

# \*-Ricci soliton and gradient \*-Ricci soliton on three dimensional $N(k)$ -contact metric manifolds

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**Abstract.** The aim of the present paper is to initiate the study of \*-Ricci soliton and gradient \*-Ricci soliton on a three dimensional  $N(k)$ -contact metric manifold.

**M.S.C. 2010:** 53C15, 53C25.

**Key words:**  $N(k)$ -contact metric manifolds; \*-Ricci soliton; gradient \*-Ricci soliton.

## 1 Introduction

A Ricci soliton is a generalization of an Einstein metric. We reminisce the notion of Ricci soliton according to [8]. On a manifold  $M$ , a Ricci soliton is a triple  $(g, V, \lambda)$  with a Riemannian metric  $g$ , a vector field  $V$ , called potential vector field and a real scalar  $\lambda$ , such that

$$(1.1) \quad (\mathcal{L}_V g)(X, Y) + 2S(X, Y) + 2\lambda g(X, Y) = 0,$$

where  $\mathcal{L}$  denotes the Lie derivative along  $V$  and  $S$  denotes the Ricci tensor. The Ricci soliton is a special self similar solution of the Hamilton's [15] Ricci flow:  $\frac{\partial}{\partial t} g(t) = -2S(t)$  with the initial condition  $g(0) = g$ . It is said to be shrinking, steady and expanding accordingly, as  $\lambda$  is positive, zero and negative respectively. If the vector field  $V$  is the gradient of a smooth function  $f$  on  $M$ , that is,  $V = \nabla f$ , then we say that Ricci soliton is gradient and  $f$  is potential function. For a gradient Ricci soliton, Eq. (1.1) takes the form:

$$(1.2) \quad Hess f + S + \lambda g = 0,$$

where  $Hess$  denotes the Hessian operator  $\nabla^2$  ( $\nabla$  denotes the Riemannian connection of  $g$ ). A Ricci soliton on a compact manifold has constant curvature in dimension 2 (Hamilton [15]) and also in dimension 3 (Ivey[24]). We also recall the significant result of Perelman [20]: A Ricci soliton on a compact manifold is a gradient Ricci soliton. Equations (1.1) and (1.2) are respectively called almost Ricci soliton and almost gradient Ricci soliton, if  $\lambda$  is a variable smooth function on  $M$ . Consider [9] for more details about the Ricci flow and Ricci soliton. In the context of contact geometry,

Ricci solitons were first initiated by Sharma in [21]. Then, these are extensively studied by Wang ([25],[26]) and many others. In [22], Tachibana first introduced the notion of \*-Ricci tensor on almost Hermitian manifolds and Hamada [13] apply this notion of \*-Ricci tensor to almost contact manifolds defined by

$$S^* = \frac{1}{2} \text{trace}(Z \rightarrow R(X, \phi Y)\phi Z),$$

for any  $X, Y, Z \in TM$  (where  $TM$  is the Lie algebra of all vector fields on  $M$ ). In 2014, Kaimakamis and Panagiotidou[17] introduced the concept of \*-Ricci solitons within the framework of real hypersurfaces of a complex space form, where they essentially modified the definition of Ricci soliton by replacing the Ricci tensor  $S$  in (1.1) with the \*-Ricci tensor  $S^*$ . A Riemannian metric  $g$  on a manifold  $M$  is called a \*-Ricci soliton if there exist a constant  $\lambda$  and a vector field  $V$ , such that

$$(1.3) \quad (\mathcal{L}_V g)(X, Y) + 2Ric^*(X, Y) + 2\lambda g(X, Y) = 0,$$

for all vector fields  $X, Y \in TM$ . The \*-Ricci soliton is said to be shrinking, steady and expanding accordingly, as  $\lambda$  is positive, zero and negative respectively. Moreover, if the vector field  $V$  is a gradient of a smooth function  $f$ , then we say that \*-Ricci soliton is gradient and equation (1.3) takes the form

$$(1.4) \quad Hess f + S^* + \lambda g = 0.$$

Note that a \*-Ricci soliton is trivial if the vector field  $V$  is killing and in this case the manifold becomes \*-Einstein. In 2018, De et. al. [18] first undertook the study of \*-Ricci solitons and gradient \*-Ricci solitons on three dimensional Sasakian manifold. In the same year Ghosh and Patra [14] also studied the \*-Ricci soliton on almost contact metric manifolds.

Inspired by the above-mentioned works, in this paper we consider \*-Ricci soliton and gradient \*-Ricci soliton on three dimensional  $N(k)$ -contact metric manifold. After preliminary, in section 3 we have the \*-Ricci tensor  $S^*$  and in section 4 we prove that if a three dimensional  $N(k)$ -contact metric manifold admits a \*-Ricci soliton, then either the manifold is flat or the manifold is an \*-Einstein and we have also shown that the \*-Ricci soliton is shrinking. In the next section we prove that if the metric  $g$  of a three dimensional  $N(k)$ -contact manifold is a gradient \*-Ricci soliton, then the manifold is flat or the manifold is an \*-Einstein manifold. Finally the last section ends with an example of a \*-Ricci soliton on three dimensional  $N(k)$ -contact manifold.

## 2 Contact metric manifolds

A  $(2n + 1)$ -dimensional manifold  $M^{2n+1}$  is said to admit an almost contact structure if it admits a tensor field  $\phi$  of type  $(1, 1)$ , a vector field  $\xi$  and a 1-form  $\eta$  satisfying

$$(2.1) \quad (a) \phi^2 = -I + \eta \otimes \xi, \quad (b) \eta(\xi) = 1, \quad (c) \phi\xi = 0, \quad (d) \eta \circ \phi = 0.$$

An almost contact metric structure is said to be normal if the induced almost complex structure  $J$  on the product manifold  $M^{2n+1} \times R$  defined by  $J(X, f \frac{d}{dt}) = (\phi X - f\xi, \eta(X) \frac{d}{dt})$  is integrable, where  $X$  is tangent to  $M$ ,  $t$  is the co-ordinate of  $R$

and  $f$  is a smooth function on  $M \times R$ . Let  $g$  be a compatible Riemannian metric with almost contact structure  $(\phi, \xi, \eta)$ , that is,

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

Then  $M$  becomes an almost contact metric manifold equipped with an almost contact metric structure  $(\phi, \xi, \eta, g)$ . From (2.1) it can be easily seen that

$$(a) \quad g(X, \phi Y) = -g(\phi X, Y), (b) \quad g(X, \xi) = \eta(X),$$

for all vector fields  $X, Y$ . An almost contact metric structure becomes a contact metric structure if

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

for all vector fields  $X, Y$ . The 1-form  $\eta$  is then a contact form and  $\xi$  is its characteristic vector field. We define a  $(1, 1)$  tensor field  $h$  by  $h = \frac{1}{2}\mathcal{L}_\xi\phi$ , where  $\mathcal{L}$  denotes the Lie-differentiation. Then  $h$  is symmetric and satisfies  $h\phi = -\phi h$ . We have  $Tr.h = Tr.\phi h = 0$  and  $h\xi = 0$ . Also,

$$\nabla_X\xi = -\phi X - \phi hX,$$

holds in a contact metric manifold. A normal contact metric manifold is a Sasakian manifold. An almost contact metric manifold is Sasakian if and only if

$$(\nabla_X\phi)(Y) = g(X, Y)\xi - \eta(Y)X, \quad \forall X, Y \in TM,$$

where  $\nabla$  is the Levi-Civita connection of the Riemannian metric  $g$ . A contact metric manifold  $M^{2n+1}(\phi, \xi, \eta, g)$  for which  $\xi$  is a killing vector is said to be a  $K$ -contact manifold. Every Sasakian manifold is  $K$ -contact but not conversely. However, a 3-dimensional  $K$ -contact manifold is Sasakian [16]. It is well known that the tangent sphere bundle of a flat Riemannian manifold admits a contact metric structure satisfying  $R(X, Y)\xi = 0$  ([1]). On the other hand, on a Sasakian manifold the following holds:

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

As a generalization of both  $R(X, Y)\xi = 0$  and the Sasakian case; D. Blair, T. Koufogiorgos and B. J. Papantoniou [5] considered the  $(k, \mu)$ -nullity condition on a contact metric manifold and gave several reasons for studying it. The  $(k, \mu)$ -nullity distribution  $N(k, \mu)$  ([5], [19]) of a contact metric manifold  $M$  is defined by  $N(k, \mu) : p \rightarrow N_p(k, \mu) \subset T_pM$ , where

$$N_p(k, \mu) = \{W \in T_pM : R(X, Y)W = (kI + \mu h)(g(Y, W)X - g(X, W)Y)\},$$

for all  $X, Y \in TM$ , where  $(k, \mu) \in R^2$ . A contact metric manifold  $M^{2n+1}$  with  $\xi \in N(k, \mu)$  is called a  $(k, \mu)$ -manifold. In particular on a  $(k, \mu)$ -manifold, we have

$$R(X, Y)\xi = k[\eta(Y)X - \eta(X)Y] + \mu[\eta(Y)hX - \eta(X)hY].$$

On a  $(k, \mu)$ -manifold  $k \leq 1$ . If  $k = 1$ , the structure is Sasakian ( $h = 0$  and  $\mu$  is non-determined) and if  $k < 1$ , then the  $(k, \mu)$ -nullity condition determines the curvature of

$M^{2n+1}$  completely [5]. In fact, for a  $(k, \mu)$ -manifold, the condition of being a Sasakian manifold, a  $K$ -contact manifold,  $k = 1$  and  $h = 0$  are all equivalent.

The  $k$ -nullity distribution  $N(k)$  of a Riemannian manifold  $M$  [23] is defined by

$$N(k) : p \longrightarrow N_p(k) = \{Z \in T_pM : R(X, Y)Z = k[g(Y, Z)X - g(X, Z)Y]\},$$

$k$  being a constant. If the characteristic vector field  $\xi \in N(k)$ , then the contact metric manifold is called an  $N(k)$ -contact metric manifold [7]. If  $k = 1$ , then the  $N(k)$ -contact metric manifold is Sasakian and if  $k = 0$ , then  $N(k)$ -contact metric manifold is locally isometric to the product  $E^{n+1} \times S^n(4)$  for  $n > 1$  and flat for  $n = 1$ [2]. If  $k < 1$ , then the scalar curvature is  $r = 2n(2n - 2 + k)$ . If  $\mu = 0$ , then the  $(k, \mu)$ -contact metric manifold reduces to an  $N(k)$ -contact metric manifold.

In [6] Blair et al. proved that in a three dimensional contact metric manifold with  $\xi$  belonging to the  $k$ -nullity distribution, the following conditions hold:

$$QX = \left(\frac{r}{2} - k\right)X + \left(3k - \frac{r}{2}\right)\eta(X)\xi,$$

$$Q\phi = \phi Q,$$

$$(2.2) \quad \nabla_X \xi = -(1 + \alpha)\phi X,$$

where  $\alpha = \pm\sqrt{1 - k}$ . Contact metric manifolds have also been studied by several authors such as [11], [12] and many others. In [4],  $N(k)$ -contact metric manifold were studied in some detail. For more details we refer to [6], [3]. In a three dimensional  $N(k)$ -contact metric manifold the following relations hold:

$$(2.3) \quad h^2 = (k - 1)\phi^2, \quad k \leq 1,$$

$$(\nabla_X \phi)(Y) = g(X + hX, Y)\xi - \eta(Y)(X + hX),$$

$$(2.4) \quad R(\xi, X)Y = k[g(X, Y)\xi - \eta(Y)X],$$

$$S(X, \xi) = 2k\eta(X),$$

$$(2.5) \quad S(X, Y) = 2k\eta(X)\eta(Y),$$

$$S(\phi X, \phi Y) = S(X, Y) - 2k\eta(X)\eta(Y),$$

$$(2.6) \quad (\nabla_X \eta)(Y) = g(X + hX, \phi Y),$$

$$R(X, Y)\xi = k[\eta(Y)X - \eta(X)Y],$$

$$\eta(R(X, Y)Z) = k[g(Y, Z)\eta(X) - g(X, Z)\eta(Y)].$$

### 3 \*-Ricci tensor on 3-dimensional $N(k)$ -contact manifolds

**Lemma 3.1** *In 3-dimensional  $N(k)$ -contact manifolds, the \*-Ricci tensor  $S^*$  is given by*

$$S^*(X, Y) = S(X, Y) - kg(X, Y) + (5k - 6)\eta(X)\eta(Y).$$

*Proof.* For  $N(k)$ -contact metric manifold the following relation holds:

$$\begin{aligned} R(Z, W, \phi X, \phi Y) &= R(Z, W, X, Y) + k\eta(Y)(\eta(W)g(Z, X) - \eta(Z)g(W, X)) \\ &= -g(W + hW, X)(g(Z, Y) - \eta(Z)\eta(Y) + g(hZ, Y)) \\ &\quad + g(Z + hZ, X)(g(W, Y) - \eta(W)\eta(Y) + g(hW, Y)) \\ &\quad + g(X, \phi Z + \phi hZ)(g(W + hW, \phi Y) \\ &\quad - g(X, \phi W + \phi hW)(g(Z + hZ, \phi Y) \\ &\quad - \eta(X)\{(1 - k)(\eta(Z)g(W, Y) - \eta(W)g(Z, Y)) \\ &\quad + \eta(Z)g(hW, Y) - \eta(W)g(hZ, Y)\}. \end{aligned} \tag{3.1}$$

Let  $\{e_i\}, i = 1, 2, 3$  be a local orthogonal basis of vector fields in  $M$ . Substituting  $Z = Y = e_i$  in (3.1) and summing over  $i$  we obtain

$$\begin{aligned} S^*(X, W) &= S(X, W) - kg(W, X) + 5(k - 1)\eta(X)\eta(W) \\ &\quad + g(X, h^2W) - g(\phi^2X, W) + g(\phi^2hX, W) \\ &\quad - g(X, \phi^2hW) + g(hX, \phi^2hW). \end{aligned} \tag{3.2}$$

Using (2.1) and (2.3) in (3.2) we obtain

$$S^*(X, W) = S(X, W) - kg(X, W) + (5k - 6)\eta(X)\eta(W), \tag{3.3}$$

for any  $X, Y \in TM$ . Hence the proof.

Using (2.5), from the above Lemma 3.1, the \*-Ricci operator  $Q^*$  and the scalar curvature  $r^*$  are given by

$$Q^*X = -kX + (7k - 6)\eta(X)\xi \tag{3.4}$$

and

$$r^* = 4k - 6.$$

### 4 \*-Ricci soliton on three dimensional $N(k)$ -contact manifolds

In this section we study \*-Ricci solitons on three dimensional  $N(k)$ -contact manifolds. Applying (3.3) in (1.3) we obtain

$$(\mathcal{L}_V g)(X, Y) = 2(k - \lambda)g(X, Y) - 2(7k - 6)\eta(X)\eta(Y). \tag{4.1}$$

Taking covariant differentiation of (4.1) with respect to  $Z$  we get

$$(\nabla_Z \mathcal{L}_V g)(X, Y) = -2(7k - 6)\{g(Z, \phi X)\eta(Y) + g(Z, \phi Y)\eta(X) + g(Z, h\phi X)\eta(Y) + g(Z, h\phi Y)\eta(X)\}.$$

In [27], Yano proved that

$$(\mathcal{L}_V \nabla_X g - \nabla_X \mathcal{L}_V g - \nabla_{[X, Y]} g)(Y, Z) = -g((\mathcal{L}_V \nabla)(X, Y), Z) - g((\mathcal{L}_V \nabla)(X, Z), Y).$$

Since  $(\nabla g) = 0$ , the above formula reduces to

$$(4.2) \quad (\nabla_X \mathcal{L}_V g)(Y, Z) = g((\mathcal{L}_V \nabla)(X, Y), Z) + g((\mathcal{L}_V \nabla)(X, Z), Y).$$

As  $\mathcal{L}_V \nabla$  is a  $(1, 2)$  type symmetric tensor, then from above equation we obtain

$$(4.3) \quad \begin{aligned} 2g((\mathcal{L}_V \nabla)(X, Y), Z) &= (\nabla_X \mathcal{L}_V g)(Y, Z) \\ &+ (\nabla_Y \mathcal{L}_V g)(X, Z) - (\nabla_Z \mathcal{L}_V g)(X, Y). \end{aligned}$$

Using (4.2) in (4.3) we get

$$(4.4) \quad \begin{aligned} 2g((\mathcal{L}_V \nabla)(X, Y), Z) &= -4(7k - 6)\{g(Y, \phi Z)\eta(X) \\ &+ g(X, \phi Z)\eta(Y) + g(X, h\phi Y)\eta(Z)\}. \end{aligned}$$

From equation (4.4) we have

$$(\mathcal{L}_V \nabla)(X, Y) = 2(7k - 6)\{\phi Y \eta(X) - \phi X \eta(Y) + g(X, h\phi Y)\xi\}.$$

Substituting  $Y = \xi$  in the above equation we obtain

$$(4.5) \quad (\mathcal{L}_V \nabla)(X, \xi) = -2(7k - 6)\phi X.$$

Differentiating (4.5) covariantly along any vector field  $Y$ , it yields

$$(4.6) \quad (\nabla_Y \mathcal{L}_V \nabla)(X, \xi) = -2(7k - 6)(g(Y + hY, X)\xi - \eta(X)(Y + hY)).$$

Again from the identity [27]

$$(4.7) \quad (\mathcal{L}_V R)(X, Y)Z = (\nabla_X \mathcal{L}_V \nabla)(Y, Z) - (\nabla_Y \mathcal{L}_V \nabla)(X, Z),$$

using (4.7) in (4.6) we have

$$(4.8) \quad (\mathcal{L}_V R)(X, \xi)\xi = 2(7k - 6)\{X + hX - \eta(X)\xi\}.$$

Also from (4.1) we get

$$(4.9) \quad (\mathcal{L}_V g)(X, \xi) = -2(6k - 6 + \lambda)\eta(X).$$

Now Lie-differentiating of the equation  $\eta(X) = g(X, \xi)$  along  $V$  and by virtue of above equation (4.9) we have

$$(4.10) \quad (\mathcal{L}_V \eta)(X) - g(X, \mathcal{L}_V \xi) + 2(6k - 6 + \lambda)\eta(X) = 0.$$

Putting  $X = \xi$  in the above equation yields

$$\eta(\mathcal{L}_V \xi) = 6k - 6 + \lambda.$$

Also three dimensional  $N(k)$ -contact metric manifold satisfies

$$(4.11) \quad R(X, \xi)\xi = k[X - \eta(X)\xi].$$

Taking Lie-derivative of (4.11) along the vector field  $V$  we obtain

$$(4.12) \quad (\mathcal{L}_V R)(X, \xi)\xi = -k\{(\mathcal{L}_V \eta)(X)\xi - g(\mathcal{L}_V \xi, X)\xi\}.$$

Now from (4.10), we obtain

$$(4.13) \quad g(\mathcal{L}_V \xi, X) - (\mathcal{L}_V \eta)X = 2(6(k-1) + \lambda)\eta(X).$$

Using (4.13) in (4.12), we get

$$(4.14) \quad (\mathcal{L}_V R)(X, \xi)\xi = 2k(6(k-1) + \lambda)\eta(X)\xi.$$

Equating (4.8) and (4.14) we have

$$(4.15) \quad 2(7k-6)\{X + hX - \eta(X)\xi\} = 2k(6(k-1) + \lambda)\eta(X)\xi.$$

Taking the inner product of (4.15) with  $\xi$ , we obtain

$$2k(6(k-1) + \lambda) = 0.$$

Then either  $k = 0$ , or  $\lambda = 6(1-k)$ .

Case I: If  $k = 0$ , then the manifold is flat [2].

Case II: If  $\lambda = 6(1-k) > 0$ , then the  $*$ -Ricci soliton is shrinking.

Also from (4.8), we infer:

$$2(7k-6)\{X + hX - \eta(X)\xi\} = 0,$$

which gives  $k = \frac{6}{7}$ , so from Lemma 3.1 we conclude that the manifold is  $*$ -Ricci Einstein.

Hence we can state the following theorems:

**Theorem 4.1.** *If a three dimensional  $N(k)$ -contact metric manifold admits a  $*$ -Ricci soliton, then either the manifold is flat or the manifold is  $*$ -Einstein.*

and

**Theorem 4.2.** *In a non-flat three dimensional  $N(k)$ -contact metric manifold the  $*$ -Ricci soliton is shrinking.*

## 5 Gradient \*-Ricci solitons on 3-dimensional $N(k)$ -contact manifolds

Let  $M$  be a three dimensional  $N(k)$ -contact manifold and  $g$  is a gradient \*-Ricci soliton. Then the equation (1.4) can be written as

$$(5.1) \quad \nabla_Y Df = Q^*Y + \lambda Y,$$

for all vector fields  $Y$  in  $TM$ , where  $D$  denotes the gradient operator of  $g$ . From (5.1) it follows that

$$(5.2) \quad R(X, Y)Df = (\nabla_X Q^*)Y - (\nabla_Y Q^*)X.$$

Taking the covariant differentiation of (3.4) and using (2.2) and (2.6), we obtain

$$(5.3) \quad \begin{aligned} (\nabla_X Q^*)Y &= (7k - 6)\{(\nabla_X \eta)(Y)\xi + \eta(Y)(\nabla_X \xi)\} \\ &= (7k - 6)\{g(X, \phi Y)\xi + g(hX, \phi Y)\xi - (1 + \alpha)\eta(Y)\phi X\}. \end{aligned}$$

Using (5.3) in (5.2), we have

$$R(X, Y)Df = (7k - 6)[2g(X, \phi Y)\xi + 2g(X, h\phi Y)\xi - (1 + \alpha)\{\eta(Y)\phi X - \eta(X)\phi Y\}],$$

which gives

$$(5.4) \quad R(\xi, Y)Df = (7k - 6)(\alpha + 1)\phi Y.$$

Using (5.4) and (2.4), we infer

$$k\{g(Y, Df)\xi - \eta(Df)Y\} = (7k - 6)(\alpha + 1)\phi Y.$$

From the above equation we also have

$$k\{g(Y, Df) - \eta(Df)\eta(Y)\} = 0.$$

This implies either  $k = 0$ , or  $g(Y, Df) - \eta(Df)\eta(Y) = 0$ .

Case I: If  $k = 0$ , then the manifold is flat [2].

Case II: We have  $g(Y, Df) - \eta(Df)\eta(Y) = 0$ , which implies

$$Df = (\xi f)\xi.$$

This leads to

$$\nabla_Y Df = Y(\xi f)\xi + (\xi f)\nabla_Y \xi.$$

Taking the inner product with  $X$  and using (2.2), we have

$$(5.5) \quad g(\nabla_Y Df, X) = Y(\xi f)\eta(X) - (1 + \alpha)(\xi f)g(X, \phi Y).$$

Using (5.5) from (5.1), we get

$$(5.6) \quad S^*(X, Y) + \lambda g(X, Y) = Y(\xi f)\eta(X) - (1 + \alpha)(\xi f)g(X, \phi Y).$$

Putting  $X = \xi$  in the above equation and using (3.4), we obtain

$$(5.7) \quad Y(\xi f) = (6(k-1) + \lambda)\eta(Y).$$

From (5.6) and (5.7), we have

$$(5.8) \quad S^*(X, Y) + \lambda g(X, Y) = (6(k-1) + \lambda)\eta(Y)\eta(X) - (1 + \alpha)(\xi f)g(X, \phi Y).$$

By interchanging  $X$  and  $Y$  in the above equation yields

$$(5.9) \quad S^*(X, Y) + \lambda g(X, Y) = (6(k-1) + \lambda)\eta(Y)\eta(X) - (1 + \alpha)(\xi f)g(Y, \phi X).$$

Equations (5.8) and (5.9) imply  $(1 + \alpha)(\xi f)g(X, \phi Y) = 0$ , that is,  $(1 + \alpha)(\xi f)d\eta(X, Y) = 0$ . Since  $d\eta \neq 0$ , we get  $(1 + \alpha)\xi f = 0$ , which implies either  $(1 + \alpha) = 0$ , or  $\xi f = 0$ . Consequently either  $\alpha = -1$ , which implies that the manifold is flat [2], or  $\xi f = 0$ , which implies that  $M$  is an  $*$ -Einstein manifold. So we have the following:

**Theorem 5.1.** *If the metric  $g$  of a three dimensional  $N(k)$ -contact manifold is a gradient  $*$ -Ricci soliton then, either the manifold is flat or the manifold is an  $*$ -Einstein manifold.*

## 6 An example

In this section we illustrate verify Theorem 4.1 by an example. In [10], De constructed an example of a three dimensional  $N(k)$ -contact metric manifold. Here we consider the three dimensional manifold  $M = \{(x, y, z) \in \mathbb{R}^3\}$  and the vector fields  $e_1, e_2$  and  $e_3$ , which satisfy

$$[e_1, e_2] = (1 + \alpha)e_3, \quad [e_2, e_3] = 2e_1, \quad [e_3, e_1] = (1 - \alpha)e_2,$$

where  $\alpha \neq \pm 1$  is a real number. We define  $\xi, g, \eta, \phi$  as  $\xi = e_1$ ,  $g(e_i, e_j) = \delta_{ij}$  ( $i, j = 1, 2, 3$ ) and  $\phi e_1 = 0, \phi e_2 = e_3, \phi e_3 = -e_2$  and  $\eta(X) = g(X, e_1)$  for any  $X \in TM$ . Then it is shown in [10] that  $(M, \phi, \xi, \eta, g)$  is a three dimensional  $N(k)$ -contact metric manifold. Using Koszul's formula we get the following

$$\begin{aligned} \nabla_{e_1} e_1 &= 0, & \nabla_{e_1} e_2 &= 0, & \nabla_{e_1} e_3 &= 0 \\ \nabla_{e_2} e_1 &= -(1 + \alpha)e_3, & \nabla_{e_2} e_2 &= 0, & \nabla_{e_2} e_3 &= (1 + \alpha)e_1 \\ \nabla_{e_3} e_1 &= (1 - \alpha)e_2, & \nabla_{e_3} e_2 &= -(1 - \alpha)e_1, & \nabla_{e_3} e_3 &= 0. \end{aligned}$$

Let  $X = a_1 e_1 + a_2 e_2 + a_3 e_3$  and  $Y = b_1 e_1 + b_2 e_2 + b_3 e_3$  be any two vector fields and  $a_i, b_i \in \mathbb{R}, i = 1, 2, 3$ .

Now if we consider  $v = e_1$ , then

$$\begin{aligned} (\mathcal{L}_V g)(X, Y) &= g(\nabla_X V, Y) + g(X, \nabla_Y V) \\ &= -2\alpha(b_2 a_3 + a_2 b_3) \end{aligned}$$

and

$$\begin{aligned} (\mathcal{L}_V g)(X, Y) &= 2(k - \lambda)g(X, Y) - 2(7k - 6)\eta(X)\eta(Y) \\ &= 2(k - \lambda)a_1 b_1 + a_2 b_2 + a_3 b_3 + 2(7k - 6)a_1 b_1. \end{aligned}$$

If we choose  $\alpha = 0$  and  $\lambda = \frac{6}{7}$ , then the metric of the manifold satisfies  $*$ -solitons and the manifold becomes a  $*$ -Einstein manifold. Thus Theorem 4.1 is verified.

## References

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