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ON \mathcal{C} -CONFORMAL CHANGES OF RIEMANN-FINSLER METRICS

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ABSTRACT. In this note we give a coordinate-free characterization of the \mathcal{C} -conformality introduced by M. Hashiguchi [4]. In order to illustrate the power of our approach, we prove intrinsically the following result and its three-dimensional analogon:

Let (M, E) and (M, \bar{E}) be two-dimensional Finsler manifolds. Suppose that $\bar{g} = \varphi g$ is a \mathcal{C} -conformal change of the Riemann-Finsler metric g .

If $(\text{grad } \varphi)(v) \neq 0$ ($v \in \mathcal{T}M$) then there is a connected neighborhood \mathcal{U} of $\pi(v)$ such that $(\mathcal{U}, E \upharpoonright \mathcal{T}\mathcal{U})$ and, consequently, $(\mathcal{U}, \bar{E} \upharpoonright \mathcal{T}\mathcal{U})$ are Riemannian manifolds.

1. Preliminaries

1.1. Notations. We employ the terminology and conventions of [7] as far as feasible.

(i) M is an n -dimensional ($n > 1$), C^∞ , connected, paracompact manifold, $C^\infty(M)$ is the ring of real-valued smooth functions on M .

(ii) $\pi : \mathcal{T}M \rightarrow M$ is the tangent bundle of M , $\pi_0 : \mathcal{T}M \rightarrow M$ is the bundle of nonzero tangent vectors.

(iii) $\mathfrak{X}(M)$ denotes the $C^\infty(M)$ -module of vector fields on M .

(iv) $\Omega^k(M)$ ($k \in \mathbb{N}^+$) is the module of (scalar) k -forms on M , $\Omega^0(M) := C^\infty(M)$, $\Omega(M) := \bigoplus_{k=0}^n \Omega^k(M)$. $\Omega(M)$ is a graded algebra over $C^\infty(M)$, with multiplication given by the wedge product \wedge . \otimes stands for the tensor product.

(v) $\Psi^k(M)$ ($k \in \mathbb{N}^+$) is the $C^\infty(M)$ -module of vector k -forms on M . It can be regarded as the space of k -linear (over $C^\infty(M)$) skew-symmetric maps

$\mathfrak{X}(M) \times \cdots \times \mathfrak{X}(M) \rightarrow \mathfrak{X}(M)$. $\Psi^0(M) := \mathfrak{X}(M)$, $\Psi(M) := \bigoplus_{k=0}^n \Psi^k(M)$.

(vi) i_X , \mathcal{L}_X ($X \in \mathfrak{X}(M)$) and d are the *insertion operator*, the *Lie-derivative* (with respect to X) and the *exterior derivative*, respectively.

(vii) We shall apply the Frölicher-Nijenhuis calculus of vector-valued forms and derivations, for which we refer to [7] again; see also [5], [6], [9]. We recall here two special, but important cases. If $K \in \Psi^1(M)$, $Y \in \Psi^0(M) := \mathfrak{X}(M)$ then their *Frölicher-Nijenhuis bracket* $[K, Y] \in \Psi^1(M)$ acts as follows:

$$(1) \quad [K, Y](X) = [K(X), Y] - K[X, Y] \quad (X \in \mathfrak{X}(M)).$$

As for the derivation induced by K , we have:

$$(2) \quad d_K f := df \circ K \quad (f \in C^\infty(M)).$$

1.2. *Some basic facts from the differential geometry of the tangent bundle.* Let us consider the tangent manifold TM (or the manifold $\mathcal{T}M$).

(i) $\mathfrak{X}^v(TM)$ and $\mathfrak{X}(\mathcal{T}M)$ denote the $C^\infty(TM)$ -module of vertical vector fields on TM and $\mathcal{T}M$, respectively. On TM live two canonical objects which play important role among others in Finslerian theory: the *Liouville vector field* $C \in \mathfrak{X}^v(TM)$ and the *vertical endomorphism* $J \in \Psi^1(TM)$ (for the definitions see e.g. [6]). We have:

$$(3) \quad \text{Im } J = \text{Ker } J = \mathfrak{X}^v(TM), \quad J^2 = 0.$$

The *vertical lift* ([6], [8]) of a function $f \in C^\infty(M)$ and a vector field $X \in \mathfrak{X}(M)$ is denoted by f^v and X^v , respectively.

Lemma 1. A function $\varphi \in C^\infty(TM)$ (or $C^\infty(\mathcal{T}M)$) is a vertical lift iff $\forall X \in \mathfrak{X}^v(TM) : X\varphi = 0$.

For a simple *proof* see [7].

(ii) A mapping $S : TM \rightarrow TTM$ is said to be a *semispray* on M if it satisfies the following conditions:

(SPR1) S is a vector field of class C^1 on TM .

(SPR2) S is smooth on $\mathcal{T}M$.

(SPR3) $JS = C$.

A semispray S is called a *spray* if it is homogeneous of degree 2, i.e.

(SPR4) $[C, S] = S$

also holds.

(iii) Let $\varphi = f \circ \pi$ ($f \in C^\infty(M)$) be a vertical lift. If S and \bar{S} are semisprays on M then $\bar{S} - S$ is vertical because of (SPR3). According to Lemma 1 the function

$$f^c := S\varphi = S(f \circ \pi)$$

is well-defined; it is called the *complete lift* of f .

Now the *complete lift* X^c of a vector field $X \in \mathfrak{X}(M)$ can be introduced as in [8]:

$$\forall f \in C^\infty(M) : X^c f^c := (Xf)^c.$$

The derivation of the following well-known formulas is straightforward:

$\forall X, Y \in \mathfrak{X}(M), \quad f \in C^\infty(M)$:

$$(4) \quad X^v f^c = X^c f^v = (Xf)^v,$$

$$(5) \quad [X^c, Y^c] = [X, Y]^c, \quad [X^v, Y^c] = [X, Y]^v,$$

$$(6) \quad [C, X^c] = 0 \quad (\text{i.e. } X^c \text{ is homogeneous of degree 1}),$$

$$(7) \quad JX^c = X^v, \quad [J, X^v] = 0, \quad [J, X^c] = 0.$$

Lemma 2. A vector field $X \in \mathfrak{X}^v(TM)$ (or $\mathfrak{X}^v(TM)$) is a vertical lift iff $\forall Y \in \mathfrak{X}(M) : [X, Y^v] = 0$.

Proof. It is easy to check that the following assertions are equivalent:

- $\forall Y \in \mathfrak{X}(M) : [X, Y^v] = 0$,
- $\forall Y \in \mathfrak{X}(M), f \in C^\infty(M) : [X, Y^v]f^c = 0$,
- $\forall Y \in \mathfrak{X}(M), f \in C^\infty(M) :$
 $0 = X(Y^v f^c) - Y^v(X f^c) \stackrel{\text{Lemma 1, (4)}}{\iff} Y^v(X f^c) = 0$,
- $\forall f \in C^\infty(M) : X f^c$ is a vertical lift,
- X is a vertical lift. □

Remark 1. In the sequel we consider forms over TM or $\mathcal{T}M$. *Differentiability of vector (and scalar) k -forms ($k \in \mathbb{N}^+$) is required only over $\mathcal{T}M$, unless otherwise stated.*

(iv) A vector 1-form $h \in \Psi^1(TM)$ is said to be a *horizontal endomorphism* on M if it satisfies the following conditions:

- (HE1) h is smooth over $\mathcal{T}M$.
- (HE2) h is a projector, i.e. $h^2 = h$.
- (HE3) $\text{Ker } h = \mathfrak{X}^v(TM)$.

The *horizontal lift* of a vector field $X \in \mathfrak{X}(M)$ (with respect to h) is $X^h := hX^c$.

- $H := [h, C]$ is the *tension* of h ,
- $t := [J, h]$ is the *weak torsion* of h ,
- $T := i_{St} + H$ (S is an arbitrary semispray on M) is the *strong torsion* of h (cf. 1.1. Notations/(vii)).

Any horizontal endomorphism h determines a canonical *almost complex structure* $F \in \Psi^1(TM)$ ($F^2 = -1$, F is smooth on $\mathcal{T}M$) such that

$$(8) \quad F \circ h = -J, \quad F \circ J = h;$$

it is called the almost complex structure associated with h (see [2]).

1.3. Finsler manifolds. Let a function $E : TM \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$, called *energy*, be given. The pair (M, E) , or simply M , is said to be a *Finsler manifold* if the energy function satisfies the following conditions:

- (F0) $E(v) > 0$ ($v \in TM$), $E(0) = 0$.
- (F1) E is of class C^1 on TM and smooth on $\mathcal{T}M$.
- (F2) $CE = 2E$, i.e. E is homogeneous of degree 2.
- (F3) The *fundamental form* $\omega := dd_J E \in \Omega^2(\mathcal{T}M)$ is symplectic.

The mapping

$$(9) \quad g : \mathfrak{X}^v(TM) \times \mathfrak{X}^v(TM) \rightarrow C^\infty(TM), \quad (JX, JY) \rightarrow g(JX, JY) := \omega(JX, Y)$$

is a well-defined, nondegenerate symmetric bilinear form, which we call the *Riemann-Finsler metric* of the Finsler manifold (M, E) . If the Riemann-Finsler metric is positive definite then we speak of a *positive definite* Finsler manifold.

On any Finsler manifold there is a spray $S : TM \rightarrow TTM$, which is uniquely determined on TM by the formula

$$(10) \quad i_S \omega = -dE.$$

This spray is called the *canonical spray* of the Finsler manifold.

The fundamental lemma of Finsler geometry [2]. On a Finsler manifold (M, E) there is a unique horizontal endomorphism $h \in \Psi^1(TM)$ such that

(B1) $d_h E = 0$ (“ h is conservative”).

(B2) $T = 0$ (the strong torsion of h vanishes).

h is called the *Barthel endomorphism* of M . It is given by the formula

$$h = \frac{1}{2}(1 + [J, S]),$$

where S is the canonical spray.

Let us suppose that (M, E) is a Finsler manifold with Riemann-Finsler metric g . There exists a unique (symmetric) tensor $C : \mathfrak{X}(TM) \times \mathfrak{X}(TM) \rightarrow \mathfrak{X}(TM)$, satisfying the following conditions:

(CAR1) $J \circ C = 0$.

(CAR2) $\forall X, Y, Z \in \mathfrak{X}(TM) : g(C(X, Y), JZ) = \frac{1}{2}(\mathcal{L}_{JX} J^* g)(Y, Z)$, where J^* is the adjoint operator of J (see [6]). C is called the *Cartan tensor* of the Finsler manifold (cf. [3]).

(It is a well-known fundamental fact that the vanishing of C characterizes the Riemannian manifolds!)

The Cartan connection on a Finsler manifold [3]. Let a Finsler manifold (M, E) be given and let denote h the Barthel endomorphism on M . If $\nu := 1 - h$ then the mapping

$$(11) \quad \begin{aligned} g_h : \mathfrak{X}(TM) \times \mathfrak{X}(TM) &\rightarrow C^\infty(TM), \\ (X, Y) &\rightarrow g_h(X, Y) := g(JX, JY) + g(\nu X, \nu Y) \end{aligned}$$

is a (pseudo-) Riemannian metric on TM , which we call the *prolonged metric* of g .

There is a unique linear connection D on TM such that

- $Dh = 0$ (D is *reducible*),
- $DF = 0$ (D is *almost complex* with respect to the almost complex structure associated with h),

- $Dg_h = 0$ (D is metrical),
- and $\forall X, Y \in \mathfrak{X}(TM)$:
- $\nu\mathbb{T}(\nu X, \nu Y) = 0$ (the $\nu(\nu)$ -torsion of D vanishes),
 - $h\mathbb{T}(hX, hY) = 0$ (the $h(h)$ -torsion of D vanishes),
- where \mathbb{T} is the classical torsion tensor of D .

Proposition 1. (*Brickell's theorem*, [1]). Let (M, E) be a positive definite Finsler manifold of dimension $n \geq 3$ and let us suppose that the energy function is symmetric, i.e. $\forall v \in TM : E(v) = E(-v)$.

If the third curvature tensor $Q := J^*\mathbb{K}$ of the Cartan connection D (where \mathbb{K} is the classical curvature tensor of D) vanishes then the Finsler manifold (M, E) is Riemannian.

The gradient operator on the tangent bundle of a Finsler manifold [7]. Let (M, E) be a Finsler manifold with fundamental form ω . Consider a smooth function $\varphi : TM \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$. Nondegeneracy of ω guarantees the existence and unicity of a vector field $\text{grad } \varphi \in \mathfrak{X}(TM)$ characterized by the formula

$$d\varphi = i_{\text{grad } \varphi} \omega.$$

This vector field is called the *gradient* of φ .

Proposition 2. [7] If φ is a vertical lift (i.e. $\varphi = f \circ \pi, f \in C^\infty(M)$) then the gradient vector field of φ has the following properties

- (i) $\text{grad } \varphi \in \mathfrak{X}^v(TM)$.
- (ii) $[C, \text{grad } \varphi] = -\text{grad } \varphi$, i.e. $\text{grad } \varphi$ is homogeneous of degree 0.
- (iii) $\text{grad } \varphi(E) = f^c$.

2. C-conformal changes of Riemann-Finsler metrics

Definition. Consider the Finsler manifolds (M, E) and (M, \bar{E}) . Their Riemann-Finsler metrics g and \bar{g} are *conformally equivalent*, if there exists a positive smooth function $\varphi : TM \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ such that $\bar{g} = \varphi g$. In this case we also speak of a *conformal change* of the metric g . The function φ is called the *scale function*. If φ is constant then the conformal change is *homothetic*.

Lemma 3. (*Knebelman's observation*) The scale function between conformally equivalent Riemann-Finsler metrics is a vertical lift.

For a simple coordinate-free *proof* see [7].

Theorem 1. [7] Suppose that g and \bar{g} are conformally equivalent Riemann-Finsler metrics on M :

$$\bar{g} = \varphi g; \quad \varphi = \exp \circ \alpha \circ \pi, \quad \alpha \in C^\infty(M).$$

Then the canonical sprays and the Barthel endomorphisms are related as follows:

$$(12) \quad \bar{S} = S - \alpha^c C + E \operatorname{grad} \alpha^v,$$

$$(13) \quad \bar{h} = h - \frac{1}{2}(\alpha^c J + d\alpha^v \otimes C) + \frac{1}{2}E[J, \operatorname{grad} \alpha^v] + \frac{1}{2}d_J E \otimes \operatorname{grad} \alpha^v.$$

Definition. Let g and \bar{g} be Riemann-Finsler metrics on M . The conformal change $\bar{g} = \varphi g$ is \mathcal{C} -conformal if the scale function satisfies the following conditions:

(C1) the change $\bar{g} = \varphi g$ is not homothetic.

(C2) $i_F \operatorname{grad} \varphi \mathcal{C} = 0$.

Proposition 3. If φ is a vertical lift (i.e. $\varphi = f \circ \pi, f \in C^\infty(M)$) then the following assertions are equivalent:

(i) $\operatorname{grad} \varphi$ is smooth on the whole tangent manifold TM .

(ii) $\operatorname{grad} \varphi = X^v$ ($X \in \mathfrak{X}(M)$, i.e. $\operatorname{grad} \varphi$ is a vertical lift).

(iii) $i_F \operatorname{grad} \varphi \mathcal{C} = 0$.

Proof. (i) \iff (ii) This follows immediately from Proposition 2/(ii).
 (ii) \iff (iii) $\forall Y, Z \in \mathfrak{X}(M)$:

$$\begin{aligned} 2g(\mathcal{C}(F \operatorname{grad} \varphi, Y^c), Z^v) &= 2g(\mathcal{C}(Y^c, F \operatorname{grad} \varphi), Z^v) = (\mathcal{L}_{Y^v} J^* g)(F \operatorname{grad} \varphi, Z^c) = \\ &= Y^v g(\operatorname{grad} \varphi, Z^v) - g(J[Y^v, F \operatorname{grad} \varphi], Z^v) - g(\operatorname{grad} \varphi, J[Y^v, Z^c]) \stackrel{(3),(5)}{=} \\ &= Y^v g(\operatorname{grad} \varphi, Z^v) - g(J[Y^v, F \operatorname{grad} \varphi], Z^v) = \\ &= Y^v(Z^c \varphi) - g(J[Y^v, F \operatorname{grad} \varphi], Z^v) \stackrel{\text{Lemma 1, (4)}}{=} \\ &= -g(J[Y^v, F \operatorname{grad} \varphi], Z^v) \stackrel{(1),(7)}{=} g([\operatorname{grad} \varphi, Y^v], Z^v). \end{aligned}$$

Thus we have:

$$\forall Y \in \mathfrak{X}(M) : i_F \operatorname{grad} \varphi \mathcal{C}(Y^c) = \frac{1}{2}[\operatorname{grad} \varphi, Y^v].$$

In view of Lemma 2 this implies that (ii) \iff (iii). □

Corollary 1. Under the \mathcal{C} -conformal change $\bar{g} = \varphi g$ ($\varphi = \exp \circ \alpha \circ \pi, \alpha \in C^\infty(M)$), the Barthel endomorphisms are related as follows:

$$(14) \quad \bar{h} = h - \frac{1}{2}(\alpha^c J + d\alpha^v \otimes C) + \frac{1}{2}d_J E \otimes \operatorname{grad} \alpha^v.$$

3. Applications to two- and three-dimensional Finsler manifolds

Proposition 4. Let (M, E) and (M, \overline{E}) be two-dimensional Finsler manifolds. Suppose that $\overline{g} = \varphi g$ is a \mathcal{C} -conformal change of the Riemann-Finsler metric g .

If $(\text{grad } \varphi)(v) \neq 0$ ($v \in \mathcal{T}M$) then there is a connected neighborhood \mathcal{U} of $\pi(v)$ such that $(\mathcal{U}, E \upharpoonright \mathcal{T}\mathcal{U})$ and, consequently, $(\mathcal{U}, \overline{E} \upharpoonright \mathcal{T}\mathcal{U})$ are Riemannian manifolds.

Proof. It is easy to check that the Cartan tensor \mathcal{C} of the Finsler manifold (M, E) is semibasic and $\iota_S \mathcal{C} = 0$ (S is an arbitrary semispray on M).

Since the change is not homothetic there is a tangent vector $v \in \mathcal{T}M$ satisfying the condition $(\text{grad } \varphi)(v) \neq 0$. According to Proposition 3, $\text{grad } \varphi$ is a vertical lift: $\text{grad } \varphi = X^\nu$, $X \in \mathfrak{X}(M)$. Thus there is a connected neighborhood \mathcal{U} of $\pi(v)$ such that

- $\forall w \in \pi_0^{-1}(\mathcal{U}) : X^\nu(w) := (\text{grad } \varphi)(w) \neq 0$.
 Let $\Delta := \{z \in \pi_0^{-1}(\mathcal{U}) \mid (X^\nu(z), \mathcal{C}(z)) \text{ is linearly dependent in } T_z \mathcal{T}M\}$.
 Then $\forall p \in \mathcal{U}$:

$$\Delta_p := \Delta \cap T_p M = \{rX(p) \mid r \in \mathbb{R} \setminus \{0\}\},$$

and thus $\text{int}\Delta$ is empty in $\pi_0^{-1}(\mathcal{U})$.

Since $FC = S$ (S is the canonical spray) and $\iota_S \mathcal{C} = 0$, (C2) implies the vanishing of \mathcal{C} over $\pi_0^{-1}(\mathcal{U}) \setminus \Delta$. Therefore $\mathcal{C} \upharpoonright \pi_0^{-1}(\mathcal{U}) = 0$, i.e. $(\mathcal{U}, E \upharpoonright \mathcal{T}\mathcal{U})$ is a Riemannian manifold. □

Proposition 5. Let (M, E) and (M, \overline{E}) be three-dimensional, positive definite Finsler manifolds with symmetric energy functions. Suppose that $\overline{g} = \varphi g$ is a \mathcal{C} -conformal change of the Riemann-Finsler metric g .

If $(\text{grad } \varphi)(v) \neq 0$ ($v \in \mathcal{T}M$) then there is a connected neighborhood \mathcal{U} of $\pi(v)$ such that $(\mathcal{U}, E \upharpoonright \mathcal{T}\mathcal{U})$ and, consequently, $(\mathcal{U}, \overline{E} \upharpoonright \mathcal{T}\mathcal{U})$ are Riemannian manifolds.

Proof. Let us choose a tangent vector $v \in \mathcal{T}M$ satisfying the condition $(\text{grad } \varphi)(v) \neq 0$. Since $\text{grad } \varphi$ is a vertical lift there is a connected neighborhood \mathcal{U} of $\pi(v)$ such that

- $\forall w \in \pi_0^{-1}(\mathcal{U}) : X^\nu(w) := (\text{grad } \varphi)(w) \neq 0$

Consider the third curvature tensor \mathbb{Q} of the Cartan connection of (M, E) . In view of Brickell's theorem it is sufficient to show that $\mathbb{Q} \upharpoonright \pi_0^{-1}(\mathcal{U}) = 0$.

Applying the explicit formulas of [3] which describe the covariant derivatives with respect to the Cartan connection, we get:

$$(15) \quad \mathbb{Q}(X, Y)Z = \mathcal{C}(FC(X, Z), Y) - \mathcal{C}(X, FC(Y, Z)) \quad (X, Y, Z \in \mathfrak{X}(\mathcal{T}M)).$$

Therefore

- (i) $\mathbb{Q}(X, Y)S = \mathbb{Q}(X, S)Y = \mathbb{Q}(S, X)Y = 0$ (S is an arbitrary semispray on M),
- (ii) $\mathbb{Q}(X, Y)F \text{grad } \varphi = \mathbb{Q}(X, F \text{grad } \varphi)Y = \mathbb{Q}(F \text{grad } \varphi, X)Y = 0$,
- (iii) $\mathbb{Q}(X, X)Y = 0$.

Let $\Delta := \{z \in \pi_0^{-1}(\mathcal{U}) \mid (X^\nu(z), C(z)) \text{ is linearly dependent in } T_z TM\}$. Then (i)–(iii) imply the vanishing of \mathcal{Q} over the set $\pi_0^{-1}(\mathcal{U}) \setminus \Delta$.

Thus we obtain, as in the proof of Proposition 4, that $\mathcal{Q} \upharpoonright \pi_0^{-1}(\mathcal{U}) = 0$. \square

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