

## NOTES ON SYMMETRIC BI- $(\alpha, \alpha)$ -DERIVATIONS IN RINGS

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### Abstract

Let  $R$  be a prime ring with center  $Z$ ,  $I$  a nonzero ideal of  $R$  and  $D : R \times R \rightarrow R$  a symmetric bi- $(\alpha, \alpha)$ -derivation and  $d$  be the trace of  $D$ . In the present paper, we have considered the following conditions: i)  $[d(x), x]_{\alpha, \alpha} = 0$ , ii)  $[d(x), x]_{\alpha, \alpha} \subseteq C_{\alpha, \alpha}$ , iii)  $(d(x), x)_{\alpha, \alpha} = 0$ , iv)  $D_1(d_2(x), x) = 0$ , v)  $d_1(d_2(x)) = f(x)$ , for all  $x, y \in I$ , where  $D_1$  and  $D_2$  are two symmetric bi- $(\alpha, \alpha)$ -derivations,  $d_1, d_2$  are the traces of  $D_1, D_2$  respectively,  $B : R \times R \rightarrow R$  is a symmetric bi-additive mapping,  $f$  is the trace of  $B$ .

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## 1 Introduction

Throughout  $R$  will represent an associative ring with center  $Z$ . A ring  $R$  is said to be prime if  $xRy = (0)$  implies that either  $x = 0$  or  $y = 0$  and semiprime if  $xRx = (0)$  implies that  $x = 0$ , where  $x, y \in R$ . A prime ring is obviously semiprime. For any  $x, y \in R$ , the symbol  $[x, y]$  stands for the commutator  $xy - yx$  and the symbol  $xoy$  stands for the commutator  $xy + yx$ . A mapping  $F$  from  $R$  to  $R$  is called centralizing on  $S$  if  $[F(x), x] \in Z$ , for all  $x \in S$  and is called commuting on  $S$  if  $[F(x), x] = 0$ , for all  $x \in S$ . An additive mapping  $d : R \rightarrow R$  is called a derivation if  $d(xy) = d(x)y + xd(y)$  holds for all  $x, y \in R$ .

The study of centralizing and commuting mappings on prime rings was initiated by the result of Posner [4] which states that the existence of a nonzero centralizing derivation on a prime ring implies that the ring has to be commutative. Through the years, a lot work has been done in this subject by a number of authors. The concept of commuting mappings is closely connected to the notion of bi-derivations. Symmetric bi-derivation has been introduced by Maksa

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in [3] and Vukman [6] investigated symmetric bi-derivations on rings with centralizing mappings. A mapping  $D(.,.) : R \times R \rightarrow R$  is said to be symmetric if  $D(x, y) = D(y, x)$  for all  $x, y \in R$ . A mapping  $d : R \rightarrow R$  is called the trace of  $D(.,.)$  if  $d(x) = D(x, x)$  for all  $x \in R$ . It is obvious that if  $D(.,.)$  is bi-additive (i.e., additive in both arguments), then the trace  $d$  of  $D(.,.)$  satisfies the identity  $d(x + y) = d(x) + d(y) + 2D(x, y)$ , for all  $x, y \in R$ . If  $D(.,.)$  is bi-additive and symmetric mapping satisfies

$$D(xy, z) = D(x, z)y + xD(y, z)$$

and

$$D(x, yz) = D(x, y)z + yD(x, z),$$

for all  $x, y, z \in R$  called symmetric bi-derivation. Besides, many mathematicians showed that symmetric bi-derivations are related to general solutions of some functional equations.

Inspired by the definition symmetric bi-derivation, we introduce the notion of symmetric bi- $(\alpha, \alpha)$ -derivation as follow:

Let  $\alpha$  be an any automorphism of  $R$ . A bi-additive mapping  $D(.,.) : R \times R \rightarrow R$  is said to be symmetric bi- $(\alpha, \alpha)$ -derivation if it satisfies the identities

$$D(xy, z) = D(x, z)\alpha(y) + \alpha(x)D(y, z)$$

and

$$D(x, yz) = D(x, y)\alpha(z) + \alpha(y)D(x, z),$$

for all  $x, y, z \in R$ . Of course a symmetric bi- $(1, 1)$ -derivation where 1 is the identity map on  $R$  is symmetric bi-derivation. For any  $x, y \in R$ , we set  $[x, y]_{\alpha, \alpha} = x\alpha(y) - \alpha(y)x$ . We set  $C_{\alpha, \alpha} = \{c \in R \mid c\alpha(x) = \alpha(x)c, \text{ for all } x \in R\}$  and call this set the  $(\alpha, \alpha)$ -center of  $R$ . In particular,  $C_{1, 1} = Z$ . It can be given  $(\alpha, \alpha)$ -centralizing (resp.  $(\alpha, \alpha)$ -commuting) on  $R$  by the similarly definition centralizing (resp. commuting).

The purpose of this paper can be regarded as a contribution to the theory of centralizing and commuting symmetric bi- $(\alpha, \alpha)$ -derivation. We obtained Vukman's result for a nonzero ideal of  $R$  with  $D$  a symmetric bi- $(\alpha, \alpha)$ -derivation in [6, Theorem 2].

Throughout the paper, we denote a symmetric bi- $(\alpha, \alpha)$ -derivation  $D : R \times R \rightarrow R$  and  $d$  be the trace of  $D$ . For  $x, y \in R$ ,  $(x, y)_{\alpha, \alpha}$  will denote the Jordan commutator  $x\alpha(y) + \alpha(y)x$  and make some extensive use of the basic commutator identities:

$$\begin{aligned} [x, yz] &= y[x, z] + [x, y]z \\ [xy, z] &= [x, z]y + x[y, z] \\ [xy, z]_{\alpha, \alpha} &= x[y, z]_{\alpha, \alpha} + [x, \alpha(z)]y = x[y, \alpha(z)] + [x, z]_{\alpha, \alpha}y \\ [x, yz]_{\alpha, \alpha} &= \alpha(y)[x, z]_{\alpha, \alpha} + [x, y]_{\alpha, \alpha}\alpha(z) \\ (xy, z)_{\alpha, \alpha} &= x(y, z)_{\alpha, \alpha} - [x, \alpha(z)]y = x[y, \alpha(z)] + (x, z)_{\alpha, \alpha}y \\ (x, yz)_{\alpha, \alpha} &= \alpha(y)(x, z)_{\alpha, \alpha} + [x, y]_{\alpha, \alpha}\alpha(z) = (x, y)_{\alpha, \alpha}\alpha(z) - \alpha(y)[x, z]_{\alpha, \alpha}. \end{aligned}$$

## 2 Results

**Lemma 1.** [1, Lemma 3.1] Let  $R$  be a 2-torsion free semiprime ring and  $I$  a nonzero ideal of  $R$ . If  $a, b \in R$  such that  $axb + bxa = 0$  for all  $x \in I$ , then  $axb = 0 = bxa$  for all  $x \in I$ .

**Lemma 2.** [2, Lemma 2 (b)] If  $R$  be a semiprime ring, then the center of a nonzero ideal of  $R$  is contained the center of  $R$ .

**Lemma 3.** Let  $R$  be a prime ring,  $I$  a nonzero ideal of  $R$  and  $a, b \in R$ . If  $aIb = (0)$ , then  $a = 0$  or  $b = 0$ .

*Proof.* We get

$$axb = 0, \text{ for all } x \in I.$$

Replacing  $x$  by  $xr$ ,  $r \in R$  in this equation, we have

$$axrb = 0, \text{ for all } x \in I, r \in R.$$

That is  $axRb = (0)$ . Since  $R$  is a prime ring, we have  $ax = 0$  or  $b = 0$ . In the former case, we get  $ax = 0$ , for all  $x \in I$ . Replacing  $x$  by  $rx$ ,  $r \in R$  in last equation, we have  $aRx = (0)$ . Since  $I$  a nonzero ideal of  $R$  and  $R$  is a prime ring, we have  $a = 0$ . We conclude that  $a = 0$  or  $b = 0$ .  $\square$

**Lemma 4.** Let  $R$  be a prime ring,  $I$  a nonzero ideal of  $R$  and  $d$  a nonzero derivation of  $R$ . If  $a \in R$  such that  $ad(x) = 0$  for all  $x \in I$ , then  $a = 0$ .

*Proof.* Replacing  $x$  by  $xs$ ,  $s \in R$  in the hypothesis, we have

$$axd(s) = 0, \text{ for all } x \in I, s \in R.$$

By Lemma 3 and  $d \neq 0$ , we obtain that  $a = 0$ .  $\square$

**Lemma 5.** Let  $R$  be a prime ring. If a nonzero ideal of  $R$  is in the center of  $R$ , then  $R$  is a commutative ring.

*Proof.* By the hypothesis, we get

$$[x, r] = 0, \text{ for all } x \in I, r \in R.$$

Replacing  $x$  by  $sx$ ,  $s \in R$  in this equation and using this, we obtain that

$$[s, r]x = 0 \text{ for all } x \in I, r \in R.$$

Thus,  $[R, R]I = (0)$ . Multiplying this equation on the right by  $[R, R]$ , we have  $[R, R]I[R, R] = (0)$ . By Lemma 3, we conclude that  $R$  is a commutative ring. The proof is completed.  $\square$

**Lemma 6.** Let  $R$  be a prime ring and  $I$  a nonzero ideal of  $R$ . If  $a \in R$  such that  $aD(x, y) = 0$  ( $D(x, y)a = 0$ ) for all  $x, y \in I$ , then  $a = 0$  or  $D = 0$ .

*Proof.* Replacing  $x$  by  $xr, r \in R$  in the hypothesis, we have

$$a\alpha(x)D(r, y) = 0, \text{ for all } x, y \in I, r \in R.$$

That is,

$$aVD(r, y) = (0), \text{ for all } y \in I, r \in R,$$

where  $\alpha(I) = V$  is ideal of  $R$ . By Lemma 3, we see that

$$a = 0 \text{ or } D(r, y) = 0, \text{ for all } x \in I, r \in R.$$

Let  $D(r, y) = 0$ , for all  $y \in I, r \in R$ . Taking  $y$  by  $ys, s \in R$  in this equation and using this, we get

$$\alpha(y)D(r, s) = 0, \text{ for all } y \in I, r, s \in R$$

and so,  $VD(r, s) = (0)$ , for all  $r, s \in R$ . Again by Lemma 3, we conclude that  $D(r, s) = (0)$ , for all  $r, s \in R$ . This completes the proof.

Using the similar arguments, we prove that  $D(x, y)a = 0$  for all  $x, y \in I$ , then  $a = 0$  or  $D = 0$ .  $\square$

**Lemma 7.** *Let  $R$  be a prime ring and  $I$  a nonzero ideal of  $R$ . If  $D(x, y) = 0$  for all  $x, y \in I$ , then  $D = 0$ .*

*Proof.* Replacing  $x$  by  $xr, r \in R$  in the hypothesis, we see that

$$\alpha(x)D(r, y) = 0, \text{ for all } x, y \in I, r \in R.$$

This implies that

$$VD(r, y) = 0, \text{ for all } y \in I, r \in R,$$

where  $\alpha(I) = V$  is ideal of  $R$ . By Lemma 3, we have

$$D(r, y) = 0, \text{ for all } x \in I, r \in R.$$

Writting  $y$  by  $ys, s \in R$  in this equation and using this, we arrive at  $D = 0$ .  $\square$

**Lemma 8.** *Let  $R$  be a 2-torsion free prime ring and  $I$  a nonzero ideal of  $R$ . If  $d(x) = 0$  for all  $x \in I$ , then  $D = 0$ .*

*Proof.* Taking  $x$  by  $x + y$  in the hypothesis and using this, we get

$$0 = d(x + y) = d(x) + d(y) + 2D(x, y)$$

and so,  $2D(x, y) = 0$ , for all  $x, y \in I$ . By Lemma 7, we get  $D = 0$ .  $\square$

**Lemma 9.** *Let  $R$  be a 2-torsion free prime ring and  $I$  a nonzero ideal of  $R$ . If  $D(x, y) \subseteq C_{\alpha, \alpha}$  for all  $x, y \in I$ , then  $D = 0$  or  $R$  is commutative ring.*

*Proof.* By the hypothesis, we have

$$[D(x, y), r]_{\alpha, \alpha} = 0, \text{ for all } x, y \in I, r \in R.$$

Taking  $xt, t \in I$  instead of  $x$  in this equation and using this, we find that

$$D(x, y)[\alpha(t), \alpha(r)] + [\alpha(x), \alpha(r)]D(x, y) = 0, \text{ for all } x, y, t \in I, r \in R.$$

Replacing  $r$  by  $x$  in this equation, we get

$$D(x, y)[\alpha(t), \alpha(x)] = 0, \text{ for all } x, y, t \in I.$$

Taking  $st, s \in I$  instead of  $t$  and using this, we have

$$D(x, y)\alpha(s)[\alpha(t), \alpha(x)] = 0, \text{ for all } x, y, t, s \in I.$$

We obtain that

$$D(x, y)V[\alpha(t), \alpha(x)] = (0), \text{ for all } x, y, t \in I,$$

where  $\alpha(I) = V$  is ideal of  $R$ . By Lemma 3, we obtain that

$$D(x, y) = 0 \text{ or } [\alpha(t), \alpha(x)] = 0, \text{ for all } x, y, t, s \in I.$$

Let  $K = \{x \in I \mid D(x, y) = 0, \text{ for all } y \in I\}$  and  $L = \{x \in I \mid [\alpha(t), \alpha(x)] = 0, \text{ for all } t \in I\}$  of additive subgroups of  $I$ . Moreover,  $I$  is the set-theoretic union of  $K$  and  $L$ . But a group can not be the set-theoretic union of two proper subgroups, hence  $K = I$  or  $L = I$ . In the former case, we get  $D = 0$  by Lemma 7. In the latter case,  $[\alpha(I), \alpha(I)] = (0)$ . We have  $[V, V] = (0)$ . That is  $V \subseteq Z$  by Lemma 2, and so  $R$  is a commutative ring by Lemma 5. This completes the proof.  $\square$

The following theorem gives a generalization of Posner's well known result [4, Lemma 3] and a extension of [6, Theorem 1].

**Theorem 1.** *Let  $R$  be a 2-torsion free prime ring,  $I$  a nonzero ideal of  $R$  and  $D, d$  a symmetric bi- $(\alpha, \alpha)$ -derivation and the trace of  $D$ , respectively. If  $[d(x), x]_{\alpha, \alpha} = 0$ , for all  $x \in I$ , then  $D = 0$ .*

*Proof.* By the hypothesis, we have

$$[d(x), x]_{\alpha, \alpha} = 0, \text{ for all } x \in I. \quad (1)$$

A linearization of (1) yields that

$$[d(x), y]_{\alpha, \alpha} + [d(y), x]_{\alpha, \alpha} + 2[D(x, y), x]_{\alpha, \alpha} + 2[D(x, y), y]_{\alpha, \alpha} = 0, \text{ for all } x, y \in I. \quad (2)$$

Replacing  $x$  by  $-x$  in (2), we obtain that

$$[d(x), y]_{\alpha, \alpha} - [d(y), x]_{\alpha, \alpha} + 2[D(x, y), x]_{\alpha, \alpha} - 2[D(x, y), y]_{\alpha, \alpha} = 0, \text{ for all } x, y \in I. \quad (3)$$

Comparing (2) and (3), using 2–torsion freeness of  $R$ , we get

$$[d(x), y]_{\alpha, \alpha} + 2[D(x, y), x]_{\alpha, \alpha} = 0, \text{ for all } x, y \in I. \quad (4)$$

Replacing  $y$  by  $xy$  in (4) and using the hypothesis, we see that

$$\begin{aligned} 0 &= [d(x), xy]_{\alpha, \alpha} + 2[D(x, xy), x]_{\alpha, \alpha} \\ &= \alpha(x)[d(x), y]_{\alpha, \alpha} + [d(x), x]_{\alpha, \alpha}\alpha(y) + 2[d(x)\alpha(y) + \alpha(x)D(x, y), x]_{\alpha, \alpha} \\ &= \alpha(x)[d(x), y]_{\alpha, \alpha} + 2d(x)[\alpha(y), \alpha(x)] + 2[d(x), x]_{\alpha, \alpha}\alpha(y) + 2\alpha(x)[D(x, y), x]_{\alpha, \alpha}. \end{aligned}$$

By (4) and using 2–torsion freeness of  $R$ , we get

$$d(x)[\alpha(y), \alpha(x)] = 0, \text{ for all } x, y \in I.$$

Again replacing  $y$  by  $yz$ ,  $z \in I$  in the last equation and using this, we have

$$d(x)\alpha(y)[\alpha(z), \alpha(x)] = 0, \text{ for all } x, y, z \in I,$$

and so

$$d(x)V[\alpha(z), \alpha(x)] = (0), \text{ for all } x, z \in I,$$

where  $\alpha(I) = V$  is ideal of  $R$ . By Lemma 3, we get either  $d(x) = 0$  or  $[V, \alpha(x)] = (0)$  for each  $x \in I$ . By Lemma 2, we have  $d(x) = 0$  or  $\alpha(x) \in Z$  for each  $x \in I$ . Since  $\alpha$  is automorphism of  $R$ , we obtain that  $d(x) = 0$  or  $x \in Z$  for each  $x \in I$ .

Let  $x \in Z$ ,  $y \notin Z$ . Then  $x + y \notin Z$  and  $-y \notin Z$ . Also,  $d(x + y) = 0$ . Then we get

$$0 = d(x + y) = d(x) + 2D(x, y).$$

Taking  $x$  by  $-x$  in this equation, we have

$$0 = d(x) - 2D(x, y).$$

Comparing the last two equations, we arrive at  $d(x) = 0$ , for all  $x \in Z$ . Hence we obtain that  $d(x) = 0$ , for all  $x \in I$ , and so,  $D = 0$  by Lemma 8. This completes the proof.  $\square$

The following theorem is a generalization of [6, Theorem 2] and [4, Theorem 2].

**Theorem 2.** *Let  $R$  be a 2 and 3–torsion free prime ring,  $I$  a nonzero ideal of  $R$  and  $D, d$  a symmetric bi- $(\alpha, \alpha)$ -derivation and the trace of  $D$ , respectively. If  $[d(x), x]_{\alpha, \alpha} \subseteq C_{\alpha, \alpha}$  for all  $x \in I$ , then  $D = 0$ .*

*Proof.* Linearizing  $[d(x), x]_{\alpha, \alpha} \in C_{\alpha, \alpha}$ , we get

$$[d(x), y]_{\alpha, \alpha} + [d(y), x]_{\alpha, \alpha} + 2[D(x, y), x]_{\alpha, \alpha} + 2[D(x, y), y]_{\alpha, \alpha} \in C_{\alpha, \alpha}. \quad (5)$$

Taking  $x$  by  $-x$  in (5), we have

$$[d(x), y]_{\alpha, \alpha} - [d(y), x]_{\alpha, \alpha} + 2[D(x, y), x]_{\alpha, \alpha} - 2[D(x, y), y]_{\alpha, \alpha} \in C_{\alpha, \alpha}. \quad (6)$$

Using (5) and (6) and since  $R$  is a 2-torsion free, we get

$$[d(x), y]_{\alpha, \alpha} + 2[D(x, y), x]_{\alpha, \alpha} \in C_{\alpha, \alpha} \text{ for all } x, y \in I. \quad (7)$$

Replacing  $y$  by  $x^2$  in (7) and using the hypothesis, we find that

$$\begin{aligned} & [d(x), x^2]_{\alpha, \alpha} + 2[D(x, x^2), x]_{\alpha, \alpha} \\ &= \alpha(x)[d(x), x]_{\alpha, \alpha} + [d(x), x]_{\alpha, \alpha}\alpha(x) + 2[d(x), x]_{\alpha, \alpha}\alpha(x) + 2\alpha(x)[d(x), x]_{\alpha, \alpha} \in C_{\alpha, \alpha}. \end{aligned}$$

Using (7) and the assumptions that  $R$  is a 2, 3-torsion free ring, we get

$$\alpha(x)[d(x), x]_{\alpha, \alpha} \in C_{\alpha, \alpha} \text{ for all } x \in I.$$

Commuting this term with  $y$  and using  $[d(x), x]_{\alpha, \alpha} \in C_{\alpha, \alpha}$ , we have

$$[\alpha(x), \alpha(y)][d(x), x]_{\alpha, \alpha} = 0, \text{ for all } x, y \in I.$$

Writing  $y$  by  $yz, z \in I$  in this equation, we get

$$[\alpha(x), \alpha(y)]\alpha(z)[d(x), x]_{\alpha, \alpha} = 0, \text{ for all } x, y, z \in I.$$

That is,

$$[\alpha(x), \alpha(y)]V[d(x), x]_{\alpha, \alpha} = (0), \text{ for all } x, y \in I,$$

where  $\alpha(I) = V$  is ideal of  $R$ . By Lemma 3, we arrive at

$$[\alpha(x), V] = (0) \text{ or } [d(x), x]_{\alpha, \alpha} = 0, \text{ for each } x \in I.$$

By Lemma 2, we have

$$\alpha(x) \in Z \text{ or } [d(x), x]_{\alpha, \alpha} = 0, \text{ for each } x \in I.$$

If  $\alpha(x) \in Z$ , then  $[d(x), x]_{\alpha, \alpha} = d(x)\alpha(x) - \alpha(x)d(x) = 0$ . Thus we obtain that  $[d(x), x]_{\alpha, \alpha} = 0$ , for all  $x \in I$ , for any cases. By Theorem 1, we obtain that  $D = 0$ . This completes the proof.  $\square$

**Theorem 3.** *Let  $R$  be a 2-torsion free prime ring,  $I$  a nonzero ideal of  $R$  and  $D, d$  a symmetric bi- $(\alpha, \alpha)$ -derivation and the trace of  $D$ , respectively. If  $(d(x), x)_{\alpha, \alpha} = 0$ , for all  $x \in I$ , then  $D = 0$ .*

*Proof.* By the hypothesis, we have

$$(d(x), x)_{\alpha, \alpha} = 0, \text{ for all } x \in I. \quad (8)$$

A linearization of this equation yields that

$$(d(x), y)_{\alpha, \alpha} + (d(y), x)_{\alpha, \alpha} + 2(D(x, y), x)_{\alpha, \alpha} + 2(D(x, y), y)_{\alpha, \alpha} = 0, \text{ for all } x, y \in I. \quad (9)$$

Replacing  $x$  by  $-x$  in (9), we obtain that

$$(d(x), y)_{\alpha, \alpha} - (d(y), x)_{\alpha, \alpha} + 2(D(x, y), x)_{\alpha, \alpha} - 2(D(x, y), y)_{\alpha, \alpha} = 0, \text{ for all } x, y \in I. \quad (10)$$

Comparing (9) and (10) and using 2–torsion freeness of  $R$ , we get

$$(d(x), y)_{\alpha, \alpha} + 2(D(x, y), x)_{\alpha, \alpha} = 0, \text{ for all } x, y \in I. \quad (11)$$

Replacing  $y$  by  $yx$  in (11) and using the hypothesis, we see that

$$\begin{aligned} 0 &= (d(x), yx)_{\alpha, \alpha} + 2(D(x, yx), x)_{\alpha, \alpha} \\ &= (d(x), y)_{\alpha, \alpha} \alpha(x) - \alpha(y)[d(x), x]_{\alpha, \alpha} + 2(D(x, y)\alpha(x) + \alpha(y)d(x), x)_{\alpha, \alpha} \\ &= (d(x), y)_{\alpha, \alpha} \alpha(x) - \alpha(y)[d(x), x]_{\alpha, \alpha} + 2(D(x, y), x)_{\alpha, \alpha} \alpha(x) - 2[\alpha(y), \alpha(x)]d(x). \end{aligned}$$

By (11), we get

$$\alpha(y)[d(x), x]_{\alpha, \alpha} + 2[\alpha(y), \alpha(x)]d(x) = 0, \text{ for all } x, y \in I. \quad (12)$$

Again replacing  $y$  by  $ry$ ,  $r \in R$  in the last equation and using this, we have

$$2[\alpha(r), \alpha(x)]\alpha(y)d(x) = 0, \text{ for all } x, y \in I, r \in R.$$

Using 2–torsion freeness of  $R$ , we have

$$[\alpha(r), \alpha(x)]\alpha(y)d(x) = 0, \text{ for all } x, y \in I, r \in R.$$

Since  $\alpha$  is a automorphism of  $R$ , we have

$$[r, \alpha(x)]Vd(x) = (0), \text{ for all } x, y \in I, r \in R,$$

where  $\alpha(I) = V$  is a ideal of  $R$ . By Lemma 3 and Lemma 2, we obtain that

$$\alpha(x) \in Z \text{ or } d(x) = 0, \text{ for each } x \in I.$$

If  $\alpha(x) \in Z$ , then  $(d(x), x)_{\alpha, \alpha} = d(x)\alpha(x) + \alpha(x)d(x) = 2d(x)\alpha(x) = 0$ , and so,  $d(x)\alpha(x) = 0$ . Again using  $\alpha(x) \in Z$ , we obtain that

$$x = 0 \text{ or } d(x) = 0, \text{ for each } x \in I.$$

If  $x = 0$ , then  $d(x) = D(x, x) = D(0, 0) = 0$ . Thus we find that  $d(x) = 0$  for any cases, and so,  $D = 0$  by Lemma 8. This completes the proof.  $\square$

**Theorem 4.** *Let  $R$  be a 2–torsion free prime ring,  $I$  a nonzero ideal of  $R$  and  $D_1, d_1$  a symmetric bi- $(\alpha, \alpha)$ -derivation,  $D_2, d_2$  symmetric bi-derivation and the traces of  $D_1, D_2$  respectively. If  $D_1(d_2(x), x) = 0$ , for all  $x \in I$ , then either  $D_1 = 0$  or  $D_2 = 0$ .*

*Proof.* Linearizing of the hypothesis, we get

$$D_1(d_2(y), x) + 2D_1(D_2(x, y), x) + D_1(d_2(x), y) + 2D_1(D_2(x, y), y) = 0. \quad (13)$$

Substituting in (13)  $x$  by  $-x$ , we have

$$-D_1(d_2(y), x) + 2D_1(D_2(x, y), x) + D_1(d_2(x), y) - 2D_1(D_2(x, y), y) = 0. \quad (14)$$



Comparing (13) and (14) and using 2-torsion free, we obtain that

$$D_1(d_2(x), y) + 2D_1(D_2(x, y), x) = 0, \text{ for all } x, y \in I. \quad (15)$$

Replacing  $y$  by  $xy$  in (15), using this equation and the hypothesis, we see that

$$\begin{aligned} 0 &= D_1(d_2(x), xy) + 2D_1(D_2(x, xy), x) \\ &= D_1(d_2(x), x)\alpha(y) + \alpha(x)D_1(d_2(x), y) + 2D_1(D_2(x, x)y + xD_2(x, y), x) \\ &= D_1(d_2(x), x)\alpha(y) + \alpha(x)D_1(d_2(x), y) + 2D_1(d_2(x), x)\alpha(y) \\ &\quad + 2\alpha(d_2(x))D_1(x, y) + 2\alpha(x)D_1(D_2(x, y), x) + 2d_1(x)\alpha(D_2(x, y)) \end{aligned}$$

and so

$$\alpha(d_2(x))D_1(x, y) + d_1(x)\alpha(D_2(x, y)) = 0, \text{ for all } x, y \in I. \quad (16)$$

Taking  $y$  by  $yx$  in (16), we have

$$\begin{aligned} 0 &= \alpha(d_2(x))D_1(x, yx) + d_1(x)\alpha(D_2(x, yx)) \\ &= \alpha(d_2(x))D_1(x, y)\alpha(x) + \alpha(d_2(x))\alpha(y)d_1(x) \\ &\quad + d_1(x)\alpha(y)\alpha(d_2(x)) + d_1(x)\alpha(D_2(x, y))\alpha(x), \end{aligned}$$

and so

$$\alpha(d_2(x))\alpha(y)d_1(x) + d_1(x)\alpha(y)\alpha(d_2(x)) = 0, \text{ for all } x, y \in I.$$

That is,

$$\alpha(d_2(x))yd_1(x) + d_1(x)y\alpha(d_2(x)) = 0, \text{ for all } x \in I, y \in V, \quad (17)$$

where  $y \in \alpha(I) = V$  is a ideal of  $R$ . If  $d_1(x) = 0$  or  $d_2(x) = 0$ , for all  $x \in I$ , then we get the required result by Lemma 8. Now, we assume that  $d_1$  and  $d_2$  are both different from zero. Hence there exist elements  $x_1, x_2 \in I$  such that  $d_1(x_1) \neq 0$  and  $d_2(x_2) \neq 0$ . It follows  $d_1(x_2) = 0$  and  $d_2(x_1) = 0$  from (17) and Lemma 1. Since  $d_1(x_2) = 0$ , the equation (16) reduces to  $\alpha(d_2(x_2))D_1(x_2, y) = 0$ . Now, we define that  $F : R \rightarrow R, F(y) = D_1(x_2, y)$ . It is clear that  $F$  is a derivation. By Lemma 4 and  $d_2(x_2) \neq 0$ , we find that  $D_1(x_2, y) = 0$ . In particular, we get  $D_1(x_2, x_1) = 0$ . Similarly we see that  $D_2(x_2, x_1) = 0$  holds as well.

Let us write  $y$  for  $x_1 + x_2$ . Then

$$d_1(y) = d_1(x_1 + x_2) = d_1(x_1) + d_1(x_2) + 2D_1(x_1, x_2) = d_1(x_1) \neq 0$$

and

$$d_2(y) = d_2(x_1 + x_2) = d_2(x_1) + d_2(x_2) + 2D_2(x_1, x_2) = d_2(x_2) \neq 0.$$

That is  $d_1(y)$  and  $d_2(y)$  are not from zero. But they cannot be both different from zero according to (17) and Lemma 1. It is a contradiction. Hence we must have  $d_1(x) = 0$  or  $d_2(x) = 0$ , for all  $x \in I$ , and so,  $D_1 = 0$  or  $D_2 = 0$ .  $\square$

The following theorem gives a generalization of Posner's result [4, Theorem 1] and a extension of [6, Theorem 5].

**Theorem 5.** *Let  $R$  be a 2, 3–torsion free prime ring,  $I$  a nonzero ideal of  $R$  and  $D_1, d_1$  a symmetric bi- $(\alpha, \alpha)$ -derivation,  $D_2, d_2$  symmetric bi-derivation and the traces of  $D_1, D_2$  respectively. If  $B : R \times R \rightarrow R$  a symmetric bi-additive mapping such that  $d_1(d_2(x)) = f(x)$ , for all  $x \in I$ , where  $f$  is the trace of  $B$ , then either  $D_1 = 0$  or  $D_2 = 0$ .*

*Proof.* The linearization of the the hypothesis, we have

$$2d_1(D_2(x, y)) + D_1(d_2(x), d_2(y)) + 2D_1(d_2(x), D_2(x, y)) + 2D_1(d_2(y), D_2(x, y)) = B(x, y). \quad (18)$$

Taking  $x$  by  $-x$  in (18), we get

$$2d_1(D_2(x, y)) + D_1(d_2(x), d_2(y)) - 2D_1(d_2(x), D_2(x, y)) - 2D_1(d_2(y), D_2(x, y)) = -B(x, y). \quad (19)$$

Comparing (18) and (19) and using 2–torsion free, we obtain that

$$2d_1(D_2(x, y)) + D_1(d_2(x), d_2(y)) = 0, \text{ for all } x, y \in I. \quad (20)$$

Using (20) in (18), we arrive at

$$2D_1(d_2(x), D_2(x, y)) + 2D_1(d_2(y), D_2(x, y)) = B(x, y), \text{ for all } x, y \in I.$$

Taking  $x$  by  $y$  in this equation and using  $d_1(d_2(x)) = f(x)$ , we have

$$\begin{aligned} 2D_1(d_2(x), D_2(x, x)) + 2D_1(d_2(x), D_2(x, x)) &= B(x, x) \\ 4d_1(d_2(x)) &= f(x) = d_1(d_2(x)) \\ 3d_1(d_2(x)) &= 0. \end{aligned}$$

Since  $R$  is 3–torsion free, we get

$$d_1(d_2(x)) = 0, \text{ for all } x \in I.$$

On the other hand, again comparing (18) and (19) and using  $d_1(d_2(x)) = 0$ , for all  $x \in I$ , we find that

$$2D_1(d_2(x), D_2(x, y)) + 2D_1(d_2(y), D_2(x, y)) = B(x, y), \text{ for all } x, y \in I. \quad (21)$$

Replacing  $x$  by  $2x$  in (21), we see that

$$8D_1(d_2(x), D_2(x, y)) + 2D_1(d_2(y), D_2(x, y)) = B(x, y), \text{ for all } x, y \in I. \quad (22)$$

By (21) and (22), we get

$$6D_1(d_2(x), D_2(x, y)) = 0$$

and so

$$D_1(d_2(x), D_2(x, y)) = 0, \text{ for all } x, y \in I. \quad (23)$$

Replacing  $y$  by  $yx$  in (23) and using this,  $d_1(d_2(x)) = 0$ , we see that

$$\begin{aligned} 0 &= D_1(d_2(x), D_2(x, yx)) = D_1(d_2(x), D_2(x, y)x + yd_2(x)) \\ &= D_1(d_2(x), D_2(x, y))\alpha(x) + \alpha(D_2(x, y))D_1(d_2(x), x) \\ &\quad + D_1(d_2(x), y)\alpha(d_2(x)) + \alpha(y)D_1(d_2(x), d_2(x)) \end{aligned}$$

and so

$$\alpha(D_2(x, y))D_1(d_2(x), x) + D_1(d_2(x), y)\alpha(d_2(x)) = 0, \text{ for all } x, y \in I. \quad (24)$$

Let in  $y$  by  $xy$  in (24) and using this, we have

$$\begin{aligned} 0 &= \alpha(D_2(x, xy))D_1(d_2(x), x) + D_1(d_2(x), xy)\alpha(d_2(x)) \\ &= \alpha(x)\alpha(D_2(x, y))D_1(d_2(x), x) + \alpha(d_2(x))\alpha(y)D_1(d_2(x), x) \\ &\quad + D_1(d_2(x), x)\alpha(y)\alpha(d_2(x)) + \alpha(x)D_1(d_2(x), y)\alpha(d_2(x)) \end{aligned}$$

and so

$$\alpha(d_2(x))\alpha(y)D_1(d_2(x), x) + D_1(d_2(x), x)\alpha(y)\alpha(d_2(x)) = 0, \text{ for all } x, y \in I.$$

That is,

$$\alpha(d_2(x))yD_1(d_2(x), x) + D_1(d_2(x), x)y\alpha(d_2(x)) = 0, \text{ for all } x \in I, y \in V, \quad (25)$$

where  $y \in \alpha(I) = V$  is ideal of  $R$ . If  $D_1(d_2(x), x) \neq 0$ , for some  $x \in I$ , then  $d_2(x) = 0$  by Lemma 1, and so  $D_1(d_2(x), x) = 0$ , a contrary to the assumption  $D_1(d_2(x), x) \neq 0$ . Hence,  $D_1(d_2(x), x) = 0$ , for all  $x \in I$ , and so  $D_1 = 0$  or  $D_2 = 0$  by Theorem 4. We get the required result.  $\square$

### 3 Conclusion

The present study has shown some essential properties of a nonzero ideals of a prime rings with symmetric bi- $(\alpha, \alpha)$ -derivations. In future research, some well-known results in symmetric bi-derivations can be applied to symmetric bi- $(\alpha, \beta)$ -derivations. Besides, the findings herein could help to uncover properties of symmetric bi- $(\alpha, \alpha)$ -derivations in Lie ideals or square-closed Lie ideals.

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