Formality of 7-dimensional 3-Sasakian manifolds

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Abstract. We prove that any simply connected compact 3-Sasakian manifold, of dimension seven, is formal if and only if its second Betti number is $b_2 < 2$. Using this result, we show a compact simply connected 7-manifold which carries a Sasaki-Einstein structure but does not admit any 3-Sasakian one.