

Generalized Derivations and Generalization of Co-commuting Maps in Prime Rings

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Abstract. Suppose that R is a prime ring of characteristic different from 2 with Utumi quotient ring U , $C = Z(U)$ the extended centroid of R , and $f(x_1, \dots, x_n)$ a noncentral multilinear polynomial over C . If F, G and H are three nonzero generalized derivations of R such that

$$F(G(f(X))f(X)) = f(X)H(f(X))$$

for all $X = (x_1, \dots, x_n) \in R^n$, then we describe the nature of the maps F, G and H .

1. Introduction

Throughout this paper R denotes a prime ring with center $Z(R)$, extended centroid C and U its Utumi quotient ring. The definition and axiomatic formulation of Utumi quotient ring U can be found in [2, 4].

We have the following properties which we need

1. $R \subseteq U$;
2. U is a prime ring with unity;
3. The center of U is denoted by C and is called the extended centroid of R . C is a field.

By a derivation of R , we mean an additive mapping $d: R \rightarrow R$ such that $d(xy) = d(x)y + xd(y)$ holds for all $x, y \in R$. An additive mapping $F: R \rightarrow R$ is called a generalized derivation if there exists a derivation d on R such that $F(xy) = F(x)y + xd(y)$ holds for all $x, y \in R$. Basic examples of generalized derivations are derivations, generalized inner derivations (i.e., maps of type $x \rightarrow ax + xb$ for some $a, b \in R$). In [16], Lee proved that any generalized derivation of R can be uniquely extended to a generalized derivation of U and its form will be $g(x) = ax + d(x)$ for some $a \in U$, where d is the

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associated derivation. The Lie commutator of x and y is denoted by $[x, y]$ and also defined by $[x, y] = xy - yx$ for all $x, y \in R$; also the symbol $x \circ y$ stands for the anti-commutator $xy + yx$. By s_4 , we denote the standard polynomial in four variables, which is $s_4(x_1, x_2, x_3, x_4) = \sum_{\sigma \in S_4} (-1)^\sigma x_{\sigma(1)}x_{\sigma(2)}x_{\sigma(3)}x_{\sigma(4)}$, where $(-1)^\sigma$ is $+1$ or -1 according to σ being an even or odd permutation in symmetric group S_4 . Let $S \subseteq R$. An additive map $F: R \rightarrow R$ is said to be commuting (centralizing) on S if $[F(x), x] = 0$ for all $x \in S$ (resp. $[F(x), x] \in Z(R)$ for all $x \in S$). Two additive maps $F, G: R \rightarrow R$ are said to be co-commuting (co-centralizing) on S if $F(x)x - xG(x) = 0$ for all $x \in S$ (resp. $F(x)x - xG(x) \in Z(R)$ for all $x \in S$).

In [6], De Filippis and De Vincenzo described the structure of additive mappings d and G satisfying $d(G(f(X))f(X) - f(X)G(f(X))) = 0$ for all $X = (x_1, \dots, x_n) \in R^n$, where f is a multilinear polynomial over extended centroid C and d is a nonzero derivation and G is a nonzero generalized derivation on prime ring R of $\text{char}(R) \neq 2$.

In [9], the first author, Argac and Albas extended the above result by considering two generalized derivations. More precisely, they studied the situation $d(F(f(X))f(X) - f(X)G(f(X))) = 0$ for all $X = (x_1, \dots, x_n) \in R^n$, where f is a multilinear polynomial over extended centroid C and d is a nonzero derivation and F, G are two generalized derivations on prime ring R of $\text{char}(R) \neq 2$. In the paper authors determined all possible forms of the additive maps d, F and G .

On the other hand, Carini and De Filippis [3] proved that if R is a prime ring of characteristic different from 2, δ a nonzero derivation of R , G a nonzero generalized derivation of R , and $f(x_1, \dots, x_n)$ a non-central multilinear polynomial over C such that $\delta(G(f(X))f(X)) = 0$ for all $X = (x_1, \dots, x_n) \in R^n$, then there exist $a, b \in U$ such that $G(x) = ax$ and $\delta(x) = [b, x]$ for all $x \in R$, with $[b, a] = 0$ and $f(x_1, \dots, x_n)^2$ is central-valued on R .

Further, the first author and Argac [8] extended the above result replacing derivation δ with another generalized derivation F , that is, $F(G(f(X))f(X)) = 0$ for all $X = (x_1, \dots, x_n) \in I^n$, and then gave the complete description of the additive maps F and G , where I is a non-zero two-sided ideal of R .

In another paper [1], Argac and De Filippis studied the generalized derivations G and H co-commuting on $f(I) = \{f(x_1, \dots, x_n) \mid x_i \in I\}$, that is, $G(u)u - uH(u) = 0$ for all $u \in f(I)$ and then obtained the all possible forms of the maps F and G , where I is a non-zero two-sided ideal of R .

Motivated by the above results we prove the following theorem.

Theorem 1.1. *Let R be a noncommutative prime ring of characteristic different from 2 with Utumi quotient ring U and extended centroid C , and $f(x_1, \dots, x_n)$ a multilinear polynomial over C , which is not central valued on R . Suppose that F, G and H are three*

nonzero generalized derivations of R such that

$$F(G(f(X))f(X)) = f(X)H(f(X))$$

for all $X = (x_1, \dots, x_n) \in R^n$. Then one of the following holds:

- (1) there exist $\lambda \in C$ and $a, b \in U$ such that $F(x) = \lambda x$, $G(x) = xa$ and $H(x) = \lambda ax$ for all $x \in R$;
- (2) there exist $\lambda, \alpha \in C$ and $p, q, u, v \in U$ such that $F(x) = \lambda x$, $G(x) = px + xq$ and $H(x) = \lambda(qx + xp)$ for all $x \in R$ with $f(x_1, \dots, x_n)^2$ is central valued in R ;
- (3) there exist $\lambda \in C$ and $a, p \in U$ such that $F(x) = ax$, $G(x) = px$ and $H(x) = \lambda x$ for all $x \in R$ with $ap = \lambda$;
- (4) there exist $\lambda \in C$ and $a \in U$ such that $F(x) = xa$, $G(x) = \lambda x$ and $H(x) = \lambda xa$ for all $x \in R$;
- (5) there exist $a, b, p, v \in U$ such that $F(x) = ax + xb$, $G(x) = px$ and $H(x) = xv$ for all $x \in R$ with $f(x_1, \dots, x_n)^2$ is central valued on R and $ap + pb = v$.

In particular, when $G = H$, we have the following

Corollary 1.2. *Let R be a noncommutative prime ring of characteristic different from 2 with Utumi quotient ring U and extended centroid C , and $f(x_1, \dots, x_n)$ a multilinear polynomial over C , which is not central valued on R . Suppose that F and G are two nonzero generalized derivations of R such that*

$$F(G(f(X))f(X)) = f(X)G(f(X))$$

for all $X = (x_1, \dots, x_n) \in R^n$. Then one of the following holds:

- (1) there exists $\mu \in C$ such that $F(x) = x$ and $G(x) = \mu x$ for all $x \in R$;
- (2) there exist $\alpha \in C$ and $p \in U$ such that $F(x) = x$ and $G(x) = px + xp + \alpha x$ for all $x \in R$ with $f(x_1, \dots, x_n)^2$ is central valued in R ;
- (3) there exists $p \in U$ such that $F(x) = -x$ and $G(x) = [p, x]$ for all $x \in R$ with $f(x_1, \dots, x_n)^2$ is central valued in R ;
- (4) there exist $a, b, p \in U$ such that $F(x) = ax + xb$ and $G(x) = px$ for all $x \in R$ with $f(x_1, \dots, x_n)^2$ is central valued on R and $F(p) = p$.

Proof. By Theorem 1.1, we have the following conclusions:

(1) There exists $\mu \in C$ such that $F(x) = x$ and $G(x) = \mu x$ for all $x \in R$. This is our conclusion (1).

(2) There exist $\lambda, \alpha \in C$ and $p, q \in U$ such that $F(x) = \lambda x$, $G(x) = px + xq$ for all $x \in R$ with $f(x_1, \dots, x_n)^2$ being central valued in R and $q - \lambda p = \lambda q - p = \alpha \in C$. The last relation yields $(\lambda - 1)(p + q) = 0$. This yields either $\lambda = 1$ or $p + q = 0$. (i) When $\lambda = 1$, we have $q - p = \alpha \in C$ and hence $F(x) = x$ and $G(x) = px + xp + \alpha x$ for all $x \in R$. This gives conclusion (2). (ii) When $p + q = 0$, we have $F(x) = \lambda x$, $G(x) = [p, x]$ for all $x \in R$ with $p + \lambda p = \alpha \in C$, i.e., $(1 + \lambda)p \in C$. This implies $1 + \lambda = 0$, since $p \in C$ implies $G = 0$, a contradiction. Thus $\lambda = -1$. This gives conclusion (3).

(3) There exist $\lambda \in C$ and $a, p \in U$ such that $F(x) = ax$, $G(x) = \lambda x$ for all $x \in R$ with $a\lambda = \lambda$. Since $G \neq 0$, $\lambda \neq 0$ and hence last relation gives $a = 1$. This is conclusion (1).

(4) There exist $\lambda \in C$ and $a, u \in U$ such that $F(x) = xa$, $G(x) = \lambda x$ for all $x \in R$ with $a\lambda = \lambda$. By the same argument as above, $a = 1$, as desired in (1).

(5) There exist $a, b, p, v \in U$ such that $F(x) = ax + xb$, $G(x) = px$ for all $x \in R$ with $f(x_1, \dots, x_n)^2$ being central valued on R and $ap + pb = p$. This is conclusion (4). \square

From Theorem 1.1(2), we conclude that when G is derivation then H also be a derivation. Thus following corollary is straightforward.

Corollary 1.3. *Let R be a noncommutative prime ring of characteristic different from 2 with Utumi quotient ring U and extended centroid C , and $f(x_1, \dots, x_n)$ a multilinear polynomial over C , which is not central valued on R . Suppose that F and H are two nonzero generalized derivations of R and d is a derivation of R such that*

$$F(d(f(X))f(X)) = f(X)H(f(X))$$

for all $X = (x_1, \dots, x_n) \in R^n$. Then there exist $\lambda \in C$ and $p, u \in U$ such that $F(x) = \lambda x$, $d(x) = [p, x]$ and $H(x) = -\lambda[p, x]$ for all $x \in R$ with $f(x_1, \dots, x_n)^2$ being central valued in R .

Corollary 1.4. *Let R be a noncommutative prime ring of characteristic different from 2 with Utumi quotient ring U and extended centroid C , and $f(x_1, \dots, x_n)$ a multilinear polynomial over C , which is not central valued on R . Suppose that F and G are two nonzero generalized derivations of R and d is a derivation of R such that*

$$F(G(f(X))f(X)) = f(X)d(f(X))$$

for all $X = (x_1, \dots, x_n) \in R^n$. Then there exist $\lambda \in C$ and $p, u \in U$ such that $F(x) = \lambda x$, $G(x) = [p, x]$ and $d(x) = -\lambda[p, x]$ for all $x \in R$ with $f(x_1, \dots, x_n)^2$ being central valued in R .

In particular, when F is derivation, then we have last conclusion of Theorem 1.1.

Corollary 1.5. *Let R be a noncommutative prime ring of characteristic different from 2 with Utumi quotient ring U and extended centroid C , and $f(x_1, \dots, x_n)$ a multilinear polynomial over C , which is not central valued on R . Suppose that G and H are two nonzero generalized derivations of R and d is a derivation of R such that*

$$d(G(f(X))f(X)) = f(X)H(f(X))$$

for all $X = (x_1, \dots, x_n) \in R^n$. Then there exist $a, b, p, v \in U$ such that $d(x) = [a, x]$, $G(x) = px$ and $H(x) = xv$ for all $x \in R$ with $f(x_1, \dots, x_n)^2$ being central valued on R and $d(p) = v$.

Corollary 1.6. *Let R be a noncommutative prime ring of characteristic different from 2 with Utumi quotient ring U and extended centroid C , and $f(x_1, \dots, x_n)$ a multilinear polynomial over C . Suppose that d, δ and h are three nonzero derivations of R such that*

$$d(\delta(f(X))f(X)) = f(X)h(f(X))$$

for all $X = (x_1, \dots, x_n) \in R^n$. Then $f(x_1, \dots, x_n)$ must be central valued.

Corollary 1.7. *Let R be a prime ring of characteristic different from 2. Suppose that d, δ and h are three nonzero derivations of R such that*

$$d(\delta(x)x) = xh(x)$$

for all $x \in R$. Then R must be commutative.

2. Main results

Let $F (\neq 0)$, $G (\neq 0)$ and $H (\neq 0)$ be all inner generalized derivations of R . There exist some fixed $a, b, p, q, u, v \in U$ such that $F(x) = ax + xb$, $G(x) = px + xq$ and $H(x) = ux + xv$ for all $x \in R$. Then by our hypothesis $F(G(x)x) = xH(x)$ for all $x \in f(R)$, we have

$$(2.1) \quad apx^2 + axqx + px^2b + xqxb - xux - x^2v = 0$$

for all $x \in f(R)$.

To investigate this generalized polynomial identity (GPI) in prime ring R , we recall the following

Lemma 2.1. [1, Lemma 3] *Let R be a noncommutative prime ring with Utumi quotient ring U and extended centroid C , and $f(x_1, \dots, x_n)$ a multilinear polynomial over C , which is not central valued on R . Suppose that there exist $a, b, c, q \in U$ such that $(af(r) + f(r)b)f(r) - f(r)(cf(r) + f(r)q) = 0$ for all $r = (r_1, \dots, r_n) \in R^n$. Then one of the following holds:*

- (1) $a, q \in C$ and $q - a = b - c = \alpha \in C$;
- (2) $f(x_1, \dots, x_n)^2$ is central valued on R and there exists $\alpha \in C$ such that $q - a = b - c = \alpha$;
- (3) $\text{char}(R) = 2$ and R satisfies s_4 .

Now to investigate our generalized polynomial identity (GPI) (2.1), in all that follows, we assume R a noncommutative prime ring with extended centroid C , $\text{char}(R) \neq 2$. Moreover, we assume that $f(x_1, \dots, x_n)$ is a multilinear polynomial over C which is not central valued on R .

Lemma 2.2. *If $a, b \in C$ and R satisfies (2.1), then one of the following holds:*

- (1) $p, v \in C$ with $(a + b)(p + q) = u + v$;
- (2) $f(x_1, \dots, x_n)^2$ is central valued in R with $v - (a + b)p = (a + b)q - u = \alpha \in C$.

Proof. If $a, b \in C$, then by hypothesis

$$(a + b)(px + xq)x = x(ux + xv)$$

for all $x \in f(R)$. In this case by Lemma 2.1, one of the following holds:

- (i) $(a + b)p, v \in C$ and $v - (a + b)p = (a + b)q - u = \alpha \in C$. Since $F \neq 0$, $a + b \neq 0$ and so $(a + b)p \in C$ implies $p \in C$.
- (ii) $f(x_1, \dots, x_n)^2$ is central valued on R and there exists $\alpha \in C$ such that $v - (a + b)p = (a + b)q - u = \alpha \in C$. □

Lemma 2.3. *If $q \in C$ and R satisfies (2.1), then one of the following holds:*

- (1) $b, u, v \in C$ with $(a + b)(p + q) = v + u$;
- (2) $a, p, u \in C$ with $(a + b)(p + q) = v + u$;
- (3) $u \in C$ with $f(x_1, \dots, x_n)^2$ being central valued on R and $a(p + q) + (p + q)b = u + v$.

Proof. If $q \in C$, then our hypothesis becomes

$$a(p + q)x^2 + px^2b + x^2(bq - v) - xux = 0$$

for all $x \in f(R)$. Then by Proposition 2.7 in [10], we conclude that $u \in C$. Then our hypothesis reduces to

$$a(p + q)x^2 + px^2b + x^2(bq - v - u) = 0$$

for all $x \in f(R)$. Then by applying Lemma 2.9 in [7], we conclude one of the following:

(i) $b, u, bq - v - u \in C$ with $a(p+q) + pb + (bq - v - u) = 0$, i.e., $(a+b)(p+q) = v+u$. Since $b, q, u \in C$, we have $v \in C$.

(ii) $a(p+q), u, p \in C$ with $a(p+q) + pb + (bq - v - u) = 0$, i.e., $(a+b)(p+q) = v+u$. In this case $G(x) = (p+q)x$ for all $x \in R$. As $G \neq 0$, thus $0 \neq p+q \in C$. Hence $a(p+q) \in C$ implies $a \in C$.

(iii) $u \in C$ and $f(x_1, \dots, x_n)^2$ is central valued on R with $a(p+q) + pb + (bq - v - u) = 0$, i.e., $a(p+q) + (p+q)b = u+v$.

Thus the lemma is proved. \square

Lemma 2.4. *Let R be a prime ring with extended centroid C and $a, b, p, q, u, v \in R$. If*

$$apx^2 + axqx + px^2b + xqxb - xux - x^2v = 0$$

for all $x \in f(R)$ is a trivial generalized polynomial identity, then either $a, b \in C$ or $q \in C$.

Proof. Let $a \notin C$ and $q \notin C$. By hypothesis, we have

$$\begin{aligned} \zeta(x_1, \dots, x_n) &= apf(x_1, \dots, x_n)^2 + af(x_1, \dots, x_n)qf(x_1, \dots, x_n) \\ &\quad + pf(x_1, \dots, x_n)^2b + f(x_1, \dots, x_n)qf(x_1, \dots, x_n)b \\ &\quad - f(x_1, \dots, x_n)uf(x_1, \dots, x_n) - f(x_1, \dots, x_n)^2v = 0 \end{aligned}$$

for all $x_1, \dots, x_n \in R$. Since R and U satisfy the same generalized polynomial identity (see [4]), U satisfies $\zeta(x_1, \dots, x_n) = 0$. By our assumption $\zeta(x_1, \dots, x_n)$ is a trivial GPI for U . Let $T = U *_C C\{x_1, x_2, \dots, x_n\}$, the free product of U and $C\{x_1, \dots, x_n\}$, the free C -algebra in noncommuting indeterminates x_1, x_2, \dots, x_n . Then, $\zeta(x_1, \dots, x_n)$ is zero element in $T = U *_C C\{x_1, \dots, x_n\}$. This implies that $\{ap, a, p, 1\}$ is linearly C -dependent. Then there exist $\alpha_1, \alpha_2, \alpha_3, \alpha_4 \in C$ such that $\alpha_1ap + \alpha_2a + \alpha_3p + \alpha_4 \cdot 1 = 0$. If $\alpha_1 = \alpha_3 = 0$, then $\alpha_2 \neq 0$ and so $a = -\alpha_2^{-1}\alpha_4 \in C$, a contradiction. Therefore, either $\alpha_1 \neq 0$ or $\alpha_3 \neq 0$. Without loss of generality, we assume that $\alpha_1 \neq 0$. Then $ap = \alpha a + \beta p + \gamma$, where $\alpha = -\alpha_1^{-1}\alpha_2$, $\beta = -\alpha_1^{-1}\alpha_3$, $\gamma = -\alpha_1^{-1}\alpha_4$. Then

$$\begin{aligned} &(\alpha a + \beta p + \gamma)f(x_1, \dots, x_n)^2 + af(x_1, \dots, x_n)qf(x_1, \dots, x_n) \\ &+ pf(x_1, \dots, x_n)^2b + f(x_1, \dots, x_n)qf(x_1, \dots, x_n)b \\ &- f(x_1, \dots, x_n)uf(x_1, \dots, x_n) - f(x_1, \dots, x_n)^2v = 0 \end{aligned}$$

in T . This implies that $\{a, p, 1\}$ is linearly C -dependent. Then there exist $\beta_1, \beta_2, \beta_3 \in C$ such that $\beta_1a + \beta_2p + \beta_3 = 0$. By same argument as before, since $a \notin C$, we have $\beta_2 \neq 0$ and hence $p = \alpha'a + \beta'$ for some $\alpha', \beta' \in C$. Thus our identity becomes

$$\begin{aligned} &(\alpha a + \beta\alpha'a + \beta\beta' + \gamma)f(x_1, \dots, x_n)^2 + af(x_1, \dots, x_n)qf(x_1, \dots, x_n) \\ &+ (\alpha'a + \beta')f(x_1, \dots, x_n)^2b + f(x_1, \dots, x_n)qf(x_1, \dots, x_n)b \\ &- f(x_1, \dots, x_n)uf(x_1, \dots, x_n) - f(x_1, \dots, x_n)^2v = 0. \end{aligned}$$

Since $\{a, 1\}$ is linearly C -independent, we have

$$(\alpha + \beta\alpha')af(x_1, \dots, x_n)^2 + af(x_1, \dots, x_n)qf(x_1, \dots, x_n) + \alpha'af(x_1, \dots, x_n)^2b = 0,$$

that is

$$af(x_1, \dots, x_n)((\alpha + \beta\alpha' + q)f(x_1, \dots, x_n) + \alpha'f(x_1, \dots, x_n)b) = 0$$

in T . Moreover, since $q \notin C$, the term $af(x_1, \dots, x_n)qf(x_1, \dots, x_n)$ cannot be canceled and hence $af(x_1, \dots, x_n)qf(x_1, \dots, x_n) = 0$ in T which implies $q = 0$, a contradiction. Thus either $a \in C$ or $q \in C$.

Similarly, we can prove that either $b \in C$ or $q \in C$. \square

Lemma 2.5. [6, Lemma 1] *Let K be an infinite field and $m \geq 2$. If A_1, \dots, A_k are not scalar matrices in $M_m(K)$ then there exists some invertible matrix $P \in M_m(K)$ such that any matrices $PA_1P^{-1}, \dots, PA_kP^{-1}$ have all non-zero entries.*

Proposition 2.6. *Let $R = M_m(C)$ be the ring of all $m \times m$ matrices over the infinite field C and $f(x_1, \dots, x_n)$ a non-central multilinear polynomial over C . If there exist $a, b, p, q, u, v \in R$ such that*

$$apx^2 + axqx + px^2b + xqxb - xux - x^2v = 0$$

for all $x \in f(R)$, then either a, b are central or q is central.

Proof. By our hypothesis, R satisfies the generalized polynomial identity

$$\begin{aligned} & apf(x_1, \dots, x_n)^2 + af(x_1, \dots, x_n)qf(x_1, \dots, x_n) \\ & + pf(x_1, \dots, x_n)^2b + f(x_1, \dots, x_n)qf(x_1, \dots, x_n)b \\ & - f(x_1, \dots, x_n)uf(x_1, \dots, x_n) - f(x_1, \dots, x_n)^2v = 0. \end{aligned}$$

We assume first that $a \notin Z(R)$ and $q \notin Z(R)$. Now we shall show that this case leads to a contradiction.

Since $a \notin Z(R)$ and $q \notin Z(R)$, by Lemma 2.5 there exists a C -automorphism ϕ of $M_m(C)$ such that $\phi(a), \phi(q)$ have all non-zero entries. Clearly, R satisfies the generalized polynomial identity

$$\begin{aligned} & \phi(ap)f(x_1, \dots, x_n)^2 + \phi(a)f(x_1, \dots, x_n)\phi(q)f(x_1, \dots, x_n) \\ (2.2) \quad & + \phi(p)f(x_1, \dots, x_n)^2\phi(b) + f(x_1, \dots, x_n)\phi(q)f(x_1, \dots, x_n)b \\ & - f(x_1, \dots, x_n)\phi(u)f(x_1, \dots, x_n) - f(x_1, \dots, x_n)^2\phi(v) = 0. \end{aligned}$$

By e_{ij} , we mean the usual matrix unit with 1 in (i, j) -entry and zero elsewhere. Since $f(x_1, \dots, x_n)$ is not central valued, by [15] (see also [17]), there exist a sequence of matrices

v_1, \dots, v_n in $M_m(C)$ and $\gamma \in C - \{0\}$ such that $f(v_1, \dots, v_n) = \gamma e_{pq}$, with $p \neq q$. Moreover, since the set $\{f(r_1, \dots, r_n) : r_1, \dots, r_n \in M_m(C)\}$ is invariant under the action of all C -automorphisms of $M_m(C)$, then for any $i \neq j$ there exist r_1, \dots, r_n in $M_m(C)$ such that $f(r_1, \dots, r_n) = e_{ij}$. Hence by (2.2), we have

$$(2.3) \quad \phi(a)e_{ij}\phi(q)e_{ij} + e_{ij}\phi(q)e_{ij}b - e_{ij}\phi(u)e_{ij} = 0$$

and then left multiplying by e_{ij} , it follows $e_{ij}\phi(a)e_{ij}\phi(q)e_{ij} = 0$, which is a contradiction, since $\phi(a)$ and $\phi(q)$ have all non-zero entries. Thus we conclude that either $a \in Z(R)$ or $q \in Z(R)$.

If we consider $b \notin Z(R)$ and $q \notin Z(R)$, then by same argument as above we have a contradiction with the fact $e_{ij}\phi(q)e_{ij}\phi(b)e_{ij} = 0$ obtained from (2.3). Thus we conclude either $b \in Z(R)$ or $q \in Z(R)$.

Thus, $q \notin Z(R)$ implies $a \in Z(R)$ and $b \in Z(R)$. Thus the conclusion follows. \square

Proposition 2.7. *Let $R = M_m(C)$ be the ring of all matrices over the field C with $\text{char}(R) \neq 2$ and $f(x_1, \dots, x_n)$ a non-central multilinear polynomial over C . If there exist $a, b, p, q, u, v \in R$ such that*

$$apx^2 + axqx + px^2b + xqxb - xux - x^2v = 0$$

for all $x \in f(R)$, then either $a, b \in C \cdot I_m$ or $q \in C \cdot I_m$.

Proof. In case C is infinite, the conclusions follow by Proposition 2.6.

So we assume that C is finite. Let K be an infinite field which is an extension of the field C . Let $\bar{R} = M_m(K) \cong R \otimes_C K$. Notice that the multilinear polynomial $f(x_1, \dots, x_n)$ is central-valued on R if and only if it is central-valued on \bar{R} . Consider the generalized polynomial

$$\begin{aligned} \Psi(x_1, \dots, x_n) &= apf(x_1, \dots, x_n)^2 + af(x_1, \dots, x_n)qf(x_1, \dots, x_n) \\ &\quad + pf(x_1, \dots, x_n)^2b + f(x_1, \dots, x_n)qf(x_1, \dots, x_n)b \\ &\quad - f(x_1, \dots, x_n)uf(x_1, \dots, x_n) - f(x_1, \dots, x_n)^2 \end{aligned}$$

which is a generalized polynomial identity for R .

Moreover, it is a multi-homogeneous of multi-degree $(2, \dots, 2)$ in the indeterminates x_1, \dots, x_n . Hence the complete linearization of $\Psi(x_1, \dots, x_n)$ yields a multilinear generalized polynomial $\Theta(x_1, \dots, x_n, y_1, \dots, y_n)$ in $2n$ indeterminates, moreover

$$\Theta(x_1, \dots, x_n, x_1, \dots, x_n) = 2^n \Psi(x_1, \dots, x_n).$$

Clearly the multilinear polynomial $\Theta(x_1, \dots, x_n, y_1, \dots, y_n)$ is a generalized polynomial identity for R and \bar{R} too. Since $\text{char}(C) \neq 2$ we obtain $\Psi(r_1, \dots, r_n) = 0$ for all $r_1, \dots, r_n \in \bar{R}$ and then conclusion follows from Proposition 2.6. \square

In particular, we have the following

Corollary 2.8. *Let $R = M_m(C)$ be the ring of all matrices over the field C with $\text{char}(R) \neq 2$. If there exist $a, b, p, q, u, v \in R$ such that*

$$apx^2 + axqx + px^2b + xqxb - xux - x^2v = 0$$

for all $x \in R$, then either $a, b \in C \cdot I_m$ or $q \in C \cdot I_m$.

Similarly, we have the following

Corollary 2.9. *Let $R = M_m(C)$ be the ring of all matrices over the field C with $\text{char}(R) \neq 2$. If there exist $a', a, b, p, q, u, v \in R$ such that*

$$a'x^2 + axqx + px^2b + xqxb - xux - x^2v = 0$$

for all $x \in R$, then either $a, b \in C \cdot I_m$ or $q \in C \cdot I_m$.

Lemma 2.10. *Let R be a primitive ring of $\text{char}(R) \neq 2$ with nonzero socle $\text{Soc}(R)$, which is isomorphic to a dense ring of linear transformations of a vector space V over C , such that $\dim_C V = \infty$. Let $a', a, b, p, q, u, v \in R$. If*

$$a'x^2 + axqx + px^2b + xqxb - xux - x^2v = 0$$

for all $x \in R$, then either $a, b \in C$ or $q \in C$.

Proof. Recall that if any element $r \in R$ commutes the nonzero ideal $\text{Soc}(RC)$, i.e., $[r, \text{Soc}(RC)] = (0)$, then $r \in C$. Hence on contrary, we assume that there exist $h_0, h_1, h_2 \in \text{Soc}(R)$ such that

(i) either $[a, h_0] \neq 0$ or $[b, h_1] \neq 0$;

(ii) $[q, h_2] \neq 0$

and prove that a number of contradiction arises. Since V is infinite dimensional over C , for any $e = e^2 \in \text{Soc}(R)$, we have $eRe \cong M_k(C)$ with $k = \dim_C Ve$. By Litoff's Theorem [12], there exists an idempotent $e \in \text{Soc}(R)$ such that

- $h_0, h_1, h_2 \in eRe$;
- $h_0a, ah_0, h_1a, ah_1, h_2a, ah_2 \in eRe$;
- $h_0b, bh_0, h_1b, bh_1, h_2b, bh_2 \in eRe$;
- $h_0q, qh_0, h_1q, qh_1, h_2q, qh_2 \in eRe$,

where $eRe \cong M_k(C)$, $k = \dim_C Ve$. Since R satisfies $e\{a'(exe)^2 + aexeqexe + p(exe)^2b + exeqexeb - exeuexe - (exe)^2v\}e = 0$, the subring eRe satisfies $ea'ex^2 + eaexeqex + epex^2ebe + xeqexebe - xeuex - x^2eve = 0$. By Corollary 2.9, we conclude that one of the following holds:

- (i) $eae, ebe \in eC$ which contradicts with the choice of h_0 and h_1 ;
- (ii) $eqe \in eC$ which contradicts with the choices of h_2 . □

Lemma 2.11. *Let R be a noncommutative prime ring of characteristic different from 2 with Utumi quotient ring U and extended centroid C , and $f(x_1, \dots, x_n)$ a multilinear polynomial over C , which is not central valued on R . Suppose that F, G and H are three nonzero inner generalized derivations of R such that $F(G(f(r))f(r)) = f(r)H(f(r))$ for all $r = (r_1, \dots, r_n) \in R^n$, then one of the following holds:*

- (1) *there exist $\lambda \in C$ and $a, b \in U$ such that $F(x) = \lambda x$, $G(x) = xa$ and $H(x) = bx$ for all $x \in R$ with $\lambda a = b$;*
- (2) *there exist $\lambda, \alpha \in C$ and $p, q, u, v \in U$ such that $F(x) = \lambda x$, $G(x) = px + xq$ and $H(x) = ux + xv$ for all $x \in R$ with $f(x_1, \dots, x_n)^2$ being central valued in R and $v - \lambda p = \lambda q - u = \alpha \in C$;*
- (3) *there exist $\lambda \in C$ and $a, p \in U$ such that $F(x) = ax$, $G(x) = px$ and $H(x) = \lambda x$ for all $x \in R$ with $ap = \lambda$;*
- (4) *there exist $\lambda \in C$ and $a, u \in U$ such that $F(x) = xa$, $G(x) = \lambda x$ and $H(x) = xu$ for all $x \in R$ with $a\lambda = u$;*
- (5) *there exist $a, b, p, v \in U$ such that $F(x) = ax + xb$, $G(x) = px$ and $H(x) = xv$ for all $x \in R$ with $f(x_1, \dots, x_n)^2$ being central valued on R and $ap + pb = v$.*

Proof. Suppose that for some $a, b, p, q, u, v \in U$, $F(x) = ax + xb$, $G(x) = px + xq$ and $H(x) = ux + xv$ for all $x \in R$. By hypothesis, we have

$$\begin{aligned} & a((pf(x_1, \dots, x_n) + f(x_1, \dots, x_n)q)f(x_1, \dots, x_n)) \\ & \quad + ((pf(x_1, \dots, x_n) + f(x_1, \dots, x_n)q)f(x_1, \dots, x_n))b \\ & = f(x_1, \dots, x_n)(uf(x_1, \dots, x_n) + f(x_1, \dots, x_n)v), \end{aligned}$$

that is,

$$\begin{aligned} & apf(x_1, \dots, x_n)^2 + af(x_1, \dots, x_n)qf(x_1, \dots, x_n) \\ & + pf(x_1, \dots, x_n)^2b + f(x_1, \dots, x_n)qf(x_1, \dots, x_n)b \\ & - f(x_1, \dots, x_n)uf(x_1, \dots, x_n) - f(x_1, \dots, x_n)^2v = 0 \end{aligned}$$

for all $x_1, \dots, x_n \in R$. Since R and U satisfy the same generalized polynomial identities (see [4]), therefore, U satisfies

$$(2.4) \quad \begin{aligned} & apf(x_1, \dots, x_n)^2 + af(x_1, \dots, x_n)qf(x_1, \dots, x_n) \\ & + pf(x_1, \dots, x_n)^2b + f(x_1, \dots, x_n)qf(x_1, \dots, x_n)b \\ & - f(x_1, \dots, x_n)uf(x_1, \dots, x_n) - f(x_1, \dots, x_n)^2v = 0. \end{aligned}$$

If this is a trivial generalized polynomial identity for U , then by Lemma 2.4, either $a, b \in C$ or $q \in C$.

Next we assume that (2.4) is a non-trivial GPI for U .

Since both U and $U \otimes_C \overline{C}$ are prime and centrally closed [11, Theorems 2.5 and 3.5], we may replace R by U or $U \otimes_C \overline{C}$ according as C finite or infinite. Then R is centrally closed over C and R satisfies (2.4). By Martindale's Theorem [18], R is then a primitive ring with nonzero socle $\text{soc}(R)$ and with C as its associated division ring. Then, by Jacobson's Theorem [13, p. 75], R is isomorphic to a dense ring of linear transformations of a vector space V over C . Assume first that V is finite dimensional over C , that is, $\dim_C V = m$. By density of R , we have $R \cong M_m(C)$. Since $f(r_1, \dots, r_n)$ is not central valued on R , R must be noncommutative and so $m \geq 2$. In this case, by Proposition 2.7, we get that $a, b \in C$ or $q \in C$. If V is infinite dimensional over C , then by Lemma 2.10, we conclude that either $a, b \in C$ or $q \in C$.

Thus up to now, we have proved that in any cases either $a, b \in C$ or $q \in C$.

Case 1: $a, b \in C$. In this case by Lemma 2.2, we have the following cases:

- (i) $p, v \in C$ with $(a + b)(p + q) = u + v$; Thus $F(x) = ax + xb = (a + b)x$, $G(x) = px + xq = x(p + q)$ and $H(x) = ux + xv = (u + v)x$ for all $x \in R$. This is our conclusion (1).
- (ii) $f(x_1, \dots, x_n)^2$ is central valued in R with $v - (a + b)p = (a + b)q - u = \alpha \in C$. Thus $F(x) = ax + xb = (a + b)x$, $G(x) = px + xq$ and $H(x) = ux + xv$ for all $x \in R$. This is our conclusion (2).

Case 2: $q \in C$. In this case by Lemma 2.3, we have the following cases:

- (i) $b, q, u, v \in C$ with $(a + b)(p + q) = v + u = \lambda \in C$. Thus $F(x) = (a + b)x$, $G(x) = (p + q)x$ and $H(x) = (u + v)x$ for all $x \in R$. This is our conclusion (3).
- (ii) $a, u, p, q \in C$ with $(a + b)(p + q) = v + u$. Thus $F(x) = x(a + b)$, $G(x) = (p + q)x$ and $H(x) = x(u + v)$ for all $x \in R$. This is our conclusion (4).
- (iii) $q, u \in C$ with $f(x_1, \dots, x_n)^2$ being central valued on R and $a(p + q) + (p + q)b = u + v$. Thus $F(x) = ax + xb$, $G(x) = (p + q)x$ and $H(x) = x(u + v)$ for all $x \in R$. This is our conclusion (5). □

In particular we have

Corollary 2.12. *Let R be a noncommutative prime ring of characteristic different from 2 with Utumi quotient ring U and extended centroid C , and $f(x_1, \dots, x_n)$ a multilinear polynomial over C , which is not central valued on R . Suppose that F is a nonzero inner generalized derivation of R such that $F([p, f(r)]f(r)) = f(r)[q, f(r)]$ for all $r = (r_1, \dots, r_n) \in R^n$, then there exists $\lambda \in C$ such that $F(x) = \lambda x$ for all $x \in R$ with $f(x_1, \dots, x_n)^2$ being central valued in R and $(\lambda p + q) \in C$.*

Corollary 2.13. *Let R be a noncommutative prime ring of characteristic different from 2 with Utumi quotient ring U and extended centroid C , and $f(x_1, \dots, x_n)$ a multilinear polynomial over C , which is not central valued on R . Suppose that F is a nonzero inner generalized derivation of R such that $F([p, f(r)]f(r)) = f(r)[p, f(r)]$ for all $r = (r_1, \dots, r_n) \in R^n$, then there exists $\lambda \in C$ such that $F(x) = \lambda x$ for all $x \in R$ with $f(x_1, \dots, x_n)^2$ being central valued in R and $(\lambda + 1)p \in C$.*

Lemma 2.14. *Let R be a noncommutative prime ring of characteristic different from 2 with Utumi quotient ring U and extended centroid C , and $f(x_1, \dots, x_n)$ a multilinear polynomial over C , which is not central valued on R . Suppose that G and H are two generalized derivations of R and $F(x) = cx + xc'$ for all $x \in R$, for some $c, c' \in U$ is a nonzero inner generalized derivation of R , such that $F(G(f(r))f(r)) = f(r)H(f(r))$ for all $r = (r_1, \dots, r_n) \in R^n$, then one of the following holds:*

- (1) *there exist $\lambda \in C$ and $a, b \in U$ such that $F(x) = \lambda x$, $G(x) = xa$ and $H(x) = bx$ for all $x \in R$ with $\lambda a = b$;*
- (2) *there exist $\lambda, \alpha \in C$ and $p, q, u, v \in U$ such that $F(x) = \lambda x$, $G(x) = px + xq$ and $H(x) = ux + xv$ for all $x \in R$ with $f(x_1, \dots, x_n)^2$ being central valued in R and $v - \lambda p = \lambda q - u = \alpha \in C$.*
- (3) *there exist $\lambda \in C$ and $a, p \in U$ such that $F(x) = ax$, $G(x) = px$ and $H(x) = \lambda x$ for all $x \in R$ with $ap = \lambda$.*
- (4) *there exist $\lambda \in C$ and $a, u \in U$ such that $F(x) = xa$, $G(x) = \lambda x$ and $H(x) = xu$ for all $x \in R$ with $a\lambda = u$.*
- (5) *there exist $a, b, p, v \in U$ such that $F(x) = ax + xb$, $G(x) = px$ and $H(x) = xv$ for all $x \in R$ with $f(x_1, \dots, x_n)^2$ being central valued on R and $ap + pb = v$.*

Proof. In view of [16, Theorem 3], we may assume that there exist $a, b \in U$ and derivations d', δ of U such that $G(x) = ax + d'(x)$ and $H(x) = bx + \delta(x)$. Since R and U satisfy the same generalized polynomial identities (see [4]) as well as the same differential identities (see [15]), we may assume that

$$(2.5) \quad c\{af(r)^2 + d'(f(r))f(r)\} + \{af(r)^2 + d'(f(r))f(r)\}c' = f(r)bf(r) + f(r)\delta(f(r))$$

for all $r = (r_1, \dots, r_n) \in U^n$, where d', δ are two derivations on U .

If G and H both are inner generalized derivations of R , then by Lemma 2.11 we obtain our conclusions (1)–(5). Thus we assume that not both of F and G are inner. Then d' and δ cannot be both inner derivations of U . Now we consider the following two cases:

Case I: Assume that d' and δ are C -dependent modulo inner derivations of U , say $\alpha d' + \beta \delta = ad_q$, where $\alpha, \beta \in C$, $q \in U$ and $ad_q(x) = [q, x]$ for all $x \in R$.

Subcase i: Let $\alpha \neq 0$. Then $d'(x) = \lambda \delta(x) + [p, x]$ for all $x \in U$, for some $\lambda \in C$ and $p \in U$.

Then δ cannot be inner derivation of U . From (2.5), we obtain

$$(2.6) \quad \begin{aligned} & c\{af(r)^2 + \lambda\delta(f(r))f(r) + [p, f(r)]f(r)\} \\ & + \{af(r)^2 + \lambda\delta(f(r))f(r) + [p, f(r)]f(r)\}c' \\ & = f(r)bf(r) + f(r)\delta(f(r)) \end{aligned}$$

for all $r = (r_1, \dots, r_n) \in U^n$.

Since $f(r_1, \dots, r_n)$ is a multilinear polynomial over C , we have $\delta(f(r_1, \dots, r_n)) = f^\delta(r_1, \dots, r_n) + \sum_i f(r_1, \dots, \delta(r_i), \dots, r_n)$, where $f^\delta(r_1, \dots, r_n)$ is the polynomials obtained from $f(r_1, \dots, r_n)$ replacing each coefficients α_σ with $\delta(\alpha_\sigma)$. Thus by Kharchenko's Theorem [14], we can replace $\delta(f(r_1, \dots, r_n))$ by $f^\delta(r_1, \dots, r_n) + \sum_i f(r_1, \dots, y_i, \dots, r_n)$ in (2.6) and then U satisfies blended components

$$(2.7) \quad \begin{aligned} & c \left\{ \lambda \sum_i f(r_1, \dots, y_i, \dots, r_n) f(r_1, \dots, r_n) \right\} \\ & + \left\{ \lambda \sum_i f(r_1, \dots, y_i, \dots, r_n) f(r_1, \dots, r_n) \right\} c' \\ & = f(r_1, \dots, r_n) \sum_i f(r_1, \dots, y_i, \dots, r_n). \end{aligned}$$

Replacing y_i with $[q, y_i]$ for some $q \notin C$ in (2.7), we obtain

$$c\lambda[q, f(r)]f(r) + [q, f(r)]f(r)\lambda c' = f(r)[q, f(r)].$$

By Corollary 2.13, $f(x_1, \dots, x_n)^2$ is central valued in R with $c\lambda, c'\lambda \in C$ and $(\lambda(c + c') + 1)q \in C$. Since $q \notin C$, $(\lambda(c + c') + 1)q \in C$ implies $(\lambda(c + c') + 1) = 0$, i.e., $\lambda(c + c') = -1$. Then by (2.7),

$$(c + c')\lambda \sum_i f(r_1, \dots, y_i, \dots, r_n) f(r_1, \dots, r_n) = f(r_1, \dots, r_n) \sum_i f(r_1, \dots, y_i, \dots, r_n)$$

which implies

$$f(r_1, \dots, r_n) \sum_i f(r_1, \dots, y_i, \dots, r_n) + \sum_i f(r_1, \dots, y_i, \dots, r_n) f(r_1, \dots, r_n) = 0.$$

In particular, for $y_1 = r_1$ and $y_2 = \dots = y_n = 0$, we have $2f(r_1, \dots, r_n)^2 = 0$ for all $r_1, \dots, r_n \in U$, implying $f(r_1, \dots, r_n) = 0$ for all $r_1, \dots, r_n \in U$, a contradiction.

Subcase ii: Let $\alpha = 0$. Then $\delta(x) = [q', x]$ for all $x \in U$, where $q' = \beta^{-1}q$. Since δ is inner, d' cannot be inner derivation. From (2.5), we obtain

$$(2.8) \quad \begin{aligned} & c\{af(r)^2 + d'(f(r))f(r)\} + \{af(r)^2 + d'(f(r))f(r)\}c' \\ & = f(r)bf(r) + f(r)[q', f(r)] \end{aligned}$$

for all $r = (r_1, \dots, r_n) \in U^n$.

Since $d'(f(r_1, \dots, r_n)) = f^{d'}(r_1, \dots, r_n) + \sum_i f(r_1, \dots, d'(r_i), \dots, r_n)$, by Kharchenko's Theorem [14], we can replace $d'(f(r_1, \dots, r_n))$ by $f^{d'}(r_1, \dots, r_n) + \sum_i f(r_1, \dots, y_i, \dots, r_n)$ in (2.8) and then U satisfies blended component

$$\begin{aligned} & c \sum_i f(r_1, \dots, y_i, \dots, r_n) f(r_1, \dots, r_n) \\ & + \sum_i f(r_1, \dots, y_i, \dots, r_n) f(r_1, \dots, r_n) c' = 0. \end{aligned}$$

Replacing y_i with $[a', r_i]$ for some $a' \notin C$, U satisfies

$$c[a', f(r_1, \dots, r_n)]f(r_1, \dots, r_n) + [a', f(r_1, \dots, r_n)]f(r_1, \dots, r_n)c' = 0.$$

Then by Corollary 2.12, $f(x_1, \dots, x_n)^2$ is central valued in R with $c, c' \in C$ and $(c+c')a' \in C$. Since $a' \notin C$, $c+c' = 0$ implying $F = 0$, a contradiction.

Case II: Assume next that d' and δ are C -independent modulo inner derivations of U . Then applying Kharchenko's Theorem [14], we have from (2.5) that U satisfies blended components

$$\begin{aligned} & c \sum_i f(r_1, \dots, y_i, \dots, r_n) f(r_1, \dots, r_n) + \sum_i f(r_1, \dots, y_i, \dots, r_n) f(r_1, \dots, r_n) c' \\ & = f(r_1, \dots, r_n) \sum_i f(r_1, \dots, z_i, \dots, r_n). \end{aligned}$$

In particular, for $y_1 = \dots = y_n = 0$, U satisfies $f(r_1, \dots, r_n) \sum_i f(r_1, \dots, z_i, \dots, r_n) = 0$. In particular, $f(r_1, \dots, r_n)^2 = 0$ for all $r_1, \dots, r_n \in U$, implying $f(r_1, \dots, r_n) = 0$, a contradiction. \square

Lemma 2.15. *Let R be a noncommutative prime ring of characteristic different from 2 with Utumi quotient ring U and extended centroid C , and $f(x_1, \dots, x_n)$ a multilinear polynomial over C , which is not central valued on R . Suppose that F and H are two generalized derivations of R and $G(x) = cx + xc'$ for all $x \in R$, for some $c, c' \in U$ is a nonzero inner generalized derivation of R , such that $F(G(f(r))f(r)) = f(r)H(f(r))$ for all $r = (r_1, \dots, r_n) \in R^n$, then one of the following holds:*

- (1) there exist $\lambda \in C$ and $a, b \in U$ such that $F(x) = \lambda x$, $G(x) = xa$ and $H(x) = bx$ for all $x \in R$ with $\lambda a = b$;
- (2) there exist $\lambda, \alpha \in C$ and $p, q, u, v \in U$ such that $F(x) = \lambda x$, $G(x) = px + xq$ and $H(x) = ux + xv$ for all $x \in R$ with $f(x_1, \dots, x_n)^2$ being central valued in R and $v - \lambda p = \lambda q - u = \alpha \in C$;
- (3) there exist $\lambda \in C$ and $a, p \in U$ such that $F(x) = ax$, $G(x) = px$ and $H(x) = \lambda x$ for all $x \in R$ with $ap = \lambda$;
- (4) there exist $\lambda \in C$ and $a, u \in U$ such that $F(x) = xa$, $G(x) = \lambda x$ and $H(x) = xu$ for all $x \in R$ with $a\lambda = u$;
- (5) there exist $a, b, p, v \in U$ such that $F(x) = ax + xb$, $G(x) = px$ and $H(x) = xv$ for all $x \in R$ with $f(x_1, \dots, x_n)^2$ being central valued on R and $ap + pb = v$.

Proof. In view of [16, Theorem 3], we may assume that there exist $a, b \in U$ and derivations d', δ of U such that $F(x) = ax + d(x)$ and $H(x) = bx + \delta(x)$. Since R and U satisfy the same generalized polynomial identities (see [4]) as well as the same differential identities (see [15]), we may assume that

$$(2.9) \quad a\{cf(r)^2 + f(r)c'f(r)\} + d\{cf(r)^2 + f(r)c'f(r)\} = f(r)bf(r) + f(r)\delta(f(r))$$

for all $r = (r_1, \dots, r_n) \in U^n$, where d, δ are two derivations on U .

If F and H both are inner generalized derivations of R , then by Lemma 2.11 we obtain our conclusions (1)–(5). Thus we assume that not both of F and H are inner. Then d and δ cannot be both inner derivations of U . Now we consider the following two cases:

Case I: Assume that d and δ are C -dependent modulo inner derivations of U , say $\alpha d + \beta \delta = ad_q$, where $\alpha, \beta \in C$, $q \in U$ and $ad_q(x) = [q, x]$ for all $x \in R$. If $\beta = 0$, then $\alpha \neq 0$ and thus d is inner. In this case conclusion follows by Lemma 2.14. Next we assume that $\beta \neq 0$. Then there exist some $\lambda \in C$ and $p \in U$ such that $\delta(x) = \lambda d(x) + [p, x]$ for all $x \in U$. The by (2.9), U satisfies

$$(2.10) \quad \begin{aligned} & a\{cf(r)^2 + f(r)c'f(r)\} + d(c)f(r)^2 + cd(f(r))f(r) + cf(r)d(f(r)) \\ & + d(f(r))c'f(r) + f(r)d(c')f(r) + f(r)c'd(f(r)) \\ & = f(r)bf(r) + f(r)\lambda d(f(r)) + f(r)[p, f(r)]. \end{aligned}$$

Since $f(r_1, \dots, r_n)$ is a multilinear polynomial over C , we have $d(f(r_1, \dots, r_n)) = f^d(r_1, \dots, r_n) + \sum_i f(r_1, \dots, d(r_i), \dots, r_n)$, where $f^d(r_1, \dots, r_n)$ is the polynomials obtained from $f(r_1, \dots, r_n)$ replacing each coefficients α_σ with $d(\alpha_\sigma)$. Thus by Kharchenko's

Theorem [14], we can replace $d(f(r_1, \dots, r_n))$ by $f^d(r_1, \dots, r_n) + \sum_i f(r_1, \dots, y_i, \dots, r_n)$ in (2.10) and then U satisfies blended components

$$(2.11) \quad \begin{aligned} & c \sum_i f(r_1, \dots, y_i, \dots, r_n) f(r_1, \dots, r_n) + c f(r_1, \dots, r_n) \sum_i f(r_1, \dots, y_i, \dots, r_n) \\ & + \sum_i f(r_1, \dots, y_i, \dots, r_n) c' f(r_1, \dots, r_n) + f(r_1, \dots, r_n) c' \sum_i f(r_1, \dots, y_i, \dots, r_n) \\ & = f(r_1, \dots, r_n) \lambda \sum_i f(r_1, \dots, y_i, \dots, r_n). \end{aligned}$$

In particular, for $y_1 = r_1$ and $y_2 = \dots = y_n = 0$, U satisfies

$$(2c - \lambda) f(r_1, \dots, r_n)^2 + f(r_1, \dots, r_n) (2c') f(r_1, \dots, r_n) = 0,$$

which implies

$$((2c - \lambda) f(r_1, \dots, r_n) + f(r_1, \dots, r_n) (2c')) f(r_1, \dots, r_n) = 0.$$

By Lemma 2.1, we conclude that $2c' = \lambda - 2c \in C$. Since $\text{char}(R) \neq 2$, $c, c' \in C$. Then by (2.11), U satisfies

$$\begin{aligned} & (c + c') \sum_i f(r_1, \dots, y_i, \dots, r_n) f(r_1, \dots, r_n) \\ & + (c + c' - \lambda) f(r_1, \dots, r_n) \sum_i f(r_1, \dots, y_i, \dots, r_n) = 0. \end{aligned}$$

Replacing y_i with $[q, x_i]$ for some $q' \notin C$, we have

$$(c + c') [q', f(r_1, \dots, r_n)] f(r_1, \dots, r_n) + (c + c' - \lambda) f(r_1, \dots, r_n) [q', f(r_1, \dots, r_n)] = 0,$$

that is,

$$[(c + c') q', f(r_1, \dots, r_n)] f(r_1, \dots, r_n) + f(r_1, \dots, r_n) [(c + c' - \lambda) q', f(r_1, \dots, r_n)] = 0.$$

By Lemma 2.1, one of the following holds: (i) $(c + c') q', (c + c' - \lambda) q' \in C$; in this case as $q' \notin C$, $c + c' = 0$, implying $G = 0$, a contradiction. (ii) $f(r_1, \dots, r_n)^2$ is central valued and $(c + c' - \lambda) q' - (c + c') q' \in C$, i.e., $\lambda q' \in C$. In this case as $q' \notin C$, $\lambda = 0$. Thus $\lambda = 2(c + c') = 0$ implying $c + c' = 0$. Hence $G = 0$, a contradiction. \square

Lemma 2.16. *Let R be a noncommutative prime ring of characteristic different from 2 with Utumi quotient ring U and extended centroid C , and $f(x_1, \dots, x_n)$ a multilinear polynomial over C , which is not central valued on R . Suppose that F and G are two generalized derivations of R and $H(x) = bx + xb'$ for all $x \in R$, for some $b, b' \in U$ is a nonzero inner generalized derivation of R , such that $F(G(f(r)))f(r) = f(r)H(f(r))$ for all $r = (r_1, \dots, r_n) \in R^n$, then one of the following holds:*

- (1) there exist $\lambda \in C$ and $a, b \in U$ such that $F(x) = \lambda x$, $G(x) = xa$ and $H(x) = bx$ for all $x \in R$ with $\lambda a = b$;
- (2) there exist $\lambda, \alpha \in C$ and $p, q, u, v \in U$ such that $F(x) = \lambda x$, $G(x) = px + xq$ and $H(x) = ux + xv$ for all $x \in R$ with $f(x_1, \dots, x_n)^2$ being central valued in R and $v - \lambda p = \lambda q - u = \alpha \in C$;
- (3) there exist $\lambda \in C$ and $a, p \in U$ such that $F(x) = ax$, $G(x) = px$ and $H(x) = \lambda x$ for all $x \in R$ with $ap = \lambda$;
- (4) there exist $\lambda \in C$ and $a, u \in U$ such that $F(x) = xa$, $G(x) = \lambda x$ and $H(x) = xu$ for all $x \in R$ with $a\lambda = u$;
- (5) there exist $a, b, p, v \in U$ such that $F(x) = ax + xb$, $G(x) = px$ and $H(x) = xv$ for all $x \in R$ with $f(x_1, \dots, x_n)^2$ being central valued on R and $ap + pb = v$.

Proof. In view of [16, Theorem 3], we may assume that there exist $a, b \in U$ and derivations d', δ of U such that $F(x) = cx + d(x)$ and $G(x) = ax + d'(x)$. Since R and U satisfy the same generalized polynomial identities (see [4]) as well as the same differential identities (see [15]), we may assume that

$$(2.12) \quad c\{af(r)^2 + d'(f(r))f(r)\} + d\{af(r)^2 + d'(f(r))f(r)\} = f(r)bf(r) + f(r)^2b'$$

for all $r = (r_1, \dots, r_n) \in U^n$, where d, d' are two derivations on U .

If d or d' is inner, then F or G is inner and then by Lemmas 2.14 and 2.15, we obtain our conclusions (1)–(5). Thus we assume that both of d and d' are outer. Now we consider the following two cases:

Case I: Assume that d and d' are C -dependent modulo inner derivations of U , then $d = \alpha d' + ad_{p'}$. Then (2.12) becomes

$$(2.13) \quad c\{af(r)^2 + d'(f(r))f(r)\} + \alpha d'\{af(r)^2 + d'(f(r))f(r)\} + [p', af(r)^2 + d'(f(r))f(r)] = f(r)bf(r) + f(r)^2b'.$$

We know that $d'(f(r_1, \dots, r_n)) = f^{d'}(r_1, \dots, r_n) + \sum_i f(r_1, \dots, d'(r_i), \dots, r_n)$, and

$$\begin{aligned} d'^2(f(r_1, \dots, r_n)) &= f^{d'^2}(r_1, \dots, r_n) + 2 \sum_i f^{d'}(r_1, \dots, d'(r_i), \dots, r_n) \\ &\quad + \sum_i f(r_1, \dots, d'^2(r_i), \dots, r_n) \\ &\quad + \sum_{i \neq j} f(r_1, \dots, d'(r_i), \dots, d'(r_j), \dots, r_n). \end{aligned}$$

By applying Kharchenko's Theorem [14], we can replace $d(f(r_1, \dots, r_n))$ with $f^d(r_1, \dots, r_n) + \sum_i f(r_1, \dots, y_i, \dots, r_n)$ and $d'^2(f(r_1, \dots, r_n))$ with

$$\begin{aligned} & f^{d'^2}(r_1, \dots, r_n) + 2 \sum_i f^{d'}(r_1, \dots, y_i, \dots, r_n) \\ & + \sum_i f(r_1, \dots, t_i, \dots, r_n) + \sum_{i \neq j} f(r_1, \dots, y_i, \dots, y_j, \dots, r_n) \end{aligned}$$

in (2.13) and then U satisfies blended component

$$\alpha \sum_i f(r_1, \dots, t_i, \dots, r_n) f(r_1, \dots, r_n) = 0.$$

This implies $\alpha f(x_1, \dots, x_n)^2 = 0$, implying $\alpha = 0$. Then d is inner, a contradiction.

Case II: Assume that d and d' are C -independent modulo inner derivations of U .

Then applying Kharchenko's Theorem [14] to (2.12), we can replace

$$\begin{aligned} d'(f(r_1, \dots, r_n)) &= f^{d'}(r_1, \dots, r_n) + \sum_i f(r_1, \dots, y_i, \dots, r_n), \\ d(f(r_1, \dots, r_n)) &= f^d(r_1, \dots, r_n) + \sum_i f(r_1, \dots, t_i, \dots, r_n), \end{aligned}$$

and

$$\begin{aligned} dd'(f(r_1, \dots, r_n)) &= f^{dd'}(r_1, \dots, r_n) + \sum_i f^\delta(r_1, \dots, y_i, \dots, r_n) \\ &+ \sum_i f^{d'}(r_1, \dots, t_i, \dots, r_n) + \sum_{i \neq j} f(r_1, \dots, y_i, \dots, t_j, \dots, r_n) \\ &+ \sum_i f(r_1, \dots, w'_i, \dots, r_n). \end{aligned}$$

Then U satisfies blended component $\sum_i f(r_1, \dots, w'_i, \dots, r_n) f(r_1, \dots, r_n) = 0$. In particular, $f(r_1, \dots, r_n)^2 = 0$ implying $f(r_1, \dots, r_n) = 0$, a contradiction. \square

Proof of Theorem 1.1. If any one of F or G or H is inner, then conclusion follows by Lemmas 2.14, 2.15 and 2.16.

Thus we assume that F , G and H are all outer generalized derivations of R . Then by [16], we have $F(x) = cx + d(x)$, $G(x) = ax + d'(x)$ and $H(x) = bx + \delta(x)$ for some $a, b, c \in U$ and d, d', δ are three derivations of U . By hypothesis, we have

$$(2.14) \quad c\{af(r)^2 + d'(f(r))f(r)\} + d\{af(r)^2 + d'(f(r))\}f(r) = f(r)bf(r) + f(r)\delta(f(r))$$

for all $r = (r_1, \dots, r_n) \in U^n$. Now we consider the following two cases:

Case 1: Let d' and δ be C -dependent modulo inner derivations of U , i.e., $\alpha d' + \beta \delta = ad_{p'}$.

Now $\alpha = 0$ implies that δ is inner, a contradiction as H cannot be inner. Thus $\alpha \neq 0$. Then $d' = \lambda\delta + ad_p$, where $\lambda = -\beta\alpha^{-1} \in C$ and $p = p'\alpha^{-1} \in U$. Therefore, (2.14) gives

$$\begin{aligned} & c\{af(r)^2 + \lambda\delta(f(r))f(r) + [p, f(r)]f(r)\} + d\{af(r)^2 + \lambda\delta(f(r))f(r) + [p, f(r)]f(r)\} \\ &= f(r)bf(r) + f(r)\delta(f(r)) \end{aligned}$$

for all $r = (r_1, \dots, r_n) \in U^n$, that is,

$$\begin{aligned} & c(af(r)^2 + \lambda\delta(f(r))f(r) + [p, f(r)]f(r)) + d(af(r)^2 + [p, f(r)]f(r)) \\ (2.15) \quad & + d(\lambda)\delta(f(r))f(r) + \lambda(d\delta)(f(r))f(r) + \lambda\delta(f(r))d(f(r)) \\ &= f(r)bf(r) + f(r)\delta(f(r)) \end{aligned}$$

for all $r = (r_1, \dots, r_n) \in U^n$. We know that

$$d(f(r_1, \dots, r_n)) = f^d(r_1, \dots, r_n) + \sum_i f(r_1, \dots, d(r_i), \dots, r_n)$$

and

$$\begin{aligned} \delta d(f(r_1, \dots, r_n)) &= f^{\delta d}(r_1, \dots, r_n) + \sum_i f^d(r_1, \dots, \delta(r_i), \dots, r_n) \\ &+ \sum_i f^\delta(r_1, \dots, d(r_i), \dots, r_n) + \sum_i f(r_1, \dots, \delta d(r_i), \dots, r_n) \\ &+ \sum_i f(r_1, \dots, \delta(r_i), \dots, d(r_j), \dots, r_n). \end{aligned}$$

Let δ and d be C -independent modulo inner derivations of U . By applying Kharchenko's Theorem [14] to (2.15), we can replace $d(f(r_1, \dots, r_n))$ with $f^d(r_1, \dots, r_n) + \sum_i f(r_1, \dots, y_i, \dots, r_n)$ and $\delta d(f(r_1, \dots, r_n))$ with

$$\begin{aligned} & f^{\delta d}(r_1, \dots, r_n) + \sum_i f^d(r_1, \dots, s_i, \dots, r_n) + \sum_i f^\delta(r_1, \dots, y_i, \dots, r_n) \\ &+ \sum_i f(r_1, \dots, t_i, \dots, r_n) + \sum_i f(r_1, \dots, s_i, \dots, y_j, \dots, r_n) \end{aligned}$$

in (2.15) and then U satisfies blended component

$$(2.16) \quad \lambda \sum_i f(r_1, \dots, t_i, \dots, r_n) f(r_1, \dots, r_n) = 0.$$

In particular, for $t_1 = r_1$ and $t_2 = \dots = t_n = 0$ in (2.16), we have $\lambda f(r_1, \dots, r_n)^2 = 0$. If $\lambda \neq 0$, then $f(r_1, \dots, r_n)^2 = 0$ which implies $f(r_1, \dots, r_n) = 0$ for all $r_1, \dots, r_n \in U$ (see [5]), a contradiction. Thus $\lambda = 0$. In this case G becomes inner, a contradiction.

Now let δ and d be C -dependent, i.e., $\alpha_1\delta + \beta_1d = ad_{q'}$. Now, $\alpha_1 = 0$, implies d is inner, a contradiction. Thus $\alpha_1 \neq 0$ and so $\delta = \mu d + [q, x]$ for some $\mu \in C$ and $q \in U$. Then by (2.15), U satisfies

$$\begin{aligned} & c(af(r)^2 + \lambda\mu d(f(r))f(r) + \lambda[q, f(r)]f(r) + [p, f(r)]f(r)) \\ & + d(af(r)^2 + [p, f(r)]f(r)) + d(\lambda)\mu d(f(r))f(r) + d(\lambda)[q, f(r)]f(r) \\ & + \lambda d(\mu d(f(r)) + [q, f(r)])f(r) + \lambda(\mu d(f(r)) + [q, f(r)])d(f(r)) \\ & = f(r)bf(r) + f(r)(\mu d(f(r)) + [q, f(r)]) \end{aligned}$$

for all $r = (r_1, \dots, r_n) \in U^n$.

Since $d(f(r_1, \dots, r_n)) = f^d(r_1, \dots, r_n) + \sum_i f(r_1, \dots, d(r_i), \dots, r_n)$ and

$$\begin{aligned} d^2(f(r_1, \dots, r_n)) &= f^{d^2}(r_1, \dots, r_n) + 2 \sum_i f^d(r_1, \dots, d(r_i), \dots, r_n) \\ &+ \sum_i f(r_1, \dots, d^2(r_i), \dots, r_n) \\ &+ \sum_{i \neq j} f(r_1, \dots, d(r_i), \dots, d(r_j), \dots, r_n), \end{aligned}$$

by applying Kharchenko's Theorem [14], we can replace $d(f(r_1, \dots, r_n))$ with $f^d(r_1, \dots, r_n) + \sum_i f(r_1, \dots, y_i, \dots, r_n)$ and $d^2(f(r_1, \dots, r_n))$ with

$$\begin{aligned} d^2(f(r_1, \dots, r_n)) &= f^{d^2}(r_1, \dots, r_n) + 2 \sum_i f^d(r_1, \dots, y_i, \dots, r_n) \\ &+ \sum_i f(r_1, \dots, t_i, \dots, r_n) + \sum_{i \neq j} f(r_1, \dots, y_i, \dots, y_j, \dots, r_n), \end{aligned}$$

and then U satisfies blended component

$$\lambda\mu \sum_i f(r_1, \dots, t_i, \dots, r_n)f(r_1, \dots, r_n) = 0.$$

In particular, $\lambda\mu f(r_1, \dots, r_n)^2 = 0$. This implies $\lambda\mu = 0$ and so either $\lambda = 0$ or $\mu = 0$. Now $\lambda = 0$ gives G is inner, a contradiction. Again $\mu = 0$, gives H is inner, a contradiction.

Case 2: Let d' and δ be C -independent modulo inner derivations of U . We divide the proof into two subcases.

Subcase i. Let d, d' and δ be C -independent modulo inner derivations of U . In this case we rewrite (2.14) as

$$\begin{aligned} & c(af(r)^2 + d'(f(r))f(r)) + d(a)f(r)^2 + ad(f(r))f(r) \\ & + af(r)d(f(r)) + dd'(f(r))f(r) + d'(f(r))d(f(r)) \\ & = f(r)bf(r) + f(r)\delta(f(r)) \end{aligned}$$

for all $r = (r_1, \dots, r_n) \in U^n$.

By applying Kharchenko's Theorem [14], we can replace $dd'(f(x_1, \dots, x_n))$ by

$$\begin{aligned} & f^{dd'}(r_1, \dots, r_n) + \sum_i f^{d'}(r_1, \dots, x_i, \dots, r_n) + \sum_i f^d(r_1, \dots, t_i, \dots, r_n) \\ & + \sum_{i \neq j} f(r_1, \dots, t_i, \dots, x_j, \dots, r_n) + \sum_i f(r_1, \dots, w_i, \dots, r_n) \end{aligned}$$

in above equality and then U satisfies the blended component

$$(2.17) \quad \sum_i f(r_1, \dots, w_i, \dots, r_n) f(r_1, \dots, r_n) = 0.$$

In particular for $w_1 = r_1$ and $w_2 = \dots = w_n = 0$, U satisfies $f(r_1, \dots, r_n)^2 = 0$ implying $f(r_1, \dots, r_n) = 0$, a contradiction.

Subcase ii. Let d, d' and δ be C -dependent modulo inner derivations of U , i.e., $\alpha_1 d + \alpha_2 d' + \alpha_3 \delta = ad_{a'}$ for some $\alpha_1, \alpha_2, \alpha_3 \in C$. Then $\alpha_1 \neq 0$, otherwise d' and δ are C -dependent modulo inner derivation of U , a contradiction. Then we can write $d = \beta_1 d' + \beta_2 \delta + ad_{a''}$ for some $\beta_1, \beta_2 \in C$ and $a'' \in U$. Then by (2.14), we have

$$\begin{aligned} & c\{af(r)^2 + d'(f(r))f(r)\} + \beta_1 d'\{af(r)^2 + d'(f(r))f(r)\} \\ (2.18) \quad & + \beta_2 \delta\{af(r)^2 + d'(f(r))f(r)\} + [a'', af(r)^2 + d'(f(r))f(r)] \\ & = f(r)bf(r) + f(r)\delta(f(r)) \end{aligned}$$

for all $r = (r_1, \dots, r_n) \in U^n$.

Using Kharchenko's Theorem [14], we substitute the following values in (2.18)

$$\begin{aligned} d'(f(r_1, \dots, r_n)) &= f^{d'}(r_1, \dots, r_n) + \sum_i f(r_1, \dots, y_i, \dots, r_n), \\ \delta(f(r_1, \dots, r_n)) &= f^\delta(r_1, \dots, r_n) + \sum_i f(r_1, \dots, t_i, \dots, r_n), \\ \delta d'(f(r_1, \dots, r_n)) &= f^{\delta d'}(r_1, \dots, r_n) + \sum_i f^\delta(r_1, \dots, y_i, \dots, r_n) \\ &+ \sum_i f^{d'}(r_1, \dots, t_i, \dots, r_n) + \sum_{i \neq j} f(r_1, \dots, y_i, \dots, t_j, \dots, r_n) \\ &+ \sum_i f(r_1, \dots, w'_i, \dots, r_n), \\ d'^2(f(r_1, \dots, r_n)) &= f^{d'^2}(r_1, \dots, r_n) + 2 \sum_i f^{d'}(r_1, \dots, y_i, \dots, r_n) \\ &+ \sum_i f(r_1, \dots, z'_i, \dots, r_n) + \sum_{i \neq j} f(r_1, \dots, y_i, \dots, y_j, \dots, r_n). \end{aligned}$$

Therefore, U satisfies the blended components

$$\beta_1 \sum_i f(r_1, \dots, z'_i, \dots, r_n) f(r_1, \dots, r_n) = 0$$

and

$$\beta_2 \sum_i f(r_1, \dots, w'_i, \dots, r_n) f(r_1, \dots, r_n) = 0.$$

If $\beta_1 \neq 0$, then from above, U satisfies

$$\sum_i f(r_1, \dots, z'_i, \dots, r_n) f(r_1, \dots, r_n) = 0.$$

This is same as (2.17) and hence by same argument as above, it leads to a contradiction. Thus we conclude that $\beta_1 = 0$. Similarly, from above relation, we conclude that $\beta_2 = 0$. Then d is inner, contradicting with the fact that F is outer. This complete the proof of the theorem. \square

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