

ANNIHILATOR CONDITION ON POWER VALUES OF DERIVATIONS

Basudeb Dhara

*Department of Mathematics, Belda College, Belda
Paschim Medinipur 721424, India
e-mail: basu_dhara@yahoo.com*

*(Received 17 December 2010; after final revision 5 March 2011;
accepted 8 August 2011)*

Let R be a prime ring, d, δ two derivations of R , L a noncentral Lie ideal of R and $0 \neq a \in R$. The main object in this paper is to discuss the situations $a(d(x)x - x\delta(x))^n = 0$ for all $x \in L$ and $a(d(x)x - x\delta(x)) \in Z(R)$ for all $x \in L$, where $n \geq 1$ is a fixed integer.

Key words : Prime ring, derivation, extended centroid, symmetric Martindale's quotient ring.

1. INTRODUCTION

Throughout this paper, R always denotes a prime ring with center $Z(R)$, extended centroid C and Q is its symmetric Martindale's quotient ring. For $x, y \in R$, the commutator of x, y is denoted by $[x, y]$ and defined by $[x, y] = xy - yx$. The d and δ denote the derivations of R . The standard polynomial identity s_4 in four variables is defined as $s_4(x_1, x_2, x_3, x_4) = \sum_{\sigma \in S_4} (-1)^\sigma x_{\sigma(1)}x_{\sigma(2)}x_{\sigma(3)}x_{\sigma(4)}$ where $(-1)^\sigma$ is $+1$ or -1 according to σ being an even or odd permutation in symmetric group S_4 .

A derivation d is called Q -inner if it is inner induced by an element, say $q \in Q$ as an adjoint, that is, $d(x) = [q, x]$ for all $x \in R$. A derivation which is not Q -inner is called a Q -outer derivation.

A well known result proved by Posner [21], states that if the commutators $[d(x), x] \in Z(R)$ for all $x \in R$, then either $d = 0$ or R is commutative. Then many related generalizations of Posner's result have been obtained by a number of authors in literature. Posner's theorem was extended to Lie ideals in prime rings by Lee [18] and then by Lanski [15]. In [5], Carini and Filippis studied the situation in more generalized form considering power values. They proved that if $\text{char}(R) \neq 2$ and $[d(x), x]^n \in Z(R)$ for all $x \in L$, where L is a noncentral Lie ideal of R and $n \geq 1$ a fixed integer, then $d = 0$ or R satisfies s_4 . Recently, in [23], Wang and You removed the characteristic assumption on R .

On the other hand, authors generalized Posner's theorem by considering two derivations. Brešar proved in [4] that if $d(x)x - x\delta(x) \in Z(R)$ for all $x \in R$, then either $d = \delta = 0$ or R is commutative. Later Lee and Wong [19] studied the same situation of Brešar for all x in some noncentral Lie ideal L of R and obtained that either $d = \delta = 0$ or R satisfies s_4 .

There are some papers which have studied identities of derivations with annihilator conditions. In [10], Filippis proved that if $\text{char}(R) \neq 2$, $d \neq 0$ and $a \in R$ such that $a[d(x), x]^n \in Z(R)$ for all $x \in L$, where L is a noncentral Lie ideal of R and $n \geq 1$ a fixed integer, then either $a = 0$ or R satisfies s_4 . In [22], Wang proved that the same conclusion holds in case $\text{char}(R) = 2$.

Recently, Argac and Filippis [1] obtained the following result:

Let R be a prime ring with $\text{char}(R) \neq 2$, L a non-central Lie ideal of R , d, δ two derivations of R , $n \geq 1$ a fixed integer. If $(d(x)x - x\delta(x))^n = 0$ for all $x \in L$, then either $d = \delta = 0$ or R satisfies the standard identity s_4 and d, δ are inner derivations, induced respectively by the elements a and b such that $a + b \in Z(R)$.

In view of all these above results, it is natural to consider the situations $a(d(x)x - x\delta(x))^n = 0$ for all $x \in L$ and $a(d(x)x - x\delta(x)) \in Z(R)$ for all $x \in L$, where $0 \neq a \in R$ and $n \geq 1$ a fixed integer. In the present paper, we shall study these two situations removing the assumption of $\text{char}(R) \neq 2$.

Let Q be the symmetric Martindale's quotient ring of a prime ring R and C the center of Q , which is called extended centroid of R . Note that Q is also a prime ring with C a field. We denote by $T = Q *_C C\{X\}$, the free product over C of the

C -algebra Q and the free C -algebra $C\{X\}$, with X the countable set consisting of the noncommuting indeterminates x_1, x_2, \dots . The elements of T are called generalized polynomial with coefficients in Q . Nontrivial generalized polynomial means a nonzero element of T . For more details about these objects we refer to [2, 11].

Remark 1 : Let R be a prime ring and L a noncentral Lie ideal of R . If $\text{char}(R) \neq 2$, by [3, Lemma 1] there exists a nonzero ideal I of R such that $0 \neq [I, R] \subseteq L$. If $\text{char}(R) = 2$ and $\dim_C RC > 4$ i.e., $\text{char}(R) = 2$ and R does not satisfy s_4 , then by [14, Theorem 13] there exists a nonzero ideal I of R such that $0 \neq [I, R] \subseteq L$. Thus if either $\text{char}(R) \neq 2$ or R does not satisfy s_4 , then we may conclude that there exists a nonzero ideal I of R such that $[I, I] \subseteq L$.

Remark 2 : It is well known that each derivation of a prime ring R can be uniquely extended to a derivation of Q , and so any derivation of R can be defined on the whole of Q . We refer to [2, 17] for more details.

2. THE MAIN RESULTS

We begin with lemmas

Lemma 2.1 — Let R be a prime ring with extended centroid C and $a, p, q \in R$. If $a \neq 0$ such that $a(p[x_1, x_2]^2 - [x_1, x_2](p + q)[x_1, x_2] + [x_1, x_2]^2 q)^n = 0$ for all $x_1, x_2 \in R$, where $n \geq 1$ a fixed integer, then either R satisfies a nontrivial generalized polynomial identity (GPI) or $p, q \in C$.

PROOF : Assume that R does not satisfy any nontrivial GPI. If R is commutative, trivially R satisfies a nontrivial GPI which is a contradiction. So, R must be noncommutative. Let $T = Q *_C C\{X_1, X_2\}$, the free product of Q and $C\{X_1, X_2\}$, the free C -algebra in noncommuting indeterminates X_1 and X_2 . Then, since $a(p[x_1, x_2]^2 - [x_1, x_2](p + q)[x_1, x_2] + [x_1, x_2]^2 q)^n = 0$ is a GPI for R , we see that

$$a(p[X_1, X_2]^2 - [X_1, X_2](p + q)[X_1, X_2] + [X_1, X_2]^2 q)^n = 0 \quad (1)$$

in $T = Q *_C C\{X_1, X_2\}$. If $q \notin C$, then q and 1 are linearly independent over C . Thus, (1) implies

$$a(p[X_1, X_2]^2 - [X_1, X_2](p + q)[X_1, X_2] + [X_1, X_2]^2 q)^{n-1} [X_1, X_2]^2 q = 0 \quad (2)$$

in T and then by the same argument, we obtain $a([X_1, X_2]^2 q)^n = 0$ in T implying $q = 0$, since $a \neq 0$, a contradiction. Therefore, we conclude that $q \in C$ and hence (1) reduces to

$$a((p[X_1, X_2] - [X_1, X_2]p)[X_1, X_2])^n = 0 \quad (3)$$

in T . Assuming $Y = [X_1, X_2]$, (3) becomes

$$a((pY - Yp)Y)^{n-1}(pY - Yp)Y = 0. \quad (4)$$

Let $p \notin C$. Then p and 1 are linearly C -independent and hence (4) yields $a((pY - Yp)Y)^{n-1}YpY = 0$. Thus by the same argument, we have $a(YpY)^n = 0$ implying $p = 0$, a contradiction. Therefore, $p \in C$.

Lemma 2.2. — Let R be a noncommutative prime ring with extended centroid C and $a, p, q \in R$. Suppose that $a \neq 0$ such that $a(p[x_1, x_2]^2 - [x_1, x_2](p + q)[x_1, x_2] + [x_1, x_2]^2 q)^n = 0$ for all $x_1, x_2 \in R$, where $n \geq 1$ is a fixed integer. Then one of the following holds

- (i) $p, q \in C$, unless R satisfies s_4 ;
- (ii) $\text{char}(R) = 2$ and R satisfies s_4 ;
- (iii) $\text{char}(R) \neq 2$, R satisfies s_4 and $p + q \in C$.

PROOF : By assumption, R satisfies generalized polynomial identity

$$g(x_1, x_2) = a(p[x_1, x_2]^2 - [x_1, x_2](p + q)[x_1, x_2] + [x_1, x_2]^2 q)^n. \quad (5)$$

By Lemma 2.1, $p, q \in C$ which gives the conclusion (i) unless R satisfies a nontrivial GPI. Now, assume that R satisfies a nontrivial GPI. Since R and Q satisfy same generalized polynomial identity (see [7]), Q satisfies $g(x_1, x_2)$. Moreover, if C is infinite, we have $g(x_1, x_2) = 0$ for all $x_1, x_2 \in Q \otimes_C \overline{C}$, where \overline{C} is the algebraic closure of C . Since both Q and $Q \otimes_C \overline{C}$ are prime and centrally closed [9], we may replace R by Q or $Q \otimes_C \overline{C}$ according to C finite or infinite. Thus we may assume that $C = Z(R)$ and R is C -algebra centrally closed, which satisfies $g(x_1, x_2) = 0$. By Martindale's theorem [20], R is then a primitive ring and hence is isomorphic to a dense ring of linear transformations of a vector space V over C .

If $\dim_C V = 2$, then $R \cong M_2(C)$, that is, R satisfies s_4 . In this case using the fact $[x, y]^2 \in Z(M_2(C))$ for all $x, y \in M_2(C)$, we have that R satisfies

$$a((p + q)[x_1, x_2]^2 - [x_1, x_2](p + q)[x_1, x_2])^n = 0 \quad (6)$$

that is,

$$a([p + q, [x_1, x_2]][x_1, x_2])^n = 0. \quad (7)$$

If $\text{char}(R) = 2$, we obtain conclusion (ii) and if $\text{char}(R) \neq 2$, by [8, Lemma 2.1], we obtain $p + q \in Z(R)$, which is our conclusion (iii).

Suppose next that $\dim_C V \geq 3$.

We show that for any $v \in V$, v and qv are linearly C -dependent. Suppose that v and qv are linearly independent for some $v \in V$. Since $\dim_C V \geq 3$, there exists $u \in V$ such that v, qv, u are linearly C -independent set of vectors. By density, there exist $x_1, x_2 \in R$ such that

$$x_1v = v, \quad x_1qv = -qv, \quad x_1u = 0; \quad x_2v = 0, \quad x_2qv = u, \quad x_2u = v.$$

Then $[x_1, x_2]v = 0$, $[x_1, x_2]qv = u$, $[x_1, x_2]^2qv = v$, and so $0 = a(p[x_1, x_2]^2 - [x_1, x_2](p + q)[x_1, x_2] + [x_1, x_2]^2q)^n v = av$.

This implies that if $av \neq 0$, by contradiction, we can say that v and qv are linearly C -dependent. Now choose $v \in V$ such that v and qv are linearly C -independent.

Then $av = 0$. Set $W = \text{Span}_C\{v, qv\}$. Since $a \neq 0$, there exists $w \in V$ such that $aw \neq 0$ and then $a(v - w) = -aw \neq 0$. By the previous argument we have that w, qw are linearly C -dependent and $(v - w), q(v - w)$ too. Thus there exist $\alpha, \beta \in C$ such that $qw = \alpha w$ and $q(v - w) = \beta(v - w)$. Then $qv = \beta(v - w) + qw = \beta(v - w) + \alpha w$ i.e., $(\alpha - \beta)w = qv - \beta v \in W$. Now $\alpha = \beta$ implies that $qv = \beta v$, a contradiction. Hence $\alpha \neq \beta$ and so $w \in W$. Again, if $u \in V$ with $au = 0$ then $a(w + u) \neq 0$. So, $w + u \in W$ forcing $u \in W$. Thus it is observed that $w \in V$ with $aw \neq 0$ implies $w \in W$ and $u \in V$ with $au = 0$ implies $u \in W$. This implies that $V = W$ i.e., $\dim_C V = 2$, a contradiction.

Hence, in any case, v and qv are linearly C -dependent for all $v \in V$. Thus for each $v \in V$, $qv = \alpha_v v$ for some $\alpha_v \in C$. It is very easy to prove that α_v is independent of the choice of $v \in V$. Thus we can write $qv = \alpha v$ for all $v \in V$ and $\alpha \in C$ fixed. Now let $r \in R, v \in V$. Since $qv = \alpha v$,

$$[q, r]v = (qr)v - (rq)v = q(rv) - r(qv) = \alpha(rv) - r(\alpha v) = 0.$$

Thus $[q, r]v = 0$ for all $v \in V$ i.e., $[q, r]V = 0$. Since $[q, r]$ acts faithfully as a linear transformation on the vector space V , $[q, r] = 0$ for all $r \in R$. Therefore, $q \in Z(R)$.

Therefore, from (5) we have that R satisfies generalized polynomial identity

$$f(x_1, x_2) = a(p[x_1, x_2]^2 - [x_1, x_2]p[x_1, x_2])^n. \quad (8)$$

Now if v and pv are linearly C -independent for some $v \in V$, there exist $w \in V$ such that v, pv, w will be a linearly C -independent set of vectors, since $\dim_C V \geq 3$. Then again by density, there exists $x_1, x_2 \in R$ such that

$$x_1v = 0, \quad x_1pv = v, \quad x_1w = -v + 2pv; \quad x_2v = pv, \quad x_2pv = w, \quad x_2w = 0.$$

In this case, we have $[x_1, x_2]v = v$, $[x_1, x_2]pv = -v + pv$ and hence $0 = a(p[x_1, x_2]^2 - [x_1, x_2]p[x_1, x_2])^nv = av$. Since $a \neq 0$, by the same argument as stated above, this leads a contradiction. Hence, $p \in C$.

Lemma 2.3 [16, Lemma 2] — Let R be a noncommutative simple algebra, finite-dimensional over its center Z . If $g(x_1, \dots, x_t) \in R *_Z Z\{x_j\}$, the free product over Z , is an identity for R that is homogeneous in $\{x_1, \dots, x_t\}$ of degree d , then for some field F and $n > 1$, $R \subseteq M_n(F)$ and $g(x_1, \dots, x_t)$ is an identity for $M_n(F)$.

Theorem 2.4 — Let R be a prime ring, d and δ two derivations of R , L a noncentral Lie ideal of R . Suppose that there exists $0 \neq a \in R$ such that $a(d(u)u - u\delta(u))^n = 0$ for all $u \in L$, where $n \geq 1$ is a fixed integer. Then one of the following holds:

(i) $d = \delta = 0$ unless R satisfies s_4 ;

(ii) $\text{char}(R) = 2$ and R satisfies s_4 ;

(iii) $\text{char}(R) \neq 2$ and R satisfies s_4 , d and δ are two inner derivations induced by p, q respectively such that $p + q \in C$.

PROOF : If $\text{char}(R) = 2$ and R satisfies s_4 , we obtain our conclusion (ii). So, let either $\text{char}(R) \neq 2$ or R does not satisfy s_4 . Since L is a noncentral Lie ideal of R , by Remark 1, there exists a nonzero ideal I of R such that $[I, I] \subseteq L$. Hence, by our assumption we have,

$$a(d([x_1, x_2])[x_1, x_2] - [x_1, x_2]\delta([x_1, x_2]))^n = 0 \quad (9)$$

for all $x_1, x_2 \in I$. Now we divide the proof in the two cases:

Case I: Let d and δ are both Q -inner derivations of R i.e., $d(x) = [p, x]$ for all $x \in R$ and $\delta(x) = [q, x]$ for all $x \in R$, where $p, q \in Q$. Then from (9), we obtain that

$$a(p[x_1, x_2]^2 - [x_1, x_2](p + q)[x_1, x_2] + [x_1, x_2]^2q)^n = 0 \tag{10}$$

for all $x_1, x_2 \in I$. By Chuang [7], this GPI is also satisfied by Q and hence by R . By Lemma 2.2, if R does not satisfy s_4 , $p, q \in C$, that is, $d = \delta = 0$. If $\text{char}(R) \neq 2$ and R satisfies s_4 , then by Lemma 2.2, $p + q \in C$.

Case II: Next assume that d and δ are not both Q -inner derivations of R , but they are C -dependent modulo inner derivations of R . Suppose $d = \lambda\delta + ad_p$, that is, $d(x) = \lambda\delta(x) + [p, x]$ for all $x \in R$, where $\lambda \in C, p \in Q$. Then δ cannot be an inner derivation of R . From (9), we obtain that I satisfies

$$a\left(\lambda\delta([x_1, x_2])[x_1, x_2] + [p, [x_1, x_2]][x_1, x_2] - [x_1, x_2]\delta([x_1, x_2])\right)^n = 0.$$

Since δ is not inner derivation of R , by Kharchenko’s theorem [13], we have that

$$a\left(\lambda([u, x_2] + [x_1, v])[x_1, x_2] + [p, [x_1, x_2]][x_1, x_2] - [x_1, x_2]([u, x_2] + [x_1, v])\right)^n = 0 \tag{11}$$

for all $x_1, x_2, u, v \in I$. By Chuang [7], this GPI is also satisfied by Q and hence by R . In particular for $u = v = 0$, we have that R satisfies

$$a\left([p, [x_1, x_2]][x_1, x_2]\right)^n = 0.$$

By Lemma 2.2, we get that $p \in C$. Hence, we get from (11) that R satisfies

$$a\left(\lambda([u, x_2] + [x_1, v])[x_1, x_2] - [x_1, x_2]([u, x_2] + [x_1, v])\right)^n = 0. \tag{12}$$

Since by our assumption L is noncentral, R must be noncommutative. Therefore, we can choose $q \in R$ such that $q \notin C$. Replacing u with $[q, x_1]$ and v with $[q, x_2]$, we get from (12) that R satisfies

$$a\left(\lambda[q, [x_1, x_2]][x_1, x_2] - [x_1, x_2][q, [x_1, x_2]]\right)^n = 0 \tag{13}$$

which gives

$$a\left(\lambda q[x_1, x_2]^2 - [x_1, x_2](\lambda q + q)[x_1, x_2] + [x_1, x_2]^2 q\right)^n = 0. \quad (14)$$

If R does not satisfy s_4 , then by Lemma 2.2, $q \in C$, a contradiction. Therefore, R satisfies s_4 , and then $\text{char}(R) \neq 2$. In this case, by Lemma 2.2, $\lambda q + q = (\lambda + 1)q \in C$. If $(\lambda + 1) \neq 0$, then $(\lambda + 1)$ is invertible in C . Then $(\lambda + 1)q \in C$ implies $q \in C$, which is a contradiction. Thus $\lambda + 1 = 0$, that is, $\lambda = -1$. Then from (12), we have, R satisfies

$$a\left(-([u, x_2] + [x_1, v])[x_1, x_2] - [x_1, x_2]([u, x_2] + [x_1, v])\right)^n = 0. \quad (15)$$

Replacing $u = x_1$ and $v = x_2$ and using $\text{char}(R) \neq 2$, we have that R satisfies

$$a[x_1, x_2]^{2n} = 0. \quad (16)$$

For any two fixed $x, y \in R$, set $w = [x, y]^{2n}$. Then $aw = 0$. From (16), we can write $a[u, wva]^{2n} = 0$ for all $u, v \in R$. Since $aw = 0$, it reduces to $a(uwva)^{2n} = 0$. This can be written as $(wvau)^{2n+1} = 0$ for all $u, v \in R$. By Levitzki's lemma [12, Lemma 1.1], $wvau = 0$ for all $u, v \in R$. Since R is prime, either $a = 0$ or $w = 0$. Since $a \neq 0$, then $w = [x, y]^{2n} = 0$ for all $x, y \in R$. This is a polynomial identity for R and so R is finite dimensional simple algebra. Since L is noncentral, R must be noncommutative. Then by Lemma 2.3, $R \subseteq M_k(F)$ and $M_k(F)$ satisfies $[x, y]^{2n} = 0$ for $k > 1$. This leads contradiction for $x = e_{12}$, $y = e_{21}$.

The situation when $\delta = \lambda d + ad_q$ is similar.

Next assume that d and δ are C -independent modulo inner derivations of R . Since neither d nor δ is Q -inner, by Kharchenko's theorem [13], we have from (9) that

$$a\left(\left([u_1, x_2] + [x_1, u_2]\right)[x_1, x_2] - [x_1, x_2]\left([v_1, x_2] + [x_1, v_2]\right)\right)^n = 0 \quad (17)$$

for all $x_1, x_2, u_1, u_2 \in I$. Since I, R and Q satisfy same generalized polynomial identities (see [7]), this GPI is also satisfied by R . Now assuming $v_1 = v_2 = 0$ and replacing u_1 with $[q, x_1]$ and u_2 with $[q, x_2]$ for some $q \notin C$ in (17), we obtain that R satisfies

$$a\left([q, [x_1, x_2]]\right)[x_1, x_2]^n = 0. \quad (18)$$

By Lemma 2.2, this gives $q \in C$, unless $\text{char}(R) = 2$ and R satisfies s_4 , which is a contradiction. Hence the theorem is proved.

Now we begin to prove our next theorem.

From the proof of theorem 2.4, following lemma is straightforward.

Lemma 2.5. — Let R be a prime ring, d and δ two derivations of R , I a nonzero ideal of R . Suppose that there exists $0 \neq a \in R$ such that $a(d([x, y])[x, y] - [x, y]\delta([x, y])) = 0$ for all $x, y \in I$. Then $d = \delta = 0$ unless R satisfies s_4 .

Lemma 2.6 — Let $R = M_k(F)$ be the ring of all $k \times k$ matrices over a field F and $k \geq 3$. Let a be an invertible element in R . If for some $p, q \in R$, $([p, [x, y]][x, y] - [x, y][q, [x, y]]) \in F \cdot a^{-1}$ for all $x, y \in R$, then $p, q \in F \cdot I_k$.

PROOF : Let $p = (p_{ij})_{k \times k}$ and $q = (q_{ij})_{k \times k}$. By assumption, for every $x, y \in R$, $([p, [x, y]][x, y] - [x, y][q, [x, y]])$ is zero or invertible. We choose $x = e_{ii}, y = e_{ij}$ for $i \neq j$. Then $[x, y] = e_{ij}$ and so $([p, [x, y]][x, y] - [x, y][q, [x, y]]) = -(p + q)_{ji}e_{ij}$ which is not invertible. Therefore, $(p + q)_{ji}e_{ij} = 0$ implying $(p + q)_{ji} = 0$ for any $i \neq j$. This shows that $p + q$ is diagonal. Let $p + q = \sum_{i=1}^k \alpha_{ii}e_{ii}$. For any F -automorphism θ of R , $(p + q)^\theta$ enjoys the same property as $p + q$ does, namely, $([p^\theta, [x, y]][x, y] - [x, y][q^\theta, [x, y]])$ is zero or invertible for every $x, y \in R$. Hence $(p + q)^\theta$ must be diagonal. For each $j \neq 1$, we have $(1 + e_{1j})(p + q)(1 - e_{1j}) = \sum_{i=1}^k \alpha_{ii}e_{ii} + (\alpha_{jj} - \alpha_{11})e_{1j}$ diagonal. Therefore, $\alpha_{jj} = \alpha_{11}$ and so $p + q \in F \cdot I_k$.

Thus our assumption reduces to, for every $x, y \in R$, $([p, [x, y]][x, y] + [x, y][p, [x, y]])$ is zero or invertible. Now since $k \geq 3$, we may choose $x = e_{ij}, y = e_{js} - e_{si}$ for i, j, s distinct integers. Then we have $([p, [x, y]][x, y] + [x, y][p, [x, y]]) = pe_{ij} - e_{ij}p$ is zero or invertible. Since rank of $pe_{ij} - e_{ij}p$ is ≤ 2 , it can not be invertible and so $pe_{ij} - e_{ij}p = [p, e_{ij}] = 0$. Since $\{e_{ij} | i \neq j\}$ generates R as an F -algebra, $[p, R] = 0$, that is $p \in F \cdot I_k$.

Example : Let $R = M_2(D)$ be the complete 2×2 matrix ring over D , where D is any commutative domain of characteristic 2, and d, δ be two nonzero derivations of R . Choose

$$L = \left\{ \begin{pmatrix} a & b \\ b & a \end{pmatrix}; a, b \in D \right\}$$

a noncentral Lie ideal of R . Then for $0 \neq a \in Z(R)$ and $\delta = -d$, we have $a(d(u)u - u\delta(u)) \in Z(R)$ for all $u \in L$.

Theorem 2.7 — Let R be a prime ring with center $Z(R)$, d and δ two derivations of R and L a noncentral Lie ideal of R . Suppose that there exists $0 \neq a \in R$ such that $a(d(u)u - u\delta(u)) \in Z(R)$ for all $u \in L$. Then $d = \delta = 0$ unless R satisfies s_4 .

PROOF : Suppose that R does not satisfy s_4 . Then by remark 1, we have $0 \neq [I, I] \subseteq L$, where I is a nonzero ideal of R . By our assumption, we have

$$a(d([x_1, x_2])[x_1, x_2] - [x_1, x_2]\delta([x_1, x_2])) \in Z(R) \quad (19)$$

for all $x_1, x_2 \in I$. If for all $x_1, x_2 \in I$, $a(d([x_1, x_2])[x_1, x_2] - [x_1, x_2]\delta([x_1, x_2])) = 0$, by Lemma 2.5, we conclude $d = \delta = 0$, as desired. So, let there exist $r_1, r_2 \in I$ such that $a(d([r_1, r_2])[r_1, r_2] - [r_1, r_2]\delta([r_1, r_2])) \neq 0$. Then $a(d([x_1, x_2])[x_1, x_2] - [x_1, x_2]\delta([x_1, x_2]))$ is a central differential identity for I . It follows from [6, Theorem 1] that R is a prime PI-ring and so $RC(= Q)$ is a finite-dimensional central simple C -algebra by Posner's theorem for prime PI-ring. Now divide the proof in the following two cases:

Case I : Let d and δ are both Q -inner derivations of R induced by $p, q \in Q$ respectively. Then

$$a([p, [x_1, x_2]][x_1, x_2] - [x_1, x_2][q, [x_1, x_2]]), x_3) = 0 \quad (20)$$

for all $x_1, x_2 \in I$ and so for all $x_1, x_2 \in Q$, since I and Q satisfy same GPI [7]. Since $a([p, [r_1, r_2]][r_1, r_2] - [r_1, r_2][q, [r_1, r_2]]) \neq 0$ for some $r_1, r_2 \in I$, (20) is a nontrivial GPI for Q . Since Q is a finite-dimensional central simple C -algebra, it follows from Lemma 2.3 that there exists a suitable field F such that $Q \subseteq M_k(F)$, the ring of all $k \times k$ matrices over F , and moreover $M_k(F)$ satisfies (20). Since R does not satisfy s_4 , $k \geq 3$. Therefore, we have

$$a([p, [x_1, x_2]][x_1, x_2] - [x_1, x_2][q, [x_1, x_2]]) \in Z(M_k(F))$$

for all $x_1, x_2 \in M_k(F)$. If for all $r_1, r_2 \in M_k(F)$, $a([p, [r_1, r_2]][r_1, r_2] - [r_1, r_2][q, [r_1, r_2]]) = 0$, then by Lemma 2.2, $p, q \in Z(M_k(F))$, that is, $d = \delta = 0$, as desired. So, let there exist $r_1, r_2 \in M_k(F)$ such that $a([p, [r_1, r_2]][r_1, r_2] - [r_1, r_2][q, [r_1, r_2]]) \neq 0$. Then a is invertible and so $([p, [r_1, r_2]][r_1, r_2] - [r_1, r_2][q, [r_1, r_2]]) \in F \cdot a^{-1}$ for all $r_1, r_2 \in M_k(F)$. By Lemma 2.6, $p, q \in Z(M_k(F))$ implying $d = \delta = 0$.

Case II : Let d and δ are not both Q -inner derivations of R .

Assume that d and δ are C -dependent modulo inner derivations of R , say $d = \lambda\delta + ad_p$, where $\lambda \in C$, $p \in Q$ and $ad_p(x) = [p, x]$ for all $x \in R$. Then δ can not be Q -inner derivation of R . From (19), we obtain that

$$a(\lambda\delta([x_1, x_2])[x_1, x_2] + [p, [x_1, x_2]][x_1, x_2] - [x_1, x_2]\delta([x_1, x_2])) \in Z(R) \quad (21)$$

for all $x_1, x_2 \in I$. Since δ is not Q -inner derivation of R , by Kharchenko's theorem [13],

$$a(\lambda([u, x_2] + [x_1, v])[x_1, x_2] + [p, [x_1, x_2]][x_1, x_2] - [x_1, x_2]([u, x_2] + [x_1, v])) \in Z(R) \quad (22)$$

for all $x_1, x_2, u, v \in I$. Since L is noncentral, R must be noncommutative. Therefore, we may choose $b \in R$ such that $b \notin C$. Then replacing u with $[b, x_1]$ and v with $[b, x_2]$ in (22), we obtain that for all $x_1, x_2, x_3 \in I$

$$a(\lambda[b, [x_1, x_2]][x_1, x_2] + [p, [x_1, x_2]][x_1, x_2] - [x_1, x_2][b, [x_1, x_2]]) \in Z(R) \quad (23)$$

which gives

$$[a([\lambda b + p, [x_1, x_2]][x_1, x_2] - [x_1, x_2][b, [x_1, x_2]]), x_3] = 0. \quad (24)$$

This is similar to (20). Then by the same argument as above, $b \in C$, a contradiction.

The situation when $\delta = \lambda d + ad_q$ is similar.

Next assume that d and δ are C -independent modulo inner derivations of R . Since neither d nor δ is inner, by Kharchenko's theorem [13], we have from (19) that I satisfies

$$a((u_1, x_2) + [x_1, u_2])[x_1, x_2] - [x_1, x_2]((v_1, x_2) + [x_1, v_2])) \in Z(R). \quad (25)$$

Then assuming $v_1 = v_2 = 0$ and replacing u_1 with $[b, x_1]$ and u_2 with $[b, x_2]$ for some $b \notin C$ in (25), we obtain that for all $x_1, x_2, x_3 \in I$

$$[a[b, [x_1, x_2]][x_1, x_2], x_3] = 0. \quad (26)$$

Then by the same argument as given in case-1, $b \in C$, a contradiction.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

The author would like to thank the referee for providing very helpful comments and suggestions. The author is grateful to University Grants Commission of India for financial support under grant No. F. PSW-099/10-11.

REFERENCES

1. N. Argac and V. De Filippis, Co-centralizing derivations and nilpotent values on Lie ideals, *Indian J. Pure Appl. Math.*, **41**(3) (2010), 475-483.
2. K. I. Beidar, W. S. Martindale III and A. V. Mikhalev, *Rings with generalized identities*, Pure and Applied Math., 196, Marcel Dekker, New York, 1996.
3. J. Bergen, I. N. Herstein and J. W. Kerr, Lie ideals and derivations of prime rings, *J. Algebra*, **71** (1981), 259-267.
4. M. Brešar, Centralizing mappings and derivations in prime rings, *J. Algebra* **156** (1993), 385-394.
5. L. Carini and V. De Filippis, Commutators with power central values on a Lie ideal, *Pacific J. Math.*, **193**(2) (2000), 269-278.
6. C. M. Chang and T. K. Lee, Annihilators of power values of derivations in prime rings, *Comm. Algebra*, **26**(7) (1998), 2091-2113.
7. C. L. Chuang, GPI's having coefficients in Utumi quotient rings, *Proc. Amer. Math. Soc.*, **103**(3) (1988), 723-728.
8. B. Dhara, Power values of derivations with annihilator conditions on Lie ideals in prime rings, *Comm. Algebra*, **37**(6) (2009), 2159-2167.
9. T. S. Erickson, W. S. Martindale III and J. M. Osborn, Prime nonassociative algebras, *Pacific J. Math.*, **60** (1975), 49-63.
10. V. De Filippis, Lie ideals and annihilator conditions on power values of commutators with derivation, *Indian J. Pure Appl. Math.*, **32** (2001), 649-656.
11. I. N. Herstein, *Rings with involution*, Univ. of Chicago Press, Chicago, 1976.
12. I. N. Herstein, *Topics in ring theory*, Univ. of Chicago Press, Chicago, IL, 1969.
13. V. K. Kharchenko, Differential identity of prime rings, *Algebra and Logic.*, **17** (1978), 155-168.

14. C. Lanski and S. Montgomery, Lie structure of prime rings of characteristic 2, *Pacific J. Math.*, **42**(1) (1972), 117-136.
15. C. Lanski, Differential identities, Lie ideals, and Posner's theorems, *Pacific J. Math.*, **134**(2) (1988), 275-297.
16. C. Lanski, An engel condition with derivation, *Proc. Amer. Math. Soc.*, **118**(3) (1993), 731-734.
17. T. K. Lee, Semiprime rings with differential identities, *Bull. Inst. Math. Acad. Sinica*, **20**(1) (1992), 27-38.
18. P. H. Lee, Lie ideals of prime rings with derivations, *Bull. Inst. Math. Acad. Sinica*, **11** (1983), 75-80.
19. P. H. Lee and T. L. Wong, Derivations cocentralizing Lie ideals, *Bull. Inst. Math. Acad. Sinica*, **23** (1995), 1-5.
20. W. S. Martindale III, Prime rings satisfying a generalized polynomial identity, *J. Algebra*, **12** (1969), 576-584.
21. E. C. Posner, Derivations in prime rings, *Proc. Amer. Math. Soc.*, **8** (1957), 1093-1100.
22. Y. Wang, Annihilator conditions with derivations in prime rings of characteristic 2, *Indian J. Pure Appl. Math.*, **39**(6) (2008), 459-465.
23. Y. Wang and H. You, A note on commutators with power central values on Lie ideals, *Acta Math. Sinica, English Series*, **22**(6) (2006), 1715-1720.