$$s_0 = 0.$$

Then

$$r_0 = -s_0 = 0.$$

It follows from (30) that

$$r_{ij} = ka_{ij} - \epsilon b_i b_j. \quad (44)$$

Contracting (44) with  $b^i$  gives

$$r_j = (k - \epsilon b^2)b_j = 0.$$

Since  $\beta \neq 0$ , we get

$$k = \epsilon b^2 \quad (45)$$

and (44) becomes

$$r_{ij} = \epsilon(b^2 a_{ij} - b_i b_j).$$

Finally, (40) follows from (31), (43) and (45).

If  $\epsilon \neq 0$ , then letting  $s = 0$  in (40) yields that  $c/\epsilon = \text{constant}$  since  $b = \text{constant}$ . Q.E.D.

## 6 $\Phi \neq 0$ and $\Upsilon \neq 0$

In this section, we shall consider the case when  $\phi = \phi(s)$  satisfies

$$\Phi \neq 0, \quad \Upsilon \neq 0. \quad (46)$$

First we need the following

**Lemma 6.1** *Let  $F = \alpha\phi(s)$ ,  $s = \beta/\alpha$ , be an  $(\alpha, \beta)$ -metric on an  $n$ -dimensional manifold. Assume that  $\phi = \phi(s)$  satisfies (46). Suppose that  $F$  has isotropic  $S$ -curvature,  $\mathbf{S} = (n+1)cF$ . Then*

$$r_{ij} = ka_{ij} - \epsilon b_i b_j - \lambda(s_i b_j + s_j b_i), \quad (47)$$

where  $\lambda = \lambda(x)$ ,  $k = k(x)$  and  $\epsilon = \epsilon(x)$  are scalar functions of  $x$  and

$$-2s(k - \epsilon b^2)\Psi + (k - \epsilon s^2)\frac{\Phi}{2\Delta^2} + (n+1)c\phi - s\nu = 0, \quad (48)$$

where

$$\nu := -\frac{f'(b)}{bf(b)}(k - \epsilon b^2). \quad (49)$$

If in addition  $s_0 \neq 0$ , then

$$-2\Psi - \frac{Q\Phi}{\Delta^2} - \lambda\left(\frac{s\Phi}{\Delta^2} - 2\Psi b^2\right) = \delta, \quad (50)$$

where

$$\delta := -\frac{f'(b)}{bf(b)}(1 - \lambda b^2). \quad (51)$$

*Proof:* By assumption,  $\Phi \neq 0$ . It follows from (24) that there is a number  $k$  at  $x$ , independent of  $s$ , such that

$$\bar{r}_{00} = k\bar{\alpha}^2, \quad (52)$$

$$s\left(\frac{s\Phi}{2\Delta^2} - 2\Psi b^2\right)r_{11} + (n+1)cb^2\phi + k\frac{\Phi}{2\Delta^2}(b^2 - s^2) = sbt_1. \quad (53)$$

Let

$$r_{11} = k - \epsilon b^2,$$

where  $\epsilon$  is a number independent of  $s$ . By (23),  $t_1 = b\nu$ , where  $\nu$  is given by (49). Plugging them into (53) yields (48).

Suppose that  $s_0 = 0$ . Then

$$bs_{1\alpha} = s_\alpha = 0.$$

Then (25) is reduced to

$$\left(\frac{s\Phi}{\Delta^2} - 2\Psi b^2\right)r_{1\alpha} - bt_\alpha = 0. \quad (54)$$

By assumption,  $\Upsilon \neq 0$ , we know that  $\frac{s\Phi}{\Delta^2} - 2\Psi b^2 \neq \text{constant}$ . It follows from (54) that

$$r_{1\alpha} = 0, \quad t_\alpha = 0.$$

The above identities together with  $r_{11} = k - \epsilon b^2$  and  $t_1 = b\nu$  imply the following identities

$$r_{ij} = ka_{ij} - \epsilon b_i b_j. \quad (55)$$

Suppose that  $s_0 \neq 0$ . Then  $s_{\alpha_o} = bs_{1\alpha_o} \neq 0$  for some  $\alpha_o$ .

Differentiating (25) with respect to  $s$  yields

$$\Upsilon r_{1\alpha} - \left[\frac{Q\Phi}{\Delta^2} + 2\Psi\right]' b^2 s_{1\alpha} = 0. \quad (56)$$

Let

$$\lambda := -\frac{r_{1\alpha_o}}{b^2 s_{1\alpha_o}}.$$

Plugging it into (56) yields

$$-\lambda\Upsilon - \left[\frac{Q\Phi}{\Delta^2} + 2\Psi\right]' = 0. \quad (57)$$

It follows from (57) that

$$\delta := -\frac{Q\Phi}{\Delta^2} - 2\Psi - \lambda \left[\frac{s\Phi}{\Delta^2} - 2\Psi b^2\right]$$

is a number independent of  $s$ . By assumption that  $\Upsilon \neq 0$ , we obtain from (56) and (57) that

$$r_{1\alpha} + \lambda b^2 s_{1\alpha} = 0. \quad (58)$$

(52) and (58) together with  $r_{11} = k - \epsilon b^2$  implies that

$$r_{ij} + \lambda(b_i s_j + b_j s_i) = k a_{ij} - \epsilon b_i b_j. \quad (59)$$

By (23) and (58),

$$t_\alpha = \frac{f'(b)}{f(b)}(b^2 \lambda - 1) s_{1\alpha}.$$

On the other hand, by (25) and (58), we obtain

$$b t_\alpha = \delta b^2 s_{1\alpha}.$$

Combining the above identities, we get (51). Q.E.D.

**Lemma 6.2** *Let  $F = \alpha\phi(s)$ ,  $s = \beta/\alpha$ , be an  $(\alpha, \beta)$ -metric. Suppose that  $\phi = \phi(s)$  satisfies (46) and  $\phi \neq k_1\sqrt{1+k_2s^2} + k_3s$  for any constants  $k_1 > 0$ ,  $k_2$  and  $k_3$ . If  $F$  has isotropic  $S$ -curvature, then*

$$r_j + s_j = 0.$$

*Proof:* Suppose that  $r_j + s_j \neq 0$ , then  $b := \|\beta_x\|_\alpha \neq \text{constant}$  in a neighborhood. We view  $b$  as a variable in (48) and (50). Since  $\phi = \phi(s)$  is a function independent of  $x$ , (48) and (50) actually give rise infinitely many ODEs on  $\phi$ .

First, we consider (48). Let

$$eq := \Delta^2 \left\{ -2s(k - \epsilon b^2)\Psi + (k - \epsilon s^2)\frac{\Phi}{2\Delta^2} + (n+1)c\phi - s\nu \right\}.$$

We have

$$eq = \Xi_0 + \Xi_2 b^2 + \Xi_4 b^4,$$

where

$$\Xi_4 := \left\{ (\epsilon - \nu)s + (n+1)c\phi \right\} \frac{\phi^2}{(\phi - s\phi')^4} (\phi'')^2.$$

It follows from (48) that  $eq = 0$ . Thus

$$\Xi_0 = 0, \quad \Xi_2 = 0, \quad \Xi_4 = 0.$$

Since  $\phi'' \neq 0$ , the equation  $\Xi_4 = 0$  is equivalent to the following Ode:

$$(\epsilon - \nu)s + (n+1)c\phi = 0.$$

we conclude that

$$\epsilon = \nu, \quad c = 0.$$

Then by a direct computation we get

$$\Xi_0 + \Xi_2 s^2 = -\frac{1}{2}(1 + sQ) \left\{ (n-1)(k - \epsilon s^2)(Q - sQ') + 2kQ + 2\epsilon s \right\}.$$

Then  $\Xi_0 = 0$  and  $\Xi_2 = 0$  imply that

$$(n-1)(k - \epsilon s^2)(Q - sQ') + 2kQ + 2\epsilon s = 0, \quad (60)$$

Suppose that  $(k, \epsilon) \neq 0$ . We claim that  $k \neq 0$ . If this is not true, i.e.,  $k = 0$ , then  $\epsilon \neq 0$  and (60) is reduced to

$$-(n-1)s(Q - sQ') + 2 = 0.$$

Letting  $s = 0$ , we get a contradiction.

Now we have that  $k \neq 0$ . It is easy to see that  $Q(0) = 0$ . Let

$$\tilde{Q} := Q(s) - sQ'(0).$$

Plugging it into (60) yields

$$(n-1)(k - \epsilon s^2)(\tilde{Q} - s\tilde{Q}') + 2k\tilde{Q} + 2(kQ'(0) + \epsilon)s = 0.$$

Since  $\tilde{Q} = q_m s^m + o(s^m)$  where  $m > 1$  is an integer, we see that  $kQ'(0) + \epsilon = 0$ . The above equation is reduced to

$$(n-1)(k - \epsilon s^2)(\tilde{Q} - s\tilde{Q}') + 2k\tilde{Q} = 0.$$

We obtain

$$\tilde{Q} = c_1 \frac{s^{\frac{n+1}{n-1}}}{(k - \epsilon s^2)^{\frac{1}{n-1}}}.$$

We must have  $c_1 = 0$ , that is,  $\tilde{Q} = 0$ . We get

$$Q(s) - sQ'(s) = 0.$$

Then it follows that

$$Q(s) = Q'(0)s.$$

In this case,  $\phi = c_1 \sqrt{1 + c_2 s^2}$  where  $c_1 > 0$  and  $c_2$  are numbers independent of  $s$ . This case is excluded in the assumption. Therefore  $k = 0$  and  $\epsilon = 0$ . Then (47) is reduced to

$$r_{ij} = -\lambda(s_j b_i + s_i b_j).$$

Then

$$r_j + s_j = (1 - \lambda b^2)s_j.$$

By the assumption at the beginning of the proof,  $r_j + s_j \neq 0$ , we conclude that  $1 - \lambda b^2 \neq 0$  and  $s_j \neq 0$ . By Lemma 6.1,  $\phi = \phi(s)$  satisfies (50). Let

$$EQ := \Delta^2 \left\{ -2\Psi - \frac{Q\Phi}{\Delta^2} - \lambda \left( \frac{s\Phi}{\Delta^2} - 2\Psi b^2 \right) - \delta \right\}.$$

We have

$$EQ = \Omega_0 + \Omega_2 b^2 + \Omega_4 b^4,$$

where

$$\Omega_4 = (Q')^2(\lambda - \delta).$$

By (50),  $EQ = 0$ . Thus

$$\Omega_0 = 0, \quad \Omega_2 = 0, \quad \Omega_4 = 0.$$

Since  $Q' \neq 0$ ,  $\Omega_4 = 0$  implies that

$$\delta = \lambda.$$

By a direct computation, we get

$$\Omega_0 + \Omega_2 s^2 = (1 + sQ) \left\{ (n+1)Q(Q - sQ') - Q' + \lambda [ns(Q - sQ') - 1] \right\}.$$

The equations  $\Omega_0 = 0$  and  $\Omega_2 = 0$  imply that  $\Omega_0 + \Omega_2 s^2 = 0$ , that is,

$$(n+1)Q(Q - sQ') - Q' + \lambda [ns(Q - sQ') - 1] = 0.$$

We obtain

$$Q = -\frac{[k_0 n(n+1) - 1]\lambda s \pm \sqrt{\lambda k_0(k_0(1+n)^2 - 1 + \lambda s^2)}}{k_0(n+1)^2 - 1}.$$

Plugging it into  $\Omega_2 = 0$  yields

$$k_0 \lambda = 0.$$

Then

$$Q = \frac{\lambda s}{k_0(n+1)^2 - 1}.$$

This implies that  $\phi = k_1 \sqrt{1 + k_2 s^2}$  where  $k_1 > 0$  and  $k_2$  are numbers independent of  $s$ . This case is excluded in the assumption of the lemma. Therefore,  $r_j + s_j = 0$ . Q.E.D.

**Proposition 6.3** *Let  $F = \alpha\phi(s)$ ,  $s = \beta/\alpha$ , be an  $(\alpha, \beta)$ -metric. Suppose that  $\phi = \phi(s)$  satisfies (46) and  $\phi \neq k_1 \sqrt{1 + k_2 s^2} + k_3 s$  for any constants  $k_1 > 0$ ,  $k_2$  and  $k_3$ . If  $F$  is of isotropic  $S$ -curvature,  $\mathbf{S} = (n+1)cF$ , then*

$$r_{ij} = \epsilon(b^2 a_{ij} - b_i b_j), \quad s_j = 0, \quad (61)$$

where  $\epsilon = \epsilon(x)$  is a scalar function on  $M$  and  $\phi = \phi(s)$  satisfies

$$\epsilon(b^2 - s^2) \frac{\Phi}{2\Delta^2} = -(n+1)c\phi. \quad (62)$$

*Proof:* Contracting (47) with  $b^i$  yields

$$r_j + s_j = (k - \epsilon b^2)b_j + (1 - \lambda b^2)s_j. \quad (63)$$

By Lemma 6.2,  $r_j + s_j = 0$ . It follows from (63) that

$$(1 - \lambda b^2)s_j + (k - \epsilon b^2)b_j = 0. \quad (64)$$

Contracting (64) with  $b^j$  yields

$$(k - \epsilon b^2)b^2 = 0.$$

We get

$$k = \epsilon b^2.$$

Then (47) is reduced to

$$r_{ij} = \epsilon(b^2 a_{ij} - b_i b_j) - \lambda(b_i s_j + b_j s_i).$$

By (49),

$$\nu = 0.$$

Then (48) is reduced to (62).

We claim that  $s_0 = 0$ . Suppose that  $s_0 \neq 0$ . By (64), we conclude that

$$\lambda = \frac{1}{b^2}.$$

By (51),

$$\delta = 0.$$

It follows from (50) that

$$(b^2 Q + s)\Phi = 0.$$

This is impossible by the assumption  $\Phi \neq 0$ .

Q.E.D.

## 7 Proof of Theorem 1.1

Notice that in Lemma 6.1, there is no restriction on  $\phi$  other than (46). Let  $\phi = k_1 \sqrt{1 + k_2 s^2} + k_3 s$  where  $k_1 > 0$ ,  $k_2$  and  $k_3$  are numbers independent of  $s$ . It is easy to check that, if  $k_3 \neq 0$ , then  $\phi$  satisfies (46). Let  $F = \alpha \phi(\beta/\alpha)$ , where  $\alpha$  is a Riemannian metric and  $\beta$  is a 1-form on an  $n$ -dimensional manifold. It is easy to see that if  $F$  is a Finsler metric, then  $1 + k_2 b^2 > 0$ , where  $b := \|\beta_x\|_\alpha$ . By Lemma 6.1, we can easily prove Theorem 1.1.

*Proof of Theorem 1.1:* Assume that  $F$  is of isotropic S-curvature,  $\mathbf{S} = (n+1)cF$ . By Lemma 6.1,  $\beta$  satisfies (47) and  $\phi$  satisfies (48) and further it satisfies (50) if  $s_0 \neq 0$ .

First, we plug  $\phi = k_1 \sqrt{1 + k_2 s^2} + k_3 s$  into

$$eq := -2s(k - \epsilon b^2)\Psi + (k - \epsilon s^2)\frac{\Phi}{2\Delta^2} + (n+1)c\phi - s\nu.$$

By (48), the coefficients of the Taylor expansion of  $eq$  in  $s$  must be zero. We obtain

$$\begin{aligned} c &= \frac{k_3 k}{2(1+k_2 b^2)k_1^2} \\ \nu &= \left\{ \left( \frac{n}{1+k_2 b^2} + 1 \right) \frac{k_3^2}{k_1^2} - k_2 \right\} k \\ \epsilon &= \left\{ \frac{k_3^2}{k_1^2} - k_2 \right\} k. \end{aligned}$$

Assume that  $s_0 \neq 0$ . We plug  $\phi = k_1 \sqrt{1+k_2 s^2} + k_3 s$  into

$$EQ = -2\Psi - \frac{Q\Phi}{\Delta^2} - \lambda \left( \frac{s\Phi}{\Delta^2} - 2\Psi b^2 \right) - \delta.$$

By (50), the coefficients of the Taylor expansion of  $EQ$  in  $s$  must be zero. We obtain

$$\begin{aligned} \lambda &= \frac{k_3^2}{k_1^2} - k_2 \\ \delta &= \left( \frac{n}{1+k_2 b^2} + 1 \right) \frac{k_3^2}{k_1^2} - k_2. \end{aligned}$$

This proves the necessary conditions by (47).

Conversely, if  $\beta$  satisfies (4), then  $F$  is of isotropic S-curvature by (18). The proof is direct, so is omitted. Q.E.D.

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