Journal of Finsler Geometry and its Applications Vol. 2, No. 1 (2021), pp 31-39 DOI: 10.22098/jfga.2021.1261

# Locally Dually Flatness and Locally Projectively Flatness of Matsumoto change with *m*-th root Finsler metrics

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**Abstract.** In this paper, we study the Matsumoto change of *m*-th root Finsler metric. We find the necessary and sufficient conditions under which the transformed metric be locally dually flat. Also, we prove that for Matsumoto change of *m*-th root metric is locally projectively flat if and only if it is locally Minkowskian.

**Keywords:** Finsler metric, *m*-th root metric, Matsumoto change, Locally projectively flat metric and Locally dually flat metric.

#### 1. INTRODUCTION

The Matsumoto metric is an important and interesting Finsler metric, which is realization of Finsler's idea of a slope measure of a mountain with respect to a time measure ([7] and [11]). If  $\alpha = \sqrt{a_{ij}y^iy^j}$  is a Riemannian metric on Earth's surface and  $\beta = b_i y^i$  is a one form, depends on Earth's gravity then Matsumoto metric F is defined by

$$F(x,y) = \frac{\alpha^2(x,y)}{\alpha(x,y) - \beta(x,y)}.$$

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AMS 2020 Mathematics Subject Classification: 53B40, 53C30

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A  $\beta$ -change  $\overline{F}$  of Finsler metric F, is defined as  $\overline{F}(x, y) = f(F, \beta)$ , where  $f(F, \beta)$  is a positively homogeneous function. We discuss a special  $\beta$ - change, as

$$\bar{F} = \frac{F^2}{F - \beta},$$

known Matsumoto change. In particular, if F is a Riemannian metric, then  $\overline{F}$  becomes to Matsumoto metric  $F = \frac{\alpha^2}{\alpha - \beta}$ .

The theory of m-th root metrics has been developed by H. Shimada ([10]) and applied to Biology as an ecological metric and studied by many authors ([9], [12], [13] and [14]). It is regarded as a direct generalization of the theory of Riemannian metric in the sense that the second root metric is a Riemannian metric. The third and fourth root metrics are called the cubic metric and quartic metric, respectively. Recently studies show that the theory of m-th root Finsler metrics play a very important role in physics, theory of space-time structure, gravitation, general relativity and seismic ray theory.

Suppose  $F = \sqrt[m]{A}$  be m-th root metric, as A is given by

$$A := a_{i_1 i_2 \dots i_m}(x) y^{i_1} y^{i_2} \dots y^{i_m}$$

with  $a_{i_1...i_m}$  symmetric in every indices. Let us put

$$A_i = \frac{\partial A}{\partial y^i}, \quad A_{x^i} = \frac{\partial A}{\partial x^i}, \quad A_0 = A_{x^i} y^i, \\ A_{0l} = A_{x^i y^l} y^i, \quad A_{ij} = \frac{\partial^2 A}{\partial y^i \partial y^j},$$

and

$$B_i = \frac{\partial B}{\partial y^i}, \quad B_{x^i} = \frac{\partial B}{\partial x^i}, \quad B_0 = B_{x^i} y^i, \quad B_{0l} = B_{x^i y^l} y^i.$$

In information geometry on Riemannian manifolds, Amari and Nagaoka [1] proposed concept of locally dually flat Riemannian metrics. In [9], Shen enhanced concept of locally dually flatness. In [12], Tayebi-Najafi proved for locally dually flat and Antonelli *m*-th root metrics. Nowdays, A. Tayebi et.al. [14], studied Kropina change for locally dually flat.

In this paper, we prove the following.

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**Theorem 1.1.** Let  $F = \sqrt[m]{A}$  be an m-th root metric on open subset  $U \subset \mathbb{R}^n$ , where A is irreducible. Suppose that  $\overline{F} = F^2/(F - \beta)$  is the Matsumoto change of F. Then  $\overline{F}$  is locally dually flat if and only if there exists a 1-form  $\theta = \theta_l(x)y^l$ such that the following hold

$$A_{x^{l}} = \frac{1}{3m} \Big[ mA\theta_{l} + 4\theta A_{l} \Big], \tag{1.1}$$

$$4A\beta_l A_0 - \left(\frac{9}{m} - 1\right) A^{\frac{1}{m}} A_l A_0 - A^{\frac{1}{m}+1} A_{0l} + 4AA_l \beta_0 + mA^2 \beta_{0l} + 2A^{\frac{1}{m}+1} A_{ll} = 2mA^2 \beta_{ll}$$

$$(1.2)$$

$$= \sum_{k=1}^{n} \sum_{i=1}^{n} \sum_{k=1}^{n} \sum_{i=1}^{n} \sum_{k=1}^{n} \sum_{i=1}^{n} \sum$$

$$\frac{1}{m}A^{\frac{2}{m}}A_0A_l - \beta_l A^{\frac{1}{m}+1}A_0 - A^{\frac{1}{m}+1}A_l\beta_0 + mA^2\beta_0\beta_l = 0,$$
(1.3)

where

$$eta_0=eta_{x^i}y^i,\quadeta_{0l}=eta_{x^ky^l}y^k,\quadeta_{x^l}=(b_i)_{x^l}y^i.$$

Distance functions induced by a Finsler metrics are regarded as *smooth* ones. The Hilbert Fourth Problem in the smooth case is to characterize Finsler metrics on an open subset in  $\mathbb{R}^n$  whose geodesics are straight lines. Such Finsler metrics are called *projectively flat Finsler metrics* or briefly *projective Finsler metrics*. G. Hamel first characterizes projective Finsler metrics by a system of PDE's [4]. Later on, A. Rapcsák extends Hamel's result to projectively equivalent Finsler metrics [8]. In this paper, w we consider the Matsumoto change of an *m*-th root metric such that the transformed metric is locally projectively flat. Then we prove the following.

**Theorem 1.2.** Let  $F = \sqrt[m]{A}$  be an m-th root metric on open subset  $U \subset \mathbb{R}^n$ , where A is irreducible. Suppose that  $\overline{F} = F^2/(F - \beta)$  is the Matsumoto change of F. Then  $\overline{F}$  is locally projectively flat if and only if it is locally Minkowskian.

### 2. Preliminaries

Let M is *n*-dimensional  $C^{\infty}$ -manifold. The tangent space at  $x \in M$  are given by  $T_x M$  and tangent bundle of M denoted by  $TM := \bigcup_{x \in M} T_x M$ . Every element of TM is of the form (x, y), where  $x \in M$  and  $y \in T_x M$ . Let  $TM_0 = TM \setminus \{0\}$ .

**Definition:** A metric is a function  $F : TM \to [0, \infty)$  on M with following properties:

- (i) F is  $C^{\infty}$  on  $TM_0$ ,
- (ii) F is positively 1-homogeneous on TM and
- (iii) the Hessian of  $F^2/2$  with components

$$g_{ij} = \frac{1}{2} \frac{\partial^2 F^2}{\partial y^i \partial y^j}$$

is positive definite on  $TM_0$ . The pair  $F^n = (M, F)$  is said to be a Finsler space of dimension n. F is said fundamental function and tensor g with components  $g_{ij}$  is said fundamental tensor of Finsler space  $F^n$ .

The normalized element  $l_i$  and angular metric tensor  $h_{ij}$  are defined, respectively as:

$$l_i = \frac{\partial F}{\partial y^i}, \quad h_{ij} = F \frac{\partial^2 F}{\partial y^i \partial y^j}.$$

Locally, geodesics of a metric are given by

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

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where

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

are called spray coefficient.

For a non-zero vector  $y \in T_x M_0$ , the Riemann curvature is a family of linear transformation  $\mathbf{R}_y : T_x M \to T_x M$  with homogeneity  $\mathbf{R}_{\lambda y} = \lambda^2 \mathbf{R}_y, \ \forall \lambda > 0$  which is defined by  $\mathbf{R}_y(u) := R_k^i(y) u^k \frac{\partial}{\partial x^i}$ , where

$$R^i_k(y) = 2\frac{\partial G^i}{\partial x^k} - \frac{\partial^2 G^i}{\partial x^j \partial y^k}y^j + 2G^j\frac{\partial^2 G^i}{\partial y^j \partial y^k} - \frac{\partial G^i}{\partial y^j}\frac{\partial G^j}{\partial y^k}.$$

For a flag  $P := \operatorname{span}\{y, u\} \subset T_x M$  with flagpole y, the flag curvature  $\mathbf{K} = \mathbf{K}(P, y)$  is defined by

$$\mathbf{K}(x, y, P) := \frac{\mathbf{g}_y(u, \mathbf{R}_y(u))}{\mathbf{g}_y(y, y)\mathbf{g}_y(u, u) - \mathbf{g}_y(y, u)^2}$$

The flag curvature  $\mathbf{K}(x, y, P)$  is a function of tangent planes  $P = \operatorname{span}\{y, v\} \subset T_x M$ . This quantity tells us how curved the space is at a point. If F is a Riemannian metric,  $\mathbf{K}(x, y, P) = \mathbf{K}(x, P)$  is independent of  $y \in P \setminus \{0\}$ . Thus the flag curvature in Finsler geometry is a natural extension of the sectional curvature in Riemannian geometry.

A metric F is said to be locally dually flat if,

$$F_{x^k y^l}^2 y^k = 2F_{x^l}^2$$

A metric is called Berwald metric, if spray coefficients  $G^i$  are quadratic. A metric F(x, y) is called locally projectively flat if its geodesic coefficients  $G^i$  given as  $G^i(x, y) = P(x, y)y^i$ , where  $P: TU = U \times \mathbb{R}^n \to \mathbb{R}$  is homogeneous (positively) of degree one in y, that is  $P(x, \lambda y) = \lambda P(x, y), \lambda > 0$  [5]. Here P is projective factor.

A metric is called locally projectively flat if, the geodesics are straight lines. A metric F = F(x, y) is projectively flat on  $U \subset \mathbb{R}^n$  if and only if

$$F_{x^t y^l} y^t - F_{x^l} = 0.$$

3. Proof of Theorem 1.1

For proving theorem, we need the following lemma:

Lemma 3.1. [14] Suppose that the following equation holds

$$\Omega\left\{A^{\frac{1}{m}} - \beta\right\}^3 + \Phi\left\{A^{\frac{1}{m}} - \beta\right\}^2 + \zeta\left\{A^{\frac{1}{m}} - \beta\right\} + \Delta = 0,$$

where  $\Omega$ ,  $\Phi$ ,  $\zeta$ ,  $\Delta$  are polynomials in y and m > 2. Then

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\Omega = \Phi = \zeta = \Delta = 0.
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 $\mathit{Proof.}$  Suppose  $\bar{F}$  is locally dually flat. The following holds

$$\bar{F}^2 = \frac{F^4}{(F-\beta)^2},$$

Thus we get

$$(\bar{F}^2)_{x^k} = \left[\frac{A^{\frac{4}{m}}}{\left(A^{\frac{1}{m}} - \beta\right)^2}\right]_{x^k} = -\frac{1}{\left(A^{\frac{1}{m}} - \beta\right)^3} \left[\frac{2}{m}A^{\frac{5}{m}-1}A_{x^k} - 2A^{\frac{4}{m}}\beta_{x^k}\right] + \frac{4}{m}\frac{A^{\frac{4}{m}-1}A_{x^k}}{\left(A^{\frac{1}{m}} - \beta\right)^2}$$

Also, we have

$$(\bar{F}^{2})_{x^{k}y^{l}}y^{k} = \frac{4}{m(A^{\frac{1}{m}} - \beta)^{2}} \left[ \left(\frac{4}{m} - 1\right) A^{\frac{4}{m} - 2}A_{l}A_{0} + A^{\frac{4}{m} - 1}A_{0l} \right] \\ - \frac{8}{m(A^{\frac{1}{m}} - \beta)^{3}} \left[ \frac{1}{m} A^{\frac{5}{m} - 2}A_{0}A_{l} - A^{\frac{4}{m} - 1}A_{0}\beta_{l} \right] \\ - \frac{2}{(A^{\frac{1}{m}} - \beta)^{3}} \left[ \frac{1}{m} \left(\frac{5}{m} - 1\right) A^{\frac{5}{m} - 2}A_{l}A_{0} + \frac{1}{m} A^{\frac{5}{m} - 1}A_{0l} \right. \\ \left. - \frac{4}{m} A^{\frac{4}{m} - 1}A_{l}\beta_{0} - A^{\frac{4}{m}}\beta_{0l} \right] + \frac{6}{(A^{\frac{1}{m}} - \beta)^{5}} \left[ \frac{1}{m^{2}} A^{\frac{6}{m} - 2}A_{0}A_{l} \right. \\ \left. - \frac{1}{m} A^{\frac{5}{m} - 1} \left(A_{0}\beta_{l} + A_{l}\beta_{0}\right) + A^{\frac{4}{m}}\beta_{0}\beta_{l} \right].$$

Therefore, we obtain the following

$$\begin{split} (\bar{F}^2)_{x^k y^l} y^k - 2(\bar{F}^2)_{x^l} &= \frac{4}{m(A^{\frac{1}{m}} - \beta)^2} \left[ (\frac{4}{m} - 1)A^{\frac{4}{m} - 2}A_l A_0 + A^{\frac{4}{m} - 1}A_{0l} \right] \\ &- \frac{8}{m(A^{\frac{1}{m}} - \beta)^3} \left[ \frac{1}{m}A^{\frac{5}{m} - 2}A_0 A_l - A^{\frac{4}{m} - 1}A_0 \beta_l \right] \\ &- \frac{1}{(A^{\frac{1}{m}} - \beta)^3} \left[ \frac{2}{m} (\frac{5}{m} - 1)A^{\frac{5}{m} - 2}A_l A_0 + \frac{2}{m}A^{\frac{5}{m} - 1}A_{0l} \right. \\ &- \frac{8}{m}A^{\frac{4}{m} - 1}A_l \beta_0 - 2A^{\frac{4}{m}}\beta_{0l} \right] \\ &+ \frac{6}{(A^{\frac{1}{m}} - \beta)^5} \left[ \frac{1}{m^2}A^{\frac{6}{m} - 2}A_0 A_l + A^{\frac{4}{m}}\beta_0 \beta_l \right. \\ &- \frac{1}{m}A^{\frac{5}{m} - 1} (A_0 \beta_l + A_l \beta_0) \right] - \frac{8}{m} \frac{A^{\frac{4}{m} - 1}A_{x^l}}{(A^{\frac{1}{m}} - \beta)^2} \\ &+ \frac{4}{(A^{\frac{1}{m}} - \beta)^3} \left( \frac{1}{m}A^{\frac{5}{m} - 1}A_{x^l} - A^{\frac{4}{m}}\beta_{x^l} \right). \end{split}$$

Thus  $(\bar{F}^2)_{x^k y^l} y^k - 2(\bar{F}^2)_{x^l} = 0$  implies that

$$(A^{\frac{1}{m}} - \beta)^{3} \left[ \frac{4}{m} (\frac{4}{m} - 1)A^{\frac{4}{m} - 2}A_{l}A_{0} + \frac{4}{m}A^{\frac{4}{m} - 1}A_{0l} - \frac{8}{m}A^{\frac{4}{m} - 1}A_{x^{l}} \right]$$

$$+ (A^{\frac{1}{m}} - \beta)^{2} \left[ -\frac{8}{m^{2}}A^{\frac{5}{m} - 2}A_{l}A_{0} + \frac{8}{m}A^{\frac{4}{m} - 1}\beta_{l}A_{0} - \frac{2}{m}(\frac{5}{m} - 1)A^{\frac{5}{m} - 2}A_{l}A_{0} \right]$$

$$- \frac{2}{m}A^{\frac{5}{m} - 1}A_{0l} + \frac{8}{m}A^{\frac{4}{m} - 1}A_{l}\beta_{0} + 2A^{\frac{4}{m}}\beta_{0l} + \frac{4}{m}A^{\frac{5}{m} - 1}A_{x^{l}} - 4A^{\frac{4}{m}}\beta_{x^{l}} \right]$$

$$+\frac{1}{m^2}A^{\frac{6}{m}-2}A_lA_0 - \frac{1}{m}A^{\frac{5}{m}-1}A_0\beta_l - \frac{1}{m}A^{\frac{5}{m}-1}A_l\beta_0 + A^{\frac{4}{m}}\beta_l\beta_0 = 0.$$
(3.1)

By Lemma 3.1, the relation (3.1) implies that

$$\left(\frac{4}{m} - 1\right)A_lA_0 + AA_{0l} - 2AA_{x^l} = 0, \tag{3.2}$$

$$4A\beta_{l}A_{0} - \left(\frac{9}{m} - 1\right)A^{\frac{1}{m}}A_{l}A_{0} - A^{\frac{1}{m}+1}A_{0l} + 4AA_{l}\beta_{0} + mA^{2}\beta_{0l} + 2A^{\frac{1}{m}+1}A_{x^{l}} - 2mA^{2}\beta_{x^{l}} = 0, \qquad (3.3)$$

$$\frac{1}{m}A^{\frac{2}{m}}A_0A_l - \beta_l A^{\frac{1}{m}+1}A_0 - A^{\frac{1}{m}+1}A_l\beta_0 + mA^2\beta_0\beta_l = 0.$$
(3.4)

(3.2) can be rewrite as follows

$$A(2A_{x^{l}} - A_{0l}) = \left(\frac{4}{m} - 1\right)A_{0}A_{l}.$$
(3.5)

Since  $Deg(A_l) = m-1$ , then by irreducibility of A, there exist a 1-form  $\theta = \theta_l y^l$  such that

$$A_0 = \theta A. \tag{3.6}$$

From definition of  $A_0$ , we write

$$A_{x^i}y^i = \theta A. \tag{3.7}$$

Differentiating (3.7) with respect to l implies that

$$A_{x^i y^l} y^i + A_{x^i} \delta^i_l = \theta_l A + A_l \theta$$

or equivalently

$$A_{0l} = \theta_l A + A_l \theta - A_{x^l}. \tag{3.8}$$

Further, substituting (3.6) and (3.8) in (3.5) yields (1.1). The converse is obvious. This completes the proof.  $\hfill \Box$ 

### 4. Proof of Theorem 1.2

In this section, we are going to prove Theorem 1.2. In order to prove Theorem 1.2, we need the following.

**Proposition 4.1.** Let  $F = \sqrt[m]{A}$  be an *m*-th root metric on open subset  $U \subset \mathbb{R}^n$ , where *A* is irreducible. Suppose that  $\overline{F} = F^2/(F - \beta)$  is the Matsumoto change of *F*. If  $\overline{F}$  is a projectively flat metric, then it is reduced to a Berwald metric.

*Proof.* Suppose  $\overline{F}$  is a projectively flat metric. We have

$$\bar{F} = \frac{F^2}{F - \beta}$$

Thus

$$(\bar{F})_{x^{k}} = \left[\frac{A^{\frac{2}{m}}}{(A^{\frac{1}{m}} - \beta)}\right]_{x^{k}} = \frac{2}{m} \frac{A^{\frac{2}{m} - 1} A_{x^{k}}}{(A^{\frac{1}{m}} - \beta)} - \frac{1}{(A^{\frac{1}{m}} - \beta)^{2}} \left[\frac{1}{m} A^{\frac{3}{m} - 1} A_{x^{k}} - A^{\frac{2}{m}} \beta_{x^{k}}\right].$$

We have

$$\begin{split} (\bar{F})_{x^{k}y^{l}}y^{k} &= \frac{2}{m(A^{\frac{1}{m}} - \beta)} \left[ (\frac{2}{m} - 1)A^{\frac{2}{m} - 2}A_{l}A_{0} + A^{\frac{2}{m} - 1}A_{0l} \right] \\ &- \frac{2}{m(A^{\frac{1}{m}} - \beta)^{2}} \left[ \frac{1}{m}A^{\frac{3}{m} - 2}A_{0}A_{l} - A^{\frac{2}{m} - 1}A_{0}\beta_{l} \right] \\ &- \frac{1}{(A^{\frac{1}{m}} - \beta)^{2}} \left[ \frac{1}{m}(\frac{3}{m} - 1)A^{\frac{3}{m} - 2}A_{l}A_{0} + \frac{1}{m}A^{\frac{3}{m} - 1}A_{0l} - \frac{2}{m}A^{\frac{2}{m} - 1}A_{l}\beta_{0} - A^{\frac{2}{m}}\beta_{0l} \right] \\ &+ \frac{2}{(A^{\frac{1}{m}} - \beta)^{3}} \left[ \frac{1}{m^{2}}A^{\frac{4}{m} - 2}A_{0}A_{l} - \frac{1}{m}A^{\frac{3}{m} - 1}(A_{0}\beta_{l} + A_{l}\beta_{0}) + A^{\frac{2}{m}}\beta_{0}\beta_{l} \right] \end{split}$$

Therefore, we obtain

$$(\bar{F})_{x^{k}y^{l}}y^{k} - (\bar{F})_{x^{l}} = \frac{2}{m(A^{\frac{1}{m}} - \beta)} \left[ (\frac{2}{m} - 1)A^{\frac{2}{m} - 2}A_{l}A_{0} + A^{\frac{2}{m} - 1}A_{0l} \right] - \frac{2}{m(A^{\frac{1}{m}} - \beta)^{2}} \left[ \frac{1}{m}A^{\frac{3}{m} - 2}A_{0}A_{l} - A^{\frac{2}{m} - 1}A_{0}\beta_{l} \right] - \frac{1}{(A^{\frac{1}{m}} - \beta)^{2}} \left[ \frac{1}{m}(\frac{3}{m} - 1)A^{\frac{3}{m} - 2}A_{l}A_{0} + \frac{1}{m}A^{\frac{3}{m} - 1}A_{0l} - \frac{2}{m}A^{\frac{2}{m} - 1}A_{l}\beta_{0} - A^{\frac{2}{m}}\beta_{0l} \right] + \frac{2}{(A^{\frac{1}{m}} - \beta)^{3}} \left[ \frac{1}{m^{2}}A^{\frac{4}{m} - 2}A_{0}A_{l} - \frac{1}{m}A^{\frac{3}{m} - 1}(A_{0}\beta_{l} + A_{l}\beta_{0}) + A^{\frac{2}{m}}\beta_{0}\beta_{l} \right] - \frac{2}{m}\frac{A^{\frac{2}{m} - 1}A_{x^{l}}}{(A^{\frac{1}{m}} - \beta)} + \frac{1}{(A^{\frac{1}{m}} - \beta)^{2}} \left( \frac{1}{m}A^{\frac{3}{m} - 1}A_{x^{l}} - A^{\frac{2}{m}}\beta_{x^{l}} \right)$$

Then  $(\bar{F})_{x^k y^l} y^k - (\bar{F})_{x^l} = 0$  implies that

$$(A^{\frac{1}{m}} - \beta)^{2} \left[ \left(\frac{2}{m} - 1\right) \frac{2}{m} A^{\frac{2}{m} - 2} A_{l} A_{0} + \frac{2}{m} A^{\frac{2}{m} - 1} A_{0l} - \frac{2}{m} A^{\frac{2}{m} - 1} A_{x^{l}} \right]$$

$$+ (A^{\frac{1}{m}} - \beta) \left[ -\frac{2}{m^{2}} A^{\frac{3}{m} - 2} A_{l} A_{0} + \frac{2}{m} A^{\frac{2}{m} - 1} \beta_{l} A_{0} - \frac{1}{m} \left(\frac{3}{m} - 1\right) A^{\frac{3}{m} - 2} A_{l} A_{0} \right.$$

$$- \frac{1}{m} A^{\frac{3}{m} - 1} A_{0l} + \frac{2}{m} A^{\frac{2}{m} - 1} A_{l} \beta_{0} + A^{\frac{2}{m}} \beta_{0l} + \frac{1}{m} A^{\frac{3}{m} - 1} A_{x^{l}} - A^{\frac{2}{m}} \beta_{x^{l}} \right]$$

$$+ \frac{1}{m^{2}} A^{\frac{4}{m} - 2} A_{l} A_{0} - \frac{1}{m} A^{\frac{3}{m} - 1} A_{0} \beta_{l} - \frac{1}{m} A^{\frac{3}{m} - 1} A_{l} \beta_{0} + A^{\frac{2}{m}} \beta_{l} \beta_{0} = 0.$$
 (4.1)

By Lemma 3.1, the relation (4.1) yields

$$\left(\frac{2}{m}-1\right)A_{l}A_{0} + AA_{0l} - AA_{x^{l}} = 0,$$

$$2A\beta_{l}A_{0} - \left(\frac{5}{m}-1\right)A^{\frac{1}{m}}A_{l}A_{0} - A^{\frac{1}{m}+1}A_{0l} + 2AA_{l}\beta_{0} + mA^{2}\beta_{0l}$$
(4.2)

$$+A^{\frac{1}{m}+1}A_{x^{l}} = mA^{2}\beta_{x^{l}},\tag{4.3}$$

$$\frac{1}{m}A^{\frac{2}{m}}A_0A_l - \beta_l A^{\frac{1}{m}+1}A_0 - A^{\frac{1}{m}+1}A_l\beta_0 + mA^2\beta_0\beta_l = 0.$$
(4.4)

We have  $Deg(A_l) = m-1 < deg(A)$ . From (4.2), the irreducibility of A implies that A divides  $A_0$ . Therefore there exists a 1-form  $\theta = \theta_l y^l$  such that

$$A_0 = 2mA\theta.$$

A simple fact is that a Finsler metric F = F(x, y) on an open subset  $U \subset \mathbb{R}^n$  is projectively flat if and only if the spray coefficients are in the form  $G^i = Py^i$ . It is equivalent to the following Hamel equation  $F_{x^m}y^ky^m = F_{x^k}$ . In this case, we have

$$P = \frac{F_{x^m} y^m}{2F}.$$

Thus

$$P = \frac{2mA\theta}{2A} = \theta$$

Then

$$G^i = Py^i = \theta y^i$$

which means that metric F is a Berwald metric.

Now, we are going to prove Theorem 1.2. For this aim, we need the following.

**Lemma 4.2.** [3] Every Berwald metric with vanishing flag curvature  $\mathbf{K} = 0$  is a locally Minkowskian metric.

**Proof of Theorem 1.2:** By Proposition 4.1, if the Finsler metric F = F(x, y) is projectively flat, then it becomes Berwald metric. Let  $\mathbf{K} \neq 0$ . By Numata theorem, every Berwald metric with non zero scalar flag curvature  $\mathbf{K}$  should be Riemannian. This contradicts with our assumption. Therefore,  $\mathbf{K} = 0$ . By Lemma 4.2, the Finsler metric F reduces to a locally Minkowskian metric. This is the proof of Theorem 1.2.

**Acknowledgment:** The author is grateful to Editor in Chief of the journal for his support and quick response for the publication of the research paper.

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Received: 12.01.2021 Accepted: 27.05.2021