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## On generalized $(\alpha, \beta)$ -derivations of semiprime rings

*Faisal Ali and Muhammad Anwar Chaudhry*

### Abstract

We investigate some properties of generalized  $(\alpha, \beta)$ -derivations on semiprime rings. Among some other results, we show that if  $g$  is a generalized  $(\alpha, \beta)$ -derivation, with associated  $(\alpha, \beta)$ -derivation  $\delta$ , on a semiprime ring  $R$  such that  $[g(x), \alpha(x)] = 0$  for all  $x \in R$ , then  $\delta(x)[y, z] = 0$  for all  $x, y, z \in R$  and  $\delta$  is central. We also show that if  $\alpha, \nu, \tau$  are endomorphisms and  $\beta, \mu$  are automorphisms of a semiprime ring  $R$  and if  $R$  has a generalized  $(\alpha, \beta)$ -derivation  $g$ , with associated  $(\alpha, \beta)$ -derivation  $\delta$ , such that  $g([\mu(x), w(y)]) = [\nu(x), w(y)]_{\alpha, \tau}$ , where  $w : R \rightarrow R$  is commutativity preserving, then  $[y, z]\delta(w(p)) = 0$  for all  $y, z, p \in R$ .

**Key Words:** Semiprime ring, derivation, generalized derivation, generalized  $(\alpha, \beta)$ -derivation.

### 1. Introduction

Throughout,  $R$  denotes a ring with centre  $Z(R)$ . We denote  $[x, y]$  for  $xy - yx$ ,  $x, y \in R$ . Let  $\sigma, \tau$  be endomorphisms of  $R$ , then for  $x, y \in R$  we write  $[x, y]_{\sigma, \tau}$  for  $x\sigma(y) - \tau(y)x$ . Obviously  $[xy, z] = x[y, z] + [x, z]y$ ,  $[x, yz] = y[x, z] + [x, y]z$ ,  $[xy, z]_{\sigma, \tau} = x[y, z]_{\sigma, \tau} + [x, \tau(z)]y = x[y, \sigma(z)] + [x, z]_{\sigma, \tau} y$  and  $[x, yz]_{\sigma, \tau} = \tau(y)[x, z]_{\sigma, \tau} + [x, y]_{\sigma, \tau}\sigma(z)$ . We shall use these identities without further mention.

The ring  $R$  is prime if  $aRb = \{0\}$  implies either  $a = 0$  or  $b = 0$ ; it is semiprime if  $aRa = \{0\}$  implies  $a = 0$ . A prime ring is obviously semiprime. An additive mapping  $\delta$  from  $R$  into itself is called a derivation if  $\delta(xy) = \delta(x)y + x\delta(y)$  for all  $x, y \in R$ . We call a mapping  $f : R \rightarrow R$  central if  $f(x) \in Z(R)$  for all  $x \in R$ . A mapping  $f : R \rightarrow R$  is called strong commutativity preserving (SCP) on a set  $S \subseteq R$  if  $[f(x), f(y)] = [x, y]$  for all  $x, y \in S$ . For more information on SCP, we refer to [5,14] and references therein. We shall denote identity mapping of  $R$  by 1.

A more general concept of  $(\alpha, \beta)$ -derivations have been extensively studied in prime and semiprime rings. They have played an important role in the solution of functional equations (see [4] and references therein). Let  $\alpha, \beta$  be mappings from  $R$  into itself. An additive mapping  $\delta$  of  $R$  into itself is called an  $(\alpha, \beta)$ -derivation if  $\delta(xy) = \delta(x)\alpha(y) + \beta(x)\delta(y)$  for all  $x, y \in R$ . Of course, a  $(1, 1)$ -derivation is a derivation.

Zalar [16] introduced the concept of a centralizer in a ring. An additive mapping  $f$  from  $R$  into itself is called a left (right) centralizer if  $f(xy) = f(x)y$  ( $f(xy) = xf(y)$ ) for all  $x, y \in R$ .  $f$  is called a centralizer if

it is a left as well as a right centralizer. Recently, Daif. et al. [7] have given the notion of a left  $\theta$ -centralizer. An additive mapping  $f$  from  $R$  into itself is called a left  $\theta$ -centralizer if  $f(xy) = f(x)\theta(y)$  for all  $x, y \in R$ , where  $\theta$  is a mapping from  $R$  into itself. For more information on centralizers we refer to [1, 15] and references therein.

The notion of a generalized derivation of a ring was introduced by Brešar [3] and Hvala [12]. They have studied some properties of such derivations. An additive mapping  $g$  of  $R$  into itself is called a generalized derivation of  $R$ , with associated derivation  $\delta$ , if there is a derivation  $\delta$  of  $R$  such that  $g(xy) = g(x)y + x\delta(y)$  for all  $x, y \in R$ . For more information on generalized derivations we refer to [8, 14] and references therein.

Chang [6] introduced the notion of a generalized  $(\alpha, \beta)$ -derivation of a ring  $R$  and investigated some properties of such derivations. Let  $\alpha, \beta$  be mappings of  $R$  into itself. An additive mapping  $g$  of  $R$  into itself is called a generalized  $(\alpha, \beta)$ -derivation of  $R$ , with associated  $(\alpha, \beta)$ -derivation  $\delta$ , if there exists an  $(\alpha, \beta)$ -derivation  $\delta$  of  $R$  such that  $g(xy) = g(x)\alpha(y) + \beta(x)\delta(y)$  for all  $x, y \in R$ . Obviously this notion covers the notion of a generalized derivation (in case  $\alpha = \beta = 1$ ), notion of a derivation (in case  $g = \delta, \alpha = \beta = 1$ ), notion of a left centralizer (in case  $\delta = 0, \alpha = 1$ ), notion of  $(\alpha, \beta)$ -derivation (in case  $g = \delta$ ) and the notion of left  $\alpha$ -centralizer (in case  $\delta = 0$ ). Thus it is interesting to investigate properties of this general notion. For more properties of generalized  $(\alpha, \beta)$ -derivations we refer to [2, 9, 10, 13] and references therein.

The purpose of this paper is to investigate some more properties of generalized  $(\alpha, \beta)$ -derivations and to prove a generalization, in the setting of a semiprime ring, of the following result (Theorem A) of Jung and Park [13, Theorem 2.2 (page 103)].

**Theorem A.** *Let  $R$  be a prime ring and  $I$  a nonzero ideal of  $R$ . Let  $\alpha, \nu$ , and  $\tau$  be endomorphisms of  $R$  and  $\beta, \mu$  automorphisms of  $R$ . If  $R$  admits a generalized  $(\alpha, \beta)$ -derivation  $g$  with associated nonzero  $(\alpha, \beta)$ -derivation  $\delta$  such that  $g([\mu(x), y]) = [\nu(x), y]_{\alpha, \tau}$  for all  $x, y \in I$ , then  $R$  is commutative.*

Among some other results, we prove the following:

(i) Let  $R$  be a semiprime ring and  $\alpha, \beta$  automorphisms of  $R$ . Let  $g$  be a generalized  $(\alpha, \beta)$ -derivation, with associated  $(\alpha, \beta)$ -derivation  $\delta$ , of  $R$  such that  $[g(x), \alpha(x)] = 0$  for all  $x \in R$ , then  $\delta(x)[y, z] = 0$  for all  $x, y, z \in R$  and  $\delta$  is central.

(ii) Let  $R$  be a semiprime ring. Let  $\alpha, \nu, \tau$  be endomorphisms and  $\beta, \mu$  automorphisms of  $R$ . If  $R$  has a generalized  $(\alpha, \beta)$ -derivation  $g$ , with associated derivation  $\delta$ , such that  $g([\mu(x), w(y)]) = [\nu(x), w(y)]_{\alpha, \tau}$ , where  $w : R \rightarrow R$  is commutativity preserving, then  $\delta(w(p))[y, z] = 0$  for all  $y, z, p \in R$  and  $\delta(w(p)) \in Z(R)$  for all  $p \in R$ .

We also deduce Theorem A, when the ideal  $I$  is replaced by  $R$ , as a corollary of the result (ii).

## 2. Results

We now prove our results. First we state the following lemma which will be used in the sequel.

**Lemma 2.1** [11, Lemma 1.1.4 (page 6)]. *Suppose  $R$  is a semiprime ring and that  $a \in R$  is such that  $a[a, x] = 0$  for all  $x \in R$ . Then  $a \in Z(R)$ .*

**Theorem 2.2** *Let  $R$  be a semiprime ring and  $g$  a generalized  $(\alpha, \beta)$ -derivation of  $R$  with associated  $(\alpha, \beta)$ -*

derivation  $\delta$ , where  $\alpha$  and  $\beta$  are automorphisms of  $R$ . If  $[g(x), \alpha(x)] = 0$  for all  $x \in R$ , then  $\delta(x)[y, z] = 0$  for all  $x, y, z \in R$  and  $\delta(x) \in Z(R)$  for all  $x \in R$ .

**Proof.** By hypothesis

$$[g(x), \alpha(x)] = 0 \quad \text{for all } x \in R. \tag{1}$$

Linearizing (1), we get

$$[g(x), \alpha(y)] + [g(y), \alpha(x)] = 0 \quad \text{for all } x, y \in R. \tag{2}$$

Replacing  $y$  by  $yx$  in (2), we get  $[g(x), \alpha(yx)] + [g(yx), \alpha(x)] = 0$ . That is,  $[g(x), \alpha(y)\alpha(x)] + [g(y)\alpha(x) + \beta(y)\delta(x), \alpha(x)] = 0$ . The last equation together with (1) implies  $[g(x), \alpha(y)]\alpha(x) + [g(y), \alpha(x)]\alpha(x) + \beta(y)[\delta(x), \alpha(x)] + [\beta(y), \alpha(x)]\delta(x) = 0$ , which along with (2) gives

$$\beta(y)[\delta(x), \alpha(x)] + [\beta(y), \alpha(x)]\delta(x) = 0 \quad \text{for all } x, y \in R. \tag{3}$$

Replacing  $y$  by  $zy$  in (3), we get  $\beta(z)\beta(y)[\delta(x), \alpha(x)] + [\beta(z)\beta(y), \alpha(x)]\delta(x) = 0$ . That is,  $\beta(z)\beta(y)[\delta(x), \alpha(x)] + \beta(z)[\beta(y), \alpha(x)]\delta(x) + [\beta(z), \alpha(x)]\beta(y)\delta(x) = 0$ , which along with (3) implies

$$[\beta(z), \alpha(x)]\beta(y)\delta(x) = 0 \quad \text{for all } x, y, z \in R. \tag{4}$$

Replacing  $z$  by  $\beta^{-1}(z)$  and  $y$  by  $\beta^{-1}(y)$  in (4), we get

$$[z, \alpha(x)]y\delta(x) = 0 \quad \text{for all } x, y, z \in R. \tag{5}$$

Since  $R$  is semiprime, equality (5) implies

$$\delta(x)[z, \alpha(x)] = 0 \quad \text{for all } x, z \in R. \tag{6}$$

Linearizing (6) in  $x$  and then using (6), we get  $\delta(y)[z, \alpha(x)] + \delta(x)[z, \alpha(y)] = 0$ , which implies

$$\delta(y)[z, \alpha(x)] = -\delta(x)[z, \alpha(y)] \quad \text{for all } x, y, z \in R. \tag{7}$$

Replacing  $z$  by  $uz$  in (6) and then using (6), we get

$$\delta(x)u[z, \alpha(x)] = 0 \quad \text{for all } x, u, z \in R. \tag{8}$$

Replacing  $u$  by  $[z, \alpha(y)]u\delta(y)$  in (8), we get  $\delta(x)[z, \alpha(y)]u\delta(y)[z, \alpha(x)] = 0$ , which along with (7) and semiprimeness of  $R$  implies that

$$\delta(x)[z, \alpha(y)] = 0 \quad \text{for all } x, y, z \in R. \tag{9}$$

Replacing  $y$  by  $\alpha^{-1}(y)$  in (9), we get

$$\delta(x)[z, y] = 0 \quad \text{for all } x, y, z \in R. \tag{10}$$

From (10) and Lemma 2.1, we get  $\delta(x) \in Z(R)$  for all  $x \in R$ . □

**Corollary 2.3** *Let  $R$  be a semiprime ring and  $g : R \rightarrow R$  a generalized  $(\alpha, \beta)$ -derivation such that  $[g(x), \alpha(x)] = 0$  for all  $x \in R$ , where  $\alpha$  and  $\beta$  are automorphisms of  $R$ , then  $(g(xu) - g(x)\alpha(u)) \in Z(R)$  for all  $x, u \in R$ . If  $Z(R) = \{0\}$ , then  $g$  is a left  $\alpha$ -centralizer.*

**Proof.** From (10) we have  $\beta(x)\delta(u)[z, y] = 0$  for all  $x, u, y, z \in R$ . Since  $g(xu) - g(x)\alpha(u) = g(x)\alpha(u) + \beta(x)\delta(u) - g(x)\alpha(u) = \beta(x)\delta(u)$ , therefore,  $(g(xu) - g(x)\alpha(u))[z, y] = 0$  for all  $x, u, y, z \in R$ . By Lemma 2.1,  $(g(xu) - g(x)\alpha(u)) \in Z(R)$ . If  $Z(R) = \{0\}$ , then  $g(xu) - g(x)\alpha(u) = 0$ . That is,  $g(xu) = g(x)\alpha(u)$  for all  $x, u \in R$ . Thus  $g$  is a left  $\alpha$ -centralizer.  $\square$

**Corollary 2.4** *Let  $R$  be a semiprime ring. If  $R$  has a generalized  $(\alpha, \beta)$ -derivation  $g$  with associated  $(\alpha, \beta)$ -derivation  $\delta$ , where  $\alpha$  and  $\beta$  are automorphisms of  $R$ , such that  $[g(x), \alpha(x)] = 0$  for all  $x, y \in R$  and  $\delta$  is strong commutativity preserving, then  $R$  is commutative.*

**Proof.** Replacing  $z$  by  $uz$  in (10) and then using(10), we get

$$\delta(x)u[z, y] = 0 \quad \text{for all } x, u, y, z \in R. \tag{11}$$

Replacing  $u$  by  $\delta(y)u$  and  $z$  by  $x$  in (11), we get

$$\delta(x)\delta(y)u[x, y] = 0 \quad \text{for all } x, y \in R. \tag{12}$$

Multiplying (11) on the left by  $\delta(y)$  after replacing  $z$  by  $x$ , we get

$$\delta(y)\delta(x)u[x, y] = 0 \quad \text{for all } x, u, y \in R. \tag{13}$$

Subtracting (13) from (12), we get  $[\delta(x), \delta(y)]u[x, y] = 0$ , which along with strong commutativity preserving property of  $\delta$  and semiprimeness of  $R$  implies  $[x, y] = 0$  for all  $x, y \in R$ . Thus  $R$  is commutative.  $\square$

**Corollary 2.5** *Let  $R$  be a prime ring with generalized  $(\alpha, \beta)$ -derivation  $g$  having associated  $(\alpha, \beta)$ -derivation  $\delta$ , where  $\alpha$  and  $\beta$  are automorphisms of  $R$ . If  $[g(x), \alpha(x)] = 0$  and  $\delta \neq 0$ , then  $R$  is commutative.*

**Proof.** Proof follows from (11) and primeness of  $R$ .  $\square$

**Remark 2.6** Taking  $\alpha = \beta = 1$  in above theorem and corollaries, we get the corresponding results for generalized derivations.

**Theorem 2.7** *Let  $R$  be a semiprime ring. Let  $\alpha, \nu, \tau$  be endomorphisms and  $\beta, \mu$  automorphisms of  $R$ . If  $R$  has a generalized  $(\alpha, \beta)$ -derivation  $g$ , with associated derivation  $\delta$ , such that  $g([\mu(x), w(y)]) = [\nu(x), w(y)]_{\alpha, \tau}$ , where  $w$  is a strong commutativity preserving endomorphism of  $R$ , then  $\delta(w(p))[y, z] = 0$  for all  $y, z, p \in R$  and  $\delta(w(p)) \in Z(R)$  for all  $p \in R$ .*

**Proof.** By hypothesis

$$g([\mu(x), w(y)]) = [\nu(x), w(y)]_{\alpha, \tau}. \tag{14}$$

Replacing  $y$  by  $zy$ , we get  $g([\mu(x), w(zy)]) = [\nu(x), w(zy)]_{\alpha, \tau}$ , which implies  $g([\mu(x), w(z)w(y)]) = [\nu(x), w(z)w(y)]_{\alpha, \tau}$ . That is,

$g(w(z)[\mu(x), w(y)] + [\mu(x), w(z)]w(y)) = [\nu(x), w(z)w(y)]_{\alpha, \tau}$ . From the last relation we have  $g(w(z))\alpha[\mu(x), w(y)] + \beta(w(z))\delta[\mu(x), w(y)] + g([\mu(x), w(z)])\alpha(w(y)) + \beta[\mu(x), w(z)]\delta(w(y)) = \tau(w(z))[\nu(x), w(y)]_{\alpha, \tau} + [\nu(x), w(z)]_{\alpha, \tau}\alpha(w(y))$  which along with (14) implies

$g(w(z))\alpha[\mu(x), w(y)] + \beta(w(z))\delta[\mu(x), w(y)] + \beta[\mu(x), w(z)]\delta(w(y)) = \tau(w(z))g([\mu(x), w(y)])$ . Replacing  $x$  by  $\mu^{-1}(w(y))$  in the last equation, we get  $\beta[w(y), w(z)]\delta(w(y)) = 0$ , which implies

$$[w(y), w(z)]\beta^{-1}\delta(w(y)) = 0. \tag{15}$$

Since  $w$  is a strong commutativity preserving endomorphism, so the last equation gives

$$[y, z]\beta^{-1}\delta(w(y)) = 0. \tag{16}$$

Linearizing (16), we have  $[y + p, z]\beta^{-1}\delta(w(y + p)) = 0$ . That is,

$([y, z] + [p, z])(\beta^{-1}(\delta(w(y))) + \beta^{-1}(\delta(w(p)))) = 0$ , which along with (16) implies

$$[y, z]\beta^{-1}(\delta(w(p))) + [p, z]\beta^{-1}(\delta(w(y))) = 0. \tag{17}$$

Now replacing  $z$  by  $zr$  in (16), we get  $[y, zr]\beta^{-1}(\delta(w(y))) = 0$ . That is,  $(z[y, r] + [y, z]r)\beta^{-1}(\delta(w(y))) = 0$ , which along with (16) gives  $[y, z]r\beta^{-1}(\delta(w(y))) = 0$ . Replacing  $r$  by  $\beta^{-1}(\delta(w(p)))r(-[p, z])$  in the last equation, we get

$[y, z]\beta^{-1}(\delta(w(p)))r(-[p, z])\beta^{-1}(\delta(w(y))) = 0$ , which along with (17) gives

$[y, z]\beta^{-1}(\delta(w(p)))r[y, z]\beta^{-1}(\delta(w(p))) = 0$ . Since  $R$  is semiprime, the last equation implies  $[y, z]\beta^{-1}(\delta(w(p))) = 0$ , which gives  $[\beta(y), \beta(z)](\delta(w(p))) = 0$ . Replacing  $y$  by  $\beta^{-1}(y)$  and  $z$  by  $\beta^{-1}(z)$  in the last equation, we get

$$[y, z](\delta(w(p))) = 0. \tag{18}$$

Further, Lemma 2.1 implies  $\delta(w(p)) \in Z(R)$ . □

Now we deduce Theorem A of Jung and Park [13], when ideal  $I$  is replaced by  $R$ , as a corollary of our Theorem 2.7.

**Corollary 2.8** *Let  $R$  be a prime ring. Let  $\alpha, \nu, \tau$  be endomorphisms and  $\beta, \mu$  automorphisms of  $R$ . If  $R$  admits a generalized  $(\alpha, \beta)$ -derivation  $g$  with associated nonzero derivation  $\delta$  such that  $g([\mu(x), y]) = [\nu(x), y]_{\alpha, \tau}$ , then  $R$  is commutative.*

**Proof.** Taking  $w = 1$ , all conditions of Theorem 2.7 are satisfied. Therefore from (18), we get

$$[y, z]\delta(p) = 0 \text{ for all } x, u, y \in R. \tag{19}$$

Replacing  $z$  by  $zr$ ,  $r \in R$ , in (19) and using it, we get  $[y, z]r\delta(p) = 0$  for all  $y, z, r, p \in R$ . Since  $R$  is prime and  $\delta \neq 0$ , from the last equation, we get  $[y, z] = 0$  for all  $y, z \in R$ . Thus  $R$  is commutative. □

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