



## A Classification of 3-Dimensional $\eta$ -Einstein Paracontact Metric Manifolds

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**Abstract.** We show that a 3-dimensional  $\eta$ -Einstein paracontact metric manifold is either a manifold with  $\text{tr}h^2 = 0$ , flat or of constant  $\xi$ -sectional curvature  $k \neq -1$  and constant  $\varphi$ -sectional curvature  $-k \neq 1$ .

### 1. Introduction

The assumption that  $(M^{2n+1}, \varphi, \xi, \eta, g)$  is a paracontact metric manifold is very weak, since the set of metrics associated to the paracontact form  $\eta$  is huge. Even if the structure is  $\eta$ -Einstein we do not have a complete classification. It is known very little for the geometry of manifolds with  $n = 1$  (see [5]). On the other hand if the structure is para-Sasakian, the Ricci operator  $Q$  commutes with  $\varphi$  (see [5]), but in general  $Q\varphi \neq \varphi Q$  and the problem of the characterization of paracontact metric manifolds with  $Q\varphi = \varphi Q$  is open. In [2] Tanno defined a special family of paracontact metric manifolds by the requirement that  $\xi$  belongs to the  $k$ -nullity distribution of  $g$ . These manifolds are not well studied also (see [5]). In this paper, we show that a 3-dimensional paracontact manifold on which  $Q\varphi = \varphi Q$  is either a manifold with  $\text{tr}h^2 = 0$ , flat or of constant  $\xi$ -sectional curvature  $k \neq -1$  and constant  $\varphi$ -sectional curvature  $-k \neq 1$ .

### 2. Preliminaries

First we will give some known definitions and facts which we use in the next section. A  $C^\infty$  manifold  $M^{(2n+1)}$  is said to be *paracontact manifold*, if it carries a global 1-form  $\eta$  such that  $\eta \wedge (d\eta)^n \neq 0$  everywhere. We assume throughout that all manifolds are connected. Given a paracontact form  $\eta$ , it is well known that there exists a unique vector field  $\xi$ , called *characteristic vector field* of  $\eta$ , satisfying  $\eta(\xi) = 1$  and  $d\eta(\xi, X) = 0$  for all vector fields  $X$ . A pseudo-Riemannian metric  $g$  is said to be an *associated metric* if there exists a tensor field  $\varphi$  of type  $(1, 1)$  such that

$$d\eta(X, Y) = g(X, \varphi Y), \quad \eta(X) = g(X, \xi), \quad \varphi^2 = Id - \eta \otimes \xi. \quad (2.1)$$

2010 *Mathematics Subject Classification.* Primary 53D15

*Keywords.* 3-dimensional paracontact metric manifolds

Received: 02 February 2020; Revised: 22 June 2020; Accepted: 10 July 2020

Communicated by Ljubica Velimirović

S.Z. is partially supported by Contract DN 12/3/12.12.2017 and Contract 80-10-12/18.03.2020 with the Sofia University "St.Kl.Ohridski".

A.B. is partially supported by Contract 80-10-209/17.04.2019 with the Sofia University "St.Kl.Ohridski".

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Using these conditions it is easily obtained that

$$\varphi\xi = 0, \quad \eta \circ \varphi = 0, \quad g(\varphi X, \varphi Y) = -g(X, Y) + \eta(X)\eta(Y). \quad (2.2)$$

The structure  $(\varphi, \xi, \eta, g)$  is called a *paracontact metric structure*, and a manifold  $M^{2n+1}$  with paracontact metric structure  $(\varphi, \xi, \eta, g)$  is said to be a *paracontact metric manifold*.

Let  $\mathcal{L}$  and  $R$  be the Lie differentiation and the curvature tensor respectively. Using  $\mathcal{L}$  and  $R$  we define the operators  $l$  and  $h$  are defined in the following way

$$lX = R(X, \xi)\xi, \quad h = \frac{1}{2}\mathcal{L}_\xi\varphi. \quad (2.3)$$

The tensors  $h$  and  $l$  of  $(1, 1)$ -type are symmetric and satisfy all of the subsequent conditions

$$l\xi = 0, \quad h\xi = 0, \quad \text{tr}h = 0, \quad \text{tr}h\varphi = 0, \quad h\varphi = -\varphi h. \quad (2.4)$$

For a paracontact manifold the following statements are fulfilled:

$$\nabla_X\xi = -\varphi X + \varphi hX \quad (\nabla_\xi\xi = 0) \quad (2.5)$$

$$\nabla_\xi\varphi = 0 \quad (2.6)$$

$$\text{tr}l = g(Q\xi, \xi) = -2n + \text{tr}h^2 \quad (2.7)$$

$$\varphi l\varphi + l = -2(\varphi^2 - h^2) \quad (2.8)$$

$$\nabla_\xi h = -\varphi - \varphi l + \varphi h^2, \quad (2.9)$$

where  $\text{tr}$  is the trace of the operator,  $Q$  is the Ricci operator and  $\nabla$  is the Levi-Civita connection of  $g$ . Detailed proof of these formulas can be found in [4].

A paracontact metric manifold for which  $\xi$  is Killing is called a *K-paracontact manifold*. A paracontact structure on  $M^{(2n+1)}$  naturally gives rise to an almost paracomplex structure on the product  $M^{(2n+1)} \times \mathbb{R}$ . If this almost paracomplex structure is integrable, the given paracontact metric manifold is said to be a *para-Sasakian*. Equivalently, (see [4]) a paracontact metric manifold is a para-Sasakian if and only if

$$(\nabla_X\varphi)Y = -g(X, Y)\xi + \eta(Y)X, \quad (2.10)$$

is satisfied for all vector fields  $X$  and  $Y$ .

It can be easily shown that a 3-dimensional paracontact manifold is para-Sasakian if and only if  $h = 0$ . For further details we refer to [3],[4].

A paracontact metric structure is said to be  *$\eta$ -Einstein* if

$$Q = a.\text{id} + b.\eta \otimes \xi, \quad (2.11)$$

where  $a, b$  are smooth functions on  $M^{(2n+1)}$ . We also recall that the  $k$ -nullity distribution  $N(k)$  of a pseudo-Riemannian manifold  $(M, g)$ , for a real number  $k$ , is the distribution

$$N_p(k) = \{Z \in T_pM : R(X, Y)Z = k(g(Y, Z)X - g(X, Z)Y)\}, \quad (2.12)$$

for any  $X, Y \in T_pM$  (see [2]).

Finally, we call  $\xi$ -sectional curvature the sectional curvature

$$K(\xi, X) = \epsilon_X R(X, \xi, \xi, X),$$

where  $|X| = \epsilon_X = \pm 1$ , of a plane section spanned by  $\xi$  and the vector  $X$  orthogonal to  $\xi$ . Moreover the sectional curvature  $K(X, \varphi X) = -R(X, \varphi X, \varphi X, X)$ , where  $|X| = -|\varphi X| = \pm 1$ , of a plane section spanned by vectors  $X$  and  $\varphi X$  orthogonal to  $\xi$  is called a  $\varphi$ -sectional curvature.

### 3. Main result

In this section we introduce our main results. Firstly we state the following lemma.

**Lemma 1.** *Let  $M^3$  be a paracontact metric manifold with a paracontact metric structure  $(\varphi, \xi, \eta, g)$  such that  $\varphi Q = Q\varphi$ . Then the function  $\text{trl}$  is constant everywhere on  $M^3$ .*

Although it was previously proven in [5], we include this complete proof in this paper for completeness and since we use many of the formulas which appear in it.

*Proof.* Let us recall that the curvature tensor of a 3-dimensional pseudo-Riemannian manifold is given by

$$R(X, Y)Z = g(Y, Z)QX - g(X, Z)QY + g(QY, Z)X - g(QX, Z)Y - \frac{\text{scal}}{2} [g(Y, Z)X - g(X, Z)Y], \quad (3.13)$$

where  $\text{scal}$  is the scalar curvature of the manifold.

Using  $\varphi Q = Q\varphi$ , (2.7) and  $\varphi\xi = 0$  we have that

$$Q\xi = (\text{trl})\xi. \quad (3.14)$$

From (3.13) and using (2.3) and (3.14), we have that for any  $X$ ,

$$lX = QX + \left(\text{trl} - \frac{\text{scal}}{2}\right)X + \eta(X)\left(\frac{\text{scal}}{2} - 2\text{trl}\right)\xi \quad (3.15)$$

and hence  $\varphi Q = Q\varphi$  and  $\varphi\xi = 0$  give

$$\varphi l = l\varphi. \quad (3.16)$$

As a result of (3.16), (2.8) and (2.9), we obtain

$$-l = \varphi^2 - h^2 \quad (3.17)$$

and hence  $\nabla_\xi h = 0$ .

By differentiating (3.17) along  $\xi$  and using formula (2.6) and  $\nabla_\xi h = 0$ , we find that  $\nabla_\xi l = 0$  and therefore  $\xi(\text{trl}) = 0$ . If there exists  $X \in T_p M$ ,  $X \neq \xi$  at point  $p \in M^3$  such that  $lX = 0$ , then  $l = 0$  at the point  $p$ . In fact if  $Y$  is the projection of  $X$  on  $\mathbb{D} = \ker \eta$ , we have  $lY = 0$ , since  $l\xi = 0$ . Using (3.16) we have  $l\varphi Y = 0$ . So  $l = 0$  at the point  $p$  (and thus  $\text{trl} = 0$  at the point  $p$ ). Let us suppose that  $l \neq 0$  on a neighborhood  $U$  of the point  $P$ . Using (3.16) and that  $\varphi$  is antisymmetric, we get  $g(\varphi X, lX) = 0$ . Hence  $lX$  is parallel to  $X$  for any  $X$  orthogonal to  $\xi$ . It is not hard to see that  $lX = \frac{\text{trl}}{2}X$  for any  $X$  orthogonal to  $\xi$ . Thus for any  $X$ , we have

$$lX = \frac{\text{trl}}{2}\varphi^2 X \quad (3.18)$$

If we use (3.18) and substitute it in (3.15) we receive

$$QX = aX + b\eta(X)\xi, \quad (3.19)$$

where  $a = \frac{\text{scal} - \text{trl}}{2}$  and  $b = \frac{3\text{trl} - \text{scal}}{2}$ . Differentiating (3.19) with respect to  $Y$  and using (3.19) and the fact that  $\nabla_\xi \xi = 0$  we find

$$(\nabla_Y Q)X = (Ya)X + [(Yb)\eta(X) + bg(X, \nabla_Y \xi)]\xi + b\eta(X)\nabla_Y \xi. \quad (3.20)$$

So using  $\xi(\text{trl}) = 0$  and  $\nabla_\xi \xi = 0$ , from (3.20) with  $X = Y = \xi$ , we have  $(\nabla_\xi Q)\xi = 0$ . Also using  $h\varphi = -\varphi h$ , and (2.5), from (3.20) with  $X = Y$  orthogonal to  $\xi$ , we get

$$g((\nabla_X Q)X - (\nabla_{\varphi X} Q)\varphi X, \xi) = 0. \quad (3.21)$$

But it is well known that

$$(\nabla_X Q)X - (\nabla_{\varphi X} Q)\varphi X + (\nabla_{\xi} Q)\xi = \frac{1}{2} \text{grad}(scal),$$

for any unit vector  $X$  orthogonal to  $\xi$ . Hence, we easily get from the last two equations that  $\xi(scal) = 0$ , and thus  $\nabla_{\xi} Q = 0$ . Therefore, differentiating (3.13) with respect to  $\xi$  and using  $\nabla_{\xi} Q = 0$ , we have  $\nabla_{\xi} R = 0$ . So from the second identity of Bianchi, we get

$$(\nabla_X R)(Y, \xi, Z) = (\nabla_Y R)(X, \xi, Z). \quad (3.22)$$

Now, substituting (3.19) in (3.13), we obtain

$$\begin{aligned} R(X, Y)Z &= [\gamma g(Y, Z) + b\eta(Y)\eta(Z)]X - [\gamma g(X, Z) + b\eta(X)\eta(Z)]Y + \\ &\quad + b[\eta(X)g(Y, Z) - \eta(Y)g(X, Z)]\xi, \end{aligned} \quad (3.23)$$

where  $\gamma = \frac{scal}{2} - \text{trl}$ . For  $Z = \xi$ , (3.23) gives

$$R(X, Y)\xi = \frac{\text{trl}}{2} [\eta(Y)X - \eta(X)Y]. \quad (3.24)$$

Using (3.24), we obtain  $(\nabla_X R)(Y, \xi, \xi) = \frac{X(\text{trl})}{2} Y$ , for  $X, Y$  orthogonal to  $\xi$ . From this and (3.22) for  $Z = \xi$ , we get  $X(\text{trl})Y = Y(\text{trl})X$ . Therefore  $X(\text{trl}) = 0$  for  $X$  orthogonal to  $\xi$ , but  $\xi(\text{trl}) = 0$ , so the function  $\text{trl}$  is constant and this completes the proof of the Lemma.  $\square$

**Remark 1.** When  $l = 0$  everywhere, then using (3.13), (3.14) and (3.15) we get  $R(X, Y)\xi = 0$ . This together with Theorem 3.3 in [6] gives that  $M^3$  is flat.

Now we can state the following proposition

**Proposition 1.** [5] Let  $M^3$  be a paracontact metric manifold with paracontact metric structure  $(\varphi, \xi, \eta, g)$ . Then the following conditions are equivalent:

- i)  $M^3$  is a  $\eta$ -Einstein;
- ii)  $Q\varphi = \varphi Q$ ;
- iii)  $\xi$  belongs to the  $k$ -nullity distribution.

Next we present our main theorem.

**Theorem 1.** Let  $M^3$  be a paracontact metric manifold with paracontact metric structure  $(\varphi, \xi, \eta, g)$  on which  $Q\varphi = \varphi Q$ . Then  $M^3$  is either a manifold with  $\text{tr}h^2 = 0$ , flat or of constant  $\xi$ -sectional curvature  $k \neq -1$  and constant  $\varphi$ -sectional curvature  $-k \neq 1$ .

*Proof.* From the proof of Lemma 1 and Remark 1 it follows straightforward that if  $\text{trl} = 0$ ,  $l = 0$  it turns out that  $M^3$  is flat. By the proof of Lemma 1 it is easy to show that if  $k = -1$ , then  $\text{trl} = -2$  and by using (2.7), we have that  $M^3$  is a manifold with  $\text{tr}h^2 = 0$ .

Let us firstly consider the case where  $\text{trl} \neq 0$ . From Proposition 1 and (2.12) it follows that

$$R(X, Y)\xi = k(\eta(Y)X - \eta(X)Y), \quad (3.25)$$

where  $k = \frac{\text{trl}}{2} \neq -1$  and  $k \neq 0$ . This implies that

$$(\nabla_X \varphi)Y = -g(X - hX, Y)\xi + \eta(Y)(X - hX) \quad (3.26)$$

as was pointed out by S. Zamkovoy in ([4]). In fact this is true for any 3-dimensional paracontact manifold ([3]). Computing  $R(X, Y)\xi$  from (2.5) we receive

$$R(X, Y)\xi = -(\nabla_X \varphi)Y + (\nabla_Y \varphi)X + (\nabla_X \varphi h)Y - (\nabla_Y \varphi h)X =$$

$$= -(\nabla_X \varphi)Y + (\nabla_Y \varphi)X + (\nabla_X \varphi)hY - (\nabla_Y \varphi)hX + \varphi(\nabla_X h)Y - \varphi(\nabla_Y h)X.$$

Then using (3.25) and (3.26) we obtain either

$$k(\eta(Y)X - \eta(X)Y) = \eta(X)(Y - hY) - \eta(Y)(X - hX) + \varphi((\nabla_X h)Y - (\nabla_Y h)X).$$

or

$$(k + 1)(\eta(Y)X - \eta(X)Y) = -\eta(X)hY + \eta(Y)hX + \varphi((\nabla_X h)Y - (\nabla_Y h)X). \tag{3.27}$$

Next we consider the case in which  $k > -1$ . In this case the operator  $h$  is diagonalizable (see [1]). Now let  $X$  be a unit eigenvector of  $h$  (i.e.  $|X| = \epsilon_X = \pm 1$ ), say  $hX = \lambda X$ ,  $X \perp \xi$ . Since  $\text{tr}h^2 = 2(k + 1)$ ,  $\lambda = \pm \sqrt{k + 1}$  and hence is a constant. Setting  $Y = \varphi X$ , (3.27) yields

$$\varphi((\nabla_X h)\varphi X - (\nabla_{\varphi X} h)X) = 0.$$

From which we receive the following equation

$$\varphi(-\lambda \nabla_X \varphi X - h \nabla_X \varphi X - \lambda \nabla_{\varphi X} X + h \nabla_{\varphi X} X) = 0. \tag{3.28}$$

Let us recall that  $\varphi h + h\varphi = 0$ . Now we take the inner product of (3.28) with  $X$  and obtain

$$\lambda g(\nabla_{\varphi X} X, \varphi X) = 0.$$

Since  $\lambda \neq 0$  ( $k > -1$ ) and  $X$  is unit,  $\nabla_{\varphi X} X$  is orthogonal to both  $X$  and  $\varphi X$  and hence collinear with  $\xi$ . Now

$$\eta(\nabla_{\varphi X} X) = g(\nabla_{\varphi X} X, \xi) = -g(X, \nabla_{\varphi X} \xi) = -g(-X - hX, X) = \epsilon_X(\lambda + 1).$$

Therefore we receive

$$\nabla_{\varphi X} X = \epsilon_X(\lambda + 1)\xi.$$

Similarly if we take the inner product of (3.28) with  $\varphi X$  it follows that

$$\nabla_X \varphi X = \epsilon_X(\lambda - 1)\xi$$

and in turn  $\nabla_X X = 0$  and

$$[X, \varphi X] = -2\epsilon_X \xi.$$

Now from the form of the curvature tensor (3.23), we have

$$R(X, \varphi X)\varphi X = -\epsilon_X \left( \frac{\text{scal}}{2} - \text{tr}l \right) \varphi X$$

and by direct computation using  $\nabla_X \xi = (\lambda - 1)\varphi X$ ,

$$\begin{aligned} R(X, \varphi X)X &= \nabla_X \nabla_{\varphi X} X - \nabla_{\varphi X} \nabla_X X - \nabla_{[X, \varphi X]} X = \\ &= \epsilon_X(\lambda + 1)\nabla_X \xi + 2\epsilon_X \nabla_{\xi} X = \epsilon_X(\lambda^2 - 1)\nabla_X \xi + 2\epsilon_X \nabla_{\xi} X. \end{aligned}$$

Thus

$$\nabla_{\xi} X = \left( \frac{\lambda^2 - 1}{2} - \frac{\text{scal}}{4} \right) \varphi X$$

and hence

$$[\xi, X] = \left( \frac{(\lambda - 1)^2}{2} - \frac{\text{scal}}{4} \right) \varphi X.$$

Now computing  $R(\xi, X)\xi$ , by ((3.25)) and by direct computation, we have

$$-(\lambda^2 - 1)X = \nabla_{\xi}(-\varphi X + \varphi hX) - \nabla_{\left( \frac{(\lambda - 1)^2}{2} - \frac{\text{scal}}{4} \right) \varphi X} \xi =$$

$$\begin{aligned}
 &= (\lambda - 1)\varphi\nabla_\xi X + \left(\frac{(\lambda - 1)^2}{2} - \frac{scal}{4}\right)(X + hX) = \\
 &= \left((\lambda - 1)^2(\lambda + 1) - \lambda\frac{scal}{2}\right)X
 \end{aligned}$$

from which

$$scal = 2(\lambda^2 - 1) = 2k.$$

From (3.25) and (3.23) it follows that for the  $\xi$ -sectional curvature  $K(X, \xi)$  and  $\varphi$ -sectional curvature  $K(X, \varphi X)$  are equal to

$$K(X, \xi) = k \quad \text{and} \quad K(X, \varphi X) = -k$$

respectively as was desired.

Let us now consider the case in which  $k < -1$ . As it was shown in (see [1]) the operator  $\varphi h$  is diagonalizable. Now let  $X$  be a unit eigenvector of  $\varphi h$  (i.e.  $|X| = \epsilon_X = \pm 1$ ), say  $\varphi hX = \lambda X, X \perp \xi$ . Since  $\text{tr}h^2 = 2(k + 1), \lambda = \pm \sqrt{-(k + 1)}$  and hence is a constant. We denote  $Y = \varphi X$  (3.27). Hence

$$(\nabla_X \varphi h)\varphi X - (\nabla_{\varphi X} \varphi h)X = 0$$

from which we receive

$$-\lambda \nabla_X \varphi X - \varphi h \nabla_X \varphi X - \lambda \nabla_{\varphi X} X + \varphi h \nabla_{\varphi X} X = 0. \tag{3.29}$$

Taking the inner product of (3.29) with  $\varphi X$  and recalling that  $\varphi h + h\varphi = 0$ , we have

$$\lambda g(\nabla_{\varphi X} X, \varphi X) = 0.$$

Since  $\lambda \neq 0$  ( $k < -1$ ) and  $X$  is unit,  $\nabla_{\varphi X} X$  is orthogonal to both  $X$  and  $\varphi X$  and hence collinear with  $\xi$ . Now

$$\eta(\nabla_{\varphi X} X) = g(\nabla_{\varphi X} X, \xi) = -g(X, \nabla_{\varphi X} \xi) = -g(-\varphi^2 X + \varphi h \varphi X, X) = \epsilon_X.$$

Therefore

$$\nabla_{\varphi X} X = \epsilon_X \xi.$$

Similarly taking the inner product of (3.29) with  $X$  yields

$$\nabla_X \varphi X = -\epsilon_X \xi$$

and in turn  $\nabla_X X = -\epsilon_X \lambda \xi$  and

$$[X, \varphi X] = -2\epsilon_X \xi.$$

Now from the form of the curvature tensor (3.23), we have

$$R(X, \varphi X)\varphi X = -\epsilon_X \left(\frac{scal}{2} - \text{tr}l\right)\varphi X$$

and by direct computation using  $\nabla_X \xi = -\varphi X + \lambda X$ ,

$$R(X, \varphi X)X = \nabla_X \nabla_{\varphi X} X - \nabla_{\varphi X} \nabla_X X - \nabla_{[X, \varphi X]} X.$$

Thus

$$\nabla_\xi X = -\left(\frac{\lambda^2 + 1}{2} + \frac{scal}{4}\right)\varphi X$$

and hence

$$[\xi, X] = -\lambda X - \left(\frac{\lambda^2 - 1}{2} + \frac{scal}{4}\right)\varphi X.$$

We compute  $R(\xi, X)\xi$ , using ((3.25)) and by direct computation, we have

$$\begin{aligned}(\lambda^2 + 1)X &= \nabla_\xi(-\varphi X + \lambda X) + \lambda \nabla_X \xi + \left( \frac{\lambda^2 - 1}{2} + \frac{\text{scal}}{4} \right) \nabla_{\varphi X} \xi = \\ &= -\varphi \nabla_\xi X + \lambda \nabla_\xi X + \lambda \nabla_X \xi + \left( \frac{\lambda^2 - 1}{2} + \frac{\text{scal}}{4} \right) (-X - \lambda \varphi X) = \\ &= (\lambda^2 + 1)X + \left( -\lambda - 2\lambda \left( \frac{\text{scal}}{4} + \frac{\lambda^2}{2} \right) \right) \varphi X\end{aligned}$$

from which

$$\text{scal} = -2(\lambda^2 + 1) = 2k.$$

As a conclusion from (3.25) and (3.23) we see that

$$K(X, \xi) = k \quad \text{and} \quad K(X, \varphi X) = -k$$

as desired.  $\square$

Now we can state the following definition

**Definition 1.** A paracontact metric structure  $(\varphi, \xi, \eta, g)$  is said to be locally  $\varphi$ -symmetric if  $\varphi^2(\nabla_W R)(X, Y, Z) = 0$ , for all vector fields  $W, X, Y, Z$  orthogonal to  $\xi$ .

The next theorem was proved in detail in [5]

**Theorem 2.** Let  $M^3$  be a paracontact metric manifold with  $Q\varphi = \varphi Q$ . Then  $M^3$  is locally  $\varphi$ -symmetric if and only if the scalar curvature  $\text{scal}$  of  $M^3$  is constant.

**Remark 2.** Using (3.20) with  $\text{trl} = \text{const.}$ , we obtain the following formula

$$2|\nabla Q|^2 = |\text{gradscal}|^2 - (3\text{trl} - \text{scal})^2(4 + \text{trl}) \quad (3.30)$$

which is valid on any paracontact metric manifold  $M^3$  with  $Q\varphi = \varphi Q$ .

From Theorem 2, we get the following

**Corollary 1.** A locally  $\varphi$ -symmetric paracontact metric manifold  $M^3$  is a manifold with either  $\text{scal} = 3\text{trl}$ ,  $\text{scal} = -12$  or  $\text{trl} = -4$ .

## Acknowledgments

S.Z. is partially supported by Contract DN 12/3/12.12.2017 and Contract 80-10-12/18.03.2020 with the Sofia University "St.Kl.Ohridski".

A.B. is partially supported by Contract 80-10-209/17.04.2019 with the Sofia University "St.Kl.Ohridski".

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