

# Finsler notes

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## 1 Basic Background

### 1.1 Definition of Finsler Manifolds

Let  $V$  be a real finite dimensional vector space, and let  $\{e_i\}$  be a basis for  $V$ . Furthermore, let  $\frac{\partial}{\partial y^i}$  be partial differentiation in the  $e_i$  direction. Here we use *Einstein summing convention* throughout. For example, for  $v \in V$ ,  $v = v^i e_i$  [3].

**Definition 1** ([3]) A function  $f : V \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$  is (positively) **Homogeneous of degree**  $s \in \mathbb{R}$  (or **s-homogeneous**) if  $f(\lambda v) = \lambda^s f(v)$  for all  $v \in V$ ,  $\lambda > 0$ .

**Proposition 1** ([3]) Suppose  $f$  is smooth and  $s$ -homogeneous. Then  $\partial f$  is  $(s - 1)$ -homogeneous, and

$$\frac{\partial f}{\partial y^i}(v) v^i = s f(v), \quad v \in V \quad (\text{Euler's theorem}).$$

**Definition 2** ([1]) A (global defined) **Finsler structure** of  $M$  is a function  $F : TM \rightarrow [0, \infty)$  with the following properties:

- (i) **Regularity**  $F$  is  $C^\infty$  on  $TM \setminus \{0\}$ ,
- (ii) **Positive homogeneity**  $F(x, \lambda y) = \lambda F(x, y)$  for all  $\lambda > 0$ , i.e.  $F$  is 1-homogeneous of  $y$ .
- (iii) **strong convexity** The  $n \times n$  Hessian matrix

$$(g_{ij}) := \left( \left[ \frac{1}{2} F^2 \right]_{y^i y^j} \right)$$

is positive-definite at every point of  $TM \setminus \{0\}$ .

The pair  $(M, F)$  is a **Finsler manifold**.

**Theorem 1** ([1]) Let  $F$  be a non-negative real-valued function on  $\mathbb{R}^n$  with the properties:

- $F$  is  $C^\infty$  on the punctured space  $\mathbb{R}^n \setminus 0$ .
- $F(\lambda y) = \lambda F(y)$  for all  $\lambda > 0$
- The  $n \times n$  matrix  $(g_{ij})$ , where  $g_{ij}(y) := \left[ \frac{1}{2} F^2 \right]_{y^i y^j}(y)$ , is positive definite at all  $y \neq 0$ .

Then we have the following conclusions:

- (Positivity)  $F(y) > 0$  where  $y \neq 0$ .
- (Triangle inequality)  $F(y_1 + y_2) \leq F(y_1) + F(y_2)$ , where equality holds if and only if  $y_2 = \alpha y_1$  or  $y_1 = \alpha y_2$  for some  $\alpha \geq 0$ .
- (Fundamental inequality)  $w^i F_{y^i}(y) \leq F(w)$  at all  $y \neq 0$ , and equality holds if and only if  $w = \alpha y$  for some  $\alpha \geq 0$ .

**Remark 1**

- (i) [1] The hypotheses of the above theorem define a **Minkowski norm** on  $\mathbf{R}^n$ . According to this theorem, there is no need to hypothesize that  $F$  be positive at  $y \neq 0$ ; it is necessary so.
- (ii) [1] If the Minkowski norm satisfies  $F(-y) = F(y)$ , then one has the absolute homogeneity  $F(\lambda y) = |\lambda|F(y)$ .
- (iii) [1] In view of the first two conclusions of the above theorem, every absolutely homogeneous Minkowski norm is a norm in the sense of functional analysis.
- (iv) [3] For  $u, v \in T_x M$  and  $y \in T_x M \setminus \{0\}$ , we have  $g_y(u, v) = g_{ij}(y)u^i v^j$  where

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

Hence  $g_y$  is bilinear.

(v) [6] for all  $u, v \in T_x M$  and  $y \in T_x M \setminus \{0\}$ , we have  $g_y(u, v) = \frac{1}{2} \frac{\partial^2 F^2(y+su+tv)}{\partial s \partial t} \Big|_{t=s=0}$

(vi) [3] Suppose  $u, v \in T_x M$ ,  $y \in T_x M \setminus \{0\}$ . Then

$$\begin{aligned} g_{\lambda y}(u, v) &= g_y(u, v), \quad \lambda > 0 \\ g_y(y, u) &= \frac{1}{2} \frac{\partial F^2}{\partial y^i}(y) u^i = \frac{1}{2} \frac{\partial F^2(y+tu)}{\partial t} \Big|_{t=0}, \\ g_y(y, y) &= F^2(y). \end{aligned}$$

(vii) [3]  $F(x, y) = 0$  if and only if  $y = 0$ .

## 1.2 Another definition of Finsler Manifolds

**Definition 3** ([5]) A  $C_p$  **Banach Manifold**  $\mathcal{M}$  for  $p \in \mathbb{N} \cup \{\infty\}$  is an Hausdorff topological space together with a covering by open sets  $(U_i)_{i \in I}$ , a family of Banach vector spaces  $(E_i)_{i \in I}$  and a family of continuous mappings  $(\varphi_i)_{i \in I}$  from  $U_i$  into  $E_i$  such that

(i) for every  $i \in I$ ,

$$\varphi_i : U_i \longrightarrow \varphi_i(U_i) \text{ is an homeomorphism.}$$

(ii) for every pair of indices  $i \neq j$  in  $I$ ,

$$\varphi_j \circ \varphi_i^{-1} : \varphi_i(U_i \cap U_j) \subset E_i \longrightarrow \varphi_j(U_i \cap U_j) \subset E_j$$

is a  $C^p$  diffeomorphism.

**Definition 4 ([5])** A Banach manifold  $\mathcal{V}$  is called  **$C^p$ -Banach Space Bundle** over another Banach manifold  $\mathcal{M}$  if there exists a Banach space  $E$ , a submersion  $\pi$  from  $\mathcal{V}$  to  $\mathcal{M}$ , a covering  $(U_i)_{i \in I}$  of  $\mathcal{M}$  and a family of homeomorphism from  $\pi^{-1}U_i$  into  $U_i \times E$  such that the following diagram commutes

$$\begin{array}{ccc} \pi^{-1}U_i & \xrightarrow{\tau_i} & U_i \times E \\ \pi \searrow & & \downarrow \rho \\ & & U_i \end{array}$$

where  $\rho$  is the canonical projections from  $U_i \times E$  onto  $U_i$ .

The restriction of  $\tau$  on each fiber  $\mathcal{V}_x := \pi^{-1}(\{x\})$  for  $x \in U_i$  realizes a continuous isomorphism onto  $E_i$ . Moreover, the map  $x \in U_i \cup U_j \rightarrow \tau_i \circ \tau_j^{-1}|_{\pi^{-1}(x)} \in \mathcal{L}(E, E)$  is  $C^p$ .

A submersion is a differentiable map between differentiable manifolds whose differential is everywhere surjective.

$\mathcal{L}(X, Y)$  is the space of all continuous linear maps from a topological vector  $X$  to another topological space  $Y$ .

**Definition 5 ([5])** Let  $\mathcal{M}$  be a normal Banach manifold and let  $\mathcal{V}$  be a Banach Space Bundle over  $\mathcal{M}$ . A **Finsler structure** on  $\mathcal{V}$  is a continuous function  $\|\cdot\|_x := \|\cdot\|_{\pi^{-1}(x)}$  is a norm on  $\mathcal{V}_x$ .

**Definition 6 ([5])** Let  $\mathcal{M}$  be a normal  $C^p$  Banach manifold.  $T\mathcal{M}$  equipped with a Finsler structure is called a **Finsler Manifold**.

**Remark:** A Finsler structure on  $T\mathcal{M}$  defines in a canonical way a dual Finsler structure on  $T^*\mathcal{M}$ .

### 1.3 Relative definitions

**Example 1 ([3])** Let  $(M, g)$  be a Riemannian manifold. Set  $F|_{T_x M}(y) = \sqrt{g_x(y, y)}$ . Then  $F$  is a Finsler norm on  $M$ .

Suppose  $M$  is a manifold. Then a **curve** is a smooth mapping  $c : (a, b) \rightarrow M$  such that  $(Dc)_t \neq 0$  for all  $t$  [3]. Such a curve has a **canonical lift**  $\hat{c} : (a, b) \rightarrow TM \setminus \{0\}$  defined as  $\hat{c}(t) = (Dc)(t)$ , where  $Dc$  is the tangent of  $c$ . If  $(M, F)$  is a Finsler manifold, we define the **length** of  $c$  as

$$L(c) = \int_a^b F(\hat{c}(t))dt.$$

**Definition 7 ([6])** Let  $U$  be an open subset of a Finsler manifold  $(M, F)$ . Let  $\nu U$  be the space of smooth vector fields on  $U$  and  $\nu U^+ \subset \nu U$  be the subset of nowhere vanishing vector fields. For  $V \in \nu U^+$  and for all  $X, Y, Z \in \nu U$  define a trilinear form  $\langle \cdot, \cdot, \cdot \rangle_V$  by

$$\langle X, Y, Z \rangle_V = \frac{1}{4} \frac{\partial^3}{\partial r \partial s \partial t} F^2(V + rX + sY + tZ)|_{r=s=t=0},$$

called the **Cartan tensor**.

The Cartan tensor is a non-Riemannian quantity. A Finsler metric reduces to a Riemannian metric if and only if its Cartan tensor vanishes [6].

**Definition 8 ([6])** An **affine connection**  $\nabla^V$  is a map

$$\begin{aligned}\nabla^V : \nu U \times \nu U &\rightarrow \nu U \\ (X, Y) &\rightarrow \nabla_X^V Y\end{aligned}$$

(i) linear in  $Y$  (not necessary linear in  $X$ )

(ii)  $\nabla_X^V(fY) = f\nabla_X^V Y + X(f)U$

(iii)  $\nabla_{fX}^V Y = f\nabla_X^V Y$

for all  $f \in C^\infty(U)$  and  $X, Y \in \nu U$ .

**Definition 9 ([3])** suppose  $c : (a, b) \rightarrow M$  is a curve. Then a **variation** of  $c$  is a continuous mapping  $H : [a, b] \times (-\epsilon, \epsilon) \rightarrow M$  for some  $\epsilon$  such that

(i)  $H$  is smooth on  $(-\epsilon, \epsilon) \times (a, b)$  and with notation  $c_s(\cdot) = H(\cdot, s)$

(ii)  $c_0(t) = c(t)$ , for all  $t \in [a, b]$

(iii)  $c_s(a), c_s(b) \in M$  are constants not depending on  $s \in (-\epsilon, \epsilon)$ .

**Definition 10 ([3])** A curve  $c$  in a Finsler manifold is a **geodesic** if  $L$  is stationary at  $x$ , that is, for any variation  $(c_s)$  of  $c$ ,

$$\left. \frac{d}{ds} L(c_s) \right|_{s=0} = 0.$$

A Finsler manifold  $(M, F)$  is said to be forward geodesically complete if and only if every geodesic  $\sigma : [0, 1] \rightarrow M$  parameterized to have constant Finslerian speed can be extended to a geodesic defined on  $[0, \infty]$  [4].

**Lemma 1 ([4])** Let  $(M, F)$  be a Finslerian manifold. At every given point  $x \in M$ , there exists a coordinate neighborhood  $U$  containing  $x$  and a constant  $c_0 > 1$  such that

(i) for all  $y \in T_x M$  and  $x \in \bar{U}$ ,  $F_x(-y) \leq c_0^2 F_x(y)$ ; and

(ii) for all  $x_1, x_2 \in U$ ,  $c_0^{-2} d(x_1, x_2) \leq d(x_2, x_1) \leq d_0^2 d(x_1, x_2)$ .

## 1.4 Gradient on a Finslerian Manifold

[[4]]

Let  $V$  be a finite-dimensional vector space and  $V^*$  the dual space. Given a Minkowski norm  $F$  on  $V$ ,  $F$  is a norm in the sense that for any  $y, v \in V$  and  $\lambda > 0$ ,

$$F(\lambda y) = \lambda F(y)$$

and

$$F(y + v) \leq F(y) + F(v).$$

Define  $F^* := \sup_{F(y)=1} \xi(y)$ , and  $F^*$  is a Minkowski norm on  $V^*$ .

**Lemma 2** ([4]) *Let  $F$  be a Minkowski norm on  $V$  and  $F^*$  be the dual norm on  $V^*$ . For any vector  $y \in V \setminus \{0\}$ , the covector  $\xi = g_y(y, \cdot) \in V^*$  satisfies*

$$F(y) = F^*(\xi) = \frac{\xi(y)}{F(y)}.$$

*For any covector  $\xi \in V^* \setminus \{0\}$ , there exists a unique vector  $y \in V \setminus \{0\}$  such that  $\xi = g_y(y, \cdot)$ .*

Given a function  $f : M \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$  on a manifold  $M$ , the differential  $df_x \in V^*$  at a point  $x \in M$  is defined

$$df_x = \frac{\partial f}{\partial x^i}(x) dx^i,$$

and is a linear functional on  $T_x M$ . To connect  $df_x$  to a vector  $grad f_x \in T_x M$ , we need a Minkowski norm on  $T_x M$ . Let  $F$  be a Finsler metric on  $M$ . By definition,  $F_x$  is a Minkowski norm on  $T_x M$ . Assume that  $df_x \neq 0$ . Since the indicatrix  $S := F^{-1}(1)$  is strongly convex, there is a unique unit vector  $s_x \in S_x M := F_x^{-1}(1)$  and a positive number  $\lambda_x > 0$  such that

$$W^{\lambda_x} = \{v : df_x(v) = \lambda_x\}$$

is tangent to  $S_x M$  at  $s_x$ . By Lemma 2,

$$df_x(v) = \lambda_x g_{s_x}(s_x, v)$$

where

$$F_x^*(df_x) = df(s_x) = \lambda_x g_{s_x}(s_x, s_x) = \lambda_x.$$

Define

$$grad f_x := \lambda_x s_x = F^*(df_x) s_x$$

. Then we can write

$$df_x(v) = g_{grad f_x}(grad f_x, v), \quad v \in T_x M.$$

**Definition 11** ([4]) *Let  $f : M \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$  be a  $C^1$  function and consider the following set:  $[\eta_1 < f < \eta_2] := \{x \in M : \eta_1 < f(x) < \eta_2\}$ ,  $\infty < \eta_1 < \eta_2 < +\infty$ .  $f$  is said to have the **Kurdyka-Lojasiewicz** property at  $x \in \text{domain}(f)$  if there exist  $\eta \in (0, \infty]$ , a neighborhood  $U$  of  $\bar{x}$  and a continuous concave function  $\phi : [0, \eta] \rightarrow \mathbb{R}_+$  such that:*

(i)  $\phi(0) = 0$ ,  $\phi \in C^1(0, \eta)$  and, for all  $s \in (0, \eta)$ ,  $\phi'(s) > 0$ ;

(ii) for all  $x \in U \cap [f(\bar{x}) < f < f(\bar{x}) + \eta]$ , the Kurdyka-Lojasiewicz inequality holds

$$\phi'(f(x) - f(\bar{x})) F(grad f(x)) \geq 1.$$

We call  $f$  a KL function if it satisfies the Kurdyka-Lojasiewicz inequality at each point of  $\text{domain}(f)$ .

## 2 Applications of Finsler Manifolds

### 2.1 proximal point method on Finslerian Manifolds and the "Effort-Accuracy" Trade off[4]

Let  $M$  be a complete Finslerian manifold and let  $f : M \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ . We will consider the optimization problem

$$\min f(x), \quad x \in M.$$

The proximal point algorithm in Finslerian manifold generates, for a starting point  $x_0 \in M$ , a sequence  $\{x_k\} \subset M$  by the iteration

$$x_{k+1} = \arg \min_{z \in M} \{f(z) + \frac{1}{\lambda} C_{x_k}(z)\} \quad (1)$$

with  $C_{x,k} : M \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$  defined by

$$C_{x_k}(z) = \frac{1}{2} d^2(x_k, z)$$

where  $d$  is the Finslerian distance and  $\lambda$  is a sequence of positive numbers.

**Proposition 2** ([4]) *Let  $\{x_k\}$  be the sequence concerning (1). Then  $(x_k)$  is well defined. Moreover:*

$$f(x_{k+1}) + \frac{1}{2\lambda} d^2(x_k, x_{k+1}) \leq f(x_k)$$

and consequently  $\sum_{k=0}^{\infty} d^2(x_k, x_{k+1}) < \infty$ .

**Lemma 3** ([4]) *Let  $(x_k)$  be the sequence generated by (1) and  $x_{k_0} \in B(\tilde{x}, \rho) \subset U$ , where the neighborhood  $U$  is given by **Lemma 1**. Then*

$$F(\text{grad } f(x_{k_0})) \leq c_0^2 t_1^{-1} d(x_{k_0-1}, x_{k_0}),$$

where  $c_0 > 1$  and  $t_1 < \lambda_{k_0}$ .

**Lemma 4** ([4]) *Let  $\{a_k\}$  be a sequence of positive numbers such that*

$$\sum_{k=1}^{+\infty} \frac{a_k^2}{a_{k-1}} < +\infty.$$

Then  $\sum_{k=1}^{+\infty} a_k < +\infty$ .

**Lemma 5** ([4]) *Let  $(x_k)$  be the sequence generated by (1),  $f : M \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$  a  $C^1$  function,  $\tilde{x}$  a accumulation point of  $(x_k)$  and  $f$  satisfies the Kurdyka-Lojasiewica inequality at  $\tilde{x}$ . Let  $a = \frac{1}{2} t_2$ ,  $b = \frac{c_0^2}{t_1}$  constants and  $\rho > 0$  such that  $B(\tilde{x}, \rho) \subset U$ , where  $U$  is given by **Lemma 1**. Then there exists  $k_0 \in \mathbb{N}$  such that*

$$f(\tilde{x}) < f(x_k) < f(\tilde{x}) + \eta, \quad k \geq k_0,$$

$$d(\tilde{x}, x_{k_0}) + 2\text{sqr}t{\frac{f(x_{k_0}) - f(\tilde{x})}{a}} + \frac{b}{a}\phi(f(x_{k_0}) - f(\tilde{x})) < \rho.$$

Moreover,

$$\frac{b}{a}[\phi(f(x_{k_0}) - f(\tilde{x}) - \phi(f(x_{k_0+1}) - f(\tilde{x}))) \geq \frac{d^2(x_{k_0}, x_{k_0+1})}{d(x_{k_0-1}, x_{k_0})}.$$

In particular, if  $x_k \in B(\tilde{x}, \rho)$  for all  $k \geq k_0$ , then  $\sum_{k=k_0}^{+\infty} d(x_k, x_{k+1}) < \infty$  and thus the sequence  $(x_k)$  converges to  $\tilde{x}$ .

**Lemma 6 ([4])** *Let  $(x_k)$  be the sequence concerning to (1) and assume that assumptions of **Lemma 5** hold. Then, there exists a  $k_0 \in \mathbb{N}$  such that*

$$x_k \in B(\tilde{x}, \rho), \quad k > k_0.$$

**Theorem 2 ([4])** *Let  $U$ ,  $\eta$  and  $\phi : [\eta] \rightarrow \mathbb{R}_+$  be the objections appearing in the **Definition 11**. Assume that  $x_0 \in M$ ,  $\tilde{x} \in M$  is an accumulation point of the sequence  $(x^k)$ ,  $\rho > 0$  such that  $B(\tilde{x}, \rho) \subset U$  and  $f$  satisfies the Kurdyka-Lojasiewicz inequality of  $\tilde{x}$ . Then there exists  $k_0 \in \mathbb{N}$  such that*

$$\sum_{k=k_0}^{\infty} d(x_k, x_{k+1}) < +\infty.$$

Moreover,  $f(x_k) \rightarrow f(\tilde{x})$ , as  $k \rightarrow +\infty$ , and the sequence  $(x_k)$  converges to  $\tilde{x}$  and  $\tilde{x}$  is a critical point of  $f$ .

**Theorem 3 ([4])** *Assume hypotheses of **Lemma 6**. Assume further that  $(x_k)$  converges to  $x^*$  and that  $f$  has the Kurdyka-Lojasiewicz property at  $x^*$  with  $\phi(s) = cs^{1-\theta}$ ,  $\theta \in [0, 1)$ ,  $c > 0$ . Then the following estimations hold:*

(i) *If  $\theta = 0$  then the sequence  $(x_k)$  converges in a finite number of steps;*

(ii) *If  $\theta \in (0, \frac{1}{2}]$  then there exist  $b_0 > 0$  and  $\zeta \in [0, 1)$  such that*

$$d(x_k, x^*) \leq b_0 \zeta^k;$$

(iii) *If  $\theta \in (\frac{1}{2}, 1)$  then there exist  $\xi > 0$  such that*

$$d(x_k, x^*) \leq \xi k^{-\frac{1-\theta}{2\theta}-1}.$$

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