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# On $(\theta, \theta)$ -Derivations in Semiprime Rings

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#### Abstract

The main objective of the present paper is to prove the following result: let **m** and **n** be positive integers with  $m + n \neq 0$ , and let **R** be an (m + n + 2)! torsion free semiprime ring with identity element. Let  $\theta$  be an automorphism of **R**. Suppose there exists an additive mapping  $D: \mathbb{R} \to \mathbb{R}$  such that  $D(x^{m+n+1}) = (m + n + 1) \theta(x^m) D(x) \theta(x^n)$  for all  $x \in \mathbb{R}$ , then **D** is a  $(\theta, \theta)$ derivation on **R**.

**Keywords:** Semiprime rings,  $(\theta, \theta)$ -derivation, nth power property, Jordan derivation, Commuting maps.

## **1** Introduction

This research has been motivated by the work of Herstein [5], and Bridges and Bergen [4]. Throughout, **R** designates an associative ring with center  $Z(\mathbf{R})$ . Let  $\theta$ and  $\phi$  be endomorphisms of **R**. An additive mapping  $d: \mathbf{R} \to \mathbf{R}$  is called a  $(\theta, \phi)$  – derivation if  $d(xy) = d(x)\theta(y) + \phi(x)d(y)$  for all  $x, y \in \mathbf{R}$ . If 1 denotes the identity mapping on **R**, then a  $(\theta, 1)$  –derivation is called simply a  $\theta$  –derivation , a 1-derivation is an ordinary derivation. An additive mapping  $\phi: \mathbf{R} \to \mathbf{R}$  is called a Jordan  $(\theta, \phi)$  –derivation if  $d(x^2) = d(x)\theta(x) + \phi(x)d(x)$ for all  $x \in \mathbf{R}$ . Jordan  $\theta$  – derivations and Jordan derivations are defined analogously. There do exist equivalent conditions of a ring R to be called prime, the basic one is that if  $aRb = (0), a, b \in R$ , implies that a = 0 or b = 0. A ring R is called a semiprime ring if  $aRa = 0, a \in R$  implies that  $a \in R$ .

A classical result due to Herstein [5] states that every Jordan derivation of prime rings of characteristics not 2 is a derivation. In [1], Bresar and Vukman presented a brief proof of Herstein's result. This result was extended to 2-torsion free semiprime ring in [6]. Further, the above mentioned result was generalized by Bresar and Vukman [2] for Jordan  $(\theta, \phi)$  -derivations in the setting of prime rings. It is straightforward to check that if **d** is a derivation of **R** and if n > 1 is any integer, then

$$d(x^n) = \sum_{j=1}^n x^{j-1} d(x) x^{n-j}$$

for any  $x \in R$  where  $x^0 r = r = rx^0$  for any  $x \in R$ . This is known as *nth power* property. Assuming only that  $d: R \to R$  is additive and satisfies the *nth power* property, must d be a derivation? When n = 2, the *nth power property* makes d a Jordan derivation. The result for arbitrary n was proven by Bridges and Bergen in [4] when R is a prime ring with identity and when char R > n or is zero. The author together with Daif [8] extended Bridges' result to nth  $-(\theta, \phi)$  power property

$$d(x^{n}) = \sum_{j=1}^{n} (\theta(x))^{j-1} d(x) (\phi(x))^{n-j}$$

for all  $x \in R$  in a semiprime ring. In the year 2007, Lanski [7] generalized Bridges' result to  $(\theta, \phi)$  – generalized derivations in semiprime rings.

## 2 The Results

Another perspective on the derivation of  $x^{n}$  in some rings is to consider some identities on an additive map  $D: \mathbb{R} \to \mathbb{R}$ . It is our aim in this paper to prove the following result.

**Theorem 1:** Let  $m \ge 0, n \ge 0$ , and  $m + n \ne 0$  be some fixed integers, and let R be an (m + n + 2)! - torston free semiprime ring with identity e. Let  $\theta$  be an automorphism of R. Suppose there exists an additive mapping  $D: R \rightarrow R$  such that

$$D(x^{m+n+1}) = (m+n+1)\theta(x^m)D(x)\theta(x^n)$$

is fulfilled for all  $x \in \mathbb{R}$ . In this case, **D** is a  $(\theta, \theta)$  -derivation on  $\mathbb{R}$ .

Let us discuss in some more detail about background of the result mentioned above. An additive mapping  $D: R \to R$  is called a left derivation if D(xy) = xD(y) + yD(x) holds for all pairs  $x, y \in R$ , and is called a left Jordan derivation in case

$$D(x^2) = 2xD(x)$$

is fulfilled for all  $x \in R$ . The concept of left derivations and left Jordan derivations have been introduced by Bresar and Vukman [3]. Bresar and Vukman [3] have proved that there are no nonzero left Jordan derivation on a noncommutative prime ring R of characteristic different from two and three. In [10], Vukman has established that any left Jordan derivation which maps a 2-torsion free semiprime ring R into itself, is a derivation which maps R into Z(R). In [9], Vukman has also proved the following result. Let R be a noncommutative prime ring with the identity element and of characteristic different from two and three, and let  $D: R \to R$  be an additive mapping satisfying the relation

$$D(x^3) = 3xD(x)x$$

for all  $x \in R$ . In this case D = 0. The relations mentioned above lead to the following result proved by Vukman and Ulbl [11]. Let  $m \ge 0, n \ge 0$ , and  $m + n \ne 0$  be fixed integers. Let R be an (m + n + 2)! – torsion free semiprime ring with identity element. Suppose there exists an additive mapping  $D: R \rightarrow R$  such that

$$D(x^{m+n+1}) = (m+n+1)x^m D(x)x^n$$

is fulfilled for all  $x \in R$ . In this case, D is a derivation which maps R into its center. In case R is a noncommutative prime ring we have D = 0. Theorem 1 is in the spirit of the result we have just mentioned above. In order to prove Theorem 1, we need the following results.

**Theorem 2 [11, Theorem 4]:** Let  $\mathbb{R}$  be a 2-torsion free semiprime ring. Suppose that an additive mapping  $F: \mathbb{R} \to \mathbb{R}$  satisfies [[F(x), x], x] = 0 for all  $x \in \mathbb{R}$ . Then, [F(x), x] = 0 holds for all  $x \in \mathbb{R}$ .

**Theorem 3:** Let  $\mathbb{R}$  be a 2-torsion free semiprime ring. Let  $\theta$  be an automorphism of  $\mathbb{R}$ . Suppose that an additive mapping  $\mathbb{F}: \mathbb{R} \to \mathbb{R}$  satisfies

 $[[F(x), \theta(x)], \theta(x)] = 0 \text{ for all } x \in R.$ 

Then  $[F(x), \theta(x)] = 0$  holds for all  $\in \mathbb{R}$ , i.e. F is  $\theta$  - commuting.

**Proof:** Given that  $\begin{bmatrix} [F(x), \theta(x)], \theta(x) \end{bmatrix} = 0$ , for all  $x \in \mathbb{R}$ . Since  $\theta$  is an automorphism  $\theta^{-1}$  is also an automorphism and hence

 $\theta^{-1}([F(x),\theta(x)],\theta(x)]) = 0$ . This yields that  $[[\theta^{-1}F(x),x],x] = 0$ . But if F and  $\theta$  are additive, then  $\theta^{-1}F$  is also additive mapping and hence by Theorem 2,  $[\theta^{-1}F(x),x] = 0$  for all  $x \in R$ . This implies that  $[F(x),\theta(x)] = 0$  for all  $x \in R$ .

Proof of Theorem 1: By the hypothesis, we have

$$D(x^{m+n+1}) = (m+n+1) \ \theta(x^m) D(x) \theta(x^n), \text{ for all } x \in \mathbb{R}.$$
(1)

Replacing x by e in (1), we get

$$D(e) = 0 \tag{2}$$

where e denotes the identity element. Putting x + e for x in the relation (1) and using (2), we obtain

$$\sum_{i=0}^{m+n+1} \binom{m+n+1}{i} D\left(x^{m+n+1-i}\right) = (m+n+1)\left(\sum_{i=0}^{m} \binom{m}{i} \theta\left(x^{m-i}\right)\right) D(x)\left(\sum_{i=0}^{n} \binom{n}{i} \theta\left(x^{n-i}\right)\right), \forall x \in \mathbb{R}.$$
(3)

Using (1) and collecting together terms of (3) involving the same number of factors of  $\boldsymbol{e}$ , we obtain

$$\sum_{i=0}^{m+n} f_i(\theta(x), e) = 0 \quad for \quad all \quad x \in \mathbb{R}$$

$$(4)$$

where  $f_t(\theta(x), e)$  stands for the expression of terms involving t factors of e.

Replacing x by  $x + 2e, x + 3e, \dots, x + (m + n)e$  in turn in (1) and expressing the resulting system of m + n homogeneous equations, we say that the coefficient matrix of the system is a Vander Monde matrix

$$\begin{pmatrix} 1 & 1 & \cdots & 1 \\ 2 & 2^2 & \cdots & 2^{m+n} \\ \vdots & \vdots & & \vdots \\ m+n & (m+n)^2 & \dots & (m+n)^{m+n} \end{pmatrix}.$$
 (5)

Since the determinant of the matrix is different from zero, it follows that the system has only a trivial solution. In particular, we have

$$\begin{aligned} f_{m+n-1}(\theta(x), e) &= \\ \binom{m+n+1}{m+n-1} D(x^2) - \\ (m+n+1) \left( \binom{m}{m-1} \binom{n}{n} \theta(x) D(x) + \\ \binom{m}{m} \binom{n}{n-1} D(x) \theta(x) \right) &= 0 \quad for \ all \ x \in \mathbb{R}. \end{aligned}$$

$$(6)$$

.

And

$$f_{m+n-2}(x,e) = \binom{m+n+1}{m+n-2} D(x^3) - (m+n+1) \left(\binom{m}{m-2}\binom{n}{n} \theta(x^2) D(x) + \binom{m}{m-1}\binom{n}{n-1} \theta(x) D(x) \theta(x) + \binom{m}{m}\binom{n}{n-2} D(x) \theta(x^2) \right) = 0, \ \forall \ x \in \mathbb{R}$$
(7)

Since **R** is an (m + n + 2)! – torsion free ring, the above equations reduce to:

$$(m+n)D(x^2) = 2m\theta(x)D(x) + 2nD(x)\theta(x), \quad \forall x \in \mathbb{R}.$$
(8)

And

$$(m+n)(m+n-1)D(x^{3}) = 3m(m-1)\theta(x^{2})D(x) + 6mn\theta(x)D(x)\theta(x) + 3n(n-1)D(x)\theta(x^{2}), \quad \forall x \in \mathbb{R}.$$
(9)

Now, substituting x + y for x in (8), we get

$$(m+n)D(xy+yx) = 2m\theta(x)D(y) + 2m\theta(y)D(x) + 2nD(x)\theta(y) + 2nD(y)\theta(x), \quad \forall x,y \in \mathbb{R}$$
(10)

Putting  $y = (m + n)x^2$  in the relation above, we obtain

$$(m+n)^2 D(x^3) = m(m+n)\theta(x) D(x^2) + m(m+n)\theta(x^2) D(x) + n(m+n)D(x)\theta(x^2) + n(m+n) D(x^2) \theta(x), x \in \mathbb{R}.$$
 (11)

According to (8), the above relation reduces to

$$(m+n)^2 D(x^3) = (3m^2 + mn)\theta(x)^2 D(x) + 4mn \ \theta(x)D(x)\theta(x) + (3n^2 + mn)D(x)\theta(x)^2, \text{ for all } x \in \mathbb{R}.$$
(12)

Subtracting (9) from (12), we obtain

$$(m+n)D(x^3) = m(n+3)\theta(x^2) D(x) - 2mn\theta(x)D(x) \theta(x) +n(m+3) D(x) \theta(x^2), \forall x \in R.$$
(13)

From the above relation, we conclude that

$$(m+n)^2 D(x^3) = (m+n)m(n+3)\theta(x^2) D(x) - 2(m+n)mn \quad \theta(x)D(x)\theta(x) + (m+n)n \quad (m+3) D(x)\theta(x^2) \quad for \ all \ x \in R.$$
(14)

Subtracting (14) from (12), we obtain

$$mn(m+n+2)\theta(x^{2})D(x) - 2mn(m+n+2)\theta(x)D(x)\theta(x) + mn(m+n+2)D(x)\theta(x^{2}) = 0 for all x \in R.$$
(15)

Since R is an (m + n + 2)! – torsion free ring, the above relation reduces to

$$D(x)\theta(x^2) + \theta(x^2)D(x) - 2\theta(x)D(x)\theta(x) = 0 \text{ for all } x \in \mathbb{R}$$
(16)

This can be written in the form

$$\left[ \left[ D(x), \theta(x) \right], \theta(x) \right] = 0 \text{ for all } x \in \mathbb{R}.$$
(17)

In view of Theorem 3, we are forced to conclude that

$$[D(x), \theta(x)] = 0 \text{ for all } x \in \mathbb{R}.$$
(18)

This means D is  $\theta$  - commuting on R which makes it possible to replace  $D(x)\theta(x)$  in (8) by  $\theta(x)D(x)$ . The relation (8) reduces to  $D(x^2) = 2\theta(x)D(x)$  for all  $x \in R$ .

Also,  $D(x^2) = D(x)\theta(x) + \theta(x)D(x)$  for all  $x \in R$ . In other words, D is  $(\theta, \theta)$  – Jordan derivation. Hence by [7, Theorem 2], D is  $(\theta, \theta)$  – derivation. This completes the proof.

**Theorem 4:** Let  $\mathbb{R}$  be a  $\mathbb{2}, m, m, m + n, and <math>|m - n| - torsion$  free semiprime ring. Let  $\theta$  be an automorphism of  $\mathbb{R}$ . Suppose  $D: \mathbb{R} \to \mathbb{R}$  is an additive mapping satisfying the relation

$$(m+n)D(xy) = 2m D(x)\theta(y) + 2n \theta(x)D(y)$$
(19)

for all  $x, y \in R$  and some integers  $m \ge 0, n \ge 0, m + n \ne 0$ . In case  $m \ne n$ , then D = 0.

**Proof:** In the relation (19), we compute the expression  $(m+n)^2 D(xyx)$  in two ways. First we obtain

$$(m+n)^{2}D(x(yx)) = 2m(m+n)D(x)\theta(y)\theta(x) + 2n(m+n)\theta(x)D(yx)$$
  
= 2m(m+n)D(x)\theta(y)\theta(x)  
+ 2n\theta(x)(2mD(y)\theta(x) + 2n\theta(y)D(x)),  
for all x, y \in R. (20)

This implies that

$$(m+n)^2 D(xyx) = 2m (m+n)D(x)\theta(y)\theta(x) + 4mn\theta(x)D(y)\theta(x) + 4n^2\theta(x)\theta(y)D(x) \text{ for all } x, y \in \mathbb{R}.$$
(21)

On the other hand, we have

$$(m+n)^{2}D((xy)x) = 2m(m+n)D(xy)\theta(x) + 2n(m+n)\theta(x)\theta(y)D(x)$$
  
= 2m (2mD(x)\theta(y) + 2n\theta(x)D(y))\theta(x)  
+ 2n(m+n)\theta(x)\theta(y)D(x), x, y \in R. (22)

Thus, we have

$$(m+n)^{2}D(xyx) = 4m^{2}D(x)\theta(y)\theta(x) + 4mn\ \theta(x)D(y)\theta(x) + 2n\ (m+n)\theta(x)\theta(y)D(x) \text{ for all } x, y \in R.$$
(23)

Subtracting the relation (21) from (23), we obtain

$$m(m-n)D(x)\theta(y)\theta(x) + n(m-n)\theta(x)\theta(y)D(x) = 0$$
(24)

Which reduces to

$$m D(x)\theta(y)\theta(x) + n\theta(x)\theta(y)D(x) = 0 \text{ for all } x, y \in R.$$
(25)

Putting yx for y in (25), we obtain

$$m D(x)\theta(y)\theta(x^{2}) + n\theta(x)\theta(y)\theta(x)D(x) = 0, \forall x, y \in R$$
(26)

Right multiplication of the relation (25) by  $\theta(x)$  gives

$$mD(x)\theta(y)\theta(x^{2}) + n\theta(x)\theta(y)D(x)\theta(x) = 0, \forall x, y \in \mathbb{R}.$$
(27)

Subtracting the relation (26) from (27), we obtain

$$n\Big(\theta(x)\theta(y)\Big(D(x)\theta(x)-\theta(x)D(x)\Big)\Big)=0 \text{ for all } x,y\in R.$$
(28)

The last relation yields that

$$\theta(x)\theta(y)[D(x),\theta(x)] = 0 \text{ for all } x, y \in \mathbb{R}.$$
(29)

Substituting D(x)y for y in (29) and using the fact that  $\theta$  is an automorphism of R, then multiplying the relation (29) by D(x) from the left and comparing the relations so obtained, we get

$$[D(x), \theta(x)]y[D(x), \theta(x)] = 0 \text{ for all } x, y \in \mathbb{R}.$$
(30)

This implies that

$$[D(x), \theta(x)] = 0 \text{ for all } x \in R.$$
(31)

Putting y = x in the relation (19) and using (31), we obtain

$$D(x^2) = 2 D(x)\theta(x)$$
 for all  $x \in R$ 

This can be written in the form

$$D(x^{2}) = D(x)\theta(x) + \theta(x)D(x) \text{ for all } x \in R.$$
(32)

In other words, **D** is a  $(\theta, \theta)$  – Jordan derivation. By [7, Theorem 2], we conclude that **D** is a  $(\theta, \theta)$  – derivation. Now, we replace D(xy) with  $D(x)\theta(y) + \theta(x)D(y)$  in the left hand side of (19), we obtain

$$D(x)\theta(y) = \theta(x)D(y) \text{ for all } x, y \in R.$$
(33)

Substituting **ZX** for **X** in (33) gives

$$D(z)\theta(x)\theta(y) = 0 \text{ for all } x, y, z \in \mathbb{R}.$$
(34)

Since  $\theta$  is an automorphism of R, so it follows D(z)xD(z) = 0 for all  $x, z \in R$ . Thus by the semiprimenss of R, we are forced to conclude that D = 0. This completes the proof.

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