

LEFT ANNIHILATOR OF IDENTITIES WITH  
GENERALIZED DERIVATIONS IN PRIME  
AND SEMIPRIME RINGS

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**Abstract**

Let  $R$  be a noncommutative prime ring of char  $(R) \neq 2$ ,  $F$  a generalized derivation of  $R$  associated to the derivation  $d$  of  $R$  and  $I$  a nonzero ideal of  $R$ . Let  $S \subseteq R$ . The left annihilator of  $S$  in  $R$  is denoted by  $l_R(S)$  and defined by  $l_R(S) = \{x \in R \mid xS = 0\}$ . In the present paper, we study the left annihilator of the sets  $\{F(x) \circ_n F(y) - x \circ_n y \mid x, y \in I\}$  and  $\{F(x) \circ_n F(y) - d(x \circ_n y) \mid x, y \in I\}$ .

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1. INTRODUCTION

Throughout this paper,  $R$  always denotes an associative ring with center  $Z(R)$ . For any  $a, b \in R$ , a ring  $R$  is said to be prime, if  $aRb = (0)$  implies either  $a = 0$  or  $b = 0$  and is semiprime if for any  $a \in R$ ,  $aRa = (0)$  implies  $a = 0$ . A mapping  $f$  is said to be an additive mapping on  $R$  if  $f(x + y) = f(x) + f(y)$  holds for all  $x, y \in R$ . An additive mapping  $d : R \rightarrow R$  defined by  $d(xy) = d(x)y + xd(y)$  for all  $x, y \in R$  is called a derivation on  $R$ . The map  $d(x) = [a, x]$  for all  $x \in R$  and for some fixed  $a \in R$ , is called an inner derivation of  $R$ . For any  $x, y \in R$ , the symbol  $[x, y]$  stands for the commutator  $xy - yx$  and the symbol  $x \circ y$  stands for the anti-commutator  $xy + yx$ . For given  $x, y \in R$ , we set  $x \circ_0 y = x$ ,  $x \circ_1 y = xy + yx$ , and inductively  $x \circ_n y = (x \circ_{n-1} y) \circ y$  for  $n > 1$ . Let  $S \subseteq R$ . Then  $r_R(S)$  denotes the right annihilator of  $S$  in  $R$ , that is,  $r_R(S) = \{x \in R \mid Sx = 0\}$  and  $l_R(S)$  denotes the left annihilator of  $S$  in  $R$  that is,  $l_R(S) = \{x \in R \mid xS = 0\}$ . If

$r_R(S) = l_R(S)$ , then  $r_R(S)$  is called an annihilator ideal of  $R$  and is written as  $ann_R(S)$ .

Ashraf and Rehman [3] proved that if  $R$  is a prime ring of char  $(R) \neq 2$ ,  $I$  is a nonzero ideal of  $R$  and  $d \neq 0$  such that  $d(x) \circ d(y) = x \circ y$  for all  $x, y \in I$ , then  $R$  is commutative.

In [1], Ali and Huang studied the case for semiprime ring. They proved that if  $R$  is a 2-torsion free semiprime ring and  $I$  a nonzero ideal of  $R$  and  $d(I) \neq (0)$  such that  $d(x) \circ d(y) = x \circ y$  for all  $x, y \in I$ , then  $R$  has a nonzero central ideal.

There is ongoing interest to investigate the situations replacing derivations with generalized derivations. An additive mapping  $F : R \rightarrow R$  is said to be a generalized derivation of  $R$ , if there exists a derivation  $d$  of  $R$  such that  $F(xy) = F(x)y + xd(y)$  holds for all  $x, y \in R$ . In particular, when  $d = 0$ , then  $F$  becomes a left multiplier map on  $R$ . Thus a generalized derivation covers both the concept of derivation and left multiplier map.

In [12], Huang proved that if  $R$  is a prime ring with char  $(R) \neq 2$ ,  $L$  is a square closed Lie ideal of  $R$  and  $F$  a generalized derivation associated with derivation  $d$  of  $R$  such that  $d(x) \circ F(y) = x \circ y$  for all  $x, y \in L$ , then either  $d = 0$  or  $L \subseteq Z(R)$ . In [4], Bell and Rehman studied the situation for prime ring  $R$  that  $F(x) \circ F(y) = x \circ y$  for all  $x, y \in R$ .

Ashraf *et al.* [2] proved that the prime ring  $R$  must be commutative if  $R$  admits a generalized derivation  $F$  associated with a nonzero derivation  $d$  satisfying  $d(x) \circ F(y) = x \circ y$  for all  $x, y \in I$ , where  $I$  is a nonzero ideal of  $R$ . Then Dhara *et al.* [9] studied the same situation in 2-torsion free semiprime ring and obtained that  $R$  has a nonzero central ideal. Recently, in [18], Raza and Rehman studied the cases  $F(x) \circ_m F(y) = (x \circ y)^n$  for all  $x, y \in I$  and  $F(x) \circ_m d(y) = d(x \circ y)^n$  for all  $x, y \in I$  in prime and semiprime rings, where  $I$  is a nonzero ideal of  $R$ ,  $F$  is a generalized derivation of  $R$  with associated derivation  $d$  and  $m, n$  are fixed positive integers. In the present paper, we investigate the left annihilator condition of the identities, that is  $a\{F(x) \circ_n F(y) - (x \circ_n y)\} = 0$  for all  $x, y \in I$  and  $a\{F(x) \circ_n F(y) - d(x \circ_n y)\} = 0$  for all  $x, y \in I$ .

Let  $R$  be a prime ring with center  $Z(R)$  and  $U$  is the Utumi quotient ring of  $R$ . It is well known that any derivation of  $R$  can be uniquely extended to a derivation of  $U$ , and so any derivation of  $R$  can be defined on the whole of  $U$ . Moreover  $U$  is a prime ring as well as  $R$  and the extended centroid  $C$  of  $R$  coincides with the center of  $U$ . Note that  $C$  is a field. We refer to [16] for more details.

We mention a very important result which will be used quite frequently as follows.

**Theorem 1.1** (Kharchenko [14]). *Let  $R$  be a prime ring,  $d$  a nonzero derivation on  $R$  and  $I$  a nonzero ideal of  $R$ . If  $I$  satisfies the differential identity*

$$f(r_1, r_2, \dots, r_n, d(r_1), d(r_2), \dots, d(r_n)) = 0$$

for any  $r_1, r_2, \dots, r_n \in I$ , then either

(i)  $I$  satisfies the generalized polynomial identity

$$f(r_1, r_2, \dots, r_n, x_1, x_2, \dots, x_n) = 0$$

or

(ii)  $d$  is inner i.e., for some  $q \in U$ ,  $d(x) = [q, x]$  for all  $x \in R$  and  $I$  satisfies the generalized polynomial identity

$$f(r_1, r_2, \dots, r_n, [q, r_1], [q, r_2], \dots, [q, r_n]) = 0.$$

## 2. MAIN RESULTS

We begin with the theorem.

**Theorem 2.1.** *Let  $R$  be a noncommutative prime ring of char  $(R) \neq 2$  with its Utumi ring of quotients  $U$ ,  $C = Z(U)$  the extended centroid of  $R$ ,  $F$  a generalized derivation of  $R$  and  $I$  a nonzero ideal of  $R$ . Suppose that there exists  $0 \neq a \in R$  such that  $a(F(x)^n - x^n) = 0$  for all  $x \in I$ , where  $n \geq 1$  is a fixed integer. Then one of the following holds.*

- (1)  $n = 1$  and there exists  $b \in U$  such that  $F(x) = bx$  for all  $x \in R$  with  $a(b - 1) = 0$ ;
- (2)  $n \geq 2$  and there exists  $\lambda \in C$  such that  $F(x) = \lambda x$  for all  $x \in R$  with  $\lambda^n = 1$ .

**Proof.** In light of [15, Theorem 3], there exist  $b \in U$  and derivation  $d$  of  $U$  such that  $F(x) = bx + d(x)$ . Since  $I$ ,  $R$  and  $U$  satisfy the same generalized polynomial identities (see [8]) as well as the same differential identities (see [16]), without loss of generality, we have  $a(F(x)^n - x^n) = 0$  for all  $x \in U$ , where  $d$  is the derivation of  $U$ , that is,

$$a\left((bx + d(x))^n - x^n\right) = 0$$

for all  $x \in U$ .

If  $F = 0$ , then our hypothesis reduces to  $ax^n = 0$  for all  $x \in U$ . Replacing  $x$  with  $xa$  yields  $(xa)^{n+1} = 0$  for all  $x \in U$ . Since  $R$  is a prime ring, by Levitzki's Lemma [11, Lemma 1.1],  $a = 0$ , a contradiction.

Now we assume  $F \neq 0$ . By Kharchenko's theorem, we divide the proof in two cases.

*Case 1.* Let  $d$  be an outer derivation of  $U$ . Then by Kharchenko's theorem [14], we have by our assumption that

$$a\left((bx + u)^n - x^n\right) = 0$$

for all  $x, u \in U$ . In particular, for  $x = 0$ , we have  $au^n = 0$  for all  $u \in U$ . Again, this implies  $a = 0$ , a contradiction.

*Case 2.* Let  $d$  be inner derivation of  $U$ , that is,  $d(x) = [c, x]$  for all  $x \in R$  and for some  $c \in U$ . Since  $d \neq 0$ ,  $c \notin C$ . Thus  $a((bx + [c, x])^n - x^n) = 0$  is a nontrivial generalized polynomial identity (GPI) for  $U$ . Denote by  $E$  either the algebraic closure of  $C$  or  $C$  according as  $C$  is either infinite or finite, respectively. Then, by a standard argument (see for instance, [16, Proposition]),  $a((bx + [c, x])^n - x^n) = 0$  is also a GPI for  $U \otimes_C E$ . Since  $U \otimes_C E$  is centrally closed prime  $E$ -algebra [10, Theorem 2.5 and Theorem 3.5], by replacing  $R, C$  with  $U \otimes_C E$  and  $E$ , respectively, we may assume  $R$  is centrally closed and  $C$  is either finite or algebraically closed. By Martindale's theorem [17],  $R$  is then a primitive ring having nonzero socle  $H$  with  $C$  as the associated division ring. Hence by Jacobson's theorem [13, p.75]  $R$  is isomorphic to a dense ring of linear transformations of some vector space  $V$  over  $C$ , and  $H$  consists of the linear transformations in  $R$  of finite rank.

If  $V$  is finite dimensional over  $C$ , then by the density of  $R$  on  $V$ ,  $R \cong M_k(C)$  where  $k = \dim_C V$ .

Since  $R$  is noncommutative,  $\dim_C V \geq 2$ .

We show that  $v$  and  $cv$  are linearly  $C$ -dependent for any  $v \in V$ . Suppose that  $v$  and  $cv$  are linearly independent for some  $v \in V$ . By the density there exists  $x \in R$  such that

$$xv = 0, \quad xcv = v.$$

Then

$$0 = a\left((bx + [c, x])^n - x^n\right)v = av.$$

If for some  $u \in V$ ,  $\{u, v\}$  is linearly  $C$ -dependent, then  $au = 0$ . Since  $a \neq 0$ , there exists  $w \in V$  such that  $aw \neq 0$  and so  $\{w, v\}$  is linearly  $C$ -independent. Moreover,  $a(w + v) = aw \neq 0$  and  $a(w - v) = aw \neq 0$ . By the above argument, it follows that  $w$  and  $cw$  are linearly  $C$ -dependent, as are  $\{w + v, c(w + v)\}$  and  $\{w - v, c(w - v)\}$ . Therefore there exist  $\alpha_w, \alpha_{w+v}, \alpha_{w-v} \in C$  such that

$$cw = \alpha_w w, \quad c(w + v) = \alpha_{w+v}(w + v), \quad c(w - v) = \alpha_{w-v}(w - v).$$

This gives

$$(1) \quad \alpha_w w + cv = \alpha_{w+v} w + \alpha_{w+v} v$$

and

$$(2) \quad \alpha_w w - cv = \alpha_{w-v} w - \alpha_{w-v} v.$$

Now (1) and (2) together yields

$$(3) \quad (2\alpha_w - \alpha_{w+v} - \alpha_{w-v})w + (\alpha_{w-v} - \alpha_{w+v})v = 0$$

and

$$(4) \quad 2cv = (\alpha_{w+v} - \alpha_{w-v})w + (\alpha_{w+v} + \alpha_{w-v})v.$$

By (3), and since  $\{w, v\}$  are  $C$ -independent and  $\text{char}(R) \neq 2$ , we have  $\alpha_w = \alpha_{w+v} = \alpha_{w-v}$ . Thus by (4), we have  $cv = \alpha_w v$ . This leads to a contradiction with the fact that  $\{v, cv\}$  is linear  $C$ -independent.

In light of this, we may assume that for any  $v \in V$  there exists a suitable  $\alpha_v \in C$  such that  $cv = \alpha_v v$ . By standard argument, there is  $\alpha \in C$  such that  $cv = \alpha v$  for all  $v \in V$ . Now let  $r \in R, v \in V$ . Since  $cv = \alpha v$ ,

$$(5) \quad [c, r]v = (cr)v - (rc)v = c(rv) - r(cv) = \alpha(rv) - r(\alpha v) = 0.$$

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

$$a\left((bx)^n - x^n\right) = 0$$

for all  $x \in R$ . If  $n = 1$ , then  $a(b - 1)R = (0)$  implying  $a(b - 1) = 0$ .

So, let  $n > 1$ . Suppose that  $v$  and  $bv$  are linearly independent for some  $v \in V$ . By the density there exists  $x \in R$  such that

$$xv = v, \quad xbv = 0,$$

and hence

$$0 = a\left((bx)^n - x^n\right)v = -av.$$

Since  $a \neq 0$ , by the same argument as earlier, it yields  $b \in C$ . Then  $a(b^n x^n - x^n) = 0$ , i.e.,  $a(b^n - 1)x^n = 0$  for all  $x \in R$ . By the same argument as before, we have  $a(b^n - 1) = 0$ . Since  $a \neq 0$ , it yields  $b^n = 1$ . This completes the proof.  $\blacksquare$

**Corollary 2.2.** *Let  $R$  be a noncommutative prime ring of char  $R \neq 2$  with its Utumi ring of quotients  $U$ ,  $C = Z(U)$  the extended centroid of  $R$ ,  $F$  a generalized derivation of  $R$  and  $I$  a nonzero ideal of  $R$ . Suppose that there exists  $0 \neq a \in R$  such that  $a(F(x) \circ_n F(y) - x \circ_n y) = 0$  for all  $x, y \in I$ , where  $n \geq 0$  is a fixed integer. Then one of the following holds.*

- (1)  $n = 0$  and there exists  $b \in U$  such that  $F(x) = bx$  for all  $x \in R$  with  $a(b - 1) = 0$ ;

- (2)  $n \geq 1$  and there exists  $\lambda \in C$  such that  $F(x) = \lambda x$  for all  $x \in R$  with  $\lambda^{n+1} = 1$ .

**Proof.** In particular, for  $x = y$ , we have  $a(F(x)^{n+1} - x^{n+1}) = 0$  for all  $x \in I$ . Then by Theorem 2.1, we conclude one of the following.

- (1)  $n = 0$  and there exists  $b \in U$  such that  $F(x) = bx$  for all  $x \in R$  with  $a(b - 1) = 0$ ;  
 (2)  $n \geq 1$  and there exists  $\lambda \in C$  such that  $F(x) = \lambda x$  for all  $x \in R$  with  $\lambda^{n+1} = 1$ . ■

In particular, for  $F = d$ , we have the following corollary.

**Corollary 2.3.** *Let  $R$  be a prime ring of char  $(R) \neq 2$  and  $0 \neq a \in R$ . Suppose that  $d$  is a nonzero derivation of  $R$  and  $n \geq 0$  a fixed integer such that  $a(d(x) \circ_n d(y) - x \circ_n y) = 0$  for all  $x, y \in I$ , then  $R$  is commutative.*

**Theorem 2.4.** *Let  $R$  be a noncommutative prime ring of char  $(R) \neq 2$  with its Utumi ring of quotients  $U$ ,  $C = Z(U)$  the extended centroid of  $R$ ,  $F$  a generalized derivation of  $R$  with associated derivation  $d$  of  $R$  and  $I$  a nonzero ideal of  $R$ . Suppose that there exists  $0 \neq a \in R$  such that  $a(F(x)^n - d(x^n)) = 0$  for all  $x \in I$ , where  $n \geq 1$  is a fixed integer. Then there exists  $b \in U$  such that  $F(x) = bx$  for all  $x \in R$  with  $ab = 0$ .*

**Proof.** In light of [15, Theorem 3], we may assume that there exist  $b \in U$  and derivation  $d$  of  $U$  such that  $F(x) = bx + d(x)$ . Since  $I$ ,  $R$  and  $U$  satisfy the same generalized polynomial identities (see [8]) as well as the same differential identities (see [16]), without loss of generality, we have  $a(F(x)^n - d(x^n)) = 0$  for all  $x \in U$ , where  $d$  is derivation on  $U$ , that is

$$a \left\{ (bx + d(x))^n - \sum_{i=0}^n x^i d(x) x^{n-i-1} \right\} = 0$$

for all  $x \in U$ .

In light of Kharchenko's theorem, we divide the proof in two cases.

*Case 1.* If  $d$  is not  $U$ -inner, then by Kharchenko's theorem [14] we have

$$a \left\{ (bx + y)^n - \sum_{i=0}^{n-1} x^i y x^{n-i-1} \right\} = 0$$

for all  $x, y \in U$ . If  $n > 1$ , then in particular for  $x = 0$ , we have  $ay^n = 0$  for all  $y \in U$ . This yields  $a = 0$ , a contradiction.

On the other hand, if  $n = 1$ , then  $abx = 0$  for all  $x \in U$ , implying  $ab = 0$ .

*Case 2.* We assume the case when  $d$  is  $U$ -inner derivation, that is for some  $c \in U$ ,  $d(x) = [c, x]$  for all  $x \in U$ . Since  $d \neq 0$ ,  $c \notin C$ . Hence  $a((bx + [c, x])^n - [c, x^n]) = 0$  is a nontrivial generalized polynomial identity (GPI) for  $U$ . Denote by  $E$  either the algebraic closure of  $C$  or  $C$  according as  $C$  is either infinite or finite, respectively. Then, by a standard argument (see for instance, [16, Proposition]),  $a((bx + [c, x])^n - [c, x^n]) = 0$  is also a GPI for  $U \otimes_C E$ . Since  $U \otimes_C E$  is centrally closed prime  $E$ -algebra [10, Theorem 2.5 and Theorem 3.5], by replacing  $R$ ,  $C$  with  $U \otimes_C E$  and  $E$ , respectively, we may assume that  $R$  is centrally closed and  $C$  is either finite or algebraically closed. By Martindale's theorem [17],  $R$  is then a primitive ring having nonzero socle  $H$  with  $C$  as the associated division ring. Hence by Jacobson's theorem [13, p.75]  $R$  is isomorphic to a dense ring of linear transformations of some vector space  $V$  over  $C$ , and  $H$  consists of the linear transformations in  $R$  of finite rank. If  $V$  is finite dimensional over  $C$ , then by the density of  $R$  on  $V$  gives  $R \cong M_k(C)$ , where  $k = \dim_C V$ .

Since  $R$  is noncommutative,  $\dim_C V \geq 2$ .

We prove now that for any  $v \in V$ ,  $v$  and  $cv$  are linearly  $C$ -dependent. Suppose on the contrary that  $v$  and  $cv$  are linearly independent for some  $v \in V$ . By the density, there exists  $x \in R$  such that

$$xv = 0, xcv = v.$$

Then

$$0 = a\left((bx + [c, x])^n - [c, x^n]\right)v = av.$$

If for any  $u \in V$ ,  $\{u, v\}$  is linearly  $C$ -dependent, then  $au = 0$ . Since  $a \neq 0$ , there exists  $w \in V$  such that  $aw \neq 0$  and so  $\{w, v\}$  are linearly  $C$ -independent. Also  $a(w + v) = aw \neq 0$  and  $a(w - v) = aw \neq 0$ . By the above argument, it follows that  $w$  and  $cw$  are linearly  $C$ -dependent, as are  $\{w + v, c(w + v)\}$  and  $\{w - v, c(w - v)\}$ . Therefore there exist  $\alpha_w, \alpha_{w+v}, \alpha_{w-v} \in C$  such that

$$cw = \alpha_w w, \quad c(w + v) = \alpha_{w+v}(w + v), \quad c(w - v) = \alpha_{w-v}(w - v).$$

Thus we have

$$(6) \quad \alpha_w w + cv = \alpha_{w+v} w + \alpha_{w+v} v$$

and

$$(7) \quad \alpha_w w - cv = \alpha_{w-v} w - \alpha_{w-v} v.$$

Now (6) and (7) together yields

$$(8) \quad (2\alpha_w - \alpha_{w+v} - \alpha_{w-v})w + (\alpha_{w-v} - \alpha_{w+v})v = 0$$

and

$$(9) \quad 2cv = (\alpha_{w+v} - \alpha_{w-v})w + (\alpha_{w+v} + \alpha_{w-v})v.$$

By (8), and since  $\{w, v\}$  are  $C$ -independent,  $2\alpha_w - \alpha_{w+v} - \alpha_{w-v} = 0$  and  $\alpha_{w-v} - \alpha_{w+v} = 0$ . These relations imply by using  $\text{char}(R) \neq 2$ , that  $\alpha_w = \alpha_{w+v} = \alpha_{w-v}$ . By (9) it follows  $cv = \alpha_w v$ . This leads to a contradiction with the fact that  $\{v, cv\}$  is linear  $C$ -independent.

In light of this, we may assume that for any  $v \in V$  there exists a suitable  $\alpha_v \in C$  such that  $cv = \alpha_v v$ , and standard argument shows that there is  $\alpha \in C$  such that  $cv = \alpha v$  for all  $v \in V$ . Then by the same argument as in Theorem 2.1,  $c \in Z(R)$ . Then  $a(bx)^n = 0$  for all  $x \in R$ . Replacing  $x$  with  $xa$ , we have  $(xab)^{n+1} = 0$  for all  $x \in R$ . By Levitzki's Lemma [11, Lemma 1.1],  $ab = 0$ . ■

**Corollary 2.5.** *Let  $R$  be a noncommutative prime ring of  $\text{char}(R) \neq 2$  with its Utumi ring of quotients  $U$ ,  $C = Z(U)$  the extended centroid of  $R$ ,  $F$  a generalized derivation of  $R$  with associated derivation  $d$  and  $I$  a nonzero ideal of  $R$ . Suppose that there exists  $0 \neq a \in R$  such that  $a(F(x) \circ_n F(y) - d(x \circ_n y)) = 0$  for all  $x, y \in I$ , where  $n \geq 0$  is a fixed integer. Then  $d = 0$  and there exists  $b \in U$  such that  $F(x) = bx$  for all  $x \in R$  with  $ab = 0$ .*

**Proof.** In particular, for  $x = y$ , we have  $a(F(x)^{n+1} - d(x^{n+1})) = 0$  for all  $x \in I$ . Then by Theorem 2.4, we conclude that there exists  $b \in U$  such that  $F(x) = bx$  for all  $x \in R$  with  $ab = 0$ . ■

In particular, for  $F = d$ , we have the following corollary.

**Corollary 2.6.** *Let  $R$  be a prime ring of  $\text{char}(R) \neq 2$  and  $0 \neq a \in R$ . Suppose that  $d$  is a nonzero derivation of  $R$  and  $n \geq 0$  a fixed integer such that  $a(d(x) \circ_n d(y) - d(x \circ_n y)) = 0$  for all  $x, y \in I$ . Then  $R$  is commutative.*

*Example 2.7.* Let  $\mathbb{Z}$  be the set of all integers. Consider

$$R = \left\{ \begin{pmatrix} 0 & x & y \\ 0 & 0 & z \\ 0 & 0 & 0 \end{pmatrix} \mid x, y, z \in \mathbb{Z} \right\}.$$

Notice that  $R$  is not prime ring. We define maps  $F, d : R \rightarrow R$  by  $F \begin{pmatrix} 0 & x & y \\ 0 & 0 & z \\ 0 & 0 & 0 \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 0 & x \\ 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 \end{pmatrix}$  and  $d \begin{pmatrix} 0 & x & y \\ 0 & 0 & z \\ 0 & 0 & 0 \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 0 & z \\ 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 \end{pmatrix}$ . Then it is easy to verify that  $F$  is a generalized derivation associated with a derivation  $d$  on  $R$ . We



choose  $0 \neq a = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & a_1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & b_1 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 \end{pmatrix} \in R$  such that  $a(F(x) \circ_n F(y) - x \circ_n y) = 0$  and  $a(F(x) \circ_n F(y) - d(x \circ_n y)) = 0$  for all  $x, y \in R$  and for any integer  $n \geq 1$ . But  $d \neq 0$  and so  $F$  can not be written as  $F(x) = bx$  for all  $x \in R$ , for some  $b \in R$ . Thus the primeness hypothesis in Corollary 2.2 and Corollary 2.5 is not superfluous.

### 3. THE RESULTS ON SEMIPRIME RINGS

In this section we extend Corollary 2.3 and Corollary 2.6 to the semiprime ring. Let  $R$  be a semiprime ring and  $U$  be its left Utumi ring of quotients. Then  $C = Z(U)$  is the extended centroid of  $R$  [7, p. 38]. We know the fact.

**Fact 1.** *Any derivation of a semiprime ring  $R$  can be uniquely extended to a derivation of its left Utumi quotient ring  $U$  and so any derivation of  $R$  can be defined on the whole of  $U$  [16, Lemma 2].*

Let  $M(C)$  be the set of all maximal ideals of  $C$ .

By the standard theory of orthogonal completions for semiprime rings, we have the following lemma.

**Lemma 3.1** ([6], Lemma 1 and Theorem 1). *Let  $R$  be a 2-torsion free semiprime ring and  $P$  a maximal ideal of  $C$ . Then  $PU$  is a prime ideal of  $U$  invariant under all derivations of  $U$ . Moreover,  $\bigcap \{PU : P \in M(C) \text{ with } U/PU \text{ 2-torsion free}\} = 0$ .*

**Theorem 3.2.** *Let  $R$  be a noncommutative 2-torsion free semiprime ring,  $U$  the left Utumi quotient ring of  $R$  and  $0 \neq a \in R$ . Let  $d$  be a nonzero derivation of  $R$  such that  $a(d(x) \circ_n d(y) - x \circ_n y) = 0$  for all  $x, y \in R$ . Then  $R$  contains a nonzero central ideal.*

**Proof.** By Fact 1 and since  $U$  and  $R$  satisfy the same differential identities (see [16]), we have  $a(d(x) \circ_n d(y) - x \circ_n y) = 0$  for all  $x, y \in U$ . Let  $P \in M(C)$  be such that  $U/PU$  is 2-torsion free. It is clear that  $U$  is 2-torsion free semiprime ring. Then  $PU$  is a prime ideal of  $U$  invariant under  $d$  by Lemma 3.1. Denote  $\bar{U} = U/PU$  and  $\bar{d}$  the derivation induced by  $d$  on  $\bar{U}$ , that is  $\bar{d}(\bar{x}) = \overline{d(x)}$  for all  $x \in U$ . For any  $\bar{x}, \bar{y} \in \bar{U}$ , we get  $\bar{a}(\bar{d}(\bar{x}) \circ_n \bar{d}(\bar{y}) - \bar{x} \circ_n \bar{y}) = 0$ . Moreover  $\bar{U}$  is a prime ring so by Corollary 2.3, we get either  $\bar{d} = 0$  or  $[\bar{U}, \bar{U}] = 0$ . In any case we have  $d(U)[U, U] \subseteq PU$  for all  $P \in M(C)$ . In view of Lemma 3.1,  $\bigcap \{PU : P \in M(C) \text{ with } U/PU \text{ 2-torsion free}\} = 0$ . Then  $d(U)[U, U] = 0$ . In particular we get  $d(R)[R, R] = 0$ . These imply that  $0 = d(R)[R^2, R] = d(R)R[R, R] + d(R)[R, R]R = d(R)R[R, R]$ . In particular  $d(R)R[R, d(R)] = 0$ .

Thus  $[d(R), R]R[d(R), R] = 0$ . Since  $R$  is semiprime, we obtain that  $[d(R), R] = 0$ . Then by [5, Theorem 3],  $R$  contains a nonzero central ideal. ■

Similarly, we have

**Theorem 3.3.** *Let  $R$  be noncommutative 2-torsion free semiprime ring,  $U$  the left Utumi quotient ring of  $R$  and  $0 \neq a \in R$ . Let  $d$  be a nonzero derivation of  $R$  such that  $a(d(x) \circ_n d(y) - d(x \circ_n y)) = 0$  for all  $x, y \in R$ . Then  $R$  contains a nonzero central ideal.*

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