

## COMMUTATIVITY RESULTS FOR RINGS THROUGH STREB'S CLASSIFICATION

Hamza A. S. ABUJABAL

*Department of Mathematics, Faculty of Science, King Abdul Aziz University, P.O. Box 31464, Jeddah 21497, Saudi Arabia*

*Received January 1994*

*AMS Subject Classification: 16 U 80*

*Keywords: Commutativity of rings, ring with unity,  $s$ -unital rings, Streb's classification.*

**Abstract:** An associative ring  $R$  is commutative if (and only if) for each  $x, y \in R$ , there exist integers  $m > 0$ ,  $n \geq 0$  and  $f(X), g(X), h(X) \in X^2\mathbb{Z}[X]$  with  $f(1) = \pm 1$  such that  $[x, yx^m - f(y)x^n] = 0$  and  $[x - g(x), y - h(y)] = 0$ . Further, we extend this result for one sided  $s$ -unital rings.

Throughout this paper,  $R$  will denote an associative ring with center  $Z(R)$ , and  $C(R)$  the commutator ideal of  $R$ . Let  $N(R)$  be the set of nilpotent elements in  $R$ , and let  $N^*(R)$  be the subset of  $N(R)$  consisting of all elements in  $R$  which square to zero. A ring  $R$  is called *left* (resp. *right*)  *$s$ -unital* if  $x \in Rx$  (resp.  $x \in xR$ ) for every  $x \in R$ . Further,  $R$  is called  *$s$ -unital* if  $x \in Rx \cap xR$  for all  $x \in R$ . If  $R$  is  $s$ -unital (resp. left or right  $s$ -unital), then for any finite subset  $F$  of  $R$ , there exists an element  $e \in R$  such that  $ex = xe = x$  (resp.  $ex = x$  or  $xe = x$ ) for all  $x \in F$ . Such an element  $e$  will be called a *pseudo* (resp. *pseudo left* or *pseudo right*) *identity* of  $F$  in  $R$ . We denote by  $\mathbb{Z}\langle X, Y \rangle$  the polynomial ring over  $\mathbb{Z}$  the ring of integers, in the non-commuting indeterminates  $X$ , and  $Y$ . As usual  $\mathbb{Z}[X]$  is the totality of polynomials in  $X$  with coefficients in  $\mathbb{Z}$  and for any  $x, y \in R$ ,  $[x, y] = xy - yx$ . For any positive integer  $d$ , we consider the following ring property:

**Q(d):** if  $x, y \in R$ , and  $d[x, y] = 0$ , then  $[x, y] = 0$ .

By  $GF(q)$ , we mean the Galois field (finite field) with  $q$  elements, and  $(GF(q))_2$  the ring of all  $2 \times 2$  matrices over  $GF(q)$ . Set  $e_{11} = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 \end{bmatrix}$ ,  $e_{12} = \begin{bmatrix} 0 & 1 \\ 0 & 0 \end{bmatrix}$ , and  $e_{22} = \begin{bmatrix} 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix}$  in  $(GF(p))_2$  for a prime  $p$ .

In [7, Prop. 2], Komatsuo et al. proved the following important result:

**Proposition 1.** *Let  $R$  be a ring generated by two elements such that the commutator ideal  $C(R)$ , is the heart of  $R$  and  $C(R)R = RC(R) = 0$ . Then  $R$  is nilpotent.*

In view of Prop. 1, we see that Streb's Theorem of [8] can be stated as follows:

**Theorem S.** *Let  $R$  be a non-commutative ring ( $R \neq Z(R)$ ). Then there exists a factor subring of  $R$  which is of type (a)<sub>i</sub>, (a)<sub>ii</sub>, (b), (c), (d), (e), (f) or (g):*

- (a)<sub>i</sub>  $\begin{bmatrix} GF(p) & GF(p) \\ 0 & GF(p) \end{bmatrix}$ ,  $p$  a prime.
- (a)<sub>ii</sub>  $\begin{bmatrix} 0 & GF(p) \\ 0 & GF(p) \end{bmatrix}$ ,  $p$  a prime.
- (b)  $M_\eta(\mathbf{K}) = \left\{ \begin{bmatrix} a & b \\ 0 & \eta(a) \end{bmatrix} \mid a, b \in \mathbf{K} \right\}$ , where  $\mathbf{K}$  is a finite field with a non-trivial automorphism  $\eta$ .
- (c) A non-commutative division ring.
- (d) A non-commutative ring with no non-zero divisors of zero.
- (e) A finite nilpotent ring  $S$  such that  $C(S)$  is the heart of  $S$  and  $SC(S) = C(S)S = 0$ .
- (f) A ring  $S$  generated by two elements of finite additive order such that  $C(S)$  is the heart of  $S$ ,  $SC(S) = C(S)S = 0$ , and  $N(S)$  is a commutative nilpotent ideal of  $S$ .
- (g) A simple radical ring with no non-zero divisors of zero.

Further, from the proof of [8, Korollar 1], we have the following:

**Theorem ST.** *Let  $R$  be a non-commutative ring with 1. Then there exists a factor subring of  $R$  which is of type (a)<sub>i</sub>, (b), (c), (d), (d)', (e)' or (e)'':*

- (a)<sub>i</sub>  $\begin{bmatrix} GF(p) & GF(p) \\ 0 & GF(p) \end{bmatrix}$ ,  $p$  a prime.
- (b)  $M_\eta(\mathbf{K}) = \left\{ \begin{bmatrix} a & b \\ 0 & \eta(a) \end{bmatrix} \mid a, b \in \mathbf{K} \right\}$ , where  $\mathbf{K}$  is a finite field with a non-trivial automorphism  $\eta$ .

- (c) A non-commutative division ring.
- (d) A non-commutative ring with no non-zero divisors of zero.
- (d)'  $T = \langle 1 \rangle + S$  is a finite integral domain, where  $S$  is a simple radical ring.
- (d) A non-commutative ring with no non-zero divisors of zero.
- (e)'  $T = \langle 1 \rangle + S$ , where  $S$  is a finite nilpotent ring such that  $C(S)$  is the heart of  $S$  and  $SC(S) = C(S)S = 0$ .
- (e)''  $T = \langle 1 \rangle + S$ , where  $S$  is a non-commutative subring of  $T$  such that  $S[S, S] = [S, S]S = 0$ .

Now Th. S and Th. ST give the following Meta Theorem which plays an important role in our subsequent study.

**Lemma 1** (Meta Theorem). *Let  $\mathbf{P}$  be a ring property which is inherited by factor subrings. If no rings of type (a)<sub>i</sub>, (a)<sub>ii</sub>, (b), (c), (e), or (g), (f) (resp. (a)<sub>i</sub>, (b), (c), (d), (d)', (e)' or (e)'') satisfy  $\mathbf{P}$ , then every ring (resp. every ring with unity 1) satisfying  $\mathbf{P}$  is commutative.*

Our objective is to prove the following results.

**Theorem 1.** *Let  $R$  be a ring. Then  $R$  is commutative if (and only if) for each  $x, y \in R$ , there exist integers  $m > 0$ ,  $n \geq 0$ , and  $f(X), g(X), h(X) \in X^2\mathbb{Z}[X]$  with  $f(1) = \pm 1$  such that  $[x, yx^m - f(y)x^n] = 0$  and  $[x - g(x), y - h(y)] = 0$ .*

**Theorem 2.** *Let  $R$  be a right  $s$ -unital ring, and let  $m$  and  $n$  be non-negative integers. Assume that for each  $y \in R$ , there exists  $f(X) \in X^2\mathbb{Z}[X]$  such that  $[x, yx^m - f(y)x^n] = 0$  for all  $x \in R$ . Then  $R$  is commutative.*

**Theorem 3.** *Let  $R$  be a right (or left)  $s$ -unital ring. Then the following are equivalent:*

- (i)  $R$  is commutative.
- (ii) For each  $x, y$  in  $R$ , there exist non-negative integers  $m > 0$ ,  $n \geq 0$  and  $f(X) \in X^2\mathbb{Z}[X]$  with  $f(1) = \pm 1$  such that  $[x, yx^m - f(y)x^n] = 0$ , and for each  $x \in R$ , either  $x \in Z(R)$ , or there exists  $g(X) \in X^2\mathbb{Z}[X]$  such that  $x - g(x) \in N(R)$ .
- (iii) For each  $y \in R$ , there exists  $f(X) \in X^2\mathbb{Z}[X]$  with  $f(1) = \pm 1$  such that  $[x, yx^m - f(y)x^n] = 0$  for all  $x \in R$ , provided  $m, n$  are fixed non-negative integers.

**Theorem 4.** *Let  $R$  be a right  $s$ -unital ring. Suppose that  $R$  satisfies a polynomial identity*

$$[f(X), Y]X^m + \lambda(X, Y)[X, g(Y)]\lambda^*(X, Y) = 0,$$

where  $m$  is a non-negative integer,  $\lambda(X, Y)$  and  $\lambda^*(X, Y)$  are monic monomials in  $\mathbb{Z}\langle X, Y \rangle$ ,  $f(X)$  and  $g(X)$  are polynomials in  $X\mathbb{Z}[X]$  with

$f(1) = \pm 1$  and  $g(1) = \pm 1$ , and every monomial of  $\lambda(X, Y)g(Y)\lambda^*(X, Y)$  has degree  $\geq 2$  in  $Y$ . Suppose that  $n = (f'(1), g'(1))$  is non-zero, where  $f'(X)$  and  $g'(X)$  are the usual derivatives of  $f(X)$  and  $g(X)$  respectively. If  $R$  satisfies the property  $\mathbf{Q}(n)$ , then  $R$  is commutative.

Following [4], let  $\mathbf{P}$  be a ring property. If  $\mathbf{P}$  is inherited by every subring and every homomorphic image, then  $\mathbf{P}$  is called an  $\mathbf{h}$ -property. More weakly, if  $\mathbf{P}$  is inherited by every finitely generated subring and every natural homomorphic image modulo the annihilator of a central element, then  $\mathbf{P}$  is called an  $\mathbf{H}$ -property.

A ring property  $\mathbf{P}$  such that a ring  $R$  has the property  $\mathbf{P}$  if and only if all its finitely generated subrings have  $\mathbf{P}$ , is called an  $\mathbf{F}$ -property.

**Lemma 2** ([4, Prop. 1]). *Let  $\mathbf{P}$  be an  $\mathbf{H}$ -property, and let  $\mathbf{P}'$  be an  $\mathbf{F}$ -property. If every ring  $R$  with unity 1 having the property  $\mathbf{P}$  has the property  $\mathbf{P}'$ , then every  $s$ -unital ring having  $\mathbf{P}$  has  $\mathbf{P}'$ .*

**Lemma 3** ([3, Th.]). *If for every  $x, y$  in a ring  $R$ , we can find a polynomial  $p_{x,y}(t)$  with integer coefficients which depend on  $x$  and  $y$  such that  $[x^2 p_{x,y}(x) - x, y] = 0$ , then  $R$  is commutative.*

**Lemma 4** ([1, Lemma]). *Let  $R$  be a ring with unity 1. If for each  $x, y \in R$ , there exists an integer  $m = m(x, y) \geq 1$  such that  $x^m[x, y] = 0$ , or  $[x, y]x^m = 0$ , then necessarily  $[x, y] = 0$ .*

**Lemma 5** ([5, Th.]). *Let  $f$  be a polynomial in non-commuting indeterminates  $x_1, x_2, \dots, x_n$  with coprime integer coefficients. Then the following statements are equivalent:*

- (1) *For any ring  $R$  satisfying  $f = 0$ ,  $C(R)$  is a nil ideal.*
- (2) *For every prime  $p$ ,  $(GF(p))_2$  fail to satisfy  $f = 0$ .*

In [2], Chacron defined the cohypercenter  $C'(R)$  of a ring  $R$  as the set of all elements  $a \in R$  such that for each  $x \in R$  there holds  $[a, x - f(x)] = 0$  with some  $f(X) \in X^2\mathbb{Z}[X]$ , which is a commutative subring of  $R$  ([2, Remark 12]). Indeed Chacron proved the following result:

**Theorem C** (Chacron, [2]). *Suppose that  $R$  satisfies the following condition:*

- (C) *For each  $x, y \in R$ , there exist  $f(X), g(X) \in X^2\mathbb{Z}[X]$  such that  $[x - f(x), y - g(y)] = 0$ .*

*Then we have the following:*

- (1)  $C'(R)$  is a commutative subring of  $R$  containing  $N(R)$ ;
- (2)  $N(R)$  is a commutative ideal of  $R$  containing  $C(R)$ ;
- (3)  $N(R)[C'(R), R] = [C'(R), R]N(R) = 0$  and  $[C'(R), R] \subseteq N^*(R)$ .

In this paper, we shall study rings satisfying condition (C) of Th. C by making use of the recent result of W. Streb [8], which we called *Streb's classification*.

**Theorem SC** (Streb [8]). *Suppose that a ring  $R$  satisfies the following condition:*

(SC) *For each  $x, y \in R$ , there exists a polynomial  $f(X, Y) \in \mathbb{Z}\langle X, Y \rangle [X, Y] \mathbb{Z}\langle X, Y \rangle$  each of whose monomial terms is of length  $\geq 3$  such that  $[x, y] = f(x, y)$ .*

*Then there exists no factor subring of  $R$  which is of type (e) or (f). Therefore, if  $R$  is non-commutative, then there exists a factor subring of  $R$  which is of type (a), (b), (c) or (d).*

The next result is crucial in our subsequent study is immediate by Th. C, and Th. SC.

**Theorem KT.** *Suppose that a ring  $R$  satisfies (C). Then there exists no factor subring of  $R$  which is of type (c), (d), (e) or (f). Therefore, if  $R$  is non-commutative, then there exists a factor subring of  $R$  which is of type (a) or (b).*

**Proof of Th. 1.** Let  $p$  be prime. Consider the ring  $\begin{bmatrix} GF(p) & GF(p) \\ 0 & GF(p) \end{bmatrix}$ . Set  $x = e_{22}$  and  $y = e_{12}$  in our hypothesis to obtain

$$[e_{22}, e_{12}e_{22}^m - f(e_{12})e_{22}^n] \neq 0$$

for all integers  $m > 0$ ,  $n \geq 0$  and  $f(X) \in X^2\mathbb{Z}[X]$  with  $f(1) = \pm 1$ . Further, consider the ring  $M_\eta(\mathbb{K})$ , a ring of type (b). Let  $x = \begin{bmatrix} \gamma & 0 \\ 0 & \eta(\gamma) \end{bmatrix}$ , ( $\eta(\gamma) \neq \gamma$ ) and  $y = e_{12}$ . Then

$$[x, yx^m - f(y)x^n] = [x, y]x^m = y(\gamma - \eta(\gamma))\gamma^m \neq 0$$

for all integers  $m > 0$ ,  $n \geq 0$  and  $f(X) \in X^2\mathbb{Z}[X]$ . Hence,  $R$  is commutative by Th. KT.  $\diamond$

**Corollary 1.** *Suppose that for each  $x, y \in R$ , there exist integers  $l > 1$ ,  $m > 0$ ,  $n \geq 0$ , and  $f(X), g(X) \in X^2\mathbb{Z}[X]$  such that  $[x, yx^m - y^l x^n] = 0$  and  $[x - f(x), y - g(y)] = 0$ . Then  $R$  is commutative.*

**Lemma 6.** *If  $R$  is a right  $s$ -unital and not left  $s$ -unital, then  $R$  has a factor subring of type (a)<sub>i</sub>.*

**Proof.** There exists  $x \in R$  such that  $x \notin xR$ , ( $R$  is not left  $s$ -unital). Let  $e, f \in R$  such that  $xe = x$  and  $ef = e$ . Then  $xf = x$ . Put  $y = x - fx$ . Then  $y \neq 0$ ,  $y^2 = 0$ ,  $ye = y$  and  $ey = 0$ . Let  $M$  be an ideal of  $\langle e, y \rangle$  which is maximal with respect to  $y \notin M$ . Put  $I = \langle e, y \rangle / M$ ,

$\bar{e} = e + M$ ,  $\bar{y} = y + M$ . Thus  $\bar{y}\bar{e} = \bar{y}$  and  $\bar{e}\bar{y} = 0 = \bar{y}^2$ . So we have  $I = \langle \bar{e} \rangle + \bar{y}Z$  and  $\bar{y}Z$  is the smallest non-zero ideal of  $I$ . Hence  $\bar{y}Z$  is an irreducible right  $\langle \bar{e} \rangle$ -module. Next, we can see that  $A = \{s \in \langle \bar{e} \rangle \mid \bar{y}s = 0\}$  is an ideal of  $I$  which does not contain  $\bar{y}$ , so  $A = 0$ . Therefore  $\langle \bar{e} \rangle$  is a commutative primitive ring and so a field. Since  $\bar{e}^2 - \bar{e} \in A = 0$ ,  $I = \bar{e}Z \oplus \bar{y}Z$  is of type (a)<sub>i</sub>.  $\diamond$

**Proof of Th. 2.** Trivially, we can check that no rings of type (a)<sub>i</sub> or (b) satisfy our hypothesis. In view of Lemma 6,  $R$  is  $s$ -unital. Hence, by Lemma 2, we may assume that  $R$  with 1. If  $m = n = 0$ , then  $[x, y - f(y)] = 0$ . Therefore,  $R$  is commutative by Lemma 3. Henceforth, we may assume that  $m > 0$ , or  $n > 0$ . Then  $x = e_{22}$  and  $y = e_{12}$  in  $(GF(p))_2$ ,  $p$  prime, fails to satisfy  $[x, y]x^m = [x, f(y)]x^n$ . Hence, by Lemma 5,  $R$  has no factor subrings of type (d). Further, suppose that  $R$  has a factor subring  $T$  of type (e)'. Take  $s, t \in S$  such that  $[s, t] \neq 0$ . Then there exists  $f(X) \in X^2Z[X]$  such that  $[s, t] = [s, t](s + 1)^m - [s, f(t)](s + 1)^n = 0$ , which is a contradiction. Therefore,  $R$  is commutative by Lemma 1.  $\diamond$

**Lemma 7.** Let  $R$  be a ring with 1. Suppose that for each  $x, y \in R$ , there exists non-negative integers  $m, n$  and  $f(X) \in X^2Z[X]$  such that  $[x, yx^m - f(y)x^n] = 0$ . Then  $N(R) \subseteq Z(R)$ .

**Proof.** Suppose that  $a \in N(R)$ , and  $a \in R$ . Then  $[x, a]x^{m_1} = [x, f_1(a)]x^{n_1}$ , for  $m_1 \geq 0$ ,  $n_1 \geq 0$ , and some  $f_1(X) \in X^2Z[X]$ . Also,  $[x, f_1(a)]x^{m_2} = [x, f_2(f_1(a))]x^{n_2}$ , for some  $m_2 \geq 0$ ,  $n_2 \geq 0$ , and some  $f_2(X) \in X^2Z[X]$ . Thus

$$[x, a]x^{m_1+m_2} = [x, f_2(f_1(a))]x^{n_1+n_2}.$$

Continuing this process, we can see that

$$[x, a]x^{m_1+\dots+m_t} = [x, f_t(\dots f_1(a)\dots)]x^{n_1+\dots+n_t},$$

for some  $m_k \geq 0$ ,  $n_k \geq 0$  and some  $f_k(X) \in X^2Z[X]$ ,  $k = 1, \dots, t$ . Since  $a \in N(R)$ , for sufficiently large  $t$ , we get

$$[x, a]x^{m_1+\dots+m_t} = 0,$$

and so

$$[x, a](x + 1)^{m_1+\dots+m_t} = 0,$$

for  $m_1 + \dots + m_t \geq 0$ . By Lemma 4,  $[x, a] = 0$ . Thus,  $N(R) \subseteq Z(R)$ .  $\diamond$

**Proof of Theorem 3.** It suffices to show that each of (ii) and (iii) implies (i).

(ii) $\Rightarrow$ (i): Consider the ring  $(GF(p))_2$ ,  $p$  a prime. Then we see that  $[e_{22}, e_{12}e_{22}^m - f(e_{12})e_{22}^n] = e_{12} \neq 0$ , for any integers  $m > 0$ ,  $n \geq 0$  and  $f(X) \in X^2\mathbb{Z}[X]$  with  $f(1) = \pm 1$ . Accordingly,  $R$  has no factor subrings of type (a)<sub>i</sub>. Thus in view of Lemma 6 and its dual,  $R$  is  $s$ -unital. By Lemma 2, we may assume that  $R$  has unity 1. Since  $N(R) \subseteq Z(R)$ , by Lemma 7,  $R$  satisfies all the hypotheses of Th. 1. Therefore,  $R$  is commutative.

(iii) $\Rightarrow$ (i): In case  $m > 0$ , we have shown above that  $R$  has no factor subrings of type (a)<sub>iii</sub>. If  $m = 0$ , then we consider in  $(GF(p))_2$ ,  $p$  a prime,  $x = e_{22}$  and  $y = e_{12}$  in our hypotheses to obtain  $[e_{22}, e_{12}e_{22}^m - f(e_{12})e_{22}^n] \neq 0$  for any integer  $n \geq 0$  and  $f(X) \in X^2\mathbb{Z}[X]$ . Hence,  $R$  has no factor subrings of type (a)<sub>i</sub>. In view of the dual of Lemma 6, if  $R$  is left  $s$ -unital, then  $R$  is also right  $s$ -unital. By Th. 2,  $R$  is commutative.  $\diamond$

**Corollary 2.** *If  $R$  is a right (or left)  $s$ -unital ring, then the following conditions are equivalent:*

- (1)  $R$  is commutative.
- (2) For each  $x, y \in R$ , there exist integers  $l > 1$ ,  $m > 0$ ,  $n \geq 0$  such that  $[x, yx^m - y^l x^n] = 0$ , and for each  $x \in R$ , either  $x \in Z(R)$  or there exists  $f(X) \in X^2\mathbb{Z}[X]$  such that  $x - f(x) \in N(R)$ .
- (3) For each  $y \in R$ , there exists an integer  $l > 1$  such that  $[x, yx^m - y^l x^n] = 0$ , for all  $x \in R$ , where  $m, n$  are fixed non-negative integers.

Following Kobayashi [6], let  $\Theta$  be the additive mapping of  $\mathbb{Z}\langle X, Y \rangle$  to  $\mathbb{Z}$  defined as follows: For each monic monomial  $X_1, \dots, X_t$ , ( $X_i$  is either  $X$  or  $Y$ ),  $\Theta(X_1, \dots, X_t)$  is the number of pairs  $(i, j)$  such that  $1 \leq i < j \leq t$  and  $X_i = X$ ,  $X_j = Y$ . Trivially, one can see that, for any  $f(X, Y) \in \mathbb{Z}\langle X, Y \rangle$ ,  $\Theta(f(X, Y))$  equals the coefficient of  $XY$  occurring in  $f(X + 1, Y + 1)$ .

Let  $\mathbf{N}$  be the set of all non-negative integers,  $F(X, Y) \in \mathbb{Z}\langle X, Y \rangle$ , and  $(m, n) \in \mathbf{N} \times \mathbf{N}$ . Then  $(m, n)$ -component of  $F$ , the sum of all monomials of degree  $(m, n)$ , that is, of degree  $m$  with respect to  $X$ , and of degree  $n$  with respect to  $Y$ , is denoted by  $F_{m,n}$ .

Using the above definition, we state the following:

**Lemma 8** ([6, Th.]). *Let  $R$  be a ring with unity 1, and let  $F(X, Y)$  be a polynomial in  $\mathbb{Z}\langle X, Y \rangle$  of total degree  $d$ . Suppose that the greatest common divisor of  $\{(m-1)!(n-1)!\Theta(F_{m,n}) \mid m+n=d, m, n > 0\}$  is positive. If  $R$  satisfies the identity  $F(X, Y) = 0$ , then  $R$  satisfies the*

identity  $l(XY - YX) = 0$ . Therefore, if moreover  $R$  has  $\mathbf{Q}(l)$ , then  $R$  is commutative.

**Proof of Th. 4.** By Lemma 1, it is enough to show that  $R$  has no factor subrings of type (a)<sub>ii</sub>, (b), (d) or (f). It is easy to see that no rings of type (a)<sub>ii</sub> satisfy

$$[f(X), Y]X^m + \lambda(X, Y)[X, g(Y)]\lambda^*(X, Y) = 0,$$

where  $m$  is a non-negative integer. In view of Lemma 5, we also see that  $R$  has no factor subrings of type (d). Further, by Lemma 6,  $R$  is  $s$ -unital. Hence, in view of Lemma 2, we may assume that  $R$  has unity 1.

The sum of all monomials which have the maximal degree in

$$[f(X), Y]X^m + \lambda(X, Y)[X, g(Y)]\lambda^*(X, Y)$$

is one of the following:

$$a[X^k, Y]X^m, \quad b\lambda(X, Y)[X, Y^l]\lambda^*(X, Y),$$

and

$$a[X^k, Y]X^m + b\lambda(X, Y)[X, Y^l]\lambda^*(X, Y),$$

where  $aX^k$  and  $bY^l$  are the leading terms of  $f(X)$  and  $g(Y)$ , respectively. Now it is easy to see that

$$\Theta(a[X^k, Y]X^m) = ak \quad \text{and} \quad \Theta(b\lambda(X, Y)[X, Y^l]\lambda^*(X, Y)) = bl.$$

Hence, by Lemma 8 there exists a positive integer,  $n$  such that  $n[x, y] = 0$  for all  $x, y \in R$ . Since  $R$  satisfies  $\mathbf{Q}(d)$ , we may assume that  $(n, d) = 1$ . If  $T$  is any factor subring of  $R$ , then  $T$  inherits the property that  $n[x, y] = 0$  for all  $x, y \in T$ . Thus  $T$  satisfies  $\mathbf{Q}(d)$ .

Next, suppose that  $R = M_\eta(\mathbf{K})$ . Let  $c = \begin{bmatrix} a & 0 \\ 0 & \eta(a) \end{bmatrix}$ , ( $\eta(a) \neq a$ ),  $e = \begin{bmatrix} 0 & 1 \\ 0 & 0 \end{bmatrix}$ . Then, by our assumption, we get  $[f(c), e]c^m = -\lambda(c, e)[c, g(e)]\lambda^*(c, e) = 0$ . But  $c$  is invertible, so we have  $[f(c), e] = 0$ . So  $[f(c), 1+e]c^m = -\lambda(c, 1+e)[c, g(1+e)]\lambda^*(c, 1+e) = 0$ . Therefore,  $g'(1)[c, e] = [c, g(1+e)] = 0$ . Now,  $[f(c), c+e]c^m = -\lambda(c, c+e)[c, g(c+e)]\lambda^*(c, c+e)$  and both  $c$  and  $c+e$  are invertible, then we obtain  $[c, g(c+e)] = 0$ . We have

$$g(c+e) = \begin{bmatrix} g(a) & (\eta(g(a)) - g(a))(\eta(a) - a)^{-1} \\ 0 & \eta(g(a)) \end{bmatrix}.$$

Therefore,  $[c, g(c+e)] = 0$  means that  $\eta(g(a)) = g(a)$ , and this implies



that  $[g(c), e] = 0$ . Hence, it follows that

$$[f(1+e), c](1+e)^m = -\lambda(1+e, c)[1+e, g(c)]\lambda^*(1+e, c) = 0,$$

and hence  $[e, c]f'(1) = [f(1+e), c] = 0$ . This together with  $[c, e]g'(1) = 0$  implies that  $d[c, e] = 0$ . By  $\mathbf{Q}(d)$ , we get  $[c, e] = 0$ . Thus we have a contradiction.

Finally, we suppose that  $R$  is of type (e)'. Choose  $s, t \in S$  with  $[s, t] \neq 0$ . Then

$$[s, t]f'(1) = [f(1+s), t](1+s)^m = -\lambda(1+s, t)[1+s, g(t)]\lambda^*(1+s, t) = 0.$$

So  $0 = [s, t]f'(1) = [f(1+s), 1+t](1+s)^m = -\lambda(1+s, 1+t)[1+s, g(1+t)]\lambda^*(1+s, 1+t) = -[s, t]g'(1)$ . Hence  $d[s, t] = 0$ . By  $\mathbf{Q}(d)$ , we have  $[s, t] = 0$  which is a contradiction.  $\diamond$

**Corollary 3.** *Let  $R$  be a right or left  $s$ -unital ring. Suppose that  $R$  satisfies the polynomial identity  $[f(X), Y]X^m + [X, g(Y)]\lambda^*(X, Y) = 0$ , where  $m$  is a non-negative integer,  $\lambda^*(X, Y)$  is a monic monomial in  $\mathbb{Z}\langle X, Y \rangle$ ,  $f(X), g(X)$  are polynomials in  $X\mathbb{Z}[X]$  with  $f(1) = \pm 1$ ,  $g(1) = \pm 1$ , and every monomial of  $g(Y)\lambda^*(X, Y)$  has degree  $\geq 2$  in  $Y$ . Suppose that  $d = (f'(1), g'(1))$  is non-zero. If  $R$  satisfies  $\mathbf{Q}(d)$ , then  $R$  is commutative.*

**Proof.** As in the proof of Th. 3, we can see that  $R$  has no factor subrings of type (a)<sub>i</sub> and  $R$  is  $s$ -unital. Therefore,  $R$  is commutative by Th. 4.  $\diamond$

**Corollary 5.** *Let  $R$  be a right or left  $s$ -unital ring. Suppose that  $R$  satisfies the polynomial identity  $[X^k, Y]X^m - [X, Y^l]X^n = 0$ , where  $k > 0$ ,  $l > 1$ ,  $m \geq 0$ , and  $n \geq 0$ . Let  $d = (k, l)$ . If  $R$  satisfies  $\mathbf{Q}(d)$ , then  $R$  is commutative.*

## References

- [1] BELL, H. E.: The identity  $(xy)^n = x^n y^n$ : does it buy commutativity, *Math. Mag.* **55** (1982), 165-170.
- [2] CHACRON, M.: A commutativity theorem for rings, *Proc. Math. Soc.* **59** (1976), 211-216.
- [3] HERSTEIN, I. N.: The structure of a certain class of rings, *Amer. J. Math.* **75** (1953), 864-871.
- [4] HIRANO, Y., KOBAYASHI, Y. and TOMINAGA, H.: Some polynomial identities and commutativity of  $s$ -unital rings, *Math. J. Okayama Univ.* **24** (1982), 7-13.
- [5] KEZLAN, T. P.: A note on commutativity of semi-prime PI-rings, *Math. Japon.* **27** (1982), 267-268.

- [6] KOBAYASHI, Y.: A note on commutativity of rings, *Math. J. Okayama Univ.* **23** (1981), 141–145.
- [7] KOMATSU, H., NISHINAKA, T. and TOMINAGA, H.: A commutativity theorem for rings, *Bull. Austral. Math. Soc.* **44** (1991), 387–389.
- [8] STREB, W.: Zur Struktur nichtkommutativer Ringe, *Math. J. Okayama Univ.* **31** (1989), 135–140.