

## Centralizers on prime and semiprime rings

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*Abstract.* The purpose of this paper is to investigate identities satisfied by centralizers on prime and semiprime rings. We prove the following result: Let  $R$  be a noncommutative prime ring of characteristic different from two and let  $S$  and  $T$  be left centralizers on  $R$ . Suppose that  $[S(x), T(x)]S(x) + S(x)[S(x), T(x)] = 0$  is fulfilled for all  $x \in R$ . If  $S \neq 0$  ( $T \neq 0$ ) then there exists  $\lambda$  from the extended centroid of  $R$  such that  $T = \lambda S$  ( $S = \lambda T$ ).

*Keywords:* prime ring, semiprime ring, extended centroid, derivation, Jordan derivation, left (right) centralizer, Jordan left (right) centralizer, commuting mapping, centralizing mapping

*Classification:* 16A12, 16A68, 16A72

This research has been inspired by the work of B. Zalar [11]. Throughout,  $R$  will represent an associative ring with center  $Z(R)$ . A ring  $R$  is 2-torsion free if  $2x = 0$ ,  $x \in R$  implies  $x = 0$ . We write  $[x, y]$  for  $xy - yx$  and make extensive use of basic commutator identities  $[xy, z] = [x, z]y + x[y, z]$ ,  $[x, yz] = [x, y]z + y[x, z]$ . An additive mapping  $D : R \rightarrow R$  is called a derivation if  $D(xy) = D(x)y + xD(y)$  holds for all  $x, y \in R$  and is called a Jordan derivation in case  $D(x^2) = D(x)x + xD(x)$  is fulfilled for all  $x \in R$ . A derivation  $D$  is inner if there exists  $a \in R$  such that  $D(x) = [a, x]$  holds for all  $x \in R$ . An additive mapping  $T : R \rightarrow R$  is left (right) centralizer if  $T(xy) = T(x)y$  ( $T(xy) = xT(y)$ ) holds for all  $x, y \in R$ . A centralizer is an additive mapping which is both left and right centralizer. An additive mapping  $T : R \rightarrow R$  is Jordan left (right) centralizer in case  $T(x^2) = T(x)x$  ( $T(x^2) = xT(x)$ ) holds for all  $x \in R$ . For any fixed element  $a \in R$  the mapping  $T(x) = ax$  ( $T(x) = xa$ ) is left (right) centralizer. Recall that a ring  $R$  is prime in case  $aRb = (0)$  implies that either  $a = 0$  or  $b = 0$  and is semiprime if  $aRa = (0)$  implies  $a = 0$ . Any derivation is a Jordan derivation. The converse is in general not true. A classical result of Herstein [7] asserts that every Jordan derivation on a prime ring of characteristic different from two is a derivation. A brief proof of Herstein theorem can be found in [1]. Cusak [6] has extended Herstein theorem on 2-torsion free semiprime rings (see also [2]). Any left (right) centralizer is a Jordan left (right) centralizer. Zalar [11] has proved that every left (right) Jordan centralizer on a 2-torsion free semiprime ring is a left (right) centralizer. We shall restrict our attention on left centralizers since all

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results presented in this paper are true also for right centralizers because of left-right symmetry. We shall denote by  $C$  the extended centroid of a prime ring  $R$ . First we list few lemmas.

**Lemma 1.** *Suppose that the elements  $a_i, b_i$  in the central closure of a prime ring  $R$  satisfy  $\sum a_i x b_i = 0$  for all  $x \in R$ . If  $b_i \neq 0$  for some  $i$  then  $a_i$ 's are  $C$ -dependent.*

The explanation of the notions of the extended centroid and the central closure of a prime ring, as well as the proof of Lemma 1, can be found in [8, pp. 20–23] or [9].

**Lemma 2.** *Let  $R$  be a noncommutative prime ring and let  $T : R \rightarrow R$  be a left centralizer. If  $T(x) \in Z(R)$  holds for all  $x \in R$ , then  $T = 0$ .*

PROOF: Since  $[T(x), y] = 0$  for all  $x, y \in R$  we have, putting  $xz$  for  $x$ ,  $0 = [T(x)z, y] = [T(x), y]z + T(x)[z, y] = T(x)[z, y]$ . Thus we have  $T(x)[z, y] = 0$ , which gives  $T(x)w[z, y] = 0$  for all  $x, y, z, w \in R$  whence it follows  $T = 0$ , otherwise  $R$  would be commutative.  $\square$

**Lemma 3.** *Let  $R$  be a noncommutative prime ring and let  $S : R \rightarrow R, T : R \rightarrow R$  be left centralizers. Suppose that  $[S(x), T(x)] = 0$  holds for all  $x \in R$ . If  $T \neq 0$  then there exists  $\lambda \in C$  such that  $S = \lambda T$ .*

PROOF: The linearization (i.e. putting  $x + y$  for  $x$ ) of the relation  $[S(x), T(x)] = 0$  gives

$$(1) \quad [S(x), T(y)] + [S(y), T(x)] = 0.$$

Putting in (1)  $yz$  for  $y$  we obtain  $0 = [S(x), T(y)z] + [S(y)z, T(x)] = [S(x), T(y)]z + T(y)[S(x), z] + [S(y), T(x)]z + S(y)[z, T(x)] = T(y)[S(x), z] + S(y)[z, T(x)]$ . Thus we have

$$T(y)[S(x), z] + S(y)[z, T(x)] = 0.$$

Putting in the above relation  $yw$  for  $y$  we obtain

$$(2) \quad T(y)w[S(x), z] + S(y)w[z, T(x)] = 0.$$

Since we have assumed that  $T \neq 0$  it follows from Lemma 2 that there exist  $x, z \in R$  such that  $[T(x), z] \neq 0$ . Now (2) and Lemma 1 imply that  $S(y) = \lambda(y)T(y)$  where  $\lambda(y)$  is from  $C$ . Putting in (2)  $\lambda(y)T(y)$  for  $S(y)$  and  $\lambda(x)T(x)$  for  $S(x)$  we obtain  $(\lambda(x) - \lambda(y))T(y)w[T(x), z] = 0$  for all pairs  $y, w \in R$  whence it follows  $(\lambda(x) - \lambda(y))T(y) = 0$  since  $[T(x), z] \neq 0$ . Thus we have  $\lambda(x)T(y) = \lambda(y)T(y)$  which completes the proof of the lemma.  $\square$

We are now able to prove the first theorem of this paper.

**Theorem 4.** *Let  $R$  be a noncommutative 2-torsion free semiprime ring and  $S : R \rightarrow R$ ,  $T : R \rightarrow R$  left centralizers. Suppose that  $[S(x), T(x)]S(x) + S(x)[S(x), T(x)] = 0$  holds for all  $x \in R$ . In this case we have  $[S(x), T(x)] = 0$  for all  $x \in R$ . In case  $R$  is a prime ring and  $S \neq 0$  ( $T \neq 0$ ) then there exists  $\lambda \in C$  such that  $T = \lambda S$  ( $S = \lambda T$ ).*

PROOF: We have the relation

$$(3) \quad [S(x), T(x)]S(x) + S(x)[S(x), T(x)] = 0, \quad x \in R.$$

Putting in (3)  $x + y$  for  $y$  we obtain

$$(4) \quad \begin{aligned} & [S(x), T(x)]S(y) + S(y)[S(x), T(x)] + [S(x), T(y)]S(x) + S(x)[S(x), T(y)] + \\ & [S(y), T(x)]S(x) + S(x)[S(y), T(x)] + [S(y), T(y)]S(x) + S(x)[S(y), T(y)] + \\ & [S(y), T(x)]S(y) + S(y)[S(y), T(x)] + [S(x), T(y)]S(y) + \\ & S(y)[S(x), T(y)] = 0. \end{aligned}$$

Putting in the above relation  $-x$  for  $x$  we obtain

$$(5) \quad \begin{aligned} & [S(x), T(x)]S(y) + S(y)[S(x), T(x)] + [S(x), T(y)]S(x) + S(x)[S(x), T(y)] + \\ & [S(y), T(x)]S(x) + S(x)[S(y), T(x)] - [S(y), T(y)]S(x) - S(x)[S(y), T(y)] - \\ & [S(y), T(x)]S(y) - S(y)[S(y), T(x)] - [S(x), T(y)]S(y) - \\ & S(y)[S(x), T(y)] = 0. \end{aligned}$$

Combining (4) with (5) we obtain  $2[S(x), T(x)]S(y) + 2S(y)[S(x), T(x)] + 2[S(x), T(y)]S(x) + 2S(x)[S(x), T(y)] + 2[S(y), T(x)]S(x) + 2S(x)[S(y), T(x)] = 0$  whence it follows

$$(6) \quad \begin{aligned} & [S(x), T(x)]S(y) + S(y)[S(x), T(x)] + [S(x), T(y)]S(x) + S(x)[S(x), T(y)] + \\ & [S(y), T(x)]S(x) + S(x)[S(y), T(x)] = 0 \end{aligned}$$

since we have assumed that  $R$  is 2-torsion free. Putting in the above relation  $xy$  for  $y$  we obtain

$$\begin{aligned} 0 = & [S(x), T(x)]S(x)y + S(x)y[S(x), T(x)] + [S(x), T(x)y]S(x) + \\ & S(x)[S(x), T(x)y] + [S(x)y, T(x)]S(x) + S(x)[S(x)y, T(x)] = \\ & [S(x), T(x)]S(x)y + S(x)y[S(x), T(x)] + [S(x), T(x)]yS(x) + T(x)[S(x), y]S(x) + \\ & S(x)[S(x), T(x)]y + S(x)T(x)[S(x), y] + [S(x), T(x)]yS(x) + S(x)[y, T(x)]S(x) + \\ & S(x)[S(x), T(x)]y + S(x)^2[y, T(x)]. \end{aligned}$$

According to (6) the above calculation reduces to

$$(7) \quad \begin{aligned} & S(x)y[S(x), T(x)] + 2[S(x), T(x)]yS(x) + T(x)[S(x), y]S(x) + \\ & S(x)T(x)[S(x), y] + S(x)[y, T(x)]S(x) + S(x)[S(x), T(x)]y + \\ & S(x)^2[y, T(x)] = 0. \end{aligned}$$

Putting in the above relation  $yS(x)$  for  $y$  we obtain

$S(x)yS(x)[S(x), T(x)] + 2[S(x), T(x)]yS(x)^2 + T(x)[S(x), y]S(x)^2 + S(x)T(x)[S(x), y]S(x) + S(x)[y, T(x)]S(x)^2 + S(x)y[S(x), T(x)]S(x) + S(x)[S(x), T(x)]yS(x) + S(x)^2[y, T(x)]S(x) + S(x)^2y[S(x), T(x)] = 0$  which leads according to (7) to

$$(8) \quad S(x)yS(x)[S(x), T(x)] + S(x)^2y[S(x), T(x)] = 0.$$

Putting in (8)  $T(x)y$  for  $y$  we obtain

$$(9) \quad S(x)T(x)yS(x)[S(x), T(x)] + S(x)^2T(x)y[S(x), T(x)] = 0.$$

Left multiplication by  $T(x)$  gives

$$(10) \quad T(x)S(x)yS(x)[S(x), T(x)] + T(x)S(x)^2y[S(x), T(x)] = 0.$$

From (9) and (10) we obtain  $[S(x), T(x)]yS(x)[S(x), T(x)] + [S(x)^2, T(x)]y[S(x), T(x)] = [S(x), T(x)]yS(x)[S(x), T(x)] + ([S(x), T(x)]S(x) + S(x)[S(x), T(x)])y[S(x), T(x)] = [S(x), T(x)]yS(x)[S(x), T(x)] = 0$ . Thus we have

$$[S(x), T(x)]yS(x)[S(x), T(x)] = 0.$$

Left multiplication of the above relation by  $S(x)$  gives

$$(11) \quad S(x)[S(x), T(x)]yS(x)[S(x), T(x)] = 0$$

for all pairs  $x, y \in R$ . From (11) it follows

$$(12) \quad S(x)[S(x), T(x)] = 0.$$

From (3) and (10) we obtain also

$$(13) \quad [S(x), T(x)]S(x) = 0.$$

From (12) one obtains the relation

$$(14) \quad S(y)[S(x), T(x)] + S(x)[S(y), T(x)] + S(x)[S(x), T(y)] = 0$$

(see the proof of (6)). Putting in (14)  $xy$  for  $y$  we obtain

$$\begin{aligned} 0 &= S(x)y[S(x), T(x)] + S(x)[S(x)y, T(x)] + S(x)[S(x), T(x)y] = \\ &S(x)y[S(x), T(x)] + S(x)[S(x), T(x)]y + S(x)^2[y, T(x)] + S(x)[S(x), T(x)]y + \\ &S(x)T(x)[S(x), y] = S(x)y[S(x), T(x)] + S(x)^2[y, T(x)] + S(x)T(x)[S(x), y]. \end{aligned}$$

Thus we have the relation  $S(x)y[S(x), T(x)] + S(x)^2[y, T(x)] + S(x)T(x)[S(x), y] = 0$  which can be written in the form  $S(x)y[S(x), T(x)] + S(x)^2yT(x) - S(x)T(x)yS(x) + S(x)[T(x), S(x)]y = 0$  whence it follows

$$(15) \quad S(x)y[S(x), T(x)] + S(x)^2yT(x) - S(x)T(x)yS(x) = 0$$

according to (12). Left multiplication of (15) by  $T(x)$  gives

$$(16) \quad T(x)S(x)y[S(x), T(x)] + T(x)S(x)^2yT(x) - T(x)S(x)T(x)yS(x) = 0.$$

The substitution  $T(x)y$  for  $y$  in (15) gives

$$(17) \quad S(x)T(x)y[S(x), T(x)] + S(x)^2T(x)yT(x) - S(x)T(x)^2yS(x) = 0.$$

From (16) and (17) one obtains

$$0 = [S(x), T(x)]y[S(x), T(x)] + [S(x)^2, T(x)]yT(x) + [T(x), S(x)]T(x)yS(x) = \\ [S(x), T(x)]y[S(x), T(x)] + ([S(x), T(x)]S(x) + S(x)[S(x), T(x)])yT(x) + \\ [T(x), S(x)]T(x)yS(x)$$

which reduces to

$$(18) \quad [S(x), T(x)]y[S(x), T(x)] + [T(x), S(x)]T(x)yS(x) = 0.$$

The substitution  $yS(x)z$  for  $y$  in (18) gives

$$(19) \quad [S(x), T(x)]yS(x)z[S(x), T(x)] + [T(x), S(x)]T(x)yS(x)zS(x) = 0.$$

On the other hand, right multiplication of (18) by  $zS(x)$  leads to

$$(20) \quad [S(x), T(x)]y[S(x), T(x)]zS(x) + [T(x), S(x)]T(x)yS(x)zS(x) = 0.$$

From (19) and (20) we obtain

$$(21) \quad [S(x), T(x)]yA(x, z) = 0,$$

where  $A(x, z)$  stands for  $[S(x), T(x)]zS(x) - S(x)z[S(x), T(x)]$ . The substitution  $zS(x)y$  for  $y$  in (21) gives

$$(22) \quad [S(x), T(x)]zS(x)yA(x, z) = 0.$$

Left multiplication of (21) by  $S(x)z$  leads to

$$(23) \quad S(x)z[S(x), T(x)]yA(x, z) = 0.$$

Combining (22) with (23) we arrive at

$$A(x, z)yA(x, z) = 0$$

for all  $x, y, z \in R$  whence it follows  $A(x, z) = 0$ . In other words

$$(24) \quad [S(x), T(x)]zS(x) = S(x)z[S(x), T(x)].$$

The substitution  $z = T(x)y$  in (24) gives

$$(25) \quad [S(x), T(x)]T(x)yS(x) = S(x)T(x)y[S(x), T(x)].$$

The relation (25) makes it possible to replace in (18)  $[S(x), T(x)]T(x)yS(x)$  by  $S(x)T(x)y[S(x), T(x)]$ . Thus we have  $[S(x), T(x)]y[S(x), T(x)] - S(x)T(x)y[S(x), T(x)] = 0$ , which reduces to

$$(26) \quad T(x)S(x)y[S(x), T(x)] = 0.$$

Putting in (26)  $T(x)y$  for  $y$  we obtain

$$(27) \quad T(x)S(x)T(x)y[S(x), T(x)] = 0.$$

Multiplying (26) from the left side by  $T(x)$  we obtain

$$(28) \quad T(x)^2S(x)y[S(x), T(x)] = 0.$$

Subtracting (28) from (27) we obtain  $T(x)[S(x), T(x)]y[S(x), T(x)] = 0$  which gives putting  $yT(x)$  for  $y$

$$T(x)[S(x), T(x)]yT(x)[S(x), T(x)] = 0$$

for all pairs  $x, y \in R$  whence it follows

$$(29) \quad T(x)[S(x), T(x)] = 0.$$

The substitution  $yT(x)$  for  $y$  in (25) gives because of (29)

$$(30) \quad [S(x), T(x)]yT(x)S(x) = 0.$$

From (13) we obtain the relation

$$[S(x), T(x)]S(y) + [S(x), T(y)]S(x) + [S(y), T(x)]S(x) = 0$$

(see the proof of (6)). Putting in the above relation  $xy$  for  $y$  we obtain  $0 = [S(x), T(x)]S(xy) + [S(x), T(xy)]S(x) + [S(xy), T(x)]S(x) = [S(x), T(x)]yS(x) + T(x)[S(x), y]S(x) + [S(x), T(x)]yS(x) + S(x)[y, T(x)]S(x)$ . Thus we have

$2[S(x), T(x)]yS(x) + T(x)[S(x), y]S(x) + S(x)[y, T(x)]S(x) = 0$  which can be written after some calculation in the form

$$(31) \quad [S(x), T(x)]yS(x) + S(x)yT(x)S(x) - T(x)yS(x)^2 = 0.$$

The relation (24) makes it possible to replace in (31)  $[S(x), T(x)]yS(x)$  by  $S(x)y[S(x), T(x)]$ . Thus we have  $0 = S(x)y[S(x), T(x)] + S(x)yT(x)S(x) - T(x)yS(x)^2 = S(x)yS(x)T(x) - T(x)yS(x)^2$ . We have therefore

$$(32) \quad S(x)yS(x)T(x) = T(x)yS(x)^2.$$

Putting in the above relation  $T(x)y$  for  $y$  we obtain

$$(33) \quad S(x)T(x)yS(x)T(x) = T(x)^2yS(x)^2.$$

Left multiplication of (32) by  $T(x)$  leads to

$$(34) \quad T(x)S(x)yS(x)T(x) = T(x)^2yS(x)^2.$$

Combining (33) with (34) we arrive at

$$[S(x), T(x)]yS(x)T(x) = 0$$

which gives together with (30)

$$[S(x), T(x)]y[S(x), T(x)] = 0$$

for all pairs  $x, y \in R$  whence it follows

$$(35) \quad [S(x), T(x)] = 0.$$

In case  $R$  is a prime ring the relation (35) and Lemma 3 complete the proof of the theorem.  $\square$

**Corollary 5.** *Let  $R$  be a 2-torsion free semiprime ring and  $T : R \rightarrow R$  a left centralizer. Suppose that  $[T(x), x]x + x[T(x), x] = 0$  holds for all  $x \in R$ . In this case  $T$  is a centralizer.*

PROOF: Since the assumptions of Theorem 4 are fulfilled we have

$$[T(x), x] = 0$$

for all  $x \in R$ . According to the above relation we have  $T(x^2) = T(x)x = xT(x)$ . Thus we have  $T(x^2) = xT(x)$  for all  $x \in R$ . In other words,  $T$  is a Jordan right centralizer. By Proposition 1.4 in [11]  $T$  is a right centralizer which completes the proof.  $\square$

Similarly, putting in Theorem 4  $T(x) = x$  and applying again Proposition 1.4 from [11], we obtain the following result.

**Corollary 6.** *Let  $R$  be a 2-torsion free semiprime ring and  $T : R \rightarrow R$  a left centralizer. Suppose that  $[T(x), x]T(x) + T(x)[T(x), x] = 0$  holds for all  $x \in R$ . In this case  $T$  is a centralizer.*

The above corollaries characterize centralizers among all left centralizers on 2-torsion free semiprime rings. Both of these results as well as Corollaries 8 and 9 at the end of the paper are contributions to the theory of so-called commuting and centralizing mappings. A mapping  $F : R \rightarrow R$  is centralizing on a ring  $R$  if  $[F(x), x] \in Z(R)$  for all  $x \in R$ . In a special case when  $[F(x), x] = 0$  for all  $x \in R$ , a mapping  $F$  is called commuting on  $R$ . The study of centralizing and commuting mappings was initiated by the classical result of Posner [10], which states that the existence of a nonzero centralizing derivation on a prime ring forces the ring to be commutative. A lot of work has been done during the last twenty years in the field. The work of Brešar [3], [4], [5], where further references can be found, should be mentioned.

We are ready for our next result.

**Theorem 7.** *Let  $R$  be a 2-torsion free noncommutative semiprime ring and let  $S : R \rightarrow R$ ,  $T : R \rightarrow R$  be left centralizers. Suppose that  $[[S(x), T(x)], S(x)] = 0$  is fulfilled for all  $x \in R$ . In this case we have  $[S(x), T(x)] = 0$  for all  $x \in R$ . In case  $R$  is a prime ring and  $S \neq 0$  ( $T \neq 0$ ) then there exists  $\lambda \in C$  such that  $T = \lambda S$  ( $S = \lambda T$ ).*

PROOF: The relation

$$(36) \quad [[S(x), T(x)], S(x)] = 0,$$

gives (see the proof of Theorem 4)

$$(37) \quad [[S(x), T(x)], S(y)] + [[S(x), T(y)], S(x)] + [[S(y), T(x)], S(x)] = 0.$$

Putting in (37)  $xy$  for  $y$  we obtain

$$\begin{aligned} 0 &= [[S(x), T(x)], S(x)y] + [[S(x), T(x)y], S(x)] + [[S(x)y, T(x)], S(x)] = \\ &\quad [[S(x), T(x)], S(x)]y + S(x)[[S(x), T(x)], y] + \\ &[[S(x), T(x)]y + T(x)[S(x), y], S(x)] + [[S(x), T(x)]y + S(x)[y, T(x)], S(x)] = \\ &\quad S(x)[[S(x), T(x)], y] + [[S(x), T(x)], S(x)]y + [S(x), T(x)][y, S(x)] + \\ &\quad [T(x), S(x)][S(x), y] + T(x)[[S(x), y], S(x)] + [[S(x), T(x)], S(x)]y + \\ &\quad [S(x), T(x)][y, S(x)] + S(x)[[y, T(x)], S(x)]. \end{aligned}$$

We have therefore

$$(38) \quad S(x)[[S(x), T(x)], y] + 3[S(x), T(x)][y, S(x)] + T(x)[[S(x), y], S(x)] + S(x)[[y, T(x)], S(x)] = 0.$$

Putting in the above relation  $yS(x)$  for  $y$  we obtain

$$\begin{aligned}
0 &= S(x)[[S(x), T(x)], yS(x)] + 3[S(x), T(x)][yS(x), S(x)] + \\
&T(x)[[S(x), yS(x)], S(x)] + S(x)[[yS(x), T(x)], S(x)] = \\
&S(x)[[S(x), T(x)], y]S(x) + S(x)y[[S(x), T(x)], S(x)] + \\
&3[S(x), T(x)][y, S(x)]S(x) + T(x)[[S(x), y]S(x), S(x)] + \\
S(x)[[y, T(x)]S(x) + y[S(x), T(x)], S(x)] &= S(x)[[S(x), T(x)], y]S(x) + \\
&3[S(x), T(x)][y, S(x)]S(x) + T(x)[[S(x), y], S(x)]S(x) + \\
S(x)[[y, T(x)], S(x)]S(x) + S(x)[y, S(x)][S(x), T(x)] &+ S(x)y[[S(x), T(x)], S(x)].
\end{aligned}$$

Thus we have according to (36) and (38)  $S(x)[y, S(x)][S(x), T(x)] = 0$  which can be written in the form

$$(39) \quad S(x)yS(x)[S(x), T(x)] = S(x)^2y[S(x), T(x)].$$

Putting in the above calculation  $T(x)y$  for  $y$  we obtain

$$(40) \quad S(x)T(x)yS(x)[S(x), T(x)] = S(x)^2T(x)y[S(x), T(x)].$$

On the other hand, left multiplication of (39) by  $T(x)$  gives

$$(41) \quad T(x)S(x)yS(x)[S(x), T(x)] = T(x)S(x)^2y[S(x), T(x)].$$

Subtracting (41) from (40) we obtain

$$\begin{aligned}
0 &= [S(x), T(x)]yS(x)[S(x), T(x)] - [S(x)^2, T(x)]y[S(x), T(x)] = \\
&[S(x), T(x)]yS(x)[S(x), T(x)] - \\
&([S(x), T(x)]S(x) + S(x)[S(x), T(x)])y[S(x), T(x)].
\end{aligned}$$

According to the requirement of the theorem one can replace in the above calculation  $[S(x), T(x)]S(x)$  by  $S(x)[S(x), T(x)]$  which gives

$$[S(x), T(x)]yS(x)[S(x), T(x)] = 2S(x)[S(x), T(x)]y[S(x), T(x)].$$

Left multiplication of the above relation by  $S(x)$  gives

$$(42) \quad S(x)[S(x), T(x)]yS(x)[S(x), T(x)] = 2S(x)^2[S(x), T(x)]y[S(x), T(x)].$$

On the other hand, putting  $[S(x), T(x)]y$  for  $y$  in (39) we arrive at

$$(43) \quad S(x)[S(x), T(x)]yS(x)[S(x), T(x)] = S(x)^2[S(x), T(x)]y[S(x), T(x)].$$

Combining (42) with (43) we obtain  $S(x)[S(x), T(x)]yS(x)[S(x), T(x)] = 0$  for all pairs  $x, y \in R$ , whence it follows

$$(44) \quad S(x)[S(x), T(x)] = 0,$$

by semiprimeness of  $R$ . From (44) and the assumption of the theorem we have also

$$[S(x), T(x)]S(x) = 0.$$

The rest of the proof goes through in the same way as in the proof of Theorem 4.  $\square$

Theorem 7 gives together with Proposition 1.4 from [11] the following characterizations of centralizers among all left centralizers on 2-torsion free semiprime rings.

**Corollary 8.** *Let  $R$  be a 2-torsion free semiprime ring and  $T : R \rightarrow R$  a left centralizer. Suppose that  $[[T(x), x], x] = 0$  holds for all  $x \in R$ . In this case  $T$  is a centralizer.*

**Corollary 9.** *Let  $R$  be a 2-torsion free semiprime ring and  $T : R \rightarrow R$  a left centralizer. Suppose that  $[[T(x), x], T(x)] = 0$  holds for all  $x \in R$ . In this case  $T$  is a centralizer.*

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