

ON LEFT  $(\theta, \phi)$ -DERIVATIONS OF PRIME RINGS

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ABSTRACT. Let  $R$  be a 2-torsion free prime ring. Suppose that  $\theta, \phi$  are automorphisms of  $R$ . In the present paper it is established that if  $R$  admits a nonzero Jordan left  $(\theta, \theta)$ -derivation, then  $R$  is commutative. Further, as an application of this result it is shown that every Jordan left  $(\theta, \theta)$ -derivation on  $R$  is a left  $(\theta, \theta)$ -derivation on  $R$ . Finally, in case of an arbitrary prime ring it is proved that if  $R$  admits a left  $(\theta, \phi)$ -derivation which acts also as a homomorphism (resp. anti-homomorphism) on a nonzero ideal of  $R$ , then  $d = 0$  on  $R$ .

## 1. INTRODUCTION

Throughout the present paper  $R$  will denote an associative ring with centre  $Z(R)$ . Recall that  $R$  is prime if  $aRb = \{0\}$  implies that  $a = 0$  or  $b = 0$ . As usual  $[x, y]$  will denote the commutator  $xy - yx$ . An additive subgroup  $U$  of  $R$  is said to be a Lie ideal of  $R$  if  $[u, r] \in U$  for all  $u \in U, r \in R$ . Suppose that  $\theta, \phi$  are endomorphisms of  $R$ . An additive mapping  $d : R \rightarrow R$  is called a  $(\theta, \phi)$ -derivation (resp. Jordan  $(\theta, \phi)$ -derivation) if  $d(xy) = d(x)\phi(y) + \theta(x)d(y)$ , (resp.  $d(x^2) = d(x)\phi(x) + \theta(x)d(x)$ ) holds for all  $x, y \in R$ . Of course, every  $(1, 1)$ -derivation (resp. Jordan  $(1, 1)$ -derivation), where 1 is the identity mapping on  $R$  is a derivation (resp. Jordan derivation) on  $R$ . An additive mapping  $d : R \rightarrow R$  is called a left  $(\theta, \phi)$ -derivation (resp. Jordan left  $(\theta, \phi)$ -derivation) if  $d(xy) = \theta(x)d(y) + \phi(y)d(x)$  (resp.  $d(x^2) = \theta(x)d(x) + \phi(x)d(x)$ ) holds for all  $x, y \in R$ . Clearly, every left  $(1, 1)$ -derivation (resp. Jordan left  $(1, 1)$ -derivation) is a left derivation (resp. Jordan left derivation) on  $R$ . Obviously, every left derivation is a Jordan left derivation but the converse need not be true in general. Recently the author together with Nadeem [1] proved that the converse statement is true in the case when the underlying ring is prime and 2-torsion free. In the present paper we shall show that if a 2-torsion free prime ring  $R$  admits an additive mapping satisfying  $d(u^2) = 2\theta(u)d(u)$  for all  $u \in U$ , then either  $d(U) = \{0\}$  or  $U \subseteq Z(R)$  where  $U$  is a Lie ideal of  $R$  with  $u^2 \in U$  for all  $u \in U$  and  $\theta$  is an automorphism

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of  $R$ . In fact this result generalizes the main theorem proved in [4]. Further, some more related results are also obtained. Final section of the present paper deals with the study of left  $(\theta, \phi)$ -derivation which acts also as a homomorphism of the ring.

## 2. PRELIMINARIES

We shall make use of the following results, all but one of which are known.

**Lemma 2.1** ([9, Lemma 2]). *If  $U \not\subseteq Z(R)$  is a Lie ideal of a 2-torsion free prime ring  $R$  and  $a, b \in R$  such that  $aUb = \{0\}$ , then  $a = 0$  or  $b = 0$ .*

**Lemma 2.2** ([11, Lemma 4]). *Let  $G$  and  $H$  be additive groups and let  $R$  be a 2-torsion free ring. Let  $f : G \times G \rightarrow H$  and  $g : G \times G \rightarrow R$  be biadditive mappings. Suppose that for each pair  $a, b \in G$  either  $f(a, b) = 0$  or  $g(a, b)^2 = 0$ . In this case either  $f = 0$  or  $g(a, b)^2 = 0$  for all  $a, b \in G$  respectively.*

**Lemma 2.3** ([13, Theorem 4]). *Let  $R$  be a 2-torsion free prime ring and  $U$  a Lie ideal of  $R$ . If  $R$  admits a derivation  $d$  such that  $d(u)^n = 0$  for all  $u \in U$ , where  $n \geq 1$  is a fixed integer, then  $d(u) = 0$  for all  $u \in U$ .*

**Lemma 2.4** ([16, Lemma 1.3]). *Let  $R$  be a 2-torsion free semiprime ring. If  $U$  is a commutative Lie ideal of  $R$ , then  $U \subseteq Z(R)$ .*

Now we shall prove the following

**Lemma 2.5.** *Let  $R$  be a 2-torsion free ring and let  $U$  be a Lie ideal of  $R$  such that  $u^2 \in U$  for all  $u \in U$ . Suppose that  $\theta$  is an endomorphism of  $R$ . If  $d : R \rightarrow R$  is an additive mapping satisfying  $d(u^2) = 2\theta(u)d(u)$  for all  $u, v \in U$  then*

- (i)  $d(uvu) = \theta(u^2)d(v) + 3\theta(u)\theta(v)d(u) - \theta(v)\theta(u)d(u)$  for all  $u, v \in U$ .
- (ii)  $[\theta(u), \theta(v)]\theta(u)d(u) = \theta(u)[\theta(u), \theta(v)]d(u)$  for all  $u, v \in U$ .
- (iii)  $[\theta(u), \theta(v)]d([u, v]) = 0$  for all  $u, v \in U$ .
- (iv)  $d(vu^2) = \theta(u^2)d(v) + (3\theta(v)\theta(u) - \theta(u)\theta(v))d(u) - \theta(u)d([u, v])$  for all  $u, v \in U$ .

**Proof.** (i) Since  $uv + vu = (u + v)^2 - u^2 - v^2$ , we find that  $uv + vu \in U$  for all  $u, v \in U$ . Hence by linearizing  $d(u^2) = 2\theta(u)d(u)$  on  $u$ , we get

$$(2.1) \quad d(uv + vu) = 2\theta(u)d(v) + 2\theta(v)d(u) \quad \text{for all } u, v \in U.$$

Further, replacing  $v$  by  $uv + vu$  in (2.1), we get

$$(2.2) \quad d(u(uv + vu) + (uv + vu)u) = 4\theta(u^2)d(v) + 6\theta(u)\theta(v)d(u) + 2\theta(v)\theta(u)d(u).$$

On the other hand,

$$\begin{aligned} d(u(uv + vu) + (uv + vu)u) &= d(u^2v + vu^2) + 2d(uvu) \\ &= 2\theta(u^2)d(v) + 4\theta(v)\theta(u)d(u) + 2d(uvu). \end{aligned}$$

Combining the above equation with (2.2), we get (i).

(ii) By linearizing (i) on  $u$ , we get

$$\begin{aligned}
 d((u+w)v(u+w)) &= \theta(u^2)d(v) + \theta(w^2)d(v) + \{\theta(u)\theta(w) + \theta(w)\theta(u)\}d(v) \\
 &\quad + 3\theta(u)\theta(v)d(w) + 3\theta(u)\theta(v)d(u) + 3\theta(w)\theta(v)d(w) \\
 &\quad + 3\theta(w)\theta(v)d(u) - \theta(v)\theta(u)d(u) - \theta(v)\theta(u)d(w) \\
 &\quad - \theta(v)\theta(w)d(u) - \theta(v)\theta(w)d(w).
 \end{aligned}
 \tag{2.3}$$

On the other hand,

$$\begin{aligned}
 d((u+w)v(u+w)) &= d(uvu) + d(wvw) + d(uvw + wvu) \\
 &= \theta(u^2)d(v) + 3\theta(u)\theta(v)d(u) - \theta(v)\theta(u)d(u) + \theta(w^2)d(v) \\
 &\quad + 3\theta(w)\theta(v)d(w) - \theta(v)\theta(w)d(w) + d(uvw + wvu).
 \end{aligned}
 \tag{2.4}$$

Combining (2.3) and (2.4), we arrive at

$$\begin{aligned}
 d(uvw + wvu) &= \{\theta(u)\theta(w) + \theta(w)\theta(u)\}d(v) + 3\theta(u)\theta(v)d(w) + 3\theta(w)\theta(v)d(u) \\
 &\quad - \theta(v)\theta(u)d(w) - \theta(v)\theta(w)d(u) \quad \text{for all } u, v \in U.
 \end{aligned}
 \tag{2.5}$$

Since  $uv + vu$  and  $uv - vu$  both belong to  $U$  we find that  $2uv \in U$  for all  $u, v \in U$ . Hence, by our hypothesis we find that  $d((2uv)^2) = 2\theta(2uv)d((2uv))$  i.e.,  $4d(uv)^2 = 8\theta(uv)d(uv)$ . Since  $\text{char} R \neq 2$ , we have  $d(uv)^2 = 2\theta(u)\theta(v)d(uv)$ . Replace  $w$  by  $2uv$  in (2.5), and use the fact that  $\text{char} R \neq 2$ , to get

$$\begin{aligned}
 d(uv(uv) + (uv)vu) &= \{\theta(u^2)\theta(v) + \theta(u)\theta(v)\theta(u)\}d(v) + 3\theta(u)\theta(v)d(uv) \\
 &\quad + 3\theta(u)\theta(v^2)d(u) - \theta(v)\theta(u)d(uv) \\
 &\quad - \theta(v)\theta(u)\theta(v)d(u).
 \end{aligned}
 \tag{2.6}$$

On the other hand,

$$\begin{aligned}
 d((uv)^2 + uv^2u) &= 2\theta(u)\theta(v)d(uv) + 2\theta(u^2)\theta(v)d(v) \\
 &\quad + 3\theta(u)\theta(v^2)d(u) - \theta(v^2)\theta(u)d(u).
 \end{aligned}
 \tag{2.7}$$

Combining (2.6) and (2.7), we get

$$[\theta(u), \theta(v)]d(uv) = \theta(u)[\theta(u), \theta(v)]d(v) + \theta(v)[\theta(u), \theta(v)]d(u)
 \tag{2.8}$$

Replacing  $u + v$  for  $v$  in (2.8), we have

$$\begin{aligned}
 2[\theta(u), \theta(v)]\theta(u)d(u) + [\theta(u), \theta(v)]d(uv) &= 2\theta(u)[\theta(u), \theta(v)]d(u) \\
 &\quad + \theta(u)[\theta(u), \theta(v)]d(v) + \theta(v)[\theta(u), \theta(v)]d(u).
 \end{aligned}$$

Now application of (2.8) yields (ii).

(iii) Linearize (ii) on  $u$ , to get

$$\begin{aligned} & [\theta(u), \theta(v)]\theta(u)d(u) + [\theta(u), \theta(v)]\theta(v)d(v) + [\theta(u), \theta(v)]\theta(u)d(v) \\ & + [\theta(u), \theta(v)]\theta(v)d(u) = \theta(u)[\theta(u), \theta(v)]d(u) \\ & + \theta(u)[\theta(u), \theta(v)]d(v) + \theta(v)[\theta(u), \theta(v)]d(u) \\ & + \theta(v)[\theta(u), \theta(v)]d(v) \quad \text{for all } u, v \in U. \end{aligned}$$

Now application of (2.8) and (ii) yields that

$$[\theta(u), \theta(v)]\theta(u)d(v) + [\theta(u), \theta(v)]\theta(v)d(u) = [\theta(u), \theta(v)]d(uv)$$

and hence

$$(2.9) \quad [\theta(u), \theta(v)]\{d(uv) - \theta(u)d(v) - \theta(v)d(u)\} = 0 \quad \text{for all } u, v \in U.$$

Combining (2.1) and (2.9) we find that,

$$(2.10) \quad [\theta(u), \theta(v)]\{d(vu) - \theta(u)d(v) - \theta(v)d(u)\} = 0 \quad \text{for all } u, v \in U.$$

Further, combining of (2.9) and (2.10) yields the required result.

(iv) Replace  $v$  by  $2vu$  in (2.1), and use the fact that  $\text{char}R \neq 2$ , to get

$$(2.11) \quad d(uvu + vu^2) = 2(\theta(u)d(uv) + \theta(v)\theta(u)d(u)) \quad \text{for all } u, v \in U.$$

Again, replacing  $v$  by  $2uv$  in (2.1), we get

$$(2.12) \quad d(u^2v + uvu) = 2(\theta(u)d(uv) + \theta(u)\theta(v)d(u)) \quad \text{for all } u, v \in U.$$

Now, combining (2.11) and (2.12), we get

$$(2.13) \quad d(u^2v - vu^2) = 2(\theta(u)d([u, v]) + [\theta(u), \theta(v)]d(u)) \quad \text{for all } u, v \in U.$$

Replacing  $u$  by  $u^2$  in (2.1), we have

$$(2.14) \quad d(u^2v + vu^2) = 2(\theta(u^2)d(v) + 2\theta(v)\theta(u)d(u)) \quad \text{for all } u, v \in U.$$

Hence, subtracting (2.13) from (2.14) and using the fact that characteristic of  $R$  is different from two we find that

$$d(vu^2) = \theta(u^2)d(v) + \{3\theta(v)\theta(u) - \theta(u)\theta(v)\}d(u) - \theta(u)d([u, v]) \quad \text{for all } u, v \in U.$$

### 3. LEFT DERIVATION AND COMMUTATIVITY OF PRIME RING

A mapping  $f : R \rightarrow R$  is said to be commuting on  $R$  if  $f(x)x = xf(x)$  holds for all  $x \in R$ . Comparing Jordan left derivation with commuting mapping on a ring  $R$ , it turns out that notion of Jordan left derivation is in a close connection with the commuting mapping on  $R$ . There has been considerable interest for commuting mappings on prime rings. The fundamental result in this direction is due to Posner [18] who proved that if a prime ring  $R$  admits a non-zero derivation that is commuting on  $R$ , then  $R$  is commutative. Using rather weak hypotheses Bresar and Vukman [12] obtained a result which shows that the existence of a non-zero Jordan left derivation on a 2-torsion free and 3-torsion free prime ring  $R$  forces  $R$  to be commutative. It was also remarked by Bresar and Vukman that the assumption “ $R$  is 3-torsion free” in the hypotheses of the above result may

be avoided. In this direction we have obtained the following theorem which also includes the main result of [4].

**Theorem 3.1.** *Let  $R$  be a 2-torsion free prime ring and let  $U$  be a Lie ideal of  $R$  such that  $u^2 \in U$  for all  $u \in U$ . Suppose that  $\theta$  is an automorphism of  $R$ . If  $d : R \rightarrow R$  is an additive mapping satisfying  $d(u^2) = 2\theta(u)d(u)$  for all  $u \in U$ , then either  $d(U) = \{0\}$  or  $U \subseteq Z(R)$ .*

**Proof.** Suppose that  $U \not\subseteq Z(R)$ . By Lemma 2.5(ii) we have

$$(3.1) \quad \{\theta(u^2)\theta(v) - 2\theta(u)\theta(v)\theta(u) + \theta(v)\theta(u^2)\}d(u) = 0 \quad \text{for all } u, v \in U.$$

Replacing  $[u, w]$  for  $u$  in (3.1), we get

$$\begin{aligned} & [\theta(u), \theta(w)]^2\theta(v)d([u, w]) - 2[\theta(u), \theta(w)]\theta(v)[\theta(u), \theta(w)]d([u, w]) \\ & \quad + \theta(v)[\theta(u), \theta(w)]^2d([u, w]) = 0 \\ & \quad \text{for all } u, v, w \in U. \end{aligned}$$

Now, application of Lemma 2.5(iii) yields that  $\theta^{-1}([\theta(u), \theta(w)]^2)U\theta^{-1}(d([u, w]) = \{0\})$ . Hence by Lemma 2.1 we find that for each pair  $u, w \in U$ , either  $[\theta(u), \theta(w)]^2 = 0$  or  $d([u, w]) = 0$ . This implies that either  $[u, w]^2 = 0$  or  $d([u, w]) = 0$ . Note that the mappings  $(u, w) \mapsto [u, w]$  and  $(u, w) \mapsto d([u, w])$  satisfy the requirements of the Lemma 2.2. Hence, either  $[u, w]^2 = 0$  for all  $u, w \in U$  or  $d([u, w]) = 0$  for all  $u, w \in U$ . If  $[u, w]^2 = 0$  for all  $u, w \in U$ , then for each  $u \in U$ ,  $(I_u(w))^2 = 0$  for all  $w \in U$ , where  $I_u$  is the inner derivation such that  $I_u(w) = [u, w]$ . Thus by the application of Lemma 2.3 we find that  $U$  is a commutative Lie ideal of  $R$ , and hence by Lemma 2.4,  $U \subseteq Z(R)$ , a contradiction. Hence, we consider the remaining case that  $d([u, w]) = 0$  for all  $u, w \in U$ , i.e.,  $d(uw) = d(wu)$  for all  $u, w \in U$ . Since  $wu - uw$  and  $wu + uw$  both belong to  $U$ , we find that  $2wu \in U$  for all  $u, w \in U$ . This yields that  $d((2wu)u) = d(u(2wu))$ . Since (2.1) is valid in the present situation, we find that

$$\begin{aligned} 4d((wu)u) &= d((2wu)u + u(2wu)) \\ &= 4\theta(w)\theta(u)d(u) + 2\theta(u)d(2wu) \\ &= 4\theta(w)\theta(u)d(u) + 2\theta(u)d(wu + uw) \\ &= 4\{\theta(w)\theta(u)d(u) + \theta(u)\theta(w)d(u) + \theta(u^2)d(w)\}. \end{aligned}$$

Since  $R$  is a 2-torsion free, we obtain

$$(3.2) \quad d((wu)u) = \theta(u^2)d(w) + \theta(u)\theta(w)d(u) + \theta(w)\theta(u)d(u) \quad \text{for all } u, w \in U$$

Since  $d([u, w]) = 0$  for all  $u, w \in U$ , using Lemma 2.5(iv) and (3.2), we get  $2[\theta(u), \theta(w)]d(u) = 0$ . This implies that

$$(3.3) \quad [\theta(u), \theta(w)]d(u) = 0 \quad \text{for all } u, w \in U.$$

Now, replacing  $w$  by  $2wv$  in (3.3) and using the fact that  $\text{char } R \neq 2$  we get  $[\theta(u), \theta(w)]\theta(v)d(u) = 0$  i.e.,  $\theta^{-1}([\theta(u), \theta(w)])U\theta^{-1}(d(u) = \{0\})$ . Thus by Lemma 2.1, we find that for each  $u \in U$ ,  $\theta^{-1}([\theta(u), \theta(w)]) = 0$  or  $\theta^{-1}(d(u)) = 0$ . This implies that  $[u, w] = 0$  or  $d(u) = 0$ . Now let  $U_1 = \{u \in U \mid [u, w] = 0 \text{ for all } w \in U\}$ .

$w \in U\}$  and  $U_2 = \{u \in U \mid d(u) = 0\}$ . Clearly,  $U_1$  and  $U_2$  are additive subgroups of  $U$  whose union is  $U$ . But a group can not be written as a union of two of its proper subgroups and hence by Brauer's trick either  $U = U_1$  or  $U = U_2$ . If  $U = U_1$ , then  $[u, w] = 0$  for all  $u, w \in U$  and by using the similar arguments as above we get  $U \subseteq Z(R)$ , again a contradiction. Hence we have the remaining possibility that  $d(u) = 0$  for all  $u \in U$  i.e.,  $d(U) = \{0\}$ . This completes the proof of the theorem.  $\square$

As an application of the above theorem we get the following result, which generalizes the main theorem of [1].

**Theorem 3.2.** *Let  $R$  be a 2-torsion free prime ring and  $U$  a Lie ideal of  $R$  such that  $u^2 \in U$  for all  $u \in U$ . Suppose that  $\theta$  is an automorphism of  $R$ . If  $d : R \rightarrow R$  is an additive mapping satisfying  $d(u^2) = 2\theta(u)d(u)$  for all  $u \in U$ , then  $d(uv) = \theta(u)d(v) + \theta(v)d(u)$  for all  $u, v \in U$ .*

**Proof.** Suppose that  $d = 0$  on  $U$ . Since  $2uv \in U$ ,  $uv - vu$  and  $uv + vu$  both belong to  $U$ , we find that  $2d(uv) = d(2uv) = 0$ . This implies that  $d(uv) = 0$  for all  $u, v \in U$ . Hence, the result is obvious in the present case. Therefore now assume that  $d(U) \neq \{0\}$ . Then by the above theorem  $U \subseteq Z(R)$ . Thus  $R$  satisfies the property  $d(u^2) = d(u)\theta(u) + \theta(u)d(u)$  for all  $u \in U$  and hence by Theorem 3.2 of [3] we find that  $d(uv) = d(u)\theta(v) + \theta(u)d(v)$  for all  $u, v \in U$ . Further since  $\theta(U) \subseteq Z(R)$ , we find that  $d(uv) = \theta(u)d(v) + \theta(v)d(u)$  holds for all  $u, v \in U$ .  $\square$

**Corollary 3.1.** *Let  $R$  be a 2-torsion free prime ring. If  $d : R \rightarrow R$  is a Jordan left derivation, then  $d$  is a left derivation.*

If the underlying ring is arbitrary, then we have the following

**Theorem 3.3.** *Let  $R$  be a 2-torsion free ring and  $U$  a Lie ideal of  $R$  such that  $u^2 \in U$  for all  $u \in U$ . Suppose that  $\theta$  is an endomorphism of  $R$  and  $R$  has a commutator which is not a zero divisor. If  $d : R \rightarrow R$  is an additive mapping satisfying  $d(u^2) = 2\theta(u)d(u)$  for all  $u \in U$ , then  $d(uv) = \theta(u)d(v) + \theta(v)d(u)$  for all  $u, v \in U$ .*

**Proof.** For any  $u, v \in U$ , define a map  $f : U \times U \rightarrow R$  such that  $f(u, v) = d(uv) - \theta(u)d(v) - \theta(v)d(u)$ . Since  $\theta$  and  $d$  both are additive,  $f$  is additive in both the arguments and is zero if  $d$  is a left  $(\theta, \theta)$ -derivation. Note that (2.9) is still valid in the present situation and hence we have

$$(3.4) \quad [\theta(u), \theta(v)]f(u, v) = 0 \quad \text{for all } u, v \in U.$$

Let  $a, b$  be fixed elements of  $U$  such that  $[\theta(a), \theta(b)]c = 0$  implies that  $c = 0$ . Application of (3.4) yields that

$$(3.5) \quad f(a, b) = 0.$$

Replacing  $u$  by  $u + a$  in (3.4) and using (3.4), we find that

$$(3.6) \quad [\theta(u), \theta(v)]f(a, v) + [\theta(a), \theta(v)]f(u, v) = 0 \quad \text{for all } u, v \in U.$$

Replacing  $v$  by  $b$  in (3.6) and using (3.6), we have

$$(3.7) \quad f(u, b) = 0 \quad \text{for all } u \in U.$$

Further, substituting  $v + b$  for  $v$  in (3.6) and using (3.5) and (3.7), we get

$$(3.8) \quad [\theta(u), \theta(b)]f(a, v) + [\theta(a), \theta(b)]f(u, v) = 0 \quad \text{for all } u, v \in U.$$

Now replacing  $u$  by  $a$  in (3.8) and using the fact that  $\text{char } R \neq 2$ , we have

$$(3.9) \quad f(a, v) = 0 \quad \text{for all } v \in U.$$

Combining of (3.8) and (3.9) yields that  $[\theta(a), \theta(b)]f(u, v) = 0$ . This implies that  $f(u, v) = 0$  for all  $u, v \in U$  i.e.,  $d$  is a left  $(\theta, \theta)$ -derivation.  $\square$

In the end of this section it is tempting to conjecture as follows

**Conjecture 3.1.** *Let  $R$  be a 2-torsion free prime ring and  $U$  a Lie ideal of  $R$  such that  $u^2 \in U$  for all  $u \in U$ . Suppose that  $\theta, \phi$  are automorphisms of  $R$ . If  $d : R \rightarrow R$  is an additive mapping satisfying  $d(u^2) = \theta(u)d(u) + \phi(u)d(u)$  for all  $u \in U$ , then either  $d(U) = \{0\}$  or  $U \subseteq Z(R)$ .*

#### 4. LEFT DERIVATION AS A HOMOMORPHISM OR AS AN ANTI-HOMOMORPHISM

Let  $S$  be a non-empty subset of  $R$  and  $d : R \rightarrow R$  a derivation of  $R$ . If  $d(xy) = d(x)d(y)$  (resp.  $d(xy) = d(y)d(x)$ ) holds for all  $x, y \in S$ , then  $d$  is said to act as a homomorphism (resp. anti-homomorphism) on  $S$ . Recently, Bell and Kappe [8] proved that if  $K$  is a non-zero right ideal of a prime ring  $R$  and  $d : R \rightarrow R$  a derivation of  $R$  such that  $d$  acts as a homomorphism on  $K$ , then  $d = 0$  on  $R$ . This result was further extended for  $(\theta, \phi)$ -derivation in [2] as follows:

**Theorem 4.1** ([2, Theorem 3.2]). *Let  $R$  be a prime ring and  $K$  a nonzero ideal of  $R$ , and let  $\theta, \phi$  be automorphisms of  $R$ . Suppose that  $d : R \rightarrow R$  is a  $(\theta, \phi)$ -derivation of  $R$ .*

- (i) *If  $d$  acts as a homomorphism on  $K$ , then  $d = 0$  on  $R$ .*
- (ii) *If  $d$  acts as an anti-homomorphism on  $K$ , then  $d = 0$  on  $R$ .*

In the present section our objective is to extend the above study to the left derivation of a prime ring  $R$  which acts either as a homomorphism or as an anti-homomorphism of  $R$ .

**Theorem 4.2.** *Let  $R$  be a prime ring and  $K$  a nonzero ideal of  $R$ , and let  $\theta, \phi$  be automorphisms of  $R$ . Suppose  $d : R \rightarrow R$  is a left  $(\theta, \phi)$ -derivation of  $R$ .*

- (i) *If  $d$  acts as an anti-homomorphism on  $K$ , then  $d = 0$  on  $R$ .*
- (ii) *If  $d$  acts as a homomorphism on  $K$ , then  $d = 0$  on  $R$ .*

**Proof.** (i) Let  $d$  act as an anti-homomorphism on  $K$ . By our hypothesis, we have

$$(4.1) \quad d(xy) = \theta(x)d(y) + \phi(y)d(x) \quad \text{for all } x, y \in K.$$

In (4.1) replacing  $y$  by  $xy$ , we get

$$(4.2) \quad d(xy)d(x) = d(x(xy)) = \theta(x)d(xy) + \phi(xy)d(x) \quad \text{for all } x, y \in K.$$

Now multiplying (4.1) in the right by  $d(x)$  and using the fact that  $d$  is an anti-homomorphism on  $K$ , we get

$$(4.3) \quad d(xy)d(x) = \theta(x)d(xy) + \phi(y)d(x)d(x) \quad \text{for all } x, y \in K.$$

Combining (4.2) and (4.3), we get

$$(4.4) \quad \phi(x)\phi(y)d(x) = \phi(y)d(x)d(x).$$

In (4.4) replace  $y$  by  $ry$ , to get

$$(4.5) \quad \phi(x)\phi(r)\phi(y)d(x) = \phi(r)\phi(y)d(x)d(x) \quad \text{for all } x, y \in K \quad \text{and } r \in R.$$

Multiplying (4.4) on left by  $\phi(r)$  and combining with (4.5), we obtain

$$(4.6) \quad [\phi(r), \phi(x)]\phi(y)d(x) = 0.$$

In (4.6) replacing  $y$  by  $sy$ , we get

$$[\phi(r), \phi(x)]\phi(s)\phi(y)d(x) = 0 \quad \text{for all } x, y \in K \quad \text{and } r, s \in R,$$

and hence,  $[r, x]Ry\phi^{-1}(d(x)) = \{0\}$  for all  $x, y \in K$  and  $r \in R$ . Thus for each  $x \in K$ , the primeness of  $R$  forces that either  $[r, x] = 0$  or  $\phi(y)d(x) = 0$ . Let  $K_1 = \{x \in K \mid \phi(y)d(x) = 0 \text{ for all } y \in K\}$  and  $K_2 = \{x \in K \mid [r, x] = 0 \text{ for all } r \in R\}$ . Then clearly  $K_1$  and  $K_2$  are additive subgroups of  $K$  whose union is  $K$ . By Braur's trick, we have  $\phi(y)d(x) = 0$  for all  $x, y \in K$  or  $[r, x] = 0$  for all  $x \in K$  and  $r \in R$ . If  $[r, x] = 0$ , replace  $x$  by  $sx$ , to get  $[r, s]x = 0$  for all  $x \in K$  and  $r, s \in R$ , this implies that  $[r, s]Rx = \{0\}$ . The primeness of  $R$  forces that either  $x = 0$  or  $[r, s] = 0$ , but  $K \neq \{0\}$ , we have  $[r, s] = 0$  for all  $r, s \in R$ , i.e.,  $R$  is commutative. So,  $d(xy) = d(x)\phi(y) + \theta(x)d(y)$  for all  $x, y \in K$  i.e.,  $d$  is a  $(\theta, \phi)$ -derivation which acts as an anti-homomorphism on  $K$ . Hence by Theorem 4.1(ii), we have  $d = 0$  on  $R$ . Henceforth, we have remaining possibility that

$$(4.7) \quad \phi(y)d(x) = 0 \quad \text{for all } x, y \in K.$$

Replace  $y$  by  $yr$  in (4.7), to get  $\phi(y)\phi(r)d(x) = 0$  for all  $x, y \in K$  and  $r \in R$ , and hence  $yR\phi^{-1}(d(x)) = \{0\}$ . This implies that  $\phi^{-1}(d(x)) = 0$ , that is

$$(4.8) \quad d(x) = 0 \quad \text{for all } y \in K.$$

Replace  $x$  by  $sx$  in (4.8), to get

$$(4.9) \quad \phi(x)d(s) = 0 \quad \text{for all } x \in K \quad \text{and } s \in R.$$

Replacing  $x$  by  $xr$  in (4.9), we get  $\phi(x)\phi(r)d(s) = 0$  for all  $x \in K$  and  $r, s \in R$ , and hence  $xR\phi^{-1}(d(s)) = \{0\}$ . Since  $R$  is prime, and  $K$  a nonzero ideal of  $R$ , we find that  $d = 0$  on  $R$ .

(ii) If  $d$  acts as a homomorphism on  $K$ , then we have

$$(4.10) \quad d(x)d(y) = d(xy) = \theta(x)d(y) + \phi(y)d(x) \quad \text{for all } x, y \in K.$$

Replacing  $x$  by  $xy$  in (4.10), we get

$$d(xy)d(y) = \theta(x)\theta(y)d(y) + \phi(y)d(xy) \quad \text{for all } x, y \in K.$$

Now, application of (4.10) yields that  $\theta(x)d(y)d(y) = \theta(x)\theta(y)d(y)$ . This implies that

$$(4.11) \quad \theta(x)(d(y) - \theta(y))d(y) = 0 \quad \text{for all } x, y \in K.$$

Replace  $x$  by  $xr$  in (4.11), to get  $\theta(x)\theta(r)(d(y) - \theta(y))d(y) = 0$  for all  $x, y \in K$  and  $r \in R$ , and hence,  $xR\theta^{-1}((d(y) - \theta(y))d(y)) = \{0\}$  for all  $x, y \in K$ . The primeness of  $R$  forces that either  $x = 0$  or  $\theta^{-1}((d(y) - \theta(y))d(y)) = 0$ . Since  $K$  is a nonzero ideal of  $R$ , we have  $\theta^{-1}((d(y) - \theta(y))d(y)) = 0$ , this yields that  $(d(y) - \theta(y))d(y) = 0$  that is  $d(y^2) = \theta(y)d(y)$ . Since  $d$  is a left  $(\theta, \phi)$ -derivation, we find that  $\phi(y)d(y) = 0$ . Linearizing the latter relation, we have

$$(4.12) \quad \phi(y)d(x) + \phi(x)d(y) = 0 \quad \text{for all } x, y \in K.$$

Replace  $x$  by  $yx$  in (4.12), to get

$$(4.13) \quad \phi(y)\phi(x)d(y) = 0 \quad \text{for all } x, y \in K.$$

Substituting  $sx$  for  $x$  in (4.13), we get  $\phi(y)\phi(s)\phi(x)d(y) = 0$  for all  $x, y \in K$  and  $s \in R$ , and hence  $yR\phi^{-1}(d(y)) = \{0\}$ . Thus for each  $y \in K$ ; the primeness of  $R$  forces that either  $y = 0$  or  $\phi^{-1}(d(y)) = 0$ . But  $y = 0$  also implies that  $x\phi^{-1}(d(y)) = 0$ , that is

$$(4.14) \quad \phi(x)d(y) = 0 \quad \text{for all } x, y \in K.$$

Now using similar techniques as used to get (i) from (4.7) we get the required result.

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