

## QUADRATIC AND QUASI-QUADRATIC FUNCTIONALS

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(Communicated by Maurice Auslander)

**ABSTRACT.** In this note we show how Jordan  $*$ -derivations arise as a “measure” of the representability of quasi-quadratic functionals by sesquilinear ones. Our main result can be considered as an extension of the Jordan-von Neumann characterization of pre-Hilbert space.

### 1. INTRODUCTION

Let  $M$  be a module over a  $*$ -ring  $R$ . A mapping  $S: M \times M \rightarrow R$  is called a sesquilinear functional if it is linear in the first argument and antilinear in the second argument:

- (1)  $S(ax + by, z) = aS(x, z) + bS(y, z), \quad x, y, z \in M, a, b \in R,$   
(2)  $S(x, ay + bz) = S(x, y)a^* + S(x, z)b^*, \quad x, y, z \in M, a, b \in R.$

In the special case when  $R$  is a commutative ring with the trivial involution  $a^* = a$ , the relation (2) can be rewritten as  $S(x, ay + bz) = aS(x, y) + bS(x, z)$ . In this case the mapping  $S$  is called bilinear.

A quadratic functional  $Q$  on  $M$  is defined as the composition of some sesquilinear functional from  $M \times M$  to  $R$  with the diagonal injection of  $M$  into  $M \times M$ ; that is,  $Q(x) = S(x, x)$ , where  $S$  is sesquilinear. There is something inappropriate about defining a quadratic functional which is a function of one variable in terms of a sesquilinear functional which involves two variables. This raises the question of what requirements can be imposed on a mapping from  $M$  to  $R$  to define the set of all quadratic functionals. The best-known identities satisfied by quadratic functionals are the parallelogram law

$$(3) \quad Q(x + y) + Q(x - y) = 2Q(x) + 2Q(y), \quad x, y \in M,$$

and the homogeneity equation

$$(4) \quad Q(ax) = aQ(x)a^*, \quad x \in M, a \in R.$$

A mapping  $Q: M \rightarrow R$  satisfying these two identities is called a quasi-quadratic functional. In the special case that  $R$  is a commutative ring with the trivial involution the relation (4) can be rewritten as  $Q(ax) = a^2Q(x)$ .

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Received by the editors August 27, 1991 and, in revised form, April 14, 1992.

1991 *Mathematics Subject Classification.* Primary 15A63, 16A28, 39B50.

This work was supported by the Research Council of Slovenia.

It seems natural to ask when quasi-quadratic functionals are in fact quadratic functionals. In other words, given a quasi-quadratic functional  $Q$ , does there exist a sesquilinear functional  $S$  such that  $Q(x) = S(x, x)$ ? In 1963, Halperin in his lectures on Hilbert spaces posed this problem for the special case that  $M$  is a vector space over  $\mathbb{F} \in \{\mathbb{R}, \mathbb{C}, \mathbb{H}\}$ . Here,  $\mathbb{R}$  and  $\mathbb{C}$  denote the field of real numbers and the field of complex numbers respectively, while  $\mathbb{H}$  denotes the skew-field of quaternions. In 1964, Kurepa [4] obtained the general form of quasi-quadratic functionals defined on a vector space over  $\mathbb{R}$ . In particular, he showed that there exist quasi-quadratic functionals which cannot be represented by bilinear functionals. In 1966, Gleason [2] generalized this result to vector spaces  $V$ ,  $\dim V \geq 2$ , over an arbitrary field  $F$ , not of characteristic 2, and with the trivial involution. He proved that all quasi-quadratic functionals on  $V$  are quadratic if and only if all additive derivations on  $F$  are zero. The same result holds for quasi-quadratic functionals defined on a module over a commutative ring  $R$  with the trivial involution in which 2 is a unit. This result follows from [1, Theorem 3]. It should be mentioned that in this commutative case with the trivial involution the result of Jordan and von Neumann [3] implies that for each quasi-quadratic functional  $Q$  the mapping  $S$  defined by

$$(5) \quad 4S(x, y) = Q(x + y) - Q(x - y)$$

is symmetric and biadditive and  $Q(x) = S(x, x)$  (see [2]). Thus, the above-mentioned results imply that  $S$  is homogeneous in both variables if and only if all additive derivations on  $R$  are zero.

In 1965, Kurepa [5] gave a positive answer to Halperin's problem for quasi-quadratic functionals defined on a vector space  $V$  over  $\mathbb{F} \in \{\mathbb{C}, \mathbb{H}\}$ . In 1984, Vukman [9] posed the problem of representability of quasi-quadratic functionals by sesquilinear ones on modules over complex  $*$ -algebras. This problem was treated in [6–11]. The complete solution was given in [7]. It was proved that if  $Q$  is a quasi-quadratic functional on a module over a complex  $*$ -algebra with an identity element, then the mapping  $S$  defined by

$$(6) \quad S(x, y) = \frac{1}{4}(Q(x + y) - Q(x - y)) + \frac{i}{4}(Q(x + iy) - Q(x - iy))$$

is the unique sesquilinear functional satisfying  $Q(x) = S(x, x)$ . This result is an extension of the Jordan-von Neumann theorem [3] which characterises pre-Hilbert space among all normed spaces.

A mapping  $J$  defined on a  $*$ -ring  $R$  is called a Jordan  $*$ -derivation if it is additive and satisfies

$$(7) \quad J(a^2) = aJ(a) + J(a)a^*.$$

We shall denote by  $\mathcal{J}$  the set of all Jordan  $*$ -derivations on  $R$ . Over a commutative ring with the trivial involution in which 2 is not a zero divisor, the set of all Jordan  $*$ -derivations is equal to the set of all additive derivations [1]. A mapping  $J_a: R \rightarrow R$ ,  $a \in R$ , defined by  $J_a(b) = ba - ab^*$  will be called an inner Jordan  $*$ -derivation. In [8] it was proved that the representability of quasi-quadratic functionals by sesquilinear functionals on modules over a real Banach  $*$ -algebra  $A$  with an identity element depends on the existence of Jordan  $*$ -derivations on  $A$  which are not inner. The proof of this result given in [8] uses the fact that Banach algebras have enough invertible elements. It is the purpose of this note to extend this result to quasi-quadratic functionals

defined on modules over arbitrary  $\ast$ -rings. In this general setting it is impossible to find a relation (similar to (5) in the commutative case) telling us how to recover from a quadratic functional  $Q$  a sesquilinear functional  $S$  satisfying  $Q(x) = S(x, x)$ .

2. STATEMENT OF THE RESULTS

**Main Theorem.** *Let  $R$  be a  $\ast$ -ring with identity 1 such that 2 is a unit in  $R$ . Assume that for every Jordan  $\ast$ -derivation  $J: R \rightarrow R$  there exists a unique  $a \in R$  such that  $J(b) = J_a(b) = ba - ab^\ast$ ,  $b \in R$ . Then every quasi-quadratic functional  $Q$  defined on an arbitrary unitary  $R$ -module  $M$  is a quadratic functional.*

Note that the uniqueness of  $a$  in the above theorem is equivalent to the statement that  $ba - ab^\ast = 0$  for all  $b \in R$  implies  $a = 0$ . For the proof of the Main Theorem we shall need the following simple lemma.

**Lemma 1.** *Let  $R$  be a  $\ast$ -ring with identity 1 such that  $ba - ab^\ast = 0$  for all  $b \in R$  implies  $a = 0$ . If  $e_i$ ,  $i = 1, 2, 3, 4$ , are elements from  $R$  such that*

$$ae_1a^\ast + ae_2b^\ast + be_3a^\ast + be_4b^\ast = 0$$

*for all  $a, b \in R$  then  $e_i = 0$ ,  $i = 1, 2, 3, 4$ .*

The next theorem shows that the existence of noninner Jordan  $\ast$ -derivations yields the existence of quasi-quadratic functionals that cannot be represented by sesquilinear ones.

**Theorem 2.** *Let  $R$  be a  $\ast$ -ring with identity 1 such that 2 is not a zero divisor. If  $J: R \rightarrow R$  is a Jordan  $\ast$ -derivation then the mapping  $Q: R \times R \rightarrow R$  given by  $Q((a, b)) = J(ba) - bJ(a) - J(a)b^\ast$  is a quasi-quadratic functional. If  $J$  is not inner then  $Q$  is not a quadratic functional.*

A ring  $R$  is said to be a prime ring if  $aRb = \{0\}$  implies  $a = 0$  or  $b = 0$ . We shall prove that the mapping  $F: R \rightarrow \mathcal{F}$ ,  $F(a) = J_a$ , is one-to-one if  $R$  is a noncommutative prime ring. Thus, we shall prove the following result.

**Corollary 3.** *Let  $R$  be a noncommutative prime  $\ast$ -ring with identity 1 such that 2 is a unit in  $R$ . Then all Jordan  $\ast$ -derivations on  $R$  are inner if and only if every quasi-quadratic functional  $Q$  defined on an arbitrary unitary  $R$ -module  $M$  is a quadratic functional.*

Next, we shall show that all the assumptions of the Main Theorem are satisfied if  $R$  is a complex  $\ast$ -algebra with an identity element. This together with the Main Theorem implies the following extension of the Jordan-von Neumann characterization of pre-Hilbert spaces (see [7]).

**Corollary 4.** *Let  $R$  be a complex  $\ast$ -algebra with identity 1 and let  $M$  be a unitary  $R$ -module. Assume that  $Q: M \rightarrow R$  is a quasi-quadratic functional. Under these conditions the mapping  $S: M \times M \rightarrow R$  defined by the relation (6) is the unique sesquilinear functional satisfying  $Q(x) = S(x, x)$ .*

We shall conclude by giving an example of a Jordan  $\ast$ -derivation which is not inner.

**Example 5.** There exists a Jordan  $\ast$ -derivation on a finite-dimensional noncommutative real  $\ast$ -algebra with an identity element which is not inner.

## 3. PROOFS

*Proof of Main Theorem.* Let  $Q$  be a quasi-quadratic functional defined on a unitary  $R$ -module  $M$ . We shall divide our proof into two steps. First, we shall prove that if the restriction of  $Q$  to each submodule of  $M$  generated by two elements is a quadratic functional, then  $Q$  is a quadratic functional on  $M$ . Our second step will be to prove that under the assumptions of the Main Theorem every quasi-quadratic functional defined on an arbitrary unitary  $R$ -module  $M$  generated by two elements is a quadratic functional.

*Step 1.* Assume that the restriction of  $Q$  to each submodule of  $M$  generated by two elements is a quadratic functional. Let us choose arbitrary elements  $x, y \in M$ . We denote by  $M_{x,y} = \{ax + by : a, b \in R\}$  the submodule of  $M$  generated by  $x$  and  $y$ . According to our assumption there exists a sesquilinear functional  $S_{x,y}: M_{x,y} \times M_{x,y} \rightarrow R$  such that

$$(8) \quad \begin{aligned} Q(ax + by) &= S_{x,y}(ax + by, ax + by) \\ &= aS_{x,y}(x, x)a^* + aS_{x,y}(x, y)b^* \\ &\quad + bS_{x,y}(y, x)a^* + bS_{x,y}(y, y)b^*, \quad a, b \in R. \end{aligned}$$

Let us define a functional  $S: M \times M \rightarrow R$  by  $S(x, y) = S_{x,y}(x, y)$  for all  $x, y \in M$ .

In order to see that the mapping  $S$  is well defined we assume that there exists another sesquilinear functional  $T_{x,y}: M_{x,y} \times M_{x,y} \rightarrow R$  satisfying

$$\begin{aligned} Q(ax + by) &= T_{x,y}(ax + by, ax + by) \\ &= aT_{x,y}(x, x)a^* + aT_{x,y}(x, y)b^* \\ &\quad + bT_{x,y}(y, x)a^* + bT_{x,y}(y, y)b^*, \quad a, b \in R. \end{aligned}$$

Comparing this with (8) and using Lemma 1 we get that  $S_{x,y}(x, y) = T_{x,y}(x, y)$ . Thus,  $S$  is well defined. Moreover, we have proved that

$$(9) \quad S_{y,x}(x, y) = S_{x,y}(x, y)$$

holds for all  $x, y \in M$ . Let  $x, y$ , and  $z$  be elements from  $M$ . Then we have  $S_{x,y}(x, x) = Q(1x + 0y) = Q(1x + 0z) = S_{x,z}(x, x)$ . In particular, we obtain  $S_{x,x}(x, x) = S_{x,y}(x, x)$ . This last relation implies together with (9) that (8) can be rewritten as

$$(10) \quad \begin{aligned} Q(ax + by) &= aS(x, x)a^* + aS(x, y)b^* \\ &\quad + bS(y, x)a^* + bS(y, y)b^*, \quad a, b \in R, \end{aligned}$$

where  $x, y$  are arbitrary elements from  $M$ . It follows that  $Q(x) = S(x, x)$  is valid for all  $x \in M$ . In order to complete the first step of our proof we must show that  $S$  is a sesquilinear functional.

For arbitrary  $x, y \in M$  and  $a, b, c, d \in R$  we have

$$\begin{aligned} caS(x, x)a^*c^* + caS(x, y)b^*d^* + dbS(y, x)a^*c^* + dbS(y, y)b^*d^* \\ = Q(cax + dby) = cS(ax, ax)c^* + cS(ax, by)d^* \\ + dS(by, ax)c^* + dS(by, by)d^*. \end{aligned}$$

Applying Lemma 1 we get  $S(ax, by) = aS(x, y)b^*$ . It remains to prove that  $S$  is biadditive. Define

$$b_1 = Q(a_1x_1 + a_2x_2 + a_3x_3), \quad b_2 = Q(a_1x_1 + a_2x_2 - a_3x_3),$$

and

$$b_3 = Q(a_1x_1 - a_2x_2 - a_3x_3).$$

The parallelogram law (3) gives us

$$\begin{aligned} b_1 + b_2 &= 2Q(a_1x_1 + a_2x_2) + 2Q(a_3x_3), \\ -b_2 - b_3 &= -2Q(a_1x_1 - a_3x_3) - 2Q(a_2x_2), \\ b_1 + b_3 &= 2Q(a_1x_1) + 2Q(a_2x_2 + a_3x_3). \end{aligned}$$

Solving this system of equations and using (10) we obtain

$$b_1 = \sum_{i,j=1}^3 a_i S(x_i, x_j) a_j^*.$$

In particular, for arbitrary  $x, y, z \in M$  and  $a, b \in R$  we have the relation

$$\begin{aligned} Q(ax + ay + bz) &= a(S(x, x) + S(y, x) + S(x, y) + S(y, y))a^* \\ &\quad + a(S(x, z) + S(y, z))b^* \\ &\quad + b(S(z, x) + S(z, y))a^* + bS(z, z)b^*. \end{aligned}$$

On the other hand, using (10) we get that

$$\begin{aligned} Q(a(x + y) + bz) &= aS(x + y, x + y)a^* + aS(x + y, z)b^* \\ &\quad + bS(z, x + y)a^* + bS(z, z)b^*. \end{aligned}$$

Comparing the two expressions for  $Q(ax + ay + bz)$  we obtain, using Lemma 1, the biadditivity of  $S$ . Thus, under the assumptions of the Main Theorem, a quasi-quadratic functional  $Q$  on  $M$  is a quadratic functional if and only if its restriction to each submodule generated by two elements is a quadratic functional.

*Step 2.* Let  $M = \{ax + by : a, b \in R\}$  be a unitary  $R$ -module generated by  $x$  and  $y$ . We have to prove that for a given quasi-quadratic functional  $Q: M \rightarrow R$  there exists a sesquilinear functional  $S$  from  $M \times M$  to  $R$  such that  $Q(z) = S(z, z)$  for all  $z \in M$ .

Let us define a functional  $D: R \times R \rightarrow R$  by

$$(11) \quad D(a, b) = Q(ax + by) - aQ(x)a^* - bQ(y)b^* - 2^{-1}(afb^* + bfa^*),$$

where  $f = Q(x + y) - Q(x) - Q(y)$ . We shall first prove that  $D$  is biadditive. Clearly, it is enough to prove that the functional  $E$  given by  $E(a, b) = Q(ax + by) - aQ(x)a^* - bQ(y)b^*$  is biadditive. Applying the parallelogram law (3) we get

$$\begin{aligned} (12) \quad &2E(a, b) + 2E(c, b) \\ &= 2Q(ax + by) + 2Q(cx + by) - 2Q(ax) - 2Q(cx) - 4Q(by) \\ &= Q((a + c)x + 2by) + Q((a - c)x) - 2Q(ax) - 2Q(cx) - Q(2by) \\ &= Q((a + c)x + 2by) - Q((a + c)x) - Q(2by) = E(a + c, 2b). \end{aligned}$$

Substituting  $c = 0$  and using the obvious relation  $E(0, b) = 0$  we obtain

$$(13) \quad 2E(a, b) = E(a, 2b).$$

It follows from (12) and (13) that the mapping  $E$  is additive in the first argument. The same must be true for the functional  $D$ . In the same way we prove that  $D$  is additive in the second argument.

It is not difficult to verify that (4) and (11) imply

$$D(a, a) = 0, \quad a \in R,$$

and

$$D(ca, cb) = cD(a, b)c^*, \quad a, b, c \in R.$$

Using these two relations and biadditivity of  $D$  we shall prove that the mapping  $J: R \rightarrow R$  given by  $J(a) = D(a, 1)$  is a Jordan  $*$ -derivation satisfying

$$(14) \quad D(a, b) = J(ab) - aJ(b) - J(b)a^*, \quad a, b \in R.$$

Clearly,  $J$  is additive. For arbitrary  $a, b, c, d \in R$  we have

$$\begin{aligned} aD(b, c)a^* + D(db, ac) + D(ab, dc) + dD(b, c)d^* \\ = D((a+d)b, (a+d)c) = (a+d)D(b, c)(a+d)^* \\ = aD(b, c)a^* + dD(b, c)a^* + aD(b, c)d^* + dD(b, c)d^*, \end{aligned}$$

which yields

$$D(db, ac) + D(ab, dc) = dD(b, c)a^* + aD(b, c)d^*.$$

Putting  $c = d = 1$  we get  $D(b, a) + J(ab) = J(b)a^* + aJ(b)$ . As  $D(a, a) = 0$  implies  $D(a, b) = -D(b, a)$ , we have proved that (14) is valid. Replacing  $a$  in this relation by  $ba$  we see that

$$bJ(a)b^* = J(bab) - baJ(b) - J(b)a^*b^*$$

holds for all  $a, b \in R$ . Putting  $a = 1$  and using  $J(1) = 0$  we finally get  $J(b^2) = bJ(b) + J(b)b^*$  for all  $b \in R$ .

According to our assumptions,  $J$  is an inner Jordan  $*$ -derivation. Thus, we can find an element  $g \in R$  such that  $J(a) = ag - ga^*$  is valid for all  $a \in R$ . It follows from (14) that

$$D(a, b) = agb^* - bga^*, \quad a, b \in R.$$

Applying (11) one can easily see that

$$Q(ax + by) = ae_{11}a^* + ae_{12}b^* + be_{21}a^* + be_{22}b^*, \quad a, b \in R,$$

where  $e_{11} = Q(x)$ ,  $e_{12} = g + 2^{-1}f$ ,  $e_{21} = 2^{-1}f - g$ , and  $e_{22} = Q(y)$ . We define  $S: M \times M \rightarrow R$  by

$$S(ax + by, cx + dy) = ae_{11}c^* + ae_{12}d^* + be_{21}c^* + be_{22}d^*, \quad a, b, c, d \in R.$$

In order to see that  $S$  is well defined we choose  $a_1, a_2 \in R$  such that  $a_1x + a_2y = 0$ . For arbitrary elements  $b_1, b_2 \in R$  we have

$$\begin{aligned} \sum_{i,j=1}^2 b_i e_{ij} b_j^* &= Q(b_1x + b_2y) = Q((a_1 + b_1)x + (a_2 + b_2)y) \\ &= \sum_{i,j=1}^2 (a_i + b_i) e_{ij} (a_j^* + b_j^*) \\ &= \sum_{i,j=1}^2 a_i e_{ij} a_j^* + \sum_{i,j=1}^2 a_i e_{ij} b_j^* + \sum_{i,j=1}^2 b_i e_{ij} a_j^* + \sum_{i,j=1}^2 b_i e_{ij} b_j^*. \end{aligned}$$

It follows from  $0 = Q(a_1x + a_2y) = \sum_{i,j=1}^2 a_i e_{ij} a_j^*$  that

$$(15) \quad \sum_{i,j=1}^2 a_i e_{ij} b_j^* + \sum_{i,j=1}^2 b_i e_{ij} a_j^* = 0.$$

Putting  $b_1 = 1$  and  $b_2 = 0$  we get  $p + q = 0$ , where

$$p = a_1 e_{11} + a_2 e_{21}, \quad q = e_{11} a_1^* + e_{12} a_2^*.$$

On the other hand, if we set in (15)  $b_1 = c$  and  $b_2 = 0$ , we obtain  $pc^* + cq = 0$ . Together with  $cq + cp = 0$  this implies  $cp - pc^* = 0$  for all  $c \in A$ . It follows that  $p = q = 0$ , or

$$S(a_1x + a_2y, x) = 0 = S(x, a_1x + a_2y).$$

In a similar way we get

$$S(a_1x + a_2y, y) = 0 = S(y, a_1x + a_2y).$$

Thus,  $S$  is well defined. Clearly, it is a sesquilinear functional satisfying  $Q(z) = S(z, z)$  for all  $z \in M$ . This completes the proof.

*Proof of Lemma 1.* Putting  $a = 1$  and  $b = 0$  we get  $e_1 = 0$ . Similarly, we obtain  $e_4 = 0$ . Substituting  $a = b = 1$  we see that  $e_2 = -e_3$ . Substituting once again  $b = 1$  we get that  $ae_2 - e_2a^* = 0$  is valid for all  $a \in R$ . Thus,  $e_2 = e_3 = 0$ . This completes the proof.

*Proof of Theorem 2.* It is easy to verify that  $Q$  satisfies the parallelogram law (3). In order to see that also the homogeneity law (4) is fulfilled we must show that every Jordan  $*$ -derivation  $J: R \rightarrow R$  satisfies

$$(16) \quad J(cbca) = cbJ(ca) + J(ca)b^*c^* + cJ(ba)c^* - cbJ(a)c^* - cJ(a)b^*c^*$$

for all  $a, b, c \in R$ . For this purpose first replace  $a$  by  $a + b$  in (7) to get

$$(17) \quad J(ab) + J(ba) = bJ(a) + aJ(b) + J(a)b^* + J(b)a^*$$

for all  $a, b \in R$ . Consider now  $d = J(a(ab + ba) + (ab + ba)a)$ . Using (17) we see that

$$\begin{aligned} d &= aJ(ab + ba) + (ab + ba)J(a) + J(ab + ba)a^* + J(a)(b^*a^* + a^*b^*) \\ &= 2abJ(a) + a^2J(b) + aJ(a)b^* + 2aJ(b)a^* + baJ(a) \\ &\quad + bJ(a)a^* + 2J(a)b^*a^* + J(b)a^{*2} + J(a)a^*b^*. \end{aligned}$$

On the other hand,

$$\begin{aligned} d &= 2J(aba) + J(a^2b) + J(ba^2) \\ &= 2J(aba) + bJ(a^2) + a^2J(b) + J(a^2)b^* + J(b)a^{*2} \\ &= 2J(aba) + baJ(a) + bJ(a)a^* + a^2J(b) + aJ(a)b^* + J(a)a^*b^* + J(b)a^{*2}. \end{aligned}$$

Comparing the two expressions for  $d$  we arrive at

$$(18) \quad J(aba) = J(a)b^*a^* + aJ(b)a^* + abJ(a), \quad a, b \in R.$$

Replacing  $a$  in (18) by  $a + c$  we obtain

$$(19) \quad \begin{aligned} J(abc + cba) &= J(a)b^*c^* + aJ(b)c^* + abJ(c) + J(c)b^*a^* \\ &\quad + cJ(b)a^* + cbJ(a), \quad a, b, c \in R. \end{aligned}$$

Applying (18) and (19) we get

$$\begin{aligned} J(cbca) &= J(cb(ca) + (ca)bc) - J(c(ab)c) \\ &= cbJ(ca) + J(ca)b^*c^* + c(J(b)a^* + aJ(b) - J(ab))c^*. \end{aligned}$$

Applying (17) we get (16). Thus, we have proved that  $Q$  is a quasi-quadratic functional.

Assume now that  $J$  is not inner. If there is a sesquilinear functional  $S$  which generates  $Q$ , then  $S$  is of the form  $S((a, b), (c, d)) = aed^* + bfc^*$  for some  $e, f \in R$ . The relation  $Q((a, b)) = S((a, b), (a, b))$  with  $b = 1$  gives us  $J(a) = -ae - fa^*$ . Since  $J(1) = 0$ , we have  $e = -f$ , so that  $J$  is an inner Jordan  $*$ -derivation. This contradiction completes the proof.

*Proof of Corollary 3.* Let us first assume that all Jordan  $*$ -derivations on  $R$  are inner. We claim that  $J_a = 0$ ,  $a \in R$ , implies  $a = 0$ . Indeed, for such an  $a$  we have

$$(20) \quad ba = ab^*$$

for all  $b \in R$ . Replacing  $b$  by  $bc$  and applying (20) two times we get

$$(21) \quad (bc - cb)a = 0.$$

Substituting  $c = dc$  in (21) we obtain  $(bdc - dc b)a = 0$ , which can be rewritten as

$$(bd - db)ca + d(bc - cb)a = 0$$

where  $b, c, d$  are arbitrary elements from  $R$ . The second term is zero by (21). As  $R$  is noncommutative and prime, we have necessarily  $a = 0$ . Using the Main Theorem one can complete the proof of the "if part". Theorem 2 shows that the converse is also true.

*Proof of Corollary 4.* Substituting  $a = ia$  and  $b = i$  in (17) we prove that every Jordan  $*$ -derivation on  $R$  is inner. From  $J_a(i) = 2ia$  it follows that  $a \neq 0$  implies that  $J_a$  is nonzero. Using the Main Theorem one can complete the proof.

*Verification of Example 5.* Let  $R$  be a real  $*$ -algebra consisting of elements  $\lambda + u\mu$ , where  $\lambda$  and  $\mu$  are complex numbers. We define the operations by  $t(\lambda + u\mu) = t\lambda + u(t\mu)$  for real  $t$ ,  $(\lambda_1 + u\mu_1) + (\lambda_2 + u\mu_2) = (\lambda_1 + \lambda_2) + u(\mu_1 + \mu_2)$ ,  $(\lambda_1 + u\mu_1)(\lambda_2 + u\mu_2) = \lambda_1\lambda_2 + u(\mu_1\lambda_2 + \overline{\lambda_1}\mu_2)$  and the involution by  $(\lambda + u\mu)^* = \overline{\lambda} - u\mu$ .

There exists a nontrivial and therefore discontinuous additive derivation on  $\mathbb{R}$ , that is, an additive function  $f: \mathbb{R} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$  satisfying  $f(ts) = tf(s) + sf(t)$  for all pairs  $t, s \in \mathbb{R}$  (see [12]). Putting  $D(s + it) = f(s) - if(t)$  we get a function  $D: \mathbb{C} \rightarrow \mathbb{C}$  which is additive and satisfies  $D(\lambda^2) = 2\overline{\lambda}D(\lambda)$ . It is not difficult to verify that the mapping  $J: R \rightarrow R$  given by  $J(\lambda + u\mu) = uD(\lambda)$  is a Jordan  $*$ -derivation. However, it is discontinuous and therefore noninner.

#### ACKNOWLEDGMENT

I am indebted to my colleague M. Brešar for his valuable suggestions.



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