

η -Einstein contact metric manifolds with purely transversal Bach tensor

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Abstract. We prove that every $(2n + 1)$ -dimensional η -Einstein contact metric manifold (i.e., the Ricci tensor S satisfies $S = \alpha g + \beta \eta \otimes \eta$ for some smooth functions α, β) with purely transversal Bach tensor is Einstein.

1. Introduction. Let (M^m, g) be a Riemannian manifold. The decomposition of the Riemann curvature tensor R of the metric g into the Weyl W , Ricci S and scalar curvature r component is given by

$$(1.1) \quad W = R - \frac{2}{m-2}S \wedge g + \frac{r}{(m-1)(m-2)}g \wedge g,$$

where \wedge is the well known Kulkarni–Nomizu product. It is well known that Einstein metrics are the critical points for the Einstein–Hilbert functional [B08]. From this point of view, if one takes the functional

$$\mathcal{W}(g) = \int_{M^4} |W|^2 dv_g$$

for a 4-dimensional compact Riemannian manifold M , then its critical point is characterized by the vanishing of a conformally invariant, symmetric trace free $(0, 2)$ type tensor B which is known as the Bach tensor. It was first introduced by R. Bach [B21] to study conformal relativity. On any Riemannian manifold (M^m, g) ($m \geq 4$) the Bach tensor is defined as

$$(1.2) \quad B_g(X, Y) = \frac{1}{m-3} \sum_{i,j=1}^m (\nabla_{e_i} \nabla_{e_j} W)(X, e_i, e_j, Y) \\ + \frac{1}{m-2} \sum_{i,j=1}^m S(e_i, e_j)W(X, e_i, e_j, Y),$$

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where (e_i) , $i = 1, \dots, m$, is a local orthonormal frame on (M, g) . On the other hand, taking the divergence of (1.1) and using the contraction of the Bianchi second identity it follows that $\operatorname{div} W = \frac{m-3}{m-2}C$ where C is the $(0, 3)$ -type *Cotton tensor* C defined by

$$(1.3) \quad C(X, Y)Z = (\nabla_X S)(Y, Z) - (\nabla_Y S)(X, Z) \\ - \frac{1}{2(m-1)}[(Xr)g(Y, Z) - (Yr)g(X, Z)].$$

Thus, in dimension > 3 , $C = 0$ and $\operatorname{div} W = 0$ are equivalent. By (1.1) and (1.3), the Bach tensor (1.2) may be written as (Chen and He [CH13])

$$(1.4) \quad B(X, Y) = \frac{1}{m-2} \left[\sum_{i=1}^m (\nabla_{e_i} C)(e_i, X)Y \right. \\ \left. + \sum_{i,j=1}^m \operatorname{Ric}(e_i, e_j)W(X, e_i, e_j, Y) \right].$$

In dimension 3, we know that the Weyl tensor W vanishes. Hence, the Bach tensor can then be expressed as

$$(1.5) \quad B_g(X, Y) = \sum_{i=1}^3 (\nabla_{e_i} C)(e_i, X)Y.$$

The metric g is called *Bach flat* if the Bach tensor B vanishes. The most common examples of Bach flat metrics are Einstein metrics and conformally flat metrics and hence Bach flatness may be considered as a natural generalization of being Einstein and of conformal flatness. Further, any 4-dimensional Bach flat metric is conformally invariant, and a metric conformal to an Einstein metric is also Bach flat. Some more examples of Bach flat manifolds of signature $(2, 2)$ were constructed by using the modified Riemannian extensions of affine surfaces (for details see [CG⁺19]).

On a contact metric manifold the Bach tensor is said to be *purely transversal* if it has components only along the contact subbundle D . This is equivalent to $B(\xi, \cdot) = 0$. In [GS17], the author and Sharma initiated the study of Sasakian manifolds with purely transversal Bach tensor. Later on, the author and Sharma [GS19] studied Bach flat (k, μ) -contact manifolds, which provide contact-theoretic examples of Bach flat metrics in any odd dimension > 3 , which are neither Einstein nor conformally flat. Recently, the author proved that a Kenmotsu manifold [K72] of dimension > 3 has a purely transversal Bach tensor if and only if it is η -Einstein. This showed that there is a nice connection between Bach flat metrics and η -Einstein metrics on a certain class of almost contact metric manifolds (for details see [G20]). Since η -Einstein contact metrics are a natural generalization of Einstein metrics within the framework of contact metric manifolds, we are

interested in studying η -Einstein metrics under a weaker assumption than Bach flatness and prove

THEOREM 1.1. *Let $M^{2n+1}(\varphi, \xi, \eta, g)$ be an η -Einstein contact metric manifold with α and β smooth functions. If M has purely transversal Bach tensor, then α, β are constant and M is Einstein.*

Next, we prove the following

COROLLARY 1.2. *Let M^{2n+1} be an η -Einstein K -contact manifold with purely transversal Bach tensor. If M is complete, then it must be Sasakian and Einstein.*

2. Contact metric geometry. The study of contact geometry has been motivated by classical mechanics, a contact space corresponding to the odd-dimensional extended phase space that includes the time variable. A $(2n+1)$ -dimensional smooth manifold M is said to be a *contact manifold* if it carries a global 1-form η such that $\eta \wedge (d\eta)^n$ is non-vanishing everywhere on M . To this 1-form η there corresponds a unique vector field ξ , called the *Reeb vector field*, such that $\eta(\xi) = 1$ and $(d\eta)(\xi, X) = 0$. Let TM be the tangent bundle of M and $D \subset TM$ be its subbundle defined as $D = \ker \eta$. Then the tangent bundle of TM splits as $TM = D \oplus L_\xi$, where L_ξ denotes the line tangent to ξ . By polarizing $d\eta$ on D , one can define a Riemannian metric g and a $(1, 1)$ -tensor field φ satisfying

$$(d\eta)(X, Y) = g(X, \varphi Y), \quad \eta(X) = g(X, \xi), \quad \varphi^2 = -I + \eta \otimes \xi.$$

The metric g is called the associated metric and satisfies

$$g(\varphi X, \varphi Y) = g(X, Y) - \eta(X)\eta(Y).$$

A Riemannian manifold together with the structure (φ, ξ, η, g) is said to be a *contact metric manifold*.

Following Blair [B02] we now define two self-adjoint operators h and l by $h = \frac{1}{2}(\mathcal{L}_\xi \varphi)$ and $l = R(\cdot, \xi)\xi$ respectively. These operators also satisfy

$$h\xi = 0 = l\xi, \quad h\varphi = -\varphi h, \quad \text{Tr } h = \text{Tr } h\varphi = 0.$$

The covariant derivative of the Reeb vector field and the Ricci operator Q along the Reeb vector field satisfy (see Blair [B02])

$$(2.1) \quad \nabla_X \xi = -\varphi X - \varphi hX,$$

$$(2.2) \quad S(\xi, \xi) = g(Q\xi, \xi) = 2n - \text{Tr } h^2.$$

Further, the following formula is also valid on a contact metric manifold [O79]:

$$(2.3) \quad \sum_{i=1}^{2n+1} (\nabla_{e_i} \varphi) e_i = 2n\xi.$$

A contact metric manifold is said to be *K-contact* if ξ is Killing (i.e. $h = 0$).

Sasakian manifolds are an odd-dimensional analogue of Kaehler manifolds. These are contact manifolds satisfying a normality (or integrability) condition. A Sasakian structure may also be characterized in terms of the metric cone. Consider the metric cone $(C(M), \bar{g})$ over a Riemannian manifold (M, g) , that is, $C(M) = \mathbb{R}^+ \times M$ with metric given by

$$\bar{g} = dt^2 + t^2g,$$

where t is a coordinate on \mathbb{R}^+ . Then we say that M is a *Sasakian manifold* if its metric cone $(C(M), \bar{g})$ is Kaehler [BG00]. Every Sasakian manifold is *K-contact*; the converse is true only in dimension 3. An *Einstein–Sasakian manifold* is a contact metric manifold that is both Sasakian and Einstein. It is interesting to note that a Sasakian manifold M is Einstein if and only if the metric cone $C(M)$ is Ricci flat Kaehler. Recently Einstein–Sasakian metrics have received a lot of attention in connection with the supersymmetric background relevant to the AdS/CFT correspondence (see [M98] and [CHS85]). For details about contact geometry, we refer to Blair [B02] and Boyer–Galicki [BG00].

Recall that a contact metric manifold is said to be η -Einstein if the $(0, 2)$ -Ricci tensor S can be expressed as

$$(2.4) \quad S(Y, Z) = \alpha g(Y, Z) + \beta \eta(Y)\eta(Z)$$

for some smooth functions α and β on M (see [O62]). If β vanishes identically, then M is Einstein. Further, it is known that if M is *K-contact* and $\dim M \geq 5$, then α and β are necessarily constants (see [YK84]). On the other hand, it is easy to verify that an η -Einstein contact metric is invariant under a D -homothetic deformation [T68] defined as

$$\bar{\eta} = a\eta, \quad \bar{\xi} = \frac{1}{a}\xi, \quad \bar{\varphi} = \varphi, \quad \bar{g} = ag + a(a-1)\eta \otimes \eta,$$

where a is a positive constant.

In particular, the study of η -Einstein manifolds is closely related to the Sasakian Calabi problem. Many examples and interesting geometric properties associated with η -Einstein metrics are presented in [BGM06]. Regarding *K-contact* manifolds, Boyer and Galicki [BG00] proved that a compact Einstein *K-contact* manifold is Sasakian. This is also true for compact *K-contact* η -Einstein manifolds with $\alpha > -2$. We also highlighted that the above result is also true if one relaxes the hypothesis of compactness to completeness (for details we refer to [HS81]).

3. Main result. Before we prove our main result, we prove the following

LEMMA 3.1. *On any η -Einstein contact metric manifold M of dimension $2n + 1$ the transversal Bach tensor can be expressed as*

$$(3.1) \quad B(X, \xi) = \sum_{i=1}^{2n+1} (\nabla_{e_i} C)(e_i, Y)\xi.$$

Proof. If we use $m = 2n + 1$, equation (1.4) becomes

$$(3.2) \quad B(X, Y) = \frac{1}{2n-1} \left[\sum_i (\nabla_{e_i} C)(e_i, X)Y + \sum_{i,j} g(Qe_i, e_j)g(W(X, e_i)e_j, Y) \right].$$

We notice that the last term in (3.2) can be written as

$$g(Qe_i, e_j)g(W(X, e_i)e_j, Y) = -g(W(X, e_i)Y, Qe_i) = -g(QW(X, e_i)Y, e_i)$$

and hence (3.2) transforms into

$$(3.3) \quad B(X, Y) = \frac{1}{2n-1} \left[\sum_i (\nabla_{e_i} C)(e_i, X)Y - \sum_i g(QW(X, e_i)Y, e_i) \right].$$

Finally, since the Weyl tensor is trace free and $QX = \alpha X + \beta\eta(X)\xi$, the last term of the foregoing equation is

$$\begin{aligned} & \sum_i g(QW(X, e_i)Y, e_i) \\ &= \alpha \sum_i g(W(X, e_i)Y, e_i) + \beta \sum_i g(W(X, e_i)Y, \xi)g(\xi, e_i) = \beta g(W(X, \xi)Y, \xi). \end{aligned}$$

Taking ξ instead of Y in (3.3) and using the preceding equation yields the required result. ■

Proof of Theorem 1.1. By hypothesis, M is η -Einstein. So taking the trace of (2.4) we obtain

$$(3.4) \quad r = (2n + 1)\alpha + \beta.$$

Next, taking the covariant derivative of (2.4) along an arbitrary vector field X and using (2.1) yields

$$(3.5) \quad (\nabla_X S)(Y, Z) = (X\alpha)g(Y, Z) + (X\beta)\eta(Y)\eta(Z) - \beta[\eta(Y)g(Z, \varphi X + \varphi hX) + \eta(Z)g(Y, \varphi X + \varphi hX)].$$

Since $m = 2n + 1$ the Cotton tensor (1.3) reduces to

$$(3.6) \quad C(X, Y)Z = (\nabla_X S)(Y, Z) - (\nabla_Y S)(X, Z) - \frac{1}{4n}[(Xr)g(Y, Z) - (Yr)g(X, Z)].$$

By virtue of (3.5) and (3.4), (3.6) can be written as

$$\begin{aligned}
 (3.7) \quad C(X, Y)Z &= \frac{2n-1}{4n} \{ (X\alpha)g(Y, Z) - (Y\alpha)g(X, Z) \} \\
 &\quad + (X\beta) \left\{ \eta(Y)\eta(Z) - \frac{1}{4n}g(Y, Z) \right\} \\
 &\quad - (Y\beta) \left\{ \eta(X)\eta(Z) - \frac{1}{4n}g(X, Z) \right\} \\
 &\quad - \beta[\eta(Y)g(Z, \varphi X + \varphi hX) \\
 &\quad - \eta(X)g(Z, \varphi Y + \varphi hY) + 2\eta(Z)g(Y, \varphi X)].
 \end{aligned}$$

Taking the trace of the foregoing equation over Y, Z and noting that the Cotton tensor is trace free, we obtain

$$(3.8) \quad (2n-1)(X\alpha) + (X\beta) - 2(\xi\beta)\eta(X) = 0.$$

Writing this as

$$d\{(2n-1)\alpha + \beta\} = 2(\xi\beta)\eta,$$

where d is exterior differentiation, and then operating on it with d and recalling $d^2 = 0$ provides

$$d(\xi\beta) \wedge \eta + (\xi\beta)d\eta = 0.$$

In other words, we can write

$$(\xi\beta)d\eta(X, Y) = Y(\xi\beta)\eta(X) - X(\xi\beta)\eta(Y).$$

For $X, Y \perp \xi$, the foregoing equation yields $\xi\beta = 0$, as $d\eta$ is non-vanishing on M . Hence (3.8) reduces to $X\beta = -(2n-1)X\alpha$. By making use of this, (3.7) reduces to

$$\begin{aligned}
 (3.9) \quad C(X, Y)Z &= \frac{2n-1}{2n} \{ (X\alpha)g(Y, Z) - (Y\alpha)g(X, Z) \} \\
 &\quad + (2n-1) \{ (Y\alpha)\eta(X)\eta(Z) - (X\alpha)\eta(Y)\eta(Z) \} \\
 &\quad - \beta[\eta(Y)g(Z, \varphi X + \varphi hX) - \eta(X)g(Z, \varphi Y + \varphi hY) \\
 &\quad - 2\eta(Z)g(\varphi X, Y)].
 \end{aligned}$$

Setting $Z = \xi$ in (3.9) and writing $X\alpha = g(D\alpha, X)$, where D is the gradient operator of g , we deduce

$$\begin{aligned}
 (3.10) \quad C(X, Y)\xi &= -\frac{(2n-1)^2}{2n} \{ g(X, D\alpha)\eta(Y) - g(Y, D\alpha)\eta(X) \} \\
 &\quad + 2\beta g(\varphi X, Y).
 \end{aligned}$$

If we differentiate (3.10) along an arbitrary vector field Z and use (2.1), we obtain

$$\begin{aligned} & (\nabla_Z C)(X, Y)\xi - C(X, Y)(\varphi Z + \varphi hZ) \\ &= -\frac{(2n-1)^2}{2n}\{g(X, \nabla_Z D\alpha)\eta(Y) - g(Y, \nabla_Z D\alpha)\eta(X) \\ &\quad - (X\alpha)g(Y, \varphi Z + \varphi hZ) + (Y\alpha)g(X, \varphi Z + \varphi hZ)\} \\ &\quad - 2(2n-1)(Z\alpha)g(\varphi X, Y) + 2\beta g((\nabla_Z \varphi)X, Y), \end{aligned}$$

where we have used $X\beta = -(2n-1)X\alpha$. By (3.9) the foregoing equation transforms to

$$\begin{aligned} (3.11) \quad & (\nabla_Z C)(X, Y)\xi - \frac{2n-1}{2n}\{(X\alpha)g(Y, \varphi Z + \varphi hZ) - (Y\alpha)g(X, \varphi Z + \varphi hZ)\} \\ &\quad + \beta\{\eta(Y)g(\varphi Z + \varphi hZ, \varphi X + \varphi hX) \\ &\quad - \eta(X)g(\varphi Z + \varphi hZ, \varphi X + \varphi hX)\} \\ &= -\frac{(2n-1)^2}{2n}\{g(X, \nabla_Z D\alpha)\eta(Y) - g(Y, \nabla_Z D\alpha)\eta(X) \\ &\quad - (X\alpha)g(Y, \varphi Z + \varphi hZ) + (Y\alpha)g(X, \varphi Z + \varphi hZ)\} \\ &\quad - 2(2n-1)(Z\alpha)g(\varphi X, Y) + 2\beta g((\nabla_Z \varphi)X, Y). \end{aligned}$$

Taking $X = Z = e_i$ in (3.11), summing over $i = 1, \dots, 2n+1$ and using (3.1), (2.3) we obtain

$$\begin{aligned} (3.12) \quad & B(X, \xi) + \frac{2n-1}{2n}g(D\alpha, \varphi Y + h\varphi Y) + \beta\{2n + \text{Tr}(h^2)\}\eta(Y) \\ &= -\frac{(2n-1)^2}{2n}\{(\text{div } D\alpha)\eta(Y) - g(Y, \nabla_\xi D\alpha) + g(D\alpha, \varphi Y + h\varphi Y)\} \\ &\quad + 2(2n-1)g(D\alpha, \varphi Y) + 4n\beta\eta(Y), \end{aligned}$$

where $\text{Tr}(h^2)$ is the g -trace of the self adjoint operator h^2 (i.e. $\text{Tr}(h^2) = \sum_i g(he_i, e_i)$) and $\text{div } D\alpha = \sum_i g(\nabla_{e_i} D\alpha, e_i)$. By hypothesis the Bach tensor is purely transversal. Hence the foregoing equation reduces to

$$\begin{aligned} (3.13) \quad & \frac{2n-1}{2n}g(D\alpha, \varphi Y + h\varphi Y) + \beta\{2n + \text{Tr}(h^2)\}\eta(Y) \\ &= -\frac{(2n-1)^2}{2n}\{(\text{div } D\alpha)\eta(Y) - g(Y, \nabla_\xi D\alpha) + g(D\alpha, \varphi Y + h\varphi Y)\} \\ &\quad + 2(2n-1)g(D\alpha, \varphi Y) + 4n\beta\eta(Y). \end{aligned}$$

Since $X\beta = -(2n-1)X\alpha$ and $\xi\beta = 0$ (derived earlier), we have $\xi\alpha = 0$. Thus, using $\nabla_\xi \xi = 0$ and taking covariant differentiation of $g(\xi, D\alpha) = \xi\alpha$, we deduce $g(\xi, \nabla_\xi D\alpha) = \xi(\xi\alpha) = 0$. Taking ξ instead of Y in (3.13) and

making use of the preceding equation yields

$$(3.14) \quad \frac{(2n-1)^2}{2n} \operatorname{div}(D\alpha) = \beta(\operatorname{Tr}(h^2) - 2n).$$

Inserting (3.14) into (3.13) it follows that

$$(3.15) \quad 2ng(D\alpha, h\varphi Y) - 2ng(D\alpha, \varphi Y) = (2n-1)g(Y, \nabla_\xi D\alpha).$$

Now, $\xi\alpha = 0$ implies $\mathcal{L}_\xi\alpha = 0$, where \mathcal{L} is the Lie derivative operator. Operating with d provides $\mathcal{L}_\xi d\alpha = 0$, from which we obtain $[\xi, D\alpha] = 0$. Therefore using (2.1) one can derive

$$(3.16) \quad \nabla_\xi D\alpha = \nabla_{D\alpha}\xi = -\varphi D\alpha - \varphi hD\alpha.$$

We now use (3.16) in (3.15) to achieve

$$(3.17) \quad hD\alpha = (4n-1)D\alpha.$$

In view of this, (3.16) takes the form

$$(3.18) \quad \nabla_\xi D\alpha = -4n\varphi D\alpha.$$

Next, we take covariant differentiation of (3.17) along ξ and recall (3.18), (3.17) in order to get

$$(3.19) \quad (\nabla_\xi h)D\alpha = -8n(4n-1)\varphi D\alpha.$$

On the other hand, taking covariant differentiation of (3.17) along an arbitrary vector field X and then taking the inner product of the resulting equation with Y shows that

$$((\nabla_X h)Y, D\alpha) + g(\nabla_X D\alpha, hY) = (4n-1)g(\nabla_X D\alpha, Y).$$

Anti-symmetrizing this equation and making use of $g(\nabla_X D\alpha, Y) = g(\nabla_Y D\alpha, X)$ it follows that

$$((\nabla_X h)Y - (\nabla_Y h)X, D\alpha) + g(\nabla_X D\alpha, hY) - g(\nabla_Y D\alpha, hX) = 0.$$

Replacing Y by ξ and recalling (2.1), (3.17), (3.18) and (3.17), we obtain $\varphi D\alpha = 0$. Operating on this with φ and since $\xi\alpha = 0$ it follows that α is constant. Further, since $X\beta = -(2n-1)X\alpha$, β is also constant, and hence the scalar curvature r is also constant. Then from (3.14) it follows that

$$\beta(\operatorname{Tr}(h^2) - 2n) = 0.$$

Since β is constant we have either $\beta = 0$, or $\beta \neq 0$. First, suppose that $\beta \neq 0$. Then $\operatorname{Tr}(h^2) = 2n$. By (2.2) and (2.4) the foregoing equation yields $\alpha + \beta = 0$. Using this we infer from (2.4) that $Q\xi = 0$. Taking covariant differentiation along an arbitrary vector field X and making use of (2.1), (2.4) yields

$$(3.20) \quad (\nabla_X Q)\xi = \alpha(\varphi X + \varphi hX).$$

Since the scalar curvature r is constant, we set $Z = \xi$ in (3.6) and use (3.20) to obtain

$$C(X, Y)\xi = 2\alpha g(\varphi X, Y).$$

On the other hand, (3.10) reduces to $C(X, Y)\xi = 2\beta g(\varphi X, Y)$. Comparing this with the preceding equation provides $(\alpha - \beta)d\eta(X, Y) = 0$. This implies that $\alpha = \beta$. Hence $\beta = 0$ and we arrive at a contradiction. Thus $\beta = 0$ and M is Einstein. This completes the proof. ■

Proof of Corollary 1.2. For a K -contact manifold we have $h = 0$, and hence from the previous theorem, we can conclude that M is Einstein. But for a K -contact manifold we know that $S(X, \xi) = 2n\eta(X)$. Hence M is Einstein with Einstein constant $2n$. By hypothesis, M is complete and therefore by Myers's theorem [M35], M is compact. Finally, by a result of Boyer and Galicki [BG00], a compact K -contact Einstein manifold is Sasakian. This completes the proof. ■

REMARK 3.2. For dimension 3, the Weyl curvature tensor vanishes. Hence from Theorem 1.1, a 3-dimensional η -Einstein contact metric manifold M with purely transversal Bach tensor is either of constant curvature or Sasakian. But it is known [BS90] that any 3-dimensional contact metric manifold of constant curvature is either flat, or Sasakian of constant curvature 1.

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