POSITIVE AND NEGATIVE 3-K-CONTACT STRUCTURES

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Abstract. The aim of this paper is to give a characterization of 3-K-contact and quasi 3-K-contact manifolds.

1. Introduction

The aim of this paper is to describe the class of Riemannian manifolds that is closely related to quaternionic-Kähler manifolds. It is well known that there is a close connection between the quaternionic-Kähler manifolds with positive scalar curvature and the class of 3-Sasakian manifolds (see [K], [Ku], [Its], [BGM]). Ishihara [It] has shown that every fibered Riemannian 3-Sasakian bundle has a base which is a quaternionic-Kähler manifold with positive scalar curvature. The 3-Sasakian manifolds are essentially the $SO(3)$-principal bundles (or principal orbifold bundles) over quaternionic-Kähler manifolds (see [BGM]). We have proved in [J2] that for any quaternionic-Kähler manifold $M$ with negative scalar curvature there exists an $SO(3)$-principal fibre bundle $P$ such that $P$ is an $A$-manifold, the projection $p : P \to M$ is a Riemannian submersion and $P$ admits three K-contact structures satisfying the relations very similar to those characterizing the 3-K-contact structures. We have called such structures the quasi 3-K-contact structures. Recently similar structures were introduced by S. Tanno ([T]). S. Tanno introduced $nS$-structures (an $nS$-structure is a quasi 3-K-contact structure satisfying an additional condition analogous to that characterizing the 3-Sasakian structure in the positive case). S. Tanno proved that every quaternionic-Kähler manifold with negative scalar curvature admits an $SO(3)$-principal fibre bundle $P$ with canonical $nS$-structure and that any 3-K-contact structure on a 7-dimensional manifold has to be 3-Sasakian (respectively any quasi 3-K-contact structure on a 7-dimensional manifold has to be an $nS$-structure). In the present paper we extend these results to any dimension $4n + 3 > 11$. The work is devoted to the study of general quasi 3-K-contact structures. We shall also call them negative 3-K-contact structures and the usual 3-K-contact structure we shall call positive 3-K-contact structure. The manifold $P$ with 3-K-contact (positive or negative) structure has dimension $4n + 3$. We show that if $n \neq 2$, then every (positive) 3-K-contact structure is 3-Sasakian and every negative 3-K-contact manifold is an $A$-manifold whose Ricci tensor has two constant eigenvalues.

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2. Preliminaries

We start by recalling some basic facts concerning the quaternion-Kähler geometry (see [S], [Sw], [B], [GL]) and K-contact structures. By \( \mathfrak{X}(M) \) we denote the Lie algebra of all local vector fields on \( M \). If \( D \) is a vector bundle over \( M \), then by \( \Gamma(D) \) we denote the set of all local sections of \( D \). We also write \( \mathcal{A}^k(M) = \Gamma(\wedge^k TM^*) \).

Let \( (M,g) \) be an oriented Riemannian manifold, let \( \dim M = 4n \) and let \( SO(M) \) be the \( SO(4n) \)-principal fibre bundle of oriented orthonormal frames \( u : \mathbb{R}^{4n} \to TM \). By \( \nabla \) we denote the Levi-Civita connection of \( (M, g) \). Let \( \mathcal{G} \subseteq \text{End}(TM) \) be the 3-dimensional subbundle locally generated by three almost complex structures \( \{I, J, K\} \) compatible with the metric \( g \) and satisfying the additional condition \( I \circ J = -J \circ I = K \). If \( n > 1 \), then a manifold \( (M, g) \) with the bundle \( \mathcal{G} \) satisfying the above conditions is called the almost quaternion Hermitian manifold. The subbundle \( \mathcal{G} \) is called parallel (with respect to \( \nabla \)) if for every section \( A \in \Gamma(\mathcal{G}) \) and for every \( X \in \mathfrak{X}(M) \) we have \( \nabla_X A \in \mathcal{G} \). An almost quaternion Hermitian manifold \( (M, g) \) with a parallel bundle \( \mathcal{G} \) is called a quaternionic-Kähler manifold.

If \( \dim M = 4 \), then we shall call \( (M, g) \) a quaternionic-Kähler manifold if it is anti-self-dual and Einstein (we shall always choose an orientation of \( M \) in such a way that \( \mathcal{G} = \wedge^+ M \)). Every quaternionic-Kähler manifold is an Einstein manifold. Let \( (M, g) \) be a Riemannian manifold and \( \xi \) be a unit Killing vector field on \( M \). Let us define a tensor field \( \phi \) by \( \phi(X) = \nabla_X \xi \) and a 1-form \( \eta(X) = g(\xi, X) \). Then we call \( (M, g, \xi, \phi, \eta) \) a K-contact structure if the following relation is satisfied:

\[
(K) \quad \phi^2 = -id + \eta \otimes \xi.
\]

Let us assume that \( \xi_0 \) is a Killing vector field of constant length on \( M \). We shall find the conditions under which the Killing vector field \( \xi = c \xi_0 \) where \( c = \frac{1}{\|\xi_0\|} \) defines the K-contact metric structure. Let us denote by

\[
H = \ker \eta = \{X : g(\xi, X) = 0\}
\]

the distribution of horizontal vectors on \( M \). The following Lemma is well known (see [J]1).

**Lemma.** **Under the above assumptions the Killing vector field \( \xi \) gives the K-contact structure on \( M \) if and only if the tensor \( J = \phi|_H \) is the almost complex structure on the bundle \( H \), i.e. \( J^2 = -id|_H \).**

The mapping \( p : P \to M \) is a Riemannian submersion (see [ON]) if for every \( y \in P \) the mapping \( d_y p : H_y \to T_y M \) is an isometry, where \( x = p(y) \) and \( H_y \) is an orthogonal complement of the vertical space \( V_y = T_y F_x \) where \( F_x = p^{-1}(x) \). In the sequel we shall use the O’Neill’s tensors \( T, \mathcal{A} \). They are defined as follows:

\[
A_X Y = \mathcal{V}(\nabla_{\mathcal{H}X} \mathcal{H}Y) + \mathcal{H}(\nabla_{\mathcal{H}X} \mathcal{V}Y),
\]

\[
T_X Y = \mathcal{H}(\nabla_{\mathcal{V}X} \mathcal{V}Y) + \mathcal{V}(\nabla_{\mathcal{V}X} \mathcal{H}Y),
\]

where \( \mathcal{H}, \mathcal{V} \) respectively denote the projections on the horizontal and vertical subbundles \( H, V \) of \( TP = H \oplus V \). Finally, let us recall that a Riemannian manifold \( (M, g) \) is called an \( \mathcal{A} \)-manifold (see [G]) (we shall write \( M \in \mathcal{A} \) in such a case) if the Ricci tensor of \( (M, g) \) satisfies the condition \( \nabla_X \rho(X, X) = 0 \) for all local vector fields \( X \in \mathfrak{X}(M) \).
3. Quasi 3-K-contact structures

We start with a definition of the 3-K-contact and quasi 3-K-contact structure.

**Definition.** Let \((P, g)\) be a Riemannian manifold that admits three distinct K-contact structures \((\phi_i, \xi_i, \eta_i)\) such that

1. \(g(\xi_i, \xi_j) = \delta_{ij}\)
2. \([\xi_i, \xi_j] = 2\epsilon_{ijk} \xi_k\)
3. \(\phi_i \xi_j = -\epsilon_{ijk} \xi_k\)

where \(\phi_i = \nabla \xi_i\), \(\eta_i (X) = g(\xi_i, X)\). Let us denote by \(H\) the horizontal distribution \(H = \ker \eta_1 \cap \ker \eta_2 \cap \ker \eta_3 = \bigcap \ker \eta_i\) and let us define the almost complex structures \(J_i\) on \(H\) by the formulas \(J_i = -\phi_{iH}\). We shall call \((P, \xi_1, \xi_2, \xi_3)\) the 3-K-contact structure (or positive 3-K-contact structure) if \((i \neq j)\)

\[J_i \circ J_j = \epsilon_{ijk} J_k\]

and the quasi 3-K-contact structure (or negative 3-K-contact structure) if \((i \neq j)\)

\[J_i \circ J_j = -\epsilon_{ijk} J_k\]

The Riemannian manifold \((P, g)\) with positive (negative) 3-K-contact structure we shall call positive (negative) 3-K-contact manifold.

By \(V = \text{span}_{\mathbb{R}}\{\xi_1, \xi_2, \xi_3\}\) we shall denote the vertical bundle of \(P\). It is clear that \(TP = H \oplus V\) and \(H \perp V\). The distribution \(V\) is integrable and the leaves are totally geodesic submanifolds of \(P\). If \(P\) is complete, then the leaves are 3-dimensional spherical space forms.

**Remark.** Our definition of positive 3-K-contact structure is equivalent to the usual one (see [K1], [T]). S. Tanno defined in [T] an \(nS\)-structure. The \(nS\)-structure is a negative 3-K-contact structure (condition (6.3) in [T]) is equivalent to \(J_i \circ J_j = -\epsilon_{ijk} J_k\) satisfying an additional condition ((6.4) in [T]). We shall show in the sequel that if \(\dim P = 4n + 3 \neq 11\), then every negative 3-K-contact structure must be an \(nS\)-structure.

Note that if \(P\) is complete, then it admits an action of the group SU(2) or SO(3) of isometries of \(P\). Let us assume that \((P, g)\) is a fibre bundle \(p : P \to M\) and the group \(G\) (\(G = SU(2)\) or \(G = SO(3)\)) acts on \(P\) on the right by isometries such that the orbits of the action coincides with the fibers of \(p\), i.e. \(p^{-1}(p(x)) = orb_{G}(x)\) and \(M = P/G\). Let us assume that Killing tensors \(\xi_1, \xi_2, \xi_3\) corresponding to the basis of the Lie algebra \(\mathfrak{g} = \mathfrak{so}(3)\) of \(G\) define on \(P\) the (positive or negative) 3-K-contact structure. Thus the fibers are totally geodesic submanifolds of \(P\) isometric to \(G/\Gamma\) where \(\Gamma\) is a discrete subgroup of \(G\). If \(\Gamma = \{e\}\), i.e. \(p : P \to M\) is a \(G\)-principal fibre bundle over \(M\), then we shall call \(P\) the 3-K-contact principal fibre bundle. If \(X \in \mathfrak{X}(M)\), then by \(X^* \in \Gamma(H)\) we mean a horizontal lift of \(X\), i.e. the horizontal vector field \(X^* \in \mathfrak{X}(P)\) which is \(p\) related with \(X\) (\(dp(X^*) = X \circ p\)).

**Theorem 1.** Let \((P, g)\) be an \(SO(3)\) principal 3-K-contact bundle (positive or negative) over a manifold \(M\). Then the metric \(g\) induces a metric \(g_*\) on \(M\) such that \(p : (P, g) \to (M, g_*)\) is a Riemannian submersion and \((M, g_*)\) is an almost quaternion Hermitian manifold.

**Proof.** (Compare [T].) We start by constructing a bundle \(\mathcal{G} \subset \text{End}(TM)\) locally spanned by three almost complex structures giving the quaternionic structure on
M. Let $\sigma \in \Gamma(P)$ be a local section of the bundle $P$. We shall define on $U = \text{dom} \sigma$ three almost complex structures

$$J_i^\sigma = \epsilon d\sigma \circ \phi_i \circ \sigma^*$$

where $\sigma^*(X)(x) = X_{\sigma(x)}^*$, $\epsilon = -1$ if $(P, g)$ is a positive 3-K-contact manifold, $\epsilon = 1$ if $(P, g)$ is a negative manifold and $X^*$ denotes the horizontal lift of the field $X \in \mathfrak{X}(M)$. We have $d\phi_i d\sigma(X) = d\phi_i (d\sigma(X) - \sigma^*(X)) = d\phi_i (d\sigma(X) - \sigma^*(X))$ since $d\sigma(X) - \sigma^*(X) \in \Gamma(V)$ and $\phi_i(V) \subset V$. Thus in fact we have

$$J_i^\sigma = \epsilon d\sigma \circ \phi_i \circ d\sigma.$$  

It is obvious from the definition of positive (negative) 3-K-contact structure that the almost complex structures $\{J_1^\sigma, J_2^\sigma, J_3^\sigma\}$ define on $U$ the almost quaternionic structure, i.e. $J_i^\sigma \circ J_j^\sigma = \epsilon_{ijk} J_k^\sigma$. Thus $\dim M = 4n$. The structures $\{J_1^\sigma, J_2^\sigma, J_3^\sigma\}$ are the sections spanning the 3-dimensional bundle $\mathcal{G}_U \subset \text{End}(TP)$. We shall show that $\mathcal{G}_U$ does not depend on $\sigma$ and there exists a global bundle $\mathcal{G}$ such that bundles $\mathcal{G}_U$ are the restrictions of $\mathcal{G}$, i.e. $\mathcal{G}_U = \mathcal{G}_U$.

The group $SO(3)$ has an adjoint representation $ad$ in the vector space $\mathfrak{so}(3)$ defined by $ad_g X = g X g^{-1}$ for $X \in \mathfrak{so}(3)$. Let us denote

$$ad_g(E_i) = \sum_{j=1}^3 A_j^i(g)E_j$$

where $\{E_1, E_2, E_3\}$ is the standard basis of $\mathfrak{so}(3)$ corresponding to the Killing fields $\xi_1, \xi_2, \xi_3$. Let $V$ be the 3-dimensional vector space and $\mathcal{C} = (e_1, e_2, e_3)$ be a basis of $V$. Then by $ad\mathcal{C}$ we shall mean the linear representation of $SO(3)$ in $V$ defined on $\mathcal{C}$ by $ad \mathcal{C} e_i = A_j^i(g) e_j$. The group $G = SO(3)$ acts on $(P, g)$ from the right by the isometries $R_g$. We shall also write $pg$ instead of $R_g p$. Note that $\nabla_{(R_g)_* X (R_g)_* Y} = (R_g)_*(\nabla_X Y)$ where $((R_g)_* X)_p = d_{pg^{-1}} R_g(X_{pg^{-1}})$. Let $X = \xi^+$ be the fundamental Killing vector field corresponding via the action of $G$ to the vector $\xi \in \mathfrak{so}(3)$. Let us write $a_i = \exp(t \xi_i)$. Note that $((R_g)_* \xi^+)_p = \frac{d}{dt}|_{t=0} (pg^{-1} a_i g) = \frac{d}{dt}|_{t=0} (p(ad(g^{-1})(a_i))) = (ad(g^{-1})\xi^+_i)$. It is also clear that

$$p(\nabla_X (ad(g^{-1})\xi^+_i)) = p(\sum_{j=1}^3 A_j^i(g^{-1})\nabla_X \xi^+_j).$$

Thus

$$p\phi_i (R_g \sigma^* X) = p(\sum_{j=1}^3 A_j^i(g^{-1})\nabla_X \sigma^* \xi^+_j)$$

$$= p(\sum_{j=1}^3 A_j^i(g^{-1})\phi_j \sigma^* X) = \sum_{j=1}^3 A_j^i(g^{-1})\phi_j \sigma^* X$$

for any section $\sigma \in \Gamma(P)$. Let $\sigma_1, \sigma_2$ be two sections of the bundle $P$, such that $U_{12} = \text{dom} \sigma_1 \cap \text{dom} \sigma_2 \neq \emptyset$. Then $\sigma_1 = \sigma_2 g_{12}$ where $g_{12} : U_{12} \to G$ is a transition function. From (3.3) it follows that

$$(J_{1}^{\sigma_1}, J_{2}^{\sigma_1}, J_{3}^{\sigma_1}) = a d^\mathcal{C}(g_{12})(J_{1}^{\sigma_2}, J_{2}^{\sigma_2}, J_{3}^{\sigma_2})$$

where $\mathcal{C} = \{ J_1^{\sigma_1}, J_2^{\sigma_1}, J_3^{\sigma_1} \}$. 

Hence there exists a global bundle $\mathcal{G} \subset \text{End}(TP)$ which is locally spanned by the bases $\{J_1^i, J_2^i, J_3^i\}$. From (3.4) it follows that the bundle $P$ is isomorphic to the $G$-principal fibre bundle associated with vector bundle $\mathcal{G}$. We also have

$$\mathcal{G} = P \times_{SO(3)} \mathfrak{so}(3).$$

Hence $M$ is an almost quaternion manifold. In particular $\dim M = 4n$. Let us define the metric $g_*$ on $M$ by the formula $g_*(X, Y)_x = g(X^*, Y^*)_y$ where $p(y) = x$ and $X^*, Y^*$ are horizontal lifts of the fields $X, Y \in \mathfrak{X}(M)$. Since $G$ acts by isometries it is clear that $g(X^*, Y^*)$ is constant on the fibers and the metric $g$ is well defined. From the definition of $g$ it is obvious that $p : (P, g) \to (M, g_*)$ is a Riemannian submersion. Note that each almost complex structure $J_2^i$ is compatible with the metric $g_*$, i.e.

$$g_*(X, J_2^i Y) = -g_*(J_2^i X, Y)$$

which is a straightforward consequence of (3.1). Thus $(M, g_*, \mathcal{G})$ is an almost quaternion Hermitian manifold. □

The 3-K-contact bundle $P$ admits a natural connection form (see [BGM], p. 192)

$$\omega = \eta_1 E_1 + \eta_2 E_2 + \eta_3 E_3 \in \mathcal{A}(P) \otimes \mathfrak{so}(3).$$

Note that the metric on $P$ can be written as

$$g = B(\omega, \omega) + p^* g_*$$

where $B$ is the standard metric on $\mathfrak{so}(3)$ inducing on $SO(3)$ the metric of constant sectional curvature equal to 1. The horizontal and vertical subbundles $H_x, V_x$ with respect to the connection on $P$ defined by the form $\omega$ coincide with the horizontal and vertical bundles defined by us earlier. The vector bundle $\mathcal{G}$ defines a reduction of the $SO(4n)$ bundle $SO(M)$ to the $Sp(n)Sp(1)$ subbundle

$$Q = \{ u \in SO(M) : u I_0 u^{-1} \in \mathcal{G}, u J_0 u^{-1} \in \mathcal{G}, u K_0 u^{-1} \in \mathcal{G} \}$$

and we have the homomorphism of principal fibre bundles $F : Q \to P$ where we identify $P$ with the bundle of orthonormal bases of $\mathcal{G}$ defined by

$$F(u) = (u I_0 u^{-1}, u J_0 u^{-1}, u K_0 u^{-1}).$$

It is clear that the Levi-Civita connection of $M$ reduces to $Q$ if and only if the bundle $\mathcal{G}$ is parallel, i.e. if for any section $\sigma \in \Gamma(\mathcal{G})$ and any vector field $X \in \mathfrak{X}(M)$ we have $\nabla_X \sigma \in \Gamma(\mathcal{G})$. We shall find the conditions under which $\nabla \mathcal{G} = 0$. Note that for $X, Y \in \mathfrak{X}(M)$

$$\epsilon g_*(X, J_2^i Y)_x = g(X^*, \phi_i Y^*)_{\sigma(x)}.$$

Let us assume that $X, Y, Z \in \mathfrak{X}(M), \nabla Z X_x = \nabla Z Y_x = 0$. Thus we have from (3.7)

$$\epsilon g_*(X, \nabla J_2^i (Z, Y) = g(\nabla_{\sigma,Z} X^*, \phi_i Y^*)$$

$$+ g(X^*, \nabla \phi_i (\sigma, Z, Y^*) + g(X^*, \phi_i (\nabla_{\sigma,Z} Y^*)).$$

Note that $(\sigma, Z)_x = Z_{\sigma(x)} + V_{\sigma(x)}$ where $V \in T_{\sigma(x)}P$ is a vertical vector. We can extend $V$ to a (vertical) Killing vector field $V = \omega(\sigma, Z)^+ \in \Gamma(V)$. Note that $(\nabla V X^*)_\sigma(x) = (\nabla^P V)_{\sigma(x)}$. We also have $\nabla_Z X^* \in \Gamma(V)$, $\nabla_Z Y^* \in \Gamma(V)$. Let us write $V = \omega(\sigma(x)) = \alpha_1 \xi_1 + \alpha_2 \xi_2 + \alpha_3 \xi_3$ where $\alpha_i \in \mathbb{R}$. Note that

$$\epsilon g_*(X, \nabla J_2^i (Z, Y)) = g(\nabla V X^*, \phi_i Y^*) + g(X^*, \nabla \phi_i (\sigma, Z, Y^*)$$

$$+ g(X^*, \phi_i (\nabla_{\sigma,Z} Y^*).$$
We also have
\[ g(\nabla_Y X^*, \phi_i Y^*) + g(X^*, \phi_i(\nabla_{\sigma_i} Y^*)) \]
\[ = \sum_{j=1}^{3} \alpha_j (g(\phi_j(X^*), \phi_i(Y^*)) - g(\phi_i(X^*), \phi_j(Y^*))) \]
\[ = \sum_{j \neq i} 2\alpha_j g(X^*, \phi_i \circ \phi_j(Y^*)) = 2 \sum_{j \neq i} \alpha_j \epsilon_{ijk} g(X^*, \phi_k(Y^*)). \]

It follows that
\[ e_{g*}(X, \nabla J_i^* (Z, Y)) = 2 \sum_{j \neq i} \alpha_j \epsilon_{ijk} g(X^*, \phi_k(Y^*)) + g(X^*, \nabla \phi_i(\sigma_i Z, Y^*)). \]

Consequently
\[ (3.10) \quad g_{*}(X, e\nabla J_i^* (Z, Y) - 2 \sum_{j \neq i} \alpha_j \epsilon_{ijk} J_k^* (Y)) = g(X^*, \nabla \phi_i(\sigma_i Z, Y^*)). \]

Hence we have proved:

**Proposition 1.** Let \( P \) be a 3-K-contact principal fibre bundle. Then the following conditions are equivalent:

(a) \( \nabla \phi_i(X, Y) \in \Gamma(V) \) for \( i \in \{1, 2, 3\} \) and any \( X \in \mathfrak{X}(P), \ Y \in \Gamma(H), \)
(b) \( R(X, \xi_i)Y \in \Gamma(V) \) for \( i \in \{1, 2, 3\} \) and any \( X \in \mathfrak{X}(P), \ Y \in \Gamma(H), \)
(c) \( R(X, Y)\xi_i = 0 \) for \( i \in \{1, 2, 3\} \) and any \( X, Y \in \Gamma(H), \)
(d) \( R(X, Y)Z \in \Gamma(H) \) for any \( Z \in \mathfrak{X}(P) \) and \( X, Y \in \Gamma(H). \)

Each of these conditions implies the following condition:

(e) the bundle \( \mathcal{G} \) is parallel.

**Proof.** It follows from (3.10), the equality \( R(X, \xi_i)Y = \nabla \phi_i(X, Y) \) and the properties of the Riemannian curvature tensor \( R. \)

**Remark.** If the 3-K-contact structure is Sasakian, then for \( X \in \mathfrak{X}(P) \) and \( Y \in \mathfrak{X}(M) \)
\[ \nabla \phi_i(X, Y^*) = \eta_i(Y^*)X - g(X, Y^*)\xi_i = -g(X, Y^*)\xi_i \in \Gamma(V) \]
and the condition (a) is satisfied. Hence \( (M, g_*) \) is a quaternionic-Kähler manifold if \( \dim M = 4n > 4. \) We obtain in this way the result of Ishihara ([11]).

Next we shall prove the following theorem (for \( n = 1 \) this is a result of S. Tanno [11]; we include a proof of this case for the completeness):

**Theorem 2.** Let us assume that \( \dim M = 4n \neq 8. \) Let \((P, g)\) be an \( SO(3) \) principal 3-K-contact bundle (positive or negative) over a manifold \( M. \) Then the metric \( g \) induces a metric \( g_* \) on \( M \) such that \( p : (P, g) \rightarrow (M, g_*) \) is a Riemannian submersion and \((M, g_*)\) is a (positive or negative respectively) quaternionic-Kähler manifold. The Riemannian manifold \((P, g)\) is a 3-Sasakian (hence Einstein) manifold if \((P, g, \xi_i)\) is a positive 3-K-contact structure and an \( \mathcal{A} \)-manifold whose Ricci tensor has two constant eigenvalues \( \lambda = 4n + 2 \) and \( \mu = -4n - 14 \) if \((P, g, \xi_i)\) is a negative 3-K-contact structure.

**Proof.** Let \( \omega = \eta_1 E_1 + \eta_2 E_2 + \eta_3 E_3 \) be as above the connection form on the bundle \( P. \) We have
\[ D\omega = \Omega = \Omega_1 E_1 + \Omega_2 E_2 + \Omega_3 E_3. \]
where $\Omega_d = d\eta_k \circ h$ and $h : TP \to H$ is the horizontal projection. Hence from the structural equation we get

$$\Omega_i = d\eta_i - \epsilon_{ijk}\eta_j \wedge \eta_k.$$ 

Let us define the 4-form $\tilde{\Omega} \in \mathcal{A}^4(P)$ by the formula $\tilde{\Omega} = \Omega_1 \wedge \Omega_2 \wedge \Omega_3 \wedge \Omega_4$. Note that $\tilde{\Omega} = 2(\epsilon_{ijk}\eta_k - \eta_j \wedge \eta_k) = 2\epsilon_{ijk}\Omega_k$. Hence $L_{\xi_1}\tilde{\Omega} = 0$ for $j = 1, 2, 3$ and the 4-form $\tilde{\Omega} = \mathcal{A}^4(P)$ is the horizontal 4-form invariant with respect to the action of $G$. Let us define for a section $\sigma \in \Gamma(P)$ the three forms $\Omega_1^\sigma = g_* (J_1^\sigma X, Y)$. Then $2(p^*\Omega_1^\sigma)_{\sigma(x)} = \epsilon d\eta_i \circ h_{\sigma(x)} = \epsilon(\Omega_1)_{\sigma(x)}$ where $h$ denotes the horizontal projection and $\epsilon \in \{-1, 1\}$ was defined above. Let us define the 4-form $\Omega_1^\sigma = \Omega_1^\sigma \wedge \Omega_2^\sigma \wedge \Omega_3^\sigma \wedge \Omega_4^\sigma$. Then $\Omega_1^\sigma \in \mathcal{A}^4(\text{dom}\sigma)$. Note that in fact $\Omega_1^\sigma$ does not depend on $\sigma$ and there exists a global 4-form $\tilde{\Omega}$ such that $\Omega_{\text{dom}\sigma} = \Omega_1^\sigma$. We also have $4p^*\tilde{\Omega} = \tilde{\Omega}$. Thus

(3.11) $4p^*d\tilde{\Omega} = d\tilde{\Omega}$.

Since the form $p^*d\tilde{\Omega}$ is horizontal it follows that the form $d\tilde{\Omega} = D\tilde{\Omega}$ is horizontal. Thus

$$d\tilde{\Omega} = 2(d\Omega_1 \wedge \Omega_2 \wedge \Omega_3 \wedge \Omega_4)$$

From the Bianchi identity we have $D\Omega_1 = 0$. Consequently $d\tilde{\Omega} = 0$, $d\tilde{\Omega} = 0$. From the result of Swann [Sw] it follows that if $\dim M = 4n \geq 12$, then $\nabla \tilde{\Omega} = 0$ and thus $(M, g_\sigma, \mathcal{G})$ is a quaternionic-Kähler manifold. In [11, 12] we have proved that the principal $SO(3)$-bundle $P$ associated with $\mathcal{G}$ admits canonical negative 3-K-contact structure $(P_0, g_0)$ if $(M, g_\sigma)$ has negative scalar curvature and that $(P_0, g_0)$ is then an $\mathcal{A}$-manifold whose Ricci tensor has two eigenvalues $\lambda = 4n + 2$ and $\mu = -4n - 14$ of multiplicity 3 and 4n respectively. In the case of positive scalar curvature $(P_0, g_0)$ is a 3-Sasakian manifold (see [11, 12, 12, 13]). We shall show that if $\dim M = 4$, then $(M, g_\sigma)$ is anti-self-dual Einstein and if $n \neq 2$, then $(P, g)$ is isometric to the canonical 3-K-contact bundle $(P_0, g_0)$. We can treat $P$ as the bundle of orthonormal frames of $\mathcal{G}$; hence $P = P_0$. We shall show that $\omega = \omega_0$ where $\omega_0$ is the canonical metric connection form on $P_0$. To this end it is enough to prove that

(3.12) $\nabla J_1^\sigma (Z, Y) = -2 \sum \epsilon_{ijk}\sigma \omega^j (Z)J_1^\sigma (Y)$

for every local section $\sigma \in \Gamma(P)$. We first show that $\nabla \phi_1 (Z^*, Y^*)_{p_0} \in \Gamma(\mathcal{V})$ for every $Z, Y \in \mathfrak{X}(M)$ and a point $p_0 \in P$. We can find a section $\sigma \in \Gamma(P)$ such that $\sigma(x_0) = p_0$ and $d_{x_0}\sigma(U) = U_{p_0}^\sigma \in H_{p_0}$ for every $U \in T_{x_0}M$. Since either $(M, \mathcal{G})$ is quaternionic-Kähler or $\dim M = 4$ and $\mathcal{G} = \Lambda^+ M$ we have $\nabla J_1^\sigma (Z, Y) = \sum \theta^1_i(Z)J_1^\sigma (Y)$ where $\theta^1_i = -\theta^2_i$. Hence from (3.10) it follows that

$$g(X^*, \nabla \phi_1 (Z^*, Y^*))_{p_0} = \epsilon \sum \theta^1_i(X, \theta^1_i(Z)J_1^\sigma (Y))_{x_0}.$$ 

Consequently

(3.13) $\epsilon \nabla \Omega_i (Z^*, X^*, Y^*)_{p_0} = \sum \theta^1_i(Z, X)\Omega^\sigma_i (X, Y)_{x_0}.$

Let $Z \in T_{x_0}M$ be any vector and let $X = I_1Z, Y = I_2Z$. Note that $\Omega^\sigma_i (Z, X) = \delta^1_j g_* (Z, Z), \Omega^\sigma_i (Z, Y) = \delta^2_j g_* (Z, Z), \Omega^\sigma_i (X, Y) = \delta^3_j g_* (Z, Z)$. Since $D\Omega_i = 0$ we have
\( \mathcal{C}_{Z^*,X^*,Y^*} \nabla \Omega_i (Z^*, X^*, Y^*) = 0 \) where \( \mathcal{C} \) denotes the cyclic sum. Consequently

\[
\sum_j \mathcal{C}_{X,Y} \theta_j^i (Z) \Omega_j^i (X,Y) = 0.
\]

Thus \((\theta_1^i (Z) + \theta_1^j (Y) - \theta_1^j (X)) g_\gamma (Z, Z) = 0. \) Consequently we get \( \theta_1^i (Z) - \theta_1^j (I_1 Z) = 0, \theta_2^i (Z) + \theta_2^j (I_1 Z) = 0, \theta_3^i (Z) - \theta_3^j (I_1 Z) = 0. \) Since \( Z \) was arbitrary we have \( \theta_1^i (Z) = \theta_2^i (I_1 Z) = -\theta_3^i (I_1 Z) = -\theta_3^j (I_2 Z). \) Thus \((\theta_1^i z_0 = 0 \) and \((\theta_j^i z_0 = 0. \) Since \( p_0 \) was an arbitrary point we have \( \nabla \Omega_i o h = 0, \) which means that \( \nabla \phi_i (Z^*, Y^*) = \Gamma(V). \) Note that from the first Bianchi equation we obtain \( (P, g)) \) \( R(\xi_j, \xi_i) Y^* + R(Y^*, \xi_j) \xi_i - R(Y^*, \xi_i) \xi_j = 0. \) Consequently

\[
(3.14) \quad \nabla \phi_i (\xi_j, Y^*) = R(\xi_j, \xi_i) Y^* = -R(Y^*, \xi_j) \xi_i + R(Y^*, \xi_i) \xi_j.
\]

If \((P, g)) \) is a positive 3-K-contact structure, then \( R(Y^*, \xi_i) \xi_j = \eta_j (Y^*) \xi_i = 0, \) condition (a) of Proposition 1 is satisfied and consequently (3.12) holds. In the case of negative structure we have \( R(Y^*, \xi_i) \xi_j = -2 \epsilon_{i j k} \phi_k (Y^*) \) (see [11]). Thus from (3.14) it follows that

\[
\nabla \phi_i (\xi_j, Y^*) = -4 \epsilon_{i j k} \phi_k (Y^*).
\]

Consequently we obtain for an arbitrary section \( \sigma \in \Gamma (P) \) (where \( \alpha_j = \sigma^* \omega^j (Z) \))

\[
g(X^*, \nabla \phi_i (\sigma^* Z, Y^*)) = \sum \alpha_j g(X^*, \nabla \phi_i (\xi_j, Y^*)) = -4 \sum \epsilon_{i j k} \alpha_j g(X, J_k^i Y)
\]

and from (3.10) it follows that \( \nabla J_k^i (Z, Y) = -2 \sum_{j \neq i} \alpha_j \epsilon_{i j k} J_k^j (Y). \) Since \( \alpha_j = \sigma^* \omega^j (Z) \) again formula (3.12) is satisfied. If \( n = 1 \), then from the Ricci identity (see [12]) we have \( \mathcal{R} \Omega_i^j = 2 \sum_{j < k} \epsilon_{i j k} (d \theta_k^j - \theta_k^j \wedge \theta_k^j) \) where \( \mathcal{R} : \Lambda M \rightarrow \Lambda M \) is the curvature operator. Let the section \( \sigma \) be chosen as above. Since \( \theta_k^j = -2 \epsilon_{i j k} \phi^* \omega^j \) we infer that at the point \( x_0 \) \( \mathcal{R} \Omega_i^j = 2 \sigma^* d \omega_i = -4 \epsilon \Omega_i^j. \) Since \( x_0 \) was arbitrary it follows that (see [13]) \( (M, g_\nu) \) is anti-self-dual Einstein with non-zero scalar curvature. Thus if \( n \neq 2 \) the positive (negative) 3-K-contact bundles are in one-to-one correspondence with positive (negative) quaternionic-Kähler manifolds.

\[ \square \]

Remark. S. Tanno proved (Theorem B in [11]) that for the negative quaternionic-Kähler manifold every canonical 3-K-contact structure is an \( nS \)-structure. Consequently from our Theorem 2 it follows that if \( n \neq 2 \), then every negative 3-K-contact structure is in fact an \( nS \)-structure. Let us note that the O'Neill tensor \( A \) for the Riemannian submersion \( p: P \rightarrow M \) is given by the formulas (see [BGM])

\[
(a) \quad A_X Y = \sum_{i=1}^3 g(\phi_i X, Y) \xi_i, \quad (b) \quad A_X \xi_i = \phi_i (X)
\]

for any horizontal vector fields \( X, Y. \) Since the fibers are totally geodesic the tensor \( T = 0. \) Hence we could also directly compute the scalar curvature and the eigenvalues of the Ricci \( S \) tensor using the O'Neill formulas (see [ON]) and the fact that the connection form \( \omega \) is Yang-Mills. Since \( \xi_i \) define \( K \)-contact structures it is obvious that \( S_{1V} = (4n + 2) d_\nu \) (each Killing vector field defining \( K \)-contact structure is an eigenfield of the Ricci tensor with constant eigenvalue \( \dim P - 1 \)).

Using the formulas in [12] (9.62) and [BGM] (p.192) we can show that \( S_{1H} = \mu d_\mu \) where \( \mu = \frac{1}{2n} (-24n + \tau_4) \) and \( \tau_4 \) is the scalar curvature of \( (M, g_\nu). \) In the positive case since \( P \) is Einstein it is clear that \( \tau_4 = 16n(n + 2) \) (see [BGM]). However it needs some work to show that in the negative case \( \tau_4 = -16n(n + 2) \) (see [12]).
The general 3-K-contact structure is bundle like with respect to the vertical foliation $V$ (see [BGM]). From the general results concerning bundle like manifolds it follows that on an open and dense subset $U \subset P$ the manifold $P_U$ is the bundle associated with the $G$-principal bundle $\tilde{P}$ with the fibre $F = G/F$ where $F$ is the discrete (hence finite) subgroup of $G$ and $G = Sp(1)$ or $G = SO(3)$. Note also that if $G = Sp(1)$, then $Q = \tilde{P}/\mathbb{Z}_2$ is an $SO(3)$-principal fibre bundle. The metric $g$ induces on $Q$ the metric $\tilde{g}$ such that the natural projection $\pi : \tilde{P} \to Q$ is a local isometry. Thus the above results concerning the 3-K-contact $SO(3)$-bundle remain valid for the $Sp(1)$-principal 3-K-contact bundle. If $\dim P > 11$, then it follows from Theorem 2 and [J2] that the positive 3-K-contact structure is then the 3-Sasakian structure. From [BGM] it is clear that in this case $P$ is an orbifold bundle over quaternionic-Kähler orbifold of positive scalar curvature $16n(n+2)$. Analogously as in [BGM] (p.192) we have taken account of Theorem 2 and the results from [I1], [J2]:

**Theorem 3.** Let $(P, g, \xi)$ be a (positive or negative) 3-K-contact manifold. Then $\dim P = 4n + 3$. Let us assume that $P$ is complete and $n \neq 2$. If $P$ is a positive 3-K-contact structure, then $(P, g, \xi)$ is a 3-Sasakian structure. If $P$ is a negative 3-K-contact structure, then

(a) $(P, g, \xi)$ is an $A$-manifold of negative scalar curvature which is equal to $-4n(4n + 11) + 6$,

(b) the Ricci tensor $S$ of $P$ has two constant eigenvalues $\lambda = 4n + 2$ and $\mu = -4n - 14$ of multiplicity 3 and 4 respectively,

(c) the eigendistributions of the Ricci tensor $S$ are $D_\lambda = \ker(S - \lambda I) = V$ and $D_\mu = \ker(S - \mu I) = H$,

(d) the metric $g$ is bundle like with respect to the foliation $V$ defined by the fields $\xi$,

(e) each leaf of the foliation $V$ is a 3-dimensional homogeneous spherical space form,

(f) the space of leaves $P/V$ is a quaternionic-Kähler orbifold of dimension $4n$ with negative scalar curvature equal to $-16n(n+2)$.

**Remark.** Note that we do not know whether Theorems 2 and 3 are true for $n = 2$. Any counterexample to Theorem 2 with $n = 2$ will also be an example of an almost quaternion-Hermitian manifold with closed and non-parallel fundamental 4-form $\Omega$. (See [Sw] for a discussion of the problem of whether $d\Omega = 0$ implies $\nabla\Omega = 0$ also in the case $n = 2$.)

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