



## Research Article

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# A dimensional restriction for a class of contact manifolds

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**Abstract:** In this work we consider a class of contact manifolds  $(M, \eta)$  with an associated almost contact metric structure  $(\phi, \xi, \eta, g)$ . This class contains, for example, nearly cosymplectic manifolds and the manifolds in the class  $C_9 \oplus C_{10}$  defined by Chinea and Gonzalez. All manifolds in the class considered turn out to have dimension  $4n + 1$ . Under the assumption that the sectional curvature of the horizontal 2-planes is constant at one point, we obtain that these manifolds must have dimension 5.

**Keywords:** almost contact metric structure, contact manifold, Chinea-Gonzalez classification

**MSC:** 53D15, 53D25, 53C15, 53D10.

## 1 Introduction

A *contact manifold* is a  $C^\infty$  odd-dimensional manifold  $M^{2n+1}$  together with a 1-form  $\eta$ , usually called a *contact form* on  $M$ , such that  $\eta \wedge (d\eta)^n \neq 0$  everywhere on  $M$ ; the *contact distribution*  $D$  is the vector subbundle of  $TM$  defined by

$$D := \ker \eta.$$

We shall denote by  $D_p$  the fiber of  $D$  at a point  $p$ ; moreover if  $X \in \mathfrak{X}(M)$  is a vector field, we shall write  $X \in D$  to indicate that  $X$  is a section of  $D$ . It is known that  $d\eta|_{D_p \times D_p}$  is non degenerate and

$$T_p M = D_p \oplus \ker d\eta_p$$

for each  $p \in M$ .

In [1] Chern showed that the existence of a contact form  $\eta$  on a manifold  $M^{2n+1}$  implies that the structural group of the tangent bundle  $TM$  can be reduced to the unitary group  $U(n) \times 1$ . Such a reduction of the structural group of the tangent bundle of a manifold  $M^{2n+1}$  is called an *almost contact structure*. In term of structure tensors we say that an *almost contact structure* on a manifold  $M^{2n+1}$  is a triple  $(\phi, \xi, \eta)$  consisting of a tensor field  $\phi$  of type  $(1, 1)$ , a vector field  $\xi$  and a 1-form  $\eta$  satisfying

$$\phi^2 = -I + \eta \otimes \xi, \quad \eta(\xi) = 1,$$

see [2, p. 43]. It then follows directly from the definition of almost contact structure that  $\phi\xi = 0$ ,  $\eta \circ \phi = 0$ , and that the endomorphism  $\phi$  has rank  $2n$ . If, in addition,  $M$  is endowed with a Riemannian metric  $g$  such that

$$g(\phi X, \phi Y) = g(X, Y) - \eta(X)\eta(Y),$$

then  $(\phi, \xi, \eta, g)$  is said to be an *almost contact metric structure* on  $M$ . Thus, setting  $Y = \xi$ , we have immediately that

$$\eta(X) = g(X, \xi).$$

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Every contact manifold  $(M^{2n+1}, \eta)$  admits an almost contact metric structure  $(\phi, \xi, \eta, g)$  such that

$$d\eta(X, Y) = g(X, \phi Y).$$

In this case  $g$  is an *associated metric* and we speak of a *contact metric structure*; the vector field  $\xi$  is the Reeb vector field of  $M^{2n+1}$  [2]. Of course, it is possible to have a contact manifold  $(M^{2n+1}, \eta)$  with Reeb vector field  $\xi$  and an almost contact metric structure  $(\phi, \xi, \eta, g)$  on  $M$  without  $d\eta(X, Y) = g(X, \phi Y)$ .

One can also observe that every contact manifold with an almost contact metric structure  $(\phi, \xi, \eta, g)$  satisfying  $(\nabla_X \phi)X = 0$ , or equivalently  $(\nabla_X \phi)Y + (\nabla_Y \phi)X = 0$ , i.e., with a *nearly cosymplectic structure*, satisfies the following condition

$$\phi \circ \nabla \xi + \nabla \xi \circ \phi = 0 \quad (*)$$

and of course does not satisfy the contact metric condition  $d\eta(X, Y) = g(X, \phi Y)$ . Here  $\nabla$  denotes the Levi-Civita connection of  $g$  and  $\nabla \xi$  is the bundle endomorphism of  $TM$  defined by  $X \mapsto \nabla_X \xi$ . A well-known example of this situation is given by the five-dimensional sphere  $S^5$ . This is a consequence of the following theorem [2, Theorem 6.14]:

**Theorem.** *Let  $i : M^{2n+1} \rightarrow \tilde{M}^{2n+2}$  be a hypersurface of a nearly Kähler manifold  $(\tilde{M}^{2n+2}, J, \tilde{g})$ . Then the induced almost contact structure  $(\phi, \xi, \eta, g)$  satisfies  $(\nabla_X \phi)X = 0$  if and only if the second fundamental form  $\sigma$  is proportional to  $(\eta \otimes \eta)Ji_*\xi$ .*

If we consider  $S^5$  as a totally geodesic hypersurface of  $S^6$ , we have that the nearly Kähler structure  $(J, \tilde{g})$  on  $S^6$ , defined as in Example 4.5.3 of [2], induces an almost contact metric structure  $(\phi, \xi, \eta, g)$  on  $S^5$  satisfying  $(\nabla_X \phi)X = 0$ .

In the next section we will treat contact manifolds with an almost contact metric structure satisfying condition (\*). Such manifolds will result of dimension  $4n+1$ ,  $n \geq 1$ . If we suppose that  $\phi$  is  $\eta$ -parallel and the sectional curvature of the horizontal 2-planes is constant at one point, then we obtain that these manifolds have dimension 5 (Theorem 1).

It is well known that the contact condition imposes strong restrictions on the Riemannian curvature of an associated metric. For example Z. Olszak in [3] proves that if an associated metric has constant curvature, then  $c = 1$  and  $g$  must be a Sasakian metric; earlier D.E. Blair in [4] showed that in dimension  $\geq 5$  there are no flat associated metrics. We obtain that this is sometimes true also in the case of non associated metrics; for example when  $g$  is the metric of a nearly cosymplectic structure, see Theorem 3 in Section 3.

## 2 A class of contact manifolds

Let  $(\phi, \xi, \eta, g)$  be an almost contact metric structure on a contact manifold  $(M, \eta)$ . We denote by  $A$  the vector bundle endomorphism  $\nabla \xi : TM \rightarrow TM$ . Let  $B : D \rightarrow D$  be the skew-symmetric part of  $A|_D$ , i.e.,

$$B = \frac{1}{2}(A|_D - A^*)$$

where  $A^*$  is the adjoint of  $A|_D$  with respect to  $g|_{D \times D}$ . Then, for all  $X, Y \in D$ , we have

$$d\eta(X, Y) = -\frac{1}{2}\eta([X, Y]) = -\frac{1}{2}g([X, Y], \xi) = g(BX, Y). \quad (1)$$

Even if  $\eta$  is a contact form,  $\xi$  in general is not the Reeb vector field of  $\eta$ .

**Proposition 1.** *Let  $(\phi, \xi, \eta, g)$  be an almost contact metric structure on a contact manifold  $(M, \eta)$  such that*

$$d\eta(\phi X, \phi Y) = -d\eta(X, Y), \text{ for all } X, Y \in D$$

*or equivalently*

$$B\phi + \phi B = 0 \text{ on } D.$$

*Then  $\dim M = 4n + 1$ ,  $n \geq 1$  and  $B : D \rightarrow D$  is a bundle automorphism.*

*Proof.* We know that if  $(M, \eta)$  is a contact manifold then  $d\eta|_{D \times D}$  is non degenerate. Thus equation (1) implies that  $B$  is an automorphism. The fact that  $\dim M = 4n + 1$  is an application of Lemma 1, point 2.  $\square$

**Lemma 1.** *Let  $\langle, \rangle$  be an Hermitian scalar product on a complex vector space  $(D, J)$ . If  $A : D \rightarrow D$  is a nonzero linear operator such that  $AJ + JA = 0$ , then*

1. *there exist  $Y, Z \in D$  such that  $Y, JY, AY$  are linearly independent,  $Z \in \text{span}\{Y, JY, AY\}^\perp$  and  $\langle Z, JAY \rangle \neq 0$ ;*
2. *if  $A$  is non singular and skew-symmetric then  $\dim D \equiv 0 \pmod{4}$ .*

*Proof.* Let  $X_1, \dots, X_n \in D$  be vectors such that  $\{X_1, JX_1, \dots, X_n, JX_n\}$  is a basis of  $D$ . We begin by proving the existence of a vector  $Y \in D$  such that  $Y, JY, AY$  are linearly independent. If by contradiction  $AY \in \text{span}\{Y, JY\}$  for all  $Y \in D$ , then

$$\begin{aligned} AX_i &\in \text{span}\{X_i, JX_i\}, \\ AJX_i &= -JAX_i \in \text{span}\{X_i, JX_i\}, \end{aligned}$$

and hence  $A$  is represented with respect to our basis by a block-diagonal matrix of the form

$$\begin{pmatrix} a_1 & b_1 & & & \\ b_1 & -a_1 & & & \\ & & a_2 & b_2 & \\ & & b_2 & -a_2 & \\ & & & & \ddots & \\ & & & & & a_n & b_n \\ & & & & & b_n & -a_n \end{pmatrix}$$

where  $\mathbf{0} = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 \end{pmatrix}$  and  $a_i, b_i \in \mathbb{R}, i \in \{1, \dots, n\}$ . Since

$$A(X_i + X_j) \in \text{span}\{X_i + X_j, JX_i + JX_j\},$$

we have  $a_i = a_j$  and  $b_i = b_j$ . Thus

$$A \equiv \begin{pmatrix} a_1 & b_1 & & & \\ b_1 & -a_1 & & & \\ & & a_1 & b_1 & \\ & & b_1 & -a_1 & \\ & & & & \ddots & \\ & & & & & a_1 & b_1 \\ & & & & & b_1 & -a_1 \end{pmatrix}.$$

Now we consider  $JX_1 + X_2$ . Since

$$A(JX_1 + X_2) \in \text{span}\{JX_1 + X_2, -X_1 + JX_2\}$$

it follows  $a_1 = b_1 = 0$ . This contradicts the hypothesis  $A \neq 0$ .

Let  $Y \in D$  be such that  $Y, JY, AY$  are linearly independent. We can observe that

$$JAY \notin \text{span}\{Y, JY, AY\},$$

so that  $JAY = W + Z$ , with  $Z \in \text{span}\{Y, JY, AY\}^\perp, Z \neq 0$  and  $W \in \text{span}\{Y, JY, AY\}$ . Thus we found  $Z \in D$  orthogonal to  $Y, JY, AY$  such that  $\langle Z, JAY \rangle \neq 0$ .

Now we assume that  $A$  is non singular and skew-symmetric. Let  $X \in D$  be an eigenvector of the symmetric linear operator  $A^2$ . Since  $A$  anti-commutes with  $J$ , we have that  $JX, AX, JAX$  are also eigenvectors of  $A^2$ . Moreover the vectors  $X, JX, AX, JAX$  are pairwise orthogonal and hence  $\dim D \geq 4$ .

Assume  $\dim D > 4$ . By the Spectral Theorem we can choose  $Y \in D$  eigenvector of  $A^2$  orthogonal to  $X, JX, AX, JAX$ . We have that

$$X, JX, AX, JAX, Y, JY, AY, JAY$$

are eigenvectors of  $A^2$ , pairwise orthogonal and hence  $\dim D \geq 8$ . Iterating this argument we obtain the assertion.  $\square$

After these preliminaries we can state our main result that involves contact manifolds with an almost contact metric structure satisfying condition (\*).

**Theorem 1.** *Let  $(\phi, \xi, \eta, g)$  be an almost contact metric structure on a contact manifold  $(M^{2n+1}, \eta)$  such that*

$$A\phi + \phi A = 0 \quad (2)$$

$$g((\nabla_X \phi)Y, Z) = 0 \quad (3)$$

for each  $X, Y, Z \in D$ . Suppose there exist  $p \in M$  and  $c \in \mathbb{R}$  such that the sectional curvature  $K_p(\pi) = c$ , for each 2-plane  $\pi$  of  $D_p$ . Then  $\dim M = 5$ . Moreover  $A_p$  is an isomorphism if and only if  $c \neq 0$ .

*Proof.* For each vector field  $Z$  on  $M$ , we denote by  $Z^H$  and  $Z^V$  the components of  $Z$  in  $D$  and in its orthogonal complement  $D^\perp$  respectively. We say that  $Z^H$  is the *horizontal part* of  $Z$  and  $Z^V$  the *vertical part* of  $Z$ . Let  $\nabla$  be the Levi-Civita connection of  $g$ . We define a new linear connection

$$\tilde{\nabla} := \nabla + H$$

on  $M$  such that for each  $X, Y \in D$

$$\begin{aligned} H(X, \xi) &= -AX, & H(X, Y) &= g(AX, Y)\xi, \\ H(\xi, X) &= \frac{1}{2}BX, & H(\xi, \xi) &= 0. \end{aligned}$$

Then for each  $X, Y \in D$

$$(\tilde{\nabla}_X \phi)Y = 0,$$

and hence for each  $X, Y, Z \in D$  we have that  $\tilde{\nabla}_X Y \in D$  and also

$$\begin{aligned} \tilde{R}(X, Y)\phi Z - \phi \tilde{R}(X, Y)Z &= \tilde{\nabla}_X \tilde{\nabla}_Y \phi Z - \tilde{\nabla}_Y \tilde{\nabla}_X \phi Z - \tilde{\nabla}_{[X, Y]} \phi Z \\ &\quad - \phi(\tilde{\nabla}_X \tilde{\nabla}_Y Z - \tilde{\nabla}_Y \tilde{\nabla}_X Z - \tilde{\nabla}_{[X, Y]} Z) \\ &= -\tilde{\nabla}_{[X, Y]} \phi Z + \phi \tilde{\nabla}_{[X, Y]} Z \\ &= 2g(BX, Y)(\tilde{\nabla}_\xi \phi)Z \end{aligned} \quad (4)$$

where  $\tilde{R}$  is the curvature tensor of  $\tilde{\nabla}$ . On the other hand, for each  $X, Y, Z \in D$  we have

$$\begin{aligned} \tilde{R}(X, Y)Z &= R(X, Y)Z - H(X, H(Y, Z)) + H(Y, H(X, Z)) \\ &\quad + H(H(X, Y), Z) - H(H(Y, X), Z) + (\tilde{\nabla}_X H)(Y, Z) \\ &\quad - (\tilde{\nabla}_Y H)(X, Z) \end{aligned}$$

The horizontal part of  $\tilde{R}(X, Y)Z$  is given by

$$\begin{aligned} (\tilde{R}(X, Y)Z)^H &= (R(X, Y)Z)^H + g(AY, Z)AX - g(AX, Z)AY \\ &\quad + \frac{1}{2}g(AX, Y)BZ - \frac{1}{2}g(AY, X)BZ \\ &= (R(X, Y)Z)^H + g(AY, Z)AX - g(AX, Z)AY \\ &\quad + g(BX, Y)BZ, \end{aligned}$$

thus

$$\begin{aligned} (\tilde{R}(X, Y)\phi Z - \phi(\tilde{R}(X, Y)Z))^H &= (R(X, Y)\phi Z)^H + g(AY, \phi Z)AX \\ &\quad - g(AX, \phi Z)AY + g(BX, Y)B\phi Z \\ &\quad - \phi((R(X, Y)Z)^H + g(AY, Z)AX \\ &\quad - g(AX, Z)AY + g(BX, Y)BZ). \end{aligned}$$

Comparing this last equation with (4) we have

$$\begin{aligned} 2g(BX, Y)((\tilde{\nabla}_\xi \phi)Z - B\phi Z)^H &= (R(X, Y)\phi Z)^H - \phi(R(X, Y)Z) \\ &\quad + g(AY, \phi Z)AX - g(AX, \phi Z)AY \\ &\quad - g(AY, Z)\phi AX + g(AX, Z)\phi AY. \end{aligned} \quad (5)$$

If  $c = 0$ , i.e., all the sectional curvatures  $K_p(\pi)$  with  $\pi \subset D_p$  vanish, then for every  $X, Y, Z \in D_p$

$$\begin{aligned} 2g(BX, Y)((\tilde{\nabla}_\xi \phi)Z - B\phi Z)^H &= g(AY, \phi Z)AX - g(AX, \phi Z)AY \\ &\quad - g(AY, Z)\phi AX + g(AX, Z)\phi AY. \end{aligned} \quad (6)$$

Consider  $Y \in D_p$  such that  $AY \neq 0$ . Hence if we take  $Z = \phi AY$  we have

$$\begin{aligned} g(AY, AY)AX &= -2g(BX, Y)((\tilde{\nabla}_\xi \phi)\phi AY + BAY)^H \\ &\quad + g(AX, AY)AY + g(AX, \phi AY)\phi AY \end{aligned} \quad (7)$$

for every  $X \in D_p$  and thus  $A : D_p \rightarrow D_p$  has rank  $\leq 3$ . Then there exists  $X \in D_p$ ,  $X \neq 0$  such that  $AX = 0$ . Then, by (6) and (1) we have that

$$d\eta(X, Y)((\tilde{\nabla}_\xi \phi)Z - B\phi Z)^H = 0,$$

for each  $Y, Z \in D_p$ . Thus, being  $\eta$  a contact form, for each  $Z \in D_p$

$$((\tilde{\nabla}_\xi \phi)Z - B\phi Z)^H = 0.$$

In conclusion, the equation (7) becomes

$$g(AY, AY)AX = g(AX, AY)AY + g(AX, \phi AY)\phi AY,$$

for every  $X \in D_p$ , yielding  $\text{rank}(A) \leq 2$ . Now the contact condition implies that  $\dim(\ker A) \leq n$ . Thus  $2n \leq 2 + n$ , namely  $n \leq 2$  and hence  $\dim M \leq 5$ . On the other hand, observing that (2) also implies that  $B$  anti-commutes with  $\phi$ , by Proposition 1, we have that  $\dim M \geq 5$ .

Now suppose  $c \neq 0$ . Then  $A : D_p \rightarrow D_p$  is an isomorphism. Indeed, assume  $X \in D_p$  such that  $AX = 0$ , and  $Y \in D_p$  orthogonal to  $X$ ,  $\phi X$ ,  $BX$  (for example take  $Y = \phi BX$ ). For  $X_1, X_2, X_3 \in D$  we set

$$S(X_1, X_2, X_3) := \tilde{R}(X_1, X_2)\phi X_3 - \phi(\tilde{R}(X_1, X_2)X_3).$$

Then we have

$$S(X, Y, X) = 2g(BX, Y)(\tilde{\nabla}_\xi \phi)X = 0;$$

but on the other hand

$$\begin{aligned} (S(X, Y, X))^H &= (R(X, Y)\phi X)^H + g(AY, \phi X)AX - g(AX, \phi X)AY \\ &\quad + g(BX, Y)B\phi X - \phi((R(X, Y)X)^H + g(AY, X)AX \\ &\quad - g(AX, X)AY + g(BX, Y)BX) \\ &= cg(X, X)\phi Y, \end{aligned}$$

so that  $X = 0$ .

Now, supposing that (2) holds, we apply Lemma 1; fix  $Y, Z \in D_p$  such that  $Z \in \text{span}\{Y, \phi Y, AY\}^\perp$  and  $g(Z, \phi AY) \neq 0$ , then the equation (5) becomes

$$\begin{aligned} g(AY, \phi Z)AX &= 2g(BX, Y)((\tilde{\nabla}_\xi \phi)Z - B\phi Z)^H + cg(\phi Z, X)Y \\ &\quad - cg(Z, X)\phi Y + g(AX, \phi Z)AY - g(AX, Z)\phi AY. \end{aligned}$$

This implies that  $\text{rank}(A) \leq 5$ , so that  $n \leq 2$ . As before, we conclude that  $\dim M = 5$ .  $\square$

From the above proof, we see that in the case  $c = 0$  one can obtain the assertion replacing the condition (2) with the weaker condition

$$d\eta(\phi X, \phi Y) = -d\eta(X, Y),$$

i.e. we have the following

**Corollary 1.** *Let  $(\phi, \xi, \eta, g)$  be an almost contact metric structure on a contact manifold  $(M^{2n+1}, \eta)$  such that*

$$d\eta(\phi X, \phi Y) = -d\eta(X, Y),$$

$$g((\nabla_X \phi)Y, Z) = 0,$$

*for each  $X, Y, Z \in D$ . We suppose there exists  $p \in M$  such that the sectional curvature  $K_p(\pi) = 0$ , for each 2-plane  $\pi$  of  $D_p$ . Then  $\dim M = 5$ .*

Almost contact metric manifolds are classified by Chinea and Gonzalez in [5]. The authors define twelve classes of manifolds  $C_1, \dots, C_{12}$ . All manifolds in the classes  $C_i$  for  $i \in \{5, 6, \dots, 12\}$  satisfy condition (3), and all manifolds in  $C_9$  or  $C_{10}$  satisfy (3) and (2). Thus we have the following

**Theorem 2.** *Every contact manifold  $(M, \eta)$  carrying an almost contact metric structure  $(\phi, \xi, \eta, g)$  of class  $C_9 \oplus C_{10}$  has dimension  $4n + 1$ , with  $n \geq 1$ .*

*If there exist  $p \in M$  and  $c \in \mathbb{R}$  such that the sectional curvature  $K_p(\pi) = c$ , for each 2-plane  $\pi$  of  $D_p$ , then  $\dim M = 5$ .*

### 3 Nearly cosymplectic case

In this section we will show that there does not exist a flat nearly cosymplectic manifold  $(M, \phi, \xi, \eta, g)$  with  $\eta$  a contact form.

**Lemma 2.** *Let  $(M, \phi, \xi, \eta, g)$  be a nearly cosymplectic manifold. Then*

- (a)  $d\eta(X, Y) = g(AX, Y)$  for every  $X, Y \in TM$ ,
- (b)  $d\eta(X, Y) = -d\eta(\phi X, \phi Y)$  for every  $X, Y \in TM$ ,
- (c)  $\xi$  is the Reeb vector field of  $(M^{2n+1}, \eta)$ .

*If moreover  $\eta$  is a contact form, then*

- (d) for every  $p \in M^{2n+1}$ ,  $A_p$  is an isomorphism that anti-commutes with  $\phi$ ,
- (e)  $g((\nabla_X \phi)Y, Z) = 0$ , for every  $X, Y, Z \in D$ ,
- (f)  $\dim M = 4n + 1$ .

*Proof.* Let  $\nabla$  be the Levi-Civita connection of  $g$ . Since  $\xi$  is Killing, we have

$$\begin{aligned} 2g(AX, Y) &= 2g(\nabla_X \xi, Y) \\ &= X(g(\xi, Y)) + \xi(g(Y, X)) - Y(g(X, \xi)) \\ &\quad + g([X, \xi], Y) - g([\xi, Y], X) + g([Y, X], \xi) \\ &= X(g(\xi, Y)) - Y(g(X, \xi)) + g([Y, X], \xi) \\ &= X(\eta(Y)) - Y(\eta(X)) - \eta([X, Y]) \\ &= 2d\eta(X, Y) \end{aligned}$$

for every  $X, Y \in TM$ . By Lemma 3.1 of [6] we have that

$$A\phi + \phi A = 0.$$

Then

$$d\eta(\phi X, \phi Y) = g(A\phi X, \phi Y) = -g(AX, Y) = -d\eta(X, Y),$$

from which it follows that

$$d\eta(X, \xi) = -d\eta(\phi X, \phi \xi) = 0.$$

If  $\eta$  is a contact form, as a consequence of (a), we have that  $A_p$  is an isomorphism. Finally (e) follows from (d) and the following equation

$$g((\nabla_X \phi)Y, AZ) = \eta(Y)g(A^2 X, \phi Z) - \eta(X)g(A^2 Y, \phi Z)$$

due to H. Endo [6]. □

Hence, as a consequence of Theorem 1, we can state

**Theorem 3.** *Let  $(M^{2n+1}, \eta)$  be a contact manifold endowed with a nearly cosymplectic structure  $(\phi, \xi, \eta, g)$ . Suppose there exist  $p \in M$  and  $c \in \mathbb{R}$  such that for each 2-plane  $\pi$  of  $D_p$ ,  $K_p(\pi) = c$ . Then  $c \neq 0$  and  $\dim M = 5$ .*

**Remark 1.** H. Endo in [6] determines the curvature tensor of a nearly cosymplectic manifold  $(M, \phi, \xi, \eta, g)$  with pointwise constant  $\phi$ -sectional curvature  $c$

$$\begin{aligned} 4g(R(W, X)Y, Z) = & g((\nabla_W \phi)Z, (\nabla_X \phi)Y) - g((\nabla_W \phi)Y, (\nabla_X \phi)Z) \\ & - 2g((\nabla_W \phi)X, (\nabla_Y \phi)Z) + g(\nabla_W \xi, Z)g(\nabla_X \xi, Y) \\ & - g(\nabla_W \xi, Y)g(\nabla_X \xi, Z) - 2g(\nabla_W \xi, X)g(\nabla_Y \xi, Z) \\ & - \eta(W)\eta(Y)g(\nabla_X \xi, \nabla_Z \xi) + \eta(W)\eta(Z)g(\nabla_X \xi, \nabla_Y \xi) \\ & + \eta(X)\eta(Y)g(\nabla_W \xi, \nabla_Z \xi) - \eta(X)\eta(Z)g(\nabla_W \xi, \nabla_Y \xi) \\ & + c\{g(X, Y)g(Z, W) - g(Z, X)g(Y, W) \\ & + \eta(Z)\eta(X)g(Y, W) - \eta(Y)\eta(X)g(Z, W) \\ & + \eta(Y)\eta(W)g(Z, X) - \eta(Z)\eta(W)g(Y, X) \\ & + g(\phi Y, X)g(\phi Z, W) - g(\phi Z, X)g(\phi Y, W) \\ & - 2g(\phi Z, Y)g(\phi X, W)\}. \end{aligned} \quad (8)$$

One can obtain the conclusion of Theorem 3 also using this formula together with Lemma 2. If there exists a point  $p \in M$  such that the sectional curvature of all the 2-planes of  $D_p$  is constant, then for every  $X, Y, W \in D$  we have

$$R(W, X)Y = c(g(Y, X)W - g(Y, W)X);$$

moreover

$$g((\nabla_W \phi)Z, (\nabla_X \phi)Y) = g(\phi Y, AX)g(\phi Z, AW).$$

Thus by equation (8) we obtain

$$\begin{aligned} 3c(g(Y, X)W - g(Y, W)X) = & -g(\phi Y, AX)\phi AW + g(\phi Y, AW)\phi AX \\ & + 2g(\phi X, AW)\phi AY + g(AX, Y)AW \\ & - g(AW, Y)AX - 2g(AW, X)AY \\ & + c\{-g(X, \phi Y)\phi W + g(\phi Y, W)\phi X \\ & + 2g(\phi X, W)\phi Y\}. \end{aligned}$$

If in particular  $Y = AW$ , then

$$\begin{aligned} 3cg(X, AW)W = & \{-g(\phi AW, AX) + 2cg(\phi X, W)\}\phi AW + g(AX, AW)AW \\ & + 2g(\phi X, AW)\phi A^2 W - g(AW, AW)AX \\ & - 2g(AW, X)A^2 W - cg(\phi AW, X)\phi W, \end{aligned}$$

and hence  $\text{rank}(A) \leq 6$ . By Lemma 2 it follows that  $\dim M = 5$ .

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