# ON ORTHOGONAL $(\sigma, \tau)$ -DERIVATIONS IN SEMIPRIME $\Gamma$ -RINGS

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ABSTRACT. Let M be a  $\Gamma$ -ring and  $\sigma, \tau$  be endomorphisms of M. An additive mapping  $d : M \longrightarrow M$  is called a  $(\sigma, \tau)$ -derivation if  $d(x\alpha y) = d(x)\alpha\sigma(y) + \tau(x)\alpha d(y)$  holds for all  $x, y \in M$  and  $\alpha \in \Gamma$ . An additive mapping  $F : M \longrightarrow M$  is called a generalized  $(\sigma, \tau)$ -derivation if there exists a  $(\sigma, \tau)$ -derivation  $d : M \longrightarrow M$  such that  $F(x\alpha y) = F(x)\alpha\sigma(y) + \tau(x)\alpha d(y)$  holds for all  $x, y \in M$  and  $\alpha \in \Gamma$ . In this paper, some known results on orthogonal derivations and orthogonal generalized derivations of semiprime  $\Gamma$ -rings are extended to orthogonal  $(\sigma, \tau)$ -derivations and orthogonal generalized  $(\sigma, \tau)$ -derivations. Moreover, we present some examples which demonstrate that the restrictions imposed on the hypotheses of some of our results are not superfluous.

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## 1. Introduction

The study of  $\Gamma$ -ring goes back to Nobusawa [10] and further generalized by Barnes [6]. Following [6], a  $\Gamma$ -ring is a pair  $(M, \Gamma)$ , where M and  $\Gamma$  are additive abelian groups for which there exists a map from  $M \times \Gamma \times M \to M$  (the image of  $(a, \gamma, b)$  will be denoted by  $a\gamma b$  for all  $a, b \in M$  and  $\gamma \in \Gamma$ ) satisfying (i)  $(a+b)\alpha c =$  $a\alpha c + b\alpha c$ , (ii)  $a(\alpha + \beta)b = a\alpha b + a\beta b$ , (iii)  $a\alpha(b + c) = a\alpha b + a\alpha c$  and (iv)  $(a\alpha b)\beta c = a\alpha(b\beta c)$  for all  $a, b, c \in M$  and  $\alpha, \beta \in \Gamma$ . A  $\Gamma$ -ring M is said to be prime if  $x\Gamma M\Gamma y = \{0\}$  implies x = 0 or y = 0 and M is said to be semiprime if  $x\Gamma M\Gamma x = \{0\}$  implies x = 0. M is said to be 2-torsionfree if 2x = 0 implies x = 0for all  $x \in M$ . For any  $x, y \in M$  and  $\alpha \in \Gamma$ , the symbol  $[x, y]_{\alpha}$  stands for the commutator  $x\alpha y - y\alpha x$ . If  $x\alpha y\beta z = x\beta y\alpha z$  holds for all  $x, y, z \in M$  and  $\alpha, \beta \in \Gamma$ ,

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then commutator satisfies the following identities:  $[x\alpha y, z]_{\beta} = [x, z]_{\beta}\alpha y + x\alpha[y, z]_{\beta}$ and  $[x, y\alpha z]_{\beta} = [x, y]_{\beta}\alpha z + y\alpha[x, z]_{\beta}$ .

Following [9], an additive mapping  $d : M \longrightarrow M$  is called a derivation if  $d(x\alpha y) = d(x)\alpha y + x\alpha d(y)$  holds for all  $x, y \in M$  and  $\alpha \in \Gamma$ . In [8], the notion of derivation has been extended to generalized derivation. An additive mapping  $F : M \longrightarrow M$  is called a generalized derivation if there exists a derivation  $d : M \longrightarrow M$  such that  $F(x\alpha y) = F(x)\alpha y + x\alpha d(y)$  holds for all  $x, y \in M$  and  $\alpha \in \Gamma$ . Two additive maps  $d, g : M \longrightarrow M$  are called orthogonal if  $d(x)\Gamma M\Gamma g(y) = \{0\} = g(y)\Gamma M\Gamma d(x)$  holds for all  $x, y \in M$ . In [3], Ashraf and Jamal introduced the notion of orthogonality for two derivations on  $\Gamma$ -rings, and established several necessary and sufficient conditions for derivations d and g to be orthogonal. Further in [4], they introduced orthogonal generalized derivations. Some related papers on this subject can be found in [2], [7], [8], [11] and [12], where further references can be looked.

The objective of this paper is to extend the existing notions of derivations and generalized derivations in  $\Gamma$ -rings. Let  $\sigma$  and  $\tau$  be endomorphisms of M. Motivated by the concepts of  $(\sigma, \tau)$ -derivation and generalized  $(\sigma, \tau)$ -derivation in rings (viz., [1] and [5]), the notions of  $(\sigma, \tau)$ -derivation and generalized  $(\sigma, \tau)$ -derivation in  $\Gamma$ -rings are defined as follows: an additive mapping  $d: M \longrightarrow M$  is called a  $(\sigma,\tau)$ -derivation if  $d(x\alpha y) = d(x)\alpha\sigma(y) + \tau(x)\alpha d(y)$  holds for all  $x, y \in M$  and  $\alpha \in \Gamma$ . Call an additive map F of M, a generalized  $(\sigma, \tau)$ -derivation if there exists a  $(\sigma, \tau)$ -derivation d of M such that  $F(x\alpha y) = F(x)\alpha\sigma(y) + \tau(x)\alpha d(y)$  holds for all  $x, y \in M$  and  $\alpha \in \Gamma$ . Clearly, the notion of generalized  $(\sigma, \tau)$ -derivation includes those of  $(\sigma, \tau)$ -derivation when F = d, of derivation when F = d, and  $\sigma = \tau = I_M$ , the identity map on M, and of generalized derivation, which is the case when  $\sigma = \tau = I_M$ . Note that, a generalized  $(I_M, I_M)$ -derivation is just a generalized derivation. It is clear that every generalized derivation is a generalized  $(\sigma, \tau)$ derivation with  $\sigma = \tau = I_M$ , the identity map on M, but the converse need not be true in general. The following example shows that the notion of a generalized  $(\sigma, \tau)$ -derivation in fact generalizes that of a generalized derivation.

**Example 1.1.** Let R be any ring, and let 
$$M = \left\{ \begin{pmatrix} a & x \\ b & y \\ c & z \end{pmatrix} \middle| a, b, c, x, y, z \in R \right\}$$
  
 $\Gamma = \left\{ \begin{pmatrix} l & 0 & m \\ 0 & 0 & 0 \end{pmatrix} \middle| l, m \in R \right\}$ . Then M is a  $\Gamma$ -ring. Further, the mappings

 $\sigma, \ \tau: M \longrightarrow M \ defined \ by$ 

$$\sigma \begin{pmatrix} a & x \\ b & y \\ c & z \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} a & 0 \\ b & 0 \\ c & 0 \end{pmatrix}, \quad \tau \begin{pmatrix} a & x \\ b & y \\ c & z \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} a & 0 \\ 0 & 0 \\ c & 0 \end{pmatrix} \quad for \ all \ \begin{pmatrix} a & x \\ b & y \\ c & z \end{pmatrix} \in M$$

are endomorphisms of M. Next, define the map  $d: M \longrightarrow M$  such that

$$d\begin{pmatrix} a & x \\ b & y \\ c & z \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 0 \\ b & 0 \\ 0 & 0 \end{pmatrix} \quad for all \begin{pmatrix} a & x \\ b & y \\ c & z \end{pmatrix} \in M.$$

Clearly, d is a  $(\sigma, \tau)$ -derivation but not a derivation on M. Moreover, consider the map  $F: M \longrightarrow M$  defined as

$$F\begin{pmatrix}a & x\\b & y\\c & z\end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix}a & 0\\0 & 0\\0 & 0\end{pmatrix} \quad for \ all \ \begin{pmatrix}a & x\\b & y\\c & z\end{pmatrix} \in M.$$

Then F is a generalized  $(\sigma, \tau)$ -derivation on M induced by d. However, F is not a generalized derivation on M.

Throughout the present paper, M is always a 2-torsionfree semiprime  $\Gamma$ -ring while  $\sigma$  and  $\tau$  are automorphisms of M. The generalized  $(\sigma, \tau)$ -derivation F with an associated  $(\sigma, \tau)$ -derivation d of M will be denoted by (F, d).

### 2. Orthogonal $(\sigma, \tau)$ -Derivations

We begin with the following lemmas which are essential in developing the proof of our theorems.

**Lemma 2.1.** ([11, Lemma 3]) Let M be a  $\Gamma$ -ring and a, b be the elements of M. Then the following conditions are equivalent:

- (i)  $a\alpha M\beta b = \{0\}$  for all  $\alpha, \beta \in \Gamma$ .
- (*ii*)  $b\alpha M\beta a = \{0\}$  for all  $\alpha, \beta \in \Gamma$ .
- (*iii*)  $a\alpha M\beta b + b\alpha M\beta a = \{0\}$  for all  $\alpha, \beta \in \Gamma$ .

If any one of the condition is fulfilled, then  $a\gamma b = b\gamma a = 0$  for all  $\gamma \in \Gamma$ .

**Lemma 2.2.** ([3, Lemma 2.2]) Let M be a semiprime  $\Gamma$ -ring. Suppose that additive mapping f and h of M into itself satisfy  $f(x)\Gamma M\Gamma h(x) = \{0\}$  for all  $x \in M$ . Then  $f(x)\Gamma M\Gamma h(y) = \{0\}$  for all  $x, y \in M$ .

**Lemma 2.3.** Let M be a  $\Gamma$ -ring, and d, g be  $(\sigma, \tau)$ -derivations of M. Then d and g are orthogonal if and only if  $d(x)\alpha g(y) + g(x)\alpha d(y) = 0$  for all  $x, y \in M$  and  $\alpha \in \Gamma$ .

**Proof.** Assume that

$$d(x)\alpha g(y) + g(x)\alpha d(y) = 0 \text{ for all } x, y \in M \text{ and } \alpha \in \Gamma.$$
 (2.1)

Replacing y by  $y\beta x$  in (2.1) and using it, we obtain

$$d(x)\alpha\tau(y)\beta g(x) + g(x)\alpha\tau(y)\beta d(x) = 0 \text{ for all } x, y \in M \text{ and } \alpha, \beta \in \Gamma.$$
(2.2)

Since  $\tau$  is an automorphism of M and using Lemma 2.1, we get  $d(x)\alpha y_1\beta g(x) = 0$  for all  $x, y_1 \in M$  and  $\alpha, \beta \in \Gamma$ . Application of Lemma 2.2 yields that  $d(x)\alpha y_1\beta g(z) = 0$  for all  $x, y_1, z \in M$  and  $\alpha, \beta \in \Gamma$ , and hence in view of Lemma 2.1, d and g are orthogonal.

Conversely, if d and g are orthogonal, then  $d(x)\alpha z\beta g(y) = 0 = g(y)\alpha z\beta d(x)$  for all  $x, y, z \in M$  and  $\alpha, \beta \in \Gamma$ . Therefore by Lemma 2.1,  $d(x)\alpha g(y) = 0 = g(x)\alpha d(y)$ for all  $x, y \in M$  and  $\alpha \in \Gamma$ . This implies that  $d(x)\alpha g(y) + g(x)\alpha d(y) = 0$  for all  $x, y \in M$  and  $\alpha \in \Gamma$ . This completes the proof.

**Theorem 2.4.** Let M be a  $\Gamma$ -ring such that  $x\alpha y\beta z = x\beta y\alpha z$  for all  $x, y, z \in M$ and  $\alpha, \beta \in \Gamma$ . Further, suppose d and g are  $(\sigma, \tau)$ -derivations of M such that  $d\sigma = \sigma d$ ,  $d\tau = \tau d$ . Then d and g are orthogonal if and only if  $d(x)\alpha g(x) = 0$  for all  $x \in M$  and  $\alpha \in \Gamma$ .

**Proof.** Suppose that  $d(x)\alpha g(x) = 0$  for all  $x \in M$  and  $\alpha \in \Gamma$ . Linearizing this relation, we get

$$d(x)\alpha g(y) + d(y)\alpha g(x) = 0 \text{ for all } x, y \in M \text{ and } \alpha \in \Gamma.$$
(2.3)

Replacing y by  $y\beta z$  in (2.3), we get

$$0 = d(x)\alpha g(y\beta z) + d(y\beta z)\alpha g(x)$$
  
=  $d(x)\alpha g(y)\beta\sigma(z) + d(x)\alpha\tau(y)\beta g(z) + d(y)\beta\sigma(z)\alpha g(x) + \tau(y)\beta d(z)\alpha g(x).$ 

In view of (2.3), we have  $d(x)\alpha g(y) = -d(y)\alpha g(x)$  and  $d(z)\alpha g(x) = -d(x)\alpha g(z)$ , and hence the above expression reduces to

$$d(y)\beta[\sigma(z),g(x)]_{\alpha} = [\tau(y),d(x)]_{\alpha}\beta g(z) \text{ for all } x,y,z \in M \text{ and } \alpha,\beta \in \Gamma.$$
(2.4)

Replacing y by  $\tau^{-1}(d(x))$  in (2.4), we obtain

$$d(\tau^{-1}(d(x)))\beta[\sigma(z), g(x)]_{\alpha} = 0$$
 for all  $x, z \in M$  and  $\alpha, \beta \in \Gamma$ .

This implies that

$$\tau^{-1}(d^2(x))\beta[z_1,g(x)]_{\alpha} = 0 \text{ for all } x, z_1 \in M \text{ and } \alpha, \beta \in \Gamma.$$
(2.5)

Replacing  $z_1$  by  $z\gamma s$  in (2.5) and using Lemma 2.2 and relation (2.5), we obtain

$$\tau^{-1}(d^2(x))\beta z\gamma[s,g(y)]_{\alpha} = 0 \text{ for all } s, x, y, z \in M \text{ and } \alpha, \beta, \gamma \in \Gamma.$$
(2.6)

Replacing x by  $x\delta u$  in (2.6) and using it, we get

$$2(d(x)\delta d(\tau^{-1}(\sigma(u)))\beta z\gamma[s,g(y)]_{\alpha}) = 0 \text{ for all } s, u, x, y, z \in M \text{ and } \alpha, \beta, \gamma, \delta \in \Gamma.$$

Putting  $u = \sigma^{-1}(\tau(u))$  in above and using the fact that M is 2-torsion free, we find that

$$d(x)\delta d(u)\beta z\gamma[s,g(y)]_{\alpha} = 0 \text{ for all } s, u, x, y, z \in M \text{ and } \alpha, \beta, \gamma, \delta \in \Gamma.$$
(2.7)

Substituting  $x\alpha_1 t$  for x in (2.7) and using it, we find that

$$d(x)\alpha_1\sigma(t)\delta d(u)\beta z\gamma[s,g(y)]_\alpha=0 \text{ for all } s,t,u,x,y,z\in M \text{ and } \alpha_1,\alpha,\beta,\gamma,\delta\in\Gamma.$$

The above expression yields that

$$d(x)\beta z\gamma[s,g(y)]_{\alpha}\alpha_{1}M\delta d(x)\beta z\gamma[s,g(y)]_{\alpha} = \{0\} \text{ for all } s, x, y, z \in M \text{ and } \alpha_{1}, \alpha, \beta, \gamma, \delta \in \Gamma$$

Semiprimeness of M implies that

$$d(x)\beta z\gamma[s,g(y)]_{\alpha}=0$$
 for all  $s,x,y,z\in M$  and  $\alpha,\beta,\gamma\in\Gamma$ ,

and hence

$$d(x)\alpha z\gamma[d(x), g(y)]_{\alpha} = 0 \text{ for all } x, y, z \in M \text{ and } \alpha, \gamma \in \Gamma.$$
(2.8)

Replacing z by  $g(y)\beta z$ , we get

$$d(x)\alpha g(y)\beta z\gamma[d(x),g(y)]_{\alpha} = 0 \text{ for all } x, y, z \in M \text{ and } \alpha, \beta, \gamma \in \Gamma.$$
(2.9)

Also, from (2.8), we have

$$g(y)\alpha d(x)\beta z\gamma[d(x),g(y)]_{\alpha} = 0 \text{ for all } x, y, z \in M \text{ and } \alpha, \beta, \gamma \in \Gamma.$$
(2.10)

Subtracting (2.10) from (2.9), we get

$$[d(x), g(y)]_{\alpha} \beta M \gamma [d(x), g(y)]_{\alpha} = \{0\}$$
 for all  $x, y \in M$  and  $\alpha, \beta, \gamma \in \Gamma$ .

Semiprimeness of M yields that  $[d(x), g(y)]_{\alpha} = 0$  for all  $x, y \in M$  and  $\alpha \in \Gamma$ . That is,  $d(x)\alpha g(y) = g(y)\alpha d(x)$  for all  $x, y \in M$  and  $\alpha \in \Gamma$ . Thus, (2.3) can be written as  $d(x)\alpha g(y) + g(x)\alpha d(y) = 0$  for all  $x, y \in M$  and  $\alpha \in \Gamma$ . By Lemma 2.3, d and gare orthogonal.

Conversely, suppose that d and g are orthogonal. Then  $d(x)\beta M\gamma g(x) = \{0\}$  for all  $x \in M$  and  $\beta, \gamma \in \Gamma$ . Therefore,  $d(x)\alpha g(x) = 0$  for all  $x \in M$  and  $\alpha \in \Gamma$  by Lemma 2.1.

**Theorem 2.5.** Let M be a  $\Gamma$ -ring. Suppose d and g are  $(\sigma, \tau)$ -derivations of M such that  $d\sigma = \sigma d$ ,  $g\sigma = \sigma g$ ,  $d\tau = \tau d$ ,  $g\tau = \tau g$ . Then the following conditions are equivalent:

- (i) d and g are orthogonal.
- (*ii*) dg = 0.
- (*iii*) gd = 0.
- $(iv) \quad dg + gd = 0.$
- (v) dg is a  $(\sigma^2, \tau^2)$ -derivation of M.

**Proof.**  $(ii) \Leftrightarrow (i)$ . Assume dg = 0. Then for any  $x, y \in M$  and  $\gamma \in \Gamma$ , our hypotheses yields that

$$\begin{array}{lll} 0 & = & dg(x\alpha y) \\ & = & dg(x)\alpha\sigma^2(y) + \tau(g(x))\alpha d(\sigma(y)) + d(\tau(x))\alpha\sigma(g(y)) + \tau^2(x)\alpha dg(y) \\ & = & \tau(g(x))\alpha d(\sigma(y)) + d(\tau(x))\alpha\sigma(g(y)). \end{array}$$

Since  $\sigma, \tau$  are automorphisms of M and using the fact that  $g\tau = \tau g$ ,  $g\sigma = \sigma g$ , we find that

$$g(x_1)\alpha d(y_1) + d(x_1)\alpha g(y_1) = 0$$
 for all  $x_1, y_1 \in M$  and  $\alpha \in \Gamma$ .

Hence d and g are orthogonal in view of Lemma 2.3.

Conversely, suppose that d and g are orthogonal. Then  $d(x)\alpha y\beta g(z) = 0$  for all  $x, y, z \in M$  and  $\alpha, \beta \in \Gamma$ . Thus for all  $x, y, z \in M$  and  $\alpha, \beta \in \Gamma$ , we have

$$\begin{array}{lll} 0 & = & d(d(x)\alpha y\beta g(z)) \\ & = & d^2(x)\alpha\sigma(y)\beta\sigma(g(z)) + \tau(d(x))\alpha d(y)\beta\sigma(g(z)) + \tau(d(x))\alpha\tau(y)\beta dg(z) \\ & = & \tau(d(x))\alpha\tau(y)\beta dg(z). \end{array}$$

Noting that  $d\tau = \tau d$  and  $\tau$  is an automorphism of M, we obtain

$$d(x_1)\alpha y_1\beta dg(z_1) = 0$$
 for all  $x_1, y_1, z_1 \in M$  and  $\alpha, \beta \in \Gamma$ .

Replacing  $x_1$  by  $g(z_1)$  in the last expression, we get  $dg(z_1)\alpha y_1\beta dg(z_1) = 0$  for all  $y_1, z_1 \in M$  and  $\alpha, \beta \in \Gamma$ . Semiprimeness of M yields that  $dg(z_1) = 0$  for all  $z_1 \in M$ . Thus, we conclude that dg = 0.

 $(iii) \Leftrightarrow (i)$ . Proof is similar as  $(ii) \Leftrightarrow (i)$ .

 $(iv) \Leftrightarrow (i)$ . Suppose dg + gd = 0. Then for all  $x, y \in M$  and  $\alpha \in \Gamma$ , we have

$$\begin{array}{lll} 0 &=& (dg+gd)(x\alpha y) \\ &=& (dg+gd)(x)\alpha\sigma^2(y) + 2(g(\tau(x))\alpha d(\sigma(y)) + d(\tau(x))\alpha g(\sigma(y))) + \tau^2(x)\alpha(dg+gd)(y) \\ &=& 2(g(\tau(x))\alpha d(\sigma(y)) + d(\tau(x))\alpha g(\sigma(y))). \end{array}$$

Since M is 2-torsionfree and  $\sigma, \tau$  are automorphisms of M, we conclude that

$$g(x_1)\alpha d(y_1) + d(x_1)\alpha g(y_1) = 0$$
 for all  $x_1, y_1 \in M$  and  $\alpha \in \Gamma$ .

Hence d and g are orthogonal by Lemma 2.3.

Conversely, suppose that d and g are orthogonal. Then dg = 0 and gd = 0 by part (*ii*) and (*iii*). Hence, dg + gd = 0. (v)  $\Leftrightarrow$  (i). Suppose dg is a ( $\sigma^2, \tau^2$ )-derivation on M. That is,

$$dg(x\alpha y) = dg(x)\alpha\sigma^2(y) + \tau^2(x)\alpha dg(y) \text{ for all } x, y \in M \text{ and } \alpha \in \Gamma.$$
(2.11)

Also, we have

$$dg(x\alpha y) = dg(x)\alpha\sigma^2(y) + \tau(g(x))\alpha d(\sigma(y)) + d(\tau(x))\alpha\sigma(g(y)) + \tau^2(x)\alpha dg(y).$$
(2.12)

Comparing (2.11) and (2.12), we get

$$\tau(g(x))\alpha d(\sigma(y)) + d(\tau(x))\alpha\sigma(g(y)) = 0$$
 for all  $x, y \in M$  and  $\alpha \in \Gamma$ .

Since  $g\tau = \tau g$ ,  $g\sigma = \sigma g$  and  $\sigma, \tau$  are automorphisms of M, so we have

$$g(x_1)\alpha d(y_1) + d(x_1)\alpha g(y_1) = 0$$
 for all  $x_1, y_1 \in M$  and  $\alpha \in \Gamma$ .

In view of Lemma 2.3, we conclude that d and g are orthogonal.

Conversely, suppose that d and g are orthogonal. By (ii), we obtain dg = 0. Thus, dg is a  $(\sigma^2, \tau^2)$ -derivation on M.

The following example shows that the hypothesis of semiprimeness in Theorem 2.5 is essential.

**Example 2.6.** Let R be any 2-torsionfree ring and let  $M = \begin{cases} \begin{pmatrix} a & b \\ 0 & c \end{pmatrix} \mid a, b, c \in R \end{cases}$ ,  $\Gamma = \begin{cases} \begin{pmatrix} x & 0 \\ 0 & y \end{pmatrix} \mid x, y \in R \end{cases}$ . Then M is a 2-torsionfree  $\Gamma$ -ring. It can be easily seen that M is not semiprime. Take  $\sigma = \tau = I_M$ , where  $I_M$  is the identity map on M. Define the maps  $d, g: M \longrightarrow M$  such that

$$d\begin{pmatrix}a&b\\0&c\end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix}0&b\\0&0\end{pmatrix}, \ g\begin{pmatrix}a&b\\0&c\end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix}0&-b\\0&0\end{pmatrix} \quad for \ all \ \begin{pmatrix}a&b\\0&c\end{pmatrix} \in M.$$

Then it is straightforward to check that d and g are  $(\sigma, \tau)$ -derivations on M. Also, d and g are orthogonal, and dg is a  $(\sigma^2, \tau^2)$ -derivation on M. However,  $dg \neq 0$ ,  $gd \neq 0$  and  $dg + gd \neq 0$ .

### **3.** Orthogonal Generalized $(\sigma, \tau)$ -Derivations

Two generalized derivations (F, d) and (G, g) of M are called orthogonal if  $F(x)\Gamma M\Gamma G(y) = \{0\} = G(y)\Gamma M\Gamma F(x)$  holds for all  $x, y \in M$ . Recently, Ashraf and Jamal in [4] obtained some necessary and sufficient conditions for two generalized derivations to be orthogonal. In the present section, our objective is to generalizes their results in more general setting for semiprime  $\Gamma$ -rings. We begin with the following lemma.

**Lemma 3.1.** Suppose that two generalized  $(\sigma, \tau)$ -derivations (F, d) and (G, g) of M are orthogonal. Then following relations hold:

- (i)  $F(x)\alpha G(y) = G(x)\alpha F(y) = 0$ , and hence  $F(x)\alpha G(y) + G(x)\alpha F(y) = 0$  for all  $x, y \in M$  and  $\alpha \in \Gamma$ .
- (ii) d and G are orthogonal and  $d(x)\alpha G(y) = G(y)\alpha d(x) = 0$  for all  $x, y \in M$ and  $\alpha \in \Gamma$ .
- (iii) g and F are orthogonal and  $g(x)\alpha F(y) = F(y)\alpha g(x) = 0$  for all  $x, y \in M$ and  $\alpha \in \Gamma$ .
- (iv) d and g are orthogonal.
- (v) If  $F\sigma = \sigma F$ ,  $F\tau = \tau F$ ,  $G\sigma = \sigma G$ ,  $G\tau = \tau G$  and  $d\sigma = \sigma d$ ,  $d\tau = \tau d$ ,  $g\sigma = \sigma g$ ,  $g\tau = \tau g$ , then dG = Gd = 0, gF = Fg = 0 and FG = GF = 0.

**Proof.** (i). By the hypothesis, we have  $F(x)\alpha z\beta G(y) = 0$  for all  $x, y, z \in M$  and  $\alpha, \beta \in \Gamma$ . Application of Lemma 2.1 yields that  $F(x)\gamma G(y) = 0 = G(y)\gamma F(x)$ . Therefore,  $F(x)\gamma G(y) + G(y)\gamma F(x) = 0$  for all  $x, y \in M$  and  $\gamma \in \Gamma$ .

(*ii*). By (*i*), we have  $F(x)\alpha G(y) = 0$  and  $F(x)\beta z\gamma G(y) = 0$  for all  $x, y, z \in M$  and  $\alpha, \beta, \gamma \in \Gamma$ . Hence

$$0 = F(z\beta x)\alpha G(y)$$
  
=  $F(z)\beta\sigma(x)\alpha G(y) + \tau(z)\beta d(x)\alpha G(y)$   
=  $\tau(z)\beta d(x)\alpha G(y).$ 

Since  $\tau$  is an automorphism of M, the last expression yields that

$$d(x)\alpha G(y)\gamma M\beta d(x)\alpha G(y) = \{0\}$$
 for all  $x, y \in M$  and  $\alpha, \beta, \gamma \in \Gamma$ .

Thus, the semiprimeness of M forces that

$$d(x)\alpha G(y) = 0 \text{ for all } x, y \in M \text{ and } \alpha \in \Gamma.$$
(3.1)

Replacing x by  $x\beta s$  in (3.1), we get

$$\begin{array}{lll} 0 & = & d(x\beta s)\alpha G(y) \\ & = & d(x)\beta\sigma(s)\alpha G(y) + \tau(x)\beta d(s)\alpha G(y). \end{array}$$

Using (3.1) and the fact that  $\sigma$  is an automorphism of M, we obtain

$$d(x)\Gamma M\Gamma G(y) = \{0\}$$
 for all  $x, y \in M$ .

Application of Lemma 2.1 yields that d and G are orthogonal, and hence  $d(x)\alpha G(y) = G(y)\alpha d(x) = 0$  for all  $x, y \in M, \alpha \in \Gamma$ .

(iii). Using similar approach as we have used in (ii).

(*iv*). By the assumption, we have  $F(x)\alpha G(y) = 0$  for all  $x, y \in M$  and  $\alpha \in \Gamma$ . This implies that

$$0 = F(x\beta z)\alpha G(y\gamma w)$$
  
=  $(F(x)\beta\sigma(z) + \tau(x)\beta d(z))\alpha(G(y)\gamma\sigma(w) + \tau(y)\gamma g(w))$   
=  $F(x)\beta\sigma(z)\alpha G(y)\gamma\sigma(w) + F(x)\beta\sigma(z)\alpha\tau(y)\gamma g(w) + \tau(x)\beta d(z)\alpha G(y)\gamma\sigma(w)$   
 $+\tau(x)\beta d(z)\alpha\tau(y)\gamma g(w).$ 

Using (ii) and (iii), we find that

$$\tau(x)\beta d(z)\alpha \tau(y)\gamma g(w) = 0$$
 for all  $w, x, y, z \in M$  and  $\alpha, \beta, \gamma \in \Gamma$ .

Since  $\tau$  is an automorphism of M, so the last expression yields that

$$d(z)\alpha M\gamma g(w)\delta M\beta d(z)\alpha M\gamma g(w) = \{0\} \text{ for all } w, z \in M \text{ and } \alpha, \beta, \gamma, \delta \in \Gamma.$$

The semiprimeness of M forces that

$$d(z)\alpha M\gamma g(w) = \{0\}$$
 for all  $w, z \in M$  and  $\alpha, \gamma \in \Gamma$ .

Hence by Lemma 2.1, d and g are orthogonal.

(v). In view of (ii) d and G are orthogonal. Hence,

$$0 = G(d(x)\alpha z\beta G(y))$$
  
=  $Gd(x)\alpha \sigma(z)\beta \sigma(G(y)) + \tau(d(x))\alpha g(z)\beta \sigma(G(y)) + \tau(d(x))\alpha \tau(z)\beta g(G(y)).$ 

Since  $d\tau = \tau d$ ,  $G\sigma = \sigma G$  and d, g are orthogonal, so we obtain

$$Gd(x)\alpha z_1\beta G(y_1) = 0$$
 for all  $x, y_1, z_1 \in M$  and  $\alpha, \beta \in \Gamma$ . (3.2)

Replacing  $y_1$  by d(x) in (3.2) and using the semiprimeness of M, we get Gd = 0. Similarly, since each of the equalities  $d(G(x)\alpha z\beta d(y)) = 0$ ,  $F(g(x)\alpha z\beta F(y)) = 0$ ,  $g(F(x)\alpha z\beta g(y)) = 0$ ,  $F(G(x)\alpha z\beta F(y)) = 0$  and  $G(F(x)\alpha z\beta G(y)) = 0$  hold for all  $x, y, z \in M$  and  $\alpha, \beta \in \Gamma$ , we conclude that dG = Fg = gF = FG = GF = 0, respectively.

In view of Theorem 2.5(ii) and Lemma 3.1, we have the following corollary:

**Corollary 3.2.** Let (F,d) and (G,g) be orthogonal generalized  $(\sigma,\tau)$ -derivations of M such that  $F\sigma = \sigma F$ ,  $F\tau = \tau F$ ,  $G\sigma = \sigma G$ ,  $G\tau = \tau G$  and  $d\sigma = \sigma d$ ,  $d\tau = \tau d$ ,  $g\sigma = \sigma g$ ,  $g\tau = \tau g$ . Then dg is a  $(\sigma^2, \tau^2)$ -derivation of M and (FG, dg) = (0,0) is a generalized  $(\sigma^2, \tau^2)$ -derivation of M.

**Theorem 3.3.** Suppose (F,d) and (G,g) are generalized  $(\sigma,\tau)$ -derivations of M such that  $F\sigma = \sigma F$ ,  $F\tau = \tau F$ ,  $G\sigma = \sigma G$ ,  $G\tau = \tau G$  and  $d\sigma = \sigma d$ ,  $d\tau = \tau d$ ,  $g\sigma = \sigma g$ ,  $g\tau = \tau g$ . Then (F,d) and (G,g) are orthogonal if and only if one of the following holds:

- (i) (a)  $F(x)\gamma G(y) + G(x)\gamma F(y) = 0$  for all  $x, y \in M$  and  $\gamma \in \Gamma$ ; (b)  $d(x)\gamma G(y) + g(x)\gamma F(y) = 0$  for all  $x, y \in M$  and  $\gamma \in \Gamma$ ;
- (ii)  $F(x)\gamma G(y) = d(x)\gamma G(y) = 0$  for all  $x, y \in M$  and  $\gamma \in \Gamma$ ;
- (iii)  $F(x)\gamma G(y) = 0$  for all  $x, y \in M$  and  $\gamma \in \Gamma$  and dG = dg = 0;
- (iv) (FG, dg) is a generalized  $(\sigma^2, \tau^2)$ -derivation and  $F(x)\gamma G(y) = 0$  for all  $x, y \in M$  and  $\gamma \in \Gamma$ .

**Proof.** In view of Lemma 3.1, Corollary 3.2 and the orthogonality of (F, d) and  $(G, g) \Rightarrow (i), (ii), (iii)$  and (iv). Now, we establish

 $(i) \Rightarrow$  "(F,d) and (G,g) are orthogonal." By the hypothesis, we have

$$F(x)\gamma G(y) + G(x)\gamma F(y) = 0$$
 for all  $x, y \in M$  and  $\gamma \in \Gamma$ .

Replacing x by  $x\alpha z$  in above, we find that

$$\begin{array}{lll} 0 & = & F(x\alpha z)\gamma G(y) + G(x\alpha z)\gamma F(y) \\ & = & F(x)\alpha\sigma(z)\gamma G(y) + \tau(x)\alpha d(z)\gamma G(y) + G(x)\alpha\sigma(z)\gamma F(y) + \tau(x)\alpha g(z)\gamma F(y). \end{array}$$

Using (b) in last expression, we get

$$F(x)\alpha\sigma(z)\gamma G(y) + G(x)\alpha\sigma(z)\gamma F(y) = 0$$
 for all  $x, y, z \in M$  and  $\alpha, \gamma \in \Gamma$ .

Since  $\sigma$  is an automorphism of M, the above relation can be rewritten as

$$F(x)\alpha z_1\gamma G(x) + G(x)\alpha z_1\gamma F(x) = 0$$
 for all  $x, z_1 \in M$  and  $\alpha, \gamma \in \Gamma$ 

By Lemma 2.1, we conclude that  $F(x)\alpha z_1\gamma G(x) = 0$  and  $G(x)\alpha z_1\gamma F(x) = 0$  for all  $x, z_1 \in M$  and  $\alpha, \gamma \in \Gamma$ . Using Lemma 2.2, we have  $F(x)\alpha z_1\gamma G(y) = 0$  for all  $x, y, z_1 \in M$  and  $\alpha, \gamma \in \Gamma$ . Therefore, F and G are orthogonal, by Lemma 2.1.  $(ii) \Rightarrow "(F, d)$  and (G, g) are orthogonal." Given that  $F(x)\gamma G(y) = 0$ . Putting  $x\alpha z$ for x, we get

$$0 = F(x\alpha z)\gamma G(y)$$
  
=  $F(x)\alpha\sigma(z)\gamma G(y) + \tau(x)\alpha d(z)\gamma G(y)$   
=  $F(x)\alpha\sigma(z)\gamma G(y).$ 

Using Lemma 2.1 and the fact that  $\sigma$  is an automorphism of M, we conclude that (F, d) and (G, g) are orthogonal.

 $(iii) \Rightarrow "(F,d)$  and (G,g) are orthogonal." By the assumption, we have

$$\begin{array}{lll} 0 &=& dG(x\alpha y) \\ &=& d(G(x)\alpha\sigma(y) + \tau(x)\alpha g(y)) \\ &=& dG(x)\alpha\sigma^2(y) + \tau(G(x))\alpha d(\sigma(y)) + d(\tau(x))\alpha\sigma(g(y)) + \tau^2(x)\alpha dg(y) \\ &=& \tau(G(x))\alpha d(\sigma(y)) + d(\tau(x))\alpha\sigma(g(y)). \end{array}$$

Since  $G\tau = \tau G$ ,  $g\sigma = \sigma g$  and  $\sigma, \tau$  are automorphisms of M, we have

$$G(x_1)\alpha d(y_1) + d(x_1)\alpha g(y_1) = 0$$
 for all  $x_1, y_1 \in M$  and  $\alpha \in \Gamma$ .

Application of Lemma 2.5(iv) and Lemma 2.1 yields that

$$G(x_1)\alpha d(y_1) = 0$$
 for all  $x_1, y_1 \in M$  and  $\alpha \in \Gamma$ .

Replacing  $x_1$  by  $x\beta z$  and using Lemma 2.5(*iv*) and Lemma 2.1, we obtain

$$G(x)\beta\sigma(z)\alpha d(y_1) = 0$$
 for all  $x, y_1, z \in M$  and  $\alpha, \beta \in \Gamma$ .

By Lemma 2.1, we have  $d(y_1)\gamma G(x) = 0$  for all  $x, y_1 \in M$  and  $\gamma \in \Gamma$ , which satisfies (*ii*). Therefore, (*iii*) implies that (F, d) and (G, g) are orthogonal.

 $(iv) \Rightarrow$  "(F,d) and (G,g) are orthogonal." Since (FG, dg) is a generalized  $(\sigma^2, \tau^2)$ -derivation and dg is a  $(\sigma^2, \tau^2)$ -derivation, we have

$$FG(x\gamma y) = FG(x)\gamma\sigma^{2}(y) + \tau^{2}(x)\gamma dg(y) \text{ for all } x, y \in M \text{ and } \gamma \in \Gamma.$$
(3.3)

Also

$$FG(x\gamma y) = FG(x)\gamma\sigma^{2}(y) + \tau(G(x))\gamma d(\sigma(y)) + F(\tau(x))\gamma\sigma(g(y)) + \tau^{2}(x)\gamma dg(y).$$
(3.4)

Comparing (3.3) and (3.4), we get

$$\tau(G(x))\gamma d(\sigma(y)) + F(\tau(x))\gamma \sigma(g(y)) = 0$$
 for all  $x, y \in M$  and  $\gamma \in \Gamma$ .

Since  $\sigma, \tau$  are automorphisms of M and noting that  $G\tau = \tau G$ ,  $g\sigma = \sigma g$ , we have

$$G(x_1)\gamma d(y_1) + F(x_1)\gamma g(y_1) = 0 \text{ for all } x_1, y_1 \in M \text{ and } \gamma \in \Gamma.$$
(3.5)

Since,  $F(x_1)\gamma G(y_1) = 0$ , we get

$$0 = F(x_1)\gamma G(y_1\alpha z_1)$$
  
=  $F(x_1)\gamma G(y_1)\alpha \sigma(z_1) + F(x_1)\gamma \tau(y_1)\alpha g(z_1)$   
=  $F(x_1)\gamma \tau(y_1)\alpha g(z_1).$ 

By Lemma 2.1, we have  $g(z_1)\gamma F(x_1) = 0$  for all  $x_1, z_1 \in M$  and  $\gamma \in \Gamma$ . Replace  $z_1$  by  $y_1\beta z_1$  to get

$$0 = g(y_1\beta z_1)\gamma F(x_1)$$
  
=  $g(y_1)\beta\sigma(z_1)\gamma F(x_1) + \tau(y_1)\beta g(z_1)\gamma F(x_1)$   
=  $g(y_1)\beta\sigma(z_1)\gamma F(x_1).$ 

Since  $\sigma$  is an automorphism of M and using Lemma 2.1, we find that  $F(x_1)\gamma g(y_1) = 0$  for all  $x_1, y_1 \in M$  and  $\gamma \in \Gamma$ . Now from (3.5), we get  $G(x_1)\gamma d(y_1) = 0$  for all  $x_1, y_1 \in M$  and  $\gamma \in \Gamma$ . Putting  $z_1 \alpha y_1$  for  $y_1$  in the last relation, we get

$$0 = G(x_1)\gamma d(z_1 \alpha y_1)$$
  
=  $G(x_1)\gamma d(z_1)\alpha \sigma(y_1) + G(x_1)\gamma \tau(z_1)\alpha d(y_1)$   
=  $G(x_1)\gamma \tau(z_1)\alpha d(y_1).$ 

Since  $\tau$  is an automorphism of M, the above expression forces that  $G(x_1)\gamma z_2 \alpha d(y_1) = 0$  for all  $x_1, y_1, z_2 \in M$  and  $\alpha, \gamma \in \Gamma$ . Again using Lemma 2.1, we obtain  $d(y_1)\gamma G(x_1) = 0$  for all  $x_1, y_1 \in M$  and  $\gamma \in \Gamma$ . By (*ii*), (*F*, *d*) and (*G*, *g*) are orthogonal.

**Theorem 3.4.** Let (F, d) and (G, g) be generalized  $(\sigma, \tau)$ -derivations of M such that  $d\sigma = \sigma d$ ,  $d\tau = \tau d$ ,  $g\sigma = \sigma g$ ,  $g\tau = \tau g$ . Then the following conditions are equivalent:

- (i) (FG, dg) is a generalized  $(\sigma^2, \tau^2)$ -derivation.
- (ii) (GF, gd) is a generalized  $(\sigma^2, \tau^2)$ -derivation.
- (iii) F and g are orthogonal, and G and d are orthogonal.

**Proof.**  $(i) \Rightarrow (iii)$ . Suppose (FG, dg) is a generalized  $(\sigma^2, \tau^2)$ -derivation. From (3.5), we have

$$G(x)\gamma d(y) + F(x)\gamma g(y) = 0$$
 for all  $x, y \in M$  and  $\gamma \in \Gamma$ .

Replacing y by  $y\beta z$ , we obtain

$$0 = G(x)\gamma d(y\beta z) + F(x)\gamma g(y\beta z)$$
  
=  $G(x)\gamma d(y)\beta\sigma(z) + G(x)\gamma\tau(y)\beta d(z) + F(x)\gamma g(y)\beta\sigma(z) + F(x)\gamma\tau(y)\beta g(z)$   
=  $G(x)\gamma\tau(y)\beta d(z) + F(x)\gamma\tau(y)\beta g(z).$ 

Since  $\tau$  is an automorphism of M, the above relation yields that

$$G(x)\gamma y_1\beta d(z) + F(x)\gamma y_1\beta g(z) = 0 \text{ for all } x, y_1, z \in M \text{ and } \beta, \gamma \in \Gamma.$$
(3.6)

Since dg is a  $(\sigma^2, \tau^2)$ -derivation, so d and g are orthogonal by Theorem 2.5. Replacing  $y_1$  by  $g(z)\alpha y$  and using the orthogonality of d and g, we get

$$0 = G(x)\gamma g(z)\alpha y\beta d(z) + F(x)\gamma g(z)\alpha y\beta g(z)$$
  
=  $F(x)\gamma g(z)\alpha y\beta g(z).$ 

Again replacing y by  $y\delta F(x)$  and  $\beta$  by  $\gamma$  and using the semiprimeness of M, we obtain

$$F(x)\gamma g(z) = 0$$
 for all  $x, z \in M$  and  $\gamma \in \Gamma$ . (3.7)

Substituting  $y\alpha z$  for z in (3.7), we find that

$$F(x)\gamma g(y)\alpha \sigma(z)+F(x)\gamma \tau(y)\alpha g(z)=0 \text{ for all } x,y,z\in M \text{ and } \alpha,\gamma\in \Gamma.$$

Using (3.7) and the fact that  $\tau$  is an automorphism of M, we get

$$F(x)\gamma y_1 \alpha g(z) = 0$$
 for all  $x, y_1, z \in M$  and  $\alpha, \gamma \in \Gamma$ .

Therefore by Lemma 2.1, F and g are orthogonal. Hence (3.6) becomes  $G(x)\gamma y_1\beta d(z) = 0$  for all  $x, y_1, z \in M$  and  $\beta, \gamma \in \Gamma$ . Thus, G and d are orthogonal.  $(iii) \Rightarrow (i)$ . By the orthogonality of F and g, we have

$$F(x)\alpha y\beta g(z) = 0 \text{ for all } x, y, z \in M \text{ and } \alpha, \beta \in \Gamma.$$
(3.8)

Replacing x by  $s\gamma x$ , we get

$$0 = F(s\gamma x)\alpha y\beta g(z)$$
  
=  $F(s)\gamma\sigma(x)\alpha y\beta g(z) + \tau(s)\gamma d(x)\alpha y\beta g(z)$   
=  $\tau(s)\gamma d(x)\alpha y\beta g(z).$ 

Since  $\tau$  is an automorphism of M and using the semiprimeness of M, we get  $d(x)\alpha y\beta g(z) = 0$  for all  $x, y, z \in M$  and  $\alpha, \beta \in \Gamma$ . By Lemma 2.1, d and g are orthogonal. Thus, by Theorem 2.5, dg is a  $(\sigma^2, \tau^2)$ -derivation. Now, replacing y by  $g(z)\gamma y \delta F(x)$  and  $\beta$  by  $\alpha$  in (3.8), we get

$$F(x)\alpha g(z)\gamma y\delta F(x)\alpha g(z) = 0$$
 for all  $x, y, z \in M$  and  $\alpha, \gamma, \delta \in \Gamma$ .

By the semiprimeness of M, we have  $F(x)\alpha g(z) = 0$  for all  $x, z \in M$  and  $\alpha \in \Gamma$ . Similarly, by the orthogonality of G and d, we have  $G(x)\alpha d(z) = 0$  for all  $x, z \in M$ and  $\alpha \in \Gamma$ . Thus,

$$FG(x\alpha y) = FG(x)\alpha\sigma^2(y) + \tau^2(x)\alpha dg(y)$$
 for all  $x, y \in M$  and  $\alpha \in \Gamma$ .

Hence (FG, dg) is a generalized  $(\sigma^2, \tau^2)$ -derivation.

 $(ii) \Leftrightarrow (iii)$ . Using similar approach as we have used to prove  $(i) \Leftrightarrow (iii)$ .

As an immediate consequence of above theorem we have the following:

**Corollary 3.5.** ([4, Theorem 2.2]) Let (F, d) and (G, g) be generalized derivations of M. Then the following conditions are equivalent:

- (i) (FG, dg) is a generalized derivation.
- (ii) (GF, gd) is a generalized derivation.
- (iii) F and g are orthogonal, and G and d are orthogonal.

The following example shows that Theorem 3.4 does not hold for arbitrary  $\Gamma$ -rings.

Example 3.6. Let R be any 2-torsionfree ring and let 
$$M = \begin{cases} \begin{pmatrix} a \\ b \\ c \\ f \\ h \end{pmatrix} \mid a, b, c, f, h \in R \end{cases}$$
,  $\Gamma = \{ \begin{pmatrix} l & 0 & 0 & m \end{pmatrix} \mid l, m \in R \}$ . Then M is

a 2-torsionfree  $\Gamma$ -ring which is not semiprime. Define the map  $\sigma: M \longrightarrow M$  such  $\begin{pmatrix} a \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} a \end{pmatrix}$ 

that  $\sigma \begin{pmatrix} a \\ b \\ c \\ f \\ h \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} a \\ c \\ b \\ f \\ h \end{pmatrix}$ . Clearly,  $\sigma$  is an automorphism of M and take  $\tau = I_M$ , where

 $I_M$  is the identity map of M. Next, define the maps  $d, g: M \longrightarrow M$  such that

$$d\begin{pmatrix}a\\b\\c\\f\\h\end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix}0\\0\\0\\f\\0\end{pmatrix}, g\begin{pmatrix}a\\b\\c\\f\\h\end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix}0\\c\\b\\0\\0\end{pmatrix} \text{ for all } \begin{pmatrix}a\\b\\c\\f\\h\end{pmatrix} \in M.$$

It can be easily verified that d and g are  $(\sigma, \tau)$ -derivations of M such that  $d\sigma = \sigma d$ ,  $d\tau = \tau d$ ,  $g\sigma = \sigma g$ ,  $g\tau = \tau g$ . Now, consider the maps F,  $G: M \longrightarrow M$  such that

$$F\begin{pmatrix}a\\b\\c\\f\\h\end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix}a\\0\\0\\0\\0\end{pmatrix}, \ G\begin{pmatrix}a\\b\\c\\f\\h\end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix}0\\0\\0\\0\\h\end{pmatrix} \ for \ all \ \begin{pmatrix}a\\b\\c\\f\\h\end{pmatrix} \in M.$$

It can be easily check that (F, d) and (G, g) are generalized  $(\sigma, \tau)$ -derivations of M. Also, (FG, dg) and (GF, gd) are generalized  $(\sigma^2, \tau^2)$ -derivations of M but neither F and g are orthogonal nor G and d are orthogonal. **Corollary 3.7.** Let (F, d) be generalized  $(\sigma, \tau)$ -derivation of M. If  $F(x)\gamma F(y) = 0$  for all  $x, y \in M$  and  $\gamma \in \Gamma$ , then F = d = 0.

**Proof.** Notice that  $F(x)\gamma F(y) = 0$  for all  $x, y \in M$  and  $\gamma \in \Gamma$ . Replacing y by  $y\beta z$ , we get

$$0 = F(x)\gamma F(y\beta z)$$
  
=  $F(x)\gamma F(y)\beta\sigma(z) + F(x)\gamma\tau(y)\beta d(z)$   
=  $F(x)\gamma\tau(y)\beta d(z).$ 

Since  $\tau$  is an automorphism of M and using Lemma 2.1, we have  $d(z)\gamma F(x) = 0$ for all  $x, z \in M$  and  $\gamma \in \Gamma$ . Now, replacing x by  $x\alpha z$ , we get

$$0 = d(z)\gamma F(x\alpha z)$$
  
=  $d(z)\gamma F(x)\alpha\sigma(z) + d(z)\gamma\tau(x)\alpha d(z)$   
=  $d(z)\gamma\tau(x)\alpha d(z).$ 

By the semiprimeness of M, we get d(z) = 0 for all  $z \in M$ . Therefore, d = 0. Again

$$0 = F(x\gamma z)\alpha F(y)$$
  
=  $F(x)\gamma\sigma(z)\alpha F(y) + \tau(x)\gamma d(z)\alpha F(y)$   
=  $F(x)\gamma\sigma(z)\alpha F(y).$ 

In particular, we have

$$F(x)\gamma z_1\alpha F(x) = 0$$
 for all  $x, z_1 \in M$  and  $\alpha, \gamma \in \Gamma$ .

Using the semiprimeness of M, we get F(x) = 0 for all  $x \in M$  and hence F = 0.  $\Box$ 

We conclude our paper with the following example which shows that the hypothesis of semiprimeness is crucial in above result.

**Example 3.8.** Let R be any 2-torsionfree ring and  $M = \left\{ \begin{pmatrix} a \\ b \\ c \\ f \end{pmatrix} \mid a, b, c, f \in R \right\},$ 

 $\Gamma = \left\{ \begin{pmatrix} 0 & x & 0 & 0 \end{pmatrix} \mid x \in R \right\}.$  Then *M* is a 2-torsionfree  $\Gamma$ -ring which is not semiprime. Define the mappings  $\sigma, \tau : M \longrightarrow M$  such that

$$\sigma \begin{pmatrix} a \\ b \\ c \\ f \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} c \\ b \\ a \\ f \end{pmatrix}, \ \tau \begin{pmatrix} a \\ b \\ c \\ f \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} f \\ b \\ c \\ a \end{pmatrix} \text{ for all } \begin{pmatrix} a \\ b \\ c \\ f \end{pmatrix} \in M.$$

Clearly,  $\sigma$  and  $\tau$  are automorphisms of M. Next, define the map  $d: M \longrightarrow M$  such that

$$d\begin{pmatrix}a\\b\\c\\f\end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix}0\\0\\c\\f\end{pmatrix} \text{ for all } \begin{pmatrix}a\\b\\c\\f\end{pmatrix} \in M.$$

It can be easily verified that d is a  $(\sigma, \tau)$ -derivation of M. Further, consider the map  $F: M \longrightarrow M$  such that

$$F\begin{pmatrix}a\\b\\c\\f\end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix}a\\0\\0\\0\end{pmatrix} \text{ for all } \begin{pmatrix}a\\b\\c\\f\end{pmatrix} \in M.$$

Then it is straightforward to check that F is a generalized  $(\sigma, \tau)$ -derivation of M. Moreover, F satisfies the relation  $F(x)\gamma F(y) = 0$  for all  $x, y \in M$  and  $\gamma \in \Gamma$ , but neither F = 0 nor d = 0.

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