

CONFORMALLY FLAT RIEMANNIAN MANIFOLDS
ADMITTING A TRANSITIVE GROUP
OF ISOMETRIES

HITOSHI TAKAGI

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1. **Introduction.** In the present paper, we shall classify conformally flat Riemannian manifolds admitting a transitive group of isometries. This class of manifolds contains the homogeneous Riemannian manifolds of constant curvature classified by J. A. Wolf ([4], [5]).

Theorem A in Section 2 imposes a restriction on the local Riemannian structure of the manifold in consideration. Using Theorem A, we get Theorem B in Section 3 and Theorem C in Section 4. They give the classification together with Theorem D in Section 4.

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2. **Local structure.** Let M be a C^∞ Riemannian manifold of dimension n . On a neighborhood of a point of M , we take a field of orthonormal co-frame $\{\omega_1, \dots, \omega_n\}$. Then we have the Cartan structural equations:

$$(2.1) \quad d\omega_i = -\sum_j \omega_{ij} \wedge \omega_j, \quad \omega_{ij} + \omega_{ji} = 0$$

and

$$(2.2) \quad d\omega_{ij} = -\sum_k \omega_{ik} \wedge \omega_{kj} + \Omega_{ij},$$

where ω_{ij} and Ω_{ij} are the connection form and the curvature form respectively.

Now, we assume that M is conformally flat, that is, each point of M has a neighborhood where there exists a conformal diffeomorphism onto an open subset in a Euclidean space. Then each point of M has a coordinate neighborhood $\{U; x_1, \dots, x_n\}$ where we can choose as a $\{\omega_1, \dots, \omega_n\}$ one satisfying $\omega_i = (1/\rho)dx_i$ for each i , with certain positive C^∞ function ρ of x_1, \dots, x_n . Then, by (2.1), we have

$$(2.3) \quad \omega_{ij} = \rho_i \omega_j - \rho_j \omega_i, \quad \rho_i = \partial \rho / \partial x_i.$$

Then, by (2.2), we have

$$(2.4) \quad \Omega_{ij} = \phi_i \wedge \omega_j + \omega_i \wedge \phi_j,$$

where

$$(2.5) \quad \phi_i = \sum_j A_{ij} \omega_j, \quad A_{ij} = \rho \rho_{ij} - (1/2) \delta_{ij} (\sum_k \rho_k^2), \quad \rho_{ij} = \partial^2 \rho / \partial x_i \partial x_j.$$

And moreover, by (2.1), (2.3) and (2.5), we have

$$(2.6) \quad d\phi_i = -\sum_j \omega_{ij} \wedge \phi_j.$$

Here we express $A = (A_{ij})$ in terms of the Ricci tensor $R = (R_{ij})$ and the scalar curvature S . That is, we have

$$(2.7) \quad A_{ij} = [1/(n-2)](R_{ij} - [1/2(n-1)]S\delta_{ij}).$$

This is easily seen by the following definitions of the curvature tensors (R_{ijkl}) , (R_{ij}) and S :

$$\begin{aligned} \Omega_{ij} &= (1/2) \sum_{k,l} R_{ijkl} \omega_k \wedge \omega_l, & R_{ijkl} &= -R_{ijlk}, \\ R_{ij} &= \sum_k R_{ikjk}, & S &= \sum_i R_{ii}. \end{aligned}$$

Conversely, it is well known that every Riemannian manifold with 1-form $\phi_i = \sum_j A_{ij} \omega_j$ satisfying (2.4), (2.6) and (2.7) is conformally flat.

THEOREM A. *Let M be a connected conformally flat Riemannian manifold. If M is homogeneous, that is, M admits a transitive group of isometries, then M is isometric to certain one of the following manifolds:*

- (1) *A space of constant curvature.*
- (2) *A Riemannian manifold which is locally a product of a space of constant curvature $K(\neq 0)$ and a space of constant curvature $-K$.*
- (3) *A Riemannian manifold which is locally a product of a space of constant curvature $K(\neq 0)$ and a 1-dimensional space.*

PROOF. Assume that M is homogeneous. Then, by (2.7), the characteristic roots $\lambda_1, \dots, \lambda_n$ of the tensor field A are constant on M . Then, on some neighborhood of each point of M we can take a field of orthonormal co-frame $\{\omega_1, \dots, \omega_n\}$ satisfying $\phi_i = \lambda_i \omega_i$ for each i . Then, by (2.4), we have

$$(2.8) \quad \Omega_{ij} = (\lambda_i + \lambda_j) \omega_i \wedge \omega_j.$$

Here we put

$$(2.9) \quad (\lambda_i - \lambda_j) \omega_{ij} = \sum_k S_{ijk} \omega_k.$$

Then S_{ijk} is symmetric for all indices and hence, if $i \equiv j$, $j \equiv k$ or $k \equiv i$,

then $S_{ijk} = 0$, where $i \equiv j$ means $\lambda_i = \lambda_j$. In fact, by (2.1) and (2.6), we have $\sum_j (\lambda_i - \lambda_j)\omega_{ij} \wedge \omega_j = 0$, from which we have $S_{ijk} = S_{ikj}$. By (2.2), (2.8) and (2.9), we have

$$\begin{aligned} (\lambda_i + \lambda_j)\omega_i \wedge \omega_j &= [1/(\lambda_i - \lambda_j)] \sum_k (dS_{ijk}) \wedge \omega_k \\ &+ [1/(\lambda_i - \lambda_j)] \sum_k S_{ijk} d\omega_k \\ &+ \sum_{\substack{k(\neq i,j) \\ l,m}} [1/(\lambda_i - \lambda_k)(\lambda_k - \lambda_j)] S_{ikl} S_{kjm} \omega_l \wedge \omega_m \\ &+ \sum_{\substack{k(\equiv i),l}} [1/(\lambda_k - \lambda_j)] S_{kjl} \omega_{ik} \wedge \omega_l \\ &+ \sum_{\substack{k(\equiv j),l}} [1/(\lambda_i - \lambda_k)] S_{ikl} \omega_l \wedge \omega_{kj} \quad \text{for } i \neq j. \end{aligned}$$

Comparing the coefficients of $\omega_i \wedge \omega_j$ and taking account of the properties of S_{ijk} , we have

$$(\lambda_i + \lambda_j)/(\lambda_i - \lambda_j) = 2 \sum_{k(\neq i,j)} (S_{ijk})^2 / (\lambda_i - \lambda_j)(\lambda_k - \lambda_j)(\lambda_k - \lambda_i) \quad \text{for } i \neq j,$$

from which we have

$$\sum_{j(\neq i)} (\lambda_i + \lambda_j)/(\lambda_i - \lambda_j) = 0 \quad \text{for each } i.$$

From the last identity, we see that possible cases are only the following (a) and (b):

- (a) $\lambda_1 = \dots = \lambda_n$.
- (b) $\lambda_1 = \dots = \lambda_r = -\lambda_{r+1} = \dots = -\lambda_n \neq 0$, $1 \leq r \leq n - 1$, where we assume that $\lambda_1 \geq \dots \geq \lambda_n$.

In fact, let us assume that the case (a) does not occur. Then $\lambda_i \neq 0$ for each i . Let $\lambda^2 (> 0)$ be the minimum of $\lambda_1^2, \dots, \lambda_n^2$. Then we have

$$(\lambda + \lambda_j)/(\lambda - \lambda_j) = (\lambda^2 - \lambda_j^2)/(\lambda - \lambda_j)^2 \leq 0,$$

which shows that $\lambda_j = \pm \lambda$ for each j .

The above fact shows that $S_{ijk} = 0$ for each i, j, k , which implies that, if $i \neq j$, then $\omega_{ij} = 0$ by (2.9) and that, if $i \equiv j$, then $\Omega_{ij} = \pm 2\lambda\omega_i \wedge \omega_j$ by (2.8). This completes the proof (cf. [2], [3]).

3. Some lemmas and Theorem B. Let M be a conformally flat homogeneous Riemannian manifold and \tilde{M} be the universal covering manifold of M with the metric induced from the projection $p: \tilde{M} \rightarrow M$. Since M is complete, so is \tilde{M} . Then, by Theorem A and the decomposition theorem of de Rham, \tilde{M} is isometric to one of the following manifolds:

- (1) $M^n(K)$,
- (2) $M^r(K) \times M^{n-r}(-K)$, $K \neq 0$, $2 \leq r \leq n - 2$,
- (3) $M^{n-1}(K) \times E^1$, $K \neq 0$,

where $M^m(K)$ denotes an ordinary sphere S^m of radius $K^{-1/2}$, a Euclidean space E^m or a hyperbolic space H^m with sectional curvature K according as K is positive, zero or negative. And M is isometric to a quotient \tilde{M}/Γ , where Γ is a certain group of isometries of \tilde{M} acting freely and properly discontinuously (cf. Wolf [6]). Thus the classification is reduced to analyze the structure of Γ . So, we prepare some lemmas.

LEMMA 1. *Let M_i ($i = 1, 2$) be a connected Einstein Riemannian manifold with the metric tensor g_i , that is, the Ricci tensor R_i is written as $R_i = c_i g_i$ over M_i with constant c_i . If $c_1 \neq c_2$, then $I(M_1 \times M_2) = I(M_1) \times I(M_2)$, where $I(M_1 \times M_2)$, $I(M_1)$ and $I(M_2)$ denote the groups of all isometries of $M_1 \times M_2$, M_1 and M_2 respectively.*

PROOF. If we put $\tilde{M} = M_1 \times M_2$, then the tangent space $T_z(\tilde{M})$ at a point $z = (x, y) \in \tilde{M}$ is identified with direct sum $T_x(M_1) + T_y(M_2)$. Let R^1 be a field of symmetric endomorphism which corresponds to the Ricci tensor R of \tilde{M} , that is, $R(X, Y) = g(R^1 X, Y)$ for any tangent vectors X and Y , where g is the metric tensor of the direct product \tilde{M} . Then, $X \in T_z(\tilde{M})$ is contained in $T_x(M_1)$ (resp. $T_y(M_2)$) if and only if $R^1 X = c_1 X$ (resp. $R^1 X = c_2 X$).

Now, let $f \in I(\tilde{M})$. Then we have

$$df_z \circ R_z^1 = R_{f(z)}^1 \circ df_z \quad \text{for each } z \in \tilde{M},$$

which shows that df_z maps $T_x(M_1)$ (resp. $T_y(M_2)$) into $T_{f_1(x, y)}(M_1)$ (resp. $T_{f_2(x, y)}(M_2)$), where we put $f(z) = f(x, y) = (f_1(x, y), f_2(x, y))$. Making use of this fact, we shall show that $f_1(x, y)$ (resp. $f_2(x, y)$) does not depend on y (resp. x) which completes the proof. Let $\{x_1, \dots, x_r, y_1, \dots, y_s\}$ be a coordinate system on a neighborhood $U_x \times V_y$ of \tilde{M} at $z = (x, y)$ such that $\{x_1, \dots, x_r\}$ and $\{y_1, \dots, y_s\}$ are coordinate systems on U_x and V_y respectively. Let $\{u_1, \dots, u_r, v_1, \dots, v_s\}$ be a coordinate system on a neighborhood $U_{f_1(x, y)} \times V_{f_2(x, y)}$ of \tilde{M} at $f(z) = (f_1(x, y), f_2(x, y))$ such that $\{u_1, \dots, u_r\}$ and $\{v_1, \dots, v_s\}$ are coordinate systems on $U_{f_1(x, y)}$ and $V_{f_2(x, y)}$ respectively. Let f be represented locally by the functions,

$$\begin{cases} u_i = f_{1i}(x_1, \dots, x_r, y_1, \dots, y_s) & (i = 1, \dots, r) \\ v_i = f_{2i}(x_1, \dots, x_r, y_1, \dots, y_s) & (i = 1, \dots, s) \end{cases}$$

Since $df(\partial/\partial x_i) \in T(M_1)$ and $df(\partial/\partial y_i) \in T(M_2)$, we have

$$\partial f_{1i} / \partial y_j = 0 \quad \text{for } i = 1, \dots, r; j = 1, \dots, s$$

and

$$\partial f_{2i} / \partial x_j = 0 \quad \text{for } i = 1, \dots, s; j = 1, \dots, r,$$

that is,

$$\begin{cases} u_i = f_{1i}(x_1, \dots, x_r) & \text{for } i = 1, \dots, r \\ v_i = f_{2i}(y_1, \dots, y_s) & \text{for } i = 1, \dots, s. \end{cases}$$

This means that $f_1(x, y) = f_1(x, y')$ (resp. $f_2(x, y) = f_2(x', y)$), if y is sufficiently near to y' (resp. x is sufficiently near to x'). Since M_2 (resp. M_1) is connected, $f_1(x, y) = f_1(x, y')$ (resp. $f_2(x, y) = f_2(x', y)$) for any pair y and y' of M_2 (resp. for any pair x and x' of M_1). q.e.d.

Let γ be an isometry of a metric space N with distance function d . We say that γ is a Clifford translation if $d(x, \gamma(x)) = d(y, \gamma(y))$ for each pair of points x and y of N .

LEMMA 2. *Let M_1 and M_2 be complete Riemannian manifolds. Let α and β be isometries of M_1 and M_2 respectively. Then $\gamma = (\alpha, \beta)$ is a Clifford translation on $M_1 \times M_2$ if and only if α and β are Clifford translations on M_1 and M_2 respectively.*

PROOF. Let (x, y) and (u, v) be points of $M_1 \times M_2$. Then, as easily seen, the following identity of Pythagoras is valid:

$$[d((x, y), (u, v))]^2 = [d(x, u)]^2 + [d(y, v)]^2,$$

where d denotes the distance functions of M_1, M_2 and $M_1 \times M_2$. Now the lemma is evident.

LEMMA 3. (cf. Wolf [6]) *Let M and \tilde{M} be Riemannian manifolds and let $M = \tilde{M}/\Gamma$, where Γ is a group of isometries of \tilde{M} acting freely and properly discontinuously. Let G be the centralizer of Γ in the group $I(\tilde{M})$ of all isometries of \tilde{M} . Then M is homogeneous if and only if G is transitive on \tilde{M} . And if M is homogeneous, then every element of Γ is a Clifford translation of \tilde{M} .*

THEOREM B. *Let M be a connected conformally flat homogeneous Riemannian manifold. Then M is isometric to one of the following manifolds:*

- (I) *A homogeneous space of constant curvature.*
- (II) *A direct product of a homogeneous space of constant curvature $K(>0)$ and a homogeneous space of constant curvature $-K$.*
- (III) *A direct product of a homogeneous space of constant curvature $-K(<0)$ and a 1-dimensional homogeneous space.*
- (IV) *A homogeneous Riemannian manifold which is locally a product of a space of constant curvature $K(>0)$ and a 1-dimensional space.*

PROOF. Since the only Clifford translation of H^m is the identity

transformation 1 (cf. Wolf [6]), every Clifford translation of $H^{n-r} \times S^r$ or $H^{n-1} \times E^1$ must be of the form (1, β), by Lemma 1 and Lemma 2. Now this proves the theorem by Lemma 3. q.e.d.

Thus the only problem left to us is to check up the space of the form $(S^{n-1} \times E^1)/\Gamma$.

4. $(S^{n-1} \times E^1)/\Gamma$. S^{n-1} is considered as the set of vectors of norm $K^{-1/2}$ in a Euclidean vector space R^n . Then $I(S^{n-1})$ is the orthogonal group $O(n)$. The group of all Clifford translations of E^1 is identified with the additive group R . The natural projections $I(S^{n-1}) \times I(E^1) \rightarrow I(S^{n-1})$ and $I(S^{n-1}) \times I(E^1) \rightarrow I(E^1)$ are denoted by p and q respectively.

LEMMA 4. *Let $(S^{n-1} \times E^1)/\Gamma$ be homogeneous. Then $p(\Gamma)$ is contained in one of the following closed subgroups (1), (2) and (3) of $O(n)$, according as $n = 2m + 1$, $n = 2m$ (m : odd) or $n = 4m$:*

$$(1) \quad \{\pm E\},$$

$$(2) \quad \{aE + bI; a^2 + b^2 = 1, a, b \in R\},$$

$$(3) \quad \{aE + bI + cJ + dK; a^2 + b^2 + c^2 + d^2 = 1, a, b, c, d \in R\},$$

where E is the identity transformation of R^n and I, J, K are elements of $O(n)$ satisfying the conditions, $I^2 = J^2 = K^2 = -E$, $IJ = -JI = K$, $JK = -KJ = I$, $KI = -IK = J$.

PROOF. Let $(S^{n-1} \times E^1)/\Gamma$ be homogeneous. Then by Lemma 3, the centralizer G of Γ in $I(S^{n-1} \times E^1) = I(S^{n-1}) \times I(E^1)$ is transitive on $S^{n-1} \times E^1$. Then the group $p(G)$ is the centralizer of $p(\Gamma)$ in $O(n)$ and it is transitive on S^{n-1} . In particular, R^n has no $p(G)$ -invariant linear subspace. Then, every element A of the centralizer F of $p(G)$ in the algebra of all linear transformations of R^n is written as $A = aE$ or $A = aE + bI$, where $b \neq 0$ and I is a linear transformations of R^n satisfying $I^2 = -E$ (cf. p. 277 [1]). It should be noted that, if an element of the form $aE + bI$ ($b \neq 0$) is contained in $O(n)$, then $a^2 + b^2 = 1$ and $I \in O(n)$. In fact, let $aE + bI \in O(n)$. Then we have $aE - bI = (a^2 + b^2)(aE + bI)$ and $aE - b^tI = (a^2 + b^2)(aE + bI)$, which implies that $a^2 + b^2 = 1$ and $^tI = -I$.

By definition of F , $p(\Gamma) \subset F$. Thus, if n is odd, then $F = \{aE; a \in R\}$ and hence $p(\Gamma) \subset \{\pm E\}$.

Now, let n be even. If $p(\Gamma)$ contains an element of the form $aE + bI$ ($b \neq 0$), then $I \in O(n)$ and $F \supset C$, where $C = \{aE + bI; a, b \in R\}$. C is written as follows; $C = \{A \in F; AI = IA\}$. In fact, let A be an element of F satisfying $AI = IA$. Since $A \in F$, A is of the form $aE + bL$, where $L^2 = -E$. Hence, if $b \neq 0$, then $IL = LI$. It is sufficient to show

that $L = I$ or $L = -I$. So we show that $\mathbf{R}^n = W_1 + W_2$ (direct sum), where $W_1 = \{v \in \mathbf{R}^n; Iv = Lv\}$ and $W_2 = \{v \in \mathbf{R}^n; Iv = -Lv\}$. Clearly, $W_1 \cap W_2 = \{0\}$. Every $v \in \mathbf{R}^n$ is of the form $w_1 + w_2$ with $w_1 \in W_1$ and $w_2 \in W_2$ by setting $w_1 = (1/2)(v - ILv)$ and $w_2 = (1/2)(v + ILv)$. Since $I, L \in \mathbf{F}$, W_1 and W_2 are invariant by $p(\Gamma)$, which implies that $L = I$ or $-I$.

Next we assume that $p(\Gamma) \not\subset C$. And we take an element A of $p(\Gamma)$ such that $A \notin C$. If we put $B = A + IAI$, then $B \notin C$ and $B^2 \in C$, because $BI = -IB$, $B^2I = IB^2$ and $AI \neq IA$. On the other hand, B may be written as $B = cE + dJ$, where $J^2 = -E$, because $B \in \mathbf{F}$. Since $B \notin C$ and $B^2 \in C$, then $c = 0$ and $d \neq 0$. We show that $J \in O(n)$. Since $A \in \mathbf{F} \cap O(n)$, A is of the form $aE + bL$, where $L^2 = -E$ and ${}^tL = -L$. Then $B = b(L + ILI)$, which implies that ${}^tB = -B$ and hence ${}^tJ = -J$. Here, we put $D = \{(aE + bI)J; a, b \in \mathbf{R}\}$. Then $D = \{A \in \mathbf{F}; AI = -IA\}$. For, if $A \in \mathbf{F}$ satisfies $AI = -IA$, then $AJ \in C$, that is, AJ is written as $AJ = -aE - bI$ and hence $A = (aE + bI)J$. Now we show that $\mathbf{F} = C + D$ (direct sum). Clearly, $C \cap D = \{0\}$. Every $A \in \mathbf{F}$ is of the form $C + D$ with $C \in C$ and $D \in D$ by setting $C = (1/2)(A - IAI)$ and $D = (1/2)(A + IAI)$.

If we put $K = IJ$, then $K \in O(n)$ and the I, J and K satisfy the conditions stated in this lemma. And $p(\Gamma) \subset (C + D) \cap O(n)$. Of course, if $p(\Gamma) \not\subset C$, then $n = 4m$. q.e.d.

The groups (1), (2) and (3) in Lemma 4 are isomorphic to $\{\pm 1\}$, S^1 and $Spin(3)$ respectively. Hereafter, we mean these groups as closed subgroups of $O(n)$ acting S^{n-1} by the above fashion.

THEOREM C. $(S^{n-1} \times E^1)/\Gamma$ is homogeneous if and only if Γ is a discrete subgroup of $\{\pm 1\} \times \mathbf{R}$, $S^1 \times \mathbf{R}$ or $Spin(3) \times \mathbf{R}$ according as $n = 2m + 1$, $n = 2m$ (m : odd) or $n = 4m$.

PROOF. Let $(S^{n-1} \times E^1)/\Gamma$ be homogeneous. Then $p(\Gamma)$ is contained in $\{\pm 1\}$, S^1 or $Spin(3)$ by Lemma 4 and $q(\Gamma) \subset \mathbf{R}$ by Lemma 2 and Lemma 3. And moreover Γ is discrete in $O(n) \times I(E^1)$, since the action of Γ is free and discontinuous (cf. [1]). Conversely, let Γ be a discrete subgroup of $\{\pm 1\} \times \mathbf{R}$, $S^1 \times \mathbf{R}$ or $Spin(3) \times \mathbf{R}$. Then the centralizer G of Γ in $O(n) \times I(E^1)$ actually contains $O(n) \times \mathbf{R}$, $U(m) \times \mathbf{R}$ or $Sp(m) \times \mathbf{R}$. In particular G is transitive on $S^{n-1} \times E^1$. By the way of action, Γ acts freely. Since $S^{n-1} \times E^1$ is a homogeneous space and the isotropy group is compact, the discrete subgroup Γ of $I(S^{n-1} \times E^1)$ acts on $S^{n-1} \times E^1$ properly discontinuously (cf. [1]). q.e.d.

THEOREM D. Let H be one of the groups $\{\pm 1\}$, S^1 and $Spin(3)$. Then a discrete subgroup Γ of $H \times \mathbf{R}$ is one of the following forms:

(1) $\Gamma_1 \times \{0\}$,

(2) A group which is semi-direct product of the infinite cyclic group $\langle(\alpha, \beta)\rangle$ generated by (α, β) and $\Gamma_1 \times \{0\}$, where Γ_1 is a finite subgroup of H , α an element of the normalizer of Γ_1 in H and $\beta(\neq 0) \in \mathbf{R}$.

PROOF. First, the projection $q(\Gamma)$ is a discrete subgroup of \mathbf{R} and hence it is the infinite cyclic group $\langle\beta\rangle$ generated by an element $\beta(\neq 0) \in \mathbf{R}$ or $\{0\}$. If $q(\Gamma) = \{0\}$, then Γ is a discrete subgroup of compact group $H \times \{0\}$ and hence Γ is of the form (1). If $q(\Gamma) = \langle\beta\rangle$, then $q^{-1}(k\beta) \cap \Gamma$ ($k \in \mathbf{Z}$) is a finite set and the number of elements of the set does not depend on k . In fact, we have a one to one correspondence between the finite group $q^{-1}(0) \cap \Gamma$ and the set $q^{-1}(k\beta) \cap \Gamma$, that is, $(\gamma, k\beta)$ maps $(\alpha_i, 0) \in q^{-1}(0) \cap \Gamma$ to $(\gamma\alpha_i, k\beta) \in q^{-1}(k\beta) \cap \Gamma$, where $(\gamma, k\beta)$ is an arbitrary fixed element of $q^{-1}(k\beta) \cap \Gamma$. Thus, taking an element $(\alpha, \beta) \in q^{-1}(\beta) \cap \Gamma$, Γ may be written as $\Gamma = \bigcup_{k \in \mathbf{Z}} (\alpha^k, k\beta)(\Gamma_1 \times \{0\})$. For Γ to be closed with respect to the compositions of $H \times \mathbf{R}$, α must be contained in the normalizer of Γ_1 in H . q.e.d.

REMARK 1. The finite subgroups of H are completely classified by Wolf ([4], [5]).

REMARK 2. The classification for the case that the dimension of M is equal to 1 or 2 is well known.

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COLLEGE OF GENERAL EDUCATION
TÔHOKU UNIVERSITY
SENDAI, JAPAN