

# AN IDENTITY ON AUTOMORPHISMS OF LIE IDEALS IN PRIME RINGS

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## Abstract

*In the present paper it is shown that a prime ring  $R$  with center  $Z$  satisfies  $s_4$ , the standard identity in four variables if  $R$  admits a non-identity automorphism  $\sigma$  such that  $[u, v] - u^m[u^\sigma, u]^n u^\sigma \in Z$  for all  $u$  in some noncentral ideal  $L$  of  $R$ , whenever  $\text{char}(R) > n + m$  or  $\text{char}(R) = 0$ , where  $n$  and  $m$  are fixed positive integer.*

*Key words:* Prime ring; Automorphisms; Maximal right ring of quotients; Generalized polynomial identity(GPI).

*2010 Mathematics Subject Classification:* 16N60; 16W20; 16R50.

## 1. INTRODUCTION

Throughout this article,  $R$  is a prime ring with center  $Z$ . For given  $x, y \in R$ , the Lie commutator of  $x, y$  is denoted by  $[x, y]$  and defined by  $[x, y] = xy - yx$ . Recall that a ring  $R$  is prime if for any  $a, b \in R$ ,  $aRb = (0)$  implies  $a = 0$  or  $b = 0$ . The standard identity  $s_4$  in four variables is defined as follows:

$$s_4 = \sum (-1)^\tau X_{\tau(1)} X_{\tau(2)} X_{\tau(3)} X_{\tau(4)}$$

where  $(-1)^\tau$  is the sign of a permutation  $\tau$  of the symmetric group of degree 4.

The theory of commuting and centralizing maps on (semi-)prime rings was motivated by the result of Posner [20] and was developed by Brešar [4–6]. Posner's second theorem states that if there exists a nonzero centralizing derivation on a prime ring  $R$ , then  $R$  is commutative. Mayne [18] obtained an analogous result for automorphisms of prime rings. Many people have extended Posner's result in various ways and obtained many powerful results. In [16], Lee and Lee generalized Posner's result by showing that if  $\text{char}(R) \neq 2$  and  $[d(x), x] \in Z$  for all  $x$  in a noncentral Lie ideal of  $R$ , then  $R$  is commutative. In [15], Lanski proved that if  $[d(x), x]_n = 0$  for all  $x$  in a noncommutative Lie ideal of  $R$ , then  $\text{char}(R) = 2$  and  $R \subseteq M_2(\mathbb{F})$  for  $\mathbb{F}$  a field. A similar extension for Lie ideals in automorphism case was obtained by Mayne [19].

In [7], Carini and De Filippis studied the power-centralizing derivations on noncentral Lie ideals of prime rings. They proved that, if  $\text{char}(R) \neq 2$  and  $[d(x), x]^n \in Z$  for all  $x$  in a noncentral Lie ideal of  $R$ , then  $R$  satisfies  $s_4$ , the standard identity in four variables.

Recently, Wang [22], obtained similar result for automorphisms of prime rings. To be more specific, Wang discussed the following: Let  $R$  be a prime ring with center  $Z$ ,  $L$  a noncentral Lie ideal of  $R$  and  $\sigma$  a nontrivial automorphism of  $R$  such that  $[u^\sigma, u]^n \in Z$  for all  $u \in L$ . If either  $\text{Char}(R) > n$  or  $\text{char}(R) = 0$ , then  $R$  satisfies  $s_4$ .

On other hand, the representative work of Herstein should be mention at least. Herstein [12], proved that if there exists a nonzero derivation  $d$  on a prime ring  $R$  such that the map  $x \mapsto d(x)$  is commuting on  $R$ , then  $R$  may be noncommutative. That is, the following relation  $[d(x), x]d(x) + d(x)[d(x), x] = 0$  for all  $x \in R$  does not imply that  $d = 0$ . Motivated by the above result Cheng [10] proved the following, which can be considered as an extension of Posner's second theorem: if  $R$  is a 2-torsion free noncommutative prime ring and  $d$  be a derivation of  $R$  such that  $[d(x), x]d(x) = 0$  for all  $x \in R$ , then  $d = 0$ .

The property  $x^n = x$  has been among the favourites of many ring theorists over the last many decades since Jacobson [14] first studied the commutativity of rings satisfying this condition in order to generalize the classical Wedderburn theorem [23]. This result was further generalized by Sercoid and MacHale [21] who proved that commutativity of an arbitrary ring  $R$  ( not necessarily prime) follows even if the above condition is weakened as  $(xy)^n = xy$  for all  $x, y \in R$  and integer  $n = n(x, y) > 1$ . Further, Bell and Ligh [3] obtained direct sum decomposition of ring satisfying the property  $xy = (xy)^2 f(x, y)$ , where  $f(X, Y) \in \mathbb{Z} \langle X, Y \rangle$ , the ring of polynomial in two non-commuting indeterminates. Later, Ashraf [1] established a decomposition theorem for ring satisfying  $yx = x^m f(xy)x^n$  or  $xy = x^m f(xy)x^n$  where  $m, n$  are non-negative integers and  $f(X) \in X^2 \mathbb{Z}[X]$ , which in turn allows us to determine the commutativity of  $R$ . Now in this perspective and inspired by Wang [22] and Cheng [10] works, one can consider the following related ring property:

*Let  $m \geq 0, n \geq 0$  be fixed integers and  $L$  a Lie ideal of prime ring  $R$  which admits an automorphism  $\sigma$  such that  $[u, v] - u^m [u^\sigma, u]^n u^\sigma \in Z$ .*

In the present paper, it is shown that if  $R$  admits an automorphism  $\sigma$  satisfy the above condition, if  $\text{char}(R) > n + m$  or  $\text{char}(R) = 0$ , then  $R$  satisfies  $s_4$ , the standard identity in four variables.

## 2. PRELIMINARIES

For the sake of completeness we shall touch upon a few preliminary notions required for the exposition of the main theorem. Some of these notions are classical and we present them briefly,  $R$  will be prime ring with center  $Z$  and maximal right ring of quotients  $Q = Q_{mr}(R)$ . Note that  $Q$  is also a prime ring and the center  $C$  of  $Q$ , which is called the extended centroid of  $R$ , is a field. Moreover,  $Z \subseteq C$  (for more explanation we

refer to [2]). It is well known that any automorphism of  $R$  can be uniquely extended to an automorphism of  $Q$ . An automorphism  $\sigma$  of  $R$  is called  $Q$ -inner if there exists an invertible element  $g \in Q$  such that  $x^\sigma = gxg^{-1}$  for all  $x \in R$ . Otherwise,  $\sigma$  is called  $Q$ -outer. We denote by  $G$  the group of all automorphisms of  $R$  and by  $A_i$  the group consisting of all  $Q$ -inner automorphisms of  $R$ . Recall that a subset  $\mathfrak{A}$  of  $G$  is said to be independent (modulo  $A_i$ ) if for any  $a_1, a_2 \in \mathfrak{A}$ ,  $a_1 a_2^{-1} \in A_i$  implies  $a_1 = a_2$ . For instance, if  $a$  is an outer automorphism of  $R$ , then  $1$  and  $a$  are independent (modulo  $A_i$ ). We present some well-known facts that will be used in the sequel.

**Fact 2.1.** *It is well known that any automorphisms of  $R$  can be extended to  $Q$ .*

**Fact 2.2.** *Let  $R$  be a prime ring and  $I$  a two-sided ideal of  $R$ . Then  $I$ ,  $R$ , and  $Q$  satisfy the same generalized polynomial identities with coefficients in  $Q$  ( see [8]).*

**Fact 2.3.** *Suppose that  $R$  is a prime ring and  $\mathfrak{A}$  an independent subset of  $G$  modulo  $A_i$ . Let  $\phi = \chi(x_i^{a_j}) = 0$  be a generalized identity with automorphisms of  $R$  reduced with respect to  $\mathfrak{A}$ . If for all  $x_i \in X$ ,  $a_j \in \mathfrak{A}$ , the  $x_i^{a_j}$ -word degree of  $\phi = \chi(x_i^{a_j})$  is strictly less than  $\text{char}(R)$  when  $\text{char}(R) \neq 0$ , then  $\chi(z_{ij}) = 0$  is also a generalized polynomial identity of  $R$  (see [9, Theorem 3]).*

**Fact 2.4.** Recall that, in case  $\text{char}(R) = 0$ , an automorphism  $\sigma$  of  $Q$  is called *Frobenius* if  $(x)^\sigma = x$  for all  $x \in C$ . Moreover, in case  $\text{char}(R) = p \geq 2$ , an automorphism  $\sigma$  is *Frobenius* if there exists a fixed integer  $t$  such that  $(x)^\sigma = x^{p^t}$  for all  $x \in C$ . In [9, Theorem 2] Chuang proves that if  $\Phi(x_i, \alpha(x_i))$  is a generalized polynomial identity for  $R$ , where  $R$  is a prime ring and  $\sigma \in \text{Aut}(R)$  an automorphism of  $R$  which is not Frobenius, then  $R$  also satisfies the non-trivial generalized polynomial identity  $\Phi(x_i, y_i)$ , where  $x_i$  and  $y_i$  are distinct indeterminates.

**Fact 2.5.** *Let  $R$  be a prime ring and  $L$  a noncentral Lie ideal of  $R$ . If  $\text{char}(R) \neq 2$ , then there exists a nonzero ideal  $I$  of  $R$  such that  $0 \neq [I, R] \subseteq L$ . If  $\text{char}(R) = 2$  and  $\dim_C RC > 4$ , then there exists a nonzero ideal  $I$  of  $R$  such that  $0 \neq [I, R] \subseteq L$ . Thus if either  $\text{char}(R) \neq 2$  or  $\dim_C RC > 4$ , then we may conclude that there exists a nonzero ideal  $I$  of  $R$  such that  $[I, I] \subseteq L$ .*

**Fact 2.6.** *Let  $R$  be a prime ring with extended centroid  $C$ . Then the following conditions are equivalent:*

- (i)  $\dim_C RC \leq 4$ .
- (ii)  $R$  satisfies  $S_4$ , the standard identity in four variables.
- (iii)  $R$  is commutative or  $R$  embeds in  $M_2(\mathbb{F})$ , where  $\mathbb{F}$  is a field.
- (iv)  $R$  is algebraic of bounded degree 2 over  $C$ .
- (v)  $R$  satisfies  $[[x^2, y], [x, y]] = 0$ .

### 3. THE RESULTS IN PRIME RINGS

We begin with the following results which are imperative to establish of our main theorem.

**Theorem 3.1.** *Let  $R$  be a prime ring and  $\sigma$  a non-identity automorphism of  $R$  such that  $[u, v] - u^m[u^\sigma, u]^n u^\sigma = 0$  for all  $u, v$  in a noncentral Lie ideal  $L$  of  $R$ , where  $n, m$  are fixed positive integer. If either  $\text{char}(R) > n + m$  or  $\text{char}(R) = 0$ , then  $R$  satisfies  $s_4$ , the standard identity in four variables.*

*Proof.* We assume that  $\dim_{\mathbb{C}} RC > 4$ . In view of Fact 2.5, there exists a nonzero ideal  $I$  of  $R$  such that  $[I, I] \subseteq L$ . Using our hypothesis, we find that

$$(3.1) \quad [[x, y], [z, w]] - [x, y]^m [[[x, y]^\sigma, [x, y]]^n [x, y]^\sigma = 0 \text{ for all } x, y \in I.$$

Firstly, if  $\sigma$  is  $Q$ -inner, then there exists an invertible element  $q \in Q$  such that  $x^\sigma = qxq^{-1}$  for all  $x \in R$ . By [8, Theorem 2],

$$[[x, y], [z, w]] - [x, y]^m [q[x, y]q^{-1}, [x, y]]^n q[x, y]q^{-1} = 0$$

is also an identity for  $RC$ . By Martindale's theorem in [17],  $RC$  is a primitive ring with nonzero socle. Since  $RC$  is primitive, there exist a vector space  $\mathcal{V}$  over a division ring  $\mathcal{D}$  such that  $RC$  is a dense ring of  $\mathcal{D}$ -linear transformations over  $\mathcal{V}$ . We divide the proof into two steps:

**Step 1.** Our aim is to show that for any  $v \in \mathcal{V}$ ,  $v$  and  $vq$  are linearly  $\mathcal{D}$ -dependent. If  $v$  and  $vq$  are linearly  $\mathcal{D}$ -independent for some  $v \in \mathcal{V}$ , then we consider the following cases:

If  $vq^{-1} \notin \text{Span}_{\mathcal{D}}\{v, vq\}$ , then the set  $\{v, vq, vq^{-1}\}$  is linearly  $\mathcal{D}$ -independent. By the density of  $RC$  there exist  $x_0, y_0 \in RC$  such that

$$\begin{aligned} vx_0 = v, \quad vqx_0 = 0, \quad vx_0 = vq \quad vqx_0 = v \quad vq^{-1}x_0 = -vq \\ vy_0 = v, \quad vqy_0 = -v, \quad vw_0 = v \quad vqw = 0 \quad vq^{-1}y_0 = 0. \end{aligned}$$

We can easily see that

$$0 = v([x, y], [z, w]) - [x, y]^m [q[x_0, y_0]q^{-1}, [x_0, y_0]]^n q[x_0, y_0]q^{-1} = v \neq 0, \text{ a contradiction.}$$

On the other hand if  $vq^{-1} \in \text{Span}_{\mathcal{D}}\{v, vq\}$ , then  $vq^{-1} = v\alpha + vq\beta$  for some  $\alpha, \beta \in \mathcal{D}$ . In view of the density of  $RC$ , there exist  $x_0, y_0, z_0, w_0 \in RC$  such that

$$\begin{aligned} vx_0 = v, \quad vqx_0 = 0 \quad vz_0 = qv \quad vqz_0 = v \\ vy_0 = v, \quad vqy_0 = v \quad vw_0 = v \quad vqw_0 = 0. \end{aligned}$$

Hence we find that

$$0 = v([q[x_0, y_0]q^{-1}, [x_0, y_0]]^n q[x_0, y_0]q^{-1}) = \gamma v \neq 0$$

for some  $\gamma \in \mathcal{D}$ , again a contradiction.

**Step 2.** We have that  $v$  and  $qv$  are  $\mathcal{D}$ -dependent for every  $v \in \mathcal{V}$ . For each  $v \in \mathcal{V}$ , we write  $vq = v\lambda_v$  where  $\lambda_v \in \mathcal{D}$ . Fix  $0 \neq u \in \mathcal{V}$ . Let  $0 \neq v \in \mathcal{V}$  and write  $vq = v\lambda_v$ . Suppose first that  $v$  and  $u$  are  $\mathcal{D}$ -independent. Then  $(u+v)\lambda_{u+v} = (u+v)q = uq + vq = u\lambda_u + v\lambda_v$ . So  $u(\lambda_{u+v} - \lambda_u) = v(\lambda_v - \lambda_{u+v})$ , and hence  $\lambda_{u+v} = \lambda_u = \lambda_v$ . Suppose next that  $u$  and  $v$  are  $\mathcal{D}$ -dependent. Indeed, for any  $w \in \mathcal{V}$ ,  $w$  and  $u$  are  $\mathcal{D}$ -independent, and then, by the proof above, we have  $\lambda_w = \lambda_v$ . Clearly,  $w$  and  $v$  are  $\mathcal{D}$ -independent. So  $\lambda_w = \lambda_v$ , implying that  $\lambda_u = \lambda_v$ . Thus  $\lambda_v$  is the independent choice of  $v \in \mathcal{V}$ . Consequently,  $vq = v\lambda$  for all  $v \in \mathcal{V}$ , where  $\lambda = \lambda_v$ . By standard argument we see that  $q \in C$ , a contradiction. Thus  $\dim_C RC \leq 4$ , and by Fact 2.6,  $R$  satisfies  $s_4$ , the standard identity in four variables.

Next we assume that  $\sigma$  is not  $Q$ -inner, then by Chuang [10, Main Theorem],  $R$  satisfies  $[[x, y], [z, w]] - [x, y]^m [[x, y]^\sigma, [x, y]]^n [x, y]^\sigma = 0$ . Since either  $\text{char}(R) > n$  or  $\text{char}(R) = 0$ , it follows from Fact 2.3 that  $[[x, y], [z, w]] - [x, y]^m [[w_1, z_1], [x, y]]^n [w_1, z_1] = 0$  for all  $x, y, z, w \in R$ . Note that this is a polynomial identity and thus there exists a field  $\mathbb{F}$  such that  $R \subseteq M_k(\mathbb{F})$ , the ring of  $k \times k$  matrices over a field  $\mathbb{F}$ , where  $k \geq 1$ . Moreover,  $R$  and  $M_k(\mathbb{F})$  satisfy the same polynomial identity [15, Lemma 1], that is  $[[x, y], [z, w]] - [x, y]^m [[w_1, z_1], [x, y]]^n [w_1, z_1] = 0$  for all  $x, y, w, z, z_1, w_1 \in M_k(\mathbb{F})$ . But by choosing  $x = e_{11}, y = e_{21}, w = e_{12}, z = e_{12}, w_1 = e_{11}, z_1 = e_{12}$  we get

$$0 = [[e_{11}, e_{21}], [e_{12}, e_{12}]] - [e_{11}, e_{21}]^m [[e_{11}, e_{12}], [e_{11}, e_{21}]]^n [e_{11}, e_{12}] = (-1)^n e_{12},$$

a contradiction. This completes the proof.  $\square$

Let  $\mathcal{V}_{\mathcal{D}}$  be a right vector space over a division ring  $\mathcal{D}$ . We denote  $\text{End}(\mathcal{V}_{\mathcal{D}})$  the ring of  $\mathcal{D}$ -linear transformations on  $\mathcal{V}_{\mathcal{D}}$ . A map  $T : \mathcal{V} \rightarrow \mathcal{V}$  is called a semilinear transformation if  $T$  is additive and there is an automorphism  $\zeta$  of  $\mathcal{D}$  such that  $T(v\gamma) = (Tv)\zeta(\gamma)$  for all  $v \in \mathcal{V}$  and  $\gamma \in \mathcal{D}$ . Moreover, by a theorem of Jacobson [13, Isomorphism Theorem, p.79], there exists an invertible semilinear transformation  $T : \mathcal{V} \rightarrow \mathcal{V}$  such that  $\sigma(x) = TxT^{-1}$  for all  $x \in \text{End}(\mathcal{V}_{\mathcal{D}})$ , where  $\sigma$  is an automorphism of  $\text{End}(\mathcal{V}_{\mathcal{D}})$ .

**Lemma 3.1.** *Let  $\sigma$  be an automorphism of  $\text{End}(\mathcal{V}_{\mathcal{D}})$  such that for every  $x, y, z, w, z_1 \in \text{End}(\mathcal{V}_{\mathcal{D}})$ ,  $[[x, y], [z, w]] - [x, y]^m [[x, y]^\sigma, [x, y]]^n [x, y]^\sigma, z_1 = 0$ , where  $n, m$  are fixed positive integer. If  $\dim(\mathcal{V}_{\mathcal{D}}) \geq 2$ , then  $\sigma$  is identity map of  $\text{End}(\mathcal{V}_{\mathcal{D}})$ .*

*Proof.* By a theorem of Jacobson [13, Isomorphism Theorem, p.79], there exists an invertible semilinear transformation  $T : \mathcal{V} \rightarrow \mathcal{V}$  such that  $\sigma(x) = TxT^{-1}$  for all  $x \in \text{End}(\mathcal{V}_{\mathcal{D}})$ , where  $\sigma$  is an automorphism of  $\text{End}(\mathcal{V}_{\mathcal{D}})$ . In particular, there exists an automorphism  $\zeta$  of  $\mathcal{D}$  such that  $T(v\gamma) = (Tv)\zeta(\gamma)$  for all  $v \in \mathcal{V}$  and  $\gamma \in \mathcal{D}$ . Using our hypothesis, we find that  $0 = [[x, y], [z, w]] - [x, y]^m [[x, y]^\sigma, [x, y]]^n [x, y]^\sigma, z_1 =$

$[[x, y], [z, w]] - [x, y]^m [[T[x, y]T^{-1}, [x, y]]^n T[x, y]^{-1}, z_1]$  for all  $x, y, z, w, z_1 \in \text{End}(\mathcal{V}_{\mathcal{D}})$ . We divide our proof into the following cases:

There exists  $v \in \mathcal{V}$  such that  $v$  and  $T^{-1}v$  are  $\mathcal{D}$ -independent. Suppose first that  $\{v, vT, vT^{-1}\}$  is  $\mathcal{D}$ -independent. Let  $x, y, z \in \text{End}(\mathcal{V}_{\mathcal{D}})$  such that

$$\begin{aligned} xv &= Tv, & xT^{-1}v &= -v, & xTv &= 0 \\ yv &= Tv, & yT^{-1}v &= 0, & yTv &= v \\ wv &= Tv & z_1T^{-1}v &= 0 & zTv &= Tv \\ zv &= 0 & w_1T^{-1}v &= 0 & wTv &= 0 \\ z_1v &= 0, & z_1T^{-1}v &= v, & z_1Tv &= -v. \end{aligned}$$

Then  $[x, y]v = 0$ ,  $[x, y]T^{-1}v = v$ ,  $[x, y]Tv = Tv$ ,  $[z, w]v = Tv$  and hence

$$0 = ([[[x, y], [z, w]] - [x, y]^m [T[x, y]T^{-1}, [x, y]]^n T[x, y]T^{-1}, z])v = v, \text{ a contradiction}$$

Suppose next that  $\{v, Tv, T^{-1}v\}$  is  $\mathcal{D}$ -dependent. Then there exist  $\mu, \chi \in \mathcal{D}$  such that  $Tv = v\mu + T^{-1}v\chi$ . Moreover, we claim that  $\chi \neq 0$ . Indeed, if  $\chi = 0$ , then  $Tv = v\mu$  and  $v = T^{-1}v\mu$ , a contradiction. Let  $x, y, z, w, z_1 \in \text{End}(\mathcal{V}_{\mathcal{D}})$  such that

$$\begin{aligned} xv &= Tv, & xT^{-1}v &= -v, & z_1v &= 0 \\ yv &= Tv, & yT^{-1}v &= 0, & z_1T^{-1}v &= -v \\ zv &= 0 & wv &= Tv & zT^{-1}v &= v. \end{aligned}$$

We can easily see that  $0 = ([[[x, y], [z, w]] - [x, y]^m [T[x, y]T^{-1}, [x, y]]^n T[x, y]T^{-1}, z])v = \eta v$ , for some  $\eta \in \mathcal{D}$ , a contradiction.

We have that  $v$  and  $T^{-1}v$  are  $\mathcal{D}$ -dependent for every  $v \in \mathcal{V}$ . For each  $v \in \mathcal{V}$ , we write  $T^{-1}v = v\alpha_v$  where  $\alpha_v \in \mathcal{D}$ . Fix  $0 \neq u \in \mathcal{V}$ . Let  $0 \neq v \in \mathcal{V}$  and write  $T^{-1}v = v\alpha_v$ . Suppose first that  $v$  and  $u$  are  $\mathcal{D}$ -independent. Then  $(u+v)\alpha_{u+v} = (u+v)q = uq + vq = u\alpha_u + v\alpha_v$ . So  $u(\alpha_{u+v} - \alpha_u) = v(\alpha_v - \alpha_{u+v})$ , and hence  $\alpha_{u+v} = \alpha_u = \alpha_v$ . Suppose next that  $u$  and  $v$  are  $\mathcal{D}$ -dependent. Since  $\dim(\mathcal{V}_{\mathcal{D}}) \geq 2$ , there exists  $w \in \mathcal{V}$  such that  $w$  and  $u$  are  $\mathcal{D}$ -independent, and then, by the proof above, we have  $\alpha_w = \alpha_v$ . Clearly,  $w$  and  $v$  are  $\mathcal{D}$ -independent. So  $\alpha_w = \alpha_v$ , implying that  $\alpha_u = \alpha_v$ . Thus  $\alpha_v$  is independent of the choice of  $v \in \mathcal{V}$ . Consequently,  $T^{-1}v = v\alpha$  for all  $v \in \mathcal{V}$ , where  $\alpha = \alpha_v$ . Now we have  $\sigma(x)v = T(x(v\alpha)) = T((xv)\alpha) = xv$  for all  $x \in \text{End}(\mathcal{V}_{\mathcal{D}})$  and  $v \in \mathcal{V}$ . In particular,  $(\sigma(x) - x)v = 0$  for all  $x \in \text{End}(\mathcal{V}_{\mathcal{D}})$ . Thus  $\sigma(x) = x$  for all  $x \in \text{End}(\mathcal{V}_{\mathcal{D}})$ . This implies  $\sigma$  is the identity map of  $\text{End}(\mathcal{V}_{\mathcal{D}})$ , proving the lemma.  $\square$

Using both of these lemmas, we are ready to prove our main theorem.

**Theorem 3.2.** *Let  $R$  be a prime ring with center  $Z$  which admits a non-identity automorphism  $\sigma$  such that  $[u, v] - u^m[u^\sigma, u]^n u^\sigma \in Z$  for all  $u$  in a noncentral ideal  $L$  of  $R$ , where  $n, m$  are*

fixed positive integer. If  $\text{char}(R) > n + m$  or  $\text{char}(R) = 0$ , then  $R$  satisfies  $s_4$ , the standard identity in four variables.

*Proof.* We assume that  $\dim_C RC > 4$ . Then by Fact 2.5, there exists a nonzero ideal  $I$  of  $R$  such that  $0 \neq [I, I] \subseteq L$ . By assumption, we get

$$(3.2) \quad [[x, y], [z, w]] - [x, y]^m [[x, y]^\sigma, [x, y]]^n [x, y]^\sigma \in Z \text{ for all } x, y \in I.$$

Suppose  $\sigma$  is  $Q$ -inner automorphism, there exists an invertible element  $g \in Q$  such that  $x^\sigma = gxg^{-1}$  for all  $x \in R$ . Then  $I$  satisfies

$$(3.3) \quad [[x, y], [z, w]] - [x, y]^m [[x, y]^\sigma, [x, y]]^n [x, y]^\sigma \in Z.$$

By a Theorem of Chuang [8],  $I$  and  $Q$  satisfy the same generalized polynomial identities. Thus  $Q$  satisfied

$$(3.4) \quad [[x, y], [z, w]] - [x, y]^m [[x, y]^\sigma, [x, y]]^n [x, y]^\sigma \in C.$$

Since  $g \notin C$ , therefore  $\phi(t) = [[[x, y], [z, w]] - [x, y]^m [[x, y]^\sigma, [x, y]]^n [x, y]^\sigma, z_1]$  for all  $x, y, z, w, z_1 \in Q$  is a nontrivial generalized polynomial identity on  $Q$ . Denote by  $F$  the algebraic closure of  $C$  if  $C$  is infinite and set  $F = C$  for  $C$  finite. Then  $Q \otimes_C F$  is a prime ring with extended centroid  $F$  [11, Theorem 3.5]. Clearly  $Q \cong Q \otimes_C C \subseteq Q \otimes_C F$ . So we may regard  $Q$  as a subring  $Q \otimes_C F$  and hence  $\phi(t)$  is also a nontrivial generalized polynomial identity of  $Q \otimes_C F$ . Let  $\mathcal{Q} = Q_{mr}(Q \otimes_C F)$ , the maximal right ring of quotients of  $Q \otimes_C F$ . By [2, Theorem 6.4.4],  $\phi(t)$  is also a nontrivial generalized polynomial identity on  $\mathcal{Q}$ . By Martindale's theorem [17],  $\mathcal{Q} \cong \text{End}(\mathcal{V}_\mathcal{D})$ , where  $\mathcal{V}$  is a vector space over a division ring  $\mathcal{D}$  and  $\mathcal{D}$  is finite dimension over its center  $F$ . Recall that  $F$  is either algebraically closed or finite. From the finite dimensionality of  $\mathcal{D}$  over  $F$ , it follows that  $\mathcal{D} = F$ . Hence  $\mathcal{Q} \cong \text{End}(\mathcal{V}_F)$ . By Lemma 3.1, we get a contradiction.

We now assume that  $\sigma$  is  $Q$ -outer automorphism, due to Chuang [8, Main Theorem],  $I$  and  $Q$  satisfies the same polynomial identity and hence  $R$  as well. Therefore  $R$  satisfies  $[[[x, y], [z, w]] - [x, y]^m [[x, y]^\sigma, [x, y]]^n [x, y]^\sigma, z_1] = 0$ . Since either  $\text{char}(R) > n + m$  or  $\text{char}(R) = 0$ , it follows from Lemma 3.1 that  $[[[x, y], [z, w]] - [x, y]^m [[s, t], [x, y]]^n [s, t], z] = 0$  for all  $x, y, s, t, z, w, z_1 \in R$ . Note that this is a polynomial identity and thus there exists a field  $\mathbb{F}$  such that  $R \subseteq M_k(\mathbb{F})$ , the ring of  $k \times k$  matrices over a field  $\mathbb{F}$ , where  $k > 1$ . Moreover,  $R$  and  $M_k(\mathbb{F})$  satisfy the same polynomial identity [15, Lemma 1], that is  $[[[x, y], [z, w]] - [x, y]^m [[s, t], [x, y]]^n [s, t], z] = 0$  for all  $x, y, s, t, z \in M_k(\mathbb{F})$ . Let  $e_{ij}$  be a matrix unit with 1 in the  $(i, j)$ -entry and zero elsewhere. Since  $\dim_C RC > 4$ , we see that  $k > 2$ . By choosing  $x = e_{11}, y = e_{21}, z = e_{12}, w = e_{12}, s = e_{11}, t = e_{12}, z_1 = e_{31}$  we get  $0 = [[[x, y], [z, w]] - [x, y]^m [[s, t], [x, y]]^n [s, t], z] =$

$[[[e_{11}, e_{21}, [e_{12}, e_{12}]] - [e_{11}, e_{21}]^m [[e_{11}, e_{12}], [e_{11}, e_{21}]]^n [e_{11}, e_{12}], e_{31}] = (-1)^{n+1} e_{31}$ , a contradiction. Thus  $\dim_{\mathbb{C}} RC \leq 4$ . In View of Fact 2.6, we get required result. With this the proof is complete.  $\square$

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