

**BETTI NUMBERS OF 3-SASAKIAN
QUOTIENTS OF SPHERES BY TORI**

ROGER BIELAWSKI

Max-Planck-Institut
für Mathematik
Gottfried-Claren-Str. 26
53225 Bonn

GERMANY

BETTI NUMBERS OF 3-SASAKIAN QUOTIENTS OF SPHERES BY TORI

ROGER BIELAWSKI

ABSTRACT. We give a formula for the Betti numbers of 3-Sasakian manifolds or orbifolds which can be obtained as 3-Sasakian quotients of a sphere by a torus.

A $(4m+3)$ -dimensional manifold is 3-Sasakian if it possesses a Riemannian metric with three orthonormal Killing fields defining a local $SU(2)$ -action and satisfying a curvature condition. A complete 3-Sasakian manifold S is compact and its metric is Einstein with scalar curvature $2(2m+1)(2m+3)$. Moreover the local action extends to a global action of $SO(3)$ or $Sp(1)$ and the quotient of S is a quaternionic Kähler orbifold.

A large family of compact non-homogeneous 3-Sasakian manifolds was found by Boyer, Galicki and Mann in [BGM2]. They are obtained by the 3-Sasakian reduction procedure, analogous to the symplectic or hyperkähler quotient construction, from the standard $(4m+3)$ -sphere. Recently, in [BGMR], Boyer, Galicki, Mann and Rees have calculated the second Betti number of a 7-dimensional 3-Sasakian quotient of the $(4q+7)$ -sphere by a torus, as being equal to q . Using the ideas from [BD], we shall give a formula for the Betti numbers of 3-Sasakian quotients of spheres by tori, valid in arbitrary dimension.

Theorem 1. *Let S be a 3-Sasakian orbifold of dimension $4n-1$ which can be obtained as a 3-Sasakian quotient of the standard $(4n+4q-1)$ -sphere by a q -dimensional torus $N \leq Sp(n+q)$. Then the Betti numbers of S depend only on n and q and are given by the following formula*

$$b_{2k} = \dim H^{2k}(S, \mathbb{Q}) = \binom{q+k-1}{k}$$

for $k \leq n-1$.

Remarks. 1. Galicki and Salamon [GS] have shown that the odd Betti numbers b_{2k+1} of any $(4n-1)$ -dimensional 3-Sasakian manifold vanish for $0 \leq k \leq n-1$. Our proof reproduces this result for orbifolds satisfying the assumptions of Theorem 1. The Poincaré duality gives now the remaining Betti numbers b_p , $p \geq 2n$, of S .

Typeset by $\mathcal{A}\mathcal{M}\mathcal{S}$ - $\mathcal{T}\mathcal{E}\mathcal{X}$

2. The quotient of S by any 1-PS of $SO(3)$ is a contact Fano orbifold Z . Theorem 1 in conjunction with Theorem 2.4 in [BG] gives the Betti numbers of Z .

3. For any $n > 2$, there is a bound on q ($q \leq 2^n - n - 1$) in order for S to be smooth (see Remark 2.3).

4. The formula of Theorem 1 gives also the Betti numbers of “generic” toric hyperkähler orbifolds; see section 3.

Let us discuss some consequences of Theorem 1.

A compact 3-Sasakian manifold is *regular* if its quotient by the $SO(3)$ or $Sp(1)$ action is a (quaternionic Kähler) manifold. At present the only known regular 3-Sasakian manifolds of dimension greater than 3 are homogeneous and in 1 – 1 correspondence with simple Lie algebras [BGM2].

Galicki and Salamon [GS] have shown that the Betti numbers of a regular 3-Sasakian manifold of dimension $4n - 1$ must satisfy the following relation:

$$(*) \quad \sum_{k=1}^{n-1} k(n-k)(n-2k)b_{2k} = 0.$$

Theorem 1 shows that this relation is intimately related to S being regular:

Proposition 2. *Let S be a 3-Sasakian manifold satisfying the assumptions of Theorem 1 with $n \geq 3$. Then the Betti numbers of S satisfy the relation $(*)$ if and only if $q = 1$, i.e. S has Betti numbers of the homogeneous 3-Sasakian manifold of type A_n .*

Remark. There are smooth quotients with $q > 1$ - see Theorem 4.1 in [BD] (given as Theorem 2.2 below) or Theorem 2.14 in [BGMR].

Corollary 3. *Let S be a 3-Sasakian manifold satisfying the assumptions of Theorem 1 with $n > 1$. Then S is regular if and only if S is homogeneous.*

1. HYPERKÄHLER AND 3-SASAKIAN STRUCTURES

A $4n$ -dimensional manifold is hyperkähler if it possesses a Riemannian metric g which is Kähler with respect to three complex structures J_1, J_2, J_3 satisfying the quaternionic relations $J_1 J_2 = -J_2 J_1 = J_3$ etc. Such a manifold is automatically Ricci flat.

Instead of giving the intrinsic definition of a 3-Sasakian manifold, which can be found in [Bä,BGM1-2,GS], we simply recall that a Riemannian manifold (S, g) is 3-Sasakian if and only if the Riemannian cone $C(S) = (\mathbb{R}^+ \times S, dr^2 + r^2 g)$ is hyperkähler [Bä,BGM2]. The three Killing vector fields on S , defining the local $Sp(1)$ action, are then given by $\xi_i = J_i \frac{\partial}{\partial r}$ (we identify S with $S \times \{1\} \subset C(S)$).

To date the most powerful technique for constructing both hyperkähler and 3-Sasakian manifolds is the symplectic quotient construction, adapted to the hyperkähler setting by Hitchin, Karlhede, Lindström and Roček [HKLR], and to the 3-Sasakian setting by Boyer, Galicki and Mann [BGM2].

In the hyperkähler case we start with a hyperkähler manifold M with an isometric and triholomorphic action of a Lie group G . Each complex structure J_i gives a Kähler form ω_i and, in many cases, a moment map $\mu_i : M \rightarrow \mathfrak{g}^*$. We recall that an equivariant map μ from M to the dual of the Lie algebra of G is called a *moment map* if it satisfies $\langle d\mu(v), \rho \rangle = \omega(X_\rho, v)$, where $v \in TM$, $\rho \in \mathfrak{g}$ and X_ρ is the corresponding Hamiltonian vector field. If G is compact and acts freely on the common zero set of these moment maps, then the quotient by G of this zero set is a hyperkähler manifold.

If we start with a 3-Sasakian manifold S , whose structure is preserved by G , we can do the reduction for the hyperkähler manifold $C(S)$. The moment maps on $C(S)$ are defined only up to addition of elements in the center of \mathfrak{g}^* and for a particular choice of these elements we can obtain an induced \mathbb{R}^+ -action on the hyperkähler quotient M of $C(S)$ by G . This means that M is a Riemannian cone over a 3-Sasakian manifold.

More intrinsically, we can [BGM2] define the moment maps directly on S by the formula $\langle \mu_i(m), \rho \rangle = \frac{1}{2} \eta_i(X_\rho)$, where η_i is the 1-form dual to the Killing vector field ξ_i .

2. 3-SASAKIAN AND HYPERKÄHLER QUOTIENTS BY TORI

We shall now quickly review the hyperkähler and 3-Sasakian quotients by tori (see [BD] for more information). We consider the diagonal maximal torus T^d of the standard representation of $Sp(d)$ on \mathbb{H}^d . The three moment maps μ_1, μ_2, μ_3 corresponding to the complex structures of \mathbb{H}^d can be written as

$$(2.1a) \quad \mu_1(z, w) = \frac{1}{2} \sum_{k=1}^d (|z_k|^2 - |w_k|^2) e_k + c_1,$$

$$(2.1b) \quad (\mu_2 + \sqrt{-1}\mu_3)(z, w) = \sum_{k=1}^d (z_k w_k) e_k + c_2 + \sqrt{-1}c_3,$$

where c_1, c_2, c_3 are arbitrary constant vectors in \mathbb{R}^d .

A rational subtorus N of T^d is determined by a collection of nonzero integer vectors $\{u_1, \dots, u_d\}$ (which we shall always take to be primitive) generating \mathbb{R}^n . For then we obtain exact sequences of vector spaces

$$(2.2) \quad 0 \longrightarrow \mathfrak{n} \xrightarrow{\alpha} \mathbb{R}^d \xrightarrow{\beta} \mathbb{R}^n \longrightarrow 0,$$

$$(2.3) \quad 0 \longrightarrow \mathbb{R}^n \xrightarrow{\beta^*} \mathbb{R}^d \xrightarrow{\iota^*} \mathfrak{n}^* \longrightarrow 0,$$

where the map β sends e_i to u_i . There is a corresponding exact sequence of groups

$$(2.4) \quad 1 \rightarrow N \rightarrow T^d \rightarrow T^n \rightarrow 1.$$

The moment maps for the action of N are

$$(2.5a) \quad \mu_1(z, w) = \frac{1}{2} \sum_{k=1}^d (|z_k|^2 - |w_k|^2) \alpha_k + c_1$$

$$(2.5b) \quad (\mu_2 + \sqrt{-1}\mu_3)(z, w) = \sum_{k=1}^d (z_k w_k) \alpha_k + c_2 + \sqrt{-1}c_3.$$

The constants c_j are of the form

$$(2.5c) \quad c_j = \sum_{k=1}^d \lambda_k^j \alpha_k, \quad (j = 1, 2, 3).$$

where $\lambda_k^j \in \mathbb{R}$.

For our purposes it is enough to consider the case when $\lambda_k^2 = \lambda_k^3 = 0$ for $k = 1, \dots, d$. We then write $\lambda_k = \lambda_k^1$, $k = 1, \dots, d$, and we denote the hyperkähler quotient $\mu^{-1}(0)/N$ by $M(\underline{u}, \underline{\lambda})$ or sometimes just M .

In [BD] necessary and sufficient conditions for $M(\underline{u}, \underline{\lambda})$ to be a manifold or an orbifold were given. We shall only need the ones for an orbifold:

Theorem 2.1 [BD]. *Suppose we are given primitive integer vectors u_1, \dots, u_d generating \mathbb{R}^n and real scalars $\lambda_1, \dots, \lambda_d$ such that the hyperplanes $H_k = \{y \in \mathbb{R}^n; \langle y, u_k \rangle = \lambda_k\}$, $k = 1, \dots, d$, are distinct. Then the hyperkähler quotient $M(\underline{u}, \underline{\lambda})$ is an orbifold if and only if every $n + 1$ hyperplanes among the H_k have empty intersection. \square*

If the condition of this theorem is satisfied we refer to $M = M(\underline{u}, \underline{\lambda})$ as a *toric hyperkähler orbifold*.

If we set all λ_k equal to 0, then the hyperkähler quotient or $M(\underline{u}, \underline{0})$ is the Riemannian cone over a (usually singular) 3-Sasakian space S . Equivalently S is the 3-Sasakian quotient of the unit sphere in \mathbb{H}^d by the torus N . We have (see also [BGMR])

Theorem 2.2 [BD]. *Let $\underline{u} = (u_1, \dots, u_d) \in \mathbb{Z}^d$ be a primitive collection of vectors generating \mathbb{R}^n and let N denote the corresponding torus defined by (2.4). Then the 3-Sasakian quotient S of the unit $(4d - 1)$ -sphere by N is manifold if and only if the following two conditions hold:*

- (i) *every subset of \underline{u} with n elements is linearly independent;*
- (ii) *every subset of \underline{u} with $n - 1$ elements is a part of a \mathbb{Z} -basis of \mathbb{Z}^n .*

Condition (i) is necessary and sufficient for S to be an orbifold. \square

Remark 2.3. For $n = 2$, the vectors u_1, \dots, u_d satisfy both conditions if each of them has relatively prime coordinates and each pair of vectors u_k is linearly independent. On the other hand, if $n \geq 3$ and the vectors u_1, \dots, u_d satisfy both conditions, then $d < 2^n$. I am grateful to Krzysztof Galicki for informing me that Charles Boyer has found such a bound for $n = 3$ and to Gerd Mersmann for the following argument. Suppose there are 2^d such vectors. Then either a vector u_i has all coordinates equal to zero mod 2 or two vectors u_i, u_j are equal mod 2. In either case we obtain a subset ($\{u_i\}$ or $\{u_i, u_j\}$) which cannot be a part of a \mathbb{Z} -basis.

Finally we shall need some facts from [BD] about the topology of a toric hyperkähler orbifold $M = M(\underline{u}, \underline{\lambda})$. The hyperplanes H_k of Theorem 2.1 divide \mathbb{R}^d into a finite family of closed convex polyhedra, some unbounded. We consider the polytopal complex \mathcal{C} consisting of all bounded faces of these polyhedra. The support $|\mathcal{C}|$ of \mathcal{C} is the union of all polyhedra in \mathcal{C} . If $\phi = (\phi_1, \phi_2, \phi_3) : M \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^n \times \mathbb{R}^n \times \mathbb{R}^n$ is the induced moment map for the action of $T^n = T^d/N$ on M , then it is shown in [BD] that the compact variety

$$(2.6) \quad X = \phi^{-1}(|\mathcal{C}|, 0, 0)$$

is a deformation retract of M . The variety X is a union of toric varieties corresponding to maximal elements of \mathcal{C} and intersecting along toric subvarieties (in other words X is the support of the complex of toric varieties corresponding to the polytopal complex \mathcal{C}).

3. PROOF OF THEOREM 1

Let $d = n + q$. The idea is to consider a toric hyperkähler orbifold $M = M(\underline{u}, \underline{\lambda})$ where the vectors u_1, \dots, u_d are the ones defining the torus N and to show that the infinity of M is homeomorphic to S . Observe that the condition of Theorem 2.1 is satisfied for generic choice of scalars λ_k if the vectors u_k satisfy the condition (i) of Theorem 2.2. We shall show that $M \cup S$ is a certain quotient of the closed unit ball \bar{B} in \mathbb{H}^d .

Let s be a diffeomorphism between $[0, 1]$ and $[0, +\infty]$ with $s'(0) = 1$, and let $f(r) = s(r)/r$.

We define a ‘‘moment map’’ $\nu : \bar{B} \rightarrow \mathfrak{n}^*$ by the formula

$$(3.1) \quad \nu(q) = \frac{1}{f^2(\|q\|)} \mu(f(\|q\|)q)$$

where μ is given by (2.5). We observe that

$$(3.2) \quad \nu(q) = \mu(q) + \frac{1}{f^2(\|q\|)} c$$

where c is given by (2.5c). In particular, restricted to the unit sphere, ν is just the 3-Sasakian moment map. We denote by Σ the 0-set of ν and by Σ^0 the intersection of Σ with the open unit ball $B \subset \bar{B}$.

We observe that Σ is T^d -invariant and that Σ^0 is T^d -equivariantly homeomorphic to the 0-set of μ . Therefore the quotient Σ^0/N is T^n -equivariantly homeomorphic to $M = M(\underline{u}, \underline{\lambda})$ and the compact Hausdorff space Σ/N can be identified with $M \cup S$. Moreover, it follows from the proof of Theorem 6.5 in [BD] that the deformation $h : M \times [0, 1] \rightarrow M$, $h(m, 1) = m$, $h(M, 0) = X$, where X is given by (2.6), extends to S (it is important here that every n among the vectors u_k are independent, and, therefore, each of the unbounded n -dimensional polytopes in the complement of the hyperplanes H_k of Theorem 2.1 has an $(n - 1)$ -dimensional face at infinity). Therefore $\bar{M} = \Sigma/N$ is homotopy equivalent to X .

We have the long exact sequence of rational cohomology

$$\dots \rightarrow H_c^k(M) \rightarrow H^k(\bar{M}) \rightarrow H^k(S) \rightarrow H_c^{k+1}(M) \rightarrow \dots$$

Since M is an orbifold, and so a rational homology manifold, we can apply Poincaré duality to M and obtain $H_c^k(M) \simeq H_{4n-k}(M) \simeq H_{4n-k}(X)$. If $k < 2n$, then $H_{4n-k}(X) = 0$ and so $H^k(S) \simeq H^k(\bar{M}) \simeq H^k(X)$ for $k < 2n - 1$.

We shall now calculate the rational cohomology groups of X . In [BD] it was shown that if the complex \mathcal{C} satisfies certain technical assumption, then the usual combinatorial formula for the Betti numbers of a toric variety (cf. [Fu]) holds for X (and so for M). We shall show now that this formula holds without any further assumptions for our toric hyperkähler orbifolds $M = M(\underline{u}, \underline{\lambda})$.

Theorem 3.1. *Let $M = M(\underline{u}, \underline{\lambda})$ be a toric hyperkähler orbifold with the vectors u_k satisfying the assumption (i) of Theorem 2.2. Then $H^j(M, \mathbb{Q}) = 0$ if j is odd and*

$$(3.3) \quad b_{2k} = \dim H^{2k}(M, \mathbb{Q}) = \sum_{i=k}^n (-1)^{i-k} \binom{i}{k} d_i,$$

where d_i denotes the number of i -dimensional elements of the complex \mathcal{C} .

Proof. We observe first that both sides of (3.3) depend only on vectors u_k . Indeed, Theorem 6.1 in [BD] shows that it is so for the Betti numbers. On the other hand, since every n among of the vectors u_k are independent, the hyperplanes H_k are in general position and the number d_i depends only on d and n .

We proceed now by induction on n . Suppose that the formula (3.3) holds for $k < n$ (n may be 1). In dimension n we proceed by induction on the number d of hyperplanes H_k . The formula holds for n hyperplanes. Suppose that the formula holds for $q \leq d - 1$ hyperplanes in \mathbb{R}^n and let us consider a toric hyperkähler orbifold $M(\underline{u}, \underline{\lambda})$ corresponding to hyperplanes H_1, \dots, H_d . By the remark above we can move the hyperplane H_d until all of $|\mathcal{C}|$ lies to one side of H_d , say $|\mathcal{C}| \subset \{x; \langle x, u_d \rangle \geq \lambda_d\}$. The intersections of H_d with the H_k , $k < d$, determine a simple arrangement of hyperplanes in $H_d \simeq \mathbb{R}^{n-1}$ which gives a toric hyperkähler orbifold Y of quaternionic dimension $n - 1$. Let us denote its polytopal complex by \mathcal{E} . On the other hand the hyperplanes H_1, \dots, H_{d-1} also determine a toric hyperkähler orbifold W with a polytopal complex \mathcal{F} . By inductive assumptions, (3.3) holds both for Y and for W . We observe that, as the hyperplanes H_k are in general position and $d \geq n + 1$, every maximal element of \mathcal{C} has dimension n , and therefore every i -dimensional element of \mathcal{E} is a face of an $(i + 1)$ -dimensional element of \mathcal{C} . This implies, that if e_k (resp. f_k) denotes the number of k -dimensional faces of \mathcal{E} (resp. \mathcal{F}), then $d_0 = f_0 + e_0$ and $d_k = f_k + e_k + e_{k-1}$ for $k > 0$.

Let us now consider the neighbourhoods of $|\mathcal{E}|$ and $|\mathcal{F}|$ in $|\mathcal{C}|$ defined by $U_1 = |\mathcal{C}| \cap \{x \in \mathbb{R}^n; \langle x, u_d \rangle < \lambda_d + 2\epsilon\}$ and $U_2 = |\mathcal{C}| \cap \{x \in \mathbb{R}^n; \langle x, u_d \rangle > \lambda_d + \epsilon\}$. Then $U_1 \cap U_2$ is homeomorphic to $|\mathcal{E}| \times (0, \epsilon)$. We consider the deformation retract X of M given by (2.6). We have $X = V_1 \cup V_2$ where $V_1 = \phi_1^{-1}(U_1)$ and $V_2 = \phi_1^{-1}(U_2)$. Now, by the argument used in the proof of Theorem 6.5 in [BD], V_1 can be deformed onto the corresponding deformation retract of Y and so V_1 is homotopy equivalent to Y . Similarly V_2 is homotopy equivalent to W . Moreover $V_1 \cap V_2$ is homotopy equivalent to an S^1 -bundle P over Y (the S^1 corresponds to the 1-PS of T^n determined by the vector u_d). We now use Mayer-Vietoris and Gysin sequences which, since the odd Betti numbers of Y and W vanish, split off at each even level as

$$0 \rightarrow H^{2k-1}(P) \rightarrow H^{2k}(M) \rightarrow H^{2k}(Y) \oplus H^{2k}(W) \rightarrow H^{2k}(P) \rightarrow H^{2k+1}(M) \rightarrow 0,$$

$$0 \rightarrow H^{2k-1}(P) \rightarrow H^{2k-2}(Y) \rightarrow H^{2k}(Y) \rightarrow H^{2k}(P) \rightarrow 0.$$

The Gysin sequence implies that $H^{2k}(Y) \rightarrow H^{2k}(P)$ is surjective and so the odd cohomology of M vanishes. Moreover the even Betti numbers satisfy the relation $b_{2k}(M) = b_{2k}(W) + b_{2k}(Y) + b_{2k-1}(P) - b_{2k}(P)$ and $b_{2k}(Y) = b_{2k-2}(Y) + b_{2k}(P) -$

$b_{2k-1}(P)$. From these we deduce that $b_{2k}(M) = b_{2k}(W) + b_{2k-2}(Y)$ for $k > 0$ and $b_0(M) = b_0(W)$. We now write down the left-hand side of (3.3) using these equalities and the corresponding formulas (3.3) for W and Y and we rewrite the right-hand side of (3.3) using the formula $d_k = f_k + e_k + e_{k-1}$ ($e_{-1} = 0$). Then the equality between the two sides reduces to the following equality $\binom{i}{k-1} = -\binom{i}{k} + \binom{i+1}{k}$ which is easily checked. \square

Remark 3.2. We expect that the proof given here will carry to general toric hyperkähler orbifolds, proving Theorem 6.7 of [BD] in full generality. All there remains to be shown is that \mathcal{C} is either contained in a single hyperplane or that every maximal element of \mathcal{C} has dimension n .

In order to finish the proof of Theorem 1 we have to calculate the number d_i of i -dimensional elements of the complex \mathcal{C} and to apply the formula (3.3). As noticed above, since every n among of the vectors u_k are independent, the number d_i depends only on d and n . We use the formula 18.1.3 in [Gr] giving the number $f_i(d, n)$ of i -dimensional faces of the simple (i.e. no more than n of the hyperplanes have a nonempty intersection) arrangement \mathcal{A} of d hyperplanes in $\mathbb{R}P^n$:

$$f_i(d, n) = \binom{d}{n-i} \sum_{j=0}^i \binom{d-n-1+i}{j}.$$

The number of i -dimensional faces of the complex \mathcal{C} is the number of i -dimensional faces in the arrangement \mathcal{A} which do not meet the infinity in $\mathbb{R}P^n$. In other words

$$d_i = f_i(d, n) - f_{i-1}(d, n-1) = \binom{d}{n-i} \binom{d-n-1+i}{i}.$$

This yields

$$(3.4) \quad \dim H^{2k}(S, \mathbb{Q}) = \sum_{i=k}^n (-1)^{i-k} \binom{i}{k} \binom{q+n}{n-i} \binom{q+i-1}{i}$$

for $k \leq n-1$. We now use the simple identity

$$\binom{i}{k} \binom{q+i-1}{i} = \binom{q+i-1}{i-k} \binom{q+k-1}{k}$$

to rewrite the formula (3.4) as

$$(3.5) \quad \dim H^{2k}(S, \mathbb{Q}) = \binom{q+k-1}{k} \sum_{i=k}^n (-1)^{i-k} \binom{q+n}{n-i} \binom{q+i-1}{i-k}.$$

It remains to show that the summed expression is equal to 1 for $k \leq n - 1$. Let us denote this expression by $G(q, n, k)$ and let $F(q, n, k, i) = (-1)^{i-k} \binom{q+n}{n-i} \binom{q+i-1}{i-k}$, so that $G(q, n, k) = \sum_{k=i}^n F(q, n, k, i)$.

We observe that $F(q, n, k, i) = F(q-1, n+1, k+1, i+1)$ and therefore $G(q, n, k) = G(q-1, n+1, k+1)$. It follows that $G(q, n, k) = G(1, n+q-1, k+q-1)$. However for $q = 1$ the right-hand side of (3.5) must be 1 for $k \leq n - 1$, since the left-hand side is 1 for the homogeneous 3-Sasakian manifold of type A_n [GS]. Therefore $G(q, n, k) = G(1, n+q-1, k+q-1) = 1$ for all q and $k \leq n - 1$. This proves Theorem 1.

4. CONSEQUENCES

We shall now prove Proposition 2 and Corollary 3. The formula (*) is invariant under the symmetry $k \mapsto n - k$ and we can write it as

$$\sum_{k=1}^{[(n-1)/2]} k(n-k)(n-2k)(b_{2k} - b_{2(n-k)}) = 0.$$

To prove Proposition 2 it is enough to show that, for $q > 1$, $b_{2k} - b_{2(n-k)} < 0$ for all $1 \leq k \leq [(n-1)/2]$. By Theorem 1 this is equivalent to $\frac{(q+n-k-1)!}{(n-k)!} > \frac{(q+k-1)!}{k!}$ for $1 \leq k \leq [(n-1)/2]$. We can write both expressions as products of $q-1$ terms such that each term on the left is greater than the respective term on the right. Proposition 2 follows. For Corollary 3 we observe that Proposition 2 implies that if $n \geq 3$, then $q = 1$, and so S is the 3-Sasakian quotient of a sphere by a circle. These were analyzed in detail by Boyer, Galicki and Mann in [BGM2] and the result follows in this case from their work. For $n = 2$ it is well-known that the only compact 4-dimensional self-dual Einstein manifolds are S^4 and $\mathbb{C}P^2$ [Hi]. This proves Corollary 3 in this case.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS. I thank Simon Salamon for suggesting this problem, Krzysztof Galicki for several e-mail conversations and informing me of the results of [BGMR], and Gerd Mersmann for the argument in Remark 2.3. I also thank the Max-Planck-Institut für Mathematik for hospitality and financial support.

REFERENCES

- [Bä] Bär, C. *Real Killing spinors and holonomy*. Commun. Math. Phys. **154**, 509-521 (1993).
- [BD] R. Bielawski and A.S. Dancer *The geometry and topology of toric hyperkähler manifolds*. preprint (1996).

- [BG] C.P. Boyer, and K. Galicki *The twistor space of a 3-Sasakian manifold*. to appear in Int. J. of Math.
- [BGM1] C.P. Boyer, K. Galicki and B.M. Mann *Quaternionic reduction and Einstein manifolds*. Communications in Analysis and Geometry **1**, 229-279 (1993).
- [BGM2] C.P. Boyer, K. Galicki and B.M. Mann *The geometry and topology of 3-Sasakian manifolds*. J. Reine Angew. Math. **455**, 183-220 (1994).
- [BGMR] C.P. Boyer, K. Galicki, B.M. Mann and E.G. Rees *Compact 3-Sasakian 7-manifolds with arbitrary second Betti number*. preprint (1996).
- [Fu] W. Fulton *Introduction to toric varieties*. Ann. Math. Studies **131**, Princeton University Press, Princeton (1993).
- [GS] K. Galicki and S. Salamon *Betti numbers of 3-Sasakian manifolds*. to appear in Geom. Ded.
- [Gr] B. Grünbaum *Convex polytopes*. Interscience, London (1967).
- [Hi] N.J. Hitchin *Kählerian twistor spaces*. Proc. London Math. Soc. (3) **43**, 133-150 (1981).
- [HKLR] N.J. Hitchin, A. Karlhede, U. Lindström and M. Roček *Hyperkähler metrics and supersymmetry*. Commun. Math. Phys. **108**, 535-589 (1987).

MAX-PLANCK-INSTITUT FÜR MATHEMATIK, GOTTFRIED-CLAREN-STRASSE 26, 53225 BONN, GERMANY

E-mail address: rogerb@mpim-bonn.mpg.de