

# Almost Derivations on $C^*$ -Ternary Rings

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## Abstract

We establish the generalized Hyers–Ulam–Rassias stability of derivations in  $C^*$ -ternary rings associated to the Cauchy functional equation. We also show that any so-called almost derivation on a  $C^*$ -ternary ring is a true derivation.

## 1 Introduction and Preliminaries

A  $C^*$ -ternary ring is a Banach space  $\mathcal{A}$  equipped with a ternary product  $(x, y, z) \mapsto [x y z]$  of  $\mathcal{A} \times \mathcal{A} \times \mathcal{A}$  into  $\mathcal{A}$  which is linear in the outer variables, conjugate linear in the middle variable, and associative in the sense that  $[x y [z t s]] = [x [t z y] s] = [[x y z] t s]$ , and satisfies  $\|[x y z]\| \leq \|x\| \|y\| \|z\|$  and  $\|[x x x]\| = \|x\|^3$ ; cf. [24]. For instance, any ternary ring of operators, namely any closed subspace of the space  $B(\mathfrak{H}, \mathfrak{K})$  of bounded linear operators between Hilbert spaces  $\mathfrak{H}$  and  $\mathfrak{K}$  which is closed under the ternary product  $[x y z] := xy^*z$  is a  $C^*$ -ternary ring.

If a  $C^*$ -ternary ring  $(\mathcal{A}, [ \ ])$  has an identity, i.e. an element  $e$  such that  $x = [x e e] = [e e x]$  for all  $x \in \mathcal{A}$ , then it is routine to verify that  $\mathcal{A}$  endowed with  $x \odot y := [x e y]$  and  $x^* := [e x e]$  is a unital  $C^*$ -algebra. The most important thing is the  $C^*$ -condition. To see this, note that

$$\begin{aligned} \|x \odot x^* \odot x\| &= \|[x e x^*] \odot x\| = \|[x e x^*] e x\| = \|[[x e [e x e]] e x]\| \\ &= \|[[[x e e] x e] e x]\| = \|[[x x e] e x]\| = \|[x [e e x] x]\| \\ &= \|[x x x]\| \\ &= \|x\|^3, \end{aligned}$$

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whence

$$\begin{aligned} \|x \odot x^*\|^3 &= \|(x \odot x^*) \odot (x \odot x^*)^* \odot (x \odot x^*)\| = \|(x \odot x^* \odot x) \odot (x \odot x^* \odot x)^*\| \\ &\leq \|(x \odot x^* \odot x)\| \|(x \odot x^* \odot x)^*\| \leq \|x\|^3 \|x^*\|^3 = \|x\|^6, \end{aligned}$$

by applying  $\|x\| = \|x^*\|$  which is followed from  $\|x\|^3 = \|[x \ x^* \ x]\| \leq \|x\| \|x^*\| \|x\|$ .

Conversely, if  $(A, \odot)$  is a (unital)  $C^*$ -algebra, then  $[x \ y \ z] := x \odot y^* \odot z$  makes  $\mathcal{A}$  into a  $C^*$ -ternary ring (with the unit  $e$  such that  $x \odot y = [x \ e \ y]$ ).

A linear mapping  $\delta : \mathcal{A} \rightarrow \mathcal{A}$  is called a *derivation* if  $\delta([x \ y \ z]) = [\delta(x) \ y \ z] + [x \ \delta(y) \ z] + [x \ y \ \delta(z)]$  for all  $x, y, z \in \mathcal{A}$ . This notion is a generalization of derivation on a Hilbert  $C^*$ -module; cf. [11].

We say a functional equation  $(\mathcal{E})$  is *stable* if any function  $g$  satisfying the equation  $(\mathcal{E})$  “approximately” is near to a true solution of  $(\mathcal{E})$ . The equation  $(\mathcal{E})$  is called *superstable* if every approximate solution of  $(\mathcal{E})$  is an exact solution (see [3] for another notion of superstability namely *superstability modulo the bounded functions*)

The stability problem of functional equations originated from a question of Ulam [23], posed in 1940, concerning the stability of group homomorphisms:

Let  $(\mathcal{G}_1, *)$  be a group and let  $(\mathcal{G}_2, \diamond, d)$  be a metric group with the metric  $d(\cdot, \cdot)$ . Given  $\varepsilon > 0$ , does there exist a  $\delta > 0$  such that if a mapping  $h : \mathcal{G}_1 \rightarrow \mathcal{G}_2$  satisfies the inequality  $d(h(x * y), h(x) \diamond h(y)) < \delta$  for all  $x, y \in \mathcal{G}_1$ , then there is a homomorphism  $H : \mathcal{G}_1 \rightarrow \mathcal{G}_2$  with  $d(h(x), H(x)) < \varepsilon$  for all  $x \in \mathcal{G}_1$ ?

In the next year, Hyers [6] gave a partial affirmative answer to the question of Ulam in the context of Banach spaces. In 1978, Rassias [21] extended the theorem of Hyers by considering the unbounded Cauchy difference  $\|f(x + y) - f(x) - f(y)\| \leq \varepsilon(\|x\|^p + \|y\|^p)$ , ( $\varepsilon > 0, p \in [0, 1)$ ). The result of Th. M. Rassias has provided a lot of influence in the development of what we now call *Hyers–Ulam–Rassias stability* of functional equations. In 1994, a generalization of Rassias’ theorem, the so-called generalized Hyers–Ulam–Rassias stability, was obtained by Găvruta [5]. During the last decades several stability problems of functional equations have been investigated in the spirit of Hyers–Ulam–Rassias. See [4, 7, 8, 22] for more detailed information on stability of functional equations. Some results on stability of mappings on other ternary structures may be found in [1, 16].

Recently, the stability of various types of derivations has been extensively investigated by some mathematicians; see [10, 12, 13, 14, 15, 17, 18, 19]. In this paper, using some strategies from [2, 17], we establish the generalized Hyers–Ulam–Rassias stability of derivations associated to the Cauchy equations. Because of the interrelation between unital  $C^*$ -algebras and unital  $C^*$ -ternary rings our approach may be applied to study of stability of derivations in unital  $C^*$ -algebras; see [17]. Introducing the notion of almost derivation on a  $C^*$ -ternary ring and using some ideas from [12] we prove that every almost derivation is a true derivation.

Throughout this paper,  $\mathcal{A}$  denotes a  $C^*$ -ternary ring.

## 2 Generalized Hyers–Ulam–Rassias Stability

In this section, we are going to establish the generalized Hyers–Ulam–Rassias stability of derivations in  $C^*$ -ternary rings associated with the Cauchy functional equation. See [1] for a fixed point approach in the framework of Hilbert  $C^*$ -modules.

**Theorem 2.1.** *Suppose  $f : \mathcal{A} \rightarrow \mathcal{A}$  is a mapping with  $f(0) = 0$  for which there exists a function  $\varphi : \mathcal{A}^5 \rightarrow [0, \infty)$  such that*

$$\tilde{\varphi}(x, y, u, v, w) := \frac{1}{2} \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} 2^{-n} \varphi(2^n x, 2^n y, 2^n u, 2^n v, 2^n w) < \infty,$$

and

$$\begin{aligned} \|f(\mu x + \mu y + [u v w]) - \mu f(x) - \mu f(y) - [f(u) v w] - [u f(v) w] - [u v f(w)]\| \\ \leq \varphi(x, y, u, v, w), \end{aligned} \tag{2.1}$$

for all  $\mu \in T^1 = \{\lambda \in \mathbb{C} : |\lambda| = 1\}$  and all  $x, y, u, v, w \in \mathcal{A}$ . Then there exists a unique derivation  $\delta : \mathcal{A} \rightarrow \mathcal{A}$  such that

$$\|f(x) - \delta(x)\| \leq \tilde{\varphi}(x, x, 0, 0, 0),$$

for all  $x \in \mathcal{A}$ .

*Proof.* Set  $u = v = w = 0, \mu = 1, y = x$  in (2.1) to get

$$\|f(2x) - 2f(x)\| \leq \varphi(x, x, 0, 0, 0)$$

for all  $x \in \mathcal{A}$ . Using the induction, one can show that

$$\|2^{-n} f(2^n x) - f(x)\| \leq \frac{1}{2} \sum_{k=0}^{n-1} 2^{-k} \varphi(2^k x, 2^k x, 0, 0, 0), \tag{2.2}$$

for all  $x \in \mathcal{A}$  and for all positive integers  $n$ , and

$$\|2^{-n} f(2^n x) - 2^{-m} f(2^m x)\| \leq \frac{1}{2} \sum_{k=m}^{n-1} 2^{-k} \varphi(2^k x, 2^k x, 0, 0, 0),$$

for all  $x \in \mathcal{A}$  and for all non-negative integers  $m, n$  with  $m < n$ . Hence  $\{2^{-n} f(2^n x)\}$  is a Cauchy sequence in  $\mathcal{A}$ . Due to the completeness of  $\mathcal{A}$  we conclude that this sequence is convergent. Set

$$\delta(x) = \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} 2^{-n} f(2^n x), \quad x \in \mathcal{A}.$$

If  $n \rightarrow \infty$  in inequality (2.2), we obtain

$$\|f(x) - \delta(x)\| \leq \tilde{\varphi}(x, x, 0, 0, 0),$$

for all  $x \in \mathcal{A}$ .

Putting  $u = v = w = 0, y = 2^{n-1}x$  and replacing  $x$  by  $2^{n-1}x$  in (2.1) we obtain

$$\|f(2^n \mu x) - 2\mu f(2^{n-1}x)\| \leq \varphi(2^{n-1}x, 2^{n-1}x, 0, 0, 0),$$

for all  $x \in \mathcal{A}, \mu \in T^1$ . Then

$$\begin{aligned} \|\mu f(2^n x) - 2\mu f(2^{n-1}x)\| &\leq |\mu| \cdot \|f(2^n x) - 2f(2^{n-1}x)\| \\ &\leq \varphi(2^{n-1}x, 2^{n-1}x, 0, 0, 0), \end{aligned}$$

for all  $\mu \in \mathbb{T}^1$  and all  $x \in \mathcal{A}$ . So

$$\begin{aligned} \|2^{-n} f(2^n \mu x) - 2^{-n} \mu f(2^n x)\| &\leq 2^{-n} \|f(2^n \mu x) - 2\mu f(2^{n-1} x)\| \\ &\quad + 2^{-n} \|2\mu f(2^{n-1} x) - \mu f(2^n x)\| \\ &\leq 2^{-n+1} \varphi(2^{n-1} x, 2^{n-1} x, 0, 0, 0), \end{aligned}$$

for all  $\mu \in \mathbb{T}^1$  and all  $x \in \mathcal{A}$ . Since the right hand side tends to zero as  $n \rightarrow \infty$ , we have

$$\delta(\mu x) = \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{f(2^n \mu x)}{2^n} = \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{\mu f(2^n x)}{2^n} = \mu \delta(x),$$

for all  $\mu \in \mathbb{T}^1$  and all  $x \in \mathcal{A}$ . Obviously,  $\delta(0x) = 0 = 0\delta(x)$ .

Next, let  $\lambda \in \mathbb{C}$  ( $\lambda \neq 0$ ) and let  $M$  be a natural number greater than  $4|\lambda|$ . Then  $|\frac{\lambda}{M}| < \frac{1}{4} < 1 - \frac{2}{3} = 1/3$ . By Theorem 1 of [9], there exist three numbers  $\mu_1, \mu_2, \mu_3 \in \mathbb{T}^1$  such that  $3\frac{\lambda}{M} = \mu_1 + \mu_2 + \mu_3$ . By the additivity of  $\delta$  we get  $\delta(\frac{1}{3}x) = \frac{1}{3}\delta(x)$  for all  $x \in \mathcal{A}$ . Therefore,

$$\begin{aligned} \delta(\lambda x) &= \delta\left(\frac{M}{3} \cdot 3 \cdot \frac{\lambda}{M} x\right) = M\delta\left(\frac{1}{3} \cdot 3 \cdot \frac{\lambda}{M} x\right) = \frac{M}{3}\delta\left(3 \cdot \frac{\lambda}{M} x\right) \\ &= \frac{M}{3}\delta(\mu_1 x + \mu_2 x + \mu_3 x) = \frac{M}{3}(\delta(\mu_1 x) + \delta(\mu_2 x) + \delta(\mu_3 x)) \\ &= \frac{M}{3}(\mu_1 + \mu_2 + \mu_3)\delta(x) = \frac{M}{3} \cdot 3 \cdot \frac{\lambda}{M} \\ &= \lambda\delta(x), \end{aligned}$$

for all  $x \in \mathcal{A}$ . So that  $\delta$  is  $\mathbb{C}$ -linear.

Set  $x = y = 0$  and replace  $u, v, w$  by  $2^n u, 2^n v, 2^n w$ , respectively, in (2.1). Then

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{1}{2^{3n}} \|f(2^{3n}[u v w]) - [f(2^n u) 2^n v 2^n w] - [2^n u f(2^n v) 2^n w] - [2^n u 2^n v f(2^n w)]\| \\ \leq \frac{1}{2^{3n}} \varphi(0, 0, 2^n u, 2^n v, 2^n w), \end{aligned}$$

for all  $u, v, w \in \mathcal{A}$ . It follows from the continuity of the mapping  $\mathcal{A} \times \mathcal{A} \times \mathcal{A} \rightarrow \mathcal{A}$  given by  $(x, y, z) \mapsto [x y z]$  that

$$\begin{aligned} \delta([u v w]) &= \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{f(2^{3n}[u v w])}{2^{3n}} \\ &= \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \left[ \frac{f(2^n u)}{2^n} v w \right] + \left[ u \frac{f(2^n v)}{2^n} w \right] + \left[ u v \frac{f(2^n w)}{2^n} \right] \\ &= [\delta(u) v w] + [u \delta(v) w] + [u v \delta(w)], \end{aligned}$$

for all  $u, v, w \in \mathcal{A}$ . Thus  $\delta$  is a derivation satisfying the required inequality.  $\blacksquare$

**Theorem 2.2.** *Suppose that  $f : \mathcal{A} \rightarrow \mathcal{A}$  is a mapping with  $f(0) = 0$  and there exists a function  $\varphi : \mathcal{A}^5 \rightarrow [0, \infty)$  such that*

$$\tilde{\varphi}(x, y, u, v, w) := \frac{1}{2} \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} 2^{-n} \varphi(2^n x, 2^n y, 2^n u, 2^n v, 2^n w) < \infty,$$

$$\begin{aligned} \|f(\mu x + \mu y + [u v w]) - \mu f(x) - \mu f(y) - [f(u) v w] - [u f(v) w] - [u v f(w)]\| \\ \leq \varphi(x, y, u, v, w), \end{aligned} \tag{2.3}$$

for  $\mu = 1, \mathbf{i}$  and all  $x, y, u, v, w \in \mathcal{A}$ . If for each fixed  $x \in \mathcal{A}$  the function  $t \mapsto f(tx)$  is continuous on  $\mathbb{R}$ , then there exists a unique derivation  $\delta : \mathcal{A} \rightarrow \mathcal{A}$  such that

$$\|f(x) - \delta(x)\| \leq \tilde{\varphi}(x, x, 0, 0, 0),$$

for all  $x \in \mathcal{A}$ .

*Proof.* By the same arguing as in the proof of Theorem 2.1 we can appropriately approximate  $f$  by a unique additive mapping  $\delta : \mathcal{A} \rightarrow \mathcal{A}$  given by  $\delta(x) = \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{f(2^n x)}{2^n}$ , ( $x \in \mathcal{A}$ ).

By the same reasoning as in the proof of the main theorem of [21], the mapping  $\delta$  is  $\mathbb{R}$ -linear.

Assuming  $y = u = v = w = 0$  and  $\mu = \mathbf{i}$ , it follows from (2.3) that

$$\|f(\mathbf{i}x) - \mathbf{i}f(x)\| \leq \varphi(x, 0, 0, 0, 0),$$

for all  $x \in \mathcal{A}$ . Hence

$$2^{-n} \|f(2^n \mathbf{i}x) - \mathbf{i}f(2^n x)\| \leq 2^{-n} \varphi(2^n x, 0, 0, 0, 0),$$

for all  $x \in \mathcal{A}$ . The right hand side tends to zero as  $n \rightarrow \infty$ , hence

$$\delta(\mathbf{i}x) = \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{f(2^n \mathbf{i}x)}{2^n} = \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{\mathbf{i}f(2^n x)}{2^n} = \mathbf{i}\delta(x),$$

for all  $x \in \mathcal{A}$ . For every  $\lambda \in \mathbb{C}$ ,  $\lambda = s + \mathbf{i}t$  in which  $s, t \in \mathbb{R}$  we have

$$\delta(\lambda x) = \delta(sx + \mathbf{i}tx) = s\delta(x) + t\delta(\mathbf{i}x) = s\delta(x) + \mathbf{i}t\delta(x) = (s + \mathbf{i}t)\delta(x) = \lambda\delta(x),$$

for all  $x \in \mathcal{A}$ . Thus  $\delta$  is  $\mathbb{C}$ -linear. The rest of the proof is similar to the last part of the proof of Theorem 2.1. ■

### 3 Superstability

In this section, we aim to prove the superstability of derivations on  $C^*$ -ternary rings. We start our work with following result in which we give some sufficient conditions in order an approximate derivation to be an exact one.

**Proposition 3.1.** *Let  $r > 1$ , and let  $\delta : \mathcal{A} \rightarrow \mathcal{A}$  be a mapping satisfying  $\delta(rx) = r\delta(x)$  for all  $x \in \mathcal{A}$  and let there exist a function  $\varphi : \mathcal{A}^5 \rightarrow [0, \infty)$  such that*

$$\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} r^{-n} \varphi(r^n x, r^n y, r^n u, r^n v, r^n w) = 0,$$

and

$$\begin{aligned} & \|\delta(\lambda x + \lambda y + [u v w]) - \lambda\delta(x) - \lambda\delta(y) - [\delta(u) v w] - [u \delta(v) w] - [u v \delta(w)]\| \\ & \leq \varphi(x, y, u, v, w), \end{aligned} \tag{3.1}$$

for all  $\lambda \in \mathbb{C}$  and all  $x, y, u, v, w \in \mathcal{A}$ . Then  $\delta$  is a derivation.

*Proof.*  $\delta(0) = 0$ , since  $\delta(0) = r\delta(0)$ . Set  $x = y = 0$  in (3.1). Then

$$\begin{aligned} & \|\delta([u v w]) - [\delta(u) v w] - [u \delta(v) w] - [u v \delta(w)]\| \\ & = \frac{1}{r^{3n}} \|\delta([r^n u \ r^n v \ r^n w]) - [\delta(r^n u) \ r^n v \ r^n w] \\ & \quad - [r^n u \ \delta(r^n v) \ r^n w] - [r^n u \ r^n v \ \delta(r^n w)]\| \\ & \leq \frac{1}{r^{3n}} \varphi(r^n u, r^n v, r^n w) \\ & \leq \frac{1}{r^n} \varphi(r^n u, r^n v, r^n w), \end{aligned}$$

for all  $u, v, w \in \mathcal{A}$ . The right hand side tends to zero as  $n \rightarrow \infty$ . So that  $\delta([u v w]) = [\delta(u) v w] + [u \delta(v) w] + [u v \delta(w)]$  for all  $u, v, w \in \mathcal{A}$ .

Similarly, one can shows that  $\delta(\lambda x + y) = \lambda\delta(x) + \delta(y)$  for all  $x, y \in \mathcal{A}$  and all  $\lambda \in \mathbb{C}$ . ■

Now we introduce an appropriate definition of almost derivation regarding to Rassias's inequality (see the introduction).

**Definition 3.2.** Given numbers  $\varepsilon > 0$  and  $0 \leq p < 1$ , a mapping  $f : \mathcal{A} \rightarrow \mathcal{A}$  is called an  $(\varepsilon, p)$ -almost derivation if  $f(0) = 0$  and

$$\begin{aligned} & \|f(\mu x + \mu y + [u \ v \ w]) - \mu f(x) - \mu f(y) - [f(u) \ v \ w] - [u \ f(v) \ w] - [u \ v \ f(w)]\| \\ & \leq \varepsilon(\|x\|^p + \|y\|^p + \|u\|^p + \|v\|^p + \|w\|^p), \end{aligned}$$

for all  $x, y, u, v, w \in \mathcal{A}$  and all  $\mu \in \mathbb{T}^1 = \{\lambda \in \mathbb{C} : |\lambda| = 1\}$ .

The following theorem is our main result.

**Theorem 3.3.** Let  $f : \mathcal{A} \rightarrow \mathcal{A}$  be an  $(\varepsilon, p)$ -almost derivation. Then  $f$  is a derivation.

*Proof.* Put  $\varphi(x, y, u, v, w) = \varepsilon(\|x\|^p + \|y\|^p + \|u\|^p + \|v\|^p + \|w\|^p)$  in Theorem 2.1. Then we get a derivation  $\delta$  defined by  $\delta(x) := \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{f(2^n x)}{2^n}$  such that

$$\|\delta(x) - f(x)\| \leq \frac{\varepsilon\|x\|^p}{1 - 2^{p-1}},$$

for all  $x \in \mathcal{A}$ . We have

$$\begin{aligned} & \|2^n([u \ v \ f(2^m w)] - [u \ v \ 2^m f(w)])\| \\ & \leq \|f([2^n u \ v \ 2^m w]) - [f(2^n u) \ v \ 2^m w] - [2^n u \ f(v) \ 2^m w] - [2^n u \ v \ f(2^m w)]\| \\ & \quad + \|f([2^n u \ v \ 2^m w]) - [f(2^n u) \ v \ 2^m w] - [2^n u \ f(v) \ 2^m w] - [2^n u \ v \ 2^m f(w)]\| \\ & \leq \varepsilon(\|2^n u\|^p + \|v\|^p + \|2^m w\|^p) \\ & \quad + \|f([2^n u \ v \ 2^m w]) - [f(2^n u) \ v \ 2^m w] - [2^n u \ f(v) \ 2^m w] - [2^n u \ v \ 2^m f(w)]\| \\ & \leq \varepsilon(\|2^n u\|^p + \|v\|^p + \|2^m w\|^p) + \|f([2^n u \ v \ 2^m w]) - \delta([2^n u \ v \ 2^m w])\| \\ & \quad + \|\delta([2^n u \ v \ 2^m w]) - [f(2^n u) \ v \ 2^m w] - [2^n u \ f(v) \ 2^m w] - [2^n u \ v \ 2^m f(w)]\| \\ & \leq \varepsilon(\|2^n u\|^p + \|v\|^p + \|2^m w\|^p) + \frac{\varepsilon}{1 - 2^{p-1}}\|[2^n u \ v \ 2^m w]\|^p \\ & \quad + 2^m \|\delta([2^n u \ v \ w]) - [f(2^n u) \ v \ w] - [2^n u \ f(v) \ w] - [2^n u \ v \ f(w)]\| \\ & \leq \varepsilon(\|2^n u\|^p + \|v\|^p + \|2^m w\|^p) + \frac{\varepsilon}{1 - 2^{p-1}}\|[2^n u \ v \ 2^m w]\|^p \\ & \quad + 2^m \|f([2^n u \ v \ w]) - \delta([2^n u \ v \ w])\| \\ & \quad + 2^m \|f([2^n u \ v \ w]) - [f(2^n u) \ v \ w] - [2^n u \ f(v) \ w] - [2^n u \ v \ f(w)]\| \\ & \leq \varepsilon(\|2^n u\|^p + \|v\|^p + \|2^m w\|^p) + \frac{\varepsilon}{1 - 2^{p-1}}\|[2^n u \ v \ 2^m w]\|^p \\ & \quad + \frac{2^m \varepsilon}{1 - 2^{p-1}}\|[2^n u \ v \ 2^m w]\|^p + 2^m \varepsilon(\|2^n u\|^p + \|v\|^p + \|w\|^p), \end{aligned}$$

for all nonnegative integers  $m, n$  and all  $u, v, w \in \mathcal{A}$ . Fix  $m$ , divide the both sides of the last inequality by  $2^n$  and let  $n$  tend to  $\infty$  to obtain

$$\|[u \ v \ f(2^m w)] - [u \ v \ 2^m f(w)]\| \leq 0,$$

for all  $m$  and all  $u, v, w \in \mathcal{A}$ . Therefore  $\|[u \ v \ (\frac{f(2^m w)}{2^m} - f(w))]\| = 0$  for all  $m$  and all  $u, v, w \in \mathcal{A}$ . Letting  $m$  to  $\infty$  we get  $\|[u \ v \ (\delta(w) - f(w))]\| = 0$  for all  $u, v, w \in \mathcal{A}$ . Putting  $u = v = \delta(w) - f(w)$  we obtain

$$\|\delta(w) - f(w)\|^3 = \|[(\delta(w) - f(w)) \ (\delta(w) - f(w)) \ (\delta(w) - f(w))]\| = 0,$$

and so  $\delta(w) = f(w)$  for all  $w \in \mathcal{A}$ . ■

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