

## **$n$ -MULTIPLICATIVE GENERALIZED DERIVATIONS WHICH ARE ADDITIVE**

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### **Abstract**

In this paper, we present a unified technique to discuss the additivity of  $n$ -multiplicative generalized derivations.

## **1 Introduction**

Let  $R$  be an associative ring and  $n$  be a positive integer  $\geq 2$ . A mapping  $d : R \rightarrow R$  is called a  $n$ -multiplicative derivation of  $R$  if

$$d(a_1 \cdots a_n) = \sum_{i=1}^n a_1 \cdots d(a_i) \cdots a_n,$$

for arbitrary elements  $a_1, \dots, a_n \in R$  [4]. If  $d(a_1 a_2) = d(a_1) a_2 + a_1 d(a_2)$  for arbitrary elements  $a_1, a_2 \in R$ , we just say that  $d$  is a *multiplicative derivation* of  $R$  [1].

A mapping  $h : R \rightarrow R$  is called *additive* if  $h(a_1 + a_2) = h(a_1) + h(a_2)$ , for arbitrary elements  $a_1, a_2 \in R$ .

The following definition is based on [2, pp. 32] and [4, pp. 2351].

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A mapping  $g : R \rightarrow R$  is called *n*-multiplicative generalized derivation if there is an additive *n*-multiplicative derivation of  $R$   $d$  such that

$$g(a_1 a_2 \cdots a_n) = g(a_1) a_2 \cdots a_n + \sum_{i=2}^n a_1 a_2 \cdots d(a_i) \cdots a_n,$$

for arbitrary elements  $a_1, a_2, \dots, a_n \in R$ . If  $g(a_1 a_2) = g(a_1) a_2 + a_1 d(a_2)$  for arbitrary elements  $a_1, a_2 \in R$ , we just say that  $g$  is a *multiplicative generalized derivation* of  $R$ .

The authors in [2] characterized the additivity of multiplicative generalized derivations on the class of associative rings  $R$  containing a non-trivial idempotent satisfying certain conditions, based on Martindale's conditions [3, pp. 695]. Their main result as follows:

**Theorem 1.1.** [2, Theorem 2.1.] *Let  $R$  be an associative ring containing an idempotent  $e$  which satisfies the following conditions,*

- (i)  $xRe = 0$  implies  $x = 0$  (and hence  $xR = 0$  implies  $x = 0$ ).
- (ii)  $exeR(1 - e) = 0$  implies  $exe = 0$ .
- (iii)  $(1 - e)xeR(1 - e) = 0$  implies  $(1 - e)xe = 0$ .

*If  $g$  is any multiplicative generalized derivation of  $R$ , i.e.  $g(xy) = g(x)y + xd(y)$ , for arbitrary elements  $x, y \in R$  and some derivation  $d$  of  $R$ , then  $g$  is additive.*

In this paper we present a unified technique, based on the ideas of Wang [4], to discuss the additivity of *n*-multiplicative generalized derivations. As an application of the obtained results, we generalize the Theorem 1.1 for the class of *n*-multiplicative generalized derivations of an arbitrary associative ring containing a non-trivial idempotent satisfying the Daif and El-Sayiad's conditions (i)-(iii).

## 2 The main result

Our main result is as follows:

**Theorem 2.1.** *Let  $R$  be an associative ring containing a non-trivial idempotent  $e$  which satisfies the following conditions:*

- (i)  $xRe = 0$  implies  $x = 0$  (and hence  $xR = 0$  implies  $x = 0$ );
- (ii)  $exeR(1 - e) = 0$  implies  $exe = 0$ ;
- (iii)  $(1 - e)xeR(1 - e) = 0$  implies  $(1 - e)xe = 0$ .

*Suppose that  $f : R \times R \rightarrow R$  is a mapping and  $k$  a positive integer satisfying:*

$$(iv) f(x, 0) = f(0, y) = 0;$$

$$(v) f(\text{Re}, \text{Re}) \subseteq \text{Re};$$

$$(vi) f(u_1 \cdots u_k x, u_1 u_2 \cdots u_k y) = 0;$$

$$(vii) f(x, y)u_1 u_2 \cdots u_k = f(xu_1 u_2 \cdots u_k, yu_1 u_2 \cdots u_k);$$

for arbitrary elements  $x, y, u_1, u_2, \dots, u_k \in \mathbf{R}$ .

Then  $f(x, y) = 0$ , for arbitrary elements  $x, y \in \mathbf{R}$ .

Following the techniques presented by Daif and El-Sayiad [2] and Wang [4], we organize the proof of Theorem 2.1 in a series of Lemmas which have the same hypotheses. We begin with the following.

**Lemma 2.2.**  $f(x, y)u = f(xu, yu)$  for all elements  $x, y, u \in \mathbf{R}$ .

*Proof.* For arbitrary elements  $x, y, u, u_1, u_2, \dots, u_k \in \mathbf{R}$  we have

$$\begin{aligned} f(x, y)uu_1 \cdots u_k &= f(x, y)(uu_1) \cdots u_k = f(x(uu_1) \cdots u_k, y(uu_1) \cdots u_k) \\ &= f((xu)u_1 \cdots u_k, (yu)u_1 \cdots u_k) = f(xu, yu)u_1 \cdots u_k. \end{aligned}$$

It follows that  $(f(x, y)u - f(xu, yu))u_1 \cdots u_k = 0$ . In view of condition (i) of the Theorem 2.1, we conclude that  $f(x, y)u = f(xu, yu)$ .  $\square$

**Lemma 2.3.**  $f(x_{11} + x_{12}, y_{11} + y_{12}) = 0$ , for arbitrary elements  $x_{11}, y_{11} \in \mathbf{R}_{11}$  and  $x_{12}, y_{12} \in \mathbf{R}_{12}$ .

*Proof.* The result is a direct consequence of condition (vi) of the Theorem 2.1.  $\square$

**Lemma 2.4.**  $f(x_{22}, y_{21}) = 0$ , for arbitrary elements  $x_{22} \in \mathbf{R}_{22}$  and  $y_{21} \in \mathbf{R}_{21}$ .

*Proof.* For an arbitrary element  $u_{1j}$  of  $\mathbf{R}_{1j}$  ( $j = 1, 2$ ) we have

$$f(x_{22}, y_{21})u_{1j} = f(x_{22}u_{1j}, y_{21}u_{1j}) = f(0, y_{21}u_{1j}) = 0$$

which implies that  $f(x_{22}, y_{21})\mathbf{R}_{1j} = 0$ . Also, for an arbitrary element  $u_{2j}$  of  $\mathbf{R}_{2j}$  ( $j = 1, 2$ ) we have

$$f(x_{22}, y_{21})u_{2j} = f(x_{22}u_{2j}, y_{21}u_{2j}) = f(x_{22}u_{2j}, 0) = 0$$

which results that  $f(x_{22}, y_{21})\mathbf{R}_{2j} = 0$ . It follows that  $f(x_{22}, y_{21})\mathbf{R} = 0$  which implies that  $f(x_{22}, y_{21}) = 0$ , by condition (i) of the Theorem 2.1.  $\square$

**Lemma 2.5.**  $f(x_{21}, y_{21}) = 0$ , for arbitrary elements  $x_{21}, y_{21} \in \mathbf{R}_{21}$ .

*Proof.* For arbitrary elements  $z_{12}$  of  $R_{12}$  and  $u_{1j}$  of  $R_{1j}$  ( $j = 1, 2$ ) we have

$$f(x_{21}, x_{21})z_{12}u_{1j} = 0$$

which implies that  $f(x_{21}, y_{21})z_{12}R_{1j} = 0$ . Also, for an arbitrary element  $u_{2j}$  of  $R_{2j}$  ( $j = 1, 2$ ) we have

$$\begin{aligned} f(x_{21}, y_{21})z_{12}u_{2j} &= f(x_{21}z_{12}u_{2j}, y_{21}z_{12}u_{2j}) \\ &= f(x_{21}z_{12}(u_{2j} + z_{12}u_{2j}), y_{21}(u_{2j} + z_{12}u_{2j})) \\ &= f(x_{21}z_{12}, y_{21})(u_{2j} + z_{12}u_{2j}) = 0, \end{aligned}$$

by Lemma 2.4, which results that  $f(x_{21}, y_{21})z_{12}R_{2j} = 0$ . It follows that  $f(x_{21}, y_{21})z_{12}R = 0$  which implies that  $f(x_{21}, y_{21})R_{12} = 0$ . From conditions (ii), (iii) and (v) of the Theorem 2.1, we conclude that  $f(x_{21}, y_{21}) = 0$ .  $\square$

**Lemma 2.6.**  $f(x_{12} + x_{21}, y_{12} + y_{21}) = 0$ , for arbitrary elements  $x_{12}, y_{12} \in R_{12}$  and  $x_{21}, y_{21} \in R_{21}$ .

*Proof.* For an arbitrary element  $u_{1j}$  of  $R_{1j}$  ( $j = 1, 2$ ) we have

$$\begin{aligned} f(x_{12} + x_{21}, y_{12} + y_{21})u_{1j} &= f((x_{12} + x_{21})u_{1j}, (y_{12} + y_{21})u_{1j}) \\ &= f(x_{21}u_{1j}, y_{21}u_{1j}) = f(x_{21}, y_{21})u_{1j} = 0, \end{aligned}$$

by Lemma 2.5, which implies that  $f(x_{12} + x_{21}, y_{12} + y_{21})R_{1j} = 0$ . Also, for an arbitrary element  $u_{2j}$  of  $R_{2j}$  ( $j = 1, 2$ ) we have

$$\begin{aligned} f(x_{12} + x_{21}, y_{12} + y_{21})u_{2j} &= f((x_{12} + x_{21})u_{2j}, (y_{12} + y_{21})u_{2j}) \\ &= f(x_{12}u_{2j}, y_{12}u_{2j}) = f(x_{12}, y_{12})u_{2j} = 0, \end{aligned}$$

by Lemma 2.3, which results that  $f(x_{12} + x_{21}, y_{12} + y_{21})R_{2j} = 0$ . It follows that  $f(x_{12} + x_{21}, y_{12} + y_{21})R = 0$  which allows us to conclude that  $f(x_{12} + x_{21}, y_{12} + y_{21}) = 0$ .  $\square$

**Lemma 2.7.**  $f(x_{11} + x_{21}, y_{11} + y_{21}) = 0$ , for arbitrary elements  $x_{11}, y_{11} \in R_{11}$  and  $x_{21}, y_{21} \in R_{21}$ .

*Proof.* For arbitrary elements  $z_{12}$  of  $R_{12}$  and  $u_{1j}$  of  $R_{1j}$  ( $j = 1, 2$ ) we have

$$f(x_{11} + x_{21}, y_{11} + y_{21})z_{12}u_{1j} = 0$$

which implies that  $f(x_{11} + x_{21}, y_{11} + y_{21})z_{12}R_{1j} = 0$ . Also, for an arbitrary element  $u_{2j}$  of  $R_{2j}$  ( $j = 1, 2$ ) we have

$$\begin{aligned} f(x_{11} + x_{21}, y_{11} + y_{21})z_{12}u_{2j} &= f((x_{11} + x_{21})z_{12}u_{2j}, (y_{11} + y_{21})z_{12}u_{2j}) \\ &= f((x_{11}z_{12} + x_{21})(u_{2j} + z_{12}u_{2j}), (y_{11}z_{12} + y_{21})(u_{2j} + z_{12}u_{2j})) \end{aligned}$$

$$= f(x_{11}z_{12} + x_{21}, y_{11}z_{12} + y_{21})(u_{2j} + z_{12}u_{2j}) = 0,$$

by Lemma 2.6, which results that  $f(x_{11}+x_{21}, y_{11}+y_{21})z_{12}R_{2j} = 0$ . This implies that  $f(x_{11}+x_{21}, y_{11}+y_{21})z_{12}R = 0$  which yields that  $f(x_{11}+x_{21}, y_{11}+y_{21})R_{12} = 0$ . From conditions (ii), (iii) and (v) of the Theorem 2.1, we conclude that  $f(x_{11} + x_{21}, y_{11} + y_{21}) = 0$ .  $\square$

*Proof of Theorem 2.1.* Let  $x, y$  and  $r$  be arbitrary elements of  $R$ . Then

$$f(x, y)re = f(xre, yre) = 0,$$

by Lemma 2.7. This results that  $f(x, y)Re = 0$  which allows us to conclude that  $f(x, y) = 0$ , by condition (i) of the Theorem 2.1.  $\square$

### 3 Some applications of the main result

In this section, we give some applications of our main result. We started by discussing the additivity of  $n$ -multiplicative generalized derivations.

**Theorem 3.1.** *Let  $R$  be a  $(n - 1)$ -torsion free associative ring containing a non-trivial idempotent  $e$  which satisfies the following conditions:*

- (i)  $xRe = 0$  implies  $x = 0$  (and hence  $xR = 0$  implies  $x = 0$ );
- (ii)  $exeR(1 - e) = 0$  implies  $exe = 0$ ;
- (iii)  $(1 - e)xeR(1 - e) = 0$  implies  $(1 - e)xe = 0$ .

*Then every  $n$ -multiplicative generalized derivation of  $R$  is additive.*

The proof will be also organized in a series of lemmas. We begin with the following.

Let  $g : R \rightarrow R$  be a  $n$ -multiplicative generalized derivation of  $R$ . Then there is an additive  $n$ -multiplicative derivation of  $R$   $d$  such that

$$g(a_1a_2 \cdots a_n) = g(a_1)a_2 \cdots a_n + \sum_{i=2}^n a_1a_2 \cdots d(a_i) \cdots a_n,$$

for arbitrary elements  $a_1, a_2, \dots, a_n \in R$ . First, we note that

$$d(e) = d(\underbrace{e \cdots e}_{n \text{ terms}}) = \sum_{i=1}^n \underbrace{e \cdots d(e) \cdots e}_{i \text{ terms } \cdots \text{ terms}} = d(e)e + (n - 2)ed(e)e + ed(e)$$

which implies that  $ed(e)e = 0$ , since  $R$  is  $(n - 1)$ -torsion free. Hence, if  $d(e) = a_{11} + a_{12} + a_{21} + a_{22}$ , where  $a_{ij}$  is an element of  $R_{ij}$  ( $i, j = 1, 2$ ), then  $d(e) = a_{12} + a_{21}$ . Also,

$$g(e) = g(\underbrace{e \cdots e}_{n \text{ terms}}) = \underbrace{g(e) \cdots e}_{n \text{ terms}} + \sum_{i=2}^n \underbrace{e \cdots d(e) \cdots e}_{i \text{ terms}, n \text{ terms}} = g(e)e + ed(e).$$

Hence, if  $g(e) = b_{11} + b_{12} + b_{21} + b_{22}$ , where  $b_{ij}$  is an element of  $R_{ij}$  ( $i, j = 1, 2$ ), then  $b_{11} + b_{12} + b_{21} + b_{22} = b_{11} + b_{21} + a_{12}$  which implies that  $a_{12} = b_{12}$  and  $b_{22} = 0$ . This results that  $g(e) = b_{11} + a_{12} + b_{21}$ .

Let  $h$  be the inner derivation of  $R$  determined by the element  $a_{12} - a_{21}$ . Then  $h(x) = [x, a_{12} - a_{21}]$  for an arbitrary element  $x$  of  $R$ . In particular, we have  $h(e) = [e, a_{12} - a_{21}] = a_{12} + a_{21}$ . Let  $H$  be the generalized inner derivation determined by the elements  $b_{11} + b_{21}$  and  $a_{12} - a_{21}$ . Then  $H(x) = (b_{11} + b_{21})x + x(a_{12} - a_{21})$  for an arbitrary element  $x$  of  $R$ . Similarly, we have  $H(e) = b_{11} + a_{12} + b_{21}$ .

Set the mappings  $D, G : R \rightarrow R$  by  $D = d - h$  and  $G = g - H$ . Then  $D$  is an additive  $n$ -multiplicative derivation of  $R$  and  $G$  is a  $n$ -multiplicative generalized derivation of  $R$  satisfying

$$G(a_1 a_2 \cdots a_n) = G(a_1) a_2 \cdots a_n + \sum_{i=2}^n a_1 a_2 \cdots D(a_i) \cdots a_n,$$

for arbitrary elements  $a_1, a_2, \dots, a_n \in R$  and such that  $D(e) = 0 = G(e)$ . Moreover, the mapping  $g$  is additive if and only if  $G$  is additive.

From what we saw above, to prove the Theorem 3.1 we can, without loss of generality, replace the  $n$ -multiplicative derivation  $d$  by the  $n$ -multiplicative derivation  $D$  and the  $n$ -multiplicative generalized derivation  $g$  by the  $n$ -multiplicative generalized derivation  $G$ . Therefore, in the remaining part of this paper we will prove the additivity of the mapping  $G$ .

**Lemma 3.2.**  $D(0) = 0$  and  $G(0) = 0$ .

*Proof.* We easily see that  $D(0) = 0$ . This results that

$$G(0) = G(\underbrace{0 \cdots 0}_{n \text{ terms}}) = \underbrace{G(0) \cdots 0}_{n \text{ terms}} + \sum_{i=2}^n \underbrace{0 \cdots D(0) \cdots 0}_{n \text{ terms}} = 0.$$

□

**Lemma 3.3.**  $D(R_{ij}) \subseteq R_{ij}$  ( $i, j = 1, 2$ ).

*Proof.* For an arbitrary element  $x_{11}$  of  $R_{11}$  we have  $D(x_{11}) = D(\underbrace{ex_{11}e \cdots e}_{n \text{ terms}}) = eD(x_{11})e$  which is an element of  $R_{11}$ . Also, for an arbitrary element  $x_{12}$  of

$R_{12}$ , then  $D(x_{12}) = D(\underbrace{e \cdots ex_{12}}_{n \text{ terms}}) = eD(x_{12})$  and  $0 = D(0) = D(\underbrace{x_{12}e \cdots e}_{n \text{ terms}}) = D(x_{12})e$ . It follows that  $D(x_{12})$  belongs to  $R_{12}$ . Similarly, we prove that for an arbitrary element  $x_{21}$  of  $R_{21}$ ,  $D(x_{21})$  belongs to  $R_{21}$ . Finally, for an arbitrary element  $x_{22}$  of  $R_{22}$ , then  $0 = D(0) = D(\underbrace{e \cdots ex_{22}}_{n \text{ terms}}) = eD(x_{22})$  and  $0 = D(0) = D(\underbrace{x_{22}e \cdots e}_{n \text{ terms}}) = D(x_{22})e$ . Therefore  $D(x_{22})$  is an element of  $R_{22}$ . This proves the Lemma.  $\square$

**Lemma 3.4.** *The following hold: (i)  $G(R_{1j}) \subseteq R_{1j}$  ( $j = 1, 2$ ), (ii)  $G(R_{11} + R_{21}) \subseteq R_{11} + R_{21}$  and (iii)  $G(R_{22}) \subseteq R_{12} + R_{22}$ . Moreover  $G(x_{11} + x_{12}) = G(x_{11}) + G(x_{12})$ , for arbitrary elements  $x_{11}$  of  $R_{11}$  and  $x_{12}$  of  $R_{12}$ .*

*Proof.* Let  $x_{1j}$  be an arbitrary element of  $R_{1j}$  ( $j = 1, 2$ ). Then  $G(x_{1j}) = G(\underbrace{e \cdots ex_{1j}}_{n \text{ terms}}) = G(\underbrace{e \cdots x_{1j}}_{n \text{ terms}}) + \sum_{i=2}^n \underbrace{e \cdots D(e) \cdots x_{1j}}_{n \text{ terms}} = eD(x_{1j}) = D(x_{1j})$  which is an element of  $R_{1j}$ , by Lemma 3.3. Thus, for an arbitrary element  $x_{11} + x_{12}$  of  $eR$  we have  $G(x_{11} + x_{12}) = G(\underbrace{e \cdots e(x_{11} + x_{12})}_{n \text{ terms}}) = \underbrace{G(e \cdots (x_{11} + x_{12}))}_{n \text{ terms}} + \sum_{i=2}^n \underbrace{e \cdots D(e) \cdots (x_{11} + x_{12})}_{n \text{ terms}} = eD(x_{11} + x_{12}) = D(x_{11}) + D(x_{12}) = G(x_{11}) + G(x_{12})$ , by the preceding case. This allows us to conclude that  $G(R_{1j}) \subseteq R_{1j}$  ( $j = 1, 2$ ) and that  $G(x_{11} + x_{12}) = G(x_{11}) + G(x_{12})$ . Also, for arbitrary elements  $x_{11}$  of  $R_{11}$  and  $x_{21}$  of  $R_{21}$ , we have  $G(x_{11} + x_{21}) = G(\underbrace{(x_{11} + x_{21})e \cdots e}_{n \text{ terms}}) = \underbrace{G(x_{11} + x_{21})e \cdots e}_{n \text{ terms}} + \sum_{i=2}^n \underbrace{(x_{11} + x_{21}) \cdots D(e) \cdots e}_{n \text{ terms}} = G(x_{11} + x_{21})e$ . This results that  $G(R_{11} + R_{21}) \subseteq R_{11} + R_{21}$ . Yet, for an arbitrary element  $x_{22}$  of  $R_{22}$  write  $G(x_{22}) = d_{11} + d_{12} + d_{21} + d_{22}$ . Then  $0 = G(0) = \underbrace{G(x_{22}e \cdots e)}_{n \text{ terms}} = \underbrace{G(x_{22})e \cdots e}_{n \text{ terms}} + \sum_{i=2}^n \underbrace{x_{22} \cdots D(e) \cdots e}_{n \text{ terms}} = G(x_{22})e = d_{11} + d_{21}$ . This shows that  $G(x_{22}) = d_{12} + d_{22}$ .

This proves the Lemma.  $\square$

*Proof of Theorem 3.1.* From the hypotheses, let  $g$  a  $n$ -multiplicative generalized derivation of  $R$  and  $d$  an additive  $n$ -multiplicative derivation of  $R$  such that

$$g(a_1 \cdots a_n) = g(a_1) \cdots a_n + \sum_{i=2}^n a_1 \cdots d(a_i) \cdots a_n,$$

for arbitrary elements  $a_1, \dots, a_n \in R$ . Set  $f : R \times R \rightarrow R$  by  $f(x, y) = G(x + y) - G(x) - G(y)$ , for arbitrary elements  $x, y \in R$ . Then  $f(x, 0) = f(0, y) = 0$ , for arbitrary elements  $x, y \in R$ . Also, for arbitrary elements  $x_{11}, y_{11}$  of  $R_{11}$  and  $x_{21}, y_{21}$  of  $R_{21}$  we have  $f(x_{11} + x_{21}, y_{11} + y_{21}) = G((x_{11} + x_{21}) + (y_{11} + y_{21})) - G(x_{11} + x_{21}) - G(y_{11} + y_{21}) = G((x_{11} + y_{11}) + (x_{21} + y_{21})) - G(x_{11} + x_{21}) - G(y_{11} + y_{21})$  which is an element of  $R_{11} + R_{21}$ , by Lemma 3.4(ii). This shows that  $f(Re, Re) \subseteq Re$ . Yet, for arbitrary elements  $x, y, u_1, \dots, u_{n-1} \in R$  we have

$$\begin{aligned} f(u_1 \cdots u_{n-1}x, u_1 \cdots u_{n-1}y) &= G(u_1 \cdots u_{n-1}x + u_1 \cdots u_{n-1}y) \\ &\quad - G(u_1 \cdots u_{n-1}x) - G(u_1 \cdots u_{n-1}y) = G(u_1 \cdots u_{n-1}(x + y)) \\ &\quad - G(u_1 \cdots u_{n-1}x) - G(u_1 \cdots u_{n-1}y) = G(u_1) \cdots u_{n-1}(x + y) \\ &\quad + \sum_{i=2}^n u_1 \cdots D(u_i) \cdots u_{n-1}(x + y) - G(u_1) \cdots u_{n-1}x \\ &\quad - \sum_{i=2}^n u_1 \cdots D(u_i) \cdots u_{n-1}x - G(u_1) \cdots u_{n-1}y - \sum_{i=2}^n u_1 \cdots D(u_i) \cdots u_{n-1}y = 0 \end{aligned}$$

and

$$\begin{aligned} f(x, y)u_1 \cdots u_{n-1} &= (G(x + y) - G(x) - G(y))u_1 \cdots u_{n-1} \\ &= G(x + y)u_1 \cdots u_{n-1} - G(x)u_1 \cdots u_{n-1} - G(y)u_1 \cdots u_{n-1} \\ &= G(x + y)u_1 \cdots u_{n-1} + \sum_{i=2}^n (x + y)u_1 \cdots D(u_i) \cdots u_{n-1} \\ &\quad - G(x)u_1 \cdots u_{n-1} - \sum_{i=2}^n xu_1 \cdots D(u_i) \cdots u_{n-1} \\ &\quad - G(y)u_1 \cdots u_{n-1} - \sum_{i=2}^n yu_1 \cdots D(u_i) \cdots u_{n-1} \\ &= G((x + y)u_1 \cdots u_{n-1}) - G(xu_1 \cdots u_{n-1}) - G(yu_1 \cdots u_{n-1}) \\ &= f(xu_1 \cdots u_{n-1}, yu_1 \cdots u_{n-1}). \end{aligned}$$

□

**Corollary 3.5.** *Let  $R$  be a  $(n-1)$ -torsion free prime associative ring containing a non-trivial idempotent  $e$ . Then every  $n$ -multiplicative generalized derivation of  $R$  is additive.*

The ideas that follow below are similar those presented by Wang [4].

Let  $X$  be a Banach space. Denote by  $\mathcal{B}(X)$  the algebra of all bounded linear operators on  $X$ . A subalgebra of  $\mathcal{B}(X)$  is called a *standard operator algebra*

if it contains all finite rank operators. It is well known that every standard operator algebra is prime. Moreover, if  $\dim X \geq 2$ , then there exists a non-trivial idempotent operator of rank one in  $\mathcal{B}(X)$ . Therefore, it follows from Corollary 3.5 that:

**Corollary 3.6.** *Let  $X$  be a Banach space with  $\dim X \geq 2$ ,  $A$  be a standard operator algebra on  $X$ . Then every  $n$ -multiplicative generalized derivation of  $A$  is additive.*

## References

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