



Research Paper

ON GENERALIZED BERWALD (α, β) -MANIFOLDS WITH RELATIVELY ISOTROPIC LANDSBERG CURVATURE

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ABSTRACT

The class of generalized Berwald metrics contains the class of Berwald metrics as a special case. Let $F = \alpha\phi(s)$, $s = \beta/\alpha$, be a generalized Berwald (α, β) -metric on manifold M . We show that F has vanishing S-curvature $\mathbf{S} = 0$ and is of relatively isotropic Landsberg curvature $\mathbf{L} + cF\mathbf{C} = 0$ if and only if $\mathbf{B} = 0$, where $c = c(x)$ is a scalar function on M .

1. INTRODUCTION

A Finsler metric F on a C^∞ manifold M is called a generalized Berwald metric if there exists a covariant derivative ∇ on M such that the parallel translations induced by ∇ preserve the Finsler function F [11][14]. In this case, (M, F) is called a generalized Berwald manifold. If ∇ is also torsion-free, then F reduces to a Berwald metric. Also, one can define a Berwald metric during the spray coefficients. Let (M, F) be a Finsler manifold. The Finsler metric F on M induced a spray

$$\mathbf{G} = y^i \frac{\partial}{\partial x^i} - 2G^i(x, y) \frac{\partial}{\partial y^i}$$

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which determines the geodesics, where $G^i = G^i(x, y)$ are called the spray coefficients of \mathbf{G} . A Finsler metric F is called a Berwald metric if $G^i = \frac{1}{2}\Gamma_{jk}^i(x)y^jy^k$ are quadratic in $y \in T_xM$ for any $x \in M$. The Berwald curvature \mathbf{B} of Finsler metrics is an important non-Riemannian quantity constructed by L. Berwald. Then, every Berwald metric is a trivially generalized Berwald metric. The main interesting point about the class of generalized Berwald manifolds lies in the fact that these manifolds may have a rich isometry group [9][10]. For the recent progress about the class of generalized Berwald manifolds, see [11], [16] and [14].

Beside the Berwald curvature, there is another interesting non-Riemannian quantity that is close to the Berwald curvature, namely, S-curvature. The S-curvature \mathbf{S} is constructed by Shen for given comparison theorems on Finsler manifolds [8]. An interesting problem in Finsler geometry is to study and characterize Finsler metrics of vanishing S-curvature. It is known that some of Randers metrics are of vanishing S-curvature [7][13]. This is one of our motivations to consider Finsler metrics with vanishing S-curvature. Shen proved that every Berwald metric satisfies $\mathbf{S} = 0$ [8].

There are two basic tensors on Finsler manifolds: fundamental metric tensor \mathbf{g}_y and the Cartan torsion \mathbf{C}_y , which are second and third order derivatives of $\frac{1}{2}F_x^2$ at $y \in T_xM_0$, respectively. It is easy to see that every Finsler metric with vanishing Cartan torsion is a Riemannian metric. The rate of change of \mathbf{C} along Finslerian geodesics is called Landsberg curvature \mathbf{L}_y . A Finsler metric with vanishing Landsberg curvature is called a Landsberg metric. In [15], Vincze et al. studied generalized Berwald surface with vanishing Landsberg curvature and proved the following.

Theorem 1.1. ([15]) Every connected generalized Berwald surface is a Landsberg surface if and only if it is a Berwald surface.

It is obvious that \mathbf{L}/\mathbf{C} can be regarded as the relative rate of change of Cartan torsion \mathbf{C} along Finslerian geodesics. Then F is said to be relatively isotropic Landsberg metric if $\mathbf{L} + c\mathbf{C} = 0$, where $c = c(x)$ is a scalar function on M . If $c = 0$, then F reduces to a Landsberg metric. In order to find some Finsler metrics of relatively isotropic Landsberg curvature, one can consider the class of (α, β) -metrics. An (α, β) -metric is a Finsler metric on M defined by $F := \alpha\phi(s)$, where $s = \beta/\alpha$, $\phi = \phi(s)$ is a C^∞ function on the $(-b_0, b_0)$ with certain regularity, $\alpha = \sqrt{a_{ij}(x)y^iy^j}$ is a positive-definite Riemannian metric and $\beta = b_i(x)y^i$ is a 1-form on M . The simplest (α, β) -metrics are the Randers metrics $F = \alpha + \beta$ which were discovered by G. Randers when he studied 4-dimensional general relativity. In [14], Vincze proved that a Randers metric $F = \alpha + \beta$ is a generalized Berwald metric if and only if dual vector field β^\sharp is of constant Riemannian length. In [11], Tayebi-Barzegari showed that an (α, β) -metric satisfying the so-called sign property is a generalized Berwald metric if and only if β^\sharp is of constant Riemannian length. Then, Vincze showed that an (α, β) -metric satisfying $\phi'(0) \neq 0$ is a generalized Berwald metric if and only if β^\sharp is of constant Riemannian length [16]. In this paper, we study the class of generalized Berwald (α, β) -metrics with relatively isotropic Landsberg curvature and vanishing S-curvature. We find that such metrics must be Berwaldian. More precisely, we prove the following.

Theorem 1.2. Let $F = \alpha\phi(s)$, $s = \beta/\alpha$, be a generalized Berwald (α, β) -metric on manifold M such that $\phi'(0) \neq 0$. Then F has vanishing S-curvature $\mathbf{S} = 0$ and is of relatively isotropic

Landsberg curvature, namely \mathbf{L}/\mathbf{C} is isotropic,

$$(1.1) \quad \mathbf{L} + c(x)F\mathbf{C} = 0,$$

where $c = c(x)$ is a scalar function on M if and only if $\mathbf{B} = 0$.

Theorem 1.2 can be considered as a local extension of Theorem 1.1. Also, by using Theorem 1.2, one can conclude the following.

Corollary 1.3. *Let $F = \alpha\phi(s)$, $s = \beta/\alpha$, be a non-Randers type generalized Berwald (α, β) -metric on manifold M of dimension $n \geq 3$ such that $\phi'(0) \neq 0$. Then F has vanishing E-curvature $\mathbf{E} = 0$ and is of relatively isotropic Landsberg curvature $\mathbf{L} + c(x)F\mathbf{C} = 0$ if and only if $\mathbf{B} = 0$, where $c = c(x)$ is a scalar function on M .*

In this paper, we use the Berwald connection and the h - and v -covariant derivatives of a Finsler tensor field are denoted by “ $|$ ” and “ $,$ ” respectively [5].

2. PRELIMINARY

A Finsler metric on a manifold M is a nonnegative function F on TM having the following properties

- (a) F is C^∞ on $TM_0 := TM \setminus \{0\}$;
- (b) $F(\lambda y) = \lambda F(y)$, $\forall \lambda > 0$, $y \in TM$;
- (c) for each $y \in T_x M$, the following quadratic form \mathbf{g}_y on $T_x M$ is positive definite,

$$\mathbf{g}_y(u, v) := \frac{1}{2} \left[F^2(y + su + tv) \right] \Big|_{s,t=0}, \quad u, v \in T_x M.$$

Then the pair (M, F) is called a Finsler manifold.

At each point $x \in M$, $F_x := F|_{T_x M}$ is an Euclidean norm if and only if \mathbf{g}_y is independent of $y \in T_x M_0$. To measure the non-Euclidean feature of F_x , define $\mathbf{C}_y : T_x M \times T_x M \times T_x M \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ by

$$\mathbf{C}_y(u, v, w) := \frac{1}{2} \frac{d}{dt} \left[\mathbf{g}_{y+tw}(u, v) \right] \Big|_{t=0}, \quad u, v, w \in T_x M.$$

The family $\mathbf{C} := \{\mathbf{C}_y\}_{y \in TM_0}$ is called the Cartan torsion.

Given a Finsler manifold (M, F) , then a global vector field \mathbf{G} is induced by F on TM_0 , which in a standard coordinate (x^i, y^i) for TM_0 is given by

$$\mathbf{G} = y^i \frac{\partial}{\partial x^i} - 2G^i(x, y) \frac{\partial}{\partial y^i},$$

where $G^i(x, y)$ are local functions on TM_0 satisfying $G^i(x, \lambda y) = \lambda^2 G^i(x, y)$, $\lambda > 0$. \mathbf{G} is called the associated spray to (M, F) . The projection of an integral curve of G is called a geodesic in M . In local coordinates, a curve $c(t)$ is a geodesic if and only if its coordinates $(c^i(t))$ satisfy

$$\ddot{c}^i + 2G^i(\dot{c}) = 0.$$

Using the spray of F , one can define $\mathbf{B}_y : T_x M \times T_x M \times T_x M \rightarrow T_x M$ by $\mathbf{B}_y(u, v, w) := B^i_{jkl}(y)u^j v^k w^l \partial / \partial x^i|_x$, where

$$B^i_{jkl} := \frac{\partial^3 G^i}{\partial y^j \partial y^k \partial y^l}.$$

\mathbf{B} is called the Berwald curvature.

Define the mean of Berwald curvature by $\mathbf{E}_y : T_x M \times T_x M \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$, where

$$\mathbf{E}_y(u, v) := \frac{1}{2} \sum_{i=1}^n g^{ij}(y) \mathbf{g}_y(\mathbf{B}_y(u, v, \partial_i), \partial_j).$$

The family $\mathbf{E} = \{\mathbf{E}_y\}_{y \in TM_0}$ is called the mean Berwald curvature or E-curvature of F . In a local coordinates, $\mathbf{E}_y(u, v) := E_{ij}(y)u^i v^j$, where

$$E_{ij} := \frac{1}{2} B_{mij}^m.$$

A Finsler metric F is called a weakly Berwald metric if $\mathbf{E} = 0$.

Let $U(t)$ be a vector field along a curve $c(t)$. The canonical covariant derivative $D_{\dot{c}}U(t)$ is defined by

$$D_{\dot{c}}U(t) := \left\{ \frac{dU^i}{dt}(t) + U^j(t) \frac{\partial G^i}{\partial y^j}(\dot{c}(t)) \right\} \frac{\partial}{\partial x^i} \Big|_{c(t)}.$$

$U(t)$ is said to be parallel along c if $D_{\dot{c}(t)}U(t) = 0$.

To measure the changes of the Cartan torsion \mathbf{C} along geodesics, we define $\mathbf{L}_y : T_x M \times T_x M \times T_x M \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ by

$$\mathbf{L}_y(u, v, w) := \frac{d}{dt} \left[\mathbf{C}_{\dot{c}(t)}(U(t), V(t), W(t)) \right] \Big|_{t=0},$$

where $c(t)$ is a geodesic and $U(t), V(t), W(t)$ are parallel vector fields along $c(t)$ with $\dot{c}(0) = y, U(0) = u, V(0) = v, W(0) = w$. The family $\mathbf{L} := \{\mathbf{L}_y\}_{y \in TM \setminus \{0\}}$ is called the Landsberg curvature. A Finsler metric is called a Landsberg metric if $\mathbf{L} = 0$. An important fact is that if F is Berwaldian, then it is Landsbergian. \mathbf{L}/\mathbf{C} is regarded as the relative rate of change of \mathbf{C} along Finslerian geodesics. Then F is said to be isotropic Landsberg metric if $\mathbf{L} = cF\mathbf{C}$, where $c = c(x)$ is a scalar function on M .

For a Finsler metric F on an n -dimensional manifold M , the Busemann-Hausdorff volume form $dV_F = \sigma_F(x) dx^1 \cdots dx^n$ is defined by

$$\sigma_F(x) := \frac{\text{Vol} B^n(1)}{\text{Vol} \left\{ (y^i) \in \mathbb{R}^n \mid F \left(y^i \frac{\partial}{\partial x^i} \Big|_x \right) < 1 \right\}}.$$

In general, the local scalar function $\sigma_F(x)$ can not be expressed in terms of elementary functions, even F is locally expressed by elementary functions.

Let $G^i(x, y)$ denote the geodesic coefficients of F in the same local coordinate system. The S-curvature is defined by

$$\mathbf{S}(\mathbf{y}) := \frac{\partial G^i}{\partial y^i}(x, y) - y^i \frac{\partial}{\partial x^i} \left[\ln \sigma_F(x) \right].$$

where $\mathbf{y} = y^i \frac{\partial}{\partial x^i} \Big|_x \in T_x M$. It is proved that $\mathbf{S} = 0$ if F is a Berwald metric [7]. There are many non-Berwald metrics satisfying $\mathbf{S} = 0$ [1].

Given a Riemannian metric α , a 1-form β on a manifold M , and a C^∞ function $\phi = \phi(s)$ on $[-b_o, b_o]$, where $b_o := \sup_{x \in M} \|\beta\|_x$, one can define a function on TM by

$$F := \alpha\phi(s), \quad s = \frac{\beta}{\alpha}.$$

If ϕ and b_o satisfy (2.1) and (2.2) below, then F is a Finsler metric on M . Finsler metrics in this form are called (α, β) -metrics. Randers metrics are special (α, β) -metrics.

Now we consider (α, β) -metrics. Let $\alpha = \sqrt{a_{ij}y^i y^j}$ be a Riemannian metric and $\beta = b_i y^i$ a 1-form on a manifold M . Let

$$\|\beta\|_x := \sqrt{a^{ij}(x)b_i(x)b_j(x)}.$$

For a C^∞ function $\phi = \phi(s)$ on $[-b_o, b_o]$, where $b_o = \sup_{x \in M} \|\beta\|_x$, define

$$F := \alpha\phi(s), \quad s = \frac{\beta}{\alpha}.$$

By a direct computation, we obtain

$$g_{ij} = \rho a_{ij} + \rho_0 b_i b_j - \rho_1 (b_i \alpha_j + b_j \alpha_i) + s \rho_1 \alpha_i \alpha_j,$$

where $\alpha_i := a_{ij}y^j/\alpha$, and

$$\begin{aligned} \rho &:= \phi(\phi - s\phi'), \\ \rho_0 &:= \phi\phi'' + \phi'\phi', \\ \rho_1 &:= s(\phi\phi'' + \phi'\phi') - \phi\phi'. \end{aligned}$$

By further computation, one obtains

$$\det(g_{ij}) = \phi^{n+1} (\phi - s\phi')^{n-2} \left[(\phi - s\phi') + (\|\beta\|_x^2 - s^2)\phi'' \right] \det(a_{ij}).$$

Using the continuity, one can easily show that

Lemma 2.1. *Let $b_o > 0$. $F = \alpha\phi(\beta/\alpha)$ is a Finsler metric on M for any pair $\{\alpha, \beta\}$ with $\sup_{x \in M} \|\beta\|_x \leq b_o$ if and only if $\phi = \phi(s)$ satisfies the following conditions:*

$$(2.1) \quad \phi(s) > 0, \quad (|s| \leq b_o)$$

$$(2.2) \quad \phi(s) - s\phi'(s) + (b^2 - s^2)\phi''(s) > 0, \quad (|s| \leq b \leq b_o).$$

Let

$$\begin{aligned} r_{ij} &:= \frac{1}{2}(b_{i;j} + b_{j;i}), & s_{ij} &:= \frac{1}{2}(b_{i;j} - b_{j;i}), & r_{i0} &:= r_{ij}y^j, & r_{00} &:= r_{ij}y^i y^j, & r_j &:= b^i r_{ij}, \\ s_{i0} &:= s_{ij}y^j, & s_j &:= b^i s_{ij}, & s^i_j &:= a^{im} s_{mj}, & s^i_0 &:= s^i_j y^j, & r_0 &:= r_j y^j, & s_0 &:= s_j y^j. \end{aligned}$$

Suppose that $G^i = G^i(x, y)$ and $\bar{G}^i = \bar{G}^i(x, y)$ denote the coefficients of F and α respectively in the same coordinate system. By definition, we obtain the following identity

$$(2.3) \quad G^i = \bar{G}^i + P y^i + Q^i,$$

where

$$\begin{aligned}
P &= \alpha^{-1}\Theta[r_{00} - 2Q\alpha s_0] \\
Q^i &= \alpha Q s^i_0 + \Psi[r_{00} - 2Q\alpha s_0]b^i, \\
Q &= \frac{\phi'}{\phi - s\phi'} \\
\Theta &= \frac{\phi\phi' - s(\phi\phi'' + \phi'\phi')}{2\phi((\phi - s\phi') + (b^2 - s^2)\phi'')} \\
\Psi &= \frac{1}{2} \frac{\phi''}{(\phi - s\phi') + (b^2 - s^2)\phi''}.
\end{aligned}$$

Clearly, if β is parallel with respect to α ($r_{ij} = 0$ and $s_{ij} = 0$), then $P = 0$ and $Q^i = 0$. In this case, $G^i = \bar{G}^i$ are quadratic in y , and F is a Berwald metric.

3. PROOF OF THEOREM 1.2

In this section, we will prove a generalized version of Theorem 1.2. Indeed, we study generalized Berwald (α, β) -metric with relatively isotropic mean Landsberg curvature and isotropic S-curvature. More precisely, we prove the following.

Theorem 3.1. *Let $F = \alpha\phi(s)$, $s = \beta/\alpha$, be an non-Riemannian generalized Berwald (α, β) -metric on manifold M such that $\phi \neq c_1\sqrt{1 + c_2s^2} + c_3s$ and $\phi'(0) \neq 0$ for any constant $c_1 > 0$, c_2 , c_3 . Then F has isotropic S-curvature $\mathbf{S} = (n + 1)\lambda F$ and is of relatively isotropic mean Landsberg curvature, namely \mathbf{J}/\mathbf{I} is isotropic,*

$$(3.1) \quad \mathbf{J} + c(x)F\mathbf{I} = 0,$$

where $\lambda = \lambda(x)$ and $c = c(x)$ are scalar functions on M if and only if $\mathbf{B} = 0$.

To prove Theorem 1.2, we need the following key lemma.

Lemma 3.2. ([16]) An (α, β) -metric satisfying $\phi'(0) \neq 0$ is a generalized Berwald manifold if and only if β has constant length with respect to α .

A Finsler metric F on an n -dimensional manifold M is called of isotropic S-curvature, if $\mathbf{S} = (n + 1)cF$, where $c = c(x)$ is a scalar function on M . In [4], Cheng-Shen characterized (α, β) -metrics with isotropic S-curvature on a manifold M of dimension $n \geq 3$. Soon, they found that their result holds for the class of (α, β) -metrics with constant length one-forms, only. In [12], we give a new characterization of the class of generalized Berwald metrics with vanishing S-curvature and prove the following.

Lemma 3.3. ([12]) Let $F = \alpha\phi(s)$, $s = \beta/\alpha$, be a generalized Berwald (α, β) -metric on an n -dimensional manifold M . Suppose that $\phi'(0) \neq 0$. Then $\mathbf{S} = 0$ if and only if β is a Killing form with constant length, namely

$$(3.2) \quad r_{ij} = 0, \quad s_j = 0$$

Remark 3.4. Let $\phi = \phi(s)$ be a positive C^∞ function on $(-b_0, b_0)$. For a number $b \in [0, b_0)$, let

$$(3.3) \quad \Phi := -(Q - sQ') \left\{ n\Delta + 1 + sQ \right\} - (b^2 - s^2)(1 + sQ)Q'',$$

where

$$(3.4) \quad \Delta := 1 + sQ + (b^2 - s^2)Q'.$$

By a direct computation, one can obtain a formula for the mean Cartan torsion of (α, β) -metrics as follows

$$(3.5) \quad I_i = -\frac{\Phi}{2\Delta\phi\alpha^2} (\phi - s\phi') (\alpha b_i - sy_i).$$

According to Deicke's theorem, a Finsler metric is Riemannian if and only if $\mathbf{I} = 0$. By (3.5), an (α, β) -metric $F = \alpha\phi(s)$ is Riemannian if and only if $\Phi = 0$.

In [3], Cheng considers regular (α, β) -metrics with isotropic S-curvature and proves the following.

Theorem 3.5. ([3]) *A regular (α, β) -metric $F := \alpha\phi(\beta/\alpha)$, of non-Randers type on an n -dimensional manifold M is of isotropic S-curvature, $\mathbf{S} = (n+1)\sigma F$, if and only if β satisfies $r_{ij} = 0$ and $s_j = 0$. In this case, $\mathbf{S} = 0$, regardless of the choice of a particular $\phi = \phi(s)$.*

Now, we are ready to consider generalized Berwald (α, β) -metrics with isotropic S-curvature and prove the following.

Lemma 3.6. *Let $F = \alpha\phi(s)$, $s = \beta/\alpha$, be a non-Riemannian generalized Berwald (α, β) -metric on manifold M such that $\phi \neq c_1\sqrt{1 + c_2s^2} + c_3s$ for any constant $c_1 > 0$, c_2 . Then $\mathbf{S} = (n+1)\lambda F$ and $\mathbf{J} = 0$ if and only if $\mathbf{B} = 0$, where $\lambda = \lambda(x)$ is a scalar function on M .*

Proof. According to the definition of generalized Berwald metrics, a generalized Berwald (α, β) -metric $F = \alpha\phi(s)$, $s = \beta/\alpha$, is regular. Then, by Lemma 3.5, we have $\mathbf{S} = 0$.

In [6], Li-Shen found the mean Landsberg curvature of an (α, β) -metric $F = \alpha\phi(s)$, $s = \beta/\alpha$, as follows

$$(3.6) \quad J_i = -\frac{1}{\alpha^2\Delta(b^2 - s^2)} \left[\frac{\Phi}{\Delta} + (n+1)(Q - sQ') \right] (r_0 + s_0)h_i \\ - \frac{h_i}{2\alpha^3\Delta(b^2 - s^2)} \left(\Psi_1 + s\frac{\Phi}{\Delta} \right) (r_{00} - 2\alpha Qs_0) - \frac{\Phi}{2\alpha^3\Delta^2} \left[\alpha Q(\alpha^2 s_i - y_i s_0) \right. \\ \left. - \alpha Q' s_0 h_i + \alpha^2 \Delta s_{i0} + \alpha^2 (r_{i0} - 2\alpha Qs_0) - (r_{00} - 2\alpha Qs_0)y_i \right].$$

where

$$h_i := \alpha b_i - sy_i$$

and

$$\Psi_1 := \sqrt{b^2 - s^2} \Delta^{\frac{1}{2}} \left[\frac{\sqrt{b^2 - s^2}}{\Delta^{\frac{3}{2}}} \right]'$$

By (3.2) and (3.6) we have:

$$(3.7) \quad J_i = -\frac{\Phi}{2\alpha\Delta} s_{i0}.$$

Considering (3.7) and the assumption $\mathbf{J} = 0$, we obtain

$$(3.8) \quad s_{ij} = 0.$$

Since $r_{ij} = 0$, then (3.8) tell us that β is parallel with respect to α and F is a Berwald metric. \square

Proof of Theorem 3.1: Let $F = \alpha\phi(s)$, $s = \beta/\alpha$, be an (α, β) -metric with relatively isotropic mean Landsberg curvature. The following holds

$$(3.9) \quad J_k + cFI_k = 0.$$

The following holds

$$(3.10) \quad J_i b^i = -\frac{\Delta}{2\alpha^2} \left[(r_{00} - 2\alpha Q s_0) \Psi_1 + \alpha(r_0 + s_0) \Psi_2 \right].$$

where

$$\Psi_2 := 2(n+1)(Q - sQ') + 3\frac{\Phi}{\Delta}.$$

By assumption, F has vanishing S-curvature. Then, (3.2) and (3.10) imply that

$$(3.11) \quad b_i J^i = 0.$$

Considering (3.11) and multiplying (3.9) with b^k gives us

$$(3.12) \quad c(b^k I_k) = 0.$$

Let $c \neq 0$, $\forall x \in M$. By (3.12), we get

$$b^k I_k = 0.$$

In this case, (3.5) implies that

$$(3.13) \quad \frac{\Phi}{2\Delta\phi\alpha^3} (\phi - s\phi') (b^2\alpha^2 - \beta^2) = 0.$$

Considering (3.13), one can get $\Phi = 0$ or $\phi - s\phi' = 0$. By (3.5) it follows that $\mathbf{I} = 0$ and then F reduces to a Riemannian metric, which contradicts with the assumption. Thus, we have $c = 0$. Putting it in (3.9) yields $\mathbf{J} = 0$. By Lemma 3.6, F is a Berwald metric. This completes the proof. \square

Proof of Corollary 1.3: Let $F = \alpha\phi(s)$, $s = \beta/\alpha$, be a non-Randers type (α, β) -metric on manifold M of dimension $n \geq 3$ such that $\phi'(0) \neq 0$. In [2], it is proved that F satisfies $\mathbf{E} = 0$ if and only if β is a killing 1-form with constant length with respect to α . By Theorem 1.2, we get the proof. \square

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