

## Strongly $(-1,1)$ Rings

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### ABSTRACT

In this paper we prove that in a strongly  $(-1,1)$  ring of char.  $\neq 2,3$  the associator is in the nucleus. Using this, we prove that the nilpotency of the associator in a strongly  $(-1, 1)$  ring.

**Keywords:** Strongly  $(-1,1)$  rings, nilpotency.

### INTRODUCTION

Algebras of type  $(\gamma, \delta)$  were first defined by Albert<sup>1</sup>. When  $\gamma = -1$  and  $\delta = 1$  we obtain the  $(-1,1)$  rings. i.e., a  $(-1,1)$  ring satisfies the identities  $(x, y, z) + (x, z, y) = 0$  and  $(x, y, z) + (y, z, x) + (z, x, y) = 0$ . A ring in which  $(x, y, z) + (x, z, y) = 0$  and  $((x, y), z) = 0$  hold is called a strongly  $(-1,1)$  ring. The strongly  $(-1,1)$  rings were first introduced by Kleinfeld<sup>2</sup>. Pchelintsev<sup>3</sup> established the nilpotency of the associators in a free  $(-1,1)$  ring. In this paper we show that the associator  $(x, y, z)$  is in the nucleus of a strongly  $(-1,1)$  ring. Using this, we prove the nilpotency of the associator in a strongly  $(-1,1)$  ring. We know that a strongly

$(-1,1)$  ring is a  $(-1,1)$  ring. But the converse need not be true. At the end of this paper, we give an example of a  $(-1,1)$  ring which is not strongly  $(-1,1)$ .

### PRELIMINARIES

Throughout this paper  $R$  will denote a strongly  $(-1,1)$  ring of char.  $\neq 2,3$ . We shall denote the commutator and the associator by  $(x, y) = xy - yx$  and  $(x, y, z) = (xy)z - x(yz)$  for all  $x, y, z$  in  $R$  respectively. The nucleus  $N$  of a ring  $R$  is defined as  $N = \{n \in R / (n, R, R) = (R, n, R) = (R, R, n) = 0\}$ . The center  $C$  of  $R$  is defined as  $C = \{c \in N / (c, R) = 0\}$ . A ring  $R$  is said to be of characteristic  $\neq n$  if  $nx = 0$  implies  $x = 0$ , for all  $x \in R$  and  $n$  is a

natural number. A ring  $R$  is of characteristic  $\neq n$  is simply denoted by  $\text{char.} \neq n$ . A ring is called nilpotent if there is a fixed positive integer  $t$  such that every product involving  $t$  elements is zero.

A nonassociative ring  $R$  is called a strongly  $(-1,1)$  ring if it satisfies the following identities:

$$\begin{aligned} (x, y, z) + (x, z, y) &= 0 & (1) \\ ((x, y), z) &= 0. & (2) \end{aligned}$$

i.e., a right alternative ring satisfying the identity (2) is called a strongly  $(-1,1)$  ring.

In any ring we have the identity

$$\begin{aligned} (x, y, z) + (y, z, x) + (z, x, y) \\ = ((x, y), z) + ((y, z), x) + ((z, x), y). \end{aligned}$$

Using (2), the above identity becomes

$$(x, y, z) + (y, z, x) + (z, x, y) = 0. \quad (3)$$

We use the Teichmüller identity:

$$\begin{aligned} (wx, y, z) - (w, xy, z) + (w, x, yz) \\ = w(x, y, z) + (w, x, y)z. \end{aligned} \quad (4)$$

The following identity also holds in any ring:

$$\begin{aligned} (xy, z) - x(y, z) - (x, z)y - (x, y, z) \\ - (z, x, y) + (x, z, y) = 0. \end{aligned}$$

Using (1), the above identity becomes

$$\begin{aligned} (xy, z) - x(y, z) - (x, z)y - 2(x, y, z) \\ - (z, x, y) = 0. \end{aligned} \quad (5)$$

By putting  $w = n$  in (4), we obtain

$$(nx, y, z) = n(x, y, z). \quad (6)$$

Now we define  $U$  to be the set of all elements  $u$  of  $R$  which commutes with all

elements of  $R$ . i.e.,  $U = \{u \in R / (u, R) = 0\}$ .

By putting  $z = u \in U$ ,  $y = x$  in (5), we get  $-2(x, x, u) = 0$ . Hence  $(x, x, u) = 0$  and  $(x, u, x) = 0$  because of (1). Replacing  $x$  by  $x + y$  in this last two identities gives

$$\begin{aligned} (x, y, u) &= -(y, x, u) \text{ and} \\ (x, u, y) &= -(y, u, x), \end{aligned} \quad (7)$$

for  $u \in U$ .

In any strongly  $(-1,1)$  ring the following identities hold:

$$(x, (y, z, x)) + (x, (z, y, x)) = 0 \quad (8)$$

$$(x, (y, y, z)) + (z, (y, y, x)) = 0 \quad (9)$$

$$(x, (y, y, z)) - 3(y, (x, z, y)) = 0. \quad (10)$$

## MAIN RESULTS

**To prove the main theorem first we prove the following lemmas:**

**Lemma 1 :** If  $R$  is a strongly  $(-1,1)$  ring of  $\text{char.} \neq 2, 3$ , then  $(R, (R, R, R)) = 0$ .

**Proof :** From (8),  $(x, (y, z, x)) + (x, (z, y, x)) = 0$ , this equation becomes

$$(y, (x, x, y)) = 0, \quad (11)$$

since  $R$  is of  $\text{char.} \neq 2$ .

Using the right alternative property of  $R$ , (11) can be written as

$$(y, (x, y, x)) = 0. \quad (12)$$

By linearizing the identities (12) and (11), we have

$$(y, (x, y, z)) = -(y, (z, y, x)) \quad (13)$$

$$(y, (x, z, y)) = -(y, (z, x, y)). \quad (14)$$

From equations (1), (13), (14) and again (1), we get

$$(y, (y, z, x)) = - (y, (y, x, z)) = (y, (z, x, y)) \\ = - (y, (x, z, y)) = (y, (x, y, z)). \quad (15)$$

Commuting equation (3) with  $y$ , we have  $(y, (x, y, z) + (y, z, x) + (z, x, y)) = 0$ . Using (15), the above equation becomes  $3(y, (x, y, z)) = 0$ .

Since  $R$  is of char.  $\neq 3$ , we have

$$(y, (x, y, z)) = 0. \quad (16)$$

Using (16), (10) becomes  $(x, (y, y, z)) = 0$ .

$$\text{Thus } (R, (y, y, z)) = 0. \quad (17)$$

By linearizing equation (17), we obtain

$$(w, (x, y, z)) = - (w, (y, x, z)). \quad (18)$$

Applying equation (1) and (18) repeatedly, we get  $(w, (x, y, z)) = - (w, (y, x, z)) = (w, (y, z, x)) = - (w, (z, y, x)) = (w, (z, x, y))$ .

Commuting equation (3) with  $w$  and applying above equation, we obtain  $3(w, (x, y, z)) = 0$ . Since  $R$  is of char.  $\neq 3$ , we have  $(w, (x, y, z)) = 0$ . i.e.,  $(R, (R, R, R)) = 0$ .

This completes the proof of the lemma.  $\square$

**Lemma 2:** If  $R$  is a strongly  $(-1,1)$  ring of char.  $\neq 2, 3$ , then the associator is in the nucleus.

**Proof :** Using equations (1) and (7), we see that for  $u \in U$ ,

$$(x, y, u) = - (y, x, u) = (y, u, x) = - (u, y, x) = (u, x, y).$$

Thus  $(x, y, u) = (y, u, x) = (u, x, y)$ , for  $u \in U$ .

(19)

The identity (3) gives  $(x, y, u) + (y, u, x) + (u, x, y) = 0$ . Using (19), the above equation becomes  $3(x, y, u) = 0$ . Since  $R$  is of char.  $\neq 3$ , we have

$$(x, y, u) = 0, \quad (20)$$

for  $u \in U$ .

If  $u = (r, s, t) \in U$ , where  $r, s, t \in R$ , then (20) yields  $(x, y, (r, s, t)) = 0$ . From (19), we have  $(y, (r, s, t), x) = 0$  and  $((r, s, t), x, y) = 0$ . Therefore the associator is in the nucleus.

$$\text{i.e., } (R, R, R) \subseteq N. \quad (21)$$

This completes the proof of the lemma.  $\square$   
Also we have

**Lemma 3:** In a strongly  $(-1,1)$  ring  $R$  the following identities are fulfilled:

- (i)  $(x, y, x)((x, y, z) + (z, y, x)) = 0$ .
- (ii)  $((x, y, z) + (z, y, x))(x, y, x) = 0$ .
- (iii)  $2(x, y, x)(z, y, z) + ((x, y, z) + (z, y, x))^2 = 0$ .
- (iv)  $((x, y, z), (z, y, x)) = 0$ .

**Proof :** Since  $(R, R, R) \subseteq N$ , we have  $(x, x, (x, y, z)) = 0$ .

Using (9), we have  $((x, y, z), (x, x, y)) = - (y, (x, x, (x, y, z))) = 0$ .

Using (1), the above equation becomes

$$((x, y, z), (x, y, x)) = 0. \quad (22)$$

Now using (4), (1), (4) and (6), we obtain

$$\begin{aligned} ((x, y, z)x, y, x) &= - (x(y, z, x), y, x) \\ &= (x(y, x, z), y, x) \\ &= - ((x, y, x)z, y, x) \\ &= - (x, y, x)(z, y, x). \end{aligned}$$

Thus  $((x, y, z)x, y, x) = - (x, y, x)(z, y, x)$  or

$$(x, y, z)(x, y, x) = -(x, y, x)(z, y, x).$$

Using (22), this equation becomes  $(x, y, x)(x, y, z) = -(x, y, x)(z, y, x)$ . Therefore  $(x, y, x)((x, y, z) + (z, y, x)) = 0$ . Thus (i) proved. Similarly we can prove the identity (ii). We obtain the identity (iii) by linearizing (i) with  $x = x + z$ . Further, from (22), we have

$$((x, y, x), (x, y, z)) = 0. \quad (23)$$

Interchanging  $x$  and  $z$  in (iii) and subtracting the identity so obtained from (iii), we get

$$((x, y, x), (z, y, z)) = 0. \quad (24)$$

On linearizing the identity (23) with  $x = x + z$ , we obtain  $((z, y, x), (x, y, z)) + ((x, y, x), (z, y, z)) = 0$ . Hence (iv) follows by using (24).

This completes the proof of the lemma.  $\square$

**Lemma 4 :** In a strongly  $(-1,1)$  ring  $R$  it follows from the equations  $ac = bc = ca = cb = 0$  that  $(ab)c = 0$ .

**Proof :** From (1) we have

$$(ab)c = a(bc) + (a, b, c) = (a, b, c) = -(a, c, b) = -(ac)b + a(cb) = 0. \quad \square$$

Using this we prove the nilpotency of the associator in the following theorem:

**Theorem 1:** In every strongly  $(-1,1)$  ring  $(x, y, z)^4 = 0$ .

**Proof :** By substituting  $p = (x, y, x)$ ,  $q = (z, y, z)$ ,  $r = (x, y, z)$ ,  $s = (z, y, x)$  in Lemma 3, we observe that (i)  $p(r + s) = 0$ , (ii)  $(r + s)p = 0$ , (iii)  $2pq + (r + s)^2 = 0$ , (iv)  $(r, s) = 0$ . Interchanging  $x$  and  $z$  in (i) and

(ii), we get  $q(r + s) = 0$  and  $(r + s)q = 0$ .

By Using (i), (ii) and Lemma 4, we have  $(pq)(r + s) = 0$ . Multiplying both sides of the identity (iii) on the right by  $(r + s)$ , we get

$$(r + s)^3 = 0. \quad (25)$$

Now consider an element of the form  $(r - 2s)^3$ .

By using (4), (3) and (25), we have

$$\begin{aligned} (r - 2s)^3 &= ((x, y, z) - 2(z, y, x))^3 \\ &= (-(x, z, y) - 2(z, y, x))^3 \\ &= ((z, y, x) + (y, x, z) - 2(z, y, x))^3 \\ &= ((y, x, z) - (z, y, x))^3 \\ &= -((y, z, x) + (z, y, x))^3 \\ &= ((y, x, z) + (z, x, y))^3 \\ &= 0 \end{aligned}$$

$$\text{i.e., } (r - 2s)^3 = 0. \quad (26)$$

Now we observe that if  $x$  and  $y$  are commuting elements of a right alternative ring, then

$$\begin{aligned} (x + y)^3 &= x^3 + y^3 + 2(yx^2 + xy^2) + x^2y + y^2x \\ &\text{and then it follows from (26) that} \\ 0 &= (r - 2s)^3 + (s - 2r)^3 \\ &= r^3 - 8s^3 + 2(4rs^2 - 2sr^2) - 2r^2s + 4s^2r + s^3 - 8r^3 \\ &\quad + 2(4sr^2 - 2rs^2) - 2s^2r + 4r^2s \\ &= -7(r^3 + s^3) + 2(2rs^2 - 2sr^2) + 2s^2r + 2r^2s \\ &\text{or} \\ 7(r^3 + s^3) &= 2(2(rs^2 + sr^2) + r^2s + s^2r). \quad (27) \end{aligned}$$

From (25) and by using (iv), we have

$$r^3 + s^3 + 2(rs^2 + sr^2) + r^2s + s^2r = 0. \quad (28)$$

Comparing the identities (27) and (28), we obtain

$$r^3 + s^3 = 0 \quad (29)$$

$$\text{and } 2(rs^2 + sr^2) + r^2s + s^2r = 0. \quad (30)$$

By using (29) and (30), we calculate  $(r-2s)^3$ ,  
 $(r-2s)^3 = r^3 - 8s^3 + 2(4rs^2 - 2sr^2) - (2r^2s + 4s^2r)$   
 $= 9r^3 - 12sr^2 - 6r^2s + 4(2(rs^2 + sr^2) + r^2s + s^2r)$   
 $= 9r^3 - 12sr^2 - 6r^2s.$

On the other hand, by using 26 we have  
 $(r - 2s)^3 = 0$ . Consequently,

$$3r^3 = 4sr^2 + 2r^2s. \quad (31)$$

Further, by using (6) it follows from (iv) that  
 $((r^2, s), r) = -((s, r), r^2) - ((r, r^2), s) = 0$ .

Thus  $r \cdot (r^2s - sr^2) = (r^2s - sr^2) \cdot r$ .

From (4), (5), (29) and (iv), we transform right hand side of last identity as follows:

$$(r^2s - sr^2)r = (r^2s)r - sr^3 = r(rs \cdot r) - sr^3$$

$$= r(sr \cdot r) - sr^3 = r(sr^2) - sr^3 = r(sr^2) + s^4$$

Therefore we have  $r(r^2s - sr^2) = r(sr^2) + s^4$ , hence

$$r(r^2s) - 2rs^2 = s^4. \quad (32)$$

Similarly,

$$2r(r^2os) = 2r^3s + 2(rs) r^2 = -2s^4 + 2sr^3 = -4s^4. \quad (33)$$

(where  $aob = ab + ba$  is the Jordan product of the elements  $a$  and  $b$ .)

Adding (31) and (32), we get  $3r(r^2s) = -3s^4$ .

$$\text{i.e., } r(r^2s) = -s^4. \quad (34)$$

Comparing (32) and (33), we get

$$r(sr^2) = -s^4. \quad (35)$$

On multiplying both sides of (31) on left by  $r$  and using (34) and (35) we have  $3r^4 = 4r(sr^2) + 2r(r^2s) = -6s^4$ . Hence, it follows that

$$r^4 + 2s^4 = 0. \quad (36)$$

Interchanging  $x$  and  $z$  in (36), we get

$$s^4 + 2r^4 = 0. \quad (37)$$

Finally, from (36) and (37) we easily prove that  $s^4 = 0$ .

Hence the theorem is proved.  $\square$

Now we give an example of a  $(-1,1)$  ring, which is not a strongly  $(-1,1)$  ring.

**Example :** Let  $R$  be the ring defined by the following multiplication table.

	e	a	b	c	d	h
e	e	0	0	0	0	0
a	h	c	a	0	0	0
b	0	0	0	0	0	0
c	0	0	0	0	0	0
d	0	0	0	0	0	0
h	h	0	0	0	0	0

It is easily seen that  $R$  is a  $(-1,1)$  ring.

Now  $((a, b), b) = (ab - ba, b)$

$$= (ab, b) - (ba, b)$$

$$= (ab)b - b(ab) - (ba)b + b(ba)$$

$$= (a)b - b(a) - (0)b + b(0)$$

$$= a - 0 - 0 + 0$$

$$= a \neq 0.$$

Since  $((a, b), b) \neq 0$ ,  $R$  is not strongly  $(-1,1)$ .

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