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## On near-rings with two-sided $\alpha$ -derivations

Nurcan Argac\*

### Abstract

In this paper, we introduce the notion of two-sided  $\alpha$ -derivation of a near-ring and give some generalizations of [1]. Let  $N$  be a near ring. An additive mapping  $f : N \rightarrow N$  is called an  $(\alpha, \beta)$ -derivation if there exist functions  $\alpha, \beta : N \rightarrow N$  such that  $f(xy) = f(x)\alpha(y) + \beta(x)f(y)$  for all  $x, y \in N$ . An additive mapping  $d : N \rightarrow N$  is called a two-sided  $\alpha$ -derivation if  $d$  is an  $(\alpha, 1)$ -derivation as well as a  $(1, \alpha)$ -derivation. The purpose of this paper is to prove the following two assertions: (i) Let  $N$  be a semiprime near-ring,  $I$  be a subset of  $N$  such that  $0 \in I$ ,  $IN \subseteq I$  and  $d$  be a two-sided  $\alpha$ -derivation of  $N$ . If  $d$  acts as a homomorphism on  $I$  or as an anti-homomorphism on  $I$  under certain conditions on  $\alpha$ , then  $d(I) = \{0\}$ . (ii) Let  $N$  be a prime near-ring,  $I$  be a nonzero semigroup ideal of  $N$ , and  $d$  be a  $(\alpha, 1)$ -derivation on  $N$ . If  $d + d$  is additive on  $I$ , then  $(N, +)$  is abelian.

**Key words and phrases:** Prime near-ring, semiprime near-ring,  $(\alpha, 1)$ -derivation,  $(1, \alpha)$ -derivation, two-sided  $\alpha$ -derivation

### 1. Introduction

Throughout this paper  $N$  stands for a right near-ring. An additive map  $d : N \rightarrow N$  is a derivation if  $d(xy) = xd(y) + d(x)y$  for all  $x, y \in N$  - or equivalently (cf. [8]) that  $d(xy) = d(x)y + xd(y)$  for all  $x, y \in N$ . The study of derivations of near-rings was initiated by H. E. Bell and G. Mason in 1987 [4], but thus far only a few papers on this subject in near-rings have been published (see [1], [2], [5] and [7]). According to [4], a near ring  $N$  is said to be prime if  $xNy = \{0\}$  for  $x, y \in N$  implies  $x = 0$  or  $y = 0$ , and semiprime

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if  $xNx = \{0\}$  for  $x \in N$  implies  $x = 0$ . A non empty subset  $I$  of  $N$  will be called a semigroup ideal if  $IN \subseteq I$  and  $NI \subseteq I$ .

Let  $S$  be a nonempty subset of  $N$  and  $d$  be a derivation of  $N$ . If  $d(xy) = d(x)d(y)$  or  $d(xy) = d(y)d(x)$  for all  $x, y \in S$ , then  $d$  is said to act as a homomorphism or anti-homomorphism on  $S$ , respectively. Bell and Kappe proved [3] that if  $d$  is a derivation of a semiprime ring  $R$  which is either an endomorphism or anti-endomorphism, then  $d = 0$ . They also showed that if  $d$  is a derivation of a prime ring  $R$  which acts as a homomorphism on  $I$ , where  $I$  is a nonzero right ideal, then  $d = 0$  on  $R$  these results were proved for near-rings in [1].

Now we introduce the notion of two-sided  $\alpha$ -derivation of a near-ring  $N$  as follows.

An additive mapping  $f : N \rightarrow N$  is called a  $(\alpha, \beta)$ -derivation if there exist functions  $\alpha, \beta : N \rightarrow N$  such that  $f(xy) = f(x)\alpha(y) + \beta(x)f(y)$  for all  $x, y \in N$ . An additive mapping  $d : N \rightarrow N$  is called a two-sided  $\alpha$ -derivation if  $d$  is an  $(\alpha, 1)$ -derivation as well as  $(1, \alpha)$ -derivation.

For  $\alpha = 1$ , a two-sided  $\alpha$ -derivation is of course just a derivation. In case  $N$  is a prime ring and  $d \neq 0$ , Chang ([6, Theorem 1]) has shown that  $\alpha$  must necessarily be a ring endomorphism. Now we give an example of a two-sided  $\alpha$ -derivation on a near-ring.

**Example.** Let  $N = N_1 \oplus N_2$ , where  $N_1$  is a zero-symmetric near-ring and  $N_2$  is a ring. Let  $d_1$  be any map on  $N_1$  and  $d_2$  be a right and left  $N_2$ -module map on  $N_2$  which is not a derivation. Define  $d : N \rightarrow N$  by  $d((n_1, n_2)) = (0, d_2((n_2)))$  and  $\alpha : N \rightarrow N$  by  $\alpha((n_1, n_2)) = (d_1(n_1), 0)$ . Then  $d$  is a two-sided  $\alpha$ -derivation on  $N$  but not a derivation.

## 2. The Results

We need the following lemmas.

**Lemma 1 .** *Let  $N$  be a prime near-ring and  $I$  a nonzero semigroup ideal of  $N$ . If  $u + v = v + u$  for all  $u, v \in I$ , then  $(N, +)$  is abelian.*

**Proof.** By the hypothesis, we have  $xu + yu = yu + xu$  for all  $u \in I$  and  $x, y \in N$ . Then we get  $(x + y - x + y)u = 0$  for all  $u \in I$  and  $x, y \in N$ . It means that  $(x + y - x - y)I = (x - y - x - y)NI = 0$ . Since  $I$  is a nonzero semigroup ideal we have  $x + y - x - y = 0$  for all  $x, y \in N$  by the primeness of  $N$ . Thus  $(N, +)$  is abelian.  $\square$

**Lemma 2** *Let  $N$  be a right near-ring,  $d$  a  $(\alpha, 1)$ -derivation of  $N$  and  $I$  a multiplicative semigroup of  $N$  which contains  $0$ . If  $d$  acts as an anti-homomorphism on  $I$  and  $\alpha(0) = 0$ , then  $x0 = 0$  for all  $x \in I$ .*

**Proof.** Since  $0x = 0$  for all  $x \in I$  and  $d$  acts as an anti-homomorphism on  $I$  it is clear that  $d(x)0 = 0$  for all  $x \in I$ . Taking  $x0$  instead of  $x$ , one can obtain  $d(x)\alpha(0) + x0 = 0$  for all  $x \in I$ . Thus we have  $x0 = 0$  for all  $x \in I$ .  $\square$

**Lemma 3** *Let  $N$  be a near-ring and  $I$  be a multiplicative subsemigroup of  $N$ . If  $d$  is a two-sided  $\alpha$ -derivation of  $N$  such that  $\alpha(xy) = \alpha(x)\alpha(y)$  for all  $x, y \in I$ , then*

$$n(d(x)\alpha(y) + xd(y)) = nd(x)\alpha(y) + nxd(y) \text{ for all } n, x, y \in I.$$

Furthermore, if  $\alpha(I) = I$ , then

$$n(d(x)y + \alpha(x)d(y)) = nd(x)y + n\alpha(x)d(y) \text{ for all } n, x, y \in I.$$

A proof can be given by using a similar approach to that in the proof of [ 8, Lemma 1].

**Lemma 4** . *Let  $N$  be a prime near-ring and  $I$  a nonzero semigroup ideal of  $N$ . Let  $d$  be a nonzero  $(\alpha, 1)$ -derivation on  $N$  such that  $\alpha(xy) = \alpha(x)\alpha(y)$  for all  $x, y \in I$ . If  $x \in N$  and  $xd(I) = \{0\}$ , then  $x = 0$ .*

**Proof.** Assume that  $xd(I) = 0$ . Then  $xd(uy) = 0$  for all  $y \in N, u \in I$ . Hence  $0 = x(d(u)\alpha(y) + ud(y)) = xud(y)$  for all  $y \in N, u \in I$ . Since  $I$  is a nonzero semigroup ideal and  $d$  is nonzero, it is clear that  $x = 0$  by the primeness of  $N$ .  $\square$

**Lemma 5** *Let  $N$  be a prime near-ring and  $I$  a nonzero semigroup ideal of  $N$  and  $d$  a nonzero  $(\alpha, 1)$ -derivation on  $N$ . If  $d(x + y - x - y) = 0$  for all  $x, y \in I$ , then  $(x + y - x - y)d(z) = 0$  for all  $x, y, z \in I$ .*

**Proof.** Assume that  $d(x + y - x - y) = 0$  for all  $x, y \in I$ . Let us take  $yz$  and  $xz$  instead of  $y$  and  $x$ , where  $z \in I$  respectively. Then  $0 = d((x + y - x - y)z) = d(x + y - x - y)\alpha(z) + (x + y - x - y)d(z) = (x + y - x - y)d(z)$  for all  $x, y, z \in I$ .  $\square$

**Lemma 6** *Let  $N$  be a near-ring and  $I$  a multiplicative subsemigroup of  $N$ . Let  $d$  be a  $(\alpha, 1)$ - derivation of  $N$  such that  $\alpha(xy) = \alpha(x)\alpha(y)$  for all  $x, y \in I$  and  $\alpha(I) = I$ .*

(i) *If  $d$  acts as a homomorphism on  $I$ , then*

$$d(y)xd(y) = yxd(y) = d(y)x\alpha(y) \text{ for all } x, y \in I.$$

(ii) *If  $d$  acts as an anti-homomorphism on  $I$ , then*

$$d(y)xd(y) = xyd(y) = d(y)\alpha(y)x \text{ for all } x, y \in I.$$

**Proof.** (i) Let  $d$  act as a homomorphism on  $I$ . Then

$$d(xy) = d(x)\alpha(y) + xd(y) = d(x)d(y) \quad \text{for all } x, y \in I. \quad (1)$$

Substituting  $yx$  for  $x$  in (1), we infer that

$$d(yx)\alpha(y) + yxd(y) = d(yx)d(y) = d(y)d(xy) \quad \text{for all } x, y \in I. \quad (2)$$

By Lemma 3,  $d(y)d(xy) = d(y)d(x)\alpha(y) + d(y)xd(y) = d(yx)\alpha(y) + d(y)xd(y)$ . Using this relation in (2), we get  $yxd(y) = d(y)xd(y)$ .

Similarly, taking  $yx$  instead of  $y$  in (1) we obtain

$$d(x)\alpha(yx) + xd(yx) = d(x)d(yx) = d(xy)d(x) \text{ for all } x, y \in I. \quad (3)$$

On the other hand  $d(xy)d(x) = (d(x)\alpha(y) + xd(y))d(x) = d(x)\alpha(y)d(x) + xd(y)d(x) = d(x)\alpha(y)d(x) + xd(yx)$ . Using this relation in (3) we get  $d(x)\alpha(yx) = d(x)\alpha(y)\alpha(x) =$

$d(x)\alpha(y)d(x)$ . Since  $\alpha(I) = I$  it is clear that  $d(x)wd(x) = d(x)w\alpha(x)$  for all  $x, w \in I$ .

(ii) Since  $d$  acts as an anti-homomorphism on  $I$ , we have

$$d(xy) = d(x)\alpha(y) + xd(y) = d(y)d(x) \quad \text{for all } x, y \in I. \quad (4)$$

Taking  $xy$  for  $y$  in (4), we get

$$\begin{aligned} d(x)\alpha(xy) + xd(xy) &= d(xy)d(x) \\ &= (d(x)\alpha(y) + xd(y))d(x) \\ &= d(x)\alpha(y)d(x) + xd(y)d(x) \\ &= d(x)\alpha(y)d(x) + xd(xy) \quad \text{for all } x, y \in I. \end{aligned}$$

From this relation we get  $d(x)\alpha(xy) = d(x)\alpha(y)d(x)$ . Since  $\alpha(I) = I$ , we get  $d(x)\alpha(x)y = d(x)y d(x)$  for all  $x, y \in I$ . Similarly, taking  $xy$  instead of  $x$  in (4), one can prove the relation  $d(y)xd(y) = xyd(y)$ .

□

The following theorem is a generalization of [1, Theorem].

**Theorem 1** *Let  $N$  be a semiprime near-ring and  $I$  be a subset of  $N$  such that  $0 \in I$  and  $IN \subseteq I$ . Let  $d$  be a two-sided  $\alpha$ -derivation on  $N$  such that  $\alpha(I) = I$  and  $\alpha(xy) = \alpha(x)\alpha(y)$  for all  $x, y \in I$ .*

(i) *If  $d$  acts as a homomorphism on  $I$ , then  $d(I) = \{0\}$ .*

(ii) *If  $d$  acts as an anti-homomorphism on  $I$  and  $\alpha(0) = 0$ , then  $d(I) = \{0\}$ .*

**Proof.** (i) Suppose that  $d$  acts as a homomorphism on  $I$ . By Lemma 6 we have

$$d(y)xd(y) = d(y)x\alpha(y) \quad \text{for all } x, y \in I. \quad (5)$$

Right multiplying (5) by  $d(z)$ , where  $z \in I$ , and using the hypothesis that  $d$  acts as a homomorphism on  $I$  together with Lemma 3, we obtain  $d(y)xd(y)z = 0$  for all  $x, y, z \in I$ .

Taking  $xn$  instead of  $x$ , where  $n \in N$ , we get  $d(y)xn d(y)z = 0$  for all  $x, y, z \in I$  and  $n \in N$ . In particular,  $d(y)xN d(y)x = \{0\}$ . By the semiprimeness of  $N$  we conclude that  $d(y)x = 0$ . Since  $\alpha(I) = I$ , it is clear that

$$d(y)\alpha(x) = 0 \quad \text{for all } x, y \in I. \quad (6)$$

Substituting  $yn$  for  $y$  in (6) and left-multiplying (6) by  $d(z)$ , where  $z \in I$ , we get  $d(z)d(y)n\alpha(x) + d(z)\alpha(y)d(n)\alpha(x) = 0$ . Since the second summand is zero by (6) we get  $0 = d(z)d(y)n\alpha(x) = d(zy)n\alpha(x) = d(z)\alpha(y)n\alpha(x) + zd(y)n\alpha(x) = zd(y)n\alpha(x)$ , that is  $zd(y)nx = 0$  for all  $x, y, z \in I, n \in N$ . Since  $N$  is semiprime, we have

$$zd(y) = 0 \quad \text{for all } y, z \in I. \quad (7)$$

Combining (6) and (7) shows that  $d(yz) = 0$  for all  $y, z \in I$ . In particular,  $d(xnx) = 0$  for all  $x \in I, n \in N$ ; and since  $d$  acts as a homomorphism on  $I$ , we have

$$0 = d(xn)d(x) = d(x)nd(x) + \alpha(x)d(n)d(x).$$

Since  $\alpha(I) = I$ , the second summand is zero by (7). Hence  $d(x) = 0$  for all  $x \in I$ .

(ii). Now assume that  $d$  acts as an anti-homomorphism on  $I$ . Note that  $a0 = 0$  for all  $a \in I$  by Lemma 2. According to Lemma 6 we have

$$xy d(y) = d(y)x d(y) \quad \text{for all } x, y \in I, \quad (8)$$

$$d(y)\alpha(y)x = d(y)x d(y) \quad \text{for all } x, y \in I. \quad (9)$$

Replacing  $x$  by  $x d(y)$  in (8) and using Lemma 6, we get

$$\begin{aligned} x d(y)y d(y) &= d(y)x d(y)^2 = d(y)x(d(y)\alpha(y) + y d(y)) \\ &= d(y)x d(y)\alpha(y) + d(y)xy d(y). \end{aligned} \quad (10)$$

Substituting  $xy$  for  $x$  in (8), we have

$$xy^2d(y) = d(y)xyd(y) \quad \text{for all } x, y \in I. \quad (11)$$

Right-multiplying (8) by  $\alpha(y)$ , we obtain

$$xyd(y)\alpha(y) = d(y)xd(y)\alpha(y) \quad \text{for all } x, y \in I. \quad (12)$$

Replacing  $x$  by  $y$  in (8) we get  $y^2d(y) = d(y)yd(y)$ ; and left-multiplying this relation by  $x$ , we have

$$xy^2d(y) = xd(y)yd(y) \quad \text{for all } x, y \in I. \quad (13)$$

Using (11), (12) and (13) in (10), one obtains  $xyd(y)\alpha(y) = 0$ . In particular,  $yny d(y)\alpha(y) = 0$ , where  $n \in N$ . Hence  $yd(y)\alpha(y)Ny d(y)\alpha(y) = \{0\}$ . By the semiprimeness of  $N$

$$yd(y)\alpha(y) = 0 \quad \text{for all } x, y \in I. \quad (14)$$

According to (12) we get  $d(y)xd(y)\alpha(y) = 0$ . Using this relation in (9), we have

$$d(y)\alpha(y)x\alpha(y) = 0 \quad \text{for all } x, y \in I. \quad (15)$$

Replacing  $x$  by  $xnd(y)$  in (15), we have  $d(y)\alpha(y)xd(y)\alpha(y) = d(y)\alpha(y)xnd(y)\alpha(y)x = 0$  for all  $x, y \in I, n \in N$ . Hence

$$d(y)\alpha(y)x = 0 \quad \text{for all } x, y \in I. \quad (16)$$

Using (16) in (9), we obtain that  $d(y)xd(y) = 0$ , and so we have  $d(y)xnd(y)x = 0$  for all  $x, y \in I, n \in N$ . Hence

$$d(y)x = 0 \quad \text{for all } x, y \in I. \quad (17)$$

Therefore  $xd(z)d(y)n = 0$  for all  $x, y, z \in I, n \in N$ . Thus  $0 = xd(z)(d(y)n + \alpha(y)d(n))x = xd(z)d(y)\alpha(y)d(n)x$  for all  $x, y, z \in I, n \in N$ . Since  $\alpha(I) = I$  the second summand is zero by (17). Hence  $xd(z)d(y)Nx = \{0\}$ , and so  $xd(z)d(y)Nxd(z)d(y) = \{0\}$ . By the semiprimeness of  $N$  we get  $0 = xd(z)d(y) = xd(yz)$ . Therefore  $0 = xd(y)z +$



$x\alpha(y)d(z) = x\alpha(y)d(z)$ . In particular  $0 = \alpha(y)d(z)n\alpha(y)d(z)$ . Hence  $0 = \alpha(y)d(z)$ . Recalling (17) we now have  $0 = d(xy)$  for all  $x, y \in I$ , so  $d(xn) = 0$  for all  $x \in I, n \in N$ . Thus  $0 = d(xn)d(x) = (d(x)n + \alpha(x)d(n))d(x) = d(x)nd(x) + \alpha(x)d(n)d(x) = d(x)nd(x) + \alpha(x)d(xn)$ . Since the second summand is zero, we get  $d(x)nd(x) = 0$ . Therefore  $d(x) = 0$  for all  $x \in I$ .  $\square$

**Corollary 1** *Let  $N$  be a semiprime near-ring and  $d$  a two-sided  $\alpha$ -derivation of  $N$  such that  $\alpha$  is onto and  $\alpha(xy) = \alpha(x)\alpha(y)$  for all  $x, y \in N$ .*

(i) *If  $d$  acts as a homomorphism on  $N$ , then  $d = 0$ .*

(ii) *If  $d$  acts as an anti-homomorphism on  $N$  such that  $\alpha(0) = 0$ , then  $d = 0$ .*

**Corollary 2** *Let  $N$  be a prime near-ring and  $I$  a nonzero subset of  $N$  such that  $0 \in I$  and  $IN \subseteq I$ . Let  $d$  be a two-sided  $\alpha$ -derivation on  $N$  such that  $\alpha(I) = I$  and  $\alpha(xy) = \alpha(x)\alpha(y)$  for all  $x, y \in I$ .*

(i) *If  $d$  acts as a homomorphism on  $I$ , then  $d = 0$ .*

(ii) *If  $d$  acts as an anti-homomorphism on  $I$  and  $\alpha(0) = 0$ , then  $d = 0$ .*

**Proof.** By Theorem 1, we have  $d(x) = 0$  for all  $x \in I$ . Then  $0 = d(xn) = d(x)\alpha(n) + xd(n) = xd(n)$ , and so  $xmd(n) = 0$  for all  $x \in I, n, m \in N$ . By the primeness of  $N$  we have  $x = 0$  or  $d(n) = 0$  for all  $x \in I, n \in N$ . Since  $I$  is nonzero, we have  $d(n) = 0$  for all  $n \in N$ .  $\square$

**Theorem 2 .** *Let  $N$  be a prime near-ring,  $I$  a nonzero semigroup ideal of  $N$  and  $d$  a nonzero  $(\alpha, 1)$ -derivation of  $N$  such that  $\alpha(xy) = \alpha(x)\alpha(y)$  for all  $x, y \in I$ . If  $d(x + y - x - y) = 0$  for all  $x, y \in I$ , then  $(N, +)$  is abelian.*

**Proof.** Suppose that  $d(x + y - x - y) = 0$  for all  $x, y \in I$ . Then we have  $(x + y - x - y)d(z) = 0$  for all  $x, y, z \in I$  by Lemma 5. Since  $d \neq 0$ , it is clear that  $x + y - x - y = 0$  for all  $x, y \in I$  by Lemma 4. Hence  $(N, +)$  is abelian by Lemma 1.  $\square$

**Corollary 3** . Let  $N$  be a prime near-ring,  $I$  a nonzero semigroup ideal of  $N$  and  $d$  a nonzero  $(\alpha, 1)$ -derivation of  $N$  such that  $\alpha(xy) = \alpha(x)\alpha(y)$  for all  $x, y \in I$ . If  $d + d$  is additive on  $I$ , then  $(N, +)$  is abelian.

**Proof.** Assume that  $d + d$  is an additive on  $I$ . Then

$$(d + d)(x + y) = (d + d)(x) + (d + d)(y) = d(x) + d(x) + d(y) + d(y).$$

for all  $x, y \in I$ . On the other hand,

$$(d + d)(x + y) = d(x + y) + d(x + y) = d(x) + d(y) + d(x) + d(y).$$

for all  $x, y \in I$ . The above two expressions for  $(d + d)(x + y)$  yield  $d(x) + d(y) = d(y) + d(x)$  for all  $x, y \in I$ , that is  $d(x + y - x - y) = 0$ . Then the proof is complete by Theorem 2.  $\square$

**Example.** Let  $N = N_1 \oplus N_2$ , where  $N_1$  and  $N_2$  are prime near-rings. Define  $d : N \rightarrow N$  by  $d((x, y)) = (0, y)$  and  $\alpha : N \rightarrow N$  by  $\alpha((x, y)) = (x, 0)$  for all  $(x, y) \in N$ . Then  $d$  is a two-sided  $\alpha$ -derivation on  $N$  such that  $d$  acts as a homomorphism on  $N$  and  $\alpha(xy) = \alpha(x)\alpha(y)$  for all  $x, y \in N$ . Furthermore, if  $N_2$  is commutative, then  $d$  acts as an anti-homomorphism on  $N$  and if  $N_2$  is abelian, then  $d(x + y - x - y) = 0$  for all  $x, y \in N$ . But  $d \neq 0$  and  $(N, +)$  is not abelian. Therefore the primeness condition on  $N$  in Corollary 2 and Theorem 2 cannot be omitted.

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