# On Commutativity of Prime $\Gamma$-Rings with $\theta$-Derivations 

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#### Abstract

Let $M$ be a prime $\Gamma$-ring, $I$ a nonzero ideal, $\theta$ an automorphism and $d$ a $\theta$-derivation of $M$. In this article we have proved the following result: (1) If $d\left([x, y]_{\alpha}\right)= \pm\left([x, y]_{\alpha}\right)$ or $d\left((x \circ y)_{\alpha}\right)= \pm\left((x \circ y)_{\alpha}\right)$ for all $x, y \in I ; \alpha \in \Gamma$, then $M$ is commutative. (2) Under the hypothesis $d \theta=\theta d$ and $\operatorname{Char} M \neq 2$, if $(d(x) \circ d(y))_{\alpha}=0$ or $[d(x), d(y)]_{\alpha}=0$ for all $x, y \in I ; \alpha \in \Gamma$, then $M$ is commutative. (3) If $d$ acts as a homomorphism or an antihomomorphism on $I$, then $d=0$ or $M$ is commutative. Moreover, an example is given to demonstrate that the primeness imposed on the hypothesis of the various results is essential.


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## 1 Introduction

In 1964, Nobusawa [11] introduced the notion of a $\Gamma$-ring, an object more general than a ring. Barnes [4] slightly weakened the conditions in the definition of a $\Gamma$-ring in the sense of Nobusawa. Since then, many researchers have done a lot of work on $\Gamma$-rings and have obtained some generalizations of the corresponding results in ring theory (see [10] for references). If $M$ and $\Gamma$ are additive Abelian groups and there exists a mapping (.,.,.,) : $M \times \Gamma \times M \rightarrow M$ which satisfies the following conditions:
(i) $(a, \beta, b) \in M$;
(ii) $(a+b) \alpha c=a \alpha c+b \alpha c, a(\alpha+\beta) b=a \alpha b+a \beta b, a \alpha(b+c)=a \alpha b+a \alpha c$;
(iii) $(a \alpha b) \beta c=a \alpha(b \beta c)$, for $a, b, c \in M$ and $\alpha, \beta \in \Gamma$;
then $M$ is called a $\Gamma$ - ring.

[^0]Obviously every associative ring is a $\Gamma$-ring with $M=\Gamma$, but the converse is in general not true. Recall that a $\Gamma$-ring $M$ is prime if $a \Gamma M \Gamma b=0$ implies that $a=0$ or $b=0$. A $\Gamma$-ring $M$ is said to be a commutative if $x \alpha y=y \alpha x$ for all $x, y \in M$ and $\alpha, \beta \in \Gamma$. А Гring $M$ is said to be 2-torsion free if $2 x=0$ implies $x=0$ for all $x \in M$. Moreover, the set $Z(M)=\{x \in M \mid x \alpha y=y \alpha x \forall \alpha \in \Gamma, y \in M\}$ is called the center of the $\Gamma$-ring $M$. We shall write $[x, y]_{\alpha}=x \alpha y-y \alpha x$ and $(x \circ y)_{\alpha}=x \alpha y+y \alpha x$ for all $x, y \in M ; \alpha \in \Gamma$. Throughout the paper, we shall assume that $x \alpha y \beta z=x \beta y \alpha z$ for all $x, y, z \in M, \alpha, \beta \in \Gamma$ and in this case we have some basic identities: $[x \beta y, z]_{\alpha}=[x, z]_{\alpha} \beta y+x \beta[y, z]_{\alpha} ;[x, y \beta z]_{\alpha}=[x, y]_{\alpha} \beta z+y \beta[x, z]_{\alpha}$ and $(x \circ(y \beta z))_{\alpha}=(x \circ y)_{\alpha} \beta z-y \beta[x, z]_{\alpha}=y \beta(x \circ z)_{\alpha}+[x, y]_{\alpha} \beta z$ for all $x, y, z \in M$ and $\alpha, \beta \in \Gamma$.

An additive subgroup $U$ of a $\Gamma$-ring $M$ is called a left (resp. right) ideal of $M$ if $M \Gamma U \subseteq$ $U$ (resp. $U \Gamma M \subseteq U$ ). If $U$ is both a left ideal and a right ideal, then we say that $U$ is an ideal of $M$. An additive mapping $d: M \rightarrow M$ is called a derivation on $M$ if $d(x \alpha y)=$ $d(x) \alpha y+x \alpha d(y)$ for all $x, y \in M$ and $\alpha \in \Gamma$. Following [7], an additive mapping $d: M \rightarrow M$ is called a $\theta$-derivation on $M$ if $d(x \alpha y)=d(x) \alpha y+\theta(x) \alpha d(y)$ for all $x, y \in M$ and $\alpha \in \Gamma$, where $\theta$ is an automorphism on $M$. Let $S$ be a nonempty subset of $M$ and $d$ a $\theta$-derivation of $M$. If $d(x \alpha y)=d(x) \alpha d(y)$ or $d(x \alpha y)=d(y) \alpha d(x)$ for all $x, y \in S ; \alpha \in \Gamma$, then $d$ is said to be a $\theta$-derivation which acts as a homomorphism or an anti-homomorphism on $S$, respectively.

During the past few decades, there has been an ongoing interest concerning the relationship between the commutativity of a ring and the existence of certain special types of derivations (see [2, 5, 6, 13], where further references can be found). The first result in this direction is due to Posner [14] who proved that if a prime ring $R$ admits a nonzero derivation $d$ such that $[d(x), x] \in Z(R)$ for all $x \in R$, then $R$ is commutative. Recently some authors have obtained commutativity of prime and semiprime rings with derivations, generalized derivations et al., satisfying certain polynomial constraints (see [3, 9, 15], where further references can be found). In the year 2014, Ashraf and Jamal [1] investigated the commutativity of prime $\Gamma$-rings satisfying certain differential identities. In this paper, we shall attempt to extend some known commutativity results of rings to $\Gamma$-rings involving $\theta$-derivations on some appropriate subset of the $\Gamma$-ring $M$.

## 2 Main results

Theorem 2.1. Let $M$ be a prime $\Gamma$-ring, $\theta$ an automorphism of $M$ and $I$ a nonzero ideal of M. If $M$ admits a $\theta$-derivation $d$ such that $d\left([x, y]_{\alpha}\right)=[x, y]_{\alpha}$ for all $x, y \in I$ and $\alpha \in \Gamma$, then $M$ is commutative.

Proof. By the given hypothesis we have

$$
\begin{equation*}
d\left([x, y]_{\alpha}\right)=[x, y]_{\alpha} \text { for all } x, y \in I ; \alpha \in \Gamma \tag{2.1}
\end{equation*}
$$

If $d=0$, then $[x, y]_{\alpha}=0$ for all $x, y \in I$. Thus, $I$ is commutative and so is $M$ by [8, Lemma 2.3]. Hence, in the sequel we assume that $d \neq 0$. Replacing $y$ by $y \beta x$ in (2.1) we get $d\left([x, y \beta x]_{\alpha}\right)=[x, y \beta x]_{\alpha}$, which reduces to $d\left([x, y]_{\alpha} \beta x\right)=[x, y]_{\alpha} \beta x$ for all $x, y \in I ; \alpha, \beta \in \Gamma$. Since $d$ is a $\theta$-derivation, we deduce that

$$
\begin{equation*}
d\left([x, y]_{\alpha}\right) \beta x+\theta\left([x, y]_{\alpha}\right) \beta d(x)=[x, y]_{\alpha} \beta x \text { for all } x, y \in I ; \alpha, \beta \in \Gamma \tag{2.2}
\end{equation*}
$$

Combining (2.1) and (2.2), we obtain that

$$
\begin{equation*}
\theta\left([x, y]_{\alpha}\right) \beta d(x)=0 \text { for all } x, y \in I ; \alpha, \beta \in \Gamma . \tag{2.3}
\end{equation*}
$$

Replacing $y$ by $z \gamma y$ in (2.3) and using (2.3), we get $\theta\left([x, z]_{\alpha}\right) \gamma \theta(y) \beta d(x)=0$ for all $x, y, z \in$ $I ; \alpha, \beta, \gamma \in \Gamma$. Since $\theta$ is an automorphism of $M$, the above relation implies that

$$
\begin{equation*}
[x, z]_{\alpha} \Gamma I \Gamma \theta^{-1} d(x)=0 \text { for all } x, z \in I ; \alpha \in \Gamma . \tag{2.4}
\end{equation*}
$$

The primeness of $I$ [12, Lemma 2] forces that for each fixed $x \in I$, either $[x, z]_{\alpha}=0$ for all $z \in I$ or $\theta^{-1} d(x)=0$. Let $K=\left\{x \in I \mid[x, z]_{\alpha}=0\right\}$ and $L=\left\{x \in I \mid \theta^{-1} d(x)=0\right\}$. Then, $K$ and $L$ are both additive subgroups of $I$ such that $I=K \cup L$. Since a group can't be a union of its two proper subgroups, we have either $I=K$ or $I=L$. If $I=K$, then $[I, I]_{\alpha}=0$ and we are done in this case. If $I=L$, then $\theta^{-1} d(I)=0$. In this case, $d(I)=0$ and so $0=d(I \Gamma M)=$ $d(I) \Gamma M+\theta(I) \Gamma d(M)=\theta(I) \Gamma d(M)$. Now, $\theta(I) \Gamma d(M)=0$ implies $\theta(I) \Gamma \theta(M) \Gamma d(M)=0$, the primeness of $M$ forces that $\theta(I)=0$ or $d(M)=0$. Hence, $I=0$ or $d=0$, a contradiction.

Theorem 2.2. Let $M$ be a prime $\Gamma$-ring, $\theta$ an automorphism of $M$ and $I$ a nonzero ideal of $M$. If $M$ admits a $\theta$-derivation $d$ such that $d\left([x, y]_{\alpha}\right)+[x, y]_{\alpha}=0$ for all $x, y \in I$ and $\alpha \in \Gamma$, then $M$ is commutative.

Proof. If $d$ is $\theta$-derivation such that $d\left([x, y]_{\alpha}\right)+[x, y]_{\alpha}=0$ for all $x, y \in I$, then $-d$ is also a $\theta$-derivation and satisfies $(-d)\left([x, y]_{\alpha}\right)=[x, y]_{\alpha}$ for all $x, y \in I$. It follows from Theorem 2.1 that $M$ is commutative.

Theorem 2.3. Let $M$ be a prime $\Gamma$-ring, $\theta$ an automorphism of $M$ and $I$ a nonzero ideal of M. If $M$ admits a $\theta$-derivation $d$ such that $d\left((x \circ y)_{\alpha}\right)=(x \circ y)_{\alpha}$ for all $x, y \in I$ and $\alpha \in \Gamma$, then $M$ is commutative.

Proof. If $d=0$, then $(x \circ y)_{\alpha}=0$ for all $x, y \in I$. Replacing $y$ by $y \beta z$ in above relation and using the identity $(x \circ(y \beta z))_{\alpha}=(x \circ y)_{\alpha} \beta z-y \beta[x, z]_{\alpha}$, we conclude that $y \alpha[x, z]_{\beta}=0$ for all $x, y, z \in I ; \alpha, \beta \in \Gamma$. This implies that $I \Gamma[I, I]_{\beta}=0$ and hence $[I, I]_{\beta}=0$. Thus, we get the required result.

Suppose that $d \neq 0$ and we have

$$
\begin{equation*}
d\left((x \circ y)_{\alpha}\right)=(x \circ y)_{\alpha} \text { for all } x, y \in I ; \alpha \in \Gamma . \tag{2.5}
\end{equation*}
$$

Replacing $y$ by $y \beta x$ in (2.5) and using (2.5) we arrive at

$$
\begin{equation*}
\theta\left((x \circ y)_{\alpha}\right) \beta d(x)=0 \text { for all } x, y \in I ; \alpha, \beta \in \Gamma . \tag{2.6}
\end{equation*}
$$

Again replacing $y$ by $y \gamma z$ in (2.6) and using (2.6), we obtain $\theta\left([x, y]_{\alpha}\right) \gamma \theta(z) \beta d(x)=0$ for all $x, y, z \in I ; \alpha, \beta, \gamma \in \Gamma$. This implies that

$$
\begin{equation*}
[x, y]_{\alpha} \Gamma I \Gamma \theta^{-1} d(x)=0 \text { for all } x, y \in I . \tag{2.7}
\end{equation*}
$$

This expression is similar to the equation (2.4) and hence repeat the same process to get the required result.

Similarly, we can prove the following:

Theorem 2.4. Let $M$ be a prime $\Gamma$-ring, $\theta$ an automorphism of $M$ and $I$ a nonzero ideal of M. If $M$ admits a $\theta$-derivation $d$ such that $d\left((x \circ y)_{\alpha}\right)+(x \circ y)_{\alpha}=0$ for all $x, y \in I$ and $\alpha \in \Gamma$, then $M$ is commutative.

Theorem 2.5. Let $M$ be a 2-torsion free prime $\Gamma$-ring, $\theta$ an automorphism of $M$ and $I$ a nonzero ideal of $M$. If $M$ admits a nonzero $\theta$-derivation $d$ commuting with $\theta$ such that $(d(x) \circ d(y))_{\alpha}=0$ for all $x, y \in I$ and $\alpha \in \Gamma$, then $M$ is commutative.

Proof. We are given that

$$
\begin{equation*}
(d(x) \circ d(y))_{\alpha}=0 \text { for all } x, y \in I ; \alpha \in \Gamma . \tag{2.8}
\end{equation*}
$$

Replacing $y$ by $y \beta z$ in (2.8) and using (2.8) we find that

$$
\begin{equation*}
[d(x), \theta(y)]_{\alpha} \beta d(z)-d(y) \beta[d(x), z]_{\alpha}=0 \text { for all } x, y, z \in I ; \alpha, \beta \in \Gamma . \tag{2.9}
\end{equation*}
$$

Again replacing $y$ by $y \gamma d(x)$ in (2.9) and using (2.9), we obtain

$$
\begin{equation*}
[d(x), \theta(y)]_{\alpha} \beta \theta(z) \gamma d^{2}(x)=0 \text { for all } x, y \in I ; z \in d(I) ; \alpha, \beta, \gamma \in \Gamma . \tag{2.10}
\end{equation*}
$$

The above equation implies that $\left[\theta^{-1} d(x), y\right]_{\alpha} \Gamma / \Gamma d^{2}(x)=0$ for all $x, y \in I$ and $\alpha \in \Gamma$. For each fixed $x \in I$, either $\left[\theta^{-1} d(x), y\right]_{\alpha}=0$ for all $y \in I$ or $d^{2}(x)=0$. Using similar arguments as in the proof of given in the proof of Theorem 2.1, we have $\left[\theta^{-1} d(I), I\right]_{\alpha}=0$ or $d^{2}(I)=0$. If $\left[\theta^{-1} d(I), I\right]_{\alpha}=0$, then $\theta^{-1} d(I) \subseteq Z(I)$. By [10, Lemma 1.2.2], [12, Lemma 4], $M$ is commutative. If $d^{2}(I)=0$, we have $0=d^{2}(u \alpha v)=d^{2}(u) \alpha v+2 \theta d(u) \alpha d(v)+\theta^{2}(u) d^{2}(v)=$ $2 \theta d(u) \alpha d(v)$ for all $u, v \in I$. Since $M$ is 2-torsion free, we get $\theta d(u) \Gamma d(I)=0$. In view of [12, Lemma 3], either $\theta d(I)=0$ or $d=0$. The former case implies that $d(I)=0$ and so $d=0$. This is a contradiction and the proof is complete.

Using the same techniques with necessary variations we get the following:
Theorem 2.6. Let $M$ be a 2 -torsion free prime $\Gamma$-ring, $\theta$ an automorphism of $M$ and $I$ a nonzero ideal of $M$. If $M$ admits a nonzero $\theta$-derivation d commuting with $\theta$ such that $[d(x), d(y)]_{\alpha}=0$ for all $x, y \in I$ and $\alpha \in \Gamma$, then $M$ is commutative.

Theorem 2.7. Let $M$ be a 2-torsion free prime $\Gamma$-ring, $\theta$ an automorphism of $M$ and $I$ a nonzero ideal of $M$. If $M$ admits a $\theta$-derivation d acting as a homomorphism on $I$, then $d=0$ or $M$ is commutative.

Proof. If $M$ is commutative, then we are done. Assume that $d$ acts as a homomorphism on $I$. By our hypothesis, we have $d(x \alpha y)=d(x) \alpha d(y)$, which can be rewritten as

$$
\begin{equation*}
d(x) \alpha y+\theta(x) \alpha d(y)=d(x) \alpha d(y) \text { for all } x, y \in I ; \alpha \in \Gamma . \tag{2.11}
\end{equation*}
$$

Replacing $y$ by $y \beta z$ in (2.11) and using (2.11), we get $(\theta(x)-d(x)) \alpha \theta(y) \beta d(z)=0$, which implies that $\left(x-\theta^{-1} d(x)\right) \Gamma I \Gamma \theta^{-1} d(z)=0$ for all $x, z \in I$. By the primeness of $I$, either $\theta(x)=$ $d(x)$ for all $x \in I$ or $d(I)=0$. In the former case, $\theta(x) \alpha \theta(y)=d(x) \alpha d(y)=d(x \alpha y)=d(x) \alpha y+$ $\theta(x) \alpha d(y)=d(x) \alpha y+\theta(x) \alpha \theta(y)$ for all $x, y \in I$. Thus, $d(x) \alpha y=0$ and hence $d(I) \Gamma I=0$. In light of [12, Lemma 3], $d(I)=0$. In both cases, we conclude $d(I)=0$ and so $d=0$.

Theorem 2.8. Let $M$ be a 2-torsion free prime $\Gamma$-ring, $\theta$ an automorphism of $M$ and $I$ a nonzero ideal of $M$. If $M$ admits a $\theta$-derivation d acting as an anti-homomorphism on $I$, then $d=0$ or $M$ is commutative.

Proof. Assume that $d$ acts as an anti-homomorphism on $I$, then

$$
\begin{equation*}
d(x) \alpha y+\theta(x) \alpha d(y)=d(x \alpha y)=d(y) \alpha d(x) \text { for all } x, y \in I ; \alpha \in \Gamma . \tag{2.12}
\end{equation*}
$$

Replacing $x$ by $x \beta y$ in (2.12) and using (2.12), we get

$$
\begin{equation*}
d(y) \alpha \theta(x) \beta d(y)=\theta(x) \beta \theta(y) \alpha d(y) \text { for all } x, y \in I ; \alpha, \beta \in \Gamma . \tag{2.13}
\end{equation*}
$$

Replacing $x$ by $z \gamma x$ in (2.13) and using (2.13), we have

$$
\begin{equation*}
d(y) \alpha \theta(z) \gamma \theta(x) \beta d(y)=\theta(z) \gamma \theta(x) \beta \theta(y) \alpha d(y)=\theta(z) \gamma d(y) \alpha \theta(x) \beta d(y) \tag{2.14}
\end{equation*}
$$

for all $x, y, z \in I$ and $\alpha, \beta, \gamma \in \Gamma$. This implies that $[d(y), \theta(z)]_{\gamma} \alpha \theta(x) \beta d(y)=0$ and hence $\left[\theta^{-1} d(y), z\right]_{\gamma} \Gamma \Gamma \theta^{-1} d(y)=0$ for all $y, z \in I ; \gamma \in \Gamma$. For each fixed $y \in I$, either $\left[\theta^{-1} d(y), z\right]_{\gamma}=0$ for all $z \in I$ or $\theta^{-1} d(y)=0$. Repeating similar arguments as given in in the proof of Theorem 2.1, we obtain $\left[\theta^{-1} d(I), I\right]_{\gamma}=0$ or $\theta^{-1} d(I)=0$. If $\left[\theta^{-1} d(I), I\right]_{\gamma}=0$, then the same arguments as in the proof of Theorem 2.5 forces $M$ to be commutative. In the latter case, $\theta^{-1} d(I)=0$ implies that $d(I)=0$ and we deduce that $d=0$.

The following example shows that the primeness in the above theorems can not be omitted.
Example 2.9. Let $Q$ be rational number field and $M=\left\{\left.\left(\begin{array}{cc}a & b \\ 0 & 0\end{array}\right) \right\rvert\, a, b \in Q\right\}$. Then it is easy to check that $I=\left\{\left.\left(\begin{array}{ll}0 & b \\ 0 & 0\end{array}\right) \right\rvert\, b \in Q\right\}$ is a nonzero ideal of $M$. The fact that $\left(\begin{array}{ll}0 & 1 \\ 0 & 0\end{array}\right) \Gamma M \Gamma\left(\begin{array}{ll}0 & 1 \\ 0 & 0\end{array}\right)=\left(\begin{array}{ll}0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0\end{array}\right)$ proves that $M$ is not prime. Define maps $d\left(\begin{array}{ll}a & b \\ 0 & 0\end{array}\right)=$ $\left(\begin{array}{ll}0 & b \\ 0 & 0\end{array}\right)$ and $\theta\left(\begin{array}{ll}a & b \\ 0 & 0\end{array}\right)=\left(\begin{array}{cc}a & -b \\ 0 & 0\end{array}\right)$. Then $d$ is a nonzero $\theta-$ derivation on $M$. It can be easily checked that $(i) d\left([x, y]_{\alpha}\right)= \pm\left([x, y]_{\alpha}\right)$ (ii) $d\left((x \circ y)_{\alpha}\right)= \pm\left((x \circ y)_{\alpha}\right)(i i i)(d(x) \circ d(y))_{\alpha}=$ 0 (iv) $[d(x), d(y)]_{\alpha}=0(v) d(x \alpha y)=d(x) \alpha d(y)(v i) d(x \alpha y)=d(y) \alpha d(x)$ for all $x, y \in I ; \alpha \in \Gamma$. However, $M$ is not commutative.

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