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**Ramesh Sharma\*** (rsharma@newhaven.edu), Department of Mathematics, University Of New Haven, West Haven, CT 06516. *A contact conformal characterization of the odd dimensional unit sphere and related results.* Preliminary report.

Goldberg conjecture says that a compact Einstein almost Kaehler manifold is Kaehler. Intrigued by this, Boyer and Galicki proved that a compact Einstein  $K$ -contact manifold is Sasakian. A contact metric manifold  $M(\eta, g)$  is said to be  $\eta$ -Einstein if  $Ric = \alpha g + \beta \eta \otimes \eta$  for smooth functions  $\alpha, \beta$  on  $M$ . Boyer and Galicki proved that a compact  $\eta$ -Einstein  $K$ -contact manifold with  $\alpha > -2$  is Sasakian. We show that the above two results are valid even if we weaken the assumption of compactness to completeness. Next we define a contact conformal vector field  $V$  on a contact metric manifold  $M$  by  $\nabla_X V = aX + b\varphi X$  for smooth functions  $a, b$  on  $M$ . An example of such a vector field is  $\xi$  on a  $K$ -contact vector field for which  $\nabla_X \xi = -\varphi X$ . We obtain the following characterization of a unit sphere as the following result: Among all complete simply connected  $K$ -contact manifolds only the unit sphere admits a non-Killing contact conformal vector field (in particular, a closed conformal vector field). Finally we provide a classification of a  $(k, \mu)$  contact manifold admitting a contact conformal vector field. (Received January 04, 2006)