

## An Identity on $\theta$ -Centralizers of Semiprime Rings

M. N. Daif

Department of Mathematics, Faculty of Science  
Al-Azhar University, Nasr City (11884), Cairo, Egypt  
nagydaif@yahoo.com

M. S. Tammam El-Sayiad

Department of Mathematics, Carver Hall  
Iowa State University of Science and Technology  
Ames - 50011-2064, IA, USA  
mohammad@iastate.edu, m\_s\_tammam@yahoo.com

N. M. Muthana

Department of Mathematics, Faculty of Education  
King Abdul Aziz University, Jeddah, Saudi Arabia  
najat\_muthana@hotmail.com

### Abstract

The purpose of this note is to prove the following result. Let  $R$  be a 2-torsion free semiprime ring and let  $T : R \longrightarrow R$  be an additive mapping such that  $2T(xyx) = T(x)\theta(yx) + \theta(xy)T(x)$  holds for all  $x, y \in R$ , where  $\theta$  is a homomorphism from  $R$  onto  $R$ . Then  $T$  is a  $\theta$ -centralizer of  $R$ .

**Mathematics Subject Classification:** 16N60, 39B05

**Keywords:** Prime ring, Semiprime ring, Derivation, Jordan derivation, Jordan triple derivation, Left (right) centralizer, Left (right) Jordan centralizer, Centralizer, Left (right)  $\theta$ -centralizer, Left (right) Jordan  $\theta$ -centralizer,  $\theta$ -centralizer

## 1 Introduction

This note is motivated by the work of Vukman and Kosi-Ulbl [7]. Throughout this note,  $R$  will represent an associative ring with center  $Z(R)$ . A ring  $R$  is  $n$ -torsion free, where  $n$  is an integer, in case  $nx = 0$ ,  $x \in R$  implies  $x = 0$ . As usual the commutator  $xy - yx$  will be denoted by  $[x, y]$ . We shall use basic commutator identities  $[x, yz] = [x, y]z + y[x, z]$  and  $[xz, y] = [x, y]z + x[z, y]$ . Recall that  $R$  is prime if  $aRb = (0)$  implies  $a = 0$  or  $b = 0$ , and semiprime if  $aRa = (0)$  implies  $a = 0$ . An additive mapping  $D : R \rightarrow R$  is called a derivation if  $D(xy) = D(x)y + xD(y)$  holds for all pairs  $x, y \in R$ , and is called a Jordan derivation in case  $D(x^2) = D(x)x + xD(x)$  holds for all  $x \in R$ . A derivation  $D$  is inner in case there exists  $a \in R$  such that  $D(x) = [a, x]$ . Every derivation is a Jordan derivation. The inverse is in general not true. A classical result of Herstein ([6]) asserts that any Jordan derivation on a 2-torsion free prime ring is a derivation. A brief proof of Herstein's result can be found in ([2]). Cusack ([5]) has generalized Herstein's result to 2-torsion free semiprime rings (see also [3] for an alternative proof). An additive mapping  $T : R \rightarrow R$  is called a left (right) centralizer in case  $T(xy) = T(x)y$  ( $T(xy) = xT(y)$ ) holds for all  $x, y \in R$ . We follow Zalar [10] and call  $T$  a centralizer in case  $T$  is both a left and a right centralizer. If  $a \in R$  then  $L_a(x) = ax$  is a left centralizer and  $R_a(x) = xa$  is a right centralizer. An additive mapping  $T : R \rightarrow R$  is called a left (right) Jordan centralizer in case  $T(x^2) = T(x)x$  ( $T(x^2) = xT(x)$ ). Following ideas from [3], Zalar ([10]) has proved that any left (right) Jordan centralizer on a 2-torsion free semiprime ring is a left (right) centralizer. Also, Vukman ([8]) proved that if  $T : R \rightarrow R$  is an additive mapping such that  $2T(x^2) = T(x)x + xT(x)$  holds for all  $x \in R$ , then  $T$  is a centralizer. Also, Vukman ([9]) proved that if  $R$  is a 2-torsion free semiprime ring and  $T : R \rightarrow R$  is an additive mapping such that  $T(xyx) = xT(y)x$  holds for all  $x, y \in R$ , then  $T$  is a centralizer. In ([7]) Vukman and Irena proved that if  $R$  is a 2-torsion free semiprime ring and  $T : R \rightarrow R$  is an additive mapping such that  $2T(xyx) = T(x)yx + xyT(x)$  holds for all  $x, y \in R$ , then  $T$  is a centralizer. An additive mapping  $D : R \rightarrow R$ , where  $R$  is an arbitrary ring, is a Jordan triple derivation in case  $D(xyx) = D(x)yx + xD(y)x + xyD(x)$  holds for all  $x, y \in R$ . One can easily prove that any Jordan triple derivation is a triple derivation (see[2]). Bresar ([4]) has proved that any Jordan triple derivation on a 2-torsion free semiprime ring is a triple derivation. In [1], Albas has introduced the notation of  $\theta$ -centralizer and Jordan  $\theta$ -centralizer, which is a generalization of the definition of centralizer and Jordan centralizer, and he proved, on a 2-torsion free semiprime ring, with some condition that every Jordan  $\theta$ -centralizer is a  $\theta$ -centralizer. In this note, Vukman and Irena's identity ([7]) will be proved using Albas's definition.

**Definition 1.1.** [1] An additive mapping  $T : R \rightarrow R$  is called a left (right)

$\theta$ -centralizer associated with a function  $\theta : R \longrightarrow R$  if for all  $x, y \in R$ ,

$$T(xy) = T(x)\theta(y) \quad (T(xy) = \theta(x)T(y)).$$

And  $T$  is called a left (right) Jordan  $\theta$ -centralizer if for all  $x, y \in R$ ,

$$T(x^2) = T(x)\theta(x) \quad (T(x^2) = \theta(x)T(x)).$$

**Remark.** Clearly every centralizer is a special case of a  $\theta$ -centralizer with  $\theta = I_R$ .

If  $T : R \longrightarrow R$  is a  $\theta$ -centralizer associated with a function  $\theta : R \longrightarrow R$ , where  $R$  is an arbitrary ring, then  $T$  satisfies the relation

$$2T(xyx) = T(x)\theta(yx) + \theta(xy)T(x) \quad \forall x, y \in R. \quad (1)$$

It seems natural to ask, as Vukman and Irena have done for the centralizer case, whether the converse is true. More precisely, we are asking whether an additive mapping  $T$  on a ring  $R$  satisfying relation (1) is a  $\theta$ -centralizer for all  $x, y \in R$ . It is the aim in this paper to prove that the answer is affirmative when  $R$  is a 2-torsion free semiprime ring and  $\theta$  is a surjective homomorphism.

## 2 The Main Result

We now give the main result of this paper.

**Theorem 2.1.** *Let  $R$  be a 2-torsion free semiprime ring and let  $T : R \longrightarrow R$  be an additive mapping. Suppose that  $2T(xyx) = T(x)\theta(yx) + \theta(xy)T(x)$  holds for all pairs  $x, y \in R$  and  $\theta(Z(R)) = Z(R)$  where  $\theta$  be a nonzero surjective endomorphism on  $R$ . Then  $T$  is a  $\theta$ -centralizer.*

For the proof of theorem (2.1) the following lemma will be needed, this lemma can be founded in ([9], Lemma 1).

**Lemma 2.2.** *Let  $R$  be a semiprime ring. Suppose that the identity  $axb + bxc = 0$  holds for all  $x \in R$  and some  $a, b, c \in R$ . In this case  $(a + c)xb = 0$  is satisfied for all  $x \in R$ .*

*Proof.* of theorem (2.1): Putting  $x + z$  for  $x$  in (1), we obtain

$$2T(xyz + zyx) = T(x)\theta(yz) + T(z)\theta(yx) + \theta(zy)T(x) + \theta(xy)T(z), \quad (2)$$

$$\forall x, y, z \in R.$$

Letting  $z = x^2$  we have

$$2T(xy x^2 + x^2 yx) = T(x)\theta(yx^2) + T(x^2)\theta(yx) + \theta(x^2 y)T(x) + \theta(xy)T(x^2), \quad \forall x, y, z \in R, \quad (3)$$

Replacing  $y$  by  $xy + yx$  in (1), we obtain

$$2T(xy x^2 + x^2 yx) = T(x)\theta(xy x) + T(x)\theta(yx^2) + \theta(x^2 y)T(x) + \theta(xy x)T(x), \quad \forall x, y, z \in R. \quad (4)$$

Subtracting (4) from (3), gives

$$(T(x^2) - T(x)\theta(x))\theta(yx) + \theta(xy)(T(x^2) - \theta(x)T(x)) = 0, \quad \forall x, y \in R.$$

Taking  $a = T(x^2) - T(x)\theta(x)$ ,  $b = \theta(x)$ ,  $z = \theta(y)$  and  $c = T(x^2) - \theta(x)T(x)$  the above relation can be rewritten in the form

$$azb + bzc = 0, \quad \forall z \in R.$$

Using Lemma (2.2) we get

$$(2T(x^2) - T(x)\theta(x) - \theta(x)T(x))\theta(y)\theta(x) = 0, \quad \forall x, y \in R.$$

If we take  $A(x) = 2T(x^2) - T(x)\theta(x) - \theta(x)T(x)$  then the above relation can be rewritten as follows

$$A(x)\theta(yx) = 0, \quad \forall x, y \in R. \quad (5)$$

Replacing  $\theta(y)$  by  $\theta(xy)A(x)$  in (5), we obtain

$$A(x)\theta(x)\theta(y)A(x)\theta(x) = 0, \quad \forall x, y \in R,$$

By the surjectivity of  $\theta$  and the semiprimeness of  $R$  it follows that

$$A(x)\theta(x) = 0, \quad \forall x \in R. \quad (6)$$

Similarly, if we multiplying (5) from the left by  $\theta(x)$  and from the right side by  $A(x)$ , we obtain

$$\theta(x)A(x)\theta(y)\theta(x)A(x) = 0, \quad \forall x, y \in R,$$

This gives

$$\theta(x)A(x) = 0, \quad \forall x \in R. \quad (7)$$

Replacing  $x$  by  $x + y$  in (6) gives

$$A(x)\theta(y) + A(y)\theta(x) + B(x, y)\theta(x) + B(x, y)\theta(y) = 0, \quad \forall x, y \in R,$$

where  $B(x, y)$  stands for  $2T(xy + yx) - T(x)\theta(y) - T(y)\theta(x) - \theta(x)T(y) - \theta(y)T(x)$ .

Replacing  $x$  by  $-x$  in the above relation and comparing the new relation with the old one we arrive at

$$A(x)\theta(y) + B(x, y)\theta(x) = 0, \quad \forall x, y \in R. \tag{8}$$

Right multiplication of the above relation by  $A(x)$  along with (7) gives

$$A(x)\theta(y)A(x) = 0, \quad \forall x, y \in R,$$

By the surjectivity of  $\theta$  and the semiprimeness of  $R$  it follows that

$$A(x) = 0, \quad \forall x \in R.$$

We now have

$$2T(x^2) = T(x)\theta(x) + \theta(x)T(x), \quad \forall x \in R. \tag{9}$$

We intend to prove that

$$[T(x), \theta(x)] = 0, \quad \forall x \in R. \tag{10}$$

Replacing  $x$  by  $x + y$  in relation (9) gives

$$2T(xy + yx) = T(x)\theta(y) + T(y)\theta(x) + \theta(x)T(y) + \theta(y)T(x), \quad \forall x, y \in R. \tag{11}$$

Replacing  $y$  with  $2xyx$  in (11), using the assumption of the theorem, we obtain

$$\begin{aligned} 4T(x^2yx + xyx^2) = \\ 2T(x)\theta(xy x) + 2T(xy x)\theta(x) + 2\theta(x)T(xy x) + 2\theta(xy x)T(x) = 2T(x)\theta(xy x) + \\ T(x)\theta(yx^2) + \theta(xy)T(x)\theta(x) + \theta(x)T(x)\theta(yx) + \theta(x^2y)T(x) + 2\theta(xy x)T(x). \end{aligned}$$

Thus we have

$$\begin{aligned} 4T(x^2yx + xyx^2) = 2T(x)\theta(xy x) + T(x)\theta(yx^2) + \theta(xy)T(x)\theta(x) \\ + \theta(x)T(x)\theta(yx) + \theta(x^2y)T(x) + 2\theta(xy x)T(x), \quad \forall x, y \in R. \end{aligned} \tag{12}$$

By comparing (4) and (12), we arrive at

$$\begin{aligned} T(x)\theta(yx^2) + \theta(x^2y)T(x) - \theta(xy)T(x)\theta(x) - \theta(x)T(x)\theta(yx) = 0, \\ \forall x, y \in R. \end{aligned} \tag{13}$$

Replacing  $y$  by  $yx$  in the above relation, we obtain

$$\begin{aligned} T(x)\theta(yx^3) + \theta(x^2yx)T(x) - \theta(xy x)T(x)\theta(x) - \theta(x)T(x)\theta(yx^2) = 0, \\ \forall x, y \in R. \end{aligned} \tag{14}$$

Right multiplication of (13) by  $\theta(x)$  gives

$$T(x)\theta(yx^3) + \theta(x^2y)T(x)\theta(x) - \theta(xy)T(x)\theta(x^2) - \theta(x)T(x)\theta(yx^2) = 0, \quad \forall x, y \in R. \quad (15)$$

Subtracting (14) from (15), we arrive at

$$\theta(x^2)\theta(y)[T(x), \theta(x)] - \theta(xy)[T(x), \theta(x)]\theta(x) = 0, \quad \forall x, y \in R. \quad (16)$$

The substitution  $T(x)\theta(y)$  for  $\theta(y)$  in (16) leads to

$$\theta(x^2)T(x)\theta(y)[T(x), \theta(x)] - \theta(x)T(x)\theta(y)[T(x), \theta(x)]\theta(x) = 0, \quad \forall x, y \in R. \quad (17)$$

Left multiplication of (16) by  $T(x)$  gives

$$T(x)\theta(x^2)\theta(y)[T(x), \theta(x)] - T(x)\theta(x)\theta(y)[T(x), \theta(x)]\theta(x) = 0, \quad \forall x, y \in R. \quad (18)$$

Subtracting (17) from (18), we arrive at

$$[T(x), \theta(x^2)]\theta(y)[T(x), \theta(x)] - [T(x), \theta(x)]\theta(y)[T(x), \theta(x)]\theta(x) = 0, \quad \forall x, y \in R.$$

In the above relation let

$$a = [T(x), \theta(x^2)], b = [T(x), \theta(x)], c = -[T(x), \theta(x)]\theta(x) \text{ and } z = \theta(y)$$

With these substitutions we have

$$azb + bzc = 0.$$

We apply Lemma (2.2) to the above relation. This gives us

$$([T(x), \theta(x^2)] - [T(x), \theta(x)]\theta(x))\theta(y)[T(x), \theta(x)] = 0, \quad \forall x, y \in R.$$

This is equivalent to

$$\theta(x)[T(x), \theta(x)]\theta(y)[T(x), \theta(x)] = 0, \quad \forall x, y \in R.$$

Replacing  $\theta(y)$  by  $\theta(yx)$  in the above relation, we obtain

$$\theta(x)[T(x), \theta(x)]\theta(y)\theta(x)[T(x), \theta(x)] = 0, \quad \forall x, y \in R,$$

By the surjectivity of  $\theta$  and the semiprimeness of  $R$  it follows that

$$\theta(x)[T(x), \theta(x)] = 0, \quad \forall x \in R. \quad (19)$$

Replacing  $y$  for  $xy$  in relation (13) we obtain

$$T(x)\theta(xyx^2) + \theta(x^3y)T(x) - \theta(x^2y)T(x)\theta(x) - \theta(x)T(x)\theta(xyx) = 0, \quad \forall x, y \in R. \quad (20)$$

Left multiplication of (13) by  $\theta(x)$  gives

$$\theta(x)T(x)\theta(yx^2) + \theta(x^3y)T(x) - \theta(x^2y)T(x)\theta(x) - \theta(x^2)T(x)\theta(yx) = 0, \quad \forall x, y \in R. \quad (21)$$

Subtracting (21) from (20), we arrive at

$$[T(x), \theta(x)]\theta(y)\theta(x^2) - \theta(x)[T(x), \theta(x)]\theta(y)\theta(x) = 0, \quad \forall x, y \in R.$$

Using relation (19) in the above relation we get

$$[T(x), \theta(x)]\theta(y)\theta(x^2) = 0, \quad \forall x, y \in R. \quad (22)$$

The substitution  $\theta(y)T(x)$  for  $\theta(y)$  in (22) leads to

$$[T(x), \theta(x)]\theta(y)T(x)\theta(x^2) = 0, \quad \forall x, y \in R. \quad (23)$$

Right multiplication of (22) by  $T(x)$  gives

$$[T(x), \theta(x)]\theta(y)\theta(x^2)T(x) = 0, \quad \forall x, y \in R. \quad (24)$$

Subtracting (24) from (23), we obtain

$$[T(x), \theta(x)]\theta(y)[T(x), \theta(x^2)] = 0, \quad \forall x, y \in R.$$

The above relation can be rewritten using relation (19) as

$$[T(x), \theta(x)]\theta(y)[T(x), \theta(x)]\theta(x) = 0, \quad \forall x, y \in R.$$

Replacing  $y$  for  $xy$  in the above gives

$$[T(x), \theta(x)]\theta(x)\theta(y)[T(x), \theta(x)]\theta(x) = 0, \quad \forall x, y \in R.$$

By the surjectivity of  $\theta$  and the semiprimeness of  $R$  it follows that

$$[T(x), \theta(x)]\theta(x) = 0, \quad \forall x \in R. \quad (25)$$

Replacing  $x$  by  $x + y$  in relation (19) and then using (19) gives

$$\theta(x)[T(x), \theta(y)] + \theta(x)[T(y), \theta(x)] + \theta(x)[T(y), \theta(y)] + \theta(y)[T(x), \theta(x)] + \theta(y)[T(x), \theta(y)] + \theta(y)[T(y), \theta(x)] = 0, \quad \forall x, y \in R.$$

Replacing  $x$  by  $-x$  in the above relation and comparing the relation so obtained with the above relation we get:

$$\theta(x)[T(x), \theta(y)] + \theta(x)[T(y), \theta(x)] + \theta(y)[T(x), \theta(x)] = 0, \quad \forall x, y \in R. \quad (26)$$

We left multiple the above relation by  $[T(x), \theta(x)]$  and then use (25) to get

$$[T(x), \theta(x)]\theta(y)[T(x), \theta(x)] = 0, \quad \forall x, y \in R.$$

By the surjectivity of  $\theta$  and the semiprimeness of  $R$  we get,

$$[T(x), \theta(x)] = 0, \quad \forall x \in R.$$

Relation (10) follows. Combining (9) and (10) we get

$$T(x^2) = T(x)\theta(x), \quad \forall x \in R,$$

and

$$T(x^2) = \theta(x)T(x), \quad \forall x \in R,$$

This means that  $T$  is a left and also a right Jordan  $\theta$ -centralizer. By Theorem (2) in [1] it follows that  $T$  is a left and also right  $\theta$ -centralizer, which completes the proof.  $\square$

**Corollary 2.3.** (*[7]Theorem 1*) *Let  $R$  be a 2-torsion free semiprime ring and let  $T : R \rightarrow R$  be an additive mapping. Suppose that  $2T(xy) = T(x)y + xyT(x)$  holds for all pairs  $x, y \in R$ . Then  $T$  is a centralizer.*

## References

- [1] E. Albas, On  $\tau$ -Centralizers of semiprime rings, *Siberian Math. J.* **48** 2 (2007), 191-196.
- [2] M. Brešar and Vukman J., Jordan derivations on prime rings, *Bull. Austral. Math. Soc.* **37** (1988), 321-322.
- [3] M. Brešar, Jordan derivations on semiprime rings, *Proc. Amer. Math. Soc.* **104** (1988) 1003 -1006.
- [4] M. Brešar, Jordan mappings of semiprime rings, *J. Algebra* **127** (1989), 218 - 228.
- [5] J. Cusack, Jordan derivations on rings, *Proc. Amer. Math. Soc.* **53** (1975), 321-324.
- [6] I. N. Herstein, Jordan derivations of prime rings, *Proc. Amer. Math. Soc.* **8**, 6 (1957), 1104 - 1110.
- [7] J. Vukman and I. Kosi-Ulbl, On centralizers of semiprime rings, *Aequationes Math.* **66**, 3 (2003) 277 - 283.
- [8] J. Vukman, An identity related to centralizers in semiprime rings, *Comment. Math. Univ. Carolinae* **40**, 3 (1999) 447 - 456.
- [9] J. Vukman, centralizers on semiprime rings, *Comment. Math. Univ. Carolinae* **42** (2001) 237 - 245.
- [10] B. Zalar, On centralizers of semiprime rings, *Comment. Math. Univ. Carolinae* **32**, 4 (1991), 609-614.

**Received: October 6, 2007**