

RINGS IN WHICH POWER VALUES OF  $K$ -ENGELS  
WITH DERIVATIONS ANNIHILATE A CERTAIN ELEMENT

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**Abstract:** Let  $R$  be a 2-torsion free semiprime ring and  $d$  a non-zero derivation. Further let  $A = O(R)$  be the orthogonal completion of  $R$  and  $B = B(C)$  the Boolean ring of  $C$  where  $C$  be the extended centroid of  $R$ . We show that if  $a[[d(x), x]_n, [y, d(y)]_m]^t = 0$  such that  $0 \neq a \in R$  for all  $x, y \in R$ , where  $m, n, t > 0$  are fixed integers, then there exists an idempotent  $e \in B$  such that  $eA$  is a commutative ring and  $d$  induce a zero derivation on  $(1 - e)A$ .

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## 1. Introduction

Let  $R$  be an associative ring with center  $Z(R)$ . Recall that an additive mapping  $d$  of  $R$  into itself is a derivation if  $d(xy) = d(x)y + xd(y)$ , for all  $x, y \in R$ . Also if  $(x_i)_{i \in \mathbb{N}}$  is a squence of elements of  $R$  and  $k$  is a positive integer, we define  $[x_1, \dots, x_{k+1}]$  inductively as follows:

$$[x_1, x_2] = x_1x_2 - x_2x_1, \quad [x_1, \dots, x_k, x_{k+1}] = [[x_1, \dots, x_k], x_{k+1}].$$

If  $x_1 = x$  and  $x_2 = \dots = x_{k+1} = y$ , the notation  $[x, y]_k$  is used to denote  $[x_1, \dots, x_{k+1}]$  and  $[x, y]_k$  is called a  $k$ -engel element.

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A well known result of Posner stated that if  $[[d(x), x], y] = 0$  for all  $x, y \in R$ , then  $R$  is commutative [13]. A number of authors extended this result in several ways. Bell and Martindale in [2] studied this identity for a semiprime ring  $R$ . They proved that if  $R$  is a semiprime ring and  $[[d(x), x], y] = 0$  for all  $x$  in a non-zero left ideal of  $R$  and  $y \in R$ , then  $R$  contains a non-zero central ideal. In [7], Filippis showed that if  $R$  is a prime ring with  $\text{char} R \neq 2$  and  $d$  a non-zero derivation of  $R$  such that  $[[d(x), x], [d(y), y]] = 0$  for all  $x, y \in R$ , then  $R$  is commutative. Recently Dhara obtained results for a prime ring  $R$  of  $\text{char} R \neq 2$ , with a nonzero derivation  $d$  that if  $0 \neq a \in R$  such that  $a[[d(x), x]_n, [d(y), y]_m] = 0$  for all  $x, y \in R$ , where  $m, n \geq 0$  are fixed integers, then  $R$  is commutative [5].

Now, we will generalize Posner's result [13] when the condition are more widespread.

The main result of this paper is as follows:

**Theorem 1.1.** *Let  $R$  be a 2-torsion free semiprime ring with non-zero derivation  $d$  and  $0 \neq a \in R$  such that  $a[[d(x), x]_n, [y, d(y)]_m]^t = 0$  for all  $x, y \in R$ , where  $m, n, t > 0$  are fixed integers. Further let  $A = O(R)$  be the orthogonal completion of  $R$  and  $B = B(C)$  where  $C$  the extended centroid of  $R$ . Then there exists an idempotent  $e \in B$  such that  $eA$  is a commutative ring and  $d$  induce a zero derivation on  $(1 - e)A$ .*

Throughout the paper we use the standard notation from [1]. In particular, we denote by  $Q$  the two sided Martindale quotient of prime and semiprime ring  $R$  and  $C$  the center of  $Q$ . We call  $C$  the extended centroid of  $R$ .

It is well known that any derivation of prime (semiprime) ring  $R$  can be uniquely extended to a derivation of  $Q$ , and so any derivation of  $R$  can be defined on the whole of  $Q$ . Moreover  $Q$  is a prime (semiprime) ring as well as  $R$ . We refer to [1, 11] for more details.

## 2. Proof of Main Result

The following results are usefull tool needed the proof of main result.

**Theorem 2.1.** *Let  $R$  be a prime ring of  $\text{char} R \neq 2$  and  $d$  a derivation of  $R$ . Suppose  $a[[d(x), x]_n, [d(y), y]_m]^t = 0$  and  $0 \neq a \in R$  for all  $x, y \in R$ , where  $m, n, t > 0$  are fixed integers. Then  $R$  is commutative or  $d = 0$ .*

*Proof.* Consider two cases.

*Case 1.*  $d$  is not a  $Q$ -inner derivation. By Kharchenko's Theorem [8] for any  $x, y, z, s \in R$  we have  $a[[z, x]_n, [s, y]_m]^t = 0$ . This is a polynomial identity and hence there exists a field  $F$  such that  $R \subseteq M_k(F)$  with  $k > 1$  and  $R, M_k(F)$  satisfy the same polynomial identity [10]. Therefore we can consider  $a = (a_{ij})_{k \times k}$ . We may assume that  $t$  is an even integer. Now putting

$$z = e_{ij}, \quad x = e_{ii}, \quad s = e_{ji}, \quad y = e_{ii}.$$

Thus for any  $i \neq j$ , we have

$$0 = a[[z, x]_n, [s, y]_m]^t = a(-1)^{nt}(e_{ii} + (-1)^t e_{jj}) = a(e_{ii} + e_{jj}),$$

This implies  $a_{ij} = 0$  for any  $i, j$  ( $i \neq j$ ), which is contradiction.

*Case 2.*  $d$  is a  $Q$ -inner derivation. So there exists an element  $b \in Q$  such that  $d(x) = [b, x]$  for all  $x \in R$ . Since by [4]  $Q$  and  $R$  satisfy the same generalized polynomial identities ( $GPI$ ), hence for any  $x, y \in Q$  we have

$$a[[b, x]_{n+1}, [y, [b, y]]_m]^t = 0.$$

Also since  $Q$  remains prime by the primeness of  $R$ , replacing  $R$  by  $Q$  we may assume that  $b \in R$  and the extended centroid of  $R$  is just the center of  $R$ . Note that  $R$  is a centrally closed prime  $C$ -algebra in the present situation [6]. If  $R$  is commutative, we have nothing to prove. So, let  $R$  be noncommutative. Therefore  $R$  satisfies a nontrivial ( $GPI$ ). Since  $R$  is a centrally closed prime  $C$ -algebra, by Martindale's theorem [12],  $R$  is a strongly primitive ring. Let  ${}_R V$  be a faithful irreducible left  $R$ -module with commuting ring  $D = \text{End}({}_R V)$ . By the Density Theorem,  $R$  acts densely on  $V_D$ . For any given  $v \in V$  we claim that  $v$  and  $bv$  are  $D$ -dependent. Assume first that  $av \neq 0$ . Suppose on the contrary that  $v$  and  $bv$  are  $D$ -independent.

If  $b^2v \in \text{span}\{v, bv\}$ , then  $b^2v = v\alpha + bv\beta$  for some  $\alpha, \beta \in D$ . By density of  $R$  in  $\text{End}(V_D)$  there exist two elements  $x$  and  $y$  in  $R$  such that

$$xv = v, xbv = 0 \quad \text{and} \quad yv = 0, ybv = v.$$

Then

$$0 = a[[b, x]_{n+1}, [y, [b, y]]_m]^t v = (-2)^{mt} av.$$

If  $b^2v \notin \text{span}\{v, bv\}$ , then  $\{v, bv, b^2v\}$  are all  $D$ -independent. Then by Density of  $R$  in  $\text{End}(V_D)$  there exist two elements  $x$  and  $y$  in  $R$  such that

$$xv = v, xbv = 0, xb^2v = 0 \quad \text{and} \quad yv = 0, ybv = 0, yb^2v = 0.$$

Therefore we have

$$0 = a[[b, x]_{n+1}, [y, [b, y]]_m]^t v = (-2)^{mt} av.$$

Since  $\text{char} R \neq 2$  we get  $av = 0$ , a contradiction. Thus  $v$  and  $bv$  are  $D$ -dependent as claimed. Assume next that  $av = 0$ . Since  $a \neq 0$ , we have  $aw \neq 0$  for some  $w \in V$ . Then  $a(v + w) = aw \neq 0$ . Applying the first situation we have

$$bw = w\alpha \quad \text{and} \quad b(v + w) = (v + w)\beta,$$

for some  $\alpha, \beta \in D$ . But  $v$  and  $w$  are clearly  $D$ -independent, and so there exist two elements  $x$  and  $y$  in  $R$  such that

$$xw = w, xv = 0 \quad \text{and} \quad yw = v, yv = 0.$$

Then

$$0 = a[[b, x]_{n+1}, [y, [b, y]]_m]^t = (-1)^{t(n+1)} 2^{mt} a(\beta - \alpha)^{2t} w,$$

which implies  $\alpha = \beta$  and hence  $bv = v\alpha$  as claimed. From the above we have proved that  $bv = v\alpha(v)$  for all  $v \in V$ , where  $\alpha(v) \in D$  depends on  $v \in V$ . In fact, it is easy to check that  $\alpha(v)$  is independent of the choice of  $v \in V$ . That is, there exist  $\delta \in D$  such that  $bv = v\delta$  for all  $v \in V$ . we claim  $\delta \in Z(D)$ , the center of  $D$ . Indeed, if  $\beta \in D$ , then

$$b(v\beta) = (v\beta)\delta = v(\beta\delta)$$

and the other hand

$$b(v\beta) = (bv)\beta = (v\delta)\beta = v(\delta\beta).$$

Therefore  $v(\beta\delta - \delta\beta) = 0$  so  $\beta\delta = \delta\beta$ , which implies  $\delta \in Z(D)$ . Thus  $b \in C$  and hence  $d = 0$ , as be wanted.  $\square$

The following example shows the hypothesis of primeness is essential in theorem 2.1.

**Example 2.2.** Let  $S$  be any ring, and

$$R = \left\{ \begin{pmatrix} 0 & a & b \\ 0 & 0 & c \\ 0 & 0 & 0 \end{pmatrix} \mid a, b, c \in S \right\}.$$

Define  $d : R \rightarrow R$  as follows:

$$d \begin{pmatrix} 0 & a & b \\ 0 & 0 & c \\ 0 & 0 & 0 \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 0 & b \\ 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 \end{pmatrix}.$$

Then  $0 \neq d$  is a derivation of  $R$  such that  $a[[d(x), x]_n, [d(y), y]_m]^t = 0$  for all  $x, y \in R$ , where  $m, n, t > 0$  are fixed integers, however  $R$  is not commutative.

Now let  $R$  be a semiprime orthogonally complete ring with extended centroid  $C$ . We use the notation  $B = B(C)$  and  $\text{spec}(B)$  to denote Boolean ring of  $C$  and the set of all maximal ideal of  $B$ . It is well known that if  $M \in \text{spec}(B)$  then  $R_M = R/RM$  is prime [1, Theorem 3.2.7]. We refer to [1, pages 37, 38, 43, 120] for definitions of  $\Omega$ - $\Delta$ -ring, a first order formula of signature  $\Omega$ - $\Delta$ , Horn formulas and Hereditary first order formulas.

In preparation for the proof of Theorem 1.1 we have the following lemma.

**Lemma 2.3.** (see [1, Theorem 3.2.18]) *Let  $R$  be an orthogonally complete  $\Omega$ - $\Delta$ -ring with extended centroid  $C$ ,  $\Psi_i(x_1, x_2, \dots, x_n)$  Horn formulas of signature  $\Omega$ - $\Delta$ ,  $i = 1, 2, \dots$  and  $\Phi(y_1, y_2, \dots, y_m)$  a Hereditary first order formula such that  $\neg\Phi$  is a Horn formula. Further, let  $\vec{a} = (a_1, a_2, \dots, a_n) \in R^{(n)}$ ,  $\vec{c} = (c_1, c_2, \dots, c_m) \in R^{(m)}$ . Suppose that  $R \models \Phi(\vec{c})$  and for every  $M \in \text{spect}(B)$  there exists a natural number  $i = i(M) > 0$  such that*

$$R_M \models \Phi(\phi_M(\vec{c})) \implies \Psi_i(\phi_M(\vec{a})),$$

where  $\Phi_M : R \rightarrow R_M = R/RM$  is the canonical projection. Then there exist a natural number  $k > 0$  and pairwise orthogonal idempotents  $e_1, e_2, \dots, e_k \in B$  such that  $e_1 + e_2 + \dots + e_k = 1$  and  $e_i R \models \Psi_i(e_i \vec{a})$  for all  $e_i \neq 0$ .

Denote by  $O(R)$  the orthogonal completion of  $R$  which is defined as the intersection of all orthogonally complete subset of  $Q$  containing  $R$ .

Now we can prove Theorem 1.1.

*Proof of Theorem 1.1.* It is well known that the derivation  $d$  can be extended uniquely to a derivation  $d : Q \rightarrow Q$ . According to [1, Theorem 3.1.16]  $d(A) \subseteq A$  and  $d(e) = 0$  for all  $e \in B$ . Therefore  $A$  is an orthogonally complete  $\Omega$ - $\Delta$ -ring where  $\Omega = \{o, +, -, \cdot, d\}$ . Consider formulas

$$\begin{aligned} \Phi &= (\exists a \neq 0)(\forall x)(\forall y) \|a[[d(x), x]_n, [y, d(y)]_m]^t = 0\|, \\ \Psi_1 &= (\forall x)(\forall y) \|xy = yx\|, \\ \Psi_2 &= (\forall x) \|d(x) = 0\|. \end{aligned}$$

One can easily check that  $\Phi$  is a hereditary first order formula and  $\neg\Phi$ ,  $\Psi_1$ ,  $\Psi_2$  are Horn formulas. So using Theorem 2.1 shows that all conditions of lemma 2.3 are fulfilled. Hence there exist two orthogonal idempotent  $e_1$  and  $e_2$  such that  $e_1 + e_2 = 1$  and if  $e_i \neq 0$ , then  $e_i A \models \Psi_i$ ,  $i = 1, 2$ . The proof is complete.  $\square$

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