

**The Obata first eigenvalue theorem on a seven dimensional quaternionic contact manifold**

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We give an Obata type rigidity result for the first eigenvalue of the sub-Laplacian on a compact seven dimensional quaternionic contact manifold which satisfies a Lichnerowicz-type bound on its quaternionic contact Ricci curvature and has a non-negative Paneitz P-function. In particular, under the stated conditions, the lowest possible eigenvalue of the sub-Laplacian is achieved if and only if the manifold is qc-equivalent to the standard 3-Sasakian sphere.